

**Halton Social Planning Council
and Volunteer Centre**

Report on Families

Halton Social Profile 1999

Report on Families

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Report on Families

Introduction

This report includes data on family size, children, marital status, census family structure, households, income, and labour force participation. The term “family” in this report refers to Statistics Canada’s definition of a census family, except low-income data, which refers to economic families (see Glossary of Census Terms for definition):

Census family refers to a now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both parents) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling.

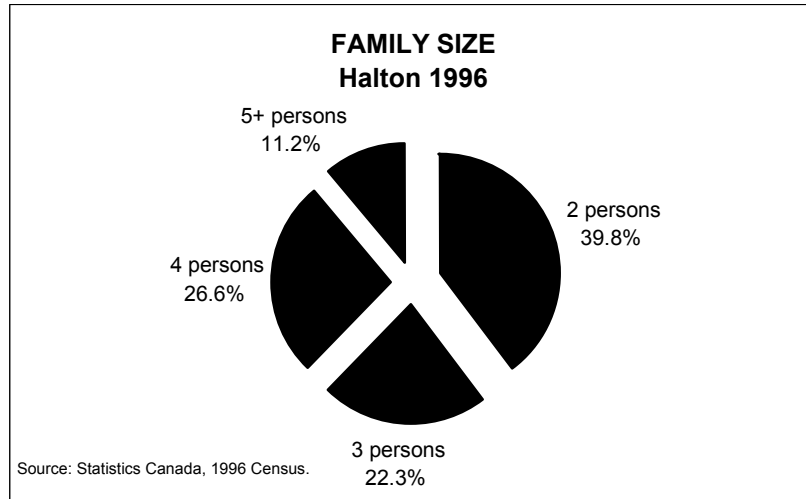
Data are from the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Statistics Canada census. Note that this is one report in a series of nine that complete the *Halton Social Profile 1999*.

Families

Family Size

The average number of persons per family in Halton remained the same in 1986 and 1991 at 3.2 persons and decreased to 3.1 persons in 1996. The average number of persons per family in 1996 is the same in Ontario as in Halton. The municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills and Milton all experienced a decrease of 0.2 persons over the ten years, only Oakville’s family size remained unchanged. In 1996, Burlington has the smallest family size in Halton at 3.0 persons, and Milton and Oakville both have the largest at 3.2 persons.

Figure 1 shows that the largest percentage of families in Halton consist of two persons at 39.8%. The next largest family size is four persons at 26.6%. In Ontario, 42.3% of families consist of two persons and 23.9% of families consist of four persons.

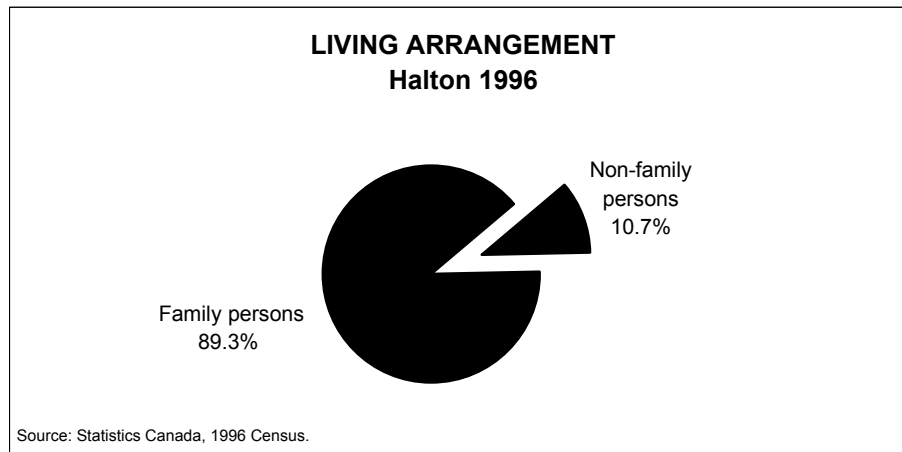


• Figure 1 Census family size in Halton in 1996

In Halton, Burlington has the largest percentage of families with two persons at 43.2% and Milton has the lowest at 36.0%. Oakville has the largest percentage with four persons at 28.4% and Burlington has the lowest at 24.7%.

Living Arrangement

Figure 2 shows that of the 336,510 persons living in private households in Halton, 89.3% are family persons and 10.7% are non-family persons. Ontario has a smaller percentage of family persons at 85.1%. Of the non-family persons in Halton, 21.7% are living with relatives, 23.4% are living with non-relatives only and 54.9% are living alone. In 1986, there was a larger proportion of family persons at 90.7% and a smaller proportion of non-family persons at 9.3% in Halton.



