

# Healthy Connections 2008

# Health Equity: From Challenges to Solutions



**Ontario**  
Toronto Central Local Health  
Integration Network



**Solutions**  
East Toronto's Health Collaborative



**CRCC**  
Canadian research network for  
care in the community  
**RCRSC**  
Réseau canadien de recherche pour  
les soins dans la communauté

**W.E.U.H.A.**  
West End Urban  
Health Alliance - Toronto  
Improving Health Together

**SETo**  
South East Toronto Organization

# A daunting mission?

Health disparities are produced by a wide range of complex factors and many of the solutions require the engagement of a broad range of cross-sectoral stakeholders...

as a result, tackling health disparities can seem overwhelming...

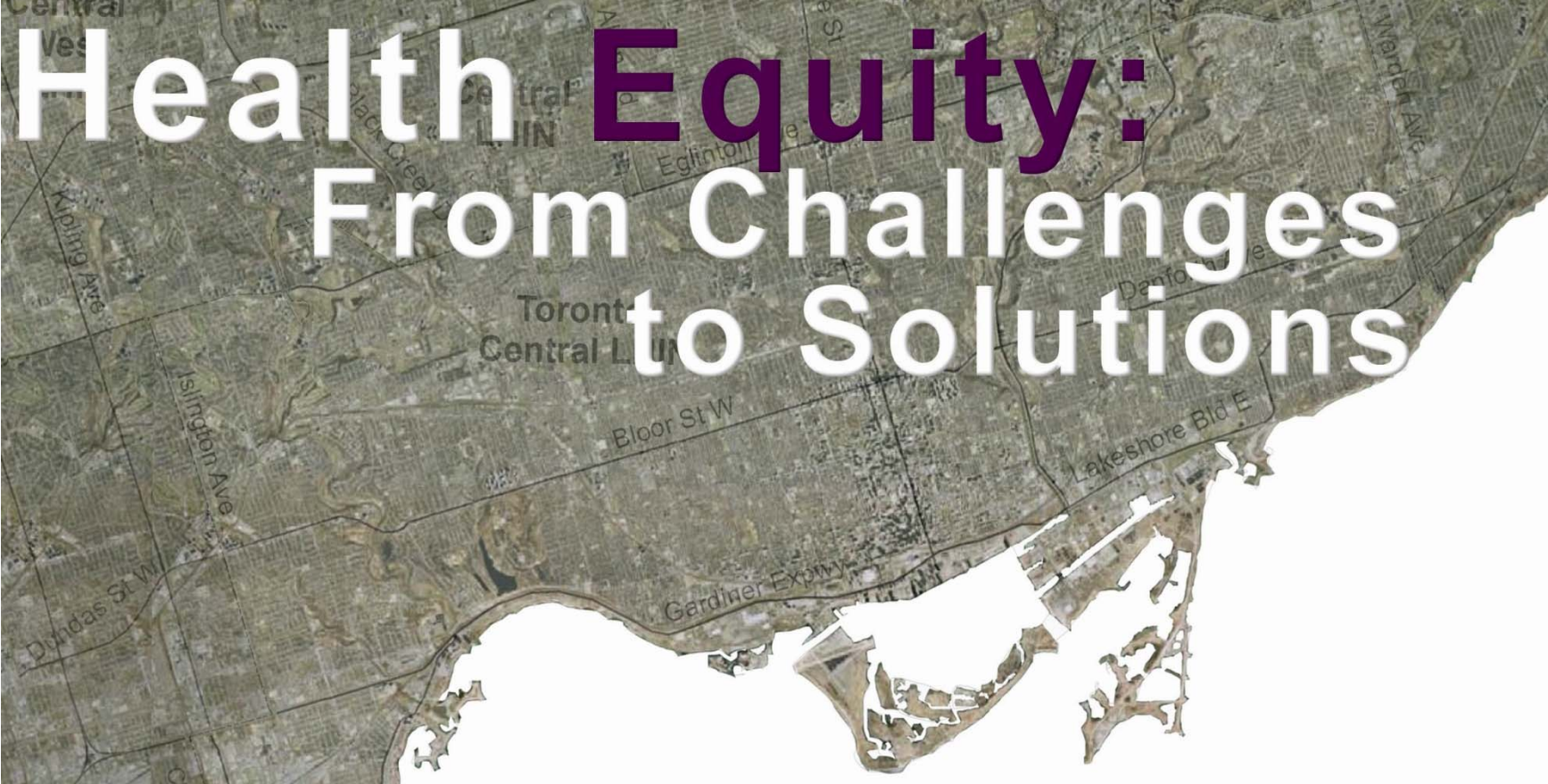
we can't tackle everything at once...

but we do have the ability to take incremental steps towards longer term goals.

