

Low Income Families



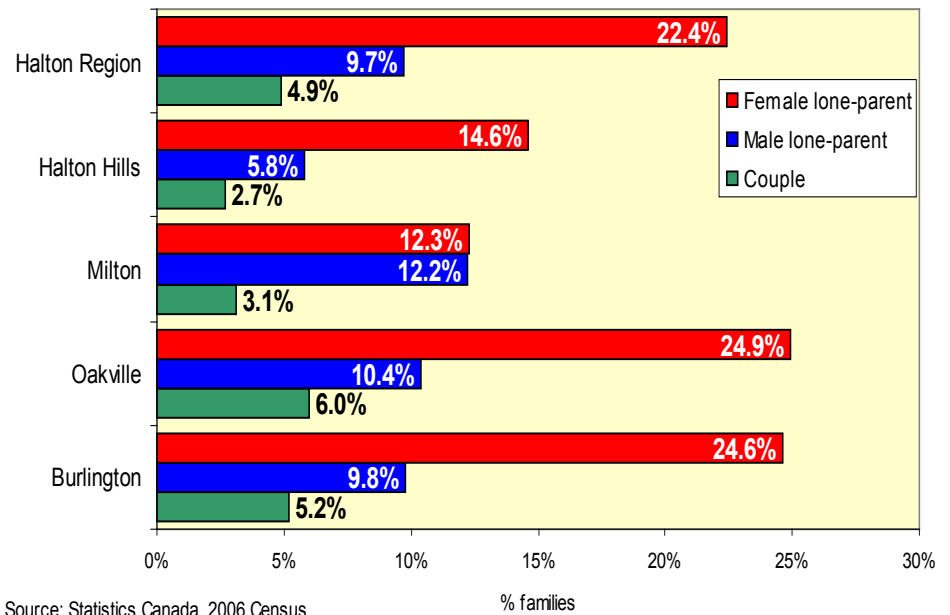
The Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) established by Statistics Canada is a widely recognized approach to estimating the low income threshold below which a family or an individual will likely spend 20% or more than the average on food, shelter and clothing. Although Statistics Canada maintains that LICO thresholds do not necessarily imply poverty, they have been generally accepted as measures of economic hardship faced by families and individuals.

The LICO thresholds take into account family size and the degree of urbanization of the community. For example, a family of four living in the Town of Oakville with a total income of \$38,610 or less in 2005 is considered as a low income family. A single person living in the urban area of the Town of Milton with an income of \$17,784 or less is living in poverty.

In 2005, there were over 8,300 low income families in Halton, representing about 6.7% of all families. Although this proportion 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 families by 2.5 times.

Couple families have a higher likelihood of having two wage earners and therefore are less likely to be low income than single parent families. In Halton, about 5% of the all couple families are low income families. However, the incidence of low income for female lone-parent families is 4.5 times higher than that of couple families. In both the City of Burlington and the Town of Oakville, one in four female lone-parent families live in poverty. Low income male lone-parent families which are small in number in comparison with couple and female lone-parent counterparts represent about 8% of all male lone-parent families.

**Proportion of Low Income Families by Types
Region of Halton, 2005**

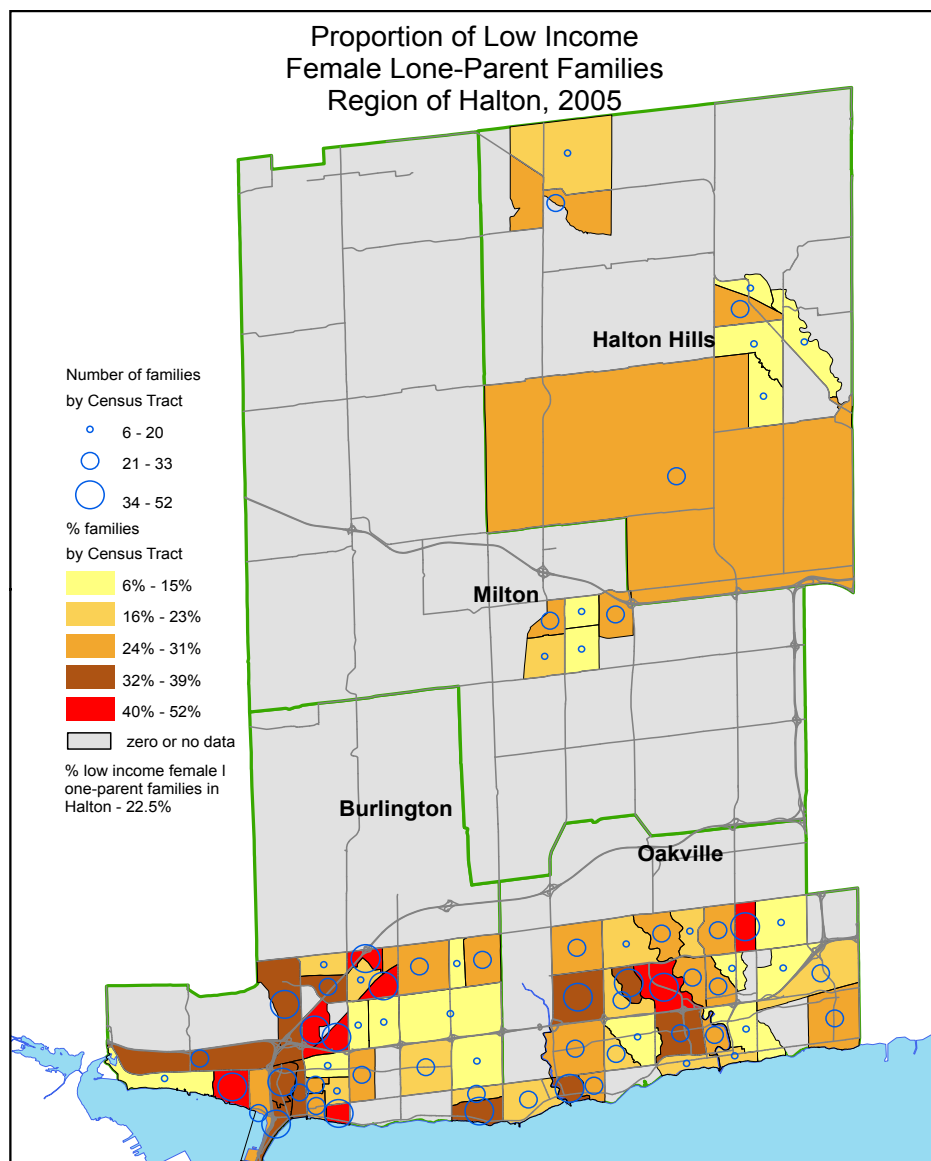


Female Lone-Parent Families

It is interesting to note that the proportion of low income male and female lone-parent families is almost the same in Milton while the proportion of female lone-parent families is two to three times higher in the other three municipalities.

The majority (86%) of low income families are located in the two urban municipalities of Oakville and Burlington. Each of the two rural municipalities (Milton and Halton Hills) has about 7% of the low income families.

The map below displays a number of census tracts (shaded in red) with a high proportion of low income female lone-parent families. Nearly half (47%) of all Halton low income female lone-parent families are in Burlington and include two census tracts where half of the female lone-parent families are low income.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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