



Grey Bruce
Public Health

2021 Census

Grey Bruce Population Overview

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
About this Report	1
Data Source & Notes	1
Credits & Suggested Citation	2
Highlighted Figures	2
Population and Population Change 2016-2021	3
Population Age Distribution	4
Population by Age and Gender	5
Demographic Dependency Ratios	6
Tables.....	7

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report summarizes key information about the Grey Bruce population, 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).

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). 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

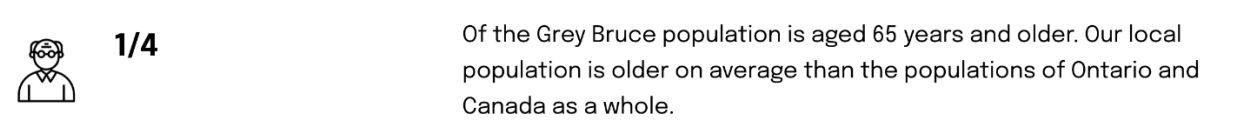
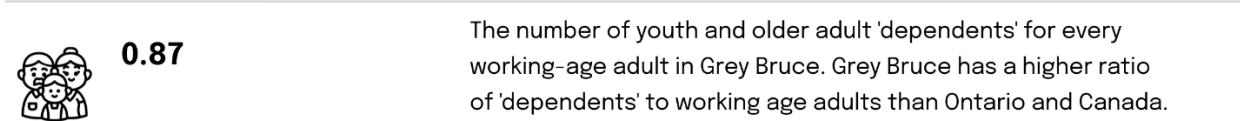
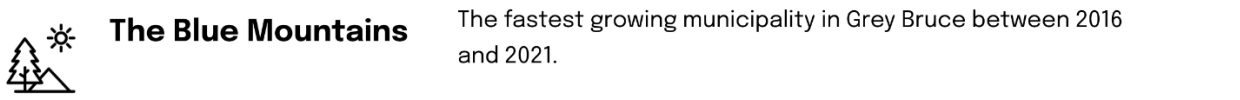
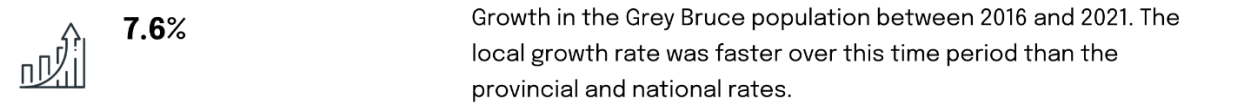
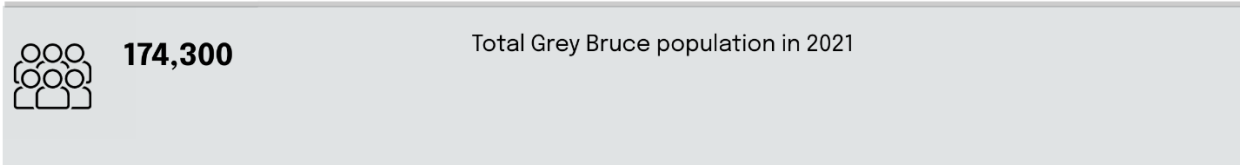
denoted by the "+" symbol. "Men+" includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons. "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.¹

CREDITS & SUGGESTED CITATION

Prepared by: Shelby Huffman, Health Data Analyst. Reviewed by Dr. Rim Zayed, Physician Consultant.

Suggested Citation: Grey Bruce Health Unit. (2023). 2021 Census: Grey Bruce Population Overview. Owen Sound, Ontario: Grey Bruce Health Unit.

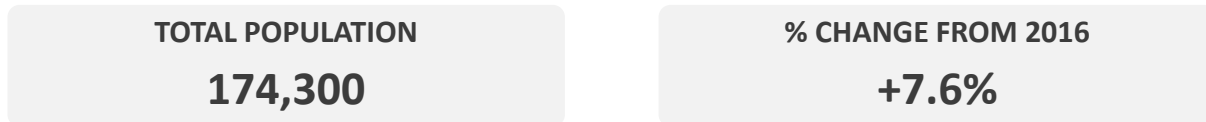
HIGHLIGHTED FIGURES



¹ 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).

POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGE 2016-2021

Figure 1. Population and Population Change Key Figures, Grey Bruce 2021



The census period between 2016 and 2021 was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which was declared in March of 2020. The pandemic and its effects on how Canadians live, and work caused rapid growth in some small population centres within a 2-hour drive of Toronto.² During this time, the population of the Grey Bruce Health Region increased by 7.6%, up from a 2.1% increase between the previous 2 census periods (2011 to 2016). The growth in population in Grey Bruce was higher than the provincial and national increases of 5.8% and 5.2%, respectively. This contrasts with the previous census period between 2011 and 2016, when the local rate of change was lower than the provincial and national rates. The total population of Grey Bruce in 2021 was 174,300.

Figure 2. Population in 2021, Grey Bruce Census Subdivisions

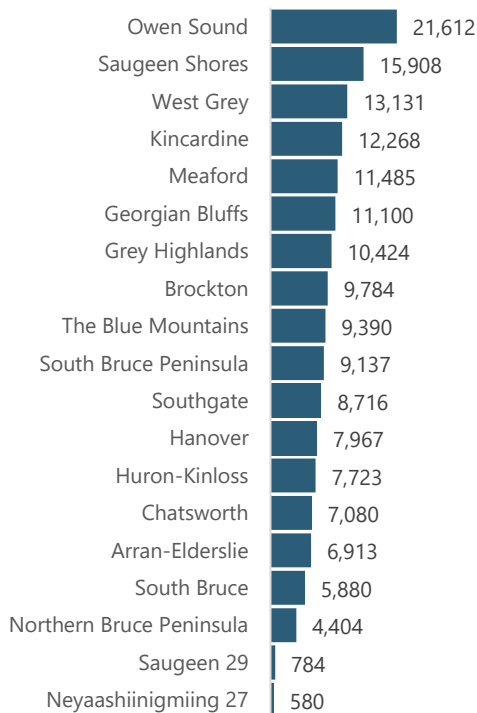
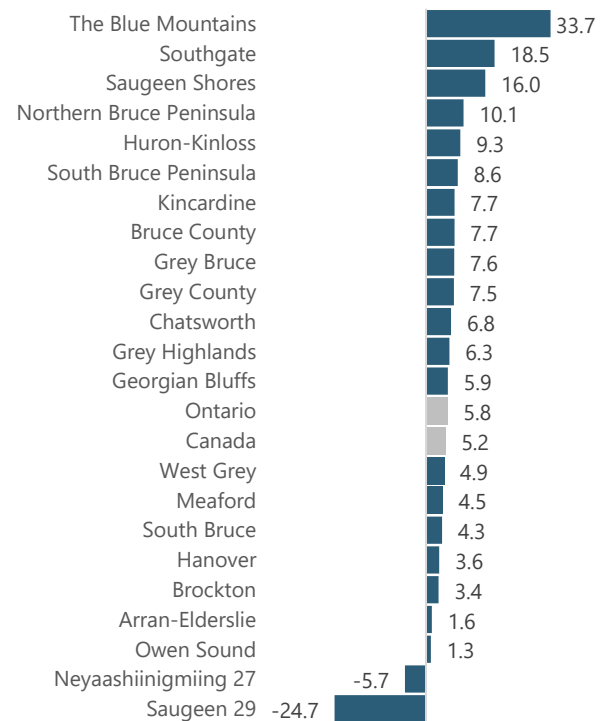


Figure 3. Percent Change in Population, 2016-2021, Grey Bruce Census Subdivisions

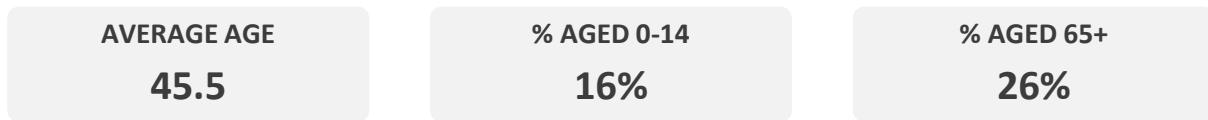


² Government of Canada, S.C. (2022) Canada at a glance, 2022 impacts of covid-19, Impacts of COVID-19 - Canada at a Glance, 2022. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-581-x/2022001/sec14-eng.htm> (Accessed: 05 June 2023).

