

## Depth of Poverty in Halton

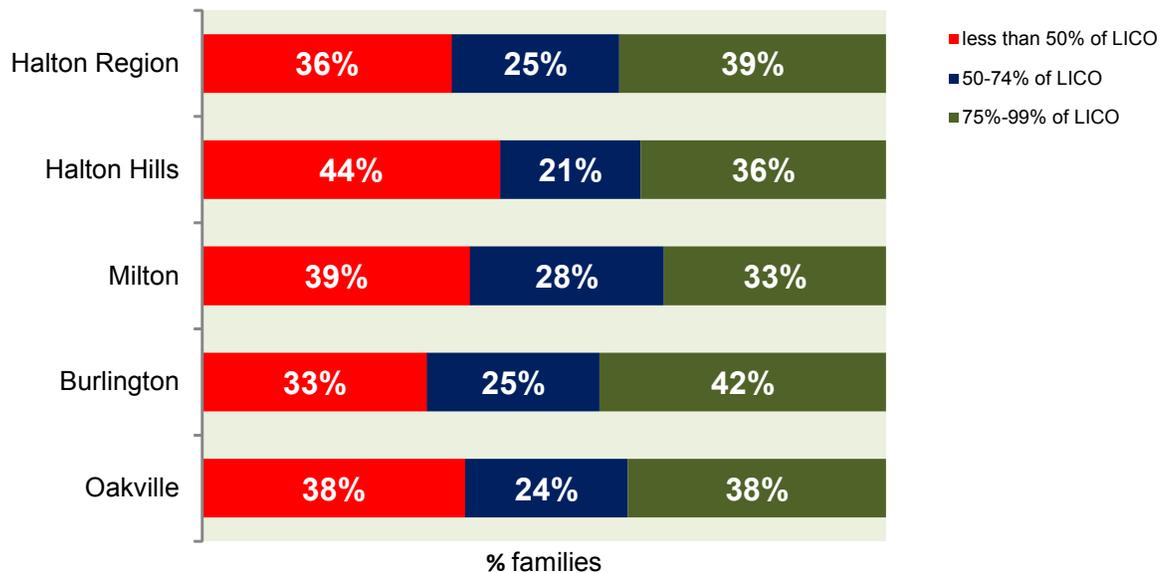


In 2005, there were over 8,300 low income families in Halton, representing about 6.7% of all families. Although this percentage is below the provincial average of 11.7%, the number of low income families in Halton has increased over 40% since 2000. This increase has outpaced the growth of all types of families by 2.5 times.

The incidence of low income (e.g. percentage of low income families) tells only part of the story. It counts the number of families living below the poverty line (LICO threshold<sup>1</sup>) but does not capture the depth of poverty. Many families live far below the poverty line. Special tabulations from Statistics Canada group low income families into three categories by percentages below the LICO thresholds. The three groups are: i) less than 50% of LICO, ii) 50% to 74% of LICO and iii) 75% to 99% of LICO. Families in the "less than 50% of LICO" can be considered as being extreme low income.

In 2005, over one in three (36%) low income families were extreme low income families. For a family of four, it means that they have to survive with an annual total income of less than \$20,000 (the LICO threshold is \$38,610).

Proportion of Low Income Families by Percentage of LICO threshold, Halton Region, 2005

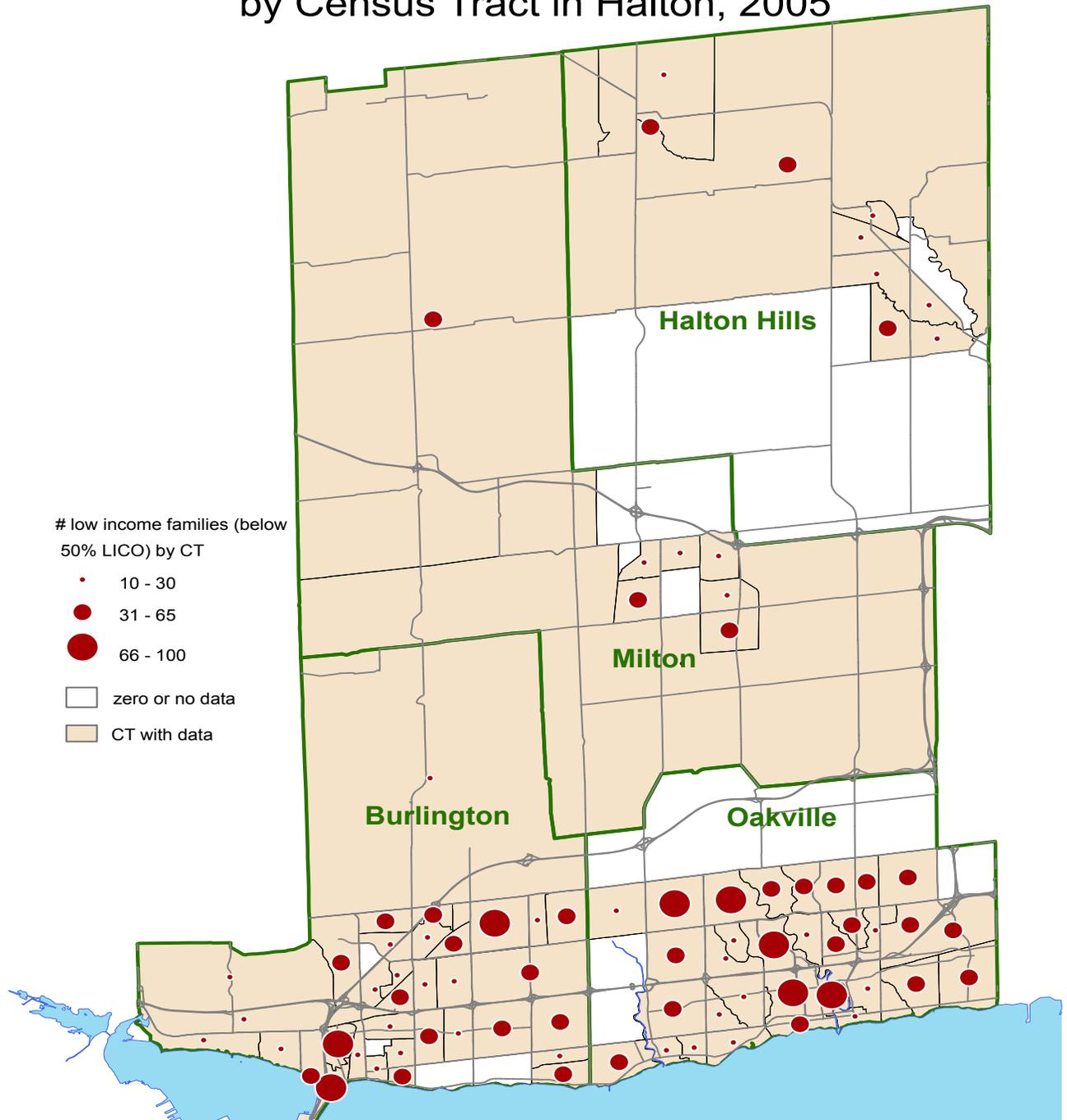


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

1 See Community Lens #27, Low Income Families, March 2009

Over 80% of the extreme low income families resided in Oakville and Burlington. The Town of Oakville which accounted for 44% of the low income families in Halton had 46% of the extreme low income families. There are five Census Tracts with 90 to 100 extreme low income families and they are all located in Oakville. There are three Census Tracts with over three-quarters of the low income families living in extreme low income.

## Extreme Low Income Families (below 50% LICO) by Census Tract in Halton, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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