



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Health and Social Services Committee Revised Agenda

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

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5. Statutory Public Meetings	
There are no statutory public meetings	
6. Presentations	
6.1 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Climate Change and Health Specialist Re: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region - Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation	7
7. Delegations	
*7.1 Ben Earle, Chief Executive Officer, Feed the Need in Durham (In-Person Attendance) Re: Update on Food Insecurity and Response in Durham	23
7.2 Patricia Conlin (In-Person Attendance) Re: Foundations for Healthier Communities	
8. Health	
8.1 Correspondence	

8.2 Reports

There are no Health reports to be considered

9. Social Services

9.1 Correspondence

9.2 Reports

There are no Social Services reports to be considered

10. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered

11. Confidential Matters

There are no confidential matters to be considered

12. Other Business

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM

14. Adjournment

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner*
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Foster*
Councillor Jubb*
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Wotten*
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
J. Gaskin, Director, Children’s Services, Social Services
J. Hunt*, Regional Solicitor/Director of Legal Services, Corporate Services – Legal Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health
G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(42) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Hetal Patel,
Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, re: Respiratory Viral Illness
Updates

Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Hetal Patel,
Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, provided a PowerPoint
presentation with regards to Respiratory Viral Illness Updates.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Respiratory Virus Data Tracker
- Current Status – COVID-19
- COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance
- Current Status – Influenza
- Current Status – Respiratory Outbreaks
- Institutional Outbreak Dashboard
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines
- RSV Vaccine

Dr. McTavish responded to a question with regards to how the Health Department
is communicating to the public on the importance of following guidelines to reduce
the spread of respiratory viral illnesses.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) – Continuation for the Standardization and Sole Source of Teleflex Medical Canada Inc., ARROW EZ-IO Intraosseous Vascular Access Equipment and Supplies (2024-MOH-5)

Report #2024-MOH-5 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson, (43) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Teleflex Medical Canada Inc.'s ARROW EZ-IO intraosseous (IO) vascular access equipment be adopted as the standard for RDPS for a period of up to five (5) years; and
- B) That authorization be granted to award a sole source contract to Teleflex Medical Canada Inc., for up to five (5) years in the total estimated amount of \$425,000, for ARROW EZ-IO vascular access equipment and supplies, to enable paramedics to initiate IO access in critically ill and injured patients, when intravenous (IV) access is not a viable option.

CARRIED

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services reports to consider.

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

11.1 Homelessness and Encampment Strategy

In response to a question from Councillor Foster, L. McIntosh advised that the encampment strategy has moved past phases one and two of engagement and the document is almost ready for another round of review with area municipal staff. A final document that there is a level of consensus on will be presented at the February 6, 2025 Health and Social Services Committee meeting.

11.2 Bethesda House

Mayor Foster thanked staff for their work with Bethesda House on a resolution regarding their need for funding and for getting ahead of the problem.

11.3 Ontario Auditor General's Report

In response to a request from Chair Roy for feedback regarding the Ontario Auditor General's report on dealing with the opioid crisis, Dr. Kyle advised he reviewed the Audit at a Glance as well as the recommendations and believes it is a very damning review and there were not too many surprises in the report.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(44) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN DURHAM REGION

Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 6, 2025

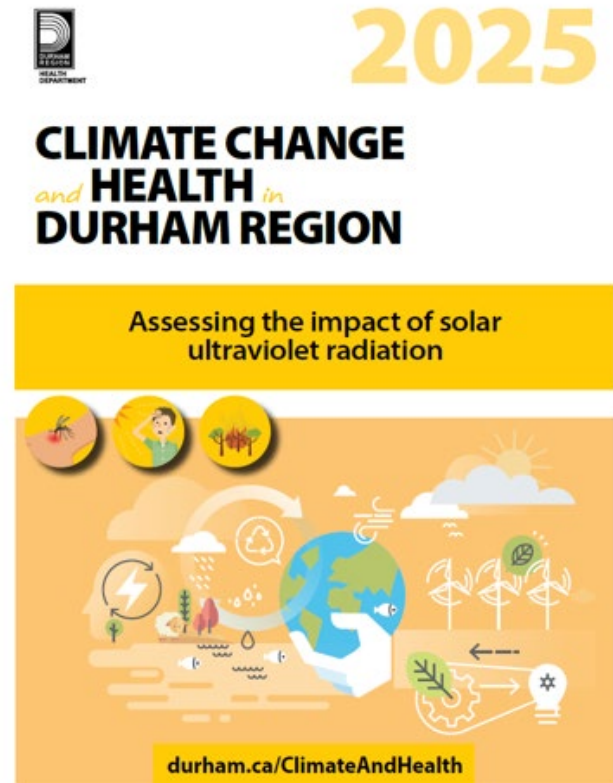
**Alex Swirski and Tara Zupancic
Durham Region Health Department**





