

Low Income Visible Minority Families

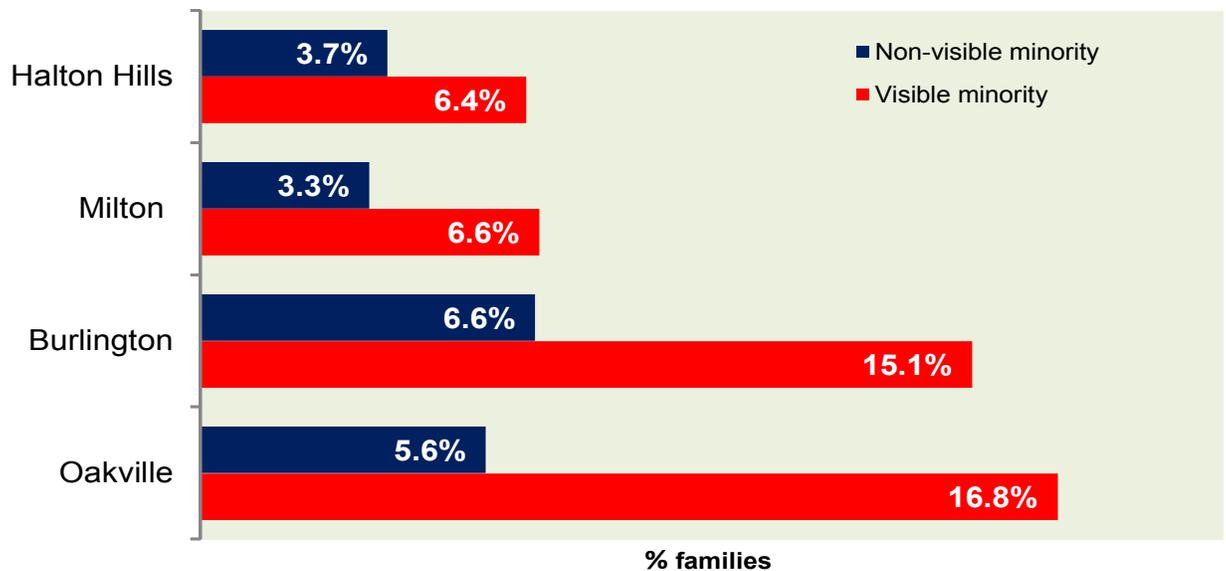
As reported in Community Lens #49, the visible minority population is one of the population subgroups with high prevalence of low income in Halton Region. Its poverty rate (17%) is more than double that of its non-visible minority counterpart. One in six visible minority persons in Halton live in low income.



How do low income visible minority families fare among other families (e.g. visible minority families or low income families)? There is no generally accepted definition of a visible minority family, for example, whether all family members or one or both parents have to be visible minority. For the purpose of this note, families with at least one visible minority member are considered as visible minority families. Under this definition, there were about 18,000 visible minority families in Halton in 2006.

Visible minority families account for about 14.5% of Halton's families but they are, similar to the visible minority population, over represented in families with low income. The low income visible minority families represent about 31% of total number of low income families in Halton. Nearly one-third of the low income families is a visible minority family.

Prevalence of low income, visible/non-visible minority families, Halton Region, 2005

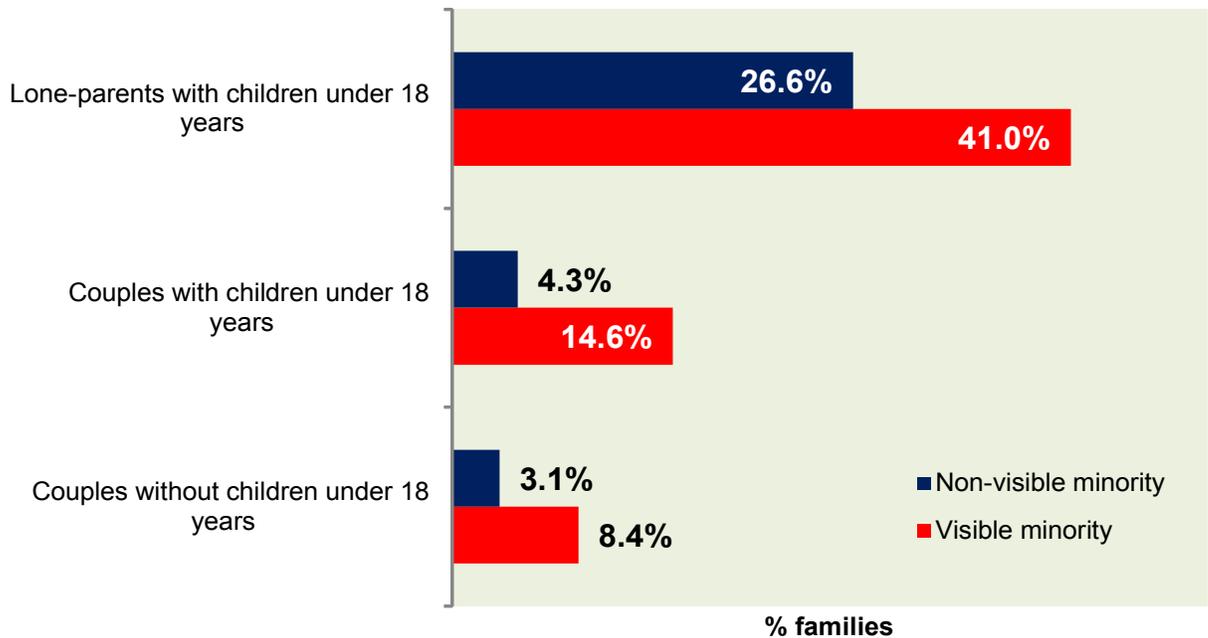


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Visible minority families in Oakville and Burlington are more than twice as likely to be low income than their counterparts in Milton and Halton Hills. Visible minority families in Oakville are three times as likely to be low income than the non-visible minority families.

The prevalence of low income is higher for families with children under 18 years than those without children in the same age group regardless their visible minority status. Among the three types of families (lone parent, couples with children and couples without children), the depth of poverty is much higher for visible minority families. Visible minority families with only one parent fared worst financially. More than 4 in 10 visible minority lone parent families lived in poverty. Although the data does not break down in terms of male or female lone parent for visible minorities, it is very likely that the majority of the visible minority lone parent families are headed by single mothers. Among the total population, the prevalence of low income is higher for female lone parent families than their male counterparts.

Prevalence of low income, visible/non-visible minority families by presence of children, Halton Region, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census