

# Health Status Report

## Demographic Profile of Perth County by Age, Sex, Income and Education

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a demographic profile of the residents of Perth County, describing the following population characteristics: age, sex, income and education.
- Compare differences between the demographic profile of our population and that of Ontario.
- Identify patterns that can be used for planning and implementing local programming and services.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- The percentage of Perth County males and females was similar to one another and similar to the percentage of males and females in the Ontario population (Fig 1).
- The percentage of Perth County residents aged 12 -19 years, and the percentage of Perth County residents aged  $\geq 65$  years was greater than their Ontario counterparts. The percentage of Perth County residents aged 20 – 44 years was lower than the percentage of Ontario residents of the same age (Fig 3).
- The percentage of Perth County residents who have completed a post-secondary education was lower compared to Ontarians (Fig 5). This gap was largest in the 25-44 years age group (Fig 6).
- There were a higher percentage of residents from Perth County who did not complete a high school diploma compared to Ontarians (Fig 5).
- Perth County females attained a higher level of education than Perth County males (Fig 8).
- There was a higher percentage of Perth County residents living in middle income compare to Ontarians. (Fig 9).
- There was a higher percentage of Perth County females living in low income than Perth County males (Fig 11).
- Seniors were more likely to live in low income than those in the age groups 12-64 years and youth were more likely to live in low income than those aged 45-64 years (Fig 12).
- There was a trend that as the level of education rose, so did the level of income (Fig 13).

### BACKGROUND

- Population demographics are important to understand for those who are planning social and health-care related programs and services.
- This report describes some of the characteristics of the population of Perth County, including age, gender and socioeconomic status. Other important population characteristics are not included in this report, such as marital status and ethnicity.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada describes 12 determinants of health, which are classified as biological, social, and lifestyle.<sup>1</sup>
- Age may be the most important factor to consider when describing the occurrence of disease or illness in a population.<sup>2</sup>
- Income is viewed as: "The most important of the critical determinants of health and a glaring cause of health inequity."<sup>3</sup>
- Education is important as an independent determinant of health, as well as a determinant of income.
- Approximately 20% of health care spending in Canada can be attributed to socioeconomic factors such as income-related disparities.<sup>2</sup>

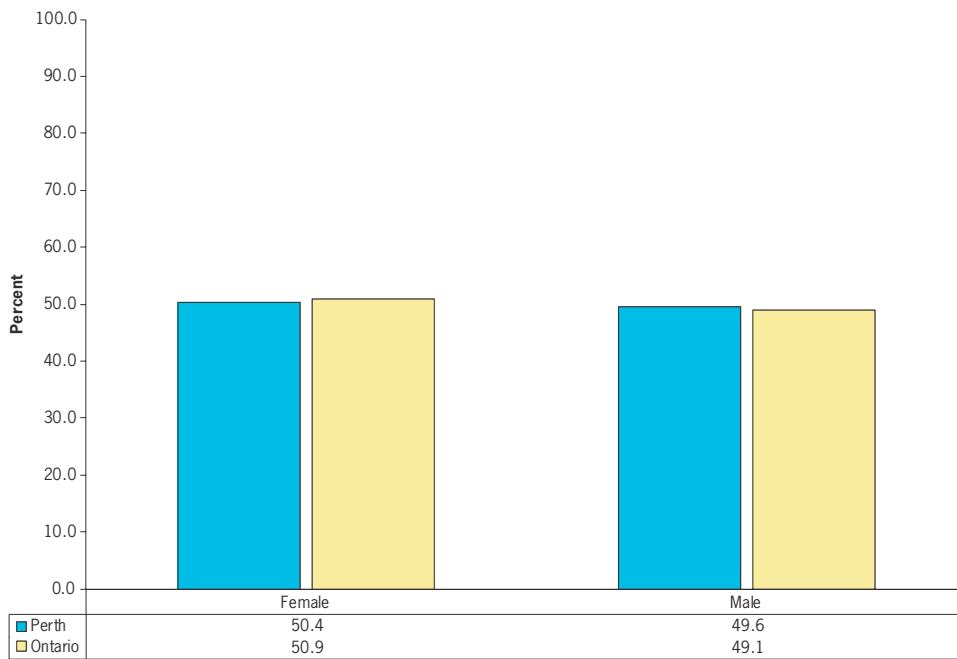
# RESULTS

Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey conducted in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 were combined and analyzed. The results are highlighted in the following figures.

