



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN TORONTO'S NEIGHBOURHOODS:

Meeting community needs across the life span

June, 2017

III ABOUT SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

Social Planning Toronto is a non-profit, charitable community organization that works to improve equity, social justice and quality of life in Toronto through community capacity building, community education and advocacy, policy research and analysis, and social reporting.

Social Planning Toronto is committed to building a “Civic Society” one in which diversity, equity, social and economic justice, interdependence and active civic participation are central to all aspects of our lives - in our families, neighbourhoods, voluntary and recreational activities and in our politics.

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OVERVIEW

Throughout 2017, Social Planning Toronto will be producing a series of reports highlighting newly released 2016 Census data from Statistics Canada and its significance for Toronto and its communities. Our first report, Growth and Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods, released in February focused on population growth and density in Toronto over the past five years and the implications for creating inclusive communities across the city. Demographic Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods looks at the shifting age and sex makeup of Toronto and what it means for the programs, services and priorities of the city.

III FINDINGS

II POPULATION GROWTH AND DENSITY

As presented in our first Census report, according to the 2016 Census, 2,731,571 people live in Toronto, an increase of 4.5% since the 2011 Census. Population change has not been uniform across the city. Toronto has experienced significant growth in its downtown core, Bay Street Corridor, the East Mall/South Etobicoke, Willowdale and Bayview Village, Humberlea and Agincourt (between Midland and Kennedy), including pockets of growth as high as 174.9%. The city has also experienced population decline in some areas including Downsview, West-Humber, Highland Creek, and Agincourt (between Midland and Brimley, and in the north part of Agincourt).

II AGE-SEX STRUCTURE

Toronto's population is changing. Figure 1 shows a population pyramid, providing a graphical presentation of the age and sex composition of the population in 2016 and 2011. While overall population growth was 4.5%, population change varied by age group.

The population pyramid confirms that Toronto's population is aging, consistent with demographic trends in Canada and other industrialized nations.^{1,2} It shows a substantial increase in population among older adults and seniors, which includes the baby boom generation and its predecessors, a decline among middle age groups in their 40s, the Generation X cohort which followed the boomers, and an increase among younger adults in their 20s and 30s, the children of the boomers or echo generation.

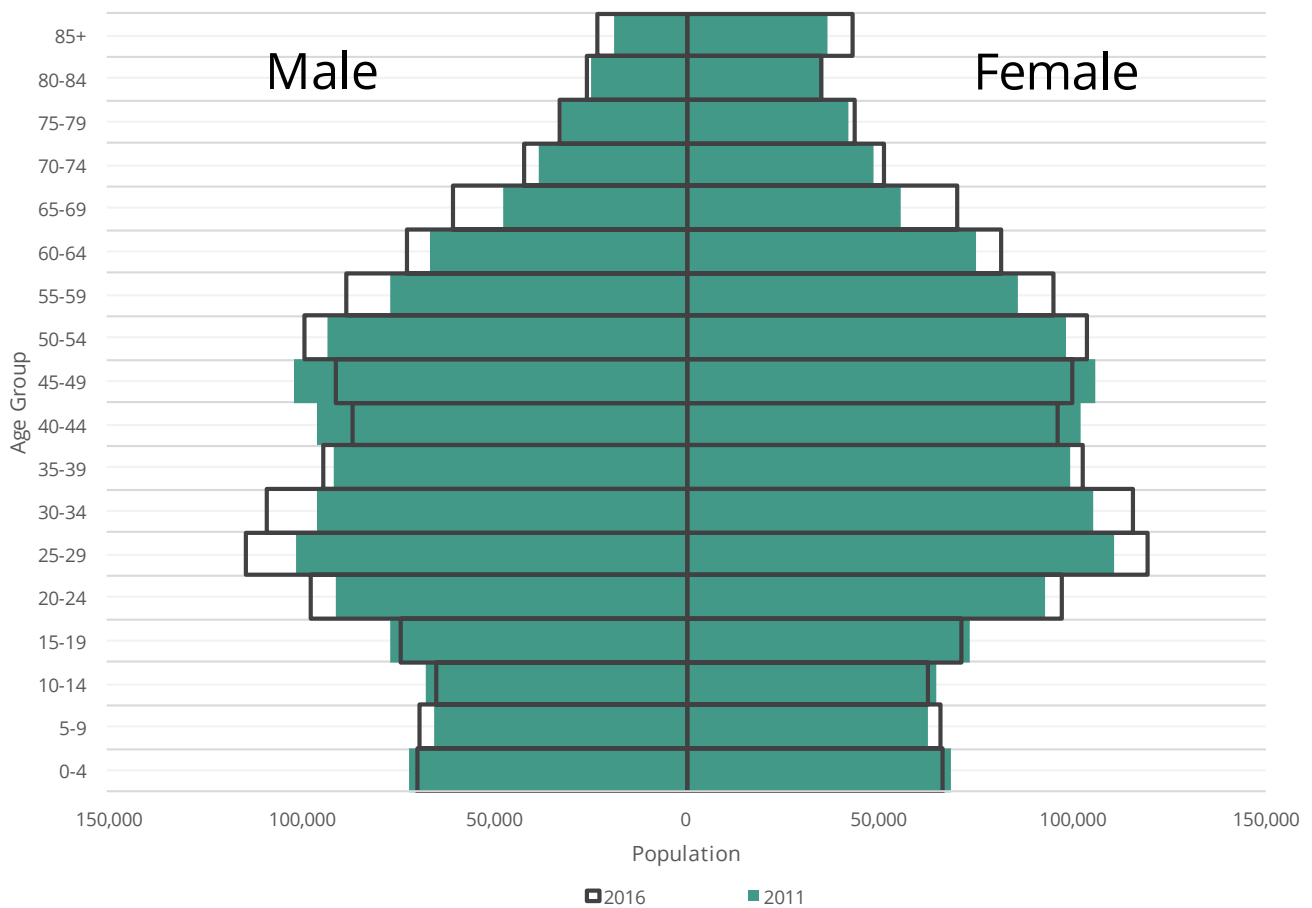
1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2013). Canada's Aging Population: The municipal role in Canada's demographic shift. Ottawa, Ontario.

2 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Ageing 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/390). http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2015_Report.pdf

The highest growth was observed for the 65-69 year-old age group at 27.4% followed by residents aged 85 and over at 20.1%. The middle age groups in their 40s declined by 7.5% for 40-44 year-olds and 8% for 45-49 year-olds. In contrast, younger adults aged 25-29 increased by 10% and aged 30-34 by 11.6%. Toronto's child and teen population showed little change over the past five years.

According to the 2016 Census, the average age of Toronto's population is 40.6 years old with the male average age at 39.4 years old and the female average age at 41.7 years old.

Figure 1. Population Distribution by Age Group and Gender in 2016 and 2011

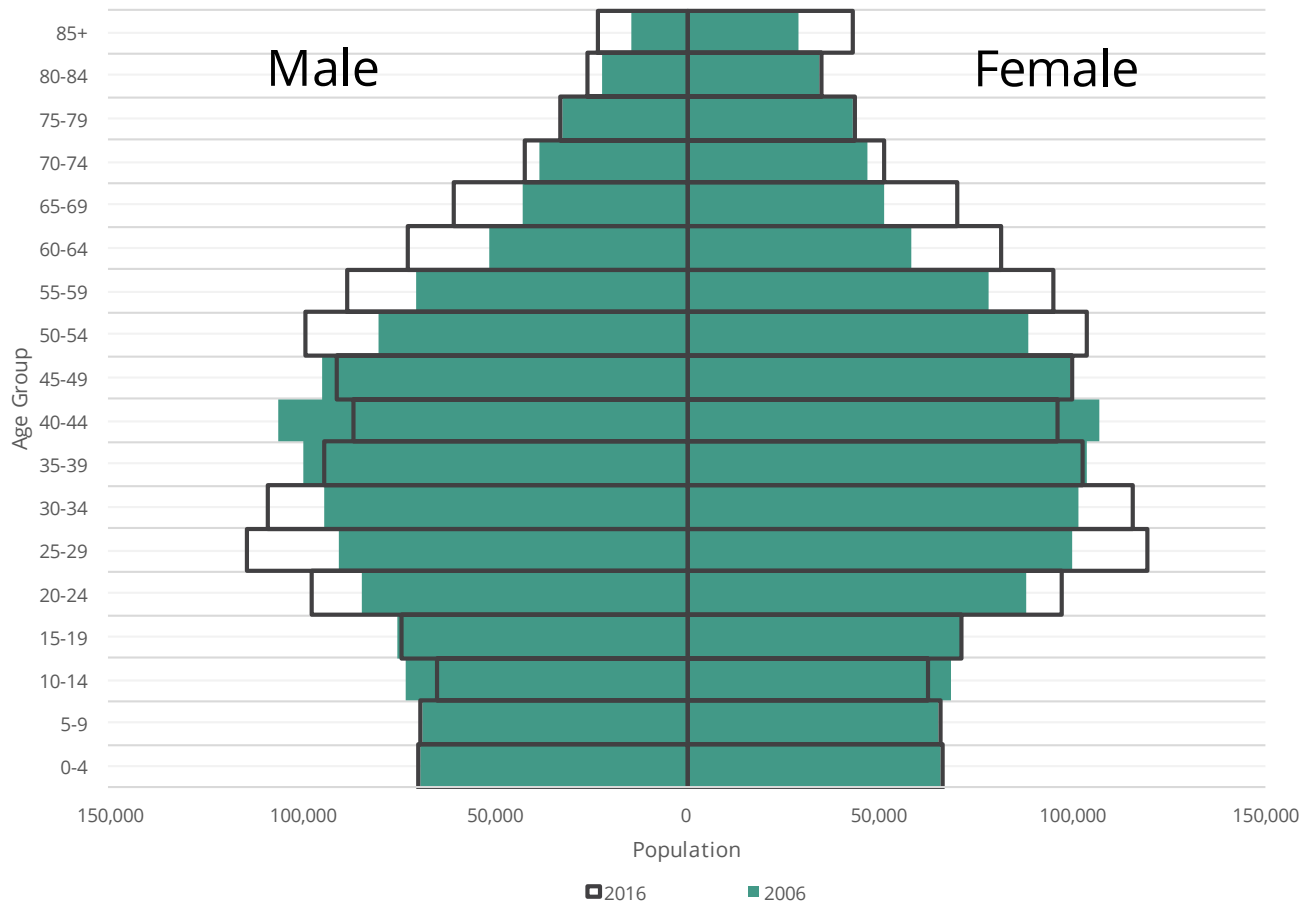


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2011 Census.

Figure 2 presents a population pyramid for 2016 and 2006. This pyramid shows substantial growth among older adults starting with the 50-54 year-old age group, a decline among the middle group from age 35-49, and an increase among younger adults from 20 to 34 years of age. The child and teen population showed little change with the exception of the age 10-14 year-old group which decreased over the past 10 years.

Over the past decade, Toronto's population increased by 9.1%. The highest growth was observed for the population aged 85 and over at 53.1%, followed by 60-64 year-olds at 40.6%, and 65-69 year-olds at 39.1%. The population aged 40-44 decreased by 14.2%, while the population aged 25-29 increased by 22.4%. Among 10-14 year-olds, the population decreased by 9.9%.

Figure 2. Population Distribution by Age Group and Gender in 2016 and 2006

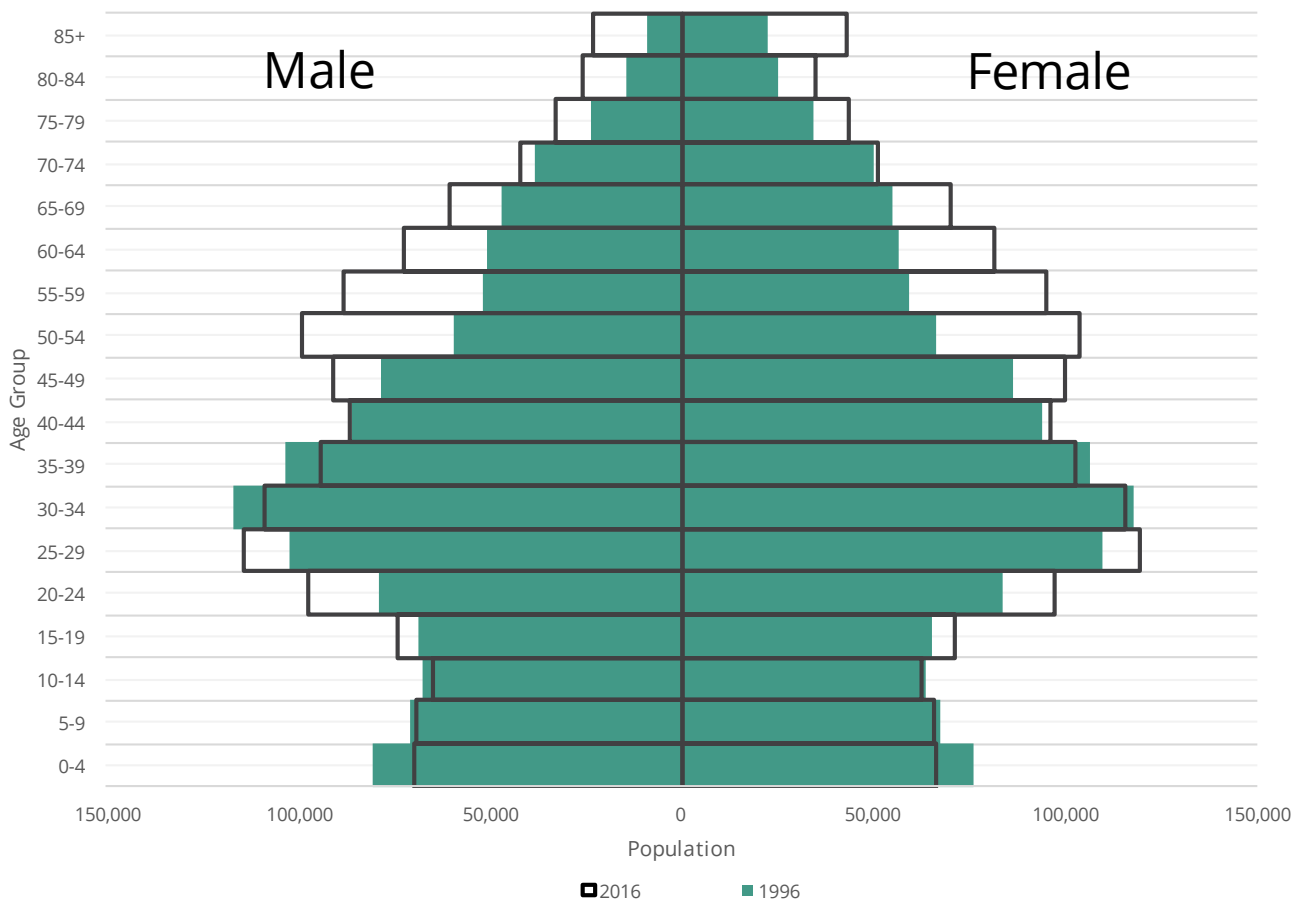


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

Figure 3 presents a population pyramid for 2016 and 1996. This pyramid shows population growth among older adults starting with the 45-49 year-old age group, a decline among 30-39 year-olds, and an increase among 15-29 year-olds. Among children under age 5, the population showed a substantial decrease with other young child age groups showing little change over the past 20 years.

During the past two decades, Toronto's overall population increased by 14.5%.³ The population aged 85 and over more than doubled with an increase of 110%. The population of 55-59 year-olds increased by 65%, followed by 50-54 year-olds at 61.2%, and 80-84 year-olds at 52.8%. The 30-34 and 35-39 year-old age groups declined by 4.3% and 6.3%, respectively. In contrast, the population increased among 20-24 and 25-29 year-olds by 19.6% and 10%. Children aged 0-4 decreased by 13% over the past 20 years.

Figure 3. Population Distribution by Age Group and Gender in 2016 and 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 1996 Census.

