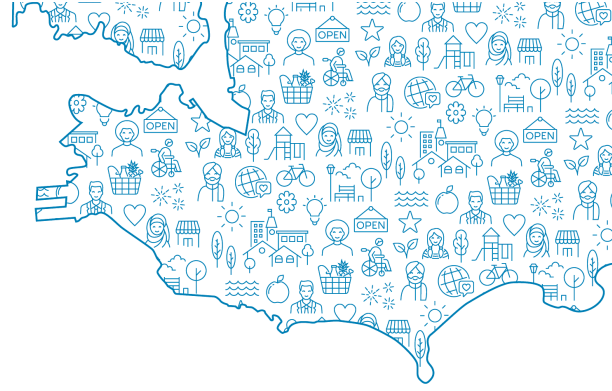




# City of Victoria Equity Community Profile

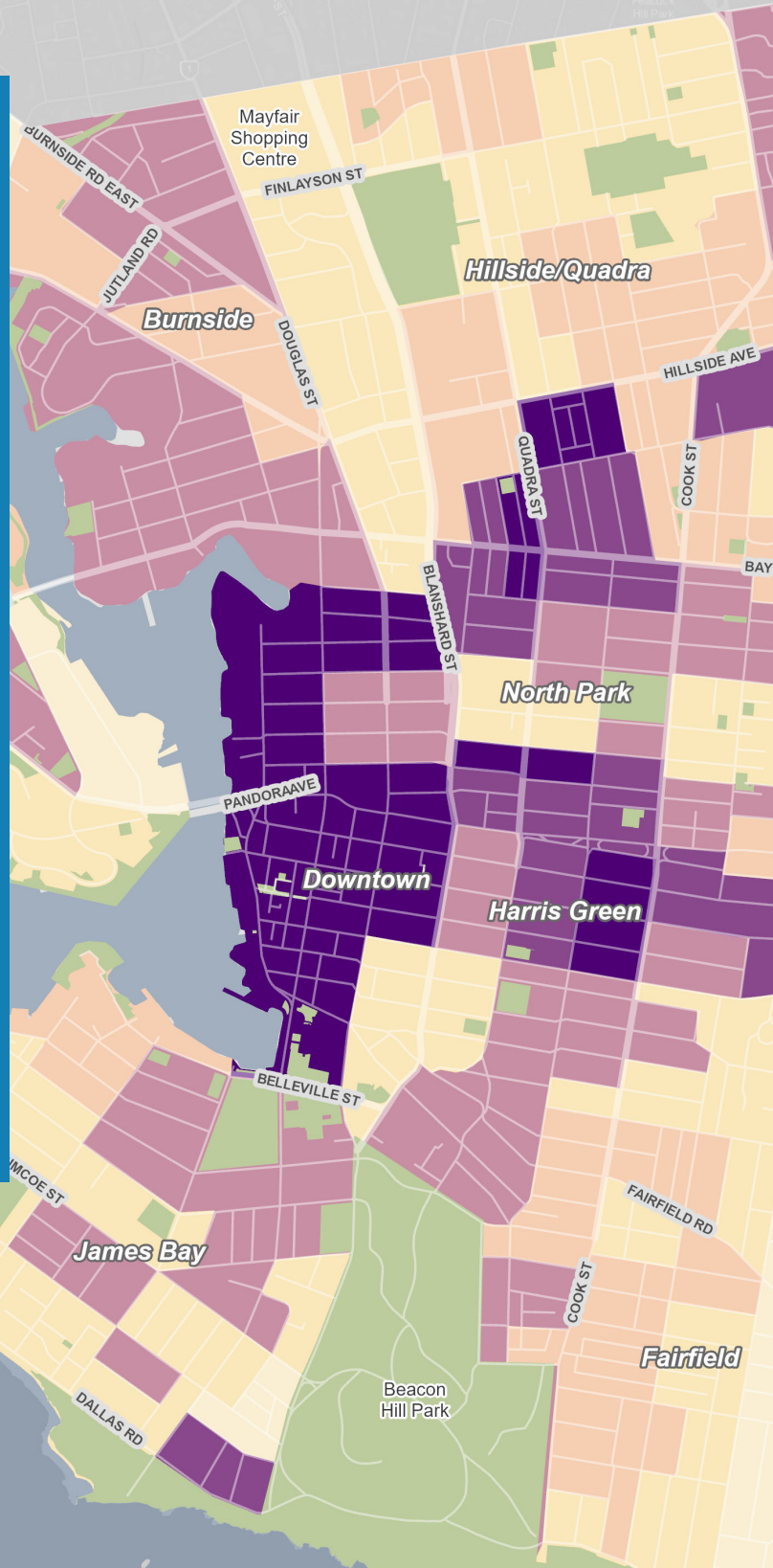


The Equity Community Profile is a collection of data layers on equity, demographics, access, income, housing, transportation and community well-being. These layers can be found on VicMap under the Equity Community Profile.

## Explore VicMap

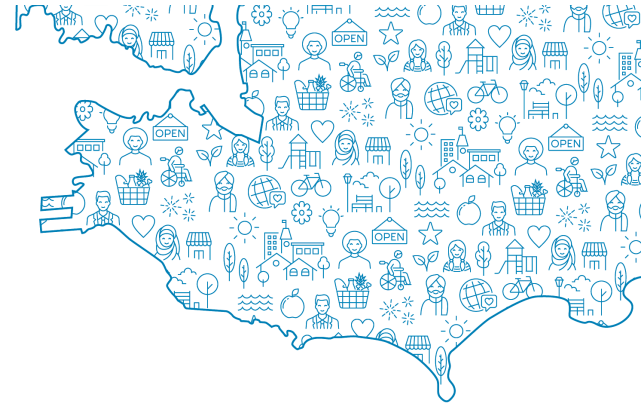
Information on how to use VicMap can be found [here](#).

The layers represent Dissemination Areas, which are a Census geographic area representing about 400-700 residents each. They can be turned on at the same time as other VicMap layers, such as community centers, parks, etc. When clicked on, information for a given geography and relevant indicators is provided. The purpose of this interactive tool is to explore and consider equity indicators in decisions.



For an accompanying report  
please contact [edioffice@victoria.ca](mailto:edioffice@victoria.ca).

# City of Victoria Neighbourhood Profile



**Neighbourhood Profiles are summaries of equity layers at a neighbourhood level. Using a GIS analysis, Census geography indicators were transformed into neighbourhood level indicators.**

No single data source or indicator should be interpreted to represent inequity as a whole on its own. Each indicator presents one aspect that when overlapped with others, may present cases for the occurrence of inequity. These indicators also have a variety of use cases outside of equity considerations.

For an accompanying report please contact [edioffice@victoria.ca](mailto:edioffice@victoria.ca).

**Language spoken most often at home**

This section reports on the languages spoken most often at home. A respondent can select more than one language as long as they are spoken equally often. For people living alone, the language they choose is the one they feel most comfortable speaking.

Although 91% of Victoria residents primarily speak English, Victoria residents speak over 70 languages! Here, we're including only the 5 most spoken languages for each neighbourhood.

Victoria	CRD
1 - English	1 - English
2 - Mandarin	2 - Mandarin
3 - Tagalog	3 - Cantonese
4 - Cantonese	4 - Punjabi
5 - French	5 - Tagalog

**Household composition**

Household composition refers to the makeup of a family living in a census household. Some census family makeups have additional equity considerations due to lower income earning potential (a lone parent or single person HH) or increased needs of services (such as medical care for seniors).

Victoria	CRD
Women led lone parent	12,200
Men led lone parent	3,810
Couple families	99,345
People living alone	62,480
Multi-generational household	3,825

**Population makeup**

The concept of "racialized" population correlates directly with the "visible minority group" variable in the Census and therefore refers to the persons belonging to a visible minority group. People who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit on the Census are reported as "Indigenous". Residents not identified as a visible minority or Indigenous are grouped into "not racialized category". Considering intersectionality of identities, some nuance is lost around ethnicity, culturally and racially diverse individuals. It does provide an overall look at the diversity present in our communities.

Victoria	CRD
Indigenous	5%
Racialized	17%
Not Racialized	83%

**Percent of households in core housing need**

To help understand housing stress in our communities, an indicator called core housing need has been developed by Statistics Canada. It identifies households living in unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable dwellings. Suitable housing refers to a home with the appropriate number of bedrooms for the size and composition of household members. Adequate housing refers to a dwelling that does not require major repairs. Affordable housing costs less than 30% of before-tax household income.

In 2021, there was a decline in households in core housing need compared to previous years. This is due to temporary income supports during the Covid-19 pandemic. These supports were provided by both Provincial and Federal governments, and caused a decline in the number of households living in core housing need at the time.

**Unemployment rate**

8%

7%

**Core Housing Need Breakdown**

Category	Victoria	CRD
Renters in core housing need	28%	24%
Owners in core housing need	8%	6%

**Average monthly rent**

The amount that a household pays to live in their home is called shelter cost. For renters, this includes rent and the cost of electricity, heat, water, and any other municipal services. This number is not the same as the average cost of rent for new-stacks of rentals. The average cost of currently available rentals is higher than average rent, because many tenants currently occupy rentals with rent increase controls that make them more affordable.

**\$1,378**  
**\$1,444**

**Main mode of commuting**

A Census respondent's main mode of commuting refers to their primary method of traveling to their place of work. The proportion of people who drive to work in Victoria is much lower than the Provincial and National averages (80% & 84%). Shifting main commutes away from driving has many potential benefits, like reduced air pollution, lowered carbon emissions, financial savings, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Method	Victoria	CRD
Car, truck, or van	13%	17%
Public transit	9%	19%
Walked	24%	23%
Bicycle	2%	2%
Other method	52%	52%

**Victoria**

The Community Profile is a socio-demographic and equity snapshot of the City and its neighbourhoods based on the 2021 Canada Census.

Feel free to interact with a soon to be launched map.

The data is provided by Statistics Canada and has been compiled by the City of Victoria. Due to rounding and policy in the Census, numbers and percentages in this document may not add up precisely to the most relevant total.

Category	Victoria	CRD
Households median income	\$67,500	\$84,000
Population in private households	91,870	415,455
Percent of households renting their home	60%	37%

**Status (percent of population)**

Category	Victoria	CRD
Canadian Citizens	91%	93%
Immigrants	20%	19%
Non-permanent Residents	3%	2%

These numbers do not add up to 100% because a person can be a Canadian citizen as well as an immigrant. A non-permanent resident can be someone from a different country with a work or study permit in Canada, or people who have claimed refugee status in Canada.

**Population by age cohort**

Age Cohort	Victoria	CRD
0-14 years	9%	13%
15-64 years	19%	17%
65+ years	23%	24%



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## Equity Baseline – Census 2021 Update

The Equity Community Profile was first delivered in 2021 based on Census 2016. The update includes: updating the existing indicators from 2016 to the newly available 2021 Census data, expanding the indicators included and shifting from static mapping to an interactive platform for the data layers. During this effort, a series of round-table internal and external discussions took place to better understand how equity could be integrated into decision making processes. Through these discussions, indicators that were previously not included in the profile were identified as useful to municipal decision making, and therefore were included in this update. The equity-related indicators profiled in this report are listed in the table below. The expansion of the Equity Baseline work provided the basis for the subsequent Community Profile work. This work includes the new indicators brought forward through the consultation process, the update of the existing layers and the addition of all the mapping layers to VicMap to be used as an interactive planning tool.

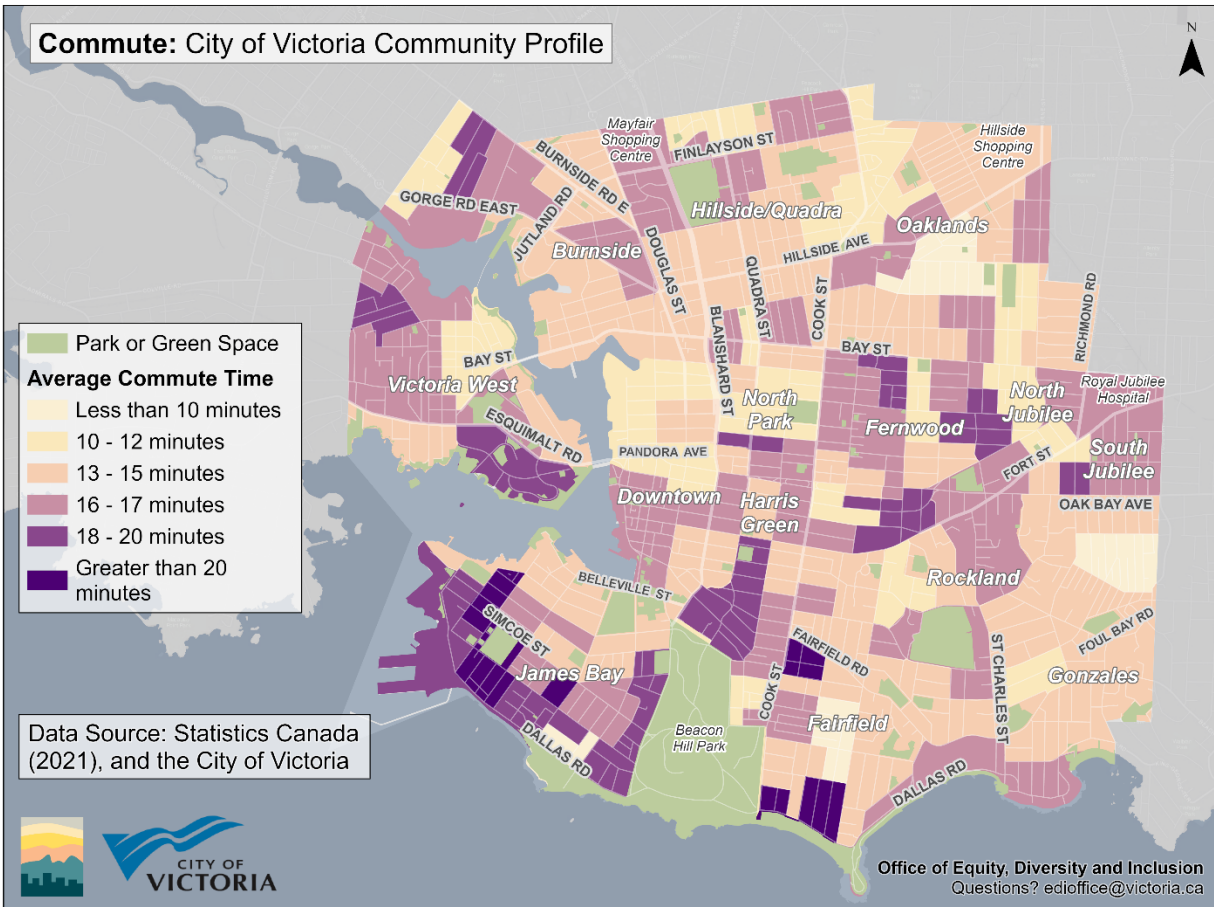
For any questions regarding Community Profile, please contact the City of Victoria’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at [edioffice@victoria.ca](mailto:edioffice@victoria.ca).

