

Councillor Request Inquiry

45-2018

2018

The information below is in response to the Information Request regarding the omission of Elk Island Catholic School data in the Strathcona County Social Profile report as requested by Councillor Bill Tonita after the October 23 Council Priorities Committee Meeting.

October 23, 2018 Council Meeting:

Please provide rationale for the omission of the Elk Island Catholic School data in reference to high school completion rates, etc in the Strathcona County Social Profile report.

Thank you for identifying the unintentional omission of data for Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS).

Strathcona County Family and Community Services (FCS) contacted Alberta Education to obtain data on Strathcona County high school completion rates, high school dropout and returning rates, and post-secondary transition rates. According to Alberta Education, data for Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are available online as part of School Education Plans.¹ Provincial averages and EIPS data are available for the years 2012 to 2016. Data for EICS are available online for the years 2017 and 2018.² Tables 22, 23 & 24 in the Strathcona County Community Social Profile compare rates for the years 2012 to 2016.

Elk Island Catholic School high school completion data had not been included in the original version of the Social Profile due to a lack of comparability between divisions. Although comparable data are not available for EICS, the information is important and relevant. This data has been added in the text of the attached, revised Social Profile. This revised report will be available online by November 14th, 2018.³

The intention of the Strathcona County Social Profile is to provide the most comprehensive, current and accurate information possible. The addition of the information you have identified will improve the ability of the County and its community partners to make informed decisions.

Thank you for your question and helping improve this document. Any further suggestions or comments are most welcome.

1 EIPS Education Plans:

- [Salisbury Composite High](#)
- [Ardrossan Junior Senior High](#)
- [Bev Facey Community High](#)

2 [EICS Dashboard](#)

3 [Strathcona County Social Profile](#)



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Social Profile

3rd Edition • 2018



STRATHCONA
COUNTY

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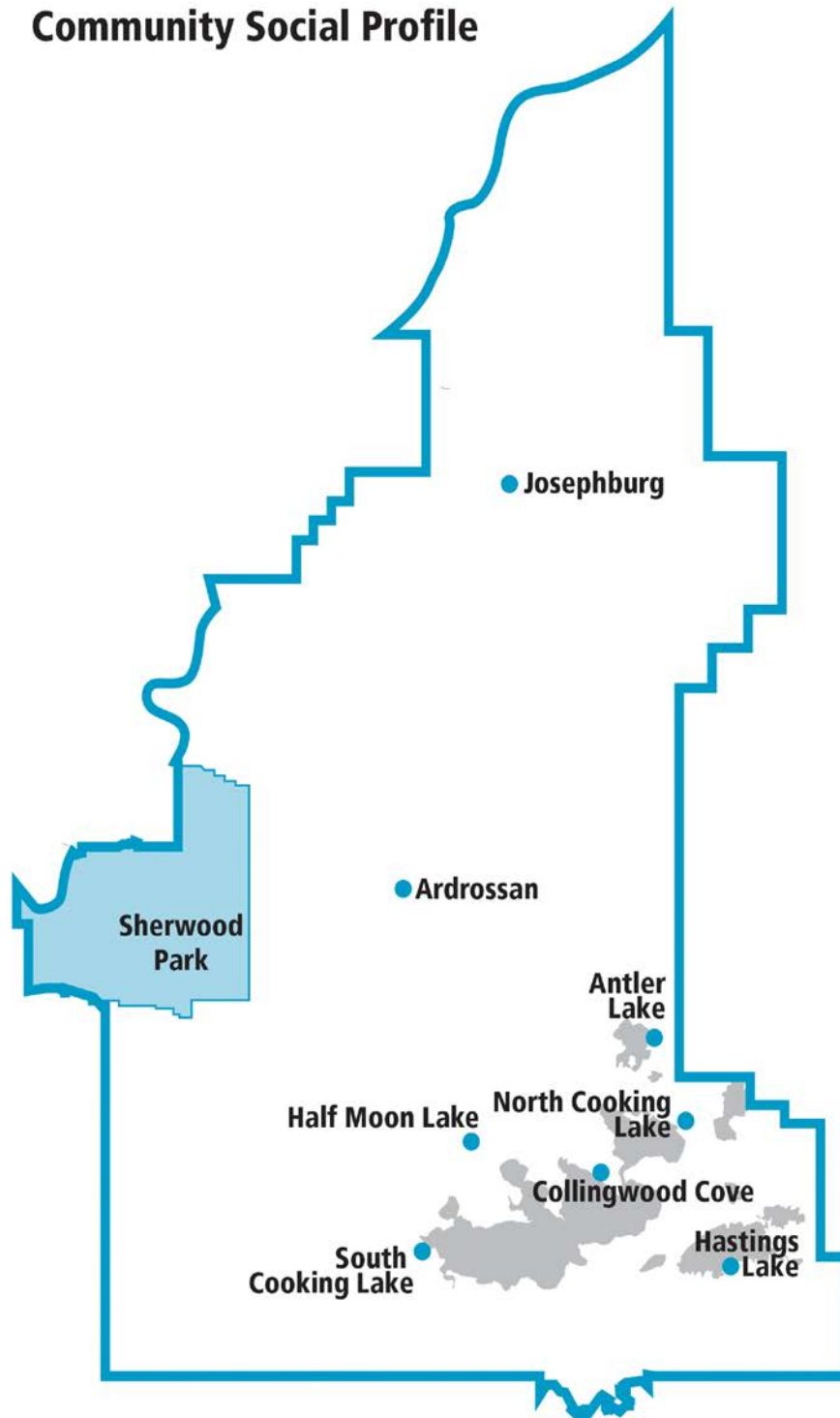
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Community Social Profile



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS A SOCIAL PROFILE?

A community social profile provides a social portrait of the community. It reports the socio-demographic characteristics of the community and its population sub-groups such as seniors, youth or families. The data are presented in a way that identifies notable trends, such as an increase in the senior's population or an increase in reports of domestic violence. This information can help citizens and organisations identify challenges and opportunities. It can support organisations as they plan, partner and innovate. Using graphs, tables and charts, the report describes population characteristics of households, income and earnings, the labour force, the state of the economy, mental health issues, levels of education, and housing, among others. The data are drawn from Federal Censuses, Municipal Censuses, and a variety of other regional and local sources.

1.2 STRATHCONA COUNTY OVERVIEW

Strathcona County is a specialized municipality. This classification takes into account the unique needs of a municipality that includes both an urban centre and a significant rural territory and population.

Strathcona County consists of the urban area of Sherwood Park and an extensive rural area, which includes eight hamlets namely, Antler Lake, Ardrossan, Collingwood Cove, Half Moon Lake, Hastings Lake, Josephburg, North Cooking Lake and South Cooking Lake. The Sherwood Park urban service area is recognized as equivalent to a city by the Government of Alberta.

Strathcona County land to population distribution is unique in that the urban areas of Sherwood Park contain 72% of the population in 6.6% of the County's land area. The remaining 28% of the population is dispersed over 1,100 square kilometers of rural areas in hamlets, country estates, housing sub-divisions and farms.

Population

In 2016, the population of Strathcona County was 98,044 with 70,700 residents living in the urban Sherwood Park and the remaining 27,345 in the rural area. This represents a 6% increase over the past five years and places Strathcona County as the fourth largest municipality in Alberta after Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer.

The median age of the population in Strathcona County was 37.8 in 2006, 39.1 in 2011, and 40.1 in 2016. According to the 2016 Federal Census, approximately two-thirds of County residents are either married or living with a common law partner (65.7%).

Households

The average number of persons per household in Strathcona County has been steady at roughly 3 which is slightly higher than the Canadian average of 2.4 persons per household in 2016 since 2006. The 2016 Federal Census indicates the average number of rooms per dwelling in Strathcona County is 7.7, which is about the same as St. Albert. Only 0.60% of dwellings have more than one person per room in contrast to Edmonton which has 3.0% of dwellings with more than one person per room. Dwellings in Strathcona County are larger and household sizes smaller than in other municipalities.

According to the 2018 Municipal Census, the total number of dwellings in Strathcona County was reported at 37,935, with 28,016 dwellings in urban service area (74%) and 9,919 dwellings in rural service area (26%).

Mobility and Migration

According to the 2018 Municipal Census, on average 6 out of every 10 (61.0%) Strathcona County residents have lived in the County for 10 or more years, while 16.6% have lived in the County 5 to less than 10 years, 13.2% between 2 and 5 years and 9.3% less than 2 years.

Diversity

The proportion of visible minority population in Strathcona County grew by 2.2% from 5.5% in 2011 to 7.7% (7,150 individuals) in 2016. The following group account for the highest counts of visible minority population in Strathcona County: South Asian, Filipino, Chinese, Black, Latin American, South Asian, Arab, Japanese, Korean, and West Asian according to the 2016 Federal Census.

Education

The high school completion rate is calculated based on the percentage of Alberta high school students who complete their high school education within 3 to 5 years of starting grade 10. From 2012 to 2016 the average percentage of Elk Island Public School (EIPS) students who were able to complete their high school education 3 years after starting grade 10 was 81% as compared to 76% for Alberta.

Alberta Education also calculates the annual dropout rate of students age 14 to 18 as well as the annual returning rate – the rate at which students return to the learning system a year after dropping out. The annual dropout rate for students in EIPS has been lower at 2.4% average from 2012-16 as compared to Alberta at 3.3%. At the same time, the returning rate for students in EIPS has been higher at 26% from 2012-16 average as compared to 20% for Alberta.

To track the extent that Alberta high school students participate in post-secondary study, Alberta Education calculates the rate at which students move into post-secondary education within 4 to 6 years of starting grade 10. The average post-secondary participation rate after 6 years of starting grade 10 is higher for EIPS students (64%), as compared to 59% for provincial students (2012-16).

According to the 2016 Federal Census, Strathcona County (5.7%), St. Albert (5.7%) and Beaumont (5.7%) have the lowest number of residents between the ages of 25 to 64 who have not finished high school in comparison to other surrounding municipalities within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region (EMR). Strathcona County is well below the provincial average of 10.8%.

According to the 2018 Municipal Census, more residents of Strathcona County support the public system over the Catholic system. For the County as a whole, 68,021 residents (69%) supported the public system, 20,991 (21%) supported the Catholic system, and 9,369 residents (10%) did not state which school system they supported.

Income

The median income for all types of family households in Strathcona County is significantly higher than the provincial average for Alberta. In addition, the overall median family income for Strathcona County is one of the highest in the province, comparable to that of St. Albert and Beaumont on a regional scale. In 2016, the median income for all households in Strathcona County was \$140,039 as compared to \$141,056 for Beaumont and \$135,667 for St. Albert. The median household income for Strathcona County residents is significantly higher than the Alberta average of \$109,997. According to the 2016 Federal Census, there are approximately 4% of Strathcona County households who fit in the low income household category. This is significantly lower than the provincial average of 9.3% and national average of 14.2%.

Economy and Labour Force

According to the 2016 Federal Census, Strathcona County's labour force participation rate of 72.1% is similar to the Alberta average of 71.8%, but significantly higher than the national average of 65.2%. In 2016, the unemployment rate of 6.5% in Strathcona County was significantly lower than the Alberta average of 9.0%. In Strathcona County the unemployment rate amongst males (7.4%) was higher than females (5.5%) for 2016, similar to what was observed for Alberta overall with 10% unemployment rate for males and 7.8% for females.

In the 2018 Municipal Census, residents were asked about their employment status. The results show that approximately half of the residents in Strathcona County are employed (51%) either full-time (43.1%) or part-time (7.9%). The remaining 49% of residents are either students (22.4%), caring for a child not yet in school (4.4%), not in the workforce (9.1%, limited to residents in working age range of 18-64), or retired (13.2%).

Housing

According to the 2016 Federal Census results, the median value of a dwelling in Strathcona County was \$450,119 as compared to \$400,104 for Alberta. In 2017, the median cost of single family home sold in Sherwood Park was \$431,509, which was comparable to St. Albert at \$428,659. The median price of single family homes sold in Sherwood Park in 2017 was approximately \$27,000 higher than that of Edmonton.

According to Statistics Canada, a household in Core Housing Need is one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. In Strathcona County the rate of Core Housing Need was 5.7% in 2016 as compared to 14.2% for Edmonton and 11.4% for Alberta according to the 2016 Federal Census.

The number of families currently renting in Strathcona County is low at 10.9% as compared to the 27% Alberta average (2016 Federal Census). In addition to having the fewest number of apartment rental units of municipalities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region (EMR), Strathcona County also has the highest rent in the region at an average monthly cost of \$1,343, followed by St. Albert at \$1,253.

For specific questions regarding the contents of this report or to provide feedback please contact Erfan Tabarsi, Family and Community Services at 780-464-4044 or by email: erfan.tabarsi@strathcona.ca

2 POPULATION

2.1 POPULATION CHANGE

Since 2005, the population of Sherwood Park grew by 29.5% from 55,063 to 71,332 in 2018. The rural Strathcona population grew to a lesser extent by 7.5% from 25,169 in 2005 to 27,049 in 2018. Overall, in Strathcona County since 2005, the population grew by 22.6% as illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Population change between 2005 and 2018

Year	Urban	Rural	Total
2005	55,063	25,169	80,232
2006	56,845	25,666	82,511
2008	59,409	26,112	85,521
2009	61,660	26,338	87,998
2011	64,733	27,757	92,490
2015	68,782	26,815	95,597
2016	70,700	27,345	98,044
2018	71,332	27,049	98,381

Source: Federal Census & Municipal Census

As shown in Table 2, the ratio of urban to rural residents in the County has steadily increased throughout the years in favour of urban residents. The seniors' population will continue to grow as the rest of the baby boomers (individuals born between 1946 and 1965)¹ become senior citizens and life expectancy increases.² Seniors may move into urban areas as they age to have better access to seniors' housing, medical services, transportation and personal and home care.

Table 2: Percent change in population distribution from 2001 to 2016

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2008	2009	2011	2012	2015	2016	2018
Urban %	66.2	67.9	68.6	68.9	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.1	71.9	72.0	72.5
Rural %	33.8	32.1	31.4	31.1	30.5	29.9	30.0	29.9	28.1	28.0	27.5

Source: Federal Census & Municipal Census

2.2 POPULATION COMPARISON BY WARDS

Table 3 compares the population of Strathcona County by wards. Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 are all located in the urban service area, whereas wards 5, 6 and 7 are located in the rural service area.

Table 3: Percent change in population per ward from 2001 to 2016

	Urban Service Area					Rural Service Area		
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 8	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7
2018 Population	13,606	14,542	11,865	18,041	13,278	9,412	9,296	8,341
% Breakdown	13.8%	14.8%	12.1%	18.3%	13.5%	9.6%	9.4%	8.5%

Source: 2018 Municipal Census

¹ https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-311-x/98-311-x2011003_2-eng.cfm

² <https://globalnews.ca/news/3423047/more-seniors-than-children-in-canada-2016-census/>

2.3 POPULATION COMPARISON WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Strathcona County has the fourth largest population of the cities and municipalities in Alberta after Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. From 2006 to 2016 the population in Strathcona County grew by about 19% from 82,511 to 98,044 respectively.

Table 4: Percent Population growth in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	2001	2006	2008	2009	2011	2016	% growth 2006/2016
Beaumont	6,986	8,951	10,820	11,794	13,287	17,396	94.3%
Leduc	15,032	16,967	20,528	21,597	24,279	29,993	76.8%
Ft. Saskatchewan	13,121	14,957	16,793	17,469	19,051	24,149	61.5%
Edmonton	657,350	730,372	752,412	782,439	812,201	932,546	27.7%
Red Deer	67,829	83,154	87,816	89,891	90,564	100,418	20.8 %
Strathcona County	71,088	82,511	85,521	87,998	92,490	98,044	18.8%
St. Albert	57,719	57,764	58,501	N/A	61,466	65,589	13.5 %

Source: Municipal websites and Federal Census

2.4 POPULATION DENSITY

Strathcona County consists of the urban area of Sherwood Park surrounded by a large rural area of country residential acreages, farms and smaller hamlets. According to Statistics Canada, in 2016 the County had a land area of 1,182.78 square kilometers with a population density of 82.9 persons per square kilometer. The provincial land area is 640,330.46 square kilometers with a population density of 6.4 persons per square kilometer.

