

# Health Equity

Dr. Kwame McKenzie  
CEO, Wellesley Institute



# Toronto Stories



# Diversity puts us on the map

## Charles Correa & Moriyama / Teshima Architects



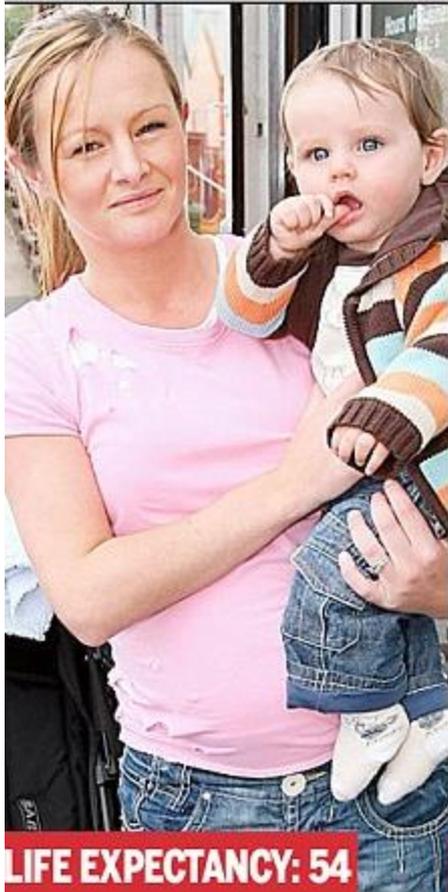
- We are greater when we all pull together

Pan Am Games  
Harry Jones  
muscled his  
way over the  
goal line for the  
winning try in  
Canada's 22-19  
win.



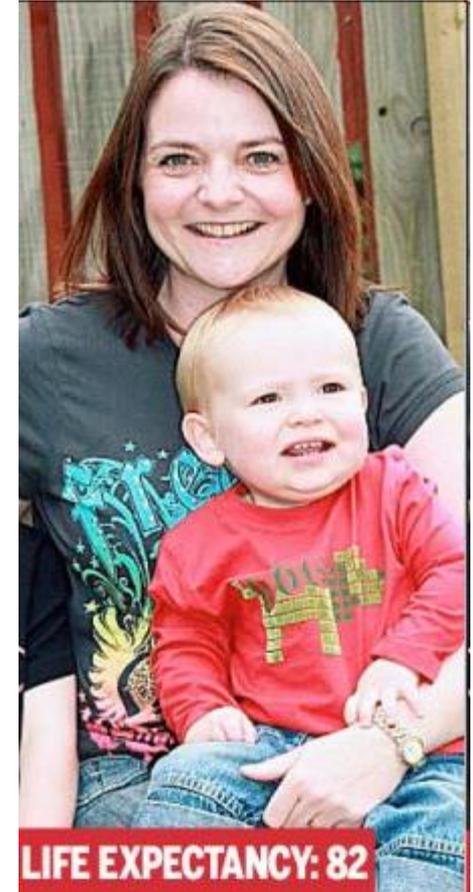
# What you already know

# Social determinants have contributed to a difference in life expectancy of 28 years in Glasgow



- A difference of 16 km in Scotland can result in a 28 year drop in life expectancy
- A boy from the poor Glasgow suburb of Calton could expect to live to 54, while a boy born in nearby affluent Lenzie is likely to reach 82. <sup>1</sup>

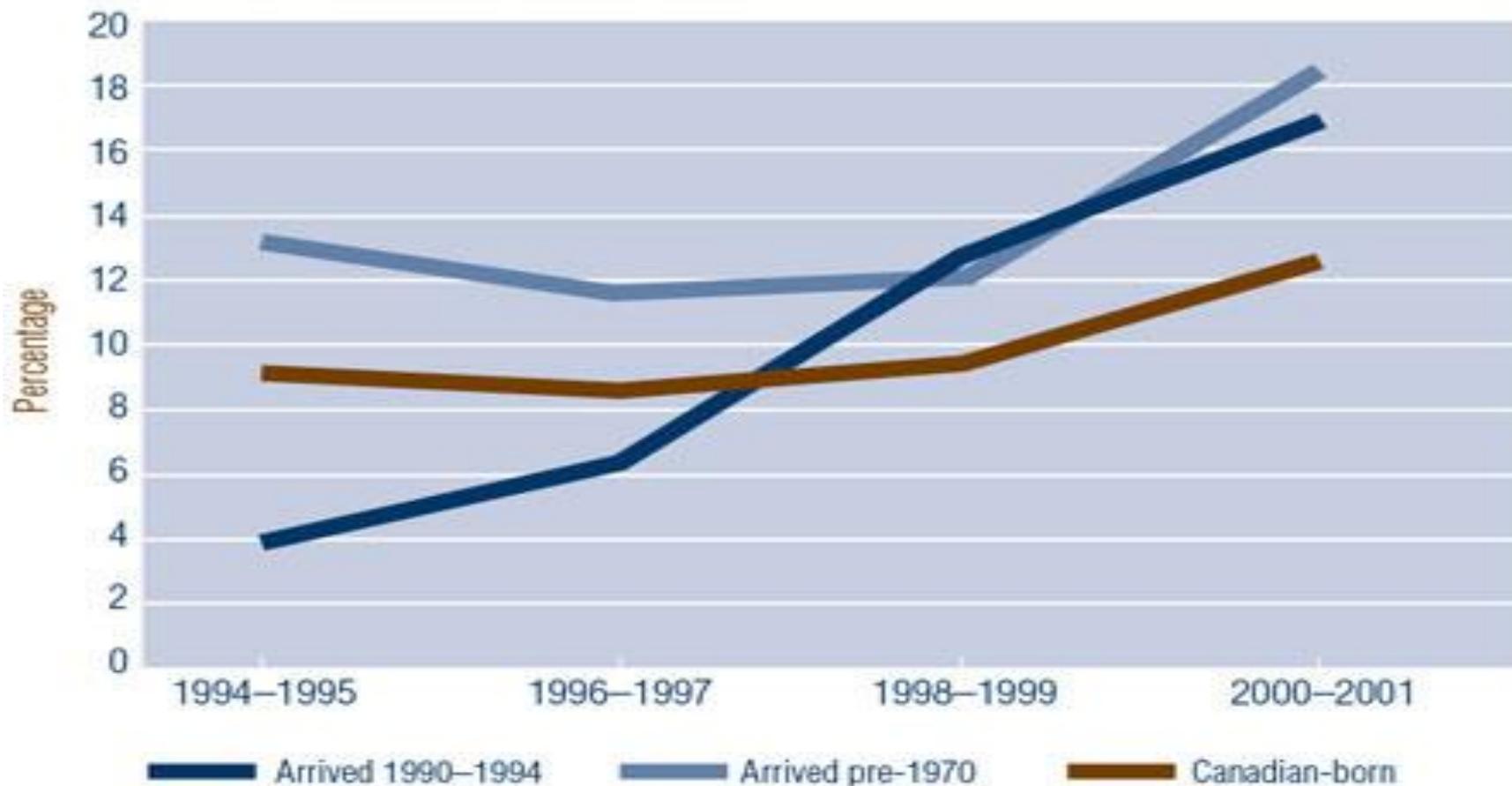
Social Factors Key to Ill Health  
*BBC Video* <sup>2</sup>



