

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

WILLOW CREEK NO. 26

Demographics Report

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Executive Summary

Willow Creek No. 26 presents a picture of a rural municipality with a broadly stable population base and a social profile shaped by established family households, gradual aging, and limited but visible demographic change. After declining through the early 2010s, the population recovered by 2021 and then softened slightly by 2025, leaving the recent pattern close to flat rather than strongly growing or shrinking. Household and family measures were similarly steady. Average household size held at 2.6 in 2016 and 2021, average family size remained unchanged at 3.0 across the last decade, and the community continued to be led by couple-family households, especially couples without children.

That stability sits alongside a noticeable aging trend. Median age rose over the decade, older age groups posted some of the strongest gains, and household maintainers were concentrated in later working ages and retirement ages. At the same time, the age profile was not narrowly old: children and younger families remained a significant part of the population, with sizeable cohorts at the youngest ages and married couples with children still forming a large share of family life. Living arrangements were strongly centered on partners and two-parent families, while one-person households also grew and became a more visible part of the household mix. The result is a community that remains family-based but is gradually shifting toward smaller and older household forms.

Culturally, Willow Creek No. 26 is concentrated rather than highly diverse. Christianity remained the dominant religious affiliation, with no religion forming the main secondary group. English overwhelmingly led both mother tongue and household language knowledge, while German maintained a substantial secondary presence. The visible minority population was small and unevenly distributed across categories. Indigenous identity and ancestry were present on a modest scale but showed clear recent growth, particularly among Métis residents and among mixed First Nations or Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry categories. Taken as a whole, Willow Creek No. 26 appears steady in its core structure, with modest demographic shifts unfolding within a population still anchored by couple households, an older age profile, and a relatively concentrated cultural makeup.

Average Household Size

Willow Creek No. 26 averaged 2.6 people per household in 2021, unchanged from 2016. That follows a decline from 2.7 in 2011, leaving the five-year change at 0.0% and the ten-year change at -3.7%.

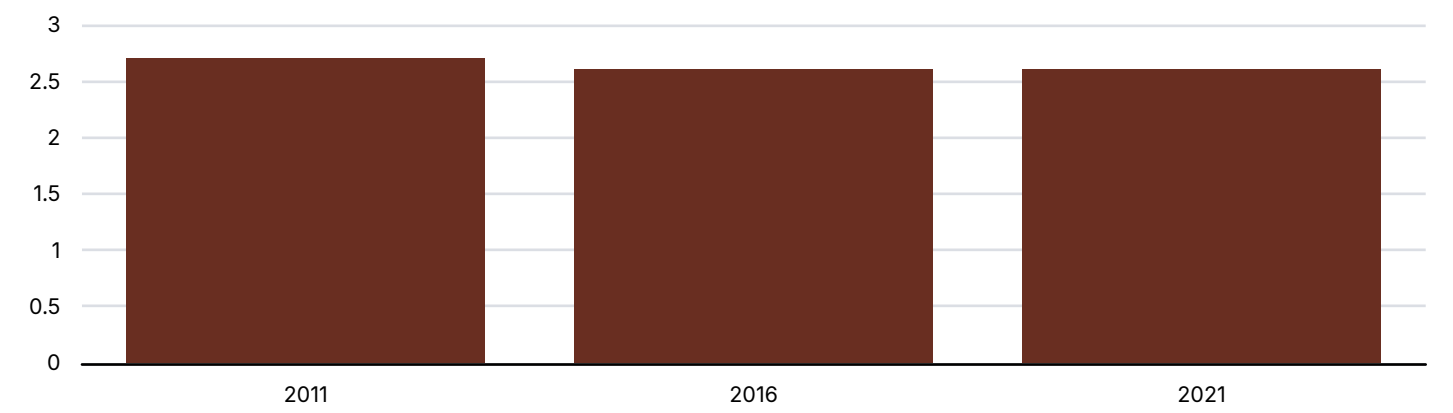


Figure 1.1: Shows the average number of people living in each household. It helps indicate typical living arrangements and the kinds of homes households may need. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 has a fairly stable average household size, with private households averaging 2.7 people in 2011 and 2.6 people in both 2016 and 2021. The 2016 figure was 3.7% lower than in 2011, and the 2021 value showed no further change. That leaves the most recent reading at 2.6 people per household. The pattern suggests a small decline followed by stability rather than continued movement. For household planning, the data points to a consistent household structure over the decade.

Willow Creek No. 26 had an average household size of 2.6 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and down from 2.7 in 2011. That places it near the middle of nearby communities. It is larger than Nanton, Claresholm, and Stavely, but smaller than Cardston County, Piikani 147, and Blood 148. Among the comparators, values range from 0 in Peigan Timber Limit “B” to 3.9 in Blood 148. The pattern is one of relative stability, with little movement over the last five years.

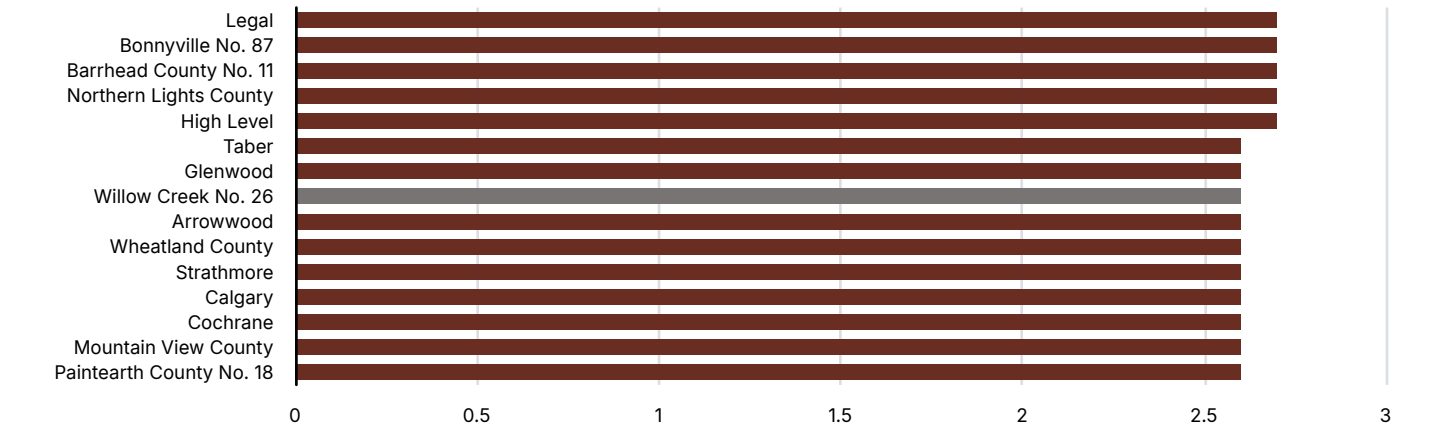


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Average Household Size with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Average Number of Children per Family

Willow Creek No. 26 averaged 2.3 children per census family with children in 2021. This is the only reported figure, providing a snapshot of family size for the location and year.

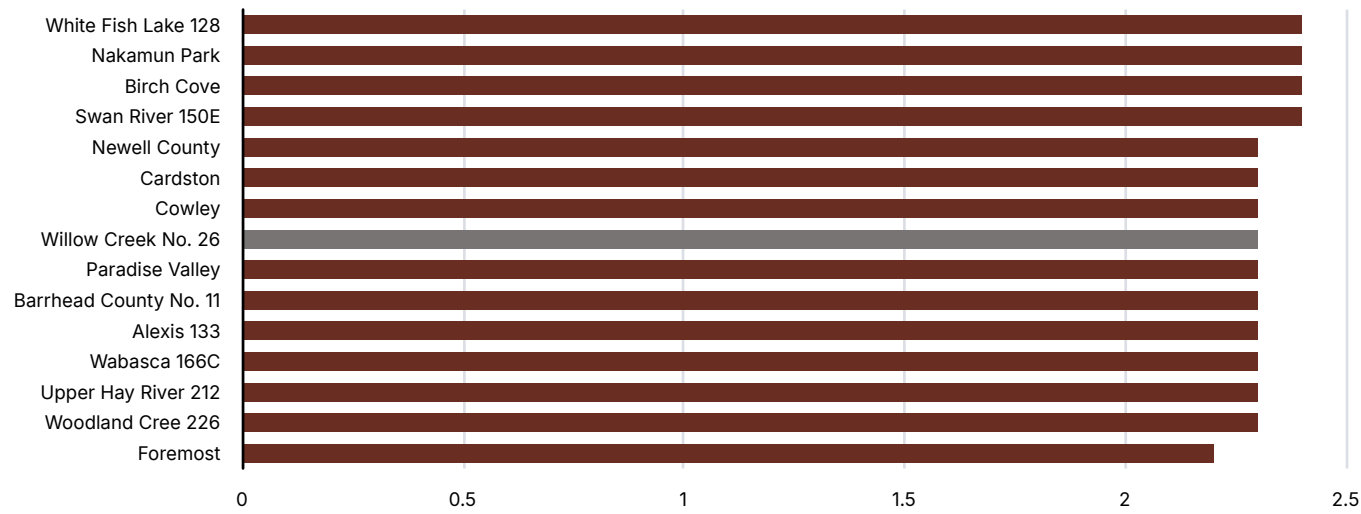
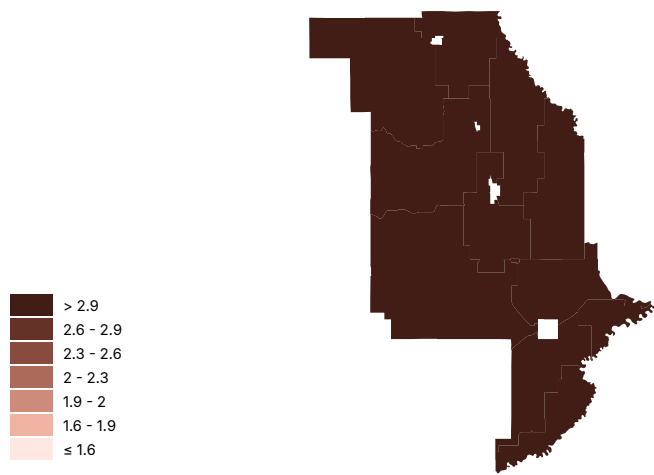


Figure 2.1: Comparison of Average Number of Children per Family with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had an average of 2.3 children per census family with children. That puts it above several nearby places, including Improvement District No. 4 Waterton and Claresholm at 1.8, and Nanton and Stavely at 1.7. It matches Cowley and Cardston, and sits below Cardston County at 2.6, Glenwood and Magrath at 2.5. The wider set ranges from 0 in Peigan Timber Limit "B" and Blood 148A to 2.6 in Cardston County. Willow Creek No. 26 therefore sits toward the higher end of the comparison group, suggesting a relatively larger family size within this census-family-with-children context.



