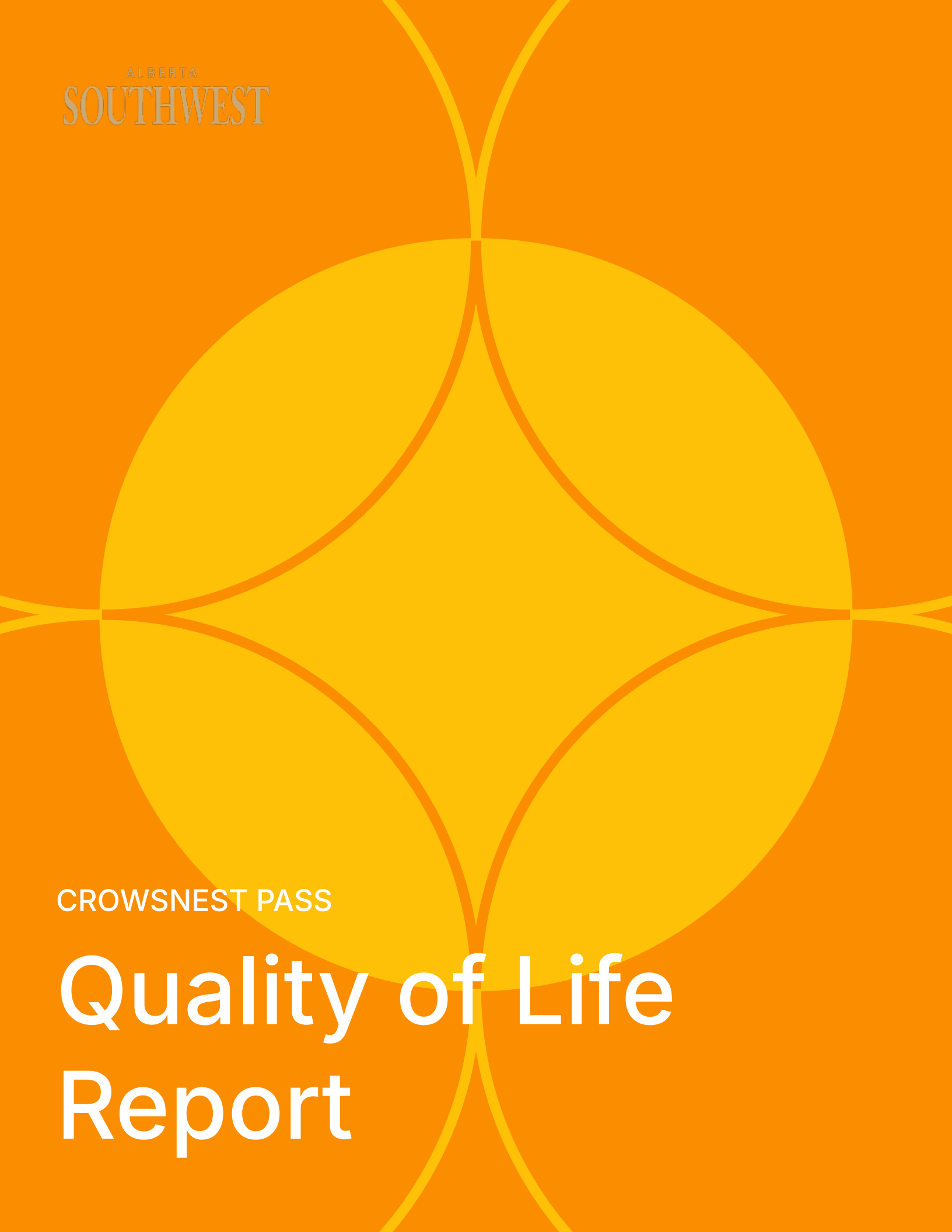




ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

CROWSNEST PASS

Quality of Life Report

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Executive Summary

Crowsnest Pass in 2021 appears as an older, low-density community with a settled population profile and relatively limited diversity across several measures. Its median age continued to rise, reaching 52.8, while the population remained spread across a large land area with only modest growth in density over time. English dominated the mother tongue profile by a wide margin, and immigrant populations were small relative to the much larger non-immigrant population. The religious picture was similarly concentrated, with residents divided mainly between those reporting no religion and those identifying as Christian, while other faith groups were present only in very small numbers.

Households and families were shaped less by child-rearing arrangements than by later-life or smaller-household patterns. Couple households without children formed the largest group, and one-person households were nearly as common, while couple households with children declined sharply over five years. Family structure remained centred on married couples, but the strongest presence was among couples without children, and one-parent families changed little. The education profile was weighted toward high school, college, and trades credentials rather than university degrees, although growth occurred across all credential levels. Household income was concentrated in the middle and upper ranges, and housing tenure was strongly owner-based, with ownership rising while renting edged down. Shelter costs for owners and renters were close to one another and both higher than five years earlier.

The broader picture is of a community with longstanding roots and gradual rather than abrupt change. Ethnic origin remained varied but led by long-established European ancestries, most of which declined over the period, and linguistic and immigration patterns point to limited inflows relative to the existing population base. Housing conditions also appear comparatively stable, with only a small minority of households in core housing need. Crowsnest Pass therefore comes through as a mature and predominantly established municipality: older, largely English-speaking, strongly oriented toward homeownership, and increasingly shaped by smaller households rather than families with children.

Religion

No religion and secular perspectives was the largest group in Crowsnest Pass in 2021, at 2,845 people. Christian affiliation followed at 2,725, while other religions and spiritual traditions totalled 40 and Muslim 10.

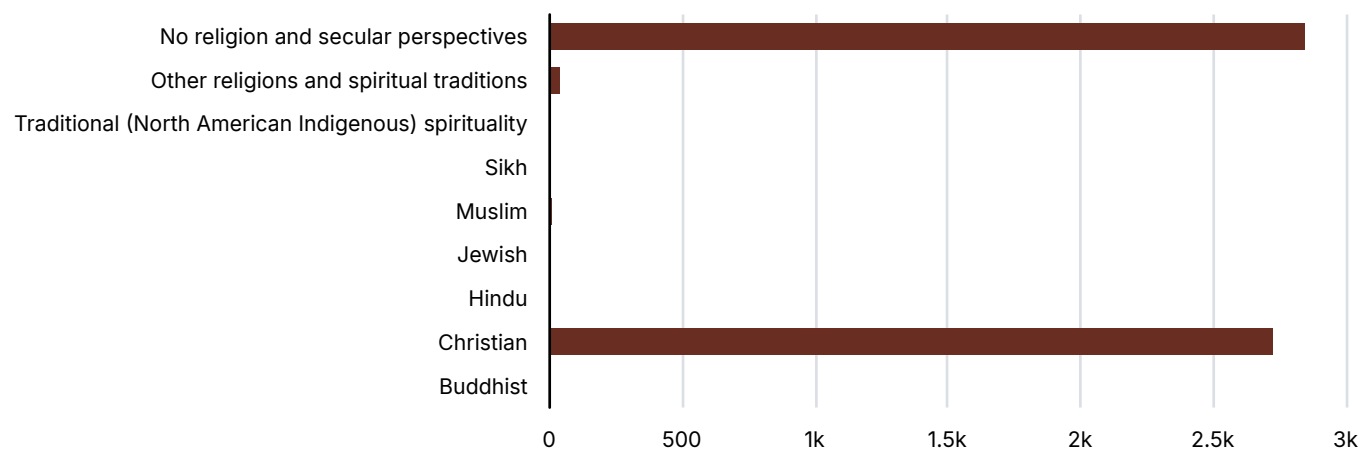
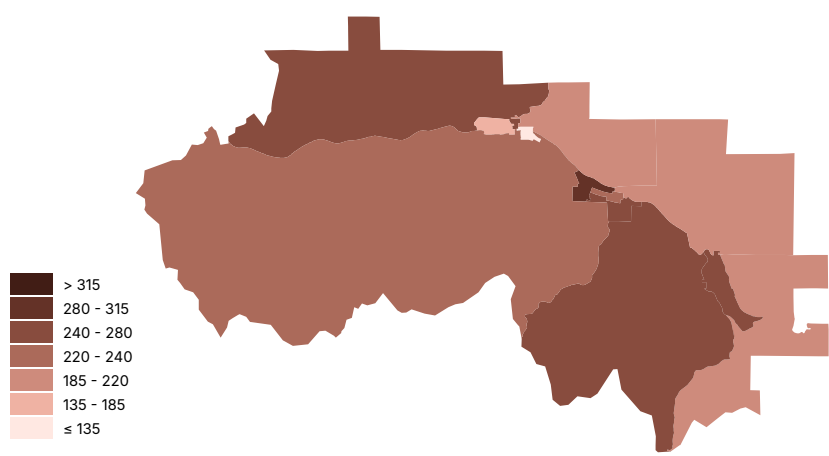


Figure 1.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In 2021, religion in Crowsnest Pass was shaped mainly by two large groups: 2,845 residents reported no religion or secular perspectives, while 2,725 identified as Christian. That puts the community close to a split between secular and Christian affiliation. Smaller groups were much less common, with 40 people reporting other religions and spiritual traditions and 10 identifying as Muslim. Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, and Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality each recorded no residents. The pattern suggests a relatively concentrated religious profile, with little visible representation from minority faith groups in the census count.



