



2016 Calgary Profile: Chapter 2

Households, Families and Marital Status

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Introduction

This profile contains information from the 2016 Census of Canada about **Calgary** released by Statistics Canada. This chapter presents data that covers households, families and marital status. Subsequent chapters of the Calgary Profile will provide information about additional Census topics. In 2018, information will be released for Calgary communities and wards.

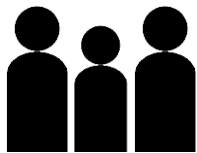
Highlighted terms throughout the document are defined in the **glossary**. Data quality information, notes and sources are found in the **Notes** and **References** sections at the end of the document. For more information visit our webpage or contact socialresearch@calgary.ca.

Results Snapshot

2016 = ■ 2011 = ■

Per Cent Adults Age 15 Years and Over that were **Married** or Living **Common-Law**:

59%
58%



Per Cent Young Adults Age 20-34 Living with at Least **One Parent**:

28%
24%⁽²⁰⁰¹⁾



Average Number of **Children** per Census Family with **Children**:

1.8
1.8

Census Family Structure:

Couples with children: 48% 48%
Couples without children: 37% 37%
Lone-parent families: 14% 15%



Per Cent **Households** with **only One Person**:

24%
26%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2012; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c.

Calgary in 2016: Households

Couple census family households with and without children represented 53 per cent of Calgary households in 2016. About one in four households had only one person. The number of **multigenerational households** increased by 27 per cent between 2011 and 2016, but remains at 3 per cent of all households.

Calgary Household Type, 2011 and 2016					
Household type	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Total private households	423,415	100%	466,725	100%	10%
Couple census family households without children	95,825	23%	107,655	23%	12%
Couple census family households with children	124,995	30%	140,260	30%	12%
Lone parent family households	31,960	8%	34,765	7%	9%
Multigenerational households	11,840	3%	15,050	3%	27%
Other census family households	21,330	5%	25,470	5%	19%
Non-census family households (two or more persons)	27,465	6%	29,335	6%	7%
One-person households	110,000	26%	114,185	24%	4%

Source: Statistics Canada 2017c.

The majority of Calgarians age 15 and over lived in a census family in 2016 (78 per cent). Over half of those that did not live in a census family lived alone (114,185 people).

Calgary Living Arrangements of Population Age 15 and Over in Private Households, 2011 and 2016					
Living arrangements	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Persons age 15 and over in private households	886,215	100%	996,055	100%	12%
Not living in census families	202,715	23%	218,230	22%	8%
<i>Living with other relatives</i>	26,750	3%	30,965	3%	16%
<i>Living with non-relatives only</i>	65,960	7%	73,080	7%	11%
<i>Living alone</i>	110,000	12%	114,185	11%	4%
Living in a census family	683,505	77%	777,825	78%	14%

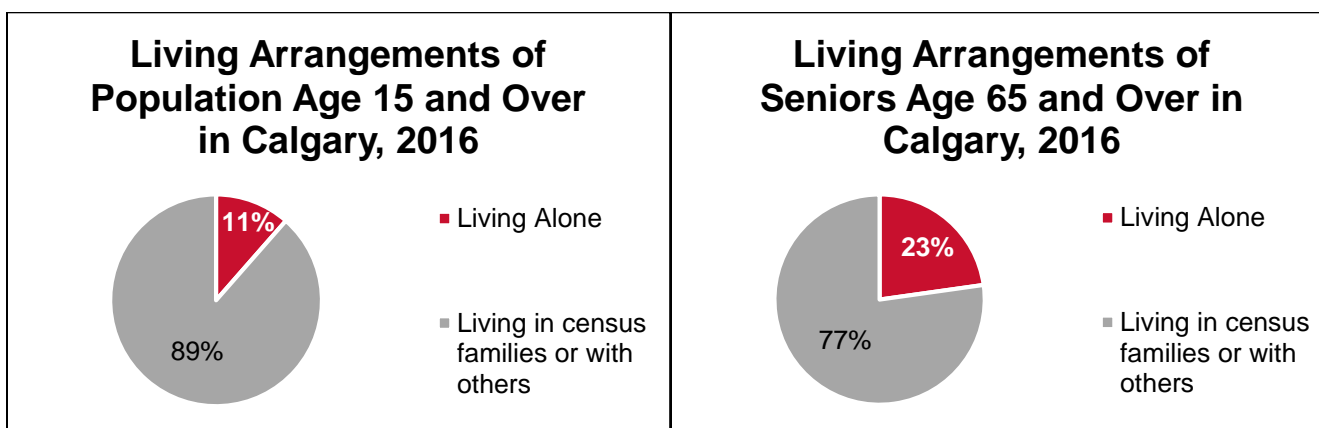
Source: Statistics Canada 2017d.

Calgary in 2016: Households (continued)

Compared to the total **population** age 15 and over, **seniors** in Calgary were more likely to live alone in 2016 (23 per cent vs. 11 per cent). Most of the seniors that are not living in a census family lived alone (29,110 seniors).

Calgary Living Arrangements of Seniors Age 65 and Over in Private Households, 2011 and 2016					
Living arrangements	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Seniors age 65 and over in private households	99,835	100%	127,825	100%	28%
Not living in census families	32,785	33%	40,235	31%	23%
<i>Living with other relatives</i>	5,850	6%	7,810	6%	34%
<i>Living with non-relatives only</i>	2,175	2%	3,315	3%	52%
<i>Living alone</i>	24,760	25%	29,110	23%	18%
Living in a census family	67,050	67%	87,585	69%	31%

Source: Statistics Canada 2017d.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017d.

Calgary in 2016: Families

In 2016, most families in Calgary were couple families (86 per cent). Lone-parent families represented 14 per cent of all census families. Most of those lone-parent families had a female parent (37,090 families).

