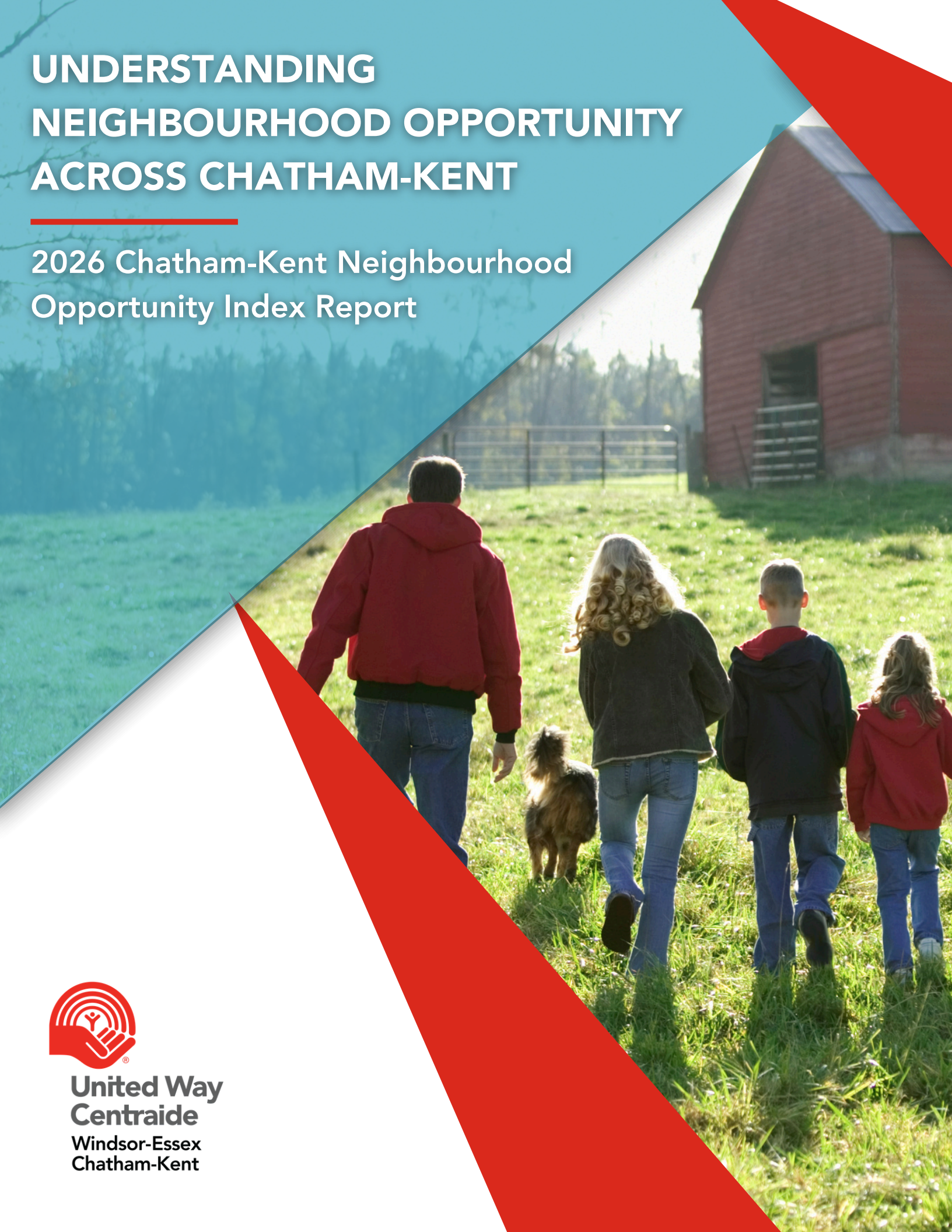
UNDERSTANDING NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY ACROSS CHATHAM-KENT

2026 Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index Report



United Way Centraide
Windsor-Essex
Chatham-Kent

UNDERSTANDING NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY ACROSS CHATHAM-KENT

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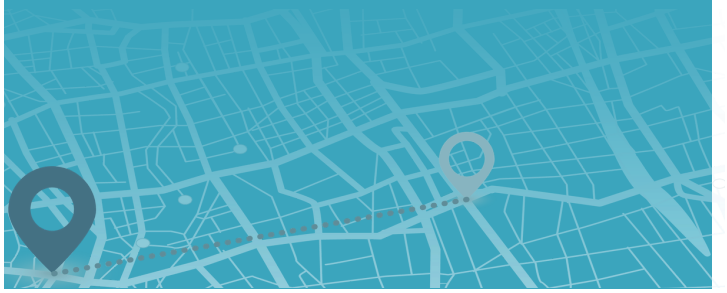

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our community of Chatham-Kent resides on traditional territory. This sacred land is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations, to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We have the responsibility to honour and respect the four dimensions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us and all the wonderful elements of creation that exist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

WHY NEIGHBOURHOODS MATTER

Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Yet, where a child grows up can significantly influence the opportunities available to them. Access to quality education, affordable housing, healthcare, employment, transportation, recreation, and social supports all contribute to children's development and long-term well-being. Together, these conditions, often referred to as the social determinants of health and well-being, shape not only individual outcomes but the health and prosperity of entire communities.

While many community indicators are commonly reported at the municipal, regional, or provincial level, these larger geographic areas can conceal important differences between neighbourhoods. Residents living only a few kilometres apart may experience very different opportunities, resources, and outcomes. Understanding these local variations is essential for identifying community strengths, addressing barriers, and ensuring investments are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

Improving outcomes for children and families requires more than understanding individual issues in isolation. It requires a shared understanding of the systems that influence opportunity and collaboration across sectors to address the root causes of complex community challenges. This philosophy is reflected in the Cradle to Career strategy, a long-term, community-wide approach that brings together residents, community organizations, governments, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, and other partners around a shared vision: ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive from birth through education and into meaningful employment.[i]

This report uses neighbourhood-level data to help translate that shared vision into practical evidence for planning and action.

Building on experience gained through neighbourhood-based planning in Windsor-Essex, and responding to recommendations from the 2025 Voices of Chatham-Kent[ii] report, United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex Chatham-Kent (United Way) developed the Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index (NOI) to provide a shared understanding of neighbourhood opportunity across the municipality and support future community planning, collaboration, and systems change.



CRADLE TO CAREER CONTINUUM

COMMUNITY VISION

Cradle to Career recognizes that success at each stage of a child's life builds the foundation for future success. Improving these outcomes requires coordinated action across education, health, social services, government, businesses, and residents.

SUPPORTING EVERY STEP OF THE JOURNEY

1 CHILDREN WHO ARE KINDERGARTEN READY
are more likely to have a foundation that supports future learning and better health. This includes the first 1,000 days (pre-natal care).

2 STUDENTS WHO ARE PROFICIENT IN READING IN 3RD GRADE
are more likely to graduate from high school.

3 STUDENTS WHO ARE PROFICIENT IN MATH IN 6TH GRADE
are more likely to complete post secondary and be prepared for the workforce.

4 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL
are less likely to experience poverty, receive public assistance, or become involved in the criminal justice system.

5 STUDENTS WHO ARE POST SECONDARY & CAREER READY
are more likely to have better employment and earnings opportunities.



6 STUDENTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED
within a year of graduation is crucial for achieving self-sufficiency and developing skills for the 21st century economy.

FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS

FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY

HEALTH & NUTRITION

ACCESS TO HOUSING

TRANSPORTATION

SOCIAL INCLUSION

ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY INDEX (NOI)

The Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index (NOI) is a composite measure that combines multiple indicators into a single score representing neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunities for children and youth.

The index is designed to:

- Understand how opportunity varies across neighbourhoods
- Identify community strengths and assets
- Highlight areas where additional supports may be beneficial
- Inform planning and investment decisions
- Support collaboration among community partners
- Monitor neighbourhood change over time

Neighbourhood opportunity is shaped by many interconnected factors. No single indicator can fully describe the conditions within a neighbourhood. By combining measures across demographic, economic, educational, health, and civic domains, the NOI provides a broader understanding of the environments in which children and youth are growing up.

The NOI is not intended to label or rank neighbourhoods. Rather, it serves as a shared evidence base that can help community partners better understand local conditions, identify opportunities for collaboration, and guide investments that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

- The NOI measures neighbourhood conditions. It does not measure individual outcomes, community quality, or the worth of any neighbourhood.
- Higher scores indicate greater barriers. Lower scores indicate comparatively fewer barriers relative to the Chatham-Kent average.
- The Community Service Availability Index (CSAI) provides service context. It identifies where key service functions are physically located, but it does not measure service quality, capacity, demand, utilization, or residents' experiences.
- Data should guide conversation, not replace it. Neighbourhood-level findings should be interpreted alongside resident voice, local knowledge, and partner expertise.

Important Note on Interpretation

Higher NOI scores mean a neighbourhood faces more challenges and has fewer opportunities compared to other neighbourhoods in Chatham-Kent. Lower scores mean a neighbourhood faces fewer challenges and has more opportunities. These scores compare neighbourhoods to one another and are not a measure of absolute need.



BUILDING ON COMMUNITY VOICE

The NOI builds upon United Way's broader work to understand and improve quality of life across Chatham-Kent. In 2025, nearly 600 Chatham-Kent residents participated in the Voices of Chatham-Kent engagement process. Residents consistently identified affordable housing, mental health and addictions, healthcare access, food security, transportation, employment, and youth development as key priorities affecting quality of life across the municipality.

Although these priorities were diverse, a common message emerged. Residents expressed a desire for stronger prevention-focused approaches, earlier intervention, and increased collaboration among organizations to address challenges before they become crises. Participants emphasized the importance of creating the conditions that allow children, youth, and families to thrive.

The priorities identified through Voices of Chatham-Kent are not unique to a single consultation. They reflect a broader understanding emerging across the community. The Municipality's 2025-2029 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan[iii] identifies many of the same priorities, including housing, mental health, children, youth and family wellness, and community belonging. The consistency across these independent initiatives suggests a strong community-wide understanding of the issues most important to Chatham-Kent's future.

While Voices of Chatham-Kent identified what issues matter most to residents, the NOI helps identify where those opportunities and challenges are most concentrated. Together, community voice and neighbourhood-level data provide a stronger foundation for planning, decision-making, and investment.

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COMPANION PLANNING TOOL

COMMUNITY SERVICE AVAILABILITY INDEX (CSAI)

To complement the NOI, this report also includes a Community Service Availability Index (CSAI) (Appendix C). The CSAI is a companion asset-mapping tool that identifies the geographic distribution of children-, youth-, and family-serving organizations across Chatham-Kent.

While the NOI examines neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity, the CSAI provides context on which community service functions are physically available within different areas of the municipality. The CSAI reflects services identified during the spring of 2026 and represents a snapshot of community assets at that point in time. It should be viewed as a living asset map rather than a definitive inventory.

To develop the CSAI, community assets were identified using publicly available information and grouped into five broad service categories. Each neighbourhood was assessed based on the presence or absence of key service functions.

The CSAI does not measure service quality, capacity, accessibility, utilization, effectiveness, demand, or residents' experiences accessing services.

Rather, it provides a high-level understanding of where services are located across the municipality. Understanding how residents experience these services, whether community needs are being met, and where gaps remain requires ongoing engagement with residents, service providers, and community partners.

Together, the NOI and CSAI provide complementary perspectives on neighbourhood conditions and community assets across Chatham-Kent. Combined with future resident engagement and collaborative planning, they offer a strong foundation for identifying priorities, strengthening service coordination, and co-designing community-driven solutions that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

UNDERSTANDING CHATHAM-KENT'S NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Chatham-Kent NOI examines opportunities across 16 neighbourhoods representing communities throughout the municipality. While Chatham-Kent functions as a single municipality, it is comprised of distinct urban centres, small towns, villages, and rural communities, each with its own history, characteristics, and strengths.

Examining neighbourhood-level data provides insights that municipal averages alone cannot. Understanding local patterns helps identify where opportunities differ across the municipality and where investments may have the greatest potential impact for children, youth, and families.

