Environmental scanning to inform a mobility-promoting integrated care model: EMBOLDEN

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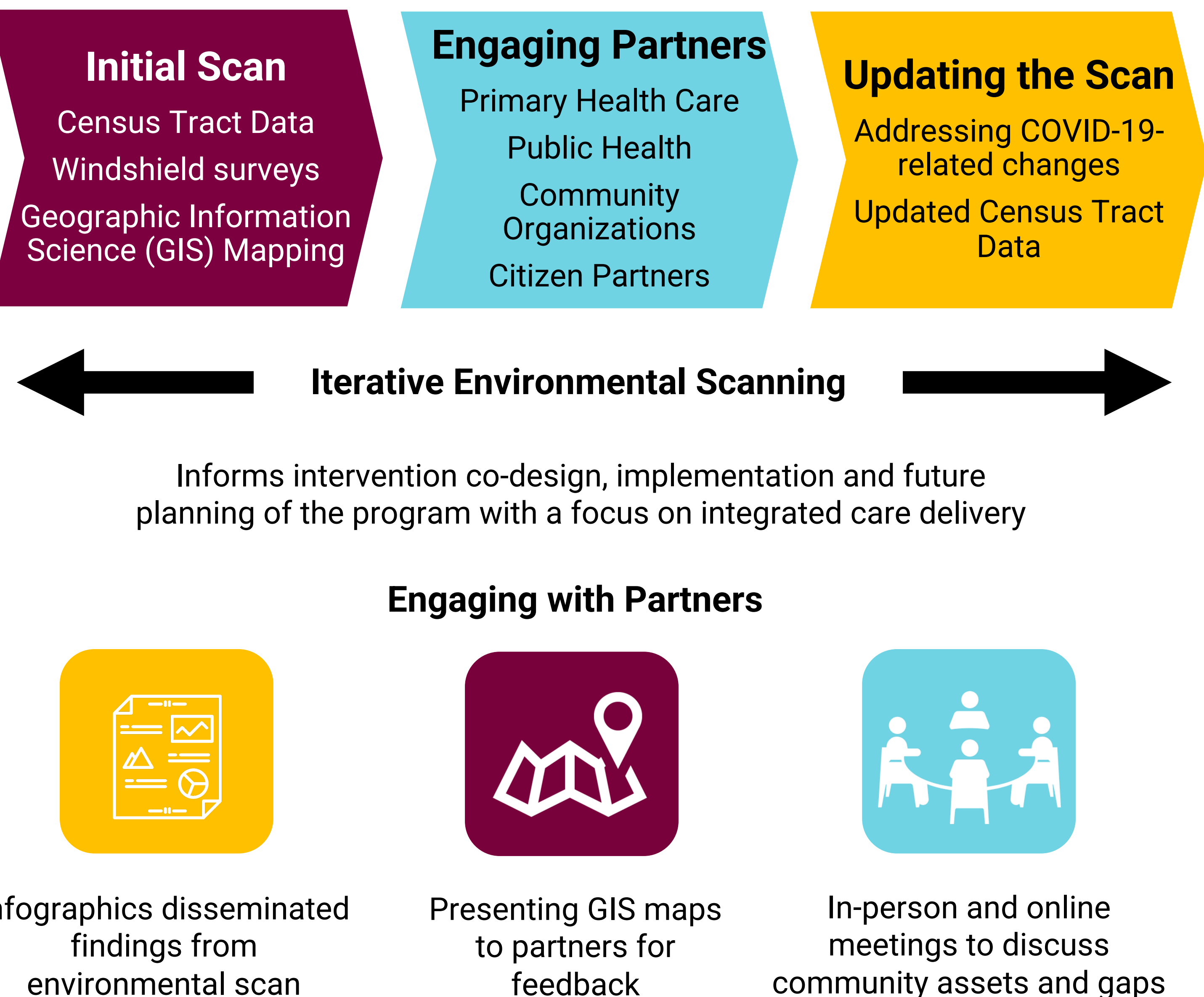
Context

- The EMBOLDEN study aims to promote physical and community mobility amongst older adults who experience difficulties taking up community programs and reside in areas of high health inequity.
- Environmental scanning is key to informing policy, planning, and program development.
- Iterative environmental scanning was conducted to inform pragmatic implementation and to partner with health and social service organizations in integrated care delivery.

