



Supporting Equitable Energy Transitions in Inequitable Communities: Offshore wind in Nova Scotia

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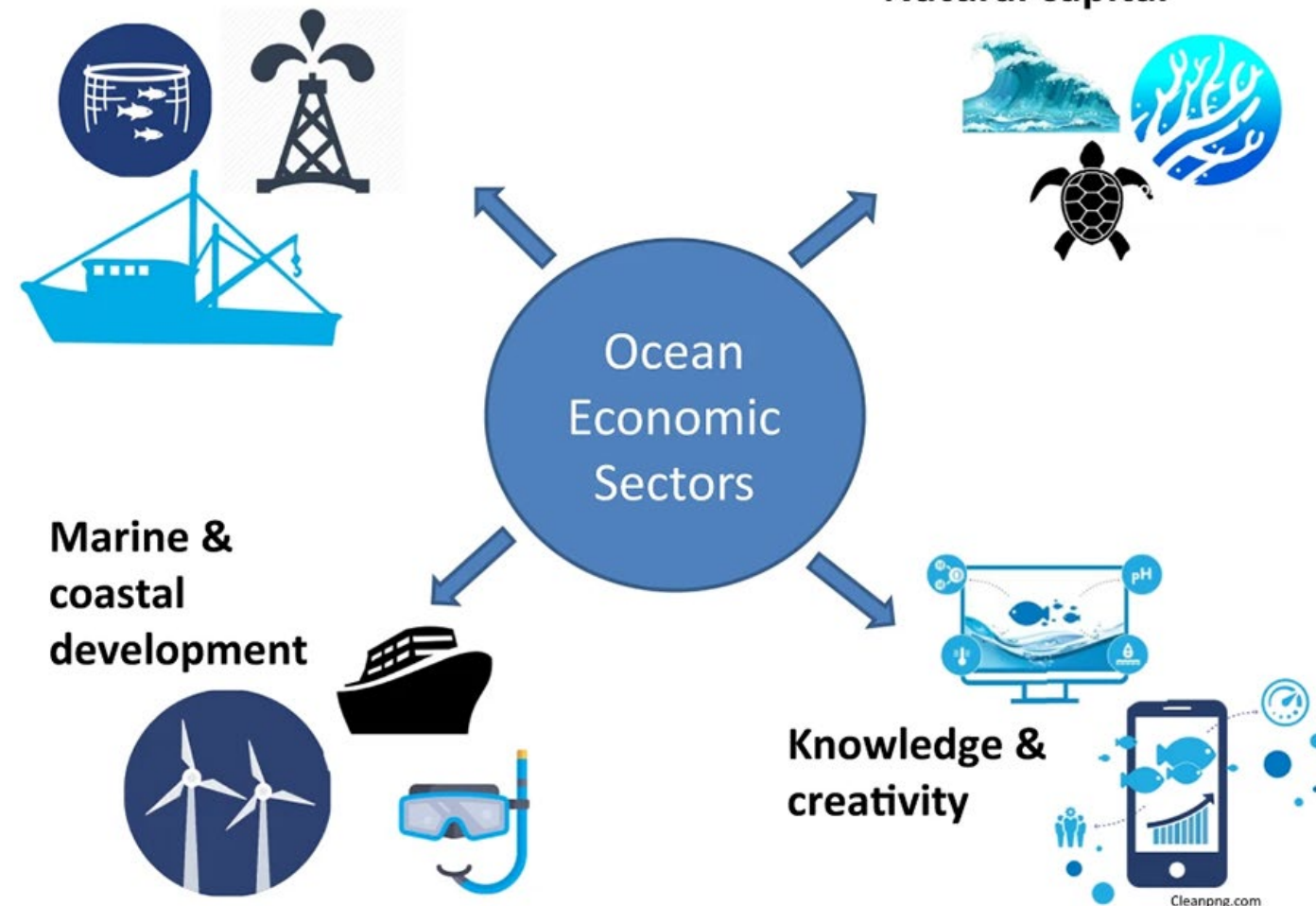
Prepared for Nova Scotia Offshore Wind R&D Forum 2025

OCEAN ECONOMY



Extractable natural resources

Natural capital



Offshore Wind Energy

Global

Global OSW capacity is projected to rise from 68 GW in 2023 to nearly 2000 GW by 2050.

Canada

Offer leases for 5 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.

Nova Scotia

Four designated OSW areas in NS, including French Bank, Middle Bank, Sable Island Bank, and Sydney Bight.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE & CONFLICT

Global OSW Experiences



Stalled

New Jersey's Offshore Wind Program



Initial stage

Port Stephens / Hunter Offshore Wind in Australia



Canceled

Navitus Bay offshore wind farm, United Kingdom

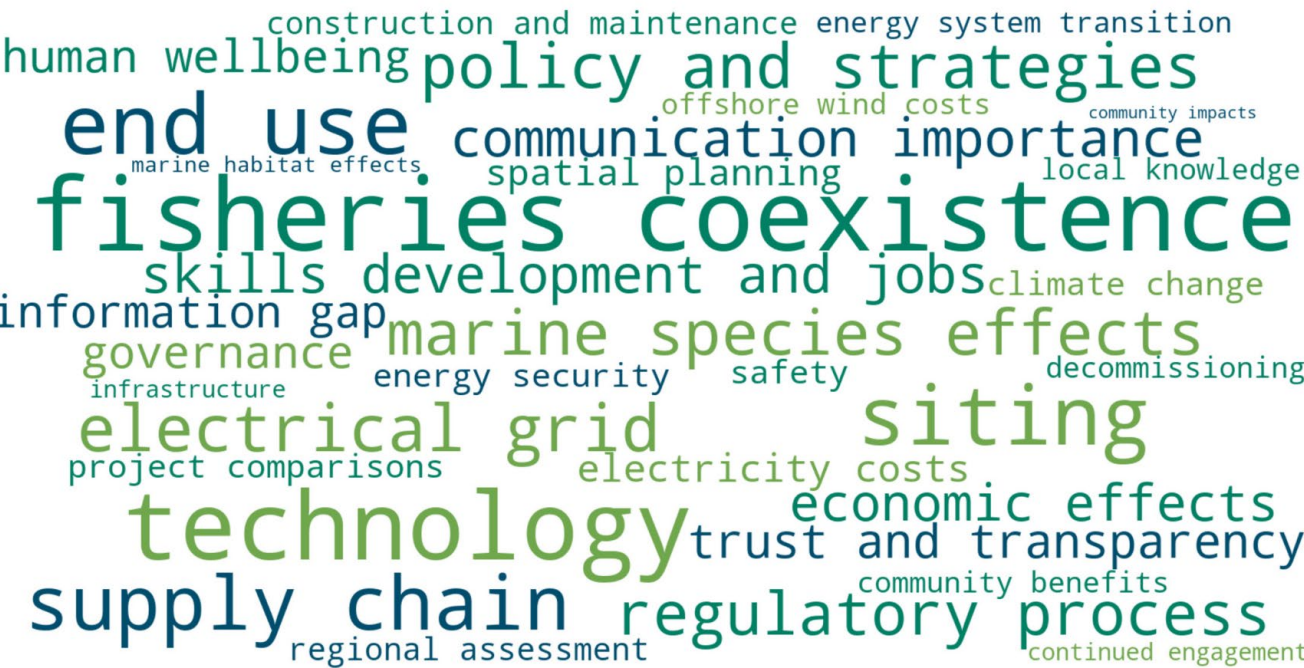


Operational

Hywind Scotland Pilot Park

OSW in Nova Scotia

What We Heard in Nova Scotia



Source: (NZA, 2025)

