

Measuring Homelessness & the Risk of
Homelessness in Canadian cities:

Data Development Challenges and Opportunities

Presentation to the
National Housing Research Committee
November 3, 2009

Acacia Consulting & Research



The Quality of Life Reporting System

- Established in 1996 in response to budget cutting and downloading
- Measures, monitors and reports on social, economic and environmental trends in Canada's largest cities and communities.
- Relies on data from a variety of sources, and contains 100s of variables.
- Helps ensure that municipal government is a strong partner in formulating public policy in Canada.



QOLRS Indicators

DBI	AAH	CSI	CE	ED
Demographic Background Information	Affordable Appropriate Housing	Community and Social Infrastructure	Civic Engagement	Education
ELE	10 Domains of the QOLRS			PS
Employment and Local Economy		Health	Security	Personal Safety



Indicators by Domain

AAH

Affordable
and
Appropriate
Housing

10 Indicators

- AAH 01 Rental Housing Affordability
- AAH 02 Homeowner Housing Affordability
- AAH 03 - Core Housing Need
- AAH 04 - Substandard Units
- AAH 05 Changing Face of Homelessness
- AAH 06 - Vacancy Rates
- AAH 07 - Rental Housing Starts
- AAH 08 - Monthly Rent
- AAH 09 - Cost of Housing
- AAH 10 - Overcrowding

5 Years

3 Years

2 Years

Annual



Indicators by Domain

CSI

Community
and Social
Infrastructure

10 Indicators

CSI 01 Social Housing Waiting Lists

CSI 02 Rent Geared to Income Housing

CSI 03 Subsidized Child Care Spaces

CSI 04 Social Services Professionals

CSI 05 - Recreation Facilities

CSI 06 - Cultural Facilities

CSI 07 - Long Term Care Facilities

CSI 08 - Recreation Programs

CSI 09 - Library Use

CSI 10 Access to Health Care Professionals

5 Years

3 Years

2 Years

Annual



Indicators by Domain

ELE

Employment
and Local
Economy

ELE 01 - Business Bankruptcies

ELE 02 - Consumer Bankruptcies

ELE 03 - Hourly Wages

ELE 04 - Change in Family Income

ELE 05 - Building Permits

ELE 06 - Employment / Employment Rates

ELE 07 - Quality of Employment

ELE 08 - Long Term Unemployment

ELE 09 - Labour Force Replacement

9 Indicators

5 Years

3 Years

2 Years

Annual



Indicators by Domain

PFS

Personal
Financial
Security

10 Indicators

PFS 01 - Families Receiving Social Assistance

PFS 02 - Families Receiving EI

PFS 03 - Incidence of Low Income Families

PFS 04 - Children Living in Poverty

PFS 05 - Income Gap

PFS 06 - Assistance Rates as % Low Income

PFS 07 - Working Poor

PFS 08 - Community Affordability

PFS 09 - Transit Affordability

PFS 10 - Food Insecurity

5 Years

3 Years

2 Years

Annual



Measuring the Changing Face of Homelessness

- Total # of Emergency Shelters: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006
- # of Shelter Beds by Shelter type:
 - Single Men
 - Single Women
 - Family
 - Youth
 - Mixed
 - Refugee
 - Aboriginal



Measuring the Risk of Homelessness

Indicator	Survey Result	Summary Assessment
Social Housing Waiting Lists	17/17	A relevant and useful indicator of the unmet demand for subsidized housing.
Low Income Economic Families	16/16	
Vacancy rates	16/16	
Lone-Parent Families	11/16	Useful as one of several mutually reinforcing indicators associated with poverty, need and vulnerability.
Unemployment Rates	11/16	Useful as one of several mutually reinforcing indicators associated with an inadequate income.
Rental Housing Starts	11/17	Serves as the best available indicator of accessible, unsubsidized housing stock.
Gross Rent Spending: 50%+	10/17	Preferred alternative to Gross Rent Spending 30%+; Not originally included in survey of municipal practitioners



Other Indicators of the Risk of Homelessness

Indicator	Survey Result	Summary Assessment
Food Bank Usage	16/17	Data are not available.
Gross Rent Spending: 30%+	16/16	Does not add value beyond the 50%+ indicator.
Families Receiving Social Assistance	14/16	Serves a similar purpose to the Low Income Economic Families Indicator.
Rent Geared to Income Units	12/17	Data are not readily available; Serves a similar purpose to the social housing waiting list indicator.
Economic Evictions	12/17	Data collection will be difficult to impossible.
Provision of Mental Health Care	12/17	Unable to identify a useful indicator for which data are available.



