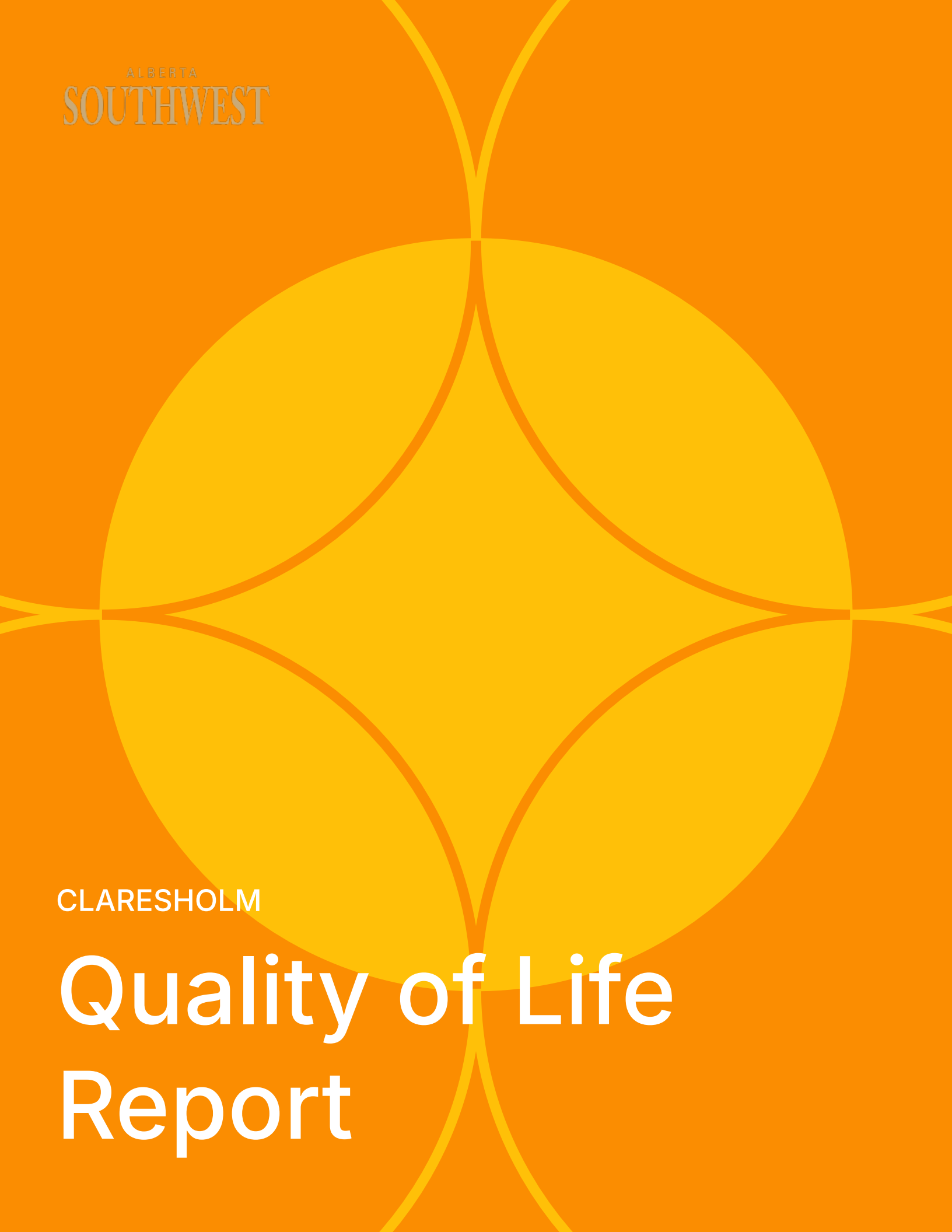




ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

CLARESHOLM

Quality of Life Report

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Executive Summary

Claresholm presents the picture of a small town with an older age profile, a stable housing base, and social patterns that are becoming somewhat more individualized. Its median age has risen steadily over the past decade to 56.8 years in 2021, while population density, after increasing earlier, fell back below both its 2016 and 2011 levels. The town's household structure also points in this direction. One-person households were the largest household type in 2021, slightly ahead of couple households without children, and households with children declined sharply over five years. Family data shows a similar pattern: married couples still formed the centre of family life, especially couples without children, but married couples with children fell while one-parent families increased modestly.

The social and cultural profile is concentrated rather than highly varied, though it is not static. Religious affiliation was defined mainly by a near balance between Christians and residents reporting no religion, with other traditions present only in very small numbers. Mother tongue remained overwhelmingly English, while a handful of smaller language groups grew from a low base. Immigration was still a relatively small part of the overall population, with non-immigrants far outnumbering immigrants, but the immigrant population increased over five years and was concentrated among people who arrived in childhood or working-age adulthood. Ethnic origin data also suggests a community shaped by long-established European ancestries, with English remaining the largest reported origin while German, Norwegian, and Ukrainian origins grew and some other identities declined.

Housing and education add to the impression of a town marked more by continuity than by strain. Ownership remained the dominant form of tenure by a wide margin, renter households were a much smaller share, and core housing need affected only a small minority of households. Shelter costs rose for both owners and renters, with faster growth on the owner side, but the gap between the two remained fairly modest. Educational attainment was centred on high school completion, college credentials, and trades training rather than graduate study, and residents with a high school credential substantially outnumbered those without one. Claresholm emerges as an older, ownership-oriented community with a largely English-speaking base, modest diversification, and household patterns increasingly tilted toward smaller living arrangements.

Religion

Claresholm’s largest group was Christian at 1,825 people, followed by no religion and secular perspectives at 1,680. Other religions and spiritual traditions numbered 25, and Buddhist residents totalled 15 in 2021.

