



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Research Highlight No.1
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WINNIPEG'S INNER CITY IN 2001

Introduction

Statistics from the 2001 Census illustrate that Winnipeg's inner city is, in many ways, decidedly different than other areas of the City. The following brief Research Highlight illustrates some of the important characteristics that differentiate Winnipeg's inner city from the non-inner city and the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Figure 1 illustrates the geographic boundaries used in this discussion and Table 1 provides information on the indicators that are the basis for the analysis.

Population Characteristics and Composition

Population Change

Winnipeg's inner city continues to lose people. Between 1996 and 2001 the population declined by approximately 1800 people or -1.43 per cent. Growth was concentrated in the non-inner city, which grew, by 0.57 per cent. The City grew by the very small margin of 0.16 per cent, making Winnipeg one of the slowest growing metropolitan areas in Canada. Most of the growth in the Winnipeg (CMA) occurred outside the City of Winnipeg boundaries in surrounding municipalities where the population increased by approximately 6.5 per cent.

Winnipeg's inner city continues to be an area of decline in a very slow growth region

Home to Immigrants and the Foreign Born

The inner city, however, is a destination for immigrants. Nearly 4 per cent of the population of the inner city consist of recent immigrants (arriving within the last five years), almost double the proportion of any other area. The diversity that exists, and continues to be a strength of the inner city is illustrated by the fact the area has the highest proportion of foreign born residents; approximately 22 per cent, compared to 16-17 per cent in other areas and only seven per cent in the part of the CMA outside the City boundaries.

Ethnic and racial diversity characterizes the inner city

High Concentrations of Aboriginal People

The Aboriginal population is certainly more concentrated in the inner city. Approximately one of every five people identified themselves as an Aboriginal in the inner city. This proportion is three to four times higher than in other areas where less than one in ten people claimed Aboriginal identity. The proportion falls to almost one in twenty in the non-inner city.

Population Composition

When the age distribution of the population in the inner city is compared to the non-inner city and the City as a whole, there are no significant differences. The inner city has a slightly lower proportion of children 0-14, a slightly higher proportion of people 15-24 and 25-44. The proportion of people in the 45-64 cohort in the inner city falls below that of other areas but is slightly higher for people aged 65 plus. The area that does illustrate considerable differences is the part of the CMA that falls outside City boundaries. This area contains a higher proportion of children 0-14 and a higher proportion of people 45-64. The proportion of the population 65 and over, however, falls to about half that of other areas. This area has a strong family focus.

The education and labour force characteristics of inner-city residents leave many at a disadvantage when trying to access adequate, permanent employment

Single Parent Households

With respect to family structure the inner city does illustrate one important difference. It has a higher proportion of families led by a single parent, generally a female. The proportion in the inner city is close to 30 per cent compared to 16 to 18 per cent in the non-inner city and the City as a whole. The area of the CMA outside the City boundaries is again very different with only 8.4 per cent of family households led by a single parent.

Education, Employment, and Labour Force Characteristics

Education Levels

Many residents of the inner city face a challenge trying to access jobs without adequate levels of education. Between 12 and 13 per cent of the population have grade nine or less, almost double the proportions in other parts of the CMA. Almost a quarter does not have a high school diploma. There is also a lower proportion of the population with a bachelor's degree or better, approximately 14 per cent compared to close to 20 per cent in the CMA, the City and the non-inner city.

Employment and Labour Force Characteristics

The lower levels of education in the inner city are reflected in the labour force and employment characteristics of the population. The unemployment rate exceeds 9 per cent in the inner city compared to approximately 5 per cent in the other areas. Participation rates are also five to seven percentage points lower. Figures on the proportion of the labour force that work in what Richard Florida describes as the Creative Class¹ are also lower in the inner city, although the differences are not as pronounced as they are with some of the characteristics. According to Florida, this Creative Class (sciences, technology, professionals, arts and entertainment) is a group that can drive urban change and is instrumental in the renewal, growth, and vitality of cities. Just over 15 per cent of the labour force resident in the inner city work in the Creative Class occupations, compared to approximately 17 per cent in some of the other geographic areas.

Housing Characteristics

Age and Condition of the Stock

Housing characteristics certainly differentiate the inner city from other areas. Almost 14 per cent of the dwellings in the inner city are in need of major repair. In the other areas this figure ranges from approximately 8 to 10 per cent. Condition and quality are undoubtedly related to age. In the inner city approximately 46 per cent of the dwellings were built prior to 1946 compared to 13 per cent in the non-inner city, 20 per cent in the City as a whole and only eight percent in the portion of the CMA outside the City boundaries. Very little new stock is being added to the inner-city supply. Between 1996 and 2001 the new stock added represented only 0.24 per cent of total stock. In the non-inner city the proportion was 3 per cent, 2.36 per cent in

¹ Florida R. (2002) *The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. Basic Books, 1st edition.

the City as a whole, 3 per cent in the CMA and approximately 12 per cent in the area of the CMA outside the City boundaries. These comparisons clearly illustrate that much of the housing investment in the CMA is in the area outside the City boundaries while very little investment in new housing is focused on the inner-city area.

