

Social Needs Assessment

Moncton

Prepared by:
HelpSeeker
Technologies



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Social Needs Assessment

This Social Needs Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of the current social landscape in Moncton, a city experiencing substantial demographic shifts. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and understand the unique social challenges faced by different segments of the population, and to inform the development of targeted interventions and social infrastructure planning.

Moncton's population has grown by 23.9% from 2006 to 2021, with projections indicating a continued upward growth trend. This growth is accompanied by changes in age and gender distribution, with a proportional increase in the 65+ age group, accompanied by a larger population of women in older age groups. The city's diversity is also increasing, with a rise in diverse sexual identities among students, a growing Indigenous population, and a substantial increase in the immigrant population.

In addition to these demographic changes, the city faces several social challenges. The unemployment rate has increased, particularly among those aged 25 to 64, and the prevalence of residents with low income remains a serious concern despite a decrease in that number from 2016 to 2021. Housing affordability, particularly among renters, is a concern, as is homelessness. There are also specific challenges faced by certain groups, including children in core housing need, seniors with low income, one-parent families in core housing need, immigrants who do not speak either official language, and people living alone and without employment.

The city has a substantial population of people with diverse abilities, indicating a need for accessible services and infrastructure. Mental health and addictions are areas of concern, with a high percentage of students reporting mental health issues. There are also institutional and administrative barriers that need to be addressed, including the need for a comprehensive plan to address barriers and increase collaboration and communication between government and non-governmental organizations.

This assessment integrates multiple indicators to provide a holistic view of the community, capturing the complexities of residents' lives, rather than focusing on a single aspect. The report identifies geographic areas with high proportions of children in housing need, low-income seniors, single-parent households, immigrants without official languages proficiency, and unemployed people living alone. These population groups face unique challenges, including disruption to education, social isolation, financial instability, and limited employment opportunities.

The findings from this assessment will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, service providers, and community members in their efforts to address challenges and promote social inclusion in Moncton.

Purpose

The purpose of this Social Inclusion Assessment is to foster a deeper understanding of social inclusion and exclusion for the diverse population of Moncton. This assessment aims to identify, analyze, and address the key social, economic, and demographic factors affecting the community's overall wellbeing and quality of life.

This assessment is designed to:

- Explore the unique social and economic challenges faced by various demographic groups in the city, including children, seniors, single-parent families, immigrants, and people living alone.
- Examine the effects of these challenges on the overall wellbeing of the community, encompassing critical aspects such as housing, employment, income, health, and social inclusion.
- Illuminate areas in the city that exhibit heightened vulnerability to exclusion and that may necessitate focused interventions and support.
- Deliver evidence-based insights to guide the development of social policies, programs, and services that effectively address the identified needs and actively promote social inclusion.
- Foster collaborative efforts among government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, and service providers in devising and implementing strategies aimed at addressing the identified needs.

This needs assessment aims to empower decision-makers and service providers to take meaningful action, thereby enhancing the overall wellbeing and quality of life for all residents of Moncton.

Methodology

The methodology for this Social Needs Assessment combines qualitative and quantitative data to provide a better understanding of the social needs in Moncton.

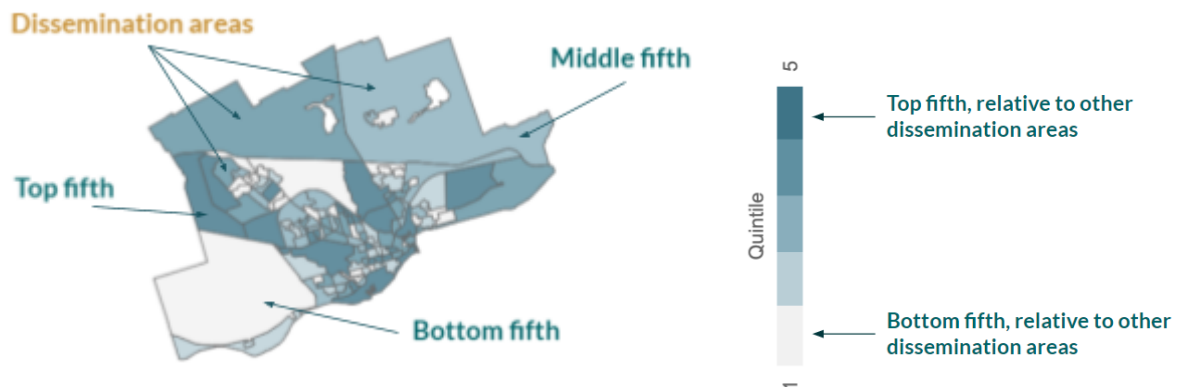
The qualitative data was gathered through a series of community engagement initiatives conducted by the Social Inclusion Committee between November 2022 and January 2023. These initiatives included three community engagement sessions and 15 interviews with a diverse range of community members. This approach allowed us to capture a wide range of perspectives and personal experiences, which are relevant for developing an inclusive and effective social inclusion plan.

To complement the qualitative insights, we also analyzed quantitative data from Statistics Canada and the New Brunswick Health Council. This data provided valuable information about demographic trends and existing social gaps in Moncton. By integrating these two types of data, we were able to gain an understanding of the community's current state and identify areas that require targeted interventions.

This mixed-methods approach ensures that our analysis is grounded in both the lived experiences of Moncton's residents and robust statistical data. The resulting insights form a foundation for the development of evidence-based strategies and recommendations to address the identified social needs.

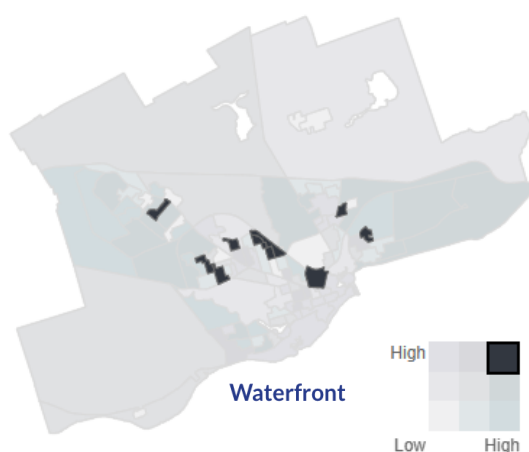
Understanding HelpSeeker Demand Maps

In this document, you'll find HelpSeeker Demand Maps that visually display specific demographic and census indicators. These maps serve as tools to forecast potential demand for social services, drawing on census and other demographic data for specific locations. **Community partners interested in using these maps for planning purposes can request free access by contacting the City of Moncton.**



Each map is divided into neighbourhoods that represent **dissemination areas**, the specific zones where census data has been collected and reported.

Each neighbourhood on the map is color-coded based on its standing for the particular indicator being shown. The **darkest blue** represents the **top 20% of neighbourhoods** in the city for that specific metric, while the **lightest blue** represents the **bottom 20%**. The remaining areas are categorized in shades of blue that gradually indicate increasing or decreasing values.



Some maps might highlight **overlaps of two distinct indicators**, which pinpoints areas where both metrics have high values. For instance, regions where both percentage of children and percentage of households in core housing needs are high would be identified for combined considerations.

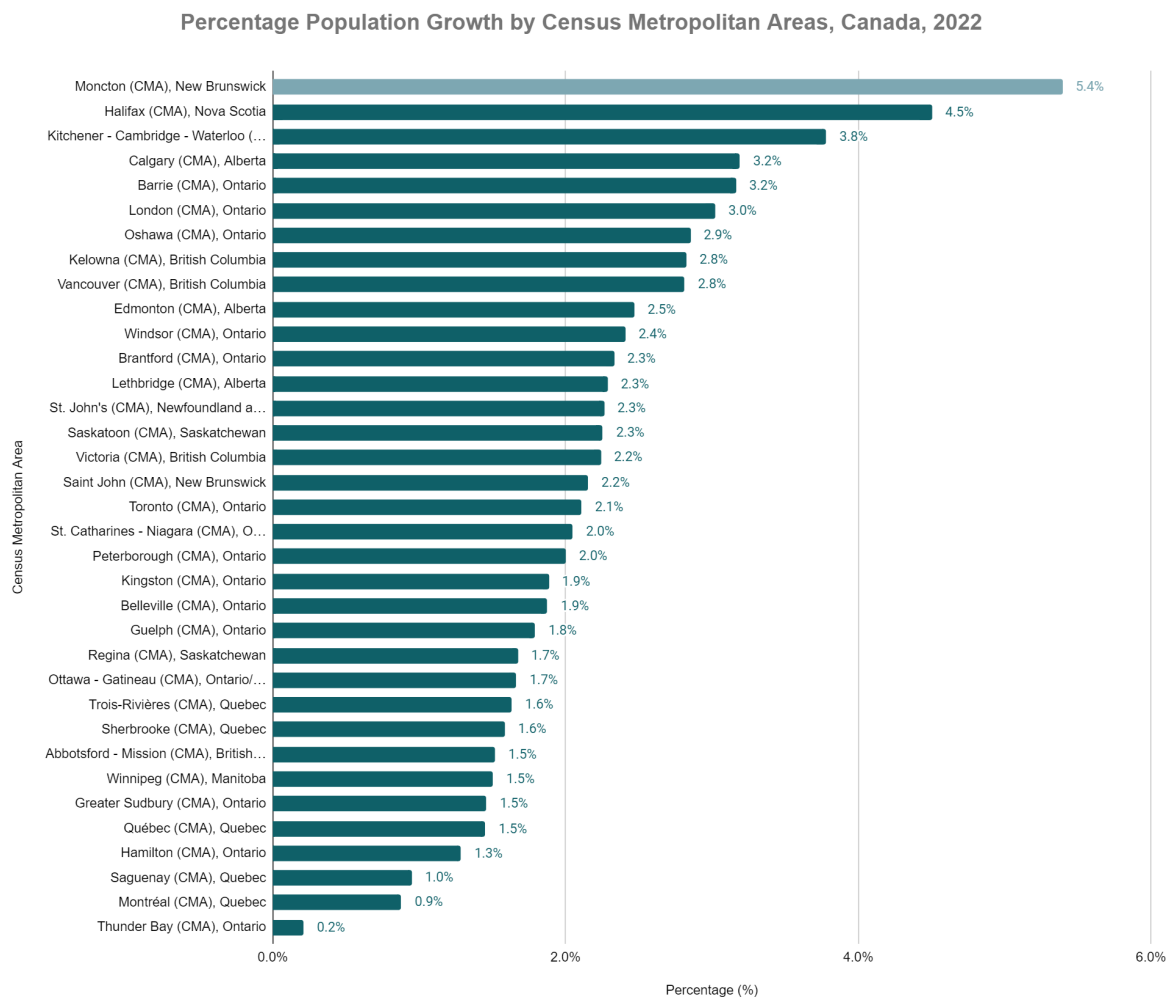
Always bear in mind, when evaluating these maps, that each dissemination area may have a different population size. This means that the sheer number of individuals in a category may differ even if percentages are similar.

Community Overview

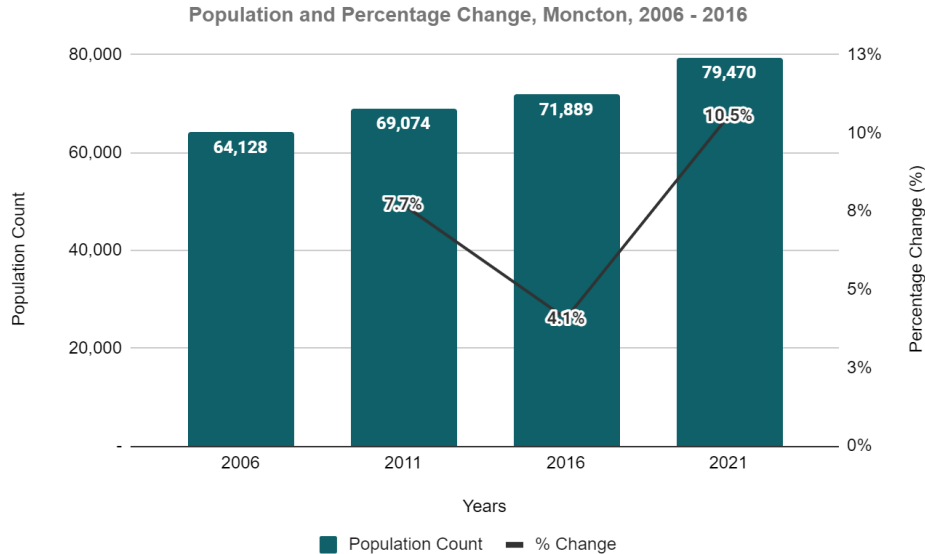
The City of Moncton is located in the Codiac Region, in the southeast corner of the Province of New Brunswick. Due to its central location, Moncton is often referred to as the “Hub of the Maritimes”. Local industry includes transportation and warehousing, administration, government, education, distribution, teleservices, manufacturing, construction, and service. The City of Moncton is also the economic and commercial center of Atlantic Canada.

Data Facts

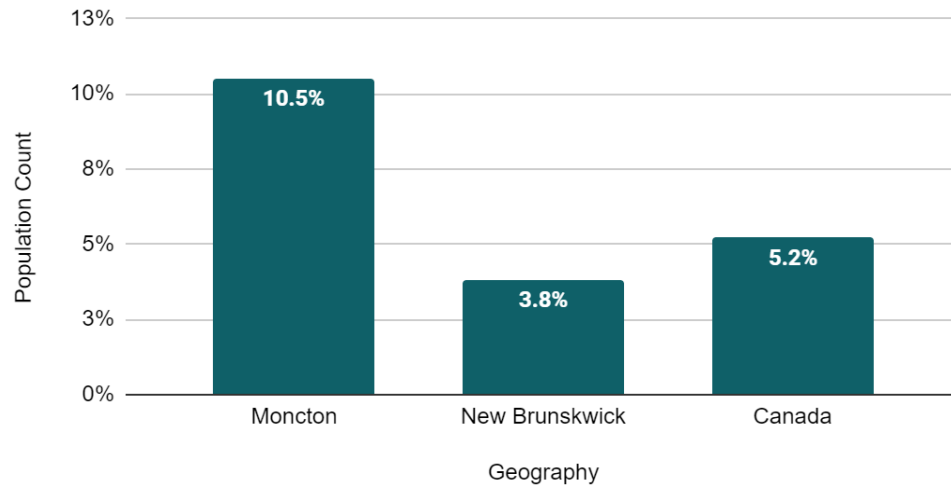
- As of July 2022, the Moncton Census Metropolitan Area has the fastest-growing population of all Canada’s metropolitan areas, with an estimated growth rate of 5.4%, compared to other metropolitan areas in Canada.



- The population of Moncton has been increasing from 2006 to 2021, with a total growth of 23.9%, and with the largest proportional increase of 10.5% occurring in the last five years (2016-2021).



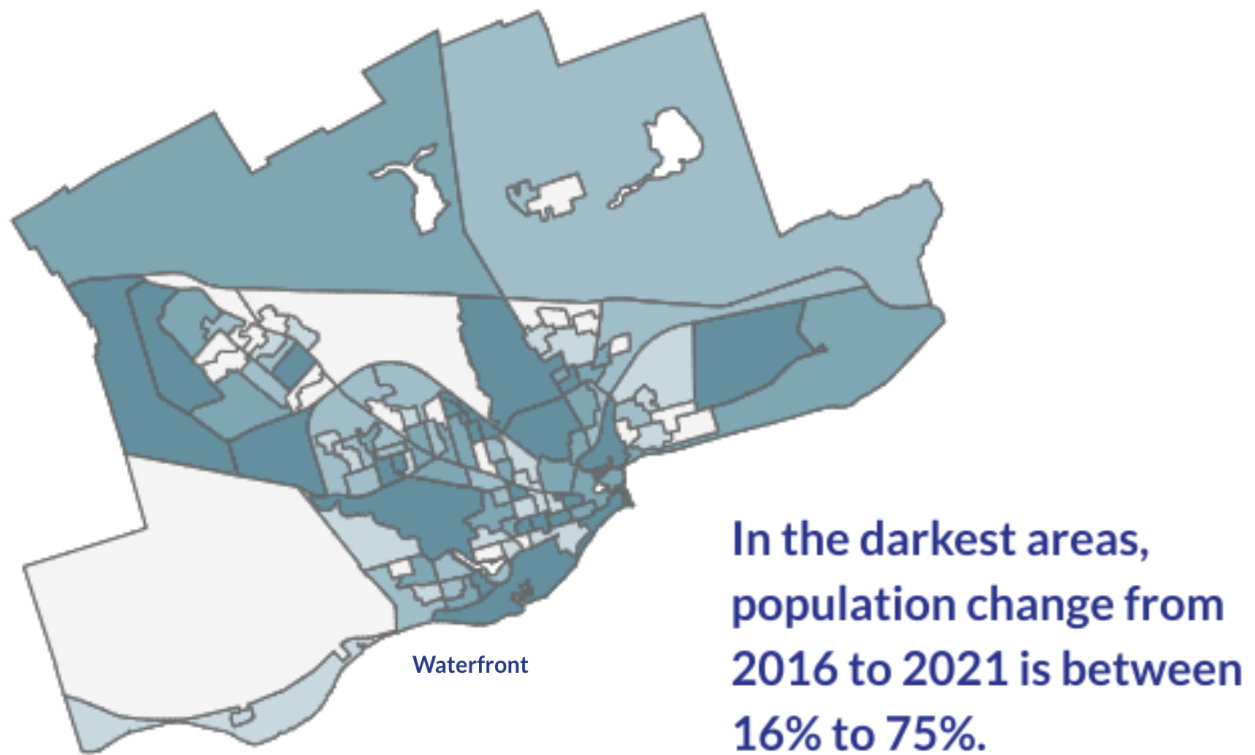
Population Percentage Change, Moncton, New Brunswick and Canada, 2021



- Moncton's population growth in 2021 surpassed the provincial and national rates, and is projected to continue growing, reaching an estimated total of 116,200 by 2046, marking a 46.2% increase from 2021.

Population Change by Dissemination Area

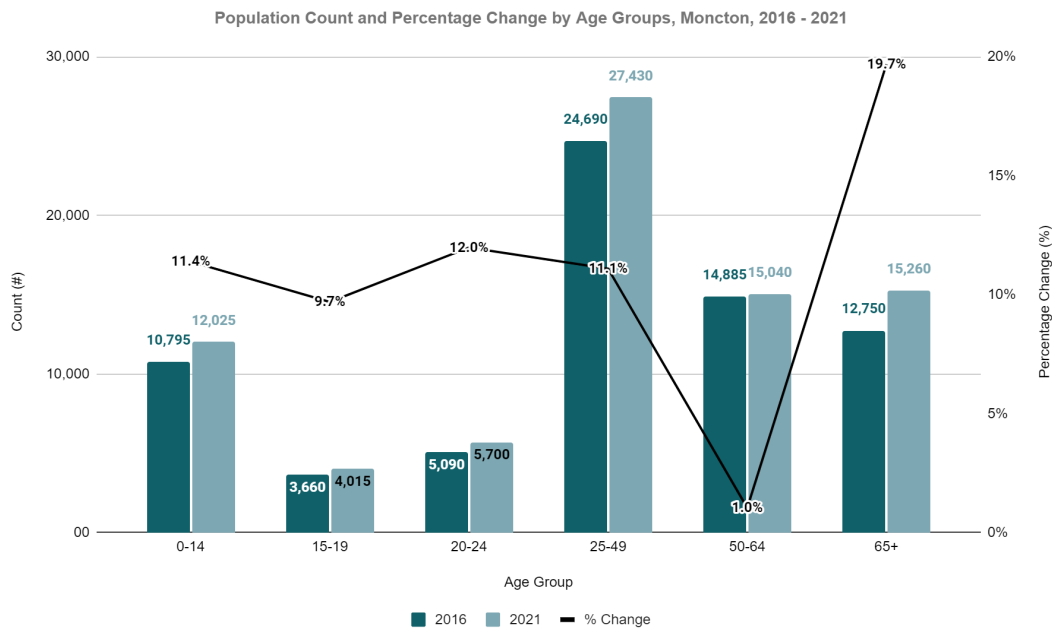
Analyzing population change is important for social inclusion policies, as it helps anticipate changing needs, mitigate inequalities, and ensure all community members can actively participate in society.



Age

Data Facts

- Moncton's population growth from 2016 to 2021 was largest in the 65+ age group, though the population also rose in all other age groups .

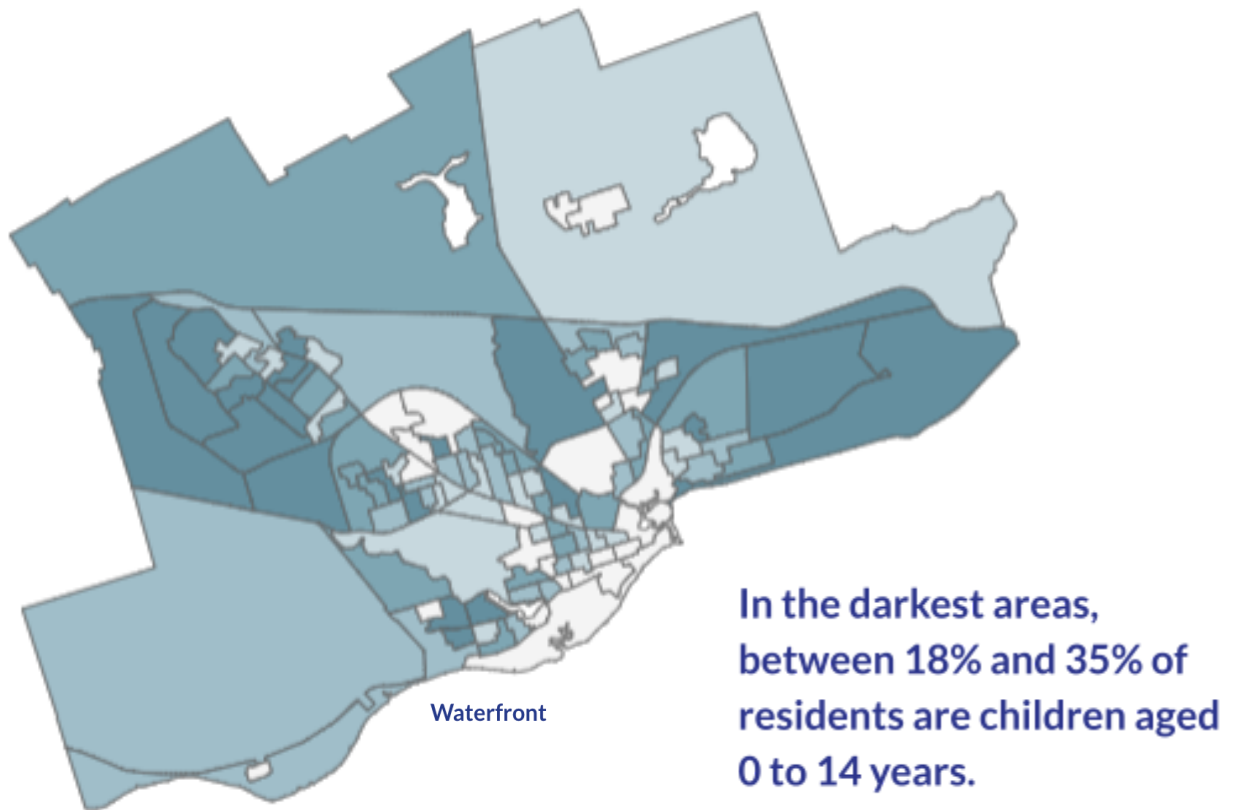


What We Heard

- Most participants focused on the needs of youth in the community.
- Particular concerns included youth employment, and support for mental health needs, ensuring adequate support systems are in place.
- This was seen as particularly important for young people who may be struggling to end the cycle of intergenerational trauma and violence. As one resident said, *"We need to empower the kids and let them feel valued."*
- Concerns about seniors included the physical accessibility of infrastructure, including trails and recreation, and affordable housing that caters to the elderly.

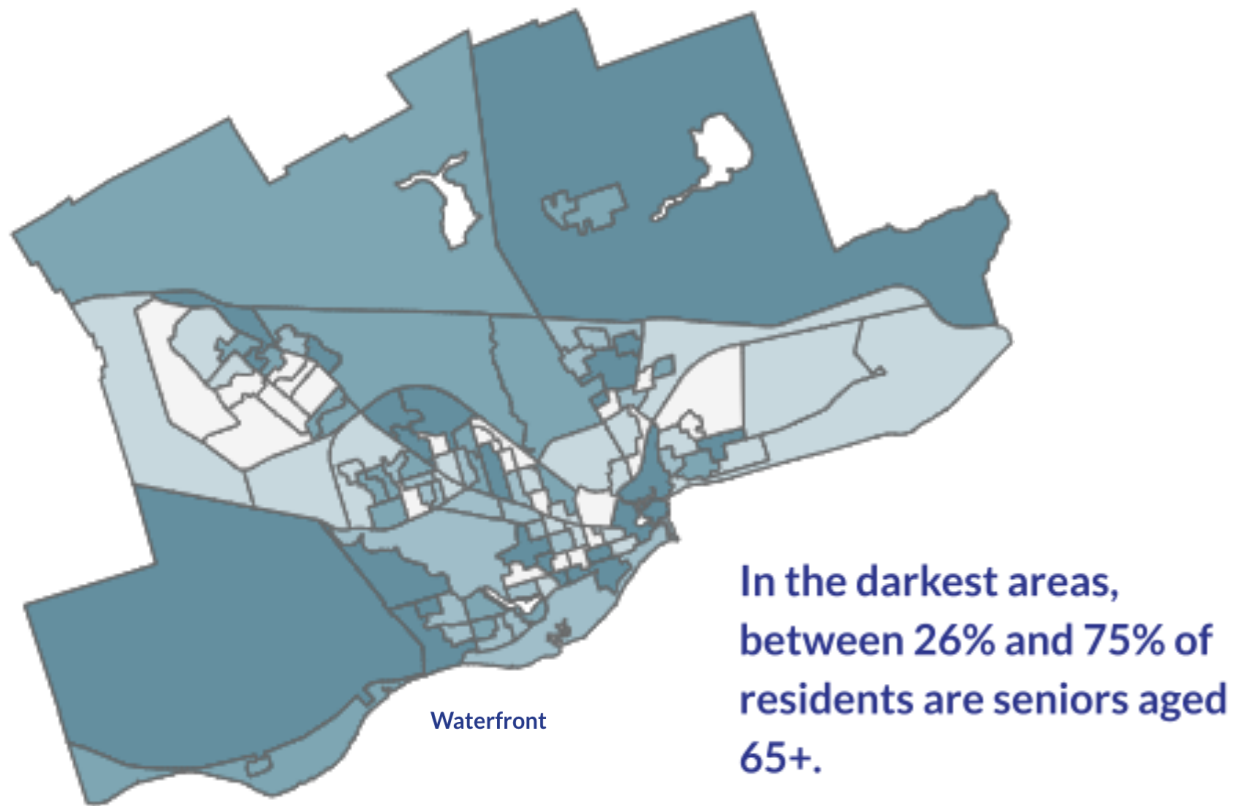
Children Aged 0 to 14 by Dissemination Area

Tracking changes in the population of children aged 0 to 14 informs the planning and implementation of policies and services related to education, health, and child welfare.



Seniors Aged 65+ by Dissemination Area

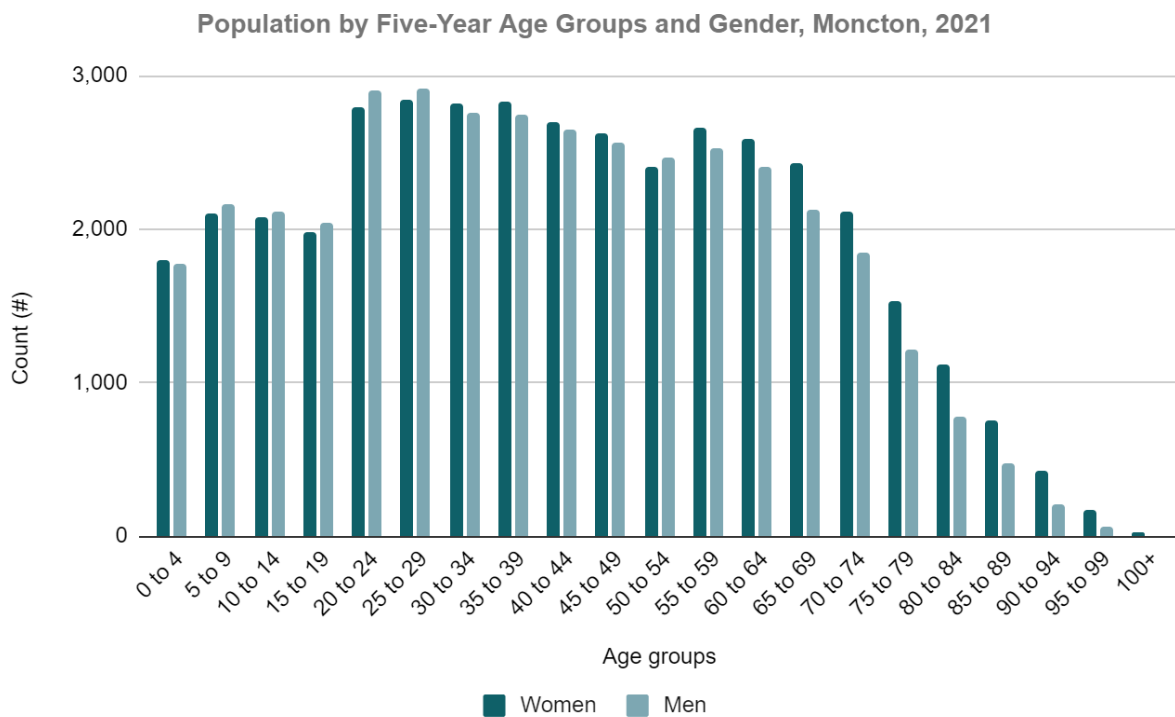
Analyzing the population of seniors aged 65+ aids in shaping policies and services tailored to the needs of this age group, addressing areas like healthcare, social security, and accessibility, supporting quality of life and social inclusion.



