

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

CLARESHOLM

Demographics Report

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Executive Summary

Claresholm is a small town whose recent profile combines modest population growth with a distinctly older age structure and small household sizes. After long periods of limited movement, its population reached a series high in 2025, rising from 3,895 in 2021 to 4,242. That recent expansion sits alongside a population that has continued to age over time. The median age climbed steadily across the last three censuses to 56.8 in 2021, and the largest age groups were concentrated from the early 60s into the early 70s. Children and younger adults were present in much smaller numbers, giving the town a demographic centre of gravity that sits well above many nearby communities.

That age profile is reflected in how people live. Households are predominantly small, with two-person households the most common and one-person households close behind. Average household size was 2.1 in 2021 and has been stable at that level since 2016, while average family size held at 2.6 after a slight earlier decline. Family life remains centred on couple households, especially married couples without children, but the structure is shifting at the margins. Married couples with children declined over the most recent five-year period, while one-parent families increased and one-person households continued to grow. Living arrangements show the same pattern from another angle: partnered households still form the largest share, yet living alone is also a prominent part of the town's social makeup. Older residents also play a large role in household leadership, with the biggest group of primary household maintainers in the 65 to 74 range.

Claresholm's cultural profile is relatively concentrated, but not static. English overwhelmingly dominates both mother tongue and household language knowledge, although smaller language groups such as Tagalog and Spanish have grown from a low base. Religious affiliation is split mainly between Christianity and no religion, with only limited representation from other faiths. Indigenous identity and ancestry are present primarily through First Nations and Métis populations, with recent change moving in different directions across those groups. The broader impression is of a town that is growing again, but from a social structure shaped chiefly by older residents, smaller households, and a stable English-speaking majority.

Average Household Size

Claresholm’s average household size was 2.1 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016. It had declined from 2.2 in 2011, leaving the five-year change at 0% and the decade change at -4.5%.

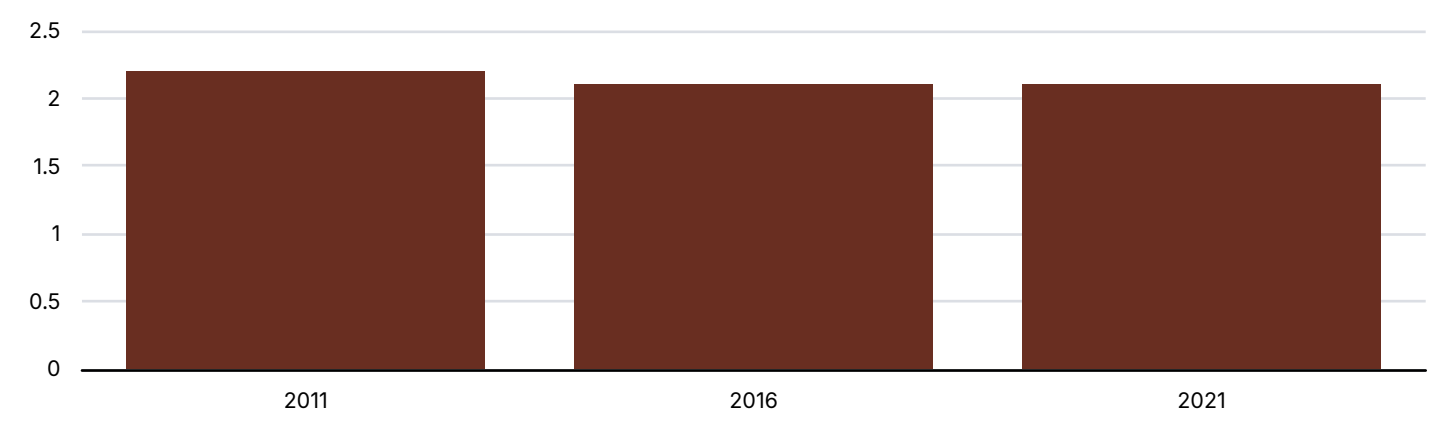


Figure 1.1: Shows the average number of people living in each household. It helps indicate typical living arrangements and the kinds of homes households may need. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s average household size has been small and stable across the censuses for private households. It measured 2.2 people in 2011, then edged down to 2.1 in 2016 and stayed at 2.1 in 2021. That 2011 to 2016 decline was 4.5%, followed by no change over the next five years. The pattern suggests a settled household profile rather than rapid shift, with recent stability more notable than the earlier dip.

Claresholm’s average household size was 2.1 people in 2021, placing it among the smaller household averages in this group. It was unchanged from 2016, after edging down from 2.2 in 2011. By comparison, nearby places ranged from 2.0 in Stavely to 3.9 in Blood 148 and 3.2 in Piikani 147. Claresholm sat below Cardston County at 2.9 and above Improvement District No. 4 Waterton at 1.8. The pattern suggests a fairly stable household size rather than recent change.

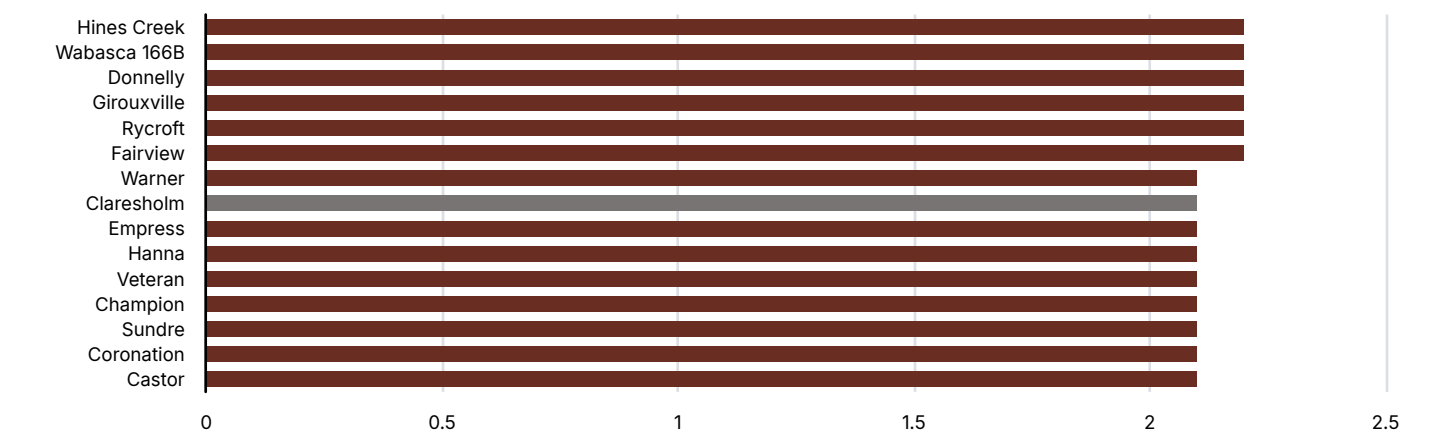


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Average Household Size with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Average Number of Children per Family

Claresholm’s average number of children per census family with children was 1.8 in 2021. This single-point measure shows the typical family size for child-focused households in the community.

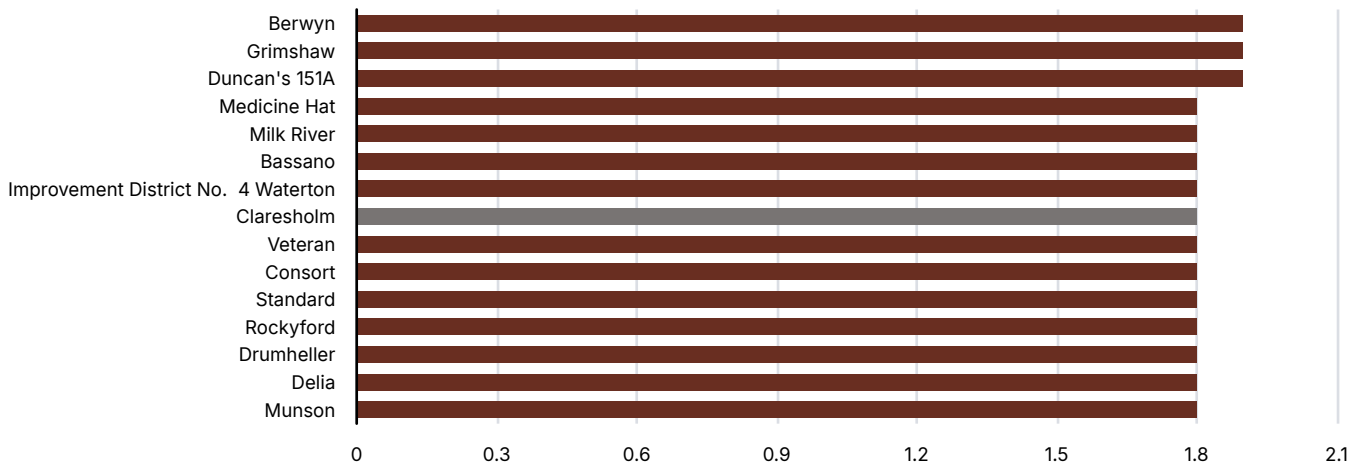
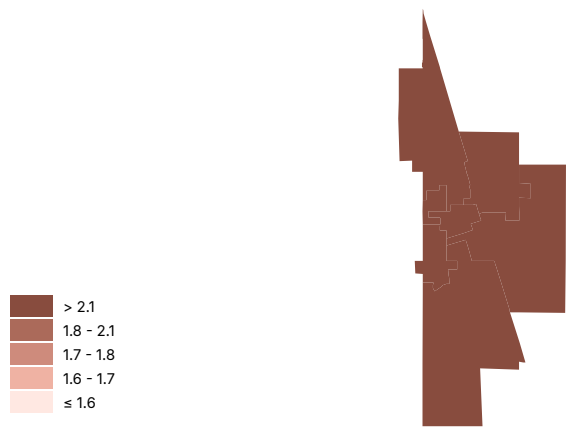


Figure 2.1: Comparison of Average Number of Children per Family with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm had an average of 1.8 children per census family with children. That places it in the middle of the local comparison set and suggests a family size close to several nearby communities. The figure matches Improvement District No. 4 Waterton at 1.8 and sits just above Nanton and Stavely, both at 1.7. It is below Hill Spring at 2.1 and well below Cardston County’s 2.6. Several neighbouring places cluster around 1.9 to 2.0, including Fort Macleod, Pincher Creek No. 9, Pincher Creek, and Blood 148. At the higher end, Glenwood and Magrath each reach 2.5. Claresholm’s value appears typical for the region rather than unusually large or small.



