

## **Scarborough Village - Toronto, Ontario**

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A walk along Eglinton Avenue – Scarborough Village’s wide, treeless main street – shows a collection of strip malls set back behind cracked parking lots, high rise social housing and low-income apartments, a railway bridge, a car dealership and a social housing apartment development that wraps around the corner of Eglinton and Markham streets.

Sixty-one percent of Scarborough Village’s 13,725 residents were born outside of Canada, 72 percent are members of a visible minority and 49 percent of all residents have a home language other than English. Of the 8,372 Villagers who were born outside of Canada, 64 percent arrived between 1991 and 2001. More than 26 languages are spoken in Scarborough Village. After English, Tamil and Urdu are most commonly spoken; 31 and 10 percent of residents claim these as home languages, respectively.

Two-thirds of residents between ages 15 and 24 are attending school; 90 percent of those are full-time students. However, the one-third who are not attending school represent a large pool of undereducated youth whose job prospects are limited. Scarborough Village’s and nearby Galloway Road’s inclusion in the Mayor’s youth crime reduction initiative speak to the need for more work to be done in education and job training for youth.

The average annual income of residents is \$17,216 (Toronto averages \$23,491) and 18.6 percent rely on some form of government transfer – a figure which is double the amount collected by other members of Toronto’s working population. Village residents live mainly in apartments of more than five stories. Some 83 percent live in this type of dwelling (compared with 38 percent in the rest of the city) and 72 percent rent their homes (49 percent of Torontonians do so). Overall, the neighbourhood’s children (ages 5 to 14) and young adults (ages 24 to 44) are the largest demographic cohorts, representing 18 and 31 percent of the population. Fewer neighbourhood residents own cars and more rely on public transit when compared to the rest of the City.