Religion in Crowsnest Pass shows a clear split between Christian affiliation and no religion and secular perspectives in 2021. Christians numbered 2,725 people, while 2,845 reported no religion. Other affiliations were much smaller: 40 people reported other religions and spiritual traditions, 10 reported Muslim, and Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh and traditional Indigenous spirituality were each recorded at zero.

Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - No religion and secular perspectives (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Family Type

Married couple without children remained the largest family type in Crowsnest Pass at 825 people in 2021, down 16.7% from 2016. Married couples with children also declined, falling 19.6% to 430 people.

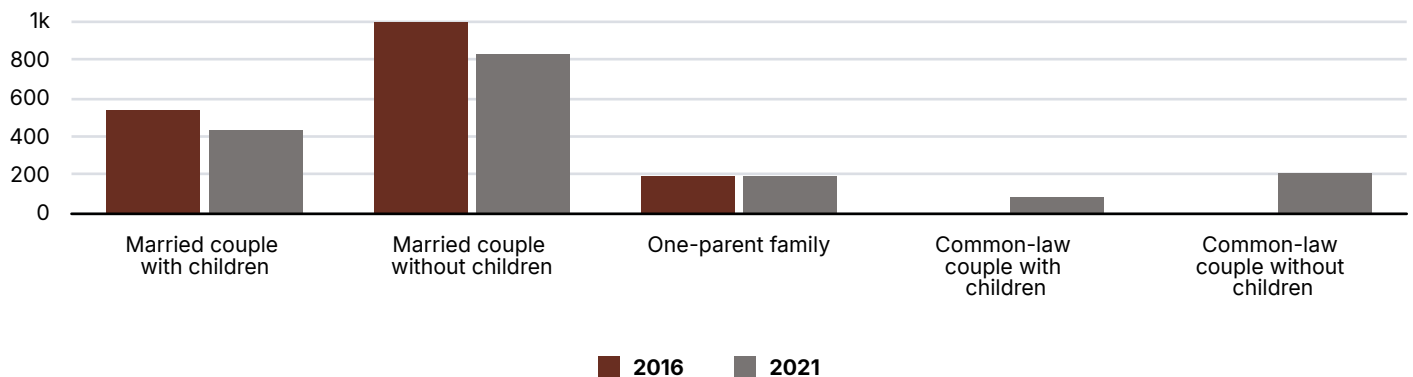


Figure 2.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Crowsnest Pass, 2016-2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, census families in private households were concentrated among couple families in 2021, with 825 married couples without children and 430 married couples with children. Common-law couples were smaller groups, at 205 without children and 80 with children. One-parent families numbered 190. The 5-year change points to recent declines in the married-couple categories, down 16.7% and 19.6%, while one-parent families were unchanged. The family structure was still couple-heavy, but recent movement was weaker in those larger groups.

In Crowsnest Pass, census families in private households are dominated by married couples, especially those without children. In 2021, there were 825 married couple families without children and 430 married couple families with children, far more than other family types. Common-law couple families were smaller, at 205 without children and 80 with children. One-parent families numbered 190. The 5-year changes point to decline in the married-couple categories, while one-parent families were unchanged. The family profile is still centered on couple families.

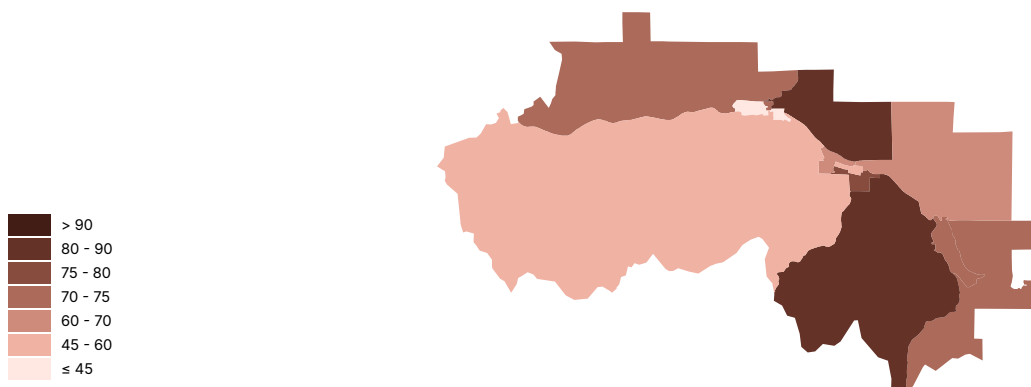


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Ethnic Origin

English was the largest ethnic origin group in Crowsnest Pass in 2021, at 1,705 people, down 9.6% over five years. Canadian fell fastest, dropping 26.8% to 845 people.

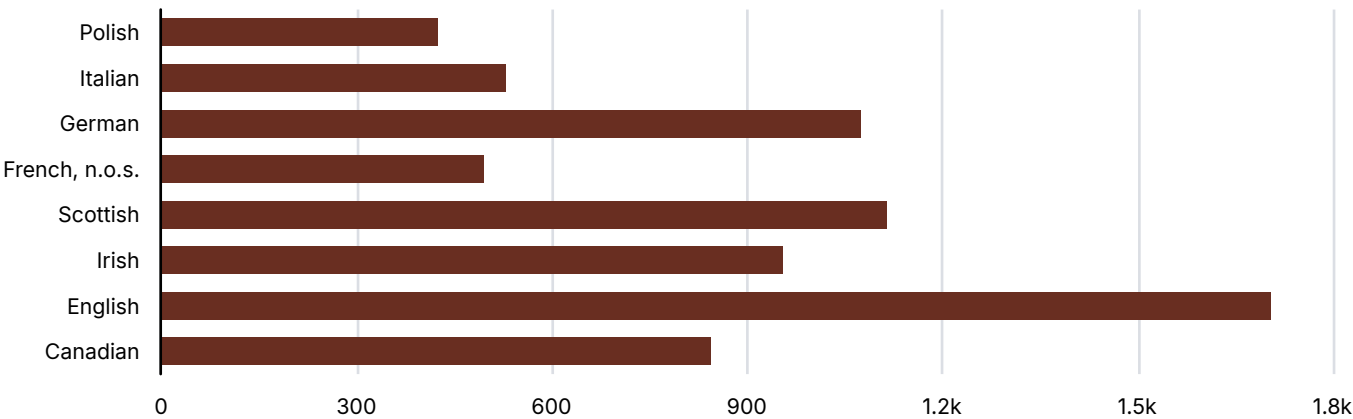


Figure 3.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, ethnic origin in 2021 was led by English, Scottish and German origins, with 1,705 people reporting English, 1,115 Scottish and 1,075 German. Irish followed at 955, while Canadian accounted for 845. Smaller groups included Italian at 530, French, n.o.s. at 495 and Polish at 425. The 5-year change shows most origins declining, including Canadian (-26.8%), Scottish (-11.5%) and English (-9.6%). Italian was the main exception, rising 11.6%.

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass showed a varied ethnic origin profile, with English ancestry the largest at 1,705 people, followed by Scottish at 1,115, German at 1,075, Irish at 955 and Canadian at 845. Most of these major origins declined over the previous five years, including Canadian (-26.8%), English (-9.6%) and Scottish (-11.5%), while Italian rose to 530, up 11.6%. The pattern suggests a community with long-established ancestry links and some shift in composition over time.

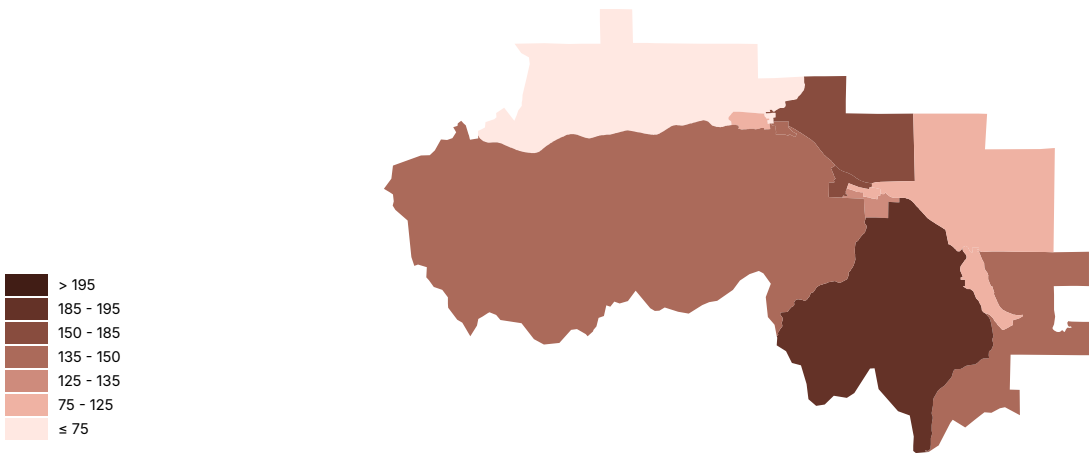


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Mother Tongue

English remained the largest mother tongue in Crowsnest Pass at 5,210 people, up 3.6% over five years. Arabic was the fastest-growing group, rising 200% to 15, while French fell 13.3% to 65.

