



Grey Bruce  
Public Health

2021 Census

# Housing, Households and Families in Grey Bruce

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## INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report summarizes key information about housing, households, and family structures in Grey Bruce, particularly as it relates to the health and well-being of Grey Bruce residents. The data presented are from Statistics Canada's 2021 Census of Population. Census data are publicly available and more data for all geographies profiled here can be viewed and downloaded via Statistics Canada's website, along with more information about the data collection process and indicators.

### DATA SOURCE & NOTES

**Data Source:** Statistics Canada. 2023. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue number 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed June 5, 2023).

**Geography:** The inclusion of census data specific to Saugeen and Neyaashiinigmiing First Nations in this report is contingent upon the decision of Indigenous communities. Grey Bruce Public Health is currently engaging in consultations with the local First Nation communities to ascertain the potential inclusion and scope of their data within Grey Bruce census summary reports. It should be noted that these reports are subject to change.

**Rounding:** All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. To understand these data, you must be aware that each individual value is rounded. As a result, when these data are summed or grouped, the total value may not match the individual values since totals and sub-totals are independently rounded. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated on rounded data, may not necessarily add up to 100%.

**Gender:** Gender refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman).<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 2022, Statistics Canada will disseminate census information on gender based on the addition of a new gender question, along with the clarification of 'at birth' for the question pertaining to a person's sex. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol. "Men+" includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons. "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.<sup>2</sup>

Variables related to families and households are restricted to private households and the population in private households, excluding the population in collective dwellings. Marital status can be examined for the total population, including the population in collective dwellings.<sup>3</sup>

#### SUGGESTED CITATION

Suggested Citation: Grey Bruce Health Unit. (2023). 2021 Census: Housing, Households and Families in Grey Bruce. Owen Sound, Ontario: Grey Bruce Health Unit.

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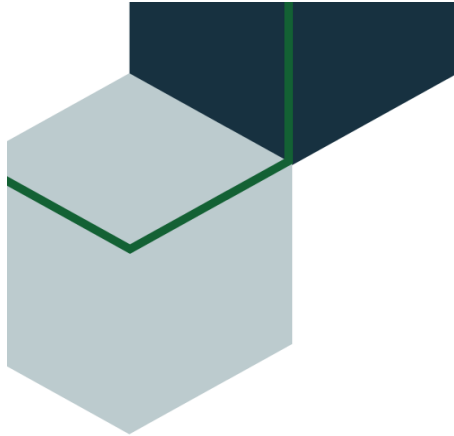
<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed June 12, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed June 12, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. 2022. Families, Households and Marital Status Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021. Canada catalogue no. 98-500-X, issue 2021002. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/98-500/002/98-500-x2021002-eng.cfm> (accessed Aug 8, 2023).



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Housing & Families

### Housing In Grey Bruce



4 out of 5 Grey Bruce residents own a home

#### Affordability

Over 1 in 3 Grey Bruce tenants are paying unaffordable rent, compared to only 1 in 10 homeowners who cannot afford their housing cost

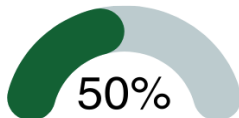
#### Repairs

5% of dwellings in Grey Bruce are in need of major repairs

1.5% of people living in unaffordable dwellings require major repairs



#### Core Housing Need



Grey Bruce has 50% less housing needs compared to Ontario (6% vs 12%)

#### Families

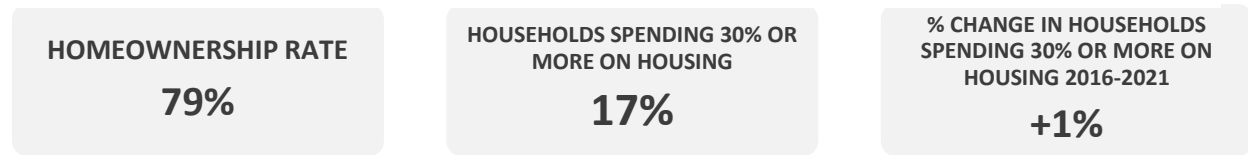


- 2 in 3 Grey Bruce Residents are married or common-law
- 10% divorce rate
- Average family size of 2.8