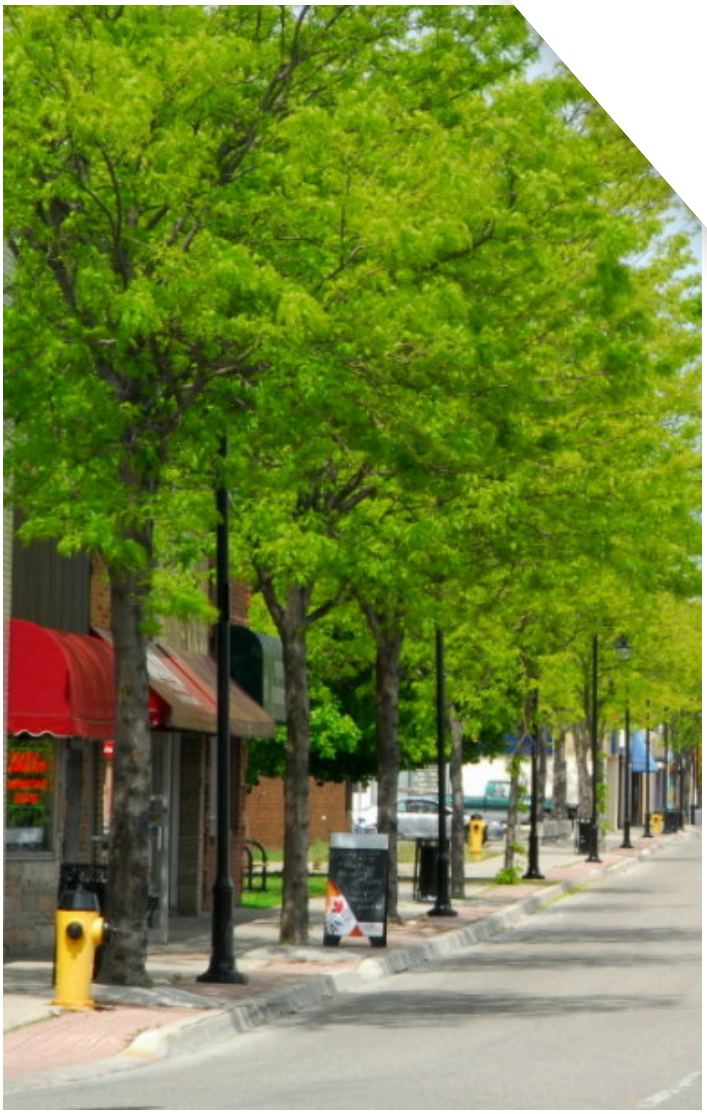
The NOI should be interpreted as one source of evidence alongside community feedback, local knowledge, and lived experiences of the residents. Together, these perspectives provide a more complete understanding of community conditions and support more informed planning and decision-making.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GEOGRAPHY

The 16 neighbourhoods used in the NOI are based on Statistics Canada's Aggregate Dissemination Areas (ADAs)[iv]. ADAs are standardized geographic areas that provide a consistent way to organize and compare neighbourhood-level data across Canada. For this project, ADAs were combined where appropriate to create neighbourhoods that reflect recognizable communities while maintaining reliable data for analysis.

Neighbourhood boundaries were developed considering population size, geographic continuity, community identity, and data availability. The resulting neighbourhoods are grouped into six broader regions: Chatham, Wallaceburg, North Kent, South Kent, East Kent, and West Kent.

Using these custom neighbourhoods provides a more localized understanding of community conditions than municipal-level averages while maintaining sufficient population sizes for reliable analysis.



REPRESENTATION OF DELAWARE NATION AT MORAVIANTOWN

The Chatham-Kent NOI is intended to represent all communities within Chatham-Kent. However, ADA 35360004, which corresponds to the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown (Moravian 47), was not included in the current analysis. Some data providers advised that reporting neighbourhood-level data for this area could potentially compromise community privacy due to its small population size.

Consistent with principles of respectful Indigenous data governance, community-level information for this area requires collaboration with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown before it can be shared or interpreted publicly. Rather than include incomplete information or risk compromising privacy, the decision was made to exclude this ADA from the current analysis.

United Way remains committed to working with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown to explore opportunities for the respectful inclusion of Indigenous data in future editions of the NOI. Building this relationship is an important step toward ensuring future versions of the NOI more fully reflect the experiences, priorities, and strengths of Indigenous communities in Chatham-Kent.

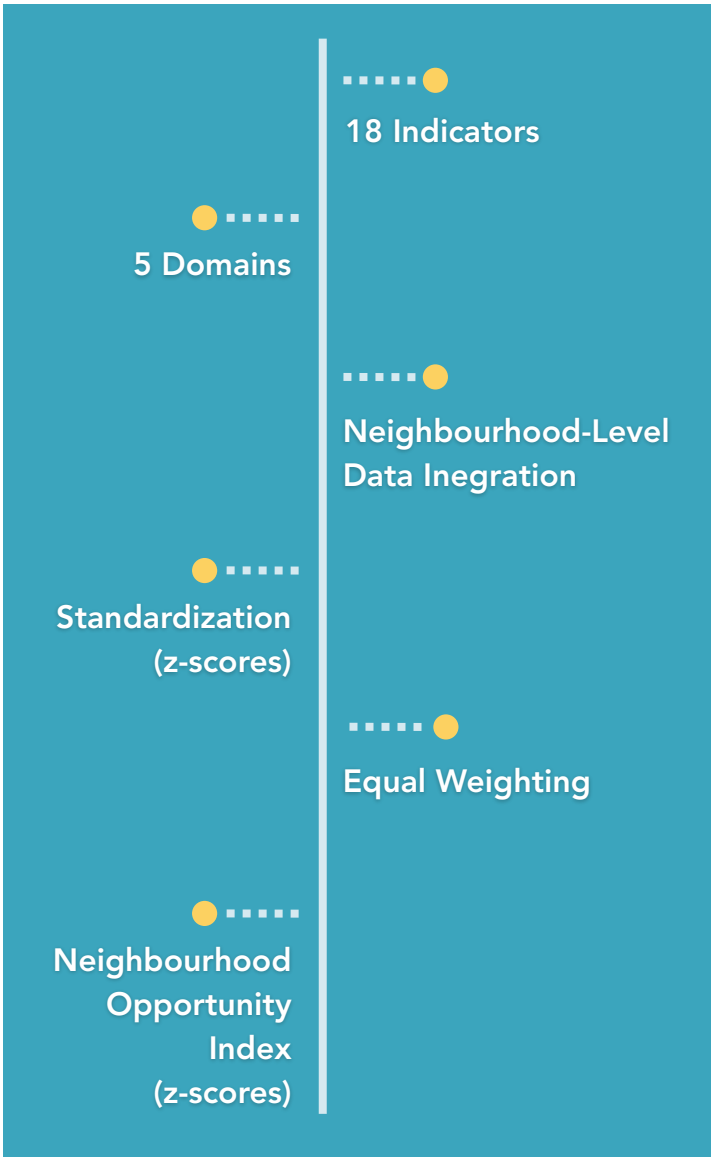
Walpole Island First Nation is not discussed separately in this report because it is outside the geographic boundaries used to develop the Chatham-Kent NOI. Some Walpole Island First Nation members may reside within Chatham-Kent neighbourhoods, including Wallaceburg, and are reflected in the underlying datasets where applicable. However, the First Nation itself is not represented as a separate neighbourhood within the NOI.

HOW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY INDEX (NOI) WAS DEVELOPED

THE METHODOLOGY

The Chatham-Kent NOI was developed using a transparent, evidence-based methodology designed to measure neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity for children and youth to reach their full potential.

The approach builds on the methodology used in the Windsor-Essex NOI while incorporating local data sources and reflecting the geographic and community context of Chatham-Kent.



Rather than relying on a single measure, the NOI combines multiple indicators into a single composite index. This approach recognizes that neighbourhood opportunity is shaped by the interaction of many factors, including economic conditions, educational outcomes, health, demographics, and civic engagement.

Detailed technical methods, indicator calculations, geographic allocation procedures, and statistical formulas are provided in Appendix B and in the Windsor-Essex Neighbourhood Opportunity Index Update (2024)[v]

INDICATOR SELECTION

An indicator is a measurable characteristic used to understand conditions within a community. Indicators provide insight into the factors that influence opportunity and help identify neighbourhood strengths, challenges, and trends over time.

The Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is based on 18 indicators selected to reflect the many factors that influence neighbourhood opportunity. Indicators were selected based on several criteria:

- Relevance to community well-being and opportunity
- Availability at the neighbourhood level
- Data quality and reliability
- Ability to be updated over time
- Alignment with community priorities identified through the Voices of Chatham-Kent report
- Availability across all neighbourhoods included in the index

The final indicator set incorporates data from multiple sources, including Statistics Canada, municipal partners, EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office), BORN (Better Outcomes Registry & Network) Ontario, and community organizations.

INDICATORS AS DOMAINS

For ease of interpretation, the 18 indicators were organized into five broad domains: Demographic, Economic, Education, Health, and Civic.

These domains are intended to organize related indicators and help describe the different aspects of neighbourhood opportunity. They are not weighted equally within the index. Instead, each of the 18 indicators contributes equally to the overall NOI score, regardless of the domain in which it is grouped. As a result, some domains contain more indicators than others.

While every effort was made to incorporate a comprehensive range of measures, some indicators were unavailable at the neighbourhood level or could not be shared due to privacy and data governance requirements. Future editions of the NOI may incorporate additional indicators, including youth primary care attachment and youth justice measures, as neighbourhood-level data become available.



DEMOGRAPHIC

Characteristics that help describe neighbourhood populations and factors associated with equitable access to opportunity.



ECONOMIC

Measures related to income, poverty, and housing affordability.



EDUCATION

Indicators associated with early childhood development, educational attainment, and academic achievement.



HEALTH

Measures related to maternal and child health and access to community mental health supports.



CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Indicators reflecting community engagement and participation in local decision-making.

DEMOGRAPHIC	ECONOMIC	EDUCATION	HEALTH	CIVIC
1. Population Under 19 Yrs. Old 2. One-Parent Households 3. Racialized Population 4. Indigenous Population 5. Language Barriers 6. Mobility	7. Youth Living in Low-Income Households 8. Regional Income Disparities 9. Housing Affordability	10. Early Developmental Index 11. Post-Secondary Education 12. Elementary Academic Performance 13. Secondary Academic Performance	14. Low-Birth Weight 15. Pregnancy Complications 16. Maternal Age 17. Youth Mental Health Supports	18. Voter Turnout

A complete list of indicators is provided in Appendix A

DATA INTEGRATION

Community organizations collect and report data using a variety of geographic boundaries, including census areas, postal codes, school catchment areas, and municipal wards. To ensure indicators could be combined consistently, data from multiple sources were aligned to the NOI neighbourhood geography using geographic allocation methods developed within United Way's data warehouse.

Where source boundaries did not align directly with neighbourhood boundaries, proportional allocation methods were used to estimate neighbourhood-level values while preserving the integrity of the original data.

Additional details regarding geographic integration methods are provided in Appendix B.

VALIDATION

Several validation procedures were conducted to assess whether the NOI produced results that were consistent with established research, local knowledge, and observed community conditions. The validation process included:

- Reviewing relationships among indicators to ensure measures were contributing meaningful and non-random information to the index
- Assessing whether neighbourhood patterns reflected known differences in social, economic, educational, and health conditions across Chatham-Kent
- Comparing findings with existing community planning documents, administrative datasets, and feedback from local partners
- Examining the influence of individual indicators to ensure that no single measure disproportionately affected overall results



STATISTICAL METHODS

The indicators included in the NOI are measured using different units and scales, including percentages, rates, counts, and dollar values. Because these measures cannot be directly compared, each indicator was standardized using z-scores.

Standardization converts indicators to a common scale based on their distance from the municipal average and ensures that no single indicator exerts undue influence because of its original unit of measurement.

After standardization, indicators were combined using equal weighting to create a single neighbourhood opportunity score.

Equal weighting was selected because there is no widely accepted evidence-based method for assigning greater importance to one neighbourhood factor over another. This approach provides a transparent, reproducible, and easily understood framework for comparing neighbourhood conditions across Chatham-Kent.

The resulting scores represent relative differences among neighbourhoods and should not be interpreted as measures of individual outcomes or community performance.

Overall, validation findings suggested that the NOI reflects meaningful differences in neighbourhood conditions rather than statistical anomalies. The patterns observed in the index were broadly consistent with existing community knowledge and other indicators of well-being across the municipality.

LIMITATIONS

The NOI represents the best available neighbourhood-level evidence at the time of publication; however, several limitations should be considered when interpreting the findings.

Not all indicators of neighbourhood opportunity were available at the geographic level required for inclusion in the index, and some data could not be incorporated because of privacy, governance, or reporting constraints. In addition, the NOI combines information collected by different organizations over multiple reporting periods. As a result, the index reflects the best available picture of neighbourhood conditions rather than conditions at a single point in time.

