

**BRUCE GREY CHILD & FAMILY  
SERVICES (BGCFS)**

**POVERTY REPORT**

MAY 20, 2015



Plaza Three  
101-2000 Argentia Rd.  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Canada L5N 1V9

Phone: (905) 272-3600

Fax: (905) 272-3602

e-mail: [info@watson-econ.ca](mailto:info@watson-econ.ca)

[www.watson-econ.ca](http://www.watson-econ.ca)

 **Planning for growth**

---

---

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Data Sources and Limitations .....	2
1.3 Bruce Grey Child & Family Services .....	3
2. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS .....	4
2.1 Historical Population Trends .....	4
2.2. Relative Age Distribution:.....	6
2.3 Family Structure:.....	8
3. POVERTY IN BRUCE AND GREY COUNTY .....	9
3.1 Families in Poverty.....	9
3.2 Lone Parent Families in Poverty .....	10
3.3 Children in Poverty.....	12
3.4 First Nation Communities and Poverty:.....	16
4. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN BRUCE AND GREY COUNTY .....	17
4.1 Educational Attainment: .....	17
4.2 Unemployment Rate: .....	17
4.3 Self-Employed and Part-time Work: .....	18
5. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING .....	20
6. NEEDS ANALYSIS .....	22
6.1 Demographic Trends: .....	22
6.2 Population Projections (0 to 18 years):.....	24
6.3 Socio-economic Trends .....	26
6.4 Service and Case Load Trends.....	27
7. CONCLUSION.....	31

---

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In partnership with the community, Bruce Grey Child & Family Services (BGCFS) provides support to help families keep children safe. The objective of this analysis is to provide BGCFS with a comprehensive understanding of the population and demographic characteristics that comprise their jurisdiction – with particular attention given to families and their children living in poverty.

Of the 3.6 million families in Ontario, more than 477,000 are living in poverty (2011). Between 2006 and 2011 poverty prevalence rates in Ontario have remained relatively constant at around 13%. In Bruce and Grey counties, poverty prevalence rates have declined from 10% to 9% between 2006 and 2011 – representing approximately 3,900 families. Child poverty has also decreased in Bruce and Grey counties. In 2006 approximately 18% of children between the ages 0 to 17 were living below the poverty line in Bruce and Grey counties. This decreased to less than 17% by 2011. While the trend in child poverty is declining, approximately 4,800 children in Bruce and Grey counties are still living in poverty.

BGCFS serves a geographically and socio-economically diverse population that is largely rural in setting. Subsequently, an in depth analysis of the socio-economic trends across the jurisdiction as a whole and on a local/community based level will help to provide a more comprehensive perspective of children and families living in poverty. In addition, surrounding regions (such as the GTA) has been included in part to provide context into the trends occurring not only in BGCFS's jurisdiction but Ontario as a whole.

This report has 5 main components:

- Population and Demographic Trends
- Family and Child Poverty
- Educational Attainment and Employment
- Health and Well-being
- Organizational Needs Analysis

The study utilizes current population information at varying geographic levels and can include both regional and local level analysis. A variety of data sources have been utilized for this study including data from Statistics Canada such as the 2006 and 2011 Census, the 2011 National Household Survey, and the T1 Family File. The following section highlights some of the data sources and limitations of this study.

---

## 1.2 Data Sources and Limitations

For population data (i.e. age cohorts) the 2001, 2006 and 2011 Census' were utilized. In 2011 however, it should be noted that in the National Household Survey replaced the mandatory Long Form Census, which included statistics such as educational attainment, employment and income. Subsequently, other data sources (i.e. T1 Family File, 2006 Census) were used instead of the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) for some specific variables (i.e. poverty, income) due to data quality concerns relating to the 2011 NHS. The main difference between the Long Form Census and the NHS was that the latter was on a volunteer basis and therefore the overall participation rate was much lower and less representative of the whole population than previous surveys conducted. This is referred to as the global non-response rate (GNR) and is used as an indicator of data quality. For Bruce County the GNR was approximately 34% and in Grey County it was 37% for the 2011 NHS. This compares to the 2006 Census, when the GNR was 5% to 10% for both Bruce and Grey counties.

In order to gain a more comprehensive representation of the current socio-economic trends in Ontario, Bruce and Grey counties, this study analyzed the T1 Family File (T1FF) provided by Statistics Canada. This data source was utilized in this report as it is considered the best and most reliable statistic collected on an annual basis and on a local level. A Census Family is similar to the traditional family concept and includes parents and children living in the same dwelling. The T1FF dataset provides annual estimates for Census Families and Individuals and is conducted for the development and dissemination of annual small area socio-economic data for Canadians and their families. To maintain consistency with the Census, the T1FF datasets for 2006 and 2011 were obtained for this study. It should be noted that the geography levels for the T1FF dataset do not necessarily match those provided by the Census; especially for smaller geographic areas such as municipalities and/or towns/cities.

The purpose of this study, the after-tax low income measure (LIM-AT) provided by the T1 Family File was used to determine the relative prevalence rates of poverty for families and children. Statistics Canada described the (after-tax) LIMs as *“a fixed percentage of adjusted median family income where adjusted indicates a consideration of family needs. The family size adjustment used in calculating the Low- Income Measures reflects the precept that family needs increase with family size. A family is considered to be low income when their income is below the Low-Income Measure (LIM) for their family type and size.”*

---

### **1.3 Bruce Grey Child & Family Services**

Bruce Grey Child & Family Services (BGCFS) was established in 2012 through the consolidation of the former Bruce and Grey Children's Aid Societies. Together, each organization brought a history of more than a century of protecting children. Children's Aid Society operate under the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) and report to the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). BGCFS consists of a team of over 150 child protection workers, child and youth workers, lawyers, support and administrative staff working together and in partnership with the community to help families to keep children safe and well.

Bruce Grey Child and Family Services currently operate out of 3 main facilities, with those offices located in Owen Sound, Walkerton and Wiarton. It has a jurisdiction of approximately 8,000 square kilometres and serves a child population of more than 30,000. While demographic trends are geographically varied, on a jurisdiction-wide basis the total population has increased over the last decade. Between 2001 and 2006 the total population grew by 3.1%; however the majority of this increase occurred in the adult population, aged 18 years of age or older (6.4%); while the child population (under 18 years of age) decreased by 7% for that same period of time. In comparison, the Ontario child population experienced a slight increase between 2001 and 2006 of approximately 1%. The female population aged 25-44 (primary child bearing years) also decreased by almost 9% jurisdiction-wide compared to a 1.3% drop provincially; which may have affected the number of births within the area. Between 2006 and 2011 the jurisdiction experienced a smaller increase in total population by just less than 1%. Similar to the first half of the decade, this growth was isolated in the adult population (3.1%) whereas the child population declined again by more than 8%. In Ontario, the child population decreased by less than 1% overall. In Bruce and Grey, females aged 25 to 44 continued to decline by approximately 7% compared to a provincial drop of 1.4% for that same period of time.

## 2. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

### 2.1 Historical Population Trends

Due to the large geographic area that the BGCFS currently serves, the population trends are spatially varied. In terms of total population, both Bruce (Table 2.1) and Grey (Table 2.2) have experienced growth in the last decade; increasing 2.3% and 3.7% respectively between 2001 and 2006; followed by an additional increase of 1.1% (Bruce) and 0.2% (Grey) between 2006 and 2011. The majority of this growth was within the adult population (over 18 years of age) compared to the child population (less than 18 years of age). For Bruce the adult population increased by 6.3% between 2001 and 2006. This is on par with the 6.5% increase in adult population for Grey during that same period of time. Similar trends were found between 2006 and 2011; where Bruce experienced an increase in its adult population by an additional 3.3% and Grey by 2.9%. While similar trends were found in both counties for the adult population, variance is present in the historical child population trends. Between 2001 and 2006 Bruce decreased its child population by 10% or more than 1,500 children. Grey also experienced a decline during this time, however the child population dropped by less than 5% or 1,030 children. Between 2006 and 2011, the decline in the child population was less prominent in Bruce (6.7%) than Grey (9.3%). Both areas experienced a decline in females aged 25-44 between 2001 and 2006 by 9% and 8.1% respectively. However in the latter part of the decade Bruce experienced less of decline in the population (2.6%) when compared to the 10.3% drop in females aged 25-44 living in.

Table 2.1 Bruce County Historical Population Trends

Geography	2001	2006	2011	2001-2006		2006 - 2011	
	Census	Census	Census	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>63,910</b>	<b>65,350</b>	<b>66,075</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Under 18 Years</b>	15,890	14,300	13,340	-1,590	-10.0%	-960	-6.7%
<b>Over 18 Years</b>	48,020	51,050	52,735	3,030	6.3%	1,685	3.3%
<b>Females Aged 25-44</b>	7,485	6,815	6,640	-670	-9.0%	-175	-2.6%

Table 2.2 Grey County Historical Population Trends

Geography	2001	2006	2011	2001-2006		2006 - 2011	
	Census	Census	Census	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>89,070</b>	<b>92,410</b>	<b>92,570</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Under 18 Years</b>	21,615	20,585	18,670	-1,030	-4.8%	-1,915	-9.3%
<b>Over 18 Years</b>	67,455	71,825	73,900	4,370	6.5%	2,075	2.9%
<b>Females Aged 25-44</b>	11,135	10,230	9,175	-905	-8.1%	-1,055	-10.3%

The decreasing child population and increasing adult population is a trend that exists on a county basis as well as for each individual municipality within the Bruce and Grey. While each municipality is experiencing some decline in their child population, the severity of this decline changes geographically (Table 2.3). In addition, different age cohorts within the child population have varying trends. Some of the areas that have experienced a sharp decline in child populations overall such as Saugeen Shores, Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie, Huron-Kinloss and Grey Highlands, have also experienced significant increases within the 0-3 population over the last decade – increasing as high as 40%. These areas generally coincide with areas of residential growth and could be an indication of imminent child population growth areas as well.

Table 2.3 Child vs. Adult Population Changes between 2001 and 2011

Bruce County	2001-2011		Grey County	2001 - 2011	
	Child	Adult		Child	Adult
South Bruce	-24%	2%	West Grey	-9%	9%
Huron-Kinloss	-7%	14%	Southgate	-13%	11%
Kincardine	-20%	8%	Grey Highlands	-8%	7%
Brockton	-20%	4%	Hanover	-2%	13%
Arran-Elderslie	-9%	8%	Chatsworth	-13%	9%
Saugeen Shores	-14%	19%	Blue Mountains	-20%	11%
SBP	-14%	8%	Meaford	-14%	13%
Saugeen 29	-2%	8%	Georgian Bluffs	-18%	10%
NBP	-24%	10%	Owen Sound	-18%	7%

In Bruce, the areas with the highest number of children are presently residing in Kincardine, Saugeen Shores and Brockton with more than 2,000 children each (2011 Census), followed by South Bruce, Huron-Kinloss, Arran-Elderslie and South Bruce Peninsula with more than 1,000 children each (Figure 2a). Northern Bruce Peninsula and the two Reserves (Saugeen 29 and Neyaashiinigmiing 27) each have less than 1,000 children currently residing within their boundaries. Comparatively, in Grey the highest number of children are currently found in Owen Sound (4,000). West Grey, Southgate, Grey Highlands, Meaford and Georgian Bluffs all have somewhere between 1,900-2,500 children living in their communities; while Hanover and Chatsworth have approximately 1,500 children in 2011. Blue Mountains has the lowest population of children at less than 1,000.

