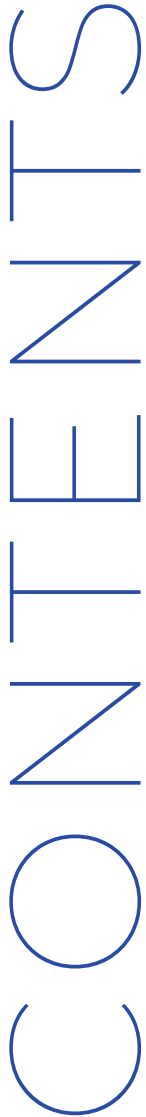


Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Toronto **Environmental Scan**

2025



Table of Contents



01.

Executive Summary

14.

Introduction

16.

Low Income and Food Insecurity

22.

Education and Employment

27.

Housing and Homelessness

35.

Health, Mental Health and Addiction

41.

Newcomers and Immigration

46.

Community and Belonging

55.

Age: Children and Youth, and Seniors

66.

Environment

70.

Appendix

75.

Works Cited

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 West Region and compares these to Ontario. Details are provided in each of the Social Determinants of Health Area report sections. 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. [i]



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	West Highlights	Compared to Ontario
Low Income (based on After-Tax Low Income Cut Off – After-Tax LICO)	<p>5.3% live with low income in 2020; 4.7% of children and youth age 0 to 17 live with low income and 3.4% of adults age 65 and older live with low income.</p> <p>16% of West Region families fall in the bottom 20% of income compared to families across Canada.</p>	 
Food Insecurity	<p>22% of Peel Region households and 23% of Peel Region individuals were food insecure in 2022.</p>	
Employment and Education	<p>66% of the population age 15 and older was working or looking for work in 2021; the unemployment rate was 13%.</p> <p>9% of the population age 25 to 64 has not obtained a high school certificate, diploma or degree.</p> <p>9% of Peel Region'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>	  
Housing and Homelessness	<p>25% of West Region households are renters.</p> <p>38% of tenants across the Region live in unaffordable housing – 43% of Orangeville tenant households live in unaffordable housing.</p> <p>28% of tenants in the West Region live in core housing need and 36% of Orangeville 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>	  

SDOH Area	West Highlights	Compared to Ontario
Health	62% of Peel Region residents aged 12 and older report having very good or excellent health.	
Mental Health and Addiction	<p>66% of Peel Region residents aged 12 and older report having very good or excellent mental health.</p> <p>9% of Peel Region residents aged 12 and older report heavy drinking at least once a month.</p>	 
Newcomers and Immigration	<p>56% of the population in the West Region is immigrant or non-permanent resident (2021).</p> <p>67% identify as a visible minority (2021).</p>	 
Belonging	<p>74% have a strong sense of belonging to their local community.</p> <p>62% of Peel Region's small neighbourhood areas have high concentrations of recent immigrants and visible minorities. These areas may experience higher levels of racialization and xenophobia.</p> <p>10% of Peel Region'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.</p>	  
Age	<p>23% of the population are under age 20 in 2021. This is projected to decrease slightly to 22% by 2034.</p> <p>15% are age 65+. This is projected to increase slightly to 16% 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 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 ON-Marg maps were examined and cross-referenced with the Region of Peel’s Neighbourhood Information Tool, 2021 A Snapshot of Neighbourhood Well-Being for the Region of Peel. Peel’s Neighbourhood Well-Being Index combines indicators from 6 categories into a single score. Categories include: socio-demographics, economic opportunity, resident engagement and belonging, health, safety and physical environment.

Local organizations and service providers can use tools like Peel’s Neighbourhood Information Tool and Public Health Ontario’s Index maps to learn about their community and to help identify where resources and support may be more needed geographically and where resources such as food banks, settlement services and shelters are located.

Based on the Neighbourhood Information Tool:

- **36%** (12 out of 33) of Brampton’s census tracts have low neighbourhood well-being
- **35%** (31 out of 89) of Mississauga’s census tracts have low neighbourhood well-being.

The maps (see Appendix) and this table shows that there are a number of areas that are highly marginalized for one or more dimensions. Areas that show up for tow or more dimensions of marginalization include:

- Brampton/Bramalea
- Mississauga wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Parts of Orangeville

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>12% (202) of Peel Region’s small neighbourhood areas (Dissemination Areas/DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized (fewest material resources) across Ontario.</p> <p>Areas with many of the most marginalized small neighbourhoods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brampton/Bramalea• Around Pearson International Airport• Scattered throughout Mississauga particularly Wards 3, 4, 6, 7• Parts of Orangeville

Marginalization Dimension

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.

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

62% (1,100) of Peel Region small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension. Areas with the highest concentrations of newcomers and racialized populations are largely found in the following areas:

- Much of Brampton/Bramalea
- Extending up to and around Caledon and down into Mississauga (Wards 4, 5, 6, 10, 11)

9% (155) of Peel Region's small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension.

Neighbourhoods with high concentrations can be found:

- Through out Mississauga (Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)
- To a lesser degree, in Brampton
- Isolated pockets throughout the broader region

10% (163) of Peel Region's small neighbourhood areas (DAs) are ranked among the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension.

Areas with the highest area-level concentrations include:

- Parts of Mississauga particularly the centre of the city, along sections of the lakeshore and bordering Toronto (Wards 1, 3, 4, 7)
- Areas around Pearson International Airport (Ward 5)

Areas in Brampton and Orangeville

ACTIONABLE IDEAS BY SDOH

There are many parish social ministries with a pastoral lens across the Toronto region and Catholic Charities funded organizations that are already providing services within each SDOH. Following are some examples of social actions for consideration as well as examples of work being done. Where partnerships are possible, they are encouraged in order to have greater collective impact. The list of agencies supported by Catholic Charities is found following this table.

SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
Low Income & Food Insecurity	<p>Volunteer within the St. Vincent de Paul program in your parish</p> <p>Within the network of food programs, determine the gaps and develop a food program for marginalized populations</p> <p>Consider being a living wage employer. Paying staff at least \$26.00/hr. (Toronto), \$26.00/hr (Peel Region), \$21.30/hr (Waterloo-Dufferin-Guelph-Wellington), \$26.00/hr (York Region), \$23.05/hr (Simcoe County), \$21.65/hr (Durham)</p> <p>Tap into local food networks, to volunteer in places that address food insecurity</p> <p>Develop a community garden and work with the local network for its distribution</p> <p>Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)</p> <p>Coordinate outreach speakers to learn about the work on local agencies</p> <p>Partner with local agencies to run parish-based wellness groups for seniors</p> <p>Coordinate a parish effort to fundraise for meal programs, clothing drives, furniture drives, coats for kids, cribs for kids, and Christmas and easter gifts</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> <p>Develop a knowledge base about the work of local agencies and make referrals to meal programs, emergency shelter, mental health (211), counselling, groups, supports offered in other languages</p>

SDOH

Education & Employment

Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options

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

Work with post-secondary schools such as St. Micheal's College to support students living in poverty

Find out what free government employment agencies are in your area and develop a connection to them so that referrals to the agency can be easier

Offer space for education programs such as: parent classes, afterschool programs, and employment clinics

Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)

Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options

Continue to advocate for strong, inclusive Catholic education

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

Partner with organization like Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto to advocate against labour exploitation



SDOH

Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options

Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options

Housing & Homelessness

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

Consider whether you can have a tenant (such as a post-secondary student) in your home to alleviate the housing challenges

Volunteer with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness such as the Felix Centre and Good Shepherd Ministries

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

Refer French speakers to Centre d'Accueil Heritage for supports

Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)

Form connections with transitional housing services

Participate and/or coordinate educational opportunities for the community such as Symposium on Homelessness

Build a partnership to innovative solutions such as supporting wrap around care for transition housing

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



SDOH

Health, Mental Health & Addiction

Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options

Start or continue to promote meditation and centering prayer

Start or continue a health/walking programs in your parish to promote health & well-being

Start or continue to support Alcoholics Anonymous, Substance Abuse Anonymous programs or other related substance use support groups

Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)

Volunteers visiting agency clients and /or help with activities and programming

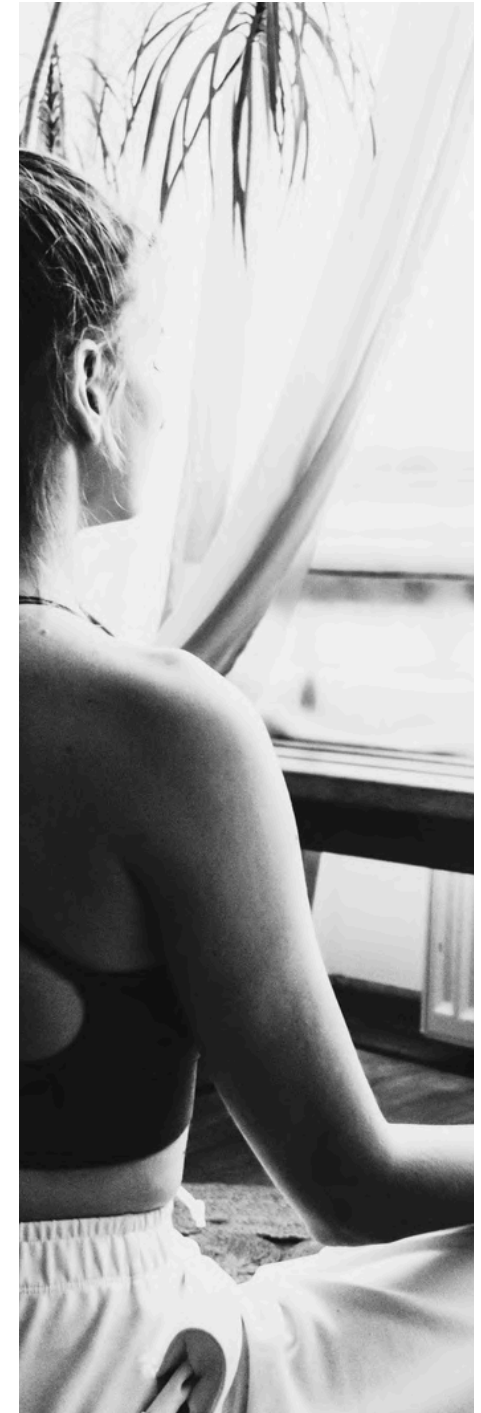
Connect with organizations such as St. Elizabeth Health to learn how to support their work providing end of life care for vulnerable populations

Use parish spaces to offer wellness programs such as exercise classes

Promote activities organized by parishioners, for example, walks/hikes, bike rides, pickle ball

Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options

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)



SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
Newcomers & Immigration	<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, for example through Refugee Committee work</p> <p>Host conversation circles to increase English language proficiency</p> <p>Partner with agencies such as RCJ Refugee Centre and Becoming Neighbours to host volunteer/ internship mentoring opportunities of newcomers</p> <p>Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)</p> <p>Support for connecting individuals served by Catholic Charities funded agencies to various newcomer communities</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>
Community & Belonging	<p>Continue with your volunteer engagement and develop new strategies to reach and involve younger parishioners</p> <p>Find ways to engage youth and seniors toward community belonging and decreasing isolation, for example hosting seniors' and other wellness group on behalf of Catholic Charities funded agencies</p> <p>Organize potluck dinners with speakers to encourage groups (women, seniors, parents, youth) to come out and meet each other</p> <p>Work with organization such as L'Arche Day break to support inclusivity for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Consider the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and ways in which you can incorporate some recommendations in your life</p> <p>Educate your team and community about the issues of human trafficking</p> <p>Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)</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 & Reconciliation</p>

SDOH

Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options

Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options

Children & Youth

Consider after school programs for children

Enhance your youth ministry programming and connect with the Office of Catholic Youth

Connect with Covenant House to find best ways to support their ministry

Develop an understanding of the issues facing young parents and ways to support them

Fundraise for programs such as Angel foundations for learning

Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies such as Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (see full list below)

Offer use of space for camps, programs, and events hosted by Catholic Charities funded agencies

Promote multigeneration socialization for example "Learn to Crochet" evenings

Youth evening that connects with schools to make blankets for the homeless

Consider a plan to develop daycare programs at the parish

Consider ways to hire a coordinator of youth ministry

Consider ways to serve children and youth in your organization



SDOH	Short Term Doable Action (1-2 years) Options	Long Term Action (3-5 years) Options
Seniors	<p>Social programs for seniors such as knitting clubs, prayer groups, brunches with young adults</p> <p>At-home visiting programs for seniors</p> <p>Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies such as Mary Centre, and Silent Voice (see full list below)</p> <p>Partner with local agencies to run parish-based wellness groups for seniors</p> <p>Refer French speakers to Centre d'Accueil Heritage for supports.</p> <p>1-1 or small group supports for seniors with disabilities</p> <p>Plan weekend away religious pilgrimages for seniors in your community</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>
Environment	<p>Create green space for your community such as shared garden spaces for young parent families</p> <p>Consider ways to decrease plastic use</p> <p>Develop carpool programs / Take public transit to church</p> <p>Connect with local Catholic Charities funded agencies (see the list below)</p> <p>Make commitments in your parish such as using fairtrade coffee, non-disposable dishes, less paper products, etc.</p>	<p>Develop an environmental sustainability plan to decrease your environmental foot print</p> <p>Partner with organization like Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto to advocate again climate change and promote environmental justice</p>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FUNDED AGENCIES

Organization	Website	Phone number
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	https://torontoccas.org/	416-395-1500
Catholic Community Services of York Region	https://ccsy.org/	905-770-7040
Catholic Crosscultural Services	https://www.cathcrosscultural.org/	416-644-0816
Centre d'Accueil Heritage	https://www.caheritage.org/	416-365-3350
CFS Counselling & Wellness	https://cfssc.ca/	705-726-2503
CFS Durham County	https://www.cfsdurham.com/	905-725-3513 (Oshawa Office)
CFS Peel-Dufferin	https://cfspd.com/	905-450-1608 ext. 112
CFS Toronto	https://www.cfstoronto.com/	416-921-1163 (Central Toronto Office)
Covenant House	https://covenanthousetoronto.ca/	416-598-4898
Houses of Providence - Unity Health	https://unityhealth.to/clinics-services/cardinal-ambrozic-houses-of-providence-long-term-care/	416-285-3742
Journey Home Hospice – Saint Elizabeth Health Care	https://journeyhomehospice.ca/	647-348-4490
Mary Centre	https://www.marycentre.com/	416-630-5533 (Toronto/ York Region Office)
Rosalie Hall	https://www.rosaliehall.com/	416-438-6880
Rose of Sharon	https://roseofsharon.com/	905-853-5514
Society of Sharing	https://societyofsharing.org/	416-413-0380
Silent Voice	https://silentvoice.ca/	416-463-1104
St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre	http://www.stbernadettesfrc.org/	416-654-9810
St. Michael's Homes	https://www.stmichaelshomes.org/	416-926-8267
Vita Centre	https://vitacentre.org/	905-502-7933

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto commissioned the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness to produce environmental scan reports for each of the region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. 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 of the West Region.

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).

As you likely already know, there are many needs that the people of the West Region experience on a daily basis. Reviewing and understanding the context of these needs can become overwhelming. Where do we begin? What do we focus on? What is our call? Our prayer is that this focused information, inclusive of what others are doing, may provide crucial information in refocusing and prioritizing your social services with a pastoral lens. The world is ever-changing and we are called to respond to its current social needs. Examples of what might be possible within each social determinant of health are provided in the Executive Summary.

We are aware that there is so much good that you, your parish, your organization, your region and the Archdiocese are already doing. This gives us hope and energy to forge ahead. The great work of the people of the Archdiocese of Toronto has not yet been captured in this report. In 2024, sessions will be facilitated to review the information in these reports and together add examples of the work the regions are doing.

Pope Francis' often speaks about the social determinant of health: education, employment, environment, working

with those that are most marginalized, experiencing homelessness, refugees and immigrants – his call to solidarity and action is unwavering. It is through this lens that we invite you to prayerfully review the report



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – A COMMUNITY PROFILE

The social determinants of health (SDOH) 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.^[iii]

The Archdiocese of Toronto is divided into 4 regions: Central, East, West, and North. For each of these areas the following Social Determinants of Health were considered:

- 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

iii. World Health Organization, "Closing the gap"

EACH COMMUNITY PROFILE

The West Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto Community Profile draws from many different sources to provide readers with an overview of what the West Region looks through the lens of the social determinants of health. The report includes a large amount of information. The goal is not to overwhelm but for readers to feel empowered. To help with this, the document is organized as follows for each social determinants of health area listed above:

1. Community characteristic data from Statistics Canada Census Profile and Public Health Ontario's reporting of the Canadian Community Health Survey.
2. Further contextual understanding based on a summary of community documents reviewed for this project. Sources include Public Health documents, Community Wellbeing resources, United Way, Community Foundations, Municipal government, Social Planning Councils, and Local Immigration Partnerships
3. Reflection questions to discern what is new information, relevant information, and call to action

It is important to note that this report is not exhaustive. It does not include all of what is occurring within each SDOH area. The information is provided to provide context, relevant statistics and examples. It is hoped that this document will be used by member agencies, diocesan ministries, parishes and volunteers to grow awareness and education as well as identify and discern ways to respond to local needs.

Additional information is provided in the Appendix. In the Appendix, there are maps that visualize and explore the geographic distribution of marginalization. Ontario Marginalization (previously Social Determinants of Health) maps are produced by Public Health Ontario using Statistics Canada Census data.

To give an example of how these maps can be used, "the TCDSB Research Department uses ON-Marg to understand the socio-demographics of both school communities and the neighbourhoods in which students are living to support and resources schools equitably. For example, using the material deprivation index, we provide additional funding to schools where the school population is characterized by a high proportion of students living with socioeconomic stress according to the neighbourhoods they live in."^[iv]

iv. NEW qtd. in Matheson, F. et. al. Ontario Marginalization Index



Data Limitations

In conducting this Environmental Scan, the data collected had the following data limitations. Statistics Canada data is specific to the Archdiocese boundaries. The Canadian Community Health Survey Data follows the health region boundaries which do not always match the Archdiocese boundaries. The community documents were reviewed to the lowest level of geography possible but in many cases this included areas not covered by the Archdiocese. For example, because Orangeville and Mono are part of Dufferin county, the West region includes data about Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

LOW INCOME AND FOOD INSECURITY

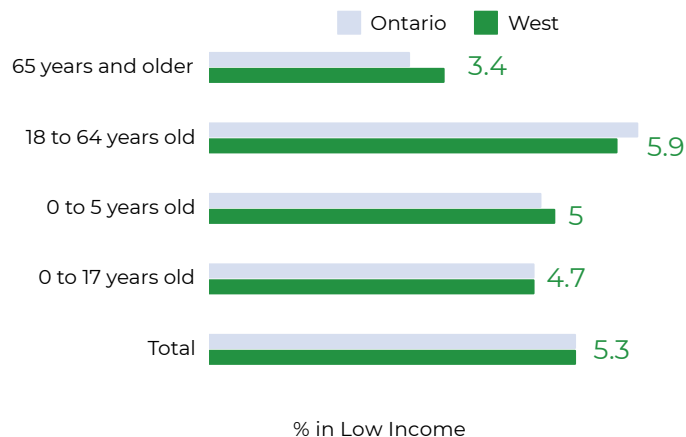
Income influences access to resources and opportunities and overall well-being. Food insecurity is a measure of not being able to afford basic needs. Those struggling to afford food are also struggling to pay for other basic living costs like rent, childcare, and medications.

