

Vulnerability in the Suburbs?

The **Y**ork **I**nfra**s**tructure **P**roject

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Immigrant Geographies

Geography of settlement

- inner-city: traditional port of entry
- suburbs: place of direct settlement
site of contemporary ethnic enclaves

Geography of disadvantage

- inner-city generally believed to contain more vulnerability population than the suburbs
- suburban communities more welcoming ???

The York Infrastructure Project

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

Funders:

Infrastructure Canada; CIC; York University

- **Partner:**

YR Human Services Planning Coalition

- **Aim:**

To identify if and where vulnerability, in terms of public infrastructure, exists in York Region

Public Infrastructure

- critical human services
- **York Region's Human Services Strategy:**
" those services and programs that support a safe, healthy community and maintain and promote its quality of life"
- **This project focuses on:** education
employment
housing
settlement

Vulnerability

- Three groups are perceived as in greater need of human services
 - ◆ Recent immigrants
 - ◆ Low income
 - ◆ Seniors

Methods

- **Survey of**

- (1) recent immigrants
- (2) low income
- (3) seniors &
- (4) others (control group)

to measure awareness, use, and satisfaction of human services

- **Mapping and analysis of**

- (1) demand data (1981, 1991, 2001 census) &
- (2) supply data (CIVC's service provider list)

to identify gaps in service provision or spatial mismatch between service needs and service availability

Purpose today

Through our preliminary findings,
provide an assessment of

- the degree of vulnerability in York Region
- how welcoming suburban York Region is

