

**Halton Social Planning Council
and Volunteer Centre**

Report on Children & Youth

Halton Social Profile 1999

Report on Children & Youth

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Report on Children & Youth

Introduction

Children and youth are a large and important part of the community. They will shape the future of Halton. Issues concerning their distribution, family, education, employment, income, diversity and health need to be assessed in order to plan for their and the communities' well-being.

Since most of the information in this report is provided by Statistics Canada census data, children are defined as persons between the ages of zero and 14 and youth are between the ages of 15 and 24. In addition, the two school boards provided actual and predicted enrolment figures, the Halton Regional Municipality provided population forecasts and the Halton Children's Aid Society provided its caseload data. Note that this is one report in a series nine that complete the *Halton Social Profile 1999*.

Population 0-24

Population Distribution

In Halton, there are 71,915 children, accounting for 21.2% of the total population in Halton. The percentage of children in Halton changed very little from 21.5% in 1986. Of the municipalities in Halton, Milton has the smallest number of children and Oakville has the largest number of children. In 1996, there are 28,620 children in Oakville, 26,995 children in Burlington, 9,520 children in Halton Hills and 6,780 children in Milton. The highest proportion of children is in Halton Hills at 22.5%, followed closely by Oakville at 22.3%. Twenty-one percent of Milton's population are children and 19.7% of Burlington's population are children.

There are 42,910 youth in Halton in 1996 accounting for 12.6% of the total population. The percentage of youth in Halton decreased from 16.9% in 1986. Of the Halton municipalities,

Milton has the smallest number of youth and Burlington has the largest number of youth. Burlington has 16,845 youth, Oakville has 16,190 youth, Halton Hills has 5,135 youth and Milton has 4,475 youth. Milton, despite having the smallest number of youth, has a higher percentage of youth than the other three municipalities at 14.8%. Oakville has 12.6%, Burlington has 12.3% and Halton Hills has 12.1% youth.

Population Growth

The Regional Municipality of Halton's Business Development Department provided the population forecasts by five-year age breaks shown in Table 1. The predictions are based on 1996 census data, percentage age breakdowns from the Ontario Ministry of Finance and the Region's report, *Best Planning Estimates of Population & Occupied Dwelling Units* (July 1997).

PREDICTED POPULATION 0-24

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	Total 0-24
1996	23,670	24,715	23,530	21,950	20,960	114,825
2001	23,857	24,533	25,312	24,688	25,494	123,884
2006	27,074	27,037	27,313	28,230	29,105	138,759
2011	29,255	30,030	29,594	29,995	32,419	151,293
2016	30,787	31,568	31,965	31,663	33,436	159,419

Source: Regional Municipality of Halton and Statistics Canada 1996 Census.

- Table 1 0-24 population by five year age breaks in Halton, actual 1996 and predicted 2001-2016

Although the child and youth populations are both expected to grow over the next twenty years, the population over 25 is expected to expand at an even faster rate, especially the senior population that is expected to increase 125%.

The child population is expected to account for 17.5% of the total population in 2016, whereas it currently accounts for 21.2%. In Halton, the population aged zero to four will grow 30.1%, 5 to 9 will grow 27.7% and 10 to 14 will grow 35.8%. Therefore, of the child population in Halton, the 10-14 year-olds will increase the most.

The 15-24 age group is expected to account for 12.1% of the total population in 2016, whereas in 1996, youth account for 12.6% of the total population. Of the youth population in Halton, the 20-24 year age group is expected to increase the most over the twenty-year period, making it the largest age group for the zero to 24 population by 2001. This age group is expected to grow 59.5%. The second largest increase will be seen in the 15-19

year age group; it will increase by 44.3%. The youth population will experience a much larger increase than the child population.

Population by Age and Gender

Table 2 shows the Halton population in 1996 by gender and five-year age breaks.

POPULATION 0-24 BY AGE AND GENDER

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	Total 0-24
Male	12,215	12,755	12,090	11,250	10,800	59,110
Female	11,455	11,960	11,440	10,700	10,165	55,720
Total	23,670	24,715	23,530	21,950	20,960	114,825

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census.

• Table 2 1996 child and youth population in Halton by five year age breaks and gender

In 1996, the largest age group is five to 9 years old. This is the largest age group in all the municipalities in Halton except Milton. In Milton, the largest age group is the 15-19 year-olds – 22.3% of its 0-24 population. Milton has the highest percentage of teenagers and the lowest percentage of children in Halton. The next largest age groups in Halton are the zero to four and the 10 to 14 year-olds. The youth populations, 15-19 and 20-24, are smaller than the rest of the 0-24 population.

Males in Halton account for a larger percentage of the population under 25 than females – 51.5%. Halton Hills has the highest percentage of males at 52.2% and Burlington has the lowest at 51.0%.

Implications

- As the population in Halton expands, so will the need for additional services for youth and children, especially in Milton. Milton, which already has the highest percentage of youth in Halton, is expected to grow the fastest in the beginning of the 21st century.
- As the population in Halton ages, the youth population will need more attention. The 20-24 year age group is expected to increase from the smallest age group for the 0-24 population to the largest, over the next five years. This will have implications for youth unemployment, which is already higher than that for the total population 15 years and older.

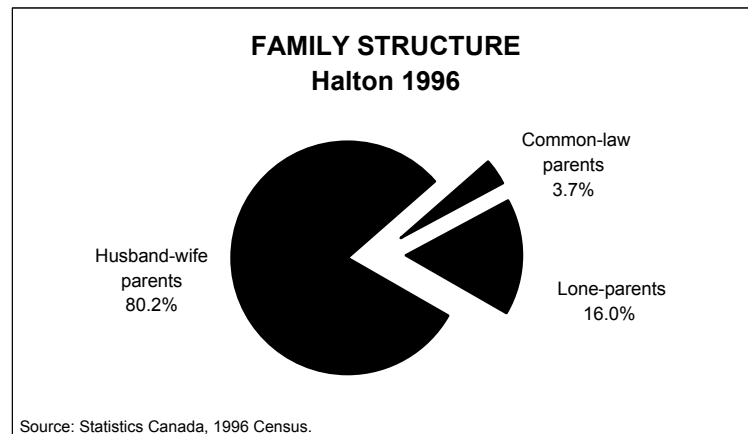
Family

Average Number of Children at Home

Families in Halton have fewer children than ten years earlier. In 1996, the average number of children at home per census family in Halton is 1.2. This decreased from 1.3 in 1986 but remained the same as in 1991. Ontario has the same average as Halton in 1996. Oakville remained the same over the three census periods at 1.3, while Burlington decreased from 1.3 to 1.2 and Milton decreased from 1.4 to 1.3. Halton Hills had the greatest decrease from 1.4 to 1.2 children at home per family.

Families with Children

Figure 1 shows that in Halton, 83.9% of families with children in 1996 are two-parent families (80.2% married and 3.7% common-law) and 16.0% are lone parent families. Married couples with children tend to have more children than common-law parents or lone-parents. Of the married couples with children, 32.8% have one child, 47.0% have two children and 20.2% have three or more children. Of the lone parents, 57.4% has one child, 33.2% has two children and 9.3% has three or more children. Of the common-law couples with children, 54.5% have one child, 32.7% have two children and 12.8% have three or more children.



• Figure 1 1996 Halton family structure for census families with children

Increasingly, children in Halton are becoming part of lone-parent families. In 1986, 12.9% of families with children are lone-parent families (6,695 families) and by 1996, 16.0% are lone-parent families (10,245 families). In Halton, Burlington has the highest percentage of

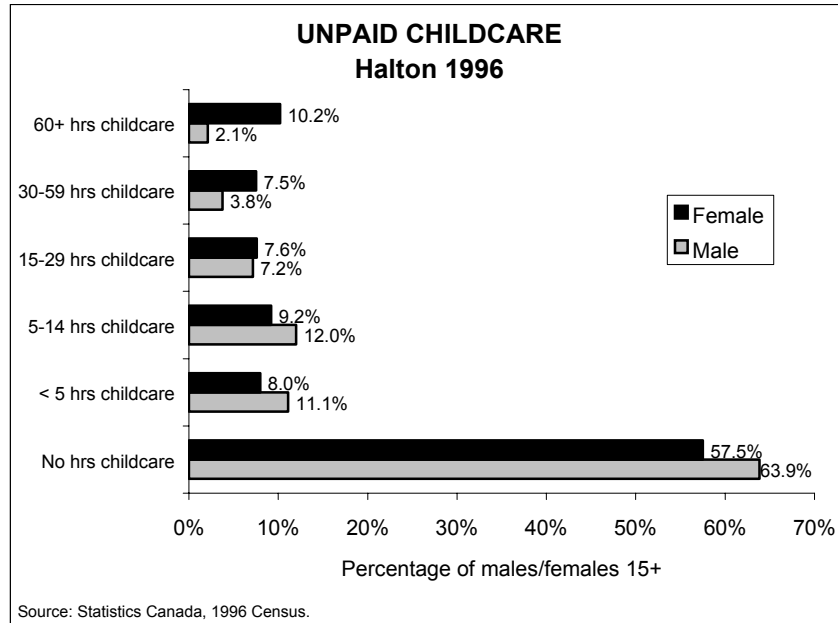
lone-parent families at 18.0% of all families with children and Milton has the lowest at 14.4%.

