



CARDSTON COUNTY

Demographics Report

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Executive Summary

Cardston County presents a picture of a small, broadly stable community whose recent demographic change has been modest rather than transformative. Population growth built gradually from the mid-2000s to a peak in 2021, then softened slightly before a small rebound by 2025, leaving the county close to where it stood at the start of the decade. Household and family measures also show limited movement. Average household size remained near three people over the last three censuses, while average family size held at 3.2 in 2021. The county's median age, at 36.4 years, points to a relatively young profile within its local comparison set, though the age structure itself is not uniformly youthful.

That mixed age pattern is one of the county's clearest features. School-age children form some of the largest cohorts, especially ages 5 to 14, while older groups also expanded, with notable growth among seniors and household maintainers aged 65 and over. At the same time, several working-age groups declined, especially among people in their 20s and late 50s, giving the population a somewhat uneven shape rather than a single dominant trend. Family and household life remains strongly centered on couple and family-based arrangements. Married residents are the largest marital status group, married couples without children are the most common family type, and two-person households are the most common household size. One-person households grew quickly over five years, but solo and non-family living arrangements still remain much smaller than partnered and family households.

The county's cultural profile appears concentrated rather than highly diverse across several measures. Christianity is the dominant religious affiliation, alongside a sizable group reporting no religion, with little presence across other named traditions. English is the main mother tongue and household language, but German also has a substantial presence, making it the county's most notable secondary language. Indigenous identity is small and concentrated mainly among Métis and First Nations residents, while Indigenous ancestry is similarly focused in a narrow set of First Nations-related and mixed ancestry responses. The visible minority population is also small and limited to a few groups. Taken as a whole, Cardston County appears demographically steady, family-oriented, and socially concentrated, with change occurring at the margins more than through broad structural shifts.

Average Household Size

Cardston County's average household size was 2.9 people in 2021, down from 3.0 in 2016 and unchanged from 2011. Over five years, it declined 3.3%, returning to its earlier level.

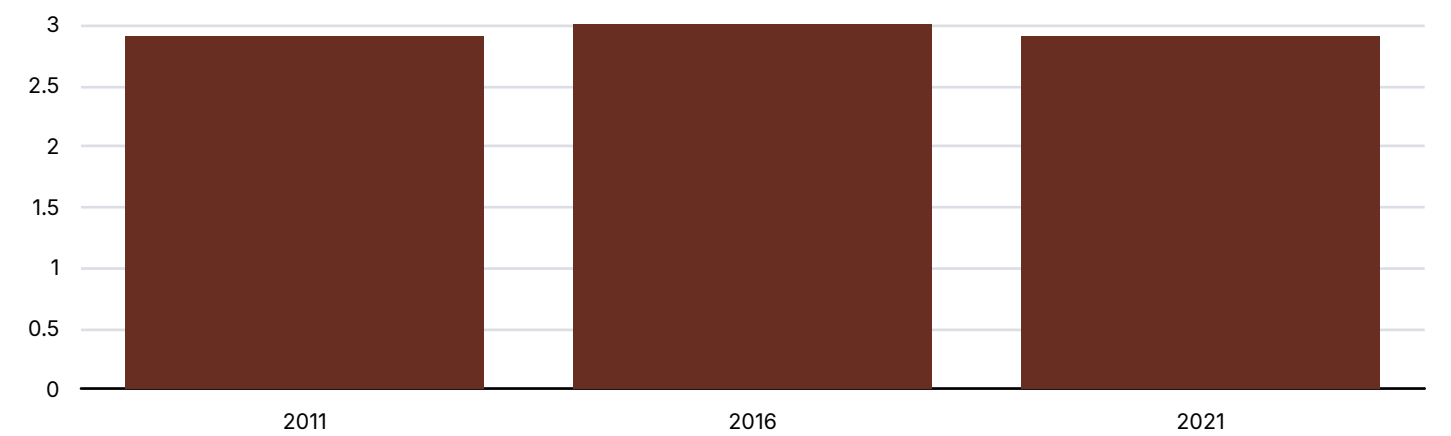


Figure 1.1: Shows the average number of people living in each household. It helps indicate typical living arrangements and the kinds of homes households may need. (Cardston County, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston County's average household size was stable across the latest census years, moving between 2.9 and 3.0 people per private household. In 2011, the average was 2.9 people, rising to 3.0 in 2016 before returning to 2.9 in 2021. The 2016 figure represented a 3.5% increase from 2011, while 2021 marked a 3.3% decrease from 2016. The pattern points to limited change over the decade, with household size remaining close to three people throughout.

Cardston County's average household size was 2.9 people in 2021, placing it near the middle of the local range for private households. That was unchanged from 2011 and down slightly from 3.0 in 2016, a 3.3% five-year decline. Among nearby places, Cardston County was larger than most municipal comparators, but smaller than Piikani 147 at 3.2 and Blood 148 at 3.9. The pattern suggests relatively stable household size, with modest variation compared with surrounding communities.

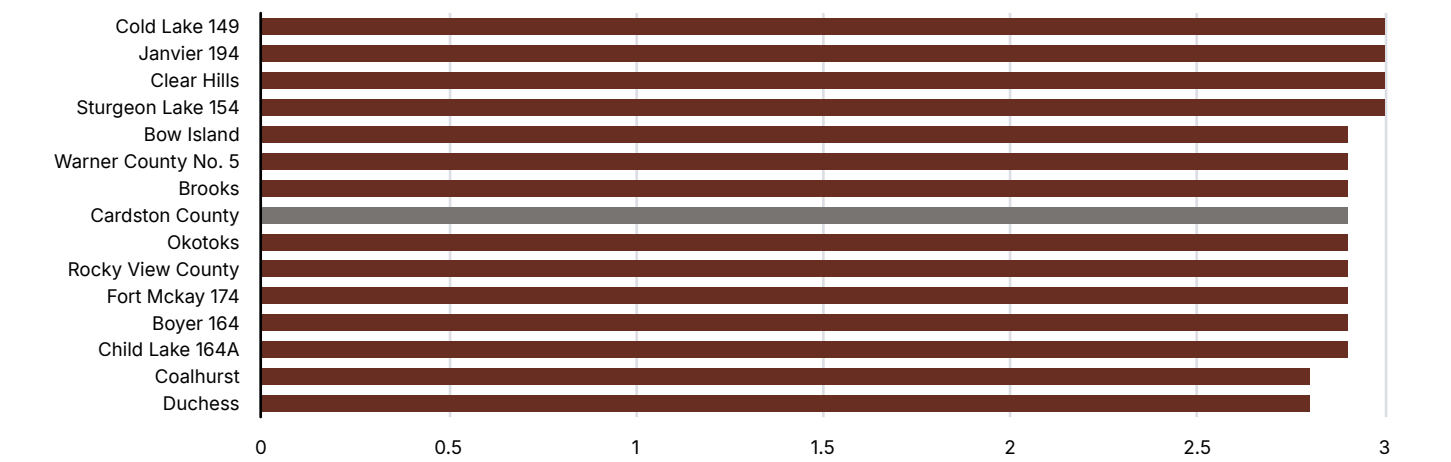


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Average Household Size with other locations (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Average Number of Children per Family

Cardston County recorded an average of 2.6 children per census family with children in 2021. This figure describes typical family size and provides a baseline for child-focused service demand planning.

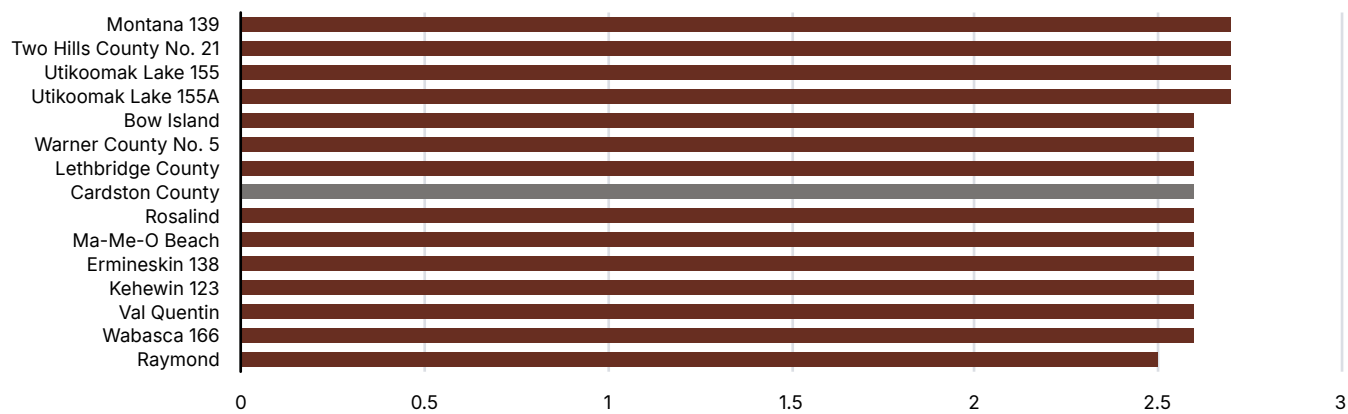


Figure 2.1: Comparison of Average Number of Children per Family with other locations (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County had an average of 2.6 children per family with children. Among the comparable locations provided, this was the highest figure. Most peers were lower, including Glenwood and Magrath at 2.5, Cardston and Cowley at 2.3, and Blood 148 at 2.0. Several others were below 2.0, such as Improvement District No. 4 Waterton at 1.8 and Nanton and Stavely at 1.7. At the low end, Peigan Timber Limit "B" and Blood 148A both recorded 0. This places Cardston County at the upper end of the local comparison set.

In 2021, Cardston County had an average of 2.6 children per census family with children. That places it in a moderate range for family size within the county. The descendant areas vary from 0 to 2.9 children per family. Several are clustered at 2.4 to 2.9, while two areas report 0. This mix suggests the county average is shaped by a fairly uneven local pattern rather than one uniform level. The figures point to pockets with larger families alongside a few areas with no recorded children in census families.

