

October 25, 2012

2011 Census: Language

The 2011 Census Day was May 9, 2011. Today, Statistics Canada released its fourth set of data from this Census on the language characteristics of Canadians.

The population of Toronto in 2011 was 2,615,060, an increase of 4.5% since 2006. The data are not adjusted for undercoverage. For a definition of the concepts and definitions used in this backgrounder, please refer to page 13.

Mother Tongue

- Toronto continues to be a mosaic of languages. According to the 2011 Census, 45% of Toronto residents had a mother tongue other than English or French. This represents a slight 2-percent decrease from the 2006 figure of 47% (see methodological note on comparability on page 13).
- The City of Toronto, York Region, and Peel Region are the most linguistically diverse areas in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Statistics Canada has identified about 160 mother tongues in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area. This is a conservative estimate given the exclusion of some languages and dialects that are suppressed due to sampling purposes.
- Just over one half of all Toronto residents (51%) reported English as their mother tongue.

Languages Spoken Regularly at Home (Home Language)

- 28% of people in Toronto regularly spoke a language other than English or French at home (down from the 2006 figure of 31%), compared to 19% in the rest of the GTA/H.
- 182,550 (7%) Toronto residents reported regularly speaking multiple languages at home, up from 4% in 2006.
- It is interesting to note that there are transformations happening within certain language families. For example:
 - People who speak Chinese languages regularly at home, including Cantonese, Mandarin and other dialects, make up 7% of Toronto's population. Among those who speak a Chinese language, 37% speak Cantonese, while 28% speak Mandarin.
 - Mandarin as a home language has increased by 32% since 2006, while Cantonese has decreased by 11%
 - Indo-Aryan home languages, including Urdu, Gujarati, Bengali, Panjabi (Punjabi), Hindi, Sinhala (Sinhalese), Sindhi, and other languages, collectively make up 4%

of the total population of Toronto. 29% report Urdu as their home language, while around 20% each identify Gujarati and Bengali as their home language.

- The number of people who speak Bengali regularly at home has increased by 22% since 2006, while the number of people identifying Urdu, Gujarati, Panjabi, Sinhala, or Sindhi as a home language has decreased.
- Chinese languages, Tamil, Spanish, Tagalog, and Italian were the top non-English languages spoken at home.
 - The top non-English home languages for seniors 65 and over were Chinese languages, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, and Tamil.
 - The top non-English home languages for those under 35 were Chinese languages, Tamil, Spanish, Urdu, and Persian (Farsi).
- Of the top-15 non-English home languages in Toronto, Mandarin is the fastest growing, increasing by 32% since 2006. The number of Bengali, Persian, Tagalog, and Spanish speakers is also increasing.
- 5% of Torontonians had no knowledge of either official language, the same percentage as in 2006.

Top-15 Home Languages in the City of Toronto (Excluding English and Multiple Languages)

	Persons	% of Toronto	Rank in 2006	Change since 2006
1. Cantonese	67,210	2.8	2	-11%
2. Other Chinese dialects*	64,075	2.7	1	-24%
3. Mandarin	50,430	2.1	6	+32%
4. Tamil	48,680	2.0	3	-4%
5. Spanish	45,330	1.9	5	+3%
6. Tagalog	37,195	1.5	8	+10%
7. Italian	35,025	1.5	4	-21%
8. Portuguese	34,580	1.4	7	-9%
9. Persian (Farsi)	30,595	1.3	11	+11%
10. Russian	26,935	1.1	10	-4%
11. Urdu	26,590	1.1	9	-14%
12. Korean	23,380	1.0	12	-2%
13. Gujarati	19,255	0.8	13	-13%
14. Bengali	17,820	0.7	19	+22%
15. Vietnamese	17,680	0.7	14	-16%

* "Other Chinese dialects" include Hakka, Fukien, Shanghainese, Taiwanese, dialects not otherwise specified, as well as responses of "Chinese" that do not specify a dialect.

**Top-5 Home Languages in Greater Toronto & Hamilton Region
(Excluding English and Multiple Languages)**

Durham Region

	Persons
1. French	3,745
2. Urdu	3,155
3. Persian (Farsi)	2,240
4. Tamil	2,200
5. Spanish	1,995

York Region

	Persons
1. Cantonese	58,370
2. Other Chinese	35,380
3. Russian	23,480
4. Mandarin	20,570
5. Persian (Farsi)	19,720

Peel Region

	Persons
1. Panjabi (Punjabi)	86,185
2. Urdu	31,710
3. Polish	20,455
4. Spanish	15,920
5. Tamil	14,395

Halton Region

	Persons
1. Spanish	4,650
2. Urdu	3,740
3. Polish	3,720
4. French	3,420
5. Panjabi (Punjabi)	3,115

Hamilton Region

	Persons
1. Italian	6,090
2. Spanish	4,335
3. Arabic	3,970
4. Other Chinese	3,550
5. Portuguese	3,410

Figures:

- Mother tongue (pages 5-8)
- Home language (pages 9-12)

Maps:

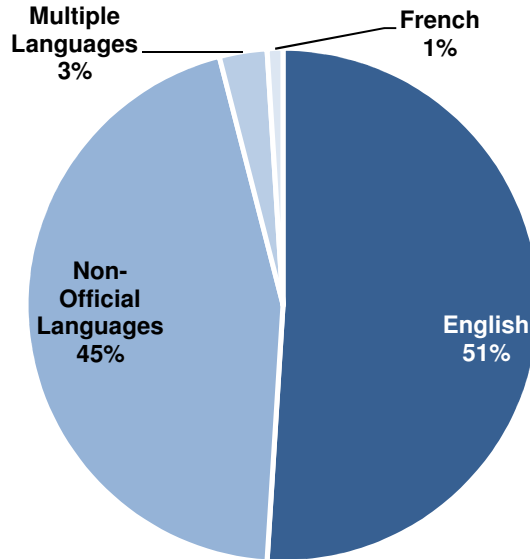
- Top-5 non-official home languages
- Linguistic diversity of Toronto CMA
- Distribution of people with no knowledge of either official language



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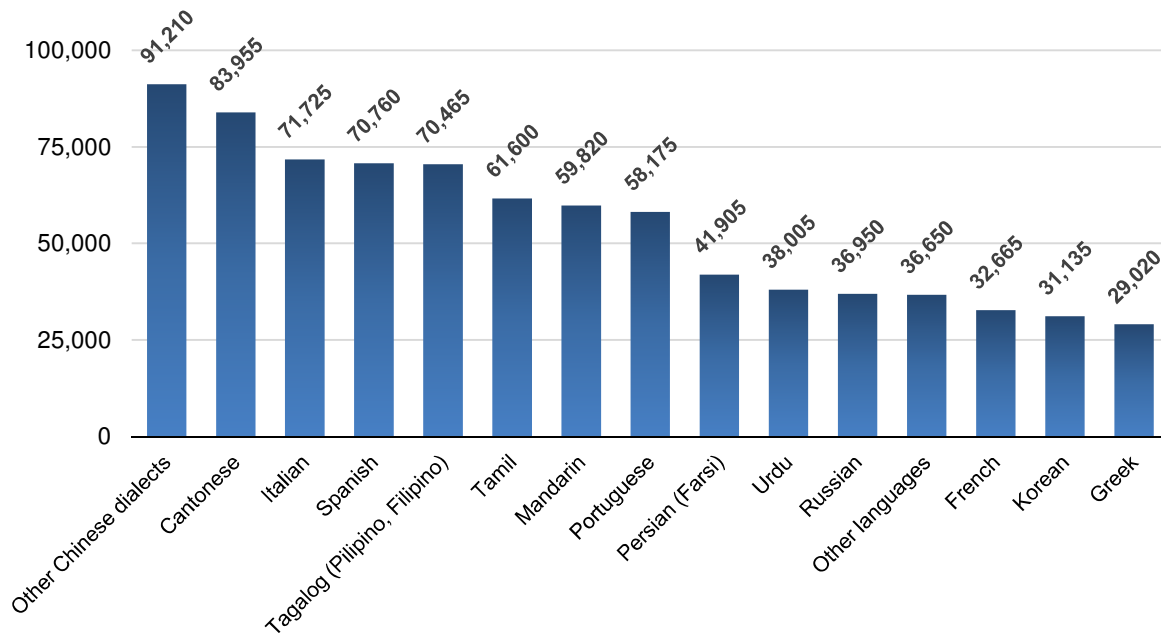
Mother tongue