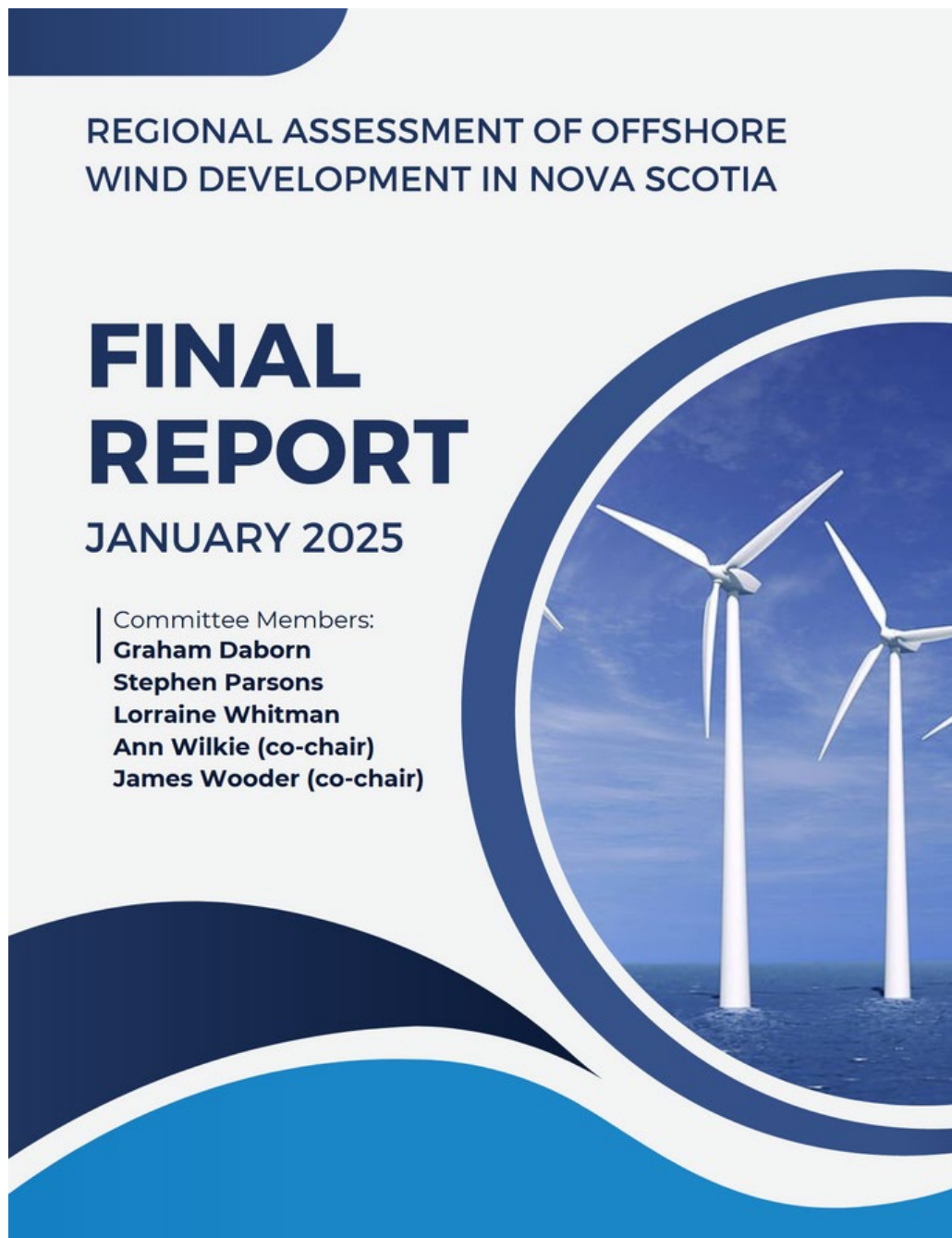
Jurisdiction and sovereignty

Marine environments and wildlife

livelihood

Climate change

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Final Report

January 23, 2025

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Social Infrastructure

There is regular commentary that NS in 2024 is confronting a crisis in the capacity of its social infrastructure, i.e., its housing pool, its medical resources and its educational facilities. There is an acute shortage of affordable housing not just in HRM, but across the province (Turner Drake *et al.*, 2022). As of June 2024, more than 16% of Nova Scotians did not have a family doctor and emergency facilities were reducing hours because of staff shortages. Schools are overcrowded in part due to recent population growth. It is not the intent of the RA to undertake a close examination of these topics, but if a new industry is to be accommodated, it is imperative that due consideration be given by the responsible authorities, federal, provincial and municipal, to address the pressures that would be placed on the already compromised social infrastructure and to plan and invest accordingly. If the labour needs of a new OSW industry are to be met by attracting further immigration, either from other provinces or internationally, investment in housing, the health system and education is of equal importance to investment in ports or the grid.

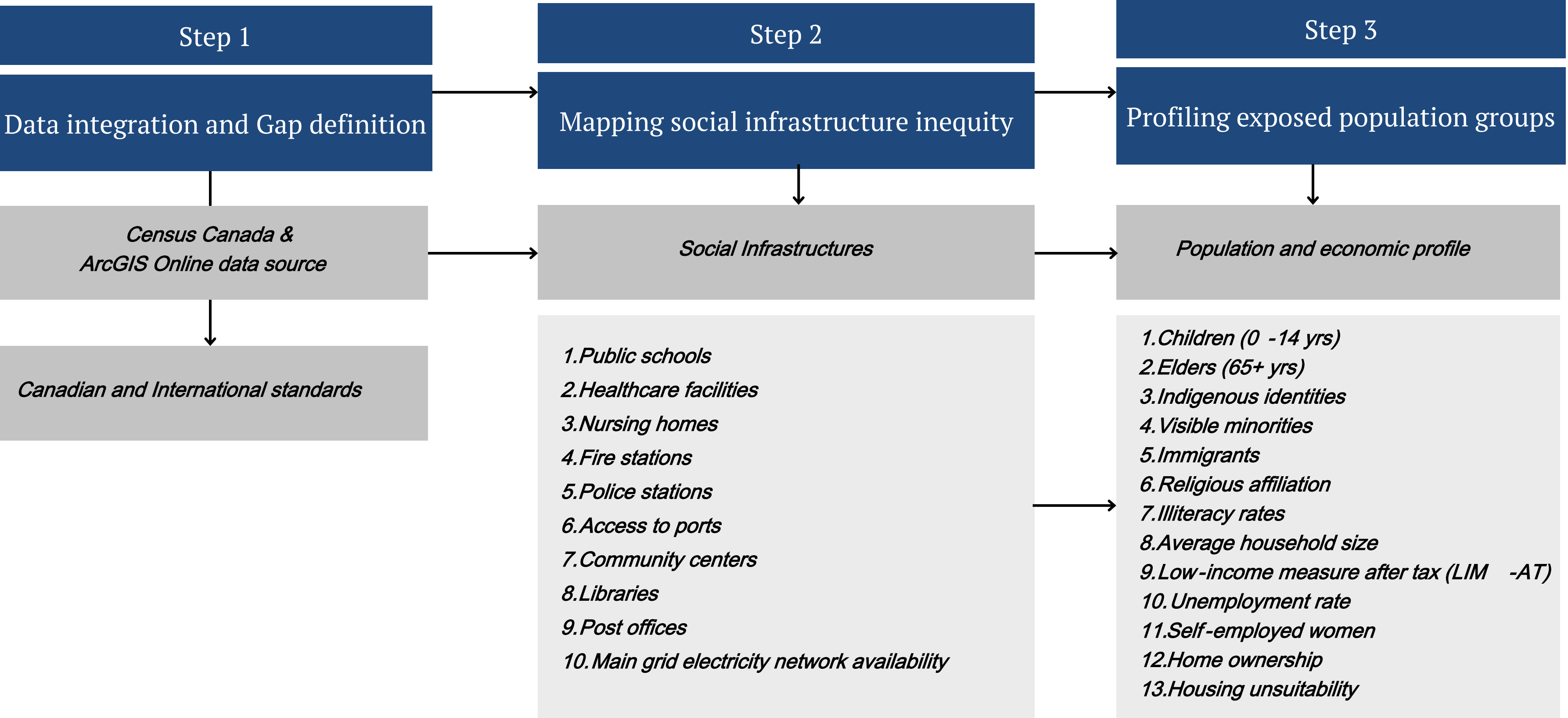
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Q1: What Social infrastructure gaps exist across Nova Scotia?