Common-law families are also increasing. In 1991, 3.1% of families with children are of common-law couples in Halton and by 1996 3.7% are. (Data on common-law families are not available for 1986.) In Halton, Halton Hills has the highest percentage of common-law parents in 1996 at 6.0% and Oakville has the lowest at 2.8%.

There has been a corresponding decrease in the proportion of married couples with children over the past ten years. In 1991, 83.4% of parents were married but by 1996, 80.2% are married. Oakville has the highest percentage of married parents at 82.5% and Burlington has the lowest at 78.2%.

Unpaid Care for Children

As seen in Figure 2, females provide most of the unpaid care for their own or other people's children compared to males. (Data are only available for 1996.) In 1996, 36.1% of males provided unpaid childcare, while only 42.5% of females provided unpaid childcare the week prior to the census. Besides the category of 'no hours', the largest category for females is 60 or more hours a week. Nearly five times as many women than men spend 60 or more hours caring for children. For men, the next largest category other than 'no hours' is 5 to 14 hours, followed by less than five hours.



• Figure 2 Halton unpaid childcare by number of hours in 1996

In Halton, the percentage of the population that spend 60 or more hours a week caring for children is highest in Halton Hills at 2.9% for males and 12.1% for females. The percentage is lowest for males in Oakville at 1.7% and females in Burlington at 9.4%. Again, it is apparent that the residents in the north are spending longer hours providing unpaid care for children than in the south.

Implications

- Service providers and funders need to be aware that as the percentage of female lone-parents in Halton continues to increase, services such as Big Brothers, that provides male role models for children, will likely increase in demand.
- Employers and service providers need to be aware that females are providing the largest part of the care for children.
- The availability of affordable childcare will also need to increase to accommodate for the rise in lone-parent families, especially in Burlington where lone-parents make up a greater proportion of the family population.

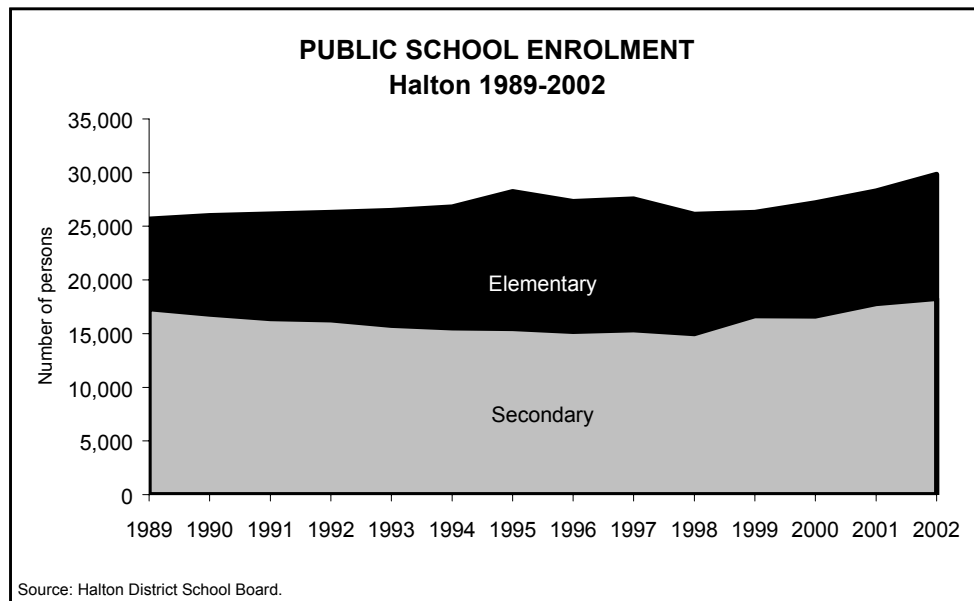
Education

School Enrolment

There are two school boards in Halton Region: the Halton Catholic District School Board and the Halton District School Board. In addition, there are seventeen private schools and one post-secondary institution, Sheridan College. In 1997, the Halton Catholic District School Board has an enrolment of 21,473 students (31% of the total student population in Halton), the Halton District School Board has an enrolment of 43,560 students (64%) and the private schools account for 3,373 students (5%). Enrolment statistics compiled by the Catholic and the public school boards are shown separately.

Public School Enrolment

The Halton District School Board provided the actual and predicted public school enrolment figures shown in Figure 3. Elementary schools range from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Secondary schools range from Grade 9 to OAC. In 1998, public school enrolment comprised of 63.5% elementary students and 36.5% secondary students.



• Figure 3 Halton public school enrolment, actual 1989-1998 and predicted 1999-2002

In Halton, there are a total of 68 public elementary schools and 16 public secondary schools. Burlington has the largest number of public schools with 26 elementary and seven secondary schools. Oakville has 23 elementary schools and five secondary schools. Milton has eight elementary schools and two secondary schools. Halton Hills has eleven public elementary schools and two public secondary schools.

The combined elementary and secondary public school enrolment in Halton decreased from 42,982 in 1989 to 41,104 in 1998 but is expected to increase to 48,105 in 2002. Oakville's public school enrolment increased from 14,159 students in 1989 to 15,451 students in 1998 and is predicted to increase to 17,874 students in 2002. Halton Hills' enrolment increased from 5,144 in 1991 to 6,097 in 1998 and is predicted to increase to 6,456 students in 2002 (note that data prior to 1991 is not available separately for Milton and Halton Hills). Burlington's public school enrolment decreased from 18,419 students in 1989 to 17,067 in 1998 and is predicted to increase to 18,197 students in 2002. Milton's enrolment decreased from 5,118 in 1991 to 4,275 in 1998 and is predicted to increase to 5,578 in 2002.

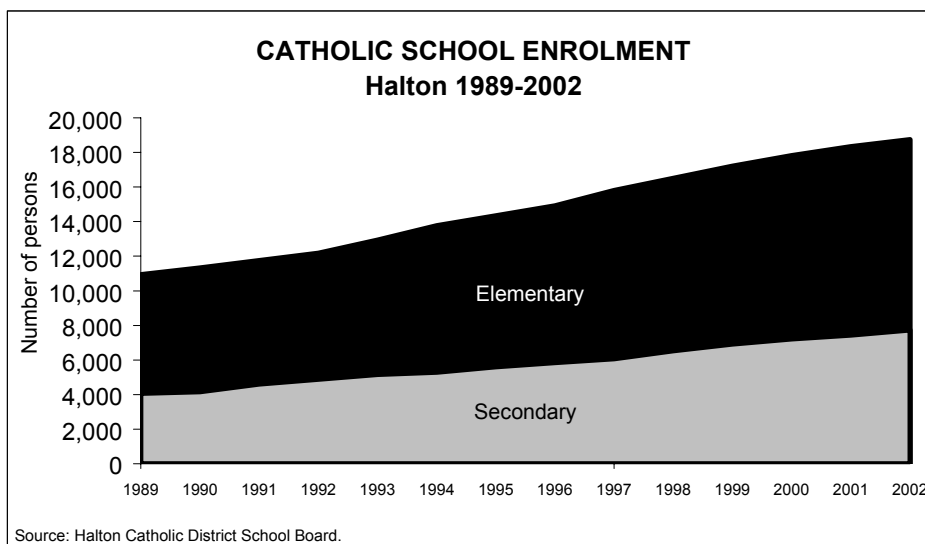
Public elementary school enrolment in Halton increased from 25,669 in 1989 to 26,113 in 1998 and is expected to increase to 29,842 in 2002. Burlington has the largest public elementary school enrolment in Halton with 10,575 students in 1989 increasing to 11,060

students in 1998. Enrolment in Burlington is predicted to increase to 11,552 students in 2002. Oakville's elementary school enrolment increased from 8,539 in 1989 to 9,853 in 1998 and is expected to increase to 10,555 in 2002. Halton Hills' enrolment increased from 3,195 in 1991 to 4,118 in 1998 and is expected to increase to 4,367 in 2002. Milton's elementary school enrolment decreased from 3,160 in 1991 to 2,514 in 1998. Milton's enrolment is expected to increase to 3,368 in 2002.