Like all composite indices, the NOI cannot fully explain why neighbourhood differences exist. Instead, it highlights where opportunity and barriers are concentrated and provides a starting point for further investigation, community engagement, and planning.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

The NOI is intended to evolve alongside the community. Future updates will benefit from the release of 2026 Statistics Canada Census data and may incorporate additional neighbourhood-level indicators as new data become available.

United Way will continue working with community partners to strengthen data sharing, improve geographic precision, enhance Indigenous data governance practices, and expand the range of indicators that contribute to understanding neighbourhood opportunity across Chatham-Kent.

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UNDERSTANDING OPPORTUNITY ACROSS CHATHAM-KENT

Figure 1 illustrates neighbourhood opportunity across Chatham-Kent. Scores are relative and should be interpreted in comparison to other neighbourhoods within the municipality. Higher NOI scores indicate a greater concentration of barriers across the indicators included in the index, while lower scores indicate comparatively fewer barriers.

Interpreting the NOI: Higher NOI scores indicate that a neighbourhood experiences a greater concentration of barriers and fewer opportunities relative to other neighbourhoods in Chatham-Kent. Lower scores indicate comparatively fewer barriers and more opportunities. The scores compare neighbourhoods to one another and do not represent absolute levels of need.

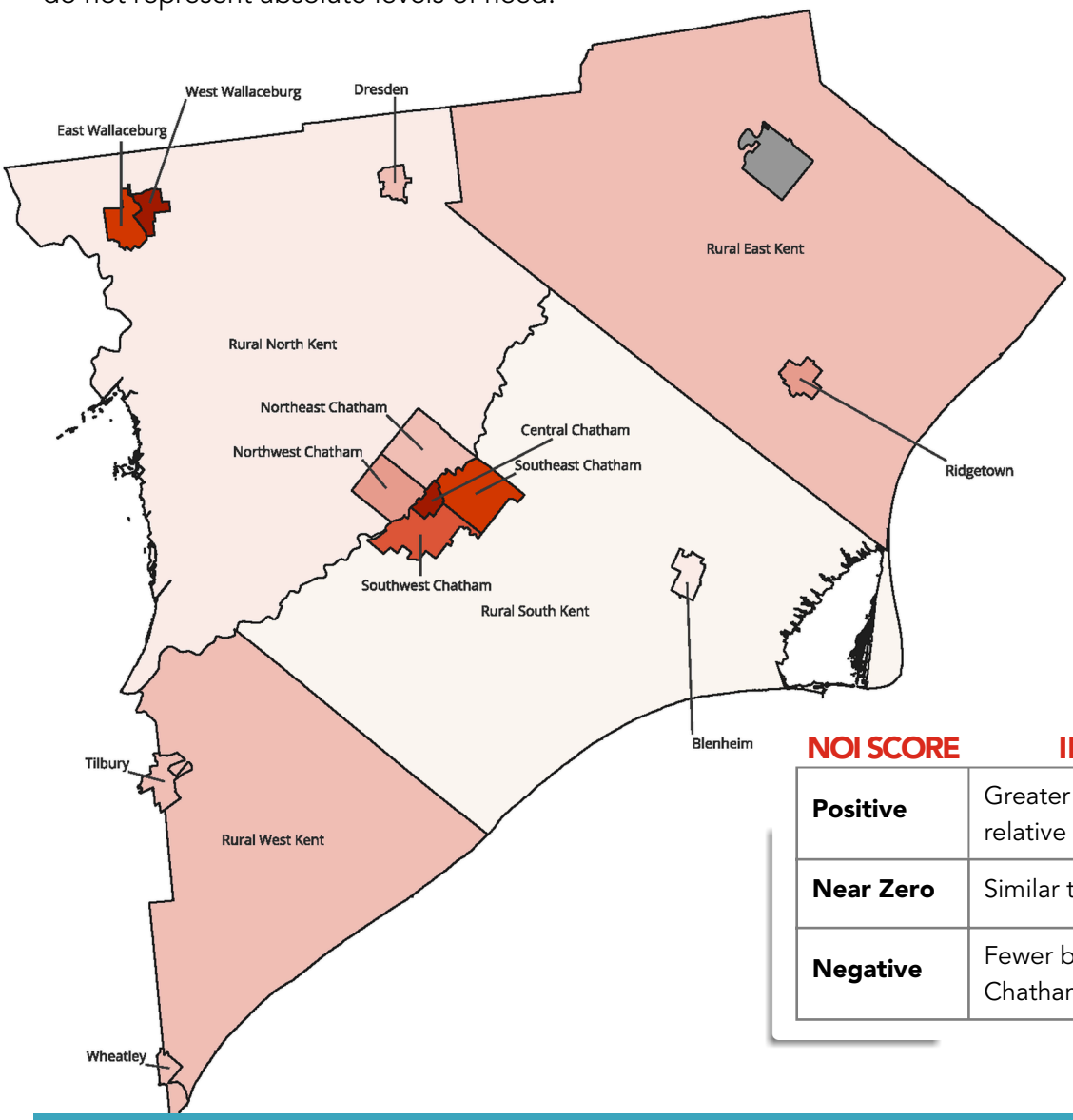


Figure 1

Chatham-Kent ADAs

NOI

- -14.4 - -11.3
- -11.3 - -8.3
- -8.3 - -5.2
- -5.2 - -2.1
- -2.1 - 0.9
- 0.9 - 4
- 4 - 7.1
- 7.1 - 10.2
- 10.2 - 13.2
- 13.2 - 16.3
- No Data

NOI SCORE	INTERPRETATION
Positive	Greater concentration of barriers relative to the Chatham-Kent average
Near Zero	Similar to Chatham-Kent average
Negative	Fewer barriers relative to the Chatham-Kent average

OVERALL NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY

Neighbourhood opportunity reflects the combined influence of social, economic, educational, health, and community conditions. Rather than reflecting any single indicator, the NOI captures how these interconnected factors shape opportunities for children and youth. It should therefore be interpreted as a measure of neighbourhood conditions, not the characteristics of the individuals or families who live there.

NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY INDEX (NOI) SCORE

The analysis reveals meaningful variation in neighbourhood opportunity across Chatham-Kent. NOI scores range from -14.4 in Rural South Kent to 16.3 in Central Chatham, indicating substantial differences in the conditions experienced by children, youth, and families across the municipality.

Neighbourhoods experiencing greater barriers were found in both urban and rural areas; however, the highest concentrations of barriers were observed in Central Chatham, Southeast Chatham, West Wallaceburg, and East Wallaceburg. Conversely, Blenheim, Rural North Kent, and Rural South Kent recorded comparatively fewer barriers across the indicators included in the index.

Every neighbourhood possesses unique strengths, assets, and community resources that contribute to the well-being of residents.

Importantly, these differences should not be interpreted as measures of community quality or worth. Rather, the NOI identifies where conditions associated with opportunity differ across the municipality and provides a foundation for understanding these patterns.

TABLE 2:
Neighbourhood Opportunity Index Score

Neighbourhood	Higher-Level Geography	Index	Population 0-19
Central Chatham	Chatham	16.3	1005
West Wallaceburg	Wallaceburg	14.4	1195
Southeast Chatham	Chatham	10	1470
East Wallaceburg	Wallaceburg	8.9	1040
Southwest Chatham	Chatham	6.3	2535
Ridgetown	East Kent	-0.1	545
Northwest Chatham	Chatham	-1.9	2870
Wheatley	West Kent	-2.6	825
Tilbury	West Kent	-3.1	1135
Rural East Kent	East Kent	-3.2	1690
Dresden	North Kent	-3.3	505
Northeast Chatham	Chatham	-3.5	1985
Rural West Kent	West Kent	-4.6	770
Blenheim	South Kent	-9.1	865
Rural North Kent	North Kent	-10.1	1875
Rural South Kent	South Kent	-14.4	1885

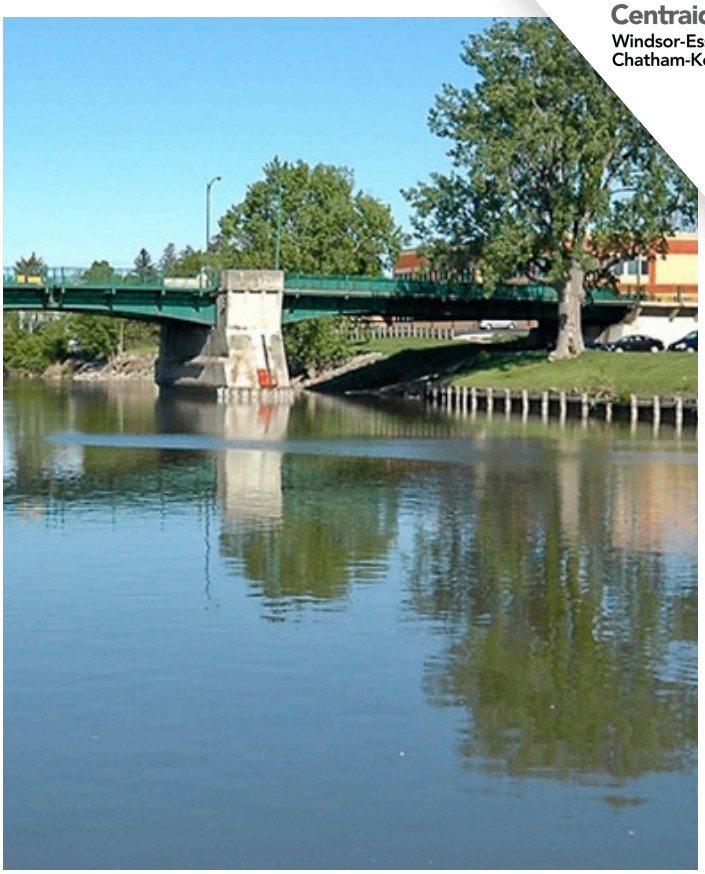
KEY FINDINGS

- Neighbourhood opportunity is not evenly distributed across Chatham-Kent. Substantial differences were observed across the municipality in the conditions that influence opportunities for children and youth, including social, economic, educational, and health factors. The gap between the highest- and lowest-scoring neighbourhoods demonstrates that children and youth experience markedly different neighbourhood conditions depending on where they live.

- Barriers tend to cluster. Neighbourhoods experiencing greater barriers rarely faced challenges in only one area. Instead, economic, housing, and educational indicators frequently occurred together, creating cumulative effects that may influence opportunities throughout childhood and adolescence.

- Opportunity and service location do not necessarily align. Neighbourhoods with the highest concentrations of community services did not always experience the highest levels of opportunity. In several cases, services were concentrated in communities experiencing greater barriers, reflecting efforts to respond to existing needs.

- No single indicator explains neighbourhood outcomes. Neighbourhoods with similar overall scores often demonstrated very different profiles. Some communities experienced stronger educational outcomes but greater economic pressures, while others showed the opposite pattern. This reinforces the importance of examining multiple indicators rather than relying on any single measure.





PLANNING TOOL: THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AVAILABILITY INDEX (CSAI)

The Community Service Availability Index (CSAI) shown in Figure 2 complements the NOI by identifying where child-, youth-, and family-serving organizations are located across Chatham-Kent. Whereas the NOI identifies neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity, the CSAI identifies the physical availability of community service functions. Read more in Appendix C.

These findings highlight an important distinction between community need and service location. Communities experiencing greater barriers often possess a higher concentration of services because organizations have historically located resources where needs are greatest. Conversely, many rural communities experiencing fewer barriers may have fewer locally available services, requiring residents to travel to access specialized supports.