Q2: Where are the areas of greatest need?

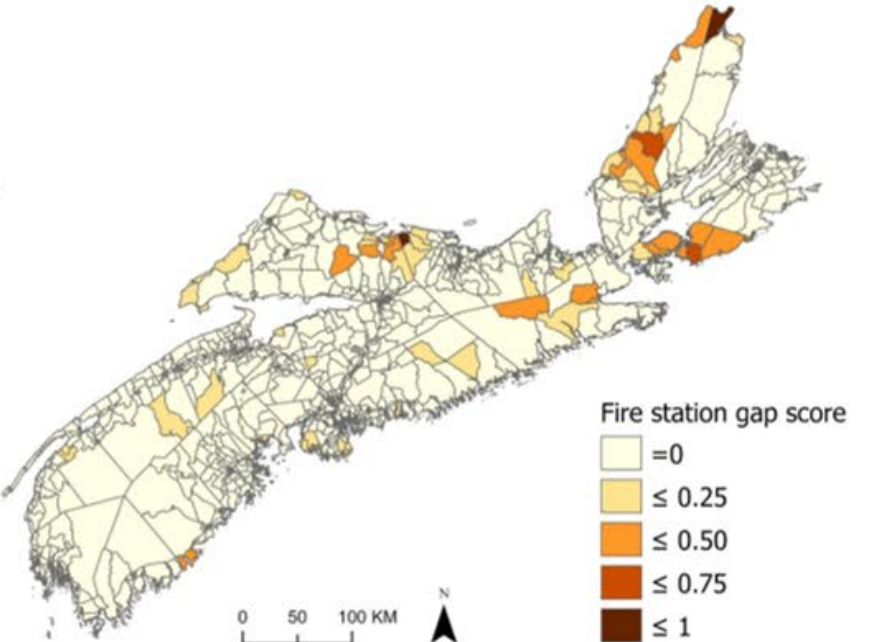
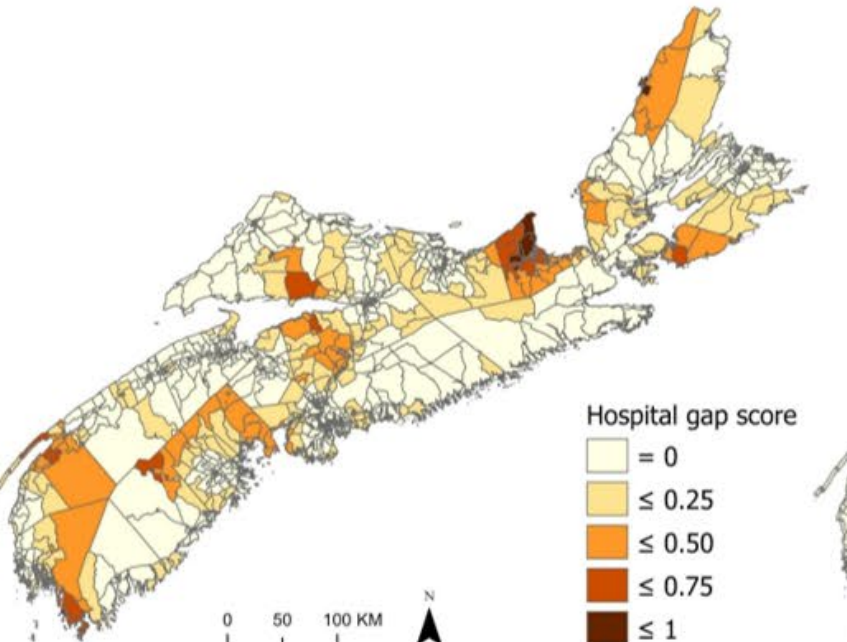
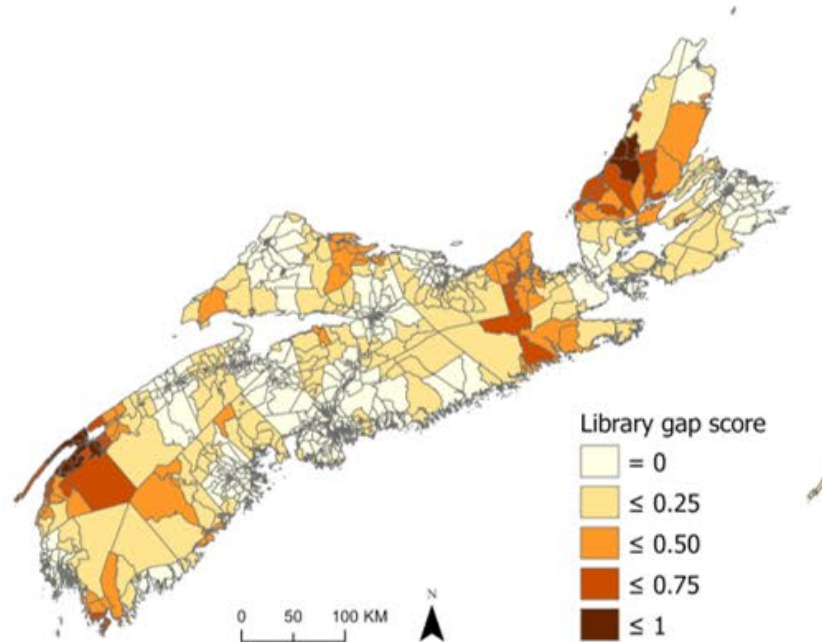
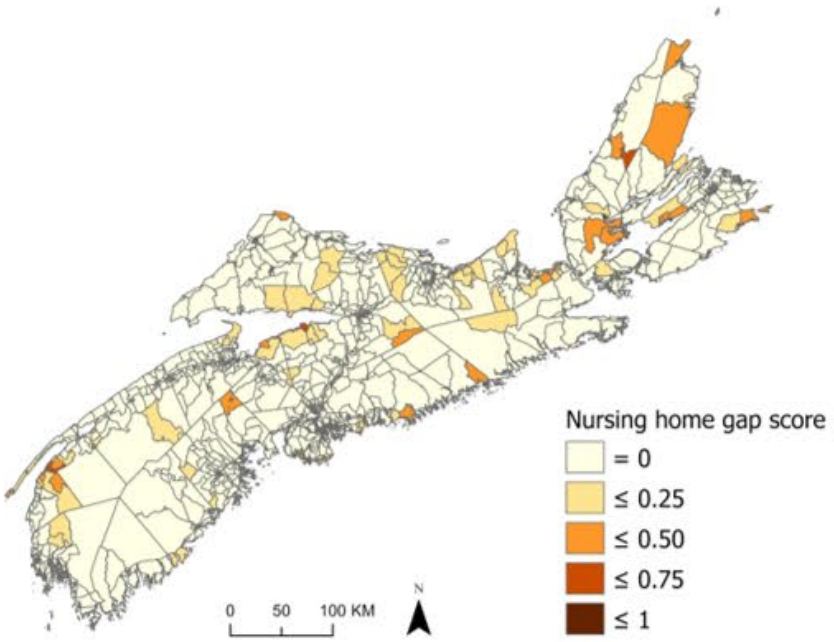
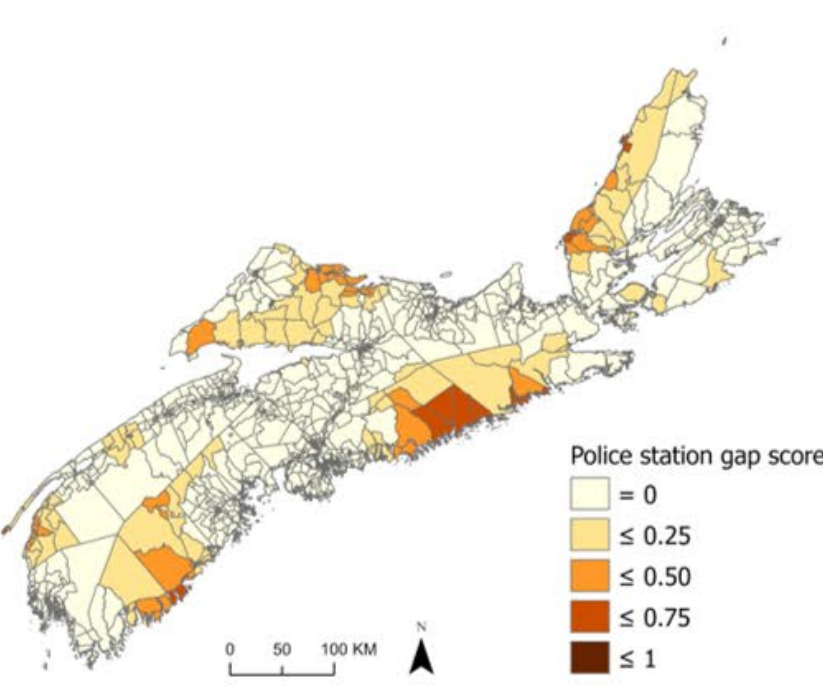