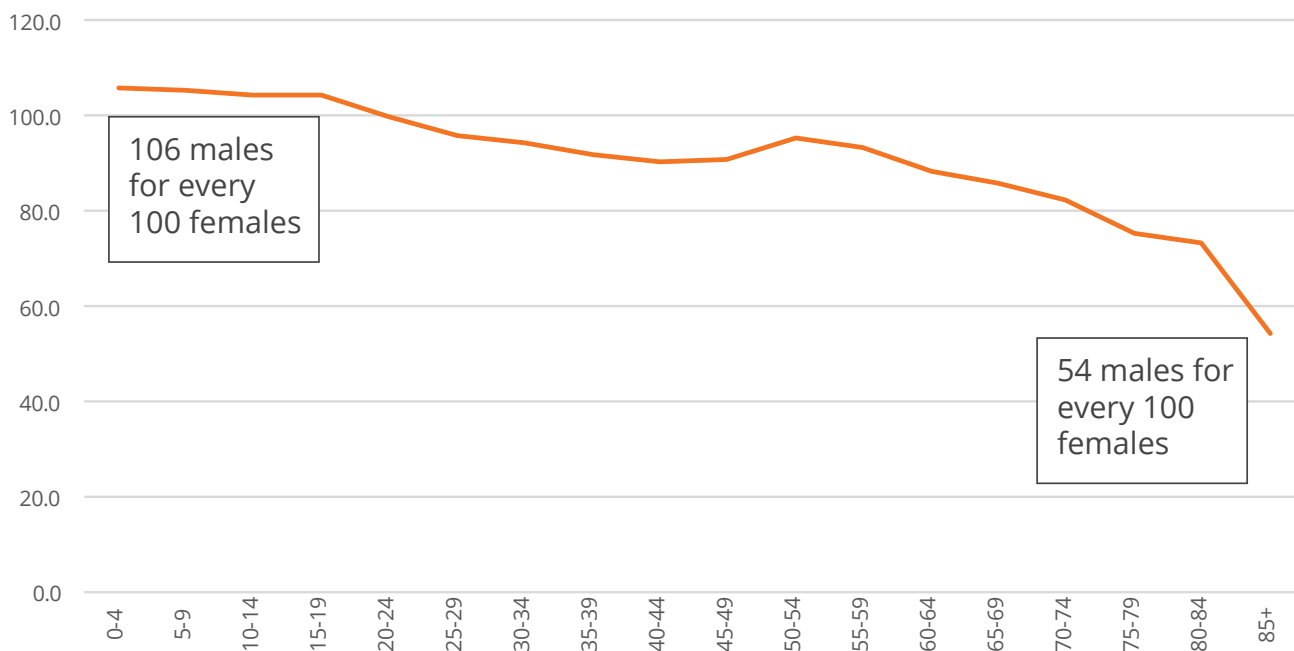
³ Figure 3 uses 1996 data for the regional municipality of Metropolitan Toronto which shares the same boundary as the present-day City of Toronto. The municipalities of Etobicoke, North York, York, East York, Toronto (the old City of Toronto) and Etobicoke were amalgamated in 1998 to form the present-day City of Toronto. Prior to 1998, the regional municipality of Metropolitan Toronto encompassed the six previous municipalities.

II SEX RATIO⁴

Figure 4 shows the sex ratio of Toronto's population by age. The overall sex distribution of the population is 48% male and 52% female, which gives a sex ratio of 93 males for every 100 females. The sex ratio is highest for the 0-4 and 5-9 year old age groups where there are 106 males for every 100 females and lowest for the population aged 85 and over with 54 males for every 100 females.

The sex ratio varies by age group. For example, up to age 19, the sex ratio is 104 males for every 100 females and for population 20-24, the sex ratio is 100 males for every 100 females. For the population 25-64 years of age, women slightly outnumber men with the sex ratio falling to 93 males for every 100 females. For the population 65 years of age and older, the number of males decreases and the sex ratio sharply declines to 76 males for every 100 females. For the population over 85 years of age, the sex ratio goes down further to 54 males for every 100 females.

Figure 4. Sex Ratio of Toronto's Population in 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

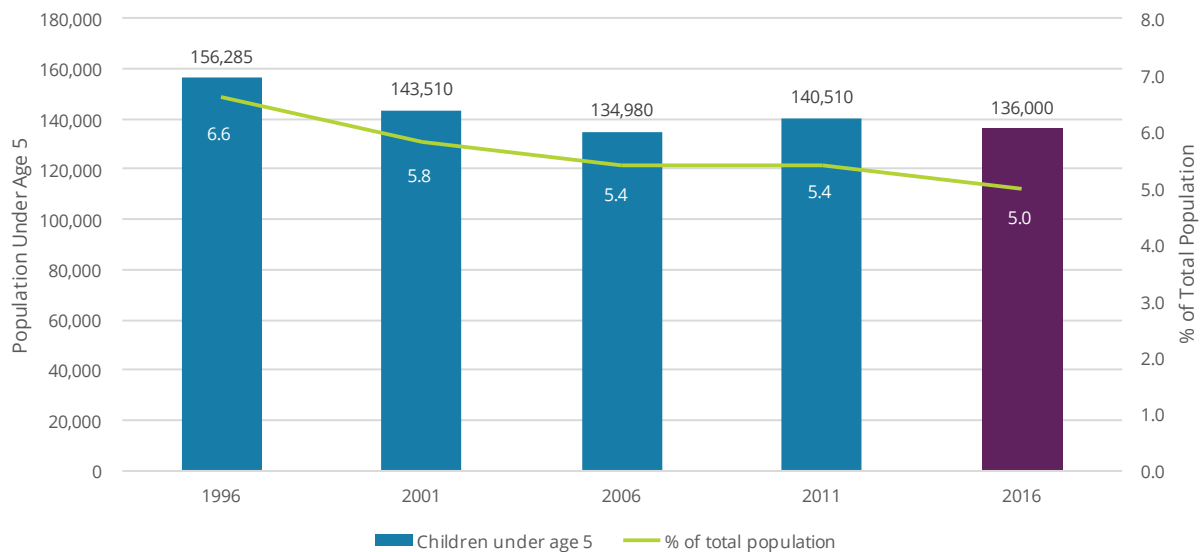
4 Data is not available for the number of individuals identifying as gender non-binary.

II PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

As shown in Figure 5, according to the 2016 Census, the number of children under 5 years of age in Toronto is 136,000, a 3.2% decrease over 2011. After decreasing by 8.2% between 1996 and 2001, this population has fluctuated in size over the past 15 years.

Children under age 5 made up 5% of Toronto's population in 2016, down from 5.4% in 2011 and 2006, 5.8% in 2001, and 6.6% in 1996.

Figure 5. Toronto's Population of Children Under Age 5: 1996-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

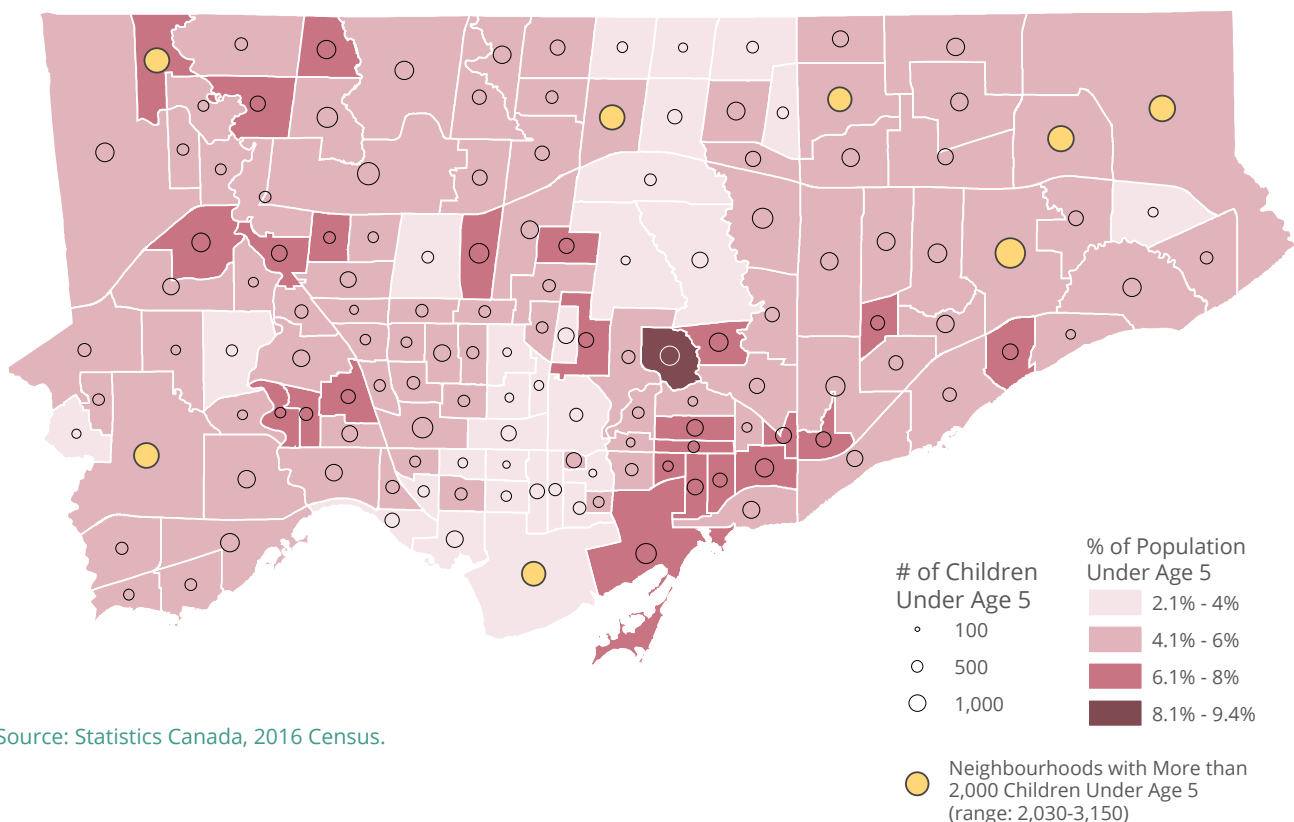
Figure 6 shows the number of children under the age of 5 in each neighbourhood and the percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that is under age 5. This map shows a clear concentration of preschool age children in the east downtown, Thorncliffe Park and areas of the city's north-west.

While concentrations vary, the total number of children (rather than the percentage) is the statistic most relevant to understanding community needs. Neighbourhoods with the largest preschool age populations are

located in north and south Etobicoke, North York, downtown Toronto, and north-west, north-east and central Scarborough. More than 2,000 children under the age of 5 live in each of the identified neighbourhoods.⁵

Among Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, Thorncliffe has the highest percentage of children under the age of 5 at 9.4% of its total population and is home to 1,990 preschool age children. In contrast, preschool age children make up only 5% of Toronto's population.

Figure 6. Toronto's Population of Children Under Age 5 by Neighbourhood in 2016



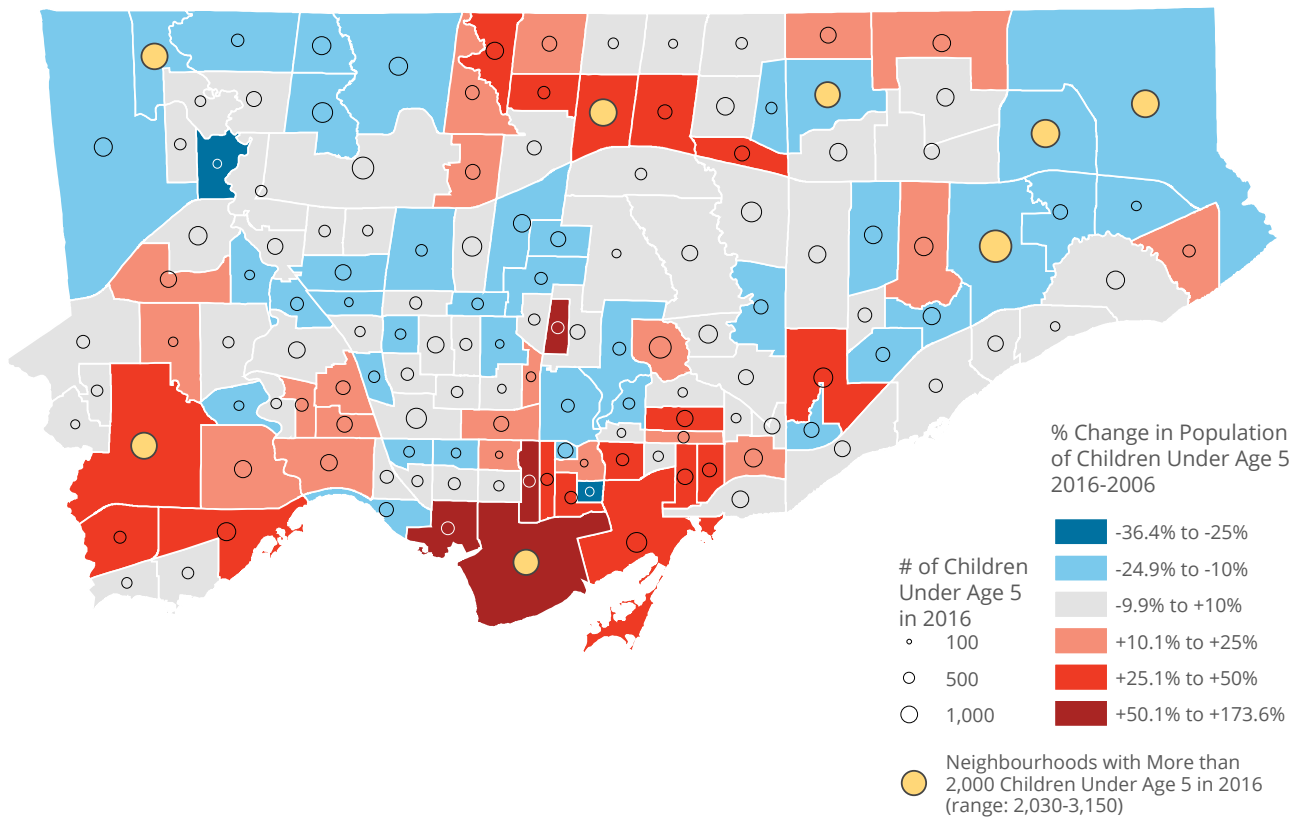
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

⁵ Important to note, Toronto's neighbourhoods vary a great deal in population size from a high of 65,910 in the Waterfront Communities-The Island to a low of 6,565 in Beechborough-Greenbrook in the former city of York. Larger populations of specific age groups in neighbourhoods are, in part, a function of neighbourhood total population.

Figure 7 shows the change in the population under the age of 5 over the past 10 years by neighbourhood. While Toronto's population of preschool age children has increased by less than 1% since 2006, pockets of the city have experienced substantial increases and decreases among this age group.

Among Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, 41 experienced population growth of greater than 10% for preschool age children and 40 experienced a population decline of greater than 10% among this age group over the past 10 years.

Figure 7. Change in Toronto's Children's Population (Under Age 5)
Over Past 10 Years by Neighbourhood: 2016-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

2006 data accessed through the Community Data Program.

Neighbourhoods with the highest rates of population growth among preschool age children are concentrated in the downtown core. The core has experienced massive residential development over the past decade. In the Waterfront Communities-The Island neighbourhood, the overall population increased by 153.9% in the past 10 years. Population growth among preschool age children in this neighbourhood has been even greater at 173.5% since 2006. West of Waterfront Communities, in the Niagara neighbourhood, the population of children under age 5 has increased by 115.5%, similar to the overall population growth in the neighbourhood at 116.5%. In the Bay Street Corridor, the population of preschool age children has increased by 87.6% over the past 10 years, a rate even higher than the overall population growth rate of 69.2%.

In contrast, Regent Park in downtown Toronto and the Elms-Old Rexdale neighbourhood in north Etobicoke have experienced the largest percentage decreases in the population of children under the age of 5. In Regent Park, the preschool age population declined by 36.4% over the past 10 years. Regent Park is undergoing a major redevelopment with the demolition of old housing, construction of new homes, and relocation of residents during construction periods.⁶ This work

is taking place in phases in different areas of Regent Park. Construction work began in 2009 and continues today. The decline in preschool age children in this neighbourhood is directly related to this major revitalization project. Once construction is complete and the tenants return, the population will be restored. At that point, we will have a better idea of the changing demographics of this neighbourhood.

Elms-Old Rexdale located in north Etobicoke experienced a decrease of 25.2% among preschool age children while the overall population size showed almost no change. While the percentage change is substantial, this neighbourhood has been home to a relatively small number of preschool age children at 535 in 2016, down from 715 in 2006.