Calgary Census Family Structure, 2011 and 2016					
Census Family Structure	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Census families in private households	296,430	100%	337,125	100%	14%
Couple families	253,360	85%	289,540	86%	14%
<i>Married couples</i>	215,755	73%	244,545	73%	13%
<i>Common-law couples</i>	37,600	13%	44,990	13%	20%
Lone-parent families by sex of parent	43,070	15%	47,580	14%	10%
<i>Female parent</i>	33,625	11%	37,090	11%	10%
<i>Male parent</i>	9,450	3%	10,500	3%	11%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2012; 2017a.

Two-person census families were the most common in Calgary in 2016 (46 per cent). The number of census families with 5 or more persons increased by 18 per cent between 2011 and 2016 to 30,835 families.

Calgary Census Family Size, 2011 and 2016					
Census Family Size	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Census families in private households	296,430	100%	337,125	100%	14%
2 persons	137,185	46%	155,535	46%	13%
3 persons	67,795	23%	75,950	23%	12%
4 persons	65,355	22%	74,800	22%	14%
5 or more persons	26,095	9%	30,835	9%	18%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2012; 2017a.

Calgary in 2016: Families (continued)

In 2016, **biological/adoptive families** were the most common type of family structure in Calgary (70 per cent), followed by lone-parent families (23 per cent). The average number of children in census families was less than 2. The exception was **complex stepfamilies** which had 2.8 children on average in 2016.

Calgary Census Family Structure, 2011 and 2016					
Census Family Structure	2011		2016		Avg. # of children
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Total – Census families with children	185,880	100%	211,000	100%	1.8
Couple census families with children	142,810	77%	163,420	77%	1.9
<i>Biological/Adoptive families</i>	128,720	69%	148,175	70%	1.9
<u><i>Stepfamilies</i></u>	14,085	8%	15,245	7%	1.9
<u><i>Simple stepfamilies</i></u>	9,060	5%	9,860	5%	1.4
<i>Complex stepfamilies</i>	5,030	3%	5,385	3%	2.8
Lone-parent census families	43,075	23%	47,585	23%	1.5
<i>Male lone-parent census families</i>	9,450	5%	10,495	5%	1.4
<i>Female lone-parent census families</i>	33,625	18%	37,085	18%	1.5

Source: Statistics Canada 2017b.

In 2016, 85 per cent of children (age 0-14) in Calgary lived with two parents (biological, adoptive or step-) and 14 per cent of children lived in lone-parent census families. One per cent of children in Calgary lived with grandparents, other relatives or were **foster children**. The number of foster children decreased by 15 per cent between 2011 and 2016 while the number of children living with other relatives increased by 47 per cent.

Calgary Living Arrangements of Persons Age 0-14, 2011 and 2016					
Living Arrangements	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Population age 0-14 in private households	196,015	100%	226,270	100%	15%
Children in census families	194,830	99%	224,915	99%	15%
Living with:					
<i>Two biological or adoptive parents</i>	155,645	79%	181,685	80%	17%
<i>One biological or adoptive parent and one step-parent</i>	9,560	5%	10,555	5%	10%
<i>One parent in a lone-parent census family</i>	28,980	15%	32,010	14%	10%
<i>Grandparents without parents present</i>	645	0%	665	0%	3%
Persons not in census families	1,185	1%	1,355	1%	14%
<i>Living with other relatives</i>	550	0%	810	0%	47%
<i>Foster children</i>	635	0%	540	0%	-15%

Source: Statistics Canada 2017e.

Calgary in 2016: Marital Status

In 2016, half of the population age 15 and over in Calgary was **married** and a further 9 per cent were living **common law**. The remaining 41 per cent of the population includes those that were **never married** (29 per cent), **divorced** (6 per cent), **widowed** (4 per cent) or **separated** (2 per cent). Between 2011 and 2016, the population living common law increased by 20 per cent, whereas the married population increased by 14 per cent.

Calgary Marital Status, 2011 and 2016					
Marital Status	2011		2016		Change 2011-2016
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Population age 15 years and over in private households	900,415	100%	1,012,245	100%	12%
Married or living common law	520,395	58%	596,630	59%	15%
<i>Married</i>	445,155	49%	506,625	50%	14%
<i>Living common law</i>	75,240	8%	90,005	9%	20%
Not married and not living common law	380,020	42%	415,610	41%	9%
<i>Never married</i>	265,405	29%	293,200	29%	10%
<i>Separated</i>	21,400	2%	22,285	2%	4%
<i>Divorced</i>	57,735	6%	62,270	6%	8%
<i>Widowed</i>	35,480	4%	37,860	4%	7%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2012; 2017a.

In the Calgary **census metropolitan area** (CMA), 85 per cent of **opposite-sex** couples were married and 15 per cent were living common law in 2016. Thirty-seven per cent of **same-sex** couples were married and 63 per cent were living common law.¹

