

Community Needs
ASSESSMENT
Summary Report

2019

**DETAILED REPORT
OF FINDINGS:**
Demographics and
Self-Identification



Acknowledgements

Authors:

Katherine Bishop-Williams

CNA Project Lead, Program Evaluator, HNHSS

Damola Akinbode

Program Evaluator, HNHSS

Jackie Esbaugh

Program Evaluator, HNHSS

Overseeing Committee:

Chimere Okoronkwo

Director of Quality, Planning, Accountability, and Performance, HNHSS

Dr. Shanker Nesathurai

Medical Officer of Health

Marlene Miranda

General Manager and Chief Nursing Officer, HNHSS

Management Team

HNHSS

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The following reports outlines results of the Haldimand Norfolk Health and Social Services (HNHSS) Community Needs Assessment (CNA) 2019. This section of the report includes detailed results and conclusions about demographics of the community and respondents, and about self-identification in this region.

Community Profile

Local Population

- Haldimand and Norfolk counties are defined as rural regions because over 50% of the population in each county live in rural communities (i.e. <150 persons per square kilometer).
- 109,787 residents live in Haldimand and Norfolk counties combined; 45,608 (41.5%) in Haldimand County and 64,044 (58.3%) in Norfolk County.¹
- The populations of Haldimand and Norfolk changed by 1.4% and 1.6% respectively from 2011 to 2016.¹

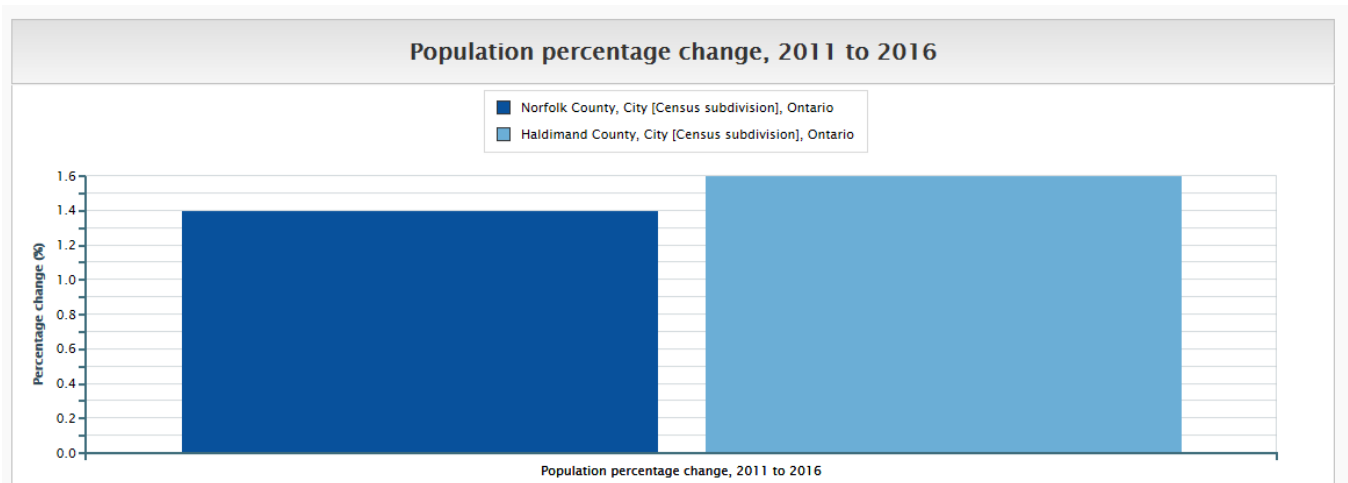


Figure 1. Population change (%) in Haldimand and Norfolk from 2011 to 2016 census periods (Statistics Canada).

Population Demographics

- The proportions of males and females in Haldimand and Norfolk counties are more balanced than the proportion of males and females in Ontario.

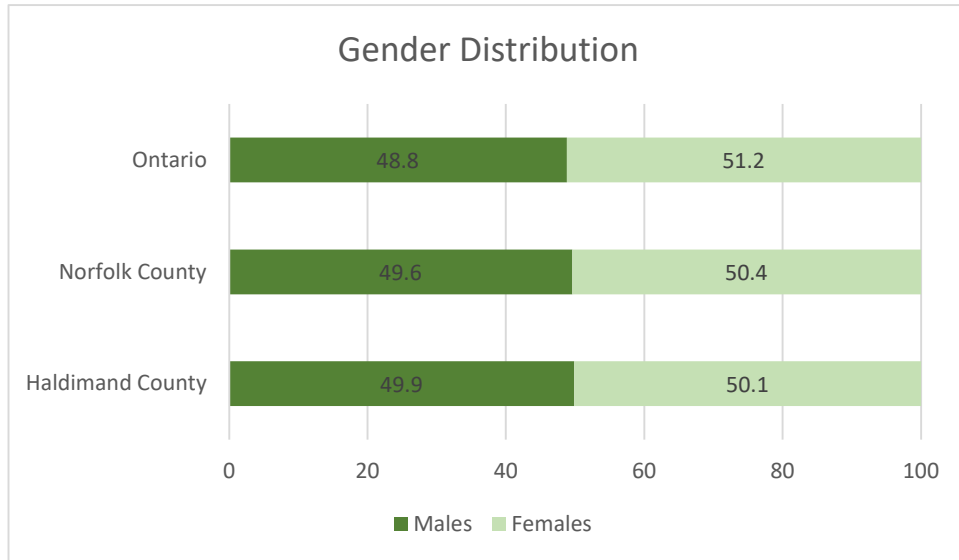


Figure 2. Detailed sex distribution in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- The proportion of residents over 65 years is 22.5% in Norfolk County and 18.1% in Haldimand County compared to 16.7% in Ontario.¹