Sherwood Park has most amenities associated with an urban environment, including sewer and water lines, garbage collection and public transit as well as proximity to recreational centers, schools and other facilities. This contrasts with the rural area, including acreages and farmlands, all of which have more open spaces and less noise, but fewer amenities

Table 5: 2016 Population density in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	Residents 2016	Land Area km ²	Residents per km ²
Beaumont	17,396	10.47	1,661.1
St. Albert	65,589	48.45	1,353.9
Red Deer	100,418	104.73	958.8
Edmonton	932,546	685.25	1,360.9
Leduc	29,993	42.44	706.7
Fort Saskatchewan	24,149	48.18	501.3
Strathcona County	98,044	1,182.78	82.9

Source: 2016 Federal Census

2.5 AGE

Since 2011, the population in Strathcona County grew by 6.0% from 92,495 to 98,044 in 2016. A closer look at the population growth by age categories reveals that the seniors' population has increased dramatically over the last 5 years as compared to a much smaller population growth for all other age categories.

Since 2011, the seniors' population (65+ years old) in Strathcona County increased significantly from 10,185 to 13,735 by 2016, an increase of 34.9%. The growth rates for other age categories were much less substantial. The working age population (15 – 64 years old) increased from 64,375 in 2011 to 65,700 by 2016, an increase of 2.1%. The children's population (0 – 14 years old) in Strathcona County grew from 17,935 in 2011 to 18,610 in 2016, an increase of 3.8%.

The median age of the population in Strathcona County in 2016 was 40.1 years as compared to 36.4 for Alberta and 41.2 for Canada.

Different proportions of age groups can impact the demand for different types of facilities, programs and services. A larger proportion of children and youth can create greater demand for schools, recreational facilities, parks and child care. In contrast, a large proportion of seniors can create a greater demand for health and institutional care facilities, accessible transit and specialized housing. Demographic projections are that the seniors' population will continue to grow significantly across Canada for the foreseeable future.³

Table 6: Strathcona County population by age group 2016

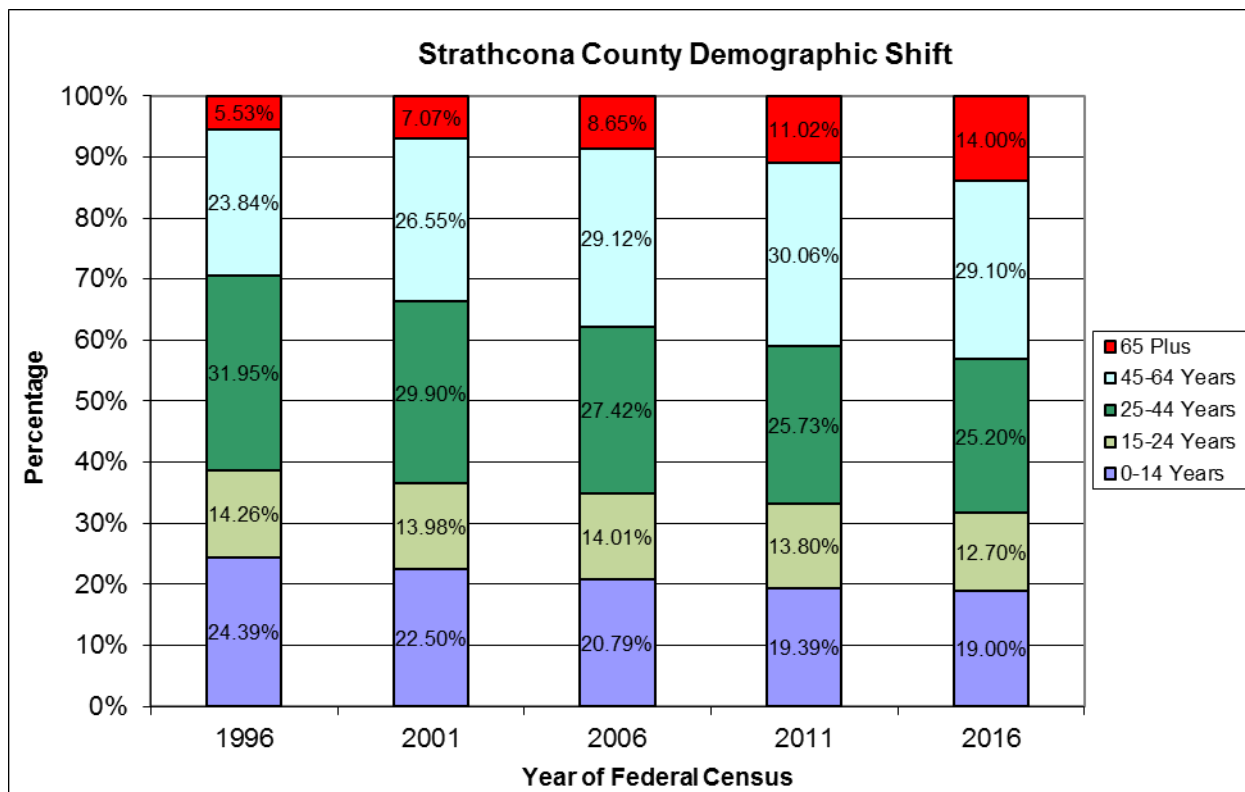
Age Range	Total	%	Urban	%	Rural	%
0 to 4 years	5,380	5.5%	4,125	5.8%	1,255	4.6%
5 to 9 years	6,495	6.6%	4,780	6.8%	1,715	6.3%
10 to 14 years	6,745	6.9%	4,805	6.8%	1,940	7.1%
15 to 19 years	6,585	6.7%	4,570	6.5%	2,015	7.4%
20 to 24 years	5,840	6.0%	4,240	6.0%	1,600	5.9%
25 to 29 years	5,250	5.4%	4,185	5.9%	1,065	3.9%
30 to 34 years	6,055	6.2%	4,790	6.8%	1,265	4.6%
35 to 39 years	6,465	6.6%	4,940	7.0%	1,525	5.6%
40 to 44 years	6,955	7.1%	5,120	7.2%	1,835	6.7%
45 to 49 years	7,290	7.4%	5,065	7.2%	2,225	8.1%
50 to 54 years	7,845	8.0%	5,095	7.2%	2,750	10.1%
55 to 59 years	7,475	7.6%	4,885	6.9%	2,590	9.5%
60 to 64 years	5,925	6.0%	3,870	5.5%	2,055	7.5%
65 to 69 years	5,165	5.3%	3,650	5.2%	1,515	5.5%
70 to 74 years	3,645	3.7%	2,675	3.8%	970	3.5%
75 to 79 years	2,260	2.3%	1,730	2.4%	530	1.9%
80 to 84 years	1,455	1.5%	1,135	1.6%	320	1.2%
85 years and over	1,190	1.2%	1,020	1.4%	170	0.6%
Total	98,044	100%	70,700	100%	27,345	100%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

³ <https://globalnews.ca/news/3423047/more-seniors-than-children-in-canada-2016-census/>

Since 1996, in Strathcona County there has been an increase in the percentage of people aged 45 and older from 29.4% to 43.1% in 2016. The age group of children 0 to 14 has decreased by 5% from 24.4% in 1996 to 19.0% in 2016. The 25 to 44 age group has also decreased by 7% from 32.0% in 1996 to 25.2% in 2016, which may account for the decrease in the number of young children as these are the primary child rearing years. The age category with the least amount of change from 1996 to 2011 was the 15 to 24 year olds, which decreased by 1.5% during the last 20 years from 14.3% in 1996 to 12.70% in 2016. Note that although the percentage age composition of the population has decreased for some age categories, the population size, as described above, has increased in all age categories.

Figure 1: Strathcona County age shift between 1996 and 2016

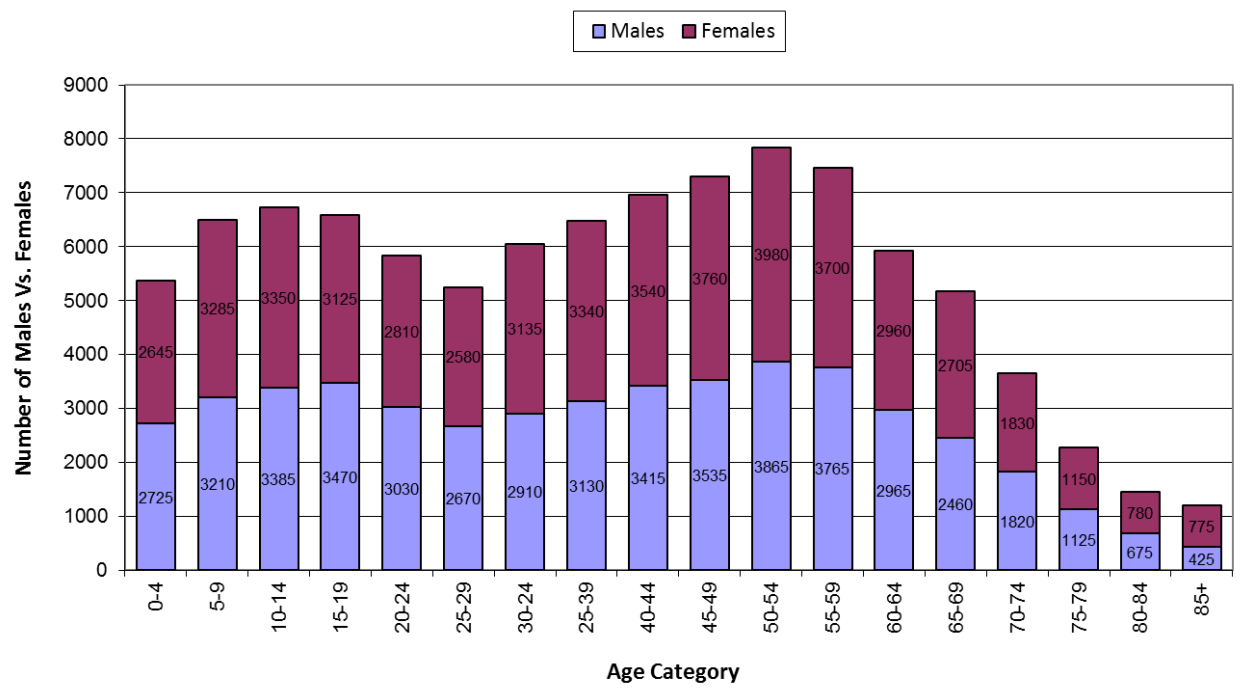


Source: Federal Censuses 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016

2.6 GENDER

The 2016 Municipal Census shows a fairly even split between females and males in all parts of the County with 49,450 females and 48,590 males. Slightly more males than females reside in rural Strathcona County, with 14,055 males to 13,290 females and the opposite being true in the urban area with 36,165 females to 34,530 males.

Figure 2: Strathcona County population by five-year age groups and sex



Source: 2016 Federal Census

The 2016 Federal Census showed the median age overall as 40.1, with the median age for males being slightly lower at 39.6 and the median age of females slightly higher at 40.6. Breakdown of ages in 5 year increments are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Strathcona County population breakdown by five-year age groups and sex

Age groups	Both sexes	Males	Females
Total - Age groups	98,044	48,585	49,455
0 to 4 years	5,380	2,725	2,645
5 to 9 years	6,495	3,210	3,285
10 to 14 years	6,745	3,385	3,350
15 to 19 years	6,585	3,470	3,125
20 to 24 years	5,840	3,030	2,810
25 to 29 years	5,250	2,670	2,580
30 to 34 years	6,055	2,910	3,135
35 to 39 years	6,465	3,130	3,340
40 to 44 years	6,955	3,415	3,540
45 to 49 years	7,290	3,535	3,760
50 to 54 years	7,845	3,865	3,980
55 to 59 years	7,475	3,765	3,700
60 to 64 years	5,925	2,965	2,960
65 to 69 years	5,165	2,460	2,705
70 to 74 years	3,645	1,820	1,830
75 to 79 years	2,260	1,125	1,150
80 to 84 years	1,455	675	780
85 years and over	1,190	425	775

Source: Federal Census 2016

2.6 MARITAL STATUS

According to the 2016 Federal Census, the majority of Strathcona County residents are either married or living with a common law partner (65.7%). In comparison, a greater proportion of rural residents (70.1%) reported being married/living with common law partner as compared to Sherwood Park residents (64.1%). The second most frequent category is those individuals who have never been married (23.1%), followed by residents who reported being separated/divorced (7.2%) and widowed (4.0%).

In comparison, both Edmonton and Alberta have lower rates of people who report being married/living with common law partner at a rate of 55.4% and 59.9% respectively. In addition, Edmonton and Alberta both have higher rates of people who report having never been married at a rate of 31.3% and 27.5% respectively. There were no significant differences between Strathcona County, Edmonton, and Alberta in percentage of people who reported being separated/divorced and widowed.

Table 8: Family status breakdowns in Strathcona County

Family Status	Total Strathcona County		Sherwood Park		Rural Strathcona	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Never Married	18,365	23.1%	13,305	23.3%	5,055	22.5%
Married	46,085	58.0%	32,015	56.2%	14,075	62.8%
Common Law	6,140	7.7%	4,510	7.9%	1,630	7.3%
Separated/Divorced	5,700	7.2%	4,600	8.1%	1,095	4.9%
Widowed	3,145	4.0%	2,570	4.5%	580	2.6%
Total	79,435	100.0%	57,010	100.0%	22,430	100.0%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

* Note: based on population aged 15 years and over

3 HOUSEHOLDS

3.1 HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The table below shows the average household size in Strathcona County. Data from collective dwellings or seniors extended care facilities are not included. As illustrated in Table 9, from 2005 to 2016, the average number of persons per household has been higher in rural Strathcona County as compared to Sherwood Park.

Table 9: Average household size in Strathcona County

Year	Sherwood Park	Rural Strathcona County
2005	2.83	2.97
2008	2.76	2.94
2009	2.75	2.93
2012	2.68	2.86
2016	2.70	2.93

Source: Municipal Census 2005, 2008, 2009, 2012 & Federal Census 2016

The 2016 Federal Census indicates the average number of rooms per dwelling in Strathcona County is 7.7, which is about the same as that of St. Albert (7.6). Edmonton's average is 5.9 rooms per dwelling and Red Deer 6.4. Only 0.60% of dwellings have more than one person per room in contrast to Edmonton where 3.0% of dwellings have more than one person per room. In summary, dwellings in Strathcona County are larger and average number of individuals per room is fewer compared to Edmonton.

3.2 FAMILY SIZE

Between 1971 and 2016, the average size of census families has decreased from 3.8 to 3.0. The average family size in Strathcona County in 2016 was 3.0, which is near the Canadian average of 2.9. In 2016, 46% of the total couple families in Strathcona County were without children. Table 10 shows the percentage of couple families and lone-parent families with one, two or three plus children in Strathcona County in 2011 in comparison with 2016. The main difference between these two types of family structures is that couple families are more likely to have 2 or more children living with them, while lone-parent families are more likely to have one child living at home with them.