Public secondary school enrolment in Halton decreased from 17,313 in 1989 to 14,991 in 1998. Enrolment is predicted to increase to 18,263 students in 2002. Burlington has the largest secondary school enrolment with 7,844 students in 1989 and 6,007 students in 1998 and a predicted enrolment of 6,645 students in 2002. Oakville's secondary school enrolment increased from 5,620 in 1989 to 5,598 in 1998. It is expected that Oakville's enrolment for 2002 (7,319 students) will be higher than Burlington's enrolment. Milton's enrolment decreased from 1,958 in 1991 to 1,761 in 1998 but is expected to increase to 2,210 in 2002. Halton Hills' enrolment increased slightly from 1,949 in 1991 to 1,979 in 1998. In 2002, Halton Hills is expected to have a secondary school enrolment of 2,089 students.

Catholic School Enrolment

The Halton Catholic District School Board provided the actual and projected enrolment figures shown in Figure 4. Enrolment consists of elementary, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, and secondary, Grade 9 to OAC. The three French elementary Catholic schools in Halton are not included in the enrolment figures. The French schools account for 867 students in April 1998. In 1998, elementary enrolment accounts for 70.5% of the Catholic school students and secondary enrolment accounts for 29.5%.



• Figure 4 Halton catholic school enrolment, actual 1989-1997 and projected 1998-2002

In Halton, there are a total of 30 elementary schools and five secondary Catholic schools. Oakville has the largest number of Catholic schools in Halton and the largest building accommodation capacity. Oakville has 13 elementary schools and two secondary schools. Ten elementary and two Catholic secondary schools are in Burlington. Milton has the lowest number of Catholic elementary schools in Halton with three, and it has one secondary Catholic school. Halton Hills has four elementary schools and no secondary Catholic schools.

Enrolment for Catholic schools increased while enrolment for public schools decreased from 1989 to 1998. Enrolment for both elementary and secondary schools combined increased from 14,997 students in 1989 to 20,539 students in 1998 and is expected to increase to 26,470 students by 2002. This may be attributed to the recent changes in admission qualifications (i.e., non-Catholic students may now enrol). Oakville has the largest Catholic school enrolment in Halton. Total enrolment increased from 6,142 in 1989 to 9,712 in 1997 and is expected to increase to 11,947 by 2002. Burlington has the next highest enrolment with 5,586 in 1989 and 7,747 students in 1997. Enrolment in Burlington is expected to increase to 9,261 students in 2002. Total enrolment in Milton increased from 2,301 in 1989 to 2,532 students in 1997 and is expected to increase slightly to 2,857 students by 2002.

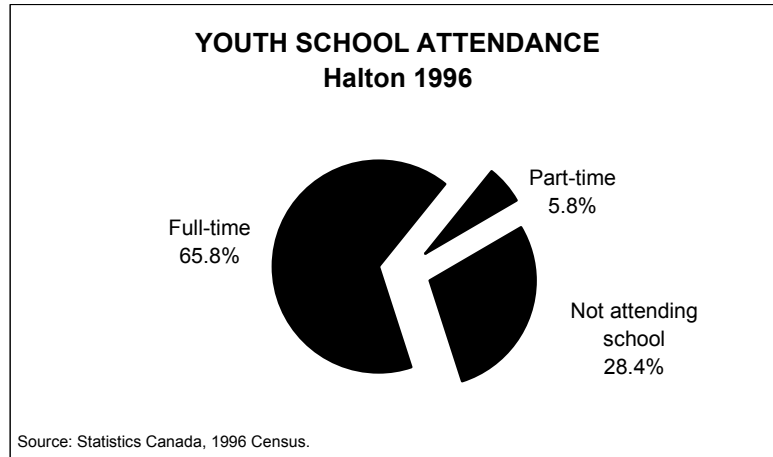
In Halton, the Catholic elementary school enrolment increased from 10,926 in 1989 to 14,478 in 1998. The elementary school enrolment is expected to increase each year to

18,734 students in 2002. Halton Hills has the fastest increase rate in Halton for elementary school enrolment from 1989 to 1997. Enrolment increased from 968 in 1989 to 1,888 students in 1997 and is predicted to continue increasing to 2,404 students in 2002. Elementary school enrolment in Oakville increased from 4,409 in 1989 to 7,167 in 1997 and is expected to increase to 8,575 by 2002. Elementary school enrolment increased in Burlington from 4,106 in 1989 to 5,388 in 1997 and is predicted to increase to 6,438 in 2002. Milton is the only municipality in Halton where elementary school enrolment has been decreasing. In Milton, elementary school enrolment decreased from 1,443 students in 1989 to 1,362 students in 1997 and enrolment is expected to continue to decrease at a slow rate.

Catholic secondary school enrolment in Halton increased from 4,071 in 1989 to 6,061 in 1998. Secondary school enrolment is expected to increase each year to 7,736 by 2002. Burlington has the fastest increase rate in Halton from 1994 to 1997 for secondary school enrolment. In Burlington, secondary school enrolment increased from 1,480 in 1989 to 2,359 in 1997 and is predicted to increase to 2,823 in 2002. Secondary school enrolment in Oakville increased from 1,733 in 1989 to 2,545 in 1997 and is expected to increase to 3,372 in 2002. In Milton, enrolment increased from 858 students in 1989 to 1,170 students in 1997 and is expected to increase to 1,540 students in 2002.

Youth School Attendance

Since 1991, the percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 attending school full-time increased from 62.7% (27,980 persons) in 1991 to 65.8% (28,190 persons) in 1996. (No data on school attendance is available for 1986.) Correspondingly, the percentage not attending decreased from 30.7% to 28.4% over the five years. Compared with Ontario at 31.8%, Halton has a lower percentage of youth not attending school – 28.4%. Those attending school part-time in Halton also decreased from 6.6% to 5.8%. Figure 5 shows the percentage of youth attending full-time, part-time and not attending school.



• Figure 5 Halton 15-24 school attendance in 1996

In Halton, Oakville has the highest percentage of youth attending school full-time at 69.2%, followed by Burlington at 65.4%, and Milton at 62.5%. Halton Hills has the lowest percentage of youth attending school full-time at 59.5%.

Burlington has the highest percentage of youth attending school part-time at 6.2% and Oakville has the lowest at 5.4%. Both Milton and Halton Hills have 5.8% of their youth attending school part-time.

Within Halton, Halton Hills has the highest percentage of youth not attending school at 34.7%, followed by Milton at 31.7%, Burlington at 28.4% and Oakville at 25.4%. Youth are more likely not to attend school if they live in north Halton rather than in south Halton.

More males are not attending school than females. In Halton, 29.6% of males and 26.8% of females are not attending. Milton has the highest percentage of females not attending school at 30.3% and Halton Hills has the highest percentage of males not attending school at 37.4%.

Youth Poverty and Education

Poor youth (as defined by Statistics Canada's low income cut-off) are more likely not to attend school. In Halton, 34.1% of poor youth are not attending school compared with 28.3% for the total youth population. This trend is apparent in all four municipalities.

The poverty rate decreased for youth as their education level increased. In Halton, 12.5% of youth with less than a secondary certificate are below the low income cut-off. Within

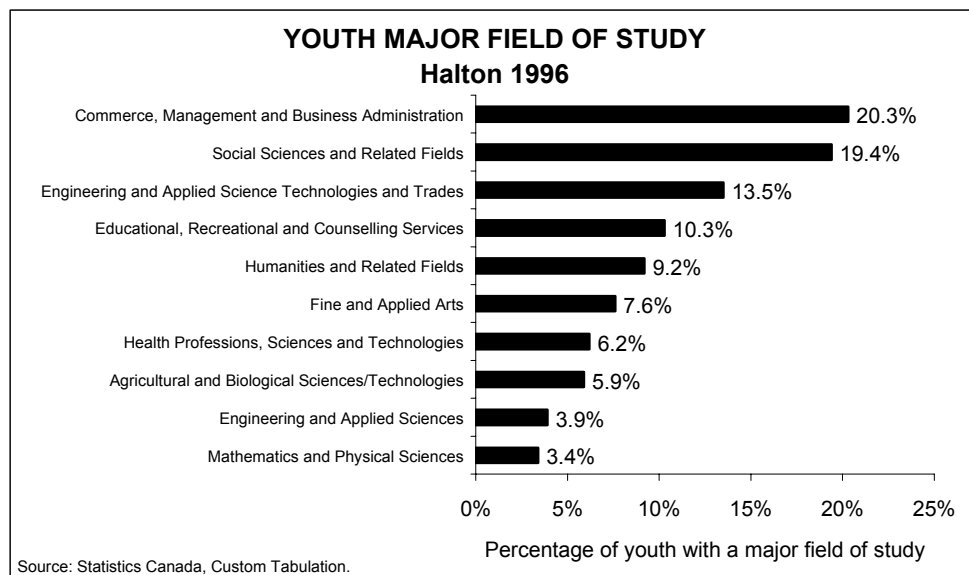
Halton, Oakville has the highest percentage of youth with less than a secondary certificate living in poverty at 15.1% and Milton has the lowest at 9.5%.

