
Living arrangements of seniors in private dwellings

Vol. 2, No. 17, December 2014

Highlights

- Among seniors 85 years of age and older in non-metro census divisions, 78% of males and 64% of females resided in private dwellings in 2011.
- Non-metro 85+ males were more likely to be living with a spouse or common-law partner (47%) compared to 85+ females (11%).
- More non-metro 85+ females lived alone (40%) compared to 85+ males (24%)

Why look at living arrangements of seniors?

This [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) fact sheet highlights that a majority of individuals aged 85+ reside in private dwellings. Significant growth in the number of seniors is expected over the coming decades and the health and community service needs of this poses fiscal challenges and a reorientation of approach from acute care to support for independent living – as outlined in the Ontario government’s “Aging at Home and Seniors Strategies”. Where seniors live influences the demand for and delivery of a variety of services i.e. transportation.

Findings

The share of seniors living in collective dwellings (e.g. residences for seniors and nursing homes) is much higher for seniors who are 85 years of age and over¹ compared to ‘younger’ seniors. However, a majority of 85+ seniors are living in private dwellings.

In 2011, 78% of males aged 85+ and 64% of 85+ females were living in private dwellings in non-metro census divisions (CDs) – see Table 1, Col. J and V).

For 85+ males, the range across non-metro CDs was from a high of 95% living in private dwellings in the Sudbury CD to a low of 71% in the Perth CD (Table 1, Col. J).

For non-metro 85+ females, the percent residing in private dwellings ranged from 79% in the Haliburton and Sudbury CDs to 50% in Manitoulin (Table 1, Col. V).

47% of 85+ males were living with a spouse or common-law partner (47%) compared to 11% of 85+ females (Table 1, Col K and W).

Of those living in a private dwelling, 40% of 85+ females were living alone compared to only 24% of 85+ males (Table 1, Col. AA and O).

The range across non-metro CDs of the share of 85+ males living alone in a private dwelling ranged from a high of 35% in the CD of Haliburton to a low of 18% in the CDs of Huron and Lanark (Table 1, Col. O).

For 85+ females, the range in the share living alone in private dwelling was from a high of 51% in the CDs of Kenora and Rainy River to a low of 29% in the Manitoulin CD (Table 1, Col. AA).

Within the population 85 years of age and over:

1. a higher share of men were living in private dwellings and are more likely to be living with a spouse or common-law partner;
2. women who were living in a private dwelling were more likely to be living alone;
3. fewer women than men were living in private dwellings because a higher share is living in collective dwellings (nursing homes and long-term chronic care facilities).

Summary

78% of males aged 85+ and 64% of 85+ females were residing in private dwellings in non-metro CDs in 2011.

85+ males were more likely to be living with a married spouse or common-law partner (47%) compared to 85+ females (11%).

More 85+ aged women lived alone in a private dwelling (40%) than men in the same age group (24%).

¹ See the [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) “Living arrangements of seniors: An overview.”

