

# Diversity, Vulnerability and Service Needs in Suburbs

## THE **Y**ORK **I**NFRA**S**TRUCTURE **P**ROJECT Part 1: Demand

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# The York Infrastructure Project

<http://www.yorku.ca/yisp>

- **Funders**

Infrastructure Canada; CIC; York University

- **Main partner**

Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York (north of City of Toronto)

- **Primary purpose**

To examine the compatibility between service needs and service provision in suburbs

- **Reasons**

(mis)understanding of immigrant geographies and insufficient knowledge about suburbs

# Immigrant Geographies

## Reality: changing geography of settlement

- Inner city: traditional port of entry
- suburb: place of direct settlement  
site of contemporary ethnic enclaves

## Myth: stay-put geography of disadvantage

- Homelessness, poverty, ... characteristics of inner cities

**Are suburban communities welcoming ?**

# Facts about today's suburbs - 1

- Growing faster than cities

Between 2001 and 2006:

**urban population growth:**

central municipalities	4.2%
<b>national</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
suburban municipalities	11.1%

**within Toronto CMA:**

<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Brampton	33.3%
Vaughan *	31.2%
Whitby	27.2%
Markham *	25.4%
Richmond Hill *	23.2%

\* York Region

# Facts about today's suburbs - 2

- Increasingly diverse

Canada's visible minority population growth 5 times the national overall in the 2006 census

Within Toronto CMA:

Markham *	65%
Brampton	57%
Mississauga	49%
<b>Toronto</b>	<b>47%</b>
Richmond Hill *	46%

Within Vancouver CMA:

Richmond	65%
Burnaby	55%
<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>51%</b>
Surrey	46%
Coquitlam	39%

# Vulnerability and human services

- Inequalities in the experience of and impacts of social risks
- Different socioeconomic groups have different capacities to deal with exposures to and handle impacts of risks
- Seniors, low-income, disabled, visible minorities, recent immigrants are the more vulnerable groups
- Risks of not socially and economically integrated, of being denied employment, housing, education, language training ..... opportunities
- Accessible human service infrastructure is crucial to reducing social inequalities in exposure to risks and its impacts