# PHO and Cancer Care Ontario's risk list

Table 3: Percentage of Ontario adults (aged 30+ years) with selected modifiable risk factors, by socio-demographic factors, 2007–2008

Socio-demographic Indicator	Category	Current smoker (%)	Alcohol > 2 drinks any day (%)	Inactive (%)	Obese (%)
Aboriginal identity (off-reserve)	Aboriginal identity	<b>41.5</b>	<b>31.7</b>	46.6	<b>30.6</b>
	Non-Aboriginal identity*	19.5	23.4	53.0	18.2
Immigration	<10 years in Canada	<b>11.0</b>	<b>15.1<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>8.5<sup>†</sup></b>
	≥10 years in Canada	<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>15.3</b>
	Canadian born*	23.1	26.6	49.0	20.9
Neighbourhood income quintile	Poorest neighbourhood	<b>25.4</b>	22.7	<b>61.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>
	Richest neighbourhood*	15.0	25.5	47.5	16.4
Education	Less than secondary	<b>23.6</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>23.5</b>
	Some post-secondary	<b>25.2</b>	24.6	<b>55.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>
	Post-secondary graduate*	17.3	23.8	48.5	16.8
Urban/rural residence	Rural	<b>23.6</b>	<b>26.1</b>	50.8	<b>24.0</b>
	Urban*	19.5	23.3	53.4	17.9