Groceries in rural areas can be more expensive, with less choice for those living on low income.

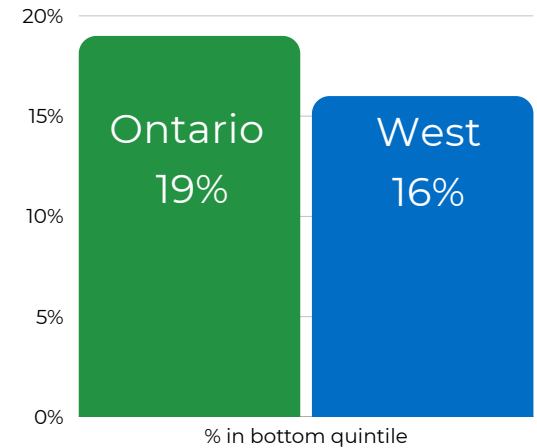
Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

LOW INCOME

Overall, 5.3% of West Region residents live with low-income (after-tax LICO, 2020), the same as Ontario. Low-income rates for population age 65+ is slightly higher (3.4% versus 2.9%). Peel Region's low-income rates are higher than Mono and Orangeville.



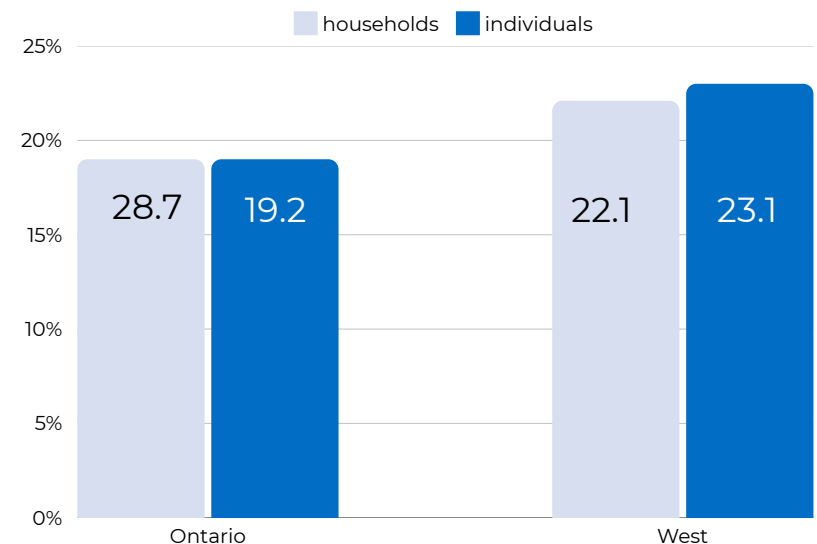
16% of families in West Region fall in the lowest 20% income group compared to all families across Canada (2020).



FOOD INSECURITY

In 2022, 22% of Peel Region households and 23% of Peel Region individuals were food insecure. These rates are similar to Ontario and to the year before.

% who are food insecure



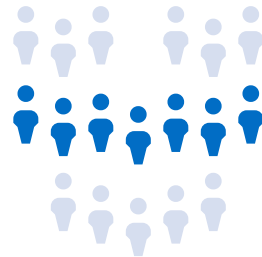
The Material Resources Marginalization map at the end of this report shows the geographic distribution of factors connected to poverty.

Living Wage – The 2024 living wage for Peel Region is \$26.00 per hour. The living wage for Mono and Orangeville in Waterloo-Dufferin-Guelph-Wellington is \$21.30 per hour.[1] Ontario's minimum wage is \$17.20.

Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

LOW INCOME

Low-income rates are higher in racialized populations



NEWCOMERS AND IMMIGRANTS

earn less than Canadian-born individuals in Peel, have **higher rates of unemployment and underemployment** (despite higher rates of education)[2]



Average incomes of young people decreased by 22% during between 2015 and 2021

and the income gap between racialized and white groups actually increased over time, with racialized individuals earning **69.2 cents to the dollar** that a white person in Peel earned[3]

FOOD INSECURITY

24%
of
households

Almost 24% of households in Wellington are food insecure.

Canadians living in households with children are more likely to be food insecure (19%) compared to those with no children (12%). [4]



1. Ontario Living Wage Network, www.ontariolivingwage.ca/rates
2. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 15
3. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 16
4. Heck, "Region of Peel declares food

80% 

Food Banks Mississauga outlines
80% rise in food bank usage since
2019^[5]

In 2020, Mississauga Food Bank clients were more likely to be visible minorities, refugees, and those without a post-secondary education compared to Mississauga overall.^[6]

72% Visible minorities

9% Refugees

31% Post-secondary educated

LOW INCOME

Poverty in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington counties, located in Ontario, Canada, presents complex challenges that affect individuals and families across various socio-economic backgrounds. Here's an overview of poverty in these regions:

- **Income Disparities:** Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington Counties exhibit income disparities, with some areas experiencing higher levels of poverty compared to others. In Peel Region, for example, while cities like Mississauga may have higher median incomes, areas within Brampton may face higher levels of poverty, particularly among marginalized communities.

- **Affordable Housing Crisis:** The region faces an affordable housing crisis, characterized by high housing costs and limited availability of affordable rental units. This can lead to housing insecurity and homelessness for individuals and families struggling to afford housing in the region.
- **Food Insecurity:** Food insecurity is another significant issue in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington. Many residents, particularly those with low incomes, may have trouble accessing an adequate and nutritious diet due to financial constraints.
- **Unemployment and Underemployment:** Despite being part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), which boasts a strong economy, Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington counties still grapple with unemployment and underemployment. Certain communities may face barriers to accessing stable, well-paying employment, leading to financial instability and poverty.
- **Access to Services:** Access to essential services such as healthcare, childcare, transportation, and education can be challenging for individuals living in poverty in these regions. Limited access to affordable or subsidized services may exacerbate existing inequalities and hinder socio-economic mobility.
- **Education Disparities:** Education plays a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty, yet disparities in educational outcomes persist in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington counties. Factors such as socio-economic status, access to resources, and systemic barriers may contribute to educational inequities among children and youth.
- **Social Services and Support:** While there are various social service agencies and non-profit organizations working to address poverty in the region, there may be gaps in service provision and accessibility, particularly for marginalized communities. Strengthening social services and support networks is crucial for effectively addressing poverty and its underlying causes.

5. Heck, "Region of Peel declares food insecurity a crisis..."

6. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 18

Overall, poverty in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington counties is a multifaceted issue that requires comprehensive, multi-sectoral approaches to address. By addressing systemic inequalities, investing in affordable housing, enhancing access to education and employment opportunities, and strengthening social support networks, the region can work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive community for all residents. One of the largest organizations undertaking this work is the United Way.

United Way programming:

- United Way partners with local, front-line agencies to deliver vital programs and services that include:
- Local food banks, to provide additional services like grocery delivery to overcome transportation barriers.
- Mentoring programs for youth, to reduce isolation and improve relationships with others.
- Support programs for women who have experienced any form of domestic and/or sexual violence or human trafficking, recognizing increased barriers of a lack of transportation, increased isolation, and stigma.
- Wellness hubs for youth, to provide centralized services to support mental health and well-being, with accommodations for transportation
- Transportation programs to support seniors and adults with physical disabilities maintain their independence at home.

Peel

Peel Region collaborates with community organizations, advocacy groups, and stakeholders to raise awareness about poverty issues and advocate for policy changes at the local, provincial, and federal levels. Community outreach efforts may include public education campaigns, community forums, and engagement with policymakers to address systemic barriers to poverty reduction.

For example:

- **Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy:** The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy is a comprehensive plan developed by the Region of Peel in collaboration with community partners to address poverty in the region. The strategy focuses on key areas such as housing, employment, food security, and access to services. It includes initiatives to increase affordable housing options, promote employment opportunities, and enhance access to social support programs.
- **Food Security Programs:** The Mississauga Food Bank and Brampton Caledon Community Living are examples of organizations in Peel Region that operate food banks and distribution programs to address food insecurity. These programs provide access to nutritious food for individuals and families in need.
- **Financial Assistance Programs:** Peel Region administers financial assistance programs such as the Ontario Works program, which provides income support and employment assistance to eligible individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. Additionally, programs like the Region of Peel's Emergency Financial Assistance program offer one-time financial assistance to help individuals cover essential expenses during emergencies.



Dufferin Wellington

In Dufferin-Wellington, Ontario, poverty manifests in diverse forms, impacting both rural and urban areas. Challenges such as unaffordable housing, scarce job opportunities, and systemic disparities perpetuate financial insecurity among residents.

Example of programs that support addressing these issues include:

- **Food Security Programs:** The Orangeville Food Bank and the Centre Wellington Food Bank are examples of organizations that operate food banks and distribution programs to address food insecurity in Dufferin-Wellington. These programs provide emergency food assistance, fresh produce, and nutritional support to individuals and families in need.
- **Financial Assistance Programs:** Dufferin County Social Services also administers the Ontario Works program. Emergency assistance in Dufferin-Wellington is the Emergency Financial Assistance Program offered by Dufferin County Social Services. This program provides one-time financial support to eligible individuals and families facing unexpected financial crises or emergencies, such as sudden job loss, medical expenses, or utility disconnections.

FOOD INSECURITIES

Peel

Despite being part of the affluent Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Peel Region experiences significant levels of food insecurity. According to research by organizations like The Mississauga Food Bank and Peel Public Health, a substantial portion of the population, including families with children, seniors, and individuals facing financial hardship, struggle to access sufficient, nutritious food on a consistent basis.

Peel Region is home to various food banks, community food programs, and meal assistance initiatives that work to address food insecurity. Organizations such as The Mississauga Food Bank, Knights Table, and Eden Food for Change provide emergency food assistance, grocery support, and nutritional education to individuals and families in need.

Other examples of non-profit food-focussed organizations include:

- **Seva Food Bank:** Seva Food Bank, with locations in Mississauga and Malton, provides culturally appropriate food assistance to individuals and families in need, with a particular focus on serving the Sikh community. They offer food hampers, hot meals, and support services to address the root causes of food insecurity.
- **Compass Food Bank and Outreach Centre:** Compass Food Bank in Mississauga provides emergency food assistance and supportive services to individuals and families facing hunger and poverty. In addition to distributing food hampers, they offer counseling, advocacy, and referrals to community resources.

While emergency food assistance programs play a crucial role in addressing immediate needs, long-term solutions to food insecurity require systemic changes. These may include increasing access to affordable housing, improving employment opportunities and wages, enhancing social assistance programs, and promoting equitable access to nutritious food for all residents.

Dufferin Wellington

Despite being in a predominantly rural area, Dufferin Wellington experiences food insecurity. Individuals and families across urban and rural communities may face challenges accessing sufficient, nutritious food on a consistent basis.

In rural areas of Dufferin-Wellington, limited access to transportation and grocery stores can exacerbate food insecurity. Residents living in remote or isolated communities may struggle to access affordable, fresh produce and other nutritious food options, leading to reliance on convenience stores or processed foods.

In urban centers like Orangeville, food insecurity may stem from factors such as poverty, unemployment, high housing costs, and systemic inequalities. Low-income individuals and families may prioritize paying rent and utilities over purchasing nutritious food, leading to trade-offs and compromises in dietary quality.

Organizations such as the [Orangeville Food Bank](#) and [Centre Wellington Food Bank](#), provide emergency food assistance, food hampers, and nutritional support to individuals and families in need. Addressing food insecurity in Dufferin-Wellington requires a multi-faceted approach that combines immediate relief efforts with long-term solutions. Strategies may include increasing access to affordable housing, supporting local food production and distribution networks, promoting income security and employment opportunities, and advocating for policies that address systemic inequalities.



Reflections

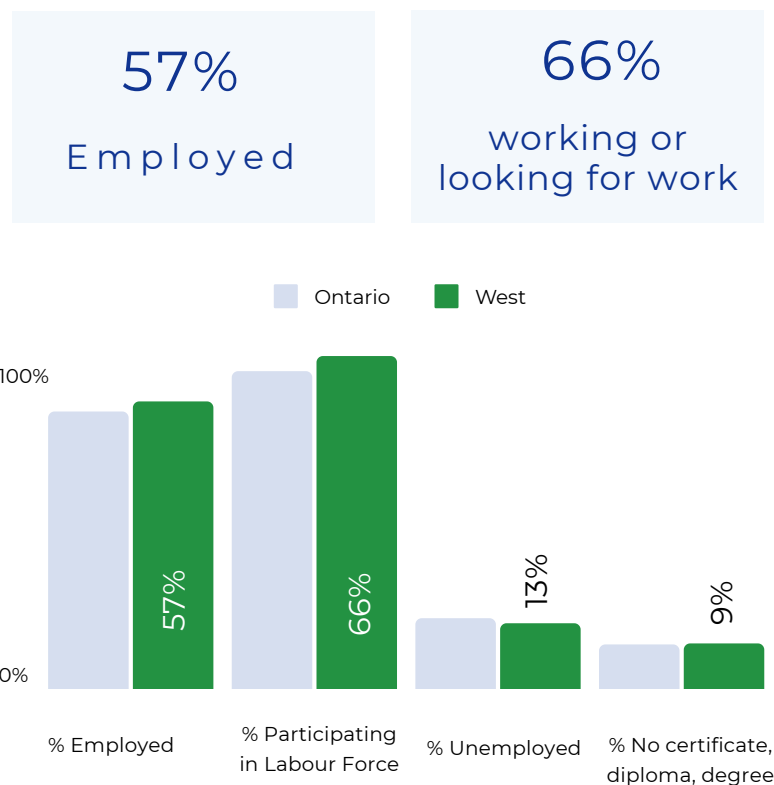
What about this information is really speaking to you?

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What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

In 2021, education and labour force statistics for the West Region were similar to Ontario's. Just over half (57%) of the population age 15 and older was employed, two-thirds (66%) were working or looking for work, and 13% of those in the labour force were unemployed. Almost 9% of the population age 25 to 64 has not obtained a high school certificate, diploma or degree.



Education and employment are factors contributing to two dimensions of marginalization: Age and Labour Force and Material Resources. Maps showing how the patterns of these dimensions of marginalization across the city are provided at the end of this report.

Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

EDUCATION



The number of people who have a post-secondary education is higher in Peel than in Ontario and Canada as a whole.[7]

63% of recent immigrants arriving in Peel (15 years and older) have post-secondary education[8]

57% of Peel's visible minority population have a post-secondary education[9]

7. Peel at a glance - Region of Peel brand standards
8. Peel at a glance - Region of Peel brand standards.
9. Peel at a glance - Region of Peel brand standards.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has **151 schools** total (125 elementary and 26 secondary, 2 continuing education schools or adult learning centers), and approximately **81,000 students**.
[10]



30%

30% of senior kindergarten (SK) children in Peel were categorized as 'Vulnerable' on one or more Early Development Instrument

domains which include physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication and general knowledge. This is similar to Ontario's rate (29%). Vulnerability is defined as being at or below the 10th percentile according to Ontario baseline cut-points.[11]

EMPLOYMENT



Labour market experiences are impacted by the rise of precarious work with low wages, less job security, and less access to benefits (immigrants and racialized individuals are more likely to work precarious jobs and face discrimination at work)[12]



Increased unemployment during the pandemic has amplified inequality. In 2020, youth (15 to 24) unemployment in Peel reached a record high at 30%, with the majority of job losses occurring with part-time jobs.[13]

The job losses were also felt more greatly in positions that typically require less education[14]

Hybrid work arrangements doubled from 14% in 2021 to 28% in 2023, contributing to downtown Toronto offices having only 52% of pre-pandemic occupancy levels by July 2023.[29]

Businesses specific to the creative industries are delivering considerable value to communities and regions across Ontario. Creative workers and entrepreneurs are attracted to small urban and rural locations across Ontario, including Orangeville.[15]



10. Wikipedia, "Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board"

11. Region of Peel, "The Changing Landscape of Health in Peel...", 29

12. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 16

13. Mississauga, 2021 Vital Signs, 14

14. Mississauga, 2021 Vital Signs, 14

15. Community profile of Orangeville, 20

EDUCATION

Education in the Dufferin-Peel region encompasses primary, secondary, higher, and adult education, providing comprehensive learning opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) and the Peel District School Board (PDSB) administer publicly funded elementary and secondary schools, offering diverse programs and services from kindergarten to grade 12. [16]

In addition to primary and secondary education, the Dufferin-Peel region is home to several post-secondary institutions, including Sheridan College and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). These institutions offer a wide range of diploma, certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, providing students with pathways to career success and further education.

Moreover, adult education opportunities are available through various programs and initiatives offered by the DPCDSB, PDSB, and other organizations. Adult education programs cater to individuals seeking to complete their high school diploma, upgrade their skills, or pursue lifelong learning opportunities. These programs often include evening classes, online courses, and flexible learning options to accommodate the diverse needs and schedules of adult learners. [17]



16. Wikipedia, "Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board"

17. Wikipedia, "Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board"

By providing accessible and inclusive education at all levels, from early childhood to adulthood, the Dufferin-Peel region fosters continuous learning and skill development, empowering individuals to achieve their academic, career, and personal goals. This holistic approach to education contributes to the overall well-being and prosperity of the community, preparing individuals to thrive in an ever-evolving society. Top of Form Bottom of Form

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is deeply committed to fostering inclusive, equitable, and nurturing learning environments within the Catholic community. Through comprehensive frameworks such as the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2019-2023*, the *Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC)*, and *Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycles (CSILC)*, the board actively promotes and upholds core values such as Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust.

In the most recent cycle, spanning 2022-2023, the CBILC and CSILCs have honed their focus on dismantling various forms of oppression prevalent in society, including but not limited to colonialism, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and sexism. This targeted emphasis underscores the boards' unwavering commitment to fostering environments where every individual, regardless of their background or identity, feels valued, respected, and included. To translate these aspirations into tangible outcomes, DPCDSB schools have implemented a series of proactive action steps and robust monitoring strategies. These initiatives are carefully designed to ensure accountability and track progress towards the overarching goals.