The graphs show results from Perth County compared to Ontario. The descriptions note statistically significant differences. Trends of interest have also been noted for some figures.

## FEMALES AND MALES

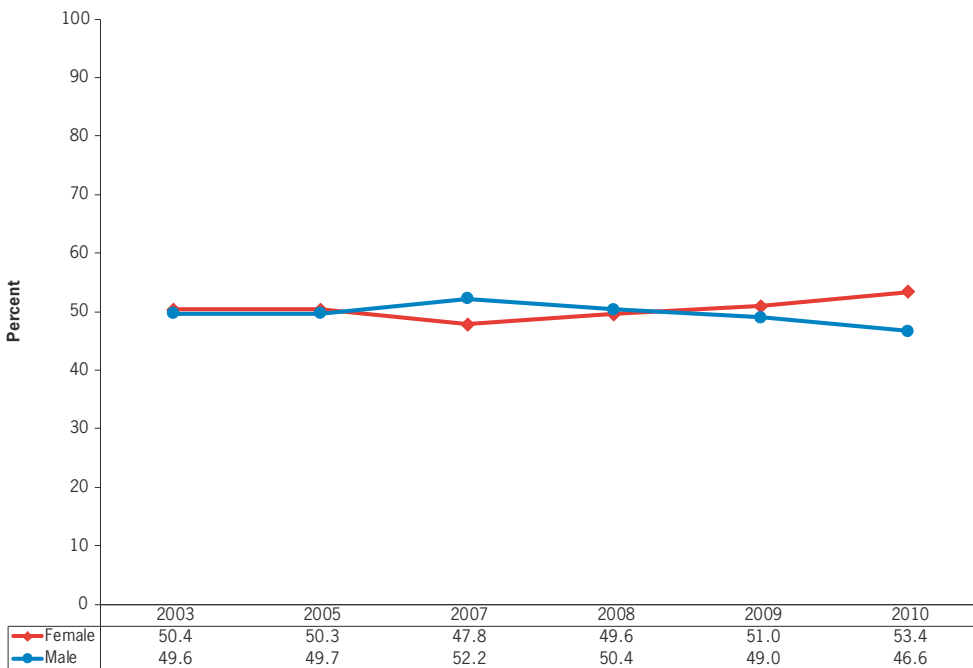
**Figure 1.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario females and males, 2003-2010



The percentage of Perth County males and females was similar to one another and similar to the percentage of males and females in the Ontario population.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

**Figure 2.** The percentage of Perth County females and males by year, 2003-2010

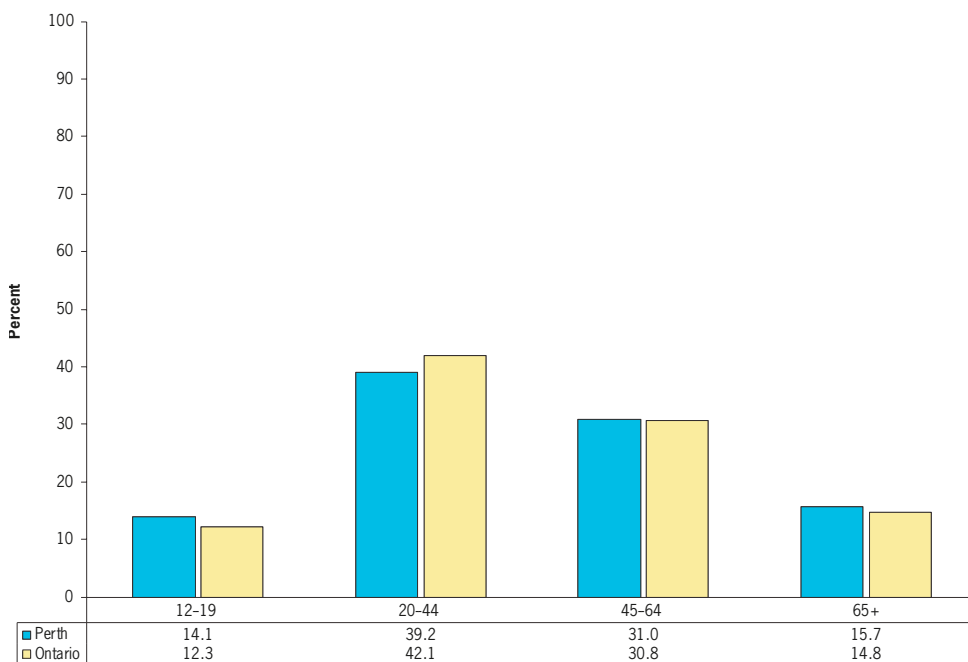


The percentage of males and females remained the same in Perth County over time.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