City of Toronto / 2011 Census

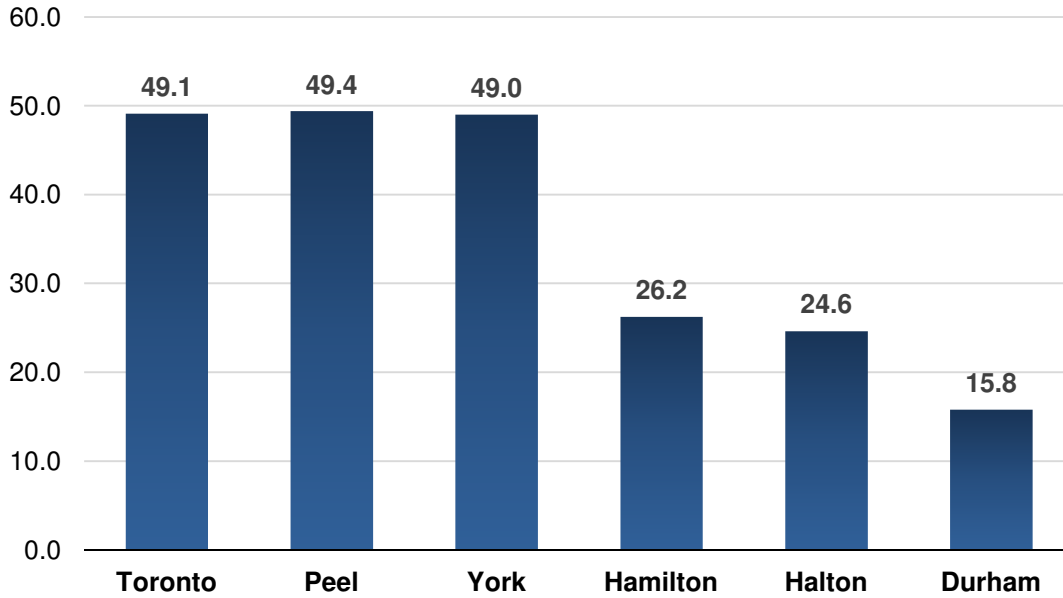


Top-15 non-English mother tongues

City of Toronto / 2011 Census

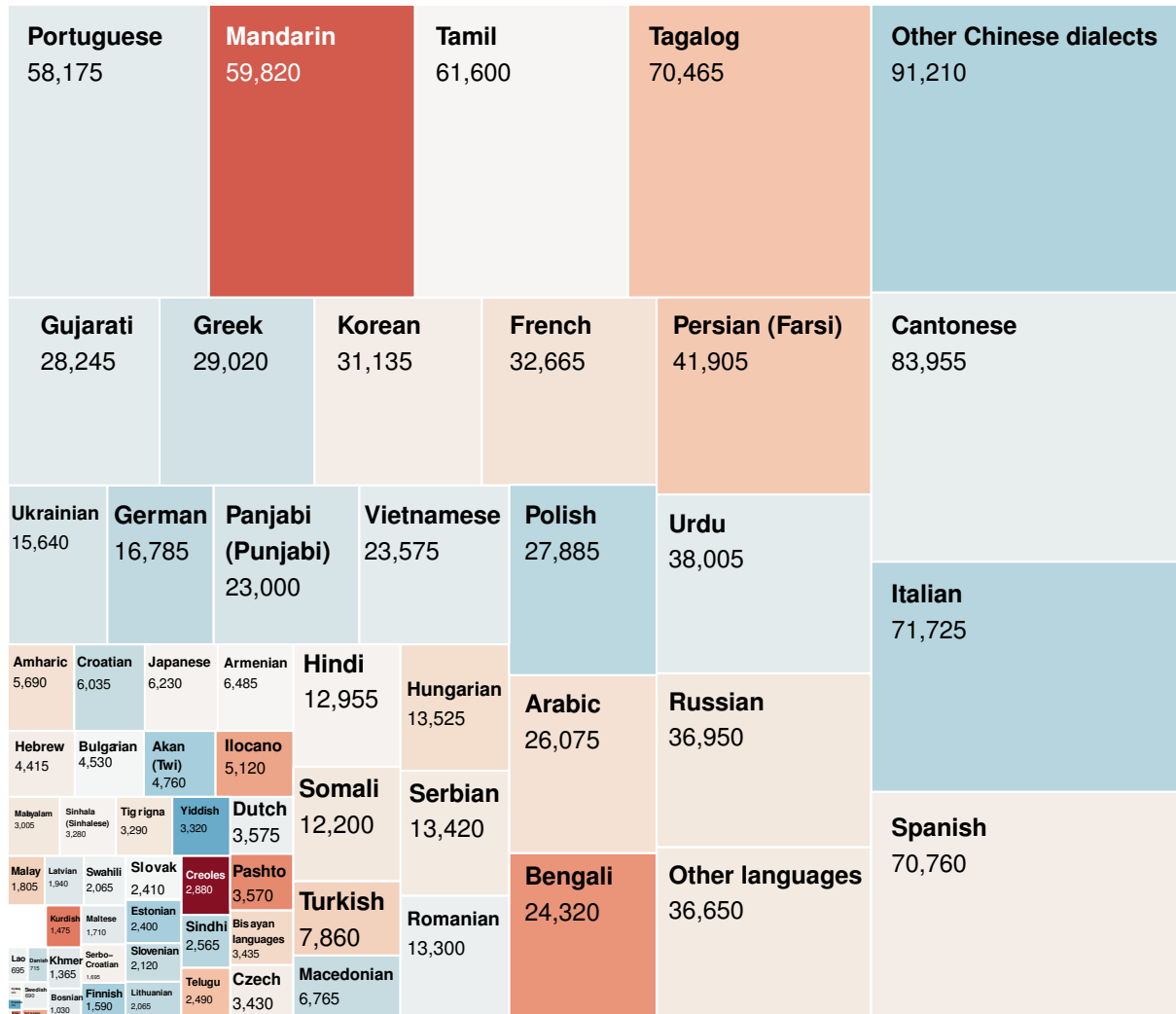


Percentage of people with a non-English mother tongue
Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area / 2011 Census



Toronto's language mosaic

Number of people with non-English mother tongues in 2011



Note: The data for this graphic is summarized on page 8.