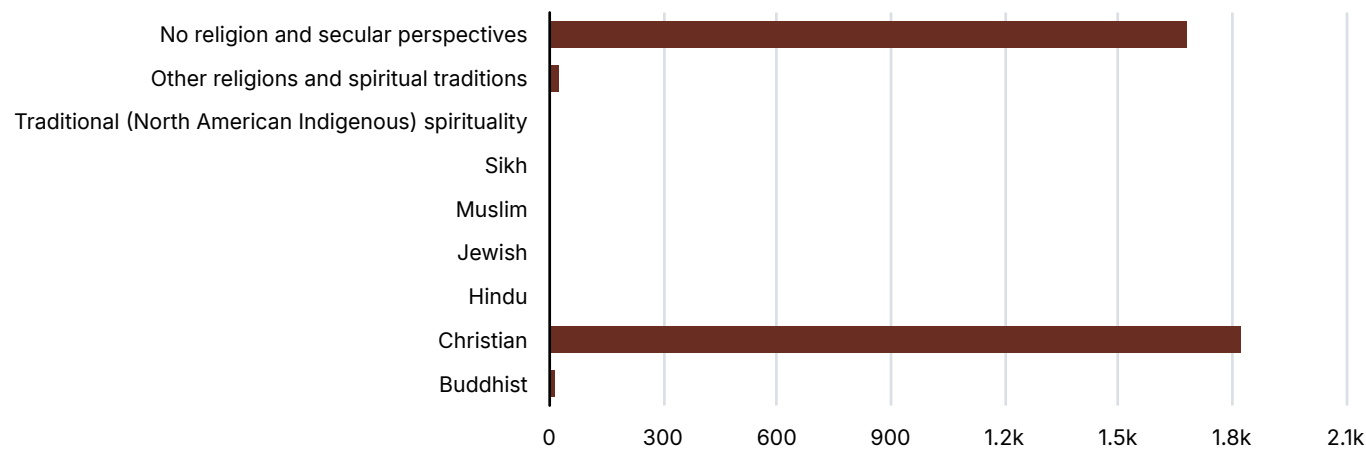


Figure 1.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the 2021 religion profile shows a community split between Christian affiliation and no religion or secular perspectives. Christians numbered 1,825 people, while 1,680 reported no religion or secular perspectives. Smaller groups were recorded for other religions and spiritual traditions, with 25 people, and Buddhism, with 15. The remaining listed affiliations, including Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, were reported at zero. Based on these figures, the local pattern is defined more by the balance between Christian identity and non-religious affiliation than by a broad mix of faiths.

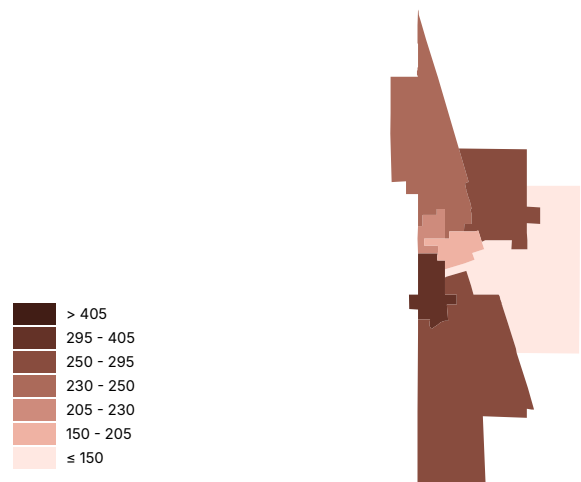


Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Claresholm)¹

In 2021, Claresholm's religious profile was defined by two large groups: Christian and no religion and secular perspectives. Christianity accounted for 1,825 people, while 1,680 reported no religion. Smaller affiliations were limited, with 25 in other religions and spiritual traditions and 15 Buddhist residents. The remaining categories were recorded at zero. This points to a community with relatively concentrated affiliation, rather than wide religious diversity. The balance between Christian identity and no religion is the clearest feature in the data, while other traditions appear only in very small numbers.

Family Type

Claresholm’s family mix was led by married couples without children, at 535 people in 2021, down 11.6% from 2016. Married couples with children fell faster, to 270 people, down 16.9%.

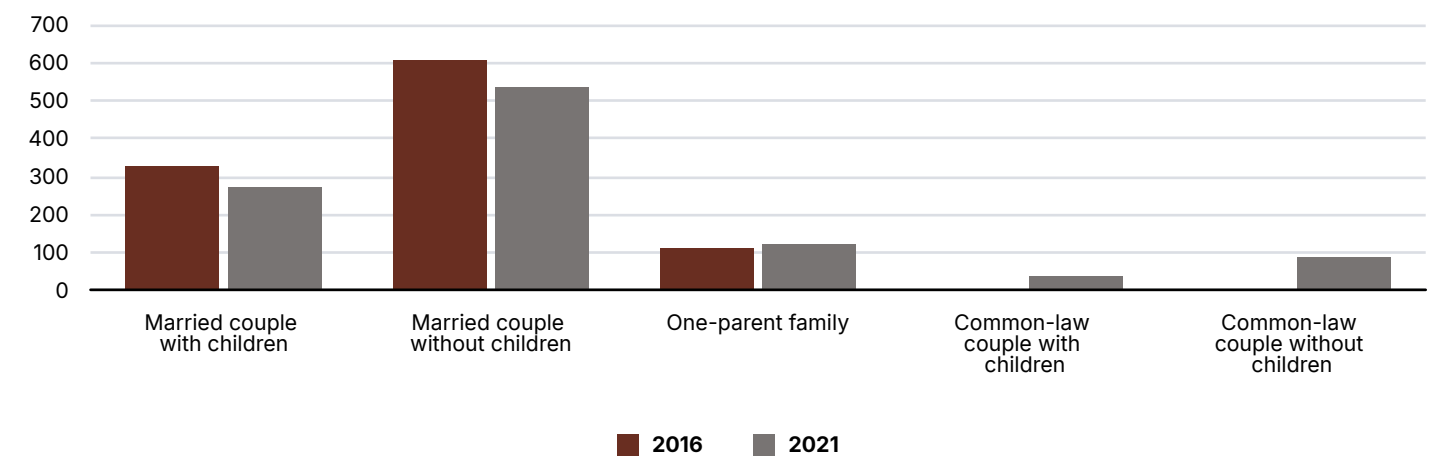


Figure 2.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s census families were led by married couples without children, at 535 people, followed by married couples with children at 270. One-parent families accounted for 120 people, while common-law couples without children numbered 85 and common-law couples with children 35. The mix points to a family structure dominated by couple families, especially those without children. The five-year changes show a mixed pattern. Married couples with children declined by 16.9%, and married couples without children fell by 11.6%. By contrast, one-parent families grew by 9.1%. The common-law categories had no reported five-year change, so the recent shift is clearest in the married-couple and one-parent segments.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Claresholm)¹

Claresholm’s family profile in 2021 was led by married couples without children, with 535 people, followed by married couples with children at 270. One-parent families accounted for 120 people, while common-law couples without children numbered 85 and common-law couples with children 35. Over five years, married couples declined, while one-parent families rose by 9.1%. Common-law categories had no reported change. The mix points to a family structure still centered on married couples, with modest growth in lone-parent households.

Ethnic Origin

In Claresholm, English is the largest ethnic origin group at 1,130 people, down 3.0% over five years. German ranks next at 875, rising 27.7%, while Canadian falls to 400, a 56.5% decline.