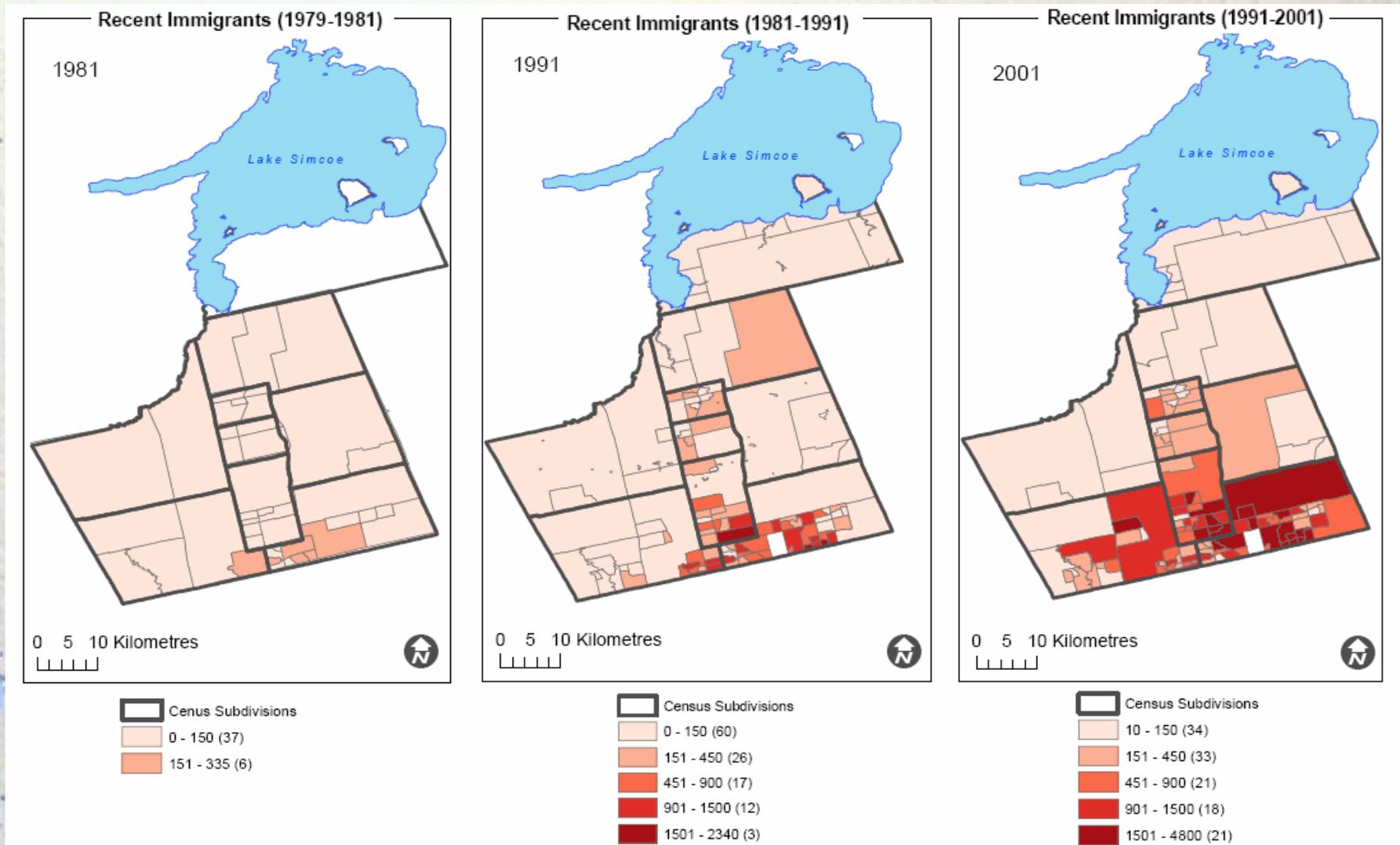
Vulnerability is growing

	1981		1991		2001		<u>Toronto '01</u>
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Total Population	252,063	100	504,981	100	725,050	100	
Seniors	16,605	6.6	35,560	7.0	63,790	8.8	13.6%
Low Income	7,725	3.1	37,570	7.5	72,565	10.0	
Recent Immigrants*	2,835	1.1	40,875	2.2	94,845	13.1	21.0%

