Social Profile of Halton Region 2014

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Highlights

The *Social Profile of Halton Region 2014* presents a social portrait of a community that has gone through significant changes over the last five to ten years. In fact, Halton Region is a community of communities with many similarities as well as differences. The four municipalities that make up Halton Region are Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

As a region, Halton's population has grown more than twice the provincial growth rate between 2001 and 2011. Over 40% of the increase came from Milton. The town of Milton will continue to fuel the regional growth in the next ten to fifteen years.

With the significant increase of young individuals and families, Milton is getting younger. Its median age dropped from 34.4 years to 34.1 years making it the youngest municipality in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). In contrast, Burlington has the highest median age at 41.8 years. One in six of Burlington's residents is a senior.

The rapid increase of one-person households is another emerging socio-demographic characteristic. It has outpaced the growth of other household types. In Burlington, one in four households is occupied by one person and one in ten residents live alone. However, this is not the case in Milton, where less than 5% of its residents live alone.

While homeownership (83%) in Halton is rising, it is challenging for those looking for rental accommodation. Over 90% of the rental apartments are in Burlington and Oakville. Rental units are very limited in Milton and Halton Hills. Oakville has the highest rental cost and also the lowest vacancy rate. It also has the highest proportion (44%) of tenant households with issues of housing affordability. According to Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing affordability is defined as spending less than 30% of household income on shelter costs.

The imbalance of local employment and the resident labour force continues to drive more workers to leave their municipalities for work. Milton has the highest proportion (72%) of out-commuters compared to 62% for Burlington.

Halton's share of immigrants destined to Ontario continues to rise. About half of the recent immigrants (or newcomers) live in Oakville and less than 3% in Halton Hills.

Two in three (66%) of recent immigrants belong to one of the visible minority groups. The largest visible minority group is South Asian followed by Latin American and Filipino.

Oakville and Milton are the two most linguistically diverse municipalities in Halton Region. One in four residents speaks an immigrant language.

Lastly, despite the affluence of the community, there are over 10,000 families living in low income. In fact, the number of low income families increases faster than all families. Both lone-parent families and non-family persons continue to have the highest prevalence of low income.

Milton experienced the greatest increase of low income families within Halton Region.

Introduction

Community Development Halton (CDH) published the first Halton Social Profile in 1999.[1] The purpose of the publication was to compare the changes in Halton Region over the past ten years (1986 to 1996) and to discuss projected trends over the next decade, and to examine their implications for the community. The second edition of the social profile[2] was developed based mainly on data available from the 2006 Census.

As with the two previous editions, the *Social Profile of Halton Region 2014* continues to capture the changing social portrait of the community. It highlights the socio-demographic characteristics of the community as a whole and its population sub-groups (e.g. children, seniors, families, immigrants and low income population).

The evidence of the current state of and changes within the community provides vital information to all levels of government for their decision making process in the planning and delivery of services to residents. Social service agencies are in a better position to mobilize their often limited resources to bridge service gaps. Residents are better informed of the needs and potentials of their local communities.

Collectively, the social profiles will form a valuable knowledge base to a wide range of practitioners in community development, social planning and research, volunteer management, and other community-based activities.

Data Sources

The data used to develop the two previous social profiles came mainly from both the mandatory short and long form census. However, the replacement of the 2011 long form census by the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) presents significant challenges in data availability, comparability, and reliability[3] in the development of the *Social Profile of Halton Region 2014*

Due to the change in data collection methodology from a mandatory long form census to a voluntary survey the non-response rate of the NHS is significantly higher than those of the previous long from census. Statistics Canada warns users to use caution when comparing NHS data with earlier censuses and analyzing data at lower level of geography.

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[1] Community Development Halton, *Halton Social Profile 1999* (1999).

[2] Community Development Halton, *Social Profile of Halton Region 2009* (2009).

[3] Community Development Halton, *Changes to 2011 Census Threaten Community Data, Community Dispatch Vol.14 #5, 2011 National Household Survey, Community Dispatch, Vol.18 # 5, Limitations of the 2011 National Household Survey, Community Dispatch, Vol. 19, #1.*

For the purpose of the *Social Profile of Halton Region 2014*, the data from the 2011 Census (mandatory short form) which includes basic demographic characteristics (age, sex, family, marital status, mother tongue and official language) are used for comparison and trends analysis.

However, the 2011 NHS data are used in developing a snapshot of the community. Comparison with other communities are made but not with data from previous censuses or other sources. Also, the data will not be mapped or studied at lower level of geography (i.e. Census Tract or Dissemination Area).

The following data sources will be used in addition to the 2011 Census and 2011 NHS to develop the social profile:

- Statistics Canada's taxfiler dataset – data extracted from the annual tax returns. It contains income data on individuals, families, and seniors.

- Transportation Tomorrow Survey – a comprehensive travel survey conducted in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and surrounding areas once every five years.

- Citizenship and Immigrant Canada (CIC) data on permanent residents (immigrants)

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) data on the rental housing market.

Population

Halton Context

The Regional Municipality of Halton is located on the westerly end of Lake Ontario between Toronto and Hamilton. It lies within a zone of densely populated, heavily industrialized cities clustered around the western end of Lake Ontario from Oshawa to Niagara Falls referred to as the "Golden Horseshoe."

The Region was created in 1974 when the Province of Ontario introduced regional government. It followed the old county lines and was divided into four municipalities. Burlington and Oakville border Lake Ontario and comprise 71% of the Region's population. Milton lies just south of Highway 401 and Halton Hills lies along Highway 7. In 2011, the population of 501,669 was divided among the four communities as follows: Oakville – 36%, Burlington – 35%, Milton – 17%, Halton Hills – 12%.

1.1 Population Change

Between 2006 and 2011, the population of Halton Region has grown from 439,206 to 501,669.[4] The addition of 62,400 people represents a 14% increase over a period of 5 years. The regional growth rate is more than double the provincial growth rate at 5.7% for the same period.

In the past twenty years (1991-2011), Halton's population has increased by more than 60%. For the first ten years, between 1991 and 2001, Halton's population grew by 20%. Over 80% of that increase came from both Oakville (48%) and Burlington (34%). In the last ten years (2001-2011), the region's population counts increased by 126,000 representing a growth rate of 34%. Over 40% of the increase came from Milton. The combined contribution from both Oakville and Burlington has diminished to 50%. The contribution from Halton Hills is about 9%.

Based on Halton Region's Best Planning Estimates[5], the population has reached 518,300 in 2013. Figure 1 shows the population change between 1991 and 2013 for each of the local municipality.

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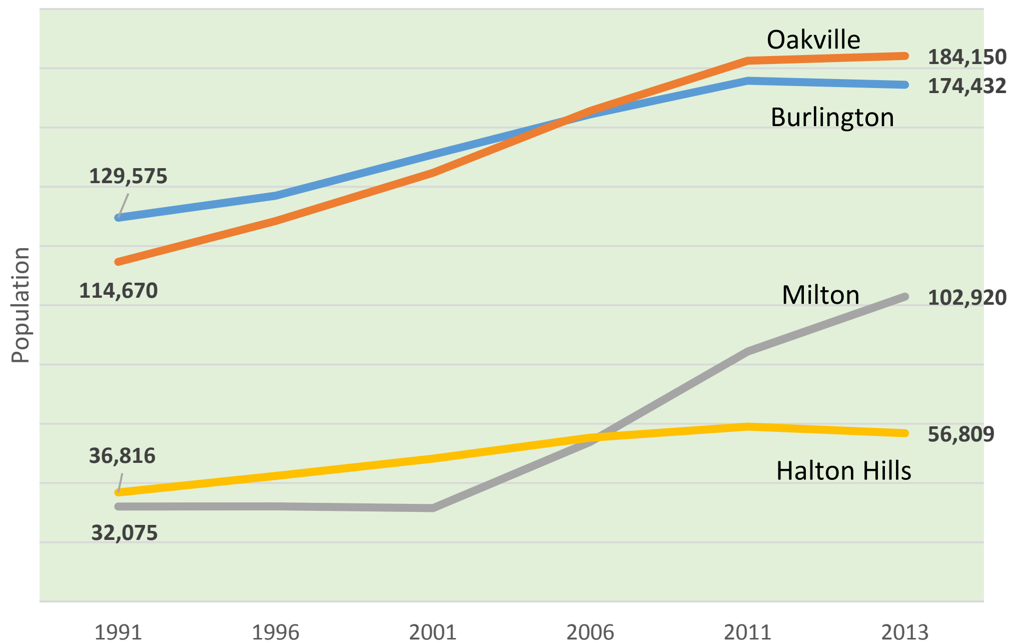
[4] Statistics Canada, *2011 Census*.

