

Non-Official Languages Spoken at Home

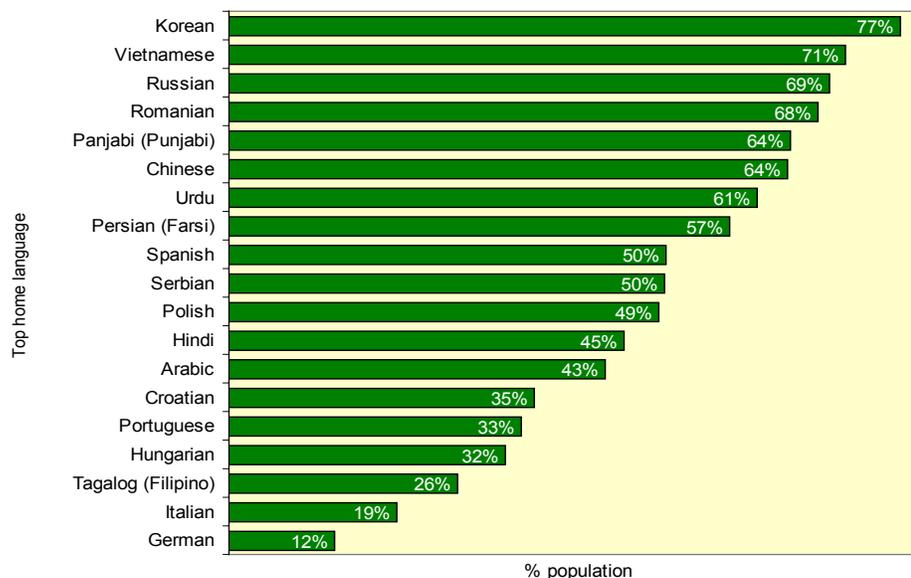
As Canada continues to receive more immigrants from non English/French speaking countries, the allophone population will increase. Allophones are people whose mother tongue (first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual) is neither English nor French. They represent about 20% of all Canadians.

Between 1996 and 2006, Halton's allophone population increased by 70%. This was two and a half times faster than the total population. Over half (53%) of them speak English at home, 41% speak a non-official language and 4% speak English and a non-official language. The number of persons speaking mostly a non-official language at home has almost doubled to 33,000.

The top five non-official home languages are Chinese, Polish, Spanish, Panjabi (Punjabi) and Urdu. The population speaking these five home languages represents over 40% of all the allophones in the region. It is interesting to note that although Italian, Portuguese and German are among the top five non-official mother tongues in Halton, they are not the top home languages. As the allophone immigrants stay longer in Canada, they tend to adopt one of the official languages as their home language.



Proportion of non-official home language* speaking population, Region of Halton, 2006



The chart to the left shows that in 2006 there are eight allophone groups in which a majority of members speak a non-official language at home. For example, over three-quarters of the Korean mother tongue population spoke a non-official language (most likely Korean) at home. On the other hand, only 12% of the German mother tongue population spoke a non-official home language (most likely German).

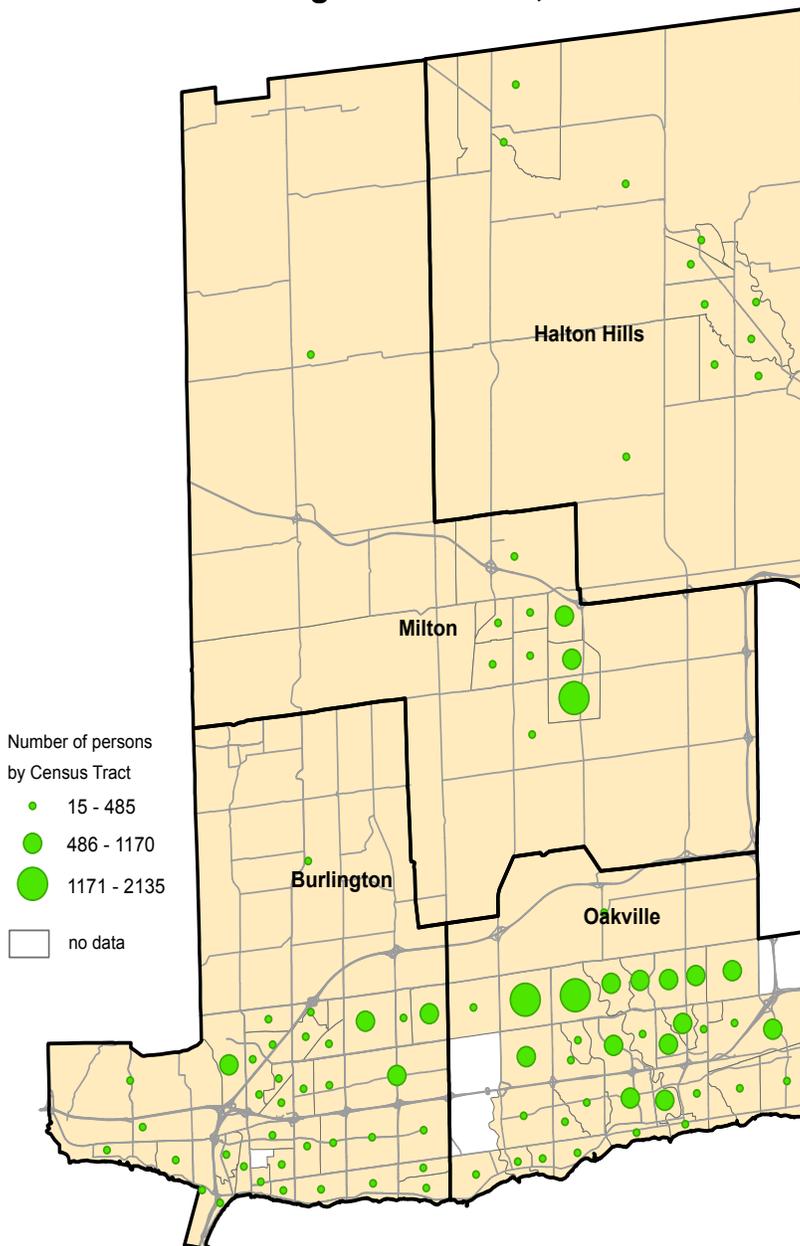
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

* includes top non-official home languages

Non-Official Home Language Distribution

The map shows the distribution of non-official home language speaking population by Census Tract. A census tract as established 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.

Population speaking non-official home language Region of Halton, 2006



As expected, the geographic distribution pattern closely mirrors that of the allophones, recent immigrant and visible minority population. Over half of the non-official home language population is in the Town of Oakville. Many of the non-official home languages population can also be found in the recent residential development areas in the Town of Milton.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, DMTI Spatial

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