Average Annual Income for Older Adults

Average annual total income and government transfers for all adults aged 65 and older and those with low income in Waterloo Region and Ontario, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Interpretation

- In Waterloo Region in 2006, the average total annual income of all older adults was more than two times that of older adults with low income ($31,729 versus $14,212).
- The income gap between all older adults and those with low income has steadily increased over time (in Waterloo Region: $11,147 disparity in 1996 versus $17,517 disparity in 2006).
- In 2006, government transfers represented 92.7 per cent of total income for older adults with low income in Waterloo Region, compared with only 47.0 per cent for all older adults. The provincial proportions were similar (92.1 versus 47.5 per cent).
- Average income values for older adults with low income increased at a lower rate over 10 years than for all older adults in Waterloo Region (23.0 versus 39.8 per cent change). The provincial trend was similar (24.5 versus 44.3 per cent change).
- Overall, Waterloo Region had slightly lower average total income values for all older adults compared with Ontario. In older adults with low income, Waterloo Region tended to have slightly higher average total income values, though the difference between provincial and regional averages did not vary by more than $1,200 in value.

Notes

Total annual income is defined as the combined income (before tax) acquired through employment salaries and wages, and government sources of income (i.e., benefits from Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, child benefits, etc.).

Low income status is defined using Statistics Canada’s before tax Low Income Cutoffs (LICOs), a relative measure of income status. LICOs convey the income level at which individuals and families may be in ‘stratified’ circumstances and are expected to spend at least 20 per cent more of their before tax income on basics such as food, clothing and shelter, compared with the average.