

NORTHUMBERLAND'S 2023

# VitalSigns®



**Community Foundation**  
of Campbellford/Seymour  
and Northumberland

SUPPORTING OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



**What's Inside:** Measuring Northumberland's Health and Well-Being • Education  
• Environmental Initiatives • Decent Work and Livable Income • Housing  
• Agriculture and Food • Poverty • Sustainable Cities and Community Vitality.

---

# Land Acknowledgement

These lands and waters that we call home in present day Northumberland County are the traditional territories of Indigenous people who have lived here and cared for these lands since time immemorial. We respectfully acknowledge that our work, as the Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland, takes place on the treaty and traditional territories of the Mississauga (Michi Saagiig) Anishnaabeg[1].

We express our ongoing gratitude to these First Nations for their care for and traditional teachings about how to care for these lands and all our relations. We recognize the road to reconciliation must be an active road. The Community Foundation will be mindful of our colonial history and commit to improving our understanding and growing relationships and meaningful inclusion of the vibrant and diverse Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit peoples and communities across Northumberland.

1] The Williams Treaties were signed in October and November 1923 by the governments of Canada and Ontario and by seven First Nations of the Chippewa of Lake Simcoe (Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama) and the Mississauga of the north shore of Lake Ontario (Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island).



Alderville Black Oak Savanna

---

# Welcome

## A message from the Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland

*The Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland is proud to be participating in our first Vital Signs, a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada. Vital Signs leverages local data and community knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and support action towards improving quality of life for all.*

*With our Community Foundation's expanded mandate to support the vitality of communities across Northumberland County, it was important for us to create a baseline Vital Signs report. We believe that the data will provide community organizations and groups with more understanding about key indicators aligned with sustainable development, including Northumberland's health and well-being.*

*Vital Signs provides an opportunity for learning and supporting public discussion about the issues that matter most to communities. The report can be used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities and colleges and government leaders to take shared actions and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact.*

*Northumberland County is a beautiful place to live, work and play and everyone benefits from a healthy and supportive community. We know we have plenty to be proud of in this report and we also acknowledge that there is lots of work left to do. We see the Vital Signs report as a starting point for conversations that can help to clarify current challenges and inspire communities to work together to address them.*

*Our Community Foundation will use the knowledge gained through Vital Signs to engage with communities across Northumberland and to convene vital conversations around issues that matter. We intend to seek collaborations with organizations and leaders to support the needs of Northumberland County. We plan to use the data in this report to inform and align future granting to grow and monitor positive community change. We have created a new Northumberland County Endowment Fund and we will use the Vital Signs report to promote donor engagement opportunities to grow the fund in order to provide grants to Northumberland County charitable organizations.*

*Our hope is that you will use the contents of the Vital Signs report as a tool, as a starting point for discussion and making connections with community groups and partners to find local solutions.*

*Carolyn Anderson, Board Chair*

*Martha Murphy, Executive Director*

---

# Table of Contents

---

**4**      **About Us**

---

**5**      **What is Vital Signs?**

---

**6**      **Sustainable Development Goals**

---

**7**      **About Northumberland**

---

**9**      **No Poverty**

---

**11**     **Good Health and Well-Being**

---

**13**     **Quality Education**

---

**15**     **Decent Work and Livable Income**

---

**17**     **Sustainable Cities and Community Vitality**

---

**19**     **Housing**

---

**21**     **Agriculture and Food**

---

**23**     **Environmental Initiatives**

---

**25**     **Take Action & Acknowledgements**

---

**26**     **Sources**

---

---

# About Us

## Stewardship, Leadership, Partnership

A community foundation is not just about raising money for the community. It is about investing in the community and being committed to raising community spirit and awareness. Established in 2001, the Campbellford/Seymour Community Foundation was created to provide annual grants to charitable organizations who deliver projects and programs that enhance the quality of life of the residents of Campbellford and Seymour. Over the past 23 years, we have provided over \$4.2 million dollars in grant funding to charities.

As the original Community Foundation in Northumberland County, in early 2023, we expanded our geographic boundaries to include all of Northumberland County. We are now known as the Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland. At the Community Foundation, our sole focus is community. We envision a community prospering through collaboration and partnerships, where philanthropy and volunteerism are part of daily life, and where organizations work together to address a full spectrum of community needs.

Our purpose is threefold:

- To promote philanthropy across Northumberland County through donor engagement opportunities.
- To provide leadership and collaboration with community service organizations to identifying community needs and opportunities to improve all citizens' quality of life.
- To seek partnerships with others to fund projects and programs that will enhance the vibrant communities in Northumberland County.

## CFCSN 2023/24 Board of Directors:

- Carolyn Anderson, Board Chair
- Ed Hischer, Director
- Marg Graham, Vice-Chair
- Kathy Dafoe, Director
- Mitchell MacLean, Secretary/Treasurer
- Stewart Richardson, Director

---

## Northumberland County Endowment Fund:

The Community Foundation recognized that financial resources will be needed to address the ongoing needs identified in the Vital Signs report and as a proactive measure, created the new Northumberland County Fund. The board of directors committed \$10,000 in matching funds to kick-start this endowment Fund, thereby matching every dollar donated to a maximum of \$10,000.

We created this endowment fund to provide an opportunity for people to give locally today and in the future, with proceeds that will be used to provide grants to charitable organizations to support projects and programs throughout the vibrant communities in Northumberland County.

---

# What is Vital Signs?

Vital Signs is Canada's most extensive community-driven data program. Spearheaded by Community Foundations of Canada and led by community foundations in Canada and around the world, more than 65 national and 41 international community foundations produce Vital Signs reports, host "Vital Conversations" and more.

Vital Signs uses local data to support evidence-based, locally-relevant solutions to improve the quality of life at the community level. This report includes baseline data for nine theme areas, as well as how they are aligned with specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each theme presents a selected snapshot of how our communities are doing for key indicators.

Vital Signs aims to inspire civic engagement, provide focus for public debate, and help a range of people and organizations take action and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact.

---

## Where did the data come from?

This report relies on statistics and quantitative data from sources including Statistics Canada (particularly Census 2021), various government bodies, local organizations, and others. This data will help us to gain an understanding of trends over time.

A full list of sources is available in the back of this report. If you are reading this report electronically, most sources are hyperlinked.

---

## Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC).



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA

For more information - <https://communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/vital-signs/>

CFC surveyed Canadians and published the **National Vital Signs Report**, which focuses on three main themes: Belonging, Engagement and Well-being.

Read the report at - <https://communityfoundations.ca/reconnecting-communities-a-national-vital-signs-report/>

The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were agreed on by all United Nations (UN) member nations in 2015 as "a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for people and the world by 2030".