⁶ <https://www.torontohousing.ca/regentpark>

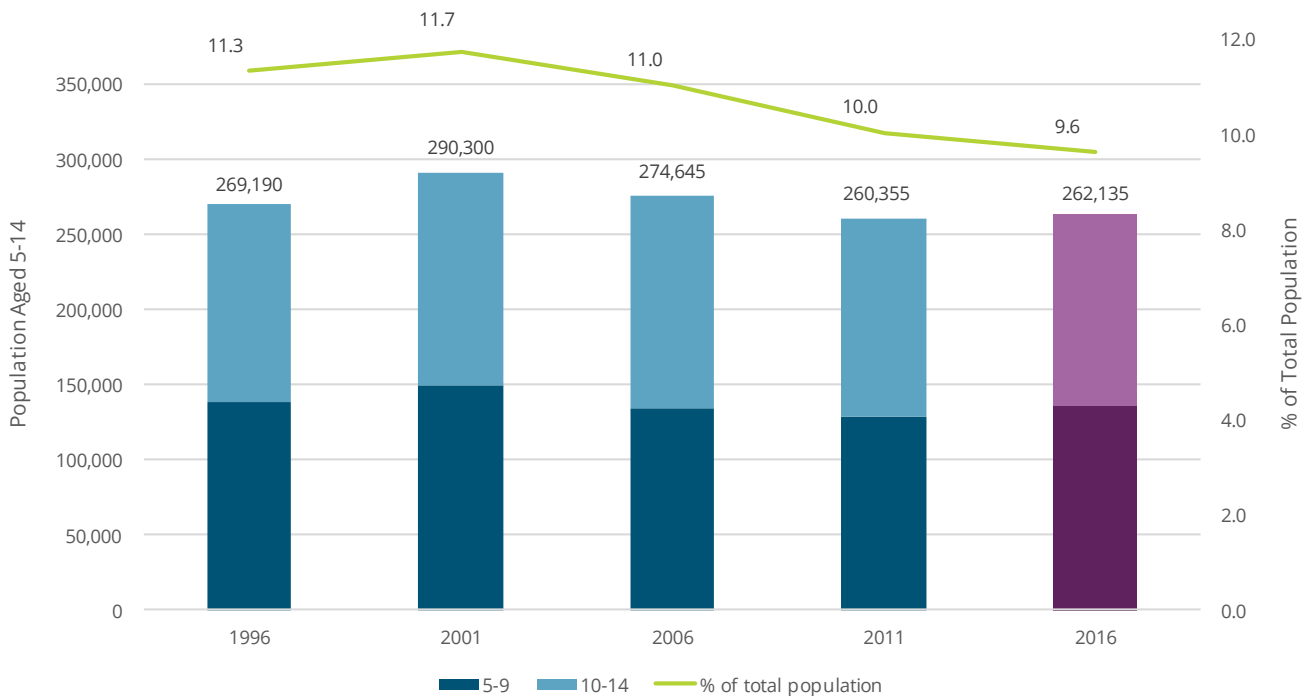
II MIDDLE YEARS CHILDREN

Figure 8 shows an increase of less than 1% in the number of middle years children⁷, aged 5-14 years, since 2011. According to the 2016 Census, 262,135 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years live in Toronto. While there is little change in the overall number of middle years children, the population of children 5-9 years of age increased by 5.4% while the population 10-14 years decreased by 3.9% over the past 5 years.

The population of middle years children has fluctuated over the past 20 years. Among 5-9 year olds, the population has decreased by 2.2% since 1996. The population of 10-14 year olds has decreased by 3.1% in that time period.

Between 1996 and 2001, middle years children as a percentage of the population increased from 11.3% to 11.7%. After 2001, this age group as a percentage of the total population steadily dropped in each successive Census to its current low of 9.6% of the Toronto population in 2016.

Figure 8. Toronto's Population of Children Aged 5-14: 1996-2016



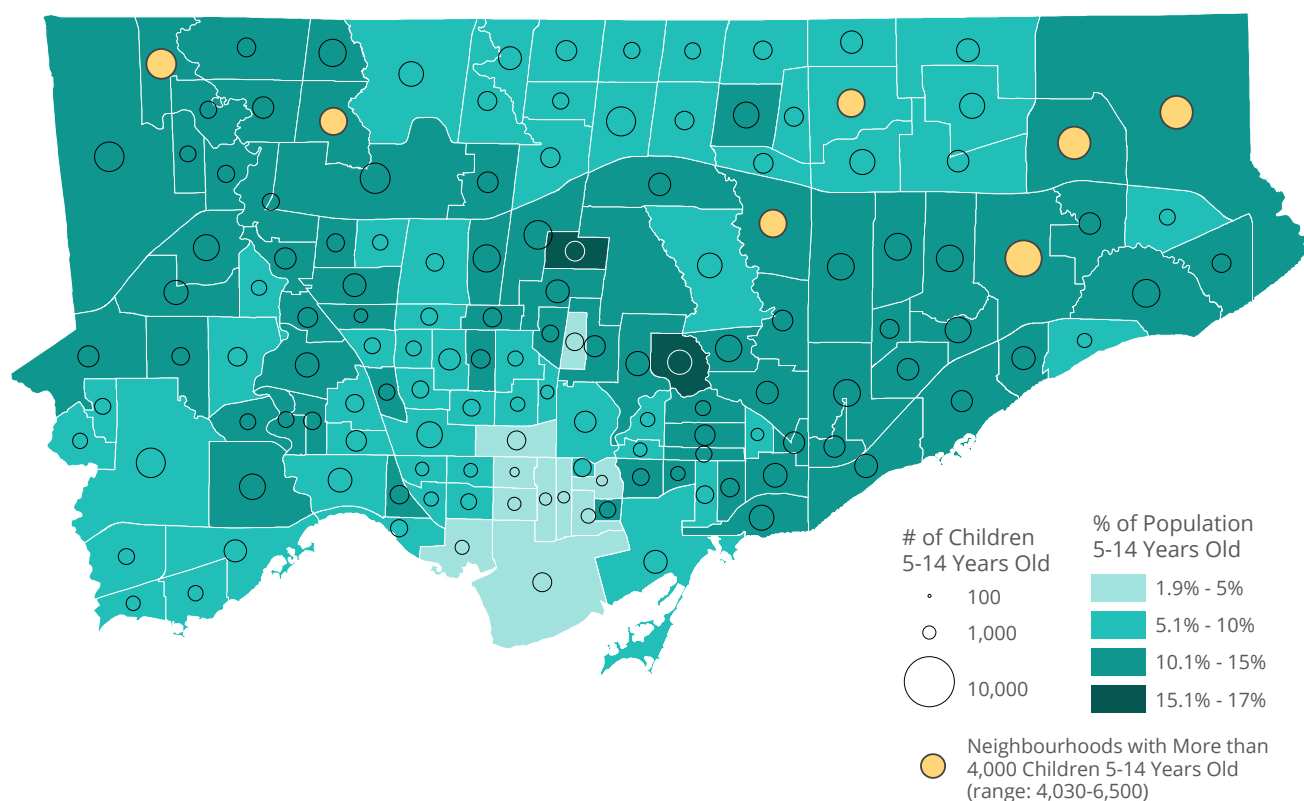
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

⁷ Middle years children are usually defined as aged 6-12. However, we have used 5-14 years of age in this section due to limitations on age category data available at the time of publication of this report.

Figure 9 shows the number of children 5-14 years of age in each neighbourhood and the percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that is 5-14 years of age. Neighbourhoods with the largest populations of middle years children are located in north Etobicoke, the west and east ends of North York, and the north-west, north-east and central areas of Scarborough. More than 4,000 middle years children live in each of the identified neighbourhoods.

As was the case with preschool age children, among all 140 Toronto neighbourhoods, Thorncliffe has the highest percentage of middle years children at 17% of its total population and is home to 3,585 children aged 5-14. Lawrence Park North has the second highest percentage with middle years children making up 16% of the total population in the neighbourhood, with 2,330 children aged 5-14. In contrast, middle years children make up only 9.6% of Toronto's population.

Figure 9. Toronto's Population of Children 5-14 Years Old by Neighbourhood in 2016

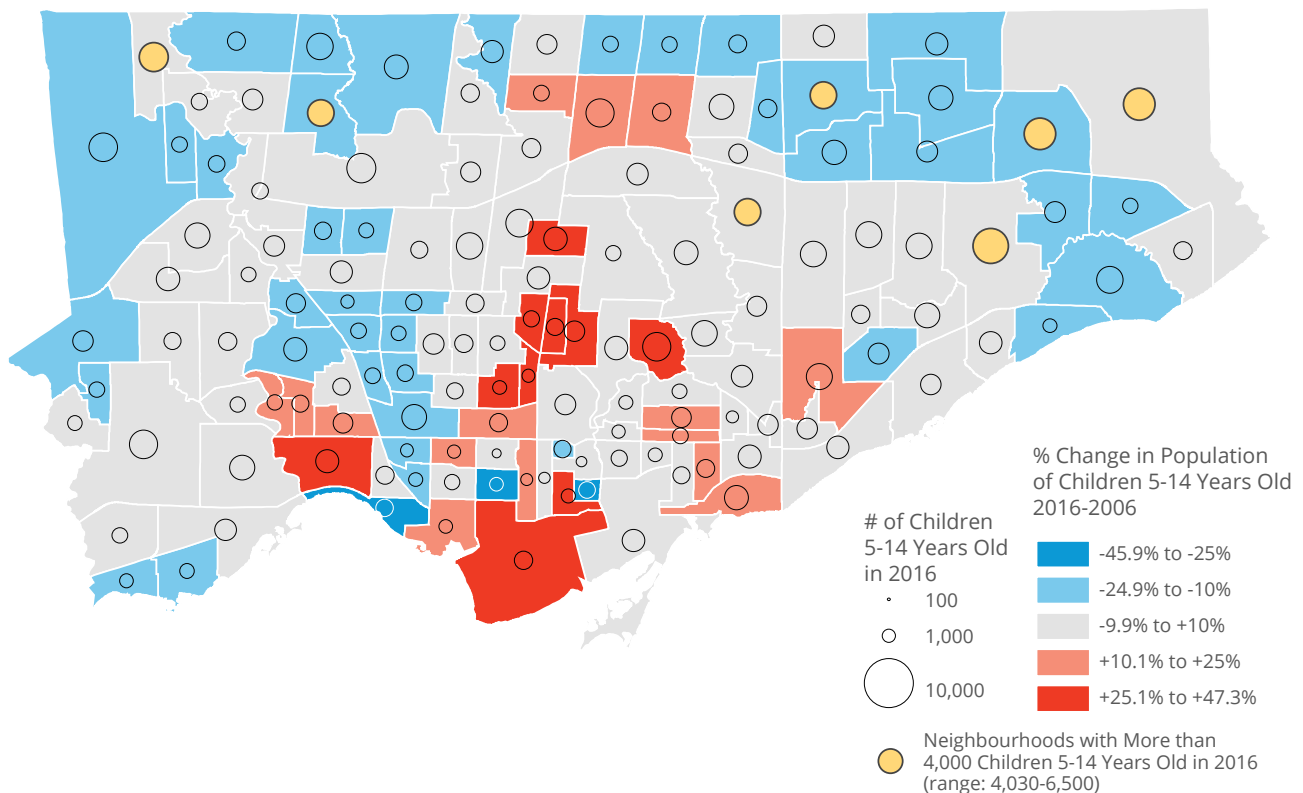


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Figure 10 shows the change in the population aged 5-14 over the past 10 years by neighbourhood. While Toronto's population of middle years children has decreased by 4.6% since 2006, neighbourhoods have varied in their experience of population change among this age group. Among Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, 25 experienced population growth of greater than 10% for middle years children and 44 experienced a population decline of greater than 10% among this age group over the past 10 years.

Neighbourhoods with the highest rates of population growth among middle years children are concentrated in the old City of Toronto and East York. Yonge-Eglinton experienced the highest percentage increase among middle years children at 47.3% with an overall population rate increase of only 12.6%. In the Waterfront Communities-The Island neighbourhood, the population of middle years children grew by 40.3% but experienced a much larger overall population rate increase of 153.9%. The population of children aged

Figure 10. Change in Toronto's Children's Population (5-14 Years Old) Over Past 10 Years by Neighbourhood: 2016-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

2006 data accessed through the Community Data Program.

5-14 increased in Yonge-St. Clair, Mount Pleasant East and High Park-Swansea by 35.8%, 35.1% and 34.1%, respectively. Population growth among middle years children in these neighbourhoods was substantially higher than their overall population rate increase.

Regent Park experienced the largest percentage decrease in middle years children at 45.9%. Again, the redevelopment of Regent Park has led to resident re-location during construction periods.

We will have a better sense of the new demographic in Regent Park after the redevelopment is complete. Kensington-Chinatown experienced a decrease of 37.6% among middle years children despite a 7.1% increase in the total population in this neighbourhood. In South Parkdale, the percentage of children 5-14 years of age decreased by 29.7% despite a 10% increase in its total population.

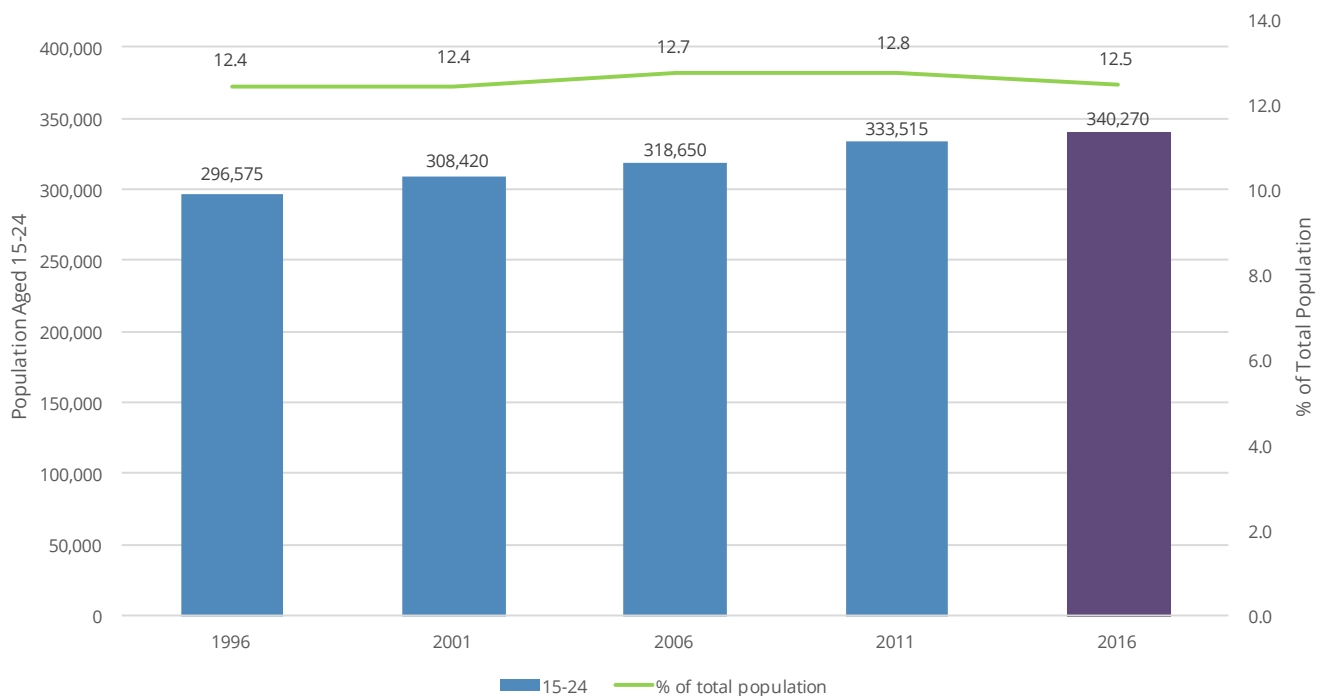


II YOUTH POPULATION

Figure 11 shows the steady growth in Toronto's youth population over the past 20 years. According to the 2016 Census, 340,270 youth aged 15-24 live in Toronto, an increase of 2% since 2011, 6.8% since 2006, 10.3% since 2001, and 14.7% since 1996.

Over the past 20 years, the youth age group as a proportion of the total population has remained relatively stable. In 2016, youth made up 12.5% of Toronto's population, with a high of 12.8% in 2011 and a low of 12.4% in 1996 and in 2001.

