



CENSUS BULLETIN

FAST FACTS

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Population conducted by Statistics Canada. The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2011. The Census is designed to provide information about people and housing units in Canada.
- All Canadians are required to complete a Census form. Data for families, household and marital status are based on this 100 per cent sample of the population.
- The Census population of Waterloo Region on May 10, 2011 was 507,096 as described in Census Bulletin #1, Population and Dwellings. This represents growth of almost 30,000 people over the five-year period since the 2006 Census.

For more information on Census statistics please refer to Statistics Canada's website: www.statcan.gc.ca/census



Families and Marriage

Statistics from the 2011 Census for Waterloo Region

Family profile

According to the 2011 Census conducted by Statistics Canada on May 10, 2011, there were 142,215 *Census families in private households* in Waterloo Region, as shown in Table 1. Census families refer to a *married couple* (with or without children), a *common-law couple* (with or without children) or a *lone parent family*. Census families increased by 6.3 per cent from the 2006 Census, which is growth of about 1,700 families per year. The cities had the highest number of new Census families while the townships had larger per cent increases.

Table 1: Per cent change in census families in private households, 2006-2011

| Name | Census families in private households | | Two person families | | Three person families | | Four person families | | Five or more person families | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2011 Total | % Change from 2006 | 2011 Total | % Change from 2006 | 2011 Total | % Change from 2006 | 2011 Total | % Change from 2006 | 2011 Total | % Change from 2006 |
| Waterloo Region | 142,215 | 6.3 | 65,045 | 10.6 | 31,740 | 5.9 | 31,800 | 2.4 | 13,630 | -1.7 |
| Cambridge | 36,250 | 5.5 | 15,980 | 10.9 | 8,490 | 5.8 | 8,355 | -0.8 | 3,430 | -2.0 |
| Kitchener | 61,255 | 7.3 | 29,150 | 11.3 | 14,010 | 6.4 | 12,755 | 2.5 | 5,340 | 1.0 |
| Waterloo | 26,775 | 0.9 | 11,785 | 2.5 | 5,860 | 1.6 | 6,670 | 1.1 | 2,460 | -8.6 |
| North Dumfries | 2,825 | 6.2 | 1,285 | 17.5 | 560 | 4.7 | 655 | -6.4 | 330 | 0.0 |
| Wellesley | 2,765 | 12.6 | 1,025 | 19.9 | 490 | 11.4 | 635 | 16.5 | 620 | 0.8 |
| Wilmot | 5,775 | 14.1 | 2,790 | 19.5 | 1,075 | 15.0 | 1,310 | 11.5 | 605 | -0.8 |
| Woolwich | 6,570 | 19.0 | 3,035 | 24.4 | 1,255 | 15.7 | 1,425 | 21.8 | 850 | 3.7 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 and 2011 by Census Subdivision

Two person families make up nearly half of families in the Region (46 per cent). This is followed by three person (22 per cent) and four person (22 per cent) families. Five or more person families account for the remaining 10 per cent. This group shrank by 265 families over 2006. Among the municipalities, the relative proportions of household types are similar.

Among Census families counted in 2011 across the Region, the average number of children living at home was 1.1, remaining consistent from the 2006 Census. This number is also consistent with the Ontario average in 2011. This average is the same in all municipalities across the Region, except for Wellesley where the average number of children living at home is 1.7.



Family structure

Contributing to the changing face of families, common-law relationships increased to 16,515 in 2011. This 13 per cent increase is similar to trends seen on a national level where high numbers of common-law marriages were noted. As shown in Table 2, common-law couples in the Region without children have increased by 16 per cent and common-law couples with children increased by over 8 per cent.

Table 2: Change in family structure, 2006-2011

| Family structure | 2006 | 2011 | 2006-2011 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Absolute change | Per cent change |
| Married without children | 38,800 | 42,405 | 3,605 | 9.3 |
| Married with children | 60,930 | 61,545 | 615 | 1.0 |
| Common-law without children | 8,420 | 9,765 | 1,345 | 15.9 |
| Common-law with children | 6,230 | 6,750 | 520 | 8.4 |
| Lone female parent | 15,585 | 17,450 | 1,865 | 11.9 |
| Lone male parent | 3,750 | 4,305 | 555 | 14.8 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 and 2011 by Census Division

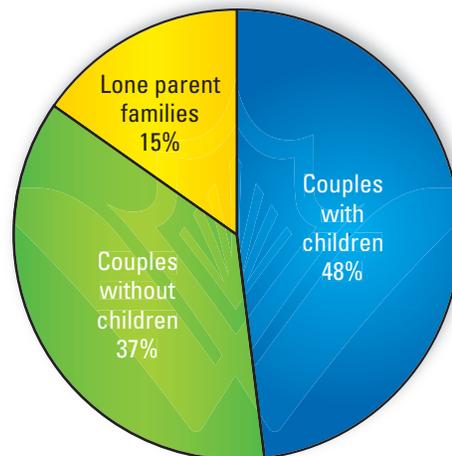
While common-law couples showed a substantial increase over 2006, married couples saw much less change. Married couples without children increased by 9 per cent while married couples with children increased by just 1 per cent.