The 17 goals that comprise the SDGs are ambitious and intend to address challenges both locally and globally, including poverty, inequality, sustainability, and justice.



For more information on the 17 goals visit - [www.sdg.un.org/goals](http://www.sdg.un.org/goals)

In 2018, Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) began aligning Vital Signs data with the SDGs through the national data sets and supporting community foundations in their local alignment. In 2019, CFC shifted the Vital Signs theme descriptions to better reflect the alignment of Vital Signs data with the SDGs. Aligning Vital Signs programming and communication to the SDGs presents an opportunity to measure local progress on Canada's pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and to link local-level work to a broader global movement and purpose.

The Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland is committed to the United Nations SDGs. CFCNS has invested in environmental initiatives since 2007 and we are continuing to build capacity to advance the SDGs by launching our first Vital Signs Report for Northumberland County and we look forward to future sustainability initiatives.

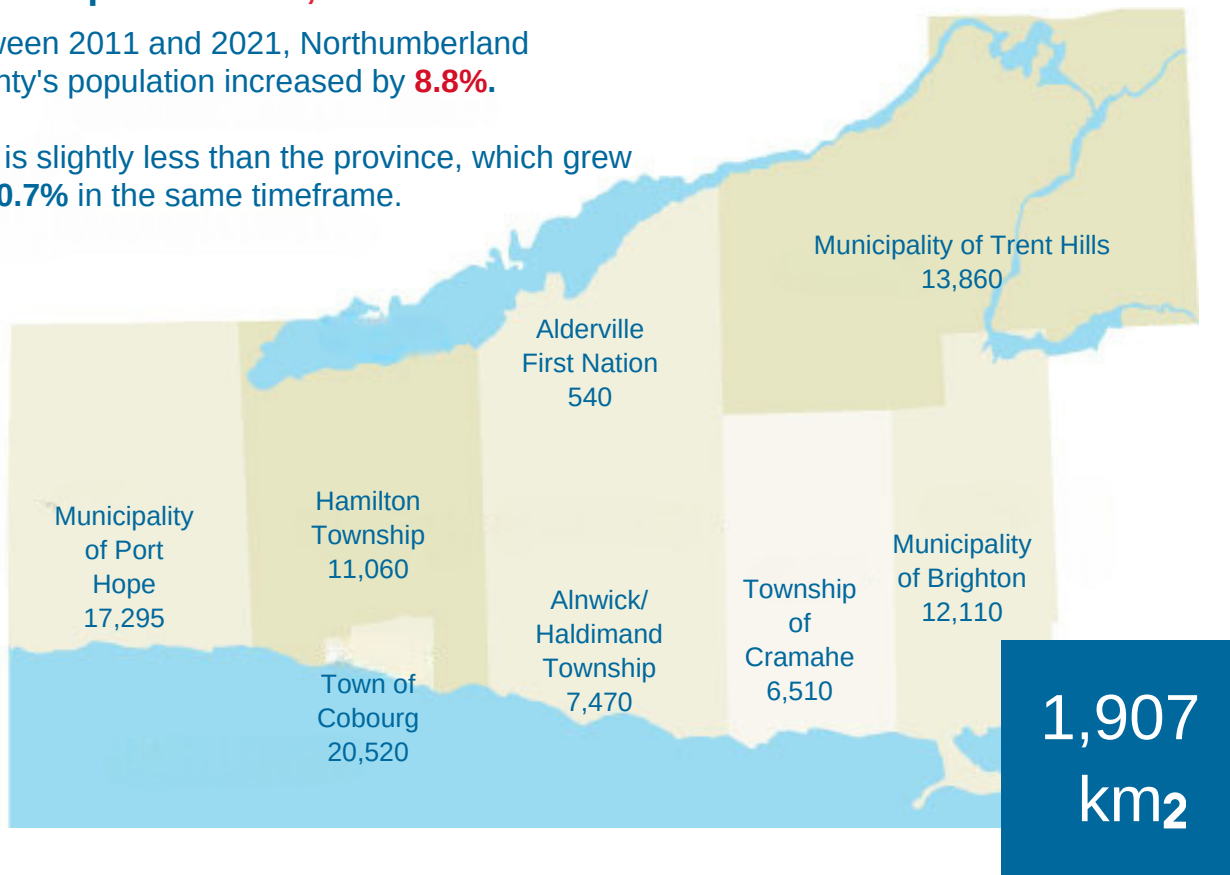
# About Northumberland

Northumberland County is home to seven municipalities, as well as Alderville First Nation. Each community is made up of members from different backgrounds, cultures, religions, races, genders, ages, and socioeconomic statuses, and have varying abilities, interests, and experiences which contribute to a well-rounded and vibrant county.

## Total Population: 89,365

Between 2011 and 2021, Northumberland County's population increased by **8.8%**.

This is slightly less than the province, which grew by **10.7%** in the same timeframe.



## Median Age: 52.4 years

Northumberland County residents are older than our provincial and national counterparts, who are both at **41.6**.

Men+ **50.8 years**

Women+ **54 years**



*Note: 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.*

## Geographic Movement:

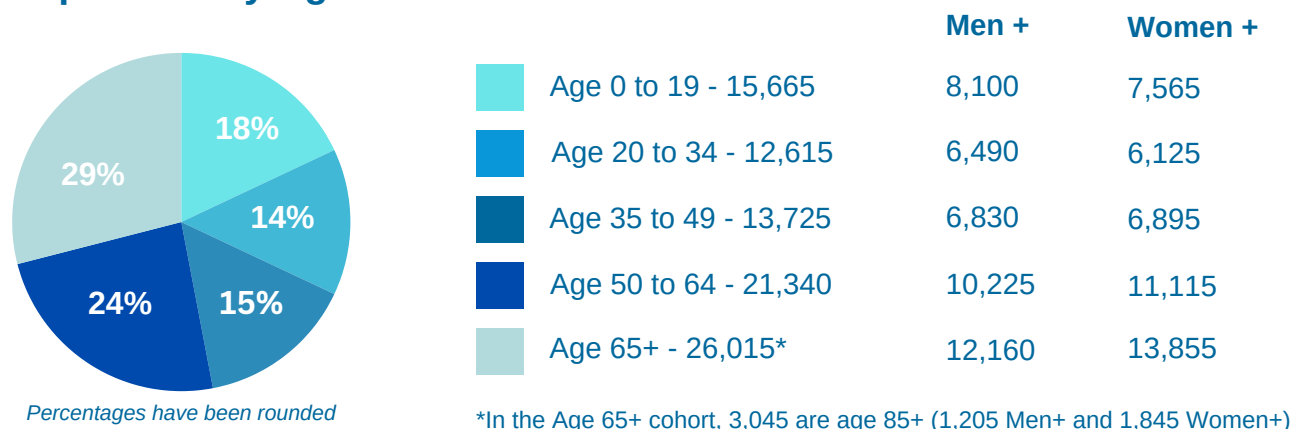
In 2020/2021 **381** people moved from Northumberland County to another province or territory, **84** of those being young adults between the ages of 20 to 34.



