

Low Income Families in 2011

Community Lens #81 and 82 studied the low income families in Halton and the changes that took place between 2006 and 2009. The data came from the annual income tax returns. With the release of the taxfiler data for 2011, this Community Lens continues the tracking of low income families in Halton Region.



For taxfiler data, the After-Tax Low Income Measure (LIM-AT) is used to measure low income. The LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of the median adjusted economic family income, where “adjusted” indicates that family needs are taken into account. For example, in 2011, a family of four (two children less than 16 years of age) with after-tax income of less than \$32,912 is considered living in low income. A low income single mother family with two children less than 16 years of age lives on an after-tax income of less than \$23,038.

2011 After-Tax Low Income Measure (LIM-AT)			
Number of Adults*	Number of children less than 16 years of age		
	0	1	2
1	\$16,456	\$23,038	\$27,975
2	\$23,038	\$27,975	\$32,912
3	\$29,621	\$34,558	\$39,494
4	\$36,203	\$41,140	\$46,077

*includes parents/spouses, children 16 years of age and over and the first child in lone-parent families regardless of age
Source: Statistics Canada, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File) 13C0016, October 2013

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of low income families grew at a rate almost twice as fast as that for all families (22.5% versus 12.4%). The 2008-2009 global recession saw a jump in the proportion of low income families in Oakville, Halton Hills and Burlington. By 2009, there were over 10,000 low income families generating a regional poverty rate of 7.5%. After a slight dip in 2010, the rate climbed back up to 7.4% in 2011.

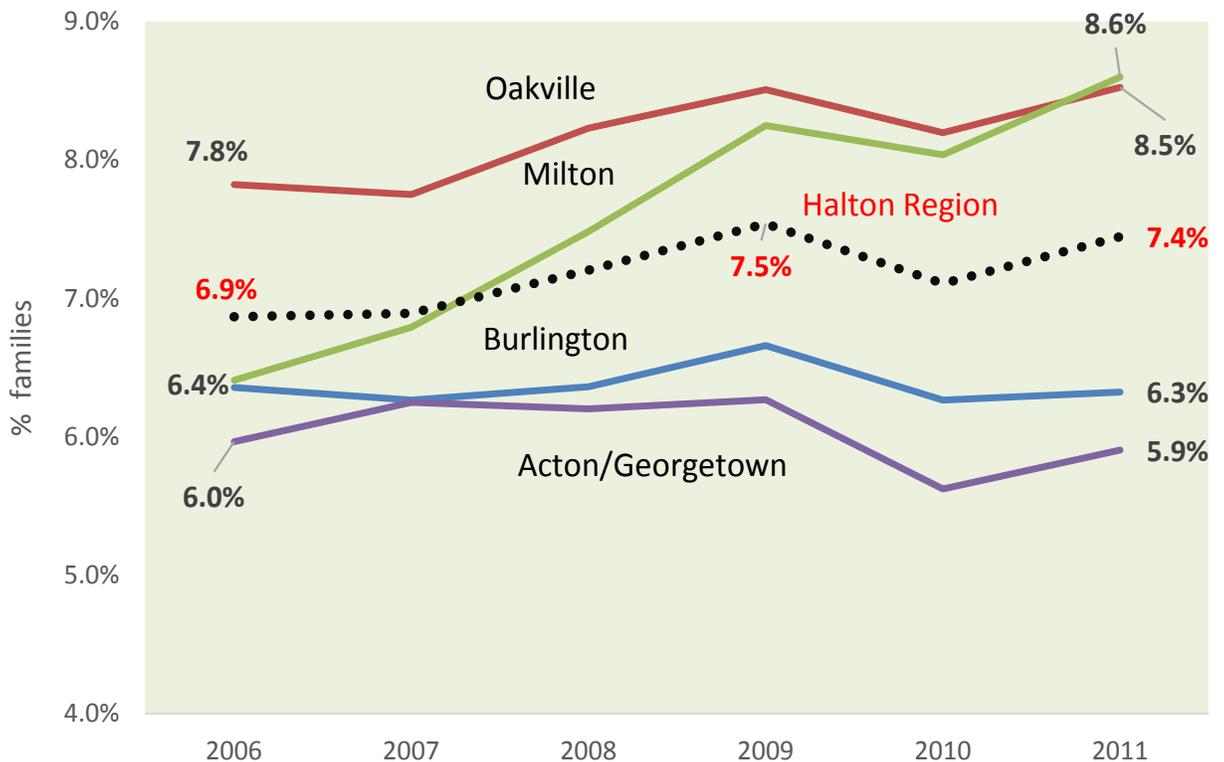
	Change in Low Income Families (2006-2011)				
	# of families			Prevalence of low income	
	2006	2011	% change	2006	2011
Burlington	2,990	3,190	+6.7%	6.4%	6.3%
Oakville	3,730	4,410	+18.2%	7.8%	8.5%
Milton	1,000	2,070	+107%	6.4%	8.6%
Acton/Georgetown	940	940	0%	5.9%	5.9%
Halton Region	8,660	10,610	+22.5%	6.9%	7.4%

Note: the data in this table do not cover areas outside the Urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA)
Source: Statistics Canada, Taxfiler data 2006, 2011

Oakville continues to have the highest number and proportion of low income families. In 2011, there were over 4,400 low income families in Oakville representing over 40% of the regional total.

Although the number of low income families in Milton is less than those in Burlington, its rate of increase is alarming. Within a period of five years, the number of low income families has doubled. Its share of Halton's low income families rose from 11% to almost 20%. It accounts for over half (55%) of the increase of low income families in Halton between 2006 and 2011.

Proportion of low income families by municipality, Halton Region, 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data

As expected, most lone-parent families fare worse financially than their couple family counterpart. Lone-parent families, which account for over 11% of all families in Halton Region, have the highest proportion of low income. The prevalence of low income for lone-parent families (20.4%) is four times higher than couple families (5.8%). One in five lone-parent families live in low income.

United Way Funded Agency



Community Development Halton would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Regional Municipality of Halton.



Community Development Halton
860 Harrington Court
Burlington, ON L7N 3N4
905-632-1975

www.cdhalton.ca