Figure 11. Toronto's Youth Population Aged 15-24: 1996-2016

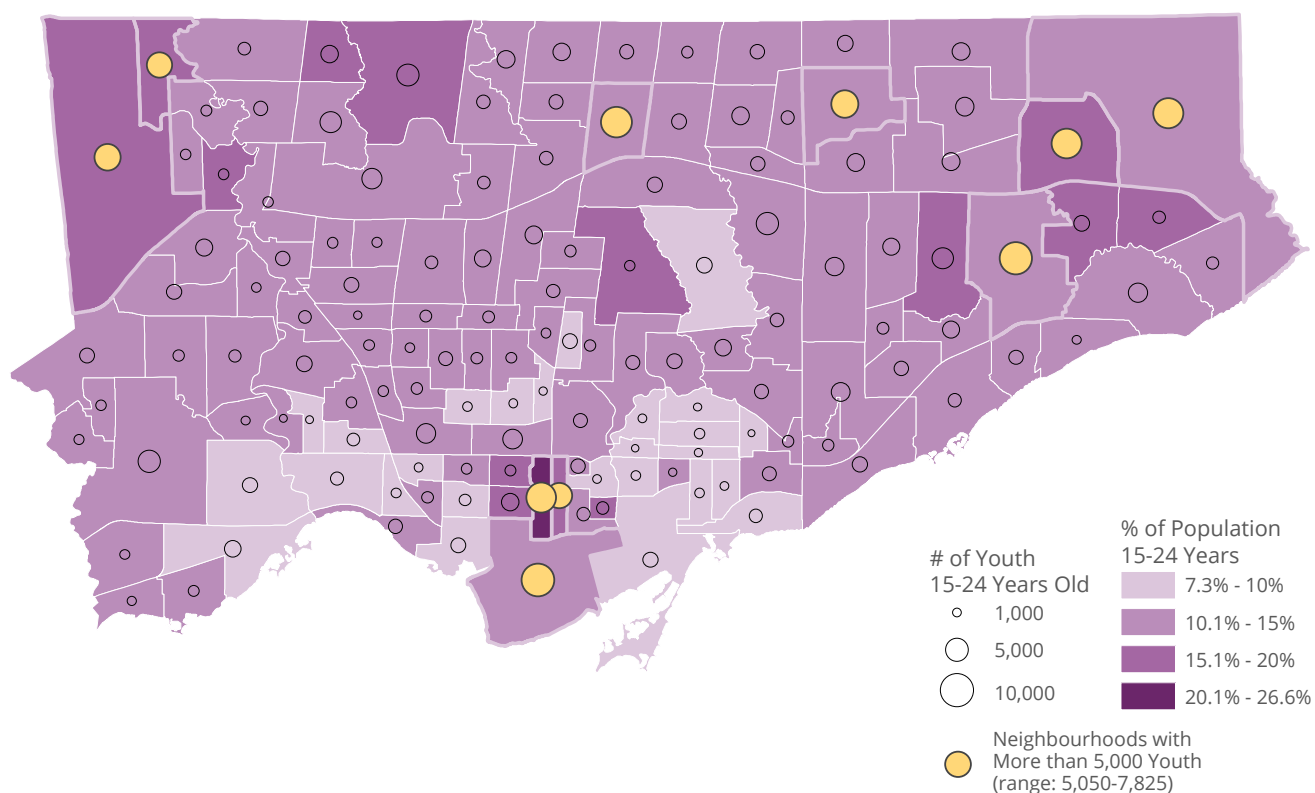


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

Figure 12 shows the number of youth 15-24 years of age in each neighbourhood and the percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that is 15-24 years of age. Neighbourhoods with the largest populations of youth are located in north

Etobicoke, North York, the downtown core, and north-west, north-east and central Scarborough. More than 5,000 youth live in each of the identified neighbourhoods.

Figure 12. Toronto's Population of Youth 15-24 Years Old by Neighbourhood in 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

The three neighbourhoods with the highest percentage of youth, 15-24 years old, are located near Toronto's colleges and universities. In the Bay Street Corridor which is located near Ryerson University, George Brown College and the University of Toronto, 26.6% of the population are between the ages of 15 and 24. In the University neighbourhood which includes part of the University of Toronto campus, youth make up 19.6% of the population. In

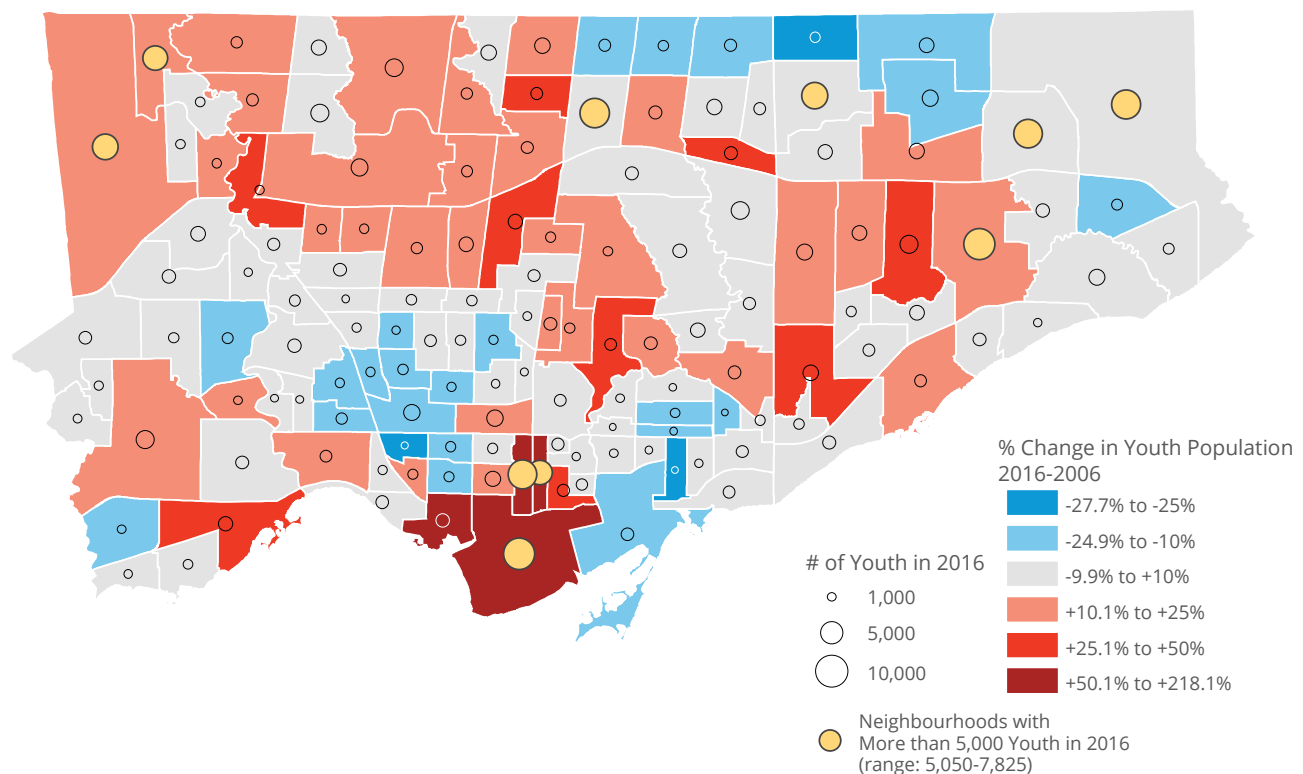
York University Heights which includes York University campus, youth make up 17.2% of the population. High concentrations of youth, representing more than 15% of the respective populations, are also found near the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus and Centennial College in south-east Scarborough and near Humber College in north Etobicoke. In contrast, youth make up 12.5% of Toronto's population.



Figure 13 shows the change in the population aged 15-24 over the past 10 years by neighbourhood. Toronto's youth population increased by 6.8% since 2006, while population change among 15-24 year olds varied by neighbourhood. Among Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods,

46 experienced population growth of greater than 10% for youth and 25 experienced a population decline of greater than 10% among this age group over the past 10 years.

Figure 13. Change in Toronto's Youth Population (15-24 Years Old) Over Past 10 Years by Neighbourhood: 2016-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

2006 data accessed through the Community Data Program.

Neighbourhoods with the highest rates of population growth among youth are located in the downtown core. Waterfront Communities-The Island had the highest percentage population increase among youth at 218.1%, followed by the Bay Street Corridor at 187.4%, Niagara at 107.3%, and Church-Yonge Corridor at 51.7%. The Niagara neighbourhood experienced a higher rate of total population growth at 116.5% than its youth population growth rate. In contrast, youth population growth rates were much higher than the total

population growth rate in Waterfront Communities-The Island, Bay Street Corridor, and Church-Yonge Corridor.

Over the past 10 years, the Dufferin Grove, Steeles and Greenwood-Coxwell neighbourhoods showed the largest percentage decreases among youth at 27.7%, 27.1% and 25.4%, respectively. While experiencing large decreases among the youth population, these neighbourhoods showed little change in total population.



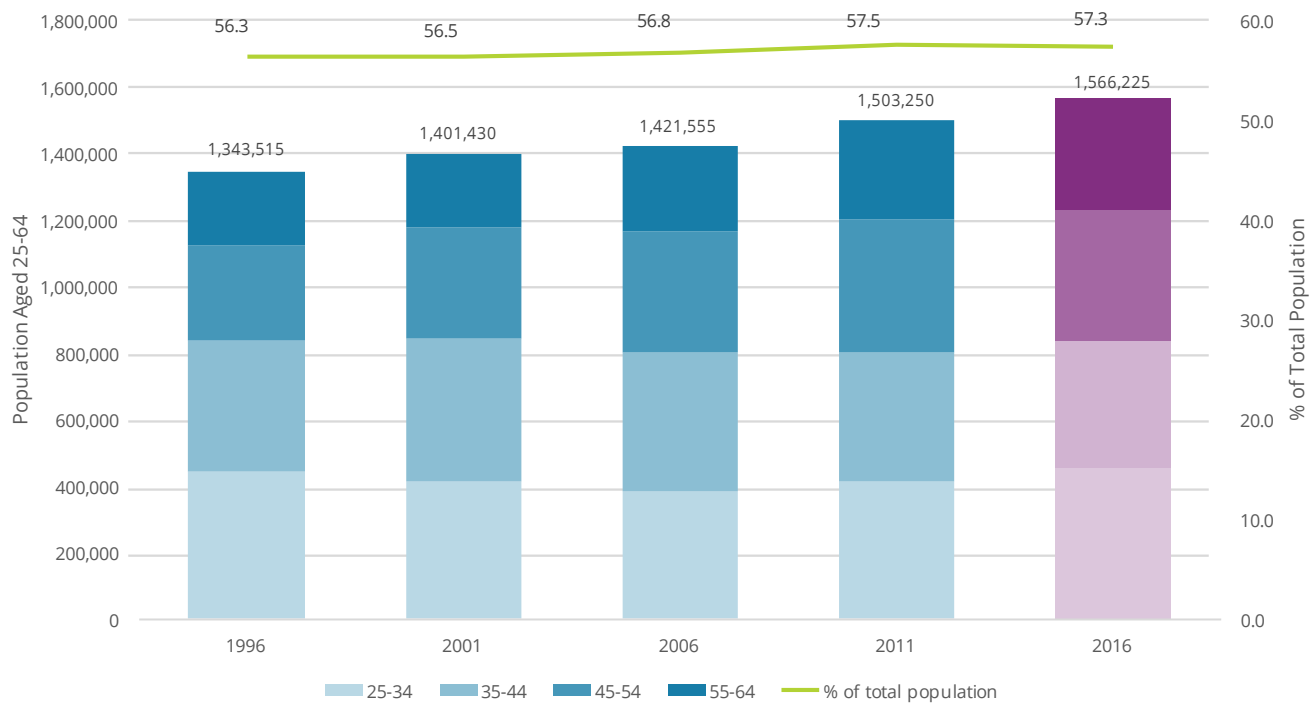
II WORKING AGE ADULTS

In this section, working age adult is defined as any individual between the ages of 25 and 64. Figure 14 shows the increase in the number of working age adults between 1996 and 2016. The population has increased in size, rising by 4.2% since 2011, 10.2% since 2006, 11.8% since 2001, and 16.6% since 1996.

The proportion of working age adults who are older, between the ages of 45-64 years, has increased over the past 20 years, representing 46.6% of working age adults in 2016, up from 37.8% in 1996.

Working age adults represent 57.3% of the total population in 2016, a bit down from 57.5% in 2011. The proportion of the population between the age of 25 and 64 years has shown minor fluctuations over the past 20 years from a high of 57.5% in 2011 to a low of 56.3% in 1996.

Figure 14. Toronto's Adult Working Age Population Aged 25-64: 1996-2016

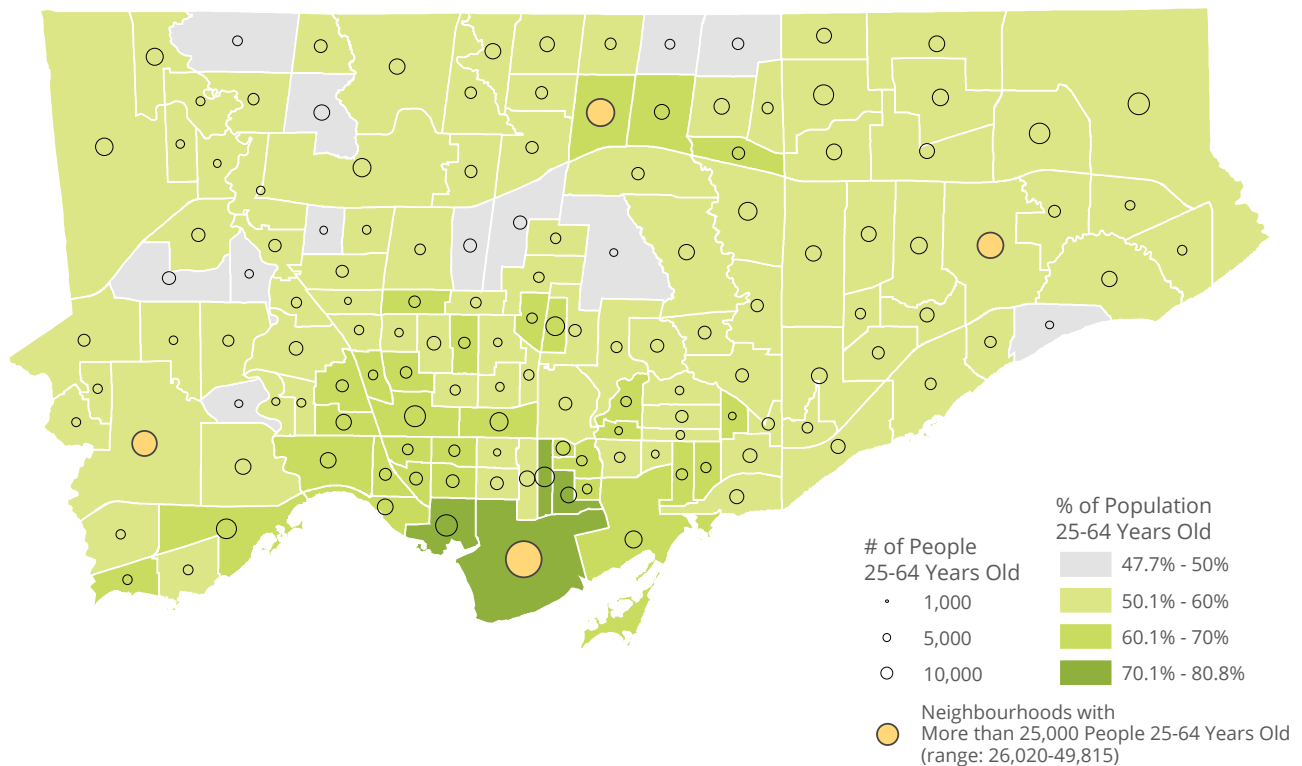


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

Figure 15 shows the number of working age adults 25-64 years of age in each neighbourhood and the percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that is 25-64 years of age. Neighbourhoods with the largest populations of working age adults are located in central and south Etobicoke, North York, the downtown core, and central Scarborough. More than 25,000 working age adults live in each of the identified neighbourhoods.

Working age adults make up 50% to 60% of the total population in most Toronto neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods with a higher proportion of working age adults are concentrated in the old City of Toronto with a few pockets in south Etobicoke and North York. Among Toronto neighbourhoods, Niagara has the highest percentage of working age adults at 80.8% of its total population, followed by Waterfront Communities-The Island at 75.6%, Moss Park at 73.2%, and Church-Yonge Corridor at 70.3%.

