

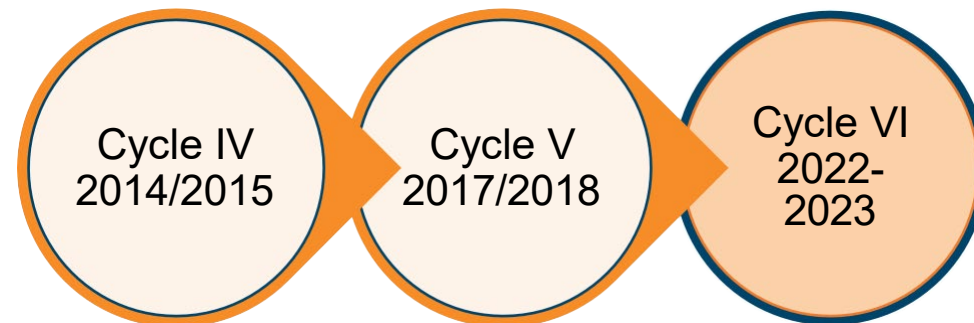
Early Development Instrument 2023 Results for Niagara Region

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and Social Services Committee

September 10th 2024

What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

- Validated tool created by The Offord Centre
- Assesses the developmental health and wellbeing of children in Senior Kindergarten (Year 2)
- Mandated by the Ministry of Education
- 103 questions per child, completed by the class teacher
- Conducted every 3 years



What does EDI Measure?

Physical Health & Well-being	Social Competence	Emotional Maturity	Language & Cognitive Development	Communication Skills & General Knowledge
Physical Readiness for School	Overall social competence	Prosocial & helping behaviour	Basic Literacy	
Physical Independence	Responsibility & respect	Anxious & fearful behaviour	Interest in literacy / numeracy & memory	
Gross & fine motor skills	Approaches to learning	Aggressive behaviour	Advanced literacy	
	Readiness to explore new things	Hyperactivity & inattention	Basic numeracy	

What does the EDI Analyze?

After the assessment is complete the results are categorized by:

1. On track
2. At Risk
3. Vulnerable

All results demonstrate students who are vulnerable. Vulnerable students are those who have a score below the 10th percentile. These children are considered to be at increased risk of difficulties and, without additional support, may continue to experience challenges.

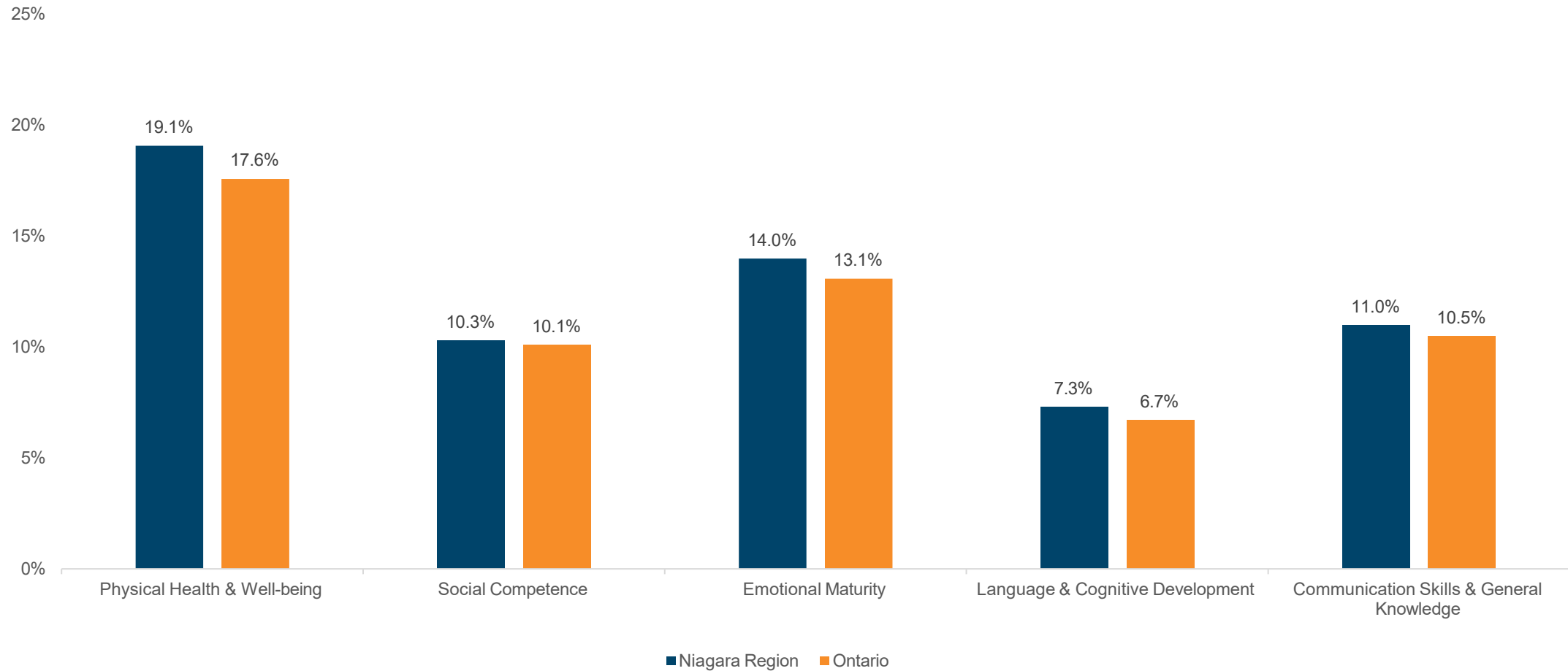
Niagara's Results

Niagara Children Captured in the EDI

- A total sample of 3897 children for 2022-2023
- 49.9% were girls and 50.1% were boys with an average age of 5.9 years
- 2% were French immersion
- 10% ESL / FSL
- In 2023 average of 23.3 days absent vs. 10.1 days in 2018