[5] Regional Municipality of Halton, *Best Planning Estimates of Population, Occupied Dwelling Units and Employment, 2011-2031* (June 2011).

Figure 1. Population Change (1991-2013) by municipality, Halton Region



Source: Statistics Canada, Halton Region

Between 2006 and 2011, among the six Census Divisions[6] (Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton, and Hamilton) in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Halton Region is the second fastest growing region after York Region (15.7%). Halton's growth rate (Map 1) also ranks second among the 49 Census Divisions in Ontario. The growth rates for the other three municipalities (Census Subdivision) in Halton are: 10.2% (16,900 persons) for Oakville, 6.9% (11,360 persons) for Burlington and 6.7% (3,700 persons) for Halton Hills.

The population growth in Milton is phenomenal. For the second time in a row, Milton has become the fastest growing municipality (Census Subdivision[7]) in Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, the town's population increased by 71.4%. The growth rate between 2006 and 2011 is less than that between 2001 and 2006 but still at an impressive rate of 56.5%. Overall, Milton has seen growth of 168% or 52,891 persons in a decade. This accounted for almost 50% of the region's population growth. Based on the Region's Best Planning Estimates, by 2026 the population of Milton will surpass that of Burlington and become the second largest municipality in Halton, next to Oakville.

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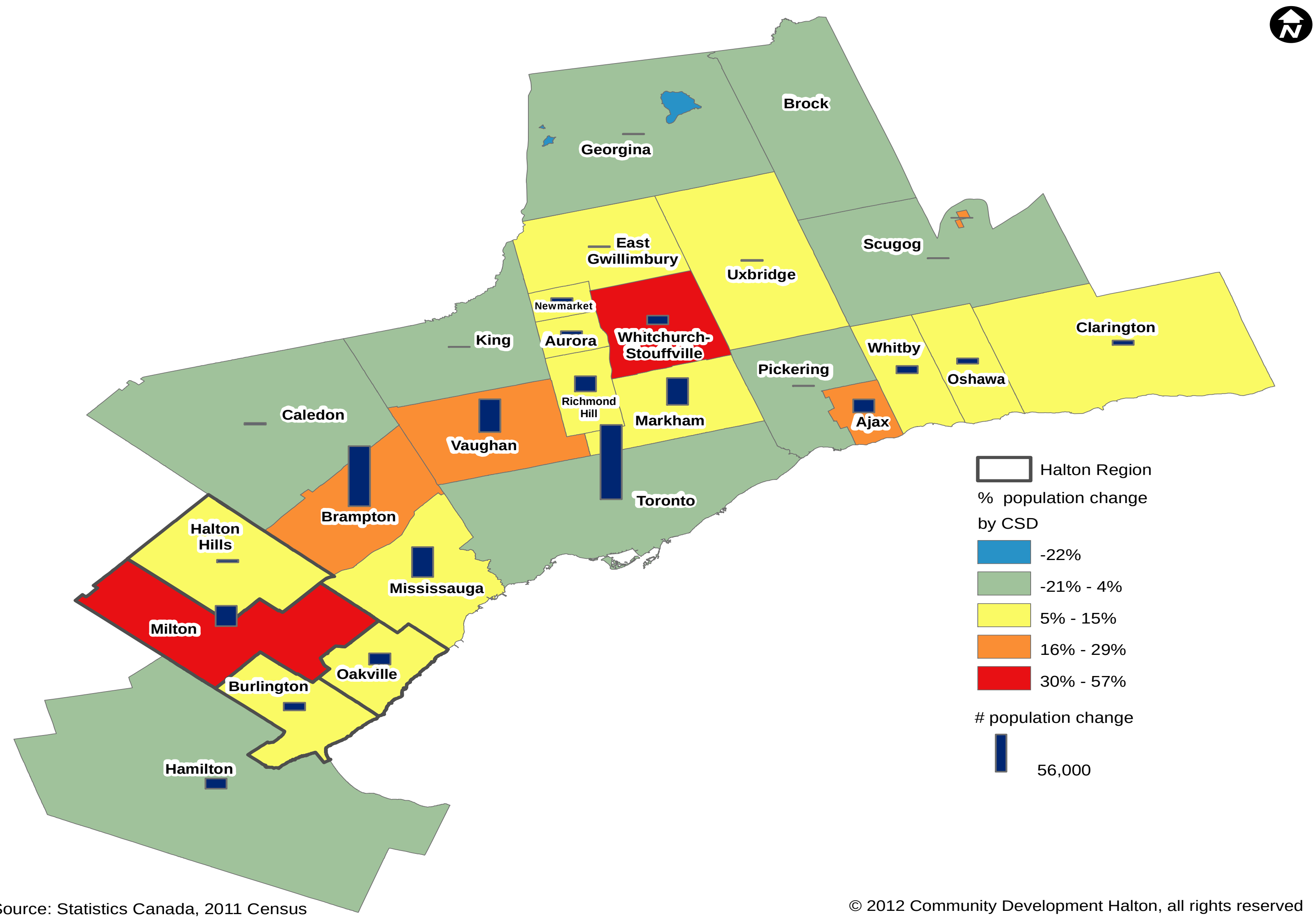
[6] A Census Division (CD) is defined by Statistics Canada as the general term for counties or regional municipalities such as Peel, Hamilton, or Halton. Census Divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province level and the municipality.

[7] A Census Subdivision (CSD) is defined by Statistics Canada as the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes such as Oakville or Burlington

Implications

- The population increase will continue to put pressure on government as well as community and social services.
- New growth areas are usually associated with families with young children demanding schooling and child care activities and their services.

Map A. Population Change, Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

1.2 Age Structure

The Canadian population is not only growing in size but also in age. Between 2006 and 2011, the population has increased by 5.9% or 1.8 million people. At the same time, the median age[8] of Canadians rose from 39.5 years to 40.6 years. As a nation, we are getting older.

Among the six Census Divisions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Halton Region has the second lowest increase of median age from 38.4 years to 39.3 years. Toronto has the lowest increase of 0.8 years (from 38.4 to 39.2 years).

In Halton, with the exception of Milton, all three municipalities experienced an increase in their median ages. Halton Hills has the greatest increase of 2 years, from 37.9 to 39.9 years. Burlington grew by 1.5 years from 40.3 to 41.8 years and Oakville grew by 1.8 years from 38.4 to 40.2 years.

The median age for Milton actually dropped from 34.4 years to 34.1 years making it the youngest municipality in the GTHA. This also contributes to the region's overall small increase in median age.

