

# UNEQUAL CITY:

The Hidden Divide  
Among Toronto's  
Children  
and Youth



2017 Toronto Child and Family Poverty Report Card

November 2017

## Acknowledgements

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## Summary

This report draws on the Statistics Canada 2016 Census and other new data sources to describe the level, distribution and depth of poverty among Toronto children, youth and their families.

Its main findings<sup>1</sup> are the following:

- Indigenous families with children in the City of Toronto experience an extremely high poverty rate of 84%.
- More than one in four children under 18 years of age (26.3%) live in poverty in the city of Toronto. This is the highest rate among large urban areas in Canada.
- Children in racialized families<sup>2</sup> are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to children in non-racialized families (25.3% compared to 11.4%) in the Toronto region (i.e., Census Metropolitan Area or CMA).
- Almost one in two children who are of West Asian (46.8%) or Arab (46.7%) background live in poverty in the Toronto region. This is more than four times the rate of poverty of children in non-racialized families.
- Almost one in two Toronto region children who arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2016 (47.2%) live in poverty. This is almost three times the rate of poverty experienced by children in non-immigrant families.
- Child poverty rates for children who are second and third generation Canadian remain particularly high for Black and Latin American families in the Toronto region.
- 37.8% of children in lone-parent families in the Toronto region live in poverty, while the rate for children in female lone-parent households is 40%, more than twice the poverty rate of two-parent families.
- The gap in child poverty rates across Toronto neighbourhoods remains stark, ranging from 4.1% in Kingsway South to 60.1% in Thorncliffe Park.
- Thirteen city wards have areas of child poverty where rates are 50% or more.



As shown in this report, the divide in incomes along Indigenous, racial, immigration status, and gender lines is staggering. Rates of poverty for marginalized communities are several times what they are for others. As more than half of Toronto's population identify as racialized (51.5%), this is a deep concern. Building a successful city must include providing the necessary measures to ensure no one is left behind and that systemic inequalities are addressed within City policies and programs.

Addressing these inequities will require concerted effort. The City must work together with community partners to address systemic barriers present in City policies, programs and services. It must provide adequate funding to implement approved strategies, including the *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*, the *Youth Equity Strategy* and other relevant plans. The City must also pass the final *Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism* which is expected to come forward to the Executive Committee and City Council shortly, as well as create gender equity and racial justice strategies. Reducing racial, gendered and other disparities and inequities must be a top priority if the City is committed to reducing child and family poverty in Toronto.

## Introduction

Two years after the creation of *TO Prosperity, Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy*<sup>3</sup>, our city continues to struggle to address the high rates of poverty experienced by children and youth. As City Manager, Peter Wallace, recently remarked during his 2017 state of city government speech, child poverty in Toronto is an “area of really big failure”.<sup>4</sup>

Indeed, as 2016 Census data reported below shows, more than one in four children under 18 years of age (26.3%) and more than one in four youth aged 18-24 years (27%) in the city of Toronto live in poverty. Even more concerning are the disproportionately high rates of poverty experienced by Indigenous children, racialized children and children who are recent immigrants, which reveal a disturbing picture of the different realities faced by children across the Toronto region.

It is deeply concerning, in a city as wealthy as Toronto, that children from certain neighbourhoods and populations have a 50% rate of poverty. This is not just a big failure, it is inexcusable.

In a city whose motto is “Diversity Our Strength”, we must ask ourselves whether we are supporting this diversity if we are allowing children who are Indigenous, racialized or recent immigrants to live with rates of poverty that are several times higher than other children experience. If we truly are to be a city that finds strength in diversity, then we must acknowledge and reverse the continued shift toward a city where some have a lot and many have too little. We need to ask who is being included, and who is being left behind, when we speak of building a great city.

We need to look at the root causes of poverty in Toronto and ask ourselves, how many more children need to live without safe housing, go to sleep hungry, and live without basic necessities, before we commit to action – such as funding the services and programs needed to reduce these unacceptable numbers? We all have the responsibility to hold the City and other orders of government accountable. We need real change: so many of our children, youth and families depend on it.



## The High Cost of Poverty

The high rates of poverty among children outlined below are troubling. Much research now shows that poverty greatly impacts children's life opportunities and life outcomes, and can contribute to a multi-generational cycle of poverty.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to causing hardship, poverty in Toronto necessitates the spending of billions of dollars on downstream health care, social services, child welfare, policing and incarceration costs – much of which could be avoided by investing in poverty reduction measures such as affordable housing, employment and training, and other supports.<sup>6</sup>





## Government and Communities Can Make a Difference

Federal and provincial governments have stepped up to the plate in recent years to address poverty reduction through the creation of child benefits, improvements to employment conditions and wages, and income supports. The findings from our research suggest that these government initiatives are making a modest difference in reducing overall poverty rates.

As the front line deliverer of many services and a key policy maker, the City of Toronto has an important role to play in decreasing the rate of child and family poverty. In unanimously adopting its *Poverty Reduction Strategy* in 2015, the City took an important first step forward. However, while it has implemented some changes, including providing free public transit for children under 12 and expanding important nutrition and social-recreational programs for children and youth, much of the strategy's proposed initiatives remain unfunded.



The City of Toronto must commit to allocating revenue and coordinating resources to build a fairer and equitable environment with improved equity of access to good jobs, housing, transit and other city services for all. In addition, City policies, programs and services must focus on the inequities experienced by Indigenous, racialized, children who are recent immigrants, and children in female lone-parent households, and commit to substantial funding, and clear timelines and targets for actions that will reduce the rates of poverty amongst these groups.

The City of Toronto will soon launch the public process to determine its 2018 Budget. This is the last opportunity before the 2018 municipal election for Toronto's Mayor and Council to invest in policies that reduce poverty and improve the lives and opportunities of all residents in this city. It is imperative that they take this opportunity to work together and make a strong commitment to ending child and family poverty in Toronto.

By addressing poverty and inequality, we can, together, build a fairer, more equitable and unified city for everyone.

The time for action is now.

## Recommendations to Toronto's Mayor and City Council

- Fully fund all of the City's strategies that have been passed by Toronto City Council, including the *TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy*, *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*, *Youth Equity Strategy*, *Child Care Strategy*, and *Housing Opportunities Toronto*.
- Commit to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action as one approach to supporting Indigenous children and families.
- Pass and fund the *Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism*.
- Create and fund *Racial Justice and Gender Equity Strategies*.
- Consistently collect disaggregated demographic data – by gender identity, ethno-racial background, (dis)ability, sexuality, faith/spirituality, etc. – for all City programs and services.
- Fully implement gender responsive budgeting for the City budget.
- Create, fully fund and staff equity offices, including offices focused on Indigenous Peoples, gender, immigrants, accessibility, anti-black racism, and racial justice.

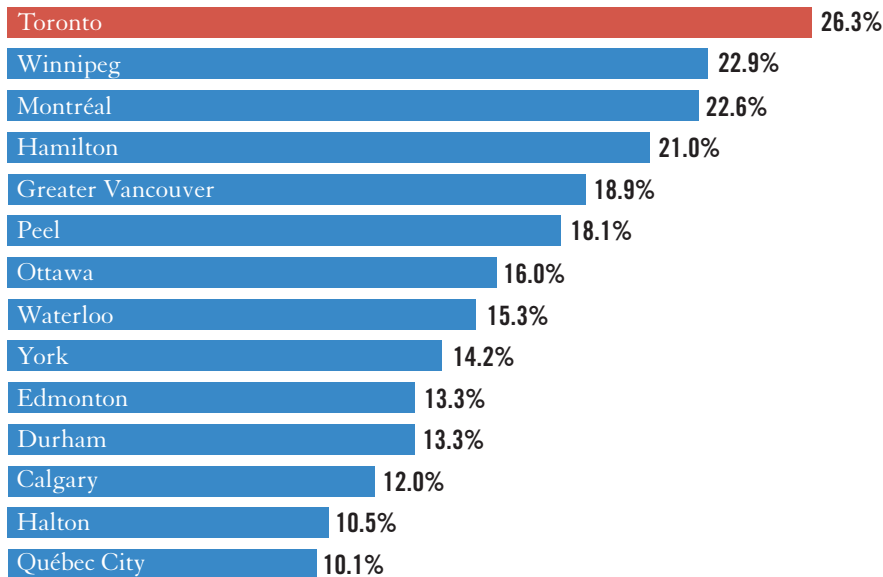


## Key Findings

Below we outline the 14 key findings in the report.

