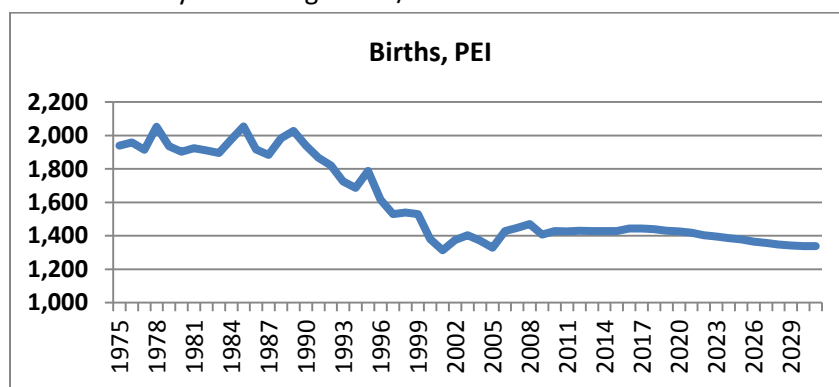


Learning Partners Advisory Council: Key trends -- PEI summary highlights

Demographic Factors

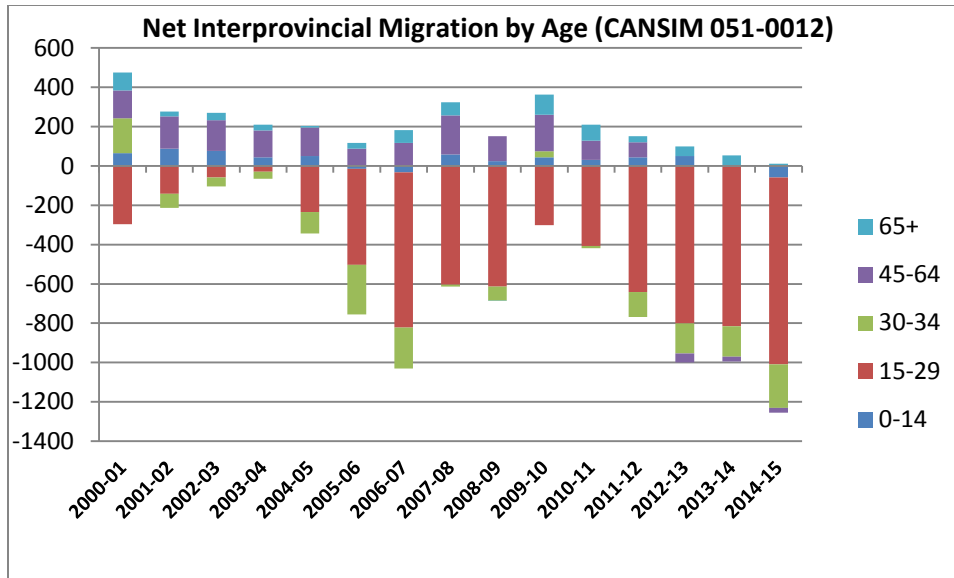
Fewer children

- PEI's birth rate dropped sharply throughout the 1990s -- falling from about 2,000 children a year in 1980s to a stable level of ~1,350-1,450 a year by the late 1990s.
- Enrolment followed the trend five years later, dropping from 24,300 in 1999-2000 to 19,900 in the current school year.
- Death rates are starting to rise as baby boomers move into senior years.
- Net natural population increase (births minus deaths) is close to zero, making migration patterns the key driver of growth / decline.