Youth with post-secondary certificates also have a higher poverty rate at 9.5%. This is higher than the poverty rate for the general population with a post-secondary certificate (5.5%). Oakville also has the highest poverty rate for youth with post-secondary certificates at 11.9% and Halton Hills has the lowest at 4.5%.

The lowest poverty rate is for youth with secondary certificates at 8.9%. This is similar to the poverty rate for the entire population 15 years and older with secondary certificates, which is 8.5%. Again, Oakville has the highest poverty rate for this category with 10.1% living in poverty and Halton Hills has the lowest with 5.2%.

Youth Post-secondary Qualifications

Figure 6 shows that in Halton, the largest percentage of youth with post-secondary qualifications studied commerce, management and business administration at 20.3%. The second largest field of study is social sciences and related fields at 19.4%, followed by engineering and applied science technologies and trades at 13.5% and educational, recreational and counselling services at 10.3%.



• Figure 6 Halton 15-24 major field of study in 1996

The municipalities are not compared because of the small population size, only 18.2% of youth in Halton have a specified major field of study.

Implications

- As the number of school age children increase, enrolment will also increase. Since most of the schools are already beyond capacity, high growth areas will need new schools.
- Use of educational facilities can be expanded to support the provision of services to the local community to improve community access to services and to broaden use of public resources.
- It is apparent that poverty and low education levels are correlated. Further study of the factors attributing to the dropout rate is needed.

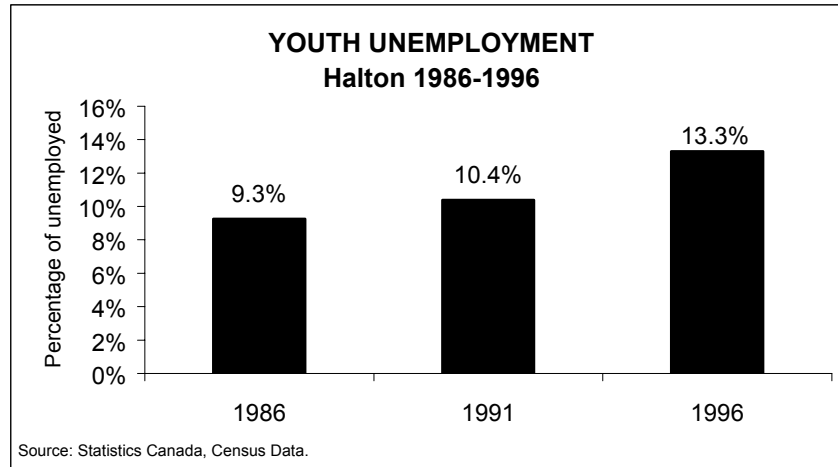
Youth Employment

Labour Force Activity

Youth participation in the labour force decreased from 75.0% (33,995 persons) in 1986 to 69.9% (29,945 persons) in 1996, compared with Ontario at 63.3% in 1996. In Halton, Halton Hills has the highest participation rate in 1996 with 73.2% of the youth population in the labour force and Oakville has the lowest participation rate with 67.4%.

In 1996, the percentage of females in the labour force outnumbers the percentage of males – 70.6% of females aged 15-24 years are in the labour force and 69.2% of males are in the labour force. Unlike Halton in 1996, Ontario has a larger percentage of males in the labour force rather than females. The male unemployment rate in Halton is much higher than the female unemployment rate. Fifteen percent of male youth in the labour force are unemployed compared with 11.6% of female youth. Both of these trends are reversed from 1986 when a larger percentage of males are in the labour force than females and the unemployment rate for males is lower than for females.

Youth unemployment increased from 9.3% (3,145 youth) in 1986 to 13.3% (3,985 youth) in 1996 as displayed in Figure 7. This is higher than the percentage for the total population 15 years of age and over at 5.5%, but lower than the percentage of unemployed youth in Ontario, which is 17.8% in 1996.



• Figure 7 Halton 15-24 percentage of unemployed in 1986, 1991 and 1996

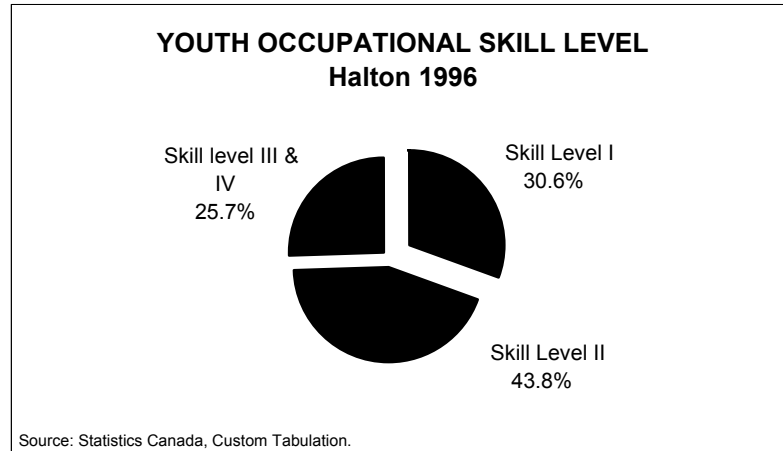
In Halton, Halton Hills has the highest youth unemployment rate in 1996 at 14.4%. Oakville has the next highest unemployment rate at 14.0%, followed by Milton at 13.2% and Burlington at 12.5%.

Youth Poverty and Employment

In 1996, 9.2% of the youth labour force are the working poor. "Working poor" means that they are employed and have an income below the low-income cut-off. This is much higher than the 6.0% of the total population 15 and older that is the working poor. Oakville has the highest percentage of employed youth living below the poverty line at 10.9%, followed by Burlington at 9.5%, Halton Hills at 6.4% and Milton at 6.1%.

Occupational Skill Level

The occupational skill levels for 1996 are based on 1991 Standard Occupational Classification. There are four skill levels. Skill level one is the lowest and skill level four is the highest. Figure 8 shows that the largest percentage of youth in Halton has a skill level two at 43.8%. Only 25.7% have skill levels three and four and 30.6% have skill level one. Compared with Ontario, Halton youth have a slightly higher percentage with skill levels three and four.



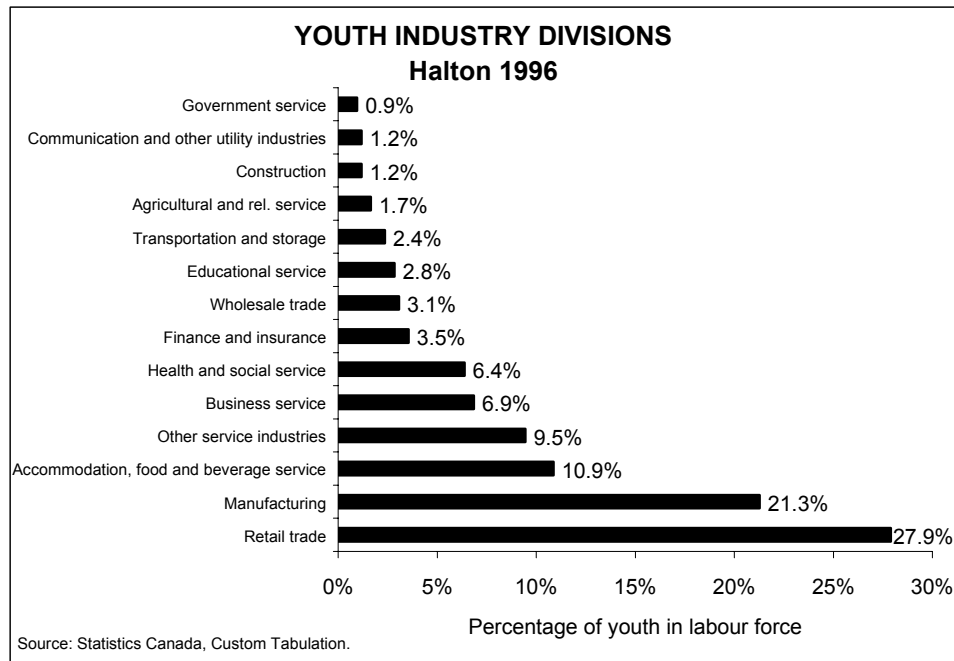
• Figure 8 1996 youth occupational skill level in Halton

Within Halton, Burlington has the highest percentage of youth with skill level one and Oakville has the lowest. Burlington also has the lowest percentage with skill levels three and four and Oakville has the highest. Therefore, Oakville youth have higher skill levels than the other municipalities.

Higher educational attainment is correlated with higher occupational skill level. Youth with university degrees are most likely to have an occupational skill level of three or four (43.5%). Youth with college or university certificates are most likely to have level two occupational skills at 49.8% and the majority of youth with a trade has a skill level three or four at 51.3%. Youth with a secondary school education are more likely to have a level two occupation (47.3%) and 42.9% of those with less than a secondary education has a level one occupation.

