Robert J. Fulton, Consultant

97 Chudleigh Ave.
Toronto, Ontario   M4R 1T4
telephone (416) 481 - 7803
fax (416) 481 - 4299
e-mail: r.fulton@rogers.com

Demographic and Risk Indicators for
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

An Analysis of Census Tables from 1991 to 2001
with custom tabulations on Crime, Childbirth,
Substance Abuse, Infant Mortality, Accidental
Death and Suicide

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Background

Between 1996 and 2001, the Provincial government amalgamated many towns, townships and cities affecting every jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario. The new city "place names" form the basis of the 2001 Census and in order to facilitate comparisons over time, I have had to reorganize the data from 1991 and 1996 census into the new municipal boundaries. In one case, an entire township was moved from Northumberland county to Hastings County (Murray, pop 7,350).

The section below describes the dominant trends affecting the nature and wellbeing of families and children in 2001 compared to 1996. The over riding fact is that every county and every city and town within are changing significantly year after year. What we can see from any single statistic is the *net effect*: where the cycle of change stopped on Census day. What you cannot see from Census data is the flow through. For example, in a *typical one-year period* between 1996 and 2001, more than 1,000 babies were born and 1,000 people died in Stormont. Moreover, 1,500 people moved into Stormont from other Provinces or from other countries. Also, in the same period, about 4,500 people left Stormont and about 2,500 moved into Stormont from other places in the Province. At the end of the day, the population of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry shrunk over a five year period by 1.6% (a loss of 1,779 people). The statement, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry shrunk by 1,779 people in five years*, however, is the net effect, after tens of thousands of people changed place, were born or died.

A relentless surge of humanity is hidden behind every statistic presented below; this makes predicting social and demographic change a bit like weather forecasts. Predictions based on recent trends in nearby places are very accurate, but dramatic changes in *the net effect* are difficult to predict and rarely possible given the forces at play under the numbers. If the US economy which has so evidently shaped Ontario's recent past, slides into further trouble, many of the trends cited below will change significantly.

Dominant Trends:

(1)   *Small cities* (population in the 15,000 to 50,000 range) and *small discrete towns* in the 5,000 to 15,000 range) with a population density of >700 people/sq km) are *shrinking*.
          This fact is adversely affecting population growth in most of the Eastern Region

Counties. Prince Edward, Hastings, Renfrew, Halburton and Stormont have actually shrunk in population count between 1996 and 2001.

(2)   Real population growth is occurring in the major urban centres of Ontario. The GTA and one other major centre, Ottawa, are growing by huge numbers (all in excess of 35,000 people). A few other centres of growth (Waterloo, Windsor, Wellington, Hamilton, Guelph and London are growing moderately (from 10,000 to 30,000).

(3)   Some small cities (Cobourg and Peterborough) and sub-urban townships with fairly low density close to the GTA or Ottawa are growing as well. This pattern is the engine of population growth, economic and social renewal for many of the Eastern counties. The Ontario government's population projections assume that growth in Ottawa is leveling off and that rapid growth will spread to the neighboring counties as it has in the GTA rim outside of Toronto.

(4)   The population of children under 6 is shrinking throughout Ontario with the exception of York, Peel, Windsor and Wellington.

(5)   Conversely, the population of older teenagers (15-17 years) is growing throughout Ontario and, in particular, in the Eastern counties. The trends in school age children are quite split, with half of the Province (and the Eastern counties) growing, and half the Province declining in the school age population (6-14 years). Eventually, these young people reach child-bearing age and this produces a mini baby boom. Young adults and older teens also commit most of the crimes and most incidents of domestic assault. These demographic forces – which will be discussed further below, will lead to significant increases in Child Protection activity.

(6)   There are significant population increases projected for small counties. By 2006, the Province projects that the Ontario population will grow by 9.8%, and growth in the individual counties of the Eastern Region is as follows:

Stormont	**7.9%**
Prescott	12.6%
Leeds	7.2%
Lanark	8.2%
Frontenac	1.9%
Lennox	5.4%
Hastings	3.2%
Prince	11.2%
Northumberland	17.4%
Kawarth CAS dist	9.9 %
Ottawa	6.4%

These projections are much higher than the population changes observed in the 1996

to 2001 period, with the exception of Ottawa, Frontenac and Hastings, who are expected to maintain or even decline relative to the pattern in the 1996-01 period.

The number of children in the youngest age cohort (0 to 4) are expected to grow in some counties by 2006 and decline in others – but by 2011, there will be a dramatic increase in the number of these children in the Eastern counties – unlike most of the Province.

(7)   The proportion of families where all of the children are under the age of 6 years is falling. Our families, in effect, are older with more school age children or older teenagers. However, there are tremendous variations in the percentage of young families in a city or town; many places in the Eastern counties have seen substantial increases in the percentage of *young families*. The economic well being of these families has improved dramatically with a massive drop in the unemployment rate for mothers in families where all children are under 6. In most counties in the Eastern region, the number of *Stay-at-home Moms (*for the young families) has significantly decreased – putting more demand on the informal child care industry. This creates two problems for Child Welfare, a loss of potential foster homes and an increase of children in unregulated informal child care, where some tragedies have occurred.

(8)   During the five-year period from 1996 and 2001, the inflation rate was 9.78% according to the Bank of Canada and Statistics Canada. The inflation rate over the eleven years from June 1992 to May 2003 was 22.7% or an average of close to 2% per year. I have used the 5-year inflation rate to convert all dollar amounts in the 1996 Census into the 2001 equivalents. In this way, the *true purchasing power* of average income figures for 1996 (after adjustments) and for 2001 is identical. Personal wealth has increased dramatically across Ontario between 1996 and 2001, but the impact of adjusting the 1996 amounts by the inflation rate moderates the apparent increase. I also adjusted the average monthly shelter costs for 1996 (adding 9.78%)

(9)   Between 1996 and 2001, there has been a huge increase in personal wealth for all types of families including female led single parents. The number of families living in poverty has declined. Dependence on government transfer payments has declined across Ontario by $2 billion and this decline is evident in the Eastern counties. Overall, the people of Ontario are richer by $48 billion dollars (adjusted for inflation). Every county in the Eastern region has received a share of this wealth.

(10)   At the same time, there are huge wealth gaps (the modern rail way track splitting the town) opening up between those who are in poverty and the rest of us. The number of families living with incomes of less than $30,000 per year has *increased* by 100,000 across Ontario and this can be seen throughout the Eastern counties. However, the percentage of very poor families has decreased marginally because of

the even larger increase of family households between 1996 and 2001.

(11)   Female led lone parent households have seen a 15% increase in average family income since 1996 (adjusted for inflation – so that this increase reflects real spending power). However, the income of female led lone parents actually declined in many areas (including Stormont, -3.5% and many small cities and towns)

(12)   25% of all unemployed people have no available jobs. Their hopes are pinned entirely on further exponential growth in the job market in Ontario

(13)   Conversely, jobs exist for 75% of the unemployed but it is not clear how many of these unemployed are a good fit for the available jobs

(14)   The religious profile of Ontario was updated in the 2001 Census (from 1991). Over the decade, the number of people with no religious affiliation increased by 3.6%. Across the Eastern counties, the percentage of people with no religious affiliation increased from 5% to 10%. (except for Renfrew) The growth in people with no religion was at the expense of the Protestant communities.

(15)   Across Ontario, there is a tight relationship between the increase in number of dwellings and the increase in the population. In many of the Eastern counties, the number of dwellings is increasing at a faster rate compared to the population (in some cases population actually declined while places to live increased). Single detached housing, for example has increased by approximately 5%, well above the typical change in population. The supply of homes reflects the expectations of the private sector that the Eastern counties - outside of Ottawa - are going to grow significantly in the near future.

(16)   Across Ontario, large apartment blocks (over 5 stories) are increasing by 6% while small rise apartment blocks (under 5 stories) are declining by 3.3%. This is an unfortunate trend because both domestic violence and mental health problems have been shown to increase significantly for people living in large apartment blocks. This has been proven to be an effect of environment on people not that violent or mentally people prefer large apartment blocks. (Rennison , 2000; Rutter, 1981)

(17)   Renters are declining and home ownership is increasing (good news for domestic violence). The true cost of shelter (after adjusting for inflation) for both renters and owners is *decreasing marginally*. The number of households who spend more than 30% of their gross income on shelter is also decreasing marginally. There remains, however, a small minority of families (about 16%) who are not benefiting from the increasing wealth and prosperity. These people are located in the worst combination of housing (large apartment blocks, renting and paying too much for rent)

(18)   The annual average number of jobs in Ontario has increased by almost 11% (591,370 jobs), which is about 40% higher than the population growth. The new jobs have definitely not been evenly distributed across the Eastern counties. Some counties and many cities and towns have actually lost jobs over the five years.

Most of the Eastern counties have at least double the proportion of jobs in agriculture compared to the Province and this industry has lost 20,705 jobs over the last five years.. The engines of job growth in Ontario are in manufacturing, finance, business services, health and social services. Many of the Eastern counties benefited from the boom in manufacturing.

(19)   The number of young people (age 15 to 24 years) who are not in school increased across Ontario by about 3%. Most of these young people have moved into the labour market and been employed. Youth unemployment has fallen by about 5% across Ontario. The problem, however, is that some cities and towns in the Eastern region have seen youth unemployment rise. School dropouts, leading to long-term unemployment, is a major engine of child protection concerns including crime, domestic violence and teenage childbirth.

(20)   Infant Mortality across Ontario has fallen from 807 per 100,000 babies born in the 1980's to an average of 541 per 100,000 babies born (for the three years 1996, 1997, 1998). This is a 33% reduction in infant mortality,

To put this statistic in perspective, between 3% and 4% of babies are born with serious medical conditions (Abuelo, 1991). This means that from 2.5% and 3.5% of babies born will probably survive with chronic medical conditions – many of which produce developmental disability and shortened lifespan. The 33% reduction in infant mortality has effectively increased the number of medically/developmentally needy infants that families are caring for at a cost of considerable stress.

(21)   Between 1996 and the year 2000, teenage childbirth has fallen 30% to 14.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19 years. Although, I cannot update this dataset at the local level, I will highlight the municipalities that had very high rates of teenage childbirth in 1996.

