



York Regional Police

2022 Environmental Scan Highlights

Attachment 2



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This environmental scan highlights internally and externally sourced information and elements that impact the work of York Regional Police (YRP) and how we serve our community. In addition to identifying contemporary strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the advent of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is also noted throughout this document as an unprecedented impact on society and the organization.

Demographic and Social Trends

York Region's residents aged 65 and above exceeded the number of children younger than 15 for the first time in 2021.¹ The seniors population, nationally and in York Region, will continue to increase as more individuals approach retirement age. With the federal government's immigration admission levels increasing annually, it can be anticipated that more immigrants will continue to settle within the Region.² While York Region did not meet the population forecast for 2021, it is projected that the population will exceed 2 million within the next 30 years.³

Crime and Public Safety Trends

The 5-year variance for citizen-generated calls for service increased by 23% between 2017 and 2021. Carjacking and hate crime related incidents have been increasing and are frequently featured in the media. The use of opioids, particularly fentanyl, and opioid-related hospitalization and overdoses also continues to increase.⁴ York Region observed a decrease in drug violations for possession because of the legalization of recreational cannabis, yet drug trafficking has been consistently increasing.

The Changing Landscape of Policing

York Regional Police continues to maintain a high level of community approval despite growing anti-police sentiments in North America. The 2022 York Regional Police Community Survey results found that 93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that York Regional Police has the trust of the public. Additionally, 74.2% of respondents surveyed for York Region's Social Capital Study, 2021, indicated a high level of trust in police.⁵ YRP is supported by the community, Regional Council and the Police Services Board. YRP continues to recruit members who reflect the community to address the number of future retirements and the increasing diversity and population growth in York Region. New technological trends may impact policing service delivery both positively and negatively.

Environmental Scan Highlights

COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and on March 17, 2020, the government of Ontario declared a State of Emergency. The effects of COVID-19 negatively impacted portions of society both globally and nationally. Notable impacts in Canada included high death rates and population growth, hospitalizations, variability in several economic sectors and changes in crime rates and trends.⁶

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a reduction in many crime types, as was the case in most policing jurisdictions worldwide. As a result of restricted mobility and stay-at-home orders, there were far fewer people in public places. Although the crime rate decreased overall, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 altered York Regional Police's service delivery methods resulting in redeployment of resources to other areas of the organization that experienced increased workloads. There were also concerning increases in some crime categories including hate crime, various cyber-related crimes, stolen vehicles, and violent crimes.

Political

- Continuing polarization of Canadian politics due to COVID-19 pandemic management
- Increased anti-police and anti-government sentiments
- Social unrest caused by local and foreign politics
- Provincial majority government elected June 2022

Economic

- Inflation rates at a 40-year high
- Rising prices of fuel, goods and services
- Potential reallocation or reduction in available grant money
- Crisis in home ownership affordability in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)

Social

- Increasing concerns about impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health
- Increasing population growth in York Region, with seniors being the fastest growing segment
- Continued growth in number of refugees moving into the GTHA
- Heightened concerns over rise in number of local and national hate crime incidents

Technological

- Organizations pivoting to new methods of service delivery to include more virtual avenues
- Use of social media and mobile applications by police services to increase community engagement
- Social media influence over social and political discourse
- Rise in distracted driving, fraud and cybercrimes with increased use of technology

Legal

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, has partially been enacted (*Safer Ontario Act* proposed by previous provincial government was repealed)
- *Emergencies Act* enforced as a result of impact of COVID-19 pandemic (rescinded 2022)
- *Bill 67 – Racial Equity in the Education System Act, 2022* – proposed amendments to the *Education Act* with respect to racial equity

Environmental

- Growing prevalence of extreme weather patterns due to climate change; may result in increased calls for traffic incidents and joint emergency response
- Impact on increasing need for emergency preparedness and business continuity planning due to rising instances of natural disasters
- The Region of York has identified protection of the environment as a priority in the 2019 to 2023 strategic plan

DEMOGRAPHIC and SOCIAL TRENDS

Overview

York Regional Police serves approximately 1.2 million residents divided amongst nine municipalities. Our policing jurisdiction consists of 1,756 square kilometres of land and 350 square kilometres of Lake Simcoe.

York Region is comprised of nine municipalities: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, and Whitchurch-Stouffville

- Markham and Vaughan remain in the top 20 of Canada's largest municipalities.⁷
- The number of single occupant households continues to increase in York Region; 22% increase from 2016 to 2021.⁸

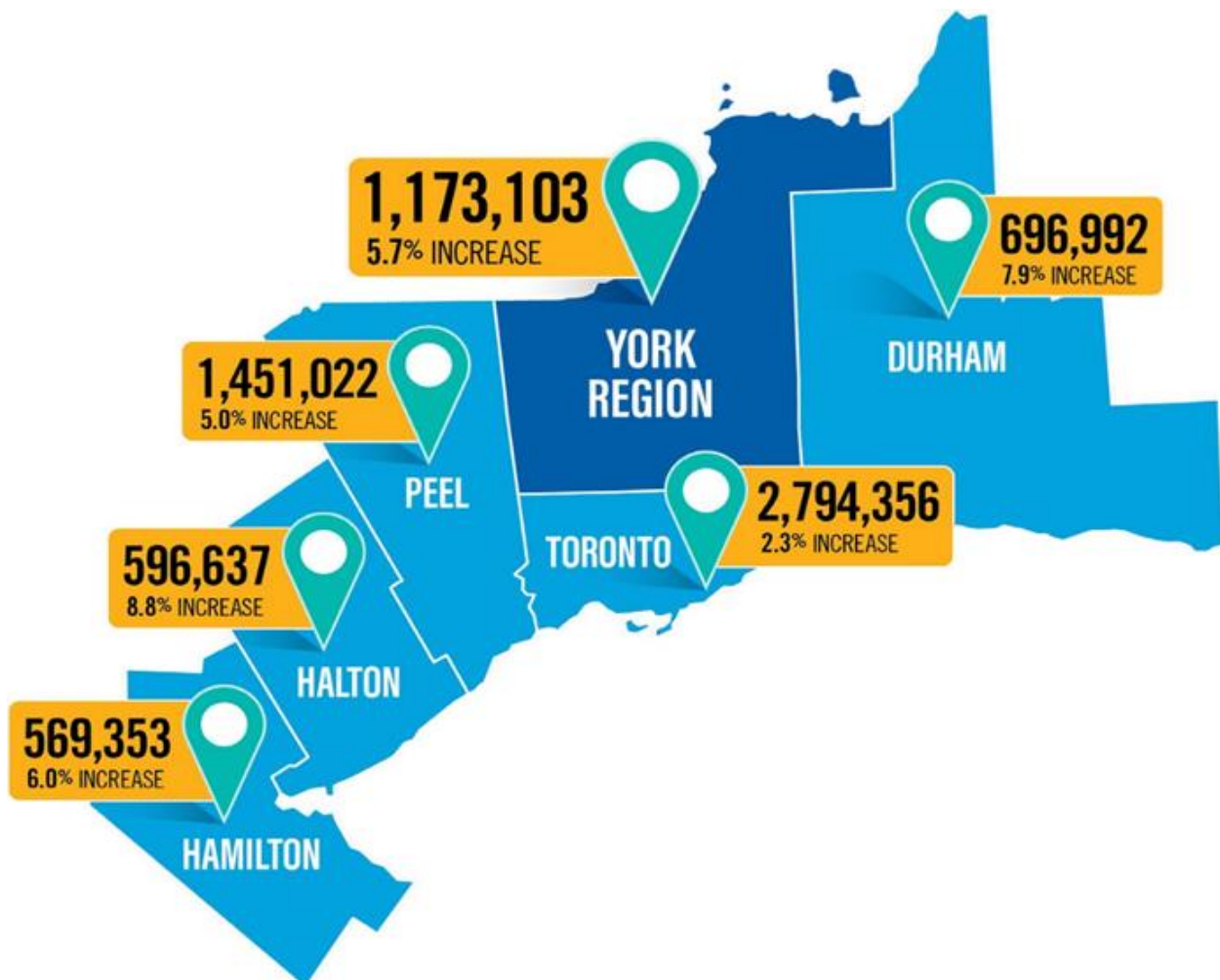


Figure 1. 2016 to 2021 Population and Growth for Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). Adapted from York Region 2021 Census Release Report: Population and Dwelling Counts

Age and Sex Composition

- The age composition of York Region's population is projected to continue to experience an increase in the proportion of seniors. The number of York Region residents aged 65 and older were greater than the number of children younger than 15 for the first time.⁹
- Residents between the ages of 70 and 74, grew by 43% from 2016 to 2021.¹⁰
- Preschool age children in York Region declined by 9%.¹¹

2021 York Region Population

By age and percent change since 2016

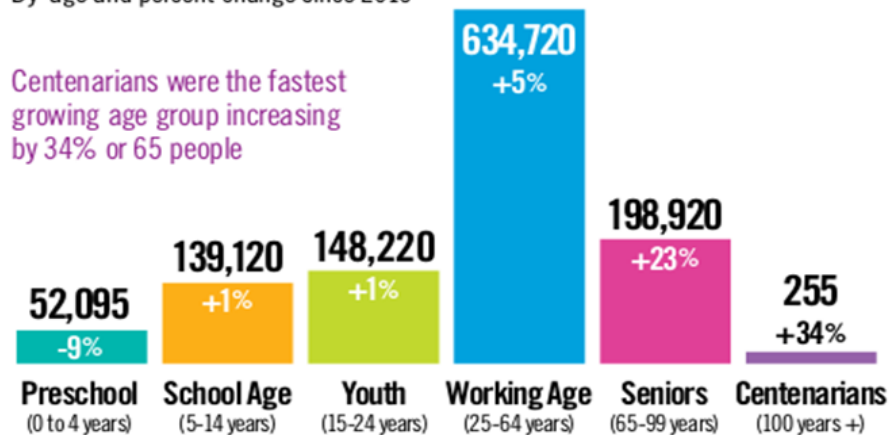


Figure 2. Adapted from York Region 2021 Census Release Report: Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Types

- Women outnumbered men in 2021: 51.2% (601,100) women compared to 48.8% (572,235) men.¹²



Figure 3. Adapted from York Region 2021 Census Release Report: Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Types. NB. In 2021, gender was included in the census. Gender is represented in the above figure as 'Male+' and 'Women+' to protect confidentiality

Families

- Couple families (married/common law) with children remain the largest Census family type in York Region.¹³
- 61% of Census respondents denoted married/common law status in York Region; the second highest in the GTHA behind Halton Region.¹⁴
- One-person households increased by 22% since 2016 with Markham and Vaughan representing the largest share.¹⁵

Transportation

VIVA and TTC Expansions:

- Completion of Cornell Bus Terminal will serve as a pedestrian-friendly transit hub in the south-west end of Markham.¹⁶
- Construction of Yonge North Subway Extension expected to commence in 2023. Five stations are planned to improve commuting in and out of Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan.¹⁷
- Over 75 kilometres of Bus Rapid Transit projects estimated to be completed through York Region.¹⁸

Highway Construction

- The Government of Ontario plans to further extend Highway 427 north while constructing a new 400-series highway. Highway 413 will extend from Highway 400 (between Kirby Road and King-Vaughan Road) in the east to the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange area in the west. It will connect the regions of York, Peel, and Halton and is anticipated to improve transit along the west corridor of Vaughan.¹⁹
- Plans to construct the Bradford Bypass will create a freeway link between Highway 400 and Highway 404 in York Region and the County of Simcoe. The proposed highway would extend from Highway 400 between 8th Line and 9th Line in Bradford West Gwillimbury, cross a small portion of King Township, and connect to Highway 404 between Queensville Sideroad and Holborn Road in East Gwillimbury.²⁰

Housing and Development

- The Province's long-term growth and development plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, A Place to Grow, prioritizes intensification and higher densities in strategic growth areas to support a range and mix of housing options, including additional residential units and affordable housing.²¹
- The Province passed the *Transit-Oriented Communities Act* in 2020 and is partnering with developers to plan and deliver integrated development with transit expansion. The Province-led plan's aim is to build compact, high density mixed-use communities. Two transit-oriented community sites were announced for York Region in Markham and Richmond Hill in the area of the Yonge North Subway Extension (Bridge and High-Tech stations).
- The 2022 Region of York Official Plan has designated urban growth centres to support higher density development in Markham Centre, Newmarket Centre, Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Centre and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.²²
- Fluctuations in the housing and rental markets coupled with increasing mortgage rates continue to impact homeownership affordability.
- Estimates project that approximately 273,000 new households will be required across York Region from 2021 to 2051 to meet growth needs.²³
- York Region's aging population may increase demand for a diverse range of new housing such as seniors' housing, rental apartments, condominiums, social housing, and affordable housing.²⁴
- Since 2016, townhouses and apartment structure types of dwelling had the highest rate of growth in York Region at 13% and 25%, respectively.²⁵
- East Gwillimbury has the highest dwelling unit growth rate at 41.7%.²⁶

- The 2022 federal budget proposes an additional \$4 billion dollars to support the construction of new housing across Canadian municipalities through the Housing Accelerator Fund.²⁷
- Ongoing housing projects include emergency and transitional housing and affordable housing developments throughout the Region to support citizens.²⁸
- The Covid-19 pandemic changed the profile of people experiencing homelessness; adults living on low income found themselves homeless for the first time.
- 329 people were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2021 and it is anticipated to continue to rise.²⁹

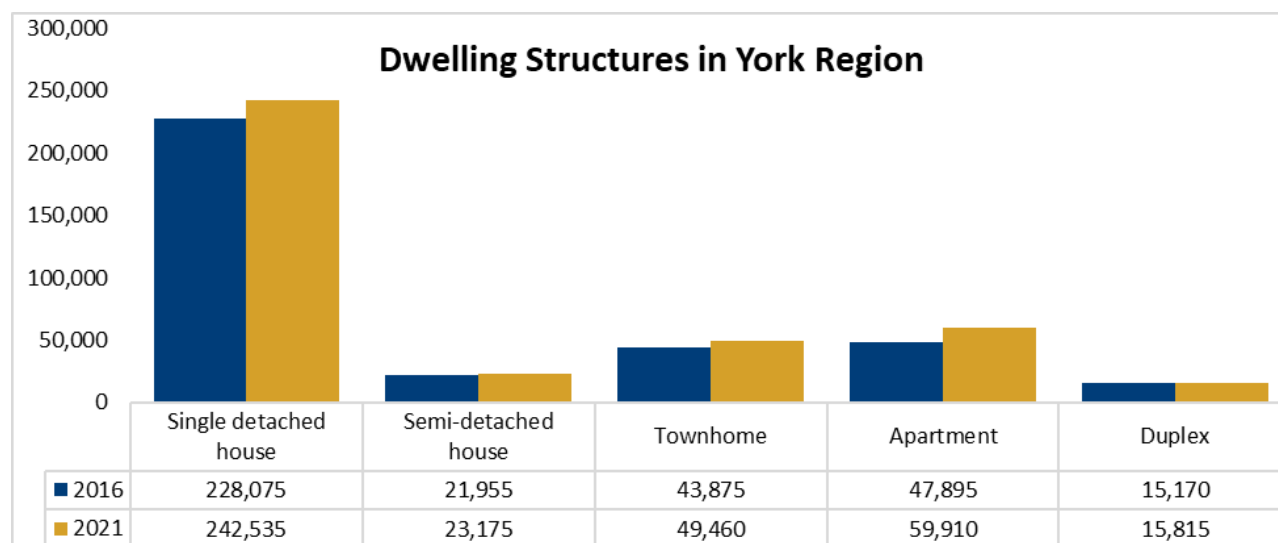


Figure 4. Dwelling Structures in York Region, 2016 and 2021. Data: from Statistics Canada 2016 Census and 2021 Census.