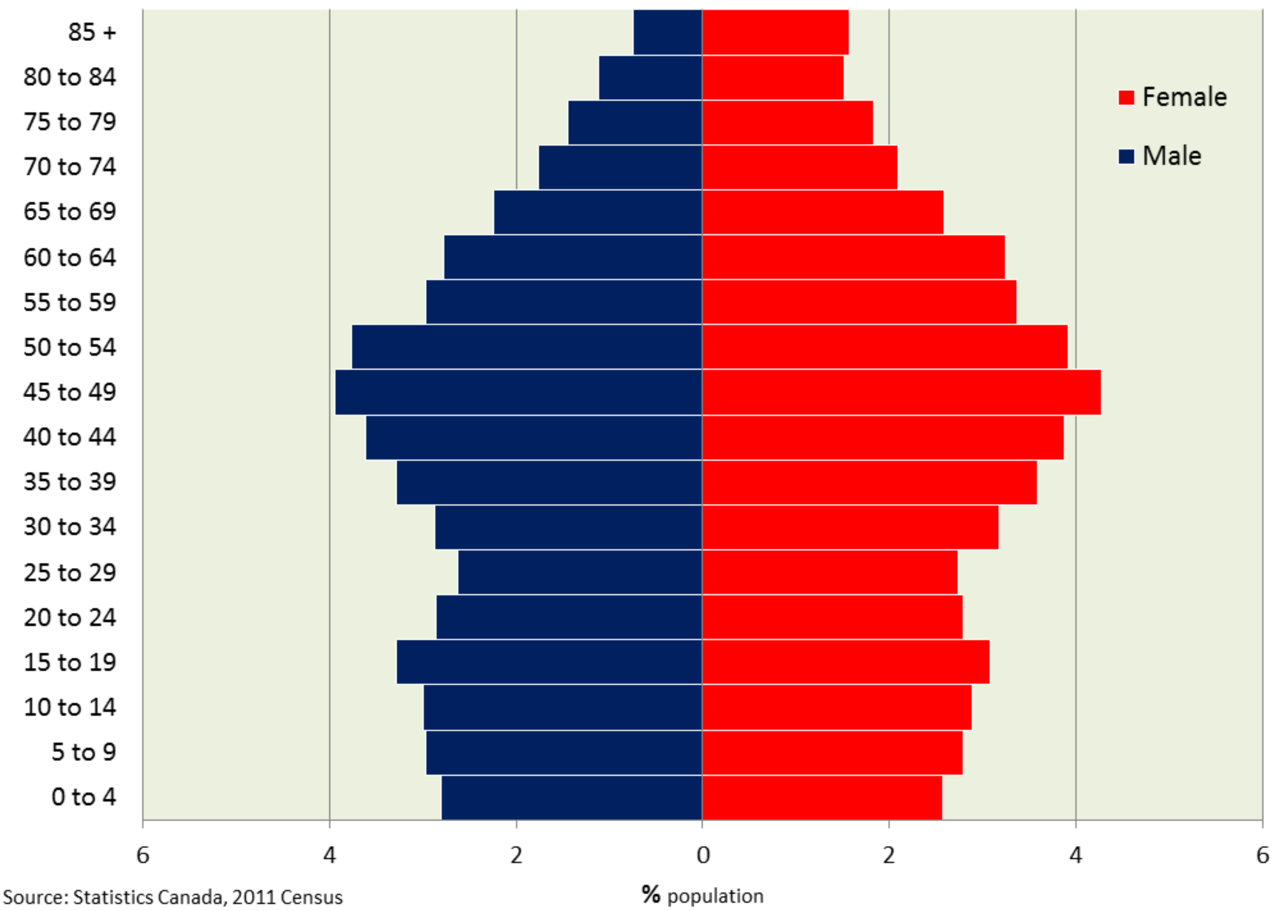
Age or population pyramids are useful to compare the age structure of the population between communities. An age pyramid with a wide base and narrow top indicates a young and possibly growing population. On the other hand, an inverted pyramid, with a narrow base and a wide top, points to an aging and potentially shrinking population.

[8] Median age divides the population into two groups of equal size. One group is above and the other group is below the median age.

Burlington

Burlington's population of 175,779 has an age pyramid (Figure 2) with a narrower base than its upper half, indicating a smaller younger population. The "below 30" age groups represent about 34% of total population. The largest single age group is between 45 to 49. It accounts for over 8% of the total population. One in six (17%) of its residents is a senior, which is 29,720 persons. About 30% of the seniors are over the age of 80. Over 60% of those aged over 80 are women.

Figure 2. Population Pyramid, Burlington, 2011

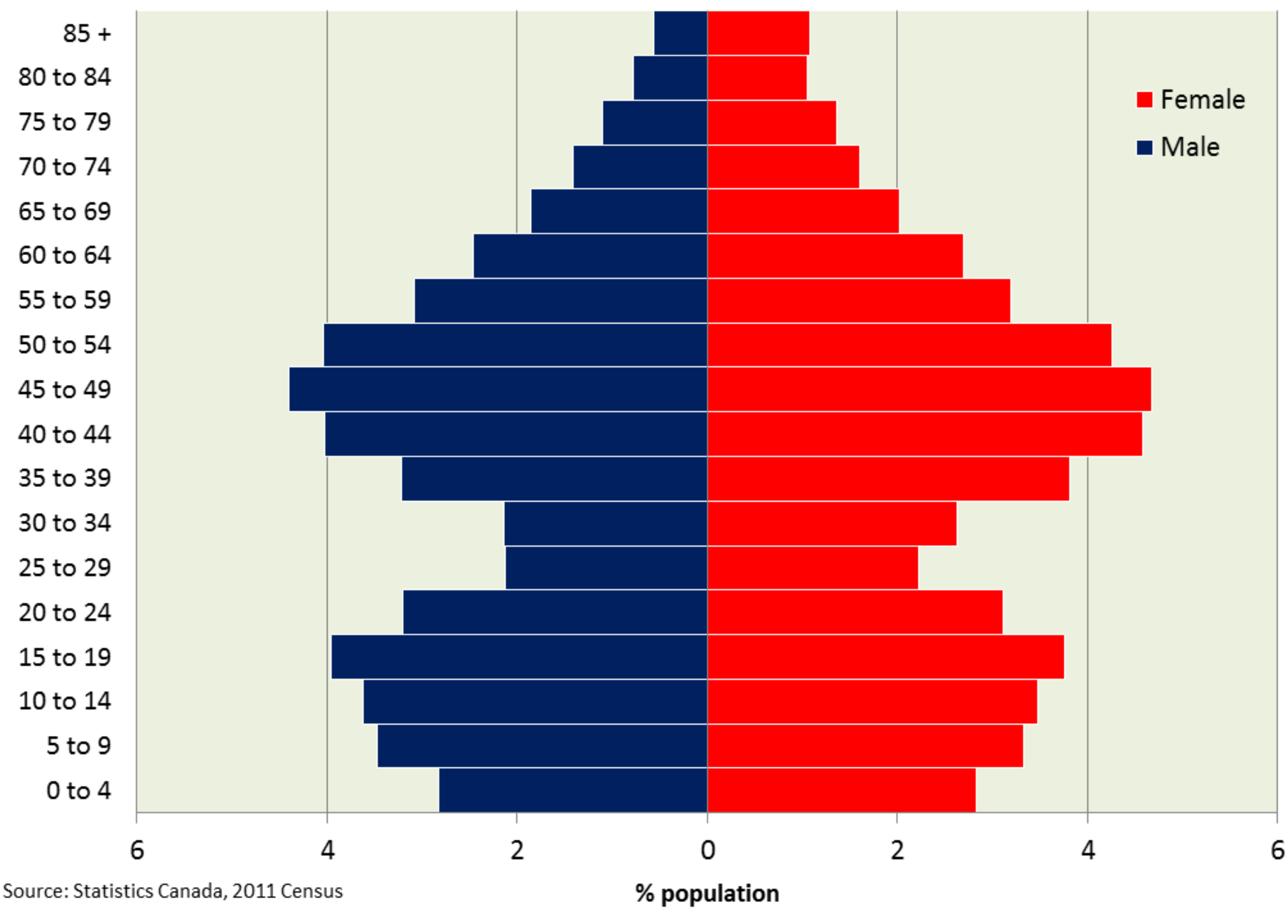


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Oakville

With a population of 182,520, Oakville's age pyramid (Figure 3) has a wider base than Burlington. The "below 30" age groups represent over 38% of total population. In fact, almost 90% of the "below 30" group is younger than 25. The 45 to 49 age group is also the largest single age group. It represents about 9% of the overall population. About 13% (23,475 persons) of the population is senior.