In Claresholm, the average number of children per family was 1.8 in 2021, measured among census families with children. That places the town near the middle of its surrounding dissemination areas, where values ranged from 1.6 to 2.2 children per family. Several local areas matched the town at 1.8, while two were higher at 2.1 and 2.2. The pattern suggests fairly typical family size with some nearby variation in child-focused needs.

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

Indigenous Ancestry

Claresholm’s largest Indigenous ancestry group in 2021 was First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only, at 130 people, up 116.7% since 2016. First Nations single ancestry reached 55 people, also increasing.

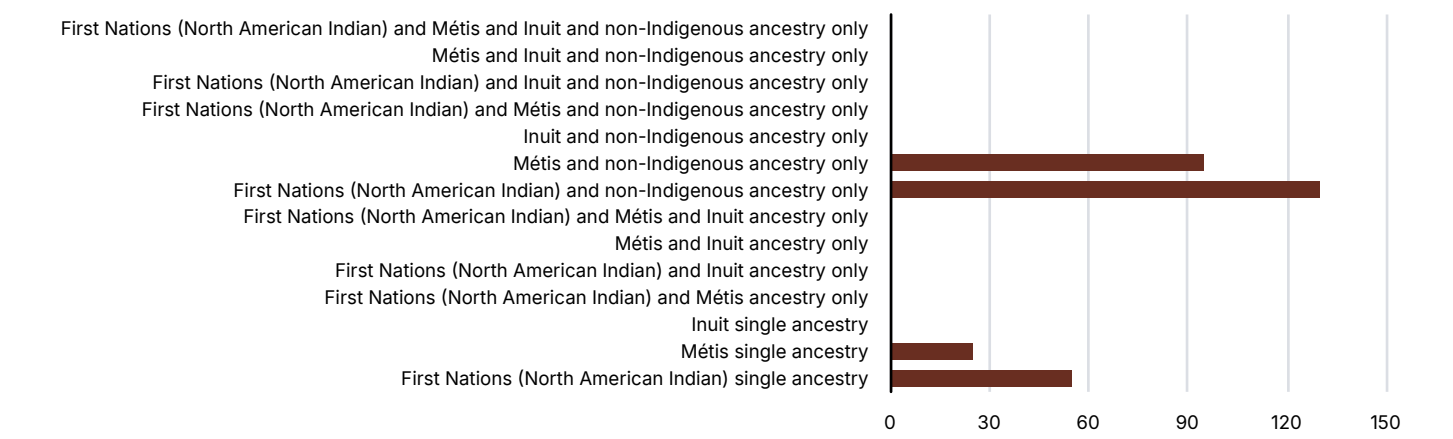


Figure 3.1: Shows residents with Indigenous ancestry. It helps indicate ancestral connections to First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, Indigenous ancestry in 2021 was concentrated in First Nations identity, with smaller Métis representation and no Inuit counts reported. The largest group was First Nations single ancestry at 55 people, followed by Métis single ancestry at 25. Among mixed and multiple ancestry categories, First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only accounted for 130 people, while Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only accounted for 95. Most other combinations were zero. The five-year changes show uneven movement: First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only rose by 116.7%, while Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only fell by 17.4%.

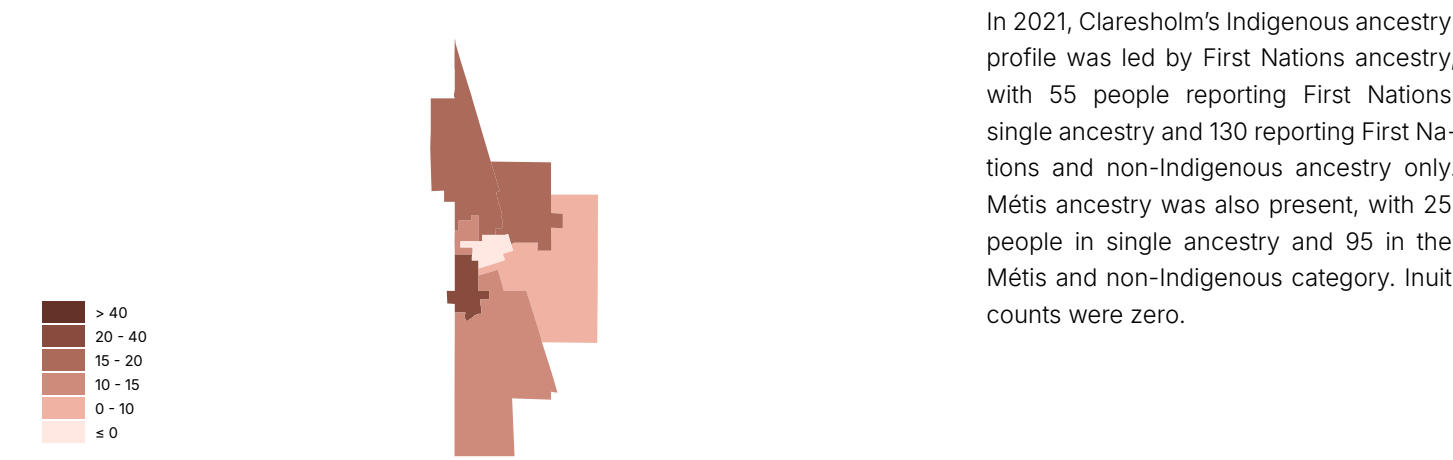


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Ancestry - First Nations (North American Indian) and non-Indigenous ancestry only (Claresholm)¹

Age Groups

Claresholm’s largest age group in 2021 was 65 to 69 years with 360 people, while 80 to 84 years grew fastest over five years to 220 people, up 46.7%.

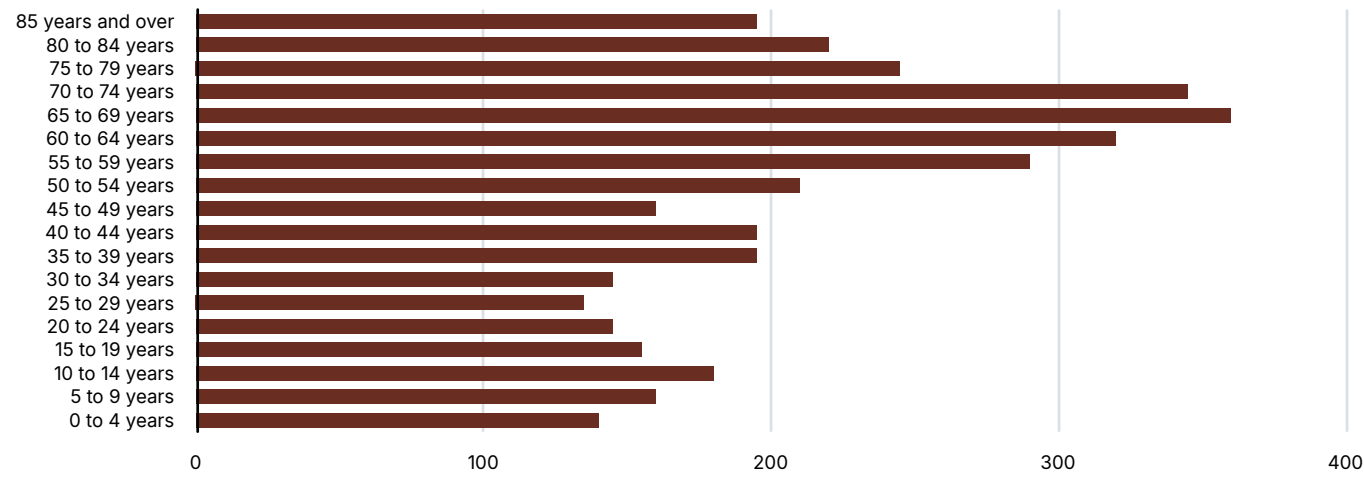


Figure 4.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community's age structure and stage of life profile. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm’s 2021 age profile is weighted toward older adults, with the largest groups in the 60 to 69 range. The 65 to 69 group is the biggest at 360 people, followed by 70 to 74 at 345 and 60 to 64 at 320. Younger cohorts are smaller, with 0 to 4 years at 140 and 5 to 9 years at 160. Recent change is uneven: children aged 10 to 14 rose 28.6% over five years, while 50 to 54 fell 22.2% and 20 to 24 dropped 21.6%. The pattern suggests a community with a strong older-age presence, alongside selective gains in a few younger and midlife groups.