Gender

Data Facts

- While the population of Moncton is almost evenly distributed between men and women in most age groups, women aged 65 and older substantially outnumber men.
- There were 429 victims of intimate partner violence per 100,000 population, aged 15 and older, reported by police in Moncton in 2018, 16% higher than in New Brunswick (368) and 33% higher than in Canada (323).¹



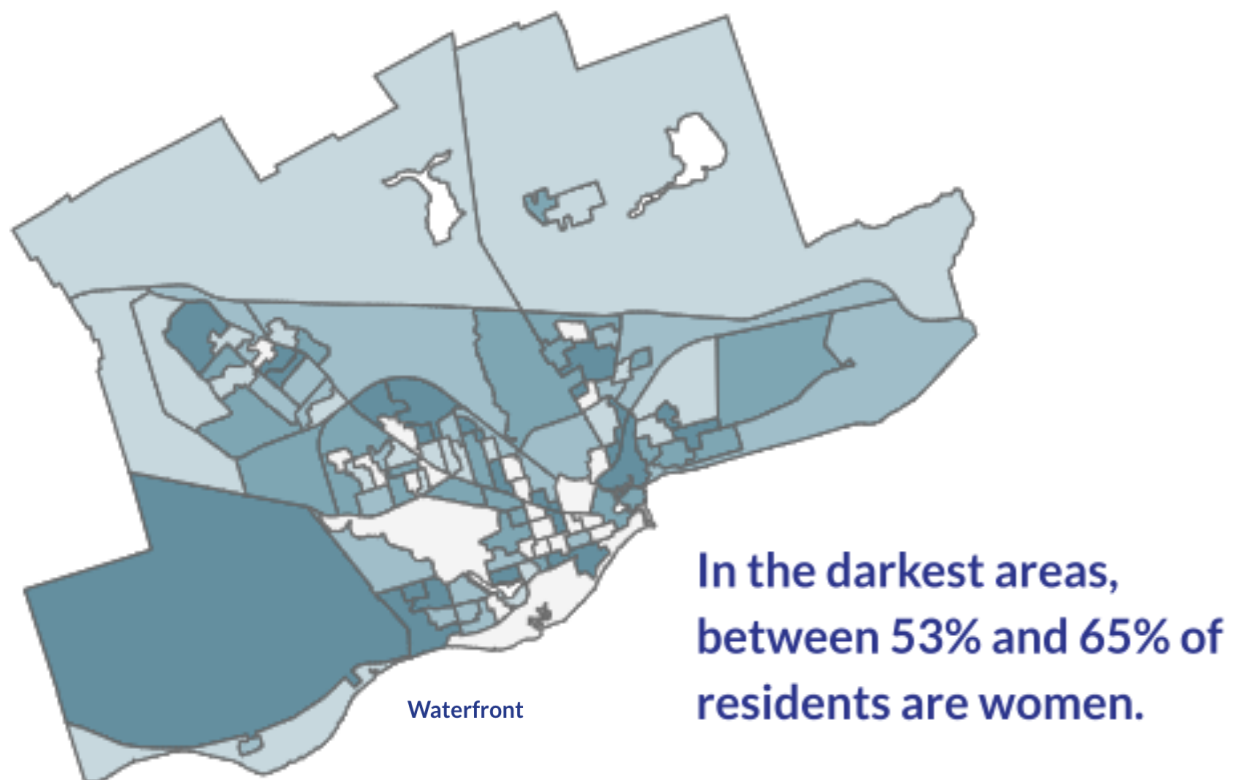
¹ Statistics Canada. (2020). Police-reported crime for selected offenses, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas. Retrieved July 26, 2023, from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00001/moncton-eng.htm>

What We Heard

- Recognizing that intimate partner violence can affect individuals of any gender, this gender-related concern emerged as the most frequently discussed topic during interviews.
- One service provider felt that survivors of intimate partner violence may not receive adequate support, as protecting a service user's safety and privacy meant the service provider could not advocate for them as fully as they had hoped; as they explained, *"We need to stay quiet often so our clients are missed often in many programs."*
- Those who have fled intimate partner violence may not receive other supports they need, said one interviewee: *"I feel there is a common misconception that the women who are here are not homeless so they fall off the grid of many programs. They are homeless - because their only other option is to go home to their abuser."*

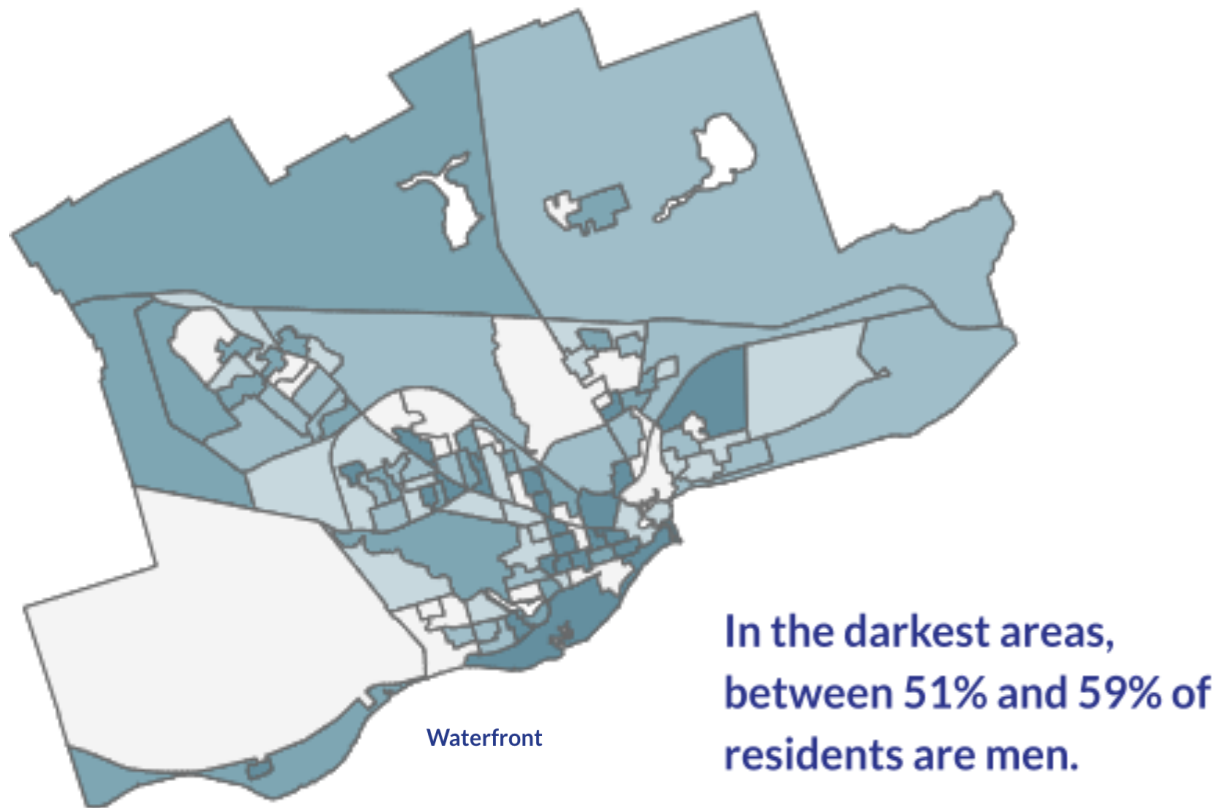
Distribution of Women by Neighbourhood

Examining the distribution of women in a population supports gender-responsive planning. It guides the design of policies and services that consider the specific needs, experiences, and contributions of women, promoting gender equity and women's empowerment in society.



Distribution of Men by Dissemination Area

Studying the distribution of men in a population helps in creating gender-sensitive strategies. It aids in the formulation of policies and services that cater to the specific needs and experiences of men, contributing to a balanced societal development and promoting gender equity.



Diversity

Understanding the elements of diversity in a community that encompass identities including sexual, Indigenous, immigrant, and ethnocultural, is a fundamental component of understanding the broader spectrum of social inclusion. Recognizing and valuing diversity means acknowledging the many experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives that people with diverse identities bring to a community.

Sexual Identity

Data Facts

- Diverse sexual identity² among students in grades 6 to 12 has increased over time in Moncton, rising from 19.6% in the academic year 2018-2019 to 22.5% in 2022-2023, peaking at 24.8% in 2021-2022.
- New Brunswick shows a corresponding increase, rising from 16.2% in 2018-2019 to 21.2% in 2022-2023, peaking at 22.6% in 2021-2022.
- In the 2022 Point-in-Time Count of homelessness in Canadian communities, 24% of surveyed youth experiencing homelessness identified as LGBTQ2S+.³

² According to the Student Wellness Survey conducted by the New Brunswick Health Council, this refers to students that "identify themselves with a minority sexual identity other than heterosexual".

³ Infrastructure Canada. (2023). Preliminary Highlights from Everyone Counts 2020-2022. Retrieved July 26, 2023, from <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/reports-rapports/pit-counts-dp-2020-2022-highlights-eng.html>

What We Heard

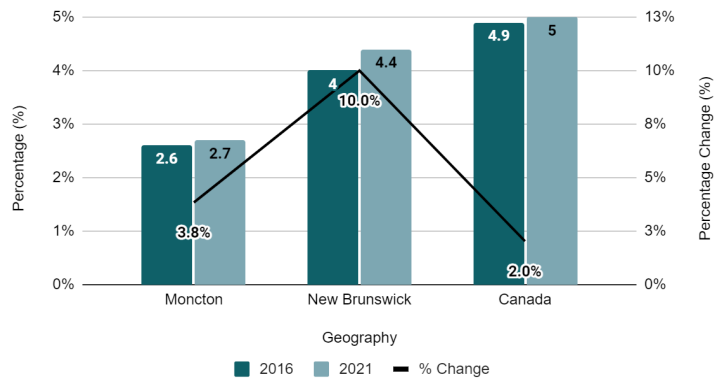
- Moncton is generally seen as welcoming to the LGBTQ2S+ community, though it is a work in progress, with some businesses and services being reported by community members as less welcoming or lacking understanding of the needs of LGBTQ2S+ individuals.
- There is no drop-in centre for the LGBTQ2S+ community in Moncton, something that many other cities of similar size have.
- There is a need for health care practitioners who are able to support this community, as many individuals, particularly people who are transgender, may not be able to access specialized care (e.g., gender-affirming care), leading to serious mental and physical health consequences.
- As one community member said, *"another thing that would help, nurses could be more educated to know about [transgender issues] and hormones - there are not specialists - we are seeing more suicides for that reason, no specialist to turn to."*

Indigenous People

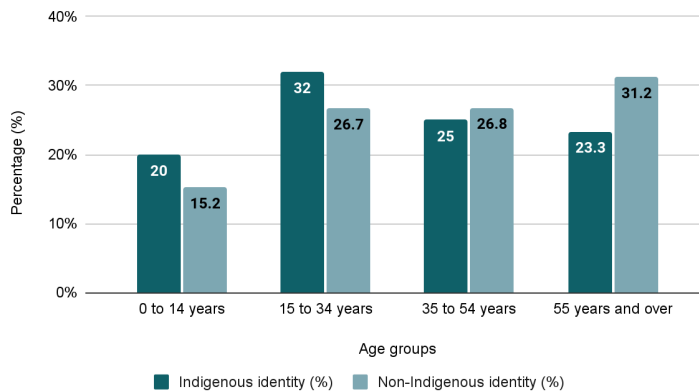
Data Facts

- In 2021, there were 2,080 Indigenous people in Moncton, making up 2.7% of the population.
- Of the Indigenous population in Moncton, 53.6% (1,115) were First Nations people, 40.6% (845) were Métis, and 1.9% (40) were Inuit. The remaining responses were 1.2% (25) Multiple Indigenous identities and 2.6% (55) other Indigenous identities.

Percentage of the Indigenous Population in Moncton, New Brunswick and Canada, 2016 - 2021



Proportion of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Population by Age, Moncton, 2021



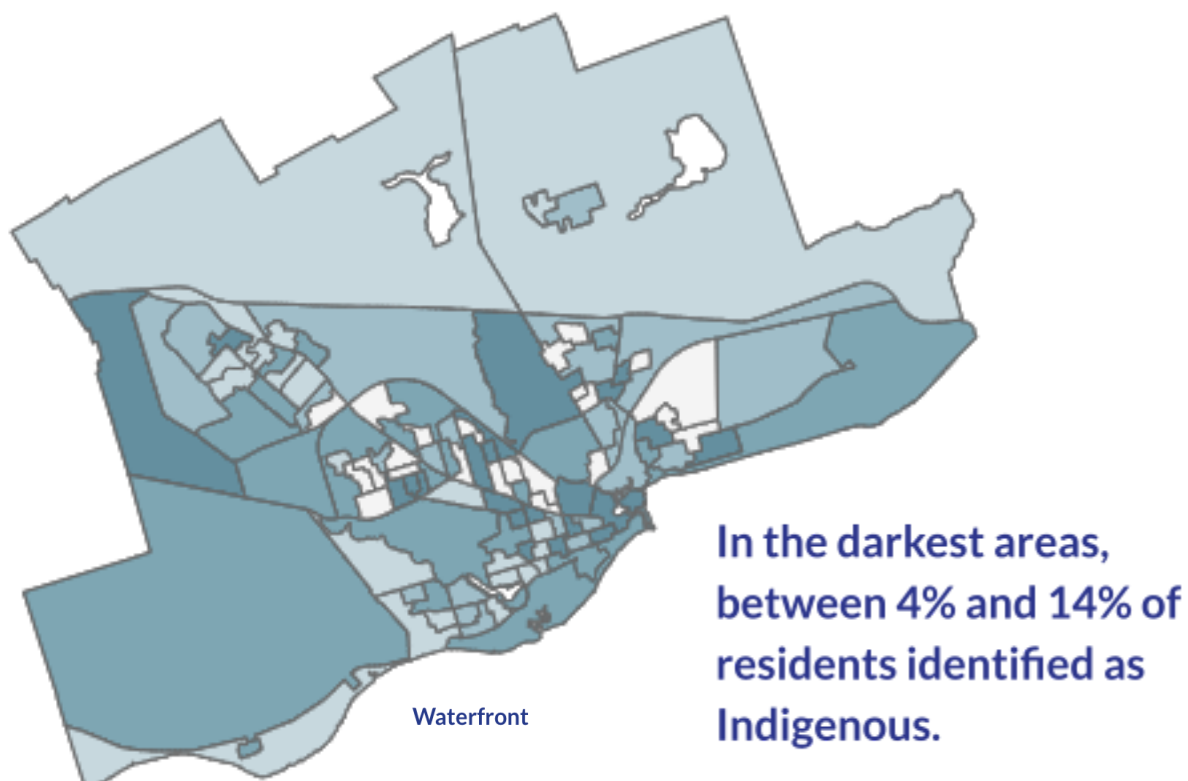
- A higher proportion of the Indigenous population is found in the younger age groups, with 20.0% in the 0-14 years bracket and 32.0% in the 15-34 years bracket.

What We Heard

- Colonization in Canada has led to intergenerational trauma and ongoing systemic discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous people. It is essential to address the legacy of colonization through system-wide changes.
- It is important to work with Indigenous communities and Elders to provide culturally competent services.
- The needs of Indigenous community members were mentioned only once in service provider and citizen interviews, suggesting more awareness is required in this area.
- The social inclusion plan should involve actively partnering with Indigenous communities and Elders to understand and meet their specific needs in a culturally competent manner.

Distribution of Indigenous People by Dissemination Area

Knowing the population distribution of Indigenous people in a region informs the development of culturally appropriate and inclusive policies and services, and supports reconciliation efforts.

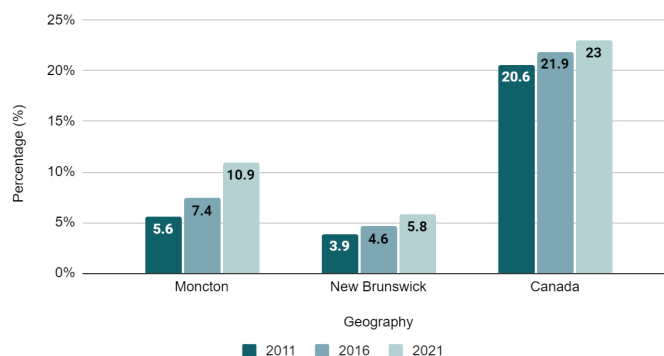


Immigration

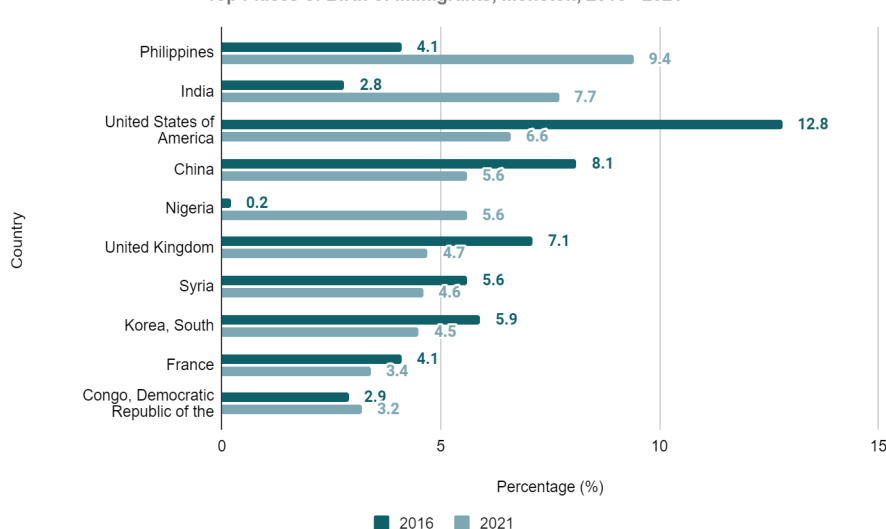
Data Facts

- According to the 2021 Census, 8,460 people (10.9%) were immigrants.
- Over half of Moncton's immigrant population arrived between 2016 and 2021, accounting for 52.1% of the total.

Percentage of the Immigrant Population, Moncton, New Brunswick and Canada, 2011 - 2021



Top Places of Birth of Immigrants, Moncton, 2016 - 2021



→ From 2016 to 2021, Moncton saw a rise in the number of immigrants from the Philippines, India, and Nigeria, while the number from the United States, China, and the United Kingdom declined.

- From 2016 to 2021, Moncton saw increases in all categories of immigrants, with economic immigrants rising from 2,335 to 5,120, family-sponsored immigrants from 785 to 1,100, refugees from 950 to 1,255, and other immigrants from 20 to 50.⁴
- More than 100 hotel rooms are reserved in Moncton by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to provide temporary housing to people based from Roxham Road.⁵

⁴ Note that the numbers broken down by category in the census data are derived from a 25% sample, which means that they represent a subset of the total immigrant population. Hence, when you sum the counts within each category, it may not equal the total number of immigrants in the community.

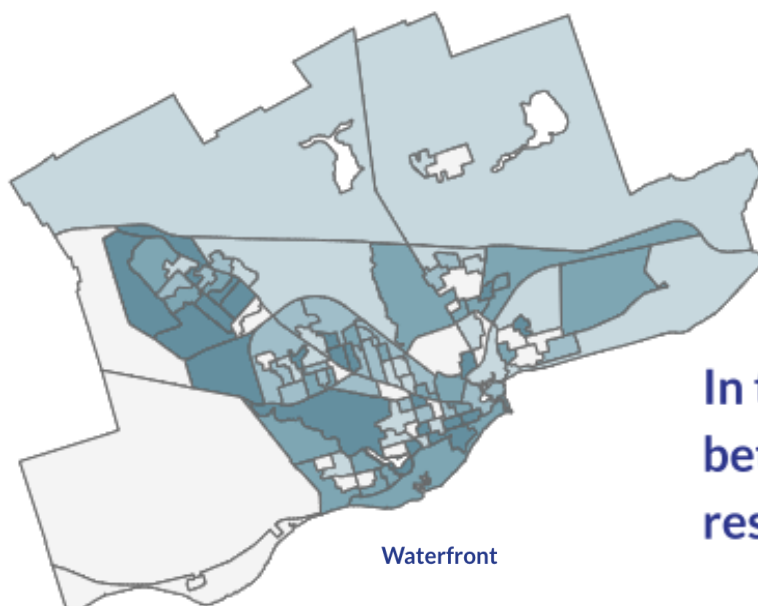
⁵ CBC News. (2023). Asylum seekers based to New Brunswick left struggling to find help. Retrieved July 26, 2023, from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/asylum-seekers-based-new-brunswick-struggling-roxham-road-1.6833405>

What We Heard

- There is broad agreement that Moncton has made progress in these areas, with many newcomers eager to support each other and contribute to their communities.
- Some organizations have embraced diversity and are gaining a competitive advantage as a result, with reports of local businesses engaging in cross-cultural training and using multilingual signage to create a welcoming environment.
- However, there are still areas for improvement. Newcomers often find current support systems inadequate and lacking some cultural sensitivity, suggesting that culture-specific support would be beneficial.
- Emphasizing anti-racism and anti-discrimination initiatives within and across the city is important, as is involving people with lived experience in social programs or issues.
- As one resident stated, the community should focus on *"getting more minority communities involved [...] and not just to give a space, but [...] let them be heard, right?"*
- Finally, there is a desire for a greater welcoming and acceptance of multicultural differences. This includes recognizing and allowing people to celebrate non-statutory holidays that are meaningful to them, thus promoting awareness and acceptance of diverse cultural practices.

Distribution of Immigrants by Neighbourhood

Analyzing the distribution of immigrants in a population facilitates the creation of inclusive policies and services that respect cultural diversity. It can guide efforts to integrate newcomers into society, promote multicultural understanding, and enhance social cohesion.

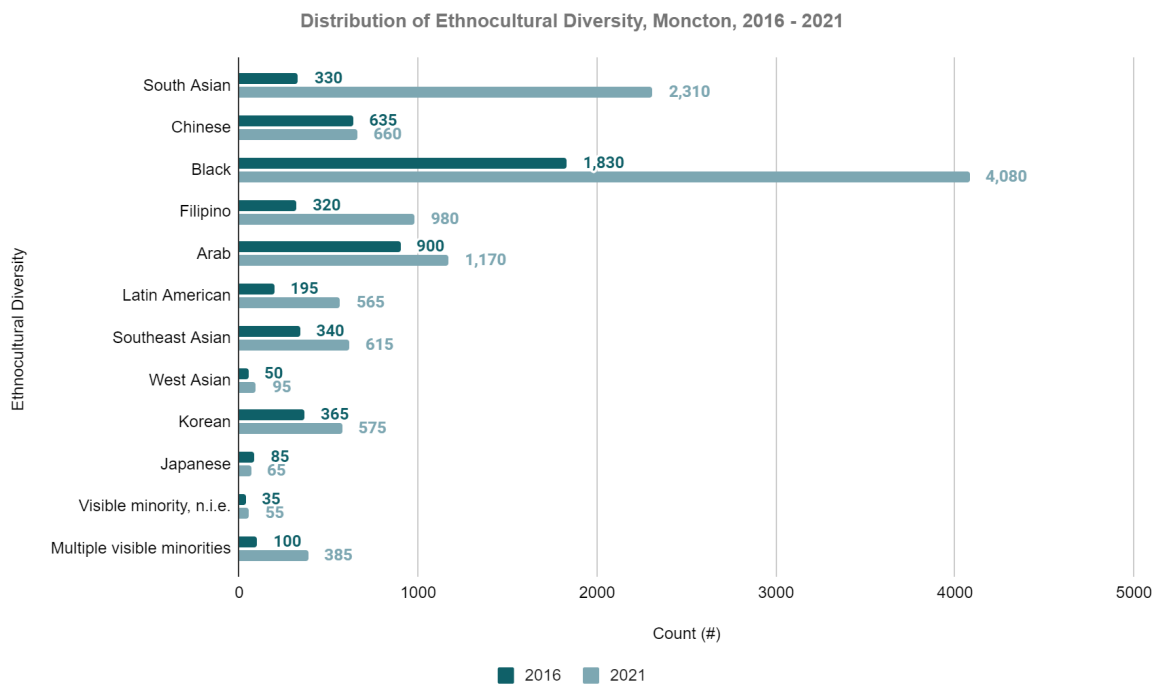
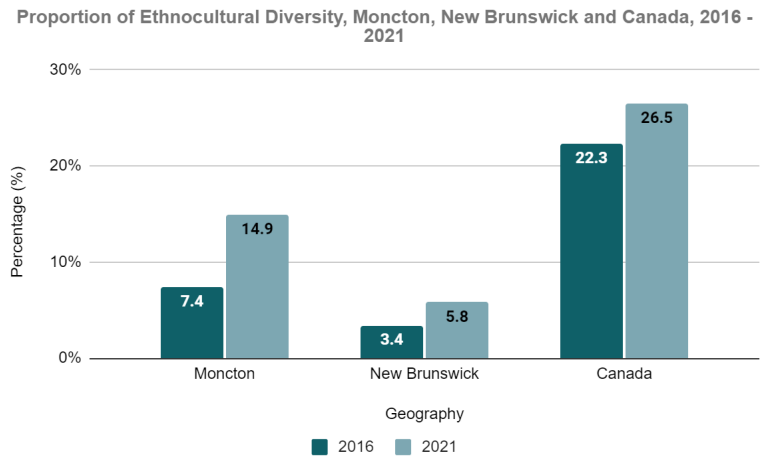


**In the darkest areas,
between 15% and 30% of
residents are immigrants.**

Ethnocultural Diversity

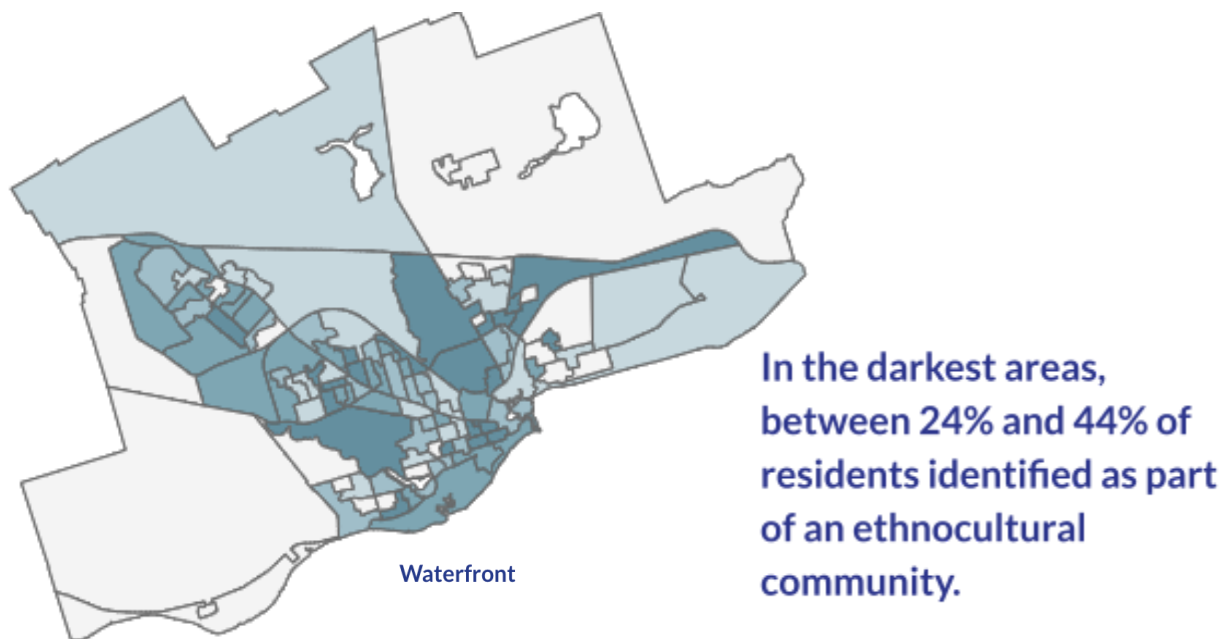
Data Facts

- ➔ Between 2016 and 2021, Moncton's ethnocultural diversity nearly doubled from 7.4% to 14.9%, a larger increase than in New Brunswick (3.4% to 5.8%) or Canada (22.3% to 26.5%).
- ➔ The South Asian and Black communities saw the largest increases, with South Asian numbers rising from 330 in 2016 to 2,310 in 2021, and Black numbers growing from 1,830 to 4,080 during the same period.



Distribution of Ethnocultural Diversity by Dissemination Area

Assessing the distribution of ethnocultural diversity within a population aids in fostering an inclusive and harmonious society. It guides the formulation of policies and services that celebrate cultural richness, promote mutual understanding, and combat discrimination, ultimately contributing to social unity in diversity.



