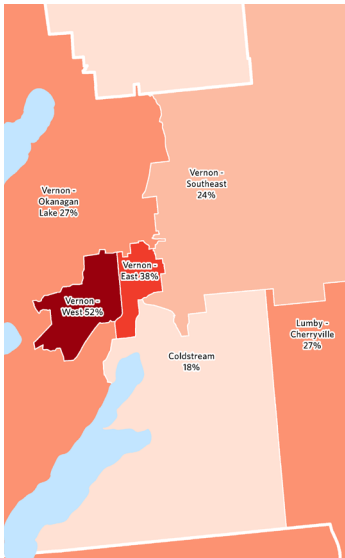


EDI Map Interpretation



HELP produces a range of maps and other graphics that illustrate the results of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), socio-economic information and other ecological data. These maps can be used in a variety of ways, from community mobilization to policy making, and are powerful tools for use in planning and community mobilization. Seeing the results for children in your neighbourhood can inspire a direct commitment to improving those results.

WHAT DO EDI MAPS REVEAL?

Maps and summary reports reveal important differences in child development. Specifically, these maps can:

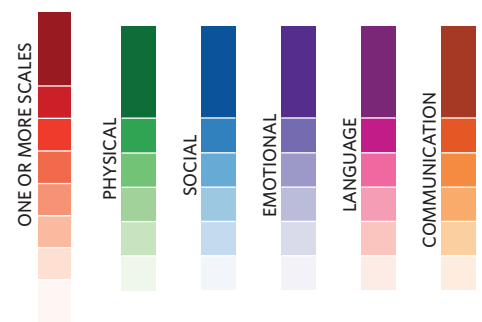
- Show the proportion (percentage) of children who are vulnerable in an area for each scale of the EDI;
- Identify neighbourhood differences in the number of children who are healthy and ready for school;
- Reveal where there are gaps in children's development and where improvement is needed;
- Reveal how socio-economic factors may influence children's early development;
- Heighten awareness of the importance of early child development; and,
- Prompt new community policies and programs.

READING EDI MAPS

EDI results are now mapped using a unique sequential colour scheme for each scale. Darker colours indicate a higher percentage of vulnerable children. Most scales are classified using 6 colours, each representing a 5% difference in vulnerability, except in the highest classes which represent vulnerability rates over 25%. The Vulnerable on One or More scale is classified using 8 colours, each representing 5% except on the low end (1-15%) and the high end (over 45%).

FIG 1: EDI MAP COLOURS

Darker colours represent higher vulnerability, while lighter colours represent lower vulnerability.





MAPPING GEOGRAPHIES

The geography of a child’s daily life in his or her early years tends to centre on the neighbourhood. For this reason, HELP uses “natural neighbourhood units” to report EDI results. These units have been defined by working closely with communities.

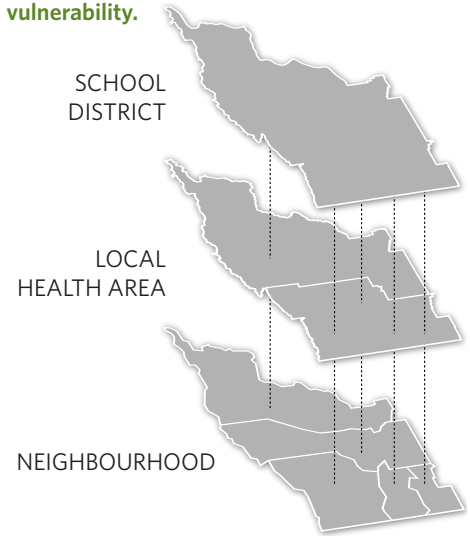
In addition to mapping EDI results by neighbourhood, the HELP research team also maps results by larger jurisdictions such as school districts and local health areas, to provide information that guides policy and programming decisions provincially and regionally. Routinely, maps are created for the 59 school districts and five regional health authorities in BC.

HOW ARE EDI RESULTS AGGREGATED?

The process of collecting individual data and reporting it at a community level requires a technique called geocoding. In accordance with the Province’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) privacy rules, EDI data is anonymized in a secure

FIG 2: LEVELS OF GEOGRAPHY

EDI results are mapped at several levels of geography, revealing different patterns of vulnerability.



research environment, where it is linked via the child’s postal code to a corresponding neighbourhood or other level of geography. The process of geocoding and aggregating EDI results is described in Figure 3.

FIG 3: HOW EDI RESULTS AGGREGATED

EDI scores are associated with the postal code of children’s home address. Each postal code is geocoded (located) within a particular area, for example a neighbourhood. The scores of children within each area are then aggregated (grouped) so that results can be reported at the local or regional level.

