

WHO ARE OUR YOUNG CHILDREN?

Portrait of French-speaking children aged 0 to 6
and their families in the province of Prince Edward Island





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We all care about the well-being of our children. Since 2019, the Prince Edward Island French Health Network has been working with a number of partners as part of the **HEALTHY EARLY YEARS** project.



When the project was launched, a community services plan was put in place. That plan was informed by a number of consultations and an analysis of several determinants of health based on 2016 Census data. Using new data recently released following the 2021 Census, this portrait of French-speaking children aged 0 to 6 and their families shows that there have been changes in the population over the past five years.

The pandemic has had an impact on many aspects of our lives, and young children and their families have had to cope with many changes, including job loss, change in family structure, and change in housing situation. Such changes can have an effect on child development. On the basis of the determinants of health presented on the following page, variables from the 2021 Census were selected to provide a portrait of the environment of young children. The following report presents these data.

VARIABLES INCLUDED IN THIS PORTRAIT

Language

Visible minority

Aboriginal identity

Average annual household income

Low income rate

Unemployment rate

Parent's level of education

Family structure

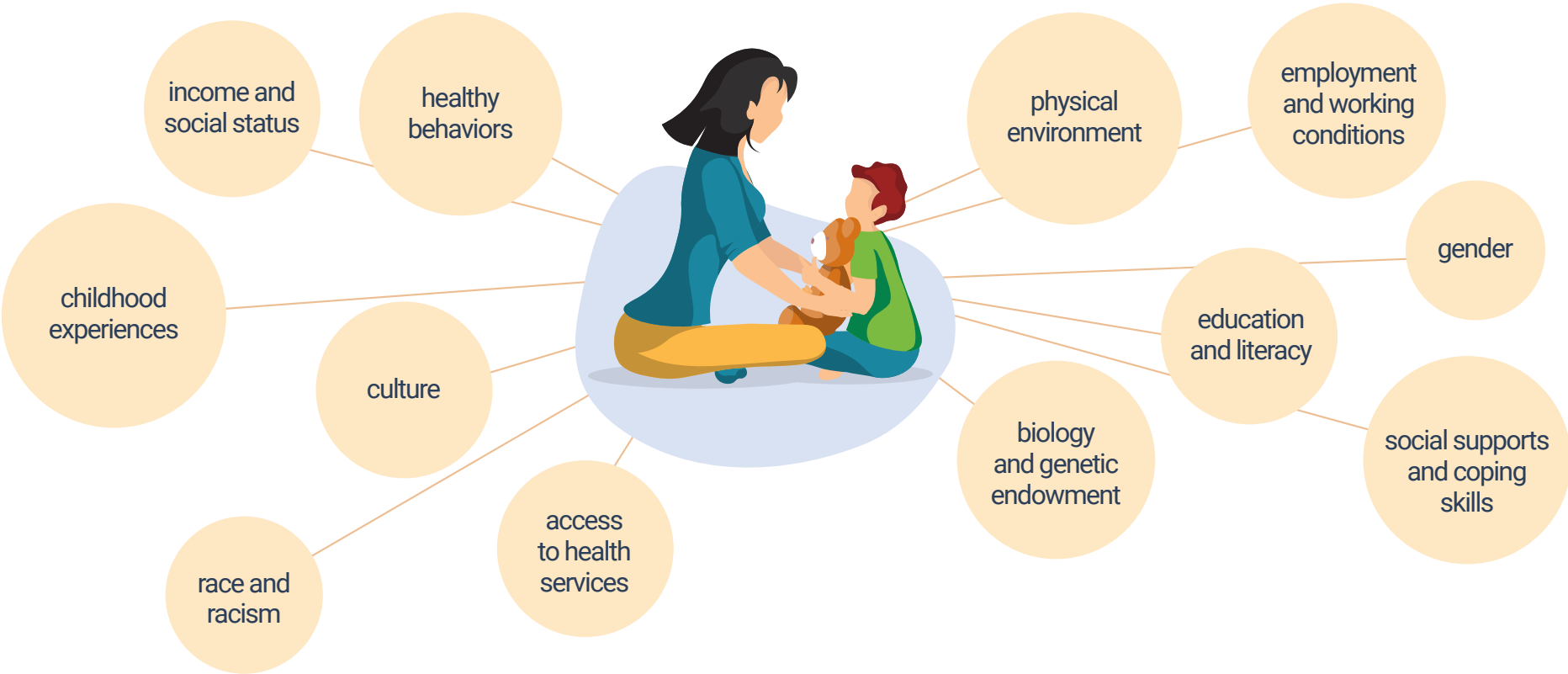
Housing situation

* Note that the comparisons with the 2016 data are based on the document HEALTHY EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY SERVICES PLAN (HEYCSP) of the Prince Edward Island French Health Network, prepared in March 2020 by Maurice Chiasson Consultants Inc.