Owen Sound remains the most populous census subdivision (municipality or reserve) in Grey Bruce, followed by Saugeen Shores and West Grey. The Blue Mountains, whose population grew by 33.7% saw the largest increase in its population over the 5-year period, followed by Southgate, and Saugeen Shores. The Blue Mountains was the second fastest growing municipality of 5,000 or more people in Canada during this period. With the exception of the two First Nations, the population of every census subdivision in Grey Bruce increased over this time period, including in areas which saw population declines or minimal growth between the 2011 and 2016 censuses. The populations of Saugeen and Neyaashiinigmiing First Nations declined between 2016 and 2021.

POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION

Figure 4. Population Age Distribution Key Figures, Grey Bruce 2021



The average age in Grey Bruce in 2021 was 45.5 years, relatively unchanged from 45.1 years in 2016. Grey Bruce’s population remains older than the average age in Ontario (41.9) and Canada (41.7). The age distribution between Grey Bruce’s census subdivisions varies significantly. Average age ranges from 37.5 years in Southgate to 55.4 years in Northern Bruce Peninsula. Most Grey Bruce census subdivisions have older populations compared to Ontario and Canada. The fastest growing segment of the Grey Bruce population is older adults between the ages of 65 and 84 (19% increase from 2016), while the slowest growing segment is working aged adults aged 20-64 (3% increase from 2016).

Figure 6. Population in 2021 by Average Age and Age Distribution, Grey Bruce Census Subdivisions (in Descending Order of Average Age)

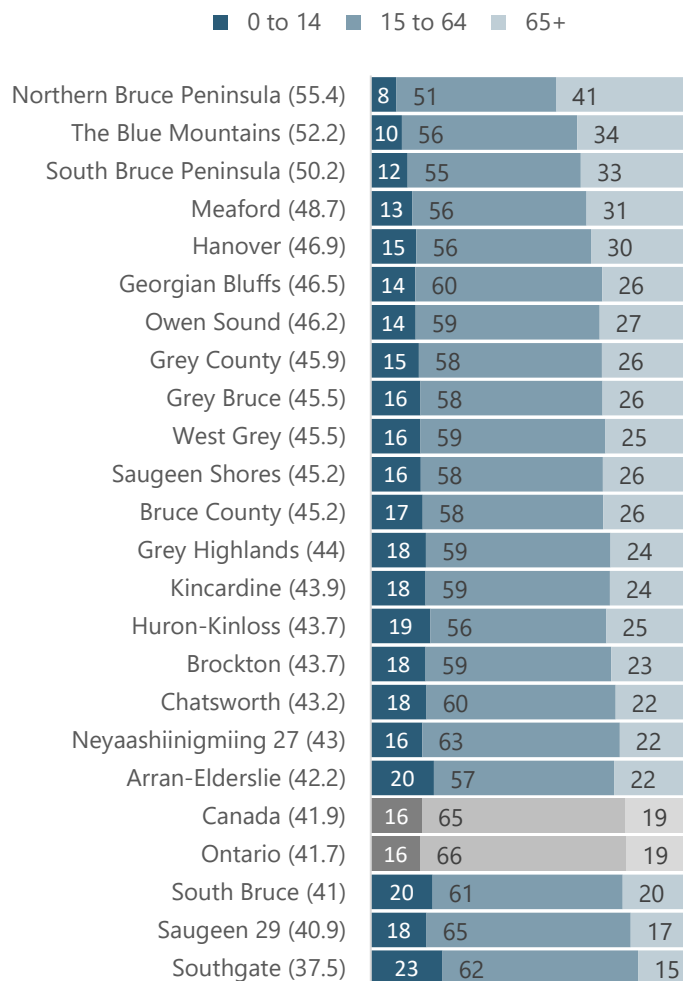
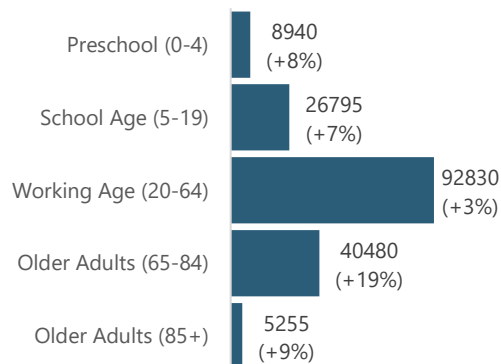
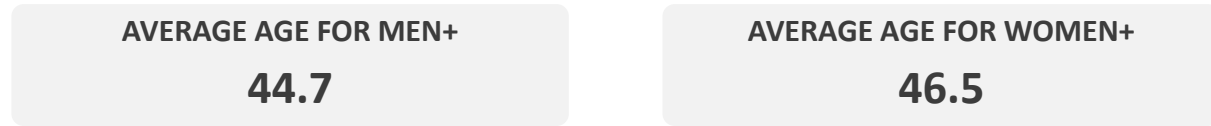


