

APPENDIX A: METHODS

To create a report on the wellbeing of residents of Oxford County, the *most recent data available* have been drawn from four main sources. These sources of data provided demographic characteristics and indicators for each of the eight domains comprising the CIW's framework identified as critical to our overall wellbeing (i.e., *community vitality, healthy populations, democratic engagement, the environment, leisure and culture, education, living standards, and time use*).

1. NATIONAL SURVEY DATA AND OTHER FEDERAL SOURCES – wherever possible, indicators used for the CIW's national index comprising the eight domains are used. The most recent data, principally from Statistics Canada and other federal agencies (i.e., Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; Legislative Assembly of Canada; Elections Canada) are the main sources for creating portraits of wellbeing. Many of the indicators come from national surveys, including the Canadian Community Health Survey, the General Social Surveys (various cycles on Time Use; Victimization; Social Engagement; Canadian Survey on Giving, Volunteering, and Participating), and the Ethnic Diversity Survey;

2. PROVINCIAL DATA SOURCES – when national data were not available, we chose proxy indicators for several of the domains from provincial agencies and not for profit organizations. The agencies from which indicators were drawn included the Government of Ontario's Public Library Statistics; Government of Ontario's Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network; Ministry of Children and Youth Services; Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport's After-School Program; Ontario Provincial Park Statistics; and People for Education;

3. CENSUS OF CANADA – primarily for the section describing the demographic characteristics of Ontarians, data have been taken from the 2016 Census of Canada. The Census also provided the means to adapt selected indicators from national and provincial sources to per capita measures thereby allowing for direct comparisons between regions with quite different population sizes; and

4. OXFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY WELLBEING SURVEY – conducted in the spring of 2016, the Oxford County Community Wellbeing Survey was administered by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing in partnership with Community Oxford. The results of the survey based on a random sample of 1,304 respondents from across the County were released in the report, *A Profile of the Wellbeing of Oxford County Residents*. In some instances, questions used in the survey were identical to those used in national surveys, but results from those national surveys for Oxford County were not available.

Almost all of the data from national sources are for the year 2014. We also used a few data sources from 2013 and whenever possible, from 2016. For the section on demographics, we used the most recent Census of Canada (2016). To ensure comparability across regions of different population sizes, some indicators have been converted to per capita measures (e.g., number of incidents per 100,000 people). In these cases, we base our population estimates on Statistics Canada guidelines. Results from the Community Wellbeing Survey were only used when the measures were identical to those drawn from national and provincial sources or could be sufficiently validated. Nevertheless, when survey results from Oxford County are reported, direct comparisons across different geographic scales should be made with caution because they might be based on slightly different question format and/or represent different time periods when the data were collected.

The greatest limitation to securing indicators for all of the domains was availability of data at the regional level. While indicators could typically be taken from national sources and reported for Ontario as a whole, they could not be disaggregated to the regional level, both for the West Region of Ontario and for Oxford County specifically. This limitation occurred for two main reasons. First, the national data simply may not have been available at the regional level, or second, when data were available, the sample was too small for valid reporting on the indicator. For example, some of the indicators requested from Statistics Canada specifically for Oxford County could not be provided due to low reliability (i.e., too small a sample from a national survey for the Region). We addressed this limitation by seeking out provincial sources of data that could provide appropriate proxy indicators. Provincial sources were scrutinised carefully for conceptual fit, accuracy, and comparability across all provincial regions.

Once we identified, validated, and aggregated the data sources for Oxford County, a portrait of wellbeing emerged. This portrait offers a more comprehensive and interconnected understanding of different aspects of wellbeing and how they vary for residents of Oxford County.