What We Heard

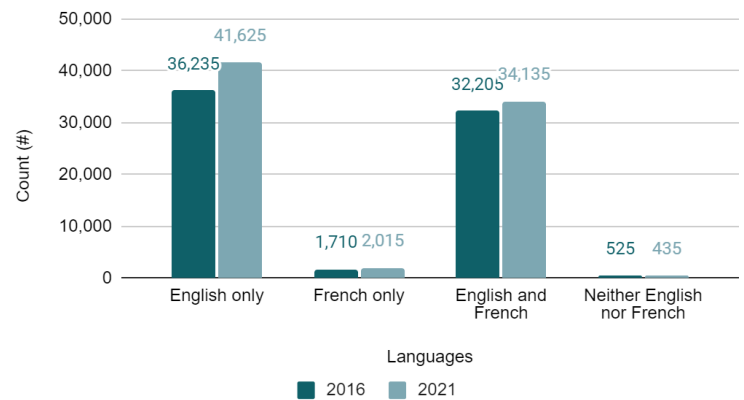
- In general, community members desire to see political, social, and community organizations that are representative of the population as a whole, including more individuals of international descent.
- One community member highlighted the importance of, *"inviting people of all interest groups to the table. Opportunities for engagement, participation and lived experience – breaking down the silos."*
- Residents would also like to see individuals with lived experiences invited to bring their expertise to the table: *"[W]e should aim to have real inclusion: we should have individuals with lived experience, and people who come from all facets of life [...]."*
- This would bring diverse viewpoints and a greater understanding of the specific challenges faced by different communities.

Languages

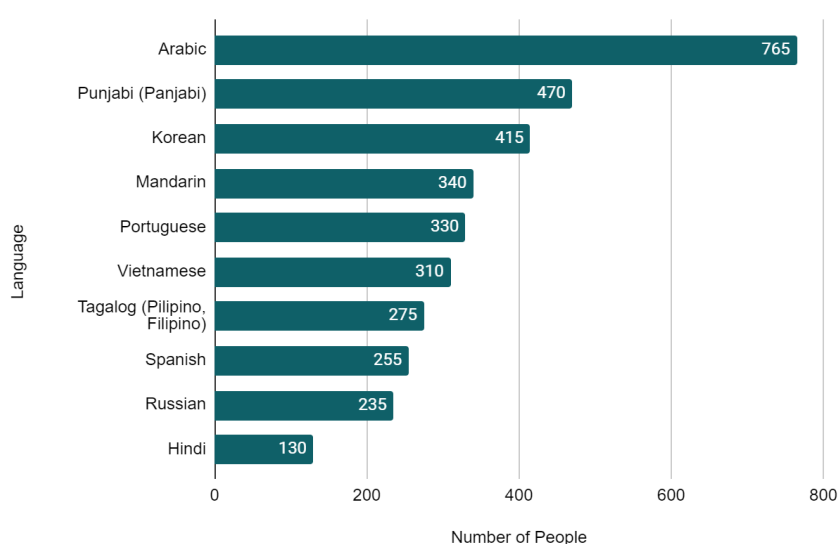
Data Facts

- From 2016 to 2021, the number of people in Moncton who only speak English increased, as did the number of those who speak both English and French.
- The number of French-only speakers also increased slightly, while the number of people who speak neither English nor French decreased.

Knowledge of official languages, Moncton, 2016 - 2021



Language spoken most often at home, Moncton, 2021



→ In 2021, Arabic was the predominant non-official language spoken most often at home, with 765 speakers. Punjabi came in second with 470 speakers, closely followed by Korean at 415.

→ Other languages like Mandarin, Portuguese, and Vietnamese had figures ranging from 310 to 340 speakers.

- Tagalog, Spanish, Russian, and Hindi round out the list with numbers descending from 275 to 130 speakers, respectively.

Labour and Employment

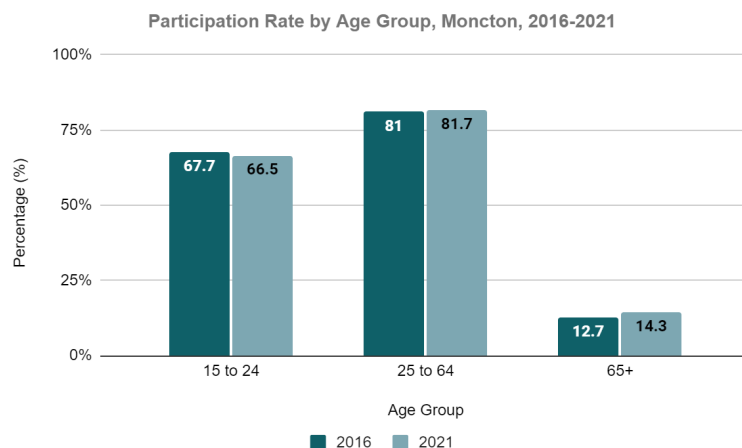
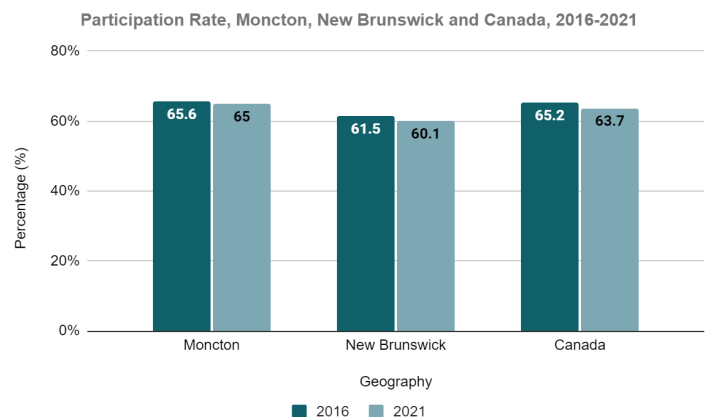
The labour and employment situation is central to understanding the economic health and opportunities in a community. Evaluating participation rates and unemployment rates provides insight into current economic drivers, highlighting where job opportunities lie.

The participation rate is the proportion of the working-age population actively participating in the labour force, either employed or actively seeking employment. The unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force that is currently without work, but is actively seeking employment. Together, these elements paint a picture of the economic landscape, showing potential areas of growth and where challenges might lie.

Participation Rate

Data Facts

→ From 2016 to 2021, Moncton's participation rate in employment slightly decreased from 65.6% to 65.0%, reflecting a similar downward trend seen in New Brunswick (61.5% to 60.1%) and Canada (65.2% to 63.7%).

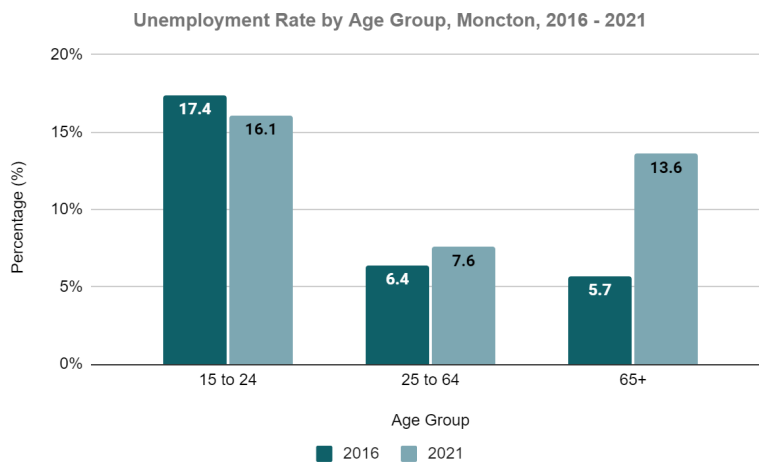
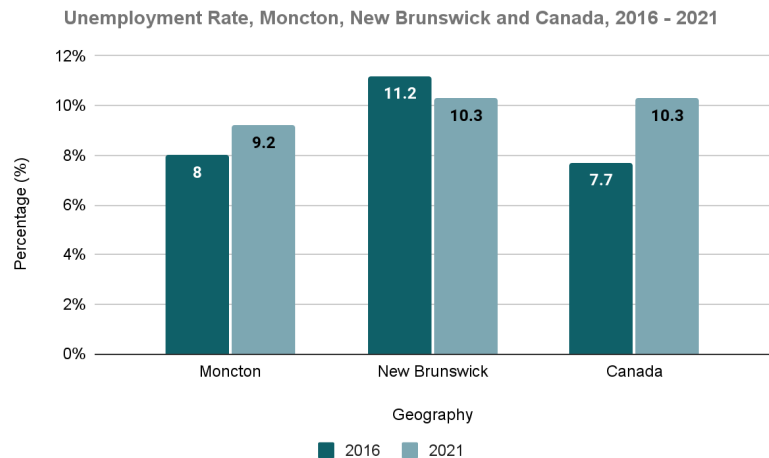


→ From 2016 to 2021, the participation rate in Moncton slightly decreased among the 15 to 24 age group (from 67.7% to 66.5%), increased slightly for the 25 to 64 age group (from 81.0% to 81.7%), and increased in the 65+ age group (from 12.7% to 14.3%).

Unemployment

Data Facts

→ From 2016 to 2021, Moncton's unemployment rate increased from 8.0% to 9.2%, despite unemployment dropping in New Brunswick overall (11.2% to 10.3%); however, this was a smaller increase than for Canada as a whole (7.5% to 10.3%).



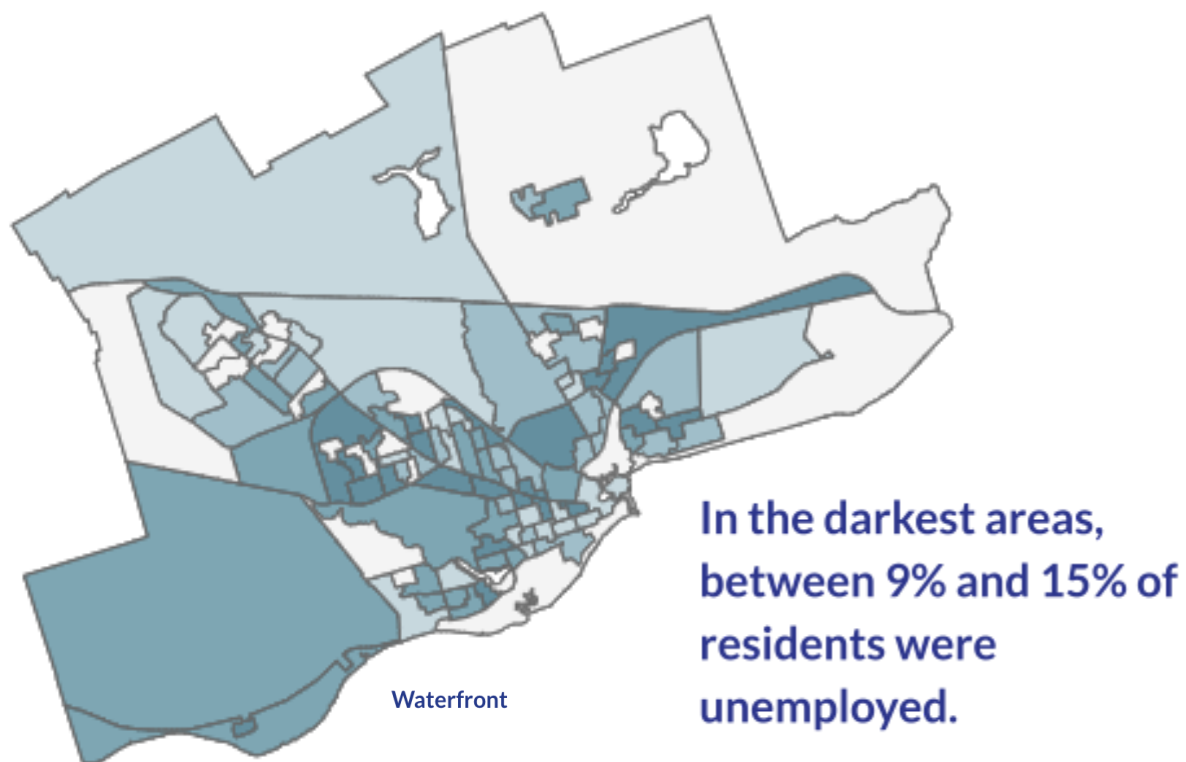
→ From 2016 to 2021, The unemployment rate in Moncton dropped in the 15 to 24 age group (from 17.4% to 16.1%), but rose for those aged 25 to 64 (6.4% to 7.6%) and for the 65+ age group (5.7% 13.6%).

What We Heard

- Many see Moncton as having adequate employment opportunities, particularly for those of diverse backgrounds.
- There are some concerns that jobs may be more limited for newcomers to the city, as much hiring is still based on pre-existing personal relationships.
- As a community member says, "My experience in NB is that a lot of what jobs you get are about who you know so someone whose family has been here for a long time would have a better chance than someone new here. But Moncton seems to have a lot of opportunities."

Distribution of Unemployment by Dissemination Area

Investigating the distribution of unemployment across a population allows for the tailoring of economic and employment policies and support services. This can help address underemployment, stimulate economic growth, and ensure sustainable livelihoods, which in turn, promotes social stability and inclusion.



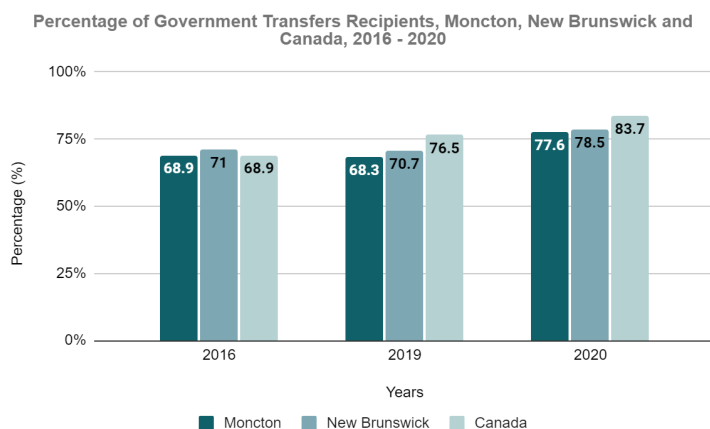
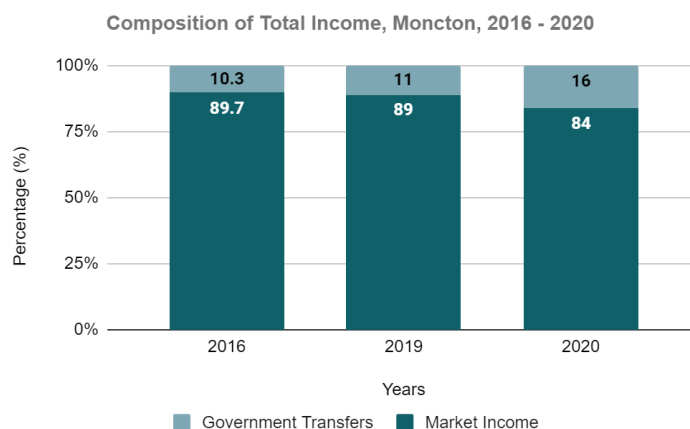
Income and Poverty

A community's landscape of income and poverty, including the proportion of residents who are low income, living in poverty, or receiving income assistance, are key to evaluating the financial health and challenges of a community. Income levels across a community can give insight into the overall economic prosperity of a region, while low income and poverty figures highlight disparities and identify population groups that may be financially vulnerable.

Composition of Total Income

Data Facts

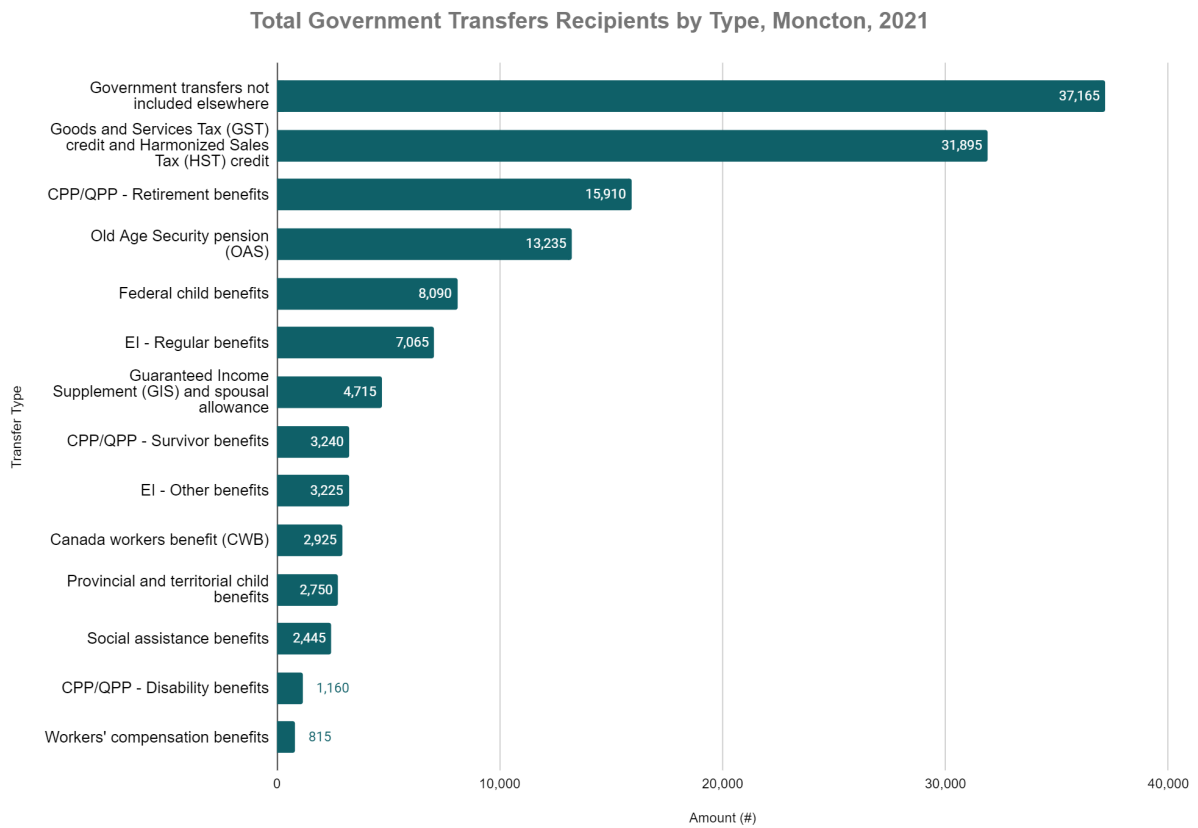
- From 2016 to 2020, Moncton experienced a decrease in market income⁶ as a percentage of total income, from 89.7% to 84.0%.
- Correspondingly, the proportion of government transfers increased from 10.3% in 2016 to 16.0% in 2020.



- Between 2016 and 2020, the percentage of residents of Moncton who received government transfers increased from 68.9% to 77.6%.

⁶ According to Statistics Canada, total income consists of two broad classes of income: market income and government transfers. Market income refers to the sum of employment income, investment income, private retirement income, and other money income from market sources. Government transfers are all cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments to support individuals and families.

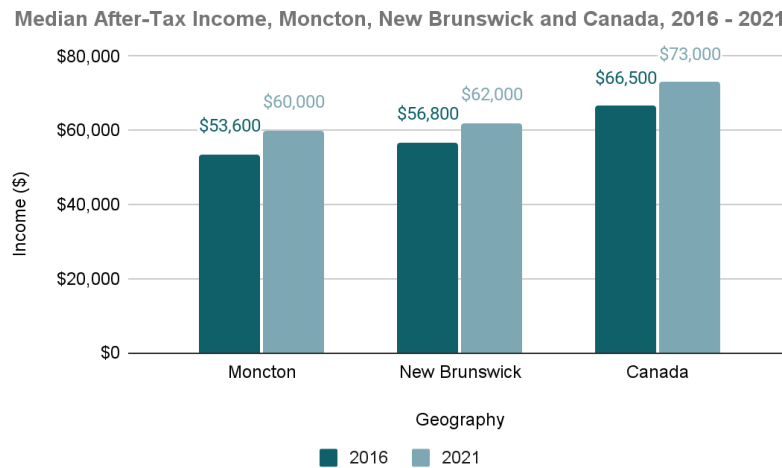
- In 2021, the largest groups of government transfer recipients in Moncton were those receiving “transfers not included elsewhere”⁷ and the GST/HST credit, while the smallest groups were recipients of CPP/QPP - Disability benefits and Workers' compensation benefits.



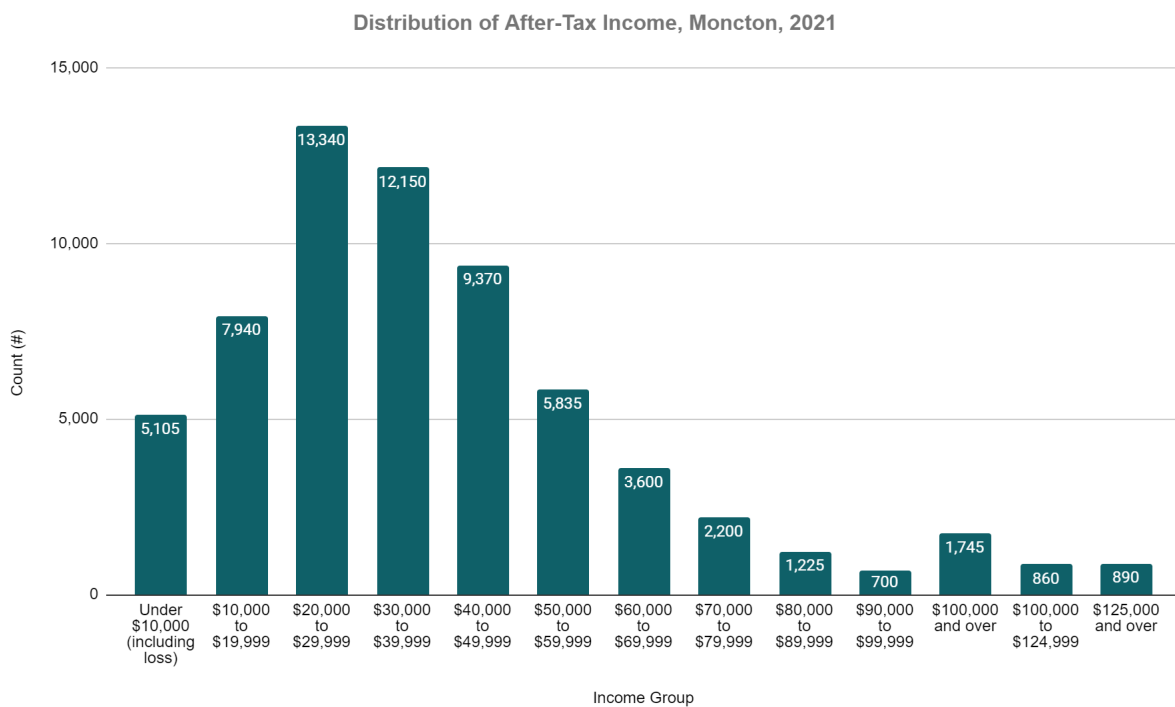
⁷According to Statistics Canada, this category includes various emergency and recovery benefits from new and existing federal, provincial, and territorial government income programs intended to provide financial support to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures implemented to minimize the spread of the virus. These programs include: COVID-19 – Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) COVID-19 – Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) COVID-19 – Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) COVID-19 – Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) COVID-19 – Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) COVID-19 – Enhancements to existing federal programs geared towards persons with diverse abilities COVID-19 – Provincial and territorial benefits.

Median Income and Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- From 2016 to 2021, median after-tax income increased in Moncton from \$53,600 to \$60,000, in New Brunswick from \$56,800 to \$62,000, and in Canada overall from \$66,500 to \$73,000.

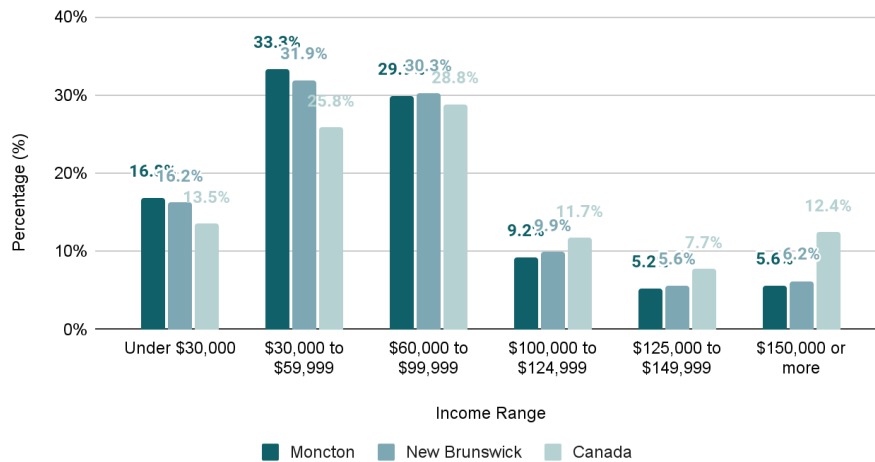


- In Moncton in 2021, most people's after-tax income was in the \$20,000 to \$29,999 or \$30,000 to \$39,999 income brackets.



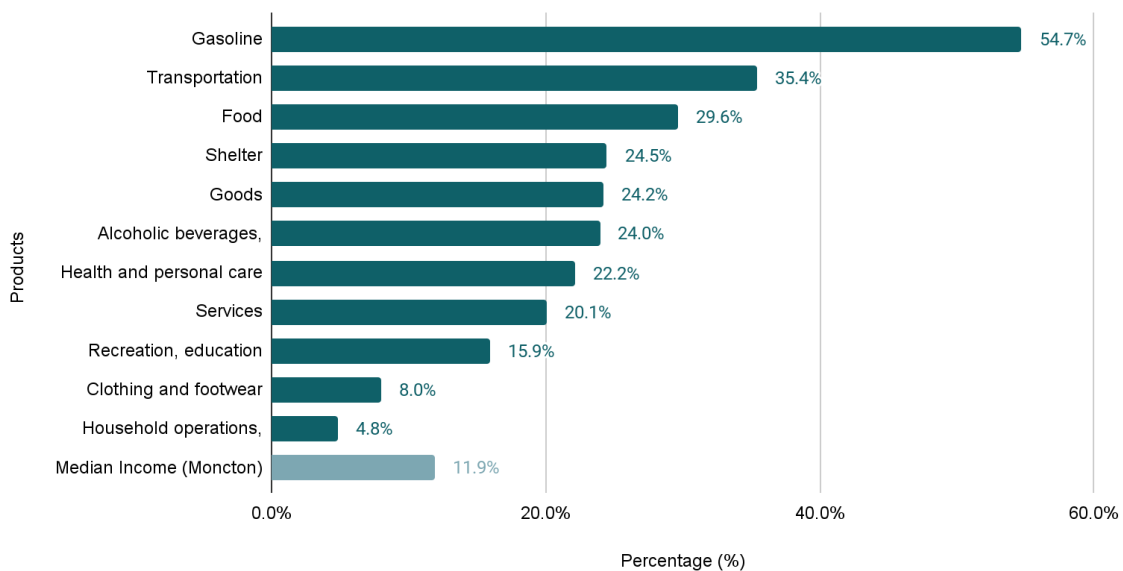
- Moncton has a higher percentage of households earning under \$60,000 (50.1%) and a lower percentage of households earning \$100,000 or higher (20.0%) than in New Brunswick (48.1% and 21.7% respectively) and Canada (39.3% and 31.8% respectively).

Distribution of Households by Household After-Tax Income, Moncton, New Brunswick and Canada, 2021



- From June 2016 to June 2023, the median after-tax income in Moncton increased by 11.9%, much lower than the percentage increase in several key consumer price index categories such as gasoline (54.7%), transportation (35.4%), food (29.6%), and shelter (24.5%).

