

Vaughan Social Service Study Current Needs and Future Policy Directions

November 4, 2009

The Social Services Study

- Purpose:
 - To address the social impacts of growth
 - Define a role for the City of Vaughan to meet social needs
 - Develop policy approaches for the new Vaughan Official Plan
- Process:
 - Public opinion survey, review of existing reports & data
 - Roundtable presentation and consultation
- Outcome:
 - Social Services Study Report and policy recommendations

What is an Official Plan?

- A statutory document that provides land use policy direction for long-term growth and development within a municipality



Telling the Human Story of Growth



Putting a human face on the development of new Official Plan policies and City directions

Community Profile Highlights

- Trends and data drawn from many sources and organized into 6 categories:

1. Children & Families
2. Youth
3. Seniors
4. New Immigrants
5. Affordability, Housing & Income
6. Physical and Mental Health

The collage features four distinct documents:

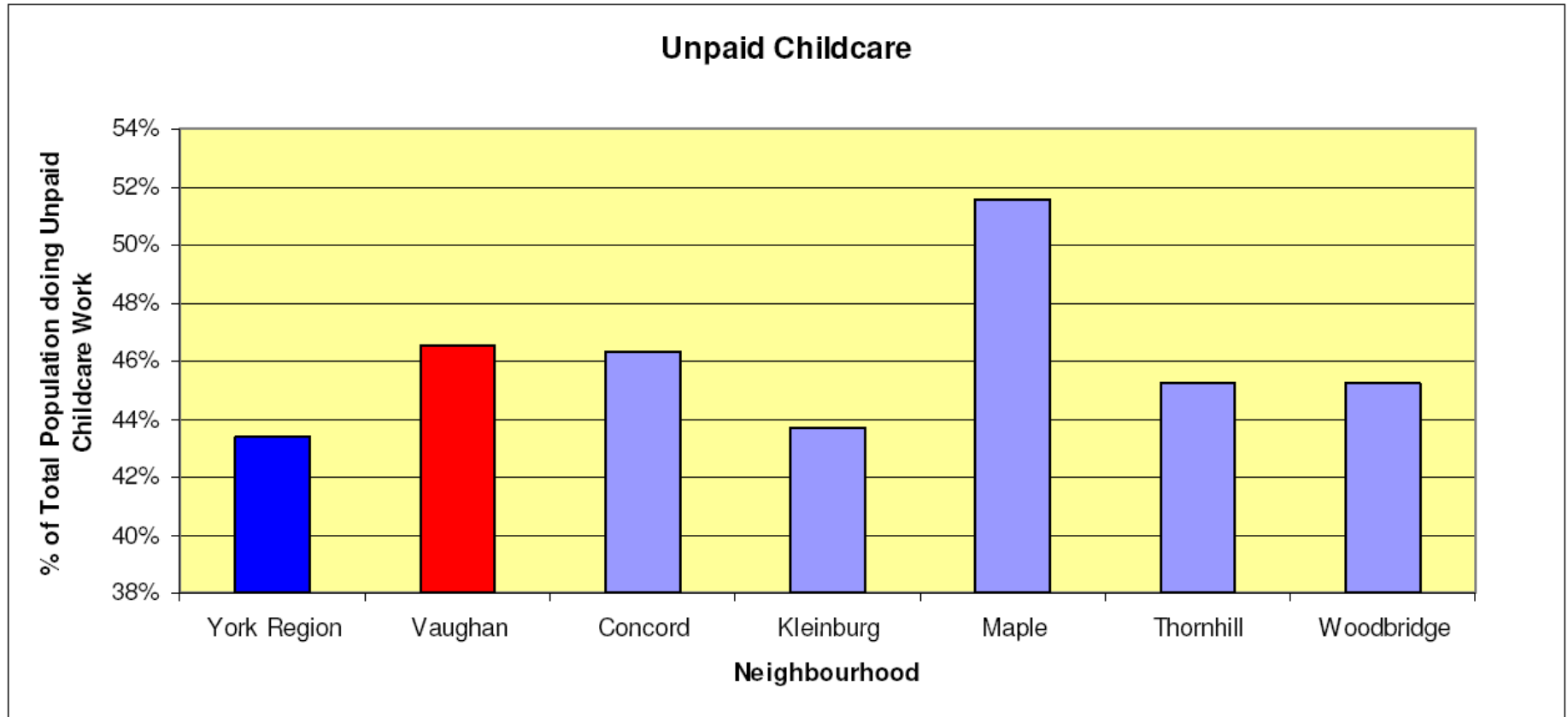
- Vaughan Community Health Centre Community Profiles:** A blue cover with the title in white. Below the title, it says "Prepared by Public Interest Strategy and Communications May 2009". It features a photo of a diverse group of people and the VCHC logo.
- JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY:** A white cover with a blue header. The subtitle is "Housing and Shelter Costs in York Region". It includes an "Introduction" section and a "Did You Know?" section with a population projection. It features several photos of families and a house.
- Making a Difference:** A white cover with a purple header. The subtitle is "Helping People Lead Healthier Lives". It is an "Integrated Health Service Plan for the Central LHIN Technical Report". It features a photo of a doctor and a young girl.
- CITY OF VAUGHAN OFFICIAL PLAN BACKGROUND PAPER ON POPULATION AND HOUSING:** A white cover with a purple header. It includes the word "DRAFT" in large blue letters and the HEMSON CONSULTING logo. The date "April 2006" is at the bottom.