Figure 15. Toronto's Population of Working Age Adults 25-64 Years Old by Neighbourhood in 2016

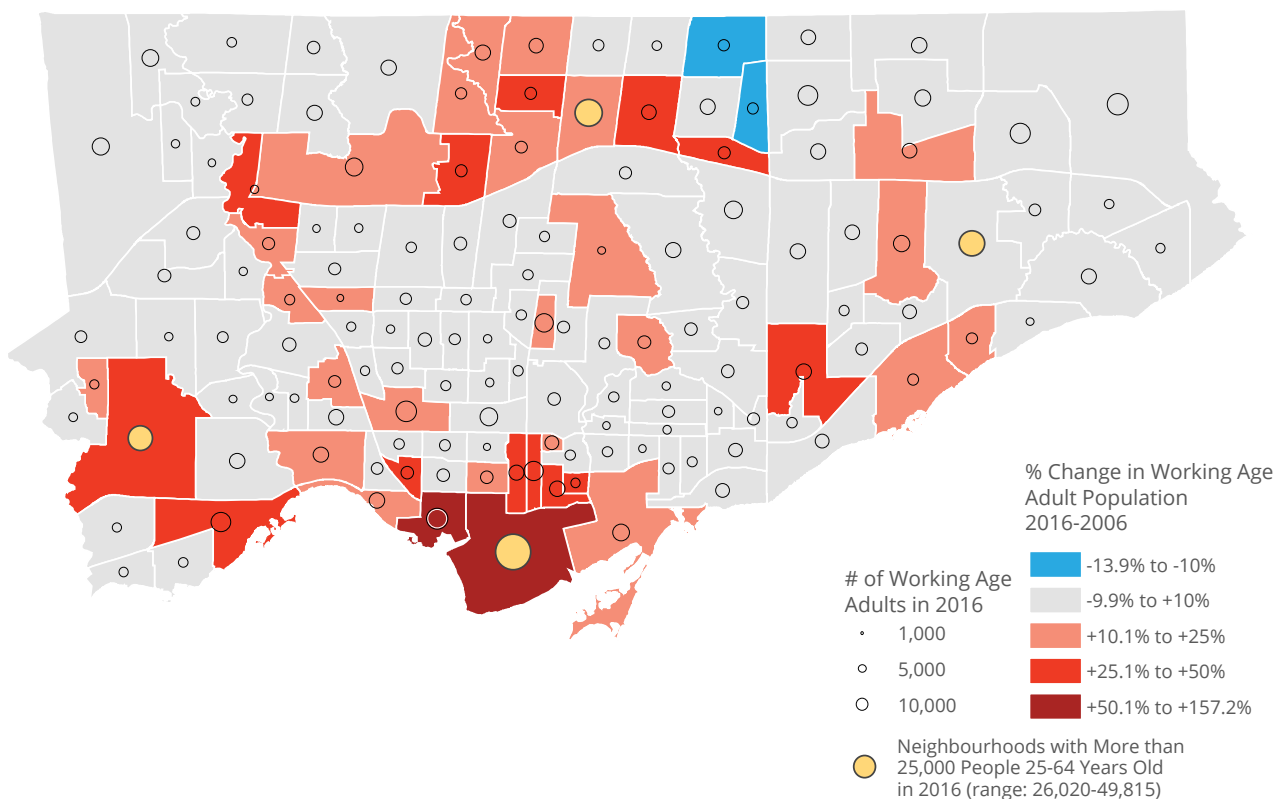


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Figure 16 shows the change in the population aged 25-64 years over the past 10 years by neighbourhood. Toronto's working age adult population increased by 10.2% since 2006, while population change among 25-64 year olds varied by neighbourhood. Among Toronto's 140

neighbourhoods, 39 experienced population growth of greater than 10% for working age adults and 2 experienced a population decline of greater than 10% among this age group over the past 10 years.

Figure 16. Change in Toronto's Working Age Adult Population (25-64 Years Old) Over Past 10 Years by Neighbourhood: 2016-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

2006 data accessed through the Community Data Program.

Neighbourhoods with the highest rates of population growth among working age adults are located in the downtown core. Waterfront Communities-The Island had the highest percentage population increase among working age adults at 157.2%, similar to its overall population growth of 153.9%. The Niagara neighbourhood had the second highest population growth among working age adults at 126.2%, slightly higher than its overall population growth at 116.5%

The Hillcrest Village and Pleasant View neighbourhoods in the north-east area of North York experienced the largest decrease in the working age adult populations, down 13.9% and 11.3% since 2006, respectively. These neighbourhoods also experienced decreases in their total population but at lower rates of decline than that found for their working age adult populations.

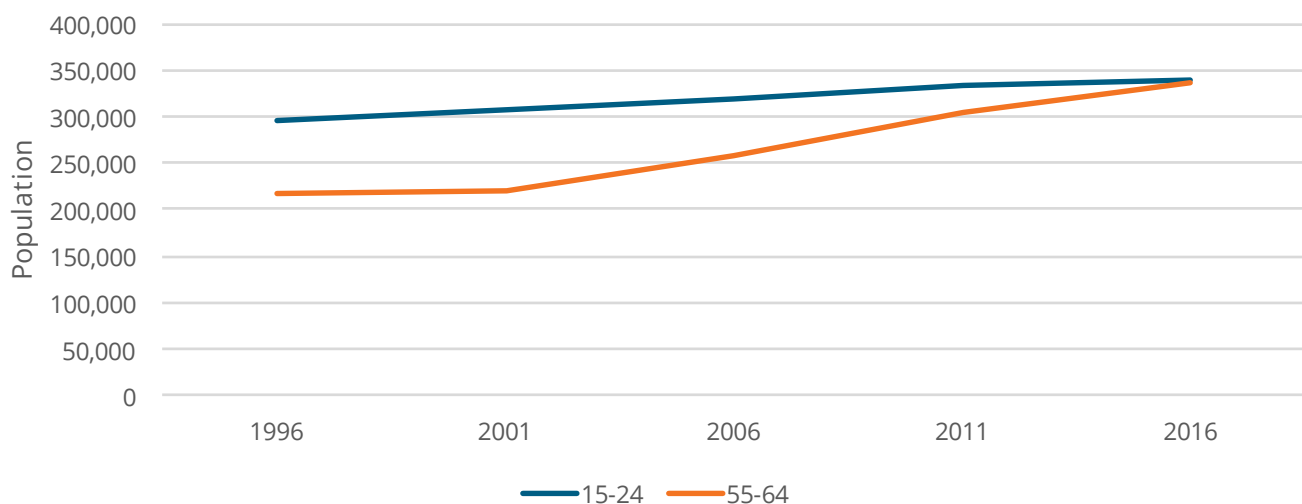


When we compare the trend of young people (15-24 years of age) who are just entering the labour force with older working age adults (55-64 years of age), many of whom will be leaving the labour force within a decade, the gap is wider in 2001, starts to narrow in 2006, and is close to intersecting by 2011 and then nearly intersects by 2016. As shown in Figure 17, over time, there are fewer young people entering the labour force to replace those who will be exiting it. In a related comparison, the 2016 Census marks the first Census period where the seniors population aged 65 and over is larger than the children's population under age 15. In Toronto, the divide is more pronounced where there are just over 93 children under the age of 15 for every

100 seniors aged 65 and over, compared to Canada where there are just over 98 children for every 100 seniors.

Toronto's data is reflective of a major demographic shift taking place across Canada and in other industrialized nations that has been the subject of considerable analysis and debate and raises critical questions about Canada's workforce, its economy, and the impacts on our communities.^{8,9} In Canada, this trend is driven by the aging of the baby boomers, the large post-war cohort born between 1946 and 1964 who are now beginning to enter retirement age, coupled with a low birth rate and immigration levels that are insufficient to maintain the current labour force complement.

Figure 17. Comparing Toronto's Population Approaching Working Age (15-24 Years) and Retirement Age (55-64 Years): 1996-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

⁸ Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2013). Canada's Aging Population: The municipal role in Canada's demographic shift. Ottawa, Ontario.

⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Ageing 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/390). http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2015_Report.pdf

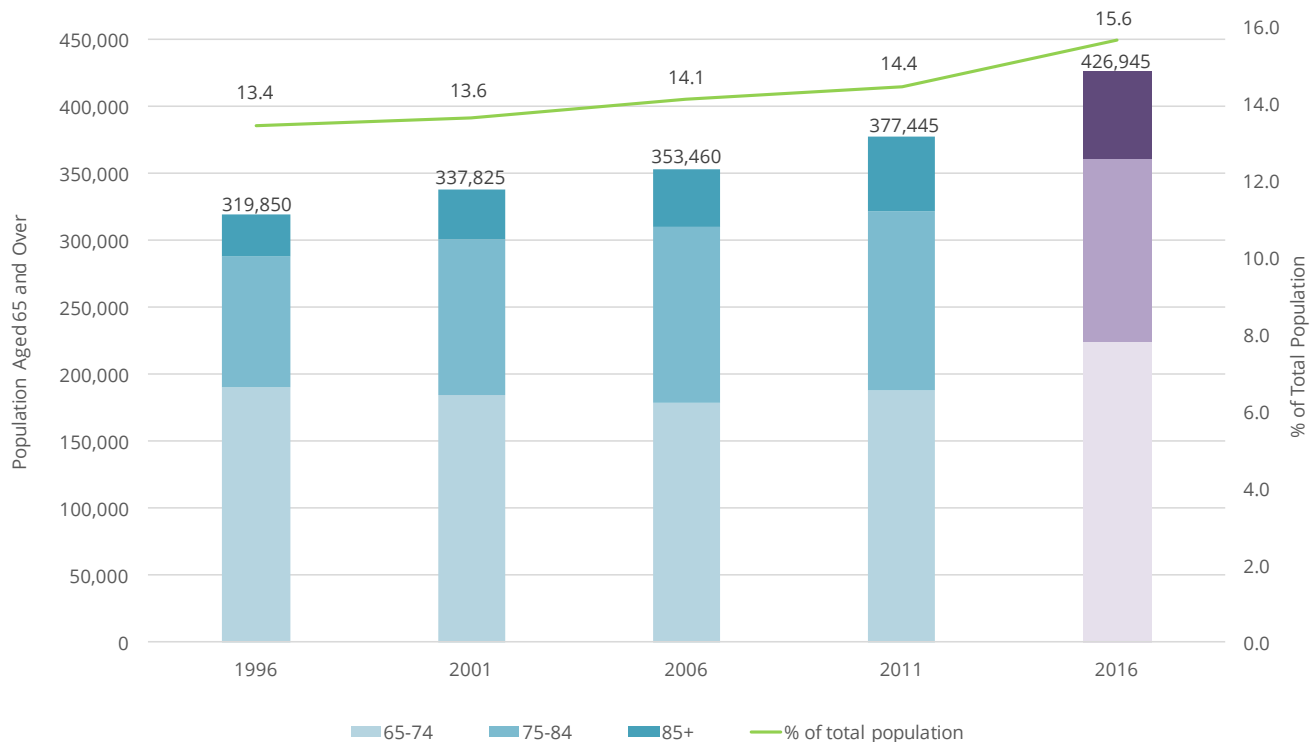
II SENIORS

Figure 18 shows a large increase in Toronto's senior population, aged 65 and over, between 1996 and 2016. According to the 2016 Census, 426,945 seniors live in Toronto, an increase of 13.1% since 2011, 20.8% since 2006, 26.4% since 2001, and 33.5% since 1996.

Over the past 20 years, the senior population has also increased as a percentage of Toronto's total population. In 2016, seniors made up 15.6% of the total population, up from 14.4% in 2011, 14.1% in 2006, 13.6% in 2001, and 13.4% in 1996.

Figure 18 also shows the growth in seniors aged 85 and over as percentage of Toronto's senior population. According to the 2016 Census, seniors aged 85 and over made up 15.5% of Toronto's senior population, up from 14.6% in 2011, 12.2% in 2006, 10.7% in 2001, and 9.8% in 1996.

Figure 18. Toronto's Senior Population Aged 65 and Over: 1996-2016



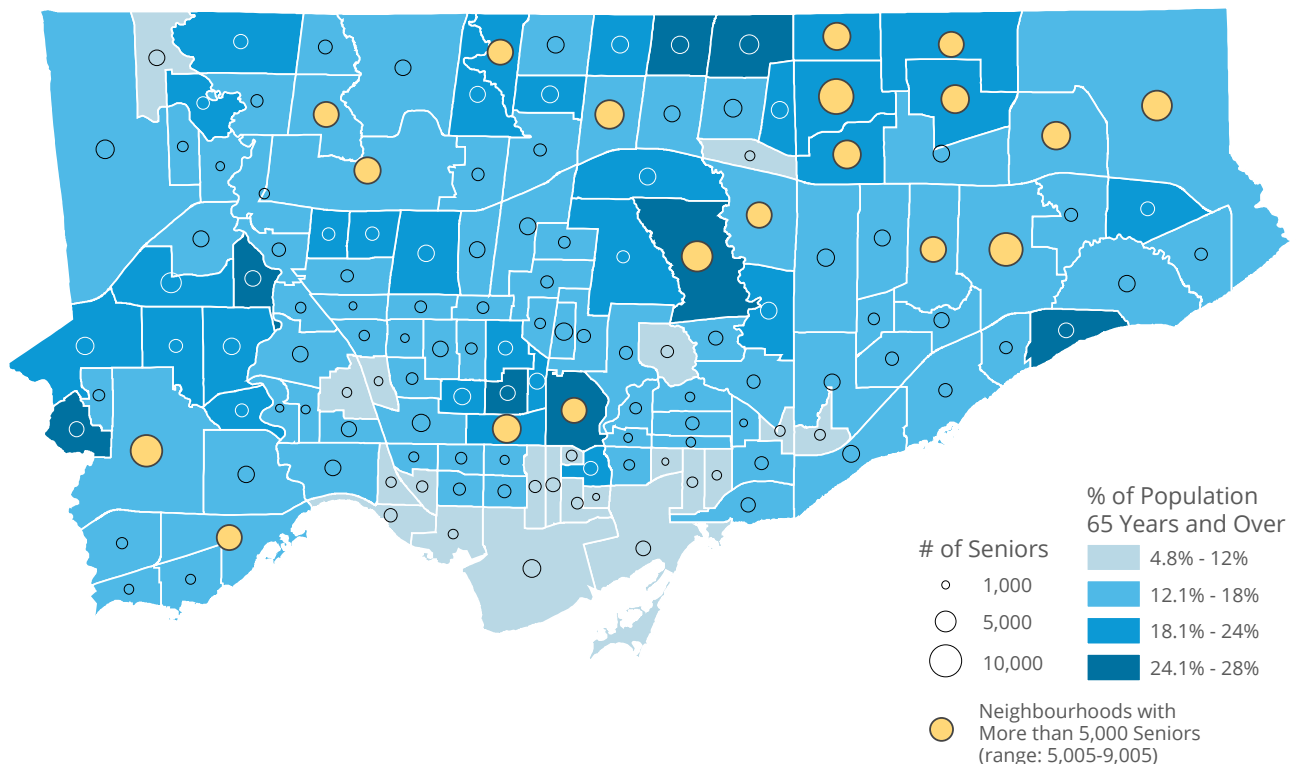
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001 & 1996 Census.

Figure 19 shows the number of seniors 65 years of age and over in each neighbourhood and the percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that is 65 years of age and over. Neighbourhoods with the largest senior populations are located in central and south Etobicoke, North York, the old City of Toronto, and north-west, north-east and central Scarborough. More than 5,000 seniors live in each of the identified neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods with the highest percentage of seniors include Markland Wood at 25.6% and Humber Heights-Westmount at 27.9% in central Etobicoke, Bayview Woods-Steeles at 28%, Hillcrest Village at 25.5% and Banbury-Don Mills at 25.2% in North York, Casa Loma at 24.3% and Rosedale-Moore Park at 24.6% in the north end of the old City of Toronto, and Guildwood at 26.6% along the waterfront in Scarborough.

In comparison, 15.6% of Toronto's population are seniors.