The rate of teenage childbirth is a robust marker of communities who are prone to a host of social problems. Rates of teenage childbirth - location by location - are highly correlated (75% plus) with rates for suicide, juvenile delinquency, adult crime, substance abuse and accidental death. It is obvious that the teen mother does not cause these other events to occur. Rather teen girls often become pregnant because there is a high degree of risk taking behaviour by youth in her community or school. The risk taking behaviour leads to all kinds of problems, a lot of which is hidden from public view. Childbirth, however, is almost impossible to hide and we have many legal and administrative systems in place to count teen mothers.

(22)   Statistics Canada (cat #85f0018xpe) reported that there were an average of 19,245 adults (who were Ontario residents) in federal prison and 218,526 adults in Ontario's provincial jails. This represents 3% of the adult population in jail on any given day. The average daily inmate count in 1997-98 is 13% lower than it was in the 1992-93 period.

Statistics Canada (cat 85-223-xpe) reports on the number and rates of both violent criminal offenses and all types of crime. The crime rates across Ontario have been going down in most jurisdictions. There is still, however, enormous variation in crime at the local level. With more than 80% of police departments in the Province reporting, the data from the annual crime survey shows:

{a}   The overall crime rate has gone down by over 23% since 1990.

{b}   Cities with populations in the 15,000 to 50,000 range have the highest rates of violent crime (1,268 events per 100,000 pop) and crime in general (11,224 events per 100,000 pop). Examples of cities in this size group include: Cornwall, Belleville, Trenton, and Cobourg,

{c}   The lowest crime rates, which are 30% to 50% lower, are in the large urban areas with populations over 100,000. These cities are also growing.

{d}   Rural townships in Ontario are almost identical to the big cities showing very low crime rates.

{e}   Small towns (in the 5,000 to 15,000 population range) show crime rates about 20% above the big cities but still below the high crimes in the small cities

I have also updated the data on childbirth and infant mortality to 1998, the latest year that this has been released by Statistics Canada. Three critically important indicators of child abuse risk at the local level: ☐ *suicide rates for young people* ☐ *accidental death rates for children* and ☐ the *teenage child birth rate* are now being suppressed by Statistics Canada at the request of the Province of Ontario. I do have this data up to 1996, however, and the basic direction of these indicators have changed little over the previous decade when data was available.

This report has two sections: {a} a description of the trends and analysis of the impact on children and families and {b} a series of data tables, containing county by county comparisons with Stormont' neighbors and details for the municipalities within Stormont.

Purpose and Theoretical Foundation of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Children=s Aid Society of Stormont with the latest data on social demographic and economic forces affecting the lives of the 26,010 children and the 18,685 families with children in the county. In order to support long-term planning, I will present data prepared by the Ministry of Finance for Ontario projecting the total population and child population for the next several years.

Throughout this report, I have identified specific Census variables that predict the prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect. In each case, I provide a reference in the literature to support this observation. All of the indicators in this report can be grouped into four main headings: the first three are explanatory theories of Child Abuse and Neglect and the last is prevalence data for co-morbid conditions (such as substance abuse and infant mortality).

Social Disorganization Theory

Social disorganization theory is an attempt to explain the variation in crime or other antisocial behaviour (such as Child Abuse and Neglect) by identifying qualities at the societal level (schools, institutions, formal supports, public supervision and behaviour control of young people) that affect how people behave. In worst-case scenarios, *social disorganization theory* is obvious. The worst case scenarios are *failed states* (Afghanistan, Somalia, Bosnia), the *de-population of the inner core* of large cities (Detriot, Chicago) and the *collapse of civic functions* (on certain reserves, Russia, etc). The challenge is to recognize these destructive processes in their early stages when Children's Aid Societies can actually do something about them.

Social disorganization theory holds that social processes within the neighbourhoods themselves *cause an increase* in delinquency, crime and child abuse and that the effect of the social process is greater than the sum total of individual human contributions. Testing the theory scientifically has been hard because *social processes* (e.g. power structures, quality of schools, the friendship patterns and social control of teenagers, and community feelings such as hope, anger, concern for neighbours) are hard to quantify. (Burstik, 1993)

The Census indicators that may fit this theory include: {a} de-population trends evident in many small cities, towns and rural counties; {b} school enrolment and academic attainment; {c} the amount of hopelessness evident in the unemployment picture; {d} the quality and availability of affordable housing {e} high rates of teenage childbirth; and {f} high rates of crime.

Stress, Support and Coping

Wheaton & Roszell (1996) analyzed the life long impact of early childhood stressors on the future ability of the person to cope with other stressors later in life. Paradoxically, they found that stress actually can have good effects for children and parents by:

]ρ   forming the basis for the development of coping skills

]ρ   enhancing social competence - if the stress is resolved successfully

]   reducing the *threat value* of further stressors, by means of a ceiling effect

]ρ   increasing vigilance, which in turn produces anticipatory coping for further
      stressors

]ρ   breeding familiarity with similar stressors, which reduces their threat potential

On the other hand stress also produced bad effects, such as depression and antisocial behaviour
in the parents, because

]   stress->change & change forces us to adjust and some of us fail to adjust successfully

]   stress wears down and uses up finite resources - note: coping resources, such as the
      commitment of a supportive family member, can be replenished but not indefinitely

]   the accumulation of stress exposure represents evidence of a hostile world and this
      questions our (or the client's) assumptions about social justice

]   stress represents a kind of captivity in a situation demanding change, resolution or
      escape; often these solutions are not readily available if at all

Their research points out that both views of stress are true. The correct metaphor is that children
and parents are elastic; they bend in response to stress and rebound; but only as long as the total
burden of stress is not too great or too sudden. Moreover, by bending in response to stress,
people acquire greater flexibility and strength for dealing with future trouble. This good/bad
effects of stress is another source of error in multi-factor regression analysis of Child Welfare
expenditures and social indicators of stress, especially poverty.

Nevertheless, the stress concept in social indicator research is very important because stress
predicts the *severity* of childhood and parental mental health problems while other risk factors
are good predictors of broadly based difficulties picked up on epidemiological surveys. (Rutter,
1985)

The indicators of stress on the Census table include: {a} increase in female led lone parents
homes; {b} family incomes; {c} poverty and other measures of economic stress; and {d}
unemployment.

Low SES and the theory of stigmatization

Various Census indicators of low SES have always been correlated with high levels of morbidity
and mortality across a wide variety of adverse outcomes. The correlations lead to a fundamental
scientific question:

Y does the correlation exist because people with cognitive, emotional and/or behavioural problems are not able to adapt successfully to work or school and therefore end up at the bottom of the socio-economic scale, or

Y does low socio-economic status itself cause the adverse cognitive, emotional and behavioural problems so prevalent among this population?

Low SES increases the vulnerability of children to child and abuse *indirectly* through five pathways:

> {a} by directly increasing (2x) the proportion of mother with serious clinical depression, ((Kessler, 1994; Vondra, 1990; Dowrenrend, 1992) who in turn are six times (6x) more likely to physically abuse the child (Chaffing, 1996);

> {b} by directly increasing (2x) the proportion of fathers who have substance abuse disorder or anti-social behaviour disorder (Dowrenrend, 1992) who in turn are six times (6x) more likely to seriously neglect the child (Chaffing, 1996);

> {c} because low SES communities have few material resources, the quality of schools and housing is directly and adversely affected, which in turn causes an increase in disorder and severe family dysfunction (Rutter, 1981)

> {d} by directly increasing the incidence of substance abuse in the community, which in turn leads to fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects (Roeveld, 1997) and these children are more likely to be abused or neglected (Gelles, 1987). Currently FAS is recognized as the leading known cause of *mental retardation* in the Western world. (Harris, 1995). The incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome is now estimated at 0.97 cases per 1,000 live births in the general obstetric population and 4.3 percent among heavy drinkers. (Abel, 1995).

> {e} by directly increasing the incidence of mild mental retardation in children through poor prenatal care, poor medical follow-up, poor nutrition and inadequate stimulation. (Roeleveld, 1997) To some extent, this outcome is itself the consequences of neglect, although it predisposes the child to further neglect and abuse.

Low SES is indicated by unemployment, low paying jobs, high proportion of blue-collar jobs and low educational attainment. The active ingredient in low SES, which produces so many bad outcomes may be *stigmatization*. Indeed, some of the hostility toward police in Toronto by black youth may be explained by the fact that these young people have few chances in life; they are stuck at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder and they feel marked – no-one (outside their group) gives them any respect and many people openly despise and fear them.

Prevalence Data

Data on the incidence of infant mortality, accidental death, suicide, substance abuse, teenage childbirth and crime shows tremendous variation and correlation at the local level. This variation may be explained by one of the three theories above. Whether the theories are true or not, the variation is real and it is reasonable to assume hidden child abuse will co-vary in the same pattern locally as these more visible social problems.

Finally, I have prepared basic information tables about the population and the nature of families, most of which is quite neutral and irrelevant to the notion of risk. I trust that this information is useful to planners within the CAS for issues such as the future location of sub-offices, recruitment strategies for foster care and budget preparation.

The Total Population

Table 1 (in **pop_comp Stormont.xls**) shows the historical trend in population for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and surrounding counties. Between 1996 and 2001, the population of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry shrunk by 1,779 people, a 1.6% decline. Most of the decline (1,763) is occurring in the city of Cornwall itself (a 3.7% decline). At the same time the immediate area surrounding Cornwall (South Stormont township) grew by 3.1% or 357 people. Clearly some of the decline in the city was a case of families moving upscale into the suburbs.

The other townships of Stormont are basically standing still with a few hundred people more or less compared to 1996. Most of the population of Stormont is based in or around the city of Cornwall. There are a large number of small towns evenly spread throughout the county that contain about 40% of the population.

Percentage Shifts and Population Density

Table 1.1 (in Pop_comp Stormont.xls) displays the changes in population as a percentage and the population density. Most places in the East changed marginally or declined by up to 5% between 1996 and 2001. Stagnant or declining populations are not associated with good outcomes for families and children. This is because economics drives population growth or decline. A declining population usually means that jobs are disappearing and the more resilient and financially secure individuals tend to move with the economy. Female lone parents and people with mental health difficulties are unable to move and declining communities show an increasing proportion of those sub-groups which drive the need for Child Welfare.