## HOUSING

Figure 1. Housing Key Figures, Grey Bruce 2021



The COVID-19 pandemic corresponded with changes in the housing needs and preferences of many Canadians and was associated with an accelerated increase in home prices in Ontario. Housing prices continued to increase through February 2022 before declining in the face of interest rate hikes designed to curb inflation.<sup>4</sup>

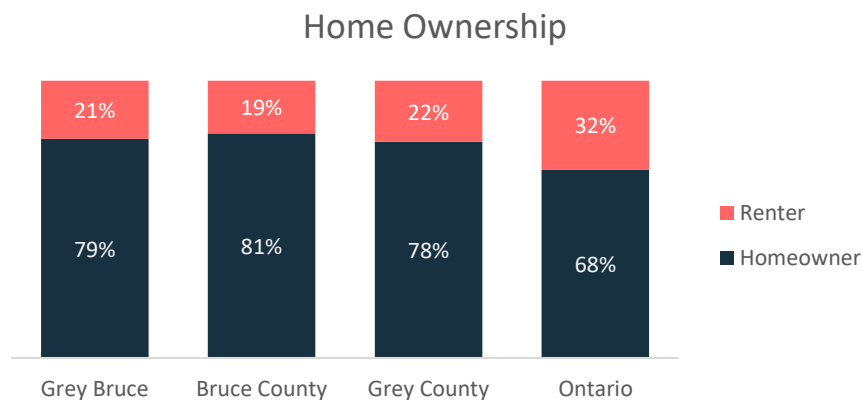
### DWELLINGS OCCUPANCY AND TYPE

The percentage of dwellings occupied by usual residents is a measure of the regular, non-seasonal or non-vacation housing use in a community. Communities with a higher percentage of dwellings occupied by their usual residents have a lower proportion of 'vacation homes.' Seventy-nine percent of private dwellings in Grey Bruce are occupied by usual residents, and most Grey Bruce municipalities have a higher proportion of vacation homes than Ontario (Table 1, Table 2).

80% of private dwellings in Grey Bruce are single-detached homes, 19% are some forms of attached dwelling and 1% are in an apartment with 5 or more units. Grey Bruce has a higher proportion of single-detached homes than Ontario (54%).

### HOME OWNERSHIP

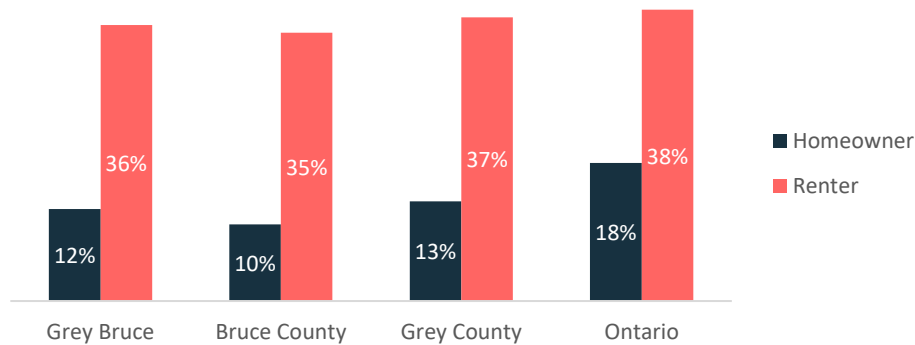
The homeownership rate in Grey Bruce is high, at 79%, compared to the Ontario rate of 68%. Twenty percent of Grey Bruce private households are rented and less than 1% live in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. All but 2 Grey Bruce municipalities have higher homeownership rates than Ontario.



<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. 2022. "To buy or to rent: The housing market continues to be reshaped by several factors as Canadians search for an affordable place to call home". The Daily. September 21. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 11-001-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220921/dq220921b-eng.htm> (accessed Aug 8, 2023).