At the heart of these efforts lies the Equity and Indigenous Education Department, which plays a pivotal role in spearheading programs and initiatives aimed at supporting the holistic well-being and academic success of both students and staff. These initiatives are crafted in consultation with key stakeholders across the DPCDSB community, reflecting a collaborative and inclusive approach to addressing systemic barriers and promoting social justice. [18]

18. Dpcdsb, "2022-23 Director's Annual Report"

EMPLOYMENT

Employment in Dufferin Wellington, and Peel regions reflects a diverse economy with opportunities spanning various sectors. Peel, with its proximity to Toronto, boasts a robust job market, particularly in industries like manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and professional services. Dufferin Wellington, while more rural, also offer employment opportunities in agriculture, tourism, healthcare, and small business enterprises. Challenges such as a labour shortage, transportation accessibility, and housing affordability impact the employment landscape in these regions, requiring collaborative efforts from stakeholders to address and sustain economic growth and prosperity.

Peel

Peel Region offers a range of employment programs aimed at supporting residents in finding and maintaining meaningful employment. These programs are designed to address various needs and challenges faced by job seekers, including skills development, job search assistance, and access to employment opportunities. Some examples of employment programs in Peel include:

- **Employment Ontario:** Employment Ontario is a government-funded initiative that provides job seekers with a wide range of employment services, including job search assistance, career counseling, and resume writing workshops.
- **Peel Career Assessment Services:** Peel Career Assessment Services offers comprehensive career assessment services to individuals seeking guidance in their career path.
- **Youth Employment Services (YES) Peel:** YES Peel provides employment services tailored specifically to youth aged 16 to 29 in Peel Region. The program offers job search assistance, resume writing workshops, interview preparation, and access to job fairs and employer networking events.

Food and Beverage Ontario partnered with the City of Brampton to conduct a regional workforce pilot. Their findings highlight many of the challenges impacting the manufacturing workforce in Brampton and the surrounding area.

- **Transit and Transportation:** Existing transit options do not adequately serve the locations and shift hours of manufacturers, making commuting challenging for employees who rely on public transportation.
- **Housing, Childcare, and Cost of Living:** Rising living costs in Ontario raise compensation demands for job seekers. Lack of affordable childcare and high housing costs further reduce the candidate pool.
- **Changing Labor Market:** Increased competition for talent has led to rapid job offers and higher compensation expectations among job seekers. Employers struggle to compete with other industries for skilled workers, while evolving preferences for part-time and flexible work arrangements add to retention challenges.

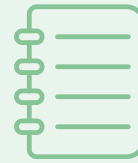
Dufferin-Wellington

In Dufferin-Wellington, several programs are available to support employment and workforce development initiatives. These programs aim to assist individuals in acquiring the skills, resources, and opportunities needed to secure and maintain employment.

Some examples of programs in the region include:

- **Wellington County Employment Services:** Wellington County offers employment services to residents, including career counseling, job search assistance, skills training programs, and workshops on topics such as networking and professional development.

- **Dufferin County Community Services - Employment Support Services:** Dufferin County Community Services offers employment support services aimed at helping individuals overcome barriers to employment. Services include job search assistance, resume writing workshops, interview preparation, and access to job postings.
- **Orangeville & Area Job Fair:** The Orangeville & Area Job Fair is an annual event that connects job seekers with local employers hiring in various industries. This event provides an opportunity for individuals to meet with potential employers, submit resumes, and learn about job opportunities in the area.
- **Youth Job Connection Program:** The Youth Job Connection program, funded by the Ontario government, helps youth aged 15 to 29 facing barriers to employment gain work experience, develop employability skills, and explore career options. Participants may receive job search support, paid pre-employment training, and job placements with local employers.
- **Entrepreneurial Support Services:** Organizations such as the Orangeville & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre provide entrepreneurial support services to individuals interested in starting or growing their own businesses. Services may include business planning assistance, mentoring, networking opportunities, and access to funding resources.



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Compared to Ontario, fewer households rent (25%) and more renter households are in core housing need (28%). Households with core housing need live in an unsuitable (overcrowded), inadequate (in need of major repair) or unaffordable dwelling and cannot afford alternative housing in their community.

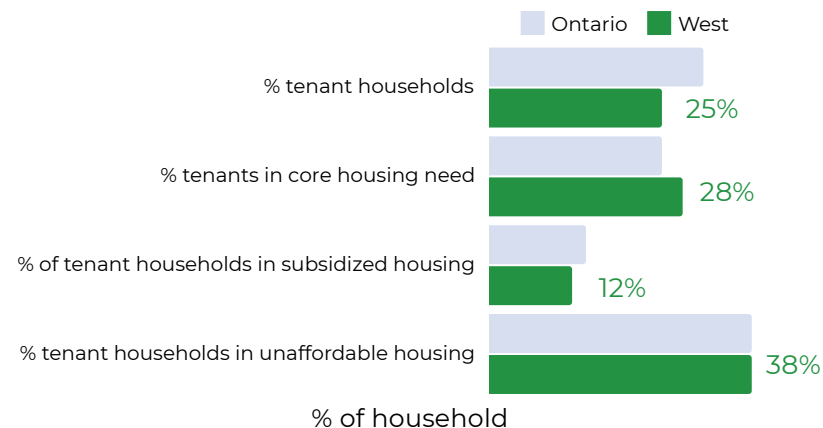
Within the West Region, there are differences:

- 5% of Mono households are tenants
- 36% of Orangeville tenant households in core housing need and 43% were in unaffordable housing.

In 2016, about 19% of bedrooms in the West Region were empty. This equals at least 272,300 bedrooms out of 1.4 million total bedrooms, excluding Mono.^[19]

Housing tenure and household mobility are two SDOH factors contributing to the Households and Dwellings dimension of marginalization. This dimension relates to family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness.

19. Census Mapper. Empty Bedrooms (Canada Census 2021)
20. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 14



Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

HOUSING



The price of typical units in Mississauga increase by 42% since 2018: To buy an average priced home, Mississauga households making an estimated median income of \$90,000 would have to spend 51% of their income on mortgage payments. ^[14]

46%

Only 46% of Mississauga households made more than \$90,000 a year in 2016. Buying a typical home in Mississauga has become unaffordable^[15]

Home prices in Dufferin-Wellington have outpaced local incomes and the rental vacancy rate is consistently below the target of a healthy rental market.[21]



In Peel the proportion of **households with 5 or more people** is equivalent to 18.9 which is the **highest in GTA**[22]

Peel has limited affordable housing options for low- and middle-income households [23] The average condominium rental is still unaffordable for **50%** of Mississaugans [24]

HOMELESSNESS

290%

**Peel shelters
occupancy rates**

Peel Region is experiencing a homelessness crisis, with shelters operating at 290% occupancy rates, highlighting the urgent need for additional support and resources.[25]

21. Bowley et al, Guelph & Wellington County's Vital Signs, 16

22. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 16

23. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 14

24. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 14

25. The Faces of Homelessness - region of Peel

26. McGregor, A. & County of Dufferin, "A long-term plan to address Housing", 2

27. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 16

28. Community Profiles. Dufferin. Homeless Hub

29. Region of Peel. 2021 Homelessness Point-In-Time Count Results. Report to Regional Council.



In 2021, Dufferin was recognized for reducing chronic homelessness by 50%[26]

There is insufficient emergency housing in Peel for victims of family violence, lack of transitional support for youth and victims of family violence[27]

17% of homeless in Dufferin County's 2021 Point in Time Survey were aged 16 to 24 [28]

866

INDIVIDUALS
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN PEEL

Peel Region's 2021 Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) count found 866 individuals to be experiencing homelessness (given the trend across the province, it is likely this number is much higher in 2024) [29]



HOUSING



Ontario Strategy

The United Way 2024 report, *Bringing Affordable Housing Home: An Action Plan* for housing stability in Ontario, makes the following recommendations for improving housing across Ontario:

1. **Land & Assets:** Federal, provincial, and municipal governments make surplus lands and assets available to non-profit and co-operative housing providers to grow deeply affordable and supportive housing options across Ontario.
2. **Investments:** Federal, provincial, and municipal governments increase investment in and improve greater access to financing for the development of affordable and deeply affordable homes across Ontario.
3. **Incentives:** The provincial government, in partnership with municipal governments, provides development incentives that prioritize non-profit housing organizations and establishes flexible programs that maximize the community housing sector's capacity to compete in the housing market effectively.
4. **Preservation:** The provincial government, in partnership with federal and municipal governments, provides consistent and predictable long-term funding to preserve existing deeply affordable housing and supportive housing options offered by the community housing sector.
5. **Supports & Protection:** All levels of government provide housing stabilization and eviction prevention supports and strengthen tenant protections to help renters access and maintain affordable and secure homes.
6. **Indigenous Housing:** The federal and provincial governments address and prioritize persistent housing and homelessness challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples through a dedicated strategy, programs and supports developed and implemented in partnership with Indigenous leaders, diverse Indigenous communities, housing providers, and all levels of government.
7. **Collaboration & Partnerships:** The federal and provincial governments coordinate housing strategies, plans and programs with municipal governments while promoting cross-sector collaboration and resource sharing.

Peel

Peel Region offers various housing programs and initiatives to address housing affordability and homelessness. Here are examples of housing programs in Peel:

- **Region of Peel Affordable Housing Program:** The Region of Peel provides financial assistance and support to individuals and families to access affordable housing options through the Region of Peel Affordable Housing Program. This program may include rental subsidies, down payment assistance, or forgivable loans to help low to moderate-income households afford housing in the region.
- **Peel Living:** Peel Living is the Region of Peel's social housing provider, offering subsidized rental units to individuals and families with low incomes. These housing units are managed by Peel Living and provide affordable rents based on household income levels.
- **Rent Supplement Program:** The Rent Supplement Program provides financial assistance to eligible individuals and families renting in the private market. Through this program, participants receive a rental subsidy to help offset the cost of rent, making housing more affordable and accessible.
- **Supportive Housing Programs:** Peel Region offers supportive housing programs for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. These programs provide permanent housing with wraparound support services, including case management, counseling, and life skills training, to help individuals maintain housing stability and improve their overall well-being.

These examples highlight the range of housing programs and initiatives available in Peel Region to address housing affordability and homelessness issues. Through collaboration between government agencies, community organizations, and housing providers, Peel works to ensure that all residents have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing options.

Dufferin Wellington

The Dufferin County Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report set goals for Housing and Homelessness. The goal is that all members of the community will have equitable access to safe and affordable housing (for 2022). Areas of Focus:

- Community awareness and understanding of homelessness
- Reduction of barriers

Housing stability supports and initiatives 2022 Update - Planned Outcomes:

- Increase community awareness and understanding of homelessness, the lack of safe and affordable housing in community, and the impact these issues have on community
- Increase access to safe and affordable housing
- Increase initiatives to help obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing^[30]



30. Dufferin County. "Community Safety and Well-Being Plan", 6

In Dufferin-Wellington, several housing programs and initiatives are in place to support individuals and families in accessing safe and affordable housing. Here are examples of housing programs in Dufferin-Wellington:

- **Dufferin County Affordable Housing Program:** Dufferin County offers an affordable housing program that provides financial assistance to eligible individuals and families to help them access rental units or homeownership opportunities. This program may include down payment assistance, rental subsidies, or forgivable loans to make housing more affordable for low to moderate-income households.
- **Wellington County Social Housing:** Wellington County operates social housing programs that provide subsidized rental units to individuals and families with low incomes. These housing units are managed by local housing providers and offer affordable rents based on household income levels.



- **Rental Assistance Programs:** Both Dufferin and Wellington counties offer rental assistance programs to help individuals and families afford rental housing in the private market. These programs may provide financial assistance for rent arrears, security deposits, or rental subsidies to eligible households.
- **Affordable Housing Initiatives:** The Dufferin County Housing Corporation manages affordable housing units and administers rent subsidies to assist low-income individuals and families in accessing safe and affordable housing options. Additionally, organizations like Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph build affordable homes in partnership with low-income families in the region.
- **Homeownership Assistance Programs:** Municipalities in Dufferin-Wellington offer programs to help low to moderate-income households purchase their first homes. These programs may include down payment assistance, forgivable loans, or financial counseling to support homeownership.

HOMELESSNESS

Peel

Peel Region has several programs and initiatives in place to address homelessness and provide support to individuals and families experiencing housing instability. Here are examples of homelessness programs in Peel:

- **Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan:** The region's Housing and Homelessness Plan is a comprehensive plan outlines specific actions and strategies to address homelessness and housing insecurity. This includes initiatives such as expanding affordable housing options, increasing access to support services, and enhancing coordination between agencies to better serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- **Peel Shelter and Support Services:** Peel Region operates emergency shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. For example, the Peel Family Shelter provides temporary housing, meals, and support services for homeless families with children, while the Peel Men's Shelter offers similar services for single men experiencing homelessness.
- **Housing First Peel:** Housing First Peel is a program that prioritizes providing stable housing to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Participants are rapidly rehoused in permanent housing with ongoing support services, including case management, mental health treatment, and addiction counseling, to help them maintain housing stability.
- **Homelessness Prevention Fund:** Peel Region offers a homelessness prevention fund to assist individuals and families at risk of homelessness. This fund provides financial assistance for rent arrears, utility payments, and other housing-related expenses to help prevent eviction and keep individuals housed.

These examples highlight the diverse range of programs and initiatives in Peel Region aimed at addressing homelessness and providing support to vulnerable populations. Through collaborative efforts and community partnerships, Peel continues to work towards ending homelessness and ensuring access to safe and stable housing for all residents.

Youth aged 16 to 24 represented 16% of people responding to Peel Region's 2021 Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) count and 26% of these youth identify as 2SLGBTQ+.[31] Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) notes that causes and consequences for youth homeless differ from adult homelessness and therefore need different approaches.[32] Chronic homelessness is one of the consequences of youth homelessness – 41% of people who were chronically homeless were first homeless as a youth and almost

one-third of PiT survey respondents reported their first homeless experience as a youth.

Programs that aim to address youth homelessness in Peel:

- **Peel Youth Village:** Peel Youth Village is a transitional housing program for youth aged 16 to 24 who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The program provides stable housing, life skills training, counseling, and educational support to help youth transition to independent living.
- **Our Place Peel:** Our Place Peel provides emergency shelter, basic needs, counseling, and life skills programming for youth at-risk or experiencing homelessness aged 16-24. Their programs also include the H.Y.P.E (Helping Youth Prepare Effectively) Outreach Program, which helps youth secure and maintain housing, and the Refresh Program, which offers mediation, counseling, and social-emotional learning skills development.

Despite these efforts, gaps remain in services, particularly in providing long-term, stable housing solutions and comprehensive support that addresses the broader determinants of health. More funding and collaborative efforts are needed to meet the growing demand and ensure that all youth experiencing homelessness in the region receive the care and support they need.

Dufferin Wellington

Homelessness in Dufferin Wellington is a complex issue that requires multifaceted approaches to address. While these counties may not face the same level of homelessness as urban areas, they still have individuals and families experiencing housing instability

31. Region of Peel. 2021 Homelessness Point-In-Time Count Results. Report to Regional Council.

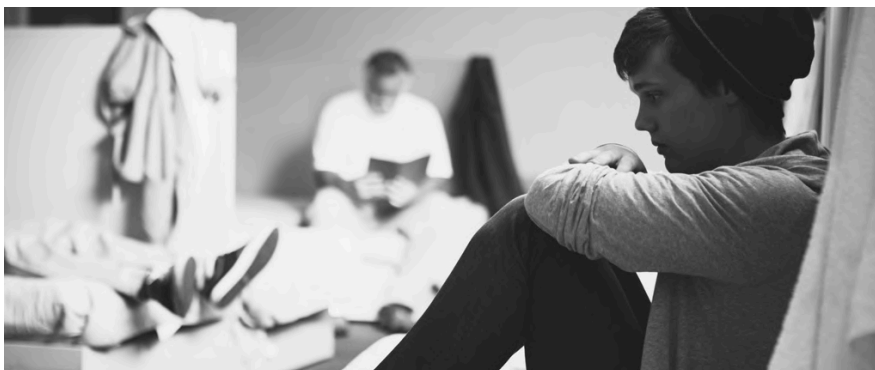
32. DiFalco, Amanada. Housing and Homelessness Priorities. Peel Alliance to End Homelessness.

and homelessness. Factors contributing to homelessness in these regions include limited affordable housing options, economic challenges, mental health issues, substance misuse, and family breakdowns.

Local governments, social service agencies, and community organizations in Dufferin Wellington collaborate to provide support and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. These initiatives may include emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, outreach services, and supports for mental health and addiction issues.

Efforts to address homelessness in these counties also involve prevention strategies, such as eviction prevention programs, housing subsidies, and employment support services. Additionally, advocacy for affordable housing development and supportive housing options is crucial to addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing long-term solutions.

Community engagement and awareness-raising activities play a vital role in mobilizing resources and support for individuals experiencing homelessness in Dufferin Wellington. By working together and implementing comprehensive strategies, interest-holders aim to reduce homelessness, improve access to affordable housing, and enhance the well-being of all residents in the region.



Example programs and initiatives that demonstrate the collaborative efforts of local governments, social service agencies, and community organizations to address homelessness and provide support to vulnerable populations in Dufferin Wellington:

- **Dufferin County Community Support Services - Emergency Shelter Program:** [DCCSS Emergency Shelter Program](#) provides emergency shelter and support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Dufferin County. The shelter offers temporary accommodation, meals, hygiene facilities, and access to case management services to help clients stabilize their housing situations.
- **Wellington County Housing Services - Housing First Initiative:** [Wellington County's Housing First Initiative](#) prioritizes providing stable housing to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Through this program, individuals are rapidly rehoused in permanent housing with ongoing support services, including mental health and addiction treatment, to help them maintain their housing stability.
- **Outreach Wellington Program:** [Outreach Wellington](#) is a mobile outreach program that connects individuals experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing situations in Wellington County with essential services and supports. Outreach workers provide assistance with accessing shelter, healthcare, income support, and housing resources, as well as offering crisis intervention and emotional support.
- **Dufferin County Community Support Services - Transitional Housing Program:** [Dufferin County's Transitional Housing Program](#) offers temporary housing and support services to individuals and families as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Participants receive case management support, life skills training, and assistance with securing stable housing and employment.

According to the [Homeless Hub](#) 17% of people experiencing homelessness in Dufferin Wellington in 2021 identified as youth (16-24). Key contributing factors to youth homelessness include a lack of affordable housing, mental health issues, family conflict, and substance abuse. Local organizations, such as the [Canadian Mental Health Association \(CMHA\) Peel Dufferin](#), are actively addressing these issues through various initiatives and support programs. However, there are notable gaps in services, particularly in areas such as mental health support, educational assistance, and long-term housing solutions.^[33]

The [Homeless Hub](#) reports that rural populations, including those in Dufferin Wellington, face unique challenges in accessing homelessness services due to geographic isolation and limited resources. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these issues were exacerbated, further highlighting the need for targeted interventions and more robust support systems.

