Community Data Program

Enabling communities across Canada to measure and track local well-being

DATA PURCHASE AND ACCESS WORKING GROUP
October 1, 2026

2:30pm - 4:00pm Eastern time

Connection details:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85282610297?pwd=pXWA0THU90b58iOXFFheWmni2TRFNL.1

Link to meeting notes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/19Bx8yJlj1BRf-BEkVxC1NQS6lzePZCnGQ_CAAn8QJ1E/edit?usp=sharing

Attendance

Michael Ditor, Community Data Program
Hidy Ng, Durham Region
Jordan Meisel, Four County Labour Market Planning Board
Dana Skirten, Four County Labour Market Planning Board
Ted Hildebrandt, SPRC Hamilton
Rachel Lewis, Kawartha Lakes
Natalie Hui, York Region
Peter Marriott, Vancouver Coastal Health
Mat Krepicz, City of Toronto
Tara Galloro, City of Toronto (Guest)
Louisa Wong, CIty of Hamilton

Agenda

- Data acquisition updates
- Data acquisition discussions:
    - Draft 2027 Schedule B review
    - 2021 Census - Child care cost table
    - Canadian Community Health Survey
    - Food security data through CCHS or CIS
- 2026 Census data - determining priority rankings
- Custom geography submissions
- Increasing sample sizes for StatCan surveys, such as the CCHS or CIS
- Webinars
- Tableau/Data visualization products
- Next meeting

- Other business

Data acquisition updates

Catalogue additions since last DPAWG meeting (July 6, 2026):

- **Household & Family TGP for the population in subsidized housing, 2021** (custom geos)
- **Household & Family TGP of population aged 65 and over, Census, 2021** (custom geos)
- **Household & Family TGP for the population in unsuitable housing, 2021** (custom geos)
- **Target group profile of population by knowledge of official languages, Census, 2021** (custom geos and DA)
- **Target group profile of the population living in dwellings in need of major repairs, Census, 2021** (custom geos and DA)
- **Target group profile of population with majority of income coming from government transfers, Census, 2021** (custom geos and DA)
- **Household & Family TGP of population with activity limitations, Census, 2021** (custom geos and DA)
- **NOC 2021, NAICS 2017 and First Official Language Spoken by Place of Work, 2021 Census** - provided by CEDEC as part of a Community Analytics contract

- **Annual population estimates by age and gender, July 1, 2001 to 2025**
- **Credit Report Characteristics: Credit Risk & Demographics, Debt Composition, and Financial Stress Indicators by Geography, 2025 Q1** (updated data with the # consumers by relevant trade (credit product).
- **Dataset (Public Listings) - Community Rental Housing Affordability, Version 2.0**
- **Dashboard - Community Rental Housing Affordability, Version 2.0**
- **Building Permits - detailed, 2026 - monthly**
- **EIS - Employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality**
- **Insolvency Data, ongoing (annual)**
- **Canadian business counts, establishment and location counts, employment size and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), June 2026**

Upcoming Data Acquisitions

CMHC data
Still waiting on absorption prices and completions should arrive shortly (but we've been told that before).

Census 2021 tables

Target Group Profiles on DA and custom geographies

We have ordered these Target Group Profiles at DA and custom geographies:

Data Table	Custom geos	CD-CSD-DA
Household & Family TGP of the visible minority population, Census, 2021: all categories	x	
Target group profile of the population by employment status, Census, 2021: Total - Labour force status, Employed, Unemployed	x	
Household & Family TGP of multigenerational households, 2021	x	x
Target group profile of population by place of work status, Census, 2021	x	x
Target group profile of the population by school attendance, Census, 2021	x	x
Target group profile of population by main mode of commuting to work, Census, 2021	x	x
Target group profile of the population by religion, Census, 2021: (Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, none)	x	x
Target Group Profile of the Population by Highest Level of Education		x

Data acquisition discussions

Occupation profile discussed in last meeting - moving slowly on this one

Draft 2027 Schedule B review

A draft version of Schedule B was presented to the group. Schedule B describes the data products we plan on acquiring in a given program year.

View an online version of the draft Schedule B here.

Toronto: defer 2021 MBM tables, given the 'wonkiness' of the 2021 (2020) data tables
Supported by other group members

2021 Census - Child care cost table

One item that I want to discuss is the possible acquisition of a 2021 Census table on child care costs. Question 56 on the long form asks about child care expenses, but I find it odd that there is no standard table with this information. Here is the definition from the Census dictionary:

All payments made over the reference period for non-parental child care arrangements which allowed the responsible person(s) to earn employment income. Included in these expenses are babysitters, daycares, day camps, live-in caregivers or any arrangement in which money was exchanged for child care services. Excluded are child care payments made for purposes unrelated to earning employment income, such as entertainment or personal needs.

Also note:
Introduced in the 2011 NHS, child care expenses paid were collected to help compute the deductions required from after-tax income to obtain disposable income for the MBM.