Source:
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>

Determinants of health are the broad range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors that determine individual and population health.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA



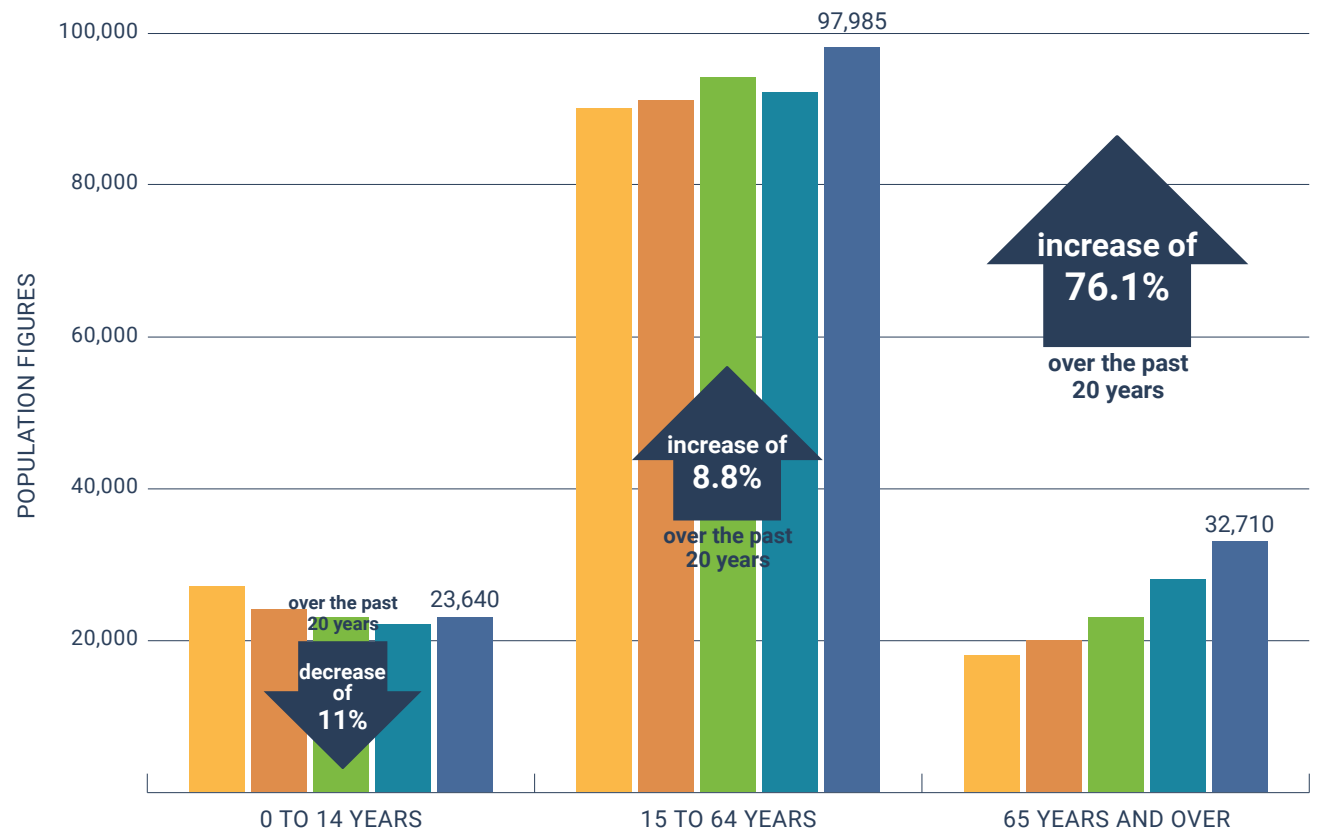
EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS

In 2021, the population of Prince Edward Island was **154,330**, representing an **8% increase over 2016**. This increase is higher than the national rate of 5.2%. It is the 2nd largest population increase after Yukon's (12.1%).

The province has **9,905 children under the age of 7**, representing 6.4% of the total population. Unlike the total population, which has increased since 2016, the under-7 population has decreased by 2.1% over the past five years.