Programs that aim to address youth homelessness in Dufferin Wellington:

- **Wyndham House:** [Wyndham House](#) provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for youth aged 16-24. They offer a safe place to stay and support services such as counseling, life skills training, and educational assistance.
- **Youth Haven:** [Youth Haven](#) operates emergency shelters and transitional housing programs that provide a safe environment for homeless and at-risk youth. They also offer essential services like case management, health services, and educational support.
- **Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County:** [Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County](#) provides programs and services aimed at preventing youth homelessness through family support, crisis intervention, and housing assistance.

33. Community Profiles. Dufferin. Homeless Hub



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

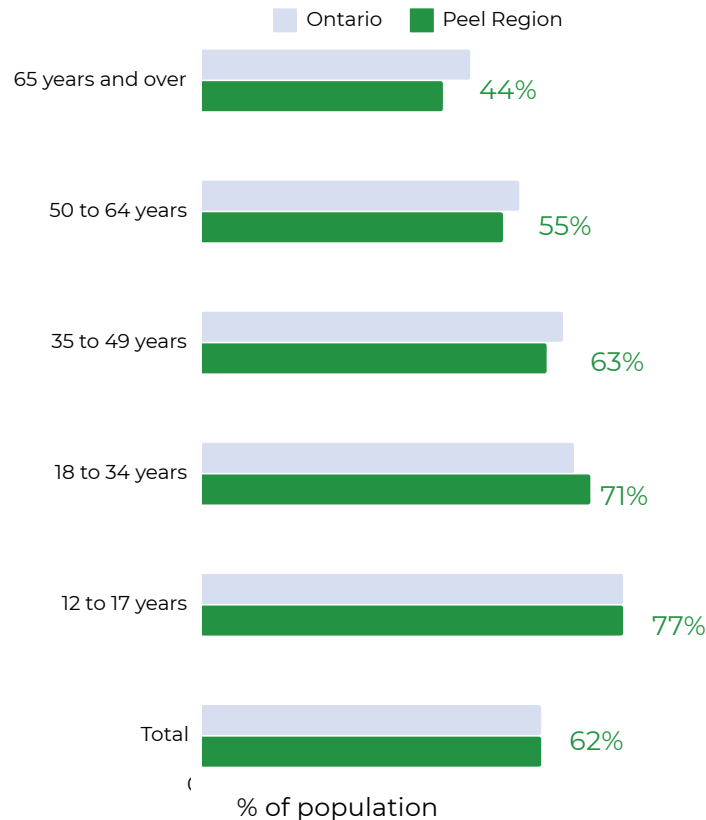
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What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

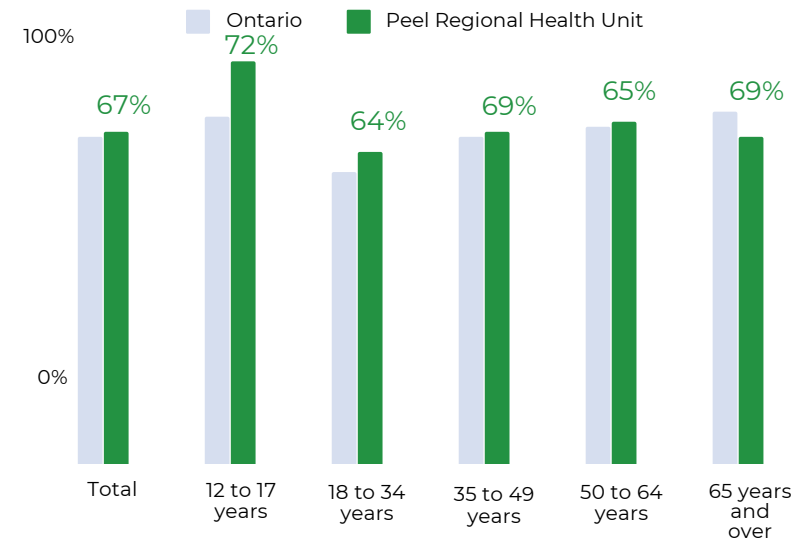
HEALTH

Overall, 62% of Peel Region residents age 12 and older report having very good or excellent general health. This is similar to Ontario. Overall feeling of physical health declines with age.



MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

Overall, 66% of Peel Region residents age 12 and older report their mental health to be very good or excellent, similar to Ontario. More residents age 12 to 17 report having very good or excellent mental health compared to Ontario.



Peel Region residents are less likely than Ontario overall to report heavy drinking.

16% REPORT HEAVY DRINKING IN ONTARIO

9% REPORT HEAVY DRINKING IN PEEL

of Ontario residents age 12 and older report heavy drinking compared to 9% of Peel residents.

Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

HEALTH



2017 saw a 5.6-fold increase in cost savings to the health system and the wider economy when investments were made in social development and prevention initiatives^[34]

Canadians living in rural areas were more likely to report heavy drinking^[35]



Peel's population is aging. Implications of this include higher proportions of seniors with activity limitations, chronic diseases, and increased housing needs; and increased dependency on families for support ^[36]

34. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024"

35. Home - United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin

36. Region of Peel, "The Changing Landscape of Health in Peel...", 19

37. Public Health Ontario, "Peel"

38. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 18

40. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 31

41. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 34

Physical activity levels among Peel residents are lower than the provincial average

ONLY 50% MEET RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY GUIDELINES IN PEEL

only about 50% of adults meeting recommended physical activity guidelines ^[37]

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

From 2015-2019 - 19.3% increase in the rate of Mental Health related requests for assistance to Police^[38]



1 in 3

PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE TREATMENT THEY NEED

Estimated that only 1 in 3 people will receive treatment they need (MH and A services) in Peel - long wait for services and increase in ER visits ^[40]

Funding issues have been exacerbated over time with the explosive growth in population and changing demographics - impacting accessibility and availability to MH and Addictions services (including culturally appropriate services)^[41]

HEALTH

Peel

Peel Region faces a range of health challenges and strengths. Below are key health facts from the Peel Public Health Unit that highlight the current state of health in Peel Region, covering aspects from chronic diseases to access to healthcare:

- **Population Health:** Peel Region has a diverse population of over 1.5 million residents, with a significant portion being immigrants and visible minorities. Life expectancy in Peel Region is approximately 84 years for women and 80 years for men, which is slightly higher than the Ontario average.
- **Chronic Diseases:** The prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension is a significant concern. For example, the diabetes rate in Peel is about 10%, higher than the provincial average. Rates of obesity and overweight in Peel are similar to provincial averages, with around 50% of adults being overweight or obese.
- **Maternal and Child Health:** Peel Region has a relatively high birth rate, with a significant proportion of births to mothers from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Infant mortality rates and low birth weight rates are comparable to provincial averages, though certain subpopulations may experience disparities.
- **Infectious Diseases:** Peel has experienced higher rates of certain infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, partly due to its diverse and densely populated urban areas. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Peel Region, with higher case rates and mortality compared to some other regions in Ontario.
- **Health Behaviors:** Smoking rates in Peel have been declining but remain a public health concern, particularly among specific demographic groups. Physical activity levels among Peel residents are lower than the provincial average, with only about 50% of adults meeting recommended physical activity guidelines.

- **Access to Healthcare:** Access to primary care and specialist services can be challenging, with some residents experiencing longer wait times for certain medical services. The region has been working to improve healthcare accessibility through initiatives like the establishment of community health centers and the integration of health services.^[42]

Organizations like the [Brampton East Community Health Centre](#) and the [East Mississauga Community Health Centre](#) offer a range of health and social services, including counseling, healthcare, and community programs, to support individuals and families facing poverty-related challenges.

Dufferin-Wellington

Understanding the health status of residents in Dufferin and Wellington counties is crucial for effective public health planning and intervention. Here are some key health facts for these regions:

- **Population Health:** Dufferin and Wellington counties have a combined population of approximately 200,000 residents, with a mix of rural and urban communities. Life expectancy in Wellington County is around 82 years for men and 85 years for women, similar to the provincial averages.
- **Chronic Diseases:** The prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer is a significant concern. For instance, approximately 8% of residents in these counties have been diagnosed with diabetes, which is slightly lower than the provincial average. Obesity rates in Dufferin-Wellington are similar to provincial averages, with about 20% of adults classified as obese.
- **Infectious Diseases:** Rates of infectious diseases such as influenza and tuberculosis are generally low but can fluctuate seasonally and with public health outbreaks.

42. Public Health Ontario, "Peel"

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Birth rates in Dufferin Wellington are consistent with provincial averages, with a significant portion of births occurring in urban centers. Infant mortality rates and low birth weight rates are comparable to the provincial averages, though rural areas may face additional healthcare access challenges.
- **Health Behaviors:** Smoking rates in Dufferin Wellington are declining but remain a concern, with approximately 16% of adults reporting regular smoking. Physical activity levels are generally high, with about 60% of adults meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines, which is above the provincial average.
- **Access to Healthcare:** Access to primary care and specialist services varies, with rural areas facing greater challenges in healthcare accessibility and longer wait times. Both counties are working to improve healthcare access through initiatives such as the establishment of community health centers and mobile health clinics.

These facts reflect the ongoing public health efforts and challenges in Dufferin Wellington, highlighting areas for continued focus and improvement to enhance the health and well-being of their residents.^[43] Organizations like the Dufferin Area Family Health Team and the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit offer a range of health and social services to support residents in Dufferin-Wellington.



These services may include primary healthcare, mental health counseling, addiction treatment, and wellness programs aimed at addressing poverty-related health issues and promoting overall well-being.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

Peel

Mental health and addiction issues are prevalent in Peel, with approximately 20% of Peel residents reporting a diagnosed mood or anxiety disorder. Access to mental health services remains a challenge, particularly among youth and minority communities.^[44]

The Peel Opioid Strategy is a local response to the opioid crisis in Peel region. It outlines the following actions ^[45]:

- **Prevention:** priority risk and protective factors for substance use: housing, parenting, and MH (ongoing); identifying opportunities and gaps related to the risks and factors; addressing priority factors by developing an action plan
- **Treatment:** increased capacity of addiction services (ongoing); advocate for long-term funding for addiction services and improve coordination across sectors to address all issues regarding determinants of health as part of treatment plan
- **Harm Reduction:** distribution of naloxone, overdose prevention education and response training (ongoing); decreased stigma and consider other additional harm reduction supports
- **Enforcement and Justice:** investigate opioid-related incidences with a focus on those who produce, import, and traffic drugs (ongoing); strengthen relationships between law enforcement, the community and the health and social services sectors

43. [i] Welling Dufferin Guelph Public Health, "Health Info"

44. Public Health Ontario, "Peel"

45. Peel Region, "Peel Opioid Strategy: A Local Response", 4

Peel Regional Police, *2021 Mental Health and Addiction Strategy* was developed in collaboration with community partners to strengthen how individuals impacted by mental health (MH) and addictions are supported. The initial focus on 5 key strategic directions [46]:

- Building continuum of supports for MH and addictions through strategic enhancements to human and technological resource capacity
- Expanding knowledge base on MH and addiction through education, training and awareness opportunities
- Enhancing evidence base through academic research, data and ongoing evaluation
- Supporting those who serve through a focus on well-being
- Ongoing collaboration, planning, and action for the development of future initiatives

Dufferin Wellington

Mental health issues are a concern in Dufferin-Wellington, with about 18% of residents reporting a diagnosed mood or anxiety disorder.[47] Access to mental health services can be limited, particularly in rural areas, leading to longer wait times for counseling and psychiatric services.

The Dufferin Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report outlined a response to Mental health and wellbeing and substance use and addiction. The describe the following areas of focus:

MH and Well-Being - areas of focus:

- Support and belonging
- Holistic Health and well-being
- Crisis Prevention [48]

Planned Outcomes:

- Enhance overall MH and increase service provider resilience
- Increase sense of belonging
- Reduce emergency room visits [49]

Substance Use and Addictions 2022 areas of focus:

- Community awareness and understanding of addiction
- Reduction of Stigma
- Drug use safety

Planned outcomes:

- Increase awareness and knowledge of drug-use safety
- Reduce the stigma of addiction in the community[50]

A coalition of partner agencies and members of the lived experience community are working to implement a 4-Pillar drug strategy in the municipalities of Wellington County. The 4 pillars outlined in this plan include Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery, and Community Safety.

Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington regions offer various mental health and addiction programs to support residents facing these challenges. Here are some notable examples from all regions:

- **Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre (PAARC):** PAARC provides assessment, referral, and case management services for individuals with substance use and gambling issues. They offer counseling, education, and support to help individuals and their families manage addiction and its impacts.
- **EveryMind Mental Health Services:** EveryMind focuses on children, youth, and their families, offering mental health services such as counseling, crisis intervention, and specialized programs for different age groups.

46. Peel Regional Police, "Mental Health and Addiction Strategy"

47. Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health, "Mental Health"

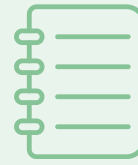
48. Dufferin, "Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report", 5

49. Dufferin, "Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report", 5

50. Dufferin, "Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report", 7

- **Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin and Waterloo Wellington:** CMHA Peel Dufferin and CMHA Waterloo Wellington offers a wide range of mental health services, including crisis intervention, counseling, and community support programs. The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) partners with local police to provide immediate crisis intervention.
- **Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP):** SHIP provides housing and support services for individuals with mental health and addiction issues. They focus on helping clients achieve stability and independence. The High Support Housing Program offers 24/7 supervised housing.
- **Peel Children's Centre:** The Peel Children's Centre offers mental health services for children and adolescents, including individual therapy, family counseling, and specialized programs for various mental health issues. The Day Treatment Program combines education and therapeutic services for children with severe emotional and behavioral challenges.
- **Trillium Health Partners – Mental Health Services:** Trillium Health Partners offers comprehensive mental health and addiction services, including inpatient and outpatient care, emergency services, and specialized programs. The Mental Health Inpatient Unit provides intensive care for individuals with severe mental health issues, offering medical treatment.
- **Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services:** CDVS provides immediate support and intervention for victims of crime and tragic circumstances, including those dealing with mental health and addiction issues.
- **Compass Community Services:** Compass Community Services offers a variety of counseling services, including support for individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges.

These programs demonstrate the comprehensive support available in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington regions, addressing the diverse needs of the community and providing critical services to individuals and families affected by mental health and addiction issues.



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

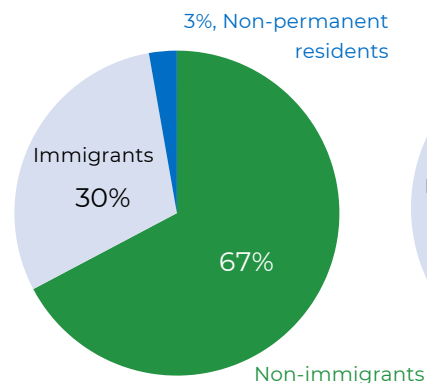
Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

56%
OF THE WEST
REGIONS
POPULATION IS AN
IMMIGRANT OR
NON-PERMANENT
RESIDENT

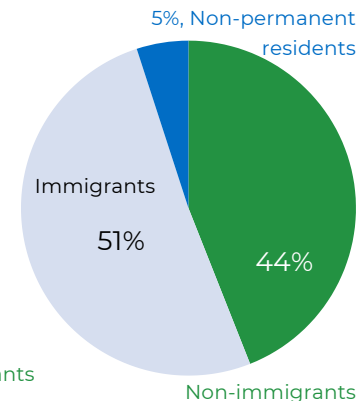
The West Region has more immigrants and non-permanent residents compared to Ontario. Just over half (56%) of West Region's population is an immigrant or non-permanent resident. This compares to 33% of Ontario's population.



Ontario



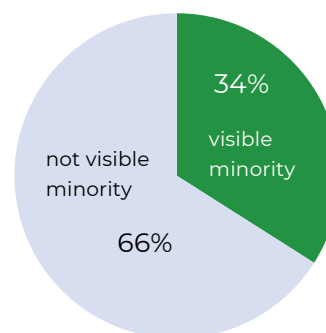
West Region



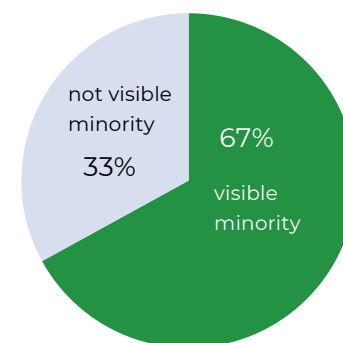
Within the West Region, immigrants and non-permanent residents make up 17% of Orangeville and Mono's population compared to 57% in Peel Region.

67% of the population living in the West Region self-identifies as a visible minority, more than across Ontario.

Ontario



West Region



Within the West Region, between 14% and 18% identify as a visible minority in Orangeville and Mono's population compared to 69% in Peel Region.

Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

Over one in five newcomers in Halton are less than 15 years of age.^[51]



- **104,125** people in Peel are recent immigrants, making up 14% of Peel's total immigrant population.

Recent Immigrants

48% of recent immigrants live in Brampton

2% of recent immigrants live in Caledon

50% of recent immigrants live in Mississauga

Peel

Peel Region is a significant hub for immigrants in Ontario, with approximately 18% of the province's immigrant population residing there.^[52] The region's large immigrant population has influenced its social, cultural, and economic landscapes.

Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon, and Halton the primary cities within Peel, each contribute to this diversity with vibrant cultural communities, international businesses, and numerous cultural festivals and events. 81% of Peel's recent immigrants were born in Asia, with India being the top country of birth across all three municipalities.^[53]

For the first time, Syria is one of the top 5 countries of birth for recent immigrants in Peel. This is likely due to the high number of Syrians that immigrated to Peel during the conflict in their home country.^[54]

The largest Local Immigration Partnership in Peel is The Peel Newcomers Strategy Group (PNSG). is a community collaborative that engages service providers and stakeholders to coordinate services that facilitate newcomer settlement and integration. As a local immigration partnership, PNSG conducts community-level strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, communications, research, policy formulation and project management – to improve social and economic outcomes for Peel newcomers, immigrants, and refugees. PNSG is a project of United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) and is funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Region of Peel and UWGT.^[55]

In 2022-23, Peel Newcomer Strategy Group worked with members of its Service Delivery Network table and other stakeholders to develop a report on the role of the settlement sector in supporting mental health for newcomers — a strategic priority. The goals of PNSG's mental health work are to actualize report recommendations in Peel including:

- Improving staff mental health by providing staff with adequate supports for their own self-care needs to prevent and mitigate burnout, compassion fatigue and stress.

