

# 2016 | WINDSOR-ESSEX'S **VitalSigns**



## Welcome to the **2016 Windsor-Essex Vital Signs® report**

This is the fourth Vital Signs report published by the WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF), and we are proud to be one of 32 community foundations across Canada publishing similar reports this year.

This report is a valuable educational resource for the Windsor-Essex community made available annually in October. The report provides a comparison between national, provincial, and local data on important issues regarding our quality of life in Windsor-Essex. An important element of this report involves data collected from our Vital Signs® survey that took place this past summer.

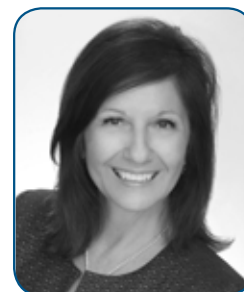
This year, the WECF is working closely with Community Foundations of Canada through the True Sport Foundation to assist us in better engaging our community in sense of belonging in sport. In this year's report you'll find more robust sections on Health, Wellness & Activity and Belonging & Leadership, with an emphasis on sport. In addition, we're pleased to say that four issue areas have seen improvements in grading: Safety, Food Security, Belonging & Leadership, and Arts & Culture.

This report would not be possible without the continued support of the Windsor Star, PwC, and MediaDuo Inc. In addition, we want to thank all of the individuals, organizations, groups, and businesses that assisted us with outreach of the Vital Signs® survey. It is with your assistance that we are able to produce an all-encompassing and representative report on our region.

We thank each and every one of you for your interest and support of the Vital Signs® program. We hope this report will reaffirm for you what makes Windsor-Essex a great place to live, work, play, and grow.



**Fred Quenneville**  
Chair



**Lisa Kolody**  
Executive Director

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# Methodology

## Advisory Committee

The WECF selected six representatives from the Windsor-Essex region to act in an advisory role for the duration of the production and launch of the 2016 Vital Signs® survey and report. Together, these individuals represented both the Windsor and Essex regions. As well, they each characterized one or more of the diverse quality of life issue areas presented in this report. The role of this committee was to provide feedback on and support of the Vital Signs® report and survey and provide extensive outreach of the survey.

## Data

The national, provincial, and a portion of the local data used in this report was collected by Community Foundations of Canada with the assistance of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD). The remainder of the local data was collected by the WECF through the use of local community reports, online resources, and media. Local data was also collected through the Vital Signs survey. Questions in the survey were based on priorities outlined in last year's Vital Signs® report, as well as on current issues important to the Windsor-Essex area.

## How to Read This Report

In this report there is a collection of local, national, and provincial data representing both the Windsor CMA and Essex County. The term Windsor CMA (Windsor Census Metropolitan Area) is used to describe the Windsor region. This area includes Windsor, Lakeshore, Tecumseh, LaSalle, and Amherstburg. The term Essex County refers to all other areas outside the Windsor CMA. This report also breaks down the data into senior (65 and over) and youth (24 and younger) demographics. The data is organized into 11 different quality of life issue areas, and within these areas the following format is presented:

**Grades:** Four letter grades will be shown for each quality of life issue area. These grades represent the views of the population samples of the Windsor CMA, Essex County, Seniors, and Youth using the following rating system:



**What You Said:** In the Vital Signs survey, respondents were asked to provide their opinion on how our community is doing in regard to each quality of life issue area. For example: "How do you rate your community's air quality?" Respondents used the following answer set: we're doing great; we're on the right track; we're doing okay, but could be doing better; we should look into this; improvement needed; or don't know/decline to answer. This data is presented in combination with provincial, national, and other local data for comparison.

**Top Priorities:** Survey respondents were asked to select their top priority for each quality of life issue area. The data was collected and the top three responses overall are presented for each section.

**Did You Know:** One of the most important aspects of the Vital Signs® report is to inform our community about what exists in our region. The Did You Know section is presented in each quality of life issue area to show what exists in Windsor-Essex to meet the needs and priorities of our residents.



## Survey

We're pleased to say that this year's survey received even greater reach! Only those surveys completed in their entirety, and by those that agreed to consent and indicated they are living in the Windsor-Essex region were included in the results. There was no set age range for survey respondents. The survey was administered through the online program Survey Gizmo and paper copies were also made available to those without internet access.