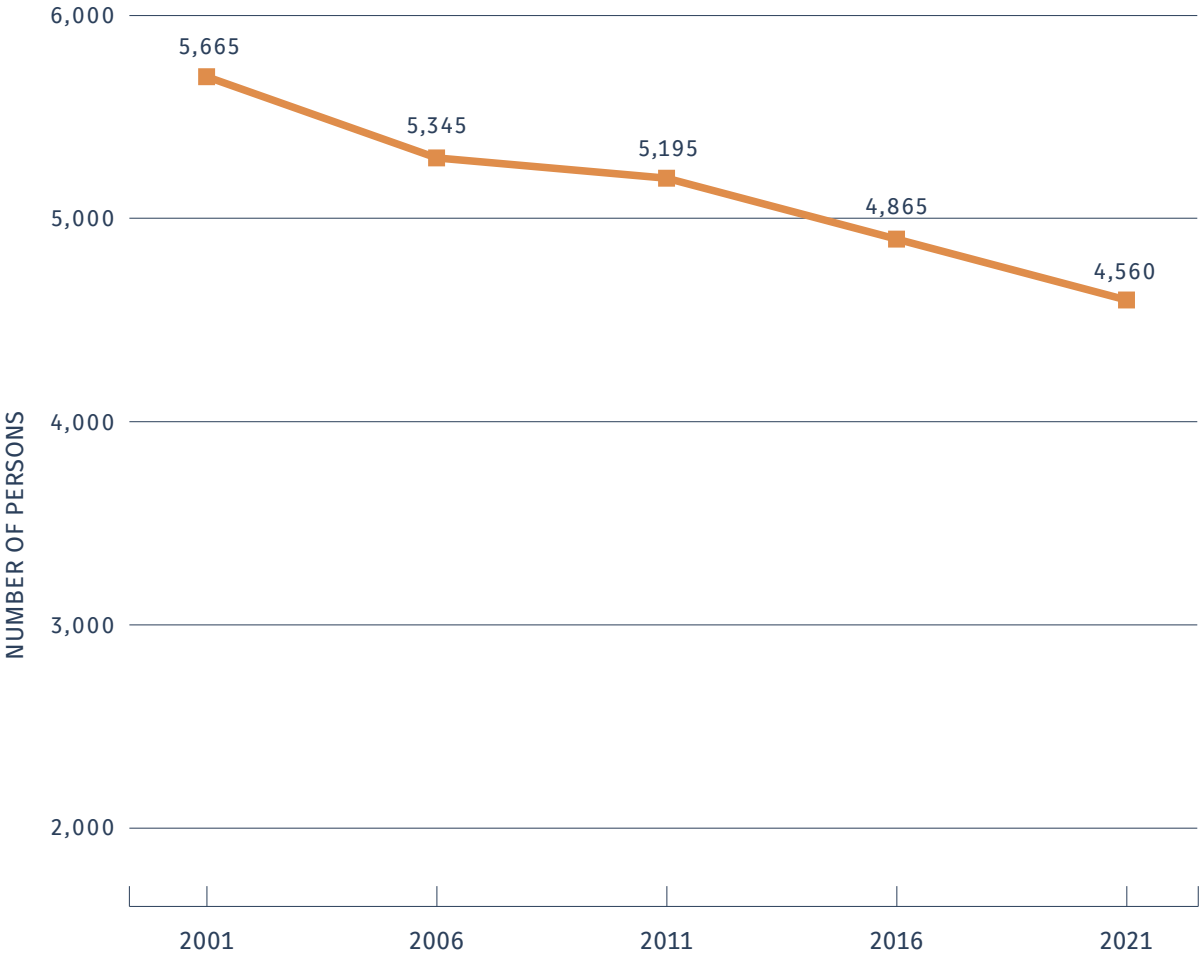


Age distribution, 2001 to 2021



Source: Product no 98-404-X2016001 at Statistics Canada Catalog, Ottawa, Ontario. Release date: February 9, 2022. Updated on: November 30 2022. Data products, 2021 Census. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=2&lang=E&dguid=2021A000211>

Evolution of the French-only mother tongue population by year, 2001 to 2021



The graph shows a 19.5% decrease in the French-only mother tongue population between 2001 and 2021.



Source: Product no 98-404-X2016001 at Statistics Canada Catalog. Ottawa, Ontario. Release date: February 9, 2022. Updated on: November 30 2022. Data products, 2021 Census. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/index.cfm?Lang=E>



Population with...

FRENCH AS THEIR ONLY MOTHER TONGUE

4,555 persons
3% of the population

A NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AS THEIR ONLY MOTHER TONGUE