Youth Industry Divisions

In Halton, the largest percentage of youth in the labour force is in the retail trade industry at 27.9%. The next largest group is in manufacturing at 21.3% and in accommodation, food and beverage service industries at 10.9%. Figure 9 displays the percentages of youth in each industry.



• Figure 9 Halton 15-24 industry divisions in 1996

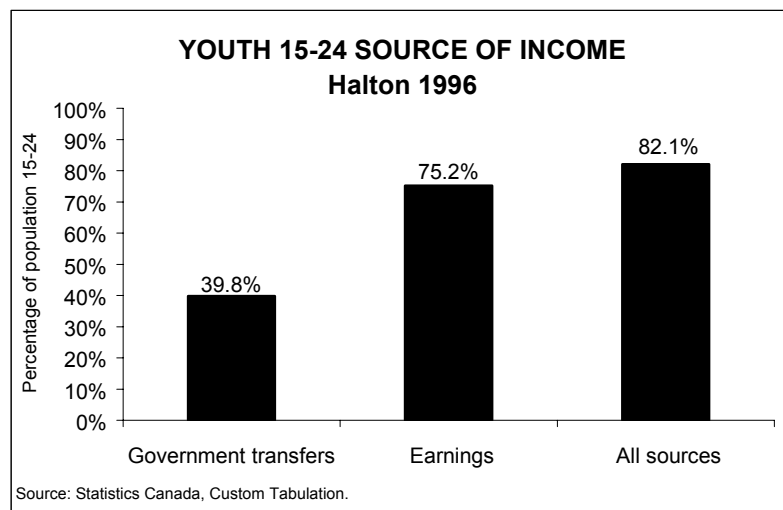
Implications

- The rapid increase expected in the youth population over the next five years will require that more initiatives be underway to address youth unemployment. It should also be determined whether underemployment is a problem (i.e. youth not getting enough hours or having to work part-time when they would prefer full-time).
- Employment counselling, volunteer opportunities and school to work transition programs are needed to assist youth in developing necessary skills to successfully participate in the labour market.
- Since the census is in May and the question referring to labour force activity the week before the census, many university and college students may have just returned to look for employment during that week. Therefore, further study of labour force activity of youth throughout the year to determine the actual situation would be beneficial.

Youth Income

Source of Income

Compared with Ontario at 77.5%, a larger percentage of youth in Halton has a source of income. In 1996, 82.1% of Halton youth have an income. As demonstrated in Figure 10, the majority, 75.2%, has earnings from wages or salaries and 39.8% receives government transfer payments. A larger percentage of youth in Halton than in Ontario has earnings and a lower percentage receives government transfers. Note that adding government transfers and earnings does not add up to the total income because some youths have both types of income.



• Figure 10 Halton 15-24 source of income in 1996

Within Halton, Halton Hills and Burlington have the highest percentage of youth receiving government transfers at 40.4% each. Milton has the lowest percentage at 36.7%. Halton Hills has the highest percentage of youth with earnings at 77.0% and Oakville has the lowest at 73.0%, which means that a greater percentage of youth are earning money in Halton Hills than in Oakville.

A higher percentage of male youth (75.8%) have incomes than female youth (74.5%). As well, a higher percentage of males have incomes from government transfers than females – 40.6% for males and 38.9% for females. The same percentage of males and females has earnings.

Average Income

In Halton, the average total income for all youth aged 15 to 24 is \$8,372 as displayed in Table 3. The average earning from wages and salaries for youth is \$8,076 and the average income from government transfer payments, such as unemployment insurance, is \$1,138. Youth in Ontario have a higher average income at \$8,467 and both higher average earnings and higher average government transfers. Within Halton, Milton youth have the highest average total income and the highest income from earnings. Oakville has the lowest for both. Oakville also has the lowest average value of government transfers and Halton Hills has the highest.

YOUTH AVERAGE INCOME

	Oakville	Burlington	Milton	Halton Hills	Halton
Total Income	\$8,256	\$8,296	\$8,725	\$8,655	\$8,372
Earnings	\$7,954	\$7,977	\$8,527	\$8,354	\$8,076
Government Transfers	\$1,054	\$1,189	\$1,143	\$1,223	\$1,138

Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Data.

- Table 3 1996 average income for all youth aged 15-24 in Halton by municipality

Males have higher total incomes than females in all municipalities in Halton. Average total income for males is \$8,866 and average total income for females is \$7,855. Average earnings are also higher for males at \$8,642 than females at \$7,475 even though the same percentage of males and females has earnings. However, average government transfers are higher for females at \$1,378 than males at \$918 despite a larger percentage of males receiving government transfers. Within Halton, Halton Hills has the largest difference between male and female average total income with the highest total income for males but the lowest income for females. Milton has the highest total income for females and Oakville has the lowest for males.

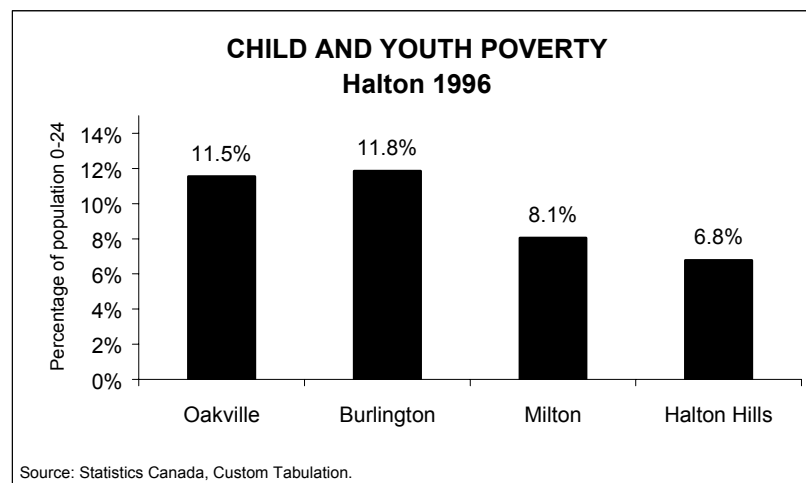
Implications

- Service providers and funders should be aware that youth have small incomes, despite a large percentage (75.2%) having earnings.

Poverty and Social Assistance

Poverty

Poverty among youth and children is a pressing issue in Ontario. In Ontario, one in five children and youth live in poverty. In Halton, poverty is not as widespread. Nevertheless, poverty does affect 10.7% or one in ten of the Halton population aged 0 to 24 (12,260 persons). This is higher than the poverty rate for all ages combined. Next to seniors, children and youth have the highest poverty rate in 1996. Figure 11 compares the poverty rates for those 0-24 years old in the four municipalities in Halton.



• Figure 11 1996 Halton 0-24 poverty rates by municipality

Within Halton, Burlington has the highest poverty rate for 0-24 year olds at 11.8%, followed by Oakville at 11.5%, Milton at 8.1% and Halton Hills at 6.8%. Poverty among youth and children is more pervasive in the south of Halton than in the north. For youth aged 15-24, Oakville has the highest rate and Halton Hills has the lowest. For children aged 0-14, Burlington has the highest and again Halton Hills has the lowest.

Youth poverty is higher for females than for males – 11.7% for females and 9.8% for males. Oakville has both the highest male and female poverty rate for youth at 11.7% and 13.6% respectively. Halton Hills has the lowest male (6.7%) and female poverty rate (8.1%). The difference between males and females is more noticeable for the 15-24 year-old age group, where females have a higher incidence of poverty.

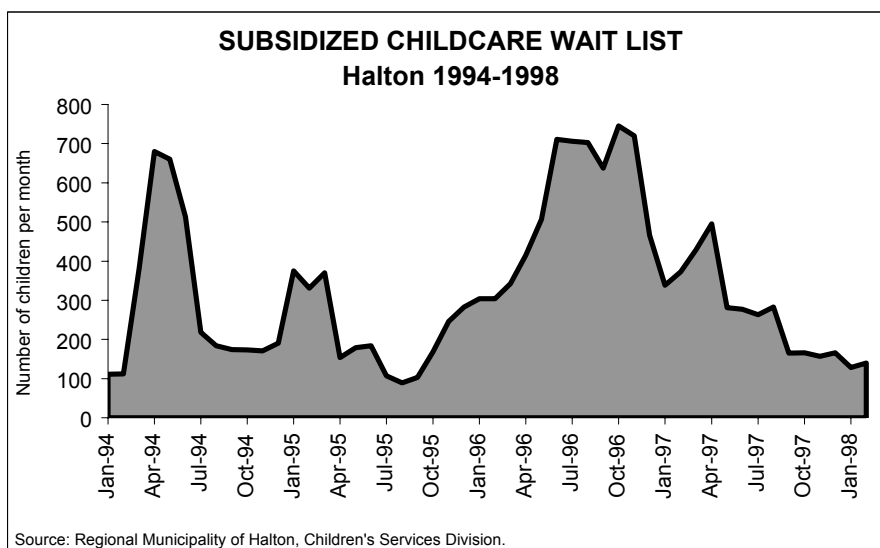
The poverty rate for children under 15 years is the same for both females and males in Halton. Burlington has the highest child poverty rates for both males and females at 12.4% and 12.8% respectively. Milton has the lowest percentage for male children at 7.2% and Halton Hills has the lowest for female children at 5.7%.