# An achievable mission

Focus on the barriers and inequities that:

- Are aligned with MOHLTC, Toronto Central LHIN and organizational strategic priorities
- Have the most impact on health disparities, particularly for our most disadvantaged communities
- We have the ability and desire to affect

An aerial photograph of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, showing the city's layout, including major roads like Bloor St W, Gardiner Expy, and Lakeshore Blvd E, and the surrounding urban and natural landscape. The text 'Health Equity: From Challenges to Solutions' is overlaid on the map. 'Health Equity' is in purple, and 'From Challenges to Solutions' is in white.

# Health Equity: From Challenges to Solutions

**Identifying the strategic  
priorities...**

# Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

## Priorities

- **Reducing emergency department wait times:**
  - Reducing the number of visits to emergency rooms
  - Enabling seniors to continue living in their homes
  - Better management of chronic diseases
  - More home care
  - Improved community-based mental health and addiction treatment
- **Improving access to family health care:**
  - 50 new Family Health Teams
  - 25 nurse practitioner-led clinics
  - 9,000 new nurses

# Toronto Central LHIN

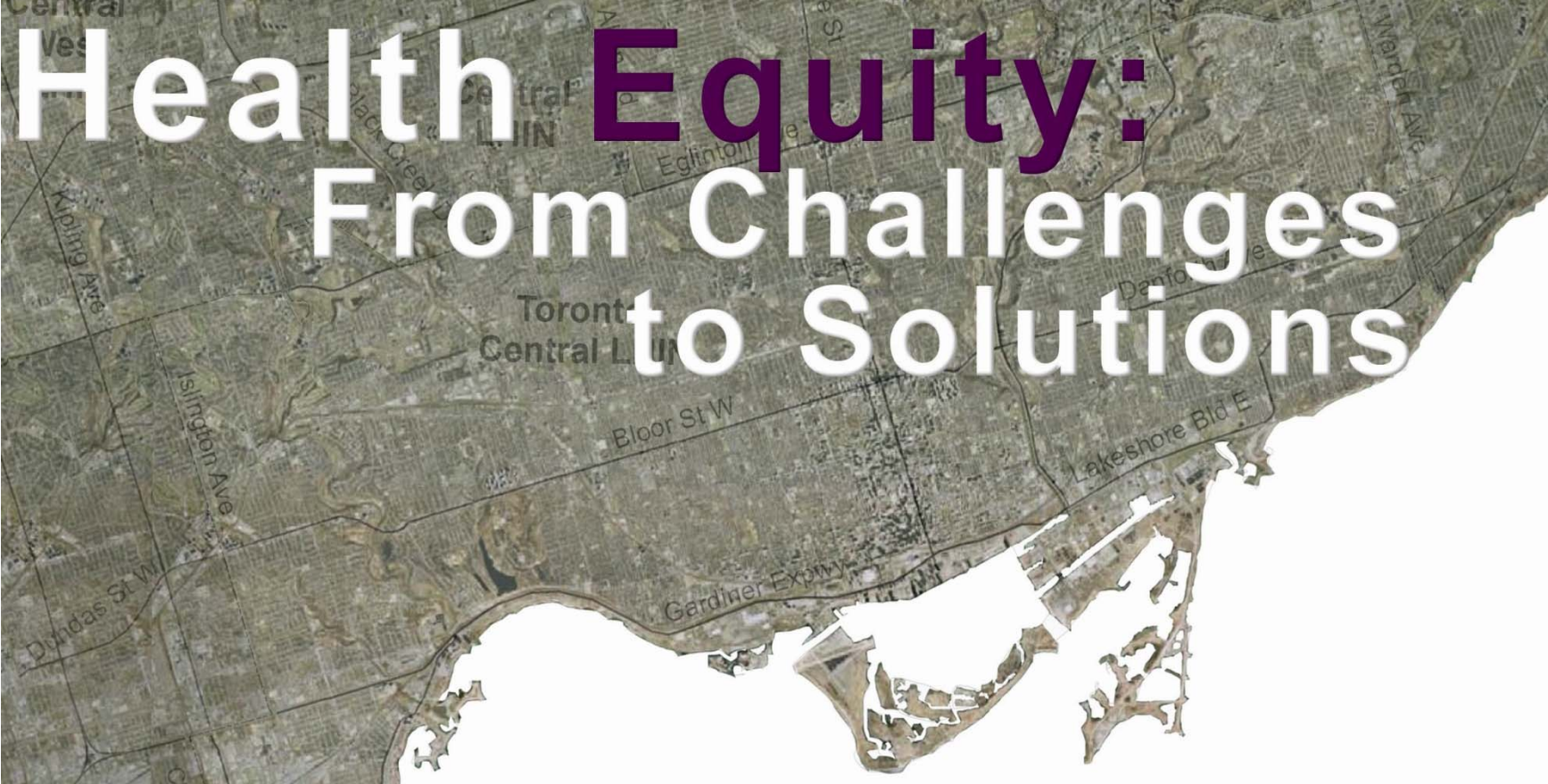
## Priority Populations

- **People with mental health and addictions problems**
