

2A Living Arrangements

Description

Proportion of population in private households (non-institutionalized) by their living arrangements.

Specific Indicators

- Living arrangements

Ontario Public Health Standards

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) establish requirements for the fundamental public health programs and services carried out by boards of health, which include assessment and surveillance, health promotion and policy development, disease and injury prevention, and health protection. The OPHS consist of one Foundational Standard and 13 Program Standards that articulate broad societal goals that result from the activities undertaken by boards of health and many others, including community partners, non-governmental organizations, and governmental bodies. These results have been expressed in terms of two levels of outcomes: societal outcomes and board of health outcomes. Societal outcomes entail changes in health status, organizations, systems, norms, policies, environments, and practices and result from the work of many sectors of society, including boards of health, for the improvement of the overall health of the population. Board of health outcomes are the results of endeavours by boards of health and often focus on changes in awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills, practices, environments, and policies. Boards of health are accountable for these outcomes. The standards also outline the requirements that boards of health must implement to achieve the stated results.

Outcomes related to this indicator

Societal Outcome (Foundational Standard): Population health needs are anticipated, identified, addressed, and evaluated.

Assessment and/or Surveillance Requirements Related to this Indicator

The board of health shall use population health, determinants of health and health inequities information to assess the needs of the local population, including the identification of populations at risk, to determine those groups that would benefit most from public health programs and services (i.e., priority populations).

Protocol Requirements Related to this Indicator

The board of health shall analyze population health data and interpret the information to describe the distribution of health outcomes, preventive health practices, risk factors, determinants of health, and other relevant information to assess the overall health of its population.

The board of health shall collect or access the following types of population health data and information:

i) Socio-demographics including population counts by age, sex, education, employment, income, housing, language, immigration, culture, ability/disability, and cost of a nutritious food basket;

<http://www.ontario.ca/publichealthstandards>

Corresponding Health Indicator from Statistics Canada

Living arrangements

The 2006 census tables can be found online as follows:

1. Go to [Canadian Census](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/start-debut-eng.html)<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/start-debut-eng.html>
2. Select 'Families, households and housing' as a Subject
3. Select 'Living arrangements of individuals'
4. Select 'Census tables'
5. Select Catalogue no. 97-553-X2006018 'Household Living Arrangements (11), Age Groups (20) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census – 20% Sample Data'

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/tbt-tt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=102078&PRID=0&PTYPE=101955&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2011&THEME=89&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

Data Sources (see Resources: [Data Sources](#))

Numerator & Denominator: [Canadian Census](#)

Original source: Statistics Canada

Distributed by: Statistics Canada

Suggested citation (see Data Citation Notes):

[year] Census, Statistics Canada

Survey Questions

STEP B

Question 1. How many persons usually live at this address as of May 10, 2011, including yourself? Include all persons who have their main residence at this address, even if they are temporarily away.

STEP E

Question 6. For each person usually here, describe his or her relationship to Person 1.

Instructions to interviewers:

1. WHOM TO INCLUDE IN STEP B

- All persons who have their main residence at this address on May 10, 2011, including newborn babies, room-mates and persons who are temporarily away;
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents (landed immigrants), persons asking for refugee status (refugee claimants), persons from another country with a work or study permit and family members living here with them;
- Persons staying at this address temporarily on May 10, 2011 who have no main residence elsewhere.

2. WHERE TO INCLUDE PERSONS WITH MORE THAN ONE RESIDENCE

- CHILDREN IN JOINT CUSTODY should be included in the home of the parent where they live most of the time. Children who spend equal time with each parent should be included in the home of the parent with whom they are staying on May 10, 2011.
- STUDENTS who return to live with their parents during the year should be included at their parents' address, even if they live elsewhere while attending school or working at a summer job.
- SPOUSES OR COMMON-LAW PARTNERS TEMPORARILY AWAY who stay elsewhere while working or studying should be listed at the main residence of their family, if they return periodically.
- PERSONS IN AN INSTITUTION for less than six months (for example, in a home for the aged, a hospital or a prison) should be listed at their usual residence.

IF THIS ADDRESS IS:

- a SECONDARY RESIDENCE (such as a cottage) for ALL PERSONS who stayed here on May 10, 2011 (all these persons have their main residence elsewhere in Canada), mark this circle. Print your name, your telephone number and your main residence address at the bottom of this page. Do not answer other questions.
- a DWELLING OCCUPIED ONLY BY RESIDENTS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY VISITING CANADA (for example, on vacation or on a business trip), mark this circle. Print your name, your telephone number and your country of residence at the bottom of this page. Do not answer other questions.
- the HOME OF A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY (for example, embassy or high commission) and family members, mark this circle. Print your name, your telephone number and the country that you represent at the bottom of this page. Do not answer other questions.

For STEP E Question 6:

Mark or specify one response only.

Adopted children should be considered sons and daughters.

Children in joint custody should be included in the home of the parent where they live most of the time.

Children who spend equal time with each parent should be included in the home of the parent with whom they are staying on May 10, 2011.

For all children, please consider the relationship to Person 1 and Person 2.

If none of the choices apply, specify this person's relationship to Person 1 under "Other".

Examples of "Other" relationships to Person 1:

- brother-in-law or sister-in-law
- niece or nephew
- grandfather or grandmother
- room-mate's son or daughter
- lodger's husband or wife
- employee
- etc.