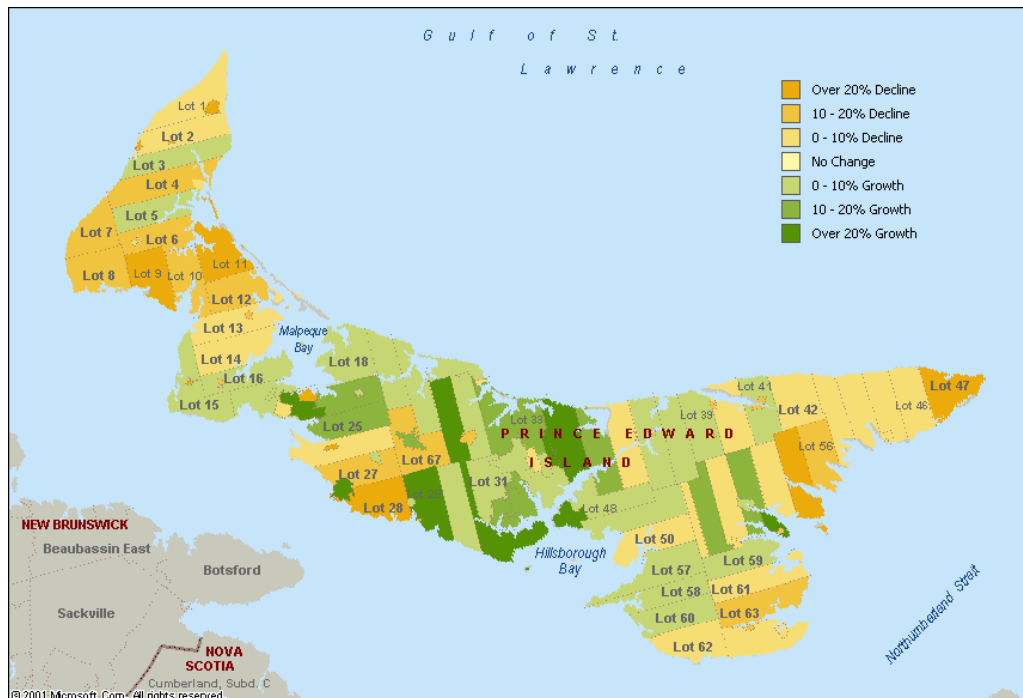


People on the move

- Key factors are international net migration, interprovincial net migration, internal migration within PEI
- International migration had little impact on PEI till mid-2000s, then contributed strongly since then:
 - Very high levels of immigration in late 2000s, dropping in 2010s but still well above historical levels
 - Higher than rest of Atlantic Canada -- drove the highest population growth in the region
 - Vast majority of newcomers settled in and around Charlottetown
 - Many left soon for other provinces -- retention improving in recent years
- Interprovincial migration has long seen high inflows and high outflows with usually a net loss:
 - Net losses are high during periods of economic growth and lower or inflows during recessions
 - Net losses have always been high among youth but are now extending into all age groups
 - This trend has been driven partly by transience of the many newcomers in past decade



- Internal migration has seen a strong and continuing shift from the rural east and west to the Charlottetown area – driving population decline greatest at the extremities and growth around Charlottetown (see map below – done in 2010 so a few years out of date but the trends have been in the same direction)



Implications for learning systems

- Over the past 20 years, PEI has experienced major enrolment declines varying across communities -- resulting in increasing mal-distribution of student populations:

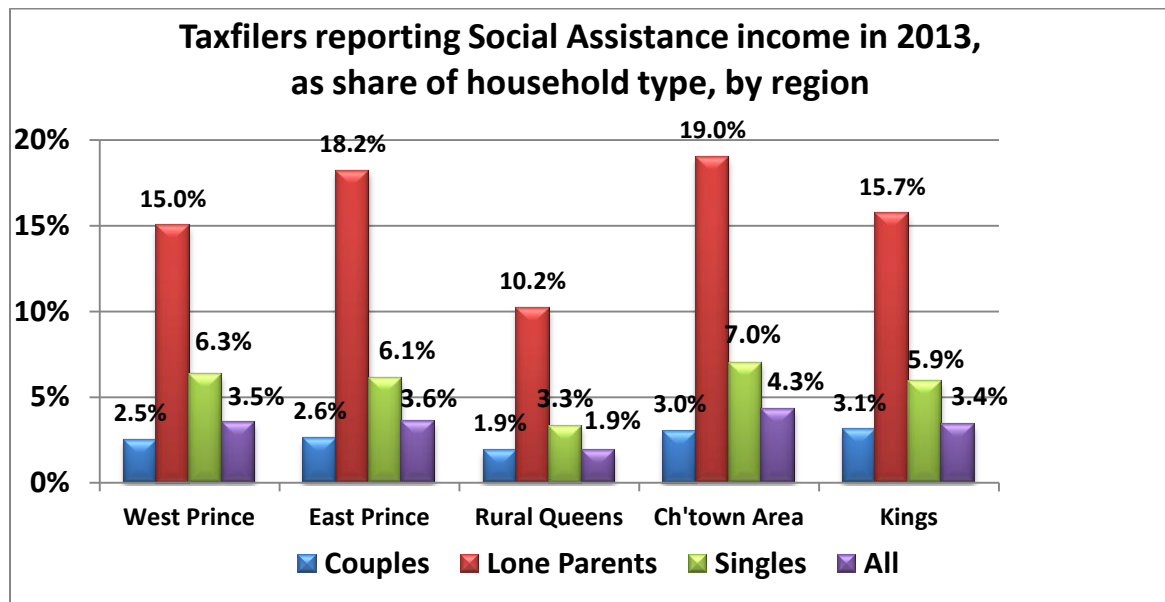
- Internal population shift to the urban centre, plus lack of off-setting in-migration and immigration, has resulted in sharpest drops in enrolment in eastern and western extremes
- Immigration concentrated in the urban centre has offset declining enrolment of Island-born students
- Increasing diversity, concentrated in Colonel Gray and Charlottetown Rural families of schools
- Enrolment data have recently been released as part of the open data initiative with the new website, much more accessible now, see tables by school and by grade level at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/search/site?keys=school+enrolment&op=search>

Income and Fiscal Factors

Increasing affluence, increasing disparities

- Across Canada, recovery from the 2008-09 recession has seen a concentration of gains in the top 20% of income earners
- PEI's high level of labour force participation but poor quality of jobs has long resulted in a compressed income scale with:
 - Relatively few people in severe and/or sustained low income – and especially low rates of severe family and child poverty
 - A very large number and proportion of individuals and families with very modest, just-above-poverty incomes
 - Relatively few high-wealth individuals
- These trends are changing in recent years -- income inequality is increasing and income security is declining:
 - As elsewhere, post-recession gains are concentrated in the top quintile -- "to those who have, shall be given"
 - 2012-13 federal changes to the Employment Insurance program have hit hardest at the bottom end of the labour market -- those with the shortest season, lowest paid, least secure jobs
 - The labour force peaked in 2012, then started to shrink as boomers began to turn 65 and as participation rates dropped in all age groups
 - The employment rate peaked in 2013 and the number of jobs peaked in 2014
 - Low income rates show a significant uptick in 2013, the most recent data available -- across all measures, age groups, and household structures
 - Single-income households fared the worst -- lone parents and their children, older and senior singles
 - Island-wide, one in six single parents relied at least partly on social assistance in 2013, compared to one in 35 couple families
- Recent federal measures, notably the creation of the new, income tested, more generous Canada Child Benefit, the increase to the seniors Guaranteed Income Supplement, social

housing investments, and the recent agreement to enhance the Canada Pension Plan, will go far to mitigate or prevent poverty.