**1,855** people moved to Northumberland County from another Ontario community, **310** of them being young adults.



## Population by Age Cohort:



## New Canadians in Northumberland County:

**77%**  
increase in new  
Canadians moving  
to Northumberland

**330** immigrated  
between 2011 & 2015  
**425** immigrated  
between 2016 & 2021



**11%**  
of the 2021 population  
of Northumberland  
County was born  
outside of Canada

## Single Parent Families:

Northumberland County - **13.9%**  
Ontario - **17.1%**

The percentage of lone-parent families is up 0.5 %pts. from 2016.

## Racialized Groups:

Northumberland County - **4.5%** (3,885)  
Ontario - **34.3%**

The percentage of the population that belongs to a racialized group is up 1.0%pt. from 2016 (2,870).

## Languages Most Often Spoken at Home:

**97.9%** of the population spoke **English** and **0.3%** of the population spoke **French** most often at home.

Most common languages among those that spoke a language other than English or French:

- Chinese languages - 0.2%
- Spanish - 0.12%
- Arabic - 0.09%
- Tagalog - 0.08%
- German - 0.07%
- Italian - 0.03%
- Punjabi - 0.03%
- Persian languages - 0.02%
- Indigenous languages - 0.01%



## LEARN MORE

For more details on these and other key indicators, with breakdowns by municipality, please go to the Vital Signs page on our website - [www.cfcsn.ca](http://www.cfcsn.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Total Population
- Foreign Born Population
- Racialized Groups
- Median Age
- Interprovincial and Intraprovincial Migration
- Single Parent Families
- Languages Most Often Spoken at home

# No Poverty

Poverty is not only a lack of income, but also a lack of access to basic services, opportunities, and resources. Poverty affects people's health, education, dignity, and human rights. It also increases the risk of exposure to environmental, social, and economic shocks and disasters.

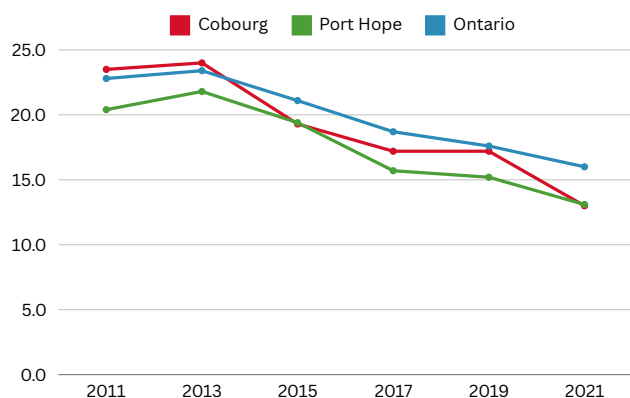
## Low-Income Population:

In both Cobourg and Port Hope, in 2021, **10.8%** of families (married, common-law or single parents living with one or more children) were considered to be in the low income bracket.

**↓ 3%pts.**  
from 2011

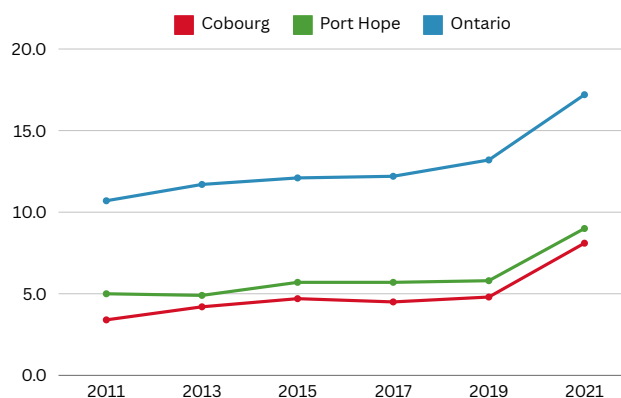
*HKPR District Health Unit 2020 Report on Food Insecurity and Poverty, includes low-income population rates in Trent Hills that are comparable with Cobourg and Port Hope.*

## % Children in Low-Income Families:



Between 2011 and 2021 child poverty has gone down by **10.5%pts.** in Cobourg and **7.3%pts.** in Port Hope.

## % Elderly Low-Income Population:



Between 2011 and 2021 poverty levels for those 65+ has gone up by **4.7%pts.** in Cobourg and **4%pts.** in Port Hope.

There is some good news in the Cobourg and Port Hope data as poverty rates, and particularly **child poverty rates, are declining**. However, poverty rates for populations **over 65 are increasing** and this group makes up 29% of the population of Northumberland County.

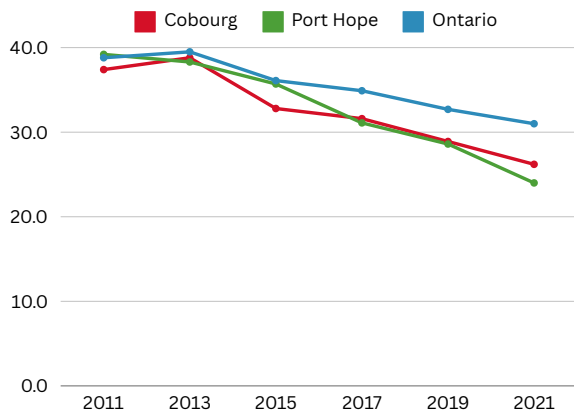


## Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal #1 is about ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.**  
Goal #1 is directly interconnected with Goals #2, #3, #8, and #10.



## Low-Income Lone Parent Families:



Between 2011 and 2021 the lone parent poverty rate has gone down by **11.2%pts.** in Cobourg and **15.2%pts.** in Port Hope.

## Households 2020 After-Tax Income:

Northumberland County Income Bracket:

Under \$10,000 - **1.1%**  
 \$10,000 to \$29,999 - **10.1%**  
 \$30,000 to \$59,999 - **25.9%**  
 \$60,000 to \$99,000 - **32.1%**  
 \$100,000 and over - **30.9%**

## % Change in Household After-Tax Income 2011 to 2021:

Between 2011 and 2021 after-tax income for households in Northumberland County, with income under \$60,000 decreased, while after-tax income for household with income over \$60,000 increased.