Objectives

1. To provide contextual information about the current state of programs in Hamilton.
2. To collaborate with primary health care (PHC), public health, and community organizations as well as citizen partners to expand understanding of assets and identify gaps in programs and services.
3. To identify and reassess priority neighbourhoods in Hamilton based on key indicators.

Methods

Initial Scan
Census Tract Data
Windshield surveys
Geographic Information Science (GIS) Mapping

Engaging Partners
Primary Health Care
Public Health
Community Organizations
Citizen Partners

Updating the Scan
Addressing COVID-19-related changes
Updated Census Tract Data

Iterative Environmental Scanning

Informs intervention co-design, implementation and future planning of the program with a focus on integrated care delivery

Engaging with Partners

Infographics disseminated findings from environmental scan

Presenting GIS maps to partners for feedback

In-person and online meetings to discuss community assets and gaps

Results
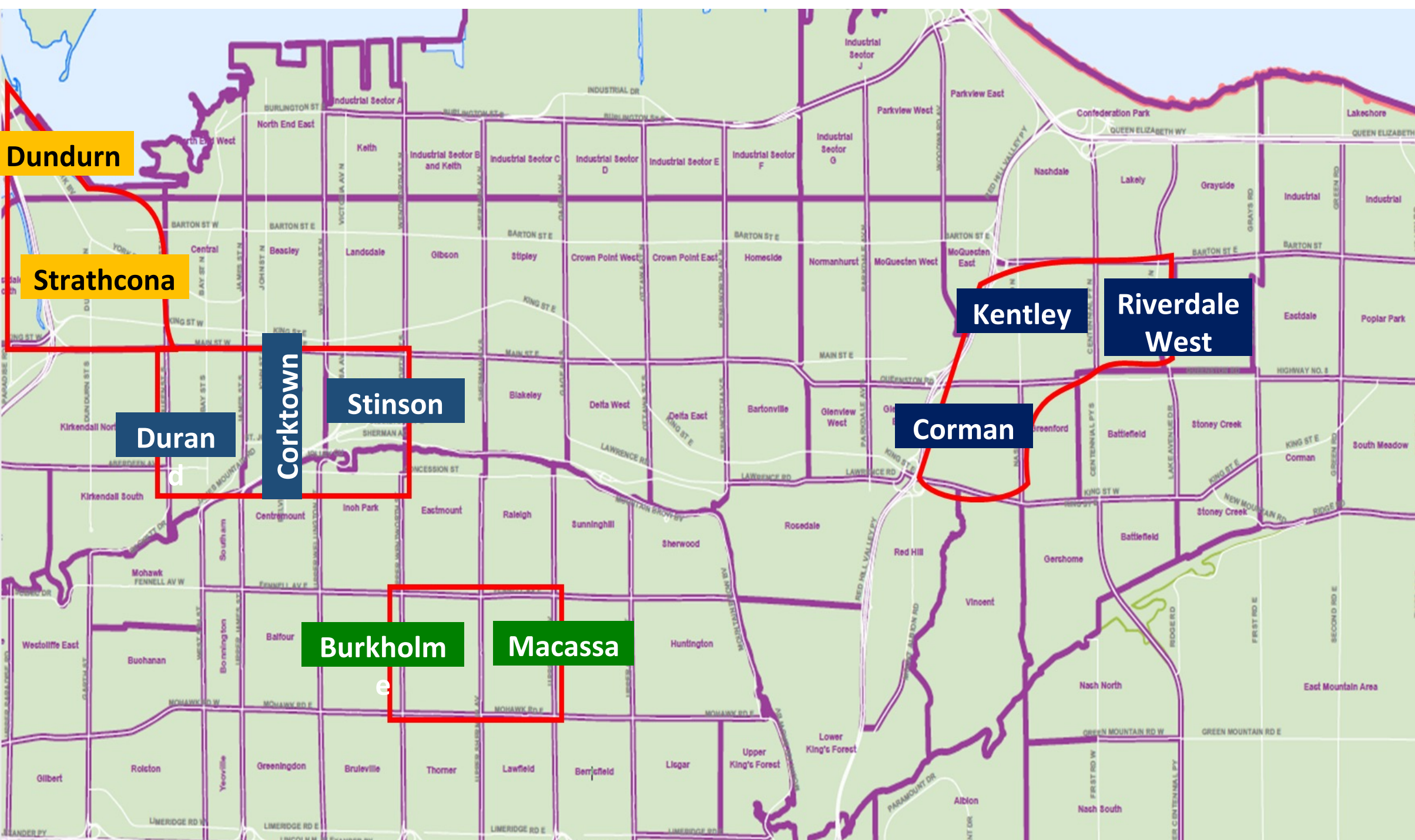
Identifying Priority Neighbourhoods