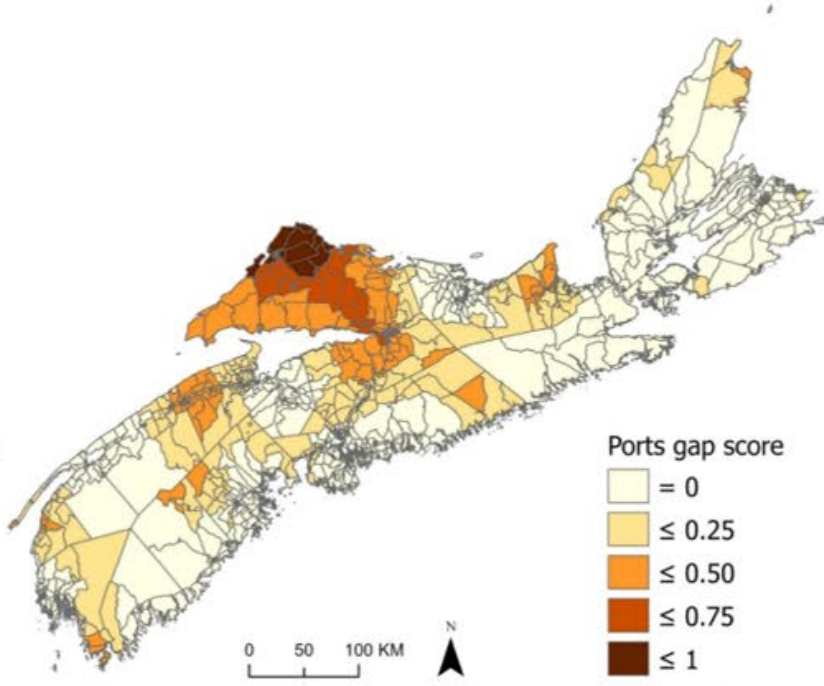
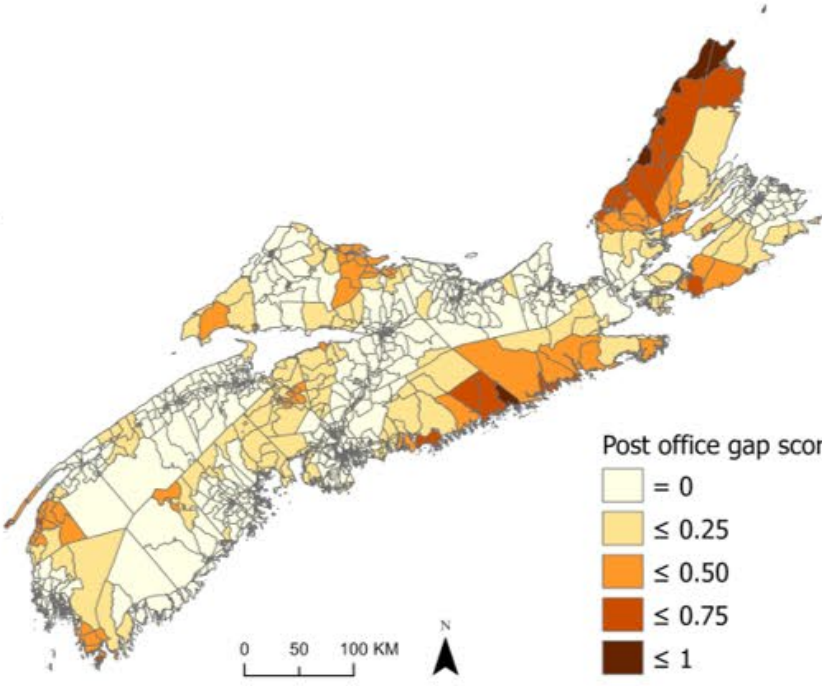
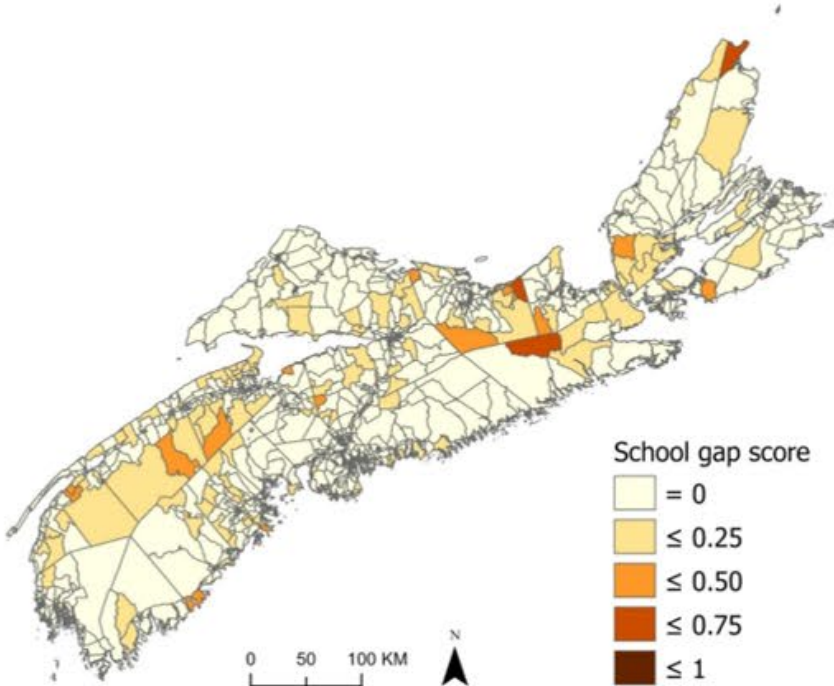
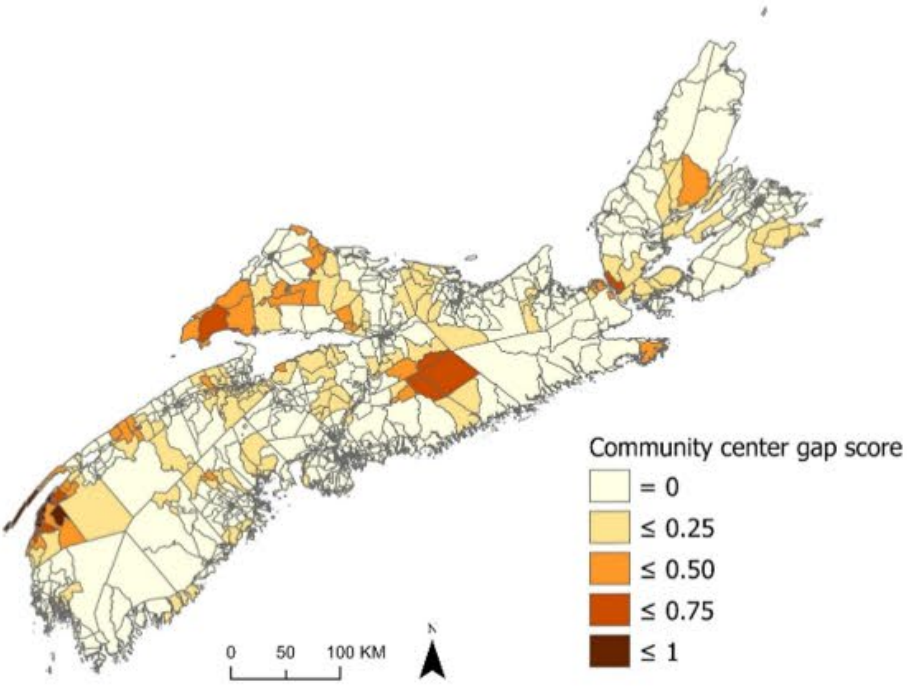
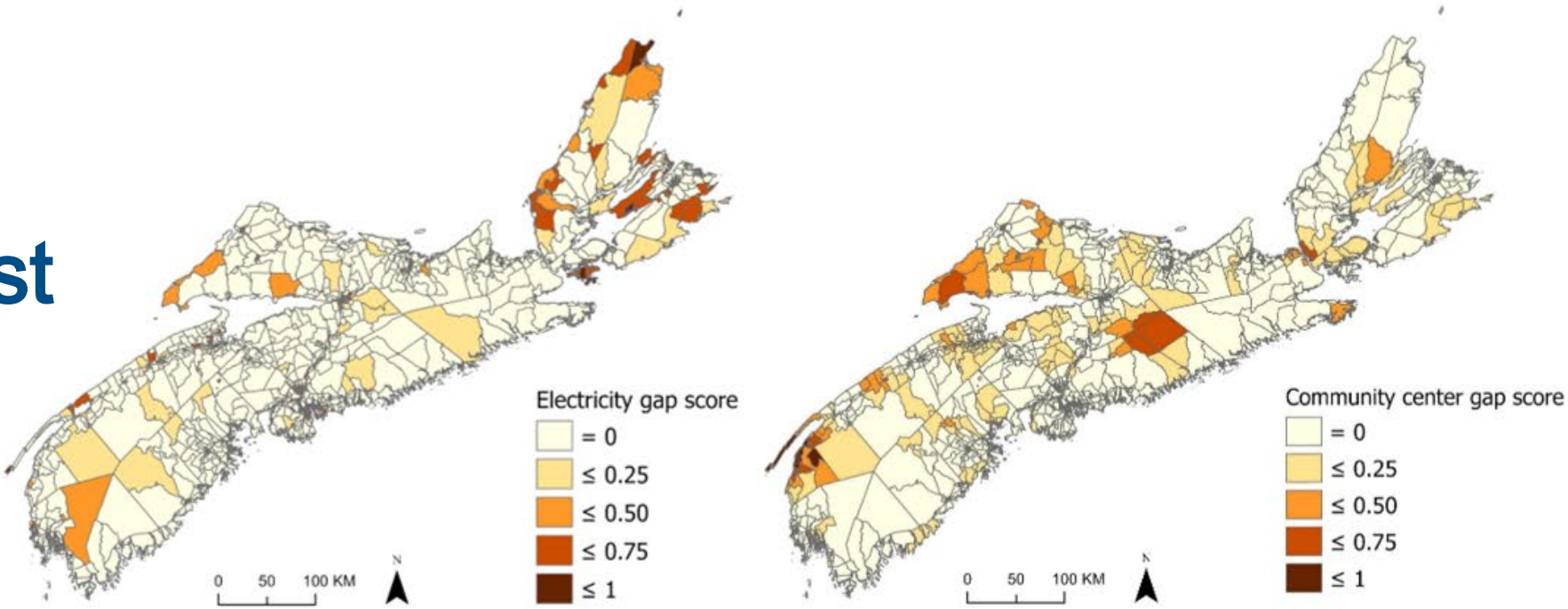
Q3: Which demographic and economic groups are experiencing these gaps?