Our contacts at StatCan (Central Office) noted that they have never received a request for this data. There are issues that would complicate its use, one being that the costs collected are for all children of any age - but I am still surprised that this data is not being used more.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts on what you would want included in such a table, and we can discuss at the meeting (or via email). I'm attaching an Excel file with some specifications to get the ball rolling. I imagine that the statistical unit would be the census family and that we would want to be able to isolate the families with children under 6. A significant proportion of child care costs are for children 6 and older, so perhaps there is some value in more disaggregation there.

Draft specifications for a 2021 Census child care cost table.

Canadian Community Health Survey

We will be requesting 2024 data from the Canadian Community Health Survey at the Health Region level. The 2023 CCHS data we acquired can be found here:

- **Health indicator statistics, for population aged 18 and over, annual estimates by province and health region, CCHS 2023**
- **Food security adult status and household status, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure, by province and health region, CCHS 2023**

It would be useful to receive your organizations' feedback regarding acquisition priorities from the CCHS.

Besides the food security variables, last year we received these variables:

- [GEN_01] Perceived health, excellent and very good

- [GEN_01] Perceived health, fair and poor
- [GEN_05] Perceived mental health, excellent and very good
- [GEN_05] Perceived mental health, fair and poor
- [GEN_10] Perceived Life Stress, quite a bit stressful, extremely stressful
- [GEN_20] Sense of belonging to community, very strong and somewhat strong
- [GEN_20] Sense of belonging to community, somewhat weak and very weak
- [HWTDVBCC] BMI Classification Age 18+ (Adjusted), Obese – Class I, Class II, Class III
- [RHC_05] Has a regular health care provider [**2024 DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS VARIABLE**]
- [RHC_05] Does not have a regular health care provider
- [SMKDVSTY] Smoking Status (Type 2) - Traditional Definition, current daily smoker, current occasional smoker

Please let me know if there are any other variables of interest.

I have already had one request to include more food insecurity variable categories, such as what is found in this published table:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310083401

There is value however in aggregating the categories to limit suppression, as much of the data values have an E quality rating or are suppressed (F). **If anyone in your organizations uses these data, please solicit their feedback on what aggregations would be most useful**. Fully disaggregated data showing all the food insecurity categories would produce too much poor quality data and suppression.

Toronto: CIS is preferred over CCHS
Possible to get CD/CSD level?
Possible to get sample size increased?

Combine categories (moderate/severe) in order to increase cell counts
Combine marginal/moderate/severe - used by PH Ontario

Cross-tabulate demographic characteristics at higher levels of geography? As a reference benchmark?

York: CIS data a priority, usually gets CCHS data from our Public Health Unit.

2026 Census data - determining priority rankings

Request for feedback sent out to all members in newsletter.

Members can submit their priorities for 2026 Census acquisitions here.

More requests for feedback will follow.

Timeline:
Feedback will be accepted over the next year.

Feedback received before the end of this year will help inform acquisition decisions as Census topics are released.
Feedback received before 2028 will help inform and set priorities for our custom data purchases in 2028.

Custom geography submissions

CDP sent out an email to Leads to coordinate custom geography submissions, including the submission form.

To be included in the early run, a geography must be geocoded, reviewed and approved in time to be entered into Statistics Canada's production system before December 2027. The amount of time required will depend on the number and complexity of the files, but members should aim to submit their files by August or September 2027.

The timing of the late run will be determined after we have a better understanding of members' anticipated submission dates. **Please let us know as soon as possible when your consortium's members expect to be able to submit their geographies.**

Increasing sample sizes for StatCan surveys, such as the CCHS or CIS

The idea of CDP paying to increase the sample size for surveys such as the Canadian Community Health Survey or the Canadian Income Survey was raised in previous meetings. We are waiting on a response from Statistics Canada.

UPDATE:

I received a response from Statistics Canada that doesn't exactly answer the question that was asked, but provides some useful information…

"CIS won't be really possible. The data quality will not be good at the CSD level. Subject matter would also not approve of it, as I've had many discussions with them regarding this.

Not only that, but as they note it would be prohibitively expensive. Because CSDs are not usually run in CIS, they don't have a "standard" variable for them. We have to code every CSD by hand.

We can run a handful of CSDs on a case-by-case basis. For example, if a data user is interested in CSDs around Toronto, then we can discuss further. We run quality testing beforehand. But to do a blanket table for all CSDs in Canada or in a province is not something we do"

Webinars

These topics are currently on the schedule or in the works:

- Moneris presentation on transaction data - Oct 13, 2026 - WE DON'T HAVE THIS DATA
- Food Insecurity in Canada: Insights from the Canadian Community Health Survey - Nov 3, 2026
- TransUnion presentation (TBD)
- presenting the re-based MBM to members - **present again in 2027 when we get the re-based data**

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

Tableau Infographics and Dashboards

- new Rental Housing Affordability dashboard is available in the catalogue
- EDIT: Consumer debt dashboard to be updated with new data

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

Next meeting

Week of November 30 or December 7. Will send availability poll closer to date.

Other business

No other business.

Meeting ended 3:45 pm ET