Percentage Change Consumer Price Index and Median Income (AT), New Brunswick, June 2016 - June 2023

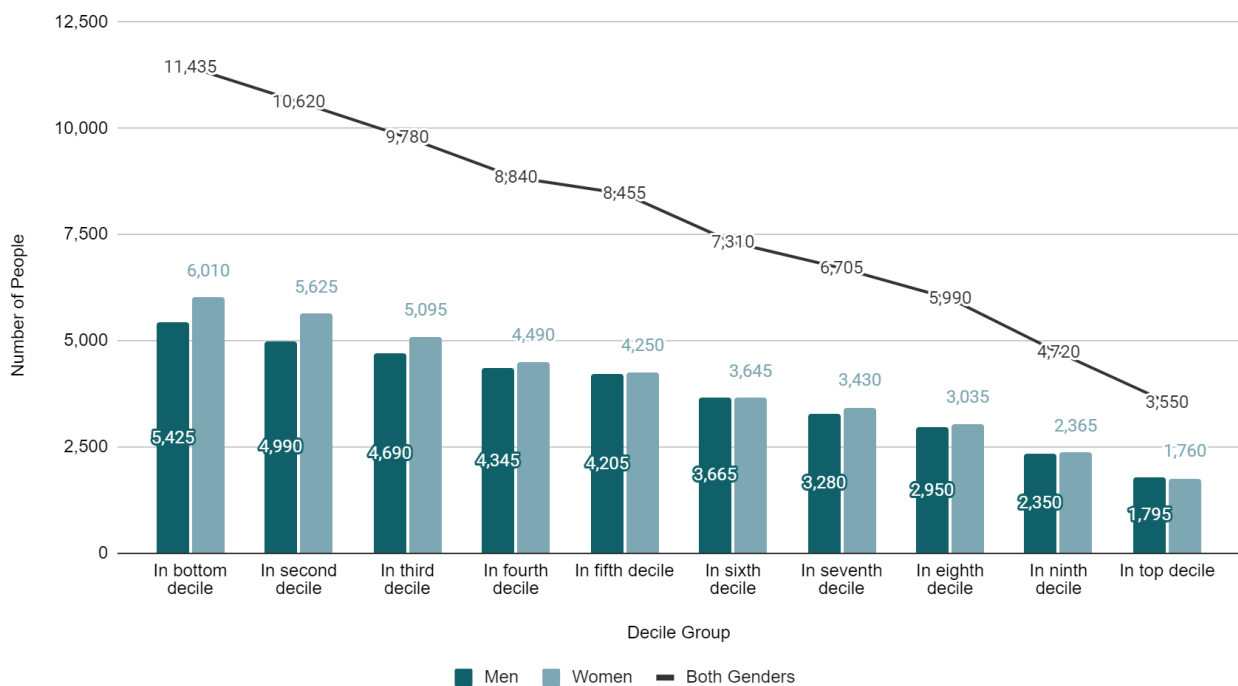


Low Income

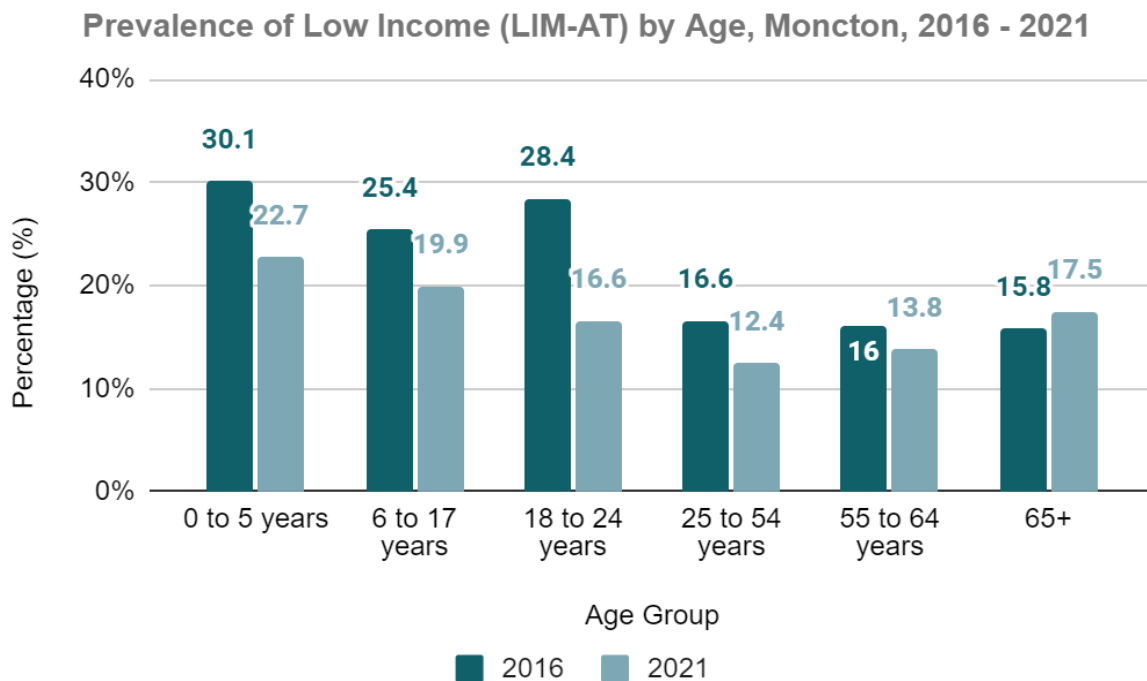
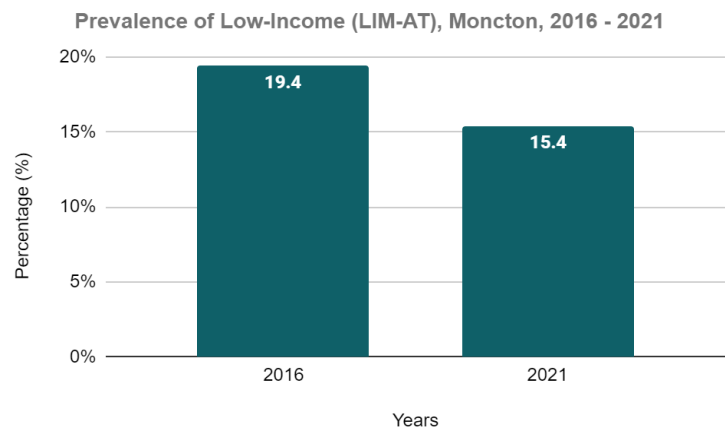
Data Facts

- In Moncton in 2021, income distribution shows more people in lower income deciles than in higher deciles, with more women than men in these lower brackets. However, in the highest income deciles, the numbers of men and women are nearly equal.

After-Tax Economic Family Income by Decile Group and Gender, Moncton, 2021

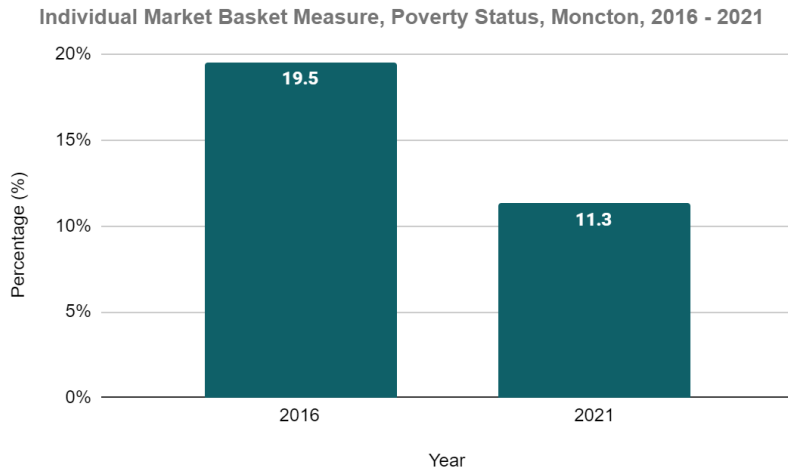


- ➔ From 2016 to 2021, the overall prevalence of low income (LIM-AT) in Moncton decreased from 19.4% to 15.4%.
- ➔ Most age brackets show a corresponding reduction in LIM-AT, although LIM-AT increased in the 65+ age group from 15.8% to 17.5%.



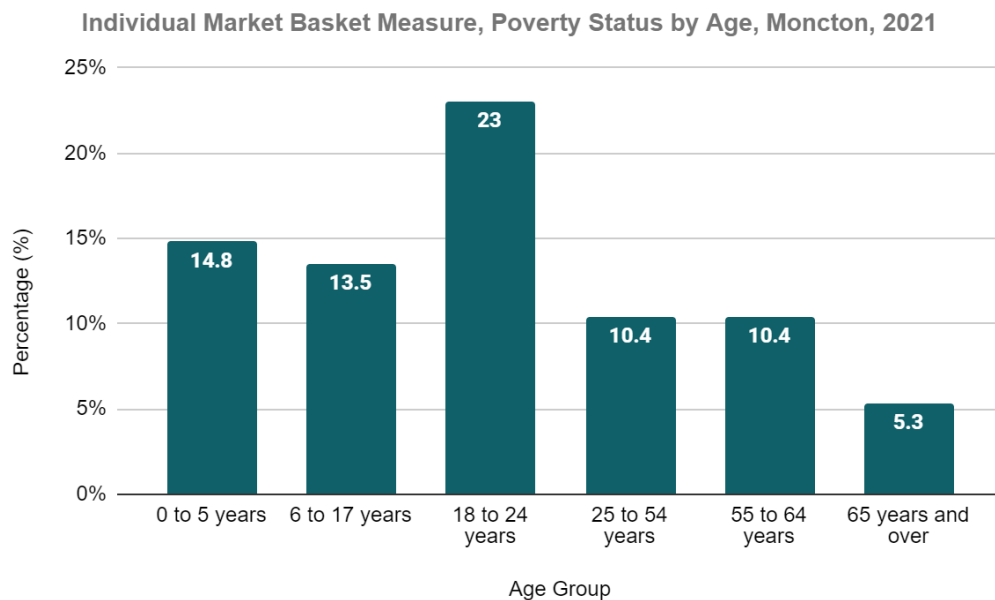
Poverty Rate

Data Facts



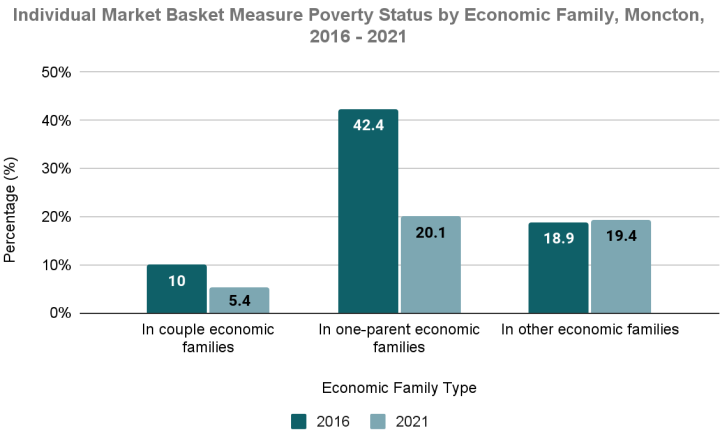
→ Moncton's overall poverty rate decreased from 19.5% in 2016 to 11.3% in 2021.

→ The highest poverty rate in 2021 was in the 18 to 24 age group at 23.0%, and the lowest was in the 65+ age group at 5.3%.

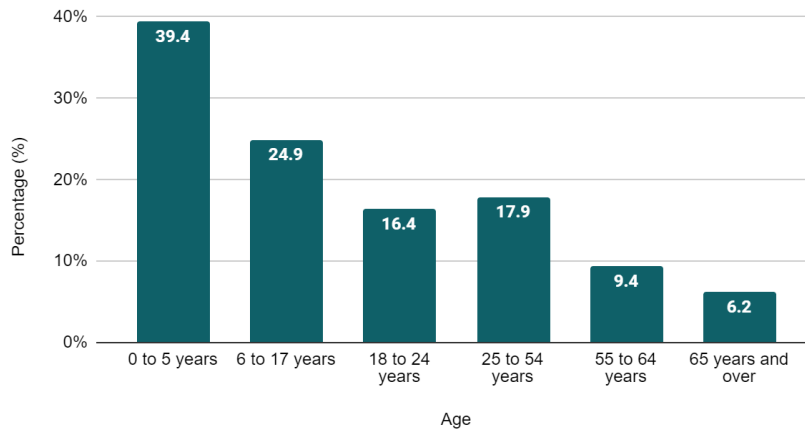


→ Poverty rates dropped substantially from 2016 to 2021 in both couple economic families (from 10.0% to 5.4%) and one-parent economic families (42.4% to 20.1%).

→ Poverty rate in 'other economic families' dropped only marginally from 18.9% in 2016 to 19.4% in 2021.

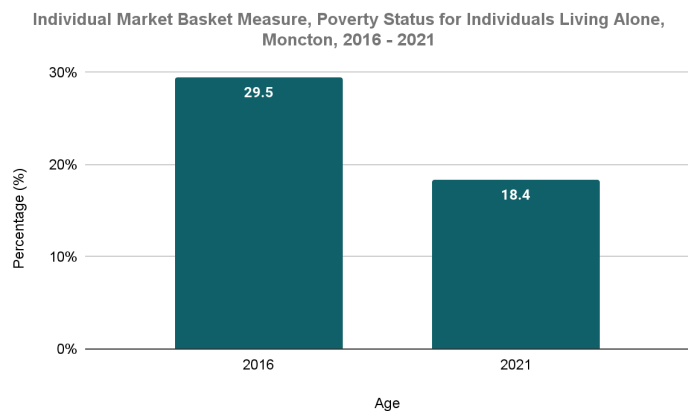


Individual Market Basket Measure, Poverty Status in One-Parent Economic Families by Age, Moncton, 2021



→ In 2021, the poverty rate for age groups in one-parent economic families was highest in the 0 to 5 age group (39.4%) and lowest in the 65+ age group (6.2%).

→ The poverty rate for people living alone in Moncton also saw a substantial reduction, from 29.5% in 2016 to 18.4% in 2021.



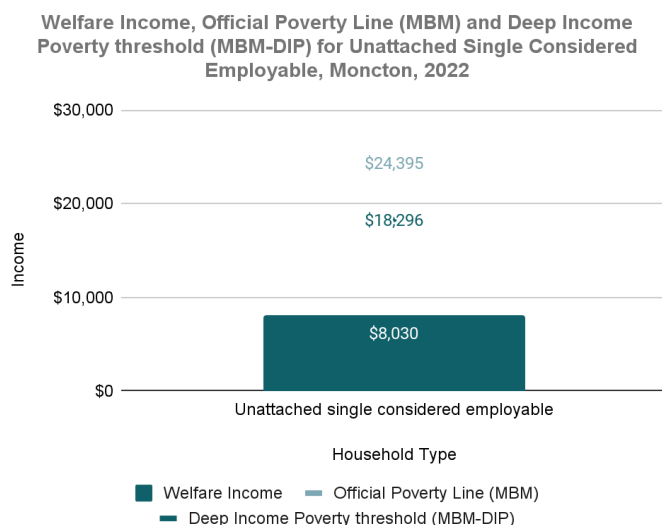
Income Assistance and Poverty⁸

According to Welfare in Canada, 2022, “welfare income” refers to a household’s total income from all government transfers, not just social assistance payments. Individuals and families who receive basic benefits from a social assistance program will also be eligible for financial support through tax credits, child benefits for households with children, and, where applicable, additional social assistance payments that are automatic and recurring (e.g., an annual back-to-school allowance). Together, these form the total welfare income of a household.

The total welfare income for which a household is eligible depends on its specific composition. The information below details the welfare incomes received by four different household types in Moncton:

- Unattached single person who is considered employable
- Unattached single person with a disability
- Single parent with one child aged two
- Couple with two children aged 10 and 15

Data Facts



→ The unattached single person who is considered employable had the highest income disparity compared to poverty thresholds. Their income was \$10,266 below the Deep Income Poverty threshold and \$16,365 below the Poverty Line. The income of this household type was only 44% of the Market Basket Measure-Deep Income Poverty (MBM-DIP) and 33% of the Market Basket Measure (MBM).⁹

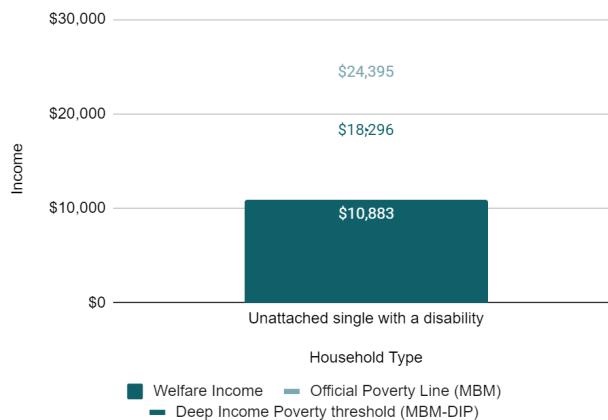
⁸ The information for this section was taken from: Maytree Foundation. (2022). Welfare in Canada 2022. Retrieved from: https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare_in_Canada_2022.pdf

⁹ The Market Basket Measure (MBM) for the provinces or the Northern Market Basket Measure (MBM-N) for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. These measures represent Canada’s Official Poverty Line and identify households whose disposable income is less than the cost of a “basket” of goods and services that represents a basic standard of living.

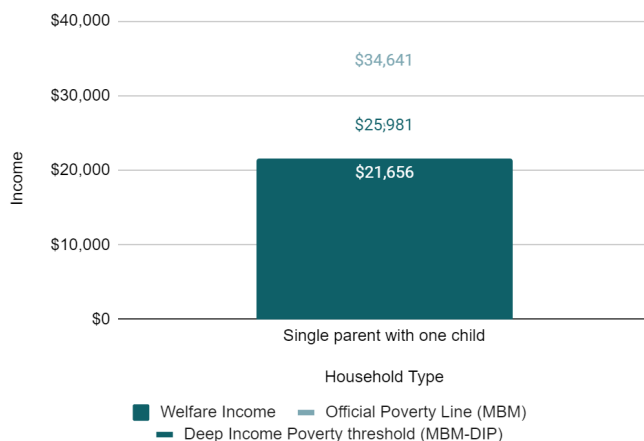
The Deep Income Poverty (MBM-DIP) threshold for the provinces or the Northern Deep Income Poverty (MBM-N-DIP) threshold for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. These measures are defined as having a disposable income of less than 75 percent of the MBM or MBM-N as applicable

→ The unattached single person with a disability had an income that was \$7,413 below the Deep Income Poverty threshold and \$13,512 below the Poverty Line. The income of this household type was 59% of the MBM-DIP and 45% of the MBM.

Welfare Income, Official Poverty Line (MBM) and Deep Income Poverty threshold (MBM-DIP) for Unattached Single With a Disability, Moncton, 2022

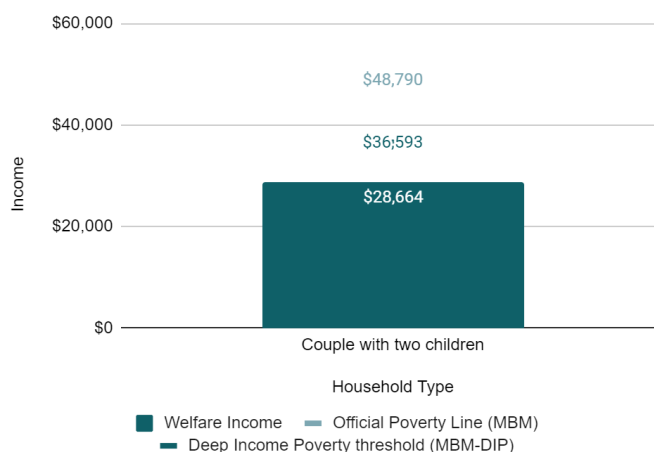


Welfare Income, Official Poverty Line (MBM) and Deep Income Poverty threshold (MBM-DIP) for Single Parent With One Child, Moncton, 2022



→ The single parent with one child had an income that was \$4,324 below the Deep Income Poverty threshold and \$12,985 below the Poverty Line. The income of this household type was 83% of the Market Basket Measure-Deep Income Poverty (MBM-DIP) and 63% of the Market Basket Measure (MBM).

Welfare Income, Official Poverty Line (MBM) and Deep Income Poverty threshold (MBM-DIP) for Couple With Two Children, Moncton, 2022



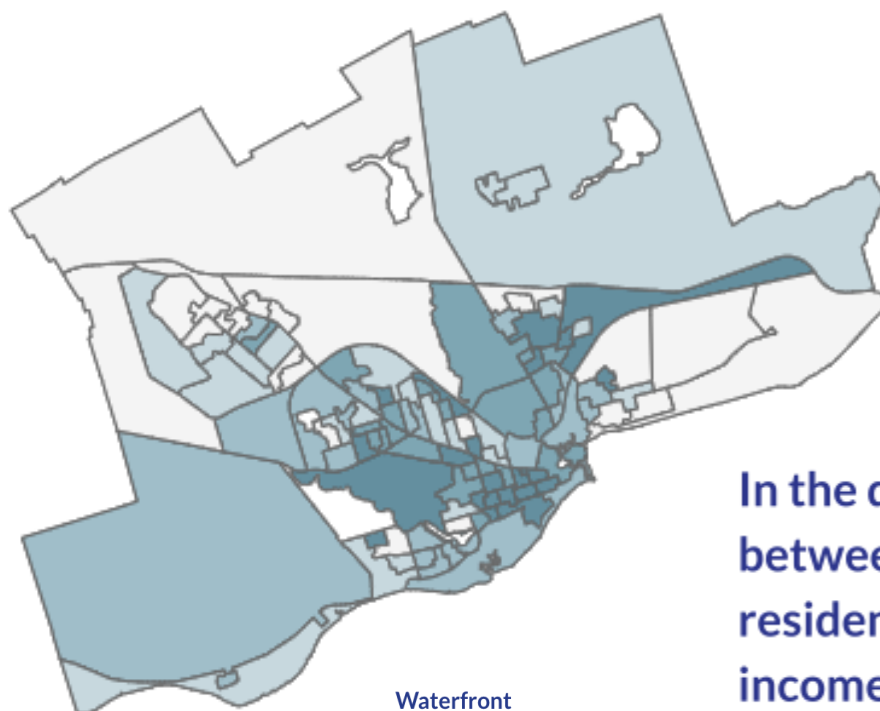
→ The couple with two children had an income that was \$7,929 below the Deep Income Poverty threshold and \$20,126 below the Poverty Line. The income of this household type was 78% of the Market Basket Measure-Deep Income Poverty (MBM-DIP) and 59% of the Market Basket Measure (MBM).

What We Heard

- Residents have concerns about the affordability of Moncton, particularly in terms of housing, but also for other basic needs like food and transportation.
- One resident stated that it compares poorly to other locations in Canada, even cities much larger, pointing out that, "rent, food, transportation [are] more than [in] Montreal."
- Another resident pointed out the importance of making sure people are able to afford their basic necessities: "Ensuring that the essentials are guaranteed for everyone. People should be able to live, and not only try to survive. This includes access to housing, food, and transportation."

Distribution of Low Income by Dissemination Area

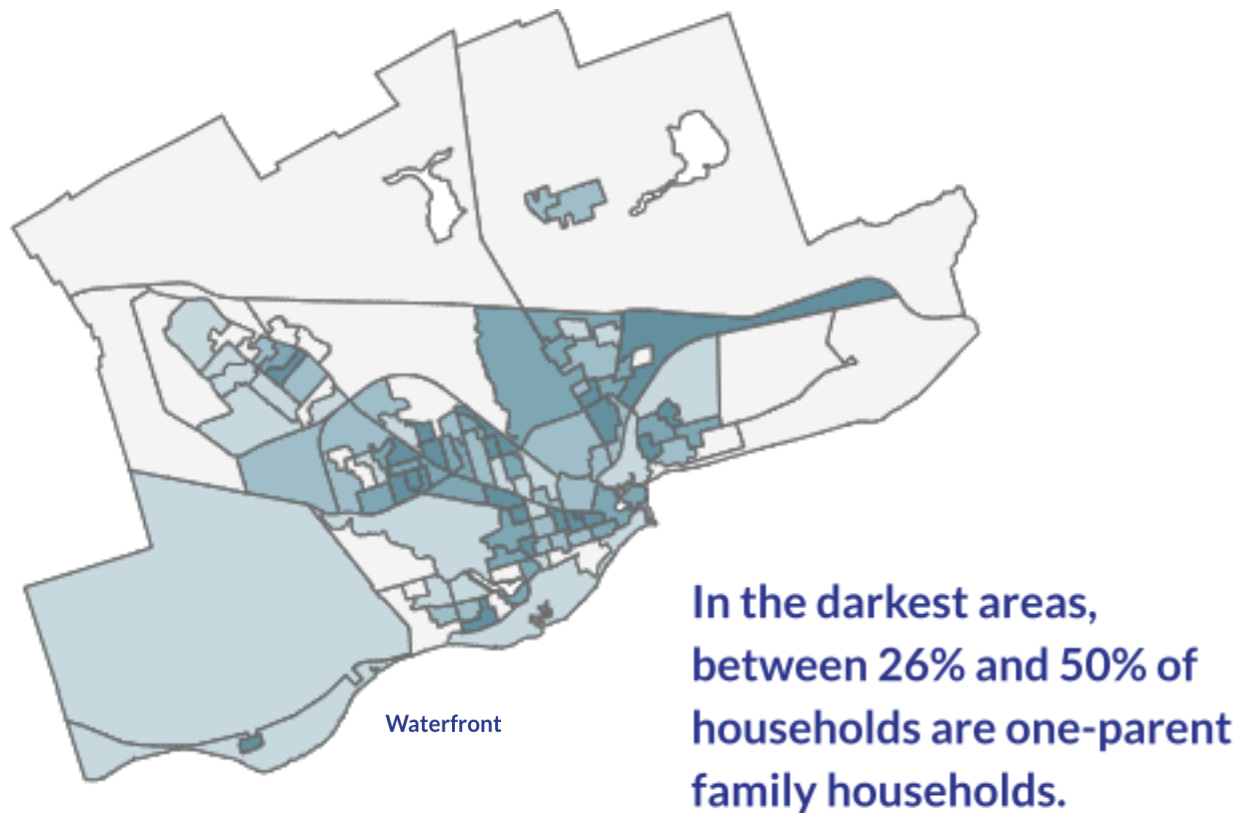
Examining the distribution of low-income individuals in a population helps inform the design and implementation of social and economic policies and services. This analysis can contribute to reducing income disparities, improving living conditions, and promoting economic security for all members of society.



In the darkest areas, between 26% and 62% of residents were in low income (LIM-AT).

Distribution of One-Parent Households by Dissemination Area

Reviewing the distribution of one-parent households in a population provides insights for developing supportive policies and services. This understanding can help address unique needs and challenges faced by these families, enhancing their social and economic wellbeing, and fostering inclusive communities.



Housing

Housing is a basic need. Factors that affect housing health in a community include availability, affordability, and suitability. The rate of core housing need and homelessness are also key dimensions in assessing a community's housing health. Availability and affordability reveal how feasible it is for residents to secure shelter within their means. Suitability and adequacy show whether homes meet the specific needs of residents in terms of size, location, state of repair, and accessibility requirements.

Core housing need is a metric that identifies households that must spend a disproportionate amount of their income on housing, or live in housing that is not suitable or adequate.

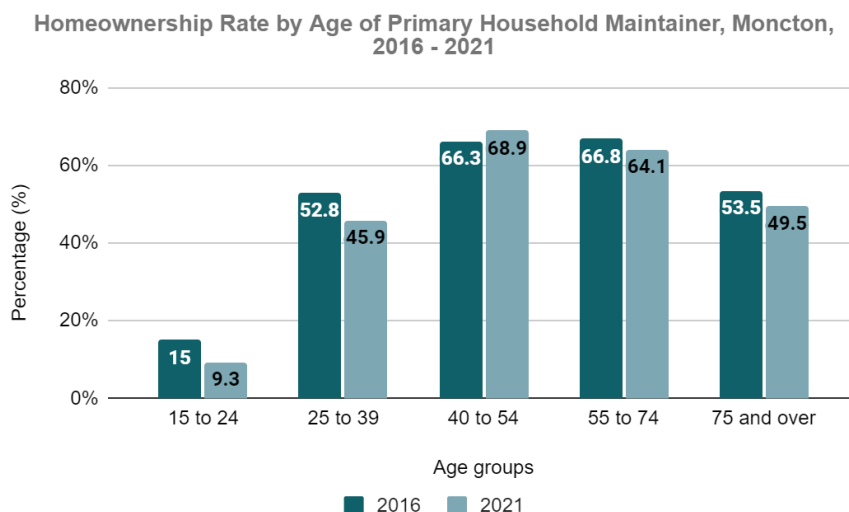
Homelessness is the most serious housing issue in a community, and may result from a variety of causes, including lack of affordable, available, and safe housing.

Together, these housing factors, and changes in trends for each factor, are important considerations as part of a comprehensive social inclusion strategy toward ensuring that every community member has a safe and appropriate place to call home.

Homeownership and Shelter Cost

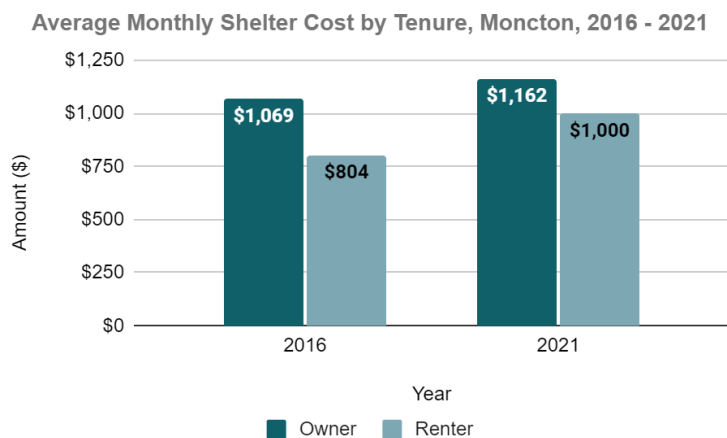
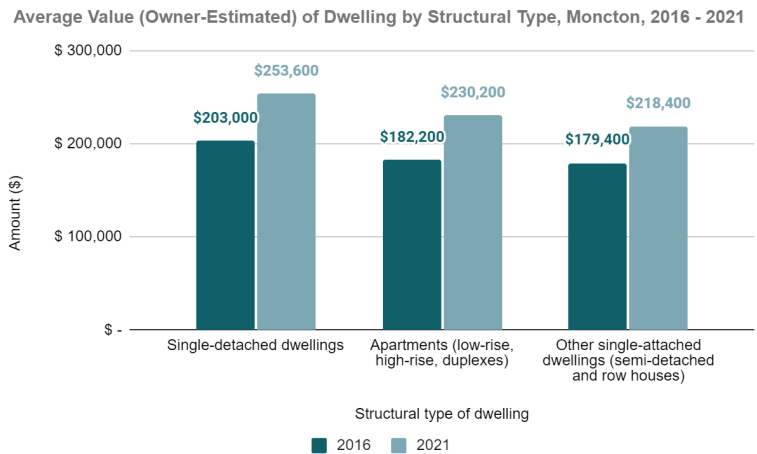
Data Facts

- Moncton has a much lower homeownership rate (55.9%) than New Brunswick (73.0%) and Canada (66.5%).



- From 2016 to 2021, homeownership rates in Moncton decreased across most age groups, except for the 40 to 54 age group, which rose from 66.3% to 68.9%. The largest decrease was in the 15 to 24 age group, from 15.0% to 9.3%.

→ The average value of dwellings in Moncton increased across all structural types from 2016 to 2021, from \$203,000 to \$253,600 for single-detached dwellings, \$182,200 to \$230,200 for apartments, and \$179,400 to \$218,400 for other single-attached dwellings.