Presentation overview

- Mandate and report series
- Solar UVR report
 - Framework
 - Key findings
 - Needs
 - Regional strengths
 - Next steps





Why assess climate and health vulnerability?



Ontario Public Health Standards mandate



Health impacts of climate change are on the rise

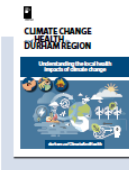


Many health impacts and health inequities are preventable



Report Series: 2024 -2025

Primer



Understanding the local health impacts of climate change

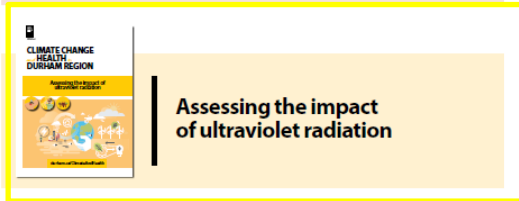
Vulnerability Assessments



Assessing the impact of extreme heat



Assessing the impact of access and quality of food and water



Assessing the impact of ultraviolet radiation



Assessing the impact of poor air quality



Assessing the impact of vector borne disease



Assessing the impact of extreme weather



What are the report objectives?



Improve understanding of risk and health impacts



Report on available data



Prioritize equity



Establish baseline



2025

CLIMATE CHANGE and HEALTH in DURHAM REGION

Assessing the impact of solar ultraviolet radiation



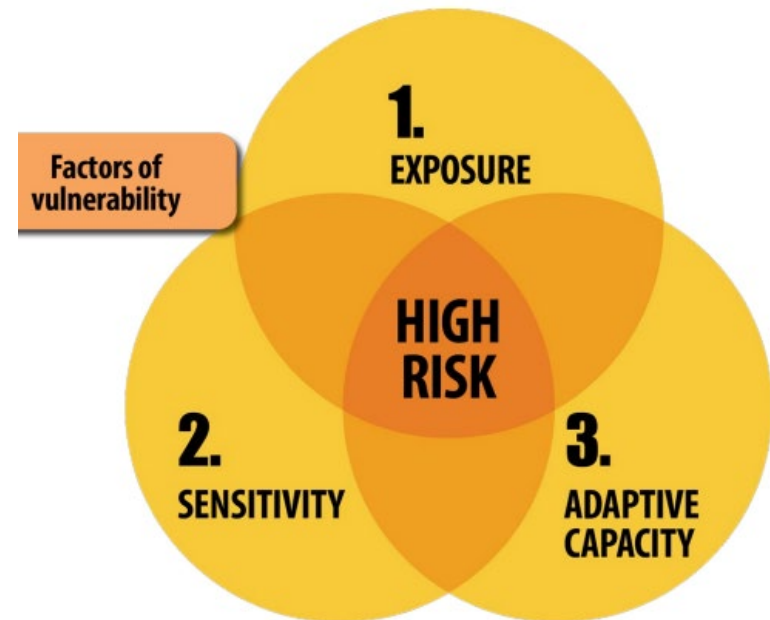


What is solar UVR vulnerability?