• Figure 2 Family and non-family persons in Halton in 1996

In Halton, Milton has the largest percentage of family persons at 90.5% and Burlington has the smallest percentage of family persons at 88.3%.

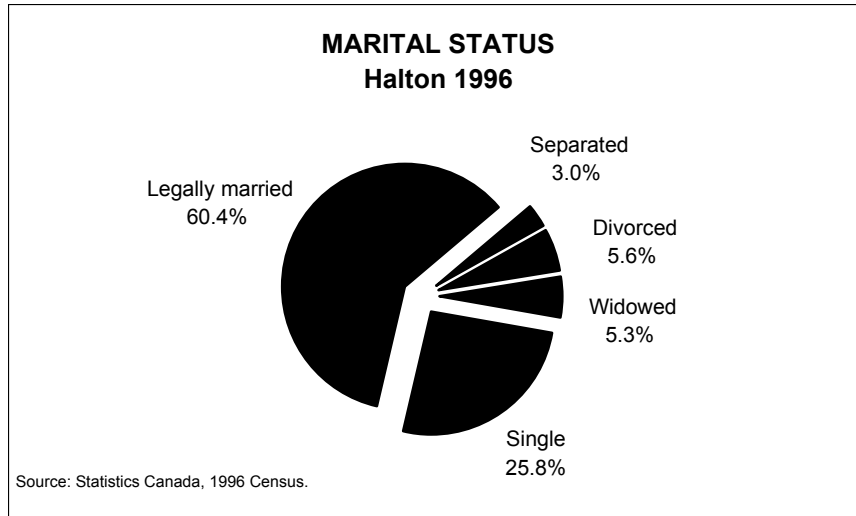
Families in Households

78.3% of households in Halton are one-family households, 20.1% are non-family households (i.e. unrelated or living alone) and 1.6% are multiple-family households. In comparison, Ontario has fewer one-family households at 71.0%, more non-family households at 27.2% and slightly more multiple-family households at 1.8%.

Of the municipalities in Halton, Milton has the highest percentage of one-family households at 80.6% and Burlington has the lowest at 76.4%. Oakville has the highest percentage of multiple-family households at 2.0% and Burlington has the lowest at 1.0%. Burlington has the largest percentage of non-family households at 22.6% and Milton has the smallest at 17.4%.

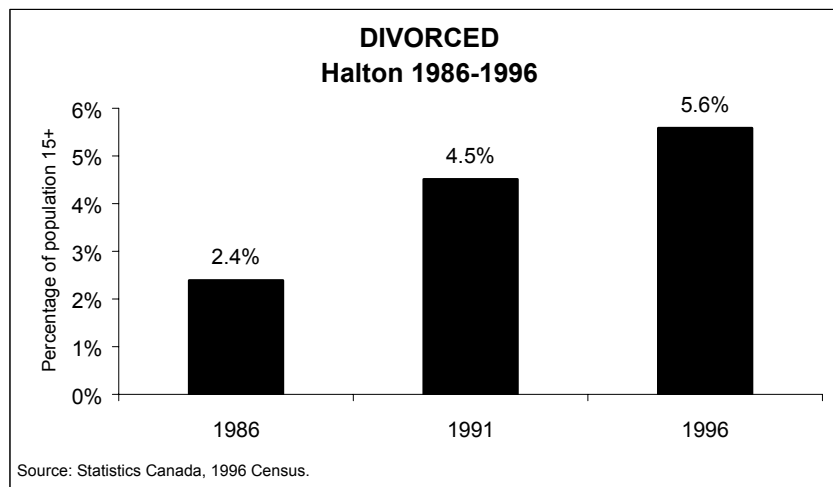
Marital Status

Over the ten-year period from 1986 to 1996, the percentage of married couples decreased, while the percentage of divorced persons shows a corresponding increase. In 1996, married persons (including the 3.0% that are separated) account for 63.4% of the population, while divorced persons account for 5.6% of the Halton population. Figure 3 shows the Halton population 15 years of age and over by marital status.



• Figure 3 Marital status of Halton population 15+ in 1996

Figure 4 shows that the percentage of divorced persons in Halton more than doubled over ten years from 2.4% (5,090 persons) in 1986 to 5.6% in 1996 (14,960 persons). Ontario has a higher divorce rate than Halton with 3.1% in 1986 and 6.3% in 1996. All four municipalities in Halton witnessed an increase in the divorce rate. Burlington has the highest percentage of divorced persons with 6.1% in 1996 and Oakville has the lowest with 5.0%.