*Overweight or Obesity*

Low rates: East/ South- east Asian

High rates: Black group

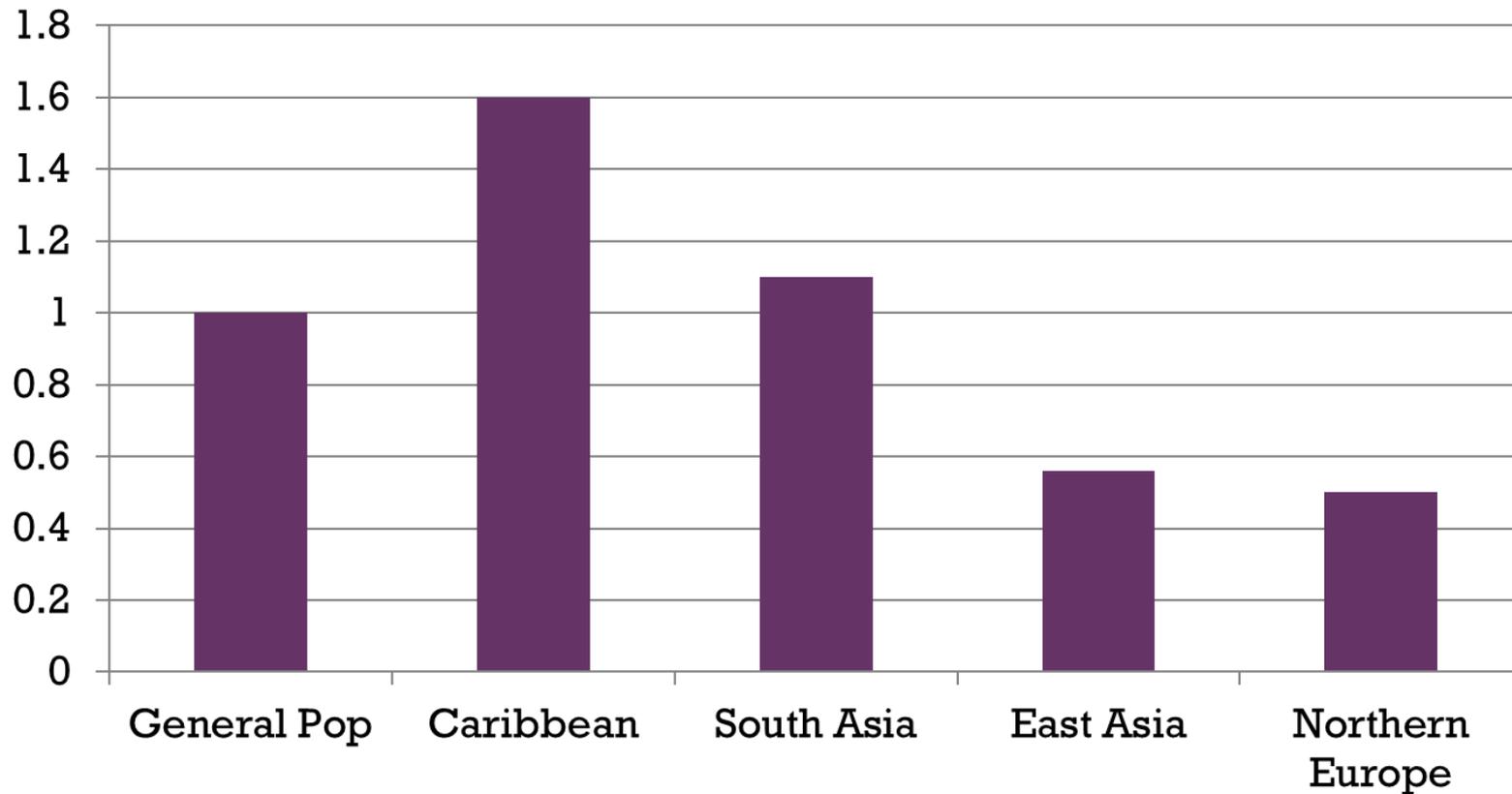
*Pain or Discomfort*

High rates: Black group

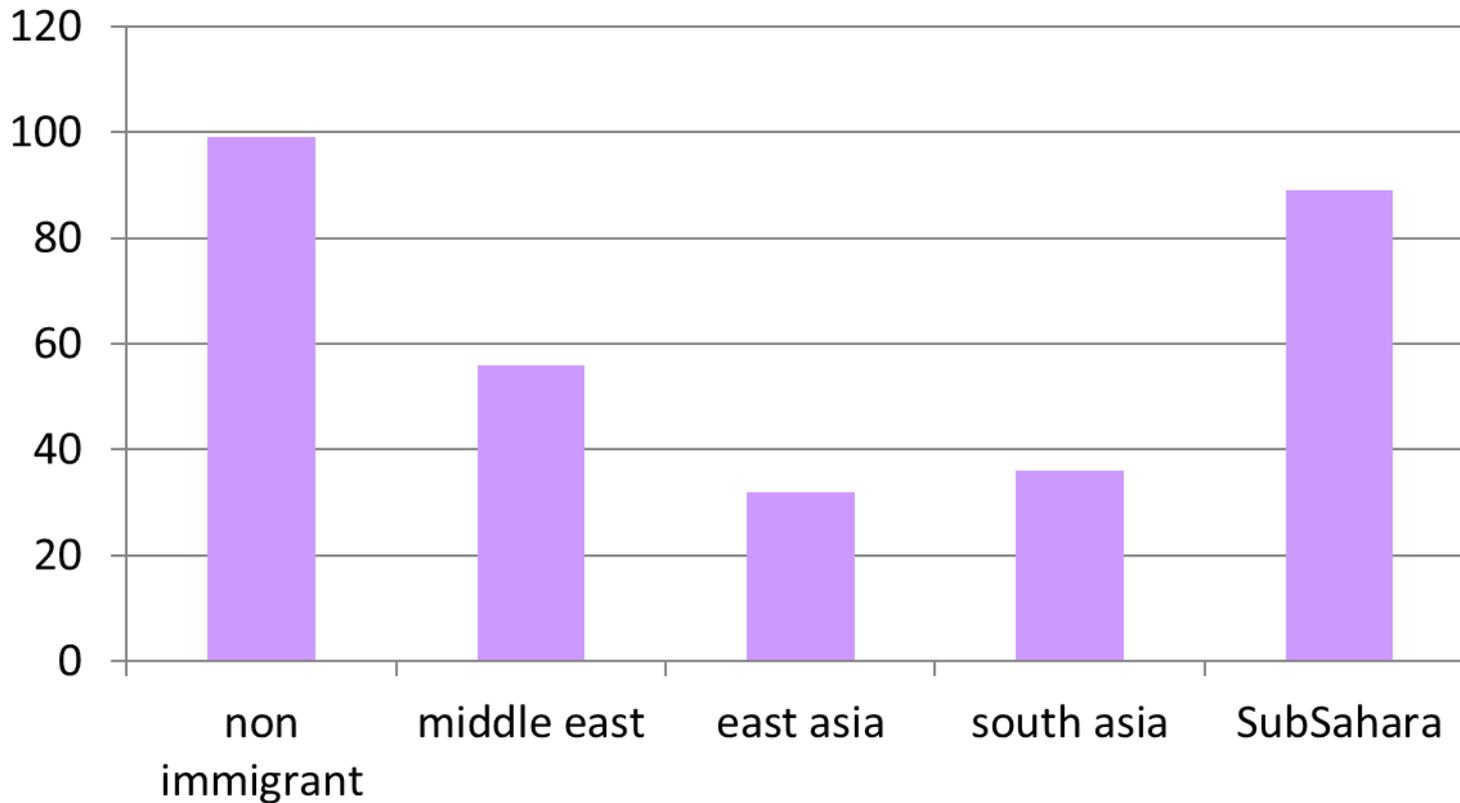
*High Blood Pressure*

*High rates: Black, Latin American/Multiple/Other groups*

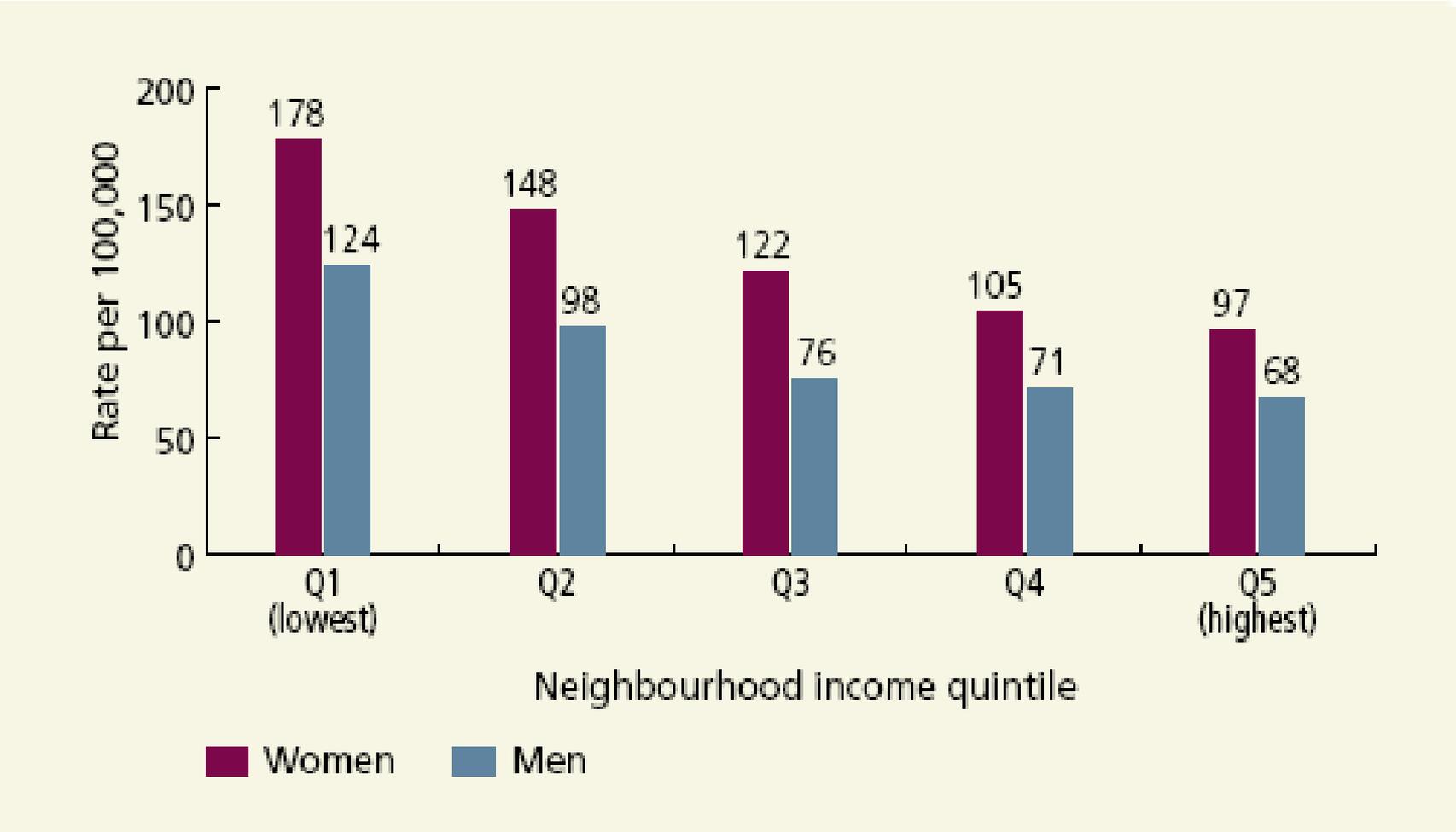
# Rates of psychosis for immigrants in Ontario (Anderson et al 2015)