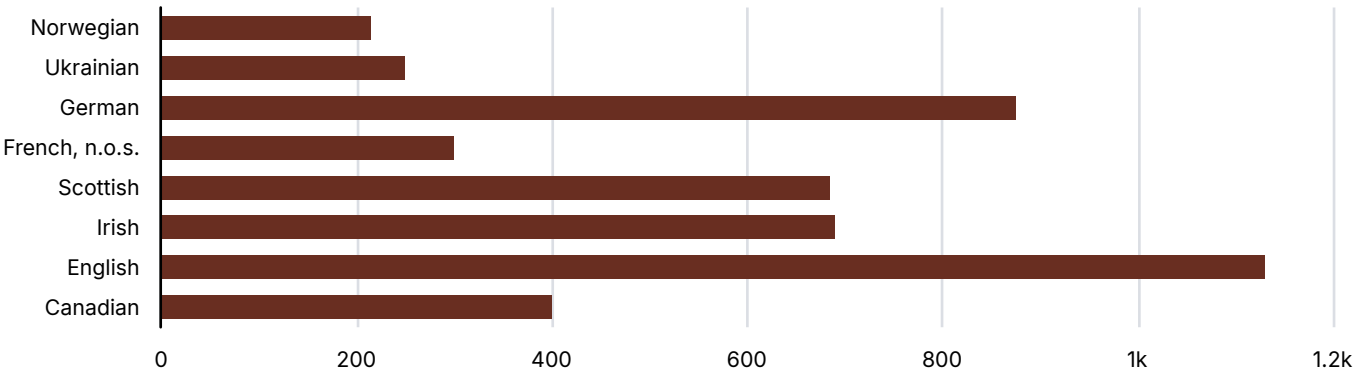


Figure 3.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm's reported ethnic origins in 2021 show a mix of long-established European ancestries, with English at 1,130 people, German at 875, Irish at 690 and Scottish at 685. Canadian origin was reported by 400 residents, while French, n.o.s. was listed at 300 and Ukrainian at 250. Five-year change points to mixed movement. German rose 27.7%, Norwegian increased 34.4% and Ukrainian grew 13.6%, while Canadian origin fell 56.5% and Scottish declined 12.7%. English was down 3.0% and Irish edged down 1.4%.

In Claresholm, ethnic origin data for people in private households shows a mix led by English ancestry, with 1,130 people in 2021. Irish and Scottish origins were also prominent, at 690 and 685, while German origin stood at 875. Recent change was mixed. German rose 27.7% over five years, Norwegian increased 34.4%, and Ukrainian was up 13.6%, while Canadian fell 56.5% and Scottish declined 12.7%. This points to a profile shaped by several long-established origin groups, with some newer gains alongside declines in others.



Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Claresholm)¹

Mother Tongue

English is the largest mother tongue in Claresholm at 3,325 people, up 1.4% over five years. Tagalog follows at 65, while Korean and Spanish each recorded 15, with Korean rising 200%.

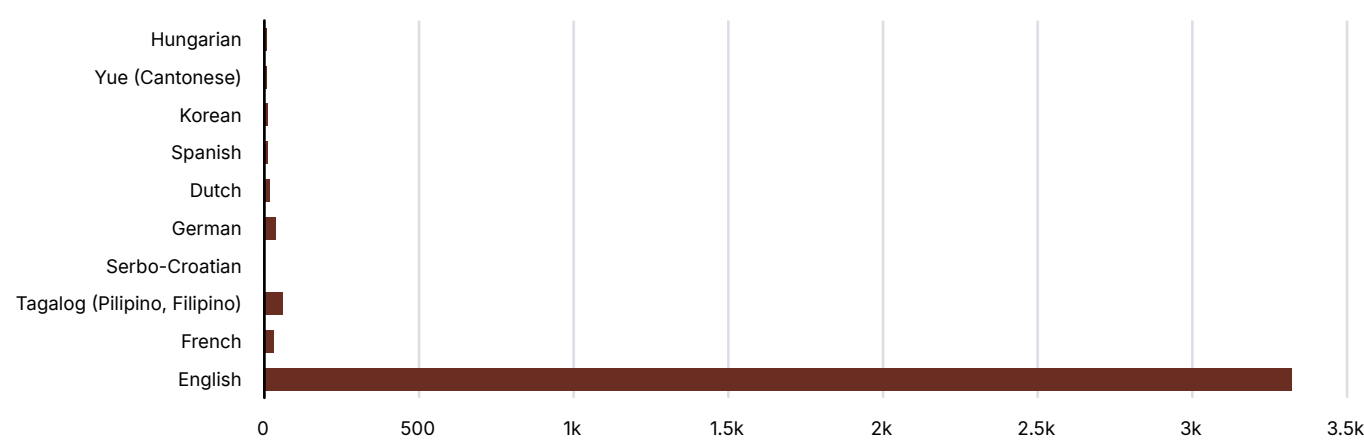
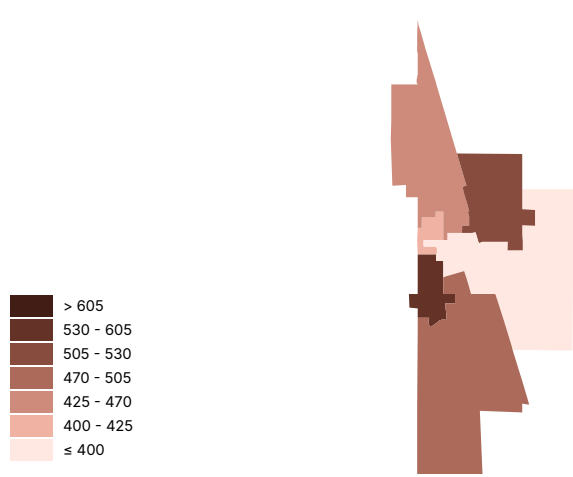


Figure 4.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, mother tongue is strongly concentrated in English, while several smaller language groups show mixed change over five years. For the total population excluding institutional residents, the 2021 profile points to a stable English-speaking base alongside growth in some minority languages. English accounts for 3,325 people. French is much smaller at 35, while Tagalog reaches 65. German stands at 40, and Dutch at 20. Recent change is uneven. Tagalog rose 44.4%, Spanish increased 50%, Korean jumped 200%, and Yue increased 100%. By contrast, French fell 12.5%, German and Dutch both declined 20%. The pattern suggests a largely English mother-tongue community with modest diversification in a few languages.



Claresholm's mother tongue profile in 2021 was strongly concentrated in English, with 3,325 people reporting it. Other languages were present in much smaller numbers, led by Tagalog at 65 and French at 35. German and Dutch were also reported, with 40 and 20 people respectively. The recent pattern is mixed. English edged up 1.4% over five years, while Tagalog rose 44.4%, Korean reached 15 people after a 200% increase, and Yue doubled to 10. In contrast, French fell 12.5%, and German and Dutch each declined 20%.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Claresholm)¹

Population Density

Claresholm’s population density was 362.1 people per square kilometre in 2021, down 22.3% over five years. It had been 465.9 in 2016 and 414.0 in 2011, showing a decline after earlier growth.

