

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance



Geographic Mapping: Housing and Support Locations of Developmental Services Agencies across Toronto and the GTA



About the Project

TDSA reached out to Developmental Services Agencies across Toronto to gather information about the locations and types of housing services and supports they offer within Toronto and beyond. The intention was to be able to identify where Developmental Services agencies have numerous housing and support locations, and where there are areas with minimal agency involvement. This has the potential to aid in helping agencies enhance personalization of services and supports to their clients.

The data collected asked for the locations of where agencies have residential and respite supports, how many individuals are supported and what age group they service. Residential and respite supports were further divided into categories such as level of support (high/low) or whether it is a Supported Independent Living (SIL) location. Residential locations that offered respite beds were also tracked. Furthermore, agencies were asked if they offer and safe beds or specialized treatment beds, and where these are located.

After mapping out the various housing and support locations, the data could then be used to identify where agencies have clustered housing supports, and have the potential to partner together and share resources, or where there are areas that are underserved. Underserved areas may then be monitored for upcoming housing developments and potential partnership opportunities.

ArcGIS is the program that was used to map out the data, which is a geographic information system (GIS) for working with maps and geographic information. It is used for creating and using maps, compiling geographic data, analyzing mapped information, sharing and discovering geographic information, using maps and geographic information in a range of applications, and managing geographic information in a database.

ArcGIS is a program that uses a live map, therefore the photos that were taken and used for this project are only screenshots of the map. The program has zoom features that allow the viewer to hone in on a location and address, which cannot be captured in this report. The photos used in this report provide examples of how information can be manipulated, viewed and utilized through geo-mapping programs.

It is important that this report be reviewed with consideration of the demographic projections done by the TDSA Housing Sub-Committee and the considerations noted in the TDSA Affordable and Supportive Housing Brochure, which can be found on the TDSA website: www.tdsa.ca

By the Numbers

Many Developmental Services agencies across Toronto were given the opportunity to participate in the project. 26 agencies responded to this request, and from these responses 20 agencies provided their data. Some Developmental Services agencies do not provide housing supports to their clients, therefore did not have any data to contribute.

Here is a brief breakdown of the information that was gathered:



The **20 agencies** that provided data on their housing and support locations, provide services to **over 2300 individuals** within Toronto, the GTA and beyond.



402 residential locations were mapped, including **148 high support** living locations, **111 low support** living locations & **158 SIL** locations.



Across the City, **10 specialized treatment beds and 6 safe beds** were mapped.



36 respite locations were mapped, as well as **18 residential locations with respite beds** located at the same site.

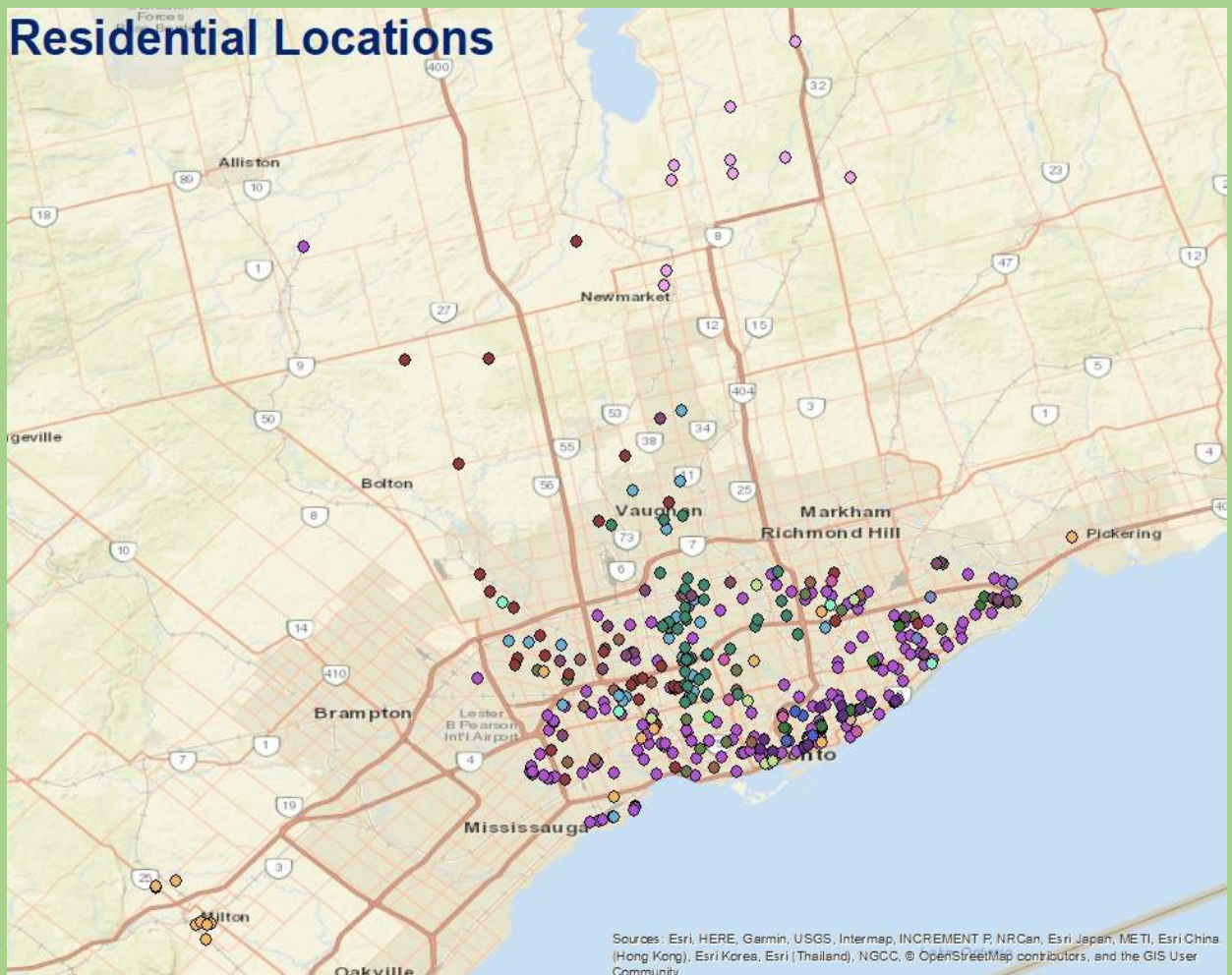
The subsequent pages of the report provide snapshots of data mapped from the participating agencies that are manipulated to provide specific information.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this project is limited to what was gathered from the participating agencies. The terminology used to collect the various types of housing supports (such as high vs low support group living) is also subjective based on the agency's interpretation of the services they provide. Furthermore, not every Developmental Services agency participated in this project, therefore there are likely additional housing supports that are not included in the data. Please keep this in mind when reviewing the material.



