

## Seniors in private dwellings by type of household

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### Highlights

- In non-metro census divisions, among seniors 90 years and over who are residing in a private dwelling, 54% are living alone in a house or an apartment.

### Why look at seniors in private dwellings?

The number of seniors is increasing. Some seniors require various kinds of support as they age. Home care is one form of support for those seniors who reside in private dwellings.

The objective of this Fact Sheet is to document the number of seniors who are living in private dwellings by age and by census division (CD) in Ontario<sup>1</sup>.

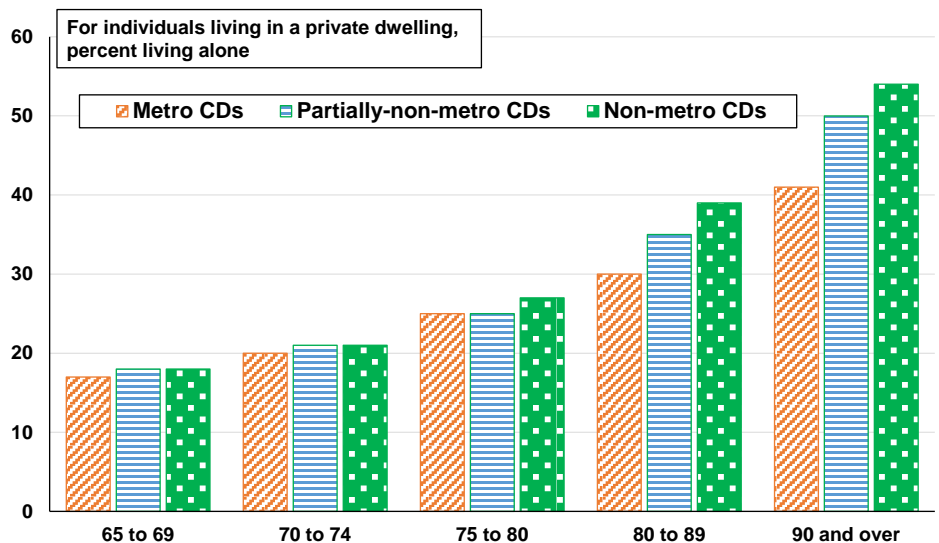
### Findings

Among seniors residing in private dwellings, the percent living alone is higher in the older age groups. Among 'younger' seniors, most are living with a spouse or common-law partner<sup>2</sup>.

In non-metro CDs<sup>3</sup>, among seniors 90 years of age and over, 54% were living alone. The details for each CD for each of the other age groups are shown in the supplementary tables<sup>2</sup>. Previous Fact Sheets have illustrated that women are more likely to be living alone partly because married men live longer than unmarried men and partly because women have a longer life expectancy than men.

The percent living alone showed considerable variability across the CDs in non-metro Ontario. In the Kenora CD, among seniors 90+ years in private dwellings, 63% were living alone (Figure 2). In the

Figure 1 Within non-metro census divisions, among seniors residing in a private dwelling, 54% of seniors, 90 years of age and over, were living alone



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016, special tabulation.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Prince Edward and Haliburton CDs, 45% of seniors 90+ in private dwellings were living alone.

Caregiver support and social isolation are major considerations in quality of life and health outcomes. The higher proportions of seniors living alone in non-metro CDs suggests that support services and "aging in place" strategies is not uniform across all types of geographies and will need to take this into account.

### Summary

Among seniors 90+ years living in private dwellings across non-metro census divisions, 54% were living alone in 2016.

Older seniors living alone may need home care as they continue to age. Seniors living alone are more likely to be accessing formal home care<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> This Fact Sheet is an update of "Living arrangements of seniors in private dwellings," *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Vol. 2, No. 17).