2024 Equity Indicator Name	Data Source	Included in the 2020 Equity Baseline
Average Commute Time	Census, 2021	Yes – updated to 2021
Housing Cost Burden		
Low Income Cut-off (LICO)		
Median Home Value		
Median Household Income		
Racialized Individuals		
Subsidized housing		
Tenure (Owner and Renter Households)		
Unemployment Rate		
Transportation Cost Burden		
Transit Access	City of Victoria	
City Parks Access (Distance)		
City Park Access (Competitive)		
Urban Heat Island		LandSat Imagery
Experiences Activity Limitations (Sometimes, Often or Always)	Custom Census Table, 2021 (Community Data Program)	
Experiences Activity Limitations (Often or Always):		
Children	Census, 2021	
Youth		
Seniors		
Recent Immigrants		
Parks Access (Distance)	City of Victoria	
Park Access (Competitive)		

Information on how to use VicMap can be found [here](#). The Community Profile layers can be found under the Equity Community Profile heading. These layers can be turned on one at a time and represent Dissemination Areas. They can be turned on at the same time as other VicMap layers, like community centers, parks, etc. for analysis. The purpose of this interactive tool is not meant to be prescriptive, but rather exploratory to allow inclusion of equity data to decision-making processes. More information about each indicator – what it means, how it was calculated, and why it was included - can be found below.

## Census Based Indicators

### Average Commute Time

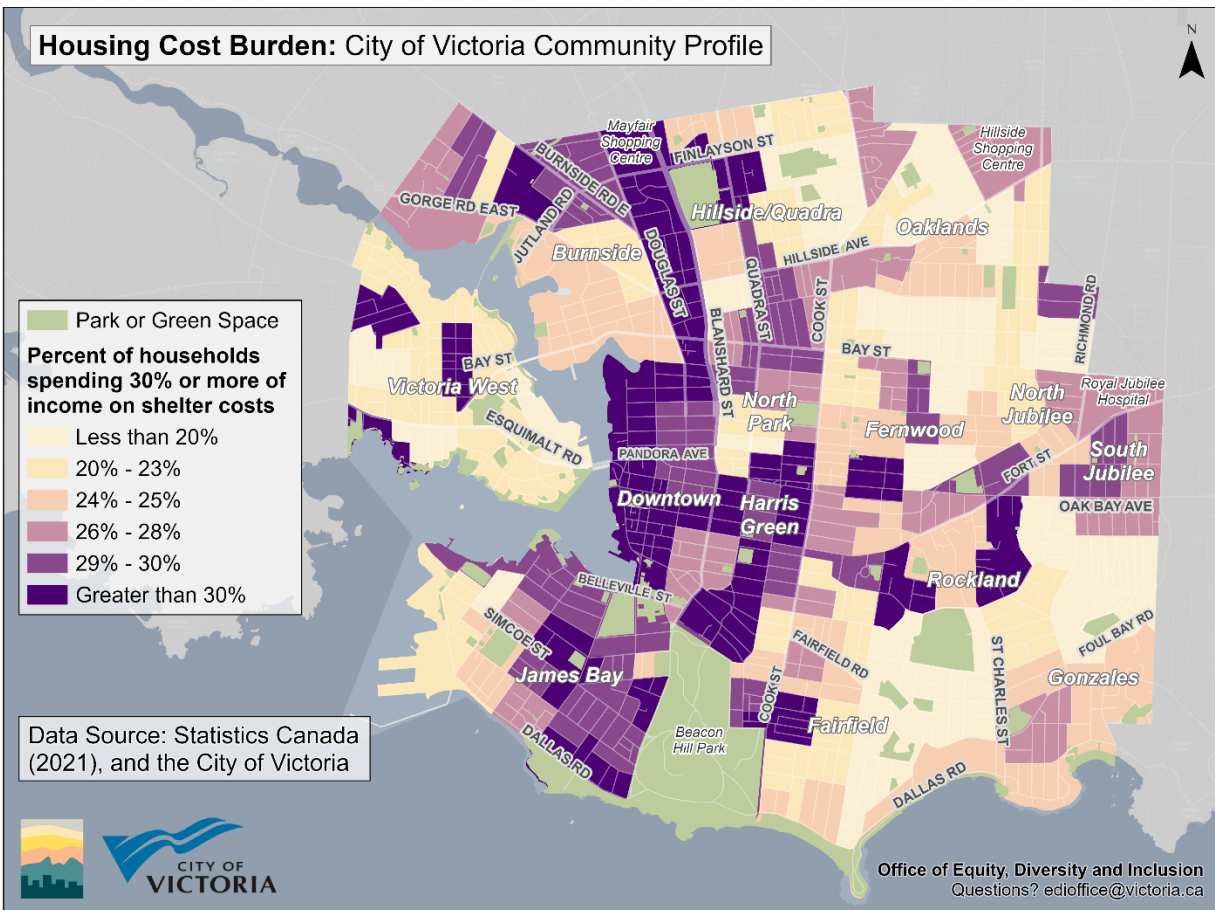


**Average Commute Time** is the length of time, in minutes, usually required by a person to travel between their place of residence and their place of work.

**How is it calculated?** Commute times are surveyed by Census Canada and defined as the “Total commuting duration for the employed labour force aged 15 and over”. Respondents for each dissemination area identify their commute as less than 15 minutes, 15 to 29 minutes, 30 to 44 minutes, 45 to 59 minutes and 60 minutes and over. The number of respondents for each category was normalized by the total number of respondents to identify the percentage of individuals with each category. Each category was assigned a midpoint value (i.e., seven minutes, 22 minutes, etc.) and the mean commute time was calculated.

**What does it mean?** Commuting times are an equity indicator as longer commute times result in less time for family, friends and other activities and may disproportionately affect populations who cannot afford to live in close proximity to their place of work or education. As a result, this indicator can provide specific insight for access to public transportation, jobs and affordable housing. The results of this indicator are particularly prone to influences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had significant impacts on commuter behaviour with the rise of telecommuting. If interacting with this indicator, we recommend using it in conjunction with information from the 2016 census (included in the first Community Profile report) and trip diary reports where available.

## Housing Cost Burden

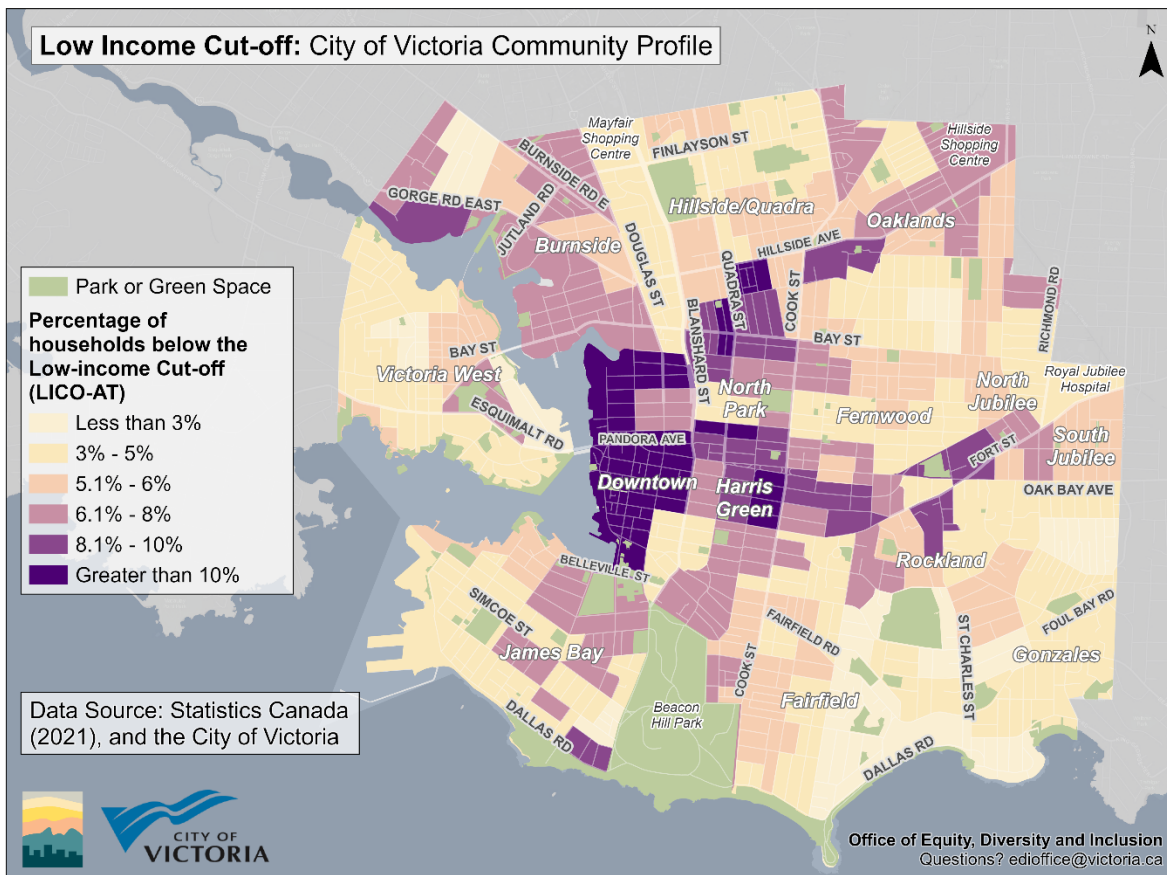


**Housing cost burden** is the percentage of households that are in unaffordable housing, defined as spending more than 30% of their total income towards shelter costs.

**How is it calculated?** This indicator was measured by Statistics Canada in the 2021 Census survey, by questioning if a household's shelter costs exceeded 30% of the household's monthly income (before tax). The number of households reporting being in unaffordable housing is normalized by the total number of households in the dissemination area; This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada. This indicator comprises the affordability component of core housing need (which also considers housing's adequacy and suitability).

**What does it mean?** Housing Cost Burden is a key equity indicator as it highlights dissemination areas where residents are at a higher risk of housing instability. Households spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs may be less likely to have sufficient household income to cover other important needs such as food, transportation, and healthcare related expenses. Cost-burdened households are also less likely to have financial capability to recover from financial shocks (e.g., costs associated with a medical emergency) or interruptions to income earnings.

## Low-income Cut-off

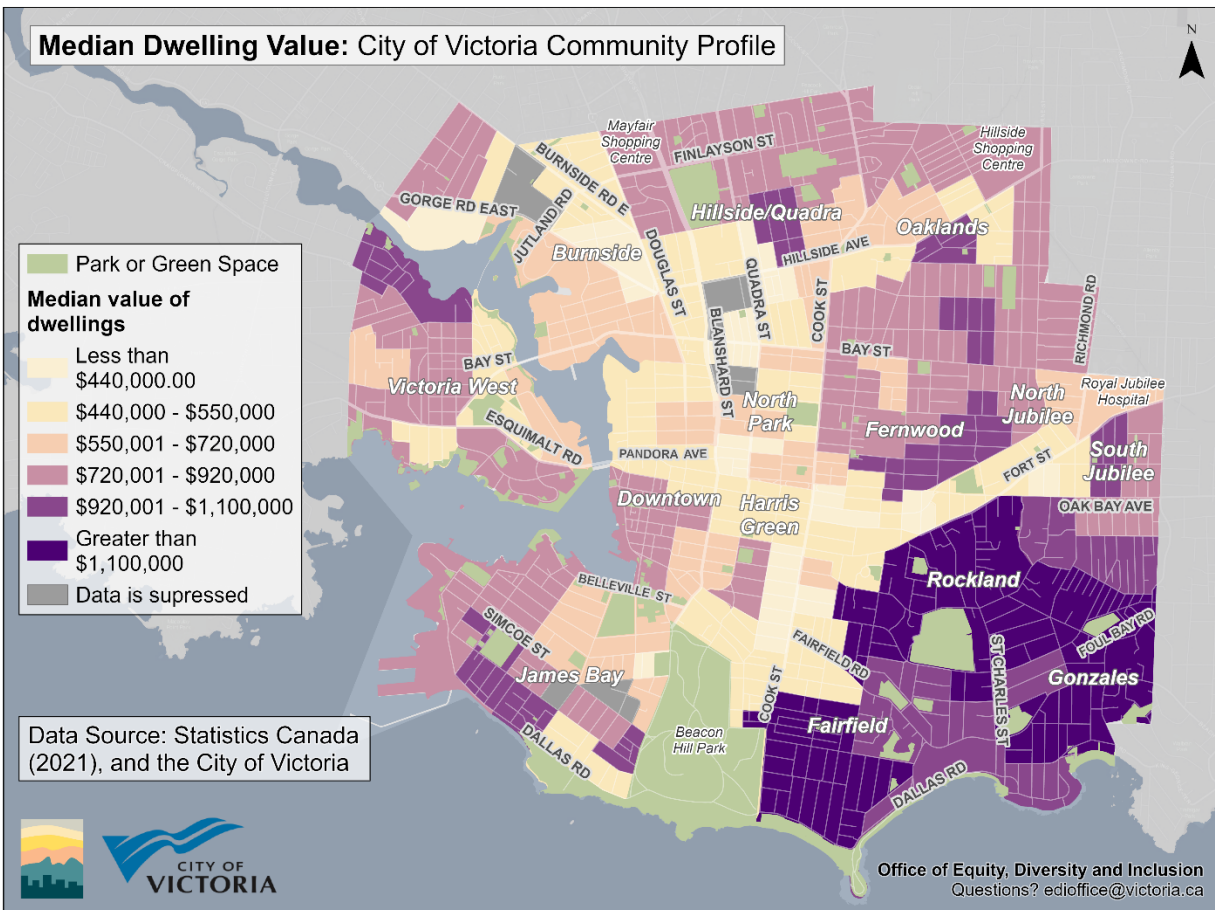


**The Low-Income Cut-Off (after tax)** refers to income thresholds, below which economic families or persons not in economic families would likely have devoted a larger share of their after-tax income than average to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing.

**How is it calculated?** Statistics Canada surveys the household income, and measures all reported incomes against the Low-Income Cut-Off, a calculated threshold of income based on surveyed expenditure patterns. Statistics Canada posits that the average family spends 43% of its after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing, and defines the threshold as an income level where a family would likely need to devote a greater share of their income to those same necessities. The percentage of households with an income below the threshold for their family type (for example, a family of four with two dependents) within the dissemination area is the final LICO calculation. This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** Low-Income Cut-off (LICO) can illustrate economic disparities as well as areas where residents are more likely to experience economic barriers. This is an important equity indicator as it can highlight inequitable distribution of public services as well as neighbourhoods where equity should be prioritized in project planning and implementation. For example, this indicator can highlight the need for affordable quality public transportation to connect low-income residents to services and employment centers.