Figure 19. Toronto's Population of Seniors 65 Years Old and Over by Neighbourhood in 2016

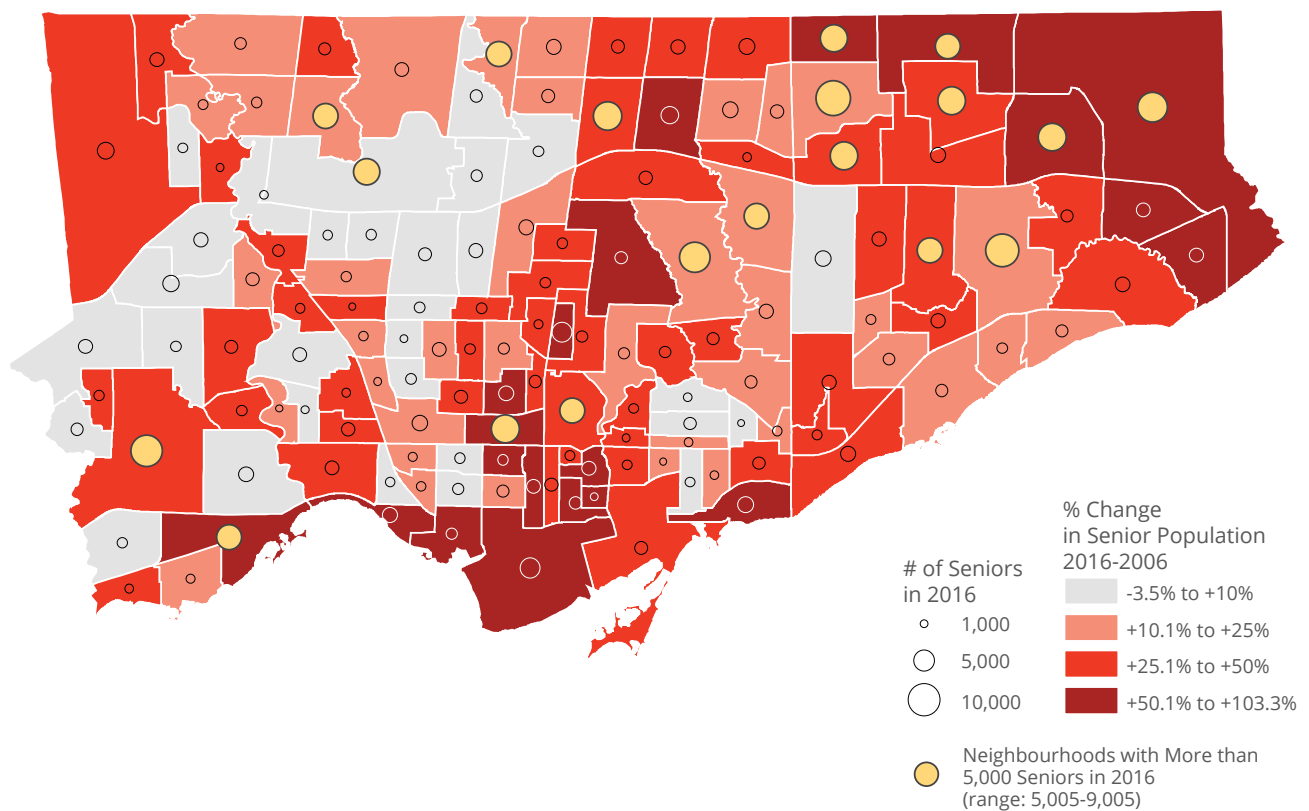


Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Figure 20 shows the change in the senior population over the past 10 years by neighbourhood. Toronto's senior population increased by 20.8% since 2006, while population change among residents 65 years and over varied by neighbourhood. Among Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, 110 experienced population growth of greater

than 10% for seniors and 0 experienced a population decline of greater than 10% among this age group over the past 10 years. Eighty-three neighbourhoods had a senior population that increased by more than 20.8%, Toronto's overall senior population growth rate.

Figure 20. Change in Toronto's Senior Population (65 Years Old and Over) Over Past 10 Years by Neighbourhood: 2016-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 & 2006 Census.

2006 data accessed through the Community Data Program.

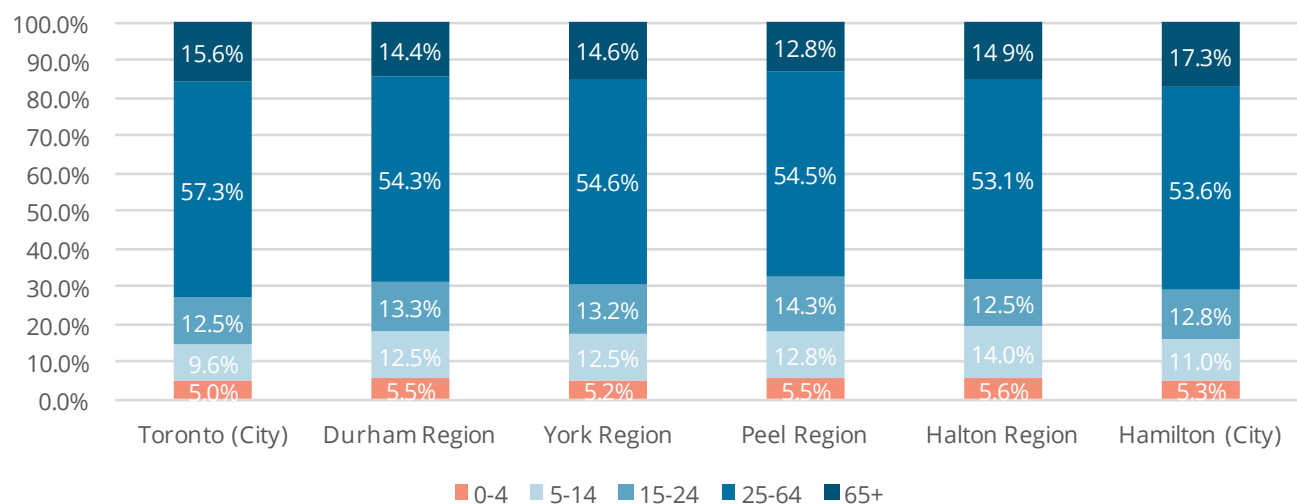
Waterfront Communities-The Island had the highest percentage population increase among seniors at 103.3%, which is much lower than its overall population growth of 153.9%. In the Rouge neighbourhood, the senior population increased by 102.9% while its overall population growth was only 8.6%. The Niagara neighbourhood had population growth among seniors at 88.8%, a lower rate than its overall population growth at 116.5%.

Only 6 neighbourhoods experienced a decrease in the population of seniors over the past 10 years. No neighbourhoods showed a decline of more than 3.5%.

II GTHA AGE DISTRIBUTIONS

Figure 21 compares the age distribution in selected cities and regions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in 2016. Toronto's population has the lowest proportion of children under age 5 and 5-9 years of age in the GTHA. Toronto and Halton Region share the lowest proportion of children 10-14 years of age. In contrast, Toronto has the highest proportion of working age adults. The City of Hamilton has the highest proportion of seniors at 17.3%, followed by Toronto at 15.6%. Peel Region has the lowest proportion of seniors at 12.8%.

Figure 21. Age Distribution of GTHA Selected Cities and Regions in 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

II POPULATION PROJECTIONS

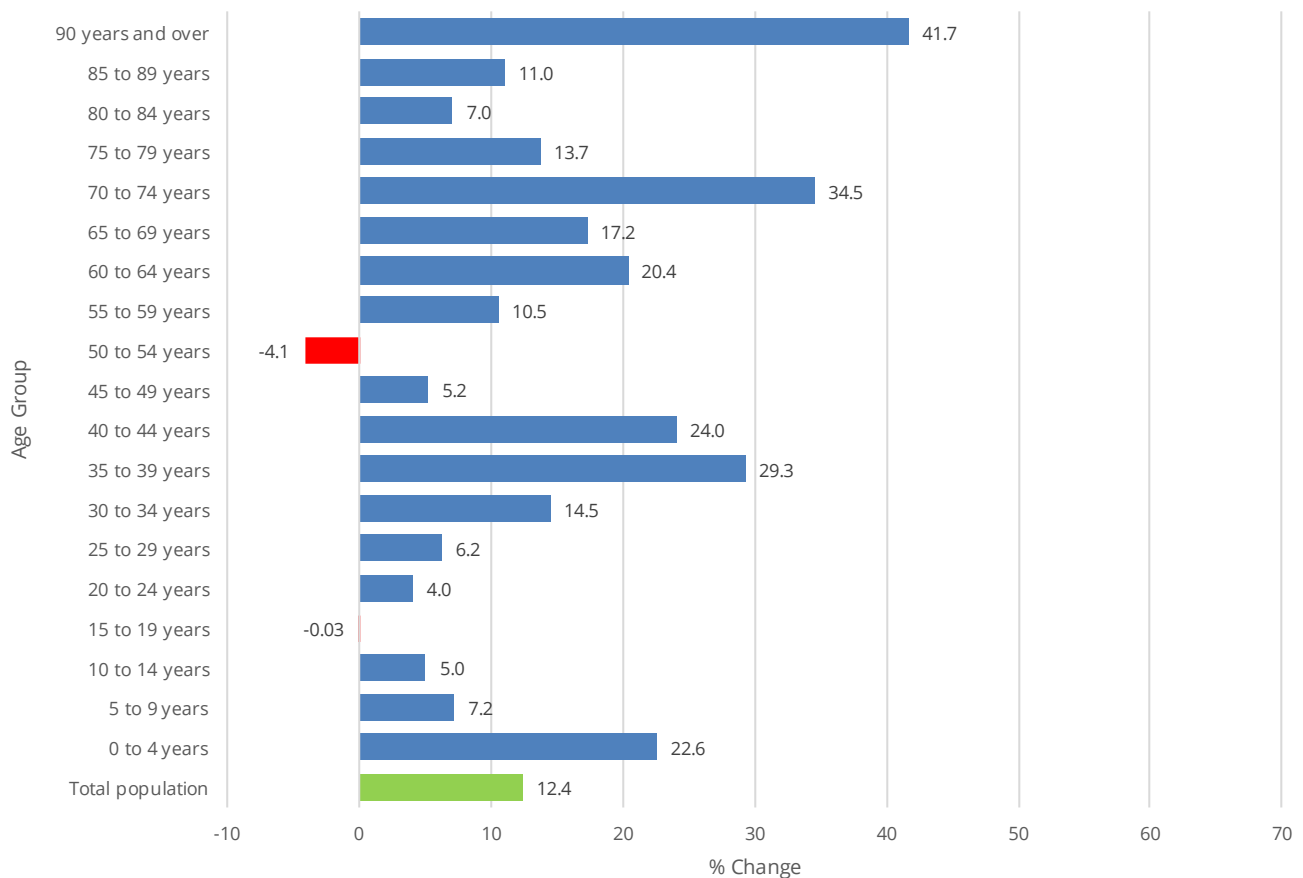
Figure 22 shows the percentage change projected for Toronto's population by age group over the next five years based on the Ontario Ministry of Finance's *Population Projections 2015-2041* published in the Spring 2016. These population projections are based on the 2011 Census. Updates are planned using the 2016 Census data.

Toronto's population is projected to increase by 12.4% by 2021, with substantial increases for several age groups: 90 years and over

(41.7% increase), 70-74 years of age (34.5%), 35-39 years of age (29.3%), 40-44 years of age (24.0%), 0-4 years of age (22.6%), and 60-64 years of age (20.4%). The 50-54 and 15-19 year old age groups are projected to decrease by 4.1% and 0.03%, respectively.

Between 2016 and 2021, the following age groups are projected to increase: middle years children, 5-14 years of age, by 6.1%, youth, aged 15-24, by 2.3%, the working age population, aged 25-64, by 12.8%, and seniors, 65 years of age and over, by 19.8%.

Figure 22. Five-Year Projected Population Change in Toronto by Age Group: 2016-2021



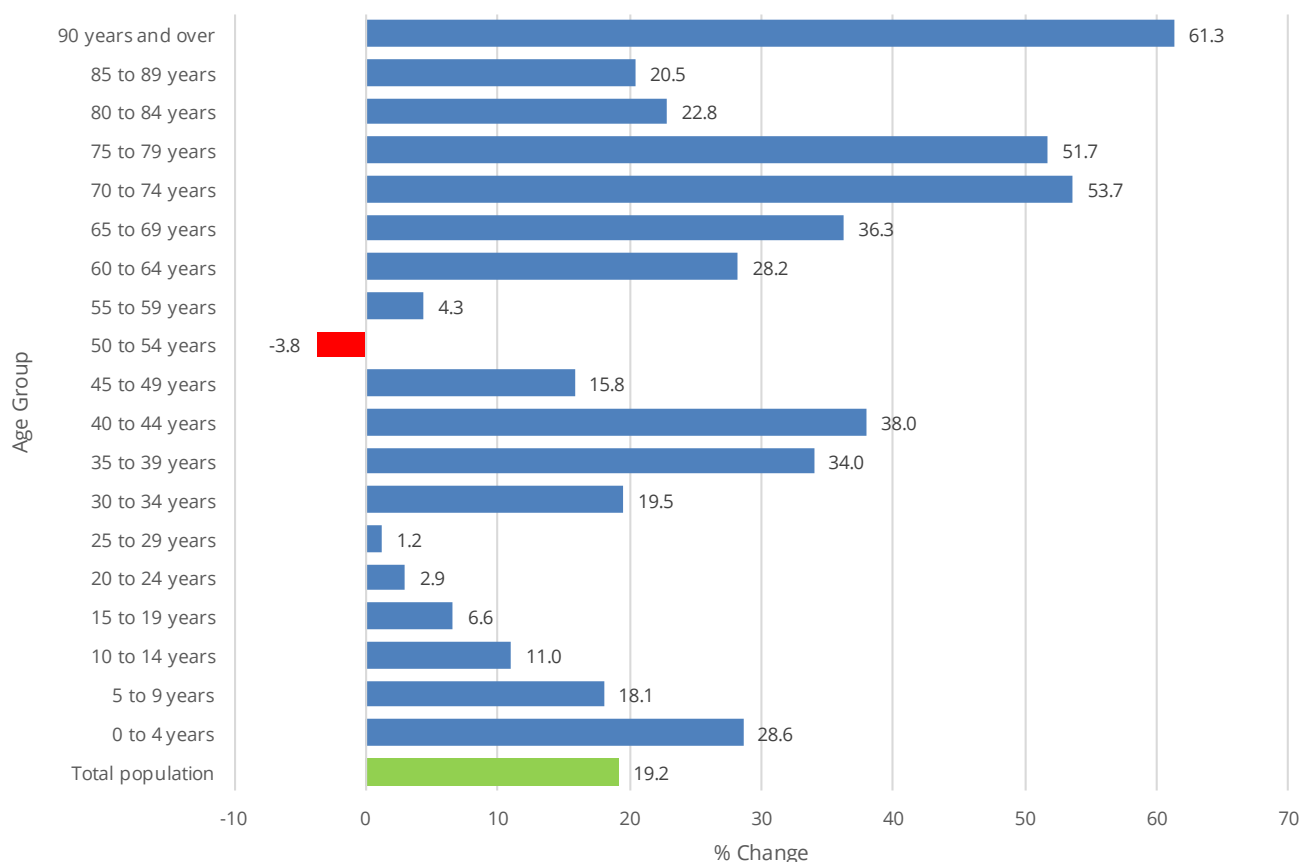
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census;
Ontario Ministry of Finance, *Population Projections 2015-2041*.

Figure 23 shows the percentage change projected for Toronto's population by age group over the next decade. Toronto's population is projected to increase by 19.2% between 2016 and 2026. Several age groups are projected to experience substantial increases including 90 years and over (61.3% increase), 70-74 years of age (53.7%), 75-79 years of age (51.7%), 40-44 years of age (38%), 65-69 years of age (36.3%), 35-39 years of age (34%), 0-4 years of age (28.6%),

and 60-64 years of age (28.2%). The 50-54 year old age group is projected to decrease by 3.8% between 2016 and 2026.

Between 2016 and 2026, the following age groups are projected to increase: middle years children, 5-14 years of age, by 14.7%, youth, aged 15-24, by 4.5%, the working age population, aged 25-64, by 16.4%, and seniors, 65 years of age and over, by 40.9%.

Figure 23. Ten-Year Projected Population Change in Toronto by Age Group: 2016-2026



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census; Ontario Ministry of Finance, Population Projections 2015-2041.

III IMPLICATIONS OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

II BUILDING A HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE SYSTEM

I POPULATION CHANGE AND PROJECTIONS

Access to high quality and affordable child care is critical for families with preschool age and middle years children. Even with population decline among preschool age children and only modest fluctuations in the number of middle years children in recent years, Toronto's child care system has failed to meet the needs of the majority of Toronto families.^{10,11,12} With anticipated growth among preschool age and middle years children, particularly for children under age 5 where the population is expected to increase by 22.6% in the next five years and 28.6% in the next 10 years, the need to build a responsive child care system is urgent.

I THE BENEFITS OF CHILD CARE

The social and economic benefits of high quality, affordable child care for children, families and the economy are well documented.^{13,14,15} Child care supports the social and skills development of children. Without it, many parents, predominantly women, are unable to work in paid employment, take on apprenticeship programs, or complete their studies at secondary school, college or university. Because of the role that many women play as primary caregivers, child care is essential to facilitating women's economic security and supporting gender equality. Child care also produces economic benefits including job creation and is a key contributor to poverty reduction.¹⁶

I STRUGGLES IN A CHANGING CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Lack of access to child care and lack of affordable child care are serious problems affecting the majority of Toronto's families with young children. Many families register on multiple waiting lists months prior to the

10 Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (2016). A Growing Concern: 2016 Child Care Fees in Canada's Big Cities. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

11 City of Toronto, Children's Services (2016). Full-Day Kindergarten and Schoolage Program Updates. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

12 City of Toronto (2017). Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for Children Under 4: 2017-2026. Toronto, Ontario.

13 Friendly, M. (2008). Why Canada Can't Work without Good Child Care: How early childhood education and care supports the economy. Toronto, Ontario: Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

14 Childcare Resource and Research Unit (1997). In the Public Interest: The social and economic benefits of high quality child care. Video. Toronto, Ontario.

