



A Neighbourhood Divided: Humewood-Cedarvale

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Introduction

After the second wave of EDI measurement took place in 2005 in the City of Toronto, it became possible to compare the results over time as well as to consider the results in relationship to the socio-economic and demographic parameters of the areas where EDI scores were collected. Early Development Instrument is a community measurement tool and, at this time, is an indispensable way to examine children's well-being in neighbourhoods in Toronto.

This report contains the exploration of the EDI results for 2003 and 2005¹ as well as socio-economic and demographic parameters of Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood. The report focuses on OEYC needs and examines predominantly the population with children of age 0-6 only. All socio-economic and demographic data come from the 2001 Canadian Census. The goal of this report is to provide an exhaustive observation and analysis of EDI results with the socio-economic and demographic background of a neighbourhood. This examination will support early years services in the area to anticipate changes in the neighbourhood and to respond to observed and anticipated service gaps.

The report consists of four sections. The first section contains the description and analysis of internal differences (at the census tract level) in socio-economic parameters of the neighbourhood. The second section is dedicated to the neighbourhood as a whole. The third section describes the history of the OEYC sites in the neighbourhood. Finally, the fourth section looks into the EDI results and the changes that took place from 2003 to 2005.

¹ EDI data is collected by Toronto school boards (no private schools) and summarized by Toronto Data Analysis Coordinators.

