
Seniors 80 years and older: Change by census divisionⁱ

Vol. 5, No. 9, 2018

Highlights

- The rate of growth in the number of seniors, 80 years of age and over, was 14.4% across Ontario from 2011 to 2016.
- Among non-metro census divisions, the pace of change in the number of 80+ seniors varied from a high of a 28.5% growth in the Haliburton census division to a growth of only 0.9% in the Rainy River census division.

Why look at seniors 80 years and older?

Demographic change drives a change in demand for both physical infrastructure and social programs. A change in the number of seniors generates requirements for a change in physical infrastructure (such as seniors' residences) and a change in specific social investment in programs and services (such as volunteers to help with home maintenance and providing transportation to medical appointments).

This Fact Sheet shows the rate of change at the census division level where the pattern of change for a group of communities may indicate opportunities for individual communities to share investments in infrastructure.

Findings

Overall, in Ontario from 2010 to 2016, the number of seniors 80 years of age and older increased by 14.4% (see the orange line in Figure 1).

Among non-metro census divisions (CDs)¹, there was a wide range in the rate of change in the number of 80+ seniors.

Five of the 24 non-metro CDs had an increase in the number of 80+ seniors that was larger than the rate of change across Ontario as whole. These CDs were Haliburton, 28.5%; Muskoka, 19.5%; Bruce, 19.3%; Manitoulin, 18.8%; and Northumberland, 18.3%.

Another two CDs were just under the provincial rate of growth of the number of 80+ seniors (Algoma, 14.1% and Nipissing, 13.9%).

Three non-metro CDs had less than a 5% growth in

the number of 80+ seniors (Huron, 4.9%; Haldimand-Norfolk, 4.4%; and Rainy River, 0.9%).

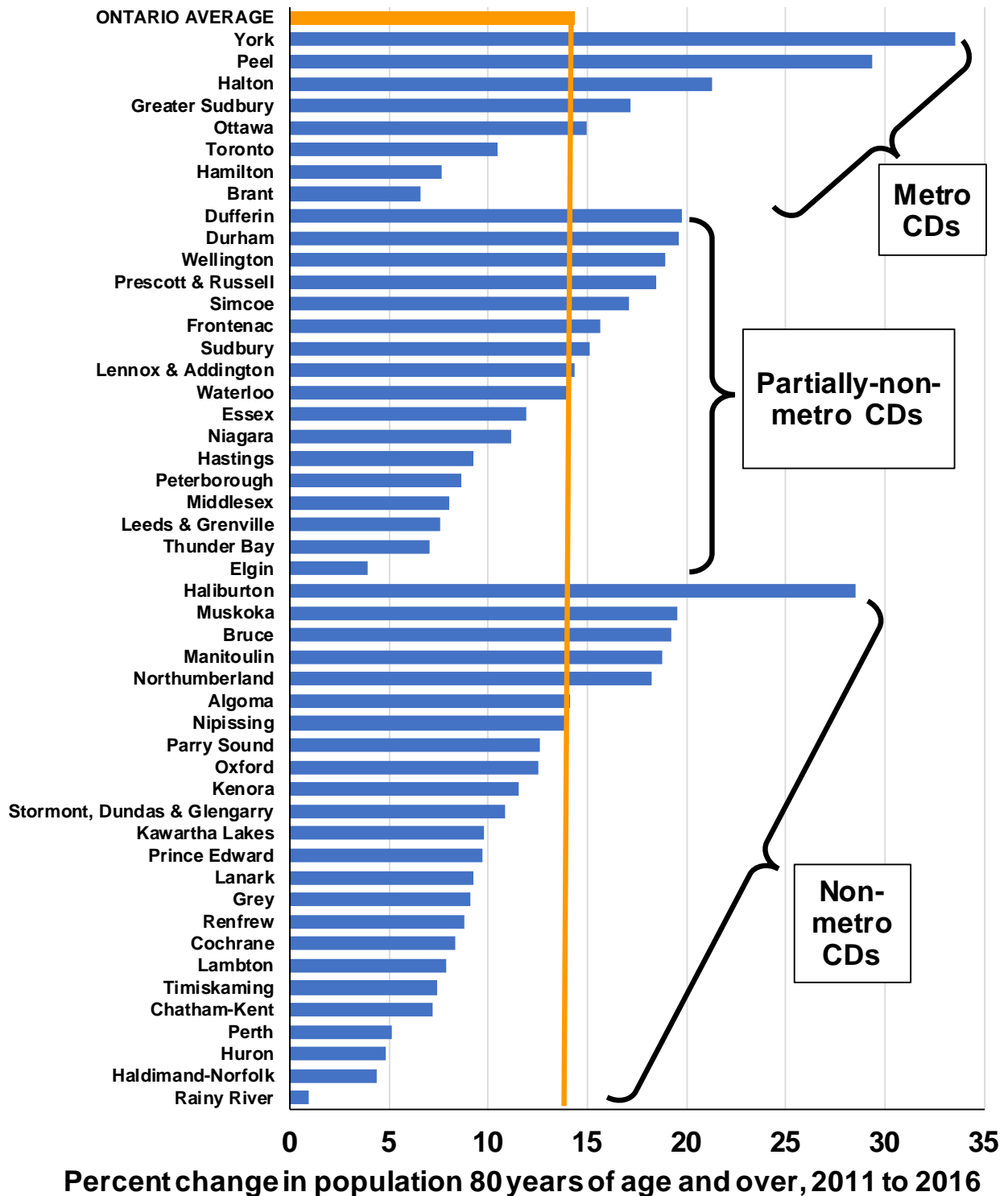
Discussion

There is a wide range of growth across non-metro CDs in the number of seniors, 80 years of age and over. This means that different areas are facing a different pace of change in both the infrastructure required by seniors and the social services required by seniors.

Allocations of resources by public agencies to support services specific to this population group will need to be sensitive to these different regional realities.

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

Figure 1 Ranking of census divisions by percent change in the number of seniors 80 years of age and over, Ontario, 2011 to 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 and 2016, Tables 98-311-XCB2011023 and 98-400-X2016004.

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ⁱ This is a companion to the *Focus on Rural Ontario* Fact Sheet entitled “Seniors 80 years and older: Change by census subdivisions.”