

Diversity, Vulnerability and Infrastructure Needs in Suburbs

Lucia Lo
York University
lucialo@yorku.ca

A Suburban World

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Between 2001 and 2006

Canadian urban population growth:

central municipalities	4.2%
national	5.4%
suburban municipalities	11.1%

Population growth within Toronto CMA:

City of Toronto	0.9%
Brampton	33.3%
Vaughan	31.2%
Whitby	27.2%
Markham	25.4%
Richmond Hill	23.2%

Canadian suburbs are growing faster than the cities

Canada's visible minority population grew 5 times as much as the national overall.

Toronto CMA:	Markham	65%
	Brampton	57%
	Mississauga	49%
	Toronto	47%
	Richmond Hill	46%

Vancouver CMA:	Richmond	65%
	Burnaby	55%
	Vancouver	51%
	Surrey	46%
	Coquitlam	39%

Canadian suburbs are becoming increasingly diverse

What do these mean for suburban infrastructure?

- Uneven geography of public infrastructure between city and suburb
- Low density, car-orientation, and separated land use accentuate accessibility problems
- Inequitable access to infrastructure dampens full participation and integration in societal and economic lives, especially for vulnerable populations
- Questions:
 - Does vulnerability exist in outer suburbs?
 - If so, to what extent?

York Region

- Outer suburban municipality of Toronto, consisting of 9 towns and cities
- One of the most affluent Canadian suburbs, with average annual household income in 2001 equal to \$91,878
- Canada's fastest growing municipality

This presentation

- examines dimensions and degree of vulnerability in York Region
- infers infrastructure needs
- **Infrastructure:** services and programs that support a safe, healthy community and maintain and promote its quality of life

Socio-demographic structure in York Region 1986-2006

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Population ('000)	350.6	505.0	592.4	725.1	892.7
% female	50.2	50.4	50.6	50.7	51.0
% age 45+	25.0	26.2	30.7	33.2	36.9
% immigrants	27.8	32.5	35.8	39.1	42.9
% university education	14.1	17.5	19.7	22.8	26.4
# ethnic groups with 5000+ pp	-	12	20	24	-
# place-of-birth groups with 3000+ pp	-	-	15	24	-
% visible minorities	-	-	24.4	29.8	-
% lacking official language skill	-	2.1	3.3	3.2	4.0
% not in labor force	25.3	24.2	29.7	28.7	41.9
% unemployed	4.4	6.4	6.8	4.5	5.4
% low income	6.6	7.5	12.9	10.0	-