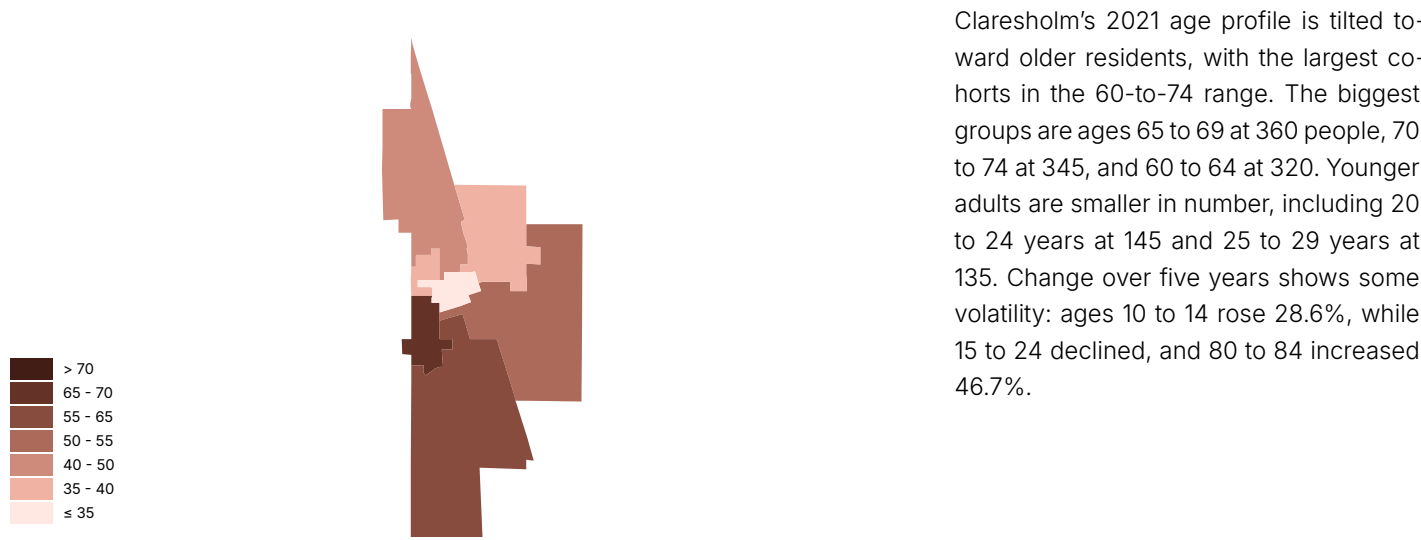


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 65 to 69 years (Claresholm)¹

Family Type

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

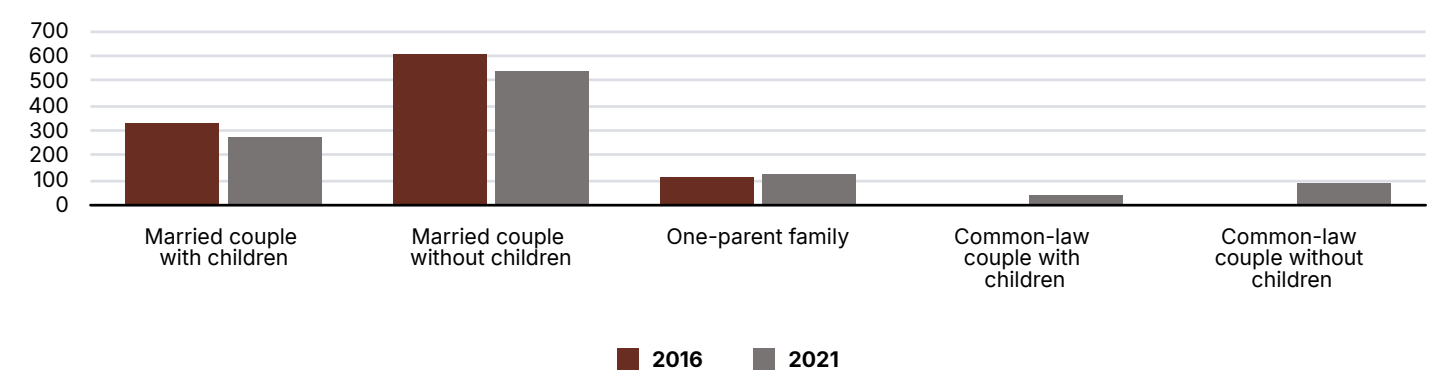


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

In Claresholm, census families in private households were still dominated by couple families in 2021, with married couples without children the largest group at 535 people. Married couples with children numbered 270, while one-parent families accounted for 120. Common-law couples were a smaller part of the mix, at 85 without children and 35 with children. The five-year pattern was mixed. Married couples with children fell 16.9%, and married couples without children declined 11.6%. By contrast, one-parent families rose 9.1%. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

In Claresholm, census families in private households are dominated by couple families. In 2021, married couples without children were the largest family type at 535 people, followed by married couples with children at 270. One-parent families accounted for 120 people, while common-law couples were smaller groups at 85 without children and 35 with children. The five-year pattern is mixed. Married couples declined, especially those with children, down 16.9%, while one-parent families rose 9.1%. That points to a family structure that remains couple-based but is gradually shifting toward more lone-parent households.



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

Religion

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

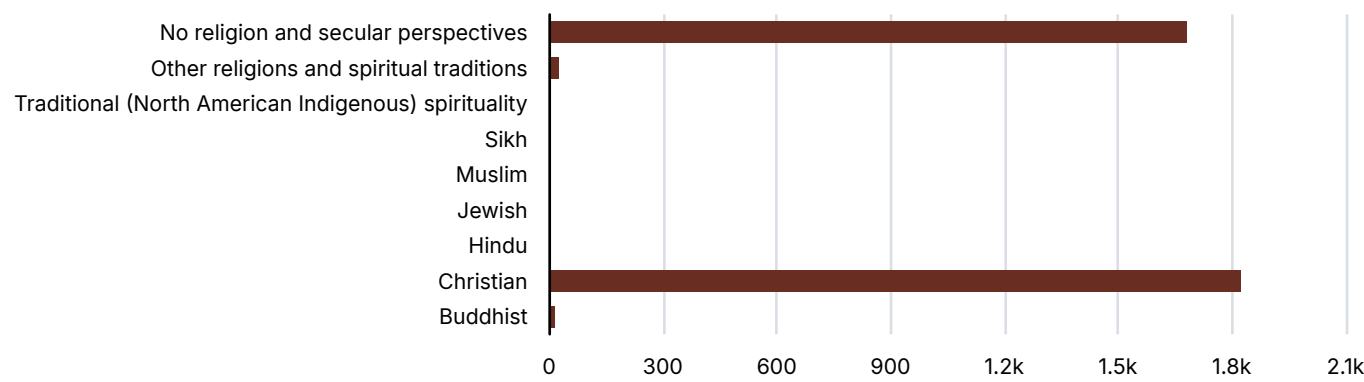


Figure 6.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s religious profile was shaped by a large Christian population, with 1,825 people identifying as Christian and 1,680 reporting no religion or secular perspectives. Smaller groups included 25 people in other religions and spiritual traditions and 15 Buddhists. Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and traditional Indigenous spirituality each recorded zero. The pattern suggests a community divided mainly between Christian affiliation and no religion, with very limited representation from other faiths.

In Claresholm, religion in 2021 was shaped by two large groups: Christianity and no religion or secular perspectives. Christians numbered 1,825 people, while 1,680 reported no religion, leaving only small numbers in other affiliations. The remaining categories were limited: 25 people identified with other religions and spiritual traditions, and 15 were Buddhist. Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and traditional Indigenous spirituality each recorded 0. The pattern suggests a community with a narrow religious mix, led by the two largest categories.



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

Mother Tongue

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

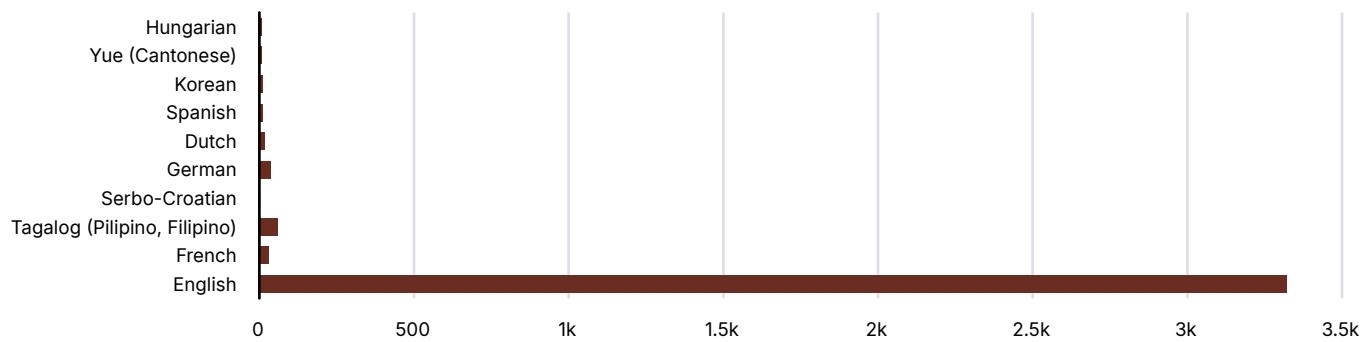


Figure 7.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, mother tongue data for 2021 show a strongly English-speaking population, with English reported by 3,325 people. French was a distant second at 35, while other languages were much smaller in number. The language profile is changing in mixed ways rather than moving in one direction. Over the five-year period, English rose 1.4%, while Tagalog grew 44.4%, Spanish 50%, Korean 200%, and Yue (Cantonese) 100%. By contrast, French fell 12.5%, German and Dutch each declined 20%, and Hungarian was unchanged. The pattern points to a stable English base alongside growth in several smaller-language groups.

In Claresholm, mother tongue is strongly concentrated in English, with 3,325 people reporting it in 2021. Other languages are much smaller in scale, led by Tagalog with 65 people, German with 40, and French with 35. Several smaller languages also show movement over five years. Tagalog rose 44.4%, Spanish increased 50%, Korean grew 200%, and Yue increased 100%, while German and Dutch both fell 20%. This points to a town where English remains dominant, but a range of minority language groups is present and, in some cases, expanding.



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

Visible Minority

Filipino residents remained the largest visible minority group in Claresholm at 110 people in 2021, up 29.4% since 2016. Black residents grew fastest, rising from 10 to 30, while multiple visible minorities fell to zero.