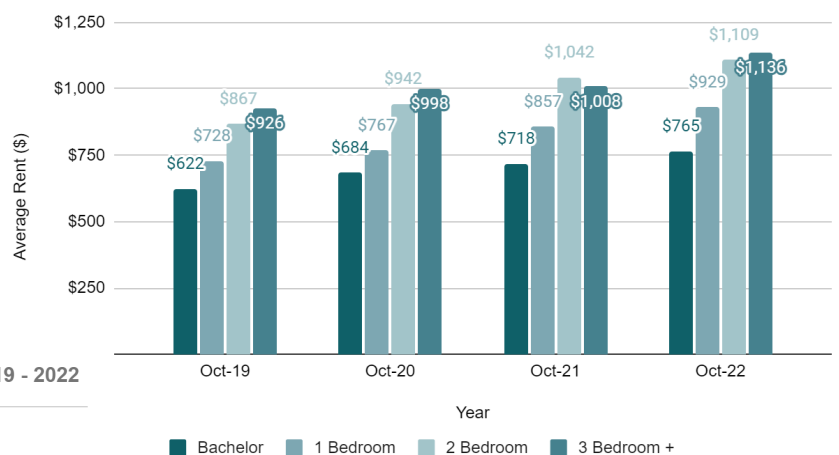


→ The average monthly shelter cost for homeowners rose from \$1,069 in 2016 to \$1,162 in 2021, an increase of \$93.

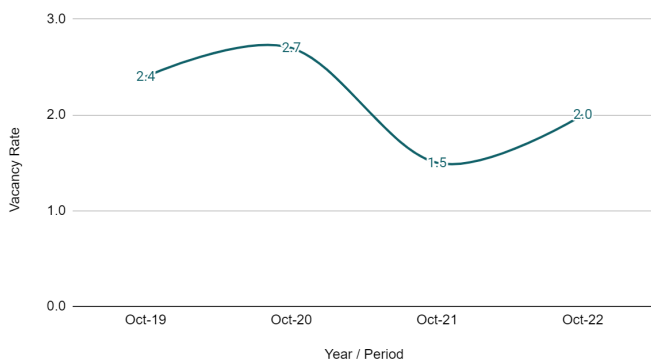
→ Renters saw a larger increase in average monthly shelter costs, rising from \$804 in 2016 to \$1,000 in 2021, an increase of \$196.

→ From October 2019 to October 2022, Moncton experienced a consistent rise in average rents across all apartment types.

Private Apartment Average Rents, Moncton, October 2019 - 2022



Private Apartment Vacancy Rates, Moncton, October 2019 - 2022

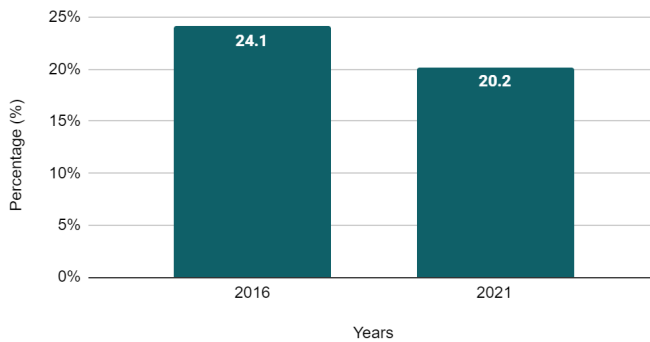


→ The vacancy rates for private apartments in Moncton varied between October 2019 and October 2022, ranging from 1.5% to 2.7%.

Affordability

Data Facts

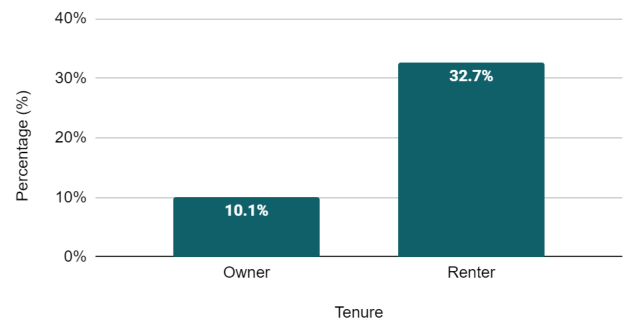
Percent of Households that Spent 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs, Moncton, 2016 - 2021



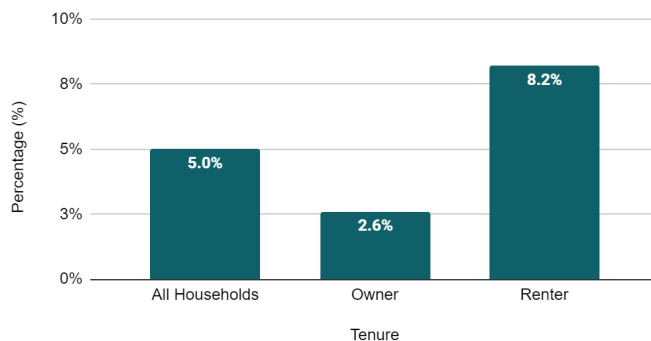
→ The overall percentage of households in Moncton spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs decreased from 24.1% in 2016 to 20.2% in 2021.

→ 32.7% of renters spent 30% or more of their income on shelter costs, compared to 10.1% of homeowners.

Percent of Households that Spent 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs by tenure, Moncton, 2021



Households Spending 50% or More of Income on Housing, Moncton, 2021



→ In 2021, 5.0% of households spent 50% or more of their income on housing. 8.2% of renters spent 50% or more of their income on housing, compared to 2.6% of homeowners.

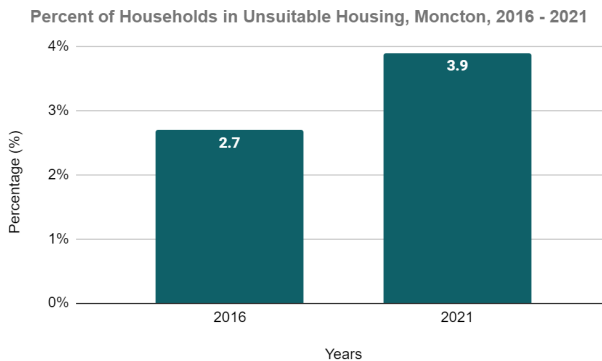
→ As of 2022, the minimum wage in New Brunswick was \$13.8 per hour, but to afford a one-bedroom apartment, someone would need to earn a "rental wage" of \$17.8 per hour, and \$21.4 per hour for a two-bedroom apartment.

Minimum Wage and Minimum Hourly Wage Required for a One and Two -Bedroom Apartment, Moncton, 2023



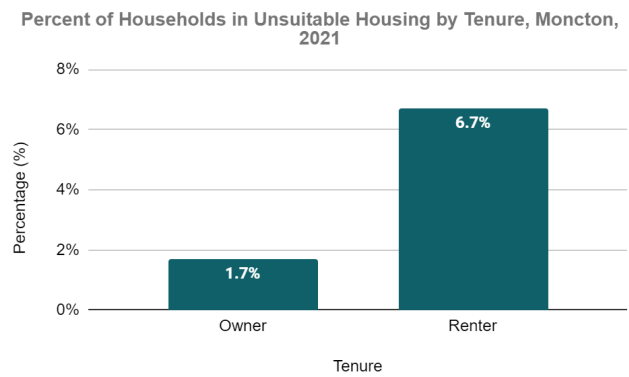
Suitability

Data Facts



→ The percentage of households in unsuitable housing in Moncton increased from 2.7% in 2016 to 3.9% in 2021.

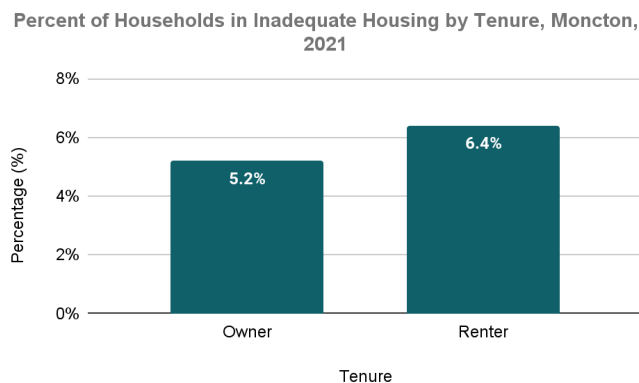
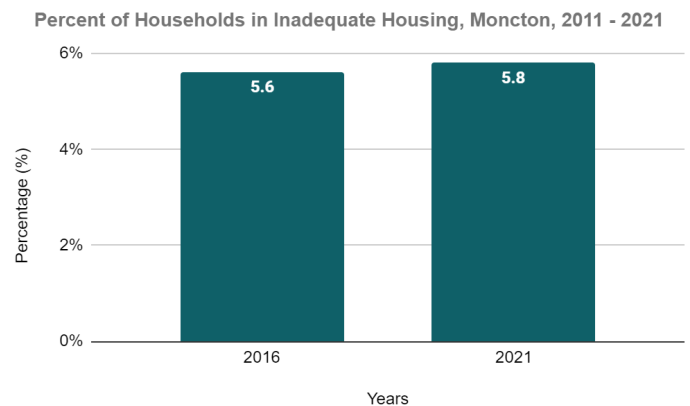
→ In 2021, the rate of unsuitable housing was much higher among renters (6.7%) than homeowners (1.7%).



Adequacy

Data Facts

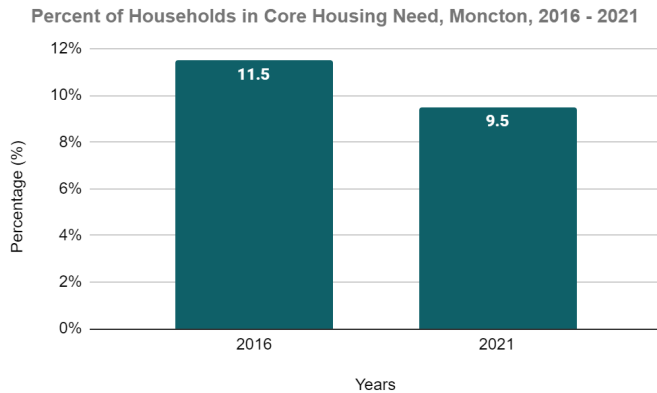
→ The percentage of households in inadequate housing increased marginally from 5.6% in 2016 to 5.8% in 2021.



→ The rate of inadequate housing in 2021 was higher among renters (6.4%) than homeowners (5.2%).

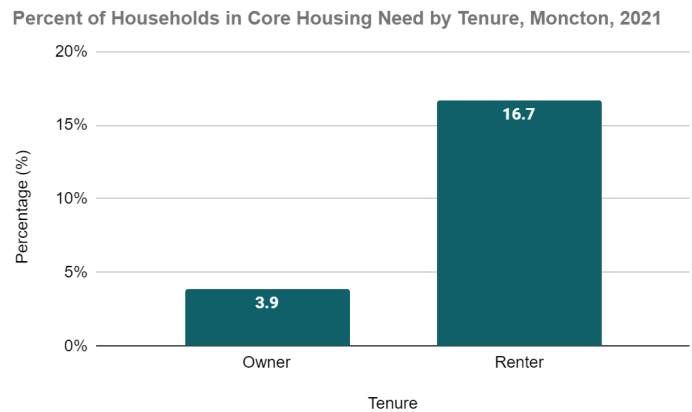
Core Housing Need

Data Facts



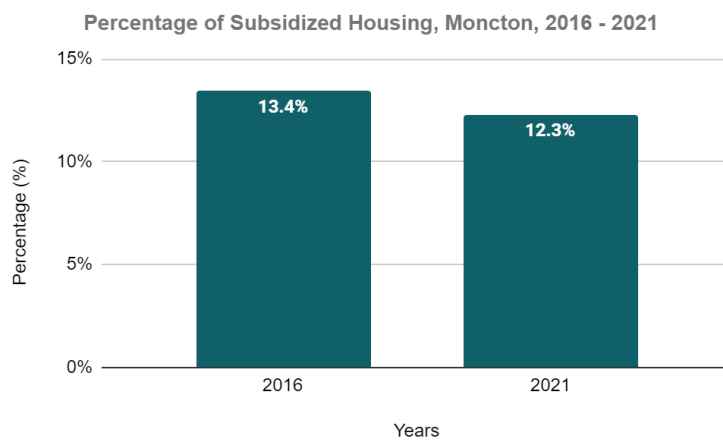
→ The overall percentage of households in core housing need in Moncton decreased from 11.5% in 2016 to 9.5% in 2021.

→ In 2021, renters had a much higher rate of core housing need (16.7%) than homeowners (3.9%).



Subsidized Housing

Data Facts



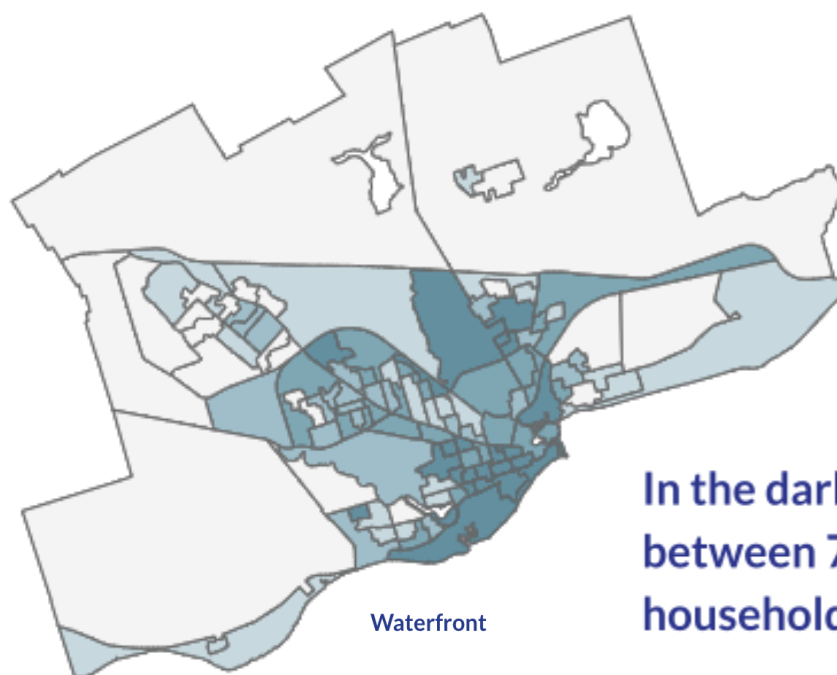
→ The percentage of subsidized housing in Moncton decreased from 13.4% in 2016 to 12.3% in 2021.

What We Heard

- Many community members in Moncton identified housing as the current most pressing need, with a resident stating, *"we really need to broaden our definition on what housing looks like and think about ways to meaningfully put roofs over our heads."*
- The recognition of the need for housing for all is seen as a positive step forward, but there are many more needed. This is especially true given the removal of rent caps and the rise of renovations.
- Long wait times for housing and inadequate services from landlords further exacerbate the problem.
- Newcomers in particular were mentioned as a group for which housing can be difficult to find, with one community member saying, *"Newcomers get lost in the shuffle – rent with children is hard to find, you can't build a history with the bank quickly, rent is so expensive, so it's hard to save to buy."*
- Though there are also needs for other social services, the call for a better housing strategy is almost universally seen as the top priority.

Distribution of Renters by Dissemination Area

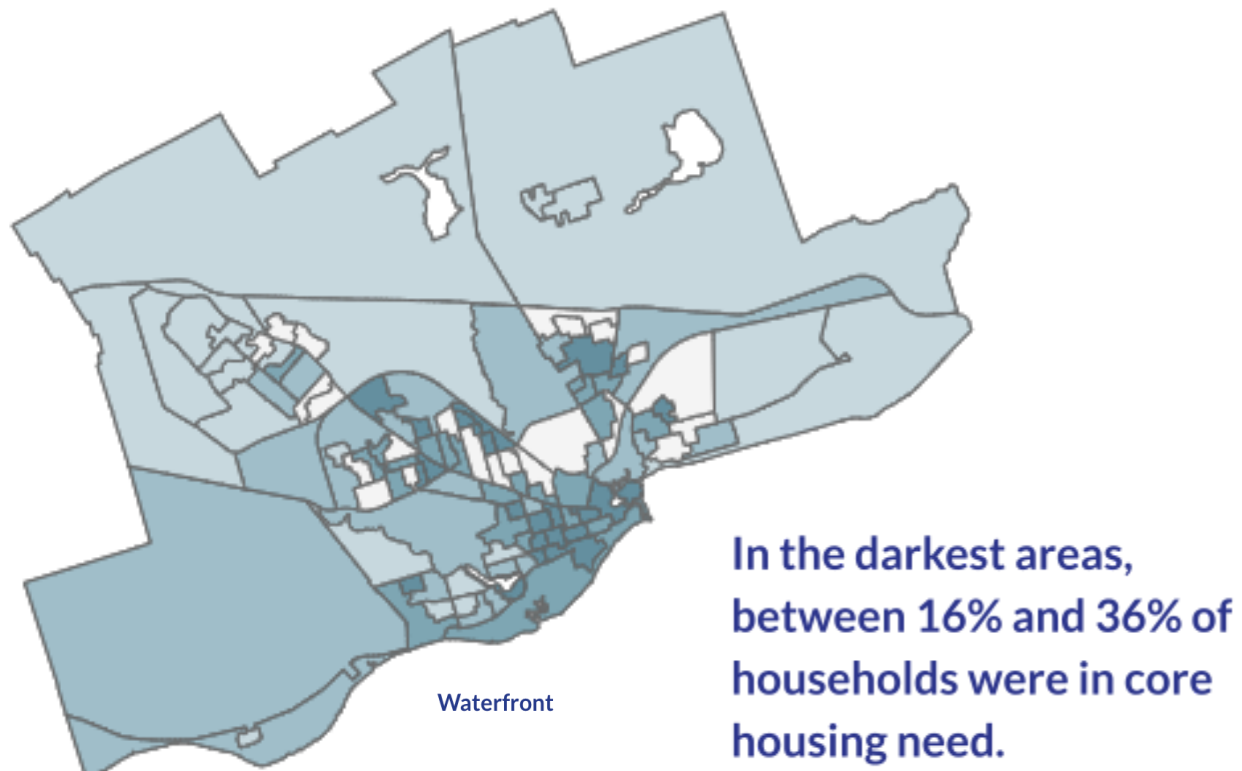
Evaluating the distribution of renters in a population can guide housing policies and tenant support services. This understanding can help in addressing affordability issues, improving housing security, and fostering equitable and inclusive communities.



**In the darkest areas,
between 75% and 97% of
households are renters.**

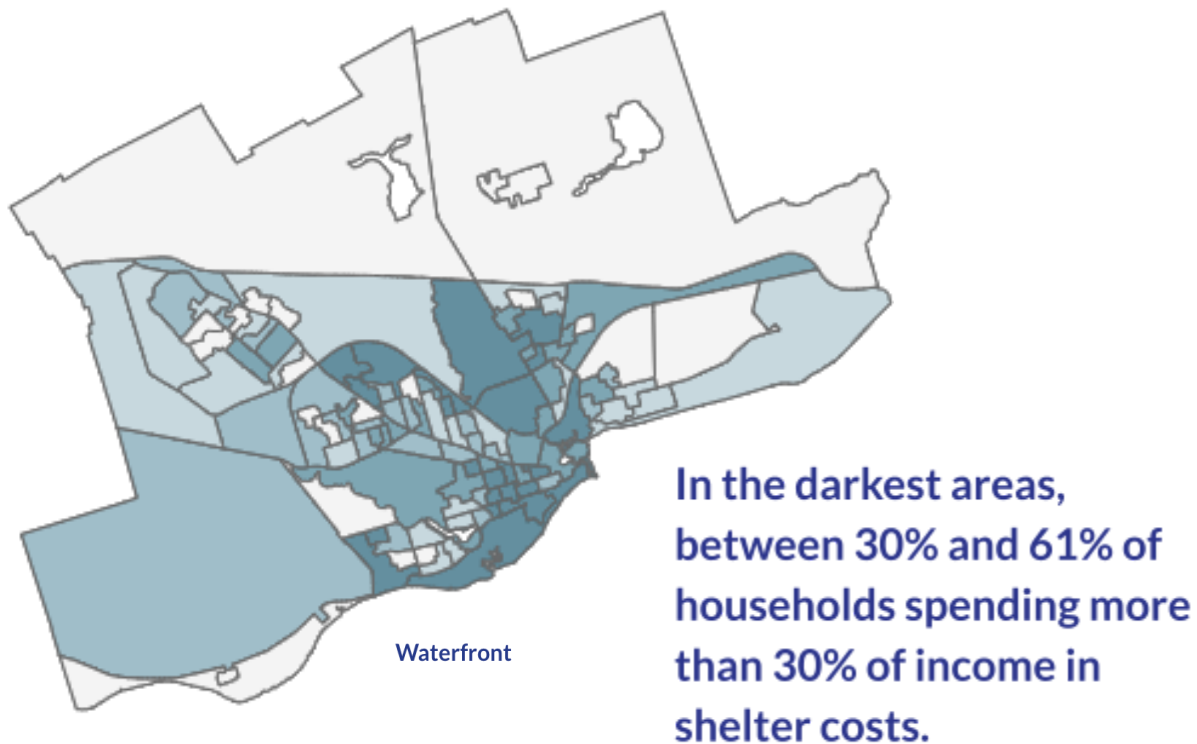
Distribution of Core Housing Need by Dissemination Area

Understanding the distribution of core housing need in a population assists in shaping housing policies and support initiatives. This insight can help tackle housing inadequacies, improve living conditions, and enhance social inclusion and community wellbeing.



Distribution of Shelter Costs 30%+

Analyzing the distribution of households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs can inform housing affordability policies and support programs. This analysis aids in addressing housing cost burdens, promoting economic stability, and enhancing community wellbeing.

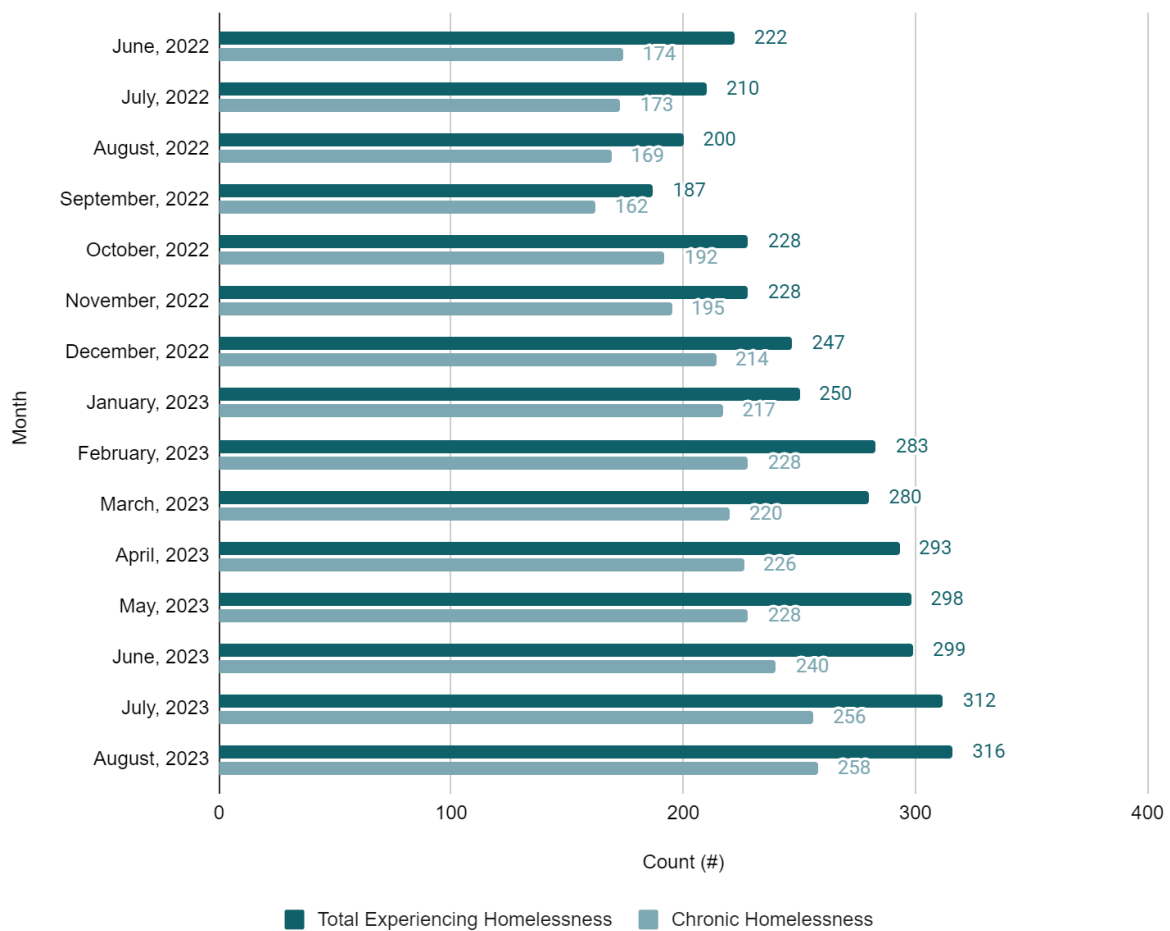


Homelessness

Data Facts

- ➔ From June 2022 to August 2023, Moncton saw a steady increase in people experiencing homelessness, with numbers peaking in August 2023 at 316 people. Of these, a sizeable proportion were chronically homeless, rising from 174 in June 2022 to 258 in August 2023. This escalating trend, especially in chronic homelessness, underscores a pressing concern for the city, suggesting a need for targeted interventions.

Total Individual Experiencing Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness, Moncton, June, 2022 - August, 2023



What We Heard

- In Moncton, homelessness is seen partly as a consequence of the overall lack of available housing.
- Shelters operated by organizations are often filled to capacity, and the organizations themselves are underfunded and understaffed.
- According to one service provider, *"[for the] chronically homeless - we are 60 caseworkers short of what the need is."*
- Though they are able to manage homelessness, they cannot solve the underlying issues causing homelessness. The biggest needs are housing, staffing, and bringing more people into the conversation, such as a proposed downtown task force that would include the business community.
- Communication about the unhoused is seen as a key step forward for one Moncton resident: *"We need to communicate more to the public about what vulnerable populations are and what we can do. The business community needs to understand that putting them on buses and shipping them out is based in ignorance - frustration due to not understanding - no one walks a mile in anyone's shoes today. We need to better understand the compounded challenges and tell the story so people will take action."*

Intersectional Analysis

Understanding a community requires an analysis of multiple elements that, together, shape its landscape. In the context of Moncton, merging demographic data with risk factor indicators can provide a deeper understanding of the community's needs, allowing for more targeted and efficient social infrastructure planning.

Integrating these indicators enables a holistic view of the community, capturing the complexities of residents' lives rather than focusing on a single aspect. For example, merging income data with demographics can reveal how economic disparities intersect with factors like age, race, or family structure. This nuanced perspective helps identify areas facing multiple challenges, potentially requiring specialized interventions.

Moreover, combining risk and demographic indicators can shed light on diverse aspects of the community. Consider a neighbourhood characterized by a high concentration of low-income households and frequent resident turnover. Residents of such areas might be at risk of loneliness and isolation. Identifying these areas ensures that resources are effectively allocated, preventing these issues from escalating.

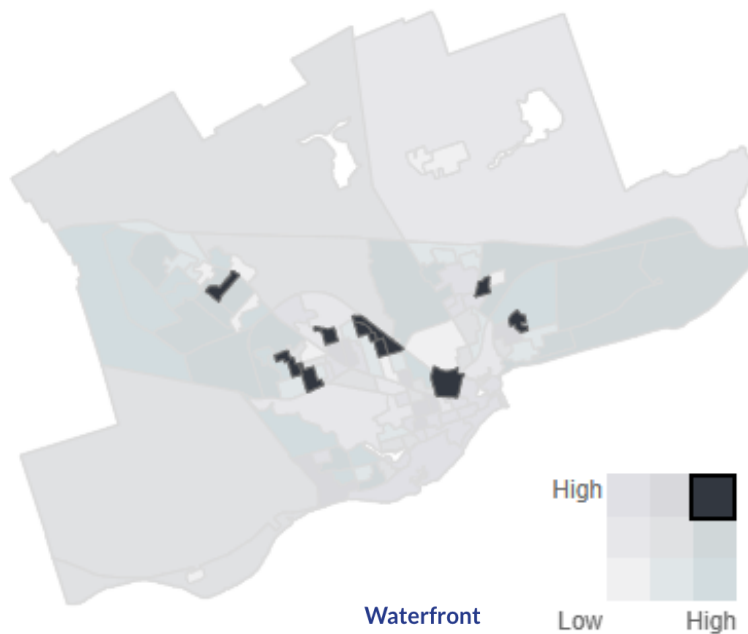
In a rapidly evolving community like Moncton, the ability to integrate multiple indicators and scrutinize compounded characteristics is invaluable. As the city's demographics shift, its challenges and opportunities evolve as well. Understanding the complex interplay of various factors empowers us to ensure that social infrastructure planning adequately caters to the diverse and dynamic needs of the community.

Children and Core Housing Need

The following map delineates regions in Moncton with the highest proportions of children and households experiencing core housing need.

Households with children or in core housing need may experience challenges such as disruption to education, social exclusion, and potentially a higher risk of long-term poverty. The intersection of both factors suggests a need for more targeted interventions.

Areas in black have the highest proportion of children (between 16% and 35%), and households in core housing need (between 13% and 36%).

