

Demographic Summary of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre Catchment Area

September 2019¹

The goal of this document is to provide the board and staff with an overview of those who live in the neighbourhoods of the catchment area, to better understand the health issues and needs of this community.

Geography:

- 15 catchment neighbourhoods: **South Riverdale, North Riverdale, Greenwood-Coxwell, Blake Jones, Playter Estates, Broadview North, Danforth, Danforth – East York, Old East York, O-Conner Parkview, Taylor-Massey, Woodbine Corridor, Woodbine-Lumsden, East End-Danforth, and The Beaches**
- Some of our programs serve residents from across East Toronto and/or the GTA (such as COUNTERfit and DECNET)

Population:

- Approximately 215,000 living in all neighbourhoods, an increase of about 60,000 with our recently expanded catchment and about 8% of the population of Toronto.
- **South Riverdale** is the most populated neighbourhood with almost 28,000 people (an increase of 9% since 2011). Taylor-Massey (formerly Crescent Town) is by far the densest with 15,528 people per sq km. By comparison the overall density of Toronto is 4,334 people/sq. km.

Who lives here?

- Most of SRCHC's neighbourhoods have a similar or higher proportion of seniors (age 65-84) who live alone compared to the City average (25%). East End-Danforth has the highest proportion at 39%.
- The number of lone parent families is slightly higher than the City average (48%) in Blake-Jones, Taylor-Massey and O-Conner-Parkview.
- 7 of SRCHC's 15 catchment neighbourhoods have Indigenous populations that are twice the Census estimate (1%, which researchers estimate is likely two to four times higher).

Where Do Residents Live?

- Low-income households have become more concentrated; often in high-rise apartments in relatively more affluent neighbourhoods.
- 44% of people in Toronto now live in buildings of 5 or more storeys. This proportion is lower in most of SRCHC's neighbourhoods except for Broadview North (59%) and Taylor-Massey (77%).

The Cost of Housing

- The average rental cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Toronto is \$2,300 per month.
- In 2015, 37% of households in Toronto spent over 30% of their household income on shelter costs. In SRCHC's catchment area this rate ranges from 26% to 44% with 3 neighbourhoods above the City average.

Where Do Residents Come From?

- In 2011, 51% of people living in Toronto were born outside of Canada.
- The proportion of immigrants ranges greatly within SRCHC's neighborhoods - from 26% in **North Riverdale** to 33% in **South Riverdale** to 61% in **Taylor-Massey**.

Language

- Top home languages spoken other than English or French in SRCHC neighbourhoods are: Cantonese, Mandarin, Bengali, Greek, and French.

¹ Data gathered primarily from the 2016 Census, City of Toronto Preliminary Neighbourhood Profiles.

- Only the **South Riverdale** neighbourhood has significantly higher proportion (8%) of residents who do not speak an official language (a drop of 4% from 2011), compared to the City average (5%).

Employment/Unemployment

- In 2015, the unemployment rate for Toronto was 8%. SRCHC’s neighbourhoods have reflected the City’s unemployment rate over the years, although rates tend to vary between neighbourhoods. In 2015, the unemployment rate was 5% in **North Riverdale**, while it was 12% in **Crescent Town**.

Poverty in the SRCHC Neighbourhoods

- In 2015, 20% of people in Toronto had an income that was below the poverty line (\$22,133 for a single person, after tax). **Blake Jones, O’Conner-Parkview, and Taylor-Massey** have an even higher proportion of low income residents.
- The median household income in Toronto in 2015 was \$65,892. SRCHC’s 2018 client survey showed that 78% of our clients have household incomes of less than \$35,000.

Food Security

- Although food bank use is down in the city core, need remains high in some pockets. In 2017, the Daily Break Food Bank found that food bank use was up 10-20% in Ward 30 where our 955 Queen St site is located and up 1-10% in the Wards to the immediate east and west.
- In 2018, the average food bank user had \$8 left to spend each month after rent and utilities were paid.
- A recent report from the Toronto Board of Health notes that food costs went up by 7.5% this past year.

How Healthy Are Our Residents?²

- For preventative care such as pap smears, and mammograms, women living in **South Riverdale, Blake Jones and Taylor-Massey** received screening less than the City average.
- Infant Immunization rates were high in the catchment area, comparable to the City average.
- With regard to self rated health, local residents had higher rates of mental health issues and physical limitations and low rates of “good or perfect” health.
- Rates of asthma, respiratory illness and cardio-pulmonary disease have historically been higher than the City average in many of SRCHC’s catchment neighbourhoods.

Physical and Social Environments

- Proposed planning activities in the catchment area include waterfront development, as well as new condo and retail developments. Gentrification and the threat of displacement is an ongoing issue in our community.
- SRCHC is the only agency east of the Don Valley to Victoria Park (between Lake Ontario and Eglinton) that is contracted by Toronto Public Health to provide harm reduction supplies, and runs the only supervised consumption service east of the Don Valley.

² Data is from the Toronto Community Health Profiles, not updated since 2011