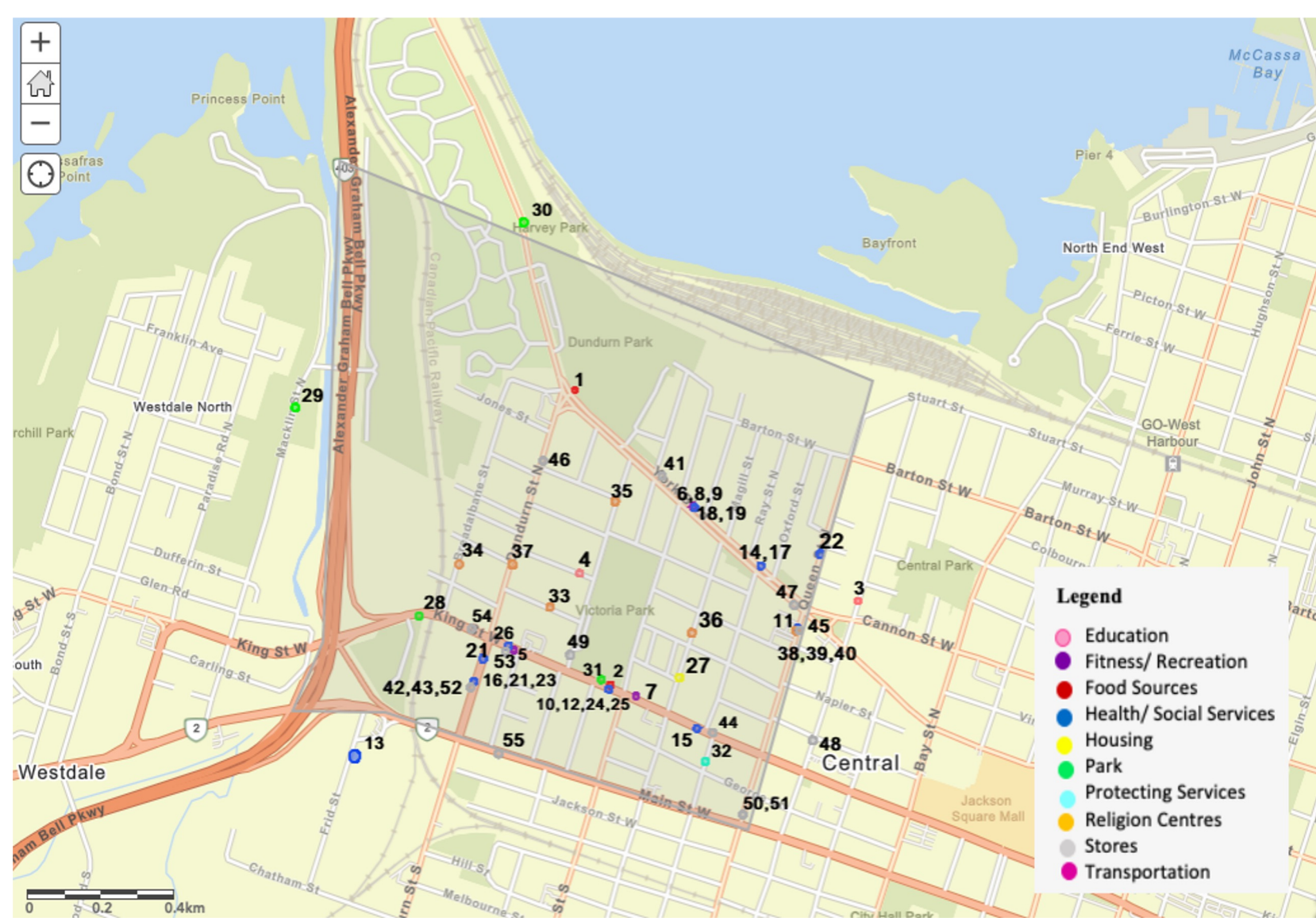**Figure 1:** Identified priority neighbourhoods based on 2016 census tract data analysis.