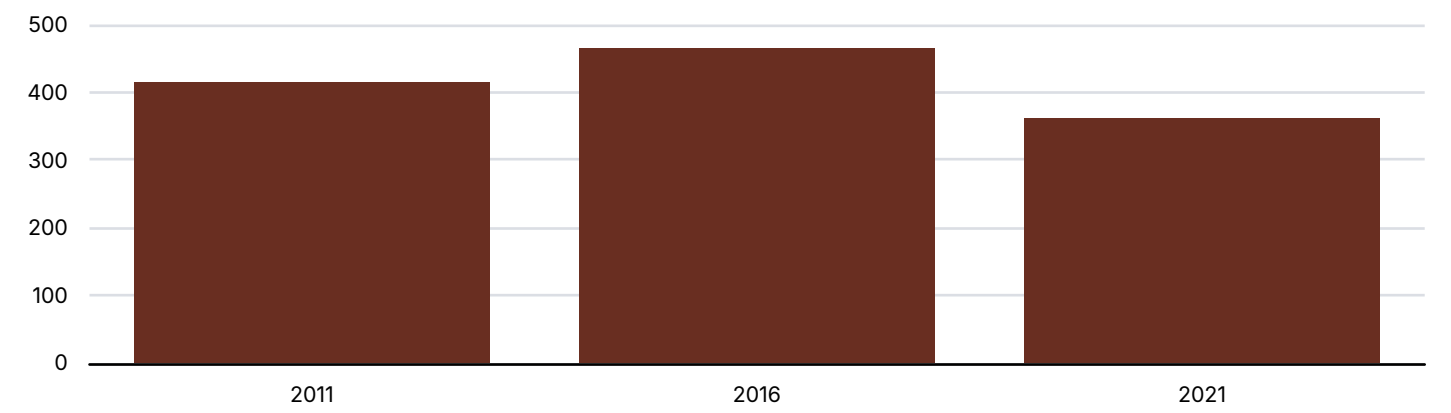


Figure 5.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s population density has moved unevenly over time. In 2011, it stood at 414 people per square kilometre, rose to 465.9 in 2016, then fell to 362.1 in 2021. That means the town became more compact between 2011 and 2016, before reversing course over the next five years. The 2021 figure is 22.3% below 2016 and lower than the 2011 level, showing a recent decline after a short period of growth.

Claresholm’s population density was 362.1 people per km2 in 2021. That was lower than in 2016, when it reached 465.9 people per km2, and slightly below 2011’s 414.0 after the earlier increase. Among nearby places, Claresholm sat below Cardston, Nanton and Cardston County? Wait, need valid. It remained above Fort Macleod, Hill Spring and most rural comparators, but below Cardston and Nanton. The pattern suggests a mid-range density for the region, with a notable recent decline.

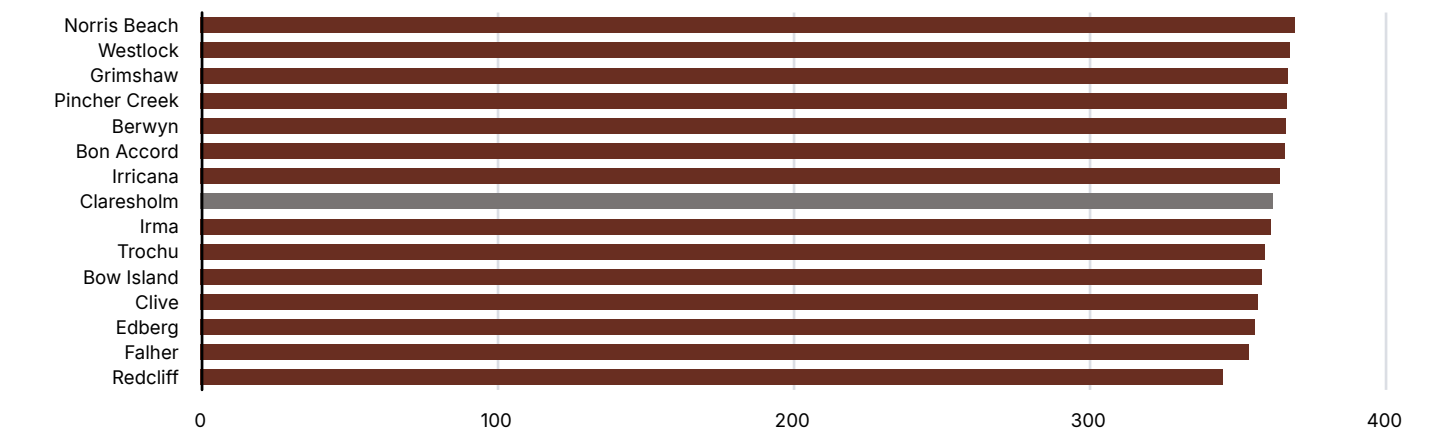


Figure 5.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Highest Education Level

Claresholm’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalency, at 960 people, up 104.3% from 2016. College credentials followed at 710 people, while bachelor’s degrees reached 255.

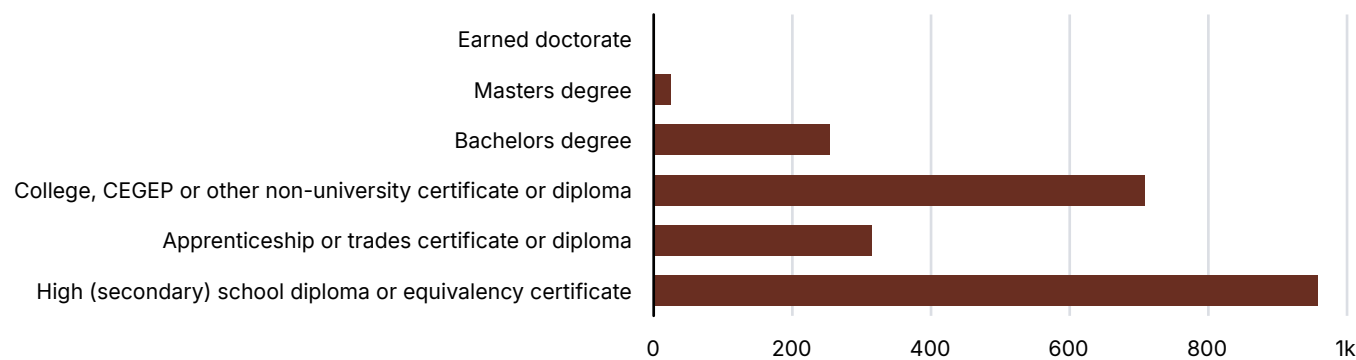


Figure 6.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s educational profile for residents aged 15 and over in private households was centered on secondary and postsecondary certificates. The largest group had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, at 960 people, followed by 710 with a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, and 315 with an apprenticeship or trades credential. Fewer residents held a bachelor’s degree, at 255, while 25 had a master’s degree and none reported an earned doctorate. The five-year changes point to growth in middle-level credentials and declines at the graduate end.

In Claresholm, the 2021 education profile for residents age 15 and over is led by high school completion, with 960 people holding a high school diploma or equivalency. College, CEGEP, or other non-university credentials follow at 710, while apprenticeships and trades account for 315 and bachelor’s degrees for 255. Over five years, college credentials rose 71.1% and high school completions increased 104.3%, while doctorate holders were absent.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Claresholm)¹

Household Type

One-person households were the largest group in Claresholm in 2021 at 630, up 13.5% from 2016. Couple-family households with children fell to 280, a 34.9% decline, while couple-family households without children were 585.