## Median Home Value

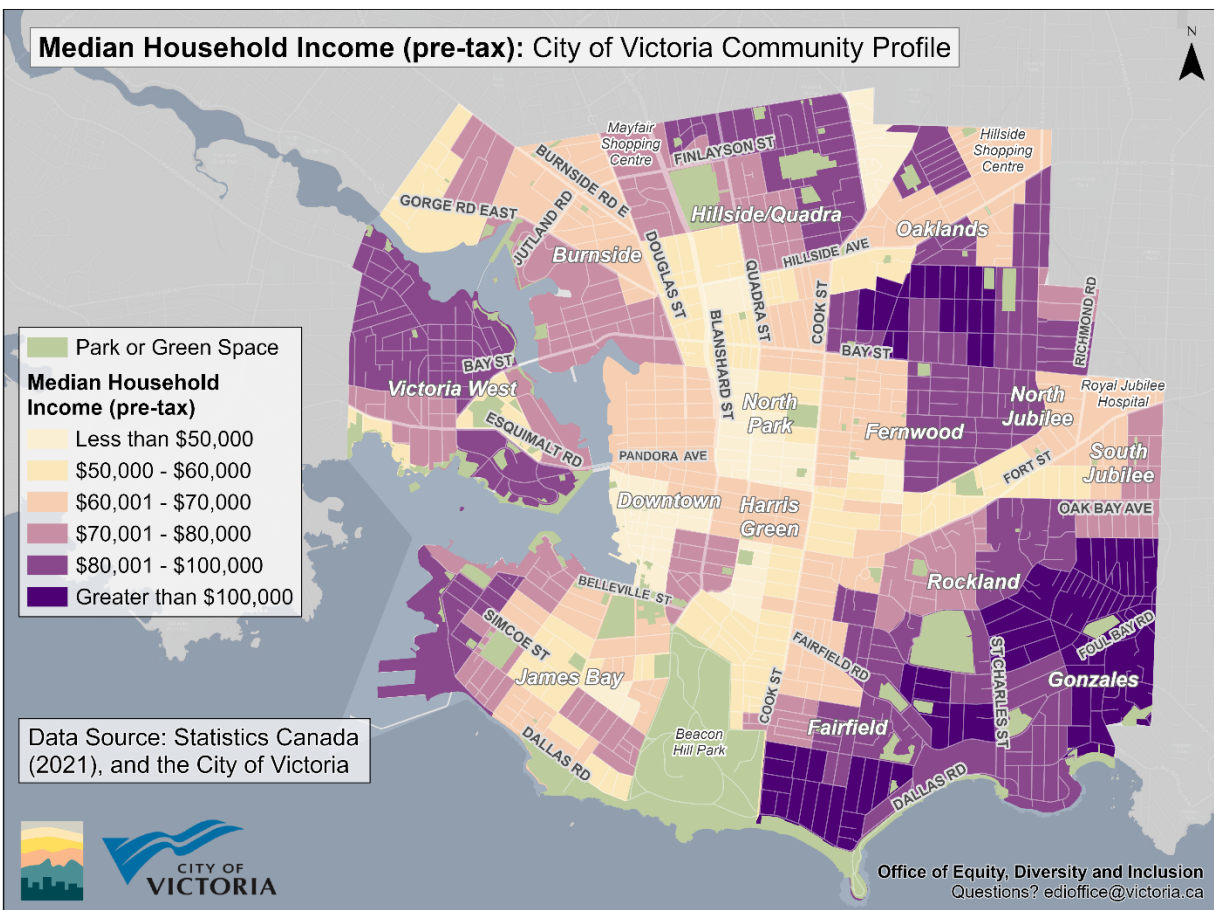


**Median owner estimated value of dwelling** refers to the dollar amount expected by the owner if the asset were to be sold. It refers to the value of the entire dwelling, including the value of the land it is on and of any other structure(s) on the property. The middle value within the range of reported estimated home values is assigned to the dissemination area, separating the higher and the lower half of all home values. Median can be a useful measure as opposed to mean (average) as it is not influenced by outlying extreme values.

**How is it calculated?** This indicator was measured by Statistics Canada in the 2021 census survey, by determining the median self-reported value reported within the dissemination area. This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** Median Home Value can highlight distribution of wealth while illustrating the landscape of housing affordability in the city.

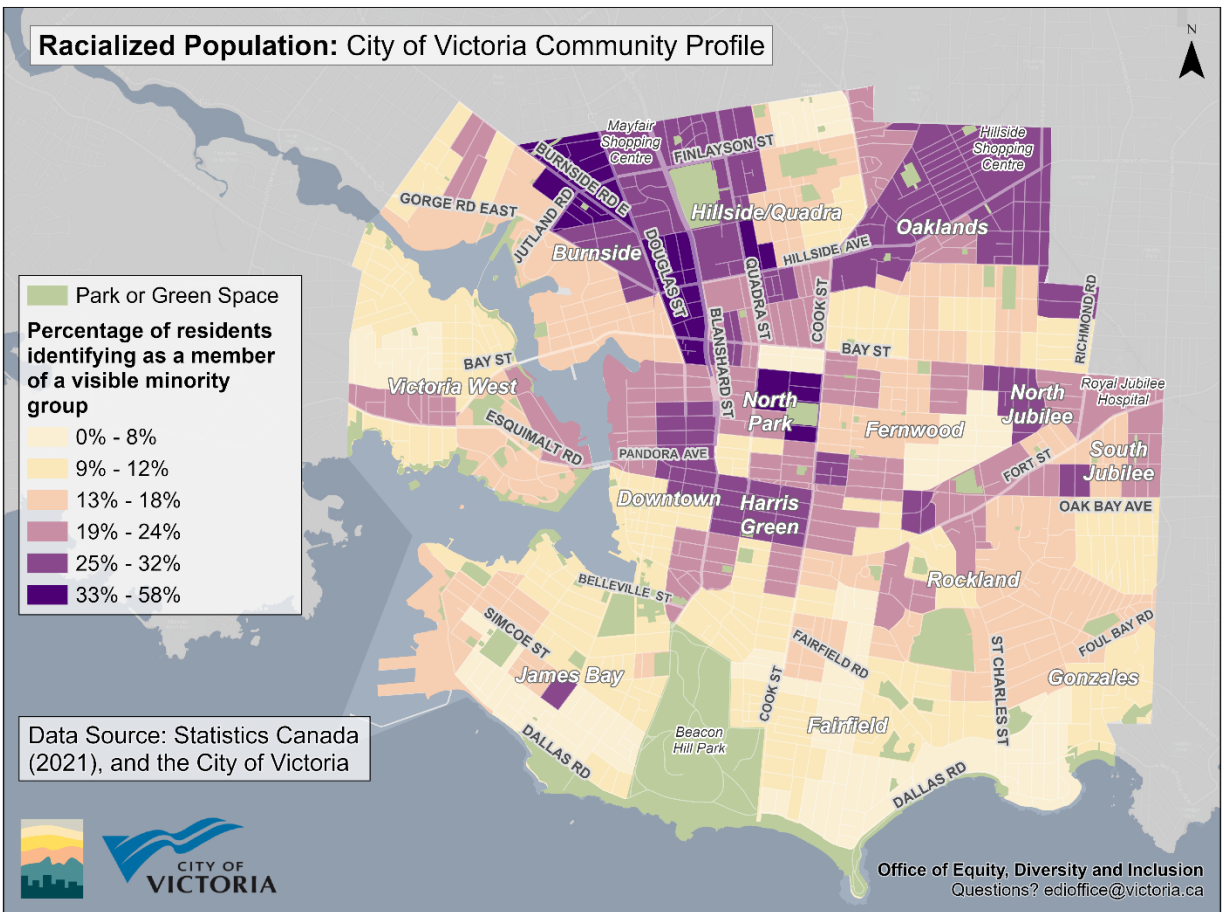
## Median Household Income



**Median household income** is defined as the middle value within the range of reported household incomes, separating the higher and the lower half of household incomes reported within the dissemination area. Median can be a useful measure as opposed to mean (average) as it is not influenced by outlying extreme values. A household is defined by Statistics Canada as all persons living together in the same dwelling.

**How is it calculated?** Household income is surveyed by Statistics Canada. The median is calculated by determining the middle value of all survey responses within the dissemination area. This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** Median household income is an equity indicator as it assesses and compares living standards and economic well-being. Changes in median household income can also highlight important patterns in neighbourhood change, particularly whether a neighbourhood is undergoing gentrification and if residents are at risk of displacement.



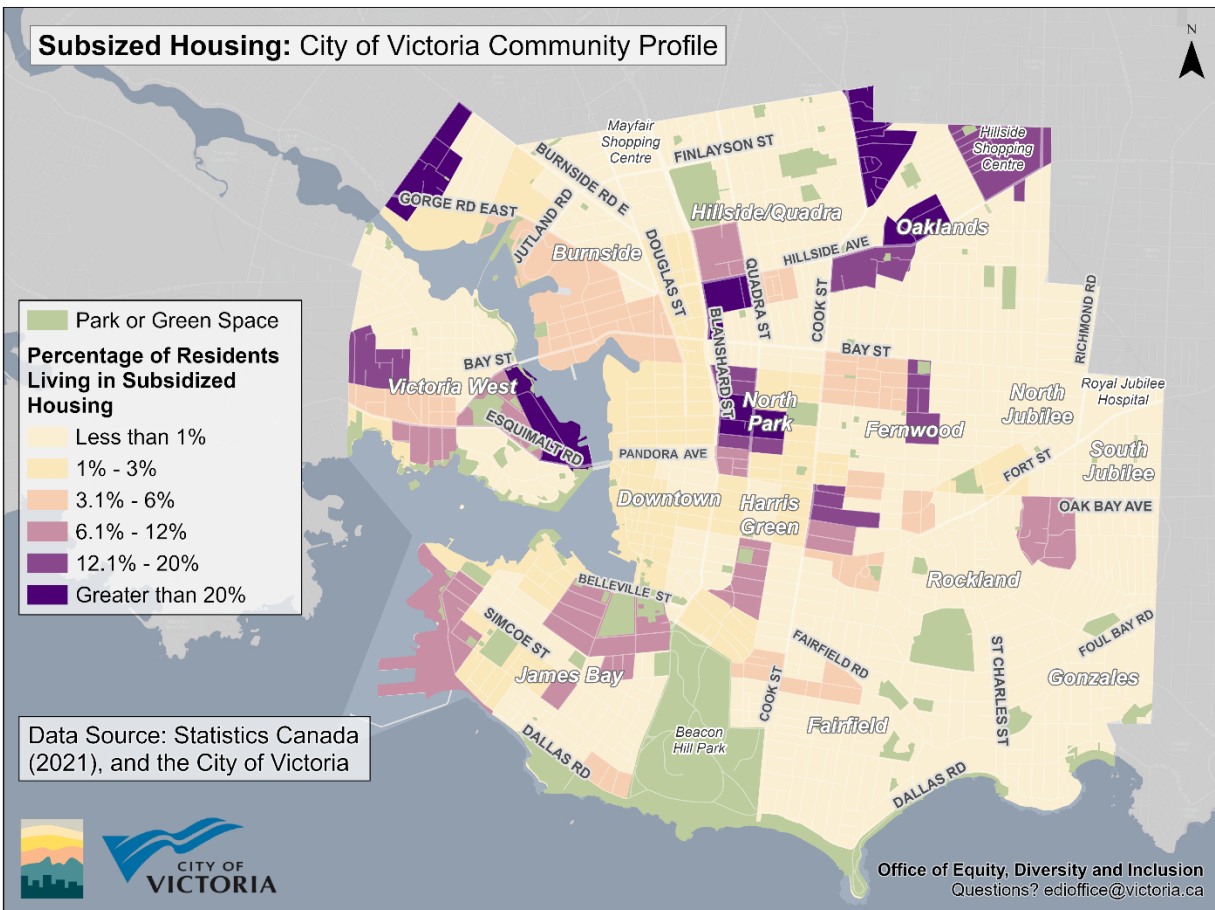
**Racialized population** uses the percentage of visible minority residents Census indicator, which refers to the percent of the population that is a member of a visible minority group. Visible Minority group is defined by the Employment Equity Act as, “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.”

**How is it calculated?** Percent visible minority refers to the percent of the population that is a member of a visible minority group, as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*. It is calculated as the total visible minority group data collected by Census Canada, divided by the sum of total visible minority and total not a visible minority population. More information can be found through Statistics Canada [here](#).

The census uses the term “visible minorities”. The term “visible minority” groups all racialized people into the same category, and fails to illustrate the diversity of lived experiences of racialized people. Despite these limitations, we use census data on “visible minorities,” due to the lack of disaggregated data on race in Canada.

**What does it mean?** The racialized population indicator sheds light on the proportion of neighbourhood residents that may identify as being racialized. This can highlight racial or ethnic disparities in service provision and investments in different communities.

## Subsidized housing

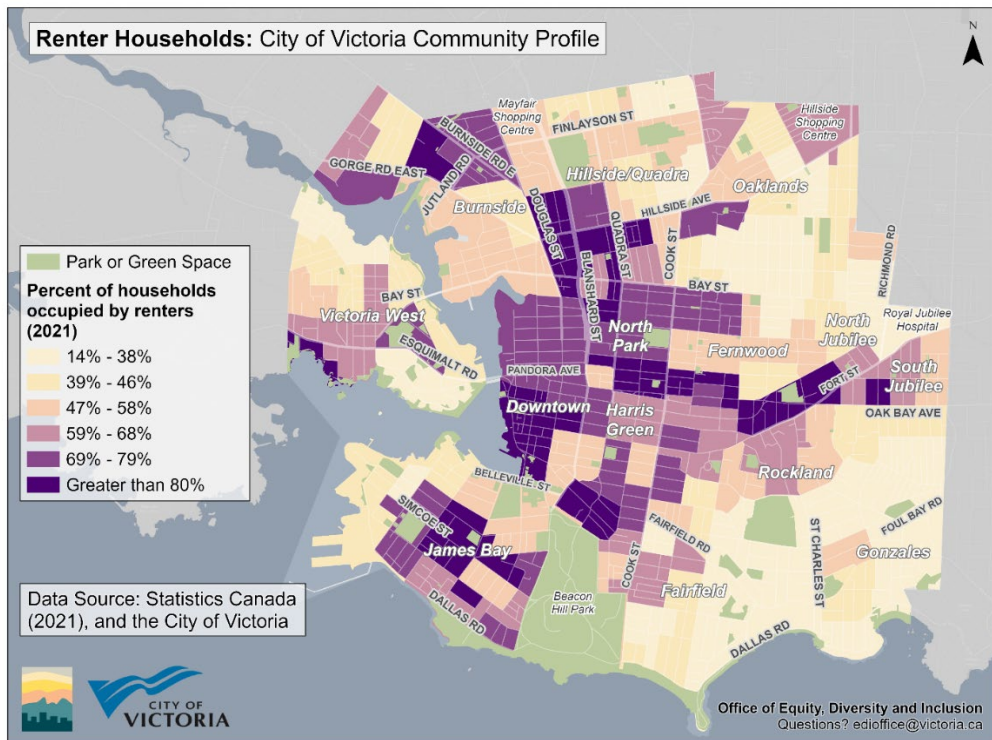
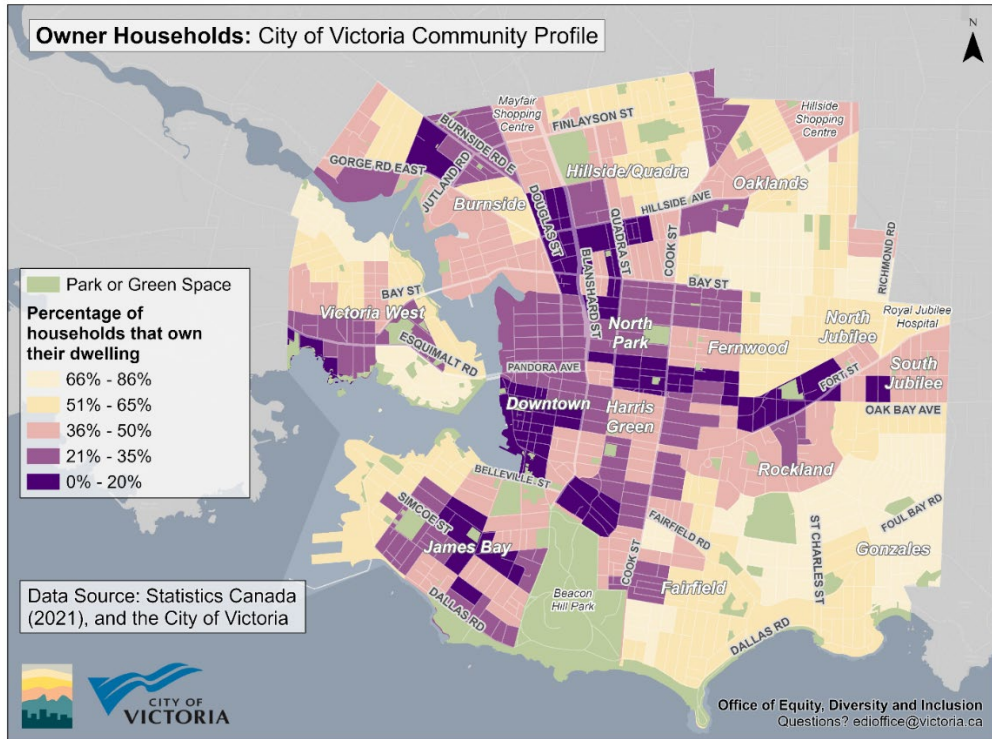


**Subsidized housing** refers to the percent of renter households that live in a dwelling that is subsidized. Subsidized housing includes rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, non-profit housing, rent supplements and housing allowances.