*In a 2020 report from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit on Food Insecurity and Poverty, **8.7%** of Northumberland County households, were considered low-income and food insecure.*

Source: [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca)



## LEARN MORE

For more details on these and other key indicators with breakdowns by municipality, please go to the *Vital Signs* page on our website - [www.cfcns.ca](http://www.cfcns.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Low-income Population
- Children in Low-income Families
- Elderly Low-income Population
- Low-Income Lone-Parent Families
- Households by Income Bracket
- Median Household Income
- Median Census Family Income

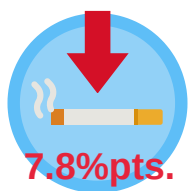
# Good Health and Well-Being

Good health and well-being are essential for human development and happiness. They enable people to live longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives. However, good health and well-being are not equally distributed among different groups and regions. Many factors, such as poverty, discrimination, environmental degradation, and lack of access to quality health care, affect the health outcomes and well-being of individuals and communities.

*NOTE: The data presented is broader than Northumberland County and encompasses the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit region and/or the Central East Home and Community Care Support Services (formerly Central East LHIN) health region.*

## Daily or Occasional Smoker (age 12+):

**13.9%** of our health region population smoke daily or occasionally



Females - **13.2%**  
decrease of 6.8%pts.  
  
Males - **14.6%**  
decrease of 8.8%pts.  
from 2015/2016

## Heavy Drinking at least once a month (age 12+):

**20.8%** of our health region population engage in heavy drinking at least once a month



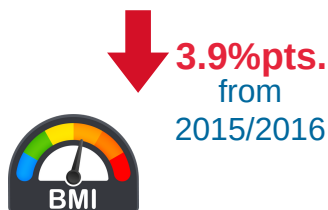
Females - **15.8%**  
decrease of 4%pts.  
  
Males - **26.1%**  
decrease of 0.4%pts.  
from 2015/2016

## Obesity Rates (age 18+):

**34.5%** of our health region population are considered to be obese

Females - **37.1%**  
increase of 2.9%pts.

Males - **32.1%**  
decrease of 10.4%pts.



## Proximity to Health Care:

**62.9%** of the population in Northumberland County communities are within a 3 km driving distance to a health care facility.

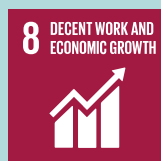


*Health Care Facility is defined as Offices of Physicians, Dentists, Health Practitioners, Community Health Centres, and Hospitals.*

## Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal #3 is about ensuring healthy lives and promoting that well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development.**

Goal #3 is directly interconnected with Goals #1, #2, #7, #8, #10 and #15.



## Rates of hospitalization for chronic diseases and injuries:

Disease/Injury	HKPR District Rate/100,000	Ontario Rate/100,000
Cardiovascular disease	847.2	787.8
Respiratory disease	499.6	411.3
Falls	288.5	266.8
Intentional self-harm	68.1	60.4
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD)	150.7	110.4
Diabetes	124.3	99.2
Ischemic heart disease	292.2	233.8

*Note that all rates for the HKPR District are higher than Ontario's rates.*

*Source: Chronic Disease Hospitalization Snapshot and Hospitalization for Injury Snapshot, Public Health Ontario 2020*

## Perceived Mental Health in 2019/2020:

**67.5%** of the population 12+ reported perceiving their own mental health status as being **very good or excellent.**

Males 12+ **68.9%**  
(up 2.9%pts. from 2015/2016)

Females 12+ **66.1%**  
(down 1.6%pts. from 2015/2016)

  
0.6%pts. from  
2015/2016



**8.8%** of the population 12+ reported perceiving their own mental health status as being **fair or poor.**

Males 12+ **7.9%**  
(up 0.6%pts. from 2015/2016)

Females 12+ **9.7%**  
(up 1.9%pts. from 2015/2016)

  
1.3%pts. from  
2015/2016




## Perceived Life Stress in 2019/2020:

**20.5%** of the population 12+ reported perceiving that most days in their life were quite a bit, or extremely stressful.

Males 12+ **17.6%**  
same as 2015/2016

Females 12+ **23.4%**  
up 2.1%pts. from 2015/2016

  
1%pt. from  
2015/2016



## Life Expectancy at Birth:

The life expectancy at birth for HKPR District Health Area is **81.2** years.

Males  
**79.3**  
years

Females  
**83.2**  
years

Based on three  
consecutive years of  
death data 2015 - 2017.



### LEARN MORE

For more details on these and other key indicators, with break downs by municipality, please go to the Vital Signs page on our website - [www.cfcsn.ca](http://www.cfcsn.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Smoking Rate
- Heavy Drinking
- Obesity Rate
- Proportion of Population with a Regular Health Care Provider
- Proximity to Health Care
- Physician-to-100,000 Population Ratio
- Psychiatrists-to-100,000 Population Ratio
- Perceived Life Stress
- Perceived Mental Health
- Live Expectancy at Birth

# Quality Education

Everyone is entitled to access to inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities. Quality education is not only about acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and beliefs, but also about developing the potential of each individual and contributing to the well-being of society.

## Educational Attainment:

**52.1%**

Percent of population with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree (age 15+) in Northumberland County in 2021.



Increase of 1.3%pts. from 2016



Ontario  
**57.5%**



Males  
**50.7%**

Ontario  
**56.2%**



Females  
**53.4%**

Ontario  
**58.8%**

## High School Non-Completion Rate:

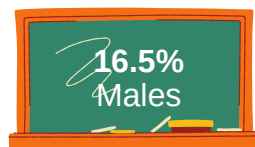
Percent of Population without a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree (age 15+) in Northumberland County in 2021.

**15.7%**  
Total  
Population



Improved by 2.6%pts. since 2016 (18.3%)

Ontario  
**15.3%**



Improved by 4%pts. since 2016 (20.5%)

Ontario  
**15.8%**



**14.8%**  
Females

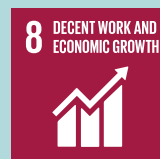
Improved by 1.5%pts. since 2016 (16.3%)

Ontario  
**14.8%**

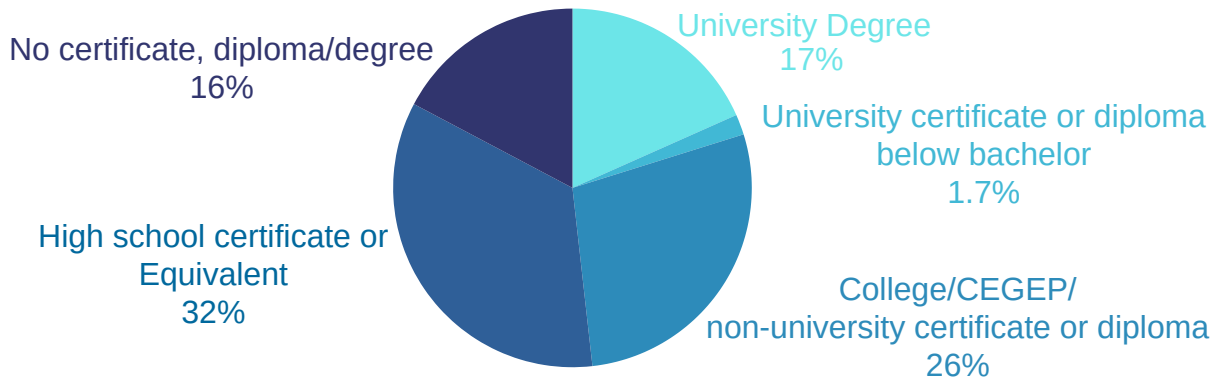
## Sustainable Development Goals

Goal #4 is about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal #4 is directly interconnected with Goals #1, #5, #8 and #10.