Change since 2006



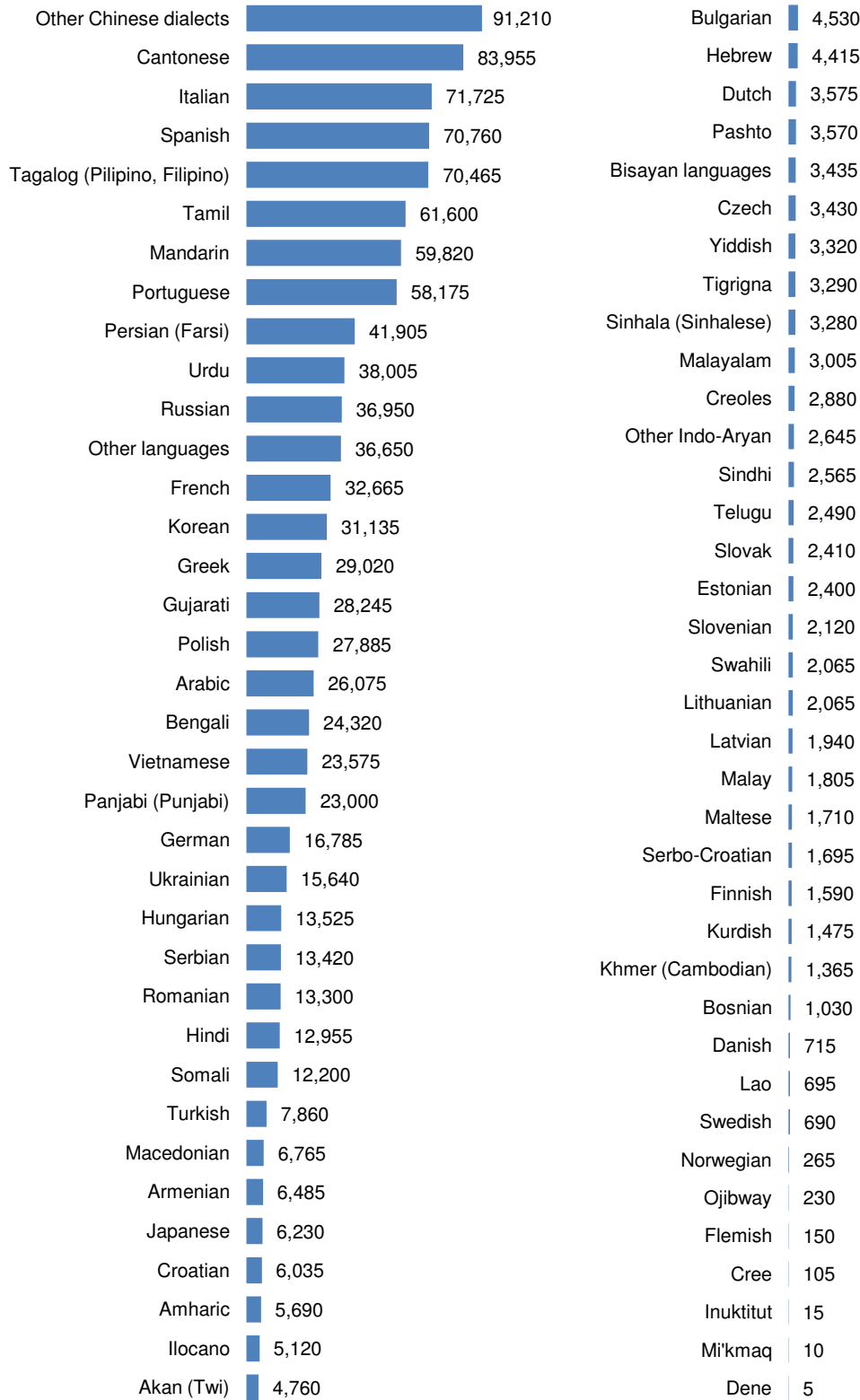
Mother Tongue

Although the majority of Torontonians speak English on a regular basis, many learned other languages when growing up. This treemap illustrates the mosaic of languages that can be spoken by the Toronto's residents.

Each box represents the amount of people in the City of Toronto with a particular mother tongue. The colour of the box represents the percentage change since the 2006 Census.

For example, there are many people in Toronto with Italian as a mother tongue, but that number is actually decreasing over time. Conversely, the number of people with Bengali as a mother tongue is smaller. However, that number has grown in the last five years.

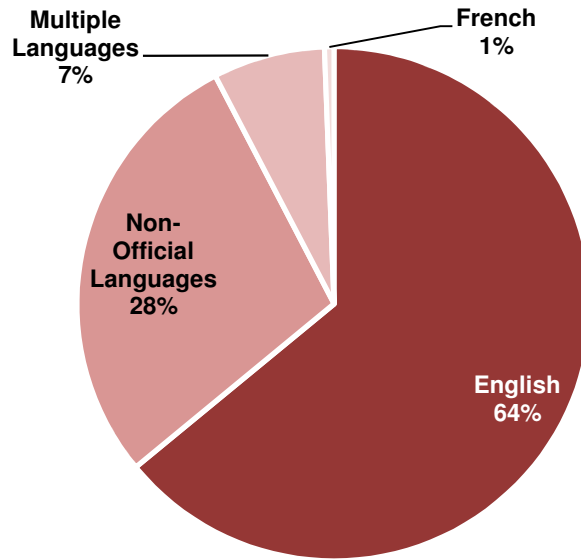
Toronto Mother Tongues



Note:
 "Other Chinese dialects" refers to dialects other than Mandarin or Cantonese, as well as those who only indicate "Chinese".