### 1. Toronto: Highest rate of child poverty among large Canadian cities

**Figure 1:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 years living in low-income families in large urban areas, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016127.

- According to the 2016 Census, 26% of children in the city of Toronto are experiencing poverty – the highest rate among large urban areas in Canada, a full 3.4 percentage points higher than the rate in second-place Winnipeg, and about twice as high as in Calgary and Edmonton.
- In total, 125,675 children in the city of Toronto are living in low-income families.

The low-income threshold used is the Low-Income Measure (After Tax) which is calculated as 50% of the median income adjusted for household size. “Large urban areas” are Census Divisions with populations greater than 500,000. See “Note on Data Sources” in **Appendix 1** for further details.



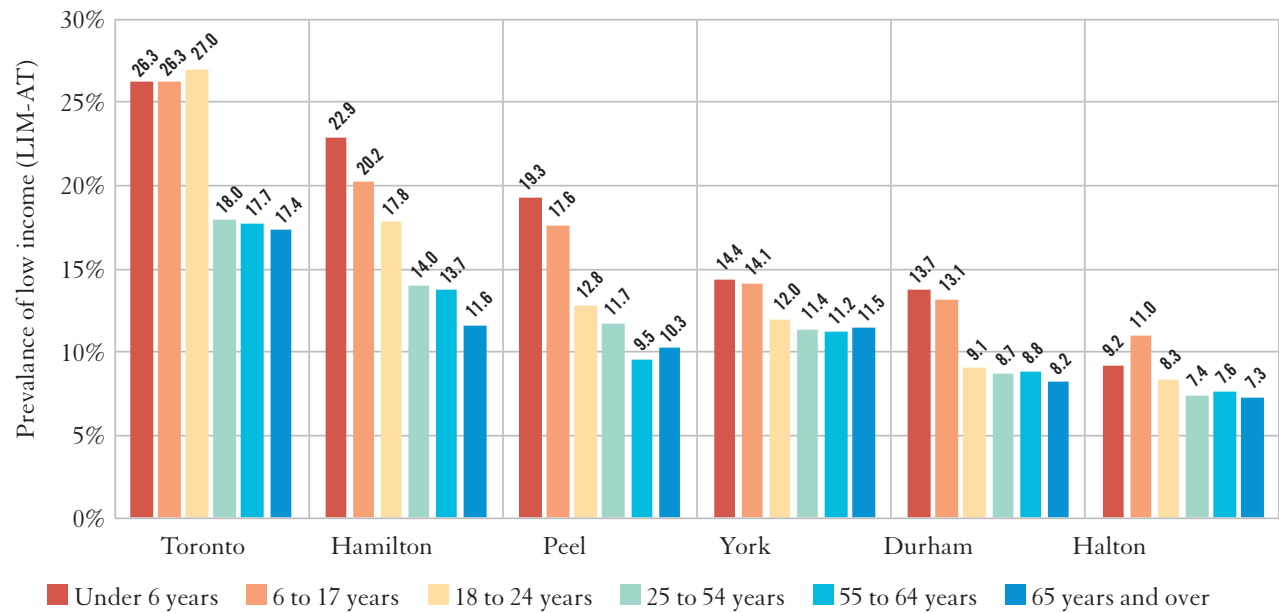
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## 2. Toronto has the highest rate of low income in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) across all age groups

**Figure 2:** Percentage of population with low incomes by age category, municipalities and regions in the GTHA, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016127.

- Toronto has the highest poverty rates among cities and regions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area across all age groups.
- Toronto children (ages 0-17 years) and youth (ages 18-24 years) experience significantly higher rates of poverty than adults and seniors.

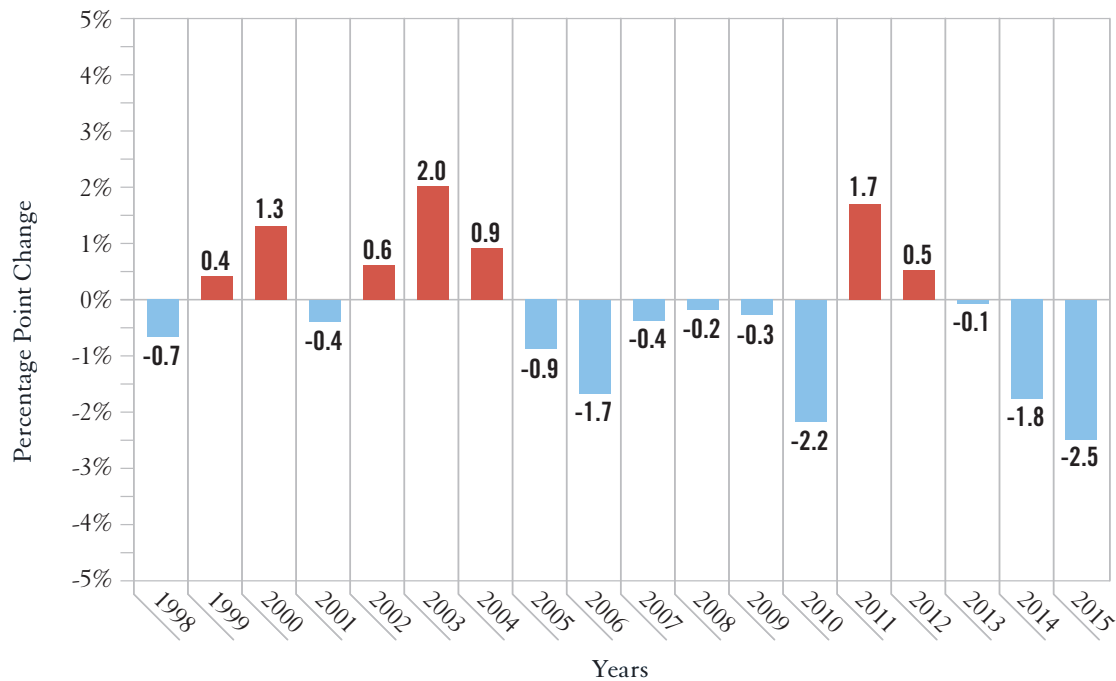
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### 3. There has been a recent decline in Toronto's child poverty rate but limited progress over the longer term

**Figure 3:** Annual percentage point change in children living in low-income families, City of Toronto, 1998-2015



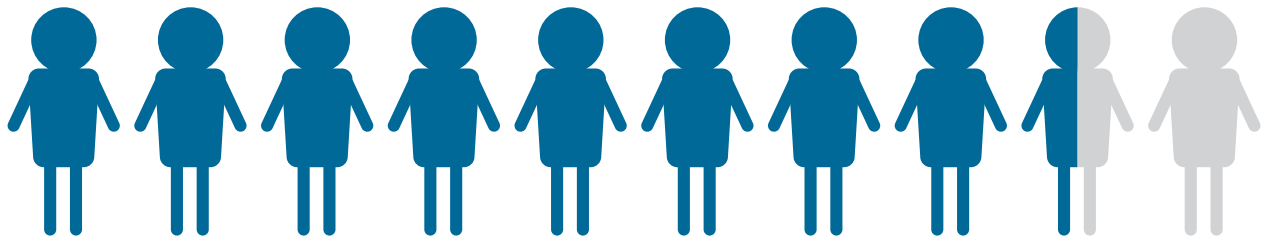
Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File, 1997-2015, Table F-18 - Low Income (LIM-AT).

- According to Statistics Canada T1 Family File (T1FF), the low-income rate among children under the age of 18 in the City of Toronto decreased for the second year in a row in 2015.
- The decline in Toronto mirrors declines in many other Ontario and Canadian cities, and is likely related to improvements in provincial and federal policies.<sup>7</sup>

#### 4. High rates of poverty among Indigenous children and families

Due to concerns about the accuracy of the Canadian Census in relation to capturing low-income rates in Toronto's Indigenous population, we have drawn data from Our Health Counts Toronto, an inclusive community-driven population health survey for Indigenous residents of Toronto.<sup>8</sup> The survey used respondent-driven sampling and a large-scale survey of the urban Indigenous population. It demonstrates and addresses weaknesses with the Canadian Census, which underestimates the size of the Indigenous population in Toronto by a factor of two to four.<sup>9</sup>

**84%** of Indigenous families  
with children are low-income



More than 8 in 10 Indigenous families are living in poverty in Toronto.

