

Growing up in Toronto:

Challenge 1:

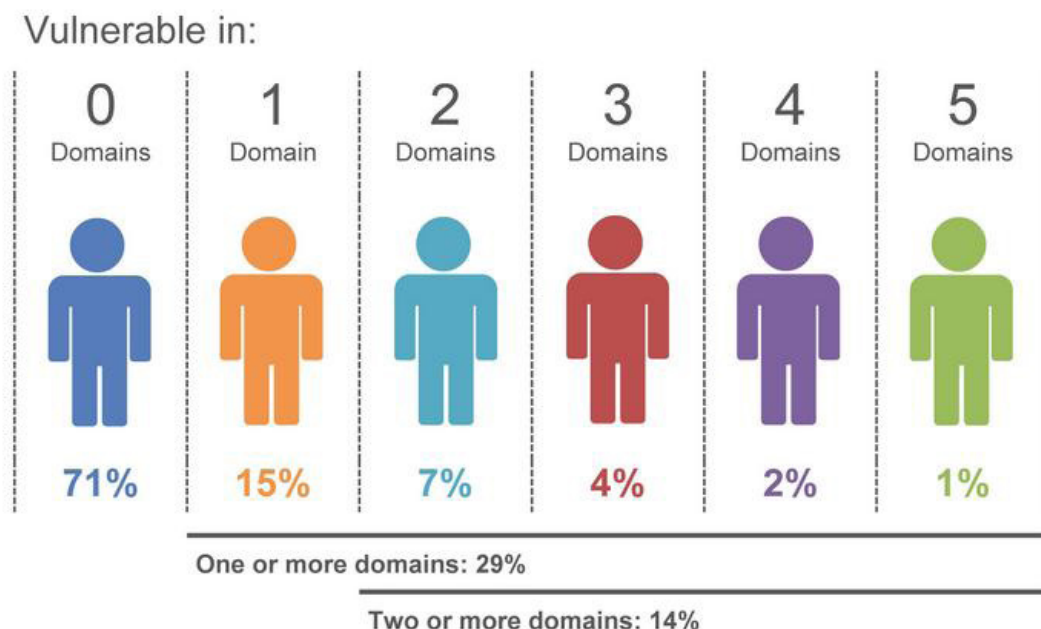
THE BEST POSSIBLE START

Not all children in Toronto with multiple vulnerabilities get the interventions and support they need for the best possible start in life.



RESEARCH SUPPORT: Approximately 50% of pregnancies are unplanned, placing children at greater risk for poor health and long term health consequences¹. Children who experience vulnerabilities early are more likely to experience additional long term negative outcomes including being less likely to graduate from high school, more likely to be depressed, and have poorer relationships². Access to high quality childhood services can promote early development, health and learning and can positively influence long-term outcomes³.

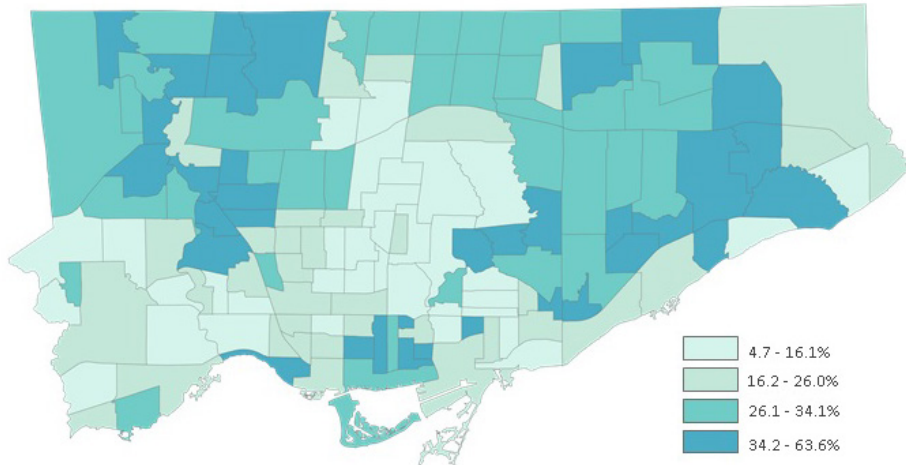
In Toronto, **14%** of children are vulnerable on multiple (2 of more) Early Development Instrument (EDI*) domains:



Further, **29%** of children in Toronto live in **low-income** households making Toronto the child poverty capital of Canada. Living in poverty influences all areas of child development. For example, beginning in the preconception and prenatal periods, individuals living in poverty with limited access to healthy food and primary health care are at greater risk of having a low birth weight baby.

