COMMUNITY CONTEXT:
TORONTO NORTH
LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership (TNLIP) is a multi-sectoral planning table which brings together a diverse array of stakeholders to coordinate and streamline the settlement and integration of newcomers in North York. TNLIP is led and staffed by a consortium of partner agencies in the region: JVS Toronto, Working Women Community Centre and TNO – The Neighborhood Organization.
TNLIP has three strategic pillars:

- Employment & Labour Market Integration
- Health & Wellbeing
- Settlement, Language & Integration

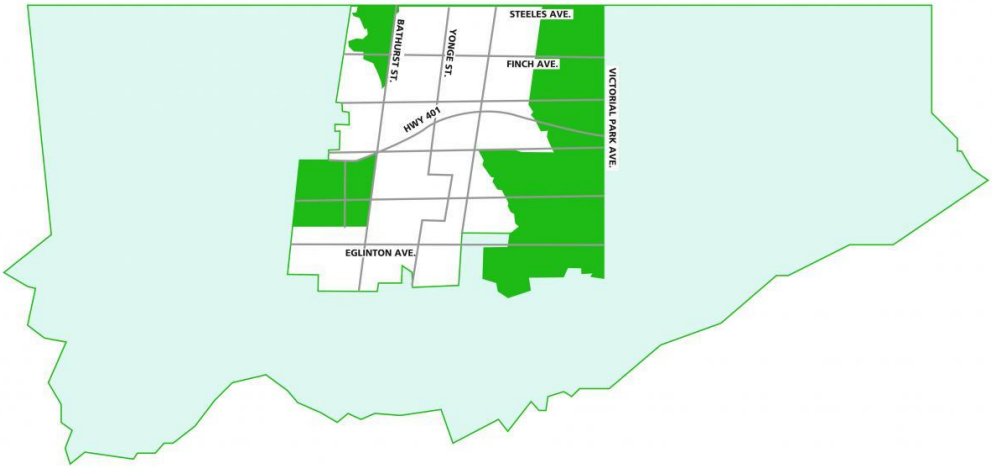
As a part of its strategic planning for 2021-2025, TNLIP has conducted research into the demographics, service gaps, and assets across Toronto North communities. This report provides an overview of the region's demographics and explores access to employment, health, and settlement services.

Themes:

- Toronto North is a divided region. While the core boasts Toronto's most affluent neighborhoods, there are significant marginalized populations, especially in the neighborhood improvement areas and across the eastern side. These neighborhoods have fewer employment opportunities and less access to services.
- With 27% of the city's immigrant population, Toronto North is extremely diverse. More than half of the region's residents are immigrants, and neighbourhoods in Toronto North have more immigrants per capita than anywhere in the city. The region is home to 30% of the city's Chinese, 33% of its Filipino, and 69% of its Iranian population.
- Significant challenges remain in all of TNLIP's core areas. Nearly 29,000 residents (4.2%) speak neither official language. Employment opportunities are increasing only in white collar jobs that require language and accreditation, while entry-level jobs have been in decline. Health resources are sparse in the neighbourhoods with the most newcomers.

LOCATION

Toronto North is an area in the north-central region of Toronto that is bound by Steeles Avenue to the north, Victoria Park Avenue to the east, the CN Railway, Don River and St. Clair Avenue to the south and the CN Railway, Allen Road and Dufferin Road to the West.



DATA & METHODS

Toronto North is composed of 36 official City neighborhoods. A small section of the Leaside-Bennington neighborhood crosses St. Clair into the South Quadrant. However, the lower section is primarily ravine land, and the majority of the population lives north of St. Clair, so it has been retained in the analysis.

Demographic data are taken from the 2016 Census and disaggregated at the City of Toronto Neighborhood level. This data, released in 2017, is the most recent data available for the region. Data from the 2021 census will be available in early 2022, at which point the insights from this report can be updated.

Data on neighborhood resources (health, social services, settlement) are taken from municipal, provincial, and federal open data portals. These datasets note where organizations are headquartered, but not the geographic scope of their operations. Datasets are cited at the end of the report.

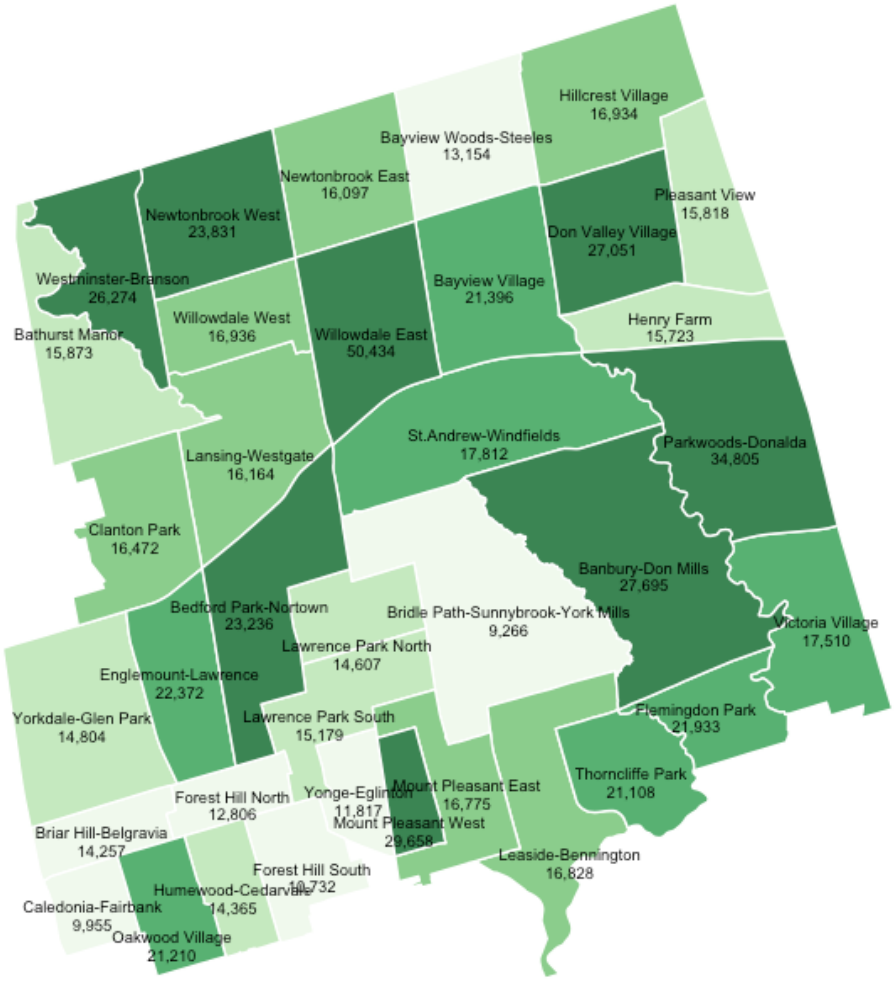
DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

Toronto North Quadrant is home to 674,059 people, 25% of the city's population and 339,805 immigrants (50.4%)1. This is 27% of the city's total immigrant population. The region's population has grown from 663,975 in 2011, a 1.5% increase.

