



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: February 14, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Health and Social Impacts of Gambling BOH12040(a) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department	PREPARED BY: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3502
SIGNATURE:	Glenda McArthur (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6607 Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2888

Council Direction:

The Gaming Facility Proposal Sub-committee at its meeting of December 13, 2012 approved the following: That staff be directed to provide information to the Gaming Facility Proposal Sub-Committee with respect to tracking and mapping of existing problem gamblers in the City of Hamilton by postal code. As the Sub-Committee has been disbanded, this information report is now being presented to the General Issues Committee.

Information:

As noted in the previous report on the health and social impacts of gambling (BOH12040), the risks and harms associated with problem gambling are not evenly spread across populations and affect some groups disproportionately. This information report provides local information on the distribution and density of populations that are identified in the research as experiencing an increased vulnerability to the negative impacts of gambling, and the percentage of the total number of individuals who have accessed treatment for problem gambling in Hamilton over the past 10 years by Forward Sortation Areas. Mapping has been used to present an overall view of the information across the Hamilton community.

In addition, health sector partners were asked if they had any further input or evidence to provide that may help to inform the understanding of the potential health and social impacts of gambling expansion in Hamilton. Their response is attached as Appendix F.

Distribution and Density

Research indicates that the following populations can experience an increased vulnerability to the negative impacts of gambling: youth, older adults, Aboriginal communities, males, people experiencing financial problems, lower socioeconomic status and individuals who experience early wins. Social inequities can already exist within these groups and exposure to gambling activities can enhance these issues. From a health and social impact perspective, identifying and considering the location and density of the specific at risk populations in Hamilton is beneficial to the discussion of conditions for a casino in Hamilton.

Data was not available for all at risk populations and the following four populations have been mapped: older adults (55+), youth (18–25), low income, and problem gamblers seeking treatment through the ADGS program. Maps have been used in this report to present information on the distribution and density of populations, and a brief description of the maps has been included. Aggregate data has been used over 10 years for those seeking treatment and mapped by forward sortation areas to ensure that there is no identifiable information contained in this report.

Plotted on each map is the existing location of Flamborough Downs and the location of the Downtown. Studies on the impact of proximity to casinos on the participation rates in gambling and the incidence of problem gambling have used 5, 16 and 80 km radii to compare rates. For reference, five and 16 km radius circles from Flamborough Downs have been added to the maps. An 80 km radius circle goes well beyond the boundaries of the map.

- ***Map 1 - Persons per hectare population density, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton (Appendix A)***

This map shows the density of the number of people per hectare of the total Hamilton population using the Census 2011 Dissemination Areas. This map can be used as a baseline for overall population distribution when reviewing the next two maps.

- ***Map 2 - Persons per hectare population density of ages 55 and over, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton (Appendix B)***

This map shows the density of the number of people per hectare that are 55 years or older using the Census 2011 Dissemination Areas.

- ***Map 3 - Persons per hectare population density of age 18–25, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton (Appendix C)***

This map shows the density of the number of people per hectare that are 18–25 years old using the Census 2011 Dissemination Areas.

- ***Map 4 - Percentage of individuals living in private households whose household income falls below the Low Income Cut-Off after taxes by census tract, Hamilton, Ontario, 2005 (Appendix D)***

This map shows the percentage of individuals living in private households in Hamilton whose household income falls below the Low Income Cut-Off after taxes by census tract, Ontario, 2005.

