



JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

LOW INCOME POPULATION Living in York Region

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 and 2006

INTRODUCTION

People often think that low income residents have little education, are unemployed or are single parents. These perceptions do not reflect general reality in York Region.

Statistics Canada's 2006 Census information on income will not be available until May 2008. However, the 2001 Census indicates what to expect. According to the 2001 Census, 71,600 people, or about 10% of York Region's population, are considered low income.* York Region's low income residents are not that different from the total population. Many are working, but at lower ends of the wage scale. Many are supporting families with children, and many have post-secondary education. York Region's low income population is part of the Region's skilled and adaptive labour force that the economy needs to stay competitive in the face of change, and to survive different economic cycles.

LOW INCOME EARNERS IN YORK REGION

The 2001 data shows that certain groups of people are more likely to be poor:

GENDER: Women in every age group (aged 15 and over) are more likely to live on low incomes. As women age they are more likely to live on low incomes. The gap between men and women increases considerably after age 65.

AGE: Children and youth are more likely to live in low income households than people in their core working years (25 to 64). In 2001, 23% of children aged 0 to 14 years lived in low income households.

The risk of being poor grows incrementally after age 64, and is highest for seniors aged 75 and over.

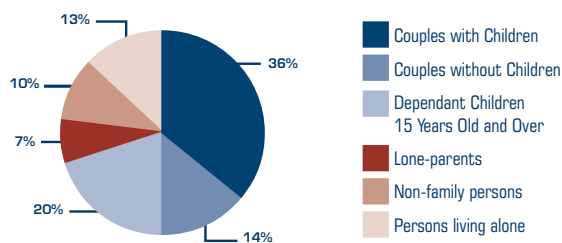
DID YOU KNOW?

In 2001, 71,600 residents - approximately the population of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and King combined, were low income earners.

FAMILY TYPE: In York Region, most low income residents are like the rest of the population:

- In 2001, 36% were couples with children and 14% were couples without children.
- 13% lived alone and only 7% were lone parents.

Low Income Population 15 Years and Older by Family Type, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

EDUCATION LEVELS: It's important to note that in 2001, 51% of working low income residents aged 15 to 64 had some post-secondary education or even a university degree. The risk of living on a low income decreases as the level of education increases. For example, 16% of residents with less than a grade nine education were low income earners, while only 6% of residents with university degrees were low income earners.

DID YOU KNOW? 24,830 people or 53% of low income earners in York Region worked in 2000.

*According to Statistics Canada, a census family that spends 20% more than the average family of their gross income on food, shelter and clothing is considered to be below the low income cut-off (LICO). The low income cut-off for a family of four living in a community with a population between 100,000 and 499,999, such as Markham, Richmond Hill or Vaughan, is about \$30,000 (before taxes).

OCCUPATIONS: In York Region, the ten industries which had the highest percentage of low income earners in 2001 were:

- Retail trade - 15.9%
- Manufacturing - 12.6%
- Accommodation and food services - 10.5%
- Professional, scientific and technical services - 7.6%
- Other services (except public administration) - 7.1%
- Health care and social assistance - 7.0%
- Finance and insurance - 6.8%
- Wholesale trade - 5.9%
- Construction - 5.8%
- Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services - 5.7%

HOUSING

- In York Region, 85% of tenants earning low incomes spent 30% or more of what they earned on shelter compared to 27% of the total population.
- In 2001, 56% of tenants earning low incomes spent more than 50% of their income on shelter. For a number of these households, a single event such as a serious illness could leave them homeless.

COMPOSITION OF INCOME

- The 2001 Census shows that the majority of adult low income residents in York Region worked. However, their income was supplemented more heavily by government supports than that of the total population.
- Government supports included income from federal,

provincial or municipal governments. These include Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, Social Assistance, Workers' Compensation, Canada Child Tax Benefits and other programs (e.g. employment supplements, refundable tax credits, veteran's pensions, and training allowances).

Low Income Residents Live Across the Region

Municipality	1991			2001		
	Total Pop.	Low Income Pop.	%	Total Pop.	Low Income Pop.	%
Aurora	28,800	2,240	7.8	39,665	2,405	6.1
East Gwillimbury	17,900	580	3.2	20,115	1,235	6.1
Georgina	29,260	2,730	9.3	38,370	4,005	10.3
King	18,015	1,020	5.7	18,425	910	4.9
Markham	152,750	11,405	7.5	207,700	26,230	12.6
Newmarket	44,430	3,800	8.6	64,920	5,570	8.6
Richmond Hill	79,550	6,875	8.6	131,380	16,580	12.6
Vaughan	110,680	8,210	7.4	181,475	14,880	8.2
Whitchurch-Stouffville	18,000	705	3.9	21,820	750	3.4
York Region	499,470	37,570	7.5	724,215	72,565	10.0

WHAT this means:

The 2006 Census information on income will not be released until 2008, but trends from the 1996 and 2001 Census show growth in the low income population and give us clues about what we can expect to see when the 2006 Census data is available. Industries like tourism, hospitality and retail, which are important to the economic health of the Region, rely heavily on low income workers for their labour. Low income earners are also often the people who provide support and care to our elders and our children. For working residents at the lower end of the wage scale, supports such as affordable and accessible transportation, child care supports and affordable housing are needed to allow them to remain productive.

It is critical to continue to support low income earners in York Region, so that they can enjoy a reasonable standard of living and contribute more fully to our communities and the economy. This requires a co-coordinated approach to planning and providing services to meet the needs of low income residents.

This fact sheet was produced by the Community and Health Services Department, based on Statistics Canada Census data and definitions provided through the Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS) and reports entitled "A Profile of York Region's Low Income Population" and "Housing and Our Economy, Remaining Competitive" produced by York Region in 2004. This is an initiative from the Canadian Council on Social Development in partnership with Statistics Canada. In 2005, York Region partnered with key community organizations to form a Consortium to lead the CSDS project.

York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium



York Region's Community Reference Group

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Community Services of York Region, Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design Department, United Way of York Region, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, York Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board