Internal Geography of Humewood-Cedarvale Neighbourhood

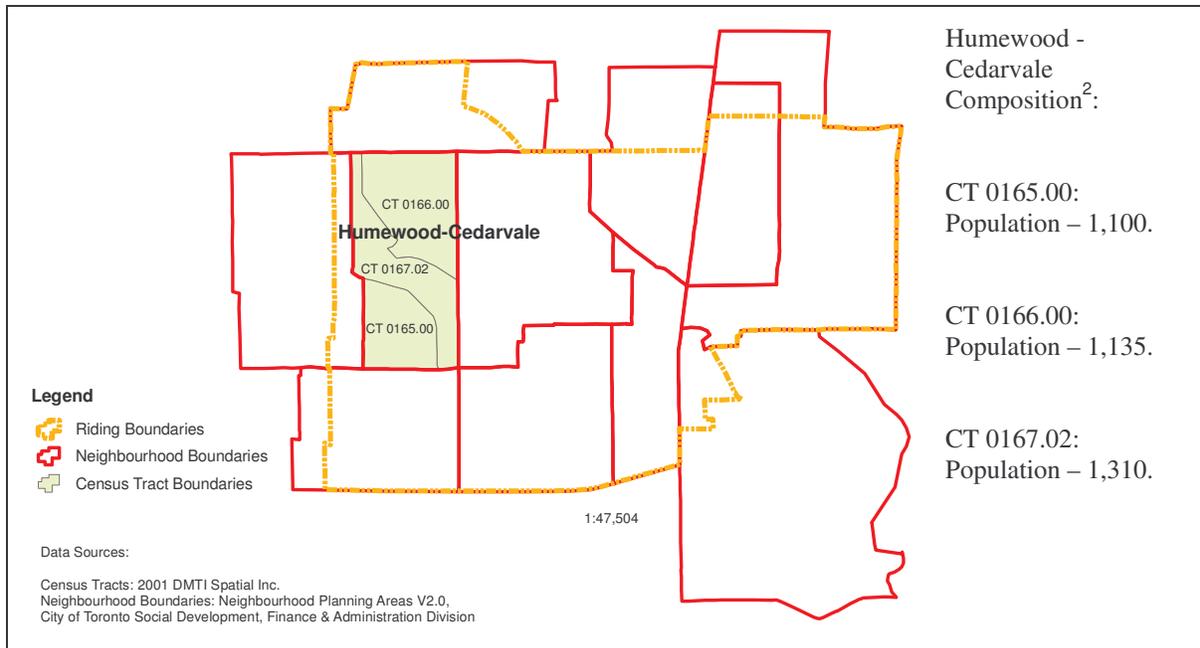


Figure 1: Map of Humewood-Cedarvale

Internally, the neighbourhood, Humewood-Cedarvale, is comprised of three census tracts (CT) that demonstrate certain differences on a number of characteristics. The southern part of the neighbourhood, or CT 0165.00, tends to be populated by a diverse community. People choosing to reside in this area of the city may do so for its extremely convenient transportation amenities. St.Clair Avenue shapes the southern boundary of the neighbourhood and offers a transportation hub. This CT is a very desirable destination for families who are interested in renting property. In this part of the neighbourhood it is common that both parents work and, thus rely heavily upon various children programs.

Recently, with the construction of several condominiums in this CT the property and rent prices have increased. In the future, this community might face demographic turnover that may disturb its residential stability and change the socio-economic portrait of the local population. In general, it is possible to suggest that when the 2006 Census Data becomes available the whole southern part of the neighbourhood will be identified as a higher income community that is a desirable place to live. The construction of condominiums also inevitably makes the area more adult focused.

² Here and further numbers are based on 2001 Census Custom Data, unless otherwise specified. The custom data represents only the population with children of age 0-6.

The middle part of the neighbourhood (CT 0167.02) is very different. In the south it is shaped by Vaughan Road with a high level of rental housing. Most of the CT's area is covered by green space. One can suppose that the high rental southern part of the CT (Vaughan Road) shapes the CT not only geographically but also socio-economically. It is possible that the rise of property prices in the south will demographically affect this area to a certain degree as well.

In contrast, the northern part of the neighbourhood (CT 0166.02) represents a well-established Jewish community. Residents in this area typically own their own property. These families often rely upon private schools and nannies. There is one OEYC site in this part of the neighbourhood. Few revealed changes in this CT are anticipated in the 2006 Census.

Demographically, all three CTs have comparable shares of children of age 0-6 in the population (7 - 8%)³. CT 0167.02, however, has a higher share of lone-parent families: 23.9% versus 19.2% in CT 0165.00 and 10.9% in CT 0166.00 (see **Figure 2**).

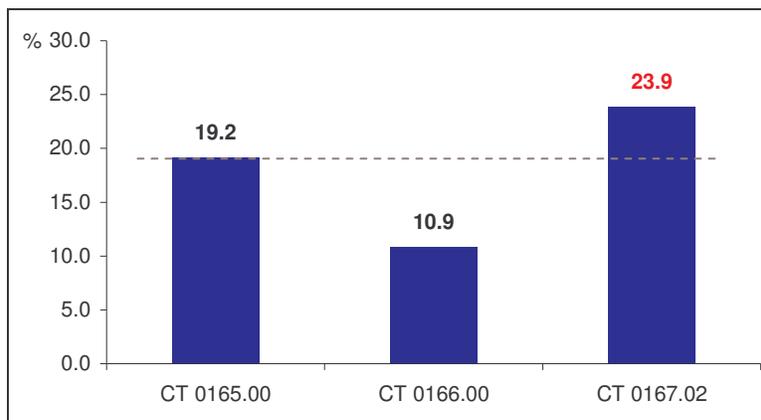


Figure 2: Percentage of Lone-Parent Families in all the Families in the Neighbourhood. A dashed line shows the Toronto Average. (Statistics Canada, 2001, Non-custom Data)

Looking at the mobility and immigration indicators, it is possible to note that CT 0167.02 has significantly higher shares of recent movers⁴ (14.2% vs. 16.6% of the Toronto Average, 9.8 in CT 0165.00, and 6.9% in CT 0166.00), immigrants (41.8% vs. 40.6% of the Toronto Average and 16.7% in CT 0166.00), and recent immigrants⁵ (17.9% vs. 14.9% of the Toronto Average and 8% in CT 0166.00) than the other two census tracts. In two out of three cases, CT 0167.02 has significantly higher shares of these indicators than their average values across the City of Toronto (see also **Figure 3**).

³ Based on non-custom Census Data, 2001.