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

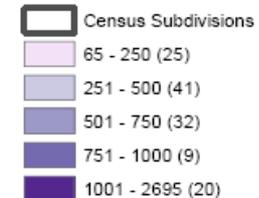
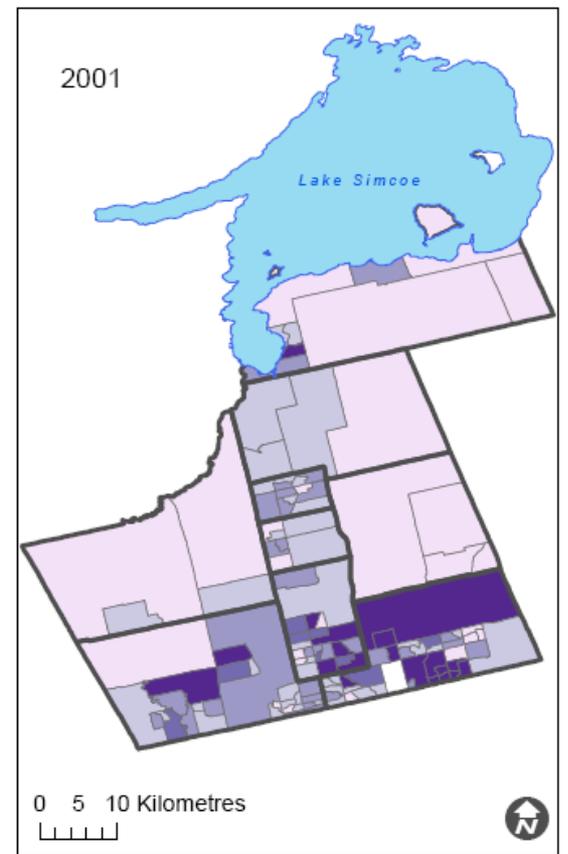
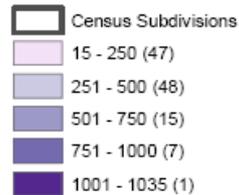
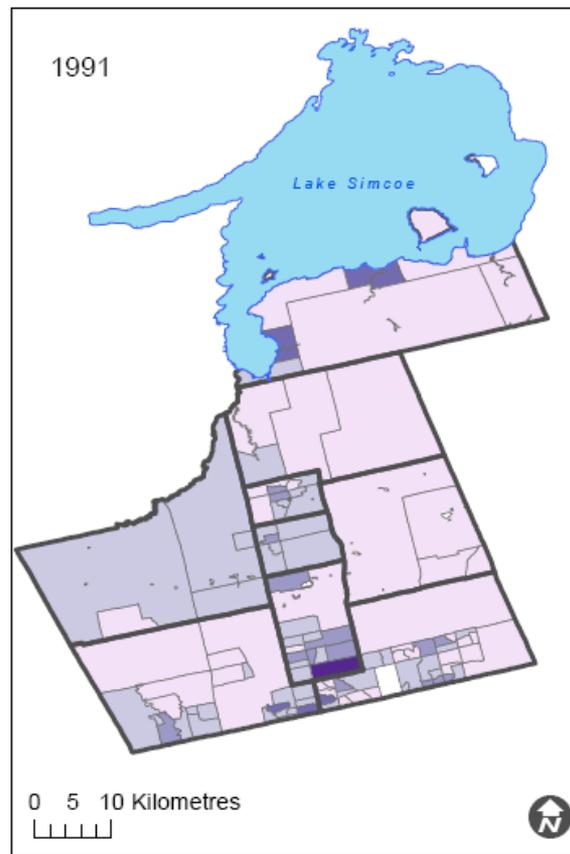
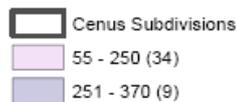
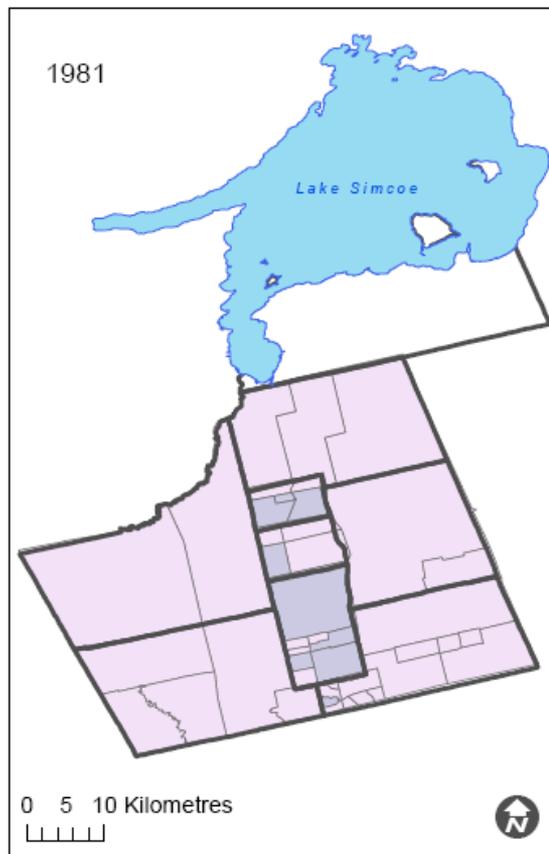
Sources: Statistics Canada: 1981 and 1991 Census Profile Data; 2001 Special Tabulations for YISP, EO1048-3A.