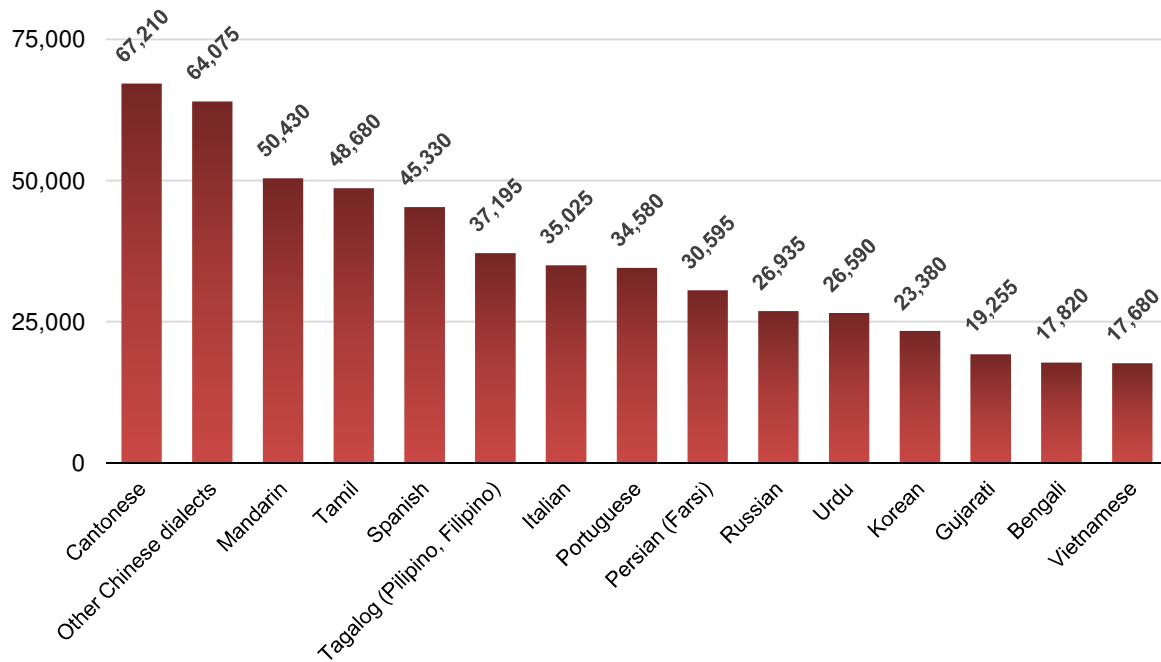
Language spoken at home

City of Toronto / 2011 Census



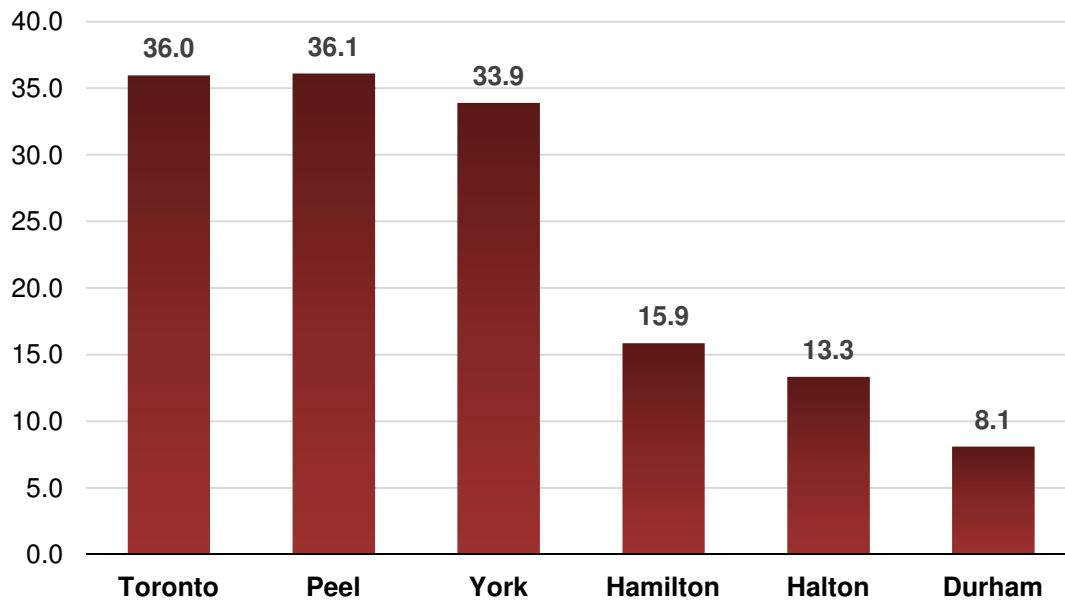
Top-15 non-English home languages

City of Toronto / 2011 Census



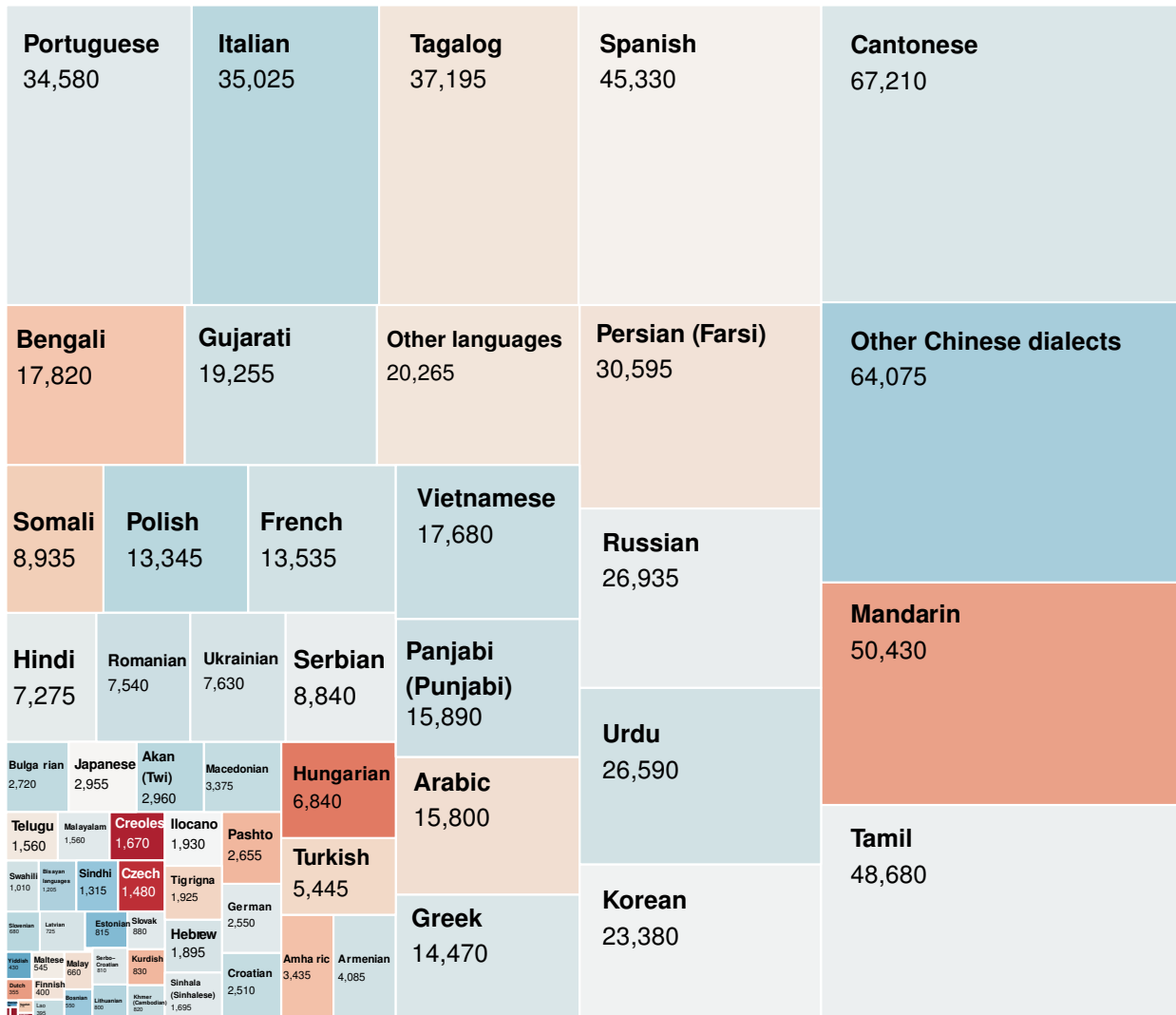
Percent of people with a non-English home language

Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area / 2011 Census



Home languages in Toronto

Number of people who speak a language other than English regularly at home in 2011



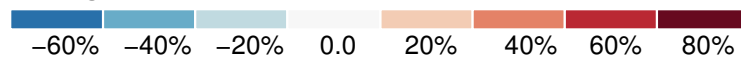
Note: The data for this graphic is summarized on page 12.

Home Language

Many Toronto residents do not speak English on a regular basis at home.

This treemap illustrates the diverse range of languages that Torontonians are comfortable speaking.

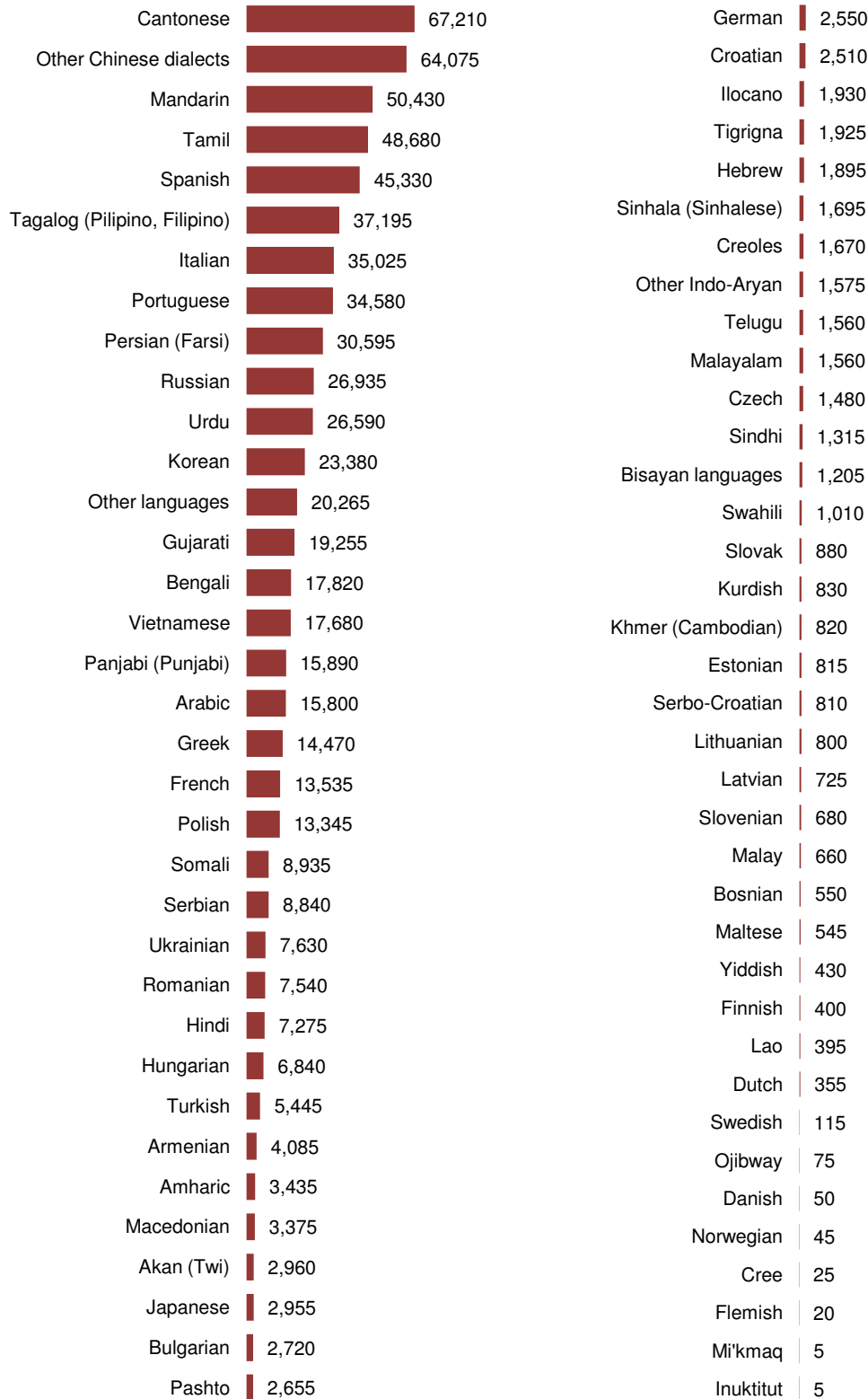
Change since 2006



Each box represents the amount of people in the City of Toronto with a particular home language. The colour of the box represents the percentage change since the 2006 Census.

For example, there are fewer people who speak Tagalog regularly at home than than Cantonese. But the number of people speaking Tagalog at home has increased, while the number of Cantonese speakers has decreased.

Toronto Home Languages



Note:
 "Other Chinese dialects" refers to dialects other than Mandarin or Cantonese, as well as those who only indicate "Chinese".

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:**Mother tongue:**

First language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census.

Home language:

Language spoken most often at home or on a regular basis at home.

Knowledge of official languages:

Ability to conduct a conversation in English or French.

