



ReThink Poverty

8 November 2023



**United Way
Centraide**
Simcoe Muskoka

Overview of Poverty



Market Basket Measure Threshold
for Ontario

Increased 7.7% in 2022 compared to 2021

Now \$46,799



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Poverty in Simcoe Muskoka

Housing



Mental Health & Supports



Food security



Childcare



Income Stability

State of Poverty

Poverty increased 1% in 2022 from 2021

Across Canada **1 in 14** (or 2.8 million people) live below the poverty line

42,653 (8%) in Simcoe County

8,145 (10%) in District of Muskoka

845 (9%) in Town of The Blue Mountains

51,643 people living in poverty

7,110 (6%) children living in poverty

6,928 (25%) lone parent families with kids under age 18 are living in low income



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Poverty disproportionately impacts people



Five times higher
Single Working
Age Adults



Four times higher
Lone Parent
Families



Twice as high
Indigenous
People



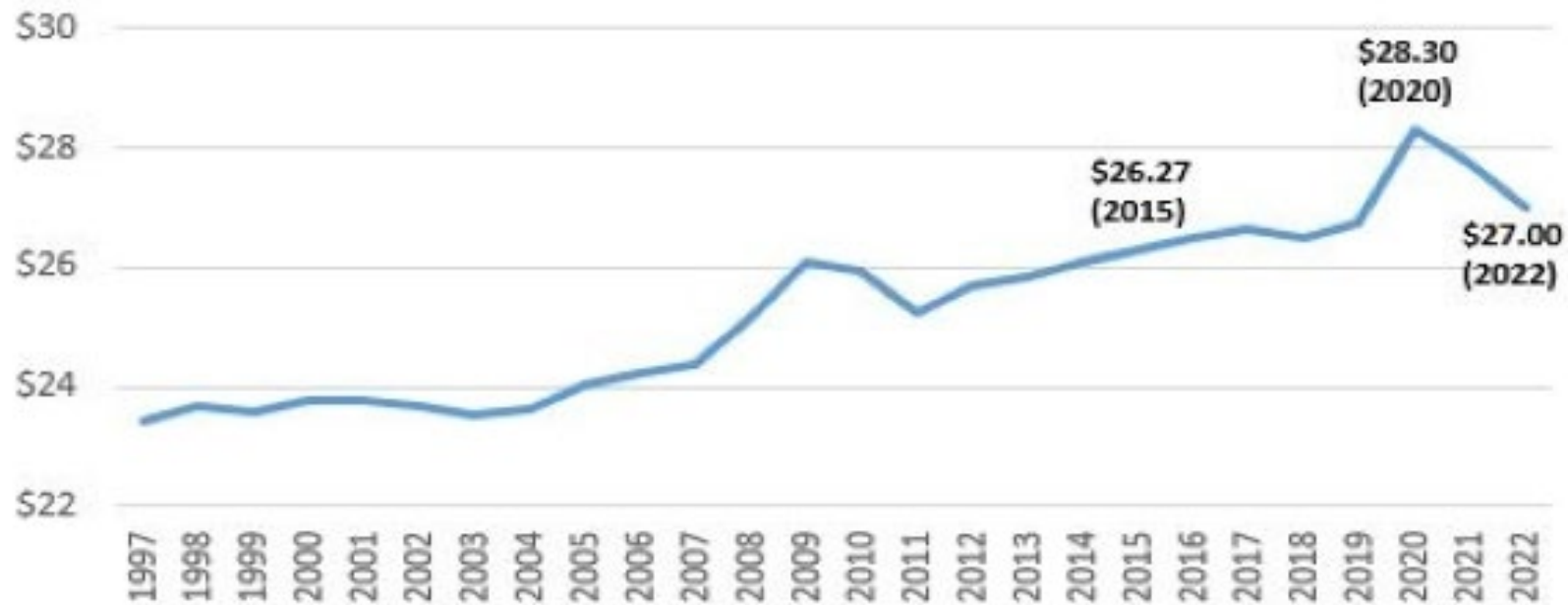
1 in 10
Racialized
People

Income Stability

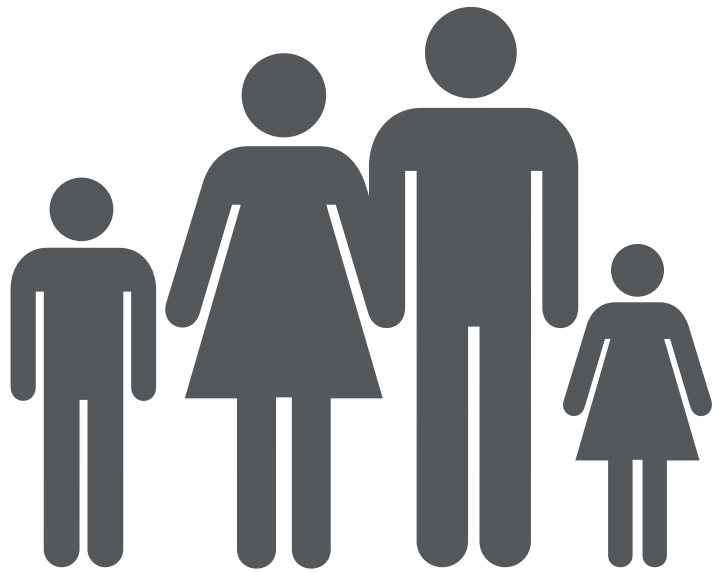


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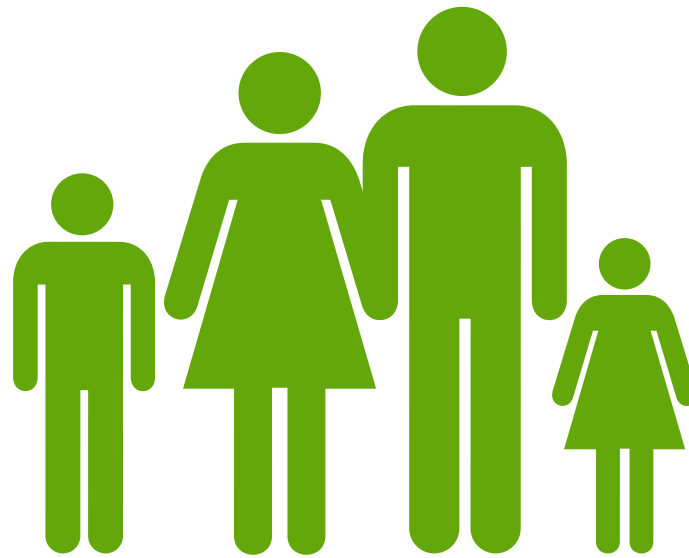
Median hourly wage in Canada - 2022 constant dollars



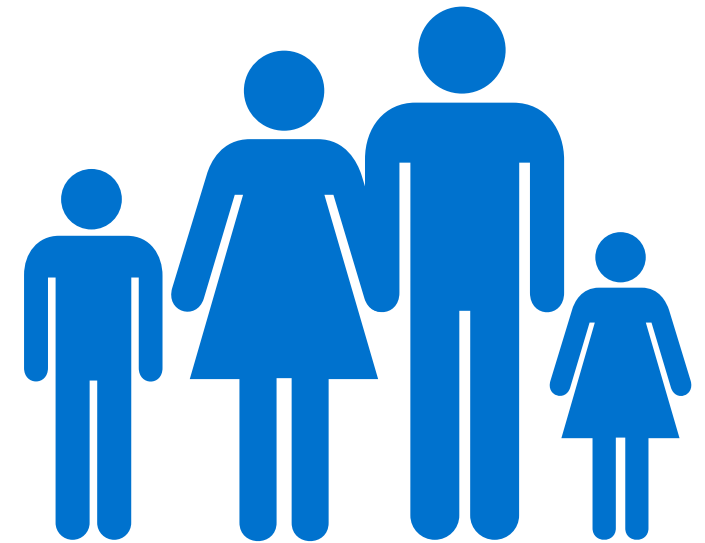
How Much Income is Needed for Food and Rent