Figure 5. Population in 2021 by Age Group and % Change from 2016, Grey Bruce



POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

Figure 7. Population by Age and Gender Key Figures, Grey Bruce 2021



Population pyramids show the age-gender structure of a population. The population pyramid for Grey Bruce in 2021 is presented below alongside the 2021 Ontario population pyramid for comparison. The population pyramid in Grey Bruce is characterised by a large proportion of residents aged 55 and older. Men+ and women+ make up similar proportions of each age group except among the oldest age groups, as women+, on average, live longer than men+.

Figure 9. 2021 Population Pyramid for Grey Bruce

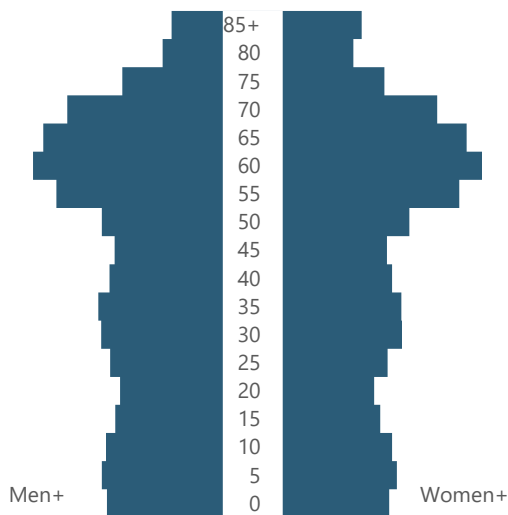
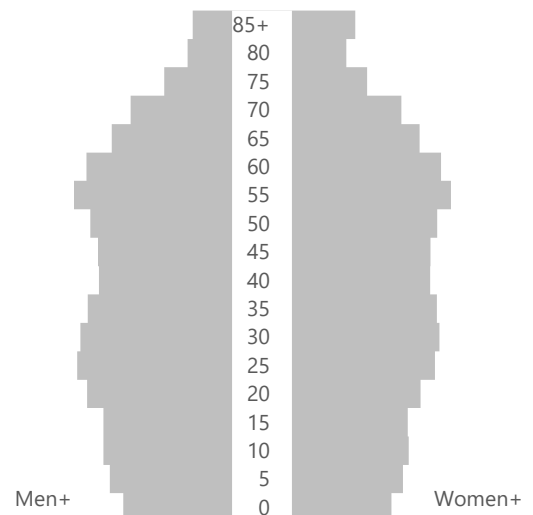
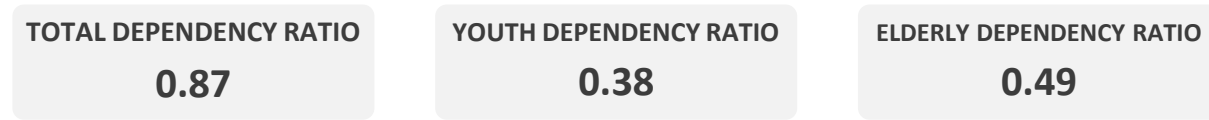