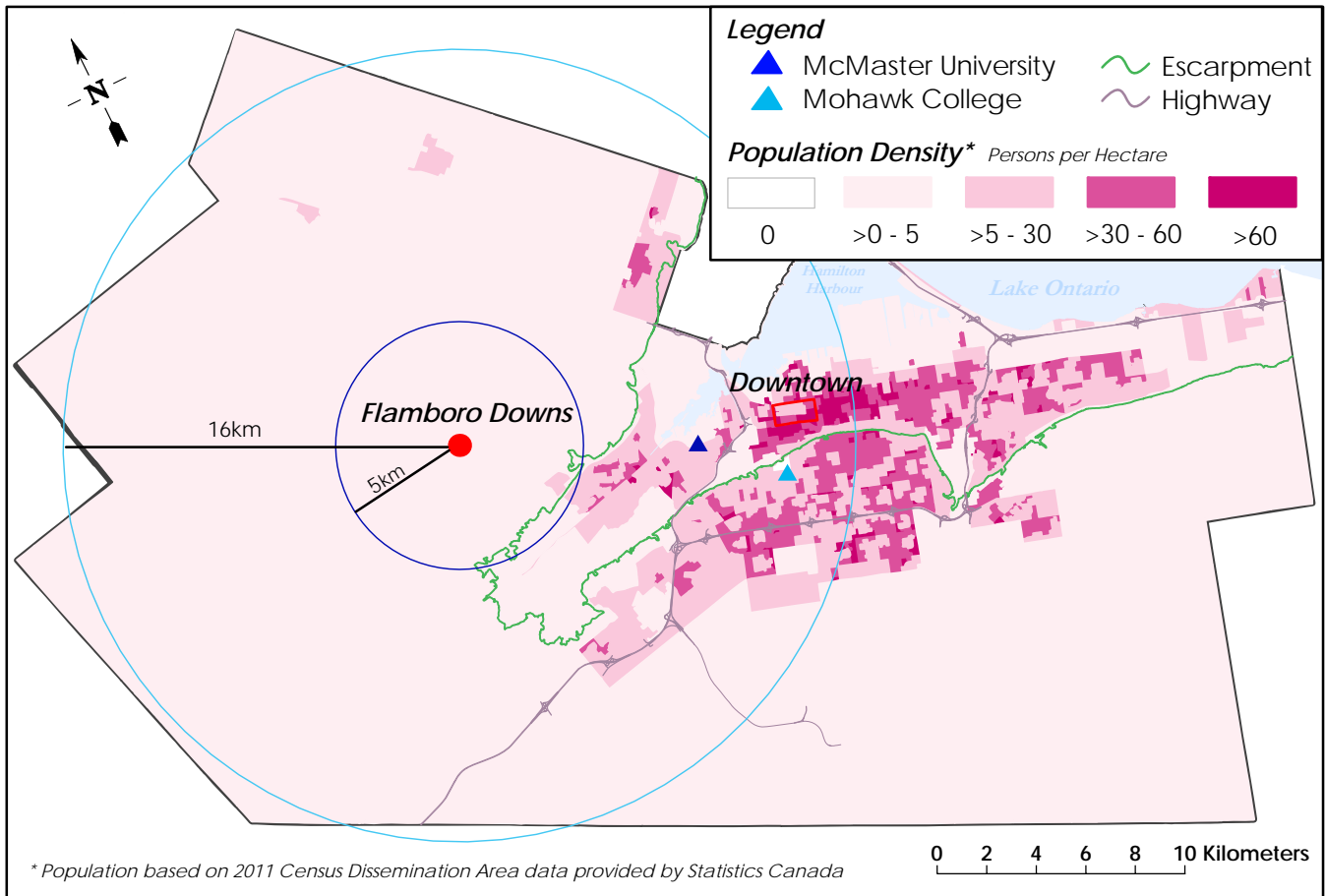
- ***Map 5 - Percentage of individuals who accessed treatment for problem gambling with Public Health Services, by FSA, City of Hamilton, 2002–2012 (Appendix E)***

This map shows the percentage of individuals accessing problem gambling treatment through Public Health Services ADGS program, within Forward Sortation Areas (area derived from postal codes captured from census questionnaires) for 2002 to 2012.