Receiving Ontario Works
95% - Simcoe County
92% - District of Muskoka



Middle-income
28% - Simcoe County &
District of Muskoka

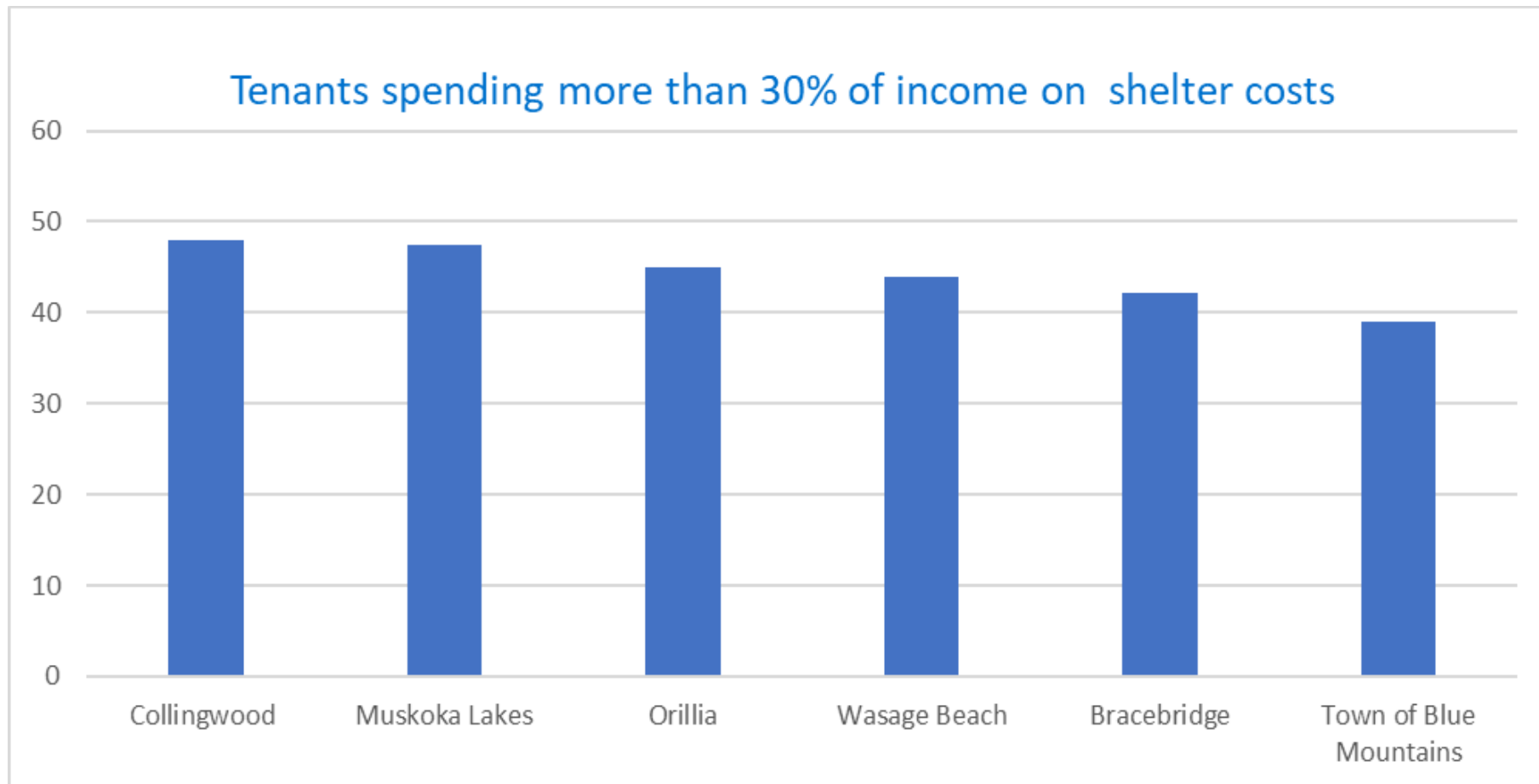


One full-time minimum
wage job
66% - Simcoe County