- **People who require rehabilitation services**
- **Seniors: People 65 years of age and older**
- **People with Chronic Diseases**

# Health Service Provider Strategic Priorities

## Includes:

- Meeting the health care needs of the diverse population / community the organization serves

An aerial photograph of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, showing a grid of streets and major transit routes. Labels include 'Central L.I.N.', 'Eglinton Ave', 'Kipling Ave', 'Islington Ave', 'Dundas St W', 'Bloor St W', 'Gardiner Expwy', 'Lakeshore Blvd E', and 'Warden Ave'. The title text is overlaid on the map.

# Health Equity: From Challenges to Solutions

**Identifying key disparities and  
vulnerable communities...**

# Toronto Central LHIN

Compared to the province as a whole:

- ↑ % Seniors living alone
- ↑ % of immigrants, recent immigrants and residents with no knowledge of English or French
- ↑ % of low income
- ↑ % with university degree
- ↓ rates of selected chronic diseases, except diabetes mellitus

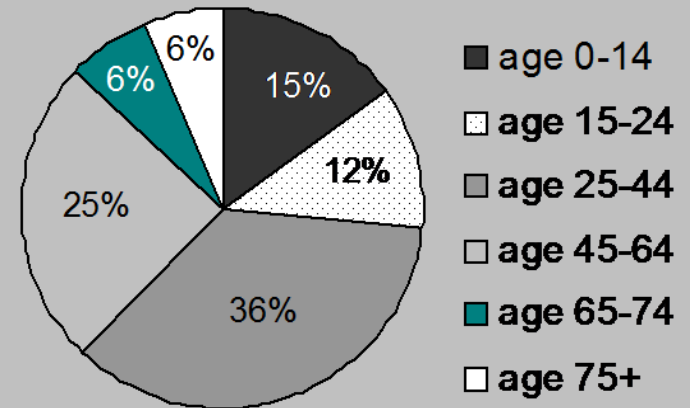
## AGE GROUPS

Total Population

Males: 528,110

Females: 561,030

Total: 1,089,140



Sources for LHIN Neighbourhood Analyses:  
2006 Census; 2001 Census; ICES inTool;  
Provincial Health Planning Database, MOHLTC.  
Contact Toronto Central LHIN for detailed information.