The ratio of the child population compared to the total population of each municipality was also analyzed (Figure 2b). For Grey, Southgate and Chatsworth have the highest representation at 26% and 23% respectively. West Grey, Grey Highlands and Hanover have anywhere from 20-22% of their population under the age of 18; while the remaining municipalities fall below 20%; with Blue Mountains' child population representing less than 15% of their total population. In Bruce, while Saugeen 29 has one of the lowest child populations in terms of absolute numbers, it has the highest proportion when compared to the total population at 33%. Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, Brockton and Arran-Elderslie have child populations representing approximately 20-

30% of their total population; while Northern Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce Peninsula, Saugeen Shores and Neyaashiingmiing 27 are all less than 20%. It should be noted that Neyaashiingmiing 27 numbers are based on 2006 Census information as 2011 data was not available for this area.

Figure 2a

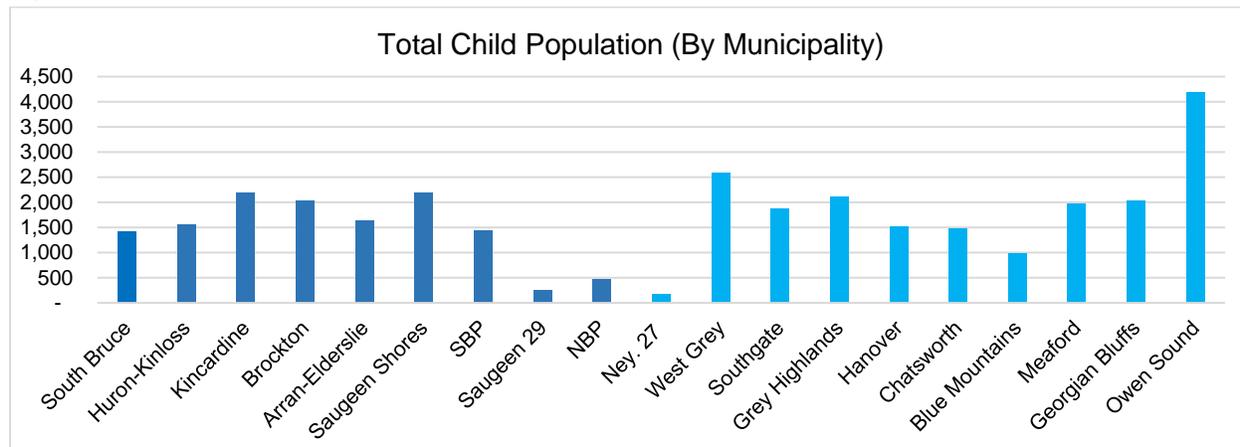
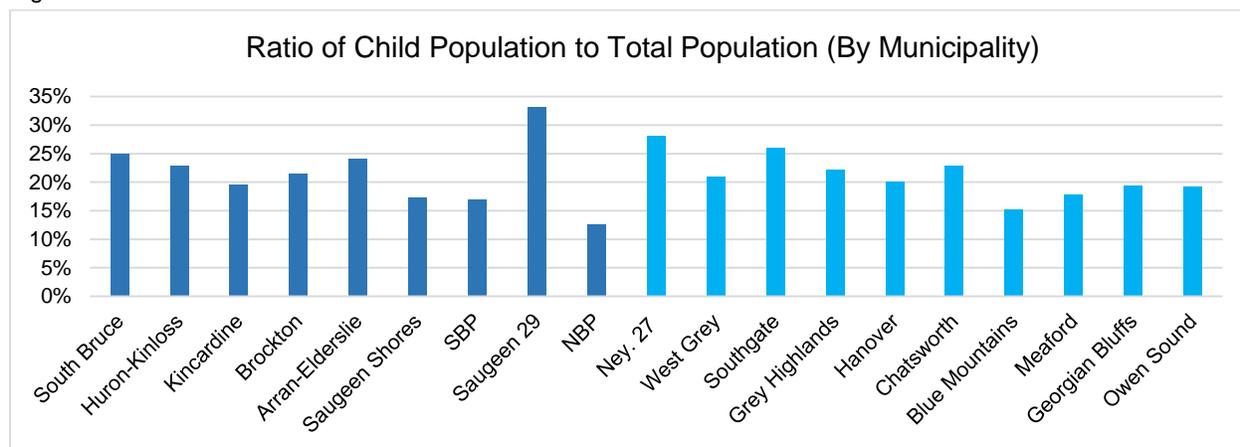


Figure 2b



## 2.2. Relative Age Distribution:

The following graphs depict the age cohort distribution for Bruce (Figure 2c) and Grey (Figure 2d) counties based on the 2011 Census data. The data is represented as a percentage of the total male and female populations respectively. For both Bruce and Grey, the largest proportion of the population are approximately 40 to 64 years of age – representing 38% of the total population for both counties. Comparatively in Ontario, approximately 36% of the total population is aged 40 to 64 years of age.

Figure 2c: Age Pyramid Bruce County (2011 Census)

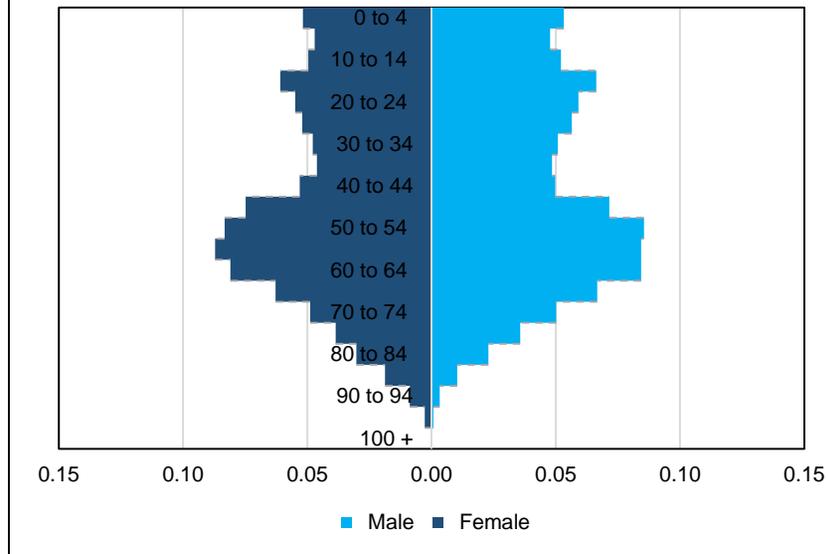
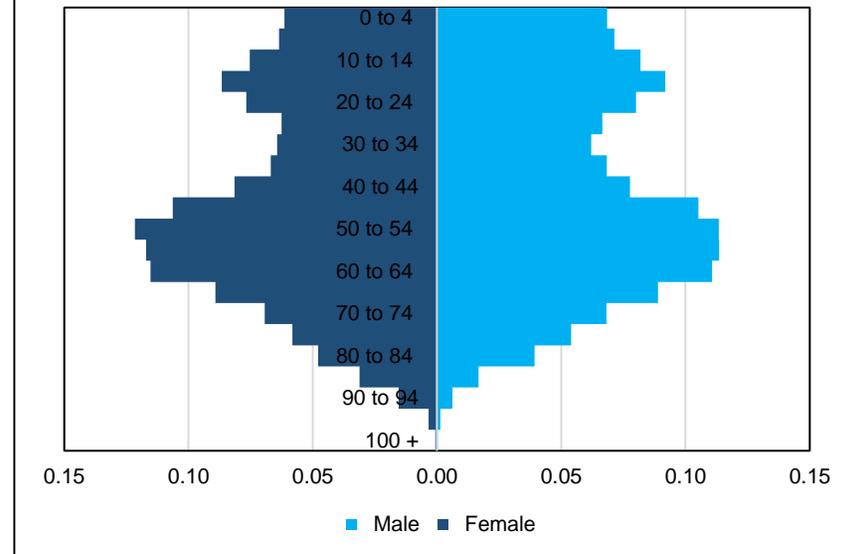


Figure 2d: Age Pyramid Grey County (2011 Census)



While the largest proportion of the population is approximately 40 to 64 years of age for Ontario, Bruce and Grey; the percentage of seniors (population over the age of 65 years) varies between the three geographies. In Ontario, almost 15% of the population is over the age of 65; while in Bruce and Grey approximately 20-21% of the population is over the age of 65 – an increase of more than 5% when compared to the province. In terms of median age of the population, the data indicates that the median age of the male population in Ontario is approximately 39.4 and 41.3 for the female population. In Bruce, the median age of the male population is 46.3 and 47.6 for the female population. Finally, in Grey the median age of the male population is 46.3 and 48.2 for the female population. Subsequently, the BGCFS jurisdiction has a median age that is 18% higher than the provincial median for the male population and between 15-17% higher for the female population. On a regional level, Bruce and Grey tend to have a higher median age than surrounding counties such as Simcoe (41.8), Dufferin (40), Wellington (39.5), Perth (41.2) and Huron (45.1). On a local level, Northern Bruce Peninsula, The Blue Mountains, South Bruce Peninsula and Meaford have the highest median age - ranging between 50.4 and 57.3. Comparatively, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce, Southgate, Arran-Elderslie, and Saugeen 29 have the lowest median age – ranging from 32.4 to 44.9.

### **2.3 Family Structure:**

As the population ages, the structure of families within Ontario, specifically Bruce and Grey, has shifted as well. In Ontario, 45% of the population is comprised of 2 person households, which is approximately 10% less than Bruce and Grey at 55%. Smaller household size in rural areas of the province generally coincide with an aging population. In 2011, the senior population (aged 65 and older) in Ontario was approximately 15% of the total population. This has increased since 2006 when 14% of the population was over the age of 65. Comparatively Bruce and Grey had a higher proportion of seniors at 20% and 21% respectively; an increase of approximately 2% for each county since 2006 when seniors were approximately 18% of the total population in Bruce and 19% in Grey.

The majority (54%) of married and/or common-law couples currently residing in BGCFS's jurisdiction do not have children; which compares with 42% of married and/or common-law couples in Ontario with no children. This higher prevalence of couples without children in Bruce and Grey could potentially relate to the relatively senior populations present in the jurisdiction. According to the 2006 Census, the percentage of lone-parent families continues to rise; the majority of which are female lone-parent families. In Ontario, 16% of census families were considered lone parent families, the majority of which were female lone parent families. Bruce and Grey counties have a lower prevalence of lone parent families at 10% and 12% of the total census families respectively. Similar to provincial trends, the majority were female lone parent families at approximately 80% compared to 20% that were male lone parent families.

### 3. POVERTY IN BRUCE AND GREY COUNTY

#### 3.1 Families in Poverty

In 2006, more than 13% of the Ontario's families were considered low income (or living in poverty) as outlined by the after-tax low income measure from the T1 Family File. This compares to Bruce and Grey that had approximately 9.3% and 10.2% of families considered low income or living in poverty. In 2011, Ontario's prevalence of families living in poverty has remained relatively constant at around 13% - while Bruce and Grey experienced a decrease in the prevalence of low income families of approximately 1% each – resulting in 8% of Bruce families and 9% of Grey families currently living in poverty.