Children and Families

Trends & Public Opinion

- Growing proportion of low income families
- Residents reporting Vaughan underserved in services for children with special needs, subsidized childcare and food banks
- Need for prevention programs reported by service providers
- More women in work force – a connected need for childcare supports

Children and Families



Source: Public Interest Strategy & Communications *Vaughan Profiles*

Children and Families

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Implications

- Reliance on informal networks for child care
- Increase in multi family households sharing cost of living
- Services will need to grow to meet needs as population increases
- Root causes of needs must be addressed

Children and Families

Potential City Actions

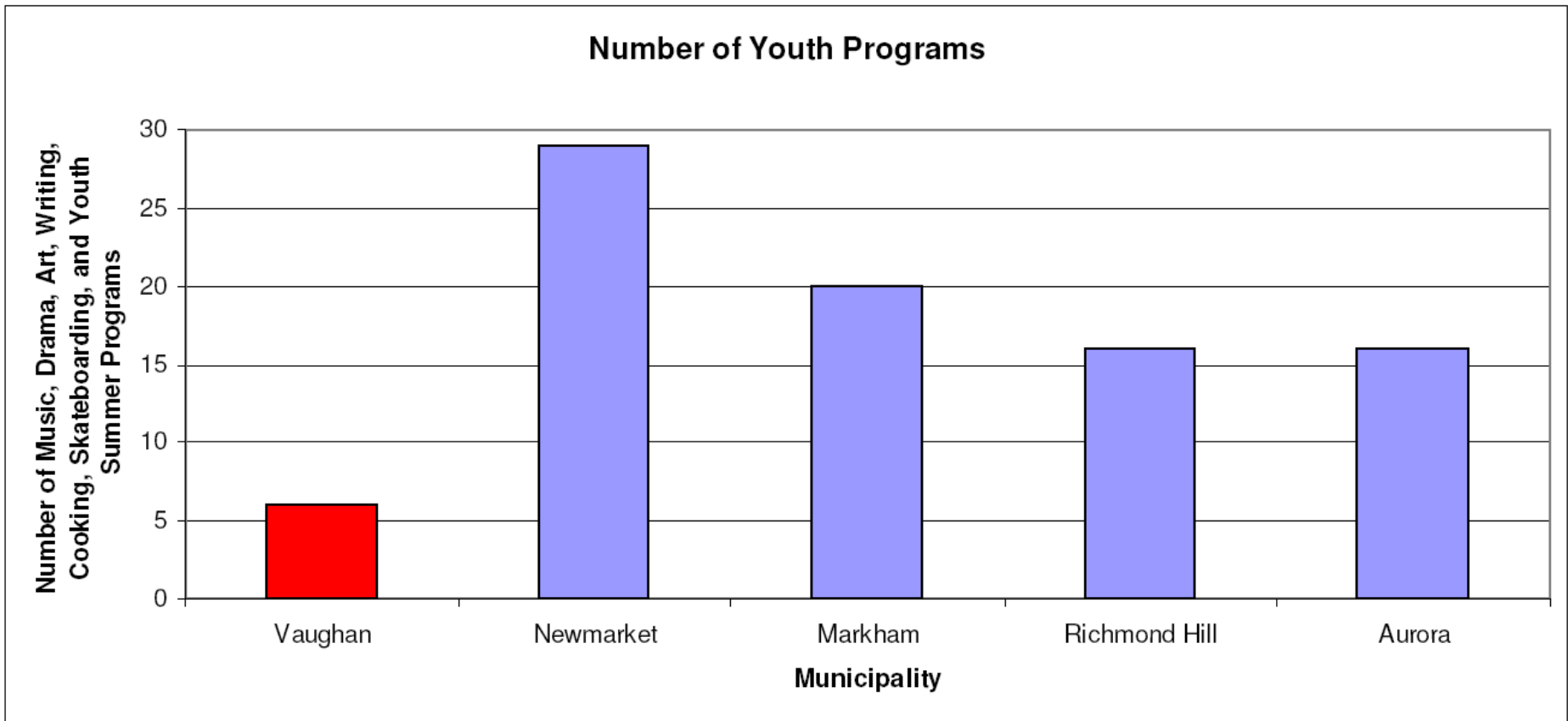
- Advocate for equitable funding for social services
- Use official plan policies to encourage development of services for families and children within neighbourhood units, more integral to community building
- Encourage development of more affordable housing choices through official plan policies
- Promote 'School as Hub' concept– school as centralized location for child and family-related services