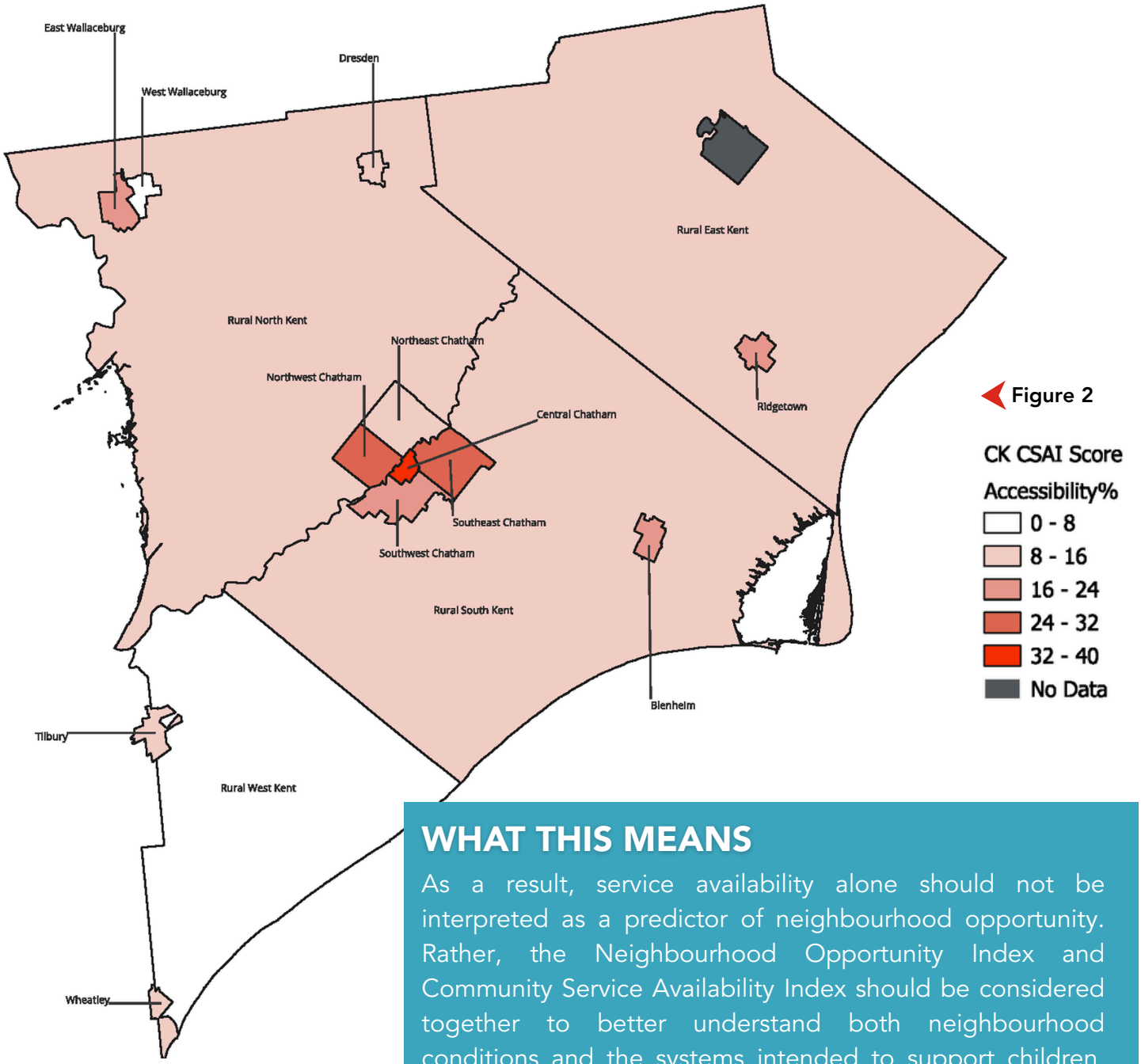


Figure 2

WHAT THIS MEANS

As a result, service availability alone should not be interpreted as a predictor of neighbourhood opportunity. Rather, the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index and Community Service Availability Index should be considered together to better understand both neighbourhood conditions and the systems intended to support children, youth, and families.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE

Community services are highly concentrated in Chatham. Chatham functions as the municipality's primary service hub, with 19 of 20 identified service functions (95%). Outside Chatham, service availability is considerably lower, with Wallaceburg providing approximately one-quarter (25%) of identified service functions, East Kent and South Kent each providing 20%, North Kent 15%, and West Kent 10%.

When viewed together, the NOI and CSAI reveal three broad community patterns:

- **Communities experiencing greater barriers and greater service availability.** Examples include Chatham and Wallaceburg, where community needs and service concentrations both tend to be higher. In these communities, opportunities may exist to strengthen coordination and collaboration among organizations and maximize the impact of existing resources.
- **Communities experiencing fewer barriers but lower service availability.** Several rural communities recorded comparatively fewer barriers while also having fewer locally available service functions. These findings may reflect stronger existing neighbourhood conditions but can also highlight potential accessibility challenges for residents requiring specialized supports.
- **Communities with mixed opportunity profiles.** Some neighbourhoods displayed moderate opportunity scores combined with moderate service availability. These communities may benefit from targeted investments that build on existing assets while addressing specific gaps identified through the NOI.

As a result, service availability alone should not be interpreted as a predictor of neighbourhood opportunity. Rather, the NOI and CSAI should be considered together to better understand both neighbourhood conditions and the systems intended to support children, youth, and families.

Geography	High-Level Geography	Accessibility %
Central Chatham	Chatham	40%
Southeast Chatham	Chatham	30%
Southwest Chatham	Chatham	20%
Northeast Chatham	Chatham	15%
Northwest Chatham	Chatham	30%
Ridgetown	East Kent	20%
Rural East Kent	East Kent	10%
Dresden	North Kent	10%
Rural North Kent	North Kent	10%
Blenheim	South Kent	20%
Rural South Kent	South Kent	10%
West Wallaceburg	Wallaceburg	5%
East Wallaceburg	Wallaceburg	20%
Tilbury	West Kent	10%
Wheatley	West Kent	10%
Rural West Kent	West Kent	0%

While the CSAI identifies where community assets are located, it does not explain how residents experience the systems intended to support them.

It cannot tell us whether residents know services exist, can access them when needed, find them easy to navigate, or feel their needs are being met. Understanding these experiences is essential to identifying barriers, strengthening coordination across organizations, and ensuring future investments reflect community priorities. Together, the NOI, CSAI, and ongoing resident engagement provide a more complete foundation for planning and systems change.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILES

The following neighbourhood profiles illustrate how the NOI and CSAI can be interpreted together. They highlight neighbourhood conditions, community assets, and opportunities to support evidence-informed planning.

CENTRAL CHATHAM

Central Chatham emerged as one of the neighbourhoods experiencing the greatest cumulative barriers across the indicators included in the NOI. Multiple social, economic, and educational challenges intersect within the community, creating opportunities for coordinated, place-based investment.

Central Chatham recorded the highest proportion of one-parent families (28.3%), the largest median income ($14,600 below the Chatham-Kent median), and the highest proportion of households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs (24%). Twenty-one percent of children and youth lived in households below the After-Tax Low-Income Measure, while more than half of adults aged 25 to 64 had no post-secondary education.

Educational indicators also highlight opportunities to strengthen outcomes. Approximately 40% of Grade 3 and Grade 6 students were not meeting provincial standards in reading, writing, and mathematics, while the neighbourhood also experienced the highest level of residential mobility (14.3%), suggesting reduced residential stability for many families.

Despite these challenges, Central Chatham benefits from significant community assets. As Chatham-Kent's primary service hub, the region provides access to 95% of identified community service functions, including health services, employment supports, postsecondary education, and specialized child and family programs. The neighbourhood is also home to one of Chatham-Kent's most diverse populations, with one of the municipality's highest proportions of residents identifying as racialized (9.5%), contributing to a vibrant and diverse community.



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

These findings suggest that improving neighbourhood opportunity is not solely a matter of increasing services, but of strengthening coordination and collaboration across the many organizations already working within the community.

Building on existing partnerships while addressing the broader social and economic conditions influencing children and families presents an opportunity to maximize the impact of existing investments. Central Chatham's concentration of services, community organizations, and diverse population provides a strong foundation for coordinated and collaborative, place-based approaches that improve outcomes over time.

WEST WALLACEBURG

West Wallaceburg emerged as a neighbourhood experiencing multiple interconnected challenges while also possessing important community assets that provide a strong foundation for partnership and future investment.

The neighbourhood had the largest proportion of residents identifying as Indigenous (11.6%), while neighbouring East Wallaceburg also had a comparatively large Indigenous population (9.3%). These community characteristics highlight opportunities to strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations while supporting culturally responsive planning and service delivery.

West Wallaceburg recorded the second-highest proportion of one-parent families (24.9%), the second-largest median income gap relative to the municipal average, and one of the highest proportions of children and youth living in low-income households (21%). It also recorded the second-highest proportion of households experiencing housing affordability challenges, with 17.5% spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs. Nearly 55% of adults aged 25 to 64 had no post-secondary education, while the neighbourhood recorded the highest proportion of children vulnerable in at least one Early Development Instrument[1] (EDI) domain.[vi]

Community engagement indicators also identified opportunities for investment, with Wallaceburg recording the lowest voter turnout in the 2022 municipal election. Educational outcomes across the broader Wallaceburg area further highlight opportunities to strengthen student achievement, with neighbouring East Wallaceburg recording one of the municipality's highest proportions of elementary students not meeting provincial standards.

At the same time, Wallaceburg possesses important community assets. The Wallaceburg region provides access to one-quarter (25%) of identified community service functions, including a strong foundation of community health services.

Wallaceburg also benefits from its close proximity to Walpole Island First Nation, creating opportunities for collaboration across education, health, employment, and community services. Municipal and community organizations have longstanding partnerships with Walpole Island First Nation and many services support residents across neighbouring communities. The community also benefits from established community organizations, active schools, and longstanding partnerships that provide a strong foundation for collaboration and future investment.



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

Together, these findings suggest opportunities to strengthen local service coordination and collaboration, improve connections to regional supports, and continue investing in partnerships that build on Wallaceburg's existing strengths.

Continued collaboration with Indigenous communities, schools, service providers, and local organizations -- including existing relationships with Walpole Island First Nation -- can help ensure that future investments respond to community priorities while improving opportunities for children, youth, and families. Wallaceburg's strong community identity and established network of local organizations provide a solid foundation for collective action and long-term neighbourhood improvement.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATIONS

The Chatham-Kent NOI demonstrates that the neighbourhood conditions shaping opportunities for children and youth are not distributed evenly across the municipality. These opportunities are influenced by many interconnected factors, including access to quality housing, education, healthcare, community resources, and supportive environments that help children learn, grow, and thrive. While every neighbourhood possesses unique strengths and assets, the analysis shows that these conditions vary considerably across Chatham-Kent.

One of the most important findings is that neighbourhood barriers tend to cluster. Communities experiencing greater challenges in one area often also experience challenges across multiple domains simultaneously, including economic, educational, health, and demographic factors. Higher concentrations of youth poverty, housing affordability pressures, educational vulnerabilities, and poorer academic outcomes frequently occurred together, suggesting that neighbourhood opportunity is shaped by the interaction of multiple social determinants rather than any single factor.

The findings also reinforce the value of neighbourhood-level analysis. While municipal averages provide an important picture of overall community well-being, they can conceal meaningful differences between neighbourhoods. The NOI measures neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity, helping identify where opportunities and barriers are concentrated across Chatham-Kent. This neighbourhood-level perspective provides a stronger foundation for targeted planning, partnership development, and future investment.





[1] Early Development Instrument (EDI): A population-level measure of children's developmental health at school entry. Completed by kindergarten teachers, the EDI assesses five domains of development: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. Children are considered vulnerable in a domain if they score below an established threshold indicating they may be at greater risk of experiencing difficulties in that area. The EDI is intended to identify patterns across communities rather than assess individual children.

When interpreted alongside the CSAI, the findings provide additional context for understanding neighbourhood opportunity. While the NOI measures neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity, the CSAI identifies where community services and supports are physically located. Together, these tools demonstrate that neighbourhood opportunity cannot be understood through community conditions or service availability alone. Communities with the greatest concentrations of barriers often had the highest concentration of services, reflecting longstanding efforts to locate supports where needs are greatest. At the same time, several communities experiencing comparatively fewer barriers had more limited access to specialized services, highlighting the importance of considering both neighbourhood conditions and available community assets when planning future investments.

Together, the NOI and CSAI provide a strong foundation for evidence-informed planning. However, they represent only part of the picture. While these tools identify where opportunities, barriers, and community assets exist, they do not explain how residents experience neighbourhood conditions, access services, or navigate the systems intended to support them.

Understanding these experiences is essential to identifying root causes, strengthening coordination across sectors, and ensuring future investments reflect community priorities.

The findings presented in this report therefore represent the beginning of a broader community conversation. By combining neighbourhood-level data with resident voice, local expertise, and cross-sector collaboration, Chatham-Kent has an opportunity to move beyond understanding community conditions to designing solutions that strengthen systems and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.



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FROM DATA TO ACTION

The Chatham-Kent NOI provides a shared understanding of how opportunity varies across the municipality. Together with the CSAI, it identifies where neighbourhood conditions differ and where community assets are located. While these tools provide valuable evidence, data alone cannot explain why differences exist or how systems can be strengthened to improve outcomes.

