Dwellings needing repairs or lacking bedrooms by census division *Vol. 5, No. 15, 2018*

Highlights

- **Across Ontario in 2016, on average, 11.6% households were residing in a dwelling that needed major repairs or lacked suitable bedrooms.**
- **Six non-metro census divisions are above the Ontario level: Kenora (26%); Manitoulin (19%); Rainy River (15%); Timiskaming (13%); Parry Sound (13%); and Cochrane (12%).**

Why look at quality of housing?

The quality of housing is a major component of one's basic needs.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) uses three indicators for assessing "core housing need"[1]: a) adequacy (need for major repairs); b) affordability (housing costs relative to income); and c) suitability (based on enough bedrooms for the age and sex of household members).

This Fact Sheet shows the incidence of households residing in dwellings needing major repairs or lacking suitable bedrooms.

This measure is a summary measure of two accompanying Fact Sheets – one on dwellings needing major repairs and one on dwellings lacking suitable bedrooms.

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 Sheets presents results for top and bottom ranked CSDs.

Findings

In 2016 in Ontario, 11.6% of households[2] were

residing in dwellings needing major repairs or without a suitable number of bedrooms for the age / sex mix of household members (see the orange line in Figure 1).

Across the non-metro CDs[3] in Ontario, there were 6 CDs above the Ontario average:

- Kenora (26.2%);
- Manitoulin (19.1%);
- Rainy River (15.0%);
- Timiskaming (13.1%);
- Parry Sound (12.6%); and
- Cochrane (12.3%).

All are northern census divisions.

Discussion

Residing in a dwelling providing a lower quality of housing reduces the well-being of individuals.

For households off-reserve, the quality of housing is due, at least in part, to low household incomes and/or high costs for repairs to dwellings and/or the availability of adequate or suitable housing.

Residents on Indian Reserves typically do not own their dwellings and thus there is the additional factor of the capacity of the Band Council to maintain the quality of the dwellings.
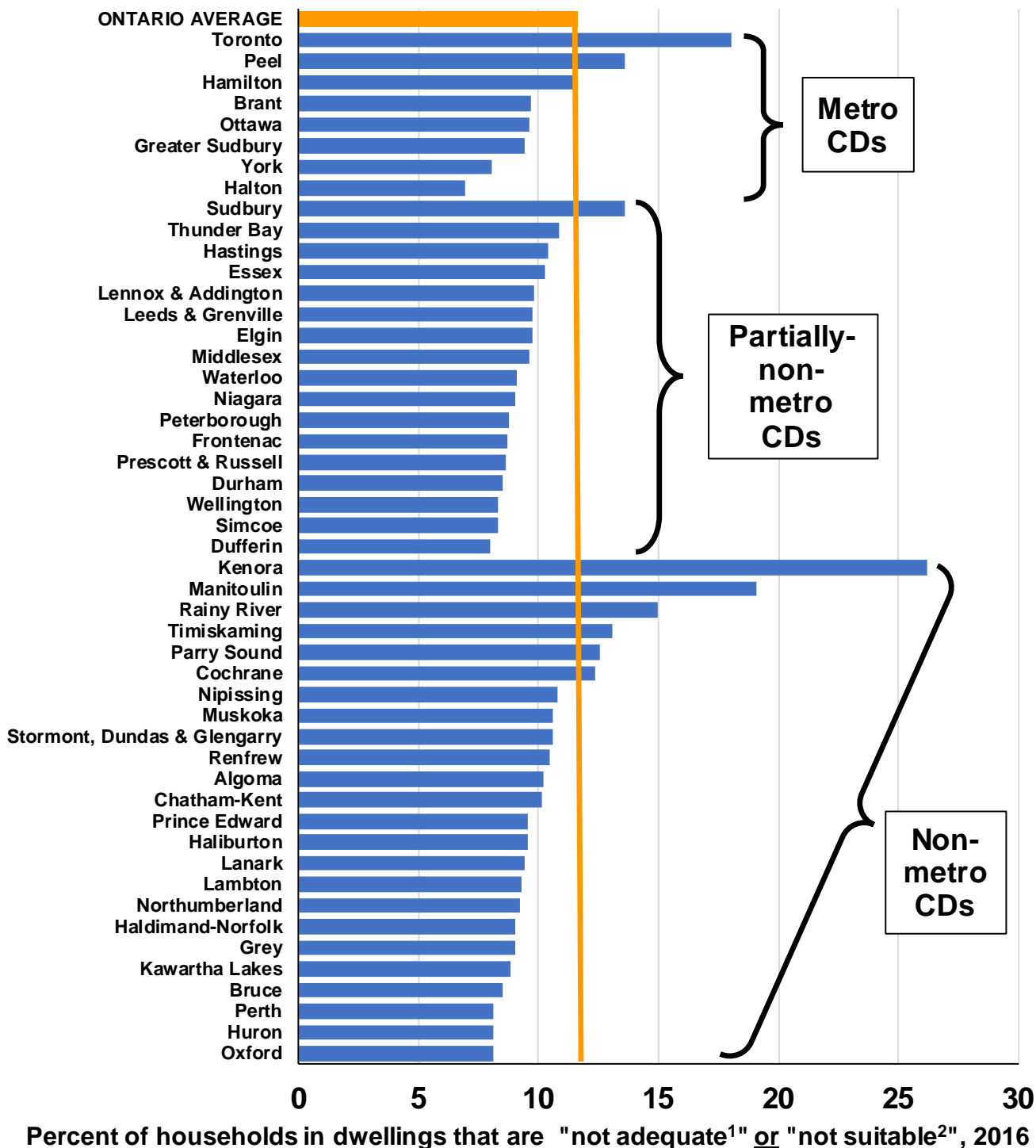
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[1] See Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2015) **2011 Census/National Household Survey Housing Series: Issue 3 The Adequacy, Suitability and Affordability of Canadian Housing, 1991-2011** (Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, April).

[2] The data reported in this Fact Sheet is based on a custom tabulation of 2016 census data and includes all households. The published data include an affordability component (calculated as housing costs per dollar of income) and only include non-farm households and households off Indian Reserves. For details, see "core housing need" in 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).

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

Figure 1 Ranking of census divisions by percent of households residing in dwellings that are "not adequate[1]" or "not suitable[2]", Ontario, 2016

Percent of households in dwellings that are "not adequate[1]" or "not suitable[2]", 2016

1. "Housing adequacy" is based on whether "major repairs" are needed (e.g., dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring, and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings).
2. "Housing suitability" assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members. For the detailed calculation, 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, custom tabulation.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net