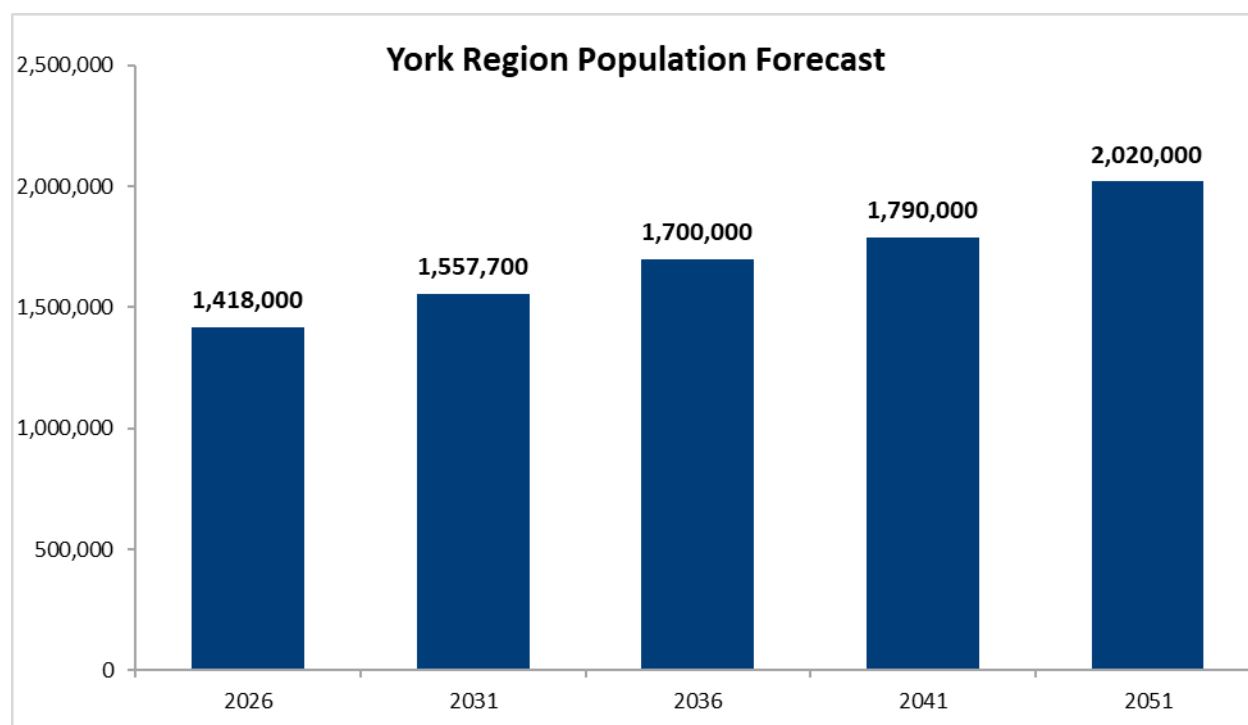


Figure 5. York Region Population Forecast, 2026-2051

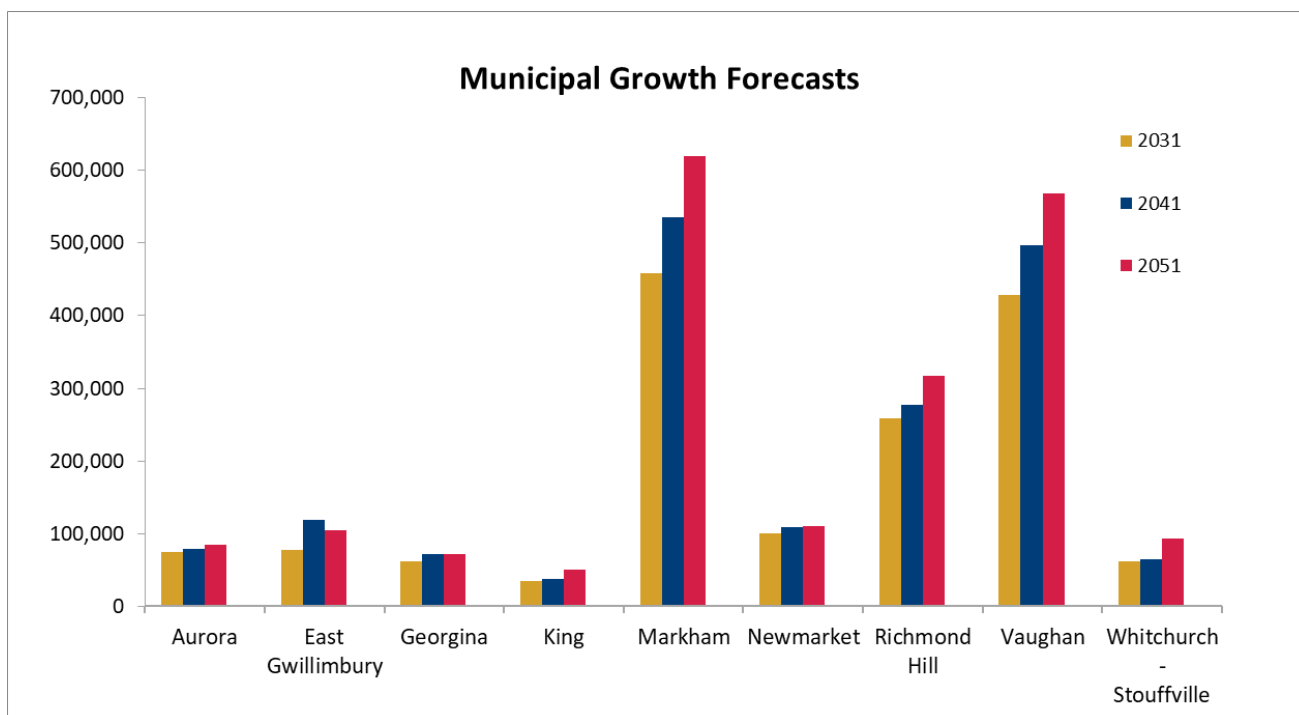


Figure 6. Growth forecast for municipalities in York Region from 2031-2051. Data: from Statistics Canada 2016 Census, 2041 Data from York Region 2041 Preferred Growth Scenario, 2041 Population and Employment Forecasts, 2051 Data from York Regional Council Proposed 2051 Forecast and Lands Needs Assessment

Languages Spoken

Similar to the national trend, the number of English speakers grew in York Region between 2016 and 2021 as did the number of people who speak a non-official language.³⁰ In 2021, 51% of York Region residents indicated they knew more than one language.³¹

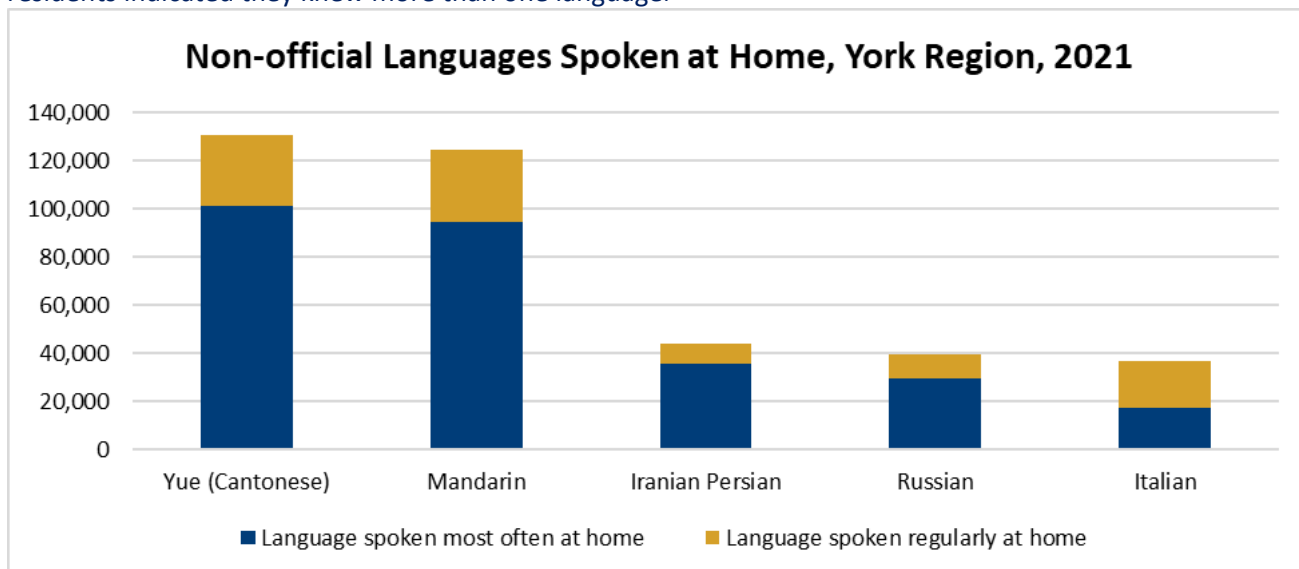


Figure 6. Non-official Languages Spoken in York Region, 2021. Data adapted from Statistics Canada Census, 2021

Mental Health

- York Regional Police continues to collaborate with community stakeholders and respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis through partnerships such as the Mental Health Support Team (MHST).
- The MHST responded to over 7,000 mental health related calls in 2020.³²
- Between 2020 and 2021, mental health related calls for service increased by 2.9%.³³
- Mentally Ill Apprehensions experienced a 5-year increase of 36.4%,³⁴
- York Regional Police is committed to improving community safety and well-being and partnered with the Region of York to provide input to inform the priorities of the *York Region Community Safety and Well-Being Plan* for 2022 to 2026. Members of YRP also participate in the four Community Roundtables that were established during the consultation phase of its development.
- The Government of Ontario has also emphasized the importance of improving mental health and public services available through the expansion of the Ontario Structure Psychotherapy Program.³⁵

CRIME and PUBLIC SAFETY TRENDS

Crime and Public Safety: National Context³⁶

- Nationally, police-reported crime was stable between 2020 (73.9) and 2021 (73.7), as measured by the Crime Severity Index (CSI).
- The Violent CSI increased 5% in 2021. This rise was primarily the result of increases to sexual assault incidents.
- In 2021, the rate of homicides increased by 3% across Canada. There were 788 homicides – an increase of 29 since 2020. 41% of homicides were related to firearms.
- 3,360 police-reported hate crime incidents were reported in 2021; a 27% increase from 2020.
- There was a 13% increase in opioid-related offences in Canada between 2020 and 2021.

Crime and Public Safety: York Region

- In 2022, the overall Crime Rate (per 100,000 persons) increased 5.3%; the rate of Crimes Against Persons violations (violent crime) increased 9.4%, the rate of Property Crimes increased 4.2%.
- Between 2017 and 2021, the total number of Criminal Code violations (excluding traffic) rose from 33,718 to 37,400; the Crime Rate per 100,000 people rose from 2,795 to 3,045 over the same time period.

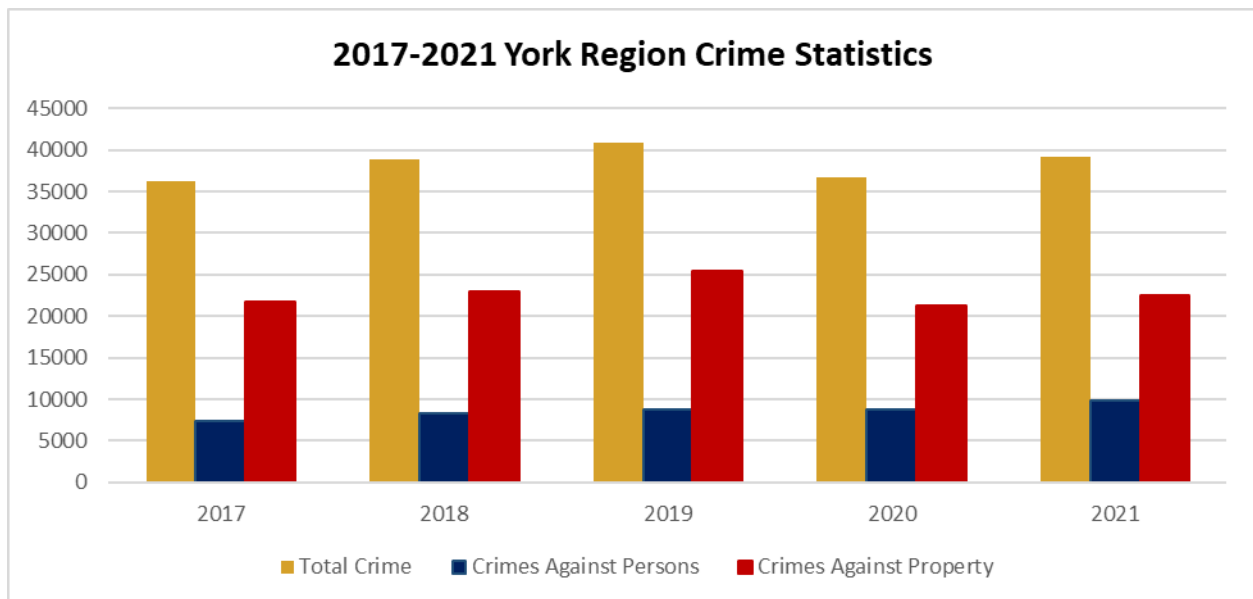


Figure 7. York Region Crime Statistics from 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

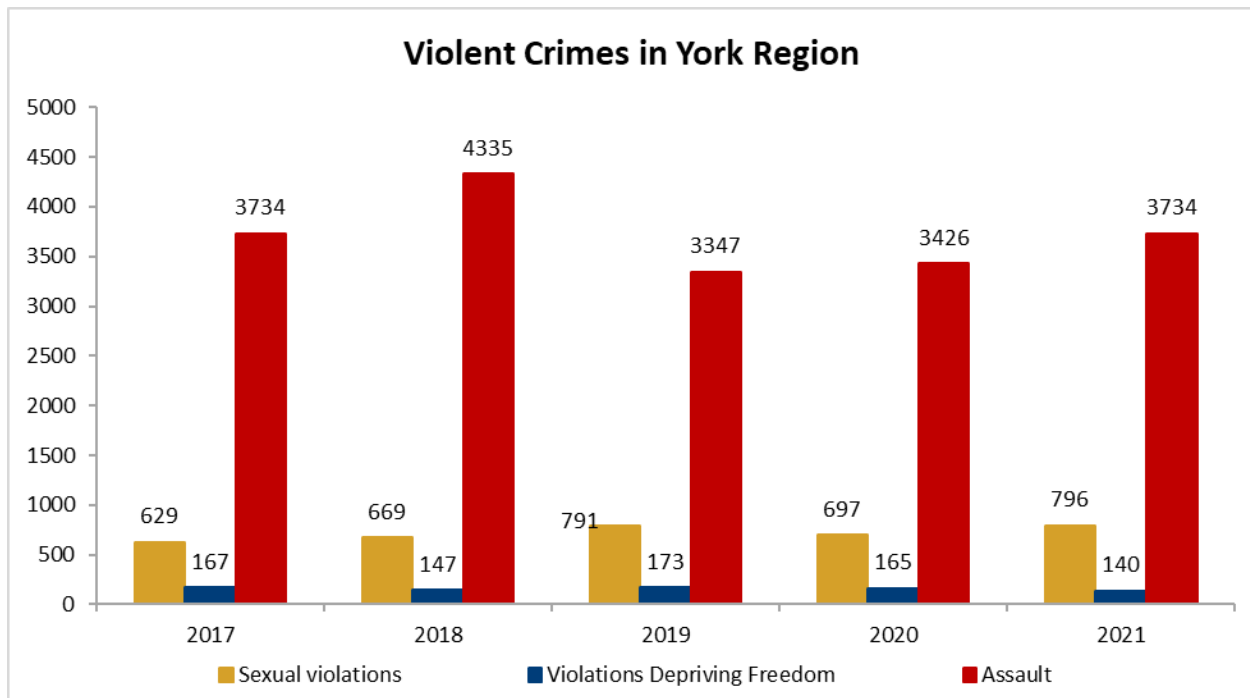


Figure 8. Violent crimes in York Region from 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