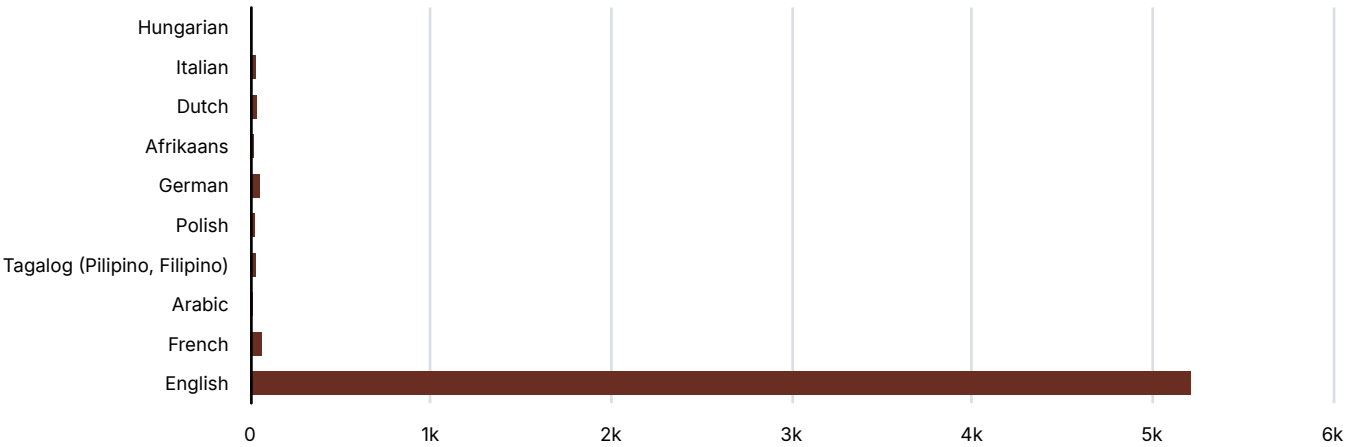
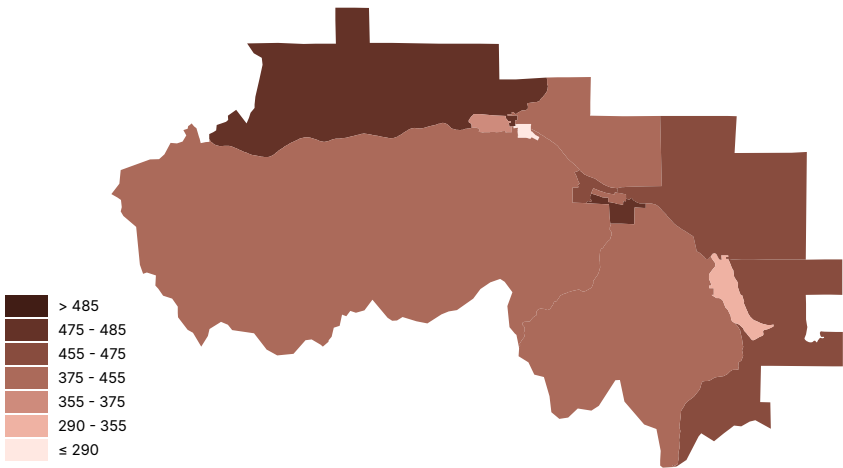


Figure 4.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

Crowsnest Pass’s mother tongue profile in 2021 is strongly centered on English, which accounted for 5,210 people in the population excluding institutional residents. French was the next largest language group at 65 people, while German, Dutch, Tagalog, Italian, Polish, Afrikaans, Arabic, and Hungarian were all much smaller. The 5-year change pattern shows English rising 3.6% and Arabic and Tagalog doubling or more, while French fell 13.3% and Italian and Polish declined more sharply. The mix points to a largely stable English-speaking base with smaller language groups changing at different rates.



Crowsnest Pass’s mother tongue profile in 2021 was strongly centered on English, which accounted for 5,210 people. French was a distant second at 65, while German was reported for 55 residents and Dutch for 35. Smaller counts appeared for Tagalog and Italian, both at 30, as well as Polish at 25. Among the languages with change data, Arabic rose sharply from a low base, while French, German and Italian declined. The pattern suggests a largely English-speaking community with limited linguistic diversity.

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

Population Density

Crowsnest Pass population density reached 15.4 people per square kilometre in 2021, up from 15.0 in 2016 and 14.9 in 2011. The five-year change was 2.7%, with a smaller earlier increase.

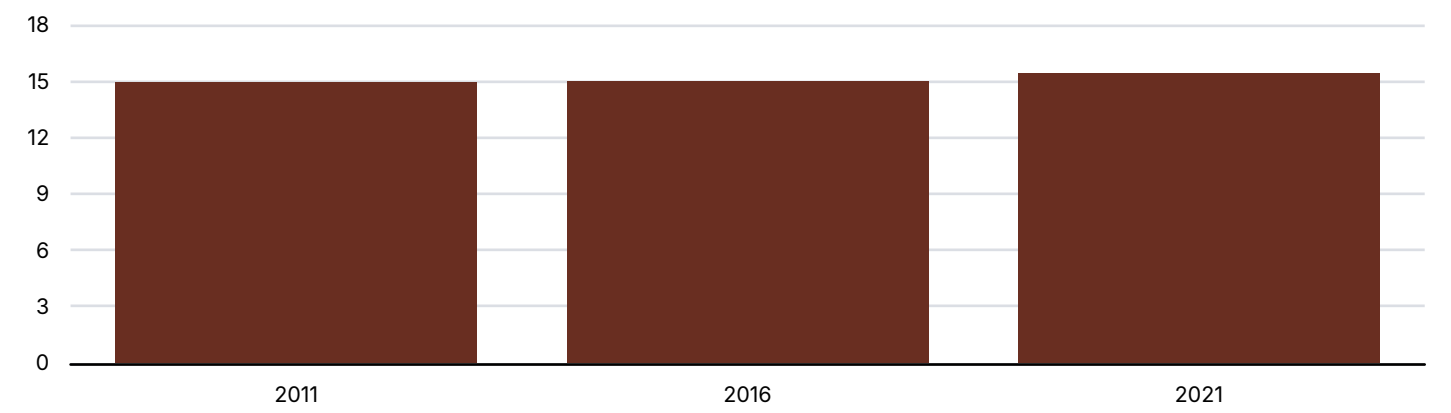


Figure 5.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Crowsnest Pass, 2011-2021)¹

Crowsnest Pass has remained a low-density place, with 14.9 people per km² in 2011, 15.0 in 2016, and 15.4 in 2021. The pattern is steady rather than abrupt, with density edging up by 0.7% over the first five-year period and by 2.7% in the next. That gradual rise suggests a population spread across the land area that has become slightly more concentrated over time, but only modestly so.

Crowsnest Pass had a population density of 15.4 people per km² in 2021, up from 15.0 in 2016 and 14.9 in 2011. That places it well above several nearby specialized municipalities with very sparse settlement, including Kananaskis at 0, Ranchland No. 66 at 0, and Bighorn No. 8 at 0.6. It remains far below denser places such as Canmore at 233.5 and Banff at 2,033.8. The pattern points to a moderately populated rural municipality with limited concentration.

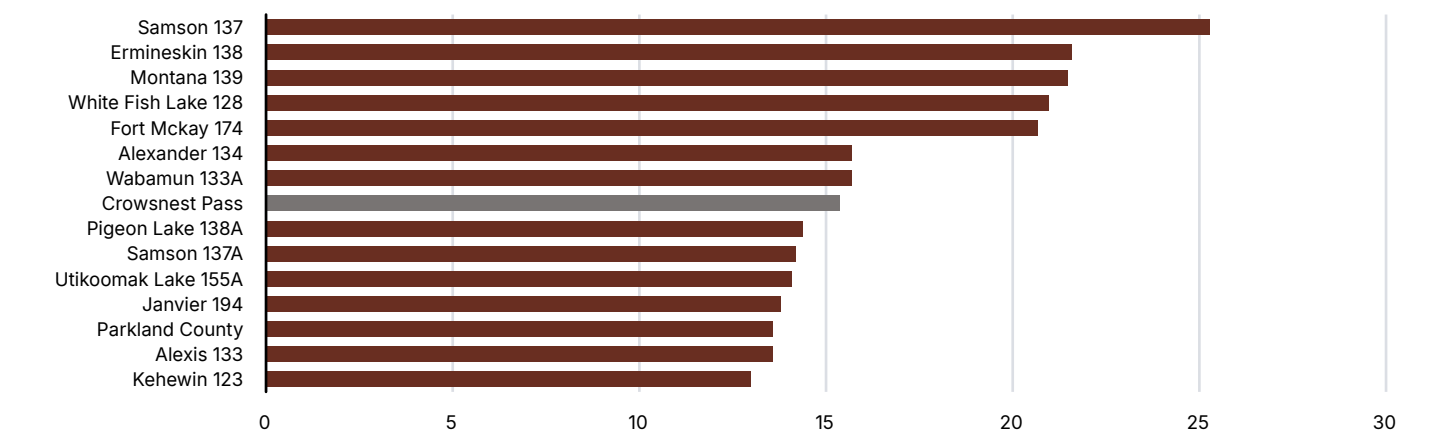


Figure 5.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

Highest Education Level

In Crowsnest Pass, high school diploma or equivalency was the largest credential group in 2021 at 1,465 people, up 68.4% from 2016. Master's degrees rose fastest, to 145 people, up 190.0%.