Recent immigrants, low income and seniors
are more vulnerable than others

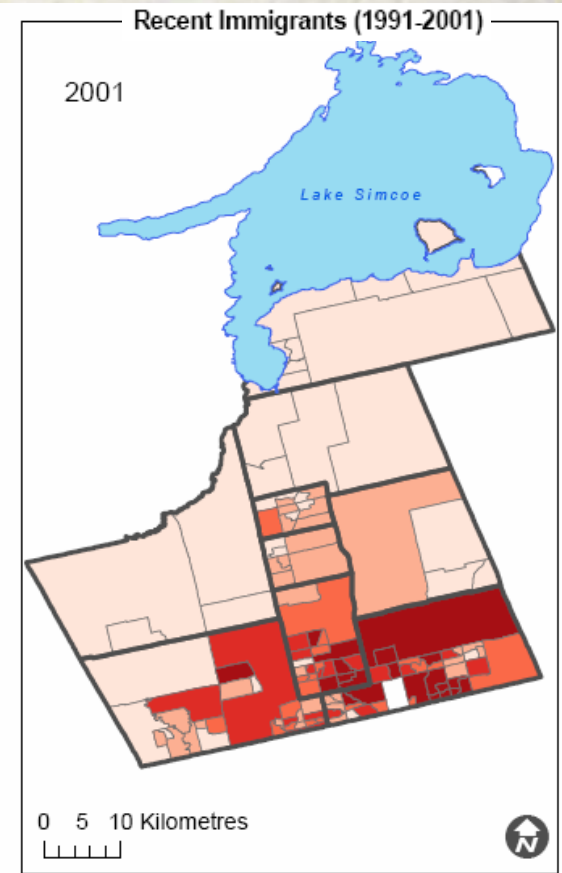
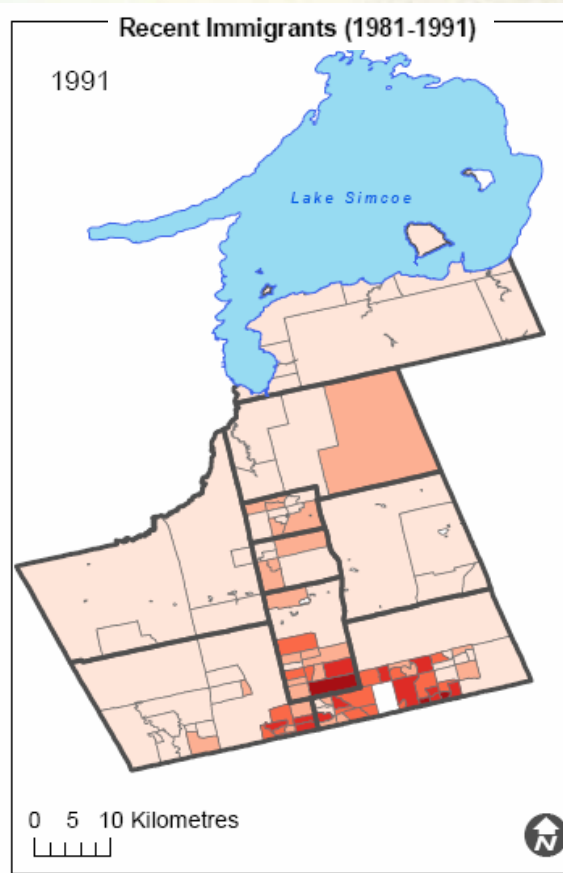
Vulnerability is growing and is catching up with Toronto

