

Children at Home (2006-2011)



The number of children living at home in Halton Region has increased at a rate (16%) that is slightly faster than the total population (14%) between 2006 and 2011. With an addition of about 24,000 children, Halton was home to over 173,000 children living at home in 2011.

Over three quarters (78%) of the children lived in married coupled families, 13% lived in families headed by single mothers and 5% lived in common law families.

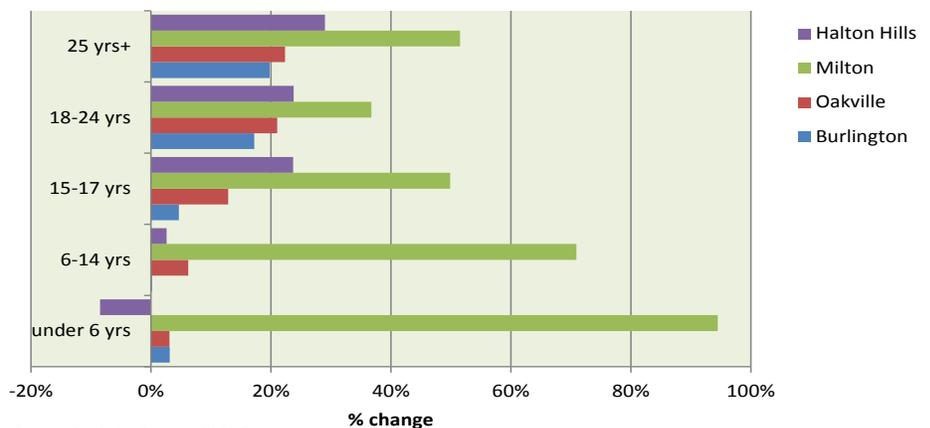
With its significant population increase, Milton's children population also experienced a phenomenal growth rate at 67%. In fact, it accounts for half of the region's children population increase.

Among the five age groups, (under 6, 6-14, 15-17, 18-24, 25 years and over) the oldest age group continues to record the fastest increase at 25%, reflecting the national trend of children at home getting older and staying at home longer. About one in 10 children at home is 25 years of age and over. The 6-14 year age group, which is the largest age group at 34%, experienced a below average growth rate of 11%.

The change in the children population by age groups varies among the local municipalities. Milton leads the increases in all age groups especially in the under 6 category. That population cohort almost doubled between 2006 and 2011. On the other hand, Halton Hills experienced a decrease in that the under 6 age group at -9%. Burlington experienced no growth in the 6-14 age group.

All municipalities reported a growth rate at or above 20% for the 25 years and over age group. The growth rate (51%) for Milton doubles the Halton average. However, about 40% of the region's adult children lived in Oakville. The presence of adult children at home can be beneficial to both the younger generation and their parents. Exchanges of support can occur in both directions. Many adult children are taking care of their elderly parents.

**Change of children at home population
2006-2011, Halton Region**



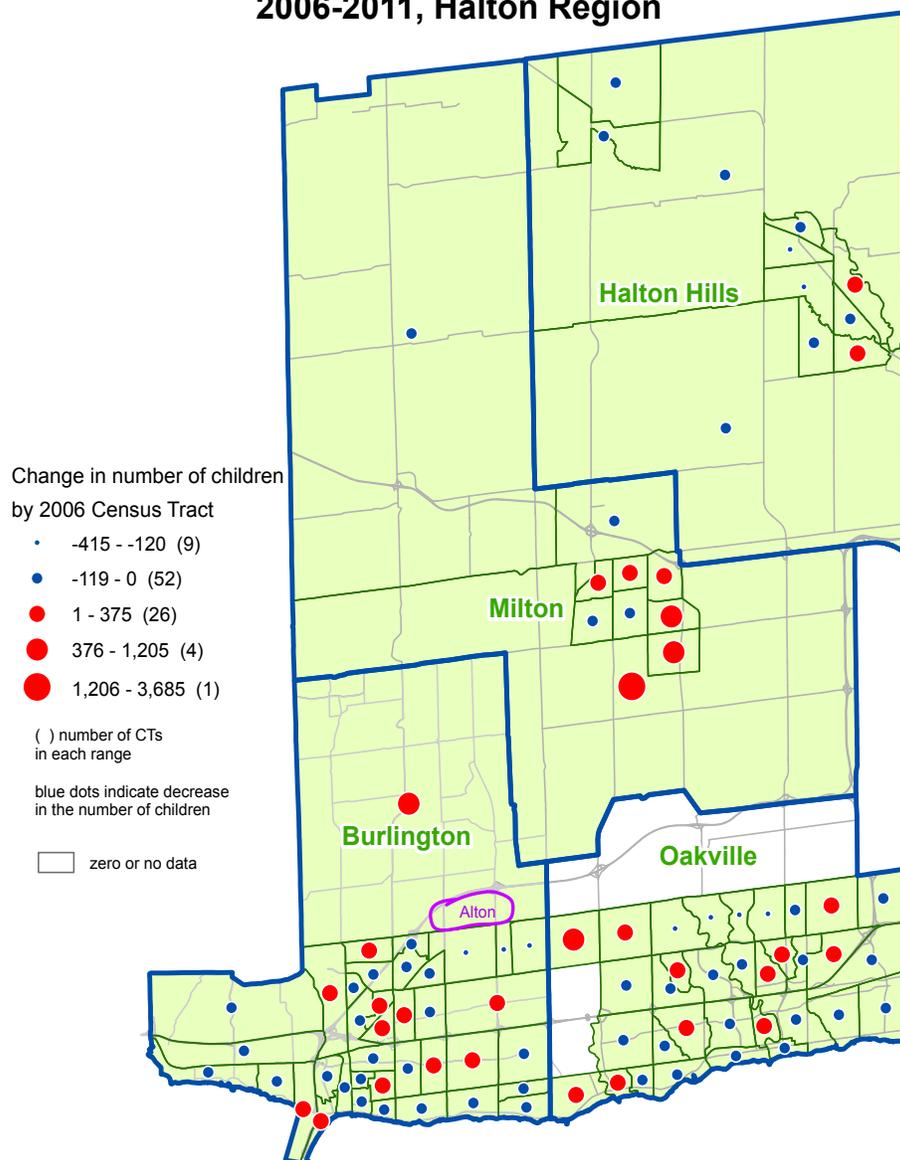
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Children Under 6

The map shows the geographic distribution of the increase/decrease of children under 6 between 2006 and 2011 by census tract.¹ The changes are not uniformly distributed. Almost two-thirds (65%) of the census tracts experienced a decrease (blue dots) in the children under 6 population. Most of the decrease occurred in Burlington and Oakville.

Three of the four census tracts with an increase (red dots) of over 1,000 children under 6 are located in Milton. The other census tract includes the Alton community in northeast Burlington.

Population Change in Children under 6 years of age 2006-2011, Halton Region



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2011 Censuses

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¹ A census tract as established by Statistics Canada is a relatively permanent area with a population range of 2,500 to 8,000 and the greatest possible social and economic homogeneity.

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