⁴ Recent Movers are people who have been living at their current address for less than a year. Statistics Canada.

⁵ Recent Immigrants are those who entered Canada between 1996 and 2001. Statistics Canada.

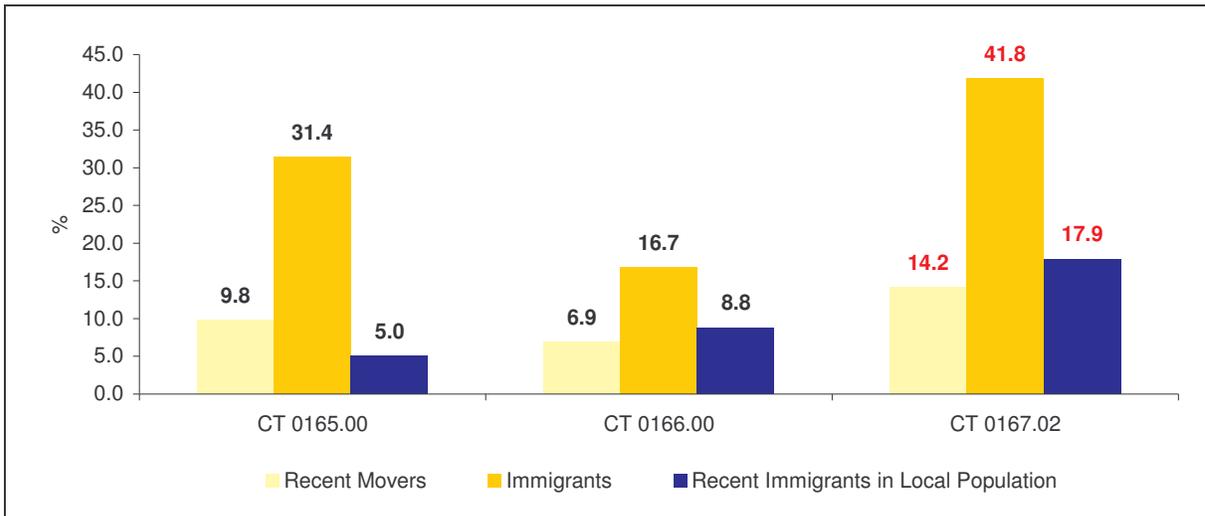


Figure 3: Stability Profile of the Neighbourhood. (Statistics Canada, 2001)

These three indicators suggest that the central part of the neighbourhood does not have the same level of stability as the other two CTs.

It is important to keep in mind that the geography of these findings is very compact: the overall population of the most inhabited CT does not exceed 6,040 people. It means that the influence of these factors is very local and limited. For example, the population of CT 0167.02 is 6,040 people out of whom approximately 1,200 are recent movers, a significant number for such a small area⁶. CT 0166.00 appears to offer the most established and least diverse environment in terms of overall mobility of residents and cultural background.

Regarding economic indicators, the unemployment rate differs significantly from one CT to another. In CT 0165.00 the unemployment rate is only 2%; in CT 0166.00 – 6.1% which is not just slightly lower than the Toronto average 7.8%. In CT 0167.02 the unemployment rate is the highest in the neighbourhood – 8.5%. Average employment income also differ significantly in all three CTs, with CT 0167.02 demonstrating the lowest average income of the three census tracts (see **Figure 4**).

⁶ Non-custom data. Canadian Census, 2001.