Figure 3. Population Pyramid, Oakville, 2011

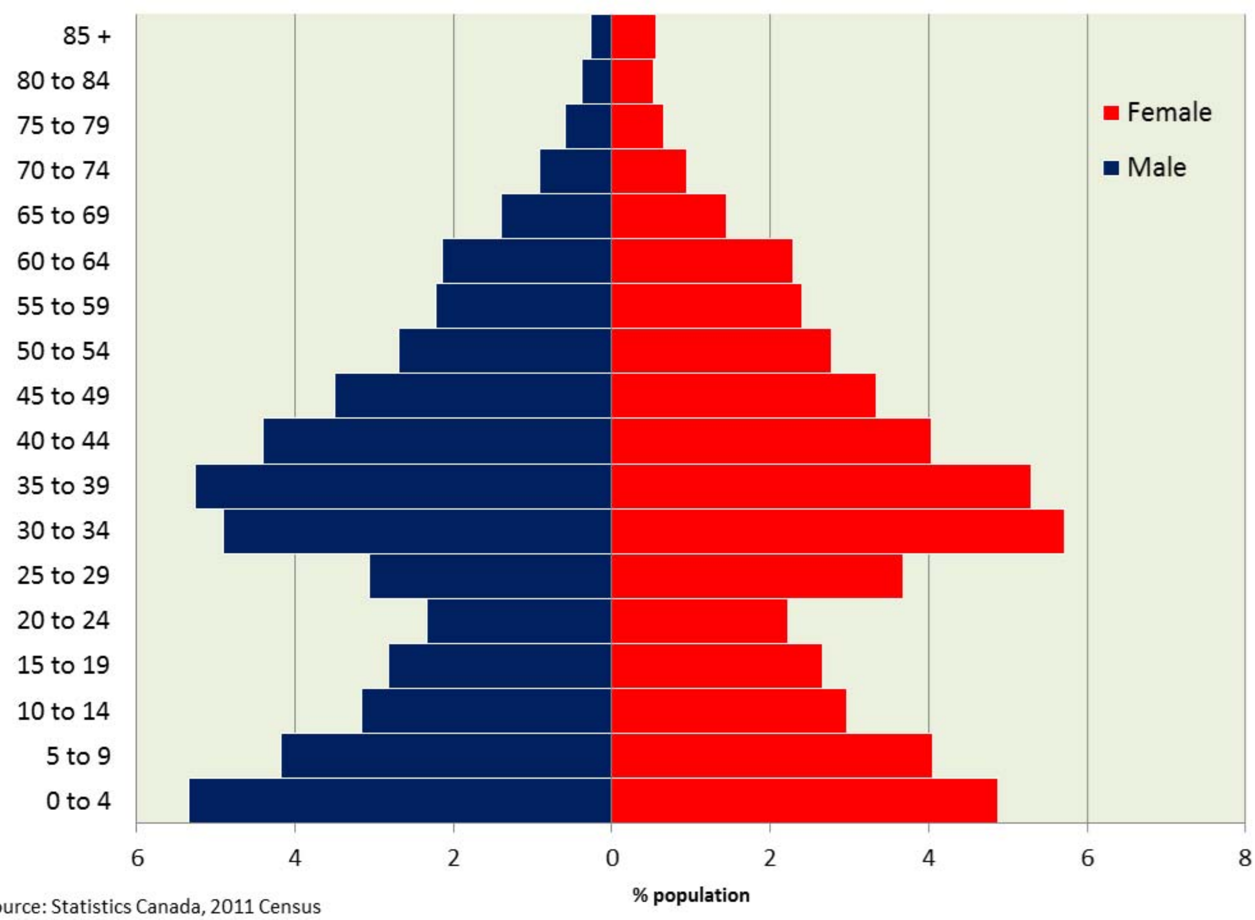


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Milton

With a population of 84,362, Milton's age pyramid (Figure 4) has the widest base. It has a large youth population. Almost one in four (24.5%) residents is under the age of 14. The age group of children under age 4 accounts for 10% of the total population. The largest single group is between 35 and 39. Unlike the other three municipalities, Milton has a relative small senior population. It represents less than 8% (2,455 persons) of the population.

Figure 4. Population Pyramid, Milton, 2011

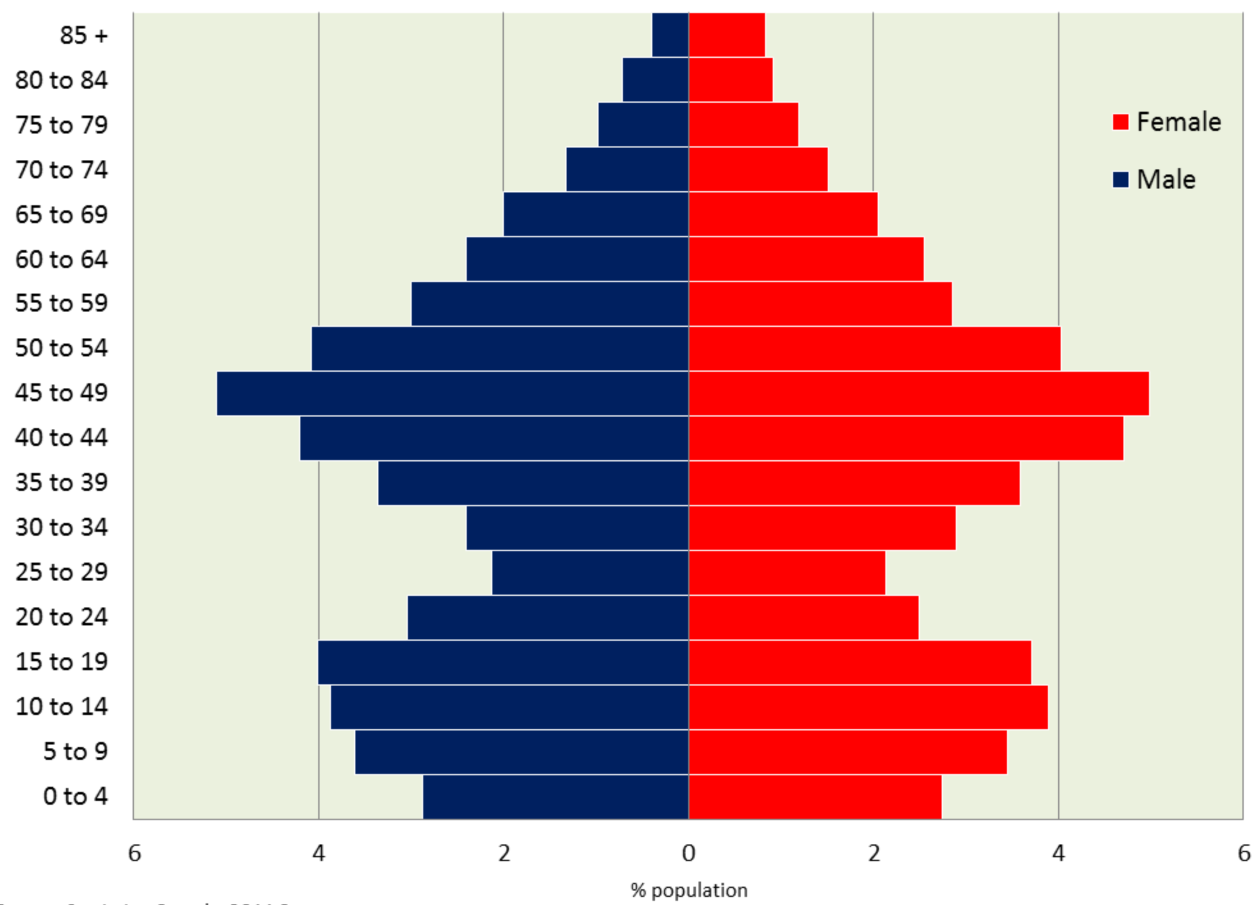


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Halton Hills

Halton Hills' population of 59,008 has an age pyramid (Figure 5) that shares some similarities with that of Oakville. The "below 30" age groups represent about 38% of the population. The 45 to 49 age group is the largest single age group representing about 10% of the population. About 12% (or 7,025 persons) of the population is senior.