Willowdale East is the most populous neighborhood in the quadrant, with 50,343 residents, the third highest in the city. The Bridle-Path-Sunnybrook-York-Mills neighborhood (9,266) is the quadrant's least populated and Toronto's most sparsely populated neighborhood.

Population: Toronto North Neighborhoods

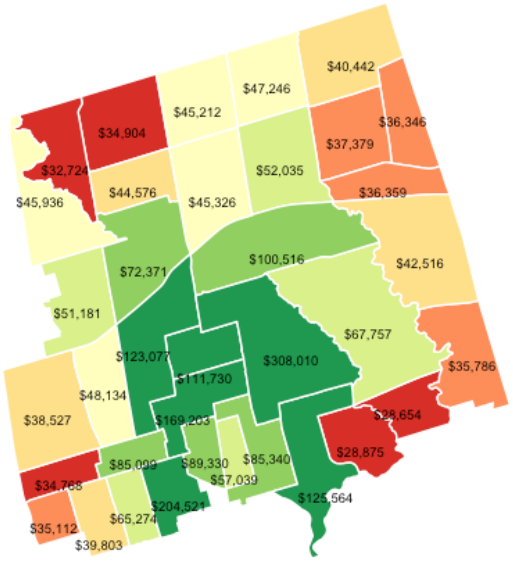


[1] This data uses Statistics Canada's definition of immigrant: "people who are, or who have ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident". This definition is broader than typical conceptions of *newcomer,* as it includes long-settled immigrants who have since become citizens. However, it is not unreasonable to assume that the general prevalence of *immigrants* reflects the specific distribution of more recent *newcomers*.

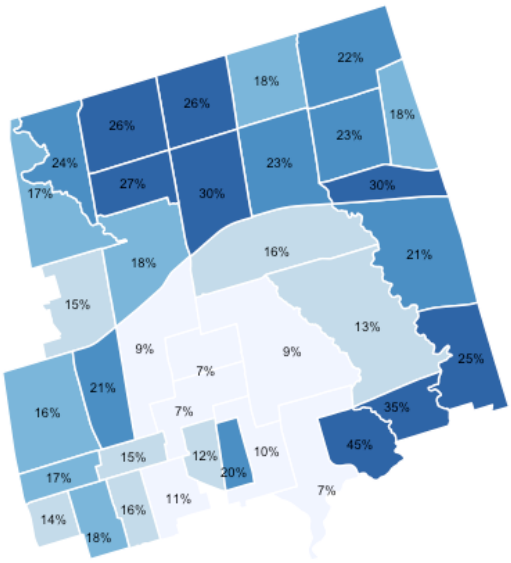
INCOME

Toronto North is a region of *Haves* and *Have-Nots*. In the centre, Bridle Path and surrounding areas boast highest average income in the city (more than $300,000), while nearby Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park are in the bottom 10 of Toronto neighbourhoods, with less than 10% of the income of their neighbors.

Average Annual Income in Toronto North

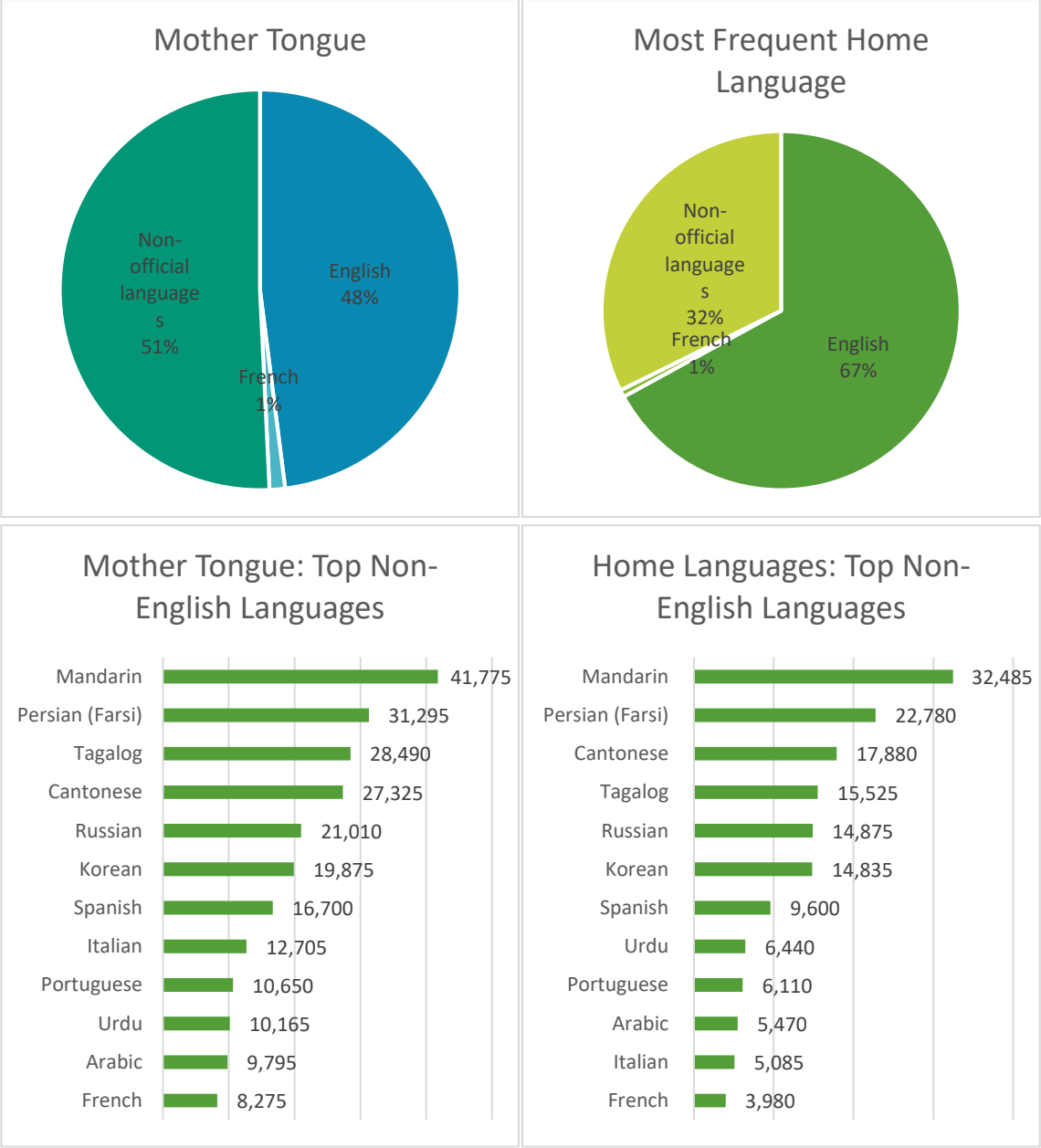


Low Income Measure After Tax prevalence in Toronto North



Poverty rates tell the same story, with 45% of those in Thorncliffe park living under the Low-Income Measure, the highest anywhere in the city. In general, there is low income and high poverty in the four corners of the quadrant. Though the average household income in Willowdale East is near average for the region, the prevalence of poverty (30%) is quite high.