51. Halton newcomer strategy, 28
52. Demographics, "Peel data portal"

53. Immigration, citizenship and mobility 2021
54. Immigration, citizenship and mobility 2021
55. Nadkarni. "2023 Guelph-Wellington Immigrant Survey"

- Building bridges between settlement agencies and mainstream mental health providers
- Considering how a family-centred approach can be better integrated by service providers (children & youth, adults, seniors)[56]

In addition to PNSG, the city of Halton has the Halton Newcomer Strategy (HNS), launched in 2010 to act as the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) and like other LIPs is dedicated to meeting the changing needs and improving lives of newcomers, improving access to settlement services, improving job outcomes for newcomers, strengthening region awareness and capacity to integrate newcomers. HNS tries to enhance and coordinate local services based on community need. It comprised of 65 committee members - spanning more than 40 member agencies and a cross section of sectors, such as: settlement, education, health employment, business, police, government.[57]

Peel Region offers a range of programs to support immigrants and newcomers, helping them integrate and thrive in their new community. Here are some notable examples:

- **Newcomer Centre of Peel (NCP):** NCP is a non-profit organization that provides various services such as English language training, settlement and orientation assistance, youth and seniors integration programs, women-focused courses, business start-up guidance, and employment search assistance. These services aim to help newcomers achieve their short and long-term goals while promoting diversity and inclusivity in Peel.



- **Indus Community Services:** Indus provides a wide array of settlement services, including language training, employment services, health and wellness programs, and family services. Their programs are designed to address the unique needs of immigrants and help them transition smoothly into their new environment.
- **Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS):** CCS offers settlement programs for immigrants and refugees, including help with housing, legal services, employment, and access to healthcare. They also provide language training and community connections to support the integration process.

These programs collectively contribute to the effective integration of immigrants and newcomers into the Peel Region, addressing various aspects of settlement and ensuring that they receive the support needed to build a successful life in Canada. However, there are areas where additional support could be beneficial. Here are some potential enhancements and additional needs:

- **Expanded Mental Health Services:** Immigrants often face unique mental health challenges due to the stress of adapting to a new environment. Expanding culturally sensitive mental health services and providing support groups could help address these issues more effectively.
- **Enhanced Language Training Programs:** While there are existing language training programs, increasing the availability of advanced and specialized language courses could help newcomers improve their proficiency more rapidly, aiding in employment and integration.
- **Improved Access to Affordable Housing:** Access to affordable housing remains a significant challenge. Expanding programs that assist newcomers in finding and securing affordable housing would alleviate one of the major barriers they face.
- **Targeted Employment Services:** Providing more targeted employment services that match newcomers' skills with local job opportunities could enhance their employment outcomes.

56. Peelnewcomer.org, "2021-2022 collective impact report"

57. Newcomers to Halton, "Halton Region".

Dufferin Wellington

The immigrant population in Dufferin County has been steadily growing, contributing to its overall population increase. In 2016, 15.1% of Dufferin's population were immigrants, with the most common countries of origin being the United Kingdom, the United States, and India.

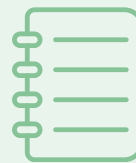
The Dufferin-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is a collaborative community initiative aimed at supporting the successful integration of immigrants and newcomers into the local community. The DWLIP focuses on improving access to services, fostering community engagement, and enhancing the economic, social, and cultural inclusion of immigrants. Key initiatives and programs include:

- **Settlement Services:** These services, such as Settlement Services Wellington and Settlement Services North Peel Dufferin provide newcomers with essential information and support, including language training, employment assistance, and access to housing. The goal is to help newcomers adjust to their new environment and become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.
- **Community Connections:** The Community Connections program connects newcomers with local residents and organizations to build social networks and community ties. Activities may include cultural events, mentorship programs, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Employment Support:** DWLIP collaborates with local employers and employment agencies to create job opportunities for newcomers. This includes job fairs, resume workshops, and skills training programs tailored to the needs of immigrants.
- **Cultural Competency Training:** DWLIP offers training for local service providers and businesses to enhance their understanding of cultural diversity and improve their ability to serve a diverse population effectively.



Examples of Specific Programs:

- **Dufferin County's Employment Resource Centres:** Dufferin County's Employment Resource Centres Offer job search assistance, resume building workshops, and career counseling specifically geared towards immigrants and newcomers.
- **Orangeville Library's Newcomer Programs:** The Library hosts various events and activities designed to help newcomers integrate into the community, such as language learning sessions and cultural exchange events.
- **Lutherwood Employment Services:** Lutherwood provides a variety of employment services, including job search assistance, resume building, and skills development workshops. These services aim to help newcomers integrate into the workforce and find meaningful employment.
- **Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS):** SWIS offers support to newcomer families in schools, helping them integrate through one-on-one and group sessions.



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

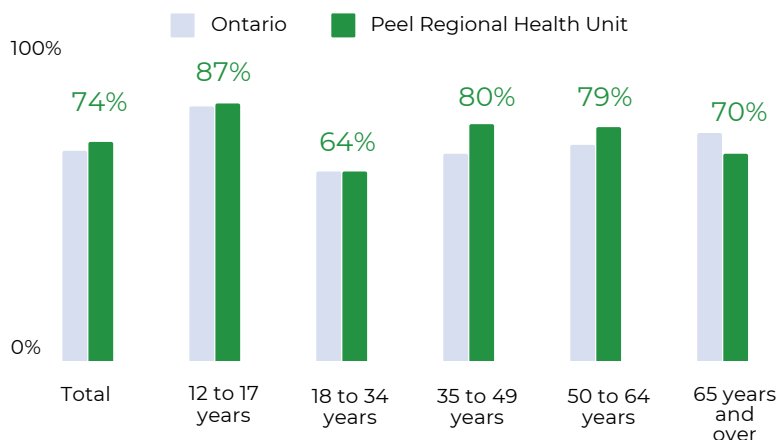
What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

SENSE OF BELONGING, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, RECREATION, AND SAFETY

Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

74% of Peel Region's population age 12 and over have a strong or very strong sense of belonging to their local community, similar to Ontario. Comparing sense of belonging by age group – more 35 to 49-year-olds and fewer adults age 65 and older have a strong sense of belonging compared to Ontario.



Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Data collected by [Well Living House](#), a Toronto action research centre for Indigenous infants, children, and their families' health and well-being, demonstrates that Indigenous Peoples continue to face challenges in Toronto.

0.7%

OF PEEL'S POPULATION IS ABORIGINAL, THE SECOND LOWEST IN THE GTA [58]

48%

OF PEEL'S ABORIGINAL POPULATION LIVE IN BRAMPTON [59]



43%

of Peel's Aboriginal population are **aged 0 to 24 years** [60]

Peel's Aboriginal population increased 29% since 2011, from 7,085 to 9,120 people [61]

58. Aboriginal peoples, "census region of peel hub"

59. Aboriginal peoples, "census region of peel hub"

60. Aboriginal peoples, "census region of peel hub"

61. Aboriginal peoples, "census region of peel hub"

injustices faced by Indigenous peoples in the region. These initiatives aim to foster understanding, healing, and meaningful change. Here are some key aspects and examples of Truth and Reconciliation efforts in the Peel region:

Educational Initiatives:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporating Indigenous history, culture, and perspectives into school curricula to educate students about the true history and ongoing realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada. For example, [Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board \(DPCDSB\)](#) and the [Wellington Catholic District School Board \(WCDSB\)](#) include Indigenous education as a part of their curriculum, offering professional development for teachers to effectively teach these subjects.
- **Workshops and Training:** Providing workshops and training sessions for educators and the broader community to build awareness and understanding of Indigenous issues and reconciliation. For example, the [DPCDSB](#) and local organizations offer workshops and webinars on Indigenous history and cultural sensitivity.

Community Engagement and Events:

- **Cultural Events:** Hosting events that celebrate Indigenous culture, promote awareness, and create spaces for dialogue and learning. For example, events like [National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations](#), featuring traditional music, dance, art, and storytelling, help foster cultural appreciation and understanding.
- **Public Discussions and Panels:** Facilitating discussions on reconciliation and Indigenous issues to engage the community in meaningful conversations. Community forums and panels, such as those organized by the [Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives \(PAMA\)](#), provide platforms for Indigenous voices and community dialogue.

Support Services and Programs:

- **Health and Wellness Programs:** Addressing the physical, mental, and emotional health needs of Indigenous peoples through culturally appropriate services. For example, [Indigenous health centers](#) and programs in Peel offer services like traditional healing practices, counseling, and support groups.
- **Employment and Economic Development:** Creating opportunities for economic empowerment and self-sufficiency among Indigenous communities. Partnerships between local businesses and Indigenous organizations to support entrepreneurship and job training programs. For example, [Brampton Arts and Culture](#) promotion of Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs.

Commemorative Actions:

- **Memorials and Monuments:** Recognizing and honoring the history and contributions of Indigenous peoples through physical memorials and monuments. For example, creating spaces such as the [Indigenous Healing and Wellness Park](#) to honor Indigenous heritage and provide a place for reflection and community gatherings.
- **Naming and Renaming Initiatives:** Renaming public spaces, streets, and buildings to reflect Indigenous heritage and acknowledge historical figures and events. For example, renaming initiatives in Peel that aim to replace colonial names with Indigenous names, in consultation with local Indigenous communities.

Partnerships and Collaboration:

- **Collaborative Projects:** Working together with Indigenous communities to co-create projects and initiatives that support reconciliation. For example, joint projects between municipal governments, Indigenous organizations, and community groups to develop reconciliation action plans and initiatives.

- **Advisory Councils:** Establishing advisory councils to guide reconciliation efforts and ensure Indigenous perspectives are central to decision-making processes. For example, creating Indigenous advisory councils within local governments and institutions to provide guidance on policies and programs.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

- **Educational Campaigns:** Raising public awareness about the history and ongoing impacts of colonialism, and the importance of reconciliation. For example, campaigns like "Every Child Matters" during Orange Shirt Day, which educate the public about residential schools and the need for reconciliation.
- **Media and Publications:** Producing and promoting media content that highlights Indigenous stories, issues, and achievements. For example, local media outlets featuring stories on Indigenous history and contemporary issues, as well as publishing works by Indigenous authors.

Efforts in the Peel region reflect a commitment to truth and reconciliation, seeking to create a more inclusive and just community through education, engagement, support, and collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

On September 29th to October 2nd 2023 the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board flew all flags at half-staff to commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. These days recognizes the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. They state that "Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process." [62]

The Wellington Catholic District School Board is committed to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit student success.

62. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education, WCDSB.ca

They state on their website that: "It is our goal to educate all students and educators on the rich cultures culturally relevant programming in our schools that reflect the importance of Indigenous voices.

The Wellington Catholic District School Board has a First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council. The purpose of this committee is to assist in identifying community needs and to provide advice and guidance on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education initiatives. New First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education initiatives and projects will be shared with this group for consultation and feedback." [63]

WCDSB has a [First Nation, Métis, and Inuit curriculum](#) as well as a [parents' guide](#).

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Peel Region offers various programs and initiatives aimed at fostering civic engagement and community involvement. These efforts are designed to address systemic issues and enhance community safety and well-being through collaborative approaches:

- **Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy (CSWB):** Peel Regional Police have integrated the [CSWB strategy](#) within their operations to address the root causes of specific calls and ensure that individuals in need receive appropriate services. This strategy includes specialized units and teams, such as the Community Crisis Rapid Response Team and the Safe Centre Response Team, to support vulnerable populations. [64]

63. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education, WCDSB.ca

64. Peel Regional Police. 2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan

- **Anti-Racism Initiatives:** The Peel Police Services Board, in collaboration with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, has been actively working on addressing systemic racism within the police force. This includes the development of recommendations to improve training, expand civilian-led mental health crisis responses, and enhance race-based data collection.[65]
- **Community Consultations and Advisory Committees:** Engaging residents in the decision-making process is crucial. Advisory committees comprising Peel residents from diverse backgrounds are established to review and provide feedback on initiatives like the CSWB plan. Public consultations are conducted to gather input from the community to ensure that the services and programs are effectively addressing their needs.[66]

These programs and initiatives illustrate Peel Region's commitment to fostering civic engagement and addressing community issues through collaborative and inclusive approaches.

Dufferin County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan emphasizes community collaboration, aiming to foster a thriving, equitable, and resilient community. The plan highlights the importance of community engagement and has established a Community Engagement Framework to develop and nurture relationships within the county. This framework is designed to ensure that community members have a voice in decision-making processes and that their needs are addressed effectively.[67]

These efforts collectively aim to enhance civic engagement by providing platforms for community input, facilitating collaboration among stakeholders, and promoting active participation in local governance and social initiatives.

65. [i]The Canadian Press, "Community engagement"
66. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024"
67. Strategic Plan - Dufferin

RECREATION

Culture and recreation touches everyone's lives. But the sector is small and relies on significant contribution from volunteers, community organizations and financial supports.

Peel Region offers a wide array of recreational programs and facilities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for its residents. These include community centers, sports leagues, fitness classes, and cultural events, providing diverse opportunities for physical activity and social engagement. Notable facilities such as the Mississauga Valley Community Centre and the Brampton Soccer Centre are popular hubs for recreation and community activities.

In 2021, only 2% of people in Wellington worked in jobs related to culture and recreation.[68] However, Dufferin Wellington offers an array of recreational programs and facilities aimed at promoting physical activity and community engagement. The county boasts a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking trails in the Elora Gorge Conservation Area and community programs through the Wellington County Library system. These amenities cater to all ages and interests, fostering a vibrant and active community.

Gaps in Recreational Services in Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington:

- While there are numerous recreational facilities, some residents, particularly those with disabilities or from low-income backgrounds, may face challenges accessing these services due to physical barriers or cost.
- There is a need for better communication and outreach to ensure all community members are aware of available recreational programs. This includes improving online resources and community engagement efforts.

68. Bowley et al, Guelph & Wellington County's Vital Signs, 13

- While there are many recreational options, there is a gap in program availability and diversity, particularly for teenagers and seniors. More tailored programs are needed to cater to these age groups and their specific interests.

Addressing these gaps requires concerted efforts to enhance accessibility, improve communication, and diversify program offerings to ensure all residents can benefit from recreational opportunities.

SAFETY

Discrimination

Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024 applies a collective impact approach, a social determinants of health lens, and equity lens. The plan states that 62% of residents identify as racialized (visible minorities)[69] To improve safety and well-being in community requires a comprehensive approach that includes improving social determinants of health and working towards systems change such as inequities in access to the supports, opportunities and resources needed to thrive continues to harm marginalized communities in Peel. [70]

The City of Brampton Community Safety and Well-being, 2024 outlines a framework with four areas of focus to help ensure that local plans are able to make communities safer. The report provides details about the Community Safety Action Plan developed - identified as an Intergovernmental priority and supports the Strategic Direction that Brampton is a healthy and safe city.

69. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 7

70. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 7

71. City of Brampton, "Community Safety and Well-being".

72. City of Brampton, "Community Safety and Well-being".

73. GWLIP projects and reports, "Guelph"

Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024 states that **62%** of residents identify as racialized (visible minorities)

Three areas of focus in the Action Plan:

- 1.Safety: help residents become aware of and address safety concerns using tactics implemented
- 2.Awareness: work to create awareness of community information and resources; goal: residents are more connected
- 3.Empowerment: residents have interest in learning how to take action within the community; work to empower residents and build capacity to take action towards enhancing safety and well-being in their neighbourhoods; goal: increased sense of belonging amongst residents[71]

Additionally, there the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program engages Brampton and encourages civic community building opportunities to play an active role in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods.[72]

The results of the 2023 Guelph-Wellington Immigrant Survey Report show that approximately 9 out of 10 Indigenous Peoples and about 7 out of 10 Immigrants & Visible Minorities reported experiencing discrimination in Wellington County in the last three years compared to about 5 out of 10 respondents in the comparison White Non-immigrants group.[73] In particular, among the top five most frequently mentioned contexts in which Immigrants & Visible Minorities and Indigenous Peoples had experienced discrimination were when using public transit, when applying for a job or promotion, and while using public areas such as parks and sidewalks.

There were also a few contexts that were unique to the top five contexts for each group. In the case of Immigrants & Visible Minorities, this was when at their job (from supervisors, co-workers, or clients), and in a store, bank or restaurant. For Indigenous Peoples, top contexts for discrimination included while attending social gatherings, and while using libraries, community/ recreational centres and arenas.[74] The report Makes the following recommendations:

- **The Promote Reporting of Discrimination:** Foster an environment that encourages victims of discrimination to report their experiences. This involves building trust in the system, educating on human rights, and addressing negative stereotypes about marginalized groups. Clear reporting mechanisms should be established, as many victims may not know where to report discrimination, especially if it doesn't qualify as a criminal offence. Acknowledging incidents is the first step toward addressing them.

Rate of police-reported incidents of violent crime in Peel increased by 22% from 2014 to 2018[75]

97

HATE-MOTIVATED
CRIMES IN PEEL IN
2020

97 hate-motivated crimes were reported to police
53.6% targeted race/ national origin
26.8% targeted religion
6.2% targeted sexual orientation or sex
13.4% due to other factors)[76]

74. GWLIP projects and reports, "Guelph"

Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 17

76. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 18

- **Support Effective Coping Strategies:** Assist victims of discrimination in developing effective coping strategies to avoid internalizing the discrimination they face. Support should be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the victims, helping them to cope in the most beneficial ways.
- **Prevent and Reduce Discrimination:** Implement initiatives to prevent and reduce discrimination, informed by the current research on the context and nature of discrimination.[77]

Crime & Violence

In recent years the rate of violent crime in Peel has been steadily increasing at a faster rate than ON[78]



In 2019, 1,388 crisis calls from women experiencing abuse to Interim Place[79]

Crime and violence in the Peel region reflect a range of issues typical of a densely populated and diverse urban area. The Peel Regional Police and various community organizations are actively working to address these concerns. Here is a summary of the key aspects of crime and violence in Peel:

- **Overall Crime Rate:** Peel region has experienced fluctuations in crime rates, with some categories of crime showing increases and others decreases. Violent crimes, such as assault and robbery, tend to be more prominent in urban areas like Brampton and Mississauga.

77. Nadkarni, "2023 Guelph-Wellington Immigrant Survey Report"

78. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 30

79. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 30

Crime and violence in the Peel region reflect a range of issues typical of a densely populated and diverse urban area. The Peel Regional Police and various community organizations are actively working to address these concerns. Here is a summary of the key aspects of crime and violence in Peel:

- **Overall Crime Rate:** Peel region has experienced fluctuations in crime rates, with some categories of crime showing increases and others decreases. Violent crimes, such as assault and robbery, tend to be more prominent in urban areas like Brampton and Mississauga.
- **Gun Violence:** Gun violence has been a significant concern, with incidents of shootings and firearm-related offenses being reported. For instance, between 2020 and 2021, the number of firearms seized decreased by 23.7%, reflecting the challenges in combating gun violence despite ongoing efforts. The police have noted a rise in gun-related violence over the past few years, prompting enhanced enforcement and community safety initiatives. [79]
- **Youth Crime:** There is a notable involvement of youth in crime, including gang-related activities and violent offenses. Programs aimed at youth engagement and prevention are crucial to addressing these issues.[80] Programs like Peel Youth Village and other community centers offer recreational, educational, and support services to engage young people and steer them away from criminal activities.
- **Domestic Violence:** Cases of domestic violence are prevalent and have seen increases, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.[81] Organizations like Interim Place provide shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence, while police have specialized units to handle these cases sensitively and effectively.