Analysis Check List

- None

Method of Calculation

Number of people by living arrangement

x 100

Total number of non-institutionalized persons

Basic Categories

- Age groups: Under 19, 20 to 44, 45 to 64, 65+. Note: Health units may choose to change age categories depending on the specific analysis questions
- Living Arrangements:
 - 1) Living in FAMILY households: refers to a household that contains at least one census family, that is, a married couple with or without children, or a couple living common-law with or without children, or a lone parent living with one or more children (lone-parent family)
 - 2) Living in NON-FAMILY households: refers to either one person living alone in a private dwelling or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling, but who do not constitute a census family.
- Geographic areas: census divisions, census subdivisions, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, dissemination areas.

Indicator Comments

- Includes total number of the population living in family households, total number of the population living in non-family households, and total number of the population living alone.
- Family household is defined as a household that contains at least one census family, that is a married couple with or without children, or a couple living common-law with or without children, or a lone parent living with one or more children (lone-parent family).¹
- Non-family household is defined as either one person living alone in a private dwelling, or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling, but who do not constitute a census family.¹
- Private household refers to a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a

private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence outside of Canada.¹

General

- The proportion of the population aged 15 and over who lived alone was relatively low throughout early adulthood until about the mid-forties, then became increasingly prevalent from age 50 onward.²
- Persons living alone have fewer close ties with relatives, fewer acquaintances, and experience a strong feeling of social loneliness.³ After controlling for social network size, frequency of contact, and degree of social loneliness, people living alone are more likely to have poor quality personal networks.³ Persons with poor social relationships have a lesser likelihood of survival compared to those with adequate social relationships.⁴

Youth (20 to 29 years)

- Young adults may live with parents as a means to lower costs, cultural preferences, not being part of a couple, pursuit of higher education, or difficulty finding employment.⁴
- Young adults may be becoming more financially independent and/or pursuing higher education. Residing with those who are not immediate family or not a spouse/partner may be a way to reduce costs, provide companionship, or both.^{5,6}

Seniors

- The type of living arrangement of seniors can have a significant impact on their quality of life. Seniors living with spouses generally have more immediate and easier access to support and care in times of need than seniors living alone. On the other hand, seniors living with their spouse may be disadvantaged if both partners have health problems, or if the burden imposed by the presence of a sick husband or wife becomes too heavy.⁷
- Seniors who live alone, and particularly senior women, are at greater risk of living in low income.⁷
- Male and female seniors typically have substantially different living arrangements since women have a longer life expectancy, and consequently more likely than men to live alone following the death of a spouse.⁸
- Seniors living alone are at greater risk for falls, more prone to malnutrition, and may suffer from low social connectedness.⁹

Cross-References to Other Sections

- None

References

1. Statistics Canada. 2011 Census Dictionary. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2012. Available from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/98-301-X2011001-eng.pdf><http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/98-301-X2011001-eng.pdf>
2. Statistics Canada. Portrait of Families and Living Arrangements in Canada. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2013. Available from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-312-x/98-312-x2011001-eng.pdf><http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-312-x/98-312-x2011001-eng.pdf>

- [x2011001-eng.pdf](#)
3. Statistics Canada. 2011. Quality of personal networks: Does living alone make a difference? Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2011. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2011002/article/11591-eng.pdf><http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2011002/article/11591-eng.pdf>
 4. Holt-Lunstad, J., T.B. Smith, J.B. Layton. 2010. Social relationships and mortality risk: A meta-analytic review. PLoS Medicine, 7(7), e1000316.
 5. Statistics Canada. Living arrangements of young adults aged 20 to 29. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2012. Available from: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-312-x/98-312-x2011003_3-eng.pdfhttp://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-312-x/98-312-x2011003_3-eng.pdf
 6. Statistics Canada. Living apart together. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2012. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2013001/article/11771-eng.pdf>
 7. Statistics Canada. 2006. A Portrait of Seniors in Canada. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2007. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-519-x/89-519-x2006001-eng.pdf><http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-519-x/89-519-x2006001-eng.pdf>
 8. Statistics Canada. Emerging trends in living arrangements and conjugal unions for current and future seniors. Ottawa, ON: Ministry of Industry, 2014. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2014001/article/11904-eng.pdf>
 9. The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada, 2010: Growing Older – Adding Life to Years. Available from: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2010/fr-rc/pdf/cpho_report_2010_e.pdf

Acknowledgements

Date	Type of Review-Form Review or Ad Hoc?	Changes made by	Changes
January 2013	Formal	Social Determinants of Health Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated description ● Addition of Ontario Public Health Standards description ● Addition of outcomes related to the indicator, assessment and/or surveillance requirements related to the indicator, and protocol requirements related to the indicator ● Updated corresponding indicators from other sources ● Updated the data source ● Updated the survey questions with accompanying instructions to interviewers ● Updated the basic categories ● Revised the indicator comments ● Updated the references ● Added acknowledgements ● Added changes made

Changes made

Lead Author	Sarah Edwards, Brant County Health Unit
Contributing Author(s)	Cam McDermaid, Ottawa Public Health Virginia McFarland, Grey Bruce Public Health William Kou, York Region Community and Health Services Dinna Lozano, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Sylvia Thompson-Nicholson, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Core Indicator Reviewers	Kristin Saunders, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Stephen Drew, Region of Waterloo Public Health Erica Clark, Huron County Health Unit
External Reviewers	

Last Updated: May 22, 2015

Date of Last Revision: May 23, 2006.