

Children in low income by census division

Vol. 5, No. 21, 2018

Highlights

- Among non-metro census divisions in 2015, 7 census divisions had one-fifth or more of their children under 18 years residing in low-income households.
- The highest incidence was in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry census division where 24% of children were living in low-income households.

Why look at children living in a low-income household?

Residing in a low-income household constrains the options for accessing nutritious food, health services (prescription drugs, eye and dental care), quality housing and post-secondary education. Low income can limit opportunities for participation in recreation and cultural activities and/or access to job opportunities if transportation costs are prohibitive.

The well-being of children can be constrained by the capacity of the other household members to generate a satisfactory income.

This Fact Sheet topic has both census division (CD) and census subdivision (CSD) Fact Sheets that should be read together. Figure 1 in the CD Fact Sheet includes all the CDs in the province and Table 1 in the CSD Fact Sheet presents results for top and bottom ranked CSDs.

Findings

In 2015, 18.4% of children under 18 years of age in Ontario were living in a low-income household (see Definitions Box) (see orange line in Figure 1).

Among non-metro CDs¹, there were 7 CDs where more than one-fifth of children under 18 were residing in low-income households:

- 24.4% -- Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry CD;
- 22.6% -- Haliburton CD;
- 22.3% -- Chatham-Kent CD;
- 21.8% -- Algoma CD;
- 21.2% -- Nipissing CD;
- 20.3% -- Timiskaming CD; and
- 20.0% -- Grey CD.

¹ Defined in "[Rural Ontario's Demography: Census Update 2016](#)." *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Guelph: Rural Ontario Institute, March).

Definitions Box:

"Low-income measure" (LIM): In this factsheet, we use the LIM (after tax) to indicate the low-income threshold. "Low income" is assigned to individuals in households with total household income below the LIM (after tax) where the LIM is one-half of the national median income, adjusted for the size of the household.

A **census subdivision** is an incorporated town or municipality or a similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve.

The LIM is not assigned for residents of census subdivisions with less than 250 inhabitants and not assigned for residents of Indian Reserves. The 2016 Census Dictionary notes, regarding residents of Indian Reserves, "The existence of substantial in-kind transfers (such as subsidized housing and First Nations band housing) and sizeable barter economies or consumption from own production (such as product from hunting, farming or fishing) could make the interpretation of low-income statistics more difficult in these situations."

For details, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301)

(<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>).

By contrast, in the Oxford CD, 13.7% of children, under 18 years of age, were living in a low-income household.

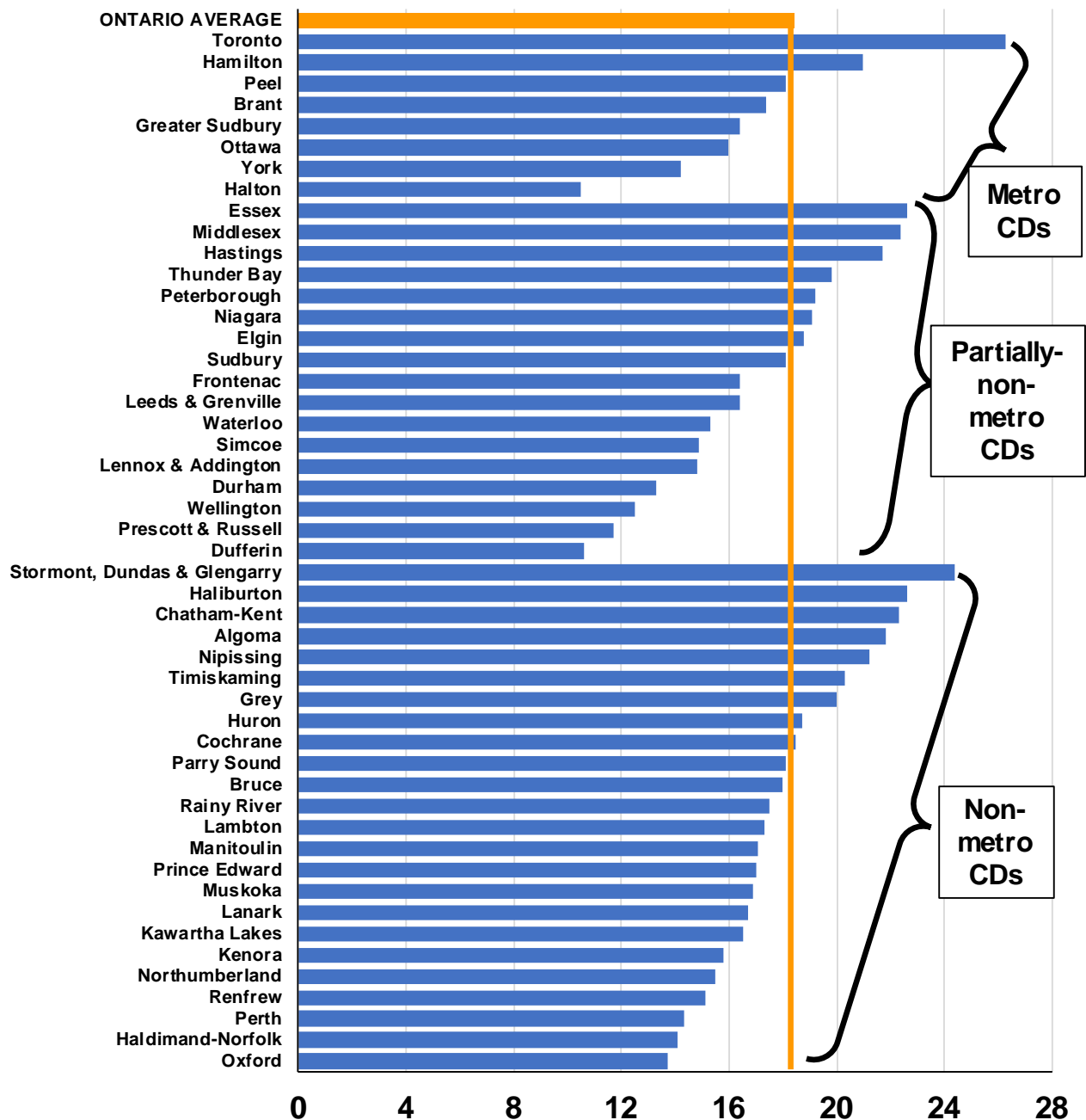
As noted in the "Definitions Box", households on Indian Reserves and households in census subdivisions with less than 250 residents are not included in the published data. For the CD of Kenora, this means that 8,835 of 17,105 children under 18 years of age were not assigned a status of 'above' or 'below' the low-income threshold.

Discussion

The intensity of children in low-income in some non-metro census divisions implies a corresponding need for support by public policy and by local social agencies to support these children and their families. Many rural jurisdictions have collaborative multi-stakeholder poverty alleviation roundtables to coordinate local services and to design programs that are appropriately targeted and effective.

Figure 1

Ranking of census divisions by percent of children¹ under 18 years of age living in households with income under the LIM² (low-income measure, after tax), Ontario, 2015



Percent of children¹ under 18 years of age residing in households with income under the LIM (low-income measure, after tax), 2015

1. Individuals in census subdivisions with less than 250 residents and individuals residing on Indian Reserves are not included.
 2. The low-income measure (LIM) is one-half of the national median income, adjusted for the size of the household. For details, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301) (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>).

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016127.

Chart by
 Ray D. Bollman@sasktel.net

The Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of *Focus on Rural Ontario*. Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagettie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.