

Children in low income by census subdivision

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Highlights

- **Across census subdivisions in non-metro census divisions, fully 18% of the census subdivisions had a high share (25% or more) of their children (under 18 years of age) living in low-income households.**

Why look at children living in low-income households?

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. An Expanded Table 1 with data for every CSD in Ontario is available for download.

Findings

Table 1 illustrates that in 2015, there was a very wide range in terms of the share of children living in low-income households among CSDs (see Definitions Box) within Ontario's non-metro CDs:

- there were 10 CSDs with 38% or more of their children, under 18 years of age, residing in a low-income household (Table 1 and the Map). With the exception of Cornwall, these places were small in absolute population terms.
- At the other end of the spectrum, there were 10 CSDs with 7% or fewer children living in a low-income household.

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>).

In fact, one-quarter or more of children were living in low-income households in 18% of the CSDs in non-metro CDs (Table 2).

Discussion

The intensity of children in low-income households in some localities implies the requirement for more intensive support by public policy and by local social agencies to support these children and their families.

Table 1. Ranking of census subdivisions by percent of population under 18 years of age residing in households with total income below the "low-income measure¹" (after tax), Ontario, 2015

Rank of CSDs within each type of CD	CD ID	Name of census division (CD)	CSD ID	Name of census subdivision ¹ (CSD)	Children under 18 in private households for which low income status is "applicable" ¹		
					Total children under 18 years	Children under 18 in "low income" ¹	Percent in "low income" ¹
Census subdivisions within metro census divisions (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3520	Toronto	3520005	Toronto	478,360	125,675	26
2	3521	Peel	3521005	Mississauga	149,085	31,625	21
3	3525	Hamilton	3525005	Hamilton	105,455	22,175	21
4	3529	Brant	3529006	Brantford	20,835	4,325	21
5	3519	York	3519036	Markham	67,960	12,255	18
18	3524	Halton	3524002	Burlington	37,090	3,460	9
19	3519	York	3519054	East Gwillimbury	5,030	435	9
20	3529	Brant	3529005	Brant	7,650	620	8
21	3521	Peel	3521024	Caledon	15,500	1,055	7
22	3524	Halton	3524015	Halton Hills	14,165	830	6
Census subdivisions within partially-non-metro census divisions (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
23	3512	Hastings	3512048	Tudor and Cashel	75	40	53
24	3502	Prescott & Russell	3502008	Hawkesbury	1,585	580	37
25	3507	Leeds & Grenville	3507008	Prescott	730	265	36
26	3512	Hastings	3512046	Marmora and Lake	610	215	35
27	3512	Hastings	3512061	Bancroft	625	210	34
184	3558	Thunder Bay	3558011	Oliver Paipoonge	1,165	65	6
185	3522	Dufferin	3522001	East Garafraxa	550	30	6
186	3558	Thunder Bay	3558016	O'Connor	125	5	4
187	3558	Thunder Bay	3558028	Shuniah	400	15	4
188	3530	Waterloo	3530004	North Dumfries	2,355	85	4
Census subdivisions within non-metro census divisions (showing² the 10 highest and 10 lowest ranking CSDs)							
189	3557	Algoma	3557016	Johnson	180	85	47
190	3554	Timiskaming	3554024	Kerns	90	40	44
191	3554	Timiskaming	3554008	Cobalt	210	90	43
192	3551	Manitoulin	3551001	Tehkummah	50	20	40
193	3554	Timiskaming	3554044	Charlton and Dack	190	75	40
194	3557	Algoma	3557019	Plummer Additional	140	55	39
195	3557	Algoma	3557039	Spanish	115	45	39
196	3549	Parry Sound	3549022	Burk's Falls	210	80	38
197	3560	Kenora	3560049	Pickle Lake	105	40	38
198	3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	3501012	Cornwall	8,675	3,280	38
399	3532	Oxford	3532045	Blandford-Blenheim	1,535	110	7
400	3549	Parry Sound	3549031	McDougall	485	35	7
401	3514	Northumberland	3514019	Hamilton	1,920	130	7
402	3560	Kenora	3560042	Red Lake	880	60	7
403	3538	Lambton	3538016	Enniskillen	540	35	7
404	3557	Algoma	3557008	St. Joseph	170	10	6
405	3557	Algoma	3557011	Laird	190	10	5
406	3547	Renfrew	3547076	Petawawa	4,295	215	5
407	3509	Lanark	3509024	Beckwith	1,580	75	5
408	3559	Rainy River	3559011	Alberton	230	10	4

1. See "Definitions Box".

2. For the complete ranking of all CSDs, see the "Expanded Table 1" at <http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/rural-reports/focus-on-rural-ontario>.