Figure 5. Population Pyramid, Halton Hills, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

1.3 Children at Home

The number of children living at home in Halton Region has increased at a rate (15%) slightly faster than the total population (14%) between 2006 and 2011. With an addition of about 22,700 children, Halton was home to over 173,000 children living at home in 2011.

With its significant population increase, Milton's children population also experienced a phenomenal growth rate at 67%, which is an increase of 12,255 children. In fact, it accounts for half the region's children population increase.

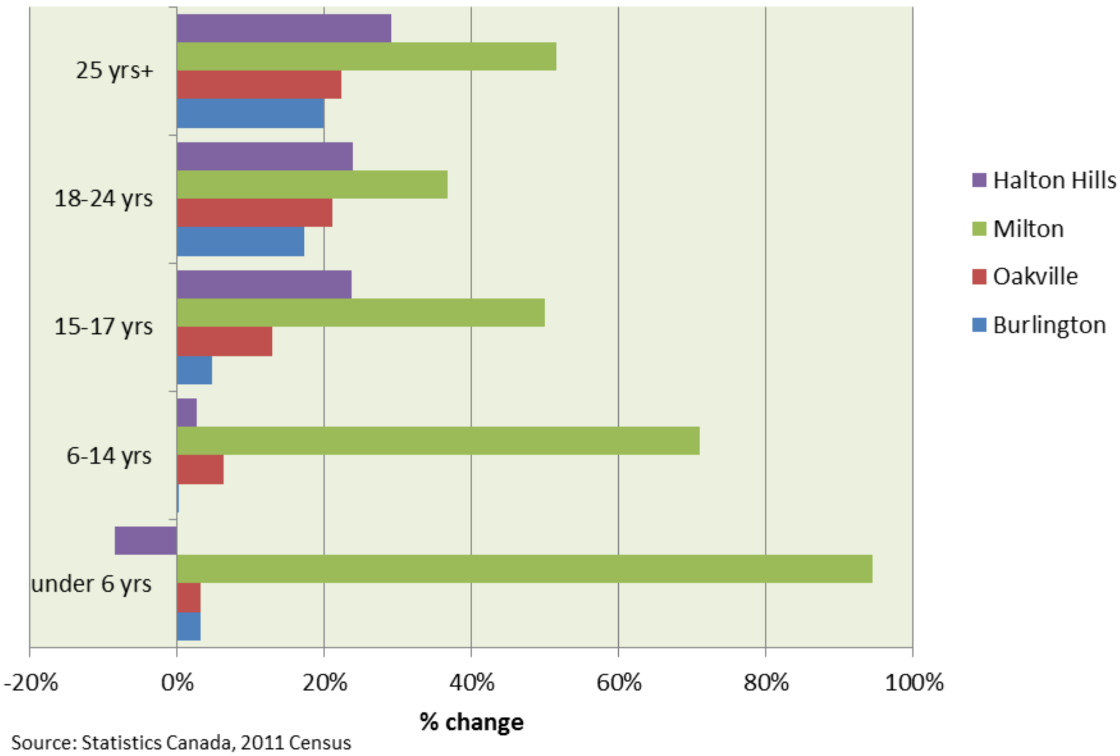
Over three quarters (78% or 135,700) of the children lived in married coupled families, 13% (23,375) lived in families headed by single mothers and 5% (8,425) lived in common law families.

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%, an increase of 3,670, This reflects the national trend of children 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% (60,000), experienced a below average growth rate of 11%.

The change in the children population by age group varies among the local municipalities (Figure 6). 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 age group at -9%. Burlington experienced no growth in the 6-14 age group.

All municipalities reported growth rate at or above 20% for the 25 years and over age group. The growth rate (51%) for Milton doubles the regional average. However, about 40% (7,150) of the region's adult children live in Oakville. The presence of adult children at home may be beneficial to both the younger generation and their parents. Exchanges of support can occur in both directions.

Figure 6. Change of Children at Home Population 2006-2011, Halton Region



Implications:

- The change in the children population has a direct impact on our school system, parks and recreation services, housing, child care and children welfare.
- Areas experiencing significant change in children population have to deal with insufficient or surplus child related facilities and infrastructure.
- The significant increase in children under 6 population in Milton places more demand for pre-school and kindergarten facilities.

1.4 Senior Population

The rising median age also points to an increasing senior population. In 2001, there were 44,700 seniors living in Halton representing about 12% of the total population. Within a period of 10 years, the number of seniors increased by 49% to about 66,665. One in eight residents is a senior. Given the baby boomers are reaching age 65, it is expected that the proportion and number of seniors will continue to increase.

The location of seniors shows a different geographic pattern than the overall population among the four local municipalities. For example, Burlington, which has 35% of the region's population, has 44% of the total senior population. The proportion of seniors in Burlington is 17% (29,720). On the other hand, Milton with 17% of the region's population has only 10% of Halton's seniors. The proportion of seniors in Milton is 7.6% (6,455).

Senior Living Arrangement

When looking at seniors living arrangements, this only pertains to seniors living in private households, which was 62,510 in 2011. About two-thirds (66% or 41,300) of seniors live with their spouses or common-law partners. However, there are gender differences in this living arrangement. Slightly more than half (52% or 18,000) of senior women lived with a spouse or partner compared to 82% (23,300) for senior men. For those aged 85 and over, the proportions for senior women and men are 18% (730) and 63% (1,400) respectively. This difference can attribute to man's lower life expectancy and tendency to marry younger women. About 2% (310) of non-family seniors live with relatives.

Over one in five (22% or 13,980) seniors live alone. 11.6% of senior men (3,305) and 31% of senior women (10,675) live alone respectively. Beyond age 85, over one quarter (25.6% or 570) senior men and over half (53% or 2,060) senior women lived alone.

Implications:

- All levels of government have to pay more attention on decisions regarding transportation, building accessibility, housing, and senior's well-being.
- Issues concerning elderly women also will become increasingly important since the majority of seniors are women and as such will need affordable and supportive housing.
- Seniors may stay longer in the workforce. Employers have to modify existing working conditions to accommodate the needs of their elderly staff.
- Many seniors will not be able to depend on an automobile as their basic means of transportation. In order to meet their mobility needs, alternative transportation should be considered and put in place.

- Seniors living alone may face the potential challenge of being disconnected from the community and a reduction in the number of social interactions.
- The increase in the senior population will also mean a potential larger pool of volunteers. Nonprofit agencies should tap into this valuable resource.

