

## "Access Without Fear: Examining Health Care Barriers for Non-Status Migrants in Canadian Cities"

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### Abstract

This study examines healthcare access for non-status migrants in Canadian cities. Specifically, this study explores how city policies and provincial healthcare exclusions cause issues - both real and perceived - in healthcare access, and how sanctuary (or access without fear) policies help overcome these barriers. To do so, this study analyzes city council meetings of Canadian cities between 2013 and 2024 (n = 15) to investigate how lack of immigration status intersects with factors such as race, gender, and class, shaping the lived healthcare experiences of non-status migrants. The study explores the issue of access at four levels: challenges within federal/provincial healthcare systems; actions by local governments to address healthcare inequities; grassroots organizations and mutual aid initiatives to highlight systemic shortcomings and community-driven responses; and the lived experiences of non-status migrants. Ultimately, this research seeks to highlight systemic inequalities and advocate for policy changes to better support non-status migrants' healthcare access in Canada.

### Biography

Mishika Khurana is a Master's candidate in the Spatial Analysis program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of urban geography, migration, and healthcare accessibility. She is committed to uncovering systemic inequalities faced by marginalized populations and amplifying community-driven solutions. Through both academic research and professional experience, Mishika is passionate about advocating for inclusive, equitable, and supportive urban environments.