15 Nayar Consulting & Amanda Parriag and Associates (2011). An Opportunity for Every Child: Realizing the Potential of After-School Programming for Children Ages 6-12 in Toronto. A report for the City of Toronto – Children's Services Division and Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Toronto, Ontario.

16 City of Toronto (2015). TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. Toronto, Ontario.

birth of their child in the hopes of accessing high quality licensed child care when they are ready or required to return to work.¹⁷ If they are fortunate enough to get a spot, child care costs are unaffordable or deeply unaffordable for most families.

With the transition to full day kindergarten (FDK) for children aged 4 and 5, there has been an increase in the number of child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschool children. However, child care providers have raised concerns that some of these much-needed child care spaces are remaining vacant because the fees are not affordable.¹⁸ As a result, some child care centres are struggling financially due to lack of revenue from vacant spaces, undermining the viability of the system and the job security of child care professionals.

Recent research has found that Toronto has the highest child care fees for infants, toddlers and preschool children in the country¹⁹ and is unaffordable for over 75% of families.²⁰ More than 15,000 children from low income families are on the waiting list for subsidized child care in Toronto.²¹ However, far more families are affected by lack of affordable child care. For a family

with one infant in child care, the median child care fee is nearly \$20,000 per year in Toronto.²² That's a considerable burden for modest and middle income families in Toronto who are not eligible for a subsidy.

Since the introduction of FDK, the provincial government has required school boards to provide before- and after-school programs for kindergarten students where demand is sufficient.²³ As of November 2016, approximately half of all elementary schools provided before- and after-school programs for kindergarten students. During the 2016-17 school year, there were 318 kindergarten before- and after-school programs with 10,601 spaces in Toronto, up from 88 programs with 2,359 spaces in 2012-13. However, there has been virtually no change in the number of fee subsidies offered in these programs. In 2016-17, there were only 5,624 fee subsidies with full fees ranging from \$29-\$38 per day. In contrast, there are over 45,000 children enrolled in FDK in Toronto.

For middle years children, many families lack access to out-of-school time programs, including programs provided before and after school and during holidays and

17 Toronto City Council debate on Toronto's Child Care Growth Strategy on April 26, 2017.

18 Deputation from Jane Mercer, Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care at the City of Toronto's Community Development and Recreation Committee on November 29, 2016.

19 Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (2016). A Growing Concern: 2016 Child Care Fees in Canada's Big Cities. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

20 City of Toronto (2017). Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for Children Under 4: 2017-2026. Toronto, Ontario.

21 Ibid.

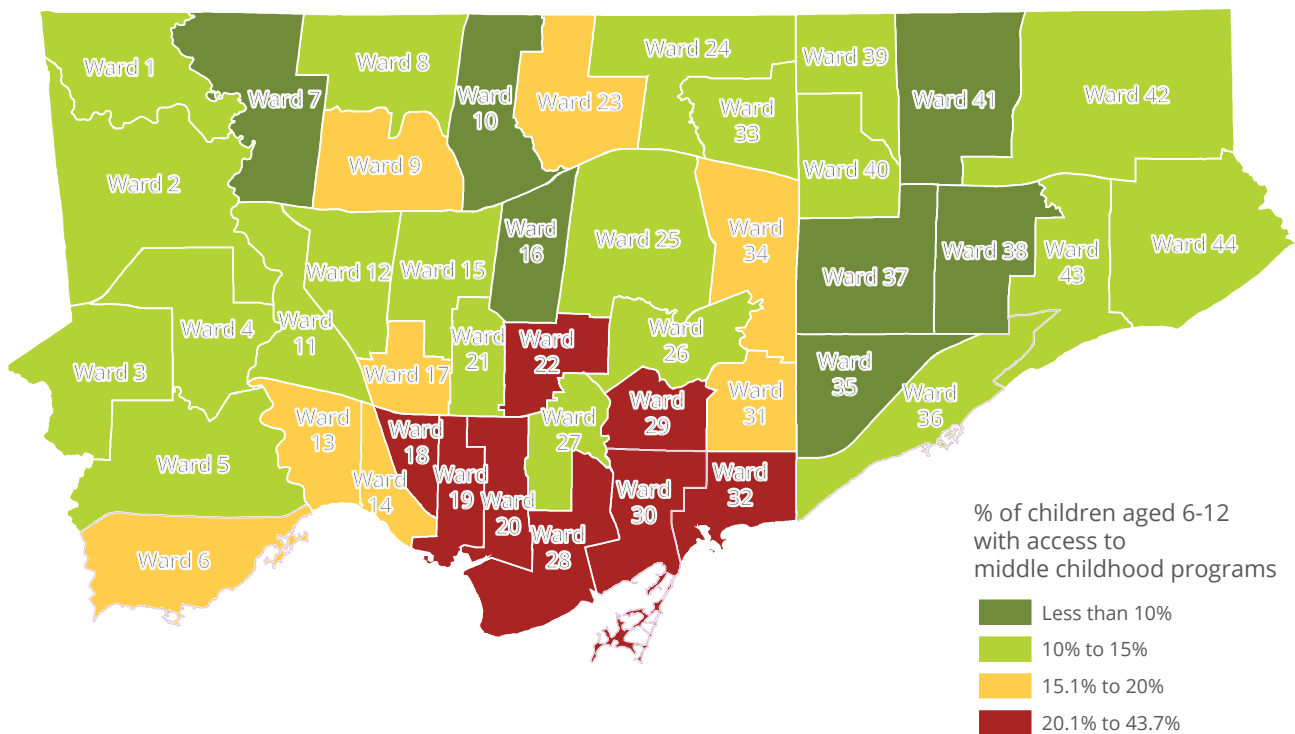
22 Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (2016). A Growing Concern: 2016 Child Care Fees in Canada's Big Cities. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

23 City of Toronto, Children's Services (2016). Full-Day Kindergarten and Schoolage Program Updates. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

summer vacation. Families also have problems finding affordable program spaces among the patchwork of available services. In 2015, the City reported that 66% of elementary schools had a middle childhood program.²⁴ These schools provided 664 programs with 25,145 spaces, serving only 14% of children aged 6-12 in Toronto. As shown in Figure 24, access to middle childhood programs is not equitable

across the city with the lowest levels of access in Wards 7, 10, 16, 35, 37, 38 and 41 located in North York and Scarborough. Notably, neighbourhoods with the largest number and highest concentrations of middle years children are located in the inner suburbs and within city wards with below average access to middle childhood programs.

Figure 24. Percentage of Children Aged 6-12 with Access to Middle Childhood Programs by Ward



Source: City of Toronto, Children's Services (2015).
Toronto Children's Services 2015-2019 Service Plan
Toronto, Ontario

"My wife and I got on the wait list for three infant rooms in the immediate vicinity of where we live. We got on the list before we told our parents of our first child at 12 weeks (pregnant). At 11 months old, we didn't have a spot. It was 18 months until we got our spot. You've got to get on (the waiting list) before you even conceive. That's absolutely ridiculous."

**-Toronto City Councillor
Mike Layton**

Toronto City Council debate on Toronto's Child Care Growth Strategy on April 26, 2017.

In 2013, the City of Toronto adopted a Middle Childhood Strategy which prioritized the expansion of middle childhood programs to ensure equitable access across Toronto.²⁵ The Toronto Children's Services 2015-2019 Service Plan echoed this priority.²⁶ The division notes the need for strategies to improve access for newcomer families and families with older children as both groups experience unique barriers to participation in middle childhood programs. In May 2016, the provincial government amended regulations under the Education Act to require school boards to provide before- and after-school programs for children in grade one to six where demand is sufficient and viable.²⁷

Following the provincial government direction, Toronto Children's Services is working closely with Toronto's four school boards to assess need and expand these before- and after-school programs. While a positive direction, the City has identified several challenges that require resolution including lack of additional child care subsidies, questions regarding the availability of child care and recreation providers to operate new programs, availability of appropriate school space for programs, need to ensure clear communications among partners and stakeholders for the successful

25 City of Toronto, Children's Services (2013). Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy. Toronto, Ontario

26 City of Toronto, Children's Services (2015). Toronto Children's Services 2015-2019 Service Plan. Toronto, Ontario.

27 City of Toronto, Children's Services (2016). Full-Day Kindergarten and Schoolage Program Updates. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

implementation of programs, the availability of qualified staff to work morning and afternoon split-shifts in these programs, and challenges for providers where child care licensing may be required.²⁸

With the transition to FDK and Ministry mandates for before- and after-school programs coupled with long-term lack of investment in child care, Toronto's child care system has been in flux, providers have been struggling, and families have been left scrambling to find child care that they can afford. Across the child care system, more spaces are needed. However, reduced fees, additional subsidies and adequate operating funds are critical to make child care accessible for families and to support services that ensure the viability of the child care system and a strong workforce.

I RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CHILD CARE

After years of underfunding, all three orders of government are renewing their commitment to child care. The federal government committed \$500 million for 2017-18 for a new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework for children up to age 12.²⁹ In March 2017, it announced an additional investment of \$7 billion over 10 years, starting in 2018-19 and resulting in up

to 40,000 new subsidized child care spaces across Canada in the next three years.

In September 2016, the provincial government committed to the creation of 100,000 new child care spaces over the next five years for children under age 5.³⁰ On June 6, 2017, it announced an investment of \$1.6 billion to build 45,000 of the 100,000 new spaces in 2017.³¹ Based on historical funding patterns, the provincial government's commitment of 100,000 new spaces could result in an additional 30,000 new infant, toddler and preschool child care spaces for Toronto over the next five years. The government also released its Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework, further articulating its vision for early years and child care services in Ontario.

This is good news for many families. However, with an Ontario election set to take place by June 7, 2018, future provincial action on child care is uncertain. It will be important to secure firm commitments on child care from all provincial parties.

28 *ibid.*

29 City of Toronto (2017). Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for Children Under 4: 2017-2026. Toronto, Ontario.

30 *ibid.*

31 Government of Ontario (2017, June 6). Ontario Making Child Care More Affordable and Accessible for Families. News release.

Over 15,000 Children on Toronto's Wait List for Subsidized Child Care

City of Toronto (2017). Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for Children Under 4: 2017-2026. Toronto, Ontario

Median Annual Child Care Fees in Toronto:

\$19,788 - For an infant

\$16,500 - For a toddler

\$13,800 - For a preschool child

Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (2016). A Growing Concern: 2016 Child Care Fees in Canada's Big Cities. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

In April 2017, Toronto City Council passed its Child Care Growth Strategy for children under age 4.³² The Growth Strategy sets out a plan to provide child care to 50% of Toronto's children under age 4. It articulates a vision that supports good jobs to attract and retain qualified child care workers, and recognizes the need to expand capacity while dramatically improving affordability for families. Toronto City Council recommitted to cover 20% of child care funding contingent upon a combined 80% contribution from the federal and provincial governments. The plan calls for an additional 30,000 child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschool children by 2026 and is costed at between \$1.4 and \$1.9 billion not including the cost of land for new child care centres.

City plans that are contingent on funds from senior orders of government haven't produced great results.³³ However, at present, all three orders of government have come to the table with financial commitments. If fully implemented, the Growth Strategy would address the child care needs of 50% of children under age 4 in the next decade. This coupled with an expansion of middle childhood programs would bring us closer to a much-needed universal early learning and child care system.

³² City of Toronto (2017). Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for Children Under 4: 2017-2026. Toronto, Ontario.

³³ For example, the City's Housing Opportunities Toronto, 10-year affordable housing plan which relies heavily on contributions from senior orders of government has not resulted in demonstrable improvements in resident access to affordable housing.

II IMPROVING ACCESS TO RECREATION FOR YOUTH AND SENIORS

I POPULATION CHANGE AND PROJECTIONS

Toronto's youth and seniors populations are on the rise, albeit at much different rates. The youth population, aged 15-24, has experienced modest increases over the past 20 years and is projected to rise slightly over the next decade. Neighbourhoods with the largest populations of youth are located in pockets of the downtown core and inner suburbs, particularly near the northern boundary of the city.

The senior population, aged 65 and over, has grown dramatically, increasing by one-third over the past 20 years, and projected to increase by more than 40% over the next decade. Among the seniors population, women outnumber men with 76 men for every 100 women. The gap is even greater among seniors over the age of 85 where there are 54 men for every 100 women.

Neighbourhoods across Toronto also vary in their representation of seniors, with the largest populations of seniors mostly

located in the inner suburbs, particularly in Scarborough.

These demographic trends are important factors for consideration in the development and expansion of recreation services for these two age groups. The City of Toronto's Recreation Service Plan prioritizes service access for several groups including youth and seniors.³⁴ It identifies both groups as underserved and facing barriers to accessing recreation.

I THE BENEFITS OF RECREATION

Access to recreation is important for residents across the age spectrum. It promotes health and well-being, reduces stress, facilitates social engagement, and fosters a sense of belonging and connection to the community.³⁵ Recreation programs provide an avenue for young people to develop and exercise their leadership skills. Research also shows that participation in recreation programs improves academic performance. For older adults, recreation supports cognitive function and offers opportunities for social connection that promotes resilience and protects against loneliness and isolation.

³⁴ City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (2012). Recreation Service Plan 2013-2017. Toronto, Ontario.

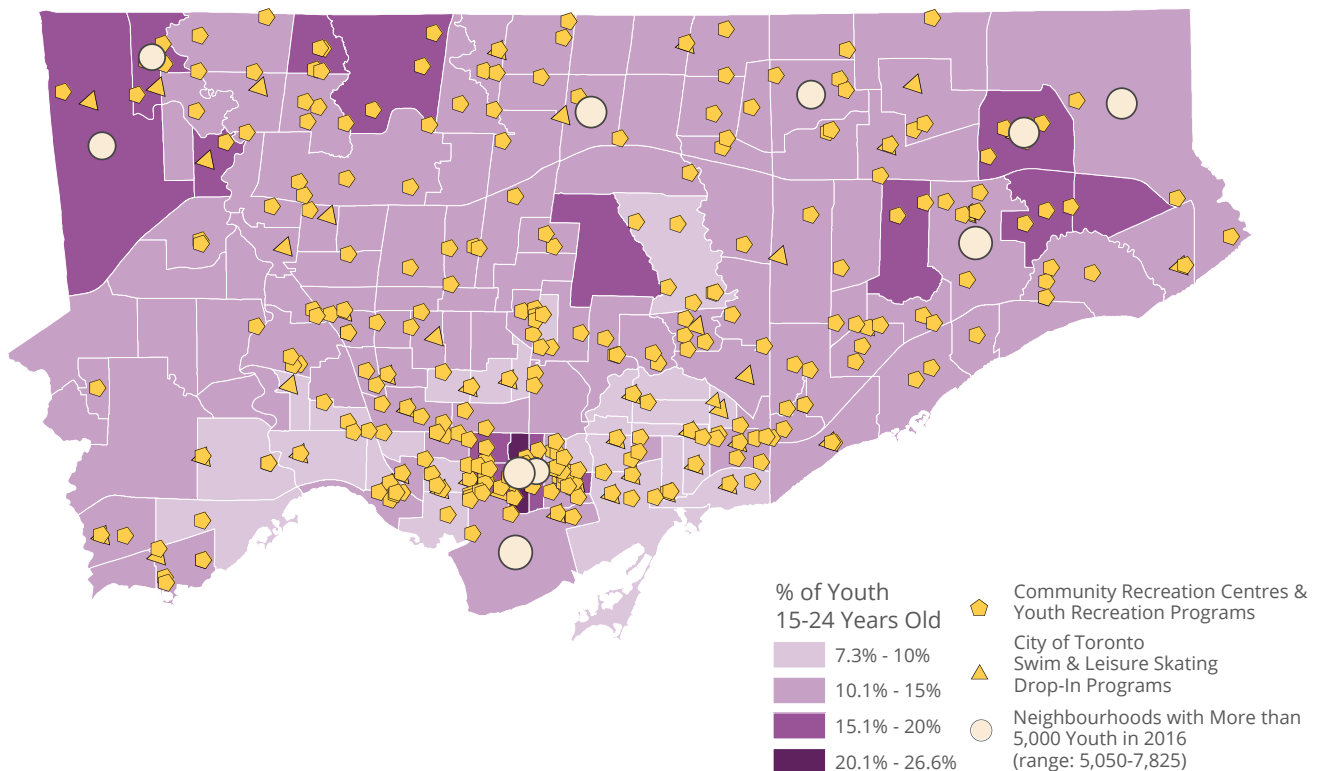
³⁵ *ibid.*

I RECREATION PROGRAM SITES

Figure 25 shows the location of youth recreation programs in Toronto³⁶, neighbourhoods with the largest populations of youth and percentage of the population in each neighbourhood that are

between the ages of 15 and 24. As shown, neighbourhoods in the inner suburbs with large populations of youth have relatively few recreation program sites compared to many downtown neighbourhoods.