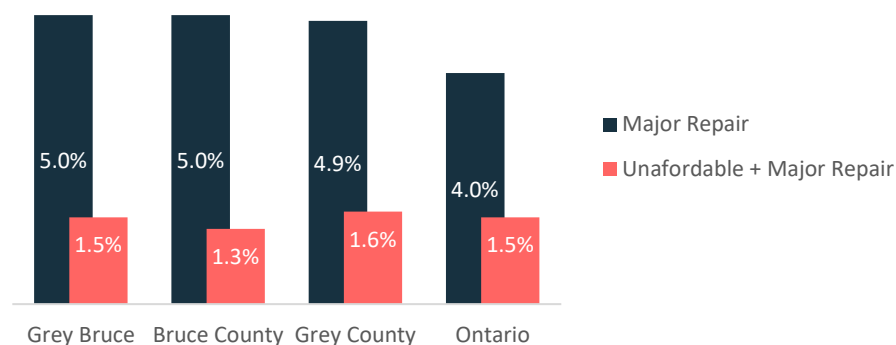
## AFFORDABILITY

An indicator of housing affordability is the proportion of household total income that is spent on shelter costs (payments for electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services, monthly mortgage payments, property taxes, condominium fees and rent). When a household spends a large proportion of their income on housing it is less likely that they will have adequate funds for other necessities. A household is considered to have unaffordable shelter costs and be in core housing need if 30% or more of the households' total income is spent on shelter costs.<sup>5</sup> Grey Bruce homeowners are better off compared to the rest of the province with approximately 1 in 10 households spending more than 30% of their income on housing. More than 1 in 3 tenants are spending more than 30% of their income on housing.



## MAJOR REPAIRS NEEDED

If a dwelling is in need of major repairs, this is considered an indicator of an inadequate dwelling by housing organizations.<sup>6</sup> Major repairs might include defective plumbing or electrical wiring, and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (they would not include desirable remodeling or additions).<sup>7</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada, 2017. *Housing Reference Guide*. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/guides/005/98-500-x2016005-eng.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada, 2017. *Housing Reference Guide*. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/guides/005/98-500-x2016005-eng.cfm>

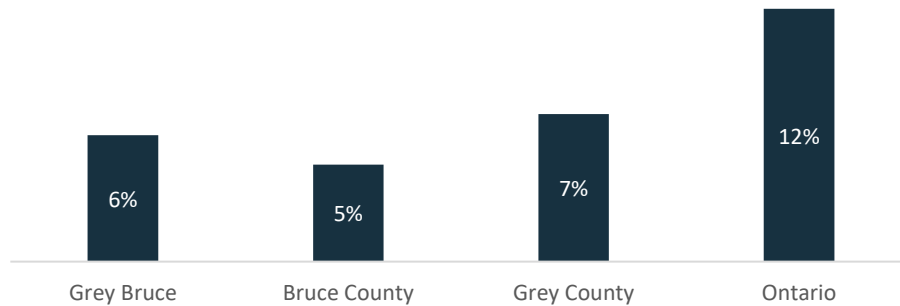
<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada, 2016. *Dictionary, Census of Population 2016*. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>

## CROWDING

The housing suitability indicator in the census classifies dwellings as not suitable or 'crowded' if the dwelling does not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household. In Grey Bruce, all municipalities but two (Chatsworth & Southgate) are fewer than 1% crowded. Meaning that fewer than 1% of households have more than one person per room. This is less than Ontario, where provincially, 3% of rooms have more than one person per room.

## CORE HOUSING NEED

Core housing need is the indicator used in Canada to identify households not living in, and not able to access, acceptable housing.<sup>8</sup> A household in core housing need is one whose dwelling is considered crowded, requires major repairs, or is unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. Grey Bruce has 50% less houses in core need compared to the province (6% vs 12% respectively).