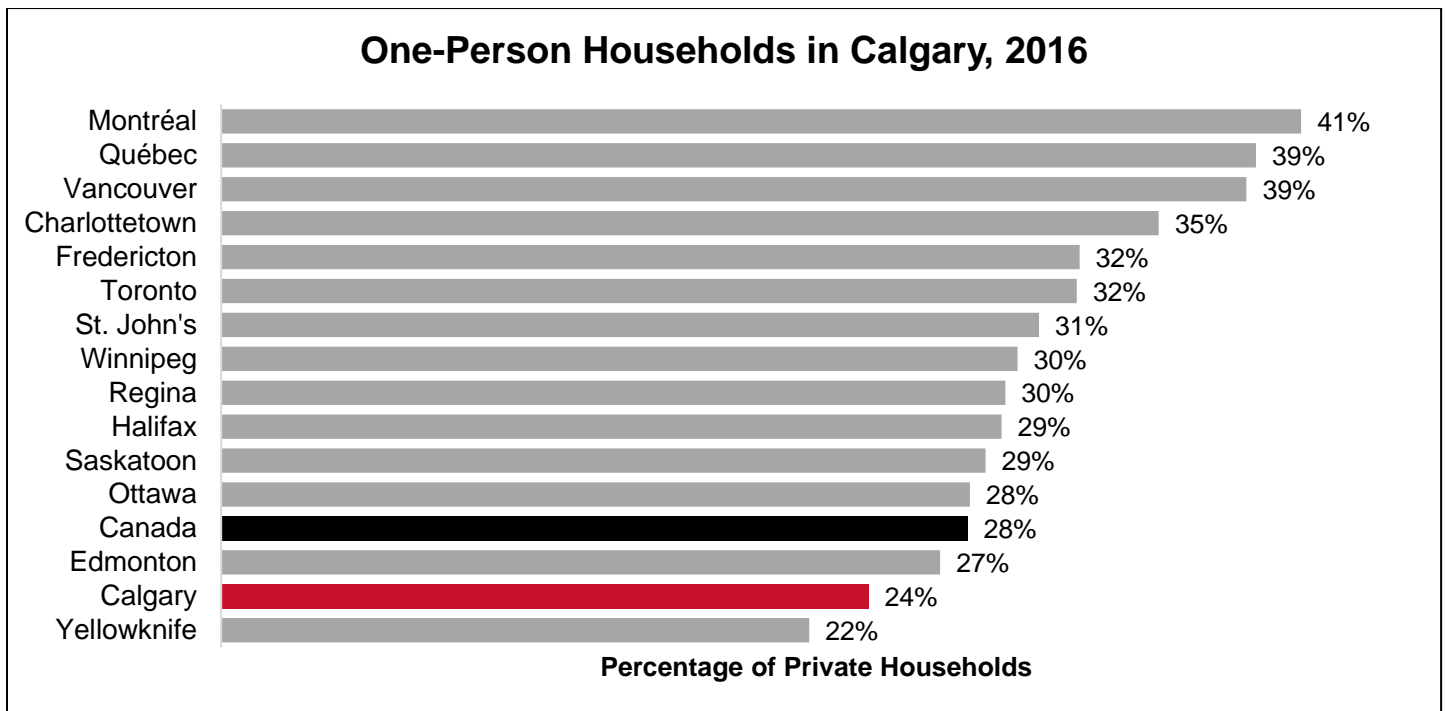
Calgary Marital Status, by Age and Opposite-/Same-Sex Status (CMA), 2016				
Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	% of Total
Population age 15 years and over in private households	553,435	560,545	1,113,980	100%
Persons in a couple	329,540	329,295	658,835	59%
<i>Married spouses</i>	278,480	278,515	557,000	50%
Opposite-sex married spouses	277,535	277,530	555,065	50%
Same-sex married spouses	945	990	1,935	0%
<i>Common-law partners</i>	51,065	50,770	101,835	9%
Opposite-sex common-law partners	49,275	49,275	98,550	9%
Same-sex common-law partners	1,790	1,500	3,290	0%
Persons not in a couple	223,900	231,250	455,150	41%

Source: Statistics Canada 2017f.

¹ Census data about same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples are about couples who live together. They are not about sexual orientation in the population at large. The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) includes a question on sexual orientation. In 2014, 1.7 per cent of Canadian adults between the ages of 18 and 59 reported themselves to be homosexual (gay or lesbian) and 1.3 per cent reported themselves to be bisexual.

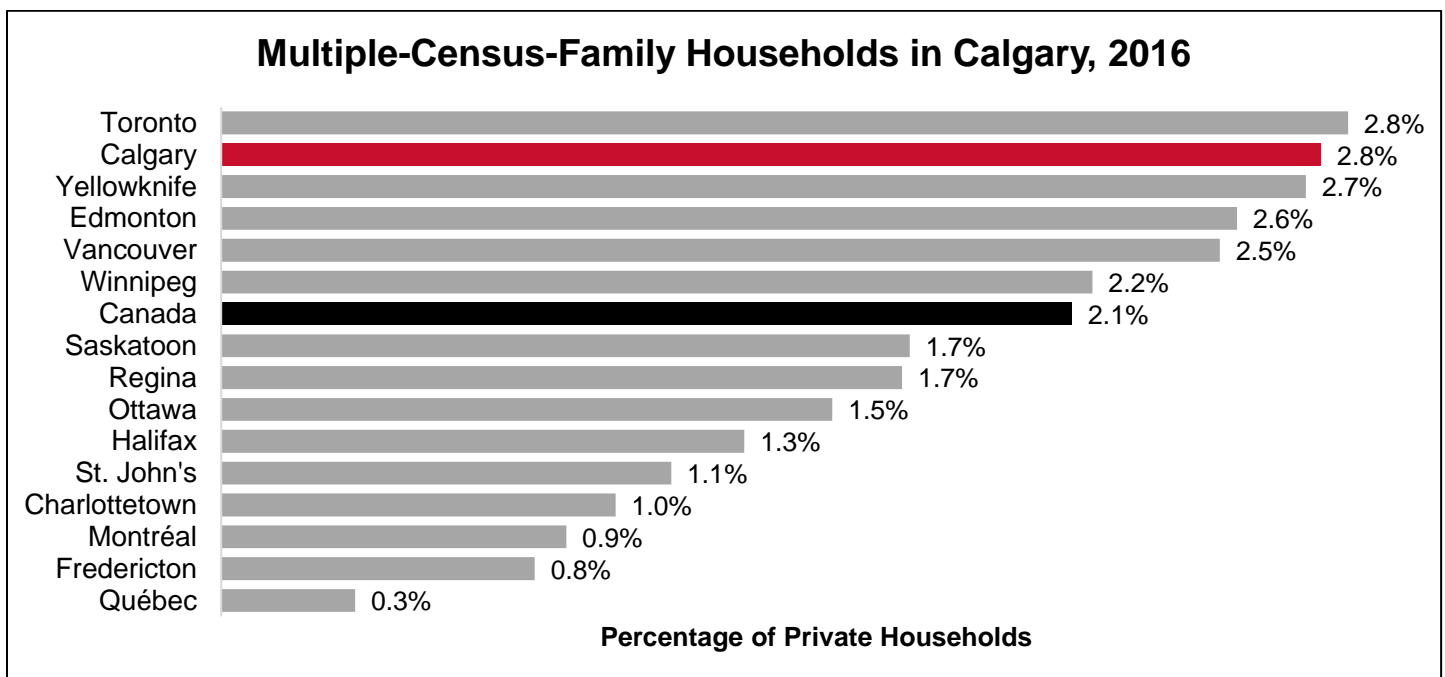
Canadian Comparisons: Households

In 2016, one-person households represented a smaller proportion of households in Calgary, compared to most other **major cities** in Canada.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017a.