**How is it calculated?** Calculated by Statistics Canada by dividing the renter households that live in a subsidized dwelling by total renter households; This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** Residents of subsidized housing may experience barriers in other areas of their lives including barriers to employment, transportation, food, green space, as well as other public amenities. Additionally, subsidized housing has been stigmatized, resulting in a higher risk of marginalization for those living in subsidized housing, in some cases resulting in more limited access to public amenities. In order to ensure municipal service provision and infrastructure investments are distributed equitably, it is important to consider the unique needs of residents in subsidized housing, as well as those living in adjacent rental housing.

## Tenure (Owner and Renter Households)

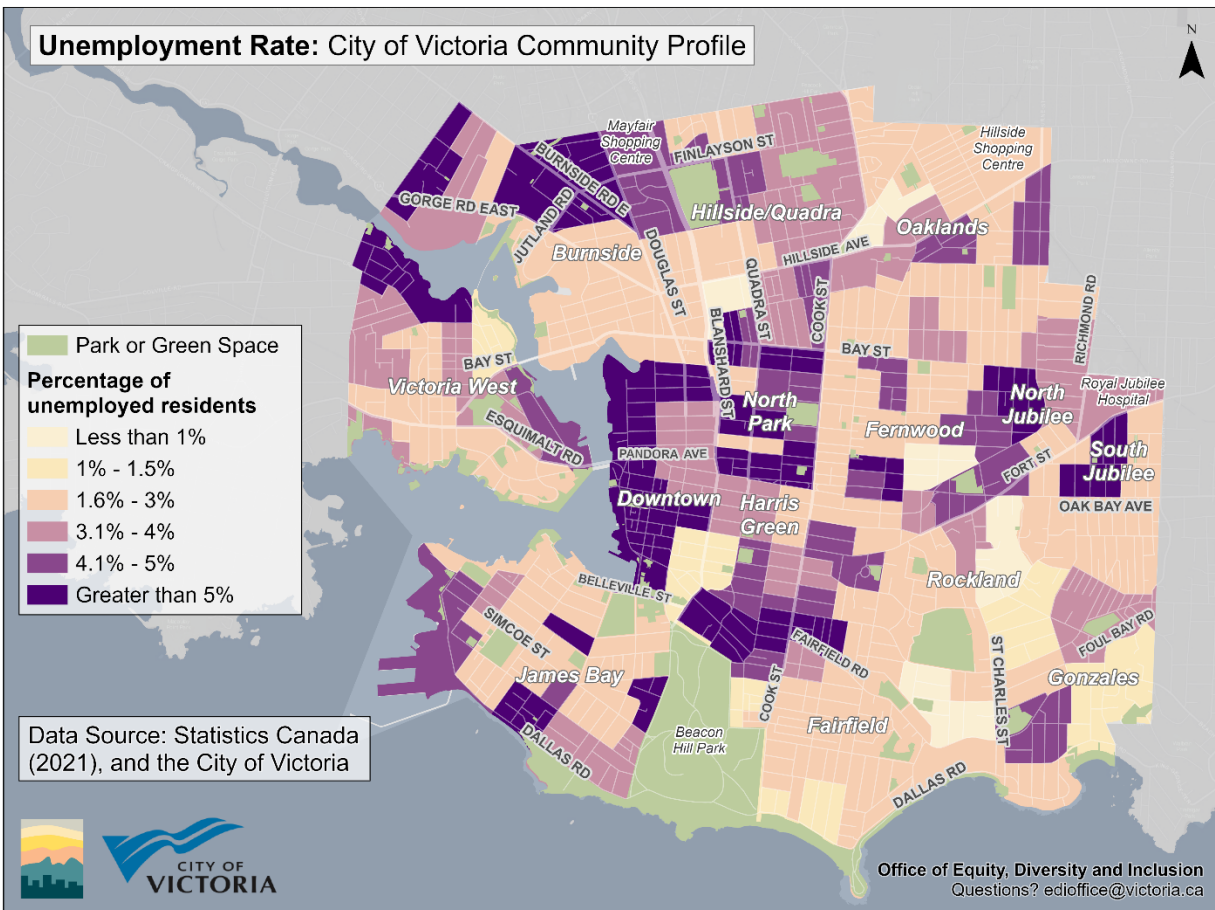


**Tenure** refers to whether the household owns or rents their dwelling. Owner household refers to a private household where some member of the household owns the dwelling, even if it is still being paid for. Leasehold properties, renter households are not owned by any member of the household, which includes dwellings that are rented at a reduced rate and housing cooperatives.

**How is it calculated?** Calculated by Statistics Canada by dividing the number of households in each tenureship category by total households. This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** Tenureship highlights which dissemination areas have higher rates of homeownership and which neighbourhoods are predominantly rental housing. Given that lower rates of homeownership are located in neighbourhoods with lower income and higher unemployment, this indicator illustrates areas where more residents are vulnerable to displacement.

## Unemployment Rate



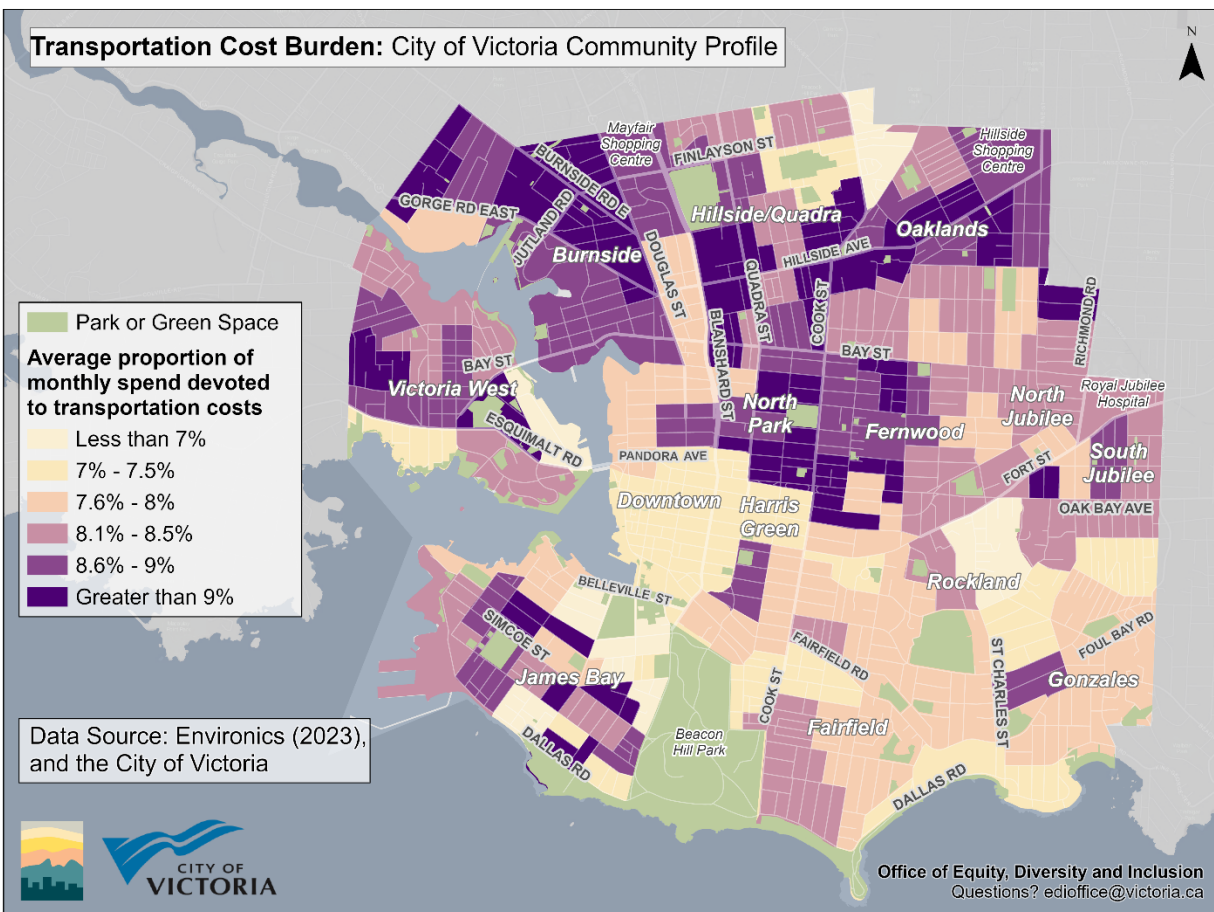
**The unemployment rate** is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

**How is it calculated?** Calculated by Statistics Canada by dividing the number of persons reporting as unemployed, but willing to work, by the total of employed persons. This means that unemployment rates are expressed as a percentage of the labour force, rather than total population (for example, it excludes retirees). This data is presented as calculated by Statistics Canada.

**What does it mean?** The unemployment rate is an equity indicator because in an equitable economy, everyone who wants to work would be employed. It relates to economic well-being and health.

## Other Indicator Sources

### Transportation Cost Burden

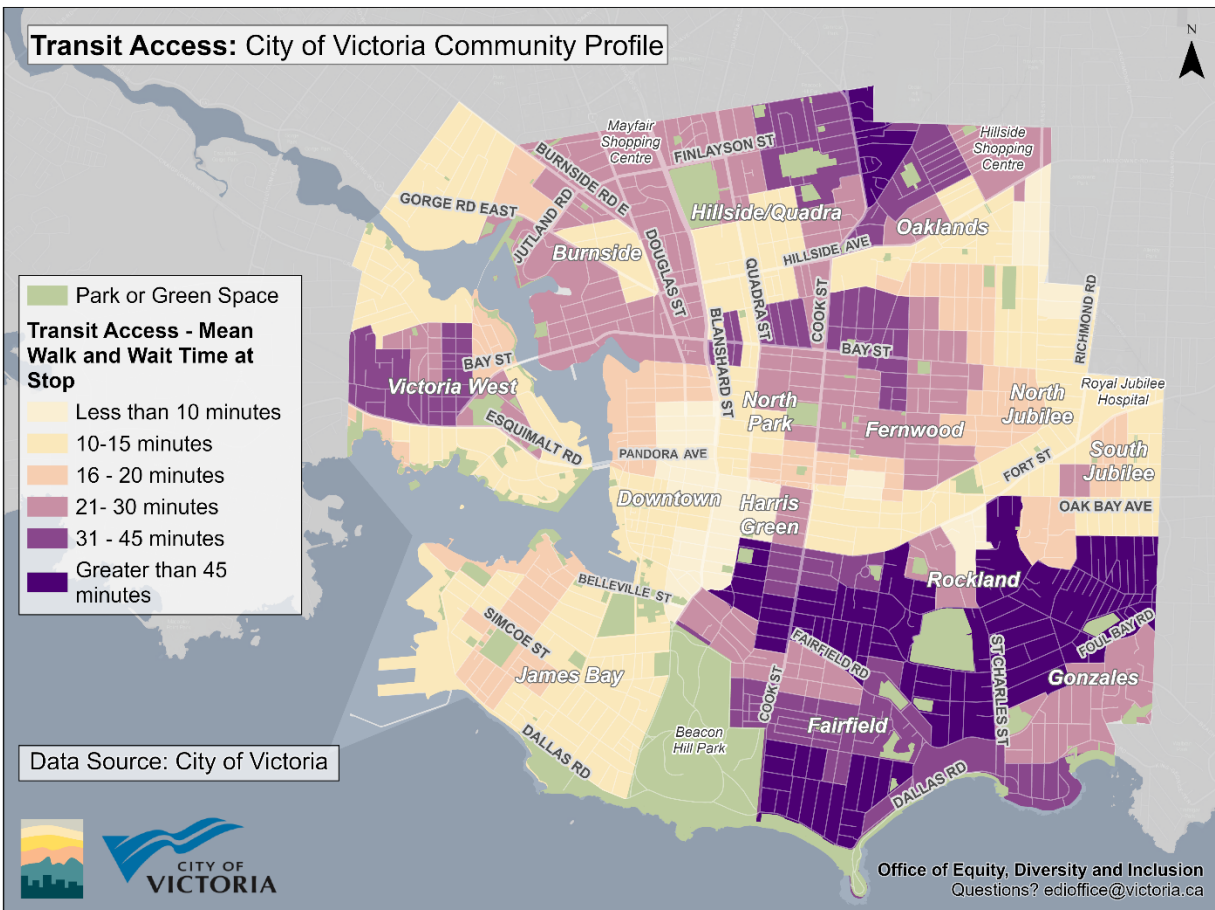


**Transportation cost burden** is defined as the average total spending on transportation annually, relative to total spend.

**How is it calculated?** Average transportation spending normalized by the total spend (2022), sourced from Environics and extracted at the dissemination area level using the geo-enrich service offered by ArcGIS Pro.

**What does it mean?** Spending on transportation is an equity indicator that lends insight into what proportion of a household's total costs are required for transportation rather than other essential and non-essential needs. It also relates to a household's access to low-cost transportation such as public transit and daily needs.