Figure 8. 2021 Population Pyramid for Ontario



DEMOGRAPHIC DEPENDENCY RATIOS

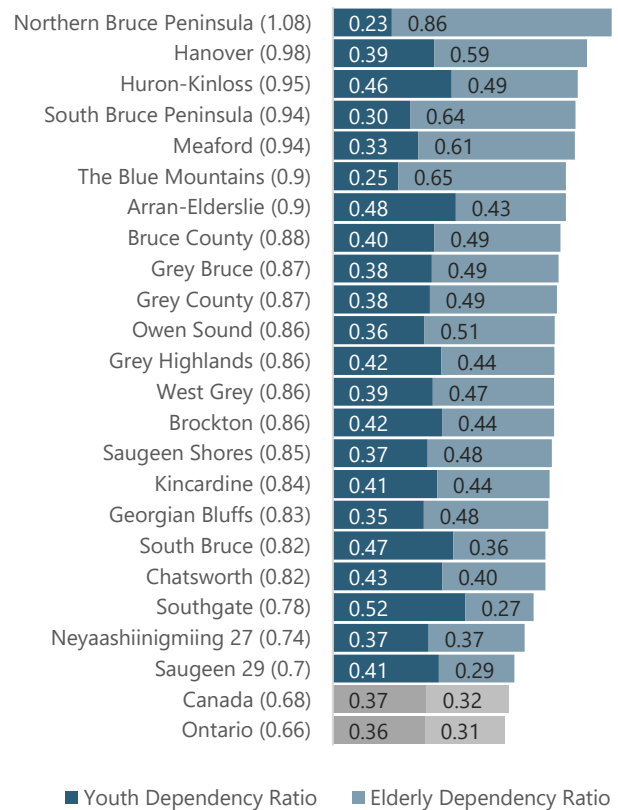
Figure 10. Demographic Dependency Key Figures, Grey Bruce 2021



The demographic dependency ratio is the ratio of the older adult population (65 years and older) and youth population (19 years and younger) to the working-age population (20 to 64 years).³ It is expressed as the number of "dependents" for every 100 "workers". The demographic dependency ratio is based on age rather than employment status, and does not account for young people or older adults who are working, nor for working-aged people who are unemployed or not in the labour force.⁴ It merely reflects population age structure and is not meant to diminish the contributions made by people classified as "dependents."⁴

In 2021, the total dependency ratio in Grey Bruce was 0.87, meaning that for every one person of working-age, there were 0.87 youths and older adults. Every census subdivision in Grey Bruce has a higher total dependency ratio when compared to the provincial or national ratios. Northern Bruce Peninsula has the highest dependency ratio of all Grey Bruce census subdivisions, at 1.08. This is due largely to its elderly dependency ratio of 0.86, which is also the highest in the region. The highest youth dependency ratio in the region is found in Southgate, where there are 0.52 youths aged 19 and under for every working-aged adult.

Figure 11. Youth and Elderly Dependency Ratios in 2021, Grey Bruce Census Subdivisions (in Descending Order of Total Dependency Ratio)



³ Statistics Canada. 2010. Demographic Change. Healthy People, Healthy Places, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-229-X. Ottawa. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-229-x/2009001/demo/dep-eng.htm#shr-pg-pnl6>. Published Jan 11, 2010. Accessed March 5, 2017.

TABLES

Table 1. 2021 Population and Average Age by Gender, Grey County Census Subdivisions

Geography	Population			Average Age		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
Grey Bruce	174,300	86,125	88,175	45.6	44.7	46.5
Grey County	100,905	49,770	51,135	45.9	44.9	46.8
Chatsworth	7,080	3,605	3,480	43.3	43.2	43.4
Georgian Bluffs	11,100	5,625	5,480	46.5	46.1	46.9
Grey Highlands	10,425	5,275	5,155	44.0	43.7	44.4
Hanover	7,965	3,770	4,200	46.9	45.0	48.6
Meaford	11,485	5,630	5,855	48.8	48.1	49.5
Owen Sound	21,615	10,090	11,515	46.3	44.1	48.2
Southgate	8,715	4,500	4,215	37.6	37.2	38.1
The Blue Mountains	9,390	4,610	4,780	52.3	52.1	52.5
West Grey	13,130	6,670	6,460	45.5	44.9	46.1
Ontario	14,223,945	6,970,855	7,253,085	41.8	40.7	42.8
Canada	36,991,980	18,226,240	18,765,740	41.9	41.0	42.8

Table 2. 2021 Population and Average Age by Gender, Bruce County Census Subdivisions