Challenges and Future Directions:

- **Resource Allocation:** Ensuring adequate resources and funding for police and community programs is an ongoing challenge.
- **Community Trust:** Building and maintaining trust between law enforcement and diverse community groups is crucial for effective policing and crime prevention.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Leveraging technology, such as surveillance systems and data analytics, to enhance crime detection and prevention efforts.
- **Collaboration:** Strengthening collaboration between police, community organizations, schools, and residents to create a holistic approach to crime reduction and community safety.

While Peel region faces various challenges related to crime and violence, ongoing efforts by police, community organizations, and residents aim to create a safer and more inclusive environment. Addressing the root causes of crime, engaging youth, and building strong community relationships are key components of these efforts.

Dufferin County, comprising towns such as Orangeville and Shelburne, has seen incidents of gun violence and other crimes. The local police services have reported periodic spikes in firearm-related offenses, leading to heightened community safety measures. For instance, in 2023, a notable incident involved a shooting in Orangeville that prompted local law enforcement to increase their patrols and community outreach efforts to address safety concerns. Additionally, community organizations have been working to improve youth engagement and provide alternatives to criminal activities.[82]

The *Dufferin Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report* outlines the Community Safety and Violence Prevention 2022 as of focus: building resiliency and support and survivor voices.

79. Peel Regional Police. By the numbers

80. Peel Regional Police. By the numbers

81. Peel Regional Police. By the numbers

82. Wikipedia contributors. Dufferin County.

The planned outcomes include facilitate supports between survivors and clients and provide additional tools and resiliency to clients.[83]

Example initiatives in Dufferin Wellington:

- The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in Dufferin County have implemented several programs aimed at reducing gun violence and enhancing community safety. These include educational campaigns on firearm safety, stricter enforcement of gun-related offenses, and community outreach programs to foster better police-community relations[84]
- To address potential violence among youth, Dufferin County has introduced programs that engage young people in positive activities. These include after-school programs, sports leagues, and mentorship initiatives designed to keep youth away from criminal activities and provide them with supportive role models.
- Wellington County has adopted strategies such as the Violence Interrupter Programs, which involve community members trained to mediate conflicts and connect individuals at risk with social services. This approach aims to prevent retaliatory violence and provide support to those impacted by gun violence.[85]
- Public health initiatives in Wellington focus on the broader aspects of community safety, including addressing environmental factors that contribute to violence. This includes improving street lighting, rehabilitating vacant properties, and reducing the density of alcohol outlets, which are known to correlate with higher rates of violence.[86]

Both counties are actively working on multifaceted approaches to tackle gun violence, combining law enforcement efforts with community engagement and support programs. These initiatives aim to create safer environments and reduce the incidence of firearm-related offenses through prevention, education, and community involvement.



Human trafficking is a significant issue in many regions, including Peel, Dufferin, and Wellington counties in Ontario, Canada. These areas, like many others, face challenges related to the exploitation of individuals for labor and sexual purposes. Here are some key points about human trafficking in these regions:

- Peel Region, particularly around major highways and the Toronto Pearson International Airport, is a known hotspot for human trafficking due to its accessibility and high population density. The Peel Regional Police have specialized units focusing on human trafficking. They collaborate with community organizations to provide support and resources for victims.

83. Dufferin County, "Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: 2022 Annual Report", 9

84. Angeles, C. O. L. Public Health launches Gun Violence Prevention Platform

85. JHU public health, "Community Violence Intervention | Center for Gun Violence Solutions"

86. JHU public health, "Community Violence Intervention | Center for Gun Violence Solutions"



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

- In Dufferin Wellington the rural nature can make it harder to detect trafficking activities, as they may be more hidden compared to urban areas. Local law enforcement agencies work with provincial and national organizations to combat trafficking. Community awareness programs are crucial in these areas.
- To take bold action against the threat of sex trafficking of school-aged children, the Ministry of Education has developed Policy and Program Memorandum 166: Keeping Students Safe – Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols, in partnership with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This plan provides direction to Ontario school boards as they develop, coordinate and implement their anti-sex trafficking protocols to protect young people from sex trafficking. It was developed in consultation with stakeholders using a collaborative, culturally responsive approach and takes the experience of survivors into account. [87]

Despite non-profits and community groups provide critical support services, including shelters, hotlines, and advocacy for victims, and the work of police and task forces. There are numerous challenges to combatting human trafficking in Peel, Dufferin, and key challenges and opportunities for community organizations to provide supports and make a difference in the lives of victims.

- **Detection and Reporting:** Victims often fear coming forward due to threats from traffickers, language barriers, or distrust in authorities.
- **Support Services:** There is a need for more comprehensive support services, including housing, counseling, and legal assistance for victims.
- **Public Awareness:** Increasing public awareness is essential to help recognize and report trafficking activities.

87. Ontario Newsroom.

AGE: CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND SENIORS

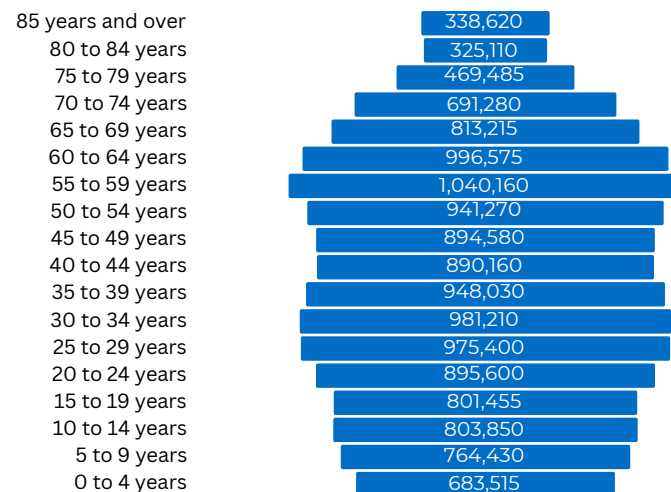
Community Characteristics: Statistics Canada and Canadian Community Health Survey Data

Age is a significant social determinant of health, influencing an individual's well-being and access to resources across the lifespan. Addressing age as a social determinant of health requires policies and interventions that promote healthy aging, support economic security, combat ageism, and ensure equitable access to healthcare and social services across the lifespan. By addressing the diverse needs of individuals at different stages of life, communities can promote health equity and improve overall population health.

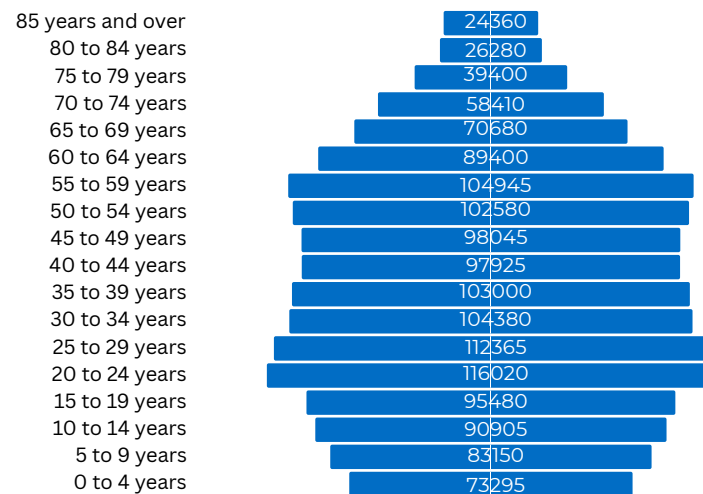
West Region has fewer older adults compared to Ontario. Mono has more older adults compared to Orangeville and Peel. Orangeville has more youth compared to Mono and Peel.



Across Ontario, **children and youth** make up **22%** of the total population and **adults 65 and older** make up **19%** of the total population. **Adults age 20 to 64** make up **60%** of the population.

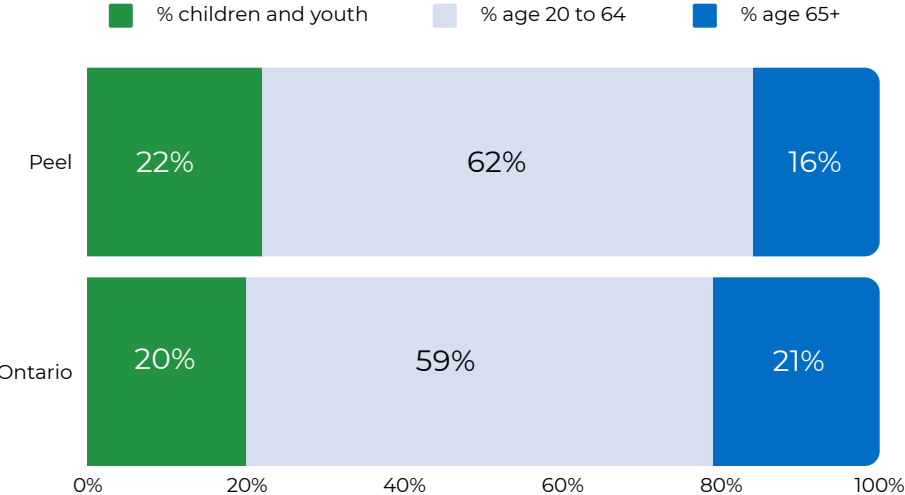


In West Region, **children and youth** make up **23%** of the total population and **adults age 65 and older** make up **15%** of the total population. **Adults age 20 to 64** make up **62%** of the population.



Ministry of Finance population projections for Peel Region forecast that, by 2034, there will be more older adults aged 65 and older (16% of the population) and fewer children and youth aged 0 to 19 (22%). The proportion age 20 to 64 (the working age population) will increase to 62% of the population.

Across Ontario, children and youth are projected to account for 20% of the population and older adults will have increased to 21% of the population. [88]



Community Context: Summary of Community Documents

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Kids Help Phone reported a **112% increase in demand for services** compared to the same time last year with a large increase in young people talking about physical abuse at home (during pandemic)[89]

39% of students in grade 7-12 reported a prevalence of moderate to **high levels of psychological distress**

34.75% of children aged 7-12 who reported **high levels of coping**

50% of students in grades 7-12 related their **MH as excellent or very good** [90]



Children in Low-Income Households

1,800 children & youth in Dufferin Wellington live in a low-income household. That's roughly 72 classrooms of students.[91]

88. Ministry of Finance Projections, July 2023
89. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 10
90. Peel Region, "Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2020-2024", 14
91. Bowley et al, Guelph & Wellington County's Vital Signs, 9



Peel

Youth age 0 to 24 are predicted to be the biggest population group in 20 years.[92] Mississauga Vital Signs report data suggests the erosion of youth well-being has continued both before and during the pandemic. Pandemic related challenges are expected to have long-term impacts on this generation. Across Canada, young people's self-assessed mental health and diagnosed mood and anxiety disorders worsened from 2011 to 2018, most strongly for females. There are signs that similar trends apply to Mississauga and Peel Region. 32% (+2% since 2015) of Mississauga children rated vulnerable on one or more of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) domains in 2018. [93]

More recently, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) collected student well-being data slightly before the pandemic and found that: 47% (+6% from 2017-18) of surveyed students were considered to have low well-being. Also, as part of their 2019-20 data, only 68% of surveyed students demonstrated the asset of having supportive adults in their lives. [94]

Combined, these results suggest that even before the pandemic about 1 in 3 primary school youth in Mississauga were dealing with a negative well-being issue.[95] Studies by Peel Public Health indicate that many young people in the region experience significant social isolation, which can lead to negative outcomes such as increased anxiety, depression, and decreased academic performance.

Affordable childcare is another important element in supporting the health and wellbeing of children and youth in the economy that puts single income families at a major disadvantage. From 2014 to 2017, increases in childcare costs outpaced increases in household incomes. In 2017, a study of fees across the 28 biggest cities in Canada found that Mississauga had the second highest fees for infants and preschoolers and was tied for third most expensive for toddlers.[96] The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program is helping families in Peel Region by significantly reducing daycare costs. Families with children in licensed child care centres are benefiting from fee reductions of up to 52.75%, aiming to make child care more affordable and accessible.[97]

Peel Region offers a variety of programs and initiatives for children and youth aimed at fostering personal development, mental health support, and career readiness.

- **BGC Peel (Boys and Girls Club):** BGC Peel provides diverse programs designed to support youth in high-need, low-income communities. These programs focus on building confidence, self-esteem, and skills necessary for achieving personal goals. Specific activities include homework help, leadership development, and recreational activities.

92. Region of Peel – Public Health, "The Changing Landscape of Health in Peel..."

93. Region of Peel – Public Health, "The Changing Landscape of Health in Peel..."

94. Peel Region, "operators and partners...early learning childcare"

95. Region of Peel – Public Health, "The Changing Landscape of Health in Peel..."

96. Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, "2019-20 Director's Annual Report..."

97. Region of Peel, "early childhood..."

- **WhereToStart.ca:** Wheretostart.ca platform acts as a gateway to mental health services for children, youth, and families. It is a collaboration of several organizations, including the [Peel Children's Centre](#) and [Nexus Youth Services](#). Services include walk-in counseling, crisis response, and ongoing mental health support.
- **Peel Regional Police Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI):** The [YIPI](#) program offers high school students a summer employment opportunity that provides a comprehensive understanding of policing and community outreach. Participants engage in classroom instruction on policing topics, police drills, and hands-on experiences within various police divisions.

These programs are integral to supporting the development and well-being of youth in the Peel Region, addressing various needs from mental health to career preparedness and community engagement.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is a program designed to help children in Ontario have a healthy start in life. Public Health Units across Ontario complete a Healthy Babies Healthy children (HBHC) Screen with families with newborns. HBHC identifies seven different risk indicators. Compared to Ontario, Peel Region has fewer infants born to families with risk factors for health child development compared to Ontario and 2022 figures are improved from 2019.

% of infants in families with:	Peel	Ontario	Peel Trend (2019-2022)
Parent or partner with mental illness	8.0%	20.6%	▼
Infants with families in need of newcomer support	2.9%	3.7%	▼
No OHIP number for mother	2.1%	2.7%	▼
Infant's mother is a single parent	1.5%	3.0%	▼
Infants with families who have concerns about money	1.2%	3.7%	▼
No designated primary care provider for mother and/or infant	1.0%	5.1%	▼
Involvement with Child Protection Services	0.6%	2.3%	▼
Parent or partner with disability	0.3%	1.0%	▼

Young or struggling parents including single mothers in Peel Region often face numerous challenges, including homelessness, which can lead them to seek refuge in shelters.

Young mothers and parents living in shelters face numerous challenges, many of which are influenced by the social determinants of health (SDOH) including mental health, education and employment, social isolation, healthcare access, and housing stability.

Young parents and single mothers often face marginalization, compounded by systemic barriers that hinder their ability to access necessary resources. This includes:

- **Discrimination:** Stigmatization of young parents, particularly those from marginalized communities, can lead to discrimination in accessing services and support.
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Complex administrative processes and eligibility requirements can prevent young parents from receiving timely assistance.
- **Resource Gaps:** Many shelters lack the comprehensive resources needed to address the multifaceted needs of young parents, including mental health services, childcare, and educational support.



Effective support for young parents in shelters requires addressing the SDOH that impact their well-being:

- **Education and Training Programs:** Providing accessible education and vocational training to help young parents improve their skills and employability.
- **Comprehensive Healthcare Services:** Ensuring access to comprehensive healthcare, including mental health services and pediatric care.
- **Stable Housing Initiatives:** Developing programs that provide long-term housing solutions to help young parents transition out of shelters.
- **Community Support Networks:** Building strong community support networks to reduce social isolation and provide practical assistance.

By addressing these gaps and focusing on holistic support, programs can better assist young parents in overcoming the challenges they face and achieving greater stability and independence.^[98]

The Catholic community in Peel Region offers various support services for those in need, including young parents and families. Key organizations and initiatives include:

- **Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD):** Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin offers counseling, family support programs, and assistance for individuals facing domestic violence, mental health issues, and parenting challenges.
- **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul:** Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Ontario provides emergency assistance, including food, clothing, and shelter support. They also offer programs aimed at helping families achieve self-sufficiency.

98. The Local. (2024, March 28). Young, pregnant, no fixed address. <https://thelocal.to/young-pregnant-no-fixed-address-82a92fa53445/>

- **Knights of Columbus:** Knights of Columbus Ontario engages in charitable activities to support local communities, including food drives, fundraising for shelters, and providing direct assistance to families in need.
- **Good Shepherd Ministries:** Although primarily based in Toronto, Good Shepherd Ministries extends its support to the Peel Region through meal programs, emergency shelter, and supportive housing initiatives.

These organizations play a crucial role in providing holistic support to young parents and families, addressing immediate needs and promoting long-term stability and well-being.

Dufferin Wellington

Facts gathered by the United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin:

- **48%** of students report a **decline in their mental health**.
- **1 in 2** young adults reported that they can recall a time between the ages of 6-18 when they **wanted a mentor but did not have one**.
- Almost **twice a week, a child or youth becomes a victim or witness of crime** in Guelph and Wellington County.
- **26%** of children in Grade 3 **do not meet the provincial literacy targets**.
- As many as **½ of youth self-reported as having low self-esteem**.
- **At least 1/3** of youth are not actively engaged in their community.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Canadians between the ages of 10- 24.
- **1 in 7 students in Ontario report symptoms of a drug use problem.**^[99]

In Dufferin and Wellington counties, youth isolation is a pressing concern, particularly affecting mental health and social well-being. The Well-Being and Health Youth (WHY) Survey conducted by the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health unit highlights the significant levels of isolation experienced by youth, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to address this issue.^[100]

United Way provides funding to a service network of community partners who collaborate to support those who have experienced adversities. The United Way network supports wrap-around children, youth, and their families to build protective factors, mitigate the effects of adversity, and empower children and youth to reach their full potential. These include:

- Mentoring programs to improve social skills and relationships with others
- Literacy programs to increase skills, self-esteem, and build a sense of belonging
- Education programs to assist youth in getting their high school diploma



99. United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin

1000. Public Health Dufferin Wellington Guelph. (n.d.). 2022 Well-Being and Health Youth Survey Dashboard.

- Education programs to assist youth in getting their high school diploma
- Leadership development programs to build social skills, employability, and create positive friendships and relationships
- Anti-bullying programs to build social inclusion and parental supports
- Court support services for victims of abuse or crime to build resiliency and reduce trauma

Dufferin County Youth Programs:

- **After-School Programs:** The Dufferin County Community Support Services offer various after-school programs that include sports, arts, and homework help, designed to keep youth engaged and supported in a safe environment.
- **Summer Camps:** The county runs several summer camp programs focusing on outdoor activities, sports, and arts and crafts to provide a well-rounded experience for children and youth during the summer break.
- **Dufferin Coalition for Kids (DuCK):** DuCK initiative focuses on providing resources and programs that promote the well-being of children and youth in the county, such as mental health workshops and physical activity programs.