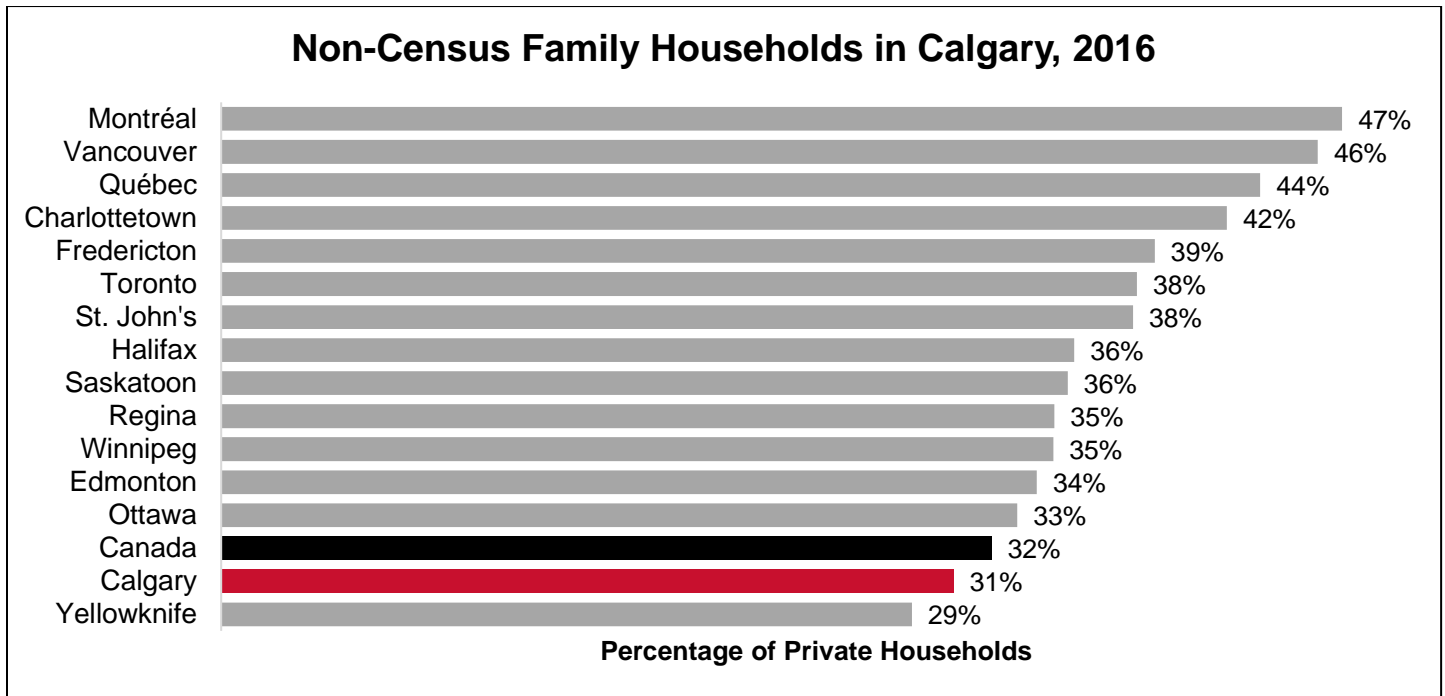
Multiple-census-family households represent a small percentage of private households in Calgary, however, this percentage is higher than most other major Canadian cities.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017a.

Canadian Comparisons: Households (continued)

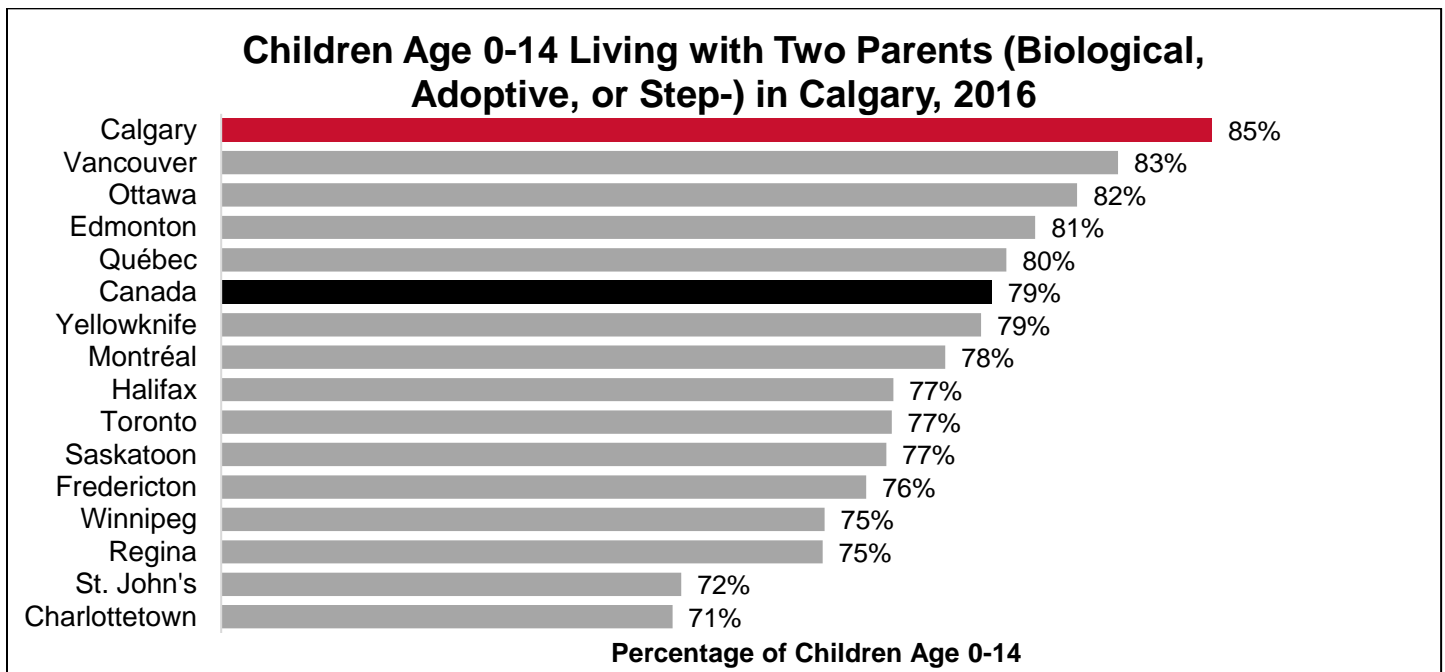
Non-census family households (a household without a couple or a parent and their child) represented 31 per cent of Calgary households in 2016; this is lower than most other major cities in Canada.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017a.