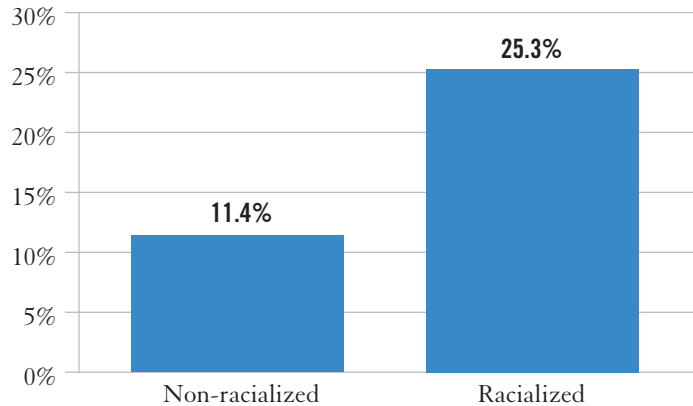
Poverty is a devastating lived reality for Indigenous children in Toronto. According to Our Health Counts Toronto, approximately 84% (with a 95% Confidence Interval<sup>10</sup> of 77.4-90.9%) of Indigenous families with children under the age of 18 were found to be living below the before-tax Low Income Cut-off (LICO) in 2014-2015.<sup>11</sup> The burden of poverty in Indigenous communities is crushing, exacerbating intergenerational legacies of trauma and keeping Indigenous children and families cycling through crisis and instability.

Even under the most conservative assumptions, Our Health Counts Toronto estimated the Indigenous<sup>12</sup> population in Toronto to be between 55,000–74,000 (2.1-2.8% of the Toronto population)<sup>13</sup>; approximately double the census estimate of 23,065.<sup>14</sup> Of this Indigenous population, 10,000-14,000 were Indigenous children aged under 15 years. The undercounting in the Census is due to a number of Indigenous data quality challenges, including misclassification errors and non-response bias which systematically contributes to a significant underestimate of inequities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.<sup>15</sup>



## 5. High rates of poverty among racialized children

**Figure 4:** Percentage of non-racialized and racialized children aged 0-17 in low-income families, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016211.

- **Children in racialized families in the Toronto region are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to children in non-racialized families.**

Due to data availability, low-income rates in Figures 4 to 10 are reported at the Toronto Region Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). See map in **Appendix 3**. All other maps and figures are reported at the level of the City of Toronto.

We define “racialized” (or “peoples of colour”) as the equivalent to Statistics Canada’s “visible minorities”. Visible minorities, as defined in the federal *Employment Equity Act*, refer to “persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.cfm#a4>

Statistics Canada includes individuals who identify as a member of an Indigenous group as well as people who identify as white in the non-racialized (or non-visible minority) group. According to Statistics Canada, the Indigenous population represents 1.6% of the non-racialized group in the Toronto region. As shown later in the report, the child poverty rate for the non-racialized group does not reflect the experience of the Indigenous population.

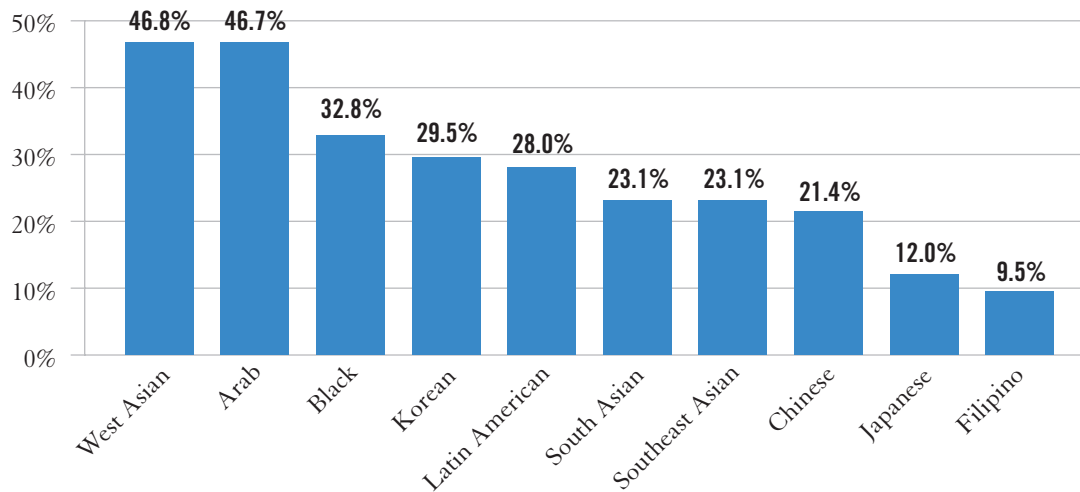
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### 6. High rates of poverty among children of certain ethno-racial backgrounds

**Figure 5:** Percentage of racialized children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by specific population group, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015



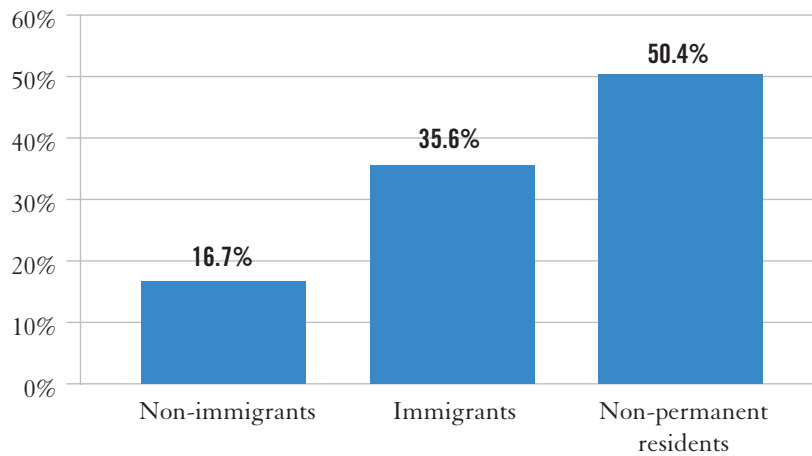
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016124.

- 47% of children in families of Arab and West Asian backgrounds are living in poverty, more than four times the proportion of children in non-racialized families who are living on low incomes.
- Poverty rates for children in Black families are almost three times that of children in non-racialized families.

Statistics Canada collects information about ethno-racial and specific population groups in accordance with the federal *Employment Equity Act*. These groups should not be confused with citizenship or nationality. According to Statistics Canada, the South Asian group includes individuals who are East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc. The Southeast Asian group includes individuals who are Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc. The West Asian group includes individuals who are Iranian, Afghan, etc. The Latin American group includes individuals who are Chilean, Columbian, Salvadorean, Brazilian, etc.

## 7. High rates of poverty among immigrant and non-permanent resident children

**Figure 6:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by immigration status, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016124.

- **One in two children who are non-permanent residents in the Toronto region are living in a low-income situation.**
- **Children who were born outside of Canada are twice as likely to be living in poverty as their non-immigrant counterparts.**

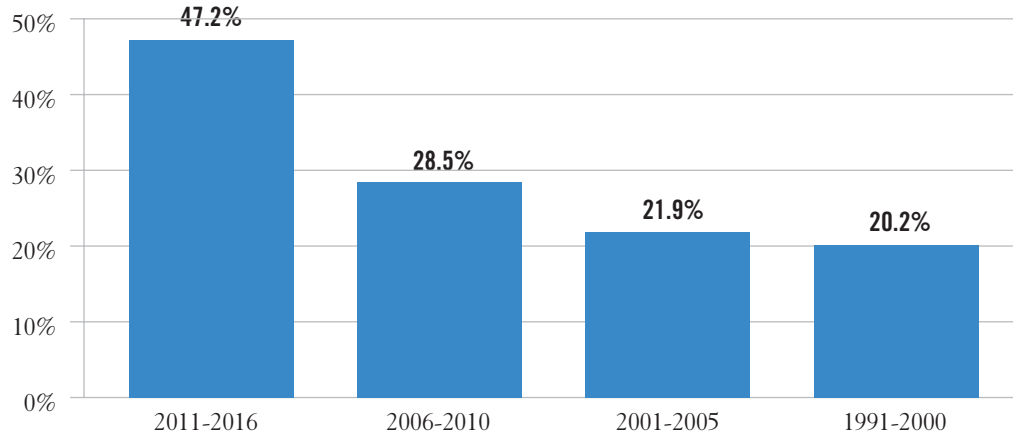
“Immigrant” as defined by Statistics Canada refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization are included in this group. People who are not Canadian citizens by birth, and who answered “no” to the immigrant status question, are considered to be non-permanent residents. “Non-permanent residents” include persons from another country who have a work or study permit or who are refugee claimants, and their family members are sharing the same permit and living in Canada with them.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/guides/007/98-500-x2016007-eng.cfm>