The other variable that defines a community is the population density. Small towns and villages can display a density level comparable to big cities; they are often surrounded by farmland and separated by a highway from the main centres. They have poor public transit to the main centres

which contain the medical and support services so essential to life. Negative outcomes, including crime rates, domestic violence and substance abuse, are higher in these isolated, but somewhat compact little towns and villages. (see *dominant trends* finding #22, above)

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry has three towns and villages that have compact densities and may fit that social profile: (Winchester, Chesterville and Alexandria). The combined population in these centres is about 7,500 people. In another sense, Cornwall itself fits this description. It is still relatively small, not close enough to Ottawa or Montreal to really benefit from the medical and social institutions in these larger centres, and yet inside Cornwall, there are social conditions and human beings that are as urgently in need as any you would find in any major city.

Population Projections

The Ontario government conducts detailed research on population projections, which take into account, the recent birth rate, migration data and shifts in the demographic structure (especially the number of women in the child-bearing age group). These projections are fairly accurate over a decade. Obviously the Province is not able to anticipate everything. If an industry closes down, this can lead to dramatic population loss that cannot be forecast. Also, if a developer builds new homes in a city that has been declining and draws in young *1st home* families then the demographic trend may be reversed entirely. (see table 1.2, in county projections.xls)

The Province (**table 1.2**) is projecting significant growth for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry by the next Census (7.9%). Leeds, Prescott, Lanark, Lennox, Prince Edward, Northumberland, the Kawartha CAS district and Renfrew counties are expected to join Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry in a dramatic turn around in terms of population growth. Hastings and Frontenac are expected to remain stable. Ottawa, conversely is expected to grow by less than it did in the last five years.

The Province also makes projections in the child population by the usual age cohorts (0-4, 5-9, etc., found in the same spreadsheet. These projections will be discussed in the next section.

Rank Order of population trends across Ontario

Table 1.3 (in rank of pops.xls) shows the rank order of all counties in Ontario in descending order of the absolute size of population growth or decline. The three largest communities in Ontario, York, Peel and Toronto all grew by largest number from 1996 to 2001. The Ottawa Division was fourth in the Province in overall growth – even though Durham, Simcoe, Halton, Waterloo, Wellington and Dufferin all grew by a higher percentage relative to their smaller base population.

Stormont is in the 40th position relative to population change in the Province. Stormont is the bottom 20% of counties in this key index. If this situation reverses itself as the Province expects, you do not have much to worry about, but areas that have experienced three or more successive declines in population (Algoma and Temiskaming) are facing social disintegration.

The Child Population

The population of children under 6 years in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry declined by 1,555 children, a 13 drop over 1996. (**table 2, pop_comp Stormont.xls**) All counties in the Eastern Region had a decline in the number of preschoolers from 1996 to 2001. Every municipality had fewer young children in 2001 compared to 1996.

The population of children in the 6 to 17 year old age bracket increased by 345 individuals, a growth rate of 1.9%. The decline in the youngest children was so great (1,555) that the overall child population declined by 1,220 or 4.5%.

There are two reasons why a locale will have more or less children from one Census to the next:

(1)   the roll-over effect: the number of children in the younger age cohort, "roll-over" to the next age cohort at every subsequent Census. In the case of the youngest group of children (age 0 to 4), the roll-over effect is driven by the number of children born each year. The roll-over effect accounts for 75% of the variation in the percentage of children.

(2)   Migration: especially from outside Ontario (other countries or provinces). External and inter-Provincial migrants have much higher percentages of children than exists in the receiving population. External and inter-Provincial migrants account for 25% of the variation in the percentage of children in locales across Ontario.

Two statistics illustrate this fact: immigrant families have a much higher percentage of children ages 0-4 years in them (13.2%) than exists in the receiving population (5.2%). The correlation between the % of migrants from outside Ontario coming into each locale and the percentage of the population who are children (0-17) is very high (r = 0.48.). The square of the correlation statistic reflects the percentage of variation accounted for – in this case 25%.

Rank Order of child population trends across Ontario

Table 2.1 (in **rank of pop.xls**) ranks Stormont (23% decline) near the bottom of the Province (45th) for the youngest age cohort (under 4 years). The children age 5-9 years declined in Stormont by only 5.4% placing Stormont in the 24th spot across the Province. For young teens (10 to 14) Stormont moves up to rank #21 with a 3.8% increase.

Stormont and most Eastern counties are projected to have much higher growth patterns in the child population than is expected in other parts of Ontario.

Population Projections

In table 2.2, (County Projections.xls) the number of children in the youngest age cohort (0 to 4) is expected to grow in some counties by 2006 and decline in others – but by 2011, there will be a dramatic increase in the number of these children in the Eastern counties – unlike most of the Province.

The province expects that the youngest age cohort (0 – 4) in Stormont will grow by 3.3% by 2006, but a stunning 11.8% gain in 2011. This is partly due to the increase in older teenagers in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry observed in the 2001 Census. About ten years from now, this surge in the number of older teens will translate into more babies born. Unfortunately, a surge in the population of young adults also brings a surge in risk taking behaviour, including substance abuse, crime and domestic violence.

Keep in mind that the projections are the end result of a net shift of children being born, moving into the region minus those moving out. About 13% of the population of Cornwall (5,415) moved into and about 17% (7,000 people) moved out of their municipality in the five years prior to 2001. As the population moves a proportionate share of the children move with them. Also, in the five years, between 1996 and 2001, over 100 children ages 0 to 4 years immigrated to Canada and settled in Stormont.

Young Children (0 to 10 years) – table 2.3 in pop-comp Stormont,xls

The tremendous variation in the growth of the youngest age cohort (0 to 4 years) between 1991 and 1996 has been replaced by a fairly consistent decline in these children, as more and more couples postpone having children. Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry is experiencing a rate of decline (**-23.9**%) in this population that is almost three times steeper the provincial average decline in the youngest age group. **(-** 8.6%)

In the 5 to 9 year old age group, the county is *declining by 5.3%* compared to a growth of 3.3% for the entire province. Only the area around Cornwall (South Stormont) experience growth in the population of children 5-9 years (95 children).

Teens (10-19) – table 2.4 in pop-comp Stormont.xls

Young teens (10-14 years old) increased by 3.8% in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, decreasing only in the city of Cornwall (by 85 children). Conversely, young teens in North Stormont increased by 21.6% (or 120 children), North Glengarry by 12.1% (85 children), and South Dundas by 10.3% (65 children). See table 2.4 in *Pop_comp Stormont.xls*.

Older teens (15-19 years old) held steady (0.6%) a growth of 45. The only areas showing substantial increases (12.9%) in older teenagers were North Dundas (95 teenagers) and North Stormont (60 teenagers). The growth of teenage children has significant implications for Child

Welfare, since they soon hit their child bearing years, bringing about an influx of infants. Secondly, teenagers are more inclined to risk taking behaviour and the tendency to engage in risk taking increases when the population of teens expands. Part of the risk taking behaviour includes teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, crime and aggression.

Young Adults (20-34 years) – table 2.5 pop-comp Stormont.xls

There has been a dramatic decline (minus 20.2%) in the number of young adults (20-34 years), the prime child bearing years. The drop off in this population group is second only to the loss in babies and infants. The two population groups are intimately related, of course. When the population of young adults goes up, the number of infants and toddlers go up as well. There will be a rollover effect in Stormont that will increase the number of young adults (as the present teenagers age). The principal engine sustaining this population in the rest of the Province is migration. This is the group most likely to move – most often in pursuit of jobs (or away from areas that lose jobs).

The most powerful tool that communities have to sustain and build its population is to create jobs or live right next door to a large Metropolitan area that is booming economically.

Family Structure by Category

In table 3, *pop_comp Stormont.xls*, the changing profile of family structure is apparent.

(1)   the number of married couples with no children at home has increased by 6.0% in Stormont with the greatest increases across the Province occurring in those areas that have high migration rates, suggesting that the increase in childless couples is because newly wed households are moving into the county. Many of these households will have children in the next few years.

(2)   Married couples with children at home are decreasing on average by 7.9% in Stormont with the greatest decline being in Cornwall itself (11.7% decline). About 30% of the decline in married couples with children was countered by dramatic increases in common law unions with children.

(3)   Families with children built on common-law relationships have increased by 23.0% in Stormont (an increase of 330 families). The increase was dramatic in South Stormont (75%), North Dundas (68.4%) and North Stormont (53.3%). The pattern of rapid growth in common law unions with children is occurring across Ontario and Stormont as a whole is still below average in this indicator, although the townships which are growing rapidly have a rate that is much higher than average.

(4)   The number of female led lone parents has *actually decreased by 5.7%* in Stormont. Internally, the pattern of change in female led lone parents is split with three areas showing dramatic declines, (Cornwall 13.2% decline; North Glengarry 11.1% decline

and North Dundas, 9.1% decline). Conversely, female led lone parents have increased in South Glengarry by 43.6% and North Stormont by 38.9%. There is an exchange of status between common law unions and female led lone parents. About 80% of female led lone parents will get married or form a common law union according to Statistics Canada, a Portrait of the Family.

Families with Children and Young Families

The total number of families with children in the home has *decreased by 4.8%* to 18,685 households. Statistics Canada=s definition of a *family* includes married couples with no children, common law couples with no children, and adult siblings who live together - in addition to all households with children. The percentage of all families with children in the home is 59%, which is below average across Ontario but still at the upper end for Eastern Ontario.

The proportion of young "emerging" families where all children are under the age of 6 years has decreased by 19.8% or 690 families in Stormont. This decline in young families is about 3 times faster than the Provincial average but is fairly typical in Eastern Ontario. The Ontario government has projected a dramatic increase in young families in the next decade. Various demographic and economic models are forecasting a turnaround on this indicator. Obviously, the potential of an significant increase in this group of families has important implications for Child Welfare programs. If the Province is correct, it suggests that parent education and early intervention programs may be in far greater demand in the years ahead, (see table 3.1)

Female led lone parents

As illustrated in table 3.2 (**rank of pops.xls**), there are more than 400,000 female led lone parents in Ontario. Overall, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry is in the upper middle group of counties, both in the absolute number of female led lone parent households (3,405) and the percentage of FLPs to all families with children (18.2%). However, internally, Stormont is quite split with the city of Cornwall home to most female lone parents (25.5% or 1,975 homes) and the other six municipalities much below average.

I rank ordered the percentage of female led lone parent homes by all 507 cities, towns, villages and reserves in Ontario. Table 3.3 (**rank of pops.xls**) shows the ranking of female led lone parent homes in Stormont relative to the entire province. Two findings are clearly evident in this table:

(1)   The city of Cornwall is ranked at 75th out of 507 cities, towns, etc. in Ontario which is quite good relatively speaking despite the high percentage of homes (25.5%).