Fiscal trends

- Strong growth in education and early learning spending 2007-2012 as enrolment fell:
 - Education a government priority -- kindergarten, early learning, 1-12, PSE
 - Recession stimulus -- new and renovated schools, new buses
 - Demographic dividend -- enrolment declines drove accelerated gains in ratios
- Followed by restraint and retrenchment since 2012:
 - Slow-down in the growth rate of education spending
 - Reductions in teacher numbers 2012 to 2014
 - Reductions in central apparatus -- consolidation of English boards 2012, integration of English board into department 2016
- Continuing demand pressures from the health system will crowd future education spending

Thriving Communities, Engaged Citizens

Prince Edward Island's social fabric has long been a major strength – going far to offset its economic and demographic challenges. Unfortunately, many of these indicators show slippage, eroded by the trends outlined earlier – migration, hollowing out of rural communities, increasing inequality

- Trust levels, sense of belonging, informal giving have historically been higher than average (note some of those statistical series have been terminated – more work needed here)

- Volunteering – in 2007, PEI’s volunteer rate was second highest in Canada at 55% next to Sask, but fell to 50% by 2010 (most recent survey) and fell to fourth place, overtaken by Nova Scotia and Manitoba
- Charitable giving: The proportion of Islander taxfilers reporting charitable donations is above the national average. Rates are declining but less quickly than the national average. And, Islanders’ median donation as a percent of median income is almost twice the national average.
- Voter turnout is consistently the highest in Canada
- Islanders’ sense of community belonging is well above the national average (74% vs. 66%) and this difference has been stable over time. This sense of belonging is strongest among the youngest and oldest Islanders, and among those with higher incomes.

A Helping Hand for Families

- As noted above, federal action to create the Canada Child Benefit will go far to improve their income situation. Given our income distribution, a higher proportion of Island families are expected to benefit than in any other province.
- Past provincial measures in the early childhood area have been of significant benefit to families:
 - 2010 move to full-day school based kindergarten, major enhancement of early childhood learning and care system, and improvements to the Child Care Subsidy Program
 - 2012 Social Action Plan, including elimination of ‘clawback’ of federal child benefits within the Social Assistance Program, increases to and indexing of food rates, and many other measures
 - Improved pharmacare through the Catastrophic Drug Assistance Program 2014 and the Generic Drug Program 2015
 - 2014 launch of Triple P Positive Parenting Program
- Current and future initiatives include:
 - Renewal of the Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - Expanded investment in social housing
 - Upcoming review of child care subsidy supports
 - Creation of an interdepartmental ‘hub’ model to identify and address risks
 - Current review of the *Child Protection Act*

Improving Health and Wellbeing

As indicated in the recent 2016 Report of the Chief Public Health Officer *Promote, Prevent, Protect: Health for All Islanders*, Islanders’ status on most indicators of health and wellbeing lag the national average and many are deteriorating. It has long been recognized that these outcomes are significantly influenced by the social determinants of health, and the Report places particular emphasis on income disparities as a key factor. The report can be accessed at [2016 CPHO Report](#).

Keeping Children Safe and Sound

Some good info sources on this include:

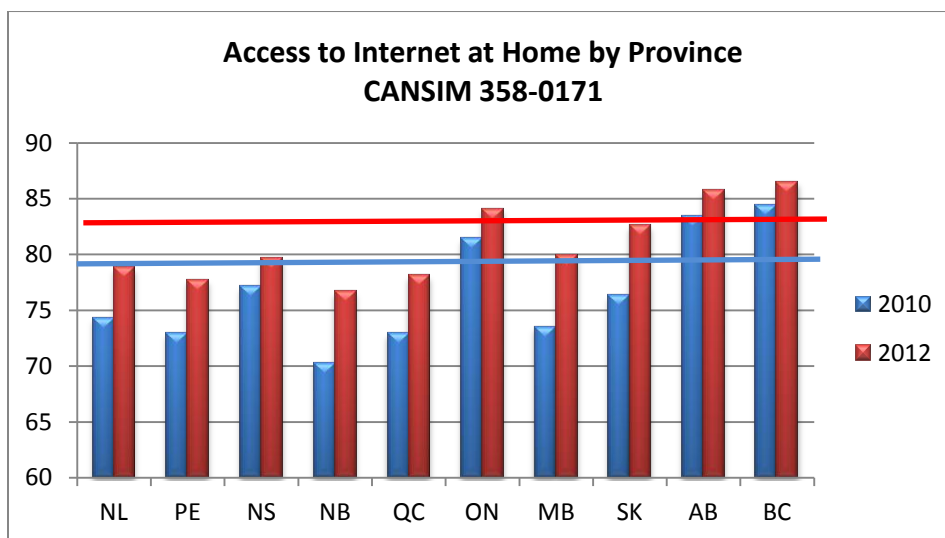
www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/dhw_cpho_sdu14.pdf PEI Student Drug Use 2004-2013 by Chief Public Health Office – includes mental and emotional wellbeing