# Presentation today

To discuss some findings regarding York  
Region's vulnerability

ie. The demand side of the match between  
service needs and service provision

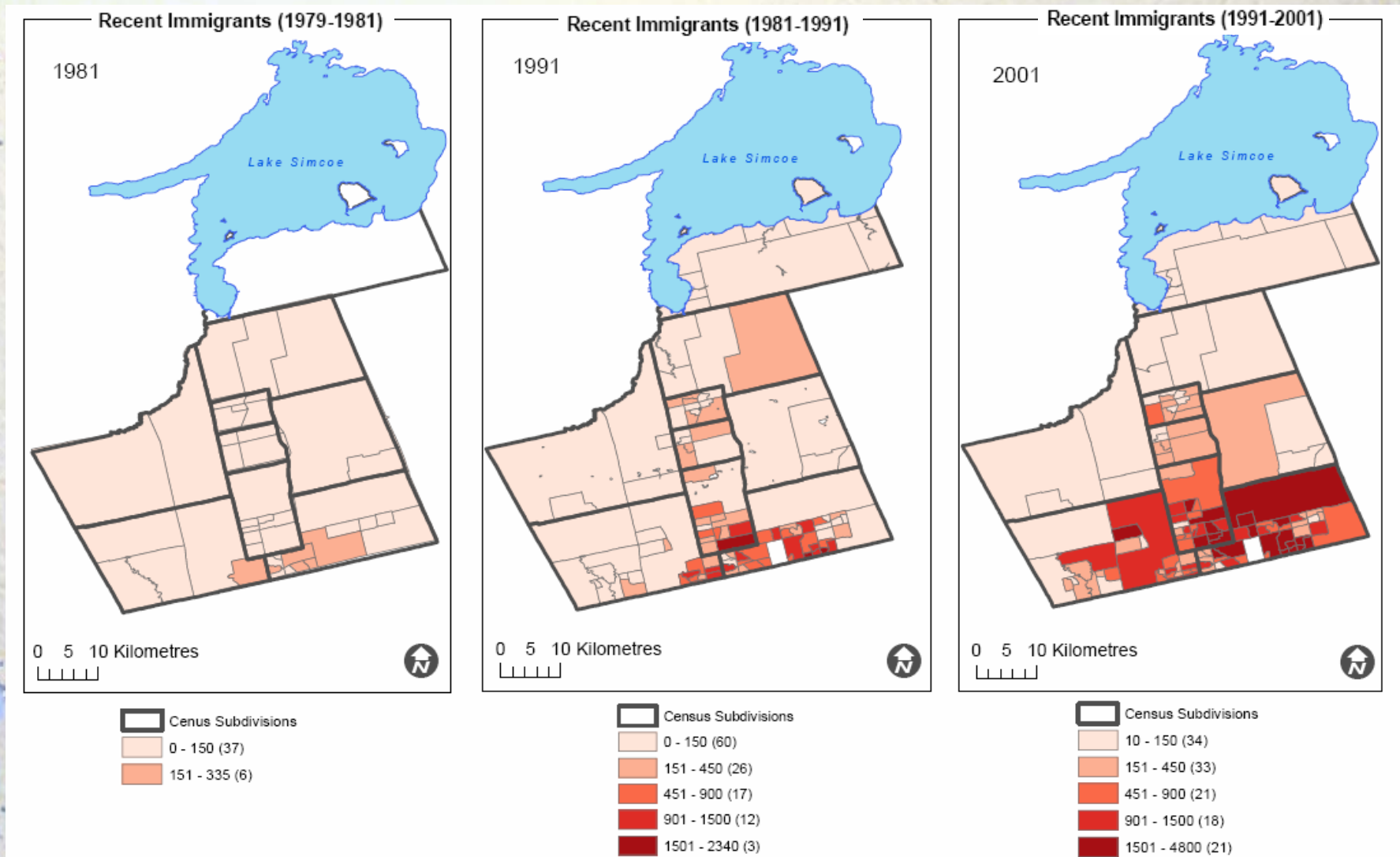
# Vulnerability is growing

	1981	1991	2001		2006	
	York Region	York Region	York Region	City of Toronto	York Region	City of Toronto
<b>Total population</b>	252,063	504,981	729,254	2,481,494	892,712	2,503,281
<b>% recent immigrants</b>	1.1	2.2	13.1	21.0	12.2	18.3
<b>% low income</b>	3.1	7.5	10.0	22.3		
<b>% seniors</b>	6.6	7.0	8.8	13.6	10.3	14.1

Notes: In 1981 recent immigrants refers to 3 years before the Census; in 1991 and 2001 the period is 10 years.

