



CENSUS BULLETIN

FAST 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 16, 2006. "The Census is designed to provide information about people and housing units in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics."
- All Canadians are required to complete a Census form. Age and sex counts are based on this 100% sample of the population.
- As described in 2006 Census Bulletin #1, Population and Dwellings, the Census population of Waterloo Region on May 16th, 2006 was 478,121 according to data released by Statistics Canada. This is equal to growth of almost 40,000 people over the five-year period since the 2001 Census.
- Requests for Census population by custom age groups can be submitted to the Region of Waterloo using the contact information at the end of this Bulletin.

For more information on Census statistics please refer to Statistics Canada's website:
<http://www.statscan.ca/census>

Age and Sex

Statistics for Waterloo Region from the 2006 Census

Population Age

According to the 2006 Census conducted by Statistics Canada on May 16, 2006, the population of Waterloo Region is aging. While the Region is one of the youngest municipalities in Ontario, the *median age* increased by 1.1 year from 2001 to 2006. As indicated in Table 1, the Region's senior population experienced significant increases in 2006, and the 'Baby Boomers' began to reach the 60 year mark.

Table 1: Waterloo Region Population Change by Age Group, 1996-2006

Age Group	1996		2001		2006		% Change	
	Population	% of Total Pop.	Population	% of Total Pop.	Population	% of Total	1996-2006	2001-2006
0 to 4	29,650	7.3	27,960	6.4	29,345	6.1	-1.0	4.7
5 to 9	30,175	7.4	31,215	7.1	30,110	6.3	-0.2	-3.7
10 to 14	29,140	7.2	31,820	7.3	32,915	6.9	11.5	3.3
15 to 19	27,725	6.8	30,810	7.0	33,885	7.1	18.2	9.1
20 to 24	29,280	7.2	31,100	7.1	35,675	7.5	17.9	12.8
25 to 29	31,335	7.7	30,865	7.0	32,790	6.9	4.4	5.9
30 to 34	36,620	9.0	33,405	7.6	33,840	7.1	-8.2	1.3
35 to 39	35,225	8.7	38,400	8.8	35,875	7.5	1.8	-7.0
40 to 44	31,370	7.7	36,595	8.3	40,145	8.4	21.9	8.8
45 to 49	28,300	7.0	31,985	7.3	37,375	7.8	24.3	14.4
50 to 54	21,235	5.2	28,230	6.4	32,465	6.8	34.6	13.0
55 to 59	16,590	4.1	20,770	4.7	27,725	5.8	40.2	25.1
60 to 64	4,760	3.6	16,020	3.7	20,335	4.3	27.4	21.2
65 to 69	13,940	3.4	14,090	3.2	15,515	3.2	10.2	9.2
70 to 74	12,205	3.0	13,080	3.0	13,190	2.8	7.5	0.8
75 to 79	8,170	2.0	10,630	2.4	11,570	2.4	29.4	8.1
80 to 84	5,485	1.4	6,360	1.5	8,600	1.8	36.2	26.0
85 +	4,235	1.0	5,160	1.2	6,750	1.4	37.3	23.6
Total Pop.	405,435		438,515		478,121		15.2	8.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001 and 2006



Seniors & Baby Boomers

As of 2006, people 65 years or older numbered over 55,000 and comprised 11.6% of the Region's total population. Some of the highest percentage increases in the ten years from 1996 to 2006 occurred in the population over the age of 75. More recently, in the five years from 2001 to 2006, those over 80 years of age had the highest percent increase among all age groups, reflecting a steady increase in life expectancy.

The demographic group known as the Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1966) is a significant segment of the Region's population, both in terms of absolute numbers and growth. Numbering 137,710 people in 2006, this segment, aged between 40 and 59 years represents almost a third of the total population, as shown in Table 2. Within the Boomers, the largest absolute counts are individuals who are between 40 and 44 years old, and are still two decades away from the years typically associated with retirement. Over the ten year period from 1996 to 2006, the single largest percentage increase within any age group also occurred in this Baby Boomer group, specifically in the age bracket from 55 to 59.



Children and Youth

Of the total population, 126,255 or 26.4% are under the age of 20. Since 1996, this demographic group has been decreasing as a percentage of the total population. In absolute values, children from 0 to 4 have demonstrated a slight rebound over the period from 2001 to 2006, but Table 1 does show this

age group has declined as a percent of the total population, falling from 7.3% in 1996 to 6.1% in 2006. In 2006 the population between 10 and 19 years had an absolute increase of just over 4,000 people, while the age group from 0 to 9 years increased by 280 people, largely due to the increase in the population aged 0 to 4.