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

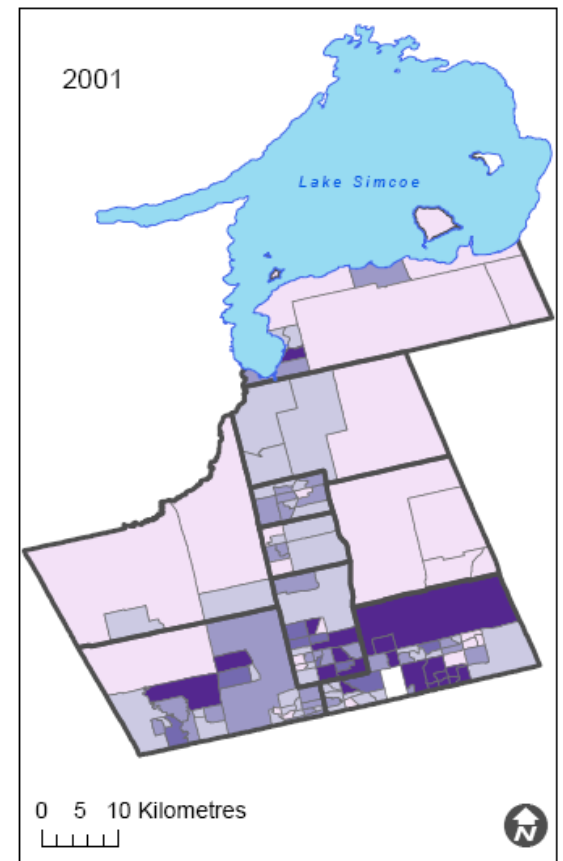
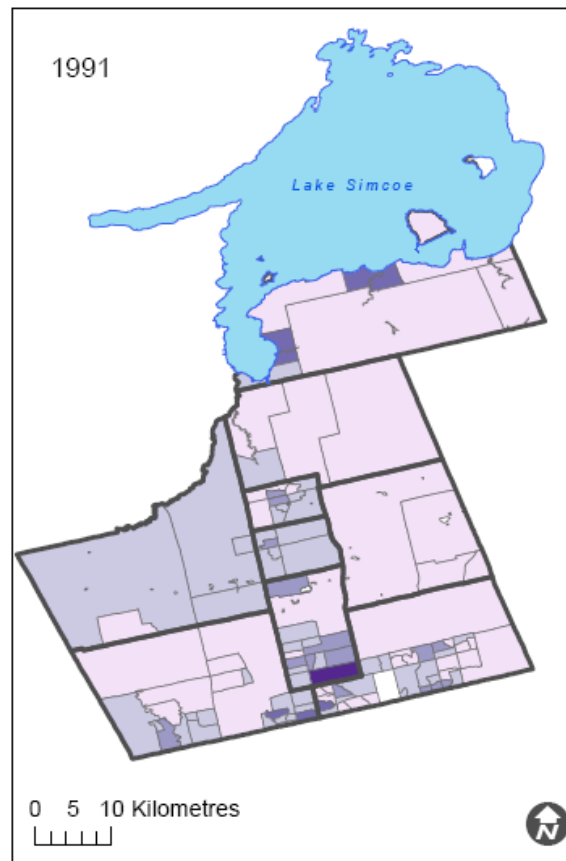
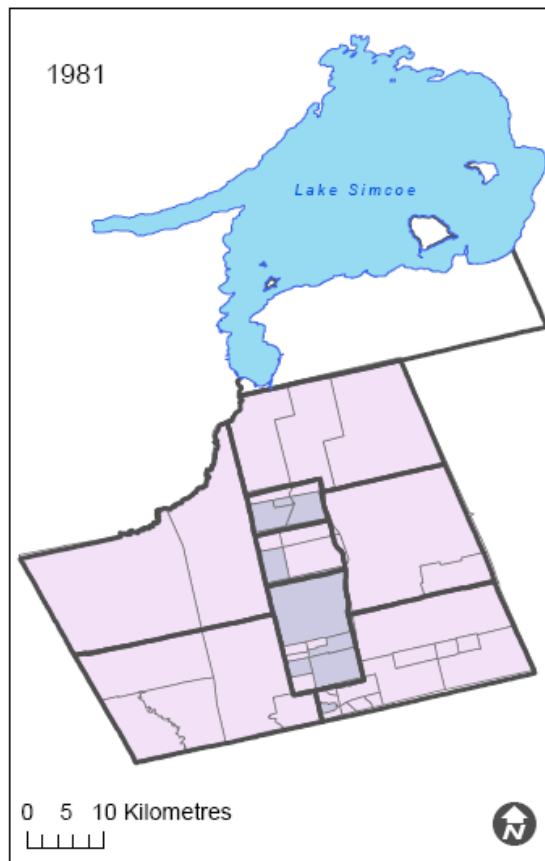
Notes: In 1981 recent immigrants refers to 3 years before the Census; in 1991 and 2001 the period is 10 years.