Noteworthy changes were also apparent in lone parent families, with an increase of 12.5 per cent over 2006. Within lone parent families in Waterloo Region, lone male parent families increased by 15 per cent, however, they remain a small part of the total family structure. From 2006 to 2011, lone female parent families increased by 12 per cent.

As shown in Figure 1, couples with children were the most prevalent family structure in Waterloo Region. Couples (both married and common-law) with children represented 48 per cent of families, while couples without children represented 37 per cent of families, and lone-parent families represented 15 per cent of families.



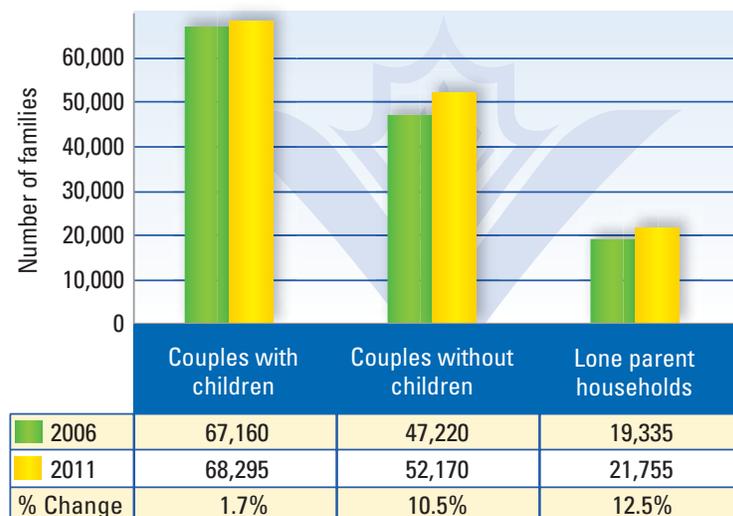
Figure 1: Family structure, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Division

While couples with children were more prevalent, couples without children were growing faster. As Figure 2 shows, the number of couples without children increased by 10.5 per cent, while couples with children slightly increased (1.7 per cent) over 2006.

Figure 2: Change in family structure, 2006-2011

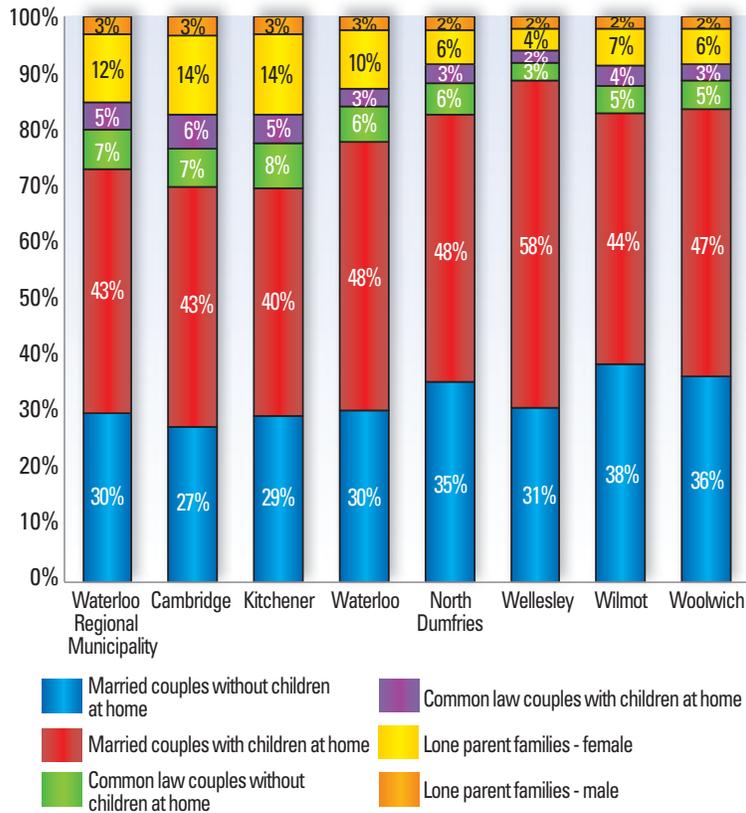


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Division

Married couples represented the largest family structure in the Region (73 per cent). This proportion has decreased marginally from 2006, when married couples accounted for almost three quarters of families.

The share of family structure types, shown in Figure 3, is relatively consistent across the municipalities in Waterloo Region. The cities generally have higher proportions of common-law families and lone parent families, while the townships have higher proportions of married couple families. Almost 90 per cent of families in Wellesley are headed by married couples.

Figure 3: Distribution of family structure by municipality, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Subdivision

Marital status

Among individuals 15 and older in the Region, there were more married individuals than non-married individuals (212,085 compared to 158,200). Table 3 shows that married individuals increased by 4.5 per cent in 2011. This increase is smaller than the 7 per cent increase between 2001 and 2006.

