Introduction & Context

Toward Common Ground (TCG) is a partnership of 14 leaders from the social and health service sector, including municipalities and the University of Guelph. TCG has developed a common language framework to understand the social and health wellbeing of people in Guelph & Wellington.

Within the common language framework, TCG focuses on 5 domains and 25 concepts of wellbeing. Domains are quality of life categories. Concepts are specific aspects of quality of life under each domain area. For each concept, measures of wellbeing have been identified. These measures will be presented on a publicly accessible data dashboard.

This poster presents one measure from each domain area as a snapshot of wellbeing in Guelph & Wellington.

Why does this matter?

Democratic Engagement

Higher levels of democratic engagement lead to stronger communities and enhanced wellbeing. Positive impacts for individuals include acquiring knowledge, enhancing skills (such as problem-solving), increasing awareness about social and health issues, and fostering community connections. Voting is one form of democratic engagement.

Housing Need

The affordability, size, and condition of an individual or family’s home impacts their physical and mental health. When people live in a home that they cannot afford, they are often left to make choices about how they will pay for other necessities, like food, clothing and school supplies. When a home is overcrowded, infectious diseases spread more quickly. Homes that are not in good condition may contain mold, pests or have safety hazards that increase the risk of chronic disease and injury.

Highest level of Education

Higher levels of education are associated with higher incomes, better employment and working conditions, civic engagement and increased therapy.

Self-Rated Health

“Self-rated Health is a strong predictor of mortality and, therefore, a valid indicator of overall health.”

Crime

A person who is the victim of a crime may experience physical, financial and emotional consequences. A person does not need to experience a crime to experience fear of crime. Both crime and the fear of crime can have negative impacts on communities, including decreasing trust and interactions among community members.

References


In 2015, more females than males in Guelph and Wellington County had a university certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above. The most common major fields of study for people 15 years old and over living in Guelph & Wellington County were health sciences and management and public administration.

63.1% of people 25 to 64 years old were living in a detached house. In 2015, the median household income was $100,050. In 2015, the median rent was $1550.

In 2011, more females than males in Guelph and Wellington County had a university certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above. The most common major fields of study for people 15 years old and over living in Guelph & Wellington County were health sciences and management and public administration.


Self-Rated Health is an important indicator of health levels in the community and can be used to identify areas for improvement. TOWARD COMMON GROUND

By the Numbers:

Belonging & Participation

71.0% of eligible voters who cast a ballot in the 2015 Federal Election in the Guelph and Wellington-Halton ridings.

Economic & Material Wellbeing

9.0% of households in Core Housing Need in Wellington County (including Guelph).

Education

32.0% of people aged 25-64 in Guelph with a bachelor-level education or higher.

Health

91.0% of people in Guelph who reported their health was good, very good or excellent in 2014.

Safety

48.4% of people in Wellington County who reported their safety was good, very good or excellent in 2014.

More about the Data:

Over the last five elections, voter participation in federal elections in the Guelph, Wellington-Halton and Perth-Wellington ridings has ranged from 59% to 71%. Voter turnout in federal elections in the Guelph and Wellington-Halton ridings has consistently been higher than voter turn-out rates for Ontario and Canada. When compared to federal elections, less local residents tend to vote in provincial and municipal elections.

“A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable.”

In 2011, more females than males in Guelph and Wellington County had a university certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above. The most common major fields of study for people 15 years old and over living in Guelph & Wellington County were architecture, engineering and related technologies; and business, management and public administration.

The percent of local people who reported their health as good, very good or excellent in 2014 was higher in Guelph and Wellington than the overall rate for Ontario.

Unlike the traditional crime rate which captures volume of crime, the Crime Severity Index (CSI) analyzes crime based on its severity. The CSI includes all Criminal Code and federal statute offences. The lower the CSI values, the less serious the reported crime is in that community.

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