In Willow Creek No. 26, census families with children had an average of 2.3 children in 2021. That places the subdivision near the middle of its local spread, with descendant areas ranging from 1.6 to 3.1 children per family. The pattern suggests a mixed family-size profile, with some areas likely supporting larger child-focused demand than others.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Average Number of Children per Family (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Indigenous Ancestry

Willow Creek No. 26’s largest Indigenous ancestry group in 2021 was First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only at 140 people, up 86.7% since 2016. Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only rose 155.6% to 115 people.

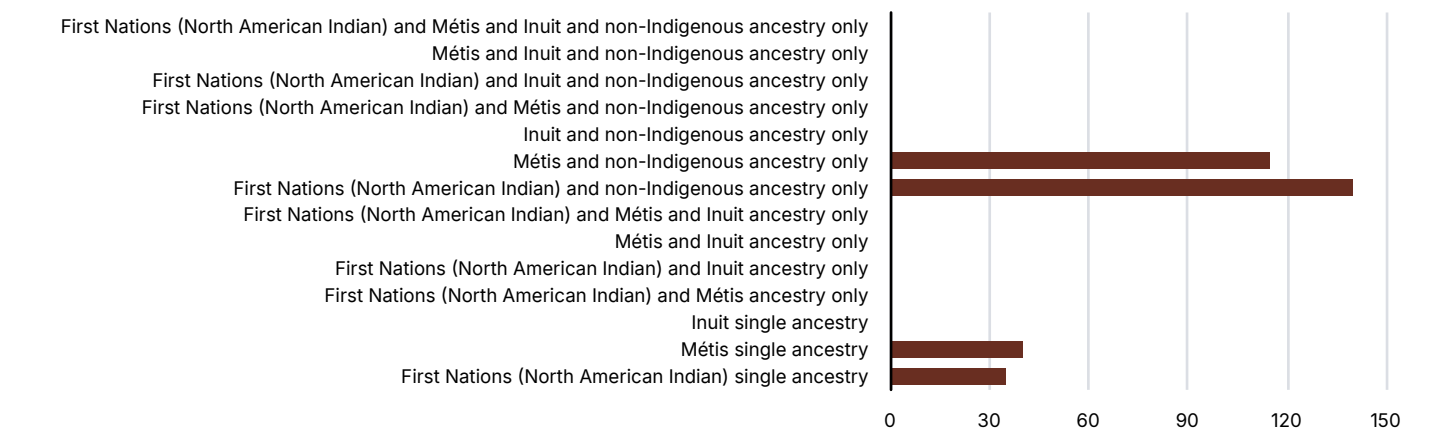


Figure 3.1: Shows residents with Indigenous ancestry. It helps indicate ancestral connections to First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 recorded Indigenous ancestry in several combinations, with the largest counts in mixed ancestry categories rather than single-ancestry lines. The most common was First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only, at 140 people, followed by Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only, at 115. Single-ancestry counts were smaller: 40 people reported Métis single ancestry and 35 reported First Nations single ancestry. Most other combinations were zero, including Inuit-only categories and all three-ancestry combinations. The 5-year change was positive where reported, with First Nations single ancestry up 133.3%, First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry up 86.7%, and Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry up 155.6%.

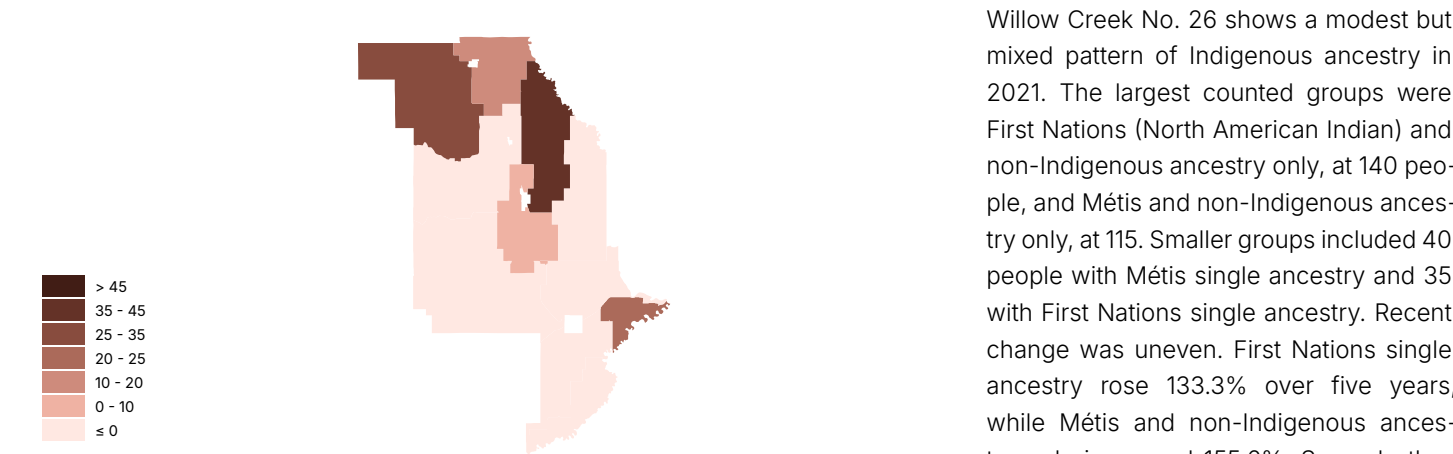


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Ancestry - First Nations (North American Indian) and non-Indigenous ancestry only (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Age Groups

Willow Creek No. 26’s largest 2021 age group was 65 to 69 years, at 475 people, up 58.3% since 2016. The 85-and-over group rose fastest, to 175 people, almost tripling.

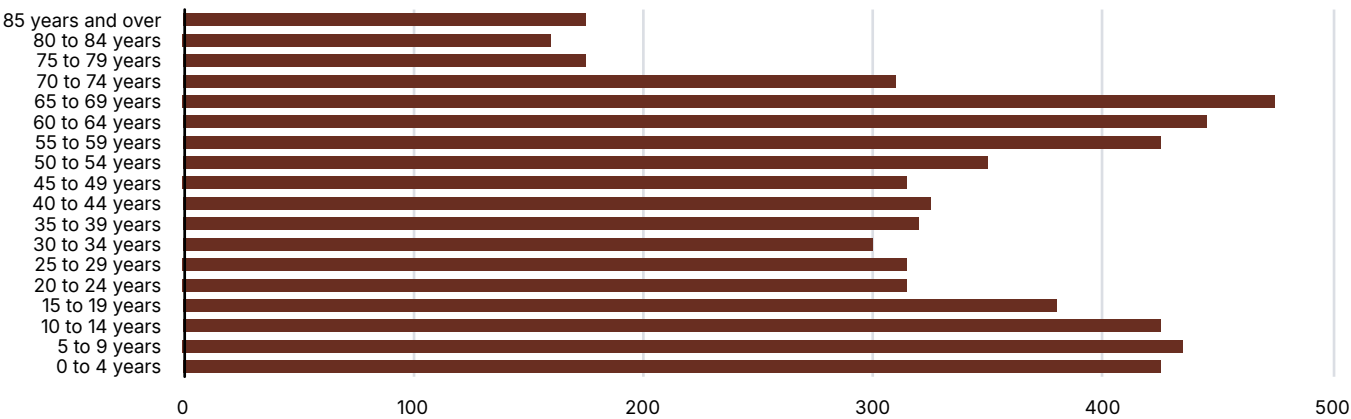


Figure 4.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community's age structure and stage of life profile. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s 2021 age profile is spread across every life stage, with the largest counts concentrated in children, middle age, and older adults. The community also saw strong recent gains in several older age groups. The 65 to 69 group had 475 people after a 58.3% five-year increase, while 5 to 9 had 435 and 0 to 4 and 10 to 14 each had 425. At the older end, 85 years and over rose 191.7% to 175 people.

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a broad age profile, with the largest counts in the 65 to 69 group at 475 people and the 60 to 64 group at 445. Several younger cohorts were also sizeable, including 5 to 9 years and 55 to 59 years at 435 and 425, respectively. Recent change was strongest at the older and youngest ends: 85 years and over rose by 191.7% over five years, while 0 to 4 years increased by 28.8%. The 50 to 54 and 60 to 64 groups declined slightly, by 7.9% and 1.1%.



Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 65 to 69 years (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Family Type

Married couples without children remained the largest family type in Willow Creek No. 26 at 665 people in 2021, down 2.2% from 2016. One-parent families rose to 90, up 5.9%.