# Neighbourhood Area 1 West: Etobicoke/High Park

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

Similar age and gender distribution

- ↓ % of total immigrants, recent immigrants
- = residents with no knowledge of English or French
- ↓ % of low income
- ↑ % with university degree
- ↑ rates of Osteoarthritis, heart disease and cerebrovascular disease
- ↑ Emergency dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



## Neighbourhood Area 2 North West: Davenport/Bloor

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

Similar age & gender distribution

- ↕ % of total immigrants but
- ↕ % of recent immigrants
- ↑ % residents with no knowledge of English/French
- ↑ % of low income
- ↑ % with no certificate, diploma or degree
- ↑ rates of all selected chronic health diseases
- ↑ Emergency dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



## Neighbourhood Area 3 South West: West Downtown/Parkdale

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

- ↑ % Age 25-44
- ↑ % of total immigrants, recent immigrants & residents with no knowledge of English/French
- ↑ % of low income
- ↑ % with no certificate, diploma or degree AND % with university degrees
- ↓ rates of selected chronic health diseases, except diabetes mellitus
- ↑ Emergency dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



# Neighbourhood Area 4 North Central: Midtown/Leaside/North Riverdale/Forest Hill

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

- ↑ % Age 65-74 and 75+
- ↑ % of females
- ↑ % Seniors living alone
- ↓ % seniors with low income
- ↓ % of total immigrants, recent immigrants & residents with no knowledge of English/French
- ↓ % of low income
- ↑ % with university degree
- ↓ rates of all selected chronic health diseases
- ↓ Emergency Dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



## Neighbourhood Area 5 South East: East Downtown/ South Riverdale

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

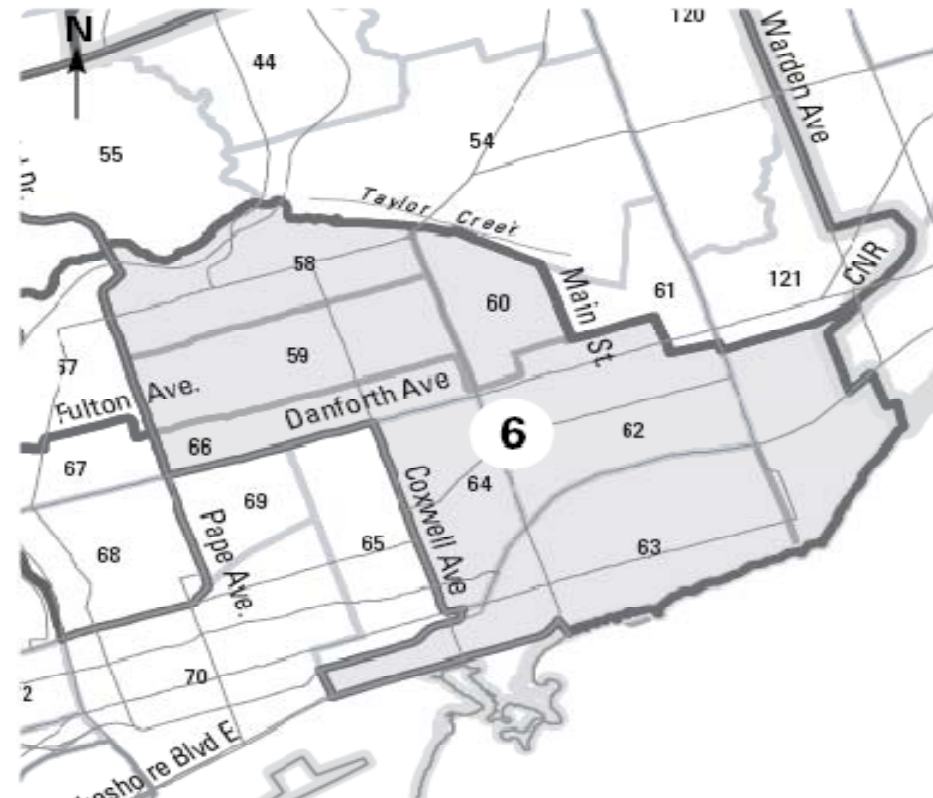
- ↑ % 25-44, 0-14 and 15-24
- ↓ % of females
- ↑ % Seniors living alone and % with low income
- ↑ % of total immigrants, recent immigrants & residents with no knowledge of English/French
- ↑ % of low income (1 of highest)  
comparable education levels
- ↑ rates of diabetes mellitus & COPD
- ↑ Emergency Dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



