

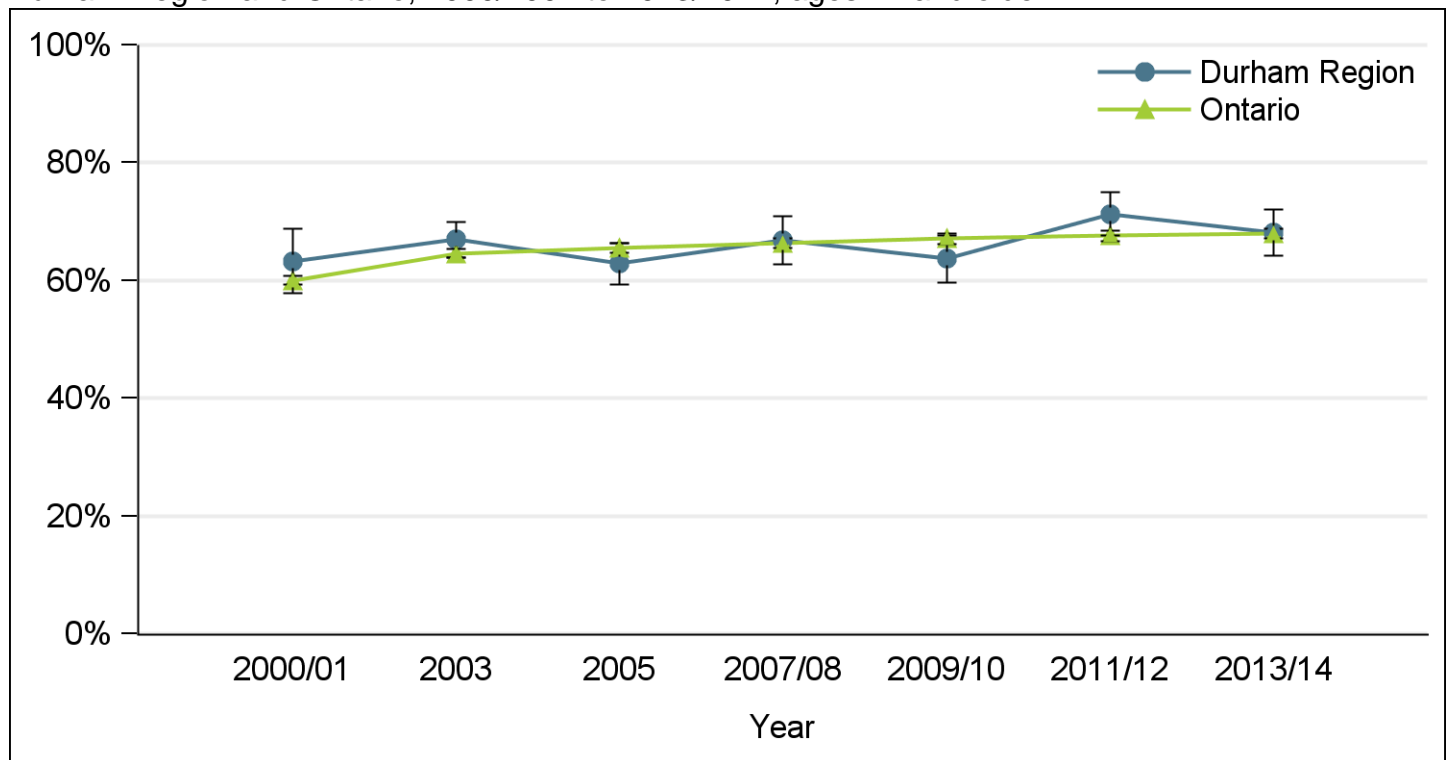
September 2016

Highlights

- In 2013/14, 68% of Durham Region residents 12 and older reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong. Rates for both Durham Region and Ontario have increased slightly since 2000/2001.
- Among the 36 Ontario public health units, the proportion of respondents who had a strong or very strong sense of community belonging ranged from 62% to 79%.
- Those most likely to report a strong or very strong sense of community belonging were respondents aged 12-17 or 65+, and those with less than a secondary school diploma.