Housing Tenure

Inner-city residents are predominantly renters. Just over 37 per cent of inner-city households own the dwelling they live in, compared to 71 per cent in the non-inner city, 64 per cent in the City as a whole and 65 per cent in the CMA. In the area of the CMA outside the City boundaries almost all dwellings (93 per cent) are owner-occupied units.

Inner-city stock is ageing, needs major repair, and is predominantly occupied by renters

Residential Mobility

The inner city is also characterized by high levels of residential mobility. Approximately 23 per cent (one in four households) move every year. In the City and the non-inner city this proportion falls to 13 to 15 per cent. The area of the CMA outside the City boundaries is again very distinct with a one year mobility rate of only 8 per cent. Five-year mobility rates are even higher but follow the same geographic patterns. Approximately 55 per cent of households in the inner city had moved in the previous five years, compared to approximately 40 per cent in other areas of the City and only 30 per cent in the area of the CMA outside the City boundaries.

High mobility is detrimental to children's education and detracts from efforts to build community capacity and cohesion

Poverty

Household Poverty

Poverty is the one characteristic that most differentiates the inner city from other areas. Approximately four out of every ten households fall below the poverty line. For individuals this rises to more than one out

of every two and for families the ratio is one of every three families. These ratios are much lower in the non-inner city and the City as a whole, particularly for all households and families where ratios approximate one in five and one in ten respectively. Again, the portion of the CMA outside the City boundaries is very different, illustrating much lower levels of poverty.

Housing Affordability Problems

Canada has a national standard of housing affordability. Households paying 30 per cent or more of their gross (before tax) income on housing are considered to have a housing affordability problem and to be paying more of their income than they should, leaving them too little to pay for other basic necessities. Approximately 42 per cent of inner-city households that are renting fall in this category, compared to 35 per cent in the non-inner city, and 38 per cent in the City as a whole and the CMA. The area of the CMA outside the City boundaries is again distinctly different as the percentage of renters with affordability problems is almost half that of the inner city.

A much lower proportion of owners in the inner city (although there are fewer of them) are faced with affordability problems – approximately 15 per cent. This proportion, however, is approximately four percentage points higher than other areas of the CMA. High levels of poverty lead to housing affordability problems.

Conclusion

This brief analysis suggests inner-city residents face significant challenges and barriers. The residents are characterized by higher levels of poverty, lower levels of education, and they live in poorer quality housing for which they pay a higher proportion of their income. They also have higher mobility rate, higher unemployment rates, and are much more likely to be renters than owners. They are also much more likely to be recent immigrants or persons claiming Aboriginal identity. The figures also illustrate that the population of the area continues to decline. None of this is surprising. These characteristics have been common to the inner city for several decades. This brief analysis, however, helps establish the profile for 2001 and forms a basis for further analysis of change over the last several years and for more detailed analysis of differences within the inner city. Future Research Highlights will focus on these issues.

For an explanation of the methodology and data definitions important to this analysis, please visit the IUS Web site at <http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/>