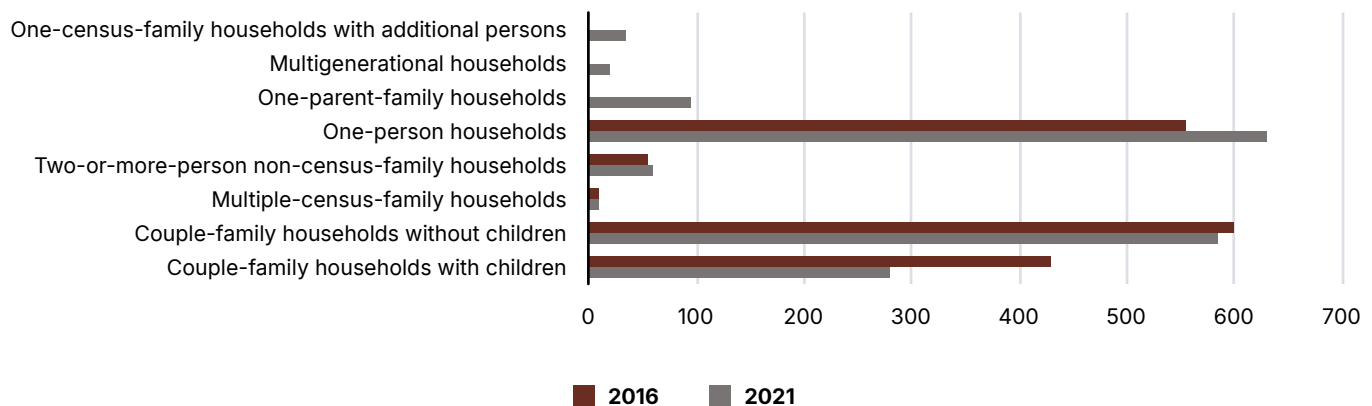
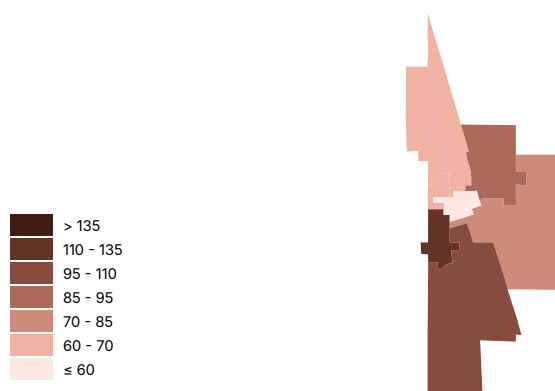


Figure 7.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

Claresholm's private households in 2021 were concentrated in a few common living arrangements, with one-person households and couple-family households without children forming the largest groups. The household mix also shows clear time movement over the previous five years, especially in the contrast between smaller household forms and families with children. One-person households numbered 630, while couple-family households without children totaled 585. Couple-family households with children stood at 280, and one-parent-family households accounted for 95. Smaller categories included two-or-more-person non-census-family households at 60 and multigenerational households at 20. Over five years, one-person households rose 13.5%, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased 9.1%. In contrast, couple-family households with children fell 34.9%, while couple-family households without children edged down 2.5%.



In 2021, Claresholm's private households were led by one-person households, at 630, and couple-family households without children, at 585. Couple-family households with children were also common, at 280, but they fell 34.9% over five years, while one-person households rose 13.5%. The mix points to a shift toward smaller household forms, with non-family living arrangements gaining ground alongside established couple-family households.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - One-person households (Claresholm)¹

Average Shelter Costs

Claresholm’s owner shelter costs reached \$1,109 in 2021, up 16.5% from 2016. Renter costs were lower at \$948 and rose 5.8% over the same period, narrowing the gap to \$161.

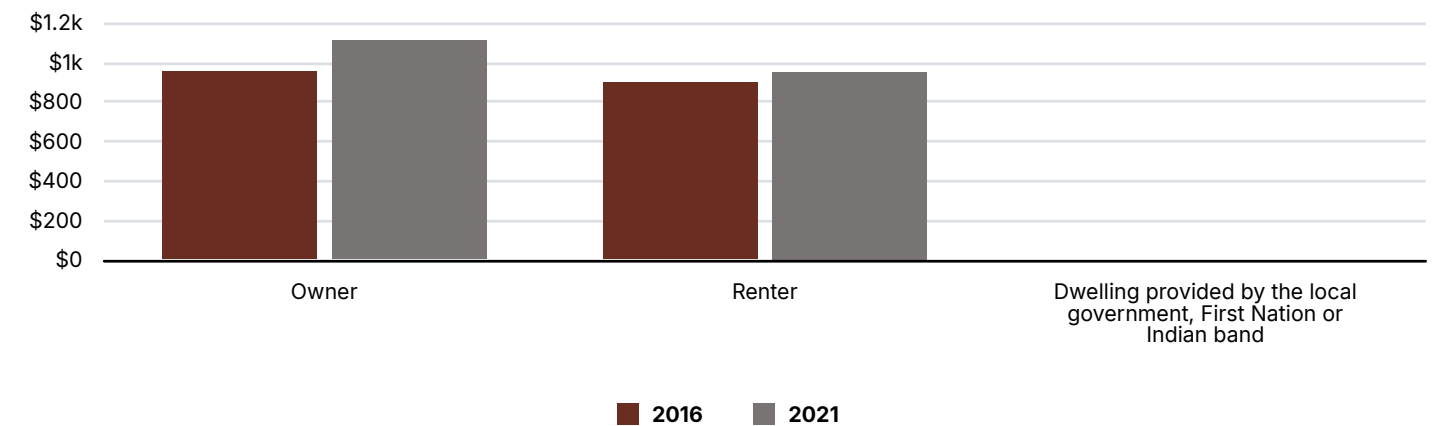


Figure 8.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

In Claresholm, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were \$1,109 for owner households and \$948 for renter households, both within the scope of non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. The owner figure was higher than the renter figure, and each had increased over the previous five years, by 16.5% for owners and 5.8% for renters. Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band was recorded at \$0. The pattern shows higher owner costs and faster owner-side growth.

In Claresholm, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were \$1,109 for owner households and \$948 for renter households, within non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. The gap between tenure types was modest, with owners paying \$161 more per month. Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band was reported at \$0. Over five years, owner costs rose 16.5% and renter costs increased 5.8%. The owner side shows the stronger upward movement, while renter costs changed more slowly.



Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Claresholm)¹

Housing Tenure

Owner households remained the largest tenure group in Claresholm in 2021 at 1,310, up 4.8% from 2016. Renter households also increased, but only to 400, leaving ownership far ahead.