Priority Populations

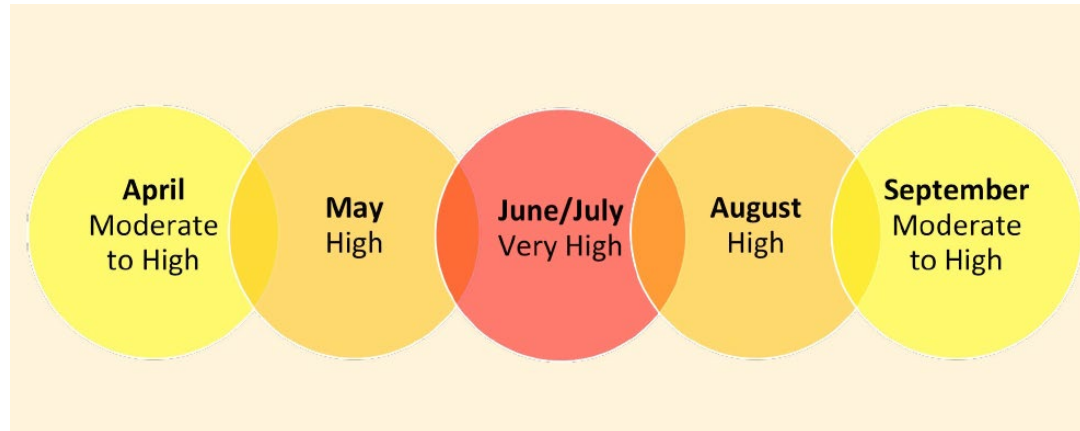
- **Infants** and young **children**
- Individuals who:
 - sunburn easily, or have a **history of sunburn**
 - have a family **history of skin cancer**
 - use certain **medications**
 - **work** or are physically active **outdoors**

Factors of Solar UVR Vulnerability





Overview of solar UVR exposure in Durham Region

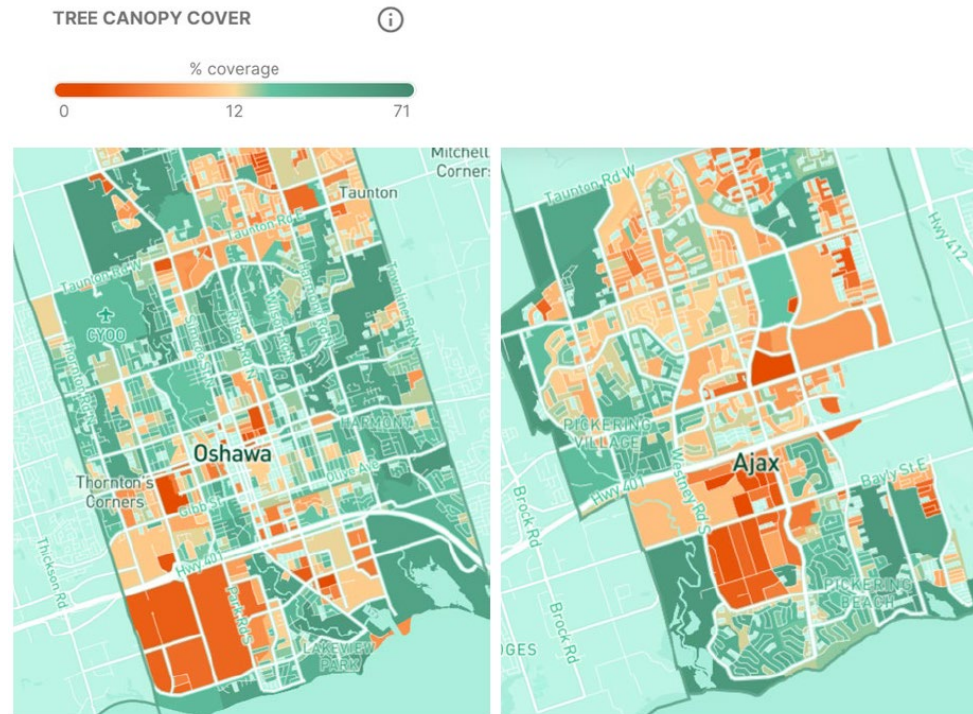


- Solar UVR levels are highest in Durham Region from April to September between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm
- Approximately 60% of the day's total carcinogenic radiation is received before 2 pm



Where are risks of exposure higher?