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

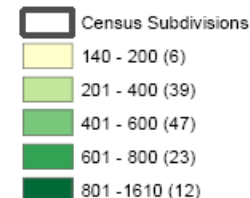
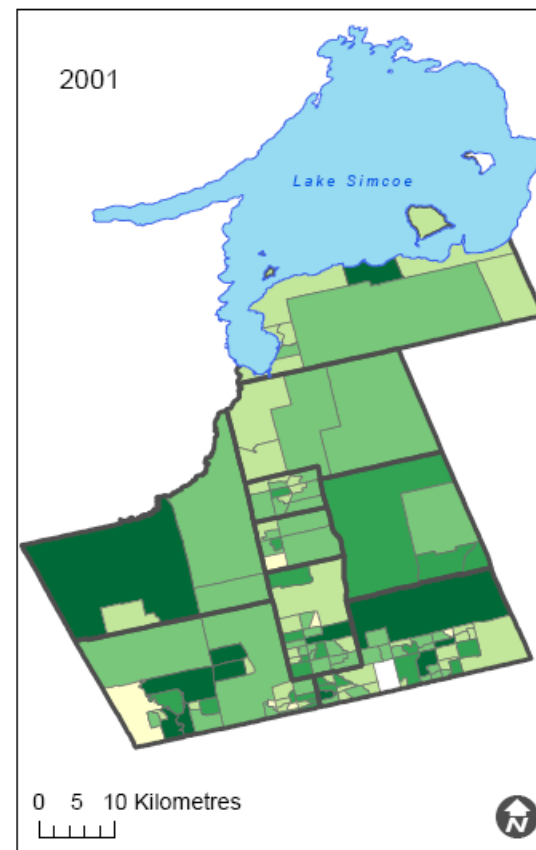
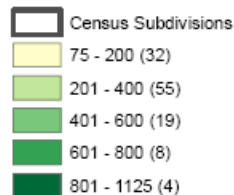
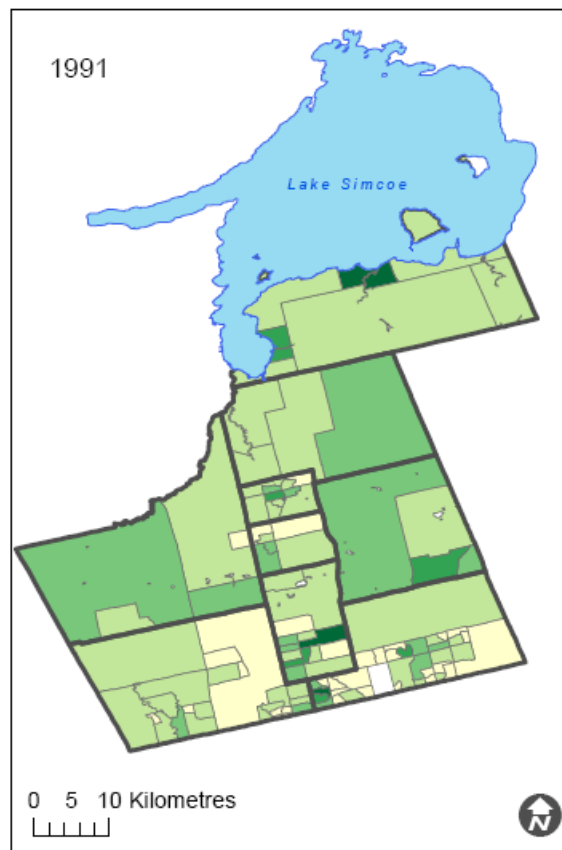
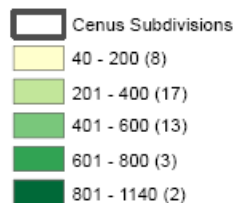
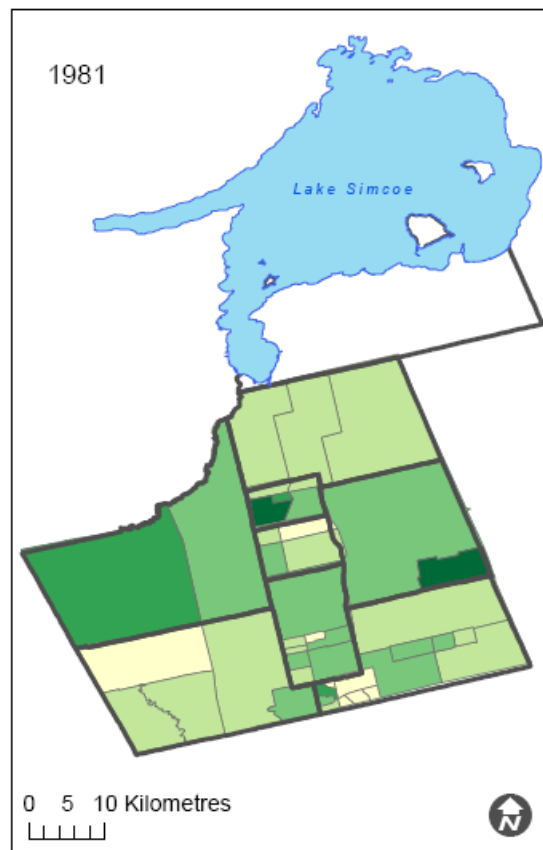
Vulnerability is spreading (recent immigrants)



Vulnerability is spreading (low income)