Geography	Population			Average Age		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
Grey Bruce	174,300	86,125	88,175	45.6	44.7	46.5
Bruce County	73,400	36,355	37,040	45.2	44.4	46.0
Arran-Elderslie	6,915	3,435	3,475	42.2	41.6	42.8
Brockton	9,785	4,870	4,915	43.7	42.9	44.4
Huron-Kinloss	7,720	3,845	3,880	43.8	43.4	44.2
Kincardine	12,270	6,070	6,200	43.9	42.9	44.8
Neyaashiinigiing 27	580	295	290	43.1	40.4	46.0
Northern Bruce Peninsula	4,405	2,180	2,225	55.4	55.1	55.7
Saugeen 29	785	400	390	40.9	40.0	41.8
Saugeen Shores	15,905	7,715	8,190	45.2	44.1	46.2
South Bruce	5,880	2,995	2,885	41.1	40.9	41.2
South Bruce Peninsula	9,135	4,550	4,590	50.3	49.4	51.2
Ontario	14,223,945	6,970,855	7,253,085	41.8	40.7	42.8
Canada	36,991,980	18,226,240	18,765,740	41.9	41.0	42.8

Table 3. 2021 Population Distribution by Gender, Grey County Census Subdivisions

Geography	% Aged 0-14			% Aged 15-64			% Aged 65+		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
Grey Bruce	15.8	16.3	15.2	58.0	58.4	57.6	26.2	25.2	27.2
Grey County	15.3	15.9	14.6	58.3	58.8	57.9	26.4	25.3	27.5
Chatsworth	17.8	18.4	17.1	60.2	59.2	61.4	22.0	22.5	21.6
Georgian Bluffs	14.2	14.5	14.0	59.5	59.3	59.7	26.3	26.2	26.4
Grey Highlands	17.6	17.7	17.4	58.8	59.1	58.4	23.6	23.0	24.2
Hanover	14.5	15.5	13.6	55.6	57.4	54.0	29.9	27.1	32.4
Meaford	13.2	13.8	12.6	55.5	55.6	55.3	31.3	30.6	32.1
Owen Sound	14.3	15.6	13.1	58.6	60.5	56.9	27.2	23.9	30.0
Southgate	22.9	23.6	22.2	62.2	62.1	62.3	14.9	14.4	15.4
The Blue Mountains	9.9	10.1	9.6	55.9	54.7	57.1	34.2	35.1	33.4
West Grey	15.8	16.0	15.6	58.9	59.4	58.4	25.4	24.6	26.2
Ontario	15.8	16.6	15.1	65.6	66.2	65.0	18.5	17.2	19.8
Canada	16.3	16.9	15.6	64.8	65.4	64.2	19.0	17.7	20.2

Table 4. 2021 Population Distribution by Gender, Bruce County Subdivisions

Geography	% Aged 0-14			% Aged 15-64			% Aged 65+		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
Grey Bruce	15.8	16.3	15.2	58.0	58.4	57.6	26.2	25.2	27.2
Bruce County	16.5	16.9	16.1	57.5	57.9	57.1	26.0	25.2	26.8
Arran-Elderslie	20.1	20.2	20.0	57.4	58.1	56.7	22.4	21.7	23.3
Brockton	17.5	17.9	17.1	59.1	60.0	58.3	23.4	22.2	24.5
Huron-Kinloss	19.0	18.7	19.2	56.0	56.8	55.0	25.1	24.6	25.6
Kincardine	17.5	18.3	16.8	58.7	58.7	58.6	23.8	22.9	24.6
Neyaashiinigiing 27	16.4	16.9	13.8	62.9	64.4	60.3	21.6	16.9	24.1
Northern Bruce Peninsula	8.2	7.8	8.5	50.9	50.7	51.0	41.1	41.5	40.4
Saugeen 29	17.8	17.5	16.7	65.0	65.0	64.1	17.2	17.5	16.7
Saugeen Shores	15.9	16.8	15.1	58.0	58.0	57.9	26.1	25.3	27.0
South Bruce	19.7	19.9	19.8	60.5	60.8	60.3	19.6	19.4	20.1
South Bruce Peninsula	11.8	12.1	11.4	55.1	55.6	54.6	33.1	32.3	33.9
Ontario	15.8	16.6	15.1	65.6	66.2	65.0	18.5	17.2	19.8
Canada	16.3	16.9	15.6	64.8	65.4	64.2	19.0	17.7	20.2