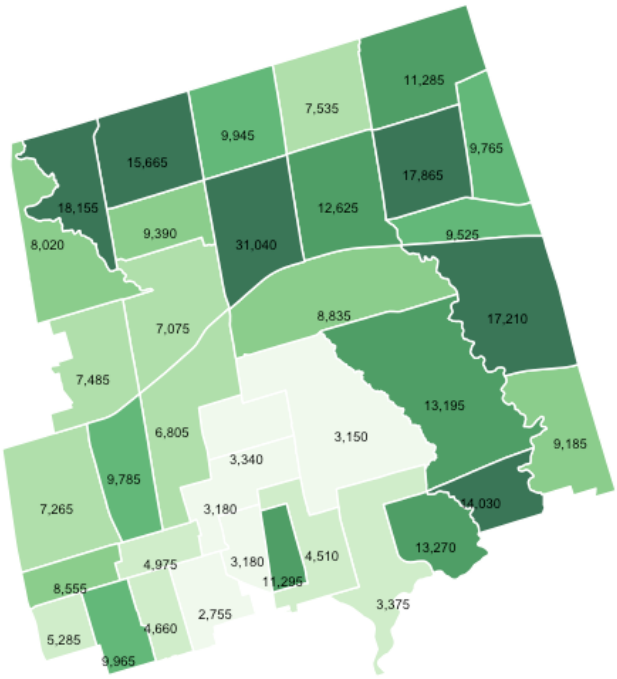
LANGUAGE



Given that more than half of the region's residents are from outside Canada, it is natural that 51% report a language other than English or French as their mother tongue. The most common non-official languages are Mandarin, Farsi, Tagalog, and Cantonese. This trend is repeated for home language, though many households have begun to speak English. Still, the region is higher than average, with 32% of households speaking a non-official language, compared to 28% for Toronto as a whole. Finally, 4.2% speak neither English or French.

IMMIGRATION

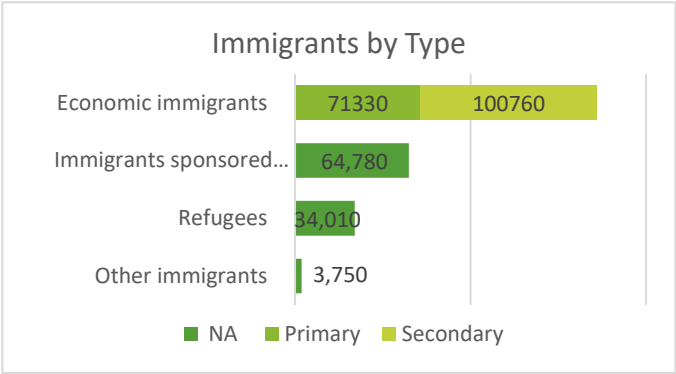
Immigrant Populations in Toronto North Neighborhoods

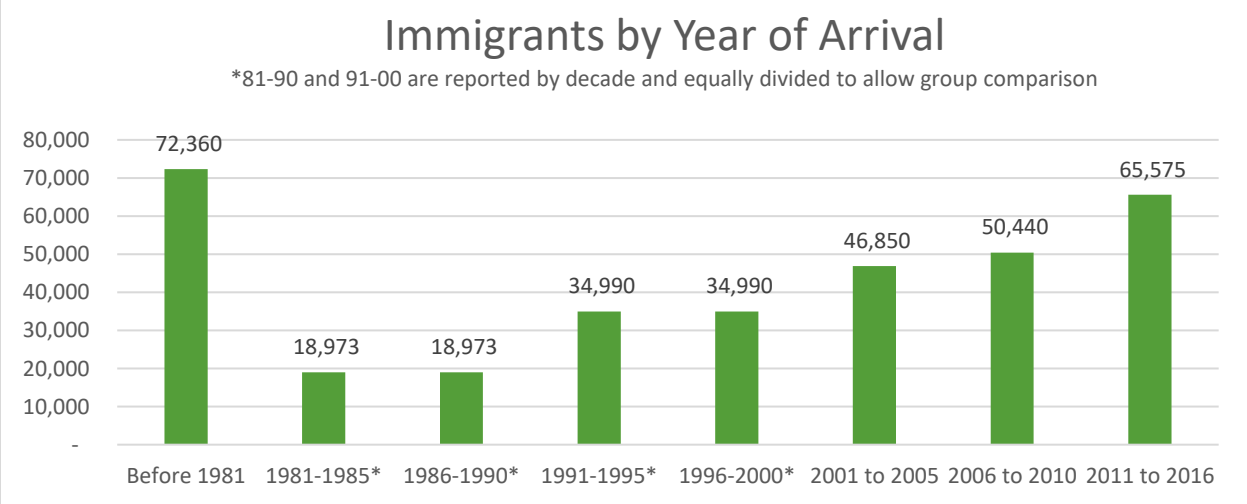


Toronto North Quadrant is home to 339,805 immigrants, 27% of the city's total. Willowdale East has 31,040 immigrant residents, the highest population of anywhere in the city. Newcomers are spread throughout the region, but especially concentrated along the north and east edges. This is region is analagous with the high poverty neighborhoods in the region.

Most immigrants arrived as economic migrants, most of whom arrived with families. As of the last census, 13% were refugees, though this rate has likely increased since 2016.

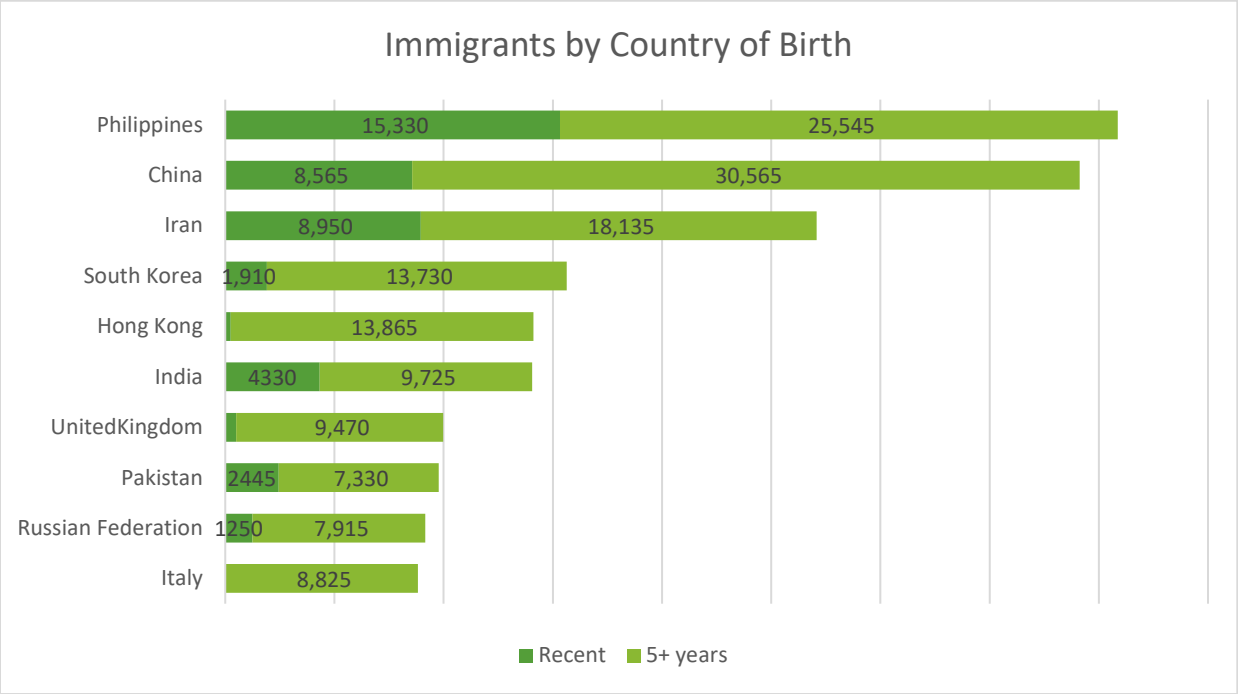
Of all immigrants, 15% arrived in Canada in the five years leading up to the 2016 census, and 37% since 2000. Given the large increases in immigration rates since 2016, the number of newcomers has likely increased.