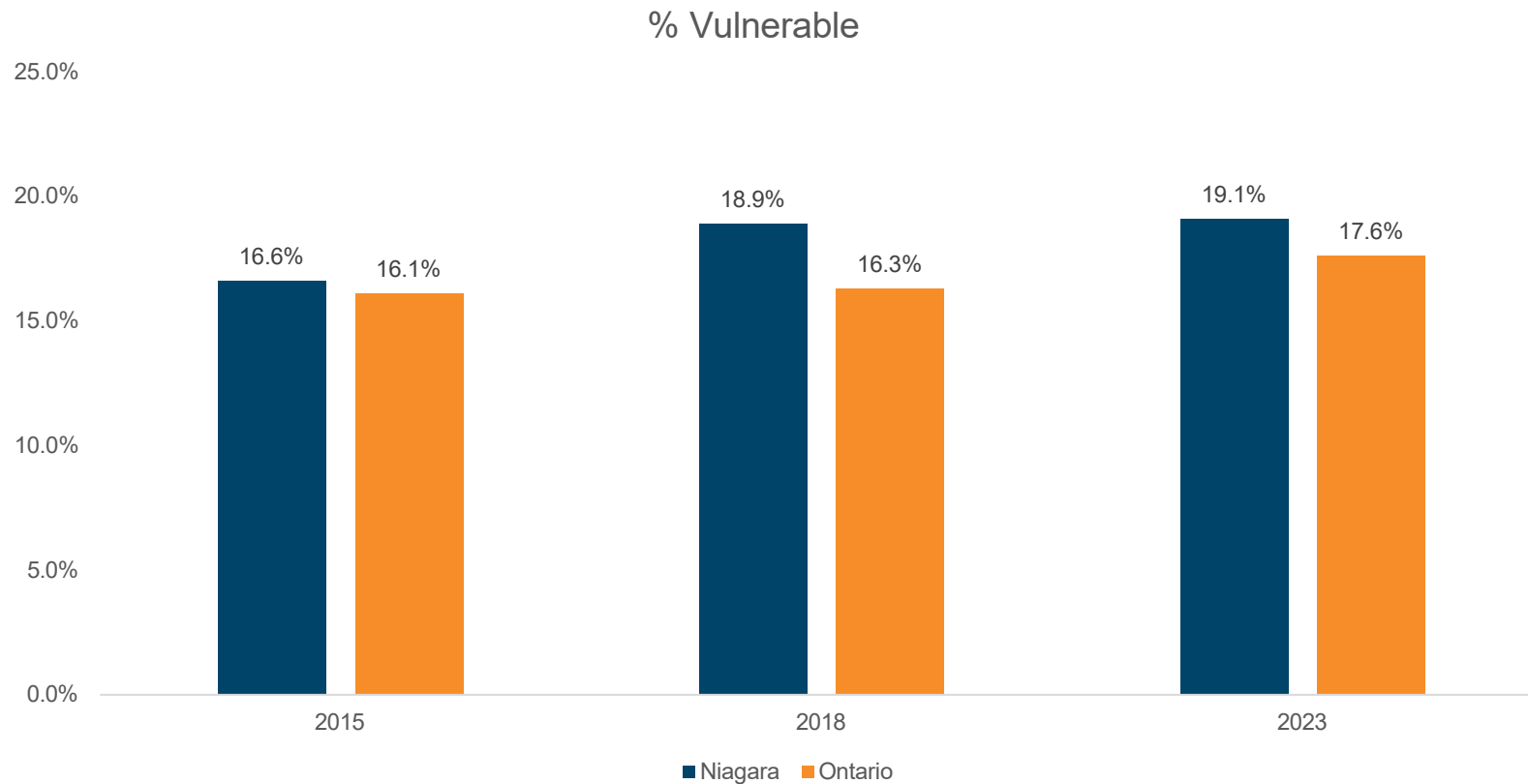
Overall Domains

Percentage of Children Vulnerable by EDI Domain in Cycle VI



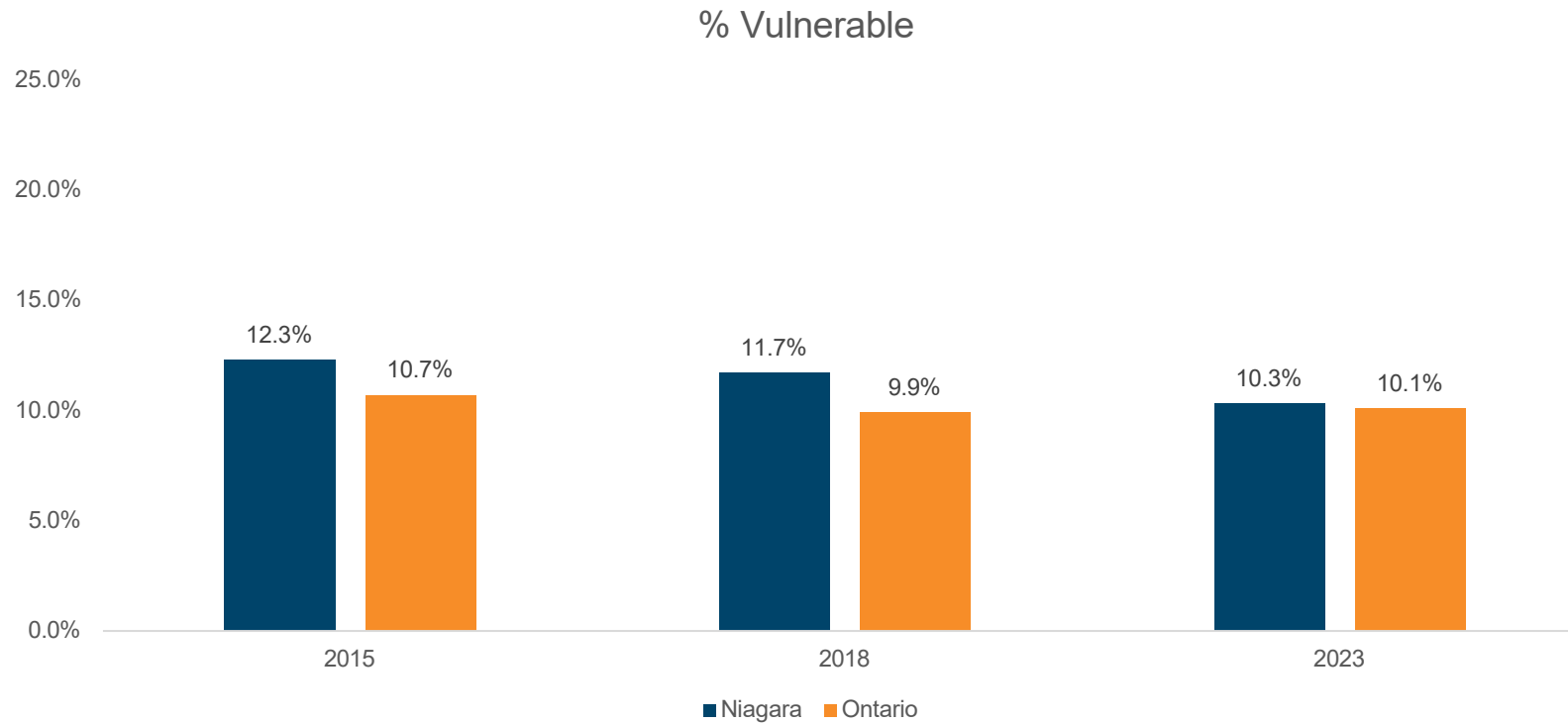
Physical Health & Well-Being

Assesses how physically independent