## How to Use This Report

The Vital Signs® report can be used as a learning resource by everyone in our community to start conversation between community members, leaders, groups, and organizations to inspire change to make Windsor-Essex an even better place to live, work, play, and grow.

**Read it:** Take some time to read this report in its entirety. The reason the Vital Signs® survey is long is because we want to make this report as comprehensive and all-encompassing as possible. Draw your own conclusions and reflections on this report.

**Share it:** Share this report with your friends, family, co-workers, and classmates. Use this report as a conversation starter.

**Use it:** Access the services outlined in this report, or use this report to construct your services around the needs of our community. Use this as a tool to educate others about what exists in Windsor-Essex, or use it to understand what we need to improve.

## Who can use this report? EVERYONE!

**Teachers:** Use this report as a learning resource for your students. The data presented in this report affects your students—make them aware. Initiate conversation about what your students can do to create opportunity for change, or use this report to show your students what services exist in our community for them to access.

**Politicians:** The Vital Signs® report is a great campaign resource to understand the areas in our community needing attention. Let Windsor-Essex residents know their voices are being heard.

**Charities:** Use this report to understand where opportunities are in Windsor-Essex. Learn about where residents' needs are and where your services can provide the most impact.

**Parents:** Use this report to get your family more engaged in the Windsor-Essex community. If you are unsure of opportunities that exist in this region, this report will provide you with a more in-depth idea of what Windsor-Essex has to offer. Take advantage of this knowledge—explore Windsor-Essex with your family.

**Windsor CMA  
population (2015):  
335,787**

Windsor | Lakeshore | LaSalle  
Tecumseh | Amherstburg

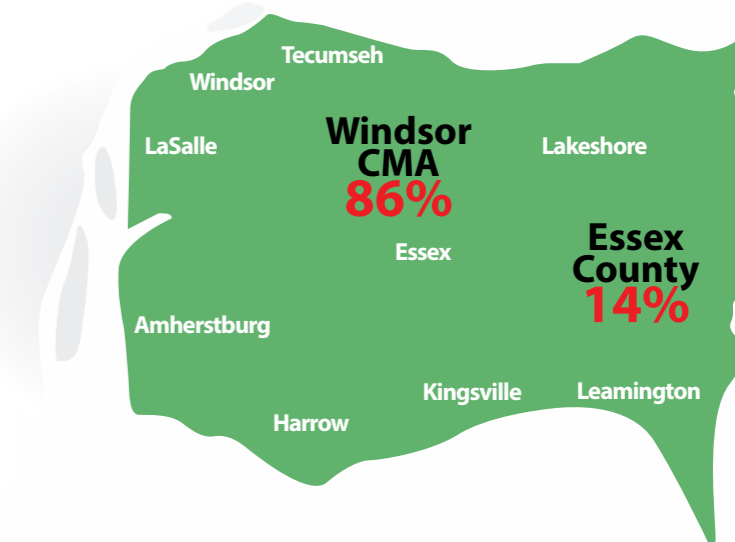
**Essex County  
population (2015):  
403,625**

In 2015, youth represented **16%** of the total population in both Essex County and the Windsor CMA.

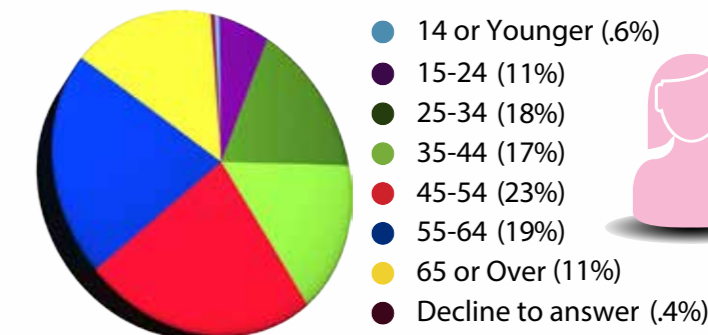
In 2015, **17%** of the population in Essex County and the Windsor CMA were over 65 years of age.

