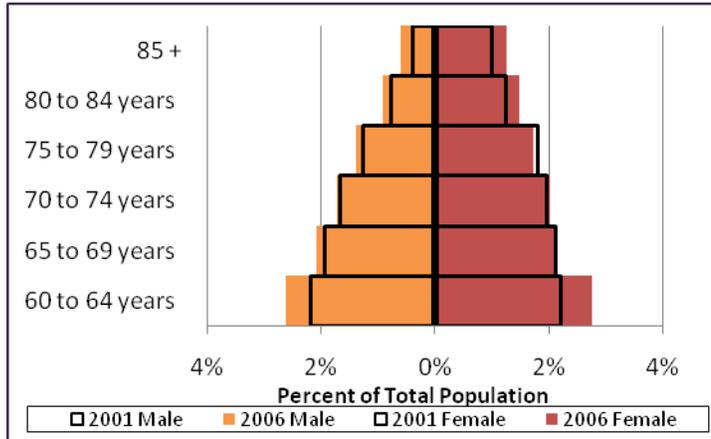


SENIOR CITIZENS



In 2011, the first wave of the Baby Boomer generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) will become 65 years. However, with a population of seniors comprising 15% of Kingston's total population, it appears that Kingston is already on its way to becoming an aging community.

Highlights

- In 2006 the population of seniors was 23,365 people, which is 15% of Kingston's total population. This is higher than the proportion of senior citizens in Ontario, which is 13% of the total provincial population.
- However, compared to other South Eastern Ontario municipalities, Kingston's senior population in 2006 was modest in size: in Peterborough, 24% of the population was senior citizens, while nearly 30% were seniors in Belleville.
- Of Kingston's senior population, 10,135 (or 43%) were male and 13,225 (or 57%) were female seniors.
- Most seniors, both male and female, were younger seniors between the ages of 65 to 69 years. The age cohort with the least number of seniors is 85 years and over.
- Female seniors comprise a substantial proportion of these older seniors, perhaps reflecting their longer life expectancy on average.
- 67% of seniors live with their spouses or partners, 28% of seniors live alone, 5% with relatives and/or non-relatives. It is unknown, whether those living in a retirement or long-term care facility are captured by the census.
- The distribution of seniors in the Kingston CMA is generally widespread. Most senior citizens are living in suburban neighbourhoods outside the downtown core. Large areas of Pittsburgh District and the rural areas of Kingston are comprised of between 22 to 35% senior citizens.
- The areas of the greatest concentration of seniors (between 35 to 54% of the neighbourhood population) are the neighbourhoods of Hillendale, Polson Park, Reddendale, Sutton Mills and Cataraqui Westbrook.
- Median Income levels for senior citizens have been increasing over time. However, there is still a considerable discrepancy between the income of male and female seniors. In 2001, the income of senior males was \$31,789 and this increased to \$35,098 in 2006, an increase of 10.4%. For the same time period, the income of senior females went from \$17,731 to \$20,556 which is a higher increase at 16.0%, but their income still remains about half as much as males.
- Prevalence of low income is low amongst Kingston's senior citizen population, but slightly higher for females (3.4%) than males (1.8)
- Prevalence of low income is also higher among those living alone: 6.7% of males living alone, 8.1% of females living alone.

Implications

- An impending population surge of senior citizens will put extra demand on senior-oriented services, such as health care, long-term care and retirement facilities, and public transportation alternatives.
- Seniors who wish to "age in place" will look for neighbourhoods that have a variety of accessible services and are likely to consider the walk-ability and safety of the environment.
- In broader terms, a healthy, generally wealthy, and vibrant senior population can contribute to a strong volunteer base, charitable contributions, stability and a retention of history in the City.