Vulnerability is spreading (recent immigrants)

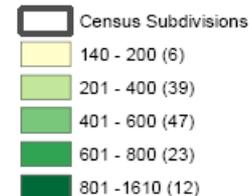
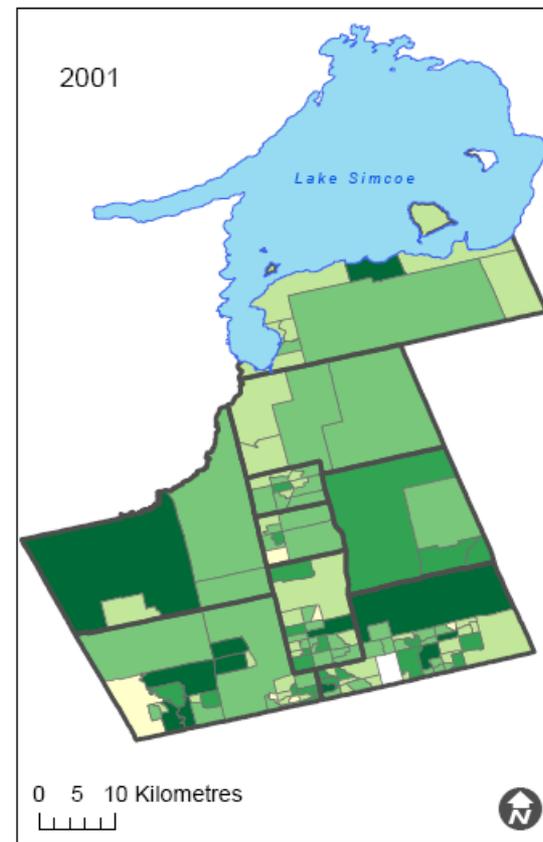
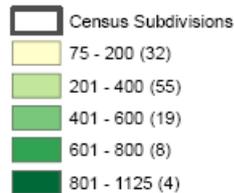
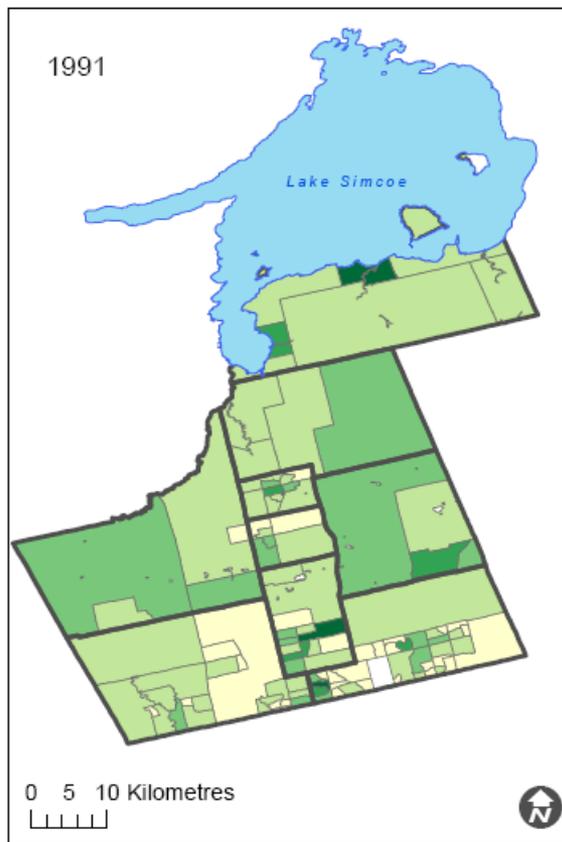
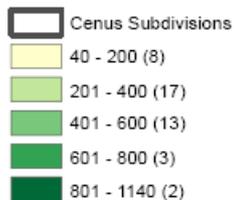
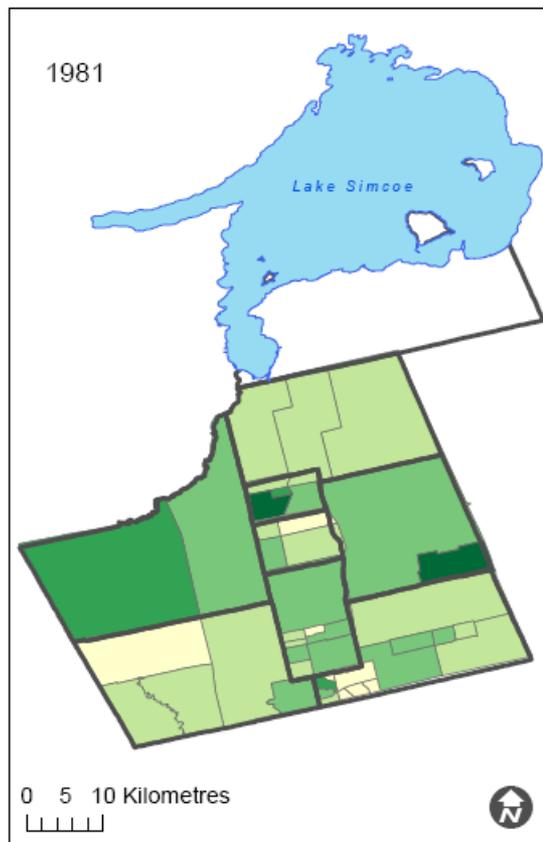


Sources: Statistics Canada, 2007; York Region, 2006. Produced by: Ann Marie Murnaghan, September 17, 2007.