• Figure 4 Percentage of divorced persons 15+ years of age in Halton in 1986, 1991 and 1996

In Halton, 25.8% of the population is single in 1996. Milton at 28.0% has a higher percentage of single persons than the other three municipalities. Part of this could be

attributed to it having a larger percentage of youth than any other municipality in Halton (see Halton Social Profile Report on Children & Youth for more information).

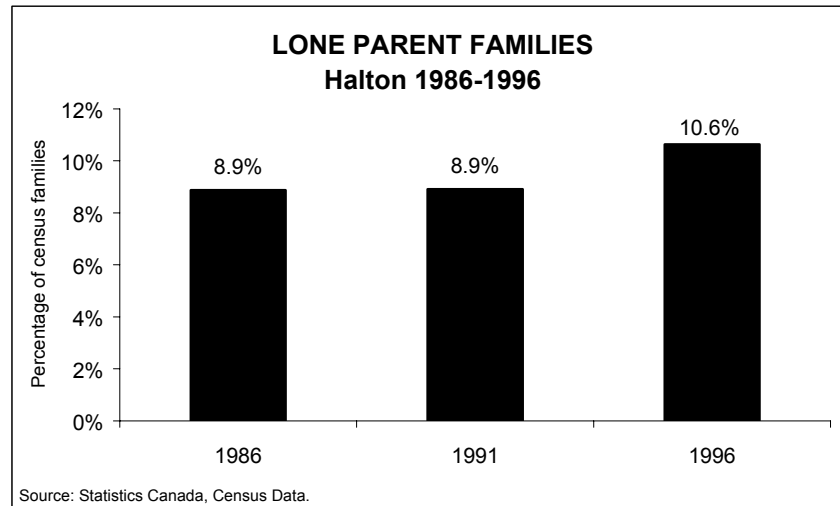
In 1996, 5.3% of Halton's population is widowed (14,150 persons). The percentage of the population that is widowed increased slightly throughout the three censuses. Burlington has the highest and Oakville has the lowest percentages of widowed persons at 5.8% and 4.8% respectively.

Husband-Wife Families

Although the number of husband and wife families increased in Halton from 68,785 in 1986 to 86,065 in 1996, the proportion of families that are husband and wife decreased from 91.1% in 1986 to 89.4% in 1996. Of the total husband and wife families in Halton, 6.9% are families of common-law couples and 93.1% are families of married couples. Ontario has a larger percentage of families of common-law couples at 9.1% and a smaller proportion of married couples at 90.9%. In Halton, Milton has the largest percentage of common-law families at 8.8% of all husband and wife families and Oakville has the smallest at 5.5%.

Lone Parent Families

In Halton, there are 10,245 lone parent families in 1996. As shown in Figure 5, lone parent families as a percentage of all families in Halton increased from 8.9% in 1986 and 1991 to 10.6% in 1996. However, despite the increase, Halton still has a smaller percentage of lone parent families than Ontario. Ontario has 14.4% lone parent families in 1996.



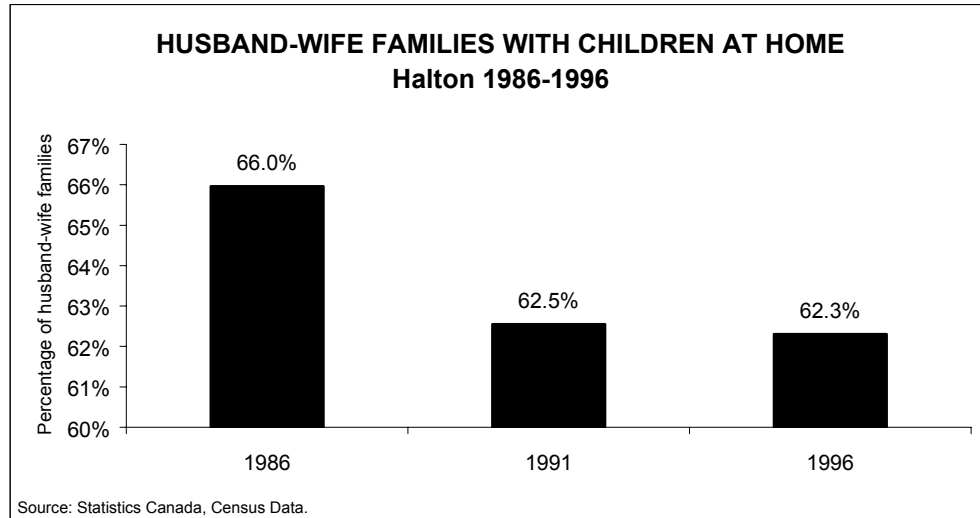
• Figure 5 Percentage of lone parent families in 1986, 1991 and 1996

In Halton, Burlington has the highest percentage of lone parent families in Halton at 11.4% and Oakville has the lowest at 10.0%.