12,965 persons
8.5% of the population

ENGLISH AS THEIR ONLY MOTHER TONGUE

132,425 persons
86.9% of the population

Bilingualism rate: 12.7%

Prince Edward Island population immigration data



11,765 persons
HAVE IMMIGRANT STATUS

7.8%
of the population

4,860 persons
ARE RECENT IMMIGRANTS

41.3%
of the immigrant population
3.2%
of the entire population

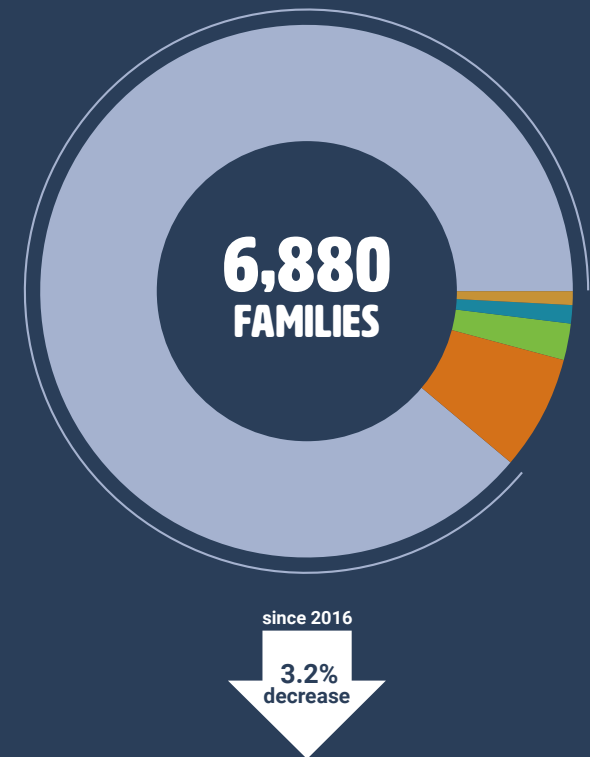
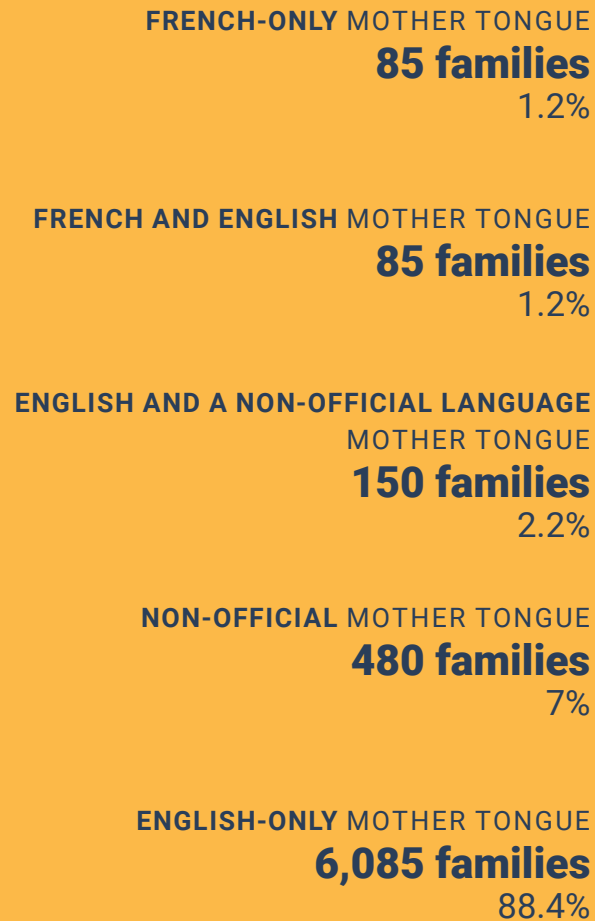
6.5%
ARE SECOND-GENERATION INDIVIDUALS

