829 - Geographic accessibility to pelvic health physiotherapy services across Ontario: A geographic information system analysis

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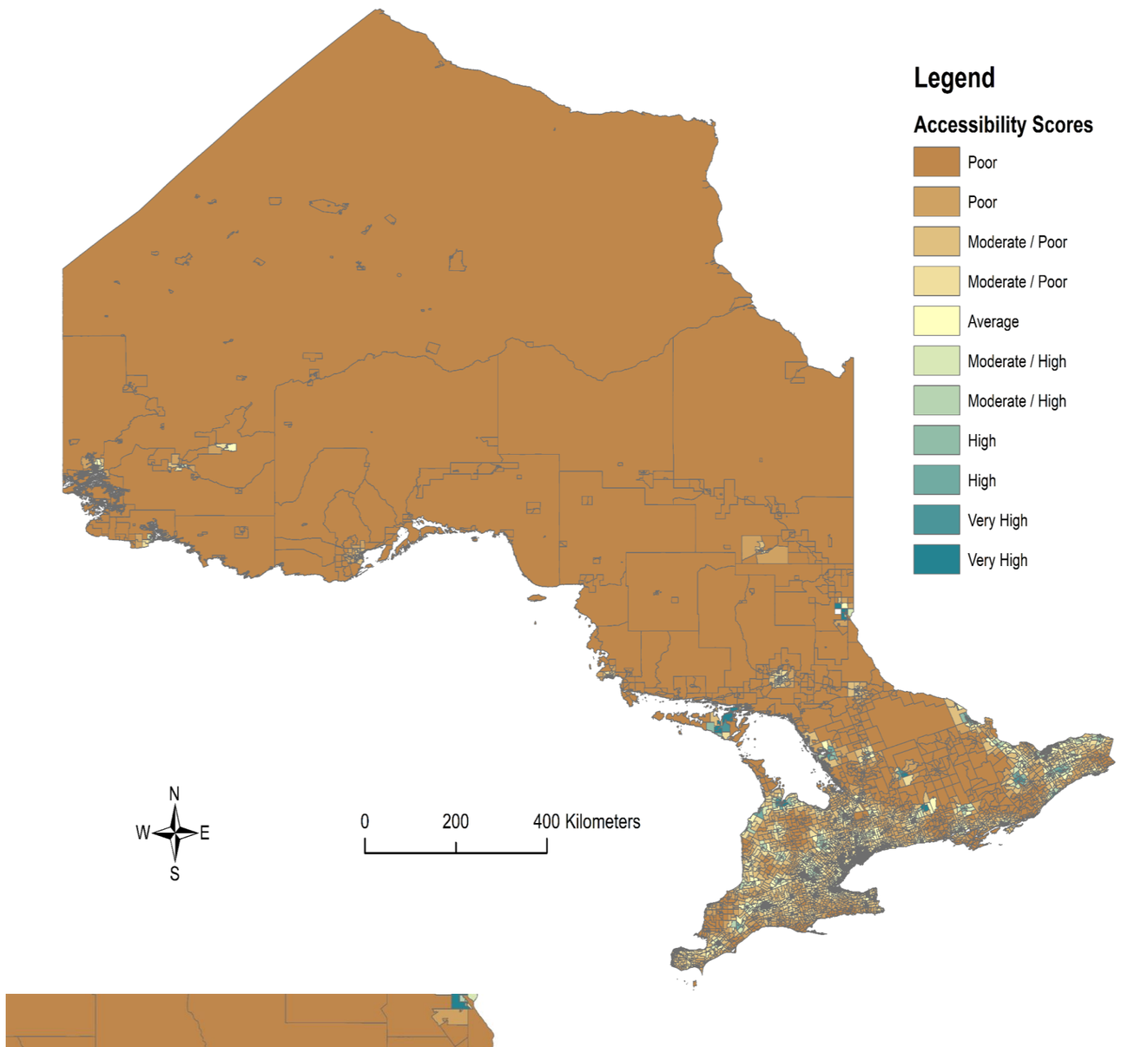
INTRODUCTION