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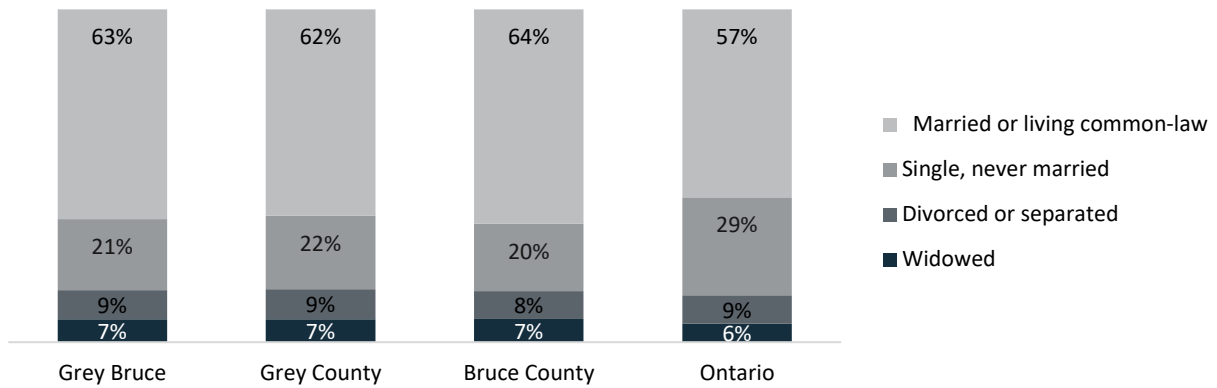
<sup>8</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2017. *Housing Observer Online*. [https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/hoficlincl/observer/observer\\_208.cfm](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/hoficlincl/observer/observer_208.cfm)

## FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

### MARITAL STATUS

People who are not partnered may have less emotional and financial support than people who are. Sixty-three percent of Grey Bruce residents aged 15 and older are married or living with a common-law partner. Thirty-seven percent of Grey Bruce residents aged 15 and older are not partnered- of these, 9% are divorced or separated, 7% are widowed, and 21% are single and have never been married.

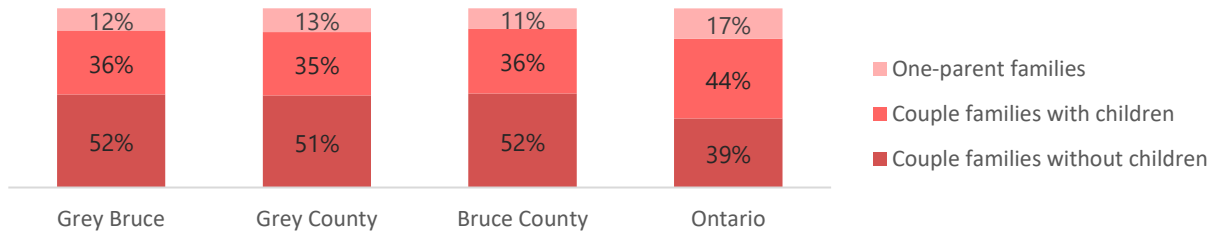
Figure 2. Marital Status, Population Aged 15+, 2021



### FAMILIES

The average family<sup>9</sup> in Grey Bruce is made up of 2.8 people, and the average Grey Bruce family with children has the 1.9 children. Fifty-two percent of Grey Bruce families are made up of couple families without children, 36% are couple families with children, and 12% are one-parent families. Three-quarters of one-parent families in Grey Bruce are led by women+. One-parent families are more likely to be materially disadvantaged, which can affect the emotional and social health of parents and children.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 3. Census Family Types, 2021



<sup>9</sup> Families are defined by Statistics Canada as a married or common-law couple, with or without children, or as a lone-parent family (one parent plus one or more children).