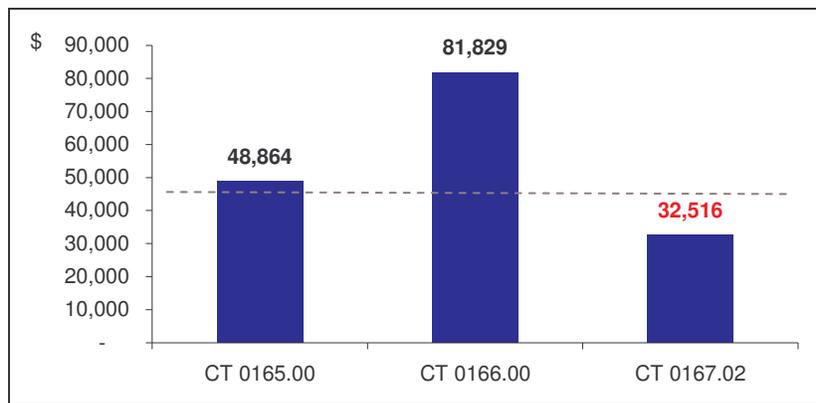


Figure 4: Average Employment Income. The grey dashed line shows the Toronto average employment income (\$45,853). (Statistics Canada, 2001)

Examining the highest level of schooling of the individuals living in Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood, it is possible to notice that CT 0167.02 unexpectedly demonstrates significantly lower share of people with no high school diploma than the other two CTs. The share of people with a university degree is also remarkably high for such a higher risk area (see **Figure 5**).

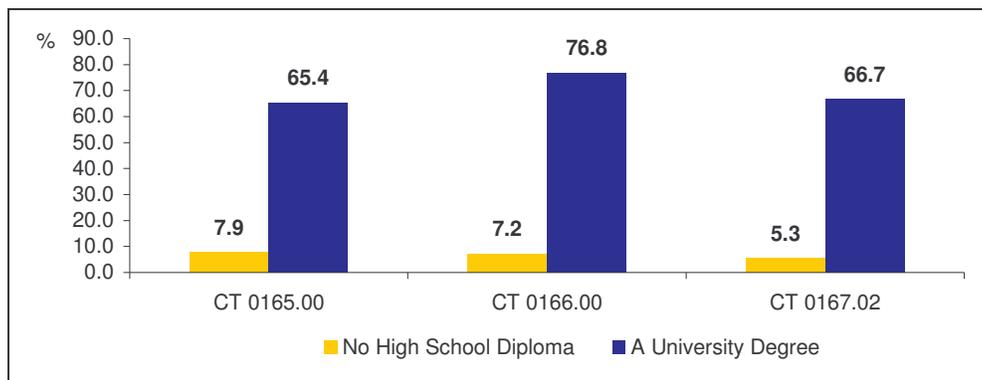


Figure 5: Education in Humewood-Cedarvale. (Statistics Canada, 2001)

All three CTs demonstrate significantly lower levels of individuals who did not successfully complete high school than the Toronto average (15.3%).

On average, the neighbourhood shows a significant level of internal heterogeneity. The northern and southern parts of the neighbourhood represent less culturally diverse communities of financially better established residents with quite opposite lifestyles. The central part, however, accumulates to a much more unstable – residentially, socially, and economically – population. It is home to a much more diverse immigrant population than is the case with its neighbouring CTs.

Socio-economic Profile of Humewood-Cedarvale Neighbourhood

According to the Canadian Census 2001, the overall population of Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood is 14,719 people⁷, 1,195 (8.1%) of whom are children aged 0-6 and 3,545 are children of age 0-6 and their parents combined (24.1%). The local aboriginal community is very small – 85 people⁸. Although it was discussed that certain parts of the neighbourhood have a high share of lone-parent families, in general, the share of lone-parent families is slightly lower than the Toronto average (18.9% vs. 19.2%)⁹.

In terms of conditions of living, Humewood-Cedarvale has a significantly lower share of owned dwellings (35.4%) than the Toronto average (52.7%). It is anticipated that housing in Humewood-Cedarvale will undergo a transformation. The share of dwellings requiring major repairs is higher than Toronto average (11.8% vs. 9%)¹⁰. One sample T-test analysis recognizes this seemingly insignificant gap as a statistically significant difference¹¹. The fact that there are more houses in need of repair in Humewood-Cedarvale is not due to a random chance and may well be accounted for by the high level of rental dwellings in the neighbourhood.