Youth

Trends & Public Opinion

- Lack of adequate programming
- Counselling services for youth among top underserved areas
- Difficulty with independent mobility

Youth



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Trends & Public Opinion

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Implications

- Limited to access programs, jobs or services
- Lack of places to constructively spend time

Youth

Potential City Actions

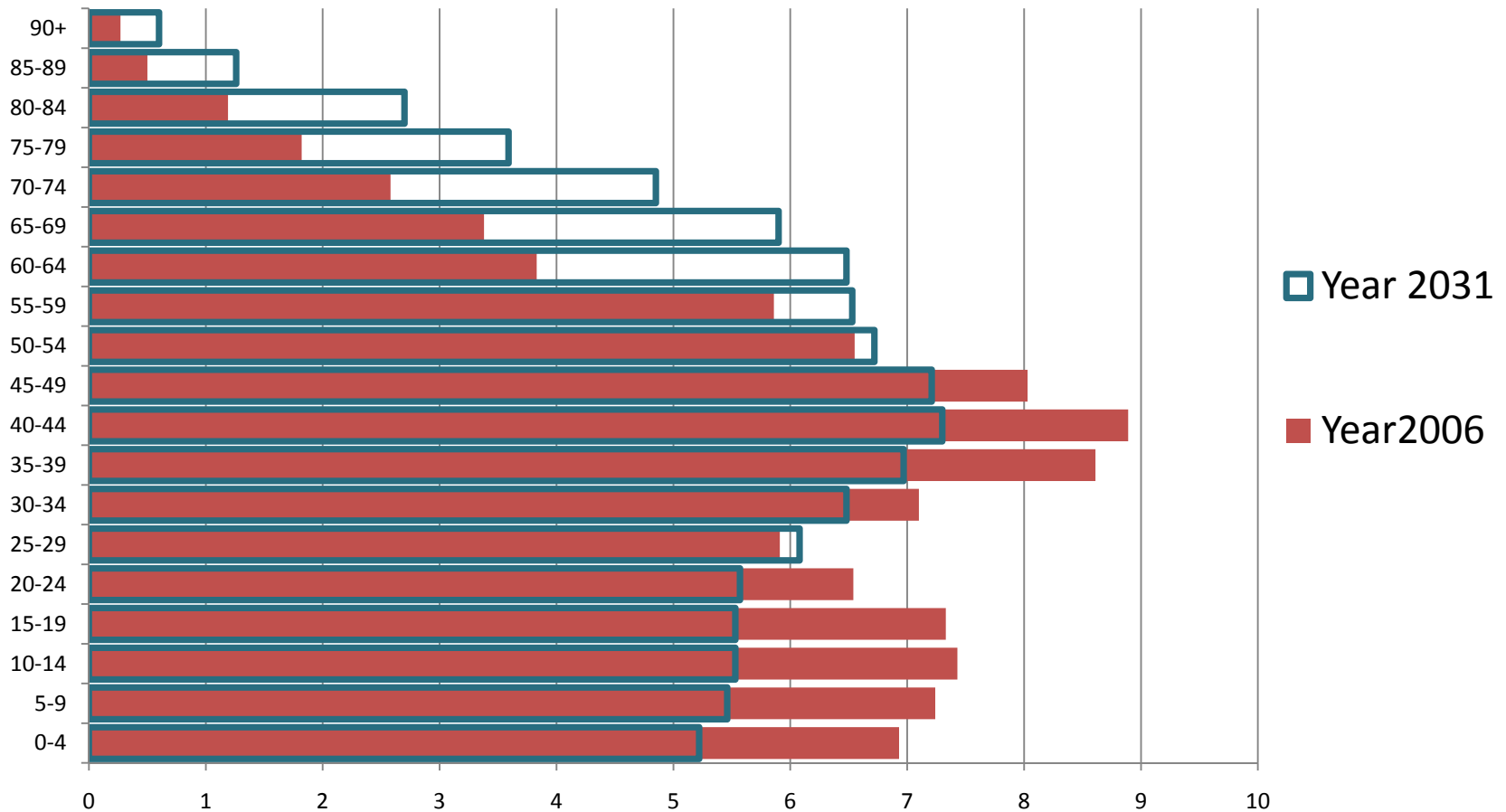
- Changes in urban design directions
- More and different opportunities for places of work and recreation for youth
- Extend or enhance programming activities
- Improve transit service and encourage youth ridership

Seniors

Trends & Public Opinion

- Fast-growing seniors population
- By 2031, 55+ will make up 30% of population
- Long-term care for seniors amongst top ten areas where residents report Vaughan underserved
- Physical and financial isolation from programs and services growing concern

Seniors



Vaughan Age Structure as Percent of the Population, 2006 and 2031

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd. *City of Vaughan Official Plan Background Paper on Population and Housing*

Seniors

Trends & Public Opinion

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- Long-term care for seniors amongst top ten areas where residents report Vaughan underserved
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Implications

- Needs will grow from mobile young seniors to the housebound elderly
- Isolation, incidence of low income will grow as population grows
- Need to expand housing choice

Seniors

Potential City Actions

- Encourage the development of seniors-targeted housing
- Develop an accessibility strategy for the city
- Advocate for seniors services in multiple languages and targeted outreach in communities of need
- Involve seniors in consultation processes that relate to their issues of interest