Municipal Data Collection Tool

- <http://www.municipaldata.ca>
 - Shelter usage
 - Social housing
 - Child care
 - Recreation
 - And 5 other areas of municipal responsibility



Quality of Life Reporting System

Municipal Data Collection Tool

Hello **michel**

You are logged in for
fcm



MDCT Homepage



Logout of the MDCT

MDCT Project
MDCT Contact
QOLRS Web

Welcome to the MDCT Homepage, please click on a section below to begin entering data.

Throughout the MDCT, definitions of terms can be accessed by clicking on highlighted text. If you need any further clarification please contact the [administrator](#).

Section	Status
1. Homelessness	Active - August 18, 2008
2. Social Housing	Active - August 18, 2008
3. Child Care	Active - August 18, 2008
4. Recreation	Active - August 18, 2008
5. Culture	Active - August 18, 2008
6. Long Term Care	Active - August 18, 2008
7. Solid Waste	Active - August 18, 2008
8. Recreational Water Quality	Active - August 18, 2008
9. Municipal Elections	Active - August 18, 2008

QOLRS Technical Team Representatives serve as MDCT Coordinators within their respective communities. MDCT Coordinators are responsible for the following tasks:

- Contact individuals within their community needed to complete various sections of the MDCT, providing them with log-in information;
- Serve as principal point of contact with various municipal departments and other agencies participating in the data collection exercise;
- Monitor the MDCT to ensure accurate and complete responses are being provided, contacting the MDCT administrator as required; and

Custom Data Acquisition

- Custom Data Orders
 - Statistics Canada
 - Low Income by Demographic Group
 - Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation
 - Vacancy rates by rent quartile



Reporting on Homelessness & the Risk of Homelessness

- QOLRS Theme Report #4
- QOLRS Theme Report #5
- QOLRS Theme Report #6 (forthcoming)



QOLRS Theme Report # 4 Jan/2008

- **Title:** Trends & Issues in Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- **Time-Series:** 2001-2006 (with reference to 1991-2001)
- **Reference to trends from previous FCM reports:** 2004 Theme Report #1; 2004 Highlights Report
- **Geography:** CSD, CD; CMA (selected variables)



Theme Report #4 Topics & Indicators

Trends in the Housing Market	Challenges Facing the Housing Market	Vulnerable Populations & Homelessness	Rental Housing Infrastructure Renewal
Population Growth	Young Families & an Aging Population	Income Distribution	Investment in Social Housing
Homeownership	Unequal Growth in Income	Rental Affordability Gap: Social Assistance	Social Housing Wait Lists
The Rise of the Condominium	Ratio of Home Prices to Income	Rental Affordability Gap: The Working Poor	An Aging Rental Housing Stock
Vacancy Rates	Rental Housing Completions	Persistent Homelessness	High Vacancy Rates for the Most Affordable Rental Units
Monthly Rents			



Theme Report #4 Data Sources

Statistics Canada Census of Population

Statistics Canada Small Area & Administrative Data

Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation Starts and Completions Survey

Human Resources & Social Development Canada Minimum Wage Database

Human Resources & Social Development Canada Shelter Capacity Database

QOLRS Members Municipal Administrative Data



QOLRS Theme Report # 5 Mar/09

- **Title:** Immigration & Diversity in Canadian Cities & Communities
- **Time-Series:** 2001-2006 (with reference to 1991-2001)
- **Reference to trends from previous FCM reports:** 2005 Theme Report #2; 2004 Highlights Report
- **Geography:** CSD, CD; CMA (selected variables)
- **Demographic groups:** Recent Immigrant (10yrs); Established Immigrant (>10yrs); Non-Immigrant