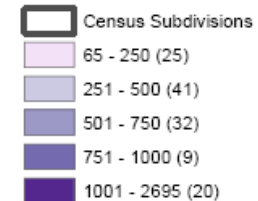
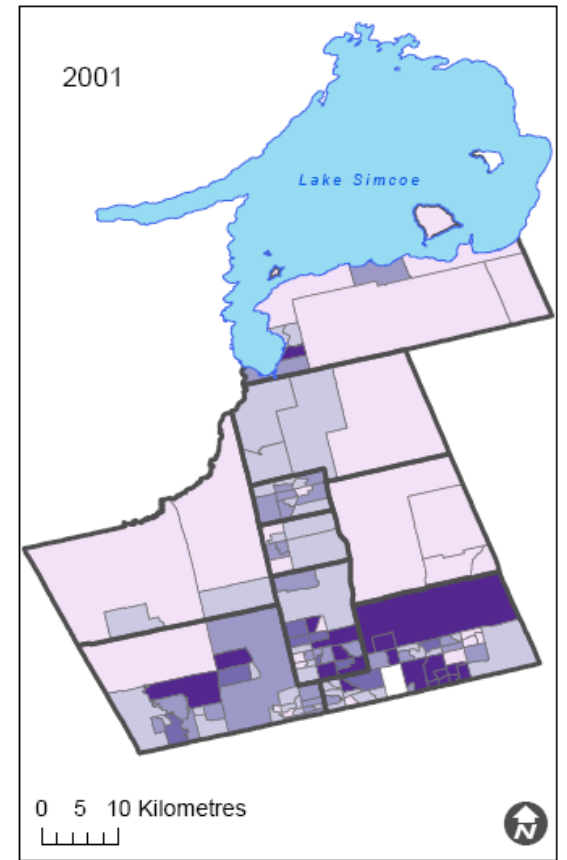
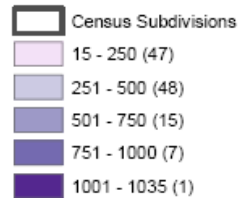
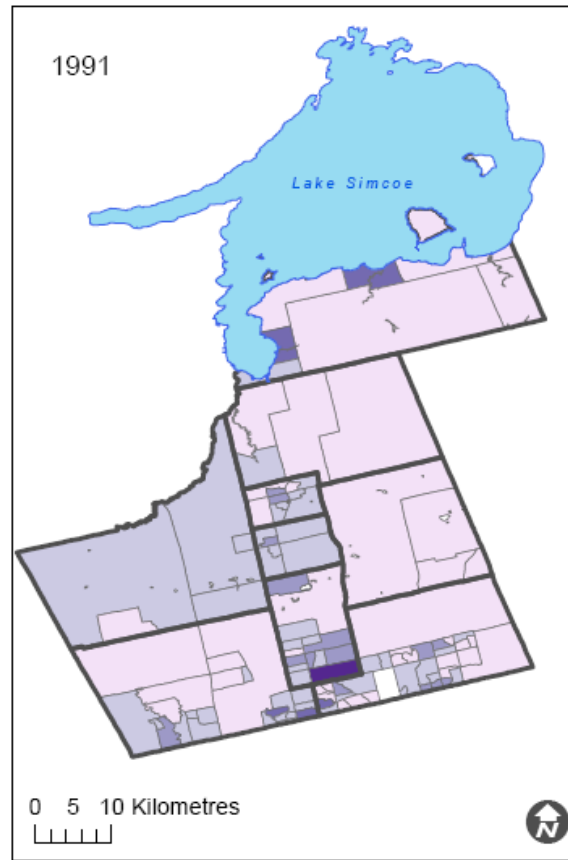
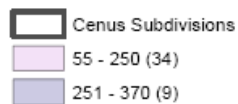
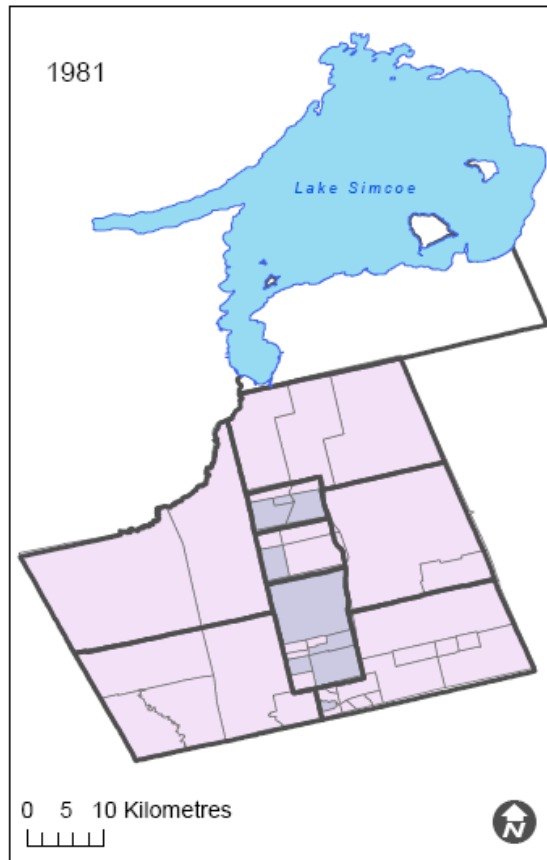
Sources: Statistics Canada: 1981, 1991, and 2006 Census Profile Data; 2001 Special Tabulations for YISP, EO1048-3A;

