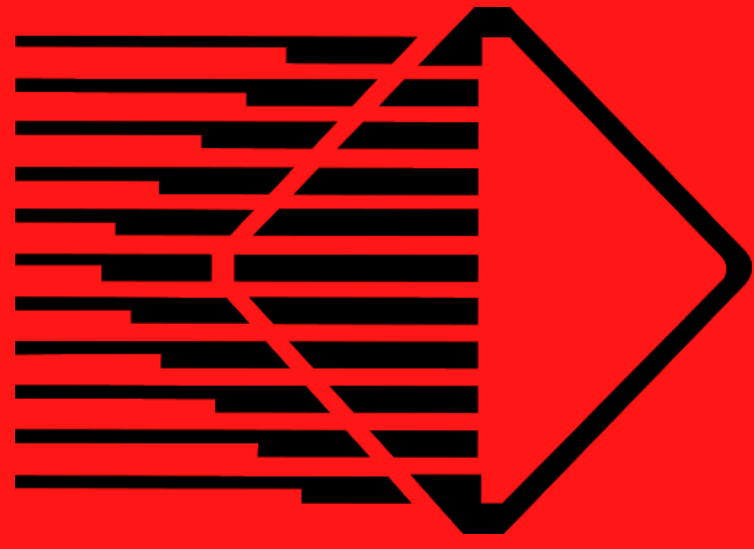


PREPARED BY



THE SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF PEEL

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF COVID-19 IN BRAMPTON'S HIGH PRIORITY COMMUNITY (L6V & L6X): KEY FINDINGS CONDUCTED JANUARY 18TH TO JANUARY 30TH 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Punjabi Community
Health Services (PCHS)

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

This study will assist Brampton community service providers in implementing COVID-19 related services and supports, with particular attention to targetted services for the community's marginalized residents, racialized groups, immigrants and newcomers. The information provided is intended to improve overall service delivery while reducing the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community.

METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this report is based on consultations with residents, service providers, practitioners, physicians, health care providers, students, community partners, PCHS' executive management staff, as well as official and reliable documents from a variety of sources. Primary data was collected through online surveys of 111 respondents, 16 key informant interviews and 4 focus groups. The information presented reflects the broader population with COVID-19 within the Brampton community* and highlights COVID-19-related challenges and experiences among the community's predominantly South Asian population, particularly those of immigrants.

COVID-19 IN THE BRAMPTON COMMUNITY*

With global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic felt around the world, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for everyone – Canada is no exception. The steep rise in positive cases has been a primary ongoing concern for governments, provinces, and municipalities across the country. Disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 found in the Brampton community,* are particularly alarming, especially when compared to neighbouring areas in Peel Region. The high rate of COVID-19 amongst the Brampton community's* population, alongside issues and barriers that community members face when accessing COVID-19 related supports and services must be fully examined with improved approaches and actions addressed. The goal of this report is to promote access to COVID-19 related services (including testing, isolation centres, income, and food supports); reduce overall COVID-19 prevalence; and develop a resource hub for the Brampton community.*

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Peel Region's most recent data shows that despite Brampton having only a 31.6% share of the Peel population, Brampton contributes 61% of Peel's total cases with Brampton's predominantly South Asian population currently accounting for 58.7% of the total COVID-19 cases. These startling numbers highlight the unique vulnerability of racialized communities and underline the importance of this research. Given the specifically high incident rate of COVID-19 in Brampton's forward sortation areas (FSAs) L6V and L6X, this study focuses on these areas. L6V (incident rate 4,923 per 100,000**) and L6X (incident rate 6,030 per 100,000**), are presently listed as medium priority in terms of service needs shown.

**data from February 23, 2020 - January 30, 2021

*BRAMPTON COMMUNITY PERTAINS TO BRAMPTON AREA CODES L6V & L6X

1. Peel Region. (2021). COVID-19 in Peel: Dashboard and information about the status of COVID-19. Retrieved January 27, 2021, from <https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/case-status/>

2. Region of Peel COVID-19 Dashboard. 2021. Region of Peel Public Health. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e21b45996d0b4f77a045447ff65b9831>

3. Mohanty, S., 2010. Determining High Priority Service Determining High Priority Service Needs Areas for Newcomers in Peel Needs Areas for Newcomers in Peel (Potential Hubs). [online] Portraitsofpeel.ca. Retrieved from http://portraitsofpeel.ca/pdf/Potential%20Hubs_%20Srmanta_March%2011-2010.pdf



IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FROM THE STUDY

The lived experiences, challenges, and barriers that have led to higher COVID-19 rates for marginalized members of the Brampton community* should be recognized so that service providers and community members can provide appropriate supports to ensure a reduced rate of COVID-19 cases.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STUDY

1. Increased Awareness of COVID-19

To better reach out to greater numbers of people, information related to COVID-19 precautionary measures should be provided in community residents' native languages. These messages must be clear and culturally relevant.

2. Actively Work Towards Clearing Misinformation

An information session within the community on debunking myths and misinformation will raise awareness and help people to better understand the issue and follow best practices.

3. Mental Health Services

Mental health impacts due to physical distancing and stay at home guidelines were widely reported. Increased mental health supports are needed to combat these growing mental health concerns, with particular attention to providing gender and culturally responsive services.

4. Use of Social Media

Social media will help propagate information and guidelines related to COVID-19 and ensure important, timely information reaches the masses. The information about COVID-19 screening procedures through social media will help many struggling to navigate through the process.

5. Employment Standards

Essential workers employed in transportation, warehouses, supermarkets and distribution centres are at high risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19. There should be regular inspections of these workplaces to ensure safety protocols are in place and accessible. Paid sick days and workplace policies to encourage employees to access COVID-19 testing and adhere to quarantine regulations are also needed.

6. Community Development and Service Provision during COVID-19

Care must be taken to ensure that the services provided to the Brampton community residents are relevant for their needs and delivered in a manner (content and form) that is culturally appropriate for them.

7. Increase Service Collaboration within the Brampton Community

Collaboration is essential, especially among organizations offering COVID-19 related services and those serving South Asians in the L6V and L6X areas.

KEY ISSUES

Systemic challenges and barriers are resulting in higher contraction rates of COVID-19 in Brampton, with communities of colour being disproportionately affected.

BARRIERS

Language Barriers

- COVID-19 information not accessible in unofficial languages

Health Care

- Access to testing
- Underfunded healthcare
- Access to mental health services

Employment

- Precarious employment
- High-risk employment
- Low Pay Rates
- Unsafe work conditions
- Socio-economic status
- Access to paid sick leave

RESEARCH TEAM

Dr. Srimanta Mohanty

Principal Investigator &
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Contact Info:

smohanty@spcpeel.com

Tel: 905.629.3044

Project Support Team

SPCP's staff and practicum students from Ryerson University (RyU), Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, University of Guelph-Humber (UofGH), University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), and York University (YU)

www.spcpeel.com

www.portraitsofpeel.ca

LEARN MORE ABOUT COVID-19

SUPPORT SERVICES

PUNJABI COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

50 Sunny Meadow Blvd Suite # 201

Brampton, ON L6R 0Y7

Contact Info:

info@pchs4u.com

Tel: 905.677.0889

Fax: 905.677.9141

<https://pchs4u.com/>