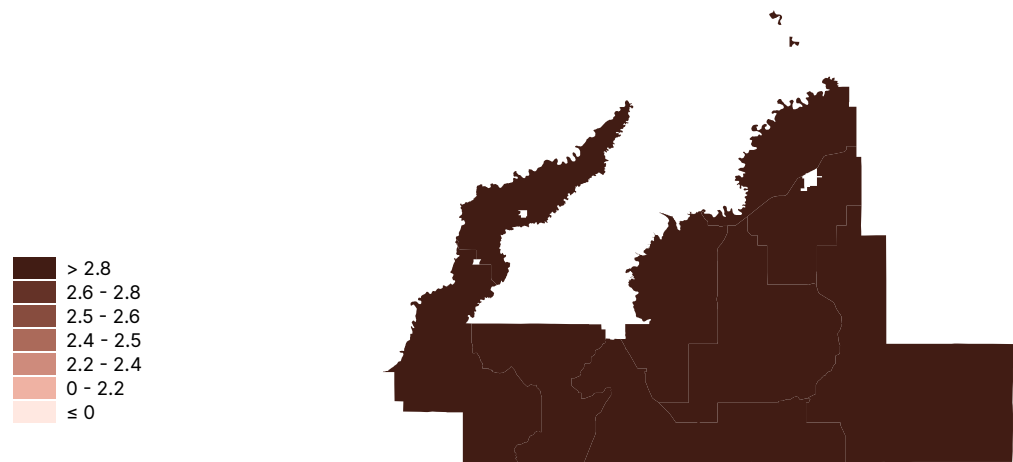


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Average Number of Children per Family (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Indigenous Ancestry

Cardston County’s largest group in 2021 was First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only at 45 people, down 25% from 2016. Métis single ancestry fell to zero, a 100% decline.

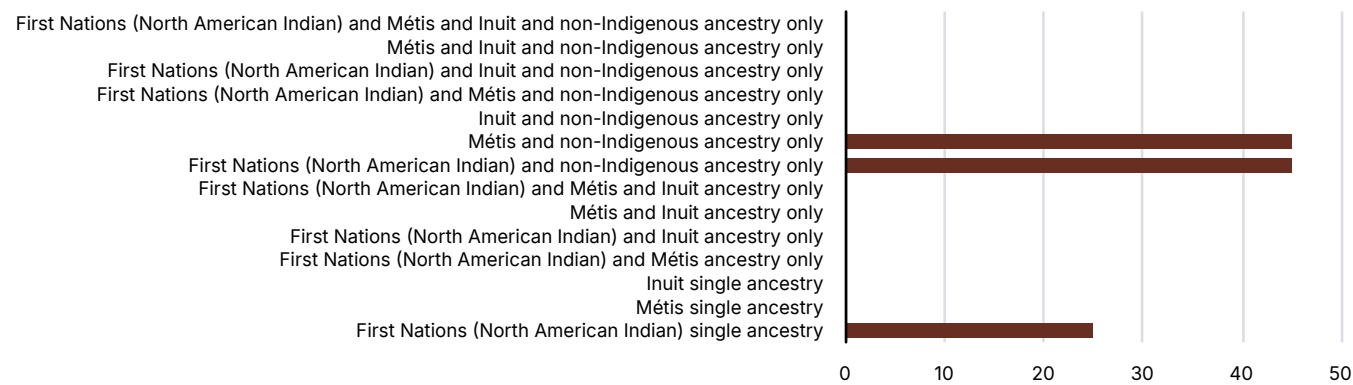


Figure 3.1: Shows residents with Indigenous ancestry. It helps indicate ancestral connections to First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Indigenous ancestry in Cardston County was concentrated in a few categories within the population in private households. The largest count was First Nations (North American Indian) single ancestry, at 25 people, while First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only and Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only each recorded 45 people. The 5-year change shows little movement in First Nations single ancestry, no reported value for several small categories, and declines in mixed ancestry counts. Métis single ancestry fell to zero from five years earlier.

In Cardston County, Indigenous ancestry in 2021 was concentrated in a few First Nations-related categories, with little representation in the other groups listed. The largest counts were 45 people with First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only and 45 with Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only. Another 25 people reported First Nations single ancestry, while all other categories were zero or not reported. That pattern suggests a narrow ancestry profile within the resident population in private households, shaped mainly by First Nations ties and mixed First Nations or Métis ancestry.

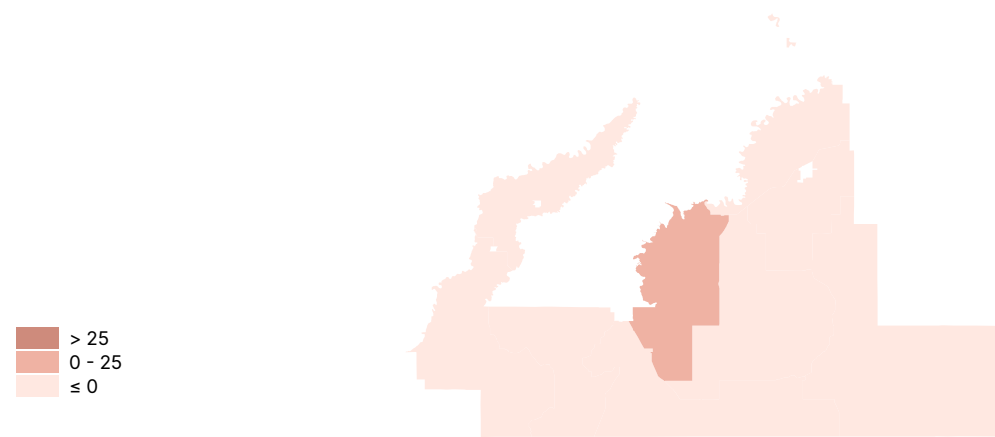


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Ancestry - First Nations (North American Indian) and non-Indigenous ancestry only (Cardston County)¹

Age Groups

Cardston County's largest age group in 2021 was 10 to 14 years at 460 people, up 21.1% since 2016. The 85 years and over group rose to 85 people, a 70.0% increase.

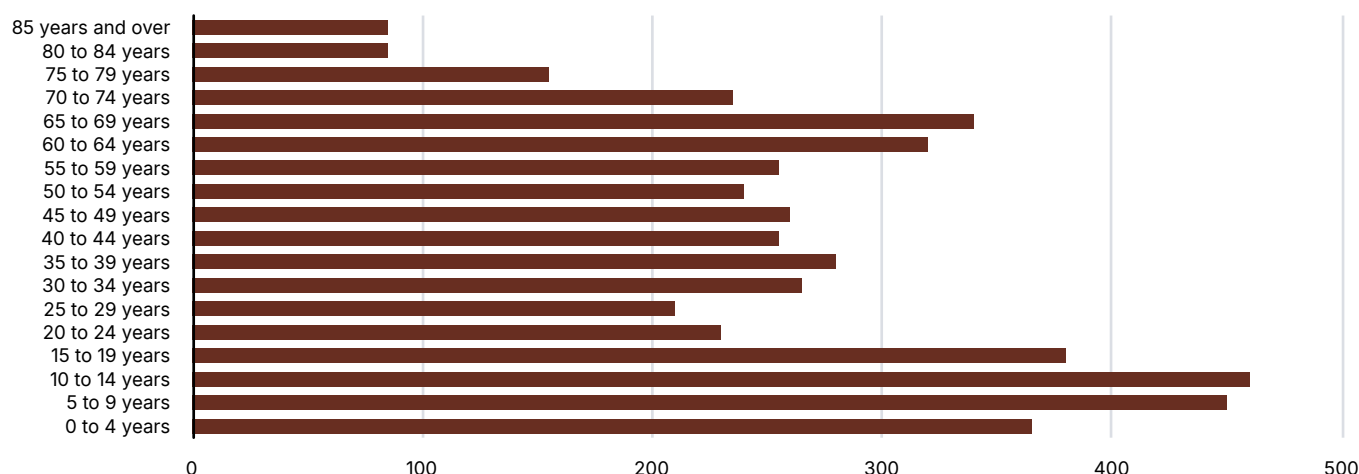


Figure 4.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community's age structure and stage of life profile. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Cardston County's 2021 age profile shows growth across many younger and older groups, with a few midlife declines. The largest cohorts were 10 to 14 years at 460 people, 5 to 9 years at 450, and 65 to 69 years at 340, suggesting notable strength at both ends of the working and family-life range. Recent change was uneven. The 75 to 79 group rose 47.6% over five years, while 70 to 74 increased 34.3% and 65 to 69 grew 33.3%. By contrast, the 55 to 59 group fell 25.0%, and ages 25 to 29 and 20 to 24 also declined. The pattern points to a shifting age structure rather than a uniform trend.



Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 10 to 14 years (Cardston County)¹

Cardston County's 2021 age profile is spread across both children and older adults, with notable concentrations in school-age groups and seniors. The largest cohorts are 10 to 14 years at 460 people, 5 to 9 years at 450, and 65 to 69 years at 340. Recent change is mixed. The youngest group fell slightly over five years, while ages 75 to 79 rose 47.6% and 85 years and over increased 70%. Working-age cohorts are less uniform, with declines at 20 to 29 and 55 to 59.

Family Type

In Cardston County, married couples without children were the largest family type in 2021 at 465 people, unchanged from 2016. Married couples with children fell 7.4% to 375, while one-parent families held at 60.

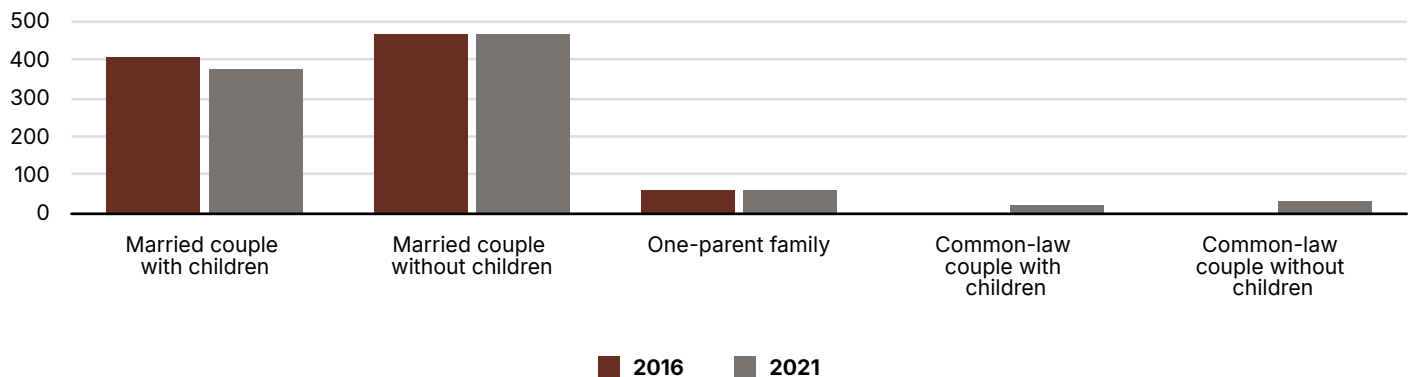


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Cardston County, 2016-2021)¹

Cardston County's family type profile in 2021 was dominated by married couples without children, with 465 people, followed by married couples with children at 375. Smaller counts were reported for one-parent families at 60, common-law couples without children at 30, and common-law couples with children at 20. The five-year change data show a modest shift. Married couples with children fell 7.4%, while married couples without children and one-parent families were unchanged. No five-year change was provided for the two common-law categories.

In 2021, family life in Cardston County was dominated by couple families, especially married couples without children. The county had 465 married couple families without children and 375 married couple families with children, compared with 60 one-parent families and 50 common-law couple families with or without children combined. Over five years, married couples with children fell 7.4%, while married couples without children and one-parent families were unchanged. The mix points to a family structure weighted toward established couple households.

