

Demographic Summary of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre Catchment Area September 2021¹

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**
- Several programs serve residents from across East Toronto and/or the GTA (such as COUNTERfit, Safer Supply, Hep C, Diabetes Eye Screening Program and DECNET)
- SRCHC also operates a supervised consumption service located in the **Moss Park** neighbourhood.

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 2 to 4 x higher).

Where Do Residents Live?

- Low-income households have become more concentrated city-wide; 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 median rental cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Toronto is \$2,100 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**.

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

Language

- Top home languages spoken other than English or French in SRCHC neighbourhoods are: Cantonese, Mandarin, Bengali, Greek, and French.
- 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 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 2019 client survey showed that 78% of our clients have household incomes of less than \$35,000.

Food Security²

- In 2018, the average food bank user had \$8 left to spend each month after rent and utilities were paid.
- A report from the Toronto Board of Health found that food costs went up by 7.5% between 2018-2019.
- A 2020 survey of food bank users found that 65% received social assistance as their primary income source, where rates fall below both Canada's official poverty line and deep poverty line. 43% of employed survey respondents earned minimum wage (\$15/hour) or less. 83% of those living in private market rentals were paying more than half of their income on housing.
- There were nearly 1 million food bank client visits in the Toronto region in the year leading up to the pandemic, a 5% increase compared to the previous year.

How Healthy Are Our Residents?³

- *Chronic disease*: rates of asthma (predominantly among adults), respiratory illness (COPD in particular among the 65+ age group) and cardio-pulmonary disease have historically been higher than the City average in many of SRCHC's catchment neighbourhoods. Diabetes prevalence is lower among all of the SRCHC neighbourhoods except for Taylor-Massey which is significantly higher than the City of Toronto average.
- *Mental health*: rates of visits to the emergency department for a mental health issue were significantly higher among many of SRCHC's neighbourhoods. In particular, Taylor Massey neighbourhood rates were 3 to 5 x higher than these other neighbourhoods (defined as significantly higher than the City of Toronto average).
- *Preventative health care*: rates of cervical cancer screening (Pap) were significantly lower in Taylor Massey neighbourhood. The rates in all other neighbourhoods were higher than the City of Toronto average. Rates of breast cancer screening (mammograms) were significantly lower in all age groups in the Taylor Massey neighbourhood and lower in other neighbourhoods (East End-Danforth and South Riverdale) for eligible individuals aged 60 to 69 compared to the City of Toronto.
- As of Sept 9/21 most of SRCHC's catchment neighbourhood's at least 74% of individuals 12+ have received two doses. This proportion is lowest in Taylor Massey (59%) which has the lowest rate in the City. Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park (part of SRCHC's OHT) also have lower rates compared to the rest of our OHT at 67% and 68%.

² Except where noted, data is from the Daily Bread Food Bank's 2018 and 2020 Whose Hungry Reports. Most recent report available at: <https://www.dailybread.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Whos-Hungry-Report-2020.pdf>

³ Ontario Community Health Profiles (2016 Census data). Available at: <http://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca>

Physical and Social Environments

- Proposed planning activities in the catchment area include waterfront development, as well as new condo, transit 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 one of only five agencies contracted by Toronto Public Health to provide harm reduction supplies, and runs the only supervised consumption service east of the Don Valley.

Impact of COVID-19

- Since the pandemic began and up to September 2021, 18,445 individuals tested positive for COVID-19 through an East Toronto Health Partners testing site or mobile team
- Since Toronto Public Health started collecting data on racial group, income, and household size in May 2020, it has found that most racialized populations and low income groups are overrepresented in both COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. People living in larger households have also been represented. In East Toronto the neighbourhoods with the highest number of COVID-19 cases (up to Sept 10, 2021) include: Taylor Massey, Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park.
- By June 2020 food bank visits in Toronto had increased by 22% compared to the same period last year, and by August, that number grown to 51%. Three quarters of food bank users who had never accessed a food bank before reported that they began using food banks because of the pandemic.
- Significant increases in overdose deaths have occurred since the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, the average number of fatal calls attended by paramedics in Toronto for suspected opioid overdoses per month was 13. During COVID-19, it increased to 26. In Toronto 521 people died of an opioid overdose in 2020, up from 300 in 2019. Rates of fatal overdose have increased by 60% in Ontario during the pandemic and have disproportionately impacted low-income, incarcerated and racialized populations.⁴

⁴ Data available from the City of Toronto's Overdose Information System and a Sept 8/21 Ontario Science Table. Science Brief. Accessed Sept 20/21 from: <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/sciencebrief/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-opioid-related-harm-in-ontario/> and https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/tphseu/viz/TOISDashboard_Final/ParamedicResponse