Canadian Comparisons: Families

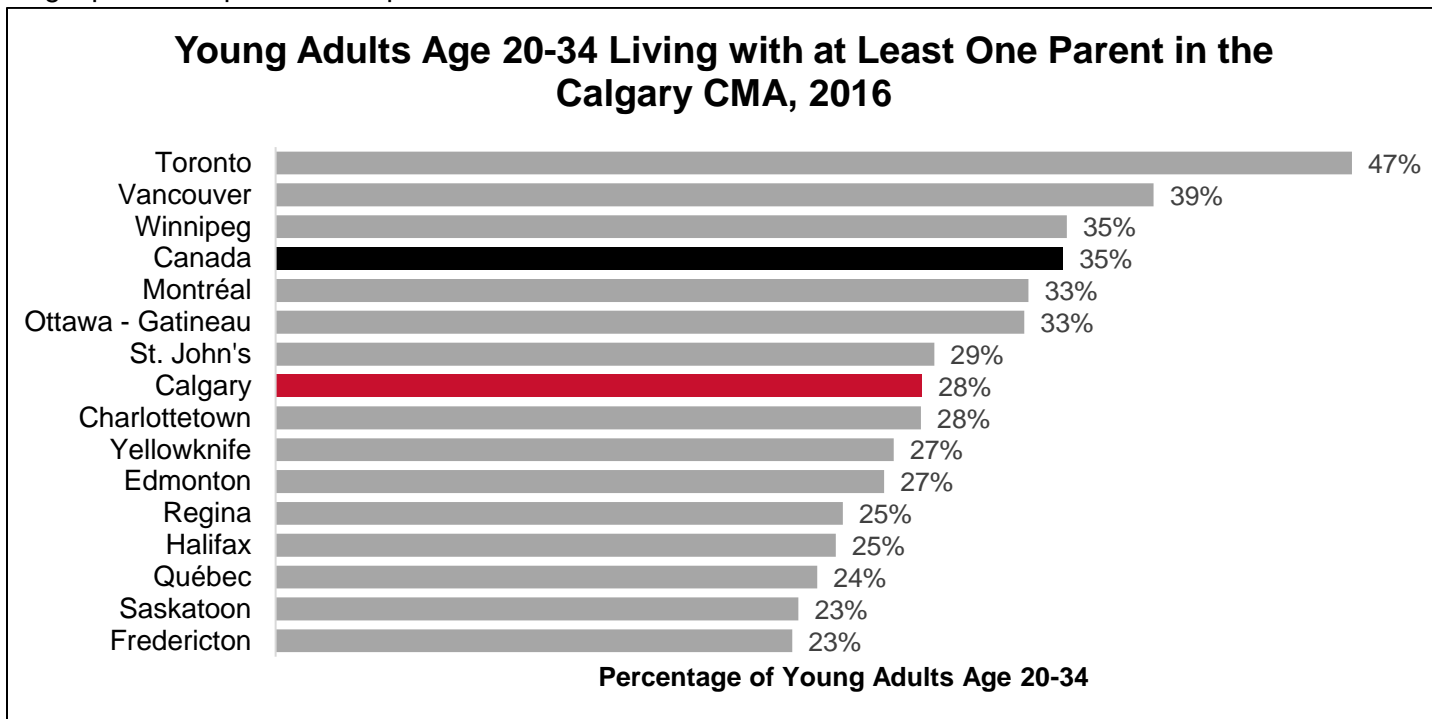
Compared to other major cities, Calgary had the highest percentage of children living with two parents in 2016.



