

Living arrangements of seniors: An overview

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Highlights

- Within Ontario's non-metro census divisions (CDs), 10% of the population is 65 - 74 years of age, 6% is 75 - 84 years of age and 2% is 85 years and older.
- Within the 85+ population, about 20% of males and 33% of females reside in collective dwellings (mostly nursing homes) and thus the majority of the 85+ population reside in private dwellings.

Why look at living arrangements of seniors?

More and more Canadians are living longer and the proportion of elderly in the population is rising. Significant efforts are being directed at redesigning health and community services to accommodate these changes and support seniors living independently at home. This [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) shows the share of seniors living in collective dwellings¹ such as nursing homes versus those living in private dwellings.

Findings

In 2011, 10% of Ontario's non-metro population was 65 - 74 years of age (versus 8% in all Ontario), 6% was 75 - 84 (versus 5% in all Ontario) and 2% was 85+, which is the same as in all Ontario - see Table 1, Col. C, E and G. This means the non-metro age structure is somewhat older.

By 2025, Ontario's 85+ population is projected to be 52% to 62% higher than the 2011 number, depending upon the projection scenario².

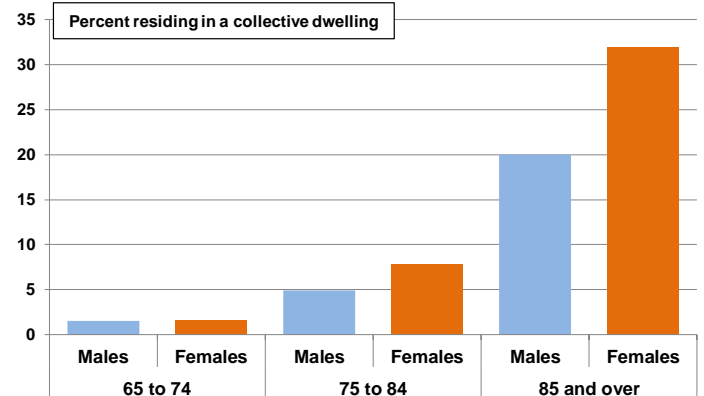
The share of the population residing in a collective dwelling was sharply higher for 85+ seniors – where 32% of females and 20% of males resided in a collective dwelling in 2011 in Ontario (Figure 1). This means that a majority of 85+ individuals still resided in private dwellings (females: 68%; males: 80%).

For 85+ individuals in non-metro census divisions (CDs), 22% of males and 36% of females were living in collective dwellings -- slightly higher than the

Ontario level shown in Figure 1 (Table 1, Col. X and Y). Note the wide range³ in these shares for 85+ females across non-metro CDs – as high as 47% and as low as 21%

Figure 1

More than 30% of Ontario 85+ female residents were living in a collective dwelling in 2011, Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011.

Summary

In non-metro CDs in 2011, a majority of the 85+ population resided in a private dwelling (males: 78% and females 64%). 22% of 85+ males and 36% of females resided in collective dwellings.

Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges financial support of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) from the County of Wellington and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.

¹ Private dwellings include houses and apartments. Collective dwellings are dwellings of a commercial, institutional or communal nature (including hotels, penal institutions, hospitals, residences for seniors and nursing homes). For details on the definition of private and collective dwellings, see Statistics Canada. (2012) **2011 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301). (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>)

² See Statistics Canada. (2010). **Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2009 to 2036** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Catalogue number 91-520).

³ Table 1 is sorted by the share of 85+ females residing in a collective dwelling for 3 groups of CDs (metro, partially-non-metro and non-metro).

