

# Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Toronto **Environmental Scan**

2024

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EAST

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto commissioned the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness to produce environmental scan reports for each of the regions of the Archdiocese of Toronto to assist in the strategic plan development of Catholic Charities. Anchored by Catholic Social Teachings, which provides the shared understanding of how faith engages with the world, these documents provide a current overview of the people in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The Social Determinants of Health review include:

- Low Income and Food Insecurity
- Education and Employment
- Housing and Homelessness
- Health, Mental Health, and Addiction
- Newcomers and Immigration
- Community and Belonging: Civic Engagement, Recreation, Racism, Crime & Violence
- Age: Children and Youth, and Seniors
- Environment

We invite member agencies, parishes and partners to review the information through an open heart, inviting the Holy Spirit to enter into the journey of discerning how your gifts, and your resources can continue to support the people of Toronto in living life abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS: DATA HIGHLIGHTS

East Region includes Durham Region excluding Clarington and includes Georgina which is part of York Region. Where available, Statistics Canada census data is combined to provide as full a picture as possible of the population in the area. Canadian Community Health Survey data and Ontario Marginalization Index data is available for Durham Health Region.



Indicates that the stat for the region is higher than Ontario



Indicates that the stat for the region is the same as Ontario






Indicates that the stat for the region is lower than Ontario

i. World Health Organization, "Closing the gap in a generation"

# COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS: DATA HIGHLIGHTS

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SDOH Area	East Region Highlights (Durham Region, and Georgina)	Compared to Ontario
Low Income (based on After-Tax Low Income Cut Off – After-Tax LICO)	<p><b>3.1%</b> live with low income in 2020; 2.9% of children and youth age 0 to 17 live with low income.</p> <p><b>1.8%</b> of adults age 65 and older live with low income.</p> <p><b>14%</b> of families fall in the bottom 20% of income compared to families across Canada.</p>	
Food Insecurity	<p><b>16%</b> of Durham Region households and 15% of individuals were food insecure in 2022.</p>	
Employment and Education	<p><b>65%</b> of the population age 15 and older was working or looking for work in 2021 (participation rate)</p> <p>The unemployment rate was <b>13%</b>.</p> <p><b>8%</b> of the population age 25 to 64 has not obtained a high school certificate, diploma or degree.</p>	

SDOH Area	Toronto Highlights	Compared to Ontario
Housing and Homelessness	<p><b>21%</b> of dwelling are rented.</p> <p><b>41%</b> of tenants live in unaffordable housing.</p> <p><b>28%</b> of tenants live in core housing need – their housing may be unaffordable, overcrowded and/or in need of major repair and they cannot afford to move.</p>	  
Health	<p><b>62%</b> of residents age 12 and older report having very good or excellent health, fewer than previous</p>	
Mental Health and Addiction	<p><b>61%</b> of residents age 12 and older report having very good or excellent mental health, lower than previous</p> <p><b>18%</b> of residents report heavy drinking at least once a month.</p>	 
Newcomers and Immigration	<p><b>29%</b> is immigrant or non-permanent resident</p> <p><b>38%</b> identify as a visible minority.</p>	 
Belonging	<p><b>71%</b> report having a strong sense of belonging to their local community.</p>	
Age	<p><b>24%</b> of the population are under age 20 in 2021. This is projected to decrease slightly to <b>23%</b> by 2034.</p> <p><b>16%</b> are age 65+. This is projected to increase to 19% by 2034.</p>	 

# SUMMARY OF AREAS WITH HIGHEST MARGINALIZATION

The following table summarizes analysis of the Ontario Marginalization (ON-Marg) Index maps produced by Public Health Ontario. These maps are based on Statistics Canada 2021 data. The ON-Marg shows differences in marginalization within a region. ON-Marg applies to areas, not individual people. The maps in this report show patterns of marginalization at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. A DA is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent blocks with an average population of 400 to 700 people. The maps can be used to help identify areas that may need more resources or supports.

Durham Region has developed a Health Neighbourhoods in Durham Region interactive mapping tool. This tool may be used to complement the information in this report (<https://geoapps.durham.ca/Viewer/index.html?viewer=HealthNeighbourhoods>). This mapping tool shows how socio-demographics, general health, child health and health behaviours compare within the Region.

Public Health Ontario marginalization maps were cross-referenced with Durham Region's Health Neighbourhoods mapping tool to identify neighbourhoods with highest marginalization for each of the social determinants of health dimensions.

In Durham Region, areas with highest marginalization can be found throughout Oshawa, Ajax Northwest and Downtown Ajax, Brooklin West in Whitby.

Marginalization Dimension	Highest Marginalization
Material Resources – this relates closely to poverty and refers to the inability of individuals and communities to access and attain basic material needs relating to food, housing, clothing and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highest marginalization for material resources can be found in urban neighbourhoods including:</li><li>• Neighbourhoods through the centre of Oshawa</li><li>• Whitby including areas around Whitby Brock North, parts of Brooklin West</li><li>• Ajax Northwest</li><li>• Neighbourhood in Pickering</li></ul>
Racialized and Newcomer Populations – this relates to area-level concentrations of people who are recent immigrants and/or visible minority populations. These areas may experience high levels of racialization and xenophobia.	<p>High concentrations of newcomers and racialized populations can be found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ajax Northwest, Ajax Northeast, Central Ajax, Downtown Ajax, parts of Carruthers</li><li>• City Centre Pickering, Brockridge, Southpark</li><li>• Oshawa Northwest, south section of Oshawa Northeast spilling into a section of Beatrice North and Grandview North</li><li>• Williamsburg Whitby, Brooklin West, Cochrane South</li></ul>



## Marginalization Dimension

Age and Labour Force – this measure relates to the impacts of disability and dependence. It refers to area-level concentrations of people without income from employment including children, older adults, adults whose work is not compensated and/or those unable to work due to disability. It may also be connected to the economic vitality of the community and the ways that infrastructure and resources are allocated.