Health Sector Response

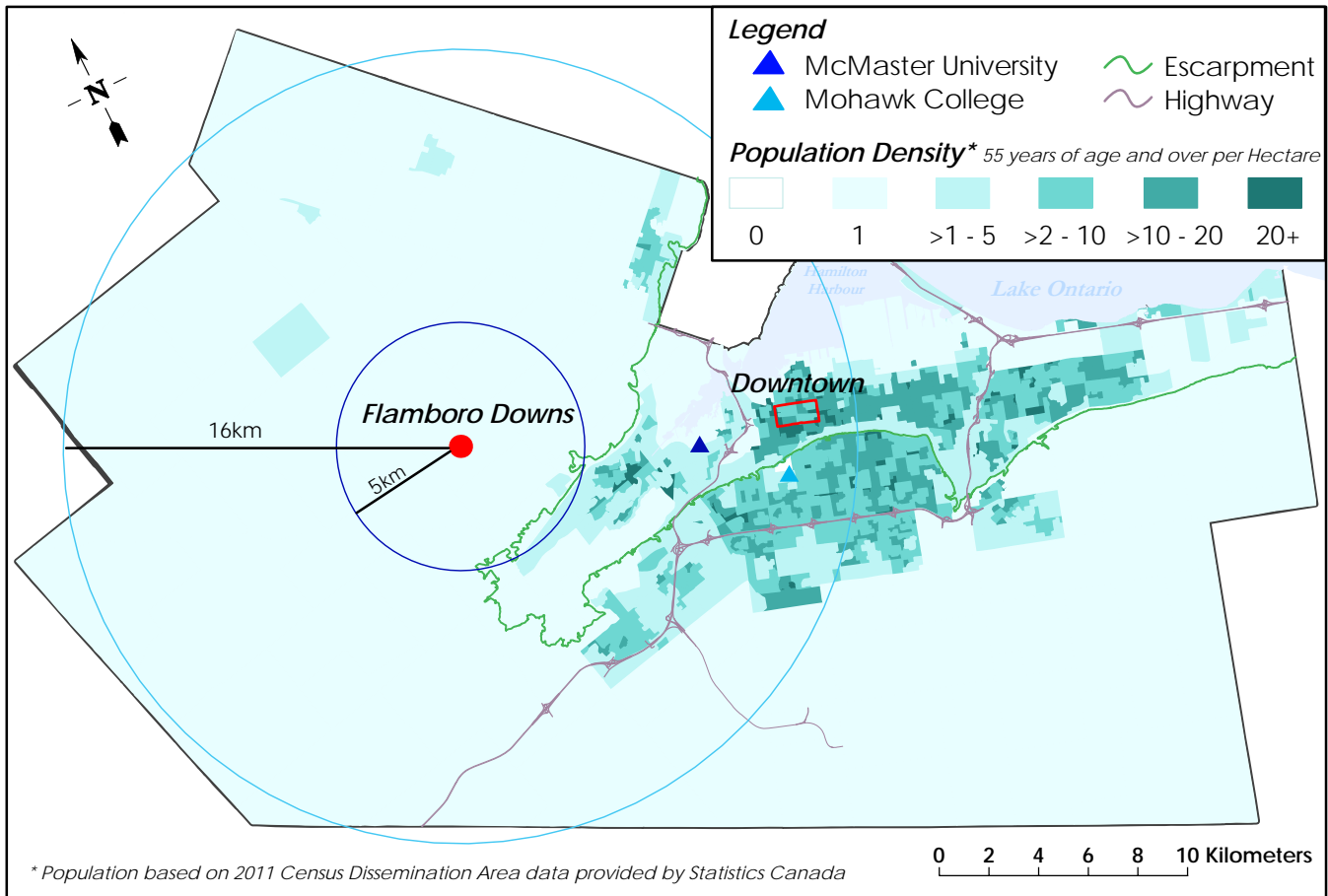
The health sector response to the request for further local information, experience or evidence is provided for consideration in Appendix F.