Trend Over Time

Figure 1. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong, Durham Region and Ontario, 2000/2001 to 2013/2014, ages 12 and older

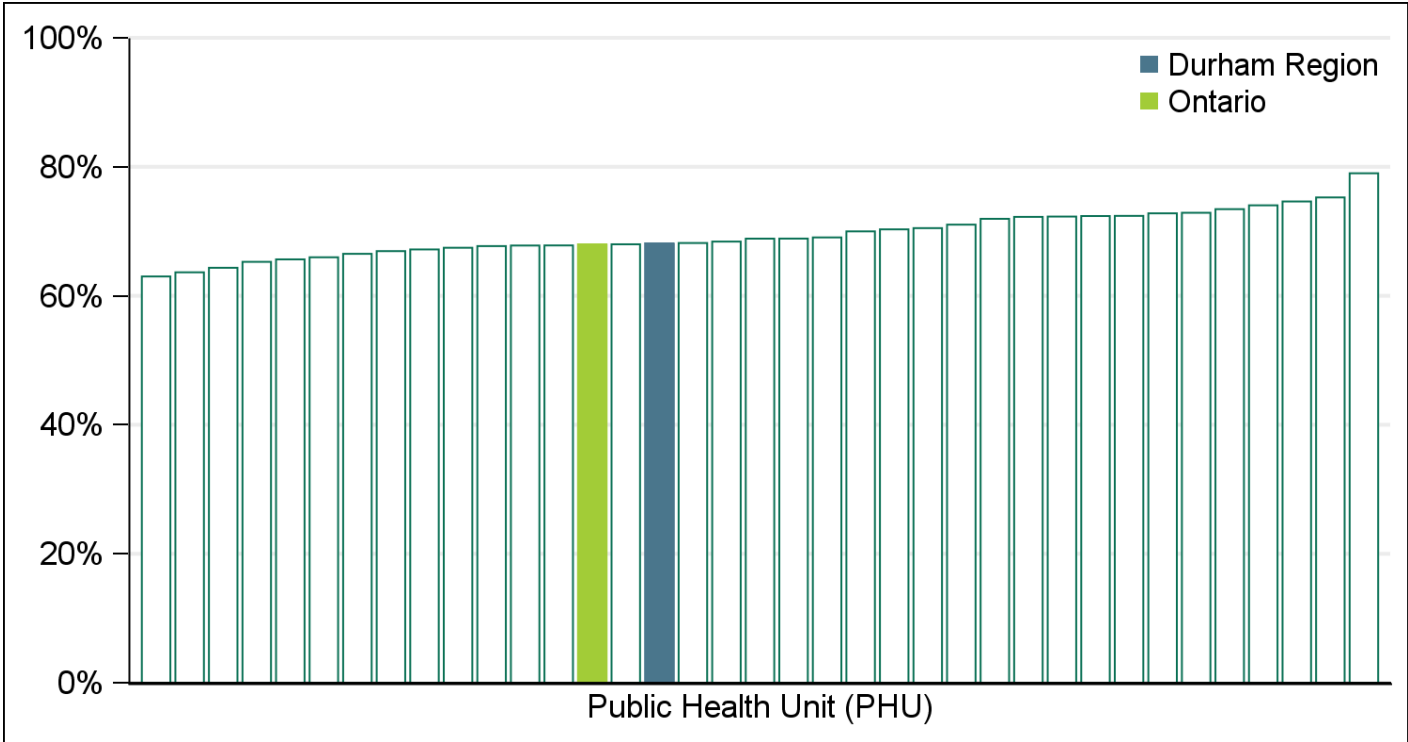


Place of residence	2000/01	2003	2005	2007/08	2009/10	2011/12	2013/14
Durham	63%	67%	63%	67%	64%	71%	68%
95% CI (Durham)	58-69%	64-70%	59-66%	63-71%	60-68%	68-75%	64-72%
Ontario	60%	65%	66%	66%	67%	68%	68%
95% CI (Ontario)	59-61%	64-65%	65-66%	66-67%	66-68%	67-69%	67-69%

In 2013/2014, 68% of Durham Region residents aged 12 and older reported a strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community. This rate is similar than the rate observed for Ontario of 68%. Figure 1 shows that rates for both Durham Region and Ontario have increased slightly since 2000/2001.