# Our Community

**Respondent Current Residence:**  
Windsor CMA 86%  
Essex County 14%



## Respondent Age Groups:



**The median age in 2011  
for Windsor CMA residents was 41.**

**In that same year, the median  
age in Ontario was 40, and in Canada  
the median age was 41.**



## Respondent Marital Status:

**Decline to answer: 1%**

**Single, divorced or separated: 37%**

**Married or common law: 62%**



## REFERENCES

- Statistics Canada: 2001-2006 - Statistics Canada: National Household Survey, 2011  
- Statistics Canada: Labour Force Survey CANSIM Tables 282-0008

# Belonging & Leadership



Belonging and Leadership refers to the type of relationships that exist between people in their community that contribute to a sense of trust, collaboration, and inclusion.

Belonging & Leadership	
Windsor	<b>B</b>
Essex County	<b>B</b>
Seniors	<b>B</b>
Youth	<b>B</b>

## What You Said:

Respondents were asked if people in Windsor-Essex have a high level of life satisfaction.

**37%** of respondents feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better. **22%** feel we're on the right track.

In 2014, 87% of the population 12 and over in both the Windsor CMA and Essex County indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with life. This percentage was lower than both the provincial (91%) and national (92%) levels.

**33%** of respondents feel we're doing okay or could be doing better when it comes to people in Windsor-Essex actively volunteering or donating to charities. **43%** of respondents feel we're on the right track or doing great.

In 2013, the population volunteer rate of those 15 and over in the Windsor CMA was 46% and in Essex County was 44%. The provincial rate was 44% and the national rate was 44%.

The median charitable donation in 2014 for donors in the Windsor CMA was \$290. This was lower than the provincial level (\$350), but higher than the national level (\$280).

Respondents were asked if they feel they have a sense of belonging in Windsor-Essex—feeling included and connected.

**43%** feel we're on the right track or doing great.

In 2014, 67% of the Windsor CMA population 12 and over reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. The provincial (68%) and national (66%) averages were higher than the Windsor CMA.

RESOURCES - Windsor Public Library - Windsor Star - Windsor Family Health Team - Windsor Police - Windsor CMAs



## Top Priorities

Increasing opportunities for people to feel included and connected **36%**

In 2016, the voter turnout for the federal election in the Windsor CMA was 60%. This was an increase from 2011 of 7%. The voter turnout for the 2016 federal election in the Windsor CMA lower than both the provincial (68%) and national (68%) averages.

Increasing initiatives to increase life satisfaction **27%**

Creating initiatives to improve voter turnout **13%**



## Did You Know?

The Windsor Public Library offers different programs for people to engage in to feel more included and connected in their community, including speed friending—a chance for young adults in their 20s to 30s to meet up and make friends.

The Greater Essex County District School Board Trustees voted unanimously to fly the Pride flag for the month of June at its head office and all secondary schools. This was done to celebrate Pride Month and display the symbol of inclusiveness and belonging for all members of our community.

Last February the Windsor Police named 26-year veteran Sergeant Wren Dosant as the city's first-ever Diversity, Inclusion, and Recruitment Outreach Officer.

### True Sport Principles:

- ✓ Play Fair
- ✓ Respect Others
- ✓ Go For It
- ✓ Stay Healthy
- ✓ Include Everyone
- ✓ Keep it Fun
- ✓ Give Back



# True Sport & Sense of Belonging

True Sport is a series of initiatives designed to give people, communities, and organizations the means to leverage the many benefits of sport from a platform of shared values and principles. True Sport is dedicated to the notion that good sport can make a great difference. True Sport is a set of principles that, when properly aligned and kept in balance to one another, serves to instill character in our children, strengthen our communities, and increase our opportunities for excellence.

### Affordability of Sport in Windsor-Essex

**28%** of respondents feel we're doing okay or could be doing better when it comes to the affordability of sport and recreation programs in Windsor-Essex. **22%** feel this needs improvement.

Canadian families spend an average of \$953 annually for one child to play in organized sport with families. Cost is a significant barrier for many of us to reap the benefits of participating in sport. 90% of parents agree that organized sport is too expensive.

### Activity Level in Windsor-Essex

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported that the youth obesity rate for the population ages 12 to 17 years was 19% in 2014. This rate is lower than both the provincial (23%) and the national (23%) averages.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported 23% of the population 18 years and over indicated they had a self-reported body mass index of 30 or higher. This rate is 3% above the national average (20%) and 3% above the provincial average (20%).

