

# Visualizing Subsidized Building Complexes in Toronto

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The map I created was of the City of Toronto using an OSM basemap. It uses data from the Subsidized Housing Listings dataset from the City. The map shows points for 578 building complexes with subsidized housing in Toronto, divided into the City's 25 wards. Colour is used to represent the different data on the map, specifically the building complex provider type and the estimated population of subsidized housing in each ward. Green represents building complexes operated by the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), purple for public/non-profit (PNP), and orange for CO-OP. The estimated population of subsidized housing is represented by the blue gradient that colours each ward, with darker wards having a higher estimated population.

At the building level, the concentration of building complexes is most prominent downtown, with the largest clusters around Toronto Centre, though there are considerable amounts of building complexes dispersed throughout the city. Distribution is not uniform, with paths and clusters of building complexes appearing. In these clusters and generally, different housing providers often intermingle; providers do not seem to be concentrated in specific areas.

For future analysis, I would consider layering the City of Toronto Ward Profiles dataset, which uses 2021 census data to show the socioeconomic data of each ward. I could use census population, income, demographics, and various other factors to try and find insights into why subsidized housing concentration is higher or lower in certain areas.

A major limitation of the data is regarding the list of buildings associated with each building complex. While the data is complete for building complexes, and a point location is given for each, there is no breakdown of individual buildings. As each complex may have multiple buildings, I wanted to be able to see how this looked spatially. I was able to process the column where listings of the related buildings were, finding over 800 related to the 578 complexes. Unfortunately, attempting to geocode these addresses led to over 100 that could

not be coded; this may be fixed through further processing, but the specific information per building is still left out of the data.

When interpreting the map, it is important to highlight the difference between building complexes and buildings. Since only building complexes are shown, there are less data points than the actual number of buildings in the city. Spatially, while complexes are likely on the same property, it has not been confirmed, so the locations may be missing areas that have buildings on them. Clearly outlining these limitations in a caption or similar approach should help mitigate these potential issues.

## REFERENCES

City of Toronto. 2024. “Ward Profiles (25-Ward model).”

<https://open.toronto.ca/dataset/ward-profiles-25-ward-model/>

City of Toronto. 2025. “Subsidized Housing Listings.”

<https://open.toronto.ca/dataset/subsidized-housing-listings/>