## 8. Higher rates of child poverty among recent immigrants

**Figure 7:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by period of immigration, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015

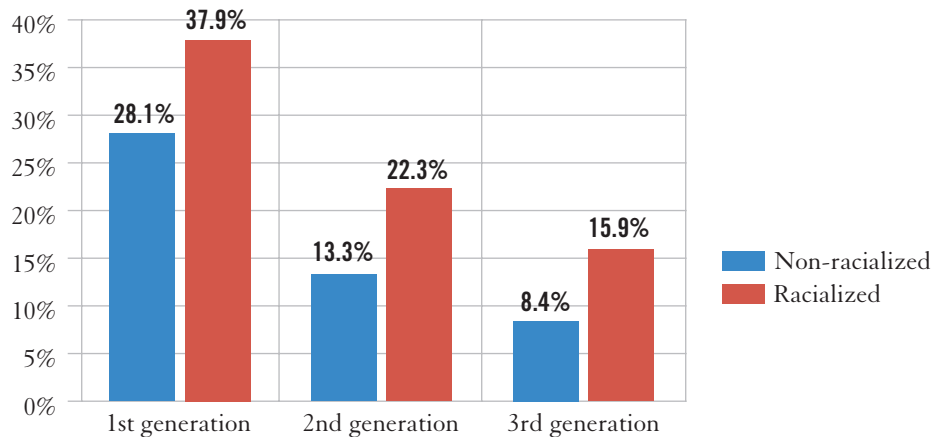


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016124.

- Almost one in two children who are recent immigrants (arriving between 2011 and 2016) in the Toronto region live in poverty.
- The low-income rate among children in the Toronto region who have been living in Canada between 5 and 10 years is significantly lower than that of those still in their first 5 years in the country; however, the low-income rate for immigrant children remains higher than that of non-immigrants even among children who have been in Canada for 10 to 15 years.

## 9. Higher rates of poverty for racialized children persist across generations

**Figure 8:** Percentage of racialized and non-racialized children aged 0-17 living in low-income families, by generation in Canada, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015



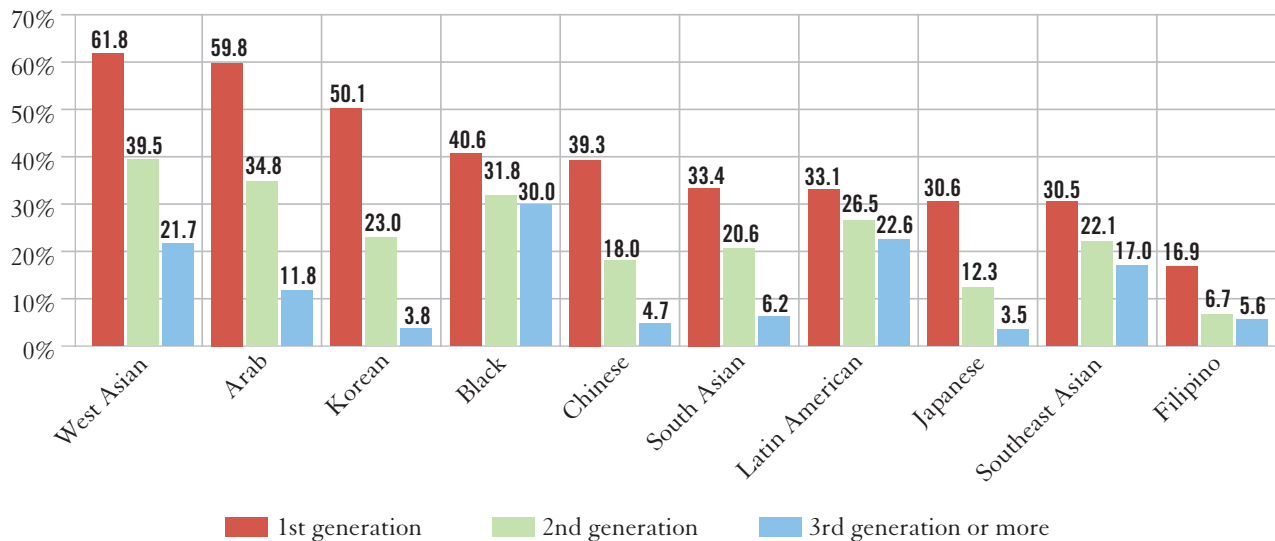
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016211.

- **Racialized children in first generation, second generation and third or more generation families in the Toronto region experience elevated rates of poverty compared to non-racialized children.**

First generation refers to people who were born outside Canada. It also includes any non-Canadian-born family members living with them in Canada. Also included in the first generation are Canadian citizens by birth (i.e., people born outside Canada to parents who are Canadian citizens). Second generation includes individuals who were born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada. Third generation or more refers to people who are born in Canada with both parents born in Canada.

## 10. Higher rates of child poverty across generations for immigrant children in families of particular ethno-racial backgrounds

Figure 9: Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by ethno-racial group and generation in Canada, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015

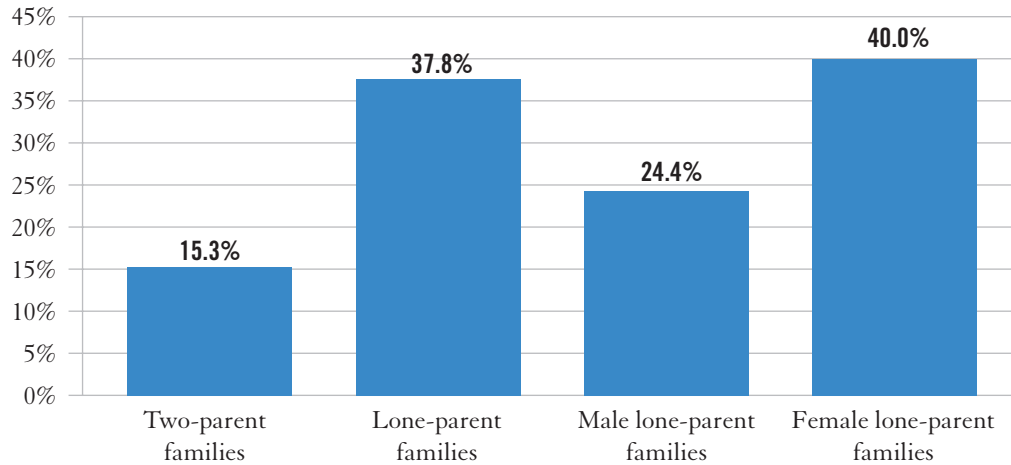


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016211.

- More than one in two (over 50%) of first generation children from West Asian, Arab and Korean backgrounds live in poverty in the Toronto region.
- Child poverty rates in many of the groups fall significantly from first generation to second and third generation in Canada; however for some ethno-racial groups (Black, Latin America and Southeast Asian) the persistence of child poverty does not dramatically decline.

## 11. Children in female-led lone-parent families most at risk of poverty

**Figure 10:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by family structure and gender of parent, Toronto Region (CMA), 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016124.

- Children in lone-parent families in the Toronto region (of which 82.8% are led by women) experience much higher levels of poverty than children in two-parent families.
- 40% of female-led lone-parent families live in poverty in comparison to 24% of male-led lone-parent families.
- Children in larger families (i.e., families with more children) also experience higher levels of poverty, particularly in lone-parent families.