Table 1

Population 85 years of age and over residing in PRIVATE dwellings, Ontario, 2011

2011 Census Division ID	Census Division (CD) name	2011 Total population	Population, 85 years of age & over		Number of males, 85+ years, living in private dwellings						Males, 85+ years, living in private dwellings, as percent all males, 85+ years of age						Number of females, 85+ years, living in private dwellings						Females, 85+ years, living in private dwellings, as percent all females, 85+ years of age					
			Males	Females	All males, 85+ years, living in private dwellings	Living with a spouse or common- law partner	Living with a child	Living with relatives	Living with non- relatives	Living alone	All males, 85+ years, living in private dwellings	Living with a spouse or common- law partner	Living with a child	Living with relatives	Living with non- relatives	Living alone	All females, 85+ years, living in private dwellings	Living with a spouse or common- law partner	Living with a child	Living with relatives	Living with non- relatives	Living alone	All females, 85+ years, living in private dwellings	Living with a spouse or common- law partner	Living with a child	Living with relatives	Living with non- relatives	Living alone
Metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ living alone)																												
3553 Greater Sudbury		160,380	975	2,005	755	435	45	25	15	245	77	45	5	3	2	25	1,295	185	190	115	20	795	65	9	9	6	1	40
3529 Brant		136,035	970	1,940	760	470	40	35	10	200	78	48	4	4	1	21	1,330	245	165	155	5	765	69	13	9	8	0	39
3525 Hamilton		519,950	3,925	7,955	3,190	1,925	165	170	35	890	81	49	4	4	1	23	5,550	945	740	700	80	3,085	70	12	9	9	1	37
3520 Toronto		2,615,060	18,755	36,210	15,790	9,645	1,060	905	295	3,890	84	51	6	5	2	21	26,715	4,315	4,345	4,025	650	13,385	74	12	12	11	2	37
3524 Halton		501,670	2,805	5,685	2,225	1,405	110	120	15	575	79	50	4	4	1	20	3,875	730	505	540	40	2,065	68	13	9	9	1	36
3506 Ottawa		883,390	5,185	11,150	3,730	2,285	195	190	60	995	72	44	4	4	1	19	6,490	1,160	880	865	100	3,485	58	10	8	8	1	31
3521 Peel		1,296,815	4,595	9,215	3,775	2,235	235	580	40	690	82	49	5	13	1	15	6,755	1,015	1,055	2,220	95	2,370	73	11	11	24	1	26
3519 York		1,032,525	4,630	8,885	3,865	2,405	270	515	45	625	83	52	6	11	1	13	6,180	940	840	2,175	105	2,120	70	11	9	24	1	24
Metro CDs (subtotal)		7,145,825	41,840	83,045	34,090	20,805	2,120	2,540	515	8,110	81	50	5	6	1	19	58,190	9,535	8,720	10,795	1,095	28,070	70	11	11	13	1	34
Partially-non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ living alone)																												
3558 Thunder Bay		146,060	1,110	2,350	905	500	55	20	10	315	82	45	5	2	1	28	1,675	250	220	110	15	1,080	71	11	9	5	1	46
3510 Frontenac		149,740	1,070	2,215	905	530	50	35	20	275	85	50	5	3	2	26	1,635	295	200	160	15	970	74	13	9	7	1	44
3534 Elgin		87,460	535	1,200	430	250	20	20	5	140	80	47	4	4	1	26	780	125	70	70	5	505	65	10	6	6	0	42
3539 Middlesex		439,150	3,070	6,405	2,385	1,490	90	20	25	700	78	49	3	3	1	23	4,430	800	505	405	75	2,650	69	12	8	6	1	41
3523 Wellington		208,360	1,230	2,515	1,015	660	40	50	15	255	83	54	3	4	1	21	1,830	350	210	215	15	1,040	73	14	8	9	1	41
3537 Essex		388,785	2,575	5,445	2,075	1,250	110	85	15	610	81	49	4	3	1	24	3,840	615	505	465	35	2,225	71	11	9	9	1	41
