

Fact Sheet

Housing and HIV in the Central Eastern Region of Ontario

(Ajax, Kingston, Oshawa, Peterborough & Pickering)



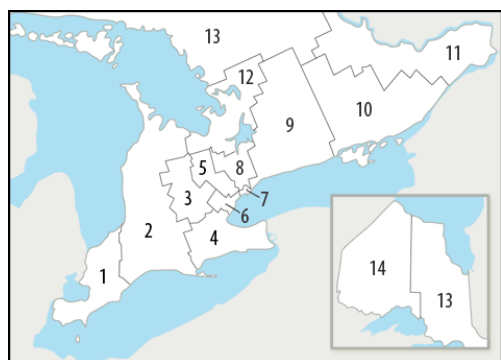
HIV is a serious health problem in Ontario. HIV continues to be a life-threatening illness with no cure. An estimated 26,490 Ontarians are currently infected with HIV, 9472 have died and over 1,100 new cases are diagnosed each year. Historically, the populations most at risk of HIV across the province have been:

- men who have sex with men
- people who share contaminated equipment to inject drugs
- people from regions where HIV is endemic
- Aboriginal people

Community-based research exploring
HIV, housing & health



HIV at a Glance—Central East (9) and South East (10) Local Health Integration Networks



Total HIV diagnoses between 1985 and 2007: 3,966

- Men Who Have Sex with Men: 2,892
- Heterosexual: 369
- Countries Where HIV is Endemic: 275
- Injection Drug Use: 270
- Number of new HIV diagnoses in 2007: 77

Characteristics of People with HIV with the General Population in the Central East Region*

Characteristics	People living with HIV in Central East region	General Population in Central East Region
% relying on government programs** as main source of income	60% - 63%	10% - 15%***
% spending > 30% of income on housing	63% - 70%	24% - 26%
% having difficulty buying food or clothing	39% - 59%	10% - 13%****
% unemployed	75% - 85%	6% - 7%
% with high school diploma or higher	70%	72% - 73%
% age 45 and over	30%	40% - 42%

* Includes Ajax, Kingston, Oshawa, Peterborough and Pickering

** Includes Social Assistance, Disability pension, Pension, Employment Insurance and Worker's compensation.

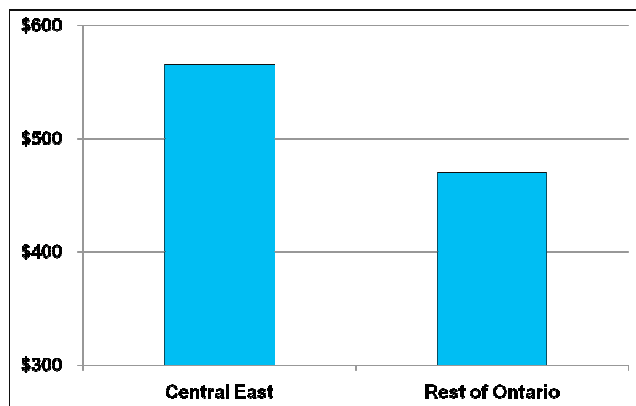
*** For the general population, data provided indicates social income from government transfer as % of total income where as for PHAs it indicates percent whose main source of income is Government transfer.

**** Percent of people below the Low Income Cut-off (LICO) is used as a proxy for difficulty in buying food and shelter for the general population. LICO is the minimum amount (defined by Statistics Canada) of income that a family or household needs to cover basic necessities (food, clothing, and shelter).

The Income and Housing Gap

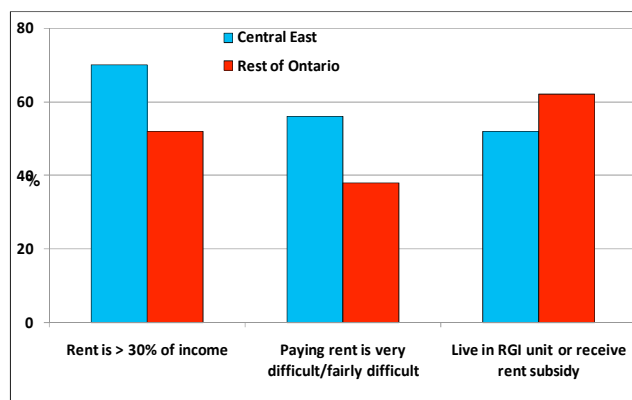
Positive Spaces, Healthy Places – a longitudinal study of 605 people with HIV across Ontario – compared data from people with HIV in the Central East Region with those across Ontario. Although people living with HIV in the Central East Region earn a higher average income compared to the rest of Ontario, the average monthly housing cost is higher.

Average Monthly Housing Cost



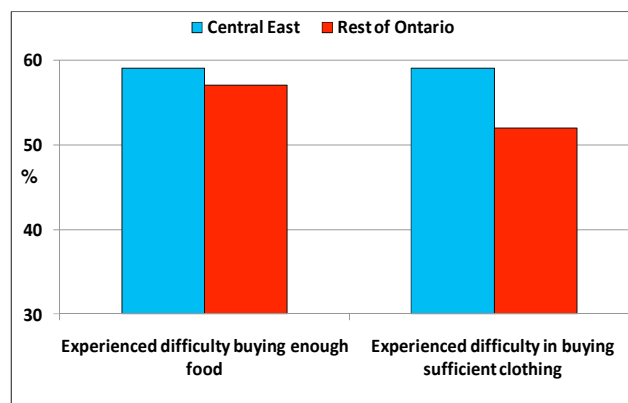
Housing costs in the region are higher than in the province and a higher proportion (70%) of people living with HIV are spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

Difficulty Paying Rent and Support



A higher proportion of people with HIV in this region experience difficulty buying enough food and sufficient clothing. Only 52% of people living with HIV live in rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing or receive housing subsidy.

Difficulty Buying Food and Sufficient Clothing



Although people with HIV in the Central East Region are more likely to have completed high school, they experience higher rates of unemployment than their peers in the rest of Ontario.

People with HIV in this region also report more housing-related discrimination, which has a negative effect on both their physical and mental health. Although they have less of a sense of belonging in their neighbourhood, they are more satisfied with the quality of their housing than people with HIV in other parts of the province.

Health and Service Utilization

People with HIV in the Central East Region have lower CD4 counts and are more likely to have been diagnosed with AIDS compared to people with HIV in the rest of Ontario. Although they have similar rates of depression, they are less likely to access mental health services.

The Big Picture

People living with HIV in the Central East Region face higher housing costs and more serious illness than in the rest of Ontario and yet have less access to supportive housing and specific health services. The cost of living and lack of services is having a negative effect on their health and well-being. Future planning for housing and health services need to address these findings.