Figure 25. Toronto's Population of Youth 15-24 Years Old by Neighbourhood in 2016 and Youth Recreation Programs



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Youth recreation programs identified through 211 Toronto and the Youth Asset Mapping Project from Open Data Toronto.

Drop-in programs accessed through Open Data Toronto.

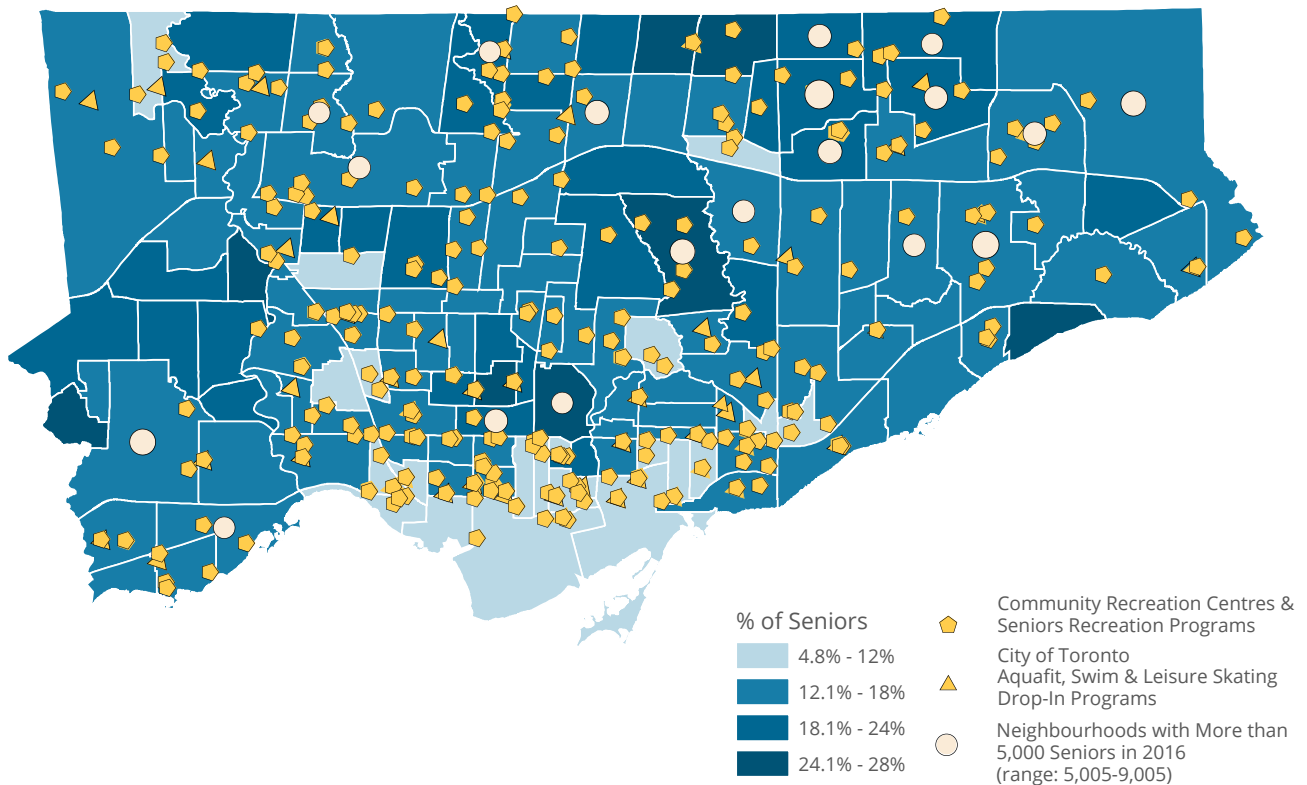
Community Recreation Centres shapefile provided by City of Toronto.

³⁶ The recreation maps include recreation programs provided by the City of Toronto and nonprofit recreation providers. They include recreation programs provided at City-run community recreation centres, community centres that are part of the Association of Community Centres (AOCCs), Toronto Community Housing locations, Toronto District School Board locations, and nonprofit organizations. They also include locations of drop-in leisure swim and skating programs. The seniors recreation map includes drop-in aqua-fit programs as well. The youth recreation map does not. Location data was accessed through the City of Toronto, Open Data Toronto and 211 Toronto. For-profit recreation programs are not included in the maps as fees present a significant barrier to access for many youth and seniors.

Figure 26 shows the location of seniors recreation programs in Toronto, neighbourhoods with the largest population of seniors and percentage of the total population in each neighbourhood that are aged 65 and over. As shown, some neighbourhoods in the inner suburbs with large populations of seniors have relatively

few recreation program sites compared to other neighbourhoods. It is also important to consider whether areas with growing numbers of seniors are expanding recreation programs sufficiently to meet increased need.

Figure 26. Toronto's Population of Seniors 65 Years Old and Over by Neighbourhood in 2016 and Seniors Recreation Programs



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Seniors Recreation Program identified through 211 Toronto.

Drop-in programs accessed through Open Data Toronto.

Community Recreation Centres shapefile provided by City of Toronto.

These recreation maps offer a starting point for considering recreation access for youth and seniors. More detailed analysis is required to assess geographic access to recreation. For example, recreation facilities vary considerably in the number, capacity and variety of programs available at any given site. Information is needed to examine whether programs are available or fully subscribed, whether programs meet the needs of specific populations, whether they are free or available for a fee, and whether they are developed and delivered in a culturally-responsive manner.

The City of Toronto's current Recreation Service Plan is in its final year. The next service plan should be informed by Toronto's changing demographics and geographic access to recreation programs as it sets recreation priorities for future years. This data will also be useful as the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division finalizes its 20-year Facilities Master Plan, setting priorities for investment in parks and recreation facilities in Toronto for the next two decades.³⁷

³⁷ www.toronto.ca/parks/facilitiesplan



II ENSURING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

I POPULATION CHANGE AND PROJECTIONS

Among the demographic trends revealed by the new Census data, the massive growth in the senior population is most striking, with the number of Toronto residents aged 65 and over having increased by one-third in the past two decades. Population estimates predict further senior population growth of over 40% in the next 10 years.

Toronto's population of seniors, aged 75 and over, has increased at a higher rate than that of seniors overall. The number of older seniors increased by 56.7% between 1996 and 2016. Over the next decade, this age group is expected to increase by 38%, with an estimated population of 279,862 older seniors by 2026, up from 202,795 older seniors in 2016.

Older seniors are the age group most likely to require long-term care and other support services.^{38,39} Population growth among older seniors raises questions about the adequacy of Toronto's long-term care and support service systems to meet the upcoming need.

I THE VALUE OF LONG-TERM CARE

Long-term care is a critical component of Canada's health care system. This system delivers vital residential and health services to individuals experiencing serious health problems. In Ontario, long-term care home residents are more frail and have more complex health issues than has been the case in the past.⁴⁰ Cognitive impairment, usually related to the presence of dementia, incontinence often associated with cognitive impairment, consequences of stroke, and fractures resulting from falls are the most common reasons seniors are admitted to long-term care in Canada.⁴¹ Demands on this system will increase in the coming years with the aging of the population.

I CHALLENGES IN LONG-TERM CARE

Toronto has 84 long-term care homes with 15,222 beds.⁴² Fifty-two different organizations operate Toronto's long-term care homes including the City of Toronto, nonprofit organizations and for-profit companies. The City of Toronto operates 10 of these homes with 2,641 beds. The City's homes support Toronto residents who are hard-to-serve and face barriers to accessing care in other homes.

38 Ontario Long Term Care Association (2017). Building Better Long-Term Care. Priorities to keep Ontario from failing its seniors. Toronto, Ontario.

39 City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Services (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

40 Health Quality Ontario (2016). Measuring Up: A yearly report on how Ontario's health system is performing. Toronto, Ontario.

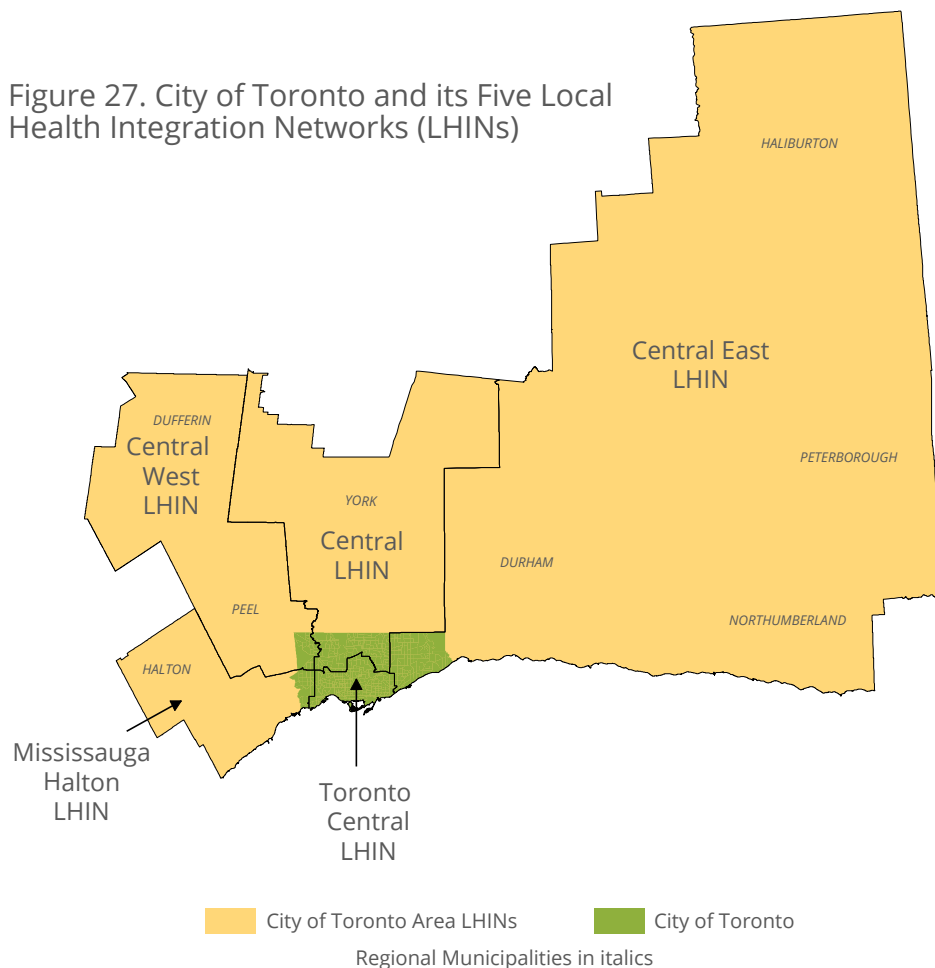
41 City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Services (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

42 *ibid.*

Across Ontario, 26,500 seniors are waiting for a long-term care bed with that number projected to rise to 50,000 in the next six years.⁴³ Long wait times are a challenge in Toronto and its neighbouring municipalities. The Ontario Government established 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) to plan, coordinate and fund local health services including a broad range of support services for seniors.⁴⁴ Five LHINs were established to cover the Greater Toronto

Area (see Figure 27). Each of these five LHINs cover a portion of the City of Toronto. 2014/15 LHIN data show that, with one exception⁴⁵, wait times for long-term care in the five GTA LHINs are all above the provincial average, both for accessing a long-term care bed transitioning from home and from hospital.⁴⁶

Figure 27. City of Toronto and its Five Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 LHIN digital boundary file.

43 Ontario Long Term Care Association announcement cited in Rushowy, K. (20 March, 2017). Nursing Home Wait List to Hit 50,000 in Next 6 Years, Advocates Warn. Toronto Star.

44 www.lhins.on.ca

45 Central West LHIN which includes north Etobicoke has an average wait time for accessing long-term care transitioning from home that is lower than the provincial average.

46 Health Quality Ontario (2016). Measuring Up: A yearly report on how Ontario's health system is performing. Toronto, Ontario.

The Toronto Central LHIN, which extends to Islington Avenue and Kipling Avenue in the west, Warden Avenue in the east, the waterfront in the south, and Eglinton Avenue and the 401 in the north, has the longest median wait time of all 14 LHINs for accessing long-term care transitioning from home at 198 days. The Mississauga Halton LHIN which includes south Etobicoke has the longest median wait time for accessing long-term care from hospital at 165 days. Waits can be considerably longer depending on bed type and choice of home.⁴⁷ Average wait times for beds in the City's 10 homes range from 6 months to 3 years depending on bed type (basic, semi-private, private).⁴⁸

While many seniors are waiting for long-term care, some are waiting longer. Research from the Wellesley Institute demonstrates lower income seniors, and ethnically and linguistically diverse communities have longer waits for long-term care in Toronto.⁴⁹

As the population of older seniors rises, the challenge of accessing long-term care in Toronto and across Ontario will intensify if new homes are not opened. According

to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, over 176,000 long-term care beds will be needed in Ontario by 2036, more than double the current number of beds.⁵⁰ Between 2016 and 2020, the need for long-term care beds in the five GTA LHINs is expected to increase by 28%.⁵¹

Toronto faces unique challenges in ensuring access to long-term care. The provincial government has adopted new design standards for all long-term care homes that require many to redevelop. In Toronto, 60% of long-term care homes, including City-owned, nonprofit and for-profit homes, are mandated for redevelopment which affects 74% of all long-term care beds in the city. Some sites are too small or "land-locked" and cannot redevelop in their current location. The high cost of construction and land present serious barriers to relocation within Toronto. City of Toronto staff have warned "there is a significant risk in future years of long-term care homes closing or moving outside of the city due to land costs."⁵²

47 Um, S. (2016). The Cost of Waiting for Care: Delivering equitable long-term care for Toronto's diverse population. Toronto, Ontario: Wellesley Institute.

48 City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Services (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

49 Um, S. (2016). The Cost of Waiting for Care: Delivering equitable long-term care for Toronto's diverse population. Toronto, Ontario: Wellesley Institute.

50 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (2011) as cited in City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Service (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

51 City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Services (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

52 *ibid.* pg. 10

Additional challenges in long-term care include ensuring culturally-appropriate and LGBT-positive service provision to meet the needs of Toronto's diverse senior population^{53,54} and achieving funding levels that support appropriate care.⁵⁵

With Toronto's older seniors population set to dramatically increase, the long-term care system must be properly resourced with an expanded capacity to meet the needs of our aging and diverse population. Existing long-term care homes are at risk of closure. The need for immediate action is clear. To understand the cost of inaction, we need only look to the example of Toronto Community Housing where longstanding inaction has resulted in the loss of hundreds of tenant homes and thousands more are in jeopardy. Toronto's frail and vulnerable seniors have a right to live in dignity in a safe and supportive environment. It is critical that our governments act now to support a well-functioning long-term care system for Toronto's most vulnerable residents.

"There is a significant risk in future years of long-term care homes closing or moving outside of the city due to land costs."

- City of Toronto staff report

City of Toronto, Long-Term Care Homes & Services (2016). Long-term Care Homes & Services Environmental Scan and Update on Council Approved Recommendations. Staff Report. Toronto, Ontario.

53 *ibid.*

54 Um, S. (2016). The Cost of Waiting for Care: Delivering equitable long-term care for Toronto's diverse population. Toronto, Ontario: Wellesley Institute.

55 For examples of long-term care funding issues, see <http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/low-provincial-funding-shortchanges-niagara-long-term-care-residents-558-hours-care-2216410.htm>, <https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/05/10/ontario-nursing-homes-can-add-fresher-better-food-to-menu-thanks-to-budget-boost.html> and <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/patients-are-sicker-staffing-is-lower-than-rest-of-canada-at-local-long-term-care-homes-report>

III RECOMMENDATIONS

We propose the following recommendations based on our analysis of socio-demographic trends presented in this report:

- Increase access to high quality and affordable child care and middle childhood programs in Toronto. Ensure that these programs are developmentally appropriate and provide a continuum of service from preschool age to the middle childhood years. This work should include addressing the inequities in access to middle childhood programs in the inner suburbs where large populations of middle years children reside.
- Study the housing and social service needs of families with growing children in the downtown core where the population of infants and toddlers has increased substantially. Plan for the needs of this emerging population.
- Increase access to affordable recreation programs for Parks, Forestry and Recreation's target groups including children, youth and seniors, particularly in areas of high unmet need and population growth among target groups.
- Develop a long-term care and seniors services strategy that reflects the growing population. Ensure that the strategy is properly funded.





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