## Educational Level:



## Proximity to Child Care:

In 2020, the Municipality of Port Hope had the highest rate of residents living within 1.5km of a licensed childcare facility, at **65.5%**. The Town of Cobourg was next, at **51.6%**, and the other communities were all under **5%**.



## Readiness for School:

**32%** of senior kindergarten students in Northumberland County were considered vulnerable in at least one of five areas of early development in 2017-2018.

1. Physical health and well-being
2. Social competence
3. Emotional maturity
4. Language and cognitive development
5. General knowledge and communication skills



Ontario  
**29.6%**



The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a teacher-completed survey developed by McMaster University.

Children identified as being vulnerable in kindergarten are more likely to demonstrate poor school performance in later years.

More current data is not available at this time.

Source: [EDI Summary Report - Senior Kindergarten Students in the province of Ontario - NORTHUMBERLAND - School year 2017/2018](#)

### Learn More

For more details on these and other key indicators, with breakdowns by municipality, please go to the *Vital Signs* page on our website - [www.cfcsn.ca](http://www.cfcsn.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Educational Attainment
- High School Non-Completion Rate
- Education Level
- Proximity to Child Care
- Readiness for School

# Decent Work and Livable Income

Decent work and a livable income are important for all because they enable people to meet their basic needs, maintain a safe and dignified standard of living, and participate fully in society. Decent work and a livable income are also essential for human rights, social justice, and sustainable development. Sustainable economic growth requires societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs.

## Median Household After-Tax Income in Northumberland in 2020:

**\$74,500**

Ontario **\$79,500**



Increase of **19.8%** from 2015

Under \$10,000 - **1.1%**  
 \$10,000 to \$29,999 - **10.1%**  
 \$30,000 to \$59,999 - **25.9%**  
 \$60,000 to \$99,000 - **32.1%**  
 \$100,000 and over - **30.9%**



In 2023, a **LIVING WAGE** for residents of Northumberland County was **\$20.60** per hour.

*A living wage is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing, health care, education, and other essential expenses.*

The minimum wage in Ontario at that time, fell short at \$16.65 per hour.

*A living wage is different from a minimum wage, which is the lowest amount of money someone can earn as mandated by law.*

Source: [www.ontariolivingwage.ca](http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca)

## Median Individual Income Gap:

The median income gap refers to the difference between male and female income in the same year.



In 2021, in Cobourg the median income gap was **\$12,010** and in Port Hope it was **\$14,120**, indicating a higher income among males in both communities.

	Cobourg	Port Hope
Males	<b>\$49,800</b>	<b>\$52,020</b>
Females	<b>\$37,790</b>	<b>\$37,900</b>

**Inflation 2016 to 2022**  
 Between 2016 and 2020, the inflation rate was **6.4%**, and inflation increased to **11.4%** between 2020 and 2022.

Source: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/>

## Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goal #8 is about striving to promote, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, with decent work for all.

Goal #8 is directly interconnected with Goals #1, #2, #5, and #10.





## Labour Force Participation:

In 2021, the employment rate (ages 15+) was **48.6%** in Northumberland County.

Males **52.2%**  
Females **45.3%**

Ontario **55.1%**



4%pts.  
Compared  
to 2016

## Unemployment Rate:

In 2021, the unemployment rate (ages 15+) was **10.9%** in Northumberland County.

Males **10.2%**  
Females **11.7%**

Ontario **12.2%**



3.6%pts.  
Compared  
to 2016

## Top Occupations in Northumberland County by Industry Sector:

- Health care & social assistance: **13%**
- Retail Trade: **12%**
- Manufacturing: **11%**
- Construction: **11%**
- Education services: **6%**
- Public Administration: **6%**
- Professional, scientific & technical services: **6%**
- Accommodation & food services: **5%**
- Admin. & support, waste management & remediation services: **4%**
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting: **3%**



## Proportion of Labour Force in Trades:

**20.9%**



of the labour force, age 15 years and over, in Northumberland County were occupied in trades in 2021.

3.3%pts.  
Compared  
to 2016



## Proportion of Artists:

**3.0%** 1,255 people identified themselves as artists.



0.6%pts.  
Increase of 250  
artists since 2016



Artists are defined as individuals (aged 15+) employed in occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport.

### Learn More

For more details on these and other key indicators, with break downs by municipality, please go to the *Vital Signs* page on our website - [www.cfcns.ca](http://www.cfcns.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Employment Rate (15+)
- Unemployment Rate (15+)
- Median Individual Income
- Median Individual Income Gap
- Top Occupations by Industry Sector
- Proportion of Labour Force in Trades
- Proportion of Artists
- Canada Council for the Arts Funding

# Sustainable Cities and Community Vitality

Sustainable cities and communities are essential for the well-being of people and the planet. They are places where people can live, work, and thrive in harmony with nature and each other. They are also places where challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and pollution can be addressed and overcome.

## Population Density:

**46.9**  
people per  
square km

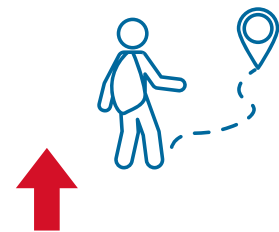


Increase of 2 people  
per sq. km.  
from 2016

in Northumberland County

## Migrant Population:

In 2021, **28.8%** of residents  
in Northumberland County  
lived in a different city, town,  
province, territory or country  
five years prior.



Increase of 6 %pts. from 2016

## Voter Turnout:

**69.7%**

of eligible voters  
voted in the 2021  
federal election.

Ontario 62%  
Down 5.8 %pts.  
from 2019



1.8 %pts.  
from 2019



Northumberland -  
Peterborough  
South  
Federal  
Electoral  
District



## Female Candidates in Federal Elections:

**3**

female candidates ran in  
the 2021 federal election.  
**No** female candidate  
was elected.

