

Percent with Social Assistance by census subdivision

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Highlights

- In 2015, within non-metro census divisions, there are 10 census subdivisions with 23% or more of the population (15+ years or age) with some social assistance revenue and all are Indian Reserves.
- Census subdivisions in non-metro census divisions display a wide range in the proportion receiving social assistance but this range is skewed higher in the non-metro census divisions than in either partially-non-metro or metro census divisions.

Why look at Social Assistance?

Social assistance is provided to individuals on the basis of need.

Eligible social assistance recipients may receive assistance to cover the cost of food, shelter, clothing and other daily necessities. Other allowances may also be granted to persons with special needs or circumstances, such as elderly persons, persons with disabilities, single-parent families and persons with barriers to employment¹.

In Ontario, this would refer specifically to the Ontario Disability Support Program and the Ontario Works program, as reported on line 145 of the 2015 Income Tax Form. All other forms of government transfer revenue are reported under their specific category.

The spatial pattern of recipients of social assistance is one indicator of economic well-being and the need for social support across rural Ontario.

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

Findings

There is a wide range across CSDs² in non-metro

Ontario in terms of the percent of the population (15 years of age and over) reporting some social assistance income in 2015 (Table 1 and the Map).

The far-left column shows the rank of the CSD in terms of the percent reporting social assistance (and the percent is shown in the far-right column). We show the top 10 and lower 10 ranking CSDs within non-metro CDs. Within metro and partially-non-metro CDs, we show the top 5 and the lower 5 ranking CSDs.

Within non-metro CDs, there are 10 CSDs with 23% or more of the population (15 years and over) with some social assistance income. At the other end of the scale, there were 8 CSDs with no residents reporting some social assistance revenue. Within non-metro CDs, 52% of the CSDs reported an incidence of social assistance revenue above the provincial average (Table 2). This may be compared to 41% of CSDs in partially-non-metro CDs and 25% of the CSDs in metro CDs. Thus, the pattern of CSDs with a higher share of residents with some social assistance revenue is not an overwhelmingly non-metro phenomenon. Nevertheless, a higher share of CSDs in non-metro CDs report a high(er) incidence of individuals receiving social assistance revenue.

Discussion

A higher share of residents with social assistance is not solely characteristic of rural Ontario.

As shown in the map, the incidence of social assistance is widespread across Ontario. In Ontario, 46% of all CSDs, regardless of their rural-urban category, are above the provincial average with

¹ Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301).

² A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or municipality (or similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve). Income data were published only for CSDs with a population of 150 or more residents, 15

years of age and over. For details, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary**.

respect to the proportion of their population receiving social assistance. The geo-spatial distribution of the need for social assistance deserves more attention and analysis than this Fact Sheet alone can address

but the distribution of CSDs with a great degree of variation in the proportions qualifying for and receiving social assistance depicts the spatial dimension of income inequality.

Table 1. Ranking of census subdivisions¹ by percent of population (15 years and over) receiving some Social Assistance benefits² in 2015, Ontario

Rank of CSDs within each type of CD	CD ID	Name of census division (CD)	CSD ID	Name of census subdivision ¹ (CSD)	Total population (15+ years) in private households	Population receiving some Social Assistance benefits ²	Percent receiving some Social Assistance benefits ²
Census subdivisions within metro CDs (showing³ the 5 highest and the 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3519	York	3519049	King	19,930	180	1
2	3521	Peel	3521024	Caledon	53,870	615	1
3	3519	York	3519044	Whitchurch-Stouffville	36,040	500	1
4	3524	Halton	3524009	Milton	80,555	1,155	1
5	3524	Halton	3524015	Halton Hills	48,770	785	2
20	3525	Hamilton	3525005	Hamilton	441,055	28,065	6
21	3553	Greater Sudbury	3553005	Greater Sudbury	133,640	8,765	7
22	3529	Brant	3529021	New Credit (Part) 40A	450	30	7
23	3529	Brant	3529006	Brantford	78,500	5,840	7
24	3519	York	3519076	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation	215	35	16
Census subdivisions within partially-non-metro CDs (showing³ the 5 highest and the 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3552	Sudbury	3552036	Killarney	295	-	-
2	3539	Middlesex	3539033	Middlesex Centre	13,550	105	1
3	3523	Wellington	3523001	Puslinch	6,240	55	1
4	3522	Dufferin	3522001	East Garafraxa	2,105	20	1
5	3539	Middlesex	3539047	Adelaide-Metcalf	2,260	25	1
175	3502	Prescott & Russell	3502008	Hawkesbury	8,535	1,280	15
176	3558	Thunder Bay	3558068	Long Lake 58	260	40	15
177	3515	Peterborough	3515019	Curve Lake First Nation 35	880	160	18
178	3552	Sudbury	3552051	Whitefish Lake 6	315	65	21
179	3558	Thunder Bay	3558097	Whitesand	230	85	37
Census subdivisions within non-metro CDs (showing³ the 10 highest and the 10 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3557	Algoma	3557004	Hilton	295	-	-
2	3554	Timiskaming	3554029	Casey	345	-	-
3	3559	Rainy River	3559040	Dawson	375	-	-
4	3554	Timiskaming	3554021	Hudson	410	-	-
5	3557	Algoma	3557014	Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	430	-	-
6	3557	Algoma	3557040	The North Shore	455	-	-
7	3549	Parry Sound	3549005	The Archipelago	475	-	-
8	3560	Kenora	3560008	Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls	515	-	-
9	3531	Perth	3531013	Perth South	3,220	30	1
10	3557	Algoma	3557011	Laird	900	10	1
269	3551	Manitoulin	3551041	Sucker Creek 23	280	65	23
270	3559	Rainy River	3559063	Couchiching 16A	575	140	24
271	3560	Kenora	3560059	Weagamow Lake 87	565	145	26
272	3541	Bruce	3541057	Saugeen 29	805	210	26
273	3560	Kenora	3560098	Kingfisher Lake 1	335	90	27
274	3560	Kenora	3560078	Fort Severn 89	255	75	29
275	3560	Kenora	3560066	Kenora 38B	305	90	30
276	3559	Rainy River	3559026	Manitou Rapids 11	200	65	33
277	3560	Kenora	3560088	Wapekeka 2	260	95	37
278	3560	Kenora	3560070	Deer Lake	540	200	37

1. A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or municipality or a similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve. Income data were published for each CSD with 150 or more residents, 15 years of age and over.

2. On the basis of need, eligible social assistance recipients may receive assistance to cover the cost of food, shelter, clothing and other daily necessities. Other allowances may also be granted to persons with special needs or circumstances, such as elderly persons, persons with disabilities, single-parent families and persons with barriers to employment.

3. 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-X2016120.

Size class of percent of population (15 years of age and over) with some Social Assistance benefits ² in 2015	Type of census division (CD)			
	Metro CDs	Partially-non-metro CDs	Non-metro CDs	All CDs
Less than 2.5%	54	21	15	19
2.5% to 4.8%	21	37	33	34
4.9% to 9.9%	21	30	35	32
10% to 14.9%	0	8	12	10
15% and over	4	3	5	4
All CSDs	100	100	100	100

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