64% - District of Muskoka

Housing Affordability



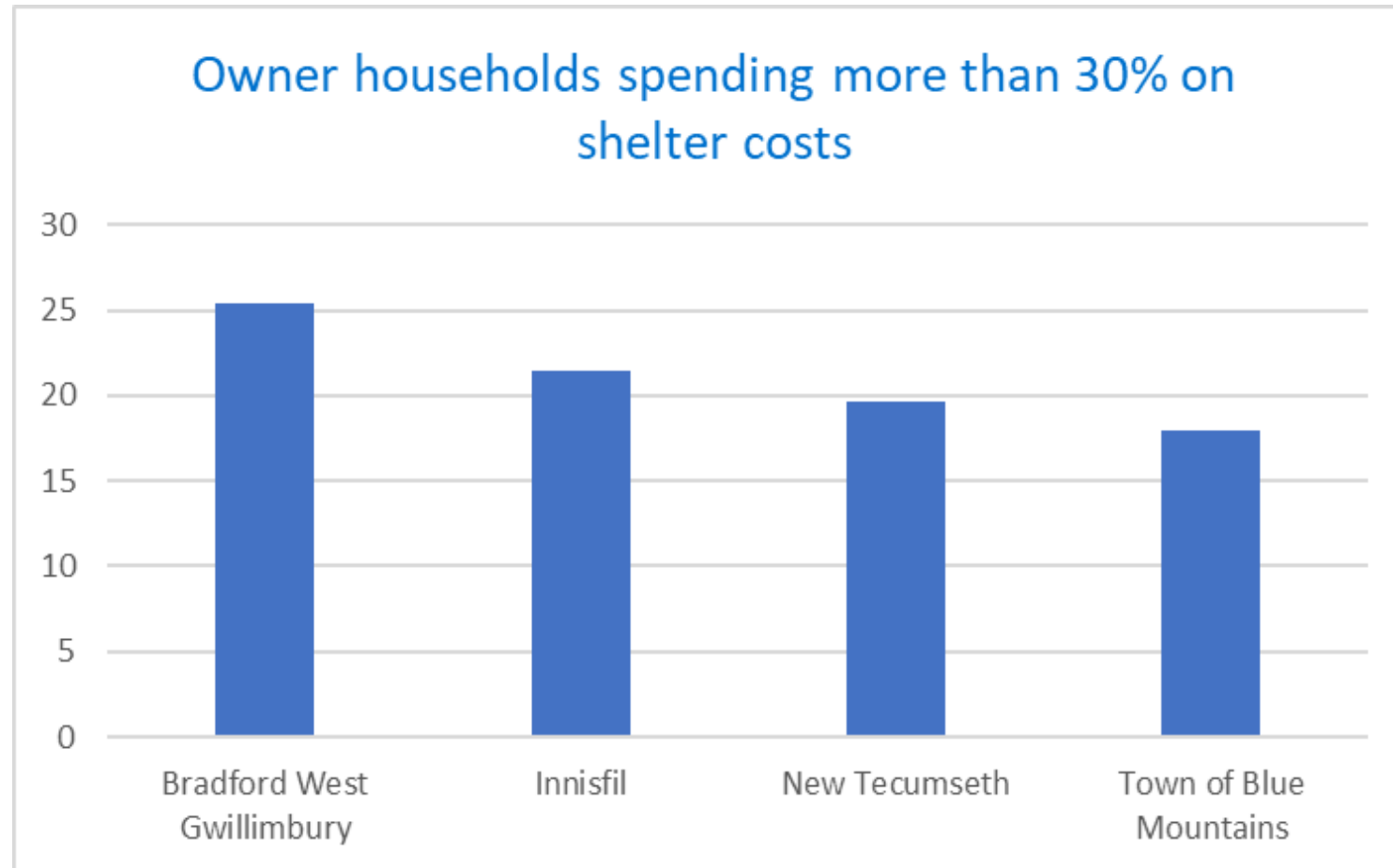
1 in 5 people are spending more than 30% of their income on housing.
Over 132,769 in Simcoe, Muskoka and TBM reside in unaffordable housing