In Bruce and Grey the proportion of lone parent, low income families is on the rise. In 2006, 59% of low income families had two parents (couples), compared to 41% that were lone parent families for both counties. In 2011 however, 54% and 53% of low income families were couple families compared to 46% and 47% that were lone parent families for Bruce and Grey respectively. This represents an increase of around 5% to 6% in lone parent families living in poverty for both counties between 2006 and 2011. Comparatively, in Ontario, the prevalence of lone parent families living in poverty has also increased relative to low income couple families – but on a much smaller scale than Bruce and Grey. In 2006, 62% of low income families were couples (or two parent families) versus the 38% that were lone parent families. This compares to 2011, when 63% of the low income families were couples versus 37% that were considered lone parent families – which represents a 1% increase in lone parent families living in poverty in Ontario between 2006 and 2011.

**Table 3.1: Families Living in Poverty**

Geography	2006 (Families)			2011 (Families)			2006 - 2011	
	Total	LIM-AT	%	Total	LIM-AT	%	Total %	LIM-AT %
<b>BGCFS Jurisdiction</b>	<b>45,280</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>45,410</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<i>Bruce County</i>	19,810	1,840	9.3%	19,480	1,510	7.8%	-2%	-18%
<i>Grey County</i>	25,470	2,590	10.2%	25,930	2,460	9.5%	2%	-5%
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>3,491,390</b>	<b>462,920</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>3,656,830</b>	<b>477,360</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>

The median income for two parent (couple) families in Bruce and Grey is \$73,220 and \$63,360 respectively – which compares to provincial couple families as a whole that have a median income of approximately \$70,800. Comparatively, lone parent families in Bruce have a median family income of \$37,580; which is higher than the provincial median income for lone parent families which is approximately \$36,920. While Grey has a lower median income for lone parents than both Bruce and the Province of Ontario, at approximately \$33,810.

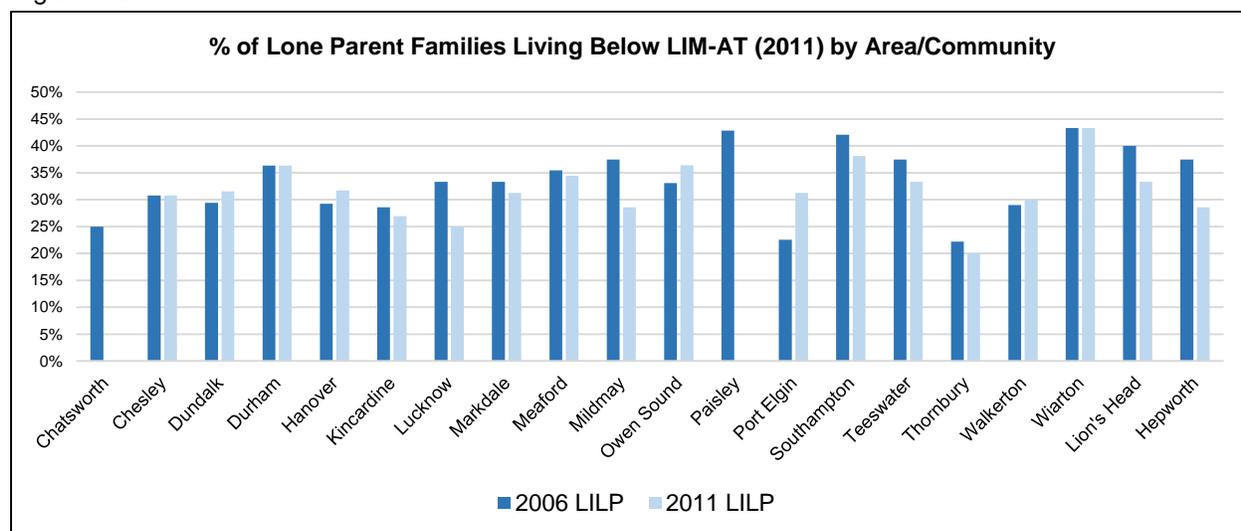
For families considered low income - less discrepancy between two parent and one parent families exists in terms of median family income. In Bruce, low income couple families have a median income of approximately \$19,230 versus low income, lone parent families that have a median income of \$16,770. In Grey, the low income couple families have a median income of approximately \$20,020 versus low income, lone parent families that have a median income of \$17,900. While, the gap in median income is reduced between low income couple families and low income lone parent families for both counties – it is relatively higher than the provincial gap between two parent and one parent families living in poverty.

In Bruce and Grey, lone parent families living in poverty have a median income that is 12.8% and 10.6% lower than low income families with two parents. While in Ontario, lone parent families living in poverty, have a median income that is 4.1% lower than families with two parents. Evidentially, the prevalence of lone parent families living in poverty is not only on the rise in Bruce and Grey - the gap in median income for lone parent families compared to couple families is relatively high compared to provincial trends.

### 3.2 Lone Parent Families in Poverty

While the prevalence of low income lone parent families continues to rise in Bruce and Grey, the severity of this increase varies geographically. Figure 3a depicts the percentage of lone parent families living below LIM-AT by communities located in Bruce and Grey. It should be noted that some data for Tobermory (2006 and 2011), Paisley (2011) and Chatsworth (2011) was suppressed for these years and therefore could not be included in the analysis.

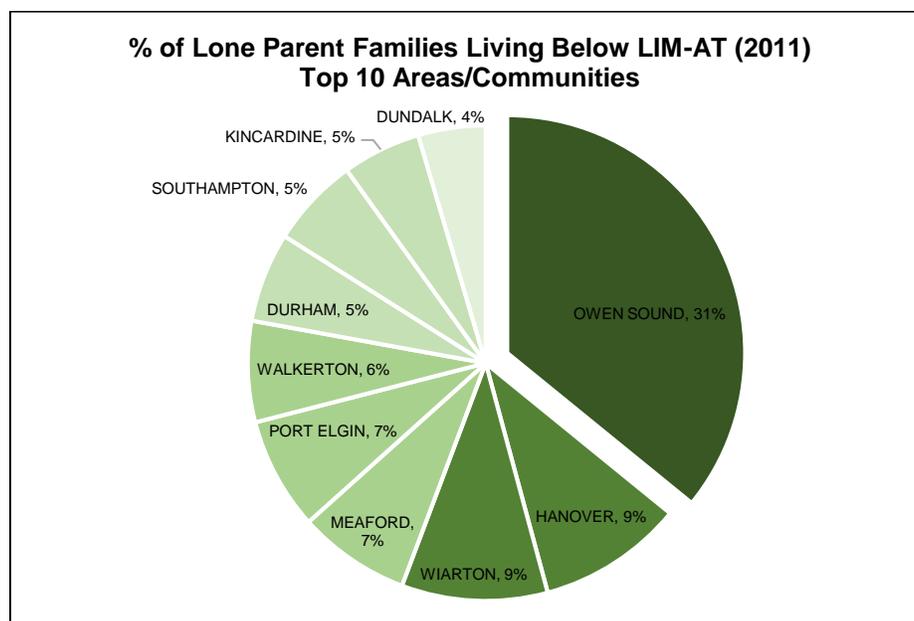
Figure 3a:



In terms of percentage change between 2006 and 2011, Port Elgin experienced the largest increase in lone parent families living in poverty – increasing 9% in 5 years. This was followed by Owen Sound, Hanover, Dundalk and Walkerton which all experienced an increase of 1% to 3% in low income, lone parent families for the same period of time. The remaining municipalities either remained stable or decreased their prevalence of lone parent families living below the poverty line. The largest declines occurred in Mildmay, Hepworth, Lucknow and Lion’s Head which all experienced a decrease in lone parent families living below the LIM-AT of 7% to 9% between 2006 and 2011.

In addition to changes in poverty prevalence rates between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of (low income) lone parent families that each community represents as a whole was analyzed. Figure 3b highlights the top ten communities in Bruce and Grey counties that have the highest number of lone parent families living below the LIM-AT. While Port Elgin, had the highest increase in prevalence rates of lone parent families living in poverty; it represents only 7% of the total for Bruce and Grey communities. Comparatively, Owen Sound has the highest proportion of low income, lone parent families at more than 31% of the total. In addition, for some communities that did not necessarily increase or decrease their prevalence of low income lone parent families – they still represent a large portion of the total number of families living below the LIM-AT such as Wiarton and Meaford at 9% and 7% respectively.

Figure 3b:

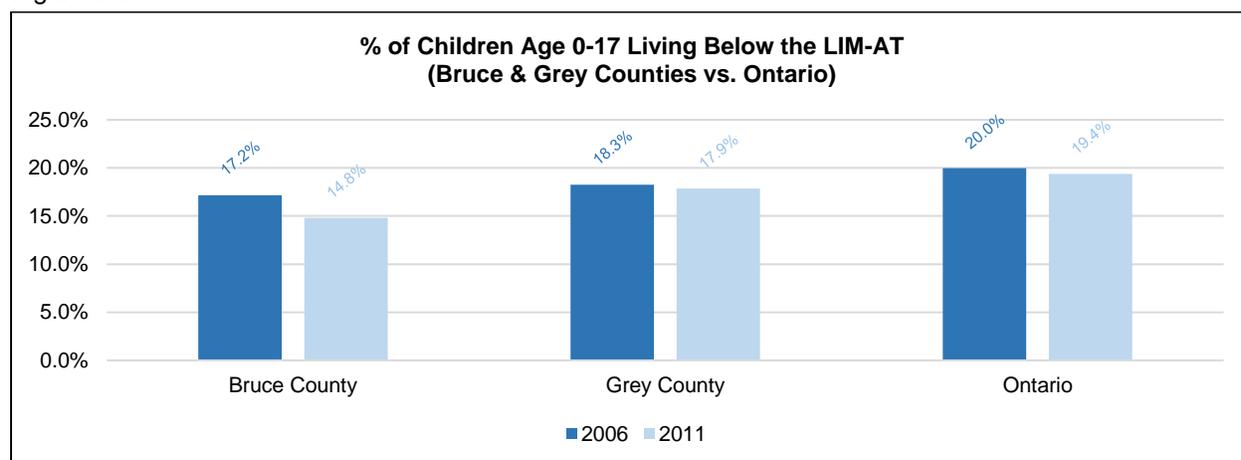


### 3.3 Children in Poverty

One of the most significant indicators of poverty prevalence is the number of children currently living in poverty. Studies have shown that children who grow up in poverty are less likely to achieve educational and employment goals; and are potentially subject to increased health risks presently, and in the future. Figure 3c depicts the % of children living below the LIM-AT (2011). Of the children under the age 17 years that currently live in either Bruce or Grey, 4,770 or 16.6% are living in poverty. This has decreased since 2006 when 5,700 children were living in poverty; which represented 17.8% of the total child population in the area. While the child population has decreased by approximately 10% since 2006, the number of children living in poverty has dropped by approximately 16%. Subsequently, this decline in children living in poverty is not solely a result of the declining child population overall for this region.

