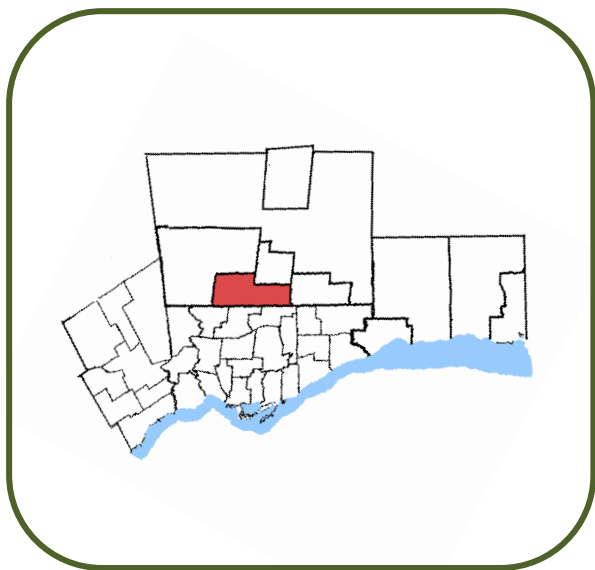


Thornhill

Action on Poverty Profile

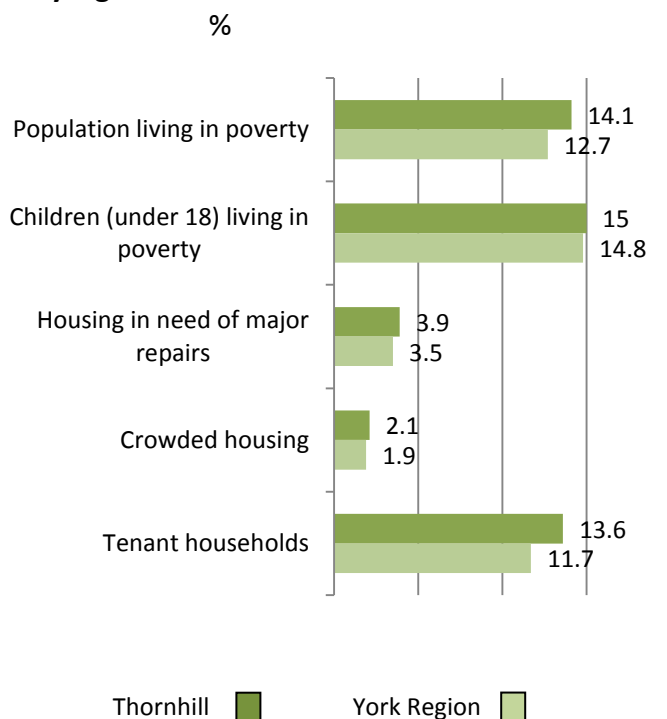


Story Behind the Stats

Thornhill riding is bordered by Highway 400, Rutherford Road/Highway 7, Highway 404, and Steeles Avenue East/West. It is divided among parts of the two municipalities of Vaughan and Markham.

Ethnically, this riding has a very diverse population and is home to many racialized communities. It is particularly known for being home to a large Jewish community. A major issue facing residents in the riding, especially those from racialized communities, is a lack of affordable housing. There is a large number of residents who are at risk of losing their homes due to inadequate income to pay their rent or make their mortgage payments.

Key Figures



131,970 people live in Thornhill

18,562 live in poverty – 14.1%*

“In York Region Jewish Family and Child Services operates the “Homelessness Prevention Program” open to all residents facing homelessness and, consequently, we see the terrible, overwhelming distress that homelessness causes. The single-most significant shortfall in the struggle against poverty continues to be affordable or subsidized housing. We know that many – far too many – families are just one unforeseen contingency, one unplanned layoff, one medical emergency or even one extra bill away from disaster.”

Monica Auerbach
 Director of Practice & Director of York Region Branch
 Jewish Family & Child Services

The Action on Poverty profiles 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 Thornhill

Jewish Family and Child Services (JF&CS) reaches into every corner of our community with services that identify and meet the evolving needs of our residents with an emphasis on the area's strong and growing Jewish population. In the Greater Toronto Area, more than 22,000 Jews live in poverty. This represents 40% of Canada's Jewish poor.

Within our own local community, many children, Jews and non-Jews alike, are being raised below the poverty line. The single most significant shortfall in the struggle against poverty continues to be affordable or subsidized housing. Responding to current economic conditions and the financial needs of families, JF&CS provides an assistance program to ensure a quality of life for those within our community that reflects integrity and self-respect. Through the United Jewish Appeal Federation of Greater Ontario, under its Supplementary Financial Assistance Program (SFAP), individuals and families can receive a basic income supplement each month. Any person living in the Greater Toronto Area whose income is derived from social assistance, family benefits, Employment Insurance, Old Age Pension or low wages may apply for this assistance.

A major consequence of living in poverty is family stress so JF&CS provides a broad range of services to children under 16 years of age and their families. These services include preventive and support programs that aim to strengthen and rehabilitate families.

www.jfandcs.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

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Peter Shurman*, 905-731-8462, peter.shurman@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Hon. Peter Kent*, 905-886-9911, peter.kent@parl.gc.ca

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

Mayor of Markham: *Frank Scarpitti*, 905-475-4872 fscarpitti@markham.ca

Public School Board: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/

Catholic School Board: www.ycdsb.ca/

For a complete listing of all elected representatives for the Riding of Thornhill, a map of the riding & a description of its boundaries, see the York Region overview sheets.