

Working Poverty in the Toronto Region

METCALF
FOUNDATION

February 2012

Agenda

1. The research: why this why now?
2. The big picture: how significant is working poverty in the region?
3. Who they are
4. Mapping working poverty: Where they live
5. Conclusions & next steps

Background

- Metcalf has an interest in:
 - Improving low income peoples' economic livelihoods and access to quality jobs
- Working Poverty a major missing piece of the puzzle:
 - Many definitions
 - Little known about who they are, where they live
- Longer term trend in declining employment in Toronto relative to Ontario, Canada
- Economic downturn prompts concern for less advantaged

How we define the working poor

- A new resilient definition
- A person is a member of the working poor if he or she:
 - has an after-tax income below the Low Income Measure (LIM)
 - has earnings of at least \$3,000 a year
 - is between the ages of 18 and 64
 - is not a student
 - lives independently

Increasing numbers of the working poor

- Using our criteria for defining the working poor we found:
 - 113,000 working poor individuals in the Toronto Region in 2005.
 - Of these persons, 70,700 lived in the city of Toronto.
 - This population had increased by 42% between 2000 and 2005.
 - Fast growing regional phenomenon with greatest increases outside city of Toronto.

Working poor as a percentage of the working-age population

	2000	2005	Difference	Percent change
Canada	5.5%	6.3%	0.8%	15%
Ontario	4.6%	5.7%	1.1%	24%
Toronto (City)	5.9%	8.2%	2.3%	39%
Toronto CMA	4.5%	6.4%	1.9%	42%

Key features of the working poor in the Toronto Region

The working poor:

- Are more likely to be immigrants (73%)
- Work a comparable number of weeks per year to the rest of the working age population
- Hold jobs mainly in sales and service occupations (33%)
- More likely to be single

Key features of the working poor in the Toronto Region

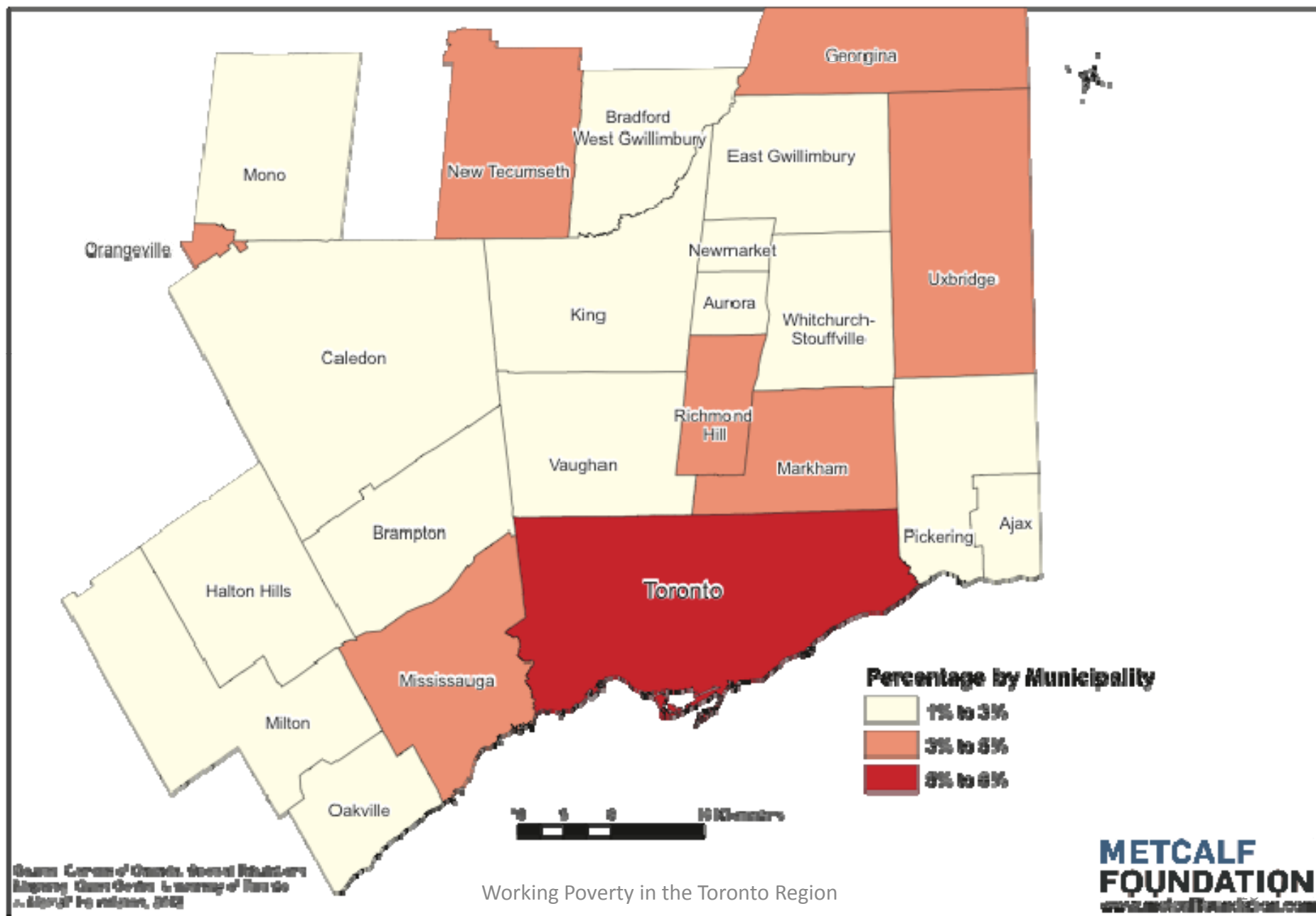
The working poor:

- Are only slightly less educated on average than the rest of the working-age population, 52% have some higher education, versus 57% of the working-age population
- Are less likely to own their own homes
- Tend to be younger

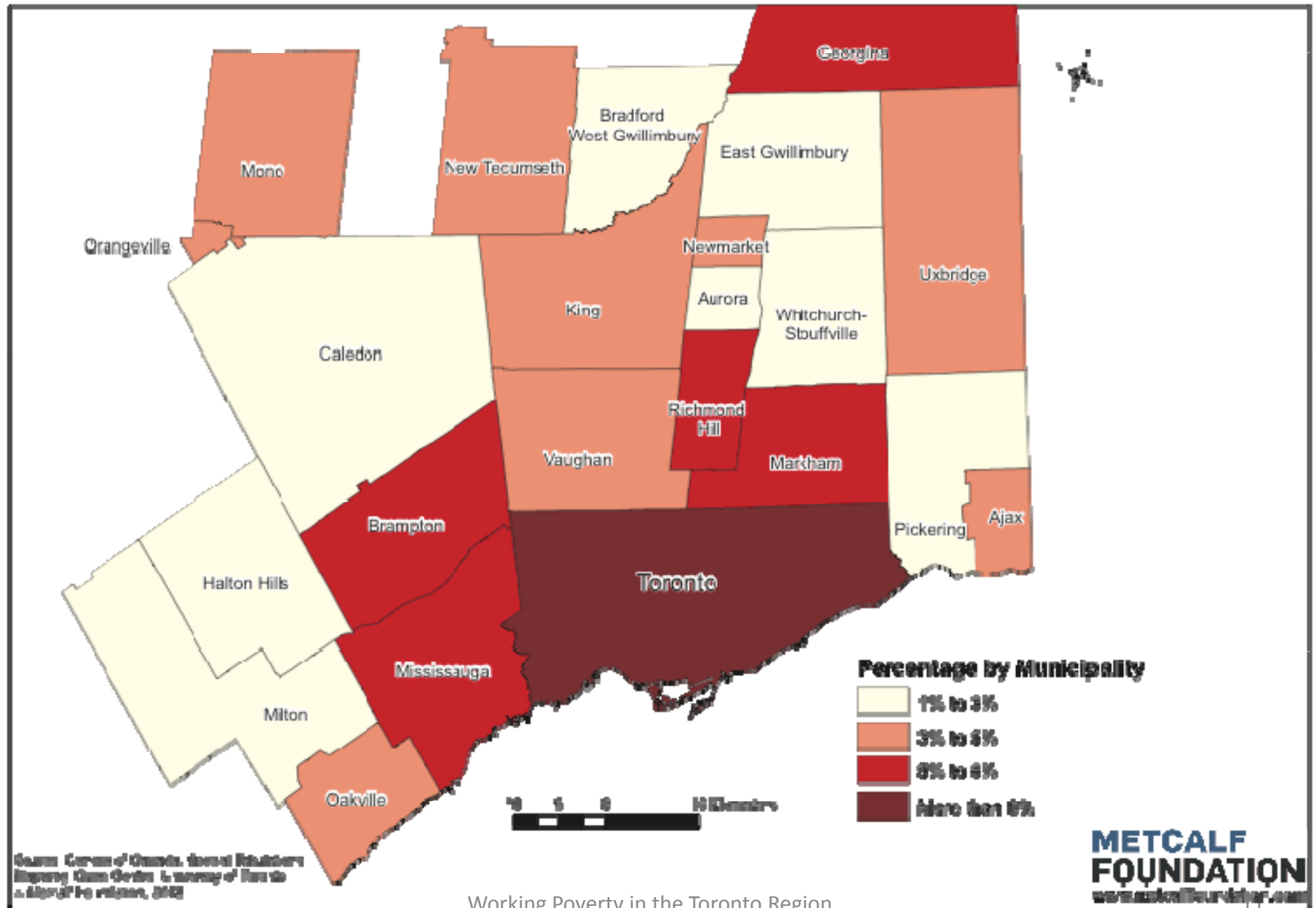
The Maps: Where they Live

- 8 Maps:
 - Toronto Region: 2000
 - Toronto Region: 2005