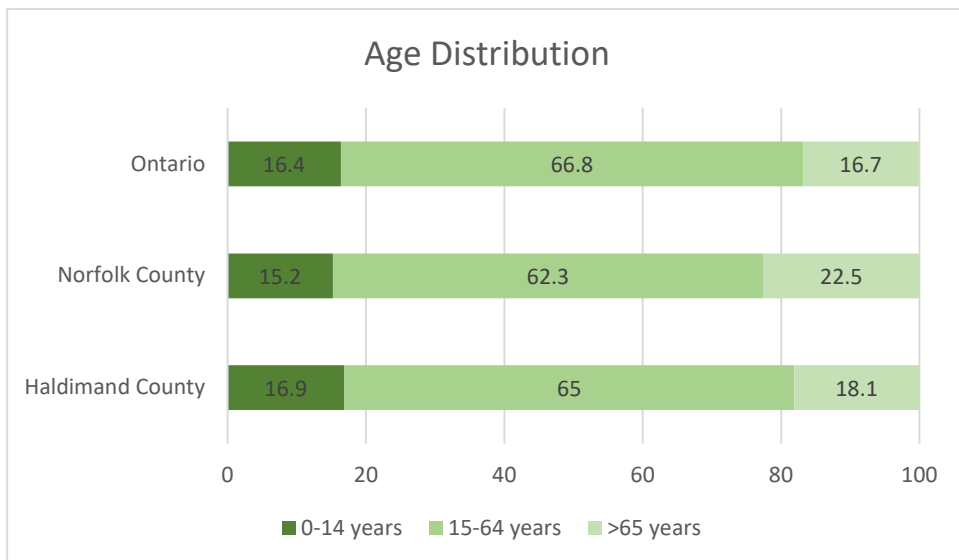


Figure 3. Detailed age distribution in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- Approximately 1.9% of the population of Haldimand and Norfolk counties speak German as a first language, and 0.2% of the population speak French as a first language.¹

- 20.9% of the population in Haldimand and 24.1% of the population in Norfolk have less than a high school diploma compared to 17.5% in Ontario. 47.2% of the population in Haldimand and 45.9% of the population in Norfolk have a college diploma or university degree compared to 55.1% in Ontario.¹

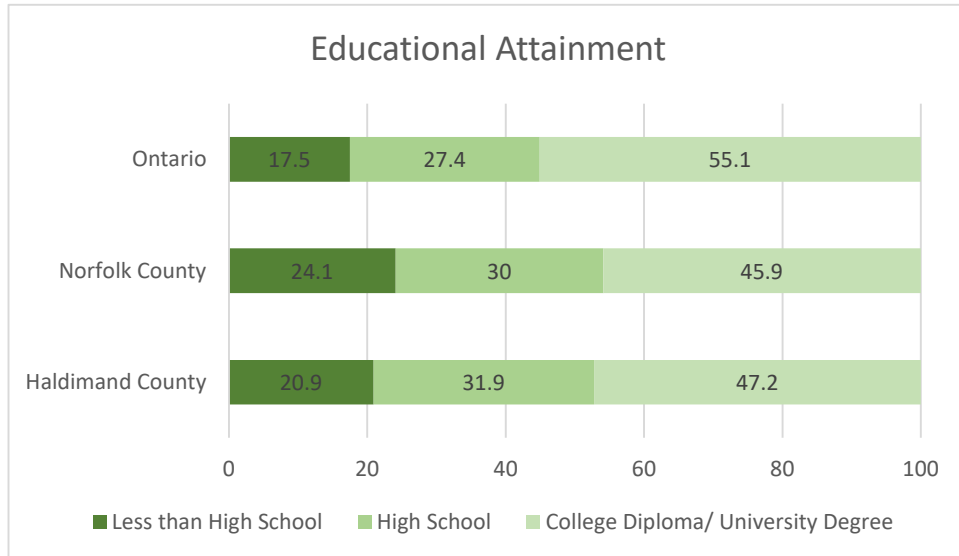


Figure 4. Educational attainment in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.

- 7.5% of the population in Haldimand and 6.1% of population in Norfolk are unemployed compared to 7.4% in Ontario.¹
- 98.4% of the population in Haldimand and 97.7% of population in Norfolk are Canadian citizens compared to 92.3% in Ontario.¹
- Approximately 3.4% of the population of Haldimand and 2.9% of the population of Norfolk identify as Indigenous, compared to 2.8% in Ontario.¹

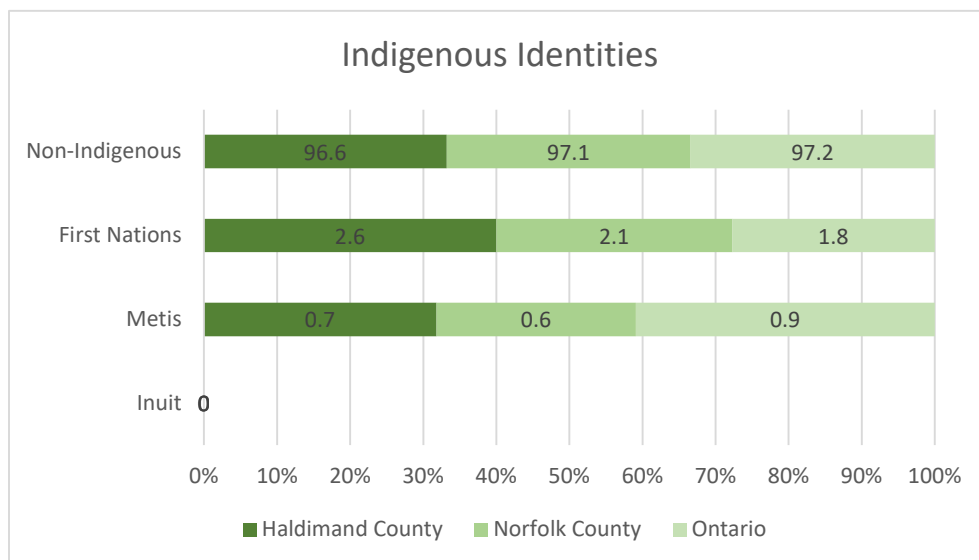


Figure 5. Indigenous identities in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- 2.1% of the population identified as visible minorities in Haldimand or Norfolk counties compared to 29.3% in Ontario (29.3%). The most common visible minorities in the region are Black (n=795), followed by South Asian (n=330), and Chinese (n=240).¹