# MH services costs 2008 Ontario per person means (McKenzie 2015)



Those at lower income levels are significantly more likely to be hospitalized for depression (Power study)





## THE THREE CITIES WITHIN TORONTO

Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005

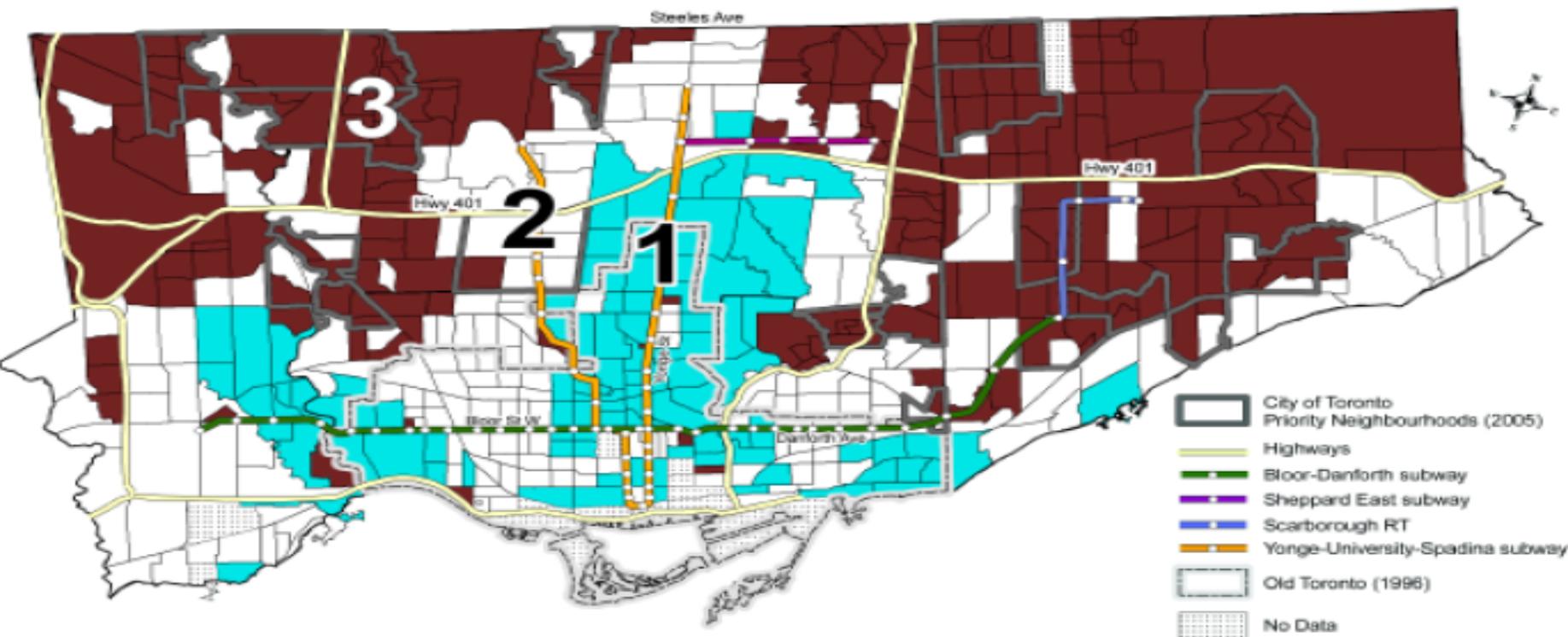
BY J. DAVID HULCHANSKI, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



- Societal trends

# MAP 1: CHANGE IN AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME, CITY OF TORONTO, RELATIVE TO THE TORONTO CMA, 1970-2005

Average individual income from all sources, 15 years and over, census tracts



## Change in the Census Tract Average Individual Income as a Percentage of the Toronto CMA Average, 1970-2005

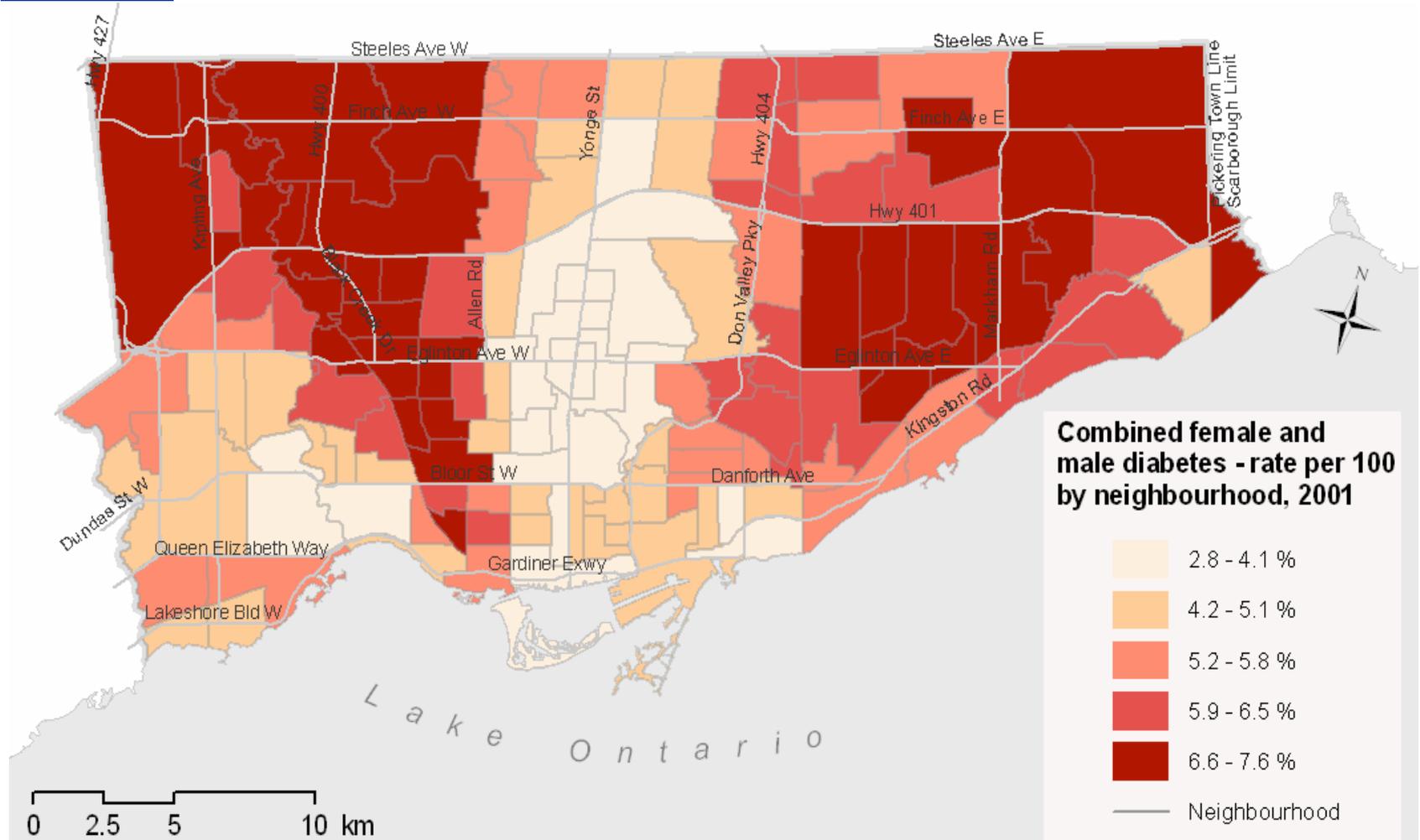
**City #1**  
 Increase of 20% or More  
 100 Census Tracts, 20% of City