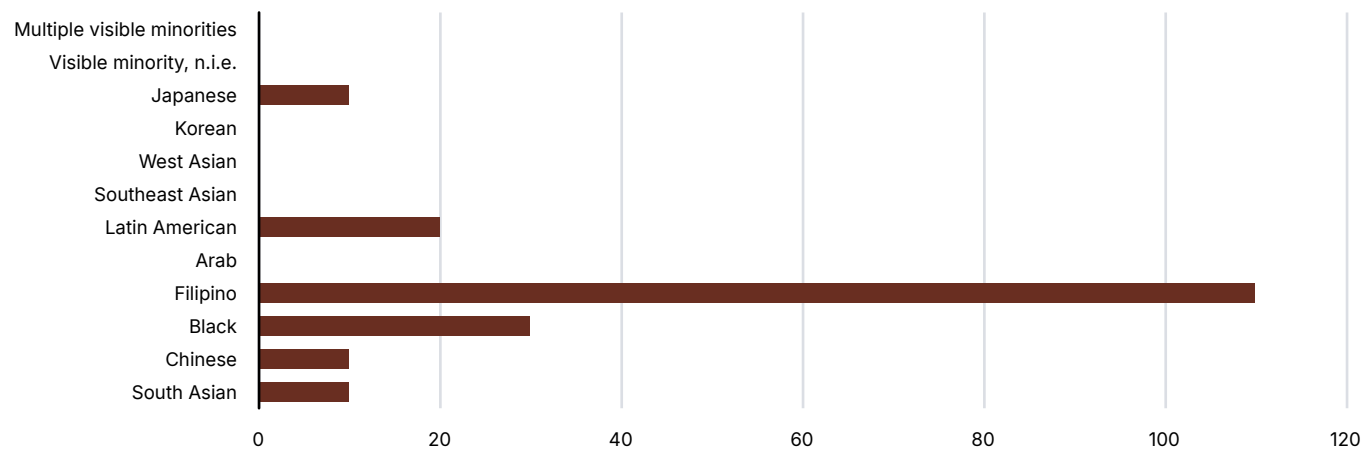
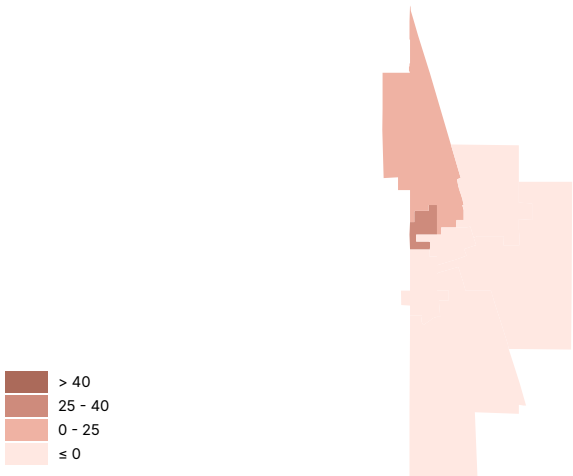


Figure 8.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s visible minority population was small and unevenly distributed across groups. The largest count was Filipino, at 110 people, followed by Black at 30 and Latin American at 20. Recent change varied sharply by group. Filipino increased by 29.4% over five years, while Black rose by 200% and Latin American doubled. By contrast, South Asian fell by 50% and Chinese declined by 33.3%. Japanese was unchanged at 10 people. Several groups had no recorded population in 2021, including Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, and visible minority, n.i.e., while multiple visible minorities dropped to zero.



In Claresholm, the visible minority profile in 2021 was concentrated in a few groups, with Filipino residents the largest count at 110 people. Black residents numbered 30, while Latin American residents were 20. South Asian, Chinese and Japanese groups each had 10 people, and several other groups recorded zero. At the local area level, one dissemination area had 40 Filipino residents, another had 25, and one had 10 Latin American residents. This pattern points to a limited but uneven distribution across the community.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Filipino (Claresholm)¹

Indigenous Identity

Claresholm’s Indigenous identity count was led by First Nations at 85 people in 2021, up 70% from 50 in 2016. Métis declined to 65 from 115, while other Indigenous categories remained at zero.

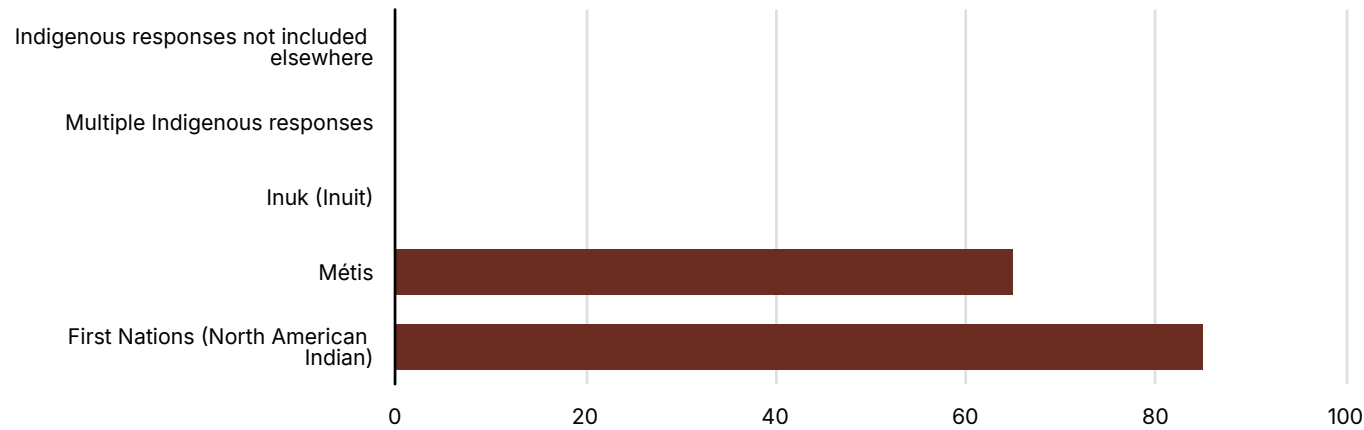


Figure 9.1: Shows residents who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. It helps indicate the presence of Indigenous communities in the area. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, Indigenous identity in 2021 was concentrated in two groups. First Nations people accounted for 85 residents, while Métis residents numbered 65. Together, they made up the full count reported for Indigenous identity in the town’s private households. The five-year change points in different directions. The First Nations population rose by 70 over the period, while the Métis population declined by 43.5%. No residents were reported as Inuk (Inuit), with multiple Indigenous responses and Indigenous responses not included elsewhere also recorded at zero. The pattern suggests a shift within a small local population rather than broad-based growth across all groups.

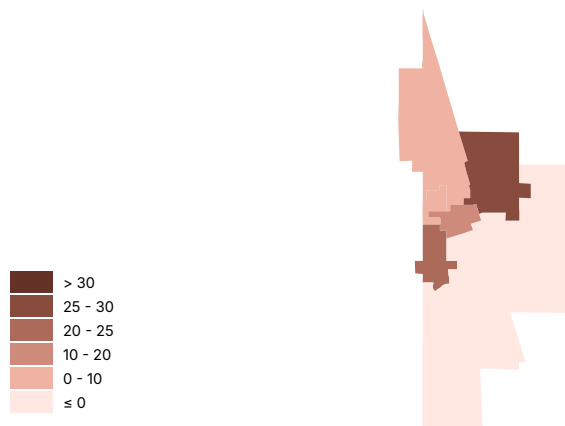


Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Identity - First Nations (North American Indian) (Claresholm)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s Indigenous identity counts were modest and concentrated in two groups: First Nations and Métis. First Nations accounted for 85 people, while Métis accounted for 65. Inuit, multiple Indigenous responses, and Indigenous responses not included elsewhere were each recorded at 0. Across the town’s areas, First Nations and Métis were the only recorded identities in most places. The pattern suggests a limited but present Indigenous population, with First Nations slightly larger than Métis and most smaller categories absent from the count.

Household Size

In Claresholm, 2-person households remained the largest group at 690 in 2021. One-person households rose to 630, up 14.6% from 550 in 2016, while 4-person households fell to 135.

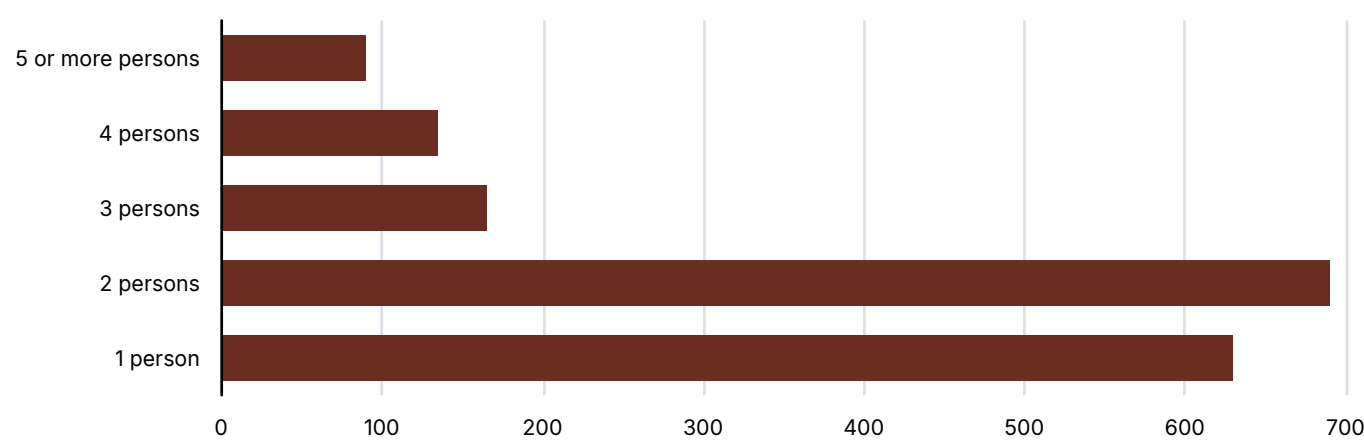
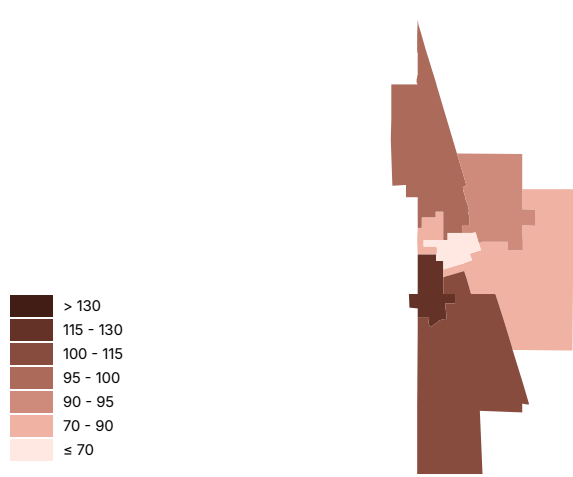


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, household size in Claresholm was shaped most by smaller households. Two-person households were the largest group at 690, followed closely by one-person households at 630. Three-person households numbered 165, while four-person households accounted for 135 and households with five or more people for 90. The five-year changes point to modest movement rather than a sharp shift. One-person households increased 14.6% over the period, three-person households rose 3.1%, and four-person households declined 10.0%. Two-person households and those with five or more people showed no change. This pattern suggests a household profile led by smaller living arrangements, with the clearest recent growth in single-person households.