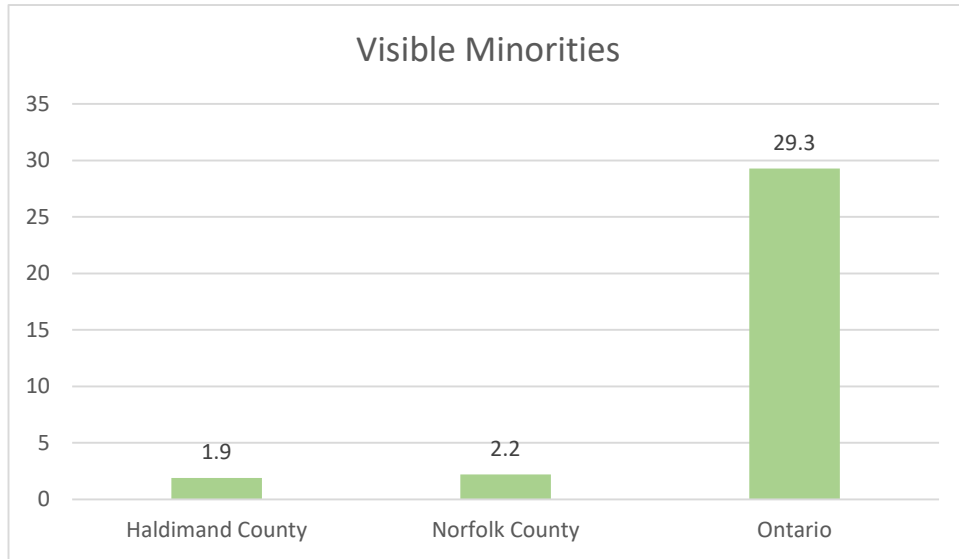


Figure 6. Visible minorities in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- 54.1% of the population in Haldimand and 52.2% of population in Norfolk are married compared to 49.2% in Ontario. Also, 22.8% of the population in Haldimand and 21.8% of population in Norfolk are single compared to 28.3% in Ontario.¹

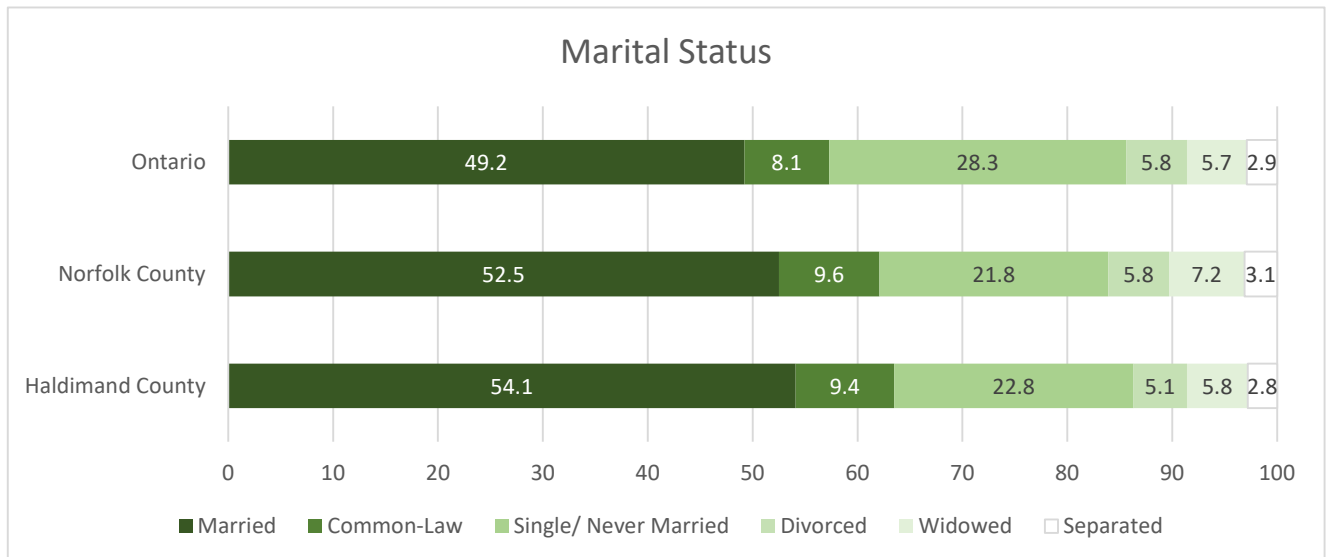


Figure 7. Marital status in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- Family sizes vary slightly across the two counties and compared to Ontario, but no common trends are notable in the data.¹

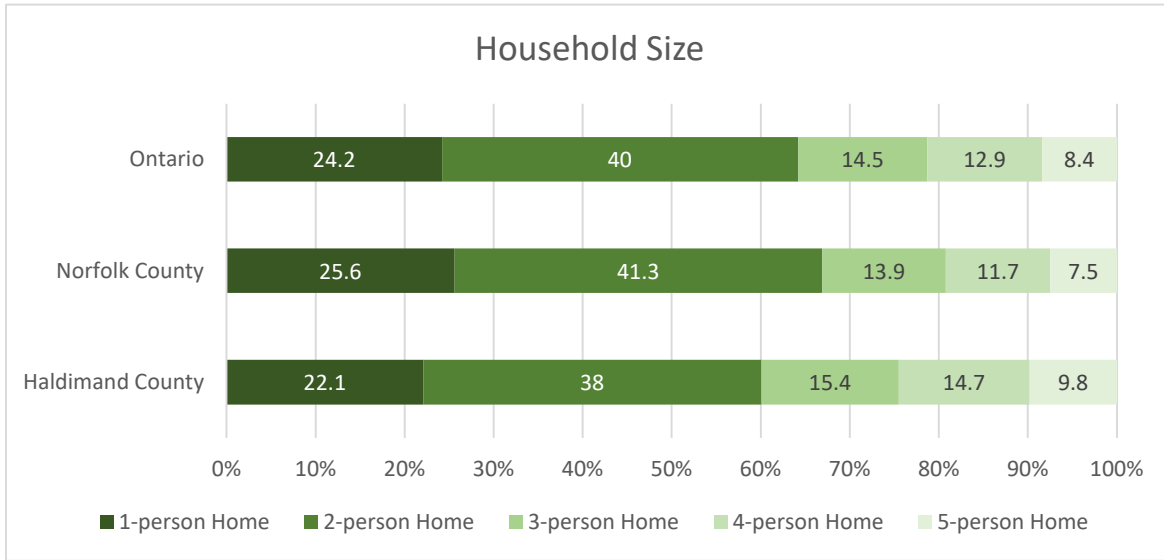


Figure 8. Household size in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- There are 10.4% lone parent households with a female parent in Norfolk and 9.7% in Haldimand compared to 10.1% in Ontario.¹

