

Population in low income by census division

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Highlights

- Among non-metro census divisions in 2015, 9 census divisions had an incidence of low-income above the provincial average.
- The range was from a high of 17.9% in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry census division to a low of 10.8% of individuals in the Oxford census division residing in a low-income household.

Why look at the population in low-income households?

Living in a low-income household constrains life options. Individuals may be constrained from eating well, accessing medical services (such as paying for drugs, eye care and dental care, plus the cost of travelling to access these services) and accessing post-secondary education.

Documenting the localities with a higher incidence of individuals in low-income households may help to manage the public services which respond to these concerns.

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 Sheet presents results for top and bottom ranked CSDs.

Findings

In Ontario in 2015, 14.4% of the population was residing in a low-income household (see Definitions Box) (see orange line in Figure 1).

Among non-metro CDs¹, there were 9 CDs with an incidence of low-income above the provincial average: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (17.9%); Timiskaming (17.5%); Nipissing (17.2%); Haliburton (17.1%); Chatham-Kent (17.0%); Algoma (16.2%); Grey (15.5%); Parry Sound (15.1%); and Manitoulin (14.8%).

The non-metro CD with the lowest incidence of low income was the Oxford CD, where 10.8% of

Definitions Box:

"Low-income measure" (LIM): In this factsheet, we use the LIM (after tax) to indicate the low-income threshold. "Low income" is assigned to individuals in households with total household income below the LIM (after tax) where the LIM is one-half of the national median income, adjusted for the size of the household.

A **census subdivision** is an incorporated town or municipality or a similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve.

The LIM is not assigned for residents of census subdivisions with less than 250 inhabitants and not assigned for residents of Indian Reserves. The 2016 Census Dictionary notes, regarding residents of Indian Reserves, "The existence of substantial in-kind transfers (such as subsidized housing and First Nations band housing) and sizeable barter economies or consumption from own production (such as product from hunting, farming or fishing) could make the interpretation of low-income statistics more difficult in these situations."

For details, 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>).

residents lived in a household with low income.

As noted in the "Definitions Box", households on Indian Reserves and households in census subdivisions with less than 250 residents are not included in the published data. For the CD of Kenora, this means that 22,435 of 64,615 residents were not assigned a status of 'above' or 'below' the low-income threshold.

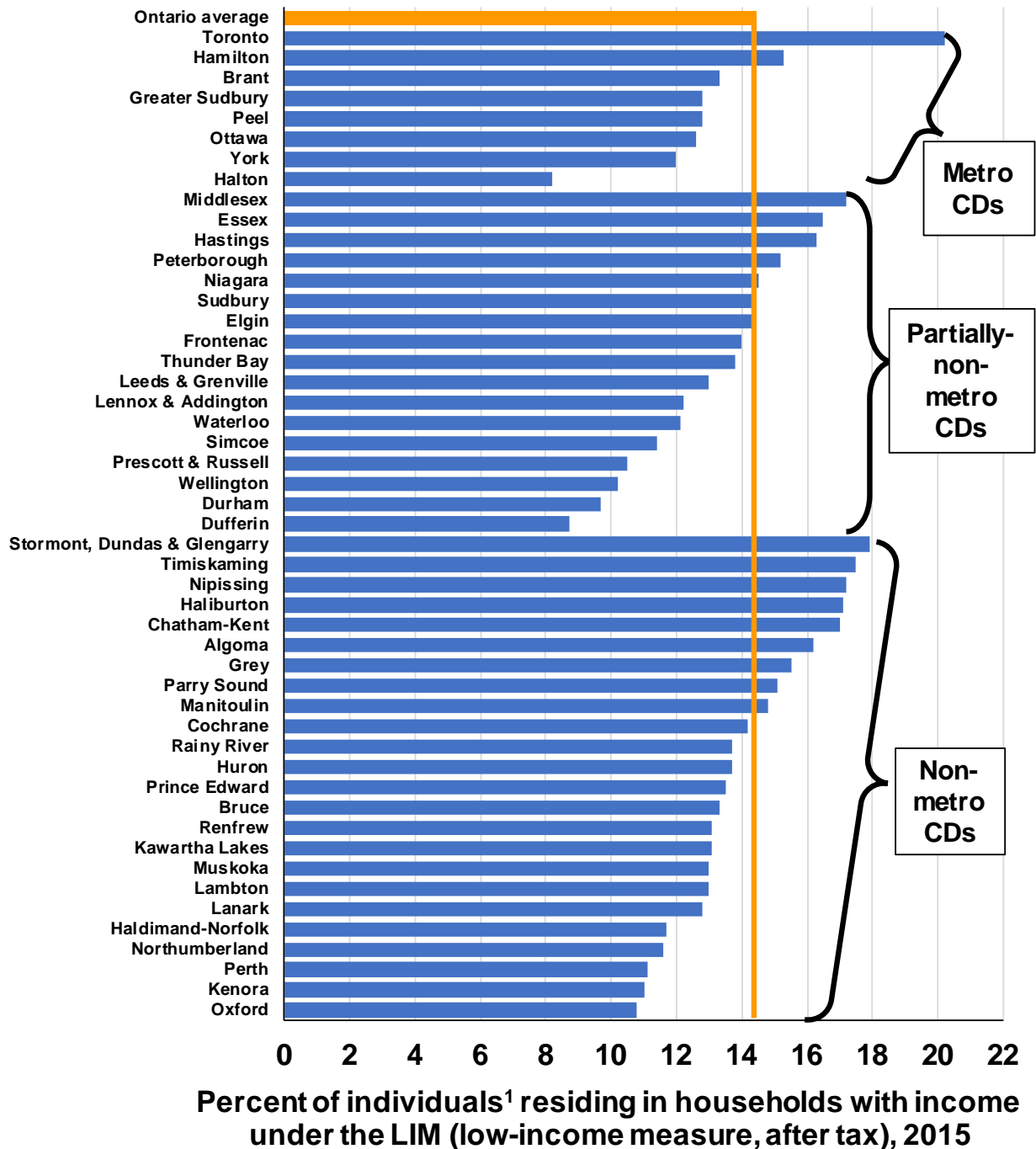
Discussion

A higher number and larger proportion of non-metro CDs have a higher intensity of lower incomes, compared to the partially-non-metro or metro categories. Still a majority of non-metro CDs have less of their population below the provincial average incidence of low income.

¹ 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 individuals¹ living in households with income under the LIM² (low-income measure, after tax), Ontario, 2015



1. Individuals in census subdivisions with less than 250 residents and individuals residing on Indian Reserves are not included.
 2. The low-income measure (LIM) is one-half of the national median income, adjusted for the size of the household. For details, 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, Table 98-400-X2016127.

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