and healthy children are and whether children have mastered motor skills



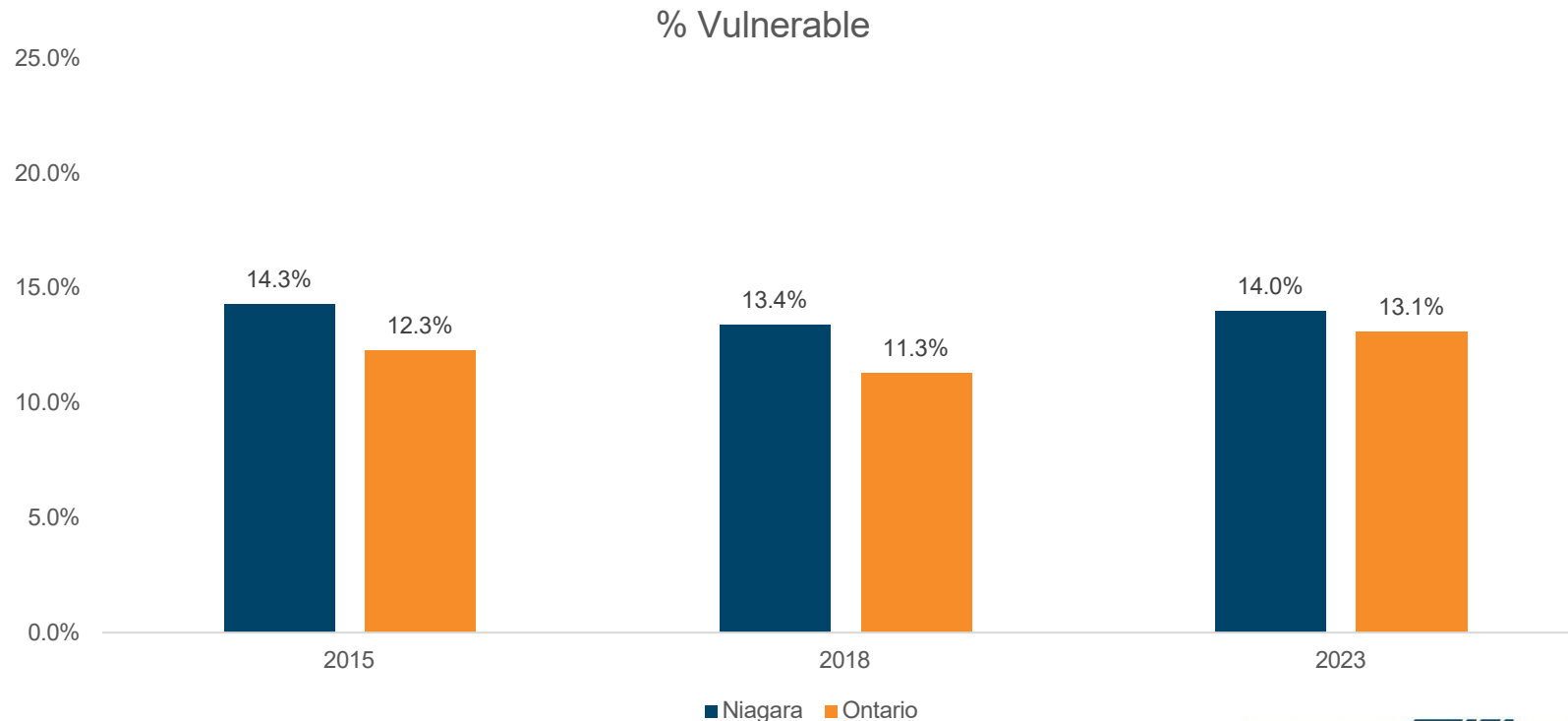
Social Competence

Assesses how children play and get along with others, share, and show self-confidence



