

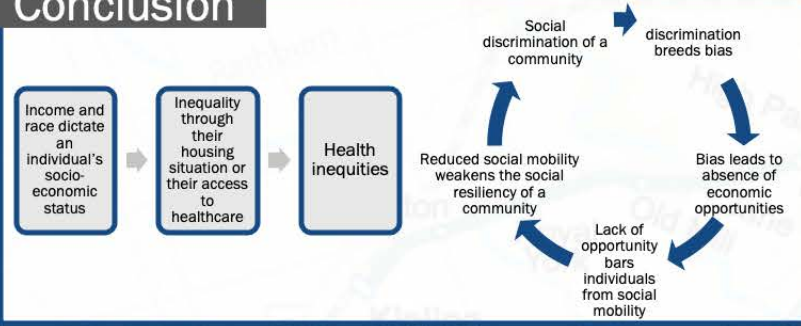
Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major global health crisis that has not been witnessed in nearly a century. Although the virus has been touted as “the great equalizer” in the nascent days of the crisis, the world has swiftly come to discover that there are some populations that are disproportionately impacted by the disease. Within Toronto, Ontario, no area in the city has been more gravely impacted by COVID-19 than the northwest communities clustered around Jane Street and Finch Avenue West (Yang, Allen, Mendleson, & Bailey, 2020).

Methods

- COVID-19 case numbers were collected for neighbourhoods: Glenfield-Jane Heights, Black Creek, York University Heights, Downsview-Roding-CFB, and Humbermede (Toronto Public Health, 2021).
- Focus on four social determinants of health: healthcare access, housing, income, and race.
- Demographic data for each collected from the 2016 Canadian Census (Statistics Canada, 2016).
- Healthcare access data collected from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health’s COVID-19 mapping tool (Infectious Disease Working Group, 2020).
- Data from City of Toronto’s operating budgets for the years of 2016–2021 analyzed to see how municipal spending has been distributed over the years across social programs (City of Toronto, 2020).

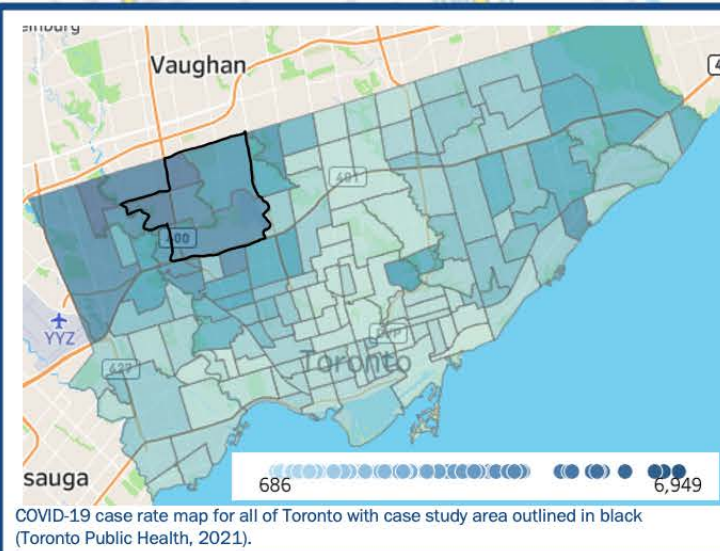
Conclusion



Research Questions

How can resilient social systems protect populations during times of crisis?

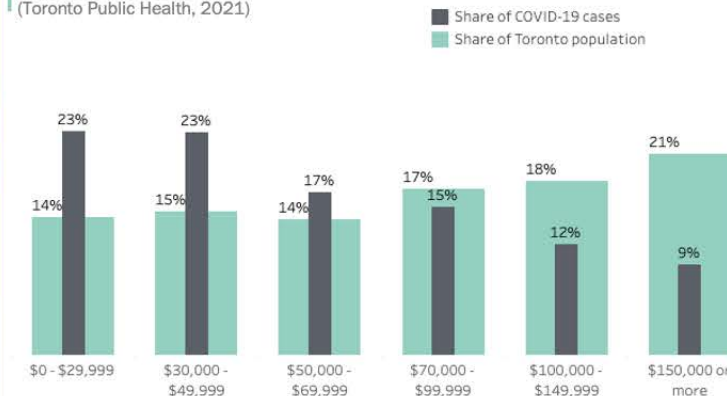
How did the conflation of social determinants such as race, healthcare access, housing, and household income impact the COVID-19 infection rate in the northwest neighbourhoods (with the Jane-Finch intersection as the focal point) of Toronto?



Results & Discussion

- Jane and Finch neighbourhoods have the highest COVID-19 case rates in Toronto.
- Healthcare access is very stratified in the area, with only one COVID-19 test centre.
- Jane and Finch has a higher percentage of unsuitable and inadequate housing than the city average.
- More residents in all five neighbourhoods more likely to live in larger and multi-family households.
- Jane and Finch residents have lower household income and more likely to live in poverty and receive government transfer than city average.
- Jane and Finch neighbourhood heavily populated by immigrants and visible minority populations.
- Low-income populations in Toronto are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Racialized populations in Toronto are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Toronto budget trend reflects priorities in emergency shelter housing and Toronto Police Services (both, arguably, are short-term solutions for systemic issues).
- Decreased funding in employment services over past five years.
- Need to invest in systemic solutions to systemic issues that hinder social mobility and thus, hinders social resiliency within the community.

Share of COVID-19 cases by household income compared to the share of people living in Toronto by income group, with valid data up to December 31, 2020 (N=21,538) (Toronto Public Health, 2021)



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