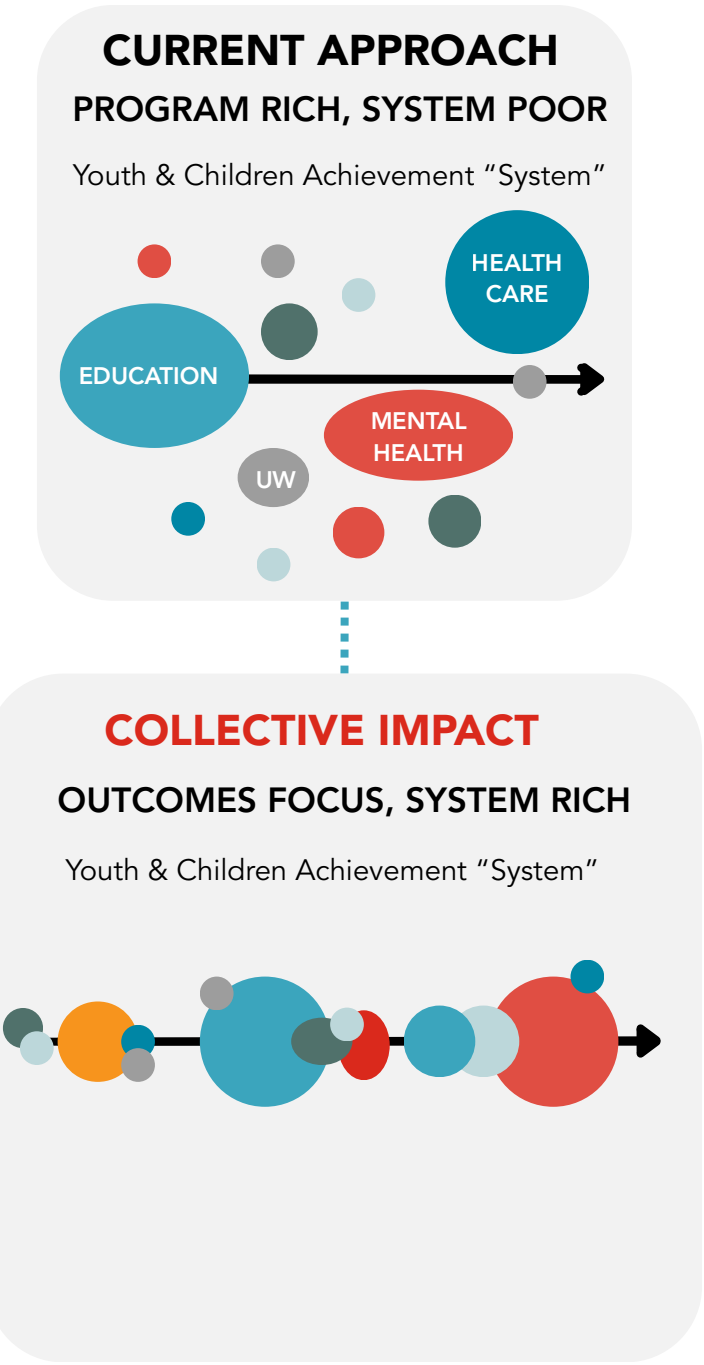
The next phase of this work will focus on translating evidence into action through a collaborative, resident-centred approach. By combining neighbourhood data with lived experience, community knowledge, and cross-sector collaboration, Chatham-Kent has an opportunity to better understand the root causes of complex challenges and co-design solutions that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

A COLLECTIVE IMPACT APPROACH

Improving outcomes for children, youth, and families requires more than individual programs or isolated initiatives. It requires organizations, institutions, governments, businesses, and residents working toward shared goals using a coordinated and collaborative community-wide approach. Many communities are programs rich but system poor.

This means there may be many organizations, services, and programs available, but they often operate independently with different goals, funding requirements, and ways of measuring success. While these efforts provide important support, they can be difficult for residents to navigate and may not always work together to achieve the greatest community impact.

Collective Impact provides a framework for making this shift by bringing organizations together around a common agenda, shared outcomes, shared measurement, continuous communication, and coordinated action. Rather than working independently, organizations continue to provide their unique services while aligning their efforts to strengthen the systems that influence children's development and long-term well-being.



The NOI and CSAI provide the shared evidence base that supports this approach. By helping partners understand neighbourhood conditions, community assets, and where opportunities and barriers exist, these tools can guide shared priorities, align investments, and measure progress toward improving outcomes for children, youth, and families.

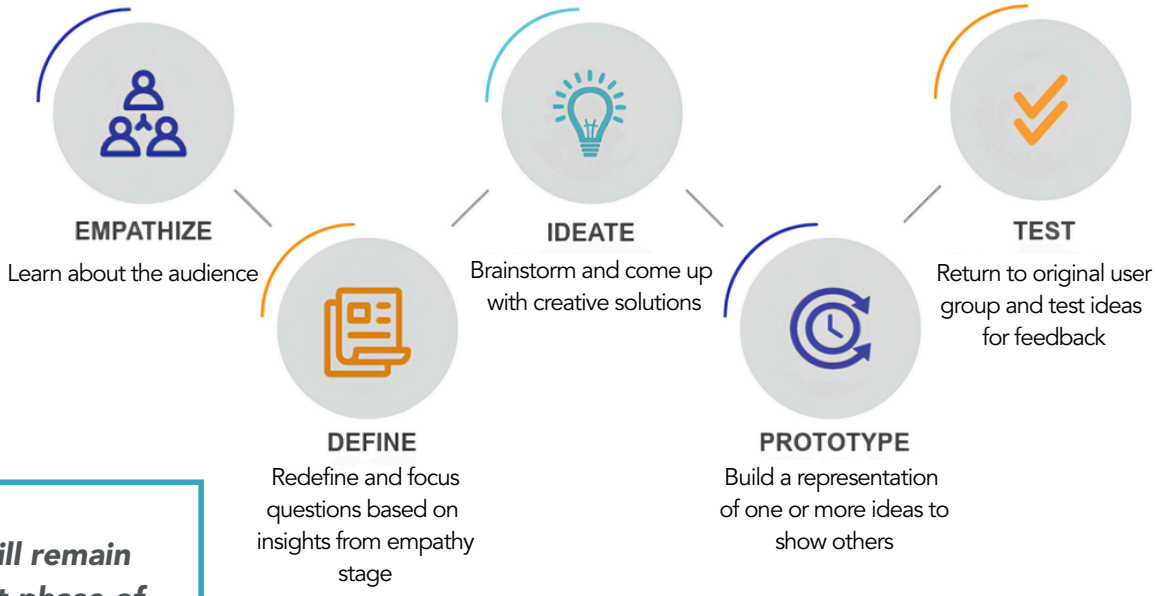
HUMAN-CENTRED DESIGN

While the NOI and CSAI identify neighbourhood conditions and community assets, they do not capture residents' lived experiences or explain how people navigate the systems intended to support them.

Human-Centred Design will be used to build on the findings of this report by engaging residents, community organizations, and system partners in understanding community experiences, identifying root causes, generating ideas, and testing solutions.

By placing residents at the centre of the design process, this approach helps ensure that future strategies reflect community priorities and respond to the realities of everyday life.

By combining neighbourhood data with authentic community engagement, Human-Centred Design helps ensure that future strategies are informed by both evidence and the voices of the people most affected.



Resident voice will remain central to the next phase of this work.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TABLES

Building on the findings of the NOI and CSAI, Community Action Networks will bring together residents, community organizations, governments, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, and other partners to interpret neighbourhood findings, explore lived experiences, and identify opportunities for collective action.

Using neighbourhood data as a starting point, these groups will work collaboratively to understand local strengths and challenges, co-design solutions, and inform the development of a community-wide Cradle to Career strategy. This process recognizes that lasting systems change is achieved by working alongside communities and ensuring that those most affected by local challenges play an active role in shaping future solutions.

Together, these approaches provide a roadmap for moving from understanding neighbourhood conditions to creating coordinated, community-driven action that improves outcomes for children, youth, and families across Chatham-Kent.

LOOKING AHEAD

HOW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OPPORTUNITY INDEX (NOI) CAN BE USED

The NOI is intended to support evidence-informed decision-making across sectors. By providing a shared understanding of neighbourhood conditions, it can help organizations identify priorities, align investments, and monitor progress over time.

Potential applications could include:

- **Community and municipal planning**
- **Grant writing and funding applications**
- **Service coordination and partnership development**
- **Education and school planning**
- **Health system planning**
- **Program evaluation and impact measurement**
- **Neighbourhood investment strategies**
- **Monitoring neighbourhood change over time**

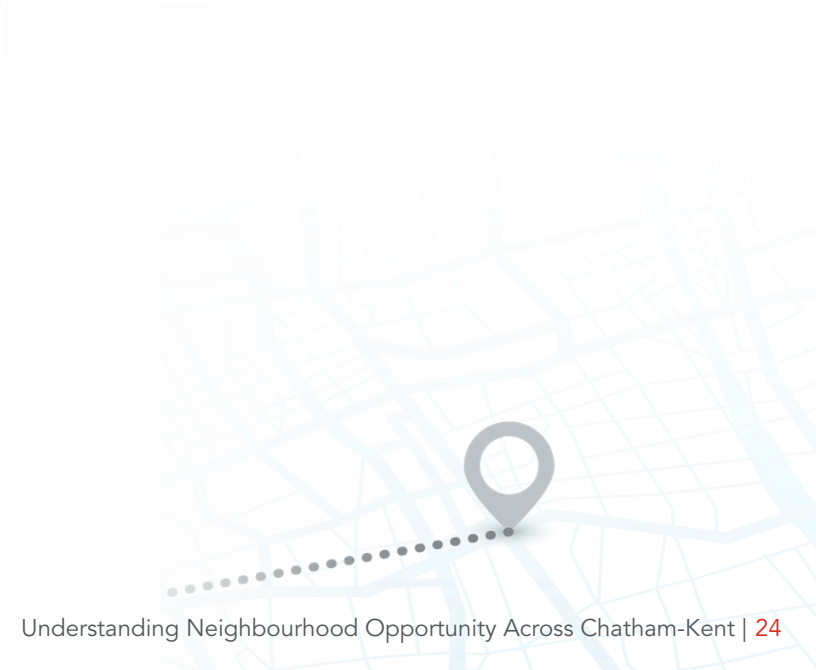
The Chatham-Kent NOI is intended to be a living tool that evolves alongside the community. As new information becomes available and community priorities continue to evolve, the NOI will provide a consistent framework for monitoring neighbourhood conditions, identifying emerging trends, and evaluating the impact of community investments over time.

Future updates will benefit from the release of 2026 Statistics Canada Census data, which will provide updated demographic, socioeconomic, housing, and education information at the neighbourhood level. These new data will improve the ability to monitor change over time and strengthen the understanding of how neighbourhood conditions are evolving across Chatham-Kent.

United Way will continue working with community partners to enhance future editions of the NOI through improved data sharing, expanded neighbourhood-level indicators, and ongoing refinement of the methodology. Potential enhancements may include measures related to primary healthcare attachment, youth justice involvement, and other indicators that contribute to understanding child and youth well-being.

Future updates will also provide opportunities to deepen partnerships related to Indigenous data governance and explore pathways for the respectful inclusion of Indigenous communities and data in collaboration with community partners.

The NOI provides a shared understanding of local conditions and identifies areas where collaborative impact may have the greatest impact. While the report highlights opportunities for future investment and systems change, the implementation of these opportunities will depend on available funding, community partnerships, and the collective capacity of organizations to work together toward shared goals.



CONCLUSION

The Chatham-Kent NOI provides more than a picture of how opportunity varies across neighbourhoods. It establishes a shared evidence base that can support collaboration, inform decision-making, and strengthen efforts to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families across the municipality.

The findings demonstrate that neighbourhood conditions differ across Chatham-Kent and that these differences are often shaped by the combined influence of economic, educational, health, and community factors. Understanding these patterns creates opportunities for more targeted investments, stronger partnerships, and more coordinated planning.

By bringing together data, community knowledge, and collaborative leadership, Chatham-Kent is well-positioned to develop strategies that strengthen systems that influence children's development, improve neighbourhood opportunity, and help ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of where they live.

The greatest value of the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index lies not in a single report or score, but in its ability to support ongoing learning, meaningful resident engagement, and collective action.