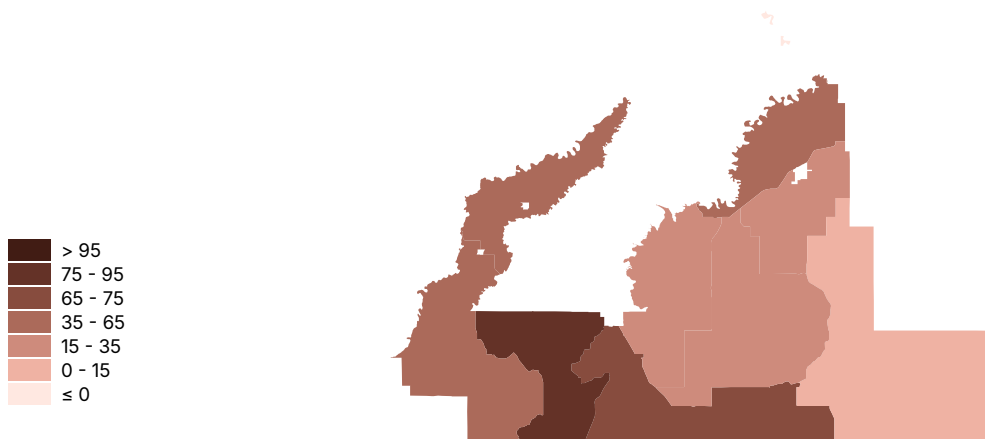


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Cardston County)¹

Religion

Christian residents were the largest group in Cardston County in 2021, at 2,470 people. No religion and secular perspectives followed with 835 people, while other religions and spiritual traditions counted 20 people.

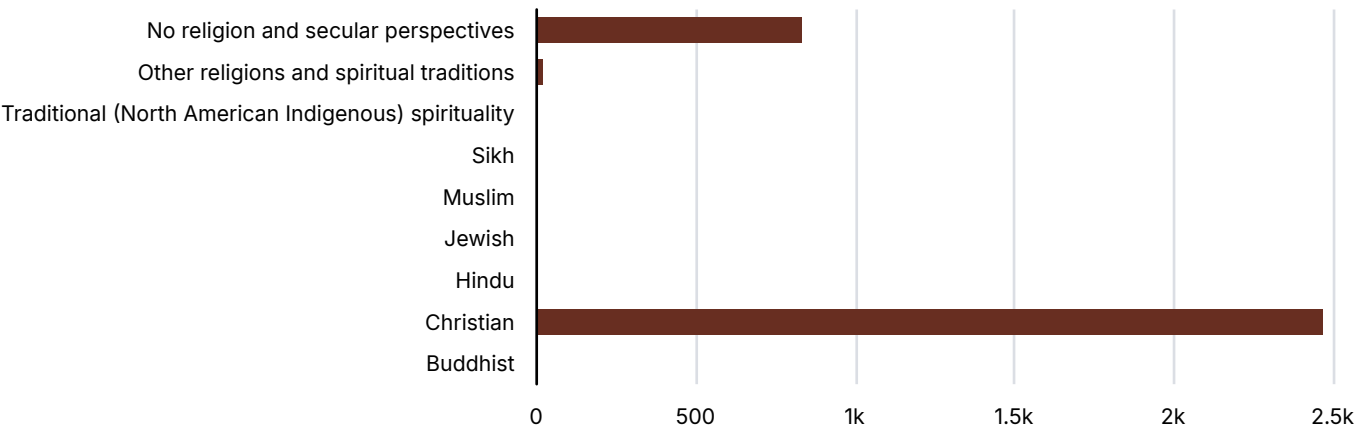
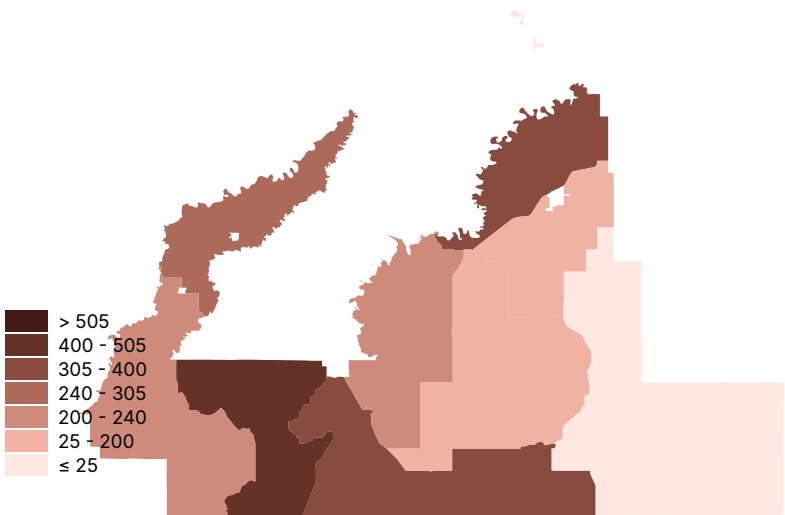


Figure 6.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, religion in 2021 was strongly concentrated in Christianity, with 2,470 people identifying as Christian. A further 835 people reported no religion and secular perspectives, while 20 people fell into other religions and spiritual traditions. No residents were recorded in the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, or Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality categories. The pattern shows a clear dominance of one faith affiliation alongside a sizable non-religious group. The remaining categories were either very small or absent in the census count. Taken together, the data suggest a relatively narrow religious profile for the county in 2021, with little presence across most named faith traditions.



In 2021, Cardston County's religious profile was strongly concentrated in Christianity, with 2,470 residents, or 74.3% of the population in private households. A further 835 people, or 25.1%, reported no religion or secular perspectives, while other religions and spiritual traditions accounted for 20 people, or 0.6%. The pattern is highly focused and leaves little religious diversity in the count data.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Cardston County)¹

Mother Tongue

English was the largest mother tongue in Cardston County at 3,195 people, up 4.8% over five years. German ranked second at 1,520, while Hungarian declined 50% to 5 people.

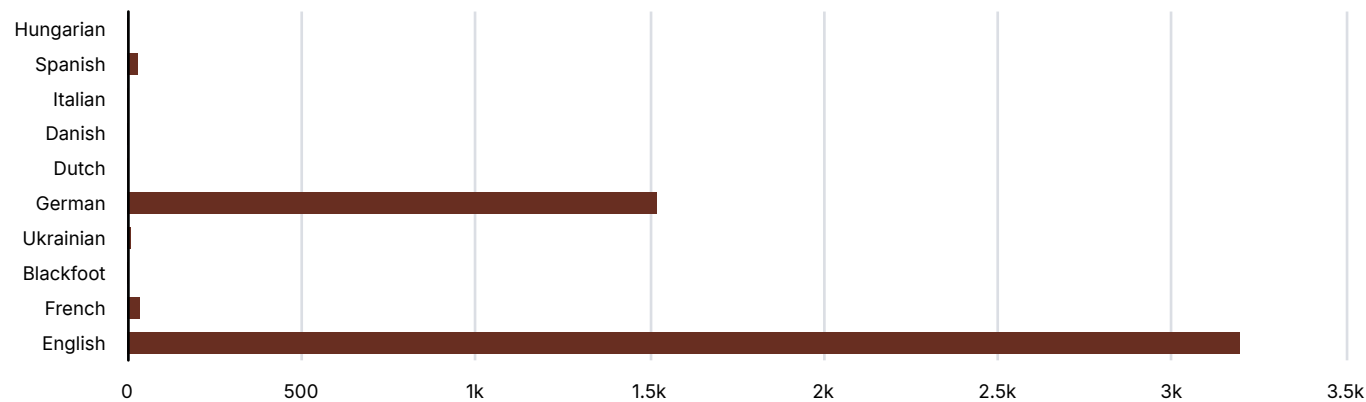


Figure 7.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County’s mother tongue profile was dominated by English and German, with 3,195 people reporting English and 1,520 reporting German. French was a distant third at 35, while Spanish accounted for 30. Several smaller languages were present in very small numbers, including Blackfoot, Ukrainian, Dutch, Danish, Italian, and Hungarian at 5 each. Recent change was mixed: English rose 4.8% over five years, German increased 16.9%, and French grew 40%, while Blackfoot and Hungarian each fell 50%.

In 2021, Cardston County’s mother tongue profile was led by English and German, pointing to a largely bilingual linguistic pattern within the resident population excluding institutional residents. English was reported by 3,195 people, while German was a distant second at 1,520. Other languages were much smaller: French had 35 speakers, Spanish 30, Ukrainian 10, and several others were at 5. German also posted a 16.9% five-year increase, while English rose 4.8%.

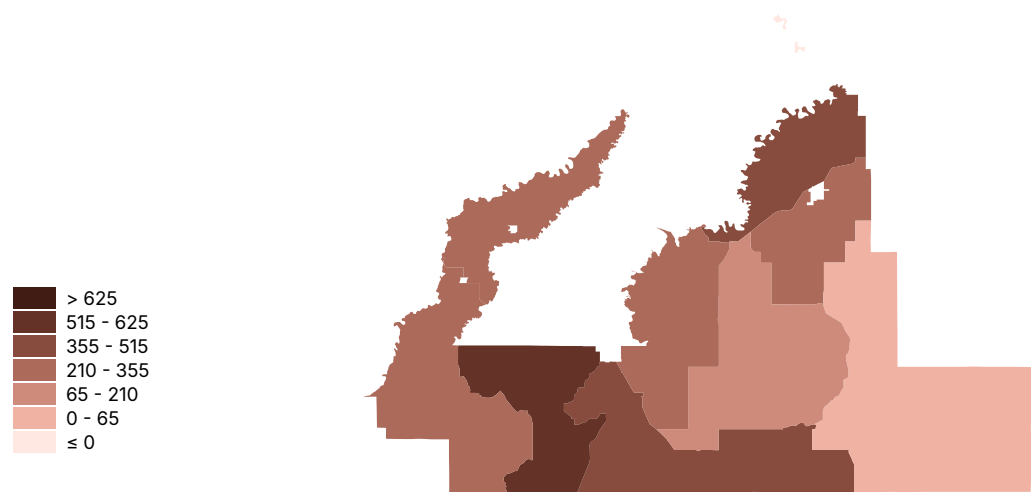


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Cardston County)¹

Visible Minority

Cardston County's largest visible minority group in 2021 was Latin American at 40 people, up 100% from 2016. Japanese followed at 25, while visible minority, n.i.e. fell to 15, down 40%.

