

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 disadvantaged neighbourhoods, that rate was 2.5 times higher.²

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

6%

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

73%

of respondents dropped out of high school.⁴

**Approximately
13%**

of respondents reached CEGEP or university.⁴

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

4,328

families

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

\$20,000

26%

of families rely on wages as their main source of income

A significant majority of residents are

allophones

48%

of these families receive social welfare

26%

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

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

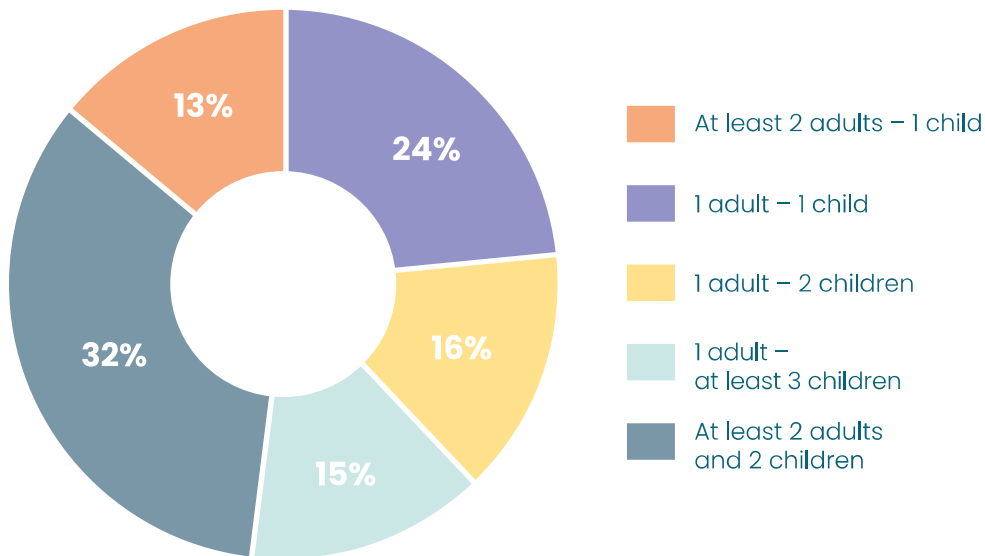
⁽¹⁾ Montreal Hooked on School (MHS)

⁽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)

Distribution of families according to family composition

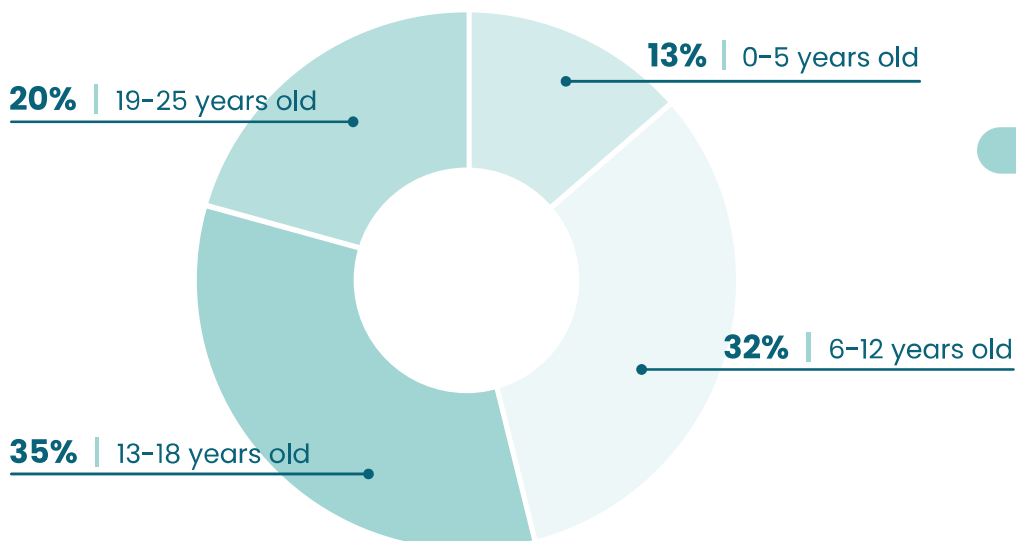


*Source: Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM)

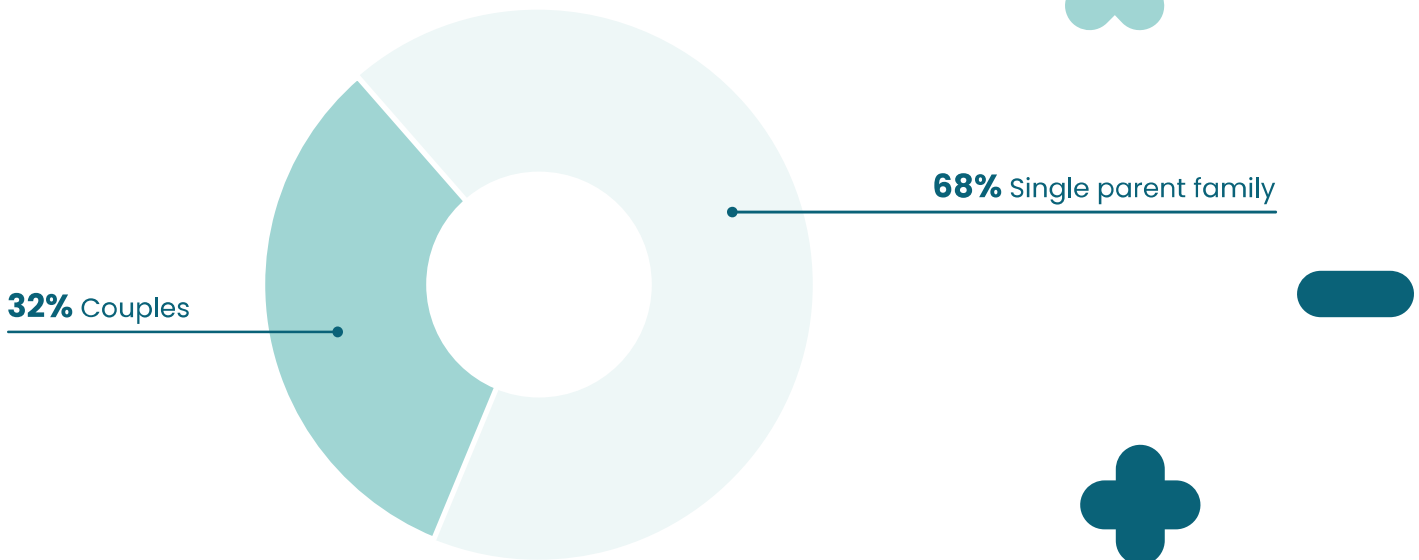
Who are these young people?

Despite the help that subsidized housing may provide, the vast majority of families in OMHM 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



Composition of families with children



52%

are single-parent families with a woman as head of the family

15%

are young families (one of the two parents is under 35 years old)

45%

are families with dependent children (18–25 years old)

In these difficult, pandemic times, Chanceline-Rebe is a student who is always present at school whether it be in person or at a distance. She is a serious student and very perseverant. Her mother, who is a single parent, works hard as a careworker in a private residence for the elderly. In order to be able to offer her 6 kids everything they need, she works long hours. Chanceline-Rebe would like to become a doctor, helping others is an important value for her. It would be easy for this young adolescent to give up, but Chanceline-Rebe is doing everything to the contrary.

Chanceline-Rebe, student at l'école Saint-Henri, received her secondary school diploma on June 30, 2021

