

Seniors and Housing – Part 1



In a national research study¹, housing has been identified as one of the key issues affecting seniors' quality of life. Some of the housing characteristics may include: tenure (homeownership), dwelling types, affordability and retirement residence.

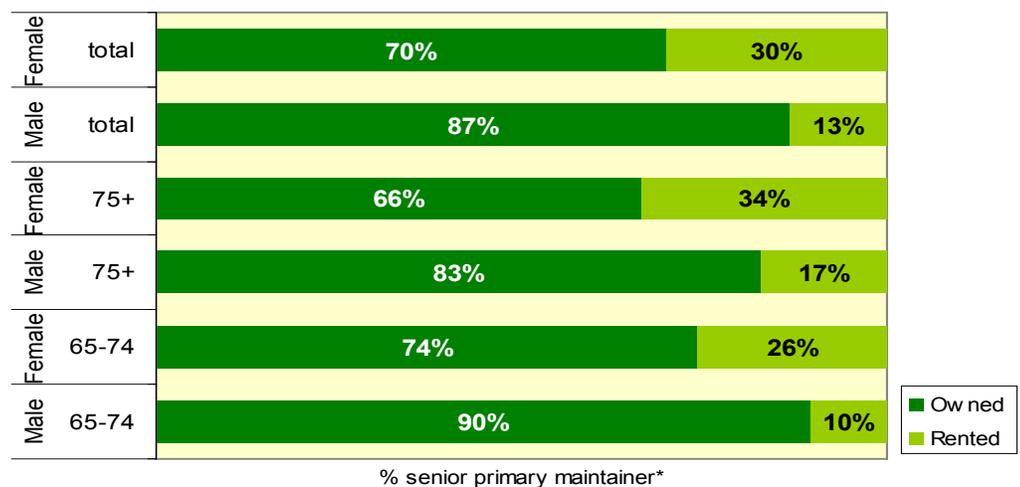
Tenure

Tenure refers to whether a member of a household owns or rents the dwelling. In 2006, homeownership rate in Halton was about 83%. The proportion of seniors owning their homes is slightly less than in the non-senior population; about 80% of seniors are homeowners. The younger seniors (74 years and under) have a higher homeownership rate (84%) than their older peers (75%).

Senior homeownership also varies by gender. About 87% of all male senior primary maintainers (first person in the household identified as the one who pays the rent or mortgage, taxes, electricity bill, and so on) owned their homes, compared to 70% for female seniors. Nine in ten of the younger male seniors were home owners. The homeownership rate drops as seniors get older. Only 66% of the female seniors 75 years of age and over were homeowners.

In other words, one in three older female seniors lived in rental accommodation. This rental rate is nearly twice the region average of 17% among all age groups.

Proportion of senior primary maintainer* by tenure, by sex and by age groups, Halton Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

* see definition in text

¹ Bryant, T., Brown, I., Cogen, T., Dallaire, C., Laforest, S., McGowan, P., Raphael, D., Richard, L., Thompson, L., Young, J. (2004), What do Canadian seniors say supports their quality of life? Findings from a national participatory study. Canadian Journal of Public Health. Jul-Aug; 905(4): 299-303

Dwelling Types

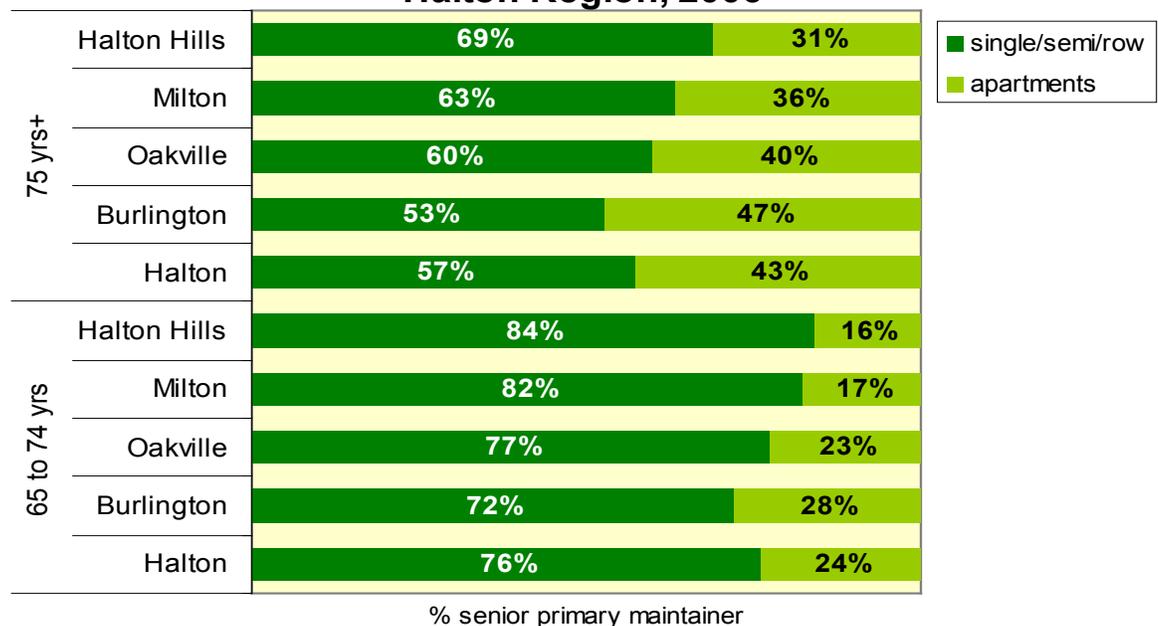
Although age is not always the determining factor in individuals' or families' choice of housing/dwelling type, it is generally perceived that there is an association between dwelling type and the various stages of one's lifecycle. For example, there are a higher proportion of the younger and older age groups living in apartment types of dwellings than in single/semi-detached and row houses. A larger proportion of those in families with children or adolescents live in single detached housing.

In 2006, over one in four (27%) seniors lived in an apartment compared to 11% of the non-senior population. Seniors chose apartments most likely because they are on one floor and require less upkeep than a single house.

The proportions of seniors living in apartments are higher in South Halton (Burlington and Oakville) than North Halton (Milton and Halton Hills)

The likelihood of seniors living in an apartment building increases as they age. Over 40% of the old seniors (75 years and over) live in apartment buildings. In the City of Burlington, almost half (47%) of the older seniors are apartment dwellers.

**Proportion of senior primary maintainers by dwelling types, by age groups and by municipalities
Halton Region, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census