Ontario **256** ran, **44** elected  
Canada **762** ran, **103** elected

## Sustainable Development Goals

Goal #11 is about ensuring a future in which cities provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.

Goal #11 is directly interconnected with Goals #1, #3, #10, and #16.



## Sense of Belonging to a Local Community:

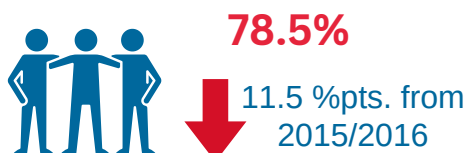
In 2019/2020 **73.6%** of the total population 12 and over reported a **somewhat strong** or **very strong** sense of belonging to their local community.

Males 12+ **71.7%**  
(up 4.3 %pts. from 2015/2016)

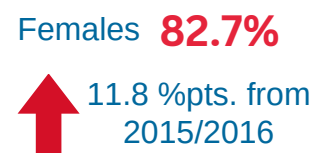
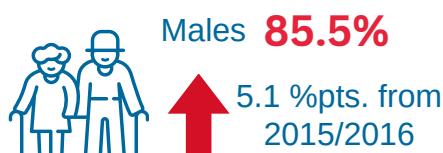
Females 12+ **75.4%**  
(down 5.5 %pts. from 2015/2016)

Ontario 12+  
71.3%

### Youth 12 - 17 years of age



### Elderly (65+)



*Sense of community belonging is key to community health and vitality, and it is impacted by many connected factors. With an older and largely rural population, as we have in Northumberland County, social isolation and loneliness can contribute to a reduced sense of belonging to a local community and to reduced community participation.*

*While there is no current Northumberland County data in this first Vital Signs report on social isolation, loneliness, or community participation, all are priority areas to follow over time to better understand impacts of the pandemic on community health and vitality since 2020.*

## Commuting in Northumberland in 2021:



**92.8%**

used an automobile either  
as a driver or a passenger



**0.6%**

used public  
transit



**6.6%**

used active transportation  
or other methods

*Northumberland County has a **Transportation Master Plan (TMP)** to assist decision makers in establishing and prioritizing the needs of the County's transportation infrastructure.*

## Commuting Duration & Distance in 2020:

(for employed labour force 15+)

- Less than 15 minutes - **35%**
- 15 to 29 minutes - **28.1%**
- 30 to 44 minutes - **16.7%**
- 45 to 59 minutes - **8.8%**
- 60 minutes and over - **11.3%**
- **35.6%** commute within their own town or municipality
- **28.3%** commute to another town or municipality in Northumberland County
- **35.8%** commute to work outside of Northumberland County



### LEARN MORE

For more details on these and other key indicators, with break downs by municipality, please go to the *Vital Signs* page on our website - [www.cfcns.ca](http://www.cfcns.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

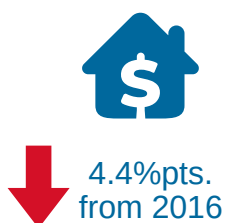
- Population Density
- Migrant Population
- Sense of Belonging to a Local Community
- Mode of Commuting
- Commuting Duration and Distance
- Proximity to Neighbourhood Parks
- Voter Turnout
- Female Candidates in Federal Elections

# Housing

Housing is a fundamental human right and access to safe, affordable, and sustainable housing is essential for the well-being of individuals and communities. Adequate housing is key to addressing poverty and reducing inequities. Making access to housing more affordable is a complex and urgent need that requires collective and innovative approaches.

## Gross Shelter Income Ratio:

In 2021, **18.5%** of owners and tenants in Northumberland County were spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs.



## Private Households by Tenure:

There were **37,330** private households in Northumberland County in 2021.

- **80.8%** were owner occupied
- **19%** were renter occupied

## Core Housing Need:

In 2021, **8%** of households in Northumberland County were in core housing need, down 4.6%pts. from 2016.

A household is considered to be in “core housing need” if it falls below one of these standards:

**Affordable Housing** = shelter cost are less than 30% of total before-tax household income

Percent of households who consider their housing to be:

- Unaffordable - **16.2%**
- Inadequate - **4.3%**
- Unsuitable - **2.3%**



**Adequate Housing** = reported by residents as not requiring any major repairs

**Suitable Housing** = has enough bedrooms for size and composition of resident households according to National Occupancy Standards.

## Proportion of Dwelling Units Requiring Major Repairs:

**6.2%**  
in Northumberland County  
**5.7%** Ontario



**Major Repairs** = defective plumbing or electrical wiring and structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings

## Sustainable Development Goals

Access to safe and affordable housing is directly interconnected with Goals # 1, #3, #8, #10 and #11, and indirectly connected with Goal #12.



## Rentals:

Rental Vacancy Rate in 2022 in Northumberland County

**1%**



In the fall of 2022, the estimated average rent for a property in Northumberland County was

**\$1,574.00**

*Northumberland County and the Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC) are actively engaged in increasing the local stock of affordable housing.*

## Rent Affordability:

Family Type	Average Monthly Income	% of Income required for rent
Family of 4 Median Income	\$9,323.00	17%
Family of 4 Minimum Wage	\$3,973.00	39%
Family of 4 Ontario Works	\$2,760.00	56%
Single Senior Old Age Security Guaranteed Income	\$1,885.00	67%
Single Adult - Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,309.00	96%

*Source: HKPR District Health Unit - Addressing Food Insecurity and Poverty report 2022*

## Social Housing:

Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC) reports:

**319** people were added to the waitlist in 2022

**1,000** people in total were on a waitlist for affordable housing in 2022

**↑ 300%** since 2010

*Source: 2023 National Housing Day Report*

Households on the waitlist with NCHC for subsidized housing are waiting up to:

- 8 years in Port Hope
- 8 years in Cobourg
- 8 years in Campbellford
- 6 years in Brighton
- 5 years in Colborne



NCHC manages **373** affordable housing units in partnership with the county.

## Emergency Housing and Shelters (2023):

**Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre** (Cornerstone) has **19 beds**, and is an accredited violence against women agency.

[www.cornerstonenorthumberland.ca](http://www.cornerstonenorthumberland.ca)



**Transition House** is Northumberland County's emergency shelter, and has **22 beds**.

<https://thshelter.ca/>



### LEARN MORE

For more details on these and other key indicators, with breakdowns by municipality, please go to the Vital Signs page on our website - [www.cfcns.ca](http://www.cfcns.ca)

The data includes these Key Indicators:

- Gross Shelter Income Ratio
- Private Households by Tenure
- Core Housing Need
- Vacancy Rates
- Proportion of Dwelling Units Requiring Major Repairs

# Agriculture and Food

Agriculture is a vital part of Northumberland's economy and identity, contributing to its food security, environmental sustainability, and social well-being.