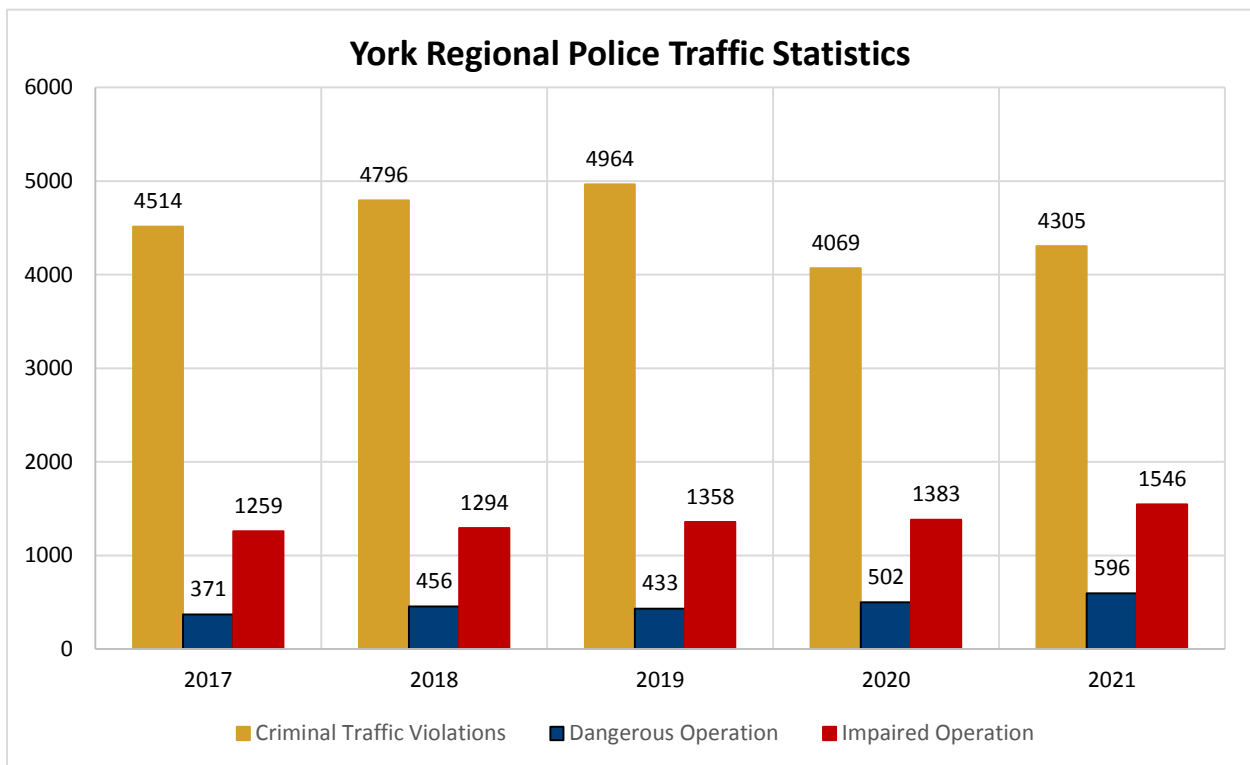


Figure 9. Number of traffic offences in York Region from 2017-2021. Dangerous Operation and Impaired Operation are subsets of total Criminal Traffic Violations

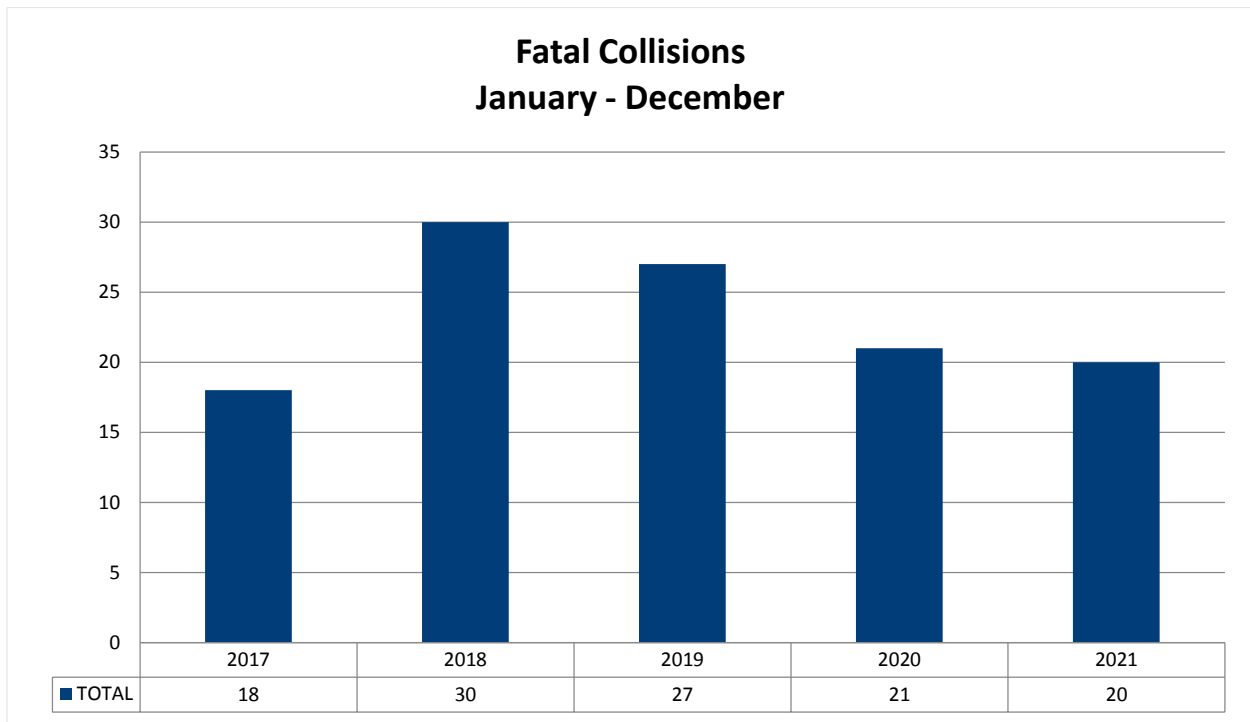


Figure 10. Yearly occurrence counts of fatal collisions in York Region, 2017-2021

- The annual number of fatal collisions in York Region has steadily decreased since 2018.

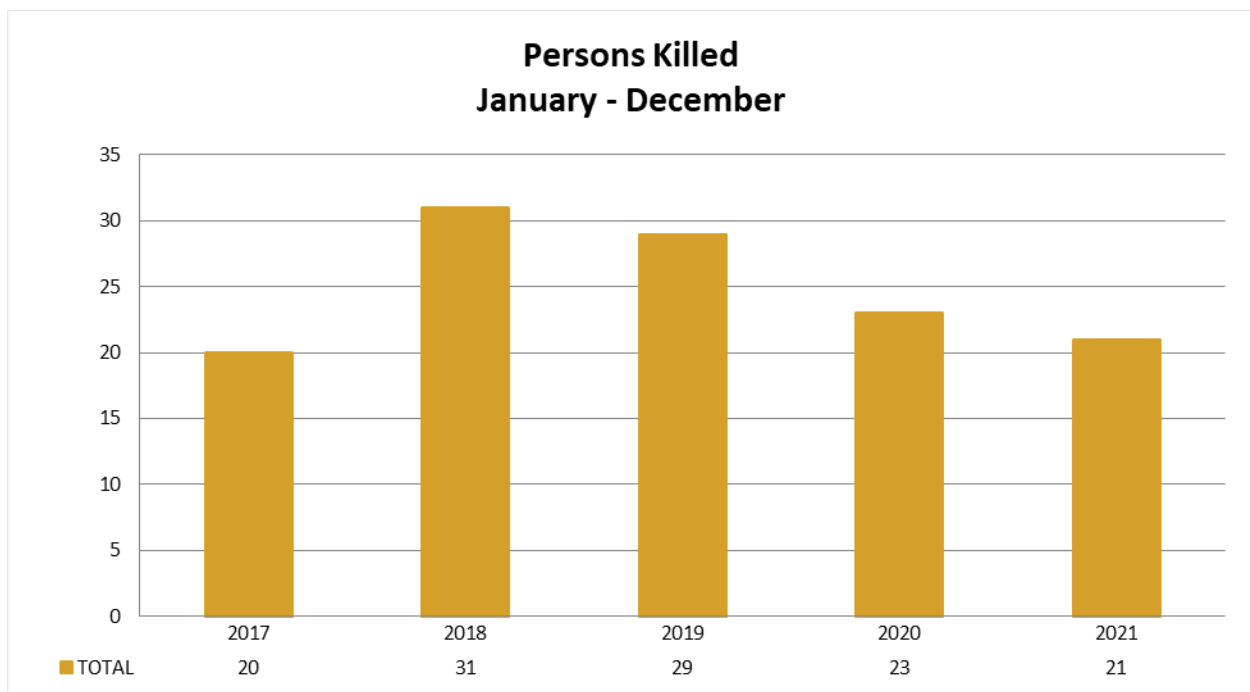


Figure 11. Yearly count of persons killed from fatal collisions, 2017-2021

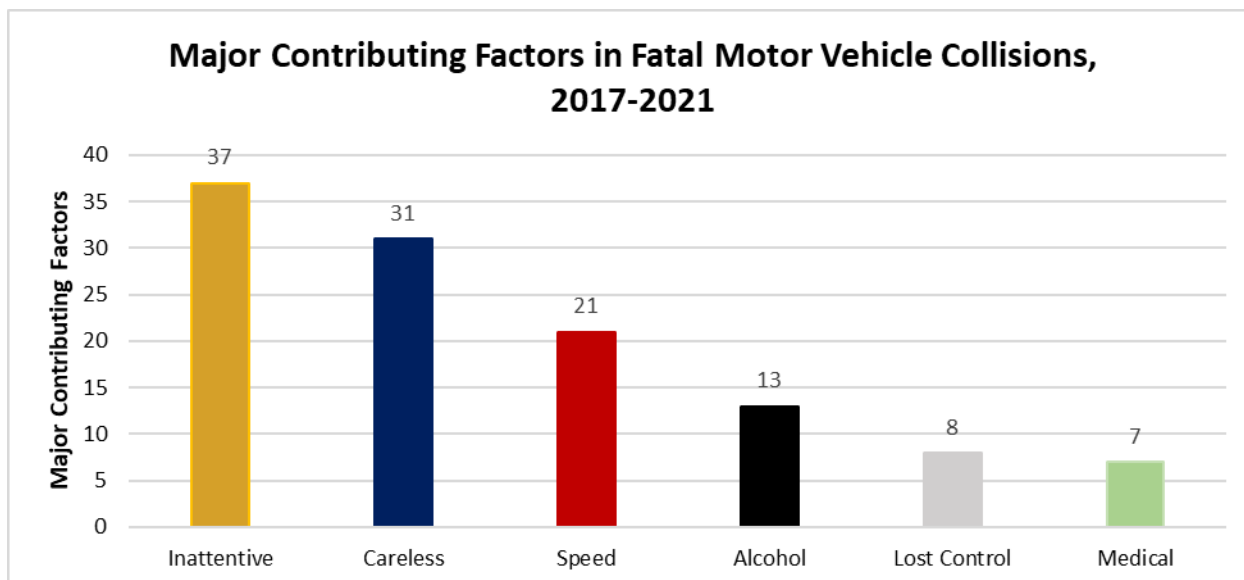


Figure 12. Major contributing factors to fatal collisions, 2017- 2021

Calls for Service

- All data has been sourced from 2017 - 2021 York Regional Police Statistic Reports and Business Intelligence tools.
- Since 2017, the number of citizen-generated calls for service in York Region experienced a significant increase. New methods of reporting resulted in more calls being diverted to online reporting and alternative reporting units.
- Nationally, calls for service decreased. This decline is attributed to COVID-19 related restrictions, which limited the day-to-day activities and interactions of people, and the potential to engage in certain types of crimes.³⁷

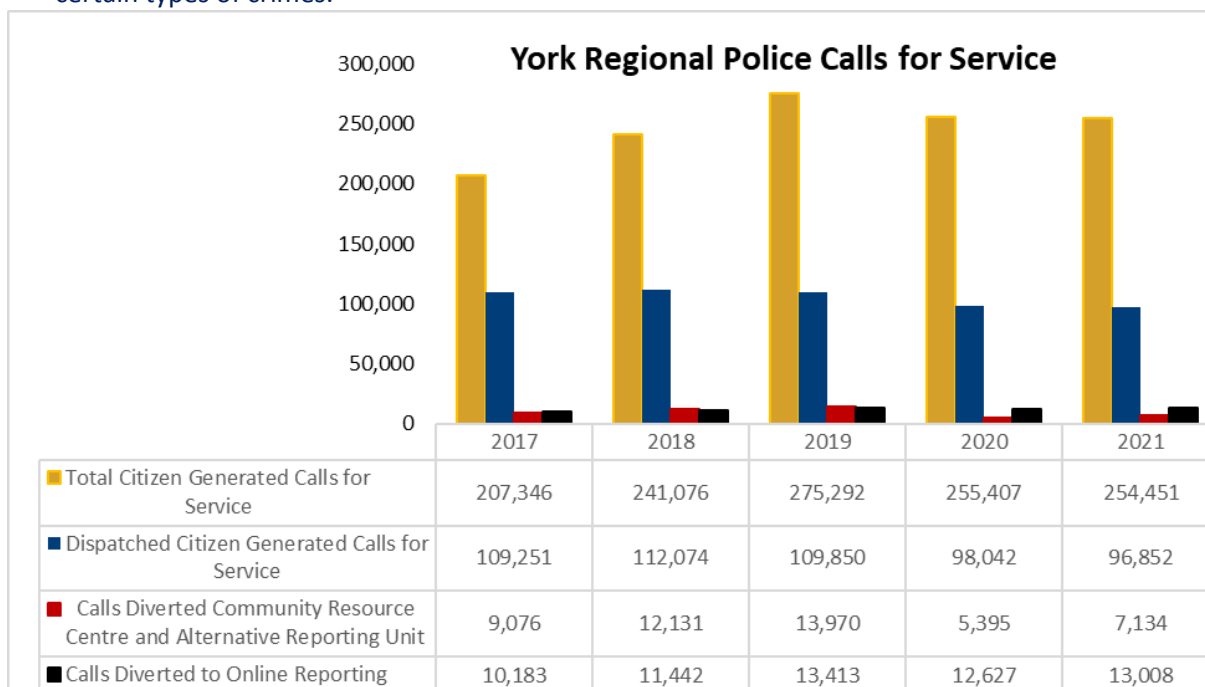


Figure 13. York Regional Police Calls for Service, 2017-2021

Cybercrime

- There has been an upward trend of incidents related to cybercrime over a 5-year span.
- In 2021, the number of incidents related to cybercrime increased by 38.2% from 2020.