## Neighbourhood Area 6 East: Old East York/ East End/ The Beach

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

- ↑ % 45-64 and 0-14
- ↓ % of total immigrants, recent immigrants & residents with no knowledge of English/French
- ↓ % of low income
- ↑ % with no certificate, diploma or degree
- ↑ rates of osteoarthritis, heart disease and COPD
- comparable rates of Emergency dept visits
- ↓ Rate of Emergency dept visits that could be managed elsewhere

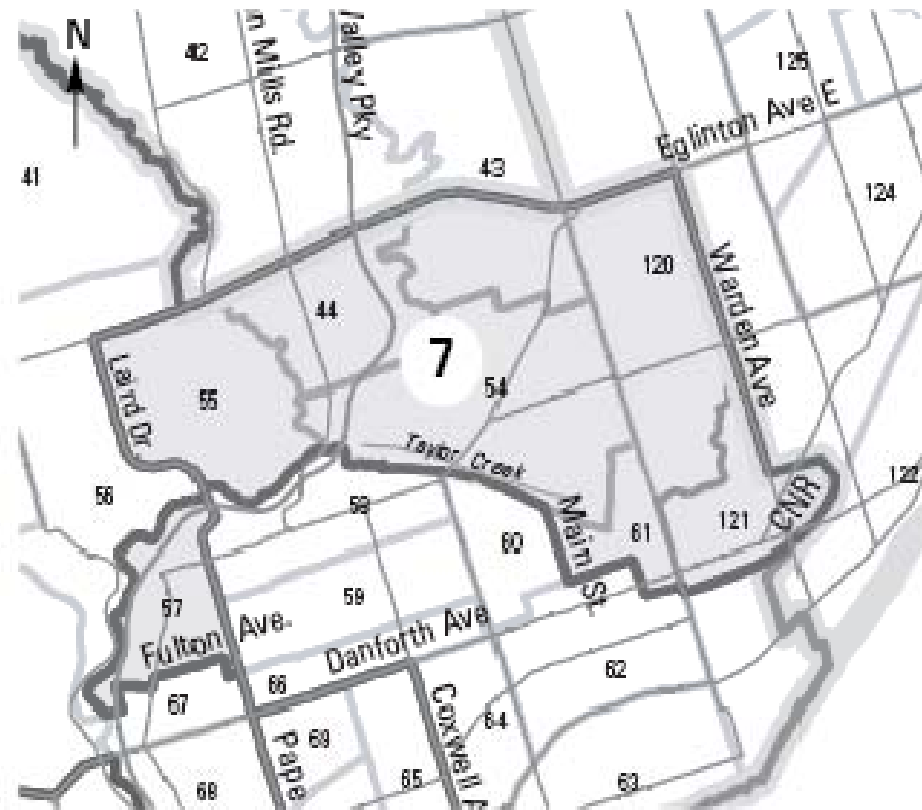


# Neighbourhood Area 7 North East: Flemingdon/ Thorncliffe/ Crescent Town/ Oakridge

Compared to the Toronto Central LHIN as a whole:

Highest % 0-14 year olds

- ↑ % of total immigrants and **significantly** ↑ % of recent immigrants
- ↑ % of low income (1 of highest)
- ↑ % with no certificate, diploma or degree
- ↑ rates of all selected chronic health diseases (some of the highest)
- ↓ Emergency Dept visits & visits that could be managed elsewhere