Table 10: Percent of children per couple families versus lone-parent families in Strathcona County

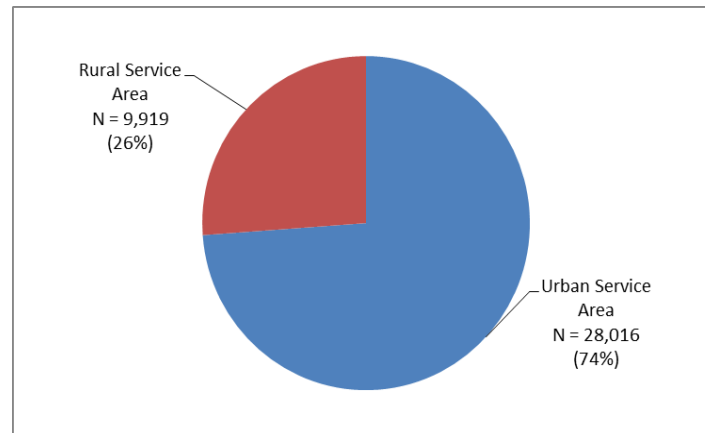
Year	Couples with children families			Lone-parent families		
	1 child	2 children	3+ children	1 child	2 children	3+ children
2011	33.9%	46.8%	19.4%	58.0%	32.3%	9.9%
2016	34.6%	45.6%	19.7%	56.9%	33.8%	9.5%

Source: Federal Census 2011 and 2016

3.3 NUMBER OF DWELLINGS AND OWNERSHIP STATUS

As of May 1, 2018⁴, the total number of dwellings in Strathcona County was reported at 37,935. As illustrated in Figure 3, there are 28,016 dwellings in the urban service area (74%), on which Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 are all located and 9,919 dwellings in the rural service area (26%), on which Wards 5, 6, and 7 are all located.

Figure 3: Total number of dwellings in Strathcona County in 2018



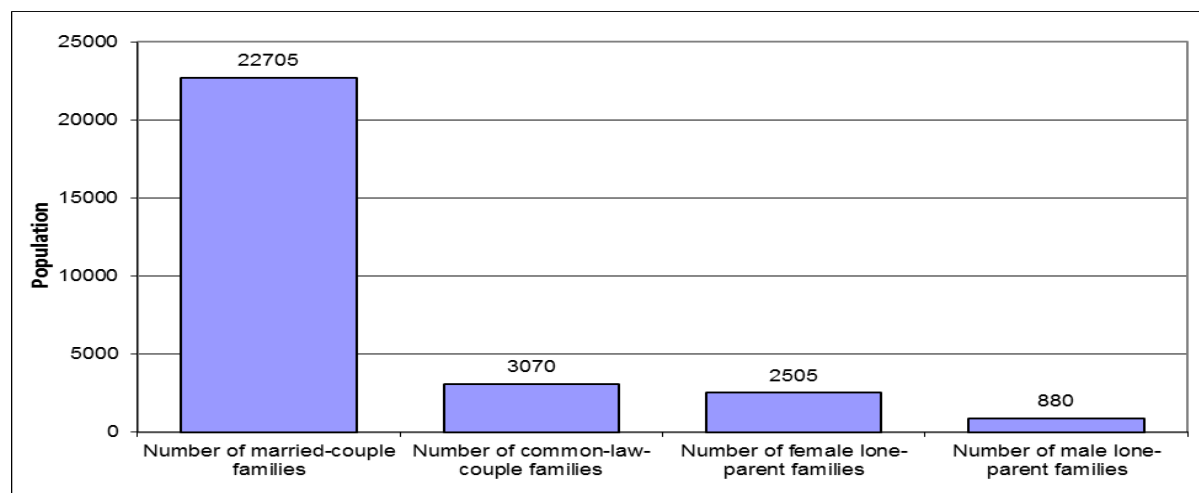
Source: 2018 Municipal Census

Of the residents who provided information on ownership, it was found that approximately 9 out of 10 (87.4%) of the dwellings in the County are owned, with a greater proportion of ownership in the rural service area (94.9%) as compared to the urban service area (84.8%).

3.4 FAMILY STRUCTURE

Figure 4 and Table 11 provide a breakdown by the types of family structure within Strathcona County. The results show that married-couple families are more prevalent.

Figure 4: Family structures in Strathcona County



Source: 2016 Federal Census

⁴ Strathcona County Municipal Census 2018

Table 11: Families in private households

	Total Strathcona County	
Families in private households	N	%
Married couples with children at home	12,565	45.8%
Married couples without children at home	9,320	34.0%
Common-law couples with children at home	995	3.6%
Common-law couples without children at home	1,505	5.5%
Lone-parent families	3,035	11.1%
Total	27,420	100.0%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

3.5 LONE PARENT FAMILIES

Lone parent families generally have lower incomes and are more likely to be living in poverty than two parent families. According to Statistics Canada, in 2016 the proportion of female lone parent families to male lone parent families in Strathcona County was approximately 3 to 1.

Table 12: Lone parent families in Strathcona County

	2006	2009	2011	2016
Number of lone parent families	2,585	2,590	3,035	3,385
Number of female lone parent families	2,015	2,120	2,215	2,505
Number of male lone parent families	570	470	820	880

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 - 2016, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals

3.6 SENIORS HOUSEHOLDS

The number of people over the age of 65 continues to grow in Strathcona County. As illustrated in Table 13, the actual percentage of seniors living in Strathcona County has increased from 5.5% of the total population in 1996 to 14.0% in 2016.

From 2011 to 2016 the seniors' population (65+ years old) has increased significantly from 10,185 to 13,735 respectively at a percent increase of 34.9%. At the same time, the non-senior population (0 – 64 years old) has increased from 82,310 in 2011 to 84,274 in 2016 at a percent increase of 2.4%.

Similar to the rest of Canada, Alberta's population is aging. As of July 2017 there were about 550,000 seniors in Alberta. By 2031 the last of the baby boomers will reach 65 years of age, thus, there is a projection that there will be more than 928,000 seniors living in Alberta and more than one million by 2035, meaning that about one out of five Albertans will be a senior.⁵

⁵ Alberta Ministry of Seniors and Housing

Table 13: Percent change in the number of persons 65 years and older in Strathcona County

Year	65 to 74 years old		75 years and older	
	Number	% of total population	Number	% of total population
1996	2,310	3.6%	1,230	1.9%
2001	3,265	4.5%	1,825	2.5%
2006	4,282	5.4%	2,628	3.3%
2008	5,268	6.2%	3,018	3.6%
2009	5,696	6.6%	3,296	3.8%
2011	6,435	7%	3,725	4%
2012	7,267	8.2%	3,899	4.4%
2016	8,815	9.0%	4,920	5.0%

Source: Municipal Censuses and Federal Census

Table 14: Urban and rural seniors by age group in Strathcona County

Age Range	Sherwood Park Seniors Population		Rural Seniors Population		Total County
	#	%	#	%	# of Seniors
65-74	6,325	61.9%	2,485	70.1%	8,810
75+	3,885	38.1%	1,020	29.1%	4,905
Total	10,210	100%	3,505	100%	13,715

Source: 2016 Federal Census

4 MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

According to the 2018 Municipal Census report on average 6 out of every 10 (61.0%) Strathcona County residents have lived in the County for 10 or more years, while 16.6% have lived in the County 5 to less than 10 years, 13.2% between 2 and 5 years and 9.3% less than 2 years.

Table 15: Length of residence in Strathcona County

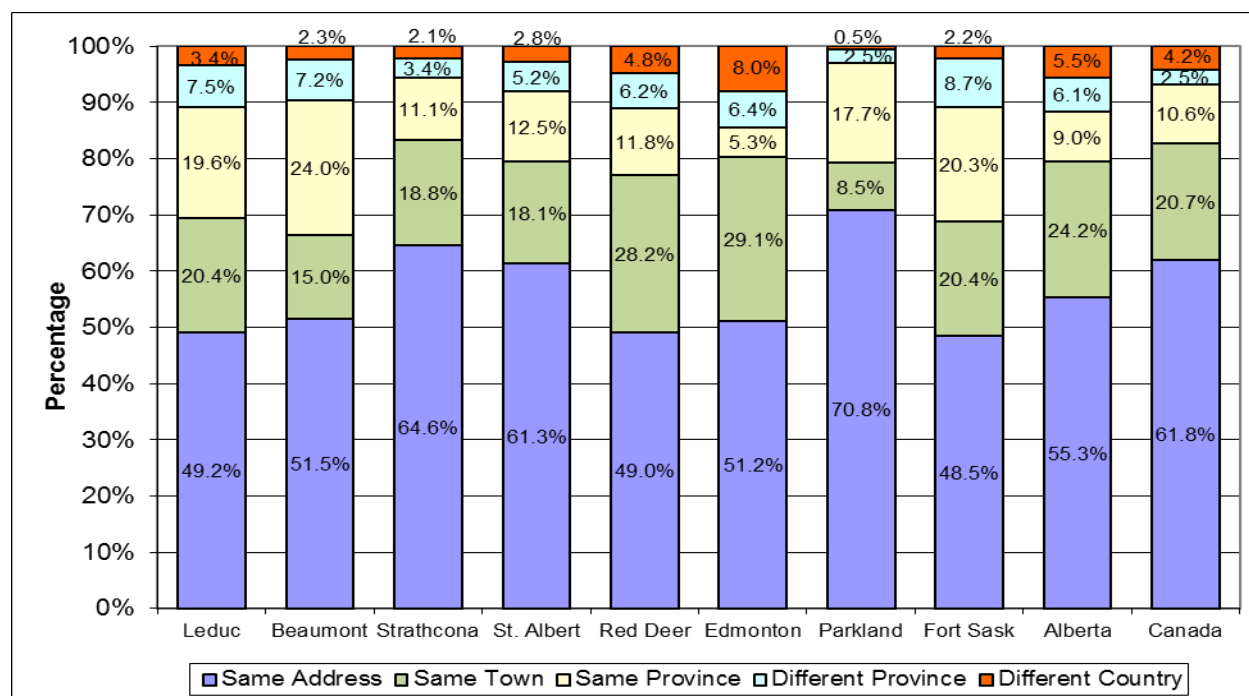
	Total County		Sherwood Park		Rural Strathcona	
	# of residents	% residents	# of residents	% residents	# of residents	% residents
Less than 2 years	8,365	9.3%	6,434	9.9%	1,931	7.7%
2 to less than 5 years	11,855	13.2%	8,855	13.6%	3,000	12.0%
5 to less than 10 years	14,921	16.6%	11,112	17.1%	3,809	15.2%
10 or more years	54,962	61.0%	38,646	59.4%	16,316	65.1%
Total Number of people	90,103	100%	65,047	100%	25,960	100%

Source: 2018 Municipal Census

The most recent mobility information available is from the 2016 Federal Census as illustrated in Figure 5, comparing Strathcona County with neighboring municipalities. Over two-thirds (64.6%) of residents have resided at the same address over the five year period from 2011 to 2016, while another 18.8% have moved within the municipality. The remaining 16.6% have come from outside the County with about 11.1% coming from the same province, 3.4% coming from out of province and 2.1% coming from another country.

Strathcona County is most similar to St. Alberta with respect to mobility status. When compared to Alberta, Strathcona County residents are more likely to reside in one location for a longer period of time.

Figure 5: Five year mobility comparison for Strathcona County and comparable regions



Source: 2016 Federal Census

5 DIVERSITY

5.1 VISIBLE MINORITIES

As illustrated in Table 16, Strathcona County is not as ethnically diverse as Edmonton and Red Deer. Recent statistics show that the County has not attracted as many new immigrants or large, diverse ethno-cultural groups as comparable Alberta municipalities. In Edmonton, the population grew by approximately 120,000 individuals in the 5 years from 2011 to 2016, of which nearly 100,000 individuals were of visible minority groups. Overall, the proportion of visible minorities in Edmonton increased from 3 in 10 individuals (30.0%) in 2011 to nearly 4 in 10 individuals (37.1%) in 2016. At the same time the proportion of visible minority population in Strathcona County grew by approximately 2% from 5.5% in 2011 to 7.7% in 2016.

Table 16: Visible minority persons in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	Total	% of Population
Edmonton	339,035	37.1%
Red Deer	15,230	15.5%
St. Albert	5,740	8.9%
Leduc	2,850	9.6%
Strathcona County	7,150	7.7%
Fort Saskatchewan	1,550	6.5%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

One of the ways to measure the diversity of the community is through the number of persons who self-identify as belonging to a visible minority. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. As shown in Table 17, the visible minority population in Strathcona County consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Filipino, Chinese, Black, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, Japanese, Korean, and West Asian.

Table 17: Breakdown of visible minorities in Strathcona County

Total Visible Minorities	Number
South Asian	1820
Filipino	1815
Chinese	945
Black	775
Latin American	455
Southeast Asian	295
Arab	270
Multiple visible minority	265
Japanese	175
Korean	160
Visible minority (not included elsewhere)	115
Korean	160
West Asian	55

Source: 2016 Federal Census

5.2 IMMIGRATION

As illustrated in Table 18, Strathcona County had approximately 3 times fewer immigrants between 2011 and 2016 as compared to Red Deer, a city with a similar population to Strathcona County (~100,000 residents).

Table 18: Total immigrant counts from before 1981 to 2016 in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	Total	Before 1981	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Edmonton	274,360	48,220	30,460	43,245	80,875	71,555
Red Deer	14,680	2,215	1,105	1,595	4,530	5,235
Strathcona County	9,940	4,020	1,025	1,045	2,060	1,795
St. Albert	7,535	3,005	780	730	1,355	1,655
Leduc	3,000	715	245	265	760	1,005
Fort Saskatchewan	1,820	600	135	155	515	425

Source: 2016 Federal Census

5.3 MOTHER TONGUE

As shown in Table 19, both Edmonton (19.2%) and Red Deer (7.1%) have significantly greater proportions of individuals who speak non-official languages at home as compared to Strathcona County (2.8%).

Table 19: Language spoken most often at home in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	English	French	Non-Official language	% Non-Official language at home
Edmonton	683,370	7,990	164,220	19.2%
Red Deer	88,055	400	6,745	7.1%
Leduc	27,795	185	1,030	3.6%
St. Albert	60,910	620	1,980	3.1%
Strathcona County	92,525	530	2,690	2.8%
Fort Saskatchewan	22,710	205	620	2.6%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

According to the 2016 Federal Census, the top 5 languages spoken by minority groups at home in the Strathcona County include: Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino), Panjabi (Punjabi), Spanish, German, and Mandarin.

Table 20: Breakdown of other languages spoken regularly at home in Strathcona County

Top Non-Aboriginal Languages	Number
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	585
Panjabi (Punjabi)	345
Spanish	335
German	160
Mandarin	135
Hindi	90
Cantonese	85
Macedonian	80
Korean	60
Arabic	55
Russian	50
Tamil	40
Ukrainian	40
Gujarat	40
Urdu	40

Source: 2016 Federal Census

5.4 CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

In the 2016 Federal Census, Strathcona County residents were asked about their Canadian Citizenship status. According to the results a total of 3,880 (4.0%) of the 97,025 respondents indicated that they were not Canadian citizens. In comparison, 8.9% of the total population in Alberta and 7.0% of total population in Canada consist of individuals that are not Canadian Citizens.

Some immigrants choose not to become Canadian Citizens as their country of origin does not allow dual citizenships and they do not want to lose their ability to return for visits or to take care of family matters. Immigrants who choose not to become citizens cannot vote in elections.

5.5 ABORIGINAL POPULATION

As illustrated in Table 21, Fort Saskatchewan has the greatest proportion of Aboriginal population at 6.0%. Strathcona County (4.0%) has the lowest proportion of Aboriginal population as compared to other municipalities shown.