**City #2**  
 Increase or Decrease  
 is Less than 20%  
 208 Census Tracts, 40% of City

**City #3**  
 Decrease of 20% or More  
 206 Census Tracts, 40% of City

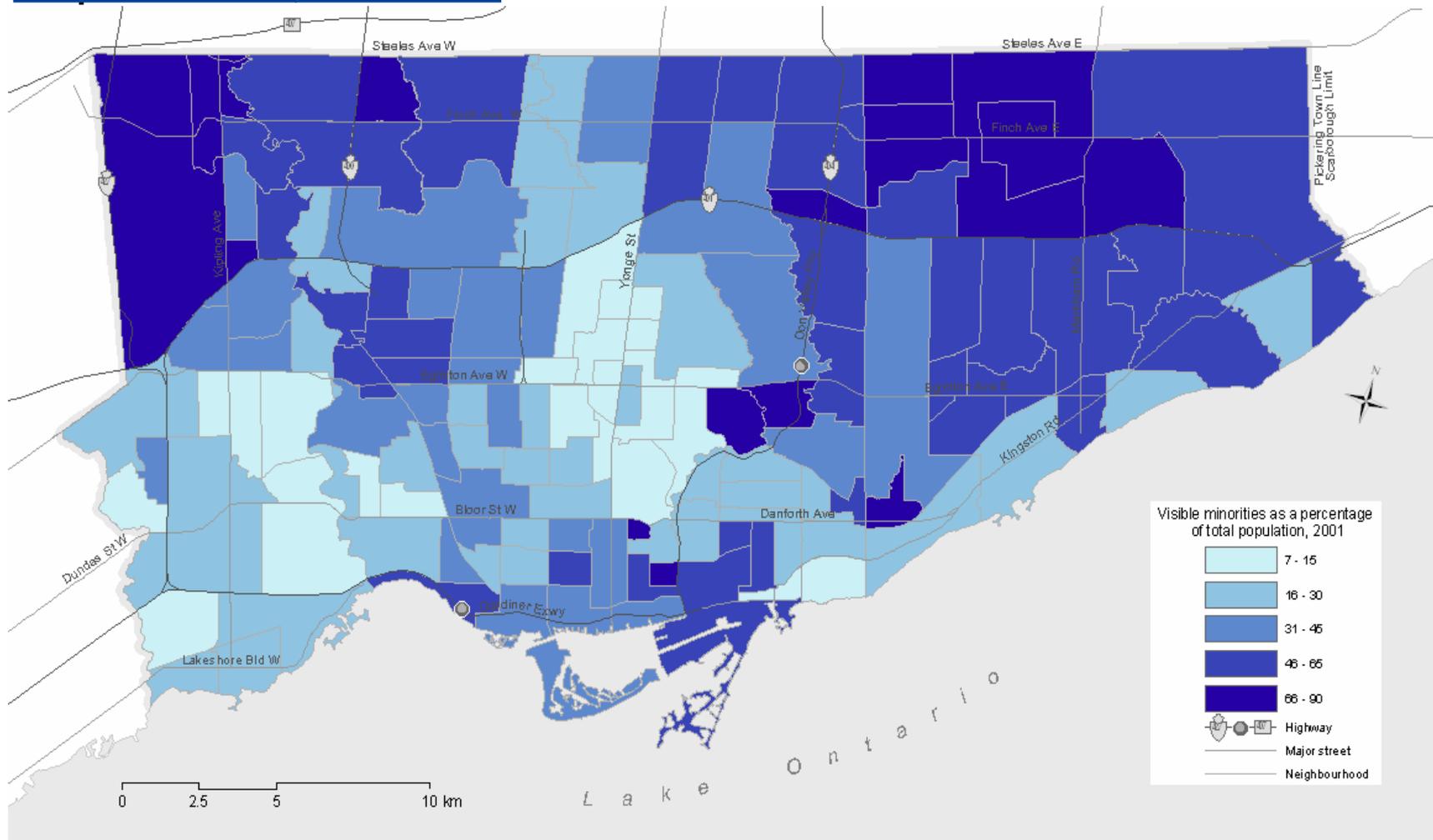
Note: Census Tract 2001 boundaries shown. Census Tracts with no income data for 1970 or 2005 are excluded from the analysis. There were 527 total census tracts in 2001