Although in certain parts of the neighbourhood the share of immigrants well exceeds the Toronto average, in general, the share of immigrants with children aged 0-6 in the local population is significantly lower than in the city (30.6% vs. 40.6%) in 2001. The share of recent immigrants in the local population is also lower than the Toronto average (11% vs. 14.9%). The top three languages (after English) in the neighbourhood are Tagalog Filipino (85 people with children of age 0-6), Spanish (35), and Portuguese (20). The share of recent movers is lower than the Toronto average (10% vs. 16.6%). This means that, despite internal differences, at a larger scale the neighbourhood is a residentially well established area. It is important to keep in mind, however, that this result is mainly a function of the indeed well-established community in the north of the neighbourhood.

In terms of the overall economic situation, the average employment income is \$53,268 vs. \$45,853 average income in Toronto. As in the previous case, this result is, to a great extent, boosted by the northern part of the neighbourhood. The overall unemployment rate is 5.7% which is lower than the Toronto average 7.8%.

Only 6.7% of the residents with children aged 0-6 do not have a high school diploma. This result is much lower than the Toronto average 15.3 for the same demographic group.

In terms of child development infrastructure, all sites and schools (Humewood and Cedarvale) are located either in the north or in the south of the neighbourhood. A distinct

⁷ Non-custom Data. Canadian Census, 2001.

⁸ Non-custom Data. Canadian Census, 2001.

⁹ Non-custom Data. Canadian Census, 2001.

¹⁰ Non-custom Data. Canadian Census, 2001.

¹¹ 0.000 level of significance at the 99% confidence interval. The variable is normally distributed.

feature of the area is that the central part of the neighbourhood is missing children's service agencies and sites. Our key informant on the neighbourhood indicated that, although Humewood-Cedarvale contains numerous early years services and support, the demand far exceeds the supply. Moreover, services tend to be time specific, for example, one OEYC satellite is open for only one day per week.

To conclude this section one can say that the neighbourhood demonstrated solid socio-economic and demographic results despite its internal discrepancies according to 2001 custom and non-custom Census Data. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the central part of the neighbourhood bares certain social and economic risks, no societal infrastructure for child development. This is especially concerning as the overall educational level of the residents is high (the response to child programs could be high as well) and there is a significant share of lone-parent families.

The observation of the main socio-economic trends that occur in the neighbourhood allows us to believe that 2006 Census Data will reveal a rise in socio-economic status of the southern part of the neighbourhood and possible changes in the central part. The factors of a convenient area to live (in terms of transport) and construction of condominiums elevate rental and property prices. In addition, the share of the population with children aged 0-6 might drop due to increasing population of childless residents oriented on urban life style. The situation will probably stay the same in the northern part of the neighbourhood.

Ontario Early Years Centres

In 2003, Mothercraft established an Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) in the riding of St. Paul's at its Heath Street location. It also established satellite locations throughout the riding to meet the changing needs of all local families with children aged 0 to 6.

In Humewood-Cedarvale, an OEYC satellite site was first established in June 2004 in the southern part of the neighbourhood. The site is located in a small room on the 9th floor of Louise Towers – a Toronto Community Housing senior's residence. The room itself has a capacity of twelve to fifteen families, and is open for one or two days per week. **Figure 6** shows a growing number of participants at Louise Towers over time. Between June 2004 and January 2007, over eight hundred unique individuals have participated in programs, representing over six thousand participant records. The participants are usually very consistent (10% of registered participants form 46% of the participation) and is represented predominantly by a culturally diverse range of nannies.