Health, Wellness & Activity	
Windsor	<b>C</b>
Essex County	<b>C</b>
Seniors	<b>C</b>
Youth	<b>B</b>

Health, Wellness & Activity refers to both physical and mental health, as well as healthy lifestyle choices and engaging in physical activity



# Health, Wellness & Activity



## Top Priorities

Improving access to health professionals and services **33%**

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported that the self-reported physical health for youth 12 to 19 years perceived as good or excellent for 2014 was 72%. This rate is higher than both the provincial (70%) and the national (69%) averages.

Improving access to mental health programs and services **32%**

Increasing access for children to engage in sport and physical activity **15%**



## Did You Know?

The Rotary Club of Windsor-St. Clair is funding a greenhouse at Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare's Regional Children's Centre to help children deal with mental illness.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County offers training programs for people who work with or care for persons living with mental illness.

Next year, the Windsor Spitfires will host the 99th MasterCard Memorial Cup event in May.

## What You Said:

When it comes to people in our community having access to mental health programs and services,

**34%** feel improvement is needed. **21%** feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported that 68% of the population 12 years of age and over perceived their mental health as being very good or excellent in 2014. This rate is lower than both the provincial (70%) and national (71%) rates.

41% of the Windsor Family Health Team's Be Well Survey sample indicated they had very good or excellent mental health (2015).

**46%** of respondents feel Windsor-Essex needs to improve on the number of medical professionals in our community.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN reported that the total number of physicians in the Windsor CMA was 152 per 100,000 residents in 2014 and 87 per 100,000 in Essex County. This compares to 224 physicians per 100,000 nationally, and 214 provincially.

RESOURCES - The Windsor Spitfires - Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex - Windsor Family Health Team - Windsor Star - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit - Erie St. Clair (LHIN)

In 2014, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported that 55% of adults 12 and over spent their leisure time being active or moderately active. This ranks above the national average (54%) and provincial average (53%).

26% of respondents in the Windsor Family Health Team's Be Well Survey self-reported very good or excellent physical health (2016).

### What Is Belonging?

According to CFC's report Vital Signs Sport and Belonging, belonging refers to being part of a collective we. It's about how much we believe we fit in a group or place—and how much that place or group welcomes us. Belonging is fundamental to our sense of happiness and well-being.

### How Is Sport Connected to Belonging?

We connect sense of belonging to sport because sport is a great medium for people of all ages to feel a greater sense of connection to others and our community. Whether it's a recreational volleyball league, a weekly yoga class, a travel baseball team, or simply taking a bike ride—sport has the ability to bring people together, especially when these sports are connected to the True Sport principles.

## Did You Know?

The Rose City Sport & Social Club provides co-ed, recreational sports leagues, tournaments, outdoor adventures, and social events for adults aged 19 and older. It's a great way to meet new friends, keep fit, and get connected to different people and things that are happening in Windsor-Essex through sport.

The WECF is a banner sponsor for the Windsor-Essex Football League—a group committed to promoting a positive environment to play, teach, and learn the fundamentals of football, encouraging their participants to be the best they can be.

Leadership Advancement for Women in Sport was created in the 1990s with the intent to generate a heightened awareness of available opportunities and ways to attract women and girls to a life connected to physical activity.

RESOURCES - Smart & Caring True Sport - Building Community Through Sport - Vital Signs Sport & Belonging - Rose City Sport & Social Club - LAWS - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit - Windsor Family Health Team

# Work



Work	
Windsor	C
Essex County	C
Seniors	C
Youth	C

Work refers to the extent to which individuals in our community have access to meaningful employment opportunities, as well as the quality and nature of the work.



2016 WINDSOR-ESSEX'S  
**VitalSigns**



# Housing



Housing	
Windsor	B
Essex County	B
Seniors	C
Youth	B

Housing refers to the accessibility and affordability of living accommodations, as well as providing families and individuals with a sense of security and stability.



## Top Priorities

Increasing the affordability of housing with different levels of assisted care	29%
Improving affordability of home ownership	21%
Improving the affordability of residential renting	18%

## What You Said:

When asked if people in our community make enough money to support their needs, **33%** felt this needs improvement.  
15% of Vital Signs® survey respondents indicated they made less than \$20,000 in 2015. In 2015, the median hourly earnings in the Windsor CMA was \$20.15. This is the same rate as the provincial and national levels.