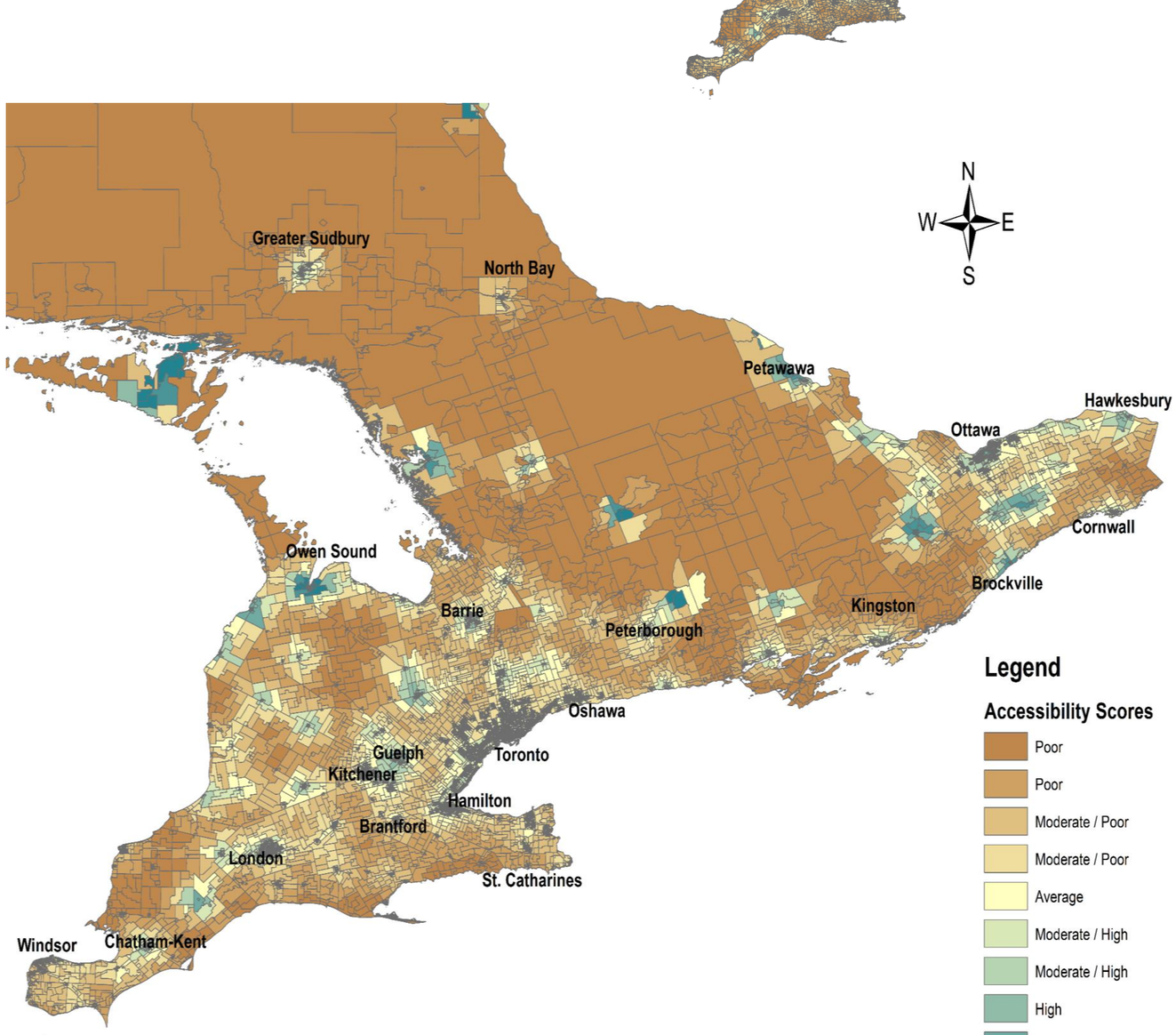
- Pelvic floor disorders are prevalent conditions that vastly affect the female population.[1-2]
- Pelvic health physiotherapy is recommended by clinical practice guidelines as the first-line treatment for several pelvic floor disorders.[3-4]
- Unclear whether the workforce available is adequate to address population demand.

Objectives of this study:

1. To measure the potential geographic accessibility to pelvic health physiotherapists for the female population in Ontario, Canada.
2. To explore variations in the geographic accessibility to pelvic health physiotherapists across an urban-rural continuum.