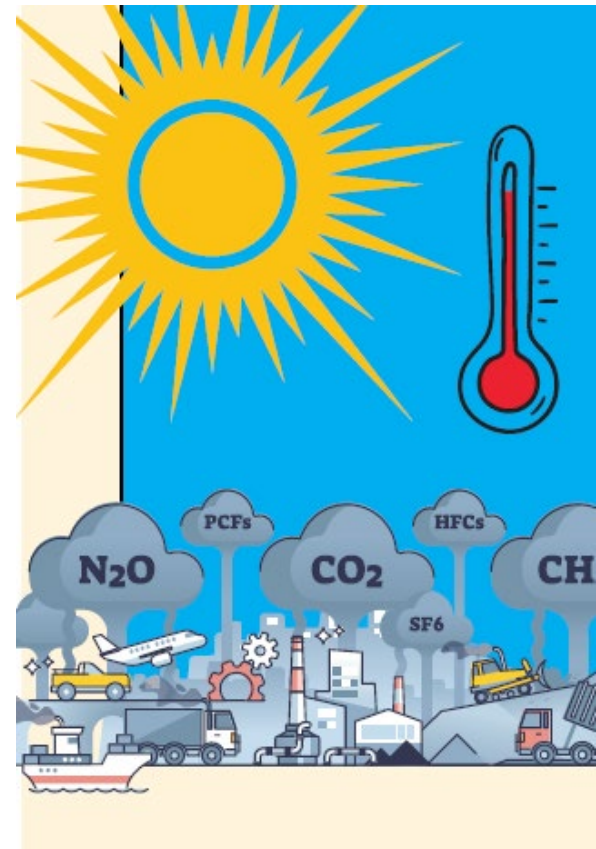
- Some residents experience greater risk of exposure than others due to unequal access to outdoor shade
- There is evidence that shade provides more reliable protection than sunscreen
- Disparities in local tree canopy cover indicate unequal access to shade and decreased capacity to avoid UVR





Climate change and local solar UVR exposure

- Climate change is expected to increase solar UVR in Durham Region
- Increased concentrations of greenhouse gases are expected to reduce overall protective cloud cover
- Warmer temperatures are expected to increase outdoor time and UVR exposures





What are the health impacts of solar UVR?



UVR exposure is the main cause of sunburns and childhood sunburns and may increase risk of melanoma skin cancer later in life



UVR exposure can cause premature aging of the eye which can lead to the development of cataracts



UVR exposure is the leading cause of skin cancer and the leading cause of environmentally acquired cancer in Ontario



Climate change is expected to increase the incidence of skin cancer in Durham Region in the coming decades



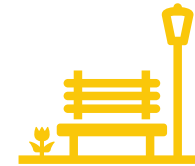
Solar UVR Protections



**Provincial policies
mainly limited to
work settings**



**No specific policies
to limit UVR
exposure in child
and youth settings**



**Both personal and
built environment
protections are
needed**



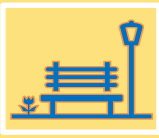
What actions can support sun-protection?



Improve understanding of UVR exposure patterns among youth



Prioritize shade in settings frequented by children and youth



Assess shade access and distribution in high-exposure areas



Establish local tree canopy cover baselines and targets with a focus on equitable access



What are our strengths and resources?



Durham Region Health Department's health promotion on sun safety (durham.ca/sunsafety)