 - City of Toronto: 2000
 - City of Toronto: 2005
 - Difference: 2000-2005
 - City of Toronto: Immigrants – 2000
 - City of Toronto: Immigrants – 2005
 - Difference: 2000-2005

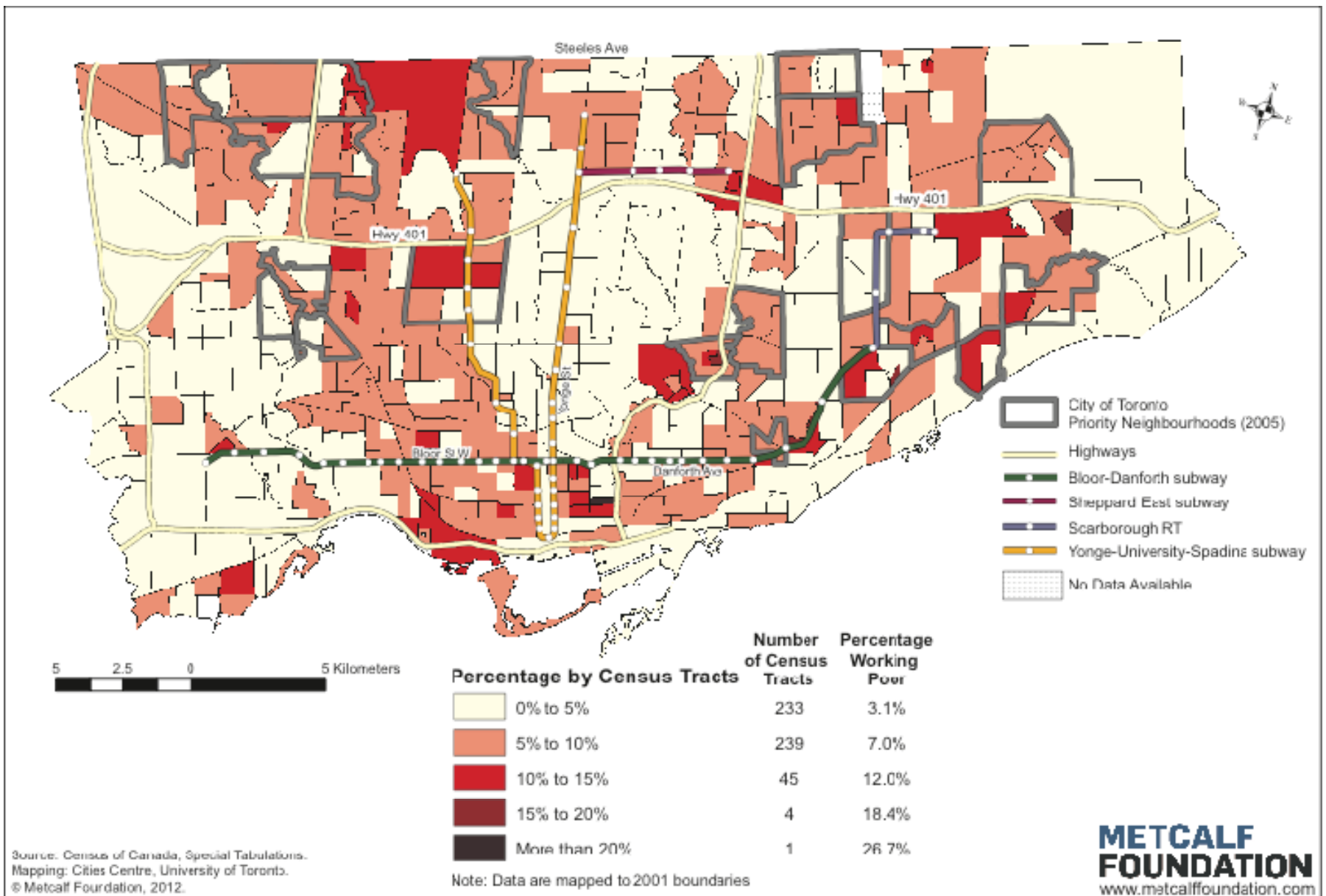
Map 1: Percentage of working poor individuals among the working-age population, Toronto census metropolitan area, 2000



