

Halton's Child Population



Canada's falling fertility rate continues to impact on its child (0 to 14 years old) population. A fertility rate of 2.1 children/woman is required to produce enough children to replace their parents. Canada's fertility rate fell below the replacement rate in 1971. In 2016, the nation's fertility rate hit a low of 1.6 children/woman. There were as many children in 2016 as there was twenty years ago (1996) while the overall population has increased by 22%.

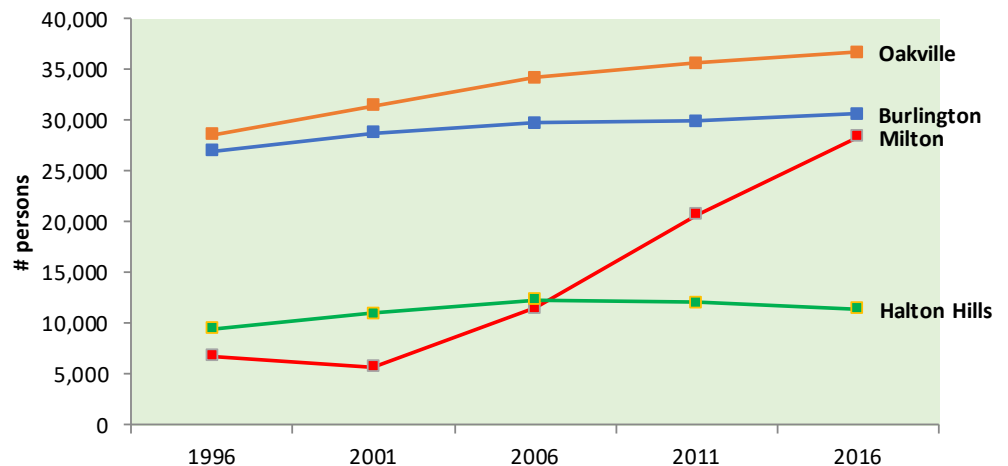
It is a different picture in Halton. Between 1996 and 2016, the child population increased by 49% to over 107,000. This significant growth is mainly fuelled by the influx of young families to Milton and newly developed areas in Oakville and Burlington. For example, between 2006 and 2016, the number of children in Milton grew by 150%.

Oakville still has the greatest proportion of Halton's child population; however, its share has decreased from 40% in 1996 to 34% in 2016. Milton's share has risen to 27% in 2016.

Among the three age cohorts (0-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years) in Halton, the 10-14 age group grew the fastest at 64% followed by the 5-9 age group at 53% and 0-4 age group at 29%. In fact, Milton is the only municipality that shows an increase in the youngest age cohort (0-4 years). All the other municipalities have seen a decrease in this age cohort.

As shown on the following map, children tend to cluster in newly developed neighbourhoods (Census Tracts¹) in Milton, northern Oakville and Burlington. A total of 28 CTs (light and dark blue bars) have children densities of over 500 per sq. km. Eight of the CTs (dark blue bars) have densities over 1,000 children per sq. km. Two of the CTs are located in northern Oakville and the rest are in Milton. The two neighbourhoods (light blue bars) in Georgetown average about 780 children per sq. km.

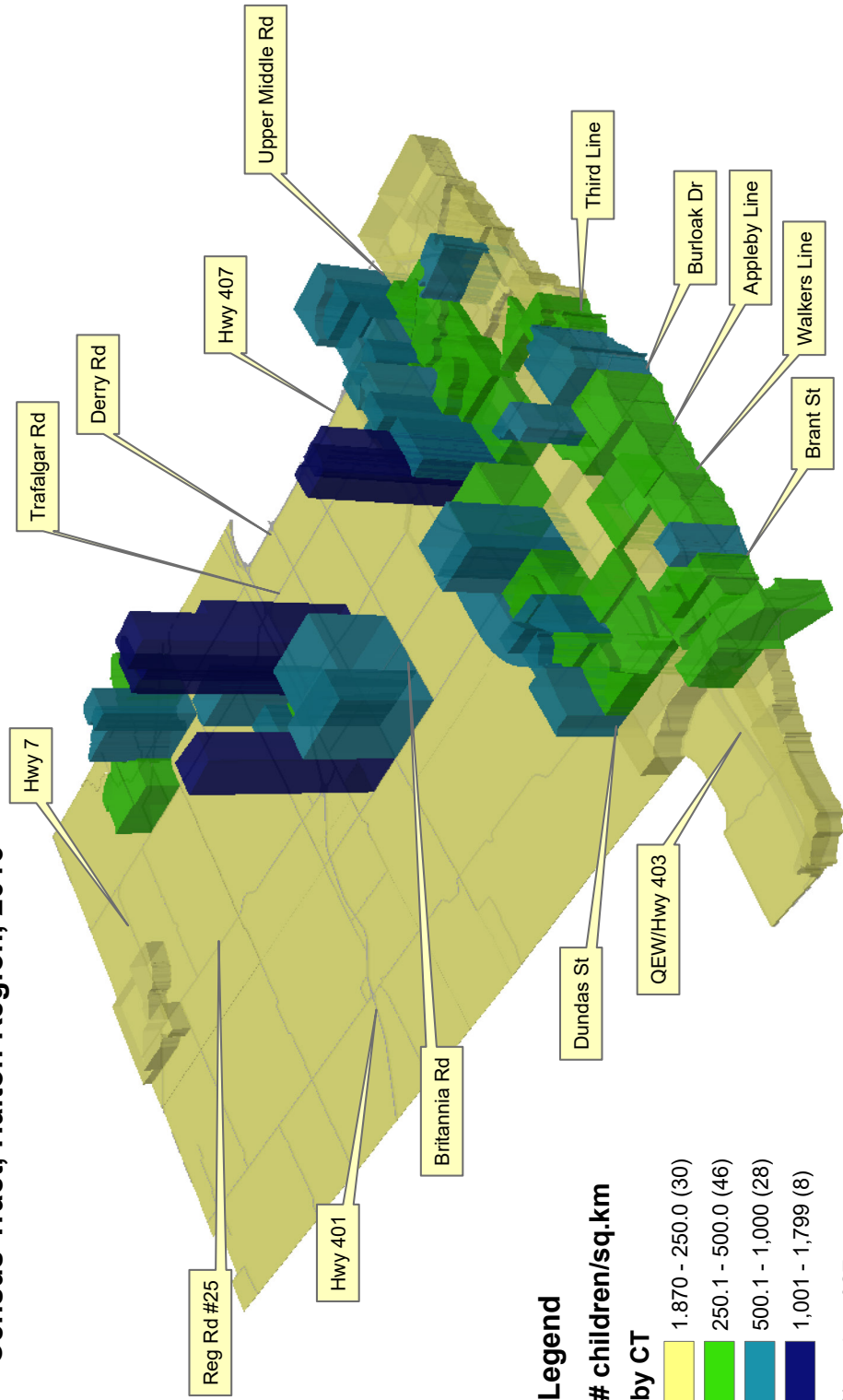
**Children Population
Halton Region, 1996-2016**



Community Development Halton, Source: Statistics Canada, 1996-2016 Censuses

¹ Census Tract (CT) as defined by Statistics Canada is a relatively permanent area with a population range of 2,500 to 8,000 and the greatest possible social and economic homogeneity.

Children Population(0-14 years) by Census Tract, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton, Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census



Community Development Halton would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Regional Municipality of Halton.



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