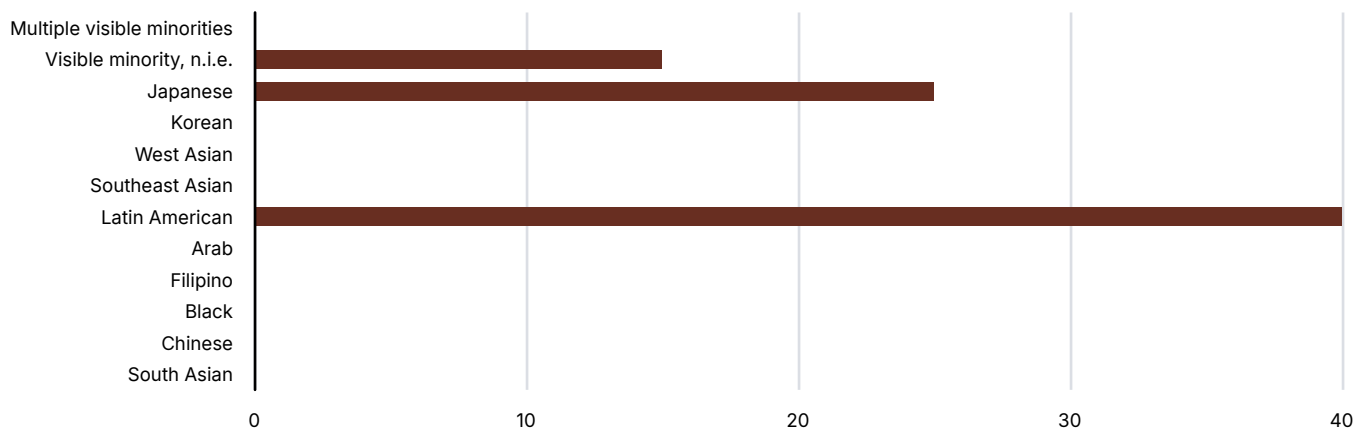
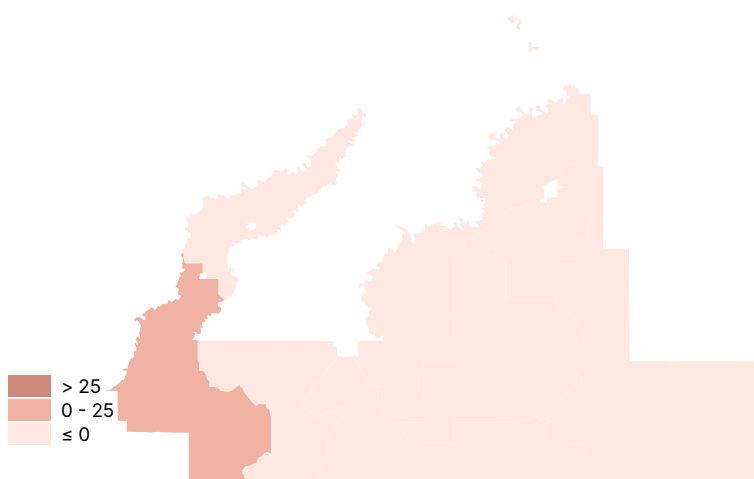


Figure 8.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County's visible minority population was small and concentrated in a few groups. Latin American was the largest category at 40 people, followed by Japanese at 25 and visible minority, n.i.e. at 15. Several other groups were recorded at zero, including South Asian, Chinese, Filipino, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and multiple visible minorities. The five-year changes show mixed movement. Latin American doubled from five years earlier, Japanese rose 25%, and visible minority, n.i.e. fell 40%. Black and Korean both declined to zero, with 100% decreases. The pattern suggests limited diversity with change concentrated in a few groups.



Cardston County shows a very small visible minority population in 2021, with most groups at zero. Latin American residents account for 40 people, Japanese 25, and visible minority, not included elsewhere, 15. The five-year changes are mixed, with Latin American up 100%, Japanese up 25%, and visible minority, n.i.e. down 40%. The pattern points to limited diversity within this population.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Latin American (Cardston County)¹

Indigenous Identity

Métis was the largest Indigenous identity in Cardston County in 2021, with 70 people, up 27.3% from 2016. First Nations fell to 30 people, down 60%, while Inuit and other responses remained at zero.

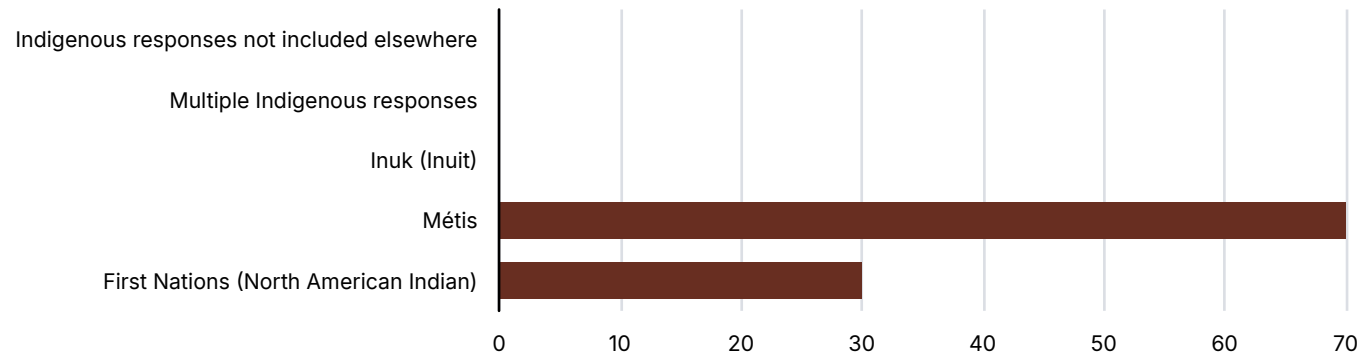


Figure 9.1: Shows residents who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. It helps indicate the presence of Indigenous communities in the area. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County reported a small Indigenous identity population in private households, with 70 residents identifying as Métis and 30 identifying as First Nations. Over the previous five years, the Métis count rose by 27.3%, while the First Nations count fell by 60%. No residents were recorded as Inuk, with multiple Indigenous responses, or as Indigenous responses not included elsewhere.

In 2021, Indigenous identity in Cardston County was concentrated in two groups: 70 people identified as Métis and 30 as First Nations. No residents were recorded as Inuk, with no multiple Indigenous responses or responses not included elsewhere reported in the county. The five-year change was mixed. Métis identity rose by 27.3%, while First Nations identity fell by 60%. At the small-area level, several dissemination areas recorded no Indigenous residents, while one area had 30 Métis residents and another had 15. The pattern suggests a limited but uneven local presence.

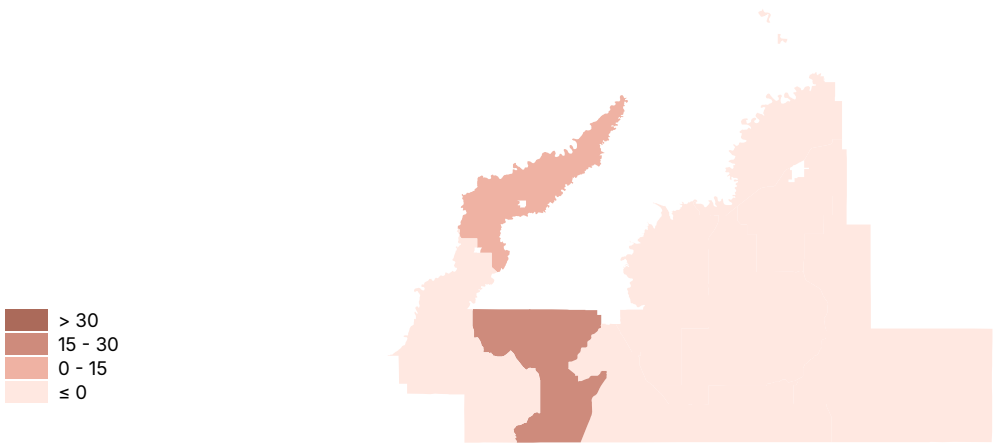


Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Identity - Métis (Cardston County)¹

Household Size

Two-person households were the largest group in Cardston County in 2021, at 495 households, up 7.6% from 2016. One-person households rose fastest, increasing 44.8% to 210.

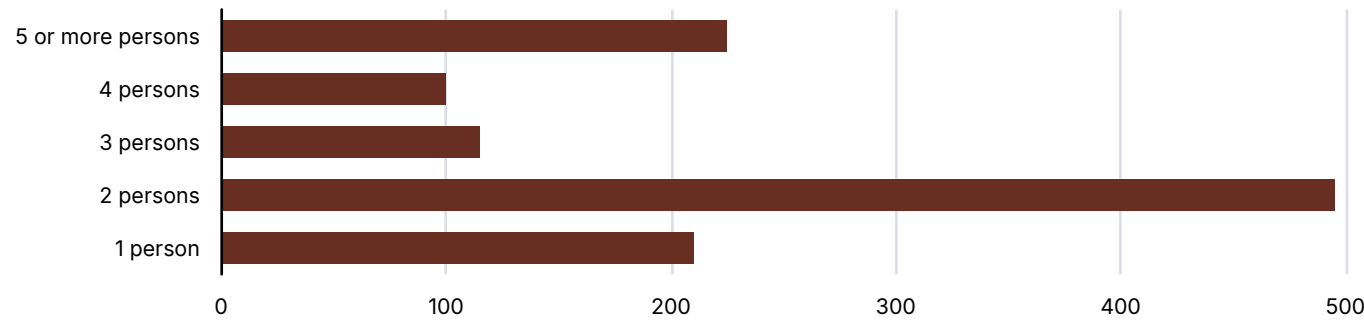


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Cardston County's household size profile in 2021 was led by 2-person households, with 495 private households, followed by 5 or more persons at 225 and 1-person households at 210. Smaller counts were recorded for 3 persons (115) and 4 persons (100). The 5-year change points to mixed movement: 1-person households grew 44.8%, the fastest increase, while 4-person households fell 9.1%. Two-person households rose 7.6%, 3-person households 4.5%, and 5 or more persons 2.3%, showing modest growth in most sizes but weaker middle-sized households.

In 2021, Cardston County's private households were most often made up of two people, with 495 such households. One-person households were also common at 210, while five or more persons accounted for 225. Three-person households numbered 115, and four-person households were the smallest group at 100. The five-year change points to mixed movement. One-person households rose 44.8%, and two-person households increased 7.6%. Five-or-more-person households grew 2.3%, while four-person households fell 9.1%. This pattern suggests a household structure centered on smaller units, especially two-person homes, with some growth at the smallest end of the scale.