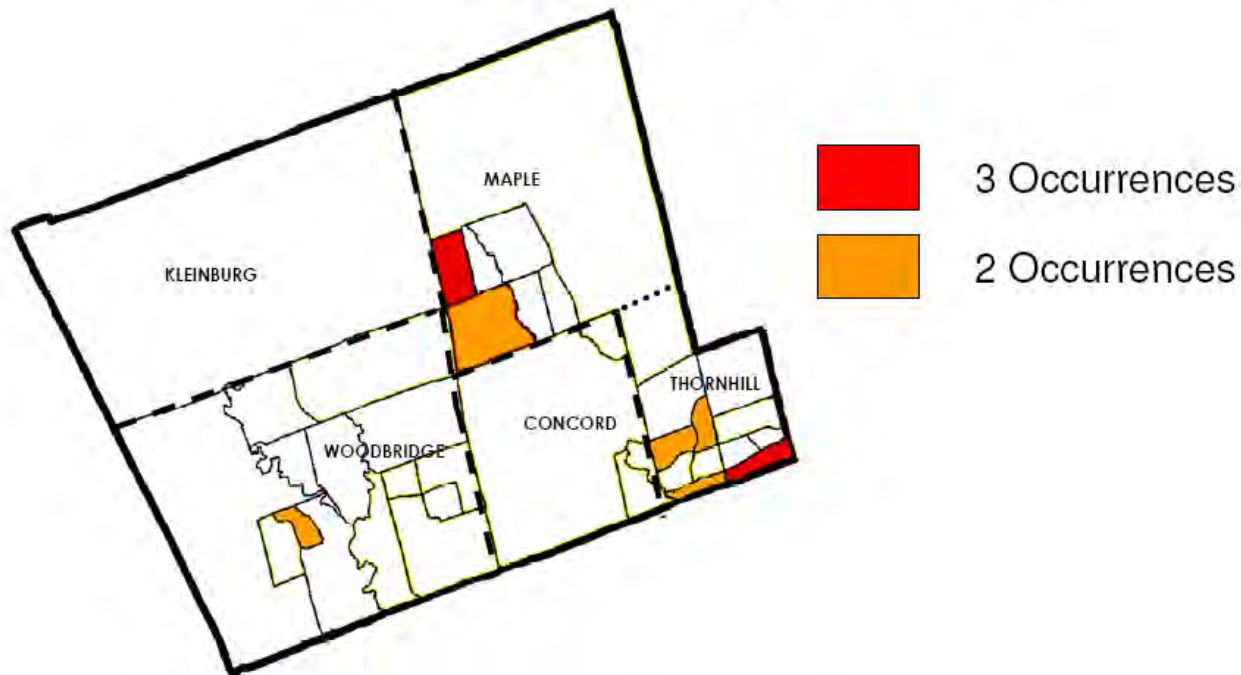
New Immigrants

Trends & Public Opinion

- Number of people speaking language other than English at home growing
- Recent immigrants more likely to be within lower income levels
- Residents report language programs for new immigrants among top used services

New Immigrants

Language and Immigration Issues



Clusters were determined by looking at the top quartile (25%) of tracts in 3 categories around housing: proportion of recent immigrants, people who do not speak English, and people who speak a language other than English most often at home

New Immigrants

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Implications

- Lack of linguistically accessible services
- Related needs including affordable housing choice, child care and mobility

