Rural Ontario Institute – Community Wellbeing Indicators



Indicator selection

We used CSA Standard R113-22 as the guiding framework for developing a set of indicators. We selected indicators from this standard that were supported by readily available data at the community level. To address data gaps, we also identified additional indicators to complete the set. Unfortunately, we could not find data for all of the indicators that we wanted to include. We will continue to search for appropriate data sources or proxy indicators.

The set of wellbeing indicators will be reviewed annually. Indicators may be removed if we receive consistent and repeated feedback that the indicator is not relevant for assessing wellbeing or for providing context. We may also retire indicators if the data source will no longer be regularly updated, or if data will no longer be available at the community level. Indicators may be added to the set if we receive consistent and repeated feedback that the indicator is needed to address a gap. We will publish the results from our annual review and keep the indicator list updated.

List of community wellbeing indicators (last updated September 2024)

Here is a list of all community wellbeing indicators, along with their status.

Indicators that are "in use" are currently included in the dashboard. About 60 indicators are in use.

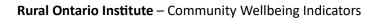
Indicators that are "under development" will be added to the dashboard when data analysis work is complete. One indicator is currently under development related to forest disturbances.

We are seeking community-level data sources or proxies for approximately 30 indicators related to topics such as labour force, community safety, civic engagement and governance, health, and environmental hazards.

Moving forward, indicators that are being considered for removal or addition will be listed as "under review."



Category	Theme	Indicators	Indicator status
Demographics	Age characteristics	Age distribution	In use
		Median age	
	Population	2021 Population	
		Population Change 2016-2021	
		Population density	
		Population change - young	
		adults	
		Population dependency ratio	
Economics	Employment	Did not work	In use
		Casual employees	
		Worked from home	
		Jobs by industry/% change by	
		industry 2021-2022	
		Local employment	
		Labour force participation	Seeking data source or
		Unemployment rate	proxy
		Employment rate	
	Income	Median household income	In use
		Household income	
		distribution	
		Median individual Income	
		Low-income measure (individual)	
		Source of income	Seeking data source or
			proxy
	Internet	Households with 50/10	In use
		broadband service	
		Households without internet	
Housing	Core housing need	Inadequate housing	In use
		Unaffordable housing	
		Unsuitable housing	
		Core housing need	
	Dwellings	Shelter costs	
		Usual residents	
		Dwelling size	
		Dwelling type	
		Household type	
		Median income by household	
		type	
	Households	Household size	
		Household tenure	





Category	Theme	Indicators	Indicator status
		One-parent households	
Health	Access to health services	Number and types of health facilities	In use
		Access to a health care provider	Seeking data source or proxy
		Emergency department visits	
	Health behaviours	Nutrition	
		Physical activity	
	Long term care	Proportion of residents aged 85+	In use
		Number of long term care	
		homes	
		Number of spaces	
		Wait times for long term care	
		Long term care ratio	
	Mental health	Number of calls for mental health services	
		Reasons for requesting mental health services	
		Perceived mental health	Seeking data source or proxy
	Mortality	Premature mortality	Seeking data source or
		Common chronic conditions	proxy
Society	Arts & Culture	Number and types of	In use
		charitable arts organizations	
		Revenue of charitable arts	
		organizations Number of types of arts &	-
		cultural facilities	
	Education	Highest level of education	
		achieved	
	Population Diversity	Knowledge of languages	
		Gender diversity	
		Indigenous identity	
		Immigration	
		Racialized groups	
		Religion & spirituality	
	Community safety	Violent crime	Seeking data source or
		Property crime	proxy
		Sexual crime	
		Crimes against children	
		Crimes against women	





Category	Theme	Indicators	Indicator status
		Young offenders	
		Crime severity index	
	Civic engagement &	Volunteering	Seeking data source or
	governance	Voter turnout	proxy
		Acclaimed positions on council	
		Women in elected council	
		positions	
		Municipal revenues and	
F		expenses	1
Environment	Climate change	Hottest day	In use
		Coldest day	
		Length of winter season	
		Days with Humidex >35	
		Length of growing season	
		Total precipitation	
	Ecological Footprint	Ecological Footprint	
		Biological capacity	
		Biocapacity balance	
	Transportation	Main mode of commuting	
		Long commute	
		Local commute	
	Conservation	Protected areas	In use
	Environmental hazards	Forest disturbance by fire and pests	Under development
		Boil water advisories	Seeking data source or proxy
		Air quality warnings	
		Flood warnings	
		Extreme weather events	
		Emergency response to natural disasters	