

## Seniors in collective dwellings by type of dwelling

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### Highlights

- In 2016, across non-metro census divisions, for seniors 90+ years of age residing in collective dwellings, there was a wide range in the share living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities – ranging from 88% in the Parry Sound CD to 24% in the Kawartha Lakes CD.

### Why look at seniors in collective dwellings?

The number of seniors is increasing. Some seniors require support of various kinds as they age. One form of support is the provision of collective<sup>1</sup> dwellings such as seniors' residences and/or nursing homes.

This Fact Sheet documents the number of seniors in collective dwellings and shows the proportion in specialized-care settings for each census division (CD)<sup>2</sup>. Nursing homes and long-term care facilities are reported as compared to retirement homes<sup>3</sup> which may also offer some forms of assisted living short of medical services.

### Findings

Among seniors in collective dwellings in non-metro<sup>4</sup> CDs, about one-half of seniors 75+ years of age were residing in specialized-care settings<sup>5</sup> such as nursing homes or long-term care (LTC)

<sup>1</sup> Collective dwellings include residences for senior citizens, nursing homes, hospitals, group homes, shelters, lodging and rooming houses, hotels, motels, etc. For details, see the 2016 Census of Population dictionary <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/dwelling-logements002-eng.cfm> and for enumeration details, see <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/guides/001/98-500-x2016001-eng.cfm>.

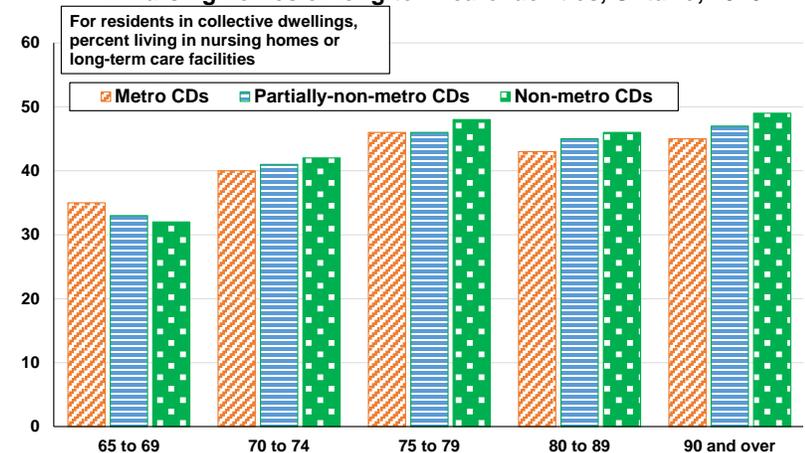
<sup>2</sup> This Fact Sheet is an update of "Living arrangements of seniors: collective dwellings." *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Vol. 2, No. 16).

<sup>3</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>4</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>5</sup> The terminology used to describe the various types of seniors' residences varies across the country and among different private operators. The terms vary from independent living homes to assisted living to memory care centres and to facilities that offer a "continuum of care" with multiple types of care being offered under one roof. In addition, many seniors in private dwellings also receive professional homecare services. See Turcotte, Martin and Carole Sawaya (2015) "Senior care: Difference by type of housing" *Insights on Canadian Society* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 75-006).

Figure 1 Among residents in collective dwellings, nearly one-half of individuals, 75+ years, in non-metro census divisions were living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, Ontario, 2016



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

Chart by Ray D. Bolman@gaikai.net

facilities in 2016 (Figure 1). This proportion is somewhat higher than in metro and partially-non-metro CDs. At least one Canadian study of rural/urban differences in rates of institutionalized care suggests that higher placement rates in LTC reflect lower accessibility of in-home services in rural areas for the elderly with chronic conditions<sup>6</sup>.

Regardless of the type of metro/non-metro CD, there is a notable lower proportion living in specialized-care collective dwellings in the 80-89 age group, compared to the 75-79 age group. One possible reason for this may be a higher mortality rate among seniors who make housing transitions<sup>7</sup>.

Within non-metro CDs, there are significant differences in the proportions in specialized-care

<sup>6</sup> See Goodridge, D. *et al.* (2010) "Rural/urban differences in health care utilization and place of death for persons with respiratory illness in the last year of life." *Rural and Remote Health* Vol. 10.