Survey respondents were asked if there were employment opportunities in our community for those seeking work. **62%** said this needs improvement or this is something we should look into.  
The majority of our survey respondents indicated they are employed full-time, working 35 hours or more per week. The unemployment rate for those aged 15 and older in the Windsor CMA in 2015 was 10%. This was higher than both the provincial (7%) and national (7%) unemployment rates.

When it comes to graduates being prepared for today's workforce, **35%** feel this needs to improve, and **25%** feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better.  
In 2015, the youth unemployment rate in Windsor CMA was 20%, an increase of 3% from 2014. This rate is higher than both the provincial (15%) and national (13%) averages.

## Did You Know?

Y Works is an employment program at the Windsor & Essex County YMCA that assists youth and young adults to overcome barriers to employment. The program helps participants discover new skills and develop existing ones toward labour market integration or further education.  
In March, Pathway to Potential (P2P) announced the living wage rate for Windsor-Essex as \$14.15 per hour without benefits and \$13.10 per hour with benefits. As of August, Windsor-Essex has 31 living wage employers according to P2P.  
Workforce WindsorEssex has developed the Local Labour Market Plan Report to provide local labour market data and insights into the demand and supply components of the Windsor-Essex labour market. This report can be viewed in full at [workforcewindsor.essex.com](http://workforcewindsor.essex.com).

- RESOURCES
- Pathway to Potential - Rise Asset Development
  - YMCA of Windsor & Essex County
  - Workforce WindsorEssex



## Top Priorities

Decreasing the unemployment rate	44%
Ensuring graduates are better prepared for the workforce	25%
Ensuring success of new businesses	22%

## What You Said:

When it comes to housing affordability in Windsor-Essex, **27%** of respondents feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better. **34%** of respondents feel we're on the right track, or feel we're doing great.  
In 2015 the average rent for a bachelor residence was \$535, a one bedroom residence was \$689, and a two bedroom residence was \$824. In 2015, there were 1010 housing starts in the Windsor CMA, an increase of 25% from 2014.

When it comes to Windsor-Essex having enough shelters to support the homeless population, **49%** feel this needs improvement or this is something we should look into.  
There were 41 emergency homeless shelters in Windsor in 2014. Since 2009 the number of shelters has decreased by 9%. In 2015, 889 unique individuals accessed a homeless shelter in Windsor. In 2014, the number of shelter beds in Windsor was 372, a decrease of 38 beds since 2013. Provincially, the number of shelter beds decreased as well.

## Did You Know?

The Homeless Coalition of Windsor Essex County with the City of Windsor held a Point in Time Count in April to take a snapshot of the homeless population in Windsor-Essex to measure the number of homeless people on a specific day. These counts are significant because they help to end homelessness. Among other benefits, these counts help by identifying characteristics of our homeless population, assisting with enhancing program development, and increasing public awareness.  
The Windsor Downtown Mission has expanded to a second location to provide more sleeping accommodations, as well as addiction services, and separate sleeping areas and shower facilities for men and women with additional space for youth.

- RESOURCES
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy provided by Pathway2Potential
  - CBC Windsor Windsor Star
  - Windsor Downtown Mission
  - The Homeless Coalition of Windsor Essex County

# Safety



Safety refers to many different factors, such as one's concern about different types of crime or other activities in their neighbourhood, as well as one's general sense of connectedness to their community and their belief that they can rely on others in an emergency.

Safety	
Windsor	B
Essex County	B
Seniors	B
Youth	B

## What You Said:

**32%** of respondents feel Windsor-Essex is a safe place to live. **29%** of respondents feel we're on the right track, but could be doing better.  
In 2015, the overall crime per 100,000 population was 4,791 in Windsor CMA and 6,214 in Essex County. In 2015, this rate was 3,991 in Ontario and 5,888 in Canada. In 2015, 952 youth per 100,000 were charged for crimes, and in Essex County 531 youth per 100,000 were charged. This compares to the provincial rate at 1,671 per 100,000 and the national rate at 2,137 per 100,000.

