

Low Income Unattached Individuals and Housing Affordability

In 2006, there were about 38,000 individuals aged 15 and over living alone or with others to whom he or she is unrelated, such as a roommates or a lodger in Halton. As defined by Statistics Canada, they are the unattached individuals or non-family persons and they represented about 8.5% of Halton's population. About 80% of the unattached individuals and 90% of unattached seniors live alone respectively.



Non-family persons are three times (25%) more likely to live in low income compared to the total population (8.5%). As such, they also face certain housing challenges.

Over half (56%) of low income unattached individuals live in rented dwellings compared to 38% for the overall unattached individual population. For seniors, the percentages are 54% for those living in low income and 35% for all unattached seniors.

Average monthly gross rent for unattached individual households, Halton Region, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

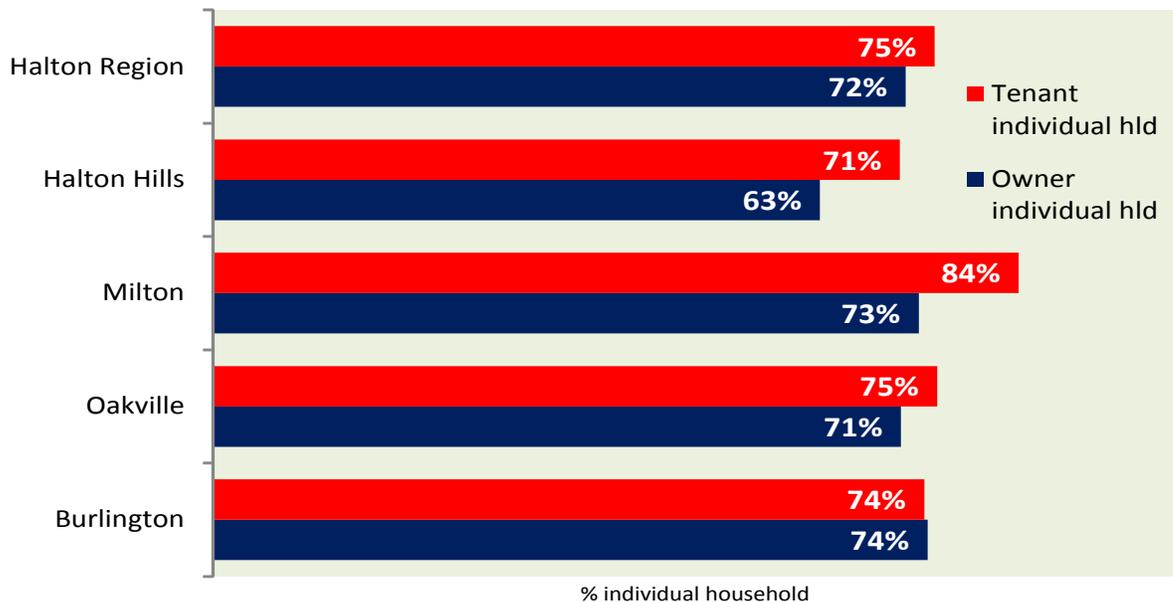
In Halton, the average monthly gross rent which includes monthly rent, costs of electricity, heat and municipal services paid by low income unattached individual households was \$841 compared to \$930 for all non-family households. Among the four local municipalities, low income non-family households in Oakville paid the highest average monthly gross rent. On average, they have to pay about \$120 more than their counterparts living in neighbouring Burlington.

Community Lens is prepared by Community Development Halton to disseminate and interpret important community data as it becomes available. For more information please contact us at data@cdhalton.ca or 905-632-1975

As reported in Community Lens #30, the generally accepted standard for affordable shelter cost is 30% of gross household income. A household which refers to a person or group of persons living in the same dwelling paying more than 30% of its income on shelter is considered to have a housing affordability problem. However, there are households that spend 30% or more of their incomes do so by choice.

Unlike low income family households, there is a higher percentage of low income unattached individual tenant households with housing affordability problems than their owner counterparts. For example, In the Town of Milton, over 80% of its low income tenant households spent 30% or more of their total income on rental payments and utilities. Over 60% of those households spent 50% or more of income on shelter.

Housing Affordability* low income unattached individual household by tenure, Halton Region, 2005



Source: statistics Canada, 2006 Census

* spent 30%+ hld Income on shelter



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