This decline in child poverty is more predominant in Bruce than Grey - declining the number of children living in poverty by 23% since 2006. Proportional to the total child population, Bruce has decreased its prevalence of child poverty from 17.2% of the population age 0 to 17 living below LIM-AT in 2006 to less than 15% in 2011. Grey has declined its number of children living in poverty by 11%. Compared to the total child population, Grey has decreased its prevalence of child poverty from 18.3% to 17.9% between 2006 and 2011. In addition to having a higher prevalence of children living below the poverty line, Grey also has more absolute numbers of children living in poverty compared to Bruce. In 2011, Grey had more than 3,000 children living in poverty versus Bruce that had less than 1,800 – a difference of more than 70% between the two counties. However, both Grey and Bruce have lower prevalence rates overall when compared to Ontario as a whole which had a prevalence of 20% and 19.4% of child poverty in 2006 and 2011 respectively.

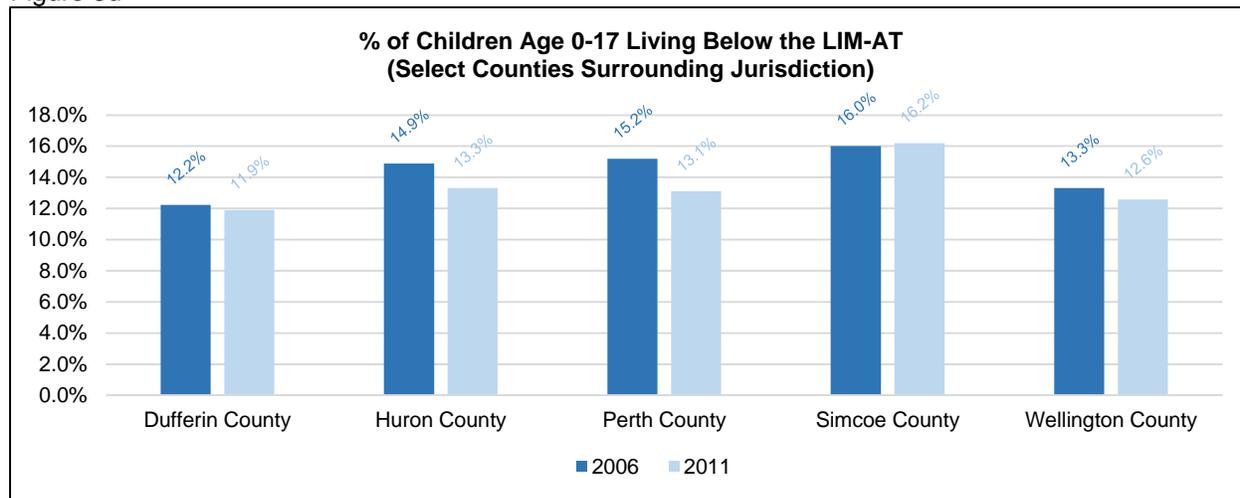
Figure 3c:



Bruce and Grey counties are also lower than the GTA as a whole, which averages 20.7% children living below the LIM-AT in 2011 – ranging from 10.1% in Halton to 28.2% in Toronto.

Compared to the regions surrounding the counties, Bruce and Grey are slightly higher in their child poverty prevalence rates. Figure 3d depicts the percentage of children age 0 to 17 living below the LIM-AT for Dufferin, Huron, Perth, Simcoe and Wellington for both 2006 and 2011. The average for Grey and Bruce is higher than the average for the surrounding counties for both 2006 and 2011 by approximately 2% to 3% overall.

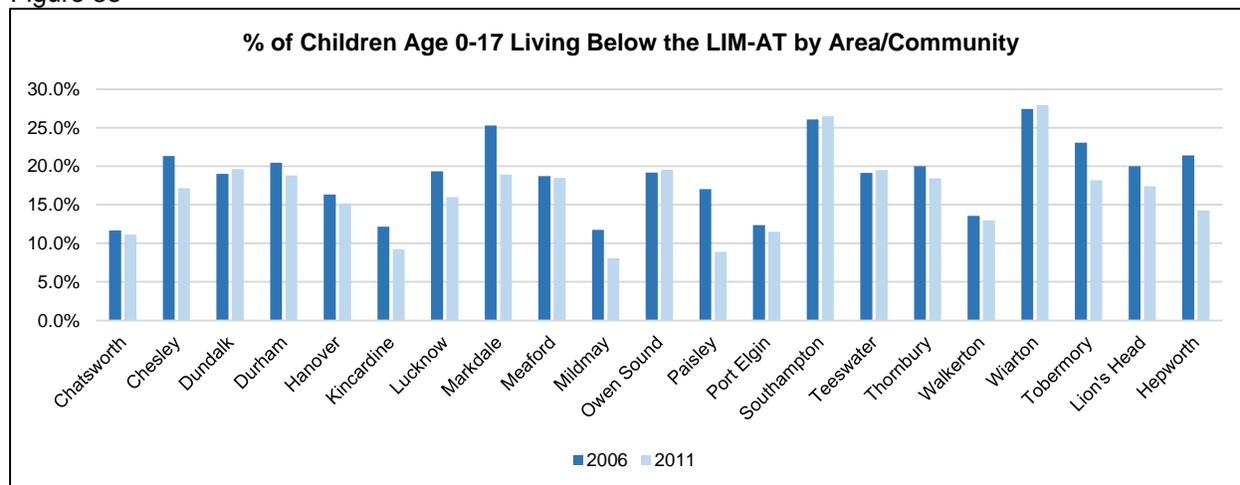
Figure 3d



While overall the number of children living in poverty has decreased for Grey and Bruce, prevalence rates vary geographically. Figure 3e highlights the percentage of children in poverty for various communities throughout the jurisdiction. While the majority of communities experienced a decline in child poverty, there were some places that increased their prevalence between 2006 and 2011 such as Dundalk, Wiarton, Southampton, Teeswater and Owen Sound. However, this increase was relatively small and ranged anywhere from 0.4% to 0.6% between 2006 and 2011. Of the remaining areas that experienced a decline in child poverty prevalence rates, Paisley, Hepworth, Markdale, Tobermory and Chesley had the largest declines between 2006 and 2011 that ranged anywhere from 4.2% to 8.1%.

In addition, it should be noted that the majority of these communities decreased the number of children living in poverty in terms of absolute numbers for this same period of time. As stated previously, this may in part be related to the overall declining number of children present in these communities as a whole. However, for many of these communities the change in the child population between 2006 and 2011 was not necessarily equal to the change in the child poverty rate for the same period of time. This indicates that the declining poverty prevalence rates for children is not solely due to the demographic changes in the region. For example, in Port Elgin, while the child population increased by 2% between 2006 and 2011, the prevalence of children living in poverty decreased by more than 5%.

Figure 3e



In addition, to prevalence rates between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of child poverty that each community represents as a whole was analyzed. Figure 3f highlights the top ten communities in Bruce and Grey that have the highest proportion of child poverty compared to the region as a whole. Currently, Owen Sound has the highest proportion of children living in poverty at more than 27% of the total number of children below the LIM-AT. This is followed by Warton and Hanover – with Port Elgin, Southampton, Kincardine and Walkerton currently having the lowest number of children living in poverty compared to Bruce and Grey as a whole. Figures 3g and 3h depict % of children living in poverty proportional to each community total; as well as the jurisdiction total respectively.

Figure 3f:

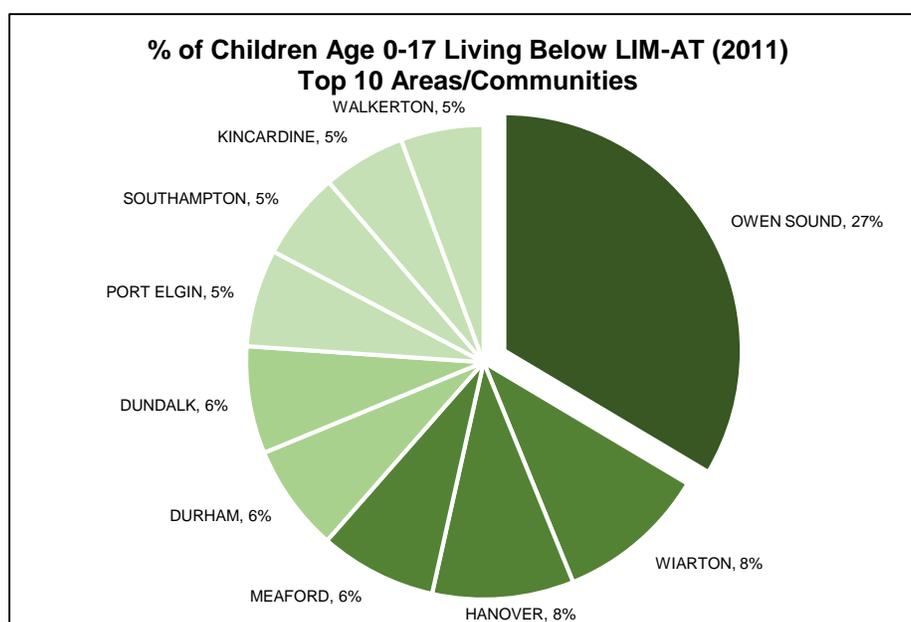


Figure 3g:

Bruce County & Grey County Communities - % of Children Aged 0 to 17 Living Below the LIM-AT  
(Proportional to each Community Total)

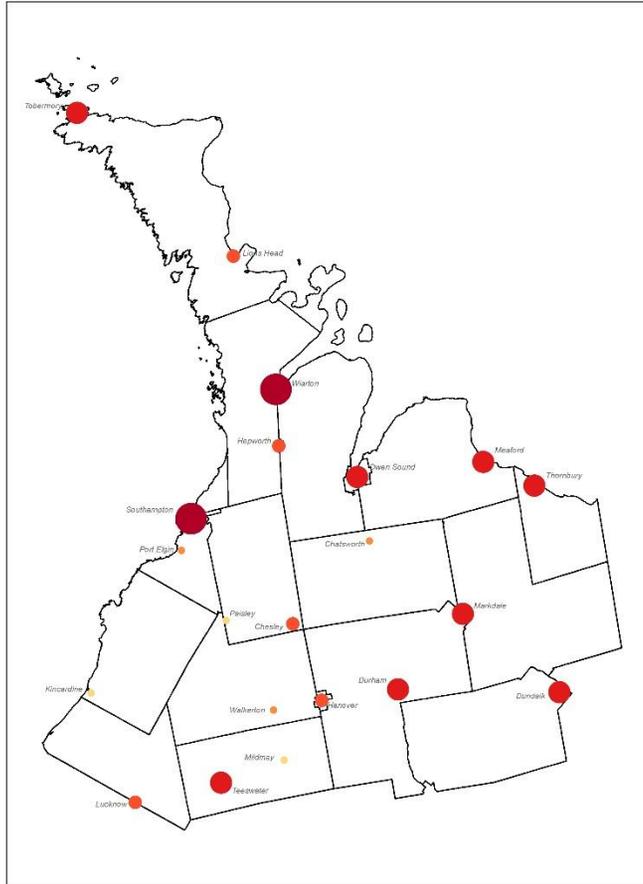
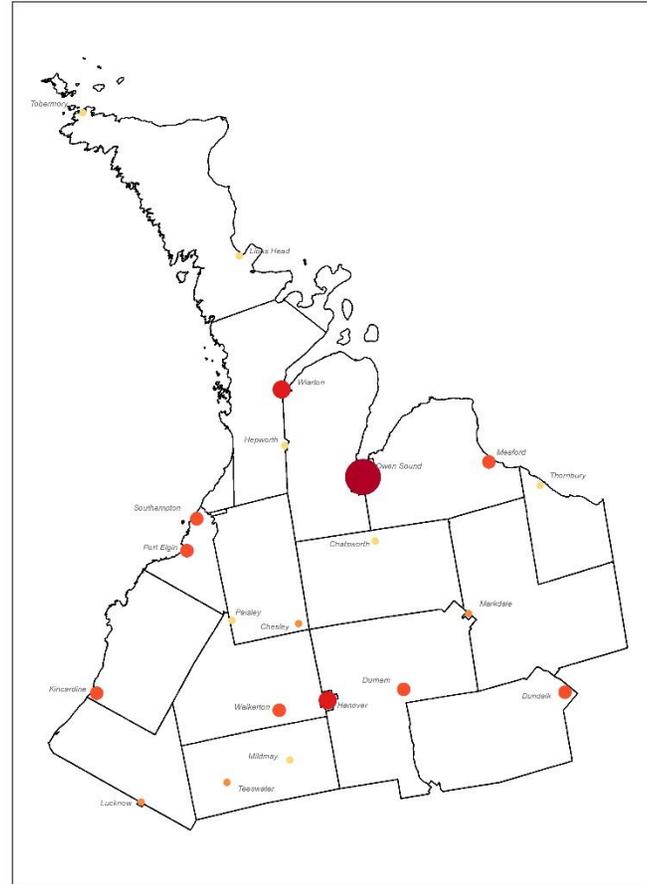