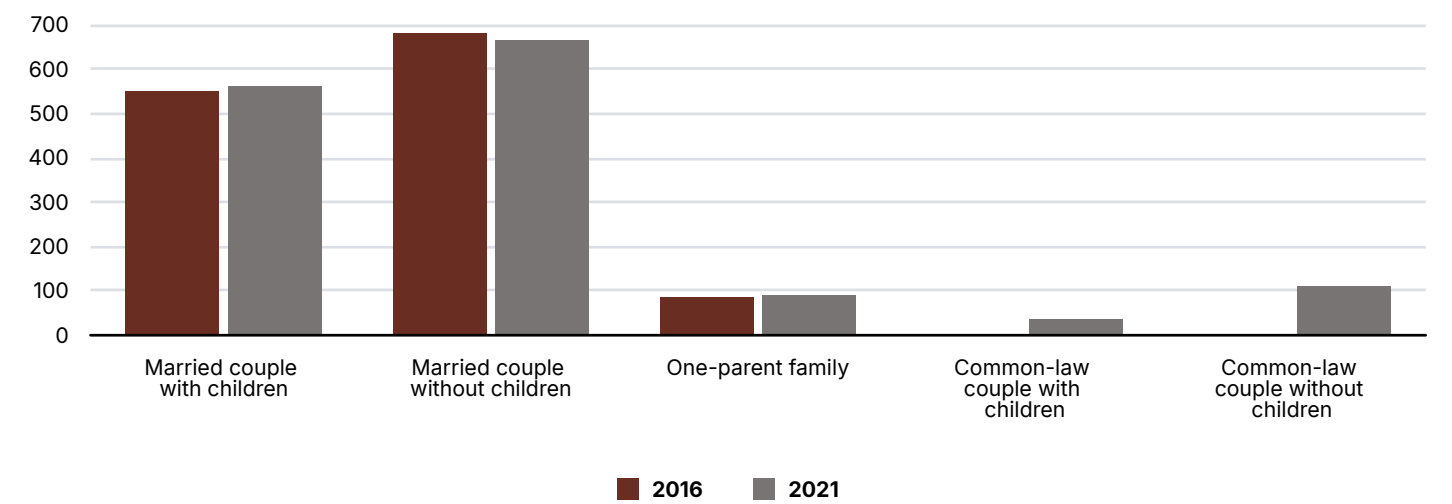
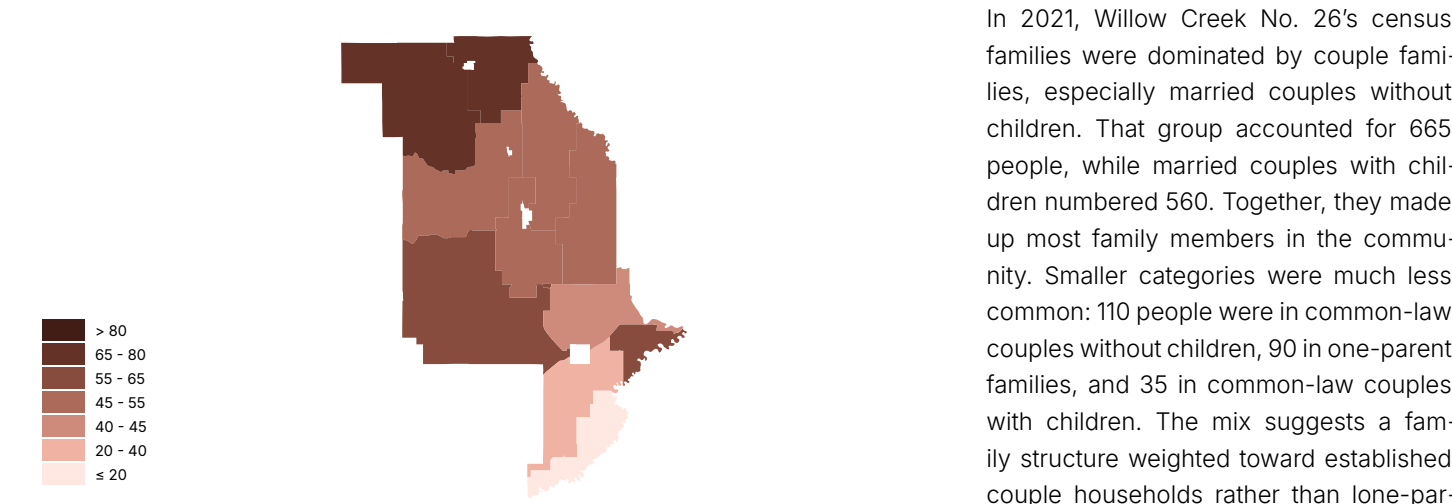


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, family life in 2021 was centered on couple families, with married couples without children the largest group at 665 people and married couples with children close behind at 560. Common-law couple families were much smaller, at 110 without children and 35 with children. One-parent families accounted for 90 people. The five-year changes were mixed. Married couples with children rose slightly by 1.8%, while married couples without children fell by 2.2%. One-parent families increased by 5.9%. Common-law couple families had no reported five-year change in the data provided.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26's census families were dominated by couple families, especially married couples without children. That group accounted for 665 people, while married couples with children numbered 560. Together, they made up most family members in the community. Smaller categories were much less common: 110 people were in common-law couples without children, 90 in one-parent families, and 35 in common-law couples with children. The mix suggests a family structure weighted toward established couple households rather than lone-parent or common-law families.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Religion

Christian residents were the largest religious group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 3,275 people. No religion and secular perspectives counted 1,595 people, while other religions and spiritual traditions totaled 40.

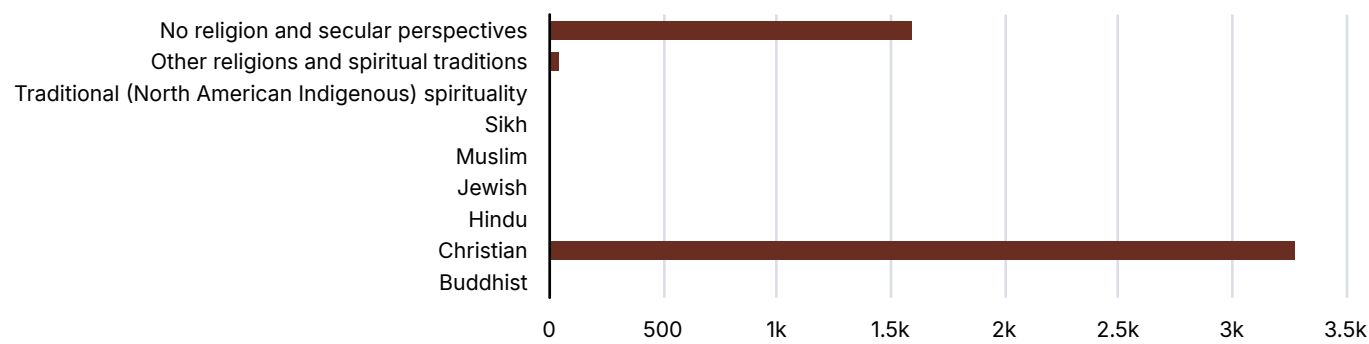


Figure 6.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 showed a religious profile dominated by Christianity, with 3,275 residents identifying as Christian. A further 1,595 reported no religion and secular perspectives, while 40 people identified with other religions and spiritual traditions. Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Traditional Indigenous spirituality each recorded zero residents. The pattern is highly concentrated rather than diverse. Within the population in private households, Christian affiliation remained the largest group, and non-religious residents formed the main secondary category. The 2021 snapshot suggests limited religious variety in the census subdivision.

In 2021, religion in Willow Creek No. 26 was dominated by Christianity, with 3,275 people, while 1,595 reported no religion and secular perspectives. Other religions and spiritual traditions accounted for 40 people, and the remaining listed affiliations were recorded at zero. That mix means Christian residents made up about 66.7% of the total, compared with 32.5% with no religion and secular perspectives. The narrow range of reported affiliations suggests a highly concentrated religious profile, with very limited diversity beyond the two main groups.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Mother Tongue

English was the largest mother tongue in Willow Creek No. 26 at 4,385 people, up 8.9% over five years. German followed at 1,070, while Spanish rose to 25 people, a 400.0% increase.

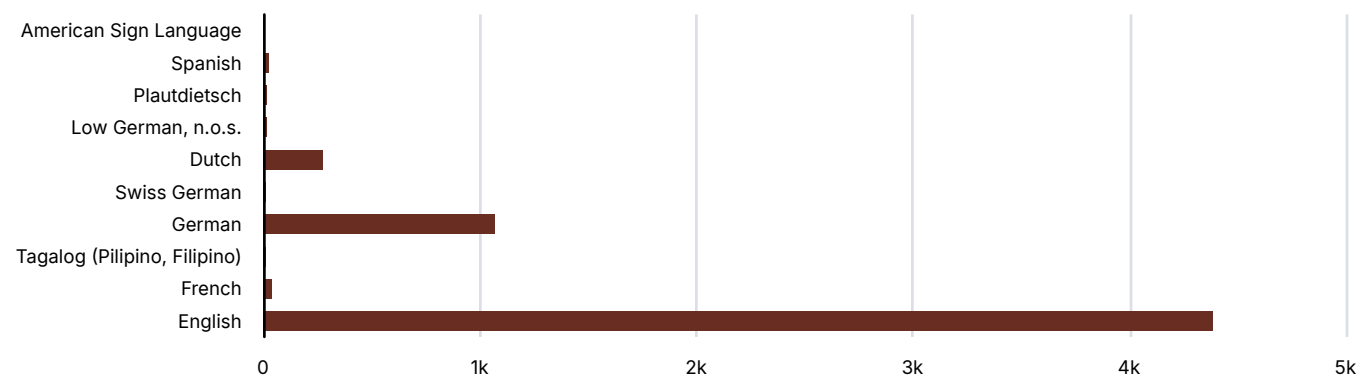


Figure 7.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, mother tongue in 2021 was led by English, with 4,385 people, while German was a distant second at 1,070. Dutch followed at 275, and French was reported for 40 residents. Smaller groups included Spanish at 25 and Tagalog at 10. The 5-year changes show the strongest gains in Spanish, up 400%, and German, up 35.4%, while English rose 8.9% and Dutch 10%.

Willow Creek No. 26 has a strongly English- and German-centered mother tongue profile in 2021. English is the largest language, at 4,385 people, followed by German at 1,070. Dutch is a distant third at 275, while French accounts for 40 people. Smaller groups include Spanish at 25 and Tagalog, Swiss German, Low German, Plautdietsch and American Sign Language at 5 to 15 each. The pattern suggests a linguistically concentrated population, with a broad but secondary German-language presence.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Visible Minority

In Willow Creek No. 26, Filipino was the largest visible minority group in 2021 at 35 people. Latin American and multiple visible minorities followed, each with 10, while visible minority, n.i.e. fell to zero.