Subsidized Childcare

The Regional Social and Community Services Department's Children's Services Division offers a certain number of subsidized childcare spaces to families that qualify. The Region records the number of children on the wait list and the number of spaces offered.

Parents who qualify for subsidized childcare may choose from a variety of childcare centres from which the Region has purchased spaces. These spaces increased by approximately 100 spaces a year from 1,087 spaces in 1994 to 1,450 spaces in 1998.

Although the number of spaces offered has increased since 1994, demand still has not been met. The number of children on the waiting list portrayed in Figure 12 fluctuated greatly with a low of 89 in August 1995 and a high of 745 children in October 1996. All four municipalities in Halton experienced the same trend.

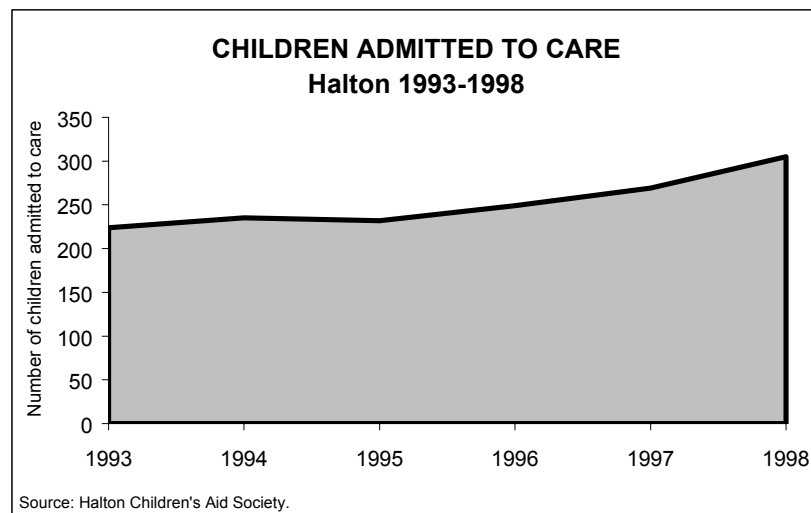


• Figure 12 Number of children per month on the Halton subsidized childcare wait list from 1994 to 1998

Within Halton, Burlington accounts for the largest number of children on the waiting list. In 1997, an average of 115 children per month is on the Burlington waiting list, followed by Oakville with 96 children, Halton Hills with 45 children and lastly Milton with 27 children.

Children's Aid Society Cases

The number of children admitted to the care of the Children's Aid Society has increased steadily between 1993 and 1998 as displayed in Figure 13. In 1993, there was 224 children admitted to care and by 1998, there are 305 children admitted that year. This is a



36.2% increase.

- Figure 13 Children admitted to the Halton Children's Aid Society from 1993 to 1998

Implications

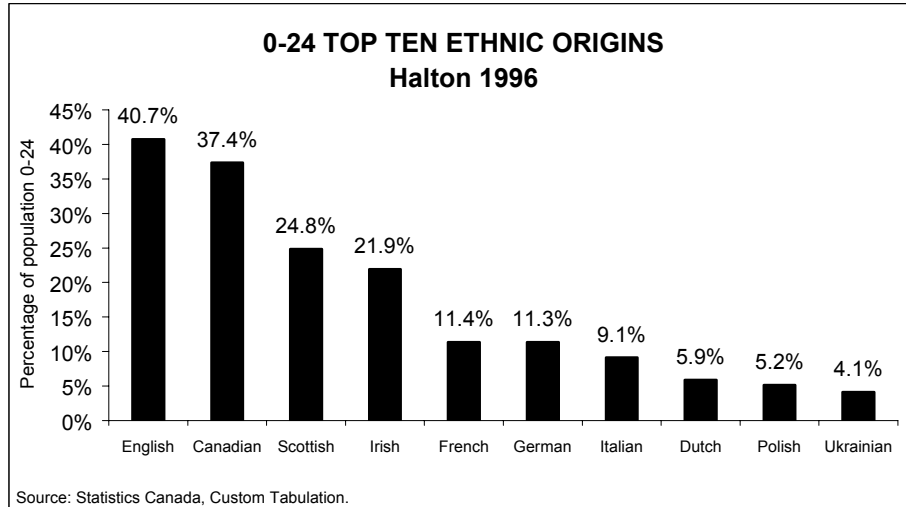
- Programs dealing with child and youth poverty are needed especially in the south of Halton where the poverty rate for the 0-24 population is highest.
- As the number of children in Halton increases, subsidized childcare will increase in need, especially as the number of lone-parent families increase and the number of families with both parents working also increase.

Diversity

Ethnic Origin

Figure 14 shows that in 1996 the largest percentage of children and youth is of English origin at 40.7%. The next largest ethnic group in Halton is Canadian at 37.4%, followed by Scottish at 24.8% and Irish at 21.9%. Note that census respondents are encouraged to

indicate as many of their ethnic origins as possible, therefore, percentages add up to more than 100%. Other common ethnic origins indicated are French, German, Italian, Dutch, Polish and Ukrainian.

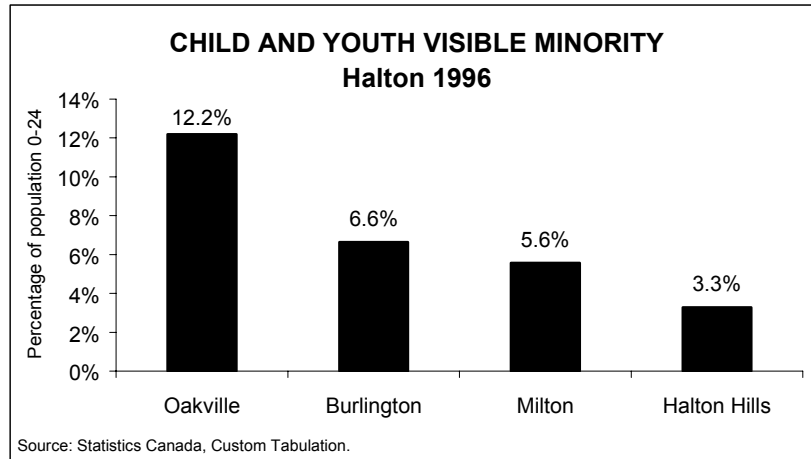


• Figure 14 1996 top ten ethnic origins of 0-24 population in Halton

Within Halton, Oakville has the lowest percentage of English, Canadian, Scottish and Irish in Halton. Milton has the highest percentage of English, Scottish and Irish and Halton Hills has the highest percentage of Canadian origins.

Visible Minorities

Compared with Ontario in 1996, Halton has a smaller percentage of children and youth that are part of a visible minority group. In Ontario, 18.8% of children and 18.9% of youth are visible minorities. However, 7.7% of the children aged zero to 14 and 9.3% of youth aged 15 to 24 belong to a visible minority group. Figure 15 displays the combined percentages of children and youth that are a visible minority in each municipality in Halton.

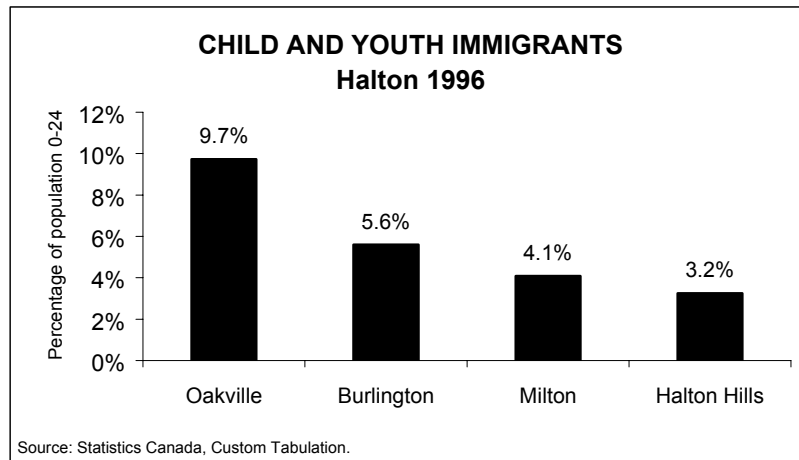


• Figure 15 1996 Halton 0-24 visible minority by municipality

Within Halton, Oakville has the largest percentage of visible minorities with 11.0% for children and 14.3% for youth. Halton Hills has the lowest percentage for both children and youth at 2.9% and 4.0% respectively. Milton is the only municipality in Halton with a larger percentage of children who are visible minorities compared to youth with 5.6% of children and 5.5% of youth.