(2)   The other towns are in the bottom half of locations in Ontario by percentage of FLPs.

Personal Wealth – income flowing into the region

Table 4, *(income Stormont.xls)* traces the money flowing to households in a region. I adjusted the total income for 1996 by the inflation rate so that the purchasing power of the dollars are equivalent. Even with this adjustment, there has been an incredible increase in personal wealth throughout Ontario.

On average, every household in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry is richer by 5.7% compared to 1996 – an additional total cash inflow of $116 million over the five years. The provincial average increase in real personal wealth is much higher (20.5%) than in Stormont. There is quite a bit of local variation in the degree to which the economic boom is shared. As expected, the city of Cornwall itself benefited little from the boom (a growth of 0.9% in real personal wealth). This is why the population is declining so rapidly in Cornwall. North Stormont, actually saw a decline in personal wealth (minus 1.1%). Conversely, South Stormont, the area surrounding Cornwall where many the families leaving the city are moving to, is growing in personal wealth by the greatest percentage (15.7% or $37.7 million).

Source of Personal Income

Across Ontario, 78.7% (page 2 of table 4) of every dollar moving into circulation came from employment (i.e. salary dollars); this is up 2.5% from 1996 and returns to the level it was at in 1991 (79%) in 1991. Employment income within Stormont represents only 71.2%, and this is partially offset by a slightly higher than average amount of income (13.2%) from *other sources* (such as farming or operating a small business).

The amount of money flowing to people living in Ontario by way of government transfer payments (9.8%) has also returned to the same level it was at in 1991 (9.7%). This includes all types of government transfer payments such as old age pensions, disability allowance, family benefits, municipal welfare and boarding rates for dependents of the State. In Stormont, government transfer payments accounts for 15.6% of all household income; down 2.4% from 1996.

Stormont in relation to other counties

In table 4.1, **(rank of pops.xls)** the rank order on percentage of government transfer payments flowing into a region is displayed. Several observations flow from this report:

(1)   Ontario has one of lowest rates of government transfer payment in the country

(2)   Stormont has amoung the highest percentage of households dependent on government transfer payments (ranked 11th out of 49 counties). Indeed, Eastern Ontario dominates the Province with five counties in the top 11 compared to 6 counties from Northern Ontario. The five Eastern counties have higher

populations than the North.

(3)   As expected the city of Cornwall is among the highest in the Province on this indicator with 19.2% of households dependent on government transfer payments.

Families by Income Brackets

In table 4.2, (**income Stormont.xls**), a number of paradoxes in the income statistics come into sharp relief:

(1)   Despite the billions of dollars in new wealth flowing into Ontario over the last five years, many more families in Ontario (100,000) have an annual income that is below $30,000 per year

(2)   Not withstanding the increase in the *poorest of the poor*, the percentage of these poor families relative to all economic families has actually gone down by 1% - due to the vast influx of families from outside Ontario seeking a share of this wealth.

(3)   The percentage of the *poorest of the poor* has actually gone down 2.1% in Stormont, even though the absolute number of these families (7,790) has increased significantly (up from 7,245)

(4)   Within Stormont, the vast majority of the *poorest-of-the-poor* live in Cornwall (31.3% or 4,045 households)

(5)   The median income (the point where 50% of families are above and below) varies tremendously; the winners and losers are the same as with other risk indicators. Cornwall with a median income of $43,653 is very poor compared to the Provincial average of $61,024 or its immediate neighbor, South Glengarry ($61,928.

(6)   Finally, while the percentage of families =<$30,000 is barely moving, the percentage with incomes above $80,000 is increasing dramatically to 33.4% of all families in Ontario.

(7)   Stormont has also seen a tremendous increase from 14.3% in 1996 to 21.4% in 2001. The percentage of rich families have gone up in every area of Stormont.

(8)   The increase in both the richest and poorest groups of families across Ontario and within Stormont – especially in Cornwall itself – has intensified the socio economic divide

The last point is a separate and powerful risk indicator – accelerating resentment, depression and anger and its social manifestations, crime, substance abuse and child abuse.

Average Income by type of family

Page 2 of table 4.2, shows the average income for the different sub-groups of families.

The average family income has increased in Stormont by 4.9% which is far below the Provincial average (12.4%), but still represents a significant improvement considering this result is *after adjusting for inflation*. The percentage increase in family income and the actual average in 2001 varies tremendously within Stormont. North Stormont has actually *declined* in average family income by 3.2%. Conversely North Dundas (12.4%) and South Stormont (10.1%) are showing significant gains in average family income.

As demonstrated on page 2 of table 4.2, female-led lone parent households have the lowest average income. Unlike much of the Province (growing by 15%), the family income of female led households in Stormont has *declined by 3.5%*. Internally, there are tremendous differences in the "wealth profile" of FLP's. South Glengarry, North Glengarry and Cornwall of all declined on this indicator. North and South Stormont have both seen large increases in the average income of FLP's.

However, what is interesting from a risk assessment point of view (page 3 of table 4.2) is the gap between female-led lone parents (FLPs) and married couples. In South Glengarry, which has 280 FLPs, the average income of FLPs ($37,350) has **fallen** by 16.1% even though the household income for married couples **went up** by 14.1%. In this respect, it is worse for FLPs to live in South Glengarry than in South Dundas where 260 FLPs live on a much lower average income ($31,965). At least in South Dundas their income is going up and at a faster rate than the income of married couples. In South Dundas, the wealth gap is narrowing.

One of the reasons why being poor is such a risk factor for Child Welfare is *the social context*; a community in which everyone is poor is less toxic (less of a blow to self esteem and less stressful) to the poorest of the poor.

Families living below the low-income-cutoffs

The number of families below *the low income cutoffs* has dropped to 11.9% of all economic families in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry. Cornwall had the highest percentage below the low income cutoffs in 1996 (20.7%) this number has decreased to 19.0% - by far the highest proportion of poor families in Stormont. The other intensely poor cities close by are Prescott (19.2%, Hawkesbury (19.4%) and Addington Highlands (19.1%). The next highest rates are in the vicinity of 15%. On balance, having nearly 20% of your families below the low income cutoffs is an unusual, highly disadvantaged community.

In absolute terms, only Ottawa (24,060 households or 11.4%), Kingston (3,835 households or 12.4%) and Peterborough (2,595 or 13.1% of households) have more families below the low income cutoffs compared with Cornwall (2,455 families or 19.0%). In view of the high percentage of poverty combined with the large number of households affected, this gives Cornwall the distinction of having the highest concentration of poverty in Eastern Ontario.

Unemployment

The number of new jobs in Ontario has increased by hundreds of thousands over the last seven years, driving the unemployment rate to 6.4% - much lower than in 1996 (8.4%). In fact, the unemployment picture has returned to the levels it was at ten years ago in 1991 before the last big recession. In the Province of Ontario, there were 9,048,040 people equal to or over 15 years of age in 2001. Of this group 67.3% or 6,086,815 people were *in the labour force*, i.e. the *participation rate* either with a job (5,713,900) or looking for a job, i.e. *unemployed* (372,915).

There are slightly under three million people who are defined by Statistics Canada as "not participating". Some of these people, however, have simply given up hope of ever finding a job and these people are the most high-risk sub group of the truly unemployed. This number of people in this group *(the hidden unemployed)* varies from municipality to municipality. This is the group that has been studied at length in several longitudinal designs and found to have a much higher rate of physical abuse and neglect for a wide variety of reasons. (McLoyd, 1989)

The challenge for community-risk assessment in Child Welfare is that Statistics Canada and other industrialized nations report unemployment figures using a counting method that hides the "population with no hope". There are three core problems:

#1   The participation rate problem

(1)   The participation rate is the number of people working or actively looking for a job divided by the number of people equal to or older than 15 years of age.

(2)   However, between 7% and 15% people in the 15 to 24 year old range attend school and unlikely to be *in the labour market*.

(3)   Moreover, between 8% and 34% of the pop over 15 years are seniors and unlikely to be *in the labour market*.

(4)   The percentage of seniors and young people in school increases with every Census, which undermines the integrity of the participation rate

(5)   The percentage of seniors and young people in school varies significantly from municipality to municipality, which further distorts the participation rate.

The solution is to calculate the number of people over 15 years minus those in school and minus the seniors (*the practical maximum number of people who could work*). The number of people working or actively looking for a job divided by the practical maximum is an *index*

of of full participation. An index over 95% is good news since this means that the vast majority want to work and expect to succeed. An index below 85% is bad news since it means that many employable people are not even trying to find work (i.e. *the hidden unemployed*)

As shown in table 5 of **UIC_Stormont.xls,** Cornwall has a very low participation rate (57.2%) even when you factor in the higher than average proportion of seniors (21.7%) in the city. If you take the seniors out of the equation, Cornwall is still between 5% and 8% below most other areas of Stormont and much of Eastern Ontario on this important indicator.

#2   the unemployment rate problem

The unemployment rate also hides important information: it doesn't reveal how many jobs there are as a percentage of the practical maximum number of people who could work. If this percentage is really low (below 85%), then finding a job is going to be much more difficult for the unemployed. If the percentage is above 95%, it offers much more hope and if this percentage is above 100% than there are more jobs than the practical maximum number of people who could work. This tends to attract outsiders to move into the area in search of those jobs.

The *jobs-for-people index* is the total number of jobs divided by the practical maximum number of people who could work. The *jobs-for-people index* is highly correlated with the *index-of-full participation* even the two numbers are created from entirely different data elements. This is because potential workers opt out of the job market if there aren't enough jobs to go around.

In Cornwall, both the *job-for-people index* (just under 81%) and a similar *index-of-full-participation* (82%) are lower than anywhere else in the county and much of Eastern Ontario; and both sets of numbers stand in stunning contrast to the Northern half of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry.

#3   the percentage of people who could work but have no hope of employment

Statistics Canada published the number of jobs (that existed over the course of a year) in each jurisdiction. Statistics Canada also publishes the number of people who are actively involved in the labour market. It is also a simple arithmetic calculation to determine the maximum number of people who could work in any area. Statistics Canada, however, does not put these three numbers together, thusly:

(1)   calculate the number of people actively in the labour market minus the number of jobs – these are the number of job seekers who have little hope of getting work

(2)   divide this number by the maximum number of people who could work – this is the percentage of the "employable adult population" for whom there are no job opportunities

After this calculation, you can see that Cornwall (1.8%) and North Dundas (0.7%) differ quite a bit on the *scale of job opportunities*.