Persons per hectare population density, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton



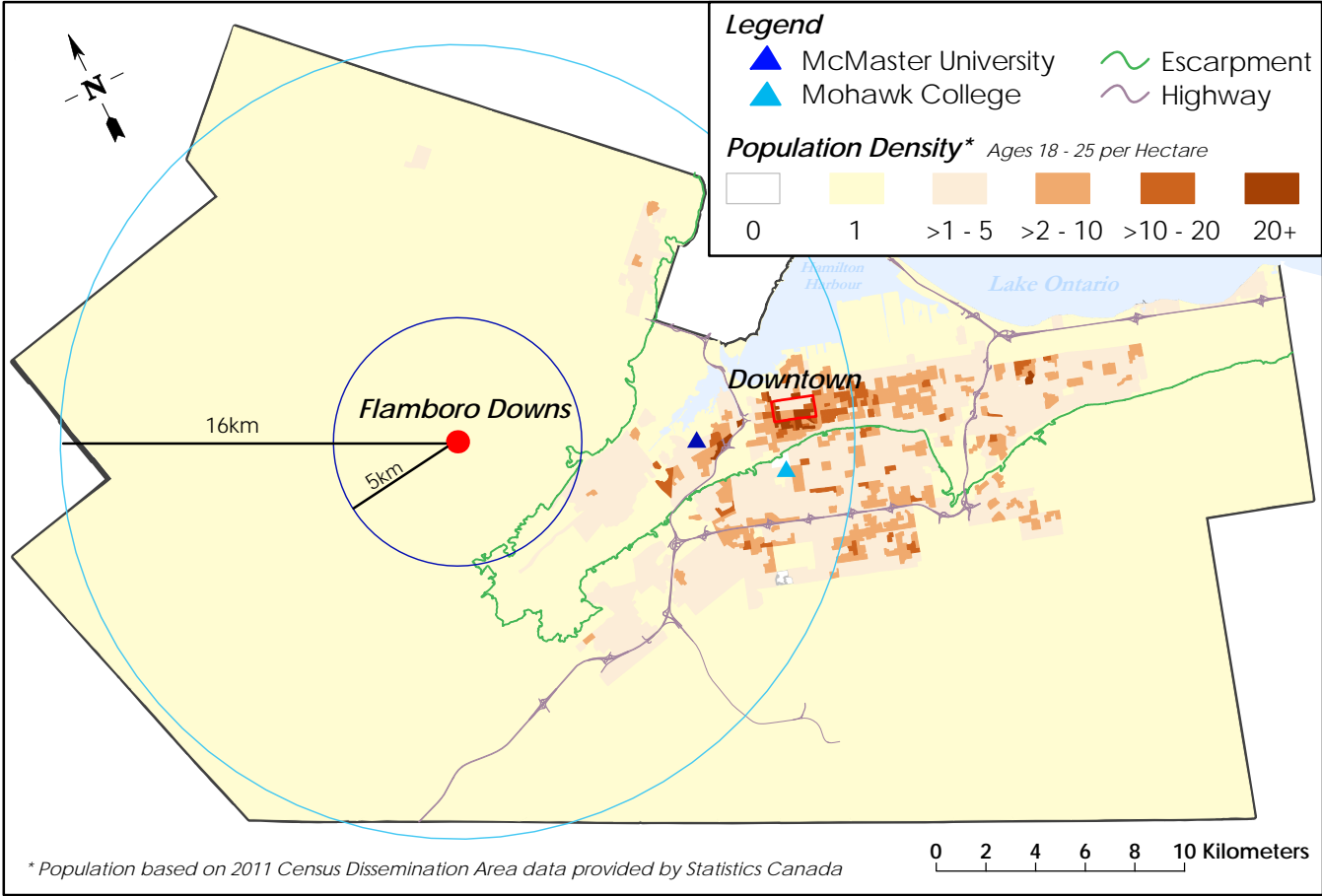
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Persons per hectare population density of ages 55 and over, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton



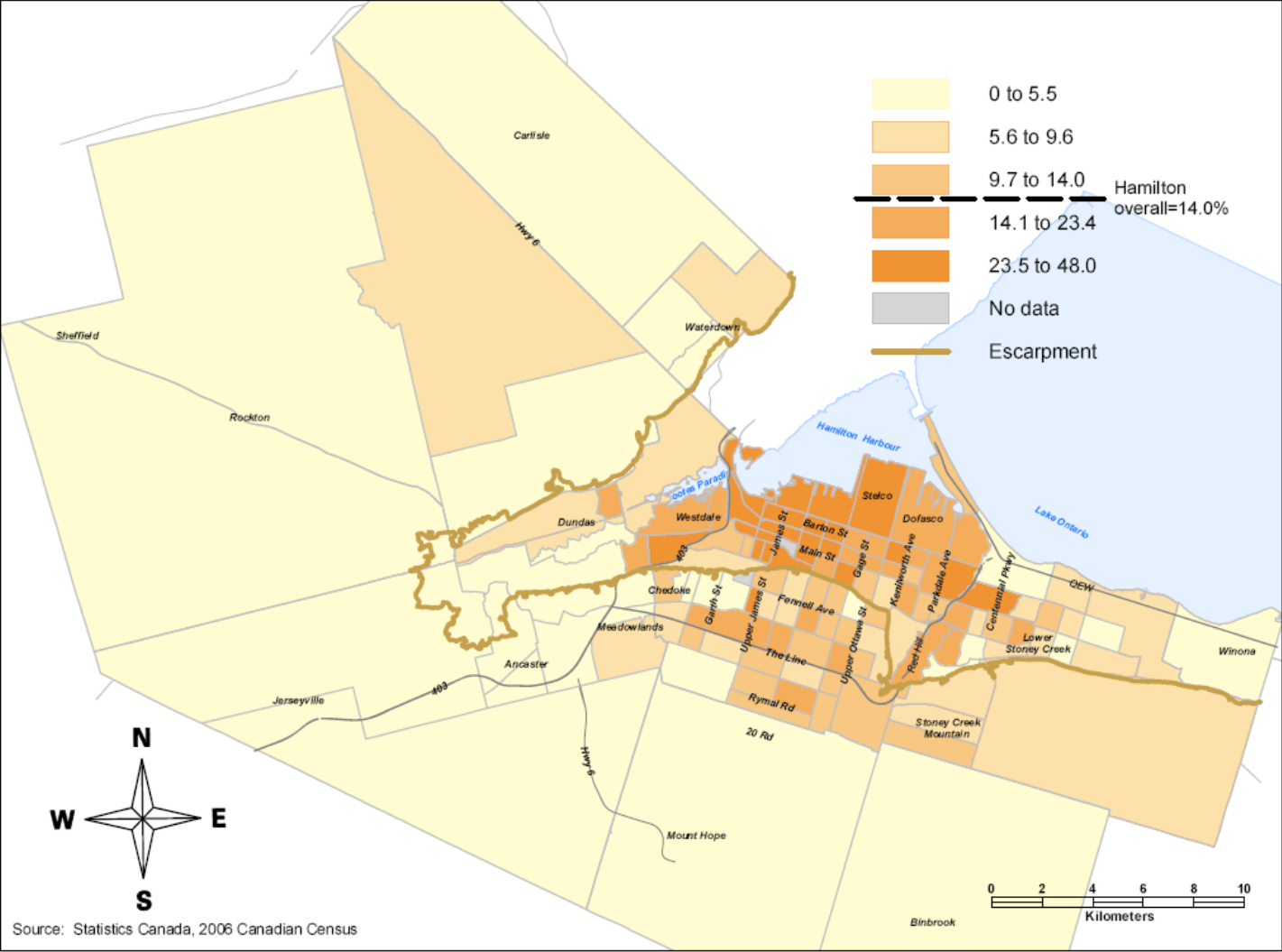
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Persons per hectare population density of ages 18 - 25, data provided by Statistics Canada, 2011 Census, City of Hamilton