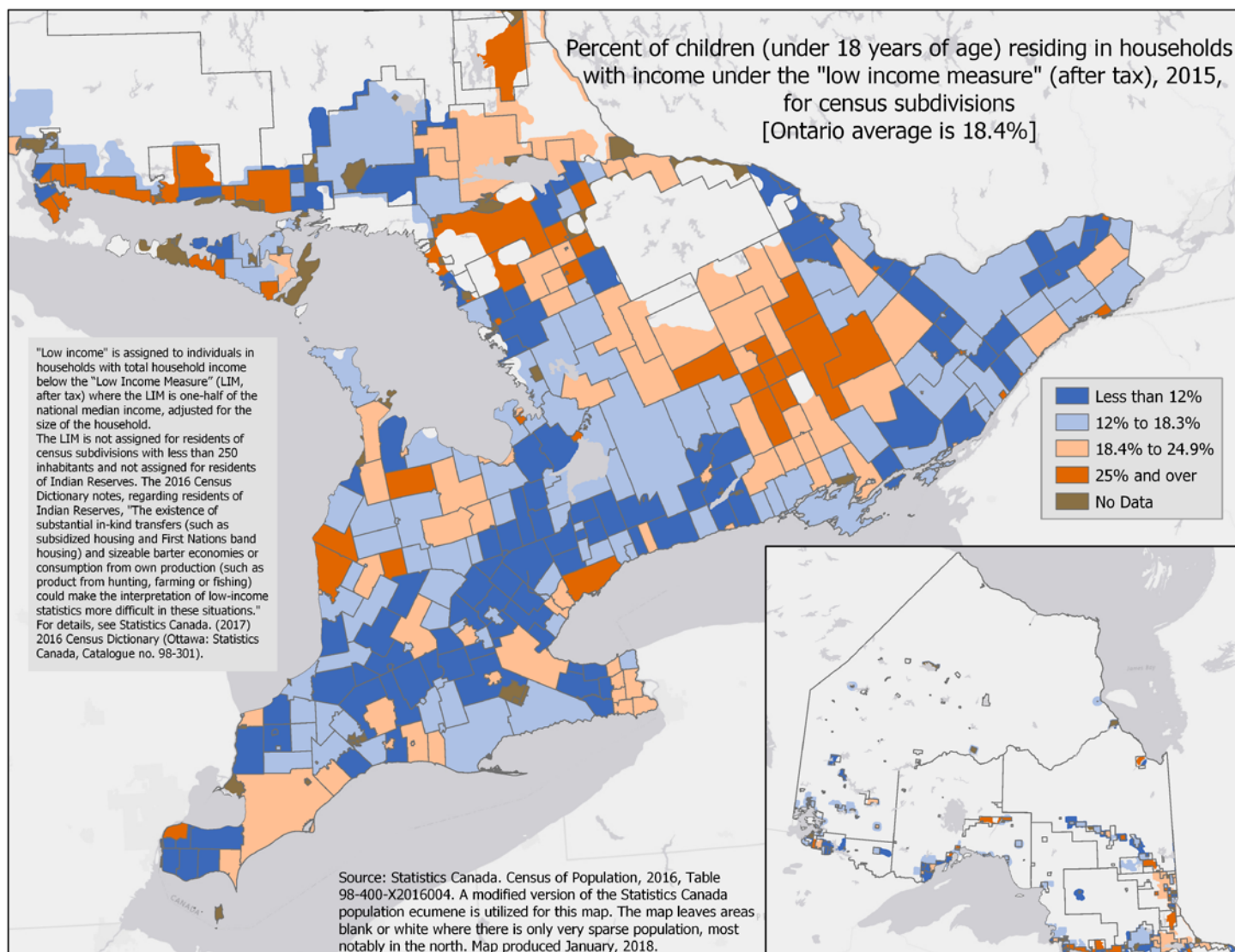
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016127.

Table 2. Percent distribution of census subdivisions¹ by percent of children under 18 years of age in households with income below the "low-income measure"¹ (after tax), Ontario, 2016

Percent of children under 18 years of age in households with income below the "low-income measure" ¹ (after tax)	Type of census division (CD)			
	Metro CDs	Partially-non-metro CDs	Non-metro CDs	All CDs
	Percent distribution of census subdivisions ¹			
Less than 12%	45	37	24	30
12% to 18.3%	36	29	35	32
18.4% to 24.9%	14	23	23	23
25% and over	5	11	18	14
All CSDs ¹	100	100	100	100

1. See "Definitions Box" in text.

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



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 NRagelie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.