## Number of Farms in Northumberland County:

**840**



Decrease of 114 farms since 2016



**33%** of the farms are under 70 acres  
**10%** of the farms are over 500 acres

## Number of Acres in Farmland:

**203,446**



Decrease of 28,160 acres since 2016



**67%** of the land in Northumberland County is considered prime agricultural land.  
146,296 acres (31%) of it is protected.

## Agriculture and Food Economy:

**31%** of Northumberland County's economy is in the agriculture and food sector

Farm cash receipts of over **\$173,750,000** in 2021



Increase of \$32,050,000 from 2016

**12%** of the labour force works in the agriculture and food sector = 4,490 jobs



Decreased 2% from 2016

Source: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

## Number of Farm Operators:

**1,195**



Decrease of 190 farmers since 2016



## Average Age of Farmers:

**58.2**



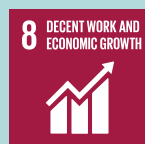
In 2016 the average age was 57.3



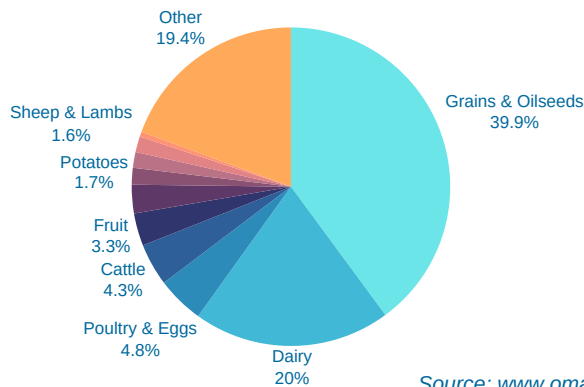
## Sustainable Development Goals

Goal #2 is about ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Goal #2 is directly interconnected with Goals #3, #8, #10 and #12.

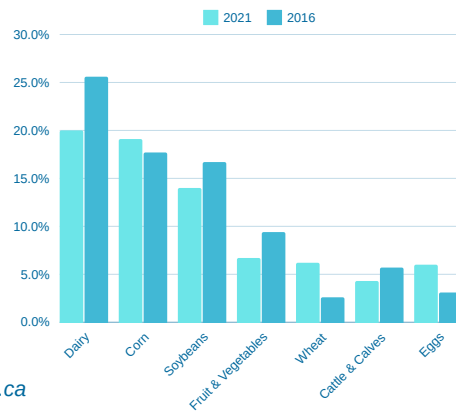


## % Revenue of Crops Grown in Northumberland County:



Source: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

## Farm Cash Receipts for Main Commodities:



## Monitoring Food Affordability:

Since 1998, Ontario Public Health Units have been mandated to monitor food affordability using the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB). A selection of 2022 results for Northumberland County show how different household incomes can affect healthy eating.

Family Type	Average Monthly Income	% of Income required for rent	% of income required for nutritious food	\$ remaining for other basic needs
Family of 4 Median Income	\$9,323.00	17%	12%	\$6,661.00
Family of 4 Minimum Wage	\$3,973.00	39%	28%	\$1,311.00
Family of 4 Ontario Works	\$2,760.00	56%	40%	\$98.00
Single Senior Old Age Security Guaranteed Income	\$1,885.00	67%	15%	\$341.00
Single Adult Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,309.00	96%	30%	-\$347.00

Source: HKPR District Health Unit - Addressing Food Insecurity and Poverty report 2022

## Number of Food Banks:

**12**



Recognizing the need:

- Served **4,246** individuals in 2022
- **29%** were children (17 & under)
- **71%** were adults 18 & over
- **16%** were single parent families
- **16%** were two parent families
- **11%** were couples with no children
- **45%** were single people
- **12%** were classified as other
- **39%** were on disability related benefits

## Northumberland County Food 4 All:

Distributed **1,304,575** pounds of product at a value of \$4,592,104

- **79%** to Food Banks
- **14%** to Community Groups
- **7%** to Student Nutrition Programs



Source: Northumberland County Food 4 All Feed The Change report

**Learn More**

For more details on these and other key indicators go to the Vital Signs page on [www.cfcsn.ca](http://www.cfcsn.ca)

# Environmental Initiatives

Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage and support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation. While we may not have data to monitor key indicators at this time, we can spotlight initiatives to protect natural habitats and biodiversity, water security, clean energy, climate action planning and climate change vulnerability in Northumberland.

## Spotlight on Land:

The Rice Lake Plains of Northumberland County are known as a unique tallgrass prairie and oak savanna habitat and cover an area of approximately **40,000 hectares** (98,842 acres). The **Rice Lake Plains Partnership** is a multi-partner conservation and stewardship project.

Source: <https://www.ricelakeplains.ca/>



The **Alderville Black Oak Savanna** site is a 81-hectare grassland restoration site with an abundance of rare and at-risk plant and animal species. It is home to an Ecology Centre and Gitigaan and Mitigomin Native Plant Nursery.

Source: <https://www.alderillesavanna.ca>

Forest services is responsible for managing approximately **2,224 hectares** (5,500 acres) of mainly forested land, know as the **Northumberland County Forest**.

Source: [www.northumberland.ca](http://www.northumberland.ca)



**Northumberland Land Trust** owns, stewards and protects **1368 acres** of land on 14 nature reserves in Northumberland County.

Source: <https://nltrust.ca/>

## Spotlight on Water:

The **Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority** manages a watershed area of approximately **935 sq. km** encompassing 7 municipalities, 4 of which are in Northumberland County.

Source: [www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca)



The **Lower Trent Conservation** manages a watershed region encompassing **2,070 square kilometres** which includes the furthest downstream section of the Trent River and a number of smaller watercourses from Grafton to Quinte West.

Source: [www.ltca.on.ca](http://www.ltca.on.ca)

## Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal #13 is about taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

**Goal #15 recognizes the interconnectedness of ecosystems, biodiversity, and human well-being.**

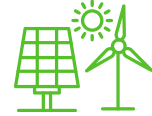
Both these goals are directly interconnected with Goals #3, #7, and #12.





## Spotlight on Clean Energy:

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is Sustainable Development Goal #7.



Clean energy data in Northumberland County in 2018 included **68.25** mega watts. This estimate excludes Micro-Fit installs (less than 10kWh). Recent data was not available at the time of this report.

The **Alderville Solar Farm** (completed in 2013) is the first facility of its kind in Ontario to be 100% owned and operated by a First Nations community and has a capacity of **5.7** mega watts.