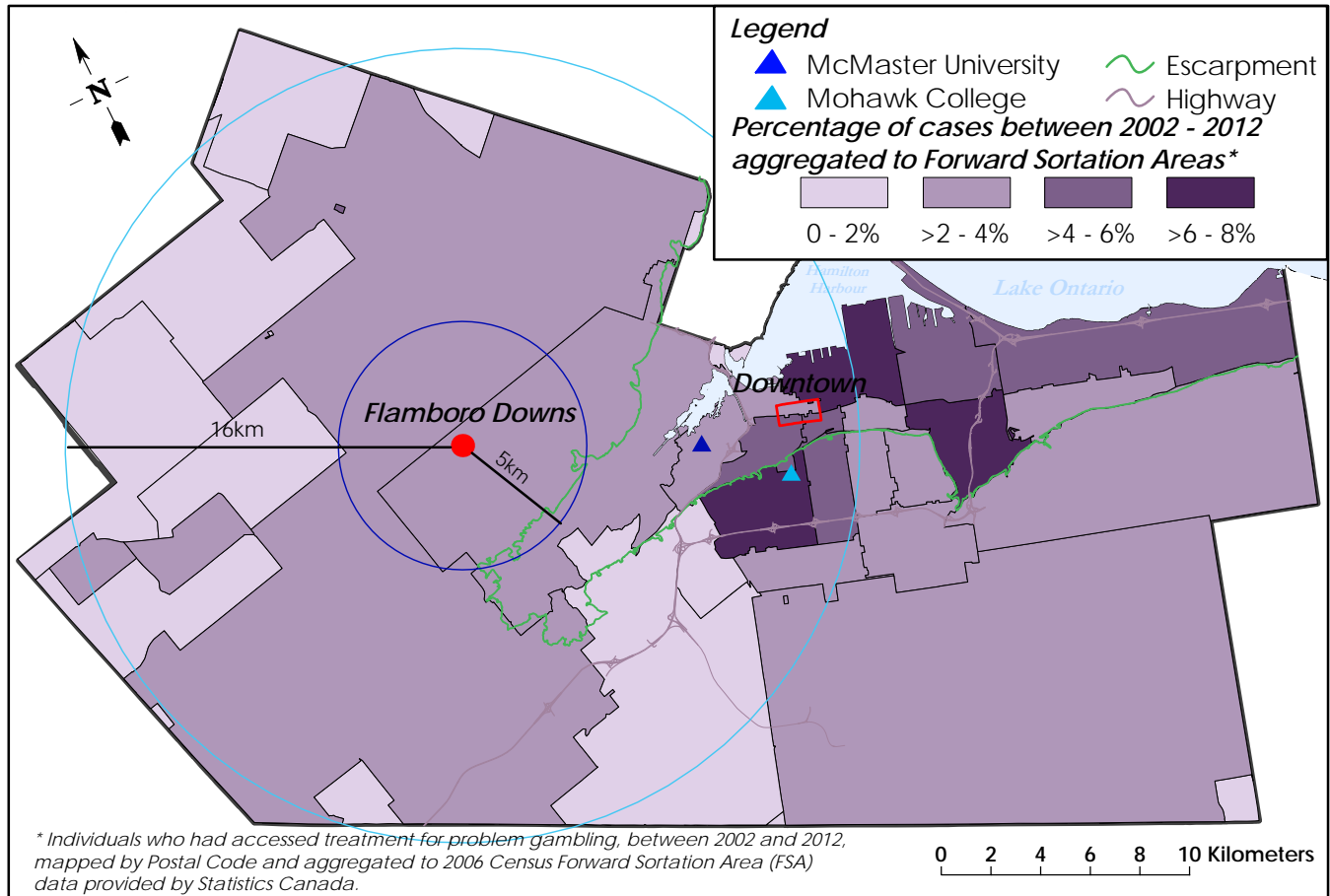
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Percentage of individuals living in private households whose household income falls below the Low Income Cut-Off after taxes by Census Tract, Hamilton, Ontario, 2005.



Applied Research and Evaluation Team, Planning and Business Improvement Division, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton

Percentage of individuals who accessed treatment for problem gambling with Public Health Services, by FSA, City of Hamilton, 2002-2012



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January 30, 2013

To: Members of City Council

As a group of anchor institutions driven by the health of this community, we were asked by the City Manager and the Medical Officer of Health to provide our collaborative perspective into the casino discussion.