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Residential Locations



Agency

- Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf
- CLT
- Christian Horizons
- Cota
- Griffin Centre
- Kerry's Place Autism Services
- L'Arche Toronto
- Mary Centre
- Meta Centre
- Montage Support Services
- New Leaf
- New Visions Toronto
- Operation Springboard
- Participation House Toronto
- Reena
- Safehaven
- Salvation Army Broadview Village
- Surex Community Services
- Vita Community Living Services
- WoodGreen Community Services

Above are the 402 mapped residential locations, with the legend of agencies provided to the left. The snapshot is zoomed out to get an idea of where Developmental Services agencies provide residential support.

Having a visual of this data is helpful in understanding which agencies are currently located in particular communities, and which communities may be lacking support.

As is shown, agencies such as Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf, Vita Community Living Services and New Leaf provide residential support in areas outside of Toronto and the GTA.

Respite Locations

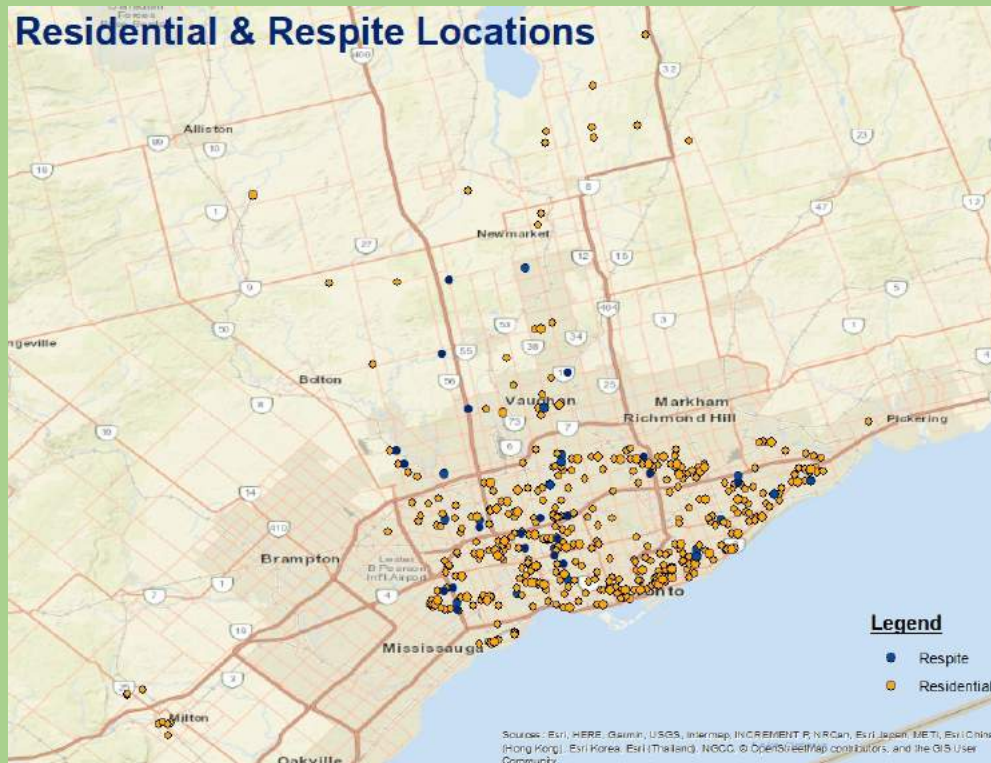


There were less respite locations provided by Developmental Services agencies who participated in the project. These respite locations can be mapped within a smaller radius as they are all located within Toronto and the GTA.

Evidently, there are large gaps where respite services are not provided for individuals with developmental disabilities, particularly in the downtown core and in the east end of the City. This means that families looking for respite services may have to look further away from their homes and have less options compared to residential services.

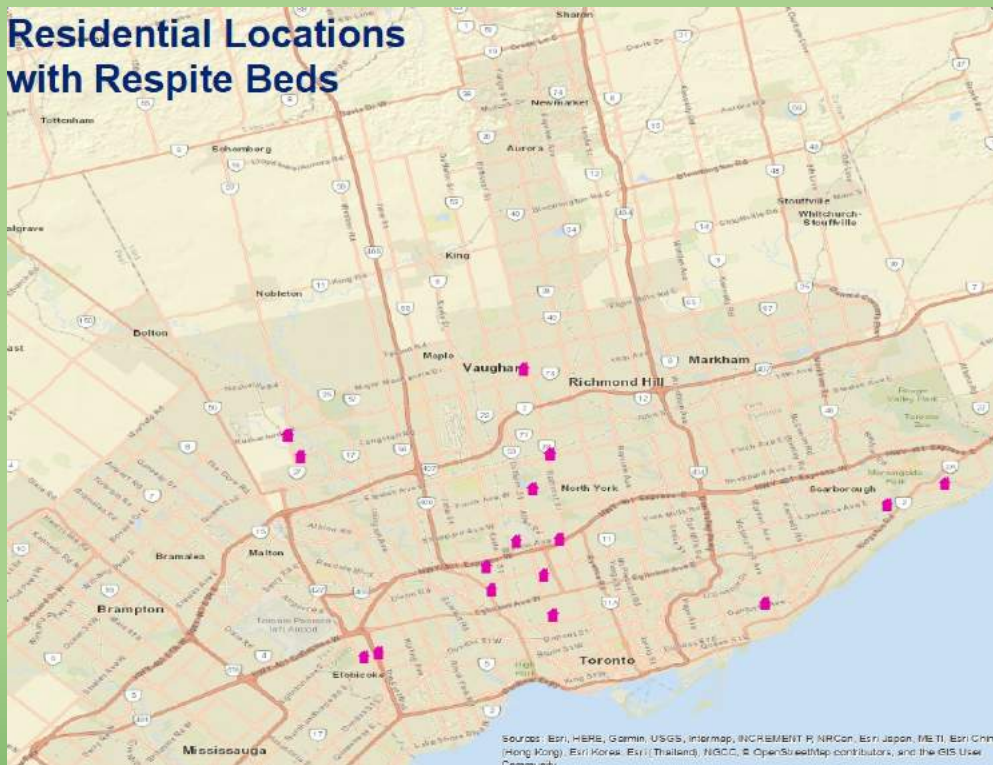
There is also potential for opportunity as agencies looking to expand their respite programs can be strategic around where they choose their locations, based on where other respite beds are located within the City.

