

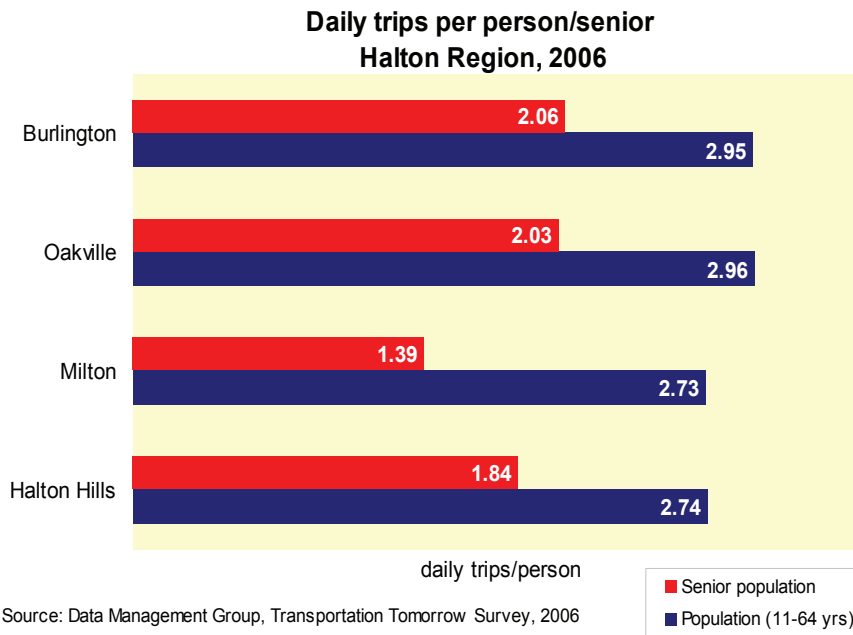
Seniors and Transportation - Part 1

Transportation plays a vital role in our daily lives. We rely on it to go to work, school, shop, visit etc. For the senior population, it is a critical link to community involvement, healthy lifestyle and independence. The Canadian Census does not collect data on transportation activities except commuting between place of residence and place of work. In order to learn and understand more about the travel characteristics of seniors in Halton, data from the Transportation Tomorrow Survey is used. The 2006 Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) is a telephone interview of a random sampling of 5% of the households in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and surrounding area of Central Ontario (approximately 150,000 households). It involves asking the survey participants about trip information for each household member. The TTS survey has been carried out on a 5-year cycle since 1986.



Daily Trips

The amount of travel can be measured by the number of trips made. A trip is defined as a one way journey from one location to another. For example, going to a medical appointment and returning home constitutes two trips.



In general, seniors travel less than non-seniors for a host of reasons including health condition, activity limitations, access to means of transportation and lifestyle. In 2006, Halton's senior population made about two daily trips as compared to an average of 2.9 daily trips made by those between 11 and 64 years. Seniors living in the two urban municipalities had a higher trip rate than those living in the rural communities. Seniors living in the Town of Milton made only 1.4 trips

per day, half of that of the younger population.

The low trip rate for seniors suggests that not only they are making fewer trips on a daily basis and many of them are not making any trips at all.

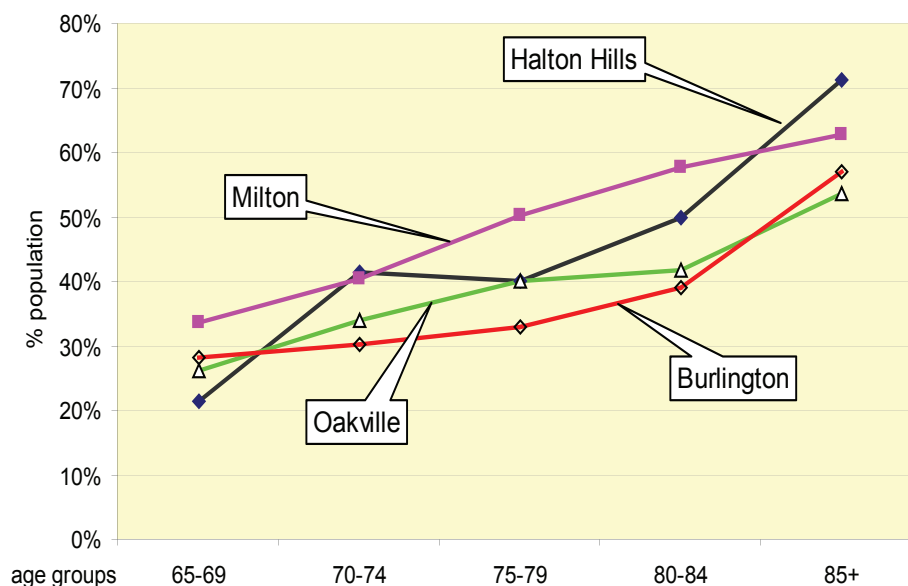
Homebound Seniors

On an average day, over one-third of the seniors do not leave their homes. This average is about three times higher than the rest of the population (11 – 64 years). Homebound seniors face the challenges of disconnected from the community and the reduction of the number of human interactions.

Seniors in the rural communities are less likely to leave their homes than their urban counterparts. This situation deteriorates as they get older. Over 70% of old seniors (85 years+) living in Halton Hills are homebound as compared to about half of those in Oakville.

In addition to the age and geographic variation, there is also a gender difference. Female seniors are more likely to be homebound than male seniors. About 40% of female seniors are homebound as compared to 30% for their male counterparts. About half (49%) of all the female seniors living in the Town of Milton made no daily trips.

Proportion of seniors making no daily trip by age group, Halton Region, 2006



Source: Date Management Group, Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2006