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

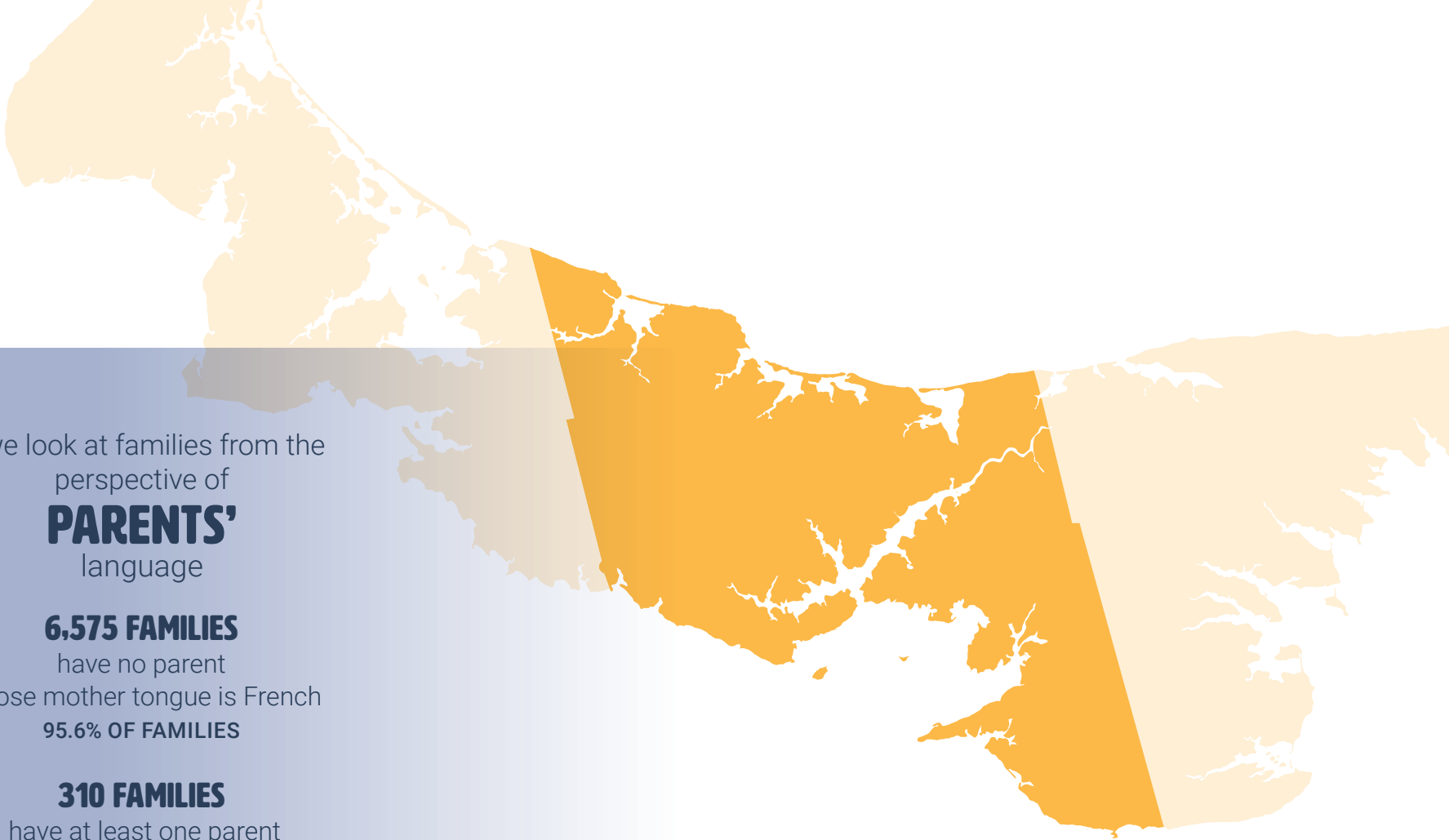
on Prince Edward Island

Number of families by child's mother tongue:

6,880 FAMILIES
have at least one child under the age of 7



The data presented in the following pages are from Statistics Canada (2021) 2021 Census Data
Customized data tables for this portrait of Prince Edward Island census families with at least one child under the age of 7
Sample data (25%).



If we look at families from the perspective of

PARENTS'

language

6,575 FAMILIES

have no parent whose mother tongue is French

95.6% OF FAMILIES

310 FAMILIES

have at least one parent whose mother tongue is French

4.5% OF FAMILIES

In **115 families** that parent is the father **1.7%**



In **165 families** that parent is the mother **2.4%**

The Queens area has the largest number of Francophone families, with 105 families having at least one child whose mother tongue is French and 180 families having at least one parent whose mother tongue is French.

FRENCH-SPEAKING FAMILIES

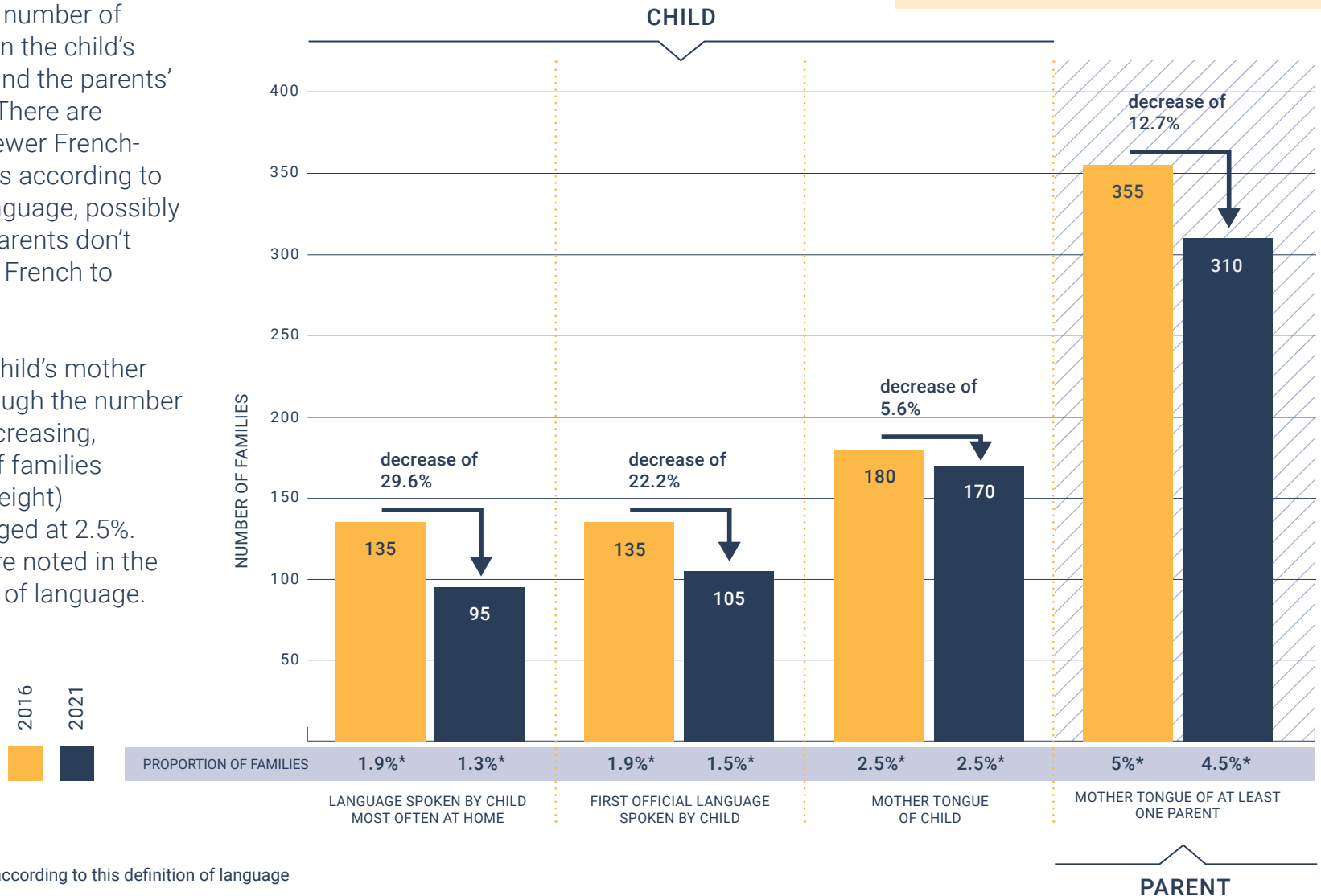
Families where the children have at least French as their mother tongue, which includes the following:

- French only
- French and English
- French and a non-official language and families where the mother tongue of at least one parent is French.