Households and Dwellings – this measure relates to family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness. Stable neighbourhoods promote cohesive communities which provide a positive, socially supportive environment that promotes resiliency, mental health and wellbeing.



## Highest Marginalization

Areas with high concentrations of people without income from employment are found throughout the Region:

- Beaverton area
- Port Perry, Scugog
- Uxbridge
- Pockets in Oshawa including Stevenson North, Beatrice South, Grandview South
- Ajax Waterfront
- Pickering City Centre

Areas where there may be less family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness include:

- Downtown Whitby, Manning, Dryden Anderson, parts of Brooklin West
- Ajax Waterfront, Downtown Ajax
- Downtown Oshawa, Gibb West, south corner of Oshawa Northwest, parts of Beatrice North and South, parts of Lakeview
- Port Perry



# ACTIONABLE IDEAS BY SDOH

There are many social services with a pastoral lens across the East region and CCAT funded organizations that are already providing services within each SDOH. Following are some examples of social actions for consideration. Where partnerships are possible, they are encouraged in order to have greater collective impact.

SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
<b>Low Income &amp; Food Insecurity</b>	<p>Within the network of food programs, determine the gaps and develop a food program for marginalized populations</p> <p>Consider where people are needing to get to who struggle with transportation and develop a ride share program</p> <p>Volunteer within the St. Vincent de Paul program in your parish</p> <p>Consider being a living wage employer. Paying staff at least \$20.60 per hour in Durham Region.</p> <p>Tap into local food networks, to volunteer in places that address food insecurity such as: The Durham Region Food Bank, Feed the Need, Durham Outlook for the Needy, Simcoe Hall Settlement House, and Back Door Mission.</p> <p>Develop a community garden and work with the local network for its distribution</p>	<p>Support poverty reduction strategies - such as advocating for policies that address income inequality, improve social safety nets, and promote economic opportunities for all residents. For example, the Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy</p>



## SDOH

### Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options

### Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options

#### Education & Employment

Work with your local Catholic elementary school to:

- Grow community gardens and provide some produce to local food insecurity programs
- Provide a free-tutoring program for students with parishioners/volunteers providing the expertise
- Determine the digital needs of students and create ways to address them (to close the digital gap)
- Provide opportunities for youth and newcomers to gain experience at your workplace

Provide a parish-based binder/bulletin board with job opportunities to encourage parishioners to hire parishioners

As employers, consider ways to provide quality employment

Continue to advocate for strong, inclusive Catholic education

Work with employment agencies to improve pathways between your organization and employment services

#### Housing & Homelessness

Link with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness, and learn ways to support their ministry

Consider whether you can have a tenant in your home to alleviate the housing challenges

Volunteer with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness

Find ways to support young people that may be living alone and whose housing may be at-risk

Increase your presence at planning tables focused on addressing homelessness and building supportive and affordable housing



SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
<b>Health, Mental Health &amp; Addiction</b>	<p>Start or continue to promote meditation and centering prayer</p> <p>Start or continue a health/walking programs in your parish to promote health &amp; well-being</p> <p>Start or continue to support Alcoholics Anonymous, Substance Abuse Anonymous programs or other related substance use support groups</p> <p>Consider a volunteer ride program to assist people in getting to their medical appointments</p>	<p>Consider focusing resources to support the health, mental health, and addiction needs of people (e.g. having counsellors, social workers, parish nurses, training staff on Mental Health First Aid)</p>
<b>Newcomers &amp; Immigration</b>	<p>Work closely with Office of Refugees Archdiocese of Toronto and other cross cultural service agencies to determine how you/parish can support their work</p> <p>Host conversation circles to increase English language proficiency</p> <p>Partner with agencies/ORAT to host volunteer/ internship mentoring</p>	<p>Continue/develop a plan to sponsor refugees as a parish</p> <p>Develop staff skills to better serve newcomers and immigrants</p> <p>Review hiring practices to ensure inclusive hiring practices are used</p>
<b>Community &amp; Belonging</b>	<p>Continue with your volunteer engagement</p> <p>Find ways to engage youth and seniors toward community belonging and decreasing isolation</p> <p>Offer formation regarding Truth &amp; Reconciliation</p> <p>Consider the Truth &amp; Reconciliation Commission and ways in which you can incorporate some recommendations in your life</p> <p>Educate your team about the issues of human trafficking</p>	<p>Create policies regarding equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-discrimination</p> <p>Consider ways your organization/parish can be involved in the work of anti-human trafficking</p> <p>Develop a plan toward Truth &amp; Reconciliation</p>

SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<p>Consider after school programs for children</p> <p>Enhance your youth ministry programming and connect with the Office of Catholic Youth</p> <p>Connect with Durham Youth Services and Rose of Durham to find best ways to support their work with youth in the East Region</p> <p>Develop an understanding of the issues facing young parents and ways to support them</p>	<p>Consider a plan to develop daycare programs at the parish</p> <p>Consider ways to hire a coordinator of youth ministry</p> <p>Consider ways to serve children and youth in your organization</p>
<b>Seniors</b>	<p>Social programs for seniors</p> <p>At-home visiting programs for seniors</p>	<p>Develop a plan to build long term care homes</p> <p>Work with others toward joint advocacy to improve seniors care and services</p> <p>Consider ways to serve seniors in your organization</p>
<b>Environment</b>	<p>Create green space for your community</p> <p>Consider ways to decrease plastic use</p> <p>Develop carpool programs / take public transit to church</p>	<p>Develop an environmental sustainability plan to decrease your environmental foot print</p>