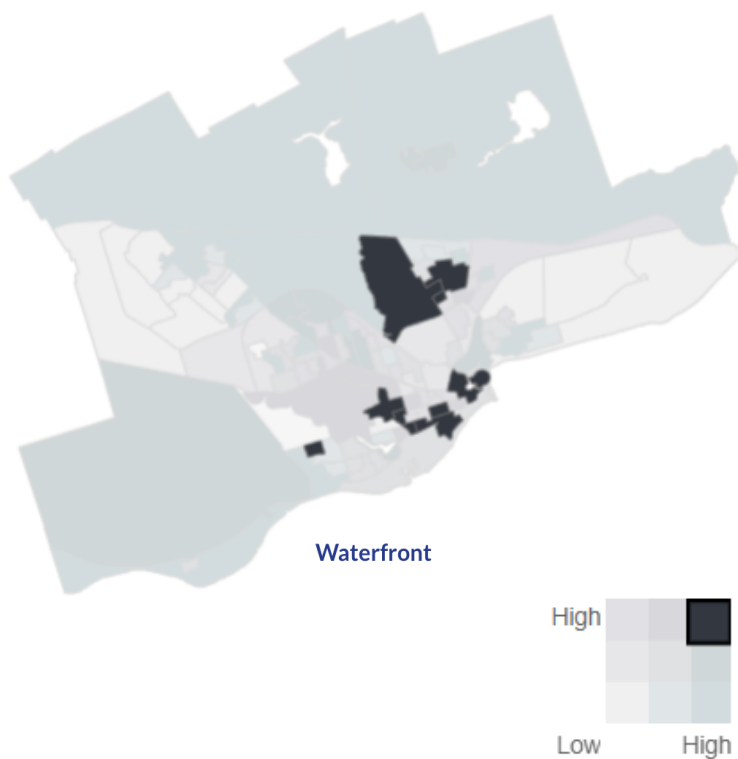


Seniors and Low Income

The following map highlights areas in Moncton that have the highest proportions of both seniors aged 65+ and households falling under the low-income measure after tax.

Challenges associated with these factors include social isolation, difficulty meeting basic needs, and a higher risk of homelessness. The intersection of both factors indicates a potential need for more focused, preventative measures.

Areas in black have the highest proportion of households in low income (between 21% and 62%), and people aged 65 and older (between 23% and 75%).



One-Parent Families and Core Housing Need

The following map highlights the areas in Moncton with the highest proportions of one-parent households and households experiencing core housing need.

These factors may lead to challenges such as financial instability, social marginalization, housing instability, and stress, with potential effects on child development and family wellbeing. The intersection of both factors indicates a potential necessity for more tailored community support and housing policies.

Areas in black have the highest proportion of single-parent households (between 23% and 50%), and households in core housing need (between 13% and 36%).

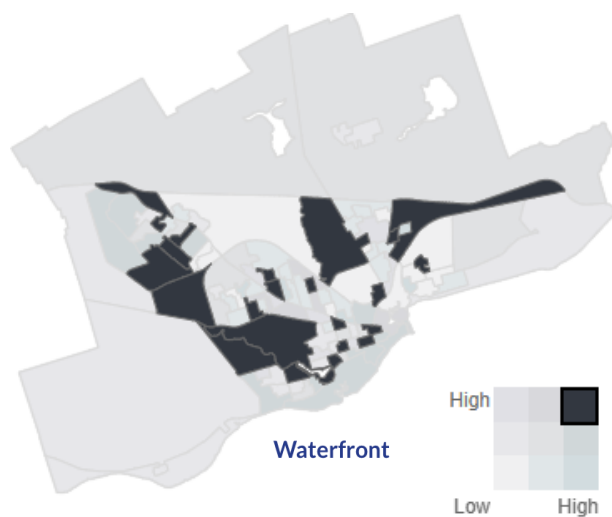


Immigrants and No Knowledge of Official Languages

The following map shows the areas in Moncton that have the highest proportions of both immigrants and people with no knowledge of official languages.

Immigrants who do not know the official languages may lead to challenges such as social isolation, limited employment opportunities, and difficulties accessing services, all of which can substantially affect integration and quality of life. The intersection of both factors indicates a potential need for more targeted language learning programs and integration efforts.

Areas in black have the highest proportion of immigrants (between 12% and 30%), and people with no knowledge of official languages (between 1% and 3%).



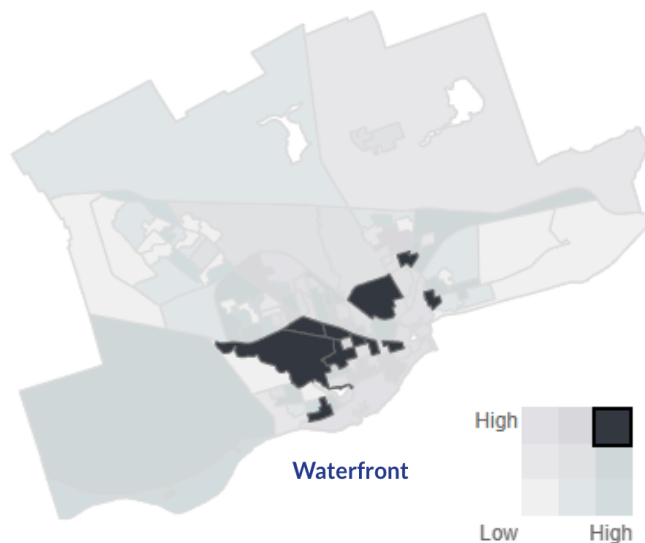
Unemployment and Living Alone

The following map shows the areas in Moncton that have the highest proportions of both unemployment and people living alone.

Unemployment and living alone bring challenges such as financial strain, feelings of isolation, mental health concerns, and difficulties in securing basic needs. The intersection of both factors indicates a potential requirement for more tailored social and economic support programs.

High concentrations of both unemployment and people living alone may also indicate a need for comprehensive support measures, including employment services, mental health support, financial assistance, and social connectivity initiatives. Targeted strategies can help alleviate the potential effects and enhance the resilience of these people.

Areas in black have the highest proportion of unemployed people (between 7% and 15%), and people living alone (between 20% and 63%).



Physical Health and Diverse Abilities

Considering physical health and diverse abilities is integral to evaluating the wellbeing and accessibility of a community. Physical health refers to the overall physiological state of a person, encompassing chronic and acute health conditions, and general fitness. Physical health status is closely linked to access to healthcare, preventive measures, and overall quality of life. Diverse abilities may include, among other things, challenges with mobility, speech, sight, hearing, and cognition. Supporting the needs of community members with diverse abilities ensures that public spaces, services, and opportunities are accessible and inclusive for everyone.

Data Facts

- Unmet homecare needs in Moncton increased from 1.9% in 2017 to 3.8% in 2020, a larger increase than for New Brunswick overall (from 2.6% to 3%).
- Moncton has a higher percentage of adults with diverse abilities (21.8%) compared to New Brunswick (20.8%), but fewer seniors with diverse abilities (30.5% versus 35.6%).
- Moncton has a higher percentage of adults and seniors with no chronic health conditions (42.9%) compared to New Brunswick (39.1%), but fewer residents who have three or more chronic health conditions (21.3% vs. 23.1%).
- In 2020, more people in Moncton faced financial barriers to healthcare (30.9%), didn't fill prescriptions due to cost (7.9%), and skipped dental care (25.1%) compared to New Brunswick (26.5%, 5.8%, and 20.6%, respectively).
- In Moncton, a higher proportion of people didn't know how or where to get help (27.7%) and faced issues with service availability at convenient times (24%) compared to New Brunswick (19.8% and 16.3%, respectively).

- In Moncton, the average wait time for 90% of cataract surgeries is 276 days, which is 164 days beyond the national benchmark. The wait time for hip replacements is 321 days, 139 days past the benchmark, and for knee replacements is 356 days, 174 days beyond the benchmark.¹⁰

| | National benchmark (in days) | Dr. Georges- L.-Dumont UHC 90% completed | Moncton Hospital 90% completed | Minimum days past benchmark |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cataract surgery | 112 | 292 | 276 | 164 |
| Hip replacement | 182 | 321 | 661 | 139 |
| Knee replacement | 182 | 356 | 683 | 174 |

What We Heard

- In Moncton, access to physical healthcare can sometimes be challenging, as transportation and lack of support systems can hinder people's ability to receive proper care.
- It can also be particularly difficult for people with diverse abilities to find housing, with properties that fit their accessibility needs often being cost-prohibitive.
- There is also mention of improving accessibility for those with diverse abilities, including enhancing transportation and infrastructure, though one service provider points out the positive work already being done in this arena: *"trying to improve sidewalks and transportation networks and physical facilities [...] transit is embarking on a program to help those with sight and hearing loss."*

¹⁰ New Brunswick Department of Health. (2023). Surgical Wait Time for a Surgical Procedure and a Community. Retrieved July 26, 2023, from <https://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/Reports/Index-e.aspx?gp=18&tab=0>

Mental Health and Substance Use

Mental health challenges and substance use play a role in the wellbeing of a community. Recognizing the importance of mental health and the challenges posed by addiction for the broader community and its individual members means prioritizing support systems, resources, and preventive measures to address these issues. This means communities can ensure a supportive environment where people feel understood, accepted, and equipped to seek help when needed, fostering a compassionate, resilient, and inclusive society.

Data Facts

- Moncton has a higher prevalence of depression (21.1%) and other mood disorders (4.0%) than New Brunswick overall (17.3% and 3.2% respectively).
- In 2020, 29.2% of Moncton citizens who felt they needed mental health or substance use services did not access them, slightly lower than the 32.6% in New Brunswick.
- Rates of drug use are similar in Moncton (28.3%) and New Brunswick (29.4%).
- Moncton has a slightly lower percentage of daily or occasional smokers (16.1%) than New Brunswick (17.5%).
- Moncton adults have a slightly lower rate of heavy drinking (28.4%) compared to New Brunswick (30%), though the rate of heavy drinking among seniors is the same (13.6%).
- Cannabis use among adults and seniors is the same in both Moncton and New Brunswick, at 7.6%.

What We Heard

- Mental health and wellbeing are significant concerns in Moncton, particularly for vulnerable populations, including victims of intimate partner violence, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and recent immigrants.
- The establishment of wrap-around services, including justice and health, is essential for supporting individuals with mental health concerns.
- An increased clinical response to the opioid crisis is also one step towards a more inclusive and supportive future, as well as having a dialogue open around mental health and addictions. As one service provider stated, *"too much taboo around mental health and addictions [...] if this was addressed we would see a lot more motivation to move forward."*

Institutional and Administrative Barriers

Institutional and administrative barriers can be defined as policies, practices, and procedures that create obstacles to essential services and opportunities. These barriers can range from physical barriers, such as inaccessible buildings or transportation, to informational and communication barriers, such as inaccessible websites or documents. Addressing these barriers is important because they substantially affect the ability of people to fully participate in society, and can perpetuate systemic discrimination. By removing these barriers, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has equal access to opportunities and services.

What We Heard

- Institutional and administrative barriers are recurring themes for both those trying to access services and those trying to provide services.
- One service provider states, *"we tend to work in silos and hierarchies and this doesn't serve to move things forward."*
- Many of the largest challenges due to these barriers are faced by newcomers navigating government systems. These problems include unclear service provisions, organizations' inability to provide all necessary services, and inaccuracies in documentation and resources, all of which lead to lack of access and resources for those in need.
- To address these issues, the vision for the future involves all bodies and levels of government working together with open and clear communication, ensuring that they are not overly restrained by bureaucracy.
- Greater connection and collaboration between non-governmental organizations is also identified as essential.

Accessibility and Newcomers

Access to information and services is essential for the integration of newcomers into their new communities. However, language barriers and unfamiliar environments can impede their ability to access these resources, leading to isolation, discrimination, and limited opportunities. Addressing these challenges is important, as it promotes integration and social cohesion, while reducing the economic and social costs of exclusion and isolation. It ensures equal access to opportunities and services, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all residents, and upholding the values of diversity and non-discrimination.

Among newcomers in Moncton, the language barrier is a major concern, with accounts of difficulty finding adequate language-learning support.

Finding reliable transportation is another common access issue. Both language and transportation barriers make it even harder for people to find outside employment and access essential services. While some organizations are eager to hire newcomers, these barriers can hinder successful employment. Some newcomers hope to start their own businesses or projects, but they lack the resources to do so. Consequently, many newcomers instead rely on social assistance, which can be demoralizing and is often inadequate. Finally, knowledge barriers can also pose serious challenges for newcomers, particularly when they lack the information required to navigate complex systems and technologies.

What We Heard

- One service provider illustrated the difficulty some newcomers faced when asked to perform an activity online that had been assumed to be easy: *"Most are coming from villages. No one knew how to buy a ticket online – [they were] asking the reception 20 times a day [to] check for tickets."* As another resident pointed out, *"don't assume people have the foundational information they need."*

Crime and Safety

Crime Severity Index (CSI)

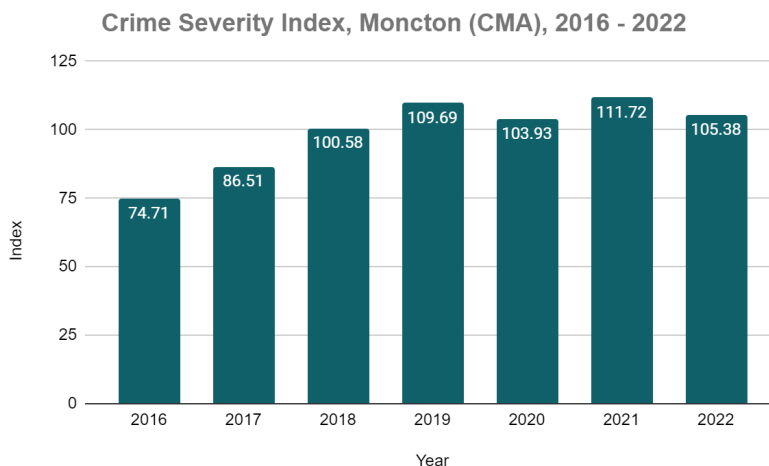
The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure that reflects the severity of crimes reported in a specific area during a specific period. It's not just about the number of crimes, but also how serious those crimes are.

Each type of crime (like robbery, assault, or murder) is assigned a weight, based on the average prison sentence handed down for that crime by the courts. More serious crimes are given higher weights, less serious ones have lower weights.

When calculating the CSI, each reported crime is counted once, and it's assigned the weight corresponding to its type. The total is then adjusted for population size and expressed as a rate per 100,000 population.

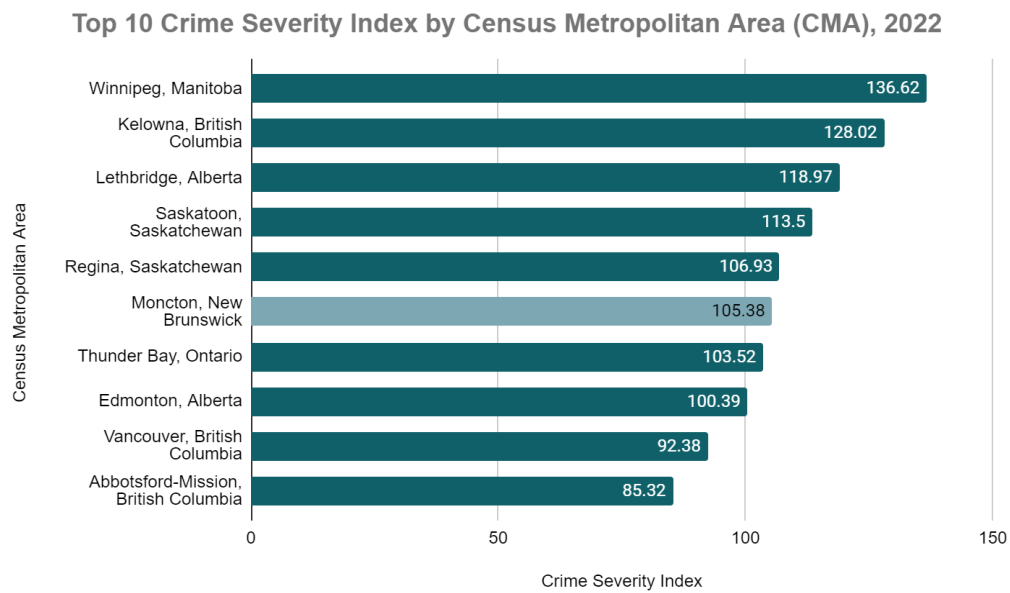
So, when the CSI increases, it means that more crimes are being reported, that the crimes being reported are more severe, or both. A decrease in the CSI indicates that fewer crimes are being reported, that the crimes being reported are less severe, or both.

Data Facts

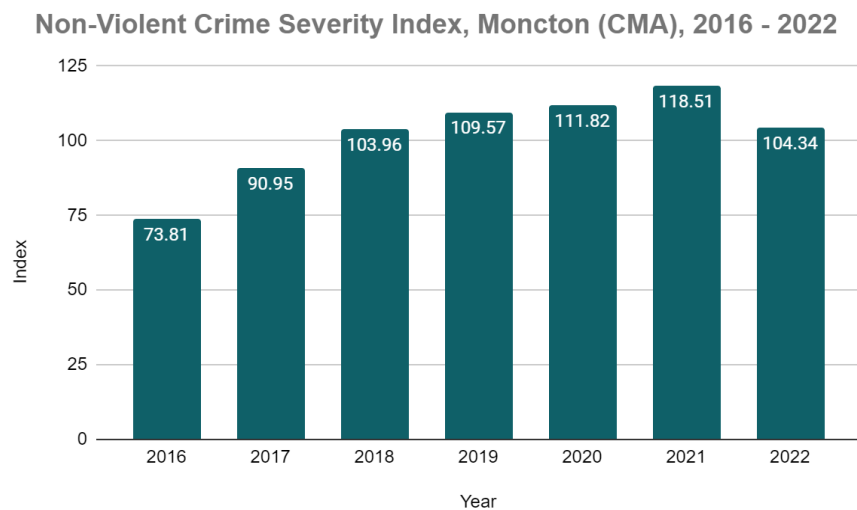


→ The Crime Severity Index in Moncton rose from 74.71 in 2016 to 105.38 in 2022.

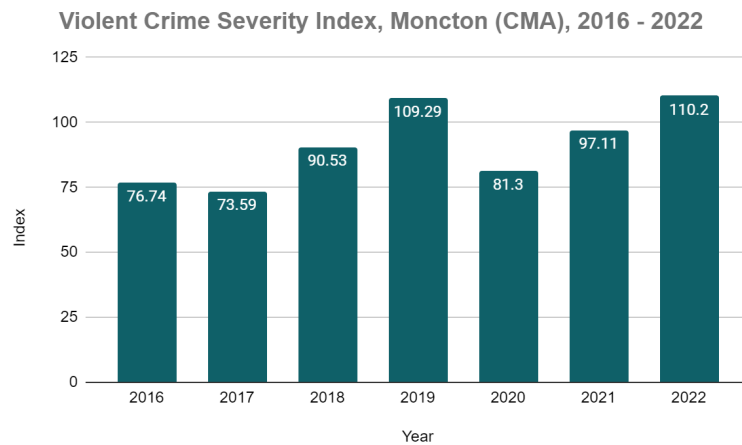
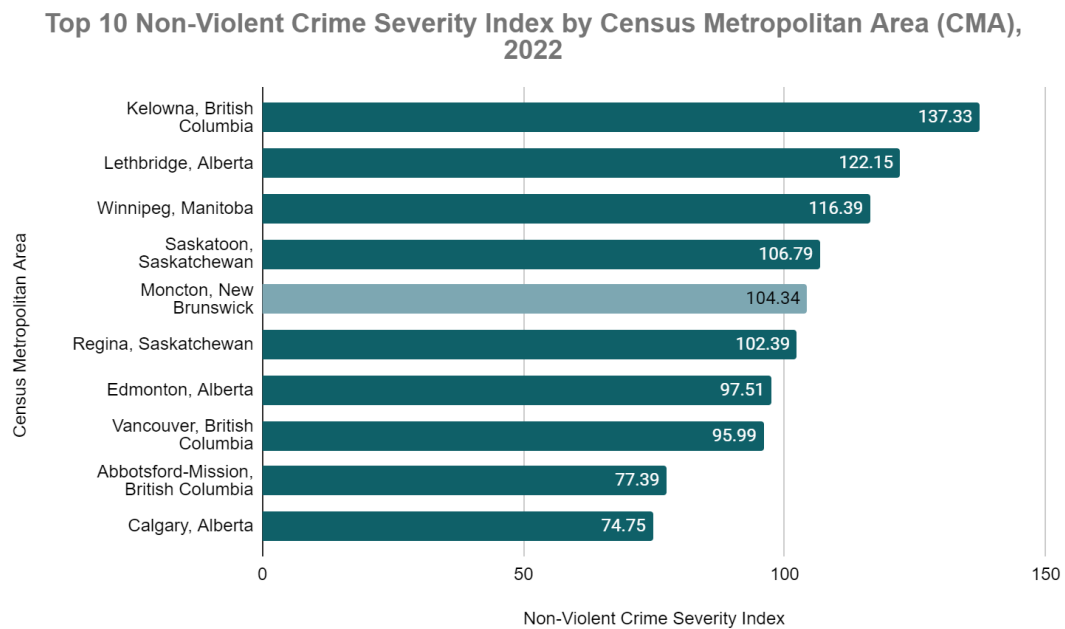
- In 2022, Moncton had the 6th-highest Crime Severity Index among Canadian metropolitan areas.



- The Non-Violent Crime Severity Index in Moncton increased from 73.81 in 2016 to 104.34 in 2022.



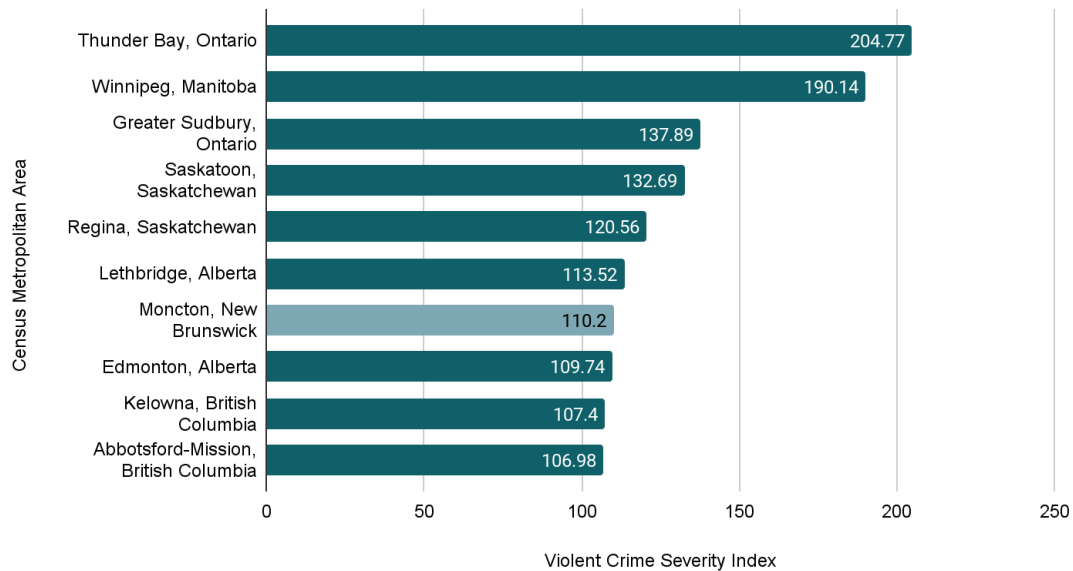
→ In 2022, Moncton ranked 5th highest in the Non-Violent Crime Severity Index among Canadian metropolitan areas.



→ The Violent Crime Severity Index in Moncton rose from 76.74 in 2016 to 110.2 in 2022.

- In 2022, Moncton had the 7th-highest Violent Crime Severity Index among the top 10 Canadian metropolitan areas.

Top 10 Violent Crime Severity Index by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), 2022



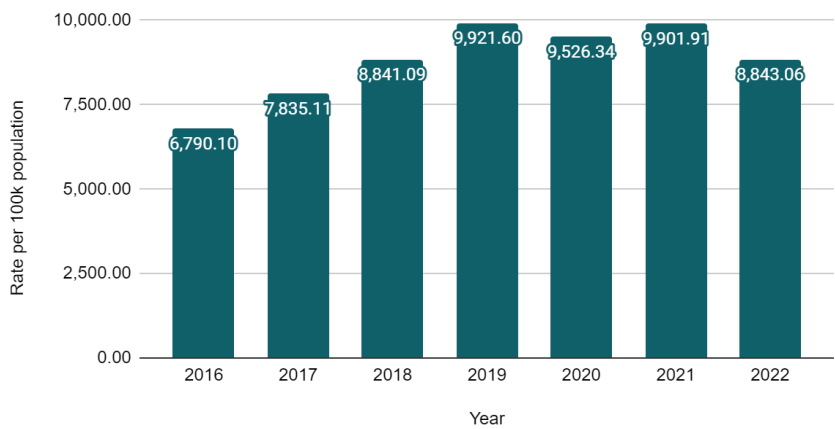
Criminal Code Violations

Violent Criminal Code violations refer to crimes that involve the use or threat of violence against a person. These are defined by the Criminal Code of Canada and include offenses such as:

- Homicide: This includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide.
- Attempted murder: This involves an act that is intended to cause the death of another person but does not succeed.
- Assault: This includes various levels of assault, from causing bodily harm to assault with a weapon.
- Sexual assault: This includes sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party, or causing bodily harm.
- Robbery: This involves theft in which violence or threats of violence are used.
- Other violent crimes: This includes other offenses involving violence or the threat of violence, such as criminal harassment, uttering threats, kidnapping, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, etc.

The rate of Violent Criminal Code violations is typically expressed per 100,000 population, to allow for comparisons across different population sizes. This rate gives an indication of the prevalence of violent crime in a particular area.

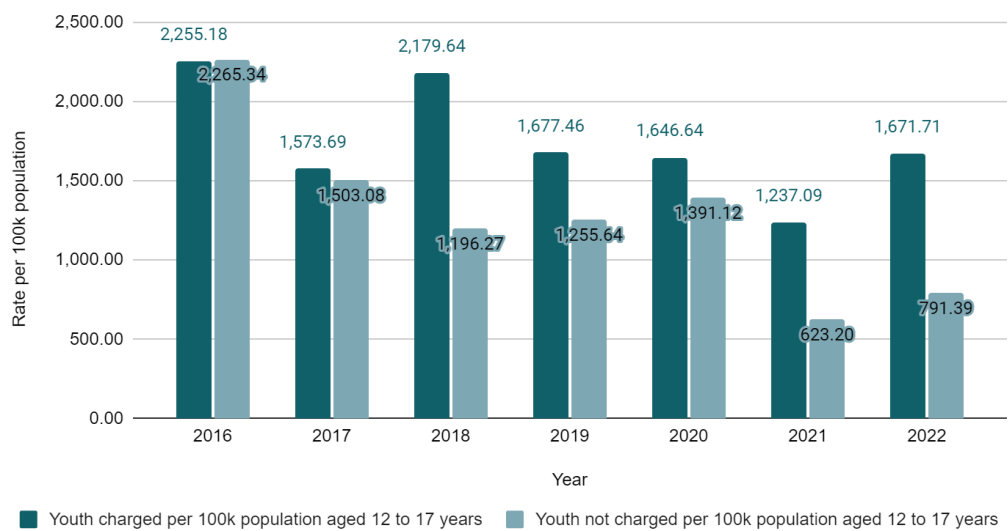
Total Violations, Rate per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022



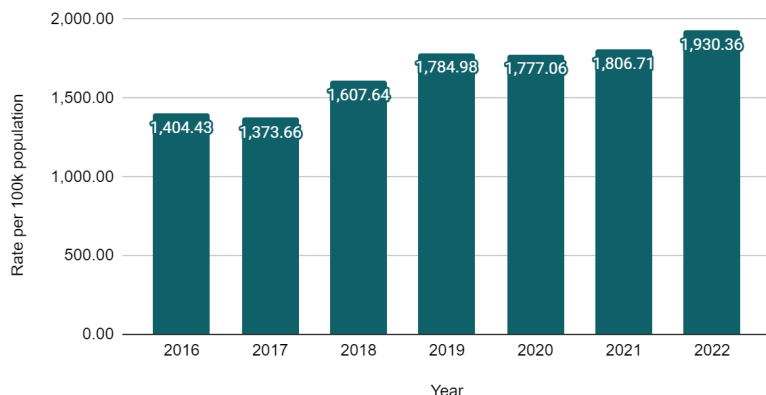
→ The rate of total violent criminal code violations per 100,000 population in Moncton increased from 1,404.43 in 2016 to 1,930.36 in 2022.

- Youths aged 12 to 17 charged with violent crimes per 100,000 population increased from 761.89 in 2016 to 1,102.61 in 2022.
- The number of youths not charged decreased from 741.57 in 2016 to 426.82 in 2022.

Total Violations, Youth Charged and Not Charged Aged 12 to 17 per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022



Total Violent Criminal Code Violations, Rate per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022

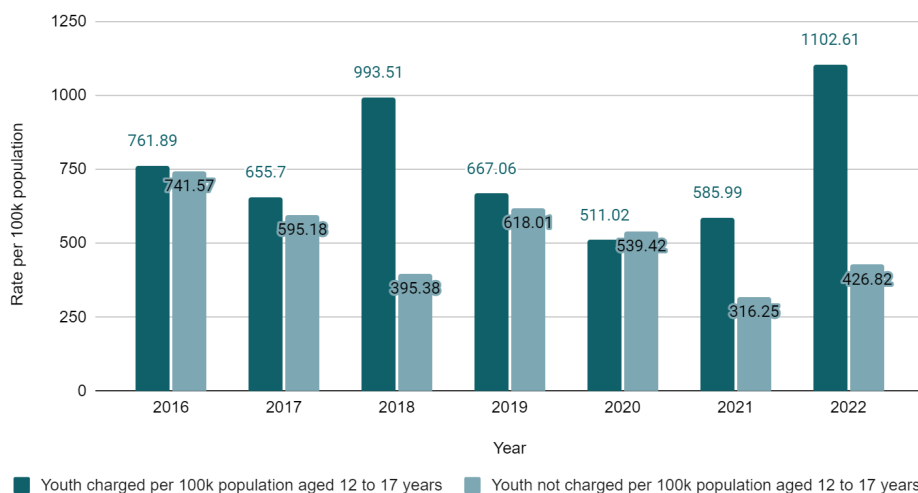


→ The rate of total violent crimes per 100,000 people in Moncton increased from 1,404.43 in 2016 to 1,930.36 in 2022.