# How it connects locally: Age-Sex-Adjusted Diabetes Rates, Toronto



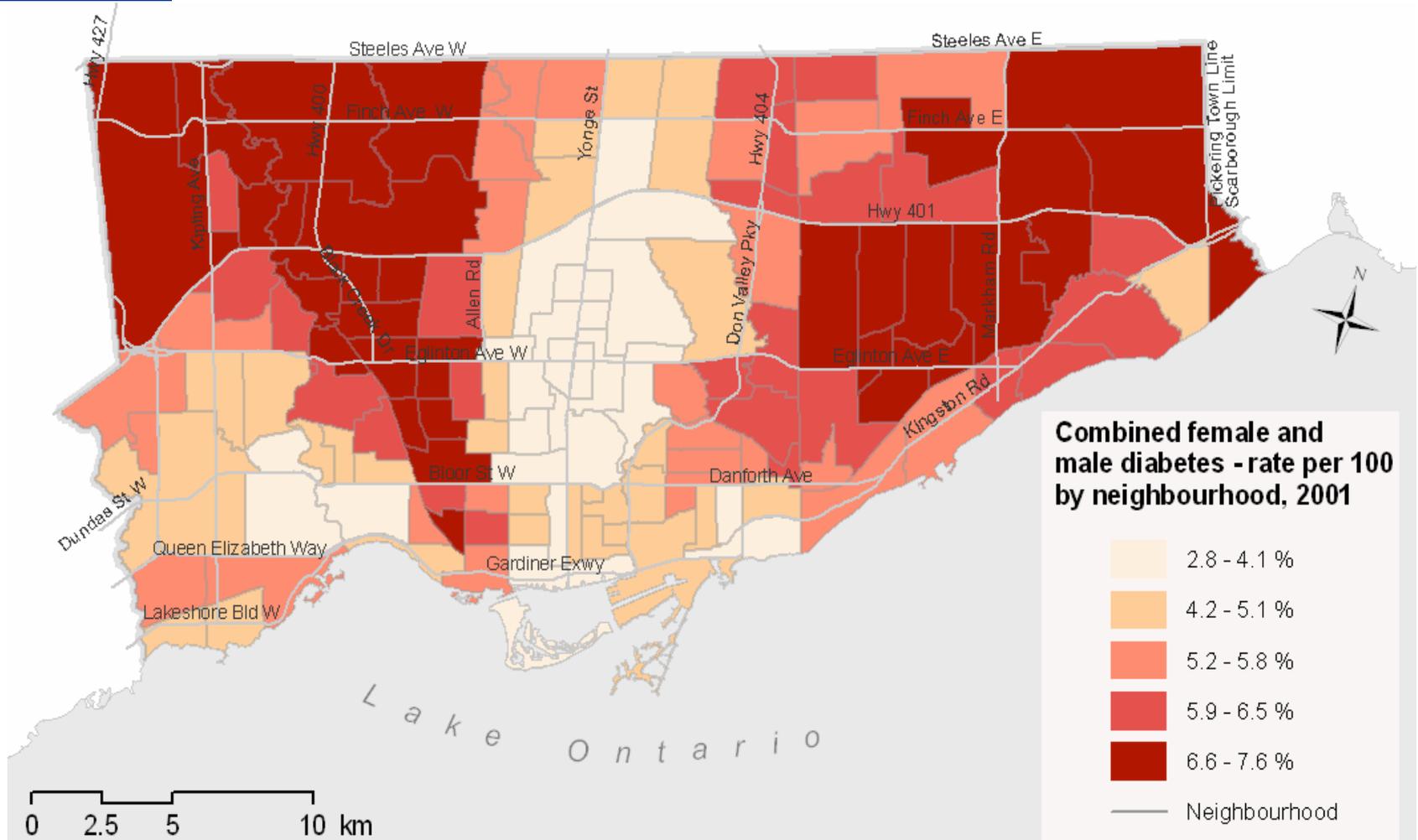
Source: Glaizer, RH et. al. (eds.), *Neighbourhood Environments and Resources for Healthy Living –A Focus on Diabetes in Toronto: ICES Atlas*. Toronto: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; 2007.

# How it connects locally: Concentration of Visible Minority Populations, Toronto



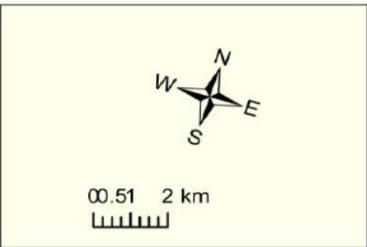
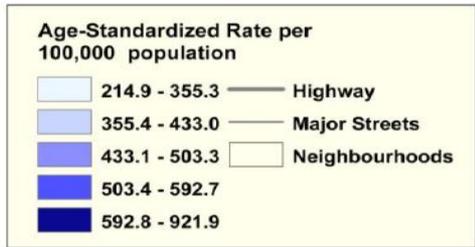
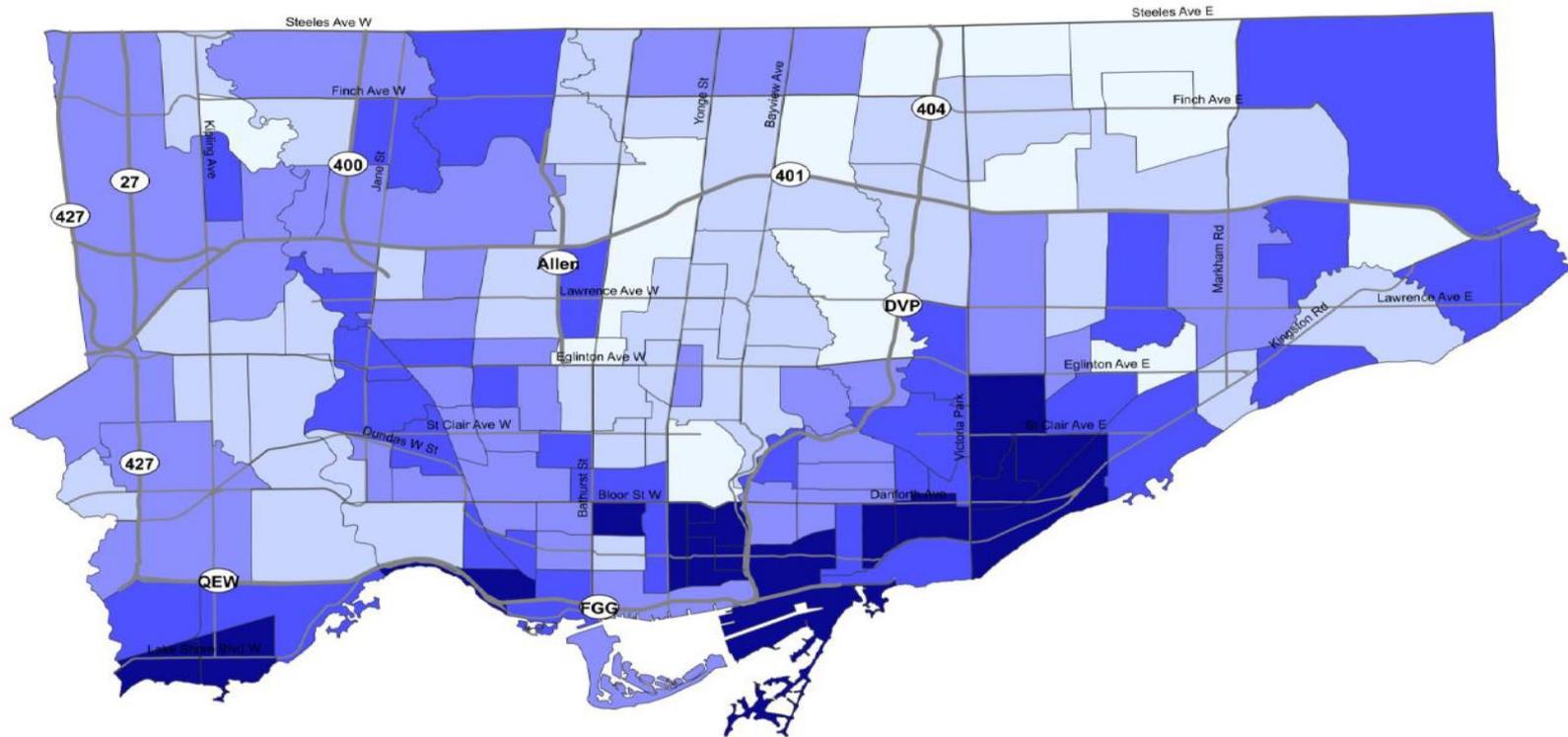
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# Map 1: Age-Standardized All-Cause Mortality by Neighbourhood, Toronto, 2007-2009 Combined



Copyright (c)2011 City of Toronto. All Rights Reserved.