Family and Household

2.1 Family Structure

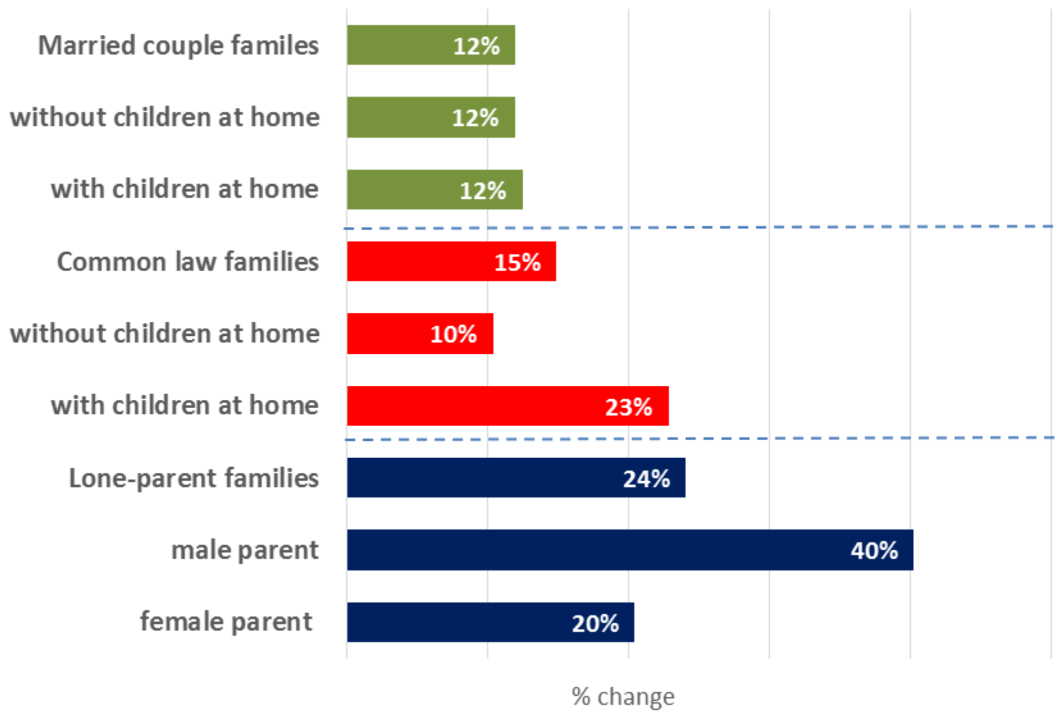
Parallel with the population change in size and age structure, the structure of the Canadian family has also changed over the last few decades. In 1961, the majority of families (91%) consisted of married couples. By 2011, the proportion of married couple families dropped to 70% (112,700). One in three (31,300) of the present day families is either a common-law couple family or a lone-parent family.

The growth of common-law families is most significant. Between 1981[9] and 2011, the number of common-law couples has increased more than four times (+340%). In 1981, common-law families represented about 5.6% of all census families. Within a span of thirty years, the proportion of common-law families has grown to 16.7%. In fact, for the first time in 2011, there were more common-law families than lone-parent families.

In 2011, there were about 144,000 families in Halton. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of families increased by 14.4%. As shown in Figure 7, among the three types of families (married couple, common-law and lone-parent), lone-parent families grew the fastest (24% or 3,665), doubling the rate of married couple families (12% or 12,100). This growth pattern differs from the national trend where common-law families grew the fastest at 14%. In Halton, lone-parent families headed by men, although comparatively small in size, experienced a rapid growth rate of 40% an increase of 1,175.

[9] Data on common-law families was first collected in the 1981 Census.

Figure 7.Change in Family Structure, Halton Region (2006-2011)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 & 2011 Censuses

On the other hand, married couple family is still the dominant family type despite its decline. Halton's percentage (78%) is higher than both the national average (67%) and provincial average (72.3%). In Halton, about 37% of the married couple families were without children at home. This proportion has not changed since 2006.

The proportion of common-law families in Halton is about 9%, slightly below the provincial average of 10.9%. About 60% of Halton's common-law families are without children.

Single parent or lone parent families represent about 13% of all families. Although Milton has the lowest percentage (11%) of lone-parent families, its lone-parent families experienced the highest growth rate of 67% between 2006 and 2011.

Eight in ten lone parent families are headed by single mothers. However, the growth rate of lone parent families headed by men continues to accelerate and is now double the growth rate of single mother families (40% versus 20%).

Oakville continues to have the lowest proportion of common-law families. They represent about 6% of all families compared to 10% experienced in the other three municipalities.

Implications:

- Families without children at home have different housing needs than families with children.
- Children living in single parent families are at greater risk of having one or more emotional, behavioural, academic, or social problems.
- Research has found that children who experience the separation or divorce of their parents while growing up are more likely to become separated themselves later in their adult lives.
- With only one earner, lone parent families have less financial resources than their couple family counterparts.
- Change in family structure may affect availability of family caregivers.

2.2 One-Person Household and Living Alone Individuals

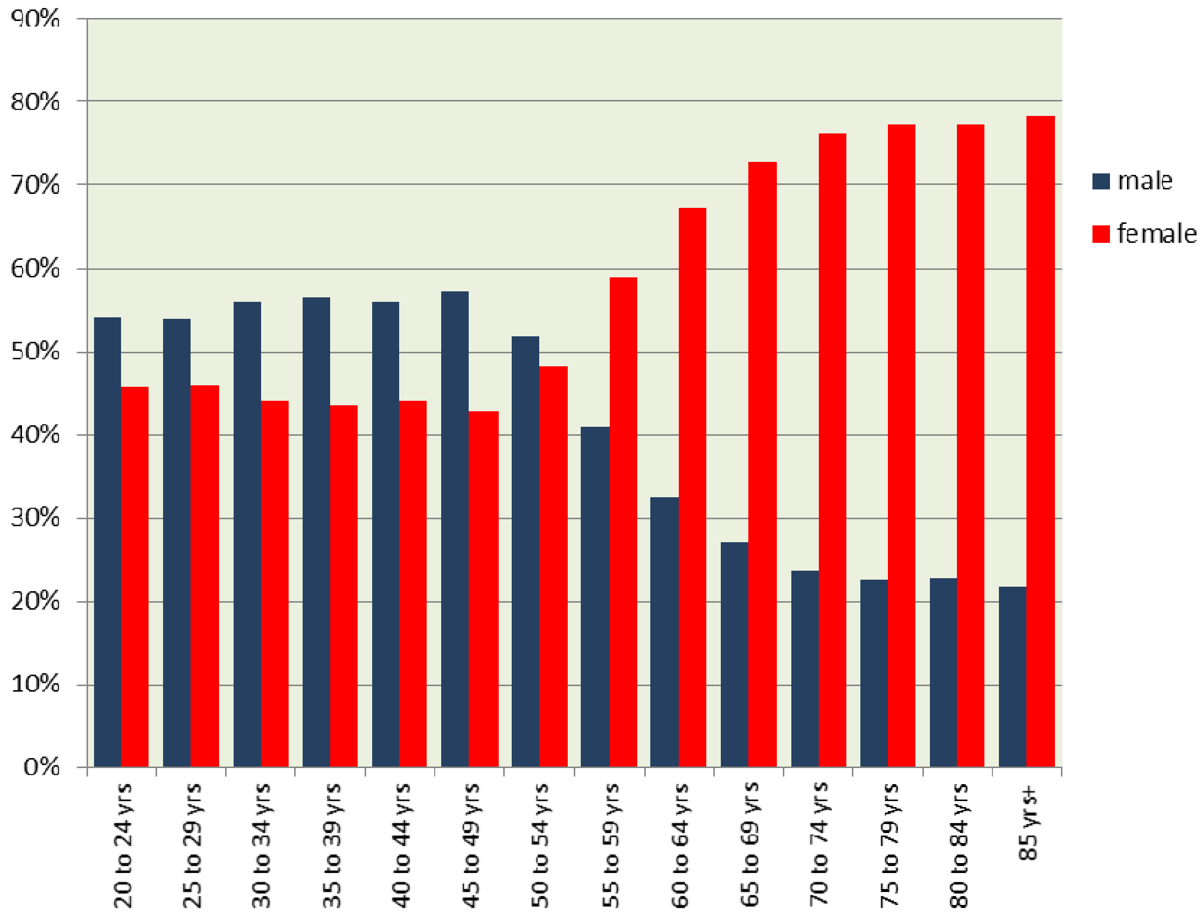
The rapid increase of one-person households is another emerging social-demographic characteristic. In 1991, there were 16,300 one-person households in Halton representing about 15% of all private households. In a span of 20 years, the number of single person household has more than doubled to 35,100. It has outpaced the growth of other household types. In 2011, one in five households is occupied by only one person. The rapid rise of one-person household has become an international phenomenon, particularly among developed countries.

