A new report says Toronto has the highest percentage of children living in poverty of any large city in Canada.

The report, titled “Divided City: Life in Canada’s Child Poverty Capital,” says 33.8% of children in Toronto—27.5 per cent of children 14 years and under—were living in poverty last year.

The researchers examined data from Statistics Canada’s low-income measure (LIM) for 2014, the year the data were available.

It says the clearest outcome is Toronto, where 25 per cent of children were living in poverty last year.

A combination of factors, including the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, issued the report as the city shores up its $300-million plan to combat poverty and related services such as community housing, housing and student nutrition.

It says rooted in Toronto, new immigrant families, single-parent families, and families with disabilities are up to three times more likely to live in poverty.

Only half of families in Toronto have an annual income of less than $30,000. This would be consistent with parental school and community involvement programs, compared with 73 per cent of students in families with an income of $30,000 or more.

The groups are urging Toronto city council to follow through on its poverty-reduction strategy and address its fiscal failure to prevent gaps in social services.

“Toronto’s economic housing market is a significant need, more than one in four children are living in poverty,” one of the report’s authors, Michael Janiszewski of the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, said in a statement. “This is definitely the time to facilitate city spending on critical services and programs.”

“Despite Toronto’s booming housing market and significant wealth, more than one in four children is living in poverty,” one of the report’s authors, Michael Janiszewski of the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, said in a statement. “This is definitely the time to facilitate city spending on critical services and programs.”

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