Figure 3h:

Bruce County & Grey County Communities - % of Children Aged 0 to 17 Living Below the LIM-AT  
(Proportional to the Jurisdiction Total)



---

### **3.4 First Nation Communities and Poverty:**

There are two First Nation reserves within Bruce Grey Child & Family Services jurisdiction including Neyaashiinigiing 27 and Saugeen 29 which are both located in the Northwest portion of Bruce County. While the total population of both of these communities is less than 1,500 - the proportion of the child population is approximately 30% or one third of their total population. This is on par with many of Ontario's First Nation Reserves which on average has a child population representing 30 - 40% of their total population. Outside of the geographical boundaries of each reserve, there is an urban First Nation's presence in some of the surrounding municipalities including Owen Sound and Saugeen Shores in which 3% of their population identifies as aboriginal; as well as Northern Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce Peninsula and Southgate, which each have approximately 2% of their population identifying as Aboriginal. Overall, the First Nation's population (2.9%) has increased since 2001 when it represented approximately 1.9% of the total population within Bruce and Grey.

Studies have shown that 40% of indigenous children in Canada are living in poverty and are 2 and half times more likely to live in poverty compared to non-indigenous children. This compares to the child poverty rate for all children in Canada which is approximately 17% (2006 Census) – a difference of more than 23%. Comparatively, 34% of the Ontario's indigenous children are living in poverty compared to 15% of non-indigenous children.

## 4. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN BRUCE AND GREY COUNTY

In addition to relative trends in poverty, this report also examined the educational attainment and employment characteristics of Bruce and Grey. Unemployment and/or low employment (i.e. self-employed without employees, part-time, etc.) can increase the level of stress on households and the ability for families to thrive. The prevalence of poverty and/or low income households combined with uncertain employment opportunities can create challenges in maintaining the well-being of families and their children. For some families, limited access to higher education and subsequent employment opportunities can perpetuate poverty over generations. In addition, unstable employment and low income circumstances can impede a family's ability to provide appropriate childcare. The following section highlights some of the educational and employment trends occurring in Bruce and Grey.

### 4.1 Educational Attainment:

Table 4.1 depicts the educational attainment for Bruce and Grey. In Ontario, 14% of the population never obtained a diploma or degree. Of the population that did receive a diploma or degree, 25% obtained a high school diploma, 31% obtained a trades/college diploma and 31% completed a university level degree. For Bruce, 18% of the population never obtained a diploma or degree, 26% received a high school diploma, 39% received a trades/college diploma and 16% received a university level degree. The high prevalence of trades/college diplomas could relate to the economy of the area which is heavily weighted in agricultural and manufacturing opportunities. For Grey, 19% of the population never obtained a diploma or degree, 29% received a high school diploma, 35% received a trades/college diploma and 16% received a university level degree. Overall, the population that the organization services within the counties tend to have a lower level of educational attainment when compared to the province of Ontario.

Table 4.1 Education Attainment

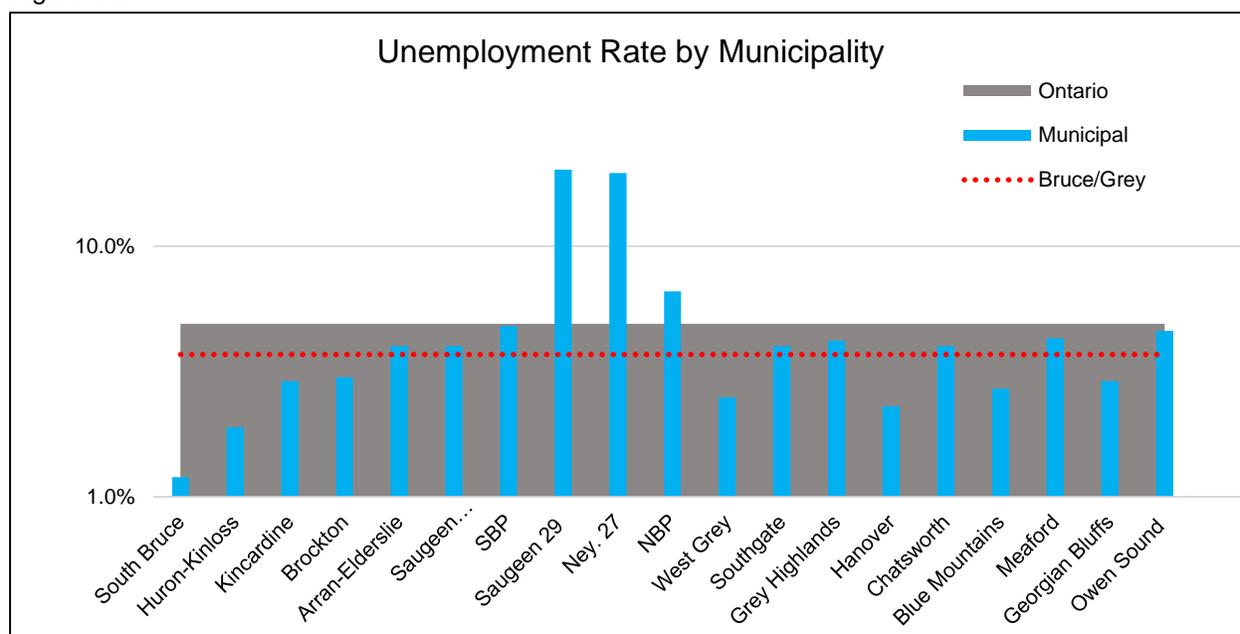
Geography	No Diploma/Degree	High school Diploma	Trades/Colleges	University Degree
Ontario	14%	25%	31%	31%
Bruce County	18%	26%	39%	16%
Grey County	19%	29%	35%	16%

### 4.2 Unemployment Rate:

Figure 4a depicts the unemployment rate (for the population over 25 year of age) for Bruce and Grey at the municipal and county level. According to the 2006 Census, both Bruce and Grey have a lower unemployment rate at approximately 3.6% to 3.7% than the province that has an

unemployment rate of approximately 5%. Unemployment trends do vary geographically with South Bruce and Huron-Kinloss having the lowest unemployment rate for the jurisdiction at 1.2% and 1.9% respectively. Kincardine, Brockton, West Grey, Hanover, Blue Mountains and Georgian Bluffs all have an unemployment rates between 2-3%; while the remaining municipalities have a rate above 4%. Northern Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce Peninsula and Owen Sound have some of the highest unemployment rates within the jurisdiction (between 5%-7%). Currently, the two First Nation reserves within the jurisdiction have the highest levels of unemployment at close to 20%.

Figure 4a:



### 4.3 Self-Employed and Part-time Work:

Self-employment is on the rise in Canada. Between 1989 and 2006, the percentage of Canadians categorized as “self-employed without employees” increased by almost 45%. In Ontario, self-employment (without paid employees) is also on the rise – increasing at similar rates to Canada as a whole, with more than 700,000 employees categorized as self-employed in 2006.

In Ontario, the number of people considered ‘self-employed without paid employees’ has increased by approximately 5% - which compares with Bruce that experienced a decrease of 3% for this same period of time. For Grey, the percentage of people in this category is increasing more rapidly than the provincial trends – increasing 7% between 2001 and 2006. In 2006, Bruce had approximately 3,600 people considered self-employed without employees; while Grey had approximately 5,700. In the 2011 National Household Survey, this statistic did

not decipher between self-employed without employees or with employees, but instead just collected data on the number of 'self-employed' persons throughout Canada. In Bruce and Grey, 15% to 17% of the population was considered self-employed in 2011. This compares to Canada and Ontario populations overall which averaged closer to 11% self-employed.

Figure 4b

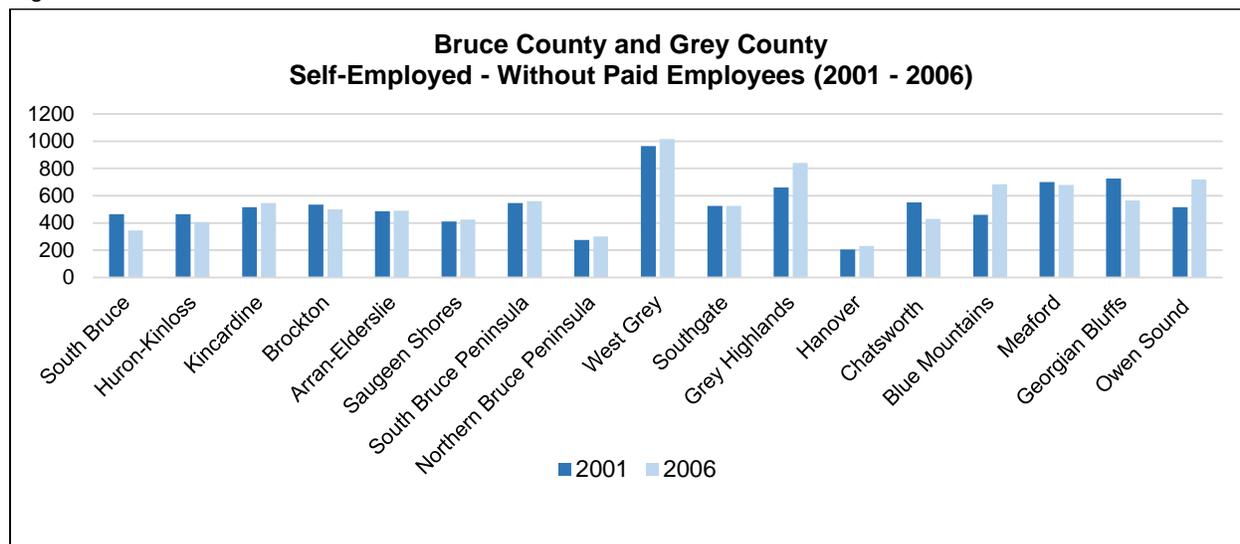


Figure 4b depicts the municipal trends of population considered self-employed without paid employees between 2001 and 2006. Of the 17 municipalities displayed (data was not available for either reserve); 6 have experienced a decline in population considered self-employed; while the remaining 11 (65%) experienced an increase. In particular, Blue Mountains and Owen Sound both increased their number of self-employed people by more than 40% - with Blue Mountains reaching closer to 50% increased between 2001 and 2006. Grey Highlands experienced an increase of 27% while South Bruce decreased by approximately 26%. In 2011, some of the highest rates of self-employment were found in the Northern Bruce Peninsula, Southgate, Chatsworth, Grey Highlands, West Grey and The Blue Mountains - ranging anywhere from 22 to 26% of the population considered self-employed.

