

Changes in informal access to selected indoor public spaces in Toronto:

How to read the maps

The [Changes in informal access to selected indoor public spaces in Toronto](#) project examines the loss of indoor public space in Toronto during the COVID-19 pandemic. To illustrate what we found, we chose to use “general reference maps with a theme.” General reference maps show the boundaries of a study area, along with key elements to help orient a reader to the map geography such as streets, land use categories (parks), and transit lines. Maps in this project incorporate an additional thematic symbol – black or pink dots – to communicate the location of specific indoor sites such as coffee shops or libraries.

Maps in this project include the following information:

- Title of each map
- On the right side each map, you will find:
 - Notes describing exactly what the map captures.
 - More information about sites. For example, this may be a list of addresses for the sites illustrated on map, or a list of organizations responsible for running sites illustrated on the map. The way this information is presented will vary from map to map.
 - A bar illustrating a particular benchmark. For example, the combined indoor capacity for sites illustrated on the map over a particular time period. Or, the combined number of sites offering indoor access over a particular time period.
 - We use a black bar at the bottom of each 2019/20 map to illustrate this benchmark.
 - We use a pink bar at the bottom of each 2020/21 map to illustrate this benchmark.
 - For each type of indoor space, we have produced maps that capture access in 2019/20 and in 2020/21. To get a quick sense of the scale of the change between years, you can compare the length of the black bar (used for 2019/20 maps) with the length of the pink bar (used for 2020/19 maps).
- On the maps, black dots represent locations that were open in 2019/20. Pink dots represent locations that were open in 2020/21. Pink circles represent locations that are open in 2020/21, but with dramatically reduced access. In general, sites marked as pink circles have bathroom access only, although there are some exceptions.