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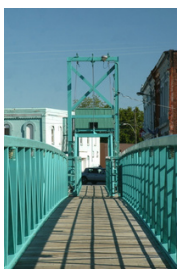
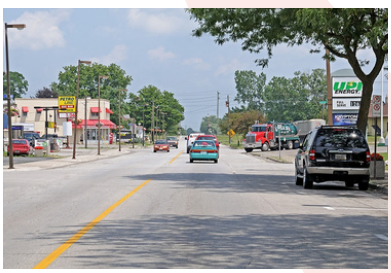

APPENDIX A: INDICATORS

Appendix A describes each indicator included in the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index. No single indicator defines neighbourhood opportunity. Indicators were selected based on their relevance to child and youth opportunity, the availability of reliable neighbourhood-level data, and their ability to support evidence-informed planning and decision-making. Rather, each contributes to a broader understanding of the social, economic, educational, health, and community conditions that shape opportunities for children and youth. Together, these indicators help identify neighbourhoods where targeted investments and community action may improve outcomes.[vii]

Demographic indicators, such as racialized and Indigenous population, were included to recognize the influence of systemic inequities on neighbourhood opportunity. These indicators are intended to support equity-focused planning and should not be interpreted as suggesting that demographic characteristics themselves represent barriers or deficits.

Unless otherwise indicated, indicators were calculated using the smallest geographic unit available from the original data source. Where source data were unavailable at the Chatham-Kent neighbourhood level, geographic correspondence methods (e.g., population-weighted distribution factors or geographic overlays) were used to estimate neighbourhood-level values. Indicator-specific notes are provided only where additional methodological context is required to explain data limitations, geographic transformations, or calculation assumptions.

Percent of Population 0-19 Years

Rationale: The Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is designed to measure conditions that influence the opportunities available to children and youth. Understanding where children and youth live is fundamental to this work, as neighbourhoods with larger youth populations often have greater demand for schools, recreation, healthcare, childcare, and family services.

This indicator identifies communities where investments in child- and youth-focused infrastructure, programs, and services may have the greatest impact and supports equitable planning and resource allocation.

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of people aged 0-19 years old divided by the total population, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Households Identifying as a One-Parent Family

Rationale: Family structure can influence the resources and supports available to children and youth. Neighbourhoods with higher proportions of one-parent families may experience greater demand for childcare, family supports, income assistance, and other community services. This indicator helps identify areas where additional investments may reduce barriers and improve opportunities for children and families. [viii]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of one-parent-family households divided by the number of one-census-family households without additional persons, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Population Identifying as Part of Racialized Group

Rationale:This indicator recognizes that systemic barriers and inequities continue to influence opportunities for many racialized communities. It is included to help identify neighbourhoods where culturally responsive planning, inclusive policies, and equitable investments may help address disparities and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. The indicator reflects the broader social conditions that shape opportunity rather than suggesting that racial or ethnic diversity is itself a barrier. [ix]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of people in private households who identify as a visible minority[2] divided by the total population in private households, multiplied by 100.[3]

Percent of Population Identifying as Indigenous

Rationale: This indicator recognizes that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities continue to experience inequities resulting from historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, including disparities in health, education, and socioeconomic outcomes. It is included to support equitable planning, strengthen partnerships, and identify neighbourhoods where culturally appropriate services and community investments may improve opportunities for Indigenous children, youth, and families. The indicator reflects systemic inequities rather than Indigenous identity itself.[x]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of people in private households with an Indigenous identity divided by the total population in private households, multiplied by 100.[4]

Percent of the Population Without Knowledge of English or French

Language proficiency can influence a person's ability to access education, healthcare, employment, and community services. This indicator identifies neighbourhoods where language barriers may affect access to opportunities and supports planning for language services, settlement supports, and community resources that promote inclusion.[xi]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The population excluding institutional residents without knowledge of French or English divided by the total population excluding institutional residents, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Youth (0-17 years) Living in Low-Income according to the After-Tax Low-Income Measure (AT-LIM)

Household income is a well-established social determinant of health and is closely associated with children's access to education, housing, nutrition, recreation, and other opportunities that support healthy development. This indicator identifies neighbourhoods where children and youth are more likely to experience financial hardship and supports equitable investment in programs and services that reduce the impacts of poverty.[xii]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: Prevalence of low income based on After-Tax Low-Income Measure (AT-LIM) for population 0-17 years old in private households.

Median Income Difference (Neighbourhood Median Income vs. Regional Median Income)

Neighbourhood economic conditions influence the resources and opportunities available to children and families. Comparing neighbourhood median income to the regional median provides insight into local economic disparities and helps identify communities where additional investments may be needed to improve neighbourhood opportunity.[xiii]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census (2020 Calendar Year)
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: 1 minus (the neighbourhood median after-tax income divided by the regional CK median after-tax income) [5]
Note: Several alternative income indicators were considered, including more recent Statistics Canada Taxfiler data and measures of income inequality. These indicators were ultimately not included because they either lacked sufficient geographic precision for neighbourhood-level analysis or measured concepts that were less directly aligned with the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index's objective of identifying barriers to opportunity for children and youth. The selected indicators, youth low-income prevalence (AT-LIM) and neighbourhood median income relative to the regional median, were determined to provide the most robust and policy-relevant representation of neighbourhood economic conditions.

[2] According to Statistics Canada, 'visible minority' refers to whether a person is a visible minority or not, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour."
[3] Total - Visible minority for the population in private households (25% sample data)
[4] Total - Indigenous identity for the population in private households (25% sample data)

Percent of Population Who Moved Within the Previous Year (Residential Mobility)

Rationale: Residential stability contributes to children's sense of belonging, school continuity, social connections, and access to consistent supports and services. Higher levels of residential mobility indicate greater population turnover, which may affect neighbourhood cohesion and the continuity of educational and community supports for children and families. This indicator helps identify communities where strengthening neighbourhood connections, housing stability, and family supports may improve neighbourhood opportunity.

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The percentage of people aged one year and older whose usual place of residence one year earlier was different from their usual place of residence on Census Day (May 11, 2021).

Percent of Tenant and Owner Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs [6]

Rationale: Housing affordability influences household financial stability and the resources available to support children's development. Neighbourhoods where a greater proportion of households experience high housing costs may face increased financial pressures that affect access to other essential needs. This indicator supports planning for affordable housing and family supports. [xiv]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of owner and tenant households spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs divided by the total number of owner and tenant households, multiplied by 100. [7]

Percent of Children Who Are at Risk in at Least One Developmental Domain in the Early Developmental Index (EDI)

Rationale: Early childhood development provides the foundation for future learning, health, and well-being. The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures developmental vulnerability at school entry across multiple domains and is widely used to understand children's readiness for school. This indicator identifies neighbourhoods where additional early years investments and supports may improve developmental outcomes.[xv]

Source: Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Year: 2022-2023 Cycle 6
Source Geography: Chatham-Kent EDI Communities [8]
Definition: The number of children scoring low in at least one developmental domain divided by the number of children in the EDI community, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Population with No Post-Secondary Education (Aged 25-64)

Rationale: Educational attainment reflects the educational and socioeconomic context in which children and youth are growing up. Neighbourhoods with lower levels of educational attainment may experience reduced access to employment opportunities and economic resources. This indicator helps identify communities where educational pathways and workforce development initiatives may strengthen long-term neighbourhood opportunity. [xvi]

Source: Statistics Canada
Year: 2021 Census
Source Geography: Dissemination Area (DA)
Definition: The number of people aged 25 years whose highest certificate, diploma, or degree is no certificate, diploma, or degree (i.e., did not complete high school or high school equivalency) or a high school diploma or equivalency certificate divided by the total number of people aged 25 years in private households, multiplied by 100.[9]

Percent of Grade 3 and 6 Students Not Meeting Provincial Standards in Reading, Writing, and Math

Rationale: Early literacy and numeracy are foundational skills that support future educational achievement. This indicator measures neighbourhood-level academic performance during the elementary years and helps identify communities where additional educational supports and interventions may improve student success and strengthen long-term opportunities. [xvii]

Source: EQAO
Year: Aggregated 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 School Years
Source Geography: School Postal Codes

[5] Neighbourhood median after-tax income in 2020 among the population aged 15 years and over in private households ($) divided by regional median after-tax income in 2020 among those aged 15 years and over in private households ($).
[6] Shelter costs include mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, rent, electricity, heat, water, and other municipal services.

Definition:

Percentages are calculated for students in grades 3 and 6 below standard (Level 2 or less) in reading, writing, and math for 2024 and 2025.

- *% Reading = (the count of students scoring in reading level one plus the count of students scoring in reading level two) divided by the count of students who participated in the reading testing, times 100.*
- *% Writing = (the count of students scoring in writing level one plus the count of students scoring in writing level two) divided by the count of students who participated in the writing testing, times 100.*
- *% Math = (the count of students scoring in math level one plus the count of students scoring in math level two) divided by the count of students who participated in the math testing, times 100.*
- *An overall average is computed as the mean of the three percentages for each collection or neighbourhood.*
  - *Avg_2024 = (% Reading + % Writing + % Math) divided by three.*
  - *Avg_2025 = (% Reading + % Writing + % Math) divided by three.*
  - *(Avg_2024 plus Avg_2025) divided by two.*

Percent of Grade 9 Students Not Meeting the Provincial Standard in Math & Percent of Grade 10 Students Not Passing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on the First Attempt

Rationale: Achievement during secondary school is an important milestone in students' educational pathways and future opportunities. These indicators measure neighbourhood-level academic performance in mathematics and literacy, helping identify communities where additional educational support and interventions may strengthen student success and future educational opportunities.

Source: EQAO

Year: Aggregated 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 School Years

Source Geography: School Postal Codes

Indicator 1 Definition: Grade 9 Math

Percentages are calculated for students below standard math levels (Level 2 or less) for grade 9 for the years 2024 and 2025.

- % Math_2024 = (the count of students scoring in math level one plus the count of students scoring in math level two) divided by the count of students who participated in the math testing, multiplied by 100.
- % Math_2025 = (the count of students scoring in math level one plus the count of students scoring in math level two) divided by the count of students who participated in the math testing, multiplied by 100.

The average is computed as the mean of the two percentages for each collection or neighbourhood.

- (% Math_2024 plus % Math_2025) divided by two.

Indicator 2 Definition: Grade 10 Literacy

Percentages are calculated for students not successful in the OSSLT for grade 10 for 2024 and 2025.

- % OSSLT_2024 = the count of first-time eligible students not successful in the OOSLT OSSLT divided by the count of first-time eligible students fully participating in the OSSLT, multiplied by 100.
- % OSSLT_2025 = the count of first-time eligible students not successful in the OOSLT OSSLT divided by the count of first-time eligible students fully participating in the OSSLT, multiplied by 100.

The average is computed as the mean of the two percentages for each collection or neighbourhood.

- (% OSSLT_2024 plus % OSSLT_2025) divided by two.

Note on EQAO Scores: EQAO data were assigned to neighbourhoods based on school location rather than school catchment boundaries. Because secondary school catchment areas overlap substantially across Chatham-Kent, assigning results by catchment would have introduced considerable complexity and uncertainty. Instead, Grade 9 Mathematics and Grade 10 Literacy results were aggregated at the regional level and applied consistently to the neighbourhoods within each region. For example, secondary EQAO results from schools serving the Wallaceburg area were averaged and assigned to both East and West Wallaceburg. This approach provides a consistent basis for municipal comparisons while acknowledging some loss of neighbourhood-level precision.

[7] Total - Owner and tenant households with household total income greater than zero, in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings by the shelter-cost-to-income ratio (25% sample data)

[8] Distribution Factor: Early Development Instrument (EDI) results are reported at the EDI catchment area level, while the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is calculated at the ADA level. To align these geographies, EDI catchment area shapefiles were spatially intersected with ADA boundaries in a GIS environment. A distribution factor was calculated based on the proportion of each EDI catchment area located within each ADA. EDI results were then allocated to ADAs using these factors. Where an ADA intersected multiple EDI catchment areas, the final ADA value was calculated as a weighted average of the contributing catchments. This approach assumes that children are distributed proportionally across the geographic extent of each EDI catchment area in the absence of child residential location data.

[9] Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree for the population aged 25 years and over in private households (25% sample data)

In contrast, elementary schools generally serve more localized catchment areas, allowing Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO results to be assigned directly to neighbourhoods based on school location. As more detailed geographic data become available, future editions of the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index may incorporate school catchment boundaries where appropriate.