Females head the majority (82.4%) of lone parent families in 1996. This has increased from 79.8% in 1986. Female lone parents also tend to have more children than male lone parents. Of the male lone parents in Halton, 65.1% have one child, 27.1% have two children and 8.0% have three or more children. Of the female lone parents in Halton, 55.9% have one child, 34.5% have two children and 9.6% have three or more children.

Children at Home

In 1996, 62.3% of husband and wife families in Halton have children at home (63.9% of married couples and 40.2% of the common-law couples). This decreased from 66.0% in 1986 as shown in Figure 6. In Ontario, 62.1% of married couples and 42.6% of common-law couples have children in 1996. Common-law parents tend to have fewer children than married parents. 32.8% of married parents have one child and 67.2% have two or more children. In comparison, 54.5% of common-law parents have one child and 45.5% have two or more children.

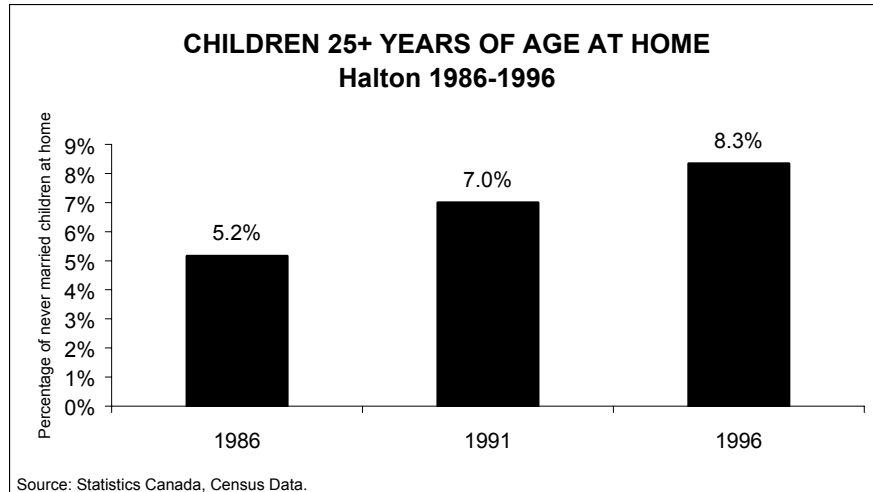


• Figure 6 Husband and wife families with children at home in Halton in 1986, 1991 and 1996

Of the married couples in Halton, Milton has the highest proportion with children at home at 68.5% and Burlington has the lowest at 60.5%. Halton Hills has the highest percentage of common-law couples that have children at 51.9% and Burlington has the lowest at 36.9%.

The average number of never married children at home per family in Halton in 1996 is 1.2. This decreased from 1.3 in 1986 but remained the same as in 1991. Ontario has the same average number of children at home as Halton in all three censuses. In all municipalities in Halton, except Oakville, the number of children at home decreased from 1986. Oakville remained the same. In 1996, Burlington and Halton Hills both have 1.2, and Oakville and Milton both have an average of 1.3 children at home.

The largest percentage of children at home in Halton (36.1%) is between the ages of six and 14 years. The next largest percentage of children at home is under six years of age at 24.1%, increasing from 22.2% in 1986. The percentage of children at home between the ages of 15 and 24 decreased from 36.7% in 1986 to 31.4% in 1996. Meanwhile children at home 25 years of age and over increased from 5.2% in 1986 to 8.3% in 1996 as shown in Figure 7. Ontario has a higher percentage of children at home 25 years of age and over at 9.3%.



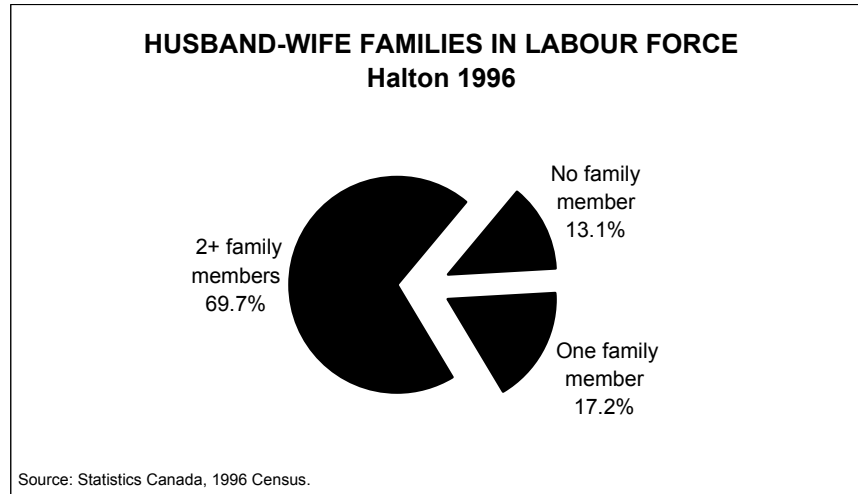
• Figure 7 Never married children at home 25+ years old in 1986, 1991 and 1996