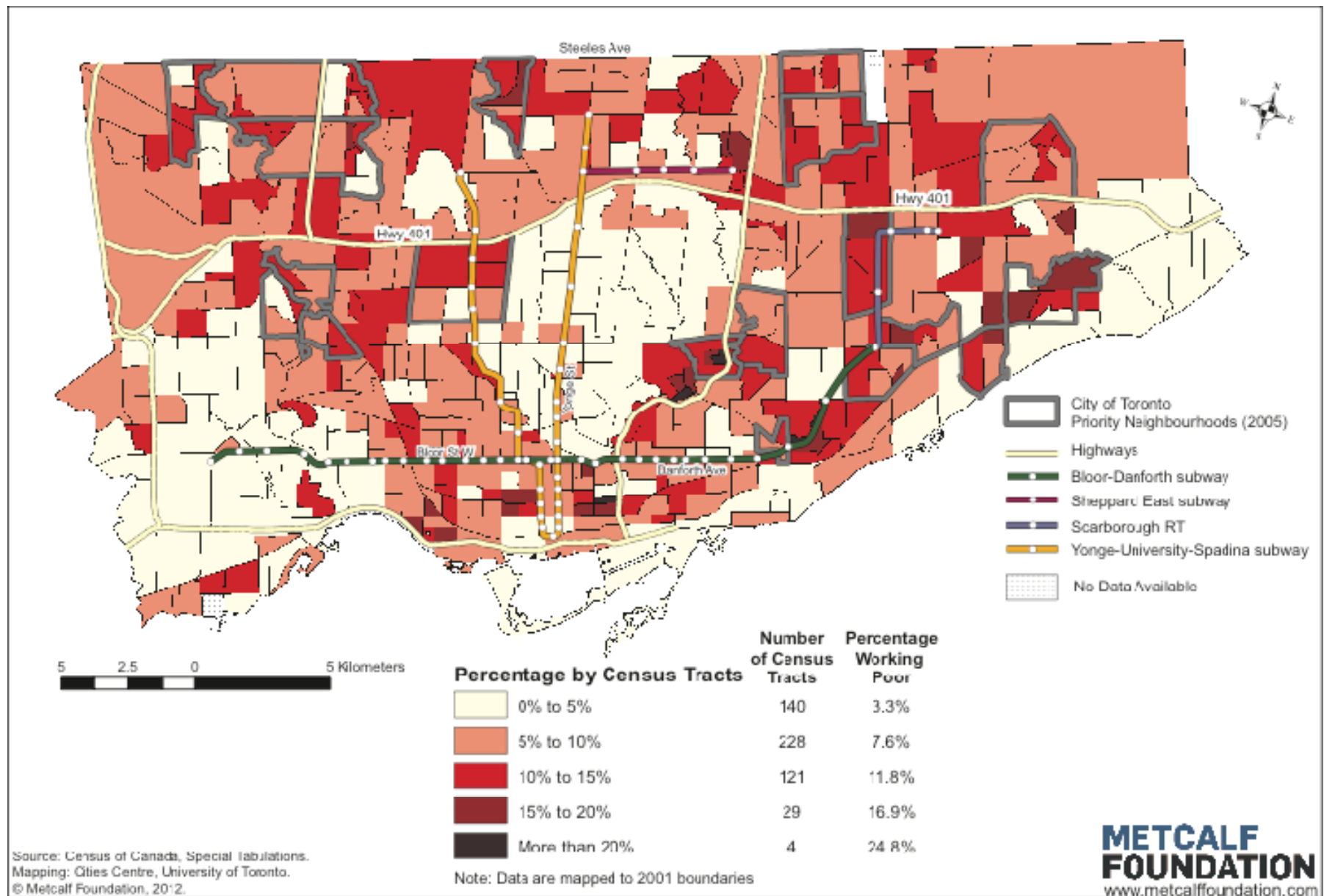
Map 2: Percentage of working poor individuals among the working-age population, Toronto census metropolitan area, 2005