Other Chinese dialects:

Dialects other than Cantonese or Mandarin (e.g. Hakka, Fukien, Taiwanese, and Shanghainese) as well as anyone responding "Chinese" without specifying a specific dialect ("Chinese n.o.s").

Other languages:

Languages not otherwise specified. For comparability purposes, languages included in the 2011 Census but not included in the 2006 Census, and vice versa, are also categorized as "other languages".

Linguistic diversity:

The probability that any two people selected at random would have different mother tongues. Calculated using Greenberg's Linguistic Diversity Index.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**What is meant by the term "undercoverage"?**

Statistics Canada's numbers upon release and as reported above do not account for undercoverage. Although Statistics Canada makes a great effort to count every person, in each Census a notable number of people are left out for a variety of reasons. For example, people may be traveling, some dwellings are hard to find, and some people simply refuse to participate. While Statistics Canada takes this into account and estimates an 'undercoverage' rate for the urban region (CMA) every Census, it does not estimate undercoverage for the City. However, based on the *Annual Demographic Estimates*, Cat. No. 91-214-XWE released March 7, 2012, the implied net undercoverage rate for the City of Toronto in 2011 is estimated to be 4.69%.

Net undercoverage also varies by age and sex and is highest for those between 15 and 44 years of age. In 2006, net undercoverage peaked at 9.91% for males and 6.08% for females 24-34 years of age, per the *2006 Census Technical Report: Coverage*, Cat. No. 92-567-X, released March 2010.

How do the changes in the 2011 Census methodology affect this release?

There have been changes in the way information has been collected for portions of the 2011 Census. This will impact the extent to which comparisons can be made with previous Census

periods on some Census variables. Questions on language that previously appeared in the long-form Census were, for the first time, included in the 2011 'short-form' Census.

Statistics Canada reports that there have been changes in response patterns to both the mother tongue and home language questions. Canadians may have been less inclined to report a non-official language mother tongue. They may have also been more likely to report multiple mother tongues and home languages. Statistics Canada plans to release a report in the future analyzing the comparability of language data.

Has the City of Toronto completed backgrounders on any other 2011 Census data?

The City of Toronto will be preparing Backgrounders coinciding with each release of data from the 2011 Census and the National Household Survey. The backgrounders will be available on the City's web site at www.toronto.ca/demographics.

The 2011 Census release schedule is as follows:

- Population and Dwellings – February 8, 2012 (Backgrounder: <http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/2011-census-backgrounder.pdf>)
- Age and Sex – May 29, 2012 (Backgrounder: http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/censusbackgrounder_ageandsex_2011.pdf)
- Families, Households and Marital Status – September 19, 2012 (Backgrounder: http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/censusbackgrounder_hhds_2011.pdf)
- Structural Type of Dwelling and Collectives – September 19, 2012 (Backgrounder: http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/censusbackgrounder_hhds_2011.pdf)
- Language – October 24, 2012

The results of the new voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) will be released in 2013:

- Immigration, Citizenship, Language, Ethnic Origin, Visible Minorities, Religion, Aboriginal Peoples – May 8, 2013
- Labour, Education, Place of Work, Commuting, Mobility, Migration, Language of Work – June 26, 2013
- Income, Earnings, Housing and Shelter Costs – August 14, 2013

When are the City's Ward Profiles and Neighbourhood Profiles being released?

The Ward Profiles are based on a series of custom tabulations from what are now the Census and the NHS. City Planning staff will update the Ward Profiles when they can obtain the necessary custom tabulations from Statistics Canada based on 2011 data from both Surveys, beginning in late 2013. The current Ward Profiles can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/wards/jsp/wards.jsp>

The Neighbourhood Profiles will be released through the Social Development Finance & Administration Division a few weeks after each Census and NHS release. These profiles are released sooner than the Ward Profiles because the data are not based on custom tabulations.

The current Neighbourhood Profiles can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm>

Will these data be found anywhere else on the City's website?

Yes. Portions of the Census and National Household Survey will also be found in WELLBEING TORONTO – an online mapping application that provides a wide range of socio-economic indicators that help measure quality of life in the City's 140 neighbourhoods. The data on WELLBEING TORONTO are also available free for downloading at www.toronto.ca/wellbeing.

Prepared by:

- Social Policy, Analysis & Research, Social Development, Finance & Administration
- Office of the Deputy City Manager's Office, Cluster A
- Toronto Children's Services
- Toronto Public Library

For questions on this release, contact:

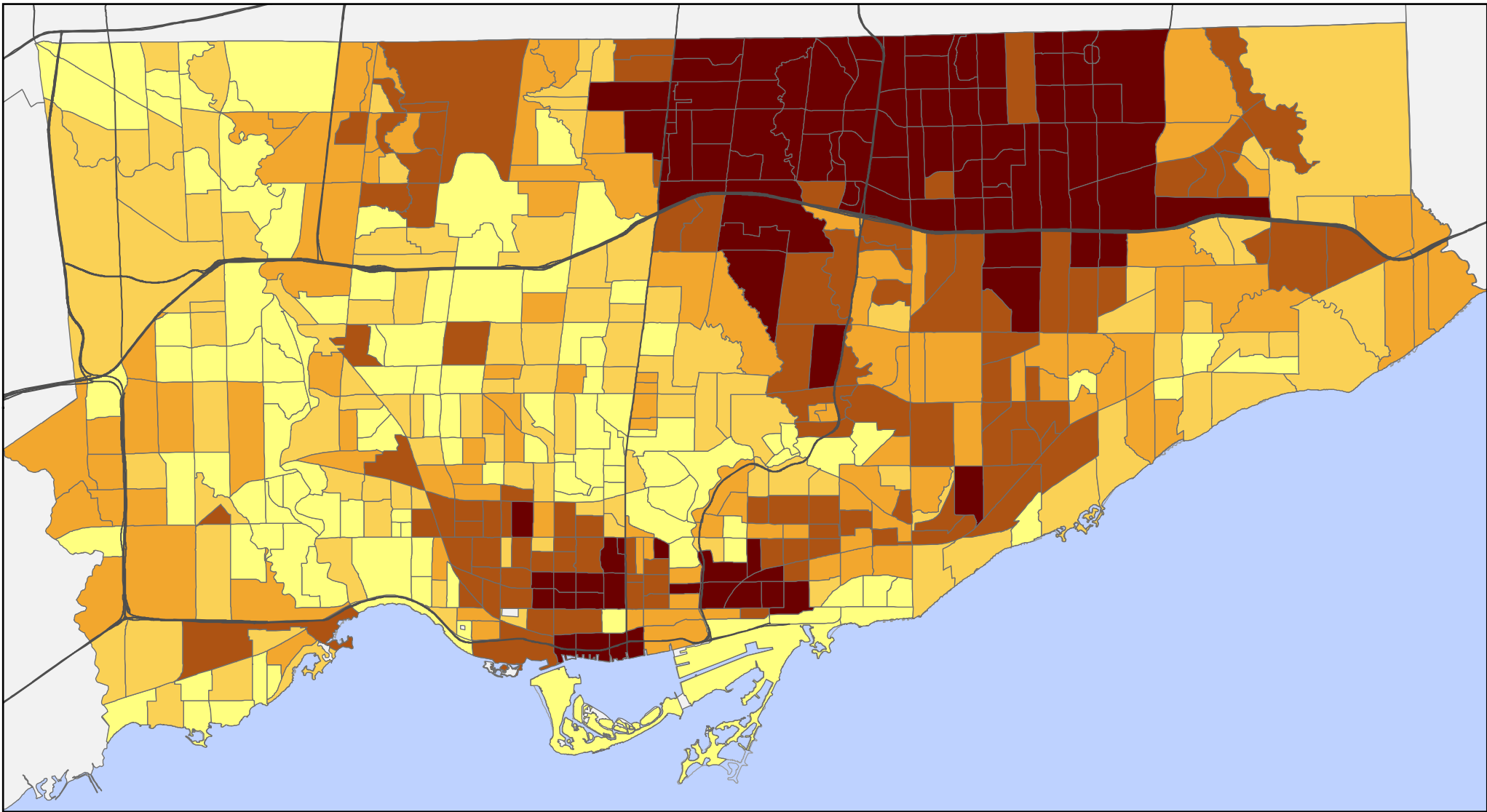
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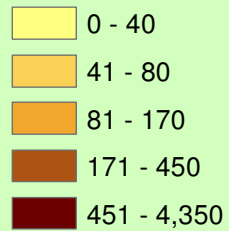
Home Language - Chinese Dialects

By Census Tract

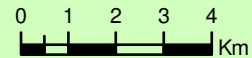


Legend

Chinese Dialects



* "Chinese dialects" include Cantonese, Mandarin, Hakka, Shanghainese, Taiwanese, dialects not otherwise specified, as well as responses of "Chinese" that do not specify a dialect.