When it comes to whether our community offers appropriate social programming for at-risk individuals, **27%** feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better, and **22%** feel this needs improvement.

## Top Priorities

Expanding social programming for at-risk individuals	32%
Creating more proactive initiatives aimed at reducing youth crime	20%
Reducing crime levels	14%

## Did You Know?

Statistics Canada's 2015 data ranked LaSalle, Amherstburg, and Kingsville among the top 10 safest communities in the country based on the crime severity index. Essex, Lakeshore, and Tecumseh ranked within the top 20.  
This year Windsor was designated as Canada's 67th safest community by Parachute Canada.  
This year the WECF granted to the Windsor Essex Schools Safety Patrol Association (WESSPA). The WESSPA works with the Windsor Police and the school boards to provide a variety of services to youth focused around safety, and connectedness.

- RESOURCES
- WindsorStar
  - Windsor Police
  - Parachute Canada



# Arts & Culture

# Environment

Arts & Culture	
Windsor	B
Essex County	B
Seniors	B
Youth	B



Arts & Culture refers to the activities, artistic expressions, and social/cultural events that contribute to the diversity and richness of community life.



## Top Priorities

Promotion of arts and cultural events	18%
Increasing the number of arts and cultural programs for those wanting to pursue a career, education, or hobby in arts or culture	17%
Affordability of arts and cultural events	12%

## Did You Know?

- In 2015, 3,718 people visited Windsor's Community Museum and 363 school children accessed programs through the museum.
- In 2015, the WECF presented a Community Impact Grant to Doors Open Windsor—a weekend event that opens the doors of local heritage sites for people to visit and learn about history. The WECF also provided a grant to the Downtown Music Initiative to support the purchase of violins for the DMI Strings Program, giving youth of all economic backgrounds the opportunity to engage in music.
- This year the City of Windsor joined forces with Snap'd Windsor to create a community calendar to promote different events happening around Windsor. This calendar can be accessed online via the City of Windsor and Snap'd websites.

RESOURCES - City of Windsor Recreation and Culture - Snap'd Windsor  
2015 Community Impact Report

## What You Said:

When it comes to Windsor-Essex having opportunities for those wanting to pursue a career, education, or hobby in the arts,

29% feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better. 22% feel this needs improvement.

58% of respondents feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better and/or we're on the right track when it comes to the promotion of arts and cultural events in Windsor-Essex.

56% of respondents feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better and/or we're on the right track when it comes to the affordability of arts and cultural events in Windsor-Essex.

In 2013, the average household expenditure on recreation and culture in Windsor was \$590.

# Learning



Learning refers to the access of opportunities, knowledge, skills, and competencies.

Learning	
Windsor	B
Essex County	C
Seniors	C
Youth	B



## Environment

Windsor	C
Essex County	B
Seniors	C+
Youth	C+



The Environment refers to the natural or physical setting of our community, as well as the biodiversity within our local area/region, agricultural activities, forestry, green spaces, and waterways.

## Top Priorities

Improving air quality	34%
Increasing, protecting, and improving the number of green spaces	16%
Improving recycling programs	15%
Enhancing local food production	15%

The Windsor Family Health Team's Be Well Survey sample showed that respondents were the most concerned about air quality, water quality, pesticide use, and land use.



## What You Said:

58% of respondents said our air quality needs to improve, or it's something we should look into.

When it comes to green spaces in Windsor-Essex,

56% of respondents feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better, or we're on the right track.

## Did You Know?

- The Essex Region Conservation Authority owns or manages 19 publicly accessible properties totalling more than 1000 hectares (4000 acres) of land, as well as nearly 100 kilometres of trail to protect some of the most important woodlands, marshes, and shoreline areas in the region.
- The Canadian Herpetological Society, Wildlife Preservation Canada, and their partners announced that the Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem was designated as an "Important Amphibian and Reptile Area" (IMPARA). This designation recognizes the role of natural areas in providing habitats for some of Canada's most endangered wildlife.

- The Little River Enhancement Group celebrated its 25th anniversary last April with a tree planting in partnership with a number of different organizations. This volunteer organization is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Little River Watershed.
- The Friends of Ojibway Prairie have been working toward preserving and protecting the natural and delicate ecosystem of the Ojibway Park and Prairie Grass, containing over 1,500 confirmed species, including rare and at risk species.