Housing Affordability



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Housing Costs in Simcoe Muskoka



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Average value of private dwellings in 2023

\$819,192 in Simcoe

\$1,007,125 in Muskoka

\$1,138,930 Town of Blue Mountains

Average Rental Rates

Simcoe and Muskoka

1 bedroom is \$1,350

2 bedroom is \$1,850

In Town of The Blue Mountains

1 bedroom is \$1,750

2 bedroom \$2,250

Energy Poverty



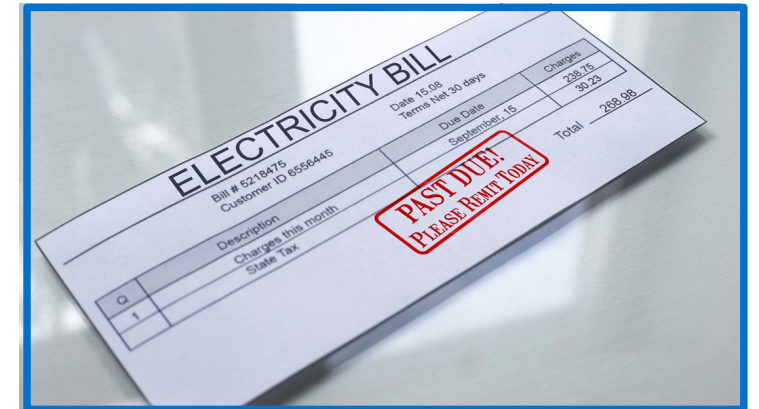
What is it? When a household spends more than 6% on home energy services, they are experiencing energy poverty.



Up to 45% of households in some of our communities



12,000 low income Ontarians served annually by United Way Simcoe Muskoka's energy assistance program