Theme Report #5 Topics & Indicators

Settlement Patterns	Basic Needs of Recent Immigrants	Employment & Labour Force Integration	Diverse and Welcoming Communities
Immigrant destinations	Income Assistance	Labour Force Replacement	Ethnic & Cultural Diversity
Impact on Pop. growth	Core Housing Need	Unemployment & Participation Rates	Language Diversity
Class of Immigration Economic, Family, Refugee	Risk of Homelessness	Child Care-Age Children	Catch-Up Period: Income Poverty
Suburbanization of immigration	Emergency Shelter Use	Language Proficiency	Unemployment Homeownership
Secondary & Tertiary Migration	Health Outcomes	Qualifications Gap: Education & Occupation	



Theme Report #5 Data Sources

Statistics Canada Census

Statistics Canada Small Area & Administrative Data

Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey

Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Municipal Administrative Data



Homelessness Data Development: Next Steps

- Increasing communication between Users and Providers
- Connecting and Integrating Small Area Data Sources
- Data Access for Local Users



Small Area Data Users

- FCM QOLRS Members
- CCSD CSDS Consortia
- HPS Designated Communities



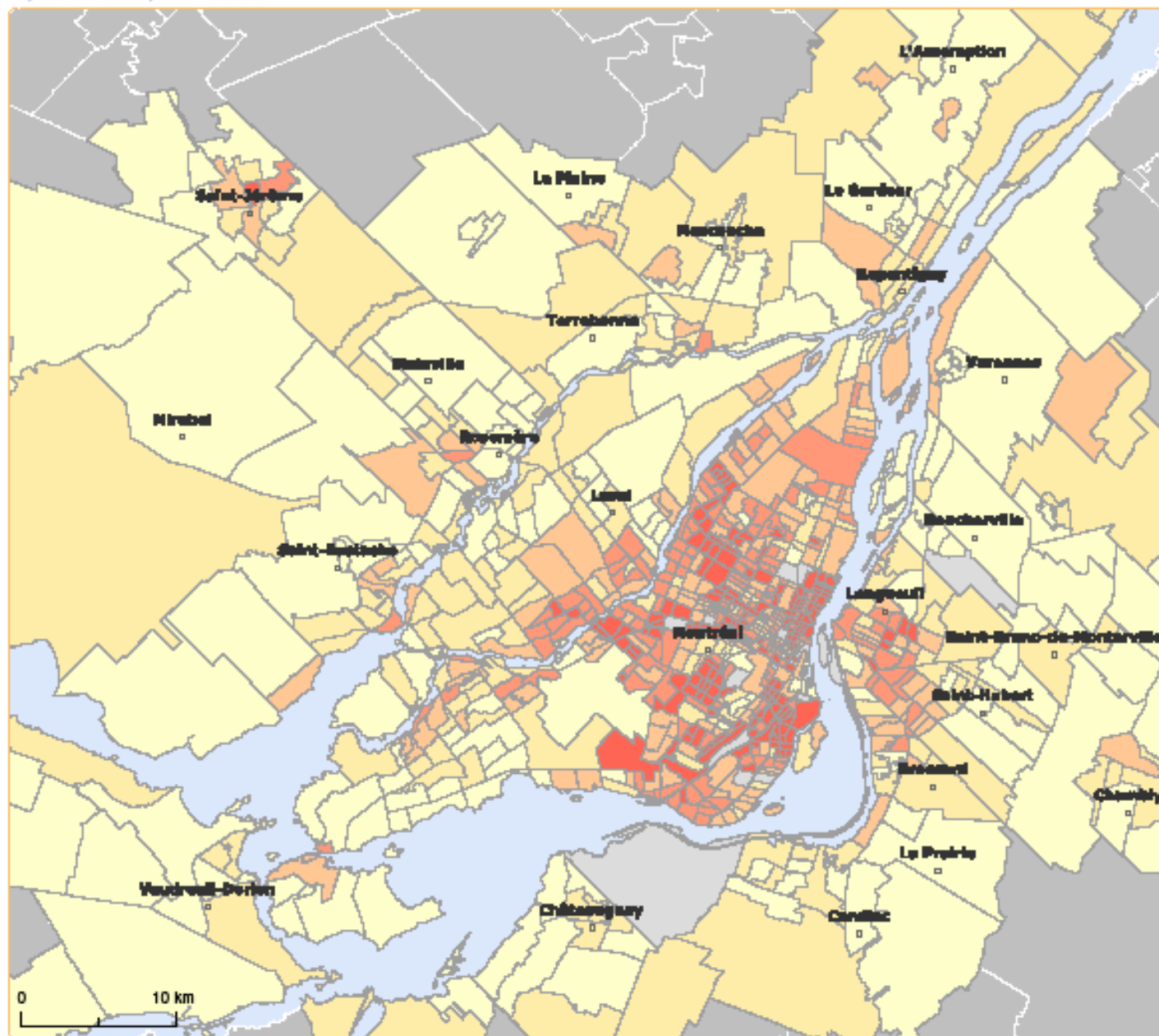
Quality of Life Reporting System			
Member	Pop.	Member	Pop.
City of Vancouver	578,045	Halton Region	439,255
City of Surrey	394,976	Region of Peel	1,159,405
City of Calgary	988,195	York Region	892,715
City of Edmonton	730,370	City of Toronto	2,503,280
City of Saskatoon	202,340	Region of Durham	561,260
City of Regina	179,245	City of Kingston	117,210
City of Winnipeg	633,455	City of Ottawa	812,130
City of Windsor	216,473	Ville de Gatineau	242,125
City of London	352,395	Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal	3,532,575
City of Greater Sudbury	157,910	Ville de Laval	368,710
Waterloo Region	478,120	Communauté métropolitaine de Québec	711,735
Niagara Region	427,420	Halifax Regional Municipality	372,860