Figure 2: Examples of GIS maps created to identify health and social service assets for the Strathcona neighbourhood.

Partner Engagement

- Citizen partners and service providers addressed a more nuanced understanding of available community assets and how people interact with them, and highlighted implementation considerations.
  - E.g., PHC providers identified opportunities to take the lead role in facilitated system navigation to support the integration of health and social care.
- The intervention design team used findings to position the multi-component EMBOLDEN intervention to be integrated into this context.

2016 – 2023 Comparison of Priority Neighbourhoods

Key indicators for priority neighbourhoods:
- 1%+ older adults
- Quintile 4/5 material deprivation
- 2%+ < low income cut-off
- 15%+ Immigrant population

Table 1: A comparison of key population indicators using 2016 and 2021 census tract data[1]

Neighbourhood	Total Population 2016	Total Population 2021	Individuals 55 y+ n (%) 2016	Individuals 55 y+ n (%) 2021	Material deprivation (quintile) 2016	Material deprivation (quintile) 2021	< Low income cut-off n (%) 2016	< Low income cut-off n (%) 2021	Immigrant n (%) 2016	Immigrant n (%) 2021
Riverdale West	6,550	6804	30	31	5	5	2.4	1.0	46	44
Kentley	3,993	4007	43	43	5	5	5.4	2.0	40	35
Durand	3,914	4172	41	40	4	4	6.5	2.8	28	23
Stinson and Corktown	5,258	5,691	24	24	5	5	2.1	0.9	35	36
Corman	3,397	3476	40	41	5	5	2.5	1.0	33	34
Burkhome	3,601	3580	34	34	5	5	3.6	0.8	29	31
Strathcona and Dundurn	3,140	3,131	40	41	4	5	6.5	3.4	28	28
Macassa	2,533	2,584	49	48	4	4	2.8	1.2	19	20

Legend
The key indicator was met by the neighbourhood.
The key indicator was not met by the neighbourhood.

