

## 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. Data for marital status and total private households by size are based on this 100% sample of the population.
- One in five Canadian households completes a Census long form, consisting of more detailed questions. Family, household and dwelling data are based on this 20% sample of the population.

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

## Families, Household and Marital Status Statistics for Waterloo Region from the 2006 Census

### Family Profile

According to the 2006 Census conducted by Statistics Canada on May 16, 2006, there are 133,725 *census families* in Waterloo Region, an increase of 9% from the 2001 Census. As shown in Table 1 the largest proportion of these families were two-person families, followed by four-person families in all municipalities but Kitchener.

**Table 1: Waterloo Region Census Families in Private Households, 2006**

Name	Census Families in Private Households	Two Person Families	Three Person Families	Four Person Families	Five+ Person Families
<b>Waterloo Region</b>	<b>133,725</b>	<b>58,835</b>	<b>29,965</b>	<b>31,060</b>	<b>13,865</b>
Cambridge	34,375	14,415	8,025	8,425	3,500
Kitchener	57,095	26,195	13,170	12,440	5,285
Waterloo	26,545	11,495	5,765	6,595	2,690
North Dumfries	2,660	1,090	535	700	330
Wellesley	2,455	855	440	545	615
Wilmot	5,060	2,335	935	1,175	610
Woolwich	5,520	2,440	1,085	1,170	820

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

Among census families counted in 2006, the average number of *children living at home* was 2.1, remaining the same from the 2001 Census. Nevertheless, a significant change was seen in the ages of these children living at home; *children* over the age of 25 at home increased by a remarkable 23%. The average family size in the Region is 3.0, the same as the provincial average.



## Family Structure

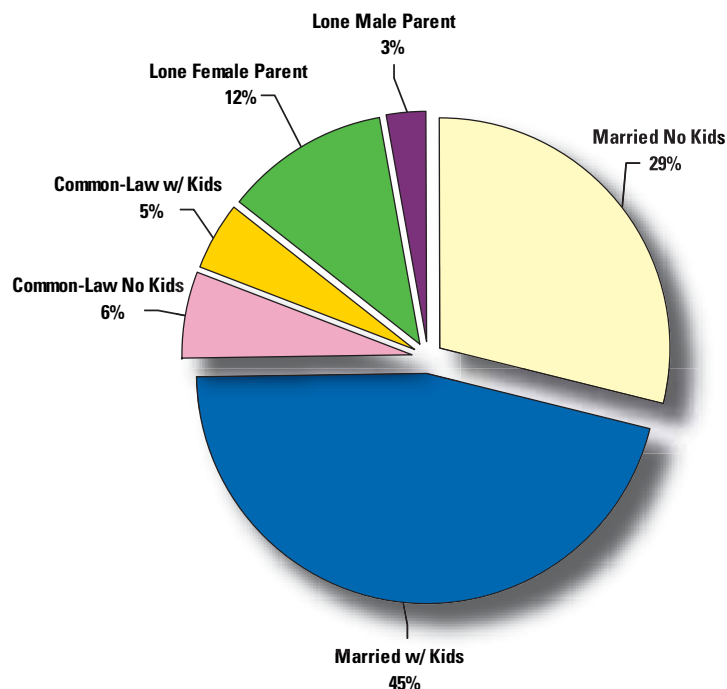
There were 114,385 census families led by either a married couple or *common-law couple* in Waterloo Region in 2006. Married couples were more likely to have children compared to common-law families. Almost three-quarters of couples (99,735) were defined as married in 2006, compared to 14,650 who were considered common-law. Of these couples 60,930 were married with children, while 6,230 common-law couples had children. Contributing to the changing face of families, common-law relationships increased from 12,060 in 2001. This 21% increase is similar to trends seen on a national level where record numbers of common-law marriages were identified.

Noteworthy changes were apparent in lone parent families, with an increase of 13% over values in 2001. Within lone parent families in Waterloo Region, lone male parent families increased by 35% however, they remain a small part of the total family structure. From 2001 to 2006 lone female parent families increased by 9%. Single parent families make up 15% of all families in the Region as seen in Figure 1.

In 2006, the majority of married couples with children had two children, consistent with census families across Canada. From 2001 to 2006, increases occurred in all aspects of family structure except for married couples with three or more children. This decline of larger families is consistent with the overall decline in fertility since the 1960's.



