

Distance to Child Care

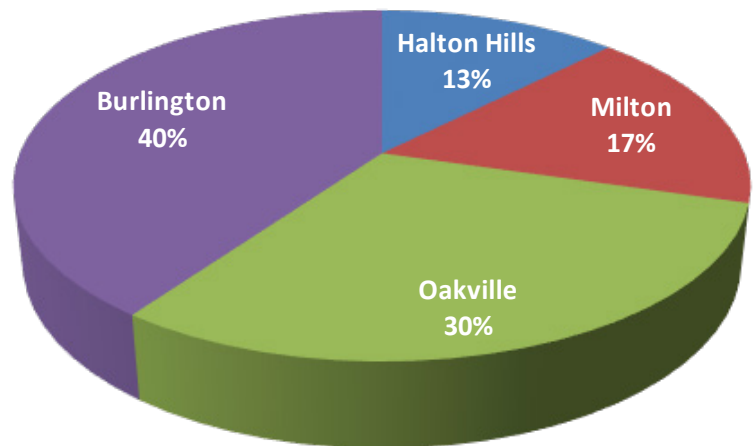


For many working families with young children, dropping off and picking up their children at child care providers has become part of their daily routine. The amount of time required for these trips is dependent on the location of the child care provider and the mode of available transportation. In fact, location is one of the key factors considered by parents in selecting a child care provider. While many parents make the trip to child care from home and back, some parents are able to combine the drop off and pickup of child care as part of their trip to and from work. The child care provider may be en route to work or is close to the place of work.

In 2011, there were about 14,000 trips¹ destined to child care providers on a weekday in Halton Region. A trip is defined as a one-way journey from one location to another. For example, going to a child care provider and returning home constitutes two trips. Burlington and Oakville accounted for 70% of the region's total trips destined to child care providers. About 60% of the child care trips were from home and back (home/child care/home). One-quarter (25%) of trips were part of a work trip (home/child care/work). These percentages are similar among the local municipalities.

As shown in the table, although majority of the child care trips stayed within each local municipality (local trips), families did send their children to child care in other municipalities in Halton. Oakville had the highest percentage (85.5%) of local trips. Milton has the lowest percentage at 62.5% reflecting its child care market condition. Milton was the only municipality sending children to child care in all three local municipalities. Almost one-quarter (24.5%) of the child care trips left Halton, destined mostly to Mississauga.

Proportion of child care trips by municipality, Halton Region, 2011



Source: 2011 Transportation Tomorrow Survey

¹ University of Toronto, Data Management Group, Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2011

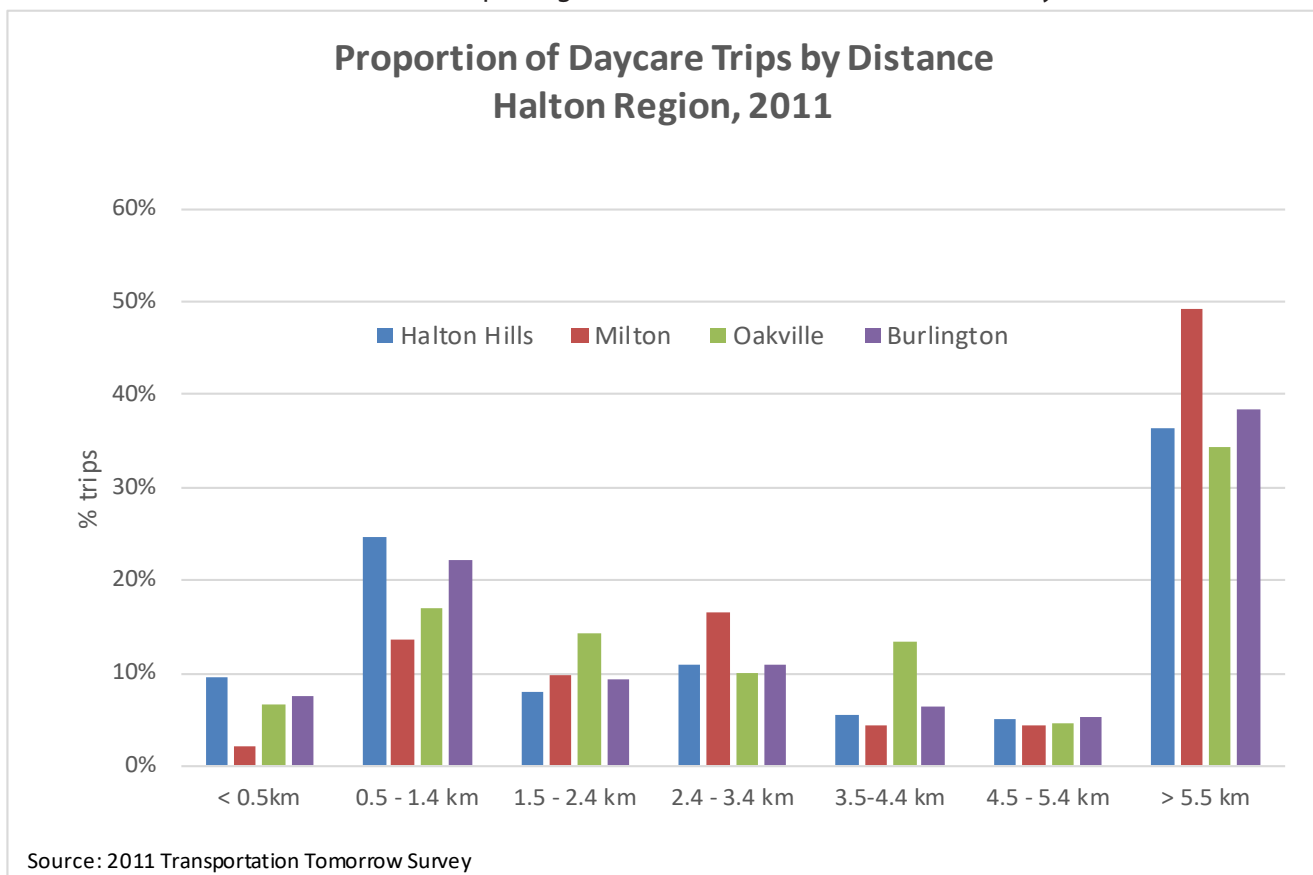
Halton Hills sent 4.2% trips to Milton and 16.9% outside Halton and none to Oakville or Burlington. There were also families outside of Halton who sent their children to child care providers in Halton.

Origin and Destination of Child Care Trips, Halton Region, 2011						
Trip origin	Trip destination (Child care)					
	Halton Hills	Milton	Oakville	Burlington	Outside Halton	Total
Halton Hills	78.9%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	16.9%	100%
Milton	4.3%	62.5%	6.5%	2.2%	24.5%	100%
Oakville	0.0%	0.0%	85.5%	5.1%	9.4%	100%
Burlington	0.0%	0.0%	14.9%	79.5%	5.6%	100%

Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2011

The child care trip distribution pattern reveals the decisions made by families in choosing a child care provider based on various factors such as distance, price, availability, hours of operation, type of service, and quality of service.

About 48% of all child care trips were less than 3.5 km. In fact, over one quarter (26%) of trips was less than 1.5 km. This suggests that some families had access to nearby child care providers. About 35% of the trips in Halton Hills were less than 1.5 km. compared to less than 15% for Milton. Almost half (49%) of the trips from Milton were over 5.5 km as families are placing their children in child care further away from home.



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Community Development Halton
3350 South Service Road
Burlington, ON L7N 3M6
905-632-1975



www.cdhalton.ca