Table 2: Population Growth by Select Age Groups, 2001 and 2006

Age Group	Population 2001	Population 2006	Absolute Growth	% Growth
0-4	27,960	29,345	1,385	5%
5-19	93,845	96,910	3,065	3%
20-39	133,770	138,180	4,410	3%
40-59	117,580	137,710	20,130	17%
60-79	53,820	60,610	6,790	13%
80+	11,520	15,350	3,830	33%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006



Age and Sex Distribution

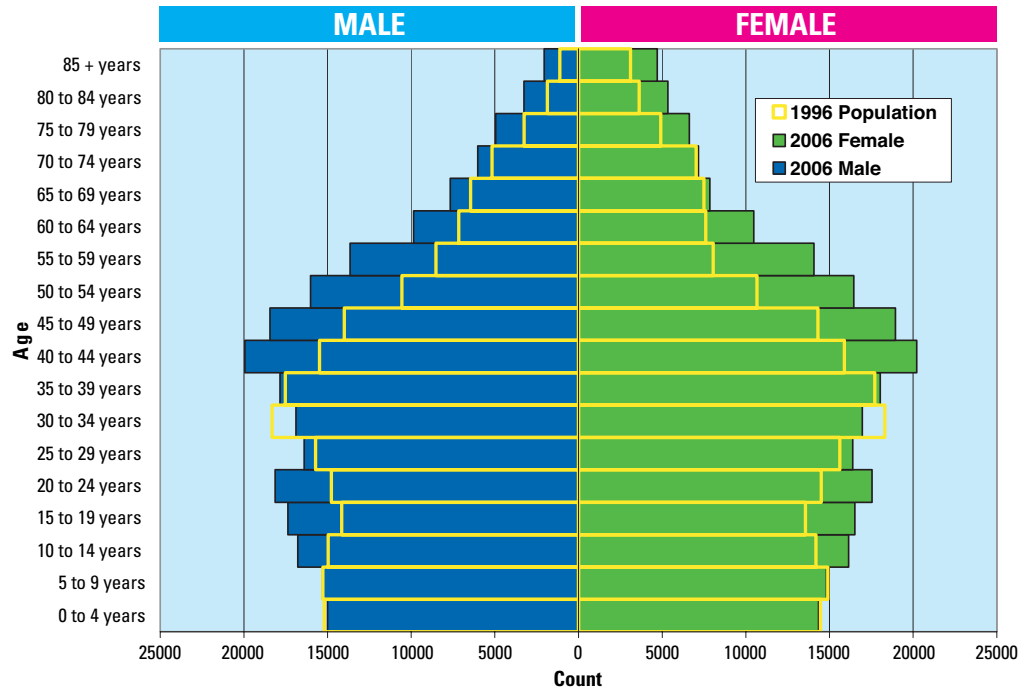
Figure 1 further illustrates the age structure for Waterloo Region. The largest absolute counts for both men and women are moving up the pyramid. As stated previously, the largest age group is now between 40 and 44 years old. This is consistent with the Census ten years earlier, in 1996, where the bulge in the population was between 30 and 34 years old. The decrease between 1996 and 2006 Census in the age category of 30 to 34 marks the 'Baby Bust.' Aging doesn't completely explain the changes; migration has also contributed to the size of these age groups, especially among 20 to 24 year olds.

The overall population distribution in Waterloo Region is almost even between the sexes, with 49.3% males and 50.7% females in 2006. However, the balance changes with increasing age. The difference in population distribution by sex is particularly evident in age groups above 80 years, where females make up 65% of the population. Although women are still outliving men, it is anticipated that the gap will continue to narrow in the older age categories (Statistics Canada *The Daily*, December 20, 2006).

Median Age

The 2006 Census revealed that the median age in Waterloo Region was 36.4 years. This is below both the national and provincial averages of 39.5 and 39.0 years respectively. Although the median age has risen since 2001 (up from 35.3 years), the increase is less than that of the national and provincial increases. The rise in median age reflects earlier indications of an aging population. However, Waterloo Region remains one of the youngest municipalities in the province having the third lowest median age and third lowest median increase as shown in Table 3.

