

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

2024

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# TORONTO

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 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

Data highlights provide an overview of key community characteristic data for Toronto and compares these to Ontario. In the main report, each Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) Area is explored in detail. Each SDOH has a different section in the report

World Health Organization, in "Closing the Gap" defines the SDOH as:

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These determinants are key factors influencing health outcomes and health disparities among populations. They include various social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors that can either promote or hinder individuals' health and well-being. <sup>[i]</sup>



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"

SDOH Area	Toronto Highlights	Compared to Ontario
Low Income (based on After-Tax Low Income Cut Off – After-Tax LICO)	<p><b>9%</b> live with low income in 2020; 8% of children and youth age 0 to 17 live with low income and 6% of adults age 65 and older live with low income.</p> <p><b>23%</b> of Toronto families fall in the bottom 20% of income compared to families across Canada.</p>	 
Food Insecurity	<p><b>22%</b> of Toronto's households and 24% of Toronto residents were food insecure in 2022. Food insecurity increased from 2021.</p>	
Housing and Homelessness	<p><b>48%</b> of Toronto dwellings are rented.</p> <p><b>40%</b> of tenants live in unaffordable housing.</p> <p>More than <b>80,000 households</b> wait for subsidized housing from the City.</p> <p>As of late 2022, over <b>9,700</b> individuals actively used the shelter system in the past three months.</p>	 
Employment and Education	<p><b>64%</b> of the population age 15 and older was working or looking for work in 2021; 9% were unemployed.</p> <p><b>9%</b> of the population age 25 to 64 has not obtained a high school certificate, diploma or degree.</p> <p><b>13%</b> of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas have high concentrations of people who don't have income from employment. This may be due to age or inability to work.</p>	  

SDOH Area	Toronto Highlights	Compared to Ontario
Health	<b>63%</b> of Torontonians report having very good or excellent health.	
Mental Health and Addiction	<b>67%</b> of Torontonians report having very good or excellent mental health. <b>12%</b> of Torontonians report heavy drinking at least once a month.	 
Newcomers and Immigration	<b>52%</b> are immigrant or non-permanent resident (2021). <b>56%</b> identify as a visible minority (2021).	 
Belonging	<b>67%</b> have a strong sense of belonging to their local community. <b>40%</b> of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas have high concentrations of recent immigrants and visible minorities. These areas may experience higher levels of racialization and xenophobia. <b>32%</b> of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas may have less family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness based on the types and density of housing and family structure characteristics.	  
Age	<b>19%</b> of the population are under age 20 in 2021. <b>17%</b> are age 65+.	 

# 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 between geographic areas. 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.

For this project, the maps were examined and cross-referenced with Ward Area maps found on the City of Toronto website<sup>[ii]</sup> to identify Wards with high marginalization. These maps can be used to identify where resources and support may be more needed geographically.

The maps (see Appendix) and this table shows that there are a number of Wards that are highly marginalized for one or more dimensions. Wards that show up as being among the highest marginalized for two or more dimensions of marginalization include:

- Wards in Scarborough, particularly Scarborough-Agincourt
- Etobicoke North
- Humber River-Black Creek

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.	<p>26% (986) of Toronto’s small neighbourhood areas (Dissemination Areas/DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized (fewest material resources) across Ontario. Another 22% (837) are ranked in the second highest quintile.</p> <p>Ward Areas with many of the most marginalized small neighbourhoods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scarborough Agincourt</li><li>• Scarborough Guildwood</li><li>• Scarborough Centre</li><li>• Parts of Humber River-Black Creek</li><li>• York South-Weston</li><li>• Scattered throughout Scarborough</li><li>• Etobicoke North</li></ul>

ii. NEW City of Toronto, “City Government”

## Marginalization Dimension

Racialized and Newcomer Populations – this relates to area-level concentrations of people who are recent immigrants and/or visible minority populations.

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.

ILL: NEW CITY OF TORONTO, CITY GOVERNMENT

## Highest Marginalization

40% (1,500) of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension. Another 30% (1,100) rank in the second highest quintile. These areas may experience high levels of racialization and xenophobia.

Ward Areas with the highest area-level concentrations include:

- Scarborough Rouge Park, north of Kingston Road
- Scarborough North
- Much of Scarborough-Agincourt
- East side of Don Valley North
- Much of Willowdale
- Much of York Centre
- Much of Humber River-Black Creek
- Much of Etobicoke North
- Pockets in many of the other Wards including York South-Weston and Scarborough Southwest

13% (496) of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension. Another 19% (709) rank in the second highest quintile. Pockets of high marginalization dot the City. Wards that appear to have more DAs with concentrations include:

- Scarborough North
- Scarborough-Agincourt
- Don Valley North
- Don Valley West
- Scarborough-Guildwood
- Scarborough Rouge Park



## Marginalization Dimension

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.



ILLUSTRATION BY TORONTO CITY GOVERNMENT

## Highest Marginalization

32% (1,200) of Toronto's small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension. Another 21% (767) rank in the second highest quintile. Pockets of high marginalization dot the City.

Ward Areas with the highest area-level concentrations include:

- York Centre
- Spadina-Fort York
- University-Rosedale
- Parts of Toronto-St. Paul's
- Parts of Etobicoke-Lakeshore
- Southern section of Etobicoke North



# ACTIONABLE IDEAS BY SDOH

There are many parish social services with a pastoral lens across the Toronto 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 \$25.05/hr.</p> <p>Tap into local food networks, to volunteer in places that address food insecurity such as: Daily Bread Food Bank, Food Share Toronto, The Stop Community Food Centre</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
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<p>Work with your local Catholic elementary school to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow community gardens and provide some produce to local food insecurity programs</li> <li>• Provide a free-tutoring program for students with parishioners/volunteers providing the expertise</li> <li>• Determine the digital needs of students and create ways to address them (to close the digital gap)</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for youth and newcomers to gain experience at your workplace</li> </ul> <p>Provide a parish-based binder/bulletin board with job opportunities to encourage parishioners to hire parishioners</p> <p>As employers, consider ways to provide quality employment</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for strong, inclusive Catholic education</p> <p>Work with employment agencies to improve pathways between your organization and employment services</p>
<b>Housing &amp; Homelessness</b>	<p>Link with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness, and learn ways to support their ministry</p> <p>Consider whether you can have a tenant in your home to alleviate the housing challenges</p> <p>Volunteer with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness</p> <p>Find ways to support young people that may be living alone and whose housing may be at-risk</p>	<p>Increase your presence at planning tables focused on addressing homelessness and building supportive and affordable housing</p>

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 Covenant House to find best ways to support their ministry</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>