Due to the gender wage gap, women's salaries are, on average, lower than men's, which contributes to an increased risk of living in poverty. The wage gap for women in Toronto is 77%, equaling a difference of \$9,000 between the annual wages of women and men.<sup>16</sup>

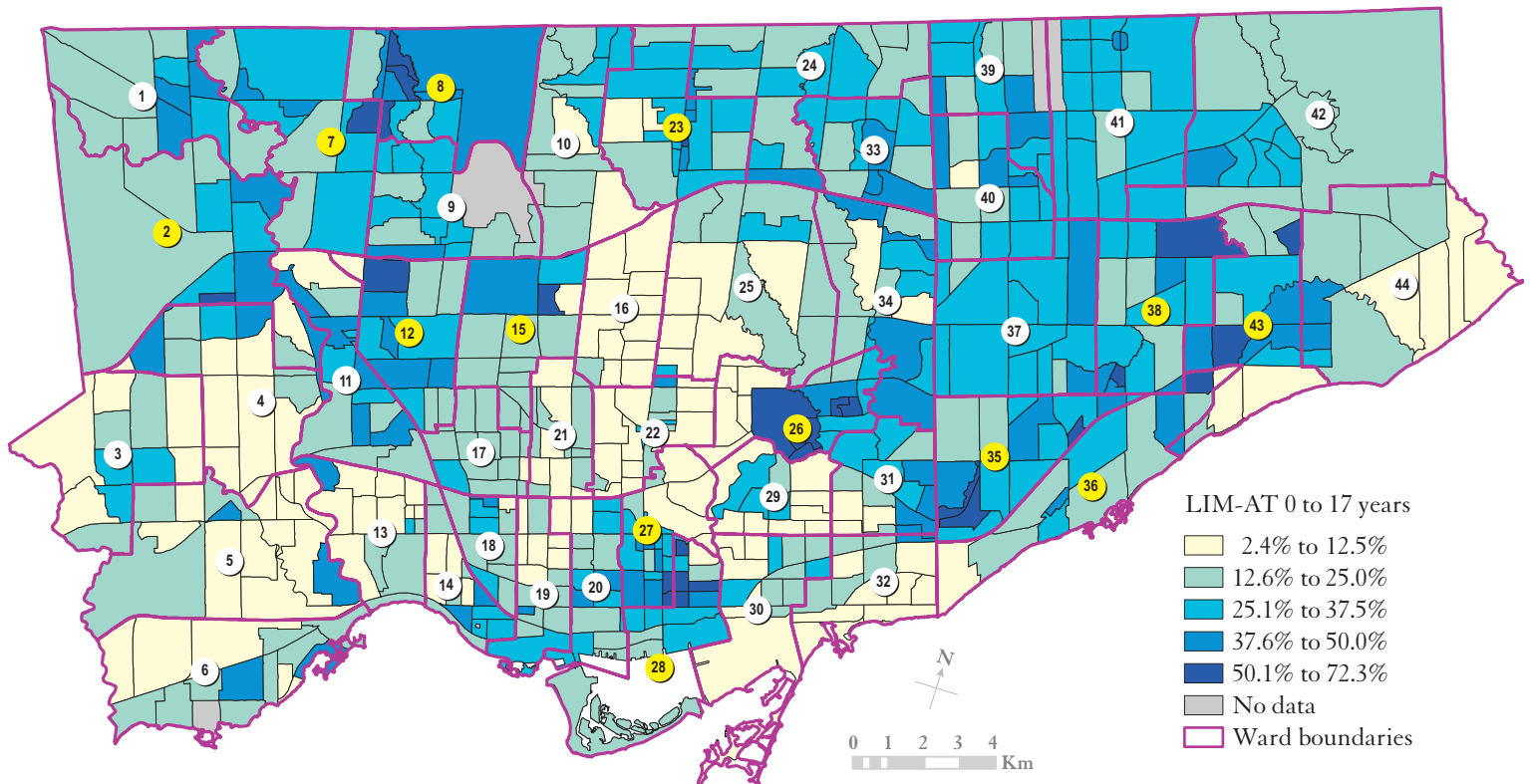


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## 12. Child poverty rates by census tract in Toronto

**Figure 11:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by census tract, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2016, Census profile data table.

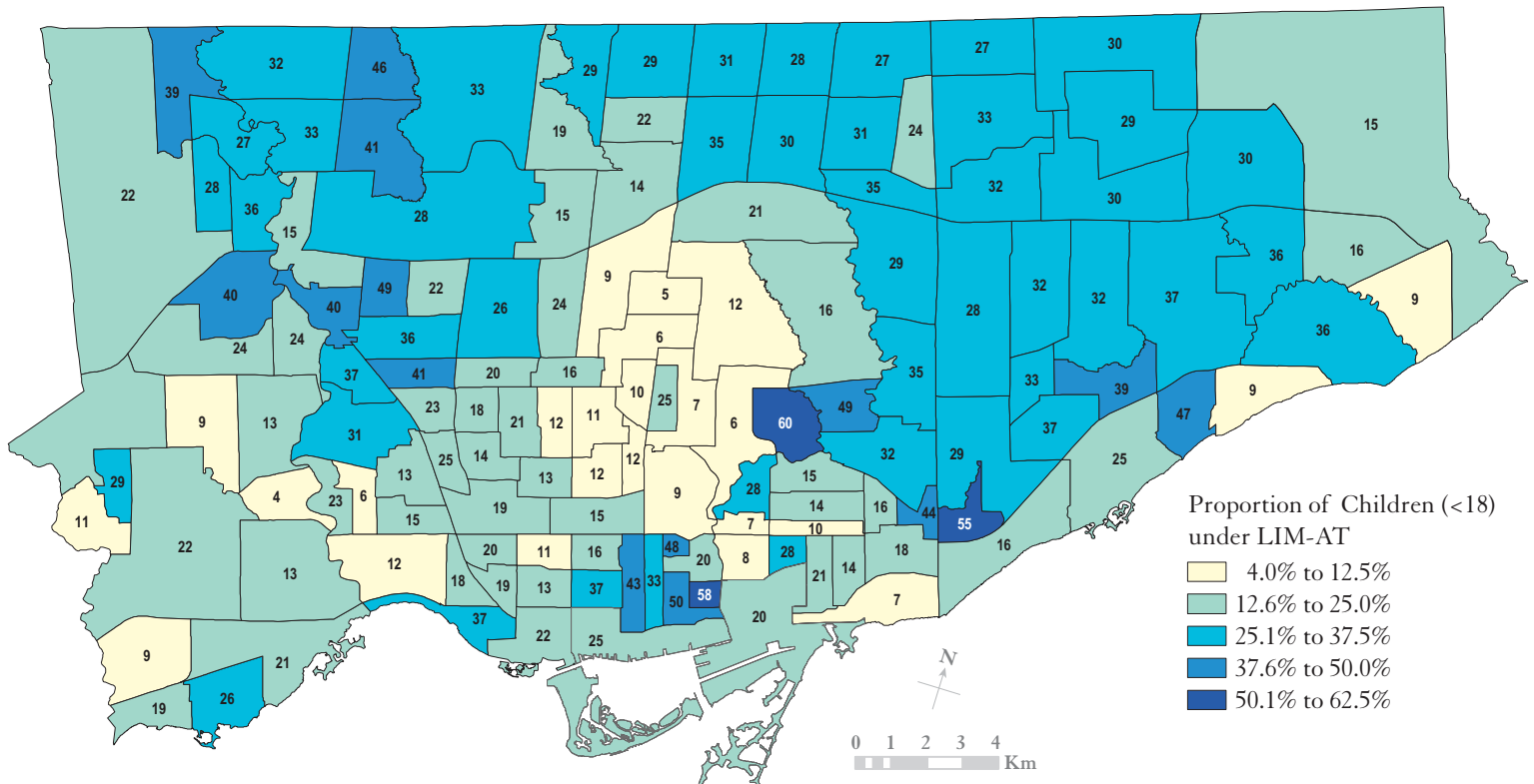
- Thirteen Toronto wards contain census tracts with child poverty rates above 50%: Ward 2, Ward 7, Ward 8, Ward 12, Ward 15, Ward 23, Ward 26, Ward 27, Ward 28, Ward 35, Ward 36, Ward 38 and Ward 43 (see shaded Ward labels on the above map).
- Census tracts with child low-income rates above 50% have populations with above-average percentages of racialized children, recent immigrants, and lone-parent families.

