

CENSUS 2001 BULLETIN

Marital Status & Family Structure in Peel

Peel Data Centre

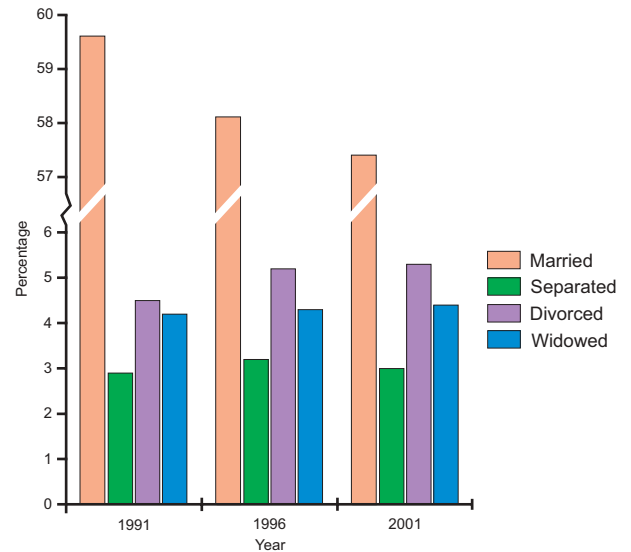
Data from the 2001 Census shows that the traditional family remains very prevalent in Peel. At the same time, Peel is experiencing the national trend towards more non-traditional families. This bulletin highlights some interesting data taken from the latest Census on marital status and family structure for Peel, Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga.

57.4% (442,895 out of 771,660) of Peel's population 15 years and older are married, down from 58.1% in 1996. At the same time, the percentage of divorced individuals has risen slightly from 5.2% to 5.3% (41,195).

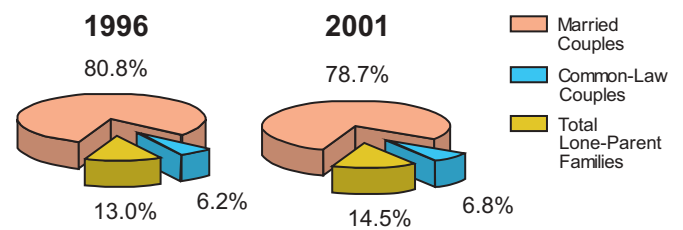
78.7% of all families in Peel include married couples, and 56.0% (154,530) of all families are made up of married couples with children, down slightly from 57.7% in 1996. This figure stands in sharp contrast to the national rate - currently only 41.4% of Canadian families are composed of married couples with children.

6.8% of all families in Peel are common-law*, up from 6.2% in 1996. This number is much lower than the national rate of 13.8%. However, from 1996 to 2001, the number of common-law families in Peel increased at almost double the rate of married families. Thus, while married families continue to outnumber common-law families by a substantial margin, the latter are becoming noticeably more common.

Marital Status in Peel
Percentage of Population 15 Years +



Peel Families by Type



Census Family by Type

	Peel			Caledon			Brampton			Mississauga		
	#	% Category	% Total	#	% Category	% Total	#	% Category	% Total	#	% Category	% Total
Married couples	217,290	92.0	78.7	12,230	91.7	83.1	69,965	91.0	77.0	135,095	92.6	79.2
Common-law couples	18,850	8.0	6.8	1,105	8.3	7.5	6,925	9.0	7.6	10,825	7.4	6.3
Total couple families	236,140	100.0	85.5	13,330	100.0	90.6	76,890	100.0	84.7	145,920	100.0	85.6
Female parent	32,740	82.0	11.9	1,080	78.3	7.3	11,115	79.8	12.2	20,545	83.4	12.0
Male parent	7,205	18.0	2.6	300	21.7	2.0	2,810	20.2	3.1	4,100	16.6	2.4
Total lone-parent families	39,945	100.0	14.5	1,380	100.0	9.4	13,925	100.0	15.3	24,645	100.0	14.4
Total Census Families	276,090			14,715			90,815			170,565		
Total Population	988,948			50,595			325,428			612,925		

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

* Common-law Status - two people who live together as a couple, but who are not legally married to each other.