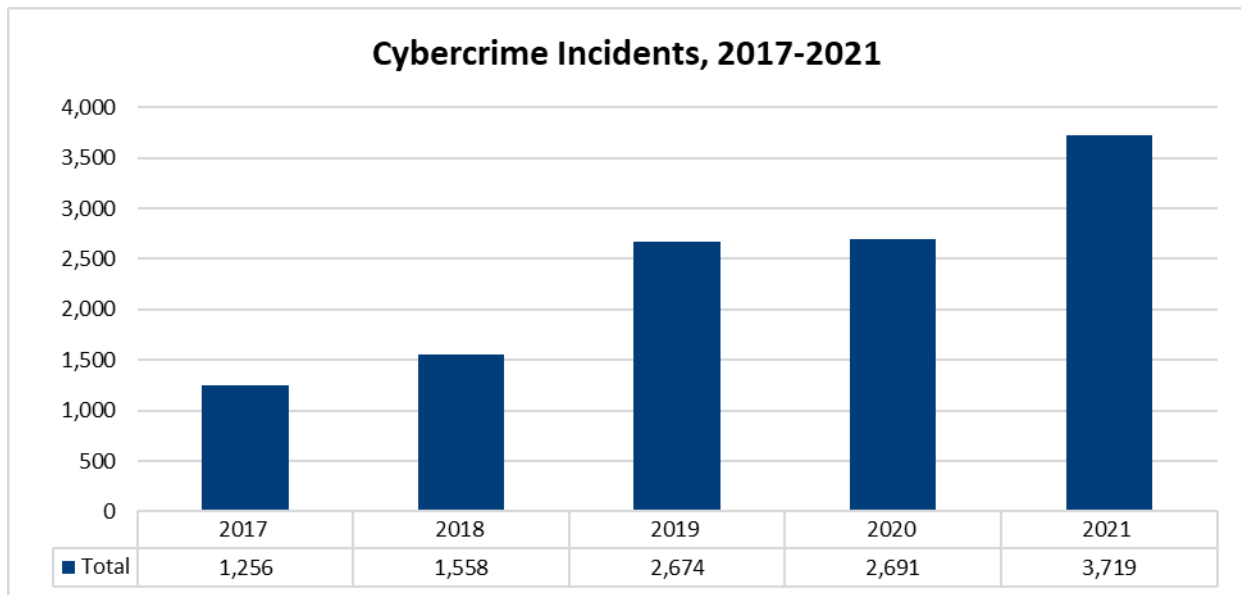


Figure 14. Yearly occurrence counts of cybercrime, 2017-2021

Drug Violations

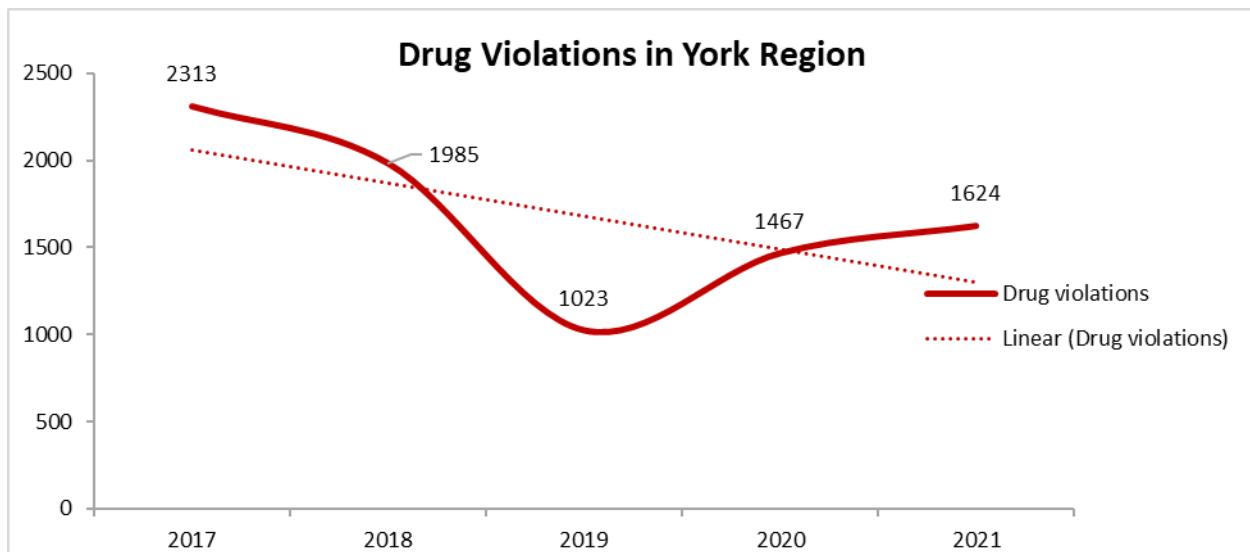


Figure 15. York Region Drug Violations, 2017-2021 Increase of drug violation in 2021 of 10.7%

- Drug violations continue to trend upwards as do occurrences involving fentanyl.
- The 5-year rise of occurrences involving fentanyl mirror the increase of fentanyl deaths in York Region.

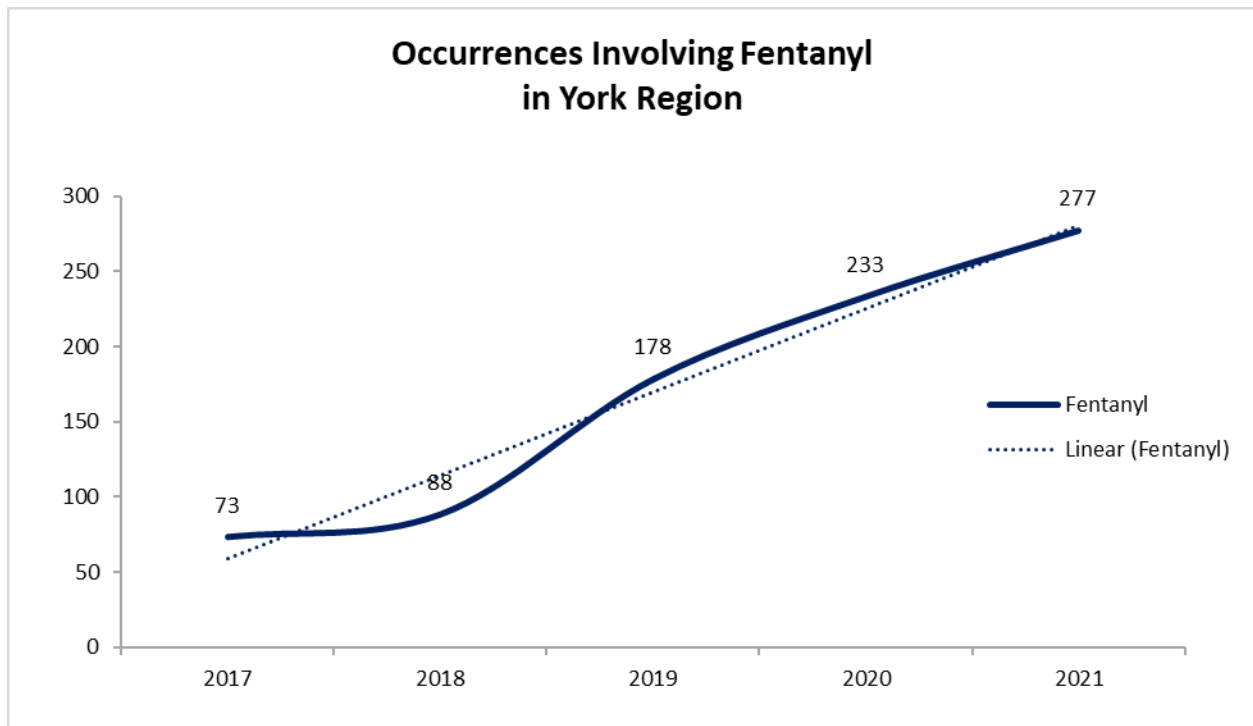


Figure 16. Occurrence involving fentanyl in York Region according to YRP Business Intelligence, 2017-2021

- Since 2015, the rate of deaths for opioid overdoses has increased.³⁸

Type of opioid present at death, York Region Public Health, 2005 - 2020

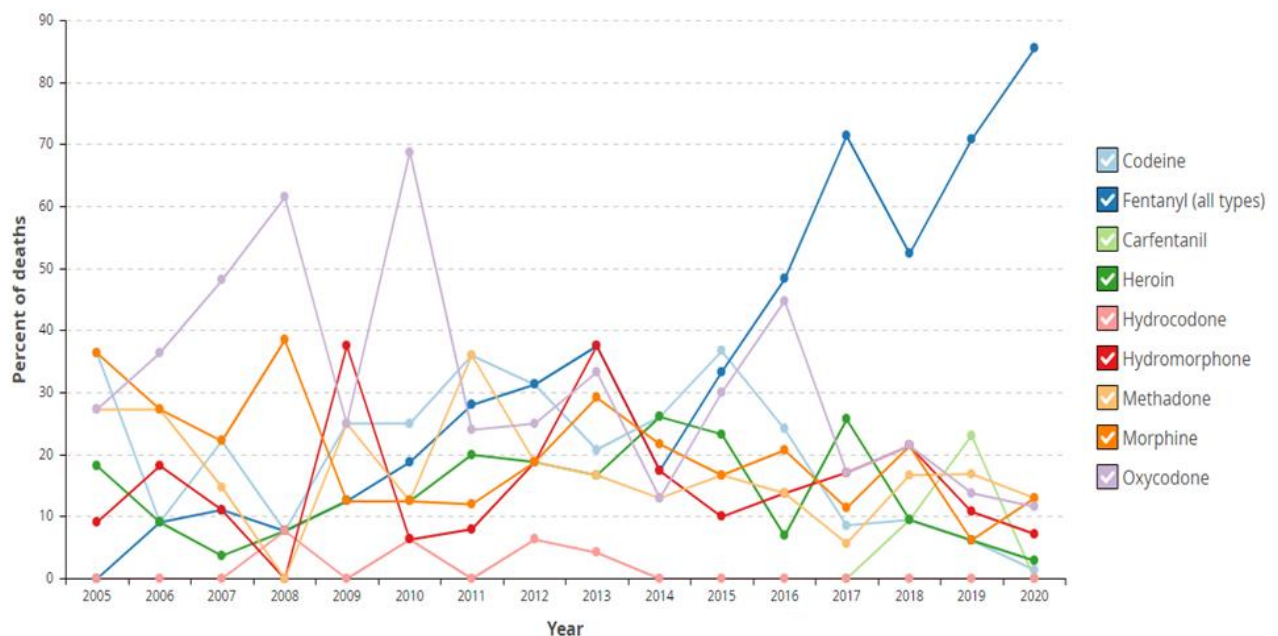


Figure 17. Types of opioid present at death, York Region, 2005-2020. Adapted from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Substance-Use/Interactive-Opioid-Tool#/drug>

Hate Crime

- Hate crime incidents in York Region increased by 21.9% from 2020 to 2021 and have been steadily increasing since 2018.
- In 2021, race/ethnicity was largest principal motivation factor for hate crime (54%).
- Nationally, police-related hate crimes that targeted religious groups increased: Catholic (+260%), Muslim (+71%), and Jewish (+47%).³⁹

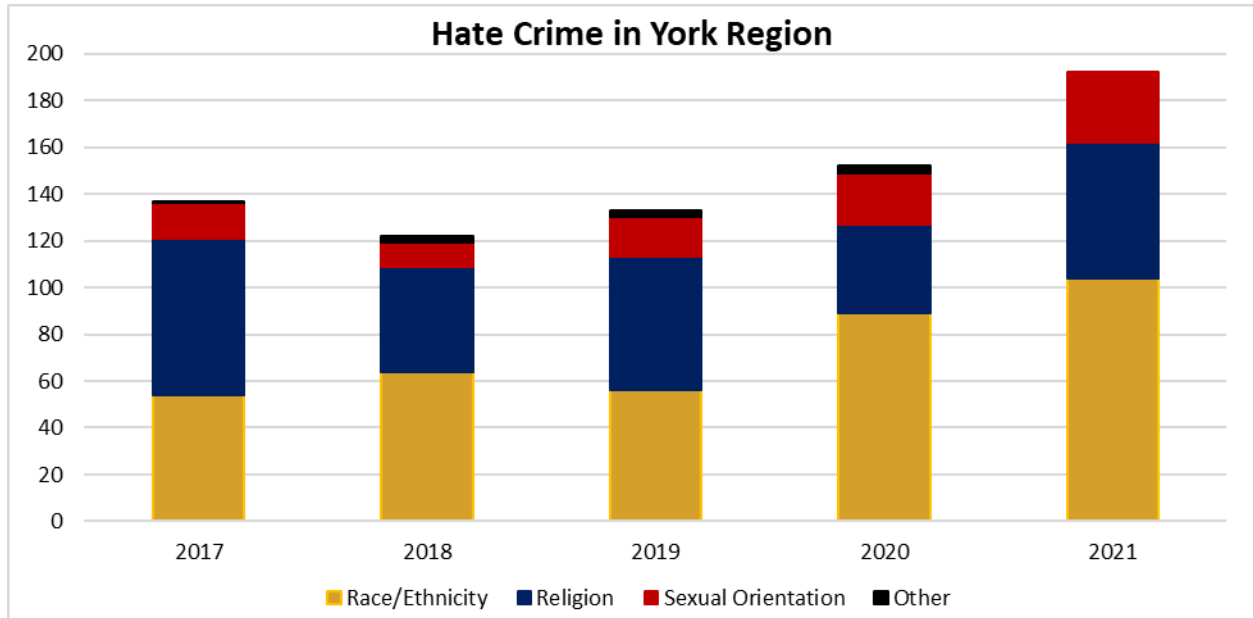


Figure 18. Hate crime occurrences by motivation in York Region, 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

Organized Crime in York Region

- The number of incidents related to Organized Crime more than doubled in 2020 compared to 2018.
- Incidents captured in relation to Organized Crime decreased slightly between 2020 and 2021, but investigation of these crimes is increasingly complex and impacted by resource availability.