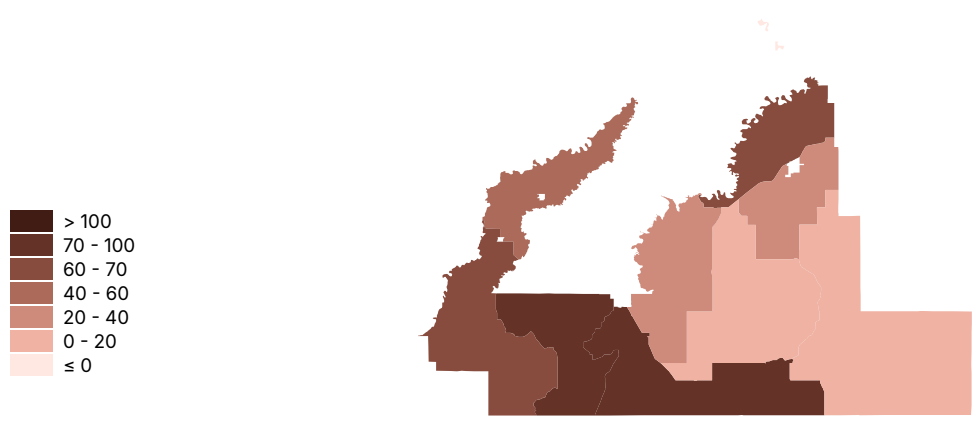


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Size - 2 persons (Cardston County)¹

Living Arrangement

In Cardston County, married spouses or common-law partners were the largest living arrangement group at 1,785 people, ahead of children in two-parent families at 1,080. Living alone accounted for 205 people.

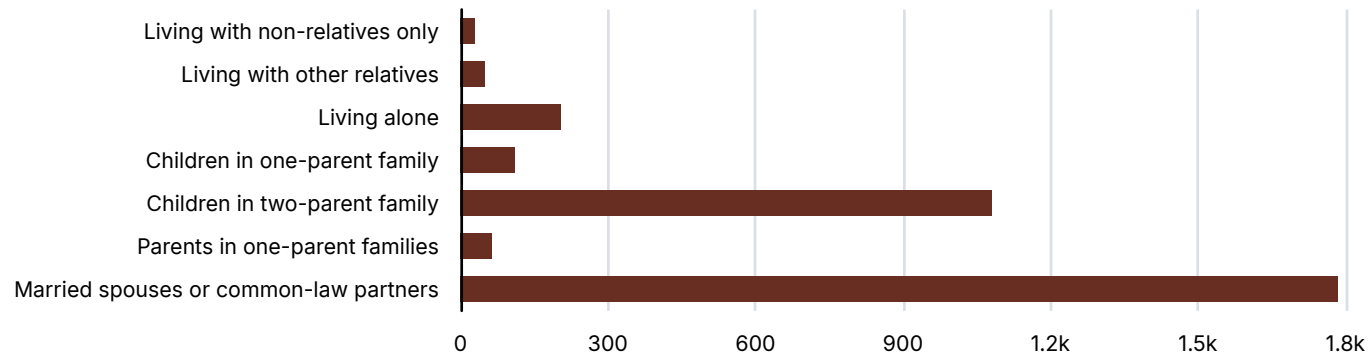


Figure 11.1: Shows residents' living arrangements, such as living alone, with family, or with others. It helps indicate household formation and support networks. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, living arrangement in Cardston County was dominated by family-based households. The largest group was married spouses or common-law partners, at 1,785 people, followed by children in two-parent families at 1,080. Living alone was much less common, at 205 people, while children in one-parent families numbered 110. Smaller categories included parents in one-parent families at 65, people living with other relatives at 50, and those living with non-relatives only at 30. The pattern points to a household profile centered on partnered adults and children, with relatively limited living alone or non-family arrangements.

Cardston County's 2021 living arrangement profile is dominated by family-based households. Married spouses or common-law partners account for 1,785 people, while children in two-parent families add 1,080. Smaller groups include 205 people living alone, 110 children in one-parent families, 65 parents in one-parent families, 50 living with other relatives, and 30 living with non-relatives only. The pattern points to a household structure centered on partnered adults and children, with much smaller shares in solo or non-family arrangements.

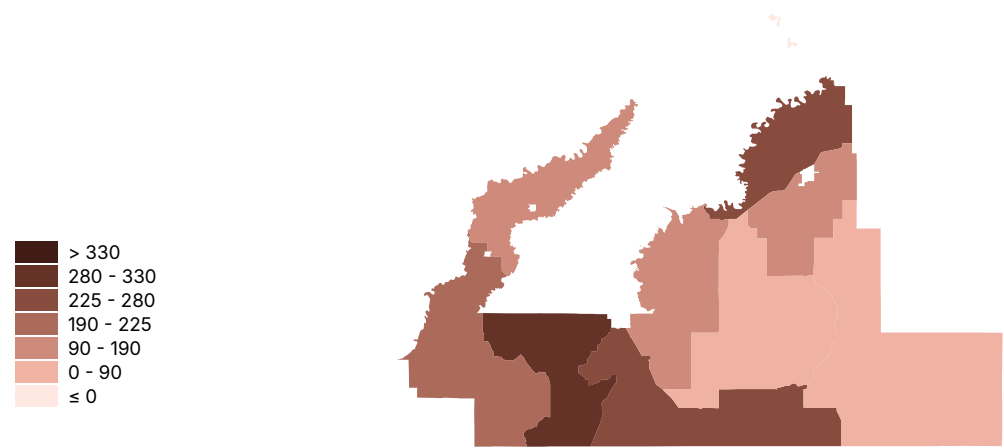


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Living Arrangement - Married spouses or common-law partners (Cardston County)¹

Marital Status

Married residents remained the largest group in Cardston County at 2,330 people in 2021, up 6.6% from 2016. Not married and not living common-law totaled 1,145, while widowed rose 35.0% to 135.

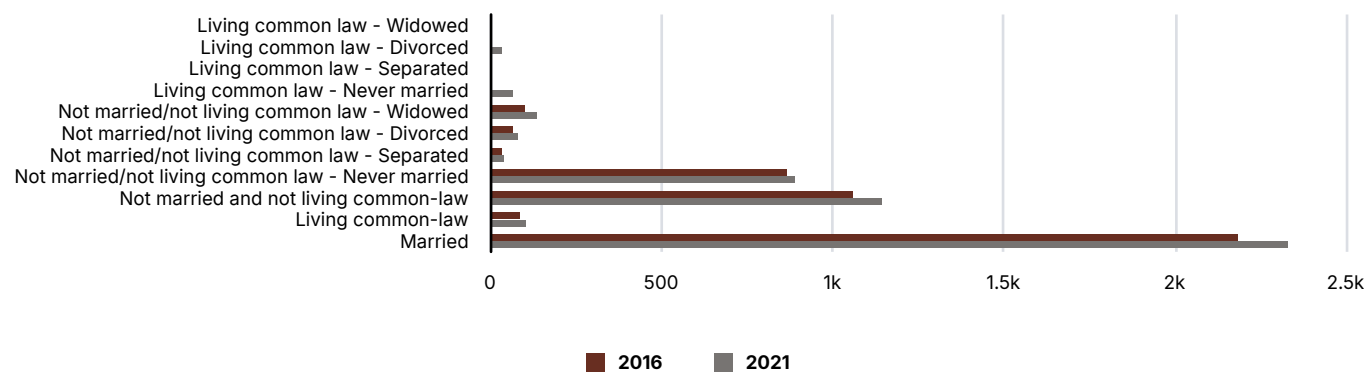


Figure 12.1: Shows the marital status of residents, such as single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed. It helps indicate relationship patterns and household formation. (Cardston County, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, marital status in Cardston County was shaped by a large married population and smaller unmarried groups among residents aged 15 and over. Married residents numbered 2,330, while 1,145 were not married and not living common-law and 105 were living common-law. Recent change was uneven. Married residents were up 6.6% over five years, and the common-law group rose 23.5%. Among those not married and not living common-law, the biggest increases were widowed, at 35.0%, and divorced, at 23.1%. The county's marital profile points to steady shifts rather than a sharp break.

In 2021, marital status in Cardston County was dominated by married residents, with 2,330 people, while 1,145 were not married and not living common-law. A much smaller 105 people were living common-law. Five-year change was mixed. Married residents were up 6.6%, common-law residents rose 23.5%, and the not married group increased 8.0%. Among subgroups, widowed residents grew fastest at 35% in the not married category.

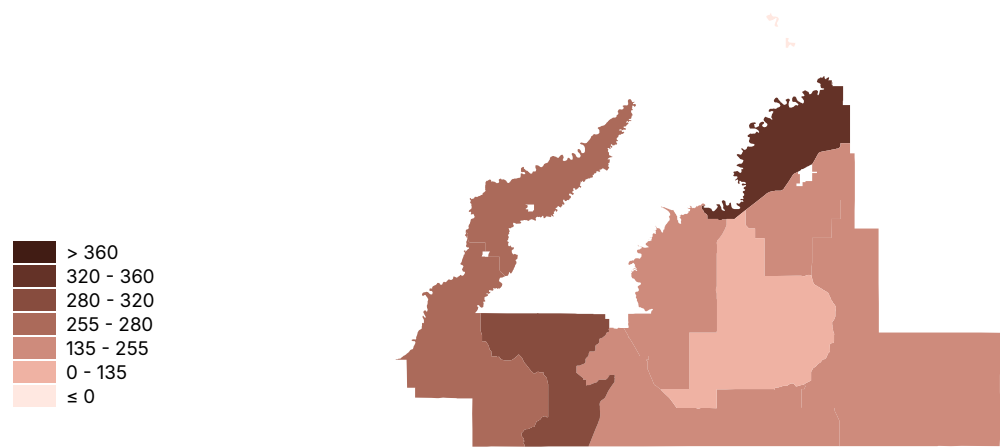


Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Marital Status - Married (Cardston County)¹

Language Knowledge in Households

English was the most common language knowledge in Cardston County households at 3,320, rising 5.6% over five years. Spanish reached 100 households, while German fell 61.1% to 35 and French declined 13.6% to 95.

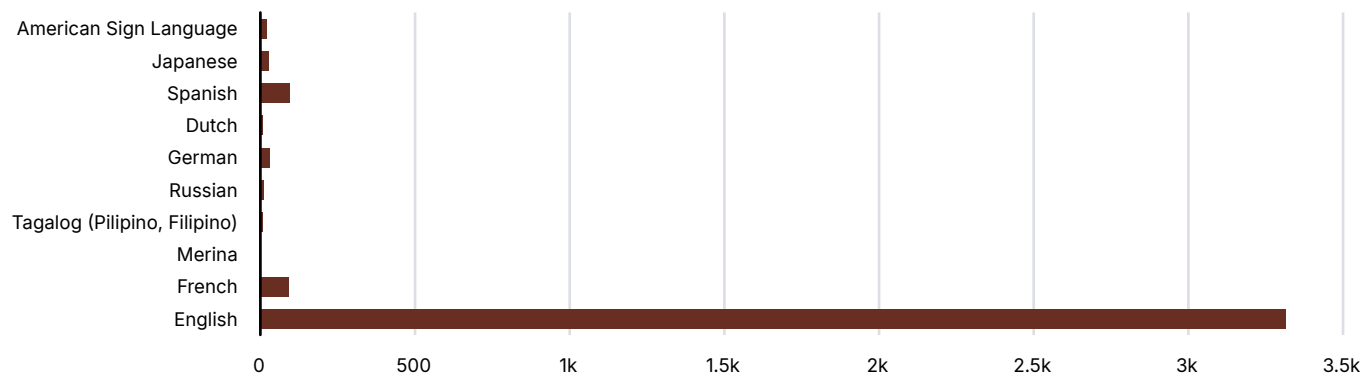


Figure 13.1: Shows the languages household members can speak. It helps indicate multilingual capacity and potential language access needs. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County’s household language knowledge was led by English, reported in 3,320 households, while French was much smaller at 95. Several other languages were present in modest numbers, including Spanish at 100, German at 35, Japanese at 30, and American Sign Language at 25. Over five years, English rose 5.6%, Spanish increased 53.9%, and French fell 13.6%, while German declined 61.1%. The pattern points to a largely English-speaking area with a small but changing multi-lingual profile.

