

Growing up in low-rent housing

The pandemic crisis has had a devastating impact on school perseverance, especially for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



In 2021, 18.3 % of Montreal students dropped out of high school¹; in low-income neighbourhoods, that rate was 2.5 times higher.²

Dropping out of school is associated with the socioeconomic vulnerability of students.³

The average annual income of families living in this type of housing is less than

\$20,000

A significant majority of residents are

allophones

6%

of respondents say that they never made it to high school.⁴

73%

A large majority of survey respondents dropped out of high school.⁴

About 13%

of respondents reached CEGEP or university.⁴

26%

of these families rely on wages as their main source of income.

Though similar to the rest of the school population, the percentage of students who do not receive a diploma is higher among students born outside of Canada (1st generation: 45,3%) as compared to students with one or more parent born outside of Canada (2nd generation: 29,8%).¹

26%

of these families receive government assistance from programs other than social welfare

(SAAQ, CNESST, OPIP, Old age Security, Quebec Pension Plan, etc.)

48%

of these families receive social welfare

⁽¹⁾ Montreal Hooked on school (MHS)

⁽²⁾ Centraide of Greater Montreal

⁽³⁾ Quebec government, *portrait du décrochage scolaire chez les jeunes du secondaire du réseau public à Montréal*

⁽⁴⁾ Survey carried out among OMHM residents. (April 2009)

Who are these young people?

Despite the help that subsidized housing may provide, the vast majority of families in low-rent housing communities live in extreme poverty and social exclusion. In some neighbourhoods, more than half of the students leave school without obtaining their high school diploma. Nearly 10,000 young people under 25 live in OMHM housing, of which more than two thirds are of school age, with 32% being in elementary school and 35% in high school.

Number of children according to age group and sex*

Age group	Girls	Boys	Total	%
0-5 ans	602	611	1213	13,29%
6-12 ans	1485	1462	2947	32,29%
13-18 ans	1468	1690	3158	34,60%
19-25 ans	961	847	1808	19,81%
Total	4516 / 49,48%	4610 / 50,5%	9126	100%

Number of families with children*

Number of families	Sex of head of household		
Household composition	F	M	Total
1 adult – 1 child	945	87	1032
1 adult – 2 children	666	46	712
1 adult – at least 3 children	641	19	660
At least 2 adults – at least 2 children	618	758	1376
At least 2 adults – 1 child	376	172	548
Total	3246	1082	4328

*Source: Office municipal d’habitation de Montréal (OMHM)

The average annual income of families living in this type of housing is less than

\$20,000

4,328

families

68%

single-parent families

26%

of families rely on wages as their main source of income

75%

of single-parent families have a woman as head of the family

16

boroughs



Where the families are located.