Figure 1: Waterloo Region Population by Age and Sex, 1996 and 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996 and 2006

Table 3: Ontario Median Ages, 2001 and 2006

Name	Median (2001)	Median (2006)	Median Difference
Kenora	33.9	34.9	1.0
Peel	34.4	35.6	1.2
Waterloo	35.3	36.4	1.1
York	36.0	37.5	1.5
Dufferin	35.5	37.7	2.2
Durham	35.9	37.7	1.8
Wellington	36.3	37.8	1.5
Essex	36.2	37.9	1.7
Halton	37.6	38.4	0.8
Ottawa	36.7	38.4	1.7
Toronto	36.9	38.4	1.5
Middlesex	36.8	38.5	1.7
Elgin	37.2	39.1	1.9
Perth	37.2	39.3	2.1
Brant	37.9	39.6	1.7
Hamilton	37.6	39.6	2.0
Simcoe	37.3	39.8	2.5
Oxford	37.7	39.8	2.1
Ontario	37.2	39.0	1.8
Canada	37.6	39.5	1.9

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

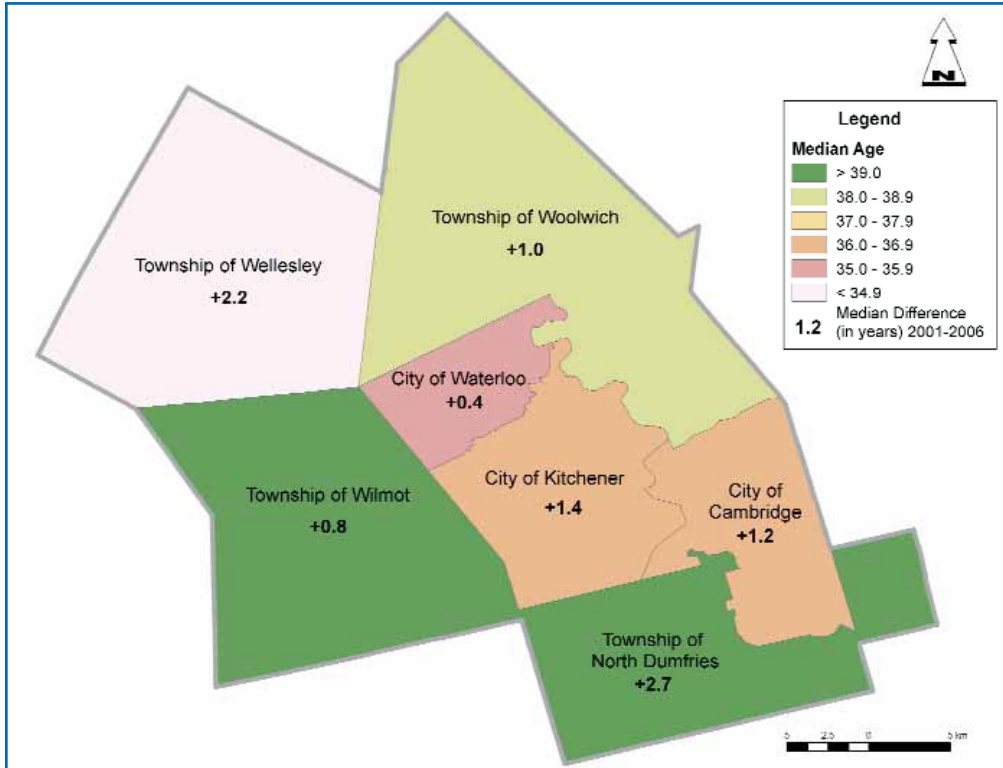


Median Age Distribution

Figure 2 demonstrates the variation in median ages across the Region. Median ages range from a high of 39.3 years to a low of 30.9 years. Similar to trends seen across Canada and Ontario, the median age has increased between 2001 and 2006 for all the Region's

municipalities. It is interesting to note that the municipality with the highest median age (Wilmot at 39.3 years), had one of the lowest median differences, increasing by less than one year. Conversely, the municipality with the lowest median age (Wellesley at 30.9 years) had one of the highest increases in median age.

Figure 2: Regional Median Age by Municipality, 2006



Median Age – refers to the middle value when ages are ranked in order from high to low or low to high.



Region of Waterloo

For further information please contact:



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