In 2021, household language knowledge in Cardston County was strongly centered on English, with 3,320 households re- reporting the language. French was a distant second at 95, while Spanish reached 100 and showed the fastest growth among the larger non-English languages, up 53.9% over five years. German stood at 35 households and declined 61.1%, while American Sign Language was reported by 25 households. The pattern points to a largely English-speaking county with a small but changing multilingual profile.

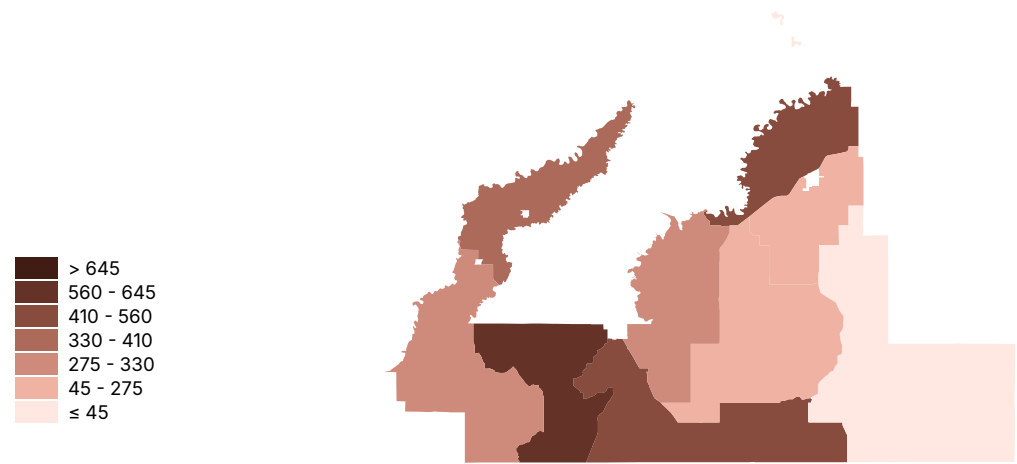


Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Cardston County)¹

Household Type

Couple-family households without children were the largest group in Cardston County in 2021 at 455 households, up 3.4% from 2016. One-person households followed at 210, while two-or-more-person non-census-family households tripled to 15.

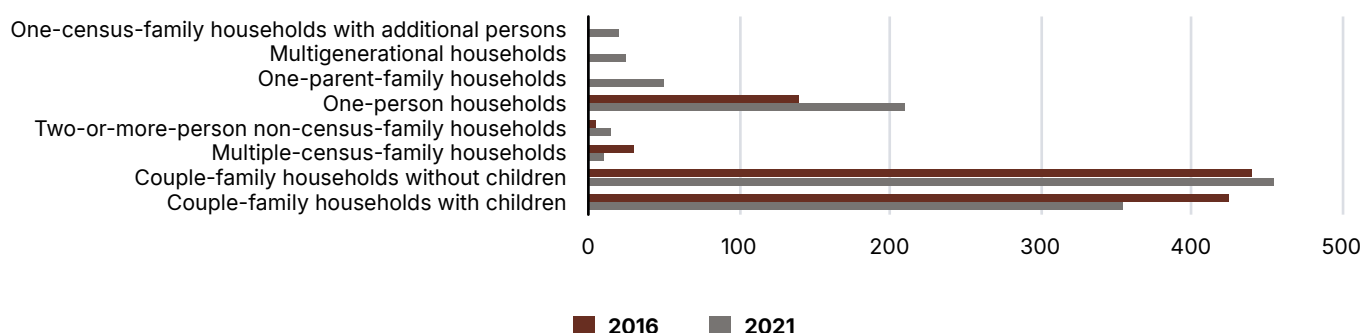


Figure 14.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Cardston County, 2016-2021)¹

In Cardston County, household composition in 2021 leaned toward family living, but the mix also showed some notable shifts over five years. Couple-family households without children were the largest group at 455, while couple-family households with children totalled 355. One-person households numbered 210 and rose 50%, while couple-family households with children fell 16.5%. Multiple-census-family households dropped to 10, while two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased to 15.

Cardston County's private households in 2021 were led by couple-family households without children, which numbered 455, followed by couple-family households with children at 355. One-person households were also a sizable part of the mix at 210, while one-parent-family households totalled 50. Smaller household forms were limited: multigenerational households counted 25, one-census-family households with additional persons 20, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households 15. Multiple-census-family households were the smallest category at 10. The pattern shows a household structure dominated by couple families, with a meaningful one-person segment and comparatively few non-family arrangements.

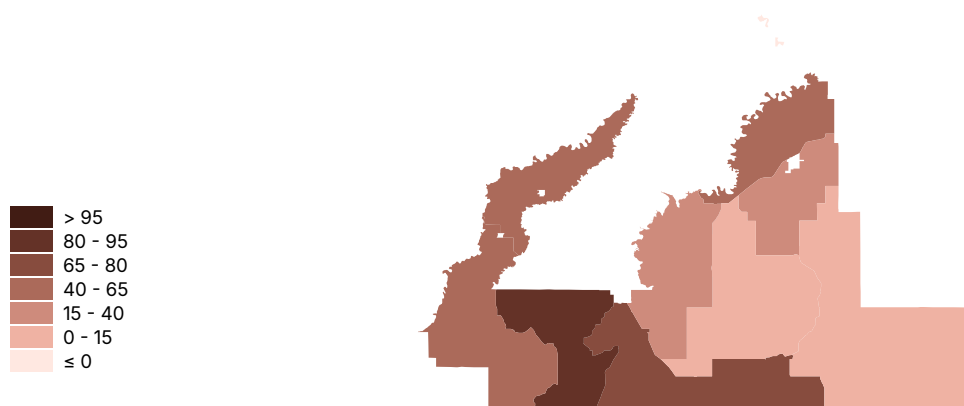


Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Cardston County)¹

Average Family Size

Cardston County's average family size was 3.2 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016. It rose from 3.1 in 2011, leaving the five-year change at 0.0% after earlier growth.

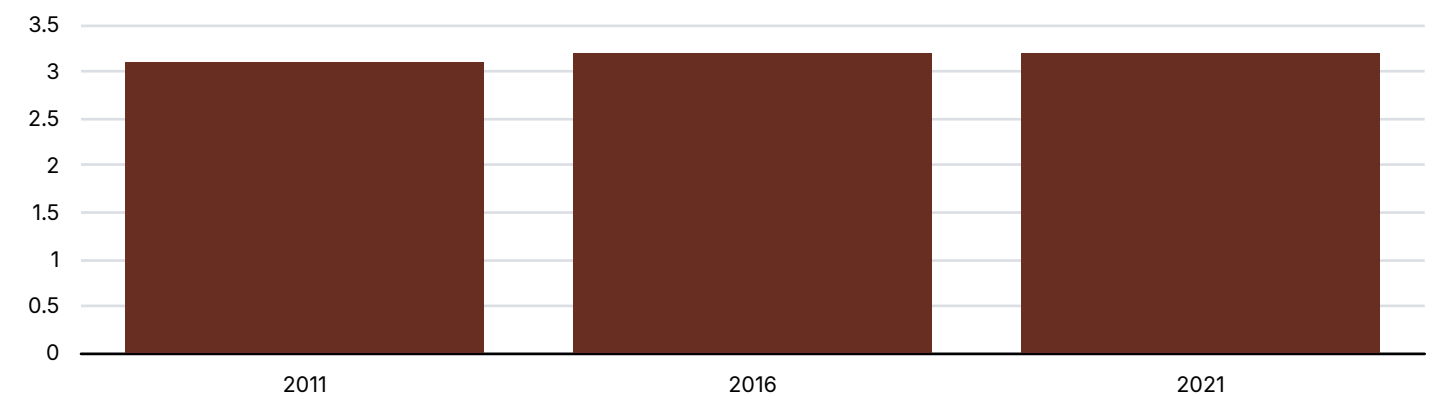


Figure 15.1: Shows the average number of people in family households. It helps indicate typical family living arrangements and space needs. (Cardston County, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston County's average family size was 3.1 people in 2011, then rose to 3.2 in 2016 and remained at 3.2 in 2021. The pattern points to a small increase followed by stability rather than continued change. Over the five-year span ending in 2016, the measure grew by 3.2%, and there was no further change by 2021. Within census families in private households, family size has therefore stayed close to the same level across the period.

Cardston County's average family size was 3.2 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and slightly above 3.1 in 2011. The measure is for census families in private households. Among nearby places in the dataset, that level is toward the upper end. It matches Cardston, Piikani 147 and Blood 148 in 2021, and sits above several communities at 2.5 to 2.9 people, including Claresholm, Nanton and Stavely. The pattern suggests a fairly stable family size profile with little movement over the decade. Cardston County looks more like the larger-family end of the local comparison set than the smaller-family communities nearby.

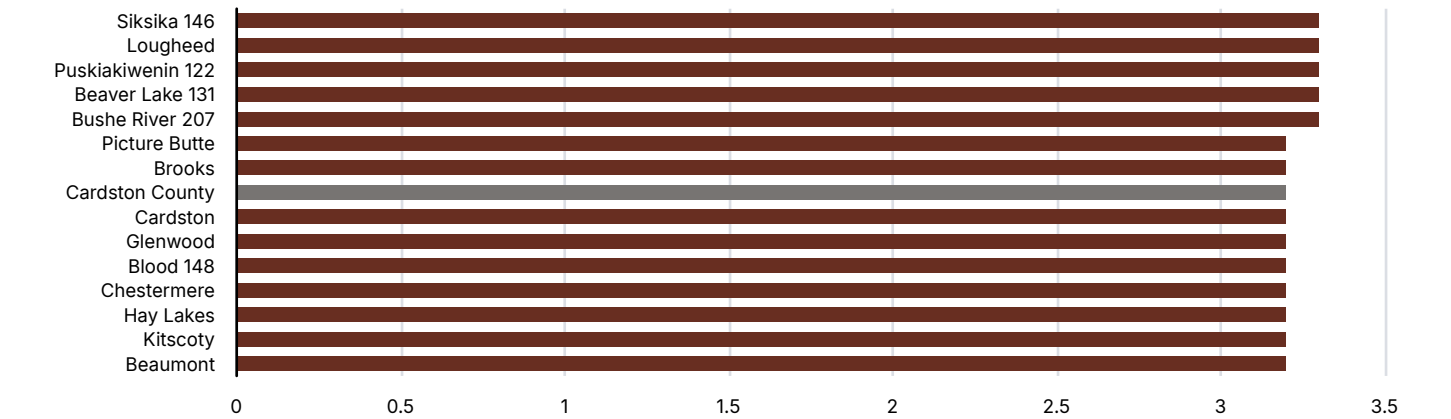


Figure 15.2: Comparison of Average Family Size with other locations (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Total Population

Cardston County's population reached 4,938 in 2025, up 0.28% from five years earlier. The county grew from 4,137 in 2006 to a peak of 4,987 in 2021 before easing slightly.