The Hopeless Index

If we place all three of the above indexes together – combining the unemployment rate, the scale of job opportunities, and the index of full participation – then you can see a measure of hopelessness for the people in an area as they assess their chances of employment.

The three numbers that make up the hopeless index are totally valid and reliable indicators of the concept they represent. They are first order calculations of hard numbers meticulously counted by Statistics Canada. No-one can disagree with the ratios that appear. Cornwall really does have more than twice the unemployment rate (7.9%) compared to North Stormont (3.1%); North Dundas and South Glengarry 13% to 17% closer to full participation in the labour market as compared to Cornwall (82.4%; and the gap in jobs for all people who might want them really is much higher for people in Cornwall (1.8%) than others in Stormont.

This number, which I have named *the hopeless index*, was calculated by multiplying the above three indexes. None of the contributing data elements were weighted differently. As a result, the hopeless index shares the same number quality as the others. Twice as much of the hopeless index is truly twice as much of the components that comprise of the index. The only validity question is whether the concepts validly measure the relative hopelessness of people as they assess their chances of employment.

Recall from McLoyd's review of the literature, that it is the feeling of *hopelessness* of ever getting a job (not unemployment per se) that drives differing rates of child abuse and other ill effects on the development of children. On page 2 of table 5.1, *Behind the Unemployment Numbers – Hope and Risk*, found in UIC Stormont.xls, you can see the results of the hopeless index applied to the local areas of Stormont. Cornwall leads the pack with a hopeless index of 11.6.

Hopeless Index by Town and County

Compared to the other counties in the East, Stormont itself is in the middle of the pack at a rank of 7. (table 5.1, *Rank Order by the Hopeless Index for the Counties of Eastern Ontario and Areas of Stormont*, of rank of pops.xls). Stormont is still better off than Frontenac, Hastings and Lennox even though these other counties have a lower unemployment rate and that is because of the hidden unemployed and amount of people who could work in comparison with the number of jobs. Because the employment opportunities are poorer in Frontenac, Hastings and Lennox, you will likely to see an increased net migration from these areas into Leeds, Lanark and Prescott.

The rank order of the areas of Stormont relative to the 107 towns and cities of Eastern Ontario shows that Stormont is terribly polarized between those areas with hope of employment and

those with less hope.

There is also another problem, the polarization between the optimistic, growing and wealthier half of Stormont compared with its poorer, more hopeless and shrinking core in Cornwall will exacerbate the negative impact on the families caught within the problem. It is far easier to endure hardship when everyone is in the same boat.

Unemployment Data for Young People 15-24 years

Page 1 of table 5.2 (Core Unemployment) in UIC Stormont.xls, presents the unemployment data for young people 15-24 years of age. On this table, the rates for the Canada and the Provinces are all apparent. The worst area in Canada is Newfoundland with a youth unemployment of 33.1%. Ontario is in one the best positions (12.9%), second only to British Columbia at 10.3%.

The context is important: when youth unemployment reaches the level it is at in Newfoundland, the impact on young people is devastating – leading to marked increases in substance abuse, suicide, accidental death and family violence. Overall, Stormont youth unemployment (13.3%) is higher than the province as a whole   In 1996, youth unemployment in Stormont (19.4%) was much higher Provincial average – so in 2001, the situation has improved in Stormont to a greater extent that it has over Ontario. Two areas, Cornwall (15.8%) and South Stormont (16.8%) have very high youth unemployment – combined with a large population of youth. On a positive note, the youth unemployment situation in Cornwall and South Stormont is much better than it was in 1996 when it reached 23% of young people.

Unemployment Data among older workers (25 and up)

The contrast between the unemployment rates for older workers compared to young workers is stunning and much worse today than in 1996. Rates for older workers have dropped consistently within Stormont so that the numbers in Stormont are similar to the provincial average. Even Cornwall has seen a 50% reduction in improvement among older workers from 11.5% in 1996 to 6.2% in 2001.

This means that the hopelessness for future employment – and all of the negative social consequences flowing from this state of affairs – is disproportionately shared by young people in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and one other subgroup, mothers of young children.

Unemployment Data for mothers

Table 5.3 (*Unemployment among different groups of Mothers*) in UIC Stormont.xls, shows a variety of data about mothers and women with no children at home. Across the board, women with no children at home have higher rates of unemployment and lower participation rates compared with women who do have children at home. (Page 1 of table 5.3) This reflects two realities: many of these women are seniors and many single women 15 to 65 years have a harder time coping economically compared to other groups in society.

Mothers with Children all under 6 years

On page 2, of the report, the status of mothers, all of whose children are under 6 years of age, is displayed. Overall, the number of "emerging families" has declined across Ontario. In addition, their employment situation has improved dramatically since 1996. In Stormont, the unemployment rate among young mothers dropped from 44.9% in 1996 to 9.3% in 2001. This pattern occurred everywhere in Stormont.

Mothers with Children older than 6 years

More than 70% of all mothers in Stormont have children who are all six years of age or older. Virtually all of these children are in school or working. As a result, the children are less vulnerable to parental stress and mothers have more time and energy to devote the family=s economic situation.

Mothers with all children over 6 years of age (whose unemployment picture is found on page 2 of table 5.3) are in a very good position vis-à-vis unemployment with rates at or below 6%. The small group of families with children both above and below six years of age show a pattern similar to the "emerging families", with Cornwall showing a very high rate (11%) but three areas show very low rates in 2001.

Stay-at-Home Mothers

On page 3 of table 5.3, the number of *stay-at-home* mothers – meaning they are not participating in the labour market - has declined in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry by 15.8%. However the number of stat-at-home mothers increased dramatically in South Stormont (20.5% to 500 homes).

Overall, there are 4,680 stay-at-home mothers in Stormont. I recommend that the foster parent recruitment efforts emphasize this target group and specifically the mothers in South Stormont. The trend to drop out of the labour market may represent a group of women who would still like to earn extra money but do not feel optimistic about their job prospects.

Housing and Risk

The Canadian Public Health Association prepared a 1997 Position Paper on Homelessness and Health. The position paper carefully reviewed the available statistics and research on the underlying causes, including ways of estimating when and where the homeless crisis will get worse. Quoting directly from the document:

> "Across Canada, homelessness has emerged from shrouded alleyways and steam grates to a position of prominence. Growth in both *absolute* homelessness, i.e., the complete absence of shelter, and *relative* homelessness, i.e., shelter in substandard conditions, has

occurred in **both urban and rural areas**. Whether as a cause or a consequence of ill health, homelessness has emerged as a fundamental health issue for Canadians. Substantial evidence of the health consequences, including increased mortality and morbidity and diminished quality of life, is available from both Canadian sources and other jurisdictions.

"The causes of homelessness include poverty, changes in the housing market and changing delivery systems for mental health services. As a result, homeless Canadians include increasing numbers of women and children and other groups in special circumstances, including adolescents, persons with mental illness and Aboriginal people.

"Substantial evidence suggests that the stock of affordable rental housing has contracted, compounding the lower funds paid to poor individuals in the form of social assistance. The gentrification of Canada's cities has led to increasing rents and loss of much of the stock of affordable housing, particularly single room occupancy buildings.. In 1991, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported that **one in five** of Canada's renting households lived in inadequate or unsuitable housing.

Based on data from the US Dept of Justice which conducted an extensive epidemiological survey, Intimate Partner Violence (Rennison, 2000) from 574,000 households, housing plays a significant role in assessing the risk to family violence. Specifically,

Intimate Partner Violence by urbanization and housing

where victim lives	Rate of nonlethal intimate partner violence (per 1,000 males & females)	
	female	male
home owned	4.8	1.0
home rented	16.2	2.2
Urban	9.5	1.6
Suburban	7.8	1.4
Rural	8.1	1.1

Although, each of these differences are statistically significant, the data shows very little difference in the risk for women living in urban versus rural areas. The most significant difference is between renters versus owners, where the odds ratio of finding a victim is better than 3 to 1.

The Housing Stock

On table 6 (*The Housing Stock*) from **Housing Stormont.xls**, the amount of new housing in each area is displayed. Across Ontario, 85% of housing was built before 1991. Many areas of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry have a higher proportion of old housing stock which may reflect a stagnant economy and prospects for the future, specifically, Cornwall (93.6% and South Dundas 89.2%).

In some cases, the percentage of new housing built between 1996 and 2001 was matched by an identical increase in population. This is indicated by the last column*, the ratio of new homes to population*. Where the ratio is 1.0 or close to it, the new housing is clearly bringing new households into the community. This is not the case anywhere in Stormont.

When the *ratio of new homes to population* is well above 1.0, then the new housing is merely replacing old stock and may reflect increasing personal wealth as families move to better homes. This appears to be the case in the South Glengarry where the percentage of new housing (4.9%) and population growth (0.4%) leads to a ratio of 12.3.

The Nature of Housing

The number of single detached houses has increased by 4.5% in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry. Large apartment units (over 5 stories) have increased by 62.9% (see table 6.1, *The Nature of Housing*, in **Housing Stormont.xls**). This growth in large apartment blocks is occurring strictly in Cornwall itself.

The Cost of Housing

Household who rent – renters under stress

On page 1 of table 6.2 (*The Cost of Housing*) in **Housing Stormont.xls**, the number of renters and those in economic stress are displayed. This is the high-risk element in the housing picture. This is a very positive picture for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry:

(1)   the number of renters has declined by 5.8% going up in one area only by a total of 30 households in South Stormont and declining by 790 households in the other 6 areas;

(2)   rents have also declined in 2001 relative to the rents in 1996 when adjusted for inflation; even Cornwall has shown a decline in average rents;

(3)   Tenants who spend more than 30% of their gross household income has declined by 3.5% in Stormont; even Cornwall saw a 2.5% decline. Renters who spend too much money on rent are increasing only in South Dundas (5.6%)

Keep in mind that renters (especially those in economic stress) have 3 times the rate of domestic violence. The results in 2001 for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry should create significant downward pressure on rates of domestic violence. This positive trend is of course counteracted by the *hopelessness factor* in the job market.