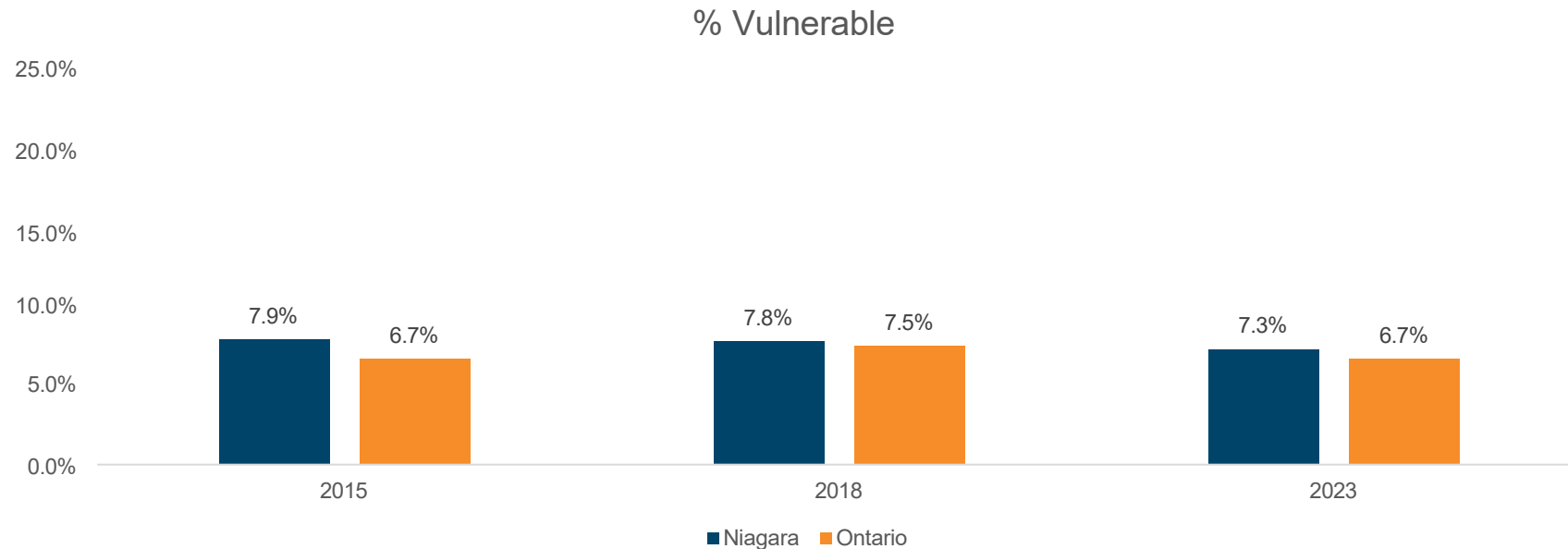
Emotional Maturity

Assesses how well children concentrate on tasks and help others, show patience, and whether they are often aggressive or angry