Table 21: Aboriginal population in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	Aboriginal identity	% of total population 2011
Fort Saskatchewan	1,420	6.0%
Edmonton	50,280	5.5%
Leduc	1,615	5.4%
Red Deer	5,185	5.3%
St. Albert	2,830	4.4%
Strathcona County	3,880	4.0%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

6 EDUCATION

6.1 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE

Alberta Education calculates the rate at which Alberta students complete high school within three, four, and five years of starting grade 10. Students from the grade 10 cohort must complete high school within 3 to 5 years of starting grade 10 to be considered high school completers. As illustrated in Table 22, Elk Island Public School (EIPS) has historically shown higher completion rates in comparison to all students in the province of Alberta. For example in 2016, 81.2% of students registered in EIPS were able to complete their high school 3 years after starting their grade 10. In comparison, 77.9% of students in Alberta completed their high school 3 years after starting their grade 10. Three, 4 and 5 year completion rates for 2017 (88%, 89% and 93%) and 2018 (87%, 92% and 91%) reported for Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) were similarly high relative to historical provincial rates.

Table 22: Percent high school completion rate

	Elk Island Public School (EIPS)					Province				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
3 Year Completion	78.8	81.6	79.8	82.1	81.2	74.8	75.3	76.5	76.5	77.9
4 Year Completion	82.8	84.2	86.4	84.8	86.8	79.2	79.6	79.9	81	81.2
5 Year Completion	84.3	85.3	86.3	87.8	86.8	80.6	81.5	82	82.1	83.2

Source: Alberta Education 2018

6.2 HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT AND RETURNING RATES

According to Alberta Education, to provide perspective on students' enrolment patterns and enhance understanding of high school completion rates, the ministry calculates both the annual dropout rate of students age 14 to 18 as well as the annual returning rate – the rate at which students return to the learning system a year after dropping out.

The annual dropout and returning rates are based on data for 3 consecutive school years. An initial cohort of students age 14 to 18 (the Age Specific Cohort) is established for a given year. The dropout rate is then calculated by determining the number of students from the cohort who are not found to be in the learning system in the subsequent school year. Finally, the returning rate is calculated by tracking how many of the students who were not in the learning system in the second consecutive year are found to have returned to the learning system in the third year. As illustrated in Table 23, historically the annual dropout rate for students in EIPS has been lower compared to students in Alberta. At the same time the returning rate for students in EIPS has been higher compared to students in Alberta.

Table 23: Percent high school dropout rate

	Elk Island Public School (EIPS)					Province				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Drop Out Rate	3.6	1.9	2.5	2.2	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.2	3
Returning Rate	20.9	31.8	34.1	21	19.8	22.8	20.7	20.9	18.2	18.9

Source: Alberta Education 2018

6.3 HIGH SCHOOL TO POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION RATE

To track the extent that Alberta high school students participate in post-secondary study, Alberta Education calculates the rate at which students move into post-secondary education within 4 to 6 years of starting grade 10. Students from the grade 10 cohort must be identified as participating in post-secondary education within 4 to 6 years of starting grade 10 to be counted in the high school to post-secondary transition rate. Although, the average rates for post-secondary participation after 4 years of starting grade 10 have been similar between EIPS and the province at 38% (2012-16), the average rate for post-secondary participation after 6 years of starting grade 10 is higher for EIPS students (64%) compared to 59% for provincial students (2012-16). Four and 6 year rates for post-secondary participation for 2017 (46% and 75%) and 2018 (45% and 71%) reported for EICS were similarly high relative to historical provincial rates.

Table 24: Percent high school to post-secondary transition rate

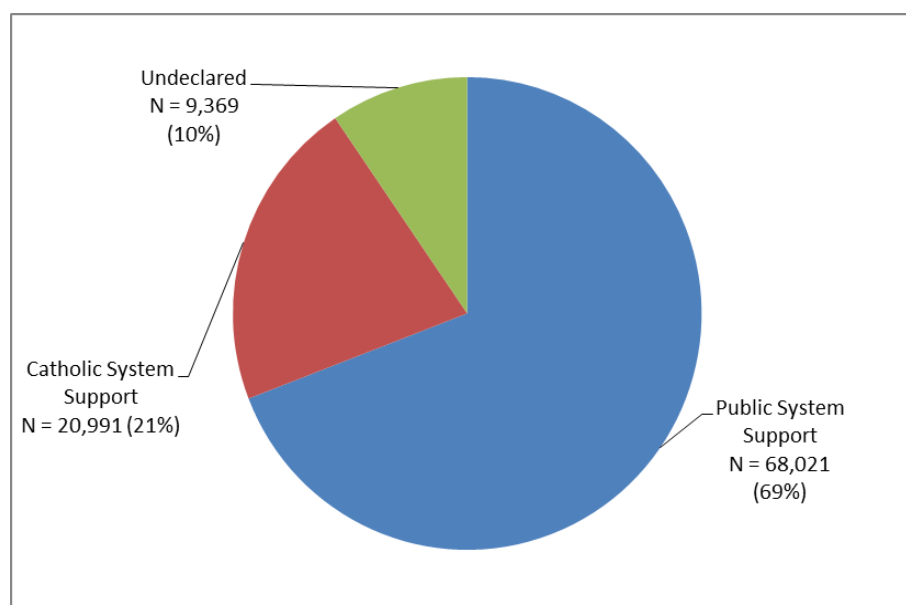
	Elk Island Public School (EIPS)					Province				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
4 Year Rate	37.8	40.2	39.1	35.1	39	39.4	39.7	38.3	37	37
6 Year Rate	67.3	61.6	62.4	63	63.2	59.3	59	59.7	59.4	57.9

Source: Alberta Education 2018

6.4 SCHOOL SUPPORT IN STRATHCONA COUNTY

The school support of Strathcona County residents for 2018 shows that more residents support the public system over the Catholic system. For the County as a whole, 68,021 residents (69%) supported the public system, 20,991 (21%) supported the Catholic system, and 9,369 residents (10%) did not state which school system they supported.

Figure 6: School Support in Strathcona County

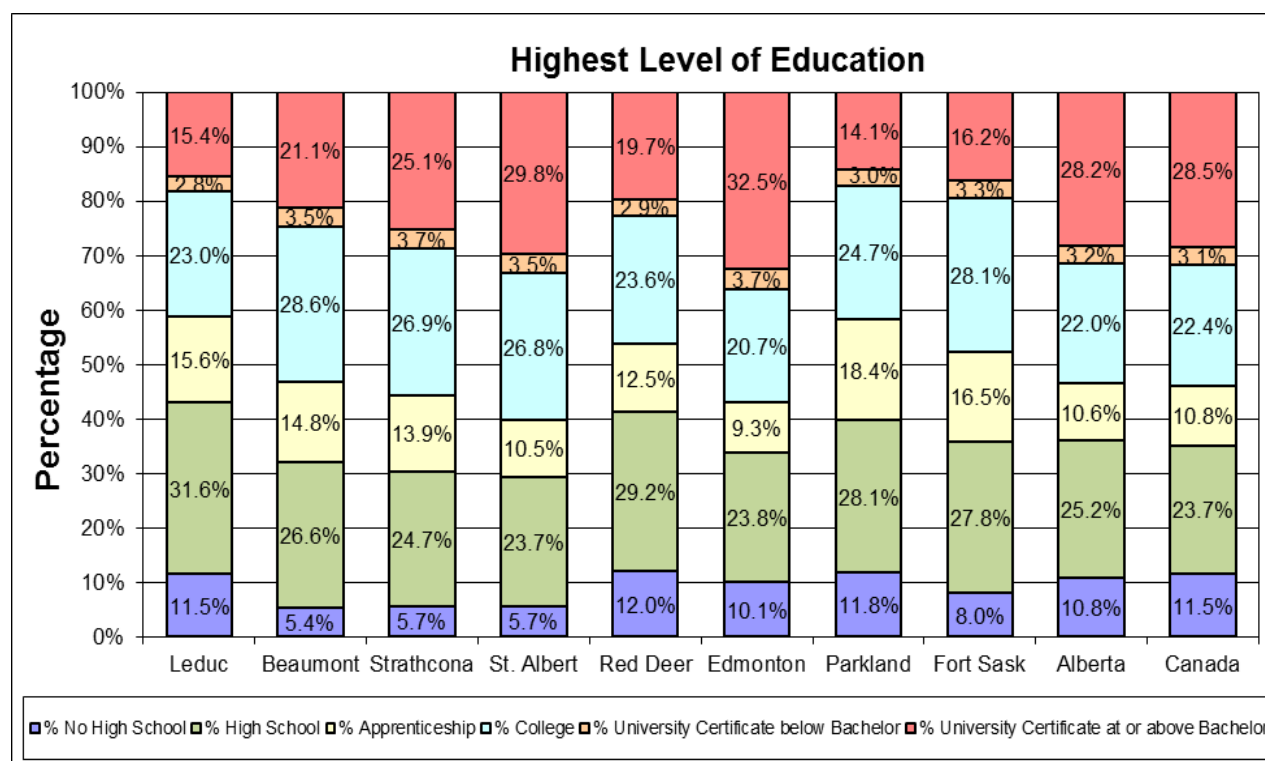


Source: 2018 Municipal Census

6.5 EDUCATION LEVELS OF STRATHCONA COUNTY RESIDENTS

According to the 2016 Federal Census results, Beaumont (5.4%), St Albert (5.7%) and Strathcona County (5.7%) have the lowest proportion of residents who have not finished high school, which is well below the Alberta provincial average of 10.8%. In addition, Strathcona County residents are more likely (69.6%) than all Albertans (64.0%) to have some type of post-secondary education.

Figure 7: Highest education level for Strathcona County and comparable regions



Source: 2016 Federal Census

*data based on population aged 25 to 64 years in private households

7 INCOME

7.1 BACKGROUND

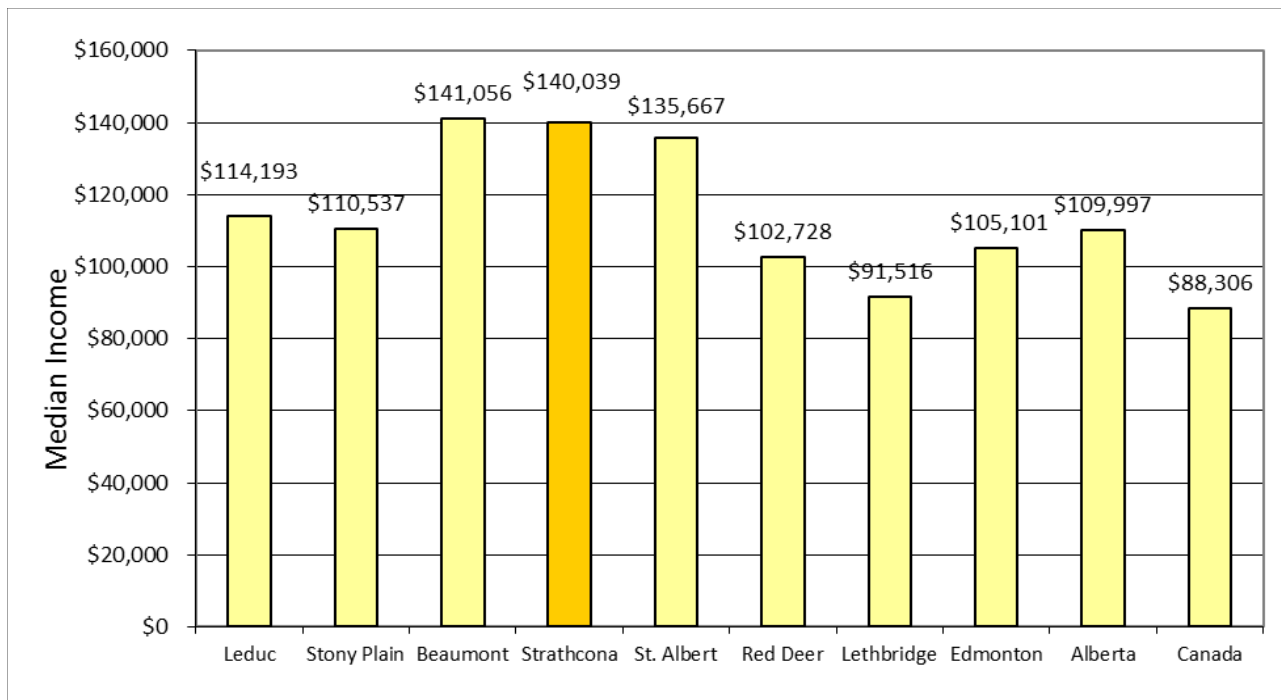
Median income separates ranked size of income into two halves. The incomes of the first half of people are below the median while those of the second half are above the median. As illustrated in Table 25, the median income for all types of family households in Strathcona County is significantly higher than the provincial median for Alberta. In addition, the overall median family income for Strathcona County is one of the highest in the province. As shown in Figure 8, it is comparable to that of St. Albert and Beaumont on the municipal scale.

Table 25: Median Income Comparison before tax

*Median income in 2015		
Household Type	Strathcona County	Alberta
All households	\$140,039	\$109,997
Couple households with children	\$170,386	\$133,186
Couple households without children	\$118,120	\$101,286
Lone-parent	\$84,400	\$62,909

Source: 2016 Federal Census

Figure 8: Median household income for Strathcona County and comparable regions

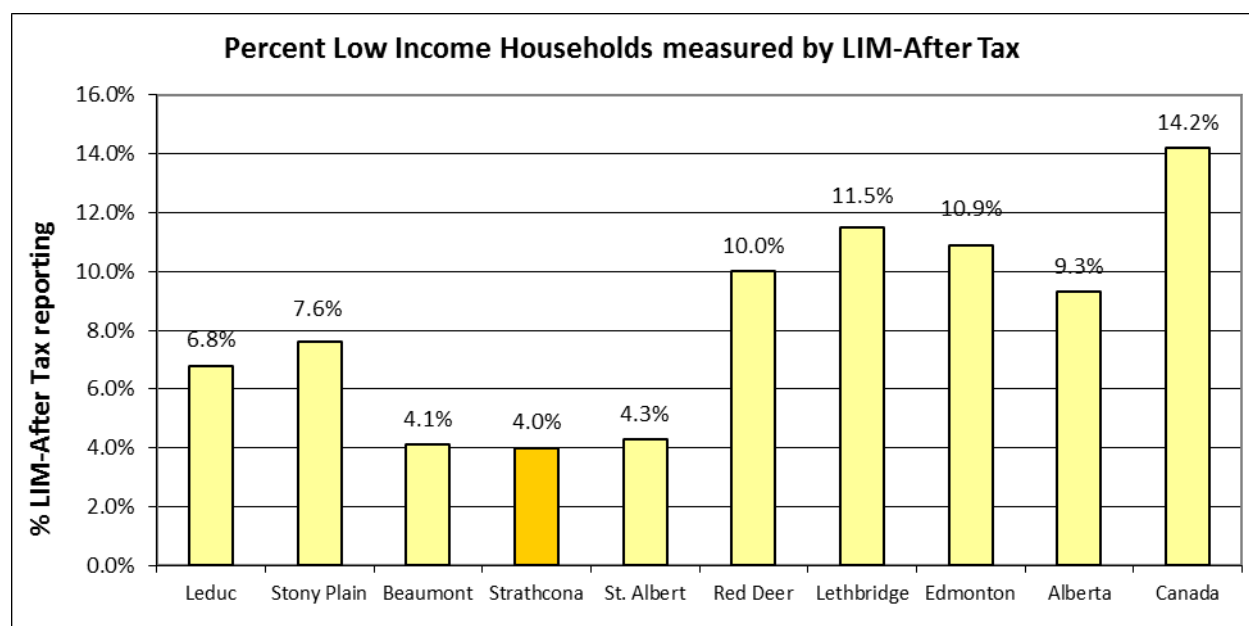


Source: 2016 Federal Census

7.2 INCIDENCE OF LOW-INCOME

In 2016, the median income for couple families with children was \$170,386 in Strathcona County. According to the 2016 Federal Census there are approximately 4.0% of Strathcona households who fit into the low income household category. This is significantly lower than the provincial average of 9.3% and national average of 14.2%.