## Transit Access

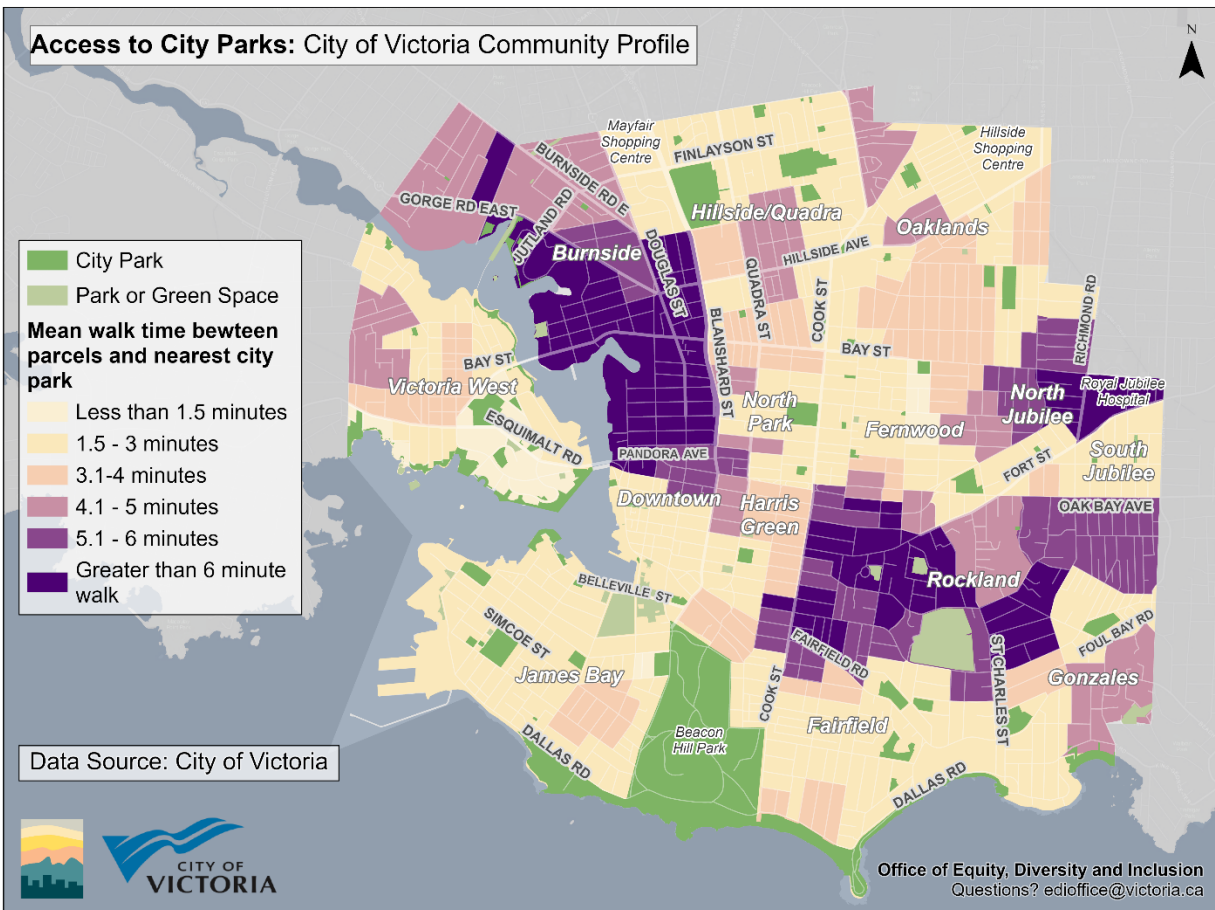


**Transit access** was defined as the average combined walking distance to and wait time at the nearest public transportation stop.

**How is it calculated?** Average walk times to transit stops were calculated using network analysis. The walking network developed for City Official Community Plan analysis was used for consistency across municipal access measures.

**What does it mean?** Transit access provides insight into the hidden costs and barriers to opportunity for those living in areas with limited access to transit. This is particularly relevant in the Victoria context as locations that typically see longer transit wait times are located in areas that are less proximal to daily needs, employment centres or post-secondary education. Transit access, particularly for households with no or limited access to a private vehicle, is critical for connecting people to jobs, education, amenities and key community services.

## City Parks Access (Distance)

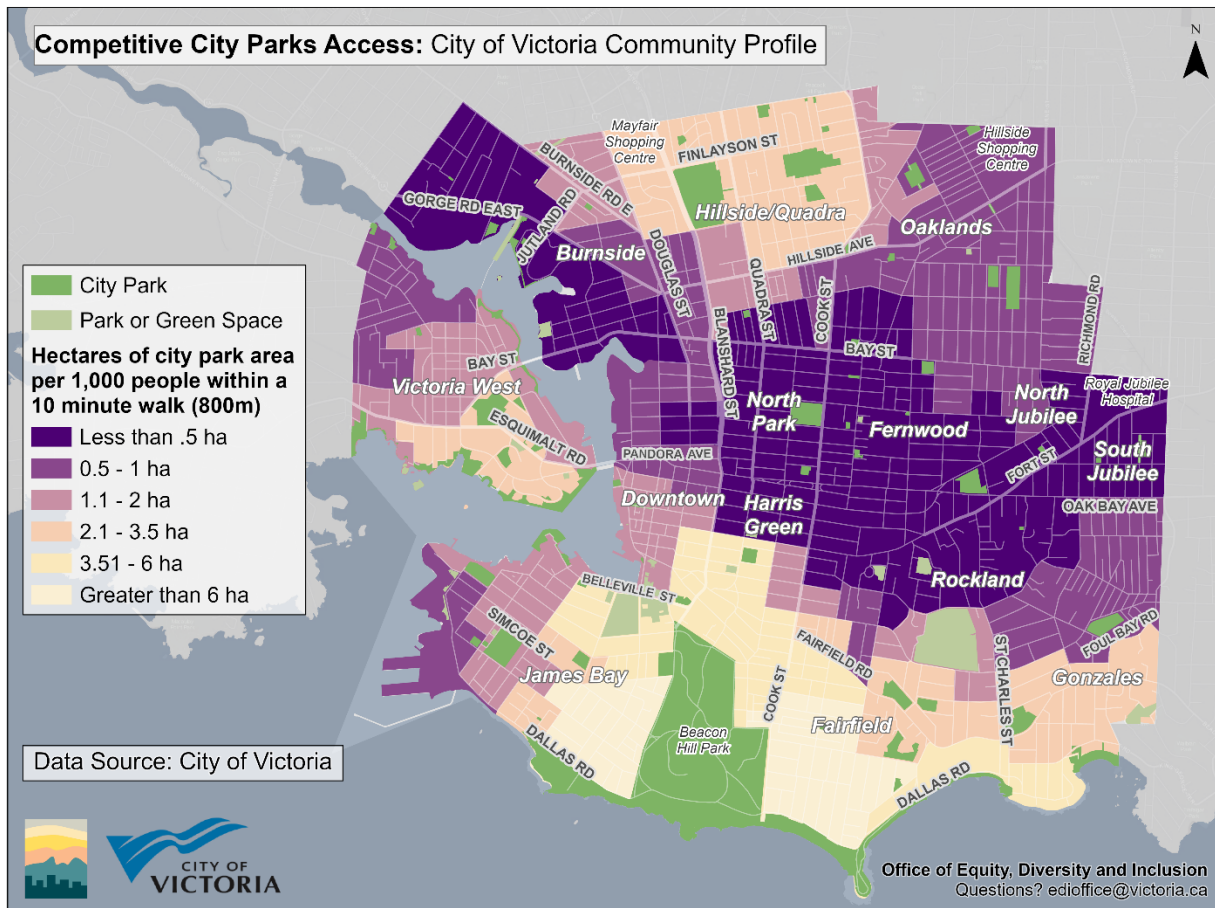


**Parks access** was defined as walking distance to the nearest City-owned park.

**How is it calculated?** Walking distances between parcels and city parks were calculated using network analysis. The walking network developed for the City's Official Community Plan analysis was used for consistency across municipal access measures. The average walking distance for parcels in each DA was calculated and converted to walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**What does it mean?** Access to parks is essential to our wellbeing as well as our physical and mental health. Dissemination areas with limited access to parks may experience negative impacts to their health and wellbeing. Parks can also serve as hubs for social and family gatherings and create a sense of community belonging. If parks are not within safe walking distance for children, young adults, and seniors, these residents may lack access to local hubs for community building and wellbeing.

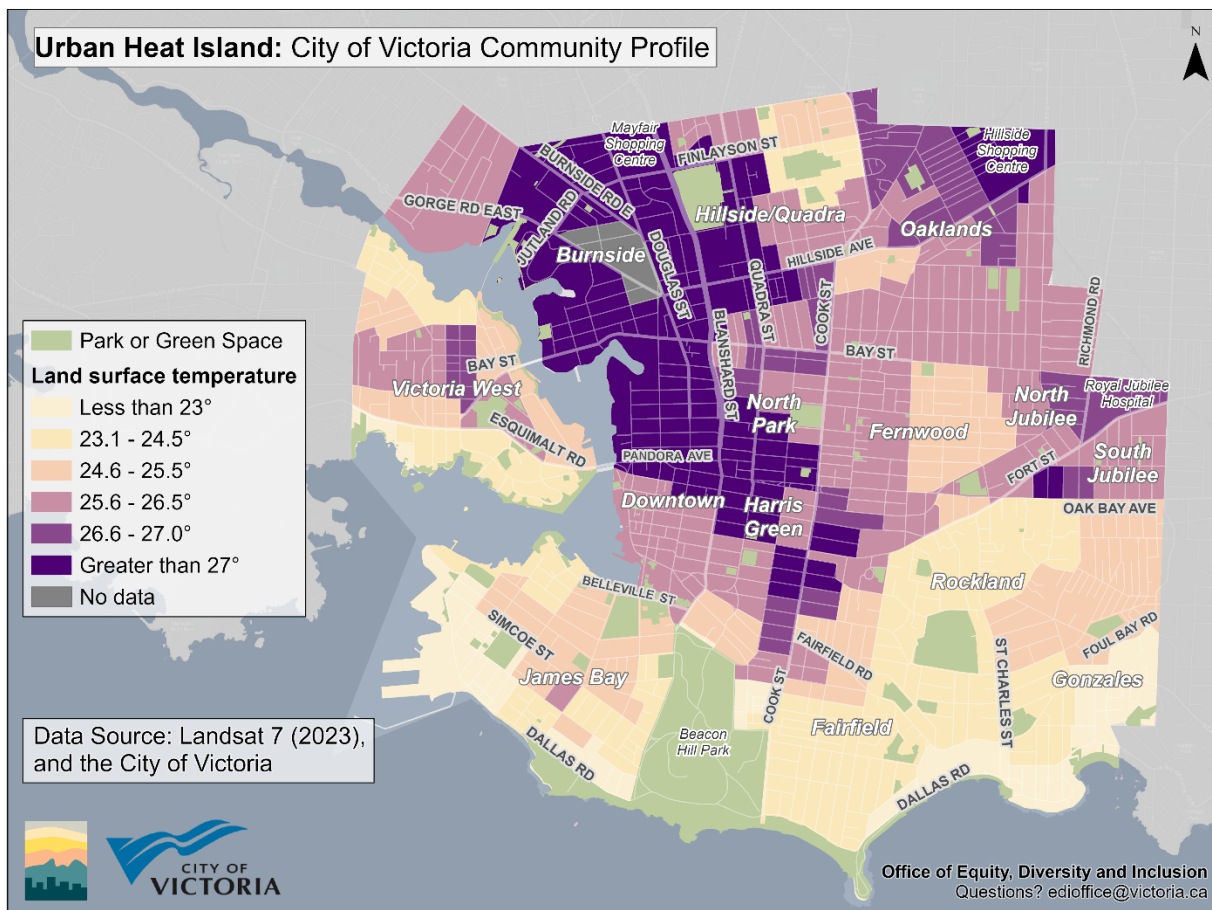
## City Parks Access (Competitive)



**Competitive parks access** was defined as walking distance to the nearest city park, as well as space availability to each individual (competition for space). Walking distance was defined as a 10-minute walk (800 m), and the measure represents the total park hectareage available per 1,000 persons.

**How is it calculated?** Walking distances between parcels and city parks were calculated using network analysis, to a maximum of 800 m. The walking network developed for City’s Official Community Plan analysis was used for consistency across municipal access measures. The total park hectareage a parcel had access to was then divided by the population factor (how many 1,000 persons also had access to the same park). The parcel totals were averaged by dissemination area.

**What does it mean?** Access to parks is essential to our wellbeing as well as our physical and mental health. As a result, dissemination areas with limited access to parks may experience negative impacts to their health and wellbeing. Furthermore, parks can serve as hubs for social and family gatherings and create a sense of community belonging. If parks are not within safe walking distance for children, young adults, and seniors, these residents may lack access to local hubs for community building and wellbeing. This indicator provides necessary nuance to Park Access (Distance) by detailing the quality of access to park space.



**An urban heat island** is an urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities, such as differences in infrastructure and how well the surfaces in each environment absorb and emit heat. Areas with higher park density and green space tend to have lower land surface temperatures. Higher temperatures occur in urban centers with more hard or concrete infrastructure.

**How is it calculated?** Landsat 7’s raster imagery is a satellite data source that detects surface temperature. Imagery was collected between August and September 2021, as it is typically the hottest time period of the year. August 24 was selected for mapping due to lack of cloud cover and other anomalies in the image. The recorded high temperature that day was 23 degrees Celsius.

Next, statistical analysis was used to determine the average land surface temperature within a dissemination area, based on Landsat 7’s raster imagery. Each pixel in the satellite image has a value that represents temperature, so these were averaged across the dissemination area as it is the same geographic area used for other indicators in this study. No data values (represented in the satellite data as a 0) were ignored to account for “banding” errors (satellite images sometimes have stripes of no data) in order to not falsely bring down the average with 0 values.

**What does it mean?** Heat islands are an equity indicator because extreme heat poses a health risk, particularly for seniors and children.

## 2016-2021 Change: Census and Covid-19

The 2021 Census data was collected in May 2020 during the first phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic had significant impacts on the way people lived, worked and traveled, and this is reflected in the data the Census collected. We know that some indicators are more impacted than others; indicators related to income and employment were most influenced by pandemic factors. During the census data collection, the federal government was distributing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). We know that 35.2% of all Canadian workers who earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 received CERB payments in 2020, up to a maximum of \$14,000 from May to September 2020. In Victoria, 78% of residents were receiving some form of Covid-19 related benefit and 30.3% were receiving income replacement benefits.

These income replacement benefits had the greatest impact on low-wage workers. For the lowest-earning households in Canada, income between 2019 and 2020 increased by 529% temporarily.

