
Children in lone-parent families by census subdivisionⁱ

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Highlights

- Among census subdivisions within non-metro census divisions, 10 census subdivisions had 42% or more of their children (under 15 years of age) living in a lone-parent family.
- Overall, 57% of census subdivisions in non-metro census divisions had more than 19% of their children living in lone-parent families.

Why look at children with a lone parent?

Children living in a lone-parent family face different experiences compared to children living in a two-parent family.

*The family life of children may have a direct impact on their health, their economic, social and emotional well-being, and on their life course in the long run. For example, family life during childhood may affect the long-term relationship between children and their parents, particularly when the parents are older and need support themselves. Children living in lone-parent families or stepfamilies may also have a greater need for some services (childcare, for example) and may be more exposed to certain situations, such as living in a low-income family. (Statistics Canada. (2017) **Portrait of children's family life in Canada in 2016** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-200-X201606) p. 1).*

Assessing the situation at the local level will help organizations that offer programs for both the parents and the children and youth in lone-parent families.

Findings

There is a wide range across census subdivisions¹ (CSDs) in terms of the percent of children (under 15 years) who reside with a lone parent (Table 1 & Map).

The rank of the CSD is shown in the far-left column and the percent is shown in the far-right column. Within non-metro census divisions (CDs), we show

the top 10 ranking CSDs and the 10 lowest ranking CSDs. Within each of metro and partially-non-metro CDs, we show the top 5 and the lowest 5 ranking CSDs

Across non-metro census divisions (CDs), 10 CSDs had 42% or more of their children residing with a lone parent (Table 1). Nine of these CSDs are Indian Reserves. At the other end of the distribution, 10 CSDs in non-metro CDs had 7% or few of their children (under 15 years) living with a lone-parent.

Children living with a lone parent were more predominant among CSDs in non-metro CDs. For example, 17% of CSDs have over one-third of their children living with a lone parent and another 40% of CSDs in non-metro CDs had 19% to 33% of their children living with a lone parent (Table 2). Thus, 57% of CSDs in non-metro CDs had over 19% of their children under 15 years of age living with a lone parent.

Discussion

The demand for adult education and employment opportunities, as well as social infrastructure to support parents and children in lone-parent families varies widely across CSDs in non-metro CDs.

¹ A census subdivision is an incorporated town or municipality (or similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve). For details, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301).

Table 1. Ranking of census subdivisions by percent of children (under 15 years of age) who live in a lone-parent census family, Ontario, 2016

Ranking of CSDs within each CD type	CD ID	Name of census division (CD)	CSD ID	Name of census subdivision ¹ (CSD)	Population under 15 years	Population under 15 yr. in a lone-parent family	Percent
Census subdivisions within metro census divisions (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3529	Brant	3529006	Brantford	17,300	4,675	27
2	3553	Greater Sudbury	3553005	Greater Sudbury	25,070	5,930	24
3	3520	Toronto	3520005	Toronto	398,135	88,225	22
4	3525	Hamilton	3525005	Hamilton	87,115	18,495	21
5	3519	York	3519070	Georgina	7,500	1,535	20
18	3519	York	3519028	Vaughan	57,520	6,165	11
19	3519	York	3519054	East Gwillimbury	4,115	440	11
20	3524	Halton	3524009	Milton	28,405	2,675	9
21	3519	York	3519044	Whitchurch-Stouffville	9,315	870	9
22	3519	York	3519049	King	4,440	365	8
Census subdivisions within partially-non-metro CDs (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3558	Thunder Bay	3558060	Pic Mobert North	65	30	46
2	3558	Thunder Bay	3558064	Lake Helen 53A	60	25	42
3	3558	Thunder Bay	3558067	Ginoogaming First Nation	60	25	42
4	3502	Prescott & Russell	3502008	Hawkesbury	1,290	520	40
5	3515	Peterborough	3515019	Curve Lake First Nation 35	175	70	40
174	3534	Elgin	3534010	Malahide	2,330	125	5
175	3530	Waterloo	3530027	Wellesley	2,995	130	4
176	3539	Middlesex	3539047	Adelaide-Metcalf	595	25	4
177	3558	Thunder Bay	3558051	Schreiber	130	5	4
178	3523	Wellington	3523033	Mapleton	2,905	110	4
Census subdivisions within non-metro census divisions (showing² the 10 highest and 10 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3559	Rainy River	3559068	Rainy Lake 17A	75	40	53
2	3551	Manitoulin	3551043	Wikwemikong Unceded	640	325	51
3	3560	Kenora	3560068	Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	105	50	48
4	3551	Manitoulin	3551041	Sucker Creek 23	95	45	47
5	3538	Lambton	3538004	Walpole Island 46	380	175	46
6	3554	Timiskaming	3554008	Cobalt	165	75	45
7	3559	Rainy River	3559051	Big Grassy River 35G	70	30	43
8	3560	Kenora	3560058	English River 21	190	80	42
9	3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	3501007	Akwesasne (Part) 59	380	160	42
10	3559	Rainy River	3559066	Seine River 23A	60	25	42
263	3559	Rainy River	3559090	Rainy River, Unorganized	150	10	7
264	3557	Algoma	3557014	Tarbutt & Tarbutt Additional	80	5	6
265	3557	Algoma	3557011	Laird	160	10	6
266	3554	Timiskaming	3554024	Kerns	85	5	6
267	3540	Huron	3540046	Howick	995	50	5
268	3554	Timiskaming	3554014	Harris	100	5	5
269	3559	Rainy River	3559031	Morley	100	5	5
270	3531	Perth	3531030	Perth East	2,875	135	5
271	3557	Algoma	3557079	Dubreuilville	110	5	5
272	3554	Timiskaming	3554044	Charlton and Dack	150	5	3