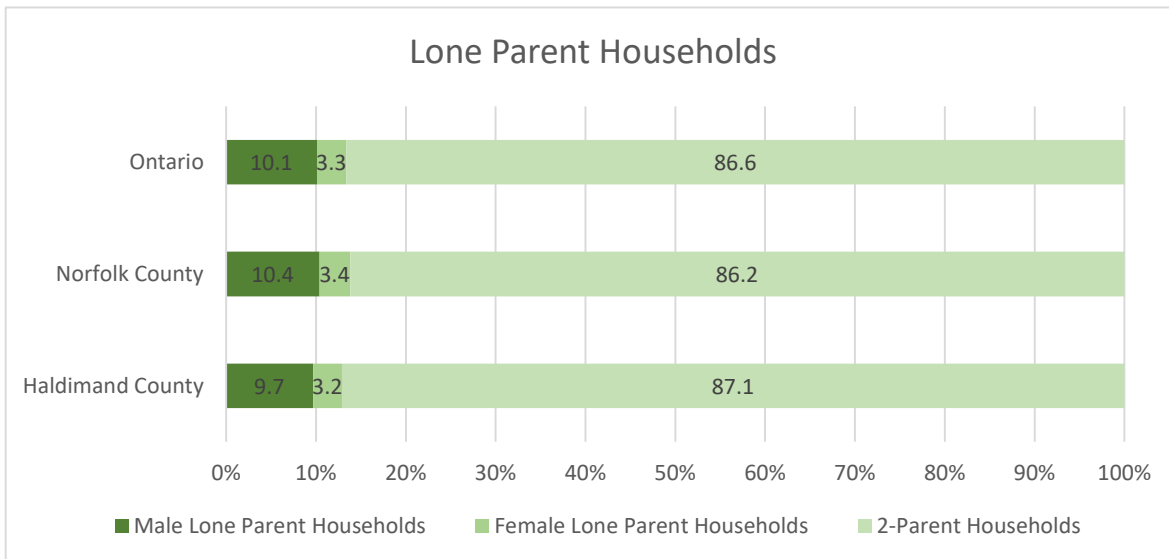


Figure 9. Lone parent households in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- The median total income is \$67,338 in Norfolk and \$76,117 in Haldimand compared to \$74,287 in the province.¹

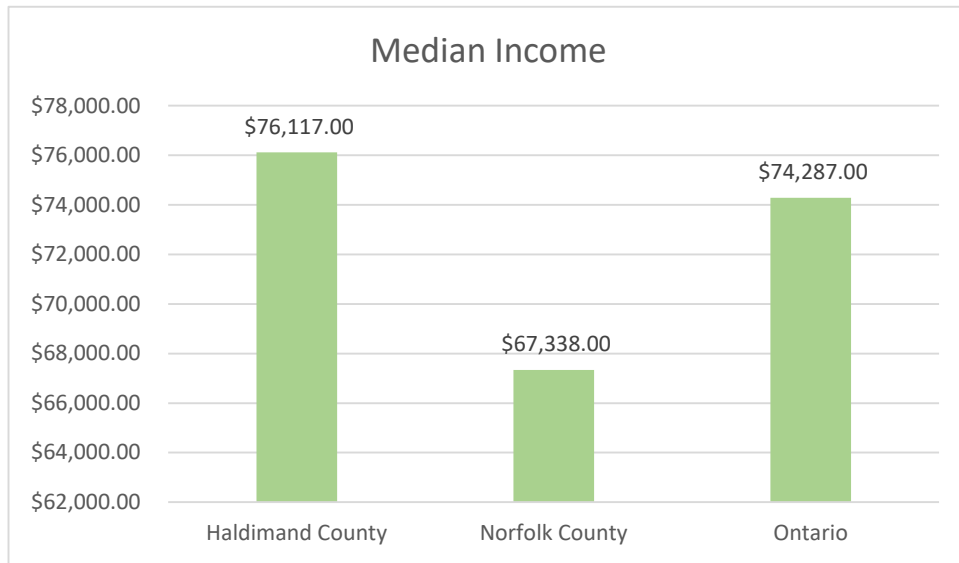


Figure 10. Median income in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- The proportion of the population considered to be low-income is lower in Haldimand (10.5%) and Norfolk (12.7%) than Ontario (14.4%).¹

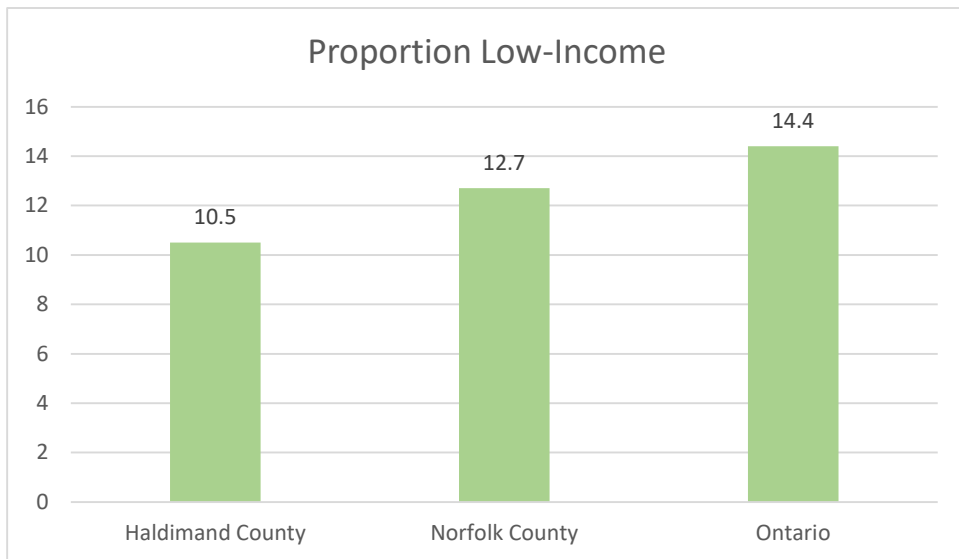


Figure 11. Proportion of the population with low-incomes in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Ontario.¹

- There are approximately 4,100 seasonal agriculture workers in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Workers typically arrive in the spring and stay until late fall.¹

Local Geography

- Norfolk County (City) and Haldimand County (City) are census subdivisions, within the Haldimand-Norfolk Census Division, within the province of Ontario.²
- Haldimand County covers 1252 km² along the shores of Lake Erie. The county borders Hamilton, Brant County, and Norfolk counties, and includes a portion of the Six Nations Indigenous Reserve Lands.²