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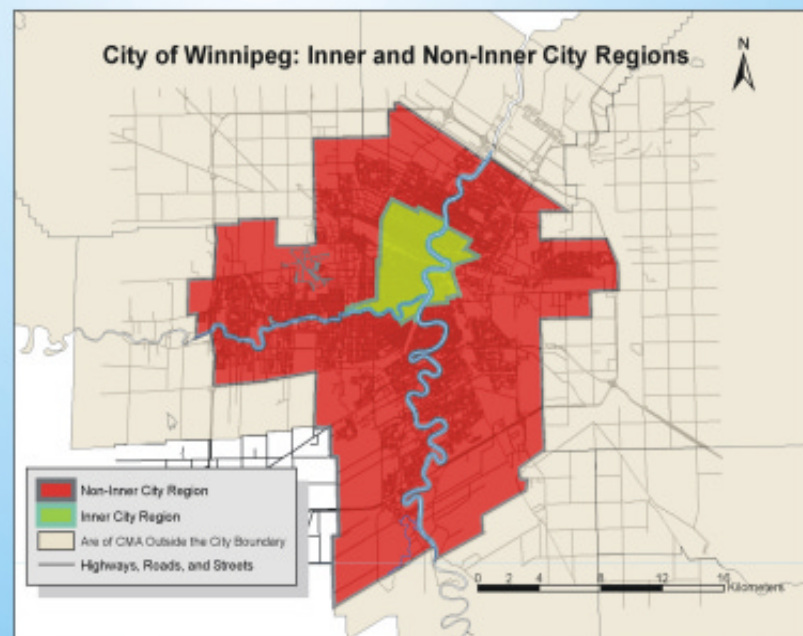
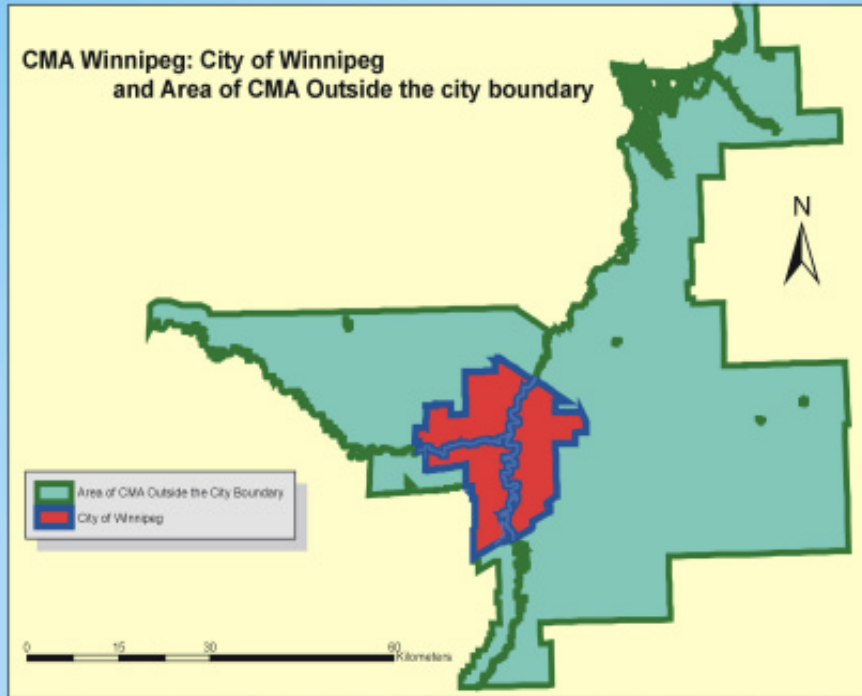
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Regions of The CMA of Winnipeg



Source: Boundary File Courtesy of DMII Spatial

Created by: Kurt Sargent

Figure 1. Regions of The CMA of Winnipeg

Table 1. Selected Indicators by Geographic Area of the CMA of Winnipeg

Indicator	CMA Winnipeg	City of Winnipeg	City of Winnipeg Non-inner City	City of Winnipeg Inner-city	Non-City of Winnipeg
Pop. 1996	667093	618140	490584	127556	48953
Pop. 2001	671274	619120	493388	125732	52154
Pop. % Change	0.63	0.16	0.57	-1.43	6.54
% of persons aged 0 to 14	19.09	18.81	19.00	18.06	22.41
% of persons aged 15 to 24	13.70	13.73	13.66	13.98	13.34
% of persons aged 25 to 44	30.05	30.16	29.40	33.11	28.85
% of persons aged 45 to 64	23.43	23.16	23.93	20.13	26.61
% of persons aged 65 and older	13.73	14.15	14.00	14.72	8.79
% of lone parent census families	17.73	18.58	16.32	29.52	8.36
% of recent immigrants	2.02	2.17	1.77	3.77	0.24
% of persons foreign born	16.53	17.33	16.18	21.93	7.06
% of persons indicating Aboriginal identity	8.42	8.59	5.94	19.16	6.46
% of Pop. 20 years or older with Grade 9 or less	7.72	7.77	6.57	12.48	7.00
% of Pop. 20 years or older without a high school diploma	20.49	20.38	19.44	24.06	21.96
% of Pop. 20 years or older with a bachelor degree or better	17.96	18.27	19.29	14.26	14.01
Unemployment rate %	5.56	5.73	4.95	9.15	3.62
Participation rate %	68.64	68.04	69.36	62.84	75.97
% creative occupations	16.67	16.92	17.29	15.26	13.96
% of dwelling in need of major repair	9.43	9.38	8.11	13.64	10.03
% of housing built prior to 1946	19.45	20.25	12.66	45.60	7.71
% of dwellings built since 1996	2.97	2.36	3.00	0.24	11.77
% of dwellings owned	65.48	63.57	71.42	37.37	93.26
% of dwellings rented	34.49	36.44	28.61	62.60	6.10
% of owners paying 30% or more in shelter costs	11.65	11.72	11.19	15.08	10.90
% of renters paying 30% or more in shelter costs	37.94	38.10	35.53	42.01	24.02
% of LICO households	19.20	20.31	15.40	40.24	5.97
% of LICO unattached individuals	43.63	44.24	38.01	56.26	21.22
% of LICO families	14.62	15.48	11.93	32.60	4.91
% of 1 year movers	14.59	15.14	13.11	23.25	8.10
% of 5 year movers	41.41	42.33	39.34	54.40	30.48

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001