These programs in Dufferin aim to provide comprehensive support and opportunities for children and youth, helping them to develop skills, build social connections, and enjoy recreational activities.

Young or struggling parents including single mothers in Dufferin and Wellington often face numerous challenges, including homelessness, which can lead them to seek refuge in shelters. Young mothers and parents living in shelters face numerous challenges, many of which are influenced by the social determinants of health (SDOH) including mental health, education and employment, social isolation, healthcare access, and housing stability.

In Dufferin and Wellington counties, several programs support young mothers and parents living in shelters. Key initiatives include:

- **The MotHERS Program:** The MotHERS Program offers a variety of resources for expecting and new mothers, including access to midwives, hospitals, and prenatal education in the region.
- **Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC):** Operated by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDG Public Health), this program supports pregnant women and parents with young children by providing assistance with healthy pregnancy, parenting practices, and coping with life stressors such as financial and housing issues

These programs collectively address the multifaceted needs of young parents, offering health services, financial assistance, and parenting support to help them achieve stability and well-being.

SENIORS

30%

• Almost 30% of the population (Brampton) over the age of 50^[101]

Fastest growing segment of the population in Caledon are those aged 55+; over next decade - number of residents aged 55+ in Caledon is estimated to increase by 10,000 persons^[102]

101. WSP, "City of Brampton Age-Friendly Strategy: Baseline Assessment Report"

102. urbanMetrics Inc., & Town of Caledon, "Age-Friendly Caledon"

The City of Brampton *Age-Friendly Strategy: Baseline Assessment Report* outlines dimensions of an Age-Friendly Community:

1. **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings:** Condition, quality, and design of physical environment have an influence on the mobility, independence, and quality of life of aging residents
2. **Transportation:** More availability of accessible transportation options helps aging residents participate in the community
3. **Housing:** Wide variety of available housing choices can have an impact on the independence of aging residents; appropriate housing can allow people to comfortably age-in-place
4. **Social Participation:** Ability and opportunity for aging residents to participate in social, cultural, and recreational activities has a positive impact on their physical and mental health
5. **Communication and Information:** access to and wide distribution of clear, relevant information is essential for aging residents (to be able to maintain social ties and community connections)
6. **Respect and Social Isolation:** Provision of outreach to aging residents and opportunities to participate in the community can help mitigate isolation
7. **Civic Participation and Employment:** Aging residents should be able to contribute to their communities through paid and unpaid employment for as long as they would like or are able
8. **Community Supports and Health Services:** Community should offer sufficient good quality and accessible healthcare and community programs and services^[103]

Brampton identified opportunities for improvement: engagement of Brampton's diverse ethnic communities - needs of various cultural groups have not necessarily been reflected in municipal planning, programs and services.

103. WSP, "City of Brampton Age-Friendly Strategy: Baseline Assessment Report"

Need to balance the needs of Brampton's large youth population with the needs of its growing seniors' population = critical challenge of the Age-Friendly Strategy - need to include youth as representatives on Age-Friendly Brampton Advisory Committee so that issues, interests, and strengths of Brampton's youth are incorporated in the strategy.^[104]

The town of Caledon has an Age-Friendly Community plan to put in place policies, programs, services, spaces that help residents maintain their independence as they age. ^[105] Over 40 groups and agencies delivering supports and programs to older adults/ seniors in Caledon (services and programs related to Community Support and Health Services, Respect and Social Inclusion, Social Participation, Communication and Information, etc.).



104. WSP, "City of Brampton Age-Friendly Strategy: Baseline Assessment Report"

105. urbanMetrics Inc., & Town of Caledon, "Age-Friendly Caledon"

The plan outlines the following takeaways:

- Need for more appropriate range and mix of housing options, easier
- Need for community stakeholders to work collaboratively to find opportunities to redevelop sites and ensure that age friendly planning is embedded into the planning process
- Ageing in-Place (housing) - need for more affordable and diverse options to bridge the gap between conventional detached housing and assisted living
- Need for transportation - better rural transportation options
- Need for more benches and public washrooms to support an ageing population
- Rental options are very limited - average rents is only affordable to renter housings with high incomes
- Increasing need for non-programming activities
- Demand for senior's oriented passive indoor space or a dedicated senior's centre^[106]

The Older Adult Plan for Recreation 2019 in Mississauga examines the 2008 Older Adult Plan and identifies priorities needed to move forward over the next 10 years. The scope of the Plan is focused on the Recreation Division and its Community Development Unit. The Plan is focused upon the Recreation Division's program and service delivery practices specific to the older adult market segment. Assessments of recreational older adult space/facilities are included in the Review as space needs have been identified as a current access issue by the community driven older adult groups/providers.^[107]

Senior isolation is a significant issue in Peel Region, exacerbated by mobility challenges, health concerns, and technological barriers. Various initiatives, such as those by Peel Senior Link and local senior centers, actively work to provide social, recreational, and supportive services to help mitigate loneliness and enhance the quality of life for seniors.

In Peel Region, several programs and initiatives support seniors, focusing on enhancing their quality of life and promoting independence and addressing isolation. Some notable programs include:

- **Peel Senior Link:** Peel Senior Link provides personal care and homemaking services to help seniors live independently in their own homes. Services include assistance with daily activities, medication management, and emergency response systems.
- **Elder Help Peel:** Elder Help Peel provides several programs aimed at reducing social isolation among seniors. Their Friendly Visitor Program pairs isolated seniors with volunteers for regular phone, Zoom, or in-person visits, depending on COVID-19 protocols. They also offer Active Living Programs and Seniors Centre Without Walls, which include various activities and events to keep seniors engaged and active.
- **Free For All Community Service:** Their Seniors Connect program is designed for seniors 50+ and promotes active and healthy lifestyles through culturally specific life skills programming. This initiative helps seniors build relationships and a sense of well-being while giving back to the community. They operate in several locations within Peel Region, including Brampton communities.
- **Alzheimer Society of Peel:** Alzheimer Society of Canada offers support for seniors living with dementia and their caregivers. Programs include support groups, counselling, and educational resources to help manage the challenges associated with dementia.
- **Family Services of Peel:** Family Services of Peel provide a wide range of services, including counselling, trauma-specific services, and supported independent living programs. These services aim to improve the overall well-being of seniors and help them maintain their independence.

^{106.} J [i] urbanMetrics Inc., & Town of Caledon, "Age-Friendly Caledon"

^{107.} mbpc consulting, "Peel Older adult Plan for Recreation"

Dufferin Wellington

The senior population in Dufferin Wellington faces various challenges and opportunities as they age. In these regions, seniors benefit from a range of services aimed at enhancing their quality of life. For instance, programs like Meals on Wheels provide essential nutritional support, and transportation services ensure that seniors can attend medical appointments and carry out daily activities such as grocery shopping and banking.

Furthermore, mental health services are crucial for seniors, with organizations like the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin Branch offering support tailored to the needs of the elderly. Social connections and physical health are strongly linked to better mental health outcomes, emphasizing the importance of community programs that foster social engagement and physical activity.

However, despite these resources, gaps remain, particularly in the availability of comprehensive healthcare services and accessible housing options for seniors. These gaps highlight the ongoing need for enhanced support systems to ensure that seniors in Dufferin Wellington can live with dignity and independence.^[108]

There are several non-profit organizations in Dufferin Wellington that offer programs and services for seniors. These programs often focus on social engagement, health and wellness, transportation, and support services. Here are some examples:

- Dufferin County Community Support Services provides a range of services for seniors, including Meals on Wheels, transportation, home maintenance, and social programs.
- Wellington County Seniors Centre offers various programs aimed at improving the quality of life for seniors, including fitness classes, arts and crafts, educational workshops, and social events.

- East Wellington Community Services (EWCS) provides support services for seniors in the form of transportation, friendly visiting, home maintenance, and social programs.
- Orangeville Seniors Centre hosts a variety of activities and programs such as fitness classes, educational seminars, social gatherings, and hobby clubs.
- VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) offers home care, personal support, and community support services, including adult day programs and respite care.
- Community Resource Centre Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington offers services like senior support, community dining, transportation assistance, and outreach programs.

These non-profits play a vital role in enhancing the lives of seniors in Dufferin Wellington, ensuring they remain active, healthy, and socially connected.

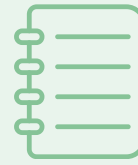
Isolation among seniors is a significant issue in Dufferin Wellington, as in many other regions. Factors contributing to senior isolation include geographic dispersion, limited transportation options, and the lack of social networks. However, various organizations and programs in these areas are actively working to address and mitigate senior isolation.

Here are some initiatives and programs in Dufferin Wellington aimed at reducing senior isolation:

- **Friendly Visiting Programs** such as East Wellington Community Services (EWCS) provide volunteers visit seniors in their homes to provide companionship and conversation, helping reduce feelings of loneliness.
- **Transportation Services** like Dufferin County Community Support Services that provide transportation for seniors to medical appointments, social activities, and errands, making it easier for them to stay engaged and active.

- **Social and Recreational Activities** such as Guelph Wellington Seniors Association (GWSA), that offers a variety of clubs, classes, and events that encourage social interaction and community engagement. Orangeville Seniors Centre which hosts social gatherings, fitness classes, arts and crafts, and other activities to help seniors stay active and socially connected.
- **Community Dining Programs** like Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington that organizes community dining events where seniors can enjoy meals and socialize with others in a friendly setting.
- **Telephone Reassurance Programs** such as Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Canada for regular phone calls to seniors to check on their well-being and provide a friendly voice to talk to, which can be crucial for those who are homebound.
- **Technology Training** like Seniors Centre for Excellence that offers training and support to help seniors learn to use technology to stay connected with family and friends, access information, and participate in virtual events.

Many of these programs rely on volunteers and community support. Local governments, non-profit organizations, and community groups often work together to provide funding, resources, and volunteers to sustain these initiatives. By promoting awareness and encouraging community involvement, these programs aim to significantly reduce the isolation felt by many seniors in Dufferin Wellington, improving their overall quality of life and well-being.



Reflections

What about this information is really speaking to you?

What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

In 2022, the County of Wellington distributed over 156,000 trees as part of the Green Legacy Programme^[109]



Green Legacy Programme

distributed over
156,000 trees

Parks had a great impact on Mississauga's and Canada's well-being



109. Bowley et al, Guelph & Wellington County's Vital Signs, 20

110. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 14

111. Mississauga's 2021 Vital Signs, 14

93% OF MISSISSAUGANS AGREE THAT PARKS IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

89% OF MISSISSAUGANS AGREE THAT PARKS IMPROVE PHYSICAL HEALTH^[110]



Mississauga has less park space than many other major cities at 2,943 hectares

ONLY 10%
OF MISSISSAUGA'S LAND
IS PARKS

85%

of people want to see more public funding invested in parks. ^[111]

Peel

Environmental factors in Peel Region significantly impact the quality of life through health, economic, and social effects. Poor air and water quality can lead to respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, while extreme weather events related to climate change pose additional health risks.^[112] Economic impacts include property damage from flooding and increased insurance costs, but also opportunities in green job creation and energy efficiency savings.^[113] Access to green spaces improves physical and mental health, while sustainable urban planning and waste management efforts help balance development with environmental preservation.^[114]

112. Health status data - Region of Peel.

113. Health status data - Region of Peel.

114. Health status data - Region of Peel.

Environmental concerns in the Peel Region are significant and multifaceted, driven by rapid urban growth, infrastructure challenges, and climate change. Here are some key issues and initiatives:

- **Urban Sprawl and Greenbelt Encroachment:** Peel's population is rapidly growing, leading to increased development pressures that threaten green spaces, including the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine. Despite efforts to manage growth, pieces of protected land are being developed, which could have long-term environmental impacts if not properly managed.^[115]
- **Climate Change and Emissions:** While Peel Region has made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation of climate initiatives has been inconsistent. For example, Brampton has struggled to prioritize climate action in its budget, often favoring road projects over environmental programs. The city's purchase of new diesel buses instead of fully electric ones highlights the challenges in transitioning to a greener infrastructure.^[116]
- **Flood Management:** Flooding is a significant concern, especially in areas like Brampton's downtown, which sits in a floodplain. The Riverwalk project aims to mitigate flood risks from Etobicoke Creek and enable further development. This project is crucial for preventing flood damage and promoting sustainable urban development.^[117]
- **Youth and Community Engagement:** Organizations like the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA) are actively engaging the community, particularly youth, in environmental stewardship and climate education. PEYA hosts events such as the EcoBuzz Conference and Stewardship Day to inspire and educate young people on environmental issues.
- **EcoSchools and Education:** The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) supports the Peel EcoSchools program, which promotes environmental leadership and education in schools. This initiative helps reduce the ecological impact of schools and fosters a culture of sustainability among students.

These efforts reflect a growing awareness and response to environmental challenges in Peel, but the region faces ongoing challenges in balancing development with sustainability. To help improve the environment in Peel Region, residents and organizations can engage in various initiatives and adopt sustainable practices. Here are some key actions and community and Government Initiatives:

- **Climate Change Master Plan:** Peel Region has developed a comprehensive plan that includes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes investments in retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency and support for green infrastructure projects.^[118]
- **Affordable and Sustainable Housing:** The region has allocated funds to integrate climate resilience into new and existing affordable housing projects. This involves upgrading building systems to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.^[119]

Dufferin Wellington

Dufferin and Wellington counties, characterized by their rural landscapes and significant agricultural activities, face several environmental challenges and opportunities. Air and water quality are major concerns, with agricultural runoff impacting water systems, and localized pollution from farming and transportation emissions. Both counties host important natural areas like the Niagara Escarpment and various wetlands, which are protected through local policies to maintain biodiversity and ecological health. Environmental initiatives include promoting sustainable farming practices, conservation programs, and community engagement efforts such as tree planting and wetland restoration.

¹¹⁵. Peel plans its next 30 years of growth will developer-driven sprawl or the planet win out?

¹¹⁶. Brampton's 2023 budget exposes Council's empty climate change promises

¹¹⁷. Brampton's 2023 budget exposes Council's empty climate change promises

¹¹⁸. Region of Peel staff propose \$40 million in 2023 budget to confront climate emergency.

^[119]. Brampton's 2023 budget exposes Council's empty climate change promises

Climate action plans in these counties focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change through renewable energy use and improved public transportation.[120]

Climate change is already impacting the health of Canadians and has potential to overburden health systems. As effects are not experienced equally by all populations, WDG Public Health completed a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment. With funding from the federal grant program, Health ADAPT, the assessment examined climate change-related health impacts related to:

1. Exposure to climate-related hazards (i.e., extreme temperatures and weather, UV radiation, food- and water-borne illnesses, air quality, diseases, mental health, etc.)
2. The physiological sensitivity of Dufferin Wellington to climate related hazards (how bodies will react physically)
3. The capacity to adapt to climate related hazards WDG Public Health will be prioritizing programming, policy and local climate change adaptation initiatives across Dufferin that strengthen the community against health issues related to climate change.[121]



There are currently **58 species** at risk in Wellington County.

When a species disappears from the natural environment, it creates a ripple effect threatening all other species.[122] The main threats to biodiversity are loss of habitat, overhunting and overfishing, invasive species, pollution and climate change. Expanding the canopy of healthy, mature trees is one way Dufferin Wellington is taking action to conserve biodiversity.[123]

Several environmental programs and initiatives may be present in the area, aimed at preserving natural resources, promoting green practices, and mitigating climate change. Some of these programs could include:

- **Conservation Authorities:** The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) operates in parts of Dufferin-Wellington, managing conservation areas like Elora Gorge and Rockwood Conservation Area. They offer educational programs such as guided hikes, wildlife workshops, and tree planting events.
- **Waste Management and Recycling:** The County of Wellington runs a comprehensive waste management program that includes curbside recycling collection, household hazardous waste depots, and organics recycling. They also organize community clean-up events like "Pitch-In Week" where volunteers collect litter from parks and public spaces.
- **Green Energy Initiatives:** The Town of Orangeville encourages renewable energy adoption through the Orangeville Solar Rebate Program, providing financial incentives for residents and businesses to install solar panels.
- **Environmental Education:** The Dufferin County Forest program offers guided educational hikes led by naturalists, teaching participants about local flora, fauna, and ecosystem conservation. Schools in Wellington County participate in the Green Legacy Program, where students plant trees to enhance biodiversity and combat climate change.
- **Natural Heritage Protection:** The Credit Valley Conservation Authority works to protect natural heritage features in Dufferin-Wellington, such as the Niagara Escarpment and Nottawasaga Valley. They collaborate with landowners and municipalities to implement land stewardship projects like reforestation and wetland restoration.

120. Neptis, "County of Dufferin"

121. WDG, "Public Health Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Community Report 2022"

122. City of Guelph, "Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks"

123. Bowley et al, Guelph & Wellington County's Vital Signs, 20



Reflections

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What are things that you, your parish, your region, your organization are already doing?

What ideas come to mind and heart, about what might be possible to support people that have these needs?

- **Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture:** The Guelph-Wellington Urban Agriculture Initiative supports community garden projects like the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group's community garden in Elora, providing resources and expertise to help residents grow fresh produce and build community connections.
- **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:** The Dufferin County Climate Change Action Plan outlines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience. Initiatives include promoting active transportation, increasing energy efficiency in municipal buildings, and supporting local farmers in adopting climate-smart agriculture practices.

PATTERNS OF MARGINALIZATION

Public Health Ontario produces maps visualizing four dimensions of marginalization based on social determinants of health factors.

This section of the report provides background on the different dimensions, lists the SDOH factors incorporated in each dimension and shows the patterns of marginalization across Peel Region for each dimension. The maps are images produced from the Ontario Marginalization Index tool.

Dimensions of marginalization include:

- **Material Resources:** closely related to poverty
- **Racialized and Newcomer Populations:** areas with high concentrations may experience discrimination and xenophobia
- **Age and Labour Force:** these are areas with high concentration of people without income from employment due to age, disability and/or not participating in the labour force
- **Households and Dwellings:** relates to family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness



Material Resources

The Material Resources dimension of Marginalization is closely connected to poverty and refers to the inability for individuals and communities to access and attain basic material needs relating to housing, food, clothing, and education.