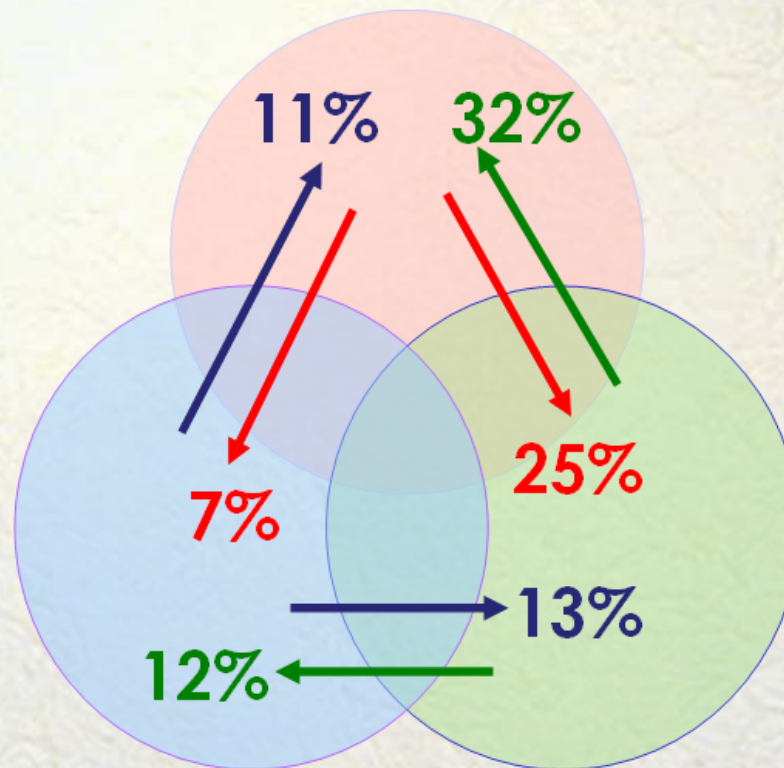


Vulnerability is spreading (seniors)



Vulnerabilities intersect

Recent immigrants

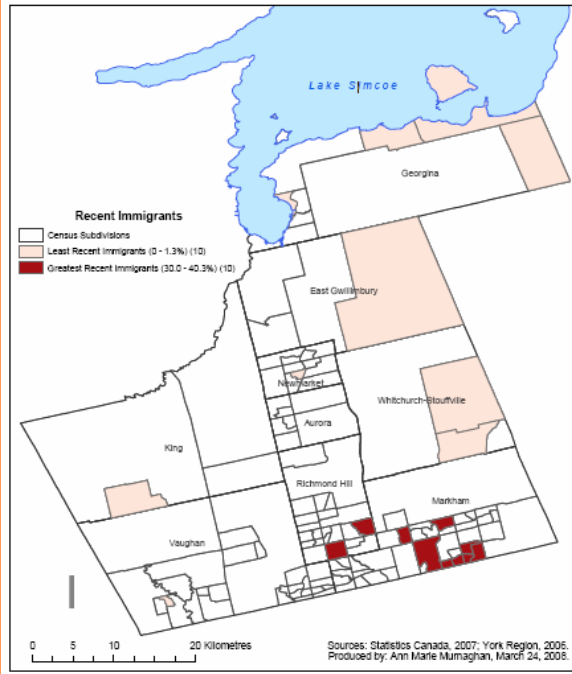


Seniors

Low income

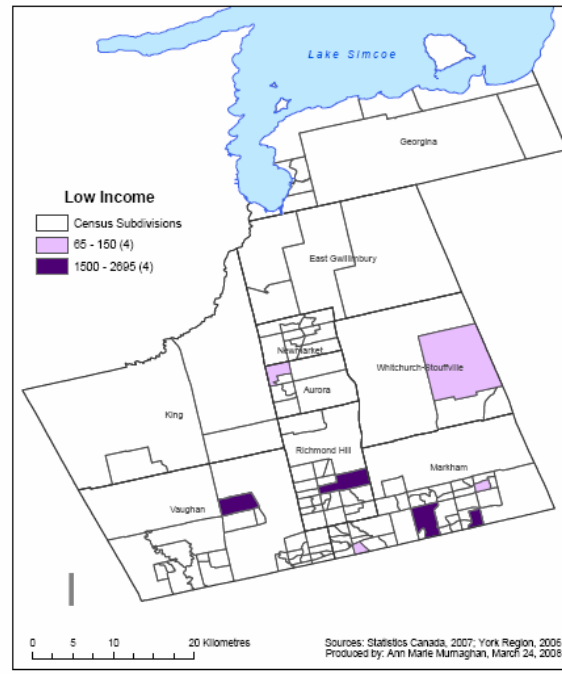
Spatial pattern of vulnerability varies by type

