

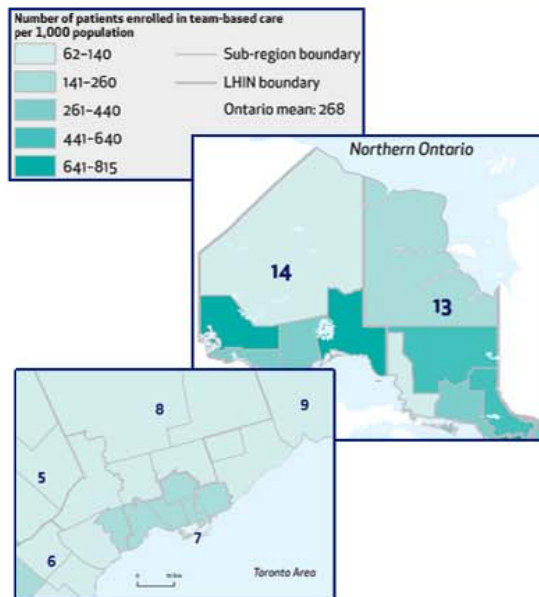
Ontario areas with the highest needs getting the lowest level of care



Report shows that people with low income, recent immigrants and seniors have the most unmet needs for primary care, with the highest areas of need in northern Ontario and major urban centres.

Researchers examined how primary care is provided within Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and their 76 sub-regions.

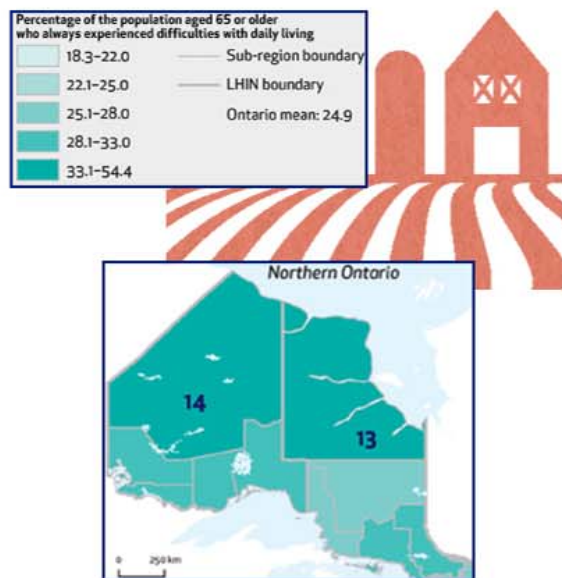
VARIATION IN PRIMARY CARE NEEDS AND USE



Availability of team-based primary care varies 10-fold across Ontario, and 6-fold across Toronto.

Although the need for primary care was highest in northern Ontario and in major urban centres, enrolment in team-based primary care was low in these areas.

HIGH PRIMARY CARE NEED FOR RURAL-DWELLING SENIORS



Rural areas had more senior residents and higher levels of disability. **Although rural residents had greater access to team-based care, there were relatively fewer family doctors.**

Northern Ontario and rural parts of eastern Ontario had the highest percentage of seniors who always experienced difficulties with activities of daily living. Higher disability levels were also found in the general population in northern and rural areas.

DATA GAPS IN THE NORTH



Researchers caution that primary care need may be underestimated in northern Ontario due to data gaps.

The need for better data in northern Ontario is among the major conclusions of this report. Federal-provincial efforts in partnership with the affected communities will be needed to address these gaps.