## AGE GROUPINGS

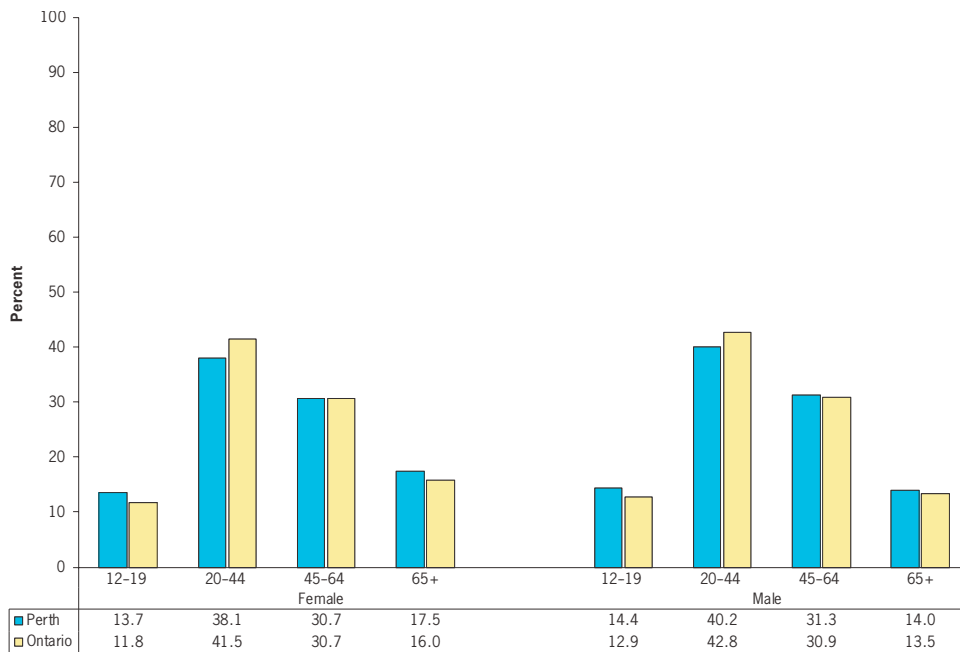
**Figure 3.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents by age group, 2003-2010



- The percentage of Perth County residents aged 20 - 44 years was lower than the percentage of Ontario residents aged 20 - 44 years, and the percentage of Perth County residents aged 45 - 64 years was similar to the percentage of Ontarians aged 45 - 64 years.
- The percentage of Perth County residents aged 12 - 19 years, and the percentage of Perth County residents aged  $\geq 65$  years were greater than their Ontario counterparts.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