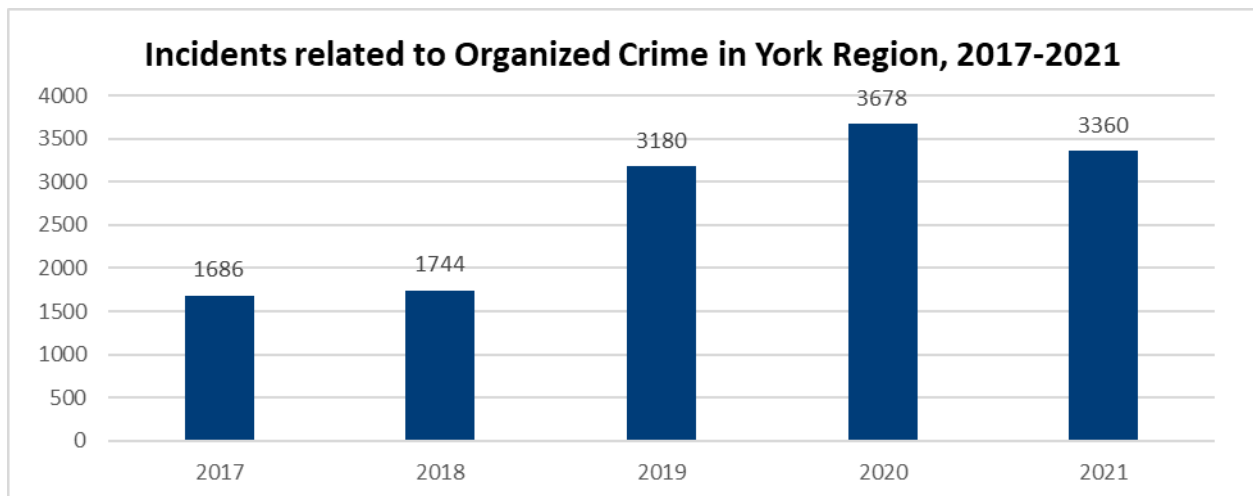


Figure 19. Organized Crime incidents in York Region, 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

Seniors as Victims of Violent Crime

- Reported incidents involving seniors as victims of violent crime experienced a 5-year variance of 57.7%.
- Nationally, a decade-long upward trend exists for police-reported violence against seniors, according to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Over the past 5 years, the largest increase has been observed among senior men.⁴⁰
- York Regional Police continues to emphasize providing safety education and resources to the Region's older adult population.

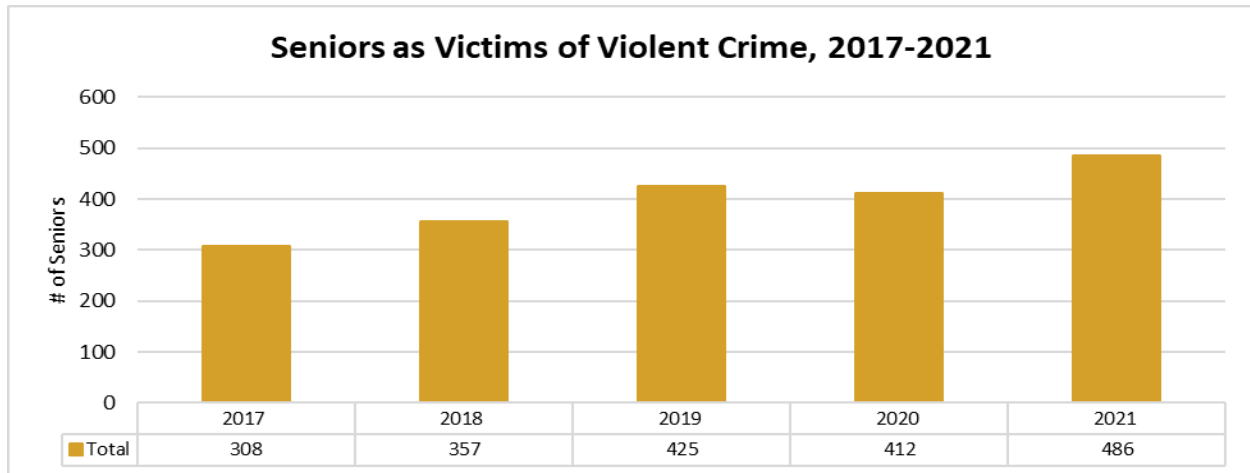


Figure 20. Seniors as Victims of Violent crime incidents in York Region, 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

Stolen Vehicles

- There was an increase of 48.4% of total stolen vehicles in York Region during the last 3-year time period, consistent with trends seen across the Province.
- The rate of stolen automobiles per 100,000 people decreased from 2020 to 2021, but the rate of stolen trucks increased by 77.7%.
- Carjacking occurrences also increased (28.6%) in York Region from 2020 to 2021.⁴¹

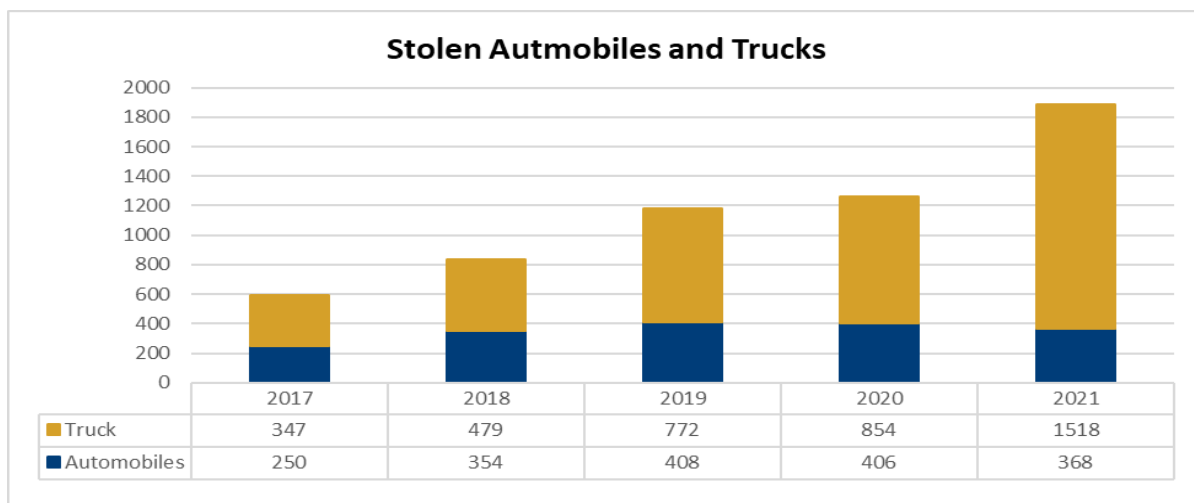


Figure 21. Stolen automobiles and trucks in York Region, 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports. Trucks include SUVs and minivans

Youth Crime

- The total number of youth crime incidents decreased during the last 5-year time period by 37.5%. This trend reflects an increase in youth being processed by other means as opposed to being charged.
- In 2021, total youth crime incidents decreased 6.4% from 2020 and the youth crime rate per 100,000 youth (age 12-17 inclusive) decreased by 10.2%
- The total number of charges against youth dropped 32% in 2021 from the previous year, while those processed by other means rose 15%.
- Despite the drop in total youth crime in 2021, the number of violent crime violations rose 8.7%.
- In 2021, across Canada the overall youth crime rate dropped by 3% nationally and continues on a downward trend.⁴²

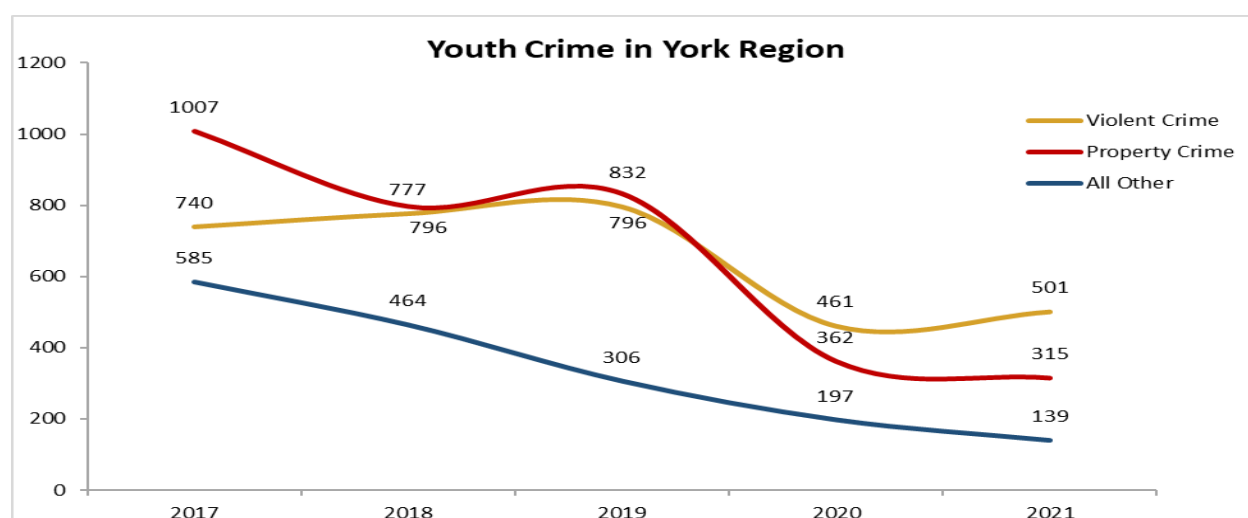


Figure 22. Youth Crime incidents in York Region: 2017-2021 Annual Statistics Reports

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF POLICING

Police Resources

- Nationally, the rate of police strength stabilized in 2021.⁴³
- Beginning in 2019, York Regional Police experienced an influx of applications for police officer positions; the number of applicants peaked in 2020 with 1,389 applications received.
- Nearly 140 uniform members are eligible for retirement between 2021 and 2026. Moreover, recruitment challenges have emerged for both sworn positions and specialized civilian positions.
- A survey conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2019 reported that 30% of respondents experienced moderate to major challenges in recruiting non-sworn positions. Most respondents reported that dispatch positions are the most difficult to recruit and hire.⁴⁴
- Given the increased public scrutiny and protests against police in recent years, police services will be challenged to find innovative ways to make a career in policing appealing in order to attract and retain top talent for both sworn and civilian positions.

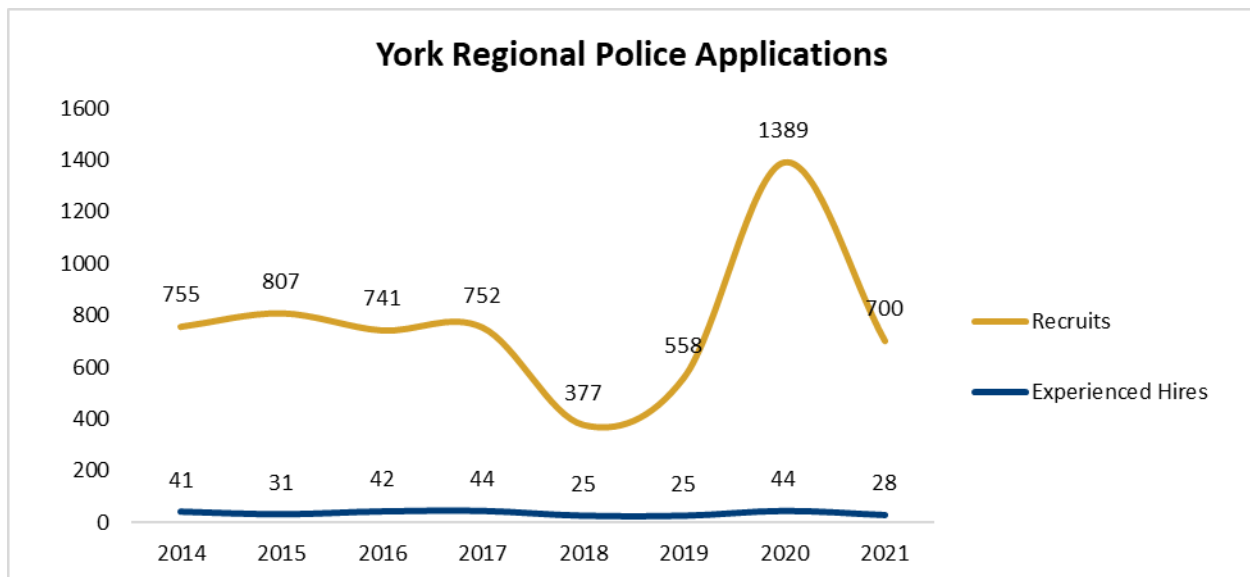


Figure 23. Number of uniform applications received by York Regional Police, 2014-2021. Data provided by YRP Uniform Recruiting

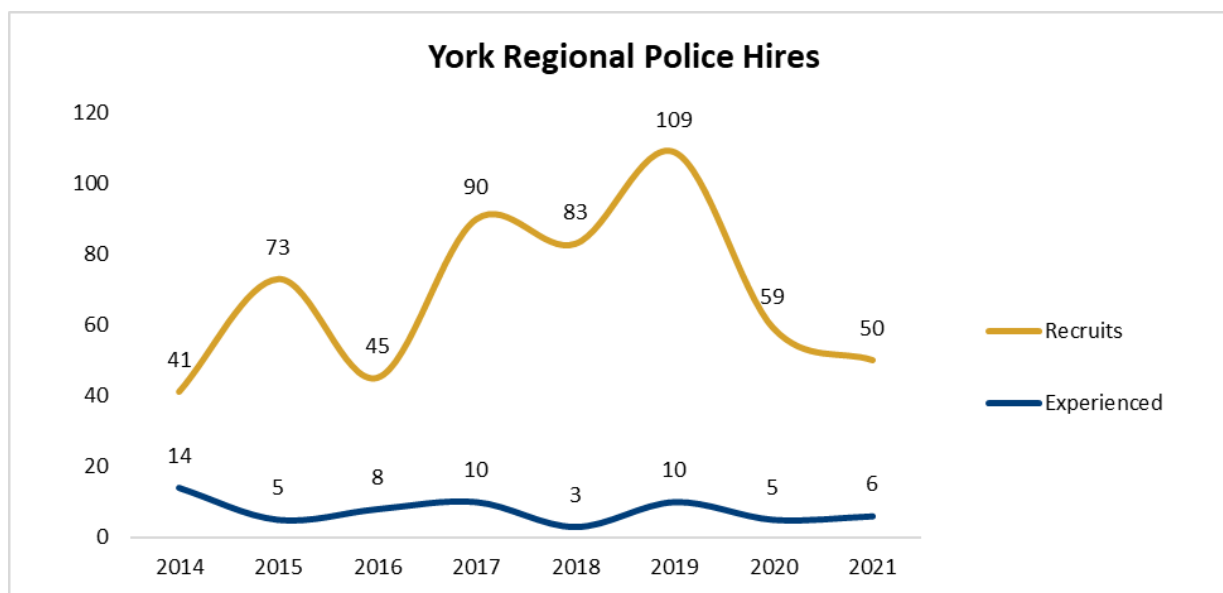


Figure 24. Number of uniform hires by York Regional Police, 2014-2021. Data provided by YRP Uniform Recruiting