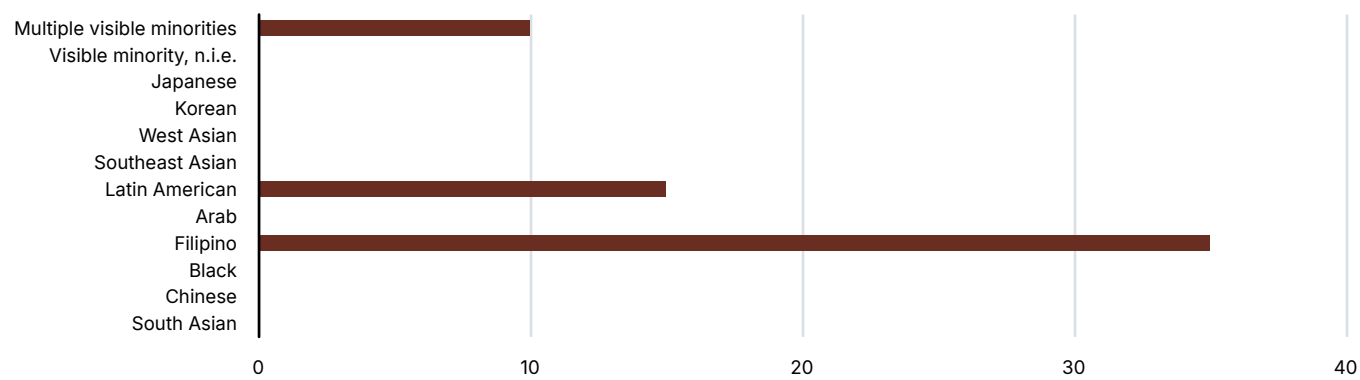


Figure 8.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a small visible minority population within private households, with the largest groups identified as Filipino at 35 people and Latin American at 15. Multiple visible minorities accounted for 10 people, while South Asian and visible minority, n.i.e. both registered 0 and each showed a 100% five-year decline. Several other groups were also recorded at zero. The pattern suggests a limited and uneven visible minority presence.

In Willow Creek No. 26, visible minority presence in 2021 was limited and concentrated in a few groups. The largest counts were Filipino at 35 people, Latin American at 15, and multiple visible minorities at 10. Most other categories were recorded at zero, including South Asian, Chinese, Black, Arab, and several Asian groups. Change data show South Asian and visible minority, n.i.e. both fell by 100% over five years to zero, while several other categories remained unchanged or had no reported change.



Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Filipino (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Indigenous Identity

Métis was the largest and fastest-changing group in Willow Creek No. 26, reaching 145 people in 2021, up 262.5% from 40 in 2016. First Nations rose to 75, while other identities remained at zero.

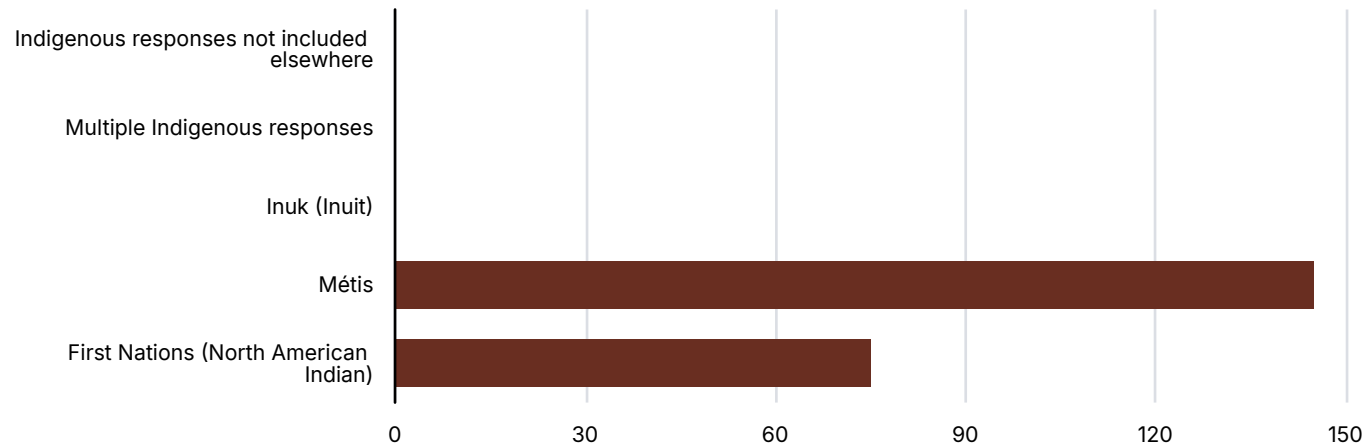
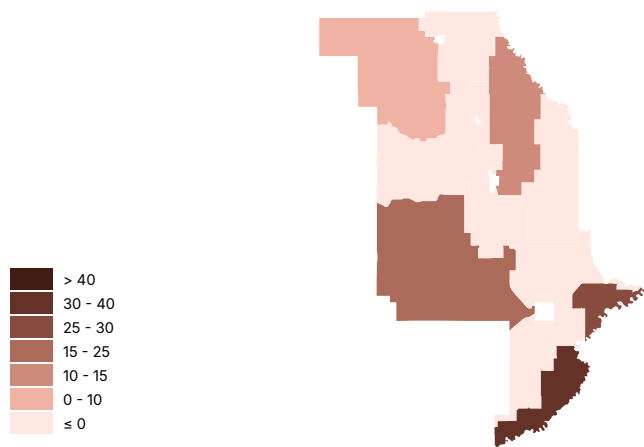


Figure 9.1: Shows residents who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. It helps indicate the presence of Indigenous communities in the area. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a small but clearly present Indigenous identity population in private households, with most reported residents identifying as Métis or First Nations. Métis accounted for 145 people and showed a 5-year increase of 262.5%, while First Nations identity was reported for 75 people, up 66.7% over the same period. No residents were reported as Inuk (Inuit), with multiple Indigenous responses also at 0, and no one was counted in the category for Indigenous responses not included elsewhere. The pattern is one of growth concentrated in the Métis and First Nations groups.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had 220 residents in private households who identified as Indigenous, with Métis residents making up the larger share at 145 people and First Nations residents numbering 75. No Inuit or multiple Indigenous responses were recorded. Within the subdivision, most descendant areas reported no Indigenous population, while a few had small counts, including 40 Métis, 30 Métis, 25 First Nations and 15 each of First Nations and Métis.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Identity - Métis (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Household Size

Two-person households remained the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 at 820 in 2021, up 12.3% from 2016. Five-or-more-person households rose faster, reaching 250, while one-person households reached 410.

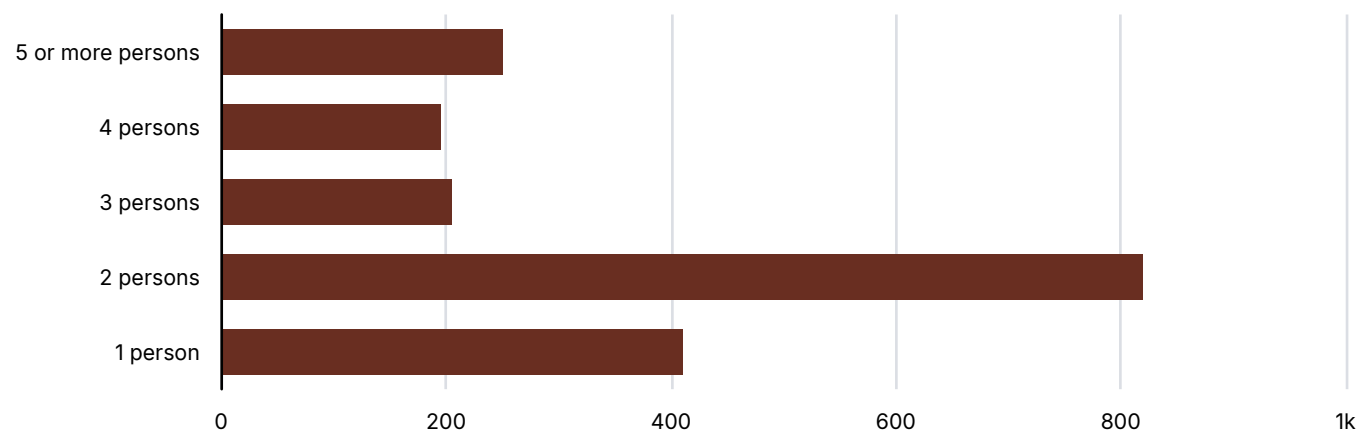


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, household size in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in smaller arrangements, but larger households also remained a meaningful share of private households. Two-person households were the most common at 820, followed by 1-person households at 410. Households with 5 or more people numbered 250, while 3-person and 4-person households totaled 205 and 195, respectively. The five-year change shows growth across most categories. One-person households rose 20.6%, 2-person households increased 12.3%, 4-person households edged up 2.6%, and 5-or-more-person households climbed 21.9%. Three-person households were unchanged. The pattern suggests a stable mix with some expansion at both the smallest and largest household sizes.

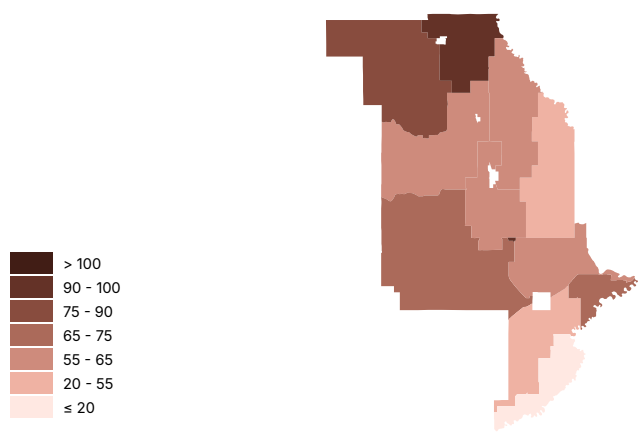


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Size - 2 persons (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Private households in Willow Creek No. 26 were most often made up of one or two people in 2021, with 2-person households the largest group. There were 820 two-person households and 410 one-person households, compared with 250 households of five or more people and 195 four-person households. The pattern points to a household structure tilted toward smaller living arrangements, though larger households remain a meaningful share. Over five years, one-person and five-or-more-person households grew fastest, at 20.6% and 21.9%.