Part-time employment was also analyzed for this study. In Ontario, approximately one fifth (20%) of the total population worked part-time in 2010. When the male and female populations were analyzed separately, it was found that only 13% of the male population worked part-time compared to 27% of the female population. This trend of higher female populations working part-time was more pronounced in Bruce and Grey that had approximately 32% and 34% of their female populations working part-time in 2010 respectively. Overall, both Bruce and Grey total populations had a higher prevalence of part-time work compared to the province at 22% and 25% respectively.

---

## 5. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The prevalence of poverty can hinder the ability for families and their children to access the resources and services needed for healthy physical and mental development. Conversely, families and their children living in poverty are subject to greater risk for poor physical and mental health. For the purpose of this study, data was derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey at the health region level; which for this jurisdiction was the Grey Bruce Health Unit. Prevalence of physical or mental health conditions as well as substance use disorders were examined in relation to provincial and national trends.

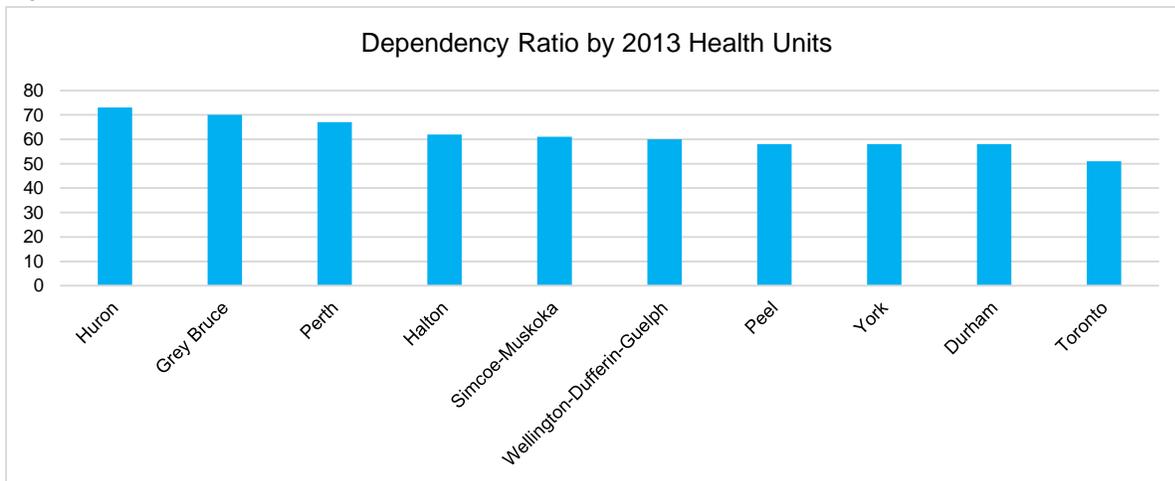
In terms of perceived health, the data indicates that 58.7% of respondents had very good or excellent perceived physical health and 70.7% had very good or excellent mental health. This is slightly less than the provincial average for Ontario in which 60.4% of respondents had very good or excellent perceived physical health and 72.4% had very good or excellent mental health. According to the Canadian Community Health Survey, Canadians in the lowest income group are 3 to 4 times more likely than those in the highest income group to report poor to fair mental health. In Bruce and Grey, approximately 10% of respondents reported having a mood disorder (i.e. depression, bipolar disorder, etc.); which is 2% higher than Ontario and 3% higher than Canada as a whole. Approximately 22% of Canadians have had a substance use disorder during their lifetime – the most common substance being alcohol consumption. More than 26% of respondents from Bruce or Grey were identified as consuming high amounts of alcohol which is 9% higher than the provincial (Ontario's) average of 17% of respondents and 8% higher than the national average of 16%.

For perceived life stress however, Bruce and Grey had a decreased prevalence compared to Ontario. This variable measures population over the age of 15 years who reported that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful. In Bruce and Grey, 19% of the total population had increased levels of perceived stress; which was 4% less than the provincial and national average of 23%.

Figure 5a highlights the dependency ratio for Bruce and Grey as well as surrounding Health Units located in southern Ontario. The dependency ratio is the combined population aged between 0 to 19 years old and the population aged of 65 years and over to the population aged between 20 to 64 years old. This ratio is generally presented as the number of dependents for every 100 people in the working age population. Increased dependency ratios are thought to put additional stress on families and can subsequently exacerbate the prevalence of families living in poverty. In Bruce and Grey, there are approximately 70 dependants to every 100 people of approximate working age. This compares with Ontario as a whole which has approximately 58 dependants per 100 working people – which is approximately 17% less than Bruce and Grey.

For surrounding counties, Bruce and Grey has a comparatively high dependency ratio, second only to Huron, which has 73 dependents per 100.

Figure 5a



---

## 6. NEEDS ANALYSIS

This section of the report examines the current and potential needs of the organization. It is necessary to examine the needs and resources to properly analyze if the organization is well positioned to meet those needs and accommodate any necessary resources. The needs analysis for the purposes of this report focused on 4 main areas;

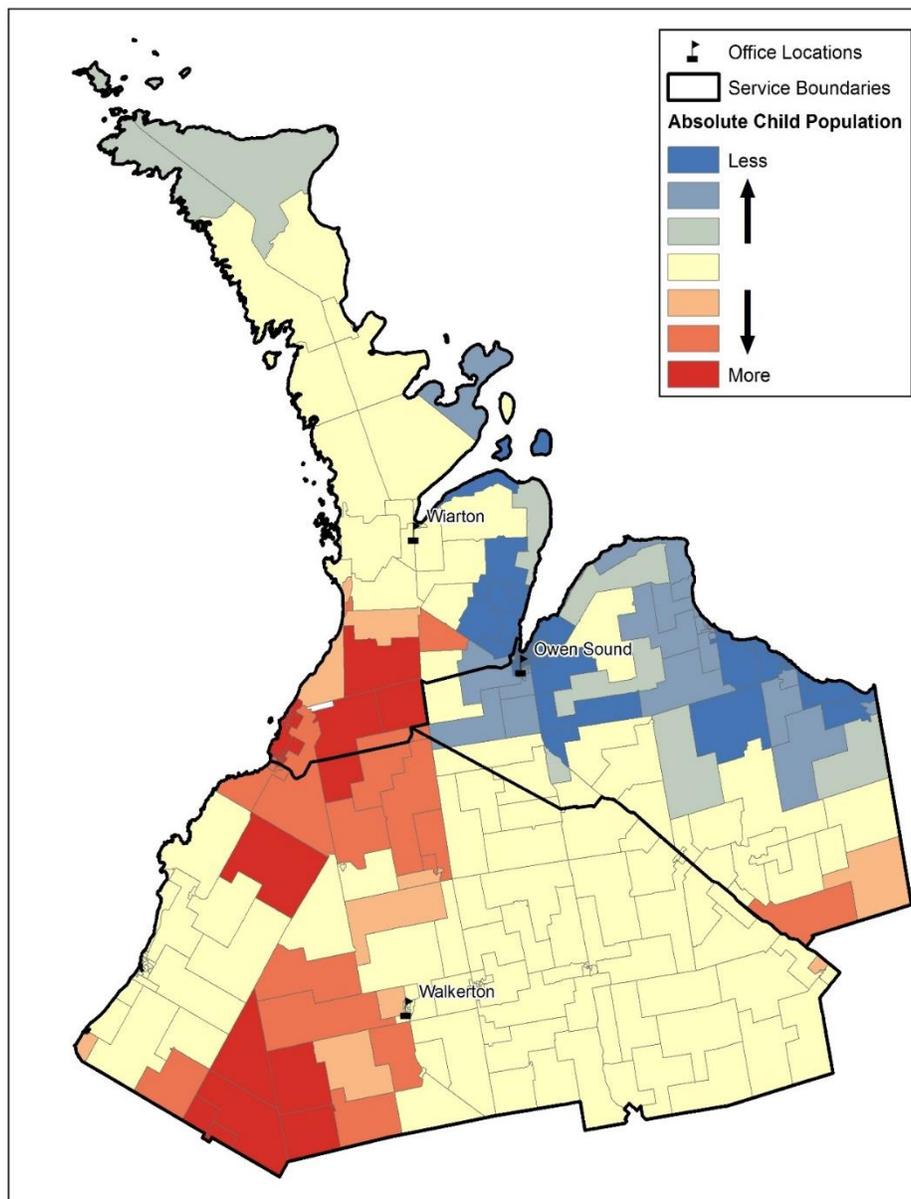
- Demographic trends and clusters of the 0-18 population;
- Projected child populations;
- Socio-economic trends;
- Service trends/Caseload.

### 6.1 Demographic Trends:

Child populations (0-18) in the jurisdiction, like in many parts of Ontario, have been declining significantly over the past decade or so. The 0-18 population dropped by 7% between 2001 and 2006 and a further 8.2% between 2006 and 2011. This represents a decline of just below 5,500 0-18 year olds over a 10 year period. The jurisdiction's population is ageing and any population increases over the past decade have been largely attributable to adult populations. While the 0-3 year old population has had continued declines through the late 90's to the early 2000's, the most recent census data for 2011 shows an increase of almost 600 0-3 year olds. This is important because the 0-3 year old population is a good demographic indicator of what the 4-18 year old populations can be expected to do. While the increases in the 0-3 population indicate that the most severe declines in the 0-18 population are likely over, it must be remembered that the 0-18 population declined by almost 5,500 people and the increases in the 0-3 population were only about 300.

Every municipality in the jurisdiction experienced child population declines between 2001 and 2011 of between -2% and -24%. When examining trends on a service area basis between Wiarton, Walkerton and Owen Sound, each has experienced somewhat similar declines in the 0-18 population over the last decade. Wiarton had the greatest decline with the 0-18 population declining by almost 16% between 2001 and 2011, followed by Owen Sound at just over 15% and Walkerton at almost 14%. In terms of the absolute numbers of 0-18 year olds, in 2011 the jurisdiction had a total of 31,855 with the Walkerton area having 53%, Owen Sound at 32% and Wiarton at 15%. A map on the following page depicts the highest concentrations (statistically significant) of the 0-18 year old population across the jurisdiction.