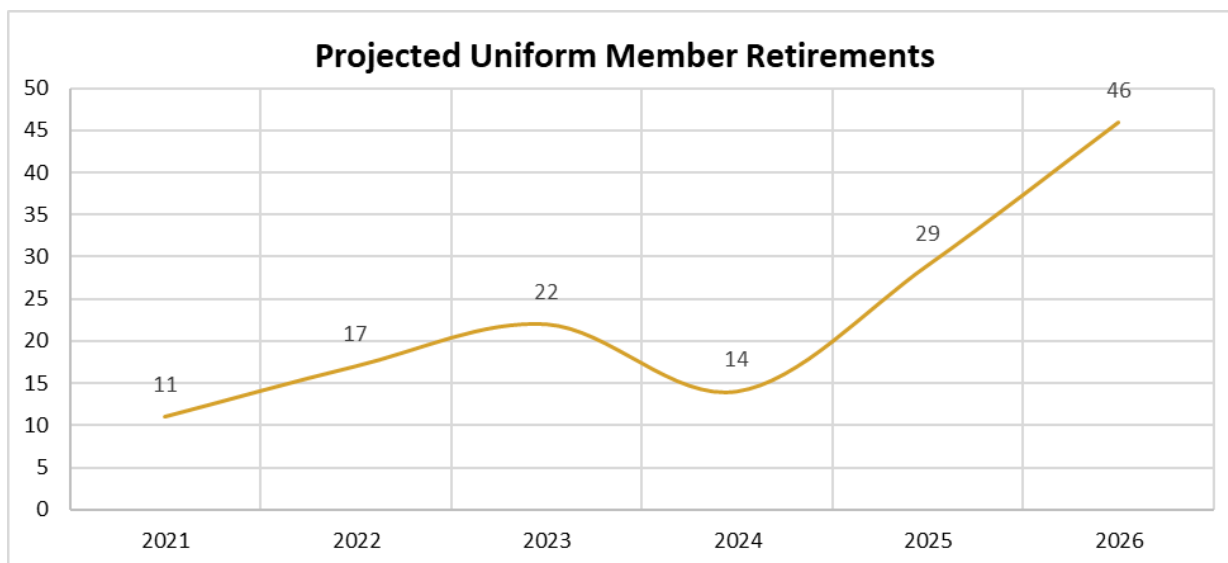


Figure 25. Projected retirements of YRP uniform members based on OMERS eligibility

Economic Trends

- York Region remains the third largest municipality and third largest business centre in Ontario.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate across Canada fluctuated. Declining rates were likely attributed to closure of restaurants, gyms and other businesses impacted by physical distancing measures and stay-at-home orders.⁴⁵
- In June 2022, the unemployment rate fell to a record low 4.9% nationally.⁴⁶
- The net operating budget for York Regional Police in 2022 is \$376.8 million, which includes \$1.4 million for additional staff to be hired, if needed. The existing budget includes \$200,000 for revenue impact due to external factors that could affect revenue. The budget is an increase of 4.49% over the 2021 budget⁴⁷. This increase is comparable across Canadian police agencies' total operating expenditures after accounting for inflation.⁴⁸

Inflation

- Consumer inflation rose to 8.1% year-over-year in June 2022; the largest increase since January 1983.⁴⁹
- Price increases in several sectors, including grocery, energy and tertiary services prices are affecting Canadians and their ability to meet day-to-day expenses.
- Energy prices rose 34.8% year-over-year in May 2022 – compared to 2021; consumers paid 48.0% more for gasoline stemming from high crude oil prices.

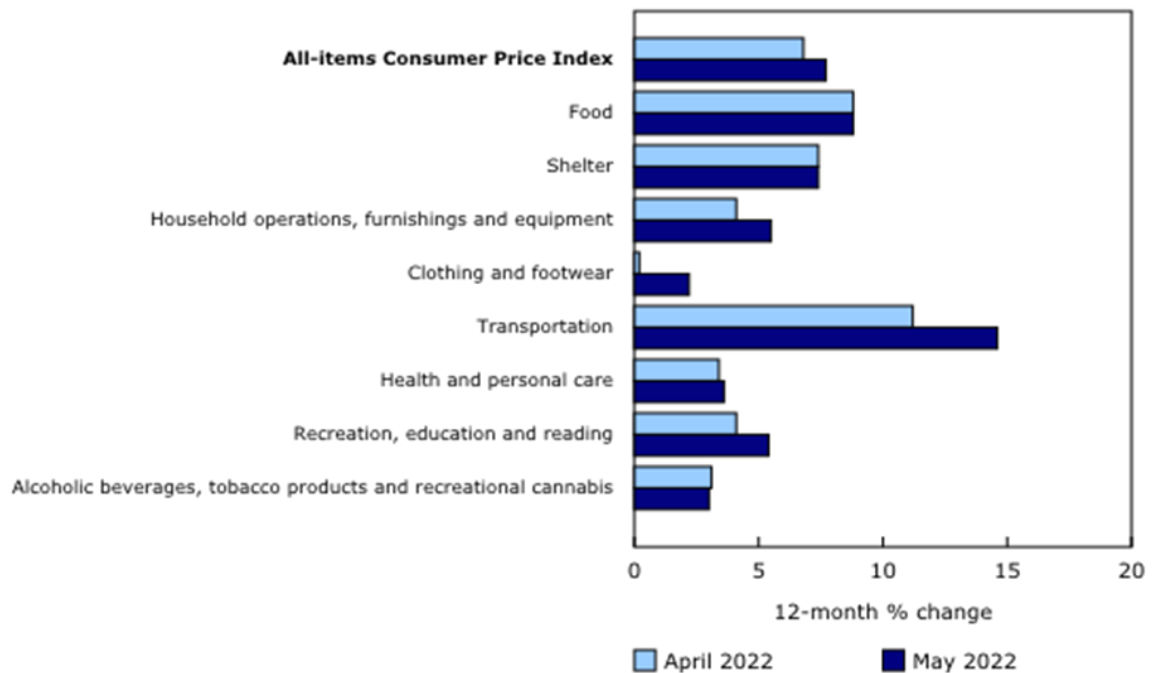


Figure 26. Table 18-10-0004-01 Consumer Price Index, monthly, not seasonally adjusted⁵⁰

Income

- 44% of York Region residents reported an income under \$100,000 per household.⁵¹
- In 2020, more than 32% of York Region residents 15 years of age and older received federal emergency and recovery benefit payments through programs such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).⁵²
- An increase of 310% of York Region residents reported income from government transfers since 2016. This is the largest increase in the GTHA.⁵³

2021 York Region Households by Income Group

	York Region		Aurora		East Gwillimbury		Georgina		King	
Income (\$)	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share
Under \$10,000	6,370	2%	250	1%	115	1%	165	1%	120	1%
\$10,000 to \$13,999	7,470	2%	335	2%	155	1%	355	2%	115	1%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	17,835	5%	820	4%	380	4%	1,060	6%	320	3%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	18,955	5%	820	4%	415	4%	950	6%	300	3%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	19,625	5%	1,025	5%	465	4%	1,115	6%	325	4%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	20,655	5%	1,095	5%	525	5%	1,110	6%	340	4%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	21,000	5%	1,120	5%	570	5%	1,120	6%	425	5%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	21,145	5%	1,160	5%	660	6%	1,120	6%	380	4%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	20,570	5%	1,085	5%	625	5%	1,055	6%	375	4%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	19,705	5%	1,075	5%	640	6%	1,045	6%	355	4%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	45,680	12%	2,535	12%	1,535	13%	2,480	14%	910	10%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	39,170	10%	2,240	10%	1,360	12%	2,010	11%	800	9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	57,135	15%	3,200	15%	1,940	17%	2,435	14%	1,420	16%
\$200,000 and over	75,720	19%	4,745	22%	2,065	18%	1,780	10%	2,775	31%
Total	391,035	100%	21,505	100%	11,450	100%	17,880	100%	8,960	100%

	Markham		Newmarket		Richmond Hill		Vaughan		Whitchurch-Stouffville	
Income (\$)	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share	Household	Share
Under \$10,000	2,525	2%	320	1%	1,545	2%	1,145	1%	175	1%
\$10,000 to \$13,999	2,290	2%	610	2%	1,785	3%	1,550	1%	200	1%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	5,200	5%	1,475	5%	3,845	6%	4,170	4%	555	4%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	6,155	6%	1,325	4%	4,045	6%	4,270	4%	620	4%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	5,815	5%	1,520	5%	3,905	6%	4,715	5%	740	4%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	6,285	6%	1,625	5%	3,985	6%	4,920	5%	750	4%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	6,405	6%	1,735	6%	3,920	6%	4,905	5%	790	5%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	6,295	6%	1,740	6%	3,920	6%	5,015	5%	850	5%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	6,220	6%	1,670	6%	3,625	5%	5,035	5%	875	5%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	5,885	5%	1,585	5%	3,295	5%	4,965	5%	860	5%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	12,925	12%	3,835	13%	7,575	11%	11,680	11%	2,200	13%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	10,800	10%	3,225	11%	6,145	9%	10,685	10%	1,900	11%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	15,075	14%	4,535	15%	8,965	13%	16,785	16%	2,780	17%
\$200,000 and over	18,975	17%	5,095	17%	12,765	18%	24,080	23%	3,420	20%
Total	110,850	100%	30,295	100%	69,320	100%	103,920	100%	16,715	100%

Figure 27. 2021 York Region households by income group in each municipality. Adapted from York Region 2021 Census Release Report: Income

Employment

- York Region is home to 54,000 businesses and more than 600,000 jobs.⁵⁴ During 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, employment decreased in York Region from an estimated 654,648 to 599,700.⁵⁵
- 14% of York Region residents are nearing retirement age.⁵⁶
- The COVID-19 pandemic spurred movements in the labour market towards increased retirement, resignations and remote work. Employees indicated an increased preference to work outside the office.⁵⁷

York Region Labour Force Replacement Ratio

For 2001 to 2021



Labour Force Replacement Ratio - refers to the number of people expected to enter the workforce (aged 15-24) compared to those expected to leave it (aged 55-64).

Figure 28. York Regional Labour Force Replacement Ratio, 2001 to 2021⁵⁸

Legislative Impacts and Trends

Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), 2019 – Enforcement of the Act is pending. The CSPA aims to form and preserve trust between the public and police by compelling police officers to follow a code of conduct.⁵⁹ The Act mandates municipalities to prepare a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to modernize community-based policing. York Region adopted and published their *Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for 2022 to 2026* in June 2022.⁶⁰

Emergencies Act - On February 14, 2022, the Government of Canada enacted the *Emergencies Act* to counter protests and blockades throughout the country. The temporary act granted local and national law enforcement more powers.⁶¹

Bill 67 – Racial Equity in the Education System Act, 2022 – It has been drafted and is under review to amend various Acts related to racial equity and education in Ontario. For instance, amendments to the *Education Act* include the addition of definitions, policies and fines centered on deterring racism.⁶² Royal Assent of the Act may result in increased police investigations surrounding hate crime occurrences.

Accountability

As part of York Regional Police's transformative culture change, Breakthrough, a Professionalism, Leadership and Inclusion office was established in October 2021 to better support all members by focusing on ethical leadership development and providing governance of YRP's ethics strategy.

Technological Trends

Use of online applications to dialogue, serve and connect with the public is becoming increasingly common for law enforcement agencies across North America. York Regional Police continues to be a leader in using data analytics to improve policing work, give officers real-time information, ensure accountability and support evidence-based decision-making.

In November 2021, the Community Safety Data Portal was launched. The online portal consists of user-friendly maps and dashboards that the public can use to view crime and road safety trends.

Other technology trends that may continue to impact policing include the rise of cybercrimes, disinformation and use of synthetic media such as AI-generated content.

Police will also be challenged to prevent and respond to increasing ransomware attacks and other cyber security threats to their data and operating systems. Investment in technologies and personnel will need to be dedicated to the ongoing improvement of cyber security strategies, including business continuity planning.

Public Order, Extremism/Terrorism

YRP's Public Safety Unit (PSU) continues to be deployed, often for crowd management, due to increases in civil unrest and protests locally and nationally. Additional emergency preparedness training was initiated to better mitigate extreme events such as active attackers, critical infrastructure cyber attacks and hostage rescue. YRP's PSU was utilized in more various and unprecedented capacities related to circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmental Impacts

Increased extreme winter and summer weather patterns are becoming more frequent and widespread. In Ontario, changing temperature and precipitation patterns have led to flooding, tornados and severe winter storms. These events continue to strain critical infrastructure and resources including municipal roads, communications and energy sectors. Police may be required to respond to increasingly frequent natural disasters that may result in national security threats, mass displacement of people and civil unrest caused by resource scarcity.

Municipal Profiles

Demographic statistics of each municipality sourced from 2021 Statistic Canada Census.

Aurora

- Median Age: 42
- Average Age: 41
- Total Population: 62,060
- 62.6% of residents speak English most often in the home
- 39.8% of residents speak a non-official language in the home

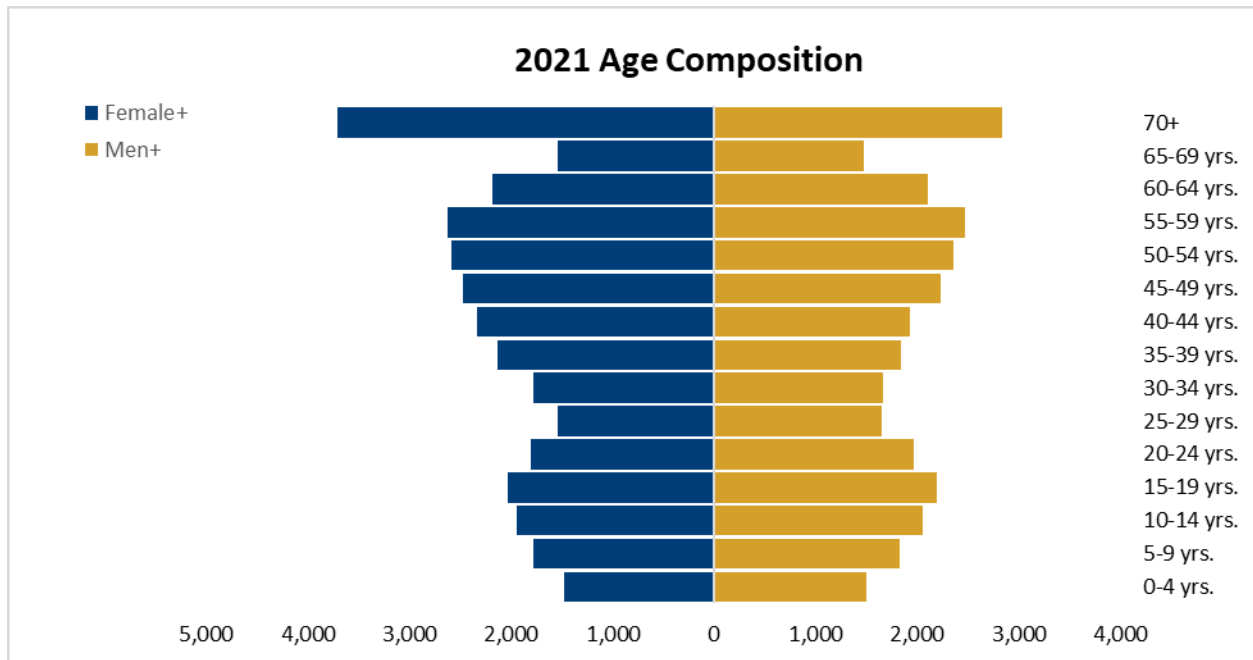


Figure 29. Composition of Aurora's population by age group and gender

East Gwillimbury

- Median Age: 40
- Average Age: 39
- Total Population: 34,640
- Experienced the largest growth in total dwellings with an increase of 41.5% since 2016
- Largest increase of residents 65 years + since 2016 at 38%⁶³