Distribution of Vulnerability in York Region, 2001



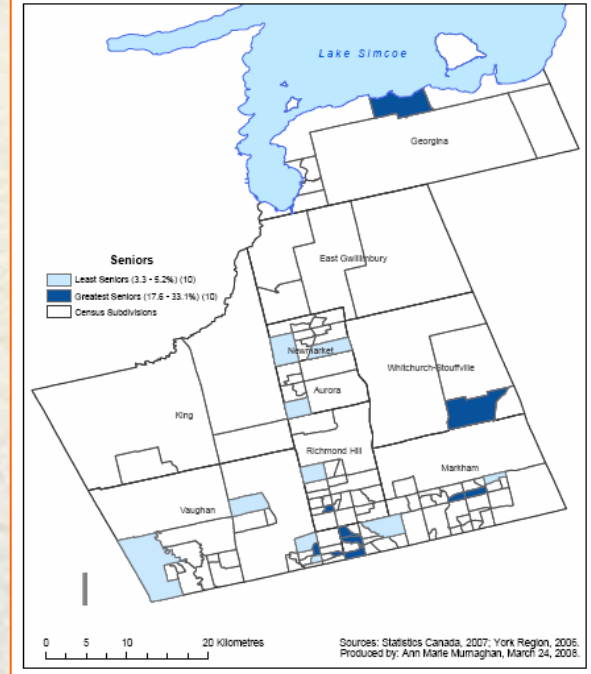
Recent immigrants

Distribution of Vulnerability in York Region, 2001



Low income

Distribution of Vulnerability in York Region, 2001



Seniors

Regional variations in vulnerability

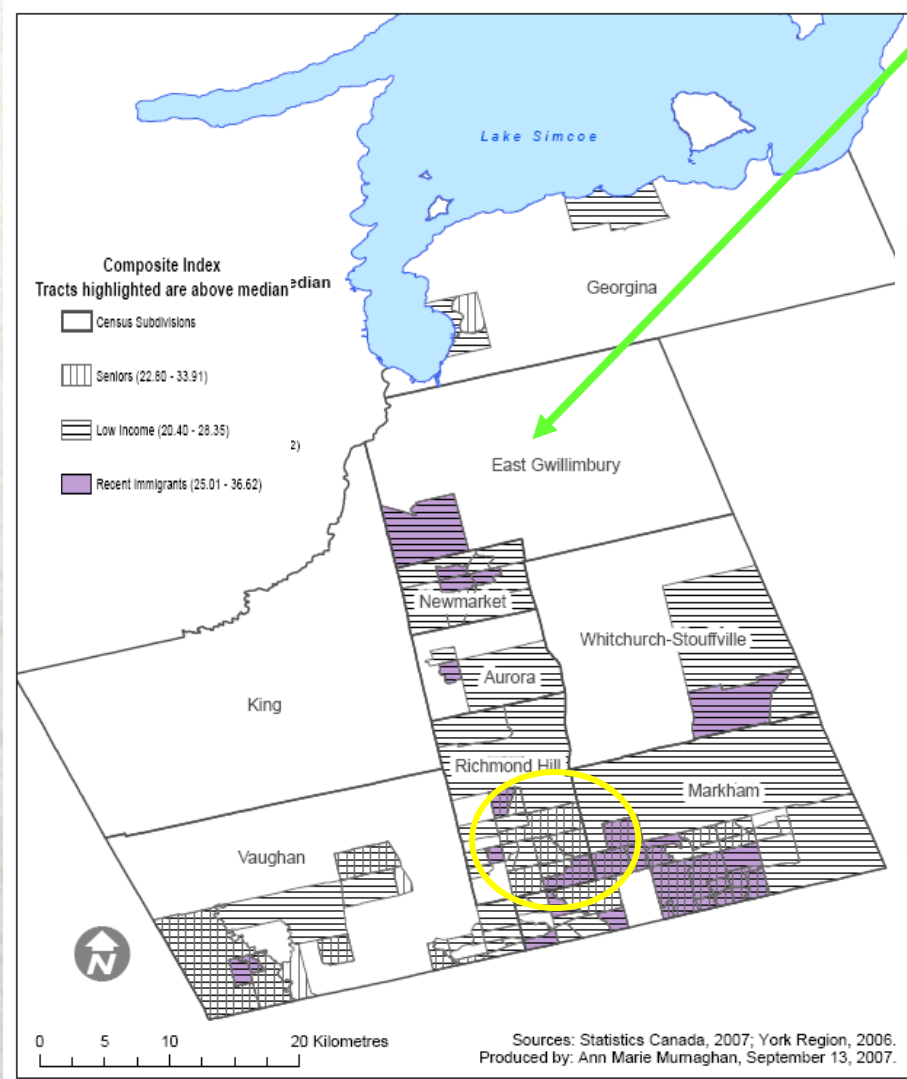
	Recent Immigrants		Seniors		Low-Income	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
York Region	94,845	100	63,790	100	72,565	100
Aurora	1,580	1.7	3,040	<u>4.8</u>	2,400	<u>3.3</u>
Markham	46,030	48.5	19,065	29.9	26,205	36.1
Newmarket	2,275	2.4	4,880	<u>7.7</u>	5,565	<u>7.7</u>
Richmond Hill	26,305	27.7	11,780	18.5	16,565	22.8
Vaughan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