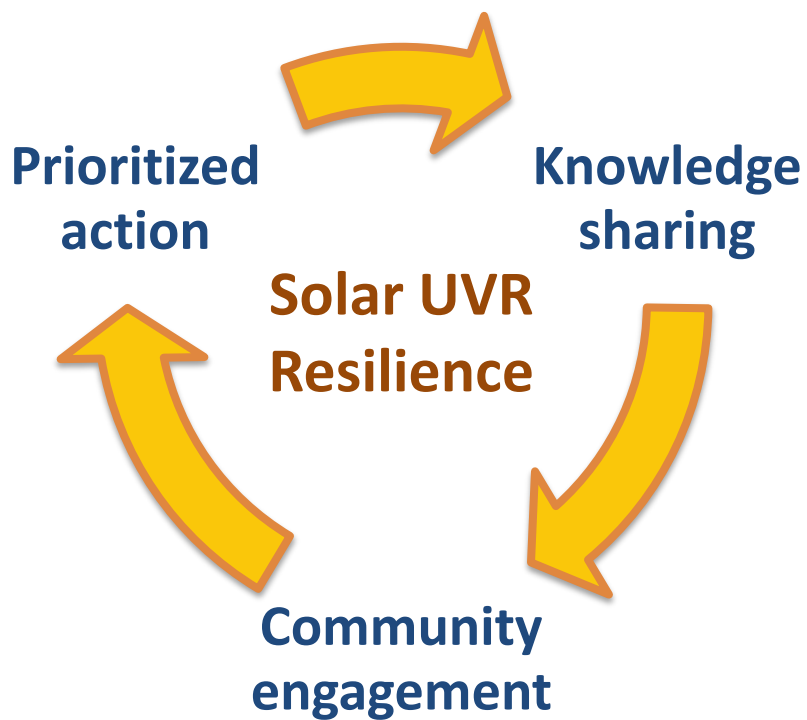
Tree planting incentive programs



Strong shade policies



Next steps





Key messages



Durham Region should be prepared for an increase in solar UVR exposure among residents, as climate change intensifies



Sun safety, starting in infancy, can prevent serious health impacts later in life



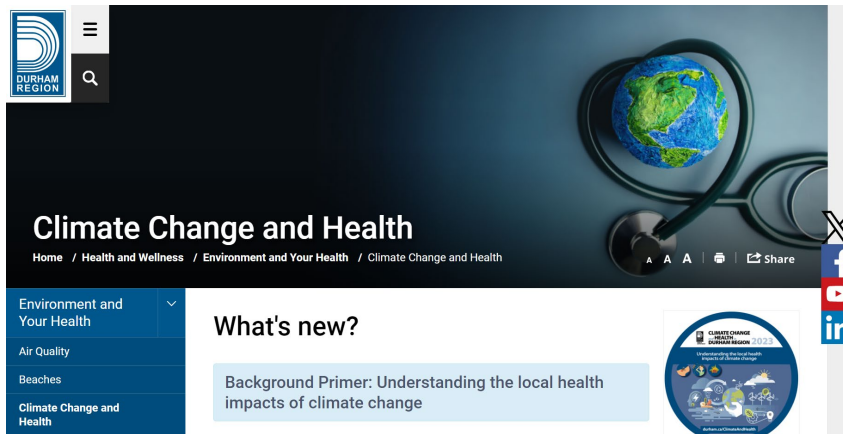
Equitable shade provision especially in child settings, active transportation routes and transit stops can improve adaptive capacity



Health impacts are severe but often preventable



Thank you



www.durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth

Tara Zupancic,
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Alex Swirski,
Alex.Swirski@durham.ca



Community Food Security Update

Presentation to the Health and Social Services Committee

February 6, 2025

Ben Earle, President and CEO



Established | 2008 by local food banks as the **regional food distribution hub**.

Purpose | to **nourish our community** by making food accessible to residents of Durham

Reach | **70 community food programs** across Durham

Distribution | **\$8.8 million worth** (2.5 million lbs) of fresh and non-perishable food annually