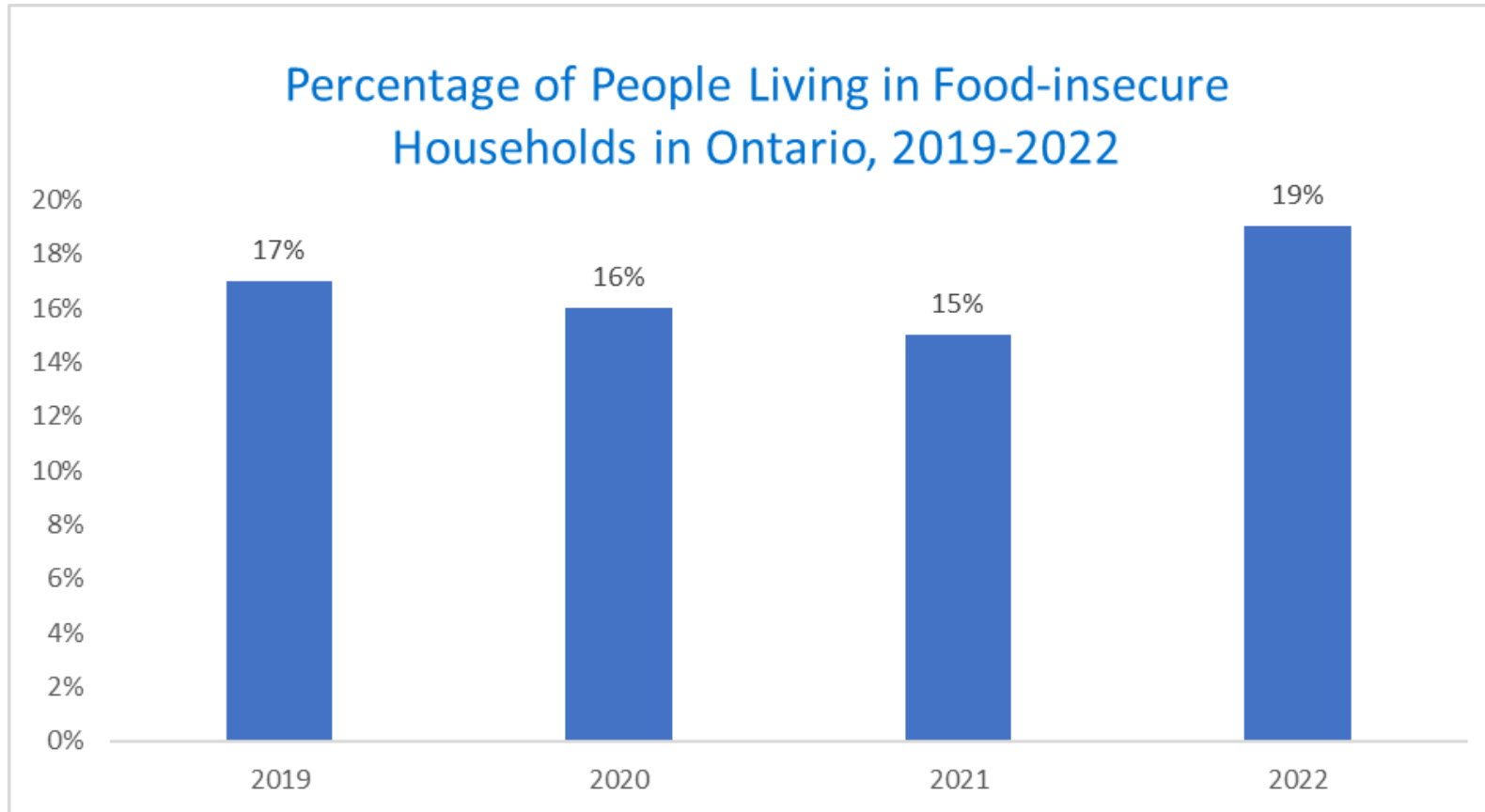


In 2022 the average bill was \$1,969.83.

47% increase since 2020

Food security

1 in 5 people in Simcoe Muskoka experienced food insecurity in 2022



The cost of food increased by over 10% in 2022

It is estimated to increase by 5 to 7% in 2023

Data Source: Statistics Canada Table 13-10-0834-01

Note: Canadian Income Survey (CIS) 2021. Data on food insecurity for CIS 2021 were collected in Jan-Jun 2022.



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Food Security

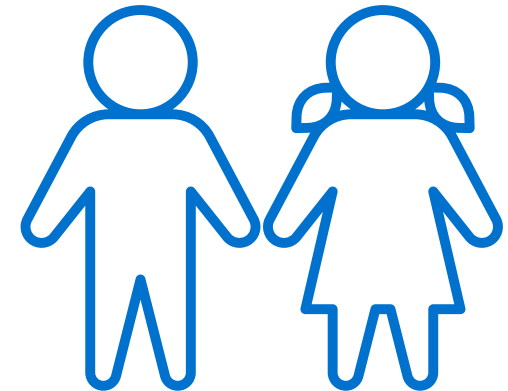
In Simcoe, Muskoka and Town of The Blue Mountains



14,598 Access to food banks



9,533 Adults



5,065 Children

62,910 Total Visits

Food Insecurity



25%

Lone Parent Families



24%

Two Parent Families



31%

Indigenous



25%

Racialized People

Childcare

115,540 Childcare aged population in our region

Government plan for fees are expected to drop to an average of \$10 a day by September 2025

Create 86,000 new child care spaces in Ontario by the end of 2027



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Childcare

Labour force participation of Ontario mothers with children 5 and younger increased 2.4% in 2022 to 79%.