RESULTS





METHODS

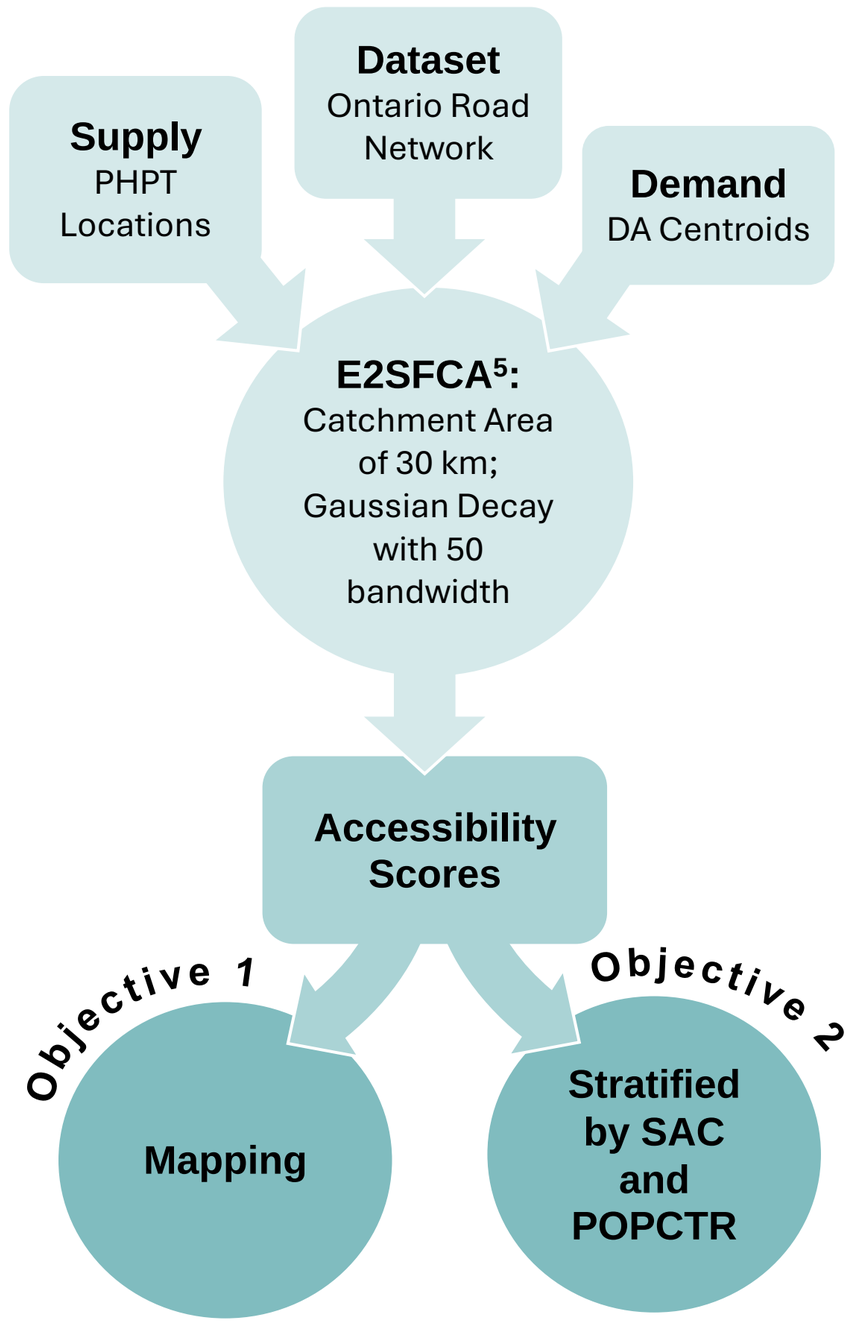


Figure 1: Accessibility scores are calculated using the Enhanced Two Step Floating Catchment Area methods. Supply = Pelvic health physiotherapists (PHPT) locations, Demand = Female population over 15 y.o for each dissemination area (DA). Geographic impedance = 30 km catchment area with a Gaussian decay function of 50 bandwidth. Accessibility scores stratified by Statistical Area Classification (SAC) and Population Center (POPCTR).

CONCLUSIONS

This study offers insights into the potential geographic accessibility for pelvic health care services offered by physiotherapists in Ontario.

Findings highlight inequality in the distribution of physiotherapy services in:

- **Rural and remote communities**
- **Between census metropolitan areas.**

Next Steps:
A more thorough analysis of accessibility discrepancies and utilization rate for these services could prove beneficial to workforce planning and policy development.

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