Figure 9: Percent Low Income Measure (LIM) of households in Strathcona County and comparable regions



Source: 2016 Federal Census

According to Statistics Canada data, the percent of Albertans living in poverty as per Low Income Measure (LIM) decreased from 10.7% per 2010 household income to 9.3% per 2015 household income levels. Similarly, the percent of Strathcona County residents living in poverty as per LIM decreased from 5.5% per 2010 household income to 4.0% per 2015 household income levels. The median after-tax income for families in private households in 2015 in Alberta has remained the highest in Canada according to the 2016 Federal Census at \$109,997 as compared to the median in Canada at \$88,306.

7.3 FACING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Use of the Strathcona Food Bank

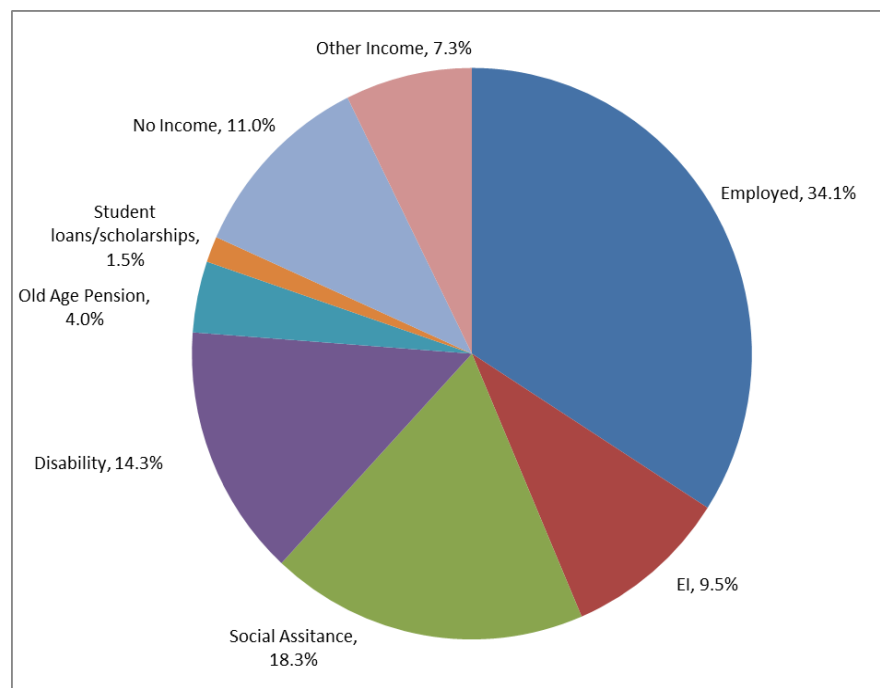
The use of Food Bank by families and individuals is an indicator of the challenges faced by residents. Table 26 shows that the number of individuals making use of the food bank in Strathcona County during the past years has significantly increased. From 2014 to 2017, the demand for Food Bank services increased by 87%, from 4,897 visits in 2014 to 9,151 visits in 2017. According to Figure 10, the majority of Food Bank users surveyed during the full month of March 2017 were employed (34%) followed by those who were on social assistance programs (18%).

Table 26: Distribution of food hampers by the Strathcona Food Bank 2005-2016

Year	Number of Hampers	Serving		
		Adults	Teens	Children (0-12)
2005	1,365	2,252	782	1,429
2006	981	1,659	488	1,051
2007	999	1,687	470	1,204
2008	1,109	1,885	530	1,345
2009	1,449	2,444	703	1,586
2010	1,710	3,093	760	1,692
2011	1,563	2,523	582	1,430
2012	1,547	2,535	499	1,458
2013	1,389	2,387	445	1,513
2014	1,566	2,729	482	1,686
2015	2,245	3,686	797	2,024
2016	3,127	5,353	991	2,966
2017	3,171	5,242	929	2,980

Source: Strathcona County Food Bank 2018

Figure 10: Percent breakdown of Food Bank users by their source of income in Strathcona County



Source: Strathcona County Food Bank – hunger count March 2017

According to Food Bank Canada report called “HungerCount 2016”, there are over representation of Canadians with the following characteristics:

- People under age 18 account for 19% of the Canadian population, they make up 36% of individuals receiving food assistance;
- Lone-parent households account for 10% of the Canadian population, they make up 22% of those accessing food bank;
- Unattached individuals account for 28% of all Canadian population , they make up 44% of households helped by food bank; and
- Food bank use is high among both working and unemployed Canadians, with 15% of households helped are currently or recently employed, yet still unable to make ends meet.

According to the report, in Alberta, women, lone parent families, single people, and Aboriginal persons were more likely to use food bank as compared to other groups.

Strathcona County Fee Reduction Programs

Strathcona County has a number of municipal subsidy programs. These include a recreation access pass, subsidized transit fares, and a sliding fee schedule or bursaries for Family Community Services programs. A rebate of \$100 is available on property tax amounts for eligible seniors (through the province). To qualify for the latter, seniors must be:

- 65 years or older;
- Meet the Alberta Seniors Benefit program annual income guidelines; and
- Live in your own home in Strathcona County.

In addition, ambulance fees can be waived on a case by case basis.

Municipal Recreation Subsidy Program:

The current Recreation Access Program in Strathcona County provides access to recreation services for residents who have a limited income. The County's recreation subsidy program includes "No cost drop-in", as well as registered program opportunities with a reduced fee for those with limited income. Individuals eligible for this program must be at or below the Low Income Cut Off level for Strathcona County. In 2017, FCS (Family and Community Services) used the 2016 LICO – After Tax numbers to process applications for the Recreation Access Programs. The 2017 LICO – After Tax numbers per family size are as follows. These numbers will be used in 2018 to process applications for the Recreation Access Program.

2017 LICO After Tax	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 person	6 persons	7 + persons
	\$20,998	\$25,555	\$31,822	\$39,701	\$45,207	\$50,136	\$55,065

The Recreation Access Program offers:

- An annual Millennium Card⁶ at no cost valid for one year from the date of issue.
- Up to four registered programs for children and youth each year at a 75 % discount of the regular fee.
- Up to three registered programs for adults and seniors each year at a 75 % discount of the regular fee.

The Recreation Access Program has changed over the years and Table 27 shows the number of persons who have benefited with a 210% increase in beneficiaries from 622 persons in 2005 to 1,925 in 2017. The number of persons who apply for the program has increased. The data below reflects the number of individuals who were accepted into the Recreation Access Program and not those who used the subsidized cards.

⁶ The Millennium Card provides access to all recreational facilities in the County for drop in activities

Table 27: Number of Recreation Access Program pass recipients

Year	Persons
2005	622
2006	680
2007	625
2008	690
2009	723
2010	988
2011	1,038
2012	1,201
2013	1,262
2014	1,422
2015	1,605
2016	1,824
2017	1,925

Source: FCS Strathcona County, 2018

Transit

Transit subsidy applications are handled by FCS for Strathcona County Transit. There are three different subsidies available. Starting in 2018 the subsidies for qualified individuals and families are:

- A monthly Strathcona Transit commuter bus pass (Everybody Rides) is provided at a reduced cost for Strathcona County residents in need. In 2018, prices for both the youth and adult bus passes were set at \$24/month.
- Annual Seniors Commuter Bus Pass is provided at a reduced rate for seniors who receive the Guaranteed Annual Supplement (Federal pension supplement). The pass costs \$156 per year.
- Seniors' Off Peak Local Bus Pass is free for seniors with a household income of less than \$26,965 for a single senior and \$43,785 for couples, valid only within Sherwood Park and during off peak hours.

Table 28: Number of Strathcona County transit subsidies recipients

Year	Everybody Rides, Monthly Discounted Pass	Seniors Commuter Bus Pass	Senior Off Peak Local Bus Pass
2008	76*	13	N/A
2009	137	13	N/A
2010	216	12	45
2011	230	12	64
2012	311	12	66
2013	375	12	67
2014	489	3	82
2015	591	13	69
2016	691	12	57
2017	737	21	44

*Only clients on AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped)

Source: FCS Strathcona County, 2018

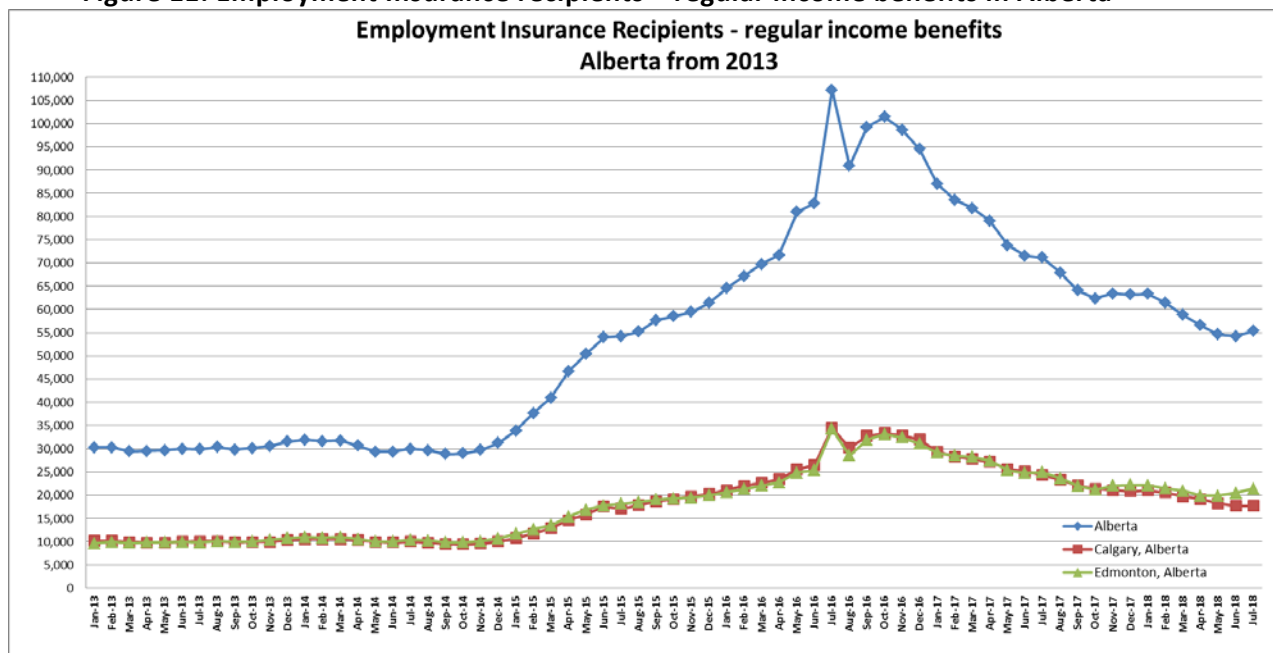
8 ECONOMY AND LABOUR FORCE

8.1 STATE OF THE ECONOMY

According to the 2016 Federal census report, the median household income in Strathcona County is \$140,039 as compared to \$109,997 for Alberta. The median price of homes sold in Sherwood Park in 2017 was \$431,509 similar to St. Albert at \$428,659 and significantly higher than Edmonton (\$404,900), Fort Saskatchewan (\$396,216), Spruce Grove (\$374,614), and Leduc (\$371,186). In addition, in 2017 the average monthly rental price of apartments in Strathcona County was \$1,343 per month, considerably higher than other surrounding municipalities including St. Albert (\$1,253), Fort Saskatchewan (\$1,140), Leduc (\$1,133), Spruce Grove (\$1,133), Edmonton (\$1,093), and Stony Plain (\$1,053).

As illustrated in Figure 11, in July 2018, there were 55,360 work eligible individuals in Alberta on EI constituting an increase of 85% from July 2014, with 29,940 individuals on EI.

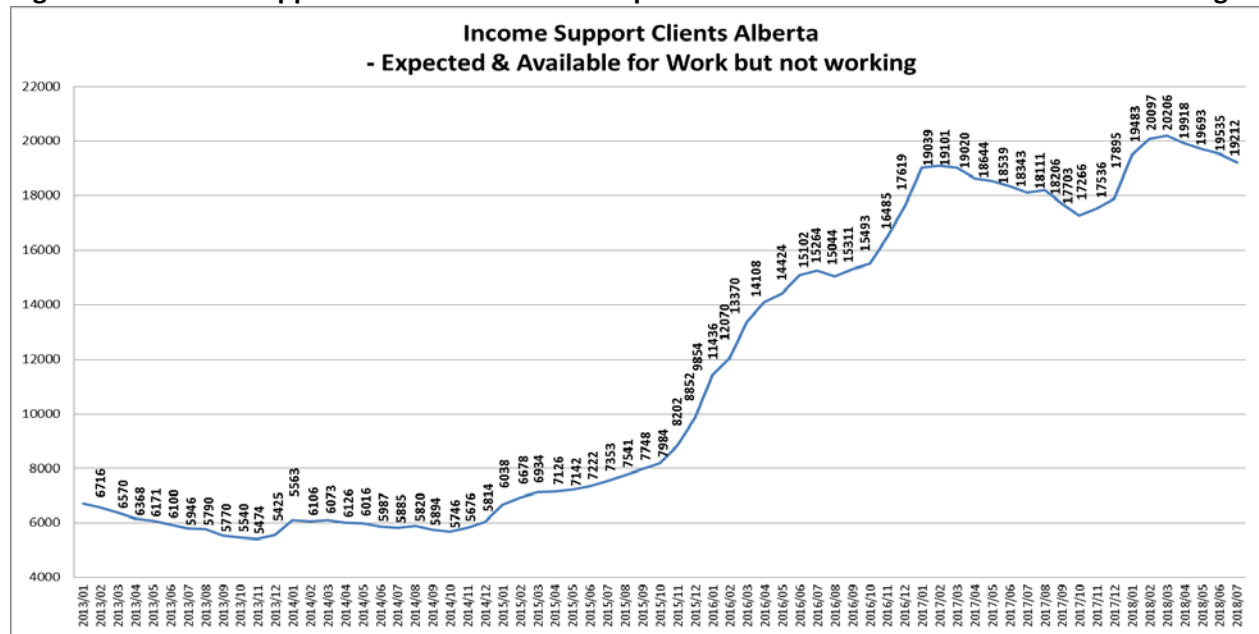
Figure 11: Employment Insurance recipients – regular income benefits in Alberta



Source: Stats Canada, 2018

Similar trends were also observed for individuals that were on Income Support. As illustrated in Figure 12, by the beginning of 2015 the number of Income Support recipients started dramatically increasing. By July 2018 the numbers nearly tripled in comparison to 3 years earlier. In July 2018, there were 19,212 work eligible individuals in Alberta on income support, constituting an increase of 155% from July 2015, with 7,541 on income support.

Figure 12: Income Support clients in Alberta – expected and available for work but not working

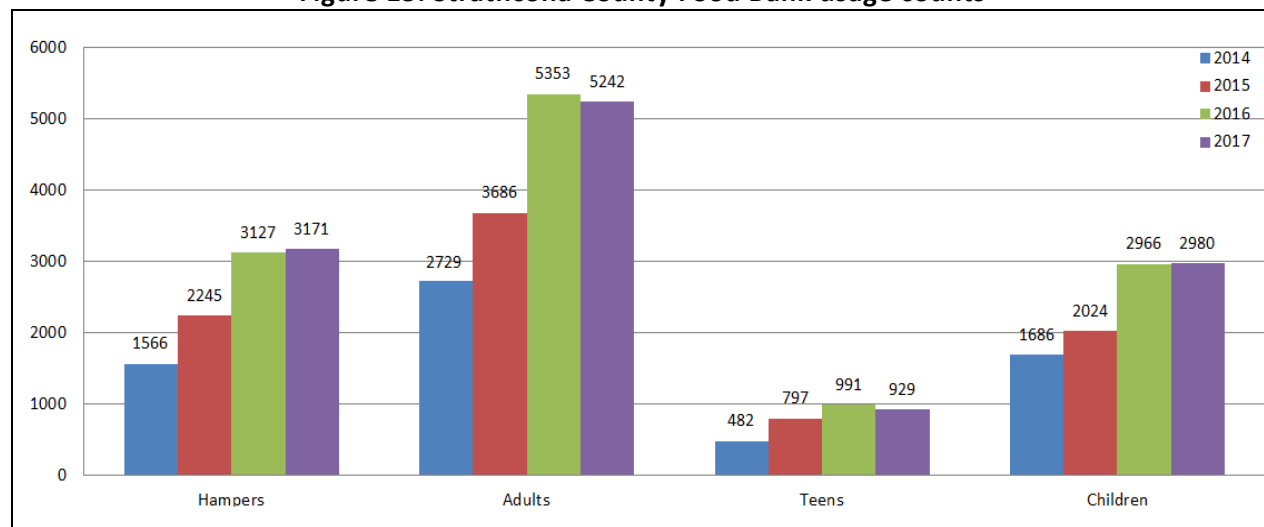


Source: Government of Alberta Open Data, 2018

The economic downturn correlates with trends in local data collected from the County Food Bank and FCS data showing a significant increase in the number of applications for municipal subsidies.