Residential & Respite Locations



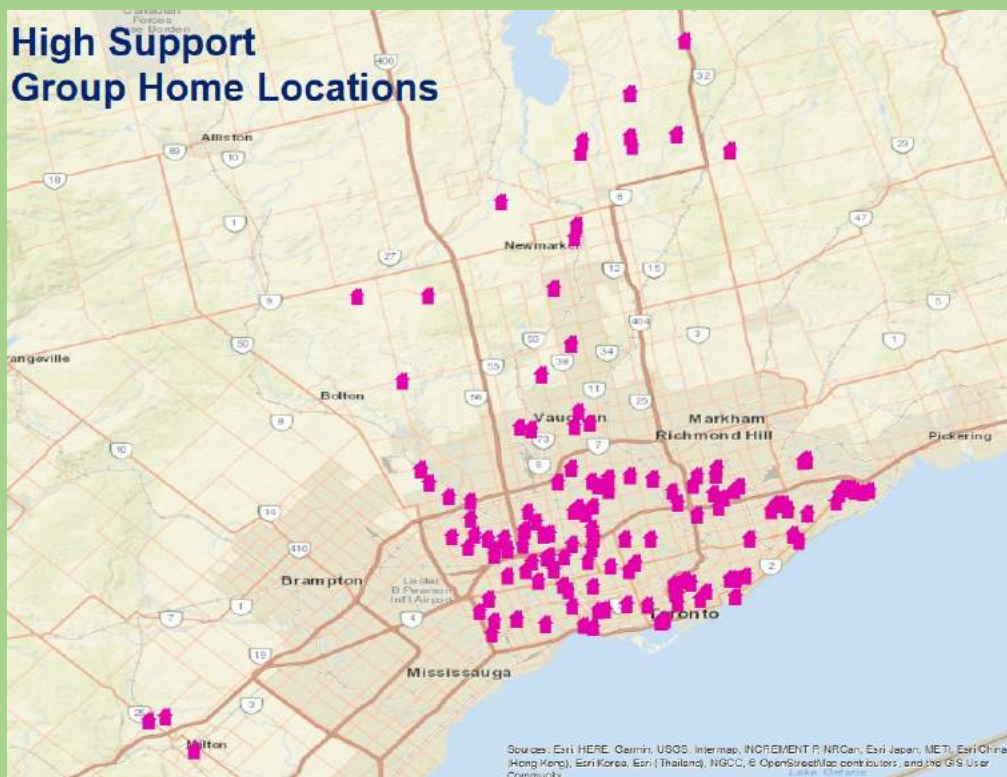
This photo captures both residential and respite locations together.

Residential Locations with Respite Beds

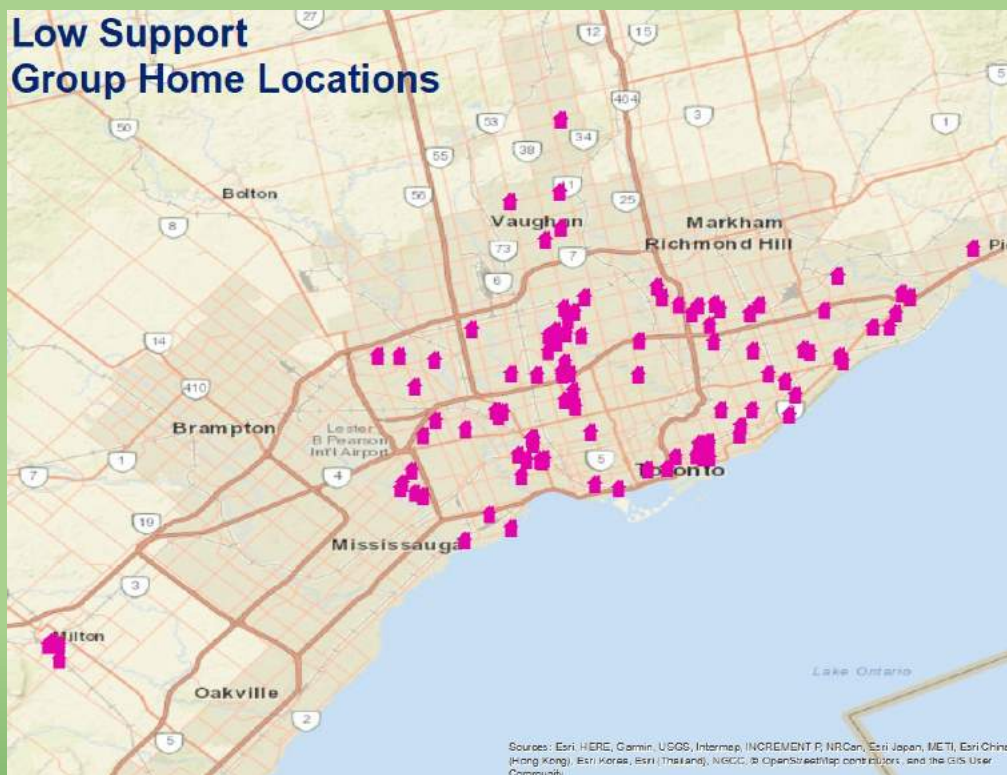


A few Developmental Services agencies have residential locations which also provide a bed for respite.

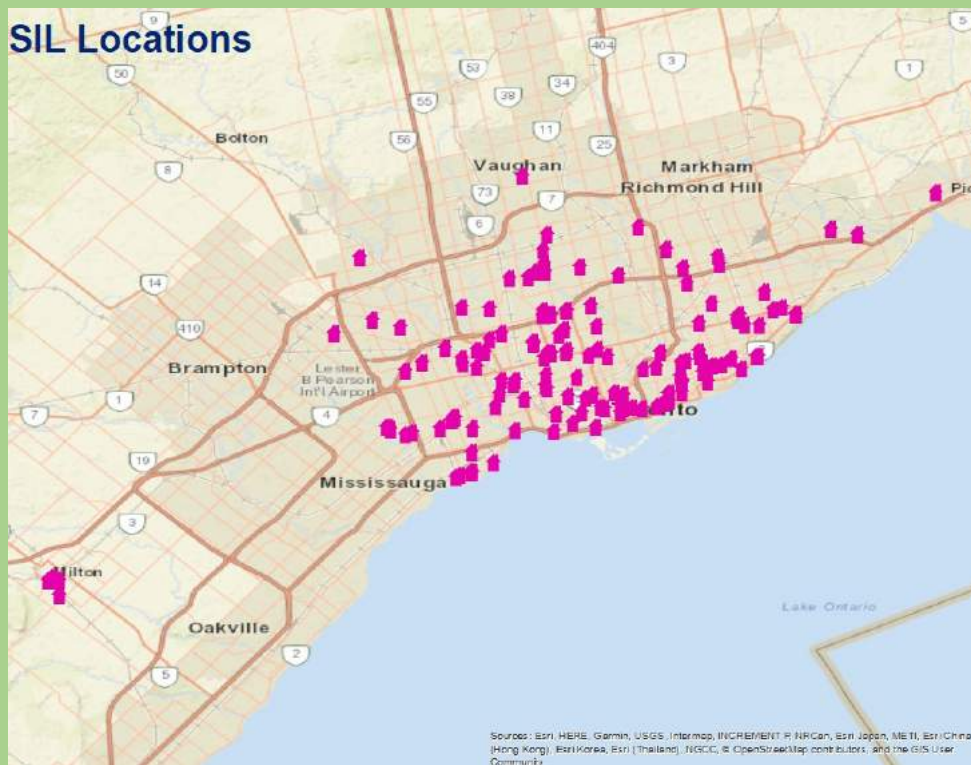
From the residential locations, there are 148 categorized as high support living.



From the residential locations, there are 111 categorized as low support living.