- The 2023 environmental scan update, confirmed that these 8 neighbourhoods remained priority communities in Hamilton.
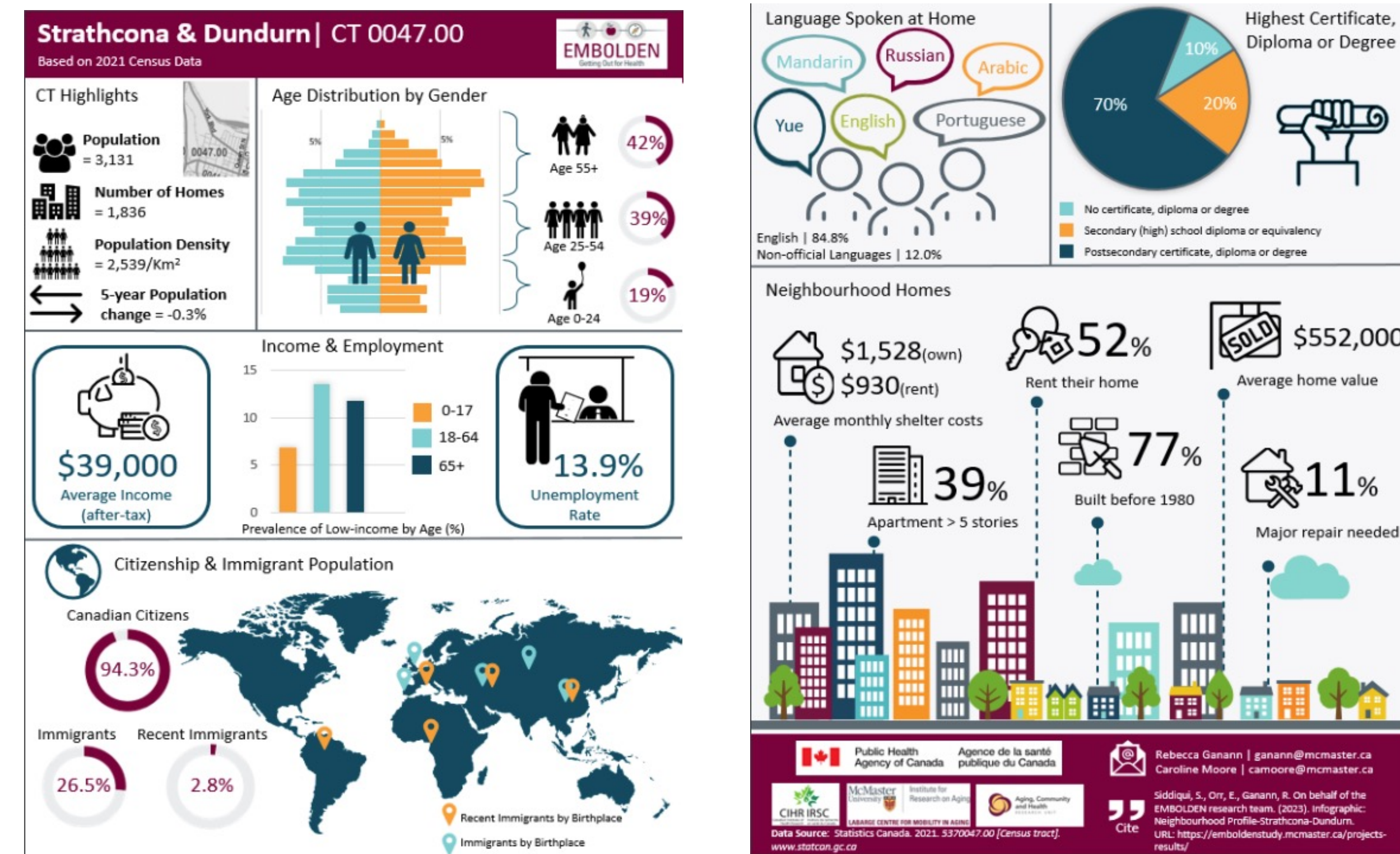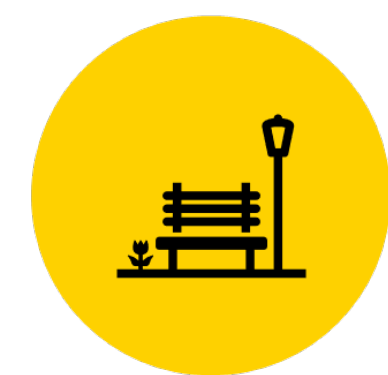
Knowledge Translation Tools

Figure 3: Example of knowledge translation infographics created for the Strathcona neighbourhood.

Conclusions

Environmental scanning better aligns program design with existing services and leverageable assets. Scanning was critical to understanding the context for the EMBOLDEN intervention, creating a relevant program and informing program implementation and adaptations for each study site.

Research Evidence

Assets and gaps in the community

Content experts

Lived experiences of older adults and local service providers

Co-design of EMBOLDEN

Acknowledgements

References

1. Statistics Canada. 2021. 5370072.03 [Census tract], Ontario and Hamilton [Census metropolitan area], Ontario (table). Census Profile.

https://emboldenstudy.mcmaster.ca/