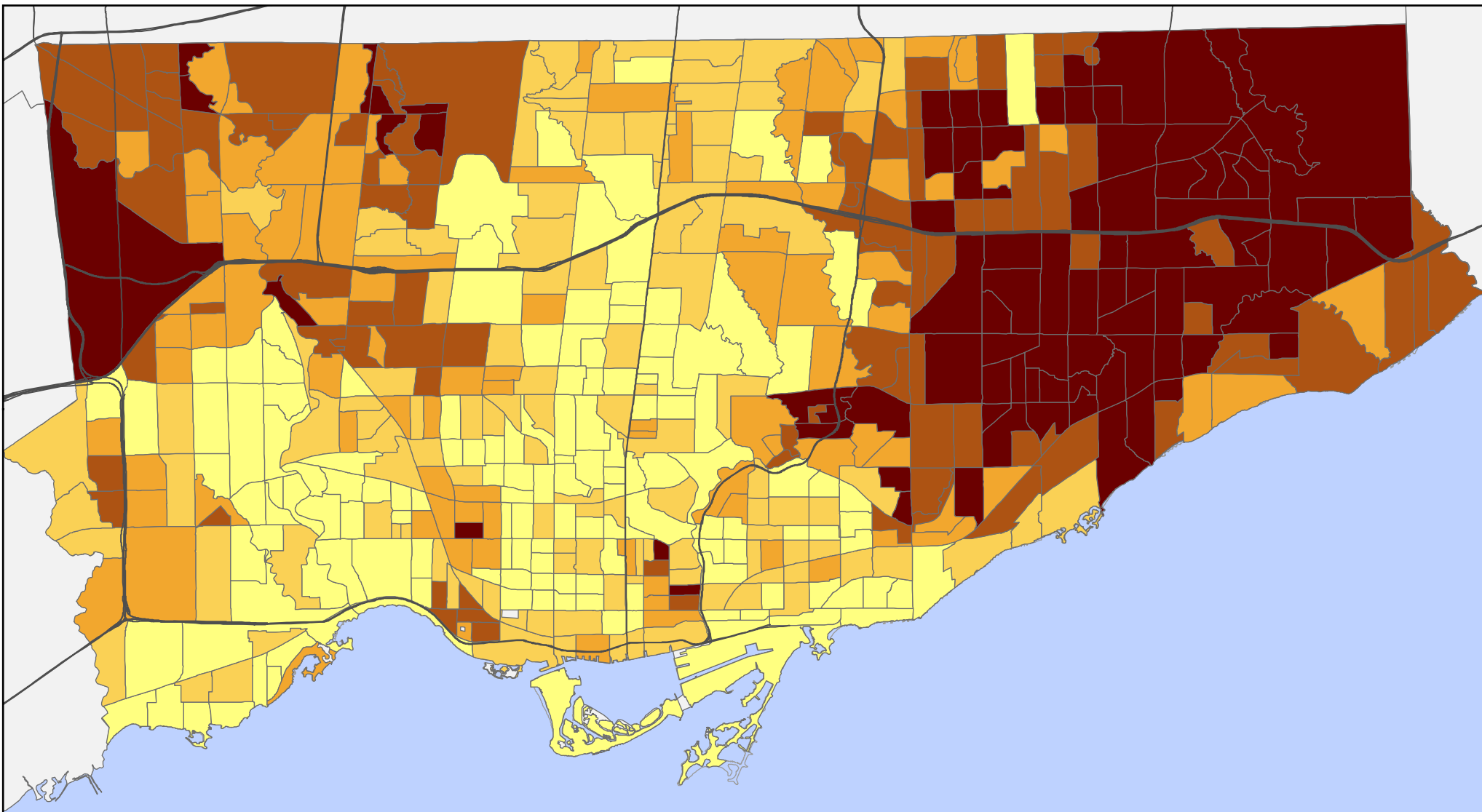


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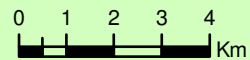
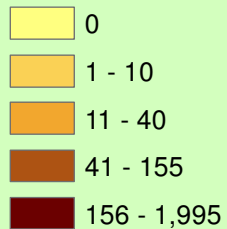
Home Language - Tamil

By Census Tract



Legend

Tamil

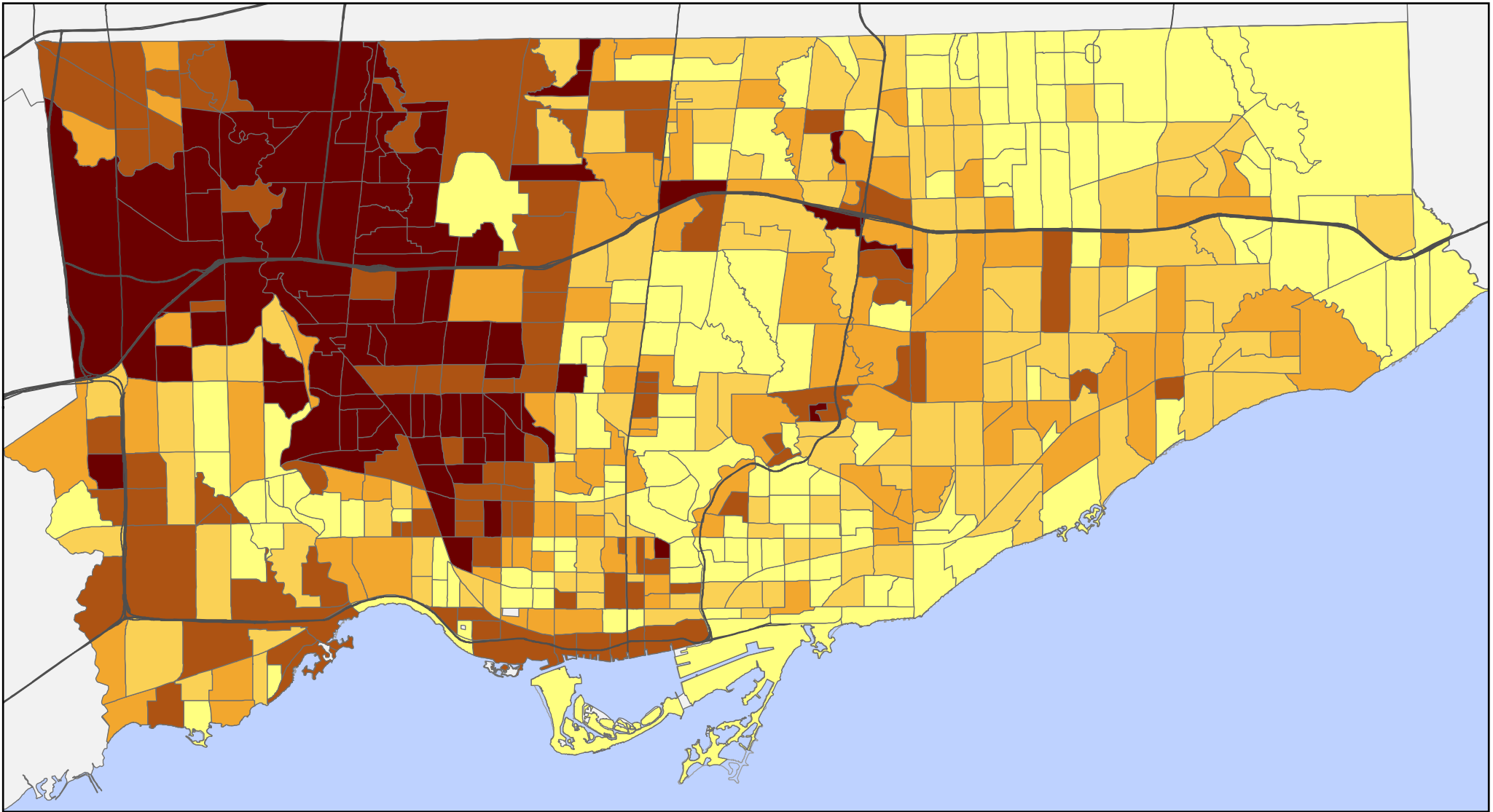


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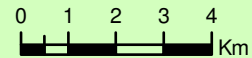
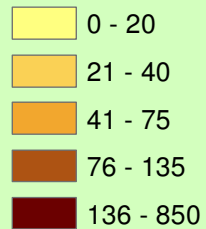
Home Language - Spanish