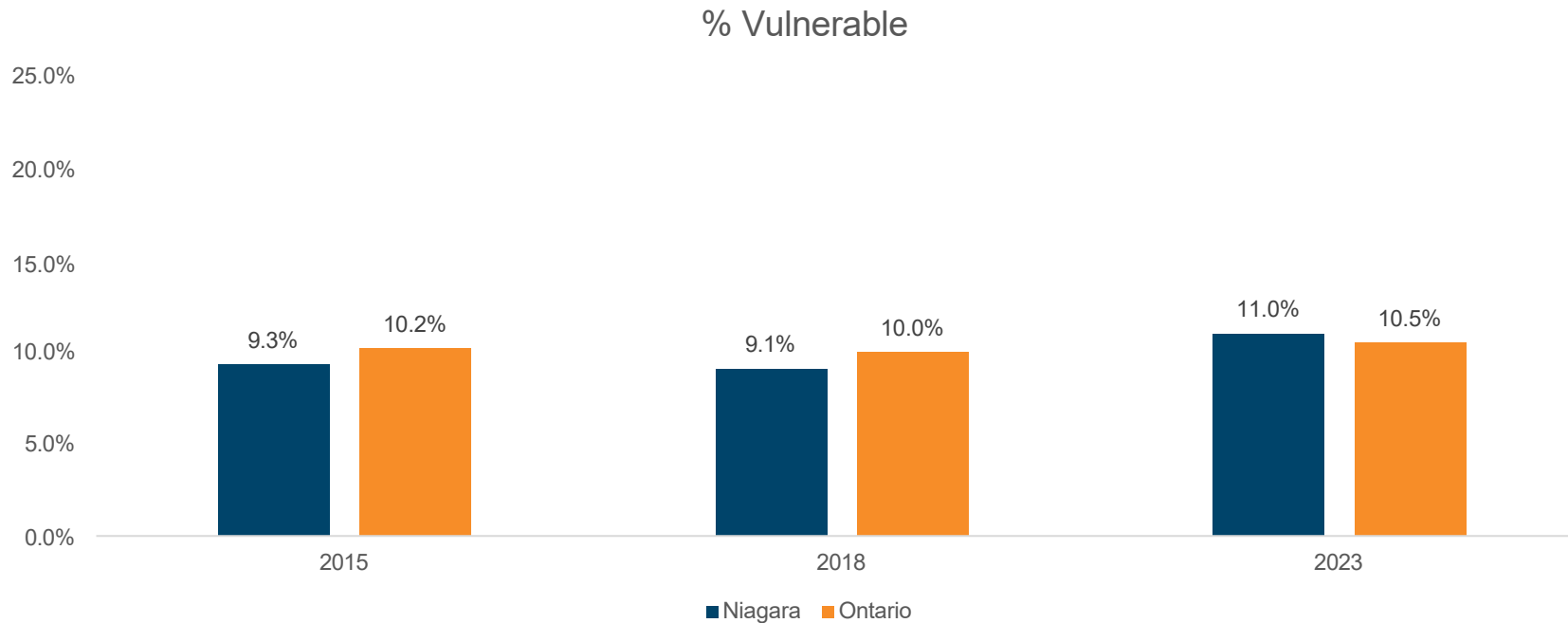
Language & Cognitive Development

Assesses how interested children are in reading and writing and their skills in numeracy and literacy

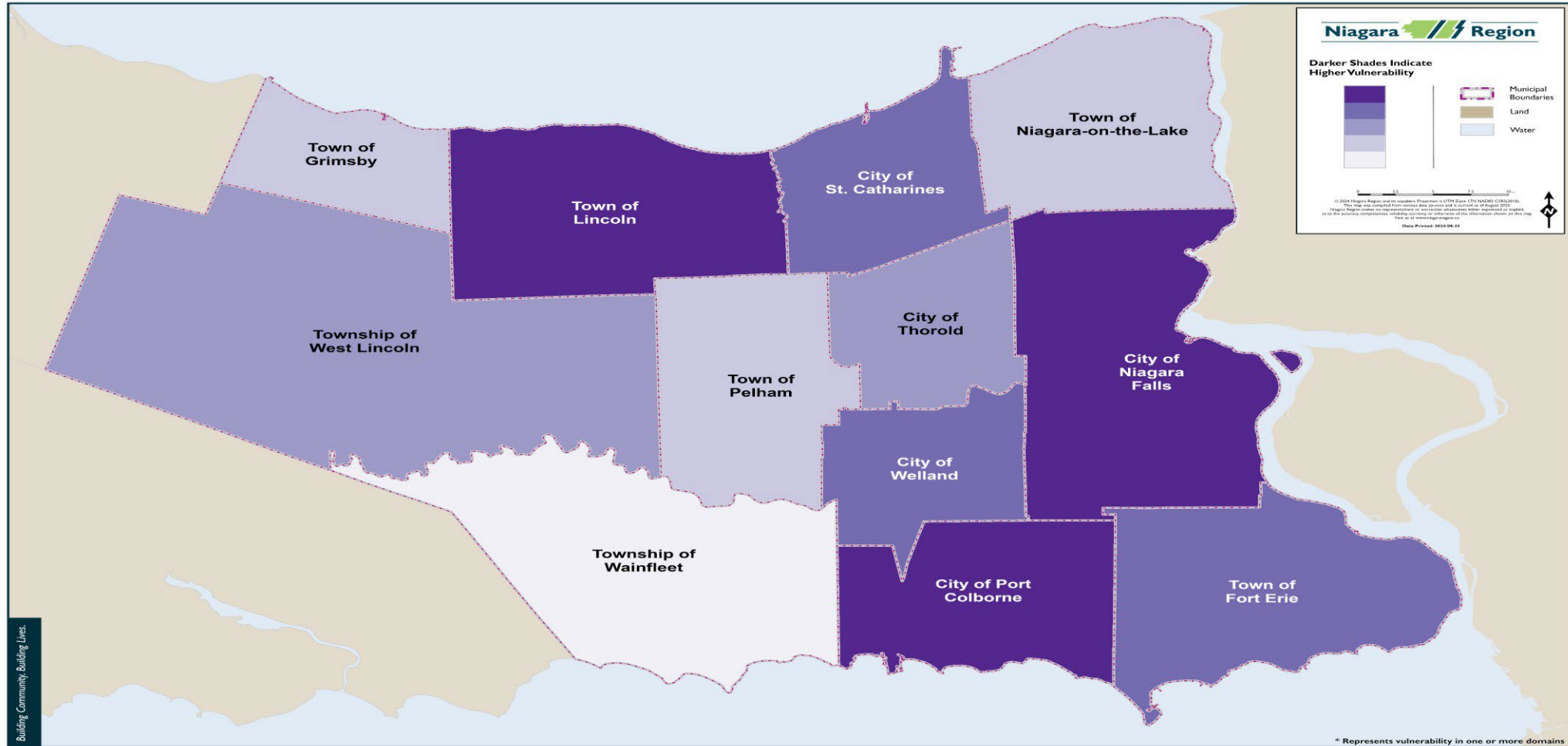


Communication Skills & General Knowledge

Assesses how children communicate with adults and other children



EDI Vulnerability by Municipality in 2023



Building Community. Building Lives.