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14.5% (39,945) of all families in Peel are lone-parent families in 2001, up from 13.0% in 1996. This family type was the fastest growing group between 1996 and 2001, with an increase of 9,695 (32%).

The number of common-law couples with children at home increased by 34.7% (2,225) in Peel between 1996 and 2001. This trend was most pronounced in Brampton where the increase was 38.4% (935). During the same time period the number of married couples with children in Peel increased by 14.9% (20,015). As a result, while "traditional" families remain the majority in Peel, the trend is for an increasing number of "non-traditional" arrangements.

In 2001, 43,925 children aged 25 years and older were living with their parents in Peel, up significantly from 30,420 in 1996. This represents an increase of 13,505 or 44.4%.

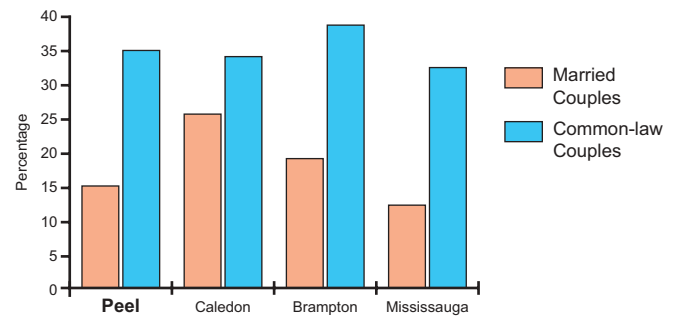
In contrast, the age group of children six years and younger living in families increased by only 4.3% (3,435) during this period. There was wide variation among the area municipalities in this trend. In Caledon this age group increased by 33.1% (1,105) while in Mississauga, it actually declined by 2.5% (-1,275).

4.5% (43,875 out of 984,620) of persons in private households* in Peel live alone. This is significantly lower than the national rate of 10.1%.

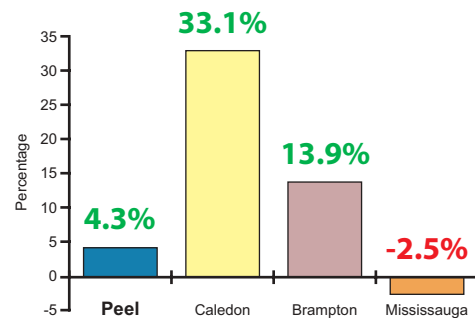
28.7% (12,610) of one-person households in Peel are made up of seniors 65 years of age and older - again, less than the national average (34.9%).

68.4% (52,120 out of 76,175) of persons 65 years and over in Peel now live in families** - up from 64.2% in 1996. The trend toward increasing numbers of seniors living in families was especially noticeable in Brampton where the figure jumped from 62.5% to 67.5% between 1996 and 2001.

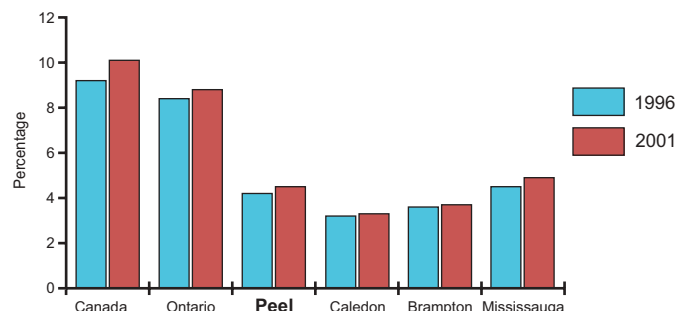
Couples with Children,
Percentage Change by Municipality: 1996 - 2001



Children 6 and Younger in Families,
Percentage Change by Municipality: 1996 - 2001



Persons Living Alone,
Percentage of Total Persons in Private Households:
1996 - 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

* Private Household - 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.

** Census Family - 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 living common-law may be of opposite or same sex.