Grocery Distribution Centres

Loblaws | Sobeyes

Food Banking Partners

Feed Ontario | Food Banks Canada

Food Rescue Partners

Second Harvest

Farm Production

Local farm partners | FTND Vertical Farm

Food Service Distribution

Gordon Food | Flanagan Foodservice

Community & Retail Partners

Grocery | Community Donations



Food Banks & Pantries

Tiered based on Hunger Count

Community Meal Programs

e.g. DOFN, Backdoor Mission

Community Food Programs

Shelters | Schools | Social Service Orgs

The Market

@ Oshawa | @ Iroquois Park



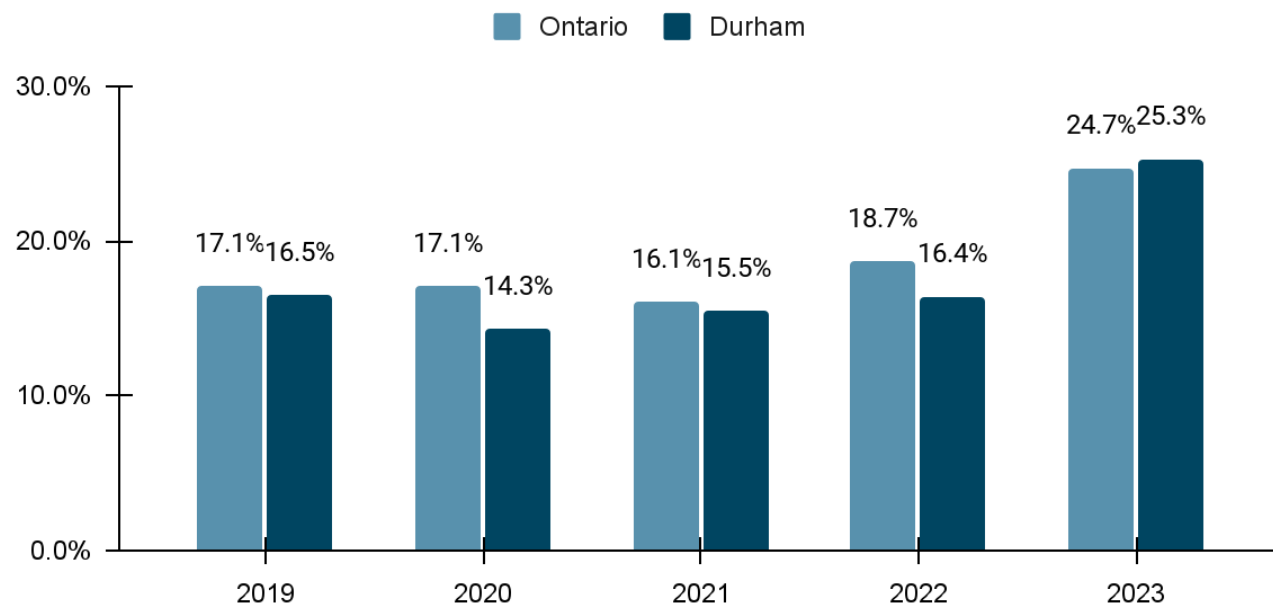
Feed the Need in Durham

How we work



Durham, like communities across Ontario, is in the midst of an escalating crisis of food insecurity as more residents than at any previous time struggle with the challenge of accessing the food that they require for a healthy and nutritious diet.


Food Insecure Households, Ontario and Durham (2019 - 2023)



Source: Public Health Ontario, 2024, Snapshots Data File For Household Food Insecurity

In 2023, 63,872 Durham households were food insecure.

Within these households, 192,896 individuals are living with food insecurity, an increase of 10.9% over 2022.

A person is pushing a shopping cart through a grocery store aisle. The cart is filled with various items, including oranges and red bell peppers. The person is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants. The background shows shelves stocked with products and bright overhead lighting.

Rising food insecurity in Durham is the direct result of a sharp rise in the cost of necessities, in particular a significant rise in the cost of food and housing.

From January 2020 to January 2024, food prices in Canada increased by 22.5% and housing prices by 21.9%.

In Durham, from 2019 to 2023, the monthly cost of food for a family of four increased by 36%, from \$821 per month to \$1,173 per month.

In the previous 5-year period (2015-2018), these costs increased by only 2%, from \$830 per month to \$853.