# Vulnerability is spreading (recent immigrants)

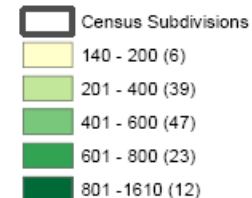
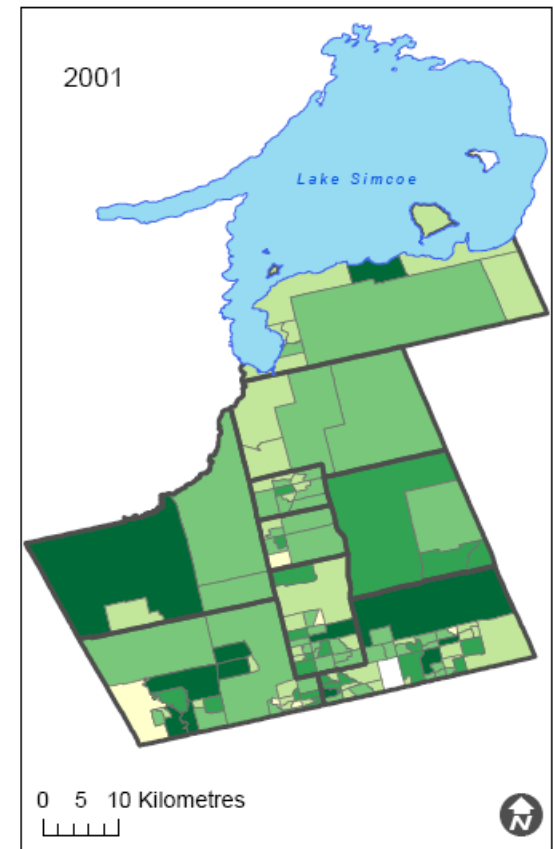
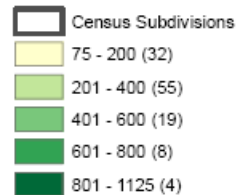
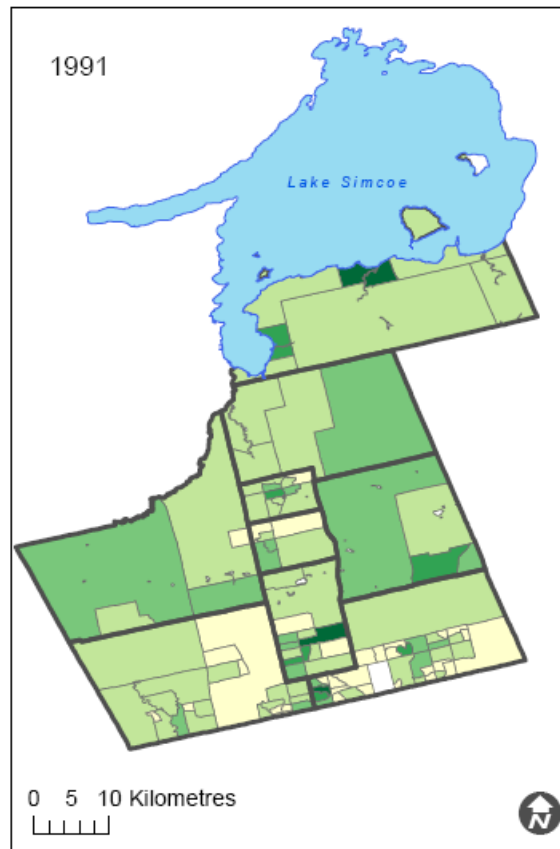
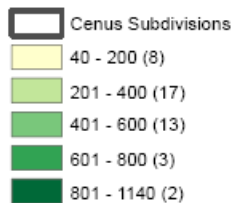
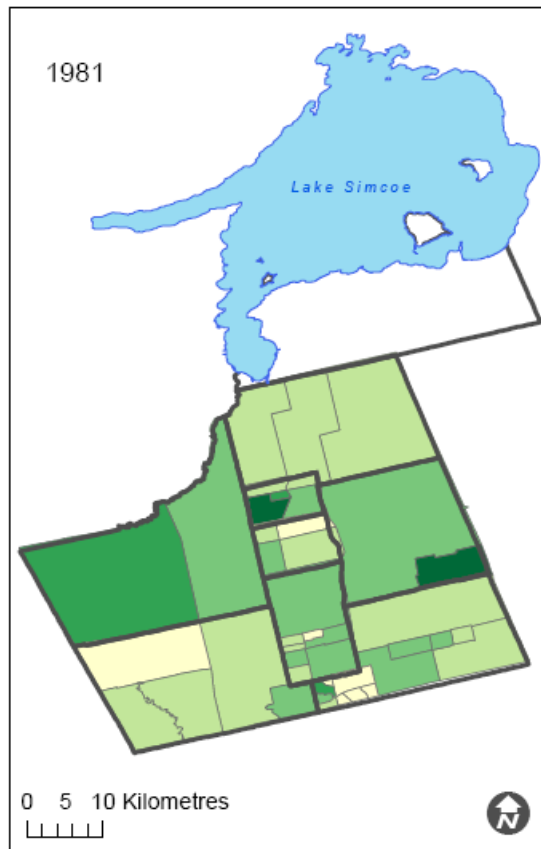


Sources: Statistics Canada, 2007; York Region, 2006. Produced by: Ann Marie Murnaghan, September 17, 2007.

