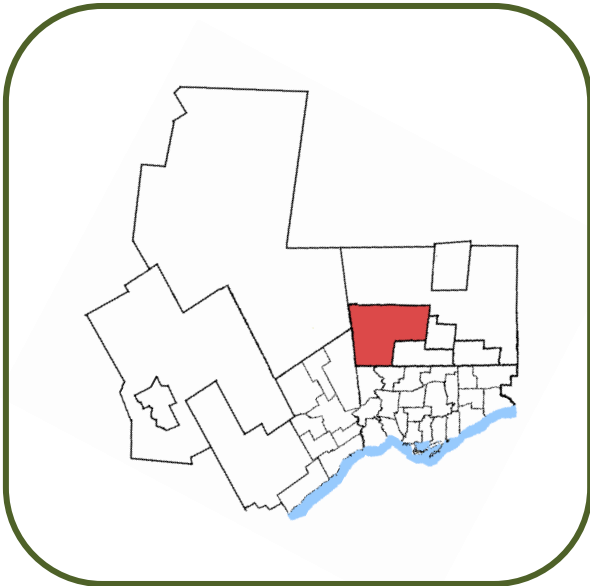


Vaughan

Action on Poverty Profile

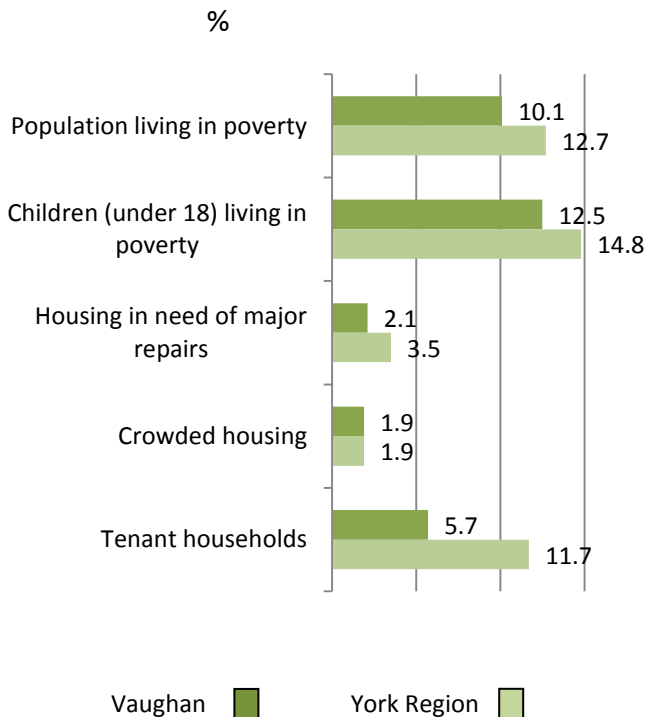


Story Behind the Stats

The Vaughan riding is bordered by Bathurst Street, Rutherford Road/Steeles Avenue West, Highway 50/24, and Ranch Trail Road. It includes part of the City of Vaughan.

Vaughan is a rapidly growing area and home to many new Canadians. While this riding has a long-standing reputation as being a generally affluent area, there is a growing number of pockets of poverty. They include families and seniors, along with a large number of newcomer residents. Living in a predominantly wealthy community creates many challenges for low income residents. Social services are not as prevalent as they would be in an area that has a long-standing tradition of supporting low-income residents, forcing those in need to travel to other areas.

Key Figures



154,215 people live in Vaughan

15,495 live in poverty – 10.1%*

“It’s difficult at times, because when you talk about Vaughan, the response you get is that there’s no poverty there - and that couldn’t be further from the truth. Families are struggling to make ends meet, youth are concerned about their futures and job possibilities, seniors remain isolated unless you are able to get them involved and new Canadians are in crisis from the time they arrive - not certain how they will afford to live on low-wage, part-time work, which is often what they are forced to take in spite of their professional credentials and experience.”

Isabel Araya
Executive Director
Vaughan Community Health Centre

The Action on Poverty profile series for the ridings in York Region were created with information from Social Planning Toronto, the Social Planning Council of York Region, the York Region Do the Math Working Group and the York Region ISARC Social Audit, 2010. Statistics were drawn from 2006 Census Data.

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

Taking Action in Vaughan

The Vaughan Community Health Centre (VCHC) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization that provides clinical and social services to the residents of the City of Vaughan. Specifically, they serve those who are facing barriers accessing health care. Their main focus is youth, seniors, and people with mental health and addiction issues.

VCHC recognizes that seniors often experience social isolation and a lack of community support, particularly those living on a low, fixed income. In light of this, free programs for seniors are offered three times a week at the Centre to help increase healthy and active living, reduce isolation, and increase community engagement and opportunities for seniors. Senior women are increasingly over-represented in poverty statistics, making these opportunities and easy access to health care services even more critical for their health and overall well-being.

With a growing number of new Canadians settling in Vaughan, the Centre also provides services to individuals who are not yet eligible for provincial health care when they first arrive in Canada. A large number of new Canadians live in poverty in this area and is at increased risk for health care problems as a result. Access to care while they await insurance is essential.

The Centre also works in cooperation with other local groups to provide youth programming and summer camps for families at little to no cost, ensuring access to services that help develop and strengthen their employment readiness, civic engagement, and many other important skills.

www.vaughanhealthcarehc.com

Social Planning Council of York Region

SPCYR is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization. We are committed to advancing social and economic justice and resident engagement in all aspects of community life in York Region. We do this through community-based research, social planning and community action, with particular emphasis on the conditions facing those from marginalized or equity-seeking communities.

Want to get involved?
Contact us at info@spcyr.com
www.spcyr.com

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Maurizio Bevilacqua*, 905-832-8585 ext 8888, maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Steven Del Duca*, 905-851-0440

Member of Parliament (MP): *Hon. Julian Fantino*, 905-303-5000, julian.fantino@parl.gc.ca

For a complete listing of all elected representatives, including public & Catholic school boards, a map of the riding & its boundaries, see the York Region overview sheets.