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## 13. Neighbourhood disparities in the rate of child poverty

**Figure 12:** Percentage of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by Toronto neighbourhood, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Census of Population, 2016  
Additional analysis by City of Toronto, Social Policy, Analysis & Research

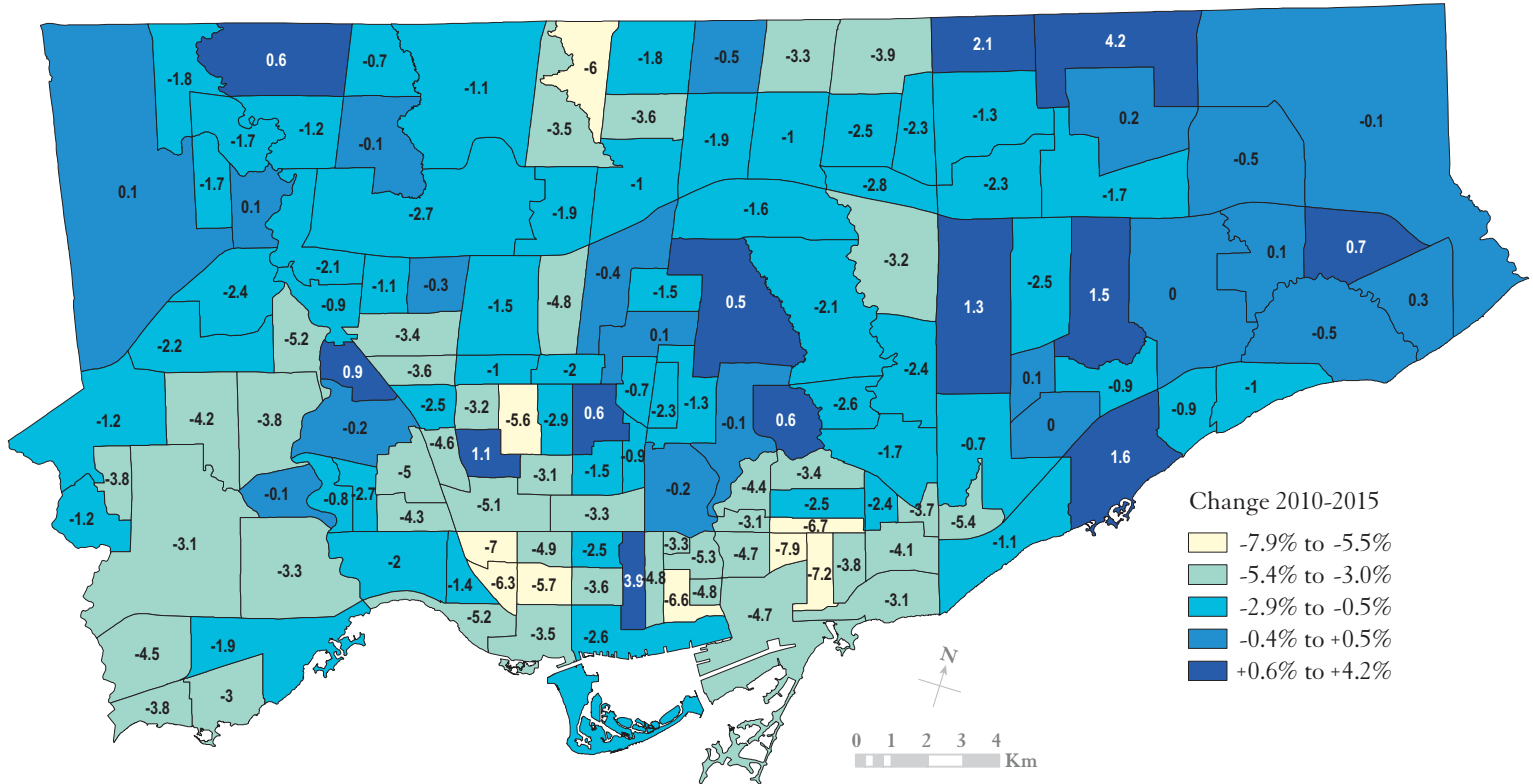
- The neighbourhood-level low-income rate for children ranges from a low of 4.1% in Kingsway South to a high of 60.1% in Thorncliffe Park.
- Five neighbourhoods have child poverty rates of 6% or less (Kingsway South, Runnymede-Bloor West Village, Leaside-Bennington, Lawrence Park North and Lawrence Park South) while three neighbourhoods have child low-income rates above 50% (Thorncliffe Park, Regent Park and Oakridge).

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## 14. Neighbourhood change in percentage of children living in low-income families (2010-2015)

**Figure 13:** Percentage change of children aged 0-17 living in low-income families by Toronto neighbourhood, 2010-2015



Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File, table 18, 2010 & 2015

- Between 2010 and 2015, low-income rates among children have decreased significantly in many downtown and southern Etobicoke neighbourhoods, while low-income rates have remained the same or increased in a number of Scarborough and other inner-suburb neighbourhoods.
- The most significant percentage point decrease in child poverty was in Blake-Jones (7.9%), while the most significant percentage point increase was in Milliken (4.2%).

## Conclusions: Next Steps for Action on Child and Family Poverty in Toronto

Toronto is Canada's wealthiest city, but as this report shows Toronto's children and youth are carrying an unequal burden of living in poverty:

- Indigenous families in Toronto are experiencing an extremely high poverty rate of 84%.
- Toronto region children in racialized families are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to children in non-racialized families.
- Children of West Asian, Arab, Black and Korean backgrounds are experiencing poverty rates three to four times higher than that of non-racialized children.
- Toronto has the highest rate of child poverty among large urban areas in Canada.
- Almost one in two Toronto region children who arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2016 (47.2%) live in poverty.

The evidence is clear: we are in need of urgent action to end child and family poverty now.

As we highlighted in our 2016 report *Divided City*<sup>17</sup>, inequality of incomes translates into inequitable access to basic supports and services – such as education, good housing, social and recreational opportunities, child care and early learning programs, and decent transit services – all of which are crucial to the success and well-being of children and their families.

Indeed, unacceptably long waiting lists continue in Toronto for rent-geared-to-income subsidized housing (100,000 households), child care subsidies (15,000 children) and recreation programs (190,000 registrants).<sup>18</sup>

What must be done to improve the futures of children and families in Toronto?

A United Way Toronto & York Region report recently called for a three-fold strategy to reduce inequality: better opportunities for young people, a fairer labour market, and action to reduce systemic barriers to success faced by marginalized groups.<sup>19</sup>

Reports from UNICEF have stated that a key to reducing child poverty is to invest in income support programs and public services.<sup>20</sup>

Toronto is well positioned to take action in these areas and indeed has made clear commitments to do so.

In recent years the City has developed, and City Council has overwhelmingly approved, a range of strategies to improve access to training and good jobs, as well as key supports and services, by those who face the most barriers to success (see **Appendix 2**). However, many of these strategies have not been implemented because they have not been fully funded.

In the coming months, Toronto City Council will make key decisions related to these strategies. Within the 2018 City Budget, it will decide whether or not to fully fund Toronto's poverty reduction strategy – and related housing, transit, child care, newcomer, and youth strategies, among others. The deep divide revealed in this report should be evidence enough that it is time for strong leadership and action by Council to ensure the necessary programs and services are funded to start reducing the poverty that is experienced by so many of our children and youth.

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City staff have calculated that funding 12 key strategies that City Council has already adopted to address inequality and poverty would cost \$66 million (not including funding of Housing Opportunities Toronto, which may be partly supported at the provincial level). This investment – less than 1% of the City's operating budget – would be impactful: it would help improve access to better jobs, housing, transit, child care, recreation and other key programs for upwards of 50,000 people.

The City must fund the strategies it has adopted (including the *TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy*, *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*, *Youth Equity Strategy*, *Child Care Strategy* and *Housing Opportunities Toronto*) to start closing the growing income gaps in our city. It must also create and fund a *Racial Justice Strategy* and *Gender Equity Strategy* to address the specific issues facing these groups, and adopt a finalized version of the *Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism*. The unequal distribution of poverty among neighbourhoods and populations outlined in this report underscores the urgency for these targeted strategies to be funded. There is no time to wait.

To address Indigenous poverty, the City must also commit to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action as one approach to supporting Indigenous children and families. It should work with Indigenous communities and leaders to implement and resource relevant solutions to poverty.