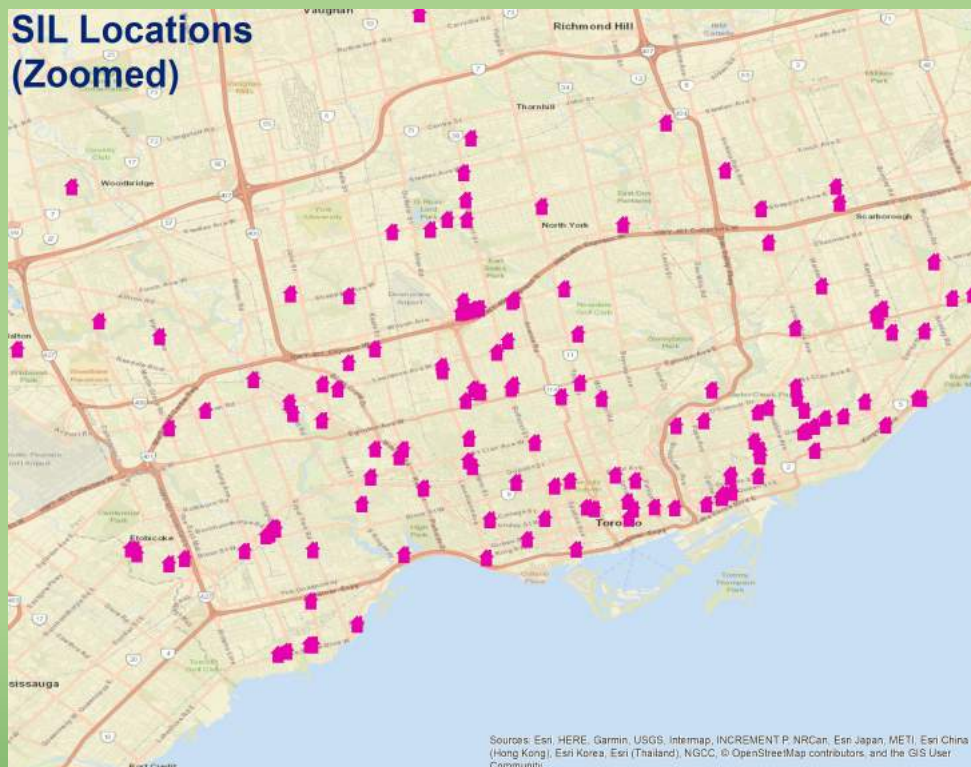


SIL Locations



According to the data, 158 residential locations were categorized as SIL locations, which have been mapped to the left.

SIL Locations (Zoomed)



A closer look at the SIL locations can be viewed when zooming in on the map.



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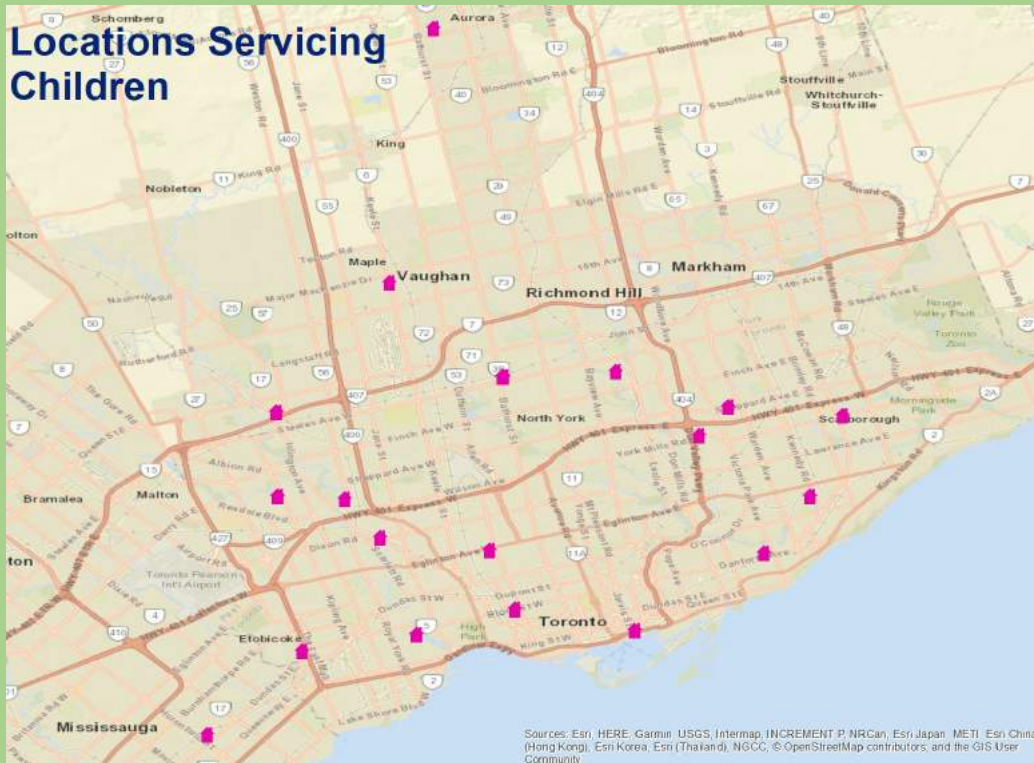
There were only 10 treatment bed locations recorded in the data, and can be viewed by specific agency.



There were even less recorded safe bed locations. According to the data, 5 agencies have 6 safe beds, with 2 located outside of the GTA.



Housing and Supports for Children under 18



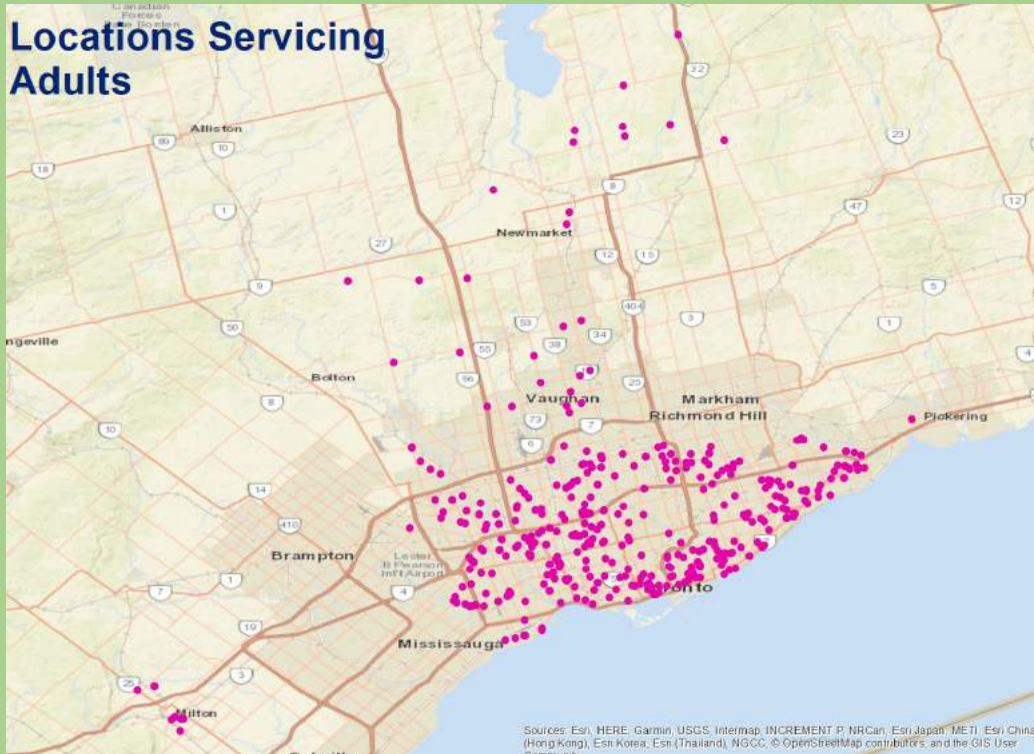
All of the housing and support locations that have been recorded can be further broken down based on the age group they provide services to. Regarding housing and supports for children under 18, there are currently 21 sites providing the following services:

- 5 residential locations
- 14 respite locations
- 3 treatment beds
- 2 crisis/safe beds

The next page provides a closer examination as to where some of these services are located.



Housing and Supports for Adults

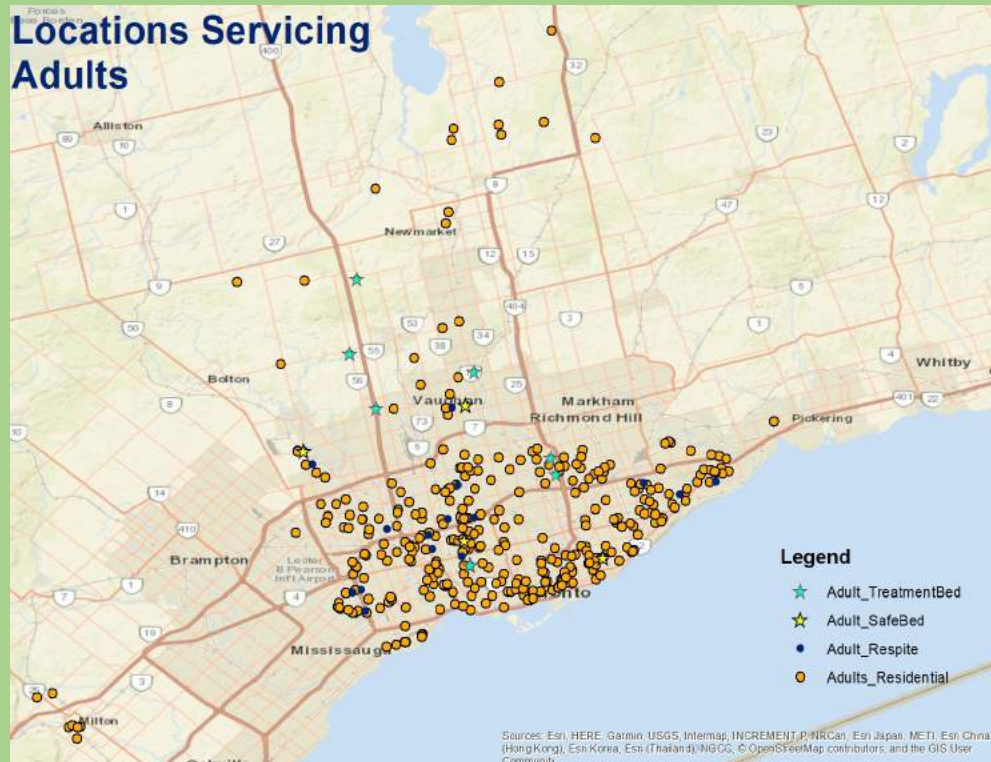


Based on the data, the participating Developmental Services agencies provide the most housing and supports to adults. This speaks to potential deficits in services provided for children as there are significantly less recorded services for that age group. There are 395 mapped locations servicing adults, which can be further broken down into the following:

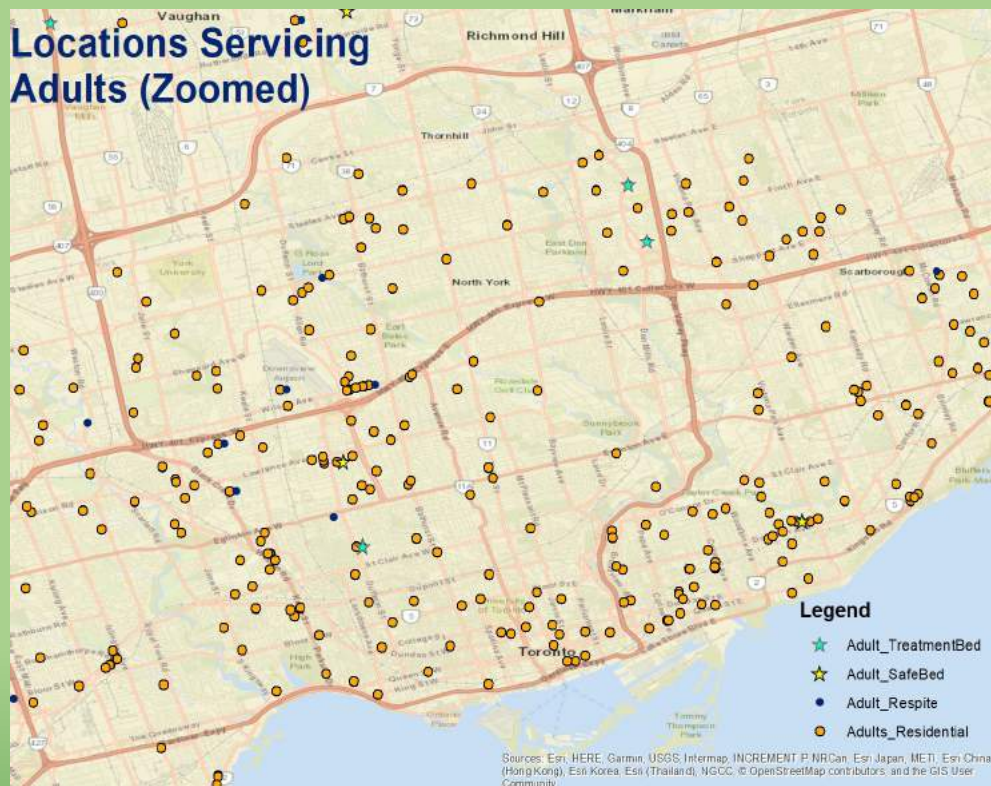
- 371 residential locations
- 27 respite locations
- 7 treatment beds
- 5 crisis/safe beds

The next page provides a closer examination as to where some of these services are located.

