



## COVID-19 Infection and Vaccine Trajectories: The Vulnerability of Racial Minority and Immigrant Communities in Canada

Vaccine equity holds the key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, most prior work on vaccine equity compares the vaccine uptake across neighborhoods with varying socio-demographic composition or assesses whether vaccine disparity across neighborhoods has diminished over time. They seldom examine the extent to which vaccination helps reduce inequalities in the prevalence of COVID-19 across neighborhoods. Using administrative data from the City of Toronto, we compare the vaccine trajectories of neighborhoods with low, moderate, and high COVID-19 rates. We also examine whether disparities in COVID-19 rates have narrowed or widened as vaccinations have become more available. By mid-June 2021, differences in vaccination rates by neighborhoods' COVID-19 levels were small, but disparities in COVID-19 rates across neighborhoods persisted. Equality in vaccination rates is not a silver bullet to reducing inequalities in COVID-19 infections across neighborhoods with varying socio-demographic characteristics and likely variations in exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

**Professor Kate Choi, Western University:** Is a social demographer interested in the determinants, trends, and consequences of social inequality. An area of particular interest is the correlates and consequences of family formation behavior, particularly the formation of interracial marriages. Another area of interest is how community context shapes the wellbeing and health of individuals. Her work has been published in *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *International Migration Review*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *Social Science Research*. It has also garnered much media attention and she has been interviewed by every major media outlet, including CBC, the Toronto Star, CTV News, and Global News.

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2:00–3:30 pm

Friday, November 26, 2021

A Virtual Presentation

Zoom details to be provided