Data from the SHAPES reports (School Health Action Planning and Evaluation Survey), a partnership between the department and UPEI that issued several reports in recent years. 2012-13 survey is at www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/eecd_shapes1213.pdf Other reports can be accessed at UPEI's Comprehensive School Health Research Group page, at <http://discoveryspace.upei.ca/cshr/SHAPES> and on the department's website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/healthyschoolcommunities/index.php?number=1048400&lang=E>

Older but detailed and valuable info can be found in the [2007 Student Drug Survey](#) -- part of a coordinated Atlantic Canada initiative using a standardized questionnaire that was administered to students in all four Atlantic provinces. Approximately 3,000 PEI students in Grades 7, 9, 10 and 12 were surveyed in each cycle, beginning in the early 1990s. The report provides the best estimates currently available to describe the size of drug use in the adolescent PEI student population, as well as regional comparisons and trends over time. PEI's participation in this survey was discontinued prior to the most recent cycle. (Note: I believe that funding for SHAPES, which replaced this, has also been cut in the current year budget.)

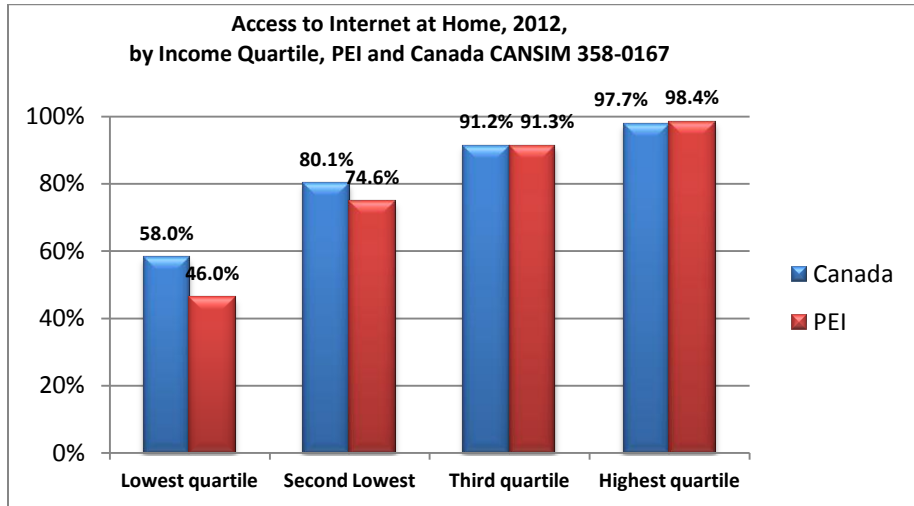
Touch of a Button / E-society and the i-self

In 2012 PEI had the second lowest rate of access to the Internet at home in Canada, ahead of New Brunswick, however, New Brunswick is gaining ground faster.



Despite this, Islanders' use of the internet was the highest in Atlantic Canada in 2012, at 80.3%, although below the national average of 83.4% (CANSIM 358-0152)

Income disparities had a greater impact on home access to the internet in PEI than in Canada. Islanders in the top 25% or quartile had near universal access, slightly higher than for Canada as a whole, while the lower two quartiles lagged.



Extensive information on digital competencies is available from the OECD 2012 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) e.g. see CANSIM tables list at <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a33?lang=eng&spMode=mainTables&themeID=2256&RT=TABLE>