Number of French-speaking families according to the different definitions of language

It's interesting to note the difference in the number of families based on the child's mother tongue and the parents' mother tongue. There are actually 45.2% fewer French-speaking families according to the children's language, possibly indicating that parents don't actually pass on French to their children.

In terms of the child's mother tongue, even though the number of families is decreasing, the proportion of families (demographic weight) remains unchanged at 2.5%. Yet decreases are noted in the other definitions of language.



* proportion of families according to this definition of language

Several definitions of language can be used to analyze family data. To make the analyses easier to understand, data relating to parents' mother tongue will be used for the variables presented in the following pages. This category contains the greatest number of French-speaking families, which allows for better representativeness.

There are **very few** visible-minority or Aboriginal-identity **French-speaking families** with at least one child under the age of 7. The exact figure is not available, given the small number of families in this category.





INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

As in 2016, the average annual income of French-speaking families is higher than that of families without French-speaking parents. Also, compared to 2016, the average annual income of all families, all languages combined, increased by 21.6%, going from \$81,407 to \$99,000.



Table showing average total annual income by family

	Parents' language	Childs' language
French-speaking families	\$120,000  22.8% since 2016	\$111,000  16.4% since 2016
Non-French-speaking families	\$98,000	\$80,600

The unemployment rate is 8.7% for families with parents whose mother tongue is not French and 7% for families with at least one French-speaking parent.

There are very few low-income Francophone families with at least one child under the age of 7 according to Canada's low-income cut-offs.* The exact number is not available given the small number of families in this category.

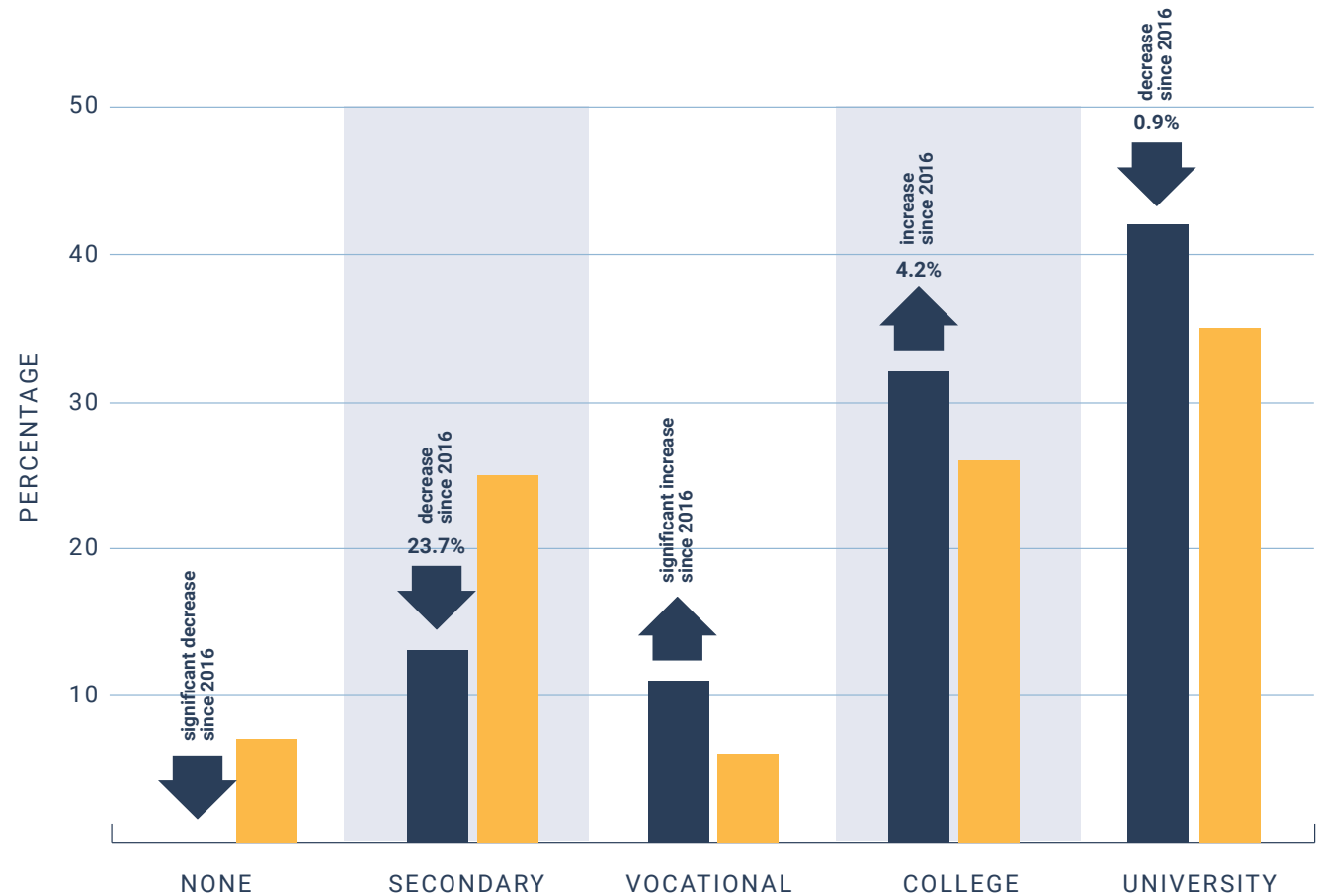
* <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1110024101>