Provincial Comparison

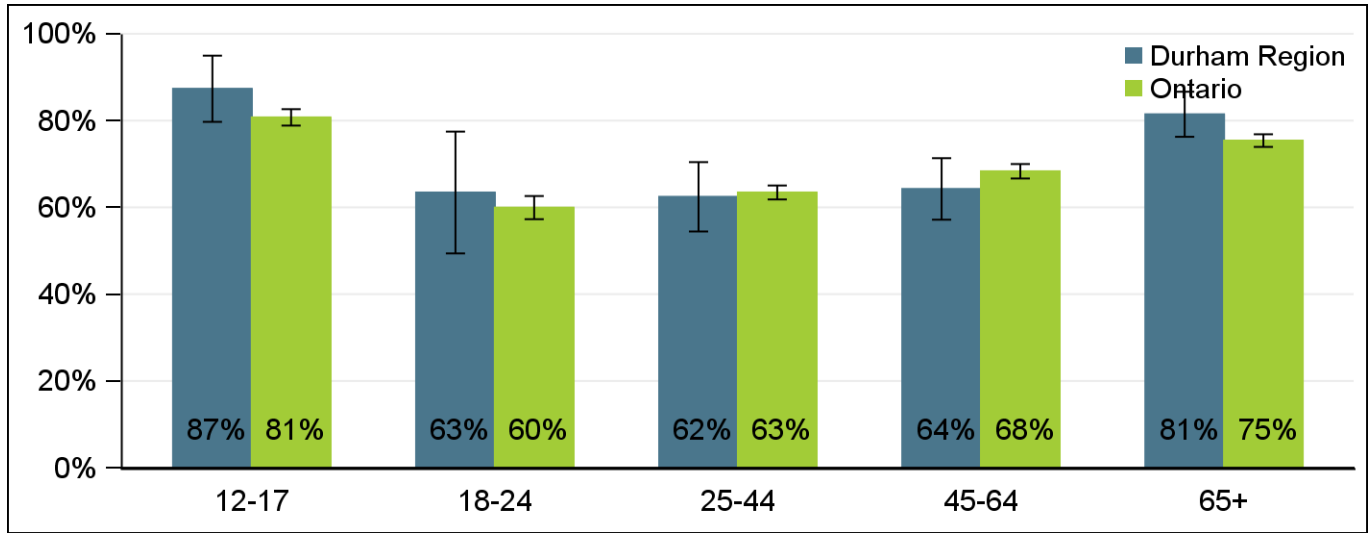
Figure 2. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong, by public health unit, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



For 2013/2014, the proportion of respondents who reported a strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community ranged by public health unit from 62% to 79%. The rate for Durham Region was in the middle of this range at 68% (See Figure 2).

Sense of Community Belonging and the Determinants of Health

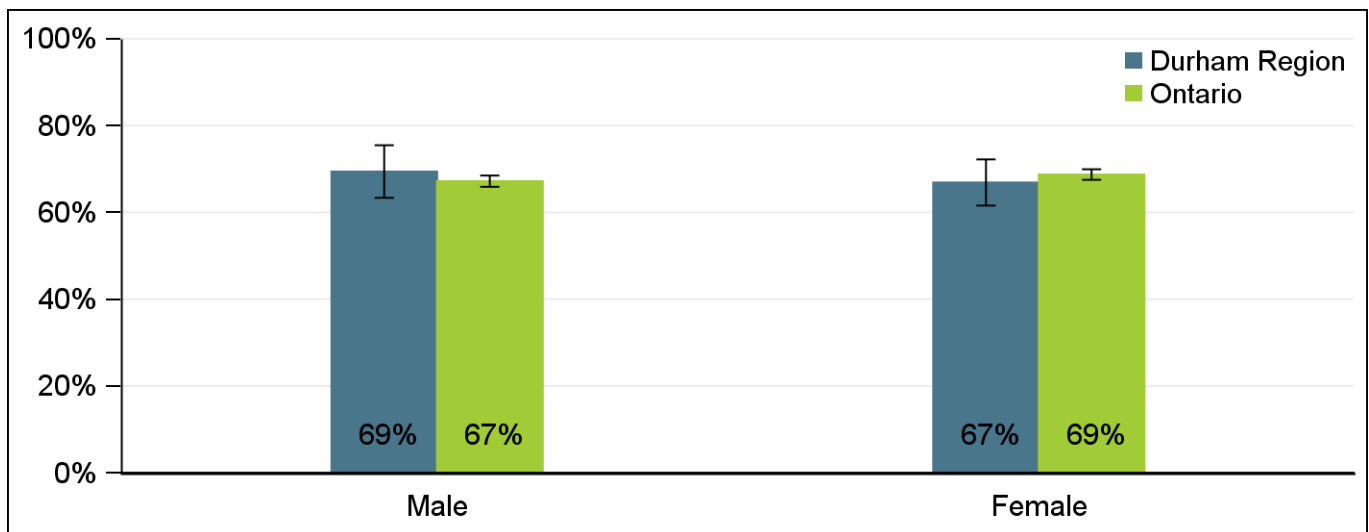
Figure 3. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong by age, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