3526 Niagara		431,345	3,710	7,760	2,980	1,805	140	135	50	835	80	49	4	4	1	23	5,265	880	680	530	60	3,110	68	11	9	7	1	40
3515 Peterborough		134,935	1,290	2,685	1,005	620	45	45	15	285	78	48	3	3	1	22	1,700	320	200	130	15	1,030	63	12	7	5	1	38
3530 Waterloo		507,095	2,730	5,720	2,010	1,245	100	105	20	535	74	46	4	4	1	20	3,615	610	435	490	40	2,040	63	11	8	9	1	36
3543 Simcoe		446,065	2,745	5,685	2,165	1,320	100	115	45	575	79	48	4	4	2	21	3,645	670	470	550	55	1,900	64	12	8	10	1	33
3518 Durham		608,125	2,900	6,115	2,290	1,385	110	185	40	580	79	48	4	6	1	20	4,185	755	555	890	65	1,930	68	12	9	15	1	32
3511 Lennox & Addington		41,825	295	625	205	110	10	20	5	60	69	37	3	7	2	20	345	45	60	45	5	195	55	7	10	7	1	31
3522 Dufferin		56,880	265	595	195	110	10	20	-	55	74	42	4	8	-	21	345	55	35	70	5	180	58	9	6	12	1	30
3502 Prescott & Russell		85,385	455	1,000	280	170	20	15	5	75	62	37	4	3	1	16	465	70	75	65	5	250	47	7	8	7	1	25
Partially-non-metro CDs (subtotal)		3,731,210	23,980	50,315	18,845	11,445	900	940	270	5,295	79	48	4	4	1	22	33,755	5,840	4,220	4,195	410	19,105	67	12	8	8	1	38
Non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent of females, 85+ living alone)																												
3560 Kenora		57,605	310	595	265	130	15	15	-	105	85	42	5	5	-	34	455	65	50	30	-	305	76	11	8	5	-	51
3559 Rainy River		20,370	190	345	160	85	10	-	-	60	84	45	5	-	-	32	260	40	20	25	-	175	75	12	6	7	-	51
3540 Huron		59,100	515	1,065	400	280	15	10	-	95	78	54	3	2	-	18	695	115	55	40	10	480	65	11	5	4	1	45
3549 Parry Sound		42,160	345	645	300	175	10	10	5	100	87	51	3	3	1	29	505	85	60	60	15	290	78	13	9	9	2	45
3538 Lambton		126,195	955	2,115	740	445	20	25	5	245	77	47	2	3	1	26	1,415	215	145	80	20	950	67	10	7	4	1	45
3548 Nipissing		84,735	515	1,200	425	240	10	25	5	150	83	47	2	5	1	29	805	125	90	55	5	525	67	10	8	5	0	44
3556 Cochrane		81,125	425	930	335	195	15	20	5	100	79	46	4	5	1	24	635	90	90	50	10	395	68	10	10	5	1	42
3507 Leeds & Grenville		99,305	770	1,715	645	390	35	20	10	185	84	51	5	3	1	24	1,170	195	135	115	5	725	68	11	8	7	0	42
3532 Oxford		105,720	780	1,605	635	400	20	10	15	195	81	51	3	1	2	25	1,085	225	110	70	10	670	68	14	7	4	1	42
3554 Timiskaming		32,630	225	540	175	110	10	5	-	50	78	49	4	2	-	22	355	50	45	25	15	220	66	9	8	5	3	41
3546 Haliburton		17,025	170	260	160	80	5	10	-	60	94	47	3	6	-	35	205	45	30	25	5	105	79	17	12	10	2	40
3557 Algoma		115,870	915	1,760	730	425	30	20	20	235	80	46	3	2	2	26	1,170	210	155	95	10	705	66	12	9	5	1	40
3516 Kawartha Lakes		73,215	675	1,365	575	340	25	20	10	180	85	50	4	3	1	27	965	195	110	90	25	545	71	14	8	7	2	40
3536 Chatham-Kent		104,075	760	1,875	590	370	20	10	10	175	78	49	3	1	1	23	1,150	185	130	65	25	740	61	10	7	3	1	39
3552 Sudbury		21,195	95	195	90	55	5	10	5	25	95	58	5	11	5	26	155	30	20	25	5	75	79	15	10	13	3	38
3512 Hastings		134,935	995	2,290	745	450	30	35	5	225	75	45	3	4	1	23	1,465	250	170	140	15	880	64	11	7	6	1	38
3513 Prince Edward		25,260	240	460	195	120	10	15	-	45	81	50	4	6	-	19	300	65	25	35	-	175	65	14	5	8	-	38
3528 Haldimand-Norfolk		109,120	775	1,625	625	380	25	30	10	180	81	49	3	4	1	23	1,075	185	155	110	5	615	66	11	10	7	0	38
3641 Bruce		66,105	480	1,010	365	220	10	15	10	115	76	46	2	3	2	24	605	105	65	4								