EDUCATION

Families with at least one parent whose mother tongue is French are more likely to have a vocational, college, or university diploma than families without French-speaking parents. The graduation rate for Francophone families remained virtually unchanged at the college and university levels. However, compared to 2016, when 5.6% of Francophone families had parents without a diploma, in 2021, the number was almost zero*. In 2016, there were no Francophone families with vocational diplomas, but, in 2021, 11.3% of Francophone families had a vocational diploma.

Highest graduation rate (%) AMONG PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 7 by parent's mother tongue

■ AT LEAST ONE PARENT WHOSE MOTHER TONGUE IS FRENCH
■ NO PARENT WHOSE MOTHER TONGUE IS FRENCH



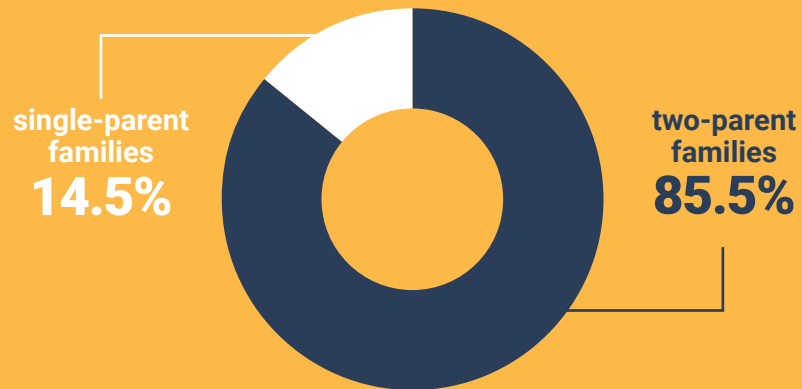
* The exact figure is not available given the small number of families in this category.

FAMILY STRUCTURE

In 2016, 94.4% of Francophone families had two parents and only 5.6% had just one parent. This situation changed considerably in 2021, when 14.5% of families had just one parent.

Compared to families without a Francophone parent, there are fewer French-speaking single-parent families.

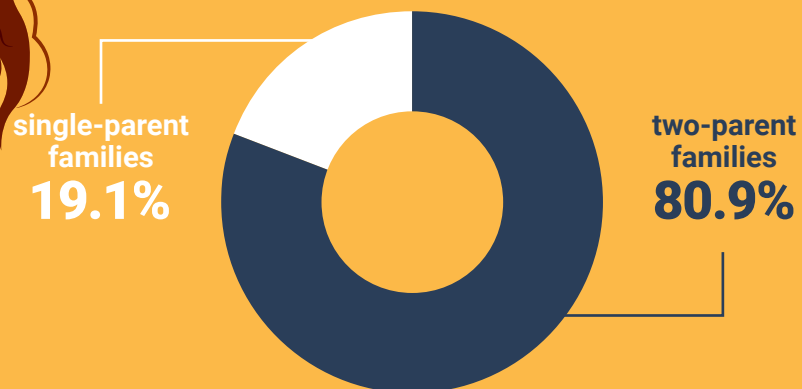
At least one parent whose mother tongue is French