Table 1

Number of seniors and percent in collective¹ dwellings, Ontario, 2011

Census Division (CD) name	Total population, 2011	Senior population, 2011						Senior population by gender, 2011						Senior population in collective ¹ dwellings, 2011						Percent of senior population in collective ¹ dwellings, 2011					
		Aged 65 to 74 years		Aged 75 to 84 years		Aged 85 years & over		Aged 65 to 74 years		Aged 75 to 84 years		Aged 85 years & over		Aged 65 to 74 years		Aged 75 to 84 years		Aged 85 years & over		Aged 65 to 74 years		Aged 75 to 84 years		Aged 85 years & over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
		Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D	Col. E	Col. F	Col. G	Col. H	Col. I	Col. J	Col. K	Col. L	Col. M	Col. N	Col. O	Col. P	Col. Q	Col. R	Col. S	Col. T	Col. U	Col. V	Col. W	Col. X
Metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ years, residing in collective dwellings)																									
Ottawa	883,390	62,670	7.1	37,585	4.3	16,335	1.8	29,295	33,375	16,145	21,440	5,185	11,150	525	675	1,030	2,405	1,455	4,660	1.8	2.0	6.4	11.2	28.1	41.8
Greater Sudbury	160,380	13,940	8.7	8,870	5.5	2,980	1.9	6,560	7,380	3,780	5,090	975	2,005	110	140	260	480	215	700	1.7	1.9	6.9	9.4	22.1	34.9
Halton	501,670	35,890	7.2	22,285	4.4	8,490	1.7	16,915	18,975	9,755	12,530	2,805	5,685	160	255	390	945	585	1,810	0.9	1.3	4.0	7.5	20.9	31.8
Brant	136,035	10,830	8.0	6,930	5.1	2,910	2.1	5,130	5,700	2,905	4,025	970	1,940	75	105	140	320	210	610	1.5	1.8	4.8	8.0	21.6	31.4
York	1,032,525	68,530	6.6	38,885	3.8	13,515	1.3	33,195	35,335	17,575	21,310	4,630	8,885	270	385	580	1,320	770	2,705	0.8	1.1	3.3	6.2	16.6	30.4
Hamilton	519,950	41,385	8.0	28,310	5.4	11,880	2.3	19,640	21,745	12,000	16,310	3,925	7,955	400	390	660	1,230	735	2,400	2.0	1.8	5.5	7.5	18.7	30.2
Peel	1,296,815	80,695	6.2	41,350	3.2	13,810	1.1	38,940	41,755	18,460	22,890	4,955	9,215	260	350	585	1,255	820	2,460	0.7	0.8	3.2	5.5	17.8	26.7
Toronto	2,615,060	188,635	7.2	133,840	5.1	54,965	2.1	85,330	103,305	56,970	76,870	18,755	36,210	1,460	1,570	2,530	4,800	2,960	9,490	1.7	1.5	4.4	6.2	15.8	26.2
Metro CDs (subtotal)	7,145,825	502,575	7.0	318,055	4.5	124,885	1.7	235,005	267,570	137,590	180,465	41,840	83,045	3,260	3,870	6,175	12,755	7,750	24,835	1.4	1.4	4.5	7.1	18.5	29.9
Partially-non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ years, residing in collective dwellings)																									
Prescott & Russell	85,385	7,070	8.3	3,615	4.2	1,455	1.7	3,520	3,550	1,625	1,990	455	1,000	85	125	150	350	175	535	2.4	3.5	9.2	17.6	38.5	53.5
Lennox & Addington	41,825	4,435	10.6	2,230	5.3	920	2.2	2,265	2,170	1,040	1,190	295	625	80	45	70	135	90	280	3.5	2.1	6.7	11.3	30.5	44.8
Dufferin	56,880	3,980	7.0	2,265	4.0	860	1.5	1,945	2,035	1,035	1,230	265	595	40	25	60	120	70	255	2.1	1.2	5.8	9.8	26.4	42.9
Waterloo	507,095	34,110	6.7	21,010	4.1	8,450	1.7	16,195	17,915	9,020	11,990	2,730	5,720	230	295	545	1,180	720	2,105	1.4	1.6	6.0	9.8	26.4	36.8
Peterborough	134,935	13,890	10.3	9,195	6.8	3,975	2.9	6,700	7,190	4,065	5,130	1,290	2,685	95	120	170	495	290	980	1.4	1.7	4.2	9.6	22.5	36.5
Simcoe	446,065	38,450	8.6	22,985	5.2	8,430	1.9	18,395	20,055	10,380	12,605	2,745	5,685	250	330	565	1,135	580	2,040	1.4	1.6	5.4	9.0	21.1	35.9
Elgin	87,460	7,710	8.8	4,220	4.8	1,735	2.0	3,805	3,905	1,850	2,370	535	1,200	95	75	105	205	105	415	2.5	1.9	5.7	8.6	19.6	34.6
Niagara	431,345	41,725	9.7	27,860	6.5	11,470	2.7	19,930	21,795	12,100	15,760	3,710	7,760	315	355	550	1,195	735	2,500	1.6	1.6	4.5	7.6	19.8	32.2