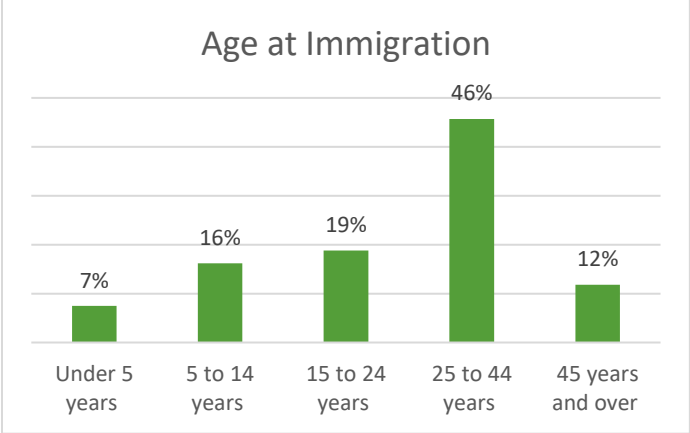


Origins

The largest number of immigrants to the region come from the Philippines. The Philippines also has a high ratio of recent immigrants. Similarly, we that much of the regions recent migrants are from Iran, India, and Pakistan, while immigration from UK, Italy, and Hong Kong has stalled.



Almost half of migrants arrived in Canada as relatively young adults aged 25-44. Another quarter arrived as children under 14. Overall, there are very who arrived in Canada having already entered middle age.



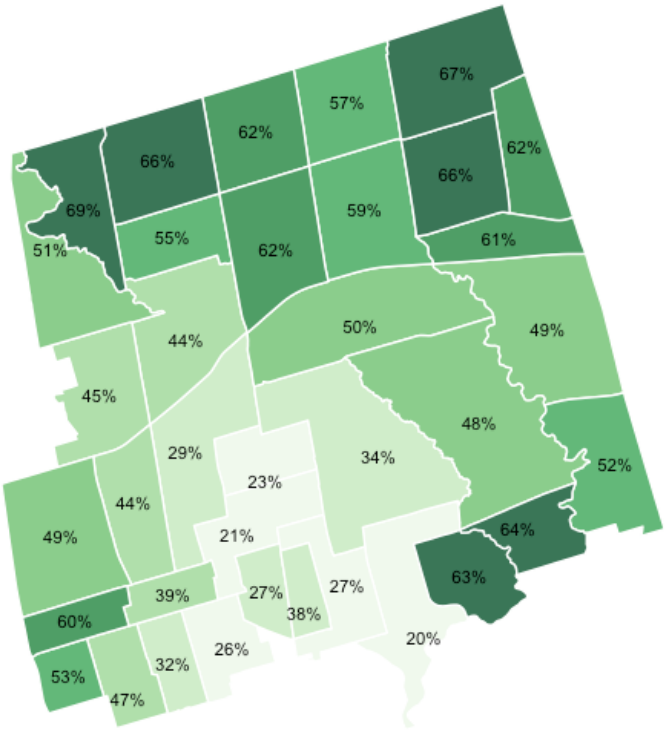
There are several ethnic groups whose populations are concentrated in the region. Israeli and Jewish communities are very dense. The vast majority of the city's Iranian and central European populations are clustered in Toronto North.

Ethnic Background	North	Toronto	Percent
Israeli	4,715	6,715	70%
Iranian	31,570	45,540	69%
Georgian	1,070	1,605	67%
Azerbaijani	1,090	1,670	65%
Tajik	480	775	62%
Jewish	20,255	34,270	59%
Moldovan	730	1,270	57%
Korean	24,465	43,455	56%
Moroccan	2,210	4,100	54%
Uzbek	545	1,020	53%

Density

Not only is the absolute population of immigrants high, but because of the stark divides in Toronto North, the region has some of the most densely populated newcomer neighborhoods. In Westminster Branson, 69% of residents are immigrants, the second highest rate in Toronto. Looking across the city, nine out of the fifteen most immigrant-dense neighborhoods are in Toronto North.

Immigrants (% of Population) in Toronto North



Toronto Neighborhoods by Immigrant Prevalence

Neighborhood	Percent Immigrants	Total Immigrants	Region
Steeles	70.8%	17,440	East
Westminster-Branson	**69.1%**	**18,155**	**North**
Milliken	68.7%	18,265	East
Agincourt North	68.7%	19,995	East
Hillcrest Village	**66.6%**	**11,285**	**North**
Don Valley Village	**66.0%**	**17,865**	**North**
Newtonbrook West	**65.7%**	**15,665**	**North**
Mount Olive Silverstone Jamestown	65.2%	21,500	West
L.Amoreaux	64.4%	28,325	East
Flemingdon Park	**64.0%**	**14,030**	**North**
Agincourt South Malvern West	63.5%	15,095	East
Thorncliffe Park	**62.9%**	**13,270**	**North**
Newtonbrook East	**61.8%**	**9,945**	**North**
Pleasant View	**61.7%**	**9,765**	**North**
Willowdale East	**61.6%**	**31,040**	**North**