New Immigrants

Potential City Actions

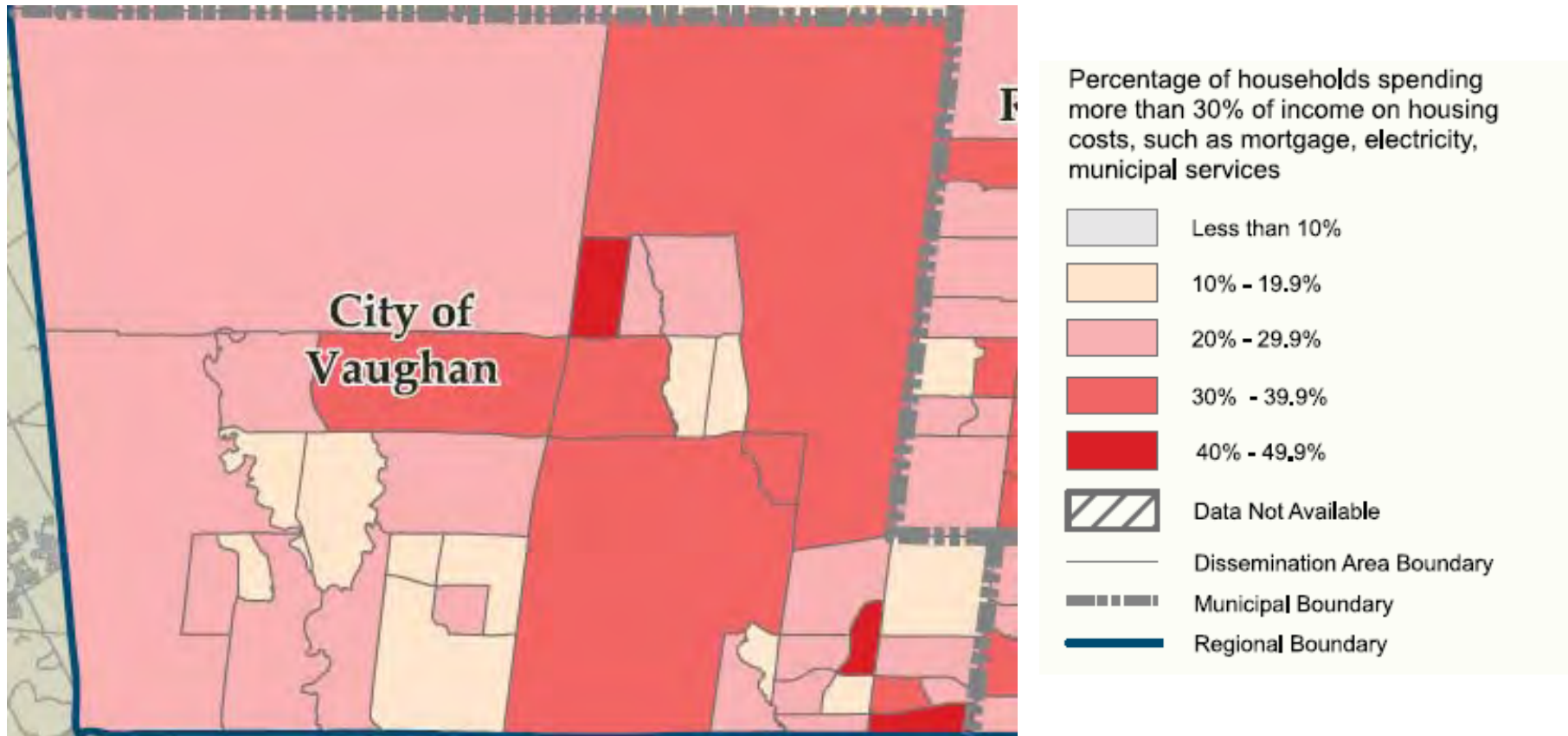
- Advocate for geographically localized services in certain communities of need
- Develop land use designations that permit services in accessible places, at nodes and along corridors
- Partner with groups like Together for Maple to connect with new immigrant families

Affordability, Housing & Income

Trends & Public Opinion

- Median house prices rising quickly
- Income growth not keeping pace
- Housing types and tenure not diverse
- Vaughan residents report city is underserved in subsidized and affordable housing

Affordability, Housing & Income



Source: The Regional Municipality of York Community Health Services Department, *Just the Facts about Your Community: Housing and Shelter Costs in York Region*

Affordability, Housing & Income

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Implications

- Some spending large amounts of income on housing
- Multi-family households more common
- Need for affordable, diverse housing stock
- Opportunities needed to enhance earning potential, promote greater self sufficiency