Source: <https://www.lakefrontutilities.com/generation/>

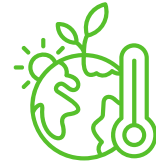
Source: <https://alderville.ca/our-offices-services/solar-farm/>

## Spotlight on Climate Action Planning:

The Community Foundation held a Vital Conversation event on the environment and community in 2021 and the highest neighbourhood concerns by far were related to actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Municipalities in Northumberland County, and the County itself, are at various stages of progress with climate change mitigation and adaptation planning. Four of the seven municipalities have active committees of Council to support their work.

The Town of Cobourg has developed an *Integrated Community Sustainability Plan*. The Municipality of Port Hope and the Municipality of Brighton are developing Community Climate Emergency Action Plans in 2024.



## Spotlight on Climate Change Vulnerability:

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit monitors climate change vulnerability and adaptation and reports on the ways that people living on low-incomes experience vulnerability to climate change.

**84.2%** of adults (18+) in Northumberland County are concerned about climate change.

People with limited resources have more barriers to taking protective actions such as owning and running an air conditioner. According to HKPR District Health Unit research, people living on low-incomes are more likely to experience heat-related illnesses and greater exposure to unsafe food or water during an extreme weather event.

**92%** of adults (18+) in Northumberland County think climate change is likely to cause more extreme weather locally.



### LEARN MORE

For more background information and links to resources, please go to the *Vital Signs* page on our website - [www.cfcns.ca](http://www.cfcns.ca)

Source: Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit 2023 report, *Climate Change Health Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment*

---

# Take Action

## Vital Steps YOU can take:

- **Research and learn** more about some of the issues affecting our communities.
- **Start a conversation** about issues highlighted in this report and work together for change.
- **Share this report** with friends, family, neighbours, co-workers and local community service organizations and encourage them to get involved.
- **Volunteer** as much of your time as you can for a cause that interests you.
- **Donate** to the best of your ability to the outstanding charitable organizations who serve our community.
- **Support local businesses** to help retain employment and keep the unemployment rate low.
- **Vote**, so your voice is heard.

## Give Where You Live!

YOUR donation to the **Northumberland County Endowment Fund** will benefit YOUR community forever. All donations, no matter how large or small, make a difference. Future grants from this fund will assist local charities in taking action on the most pressing issues in this report.

Together we strengthen our community and improve the quality of life for all.

You can find all the donor information on our website [www.cfcsn.ca](http://www.cfcsn.ca)

---

# Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who helped make Northumberland's Vital Signs report a reality:

## Vital Signs Team:

- Martha Murphy - Executive Director, CFCSN
- Pamela van de Steeg - Research & Production, Executive Assistant, CFCSN
- Heidi Schaeffer - Research & Writing, Advancing Change Together Consulting
- Heather Hodder - Cover design, A & E Graphics

## Community Reviewers:

- Trish Baird - CEO, Community Care Northumberland
- Art Chamberlain - Communications Committee and Copy Editor
- Russ Christianson - Founding member of CSCF
- Maggie Darling - Director, Communications & Impact, Northumberland United Way
- Kira Mees - Community Development Manager, Municipality of Trent Hills
- Mary Pickering - Senior Advisor, Low Carbon Cities Canada
- John Russell - Executive Director, Campbellford Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Alicia Vandine - Executive Director, Northumberland United Way

**Photo Credits:** Martha Murphy, Alderville First Nation

# Sources

- [Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Census Profile, 2016 Census \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Census Profile, 2016 Census - Northumberland, County \[Census division\], Ontario and Ontario \[Province\] \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Northumberland, County \(CTY\) \[Census division\], Ontario \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Community Profiles from the 2006 Census, Statistics Canada \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Components of population change by census division, 2016 boundaries \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#)
- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in selected census metropolitan areas, annual \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions, all areas, annual \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, vacancy rates, apartment structures of six units and over, privately initiated in urban centres of 10,000 to 49,999 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Children Vulnerable in Areas of Early Development | CIHI](#)
- [Community Power Northumberland](#)
- [Early Development Instrument Summary Report for Northumberland County](#)
- [Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre](#)
- [Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority](#)
- [Green Communities Canada](#)
- [Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit - Addressing Food Insecurity and Poverty 2022 Report](#)
- [Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit - 2023 Report, Climate Change Health Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment](#)
- [Health characteristics, two-year period estimates \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Lower Trent Conservation Authority](#)
- [National Household Survey \(NHS\) Profile, 2011 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Northumberland Land Trust](#)
- [Northumberland County Food For All - Feed The Change Report 2023](#)
- [Northumberland County Forest](#)
- [Northumberland County Transportation Master Plan](#)
- [Ontario Living Wage Network](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)
- [Past elections – Elections Canada](#)
- [Population and dwelling counts: Canada and census subdivisions \(municipalities\) \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Proximity Measures Database \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Rice Lake Plains](#)
- [Scott's Medical Database metadata | CIHI](#)
- [Statistics Canada – After-tax low-income status of tax filers and dependents](#)
- [Statistics Canada – Census families by family type and family composition including before and after-tax median income of the family](#)
- [Statistics Canada – Income Inequality Statistics](#)
- [Statistics Canada – Characteristics of farm operators](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations](#)
- [Tax Filers with Charitable Donations by Sex and Age](#)
- [Transition House](#)
- [Women Candidates in General Elections \(parl.ca\)](#)

## For more information about housing in Northumberland County:

- [Northumberland County Community Housing Master Plan \(2023 - 2028\)](#)
- [Northumberland County Housing and Homelessness Plan 2019-2029](#)
- [Northumberland-County-Affordable-Housing-Strategy](#)
- [2022 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report \(northumberland.ca\)](#)
- [Northumberland County Housing Corporation Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027](#)
- [Northumberland County Strategic Plan 2023 to 2027](#)
  - [Northumberland County Performance Dashboard](#)

**Note:** The data in the report uses both percent change (%) and percentage point change (% pt.). Percent change describes how much a number has changed in relation to a previous number. Percentage point is the difference between percentages. (A value of 10% falling by 1 percentage point becomes 9% (10% has 10 percentage points). A fall of 1% would result in a value of 9.9%).

---

*The communities we grow up in  
– and move into  
– make us who we are.*



*Every community is the sum of the people who live within it  
– a unique mix of our personalities, cultures,  
interests and opportunities.*

*The things we care about, the time we invest, the people we  
bring together – they all shape our communities now and for  
future generations.*

*Giving back is how the cycle of vibrant and  
sustainable communities continue.*

Adapted from Community Foundations of Canada



**Community Foundation**  
of Campbellford/Seymour  
and Northumberland

SUPPORTING OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Please contact our Executive Director, Martha Murphy,  
to find out how you can *Give Where You Live*.

39 Doxsee Avenue North, Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0  
www.cfcsn.ca | info@cfcsn.ca | 705-653-2005  
Charity Registration No. 898077912 RR0001



Scan for report