**Figure 4.** The percentage Perth County and Ontario females and males by age group, 2003-2010

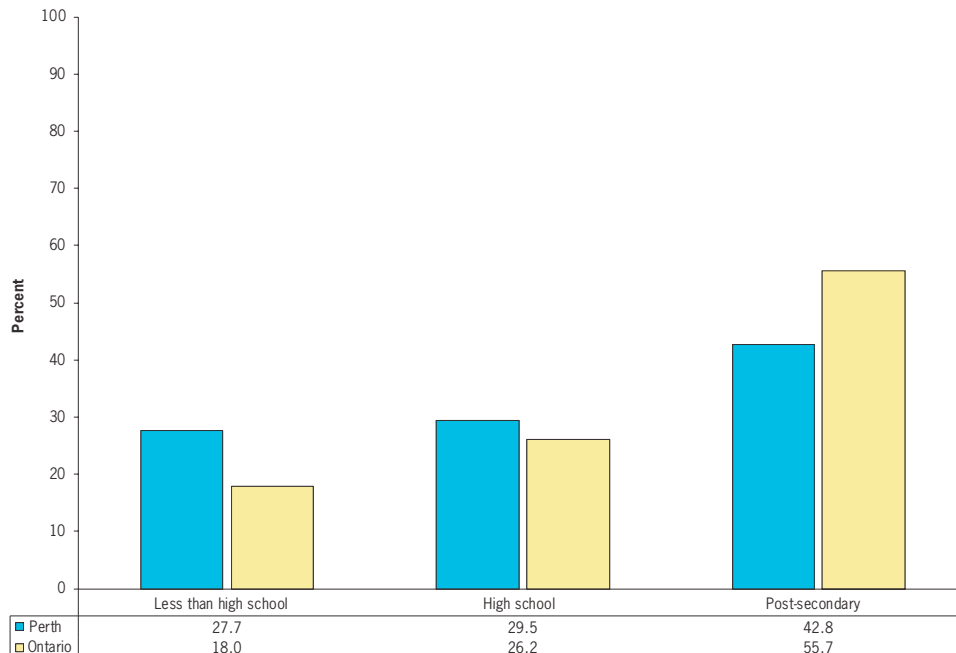


The distribution of males and females in Perth County was similar across the age groups.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

## EDUCATION

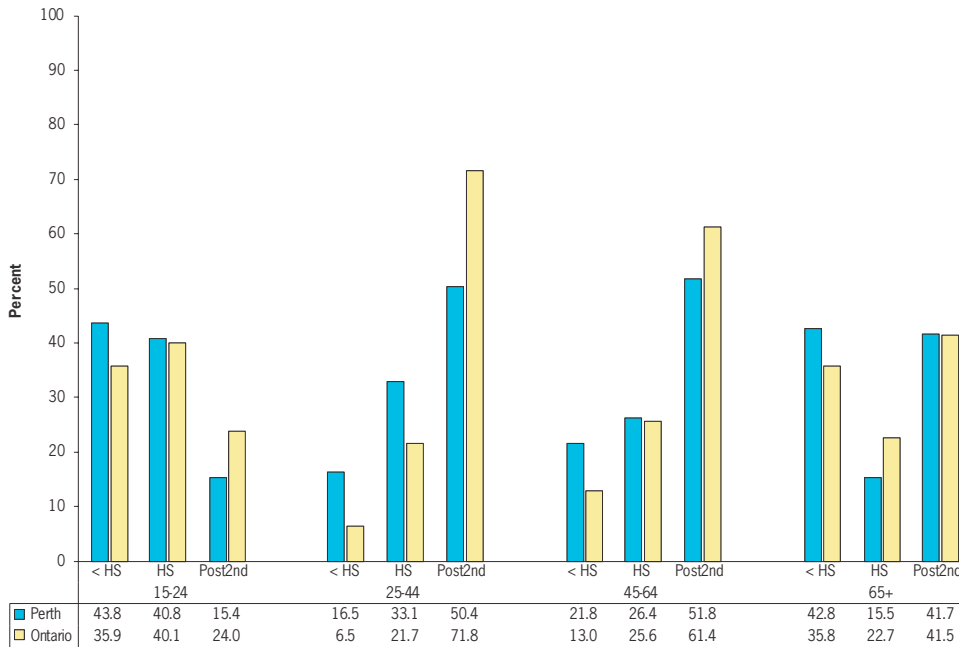
**Figure 5.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents with the highest attained level of education being less than high school, high school and post-secondary education, 2003-2010



- The percentage of Perth County residents who completed a post-secondary education was lower compared to Ontarians.
- There was a higher percentage of residents from Perth County who did not complete a high school diploma compared to Ontarians.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