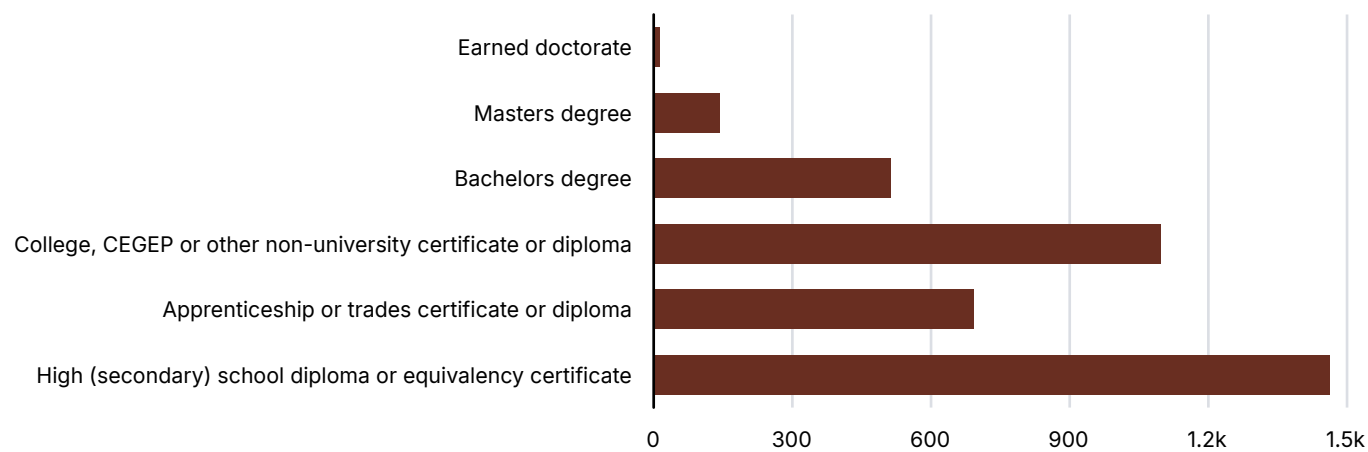
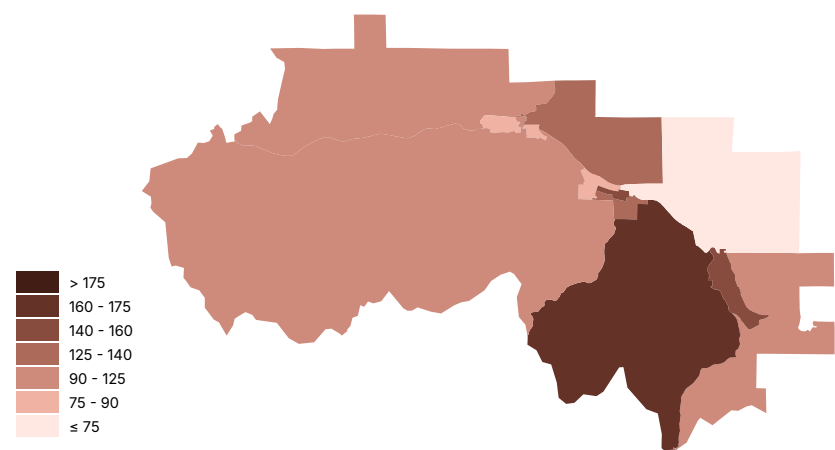


Figure 6.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, the highest education levels recorded in 2021 point to steady growth across every credential group for residents age 15 and over. The largest category was a high school diploma or equivalent, with 1,465 people, followed by 1,100 with a college, CEGEP or other non-university credential. Apprenticeship or trades certificates or diplomas reached 695 people, while 515 had a bachelor's degree. Higher credentials were smaller in count but showed the strongest growth, with 145 people holding a master's degree and 15 an earned doctorate. The five-year changes were positive across all listed categories.



In Crowsnest Pass, the 2021 education profile was concentrated in non-university credentials, with 1,465 residents holding a high school diploma, 1,100 a college or other non-university certificate, and 695 a trades certificate or diploma. University credentials were less common, including 515 bachelor's degrees, 145 master's degrees, and 15 doctorates. The strongest five-year growth was in master's degrees, up 190%, while high school diplomas rose 68.4%.

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

Household Type

Couple-family households without children remained the largest group in Crowsnest Pass at 995 households in 2021, up 1.0% from 2016. One-person households followed at 945, while couple-family households with children fell 31.2% to 485.

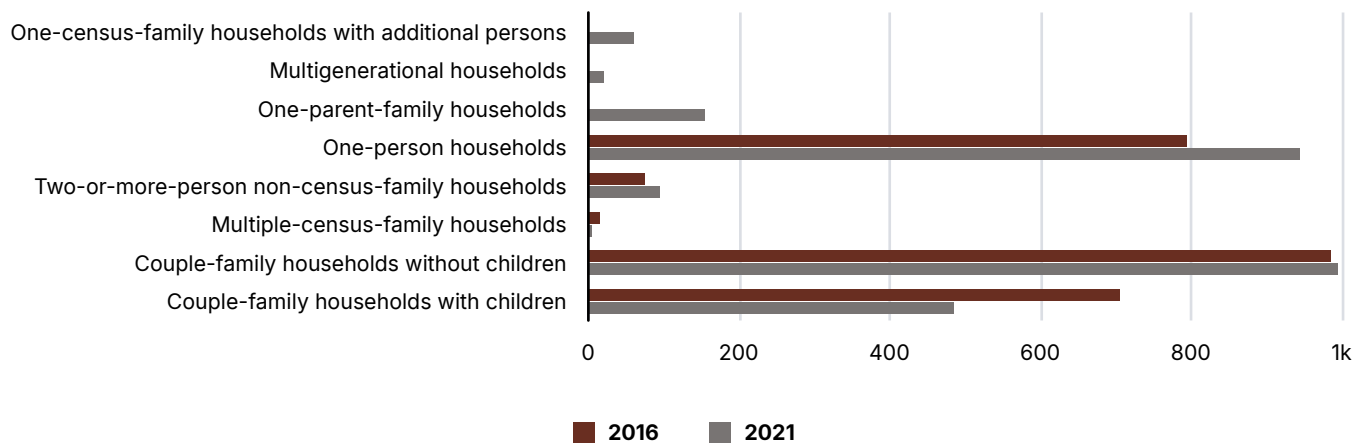


Figure 7.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Crowsnest Pass, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass showed a household mix led by couple-family households without children, at 995 households, and one-person households, at 945. Couple-family households with children were also prominent, at 485, but they were down 31.2% over five years. By contrast, one-person households rose 18.9%, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased 26.7%. Smaller household types remained limited, including 155 one-parent-family households and 20 multigenerational households. The pattern points to gradual change within the local household structure, with growth concentrated in smaller or non-traditional arrangements and weaker momentum in families with children.

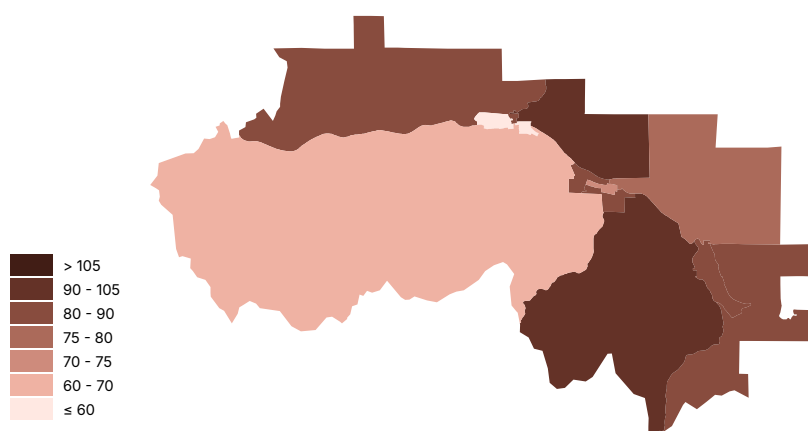


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Crowsnest Pass)¹

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass had a household mix led by couple-family households without children, at 995 households, followed closely by one-person households at 945 and couple-family households with children at 485. One-parent-family households numbered 155, while two-or-more-person non-census-family households totaled 95. The pattern points to a community where couple-based and solo living arrangements make up most private households, with smaller counts in multigenerational and multiple-family categories. Over five years, one-person households rose 18.9%, while couple-family households with children fell 31.2%.