RESOURCES - Wildlife Preservation Canada - The Essex Region Conservation Authority - The David Suzuki Foundation  
- The Ojibway Prairie Complex/Friends of Ojibway Prairie - The Windsor Family Health Team - The Little River Enhancement Group

## What You Said:

38% of respondents feel the cost of post-secondary education is something we need to look into and/or we're doing okay, but could be doing better.

45% of respondents feel this needs improvement.

In 2015, there were 13,500 full-time students and 2,110 part-time students in Windsor. During the 2014-2015 school year, the average cost of tuition for Canadian students in Windsor was \$6,014, and \$18,350 for international students.

When it comes to local educational institutions providing sufficient skill development for the workforce,

29% feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better. 25% feel this needs improvement.

## Top Priorities

Affordability of post-secondary education	44%
Improving skill development for the workforce	29%
Better access to educational resources	9%
Improved selection of post-secondary programs	9%

## Did You Know?

- In 2015, the proportion of the Windsor CMA aged 15 and over with a post-secondary education was 49%. 72% of Vital Signs survey respondents have completed a post-secondary education. In 2015, the proportion in the Windsor CMA aged 15 and over that had not completed high school was 17%. 4% of the Vital Signs® survey respondents have not completed high school.
- The University of Windsor's Master of Human Kinetics program in Sport Management was ranked this year as one of the best in the world according to the SportBusiness International Postgraduate Sports Course Guide.
- The WECF offers scholarships annually to local students pursuing post-secondary education. To learn more about these programs, connect with us [www.wecf.ca](http://www.wecf.ca).

RESOURCES - University of Windsor - Windsor Star  
- SportBusiness International 2012 Postgraduate Sports Course Guide

# Getting Started

# Food Security

Getting Started	
Windsor	C
Essex County	B
Seniors	C
Youth	B



Getting Started refers to many different transitions we can make throughout our lives. In this report, Getting Started refers to newcomers. Newcomers refers to anyone who is new to the Windsor-Essex region.



## Top Priorities

Increasing employment and educational opportunities for newcomers	30%
Increasing awareness of racism and diversity issues	22%
Improving foreign accreditation recognition	17%

Food Security	
Windsor	B
Essex County	B
Seniors	B
Youth	B

Food Security refers to the availability of adequately affordable and nutritious food.



## Top Priorities

Improving the affordability of fresh and nutritious food	23%
Improving access to locally grown food	41%
Increasing support for community food programs	14%



## What You Said:

Survey respondents were asked if there are both educational and employment opportunities for newcomers\* in Windsor-Essex.

**25%** feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better.

When it comes to Windsor-Essex being welcoming to newcomers,

**44%** feel we're on the right track or doing great.

In 2011, the total number of immigrants living in Essex County was 81,730 and in the Windsor CMA was 70,285. In the same year, there were 295,980 Canadian-born residents living in Essex County, representing 78% of the population, and in the Windsor CMA there were 242,160 Canadian-born residents, representing 77% of the total population.



From July 2014 to June 2015 the Windsor CMA population grew by 1,483 people, and in Essex County the population grew by 819 people.

## Did You Know?

This year the WECF granted \$36,500 to support Syrian refugees. This included a grant through Community Foundations of Canada's Welcome Fund to the Multicultural Council of Windsor/Essex to support Syrian housing settlement, as well as funding through the WECF's KidStart Grant Program for school children to fill backpacks and make comfort dolls for Syrian refugee children new to the area.

In this past Summer Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee presented the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team composed of independent athletes competing under the Olympic flag.

RESOURCES - Windsor Family Health Team  
- International Olympic Committee

## What You Said:

Survey respondents were asked if Windsor-Essex offers access to nutritious food at an affordable price.

**33%** feel we're doing okay, but could be doing better. **21%** feel we're on the right track.

The recommended intake of fruits and vegetables is five times daily. In 2014, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported that 66% of the population 12 years and older consumed less than the recommended daily fruit and vegetable amounts. In the same year, it was reported that 69% of seniors 65 and older consumed less than the recommended daily amounts.