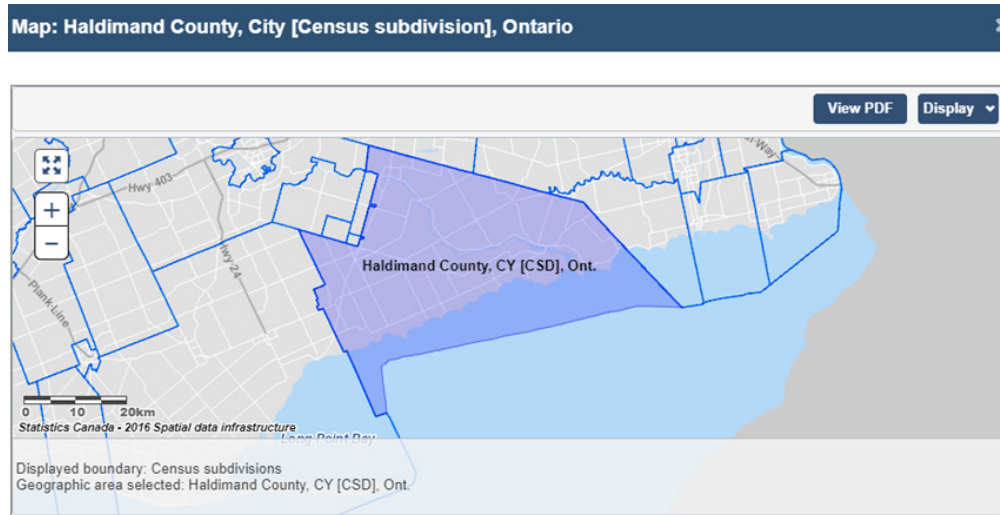


Figure 12. Map of Haldimand County.¹

- Norfolk County covers 1607 km² along the shores of Lake Erie. The county borders Haldimand County, Brant County, and Oxford County.

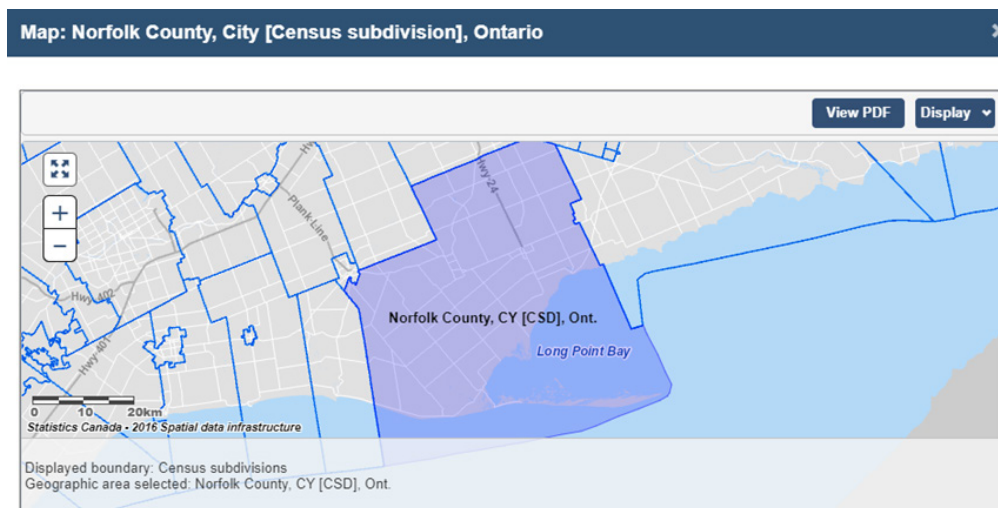


Figure 13. Map of Norfolk County.¹

Community Survey Results

Survey Responses

- A total of 492 individuals responded to the survey.
- In total, 57 responses were excluded for empty responses (i.e. no data), 4 responses were excluded for not living in Haldimand or Norfolk counties (i.e. did not meet inclusion criteria), and 4 responses were excluded for not providing consent to participate.
- Therefore, 427 responses were included in the final analyses. Participants were able to skip questions if they chose; thus, n-values are provided for context throughout the survey results.
- 35 surveys were collected via interview discussions with Low-German speaking participants. These responses were analyzed separately as the methods used to collect data were different than the other surveys.

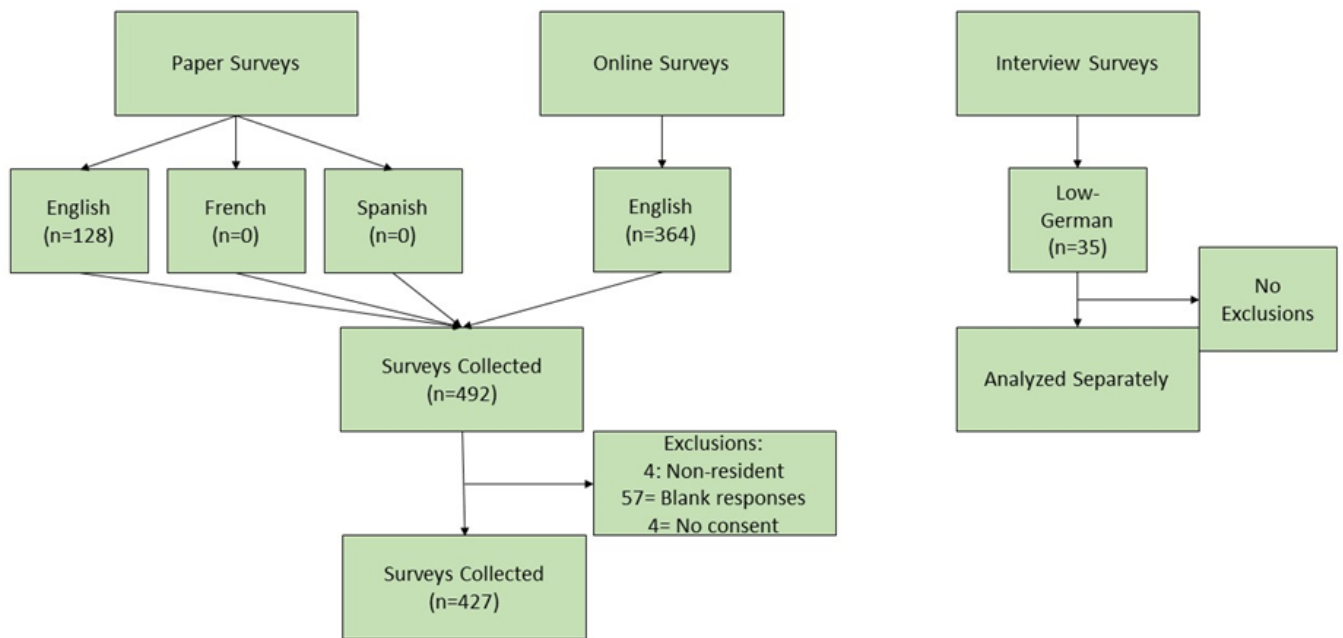


Figure 14. Flow of responses for Community Survey for the 2019 HNHSS CNA.