As illustrated in Figure 13, from 2014 to 2017, the number of visits to the Strathcona County Food Bank increased by 87% from 4,897 to 9,151 respectively. In addition, from 2014 to 2017, the number of hampers given to Strathcona County residents increased by 102% from 1,566 to 3,171 hampers respectively.

Figure 13: Strathcona County Food Bank usage counts

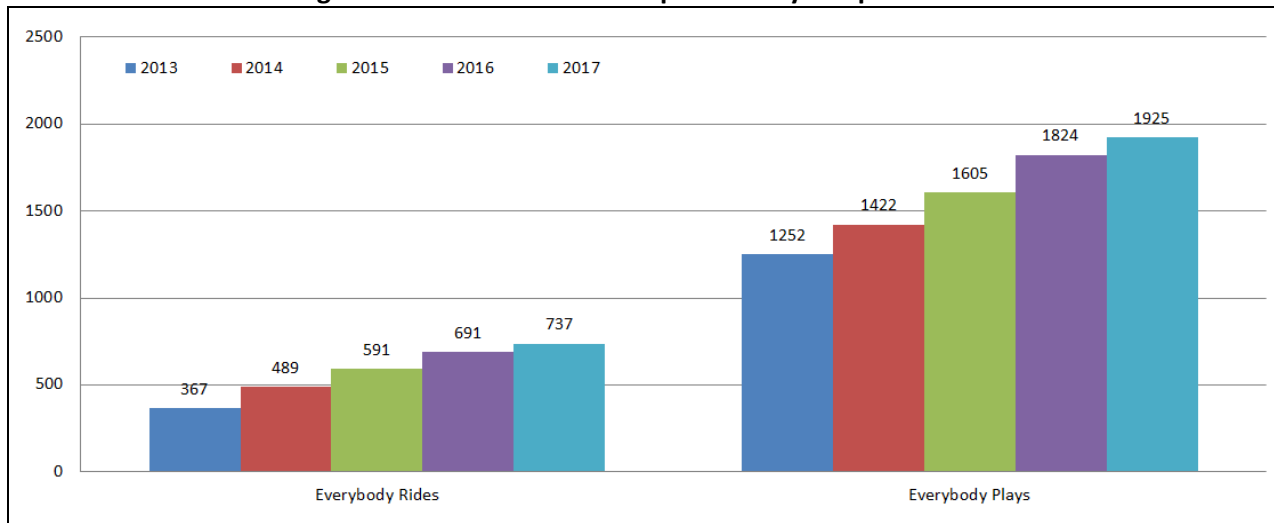


Source: Strathcona County Food Bank, 2017

As shown in Figure 14, from 2013 to 2017, the number of public transit subsidy passes administered by FCS has doubled from 367 to 737 passes respectively. Similarly, during the same time frame the number of recreation access subsidy passes administered by FCS has increased by 54% from 1,252 to 1,925 passes.

According to FCS data gathered, in 2017, 'financial issues' was identified as the top need of FCS clients (1,539 cases), followed by emotional health (586 cases), and family relationships (552 cases).

Figure 14: Number of municipal subsidy recipients



Source: FCS Strathcona County, 2017

8.2 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

Participation rates are an indicator of how well the economy is doing in terms of creating new jobs and matching workers to those jobs. The Province of Alberta continues to see an increase in labour force participation rates as compared to the national average. As shown in Table 29, Strathcona County has similar participation rate (72.1%) in the labour force as compared to Alberta average of 71.8%.

Table 29: Percent of the population 15 years and over in the labour force 2015 in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	% in the Workforce
Fort Saskatchewan	73.9%
Leduc	73.5%
Red Deer	72.6%
St. Albert	72.2%
Strathcona County	72.1%
Edmonton	71.8%
Alberta	71.8%
Canada	65.2%

Source: 2016 Federal Census

As shown in Table 30, the labour participation rate in Strathcona County is significantly higher for males (76.9%) as compared to females (67.3%). Similar results are also evident across Alberta, as labour participation rate is significantly higher for males 15 years of age or older (77.3%) versus females (66.4%).

Table 30: 2016 Labour force participation rates

Labour force activity	Strathcona County			Alberta		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population 15 years and over	78,475	38,960	39,510	3,206,050	1,602,810	1,603,235
In the labour force	56,545	29,965	26,585	2,302,945	1,238,280	1,064,655
Employed	52,890	27,760	25,130	2,096,105	1,114,360	981,745
Unemployed	3,655	2,205	1,455	206,835	123,925	82,910
Not in the labour force	21,925	8,995	12,925	903,105	364,525	538,580
Participation rate	72.1	76.9	67.3	71.8	77.3	66.4
Employment rate	67.4	71.3	63.6	65.4	69.5	61.2
Unemployment rate	6.5	7.4	5.5	9	10	7.8

Source: 2016 Federal Census

8.3 EMPLOYMENT STATUS & LOCATION

In the 2018 Municipal Census, residents were asked about their employment status. The results show that approximately half of the residents in Strathcona County are employed (51%) either full-time (43.1%) or part-time (7.9%). The remaining 49% of residents are either students (22.4%), caring for a child not yet in school (4.4%), not in the workforce (9.1% includes residents 18-64), or retired (13.2%).

Table 31: 2018 Employment Status Breakdowns for Strathcona County

Employment Status	Total Strathcona County		Urban Service Area		Rural Service Area	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time	38,849	43.1%	28,058	43.1%	10,790	42.9%
Part-Time	7,079	7.9%	4,951	7.6%	2,128	8.5%
Child not yet in school	3,966	4.4%	3,076	4.7%	890	3.5%
Student (K-12)	17,182	19.1%	12,349	19.0%	4,833	19.2%
Post-Secondary Student	2,996	3.3%	2,139	3.3%	857	3.4%
Not in the workforce	8,227	9.1%	5,563	8.6%	2,664	10.6%
Retired (age 65 or older)	11,873	13.2%	8,900	13.7%	2,973	11.8%
Total	90,171	100.0%	65,036	100.0%	25,135	100.0%

Source: 2018 Municipal Census

Residents, who are currently either employed and/or are in school were asked to indicate whether they were employed and/or went to school in Strathcona County or outside the County. The results were equally split. 31,785 (49.8%) of residents indicated that they were either employed and/or went to school in Strathcona County and 32,026 (50.2%) of residents indicated that they were either employed and/or went to school outside Strathcona County.

Further breakdown reveals that of the residents that work full-time, about two-thirds 25,408 (65.8%) work outside of Strathcona County. However, of the residents that work part-time, approximately 4 out of 10 or 2,975 (42.3%) work outside of Strathcona County.

When looking at the student population, for those in the K-12 category, the vast majority 14,245 (93.4%) attend schools in Strathcona County. For post-secondary students, the vast majority 2,644 (90.4%) attend schools outside of Strathcona County.

9 MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG ADDICTIONS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

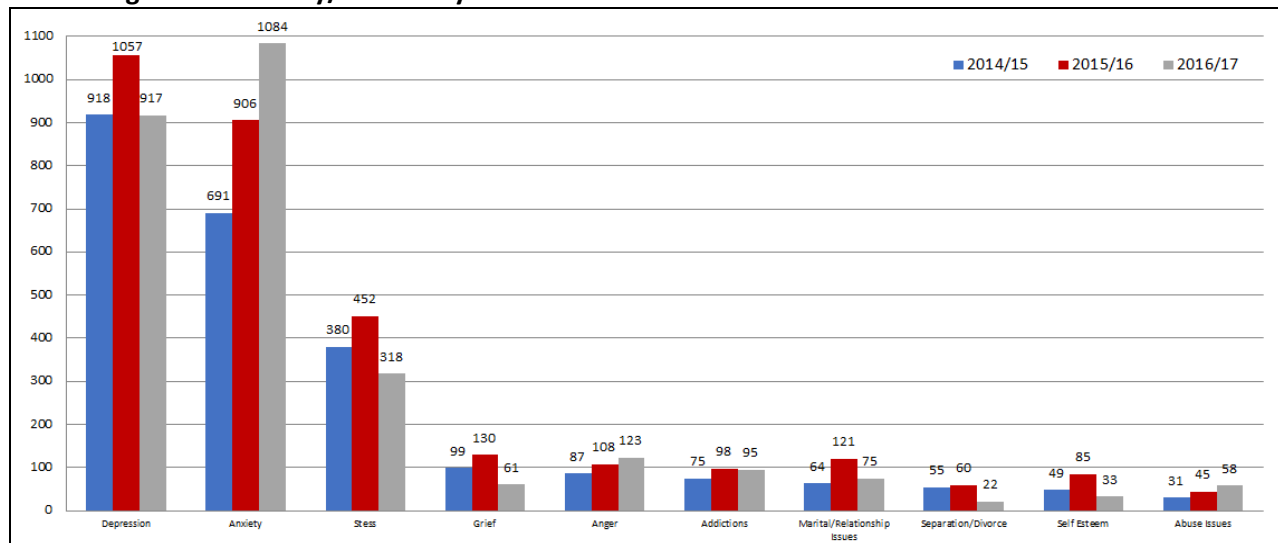
9.1 PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH CASES

The Primary Care Network (PCN) is a group of health care professionals and administrative staff in Strathcona County who work with patients and their doctors, providing education and support for managing chronic diseases and mental health concerns as well as access to specialists and services in the local community. The top three reasons for doctor referrals to PCN in Strathcona County for 2016/17 year were:

1. Anxiety (1,084 cases);
2. Depression (917 cases); and
3. Stress (318 cases).

From 2014 to 2017 there has been a 57% increase in the number of anxiety related cases referred to PCN by Strathcona County doctors.

Figure 15: Primary/Secondary reasons for Sherwood Park doctors' referrals to PCN



Source: Primary Care Network (PCN), 2017

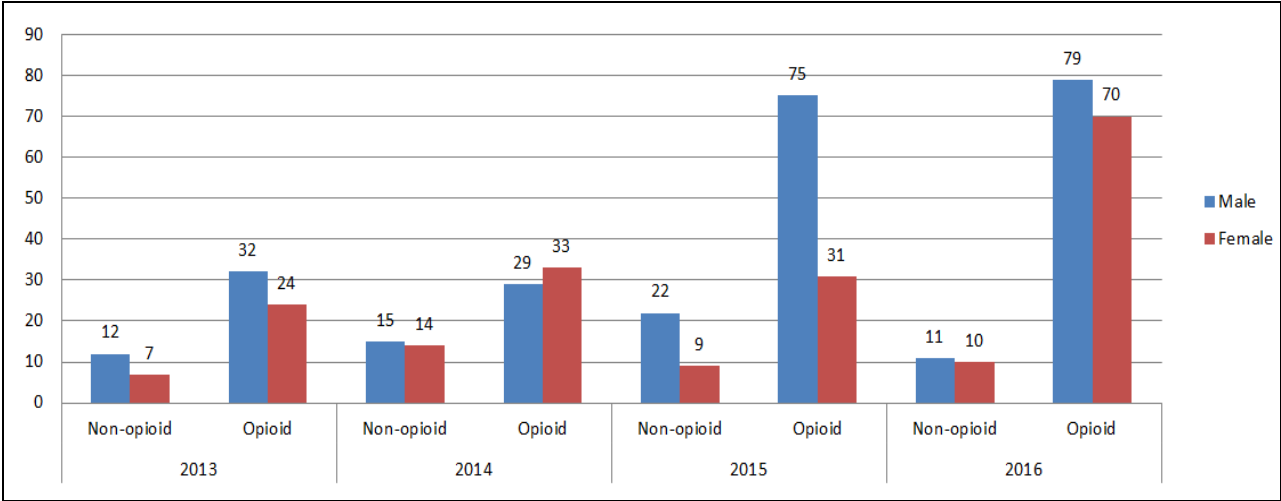
9.2 OPIOID RELATED ADDICTIONS, TREATMENTS AND DEATHS

Opioids are drugs that are typically used to relieve pain. The most common forms include codeine, oxycodone, methadone, hydromorphone, and fentanyl. Opioids can be pharmaceutical-grade and prescribed by physicians and surgeons. However, these prescription opioids can end up for illegal sale on the street, which can result in them being cut and tainted with other compounds, including fentanyl.

According to the Government of Alberta, fentanyl is a very strong, odorless and tasteless synthetic narcotic which is about 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Non-illicit fentanyl is typically prescribed to control severe pain. On the other hand, illicitly manufactured fentanyl is being imported, mixed with other drugs and illegally sold in pill or powder form, which are mixed into other drugs such as cocaine, crystal meth, etc. Just 3 or 4 grains of fentanyl are enough to kill an average adult. Carfentanil is a fentanyl analogue and opioid drug 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl. This drug is not licensed for use in humans, but is meant to sedate large animals such as elephants under strict safety conditions. Just one grain of carfentanil can kill an adult.

As illustrated in Figure 16, the number of Strathcona County residents making emergency department visits for opioid-related drug overdose has nearly tripled in the last few years. There has been a 166% increase in the number of emergency department visits by Strathcona County residents for opioid use from 2013 to 2016 (56 cases to 149 cases). In addition, males are more likely than females to be victims of opioid overdose.

Figure 16: Number of Strathcona County residents making emergency department visits

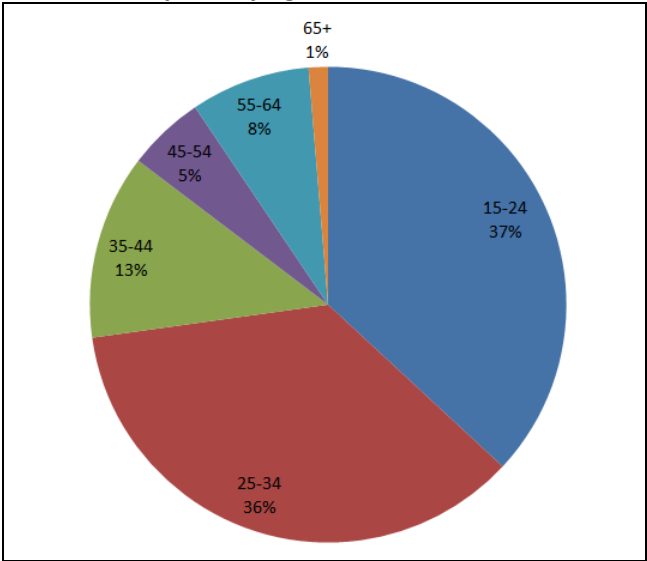


Source: Alberta Health, 2017

According to Alberta Health data, younger people are more likely to overdose on opioids. As illustrated in Figure 17, over the last 5 years (2013-17), nearly 3 out of 4 individuals (73%) in Strathcona County visiting the emergency department for opioid use were between the ages of 15 and 34.