Affordability, Housing & Income

Potential City Actions

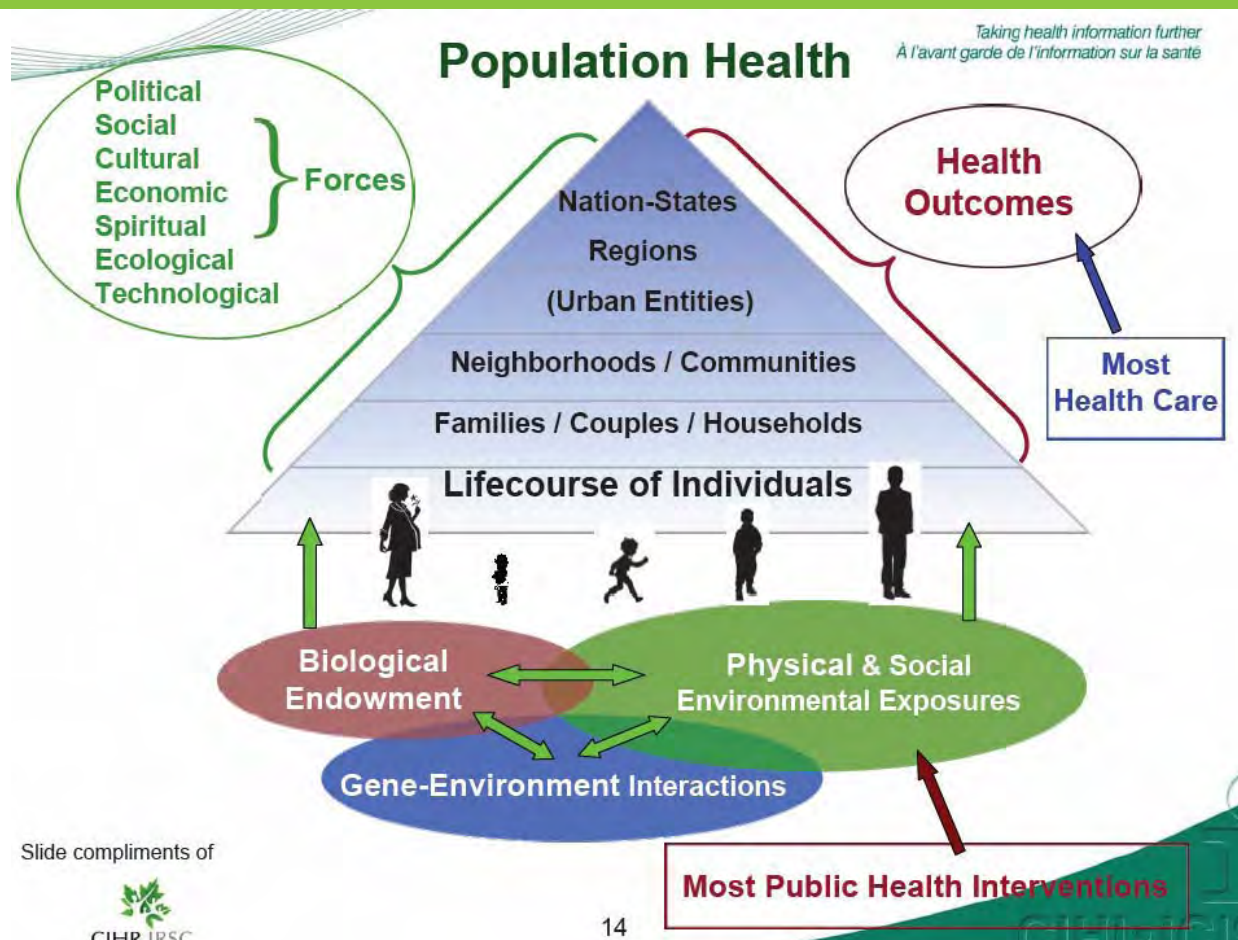
- Establish housing advisory board to advocate for housing choices in the city
- Through the official plan, encourage the development of affordable housing and a mix of housing tenure and type
- Create infill development guidelines for alternative housing types
- Implement broader land use permissions for in-home businesses to create more opportunities for entrepreneurship

Physical and Mental Health

Trends & Public Opinion

- Physical health services most used and valued social service by Vaughan residents
- High rates of obesity, diabetes in the city
- Below average physician and psychiatrist to patient ratios
- Central LHIN notes 1 in 9 living with serious mental health issues

Physical and Mental Health



The Varied Determinants of Health

Physical and Mental Health

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Implications

- More care will be needed to meet needs of population
- Preventative measures— address environmental and social determinants of health

Physical and Mental Health

Potential City Actions

- Through land use permissions, permit health and wellness-related offices in mixed use buildings to better integrate them into communities
- Encourage the use of urban design guidelines to plan healthy, walkable neighbourhoods
- Promote the location of health services at nodes or along corridors, places that are easy to access by transit

Four Areas of Focus

Defining a future role in social services for the City

Affordable Housing

- Need for a range of housing types and tenure across the city

Land Use and Urban Design

- Urban design and land use decisions can impact community development and health, create opportunities for entrepreneurship, income generation

Transit

- Reliable, convenient access to services is paramount

Advocacy & Partnerships

- Vaughan has a political place to define and advocate for needs of its residents

Final Thoughts



Clearer understanding
of needs

Articulated policies

A Stronger Vaughan