RESEARCH METHODS



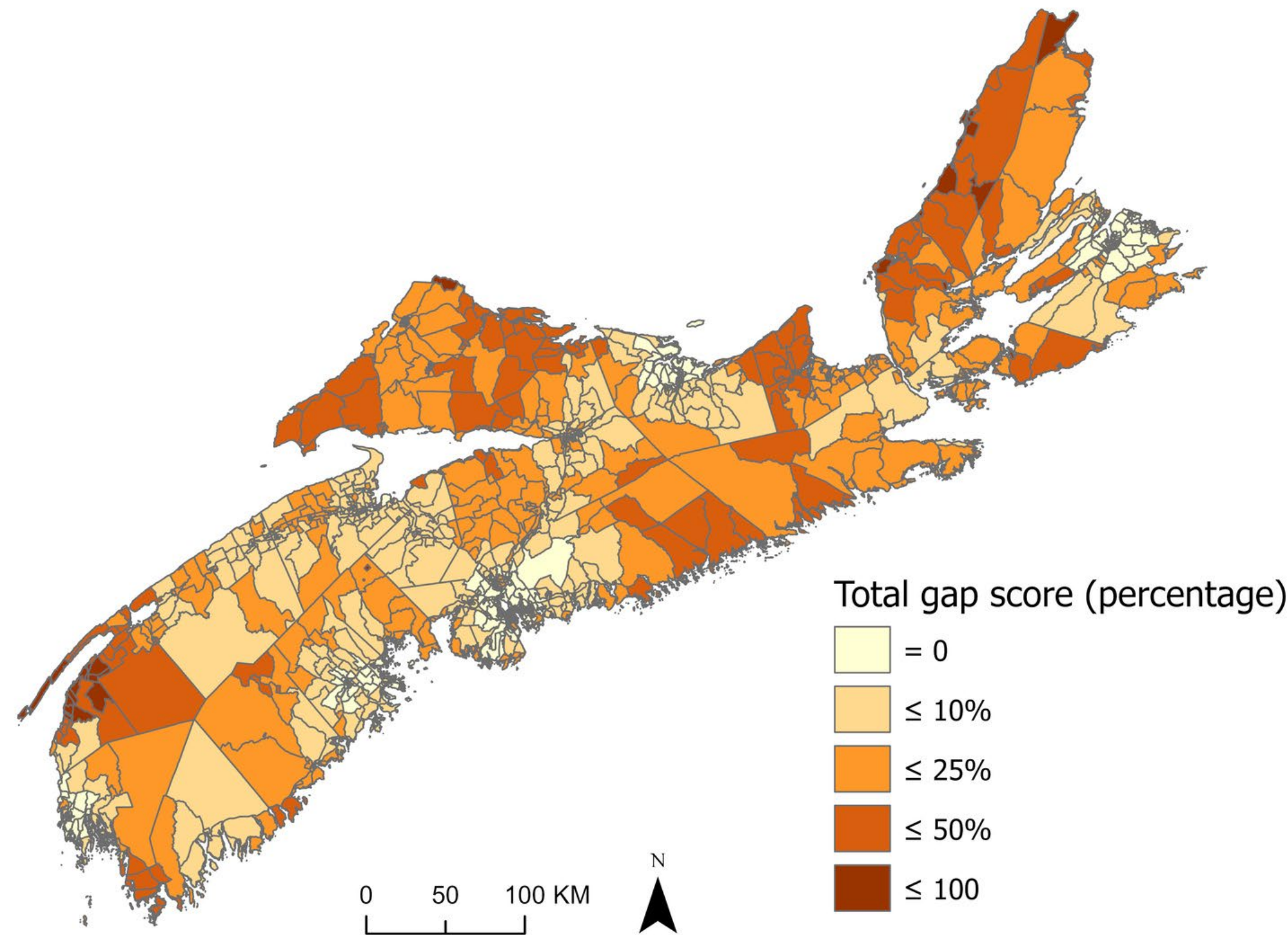
RESULTS:

Q1. What Social infrastructure gaps exist across Nova Scotia?

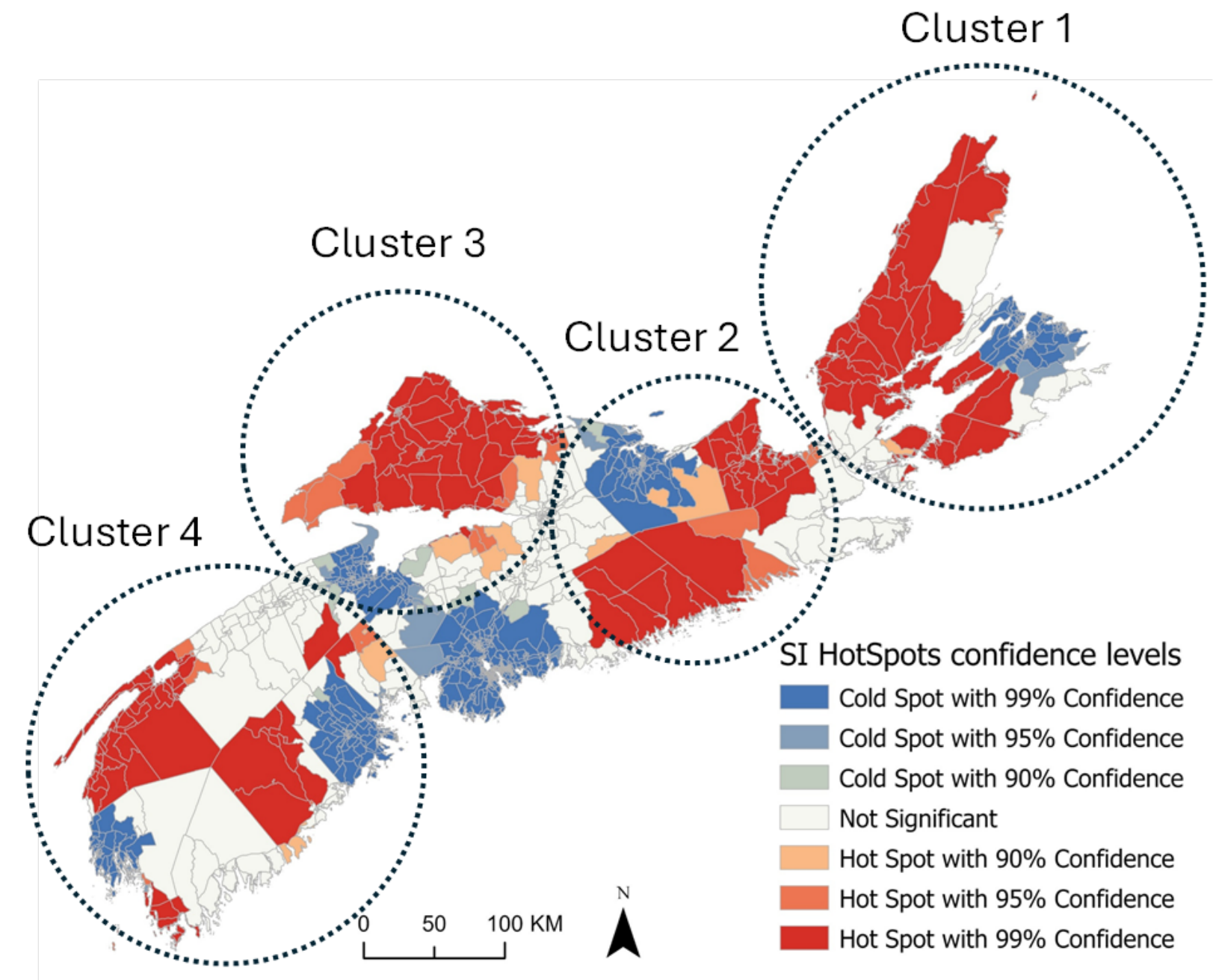


RESULTS:

Q2. Where are the areas of greatest need?



