

Low Income Recent Immigrants

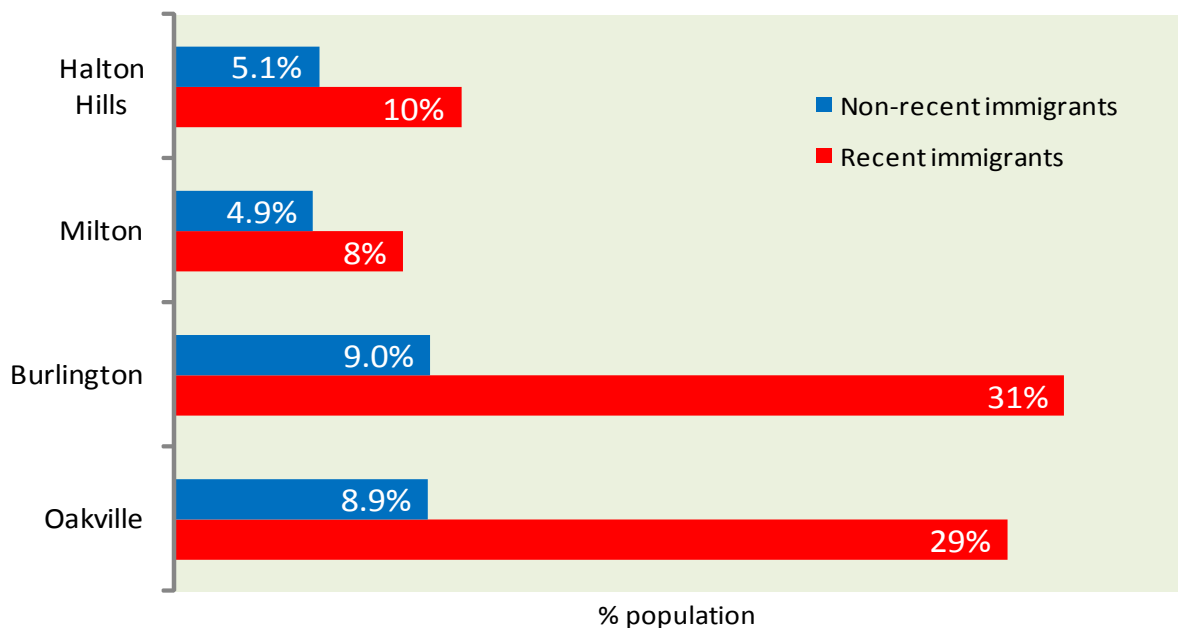
In 2005, there were approximately 37,000 low income residents in Halton Region representing about 8.5% of the total population. The prevalence of low income, which is the percentage of families or individuals (15 years+) who spent 20% more than the average on food, shelter and clothing, varies among population subgroups.

In Halton, the recent immigrant population is one of the population subgroups with high prevalence of low income. The poverty rate of recent immigrants (26%) was more than three times that of their non-“recent immigrant” counterparts (8%). More than one in four recent immigrants lived in low income in 2005.

Although recent immigrants account for 3% of Halton’s population, they are over-represented in the low income population. Recent immigrants represent over 9% of the total low income population. In other words, almost one in ten low income individuals in Halton is a recent immigrant.



Prevalence of low income, recent/non-recent immigrants, Halton Region, 2005



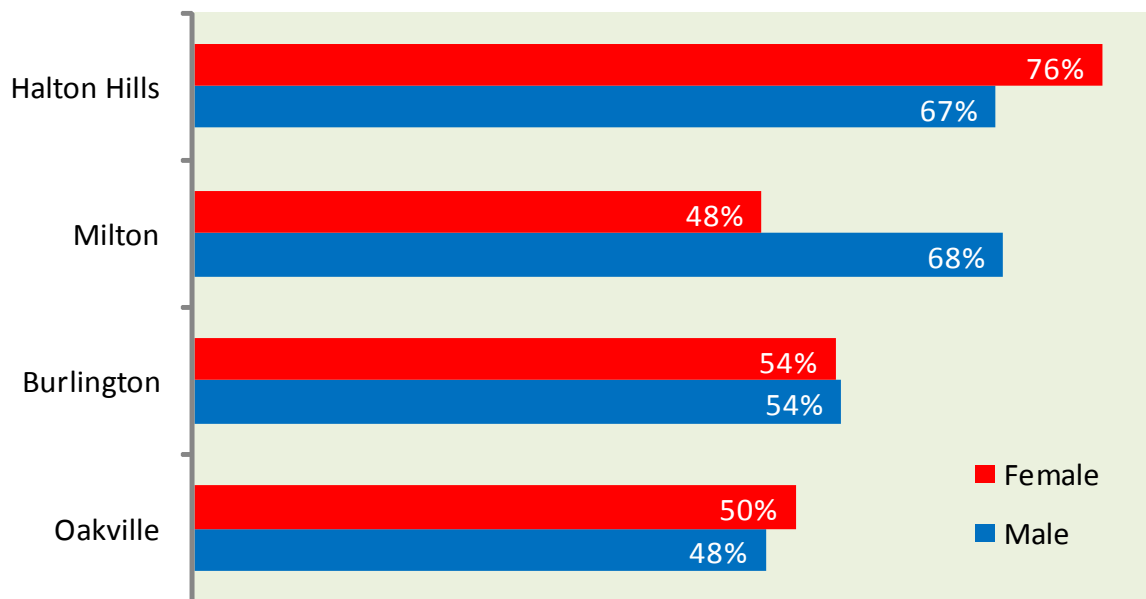
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Recent immigrants living in Oakville and Burlington had higher prevalence of low income than their peers living in Milton and Halton Hills. For example, about 30% of recent immigrants in Oakville and Burlington lived in poverty. They accounted for 12% and 8% of Oakville's and Burlington's low income population respectively.

Recent immigrants earned less than the general population. The income gap exists among communities as well as between genders. In Halton, the recent immigrant's median total income was about half of the median income of the total population. With the exception of the female recent immigrants in Milton, the income gap is wider in the south (Burlington and Oakville) than the north (Milton and Halton Hills).

Among the local municipalities, the female recent immigrants in Halton Hills had the narrowest income gap. Their median income was about 75% of the total female population.

Median income of recent immigrants as % of median income of total population by sex, Halton Region, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census