In Halton, Halton Hills has the largest percentage of children under six years of age in 1996 at 25.9% and Milton has the lowest at 20.6%. Burlington has the highest percentage of children at home 25 years of age and over at 9.0% and Milton has the lowest at 7.7%.

Labour Force Activity

Figure 8 shows that in Halton, 13.1% of husband-wife families have no family member in the labour force, 17.2% have one person in the labour force and 69.8% have two or more persons in the labour force. In 1996, 64.4% of husband-wife families have both partners in the labour force. Ontario has fewer couples than in Halton with both partners in the labour force at 59.1%. In 1991, there was a slightly larger proportion of husband-wife families in Halton with both partners in the labour force at 65.1%.

In Halton, 11.3% of lone parent families have no family member in the labour force and 88.7% have a member in the labour force. Of the lone parent families in Halton, 75.1% of the parents are in the labour force. In Ontario, fewer lone parents are in the labour force at 63.6%. In 1991, there were a larger percentage of lone parent families in Halton with the parent in the labour force at 75.6%.

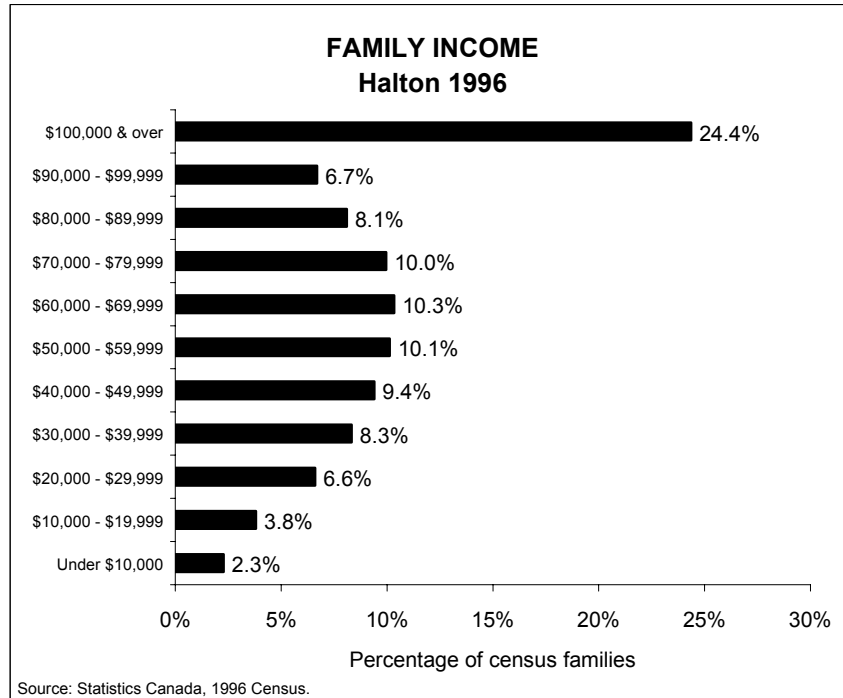


• Figure 8 Husband-wife families by their presence in the labour force in Halton in 1996

Of the four Halton municipalities, Milton has the highest percentage of husband-wife families with both parents in labour force at 68.6% and Burlington has the lowest at 63.3%. Oakville has the highest percentage of lone parent families with the parent in the labour force at 76.6% and Halton Hills has the lowest at 72.3%.

Family Income

Figure 9 shows that the largest percentage of families in Halton have incomes of \$100,000 and over at 24.4%. This is nearly double the percentage of families in Ontario with incomes of \$100,000 and over. The next largest percentage of families have incomes between \$60,000 and \$69,999 at 10.3%.



• Figure 9 Census family income in Halton in 1996

Table 1 shows that the average family income in Halton increased from \$51,321 in 1985 to \$79,930 in 1995. The greatest increase is between 1985 and 1990. The average family income in Halton is much higher than in Ontario, where it is \$59,830 in 1995. Of the families in Halton, husband-wife families have an average income of \$84,344, compared to \$59,136 for male lone parent families and \$39,373 for female lone parent families.