Durham	608,125	40,265	6.6	24,330	4.0	9,015	1.5	19,135	21,130	10,425	13,905	2,900	6,115	225	300	545	1,170	615	1,920	1.2	1.4	5.2	8.4	21.2	31.4
Middlesex	439,150	33,995	7.7	21,720	4.9	9,475	2.2	15,935	18,060	9,225	12,495	3,070	6,405	290	290	460	1,095	680	1,975	1.8	1.6	5.0	8.8	22.1	30.8
Essex	388,785	31,455	8.1	19,660	5.1	8,020	2.1	15,045	16,410	8,630	11,030	2,575	5,445	215	250	405	760	500	1,605	1.4	1.5	4.7	6.9	19.4	29.5
Thunder Bay	146,060	12,750	8.7	8,150	5.6	3,460	2.4	6,235	6,515	3,640	4,510	1,110	2,350	100	120	200	305	205	680	1.6	1.8	5.5	6.8	18.5	28.9
Wellington	208,360	15,580	7.5	10,075	4.8	3,745	1.8	7,370	8,210	4,530	5,545	1,230	2,515	105	110	200	390	210	680	1.4	1.3	4.4	7.0	17.1	27.0
Frontenac	149,740	13,180	8.8	8,460	5.6	3,285	2.2	6,260	6,920	3,695	4,765	1,070	2,215	140	100	150	300	165	580	2.2	1.4	4.1	6.3	15.4	26.2
Partially-non-metro CDs (subtotal)	3,731,210	298,595	8.0	185,775	5.0	74,295	2.0	142,735	155,860	81,260	104,515	23,980	50,315	2,265	2,540	4,175	8,835	5,140	16,550	1.6	1.6	5.1	8.5	21.4	32.9
Non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ years, residing in collective dwellings)																									
Manitoulin	13,050	1,605	12.3	795	6.1	265	2.0	805	800	405	390	75	190	20	20	25	30	15	90	2.5	2.5	6.2	7.7	20.0	47.4
Lanark	65,670	6,660	10.1	3,840	5.8	1,650	2.5	3,275	3,385	1,715	2,125	515	1,135	50	50	110	225	165	485	1.5	1.5	6.4	10.6	32.0	42.7
Grey	92,570	10,430	11.3	6,585	7.1	2,495	2.7	5,150	5,280	3,055	3,530	810	1,685	110	115	200	410	200	720	2.1	2.2	6.5	11.6	24.7	42.7
Perth	75,115	6,150	8.2	4,295	5.7	1,970	2.6	2,890	3,260	1,820	2,475	635	1,335	60	65	125	240	185	570	2.1	2.0	6.9	9.7	29.1	42.7
Renfrew	101,325	9,710	9.6	6,155	6.1	2,565	2.5	4,775	4,935	2,635	3,520	815	1,750	95	100	230	425	215	735	2.0	2.0	8.7	12.1	26.4	42.0
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	111,165	11,290	10.2	6,735	6.1	2,790	2.5	5,525	5,765	2,980	3,755	895	1,895	105	95	200	355	225	765	1.9	1.6	6.7	9.5	25.1	40.4
Bruce	66,105	7,555	11.4	4,210	6.4	1,490	2.3	3,830	3,725	1,920	2,290	480	1,010	65	60	90	180	115	405	1.7	1.6	4.7	7.9	24.0	40.1
Chatham-Kent	104,075	9,855	9.5	6,145	5.9	2,635	2.5	4,720	5,135	2,650	3,495	760	1,875	60	100	165	350	170	720	1.3	1.9	6.2	10.0	22.4	38.4
Northumberland	82,125	9,795	11.9	5,870	7.1	2,215	2.7	4,795	5,000	2,770	3,100	750	1,465	135	130	155	315	195	540	2.8	2.6	5.6	10.2	26.0	36.9
Muskoka	58,050	6,860	11.8	4,210	7.3	1,555	2.7	3,390	3,470	1,980	2,230	475	1,080	100	55	95	195	100	395	2.9	1.6	4.8	8.7	21.1	36.6
Hastings	134,935	13,445	10.0	8,190	6.1	3,285	2.4	6,490	6,955	3,680	4,510	995	2,290	85	100	170	345	250	825	1.3	1.4	4.6	7.6	25.1	36.0
Huron	59,100	6,295	10.7	3,845	6.5	1,580	2.7	3,080	3,215	1,745	2,100	515	1,065	70	55	70	160	115	370	2.3	1.7	4.0	7.6	22.3	34.7
Timiskaming	32,630	3,440	10.5	2,075	6.4	765	2.3	1,670	1,770	960	1,115	225	540	30	40	65	80	45	185	1.8	2.3	6.8	7.2	20.0	34.3
Haldimand-Norfolk	109,120	10,620	9.7	6,330	5.8	2,400	2.2	5,235	5,385	2,845	3,485	775	1,625	85	75	155	250	150	550	1.6	1.4	5.4	7.2	19.4	33.8
Algoma	115,870	13,015	11.2	8,355	7.2	2,675	2.3	6,250	6,765	3,865	4,490	915	1,760	105	105	205	355	185	595	1.7	1.6	5.3	7.9	20.2	33.8
Prince Edward	25,260	3,570	14.1	2,100	8.3	700	2.8	1,760	1,810	1,005	1,095	240	460	55	45	50	95	50	155	3.1	2.5	5.0	8.7	20.8	33.7
Lambton	126,195	12,490	9.9	8,085	6.4	3,070	2.4	6,035	6,455	3,575	4,510	955	2,115	95	130	195	355	210	700	1.6	2.0	5.5	7.9	22.0	33.1
Oxford	105,720	9,125	8.6	6,020	5.7	2,385	2.3	4,340	4,785	2,625	3,395	780	1,805												