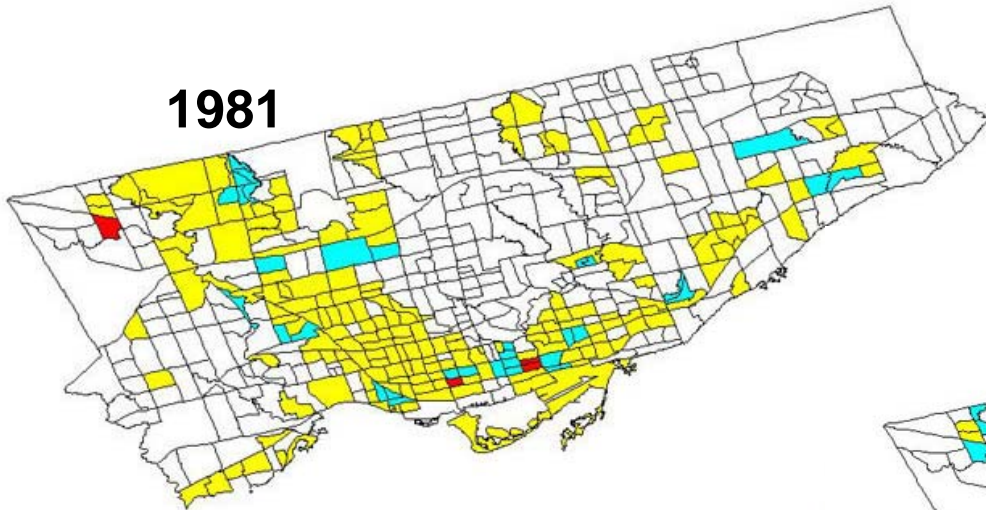
# Census data doesn't reflect

## ...the Homeless

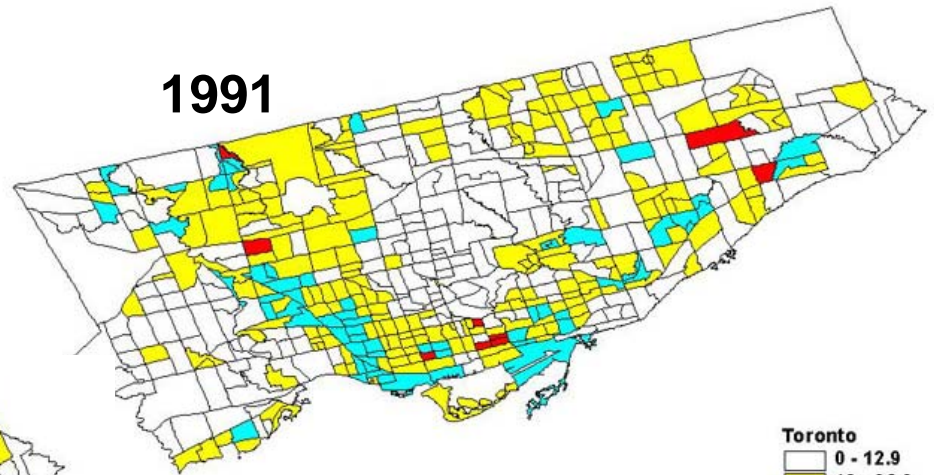
- **Have significantly worse health than the general population.**
- **The majority has at least one chronic health condition.**
- **Access to health care is difficult, particularly for:**
  - **stable primary health care**
  - **dental and eye care**
  - **mental health supports**
  - **treatment programs for substance use**
- **Most frequent source of health care: emergency departments**
- **Five times more likely to be hospitalized than the general population**