Average Shelter Costs

Crowsnest Pass had average monthly shelter costs of \$1,111 for owners and \$1,072 for renters in 2021. Both were above 2016 levels, rising 12.7% and 10.9% respectively, with owners slightly higher.

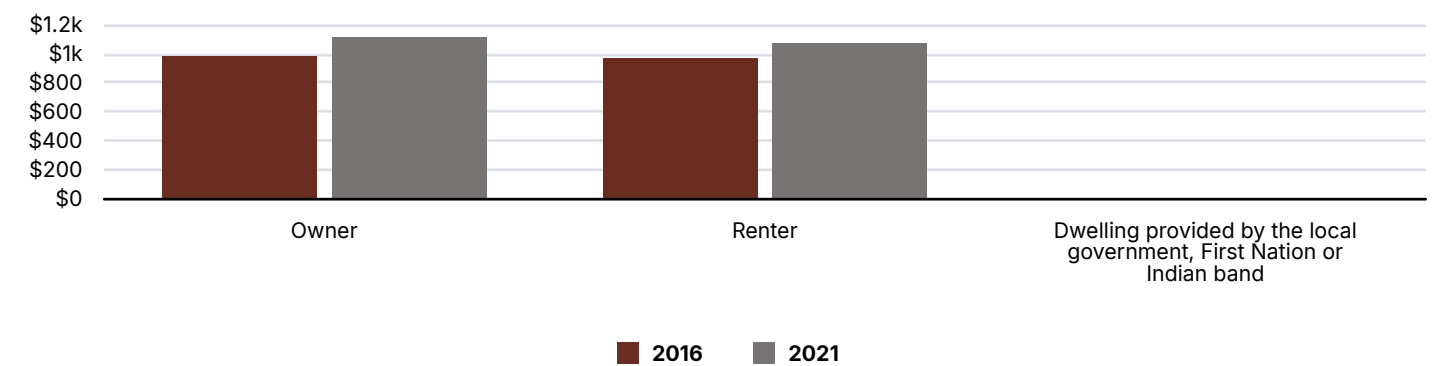


Figure 8.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Crowsnest Pass, 2016-2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, average shelter costs in 2021 were higher for owners than for renters, with owner households paying \$1,111 per month and renter households paying \$1,072. Both figures point to a similar cost level across tenure types, even though ownership remained slightly more expensive. The five-year changes were also positive: owner costs rose 12.7% and renter costs increased 10.9%. Housing provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band was reported at \$0.

In 2021, average shelter costs in Crowsnest Pass were modestly higher for owners than for renters, within owner and tenant households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. Owners paid an average of \$1,111 per month, while renters paid \$1,072. The gap between the two tenures was small at \$39. Households in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band reported \$0, indicating no recorded shelter cost in that category. This pattern suggests fairly similar monthly shelter expenses across tenure types, with ownership only slightly above renting. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

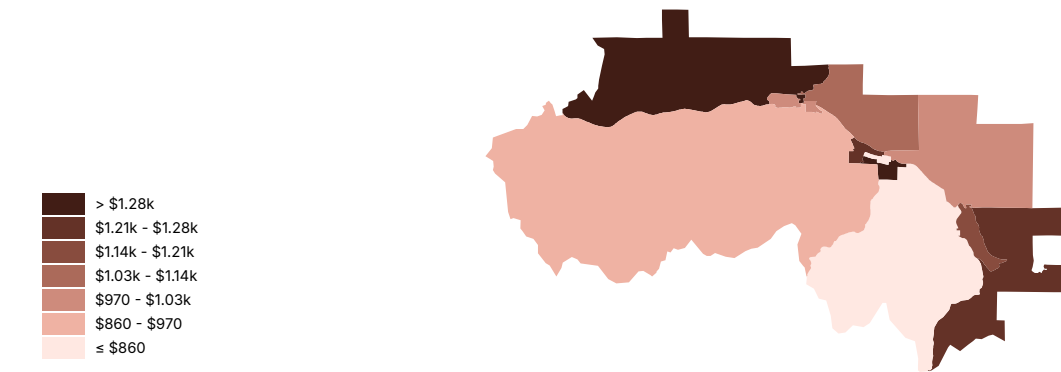


Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Housing Tenure

Owner households remained the largest tenure group in Crowsnest Pass in 2021 at 2,330, up 10.4% from 2016. Renter households numbered 430, down 6.5%, while government-provided dwellings stayed at zero.

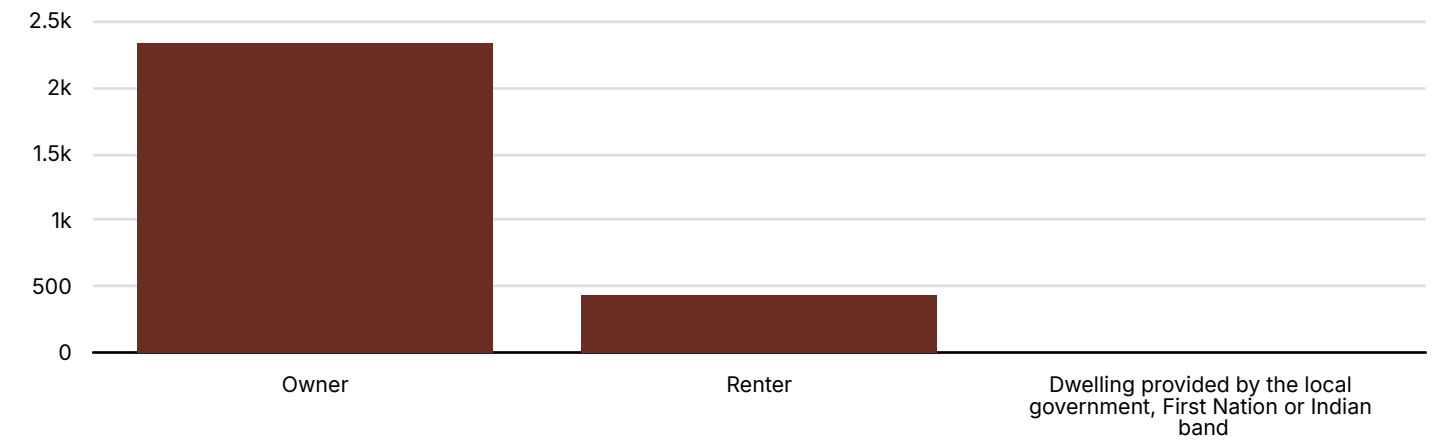
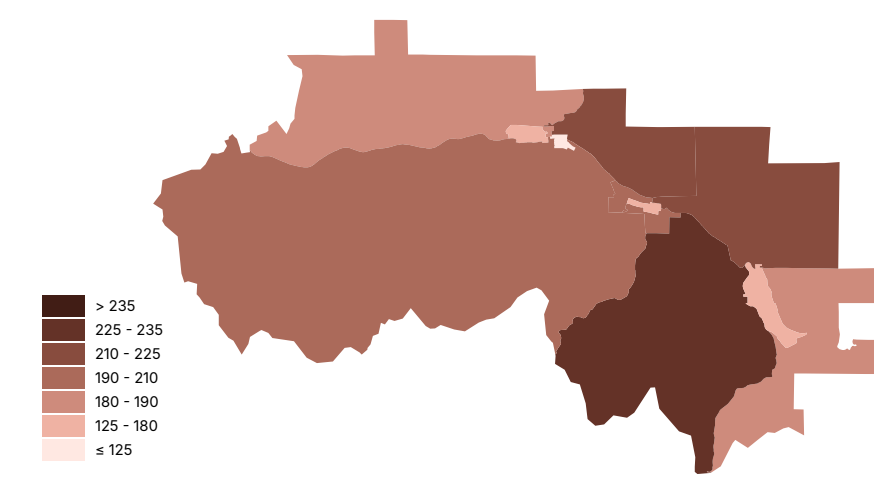


Figure 9.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, housing tenure in 2021 shows a clear tilt toward ownership among private households. Owner households numbered 2,330, while renter households totalled 430. The five-year change points in different directions. Owner households increased by 10.4% over the period, while renter households declined by 6.5%. The category for dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band had no households recorded. Taken together, the figures show a tenure pattern dominated by owners, with renting making up a smaller share of the housing base. The recent trend also suggests that ownership remained the stronger tenure category through the five-year period.



In Crowsnest Pass, housing tenure in 2021 was strongly owner-based. Among private households, 2,330 were owner-occupied and 430 were rented, while no dwellings were provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. That mix points to a tenure profile dominated by ownership, with renters forming a smaller share. Over five years, owners increased by 10.4%, while renters declined by 6.5%, reinforcing that pattern.

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

Household Total Income Groups

Crowsnest Pass households were concentrated in higher income bands in 2021, led by \$150,000 to \$199,999 with 275 households. The \$5,000 to \$9,999 group fell to 10 households, down 66.67% over five years.