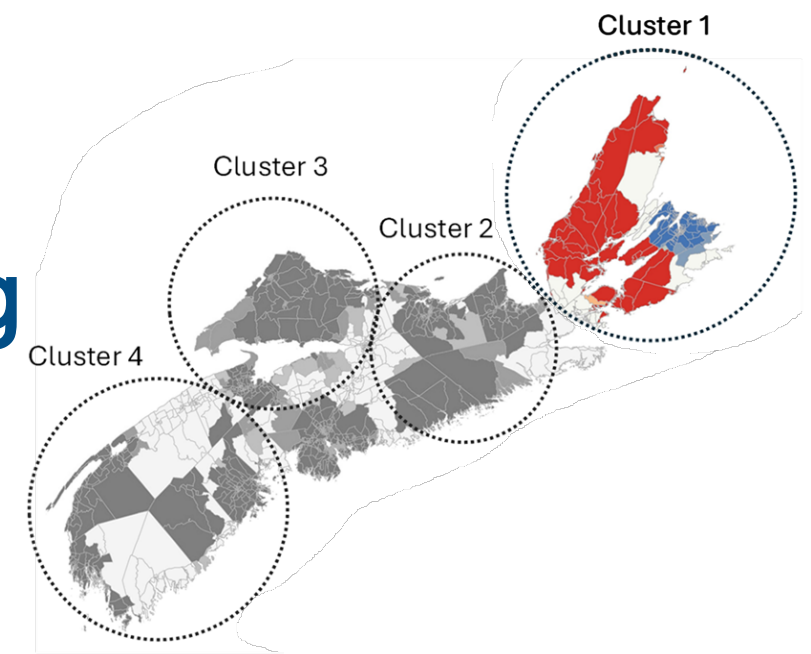
Total SI gap score



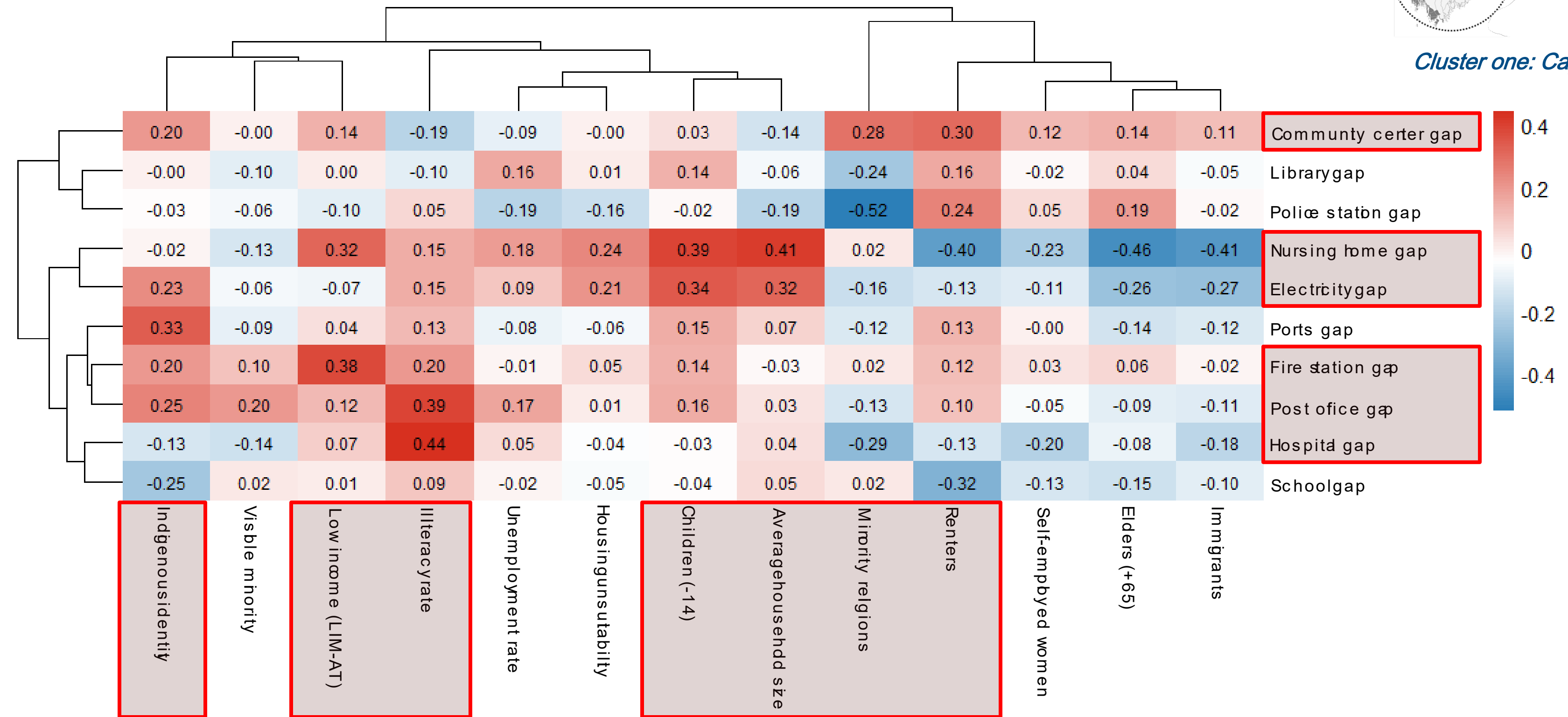
Hotspot analysis of total SI gaps

Q3. Which demographic and economic groups are experiencing these gaps?

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Cluster one: Cape Breton Island



Library gap

Police station gap

Nursing home ga

Electricity gas

Ports gap

Fire station gap

Post office gap

Hospital gap

Schoolgap

0.4
0.2
0
-0.2
-0.4

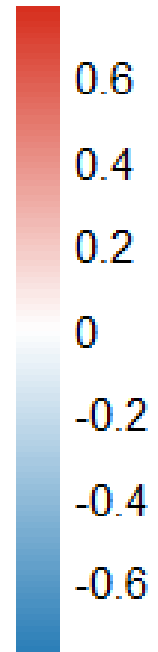
0.2

0

-0.2

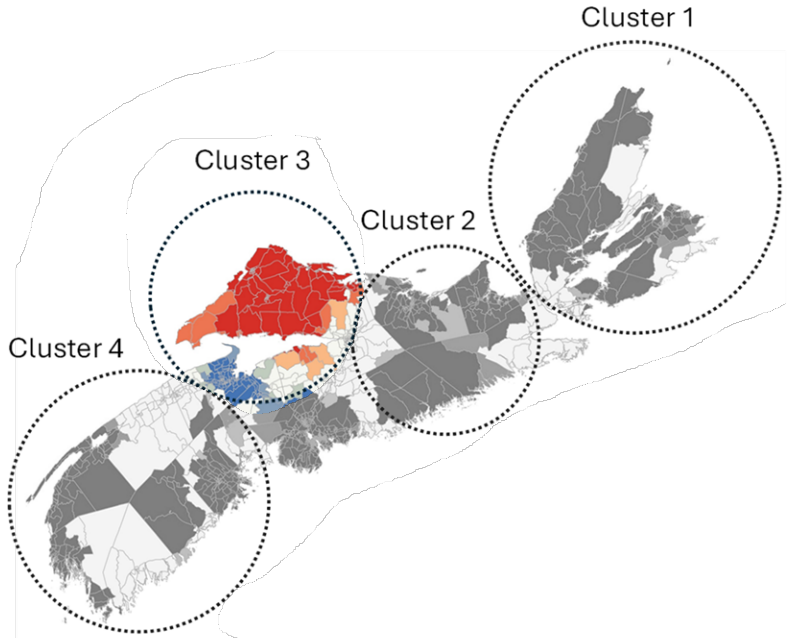
-0.4

Q3. Which demographic and economic groups are experiencing these gaps?