Living Arrangement

Married spouses or common-law partners were the largest living arrangement in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 2,740 people. Children in two-parent families numbered 1,430, while 410 people lived alone.

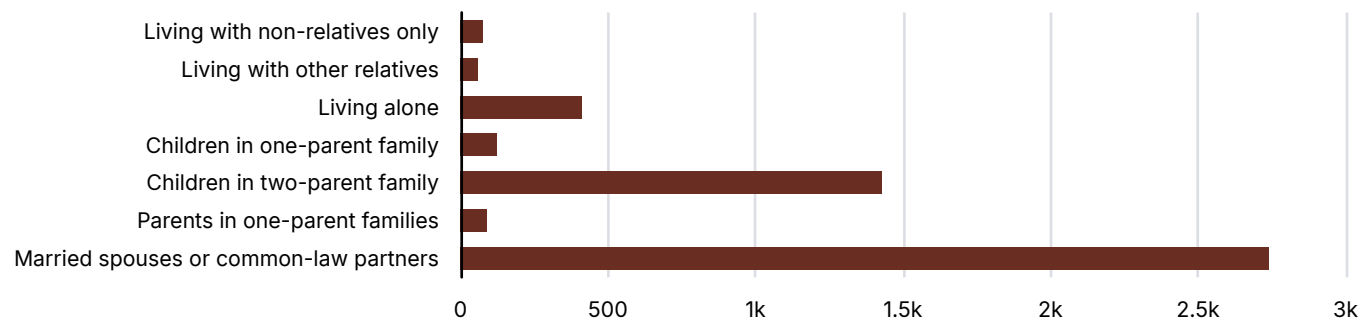


Figure 11.1: Shows residents' living arrangements, such as living alone, with family, or with others. It helps indicate household formation and support networks. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, living arrangements in Willow Creek No. 26 were centered on family households. The largest group was married spouses or common-law partners, at 2,740 people, followed by children in two-parent families at 1,430. Smaller groups included living alone, at 410, children in one-parent families, at 125, parents in one-parent families, at 90, living with non-relatives only, at 75, and living with other relatives, at 60. The pattern suggests a strong family-based household structure, with comparatively fewer people living alone or outside family units.

In 2021, living arrangements in Willow Creek No. 26 were strongly centered on family households. The largest group was married spouses or common-law partners, at 2,740 people, followed by children in two-parent families at 1,430. Living alone accounted for 410 people, while smaller groups included children in one-parent families at 125 and parents in one-parent families at 90. Other categories were limited: 75 people lived with non-relatives only and 60 lived with other relatives. This pattern suggests a household structure dominated by couple and two-parent family arrangements, with much smaller shares in non-family living situations. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile



Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Living Arrangement - Married spouses or common-law partners (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Marital Status

Married residents remained the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26, rising to 2,940 people in 2021, up 13.7% from 2016. Widowed residents increased fastest among non-common-law groups, reaching 285, up 90.0%.

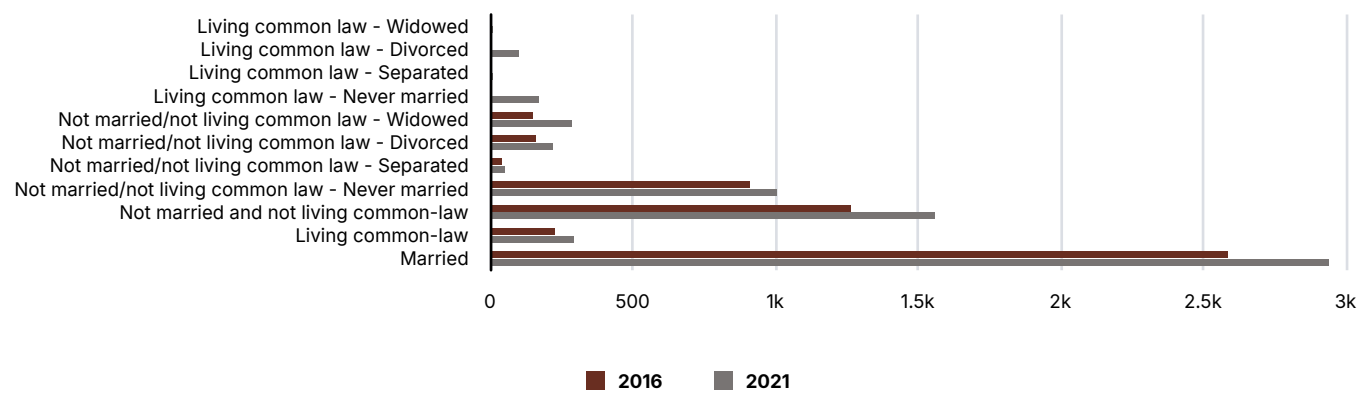


Figure 12.1: Shows the marital status of residents, such as single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed. It helps indicate relationship patterns and household formation. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, marital status in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in the married category, with 2,940 people. The next largest group was not married and not living common-law, at 1,560 people, while 295 people were living common-law. Recent change was strongest for the common-law group, which rose 31.1% over five years. Married residents grew 13.7%, and those not married and not living common-law increased 23.3%. Within the not married group, widowed people showed the sharpest rise, up 90.0%.

In Willow Creek No. 26, marital status in 2021 shows a population aged 15 and over that is mostly married, with 2,940 people in that category. Another 1,560 were not married and not living common-law, while 295 were living common-law. Within the unmarried group, 1,005 were never married, 220 were divorced, and 285 were widowed. The common-law total also included 170 never married partners. The mix suggests a strong married majority, alongside a sizeable group outside marriage.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Marital Status - Married (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Language Knowledge in Households

English dominates household language knowledge in Willow Creek No. 26, with 4,920 households and 12.2% growth over five years. Dutch follows at 360, while German fell 51.35% to 90.

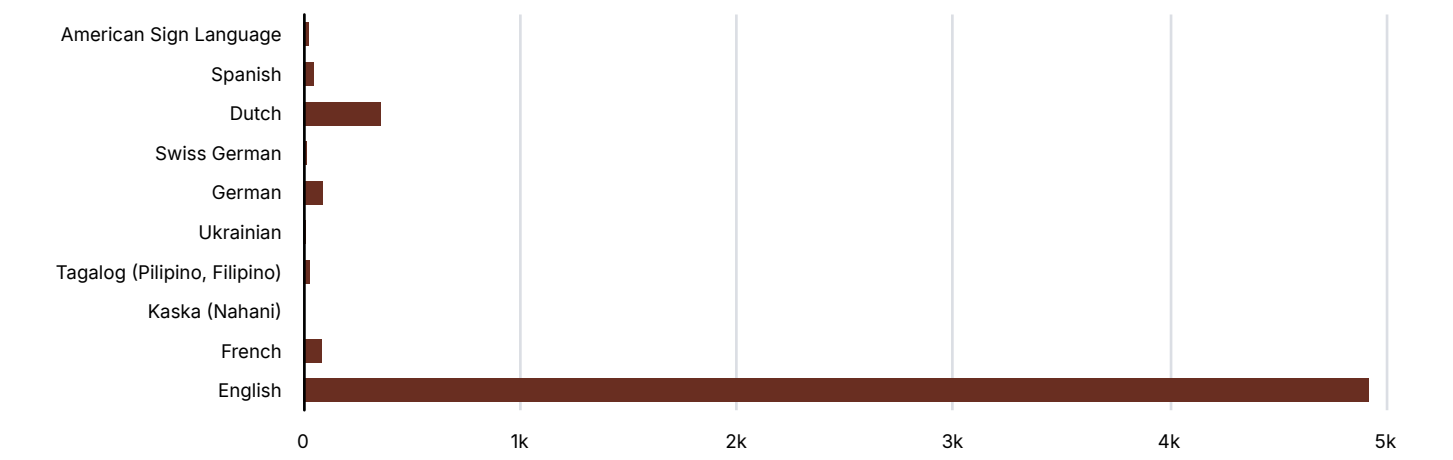


Figure 13.1: Shows the languages household members can speak. It helps indicate multilingual capacity and potential language access needs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Language knowledge in Willow Creek No. 26 households is concentrated in English, with a smaller mix of other languages. In 2021, 4,920 households reported English, far more than any other language listed. Dutch followed at 360 households, while German accounted for 90 and French for 85. Smaller counts were recorded for Spanish, Tagalog, American Sign Language, Swiss German, Ukrainian, and Kaska. The 5-year changes point to mixed momentum. English rose 12.2%, and Spanish increased 42.9%. By contrast, German fell 51.4%, Dutch declined 13.3%, and French slipped 5.6%.

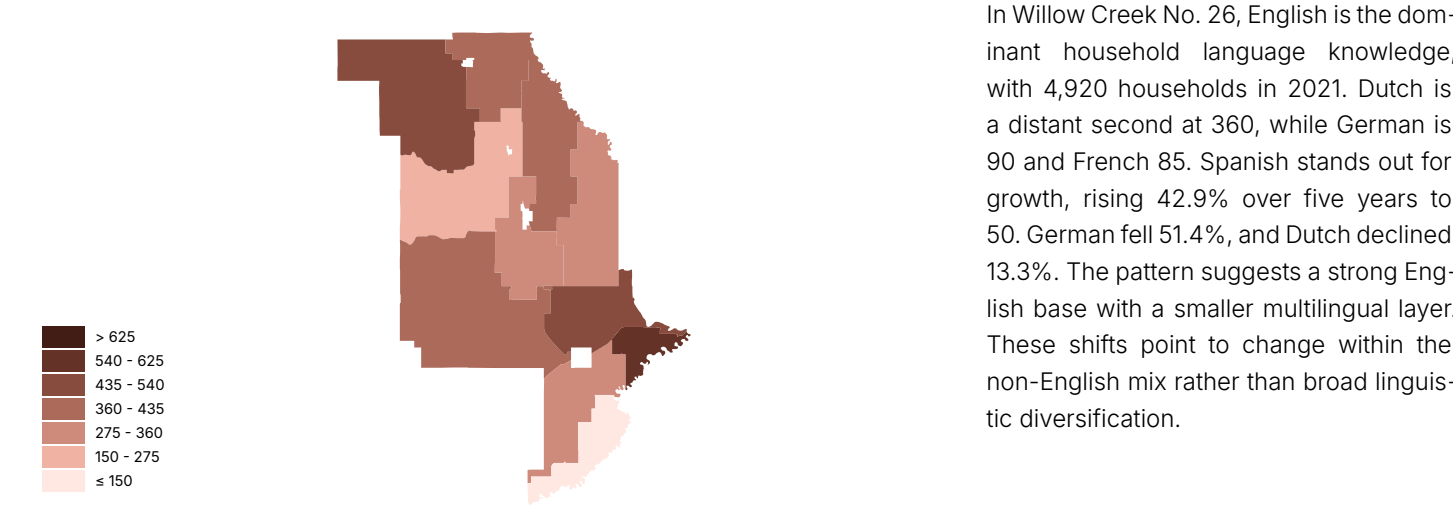


Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Household Type

Couple-family households without children were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 735 households, up 10.5% from 2016. One-person households followed at 410, rising 20.6%.