Demographics

- More survey respondents came from Simcoe, Caledonia, and Dunnville than the other communities across the counties.

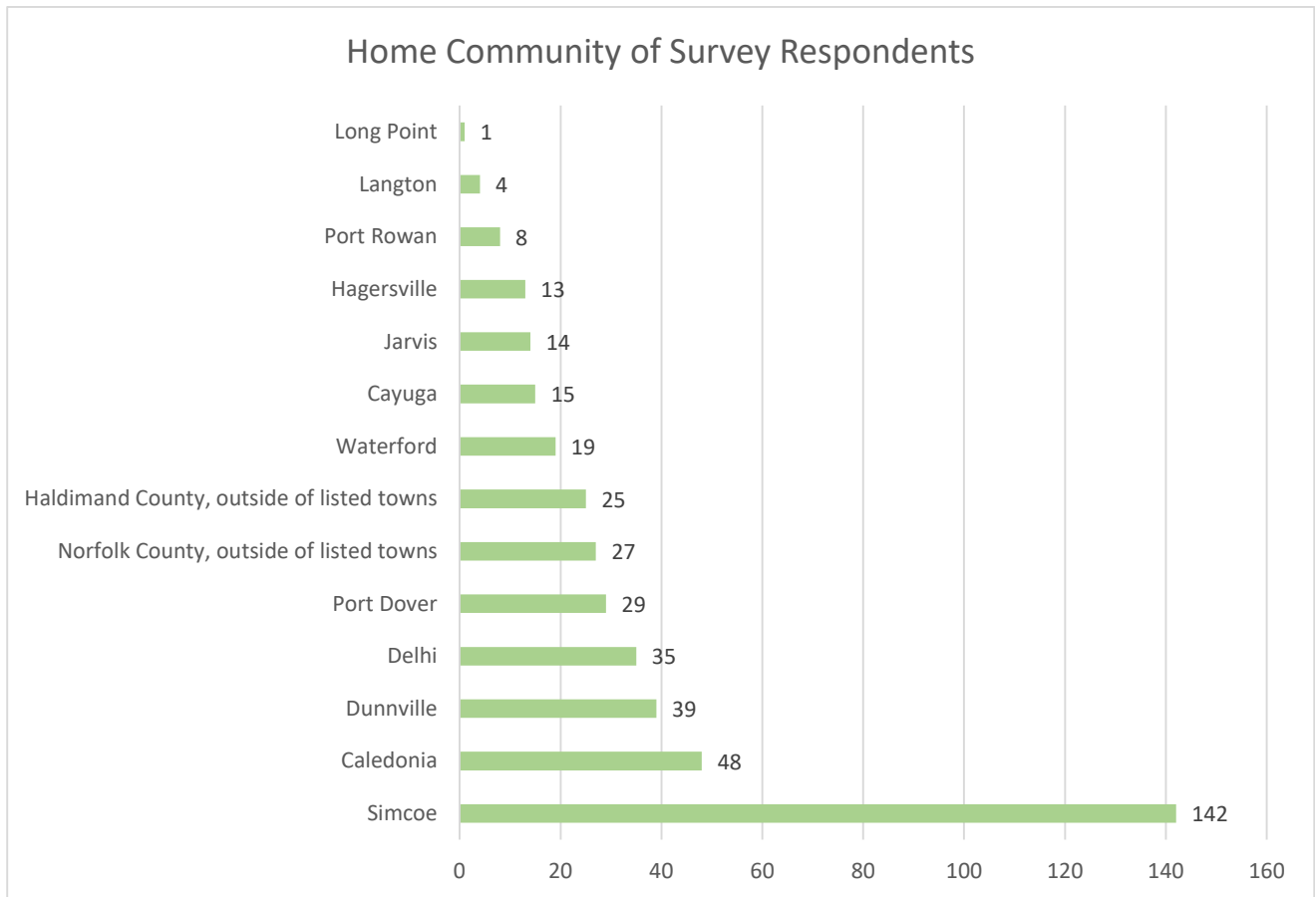


Figure 15. Community locations of survey respondents.

- Survey respondents over-represented females (80%, n=336) compared to males (19%, n=78).
- Survey respondents over-represented adults aged 26-60 years (76%, n=314).

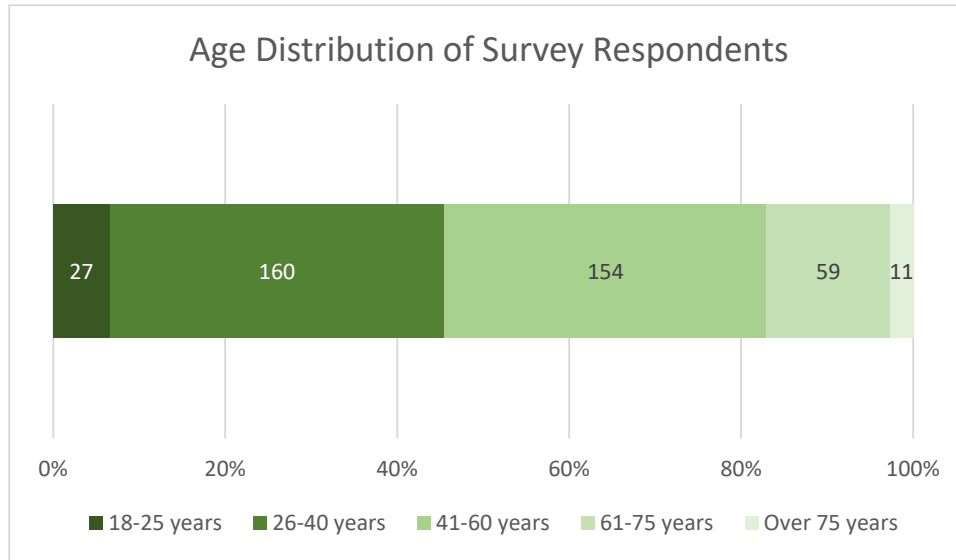


Figure 16. Age distribution of survey respondents.

- The majority of survey respondents had a college certificate or diploma (35%, n=142) or a high-school diploma or equivalent (24%, n=99).