Community Social Data Strategy		
Consortium	Members	Lead
Victoria	5	Capital Region District
Vancouver	7	Metro Vancouver
Calgary	8	City of Calgary
Edmonton	10	City of Edmonton
Winnipeg	16	Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
Sault Ste Marie	23	Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre
London	28	City of London
Waterloo	26	Region of Waterloo, Social Services
Hamilton	3	City of Hamilton
Halton	5	Halton Region
Peel	6	Peel Region
Simcoe	48	Simcoe County
York	5	Regional Municipality of York
Toronto	49	City of Toronto
Peterborough	7	Peterborough Social Planning Council
Ottawa	9	City of Ottawa
Montreal	18	Carrefours jeunesse-emploi

Small Area Data Providers: Survey Data

- Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS) small-area , custom, social data from Statistics Canada
- Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation: Rents and vacancy rates





Proportion of economic families with low income (%)

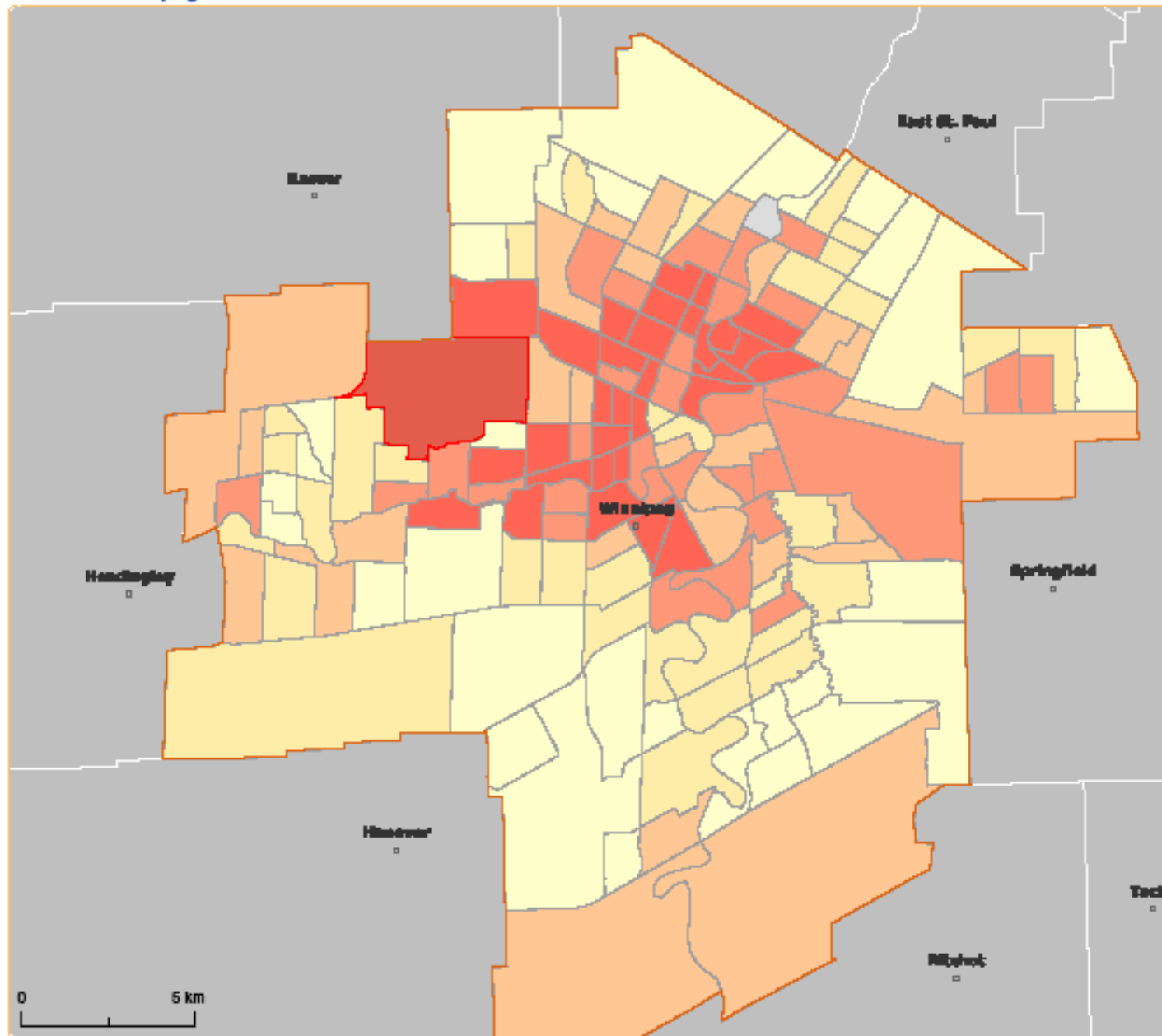
27.6	(171)
18.6	(172)
11.9	(171)
7.5	(174)
NA	(18)