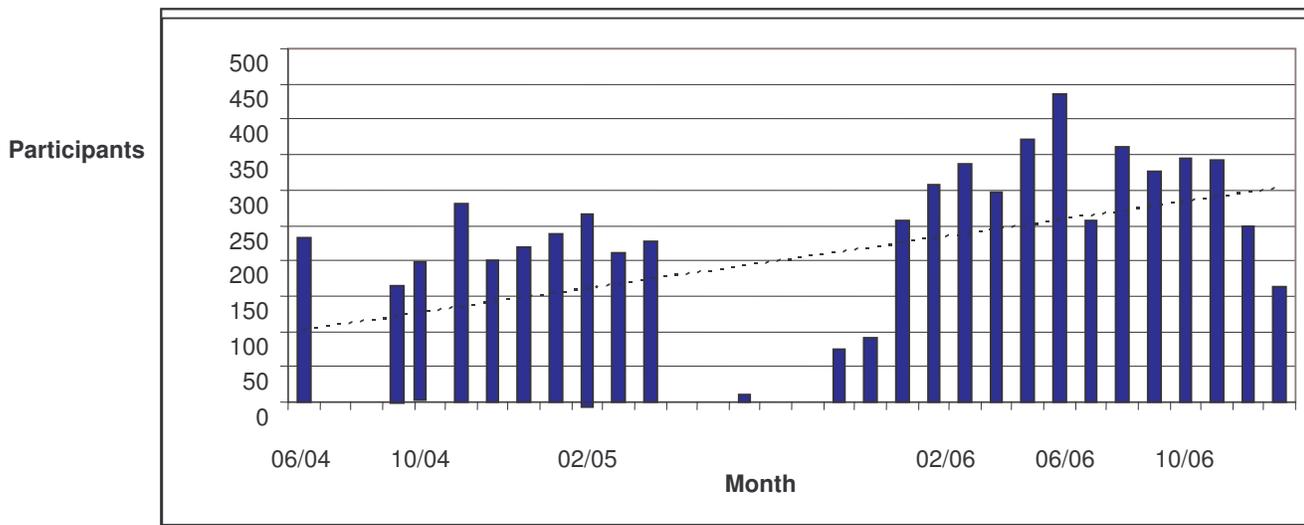


Figure 6: Number of Participants at Louise Towers Site, by Month. (EYSIS Database, 2007)

Recently, Mothercraft established two additional OEYC satellite sites in the neighbourhood. The closure of a parent centre at Humewood Community School made the space available for an OEYC satellite to open in October 2006. Its programs have been well-attended. A third satellite site was also established in the north part of the neighbourhood at the United Synagogue Day School in January 2007 in response to a community needs survey conducted by OEYC staff. Key informants are examining ways to attract participants to this location.

Children’s Readiness to Learn in 2003 and 2005

This report uses results from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to measure the change in school readiness of children in the Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood over time. The EDI measures observable behaviours and competencies across five domains: physical health and well-being (PHYS); social knowledge and competencies (SOC); emotional health and maturity (EMOT); language and cognitive development (LANGCOG); and communication skills and general knowledge (COMGEN). Although the EDI results provide a snapshot at a given point of time, the results represent the totality of the experiences of children over the first four or five years of life; thus, the results can be viewed, in part, as a measure of success of the early years services in the area.

In 2003, the EDI was implemented with children attending junior kindergarten at TDSB schools and with all senior kindergarten children across the four Toronto school boards in 2005. It is important to keep mind, however, that a number of children in the northern part of the neighbourhood attend private schools at which the EDI was not implemented; and, thus, the results may not be geographically representative of the neighbourhood as a whole.

Figure 7 compares the proportions of children residing in Humewood-Cedarvale scoring low, medium, and high on each of the five EDI domains in both 2003 and in 2005. Overall, Humewood-Cedarvale children scored higher than the “norm” (as represented by the dashed grey lines in the figure) in both years and across all domains. In general, Humewood-Cedarvale had smaller proportions of children who scored low and higher proportions who scored high than was the case in the city. Moreover, the 2005 results show observable decreases compared to the 2003 results in the proportions of low scoring children across all but one domain (language and cognitive development). If this trend continues, language and cognitive development of the children of Humewood-Cedarvale children may be an area for future consideration.