The numbers of drug overdose deaths in Strathcona County either accidental or suicidal from 2013 to 2017 include 11 deaths related to fentanyl, 7 deaths due to non-fentanyl opioid and 12 deaths related to non-opioid drugs and alcohol.

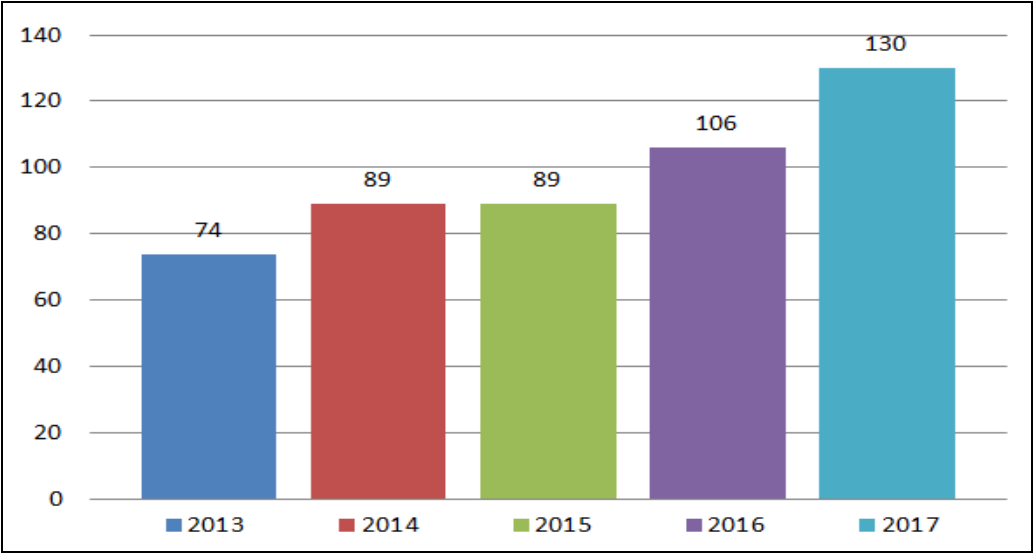
Figure 17: Percent breakdown of Strathcona County residents making emergency department visits for opioid by age 2013 - 2017



Source: Alberta Health, 2017

Alberta Health data show that the number of unique individuals dispensed Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) by community pharmacies in Strathcona County has steadily increased year after year from 2013 to 2017. As illustrated in Figure 18, in 2013 there were 74 unique individuals in Strathcona County who were dispensed OAT by local pharmacies and that number increased to 130 individuals in 2017, constituting a 76% increase during the 5 year period.

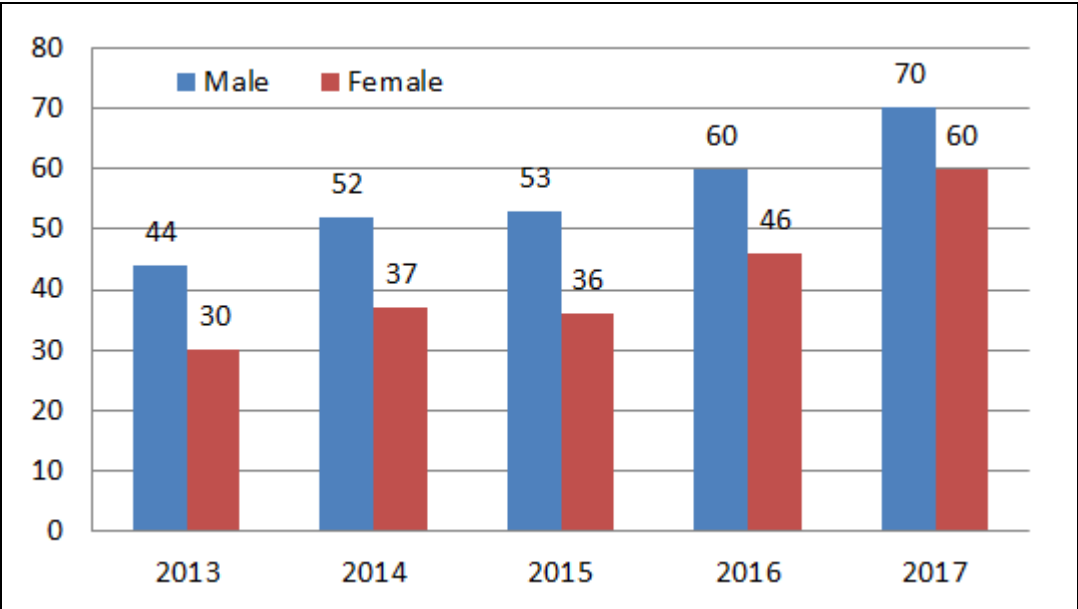
Figure 18: Number of unique individuals in Strathcona County who were dispensed Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) by Community Pharmacies from 2013 - 2017



Source: Alberta Health, 2017

In addition as illustrated in Figure 19, on average from 2013 to 2017, the ratio of males to females who have been dispensed OAT by community pharmacies in Strathcona County have mostly been on a 6 to 4 ratio respectively.

Figure 19: Number of males versus females in Strathcona County dispensed Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) by Community Pharmacies from 2013 - 2017

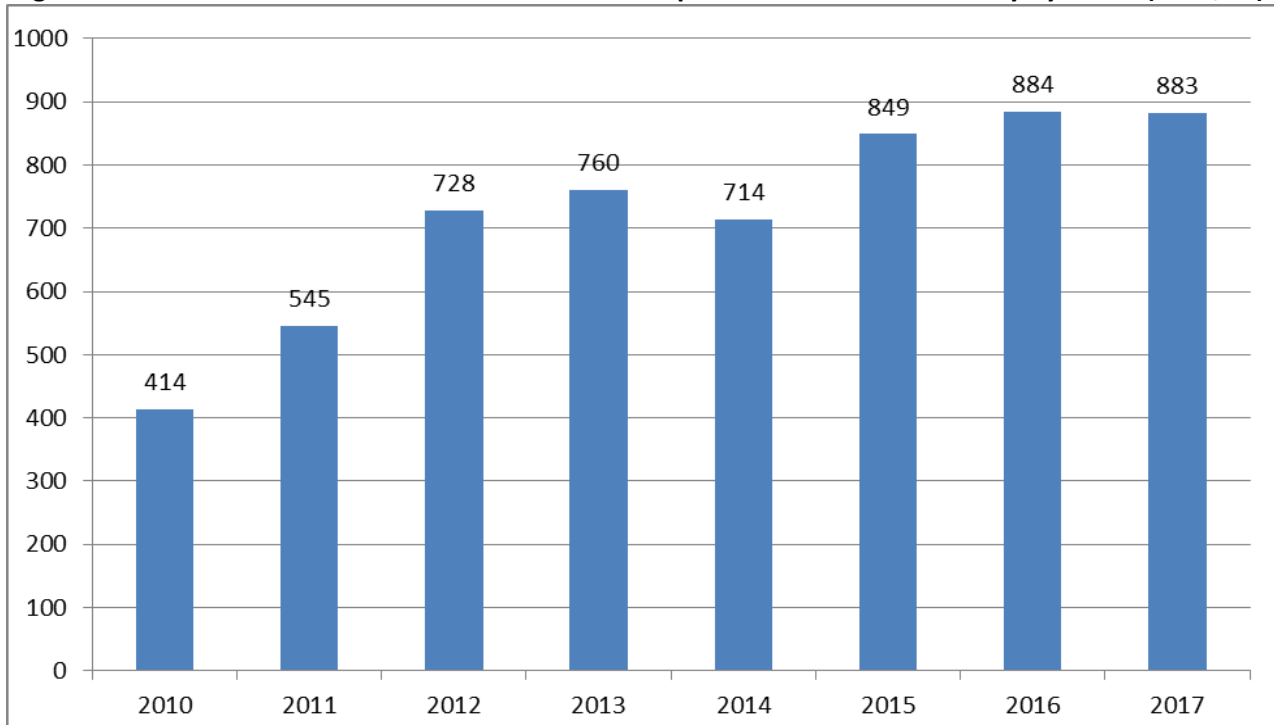


Source: Alberta Health, 2017

9.3 INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The incidents of reported domestic violence to RCMP in Strathcona County have more than doubled over 8 years from 2010 to 2017 with an increase of 113% from 414 cases in 2010 to 883 cases in 2017. Caution should be used when interpreting these numbers. Although the data may suggest a significant increase in the number of domestic violence cases, in reality some of that increase may be attributed to increase in awareness and reporting by residents when they are witness or subject to such an act.

Figure 20: Number of incidents of domestic violence reported in Strathcona County by RCMP (2010/17)



Source: RCMP data, 2018

10 HOUSING

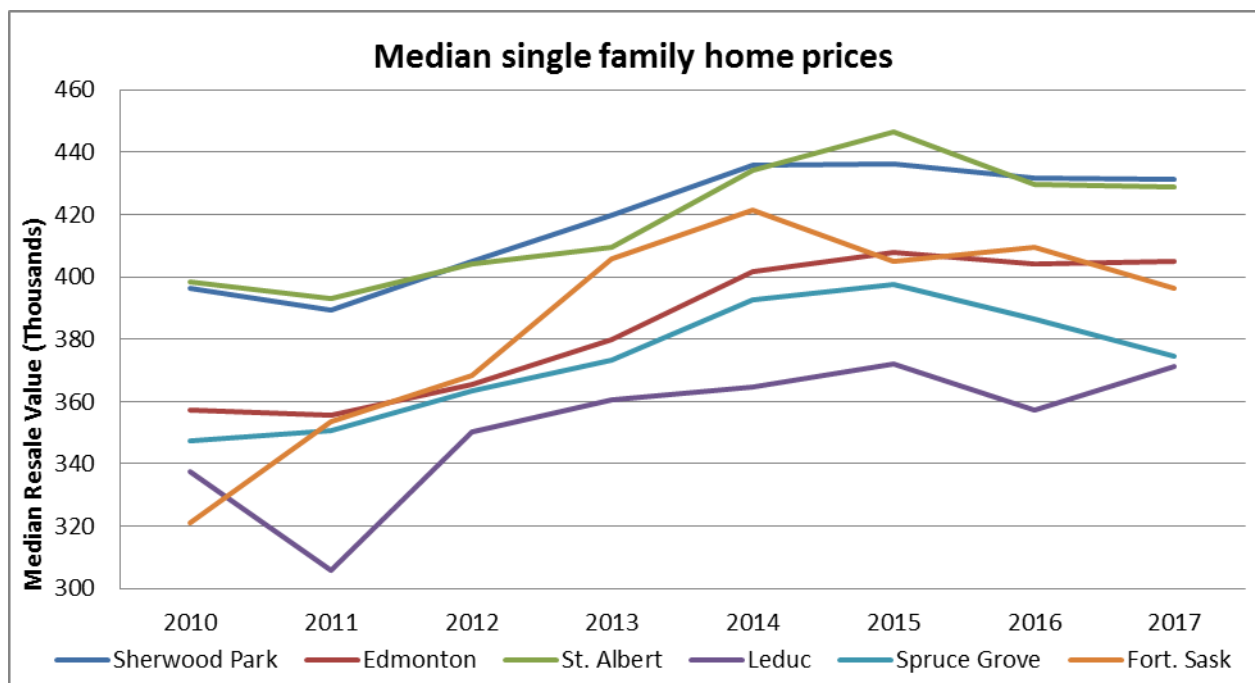
10.1 HOME PRICES IN STRATHCONA COUNTY

Housing prices rose until May of 2007, when the average price of a single family home peaked at \$509,200 with a median cost of \$479,900. Since its peak in May of 2007, housing prices in Strathcona County have stabilized somewhat.

In 2017, the median cost of a single family home sold in Sherwood Park was \$431,509, which was comparable to St. Albert at \$428,659⁷. According to the 2016 Federal Census, the median value of a dwelling in Strathcona County was \$450,119 as compared to \$400,104 for Alberta.

As illustrated in Figure 21, the median price of homes sold in Sherwood Park in 2017 is similar to that of St. Albert, while the median price of homes sold in Edmonton, Leduc, Spruce Grove and Fort Saskatchewan are all lower.

Figure 21: Median single family prices in Sherwood Park and comparable municipalities



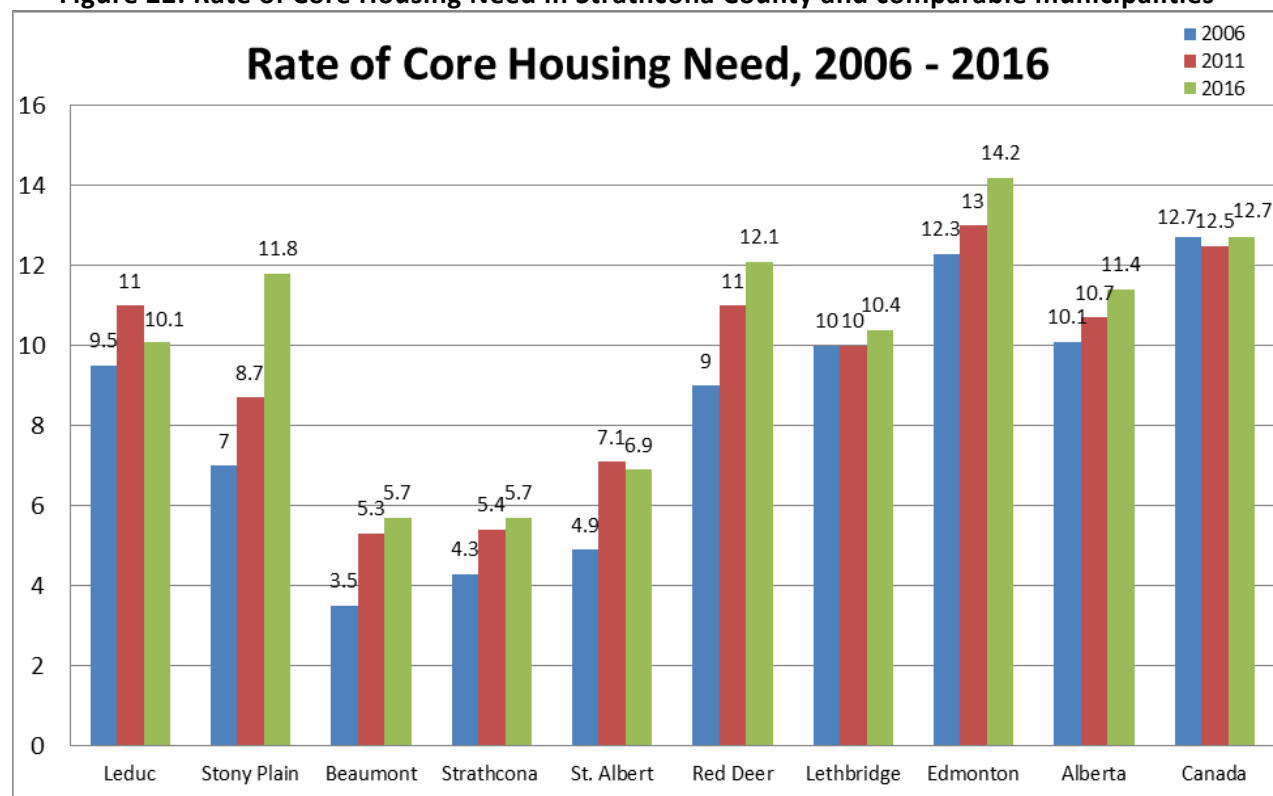
Source: Economic Development & Tourism 2017

⁷ Economic Development & Tourism, Strathcona County 2018

10.2 CORE HOUSING NEED

According to Statistics Canada, a household in Core housing need is one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. In Strathcona County the rate of Core Housing Need was 5.7% in 2016, translating into 2,027 households that are living in dwellings that are assumed as unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable. In comparison, Strathcona County has one of the lowest rates of Core Housing Need in Alberta with the average for the province being 11.4% of dwellings.