In addition, Toronto City Council needs to directly address the systemic inequalities that are experienced in this city. One important step would be for the City to create and fund equity offices including offices focused on Indigenous Peoples, gender, newcomers and immigrants, accessibility needs, anti-black racism, and racial justice. These offices would work to ensure that equity issues and solutions to growing inequities are kept front and centre in decision-making, policy creation, and program and service implementation at the City of Toronto. To be effective, they will require full funding and adequate staffing to achieve their respective goals. Through these offices, the City can make structural and targeted changes that will allow it to better take action on the deep and specific inequities identified in this report.

As well, the City should move ahead with collecting disaggregated demographic data – by gender identity, ethno-racial background, (dis)ability, sexuality, faith/spirituality, etc. – for all City programs and services. And finally, the City should fulfill its promise to fully implementing a gender responsive budget within the City budget process.

Poverty is not inevitable. It should not be the reality for children and youth in Toronto. The choices we make, as a city, can prevent and reduce poverty.

In 2018, Toronto's budget and its subsequent municipal election will provide an opportunity to engage in deep discussions about not only the kind of city we want to live in, but also how we are going to build that city – a city free from poverty and free from inequality and inequities, where all children are supported.

Now is the time to work together to rebuild a city where all children, youth and families have the opportunity to succeed.





## Appendix 1 – Note on Data Sources

Statistics Canada has no official, government-mandated poverty line. The Low-Income Measure – After Tax (LIM-AT) employed in this report was chosen as it is considered the best available statistic, collected annually at the local level.

This report uses income data from Statistics Canada T1 Family File (T1FF), the 2016 Census and Our Health Counts Toronto (a survey of Indigenous people).

The T1FF survey is based on “Tax-filer” data collected from income tax returns and Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) and Canada Child Benefit (CCB) records. There is a two-year lag in the data available from Statistics Canada and thus the low-income rates reported here are based on 2015 data.

Tax-filer data operates on the concept of the Census family rather than a household. Statistics Canada constructs households and family income levels by matching individual tax files through family income calculations, and does not include income from other relatives living in the same household. LIM-AT is calculated as 50% of median after-tax income of family or household incomes to those of others, allowing for size of the family unit. In 2015, the LIM-AT thresholds for use with Tax-filer data were \$25,498 for a family of one parent with one child 16 years or younger and \$36,426 for a family with two adults and two children.<sup>21</sup>

According to Statistics Canada, Tax-filer data provide a useful way of looking at trends over time and comparing and contrasting low-income rates of different geographies. LIM-AT, the Low-Income Measure – After Tax, is one way of understanding the extent of poverty experienced in a community. Other ways of measuring low income can produce different perspectives.

There are methodological differences between the 2016 Census and the T1FF data in calculating low-income rates. While both report on low income based on Tax-filer data from 2015, T1FF uses the Census family as the unit of measure while the Census uses the household. This, coupled with the application of different equivalency scales to the data, results in different low-income thresholds and slightly different rates of child and family poverty. In 2015, the LIM-AT thresholds for use with Census data were \$31,301 for a household of two and \$44,266 for a household of four.<sup>22</sup> It is also notable that the 2016 Census calculation of low-income rates excludes First Nations people living on reserve, while these individuals are included in T1FF low-income rates.

In terms of geography, we used the City of Toronto boundaries, where possible. However, as some demographic data is not yet available at the city level, Figures 4-10 are reported at the Census Metropolitan Area or CMA.

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## Appendix 2 – Selected Approved City Strategies

Key City Strategy	Date Adopted	Council Vote Outcomes	Number of Current Councillors Supporting Strategy	Examples of Deliverables
<b>Housing Opportunities Toronto</b>	Sept/09	Carried 33-2	13	1,000 new affordable rental units 1,100 new affordable ownership units
<b>Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy</b>	March/12	Consent	31	Engagement, employment training and/or food security activities for additional 2,400 residents 13 new community hub development projects
<b>Middle Childhood Strategy</b>	Aug/12	Consent	31	After-school program subsidies for an additional 2,315 children
<b>Recreation Services Plan</b>	Nov/12	Carried 41-0	31	Free swim classes for an additional 3,500 Grade 4 children
<b>Toronto Newcomer Strategy</b>	Feb/13	Carried 39-0	29	
<b>Seniors Strategy 1.0</b>	May/13	Carried 35-0	27	Eliminate free dental care wait list for 3,000 seniors and add 10 new paramedics
<b>Parks Plan</b>	May/13	Carried 36-0	24	
<b>Youth Equity Strategy</b>	Feb/14	Carried 31-0	23	Range of programs including educational attainment, employment connections, and support networks for youth
<b>Poverty Reduction Strategy</b>	Nov/15	Carried 40-0	38	Expansion of school snack programs to 48 schools (13,000 students) Shelter expansion
<b>Fair (Transit) Pass Program</b>	Dec/16	Carried 31-3	30	Reduced TTC fares for 36,000 social assistance recipients
<b>Child Care Growth Strategy</b>	Apr/17	Carried 41-2	40	1,000 new child care spaces (including 500 fee subsidies)
<b>TO Climate Action</b>	July/17	Carried 43-0	41	Retrofit 50 million square feet of city buildings and double renewable energy capacity by 2020 Energy efficient retrofits for 35-50 social housing towers by 2020

## Appendix 3 – Map of Toronto Census Metropolitan Area

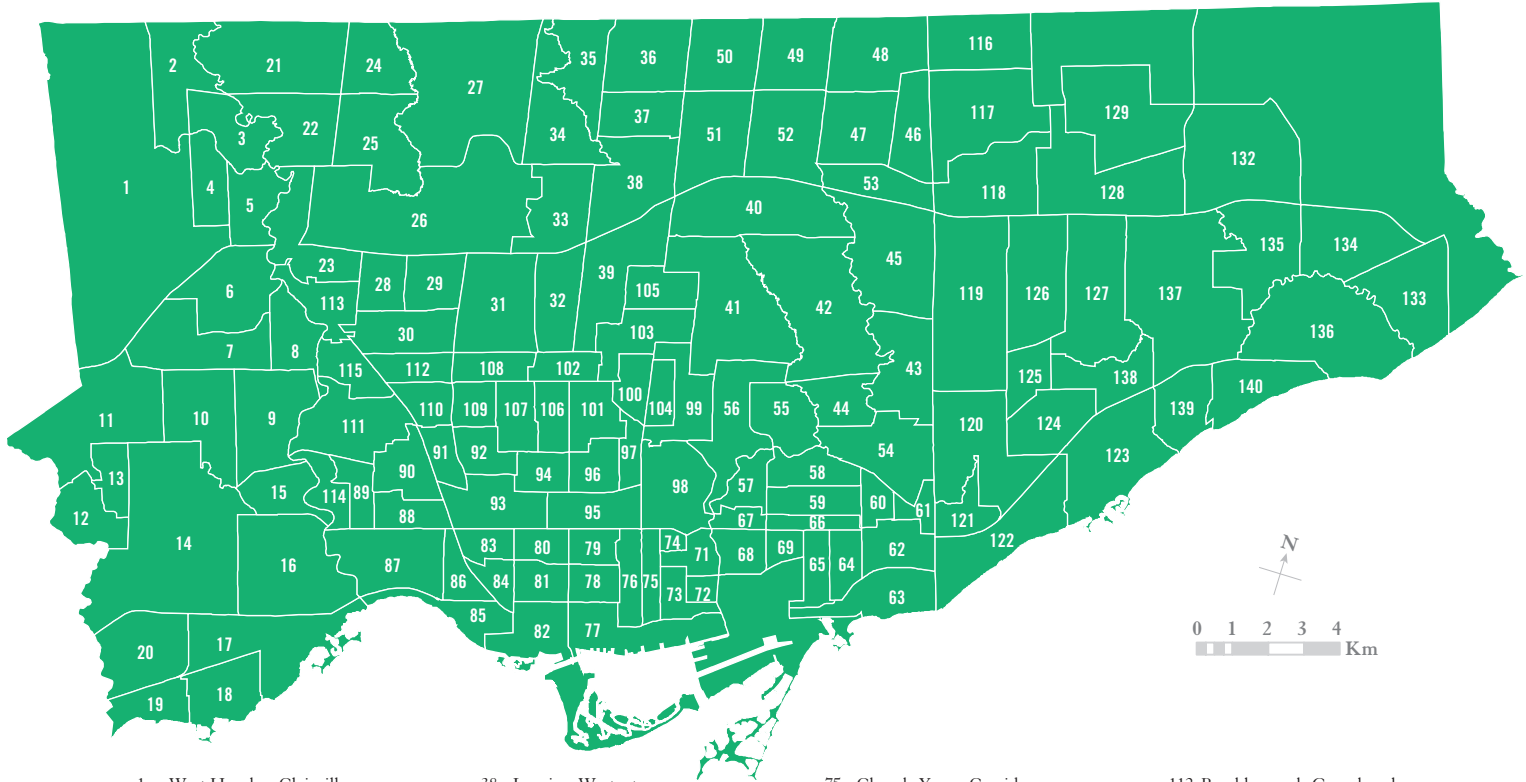


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### Appendix 4 – Map of Toronto Neighbourhoods