source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. - Montréal: 16.0%



0 10 km





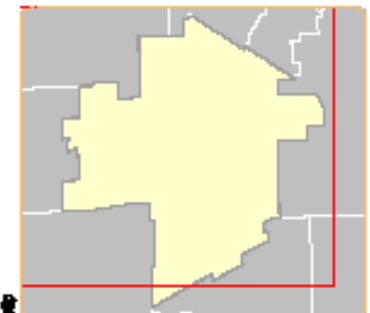
Proportion of occupied private dwellings in need of major repairs (%)

13.7	(31)
9.4	(31)
6.6	(28)
4.3	(33)
4.3	(31)
NA	(1)

source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. - Winnipeg: 8.5%

Municipality

Location



0 5 km

Small Area Data Providers: Administrative Data

- HRSDC Shelter Capacity Database and Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)
- FCM QOLRS Municipal Administrative Data
- Industry Canada Personal bankruptcies data
- Citizenship & Immigration Canada Landings Data for recent immigrants and refugees
- Provincial Health Outcomes and Hospital Admissions Data
- Provincial Evictions Data



Working Group on Municipal & Community Data Access

Members:

- Statistics Canada
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Canadian Council on Social Development

Goals:

- Support Effective Communication Between Local Data Users and Providers
- Provide Enhanced Data Access
- Broaden Data Supply