Figure 1: Waterloo Region Family Structure, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006





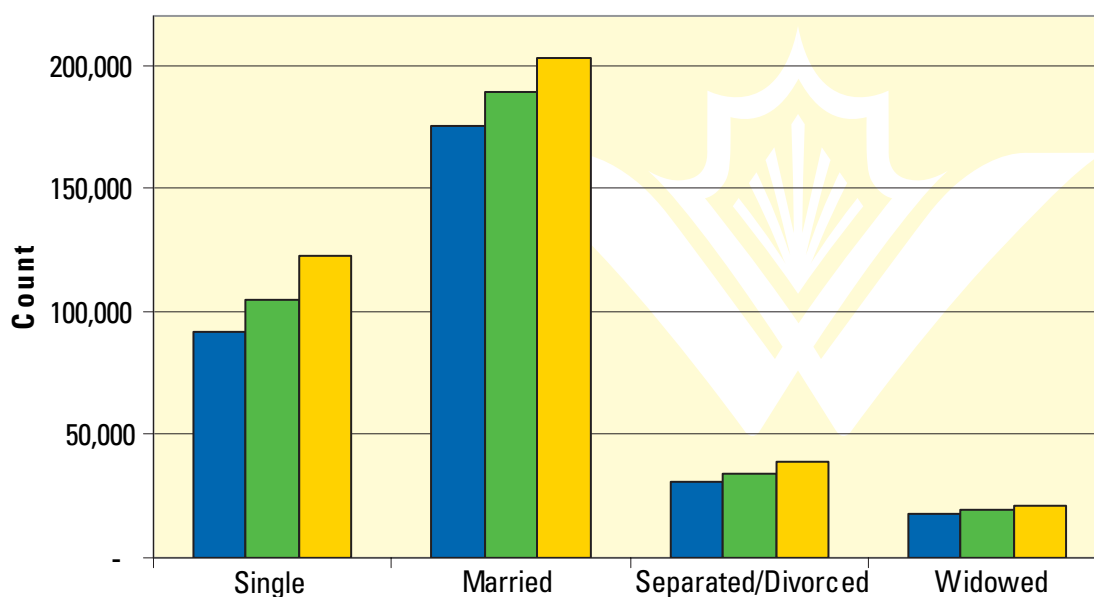
## Marital Status

Across the Region, there are more married people than unmarried people. Unmarried is defined as having never been legally married or having been divorced, widowed or separated. This statistic differs from the national trend: 2006 marked the first Census that indicated there were more unmarried than married people in Canada.

Figure 2 shows that although the majority of our population is married, the single or never legally married group has increased 34% from 1996 and 17% from 2001. This was the largest increase across all categories and supports the trend of people waiting longer to get married.

The 2006 Census was the first time same sex unions were tracked. They were tracked by both the type of union (common-law or married) and sex. Within the Kitchener Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), comprised of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, North Dumfries and Woolwich, 480 couples were in a same-sex relationship. Of these, 400 were considered common-law while 80 were legally married. Female same-sex relationships outnumbered male same-sex relationships by a ratio of 5:1.

**Figure 2: Waterloo Region Marital Status, 1996-2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

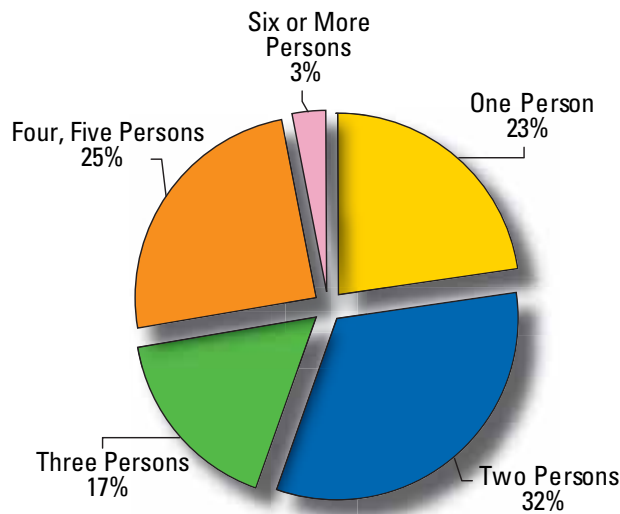


## Households Characteristics

In 2006, there were 470,705 people living in *private households* in Waterloo Region. Over 70% of these households were home to one family, while less than 2% were home to multiple families. The remaining 28% of households consisted of people living alone or with non-relatives. This group showed the largest percent increase between Censuses.

Related to the decline in large families, the average number of people living in a private household has decreased slightly, by 0.1%, and currently stands at 2.6 persons per private household. This places Waterloo Region on par with the provincial average and slightly above the national average. As shown in Figure 3 over half of the households in the Region have two people or less.

**Figure 3: Waterloo Region Households by Household Size, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006



**Census family** – defined as "... a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex"

**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."

**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 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 persons who live together as a couple but who are not legally married to each other. These persons can be of the opposite sex or of the same sex."

Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, 2006



For further information please contact:



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