2.5 X MORE
single-parent families
than in 2016

100%
of those families had
single-parent
MOTHERS

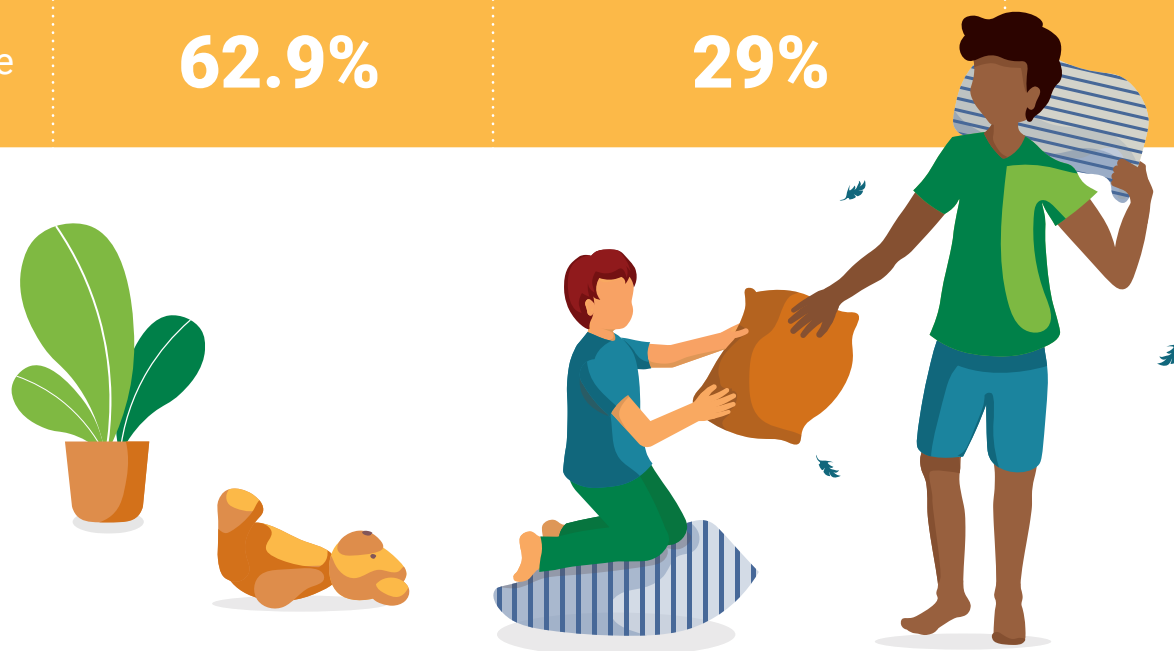
No parent whose mother tongue is French



HOUSING SITUATION

Most Prince Edward Island families with at least one child under the age of 7 live in housing requiring only regular maintenance or minor repairs. Compared to families without a French-speaking parent, there are slightly more Francophone families living in housing requiring minor or major repairs.

	Need for regular maintenance	Requiring minor repairs	Requiring major repairs
At least one parent whose mother tongue is French	62.7%	30.1%	7.1%
No parent whose mother tongue is French	62.9%	29%	6.5%



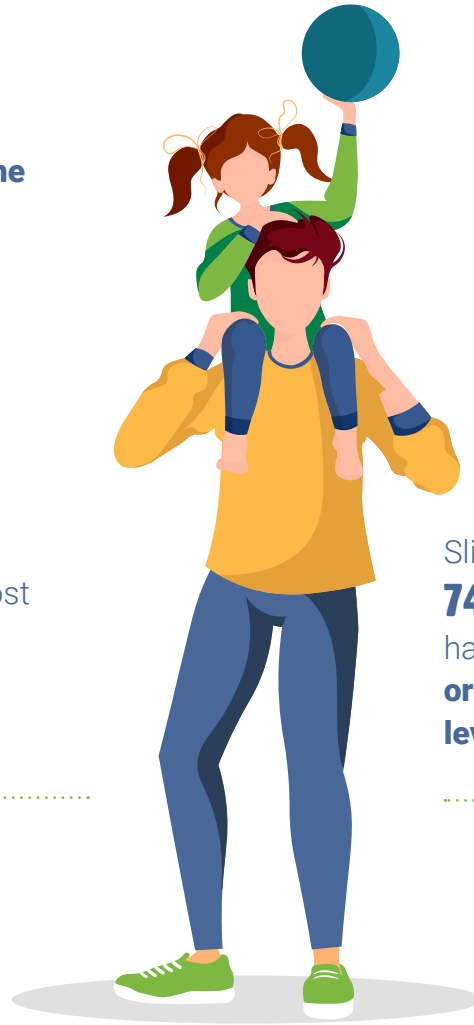
KEY FINDINGS

The number of families with at least one child under the age of 7 has **DECREASED BY 3.2%**, all languages combined.

The number of Francophone families has **DECREASED SINCE 2016**. This is even more apparent in terms of language spoken most often at home, with a **DECREASE OF NEARLY 30% SINCE 2016**.

The **average annual income of Francophone families** has **INCREASED BY ABOUT 20%** since 2016.

MOST (91.9%) FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES live in **housing requiring only regular maintenance and/or minor repairs**. However, these families are somewhat more likely to live in housing requiring minor and major repairs than families without a Francophone parent.



There are **45.2% FEWER FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES** if we go by **children's language**, possibly indicating that only **54.8% OF FRANCOPHONE PARENTS** passed on French to their children.

Slightly more than **74% OF FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES** have one **parent with at least a college diploma or a university degree at the bachelor's level or higher**.

There are **2.5 TIMES MORE SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES THAN THERE WERE IN 2016**, but they are **FEWER IN NUMBER** than families **without a Francophone parent**.



CONCLUSION

Young children are influenced by their environment and the adults around them. Francophone families with young children on Prince Edward Island are increasingly in a minority-language situation, with a demographic weight that has been declining since 2016. Young Francophone children are therefore less exposed to other children who share their linguistic culture. Although the data in this portrait indicate that families with at least one child under the age of 7 have well-educated parents and that incomes have increased over the past five years, they are also more likely to be single-parent families. In addition,

if we consider the rising cost of food and housing over the past five years, the increase in average annual income may not be sufficient to offset this. It is therefore important to support these families and offer them health services tailored to their needs and culture.

The Prince Edward Island French Health Network, in cooperation with several partners, will use the data presented in this report to guide its actions so as to enable young children and their families to grow up in a supportive environment.