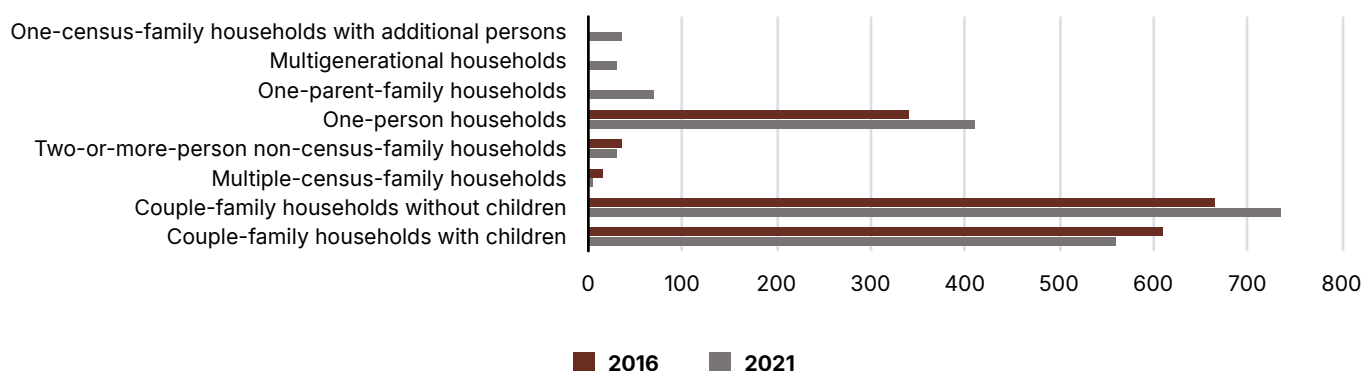


Figure 14.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, the 2021 household profile is led by couple-family households without children, at 735 households, followed by couple-family households with children at 560 and one-person households at 410. The recent pattern is mixed: one-person households rose 20.6% over five years, while couple-family households without children increased 10.5%. By contrast, couple-family households with children fell 8.2%, and multiple-census-family households dropped 66.7%. The mix suggests a shift toward smaller household forms.

Willow Creek No. 26's private households in 2021 were led by couple-family households without children, at 735, followed by couple-family households with children at 560 and one-person households at 410. Smaller categories included one-parent-family households at 70 and multigenerational households at 30. Recent change was mixed. One-person households rose 20.6% over five years, while couple-family households with children fell 8.2%. The pattern suggests a household mix weighted toward couple families, with some growth in solo living.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Average Family Size

Willow Creek No. 26 had an average family size of 3.0 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and 2011. The measure was flat over five years and a decade.

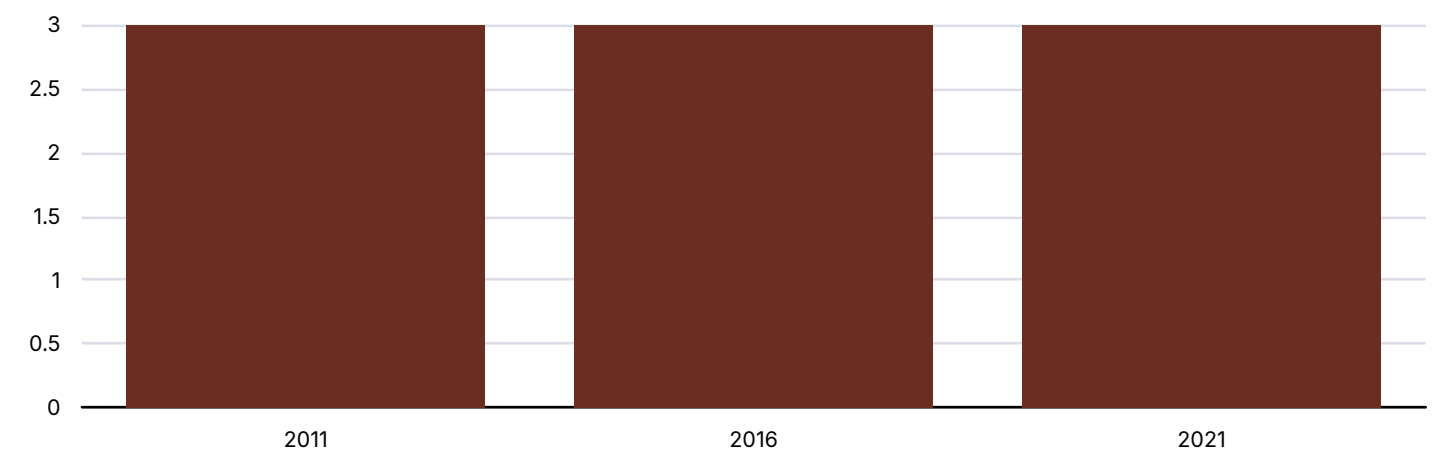


Figure 15.1: Shows the average number of people in family households. It helps indicate typical family living arrangements and space needs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 has shown a stable average family size of 3 people in census families in private households. The figure was 3 in 2011, 3 in 2016, and 3 again in 2021. That flat pattern leaves little change to describe over time. The 5-year change was 0 in both 2016 and 2021, confirming a steady family size across the decade.

Willow Creek No. 26 had an average family size of 3 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and 2011. Within the comparison set, that places it above several nearby places such as Claresholm and Nanton, both at 2.6, and below larger-family communities like Magrath at 3.4. The measure has been stable across the decade, suggesting little change in family household size.

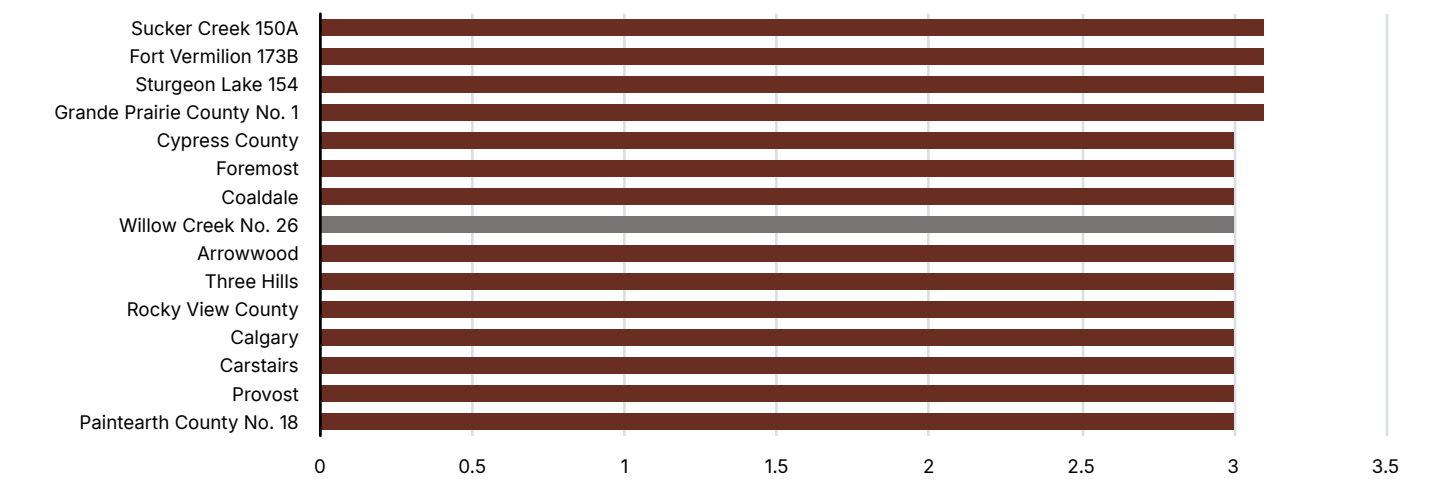


Figure 15.2: Comparison of Average Family Size with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Total Population

Willow Creek No. 26 had 6,225 people in 2025. The population was 0.8% above 2024 and 0.8% above five years earlier, after rising from 5,931 in 2001.

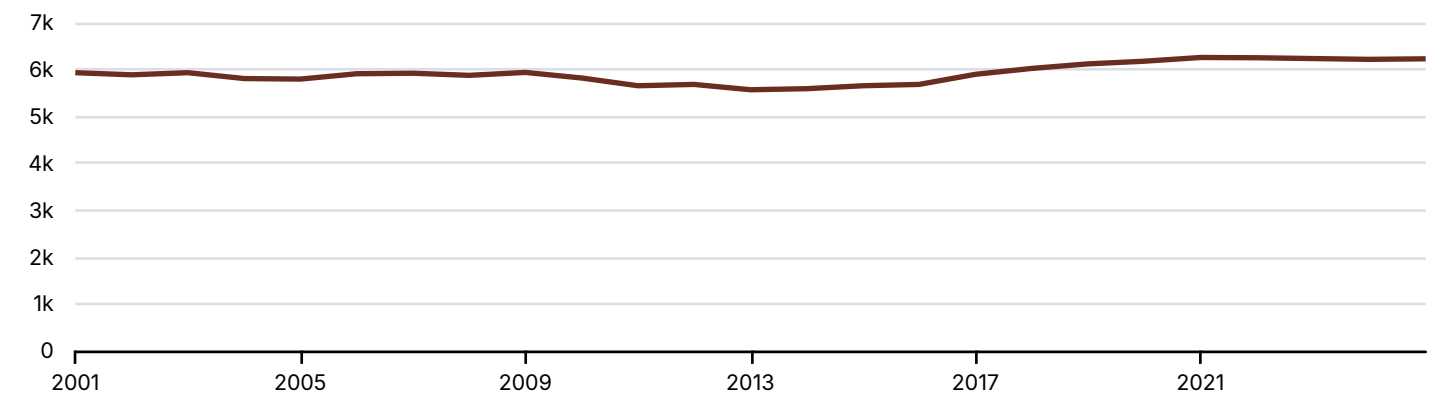


Figure 16.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2001-2025)²

Willow Creek No. 26 has a total population that stayed fairly stable in the early 2000s, then declined through the mid-2010s before recovering. The recent pattern is one of modest growth followed by a slight leveling off. Population was 5,931 in 2001, fell to 5,649 in 2011, and then rose to 6,254 in 2021. By 2025, it stood at 6,225 people. The five-year change shows the shift clearly: -5.8% in 2014, then 8.2% in 2018, and 0.8% in 2025. This points to a location with population movement over time rather than steady expansion or sustained decline.