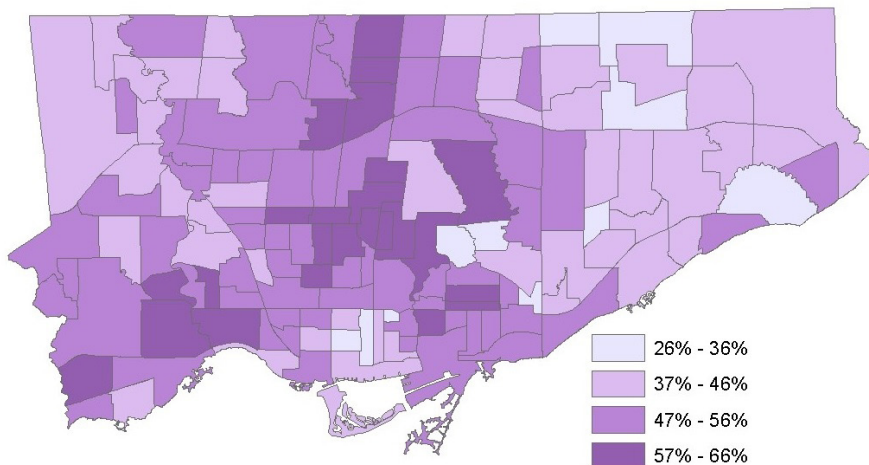
There are stark **geographic** variations in poverty and child development indicators. Further, across all our indicators we see vulnerabilities based on where a child lives, **race** and **income**.

Percent of children living below the Low-Income Measure - After Tax by neighbourhood, Tax-filer, 2013*

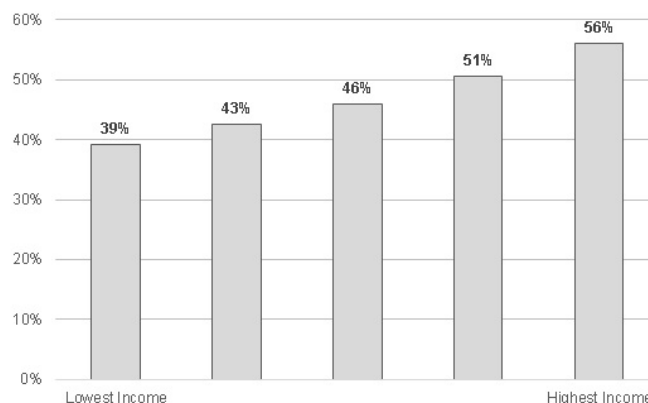


The 18-month well-baby visit is an important way to identify children at a young age who may be in need of additional services and supports. The rate of uptake of this visit varies **geographically** and by **income**.

Rate of 18-month well-baby visit by neighbourhood, children aged 1 to 2 years. Toronto, 2010 to 2013 combined*



Rate of 18-month well-baby, children aged 1 to 2 years. Toronto, 2010 to 2013 combined



**CALL
TO
ACTION**

What can parents and communities do to ensure all children have the best possible start?

What can policy and system planners do to ensure all children have the best possible start?



Share your thoughts:
@TOChildOutcomes
or **#ChildFriendlyTO**

1. Best Start. (2016). Ontario Prenatal Key Messages. <http://www.ontarioprenataleducation.ca/health-before-pregnancy/>
 2. McCain, M & Mustard, J. F. (1999). Early years study: Reversing the real brain drain. Toronto, ON: Ontario Children's Secretariat
 3. Braveman P, Sadegh-Nobari T, Egerter S. Issue brief 1: Early childhood experiences and health. Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; 2008 June.