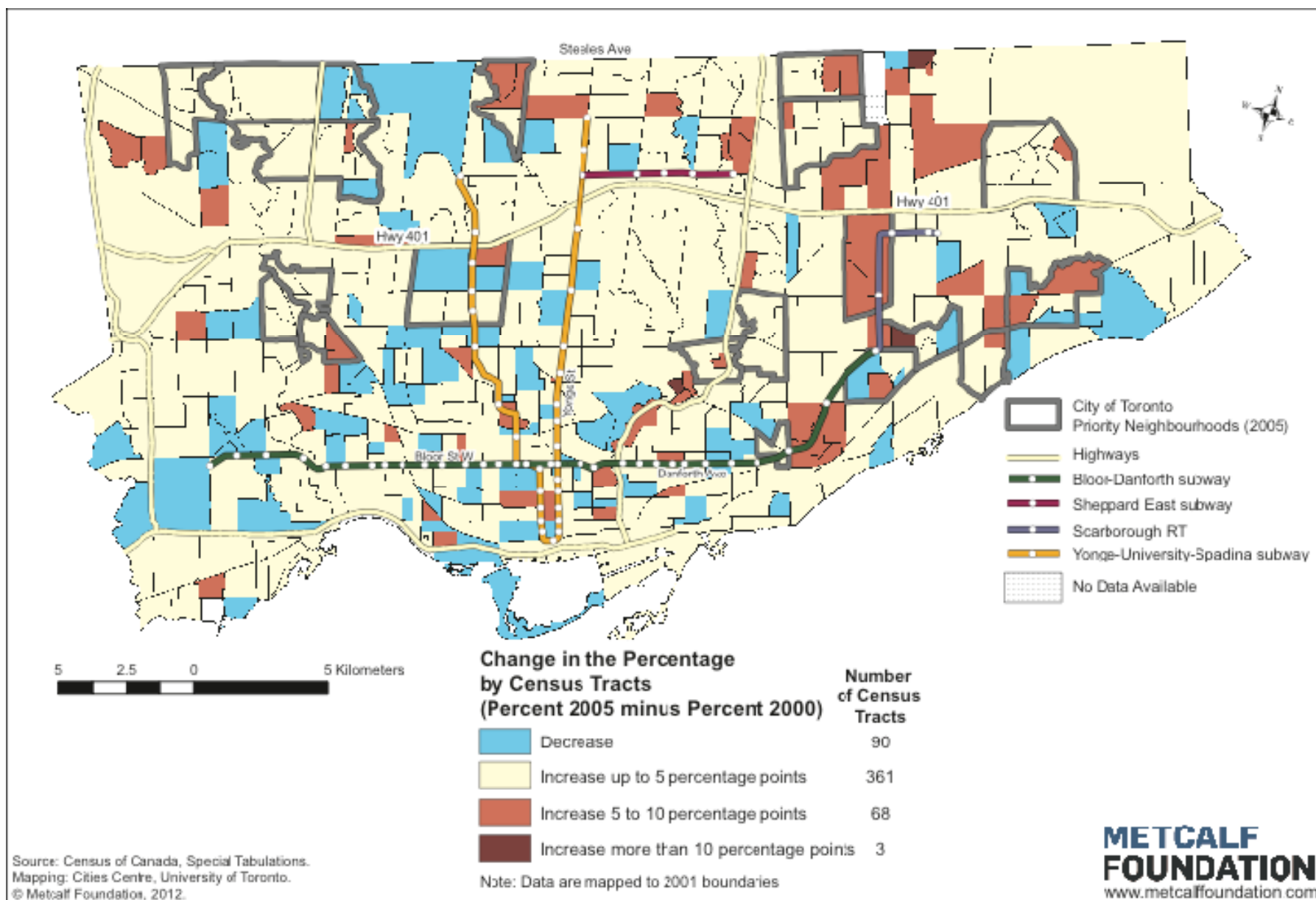
Map 3: Percentage of working poor individuals among the working-age population, City of Toronto, 2000