Willow Creek No. 26 had a total population of 6,225 people in 2025. The series shows a long period of decline in the early 2010s, followed by a stronger recovery and then a near-flat recent pattern. Population rose from 5,649 in 2011 to 6,254 in 2021, before easing slightly in the last four years. Compared with nearby places, Willow Creek No. 26 is much larger than most, though smaller than Blood 148 and Cardston County. Its 2025 level also exceeds Claresholm, Fort Macleod, and Pincher Creek. This suggests a relatively stable population base with modest recent softening after earlier gains.

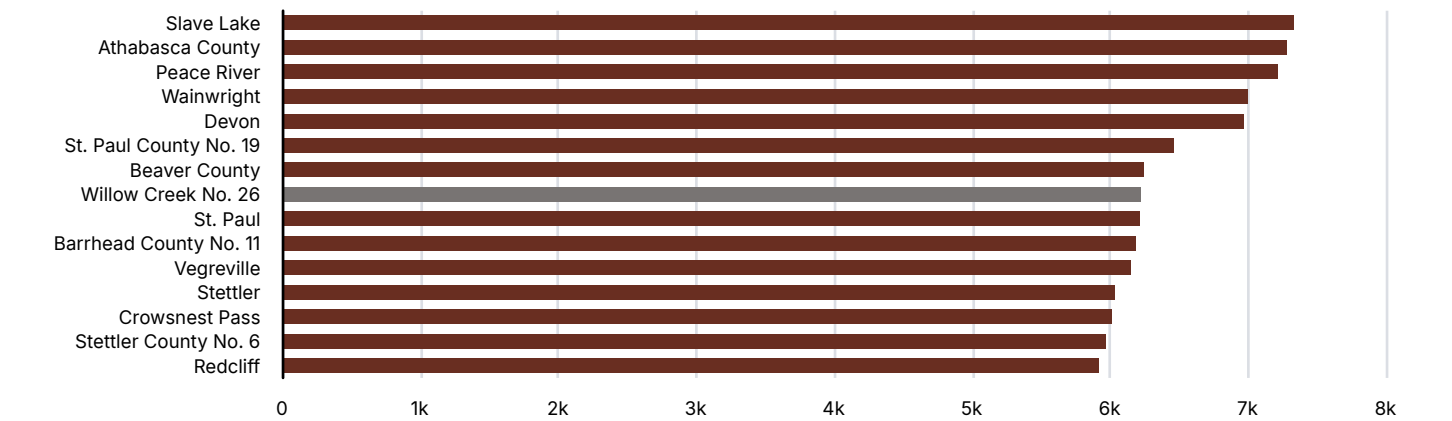


Figure 16.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2025)²

Primary Maintainer Age

In Willow Creek No. 26, households led by people aged 55 to 64 remained the largest group at 420 in 2021, while ages 85 and over climbed to 55, up 450% from 2016.

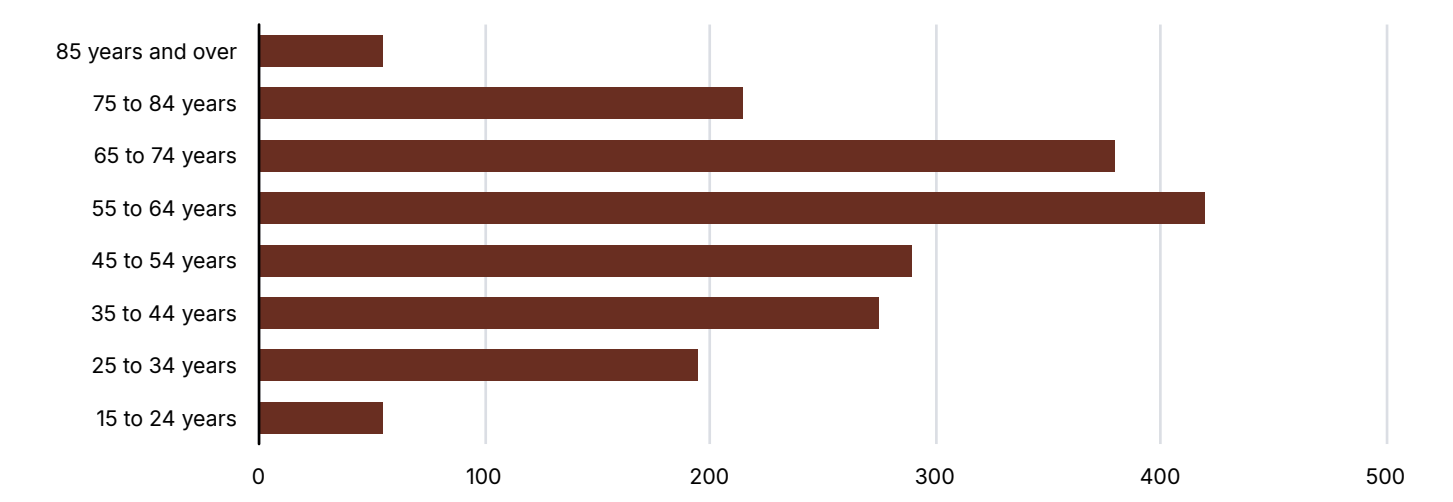


Figure 17.1: Shows the age of the primary household maintainer. It helps indicate which life stages are carrying primary financial responsibility for housing. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, primary household maintainers in Willow Creek No. 26 were concentrated in the middle and older age groups, with the largest count among those aged 55 to 64 years at 420 households. The 65 to 74 group followed at 380, and ages 45 to 54 stood at 290. Younger maintainers were less numerous, including 55 households each in the 15 to 24 and 85 years and over groups. The five-year changes show mixed movement. The 55 to 64 group declined by 16.8%, while 45 to 54 fell by 10.8%. By contrast, the 75 to 84 group grew by 59.3%, and the 85 years and over group rose by 450%, suggesting a shift toward older maintainers.

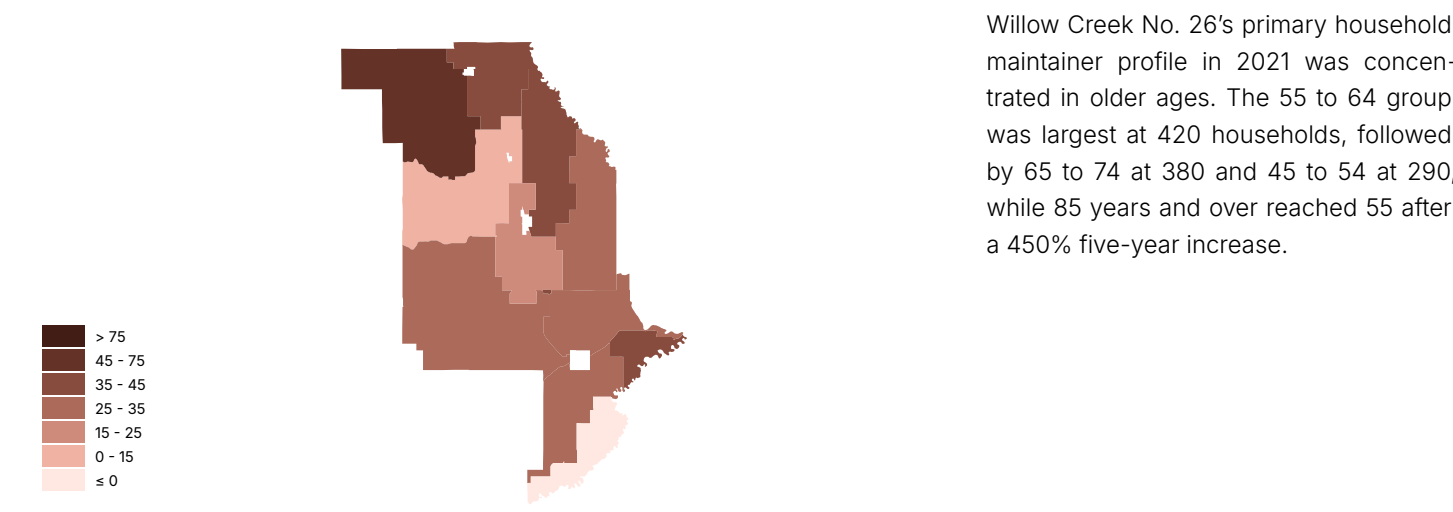


Figure 17.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Maintainer Age - 55 to 64 years (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Median Age

Willow Creek No. 26's median age was 41.6 years in 2021, up from 41.1 in 2016 and 39.6 in 2011. The five-year change slowed to 1.22%, compared with 3.79% previously.