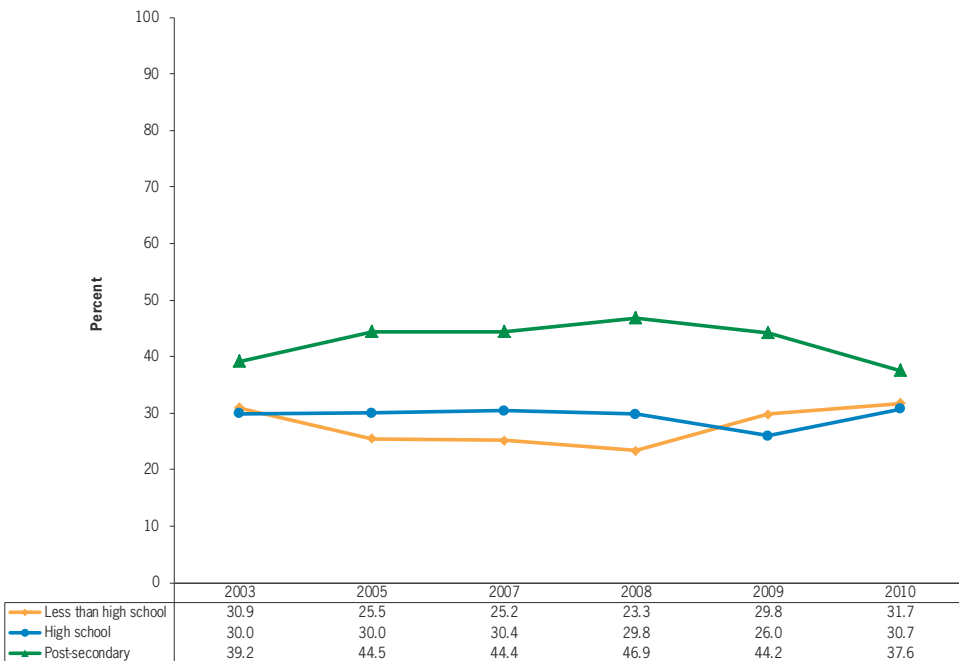
**Figure 6.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents with the highest attained level of education being less than high school, high school, and post-secondary education by age group, 2003-2010



The largest gap between the percentage of Perth County residents who have completed a post-secondary education compared to Ontarians was in the 25-44 years age group.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

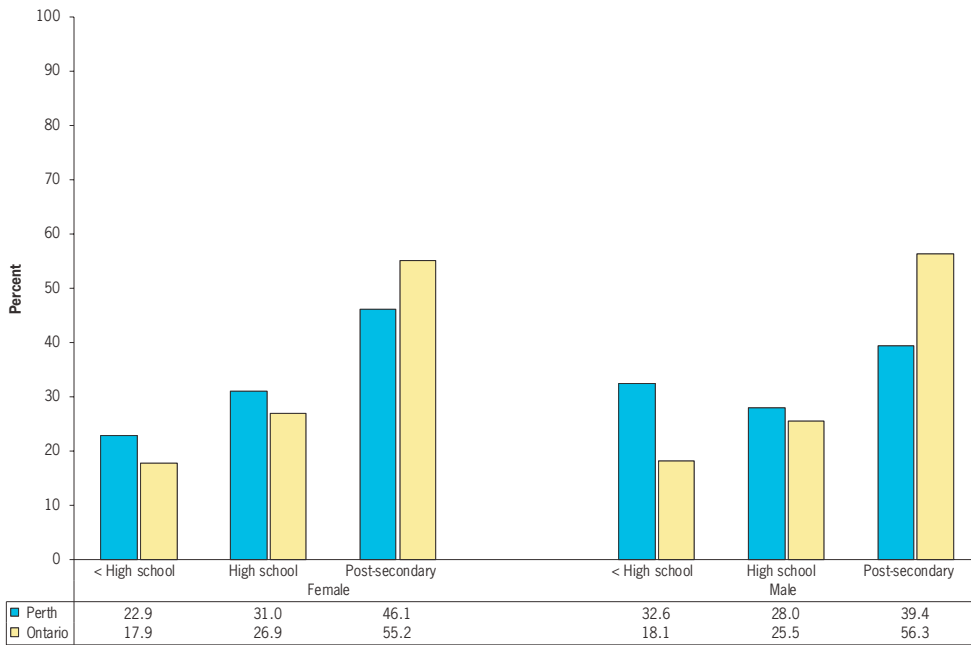
**Figure 7.** The percentage of Perth County residents with the highest attained level of education being less than high school, high school and post-secondary education, 2003 to 2010



The educational profile of Perth County residents has not changed over time.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

**Figure 8.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario females and males with the highest attained level of education being less than high school, high school and post-secondary education, 2003-2010