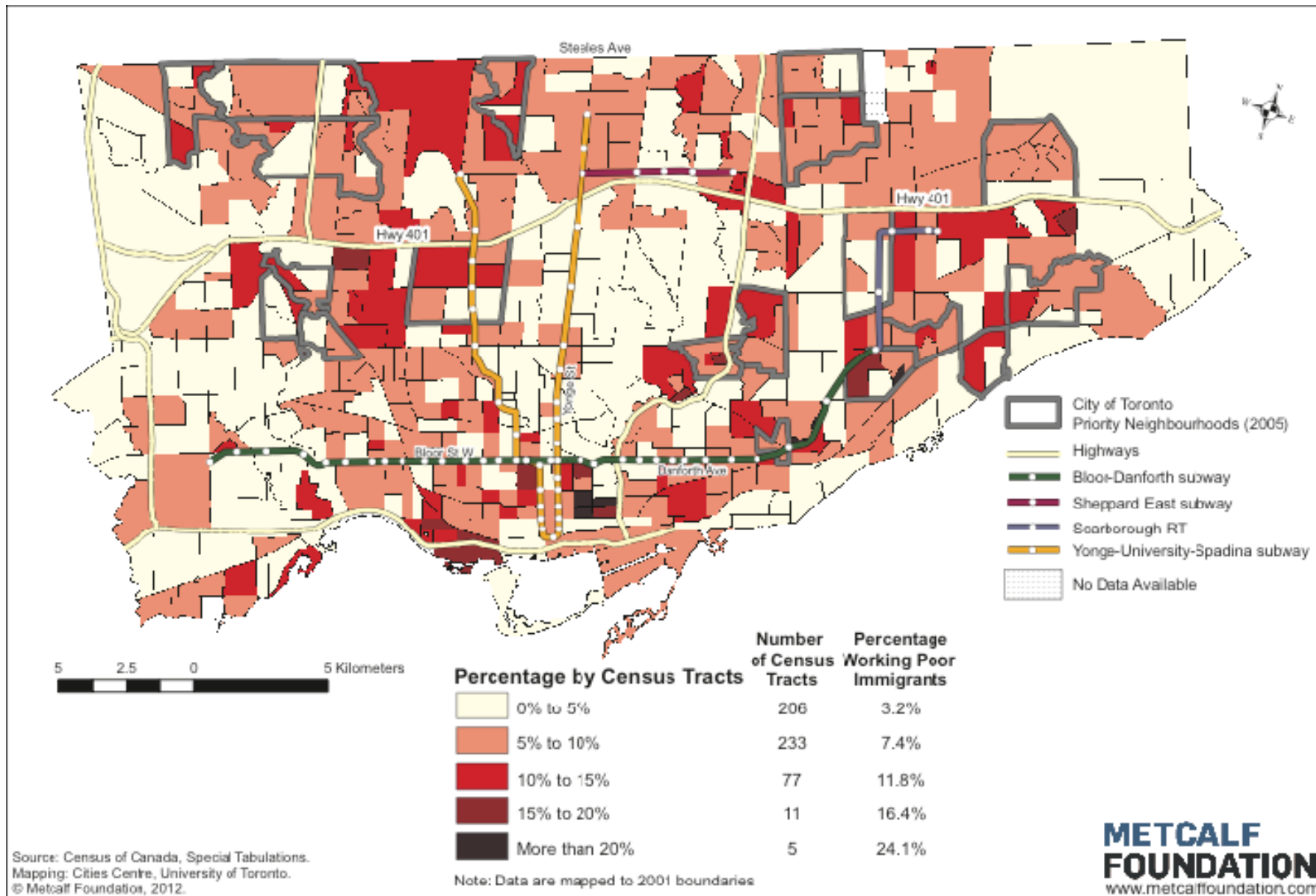
Map 4: Percentage of working poor individuals among the working-age population, City of Toronto, 2005