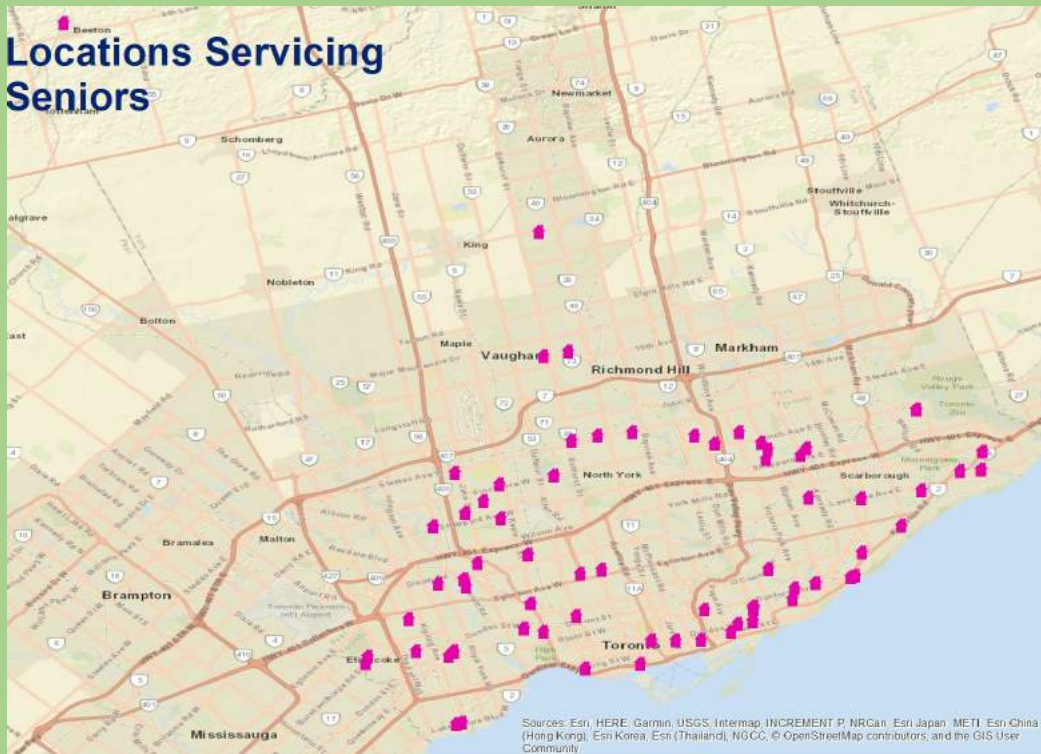
Locations Servicing Adults



Locations Servicing Adults (Zoomed)



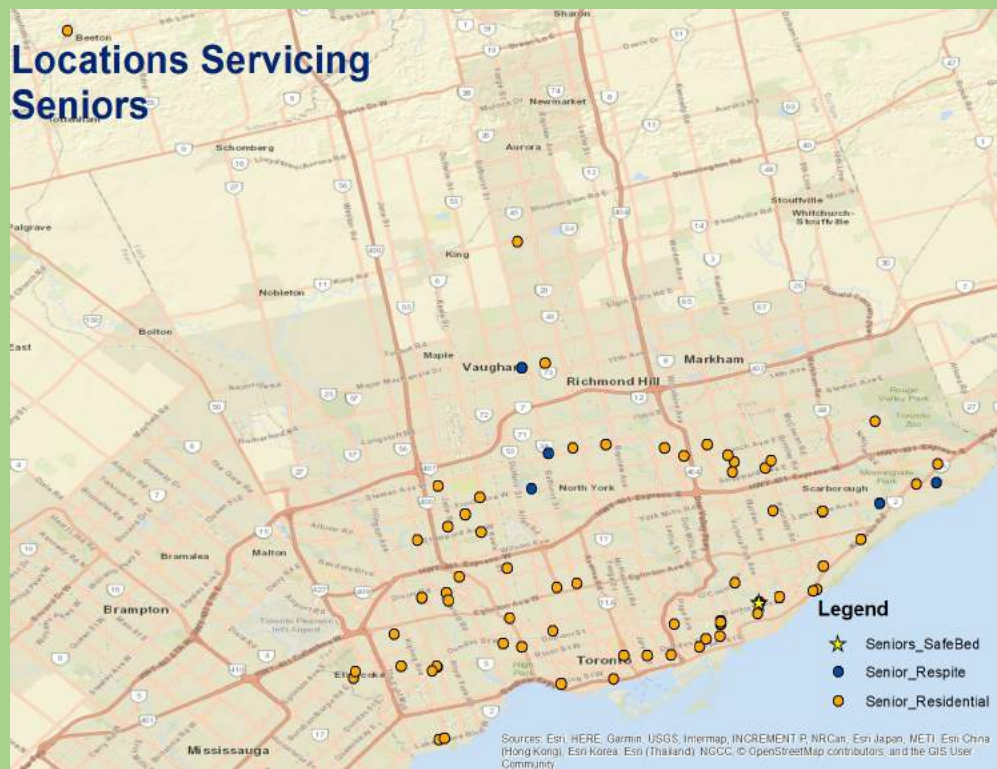
Housing and Supports for Older Adults



Lastly, the participating agencies were asked to provide information on the type and location of services they provide to older adults. Some of these sites may be at the same location as the adult services, as there is often not an age limit. It is interesting to note the limited treatment beds and crisis beds available for older adults. Overall, there are 72 mapped locations servicing older adults, which can be further broken down into the following:

- 69 residential locations
- 6 respite locations
- 0 treatment beds
- 1 crisis/safe bed

The next page provides a closer examination as to where some of these services are located.