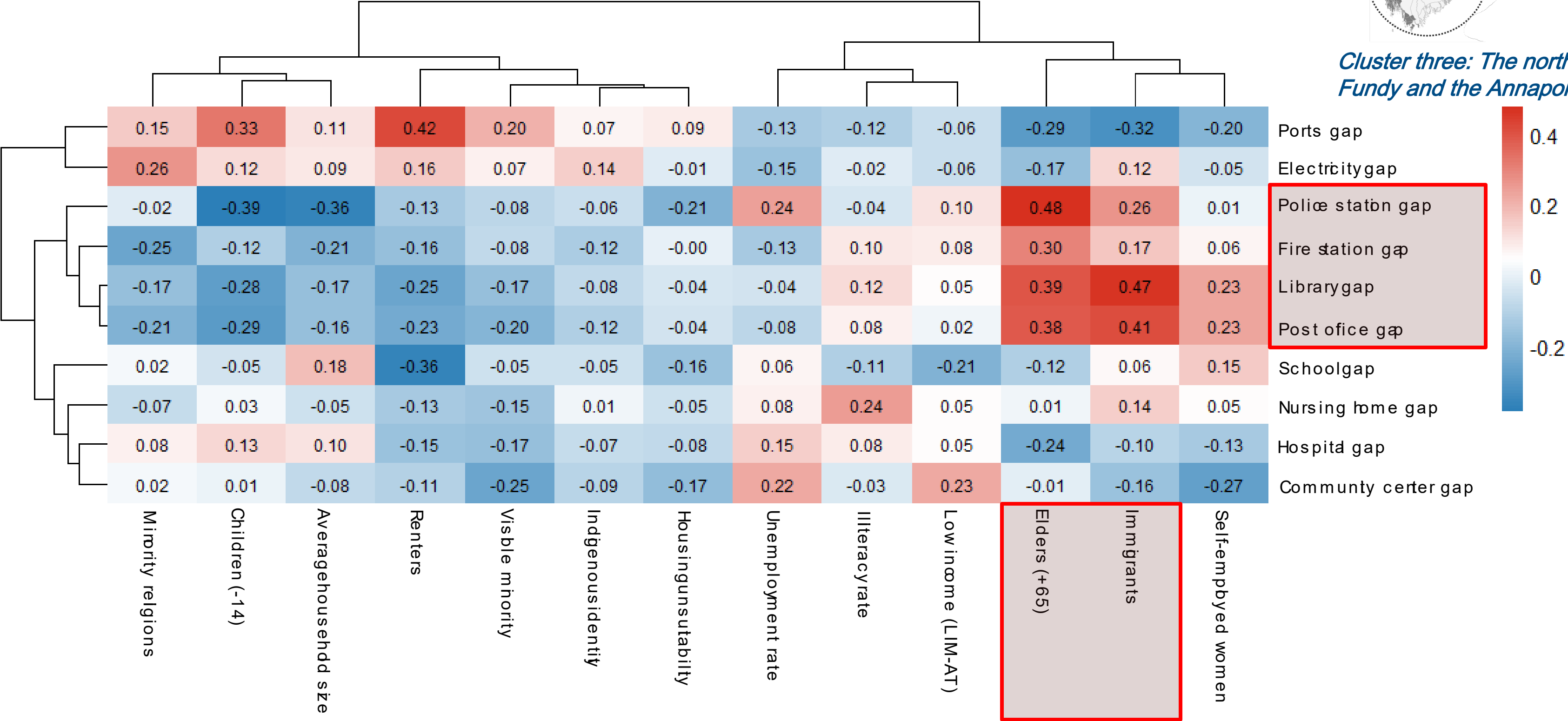


RESULTS:

Q3. Which demographic and economic groups are experiencing these gaps?

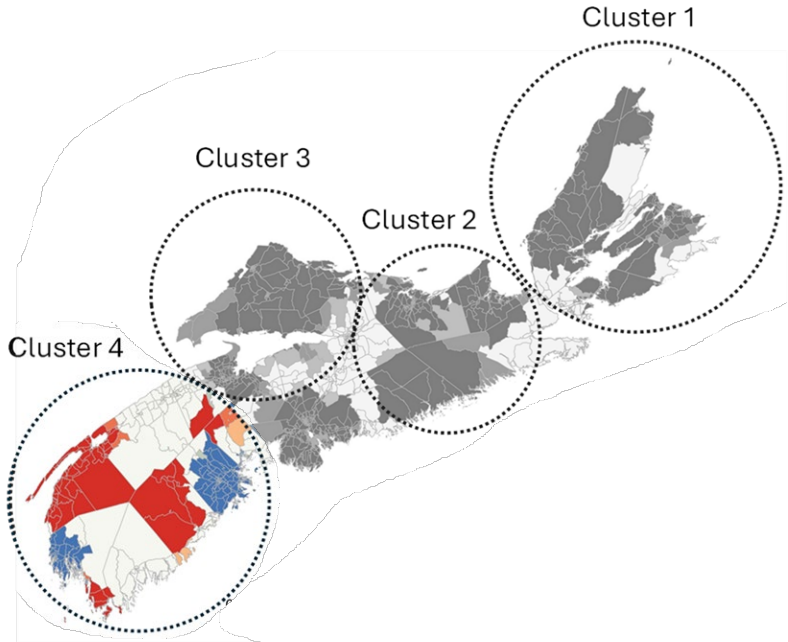


Cluster three: The north of the Bay of Fundy and the Annapolis Valley

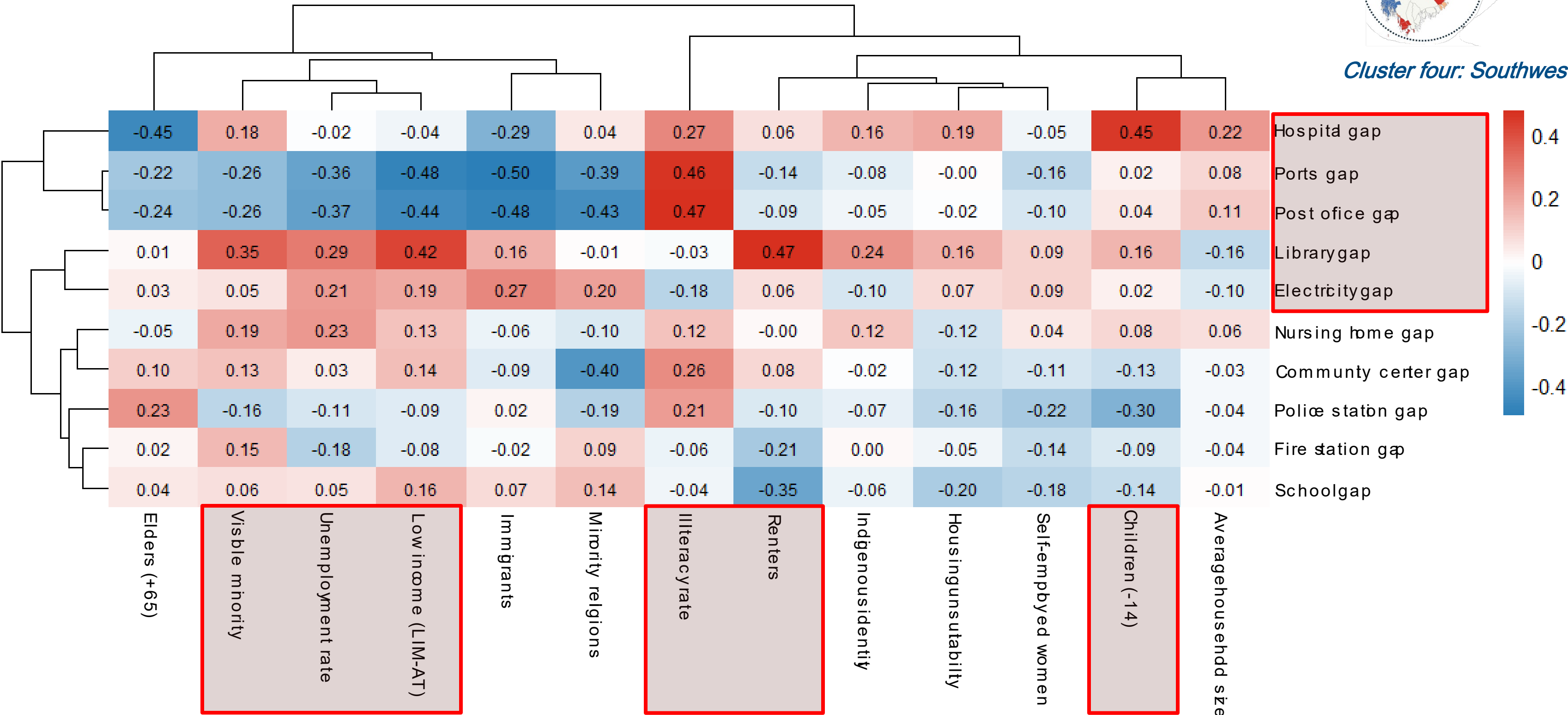


RESULTS:

Q3. Which demographic and economic groups are experiencing these gaps?



Cluster four: Southwestern counties



DISCUSSION

1. SI gaps mostly cluster in **rural communities**, with fewer concentrations in urban areas.
2. High-gap communities show three social themes: **economic and educational disadvantages, cultural and identity marginalization, and demographic and household pressures.**
3. **Equity and social impact assessments** are necessary for a successful energy transition.
4. Further studies should center **local and Indigenous perspectives on SI gaps**, rather than relying solely on quantitative data.



THANK YOU!

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