Some of the underlying factors fuelling the surge of one-person households include higher divorce rates, people staying single, people marrying later in life and seniors outliving their partners. This upward trend of living alone is also having significant impact on many sectors such as housing, consumer products, and government services. The increase of living alone may lead to greater loneliness/isolation, poor health, and mental health issues for some marginal groups. Yet, it has also been observed that there is higher likelihood for lone individuals to be involved in community and volunteer activities. While many individuals choose to live alone, there are those who are forced into this lifestyle by circumstances.

In 2011, the number of individuals living alone represented about 7% (35,100) of the total population in Halton. Over half (60%) of the residents living alone were women. However, as shown in Figure 8, under the age of 54 years, men living alone outnumbered their female counterparts by about 20%. In fact, there were more men living alone in each age group below 54 years of age. This relationship reverses for the older age groups. Above the age of

54 years, there were about 2.5 times more women living alone than men. At age 85 years and over, women accounted for 78% of the living alone cohort.

Figure 8. Living Alone Individuals by Age and Sex, Halton Region, 2011



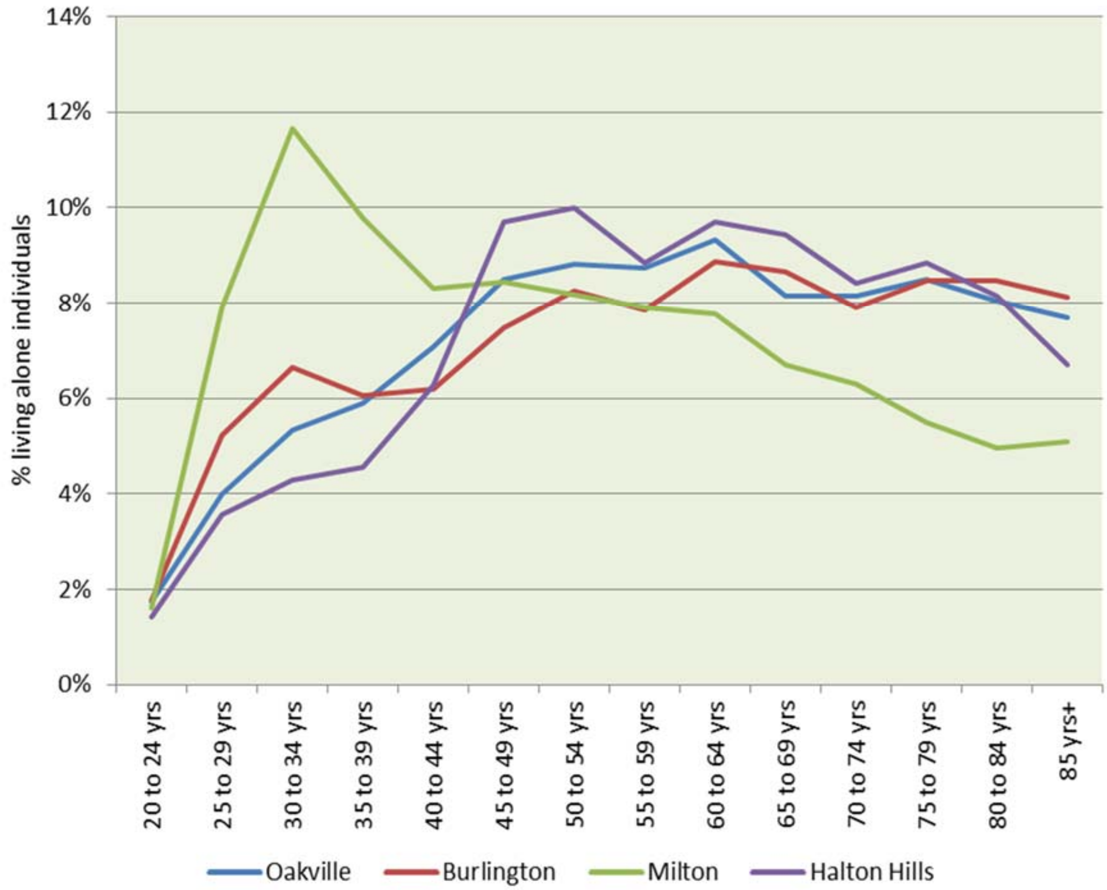
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Burlington has the highest proportion of one-person households (25%) as well as living alone individuals (10%) among the local municipalities. One in four households is occupied by one person and one in ten residents live alone. At the other end of the spectrum is Milton. One-person households represent about 14% of all households. Less than 5% of Milton's population lives alone.

The age distribution of living alone individuals also reflects the age structure of the population. As shown in Figure 9, the age distribution of living alone individuals in Milton differs from that of the other three municipalities. About 38% of Milton's living alone population are between the age of 25 and 44 years compared to 24% for Burlington and

19% for Halton Hills. Milton also has the lowest proportion of living alone seniors at 28% compared to over 40% for the other three municipalities.

Figure 9. Age Distribution of Living Alone Individuals by Municipality, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Implications:

- Increase in smaller households will increase the demand for smaller housing units.
- Increase in one-person households may increase of the demand for public service on a per household basis, such as garbage pickup and meter reading.
- Increase in one-person households will boost rental housing demand.
- In general, living alone is more expensive than sharing accommodations.
- Seniors living alone are at greater risk of social isolation and loneliness.
- People who live alone do not have live-in caregivers if needed and would have to rely on government or outside care services.

Housing

3.1 Housing Tenure

The 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) recorded 179,000 private households in Halton Region. Over 60% of the households reside in single detached houses. About 11% are in apartment buildings with five or more storeys.

Over 27,000 households are part of a condominium development. A condominium is a residential complex in which dwellings are owned individually while land and common elements are held in joint ownership with others. Those dwellings can be detached, semi-detached, apartment buildings and other structural types.

A majority (83%) of the households are owner occupied compared to the provincial average of 71%. Milton has the highest home ownership rate (Figure 10). Nine in ten households own their homes. Burlington's home ownership rate is lower than the regional average of 83%.

About 64% of the home owners in Halton have a mortgage. This proportion is higher than the provincial average of 60%. Burlington is the only municipality with a ratio that is below the provincial average. Milton has both the highest home ownership rate and highest percentage of home owners with a mortgage.

Over one-fifth (22%) of the households in Burlington live in rental accommodation. Although this proportion is above the regional average, it is below the provincial average of 28%. Milton with the highest proportion of home owners also has the lowest proportion of tenants. This proportion is above both the regional (17%) and provincial (28%) averages.

Figure 10. Selected Housing Characteristics by Municipality, Halton Region, 2011

	Owner	Tenant	Owner with Mortgage	Tenant in subsidized housing
Burlington	78%	22%	60%	11%
Oakville	84%	16%	61%	17%
Milton	90%	10%	79%	11%
Halton Hills	87%	13%	66%	21%
Halton Region	83%	17%	64%	14%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

About 14% of the tenant households live in subsidized housing. According to Statistics Canada, subsidized housing includes rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, non-profit housing, rent supplements, and housing allowances.

Halton Hills has the highest proportion of tenant households in subsidized housing at 21%. The proportion is above both the regional (14%) and provincial (16%) averages.