In 2021, Claresholm’s private households were concentrated in smaller sizes. Two-person households were the largest group at 690, followed closely by one-person households at 630. Three-person households accounted for 165, while four-person and larger households were much fewer at 135 and 90, respectively. This pattern suggests modest household sizes dominate.

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

Living Arrangement

Married spouses or common-law partners were the largest living arrangement in Claresholm in 2021, at 1,835 people. Living alone was next at 625, followed by children in two-parent families at 590 and non-relatives only at 140.

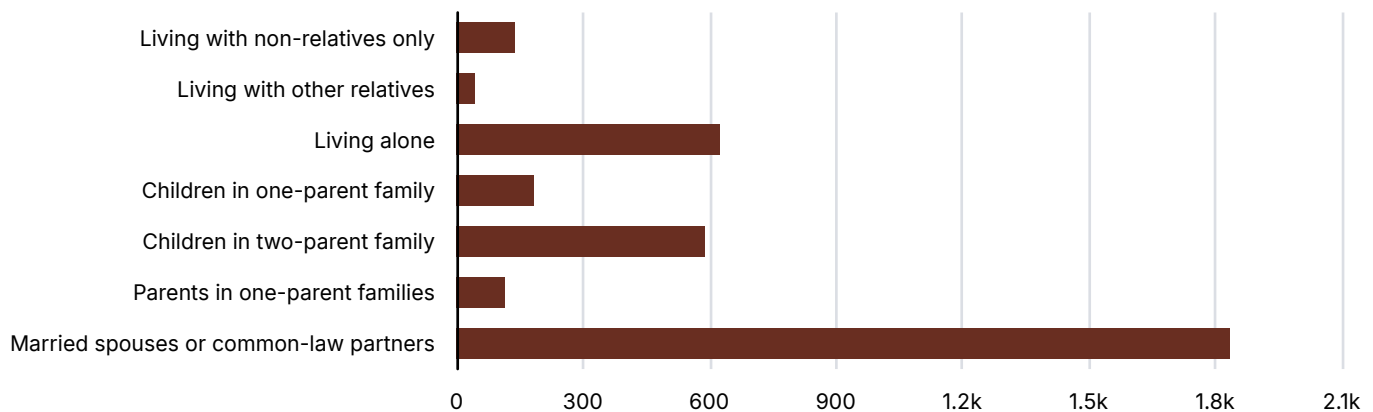


Figure 11.1: Shows residents' living arrangements, such as living alone, with family, or with others. It helps indicate household formation and support networks. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the 2021 living arrangement profile was shaped by partnered households and a notable share of people living alone. Among residents in private households, 1,835 people lived with married spouses or common-law partners, while 625 lived alone. Family-based arrangements also accounted for a sizeable part of the picture. There were 590 children in two-parent families and 185 children in one-parent families, alongside 115 parents in one-parent families. Smaller groups lived with non-relatives only, at 140 people, or with other relatives, at 45. That mix suggests a community where partnered households are most common, but solo living and other household forms remain visible. The pattern points to a varied household structure rather than a single dominant arrangement.

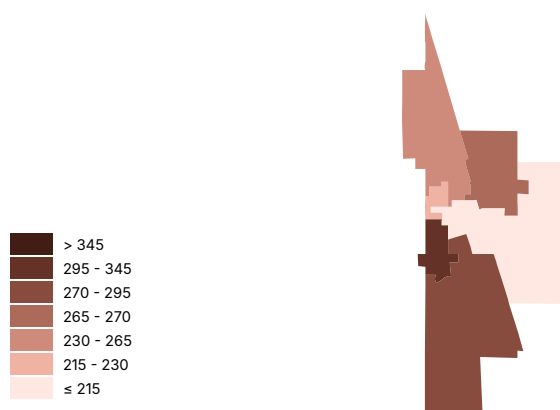


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Living Arrangement - Married spouses or common-law partners (Claresholm)¹

In Claresholm, living arrangements in 2021 were led by married spouses or common-law partners, with 1,835 people in that category. Living alone was also common at 625 people, while 590 children lived in two-parent families. Smaller groups included 185 children in one-parent families, 115 parents in one-parent families, 140 people living with non-relatives only, and 45 living with other relatives. The pattern points to a household profile centered on partnered living, but with a notable share of people living alone and smaller family-support arrangements.

Marital Status

In Claresholm, married residents remained the largest group at 1,690 in 2021, down 3.15% from 2016. Not married and not living common law rose to 1,400, led by 660 never married residents.

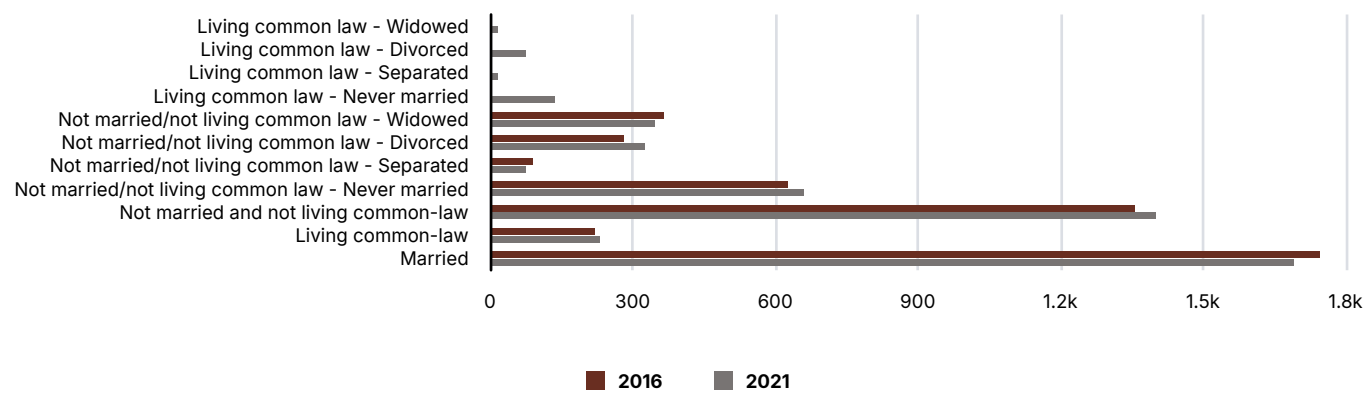


Figure 12.1: Shows the marital status of residents, such as single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed. It helps indicate relationship patterns and household formation. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

Claresholm’s 2021 marital status profile for residents age 15 and over was shaped by a large married population, but recent changes were mixed. Married residents numbered 1,690, down 3.1% over five years, while those not married and not living common-law totaled 1,400, up 3.3%. Living common-law accounted for 230 people, increasing 4.5%. Within the unmarried group, never married rose to 660, and divorced increased to 325, while widowed fell to 345.

In 2021, Claresholm’s population aged 15 and over was divided fairly evenly between married residents and those not married and not living common-law. Married people numbered 1,690, while 1,400 fell into the latter group. Common-law unions accounted for 230 people. The marital profile also shifted unevenly over five years. Married residents declined by 3.1%, while common-law living rose 4.5% and the not married, not common-law group increased 3.3%. Within that group, divorced residents grew 16.1% and never married residents rose 5.6%.



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

Language Knowledge in Households

English was the largest language knowledge group in Claresholm households at 3,540, while Spanish recorded the fastest five-year growth, rising 233.3% to 50. French reached 105, and Tagalog 95.