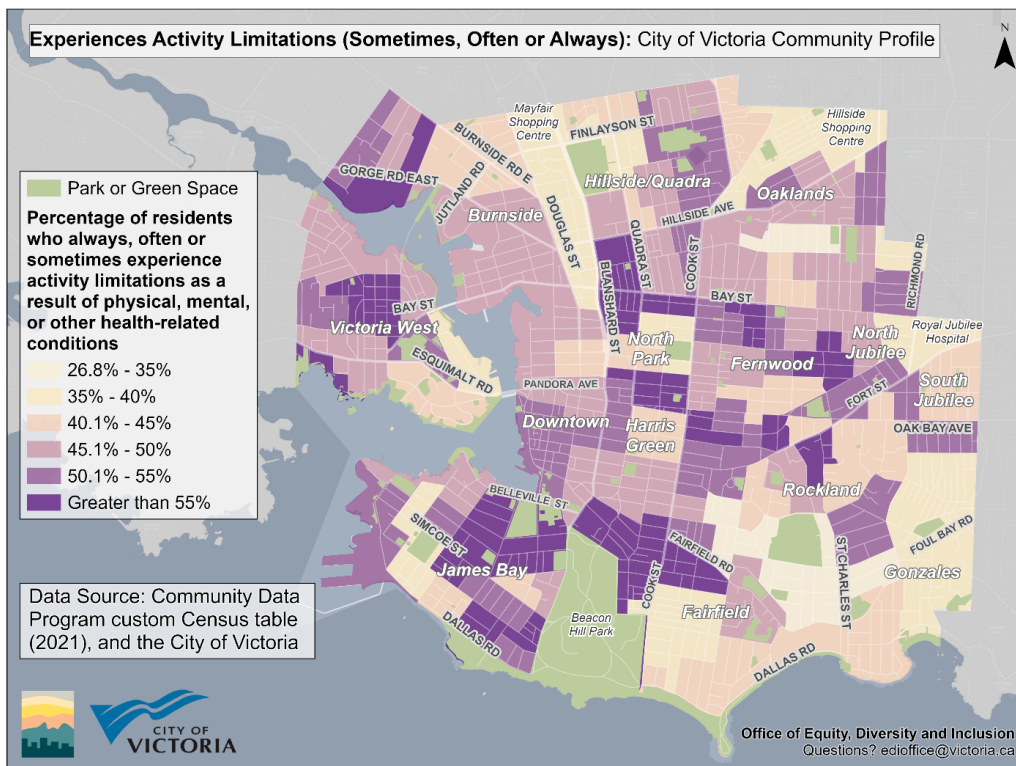
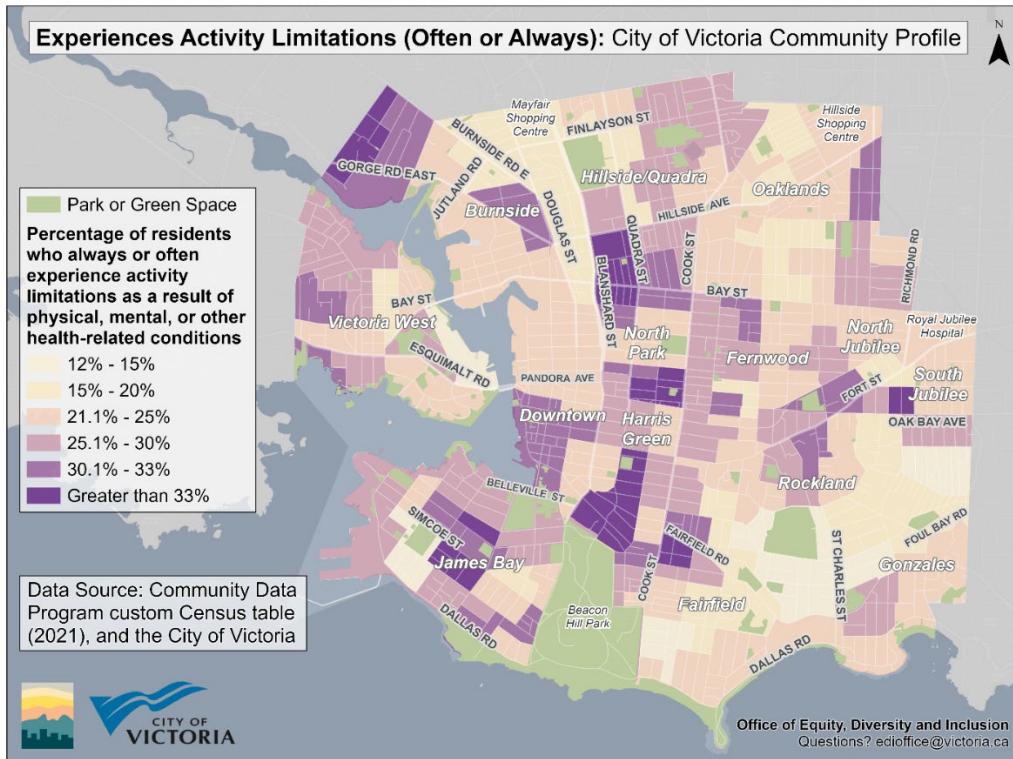
As core housing need is partially calculated off income, and incomes were temporarily increased by CERB at the time of Census data collection, core housing need and housing cost burden have been artificially depressed. Furthermore, the economic circumstances from 2021-2023 have also been far more volatile in many communities across Canada, so many communities have also seen a dramatic increase in home costs, rents, and expenses, which should be considered when evaluating these indicators and Median Home Value. In addition to the impact employment changes had on housing related indicators, the unemployment rate was evidently impacted (rising from 6.0% in 2016 to 8.1% in 2021) as well as commute length. Commutes generally reduced in length, as most non-essential workers became remote.

When using these indicators in our decision making, it is important to keep these issues, which can be framed as suppression, in mind. If looking at the core housing need indicator during an exploratory phase of work, consider that the Census underestimated the problem due to Covid-19 factors (and that the Census generally underreports on most vulnerable populations when surveying). This is why data is only one facet of integrating equity into decision making; community outreach remains a key pillar of promoting equitable outcomes.

# Community Profile – New Indicators

## Census Based Indicators

### Activity Limitations



**Activity Limitations** is the percentage of the population who experience physical or mental activity limitations.

The first figure illustrates the cumulative proportion of the population that experiences activity limitations often or always (meaning a large proportion of the time). The second figure illustrates the cumulative proportion of the population that experiences activity limitations sometimes, often or always (meaning at least some proportion of the time).

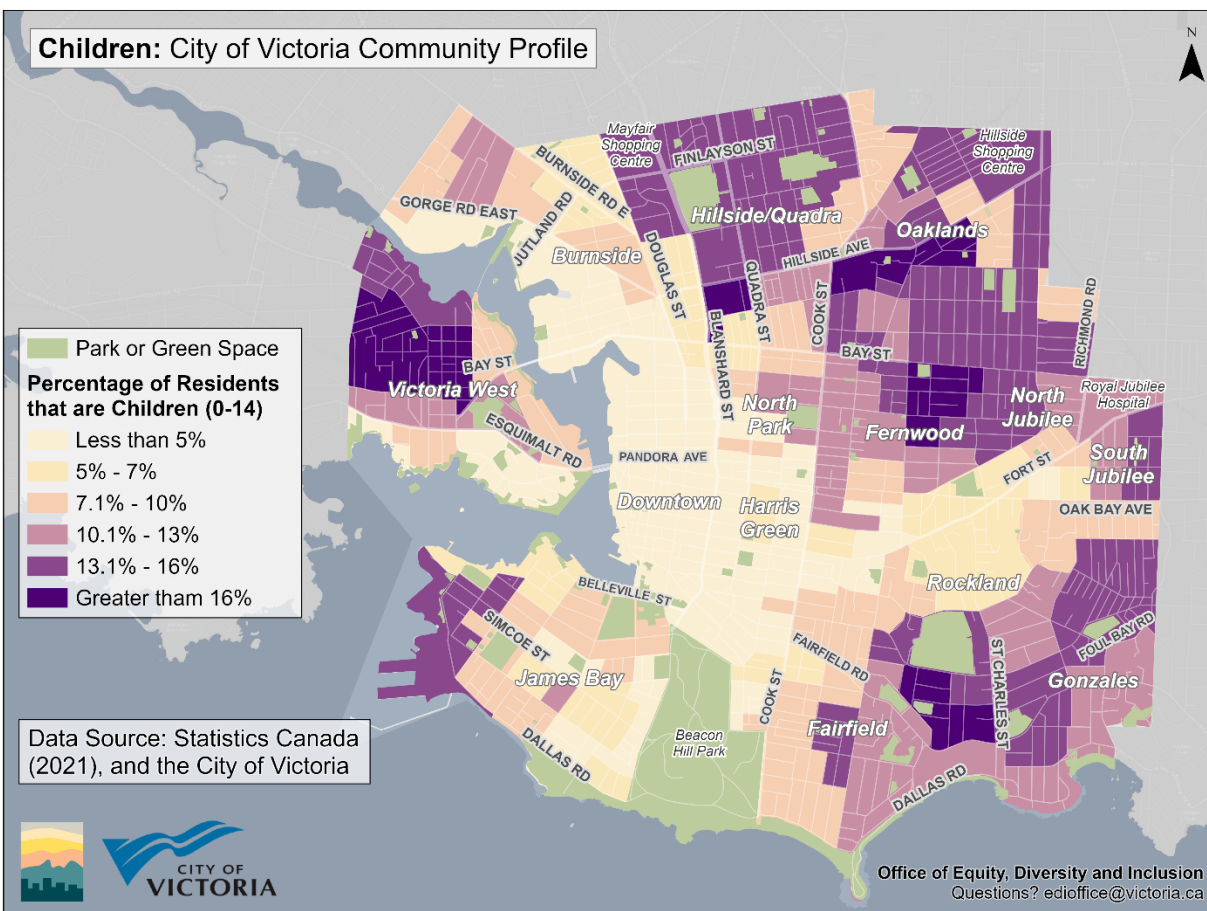
**How is it calculated?** Limitations to activities of daily living is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 Census survey. The survey questions refer to difficulties a person may have doing certain activities as a result of physical, mental, or other health-related conditions or problems, including;

- difficulty seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses);
- difficulty hearing (even when using a hearing aid);
- difficulty walking, using stairs, using his/her hands or fingers or doing other physical activities;
- difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating;
- emotional, psychological or mental health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, anorexia, etc.); or,
- other health problem or long-term condition that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more.

Respondents are able to select No, Sometimes, Often or Always as a response to the activity limitations listed above.

**What does it mean?** While it is important to measure the prevalence of specific health conditions and disabilities, it is also important to understand the burden and impact of long-term health conditions on the principal domains of life: home, work, school, and other activities. The activity limitation indicator helps to monitor this burden in the population, and differentiates how many residents are experiencing limitations most of the time and some of the time. This indicator can intersect with other determinants of inequity (such as low-income cut-offs) as some activity limitations result in barriers to employment and accommodation needs for accessing public spaces.

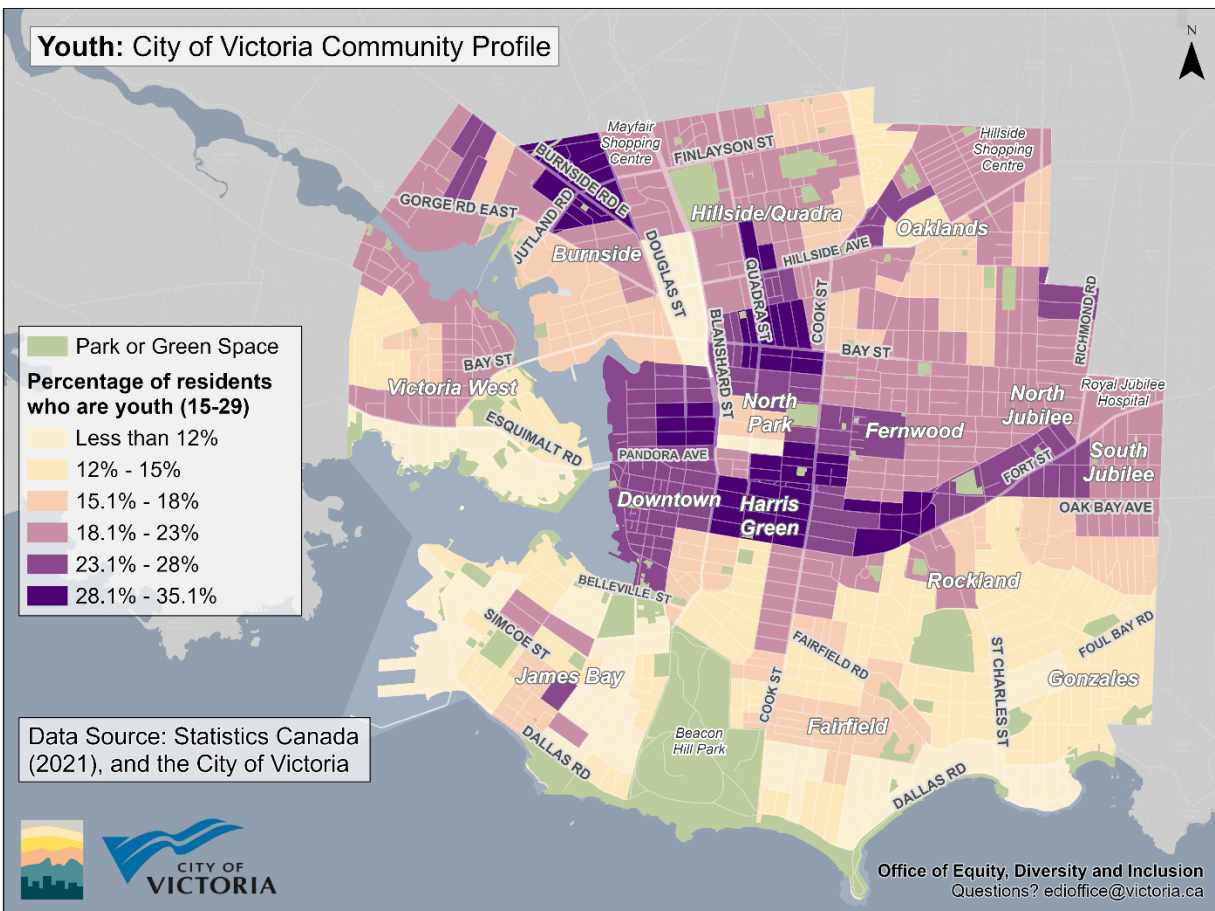
## Children



**Children** is the percentage of the population aged 0 to 14 years.

**How is it calculated?** Ages of all population is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 Census survey. The total number of individuals in the 0-14 age category were divided by the total number of residents surveyed to determine the percentage of children in the dissemination area.

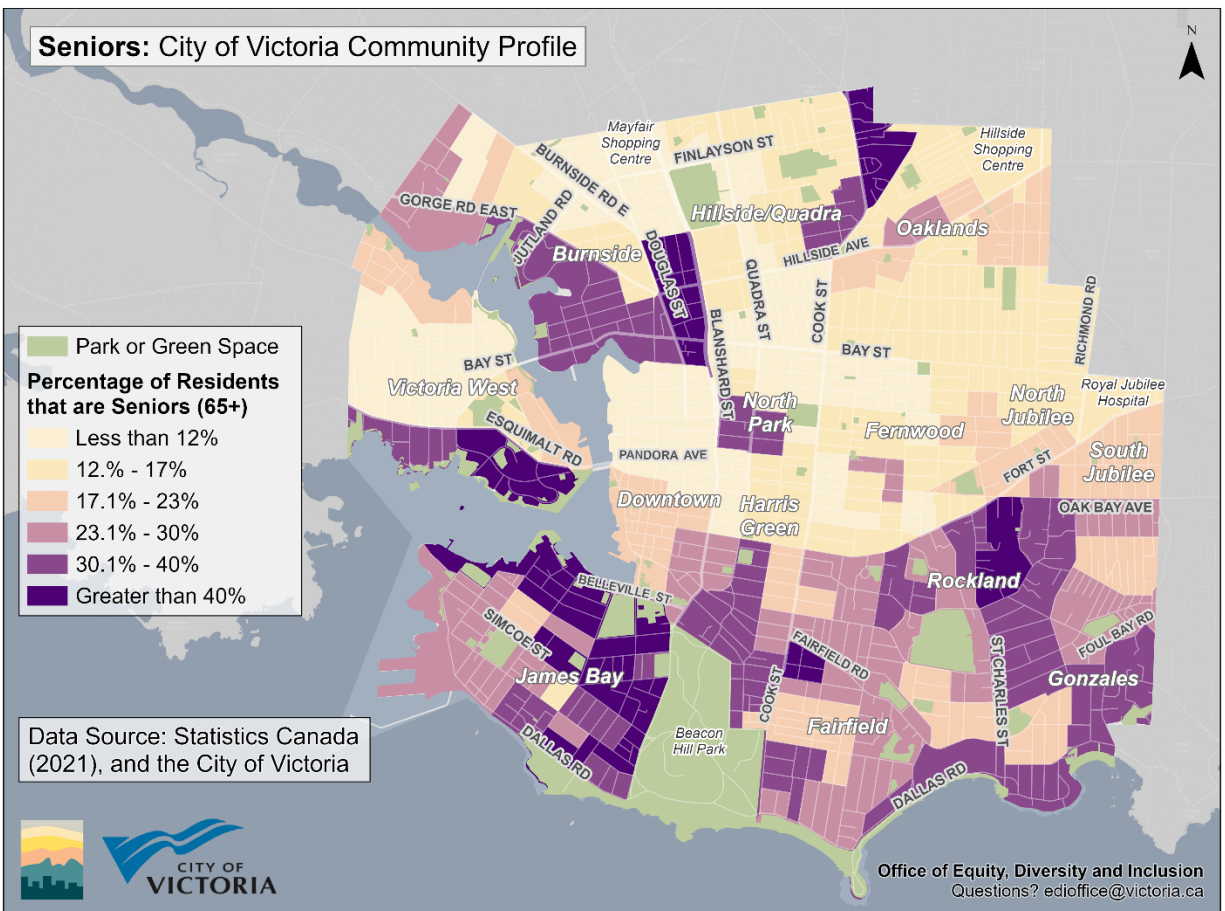
**What does it mean?** Children have limited resources and are dependent on caregivers for shelter, food, and other basic needs. While not necessarily a measure of inequity as a stand-alone metric, children have unique needs that can be considered in some planning contexts (such as locations of schools, parks with playground amenities) and can intersect with other determinants of inequity (such as low-income cut-offs) as children have limited resources and are dependent on caregivers for shelter, food, and other basic needs.