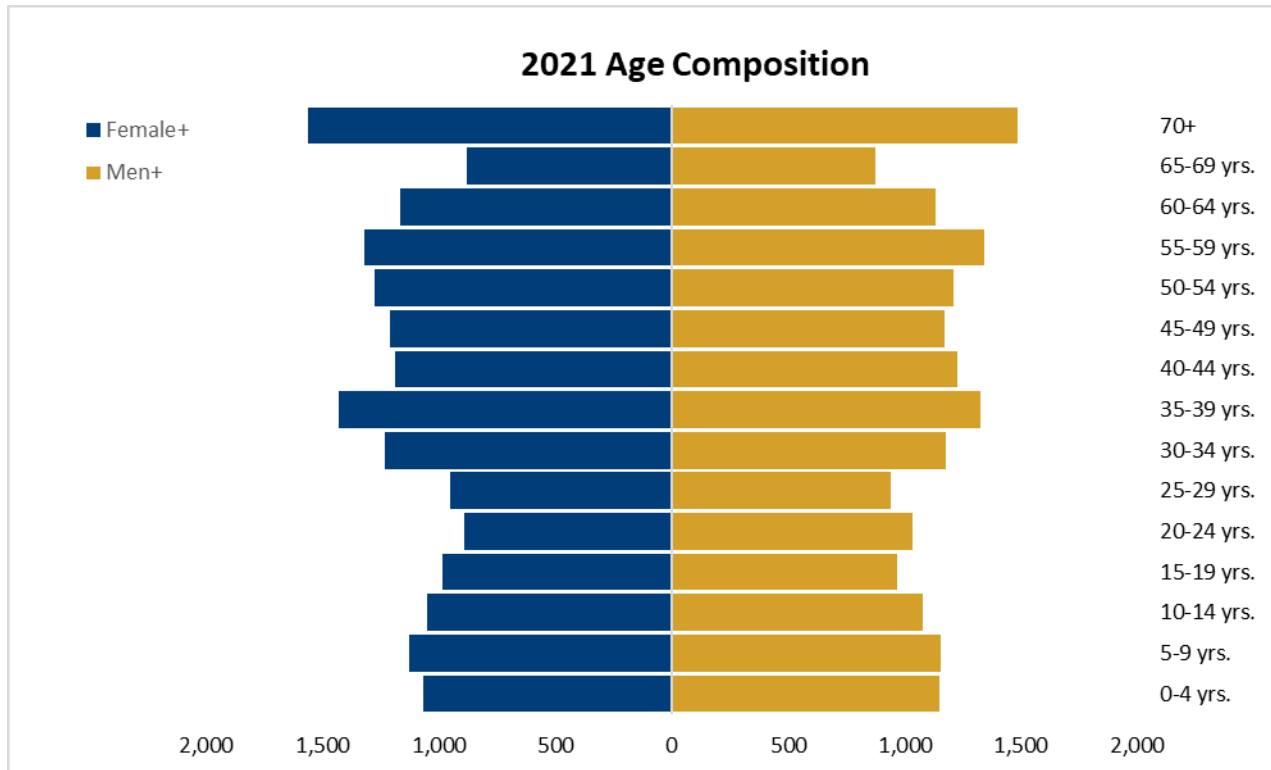


Figure 30. Composition of East Gwillimbury's population by age group and gender

Georgina

- Median Age: 43
- Average Age: 42
- Total Population: 47,645

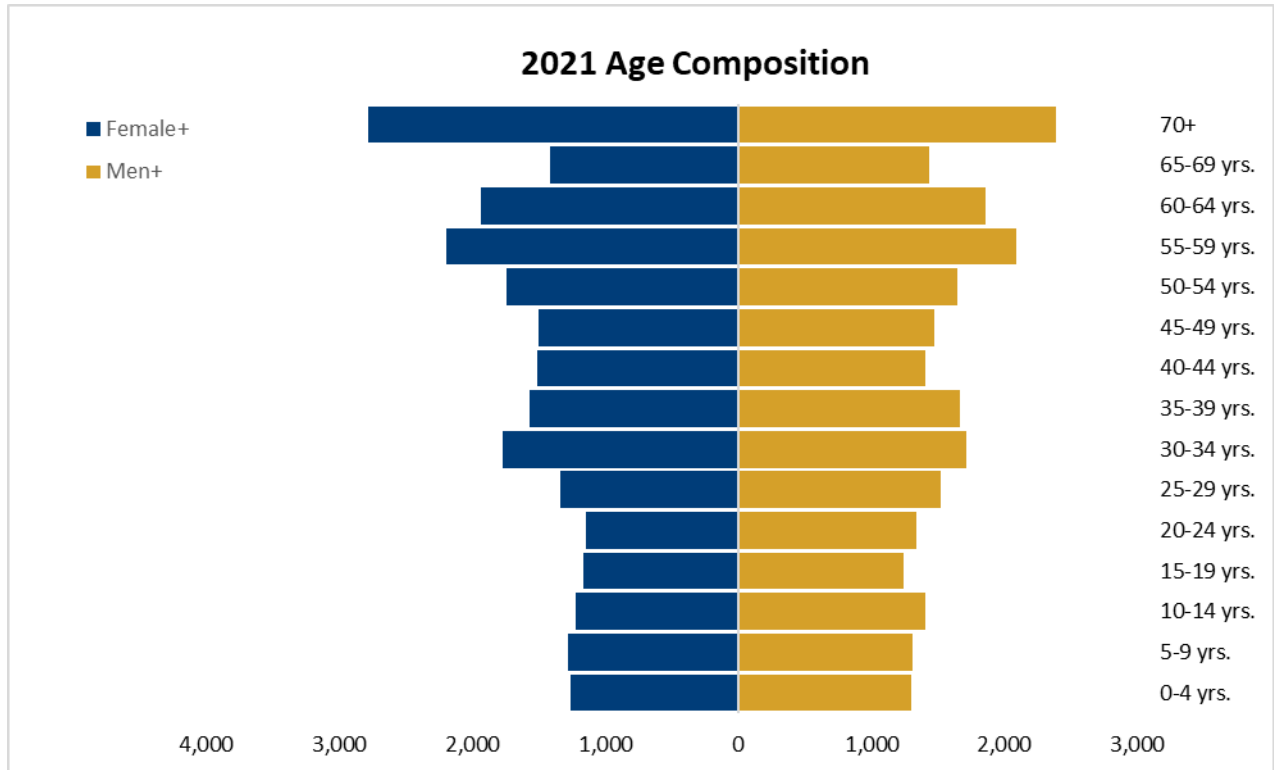


Figure 31. Composition of Georgina's population by age group and gender

King

- Median Age: 43
- Average Age: 41
- Total Population: 27,335
- King has the highest median household income of all municipalities in Ontario at \$141,000⁶⁴

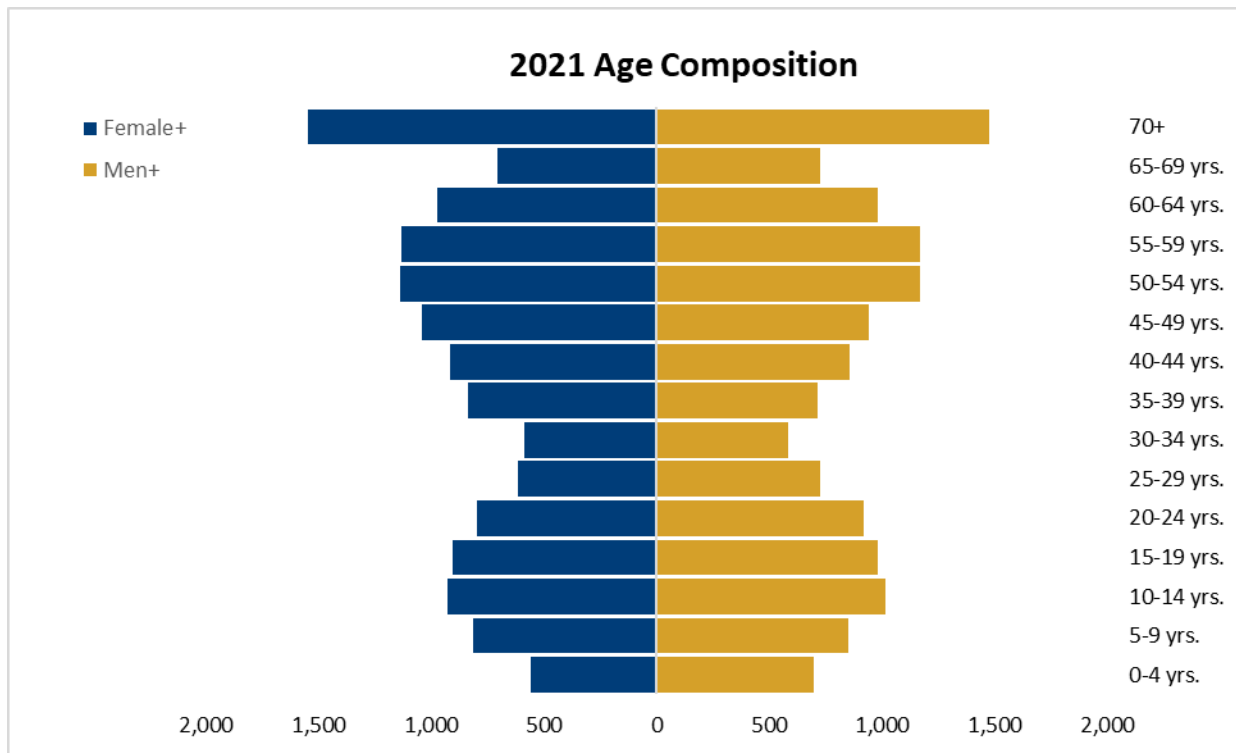


Figure 32. Composition of King's population by age group and gender

Markham

- Median Age: 42
- Average Age: 42
- Total Population: 338,495
- 39.9% of residents speak English most often in the home
- 65.8% of residents speak a non-official language in the home
- Forecasted to experience the largest population growth among the nine municipalities by 2051⁶⁵
- Cornell Bus Terminal construction nearing completion and will improve commuting and access to Markham-Stouffville Hospital

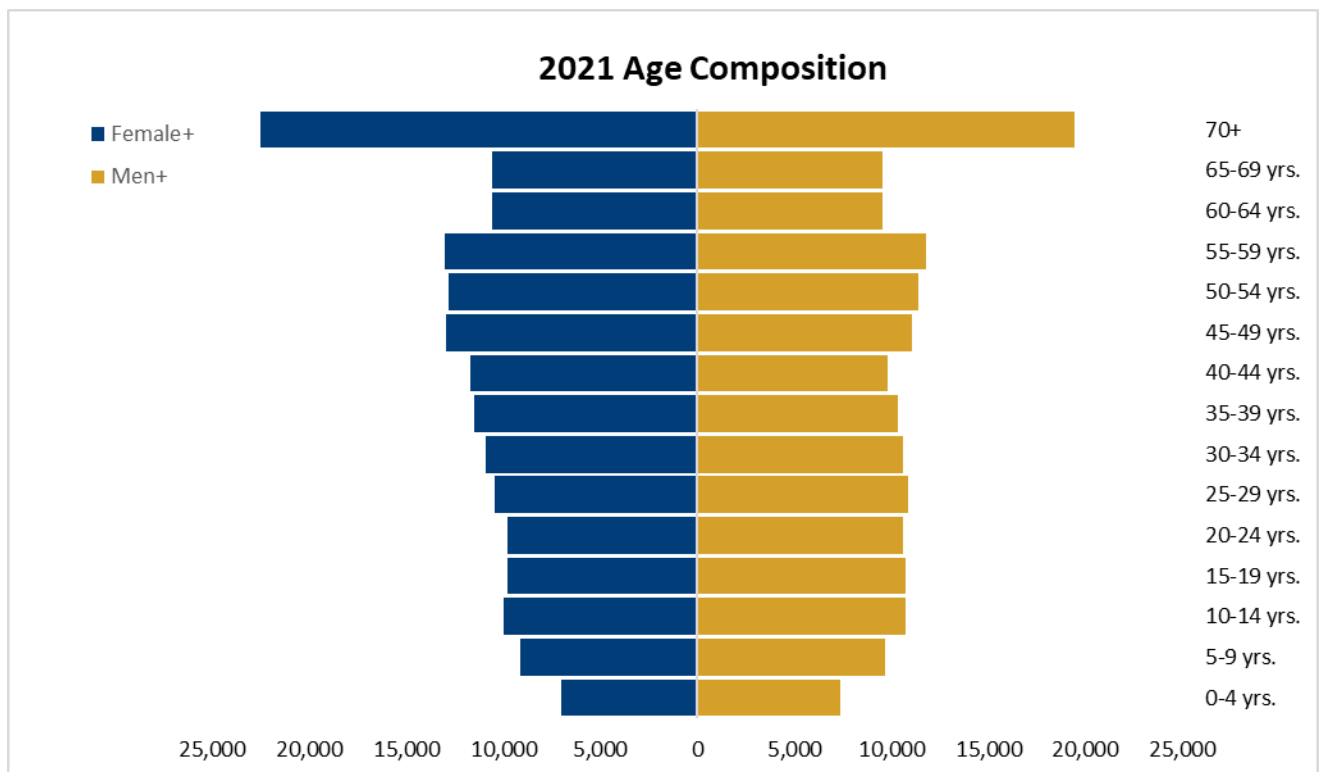


Figure 33. Composition of Markham's population by age group and gender

Newmarket

- Median Age: 42
- Average Age: 41
- Total Population: 87,945
- 67.9% of residents speak English most often in the home
- 34.4% of residents speak a non-official language in the home
- York Regional Police 1 District relocated to 429 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket
- Yonge Street/Newmarket Viva rapid-way transit completed in January 2020

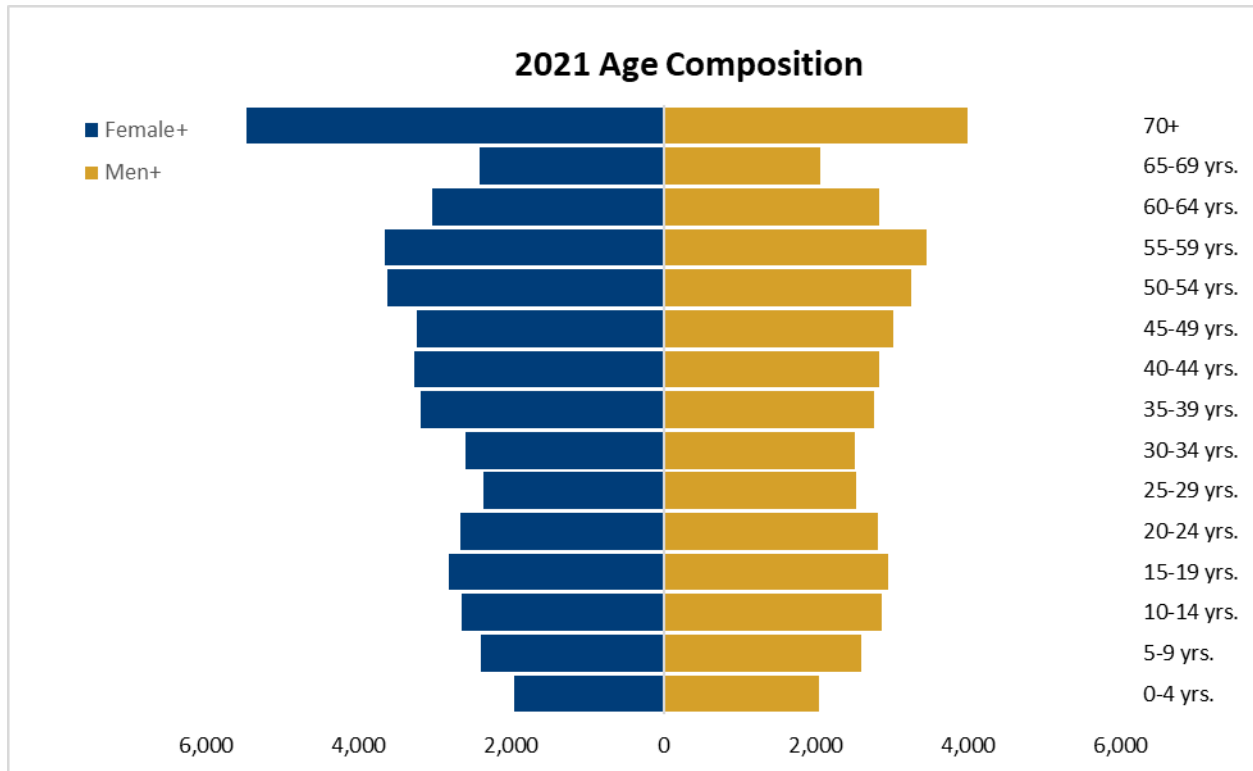


Figure 34. Composition of Newmarket's population by age group and gender

Richmond Hill

- Median Age: 44
- Average Age: 42
- Total Population: 202,020
- 39.6% of residents speak English most often in the home
- 65.4% of residents speak a non-official language in the home
- Yonge Street/Richmond Hill Viva rapid-way transit completed in December 2020

