

Funder

Infrastructure Canada

Partners

York Region Human Services Planning Coalition

York University office of VP Research and Innovation

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement

Institute for Research and Innovation on Sustainability

Laidlaw Foundation

Researchers

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This project defines infrastructure as “those services and programs that support a safe, healthy community and maintain and promote its quality of life”.

The team believes in the ability of research to expand knowledge, reveal needs, and enhance policy makers’ decision-making with respect to human services planning and development.

Our long term goal is to facilitate participation, reduce social inequalities and lead to greater social sustainability.



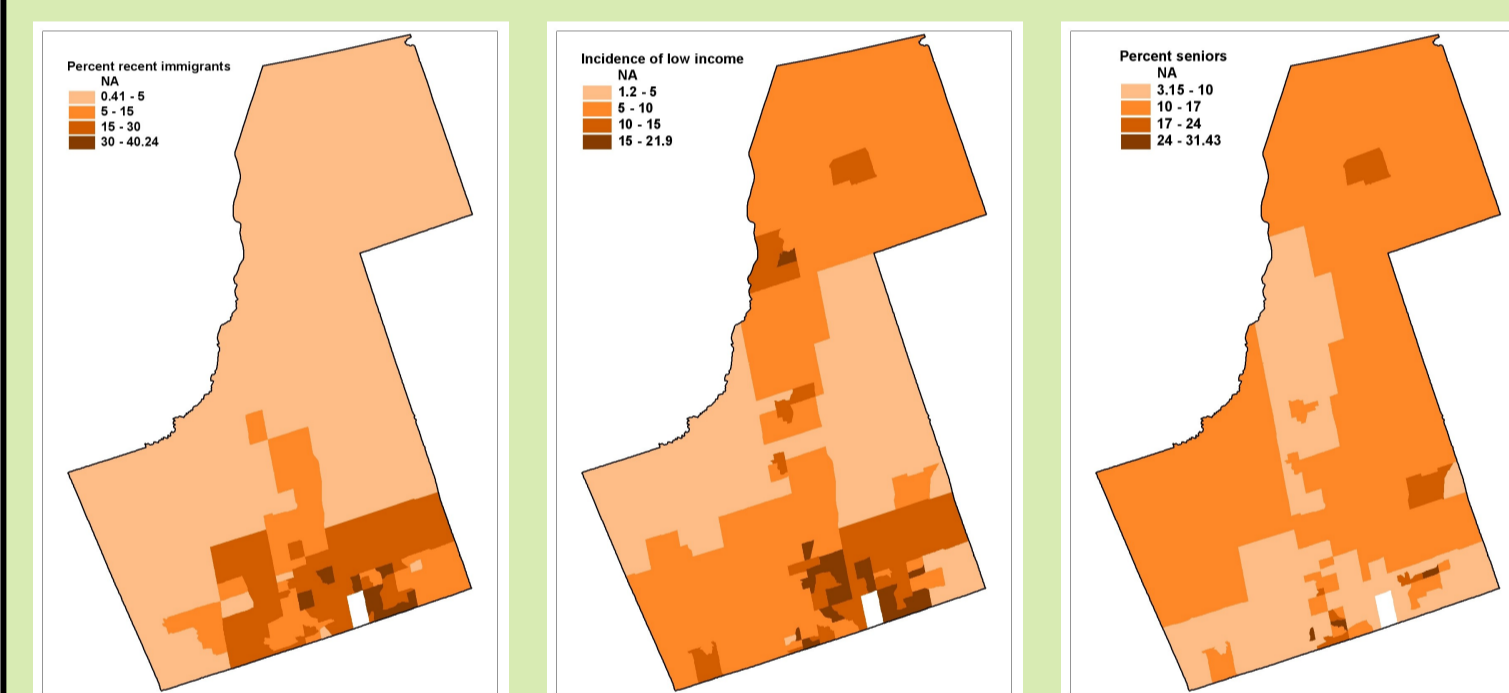
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Context

Containing a quarter of Ontario’s population and growing by more than 100,000 residents per year in the past decade, the suburban region of the GTA is growing at a faster rate than the rest of Canada. It is also aging at twice the provincial rate, and becoming more culturally and socio-economically diverse as a result of international migration.

Meanwhile the region is getting less per capita funding for human services. Limited infrastructure in a low density and car-oriented environment in which residential and non-residential land use is strictly separated imposes tremendous challenge on the region to meet the human service needs of its residents. In particular, it accentuates accessibility problems for its most vulnerable populations, namely, newcomers, seniors, and the poor.

Vulnerable groups



2001 Census	Number	Percent
Total population	729,249	
Recent immigrants	94,920	13.02
Seniors	66,355	9.10
The poor	72,530	10.02

1. To identify the locational patterns of York Region’s vulnerable populations, particularly noting municipal differences

2. To build a geo-referenced database of human services and examine human service provision in York Region

3. To examine the match between the demand and supply of human services and identify service gaps

4. To assess awareness, use and satisfaction with human services in York Region

5. To analyse the variables that encourage use of appropriate human services

Survey

	Above poverty	Below poverty
Recent immigrants	200	200
Seniors	100	100
Others	100	100

Employment Housing Education/Development Settlement

Critical human services

B

D

Outcomes

Progress

- Community consultation workshop
- Setting up of Advisory Committee
- Acquisition of York Region road and transit network files
- Compilation of housing service database
- Survey questionnaire development near completion
- Vulnerable population mapped

Objectives

- Spatially-referenced data base of human services providers and vulnerable communities
- Reports outlining access to different types of services and assessing access of vulnerable communities to human services in York region

Expected deliverables

- Network of organisations and individuals committed to enhancing public infrastructure for vulnerable populations
- Evaluation of process and outcome of research partnership between academics and practitioners

Methods

To address objectives 4 & 5

To be conducted by York University’s Institute of Social Research

To aim for a sample size of 1200 adult residents

To use multiple languages for a representative sample

To address objectives 1, 2 & 3

To create demand side databases from 2001 census data, identify spatial concentrations of vulnerable groups and the socioeconomic characteristics of the areas within which they live;

To create supply side databases from CIVC, use buffering and other techniques to estimate frequency of service providers by type and location, and their catchment areas

To integrate the demand, supply and transportation databases to calculate measures of access across services and across populations

C

GIS

Infrastructure in York Region: A GIS Analysis of Human Services



www.yorku.ca/yisp



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