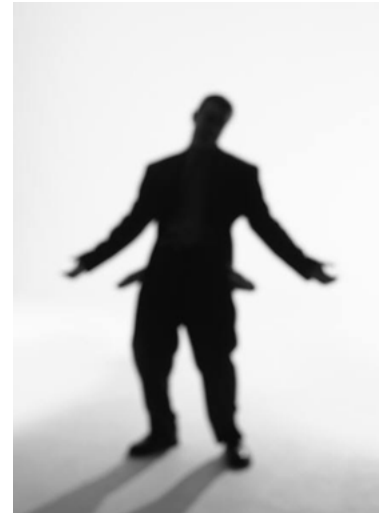


Low Income Families in 2009

As discussed in Community Lens #81, the income tax returns provide another data source where circumstances of poverty among Canadians can be monitored and tracked. Although the taxfiler data contain limited socio-demographic characteristics compared to the Census, it is available on a yearly basis and covers approximately 96% of all Canadians.

Between 2006 and 2009, the number of low income families in Halton jumped from about 8,700 to over 10,000 reflecting the harsh reality of the global recession in 2008. The rate of increase (19%) is more than double that of all families (8.4%). This disproportional rate of increase of low income families is present in all four local municipalities.

The Town of Milton experienced the greatest increase in low income families in absolute and relative terms. The number of low income families grew by 74% compared to 35% for all families. The City of Burlington with a moderate increase of the number of low income families also experienced a growth rate doubling that of all families.



When the number of low income families grows faster than that of all families, the incidence of low income or prevalence of low income (percentage of low income families) increases. The prevalence of low income for Halton Region increased from 6.9% in 2006 to 7.5% in 2009. The proportion of low income families in the Town of Oakville grew from 7.8% to 8.5%. In the Town of Milton, the percentage increased from 6.4% to 8.2%.

Change in Low Income Families, 2006-2009				
	All Families		Low income Families	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Burlington	+2,050	+4.3%	+280	+9.3%
Oakville	+2,740	+5.7%	+560	+15.0%
Milton (urban area)	+5,490	+35.2%	+740	+74.0%
Halton Hills (Acton and Georgetown)	+350	+2.2%	+70	+7.4%
Halton Region	+10,630	+8.4%	+1,650	+19.0%

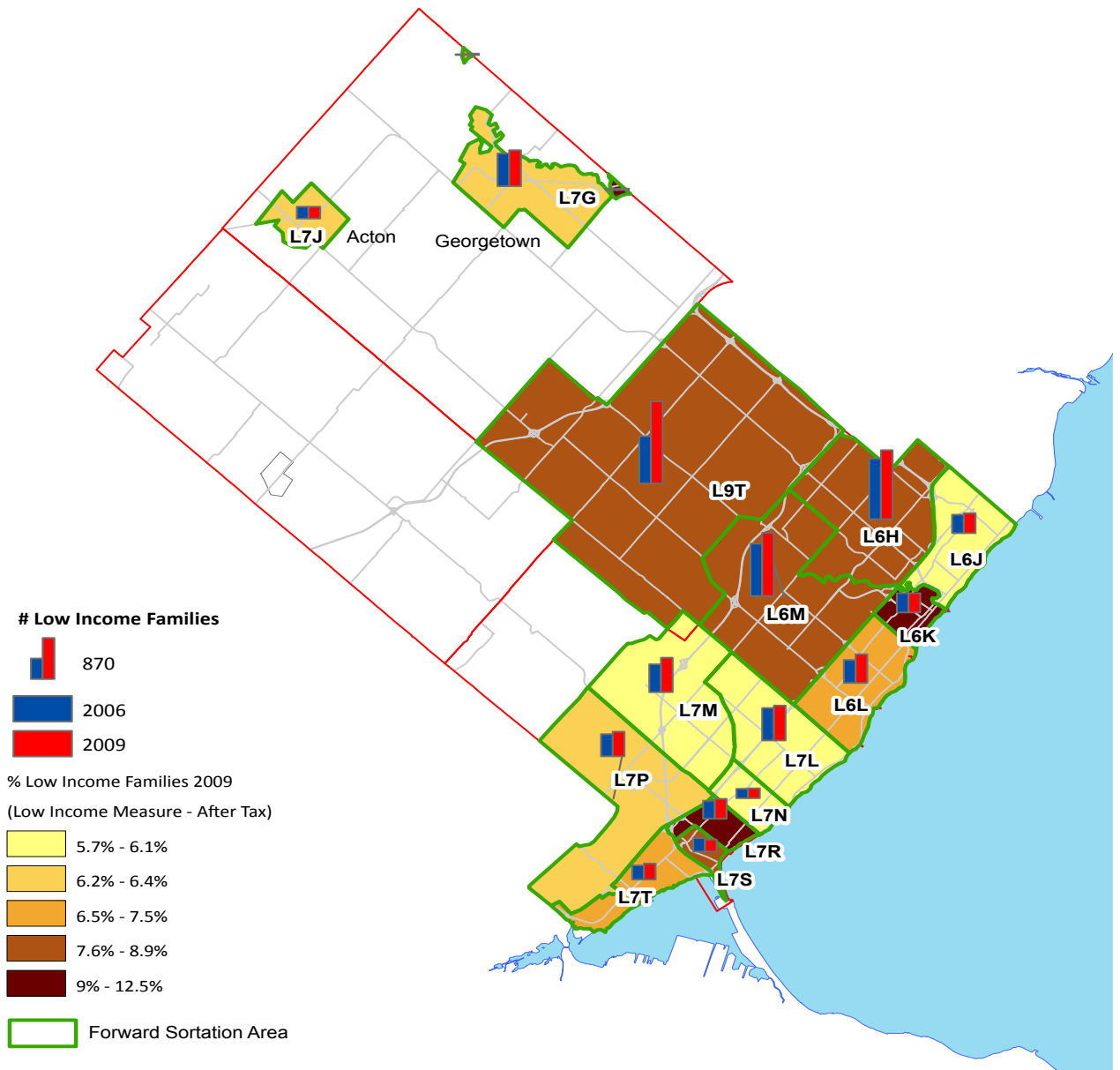
Source: Statistics Canada, Taxfiler data, 2006 - 2009

Note: the data in this table do not cover areas outside the Urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSAs)

Within each local municipality, the low income situation in areas as defined by Canada Post's Forward Sortation Area (FSA – the first three digits of the 6 digit postal code) also experienced changes. For example, L6K in Oakville along with L7R and L7S in Burlington which have a high incidence of low income experienced no increase in the number of low income families. In fact, the number of low income families decreased in L7S. On the other hand, L6H and L6M in northern Oakville saw significant increase in the number of low income families as well as the incidence of low income.



Low Income Families Halton Region, 2006-2009 by Urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSA)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006/2009 Taxfiler data

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