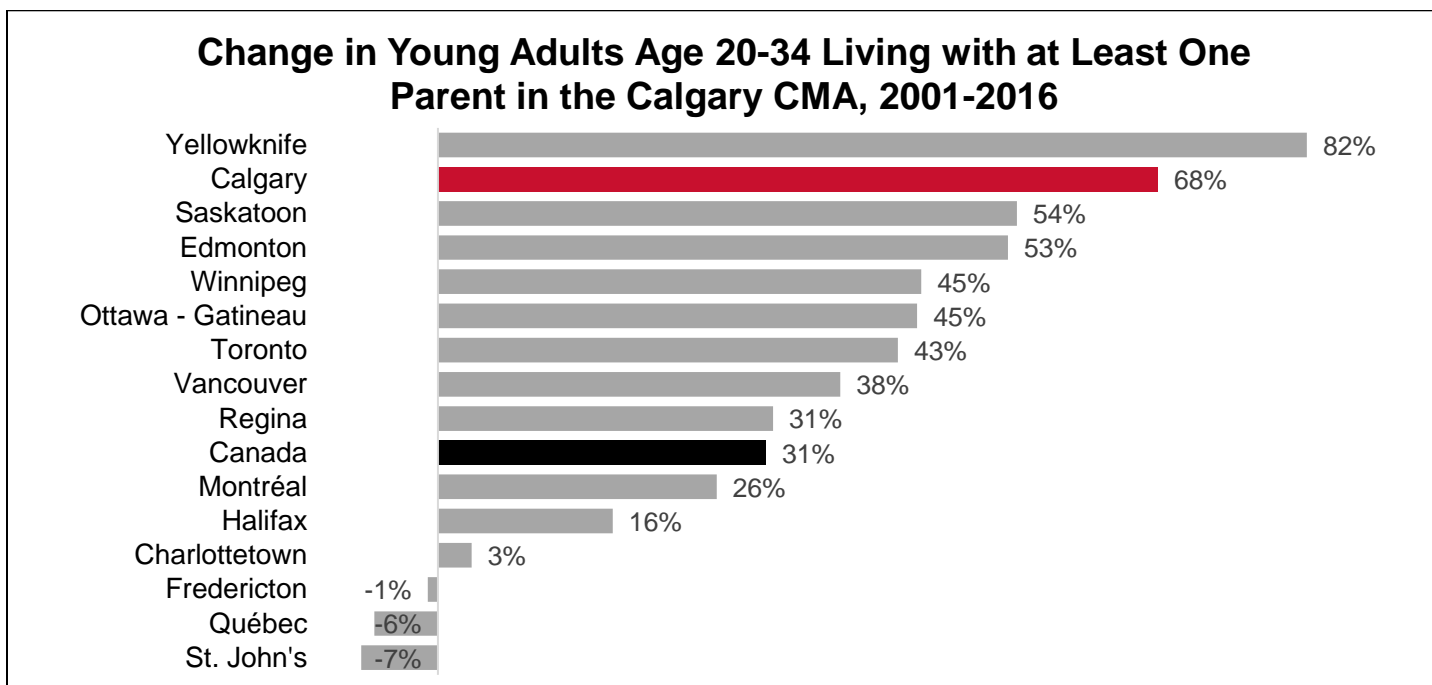
Source: Statistics Canada 2017e.

Canadian Comparisons: Families (continued)

The Calgary CMA is below the national average with respect to the percentage of young adults living with at least one parent (28 per cent vs. 35 per cent). However, the Calgary CMA demonstrated one of the largest increases in the population of young adults living with a parent between 2001 and 2016 (68 per cent). In addition to living with at least one parent, the young adults in the charts below may also be a lone parent, a single person or part of a couple.



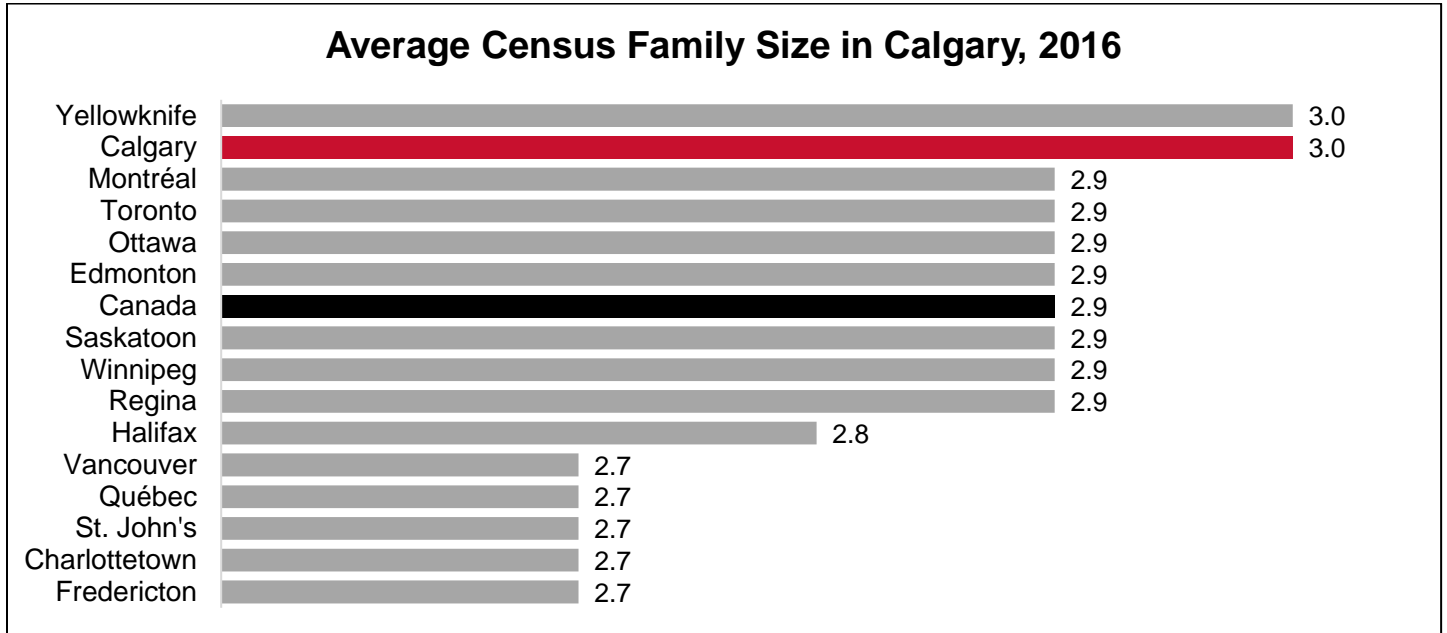
Source: Statistics Canada 2017c.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017c.