Vulnerability is spreading (low income)

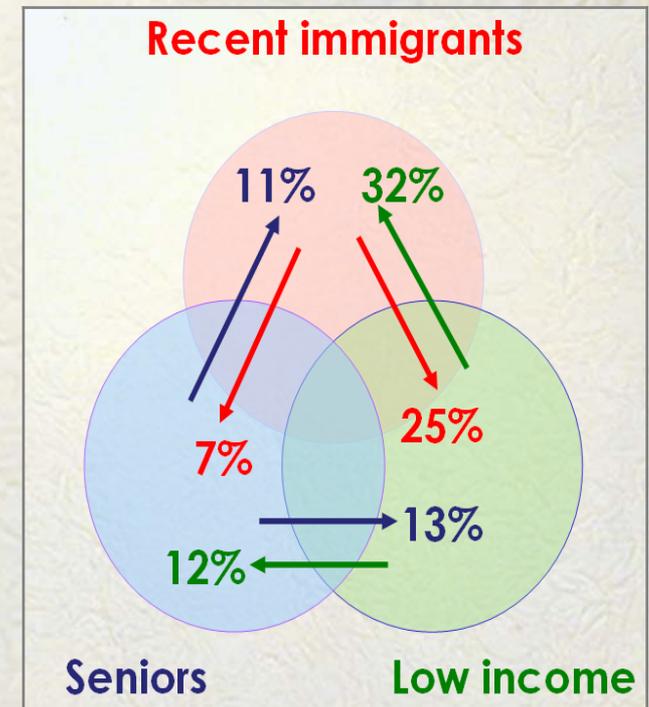


Vulnerability is spreading (seniors)