Data Source: Vital Statistics (Death) 2007-2009, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO, Date Extracted: Aug. 2012  
 Prepared by: Toronto Public Health  
 Contact: [publichealth@toronto.ca](mailto:publichealth@toronto.ca)

Note: 1. Statistics Canada 2006 Census as denominator of rate  
 2. Classification is by Natural Breaks

Health inequity costs lives.  
How do we move forwards?

**“Good artists copy  
Great artists steal”  
Jobs, Picasso,  
TS Elliot, Stravinsky**

# Improving health services

- A high quality and efficient health system is based on the matching of population need to the resourcing of effective interventions to meet those needs.
- A more equitable health system is more efficient.
- If Ontario is to bend the cost curve for health there is a need to deal with upstream issues that increase risk of illness but also a need to ensure that effective treatments are given to people at highest need.

# Health equity enshrined as way to improve health systems in Ontario

- The French language Act
- Local Health System Integration Act
- Canada Health Act
- Future of Medicare Act
- Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Excellent Care for All Act

# Health inequity

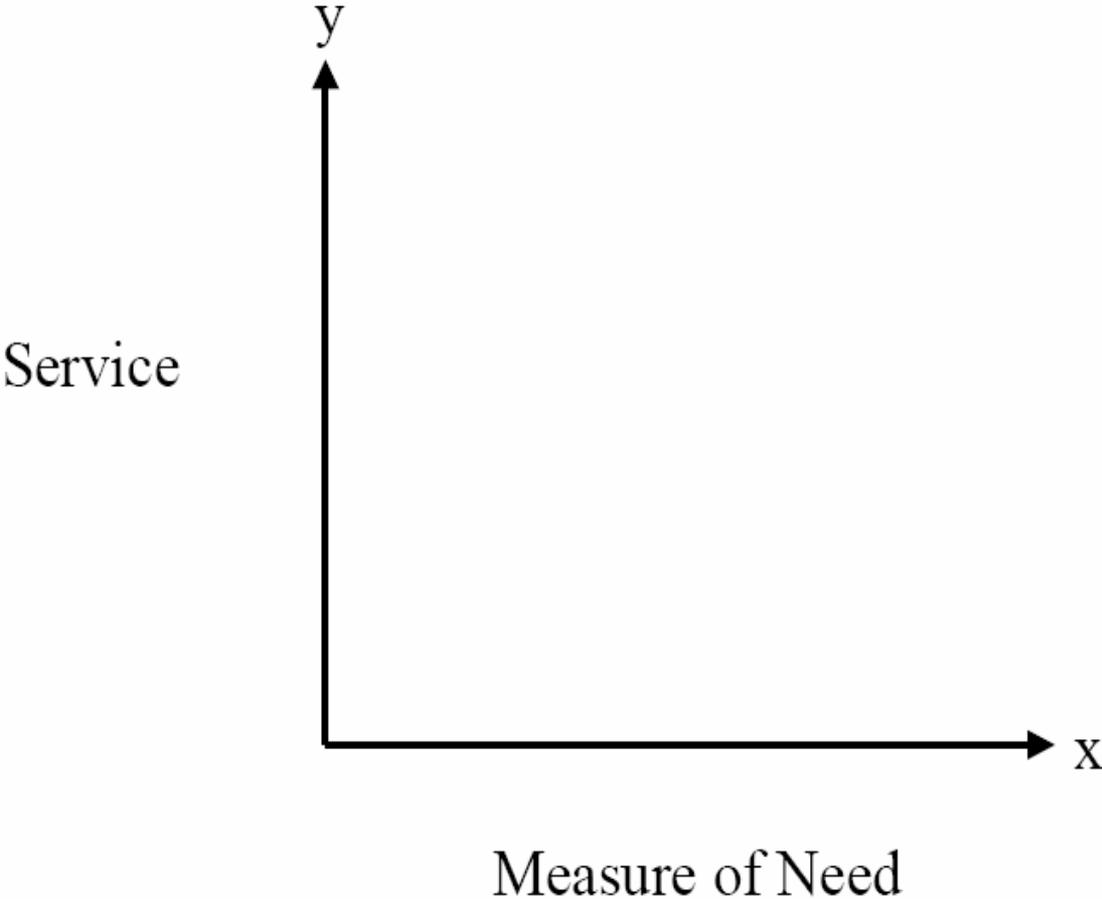
Health inequities are avoidable differences in health usually caused by:

Social determinants of health

Inadequate social response to differences in need

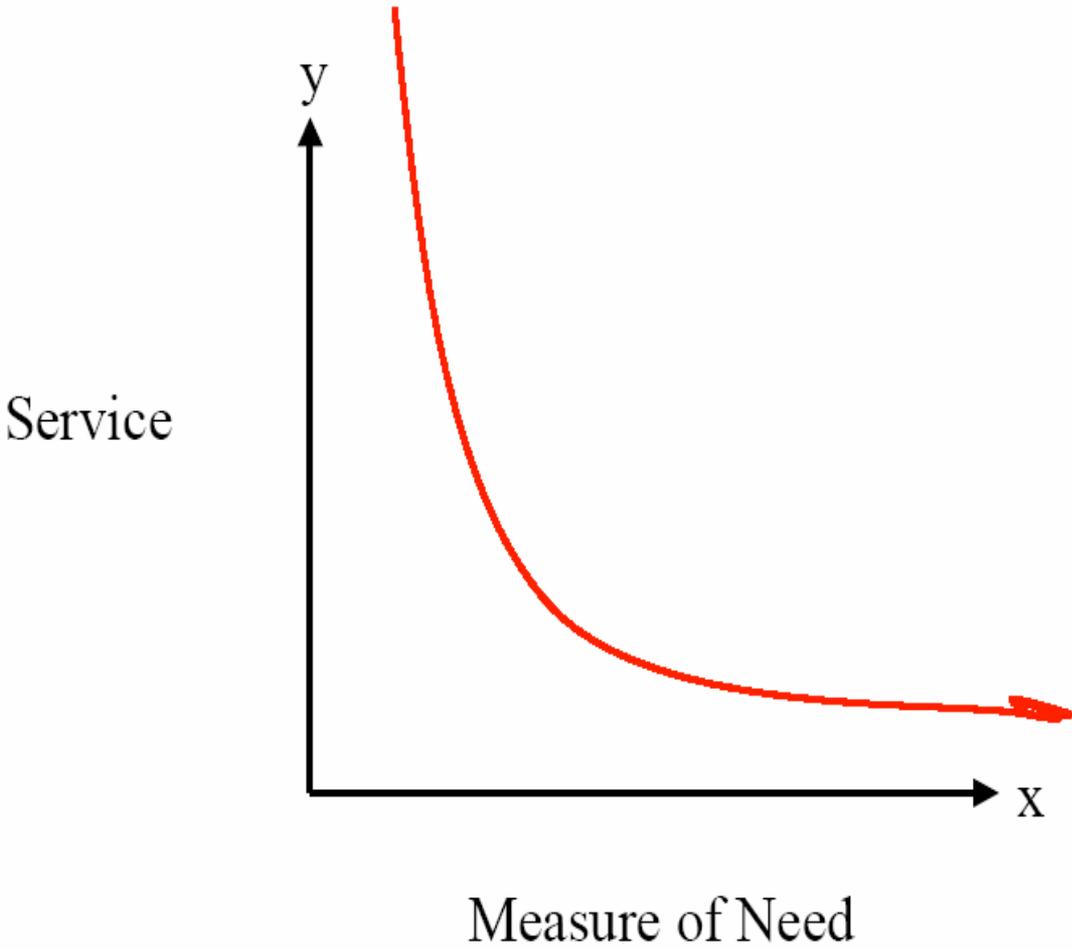
Inadequate health response to differences in need