THEMES

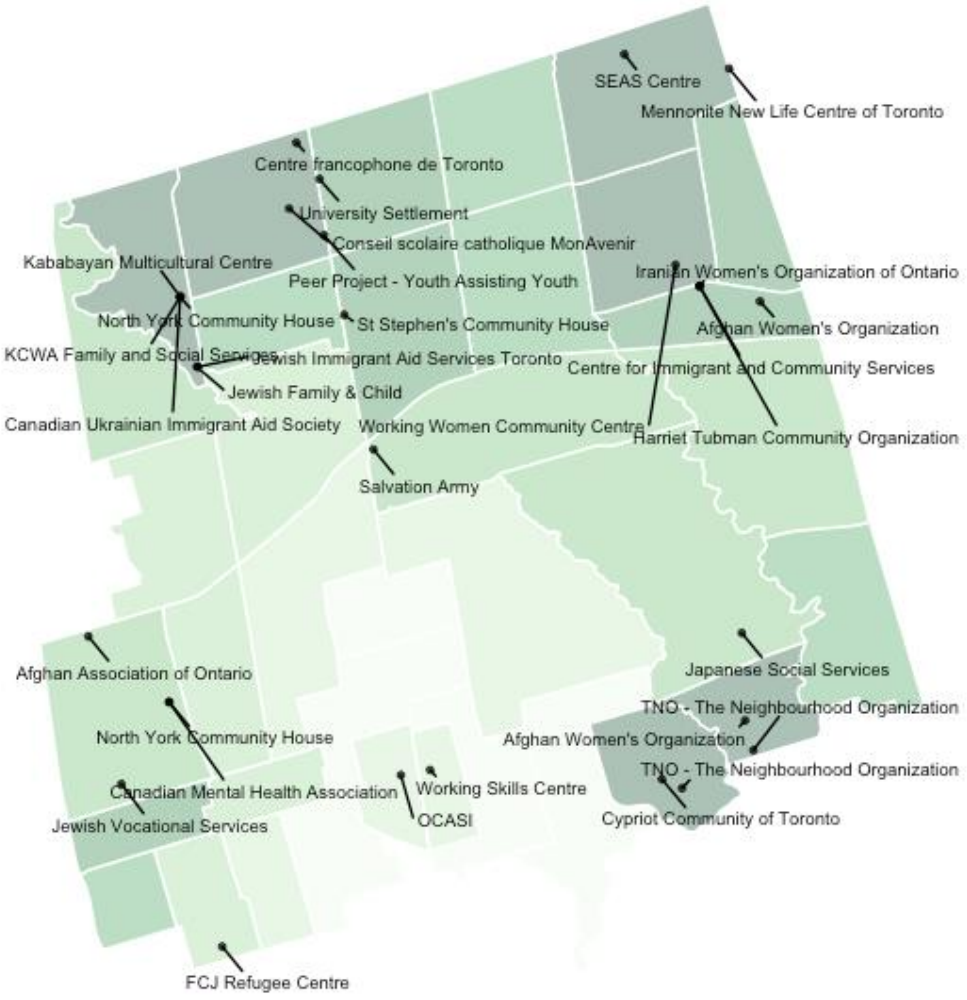
SETTLEMENT, LANGUAGE & INTEGRATION

Toronto 211 records 31 organizations offering settlement services in Toronto North. Many of these organizations operate in the Southeast and Northwest corners where many newcomers live. The northeast corner and Willowdale area are relatively under-served.

Most of these organizations serve all groups. Two are Francophone organizations, and seven target specific ethnic communities (eg. Afghan, Japanese).

Neighborhood	Immigrants	Settlement Orgs
Westminster-Branson	69%	6
Yorkdale-Glen Park	49%	4
Henry Farm	61%	4
Newtonbrook West	66%	3
Hillcrest Village	67%	2
Flemingdon Park	64%	2
Thorncliffe Park	63%	2

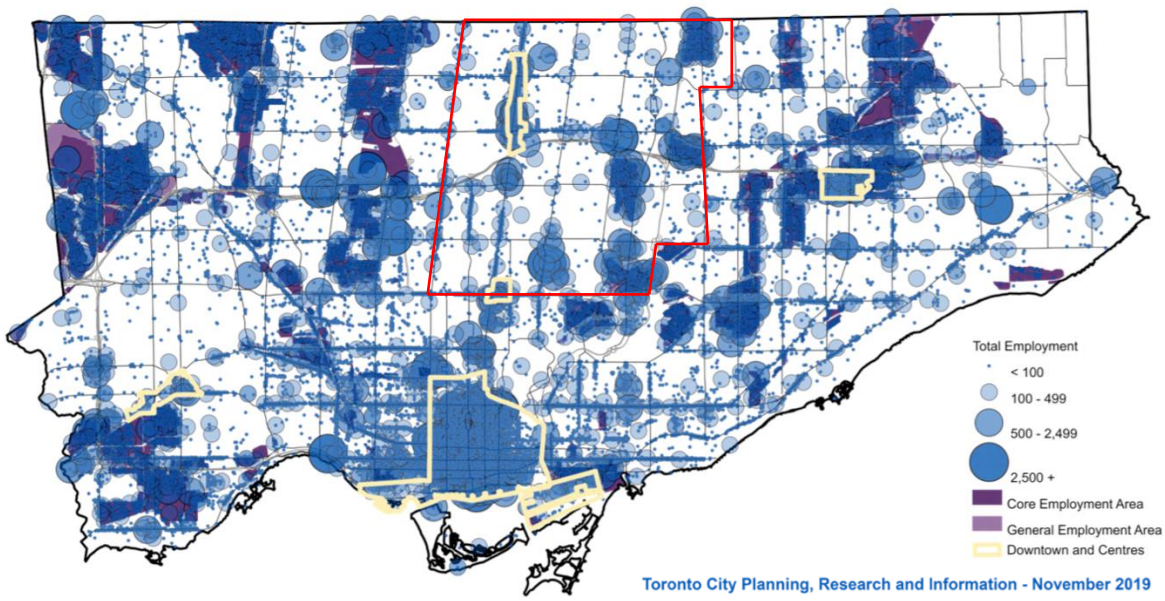
Settlement Organizations in Toronto North



EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

Though the 2016 census recorded an unemployment rate similar to the rest of the city (8.1%), employment options within the region are sparse. Toronto's 2019 Employment Survey reveals Toronto North to have extremely low employment density. Though not perfectly aligned with the LIP catchment, the city's Northeast EMA (Bathurst to Victoria Park north of Eglington), covers roughly the same area.

Northeast EMA



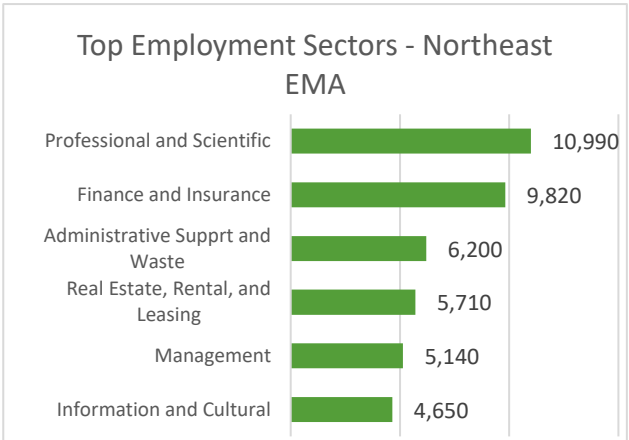
Though Toronto North is home to a quarter of the city's population, it has only 15% (63,560) of Toronto's jobs. The sectoral distribution shows that of these jobs are white collar jobs which require advanced training and credentials (professional, finance, management) or startup capital (real estate). Northeast was the only EMA to shrink in 2019, losing 1,050 jobs (1.5%). Since 2014, *Finance and Insurance* has grown by 18.5%, while manufacturing and utilities have shrunk.