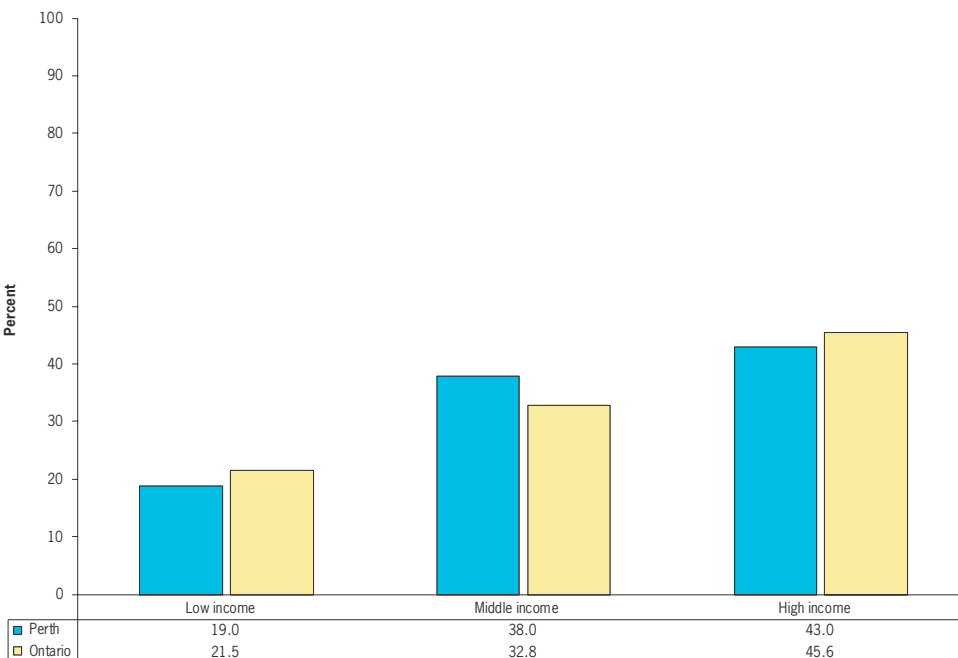


- There was a higher percentage of Perth County males who did not complete high school compared to the percentage of Perth County females who did not complete high school.
- A lower percentage of Perth County males than females completed a post-secondary education.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

## INCOME

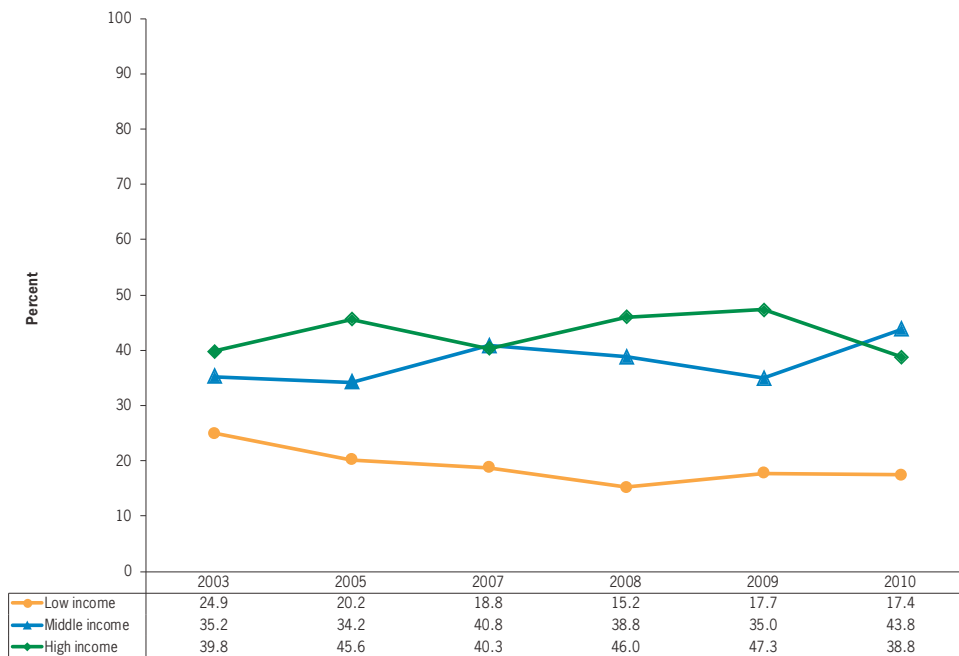
**Figure 9.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents living in low, middle, and high income by income bracket, 2003 – 2010



- There was a lower percentage of Perth County residents living in low income compared to Ontarians.
- A higher percentage of Perth County residents lived in middle income compared to Ontarians.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

