The state of kindergartners' development, 2015-2018

EDI in Ontario Over Time

WHAT IS THE EDI?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers measuring children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations in five key domains.

WHAT IS VULNERABILITY?

"Vulnerable" describes the children who score below a standard score in any domain of their development.

Children vulnerable in kindergarten are more likely to have later difficulties academically, emotionally, and in their relationships with peers.

From Cycle 4 to Cycle 5 the percent of Ontario kindergartners vulnerable in at least one domain of their development stayed relatively stable.

- 2015: 29.4%
- 2018: 29.6%

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

The percent of Ontario kindergartners vulnerable in at least one domain of their development stayed relatively stable from Cycle 4 to Cycle 5.

29.4% (2015)
29.6% (2018)

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN CYCLE 5

The demographic composition of Cycle 5 was similar to Cycle 4 for sex, age, and the percentage of children requiring further assessment.

However, in Cycle 5 there were more children with Special Needs (+0.8%) and a language status of ELL, ALF, PANA, or FSL (+4.3%). Children were also absent for more days on average (+0.6).

DOMAINS OF DEVELOPMENT

- Physical Health & Well-Being: +0.2%
- Social Competence: -0.7%
- Emotional Maturity: -1.0%
- Language & Cognitive Development: +0.9%
- Communication Skills & General Knowledge: +0.2%

How has vulnerability changed from 2015 to 2018?

+ means an increase in vulnerability, indicating more children vulnerable in 2018 than 2015.
- means a decrease in vulnerability, indicating fewer children vulnerable in 2018 than 2015.

Please note that less vulnerability is the more favourable outcome.

For more information about the EDI please visit edi.offordcentre.com