Figure 6a: Statistically Significant Clusters of Absolute Child Population



The jurisdiction includes two First Nations Reserves and also has a non-reserve First Nations population. According to Statistics Canada data, the percentage of the population that identifies as Aboriginal was 2.9% compared with 1.9% in 2001 – this was an increase of almost 58%. While data was not available for the Neyaashiinigiing 27 reserve for 2001 and 2011, it was available for the Saugeen 29 reserve. Total population on the Saugeen 29 reserve also increased between 2001 and 2011 but by only 4%. While the reserve data is incomplete, it would suggest that the growth in the First Nations population is potentially occurring in the non-reserve population.

## 6.2 Population Projections (0 to 18 years):

The demographic trends provide perspective on the historical populations that the organization serves and also are good indicators of future population trends. It is important to know what the service population looked like historically and what it looks like today; but it is also vital for the organization to understand what the future service population will be. The consultant prepared a 0-18 year old population forecast for the jurisdiction by service sector for the next 10 years (Table 6.1). The forecast takes into account historical demographic trends, migration assumptions, residential development forecasts and child yields and family structures. The forecast trends are similar to work the consultant has undertaken for the two English language school boards which share the same geography with BGCFS. Overall, the consultant projections predict that the 0-18 service population will continue to decline over the next 10 years, by about 3% or 946 people. The population is expected to continue declining in the short term, before stabilizing and increasing slightly in the longer term. The 0-18 population in the Wiarton service area is expected to increase by 1.0% which in absolute terms reflects a slight increase of 20 people. The Walkerton area is expected to decline by 3% or approximately 487 people while the Owen Sound area is expected to decline by 4.1%.

Table 6.1 Population Projections (0-18)

Projected 0-18 Year Old Population, 2014-2023	HISTORICAL			Year 1	Year 5	Year 10	2013-2023	% Change
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2018	2023		
<b>Wiarion Service Area</b>	2,293	2,239	2,131	2,136	2,131	2,152	<b>20</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Owen Sound Service Area</b>	12,472	12,158	11,836	11,647	11,253	11,356	- <b>480</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>
<b>Walkerton Service Area</b>	17,113	16,704	16,174	15,799	15,475	15,687	- <b>487</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,878</b>	<b>31,102</b>	<b>30,141</b>	<b>29,582</b>	<b>28,859</b>	<b>29,195</b>	- <b>946</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

Much of the decline in the 0-18 populations expressed above is due to the expected declines in the 14-18 year old population. Historical declines in the 0-14 population have recently impacted the 14-18 year old populations as the cohorts have aged. To account for this, the consultant also examined the 0-14 year old population (Table 6.2) which is more indicative of where the majority of the organization's resources go and also more closely approximates one of the current funding model triggers. The 0-14 year old population is projected to increase by 1.1% or 234 people. The Walkerton service area is projected to increase by 2.4% or 268 people while the Wiarton area is expected to also increase slightly by 29 people and Owen Sound is expected to decrease by just below 1%.

Table 6.2 Population Projections (0-14)

Projected 0-14 Year Old Population, 2014-2023	HISTORICAL			Year 1	Year 5	Year 10	2013-2023	% Change
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2018	2023		
<b>Wiarion Service Area</b>	1,605	1,590	1,597	1,596	1,644	1,626	<b>29</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Owen Sound Service Area</b>	9,254	9,002	8,929	8,859	8,860	8,866	- <b>63</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<b>Walkerton Service Area</b>	11,107	11,085	10,992	10,959	10,998	11,260	<b>268</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,966</b>	<b>21,677</b>	<b>21,519</b>	<b>21,415</b>	<b>21,501</b>	<b>21,753</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

The consultant-prepared projections are significantly more conservative than other population forecasts the consultant reviewed for the area. The Ministry of Finance prepares projections by Region/County for the Province of Ontario. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) projections predict that the 0-18 population in Bruce and Grey will increase over the next 10 years by more than 2,300 people or approximately 7% (Table 6.3). The Ministry of Finance projections were prepared in the spring of 2012 and were based on the 2006 Census.

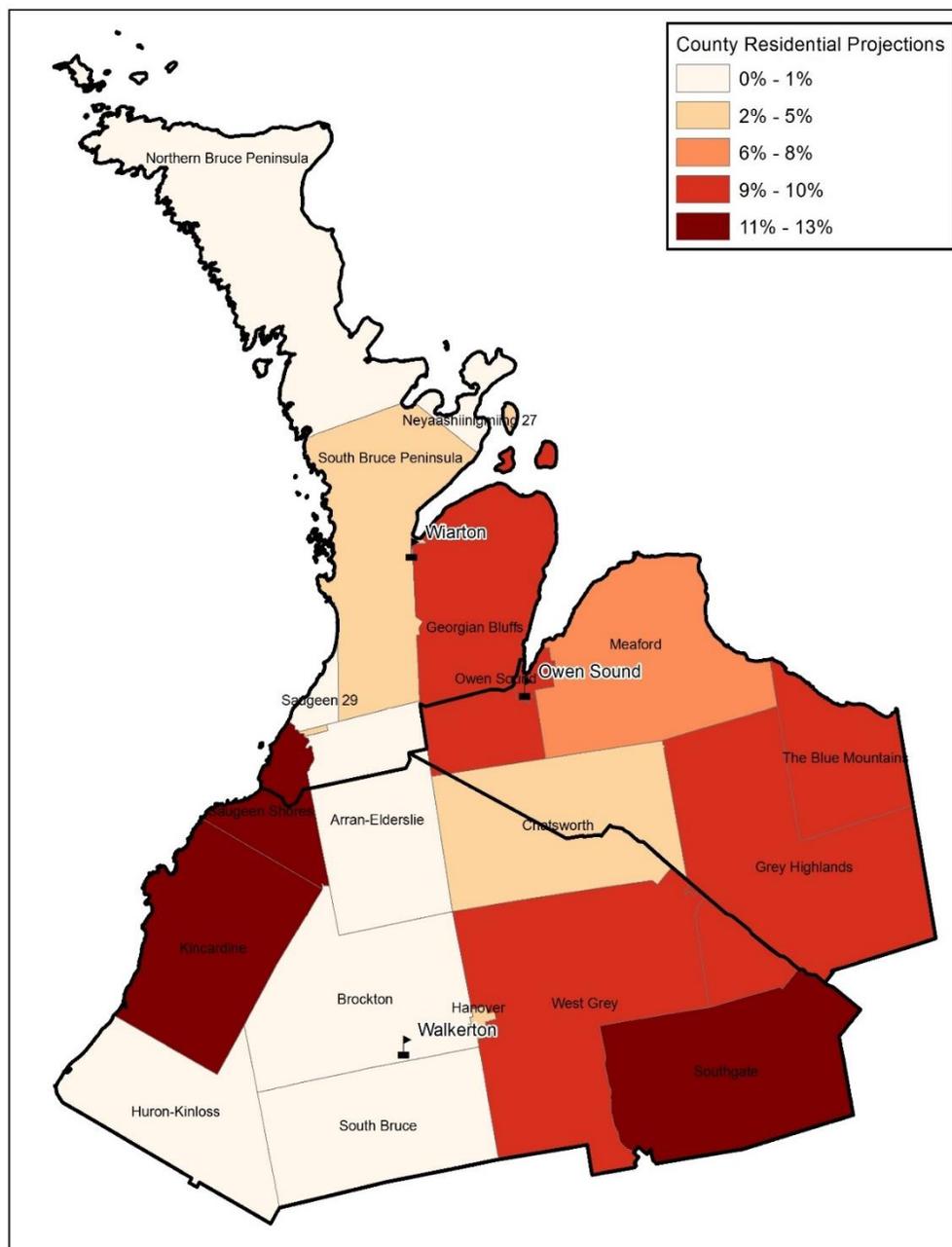
Table 6.3 MOF Projections

MOF Population Projections	2011	2018	2023	2013-23	% Change
Total Bruce/Grey Counties	32,870	33,624	35,190	2,320	7.1%

When examining population and migration data from the more recent 2011 Census, looking at detailed school enrolment data and projections and reviewing the residential development forecasts for Bruce and Grey, it was decided that a conservative forecast was more consistent and realistic to on-the-ground trends. School Board projections incorporate detailed and recent enrolment data and the relationships between this data and overall population data provide significant indicators of future pre and school aged populations. The trends and relationships observed at this level were inconsistent with trends projected in the Ministry of Finance projections. Furthermore, the residential development forecast for both Counties were reviewed in great detail and compared to actual building permit issuance and the forecast was found to be significantly overstated. In addition, the consultant had discussions with planning staff from both Counties with regard to the existing forecasts and was told that the forecasts were optimistic and that the Counties had not experienced the growth rates that were projected and that the forecasts were being reviewed.

While the overall consultant projections indicate that future 0-18 populations are likely to remain somewhat stable over the next 10 years, there are some areas in the jurisdiction that are projected to grow at greater rate. When examining future residential development plans, there are three municipalities in the jurisdiction where more than 10% of total future residential growth is expected to occur; Kincardine, Saugeen Shores and Southgate. Those 3 municipalities also have 0-18 populations higher than the jurisdiction average as well as 0-18 population ratios compared to the total population that are also higher than the jurisdiction average. The map below highlights projected residential development by municipality.

Figure 6b: Residential Growth Hotspots by Municipality



### 6.3 Socio-economic Trends

Earlier in this report, detail was provided with regard to a variety of socio-economic trends, with particular attention focused on family and child poverty rates. While much of this data is pertinent to the organization and the market they serve, this section will deal primarily with children living in poverty and lone parent families.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the prevalence of families and children living in poverty, according to data from T1 Family File, is lower in Bruce and Grey when compared with the Province of Ontario. In 2011, the rate of families living in poverty was approximately 8% to 9%

---

in Bruce and Grey Counties; compared with 13% of families in Ontario. In addition, the rate of children (aged 0 to 17) living in poverty was lower in the jurisdiction compared to the province as a whole. In 2011, less than 17% of children were living in poverty in Bruce and Grey. This compares to Ontario that had more than 19.4% of the children living in poverty for the same year. Historically, the rate of low income has been higher among females, lone parents, recent immigrants, people with disabilities, and First Nations people. Overall, the prevalence of low income households and poverty across the country is declining.

According to the 2011 T1 Family File, the number of lone parent families is also lower in Bruce and Grey when compared to the Province. In the jurisdiction, less than 13% of the tax filers identified as being a lone parent family, compared with 15% in the Province. While, the number of lone parent families has decreased since 2006 – the absolute number of lone parent families living in poverty has remained relatively stable since 2006 at around 1,800. In Ontario, 176,330 lone parent families currently live in poverty which is a slight increase since 2006 (1%). Family income levels and prevalence of lone parent families are impacted by a variety of factors, both economic and societal, however based on the high level review of trends, there is no indication that either of those factors are likely to change significantly in the next 5-10 years.

## **6.4 Service and Case Load Trends**

The following section provides a summary of the service and case load trends. For the purposes of this analysis, the total number of cases was examined between 2006 and 2013. The number of cases refers to both protection and ongoing services for the organization. The data indicates that the number of cases has declined by approximately 17% since 2006/07. This relates closely to the declines experienced by the 0-18 population over the last decade which saw a decline of 15% between 2001 and 2011. The 0-14 population experienced a more significant decline of over 20%. Considering the relationship between the number of cases and the service population, it is not surprising that the number of cases has decreased.