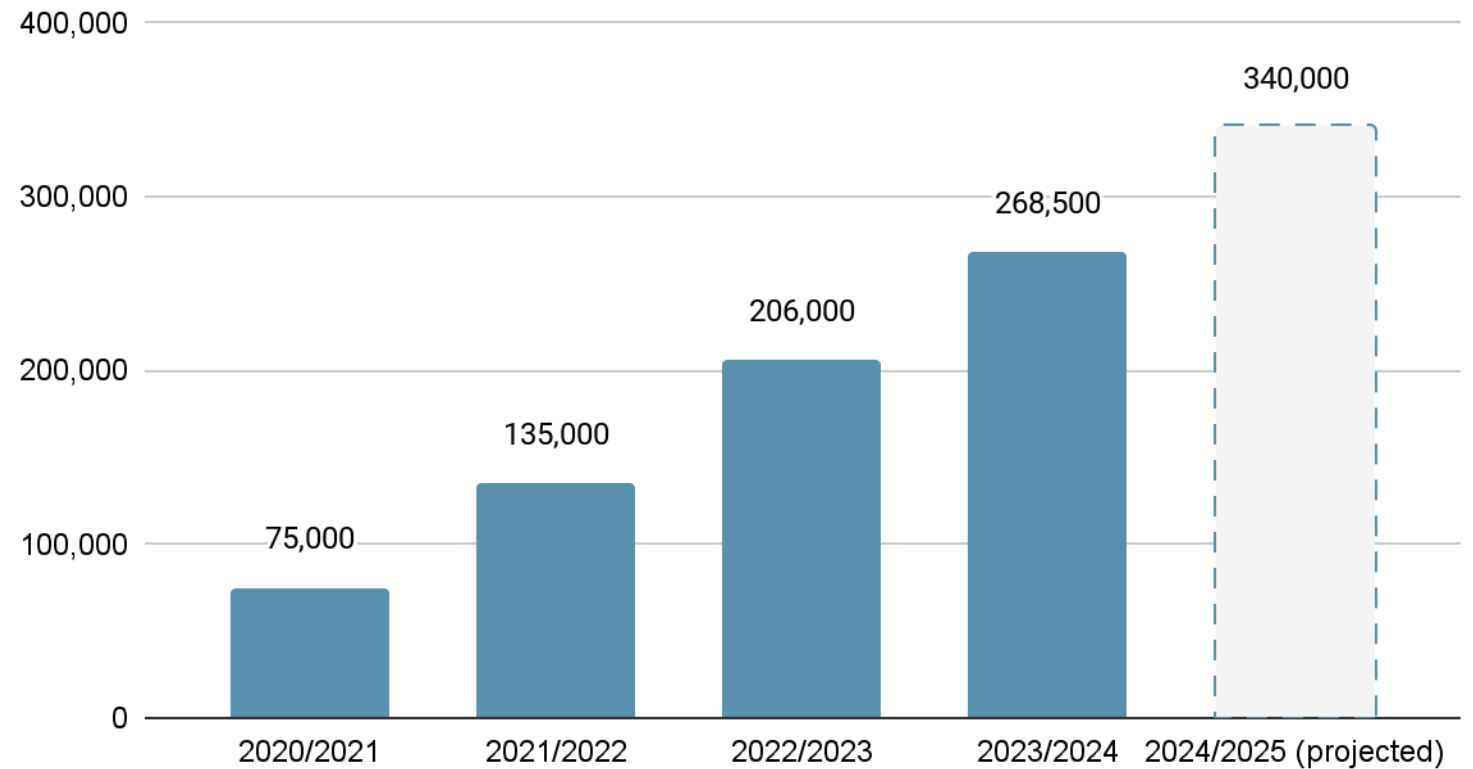
Food Bank Use

In 2023, **37,887 individuals visited a food bank in Durham**, an unprecedented increase of 60% since 2021.

Over the past year the number of visits to food banks in our community increased 30% to 268,500.

This growth has continued with an increase of 27% in the number of visits to food banks from April to October 2024 over the same period in 2023.

Visits to food banks in FTND's network (annual)