By Census Tract



Legend

Spanish

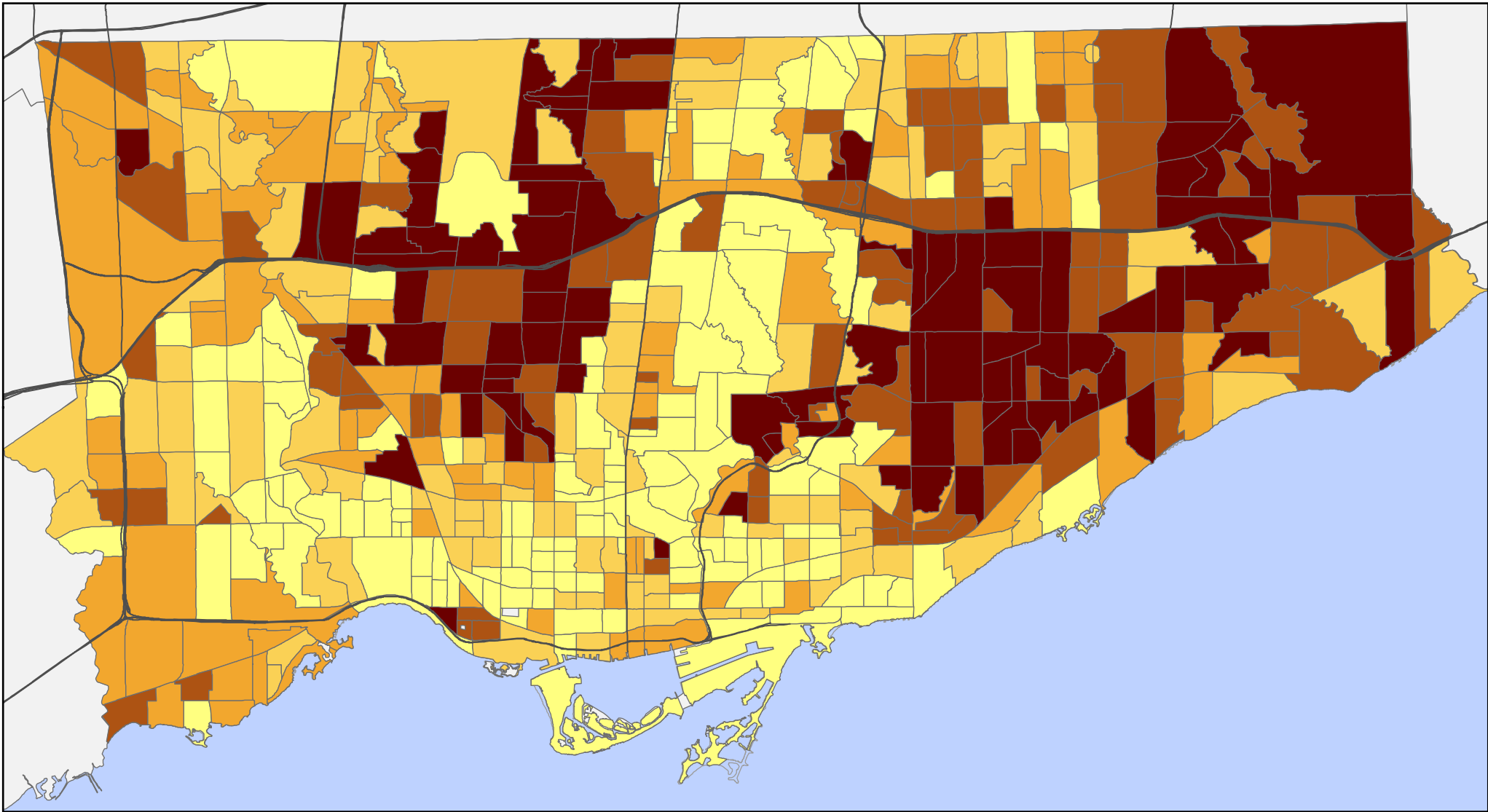


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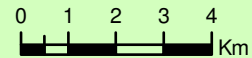
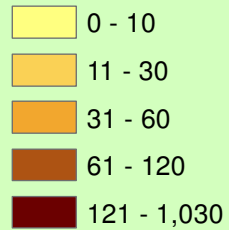
Home Language - Tagalog

By Census Tract



Legend

Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)

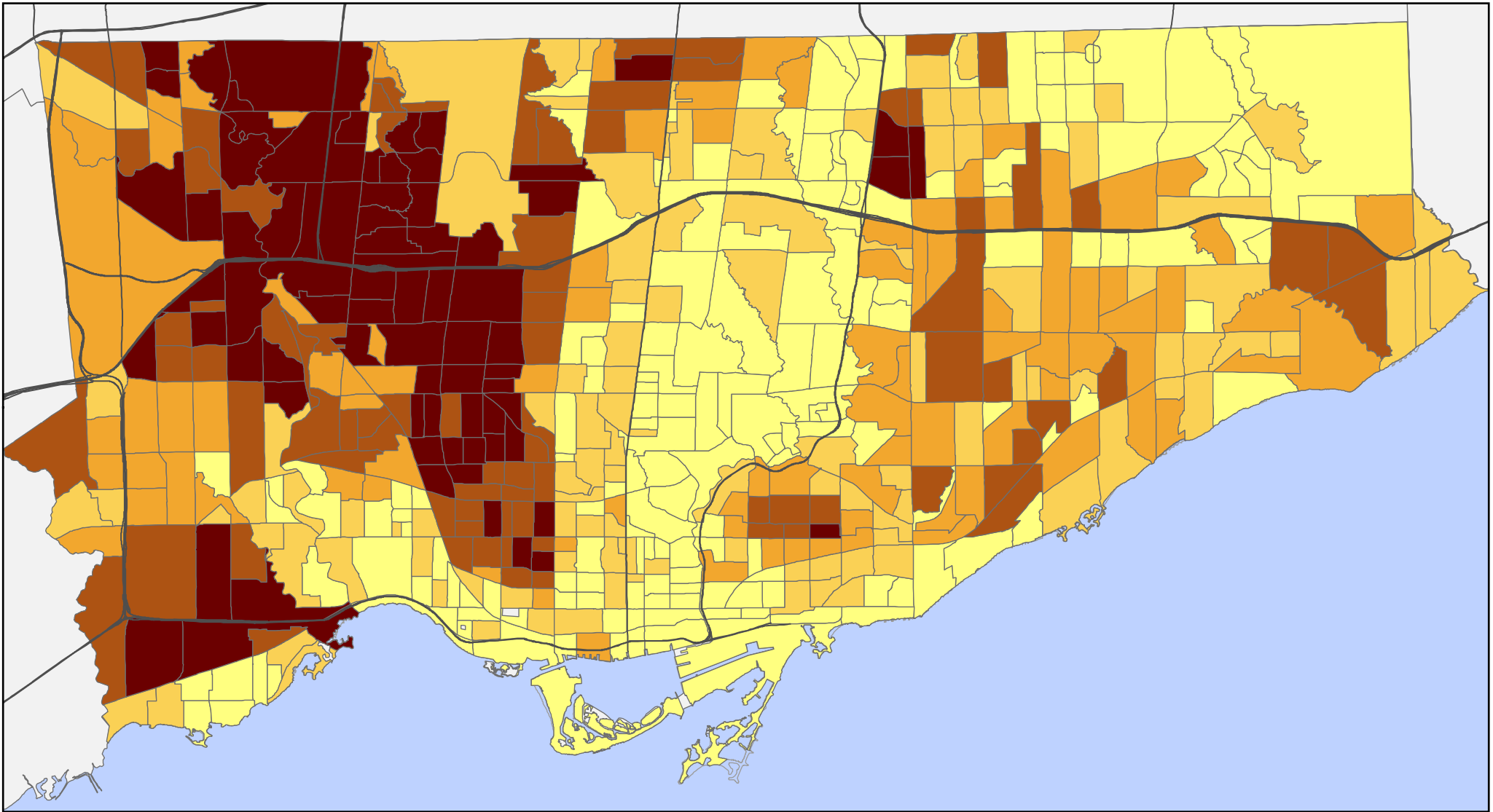


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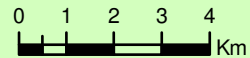
Home Language - Italian

