

Taxfilers receiving social assistance in non-metro areas

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Highlights

- Overall, in non-metro areas, the percent reporting social assistance was essentially the same as in metro areas (slightly higher for males and slightly lower for females) over the 2006 to 2014 period.
- Fifteen of the 28 Census Agglomerations (population 10,000 to 99,999) in non-metro Ontario reported a higher share of both male and female taxfilers with some social assistance income during the year.
- Also, in “rural and small town” areas (i.e., non-CMA/CA areas), the share reporting social assistance was the same for males but slightly lower for females during the 2006 to 2014 period.

Why look at social transfer recipients?

Precarious employment is becoming an area of public interest in Ontario¹. The receiving of social assistance² income is one indicator of a precarious livelihood.

The objective of this report is document the level and trend of taxfilers reporting revenue from social assistance.

Findings³

In non-metro⁴ Ontario, we find the percent of taxfilers reporting social assistance was essentially the same as in metro areas over the 2006 to 2014 period.

The incidence was slightly higher for male taxfilers in non-metro areas, compared to metro males and slightly lower for non-metro female taxfilers, compared to metro females. In 2014, the shares were 6.5% for non-metro males compared to 6.0% for metro females.

¹ For example, see Noack, Andrea M. and Leah F. Vosko. (2011) [Precarious Jobs in Ontario: Mapping Dimensions of Labour Market Insecurity by Workers' Social Location and Context](#) (Toronto: Law Commission of Ontario).

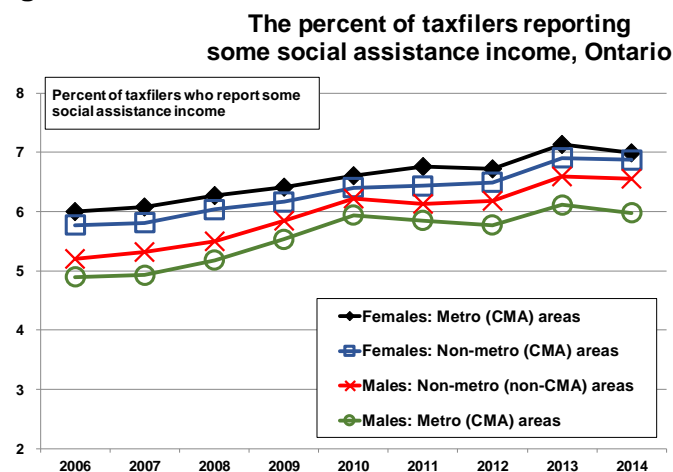
² Social assistance includes income received on the basis of a means, needs or income test (whether made by an organized charity or under a government program). The value is reported on line 145 of the personal income tax return.

³ The discussion of results is based on the level and trends shown in the accompanying “Charts: Percent of taxfilers reporting social assistance income in non-metro Ontario”.

⁴ Non-metro refers to residents outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) which includes 27 Census Agglomerations (CAs) (centres 10,000-99,999) plus rural and small town areas. This report uses the delineation based on the 2011 census as shown in [“Overview of Ontario's rural geography”](#) (June, 2013).

for metro males and 6.7% for non-metro females compared to 7.0% for females (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Sub-provincial Income Data, CANSIM Table 111-0007.

Recall that non-metro (non-CMA) areas are comprised of Census Agglomerations (CAs) (10,000 – 99,999 inhabitants) and rural and small town areas (outside CMAs and CAs). Here we discuss the results for each CA and for rural and small town areas.

Within non-metro Ontario:

- There were 15 Census Agglomerations (CAs) where the percent for both males and females reporting social assistance is higher than the average for Ontario as a whole (Slides 5-32) (Cornwall, Hawkesbury, Brockville, Pembroke, Belleville, Chatham-Kent, Sarnia (slightly higher), Owen Sound, Orillia, Midland, North Bay, Elliot

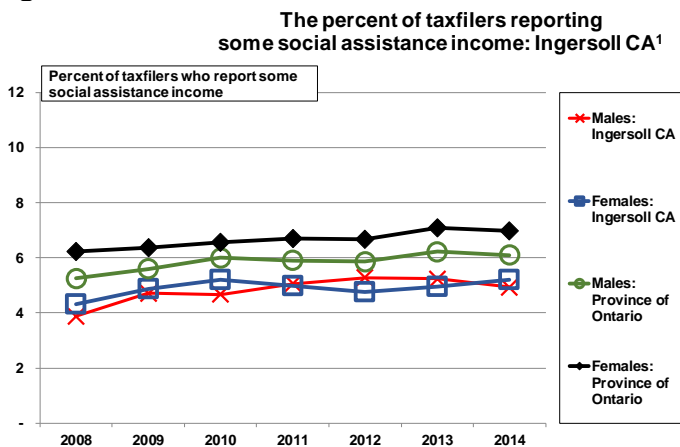
Lake, Temiskaming Shores, Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie). The highest incidence of social assistance was in the Hawkesbury (CA) (Ontario part) (12% for each of males and females in 2014) (Slide 5). The second highest was in the Cornwall CA (18% for females and 16% for males in 2014) (Slide 6):

- There were 5 CAs where the percent reporting social assistance was essentially the same as Ontario as a whole (Kawartha Lakes (females slightly lower), Woodstock, Tillsonburg (females slightly lower), Collingwood (females slightly lower) and Kenora); and
- There were 8 CAs where the percent for both males and females reporting social assistance is lower than the average for Ontario as a whole (Petawawa, Cobourg (slightly), Port Hope (slightly), Centre Wellington, Ingersoll (Figure 2), Norfolk (slightly lower), Stratford and Leamington). The lowest incidence was in the Centre Wellington and the Petawawa CAs.

In “rural and small town” areas (i.e. non-CMA/CA areas), the share reporting social assistance was about the same for males and slightly lower for females, compared to Ontario as a whole during the 2006 to 2014 period.

The Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#). The data analysis for this fact sheet was originally prepared for Dr. Al Lauzon at the University of Guelph with financial support from the provincial government through OMAFRA. Inquiries about that research can be directed to Dr. Lauzon at allauzon@uoguelph.ca. Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.

Figure 2



1. A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a population of 10,000-99,999 and includes neighbouring municipalities where 50+% of the employed population commutes to the urban core of the CA.
Source: Statistics Canada, Sub-provincial Income Data, CANSIM Table 111-0007.

In “rural and small town” areas (i.e. non-CMA/CA areas), the share reporting social assistance was the same for males but slightly lower for females, compared to Ontario as a whole during the 2006 to 2014 period (Slide 34).

Summary

Overall, in non-metro areas, the percent of taxfilers reporting social assistance was essentially the same as in metro areas (slightly higher for males and slightly lower for females) over the 2006 to 2014 period.

Fifteen of the 28 Census Agglomerations in non-metro Ontario reported a higher share of both males and females with some social assistance revenue during the year.