AVERAGE CENSUS FAMILY INCOME

	Oakville	Burlington	Milton	Halton Hills	Halton
1985	\$56,640	\$49,497	\$48,148	\$47,064	\$51,321
1990	\$81,094	\$69,365	\$70,802	\$65,428	\$73,287
1995	\$89,224	\$75,293	\$75,308	\$70,772	\$79,930

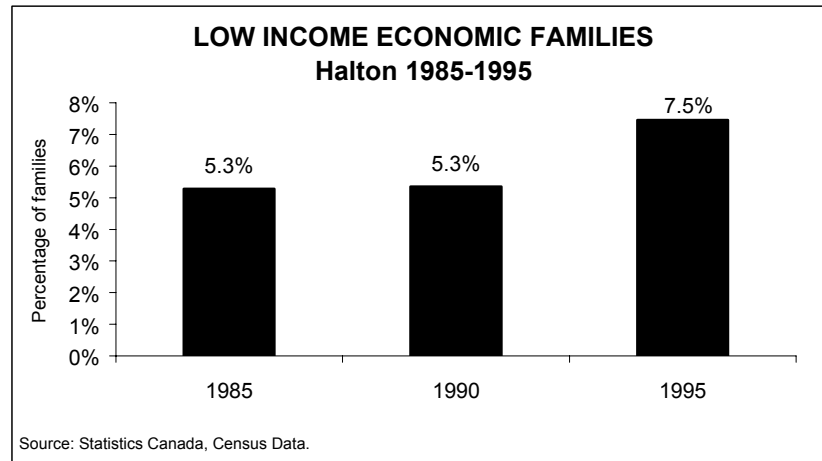
Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data.

• Table 1 Average census family income by municipality in 1985, 1990 and 1995

Within Halton, Oakville has the highest average income over the ten years with an average family income of \$89,224 in 1995. It is nearly ten thousand dollars higher than the average for Halton in 1995. Burlington and Milton have similar average family incomes. Halton Hills has the lowest average family income for the three census periods with \$70,772 in 1995.

Low Income Economic Families

Compared to Ontario, with 14.8% low-income families, Halton has fewer low-income families in 1995 at 7.5% using Statistics Canada low-income cut-off. However, Figure 10 shows that the percentage of low-income families in Halton rose from 5.3% in 1990. This means the number of low income families increased by 3,165 families over the ten-year period. By 1995, 7,140 Halton families are poor.



• Figure 10 Incidence of low income for economic families in Halton in 1985, 1990 and 1995

In Halton, Burlington has the highest percentage of low-income families at 8.3% (2,820 families) in 1995 and Halton Hills has the lowest percentage at 4.7% (555 families).

Implications

- The number of families with children at home and the size of families is expected to decrease as the population ages.
- The higher incidence of children 25+ living at home is expected to continue until the economy and job market improves. This will create new dynamics in families, especially in the cases where adult children are returning home to live after completing their education.
- Lone parent families will continue to need affordable housing and childcare, training and employment opportunities, and support programs to address stress and economic difficulties, especially in Burlington where there is the highest proportion of lone parent families in Halton.

- The child population is expected to continue to grow in real numbers although their share of the total population may decrease. The predicted population growth and in-migration of people of childbearing age (i.e. young families) and the children of the “baby boomers” beginning to have children, will increase demands on services to children (e.g. children’s mental health, child welfare, education, and recreation) and to families with young children (e.g. parenting programs, childcare, family counselling).

Report on Families

Ontario Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	10,605,060
Family persons	85.1%
Non-family persons	14.9%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	2,932,725
2 persons	42.3%
3 persons	22.5%
4 persons	23.9%
5+ persons	11.3%
Average no. of persons per family	3.1

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	2,511,025
No. of families of now-married couples	2,283,115
Without children at home	37.9%
With children at home	62.1%
With 1 child	34.0%
With 2 children	44.4%
With 3+ children	21.6%
No. of common-law families	227,910
Without children at home	57.4%
With children at home	42.6%
With 1 child	50.8%
With 2 children	34.0%
With 3+children	15.2%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	421,705
No. of male lone parents	66,665
Male parent with 1 child	64.6%
Male parent with 2 children	26.8%
Male parent with 3+ children	8.6%
No. of female lone parents	355,040
Female parent with 1 child	56.4%

Female parent with 2 children	31.0%
Female parent with 3+ children	12.6%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	3,585,565
Under 6 years	24.1%
6-14 years	36.5%
15-24 years	30.1%
25+ years	9.3%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.2