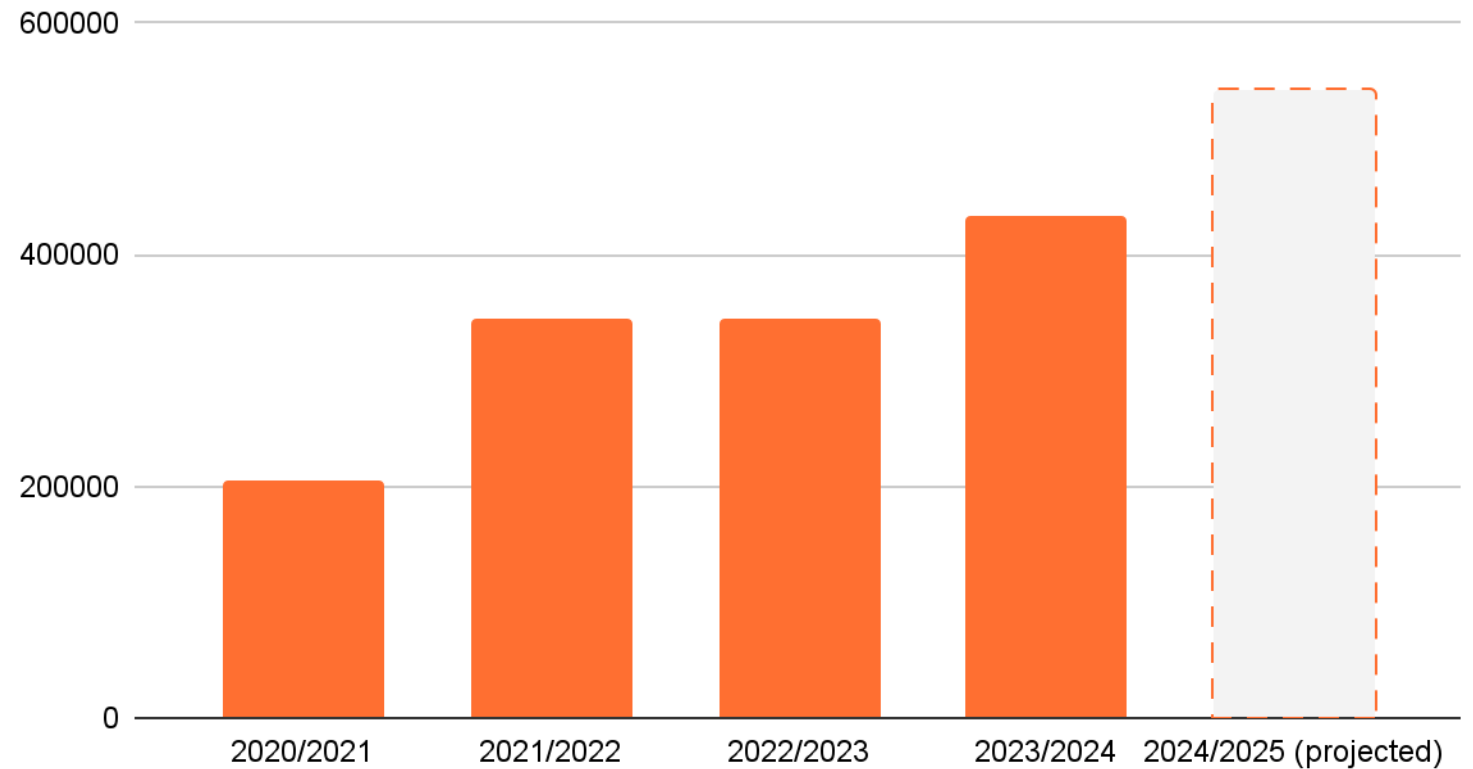


Meal Programs

From April 2023 to March 2024 there were 432,000 visits to meal programs in FTND's network, an increase of 26% over the previous year.

This growth has continued with an increase of 25% in the number of visits to meal programs from April to October 2024 over the same period in 2023.

Visits to meal programs in FTND's network (annual)



Feed the Need in Durham supports **policy change that will reduce poverty and increase dignified access to food** for residents of Durham.

- Food Banks Canada's Groceries and Essentials Benefit
- Introduction of a **national basic income guarantee** that would be available to all Canadians when they needed it most, providing an income floor to reduce and stave off poverty across our community.

To truly create community food security, we need to **look closely, honestly, and collectively at our food systems** to identify and make the changes required for a food system that will meet the demands and challenges of the twenty-first century.

- This work starts at home, in Durham, where we can work together with producers, processors, retailers, government, community organizations, and residents to identify community-based actions that can support food security and a sustainable local food system.

