

York Region

Action on Poverty Profile



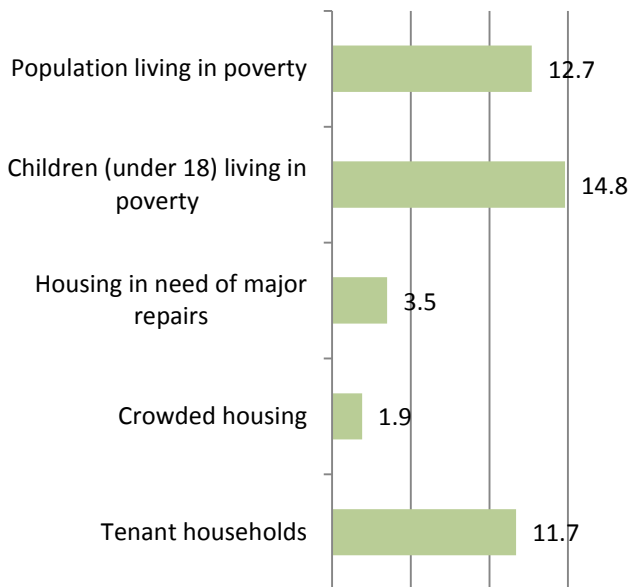
Story Behind the Stats

While York Region had the fifth highest median family income in Canada in 2005, one in eight residents lived in low-income households in that same year. Between 2000 and 2005, York Region experienced a 55% increase in the low income population (2.5 times the % increase in the total population) at the same time that the economy experienced strong growth. While the total number of children increased by 16% between 2000 and 2005, the number of children in low income households increased by 62% to 32,477.

Our public policies profoundly shape the reality of poverty in our regional municipality. Decent and affordable housing, a strong income security system including social assistance, disability support, public pensions and employment insurance, good, living-wage jobs and protections for workers, quality, affordable child care, employment equity, and a strong settlement and social services sector to promote and support healthy communities are cornerstones to a poverty-free York Region.

Key Figures

%



1,032,524 people live in York Region*

112,501 residents live in poverty – 12.7%**

In one of Canada's largest and 'richest' regions, one in eight residents lives in poverty. The low-income rates in Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan are higher than the provincial and national poverty averages. The Action on Poverty Riding Profiles put a local face on poverty across our region, as well as examples of how local communities and organizations are coming together to take action on poverty.

The Action on Poverty Profile series was created with information from Social Planning Toronto, Social Planning Council of York Region, the York Region Do the Math Working Group, the Human Services Planning Board of YR – Making Ends Meet Report and the York Region ISARC Social Audit, 2010. Statistics were drawn from 2006 Census Data.

*Most recent Census population count

*For details on calculations and definitions, go to www.spno.ca



Action on Poverty Riding Profiles

The Social Planning Council of York Region (SPCYR) is an independent, non-profit organization that works with community groups and organizations to raise awareness of issues contributing to poverty and to engage citizens in education, planning and community action to improve the quality of life of all residents in the Region.

The “Action on Poverty” profile series represents a joint effort on the part of Social Planning Toronto (SPT), SPCYR, and other Social Planning Councils across Ontario to create public education resources intended to raise awareness about poverty and the conditions that contribute to its growth. Each Profile contains facts and figures about poverty and the challenges being faced by various groups impacted by poverty in each of York Region’s seven provincial/federal ridings.

By highlighting the work of community groups, service providers and advocacy groups, each Profile also shows how communities are coming together to challenge poverty. These stories demonstrate the diversity that exists in anti-poverty initiatives, including systemic advocacy work and innovative community programs taking place in each community and across the region as a whole.

We’d like to acknowledge the sources of data and examples provided in this report. Please see our final page for those acknowledgements.

Want to get involved?
Email us: info@spcyr.ca
Visit our website: www.spcyr.ca

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Prime Minister: *Stephen Harper*, 613-992-4211, pm@pm.gc.ca

Ontario Premier: Vacant

Members of Parliament: www.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx

Members of Provincial Parliament: www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_current.do

Chair of York Region: *Bill Fisch*, 1-877-464- 9675, regional.chair@york.ca

York Region District School Board trustees: <http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=T00000001>

York Region Catholic District School Board trustees: <http://www.ycdsb.ca/trustees/meet.htm>