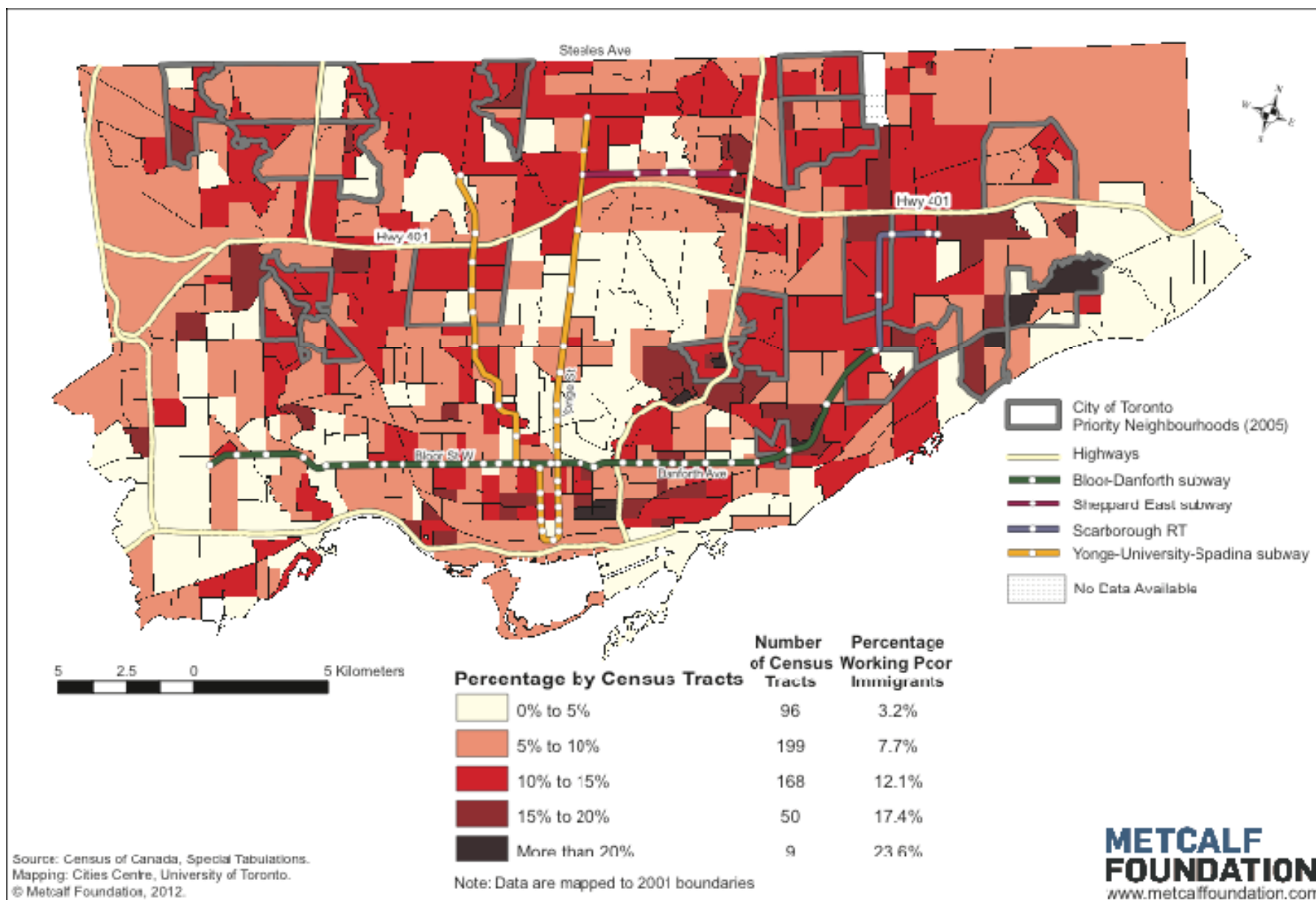
Map 5: Change in the percentage of the working poor individuals among the working-age population, City of Toronto, 2000-2005