- |  |                                      |  |                                  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 West Humber-Clairville               | 38 Lansing-Westgate                  | 75 Church-Yonge Corridor               | 112 Beechborough-Greenbrook      |
| 2 Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown    | 39 Bedford Park-Nortown              | 76 Bay Street Corridor                 | 113 Weston                       |
| 3 Thistletown-Beaumont Heights         | 40 St. Andrew-Windfields             | 77 Waterfront Communities-The Island   | 114 Lambton Baby Point           |
| 4 Rexdale-Kipling                      | 41 Bridle Path-Sunnybrook-York Mills | 78 Kensington-Chinatown                | 115 Mount Dennis                 |
| 5 Elms-Old Rexdale                     | 42 Banbury-Don Mills                 | 79 University                          | 116 Steeles                      |
| 6 Kingsview Village-The Westway        | 43 Victoria Village                  | 80 Palmerston-Little Italy             | 117 L'Amoreaux                   |
| 7 Willowridge-Martingrove-Richview     | 44 Flemington Park                   | 81 Trinity-Bellwoods                   | 118 Tam O'Shanter-Sullivan       |
| 8 Humber Heights-Westmount             | 45 Parkwoods-Donalda                 | 82 Niagara                             | 119 Wexford/Maryvale             |
| 9 Edenbridge-Humber Valley             | 46 Pleasant View                     | 83 Dufferin Grove                      | 120 Clairlea-Birchmount          |
| 10 Princess-Rosethorn                  | 47 Don Valley Village                | 84 Little Portugal                     | 121 Oakridge                     |
| 11 Eringate-Centennial-West Deane      | 48 Hillcrest Village                 | 85 South Parkdale                      | 122 Birchcliffe-Cliffside        |
| 12 Markland Wood                       | 49 Bayview Woods-Steeles             | 86 Roncesvalles                        | 123 Cliffcrest                   |
| 13 Etobicoke West Mall                 | 50 Newtonbrook East                  | 87 High Park-Swansea                   | 124 Kennedy Park                 |
| 14 Islington-City Centre West          | 51 Willowdale East                   | 88 High Park North                     | 125 Ionview                      |
| 15 Kingsway South                      | 52 Bayview Village                   | 89 Runnymede-Bloor West Village        | 126 Dorset Park                  |
| 16 Stonegate-Queensway                 | 53 Henry Farm                        | 90 Junction Area                       | 127 Bendale                      |
| 17 Mimico (includes Humber Bay Shores) | 54 O'Connor-Parkview                 | 91 Weston-Pellam Park                  | 128 Agincourt South-Malvern West |
| 18 New Toronto                         | 55 Thorncliffe Park                  | 92 Corso Italia-Davenport              | 129 Agincourt North              |
| 19 Long Branch                         | 56 Leaside-Bennington                | 93 Dovercourt-Wallace Emerson-Junction | 130 Milliken                     |
| 20 Alderwood                           | 57 Broadview North                   | 94 Wychwood                            | 131 Rouge                        |
| 21 Humber Summit                       | 58 Old East York                     | 95 Annex                               | 132 Malvern                      |
| 22 Humbermede                          | 59 Danforth-East York                | 96 Casa Loma                           | 133 Centennial Scarborough       |
| 23 Pelmo Park-Humberlea                | 60 Woodbine-Lumsden                  | 97 Yonge-St. Clair                     | 134 Highland Creek               |
| 24 Black Creek                         | 61 Taylor-Massey                     | 98 Rosedale-Moore Park                 | 135 Morningside                  |
| 25 Glenfield-Jane Heights              | 62 East End-Danforth                 | 99 Mount Pleasant East                 | 136 West Hill                    |
| 26 Downsview-Roding-CFB                | 63 The Beaches                       | 100 Yonge-Eglinton                     | 137 Woburn                       |
| 27 York University Heights             | 64 Woodbine Corridor                 | 101 Forest Hill South                  | 138 Eglinton East                |
| 28 Rustic                              | 65 Greenwood-Coxwell                 | 102 Forest Hill North                  | 139 Scarborough Village          |
| 29 Maple Leaf                          | 66 Danforth                          | 103 Lawrence Park South                | 140 Guildwood                    |
| 30 Brookhaven-Amesbury                 | 67 Playter Estates-Danforth          | 104 Mount Pleasant West                |                                  |
| 31 Yorkdale-Glen Park                  | 68 North Riverdale                   | 105 Lawrence Park North                |                                  |
| 32 Englemount-Lawrence                 | 69 Blake-Jones                       | 106 Humewood-Cedarvale                 |                                  |
| 33 Clanton Park                        | 70 South Riverdale                   | 107 Oakwood Village                    |                                  |
| 34 Bathurst Manor                      | 71 Cabbagetown-South St. James Town  | 108 Briar Hill-Belgravia               |                                  |
| 35 Westminster-Branson                 | 72 Regent Park                       | 109 Caledonia-Fairbank                 |                                  |
| 36 Newtonbrook West                    | 73 Moss Park                         | 110 Keele-Edlington West               |                                  |
| 37 Willowdale West                     | 74 North St. James Town              | 111 Rockcliffe-Smythe                  |                                  |

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## Notes

- 1 Data on Indigenous low-income levels is based on Before Tax Low Income Cut Off (LICO) whereas Census Data low-income rates are based on Low Income Measure – After Tax. See **Appendix 1** for details about data used.
- 2 By “racialized” we mean “peoples of colour” or what Statistics Canada refers to as “visible minorities” as it is defined by the Employment Equity Act. This term refers to “persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. For Statistics Canada purposes the “visible minority” population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.cfm#a4>
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- 7 While further analysis would be needed to explore causality, it is worth noting that the federal Universal Child Care Benefit was increased in 2015, and the Ontario Child Benefit was indexed in the same year. In addition, the Ontario minimum wage was increased from \$11 to \$11.25 in 2015.
- 8 Rotondi, M.A., O'Campo, P., O'Brien, K., Firestone, M., Wolfe, S.H., Bourgeois, C., Maracle, S., Spiller, M., and Smylie, J. In press. Our Health Counts Toronto – Using respondent-driven sampling to unmask census undercounts of an urban indigenous population in Toronto, Canada. *BMJ Open*.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 A 95% confidence interval means that, assuming a normal distribution of data, the actual percentage of poverty among all Indigenous families is expected to fall within the indicated range 19 times out of 20.
- 11 Well Living House and Seven Generation Midwives Toronto. (2017). Our Health Counts Toronto unpublished data. Due to inadequacies in existing health information infrastructures with respect to Indigenous data, the Indigenous child poverty rate here is based on a different measure of low income than used in the rest of the report. This measure is rigorously scientific and provides strong evidence that the experience of child poverty among Toronto's Indigenous community is disturbingly and unacceptably high. The use of Low Income Cut Off in place of Low Income Measure will likely have a minor impact when comparing across groups. Using the LICO, a family of four in a large urban centre with a before-tax income of less than \$45,712 would be considered low income in 2015.
- 12 Rotondi et al.
- 13 Ibid.
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- 22 Statistics Canada. (2017). Low-income measures thresholds (LIM-AT and LIM-BT) for private households of Canada, 2015. Retrieved from [http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/tab/t4\\_2-eng.cfm](http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/tab/t4_2-eng.cfm)







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