



Census

BULLETIN | 2016

Households, families and marital status

Household Portrait

In 2016, there were 203,835 households in Waterloo Region. Of these, 145,230 were family households, which also included households made up of multiple census families. There were a further 58,605 non-family households, which included people living alone as well as people living with roommates. Families made up the majority of private households in Waterloo Region and included both couples with and



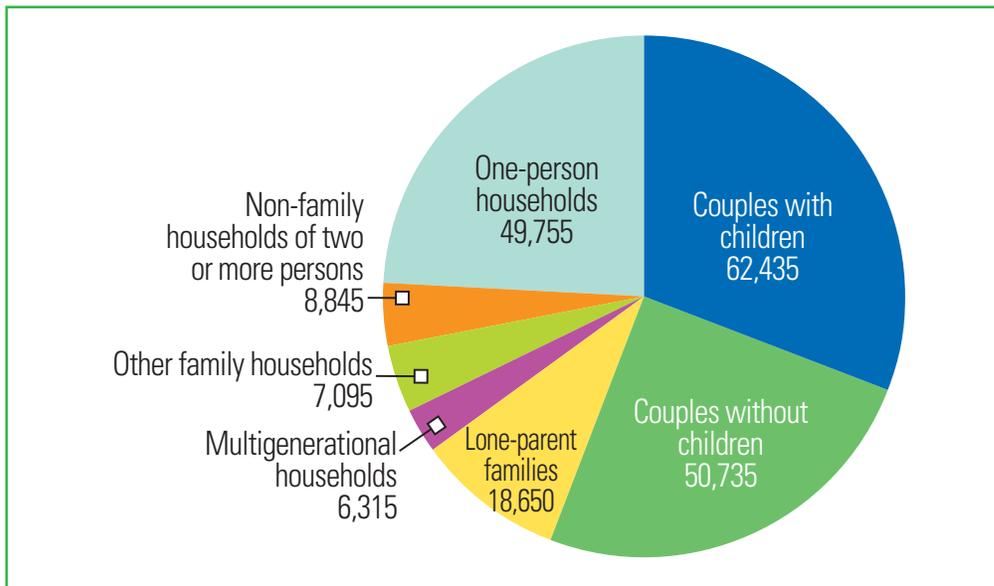
A **census family** includes married or common-law couples with or without children as well as lone-parent families.

without children as well as lone-parent families (Figure 1). Similar to 2011, couples with children remained the most prevalent household type, representing approximately one in three households.

By contrast, at the national level couples with children made up only one in four households.

In 2016, couples with children comprised a smaller proportion of the total number of households than they did in 2011. In turn, households made up of people living alone, people living in couples without children and people living in multigenerational families made up a greater proportion of households compared to 2011.

Figure 1: Living arrangements by private households in Waterloo Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division



A **household** refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling.

couples with children made up **1 in 3** households in **Waterloo Region**



Families with Children

In Waterloo Region, there were 93,300 families with children, 3,260 more than there were in 2011. Of these, approximately three in four were couples, either married or common-law, with children (Figure 2). The vast

majority of couples with children were intact families (61,095 families), a term used to refer to a family where all children are the biological or adopted children of both married spouses or common-law partners. Only nine per

cent were stepfamilies (8,220 families). Out of all families with children in the region, a quarter were lone-parent households. Compared to the national and provincial levels, there was a higher proportion of couples with

children in Waterloo Region and a smaller proportion of lone-parent families.

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of lone-parent households grew at a faster rate than the number of couples with children (Table 1). In 2016, there were 2,235 more lone-parent families compared to 2011, an increase of 10.3 per cent. During this same five year span, there were only 1,015 additional couples with children, an increase of 1.5 per cent. This pattern reflects trends at the national level, where, since 1961, the number of lone-parent families has steadily been increasing.

The number of **lone-parent families** is **growing faster** than the rate of **couples with children**.

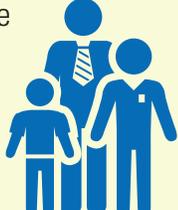
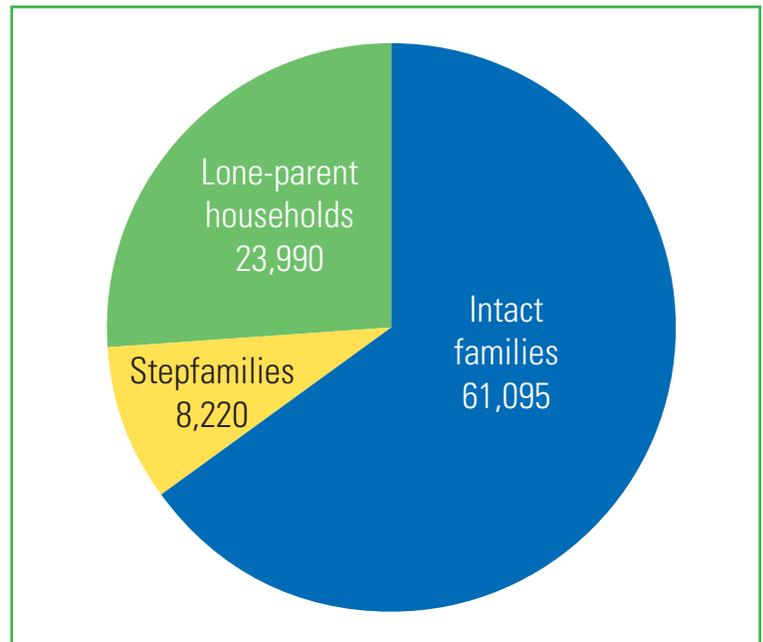


