

COVID-19 Infection and Links with Ethno-Culturally Diverse Areas in Simcoe Muskoka

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

June 15, 2020

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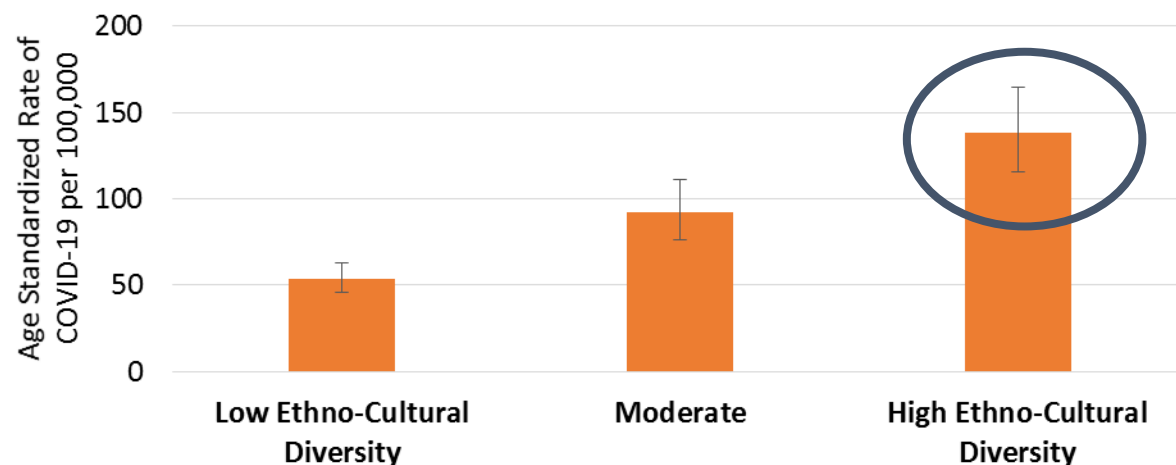
What's Happening in Simcoe Muskoka?

- COVID-19 infection rates are higher in people who live in areas with **higher levels of ethno-cultural diversity**.
- This means we're seeing more cases in areas with:
 - More visible minorities
 - More recent immigrants
- This **aligns with** analysis of data from **other areas in Ontario**, for the **province** as a whole, and **internationally**.



Ethno-Cultural Diversity

Higher rate of COVID-19 among people living in areas with higher levels of ethno-cultural diversity



- *Ethno-cultural diversity describes the proportion of the population that are **recent immigrants** and/or members of a **visible minority** group.*
- Areas with high levels of ethno-cultural diversity have a high concentration of visible minorities and recent immigrants.

What is SMDHU doing with this information?



- **Engaging with ethno-culturally diverse populations** regarding data collection, reporting and next steps.
- **Collecting** voluntary sociodemographic data from COVID-19 cases, including race.
- **Exploring** how this can inform SMDHU's health equity work for the COVID-19 response and as part of the agency's ongoing work to address social and structural determinants of health.



What is SMDHU doing with this information?

- **Targeting messaging** for at-risk groups.
- **Sharing** this analysis with **key partners** and **municipalities** to support local decision making and action.
- **Continuing to monitor trends** in COVID-19 infection in our area to identify at-risk groups.
 - Planning for future analysis of individual-level information about race and other sociodemographic factors.
 - Ongoing analysis of COVID-19 trends by the SMDHU Population Health Assessment, Surveillance and Evaluation team.



How does this fit with other SMDHU COVID-19 analyses?

- Other SMDHU research shows a **higher rate** of COVID-19 infection among persons living in areas that are [moderately-resourced and well-resourced](#).
 - This analysis uses the same methods to explore **different sociodemographic measures**.
- The analysis of ethno-cultural diversity, alongside the marginalization analysis, gives us a broader understanding of how local socio-demographic factors may influence COVID-19.

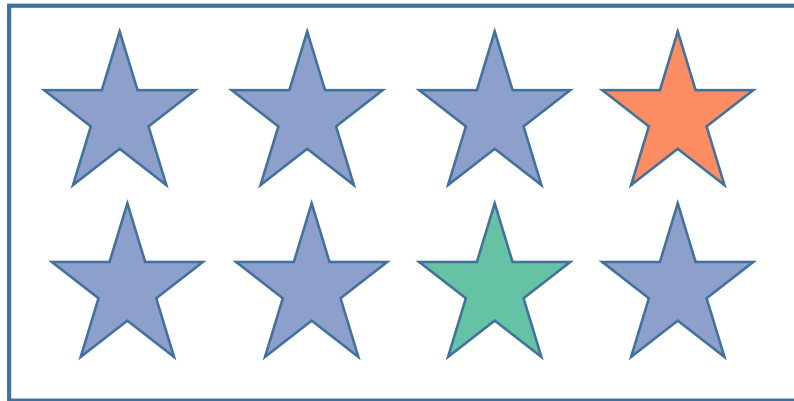
How did we analyze this?

- Map each local COVID-19 case based on address at time of illness or primary residence.
 - Exclude cases associated with institutional outbreaks (residents of long-term care and retirement homes).
- Assign cases to quintiles for the “**Ethnic Concentration**” dimension of the [Ontario Marginalization Index](#) (ON-Marg) based on [Dissemination Areas](#) (DA) from 2016 census.
- Combine quintiles into 3 categories: Low, Moderate and High.
- Calculate age standardized rate for each category.



Understanding the Results: Area-Based, not Individual-Based

- This analysis uses **area-based** measures of marginalization.
- This describes the **areas in which people live**, but **may not reflect the experience of all individuals** living in those areas.



Stars in the area (box) are **mostly blue**, but **orange** and **green** are still part of the group.

Note: This analysis was completed **before** SMDHU began collecting socio-demographic information from COVID-19 cases.

Data Sources

- **COVID-19 Cases:** Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), extracted by SMDHU on June 10, 2020.
- **Marginalization:** Public Health Ontario (2018). 2016 [Ontario Marginalization Index](#) (ON-Marg).
- **Population:** 2016 Census Population from Statistics Canada.

SMDHU Resources

- [COVID-19 Infection and Links with Ethno-Culturally Diverse Areas in Simcoe Muskoka](#)
- [COVID-19 Infection and Marginalization in Simcoe Muskoka](#)

- [Simcoe Muskoka HealthSTATS COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Explorer](#)
- [Simcoe Muskoka HealthMAPS:](#)
 - [Population and Demographics Dashboard](#)



To Learn More

- Public Health Ontario
 - [What We Know So Far About... Social Determinants of Health](#)
 - [COVID-19 in Ontario – A Focus on Diversity](#)
 - [COVID-19 in Ontario – A Focus on Material Deprivation](#)
 - [Ontario Marginalization Index \(ON-Marg\)](#)
- Toronto Public Health:
 - [COVID-19 and the Social Determinants of Health: What Do We Know?](#)
- ICES:
 - [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
 - [Patterns of Testing and Characteristics of Individuals Tested Report](#)
- #How'sMyFlattening: [Ontario-specific COVID-19 Analysis](#)