Association between age groups and sense of community belonging is significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

Figure 3 shows a U-shaped relationship in the proportion who reported a strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community and age. Here, the proportion decreases into 25-44 years old middle age group then increases again among older adults. This relationship was observed for both Durham Region and Ontario.

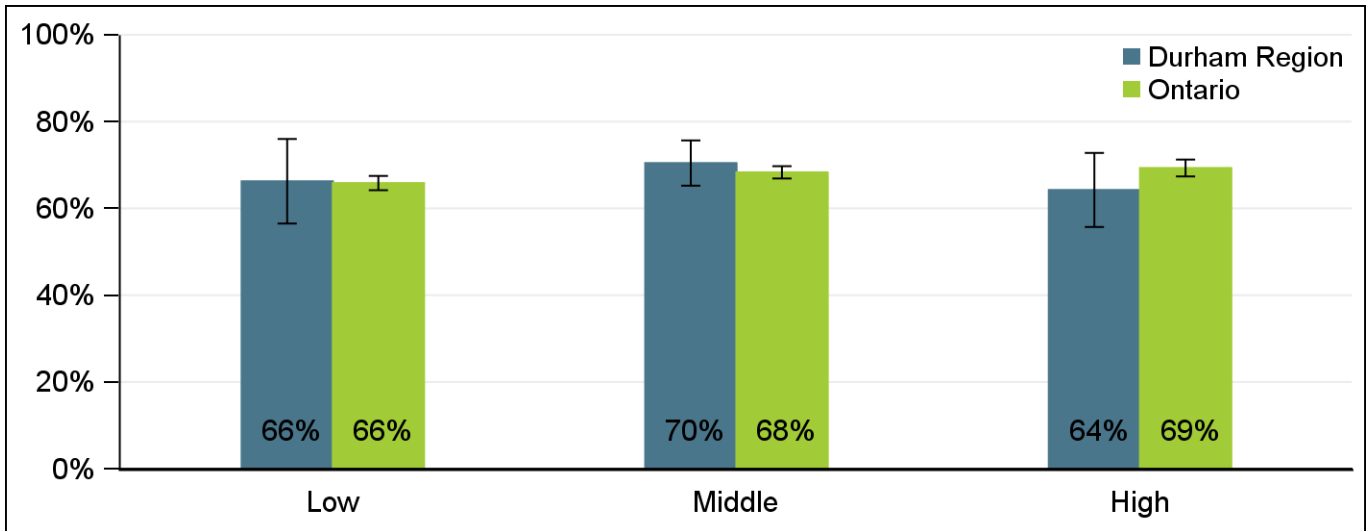
Figure 4. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong by sex, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and over



No association was observed between sex and sense of community belonging for both Durham Region and Ontario.

In 2013/2014, males and females were equally likely to report their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong in Durham Region and Ontario, respectively.