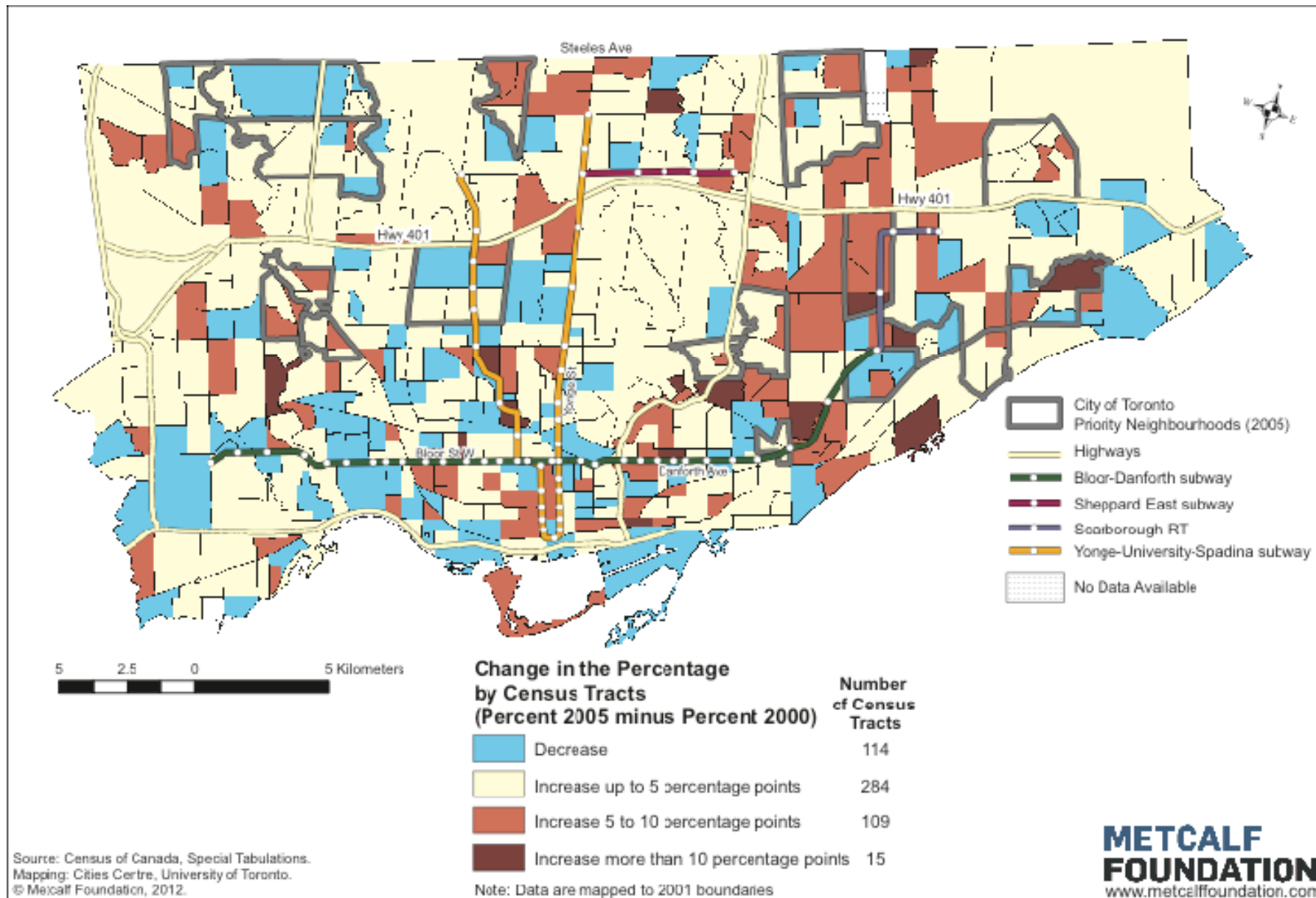
Map 6: Percentage of working poor immigrants among working-age immigrants, City of Toronto, 2000



Map 7: Percentage of working poor Immigrants among working-age Immigrants, City of Toronto, 2005



Map 8: Change in the percentage of working poor immigrants among working-age immigrants, City of Toronto, 2000-2005



Conclusions & Next Steps

- Within the city of Toronto, working poverty is moving eastward.
- The city of Toronto has the highest incidence of working poverty, but working poverty is a fast-growing phenomenon in the region.
- Working poverty impacts immigrants disproportionately.
- Some areas that show fewer working poor in 2005 may suggest that the community is becoming richer. On the other hand, it may just mean that fewer people are working. We don't know.

Conclusions & Next Steps

- The following areas of study would help in understanding the situation and needs of this group:
 - The income security system and working poverty
 - The structure of the job market and working poverty
 - Education and working poverty
 - Identity and working poverty
 - Transit/infrastructure and working poverty