

One Person Households And Living Alone Individuals



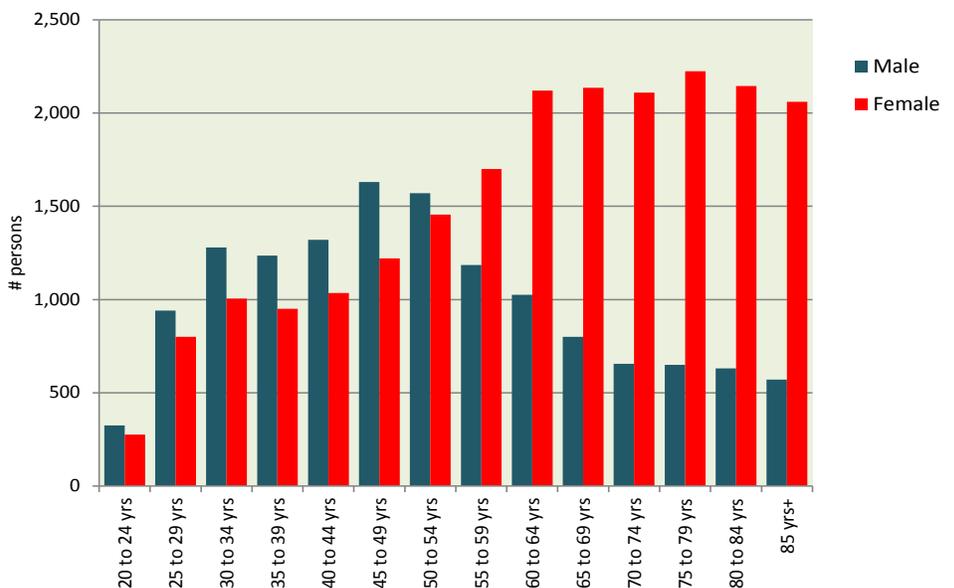
In 1991, there were 16,300 one-person households in Halton representing about 15% of all private households. In a span of 20 years, the number of single person household has more than doubled to 35,100. It has outpaced the growth of other household types. In 2011, one in five households was occupied by only one person. The rapid rise of one-person household has become an international phenomenon particularly among developed countries.

Some of the underlying factors fueling the surge of one person households include higher divorce rates, people remaining single, people marrying at a later age and seniors outliving their spouses.

This upward trend of living alone is also having significant impact on many sectors such as housing, consumer products and government services. Increasing number of people living alone may lead to greater loneliness/isolation, declining health and mental health issues for some deprived groups. Yet, it has also been observed that there is higher likelihood for individuals living alone to be involved in community and volunteer activities. While many individuals choose to live alone, there are those who are forced into this lifestyle by circumstances.

In 2011, living alone individuals represented about 7% of the total population in Halton. Over half (60%) of the living alone residents were women. However, under the age of 54 years, living alone men outnumbered their female counterparts by about 20%. In fact, there were more living alone men in each age group below 54 years of age. This relationship reverses for the older age groups. Above the age of 54 years, there were about 2.5 times more living alone women than men. At age 85 years and over, women account for 78% of those living alone.

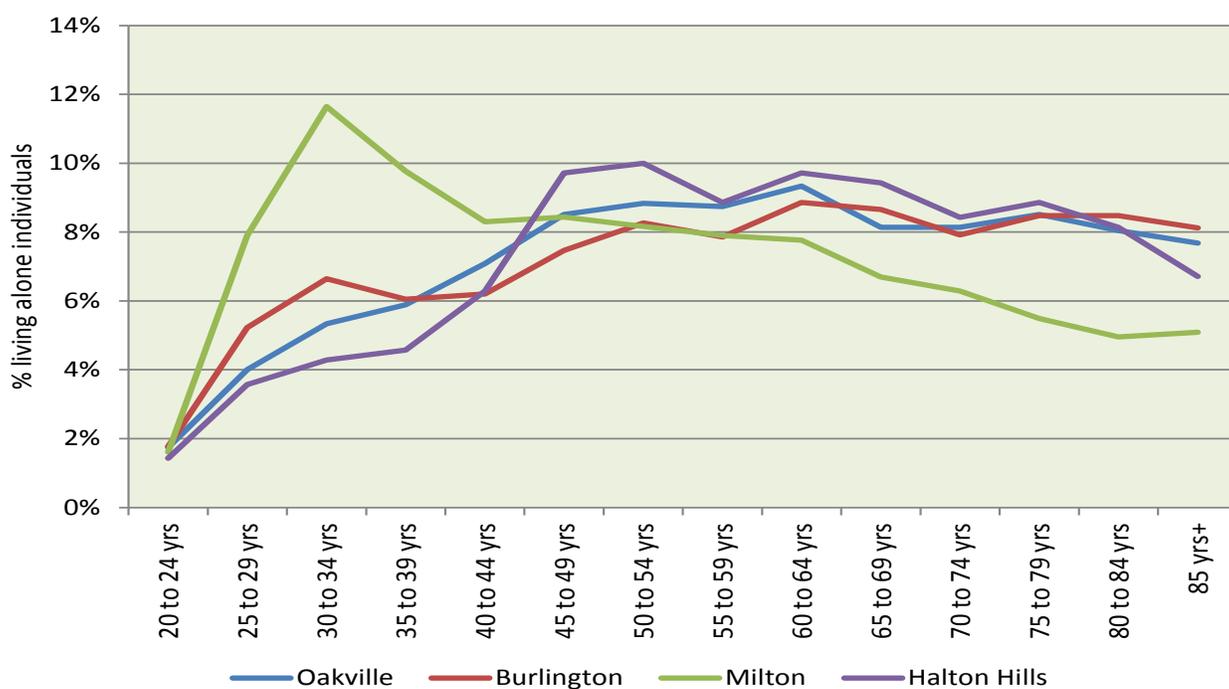
Living Alone Individuals by Age Group and Sex, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

The City of Burlington has the highest proportion of one-person households (25%) as well as living alone individuals (10%) among the local municipalities. One in four households is occupied by one person and one in ten residents lives alone. At the other end of the spectrum is the Town of Milton. One person household represents about 17% of all households. Less than 5% of its population lives alone. The age distribution of living alone individuals in Milton also differs from the other three municipalities. About 38% of Milton's living alone population are between the age of 25 and 44 years compared to 24% for Burlington and 19% for Halton Hills. Milton also has the lowest proportion of living alone seniors at 28% compared to over 40% for the other three municipalities.

Age Distribution of Living Alone Individuals by Municipality, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census



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