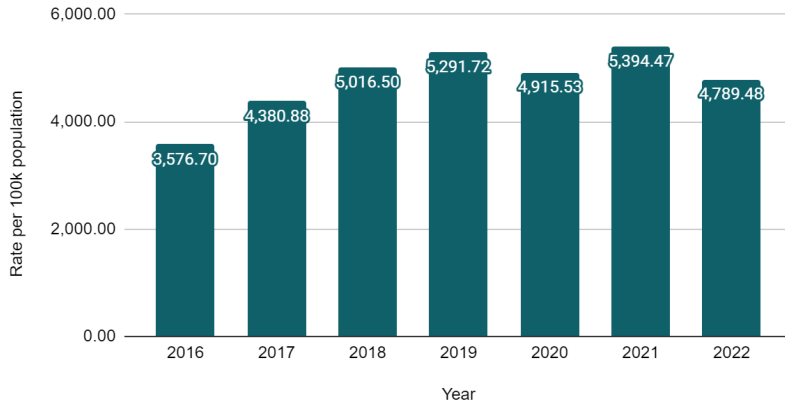
→ For youths aged 12 to 17, the rate of those charged with violent crimes per 100,000 increased from 761.89 in 2016 to 1,102.61 in 2022.

→ The rate of youths not charged decreased from 741.57 in 2016 to 426.82 in 2022.

Total Violent Criminal Code Violations, Youth Charged and Not Charged Aged 12 to 17 per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022



Total Property Crime Violations, Rate per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022

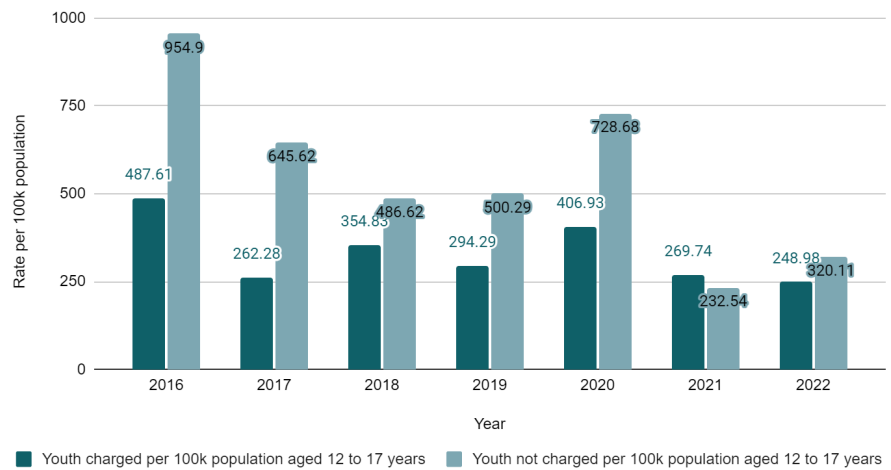


→ The rate of total property crimes per 100,000 people in Moncton increased from 3,576.70 in 2016 to 4,789.48 in 2022.

→ For youths aged 12 to 17, the rate of those charged with property crimes per 100,000 decreased from 487.61 in 2016 to 248.98 in 2022.

→ The rate of youths not charged also decreased from 954.9 in 2016 to 320.11 in 2022.

Total Property Crime Violations, Youth Charged and Not Charged Aged 12 to 17 per 100k Population, Moncton (CMA), 2016 - 2022



Moncton has higher property crime rates compared to violent crime rates, which is a common trend across communities. However, violent crimes, though less frequent, often have a greater effect.

Transit Availability and Social Inclusion

The availability and accessibility of public transit are central to social inclusion efforts because they enable all people, regardless of their circumstances, to participate fully in the social and economic life of their communities.

Accessible transit allows people to reach employment, education, healthcare, and other essential services, thereby leveling the playing field for all community members. It serves as a lifeline for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, people with physical challenges, and low-income families, who may rely heavily on public transit. Accessible transit can reduce isolation by enabling people to participate in community activities, maintain social connections, and access services, which are fundamental components of social inclusion.

Ensuring easy transit access and better availability, especially for communities outside of inner-city areas, is not only a matter of convenience but also a large factor in promoting social equity and economic vitality. Tomer and Puentes¹¹ from the Brookings Institution noted that metropolitan areas with extensive transit coverage and frequent services witnessed higher employment rates. Their research emphasized that easy access to transit directly correlates with increased access to job opportunities. This particularly affects those residing in peripheral regions who might otherwise be isolated from major employment hubs.

A study by Sanchez, Shen, and Peng¹² found that inadequate transit access in peripheral areas can exacerbate social inequalities. Residents without personal vehicles in areas with poor transit options often face limited employment opportunities, leading to economic stagnation. The Urban Institute¹³ noted that transit-oriented developments can play a pivotal role in enhancing housing affordability, reducing transportation costs, and promoting sustainable urban growth.

The American Public Transportation Association¹⁴ has consistently emphasized that public transit acts as a substantial equalizer. It provides essential mobility and connectivity for all, irrespective of socio-economic status. For communities outside the inner city, this connectivity is paramount for accessing essential services, healthcare, education, and recreational activities. The risk of social isolation for these communities, in the absence of efficient transit, is real and has cascading effects on mental health, economic stability, and overall wellbeing. A study by Fan, Guthrie, and Levinson¹⁵

¹¹ Tomer, A., & Puentes, R. (2011). Transit access and zero-vehicle households. Brookings Institution.

¹² Sanchez, T. W., Shen, Q., & Peng, Z. R. (2004). Transit mobility, jobs access and low-income labour participation in US metropolitan areas. *Urban Studies*, 41(7), 1313-1331.

¹³ Turner, M. A. (2017). Transit-oriented development in the United States: Experiences, challenges, and prospects. Urban Institute.

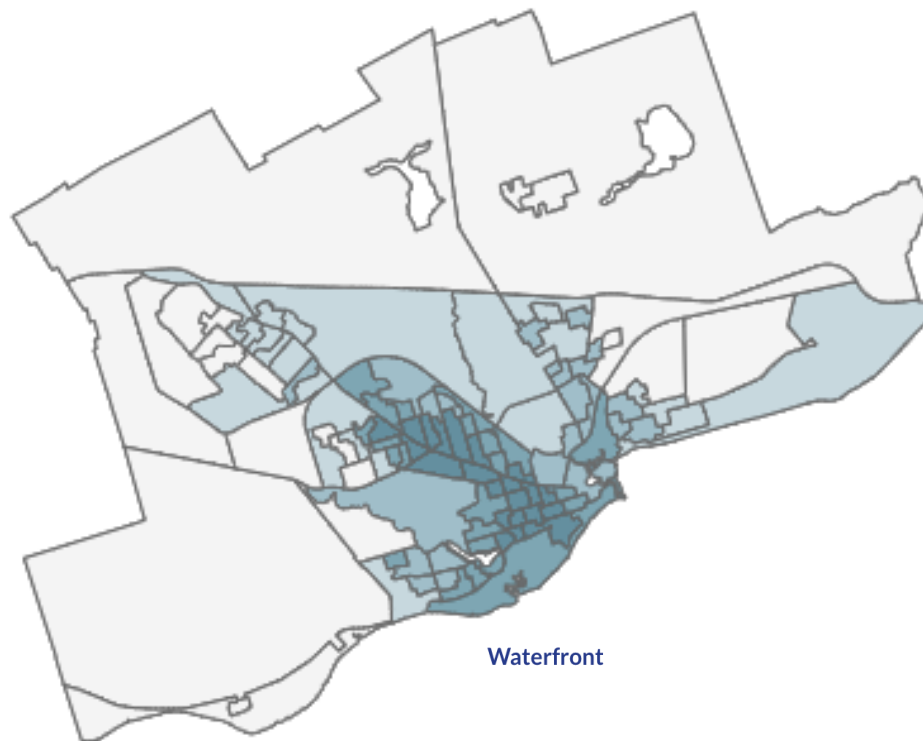
¹⁴ American Public Transportation Association. (2018). Public transportation benefits.

¹⁵ Fan, Y., Guthrie, A., & Levinson, D. (2012). Impact of light rail implementation on labour market accessibility: A transportation equity perspective. *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, 5(3).

further underscored this, suggesting that transit systems directly influence social mobility and community integration.

On the whole, a well-distributed and accessible transit system is central to breaking down barriers between different areas of a city, reducing segregation, and fostering more diverse and integrated communities.

Availability of Transit Stops by Dissemination Area



The map above illustrates the availability of transit stops and trips between 7 AM and 10 AM within a 1 km walking distance of each neighbourhood. The darker the colour of a specific neighbourhood, the greater the number of trips that are available within a 1 km radius.

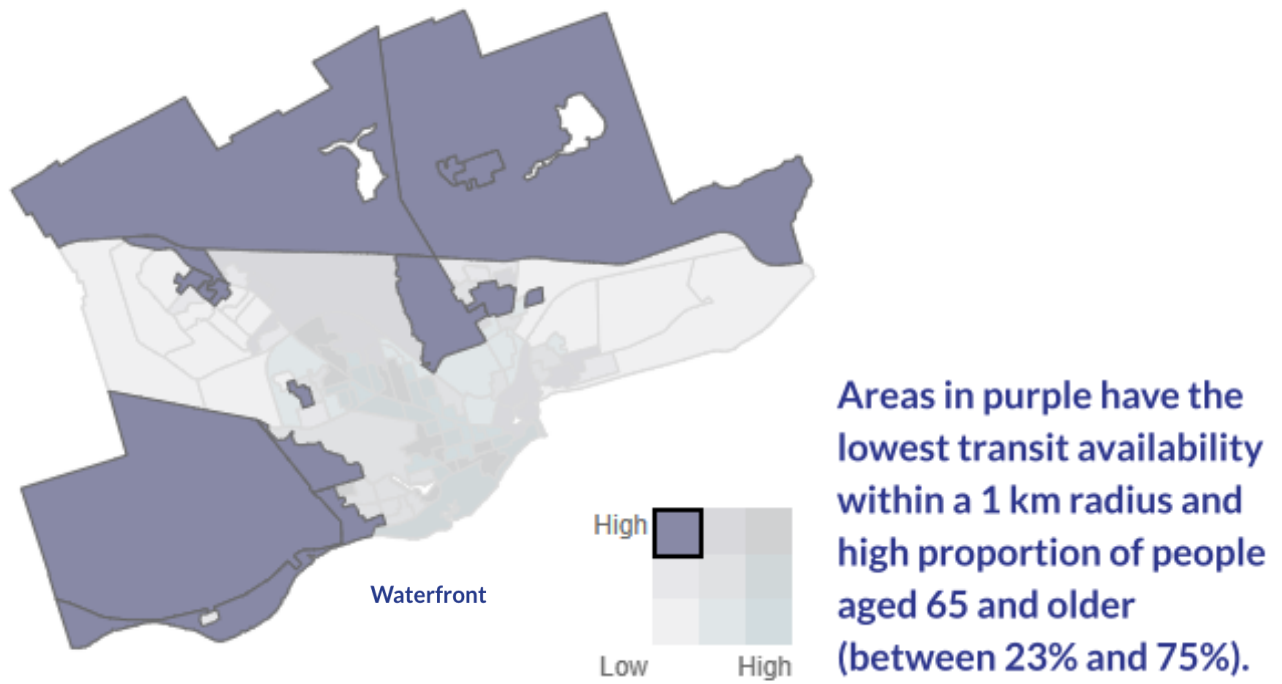
As observed, the outskirts of the city have fewer transit stops than the inner areas, in which a greater number of trips are accessible within a 1 km radius.

The disparity in transit availability between the city's outskirts and its inner areas can have serious implications for social inclusion. Residents in peripheral areas, with limited access to transit stops, may face challenges in accessing essential services, employment opportunities, and social or community events. This can lead to feelings of isolation, reduced economic opportunities, and a sense of detachment from the broader community.

The following six maps show intersectional analysis between transit availability and the concentration of potentially vulnerable demographics.

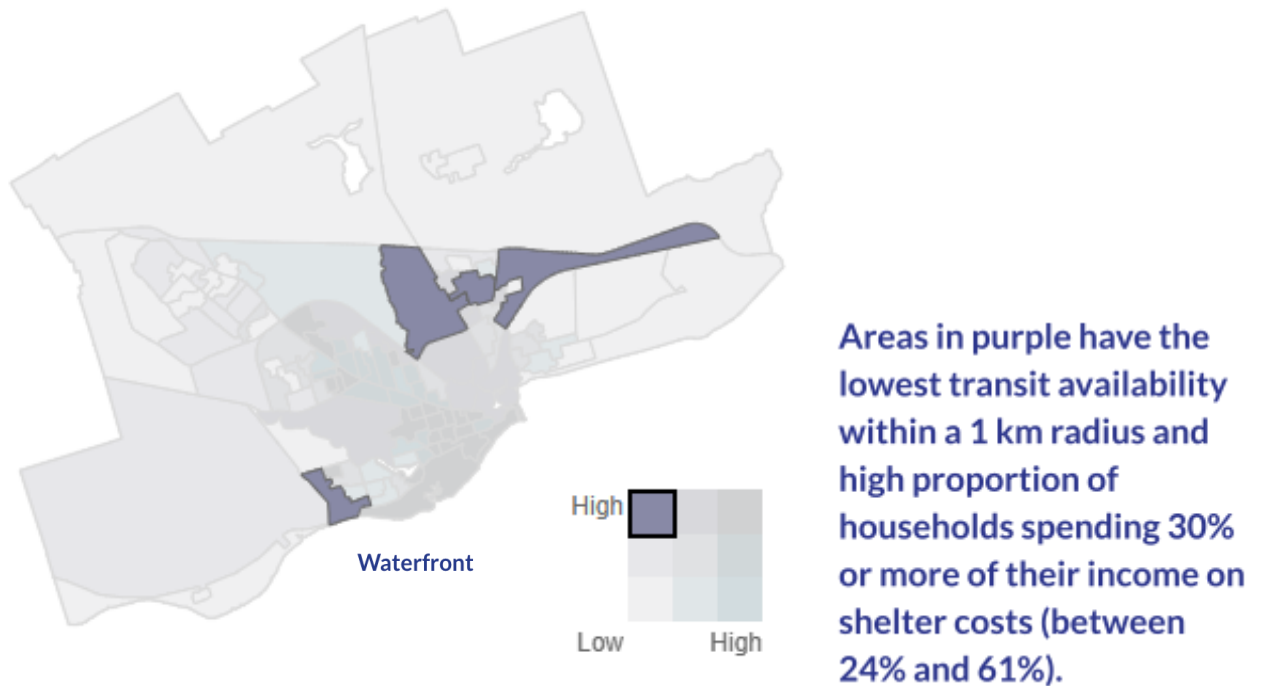
Seniors

Seniors may face challenges accessing essential services, medical appointments, and social engagements, leading to increased isolation, dependency, and potential health risks. Ensuring adequate transit for this demographic is important for their active participation and health in the community..



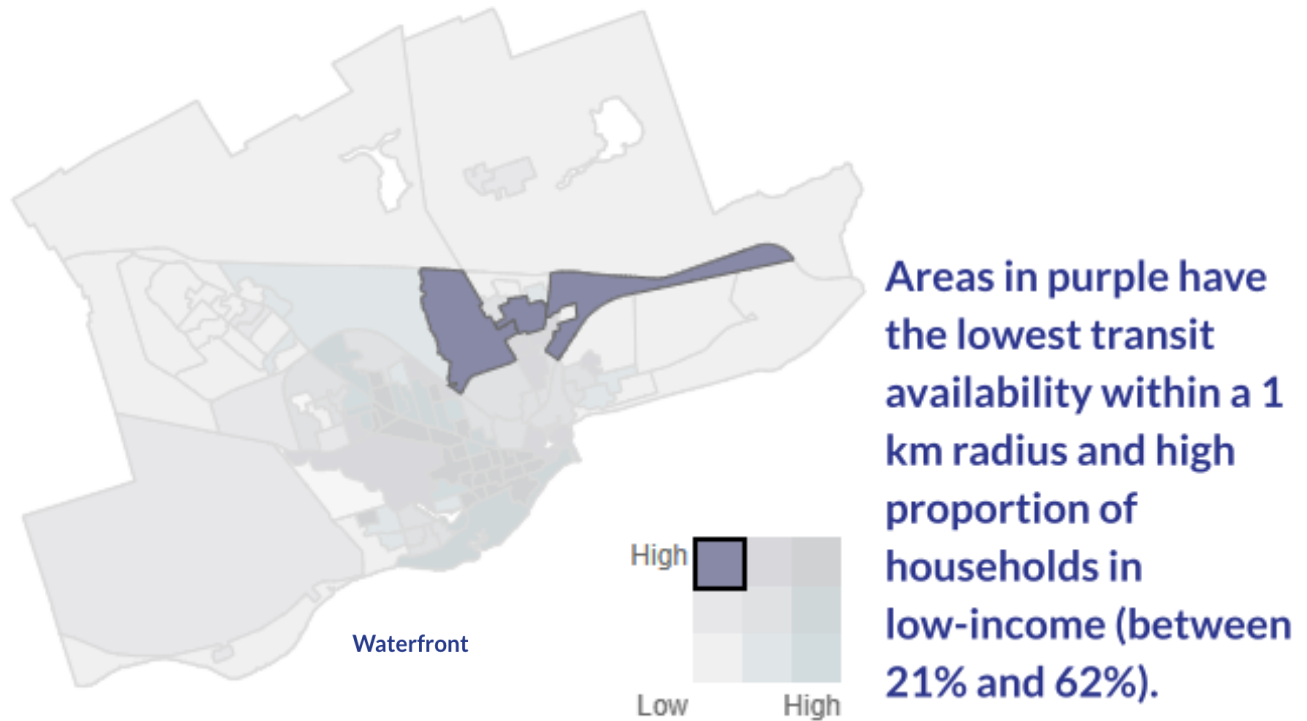
Households facing housing affordability issues

Insufficient transit availability in areas where a high percentage of households spend 30% or more of their income on shelter costs can exacerbate financial strains. Limited transit can hinder access to employment opportunities, essential services, and affordable amenities, further challenging these households' economic stability and potentially deepening disparities within the community.



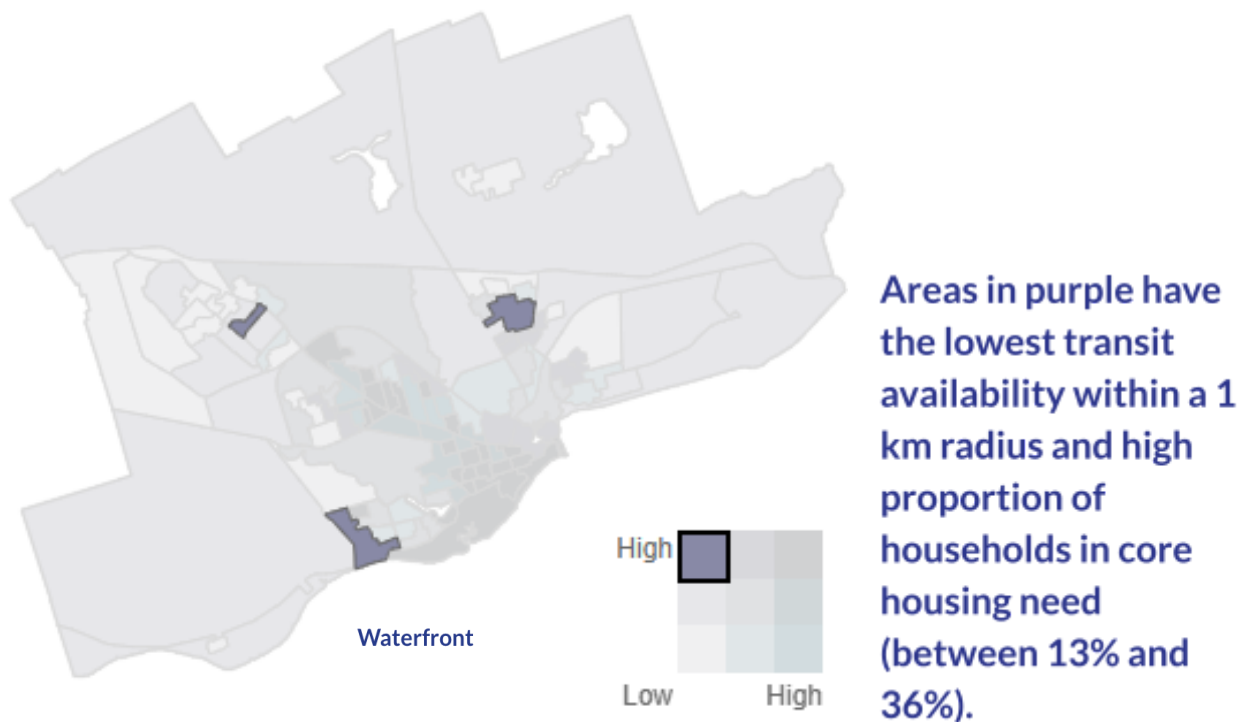
Low Income

In areas with a high concentration of low-income households, limited transit availability can further marginalize these communities. Insufficient transit can restrict access to job opportunities, essential services, and education, exacerbating economic challenges and potentially perpetuating cycles of poverty.



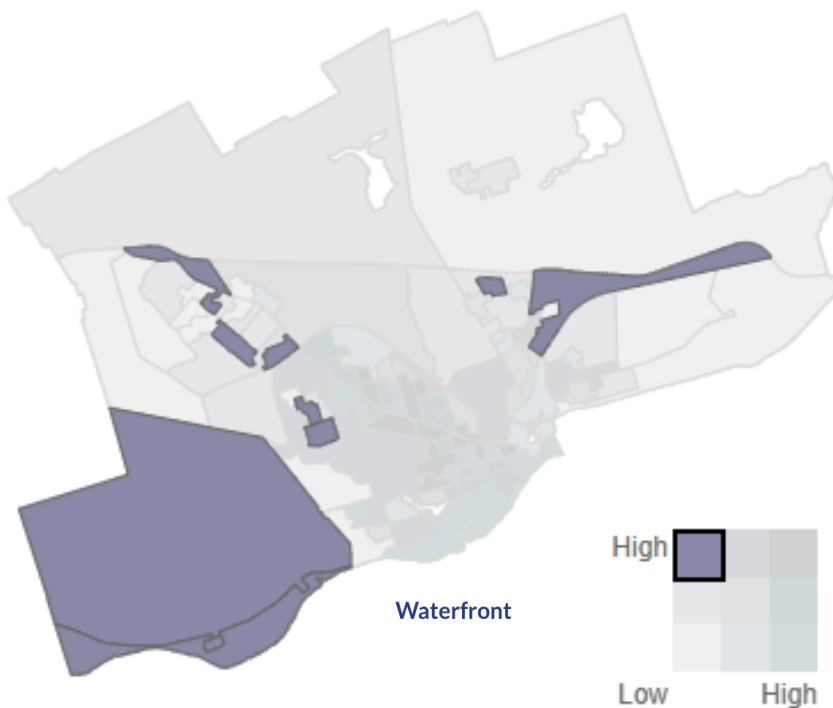
Core Housing Need

In areas with a high concentration of households in core housing need, limited transit availability can compound their vulnerabilities. Inadequate transit can hinder access to essential services, employment, and affordable housing options, exacerbating housing insecurities and potentially deepening social disparities within the community.



Unemployment

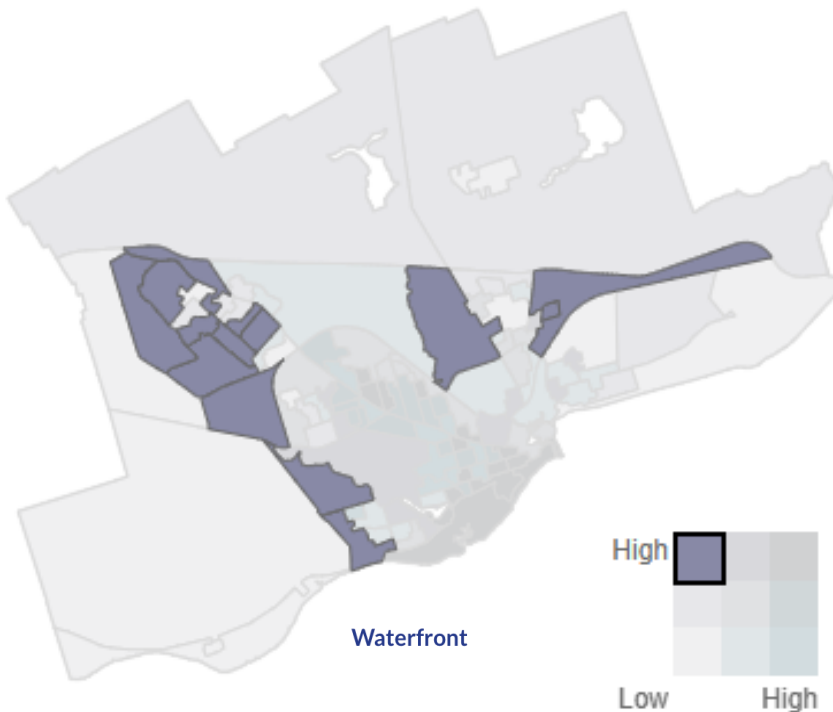
In areas with a high concentration of unemployed individuals, limited transit availability can further impede their job-seeking efforts. Without reliable transit, access to potential employment opportunities, job interviews, and training programs becomes challenging, prolonging unemployment durations and exacerbating economic hardships in these communities.



Areas in purple have the lowest transit availability within a 1 km radius and high proportion of unemployed individuals (between 7% and 15%).

Immigration

In areas with a high concentration of immigrants, limited transit availability can hinder their integration and upward mobility. Without adequate transit, accessing employment opportunities, language and training programs, and essential services becomes challenging, potentially slowing their assimilation and contribution to the broader community.



Areas in purple have the lowest transit availability within a 1 km radius and high proportion of immigrants (between 12% and 30%).

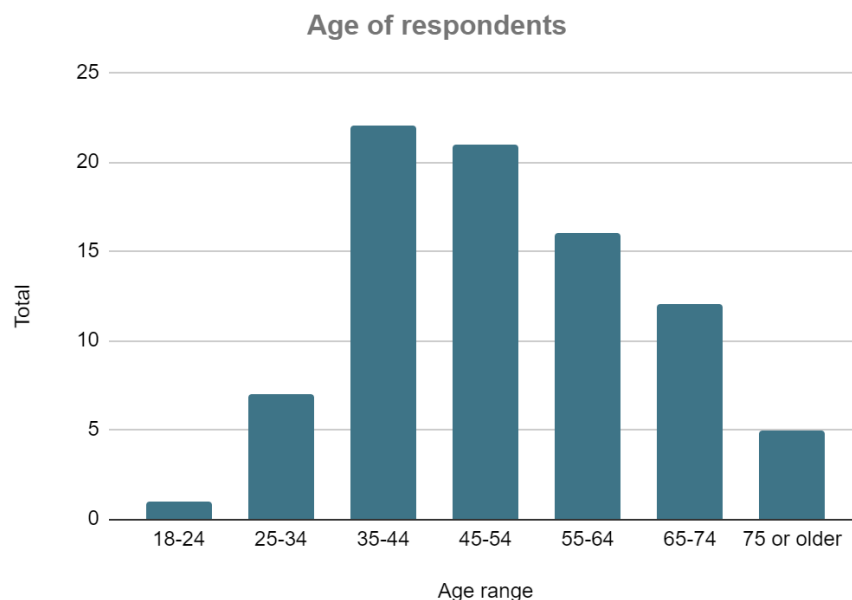
Moncton Let's Chat Survey

The Let's Chat survey was conducted to gain insights into the social needs and concerns of the residents of Moncton. The purpose of this survey was to understand feelings of social inclusion among community members, identify challenges in accessibility in city facilities, and gather opinions on pressing issues such as homelessness, housing insecurity, and affordability. By asking specific questions, the survey aimed to collect valuable information that will guide the municipal government in making informed decisions to enhance social infrastructure and community wellbeing.

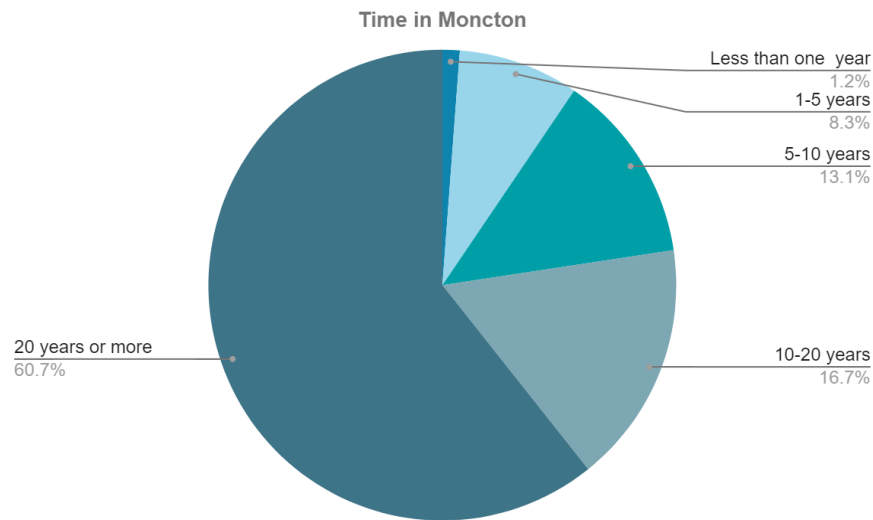
Because of the limited sample size and respondent profile (see below), we strongly recommend that these findings are not used to represent Moncton's opinions as a whole. Further engagement would be required in order to gather a more representative sample.