Figure 2: Families with children in Waterloo Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

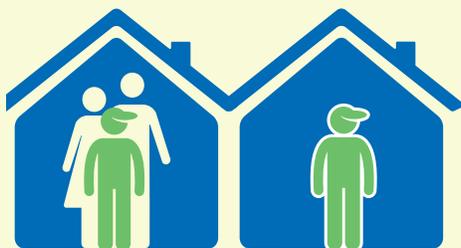
Table 1: Families with children in Waterloo Region, 2011-2016

Family structure of families with children	2011		2016		2011-2016	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total	Absolute change	Per cent change
Couples with children	68,295	75.8%	69,310	74.3%	1,015	1.5%
Intact families	60,345	67.0%	61,095	65.5%	750	1.2%
Stepfamilies	7,950	8.8%	8,220	8.8%	270	3.4%
Lone-female parent households	17,450	19.4%	19,115	20.5%	1,665	9.5%
Lone-male parent households	4,305	4.8%	4,875	5.2%	570	13.2%
Total	90,050		93,300		4,270	3.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 and 2016 by Census Division

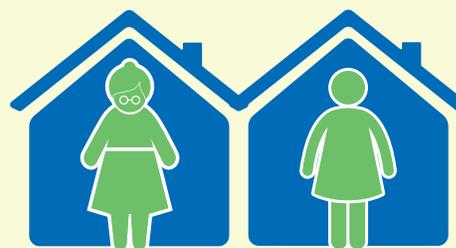
Compared to 2011, **young adults** (20 to 34 years) in 2016 **were more likely to live either with their parents or grandparents** than to **live alone** or **with roommates**.

In 2016, **33%** of young adults lived with **either their parents or grandparents** while only **23%** lived alone or with roommates.



A higher proportion of seniors lived alone compared to the overall population.

In 2016, **23%** of **individuals over 65 lived alone** in Waterloo Region while only **12%** of the **overall population** did.



However, a smaller proportion of seniors were living alone in 2016 compared to 2011 (25 per cent).

The average **census family** in Waterloo Region had **3 people**



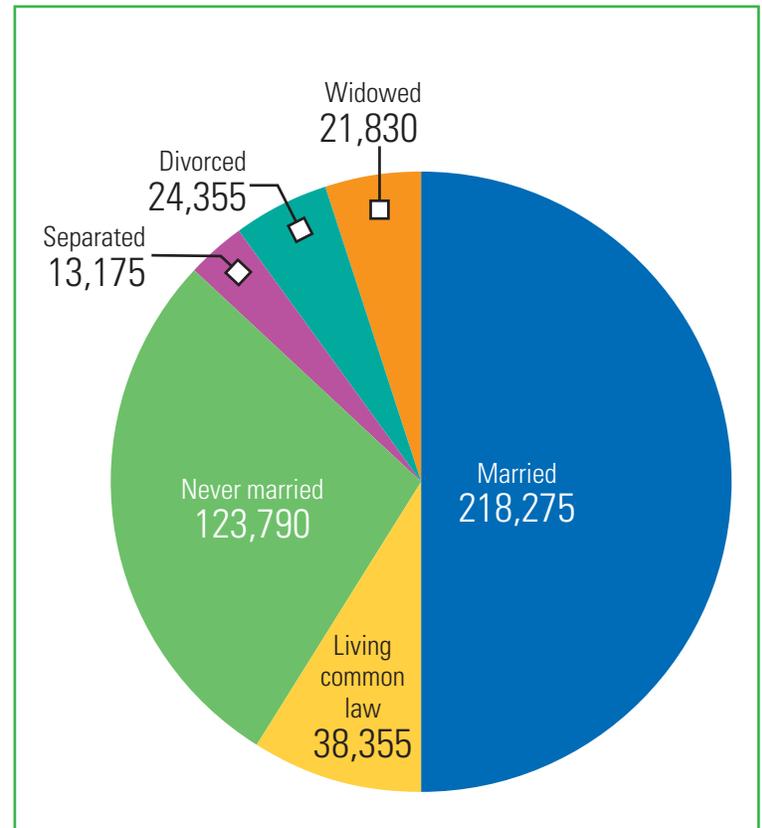
The Census began measuring the numbers of stepfamilies in 2011