Canadian Comparisons: Families (continued)

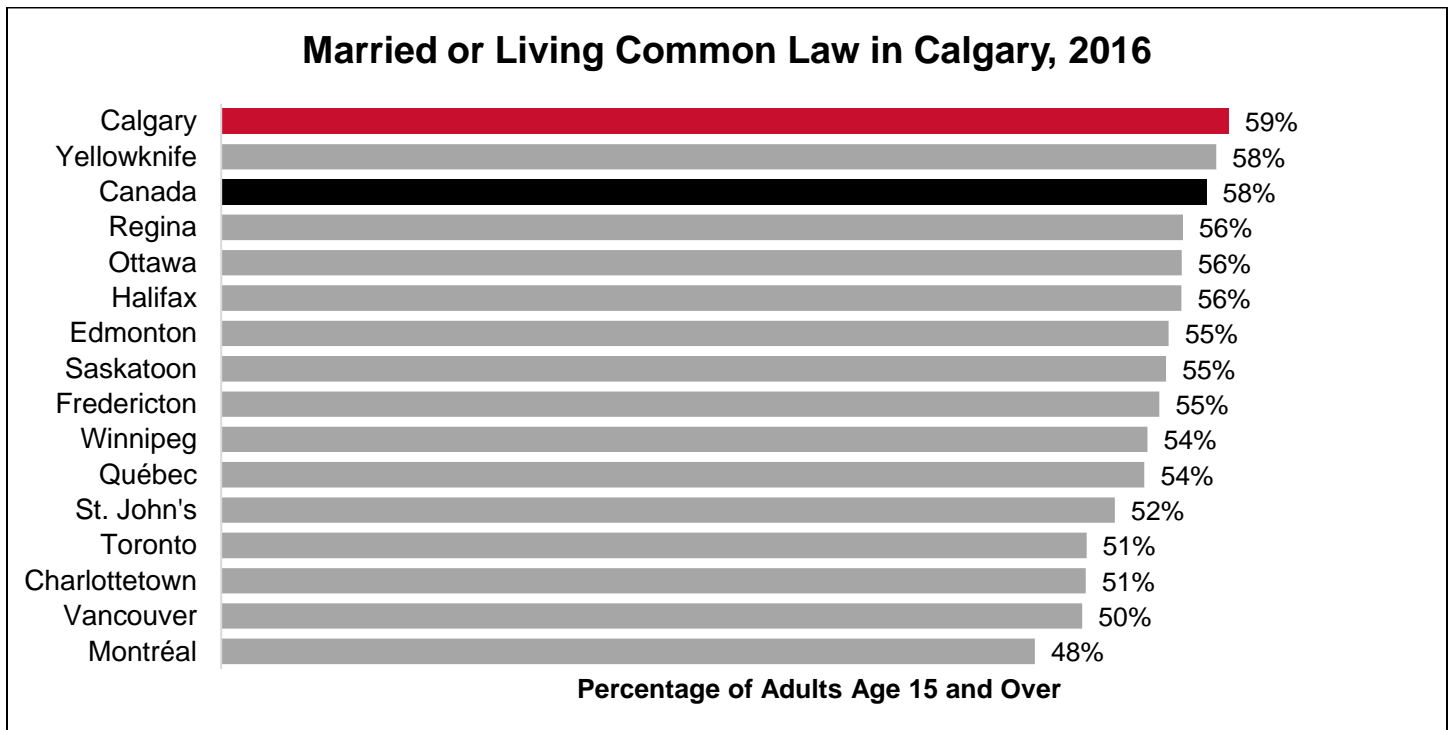
In 2016, average census family size in Calgary was larger than most other major cities, tied with Yellowknife at 3.0 people per census family.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017a.

Canadian Comparisons: Marital Status

In 2016, Calgary had the highest percentage of adults age 15 and over that were married or living common law (59 per cent), compared to other major Canadian cities.



Source: Statistics Canada 2017a.

Notes

Unless otherwise noted, the data in this profile comes from the 2011 and 2016 Censuses of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada. The definitions in the [glossary](#) are adapted from Statistics Canada’s 2016 Census of Population Dictionary (Statistics Canada 2017g).

Census of Canada

Data from the Census of Canada presented in this profile are based on the results of a short form questionnaire that was distributed to every household. Census day for the 2016 Census of Canada was May 10, 2016. The Census of Canada is conducted every five years.

Population Universes

The relationship between populations is illustrated (right) and terms related to the different populations can be found in the glossary. Throughout this document, the population is identified and the full population figure is identified as the first row of the related table.

Random Rounding

To ensure confidentiality, Statistics Canada products include values and totals that are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of ‘5’ or ‘10’. Therefore, in both the original data from Statistics Canada and in the compilation of this document, total values may not match the individual values. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated on rounded data, may not necessarily add up to 100 per cent.

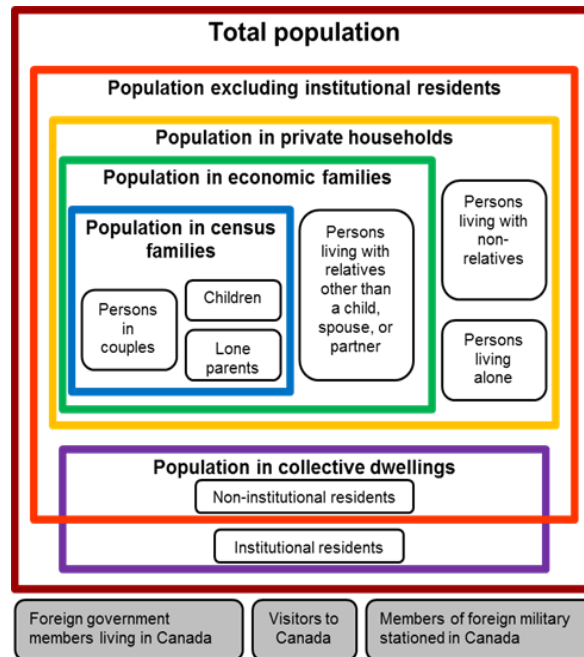
Calgary Census Subdivision vs. Census Metropolitan Area

Most of the data presented in this profile represents the Calgary census subdivision as defined by Statistics Canada. The boundary of the Calgary census subdivision corresponds to the City boundary. In some cases, data for this level of geography was unavailable and data representing the Calgary census metropolitan area is presented. The boundary of the Calgary census metropolitan area includes the City of Calgary as well as the surrounding municipalities of Rocky View County, Airdrie, Beiseker, Chestermere, Cochrane, Crossfield, Irricana, and Tsuu T’ina Nation.