Percent of Live Births with Low Birth Weight & Percent of Pregnancies with Complications[10]

Rationale: Healthy pregnancies and healthy births provide an important foundation for children's health and development. Low birth weight and pregnancy complications are widely recognized indicators of maternal and infant health and can reflect differences in access to prenatal care, maternal health, and the broader social determinants of health. Together, these indicators help identify neighbourhoods where additional prenatal, maternal, and early childhood supports may improve outcomes for children and families.[xviii]

Source: BORN Ontario
Year: Aggregated 2022–2023
Source Geography: Aggregated Dissemination Area (ADA)
Indicator 1 Definition: The number of infants (live births) born with birth weight less than 2500 grams divided by the total number of live births, multiplied by 100.
Indicator 2 Definition: The number of live births with any complication in pregnancy among pregnant residents divided by the total number of live births, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Births to Younger Mothers (Under Age 25)

Rationale: Young families may face greater economic and educational transitions during parenting years and may therefore benefit from additional supports. This indicator identifies neighbourhoods where a greater proportion of births occur to younger mothers and helps inform planning for services that support healthy child development and family well-being.[xix]

Source: BORN Ontario
Year: Aggregated 2022–2023
Source Geography: Aggregated Dissemination Area (ADA)
Definition: The number of live births to mothers under 25 divided by the total number of live births, multiplied by 100.

Percent of Children and Youth (Aged 0-18) Accessing Community Mental Health Supports

Rationale: Positive mental health supports children's learning, relationships, and overall well-being. This indicator should be interpreted cautiously. Utilization may reflect differences in need, service awareness, referral practices, or local service availability. It should not be interpreted as a direct measure of mental health prevalence. However, it can help identify communities where additional mental health resources, outreach, or service planning may be beneficial. [xx]

Source: Linck
Year: 2021-2025
Source Geography: CK Neighbourhoods
Definition: The number of unique Chatham-Kent residents aged 0–18 who received at least one mental health service through LINCK during the calendar year, divided by the total population aged 0–19, multiplied by 100.
Note: Mental health services include Brief Services, Counselling, Crisis Services, and Intensive Outreach. Individuals are counted once per calendar year within LINCK, regardless of the number of services received. This indicator reflects utilization of LINCK services and should not be interpreted as the total number of children and youth receiving mental health services in Chatham-Kent. Population estimates for ages 0–18 were unavailable; therefore, the denominator uses the 2021 Census population aged 0–19.

Percent of Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote in the Municipal Elections

Rationale: Strong communities are supported by residents who participate in civic life and local decision-making. Voter participation provides one measure of community engagement and civic involvement at the neighbourhood level. This indicator helps identify communities where additional engagement efforts may strengthen community participation, representation, and local capacity.[xxi]

Source: Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Year: 2022
Source Geography: Chatham-Kent Political Wards[11]
Definition: 100 minus (the number of total votes divided by the number of registered voters, multiplied by 100.
Note: Municipal election data were available only at the Chatham-Kent political ward level. Ward-level values were distributed to Aggregate Dissemination Areas (ADAs) using a population-weighted distribution factor to estimate neighbourhood-level values.

[10] Complications refers to the fetal, maternal, and placental complications collected on data element M0531 – Pregnancy-Related Complications, the hypertensive disorders collected on data element D0016 – Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy, and gestational diabetes collected on data element D0013 Diabetes and Pregnancy (BORN Ontario Data Dictionary and Library)

[11] Distribution Factor: Voting data are reported at the political ward level, while the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is calculated at the ADA level. To align these geographies, political ward shapefiles were spatially intersected with ADA boundaries in a GIS environment. A distribution factor was calculated based on the proportion of each political ward located within each ADA. Voting data were then allocated to ADAs using these factors. Where an ADA intersected multiple political wards, the final ADA value was calculated as a weighted average of the contributing wards. This approach assumes that voting patterns are distributed proportionally across the geographic extent of each political ward in the absence of more detailed geographic voting data.

APPENDIX B: TECHNICAL METHODOLOGY

B.1 Overview

The Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index was developed to measure neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity for children, youth, and families. The methodology builds upon the framework established in the Windsor-Essex Neighbourhood Opportunity Index while reflecting the unique geography, available data, and community priorities of Chatham-Kent.

The objective of the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is not to measure individual outcomes or neighbourhood performance. Rather, it provides a standardized method for identifying geographic differences in the conditions that influence opportunity across Chatham-Kent.

The methodology combines multiple indicators from diverse sectors into a single composite index while maintaining transparency, reproducibility, and statistical consistency.

The development process included:

- Selection of evidence-informed indicators.
- Integration of data from multiple sources.
- Alignment of geographic boundaries.
- Standardization of indicators.
- Construction of a composite index.
- Validation and interpretation of results.

B.2 Indicator Selection

Indicators were selected using an evidence-informed approach based on research examining the social determinants of health, child development, educational success, and community well-being

Each indicator was assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance to neighbourhood opportunity.
- Availability at a neighbourhood geographic scale.
- Data quality and completeness.
- Ability to be updated in future iterations.
- Alignment with priorities identified through Voices of Chatham-Kent.
- Availability across all neighbourhoods included in the index.

A complete list of indicators, definitions, data sources, reporting years, and geographic units is provided in Appendix A.

The final Neighbourhood Opportunity Index incorporates 18 indicators grouped into five domains:

- Demographic
- Economic
- Education
- Health
- Civic Participation

The domains were intended to capture multiple dimensions of neighbourhood opportunity rather than represent independent sub-indices.

B.3 Neighbourhood Geography

The Chatham-Kent Neighbourhood Opportunity Index uses the neighbourhood geography developed by Chatham-Kent Public Health for its Community Profiles (2023).[xxii] These neighbourhoods were created by aggregating Statistics Canada's Aggregate Dissemination Areas (ADAs) into larger geographic areas that balance statistical reliability, community identity, geographic continuity, and practical use for planning and decision-making. These neighbourhoods provide sufficient population size for analysis while maintaining a localized understanding of community conditions.

B.4 Data Sources & Geographic Integration

One of the primary methodological challenges involved integrating datasets collected using different geographic boundaries.

Table 3: Statistics Canada Aggregate Dissemination Areas (ADAs)

Service Area	Aggregate Dissemination Areas (ADAs)
East Kent	ADA 35360001 (Rural East Kent) + ADA 35362002 (Ridgetown)
South Kent	ADA 35360002 (Rural South Kent) + ADA 35360006 (Blenheim)
North Kent	ADA 35360003 (Rural North Kent) + ADA 35362001 (Dresden)
West Kent	ADA 35360007 (Rural West Kent) + ADA 35360013 (Tilbury) + ADA 35362003 (Wheatley)
Wallaceburg	ADA 35360005 (East Wallaceburg) + ADA 35362000 (West Wallaceburg)
Chatham	ADA 35360008 (Northeast Chatham) + ADA 35360009 (Northwest Chatham) + ADA 35360010 (Central Chatham) + ADA 35360011 (Southeast Chatham) + ADA 35360012 (Southwest Chatham)

Table 4. Datasets and Sources Used in the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index

Dataset / Source	Year(s)	Indicators
Statistics Canada Census of Population	2021 (Income reference year: 2020)	Population 0–19, One-parent families, Racialized population, Indigenous population, Knowledge of English/French, Youth low income (AT-LIM), Median after-tax income, Residential mobility, Shelter costs (30%+), Educational attainment
Early Development Instrument (EDI)	2022–2023 (Cycle 6)	Children vulnerable in at least one developmental domain
Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)	2023–2024 & 2024–2025	Grade 3/6 Reading, Writing & Math; Grade 9 Mathematics; Grade 10 OSSLT
BORN Ontario	2022–2023	Low birth weight, Pregnancy complications, Births to mothers under age 25
Linck Child, Youth and Family Supports	2021–2025	Children and youth accessing community mental health supports
Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Municipal Election Results	2022	Voter participation (non-voting)
Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Geographic Boundary Files	Current project	Neighbourhood boundaries, EDI communities, ward correspondence, and geographic overlays used for neighbourhood estimation
Community Service Inventory (Community Service Availability Index) (compiled for this project)	2025–2026	Community service locations and service functions across Chatham-Kent

To produce a common neighbourhood geography, United Way developed a centralized GIS-based data warehouse. Where source boundaries aligned directly with neighbourhood boundaries, values were assigned directly. Where boundaries differed, geographic allocation techniques were applied.

These methods included:

- area-weighted allocation
- proportional overlap calculations
- spatial joins
- postal code matching
- point-in-polygon assignment (for service locations)

Where geographic allocation was required, resulting values should be interpreted as neighbourhood estimates rather than direct observations. These methods allow multiple datasets to be integrated while minimizing geographic bias and preserving the integrity of the original data sources.

B.5 Indicator Orientation

Prior to standardization, all indicators were oriented so that higher values consistently represented greater barriers to opportunity.

This step ensured that indicators measured in opposite directions could be combined within a common index.

Indicators where higher values represent greater barriers. For example:

- Youth living in low-income households
- Housing affordability challenges
- One-parent households
- Residential mobility
- Pregnancy complications
- Children vulnerable on the EDI
- Youth mental health service utilization
- Non-voting in municipal elections

For several indicators, higher values are typically associated with greater opportunity. These variables were reverse coded prior to standardization. For example:

- Neighbourhood median income
- Educational attainment
- Academic achievement

Following orientation, positive values consistently reflected relatively greater barriers while negative values reflected relatively fewer barriers.

B.6 Standardization

Indicators included in the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index are measured using different units, including percentages, rates, counts, proportions and dollar values. To allow direct comparison, each indicator was standardized using z-scores. The z-score for each neighbourhood was calculated as:

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Where:

- x = neighbourhood value
- μ = municipal average
- σ = standard deviation

This transformation expresses each neighbourhood's value as the number of standard deviations above or below the municipality-wide average.

Standardization ensures that indicators contribute on a common scale regardless of their original unit of measurement.

Following orientation and standardization:

- Positive z-scores reflect greater barriers relative to the municipal average.
- Negative z-scores reflect fewer barriers relative to the municipal average.

B.7 Composite Index Construction

Following standardization, indicator z-scores were combined to produce an overall neighbourhood opportunity score. All indicators received equal weighting.

Equal weighting was selected because no widely accepted empirical or theoretical basis exists for assigning differential importance to neighbourhood factors such as education, health, housing, or income.

Equal weighting:

- Improves transparency.
- Reduces subjective decision-making.
- Supports reproducibility.
- Maintains consistency with previous Neighbourhood Opportunity Index methodologies.
- Aligns with common approaches used in community well-being and neighbourhood indices.

Previous sensitivity analyses conducted during development of the Windsor-Essex Neighbourhood Opportunity Index found that alternative weighting approaches produced minimal changes in overall neighbourhood patterns.

B.8 Validation

Several validation procedures were undertaken to assess whether the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index produced meaningful and credible results.

- Face Validity: Results were reviewed against existing community knowledge and planning documents, including: Voices of Chatham-Kent, Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Local administrative datasets, and Community partner perspectives

- Indicator Review: Relationships among indicators were examined to ensure measures contributed meaningful information to the index and reflected established evidence regarding neighbourhood opportunity. Indicators demonstrated patterns that were broadly consistent with existing research on child development, poverty, educational attainment, and health outcomes.
- Sensitivity Assessment: The contribution of individual indicators was reviewed to assess whether overall results were disproportionately driven by a small number of measures. No single indicator was found to dominate overall neighbourhood patterns. Instead, neighbourhood scores generally reflected the cumulative influence of multiple indicators across several domains.
- Geographic Validation: Neighbourhood-level findings were reviewed to ensure resulting patterns were geographically plausible and consistent with local context. Observed patterns were broadly aligned with existing community knowledge and stakeholder experience, providing additional confidence that the index reflects meaningful neighbourhood differences rather than statistical anomalies.

B.9 Interpretation

The Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is a comparative measure of neighbourhood conditions within Chatham-Kent.

Scores reflect relative differences among neighbourhoods and should not be interpreted as absolute measures of need.

Neighbourhood Opportunity Index Score	Interpretation
Positive Value	Greater concentration of barriers relative to the Chatham-Kent average
Approximately Zero	Similar to the Chatham-Kent average
Negative Value	Fewer barriers relative to the Chatham-Kent average

Because scores are standardized relative to the municipality, a neighbourhood's score may change over time even if its local conditions remain stable, particularly if conditions change elsewhere in Chatham-Kent.

It should not be interpreted as:

- a ranking of neighbourhood quality
- a measure of individual outcomes
- a predictor of individual success
- evidence of causation

Instead, the index is intended to support discussion, planning, and decision-making by identifying where conditions associated with opportunity differ across the municipality.

B.10 Limitations

1.Data Availability

Not all desired indicators were available at the neighbourhood level. Indicators unavailable for this edition included:

- Percentage of youth charged with a crime
- Percentage of youth attached to primary care

United Way will continue collaborating with community partners to expand future editions of the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index as additional neighbourhood-level data become available.