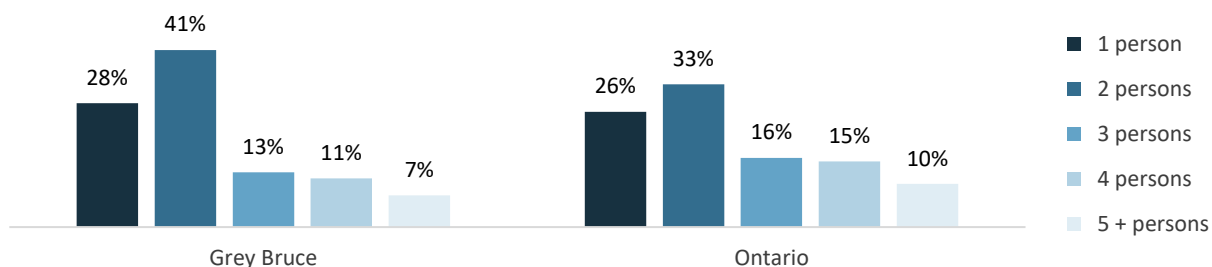
<sup>10</sup> Spencer N. Does material disadvantage explain the increased risk of adverse health, educational, and behavioural outcomes among children in lone parent households in Britain? A cross sectional study. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. 2005 Feb 1;59(2):152-7



## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The average household in Grey Bruce is smaller than in Ontario - 2.3 persons per household vs 2.6. Twenty-eight percent of Grey Bruce households are one person households, 41% consist of 2 people, 13% consist of 3 people, 11 percent consist of 4 people and 7% consist of 5 or more people. Grey Bruce has a relatively high proportion of two-person households due to its aging population.

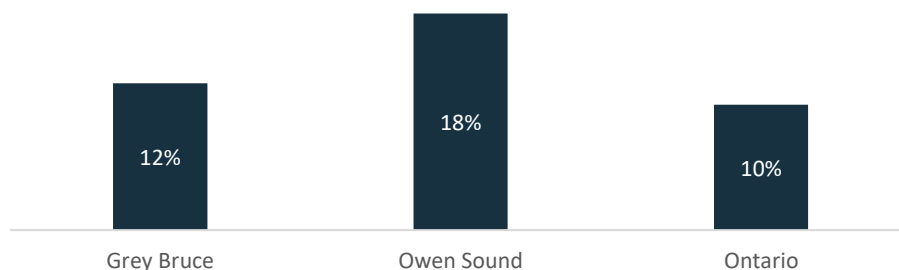
Figure 4. Private Households by Household Size, 2021



## PEOPLE LIVING ALONE

The number of people living alone in Grey Bruce is slightly greater than in Ontario (12.2% vs 10.4%). In general, there are more females living alone than males, with 12.8% of Grey Bruce households, and 11.1% provincially. Males account for slightly less at 11.5% and 9.5% respectively. Owen Sound has the highest proportion of individuals living alone at 18.2% which is nearly double the province.

Figure 4. People Living Alone, 2021



## TABLES

Table 1. Private Dwellings and Dwelling Occupancy, Grey County and Municipalities, 2021

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Total Private Dwellings</b>	<b>Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents</b>	<b>% Occupied by Usual Residents</b>
<b>Grey Bruce</b>	92775	73421	79%
<b>Grey County</b>	50183	42309	84%
<b>Chatsworth</b>	3094	2699	87%
<b>Georgian Bluffs</b>	5269	4495	85%
<b>Grey Highlands</b>	5337	4091	77%
<b>Hanover</b>	3788	3445	91%
<b>Meaford</b>	5828	5035	86%
<b>Owen Sound</b>	10406	9895	95%
<b>Southgate</b>	3257	3017	93%
<b>The Blue Mountains</b>	7396	4348	59%
<b>West Grey</b>	5808	5284	91%
<b>Ontario</b>	5929250	5491201	93%

Table 2. Private Dwellings and Dwelling Occupancy, Bruce County and Municipalities, 2021

Row Labels	Total Private Dwellings	Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents	% Occupied by Usual Residents
Grey Bruce	92775	73421	79%
Bruce County	42592	31112	73%
Arran-Elderslie	2998	2782	93%
Brockton	4406	4032	92%
Huron-Kinloss	4107	3026	74%
Kincardine	6142	5160	84%
Northern Bruce Peninsula	5101	2206	43%
Saugeen Shores	8548	6905	81%
South Bruce	2419	2280	94%
South Bruce Peninsula	7093	4148	58%
Ontario	5929250	5491201	93%