In addition to looking at the number of cases, it is also important to look at the number of cases per the 0-18 year old population to determine if the share or participation rate is also changing. In 2006 the Census identified a total of 34,885 0-18 year olds and the organization had a total of 691 cases for a participation rate of 1.98%. In 2011, there were a total of 32,010 0-18 year olds and 633 cases for a similar participation rate of 1.98%. In fact, the decline in the 0-18 population of 8.2% between 2006 and 2011 is relatively the same as the decline in the number of cases over the same time period (8.4%).

The service trends vary across the jurisdiction but not surprisingly, the highest number of cases are typically related to areas that have the highest concentrations of children or proportionally high numbers of children relative to the total population. When examining the case trends by

---

service area, the Walkerton and Owen Sound areas account for approximately 80% of all cases while the Wiarton area represents the remaining 20%.

While the number of cases has been declining since 2006, the statistics related to Resource and Adoption Trends have been increasing. These numbers refer to the kin in care, foster care and adoption statistics. Since 2006/07, these resources have increased by 8%. Similar to the service trends, when examining resources by service area Owen Sound and Walkerton account for 75% of the resources while Wiarton makes up the remaining 25%. When comparing the number of cases to the resources there are many areas that are consistent. However, it should be noted that there are situations where the percentage of cases relative to the resources are inconsistent and the organization should evaluate where and why these situation are occurring.

The needs analysis determined a list of primary factors that are relevant to the service delivery of the organization and made inferences about how those needs are being met today and what is expected to happen to the level of those needs in the future both on a jurisdiction-wide basis as well as by service area and municipality. It is evident that there is a direct relationship between the 0-18 service population and the number of cases.

- The 0-18 population, according to consultant-prepared projections is expected to continue dropping in the short to mid-term before stabilizing and then slightly increasing in the longer term.
- According to the T1 Family File, the incidence of families and their children living in poverty, as well as lone parent families are lower than the Province and there is no evidence in the trend analysis to indicate that they would increase significantly over the next 5-10 years.
- The number of cases has been declining since 2006/07.

Those three primary factors would suggest that service trends would continue to decline in the short term and are likely to stabilize in the longer term. The organization is already in the process of dealing with the projected short to mid-term declines and has a plan for a reduction in staffing and budget forecasts as the next several years show a decrease in funding. On an overall basis, the service trends are declining, consistent with the service population and other factors analyzed. To get perspective on some of these primary indicators on a small area basis, the consultant developed an indicator rating system by municipality, which can be found on the following page.

The rating system focuses on 7 main indicators;

- Child Population (0-18);
- % Of Child Population/Total Population;
- Prevalence of Low Income Families;
- Prevalence of Lone Parent Families;
- # of Cases

- 
- Overall % of Total Cases
  - The % of Cases/Child Population

It should be noted, that for this rating system, the prevalence of low income families and lone parent families was provided by the Census; which differs from the previous analysis included that was derived from the T1 Family File. The organization collects specific data (i.e. numbers of cases) that is then rolled up to municipal totals. While the T1 Family File provides an in-depth look at poverty trends throughout the jurisdiction, the data is collected and aggregated using postal codes and therefore does not necessarily roll up to municipal levels. Subsequently, Census data was utilized for this section of the report (i.e. Table 6.4) in order to compare between municipalities.

The ratings system chart highlights in yellow, the top five municipalities in any given category. The municipalities are then ranked by those having the most categories in the top five. According to this rating system, Owen Sound ranks first having 6 of the 7 categories in the top five. Owen Sound is followed by Hanover, Saugeen Shores (including Saugeen 29 First Nations reserve) and Brockton with 5 of the 7 categories in the top 5. Both South Bruce Peninsula and Arran-Elderslie have 4 of the 7 categories in the top 5. The Neyaashiinigiing 27 First Nations reserve has only 3 of the 7 categories in the top 5 but it should be noted that data was not available for low income families. It is also important to note that the reserve had the highest incidence of lone parent families at 29%, one of the highest ratios of children to adult populations at 28.2% and the second highest number of cases per child population at 3%. The remaining municipalities in the jurisdiction all had 2 or fewer categories in the top 5, with Meaford, Huron-Kinloss and The Blue Mountains having no categories in the top 5.

If it is assumed that the current resources (staff, resource homes etc.) in place are sufficient to meet the organization's needs today and that the organization has already accounted for the projected short to mid-term decreases in service population in their staffing and budget forecasts. There is nothing in the indicators examined that would suggest that future needs are increasing and require additional resources on a jurisdiction-wide basis, although there are some indications that some areas may be under or over resourced relative to historical caseloads.

Table 6.4 BGCFS Indicator Rating System By Municipality

Municipality	Child Population (0-18)	% of Child Population/ Total Pop.	Prevalence of Low Income Families*	Prevalence of Lone Parents**	# of Cases (March 31st, 2014)	% of Cases (March 31st, 2014)	% of Cases/Child Population
Owen Sound	4745	21.8%	6.8%	19.3%	116	22.4%	2.4%
Hanover	1495	20.9%	5.9%	14.3%	49	9.4%	3.3%
Saugeen Shores/Saugeen 29***	2485	19.9%	2.7%	10.9%	51	9.8%	2.1%
Brockton	2295	23.8%	6.0%	10.8%	44	8.5%	1.9%
South Bruce Peninsula	1545	18.4%	5.0%	10.8%	31	6.0%	2.0%
Arran-Elderslie	1675	24.9%	6.1%	10.2%	31	6.0%	1.9%
Neyaashiinigiing 27	165	28.2%	na	29.0%	5	1.0%	3.0%
Kincardine	2285	20.4%	2.4%	9.4%	30	5.8%	1.3%
Chatsworth	1585	24.8%	3.6%	10.8%	19	3.7%	1.2%
West Grey	2790	22.9%	5.8%	9.6%	22	4.2%	0.8%
Huron-Kinloss	1540	23.7%	5.1%	7.5%	16	3.1%	1.0%
Southgate	2075	29.0%	3.7%	9.8%	27	5.2%	1.3%
Grey Highlands	2225	23.5%	4.0%	11.6%	28	5.4%	1.3%
South Bruce	1645	27.7%	4.2%	7.8%	9	1.7%	0.5%
Georgian Bluffs	2260	21.5%	2.7%	5.6%	6	1.2%	0.3%
Northern Bruce Peninsula	610	15.8%	4.9%	4.2%	9	1.7%	1.5%
Meaford	2190	20.0%	4.7%	10.4%	24	4.6%	1.1%
Blue Mountains	1210	17.7%	4.6%	7.7%	2	0.4%	0.2%

\*The low income (LIM-AT) measure from T1FF is not available for all municipalities; so for the purpose of this comparison table, the low income (LICO) measure from the 2006 Census was used.

\*\*The prevalence of lone parent families from T1FF is not available for all municipalities; so for the purpose of this comparison table, the lone parent family ratio was derived from the 2006 Census.

\*\*\*Saugeen Shores/Saugeen 29 data has been combined

---

## 7. CONCLUSION

The main focus of this study is to provide Bruce Grey Child & Family Services with a comprehensive outlook of the population and demographic characteristics that encompass their jurisdiction. In particular, the prevalence of families and their children living in poverty was explored in conjunction with associated demographic trends such as precarious employment (not guaranteed or stable), health and well-being. An examination of the current demographic and socio-economic trends provides the organization with a better understanding of the population they currently serve and the potential needs of that population.

The impact of poverty on families (and their children) is wide-spread and complex in nature. Often low income families require support in order to navigate these challenges. This study has found that both Bruce and Grey counties have a lower prevalence of families living in poverty compared to Ontario as a whole. Poverty prevalence rates in Ontario have remained relatively constant at around 13% since 2006. Comparatively in Bruce and Grey, families living in poverty has declined from 10% to 9% during this same period of time. The prevalence of low income lone parent families however is on the rise throughout the jurisdiction. Between 2006 and 2011 the prevalence of low income lone parent families increased by 5% in Bruce and Grey; which compares with a 1% decrease in Ontario during this same period of time.

This study not only examined the prevalence of families living in poverty, but more importantly children (aged 0 to 17) that are living in low income households. Bruce Grey Child & Family Services works in partnership with the community to help families keep children safe. Since some families do not have children, it was important to examine child poverty prevalence rates separately. Overall, the prevalence of children living in poverty has declined. In 2006 approximately 18% of children between the ages 0 to 17 were living in low income households; this decreased to less than 17% by 2011. Comparatively in Ontario, the prevalence of children living in poverty was approximately 19% in 2001 – which represents a 1% decrease since 2006 when the rate was 20%. Bruce and Grey also have a lower prevalence of children living in poverty compared to the GTAH (Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton) which has ranged from 20% to 21% between 2006 and 2011. Compared to counties surrounding the jurisdiction however (i.e. Perth, Huron, Wellington, Simcoe and Dufferin); Bruce and Grey have a child poverty rate that is approximately 2% higher.

While the overall prevalence of child poverty is declining; approximately 4,800 children in Bruce and Grey are currently living in low income households. The number of children living in poverty varies geographically however; with discrepancies existing between neighbouring communities. Currently, Dundalk, Wiarton, Southampton, Teeswater and Owen Sound have each experienced an increase in the prevalence of child poverty since 2006; while the remaining municipalities/communities have remained stable or in decline during this same period of time.

---

In addition, Owen Sound, Wiarton and Hanover have the largest number of children living in poverty – representing more than 2,000 children combined or 43% of the total.

The rise of precarious employment (not stable or guaranteed) in recent years has also compounded the prevalence of low income households. Many families are struggling with the challenge of raising children, working full time and still having the burden of living in poverty. Some communities with higher rates of child or family poverty also have relatively high numbers of unemployed populations.

In addition, specific populations have a higher risk of poverty than others – with Canadian aboriginal children more than 2 and half times more likely to grow up in poverty than non-aboriginal children. In the jurisdiction, there are two First Nation communities which are both located in the Northwest portion of Bruce County. The total population of both of these communities combined is less than 1,500 – however the child population represents more than 30% of the total population.

This study provided an in-depth view of local poverty trends throughout the organization's jurisdiction. This data can be helpful in ensuring that services are allocated appropriately and effectively throughout the area. The organization's jurisdiction is one that has experienced significant declines in the child population over the last decade and while the number of cases have declined, so has the organization's funding. While families living in poverty in Bruce and Grey Counties have decreased slightly over the last decade, the number of low income lone parent families have been on the rise. Additionally, while the poverty rates are lower in Bruce and Grey Counties when compared with the Province, they are higher than many of its surrounding communities and vary greatly across the jurisdiction. This study has attempted to highlight areas that may have higher needs so that the organization can focus its resources and funding to be used in the most efficient manner.

As mentioned above, the data and analysis in this report is intended to help focus future resources for the organization. However, the information contained in this report is also intended to raise awareness of the issues facing Bruce and Grey Counties particularly with regard to poverty and more specifically families and their children living in poverty. This report provides data and information that is relevant to organizations across the jurisdiction; as well as all levels of government and the community at large. Subsequently this study can help facilitate a larger discussion of these important issues.