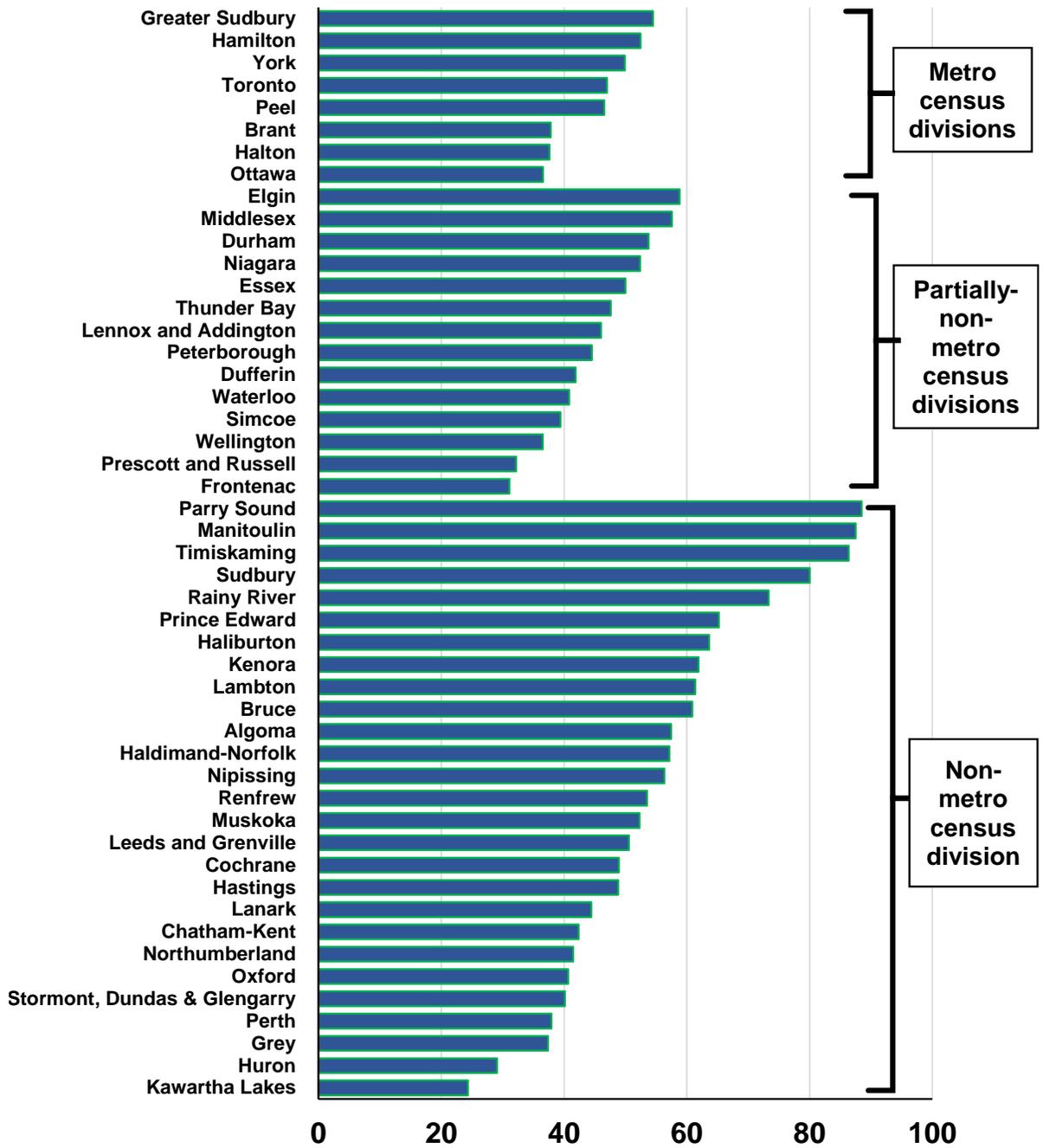
<sup>7</sup> For example, see Robards, James *et al.* (2013) "Mortality at older ages and moves in residential and sheltered housing: Evidence from the UK." *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, Vol. 68, No. 6.

settings. For example, among 90+ year seniors in collective dwellings in the Parry Sound CD, 88% were living in nursing homes or in long-term care facilities (Figure 2), while this share was much lower (24%) in the Kawartha Lakes CD. The details for each CD for each of the other age groups are shown in the supplementary tables<sup>3</sup>.

**Summary**

Across non-metro census divisions, for seniors 90 years of age and older residing in collective dwellings, there was a wide range in the share living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

Figure 2 **There is a wide variation across non-metro CDs of 90+ year seniors living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities (as a percent of 90+ seniors in collective dwellings)**



**Among seniors living in collective dwellings, 90 years of age and over, percent who were living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities**

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

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