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## Children under 15 years by census division<sup>1</sup>

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### Highlights

- **Census divisions within each type of geographic group (metro, partially non-metro and non-metro census divisions) show a range above and below the provincial average in terms of the proportion of children in the population.**
- **While non-metro census divisions in 2016 have a wide range in the share of the population that was under 15 years of age, there are more below the provincial average than above.**
- **Among non-metro census divisions, the range from top to bottom is wider than in any other type of geography – ranging from a low of 9.5% in the Haliburton census division to a high of 22% in the Kenora census division.**

### Why look at children under 15 years?

Demography matters. Demographic patterns drive the demand for both physical infrastructure and social programs and services. Areas with a greater population in a given age group should focus their attention on the infrastructure and program needs for these age groups. For example, children generate a requirement for physical infrastructure such as schools and sports facilities and a requirement for social investment in programs and services by professionals such as teachers, pediatricians and sports coaches.

### Findings

Overall, in Ontario in 2016, 16.4% of the population was under 15 years of age (see orange line in Figure 1).

Among non-metro census divisions (CDs)<sup>1</sup>, there was a wide range in the intensity or share of the population that were children under 15 years of age.

In 7 of 24 non-metro CDs, the share of the population under 15 years of age was at or above the Ontario average of 16.4%. The Kenora CD had the highest share of their population under 15 years of age (22% in 2016).

The remaining 17 non-metro CDs had less than the Ontario average (16.4%) of their population under the age of 15 years. The three CDs with the lowest

share were: Haliburton (9.5%), Prince Edward (11.6%) and Muskoka (12.6%).

### Discussion

The wide range in the share of this demographic age group (i.e., the population under 15 years of age) implies that a differing share of the local infrastructure budget would be focussed on children, both the expenditure for physical infrastructure and investment, time and energy for social services and programs for children. It also indicates, for example, why Ontario school boards in many rural regions are closing primary schools and consolidating high schools.

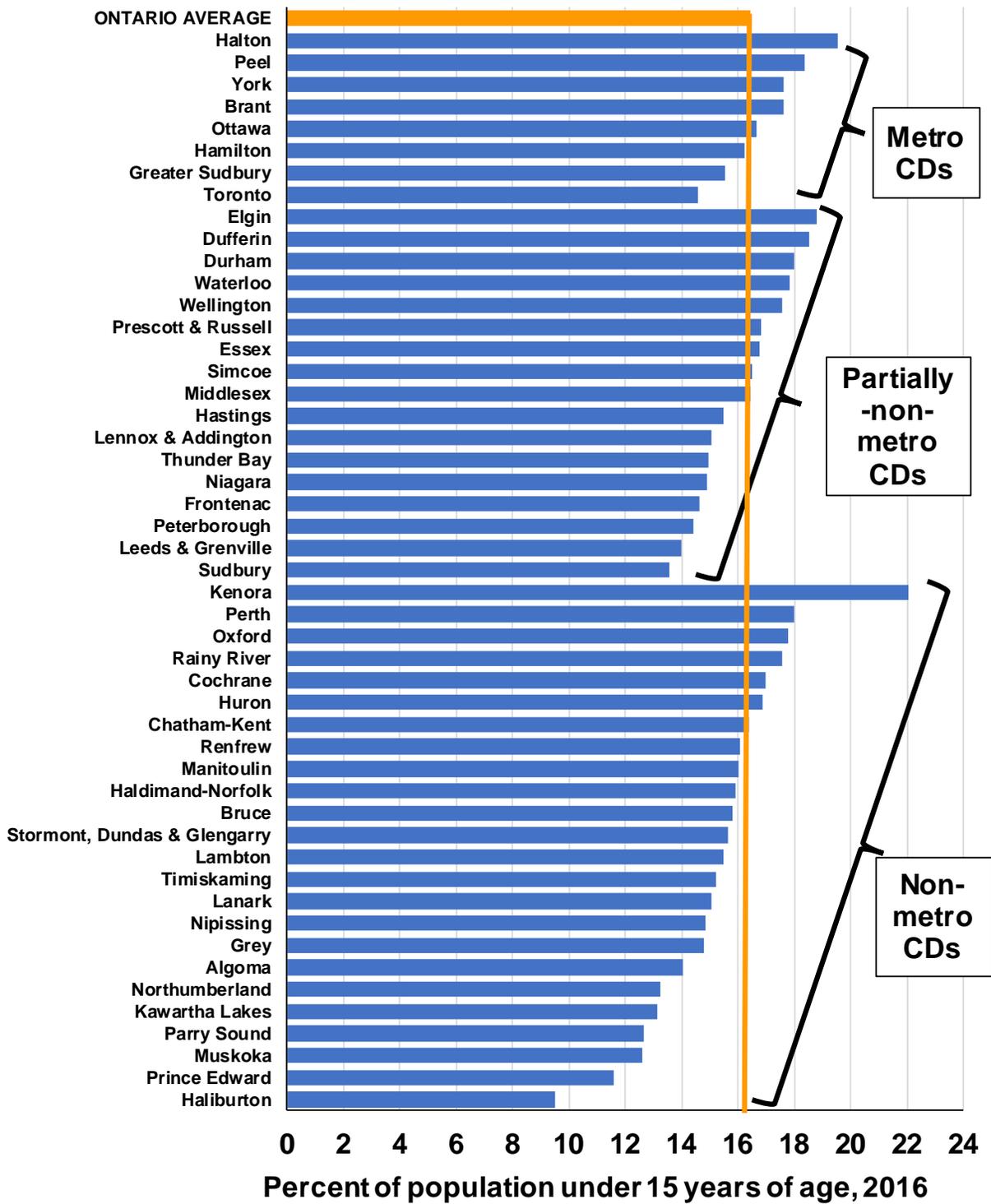
An accompanying Fact Sheet<sup>1</sup> shows the wider variation in this demographic structure across census subdivisions within non-metro CDs.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined in "Rural Ontario's Demography: Census Update 2016." **Focus on Rural Ontario** (Guelph: Rural Ontario Institute, March) (<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/focus-on-rural-ontario.aspx>).

Figure 1

## Ranking of census divisions by percent of population under 15 years of age, Ontario, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016004.

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<sup>i</sup> This is a companion to the **Focus on Rural Ontario** Fact Sheet entitled “Children under 15 years by census subdivision.”