**Youth** is the percentage of the population aged 15 to 29 years.

**How is it calculated?** Ages of all population is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 Census survey. The total number of individuals in the 15 to 29 years age category were divided by the total number of residents surveyed to determine the percentage of youth in the dissemination area.

**What does it mean?** While not necessarily a measure of inequity as a stand-alone metric, youth generally have lower earning power in comparison to adults. Many youth are students or are just starting careers, and are also at the period of life where individuals would move out of their parents' home and form their own households. This makes youth particularly prone to intersections with other determinants of inequity, such as core housing need, renter households and average rental costs. Furthermore, youth may be navigating emerging sexual and gender identities. As there is an absence of dissemination area level gender identity stats, and no Census questions related to individual sexual identity, and given 19% of BC high school students identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or not exclusively heterosexual, youth can be used as a proxy for LGBTQ related data in some contexts.

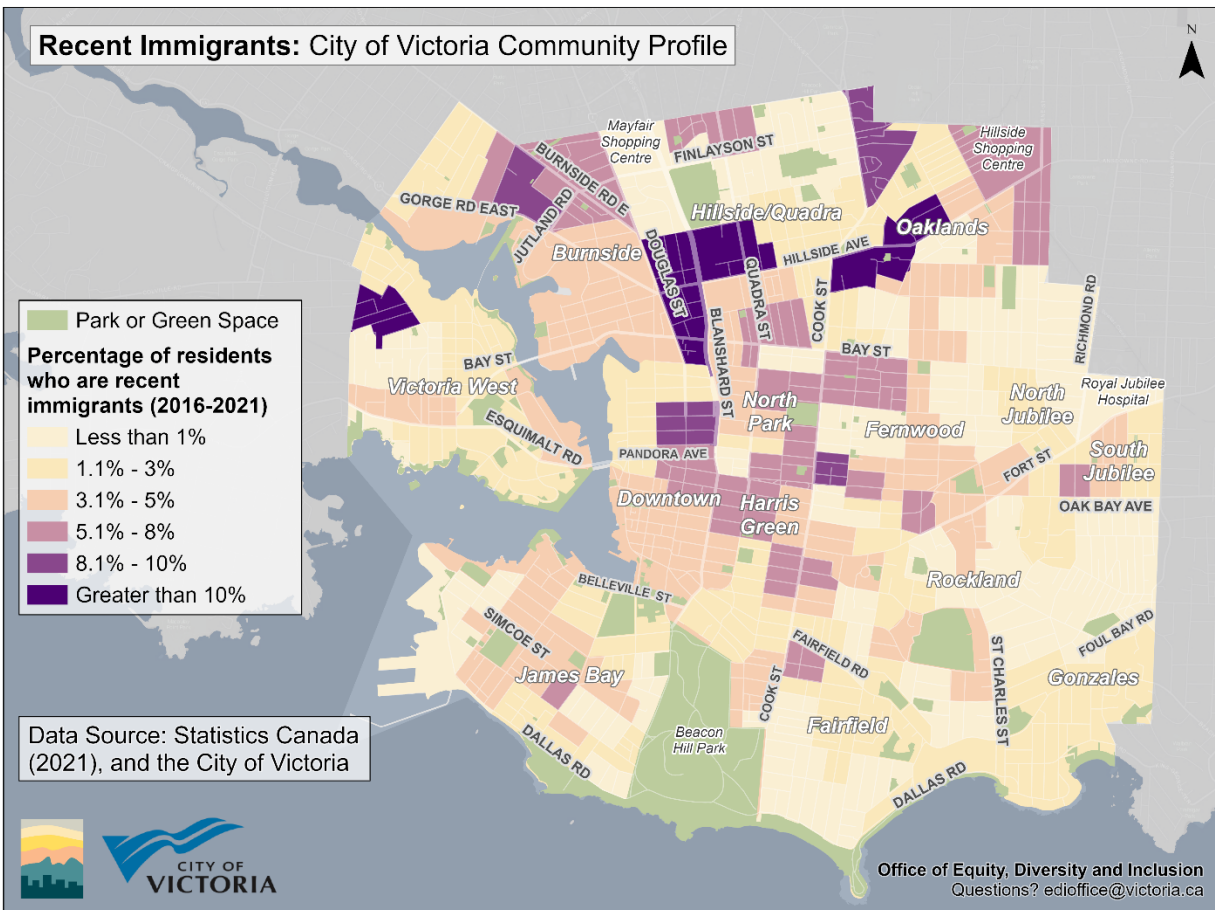


**Seniors** is the percentage of the population aged 65 years and over.

**How is it calculated?** Ages of all population is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 census survey. The total number of individuals in the 65+ age category were divided by the total number of residents surveyed to determine the percentage of seniors in the dissemination area.

**What does it mean?** While not necessarily a measure of inequity as a stand-alone metric, seniors have unique needs that can be considered in some planning contexts (such as locations of recreation centres and accessibility) and can intersect with other determinants of inequity (such as low-income cut-offs) as seniors may have lower earning power or be on fixed incomes.

## Recent Immigrants



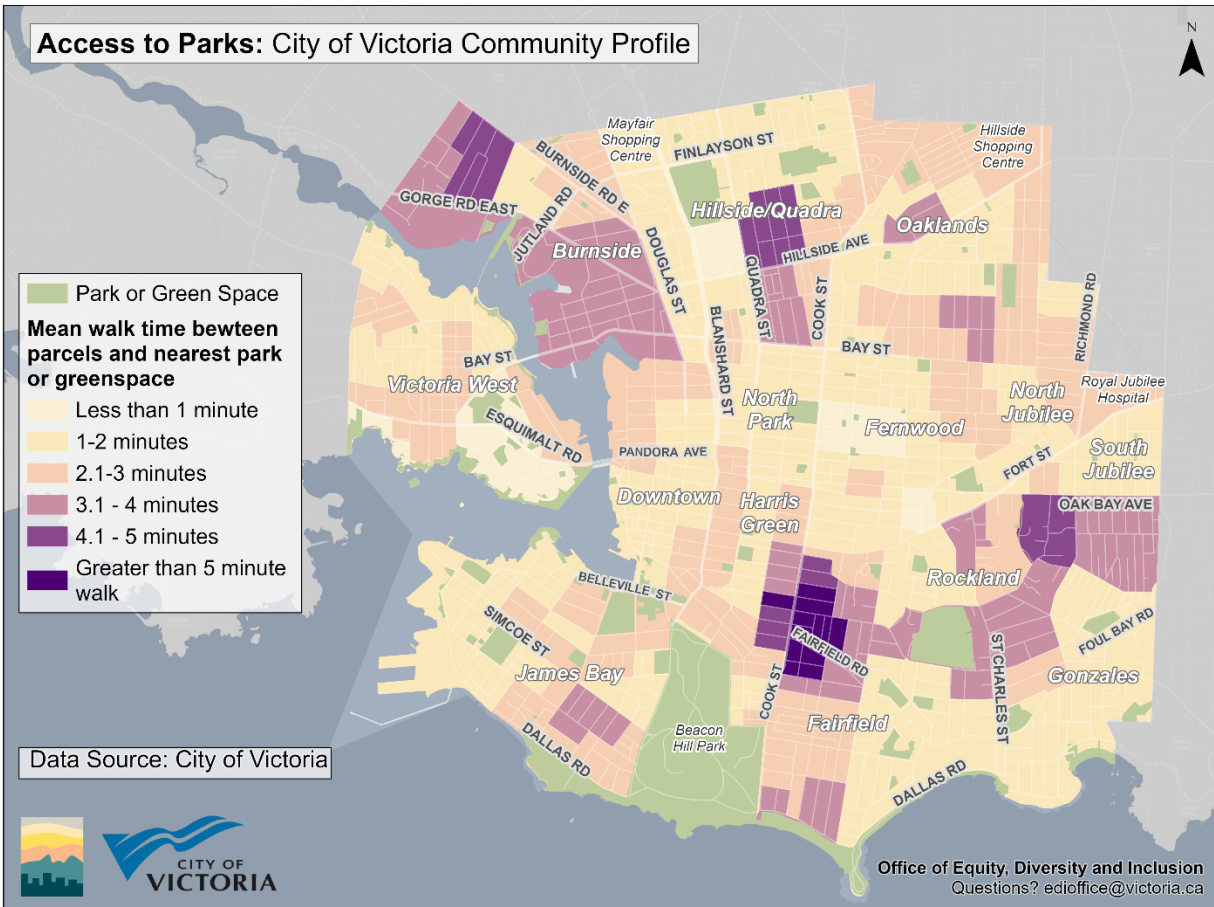
**Recent immigrants** is the percentage of the population who are foreign born and have recently (since 2016) immigrated to Canada.

**How is it calculated?** Immigrant status is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 census survey. The total number of individuals in the recent immigrant category were divided by the total number of residents surveyed (including other immigrants, citizens and non-permanent residents) to determine the percentage of recent immigrants in the dissemination area.

**What does it mean?** While not necessarily a measure of inequity as a stand-alone metric, recent immigrants have unique needs that can be considered in some planning contexts. Starting new households and potentially having less local knowledge and support networks may result in higher difficulty in finding affordable housing, which relates to core housing need and average rental costs. Newcomer identity can also intersect with other determinants of inequity (such as low-income cut-offs or racialized communities).

## Other Indicator Sources

### Parks Access (Distance)

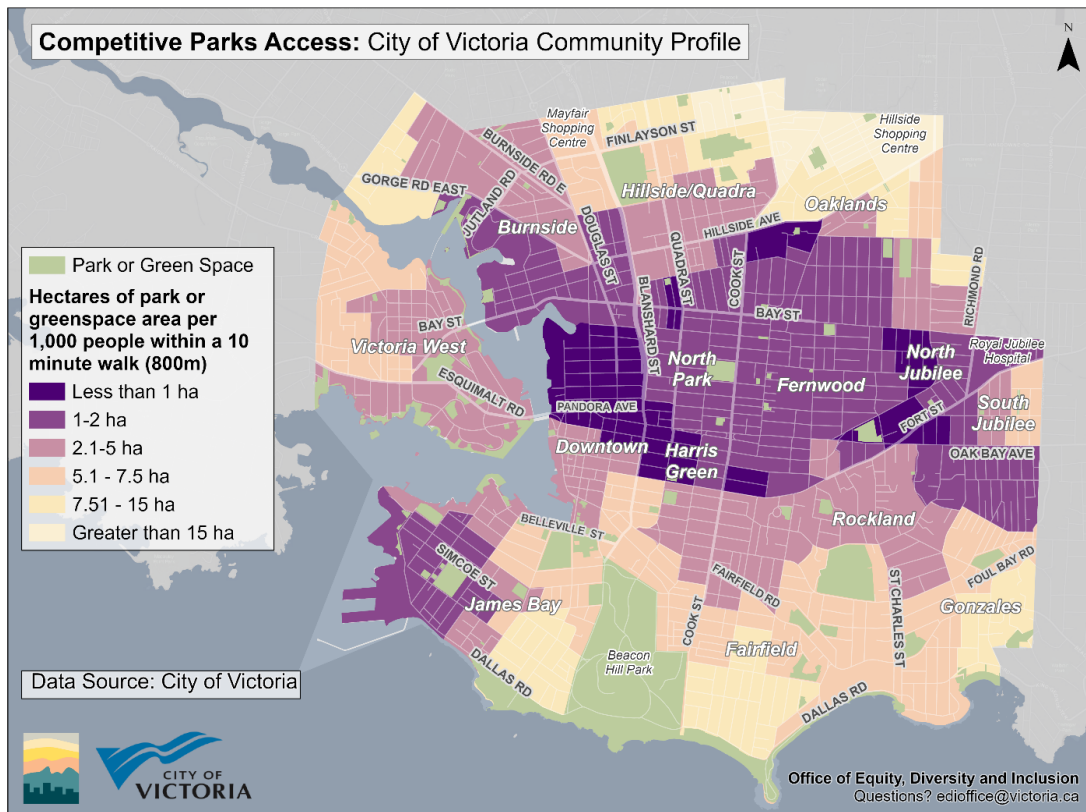


**Parks access** was defined as walking distance to the nearest park or greenspace. In addition to city owned parks, regional & municipal parks, federal & provincial parks, public facilities, school grounds, privately owned park spaces, greenspaces, greenways and cemeteries were included in the analysis.

**How is it calculated?** Walking distances between parks and greenspaces were calculated using network analysis. The walking network developed for City's Official Community Plan analysis was used for consistency across municipal access measures. The average walking distance for parcels in each dissemination area was calculated and converted to walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**What does it mean?** Access to parks is essential to health and wellbeing. While access to City parks is an important indicator as the City is able to manage provision, quality and servicing, access to other sources of greenspace is also valuable to residents.

## Parks Access (Competitive)



**Competitive parks access** was defined as walking distance to the nearest park or greenspace as well as space availability to each individual (competition for space). In addition to city owned parks, regional & municipal parks, federal & provincial parks, public facilities, school grounds, privately owned park spaces, greenspaces, greenways and cemeteries were included in the analysis. Walking distance was defined as a 10-minute walk (800 m), and the measure represents the total park hectareage available per 1,000 persons.

**How is it calculated?** Walking distances between parcels and parks/greenspaces were calculated using network analysis, to a maximum of 800 m. The walking network developed for the City’s Official Community Plan analysis was used for consistency across municipal access measures. The total park or greenspace hectareage a parcel had access to was then divided by the population factor (how many persons also had access to the same park). The parcel totals were averaged by dissemination area.

