

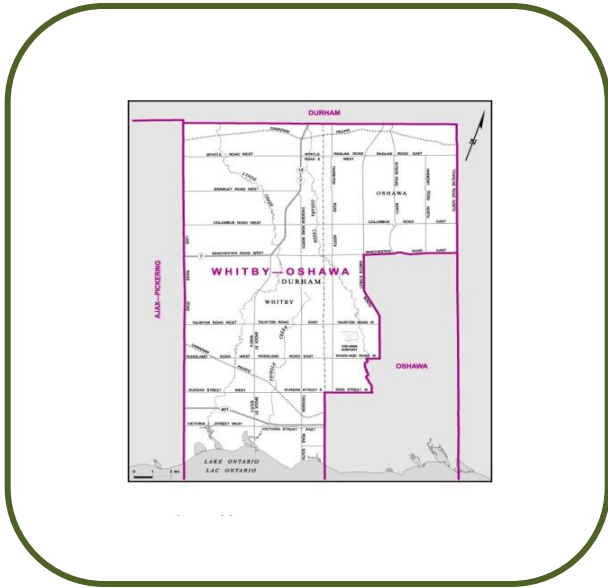
Whitby-Oshawa Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial
Riding
Profiles

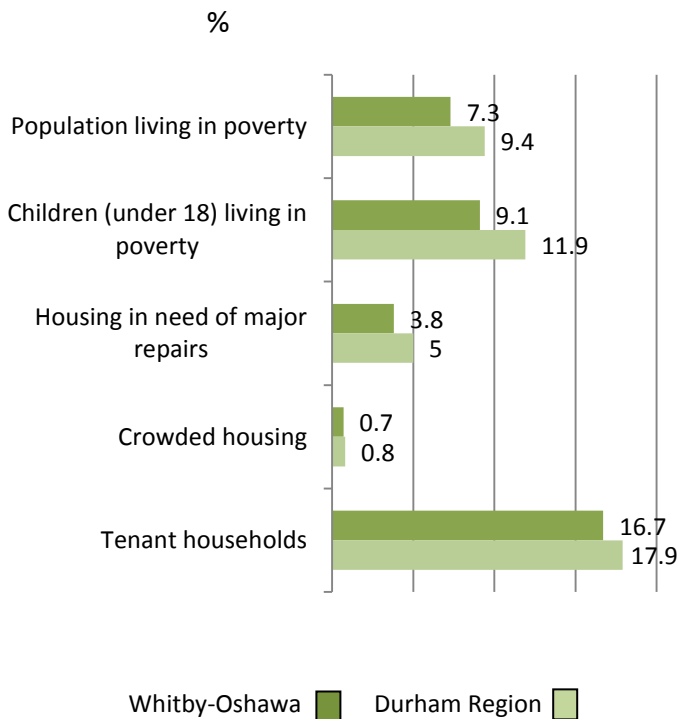
Story Behind the Stats

The riding of Whitby-Oshawa sits along the lakeshore corridor in the Region of Durham, encompassing the Town of Whitby and extending east into the City of Oshawa to Simcoe Street north of King Street West, and to Townline Road north of Winchester Road.

The community is characterized by rapid suburban growth, strong economic development, a highly educated population, and a relatively high average household income. These features tend to obscure the presence of poverty in some neighbourhoods and the increasingly precarious financial circumstances of many residents. This has resulted in few locally available resources for those facing difficult circumstances, forcing them to seek support in other communities in Durham. This situation is made worse by a significant lack of public transportation in most of this riding, which makes it difficult for low-income residents to access social and employment resources.



Key Figures



**135,890 people live in
Whitby-Oshawa**
9,824 live in poverty – 7.3%*

“I was like everyone else here. I had a good job, I own a home...But I lost my job in 2009. At first we were okay. But there was not another job waiting for me. I had to take a job at a gas station to help pay the bills. It took almost two years to find a good job again, but even now it is contract work. I have been renewed, and as long as there is work I know that I will have a job. But I worry. I don’t want to lose my house, my car. We can’t take those things for granted anymore.”

Whitby Resident
Participant in CDCD’s Giving Voice to Poverty Project

Taking Action in Whitby-Oshawa

Distress Centre Durham helps people in distress by providing emotional support, crisis/suicide management, and community education. The Centre supports vulnerable individuals and communities through counselling, information and referrals, and working to ensure that all members of the community have the supports they need to manage personal and family crises.

The Centre provides these services through a 24-hour help line, staffed by dedicated and well-trained volunteers, to ensure access to all residents - especially those living in precarious financial circumstances in areas with few local resources and transit options. The Centre also does community outreach and runs support programs to ensure that those going through a crisis have access to the supports and resources that they require.

Recently, the Distress Centre Durham has established the PrideLine Durham Helpline, a crisis and resource support line designed to meet the specific needs of the LGBTQ community in Durham. PrideLine provides an access point for members of the Durham LGBTQ community, or those who may be questioning their sexual identity, with access to dedicated crisis and counselling support that understands their unique needs and provides information and referral to LGBTQ-specific resources in Durham. The Centre has become a vital part of the community's crisis support system and has helped countless individuals manage crisis situations and access the programs and supports they require to become healthy members of our region.

www.distresscentredurham.com

Community Development Council Durham

The CDCD is an independent not-for-profit organization that has been serving the community in Durham for more than 40 years. The organization supports the delivery of a variety of programs and services in the areas of community development and research, immigrant settlement, and housing support. In all of our work we strive to support and enhance the quality of life of individuals and families in our community, by promoting inclusion and equity.

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How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Pat Perkins*, 905-668-5803, mayor@whitby.ca (Whitby); *John G. Henry*, 905-436-5611, jhenry@oshawa.ca (Oshawa)

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Christine Elliott*, 905-430-1141, christine.elliottco@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Hon. Jim Flaherty*, 905-665-8182, jim.flaherty@parl.gc.ca