- Childcare fee reductions began on April 1 2022
- Rise in work from home arrangements
- Easing of COVID-19 pandemic
- Greater pressure on household budgets due to elevated inflation and higher interest rates



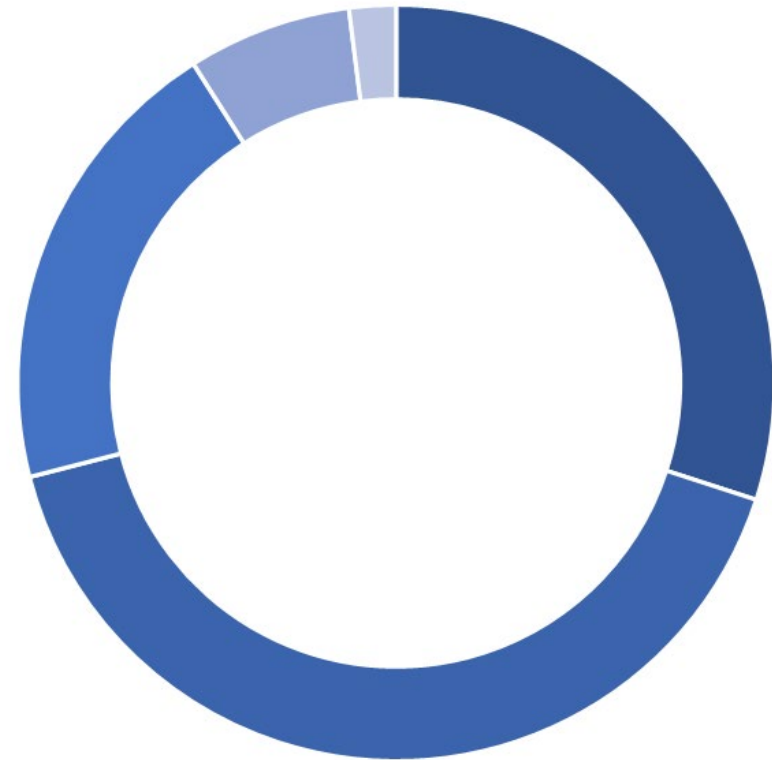
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Mental health & support needs

People self-reporting their health is “good” or “excellent” is 71%

A steady decline from 2018

Self-Rated Mental Health (2021)

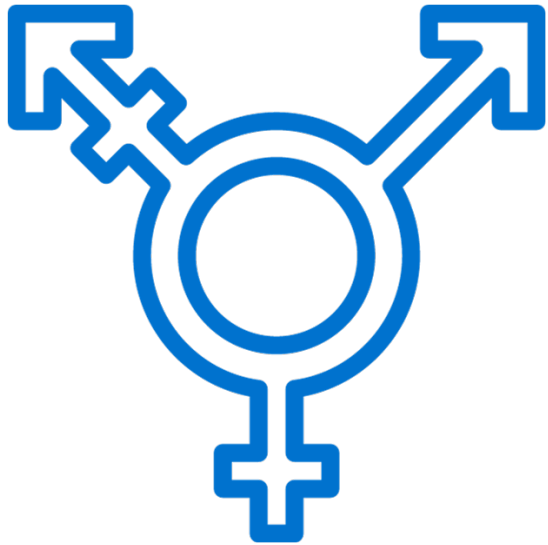


■ Excellent ■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

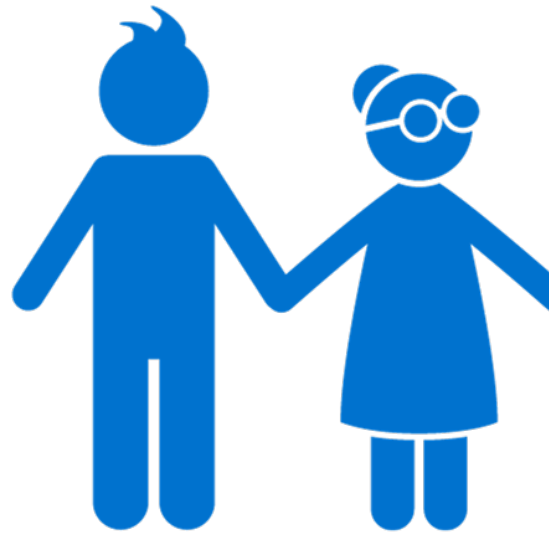


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Mental health & support needs



80% have had
suicidal thoughts



20% are affected by a
mental illness or disorder



\$79.9 billion
in 2021



Essential in rural
communities

It's Time to ReThink Poverty

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