While the number of married individuals increased slowly, the number of single individuals increased by 10.5 per cent – over twice as fast as married couples. This pattern is consistent with the rest of Ontario.

Table 3: Change in marital status, 2001-2011

| Marital status | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 | 2006-2011 absolute change | 2006-2011 per cent change | 2011 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | Ontario | Canada |
| Total population 15 years + | 347,515 | 385,745 | 414,115 | 28,370 | 7.4 | 9,879,835 | 24,726,810 |
| Married | 189,315 | 202,910 | 212,085 | 9,175 | 4.5 | 5,367,400 | 12,941,960 |
| Single (never married) | 104,835 | 122,950 | 135,770 | 12,820 | 10.4 | 2,985,020 | 7,816,045 |
| Separated | 11,590 | 13,415 | 14,950 | 1,535 | 11.4 | 319,805 | 698,240 |
| Divorced | 22,605 | 25,665 | 29,655 | 3,990 | 15.5 | 593,730 | 1,686,035 |
| Widowed | 19,170 | 20,805 | 21,655 | 850 | 4.0 | 613,880 | 1,584,530 |
| Not living in common-law | 323,720 | 356,675 | 381,035 | 24,360 | 6.8 | 9,088,625 | 21,584,285 |
| Living in common-law | 23,795 | 29,070 | 33,080 | 4,010 | 13.8 | 791,210 | 3,142,525 |

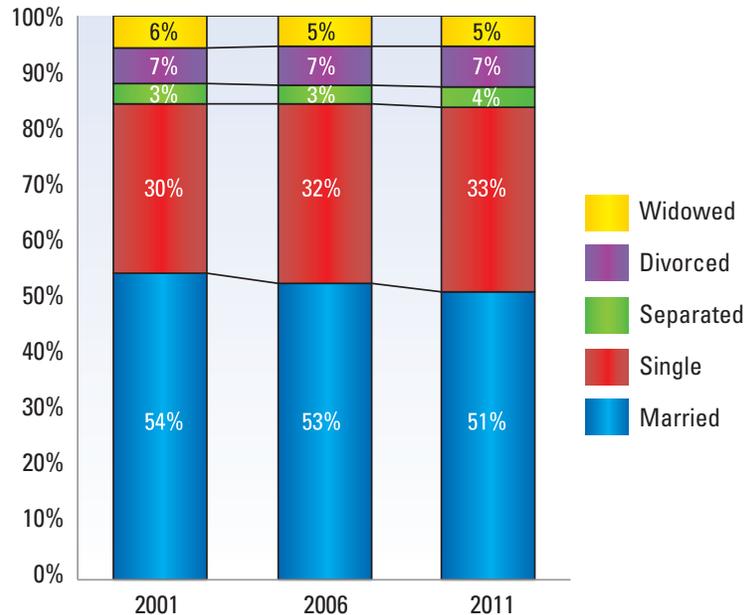
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001, 2006 and 2011 by Census Division

Figure 4 shows that since 2001 there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of married individuals and a steady increase in the proportion of single individuals. This trend is consistent with the rest of Canada.

The number of separated individuals increased by 11.5 per cent, while the number of divorced individuals increased by 15.5 per cent. These increases are consistent with Regional increases between 2001 and 2006. On the other hand, widowed individuals increased by 4 per cent over 2006, which is a flatter increase as compared to the 8.5 per cent between 2001 and 2006.

Individuals living in common-law increased by 14 per cent over 2006. This is the same as the provincial increase. These large per cent increases support the trend of people waiting longer to get married.

Figure 4: Change in marital status in Waterloo Region, 2001-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001, 2006 and 2011 by Census Division

Census family – defined as “...a married couple (with or without children of either and/or both spouses), a common-law couple (with or without children of either and/or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child. A couple may be of opposite sex or same sex.”

Children – “Refers to blood, step or adopted sons and daughters (regardless of age or marital status) who are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s), as well as grandchildren in households where there are no parents present.”

Children living at home – “The average number of children at home per census family is calculated using the total number of children at home and the total number of census families.”

Common-law status – refers to “a person who is living with another person as a couple but who is not legally married to that person.”

Divorced – defined as “A person who has obtained a legal divorce and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.”

Lone parents – “Mothers or fathers, with no married spouse or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more children.”

Married – defined as “A person who is married and has not separated or obtained a divorce, and whose spouse is living.”

Private households – “Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. Households are classified into three groups: private households, collective households and households outside Canada.”

Separated – refers to “A person who is married but who no longer lives with his/her spouse (for any reason other than illness, work or school) and who has not obtained a divorce. Persons living common law are not included in this category.”

Single – “A person who has never married or a person whose marriage has been annulled and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.”

Widowed – refers to “A person who has lost his/her spouse through death and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.”

Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, 2011

How to source:

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo. *Families and Marriage Census Bulletin*. 2011 Census Bulletin Series. Kitchener, Ontario. Fall 2012.



Region of Waterloo



Census bulletins can be accessed online at:
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/doingbusiness/census.asp

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