



The Greater Nanaimo Early Years Partnership (GNEYP)
is a diverse group of engaged community partners
working to improve the healthy development of children ages 0 to 6.

www.nanaimoearlyyears.org





State of the Child report – Nanaimo 2017

The report advocates for strategic investments in the first years of a child's life and highlights how our community supports the positive development of young people.

- ✓ 3rd Edition (every two years)
- ✓ Assesses the well-being of children in Nanaimo
- ✓ Various measurements including :
 - Family economics
 - Poverty
 - Newborn health
 - Child Development and Special Needs
 - Aboriginal ancestry
 - School-readiness
 - Etc...

How are Nanaimo kids doing?

Key Findings

Family Economics

- \$79,194 - average family income. A 14.8% increase from 2011
- \$45,560 - average lone-parent average income. A 14.5% increase from 2011
- 35% of families are lone-parent (78% single mothers). A 5.6% increase since 2011
- 14% increase in the cost of residential home from 2015
- 10% increase in rent for a 2-bedroom home from 2014 to 2015
- 17.3% of people live in poverty. Consistent from 2011

Aboriginal Families

- 8.1% of Greater Nanaimo identify from the 3 First Nations communities
- 15% of children under 15 years identified as Aboriginal
- Aboriginal students graduating within 6 years of Grade 8 was 56.4% - 2014 was 63.9%

Children in poverty

- 24.6 % of children under 5 live in poverty
- 20.9% of children under 5 lived in poverty in 2011
- 33% of people accessing the Food Bank are children
- 8,058 different people in 2016 required food banks

Children in need of protection

- 3.5% of children were in need of protection
- This is 75% higher than the BC average
- 53% of children in protection are aboriginal. Consistent with provincial stats

Health and Wellness

- Wait times of up to 1.5 years exist for children with special needs to receive treatment
- 72.2% of children receive full immunization. Up from 61%.
- 44% Grade 3&4s reported sufficient physical activity. Down from 66% in 2011
- 91% of same grades reported eat or drink healthier food or beverages
- 68.2% of children in kindergarten have no dental decay
- 49% said they had eaten 5 or more fruits or vegies in a day. Down from 61% in 2011

Child-Friendly Environments

1. Low cost recreation

- Leisure Economic Access Pass
- LEAP program
- City drop-in programs with \$5 per child fee
- Free sponsored swim and skate sessions
- Access to many special events

2. Parks and Playgrounds

- 13 destination parks
- 90 neighbourhood parks
- 4 destination playgrounds
- 26 sports fields
- 4 water parks
- Etc...

3. Libraries

- 45% increase in attendance from 2014

A sampling of recent positive developments

1. G.N. Early Years partnership now offers robust website for family information
2. G.N. Early Years partnership offers Early Years Healthy Start Fairs
3. Nanaimo CDC hosts Family Knowledge nights
4. Baby Bed program introduced
5. Tillicum Lelum Young Mothers Housing Program
6. Snuneymuxw Health Centre Building Beautiful Babies program
7. PacificCare Child Care Resource & Referral program
8. Kwumut Lelum 4 Seasons Early Years programs
9. Multicultural Literacy kits
10. Unplug and Play promo campaign
11. Playboxes in 3 City parks
12. Family Magazine published 2x per year

Some solutions

A “whole community effort” yields the best outcomes

- Enhanced support of healthy food access
- Enhanced access to low-cost, no-cost library programs
- Enhanced access to low-cost, no-cost recreation programs
- Enhanced support of the GNEYP initiatives such as the Baby Bed program, the Unplug & Play and the Healthy Start Fairs

Our “ask” of Council

- ✓ Council explore seeking designation for Nanaimo as a UNICEF Child Friendly City (<http://childfriendlycities.org/>)
- ✓ Ongoing support for a Poverty Reduction Plan
- ✓ Continue to enhance low cost recreation access
- ✓ Keep kids as a priority when making decisions at City Council.