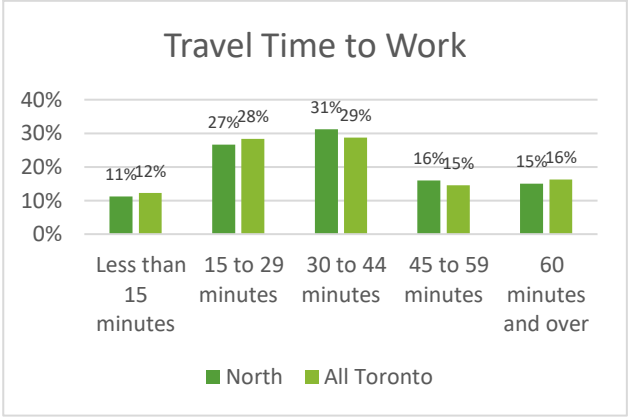
North York Centre

The centre has 28,340 jobs, 45% of the region's total employment. In the centre, 8 out of 10 jobs are white collar jobs.

Commute

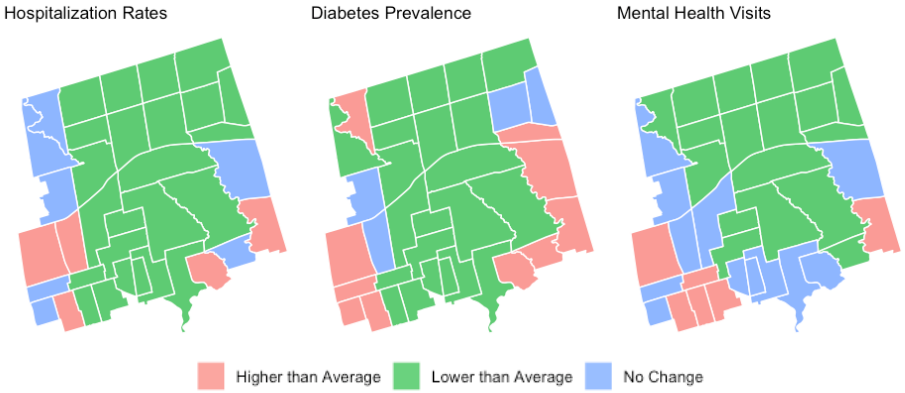
Given the opportunities in the rest of the city, it is unsurprising that most resident commute. 62% travel over 30 mins, and overall, people in Toronto North spend slightly longer travelling to work then the rest of Toronto.





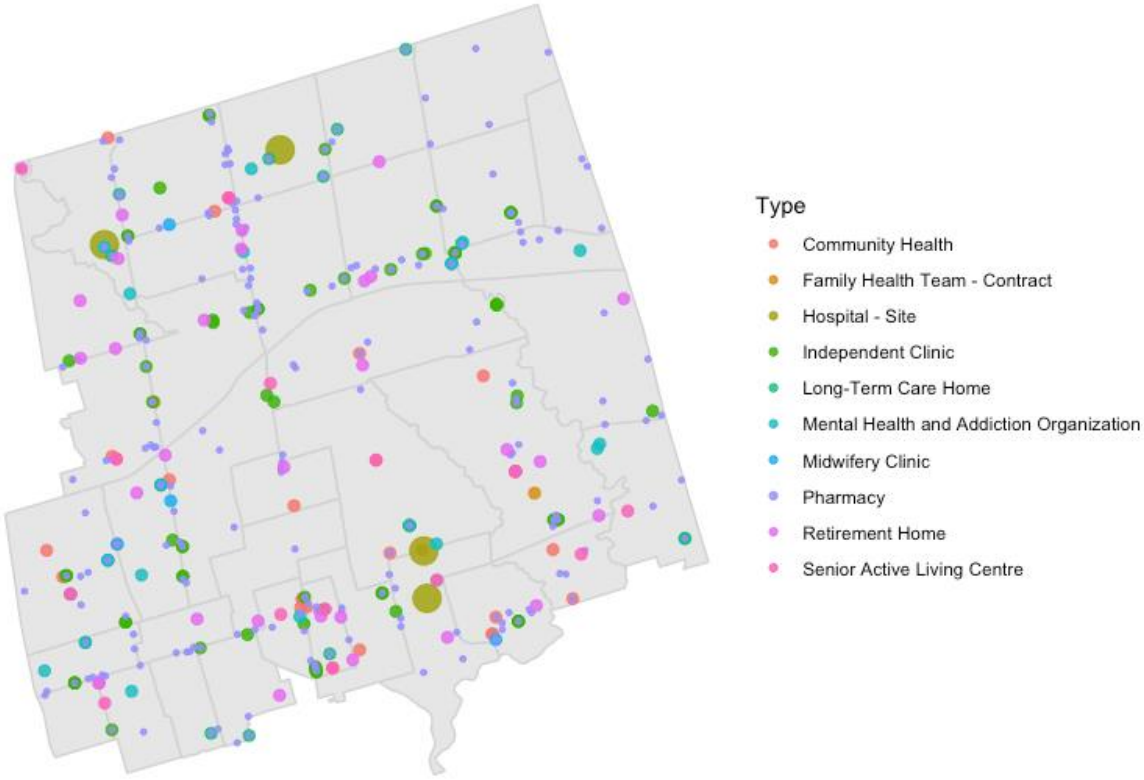
HEALTH & WELLBEING

Overall, Toronto North is a healthy area, with outcomes above the city average even in lower-income neighborhoods. However, the southeast (elderly) and southwest (poverty) corners have challenges:



Toronto North has numerous health resources, with over 400 health-related organizations operating in the region. Three hospitals- Baycrest, Sunnybrook and North York General- plus the Holland Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Centre offer services. The majority of health resources are concentrated in the more affluent western side. This is especially true of seniors' resources. Community and mental health resources are spread equitable through the region. There are numerous organizations in Thorncliffe Park, possibly due to its proximity to North York General. Even though the Willowdale area is the regions most populated area, there are relatively few health services there.