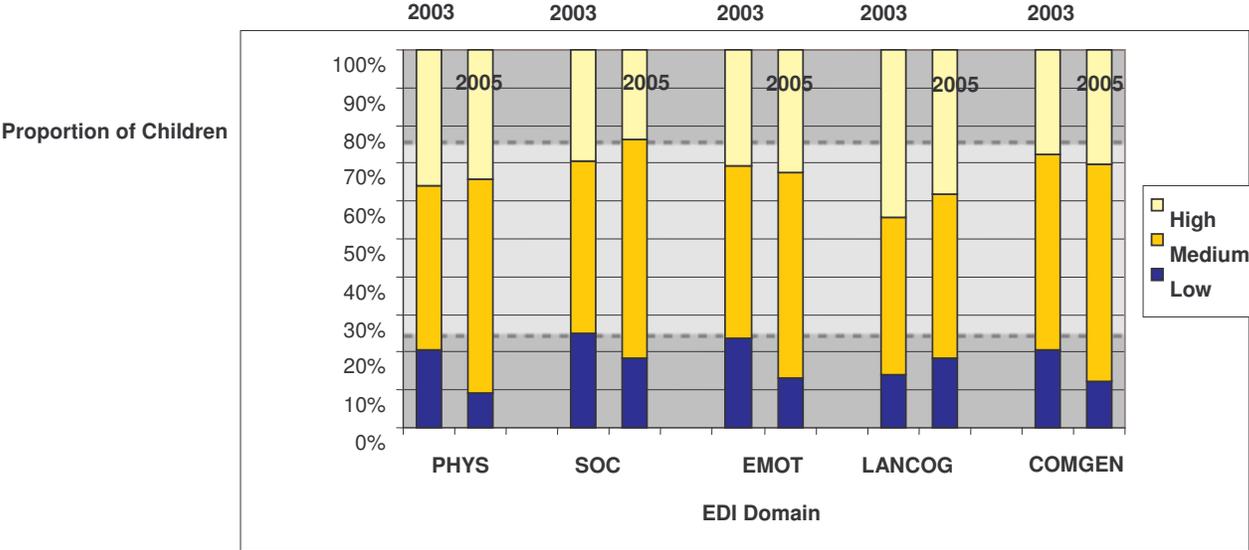


Figure 7: EDI Results for Humewood-Cedarvale, 2003 and 2005. (EDI Data: TDSB (2003, 2005); TCDSB (2005); CSDCSO (2005); CSDCCS (2006))

There are many factors that may contribute to the lowering score on the Language and Cognition domain. Further understanding requires further research. Regardless, early years services in the area could focus on activities designed to impact language and cognitive development.

Conclusion

Overall, the Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood demonstrates solid results in its socio-economic status, with three district areas identified. The neighbourhood seems to have a significant turnover of residents in 2001 and most likely this will still be a case in 2006 due to the combined influence of the construction of new condominiums, the growing attractiveness of the area (the factors that will raise rental prices), and the high percentage of rented dwellings. All these factors create risks of residential instability. There is a comparable share of lone-parent families in the neighbourhood (as compared with the Toronto average). At the same time there is evidence that the demand for childcare programs overwhelms the supply.

The EDI scores demonstrate positive shifts in most domains from 2003 to 2005. EDI results are often associated with such parameters as unemployment, low levels of education, lone-parent families, low income, and immigrants (see also Offord Centre publications). The observed positive changes in EDI domains might suggest changes in these parameters as well. Unemployment and low education levels do not seem to be defining features in the area. It is more likely that 2006 Census Data will reveal an overall increase in income and possible decreases in immigrants (which is in keeping with the local development trends discussed in the report) and lone-parent families. The central part of the neighbourhood (CT 0167.02), however, still might demonstrate much lower socio-economic results as the expected changes take part mostly in the south of the neighbourhood.

Ongoing changes in the landscape of the Humewood-Cedarvale neighbourhood will require adaptations in the provisions of early years services to ensure that all young children in the neighbourhood begin school ready for the challenges of formal education.

Application

- Strategic planning for early years services requires in-depth analyses of Toronto neighbourhoods.
- Although it is unrealistic to conduct this type of analysis on the 140 Toronto neighbourhoods, it is possible for the Toronto OEYC Network to identify neighbourhoods that are of specific concern.
- Network working groups may then take action to ensure strong early years services in identified at-risk areas.