Immigration

Halton has a smaller percentage of immigrants aged zero to 24 compared to Ontario. In 1996, 4.2% of children (3,045 persons) and 11.0% of youth (4,685 persons) in Halton are immigrants. In Ontario, 7.2% of children are immigrants and 16.5% of youth are immigrants. Figure 16 shows that within Halton the largest percentage of immigrants live in Oakville – 6.3% of children and 15.8% of youth. Halton Hills has the lowest percentage of child and youth immigrants at 2.0% and 5.6% respectively. For all four municipalities, the youth immigrant population is larger in percentage than the child immigrant population.



• Figure 16 1996 Halton 0-24 percentage of immigrants by municipality

In Halton, the majority of youth immigrants, 57.1%, immigrated to Canada before 1986. Only 22.4% immigrated between 1986 and 1990 and 20.6% immigrated between 1991 and 1996. Compared with Ontario where only 31.6% immigrated before 1986, Halton immigrant youth are more established in the community. The same trend is also apparent for the child immigrant population in Halton – 6.4% immigrated before 1986 compared with 3.8% in Ontario. However, a higher percentage of child immigrants than youth immigrated between 1991 and 1996 with 55.2%.

Within Halton, Oakville has the largest percentage of recent youth immigrants at 21.8%. Milton has a much lower percentage than all the other municipalities with only 8.5% of its youth immigrants arriving between 1991 and 1996. All four municipalities except Oakville have about 63% of its child immigrants arriving between 1991 and 1996. Oakville has a much lower percentage at 49.4%.

Implications

- As the municipalities in Halton expand, especially Oakville and Milton, over the next decade, there will be an influx of newcomers. Oakville has already seen a rapid increase in its diversity in recent years, making it the most diverse community in Halton. However, once the new urban developments in Milton begin occupancy after the year 2000, Milton will likely encounter a similar experience to Oakville. Services, such as English as a Second Language, and multicultural awareness will need to be increased in this community.

- Programs should concentrate more on youth rather than children since there is a greater percentage of youth that are visible minorities and/or immigrants.

Health

Injuries

Data on injuries in Halton are provided by the Regional Departments of Health and Social & Community Services in their report, *Injuries to Halton Residents 1989 to 1993* (January 1996). Two of the more common causes of injury to young people are motor vehicle traffic collisions and suicide.

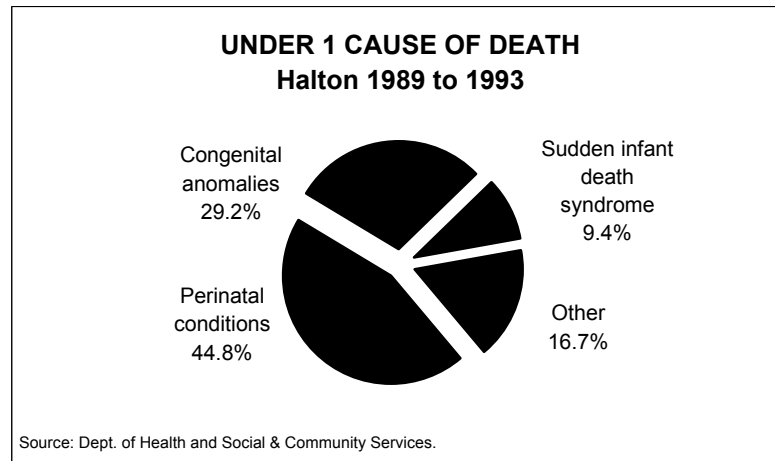
The leading cause of death for youth in Canada is motor vehicle accidents. In Halton, 24% of all deaths and 20% of the hospital admissions from motor vehicle accidents are males in the 15 to 24 age group. Male youth have the highest annual death rate at 30.3 per 100,000 (28 persons) and female children have the lowest at 0.8 per 100,000 (1 person). Hospital admissions from motor vehicle collisions is also highest for male youth at 23.6 per 100,000 (273 persons) and lowest for female children at 2.7 per 100,000 (42 persons). Halton Hills has a much higher death rate for male youth at 85.8 per 100,000 and hospital admission rate at 39.8 per 100,000.

Suicide is the second most common cause of death from injury for youth in Canada. In Halton, 19.4% of the male deaths from suicide were 15-24 years of age (13 persons) and 8.3% of female deaths from suicide were 15-24 years of age (2 persons) between 1989 and 1992. The yearly death rate for male youth from suicide is 14.1 per 100,000 and the rate for female youth is 2.3 per 100,000. Although there are more male deaths from suicide, there are more female hospital admissions from suicide. In Halton, the highest yearly rate of hospital admissions from suicide is for females 15-24 years of age at 29.7 per 100,000 (322 persons) and lowest for males 0-14 years of age at 0.6 per 100,000 (10 persons). Halton Hills has the highest death rate for male youth at 34.3 per 100,000 and hospital admission rate at 22 per 100,000. Oakville has the highest death rate for female youth at 6.3 per 100,000 and the highest admission rate for female youth at 35.3 per 100,000.

Mortality

Data on mortality are provided by the Regional Departments of Health and Social & Community Services in their report, *Mortality in Halton 1984 to 1993* (January 1997). The

data is divided into age breaks of under one year of age, 1-14 years of age and 15-29 years of age. Figure 17 shows the major causes of death for infants under one years of age in Halton.

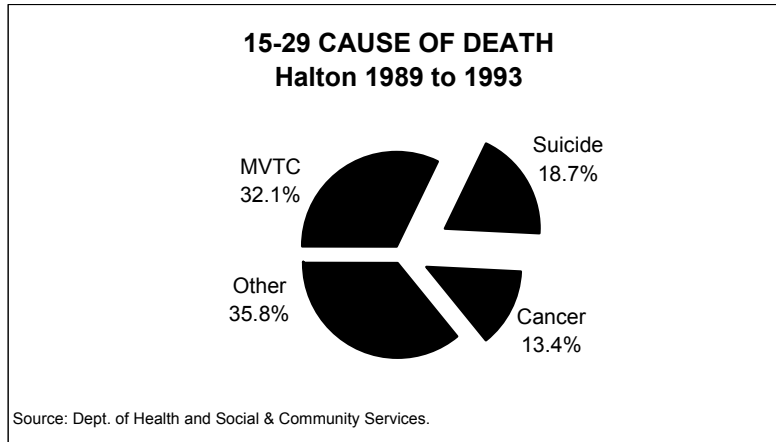


• Figure 17 Major causes of death of children under one years of age in Halton from 1989 to 1993

The largest percentage of infants in Halton die from perinatal conditions at 44.8%, followed by congenital anomalies at 29.2%, and sudden infant death syndrome at 9.4%.

In Halton, the major cause of death for females 1-14 years of age is nervous system at 26.7%. Meanwhile, the major causes of death for males 1-14 years of age are motor vehicle traffic accidents and congenital anomalies both at 18.5% and cancer at 22.2%.

Figure 18 shows the major causes of death for youth. (Note that the data include those aged 25-29 years).



• Figure 18 Major causes of death of youth aged 15-29 in Halton from 1989 to 1993.

In Halton, the major cause of death for youth is motor vehicle traffic collisions at 32.1%, followed by suicide at 18.7% and cancer at 13.4%. The majority (68.3%) of youth that die from motor vehicle accidents is male and 85.7% of youth that die from suicide is male rather than female.

Implications

- Motor vehicle accidents and suicide are of concern in Halton, particularly involving male youth. Continued support of preventative programs is needed.