By Census Tract



Legend

Italian

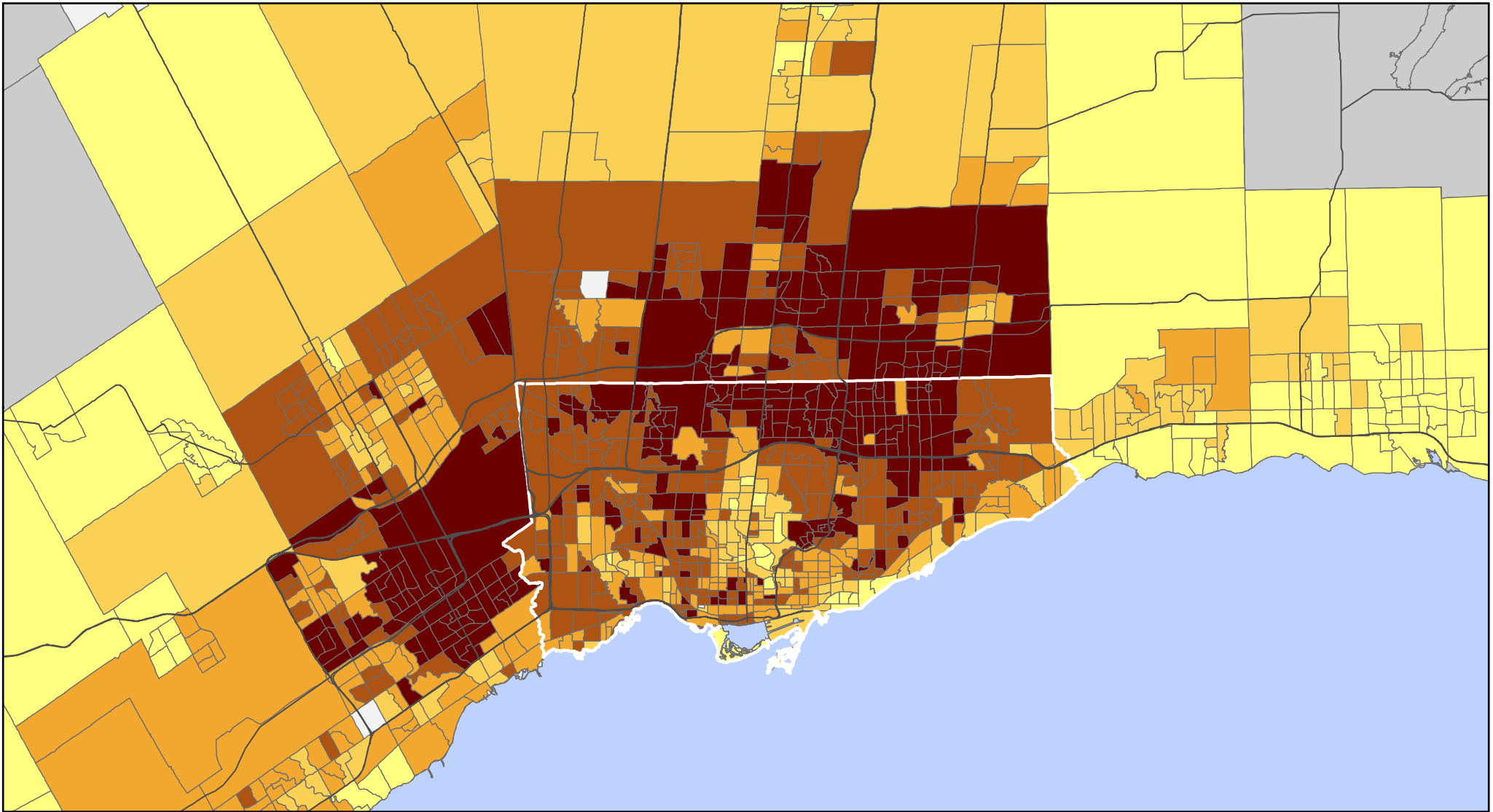


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Linguistic Diversity Index

By Census Tract



Legend

Linguistic Diversity Index Value

No Data

Less Diverse

0.10 - 0.30

0.31 - 0.46

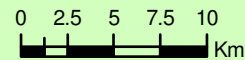
0.47 - 0.62

0.63 - 0.75

0.76 - 0.91

More Diverse

Linguistic diversity:
The probability that any two people selected
at random would have different mother tongues.
Calculated using Greenberg's Linguistic
Diversity Index.

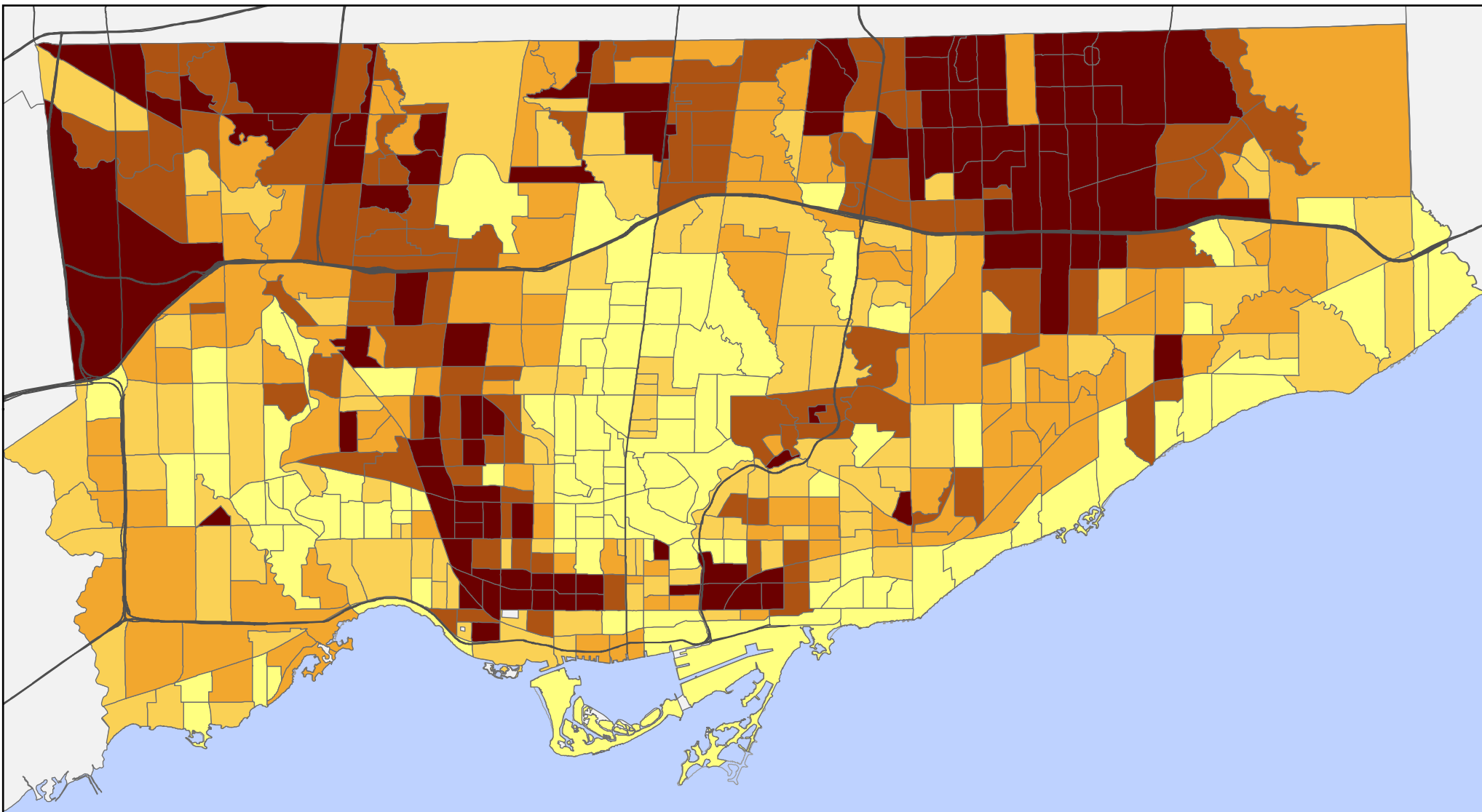


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Distribution of People with no Knowledge of Either Official Language

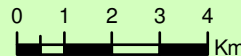
By Census Tract



Legend

Neither English nor French

- 0 - 65
- 66 - 140
- 141 - 240
- 241 - 390
- 391 - 1,990



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