Figure 22: Rate of Core Housing Need in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities



10.3 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA

In 2007, the County commissioned an Affordable Housing Plan. The data in the report was based on the 2005 Tax Filer data and the 2006 Federal Census. The Affordable Housing Plan defines affordable housing as “housing that is modest in terms of floor area and amenities, based on household needs and community norms, without spending more than 30% of gross income on housing, where income is below 80% of Strathcona County’s median income (need threshold).” This description is generally consistent with the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) definition.

CMHC has determined that a household has a Core Housing Need if it must pay more than 30% of its gross annual income for median market rent or more than 32% of gross annual income (including taxes and utilities) for home ownership that is adequate and suitable. The Core Need Income Threshold (CNIT) represents the highest level of income people can earn and remain eligible for a rent subsidy. The Government of Alberta Seniors and Housing Ministry administers the Community Housing Program, which provides subsidized rental housing to low-income families, senior citizens, and individuals with special needs who cannot afford private sector accommodations. Applicants whose income falls below local income limits are eligible to apply. Below these income levels, it is difficult for people to find housing in good repair, without spending more than 30% of their income for rent. The CNIT is based on median market rent for various size units. As illustrated in Table 32, the CNIT for Sherwood Park is similar

to those of surrounding cities and municipalities. However, there are some areas where the CNIT is significantly higher due to greater demand and higher median incomes such as Wood Buffalo (Fort McMurray), where the CNIT for a bachelor suite is \$55,500 and a three bedroom suite is \$97,000. Conversely, there are some cities where the CNIT is lower than Sherwood Park, such as Red Deer and Lethbridge as shown in the Table below.

Table 32: Core Need Income Thresholds 2016 for Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

Municipality	Bachelor	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
For McMurray	\$55,500	\$62,000	\$74,500	\$97,000
Sherwood Park	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
Edmonton	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
St. Albert	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
Beaumont	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
Leduc	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
Stony Plain	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$53,000	\$65,500
Red Deer	\$32,500	\$36,500	\$44,000	\$55,500
Lethbridge	\$26,000	\$32,500	\$39,000	\$49,000

Source: <http://www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca/documents/2016%20Core%20Need%20Income%20Thresholds.pdf>

According to the 2016 Federal Census report, the median value of dwellings in Strathcona County is \$450,119. To be able to afford to buy a home at this cost requires a gross income of \$80,000 with a down payment of minimum 5% or \$25,500. The total monthly mortgage at affordability rate of 32% will be approximately \$2,130. Table 33 shows maximum monthly rent or ownership costs (mortgage, taxes and heating expenses) that a household can afford based on the guidelines of 30% for renters and 32% for homeowners.

Table 33: Income and affordability of rent or home ownership

Annual Gross Income Range	Affordable Monthly Rent (30%)	Affordable Monthly Ownership Costs (32%)
\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$250-500	\$267-533
\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$500-750	\$533-800
\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$751-1,000	\$800-1,066
\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$1,000-1,250	\$1,066-1,333
\$50,000 to \$59,999	\$1,250-1,500	\$1,333-1,600
\$60,000 to \$74,999	\$1,500-1,875	\$1,600-2,000
\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$1,875-2,500	\$2,000-2,667
\$100,000 +	\$2500+	\$2,267+

10.4 RENTAL HOUSING STOCK

For individuals or families with lower income levels, the availability of affordable rental housing is essential. In Strathcona County, over 80% of housings include single detached homes, almost 20% higher than the Alberta average. Apartment buildings account for 5.7% of dwellings, compared to the Alberta average of 18.4%.

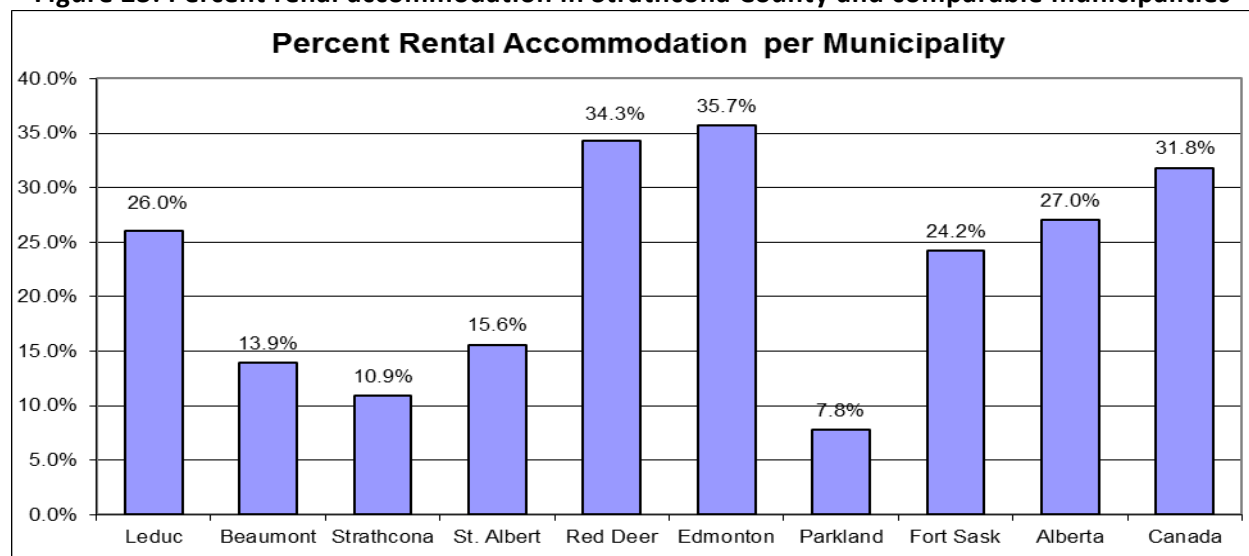
Table 34: Distribution of private households by structural type of dwelling

Structural type of dwelling	Strathcona County, SM		Alberta		Canada	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total - Structural type of dwelling	35,565	100.0	1,527,675	100.0	14,072,080	100.0
Single-detached house	28,640	80.5	946,225	61.9	7,541,495	53.6
Semi-detached house	2,050	5.8	86,765	5.7	698,800	5.0
Row house	1,470	4.1	116,625	7.6	891,305	6.3
Apartment, building that has five or more storeys	305	0.9	62,395	4.1	1,391,040	9.9
Apartment, building that has fewer than five storeys	2,155	6.1	223,360	14.6	2,539,390	18.0
Apartment or flat in a duplex	80	0.2	43,090	2.8	784,300	5.6
Other single-attached house	5	0.0	1,245	0.1	36,005	0.3
Movable dwelling	865	2.4	47,970	3.1	189,755	1.3

Source: 2016 Federal Census

In Strathcona County, approximately 9 out of 10 dwellings are occupied by home owners. According to the 2018 Strathcona County municipal census, a greater proportion of owners reside in rural Strathcona 8,521 (94.9%) as compared to the urban area of Sherwood Park 21,690 (84.8%)⁸. Compared to nearby municipalities as well as Alberta and Canada, the number of families currently renting in Strathcona County is low at 10.9% compared to 27% for all Alberta. Parkland County is the only community in the Figure 23 comparison list with a lower proportion of rentals than Strathcona County.

Figure 23: Percent rental accommodation in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities

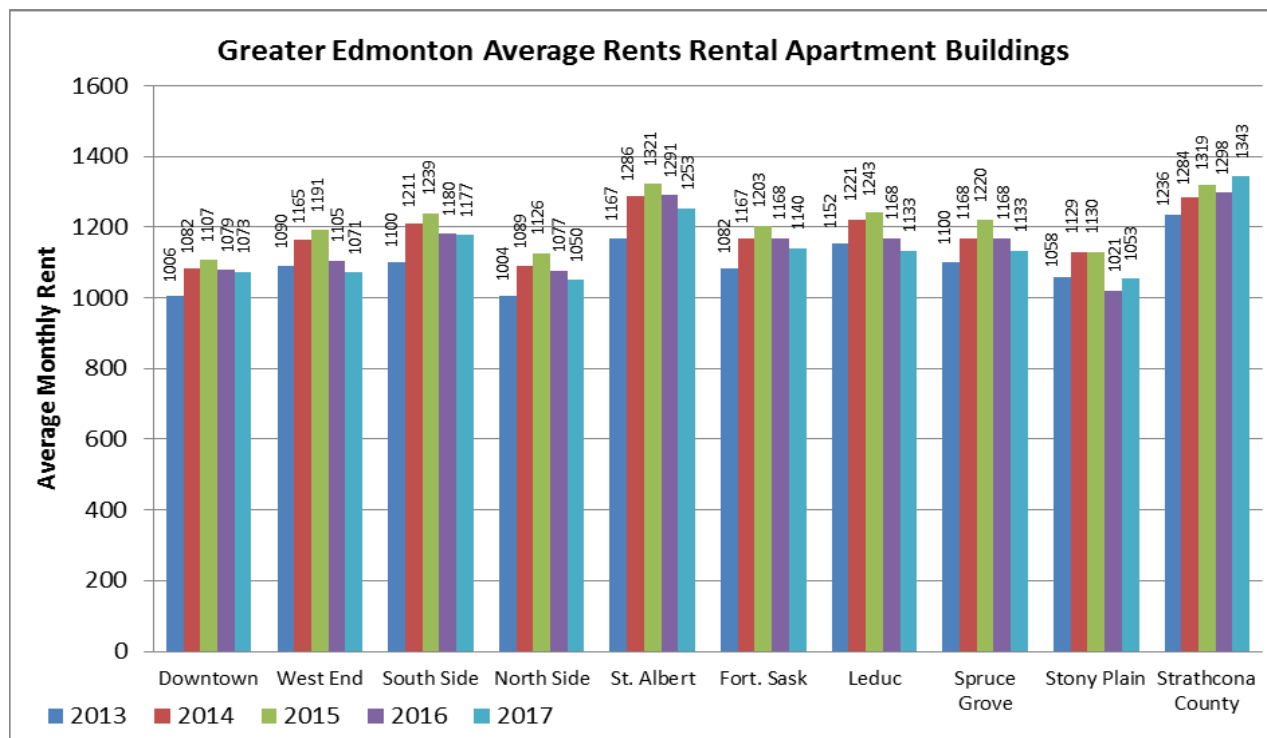


Source: 2016 Federal Census

⁸ 2018 Municipal Census

In addition to having the fewest number of rental units, Strathcona County also has the highest rent in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region as depicted in Figure 24 at an average monthly cost of \$1,343, followed by St. Albert at \$1,253.

Figure 24: Average rents for rental apartment buildings in Strathcona County and comparable municipalities from 2013 and 2017



Source: Economic Development and Tourism (2017)

10.5 SENIORS' HOUSING

Housing for seniors requires accessible units and often includes additional support services. Strathcona County has a number of seniors' complexes ranging from subsidized apartments to extended care and specialized services for Alzheimer patients.

Given the significant growth of the seniors' population from 2011 to 2016, and growth projections made by Alberta Ministry of Seniors and Housing, there is a good probability that by 2035 there will be more than one million seniors in Alberta⁹, meaning that about one out of five Albertans will be a senior.

In 2013, Pioneer Housing Foundation joined a merger with Fort Lions Haven and Fort Saskatchewan Foundation to form Heartland Housing Foundation. In 2011, Pioneer Housing Foundation commissioned a report entitled *Seniors Housing Needs Assessment for Strathcona County*. The report states that as of 2011 the supply of seniors' housing includes 214 self-contained units and 436 supportive living units. In addition, the report predicts that between 2016 and 2026 an additional 333 units of purpose built, subsidized seniors' housing (various types) will be needed in the County.

⁹ Alberta Ministry of Seniors and Housing

APPENDIX A

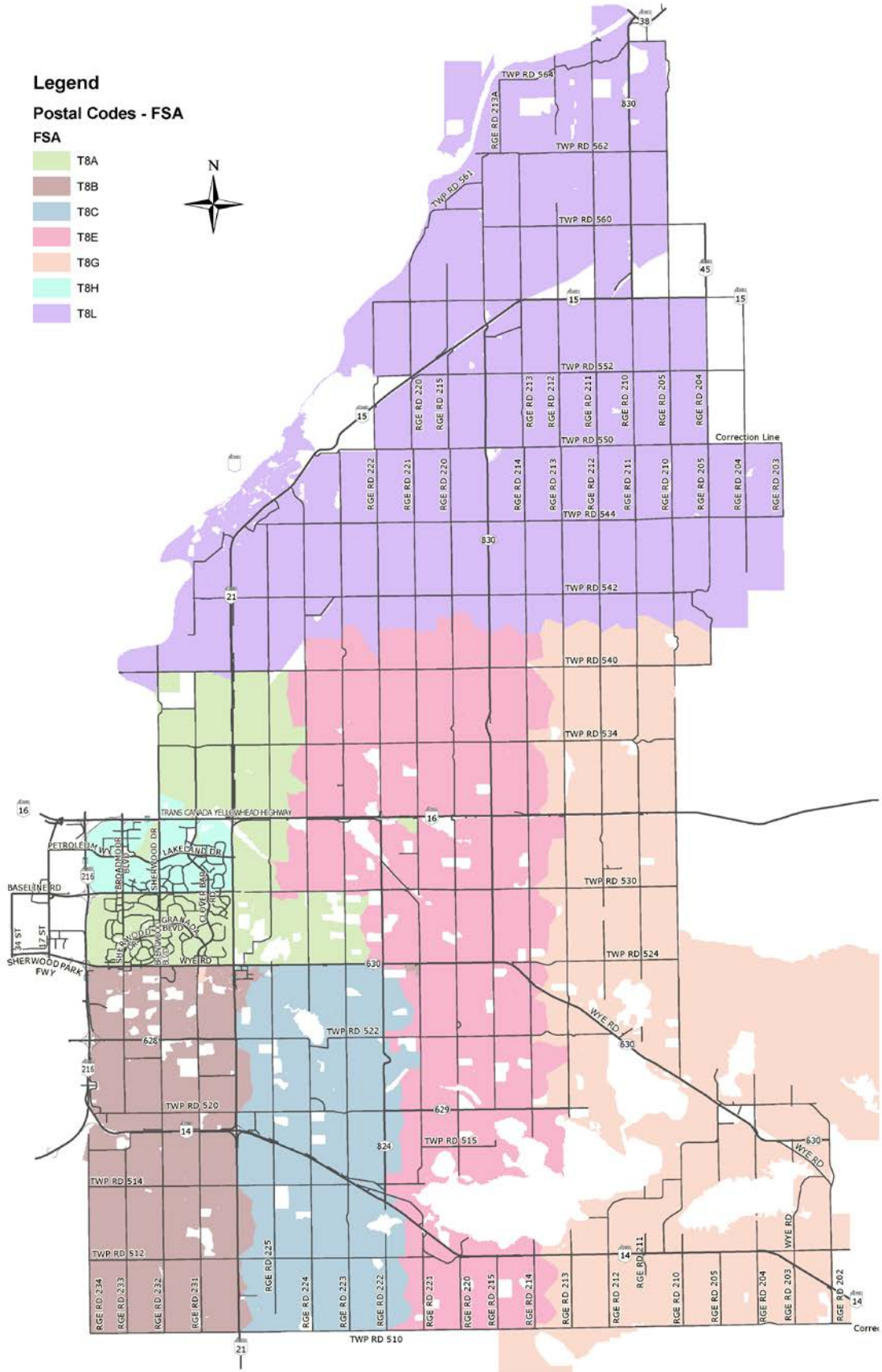
Postal Codes – FSA Boundaries

Legend

Postal Codes - FSA

FSA

- T8A
- T8B
- T8C
- T8E
- T8G
- T8H
- T8L





FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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