Taking a Closer Look at the Data

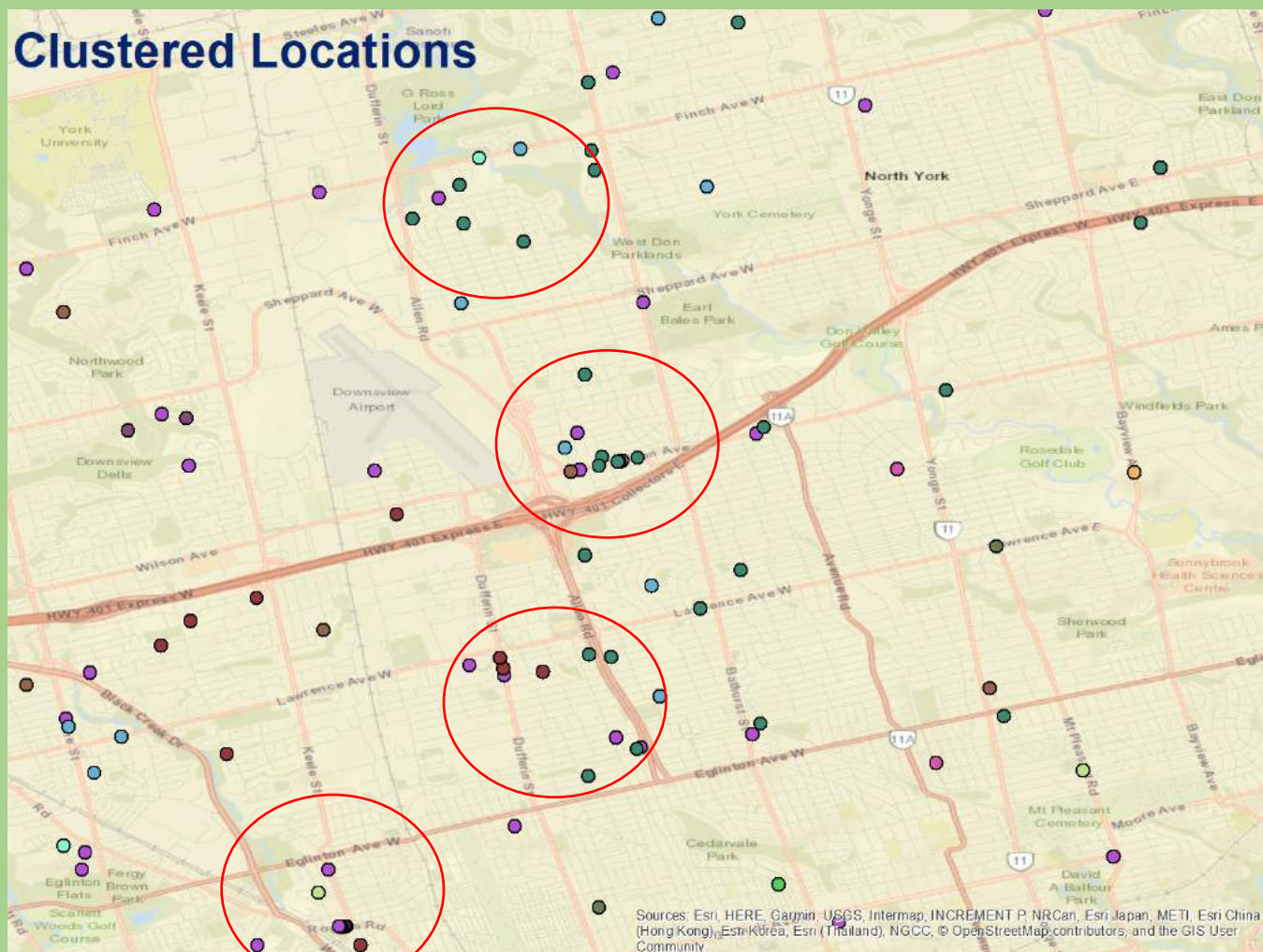
The following pages portray ways agencies can benefit from geographic mapping. The data provided is able to be manipulated in various methods to access information and provide a visual of strengths and weaknesses in regards to housing and supports for individuals with a developmental disability.

While there are numerous ways the data for this project can be viewed, the following pages portray housing and supports locations that are clustered together, where there are gaps, how to access future housing developments and features the ArcGIS program provides.



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Clustered Locations



Agency

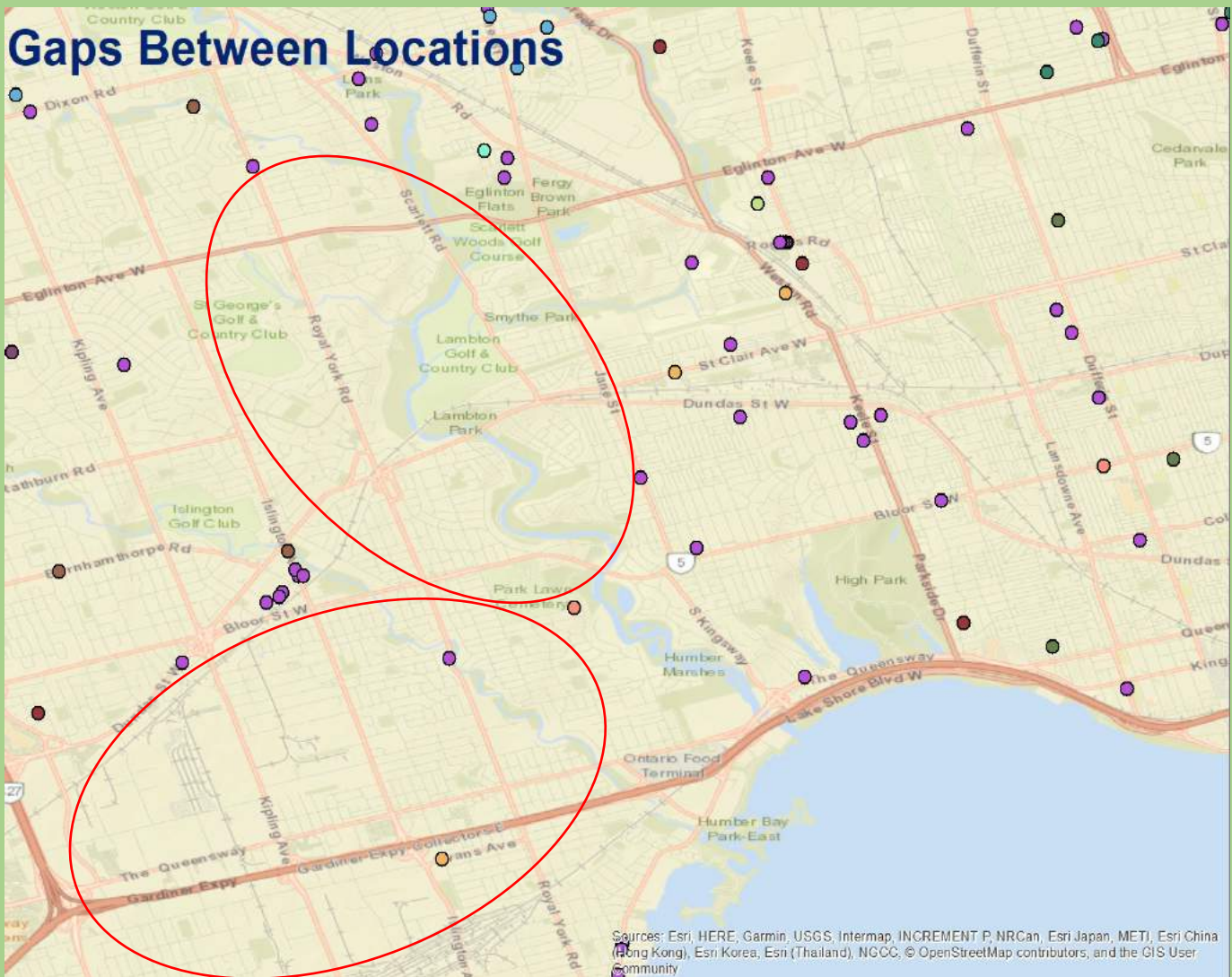
- Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf
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- Vita Community Living Services
- WoodGreen Community Services

The above photo is an example of clustered locations where 2 or more agencies have housing or supports located close to one another. These can be identified as areas of strength for Developmental Services as they are pockets within the City that are better resourced compared to other areas.

When agencies are aware of other similar service providers located close by, there is potential to connect and share resources. Agencies may then be able to share supports or create further opportunities for the clients they serve to thrive within their communities.