Marital Status

In 2016, six out of ten individuals over 15 years of age in Waterloo Region were married or in common-law partnerships, while roughly four out of ten were single (Figure 3). Amongst single individuals, the vast majority (68 per cent) had never been married, while the remainder were separated, divorced, or widowed. In Waterloo Region as well as in the province, the number of people who had never been married grew more than any other category in terms of absolute numbers. In Waterloo Region, there were 10,095 more individuals who had never been married compared to 2011, an 8.9 per cent increase (Table 2). In the region's townships in general, a greater proportion of individuals were married, whereas the region's cities had a greater proportion of individuals who had never married or who were divorced.

While individuals living in common-law partnerships make up approximately one out of ten individuals in the region, these numbers have increased significantly since 2011. In 2016, there were 5,280 more individuals living common-law compared to 2011, representing an increase of 16 per cent. Comparatively, during this same period, there were 6,190 more married individuals, an increase of 2.9 per cent. Similarly, at both the provincial and national level, the numbers of individuals in common-law partnerships also grew.

Figure 3: Marital status in Waterloo Region for individuals over 15 years of age, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

Table 2: Changes to marital status in Waterloo Region, 2011-2016

Marital status	2011		2016		2011-2016	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent change
Total Population 15 years+	414,115		439,770		25,655	6.2%
Married	212,085	51.2%	218,275	49.6%	6,190	2.9%
Living common-law	33,075	8.0%	38,355	8.7%	5,280	16.0%
Never married	113,695	27.5%	123,790	28.1%	10,095	8.9%
Separated	12,535	3.0%	13,175	3.0%	640	5.1%
Divorced	21,815	5.3%	24,355	5.5%	2,540	11.6%
Widowed	20,915	5.1%	21,830	5.0%	915	4.4%

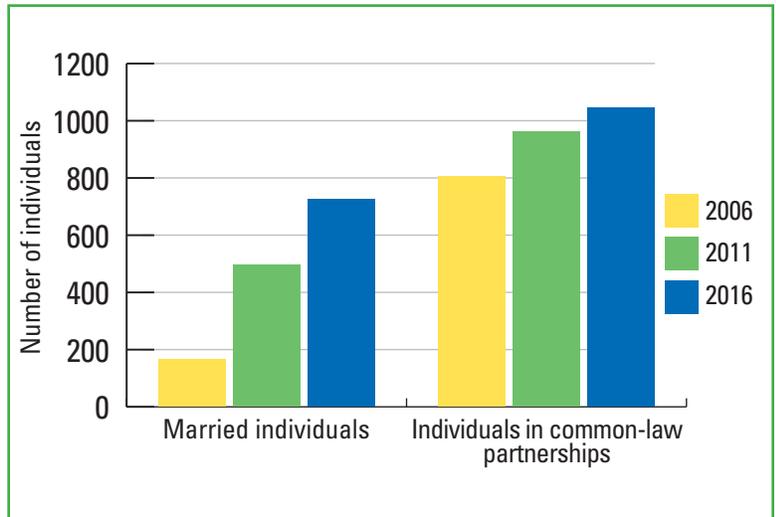
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 and 2016 by Census Division

The numbers of individuals in same sex couples in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA have steadily grown over the last ten years (Figure 4). Following Canada's legalization of gay marriage in 2005, the number of individuals in same-sex marriages increased from 165 in 2006 to 730 in 2016. Similarly, the number of individuals in same-sex common-law partnerships increased from 805 in 2006 to 1,045 in 2016. In 2016, same-sex married spouses made up 0.4 per cent of the total number of married spouses, and same-sex common-law partners made up 2.7 per cent of the total number of common-law partners in the CMA.



The Census began measuring the numbers of same-sex couples in 2001 and the numbers of same-sex marriages in 2006 at the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) level.

Figure 4: Individuals in same-sex marriages and common-law partnerships, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA, 2006-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 and 2016 by Census Division

Census facts

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2016.
- All Canadians are required to complete a Census form. Household, family and marital status data presented in this bulletin are based on a complete sample of the population.
- The Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes the region's three cities as well as the townships of Wilmot,

Woolwich and North Dumfries. In 2016, Wilmot Township was added to the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA.

Definitions

Private households: refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad.

Census Family: is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either and/or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either and/or both partners; or a lone parent of any marital status with at least

one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children.

Intact Family: refers to couple families with children in which all children are the biological and/or adopted children of both married spouses or of both common-law partners.

Stepfamily: refers to couple families with children that contain at least one biological or adopted child of only one married spouse or common-law partner whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship.



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