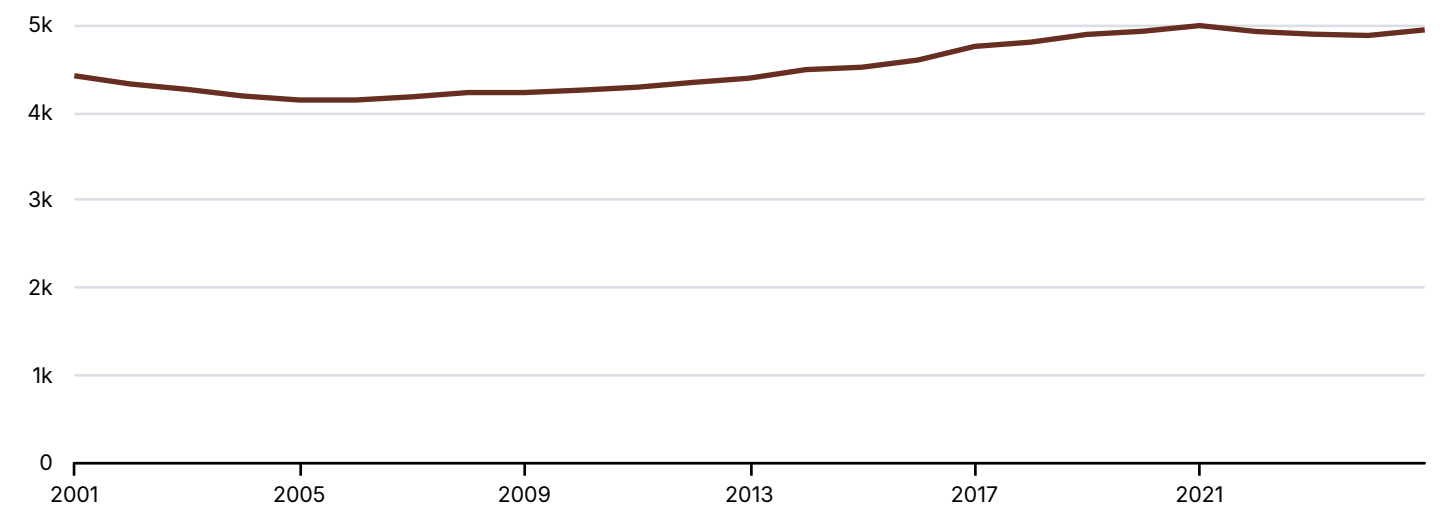
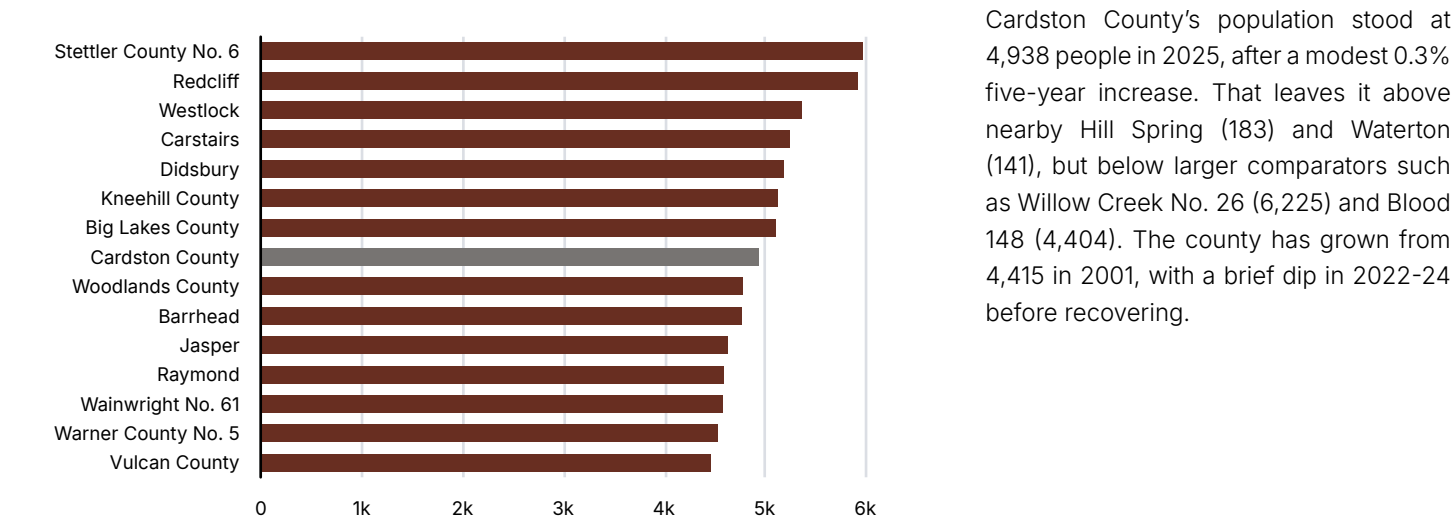


Figure 16.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Cardston County, 2001-2025)²

Cardston County's total population has been fairly stable over the last quarter century, with a clear upward shift after the mid-2000s. The count started at 4,415 in 2001, reached 4,987 in 2021, and stood at 4,938 in 2025. The series shows a decline from 4,415 to 4,137 between 2001 and 2005, followed by steady gains through 2021. Since then, the population has eased to 4,922 in 2022, 4,889 in 2023, and 4,876 in 2024 before a small rebound in 2025. This pattern points to recent softening after a longer period of growth.



Cardston County's population stood at 4,938 people in 2025, after a modest 0.3% five-year increase. That leaves it above nearby Hill Spring (183) and Waterton (141), but below larger comparators such as Willow Creek No. 26 (6,225) and Blood 148 (4,404). The county has grown from 4,415 in 2001, with a brief dip in 2022-24 before recovering.

Figure 16.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Cardston County, 2025)²

Primary Maintainer Age

Cardston County's largest household-maintainer age group in 2021 was 65 to 74 years, at 285 households, up 62.9% from 2016. The 35 to 44 group also grew to 215, while 55 to 64 fell to 205.

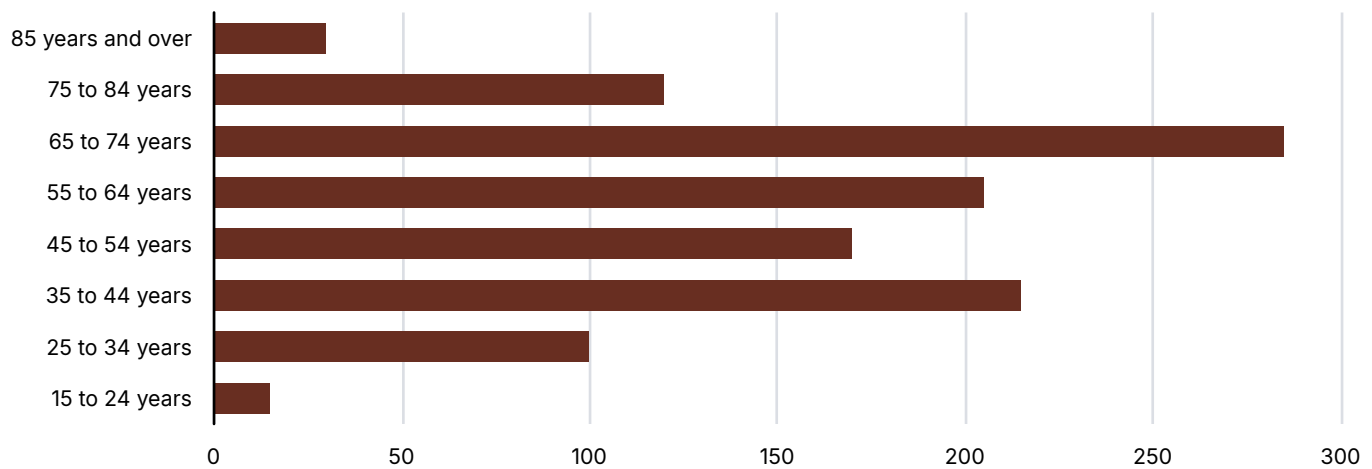


Figure 17.1: Shows the age of the primary household maintainer. It helps indicate which life stages are carrying primary financial responsibility for housing. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, primary household maintainers in 2021 were concentrated in older age groups, with the 65 to 74 years category the largest at 285 households. The 35 to 44 years group followed at 215, while 55 to 64 years accounted for 205. Younger maintainers were few, including 15 to 24 years at 15 households and 85 years and over at 30. Over five years, the clearest gains were among ages 65 to 74, up 62.9%, and 75 to 84, up 41.2%.

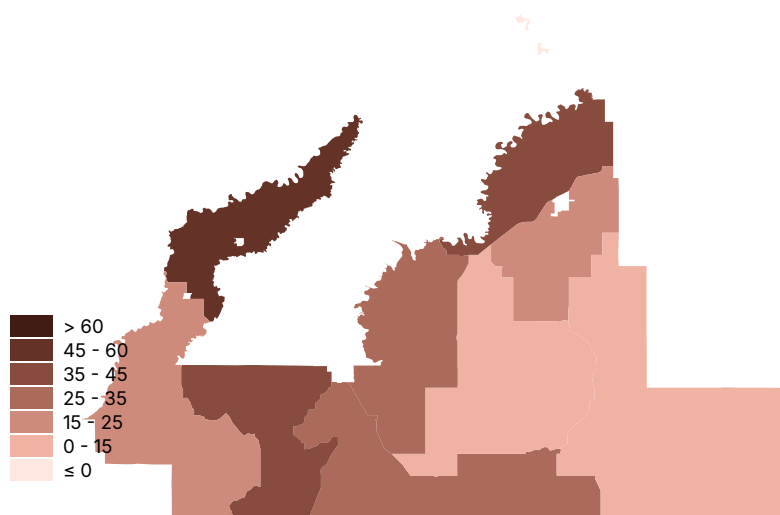


Figure 17.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Maintainer Age - 65 to 74 years (Cardston County)¹

In Cardston County, primary household maintainer ages in 2021 were concentrated in later working life and retirement years. The largest group was ages 65 to 74, with 285 households, followed by 35 to 44 years at 215 and 55 to 64 years at 205. Younger maintainers were fewer: 100 households were 25 to 34, and just 15 were 15 to 24. The pattern suggests housing responsibility is tilted toward older age groups.