For example, if one agency is providing a workshop or hosting an event for the clients they serve in a particular location, the invitation could be extended to others who may also live nearby.

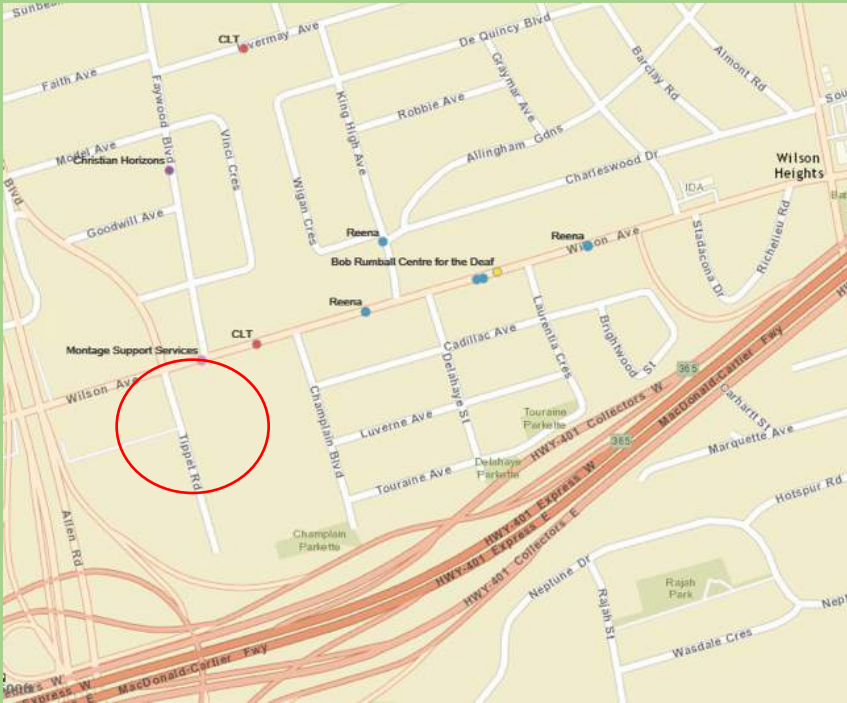
Gaps Between Locations



Once the data of all of the housing and supports locations are mapped, it is easier to view sections across the City where there are areas with little to no services involved. The picture above is just one snapshot showing where there are gaps within the City as there are no agencies connected to housing in the areas circled.

This information may be useful for agencies to be aware of when considering locations for future housing options. It is also helpful to know if families are looking to connect to agencies who reside in these areas, where the closest agency is located.

Assessing Future Housing Developments



For agencies interested in accessing units for their clients within the City, it is important to stay on top of areas where major developments are being planned. Partnerships need to be created with developers to help gain access to units in new builds.

Furthermore, it is useful to know if there are agencies already nearby the sites of future developments. For example, the picture on the top left shows a site where an apartment is being built, with 5 Developmental Services agencies already located within that area. This creates the potential to partner with one another to work at gaining access to more housing units for people with developmental disabilities.



In contrast, the picture on the bottom left shows a site of a future development with only 1 agency having a nearby location. This speaks to the importance of needing to put more Developmental Services resources in this area as it is currently lacking support.



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The ArcGIS program has a feature that has saved locations of particular types of services. For example, youth recreational spaces and public libraries are mapped in the photos on the right.

Taking the data provided from the Developmental Services agencies, it is possible to see which housing and supports locations are nearby to these types of services.

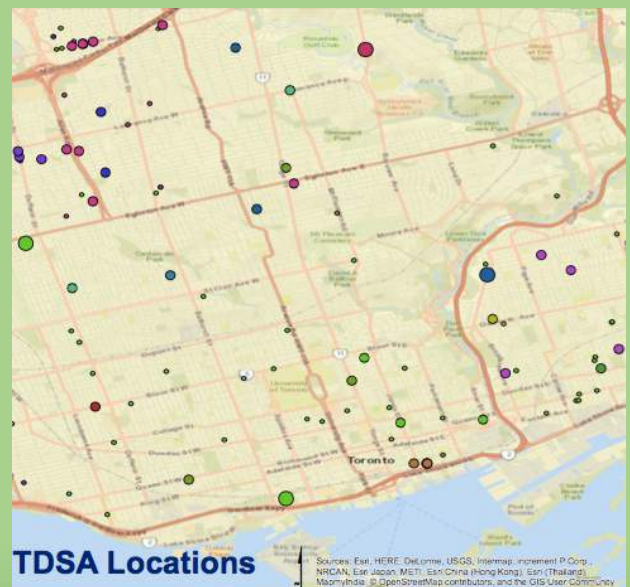
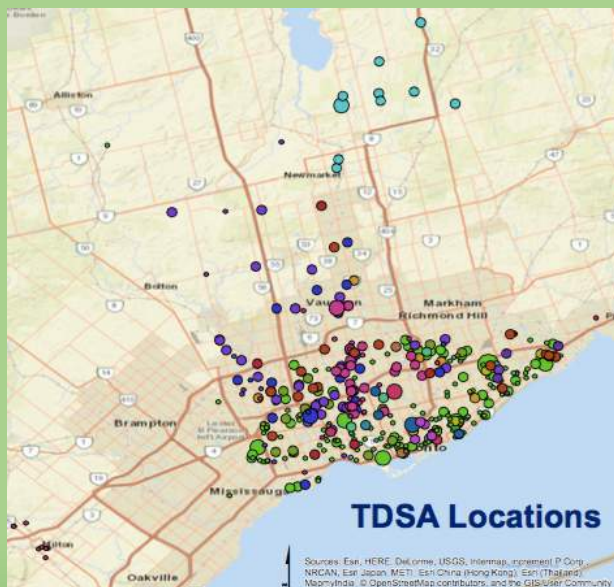
Developmental Services agencies may consider partnering with local libraries or youth recreational spaces to run programs or events open to the broader public.



Future Possibilities

Evidently, the basic data that has been collected for this project is able to be manipulated in various ways that provide rich insight into the potential of geographic mapping. This project contributes examples of how agencies can use data to inform them in accessing housing and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Digging deeper into this potential, geographic mapping could be utilized in partnership with Developmental Services Ontario or the Ministry of Community and Social Services to add layers of data which could include data on applicants seeking residential services and their geographic locations, or recipients of Passport and those who are on the waitlist based on geography. There are numerous opportunities depending on what data and resources are able to be collected.



Conclusion

The purpose of this project was to identify where Developmental Services agencies have a lot of housing and supports and where there are areas that are lacking. This geographic mapping project provided insight into the opportunities Developmental Services agencies can access if they share information on their housing resources.

Mapping the data allowed agencies to see where their housing and support services were located amongst other Toronto Developmental Services agencies. Though this project used data from only 20 Developmental Services agencies, it provided an example of the potential geographic information systems can have within the sector.

Finally, the information shared in this report can be applied to Developmental Services agencies across the province and beyond. It is only a stepping stone to endless possibilities of using geographic information systems to benefit the Developmental Services population.



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