

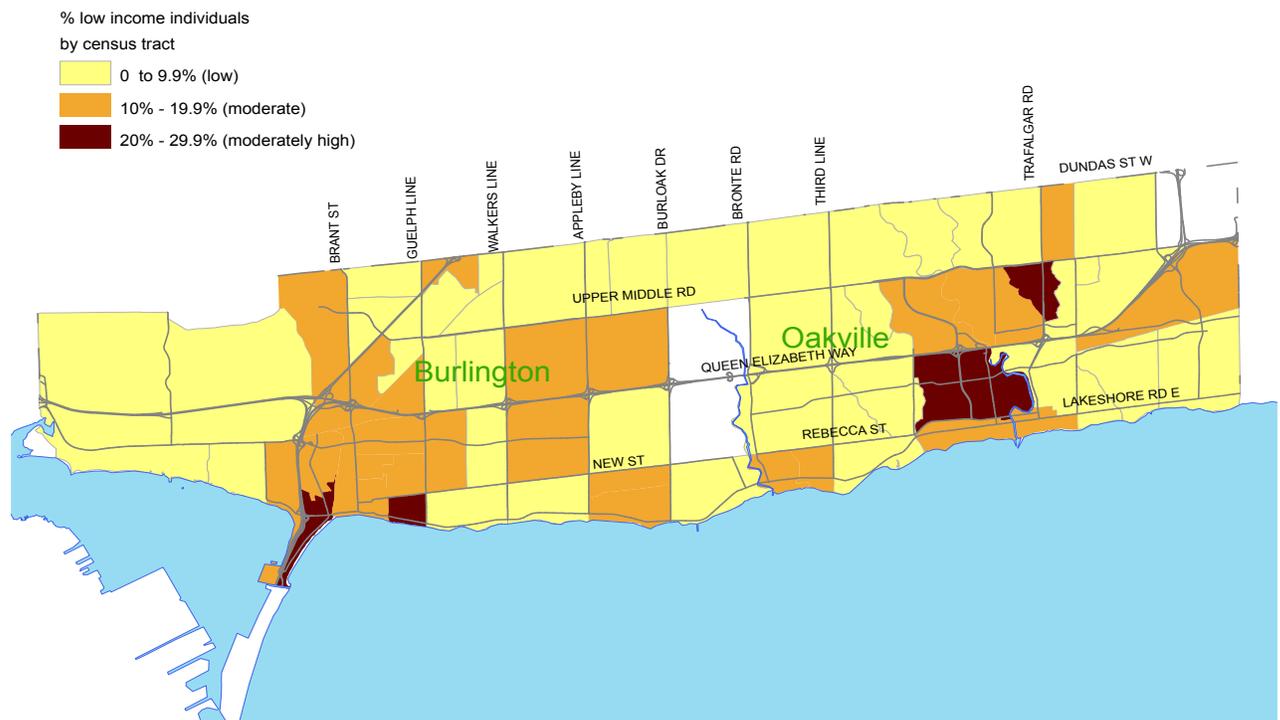
Geography of Poverty

The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) in its report on Urban Poverty in Canada, 2000¹ used a classification system to identify poverty in urban neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods or Census Tracts² are grouped into one of the five poverty levels, ranging from 0% to over 40% of the population living below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). Individuals living below the threshold are most likely to 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.



In 2005, there were about 37,000 low income residents in Halton Region representing about 8.5% of the total population. Using the CCSD's classification scheme, each of the 94 census tracts in the region is assigned to one of the five categories (low=0-9.9%, moderate=10-19.9%, moderately high=20-29.9%, high=30-39.9% and very high=40% or more) according its rate of poverty in 2005.

Proportion of low income individuals by Census Tract
southern Burlington and Oakville, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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1 Canadian Council on Social Development, *Poverty by Geography: Urban Poverty in Canada, 2000*, Ottawa, 2007

2 A census tract as established by Statistics Canada is a relatively permanent geographic area with a population range of 2,500 to 8,000 and has the greatest possible social and economic homogeneity

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Neighbourhoods and Poverty

All the neighbourhoods fall into one of the first three poverty rate categories (low, moderate and moderately high). There is no neighbourhood in the high or very high poverty rate categories.

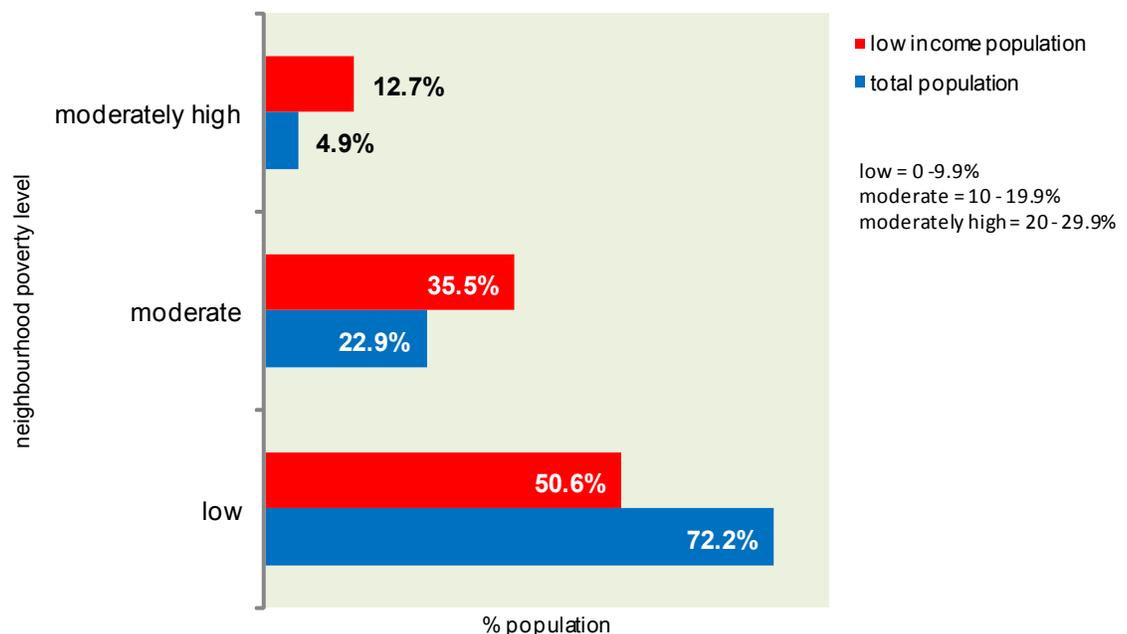
About two-thirds (66%) of the neighbourhoods recorded low poverty rates (less than 10%). Over one in four neighbourhoods (27%) had moderate poverty rates (between 10% and 19.9%). All the neighbourhoods in Milton and Halton Hills had low poverty rates except one in Milton with moderate poverty rate. Five neighbourhoods were in the moderately high category (between 20% and 29.9%). They are located in Burlington and Oakville.

Over two-thirds of the total population and about half of the low income population lived in the neighbourhoods with low poverty rates.

About 23% of all residents lived in neighbourhoods with moderate poverty rates compared to over one-third (36%) of the low income population.

Low income individuals are 2.5 times more likely to live in the moderately high poverty rate neighbourhoods than the general population. Those five moderately high poverty rate neighbourhoods housed over 12% of the total low income population in the region.

Proportion of population by income and by neighbourhood poverty level, Halton Region, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census