Health Organizations in Toronto North



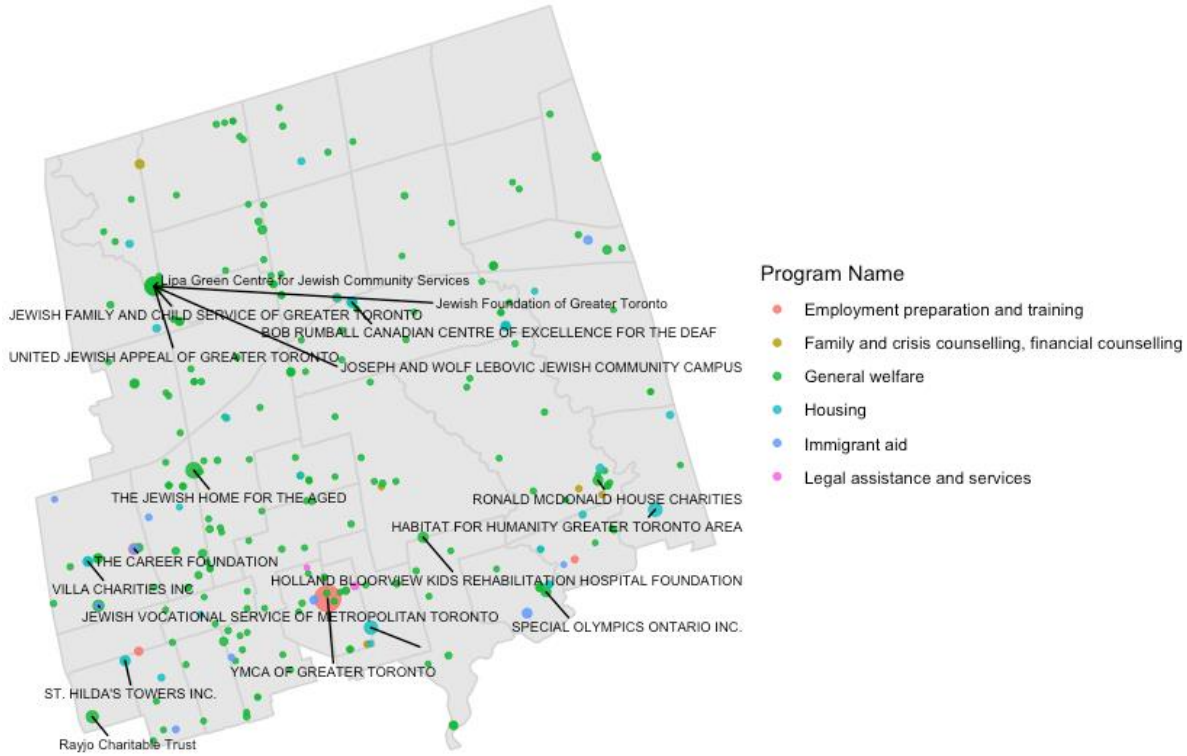
Health Organizations by Type and Neighborhood

	Pharmacy	Independent Clinic	Community Support Service	Retirement Home	Mental Health & Addiction	Senior Active Living Centre	Long-Term Care Home	AIDS Bureau	Community Health Centre	Family Health Team	Midwifery Clinic	Hospital - Site	Children's Centre	Total
Mount Pleasant West	8	9	2	3		2	1	3						28
Banbury-Don Mills	12	7	2	3		2	1			1				28
Newtonbrook West	12	5	2	1		2	1				1			24
Yorkdale-Glen Park	9	5	4		2	1	1	1						23
Bayview Village	9	5	1	3	2									20
Bridle Path-Sunnybrook	5	2	4		2	1		2		1				17
Willowdale East	11	4		1				1						17
Clanton Park	12	2	2			1								17
Englemount-Lawrence	5	3	1	1	2		1	1	1		2			17
Thorncliffe Park	8	3	3	1							1			16
Briar Hill-Belgravia	8	5			2									15
St.Andrew-Windfields	6	4	1	1		1				1				14
Bathurst Manor	7	3		3		1								14
Newtonbrook East	9	1			1		2					1		14
Bedford Park-Nortown	8	3	1	1										13
Henry Farm	6	5			1									12
Leaside-Bennington	7			1		1	1					1	1	12
Yonge-Eglinton	4	1	2		1	1			2					11
Don Valley Village	6	3			1		1							11
Oakwood Village	5	1	1	1	1	1								10
Willowdale West	8			1	1									10
Mount Pleasant East	5	4	1											10
Westminster-Branson	4		1	1	2		1					1		10
Lansing-Westgate	4	3		1						1				9
Forest Hill South	4	2		1			1							8
Victoria Village	3				2	1	2							8
Parkwoods-Donalda	6	1		1										8
Flemingdon Park	4		1			1			1					7
Humewood-Cedarvale	4						1							5
Hillcrest Village	5													5
Bayview Woods-Steeles	3						2							5
Lawrence Park North	3		1	1										5
Lawrence Park South	3			1										4
Pleasant View	3													3
Forest Hill North	2			1										3
Caledonia-Fairbank	1													1
Total	219	81	30	28	20	16	16	8	4	4	4	3	1	434

SOCIAL SERVICES

North York is also home to a wide variety of non-profit organizations[2]. The largest (labelled, sized by annual expenditure) organizations are primarily foundations, many of which operate beyond the region. There is a cluster of Jewish-related agencies operating in the northeast. There are also a large number of small community-based organizations. However, once again the lower income neighborhoods have fewer organizations.

Charitable Organizations in Toronto North



The more affluent western side of the region is home to the majority of organizations. However, there are several large organizations in the Don Mills area.

The largest registered charity in this area is the YMCA, which has operations across the city. Jewish foundations are also very prevalent. There are also some major national charities with headquarters in Toronto North.

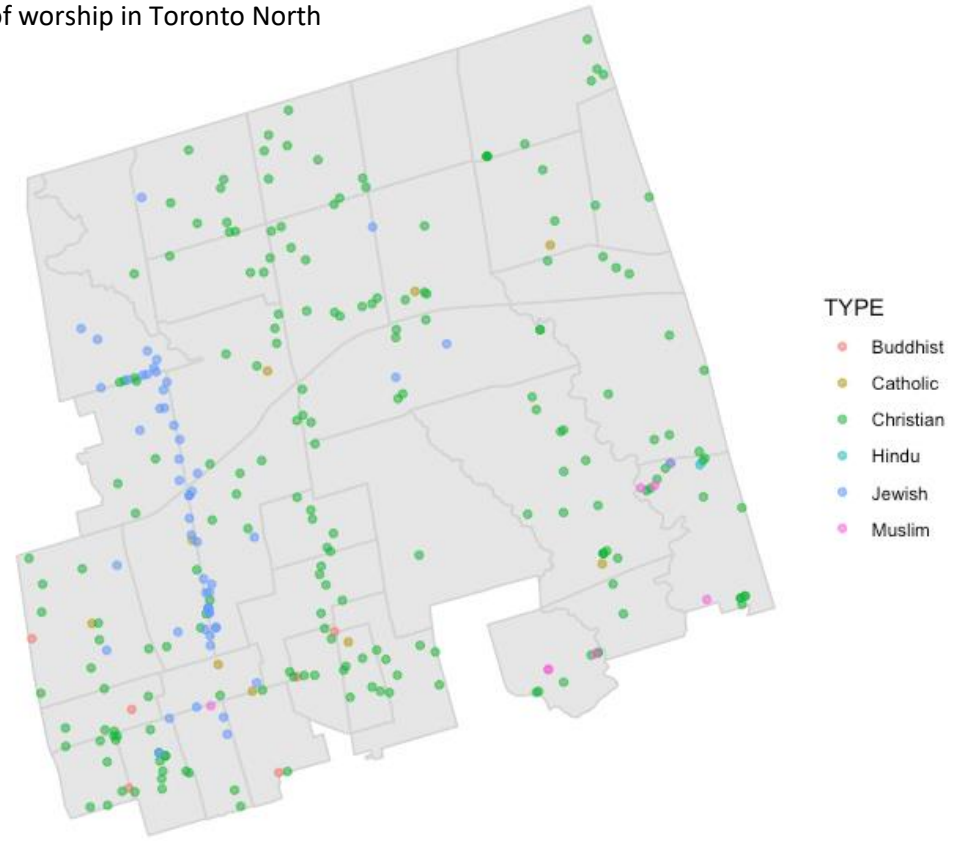
Areas with the most organizations	
St.Andrew-Windfields	21
Englemount-Lawrence	20
Westminster-Branson	19
Mount Pleasant West	17
Yorkdale-Glen Park	16
Banbury-Don Mills	16
Bedford Park-Nortown	13
Forest Hill South	12
Willowdale East	9
Lansing-Westgate	9

[2] This map was created using the public database of CRA filings of tax-exempt charitable organizations (2017)

FAITH ORGANIZATIONS

Toronto North is home to a wide variety of faith communities. The map below displays churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples across the region. Places of worship are less common in the affluent core, and the highest diversity and density is found in lower-income neighborhoods. There is a large Jewish community along Bathurst, and Christian churches spread throughout the region.