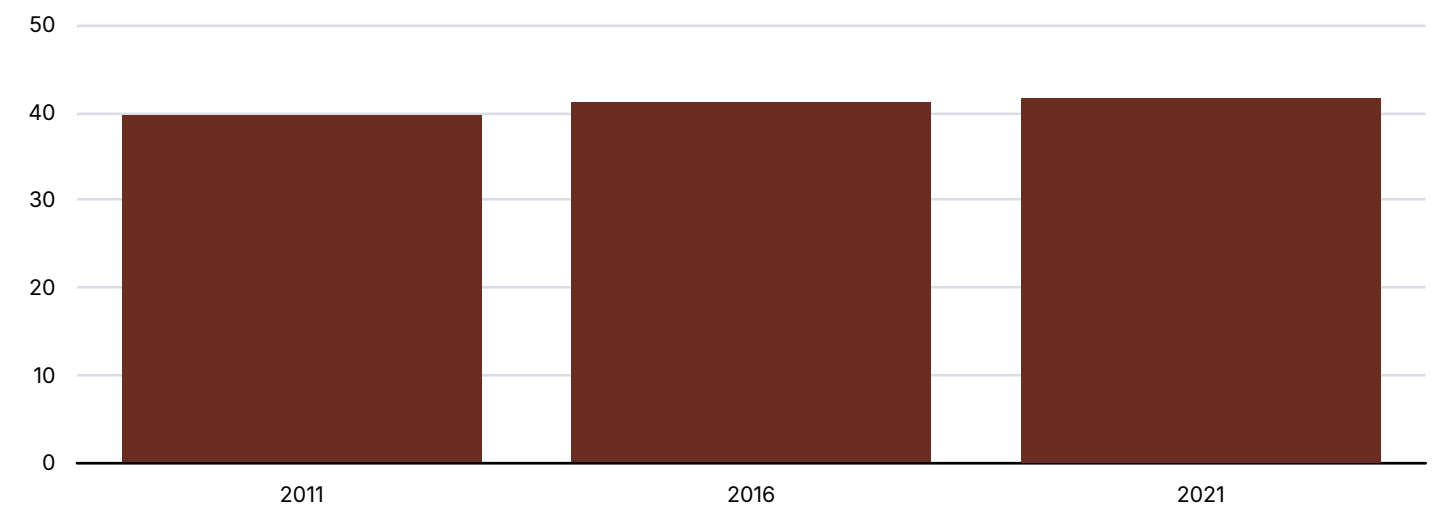
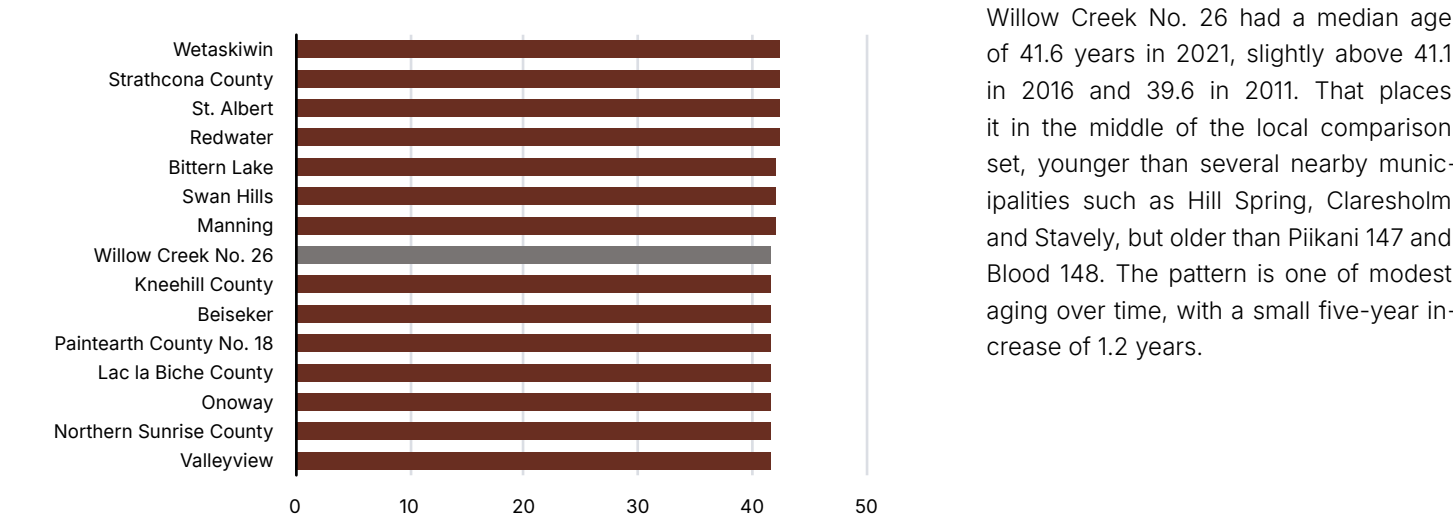


Figure 18.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26's median age has edged upward over the last decade, pointing to a slightly older population profile in the census subdivision's total population. The median age was 39.6 years in 2011, rose to 41.1 years in 2016, and reached 41.6 years in 2021. That is a gain of 2.0 years across the period. The pace of change slowed after 2016. The five-year change was 3.8% from 2011 to 2016, then 1.2% from 2016 to 2021. The pattern is steady rather than abrupt, with age increasing gradually across both censuses.



Willow Creek No. 26 had a median age of 41.6 years in 2021, slightly above 41.1 in 2016 and 39.6 in 2011. That places it in the middle of the local comparison set, younger than several nearby municipalities such as Hill Spring, Claresholm and Stavely, but older than Piikani 147 and Blood 148. The pattern is one of modest aging over time, with a small five-year increase of 1.2 years.

Figure 18.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Family Size

Two-person families were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021 at 840 people, up 14.3% from 2016. Five-or-more-person families rose faster, increasing 15.8% to 220 people.

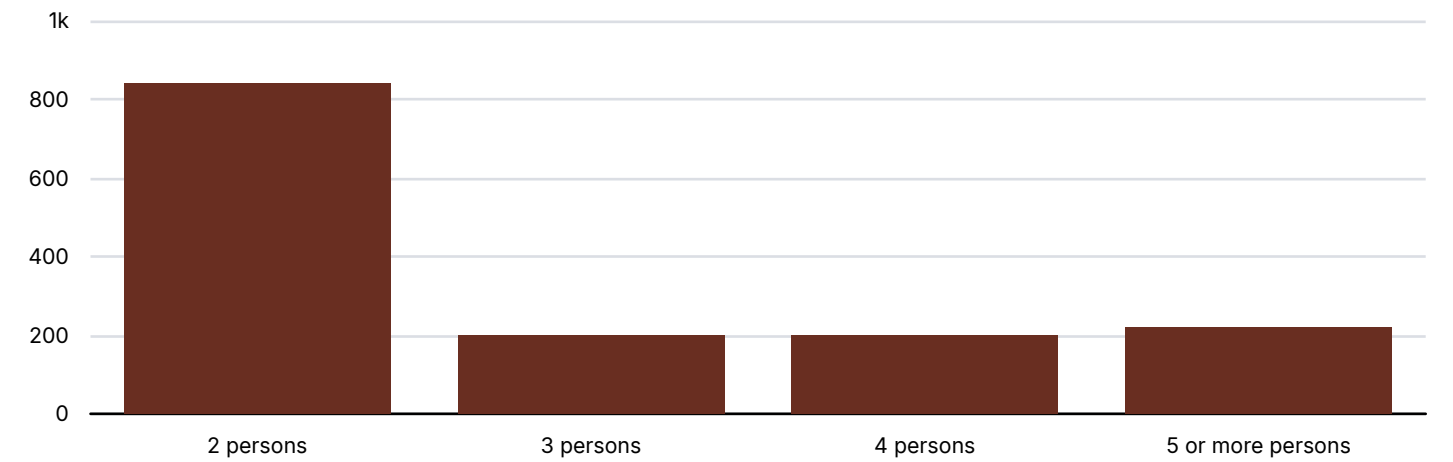
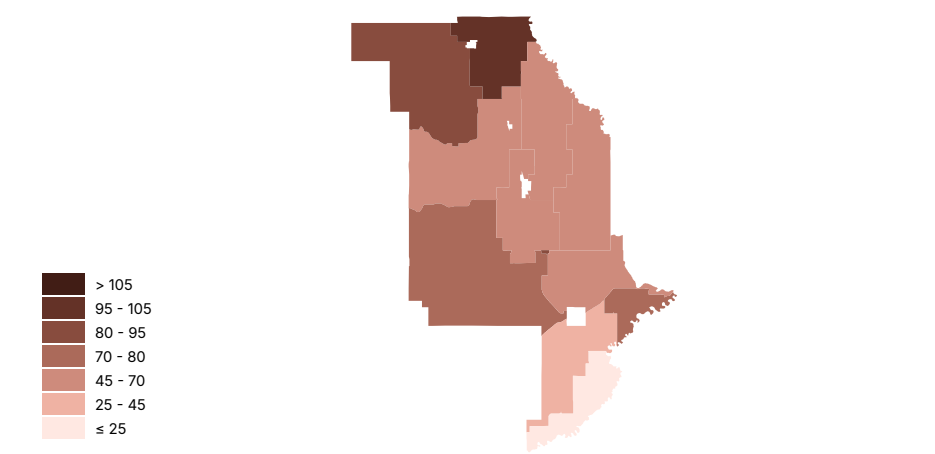


Figure 19.1: Shows the number of people in family households. It helps indicate household composition and the space families may need. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, family households in 2021 were most commonly made up of 2 people, with 840 such families. Smaller shares were recorded for 3-person families and 4-person families, at 200 each, while 5 or more people accounted for 220 families. The 5-year change pattern suggests growth across most sizes: 2-person families rose 14.3%, 4-person families increased 8.1%, and 5-or-more-person families grew 15.8%. By contrast, 3-person families were unchanged over the period. The mix points to a household structure led by smaller families, with some expansion at the larger end.



Willow Creek No. 26 is weighted toward smaller family households, with 2-person families the clear largest group in 2021. There were 840 people in 2-person families, compared with 220 in families of 5 or more persons. Three-person and 4-person families were equal at 200 people each. This pattern is echoed in nearby areas, where 2-person families usually remain the largest category, though some places show stronger counts in larger families. The mix suggests a family structure centered on smaller households, with a modest presence of larger families alongside them.

Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Size - 2 persons (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Population Estimates, Tables 17-10-0005-01, 17-10-0150-01, 17-10-0148-01, 17-10-0152-01, and 17-10-0155-01. Published in Jan 14, 2026.

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