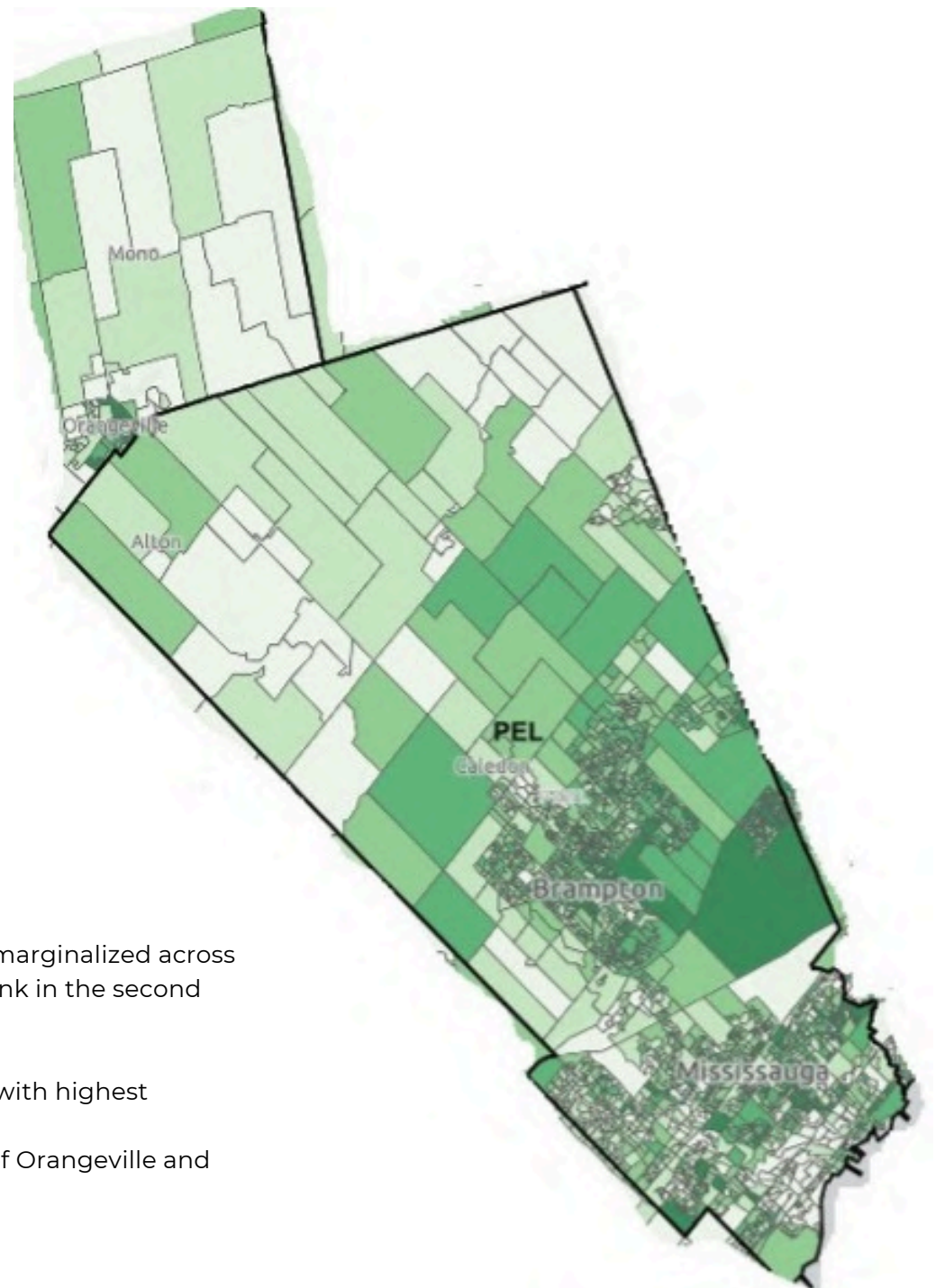
Darkest areas on the map have the highest marginalization.

Factors in this measure include:

- % of population age 25 to 64 without a high school diploma
- % of families that are lone parent
- % of total income that is from government transfer payments
- % of population age 15+ who are unemployed
- % of population considered low-income (LICO)
- % of households living in dwellings in need of major repair

12% of Peel Region neighbourhoods (202) are ranked as the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension. Another 26% (449) neighbourhoods rank in the second highest marginalization quintile.

Within the Region and extending to Orangeville and Mono, areas with highest marginalization related material resources are found primarily in Brampton/Bramalea/around Pearson International Airport, parts of Orangeville and scattered throughout Mississauga.



Racialized and Newcomer Populations

This dimension measures the proportion of newcomers and/or non-white, non-Indigenous populations. These communities may experience higher levels of racialization and xenophobia. Factors in this measure include:

- % of population who are recent immigrants (arrived in last 5 years)
- % of population who self-identify as a visible minority

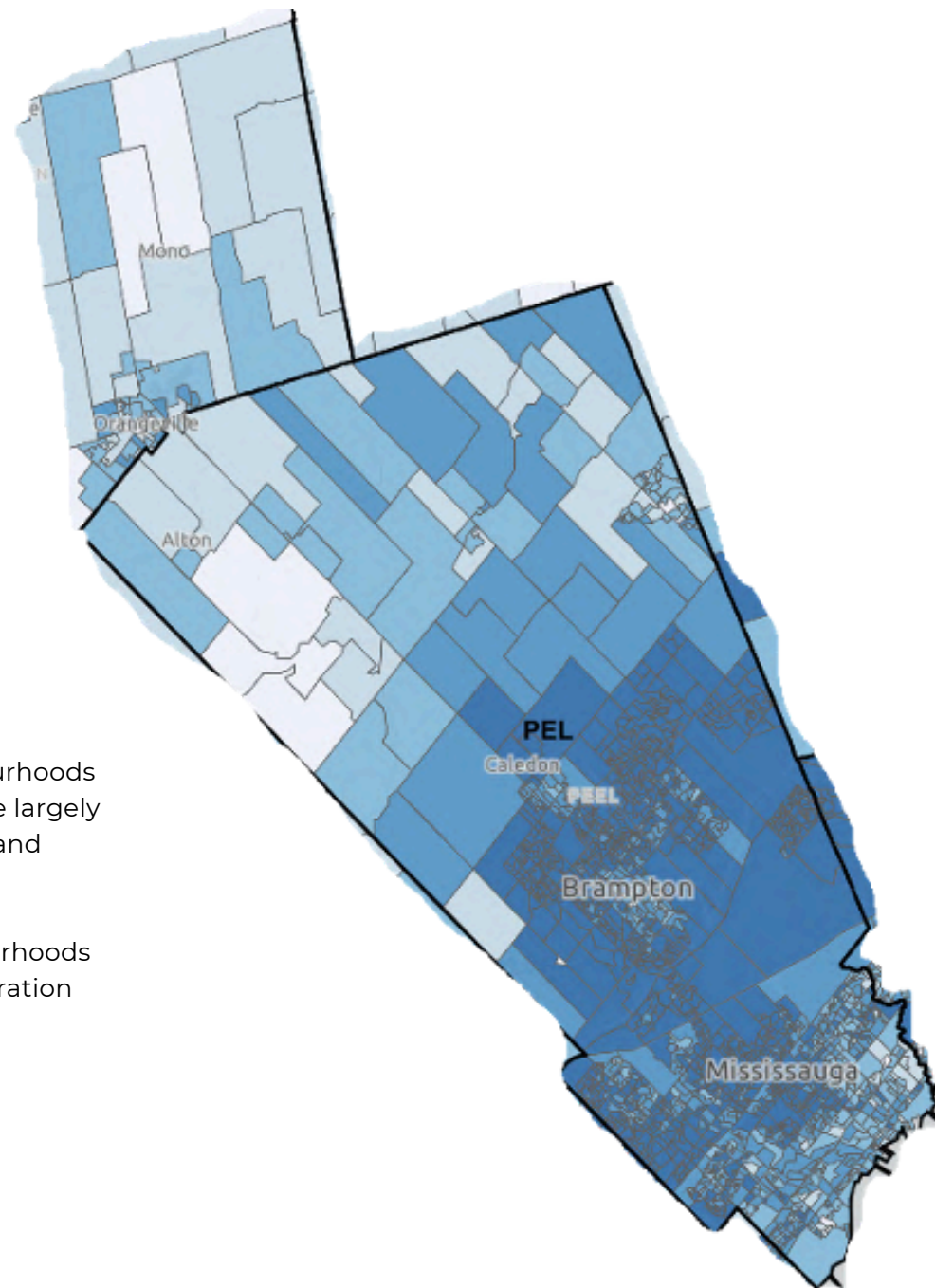
Darkest areas on the map have the highest marginalization.

62% of Peel Region neighbourhoods (1,100) are ranked as the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension.

Another 24% (414) neighbourhoods rank in the second highest marginalization quintile.

Within the Region and extending to Orangeville and Mono, neighbourhoods with high concentrations of racialized and newcomer populations are largely found in and around Brampton, Bramalea, extending up to Caledon and down into Mississauga.

Within Brampton, Bramalea and Caledon larger pockets of neighbourhoods with low concentration surrounded by large areas with high concentration can be found.



Age and Labour Force

This dimension relates to area-level concentrations of people who don't have income from employment, including older adults, children, and/or those unable to work due to disability. Areas of high marginalization are areas with relatively high concentrations of people who don't have income from employment.

Factors in this measure include:

- % of population age 65+
- Dependency ratio (total population 0 to 14 and 65+/total population 15 to 64)
- % of population not participating in the labour force

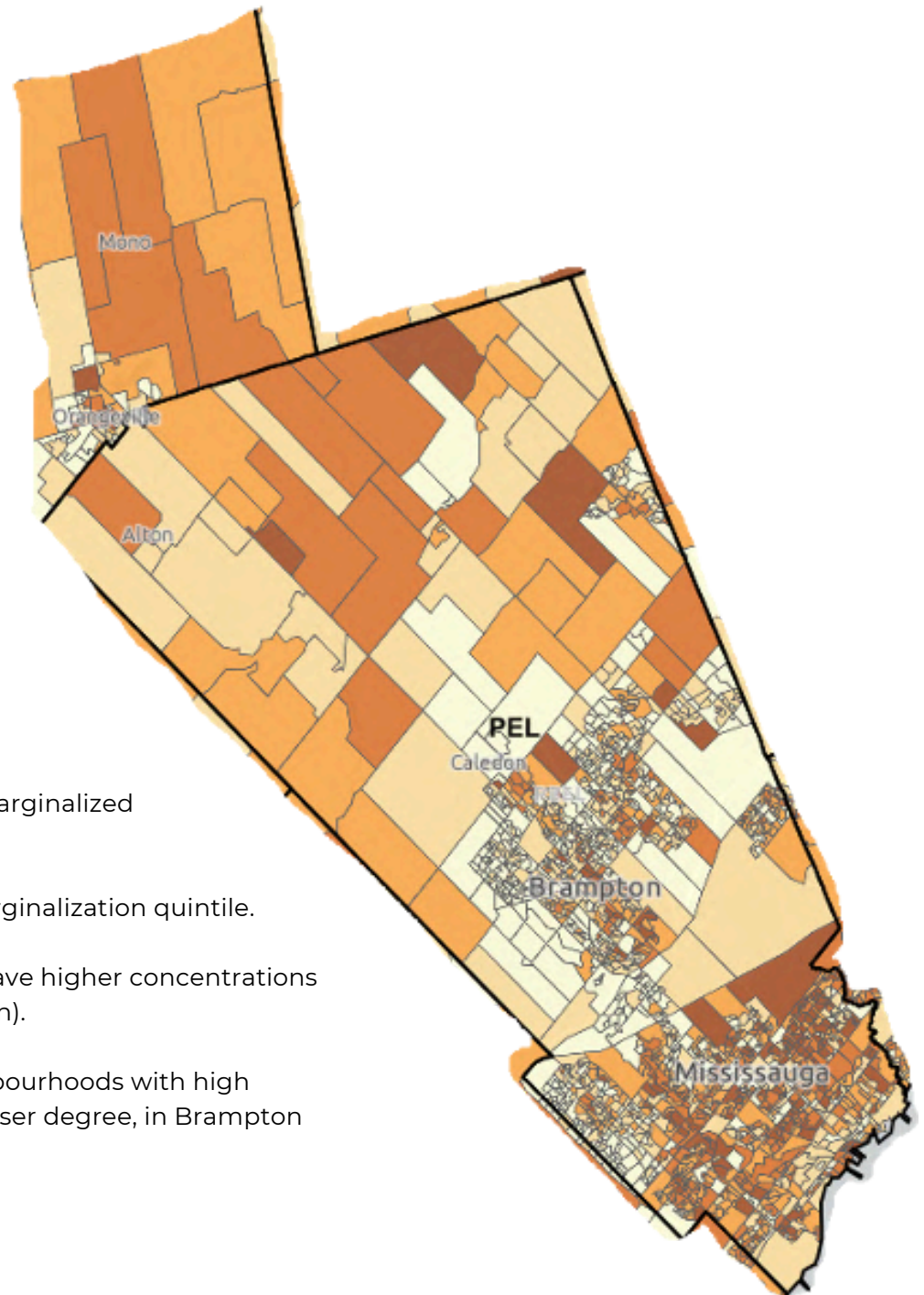
Darkest areas on the map have the highest marginalization.

9% of Peel Region neighbourhoods (155) are ranked as the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension.

Another 13% (227) neighbourhoods rank in the second highest marginalization quintile.

Overall, this indicates that most neighbourhoods in Peel Region have higher concentrations of people with income from employment (i.e. lower marginalization).

Within the Region and extending to Orangeville and Mono, neighbourhoods with high concentrations can be found throughout Mississauga and, to a lesser degree, in Brampton with isolated pockets throughout the broader region.



Households and Dwellings

This dimension relates to family and neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness and is based on measures of the types and density of residential accommodations and family structure characteristics.

Factors in this measure include:

- % of population living alone
- % of population that are not youth (i.e. younger than 5 and older than 15)
- Average # of persons per dwelling (relates to crowding)
- % of dwellings that are apartment buildings/neighbourhood density
- % of population who are single/divorced/widowed
- % of dwellings that are not owned/i.e. renters
- % of population who moved during the past 5 years (mobility)

Darkest areas on the map have the highest marginalization.

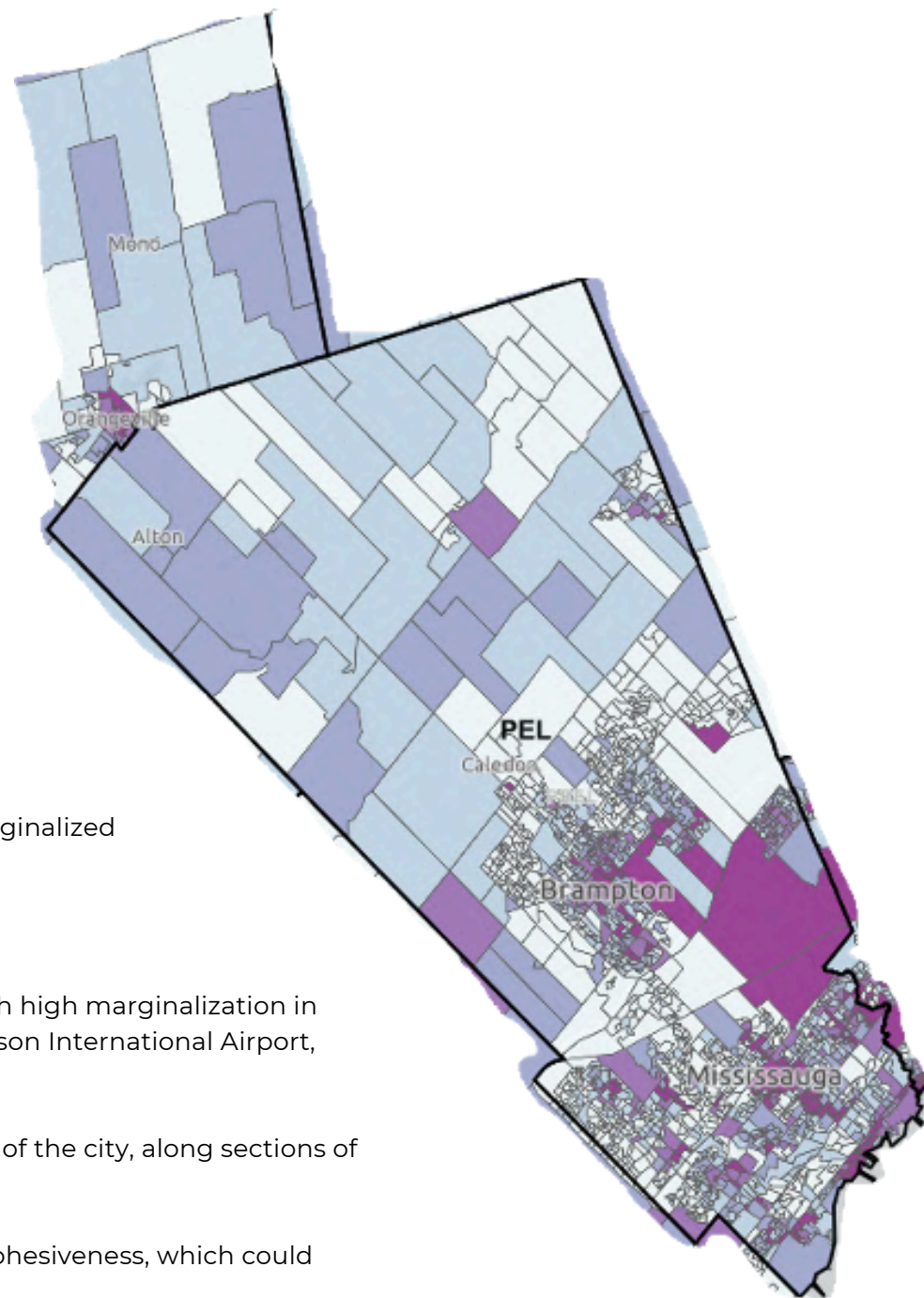
10% of Peel Region neighbourhoods (175) are ranked as the most marginalized across Ontario for this dimension.

Another 9% (163) rank in the second highest marginalization quintile.

Within the Region and extending to Orangeville and Mono, areas with high marginalization in this dimension are largely found in parts of Mississauga, around Pearson International Airport, Brampton and Orangeville.

Within Mississauga, more marginalized areas are found in the centre of the city, along sections of the lakeshore and bordering Toronto.

These neighbourhoods may have less neighbourhood stability and cohesiveness, which could impact sense of belonging.



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