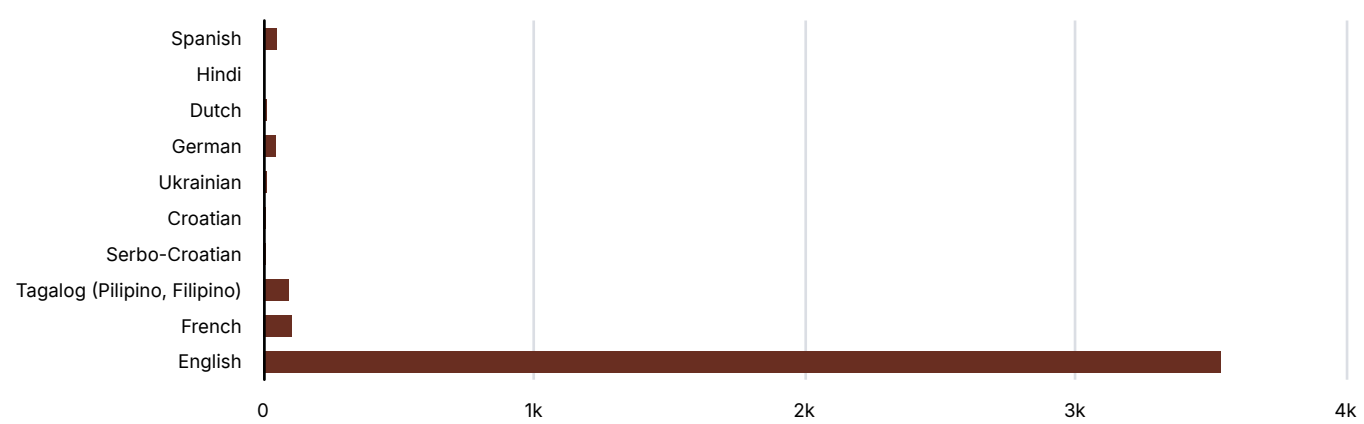
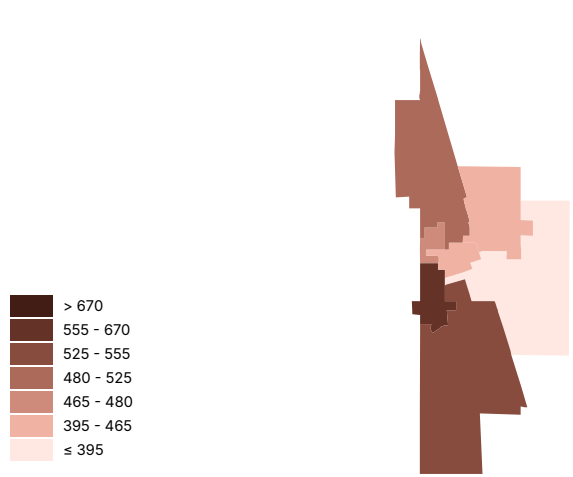


Figure 13.1: Shows the languages household members can speak. It helps indicate multilingual capacity and potential language access needs. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, household language knowledge in 2021 was dominated by English, but several other languages also appeared in small numbers. The town’s profile shows a strong English core alongside limited multilingual capacity in private households. English was reported for 3,540 households. French followed at 105, while Spanish and Tagalog were also present at 50 and 95, respectively. German was listed at 45. Smaller counts included Dutch and Ukrainian at 15 each, and Serbo-Croatian and Croatian at 10 each. The five-year change suggests growth in several languages, including Spanish, French, and Tagalog, while Croatian was unchanged. Hindi remained at zero. This points to a mainly English-speaking community with some recent diversification in household language knowledge.



In Claresholm, household language knowledge is heavily concentrated in English, with 3,540 households able to speak it in 2021. Other languages appear at much smaller levels, led by French at 105 households, Tagalog at 95, and Spanish at 50. The pattern suggests a largely English-speaking household profile, with a modest but visible multilingual layer. French also stands out for a sharp 133.3% five-year increase, while Spanish rose 233.3% and Tagalog 46.1%.

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

Household Type

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

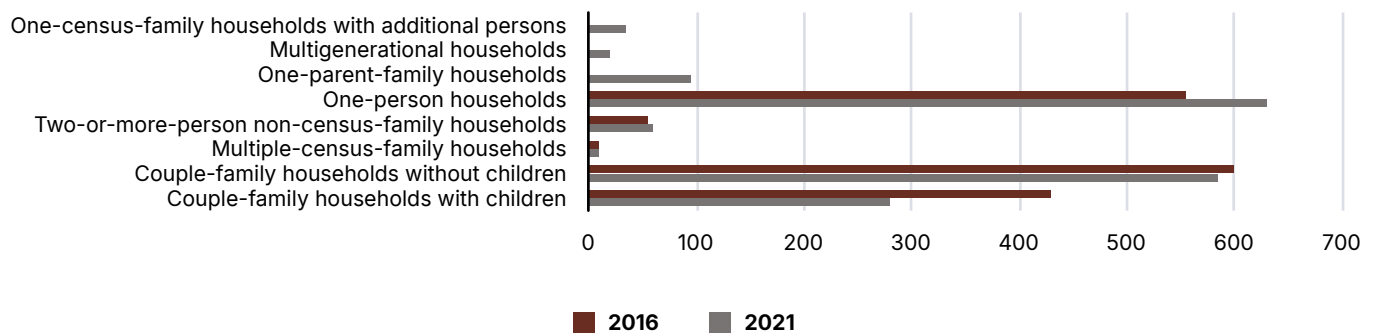


Figure 14.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Claresholm, 2016-2021)¹

Claresholm's private households in 2021 were shaped most strongly by family living arrangements, led by 630 one-person households and 585 couple-family households without children. Couple-family households with children numbered 280, down 34.9% over five years, while one-person households rose 13.5%. Smaller categories included 95 one-parent-family households, 60 two-or-more-person non-census-family households, 35 one-census-family households with additional persons, 20 multigenerational households, and 10 multiple-census-family households. The recent shift suggests a move toward smaller household types, especially more people living alone. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

In Claresholm's private households in 2021, one-person households were the largest type at 630, followed by couple-family households without children at 585. Couple-family households with children stood at 280 and had fallen 34.9% over five years, while one-person households rose 13.5%. The pattern points to a household mix leaning toward smaller living arrangements, with growth in solitary households offsetting weaker family-with-children counts.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - One-person households (Claresholm)¹

Average Family Size

Claresholm’s average family size was 2.6 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and down from 2.7 in 2011. Over five years, the measure was flat, after a 3.7% decline previously.

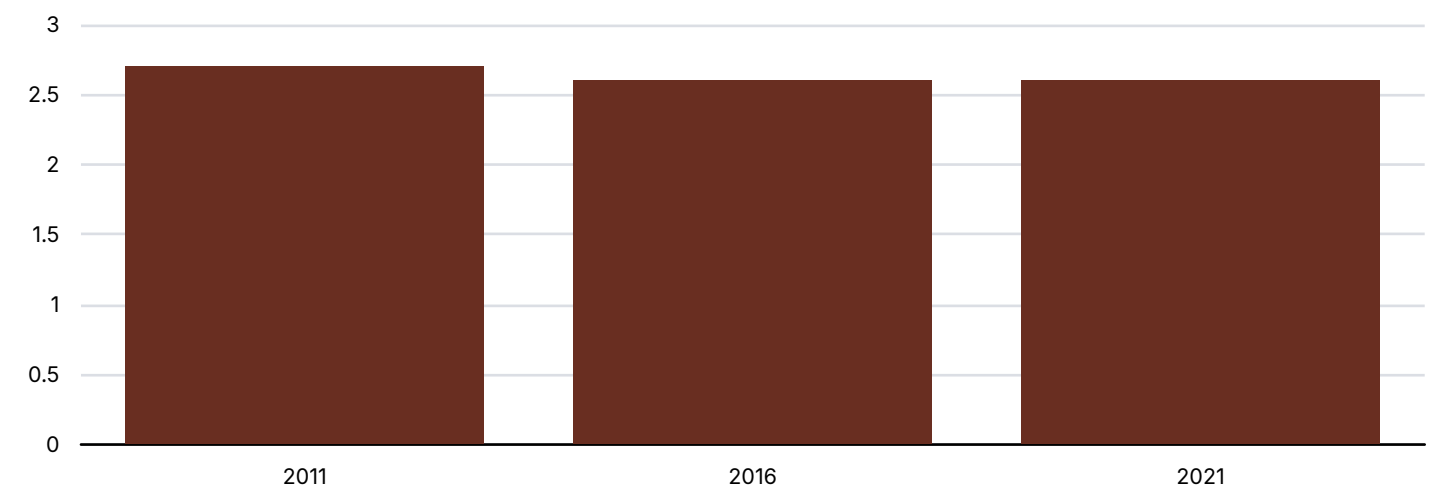
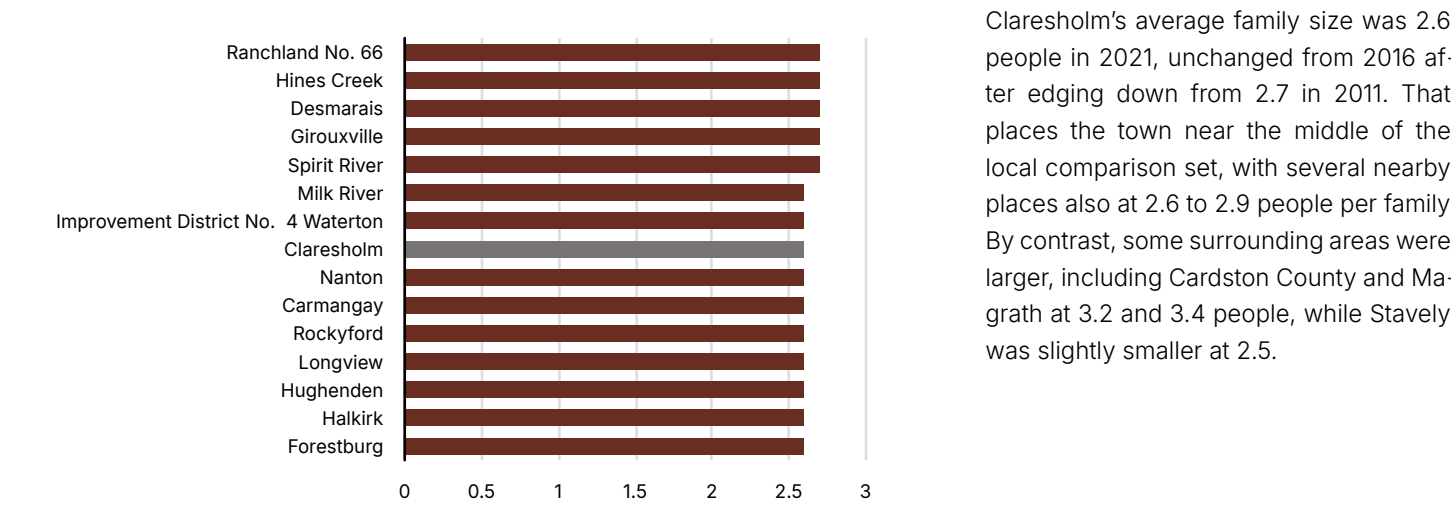


Figure 15.1: Shows the average number of people in family households. It helps indicate typical family living arrangements and space needs. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s average family size has been stable to slightly smaller over the past decade. In census families in private households, the figure was 2.7 people in 2011, then 2.6 in both 2016 and 2021. The 5-year change was -3.7% from 2011 to 2016, followed by no change from 2016 to 2021. That leaves the 2021 average at 2.6 people per family household. The pattern suggests a modest decline early in the period and then a flat trend. With no further movement in the most recent census, Claresholm’s family size appears to have settled at this level. This points to a small but consistent family household size rather than a growing one.