Same-sex and Opposite-sex Couples

A comparison over time of marital status is not presented for opposite-/same-sex status due to a potential overestimation of married same-sex couples in the 2011 Census. This affected the total count of same-sex couples, as well as the growth rates of these couples between 2011 and 2016. The degree of overestimation was evaluated to be between 0 and 4,500 couples in 2011 at the national level.

Census data about same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples are about couples who live together. They are not about sexual orientation in the population at large. The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) includes a question on sexual orientation. In 2014, 1.7 per cent of Canadian adults between the ages of 18 and 59 reported themselves to be homosexual (gay or lesbian) and 1.3 per cent reported themselves to be bisexual.



Populations (adapted from Statistics Canada 2016 Census Dictionary, 98-301-X)

References

- Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.
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- Statistics Canada. 2017e. 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016041. Released August 2, 2017.
- Statistics Canada. 2017f. 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016027. Released August 2, 2017.
- Statistics Canada. 2017g. Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016. Catalogue no. 98-301-X.

Glossary

Biological/Adoptive Family	A couple family with children in which all children are the biological and/or adopted children or both married spouses or of both common-law partners.
Calgary	The Calgary census subdivision (CSD), as defined by Statistics Canada, unless otherwise indicated. The boundary of the Calgary census subdivision corresponds to the City boundary.
Census family	A married couple and the children, if any, of either and/or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either and/or both partners; or a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.
Calgary Census Metropolitan Area	The Calgary census metropolitan area (CMA), as defined by Statistics Canada. The boundary of the Calgary CMA includes the City of Calgary as well as the surrounding municipalities of Rocky View County, Airdrie, Beiseker, Chestermere, Cochrane, Crossfield, Irricana, and Tsuu T'ina Nation.
Children	Children may be children by birth, marriage, common-law union or adoption regardless of their age or marital status as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own married spouse, common-law partner or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family.
Common-Law	Includes persons who are living with a person as a couple but who are not legally married to that person.
Complex Stepfamily	Couple families with children which contain at least one biological or adopted child whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. These families contain children from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each married spouse or common-law partner and no other children; or - One married spouse or common-law partner and at least one other biological or adopted child of the couple; or - Each married spouse or common-law partner and at least one other biological or adopted child of the couple.
Couple	A married or common-law couple. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.
Couple Census Family Household	A household with a census family that contains a married or common-law couple (either with or without children). A couple may be of opposite sex or same sex.
Divorced	Includes persons who have obtained a legal divorce, have not remarried and are not living with a person as a couple.
Foster Children	Children in private households who were reported as foster children on the Census questionnaire. Foster children are considered “other relatives” and are included in economic families but excluded from census families.

Household	A person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. It may consist of a census family, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, of a group of unrelated persons, or of one person living alone.
Lone-Parent Family	A census family containing only one parent with his or her child(ren).
Major Cities	For the purpose of this profile, major cities are defined as either national and provincial/territorial capitals or large cities.
Marital Status	Whether or not a person is living in a common-law union as well as the legal marital status of those who are not living in a common-law union. All persons aged less than 15 are considered as never married and not living common law.
Married	Includes persons who have legally married and are not separated, divorced or widowed.
Multigenerational Household	A household where there is at least one person living with a child and a grandchild.
Multiple-Census-Family Household	A household that consists of two or more census families. There may also be persons not in a census family in these households.
Never Married	Includes persons who have never legally married and are not living with a person as a couple.
Non-Census-Family Household	A household that does not contain a census family.
Opposite/Same-Sex Married Spouse or Common-Law Partner	Whether a person who has a spouse or partner is the opposite sex as that spouse or partner or is the same sex. Census data about same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples are about couples who live together. They are not about sexual orientation in the population at large.
Other Census Family Household	A household that is not multigenerational and where there is one census family with additional persons or more than one census family.
Population	Includes Canadian citizens and landed immigrants whose usual place of residence is Canada. Also includes refugee claimants, holders of work and study permits, Canadian citizens and landed immigrants at sea or in port aboard merchant or government vessels, and Canadian citizens away from Canada on military or diplomatic business. Total population excludes government representatives and military members of other countries and residents of other countries visiting Canada.
Private Dwelling	A separate set of living quarters with a private entrance either from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway inside the building. The entrance to the dwelling must be one that can be used without passing through the living quarters of someone else.

Calgary Profile – Chapter 2: **Households, Families and Marital Status**

Private Household	A person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad. A private household occupies a <u>private dwelling</u> .
Senior	A person aged 65 years and over.
Separated	Includes persons who are married but who are no longer living with their spouse (for reasons other than, for example, illness, work or school), have not obtained a divorce and are not living with a person as a couple.
Simple Stepfamily	Couple families with children in which all children are biological or adopted children of one and only one married spouse or common-law partner whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship.
Stepfamily	Couple families with children that contain at least one biological or adopted child of only one married spouse or common-law partner whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. The family can contain such children of each married spouse or common-law partner. The family can also contain biological or adopted children from the current relationship. If the current married spouse or common-law partner has adopted the child(ren) of the other married spouse or common-law partner then it is no longer a stepfamily.
Widowed	Includes persons who have lost their married spouses through death, have not remarried and are not living with a person as a couple.