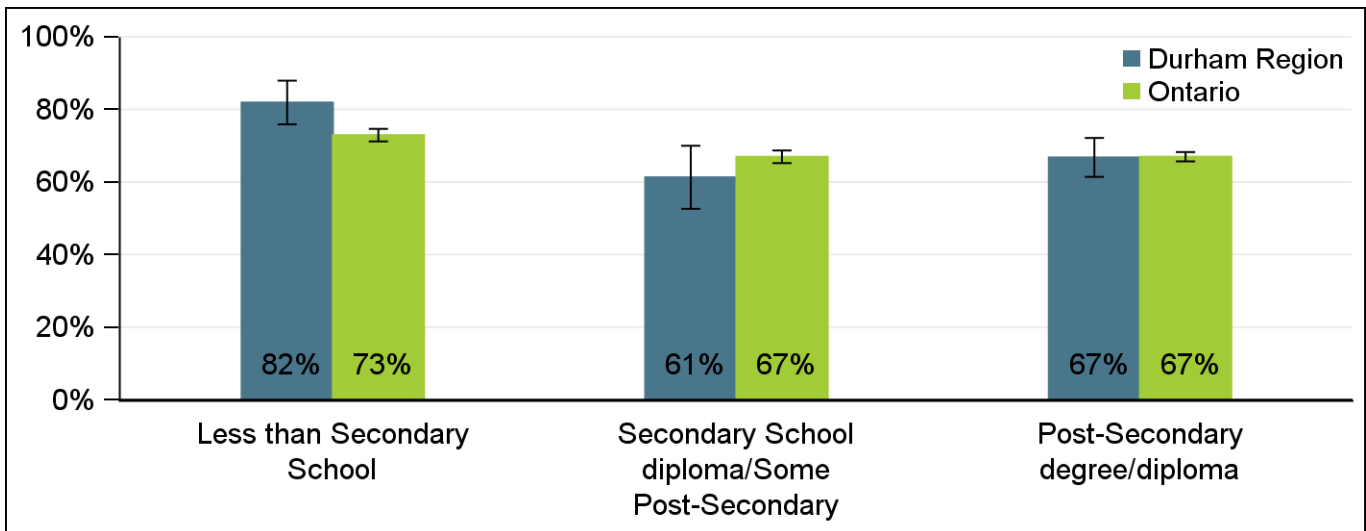
Figure 5. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong by household income, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and over



Association between household income and sense of community belonging is significant for Ontario only.

In 2013/2014, there was no observed association between those who reported a strong or very strong sense of community belonging and household income for Durham Region; however, rates of sense of community belonging as strong or very strong slightly increased with increasing income level in Ontario (see Figure 5).

Figure 6. Proportion who reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong by education level, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and over



Association between education level and sense of community belonging is significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

In Durham Region and Ontario, those with less than a secondary school diploma were most likely to report a strong or very strong sense of belonging to the community. The rates were similar between those with secondary education and those with post-secondary education (see Figure 6).

Data Notes

Data Source: The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. It surveys a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. Since 2007, data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007. The CCHS data are collected from persons aged 12 and over living in private dwellings, excluding individuals living on Indian Reserves and on Crown Lands, institutional residents, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted interviewing, either in person or over the telephone.

Definitions and Survey Questions: Proportion of the population 12 years and older that reported their sense of community belonging as strong or very strong.

Data Analysis: The CCHS share file obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care was used for analysis. Data were analyzed using SAS version 9.4. Estimates are weighted using the final CCHS sampling weight. Error bars in the graphs represent the 95% confidence interval (CI) around the estimate. The true or actual estimate falls within the range of values 95 out of 100 times. For all analyses, response options of 'Refusal', 'Don't Know', 'Not Stated' and 'Not Applicable' were excluded, unless otherwise stated.

The CCHS 2013/2014 dataset was used for the 'Sense of Community Belonging and the Determinants of Health' analysis. Statistical significance was assessed based on a chi-square test with a p-value less than 0.05. A statistically significant difference between groups means that the association is not likely due to chance.

The income categories of low, middle and high were based on a CCHS derived variable which distributed residents according to the adjusted ratio of their total household income to the low income cut-off corresponding to their household and community size. The ten categories in this variable were grouped with "low" income corresponding to the lowest 30%, "middle" including the middle 40%, and "high" corresponding to highest 30% of earners.