1. Excluding census subdivisions with less than 50 children (under 15 years of age) in 2016.

2. For the ranking of CSDs, see the "Expanded Table 1" at <http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/rural-reports/focus-on-rural-ontario>

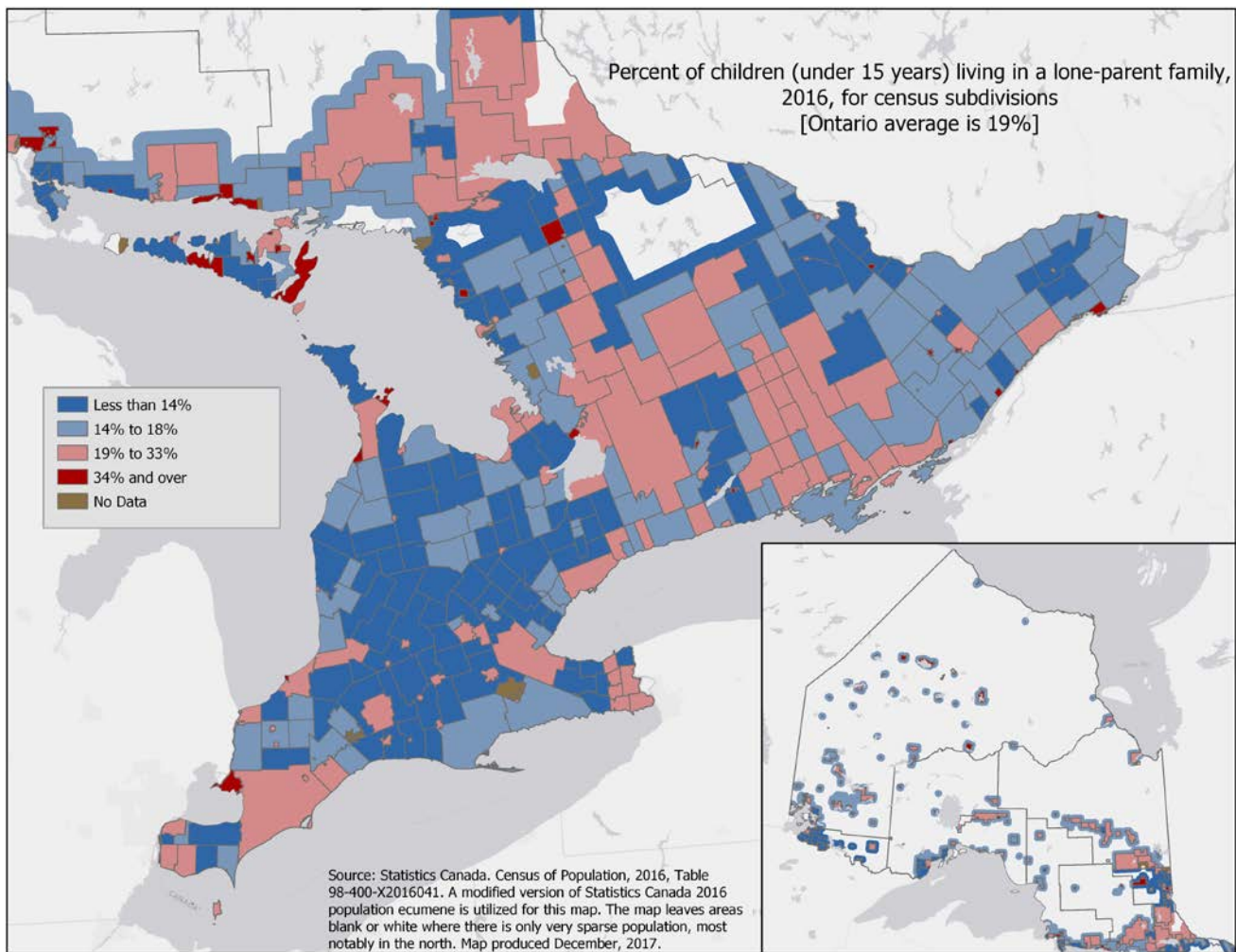
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016041

Table 2. Percent distribution of census subdivisions¹ by percent of children (under 15 years of age) who are living in a lone-parent census family, Ontario, 2016

Percent of children (under 15 years) who are living with a lone parent	Type of census division (CD)			
	Metro CDs	Partially-non-metro CDs	Non-metro CDs	All CDs
	Percent distribution of census subdivisions ¹			
Less than 14%	46	31	25	28
14% to 18%	25	27	19	22
19% to 33%	29	36	40	38
34% and over	0	6	17	12
All CSDs ¹	100	100	100	100

1. Census subdivisions (CSDs) are incorporated towns, municipalities or similar jurisdictions, such as Indian Reserves.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016041.



The Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#). Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to nragetlie@ruralontarioinstitute.ca.

ⁱ This is a companion to the **Focus on Rural Ontario** Fact Sheet entitled “Children in lone-parent families by census division.”