**What does it mean?** Access to parks is essential to residents’ health and wellbeing. While competitive access to city parks is an important indicator as the City is able to manage provision, quality and servicing, access to other sources of greenspace is also valuable to resident’s health and community gathering spaces. Understanding the competition adds necessary nuance to the distance-based parks access indicator, and allows for greater understanding of the quality of parks and greenspace residents have access to.

# Neighbourhood Community Profiles

Neighbourhood Community Profiles are summaries overviewing the Census data within a more interpretable neighbourhood geography. These profiles are aimed to community partners, advisory committees and the general public. They are easily interpretable and provide information in geographic breakdowns that are compared to the city-wide value for the same measure within the same graphic. A City-to-region profile was also created based on stakeholder feedback. An example Neighbourhood Profile is pictured below, and the complete set of community profiles can be obtained at [edioffice@victoria.ca](mailto:edioffice@victoria.ca).

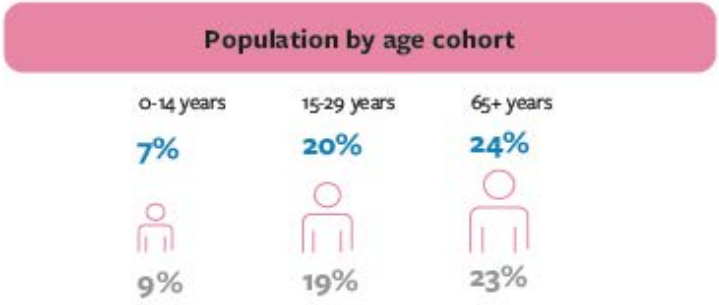
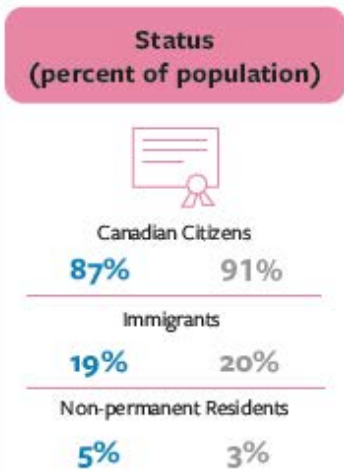
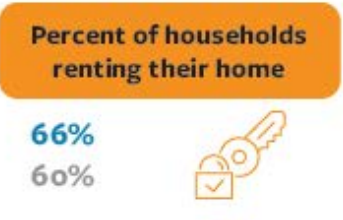


# Burnside

The Community Profile is a socio-demographic and equity snapshot of the City and its neighbourhoods based on the 2021 Canada Census.

Feel free to explore [VicMap](#).

*The data is provided by Statistics Canada, and has been compiled by the City of Victoria. Due to rounding and privacy in the Census, numbers and percentages in this document may not add up precisely to the totals displayed.*



These numbers do not add up to 100% because a person can be a Canadian citizen as well as an immigrant.

A non-permanent resident can be someone from a different country with a work or study permit in Canada, or people who have claimed refugee status in Canada.

Victoria Burnside



### Language spoken most often at home

This section reports on the languages spoken most often at home. A respondent can select more than one language, as long as they are spoken equally often. For people living alone, the language they choose is the one they feel most comfortable speaking.

Although 91% of Victoria residents primarily speak English, Victoria residents speak over 75 languages. Here, we're including only the 5 most spoken languages.

Burnside	Victoria
1 - English	1 - English
2 - Tagalog	2 - Mandarin
3 - Cantonese	3 - Tagalog
4 - Mandarin	4 - Cantonese
5 - Spanish	5 - French

### Household composition

Household composition refers to the makeup of a family living in a Census household. Some Census family makeups have additional equity considerations due to lower income earning potential (i.e., lone parent or single person households) or increased need of services (such as medical care for seniors).



Women-led lone parent	200	2,585
Men-led lone parent	49	640
Couple families	1,324	18,540
People living alone	2,053	24,100
Multigenerational household	37	365

### Population makeup

The concept of racialized population correlates directly with the visible minority group variable in the Census and therefore refers to the persons belonging to a visible minority group. People who identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit on the Census are reported as Indigenous. Residents not identified as a visible minority or indigenous are grouped into not racialized category. Considering intersectionality of identities, some nuance is lost around ethnically, culturally and racially diverse individuals. It does provide an overall look at the diversity present in our communities.

Indigenous	7%	5%
Racialized	22%	17%
Not Racialized	78%	83%

■ Victoria

■ Burnside



### Percent of households in core housing need

To help understand housing stress in our communities, an indicator called core housing need has been developed by Statistics Canada. It identifies households living in unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable dwellings. Suitable housing refers to a home with the appropriate number of bedrooms for the size and composition of household members. Adequate housing refers to a dwelling that does not require major repairs. Affordable housing costs less than 30% of before-tax household income.

In 2021, there was a decline in households in core housing need compared to previous years. This is due to temporary income supports during the Covid-19 pandemic. These supports were provided by both provincial and federal governments, and caused a decline in the number of households living in core housing need at the time.

In Victoria, renter households are 3.2 times more likely to be in core housing need than owner households.

### Households in core housing need

21%  
19%



### Unemployment rate

9%  
8%



### Average monthly rent

The amount that a household pays to live in their home is called shelter cost. For renters, this includes rent and the cost of electricity, heat, water, and any other municipal services. This number is not the same as the average cost of rent for new stock of rentals. The average cost of currently available rentals is higher than average rent, because many tenants currently occupy rentals with rent increase controls that make them more affordable.

\$1,352  
\$1,378



### Main mode of commuting

Census respondents main mode of commuting refers to their primary method of traveling to their place of work. The proportion of people who drive to work in Victoria is much lower than the provincial and national averages (80% and 84%). Shifting main commute modes away from driving has many potential benefits, like reduced traffic, lowered carbon emissions, financial savings, and promoting healthy lifestyles.



## Data Methodology

All data shown in the profiles is from the 2021 Census. The data was grouped from smaller census geographies (dissemination areas) to City of Victoria neighbourhoods. When the census areas did not align with neighbourhood boundaries (i.e. overlapped with two neighbourhoods) the population within them was redistributed based on the percentage area of overlap. Once the census areas had been assigned to neighbourhoods, percentage-based indicators were recalculated based on new population sums, and numeric indicators (like median income) were averaged. The result is a unique dataset that is more applicable and interpretable to the Victoria context.

The section below defines any data sources used within the neighbourhood profiles that were not included in the Equity Baseline mapping (i.e. have not yet been defined in the above report). It describes what it means, how it was calculated, and why it was included. It is important to note that no single data source or indicator listed below should be interpreted to represent inequity as a whole on its own. Each indicator presents one aspect that when overlapped with others, may present cases for the occurrence of inequity. These indicators also have a variety of use cases outside of equity considerations.

### Status

Status comprises of Canadian Citizens, Immigrants, and Non-permanent residents.

**What does it mean?** While someone's status may not be a direct indicator of inequity, it does provide insight into some equity considerations. Status has implications on a person's legal rights and protections, ability to vote and access to government benefits. It can also be an indicator of social integration, and sense of belonging to the community at large. Non-permanent residents may also more vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace and in housing conditions.

#### Canadian Citizen

**Percentage of the persons who are Canadian citizens.** Citizenship can be by birth or naturalization.

**How is it calculated?** Number of people who are citizens and not citizens is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 census survey. The total number citizens is divided by the total number of respondents to the citizenship question to determine the percentage of citizens in the neighbourhood.

#### Immigrants and Non-permanent residents

Percentage of the persons who were not born in Canada but are permanent residents, and who are non-permanent residents.

**How is it calculated?** Responses are collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 Census survey to classify immigrant status as non-immigrant, immigrant and non-permanent resident. Non-immigrant refers to persons who are Canadian citizens by birth. Immigrant refers to persons who are or have been landed immigrants or permanent residents, with legal status to live in Canada permanently. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization are included in this category. Non-permanent resident refers to persons from another country with a usual place of residence in Canada who have a work or study permit or who have claimed refugee status. The total number of respondents within each subcategory is divided by the total number of respondents to the immigration question to determine the percentage of Immigrants and non-permanent residents in the neighbourhood.

#### Languages Spoken Most Often at Home

Top 5 languages reported as being spoken most often at home by residents. A respondent can select more than one language, as long as they are spoken equally often. For people living alone, the language they choose is the one they feel most comfortable speaking.

**How is it calculated?** Following any area aggregation calculations, language results were simply sorted by number of respondents. The top 5 results for each neighbourhood were reported.

**What does it mean?** Language was chosen as a feature on the neighbourhood profile for several reasons. It provides insight into how community outreach can be tailored to best fit the needs of the target area. While Immigration status may not be a direct indicator of inequity, it can signal a need for increased awareness of social integration. Targeting outreach materials for specific languages and groups can be a step towards social integration and community cohesion.

## Household Composition

Household composition refers to the makeup of a family living in a census household.

**What does it mean?** Some census family makeups have additional equity considerations due to lower income earning potential (i.e. lone parents or single person households) or increased needs of services (such as medical care for seniors, or schools for children), which is why these particular family structures were chosen.

### Lone-Parent

Number of mothers and fathers, with no married spouse or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more children.

**How is it calculated?** Census and non-Census families are categorized by the 2021 Census survey. The total number of lone-parent Census families is presented as collected by Statistics Canada.

### Couple Families

Number of families who are couples, either married spouses or common-law partners, living in a dwelling with or without children.

**How is it calculated?** Census and non-Census families are categorized by the 2021 Census survey. The total number of couple families is presented as collected by Statistics Canada.

### People Living Alone

Number of people living alone, a type of non-census family households.

**How is it calculated?** Census and non-Census families are categorized by the 2021 Census survey. The total number of people living alone is presented as collected by Statistics Canada.

### Multi-generational Families

The number of multigenerational households, which are Census families where there is at least one person who is grandparent of a person in the household and the parent of another person in the same household.

**How is it calculated?** Census and non-Census families are categorized by the 2021 Census survey. The total number of multigenerational households is presented as collected by Statistics Canada.

## Average Monthly Rent

Average monthly shelter costs, which refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households. For renters, this includes rent and the cost of electricity, heat, water, and any other municipal services. This number is not the same as the average cost of rent for new stock of rentals. The average cost of currently available rentals is higher than average rent, because many tenants currently occupy rentals with rent increase controls that make them more affordable.

**How is it calculated?** Average shelter costs are reported by respondents in the 2021 Census survey.

**What does it mean?** Average monthly rent was included as an indicator as it highlights how an area's average costs compares to others. It also can also be a useful indicator to be compared to market rates, to see how redevelopment may impact low-income renters in older housing stock.

## Main Mode of Commuting

Main mode of commuting refers to the primary method census respondents use to travel to their place of work.

**How is it calculated?** Method of commuting is collected by Statistics Canada in the 2021 long form Census survey. The total number of respondents in each commuting type category was divided by the total number to determine the percentage of each commuter type in each neighbourhood.

**What does it mean?** Method of commuting was chosen to be included as shifting main commute modes away from driving has many potential benefits, like reduced traffic, lowered carbon emissions, financial savings, and promoting healthy lifestyles. High proportions of car commuters can suggest that an area does not have safe or good access to alternative methods of transportation.

## Assumptions and Limitations

The Equity Baseline and Community Profile Update report identifies City of Victoria communities and equity-denied populations through a spatial lens. The report could provide insights into program and service delivery, the built environment improvements, public outreach and consultation, capital infrastructure investments and much more. Please note that while datasets being large samples sizes and comprehensive in nature, they do not provide account for individual experience nor direct which actions or interventions would be most beneficial to improve equity in the community. This report could be considered as a useful starting point for the integration of equity into decision making.

If you have questions, please contact the City of Victoria's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at [edioffice@victoria.ca](mailto:edioffice@victoria.ca).

## Appendix A – Data Dictionary

**Activity Limitations:** Percentage of the population who experience physical activity limitations (including difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, using stairs, using hands or fingers, or doing other physical activities) or mental activity limitations (including difficulty learning, remembering, concentrating, or emotional, psychological or mental health conditions) sometimes, often and/or always. Percentages of the population are cumulative (i.e. Sometimes or often experiences activity limitations is the proportion of individuals responding to either option)

**Average Commute Time:** Average commuting time (in minutes) by main mode of commuting, employed persons with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace location.

**Average Monthly Shelter Costs:** The average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households. For renters, this includes rent and the cost of electricity, heat, water, and any other municipal services.

**City Parks Access (Distance):** Parks access was defined as walking distance to the nearest city park. Walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**Children:** Percentage of individuals who are 0-14 years old.

**City Parks Competitive Access:** Parks access was defined as walking distance to the nearest city park, as well as space availability to each individual (competition for space). Walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**Dissemination Area (DA):** One of the geographic units of measure used by Statistics Canada in its census surveys to group populations. It is a small area composed of one or more neighbouring dissemination blocks (the next "level" of geographic area), with a population of 400 to 700 persons. All of Canada is divided into dissemination areas. All equity indicators are presented at the dissemination area level, as it is the most precise geographic level at which many of these indicators are available.

**Housing Cost Burden:** Number of tenant and owner households spending more than 30% of their total income towards shelter costs, normalized by total number of households.

**Lone-Parent Families:** Census Families comprising of one parent with no married spouse or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more children. This is the census terminology for single parents.

**Low-Income Cut-Off, After Tax (LICO-AT):** Income thresholds, below which economic families or persons not in economic families would likely have devoted a larger share of their after-tax income than average to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing.

**Main Mode of Commuting:** The primary method a person uses to travel to their place of work.

**Median Home Value:** Median owner estimated value of dwelling. Value (owner estimated) of private dwelling refers to the dollar amount expected by the owner if the asset were to be sold. It refers to the value of the entire dwelling, including the value of the land it is on and of any other structures on the property.

**Median Household Income:** Median total income for households within a dissemination area

**Multi-generational Families:** Census families where there is at least one person who is grandparent of a person in the household and the parent of another person in the same household.

**Owner Households:** A private household where some member of the household owns the dwelling, even if it is still being paid for.

**Renter Households:** A private household where no member of the household owns the dwelling, even if rent is discounted or free.

**Seniors:** Percentage of individuals who are aged 65+.

**Status: Canadian Citizen:** Percentage of the persons who are Canadian citizens. Citizenship can be by birth or naturalization.

**Status - Immigrants and Non-Permanent Residents :** Percentage of the persons who were not born in Canada but are permanent residents, and who are non-permanent residents.

**Subsidized housing:** Percent of renter households that live in a dwelling that is subsidized. Subsidized housing includes rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, non-profit housing, rent supplements and housing allowances.

**Parks Access (Distance):** Walking distance to the nearest park or greenspace. Walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**Parks Access (Competitive):** Walking distance to the nearest park or greenspace, as well as space availability to each individual (competition for space). Walking time based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**Transit Access:** The average combined walking distance and wait time at nearest public transportation stop. Walking distance based on average speed of 1.4m/s. Slope effects based on Naismith's rule.

**Transportation Cost Burden:** Average annual spend on transportation, including private transportation, public transit, taxis and other forms of transportation in 2021.

**Percent Visible Minority:** Percent visible minority refers to the percent of the population that is a member of a visible minority group, as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*.

**Unemployment Rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

**Urban Heat Islands:** An urban heat island is an urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities, such as differences in infrastructure and how well the surfaces in each environment absorb and emit heat.

**Youth:** Percentage of individuals who are 15-29 years old.