

# FAMILIES

There are 42,995 census families in Kingston, which generally refers to people that live in the same dwelling and are related by blood or marriage. Families may or may not have children.

## Highlights

- The number of “non-traditional” families is increasing. The top three families experiencing the greatest increase in numbers in 2006 (since 2001) are: Common-law couples without children families (+29%); Male lone parent families (+14%); and Married couples without children families (+8%).
  - Married couple families without children remain the most common family type (16,160 families, accounting for 38% of all family types), but there have been only minor increases (+0.19%) since 2001.
- There has been an increase in median income for most families (Figure 1)
  - But gender inequality – female parents are earning less, both as lone parent families and as an earner in couple families.
  - More women are doing unpaid work 11% are doing up to 60+ hours per week vs. 5% of men.

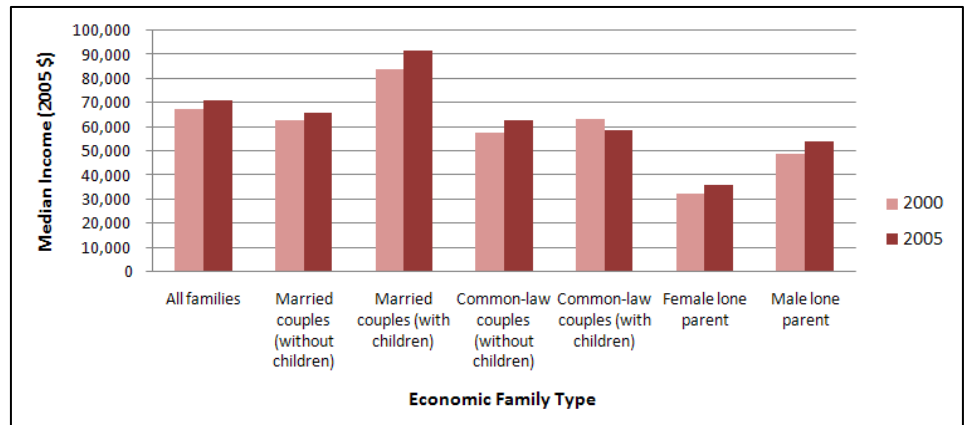


Figure 1: Median Income by Economic Family Type for 2000 and 2005, Kingston

## Implications

- Growth in families without children is likely to contribute to slowing population growth and to Kingston becoming an older community.
- Growth in male lone parents may affect service provision if many of them are associated with the military base or with any of the local penitentiaries. If they are associated with the military base, relevant services may need to be provided in partnership with military organizations. If they are parolees or former prisoners, correctional institutions may need to provide discharge services to help assist transition, as well as provide support in finding appropriate and affordable housing.

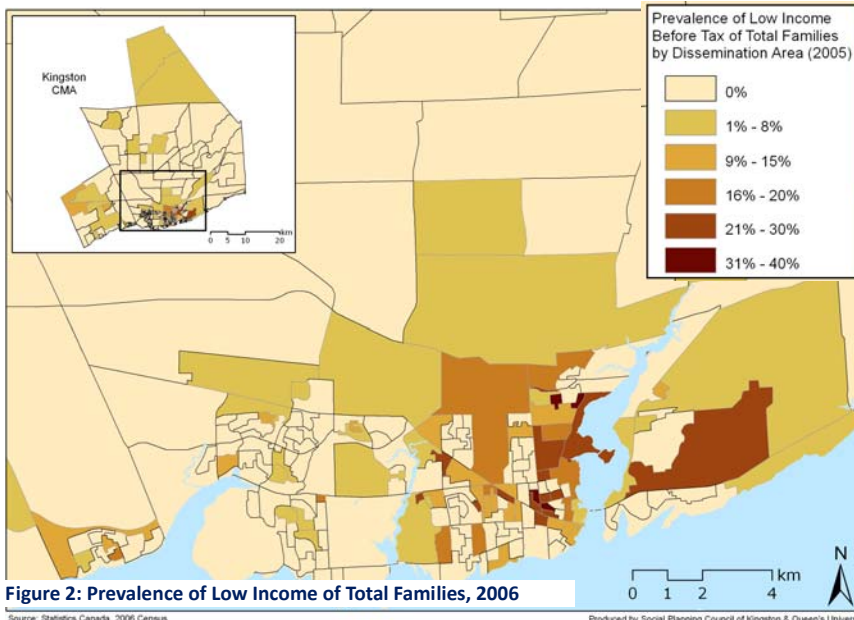


Figure 2: Prevalence of Low Income of Total Families, 2006

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census.

Produced by Social Planning Council of Kingston & Queen's University

- Children appear to affect the income and employment of mothers differently than fathers, consequently contributing to challenges for mothers that perhaps are making motherhood less attractive.
- Families of low income status appear concentrated in certain neighbourhoods, and this could contribute further to a class-based geographic polarization in Kingston (Figure 2). The current availability of affordable housing and other services, such as public transportation, social services and health care offices may be factors leading to such concentrations.