Who Responded

- Posted on the City of Moncton's Let's Chat web portal
- 87 completions (70 English, 17 French)
- All comments are anonymous
- Quotations have been paraphrased for clarity and to protect personal privacy



- Residents who took the survey ranged in age from 18 to 75+, with over half between the ages of 35-54.



- Over 60% of participants have resided in Moncton for 20 years and more. About ten percent have been in Moncton for five years or less.

While a variety of questions were asked, most of the answers touched on similar themes. The three central themes that emerged were:

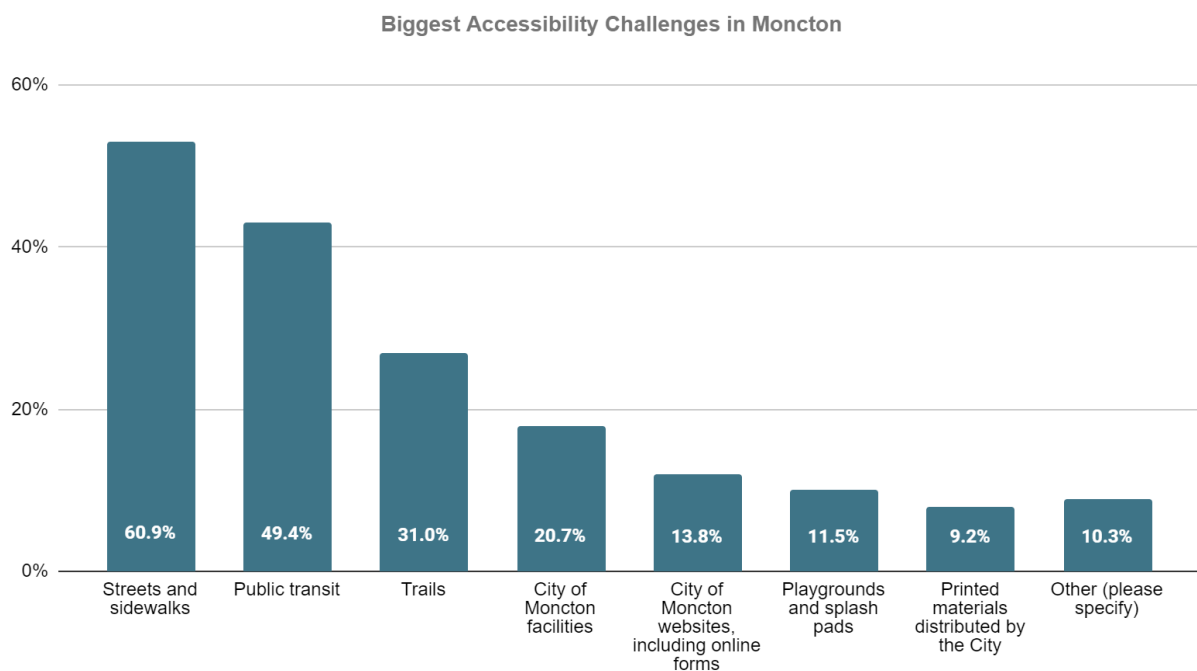
1. **Accessibility and Infrastructure**
2. **Housing, Homelessness, and Social Support**
3. **Diversity and Representation**

Accessibility and Infrastructure

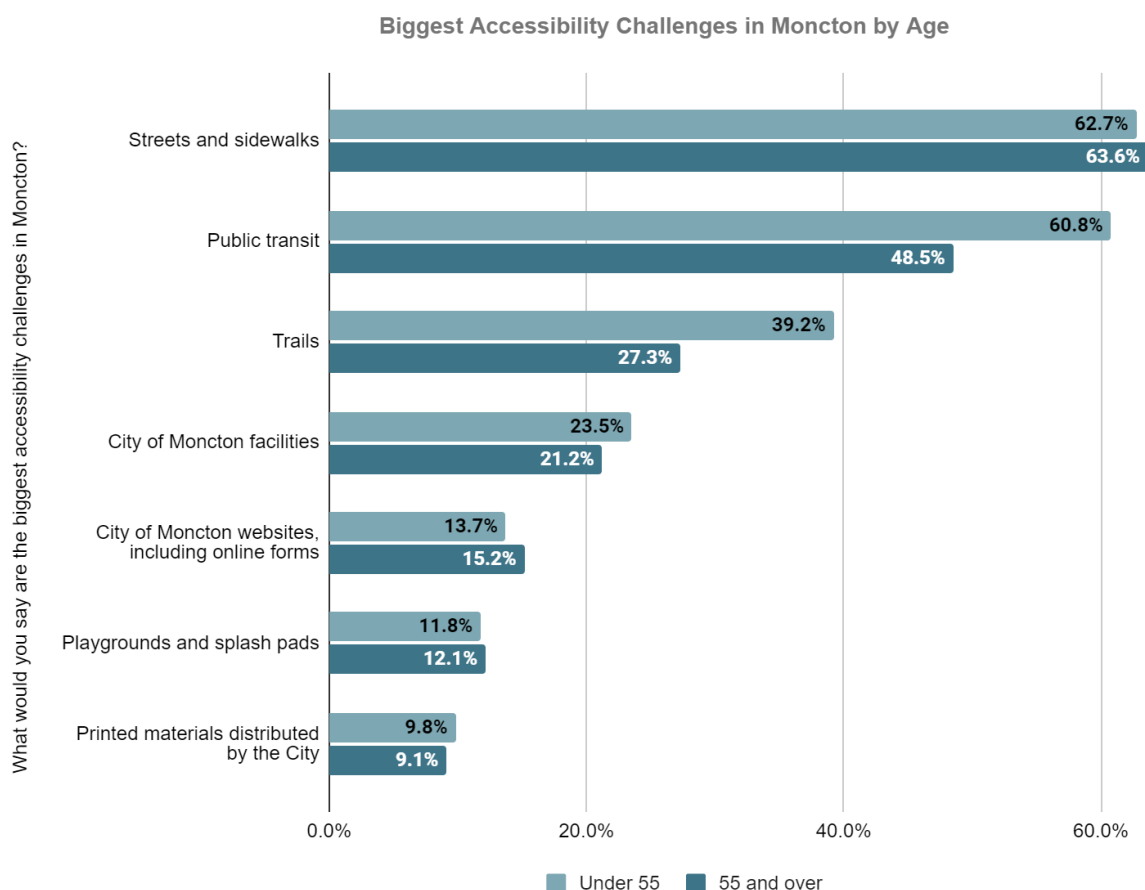
Accessibility emerged as a prominent theme. This includes not only **physical accessibility**, like improved public transit and pedestrian-friendly city planning, but also **information accessibility**. It's crucial to ensure that city facilities, services, and resources are accessible to all residents, including seniors, low-income individuals, and people with diverse abilities.



80% of respondents are able to easily access City of Moncton facilities, including 82% of respondents who took the survey in English. However, of those who took the survey in French, **over 30 percent** said they could not easily access city facilities.



56.3% of respondents said that **streets and sidewalks** posed a challenge to accessibility, followed by 49.4% saying **public transit**, 31.0% saying **trails**, and 20.7% saying **city facilities**. Some respondents also mentioned City websites (13.8%), playgrounds and splashpads (11.5%), printed City materials (9.2%), and other challenges (10.3%).



While most perceived needs did not differ by age, those under 55 were more likely to agree that **public transit** and **trails** were needed in Moncton, with **60.8% of those under 55** stating public transit was a challenge (versus under 48.5% of those above 55), and 39.2% citing trails as a need (versus 27.3% of those over 55).

When asked how to improve accessibility, respondents focused on **transportation** accessibility, the improvement of **public facilities and community spaces**, and access to **information**.

Transportation Accessibility

Transportation accessibility was a prominent theme, including improved public transit and pedestrian-friendly city planning. In addition to improving accessibility, a greater investment in these modes of transportation would allow for greater social and community participation.

“ *I enjoy my city most on foot and on my bike but opportunities to engage with my city in this way [are] constrained by the lack of consistent and connected AT infrastructure.*

“ *Public transportation routes are circuitous.*

“ *Better public transit, safe bike infrastructure, [...] walkable neighbourhoods, reduced urban sprawl. When people walk/bike/bus to the places they need to go, human encounters happen and communities form.*

While this is important for all citizens, particular attention was paid to the outsized effect of reduced accessibility for those who require accessibility supports.

“ *Winter clearing of snow makes sidewalks inaccessible for many with disabilities. It's like we dump the snow from the street onto the sidewalks and then people can't move around. This needs to be rethought.*

“ *Better accessibility to our sidewalks and trails would make me feel like my disabled neighbours are more welcome (I've had to help them before on multiple occasions).*

“ *Walking trails and recreation areas designed for disable[d persons], for seniors and are SAFE.*

Public Facilities and Community Spaces

Community members have expressed a desire for enhanced public facilities, including parks, community centers, and free recreation areas. Suggestions include improving maintenance, ensuring accessibility for all residents, and offering free or low-cost recreational programs, and implementing increased security measures to enhance safety. These enhancements can foster social interaction and wellbeing, reflecting the community's commitment to creating inclusive, safe, and engaging spaces.

“ *One relatively simple way to support quality of life, by giving residents low and no-cost options for leisure. Continue to advocate for support through provincial programs but look at what is in scope and easy to do and put some more focus on those things.*

“ *Free community spaces. The library is wonderful but there's little in the way of public spaces where mature adults can meet new people.*

“ Plus d'infrastructures publiques (piscines, parcs, réseau de transport cyclable, réseau de transport public FRÉQUENT et RAPIDE, infrastructure pour les arts et la culture) et que celles-ci soient accessibles (gratuites, financées par l'impôt municipal).

“ Better planned suburbs like Dieppe, where there are trail systems and connectivity to parks and amenities.

“ I also haven't found many playgrounds in my area (old west end/new west end/centennial park) to be appropriate for kids under 5. This makes me feel less welcome as a mom of younger children.

“ Move [facilities] to the North end of Moncton where everyone lives and not all downtown. Not everyone wants to go downtown, especially busy families.

Information Accessibility

Respondents stressed the importance of ensuring that city facilities, services, and resources are accessible to all residents, including seniors, low-income individuals, and people with diverse abilities. This is of particular importance given that 13.8% and 9.2% of those surveyed see City of Moncton websites and printed materials, respectively, as accessibility challenges.

“ I'd like to see council meetings accessible - use plain language, change the time (supper time on a weeknight?), live stream, take questions, innovate! Expecting people to come sit in that room for 3+ hrs (not to mention how intimidating it is!) is entirely inaccessible.

Emphasizing bilingualism in English and French not only reflects a point of pride for many citizens, but also aligns with the community's need for more inclusive communication. Communicating in both languages will enhance understanding and engagement, ensuring that a broader range of residents can benefit from local services and initiatives.

“ A bilingual city should promote the two official languages.

“ [I feel like I belong in Moncton because I am] able to see people talk in English or French at different stores.

Housing, Homelessness, and Social Support

Housing, homelessness, and social support emerged as vital themes in the community. This includes the urgent need for affordable housing, where strategies such as increasing housing stock, enhancing income security, and advocating for rent control are essential. Social services and support are equally important, reflecting the necessity for mental health and addiction services, job opportunities, and support for vulnerable populations. Safety and security also stand out as key areas, emphasizing not only crime reduction but also addressing underlying issues like poverty, mental health challenges, and addiction.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing, homelessness, and housing insecurity are of major concern. Addressing these issues can involve a multi-pronged approach: increasing affordable housing stock, enhancing income security, and advocating for rent control and improved landlord-tenant relations. A Housing First approach can also be considered as a strategy for addressing homelessness.

“ I think we should be looking at housing first, or at least shelter options that offer more privacy and dignity than what is currently available. I can't imagine what it is like staying in a shelter (wet or dry) with dozens of people when you are suffering from trauma, addiction, mental health problems, poverty, etc. I feel like it is impossible to improve your situation under those circumstances, it would add so much stress.

“ We need a housing first approach, not a policing oriented approach. To end homelessness, you need to house the unhoused. There's no other way. Shelters are a band-aid and don't address the root causes of homelessness. The city is being asked by businesses to move homelessness out of sight, but this is 100% the wrong approach.

“ The issue seems to be at its core an issue of affordable housing and job opportunities. People can't seem to afford the price of living. Pushing them to desperation, depression and drug addictions. So more resources and more affordable housing.

“ I am a single mother and I am forced to live in a one-bedroom apartment due to high increasing rent. I am now forced to choose between having internet access or upkee[p]ing my car due to the public transit taking [too much] time out of my day to get to daycare back home and appointments in Dieppe. I have a \$22.50 [per hour] wage yet I struggle paycheque to paycheque to keep up utilities, rent, extreme increase of food prices, car payment and insurance, daycare for after-school, dental, monthly medication all on one income for me and my soon to be 9 year old.

Social Services and Support

This category encompasses the themes of mental health and addiction services, job opportunities and income security, and support for vulnerable populations, aside from housing or homeless shelters. These themes reflect the need for a variety of social services and supports to address homelessness and housing insecurity.

“ We need wrap around services, not a safe injection site, a place with addiction services, mental health services, and follow up. Not being shipped to Campbellton just to be returned to Moncton and placed in a shelter right back into the situation that sent them to Campbellton in the first place. We need a support structure with a housing component.

“ Invest in more direct supports for people experiencing homelessness (e.g. outreach social worker/mental health services - meeting people where they are at and removing barriers for service).

- “ *Plus de travailleuses sociales - travailleurs sociaux qui travaillent sur le terrain, au centre-ville. Il faut que les travailleuses sociales - travailleurs sociaux soient présents et visibles, avec les policières-policiers, dans la rue.*
- “ *The City needs a more holistic approach that takes into account the underlying factors of homelessness: poverty, mental health and substance abuse.*
- “ *Provide more addiction and mental health services. I don't care if it's up to the province (soc. dev.) to help, it's not enough. Moncton is our city, these are our people. HELP THEM or it's just going to get worse.*

Safety and Security

Addressing concerns about safety and security is important for fostering a sense of community and belonging. While addressing crime is vital, it's equally important to tackle underlying issues like poverty, mental health, and addiction. Ensuring safety should not lead to over-policing or reliance on harsh measures that may disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in the community. Instead, a balanced approach that includes support and assistance for those in need can promote overall safety. This approach recognizes that true security comes not only from enforcement but also from building a community where everyone feels included, supported, and understood.

- “ *Make downtown safer or move City Hall. Have more and better policed accessibility parking [i.e.] Avenir. Have patrols at parks to improve safety.*
- “ *Also Moncton should go back to municipality police. RCMP policing has no community connection. It doesn't help [where] the help is needed.*
- “ *Implement more policing/bylaw patrols to apply laws where needed. Monitor trends that are rising. This would highlight which problems need to be focused on. Maybe employ community improvement sentences rather than fines or jail time for the thieves that are motivated due to homelessness.*
- “ *Policing will not fix the issue. The by-law enforcement officers are a complete waste of resources not to mention that they create hostile situations for folks who are already down and out. A ticket for being homeless? Gross.*

Diversity and Representation

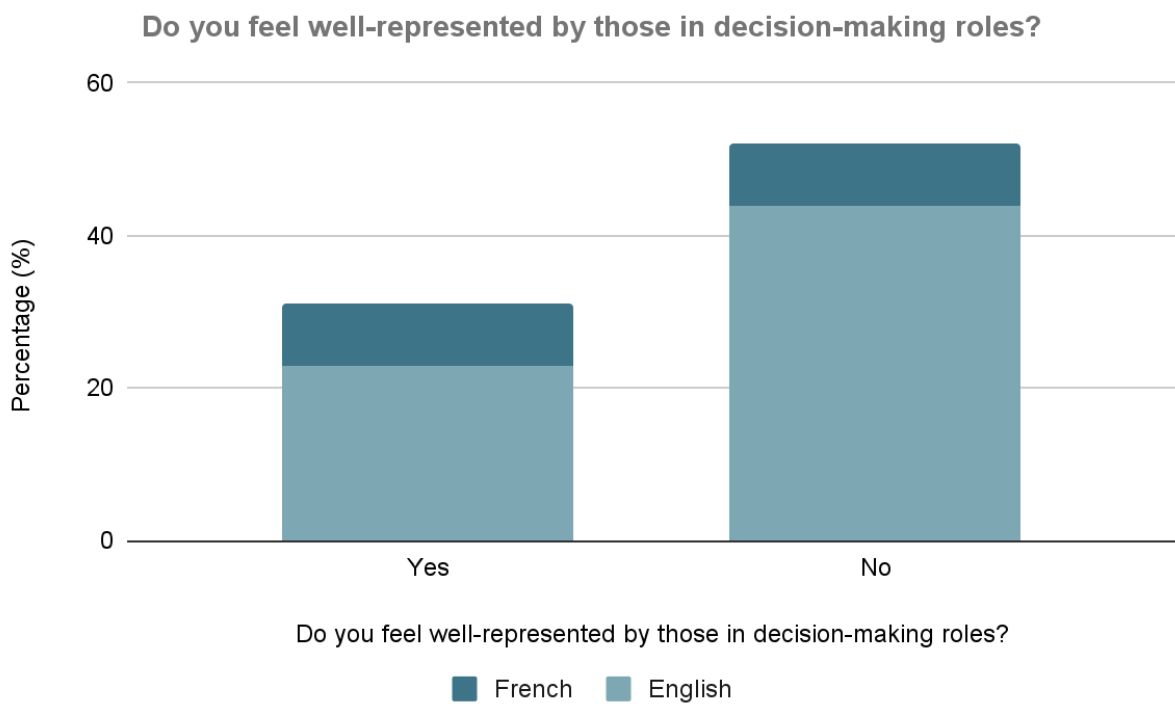
Diversity and representation are central in the community. Attention to social inclusion and diversity involves recognizing various groups and educating the public about the value of diversity. Community engagement, representation, and accountability are also key, with strategies like encouraging civic leadership and increasing transparency. Together, these efforts aim to ensure understanding, inclusion, and a voice for all community members.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

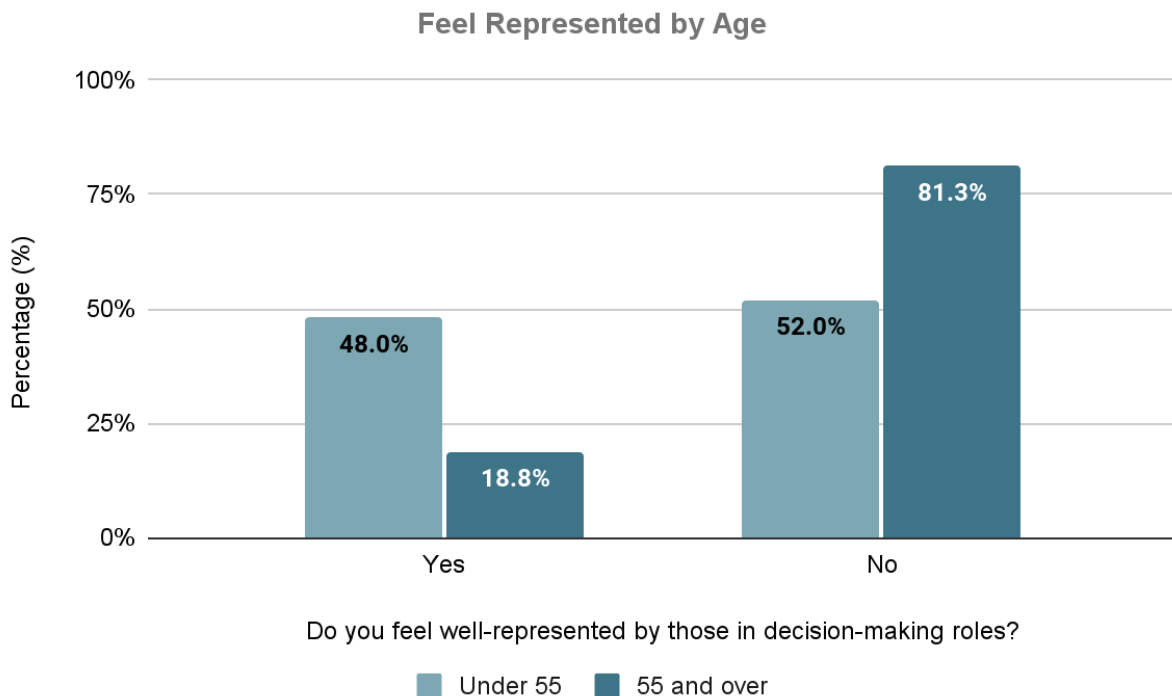
Attention should be paid to diverse groups in the community, including newcomers, people of colour, and people from other parts of the country. Attitudes towards diversity, bilingualism, and homelessness vary. Educating the public about the value of diversity and the complexities of social issues can help foster understanding and inclusion.

- “ [I feel like I belong in Moncton because of the] variety of people and activities/groups to belong to.
- “ There is a lack of compassion in the city for the homeless community.
- “ [We need m]ore inclusion, not [only] of immigrants but of people with disabilities/addictions/mental illness
- “ Donner le droit de vote au niveau municipal aux immigrants en situation régulière pour faire entendre des voix différentes

Community Engagement, Representation, and Accountability



Only 37% of survey-takers feel well-represented by those in decision-making roles. This sentiment was shared by 34% of respondents taking the survey in English, and 50% of participants taking the survey in French.



There was also a large difference in opinion by age. While responses from people under 55 were relatively evenly split as to feeling well-represented or not (48.0% versus 52.0%), **81.3% of those over 55 said they did not feel well-represented in decision-making roles**. It is clear that seniors and other older adults do not feel that their voices are adequately being heard in Moncton.

Many people desire more involvement in their community and seek better representation and accessibility. Strategies for enhancing representation include encouraging civic leadership, engaging in outreach, and increasing transparency. By focusing on local issues and interests, social inclusion can be enhanced, creating a community where every voice is heard, and decisions are made openly.

“ It would not be a bad thing to see city councilors actually out in the neighbourhoods they represent talking to the people who elected them.

“ Conversations on homelessness and housing focus who has been wronged and whose hands are tied. No one leads conversations on what we might do differently to rein in current problems and prepare for the bigger issue of climate change. If we want to change the trajectory of these issues, we must change first. Smart PR is required as sound-bites of this nature quickly become distorted. Someone needs to have the courage to lead on these issues.

“ Des conseillers qui écoutent les gens, qui font des recherches sur les sujets discutés, qui lisent les rapports présentés, qui posent des bonnes questions... La majorité des conseillers municipaux présentement ne comprennent pas les enjeux et semble s'en foutre. Aucun d'eux habitent au centre-ville près des quartiers problématiques, mais ils prétendent comprendre...

Diverse representation is essential for a thriving community. Attention to various groups—including newcomers, people of colour, and people from different regions—helps foster understanding and inclusion. By promoting diverse representation, communities can create a more inclusive environment where all members feel valued. This approach ensures that decisions and policies reflect the community's true diversity, acknowledging that not everyone may feel equally listened to or represented.

“ *Leadership and city staff that consider the most marginalized folks in every decision they make. Transparency from government. Diversity in city staff and leadership.*

“ *[I could be better represented by] someone living on a minimum pension; someone who has financial acumen combined with compassion.*

“ *Trop de vieilles personnes - où sont les jeunes ? Le pouvoir est aux mains de gens qui ne seront pas là dans 20 ans pour assumer les effets de leurs décisions.*

Summary of Main Opportunities

This section summarizes the main challenges identified in the Social Needs Assessment for the city of Moncton.

Growing Population

- Moncton has experienced a 23.9% increase in population from 2006 to 2021.
- The city's growth has been accompanied by shifts in age distribution, with a notable increase in the 65+ age group, and changes in gender distribution, with more women in the older age groups.
- The city of Moncton is expected to reach a population of approximately 116,200 by 2046.
- As of July 2022, the Moncton Census Metropolitan Area has the fastest-growing population of all of Canada's metropolitan areas, with an estimated growth rate of 5.4%.
- A total of 8,784 people were added to the CMA last year, bringing the population up from 162,824 people in 2021 to 171,608 in 2022.

Diversity

- Diversity in the city is increasing, with a rise in diverse sexual identity among students and a growing Indigenous population.
- Immigration has contributed to the city's growth, with immigrants making up 10.9% of the population in 2021, a substantial increase from 5.6% in 2011.
- Over half of Moncton's immigrant population arrived between 2016 and 2021, accounting for 52.1% of the total.
- There was an increase in immigrants from the Philippines, India, and Nigeria, with fewer immigrants from the United States, China, and the United Kingdom.
- Diverse sexual identity among students in grades 6 to 12 has increased over time in Moncton.
- In 2021, there were 2,080 Indigenous people in Moncton, making up 2.7% of the population. Of the Indigenous population in Moncton, 53.6% were First Nations, 40.6% were Métis, and 1.9% were Inuit.

Income and Poverty

- There are concerns about poverty, particularly among certain vulnerable groups such as children and youth, single-parent households, and people living alone.
- The prevalence of low-income households has decreased, but it remains a serious issue.
- The city's participation rate in employment has slightly decreased, and the unemployment rate has increased.

Housing

- Moncton has a lower homeownership rate than in New Brunswick or Canada overall.
- The average value of dwellings has increased substantially.
- Housing affordability is a concern, particularly among renters.
- The percentage of households in core housing need has decreased, but it is still a challenge.
- Homelessness is also a pressing issue, with 280 people experiencing homelessness as of 2023.

Intersectional Analysis

- There are specific challenges faced by certain groups, including children in core housing need, seniors with low income, one-parent families in core housing need, immigrants with no knowledge of official languages, and people living alone with unemployment.
- These intersectional challenges highlight the need for targeted interventions and support for these vulnerable groups.

Physical Health and Diverse Abilities

- There is a substantial portion of the population with diverse abilities, indicating a need for accessible services and infrastructure.
- There are potential gaps in service provision for people with physical health issues and diverse abilities, underscoring the need for improved access to care services.

Mental Health and Addictions

- Mental health and addictions are areas of concern, with a high percentage of students reporting symptoms of mental health issues.
- There are potential gaps in mental health and substance abuse services, highlighting the need for increased funding for mental health services and public awareness campaigns about mental health and addictions.

Institutional and Administrative Barriers

- There are institutional and administrative barriers that need to be addressed, including the need for a comprehensive plan to address identified barriers and increased collaboration and communication between government and non-governmental organizations.

Accessibility and Newcomers

- Accessibility is a key issue, with a substantial portion of the population having diverse abilities.
- There are barriers to service access for newcomers, including language, knowledge, and transportation barriers.
- There is a need to consider these barriers when designing services for newcomers to ensure their needs are met and they are able to fully participate in the community.

Crime and Safety

- The rates of total violent and property crimes in Moncton have generally increased from 2016 to 2022. Property crime rates are consistently higher than violent crime rates.
- There's a concerning trend of youth involvement in crimes, with rates of youths charged with violent and property crimes fluctuating over the years. Conversely, the rate of youths not charged with these crimes has decreased.

Transit Availability

- The outskirts of the city exhibit lower transit availability compared to the inner city, restricting access for its residents. This disparity poses serious challenges in reaching essential services, job opportunities, and community events.
- Transit limitations are of particular concern in areas with high concentrations of seniors, households grappling with housing affordability, low-income families, those in core housing need, unemployed people, and immigrant communities.

Implications for Social Inclusion Planning

Moncton's substantial population growth and increasing diversity pose both challenges and opportunities for social inclusion. The city's demographic shifts, with a notable increase in the 65+ age group and more women in older age groups, indicate a need for the development of inclusive policies and services that cater to these demographics. For instance, the rise in the senior population may call for improved access to healthcare and mental health services, while the increase in women in older age groups may require targeted support in areas such as employment and housing. The growing diversity, marked by an increase in diverse sexual identities among students and a rising Indigenous population, underscores the need for cultural sensitivity and understanding in all aspects of community life.

The contribution of immigration to the city's growth also presents opportunities. Over half of Moncton's immigrant population arrived between 2016 and 2021, bringing with them diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences. While this diversity enriches the community, it also necessitates the provision of culturally effective services and support for newcomers, including language courses and employment programs. The city must also address barriers to service access for newcomers, such as language, knowledge, and transportation barriers, to ensure their needs are met and they are able to fully participate in the community.

Moncton also faces challenges related to income and poverty, housing, and employment. Despite a decrease in the overall prevalence of low income, poverty remains an important issue, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and youth, single-parent households, and people living alone. The city's slightly decreased participation rate in employment and increased unemployment rate further exacerbate these issues. Housing is another serious concern, with a lower homeownership rate compared to provincial and national levels, increasing average dwelling values, and ongoing issues with housing affordability and homelessness. These challenges highlight the need for comprehensive and inclusive policies and programs that address income inequality, improve access to affordable housing, and enhance employment opportunities.

Finally, the community must address the needs of people who require physical accessibility and mental health supports, who make up a substantial portion of the population. This could include improving access to care services, increasing funding for mental health services, and raising public awareness about mental health and addictions. Institutional and administrative barriers also need to be addressed, requiring a comprehensive plan and increased collaboration and communication between government and non-governmental organizations. By addressing these challenges, Moncton can work towards creating a more inclusive community where all residents have the opportunity to participate fully in society.