Places of worship in Toronto North



Places of Worship by Type	
Christian	207
Jewish	55
Catholic	11
Muslim	7
Buddhist	7
Hindu	1

SOURCES

Canada Revenue Agency (2017). 2016 List of Charities. *Open Data Canada.* Accessed at: https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/7ef067c4-07a8-4882-ade3-643d00fd6c49

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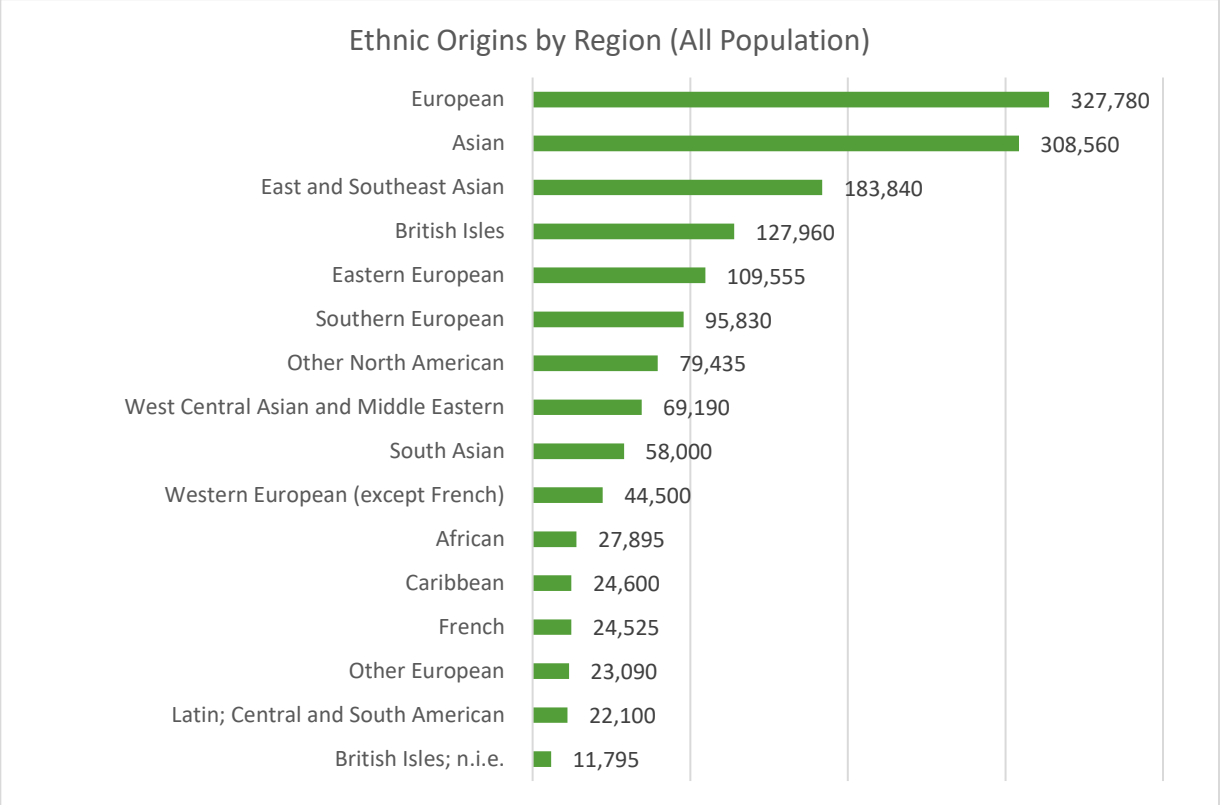
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (Apr, 2020). *Ministry of Health Service Provider Locations*, Ontario GeoHub. Accessed at: https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/datasets/ministry-of-health-service-provider-locations

Toronto City Planning (2019). *Bulletin: Toronto Employment Survey 2019.* Accessed at: https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/9453-Toronto-Employment-Survey-2019-Bulletin.pdf

Appendix: Ethnicity for whole Population



Top Ethnic Backgrounds by Neighborhood

	Most Common	2	3	4	Fifth most Common
Banbury-Don Mills	European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles	Eastern European
Bathurst Manor	European	Asian	Eastern European	Southern European	East and Southeast Asian
Bayview Village	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	British Isles
Bayview Woods-Steeles	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	British Isles	Eastern European
Bedford Park-Nortown	European	Eastern European	British Isles	Asian	Other North American
Briar Hill-Belgravia	European	Southern European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles
Bridle Path-Sunnybrook-York Mills	European	British Isles	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	Other North American
Caledonia-Fairbank	European	Southern European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles
Clanton Park	European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	Eastern European	Southern European
Don Valley Village	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	South Asian
Englemount-Lawrence	European	Asian	Eastern European	East and Southeast Asian	Other North American

Flemingdon Park	Asian	South Asian	European	East and Southeast Asian	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern
Forest Hill North	European	Eastern European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles
Forest Hill South	European	Eastern European	British Isles	Other North American	Asian
Henry Farm	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	South Asian	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern
Hillcrest Village	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	Eastern European	South Asian
Humewood-Cedarvale	European	British Isles	Eastern European	Asian	Other North American
Lansing-Westgate	European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	Eastern European	British Isles
Lawrence Park North	European	British Isles	Other North American	Asian	Eastern European
Lawrence Park South	European	British Isles	Other North American	Eastern European	Asian
Leaside-Bennington	European	British Isles	Other North American	Asian	Southern European
Mount Pleasant East	European	British Isles	Other North American	Asian	Eastern European
Mount Pleasant West	European	British Isles	Asian	Eastern European	Other North American
Newtonbrook East	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	British Isles
Newtonbrook West	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	Eastern European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern
Oakwood Village	European	Southern European	Asian	British Isles	East and Southeast Asian
Parkwoods-Donalda	European	Asian	British Isles	East and Southeast Asian	Other North American
Pleasant View	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	Southern European	British Isles
St.Andrew-Windfields	Asian	European	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles	Eastern European
Thorncliffe Park	Asian	South Asian	European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	East and Southeast Asian
Victoria Village	Asian	European	British Isles	South Asian	Southern European
Westminster-Branson	European	Asian	Eastern European	East and Southeast Asian	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern
Willowdale East	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	European	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	British Isles
Willowdale West	Asian	European	East and Southeast Asian	West Central Asian and Middle Eastern	British Isles
Yonge-Eglinton	European	British Isles	Asian	Other North American	Eastern European
Yorkdale-Glen Park	European	Southern European	Asian	East and Southeast Asian	British Isles