Households

No. of private households	3,924,515
One-family households	71.0%
Multiple-family households	1.8%
Non-family households	27.2%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	2,511,025
No one in labour force	16.9%
Someone in labour force	83.1%
Both partners in labour force	59.1%
No. of lone parent families	421,705
No one in labour force	21.7%
Someone in labour force	78.3%
Parent in labour force	63.6%

Income

No. of census families	2,932,725
Under \$20,000	13.8%
\$20,000-\$49,999	34.4%
\$50,000-\$99,999	39.4%
\$100,000+	12.4%
Average census family income	\$59,830
Total no. of economic families	2,915,825
Low income	14.8%

Report on Families

Halton Region Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	336,510
Family persons	89.3%
Non-family persons	10.7%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	96,310
2 persons	39.8%
3 persons	22.3%
4 persons	26.6%
5+ persons	11.2%
Average no. of persons per family	3.1

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	86,065
No. of families of now-married couples	80,130
Without children at home	36.1%
With children at home	63.9%
With 1 child	32.8%
With 2 children	47.0%
With 3+ children	20.2%
No. of common-law families	5,940
Without children at home	59.8%
With children at home	40.1%
With 1 child	54.4%
With 2 children	33.0%
With 3+children	12.6%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	10,245
No. of male lone parents	1,800
Male parent with 1 child	65.1%
Male parent with 2 children	27.1%
Male parent with 3+ children	8.0%
No. of female lone parents	8,440
Female parent with 1 child	55.9%

Female parent with 2 children	34.5%
Female parent with 3+ children	9.6%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	118,125
Under 6 years	24.1%
6-14 years	36.1%
15-24 years	31.4%
25+ years	8.3%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.2

Households

No. of private households	118,155
One-family households	78.3%
Multiple-family households	1.6%
Non-family households	20.1%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	86,065
No one in labour force	13.1%
Someone in labour force	86.9%
Both partners in labour force	64.3%
No. of lone parent families	10,245
No one in labour force	11.3%
Someone in labour force	88.7%
Parent in labour force	75.1%

Income

Total no. of census families	96,310
Less than \$20,000	4.1%
\$20,000-\$49,999	21.9%
\$50,000-\$99,999	47.2%
\$100,000+	24.4%
Average income	\$79,930
Total no. of economic families	95,815
Low income	7.5%

Report on Families

Oakville Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	127,460
Family persons	89.8%
Non-family persons	10.2%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	35,940
2 persons	37.5%
3 persons	21.7%
4 persons	28.4%
5+ persons	12.4%
Average no. of persons per family	3.2

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	32,345
No. of families of now-married couples	30,565
Without children at home	34.0%
With children at home	66.0%
With 1 child	30.6%
With 2 children	48.1%
With 3+ children	21.3%
No. of common-law families	1,785
Without children at home	62.2%
With children at home	37.8%
With 1 child	54.1%
With 2 children	29.6%
With 3+children	16.3%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	3,595
No. of male lone parents	610
Male parent with 1 child	61.5%
Male parent with 2 children	28.7%
Male parent with 3+ children	9.0%
No. of female lone parents	2,985
Female parent with 1 child	53.1%

Female parent with 2 children	36.7%
Female parent with 3+ children	9.9%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	46,210
Under 6 years	24.5%
6-14 years	36.9%
15-24 years	30.6%
25+ years	8.0%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.3

Households

No. of private households	43,010
One-family households	79.5%
Multiple-family households	2.0%
Non-family households	18.5%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	32,350
No one in labour force	12.5%
Someone in labour force	87.5%
Both partners in labour force	63.5%
No. of lone parent families	3,595
No one in labour force	11.0%
Someone in labour force	88.9%
Parent in labour force	76.6%

Income

Total no. of census families	35,940
Less than \$20,000	6.1%
\$20,000-\$49,999	21.9%
\$50,000-\$99,999	41.2%
\$100,000+	30.8%
Average income	\$89,224
Total no. of economic families	35,550
Low income	7.9%

Report on Families

Burlington Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	135,870
Family persons	88.3%
Non-family persons	11.7%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	39,520
2 persons	43.2%
3 persons	22.4%
4 persons	24.7%
5+ persons	9.7%
Average no. of persons per family	3.0

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	35,005
No. of families of now-married couples	32,455
Without children at home	39.5%
With children at home	60.5%
With 1 child	34.9%
With 2 children	46.6%
With 3+ children	18.6%
No. of common-law families	2,550
Without children at home	62.9%
With children at home	36.9%
With 1 child	58.5%
With 2 children	29.8%
With 3+children	12.2%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	4,520
Male	725
Male parent with 1 child	64.1%
Male parent with 2 children	29.0%
Male parent with 3+ children	7.6%
Female	3,790
Female parent with 1 child	56.7%