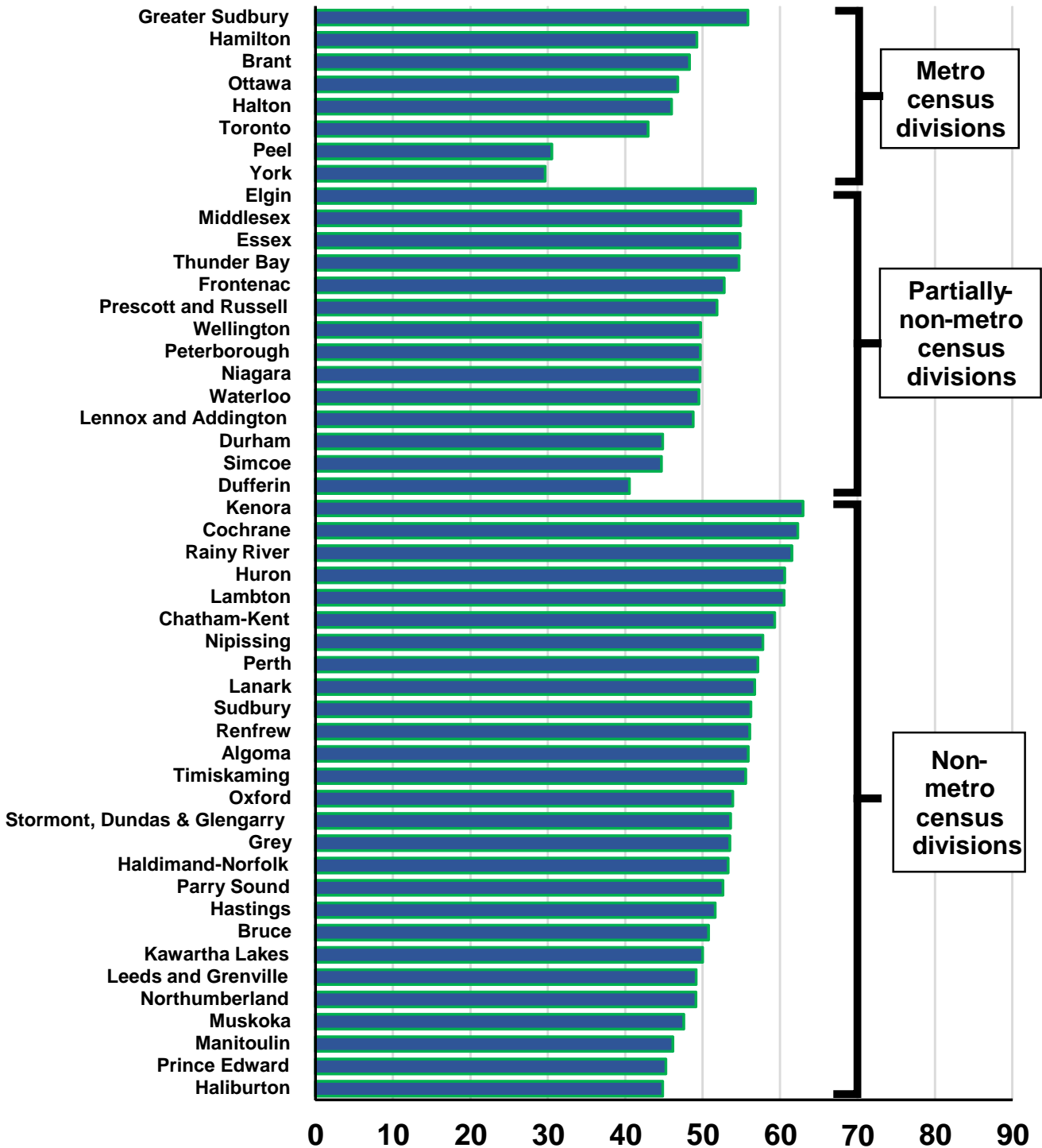
<sup>2</sup> See "Supplementary tables of seniors in private and collective dwellings by type of dwelling for each age group and for each census division, Ontario, 2016".

<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>).

<sup>4</sup> Gilmour, Heather. (2018) *Formal home care use in Canada* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Health Reports, Catalogue no. 82-003).

Figure 2

**Within non-metro CDs, there is a range in the proportion of seniors, 90+, living alone, between 63% to 45%**



**Among seniors living in private dwellings, 90 years of age and over, percent who were living alone in 2016**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016, special tabulation.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

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