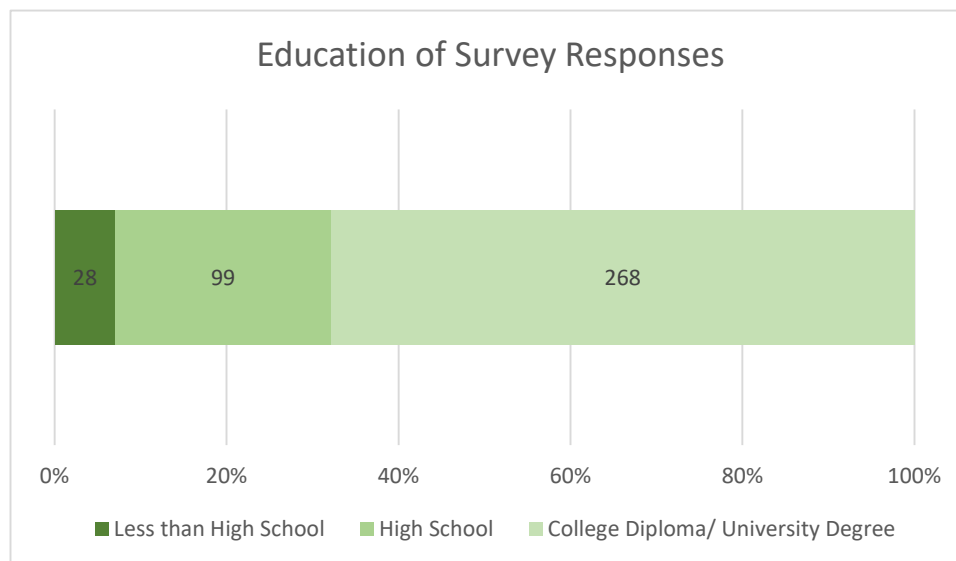


Figure 17. Education of survey respondents.

- The majority of survey respondents spoke primarily English in their homes (n=413, 99%). Other languages reported as the primary language spoken in the home (n<5 each) were French, Arabic, Greek, Low-German (not including Low-German interview surveys), and Mandarin.
- The majority of survey respondents were born in Canada (n=391, 94%). Other countries of origin reported in the survey were the United Kingdom (n=8), Netherlands, United States, Nigeria, Barbados, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, and Saudi Arabia.
- For survey respondents not born in Canada (n=23), arrivals in Canada ranged from the year 1956 to 2018.

- Almost half of survey respondents (46.4%, n=171) were in the lower two income brackets (i.e. <\$30,000 and \$30,000 - \$50,000). Fewer survey respondents (41.9%, n=157) were in the upper two income brackets (i.e. \$70,000-\$100,000 and ≥\$100,000).

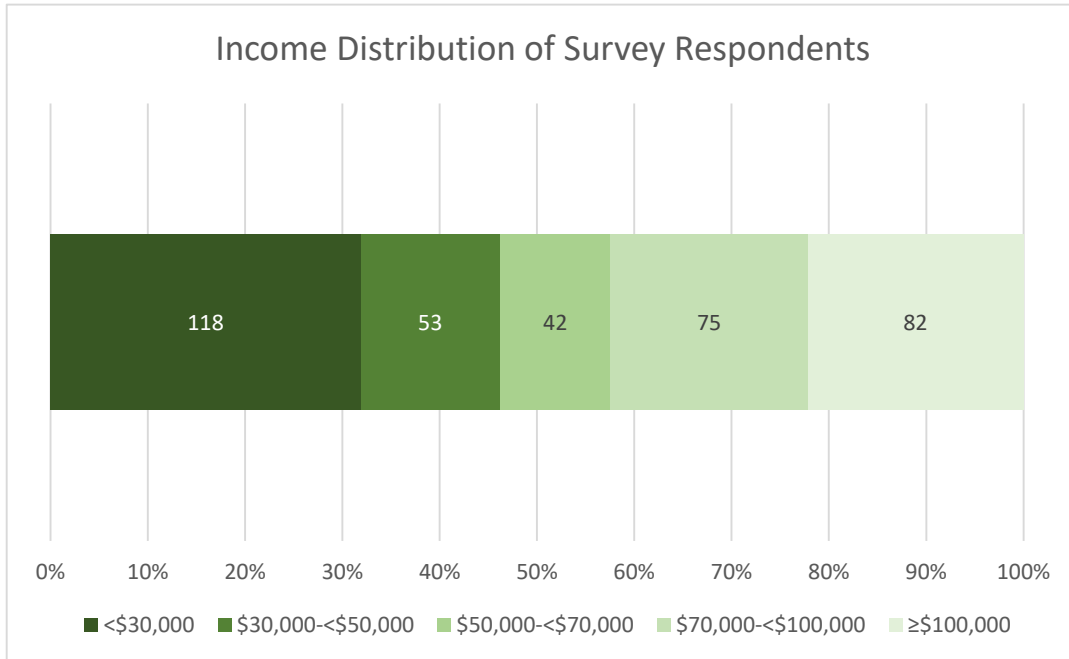


Figure 18. Income distribution of survey respondents.

- The majority of survey respondents were employed for wage or salary (48%, n=215) or retired (21%, n=61).
- The number of adults over 18 living in survey respondents households ranged from 1-12 (mean= 2.07) and number of children 17 years of age or less ranged from 1-5 (1.52).

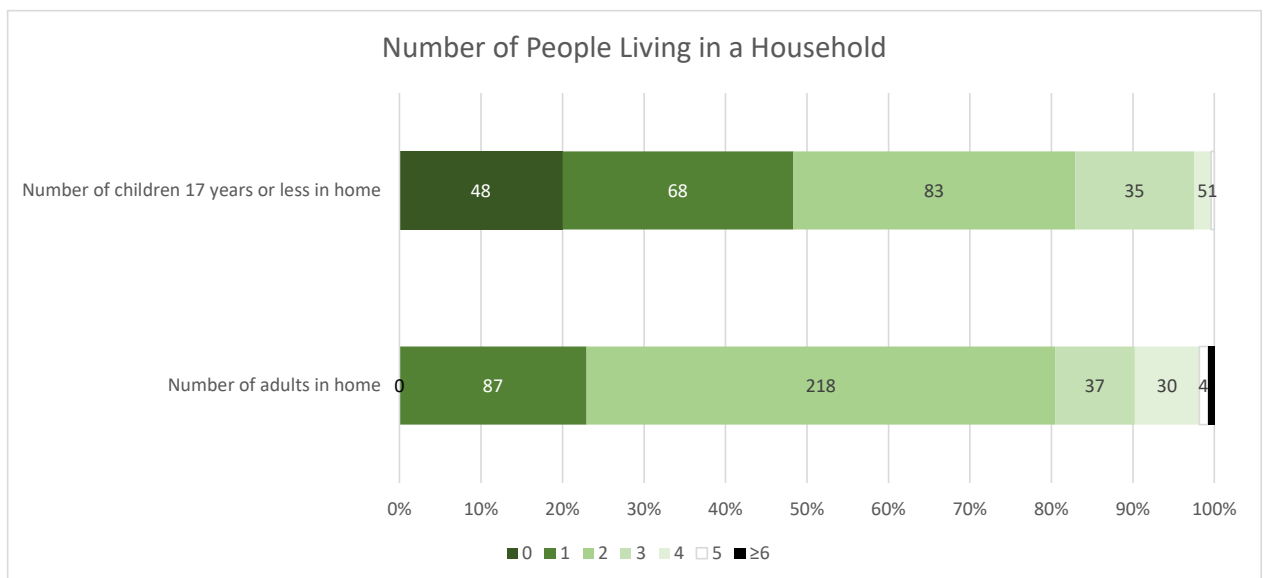


Figure 19. Number of people living in a household among survey respondents.