# Vulnerability is spreading (low income)

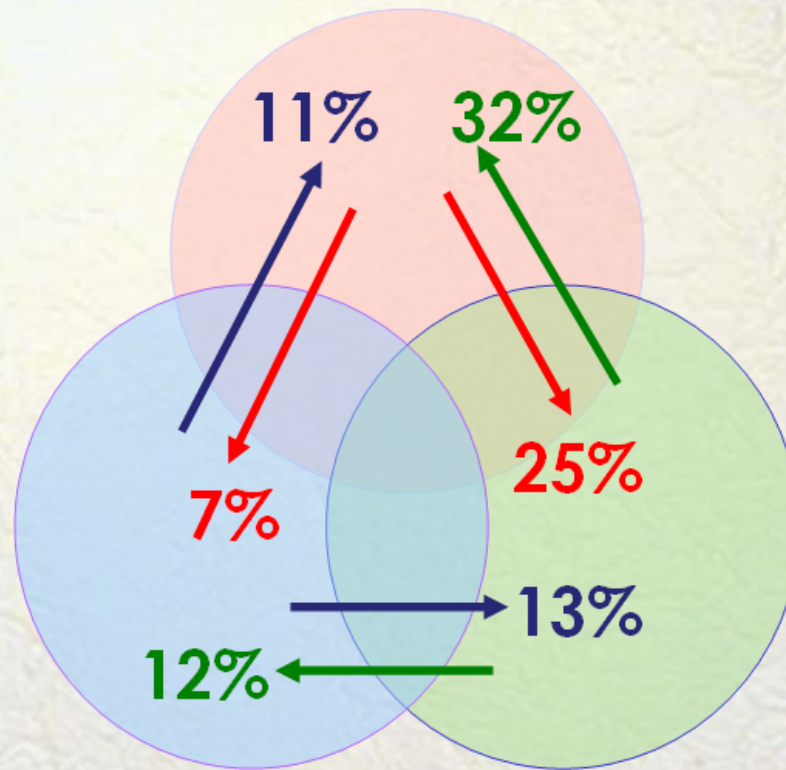


# Vulnerability is spreading (seniors)



# Vulnerabilities intersect

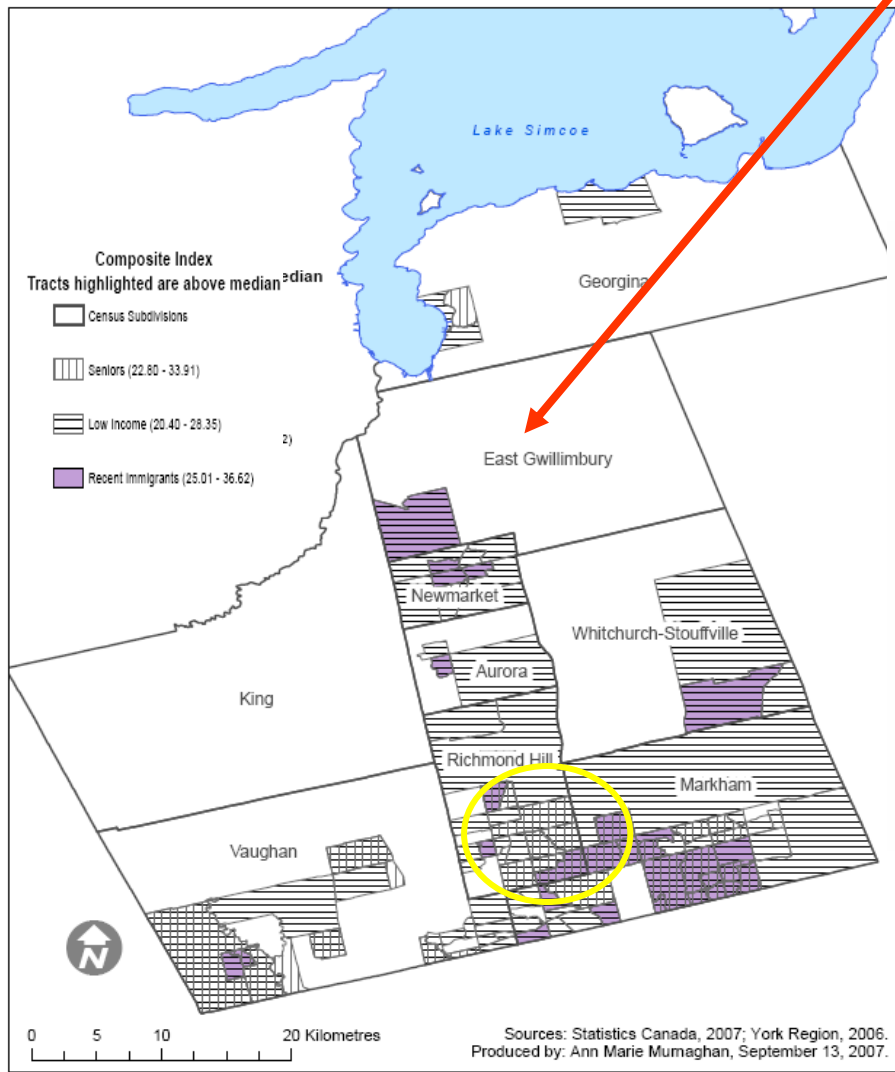
## Recent immigrants



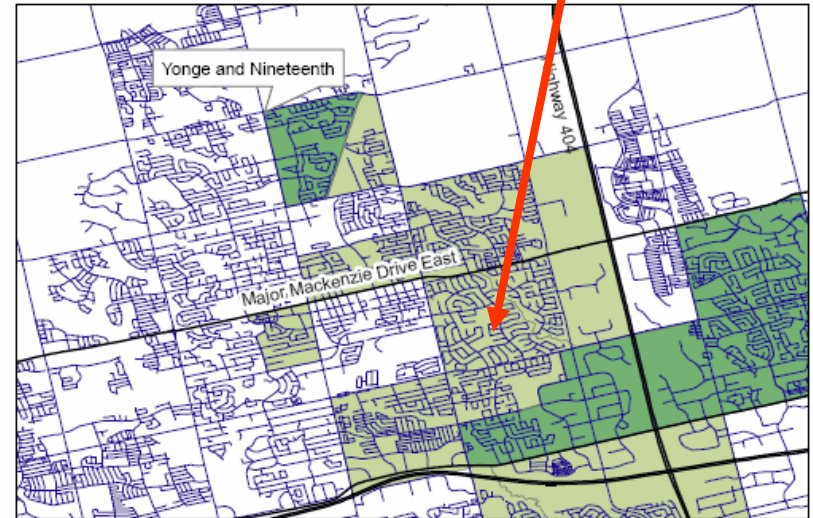
Seniors

Low income

# Vulnerability is dispersed and hidden



## Yonge and Nineteenth, Richmond Hill



Triple vulnerability

Double vulnerability

# Regional variations in vulnerability

	Recent Immigrants		Seniors		Low-Income	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
York Region	94,845	100	63,790	100	72,565	100
Aurora	1,580	1.7	3,040	<u>4.8</u>	2,400	<u>3.3</u>
<b>Markham</b>	46,030	<b>48.5</b>	19,065	<b>29.9</b>	26,205	<b>36.1</b>
Newmarket	2,275	2.4	4,880	<u>7.7</u>	5,565	<u>7.7</u>
<b>Richmond Hill</b>	26,305	<b>27.7</b>	11,780	<b>18.5</b>	16,565	<b>22.8</b>
<b>Vaughan</b>	16,855	<b>17.8</b>	14,605	<b>22.9</b>	14,875	<b>20.5</b>
Rest of Y.R.	1,715	1.8	10,365	<u>16.2</u>	6,880	<u>9.5</u>

1. Large magnitude in the more urbanized **south**
2. **South**: low income more due to recent immigrants
3. North: low income entirely due to seniors

# Summary of Findings

- Vulnerable groups in suburbs are increasing in magnitude and dispersing in space
- Vulnerability in suburbs is catching up with that in the city
- Vulnerability in suburbs is less obvious
- Geography of vulnerability is uneven and subject to different social processes

# Policy Implications -1

- That suburban regions are more affluent, and that there is no need to deal with homelessness and other festering problems that exist in the city is a myth
  - need to raise awareness among policy makers as well as among the general public the current situation of suburbs
  - need to recognize the currently inequitable social service funding situation and consider reallocation of resources

# Policy Implications -2

- Low density development and inadequate public transportation infrastructure proves challenge to human service providers

→ need to consider new models of service delivery

Centralized and coordinated model  
e.g. Welcome Centre

Mobile service model