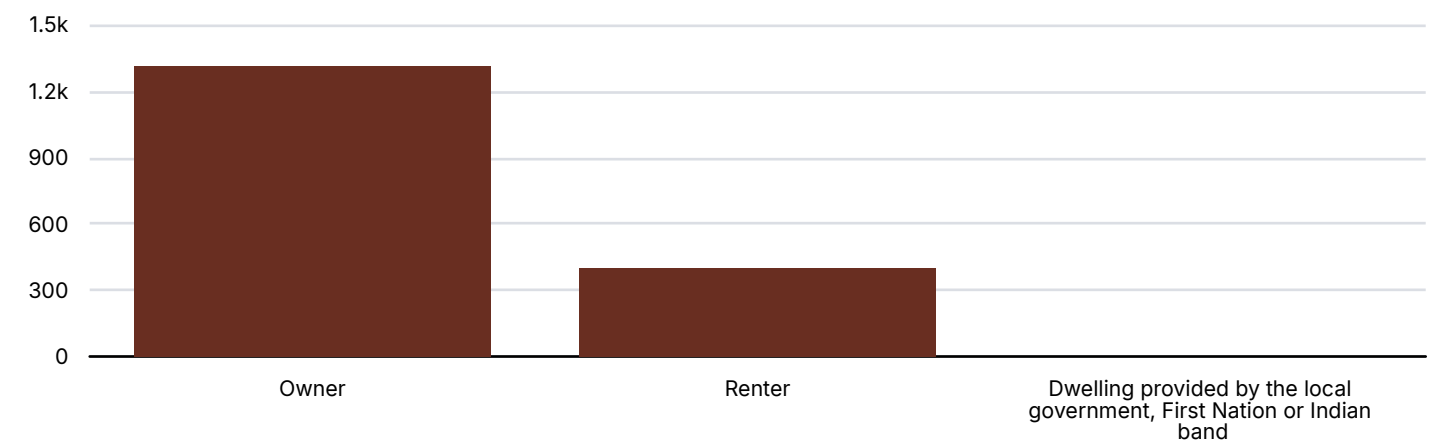


Figure 9.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm's 2021 housing tenure profile shows a clear tilt toward ownership, with owner households far outnumbering renters among private households. The picture is straightforward and stable rather than volatile. There were 1,310 owner households and 400 renter households in 2021. No households were recorded as living in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. Over the previous five years, owner households increased by 4.8%, while renter households rose by 1.27%. That pattern suggests a tenure mix dominated by ownership, with rental housing playing a smaller role. The growth data also point to modest change rather than a sharp shift in either direction.



Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Claresholm)¹

Household Total Income Groups

Claresholm's largest household income group remained \$60,000 to \$69,999 at 150 households in 2021, up 7.1% since 2016. The \$80,000 to \$89,999 group rose 75.0% to 140 households.

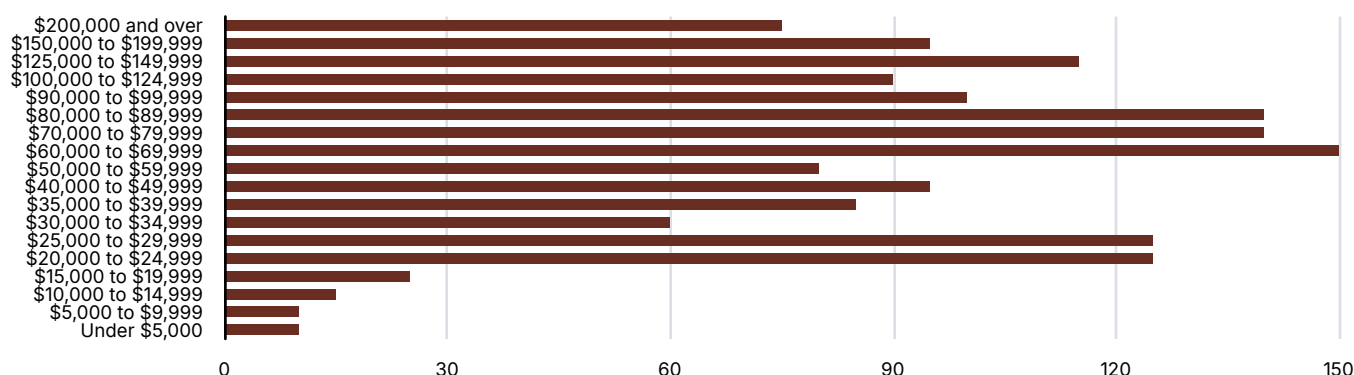


Figure 10.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the 2021 household income distribution spans a wide range, with the strongest counts in the middle and upper-middle brackets. The largest groups were \$60,000 to \$69,999 and \$70,000 to \$79,999 at 150 and 140 households, followed by \$80,000 to \$89,999 at 140. Several lower-income brackets declined over five years, including under \$5,000, down 33.3%, and \$15,000 to \$19,999, down 66.7%. Higher brackets were mixed, with \$80,000 to \$89,999 up 75% and \$200,000 and over up 25%.

In Claresholm, 2021 household income was spread across a broad middle, with the largest counts in the \$60,000 to \$69,999 and \$25,000 to \$29,999 bands, each at 150 and 125 households. Higher-income groups were also present: 115 households were in the \$125,000 to \$149,999 range, and 75 were at \$200,000 and over. Several lower-income bands held 10 to 25 households, showing a smaller but persistent base.



Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$60,000 to \$69,999 (Claresholm)¹

High School Completion

Claresholm’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalent, at 2,295 people. That compared with 740 people with no certificate, diploma or degree, showing diploma holders outnumbered non-completers.

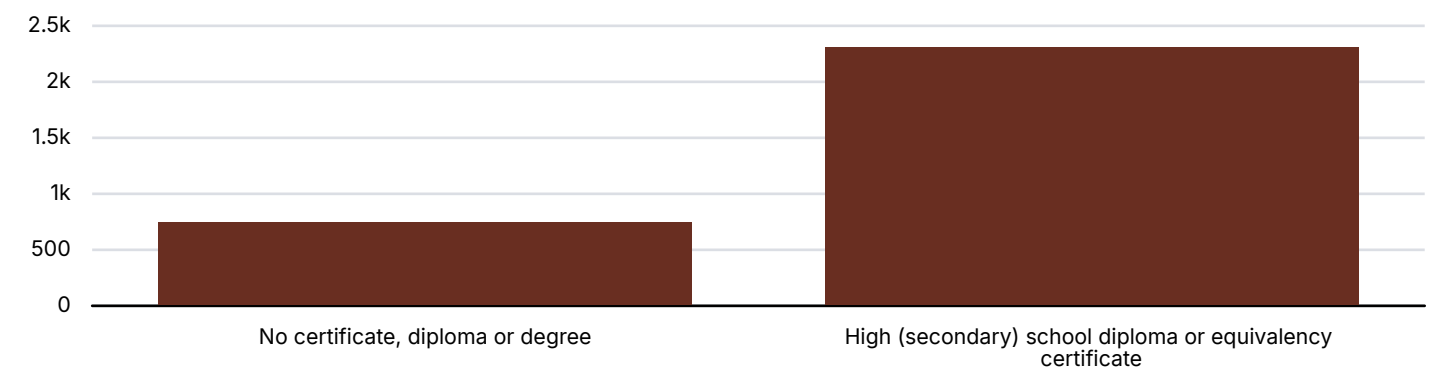


Figure 11.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s high school completion profile showed a clear split between residents with and without a credential. Among people age 15 and over in private households, 2,295 had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, while 740 had no certificate, diploma, or degree. The data provide a snapshot rather than a trend, so changes over time cannot be assessed here. Within the 2021 profile, the larger count of residents with a completed secondary credential suggests that high school completion was the more common educational status in this group.

In Claresholm, the 2021 census shows more residents aged 15 and over in private households with a high school credential than without one. There were 2,295 people with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, compared with 740 with no certificate, diploma or degree. That pattern points to a generally completed basic education base, which matters for workforce participation and further study. The data also shows a clear gap between the two groups, with diploma holders outnumbering those without formal credentials by a wide margin.



Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Claresholm)¹

Core Housing Need

Claresholm had 1,645 households not in core housing need in 2021, compared with 35 households in core need. That left 97.9% outside core need and 2.1% in need.