- The average number of financial dependents (i.e. children, seniors, other adults, for any reason) was 1.35.

Self-Identification

- 25% (n=95) of survey respondents identified as a person with a disability and 10% (n=38) identified as a caregiver of a person with a disability.
- 25% (n=103) of survey respondents reported having children under the age of 6 years.
- 23% (n=95) of survey respondents reported having children between 6 and 18 years of age.
- 14% (n=56) of survey respondents identified as a single parent.
- 12% (n=47) of survey respondents reported feeling socially isolated where they live and 12% (n=47) of survey respondents also reported feeling that they have little or no social support network.
- 5% (n=19) of survey respondents identified as a visible minority and 4% (n=18) of survey respondents identified as a religious minority.
- 3% (n=11) of survey respondents identified as LGBTQ2S+ or gender non-conforming.
- 2% (n=8) of survey respondents reported being currently pregnant.
- 2% (n=8) of survey respondents identified as Indigenous.
- 1 survey respondent identified as a seasonal agricultural worker.
- 7% (n=20) of survey respondents reported they did not have regular access to the internet (i.e. anywhere), and another 5% (n=13) of survey respondents reported they did not have access to the internet in their home.

Focus Groups and Interviews

Seven major themes emerged from the qualitative data collected via focus group discussions and interviews: (i) Mental Health and Addictions; (ii) Physical Health; (iii) Poverty; (iv) Housing; (v) Rurality; (vi) Availability of Products and Services; and (vii) Organizational Structures.

This chapter on Demographics and Self-Identification discusses the key themes associated with this topic.

Poverty

Participants in both focus group discussions and key informant interviews, participants discussed a high prevalence of poverty, noting there were many families experiencing extreme levels of poverty in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Poverty was discussed as both a major issue in the communities and a contributing factor for many other needs discussed. With regards to demographics and self-identification, poverty was a major issue as many survey respondents self-identified as coming from low-income families.

Participants described how low educational attainment, lower than optimal wages, and limited transportation services exacerbated the experiences of poverty in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Participants commonly stated that limited post-secondary education opportunities in the region cascaded to limit their employment opportunities. Additionally, the loss of several large manufacturing sector employers in the past decades was described as a major driver of poverty in the counties. One participant (KI63) explained, “They say to us, you know, some of the people ‘bring in industry’. Well, you're not going to get a single industry of days gone by. What you're going to get, what I see in Dunnville, is a small industry with five or 10 employees.” Participants noted that the lack of transportation system throughout the communities further limited their ability to seek employment and lift their families out of poverty.

One participant (KI8) eloquently linked several of the issues, such as education, employment, and poverty, by sharing, “I think that [poverty] is probably underlining a lot of the other issues. Many substances are far more appealing when you don't have access to different things like education. But if you don't have those because of poverty then you have got some problems.”

Rurality

The counties of Haldimand and Norfolk are both rural areas that experience unique nuances and implications of the small population sizes and large geographical regions. Participants in both focus group discussions and interviews noted that rurality was a major cause of several of the needs the community experienced. In particular, with regards to demographics and self-identification, rurality was described as a common reason for feelings of isolation.

The vast geographical areas of Haldimand and Norfolk counties and low population sizes result in low population densities, as noted in the profile above. However, the distance between homes, communities, and amenities was often

described as the reason that individuals felt lonely or isolated in their communities. A participant (KI44), described how rurality was linked to social isolation by saying, “Being socially isolated or with a rural environment poses significant challenges for us.” Later in discussions this was often linked to the increasing demand for mental health and other types of services. For example, a participant (KI64) explained, “I think a lot of people are socially isolated because of the lack of transportation or the inability to navigate the system or know where the resources are and how to get what you need.”

Availability of Products and Services

Related to rurality, there was common discussion around the lack of available services in geographically dispersed communities. Many of these themes linked to several of the other chapters of the report, but specific to demographics and self-identification, lack of products and services often referred to the high prevalence of poverty and high cost of food, shelter, and other necessities in the region. One participant (KI36) shared, “I know that we do have some challenges with respect to food accessibility still.” Further, agencies often bemoaned the difficulty of providing goods and services to the populations that needed them across the counties as a result of the large geographical area and lack of transportation services. For example, a participant (KI28) explained some of the organizational challenges in serving a population across such a geographically vast region by saying,

“I think because of the huge geographic area that we represent, it is really difficult. I think I can drive almost an hour and a quarter to get to the northern boundary of my ward. So when you talk about trying to bring in public transportation to help those that are on social assistance or those people that are struggling, trying to maintain a job or they don’t have a car and they need transportation. It is really difficult. To run a system that is effective that is on demand, that is cost efficient for the municipality. The size of our area makes it really difficult to provide all these services and try and be fair to all the different communities. You know we are like a collection of communities. It is like having a family of four, five kids. You give something to Caledonia or Dunnville, Hagersville expects. People don’t appreciate the fact that some areas are growing faster than others and there are reasons for that that we can’t control. The geographic area has made a lot of things different, challenging and doesn’t matter whether you are talking about road, or social assistance.”

Finally, several participants noted how government funding was insufficient to provide the level of care needed in the community due to the higher costs of service provisions in a large region.

Conclusions

In conclusion, Haldimand and Norfolk is a unique region that experiences complexities and nuances in health and social service provision related to the large geographical space and small population sizes. The population in this region experience poverty, the impact of which is exacerbated by the distance to travel for education, limited of public transit and employment opportunities. The proportions of survey respondents who self-identified as a visible minority, religious minority, or LGBTQ2S+ individual were low.

References

1. Statistics Canada. Census Profile, 2016, Haldimand-Norfolk, Census division, Ontario. Available from: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=3528&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&SearchText=haldimand%20norfolk&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1&type=0>
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