Niagara's Approach

Children's Services Planning and Programming

- Review of Special Needs Resourcing
- Invested in EarlyON outdoor training and programming
- Increased fee subsidy camp access via contracts with local municipalities
- New Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan
- Collaborative/ joint committees to influence programming planning (i.e. School Boards, community agencies, Public Health, etc.)
- Integration of services to provide wrap-around services

Collaboration with the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Strategy addresses 8 interrelated Areas of Focus including Early Child Development
- Recommendation and actions: Improve access to affordable, high-quality childcare for families living in poverty or at risk of poverty.
 - Continue to implement the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care
 - Continue to expand childcare spaces
- Use funding from Niagara Prosperity Initiative to advance the strategy

Interdisciplinary work with Public Health

- Home visiting program for families (i.e. Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Infant and Child Development Services, etc.)
- Program and services to support parents (i.e. Postpartum Support, Infant Feeding Support, Positive Parenting Program, etc.)
- Community building and improving access in neighbourhoods that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health (e.g. community gardens, social prescribing, food access programming)
- Capacity Building Strategies to support families (i.e. Niagara Parents Outreach, ACES-Informed Pandemic Recovery Project, Enhanced 18-month Well-baby Visit and Emergent Literacy Initiative)

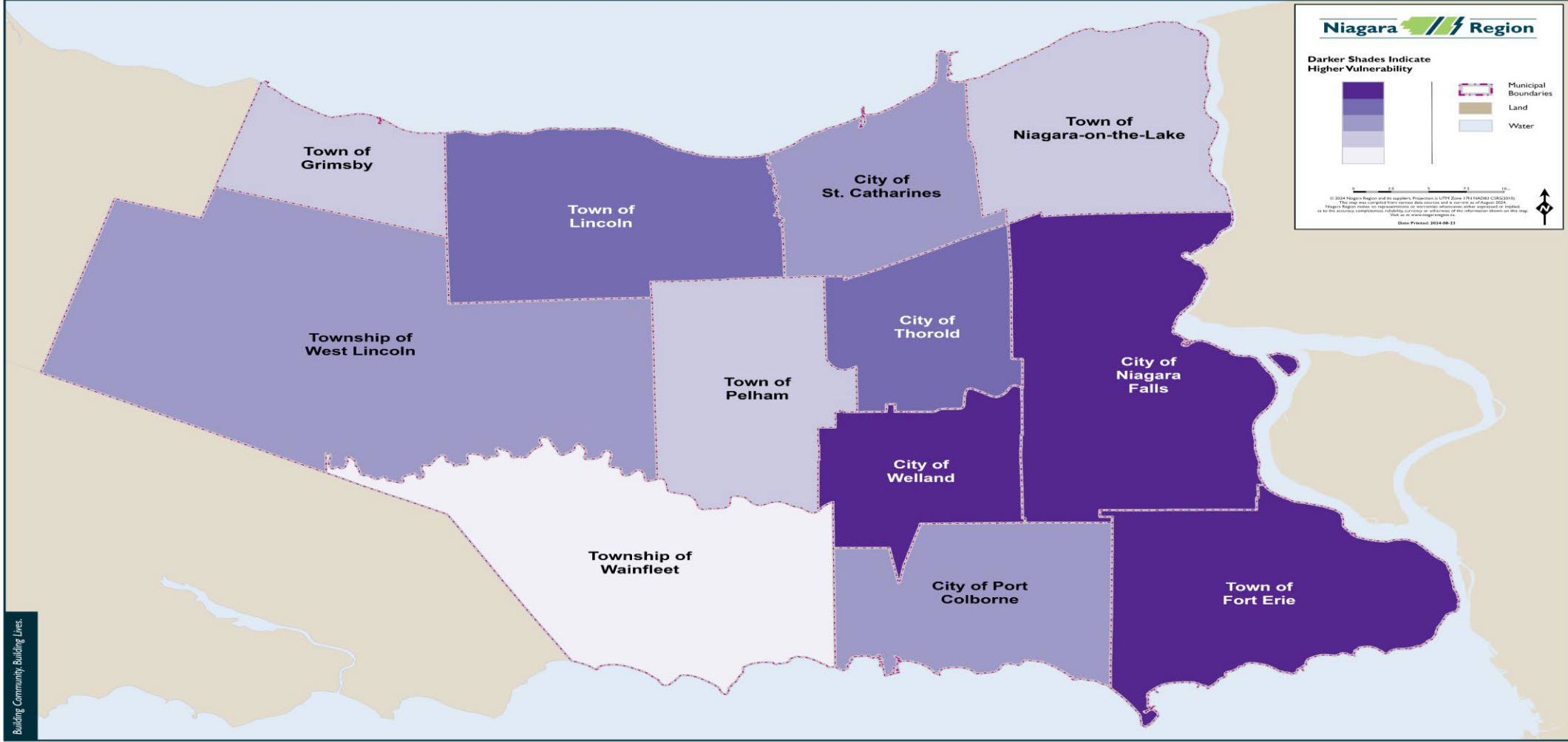
Councils Strategic Priorities

- Equitable Region
- Prosperous Region
- Effective Region

Thank you

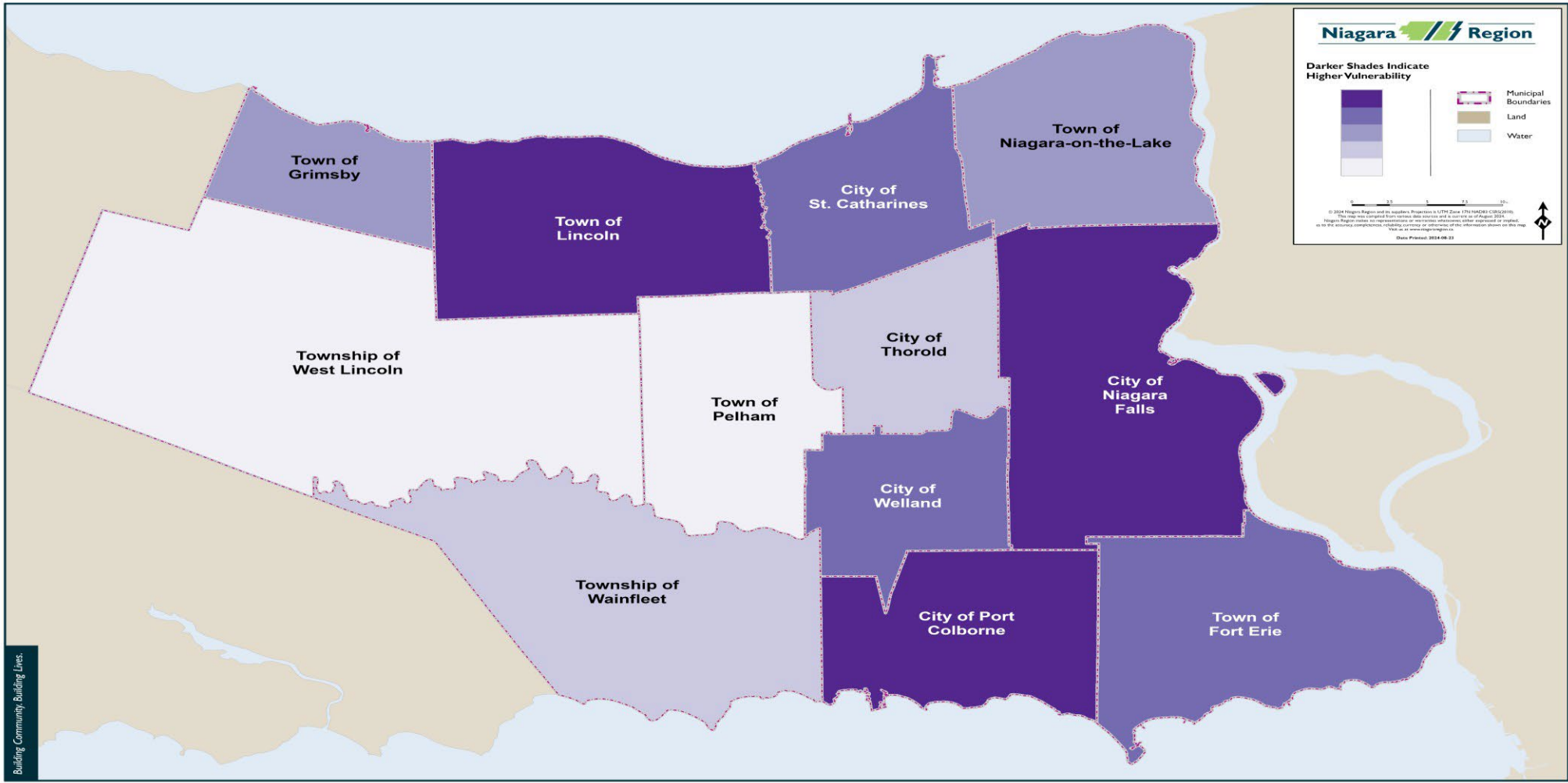
Appendices

EDI Vulnerability in Physical Health & Well-being 2023



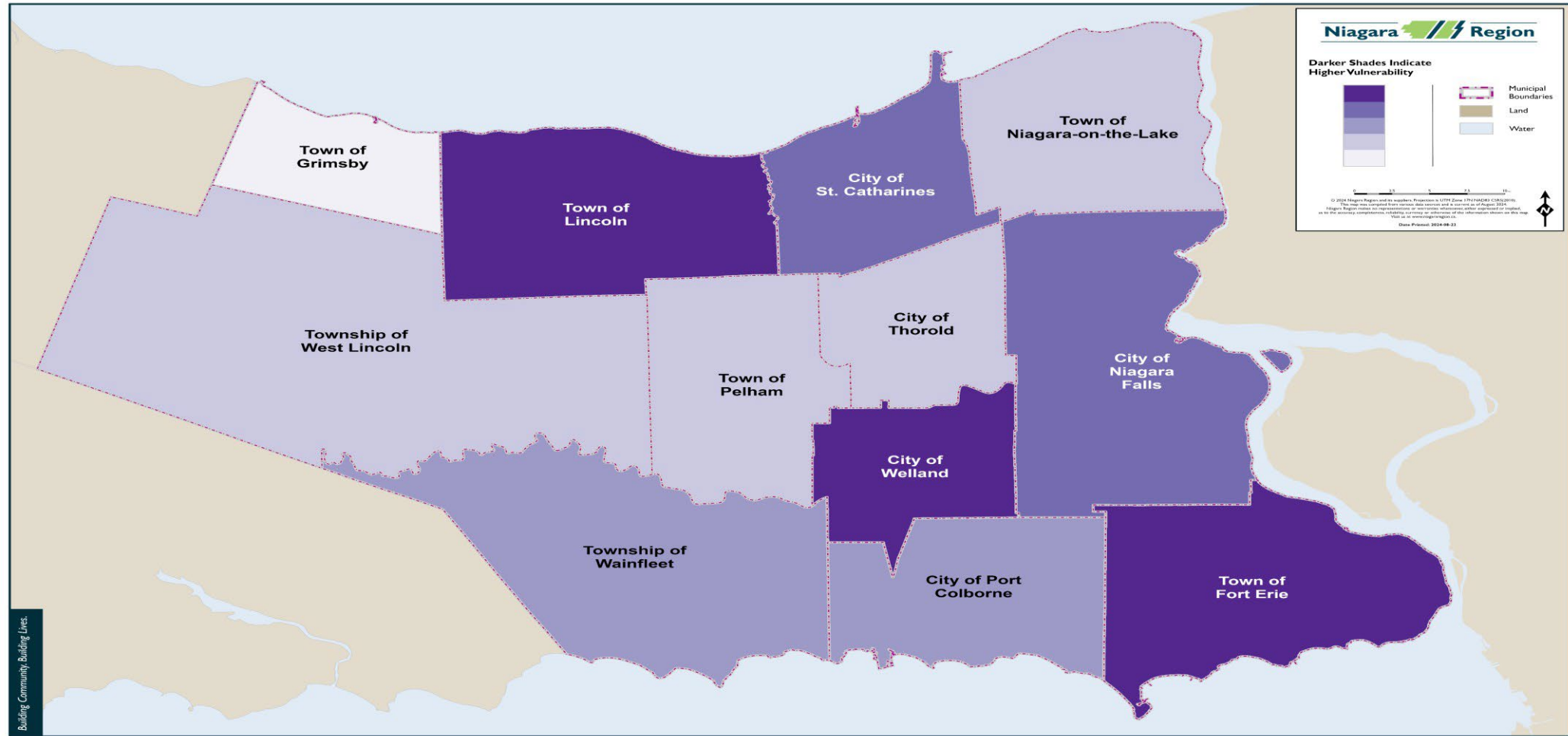
Building Community, Building Lives.