Claresholm’s average family size was 2.6 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 after edging down from 2.7 in 2011. That places the town near the middle of the local comparison set, with several nearby places also at 2.6 to 2.9 people per family. By contrast, some surrounding areas were larger, including Cardston County and Margrath at 3.2 and 3.4 people, while Stavely was slightly smaller at 2.5.

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

Total Population

Claresholm’s population reached 4,242 in 2025, up 8.5% over five years. Growth accelerated from 4,121 in 2024 and 3,895 in 2021, following a small decline from 2017 to 2019.

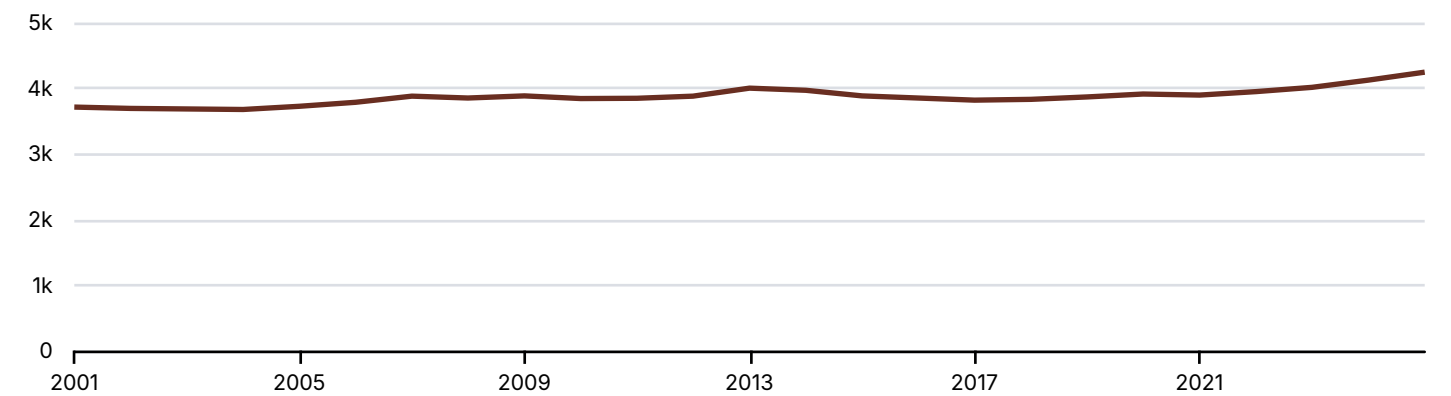


Figure 16.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Claresholm, 2001-2025)²

Claresholm's total population has been relatively steady over the past quarter century, with modest swings rather than sharp shifts. The town had 3,710 people in 2001, dipped to 3,674 in 2004, and then rose to 4,000 in 2013. More recently, the trend has been upward. Population increased from 3,895 in 2021 to 4,242 in 2025, a 5-year gain of 8.5%. That makes the latest count the highest in the series, marking a clear recent expansion after earlier periods of slower movement.

Claresholm's total population has been steady to moderately rising over the past two decades, with a clearer upswing in the most recent years. In 2025, the town counted 4,242 people, up from 3,710 in 2001. The series moved within a fairly narrow band for much of the period, staying near 3,700 to 4,000 before crossing 4,000 in 2013 and reaching 4,121 in 2024. Compared with nearby places, Claresholm is larger than Hill Spring, Cowley, and Stavely, but smaller than Nanton, Fort Macleod, and Cardston County. The recent gains suggest renewed population growth after earlier plateaus and small declines.

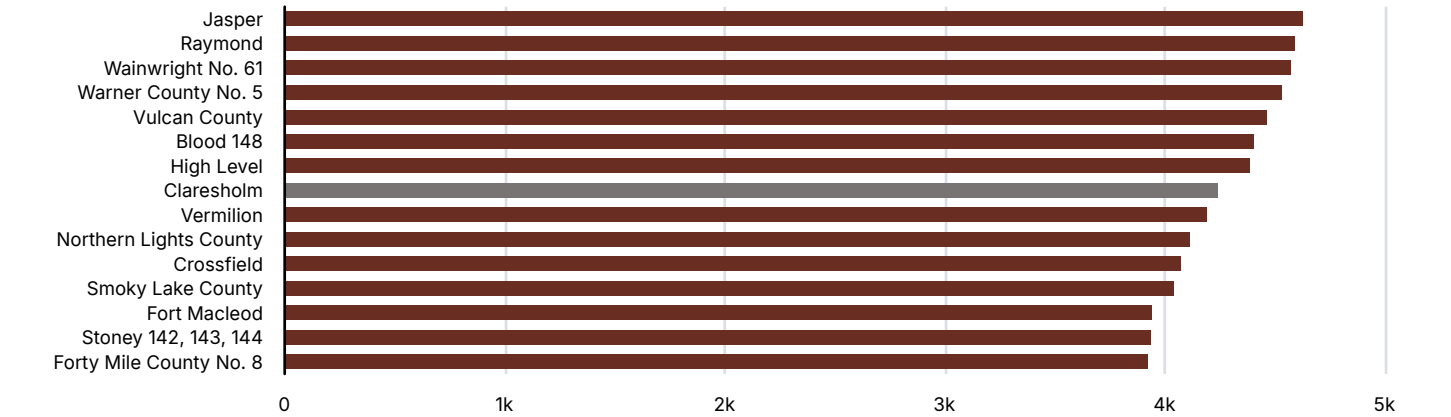


Figure 16.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Claresholm, 2025)²

Primary Maintainer Age

Claresholm’s largest maintainer-age group in 2021 was 65 to 74 years, with 435 households, up 20.8% from 2016. The 15 to 24 group was smallest at 20 households, down 42.9%.

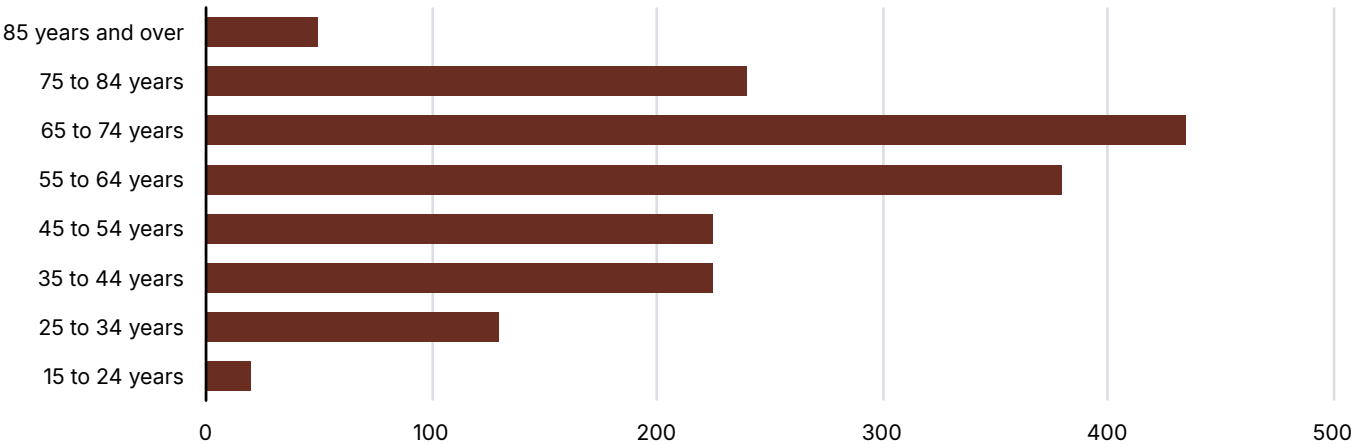
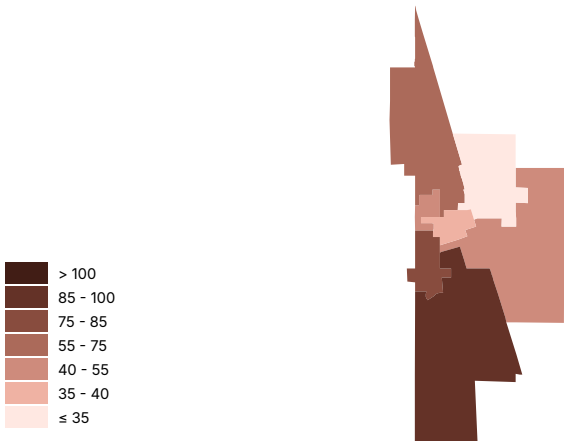


Figure 17.1: Shows the age of the primary household maintainer. It helps indicate which life stages are carrying primary financial responsibility for housing. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s primary household maintainer profile was concentrated in older age groups, with the largest counts among residents aged 65 to 74 years and 55 to 64 years. There were 435 households in the 65 to 74 group and 380 in the 55 to 64 group, compared with 225 each in the 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 groups. The younger and middle adult groups were smaller by comparison. Households maintained by people aged 25 to 34 totaled 130, while the 15 to 24 group had 20 and those 85 years and over had 50. Over the previous five years, the 35 to 44 group grew by 25%, while the 15 to 24 group fell by 42.9%.



In Claresholm, the 2021 age profile of primary household maintainers is weighted toward older adults, especially those 65 to 74 years old, with 435 households, and 55 to 64 years old, with 380. Mid-life groups are smaller at 225 each for ages 35 to 44 and 45 to 54, while only 20 households are led by maintainers aged 15 to 24. Over five years, the 65 to 74 group rose by 20.8%, while the 15 to 24 group fell by 42.9%.