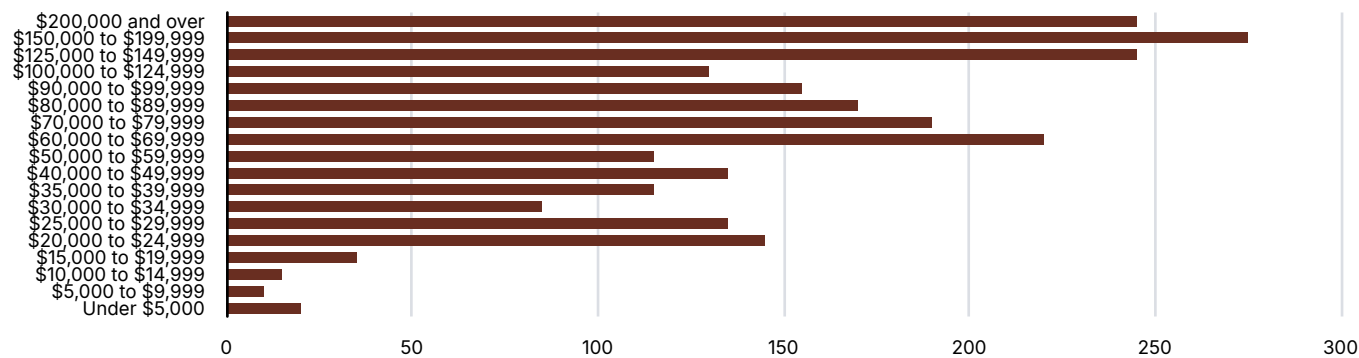


Figure 10.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass had a household income distribution that was concentrated in the middle and upper ranges, with the largest counts in \$150,000 to \$199,999 and \$200,000 and over, at 275 households and 245 households. Lower-income groups were smaller, including 20 households under \$5,000 and 10 households at \$5,000 to \$9,999. The 5-year changes show mixed movement: several lower brackets fell sharply, while higher brackets generally grew, including 32.4% in \$200,000 and over and 41.7% in \$80,000 to \$89,999.

Crowsnest Pass has a household income distribution in 2021 that tilts toward middle and higher income groups, while the lowest brackets are comparatively small. Among private households, 275 fell in the \$150,000 to \$199,999 range and 245 were in both the \$125,000 to \$149,999 and \$200,000 and over brackets. The middle remains broad, led by 220 households at \$60,000 to \$69,999 and 190 at \$70,000 to \$79,999. Lower-income groups were much smaller, including 20 households under \$5,000 and 10 in each of the \$5,000 to \$9,999 and \$10,000 to \$14,999 ranges.

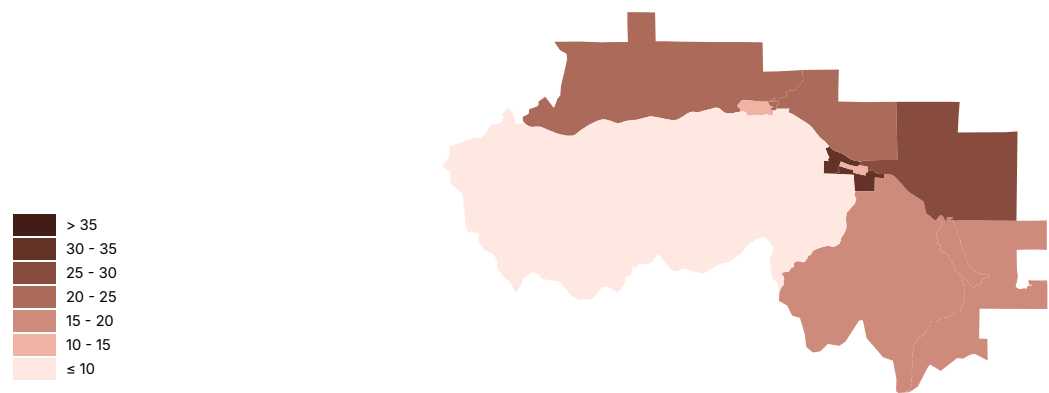


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$150,000 to \$199,999 (Crowsnest Pass)¹

High School Completion

In Crowsnest Pass, high school completion was the largest credential group in 2021, with 3,890 people holding a diploma or equivalency certificate compared with 1,030 with no certificate, diploma or degree.

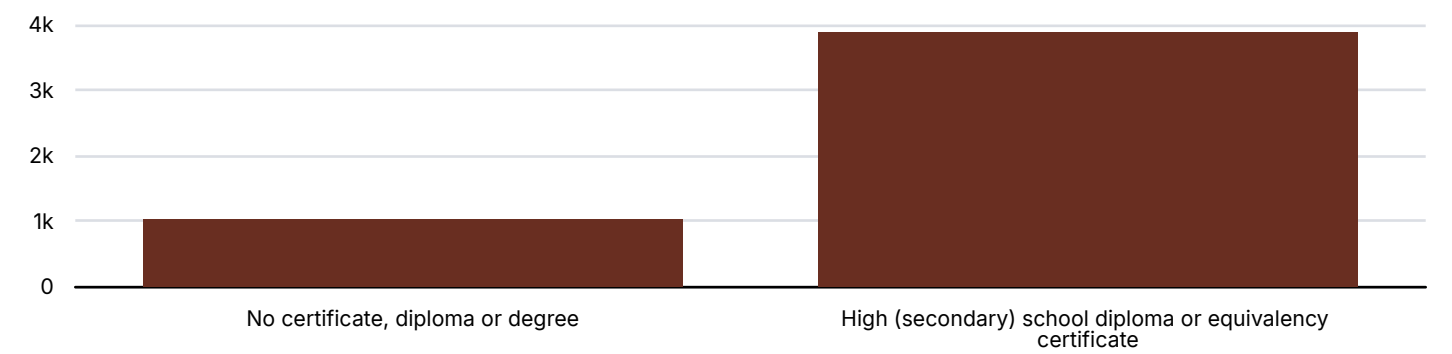


Figure 11.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, high school completion in 2021 shows a clear split between residents aged 15 and over with a secondary credential and those without one. The most common category was a high school diploma or equivalent, with 3,890 people, compared with 1,030 people who reported no certificate, diploma, or degree. That pattern suggests the local population had a stronger base of secondary attainment than non-completion, though the dataset does not show higher education levels or change over time.

In Crowsnest Pass, high school completion is the larger part of the education profile for residents aged 15 and over in private households. In 2021, 3,890 people had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, while 1,030 had no certificate, diploma or degree. That leaves completion well ahead of non-completion by nearly four to one. Across the descendant dissemination areas, completion also exceeds non-completion in every area shown, ranging from 215 to 420 people with a diploma or equivalency. The pattern suggests a broadly completed basic education base, with a smaller but still notable group without formal credentials.

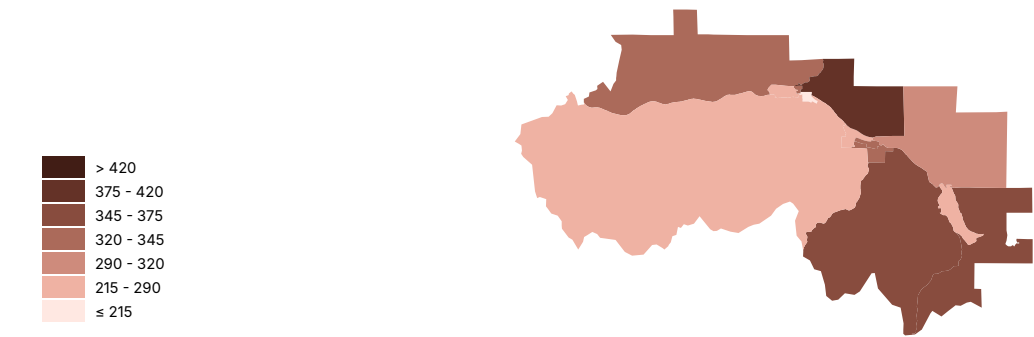


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Core Housing Need

Crowsnest Pass had 2,615 households not in core housing need in 2021, compared with 120 households in core need. The not-in-need group was the largest, outnumbering the core-need group by 2,495 households.