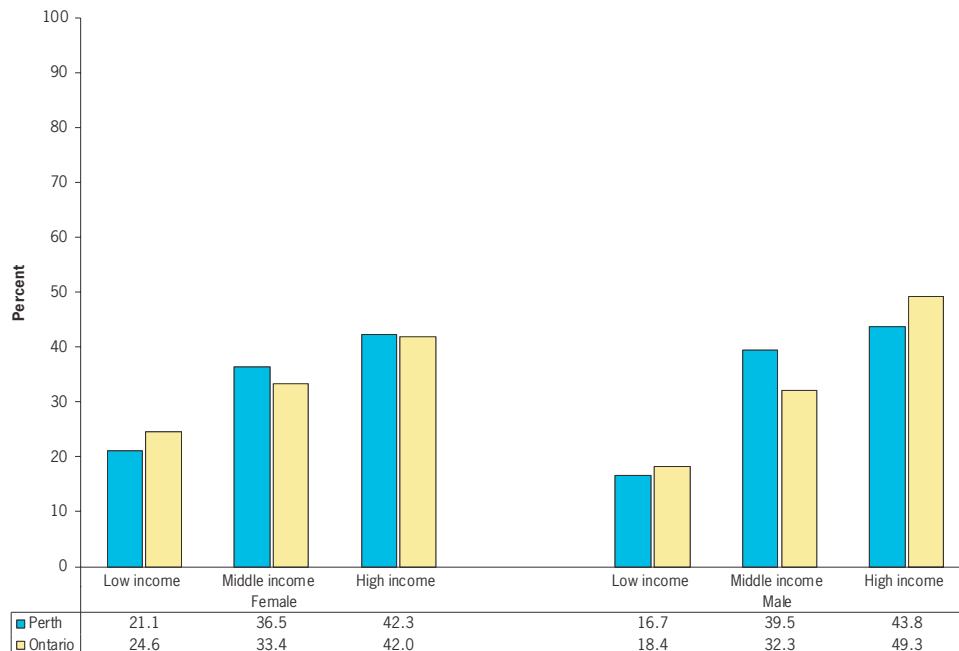
**Figure 10.** The percentage of Perth County residents living in low, middle, and high income by year, 2003-2010



There was a trend towards a lower percentage of Perth County residents living in low income over time.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

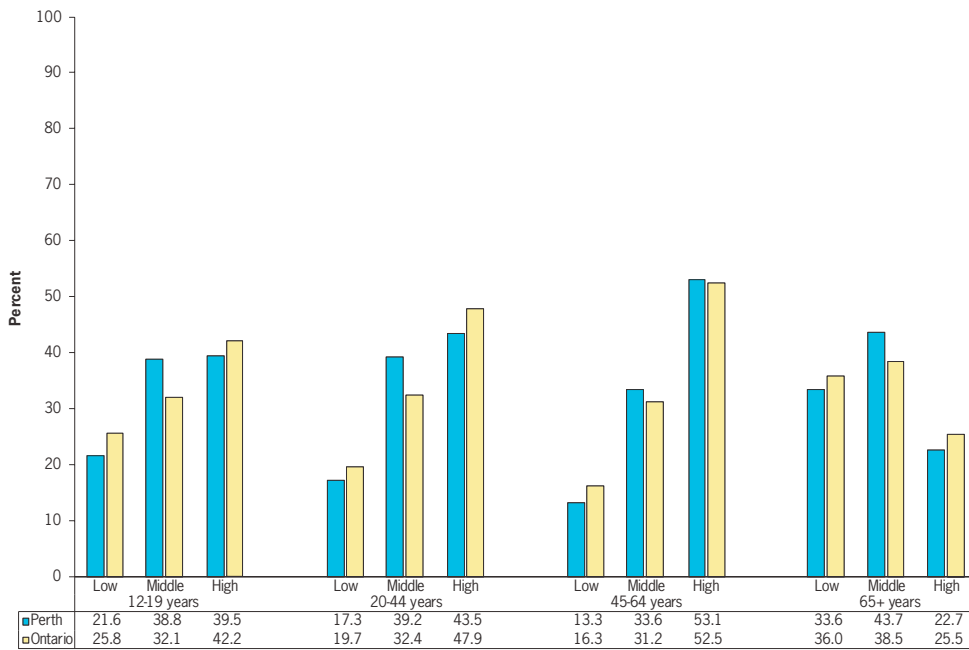
**Figure 11.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario females and males living in low, middle and high income, 2003 - 2010



There was a higher percentage of Perth County females living in low income than Perth County males.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