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

Median Age

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

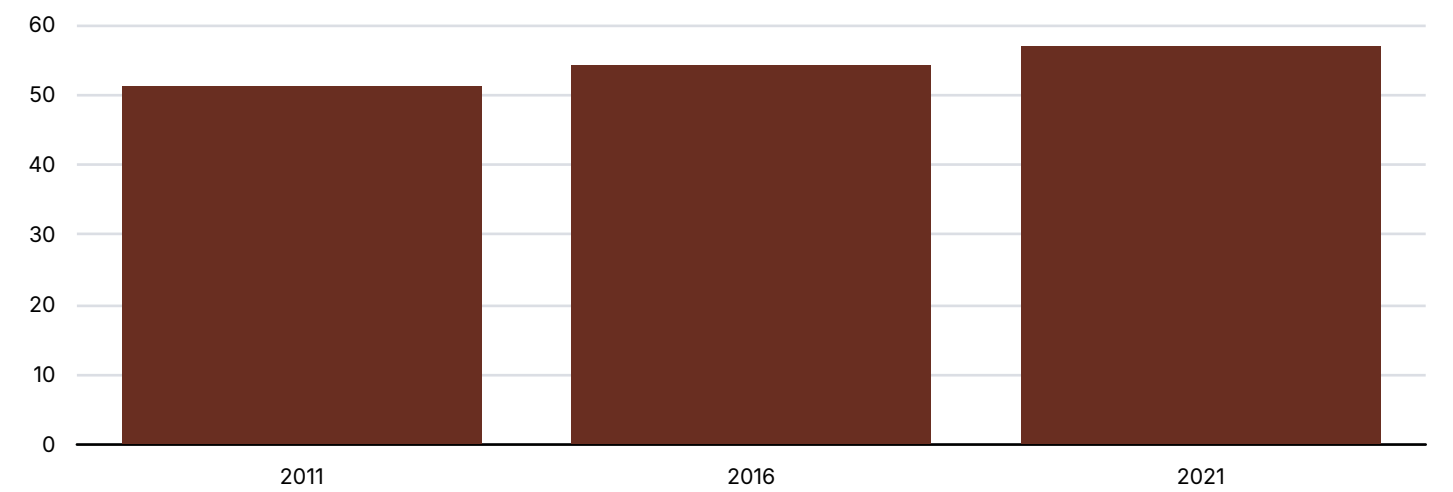
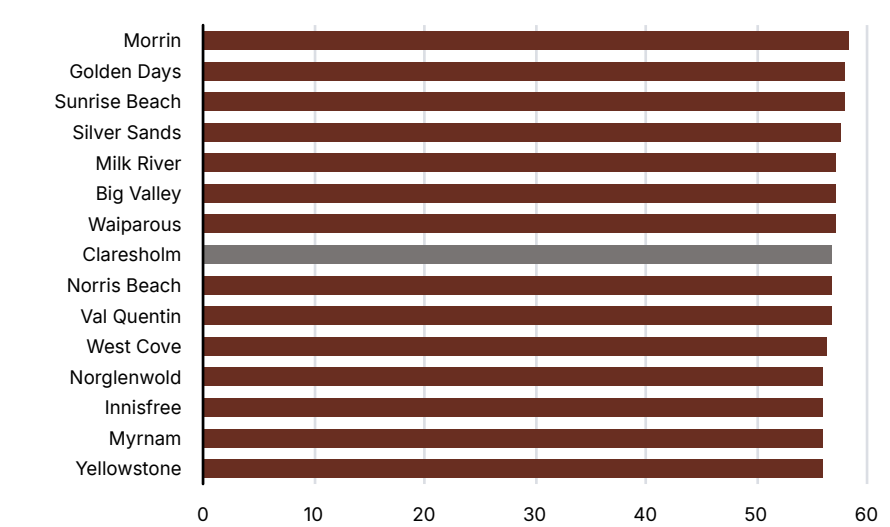


Figure 18.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s median age has risen steadily over the last decade, pointing to an older midpoint in the town’s population age profile. In 2011, the median age was 51.1 years. It increased to 54.1 years in 2016 and reached 56.8 years in 2021. The change was gradual rather than abrupt. Between 2011 and 2016, the median age rose by 5.9%, followed by another 5.0% increase from 2016 to 2021. That pattern shows consistent upward movement across both periods. For the total population, the data suggests an aging age structure over time, with the midpoint of residents’ ages shifting higher at each census.



Claresholm’s median age was 56.8 years in 2021, up from 54.1 in 2016 and 51.1 in 2011. That places it near the top of the local comparison set, ahead of Stavely and Hill Spring at 54.8 years and Nanton at 52.8 years. It is well above Fort Macleod at 42.4 years and Cardston County at 36.4 years. The pattern points to an older population midpoint than most nearby places.

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

Family Size

Claresholm’s family households were led by 2-person families at 685 in 2021, up 0.7% from 2016. Three-person families fell to 150, while 4-person families dipped to 130 and 5-plus stayed at 75.

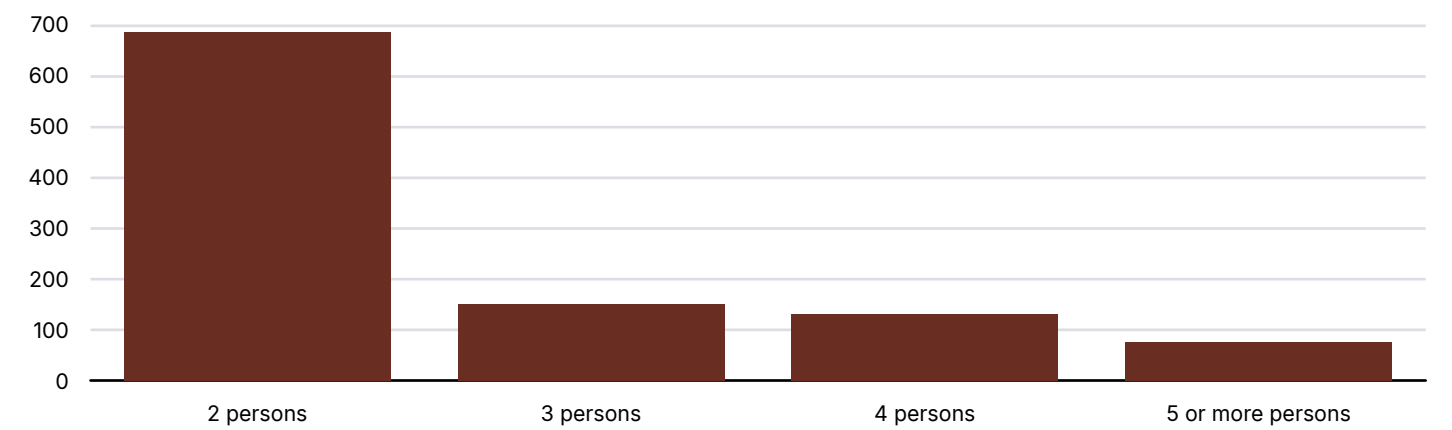


Figure 19.1: Shows the number of people in family households. It helps indicate household composition and the space families may need. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm’s family size profile in 2021 was centered on smaller family households. Two-person families were by far the most common, while larger families were much less frequent within census families in private households. The town recorded 685 two-person families, compared with 150 three-person families, 130 four-person families, and 75 families with five or more people. That order shows a clear drop-off as family size increases. The five-year changes point in different directions. Two-person families rose slightly, by 0.7%, while three-person families fell 6.3% and four-person families declined 3.7%. Families with five or more people were unchanged. Taken together, the data suggest a stable family-size pattern with strong concentration in two-person households and only modest movement over time.

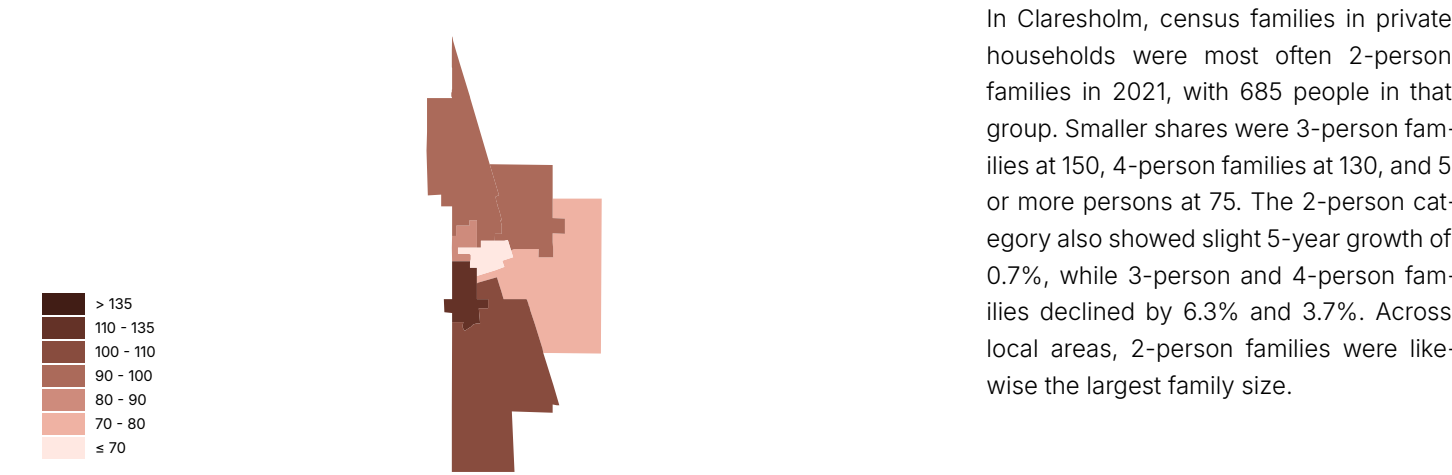


Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Size - 2 persons (Claresholm)¹

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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