Median Age

Cardston County's median age was 36.4 years in 2021, up 3.4% from 2016. It remains below 2011's 37.4 years, showing a decline before a partial rebound.

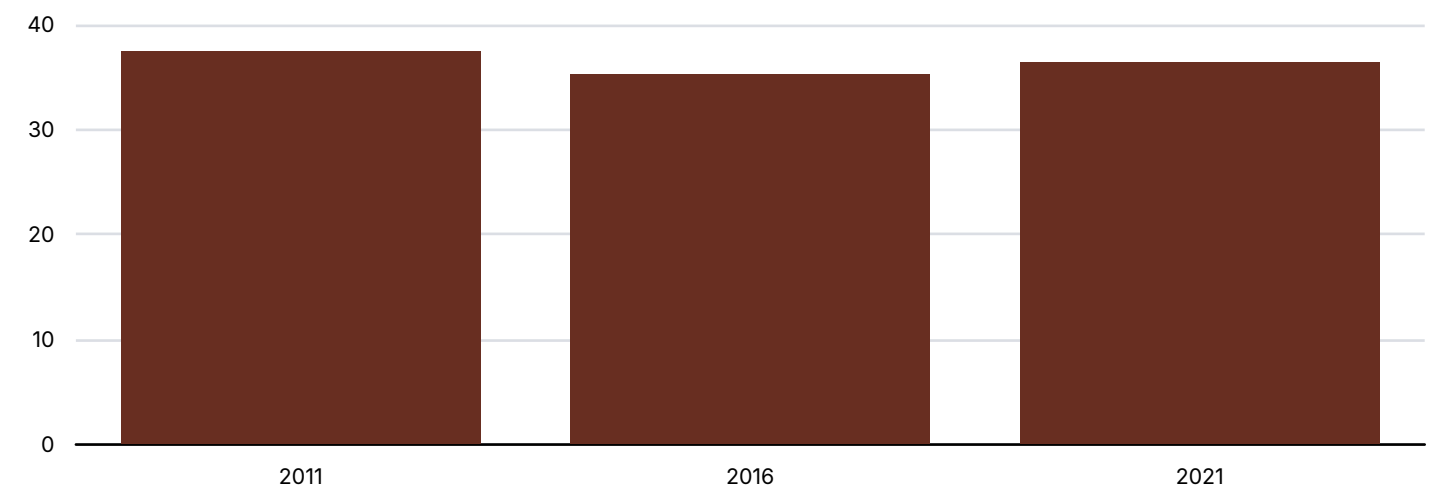
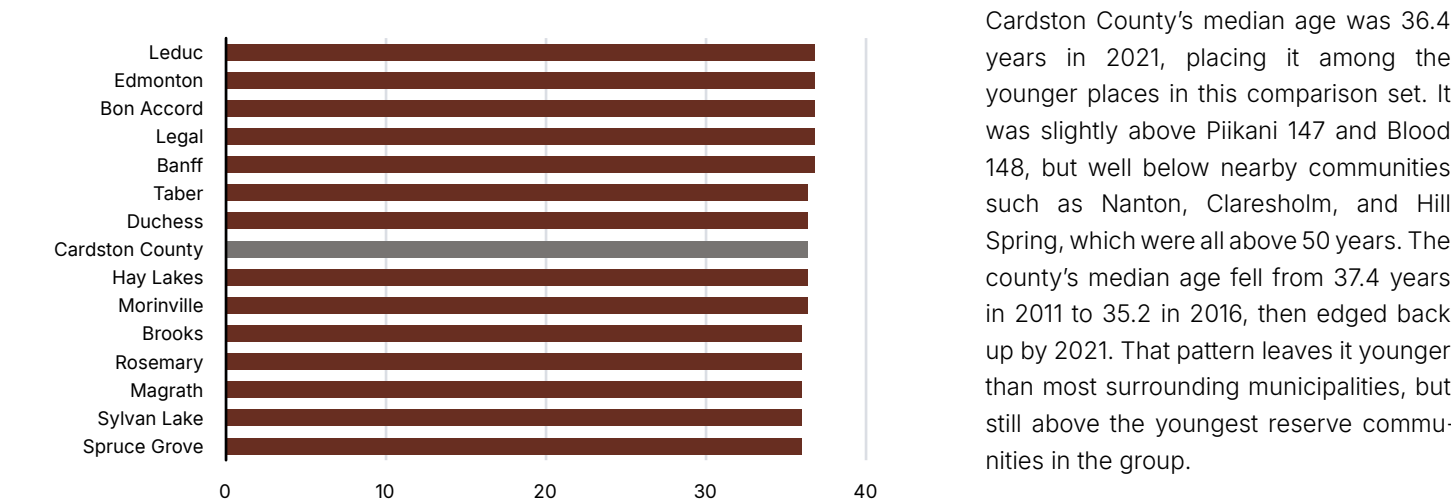


Figure 18.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Cardston County, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston County's median age has moved only modestly over the last three census points, but the direction has shifted. In 2011, the midpoint age was 37.4 years. It then fell to 35.2 years in 2016, a decline of 5.9%, before rising to 36.4 years in 2021, up 3.4% from 2016. The pattern suggests a brief period of younger population structure followed by a partial rebound in age. Even with that increase, the 2021 figure remained below the 2011 level. The county's age profile therefore looks fairly stable, with only limited movement at the midpoint of the population.



Cardston County's median age was 36.4 years in 2021, placing it among the younger places in this comparison set. It was slightly above Piikani 147 and Blood 148, but well below nearby communities such as Nanton, Claresholm, and Hill Spring, which were all above 50 years. The county's median age fell from 37.4 years in 2011 to 35.2 in 2016, then edged back up by 2021. That pattern leaves it younger than most surrounding municipalities, but still above the youngest reserve communities in the group.

Figure 18.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Cardston County, 2021)¹

Family Size

Two-person families were the largest group in Cardston County in 2021, at 540 people, up 6.9% since 2016. Five-or-more-person families held at 200, while four-person families fell 14.3% to 90.

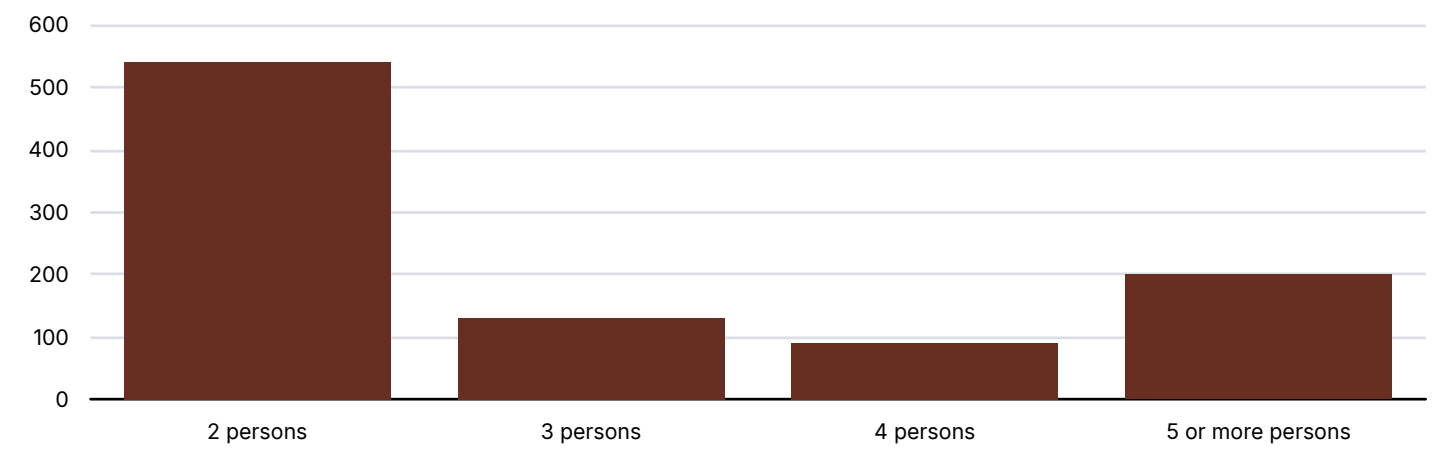
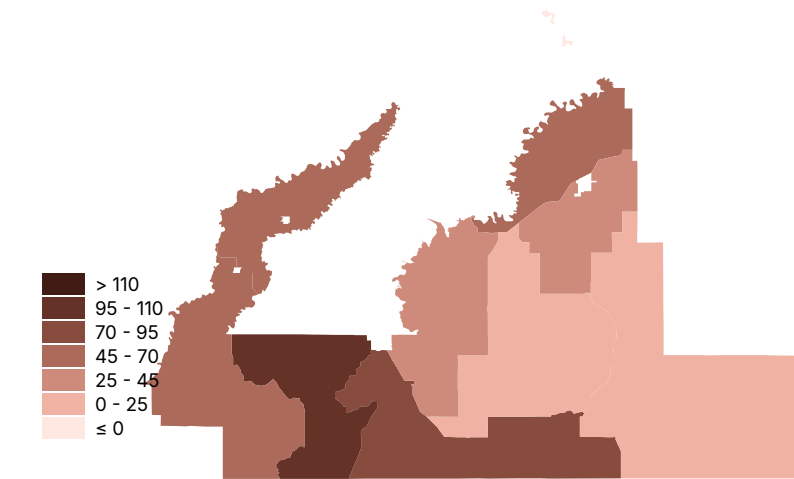


Figure 19.1: Shows the number of people in family households. It helps indicate household composition and the space families may need. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County's census families in private households were concentrated in smaller family sizes, with 540 two-person families and 130 three-person families. Larger families were less common: 90 four-person families and 200 families with five or more persons. The 5-year change shows mixed movement. Two-person families rose 6.9%, and three-person families increased 8.3%. Four-person families fell 14.3%, while the 5-or-more group was unchanged. This pattern suggests that family size is stable at the smaller end, with modest growth in two- and three-person households and a decline in four-person families. The largest category remains two-person families, which points to a household structure centered on smaller family units rather than larger ones.



In Cardston County's census families in private households, two-person families are the largest group, at 540 people in 2021. Three-person families follow at 130, while five or more person families total 200 and four-person families 90. The pattern suggests a family structure weighted toward smaller households, with two-person families also showing 6.9% growth over five years. Four-person families fell 14.3%, while five or more person families were unchanged.

Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Size - 2 persons (Cardston County)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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