# Census data doesn't reflect ...changes since data collection

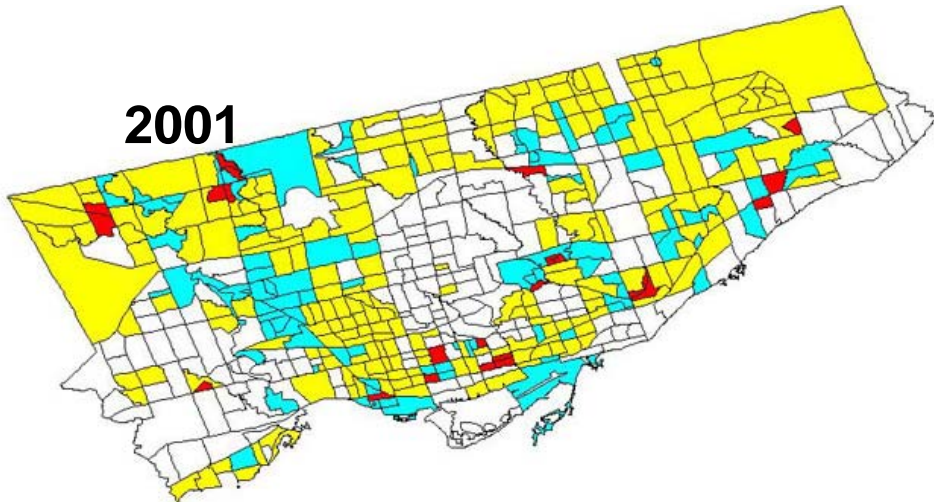
1981



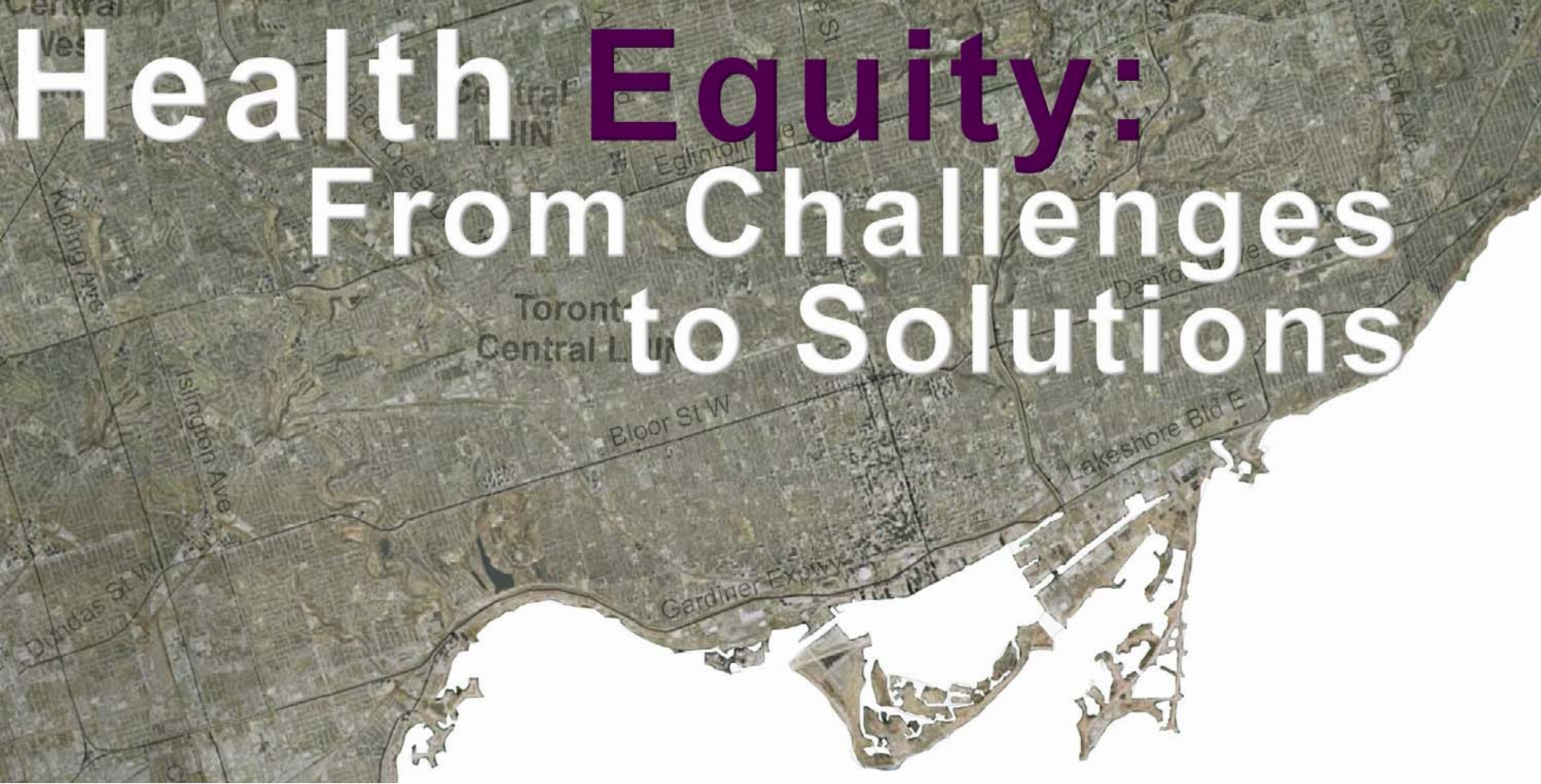
1991



2001



**City of Toronto: Economic Family  
Poverty Rates**



# Health Equity: From Challenges to Solutions

**Identifying the challenges  
that we have the  
desire & ability to affect...**