2.Geographic Estimation

Some datasets required geographic allocation because original reporting boundaries differed from Neighbourhood Opportunity Index neighbourhoods.

While these methods follow accepted GIS practices, allocated values represent statistical estimates rather than direct observations.

3.Data Timeliness

The Neighbourhood Opportunity Index integrates data from multiple organizations collected over different reporting periods. While every effort was made to use the most recent and reliable data available, the indicators span several years (primarily 2021 to 2025) because data are released on different schedules. As a result, the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index represents the best available picture of neighbourhood opportunity rather than conditions at a single point in time. Future editions will incorporate newer data as they become available, including the release of 2026 Census data and other updated administrative datasets.

4.Indigenous Data Governance

The Delaware Nation at Moraviantown (ADA 3536004) was not included in the current analysis. Some data providers identified that reporting neighbourhood-level data for this area could potentially compromise the privacy of community members due to the small population size. Consistent with principles of respectful Indigenous data governance, community-level data for this area requires collaboration with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown before it can be shared. Future editions will seek opportunities to work collaboratively with Indigenous partners to support the respectful inclusion of Indigenous data.

B.11 Future Enhancements

The Neighbourhood Opportunity Index is intended to evolve over time. Future updates will seek to:

- Incorporate 2026 Census data
- Expand health system indicators
- Improve access to primary care measures
- Incorporate youth justice indicators where feasible
- Strengthen Indigenous partnerships and data governance
- Refine geographic allocation methods as new datasets become available
- Continue monitoring neighbourhood change over time

As additional data become available, future editions will provide an increasingly comprehensive picture of neighbourhood opportunity across Chatham-Kent.

APPENDIX C. COMMUNITY SERVICE AVAILABILITY INDEX SCORE (LIVING ASSET MAP)

Purpose

The Community Service Availability Index was developed to complement the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index by providing context on the geographic distribution of community services and supports across Chatham-Kent. While the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index measures neighbourhood outcomes, the Community Service Availability Index measures the physical availability of key community assets that support children, youth, and families throughout the Cradle to Career continuum.

The Community Service Availability Index is intended to identify geographic differences in access to community resources and to help interpret neighbourhood outcomes within the context of local service availability. The index does not measure service quality, capacity, utilization, or effectiveness, nor does it assess whether services adequately meet community demand.

Methodology

Community assets identified through the Community Asset Mapping process were grouped into five broad service categories representing key systems of support for children, youth, and families:

- Early Childhood & Family Supports
- Education & Youth Development
- Health & Well-being
- Employment & Career Pathways
- Postsecondary & Lifelong Learning

Within each category, assets were further organized into 20 service functions that represent distinct types of community supports. Rather than counting the number of organizations, the Community Service Availability Index measures whether residents have access to each type of service within their geography.

Each community asset was assigned to one or more of Chatham-Kent's six geographic areas based on the physical location where the service is delivered. Services were counted only within the geography in which they maintain a permanent service location. County-wide service availability was not considered sufficient for inclusion unless the service is physically delivered within that geography.

Services delivered through multiple permanent locations were counted within each applicable geography. Temporary outreach, referral-based access, virtual services, or services requiring residents to travel outside their geography were not counted as locally accessible assets.

Each service function was scored using a binary approach:

- 1 = At least one community asset representing the service function is physically located within the geography.
- 0 = No community asset representing the service function is physically located within the geography.

Each service function may include one or more organizations or programs. Multiple organizations providing the same service function within a geography do not receive additional points.

The points earned within each category were summed to produce a category score. Category scores were then combined to calculate an overall Geographic Service Accessibility Index score out of 20 points. Scores may also be expressed as a percentage to facilitate comparison across geographies.

Interpretation

The Community Service Availability Index should be interpreted as a measure of the geographic distribution of community services rather than a measure of community need or service effectiveness. Higher scores indicate that a broader range of community service functions are physically available within a geography, while lower scores suggest that residents may need to travel outside their community to access a wider range of supports. The Community Service Availability Index is intended to complement the Neighbourhood Opportunity Index. Together, the two measures provide a more comprehensive understanding of both neighbourhood outcomes and the accessibility of the systems designed to support children, youth, and families.

Index Criteria

A geography receives one point when at least one community asset representing the service function is physically located within that geography.

Table 5. Community Service Availability Index Categories

Category	Service Functions Included	Maximum Score
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centres; Early Childhood & Family Support Services; Specialized Child Development Services	3
Education & Youth Development	Libraries & Community Learning Hubs; Literacy Supports; Academic Support Services; STEM & Enrichment Programs; Youth Development Programs; School-Based Student Success Supports	6
Health & Well-being	Community Health Centres; Mental Health & Counselling Services; Family & Community Support Services; Indigenous & Culturally Specific Supports; Community Inclusion & Disability Supports	5
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness; Career Readiness Programs; Workforce Development; Workforce & Economic Development	4
Postsecondary & Lifelong Learning	Postsecondary Education; Adult Learning & Skills Development	2
Total Possible Service Functions	—	20

Table 6. Community Assets (Last Updated: Spring 2026)

Geographic Accessibility Category	Geographic Accessibility Asset Type	Program name	Geography
Postsecondary & Lifelong Learning	Adult Learning & Skills Development	Adult Language and Learning	Central Chatham
Postsecondary & Lifelong Learning	Postsecondary Education	St. Clair College: Academic and Career Entrance	Central Chatham
Postsecondary & Lifelong Learning	Postsecondary Education	University of Guelph, Ridgetown College	Ridgetown
Health & Well-being	Mental Health & Counselling Services	Canadian Mental Health Association	Central Chatham
Health & Well-being	Family & Community Support Organization	Linck Children and Family Services	Northwest Chatham

Table 6. Community Assets (Last Updated: Spring 2026) CONT.

Geographic Accessibility Category	Geographic Accessibility Asset Type	Program name	Geography
Health & Well-being	Community Inclusion & Disability Supports	Community Living Chatham-Kent	Southwest Chatham
Health & Well-being	Community Health Centre	Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres - Chatham	Central Chatham
Health & Well-being	Mental Health & Counselling Services	Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent	Southwest Chatham
Health & Well-being	Indigenous & Culturally Specific Support	Ska:na Family Learning Centres - Chatham	Southeast Chatham
Health & Well-being	Family & Community Support Organization	Family Service Kent	Southeast Chatham
Health & Well-being	Community Health Centre	Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres - Walpole Island	Rural North Kent
Health & Well-being	Community Health Centre	Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres - Wallaceburg	East Wallaceburg
Health & Well-being	Indigenous & Culturally Specific Support	Ska:na Family Learning Centres - Wallaceburg	East Wallaceburg
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- Ursuline College Chatham	Northwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness	Employment Ontario Services - CK Jobs	Northwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- Chatham Kent Secondary School	Northeast Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Workforce & Economic Development	Chatham Kent Economic Development	Central Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness	Employment Ontario Services - Job Worx	Northwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness	Life Links/Job Jedi Program	Northwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Workforce & Economic Development	Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board	Southeast Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- John McGregor Secondary School	Southwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness	Service Canada	Central Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Employment Services & Readiness	Goodwill Career Centre	Southwest Chatham
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- Ridgetown District High School	Ridgetown
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- Blenheim District High School	Blenheim
Employment & Career Pathways	Career Readiness Program	OYAP- Wallaceburg District Secondary School	East Wallaceburg

Table 6. Community Assets (Last Updated: Spring 2026) CONT.

Geographic Accessibility Category	Geographic Accessibility Asset Type	Program name	Geography
Education & Youth Development	Youth Development Program	YMCA: Youth Education Support Program	Northwest Chatham
Education & Youth Development	STEM & Enrichment Program	Engineering for Kids of Windsor/Chatham	Northeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Academic Support Services	Learning Disabilities of Chatham-Kent (LDACK)	Northeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Academic Support Services	Learning Disability Association of Chatham-Kent	Northeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Literacy Supports	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	Northwest Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Academic Support Services	Kumon Chatham	Northeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Literacy Supports	Tri-County Literacy Network Chatham	Northwest Chatham
Education & Youth Development	School-Based Student Success Supports	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	Northwest Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Chatham Public Library	Central Chatham
Education & Youth Development	School-Based Student Success Supports	Lambton Kent District School Board - Chatham	Southeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	STEM & Enrichment Program	STEM Camp, Chatham	Southeast Chatham
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Bothwell Public Library	Rural East Kent
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Ridgetown Public Library	Ridgetown
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Thamesville Public Library	Rural East Kent
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Dresden Public Library	Dresden
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Blenheim Public Library	Blenheim
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Highgate Public Library	Blenheim
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Merlin Public Library	Rural South Kent
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Wallaceburg Public Library	West Wallaceburg
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Tilbury Public Library	Tilbury
Education & Youth Development	Library & Community Learning Hub	Wheatley Public Library	Wheatley

Table 6. Community Assets (Last Updated: Spring 2026) CONT.

Geographic Accessibility Category	Geographic Accessibility Asset Type	Program name	Geography
Early Childhood & Family Supports	Specialized Child Development Services	Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent	Northwest Chatham
Early Childhood & Family Supports	Specialized Child Development Services	Ontario Autism Program	Northwest Chatham
Early Childhood & Family Supports	Early Childhood & Family Support	Municipality of Chatham-Kent - Chatham	Central Chatham
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Chatham EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Southeast Chatham
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Bothwell EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Rural East Kent
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Ridgetown EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Ridgetown
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Thamesville EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Rural East Kent
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Mitchell's Bay EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Rural North Kent
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Dresden EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Dresden
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Pain Court EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Rural North Kent
Early Childhood & Family Supports	Early Childhood & Family Support	Municipality of Chatham-Kent - Blenheim	Blenheim
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Blenheim EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Blenheim
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Morpeth EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Rural South Kent
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Wallaceburg SFLC EarlyON	East Wallaceburg
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Wallaceburg EarlyON Child and Family Centres	East Wallaceburg
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Tilbury EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Tilbury
Early Childhood & Family Supports	EarlyON Child & Family Centre	Wheatley EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Wheatley

APPENDIX D. GLOSSARY

Aggregate Dissemination Area (ADA)
A standardized geographic area developed by Statistics Canada for reporting neighbourhood-level data. ADAs provide a consistent way to organize and compare data across communities in Canada.

Asset Mapping
The process of identifying and organizing community resources, services, and organizations to better understand existing strengths, support partnerships, and inform planning.

Collective Impact
A collaborative approach that brings together organizations, institutions, governments, businesses, and residents to work toward shared goals using common measures, continuous communication, and coordinated action.

Community Action Networks (CANs)
Neighbourhood-based groups made up of residents and community partners who work together to identify priorities, understand local challenges, and co-design solutions that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Community Service Availability Index (CSAI)
A companion planning tool that maps where organizations and services supporting children, youth, and families are located across Chatham-Kent. The CSAI identifies where services are available but does not measure service quality, capacity, accessibility, or effectiveness.

Cradle to Career (C2C)
A community-wide strategy that brings together residents, organizations, governments, businesses, and other partners to improve outcomes for children and youth from early childhood through education and into employment. It focuses on strengthening the systems that support children and families over time.

Human-Centred Design (HCD)
A collaborative approach to problem-solving that places the experiences and perspectives of residents at the centre of designing, testing, and improving solutions.

Indicator
A measurable characteristic used to understand conditions within a community. The Chatham-Kent NOI combines 18 indicators to examine neighbourhood opportunity.

Neighbourhood Opportunity
The social, economic, educational, health, and community conditions that influence children's and youths' opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

Neighbourhood Opportunity Index (NOI)
A composite measure that combines 18 indicators into a single score representing neighbourhood conditions associated with opportunity for children and youth across Chatham-Kent.

Resident Voice
The perspectives, experiences, and priorities shared by community members. Resident voice is an essential source of knowledge for understanding neighbourhood conditions and informing community planning.

Social Determinants of Health
The social, economic, and environmental conditions that influence health and well-being, including income, education, housing, employment, transportation, and access to services.

Systems Change
Improving how organizations, policies, services, and community partners work together to address the underlying causes of complex challenges, rather than responding to issues in isolation.

APPENDIX E. STEERING COMMITTEE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD TABLE MEMBERS

Aimee June
Angela Scott
Arthur Barron
Chief Kirk Earley
Chief Leela Thomas
Eric Ricciotti
Gary Girardi
Jeff McFadden
Jodi Guilmette
Lee Janzen
Lisa Broad
Lisa Demers
Meaghan Givoque
Rory Ring
Shelly Duben
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Teri Thomas-Vanos

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