

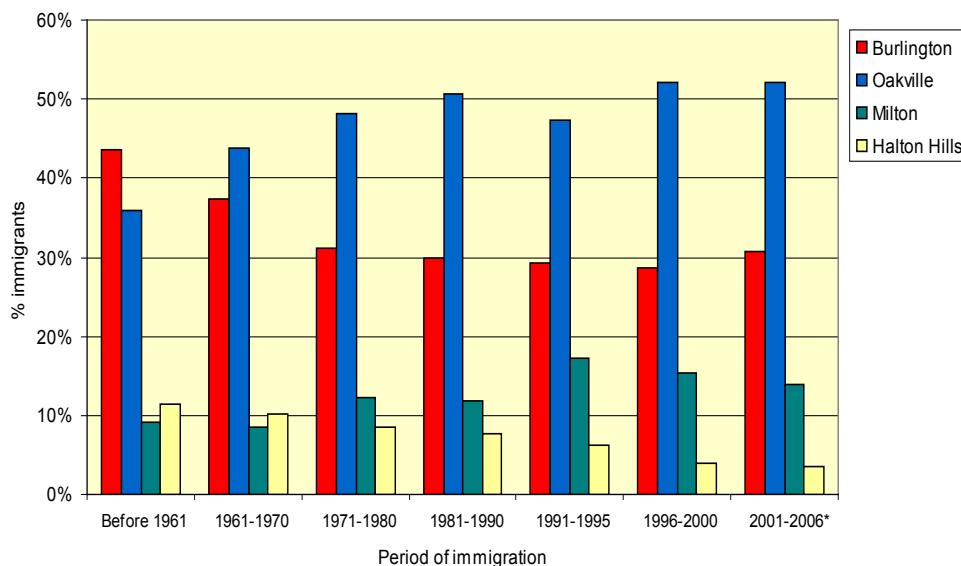
## Immigrants

Immigrants are people who have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently; some have lived in Canada for a number of years while others have arrived recently. In 2006, there were over 100,000 immigrants living in Halton representing about one quarter of the population. The proportion of immigrants in Halton is higher than the national average of 19.8%.

In 2006, about one in six (17%) of the immigrants living in Halton arrived in Canada before 1961. Nearly half (48%) of all the immigrants came after 1981. The chart shows the proportion of immigrants by period of immigration among the local municipalities. Over 40% of Halton immigrants who arrived in Canada before 1961 lived in the City of Burlington. On the other hand, over half (50.7%) of the immigrants who came after 1981 lived in the Town of Oakville. In fact, the Town of Oakville is home to nearly half (46%) of the region's total immigrant population. Over 40% of the immigrants living in the Town of Milton arrived in Canada after 1991. In the Town of Halton Hills, both the number and proportion of immigrants by period of immigration has been decreasing. Between 2001 and 2006, it received about 400 immigrants which represented less than 4% of all new immigrants who settled in the region.



**Proportion of immigrants by period of immigration  
Region of Halton, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

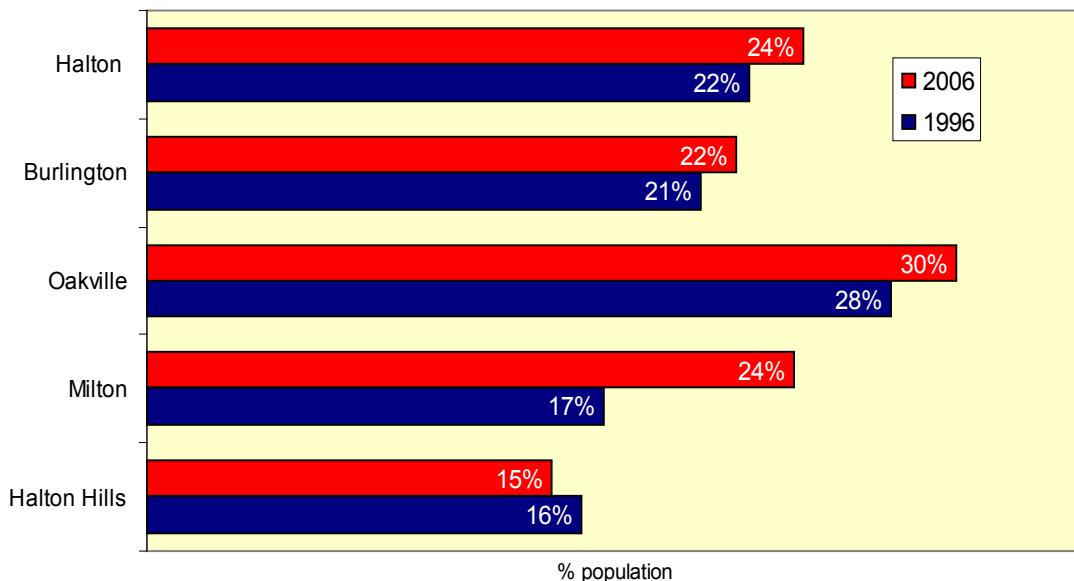
\* to May 16, 2006

## Change in Immigration

In the last decade (1996-2006), Halton Region has gained over 31,000 immigrants (a growth rate of 41%) which represented about one-third of the total immigrant population. During the same period, the overall population increased by 29%. The Town of Milton has more than doubled its immigrant population from 5,400 to 13,000.

The percentage of population made up of immigrants has increased in all of Halton's municipalities, with the exception of Halton Hills. The proportion of immigrants in the Town of Oakville surpassed the region's averages for 1996 and 2006. Now about one in three (30%) Oakville residents is an immigrant. The Town of Milton overtook the City of Burlington in 2006 with nearly one quarter of its population being immigrants.

**Immigrants as a Percentage of Population (1996-2006)  
Region of Halton**



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 & 2006 Censuses

In terms of the origins (place of birth) of all, not just recent, immigrants, over half (57%) were born in Europe. Of those, about 44% originated in Northern European countries, and 90% of that population came from the United Kingdom. Immigrants from Asia and the Middle East represented about one quarter of total immigrants. About 4% came from the United States. However, when we look only at recent immigrants (Community Lens Bulletin #10), it is clear that places of origin are changing.

Immigrants came to Canada at a young age. Over 90% of the immigrants in Halton arrived when they were under the age of 44 years. One in three of the immigrants was between 25 and 44 years of age. Slightly over 10% of the immigrants were under 5 years old.



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