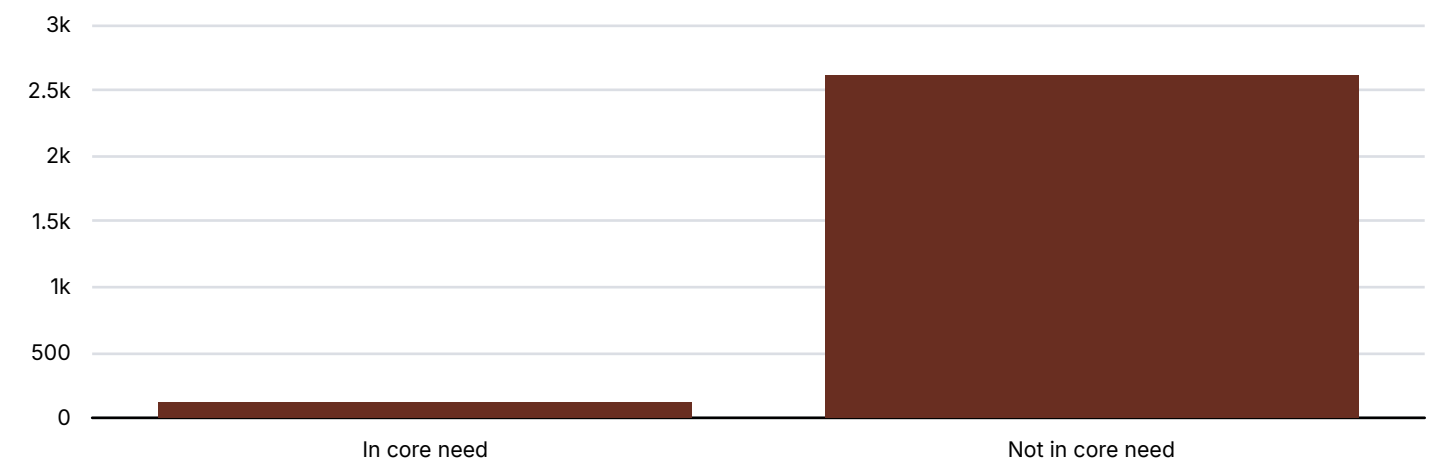
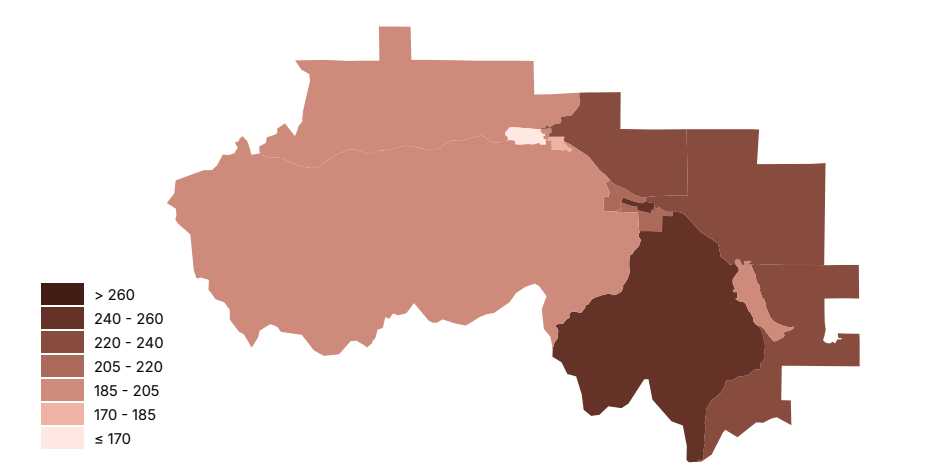


Figure 12.1: Shows the share of households living in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs. It helps indicate overall housing stress in the community. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, core housing need in 2021 was limited to a relatively small share of households compared with those not in core need. The census counted 120 households in core need and 2,615 not in core need, within the population of owner and tenant households covered by the measure. Because the dataset provides only one year, it does not show a trend over time for this location. The figures point to a housing situation where most households were outside core need, while a smaller group still faced housing stress tied to affordability, suitability, or major repair needs.



In 2021, core housing need affected a small share of households in Crowsnest Pass. There were 120 households in core need, compared with 2,615 not in core need, which works out to about 4.4% of the total. Within the subdivision's dissemination areas, most recorded no households in core need, while three areas had 20 each. The pattern suggests housing stress was limited and unevenly distributed.

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

Median Age

Crowsnest Pass had a median age of 52.8 years in 2021, up from 50.9 in 2016 and 50.8 in 2011. The five-year change was 3.7%, showing an older midpoint age.

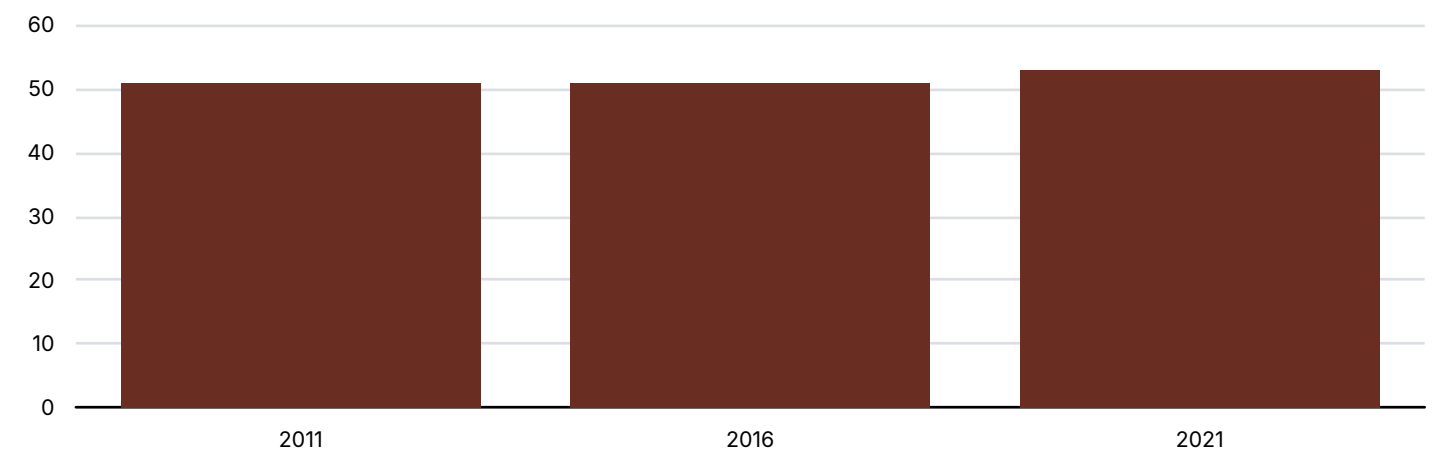


Figure 13.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Crowsnest Pass, 2011-2021)¹

Crowsnest Pass has a high median age for its total population, and it has edged upward over time. The median age was 50.8 years in 2011, 50.9 years in 2016, and 52.8 years in 2021. The change was modest at first, then more pronounced in the latest period, with a 0.2% increase from 2011 to 2016 and a 3.7% rise from 2016 to 2021. Taken together, the figures point to a steady aging pattern rather than a sharp shift.

Crowsnest Pass had a median age of 52.8 years in 2021, up from 50.9 in 2016 and 50.8 in 2011. That puts it among the older places in the comparison set, though not the oldest. Waiparous (57.2), Ghost Lake (60.0) and Ranchland No. 66 (54.4) were higher, while Canmore (42.8), Jasper (37.6) and Banff (36.8) were lower. The steady rise suggests an aging population mid-point rather than a short-term swing.

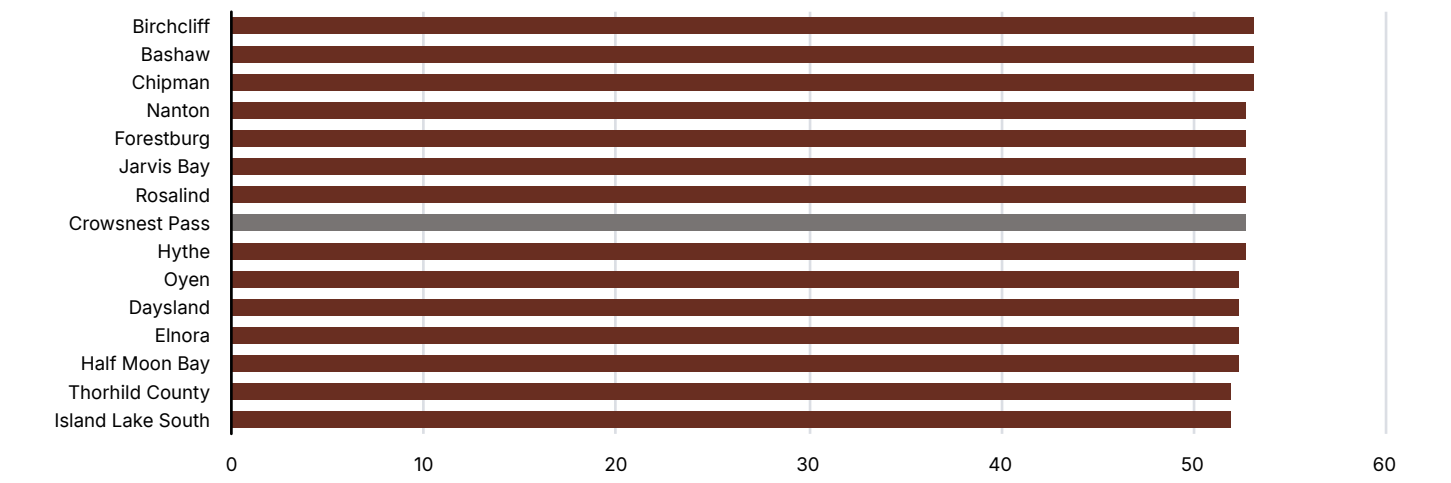


Figure 13.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

Age at Immigration

In Crowsnest Pass, immigrants arrived most often at ages 25 to 44, rising to 210 people in 2021 from 185 in 2016. Under 5 years fell to 50, while 45 years and over held at 45.