Female parent with 2 children	33.2%
Female parent with 3+ children	10.0%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	45,400
Under 6 years	24.0%
6-14 years	34.9%
15-24 years	32.0%
25+ years	9.0%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.2

Households

No. of private households	50,345
One-family households	76.4%
Multiple-family households	1.0%
Non-family households	22.6%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	35,005
No one in labour force	15.3%
Someone in labour force	84.7%
Both partners in labour force	63.3%
No. of lone parent families	4,520
No one in labour force	11.1%
Someone in labour force	88.9%
Parent in labour force	74.7%

Income

Total no. of census families	39,525
Less than \$20,000	6.3%
\$20,000-\$49,999	25.9%
\$50,000-\$99,999	46.5%
\$100,000+	21.3%
Average income	\$75,293
Total no. of economic families	39,605
Low income	8.3%

Report on Families

Milton Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	31,470
Family persons	90.5%
Non-family persons	9.5%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	8,845
2 persons	36.0%
3 persons	22.7%
4 persons	28.2%
5+ persons	13.2%
Average no. of persons per family	3.2

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	7,960
No. of families of now-married couples	7,300
Without children at home	31.6%
With children at home	68.5%
With 1 child	30.9%
With 2 children	46.6%
With 3+ children	22.4%
No. of common-law families	660
Without children at home	57.6%
With children at home	42.4%
With 1 child	50.0%
With 2 children	37.5%
With 3+children	12.5%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	890
Male	190
Male parent with 1 child	60.5%
Male parent with 2 children	31.6%
Male parent with 3+ children	5.3%
Female	700
Female parent with 1 child	54.3%

Female parent with 2 children	37.1%
Female parent with 3+ children	8.6%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	11,685
Under 6 years	20.6%
6-14 years	36.3%
15-24 years	35.4%
25+ years	7.7%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.3

Households

No. of private households	10,480
One-family households	80.6%
Multiple-family households	1.9%
Non-family households	17.4%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	7,960
No one in labour force	9.8%
Someone in labour force	90.1%
Both partners in labour force	68.6%
No. of lone parent families	885
No one in labour force	13.0%
Someone in labour force	87.6%
Parent in labour force	75.1%

Income

Total no. of census families	8,845
Less than \$20,000	6.2%
\$20,000-\$49,999	23.2%
\$50,000-\$99,999	49.4%
\$100,000+	21.3%
Average income	\$75,308
Total no. of economic families	8,740
Low income	5.3%

Report on Families

Halton Hills Summary (1996 Census)

Population

No. of persons in private households	41,710
Family persons	90.1%
Non-family persons	9.9%

Census Family Size

No. of families in private households	11,995
2 persons	38.6%
3 persons	23.6%
4 persons	26.5%
5+ persons	11.3%
Average no. of persons per family	3.1

Husband-Wife Families

No. of husband-wife families	10,755
No. of families of now-married couples	9,805
Without children at home	34.3%
With children at home	65.7%
With 1 child	34.8%
With 2 children	45.0%
With 3+ children	20.2%
No. of common-law families	945
Without children at home	48.7%
With children at home	51.9%
With 1 child	50.0%
With 2 children	39.8%
With 3+children	9.2%

Lone Parent Families

No. of lone parent families	1,240
No of male lone parents	275
Male parent with 1 child	78.2%
Male parent with 2 children	14.5%
Male parent with 3+ children	9.1%
No. of female lone parents	965
Female parent with 1 child	61.7%

Female parent with 2 children	31.1%
Female parent with 3+ children	7.3%

Children at Home

Number of children at home	14,830
Under 6 years	25.9%
6-14 years	37.2%
15-24 years	28.9%
25+ years	7.9%
Average no. of children at home per family	1.2

Households

No. of private households	14,320
One-family households	80.0%
Multiple-family households	1.9%
Non-family households	18.1%

Labour Force

No. of husband wife families	10,755
No one in labour force	10.4%
Someone in labour force	89.6%
Both partners in labour force	67.1%
No. of lone parent families	1,245
No one in labour force	11.7%
Someone in labour force	88.0%
Parent in labour force	72.3%

Income

Total no. of census families	11,995
Less than \$20,000	5.3%
\$20,000-\$49,999	27.4%
\$50,000-\$99,999	49.7%
\$100,000+	17.5%
Average income	\$70,772
Total no. of economic families	11,920
Low income	4.7%