358,963 people accessed food banks in March 2015 across Ontario. The Windsor Family Health Team asked respondents in the Be Well Survey how often they eat less because there isn't enough food. While 66% of the sample indicated never, 11% responded with at least once a week, and 11% responded with at least once a month (2016).

When it comes to Windsor-Essex having access to locally grown food,

**23%** of respondents feel we're doing great, and **28%** of respondents feel we're on the right track.

## Did You Know?

WECF presented a Fast-Track Grant to the Community Garden Collaborative to assist with soil testing of new community gardens throughout Windsor-Essex.

Devonshire Mall is supporting the Jumpstart Student Nutrition Program by encouraging people to make monetary donations to provide 117 student nutrition programs across Windsor-Essex, supporting 29,542 students, with meals to provide greater access to food for young people. Devonshire Mall, through its Snapchat initiative, will donate up to \$5,000 toward the campaign.

RESOURCES - AM800 News - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit  
- Windsor Family Health Team

# Getting Around



Getting Around refers to the ways in which people in our community get from one place to another, and the issues affecting those modes of transportation.

Getting Around	
Windsor	C
Essex County	C
Seniors	C
Youth	C

## What You Said:

**51%** of respondents feel Windsor-Essex public transportation needs improvement.

**34%** of respondents feel bike pathways and pedestrian walkway accessibility needs improvement.

When it comes to travelling to and from Windsor and Essex County,

**43%** of respondents say there needs to be improvement.



## Top Priorities

Creating a regional transportation system connecting Windsor and Essex County	39%
Improving public transportation	27%
Improving and/or increasing the number of bike pathways and/or pedestrian walkways	18%

## Did You Know?

The Gear Up and Go Program was initiated to encourage more cycling locally. It has provided a bike map to assist bikers with getting around the region on a bike.

Bike Windsor-Essex is a non-profit advocacy group that represents bike enthusiasts in Windsor-Essex, to help make Windsor-Essex a safer and more bike-friendly community.

RESOURCES - Gear Up and Go - Bike Windsor-Essex - Windsor Star

# Acknowledgements

2016 WINDSOR-ESSEX'S  
**VitalSigns**

WindsorEssex  
Community  
Foundation

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada with special thanks to the Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs® concept. The Vital Signs® trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

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ACCESS County Community Support Services AlphaKOR Alzheimer Society Windsor-Essex Arts Council Windsor & Region Association of Fundraising Professionals Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada South Chapter Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor-Essex Bike Windsor-Essex Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator Downtown Windsor BIA Drouillard Place/Ford City Essex County Diversion Program Essex Region Conservation Authority Family Respite Services Family Services Friends of Ojibway Prairie House of Shalom John McGivney Children's Centre Kingsville Community Centre	Leamington Half Century Centre Life After Fifty Lucas Dodson, Canada Summer Jobs Program Lucas Works Maryvale Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County Pathway to Potential Rotary Club 1918 Rotary Club of Roseland Rotary Club St. Clair Snap'd Windsor South Essex Community Council Spotted in Windsor St. Clair College Genesis Entrepreneurship Tecumseh BIA The Children's Aid Society Tourism Windsor-Essex Pelee Island Town of Lakeshore Town of Tecumseh	United Way of Windsor-Essex University of Windsor Valiant Machine & Tool WECDSB WFCU Credit Union Windsor Essex Therapeutic Riding Association Windsor Family Health Team Windsor Hackforge Windsor Police Services Windsor Symphony Orchestra Windsor Youth Centre Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation Windsor-Essex Local Immigration Partnership Windsor-Essex Safety Patrol Association Windsor-Essex Youth Strategic Action Committee Workforce Windsor-Essex YMCA
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## Thank you to our lead partners:



The WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF), originally founded in 1983 as Heritage Windsor, is a perpetual community trust for philanthropic purposes. It exists to manage donors' legacy funds and make grants to support local community programs. Through grant making activities, the WECF is able to establish partnerships to assist a broad range of community organizations. In addition to this, the WECF also leads a variety of philanthropic programs in Windsor-Essex including Inspiration 100, the Young Philanthropists, Random Act of Kindness Day, the Community Cup Golf Tournament, and the Vitality Legacy Program. To learn more about these programs and the many different ways you can work with your Community Foundation to give back to Windsor-Essex visit [www.wecf.ca](http://www.wecf.ca).

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