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

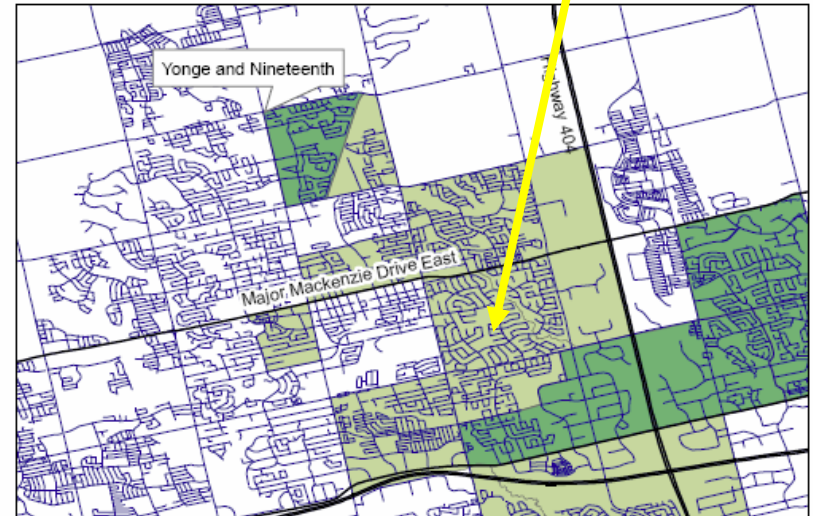
Vulnerability indicators

- % recent immigrants
- % low income
- % seniors
- % primary education
- % no knowledge of official language
- % visible minority
- % working part-time
- % unskilled worker s
- % unemployed
- % single parent households
- % seniors living alone
- % renting
- % with no income
- Income distance from regional average

Overall vulnerability is dispersed and can be hidden



Yonge and Nineteenth, Richmond Hill



Triple vulnerability

Double vulnerability

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
- Vulnerability intersects in different ways
- Geography of vulnerability is uneven and subject to different social processes

Discussion

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

Discussion

2. Low density development and inadequate public transportation infrastructure further challenge human service provision
 - role of higher level governments in human service funding
 - alternative models of service delivery
 - centralized and coordinated model
e.g. Welcome Centre
 - mobile service model

Discussion

3. Which is a better measure of vulnerability?
- number
 - percentage
 - concentration measure
 - composite index

The York Region Study

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

- **Funders:** Infrastructure Canada; Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- **Main partner:** Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York
- **Purpose:** To examine the disparity/mismatch between service needs and service provision for recent immigrants, low-income, and seniors
- **Methods:** survey; GIS analysis of demand for and supply of human services and their interplay