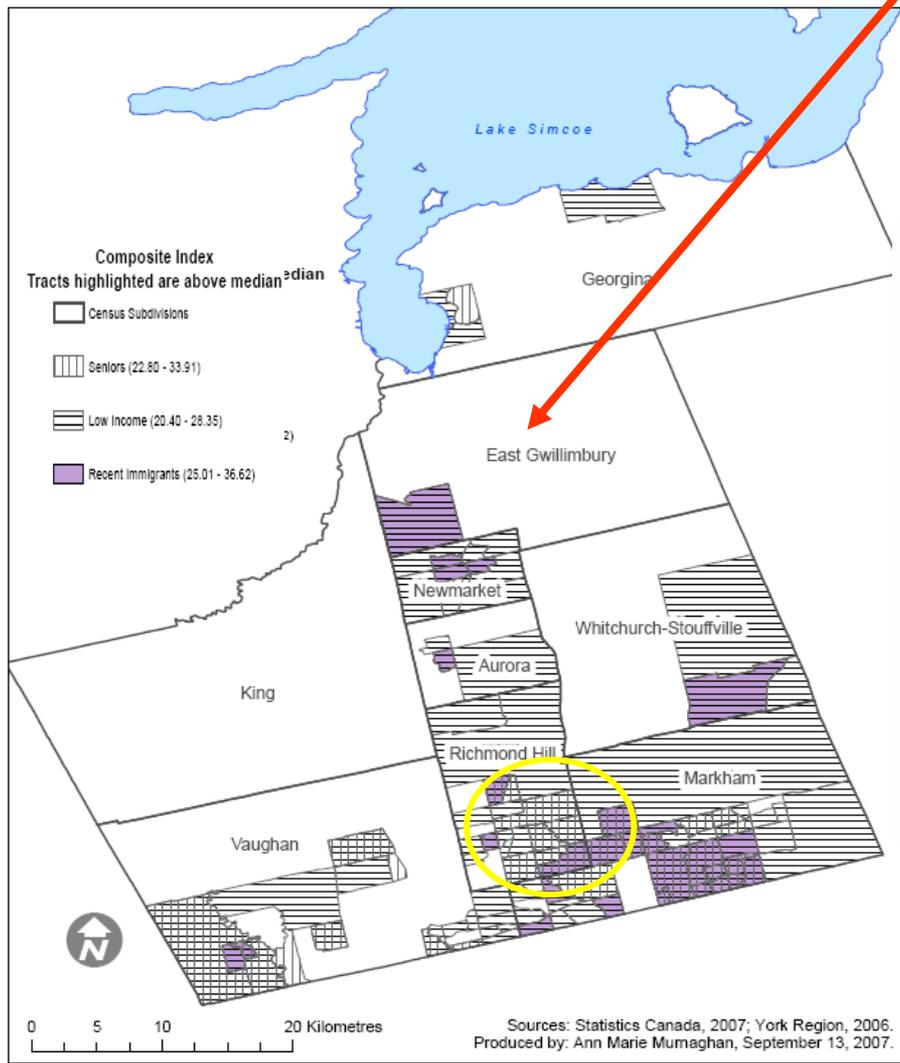


Vulnerabilities intersect

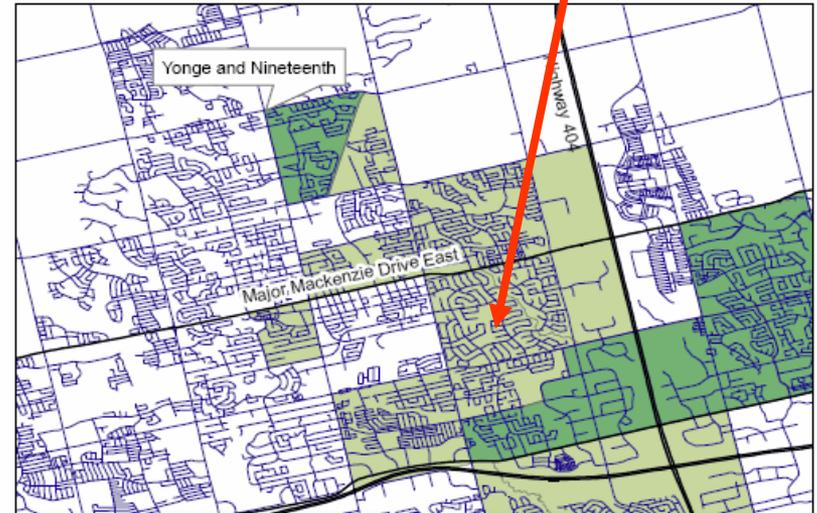
	Recent Immigrants		Seniors		Low-Income	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
York Region	94,845	100	63,790	100	72,565	100
Aurora	1,580	1.7	3,040	4.8	2,400	3.3
Markham	46,030	48.5	19,065	29.9	26,205	36.1
Newmarket	2,275	2.4	4,880	7.7	5,565	7.7
Richmond Hill	26,305	27.7	11,780	18.5	16,565	22.8
Vaughan	16,855	17.8	14,605	22.9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



Vulnerability is dispersed and hidden



Yonge and Nineteenth, Richmond Hill



Triple vulnerability

Double vulnerability

Variable supply of services

	York Region Total	Seniors		Low-Income		Immigrant/ Refugees	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Housing	147	78	53.1	61	41.5	-	-
Settlement	16	3	18.8	-		16	100
Job Training	44	-		12	27.3	10	22.7
Counseling	25	-		1	4.0	-	
Small Business	39	-		-		-	
Language Prog.	316	1	0.3	2	0.7	266	84.2
Education	356	-		-		-	-
Food/Clothing/ Furniture Bank	16	2	12.5	4	25.0	7	43.8

- Housing services mainly for seniors and low-income
- Narrow range of services for immigrants

Uneven geographies of services (recent immigrants)

	York Region Total	Aurora		Markham		Newmarket		Rich. Hill		Vaughan		Rest of YR	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
% Regional Population	94,845	1,580	1.7	46,030	48.5	2,275	2.4	26,305	27.7	16,855	17.8	1,715	1.8
Housing Settlement	16	1	6.3	5	31.3	1	6.3	4	25.0	3	18.8	2	12.5
Job Training	15	-	-	6	40.0	1	6.7	4	26.6	4	26.6	-	-
Counseling	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	50.0	1	50.0	-	-
Sm. Business	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Language Pr. Education	271	19	7.0	80	29.5	30	11.1	41	15.1	61	22.5	40	14.8
Fd/ CI/Fn	1	1	100.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of Findings

- Vulnerable groups are increasing in magnitude and dispersing in space
- Geography of vulnerability is uneven
- Vulnerability in the suburbs may not be obvious
- Geography of service supply is uneven
- Mismatch between the need for and the provision of services varies by municipalities and types of service

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 the general public**
- Suburban regions' current share of social-service funding is disproportional to their population share
 - **funding (re)allocation**

Policy Implications (2)

- Mismatch between need and capacity
 - **more critical human services**
- 85% of tenants earning low incomes spent over 30% of their earnings on shelter
 - **social housing infrastructure need**
- Welcome Centre model
 - **adoption in other suburban regions**
- HSPC's Inclusivity Action Plan is ending
 - **resources for Inclusivity Action Program**