Health Equity helps users to align *services* with *need*—enabling better health outcomes



Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health

In this simplified example, those with the most need get the lowest level of service: the undesirable “inverse care law”

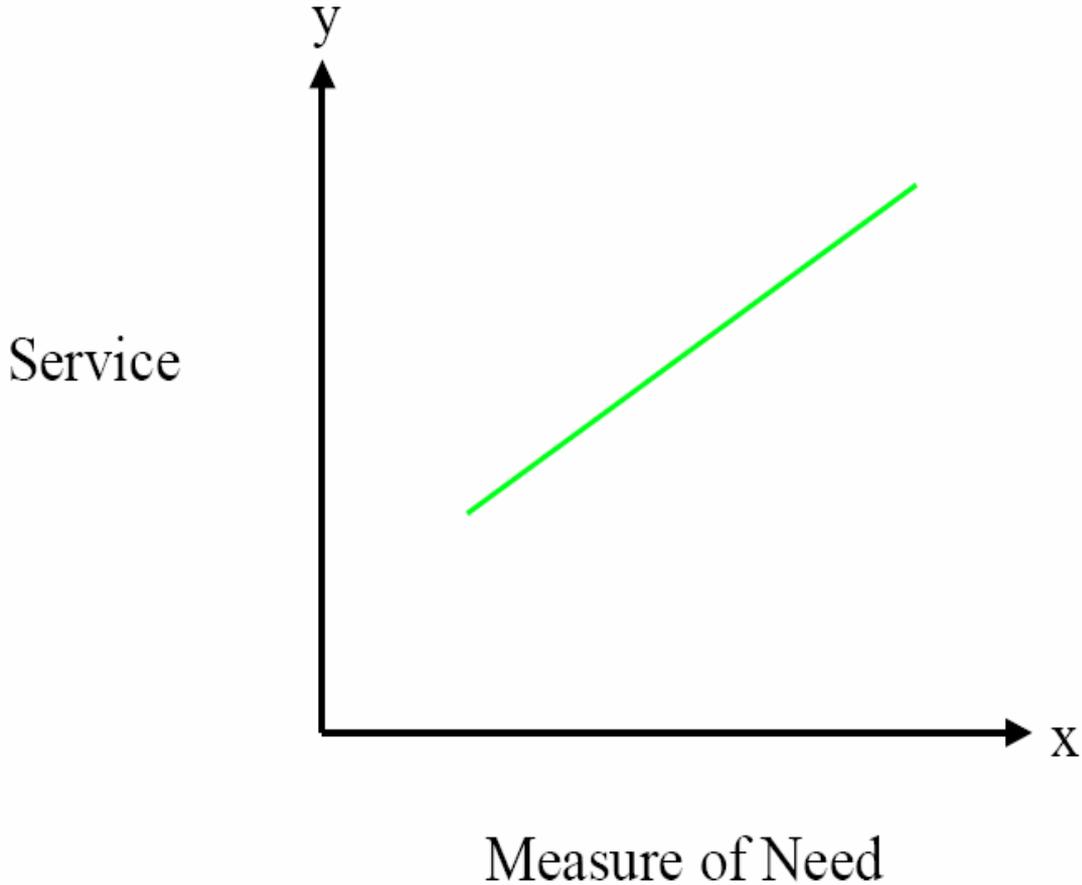


Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health

# Two forms of health equity

- horizontal equity
  - equal treatment of those with the same circumstances
- vertical equity
  - individuals who are unequal should be treated differently according to their level of need

In this simplified example, there is a good alignment between high need and high service provision: a desirable situation



Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health

# Inequity is often unintended

- That does not mean that inaction is excusable
- We need to take action on SDOH
- We need to take action on services
  - Tools for data collection
  - Methods for analyzing data
  - Health equity audit
  - Health equity impact assessment
  - Adaptation of prevention, promotion, treatment

# We have great people doing great things

- MOHLTC health equity department
- HQO Health equity strategy
- TCLHIN roadmap
- CCO strategy with PHO
- TPH services and research
- HEIA tool and training and community
- TCLHIN data collection tool
- Power study, ICES, CAMH, CRICH
- CERIS focussed services

# But there are too few of them.

## Plan or plan to fail

- Not co-ordinated
- No clear capacity development
- No clear targets
- No indicators
- No person who is in charge
- Some people take part others do not

**We can see that there are disparities.  
We know dealing with them will help  
everyone.  
But many of us do not do it.**

# The Bystander effect

- May be because it is not clear who needs to do what

# Decide who is responsible for what and what you can do (McKenzie 2010)

	Differential rates	Inequitable health response	Inequitable social response
Clinicians		X	
Health care provider Organisation		X	X
Service system	XX	X	XX
Societal / legislative	XX	X	XX

# Multi-level needs: multi-level solutions

## System level (Hansson et al 2010)

- Health equity may have the potential to reduce disparities for IRER groups
- One way of achieving this is by population-based, flexible services based on needs
- Using local data and knowledge helps produce a better need resource curve

# Multi-level needs: multi-level solutions

## Clinical services

- Systems can develop equitable funding but services need to connect with their communities
  - structural competence
- Interventions need to be equitably effective
- Clinicians need to practice equitably

# Why I like TCLHIN Roadmap

- Equity data collection
  - Base action on evidence
- Leadership and culture change
  - this only works if we all take part, everyone should be a leader in equity
- Direct intervention
  - clinical services but also links between clinical services and organizations involved in SDOH

# But it leads to difficult questions

- If I am not helping with health equity am I part of the problem?
- If I agree with health equity, do I agree with redistribution of funding?
- If I agree health equity is quality should it be part of my quality assessment?
- If I agree with health equity am I happy to move some funding upstream?



- We are all part of the solution
- Toronto is best when we build on our history of diversity, use the knowledge available throughout the world to build a better future

**An effective team has a plan.  
Different players have different roles.  
But everyone has to work together if  
we want to win**

# Thank you

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