

Demographic Summary of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre Catchment Area

September 2022¹

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:

- 16 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, Oakridge, 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 has satellite locations on the Danforth, O-Connor Parkview and Oakridge neighbourhoods, as well as a Consumption and Treatment Service located in the **Moss Park** neighbourhood.

Population:

- Approximately 215,000 living in all neighbourhoods. This is 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.
- In 2015, 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**.

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 average rental cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Toronto is \$2,000 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.

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%).

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

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 2021 was \$85,000. SRCHC’s 2022 client survey showed that 62% of our clients have household incomes of less than \$45,000 and nearly half had social assistance as their primary source of income.

Food Security²

- Between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, food banks in Toronto saw the highest number of visits ever recorded (1.45 million). This was a 47% increase from the year prior and an unprecedented level of growth.
- During this period, longer-term food bank clients reported a greater degree of food insecurity than newer clients. Of clients accessing food banks for more than one year, 58% did not eat for a whole day almost every month.

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.

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 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

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>

neighbourhoods with the highest number of COVID-19 cases include: Taylor Massey, Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park.

- Significant increases in overdose deaths have occurred since the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 8 people died per day from overdose in the second year of the pandemic, compared to 4 before the pandemic started. In Toronto 511 people died of an opioid overdose in 2021, 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