Report on Children & Youth

Ontario Summary (1996 Census)

Population

Total 0-24	3,611,100
0-4 years	20.3%
5-9 years	20.7%
10-14 years	20.3%
15-19 years	19.3%
20-24 years	19.4%
Percentage of total population	33.6%

Families

Average number of children at home	1.2
No. of census families with children	1,935,995
Lone-parent	21.8%
Husband-wife parents	73.2%
Common-law parents	5.0%

Youth School Attendance

Population 15-24	1,399,525
Attending full time	62.6%
Attending part time	5.7%
Not attending	31.7%

Youth Post-secondary Qualifications

Population 15-24 with post-secondary	237,980
Commerce, management and business	19.5%
Social science and related	19.2%
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	14.6%

Youth Labour Force Activity

Population 15-24	1,399,525
In labour force	63.3%
Not in labour force	36.7%
No. of youth in labour force	885,200
Employed	82.2%

Unemployed	17.8%
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Youth Industry

Population 15-24	104,185
Retail trade	23.4%
Manufacturing	18.7%
Accommodation, food & beverage service	11.4%

Youth Income

Average total income	\$8,467
Average earnings	\$8,215
Average government transfers	\$1,789

Poverty

Population 0-14	2,190,745
Low income	22.1%
Population 15-24	1,385,235
Low income	21.7%

Immigration

Population 0-14	2,190,745
Immigrants	7.2%
Population 15-24	1,385,240
Immigrants	16.5%

Visible Minority

Population 0-14	2,190,745
Visible minority	18.8%
Population 15-24	1,385,235
Visible minority	18.9%

Ethnic Origin

Population 0-24	3,602,105
Canadian	32.3%
English	29.5%
Scottish	19.2%

Report on Children & Youth

Halton Region Summary (1996 Census)

Population		Unemployed	13.3%
Total 0-24	114,825	Youth Industry	
0-4 years	20.6%	Population 15-24	2,115
5-9 years	21.5%	Retail trade	27.9%
10-14 years	20.5%	Manufacturing	21.3%
15-19 years	19.1%	Accommodation	10.9%
20-24 years	18.3%	Income	
Percentage of total population	33.8%	Average total income	\$8,372
Families		Average earnings	\$8,076
Average number of children at home	1.2	Average government transfers	\$1,138
No. of census families with children	63,865	Poverty	
Lone-parent	16.0%	Population 0-14	71,725
Husband-wife parents	80.2%	Low income	10.7%
Common-law parents	3.7%	Population 15-24	42,730
Youth School Attendance		Low income	10.7%
Population 15-24	42,845	Immigration	
Attending full-time	65.8%	Population 0-14	71,725
Attending part-time	5.8%	Immigrants	4.2%
Not attending	28.4%	Population 15-24	42,730
Youth Post-secondary Qualifications		Immigrants	11.0%
Population 15-24 with post-secondary	7,795	Visible Minority	
Commerce, management and business	20.3%	Population 0-14	71,720
Social science and related	19.4%	Visible minority	7.7%
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	13.5%	Population 15-24	42,730
Youth Labour Force Activity		Visible minority	9.3%
Population 15-24	42,845	Ethnic Origin	
In labour force	69.9%	Population 0-24	114,615
Not in labour force	30.1%	English	40.7%
No. of youth in labour force	29,945	Canadian	37.4%
Employed	86.7%	Scottish	24.8%

Report on Children & Youth

Oakville Summary (1996 Census)

Population		Unemployed	14.0%
Total 0-24	44,810	Youth Industry	
0-4 years	20.8%	Population 15-24	1,090
5-9 years	22.5%	Retail trade	32.6%
10-14 years	20.6%	Manufacturing	18.8%
15-19 years	18.6%	Other service industries	11.5%
20-24 years	17.5%	Youth Income	
Percentage of total population	34.9%	Average total income	\$8,256
Families		Average earnings	\$7,954
Average number of children at home	1.3	Average government transfers	\$1,054
No. of census families with children	24,440	Poverty	
Lone-parent	14.7%	Population 0-14	28,570
Husband-wife parents	82.5%	Low income	10.9%
Common-law parents	2.8%	Population 15-24	16,100
Youth School Attendance		Low income	12.6%
Population 15-24	16,105	Immigration	
Attending full time	69.2%	Population 0-14	28,565
Attending part time	5.4%	Immigrants	6.3%
Not attending	25.4%	Population 15-24	16,100
Youth Post-secondary Qualifications		Immigrants	15.8%
Population 15-24 with post-secondary	3,050	Visible Minority	
Social science and related	21.6%	Population 0-14	28,565
Commerce, management and business	18.9%	Visible minority	11.0%
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	11.3%	Population 15-24	16,095
Youth Labour Force Activity		Visible minority	14.3%
Population 15-24	16,105	Ethnic Origin	
In labour force	67.4%	Population 0-24	44,715
Not in labour force	32.6%	English	37.8%
No. of youth in labour force	10,855	Canadian	32.7%
Employed	86.0%	Scottish	22.9%

Report on Children & Youth

Burlington Summary (1996 Census)

Population		Unemployed	12.5%
Total 0-24	43,840	Youth Industry	
0-4 years	20.7%	Population 15-24	750
5-9 years	20.8%	Manufacturing	26.0%
10-14 years	20.0%	Retail trade	22.0%
15-19 years	19.4%	Accommodation, food & beverage service	15.3%
20-24 years	19.0%	Youth Income	
Percentage of total population	32.0%	Average total income	\$8,296
Families		Average earnings	\$7,977
Average number of children at home	1.2	Average government transfers	\$1,189
No. of census families with children	25,080	Poverty	
Lone-parent	18.0%	Population 0-14	26,940
Husband-wife parents	78.2%	Low income	12.6%
Common-law parents	3.7%	Population 15-24	16,865
Youth School Attendance		Low income	10.6%
Population 15-24	16,870	Immigration	
Attending full time	65.4%	Population 0-14	26,940
Attending part time	6.2%	Immigrants	3.3%
Not attending	28.4%	Population 15-24	16,860
Youth Post-secondary Qualifications		Immigrants	9.3%
Population 15-24 with post-secondary	3,100	Visible Minority	
Commerce, management and business	23.1%	Population 0-14	26,945
Social science and related	19.5%	Visible minority	6.3%
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	13.4%	Population 15-24	16,860
Youth Labour Force Activity		Visible minority	7.1%
Population 15-24	16,870	Ethnic Origin	
In labour force	71.3%	Population 0-24	43,850
Not in labour force	28.7%	English	41.9%
No. of youth in labour force	12,030	Canadian	38.5%
Employed	87.5%	Scottish	26.1%

Report on Children & Youth

Milton Summary (1996 Census)

Population		Unemployed	13.2%
Total 0-24	11,525	Youth Industry	
0-4 years	17.6%	Population 15-24	160
5-9 years	19.5%	Retail trade	34.4%
10-14 years	21.8%	Manufacturing	18.8%
15-19 years	22.3%	Accommodation	18.8%
20-24 years	18.8%	Youth Income	
Percentage of total population	35.9%	Average total income	\$8,725
Families		Average earnings	\$8,527
Average number of children at home	1.3	Average government transfers	\$1,143
No. of census families with children	6,170	Poverty	
Lone-parent	14.4%	Population 0-14	6,765
Husband-wife parents	81.0%	Low income	7.9%
Common-law parents	4.5%	Population 15-24	4,725
Youth School Attendance		Low income	8.3%
Population 15-24	4,745	Immigration	
Attending full time	62.5%	Population 0-14	6,770
Attending part time	5.8%	Immigrants	2.6%
Not attending	31.7%	Population 15-24	4,730
Youth Post-secondary Qualifications		Immigrants	6.2%
Population 15-24 with post-secondary	730	Visible Minority	
Commerce, management and business	19.2%	Population 0-14	6,770
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	15.8%	Visible minority	5.6%
Social science and related	14.4%	Population 15-24	4,725
Youth Labour Force Activity		Visible minority	5.5%
Population 15-24	4,745	Ethnic Origin	
In labour force	69.5%	Population 0-24	11,510
Not in labour force	30.5%	English	45.1%
No. of youth in labour force	3,300	Canadian	40.4%
Employed	86.8%	Scottish	26.3%

Report on Children & Youth

Halton Hills Summary (1996 Census)

Population		Unemployed	14.4%
Total 0-24	14,655	Youth Industry	
0-4 years	22.2%	Population 15-24	115
5-9 years	22.2%	Business service	21.7%
10-14 years	20.6%	Manufacturing	17.4%
15-19 years	17.3%	Other service industries	17.4%
20-24 years	17.7%	Youth Income	
Percentage of total population	34.6%	Average total income	\$8,655
Families		Average earnings	\$8,354
Average number of children at home	1.2	Average government transfers	\$1,223
No. of census families with children	8,175	Poverty	
Lone-parent	15.2%	Population 0-14	9,445
Husband-wife parents	78.8%	Low income	6.5%
Common-law parents	6.0%	Population 15-24	5,045
Youth School Attendance		Low income	7.2%
Population 15-24	5,125	Immigration	
Attending full time	59.5%	Population 0-14	9,445
Attending part time	5.8%	Immigrants	2.0%
Not attending	34.7%	Population 15-24	5,045
Youth Post-secondary Qualifications		Immigrants	5.6%
Population 15-24	915	Visible Minority	
Engineering & applied science tech./trades	19.1%	Population 0-14	9,440
Commerce, management and business	18.0%	Visible minority	2.9%
Education, recreation and counselling	15.8%	Population 15-24	5,045
Youth Labour Force Activity		Visible minority	4.0%
Population 15-24	5,125	Ethnic Origin	
In labour force	73.2%	Population 0-24	14,550
Not in labour force	26.8%	Canadian	46.0%
No. of youth in labour force	3,750	English	42.5%
Employed	85.6%	Scottish	25.9%