Home owners – owners under stress

The number of home owners in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry which already out-numbered renters by 3:1 increased by 5.1% in Stormont. The number of homeowners in Cornwall remained exactly the same in 2001 compared to 1996. The number of renters in Cornwall declined by 5.4% which suggests that the net migration out of Cornwall that the net migration out of Cornwall came entirely from the households who were renters. It is possible that some of the renters in 1996 became wealthy enough to move out. This is good for these families but it bad for the remaining households, because people that are left behind tend to become more discouraged and problematic.

The news for homeowners in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry is very positive. The average cost of mortgage and utilities has declined everywhere within the county. (see page 2 of table 6.2). The number of homeowners who spend than 30% of gross family income on housing has also declined by 2%. Although, it is wise to point out that a large number of homeowners, 4,110, still belong in this high-stress category. When we add the renters who pay than 30% of gross family income on housing (5,595), this leaves a sizable group of families (9,705) under economic stress in Stormont.

Low Education Achievement and School Attendance

Indicators of Low SES

Educational achievement and the type of job (or lack of) are the components of socio economic status. The population with lowest SES is defined as people with less than grade 9 education who are unemployed; those who have just completed grade twelve and are unemployed are also classified as low SES by the Hollingshead scale (which is the standard measure of SES). Lower SES is a key risk marker for a wide variety of social problems, especially crime.

In Stormont, 33.1% of the population over 20 years did not graduate from High School. This is down from 1996, but it is still quite a bit above the Provincial average and an overall indicator of a population that is more like the descriptor "low SES" than other parts of Ontario. One of the highest percentages of this indicator of low SES is found in Cornwall (36.2% of the adult population). Cornwall also has one the lowest percentages of young people (15-24 years) in school (56.4%) which is well below the Provincial average and is a very bad sign for the long-term.

Indicators of Serious Emotional and Behavioural Problems in Youth

Low educational achievement and high school dropout have also emerged from longitudinal studies as powerful predictors of suicidal and homicidal behaviour in adolescence (SER Abstracts, 2003) according to the National Institute of Health. Low educational achievement predicts serious emotional and behaviour problems when co-occurring with sadness, binge drinking and sexual victimization. Consequently, if we can see evidence of school problems in the Census data in the same location with evidence of drinking problems, suicidal completions and violent crime, then such an area would have to be considered high-risk for greater suicidal and violent behaviour by youth.

In Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, 35.6% of people age 15 to 24 years are not attending school. This is close to the Provincial average (35.1%). In Cornwall (38.9%) and North Stormont (40.9%) the ratio of non-attenders is even higher, but it is still better than many of the neighbouring town. In Prescott, for example, the percentage of young people not attending school is 51.1%. High rates of non-attenders is not a good sign since this is likely due to an increase in school drop-outs – which is itself a risk factor for a host of social problems. See table 7, *School Enrollment and Low Educational Achievement*, in **school Stormont.xls**.

Migration Patterns

Table 8, *Patterns of Migration and Immigration*, in **migration Stormont.xls**, three key migration indicators are presented:

- ✓ Migrants (or people in the municipal area from outside the town or city in the past year
- ✓ Immigrants, refugees and citizens returning home from other countries in the past year (included in above figure)
- ✓ % of migrants arriving in the past **five** years from outside municipality
- ✓ % of migrants arriving in the past **five** years from outside the **province**

Migrants in the past year

Migration (into an area) is generally driven by people looking to improve their housing or to get a job. Although Statistics Canada does not collect data directly on the opposite phenomena, migration out of an area, it is possible to compute this data from the following data elements: net gain or loss of the population, child birth, deaths and migration into an area. Migration is by the far the largest component in population change. Migration into an area – apart from very small towns and villages – are usually five to seven times the number of children born.

Migration out of an area happens when people seek better opportunities elsewhere. With the exception of refugees, people who migrate in or out of an area are generally people with good family income and social stability. It is hard to move otherwise because it takes cash, credit and planning to effect a move. When migration **out** of an area exceed migration **in** by a wide margin, the total population experiences a noticeable decline. This is a high–risk marker for child abuse and neglect. This is because of a distillation effect, in which people with the resources and inner strength move out and leave behind the population less able to adapt. You can see stunning evidence of this is in the "emptying" of the inner cities in the USA in such places as Detroit and Chicago. This pattern is very evident in Northern Ontario.

The county of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry has a net migration out of the county. Moreover, the turnover of residents involves a lower than average percentage of the population (5.4% compared to 6.0% for Ontario). Cornwall, in particular, has a very low inflow of 4.6% of the population every year (or 2,000 people) and a net outflow of 5.4% or 2,400 people.

Every other area of Stormont is holding a steady balance of migration in and out of their areas.

Immigrants, Refugees and citizens returning home in the past year

The proportion of people settling in Stormont from outside the county has increased 1996 (representing 4.6% of all migrants). However, this proportion of *external migrants* within the pool of all migrants is still very low compared to the Province. In Ontario, 22.5% of migrants are from outside the country and in the city of Ottawa, 26% of migrants coming into Ottawa are from outside Canada.

The impact of an increasing number of immigrants and refugees moving to Canada is more complex to analyze relative to risk. Obviously, the vast majority of immigrants come into Canada with fewer risk factors than the resident population and these immigrants are almost non-existent on the social service caseloads. This rules depends on the country of origin and the circumstances of their departure from that country of origin. Refugees (and even landed immigrants) from countries, such as Sri Lanka, Somalia, Russia, and a few other Eastern European, Latin American and African counties, come into Canada loaded with risk factors, most notably children who arrive in Canada with no adult member of their family to support them. I will review the country of origin in the section on Ethnicity.

Migration patterns over the past five years

There is a fairly stable five-year pattern that shows that from 15% to 25% of the total population of a municipality turns over, as a result of migration patterns. There is much greater variation in the end result, population growth or decline. The movement of people, however, is occurring everywhere – except for a few discrete reserves, towns and villages around Ontario.

Percent of population moving in from outside Ontario

This number includes immigrants and refugees. This is the engine of growth for the entire Province. It shows that people moving into Ontario from outside its borders accounted for 7.1% of the population over 5 years.

Rank Order of Counties on Patterns of Migration and Immigration

Table 8.1, *Rank Order on Migration and Immigration*, in **rank of pops.xls**, shows that Stormont is ranked 39 in the Province in terms of the percentage of the pop over 5 years (15.2%) that migrated into the towns and cities of Stormont between 1996 and 2001. This is an good indicator of the "perceived opportunity and quality of life" by outsiders of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and the direction is not positive. However, the Province is projecting for this percentage to increase in the next decade, bringing with it robust growth.

Stormont is 22nd in ranking for places that immigrants settle into, with only 1,045 immigrants since 1996. The low rank in migration patterns, is key factor, the falling child population of Stormont, as the next section, *Immigration in Depth*, clearly shows.

Immigration in Depth

Table 8.2, *Immigration in Depth*, from **migration Stormont.xls**, shoes the number of landed immigrants only. Out of 1,045 *external migrants* who settled in Stormont between 1996 and 2001, 750 or 75% were landed immigrants; the rest were refugees or Canadian citizens returning home from other countries. Statistics Canada does not publish data on refugees; moreover, illegal aliens are not even counted in the Census.

Among landed immigrants, the proportion of children is three times greater than the proportion of children in the resident population. If you look at the "age of the person on landing" columns, this fact is very evident. Immigration, then is a critical factor in maintaining or growing the population of children. The resident birth rate is simply not sufficiently high to maintain our child population. Because the number of immigrants and other external migrants that settle in Stormont is relatively insignificant, the child population especially among younger children is falling.

Migrants coming into Stormont from other counties tend to bring older school age children with them. As a result, this type of migration drives population growth among school age children and this is one of the key reasons why the population of school age children has grown in Stormont – even as the number of children under 6 years has declined.

Finally, the last two columns of table 8.2 reveal – for the first time in the history of the Census – the number of 2nd and 3rd generation Canadians. These number varies quite a bit from one county to the next. Across Ontario, 20% of residents are 2nd generation Canadians, 47% are 3rd generation or greater and 33% are 1st generation immigrants – most of whom have become Canadian. In Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, 81% of the resident population are 3rd generation (or greater) Canadian; 11% are 2nd generation and less than 10% are 1st generation immigrants.

Counties that have a lower percentage of 3rd generation Canadians are more multi-cultural in character. This is quite evident in tables that describe the ethnic profile of Ontario.

Ethnicity

Where do Landed Immigrants come from?

Between 1996 and 2001, 750 people became landed immigrants and settled in Stormont. Keep in mind that 1,045 people came to Stormont from outside the country during this same period. The difference is made up of refugees, foreigners on visas and Canadians returning home. See table 9, *Countries of Origin of Immigrants Landing in the last 5 years*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**

Across Ontario, 12.8% of immigrants come from the Peoples Republic of China up from 7.4%. Ontario is second only to British Columbia (18.5%) in the percentage of landed immigrants from China. Some counties (Ottawa, 19.6%, Frontenac, 22.1%) have even higher percentages. Only 4% of landed immigrants from China settled in Stormont down from 7.8% in the previous census.

The second largest subgroup of landed immigrants (58,585) comes from India, which represents 10.9% of landed immigrants into Ontario. A handful of these people settled in the Eastern counties. Generally, both the Chinese and Indian immigrants settle into neighbourhoods which already have a high proportion of immigrants from their mother country. They put very little pressure on the social welfare system, although they often start life in Canada below the poverty line. The largest group of landed immigrants settling in Stormont in the last five years came from the Pakistan (49.3% of 370 people).

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry also attracted small groups of people from Sri Lanka, Hong, USA, England, Germany, Egypt, Lebanon, France and Trinidad and other places.. Most of these immigrants settled in Brockville. The proportion of immigrants settling in Stormont who come from high-risk countries, such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Egypt, is almost 10 times higher than any other county in Eastern Ontario – except for Ottawa. The percentage impact on Stormont, however, is much higher than in Ottawa.

All CAS agencies receive referrals on behalf of children in families immigrating to Canada with established social problems, such as substance abuse and domestic violence. In Stormont, this type of referral will likely come from Cornwall and it will likely increase.

On page 2, of *Countries of Origin of Immigrants Landing in the last 5 years*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, the list immigrants into Ontario by their countries of origin, who did not settle in Stormont is presented in the last column. This illustrates the degree to which Stormont is missing out on the multicultural forces shaping big cities such as Ottawa.