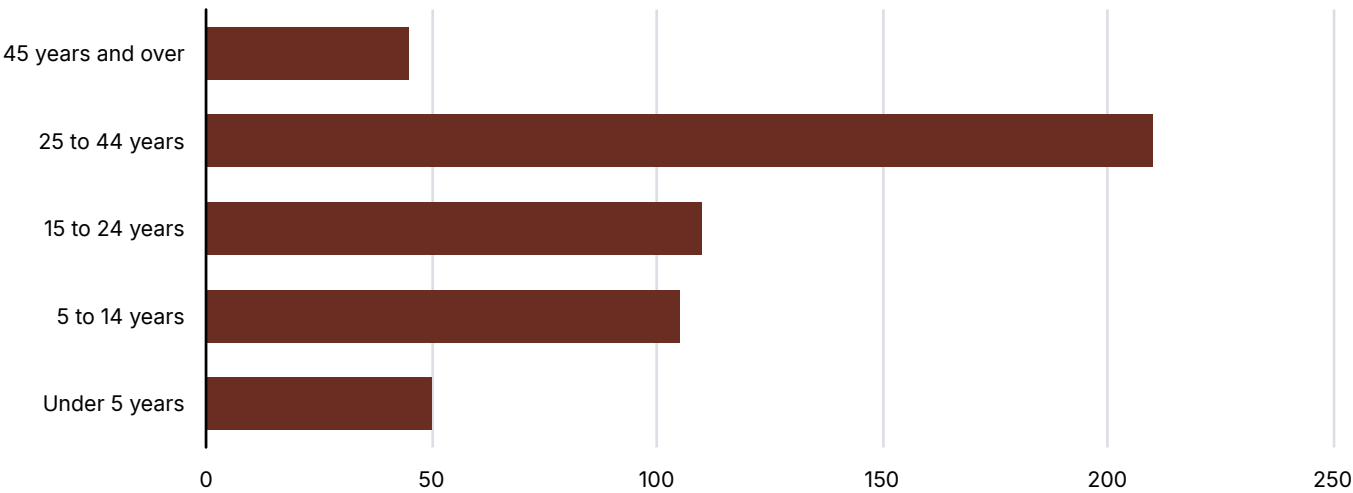
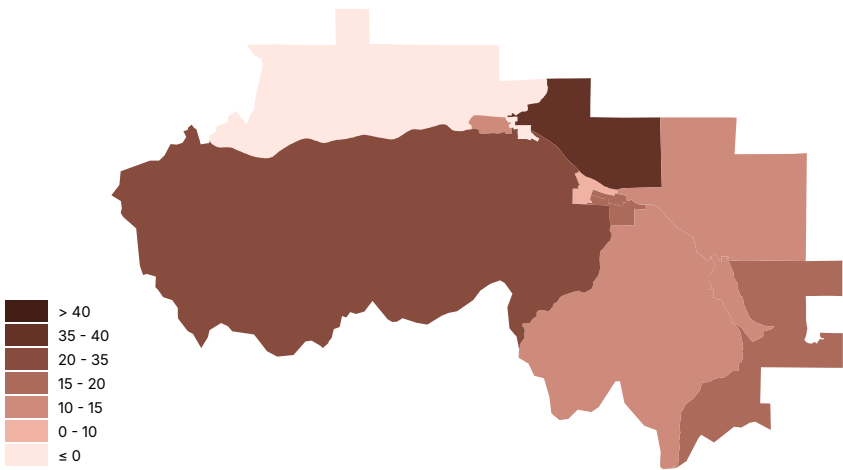


Figure 14.1: Shows the age at which immigrants first arrived in the country. It helps explain whether newcomers arrived mainly as children, working-age adults, or older adults. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In Crowsnest Pass, immigrants in private households were most often counted in working-age arrival groups in 2021. The largest cohort was those who arrived at ages 25 to 44, at 210 people, and that group also posted the strongest 5-year increase, up 13.5%. By contrast, arrivals at ages 5 to 14 and 15 to 24 were smaller, at 105 and 110 people, and both declined slightly over five years. Those who arrived under age 5 numbered 50 and fell 23.1%, while arrivals at 45 years and over remained the smallest group at 45.



In 2021, Crowsnest Pass’s immigrant population in private households was mainly made up of people who arrived at working age. The 25 to 44 group was largest at 210 people, followed by 15 to 24 years at 110 and 5 to 14 years at 105. Under 5 years accounted for 50, while 45 years and over was smallest at 45. Five-year change was strongest for arrivals at 25 to 44 years, up 13.5%, while under 5 years fell 23.1%. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile

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

Immigrant Status

Non-immigrants remained the largest group in Crowsnest Pass, rising to 5,100 people in 2021. Immigrants edged down to 510, while non-permanent residents increased to 20, a 33.3% gain over five years.

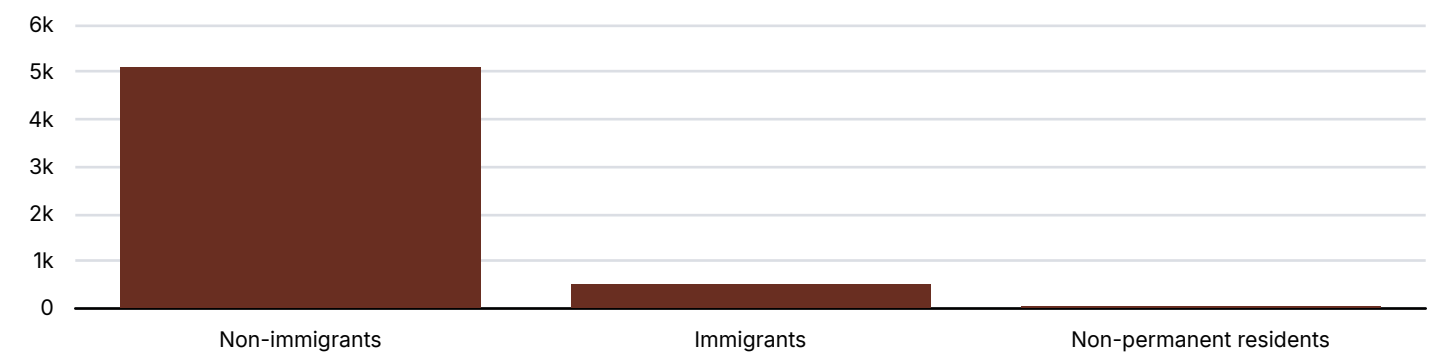


Figure 15.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)¹

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass’s immigrant status profile was dominated by non-immigrants, who numbered 5,100 people and rose 2.7% over five years. Immigrants accounted for 510 residents and declined 2.9% in the same period, while non-permanent residents totalled 20 and increased 33.3% from a very small base. The pattern suggests a community where non-immigrants make up most of the population, with immigrant counts slightly down and temporary residents increasing, though still few in number.

Crowsnest Pass had 5,100 non-immigrants in 2021, far more than its 510 immigrants and 20 non-permanent residents in the population living in private households. That mix shows a community where non-immigrants make up the clear majority, while immigrants account for a smaller share and non-permanent residents are minimal. Over the previous five years, non-immigrants increased by 2.7%, while immigrants declined by 2.9%. Non-permanent residents rose from a very small base, up 33.3%. The pattern suggests immigration plays a limited role in the local population profile, with stability driven mainly by the much larger non-immigrant population.

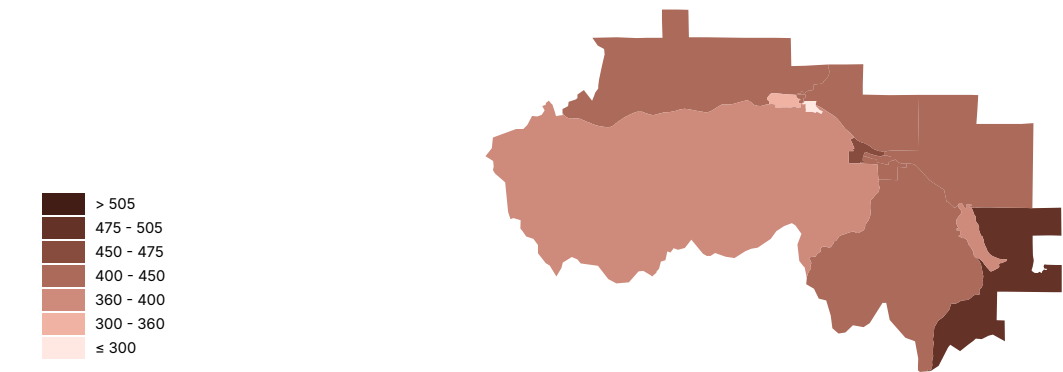


Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Data Sources

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

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