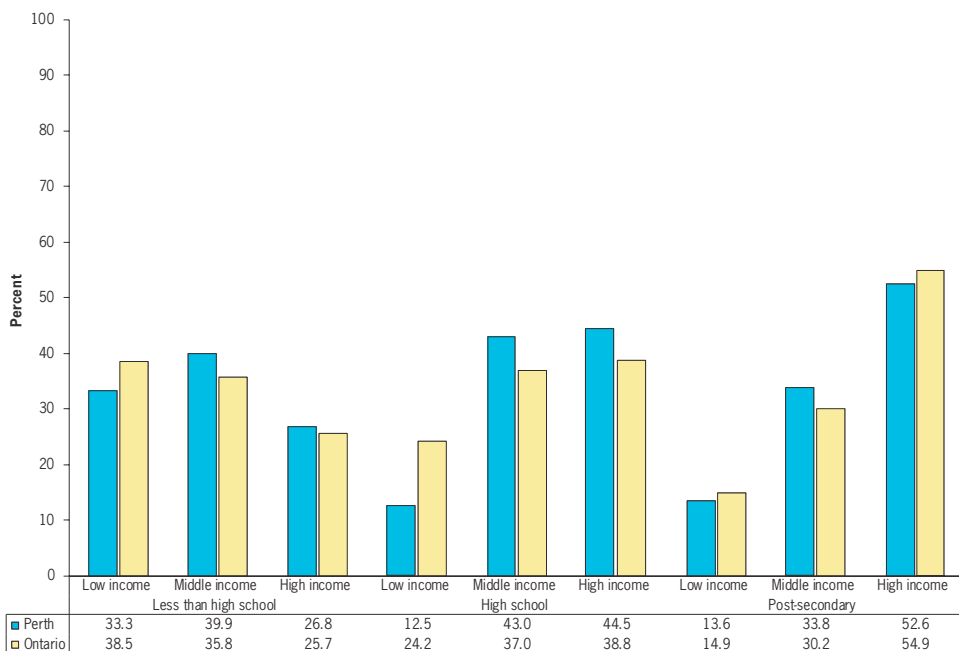
**Figure 12.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents living in low, medium, and high income by age group, 2003-2010



- A higher percentage of Perth County seniors aged  $\geq 65$  years lived in low income compared to those in the age groups 12-64 years.
- A higher percentage of Perth County youth aged 12-19 years lived in low income compared to those aged 45-64 years.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

**Figure 13.** The percentage of Perth County and Ontario residents living in low, medium, and high income by less than high school, high school and post-secondary education, 2003-2010



There was a trend that as the level of education rose so did the level of income.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010



## DATA SOURCE AND LIMITATIONS

The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is a general, cross-sectional health survey that covers the household population aged 12 years or older. Coverage in the provinces is in the range of 98%. The main limitation is that CCHS uses self-reported data, which can be subject to response bias. For more information on the CCHS visit [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca).

In this report, data from the 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 CCHS surveys were combined and analyzed.

### Education

The highest level of education attained by the respondent was divided into 3 groups:

1. Less than high school (< High School, <HS or did not finish high school):
  - Did not graduate from high school
2. High school (HS or finished high school):
  - Graduated from high school
  - Graduated from high school and had some post-secondary education but did not receive a post-secondary degree, certificate, or diploma
3. Post-secondary (Post2nd):
  - Received trades certificate or diploma
  - Diploma / certificate – college or CEGEP
  - University certificate below Bachelor's level
  - Bachelor's degree
  - University degree/certificate above Bachelor's level

### Income

Low, middle and high income was determined based on the total number of people in the household and total household income from all sources in the 12 months before the interview:

Number of persons in the household	Household income		
	Low	Middle	High
1 or 2	< \$30,000	\$30,000 - < \$60,000	≥ \$60,000
3 or 4	< \$40,000	\$40,000 - < \$80,000	≥ \$80,000
≥ 5	< \$60,000	\$60,000 - < \$80,000	≥ \$80,000

## REFERENCES

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. (modified 2011). Determinants of Health. Retrieved from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/index-eng.php#determinants>
2. Friis, R.H. & Sellers, T.A.. (2009). Epidemiology for Public Health Practice. Jones and Bartlett Publishers Sudbury Massachusetts.
3. King, A. (2011). Health, Not Health Care – Changing the conversation. 2010 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. MOHLTC Government of Ontario