Visible Minorities

Table 9.1, *Visible Minorities*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows the number of people in Canada that self-define their identity as "visible minority". There are three qualifications to this table:

    (1) Census respondents classify themselves – which creates unreliability in the use of certain "minority labels", such as *Arab* and *West Asian*, which are synonymous in theory but mean different things to many Census respondents.

    (2) Aboriginal identity is not a sub group of "visible minorities" according to Statistics Canada, but is counted separately.

    (3) Many reserves (30 in 2001) refuse to cooperate with the Census, but compared to the last Census, cooperation from Natives (both on and off reserve) has improved significantly, resulting in a 33% increase in the count of people by Aboriginal identity. Because fertility rates among Natives are higher, there has also mean a natural increase in the Aboriginal population. Obviously, this makes comparisons with previous Census data difficult.

Expressed as a percentage of the total population, Ontario has the second highest proportion (next to BC) of visible minorities. In absolute terms, Ontario has the largest number of minorities in Canada from every subgroup.

Many researchers have examined the impact of membership in a visible minority on society and on a range of social problems. Several findings have great significance for assessing Child Welfare risk:

    (1)   Any ethnic or racial label (Aboriginal, Black, South-East Asian) is made up of people from many widespread places and countries. For example, the minority group, *blacks*, includes people recently arrived from Somalia and Liberia, the Caribbean and the USA, as well Afro-Canadians with a history of several generations in Canada. The social context (country, neighbourhood, etc.) which shaped their personality and family characteristics determines their risk level relative to Child Abuse and other social problems – not their "minority identity".

    (2)   The same principle applies to Natives. The actual prevalence of suicide, crime, substance abuse, fetal alcohol syndrome varies tremendously tribe by tribe and even with the tribe, family by family.

    (3)   The match between foster parent and children with a minority identity or between

therapists and client has a huge impact on success. According to Groze (1996) and *Community Treatment* (2002), having foster parents and counselors with a minority identity is critical to successful placement or successful counseling – whether or not the specific minority identity of the client is matched to the service provider.

The proportion of people with visible minority identity in Stormont is very small (2.2%) and highest in Cornwall (4%). The vast majority of people who identify with visible minorities live in large urban settings such as Ottawa and Toronto.

Aboriginal people constitute a much smaller group of people in Ontario compared to visible minorities. However, aboriginal people are much more evenly distributed throughout the counties of towns of Ontario. Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry has 1,760 Native people and this is close to the number of visible minorities (2,315).

Statistics Canada asked respondents what ethnic group they identified with and StatsCan coded for multiple answers to this question. The result is a series of 7 tables presented below describing ethnicity in depth. Variations in ethnic identity by location contains markers for assessing Child Abuse risk. Ethnicity is defined by people in reference to their country of origin. Nations which have experienced *civil war* (Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka and East Timor), *total collapse of social institutions* (Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda), *brutal dictatorships* (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Russia, Eastern Europe) and *poverty, social inequality and inner city collapse*, (Jamaica, Pakistan, Haiti) also show double or more than double the prevalence of psychopathy, substance abuse and domestic violence by men and depression in women – all high-risk factors for child abuse.

Ethnic Identity – a variation on Defining Canadian

Table 9.2, *Ethnic Identity – a variation on Defining Canadian*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows that Canadians define themselves in a variety of ways . Across Ontario, only 14% of people define themselves simply as "Canadian". In Stormont, this number of 28.6% and it is climbing significantly compared to 1996 (19%).

When asked specifically about Aboriginal identity (see table 9.1), only 188,000 people in Ontario asked in the affirmative. When given a chance to provide multiple ethnic origins, more than 300,000 people in Ontario reported a Native identity. Within Stormont, there are more than 4,000 people with North American Indian or Métis origins.

Ethnic Identity – Based on Founding Peoples

Table 9.3, *Ethnic Identity – Based on Founding Peoples,* in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows that 35% of people in Ontario identify the British Isles as part of their ethnic origins. Within Stormont itself, 35.9% of people identify the British Isles as part of their ethnic origins. Other counties in the Eastern Region have even higher percentages of the "British Influence".

Obviously, the founding nations of Canada, provided the backbone of our social institutions and laws. The English, French and American influence on Canada is an integral part of our strength today in every sense and a protector against the societal forces leading to Child Abuse.

Ethnic Identity – Western European

Table 9.4, *Ethnic Identity – Western European*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows a substantial number of people with Western European origins make up Canada and Ontario. This group of people is second only to those with British origins. People from these roots are fairly evenly distributed throughout Ontario. The Nations from which these identities are derived have a secure social, economic and legal system, which supports the development of children and families. We all benefit from the presence of people from this ancestry.

Ethnic Identity – Based on Eastern European former Communist nations

Table 9.5, *Ethnic Identity – Based on Eastern European former Communist nations*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows that about 10% of the people in Ontario identify with Eastern Europe. Unlike the identities from Western Europe, people whose ethnic is based on the Eastern European countries are not evenly distributed. In areas like Stormont less than 4% identify with Eastern Europe. In Renfrew, this population represents 13%.of the people. Keep in mind, that these are high-risk nations for Child Abuse and this history will be expressed through its people.

Ethnic Identities Based on Caribbean and Latin American Nations

Table 9.6, *Ethnic Identities Based on Caribbean and Latin American Nations*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows that a much smaller number of people (less than 2%) identify with Caribbean and Latin American ethnicity in Ontario. There are just 145 people in Stormont who identify to some extent with these origins.

Ethnic Identity – Based on Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia

Table 9.7, *Ethnic Identity – Based on Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia*, **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows that about 14% of the people in Ontario identify with Asian origins. This is a complex group to analyze from a risk perspective. This group is made up both very low-risk groups and high-risk groups – based on the state of well-being for children and families in their society of origin. Fortunately, there very few Asians living in Stormont whose cultural origins emanate from high-risk countries.

Ethnic Identity – Based on African and West Asian (i.e. Arab) identities

Table 9.8, *Ethnic Identity – Based on African and West Asian (i.e. Arab) identities*, in **ethnicity Stormont.xls**, shows the smallest ethnic cluster in Ontario. There are many nations sharing this ethnic identity who are also high-risk for child abuse and other social problems. This group is not evenly distributed across Ontario. Within Stormont, the few respondents who declared on these identities, live in Cornwall.

Religious Identity

Religious identity is an important protector against adversity. It also appears that the specific religion makes no difference to this protective effect.

Table 10, *Religious Identity*, in **Religion Stormont.xls**, shows the religious profile of the counties and towns in 2001 compared to 1991. Over this time period, the proportion of people with no religious identity increased by about 2%. There is tremendous variation in the distribution of this indicator across the counties, cities and towns of Ontario. Within Stormont, this population varies from 5% to 12%. Stormont (7.3%) has less than half the provincial average (16%) of people with no religious identity

People who identify with the Roman Catholic faith have maintained their proportion in Ontario (34%), but there is tremendous variation across Ontario in the percentage of Roman Catholics. In Stormont, for example, the percentage varies from 23% to 68%, with an overall average of 57%.

Across Ontario (see page 2 of table 10), the largest religious cluster is protestant (37%). They also represent the faith with the greatest decline (from 44% in 1991). Almost 37% of the people in Stormont are Protestants.

The number of people from other religions (Jewish, Sikh, Islam, Muslim, Hindu, etc) is a fairly small group (less than 1% in smaller counties). The vast majority of people from these faith groups live in major urban centres, such Ottawa, where they represent 10% of the population.

Child Birth

We have a tendency to discuss fertility rates at the National level: is the production of babies going to equal or exceed the number of people dying; are we making enough babies to replace the worker pool about to retire in the next 20 years. The answer to both questions at the national level is no, which is why depend on immigration. However, the story locally is one of intense 10-fold variation from one town to the next. The problem is that we have a lot of towns where there are no babies being born. Some towns have fertility rates that are over 100 per 1,000

women of child bearing age.

Teenage and General Childbirth – rates across Ontario

Table 11, *Teenage and General Childbirth,* in **rank of pops.xls**, shows the rank order of teenage childbirth rates (the average for the period 1990-96). Statistics Canada has been suppressing this data since 1997 at the request of the Ontario government. The teen birth rate has been falling by the same rate as the drop in infant mortality (down 33%). However, the internal rank order of counties with high and low rates has remained stable.

The rate of teen births varies from 7.4 (York) per 1,000 girls to 80.5 (Kenora). The extremely high rates in Kenora and Manitoulin reflect the much higher birthrate overall in Native communities. Stormont has one of the highest rates of teenage childbirth in the Province 37 per 1,000 teenage girls, giving a rank of 8 out 49 counties. Only the Northern counties have higher rates of teen childbirth. This is a very serious risk indicator for the Children's Aid Society of Stormont.

The general birthrate has been bouncing between 50 and 60 per 1,000 for years and is currently at the high end of its cycle. Stormont is in the middle of the pack on general fertility (60.7) which is the same as the Provincial average. The fact that Stormont is near the top on teenage childbirth and much lower on general childbirth makes the teen count that much more serious. Where counties have a very high general birthrate, there is consider "normalizing" pressure on teenagers to participate, which affects the Native population.

Fertility Rates

Table 11.1, *Fertility Rates*, in **Birth rate data Stormont.xls**, shows the internal fertility rates for Stormont. You can see the tremendous variation in fertility rates over the three year period from 1996 to 1998. The Reserve (128), North Glengarry (55) and Cornwall (54) have high rates compared to the Province as a whole. South Glengarry (33) and South Stormont (39) have low rates.

Teenage Childbirth

Table 11.2, *Teenage Childbirth*, in **Birth rate data Stormont.xls**, shows the internal teenage fertility rates in 1996 for Stormont. Cornwall's rate of teen childbirth (55 per 1,000 teenagers) which translates into 88 babies in 1996, is very high and as noted in the literature above carries decades of risk to child welfare.

Women of Child Bearing Age

Table 11.3, *Women of Child Bearing Age*, in **Birth rate data Stormont.xls**, shows average **<u>annual</u>** rate of growth or decline in teenage girls and women 25-44. If this number is increasing in one

area, then planners can expect more babies in that locale. The large cohort of women in their childbearing years is slowly declining in Stormont. This means fewer babies in the intermediate term. Teenage girls are increasing by 0.7% overall and even higher in many places. After ten years, this may produce an increase in babies born in the county. However, this table indicates that Stormont must rely on attracting newcomers in order to grow.

Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality is one of the most important indicators of quality of life world wide. All over the world, including Ontario, infant mortality is declining sharply. In Ontario, the average rate in the 1990's has declined by 27.5% compared the decade previously.

Infant Mortality – rates across Ontario

Table 12, *Infant Mortality*, in **Birth rate data Stormont.xls**, shows the average infant mortality rate in each decade, county by county, and the percentage change over the decade. Three of the Eastern counties actually saw their rates increase (Prince Edward (26.7%), Prescott (5.5%) and Hastings (3.2%). Clearly, this is a worrying trend. You also observer the tremendous range of values on this indicator.

Stormont has seen its average rate of infant mortality *decrease by 50%,* which is a very good sign for infant health. Stormont went from 35th place in the 1980's at 763 deaths per 1,000 babies born to 45th place at 380. This places Stormont well below the Provincial average (585). This result is quite unexpected because of Stormont's high teenage birthrate, which is very highly correlated with infant mortality. This fact should moderate concerns that arise when looking at other indicators of risk in the county. There may be a well spring of resilience within Stormont that cannot be observed directly through Statistics Canada data. However, as we will shortly see, the bad news for Stormont starts again with much higher than average death rates for children and young people from accidents and suicide and much higher than average crime rates in the city of Cornwall.

Infant Mortality – internal rates

Table 12.1, *Infant Mortality*, in **Birth rate data Stormont.xls**, shows the infant mortality rate in 1996, 97 and 1998. You can see that very few babies died in any given year. When you are dealing with numbers of zero and one, the rates are misleading. That is why, it better to analyze this indicator at the county level. It is also surprising to see that the individual children who died came from several different areas across the county – another positive indicator, since one would have expected Cornwall to be the single source of he problem.

Crime Rates

Crime Rates – rank across Ontario

Table 13, *Crime Rates*, in **rank of pops.xls**, shows the rank order for the average rate per 100,000 people over 15 years for two categories: violent crime and all crime. This data was obtained by Statistics Canada from police dept representing over 80% of the population of Ontario. Many small towns and rural districts are not surveyed. However, the data is fairly representative on the county level, since it usually captures data on the cities and large towns.

Crime rates vary significantly from 5-fold (for general crime) to 10-fold (for violent crime) county by county. This variation makes rank order analysis very useful. Stormont is 14th in the Province on general crime (11,155 per 100,000) in 1996. Stormont is 12th in the Province on violent crime (1,331 per 100,000). These rates are 50% higher than the Provincial average. This is not a good sign. Crime rates are driven by many of the same community and personal forces that drive child abuse and neglect.

Recent Crime Rates – internal to Stormont

Table 13.1, *recent crime rates*, in **crime Stormont.xls,** shows the rate in 1997, the latest data available from Statistics Canada. Between 1996 and 1997, there was a 26% drop in crime. However, Stormont (and in particular, Cornwall) remains above average on both violent crime and general crime.

The table also shows the number of police officers and the budgets for the areas reporting.

Summary Statistics on Crime

Table 13.2, *summary statistics on crime*, in **crime Stormont.xls**, shows that the highest rates of crime are found in small cities (population 15,000 to 50,000). The lowest rates are found in the big cities (over 100,000). This may reflect the fact that within Ontario, small cities are experiencing a significant decline in its social institutions, especially education, work place, health care and recreation. Big cities, with bigger budgets and more political clout, are maintaining the quality of life more effectively for its residents.

Suicide

Suicide Rates by Age Cohorts

Table 14, *Suicide Rates by Age Cohorts*, in **suicide Stormont.xls**, shows the rate per 100,000 people of suicide by age cohorts. This dataset covers five years, 1991-96. This data shows that Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry has above average suicide rate across all age groups from 10 to age 34. The actual number of deaths (found in table 14.2, shows that 35 young people took their own lives in that period in Stormont. In contrast Prescott and Leeds had less than half number of completed suicides.

The forces which drive the higher crime rates in Stormont appear to have influenced the suicide rate as well which is very common. The period 1991-96 was also one of the worst economic periods in recent history. Economic stress, unemployment and family breakdown, which were prevalent in those years, drive up the suicide rates as well as the Child Abuse rates. Keep in mind also that suicide is the behavioural manifestation of serious depression; depression is a major risk factor for child abuse.

Rank Order of Suicide Rates of Young People

Table 14.1, *Rank Order of Suicide Rates*, in **suicide Stormont.xls**, shows the suicide rates for young people age 15-34 years, a high-risk group for suicide. Between the two decades, Stormont saw its relatively high youth suicide rate increase from 17.3 to 18.9 per 100,000 young people. This is a second and more powerful indicator of risk. When a serious indicator such as suicide continues a high rate across two decades, plus is getting worse at a time when it was falling everywhere else, then we must conclude that there is credible evidence of social disintegration in the county of Stormont.

Accidental Death

In a longitudinal study of 1,400 mothers who were registered at a prenatal clinic, the researchers were able to identify the factors which predicted who eventually *severely* abused their children (Vietze, 1996). The factors counted by Statistics Canada are in bold. Abusers were likely:

- ❒ to have lost a prior child to foster care or **preventable death**
- ❒ to have recently attacked a child or an adult violently (**violent crime rates**)
- ❒ to wish that they could terminate the pregnancy
- ❒ to report that the pregnancy was unplanned or planned for selfish reasons

In a parallel finding, Wells (1994) found that children reported to the Washington state child abuse registry were three times more likely to die from any cause than their counterparts in the general population. Squires (1995) reviewed 168 child fatalities due to house fires in Scotland over a ten year period. Deaths by house fires are the fifth leading cause of death in children. Approx 30% of fatal house fires are caused by children playing with matches or other flammable material. Approx 30% of all fatal child fire deaths were related to an adult who was intoxicated at the time. Fatal accidents can happen to anyone's child, but this research shows that children in neglecting homes are at much greater risk of this event.

A longitudinal study of 5,000 mothers in England found that 35.3% of adolescent mothers abused and 30% neglected their children, compared with maltreatment levels of 10.7% for older mothers (Quoted in Trad, 1994) Please note: these percentages are the total after many years of observation, not the one-year prevalence rates quoted above.

These findings suggest three indicators for predicting the relative prevalence of child abuse and neglect between counties . Each of these indicators increases the odds of abuse occurring from 3 to 10 times the base rate (3%)

❐   accidental death of children
❐   accumulation of children born to teen mothers
❐   rates of violent crime (which is a marker for antisocial personality disorder)

Accidental Death Rates by Age Group

Table 15, *Accidental Death Rates by Age Group*, in **Accidental Death Leeds.xls**, provides data on accidental death by specific locations within Stormont. The time period for this study was 1991 to 1996 inclusive. On the second row of the table, the Ontario-wide average rate per 100,000 children within each age group is given. On the third column, the total population in 1996 for each town and village within Stormont is given. These two reference points are critically important for evaluating the rates in the body of the table.

When local rates are well above the Ontario-wide average and the total population exceeds 5,000 people, then we must consider that this locale has an exceptional safety problem for children. As a rule, the wide variation in rates found in towns of less than 5,000 people are relatively meaningless, since they usually refer to one or two children who died.

In small towns, it is wise to look for a pattern of accidental death in several age groups as an indicator of exceptional risk. Obviously these rules do not apply to the "county level" where the base population is sufficiently large to take the rate at face value.

Within Stormont, Cornwall has a very high rate of accidental death among children ages 0 to 4 years (25.6 per 100,000 children age 0-4), which is driving the county level numbers. Moreover, almost every age cohort from childhood to age 34 is two to three time higher than the Provincial

average. This includes 10 children under the age of 15 years who died by accidents between 1991 and 1996 in the city of Cornwall.

Children by Individual Ages

Please see table 16, *Children by Individual Ages in 2001*, in **ind yrs2001 Stormont.xls**, for data on the number of children by individual years in each locale.

Conclusion

I have reviewed a wide variety of Census variables and other custom tables purchased from Statistics Canada. I have identified key indicators that are related to the need for Child Protection Services relative to the three major societal theories explaining harm to children. I have also reviewed the prevalence data for several co-morbid conditions. The most important findings are as follows:

(1)   Data on three out of four of the most critical adverse outcomes correlated with Child Abuse: (Accidental Death among children, Youth Suicide and crime rates) are all significantly higher in Stormont than elsewhere in Ontario.

(2)   The data on one other serious adverse outcome, infant mortality, is surprisingly positive and this has remained so for two decades. The data on infant mortality which places Stormont in the top ten counties of Ontario with the lowest rates occurs even though Stormont has one the highest rates of teenage childbirth.

(3)   The proportion of immigrants settling in Stormont who come from high-risk countries, such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Egypt, is almost 10 times higher than any other county in Eastern Ontario – except for Ottawa. The percentage impact on Stormont, however, is much higher than in Ottawa.

(4)   The largest group of landed immigrants settling in Stormont in the last five years came from the Pakistan (49.3% of 370 people)

(5)   Cornwall contains many of the classic indicators of stress, low SES and social disorganization, including net loss of people through migration. Specifically, Cornwall has a very low inflow of 4.6% of the population every year (or 2,000 people) and a net outflow of 5.4% or 2,400 people.

(6)   One of the highest percentages of adults who never graduated from high school is found in Cornwall (36.2% of the adult population). Cornwall also has one the lowest percentages of young people (15-24 years) in school (56.4%) which is well below the Provincial average and is a very bad sign for the long-term.

(7)   Cornwall is also seeing a large increase in apartment units in buildings over 5 stories, which is risk indicator found in many longitudinal studies. Counterbalancing this

news, however, are indicators that stress on renters and homeowners is considerably better in 20901 compared to 1996.

(8)   Two areas, Cornwall (15.8%) and South Stormont (16.8%) have very high youth unemployment – combined with a large population of youth

(9)   Cornwall has one of he highest concentrations of poverty in Eastern Ontario, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the population (2,455 families or 19.0%).

(10)   While personal wealth soared in Ontario by over 20%, Cornwall barely managed a 0.9% growth in personal income. Moreover, the gap between the poorest of the poor and families living on more than $80,000 per year has widened significantly in Cornwall and in other parts of Stormont as well. Poverty is a lot worse for those affected when the burden isn't shared across the community.

(11)   No indicator of social disorganization and community stress speaks louder than population decline. A large number of people (1,763) migrated out of the city of Cornwall (a 3.7% decline) between 1996 and 2001.

Robert Fulton, Sunday, September 14, 2003

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