This is a critically important decision because of the impact on the city's future and the health of our neighbourhoods. It is unusual for organizations like ours to weigh in on a politically divisive issue, but in this case the compelling evidence demands it. The attached recommendation from St. Joseph's Hospital represents our collective view: don't put a casino downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brenda Copps".

Dr. Brenda Copps
Chair of the Board
Hamilton Family Health Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kamyar Kahnamoui".

Kamyar Kahnamoui, MD, MSc(HRM)
FRCSC, FACS
President
Hamilton Academy of Medicine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry McCarthy".

Terry McCarthy
Executive Director
Hamilton Family Health Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Cooke".

Terry Cooke
President & CEO
Hamilton Community Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James E. Williams".

Dr. Jim Williams
Lead Physician
Hamilton Family Health Team

January 29, 2013

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services - City of Hamilton
Elizabeth.Richardson@hamilton.ca

Dear Dr. Richardson:

A number of municipalities in the Province of Ontario, including Hamilton, are undergoing a review to assess the economic opportunities to expanding gaming facilities including casinos. We recognize that it is the domain of our elected councils and municipalities to make an informed decision about this type of activity. We are confident that decisions will be based upon thoughtful reflection of perceived benefits for citizens.

St Joseph's Healthcare is the largest local provider of mental health and addiction services for Hamilton and our surrounding communities. Given this role, we have a significant responsibility to draw attention to important concerns around potential gaming/casino development in our community. We also believe it is our responsibility to recommend risk mitigation strategies based on evidence and expert opinion which may inform the decision making process and outcome.

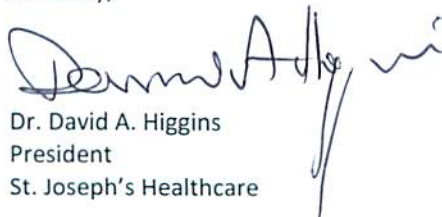
We strongly endorse a recent comprehensive, well referenced report and associated position statement from Toronto Public Health with expert input from Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) (*The Health Impacts of Gambling Expansion in Toronto: November 2012*). This report draws attention to the concerns and impact of casino gambling on those with addictions to the activity. It also documents the social impact and mental and physical health challenges associated with problem gambling, as well as the impact casino location can have on these issues. Further, it notes recommended mitigation strategies across the range of concerns identified.

Should the City Council endorse the proposal to expand gambling activity in our city, we would recommend that mitigation strategies noted in the Toronto Public Health document should be in place.

To this end we would advocate that the inner city zone is not an appropriate area to place such a facility. Should you take a decision to expand gaming, an alternative location should be considered. We would also advocate that should gambling expansion and casino development proceed in Hamilton, regardless of location, that St Joseph's Healthcare and partner organizations providing addiction services be engaged participants in developing a comprehensive mitigation and treatment for those most at risk.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dr. David A. Higgins
President
St. Joseph's Healthcare

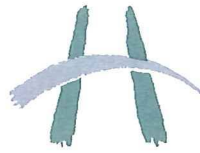


Dr. Kevin Smith
President and CEO
St. Joseph's Health System

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Hamilton Health Sciences

February 1, 2013

Mr. Chris Murray
City Manager
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P4Y5

Dear Mr. Murray,

One of the five strategic goals that drive the overall directions of Hamilton Health Sciences is to be "World leaders in moving evidence into practice to deliver the best patient care". There is clear evidence that there are numerous health impacts associated with the problem of gambling. These health impacts include general health, mental health, co-addictions, suicide, family and community impacts. It is for this reason, that the Board of Directors of Hamilton Health Sciences does not support the location of a Casino within the City of Hamilton.

We believe that constructing a Casino at any location within the City of Hamilton would put further pressure on an already strained local health care system.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Rizzo
Chair, Board of Directors
Hamilton Health Sciences

Murray T. Martin
President and CEO
Hamilton Health Sciences

Cc **Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health**