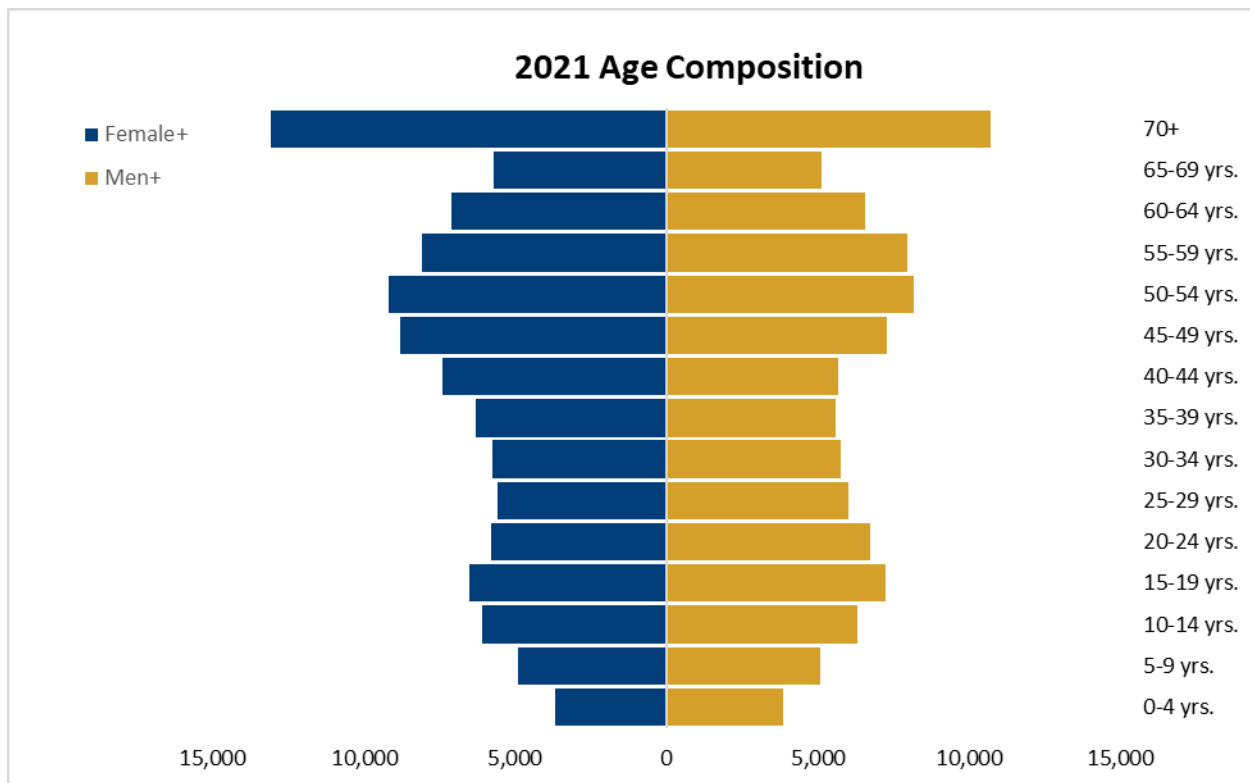


Figure 35. Composition of Richmond Hill's population by age group and gender

Vaughan

- Median Age: 42
- Average Age: 41
- Total Population: 323, 105
- 50.9% of residents speak English most often in the home
- 54% of residents speak a non-official language in the home
- Forecasted to have the largest employment growth across the Region by 2051.⁶⁶

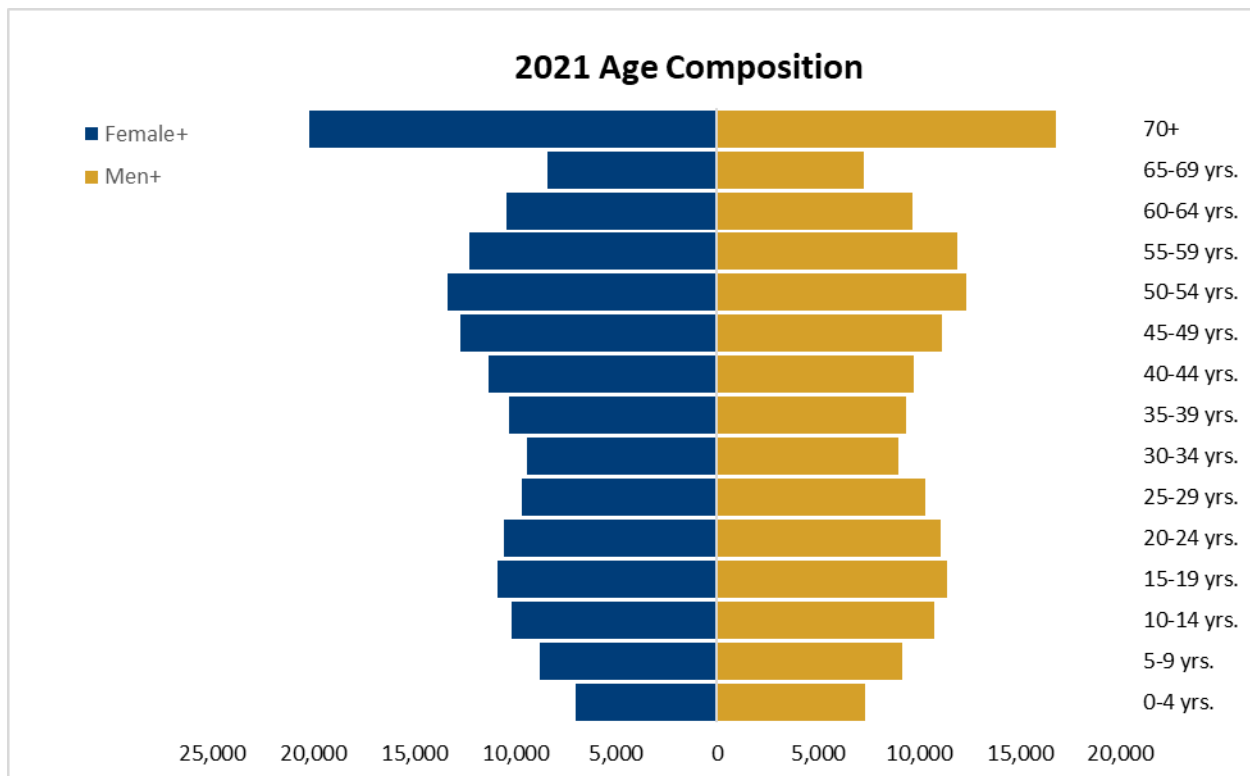


Figure 36. Composition of Vaughan's population by age group and gender

Whitchurch-Stouffville

- Median Age: 42
- Average Age: 41
- Total Population: 49, 865

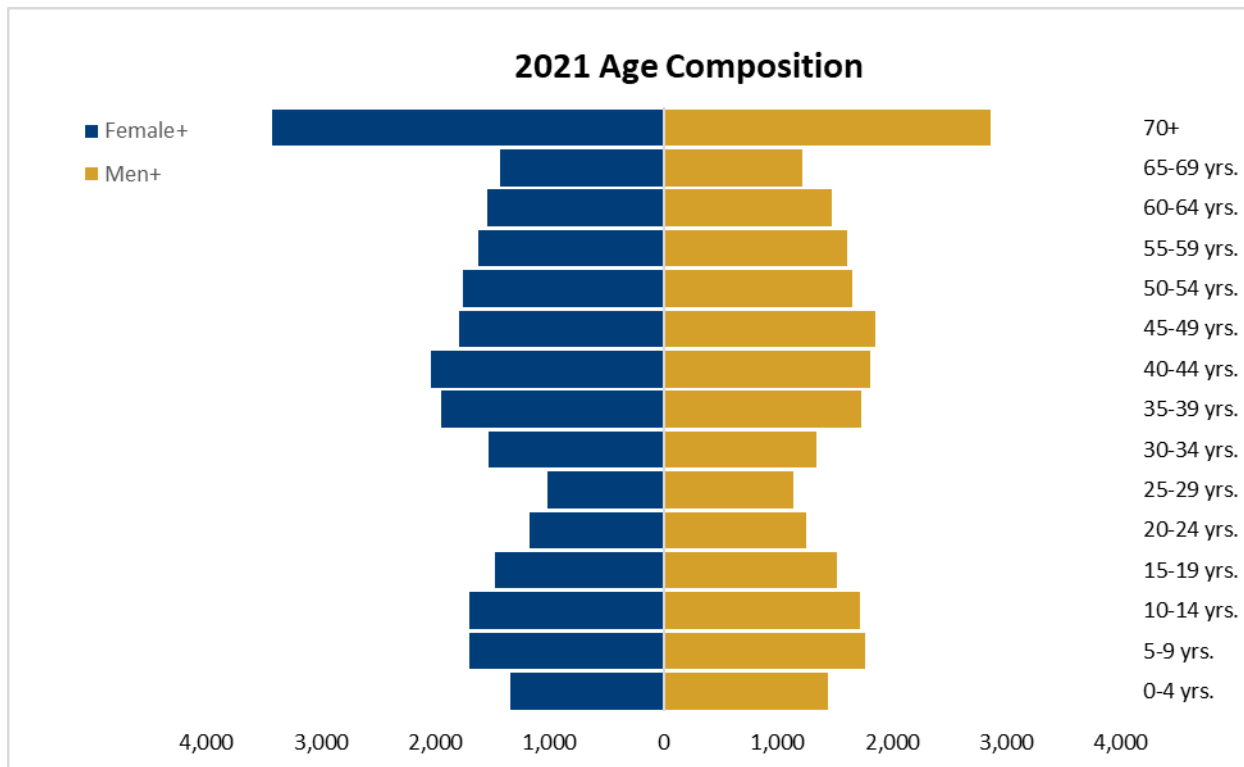


Figure 37. Composition of Whitchurch-Stouffville's population by age group and gender

End Notes

- ¹ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Type
- ² Supplementary Information for the 2021-2023 Immigration Levels Plan. Government of Canada. Release Date: February 14, 2022.
- ³ York Regional Council Proposed 2051 Forecast and Lands Needs Assessment, 2021.
- ⁴ Opioid and Suspected Overdose Monthly Report: June 2022, York Region Public Health
- ⁵ York Region Social Capital Study, 2021
- ⁶ COVID-19 in Canada: A Two-year Update on Social and Economic Impacts, Statistics Canada, March 2022.
- ⁷ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-x/2021001/98-200-x2021001-eng.cfm>
- ⁸ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Families, Households and Marital Status
- ⁹ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Type
- ¹⁰ Ibid
- ¹¹ Ibid
- ¹² Ibid
- ¹³ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Families, Households and Marital Status
- ¹⁴ Ibid
- ¹⁵ Ibid
- ¹⁶ https://www.vivanext.com/project_TerminalMarkham#
- ¹⁷ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/yonge-subway-extension-faq.aspx>
- ¹⁸ https://www.vivanext.com/project_futuremap
- ¹⁹ <https://budget.ontario.ca/2022/capital-plan.html>
- ²⁰ <https://www.bradfordbypass.ca/>
- ²¹ A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Official Consolidation, 2020.
- ²² 2022 Adopted York Region Official Plan
- ²³ Foundational Housing Analysis York Region. Final Report (Executive Summary) March 2021.
- ²⁴ Ibid
- ²⁵ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Type
- ²⁶ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Population and Dwelling Counts
- ²⁷ 2022 Federal Budget
- ²⁸ Housing York Inc. 2020 Annual Report
- ²⁹ I Count: York Region's 2021 Homeless Count Report
- ³⁰ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220817/dq220817a-eng.htm?HPA=1>
- ³¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=6&lang=E&dguid=2021A00033519>
- ³² York Regional Police Annual Report, 2020.
- ³³ York Regional Police Annual Statistics Report, 2021.
- ³⁴ Ibid
- ³⁵ <https://www.ontariohealth.ca/news/news-release/ontario-health-welcomes-expansion-ontario-structured-psychotherapy-program>
- ³⁶ All below statistics sourced from police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021. Statistics Canada. Release date: August 2, 2022.
- ³⁷ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220331/dq220331f-eng.htmz>
- ³⁸ Opioid and Suspected Overdose Monthly Report: June 2022, York Region Public Health
- ³⁹ Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021. Statistics Canada. Release date: August 3, 2022.

⁴⁰ Violence against seniors and their perceptions of safety in Canada. Statistics Canada. Release Date: July 7, 2022.

⁴¹ York Regional Police Annual Statistics Report, 2021.

⁴² Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021. Statistics Canada. Release date: August 3, 2022.

⁴³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220331/dq220331f-eng.htm>

⁴⁴ https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/239416_IACP_RecruitmentBR_HR_0.pdf

⁴⁵ <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-loses-146k-jobs-in-january-amid-covid-19-public-health-measures-1.5768036>

⁴⁶ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220708/dq220708a-eng.htm>

⁴⁷ <https://www.yrpsb.ca/police-budget>

⁴⁸ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220331/dq220331f-eng.htmz>

⁴⁹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220720/dq220720a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

⁵⁰ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1810000401>

⁵¹ York Region 2021 Census Release Report - Income

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ The Regional Municipality of York 2021 Community Report

⁵⁵ York Region 2020 Growth and Development Review

⁵⁶ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Type

⁵⁷ Working from home: Productivity and preferences (statcan.gc.ca)

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=36948&language=en>

⁶⁰ <https://www.york.ca/york-region/plans-reports-and-strategies/community-safety-and-well-being-plan>

⁶¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/freedom-convoy-ottawa-police-emergencies-act-1.6457488>

⁶² <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-2/bill-67>

⁶³ York Region 2021 Census Release Report – Age, Sex, Gender, and Dwelling Type

⁶⁴ York Region 2021 Census Release Report - Income

⁶⁵ York Regional Council Proposed 2051 Forecast and Lands Needs Assessment, 2021.

⁶⁶ Ibid