EDI Vulnerability in Social Competence 2023



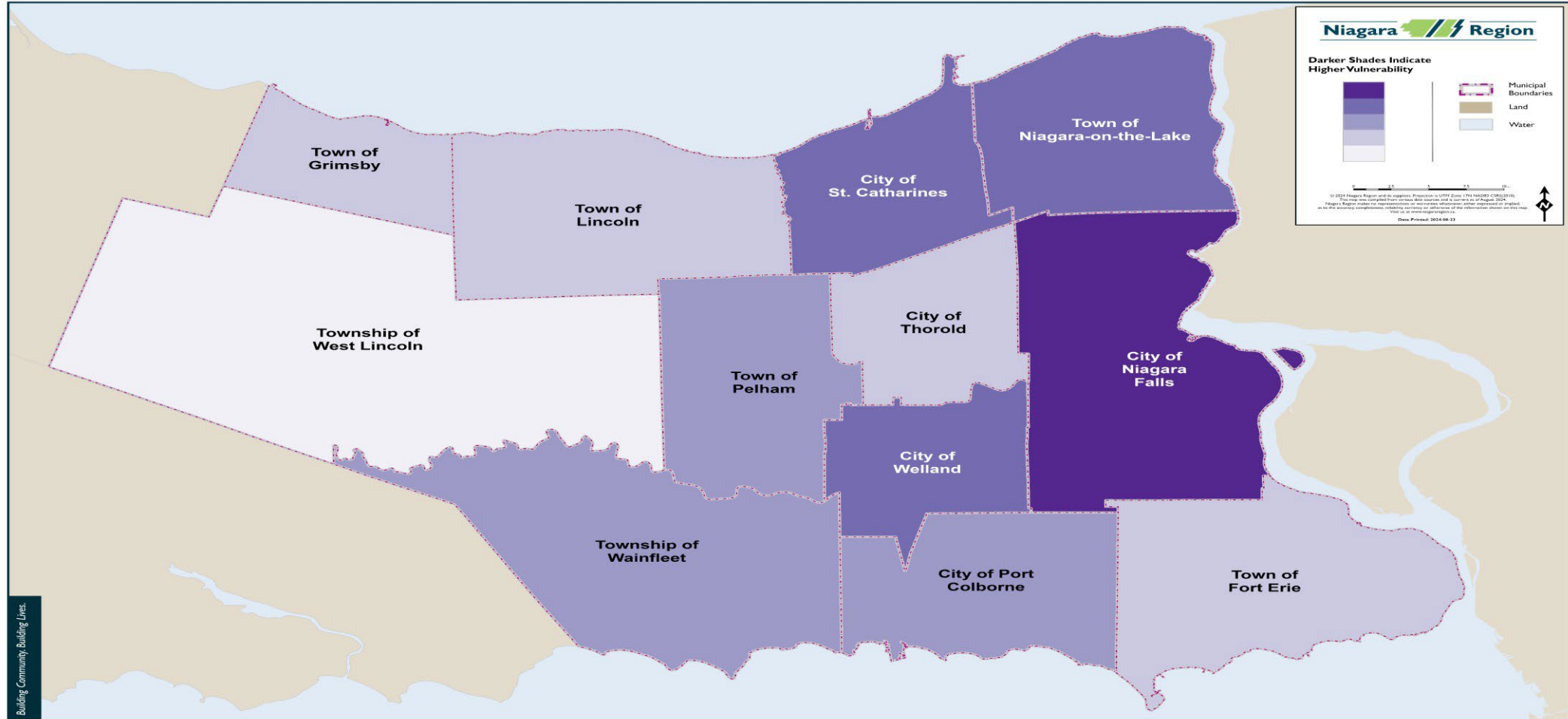
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EDI Vulnerability in Emotional Maturity in 2023



Building Community, Building Lives.

EDI Vulnerability in Language & Cognitive Development 2023



EDI Vulnerability in Communication & General Knowledge by Municipality 2023

