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## Dwellings without suitable bedrooms by census division

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### Highlights

- **At the Ontario level, on average, 6% of households reside in a dwelling without a suitable number of bedrooms, given the age and sex of household members.**
- **This incidence is higher than the provincial average in one non-metro census division: Kenora at 9.4%.**

### Why look at dwellings without suitable bedrooms?

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"<sup>1</sup>: 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 considers the range across census divisions (CDs) of households without a suitable number of bedrooms.

This Fact Sheet topic has both census division (CD) and 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, 6.0% of households<sup>2</sup> were residing in dwellings without a suitable number of bedrooms for the age/sex mix of household members (see the orange line in Figure 1).

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<sup>1</sup> 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) (<https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?cat=190&itm=1&lang=en&sid=ipssYv1CD9i7AG2OOYdJdq3fDmXVvcwQZH10JiRBYoahKceViTUpVF5Xg7v3BRV&fr=1512485329124>).

<sup>2</sup> 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>).

Three CDs are above the provincial average. Two were very large metro CDs<sup>3</sup>. The sole non-metro CD above the provincial average was Kenora with 9.4% of the households without suitable bedrooms for the age/sex mix of household members.

Among non-metro CDs, the three CDs with the highest incidence of a shortfall of bedrooms were northern CDs (Kenora, Rainy River and Manitoulin).

Most CDs in the province have between 1 and 4 percent of their dwellings with a shortfall of bedrooms for the number of people living in them.

Note that the CD of Kenora has the highest incidence with a shortfall of 3 or more bedrooms (solid blue bar in Figure 1).

### Discussion

Residing in a suitable dwelling increases the well-being of individuals.

The suitability of housing is due, at least in part, to low household incomes, and/or high costs for repairs to dwellings, and/or local housing availability.

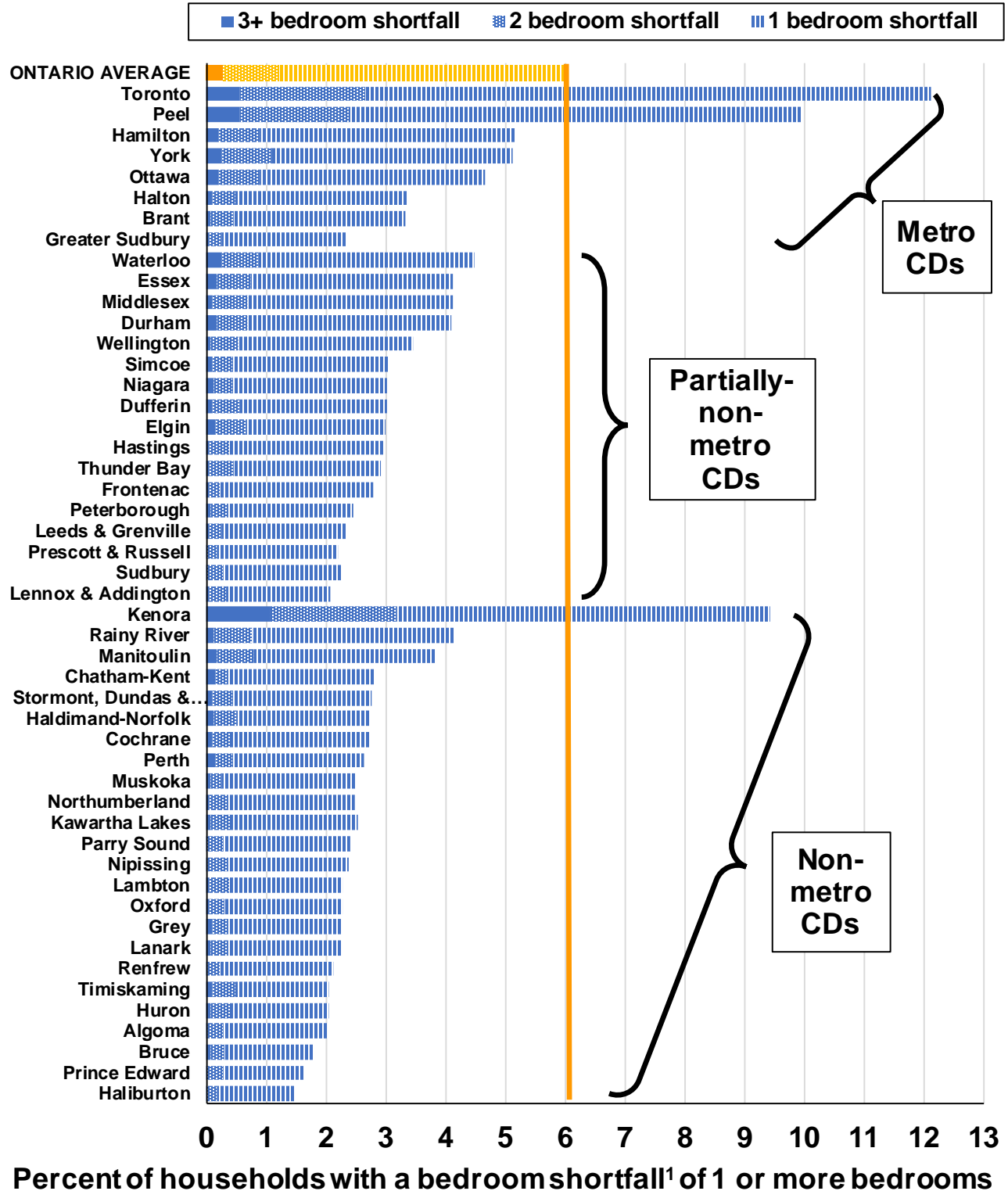
When the suitable bedroom data is broken down to a more detailed level of geography, as discussed in the companion Fact Sheet with data at the level of the CSD, it becomes apparent that the situation in non-metro CSDs is most acute on reserves. Residents on Indian Reserves typically do not own their dwellings and thus, there is the additional factor of the capacity of the Band Council and federal programming to maintain the quality of these dwellings.

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<sup>3</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 households with a 1+ bedroom shortfall<sup>1</sup>, Ontario, 2016



1. "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.

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