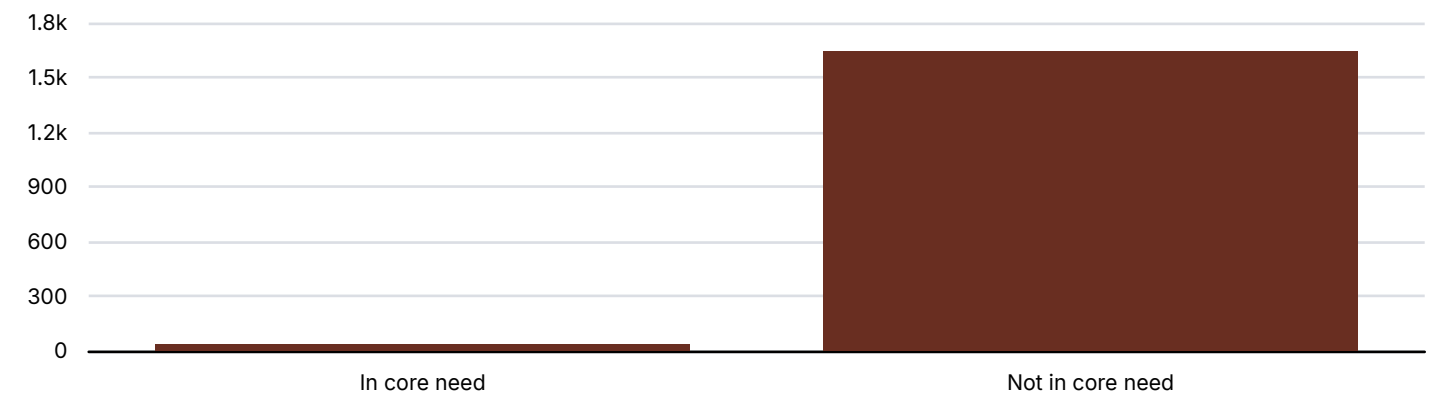


Figure 12.1: Shows the share of households living in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs. It helps indicate overall housing stress in the community. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm had 35 households in core housing need, compared with 1,645 households not in core need. Within the households covered by this measure, the balance was strongly tilted toward housing that met basic affordability, suitability, or repair standards. The dataset offers only one time point, so it does not show a trend over time. Even so, the figures suggest that core housing need affected a relatively small share of the measured household base in Claresholm.

In 2021, Claresholm had 35 households in core housing need and 1,645 not in core need, within the Census definition for owner and tenant households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. That works out to about 2.1% of households in core need. The pattern is low housing stress by this measure, with the large majority of households outside core need. The household count outside core need is far higher than the count facing affordability, suitability, or repair problems. For Claresholm, the housing picture appears stable rather than strained, based on this snapshot.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Core Housing Need - Not in core need (Claresholm)¹

Median Age

Claresholm’s median age reached 56.8 years in 2021, up from 54.1 in 2016 and 51.1 in 2011. The 5-year increase eased to 5.0% from 5.9% previously.

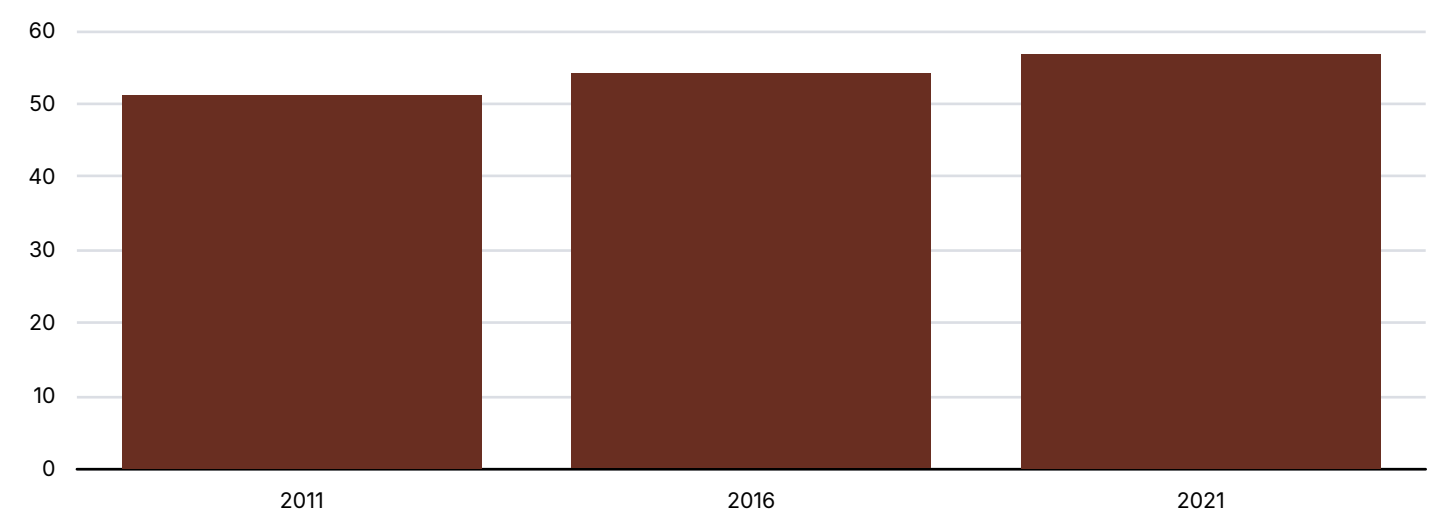
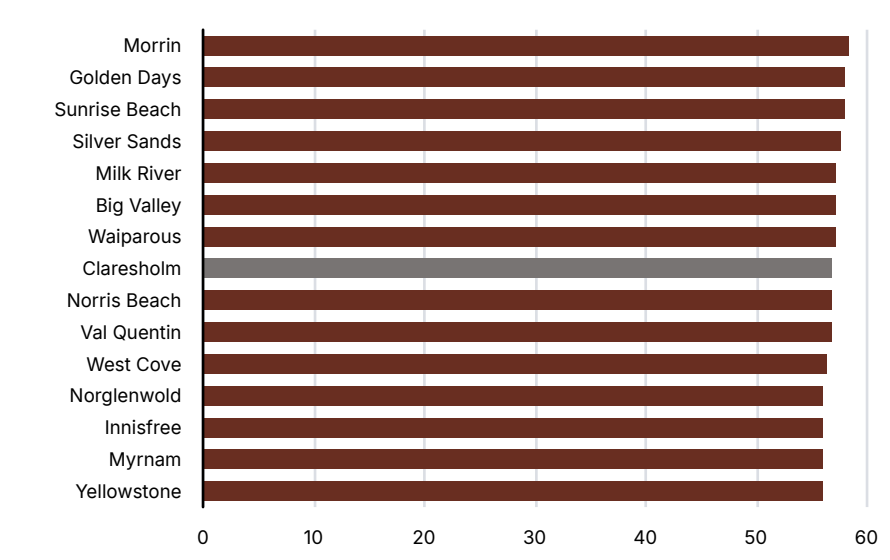


Figure 13.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s median age has risen steadily over the last decade, pointing to an older population at the midpoint of its age distribution. In 2011, the median age was 51.1 years. It increased to 54.1 years in 2016, then reached 56.8 years in 2021. The 5-year change was 5.9% between 2011 and 2016, followed by a further 5.0% increase from 2016 to 2021. The pattern shows continued ageing rather than a short-term fluctuation. By 2021, the town’s median age was notably higher than it had been a decade earlier.



Claresholm’s median age has continued to edge upward, reaching 56.8 years in 2021. That places it among the older communities in this comparison set, well above several nearby places and many of the Indigenous communities listed. The figure was 51.1 years in 2011 and 54.1 in 2016, before rising by another 5.0% to 2021. By contrast, Fort Macleod was 42.4 years and Nanton 52.8 years in 2021. This pattern suggests a population midpoint tilted toward older residents, with aging evident over the decade rather than a recent reversal.

Figure 13.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Age at Immigration

In Claresholm, immigrants first arriving at ages 25 to 44 formed the largest group in 2021 with 150 people, up 87.5% from 2016. The 5 to 14 group rose to 95, the fastest growth at 111.1%.

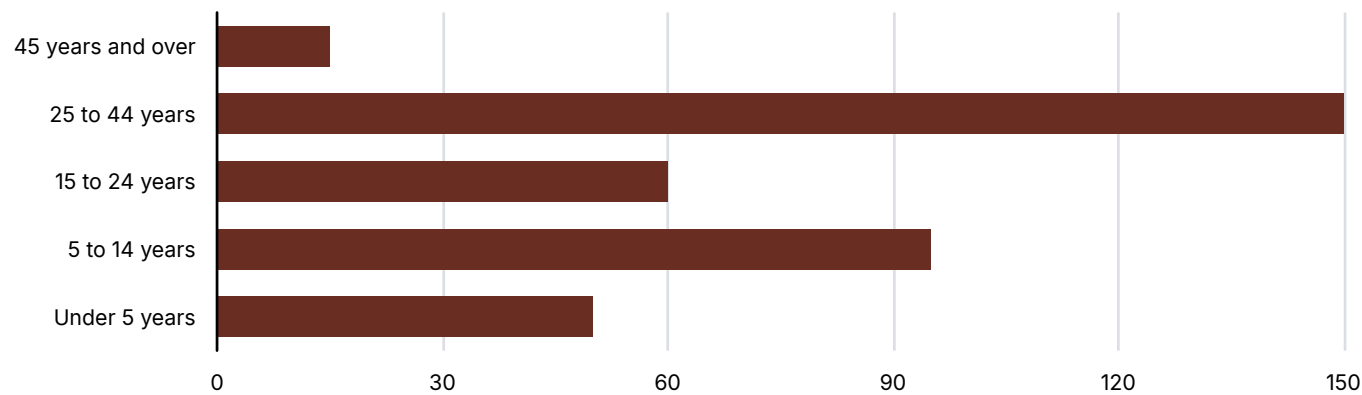


Figure 14.1: Shows the age at which immigrants first arrived in the country. It helps explain whether newcomers arrived mainly as children, working-age adults, or older adults. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the immigrant population in private households was concentrated among those who arrived at working age or in childhood in 2021. The largest group was people who immigrated at ages 25 to 44, at 150, followed by those who arrived at 5 to 14 years, at 95. Smaller groups included 15 to 24 years, at 60, under 5 years, at 50, and 45 years and over, at 15. The 5-year changes point to growth among children and adults, with declines at older arrival ages.

In Claresholm, immigrant arrivals are concentrated in working age and school-age years. The largest group arrived at ages 25 to 44, with 150 people, followed by those who arrived at 5 to 14 years, at 95 people. Smaller counts are seen for arrivals under 5 years, at 50, and at 45 years and over, at 15. The pattern points to a mix of family migration and adult arrival, with fewer people arriving later in life. The 25 to 44 group also grew by 87.5% over five years, while arrivals at 45 years and over fell by 50%.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age At Immigration - 25 to 44 years (Claresholm)¹

Immigrant Status

Claresholm’s population was mainly non-immigrant in 2021, at 3,165 people, down 0.9% from 2016. Immigrants rose to 365, up 30.4%, while non-permanent residents fell to 10, down 66.7%.

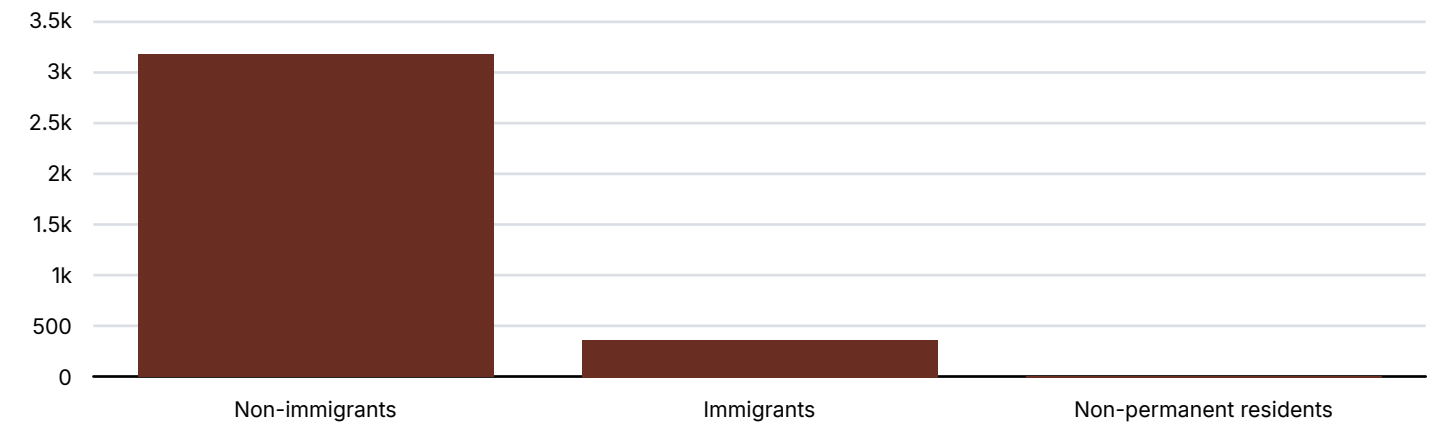


Figure 15.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the 2021 immigrant status profile shows a community dominated by non-immigrants, with immigrants forming a smaller but growing share of the population in private households. Non-immigrants numbered 3,165 people, while immigrants numbered 365 and non-permanent residents 10. The 5-year change points to different directions: non-immigrants edged down 0.9%, immigrants rose 30.4%, and non-permanent residents fell 66.7%. That contrast suggests immigration was adding to the local population mix even as the non-immigrant base stayed nearly flat. The small number of non-permanent residents means they played a limited role in the overall structure. The pattern is one of modest diversification, led by growth in the immigrant population rather than by change across all groups.



In 2021, Claresholm's population in private households was mostly non-immigrant, with 3,165 non-immigrants, 365 immigrants, and 10 non-permanent residents. That mix shows immigration as a smaller but present part of local population structure. The immigrant count rose 30.4% over five years, while non-immigrants were down 0.9% and non-permanent residents fell by 66.7%. The pattern suggests modest immigrant growth alongside a largely stable resident base.

Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Claresholm)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.

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