3.2 Rental Housing

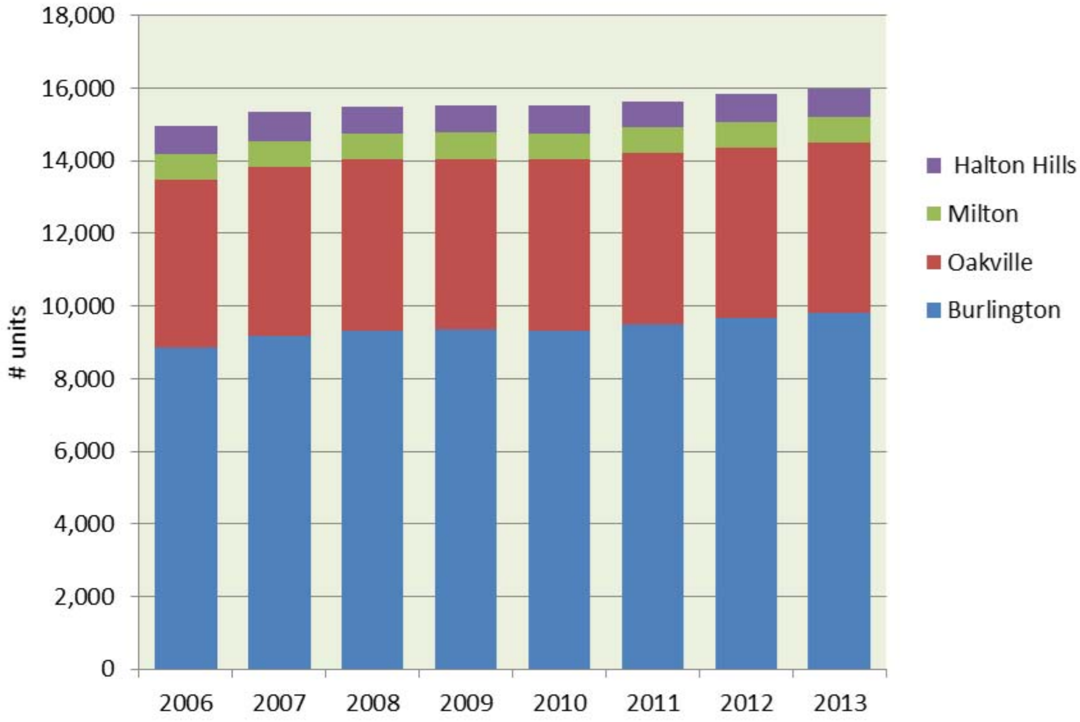
Previously the long form census collected data on tenant households, but with the introduction of the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), conducting reliable trends analysis beyond 2006 is challenging.

Instead, data from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) annual rental market survey are used to inform the rental housing environment in Halton Region and its local municipalities. In addition to data on monthly rents, the rental market survey also provides data on vacancy rates which are not collected by the census or NHS. Furthermore, the CMHC data are available on an annual basis.

In 2013, there were about 16,000 private apartment units in the region. Over 60% of the units are located in Burlington (Figure 11). Another 30% are in Oakville. This percentage distribution has not changed significantly over time. The total number of apartment units increased by less than 7% between 2006 and 2013.

The majority (89%) of the units are rental apartments. The most popular type is two bedroom units which account for 57% of all apartment units. Bachelor apartments represent about 2% of the apartment stock.

Figure 11. Private Apartment Units by Municipality, Halton Region, 2006-2013



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

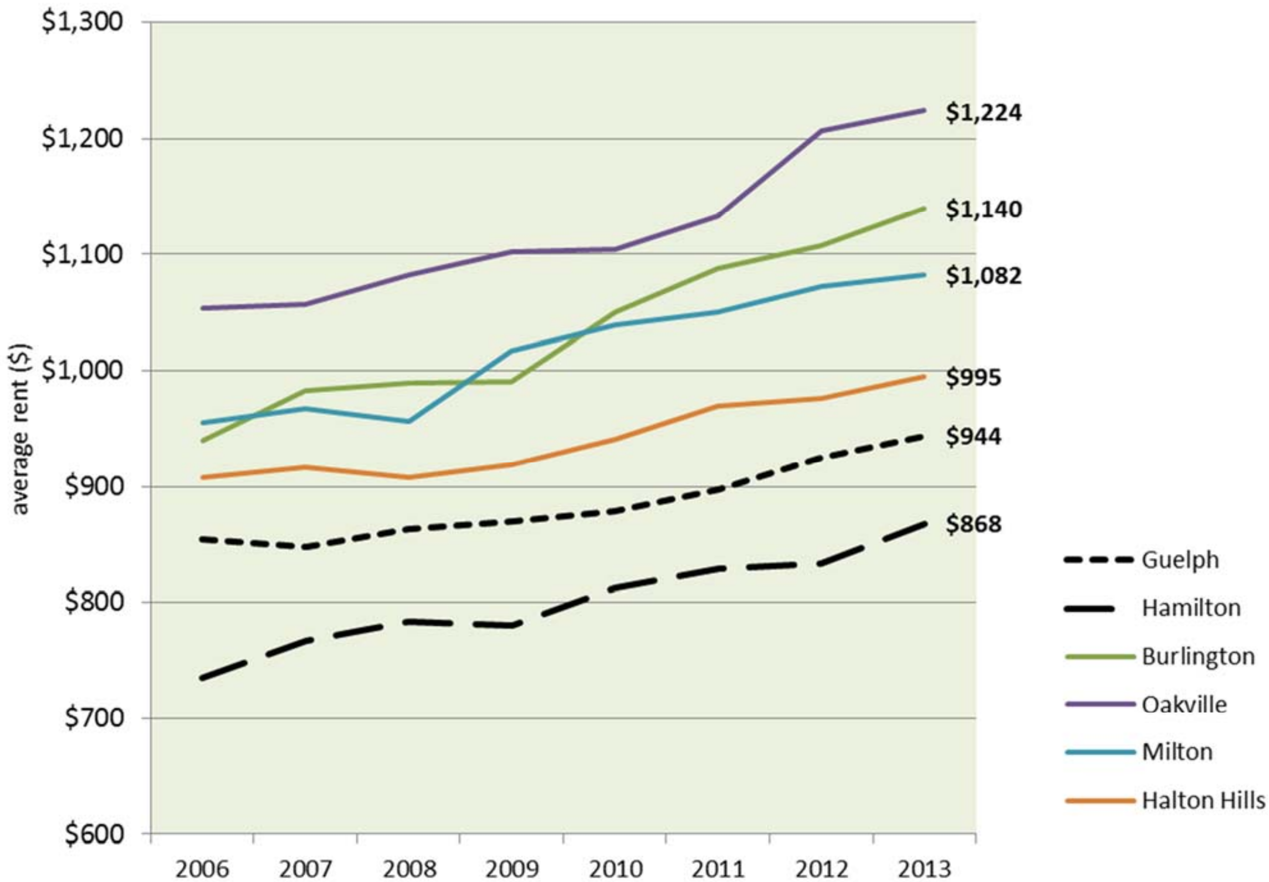
The average monthly rent for rental apartment units in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)[10] increased by about 14% to $1,138 between 2006 and 2013.

Within the GTA, Halton Region has the highest monthly rent for apartment units. The rent for an apartment in Oakville is the highest at $1,224. It is about 10% higher than the GTA average. The average rent in Burlington experienced the greatest increase of over 20% between 2006 and 2013, rising to $1,140. Halton Hills experienced below average increase of 10%, sitting at $995 in 2013.

As shown in Figure 12, the average rent in each of Halton's local municipalities is significantly higher than those of neighbouring Hamilton and Guelph. The rent in Oakville is about 40% higher than that of Hamilton and 30% of Guelph, respectively.

[10] Includes Toronto, Peel, York, Durham, and Halton.

Figure 12.Private Apartment Average Rents, 2006-2013



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

Between 2006 and 2013, the vacancy rate for apartment units in the GTA dropped from 3.2% to 1.7%. In addition to high average rent, Halton Region also has a low vacancy rate of 1.6% for rental apartment units. A vacancy rate of 3% is considered the minimum for a healthy market.

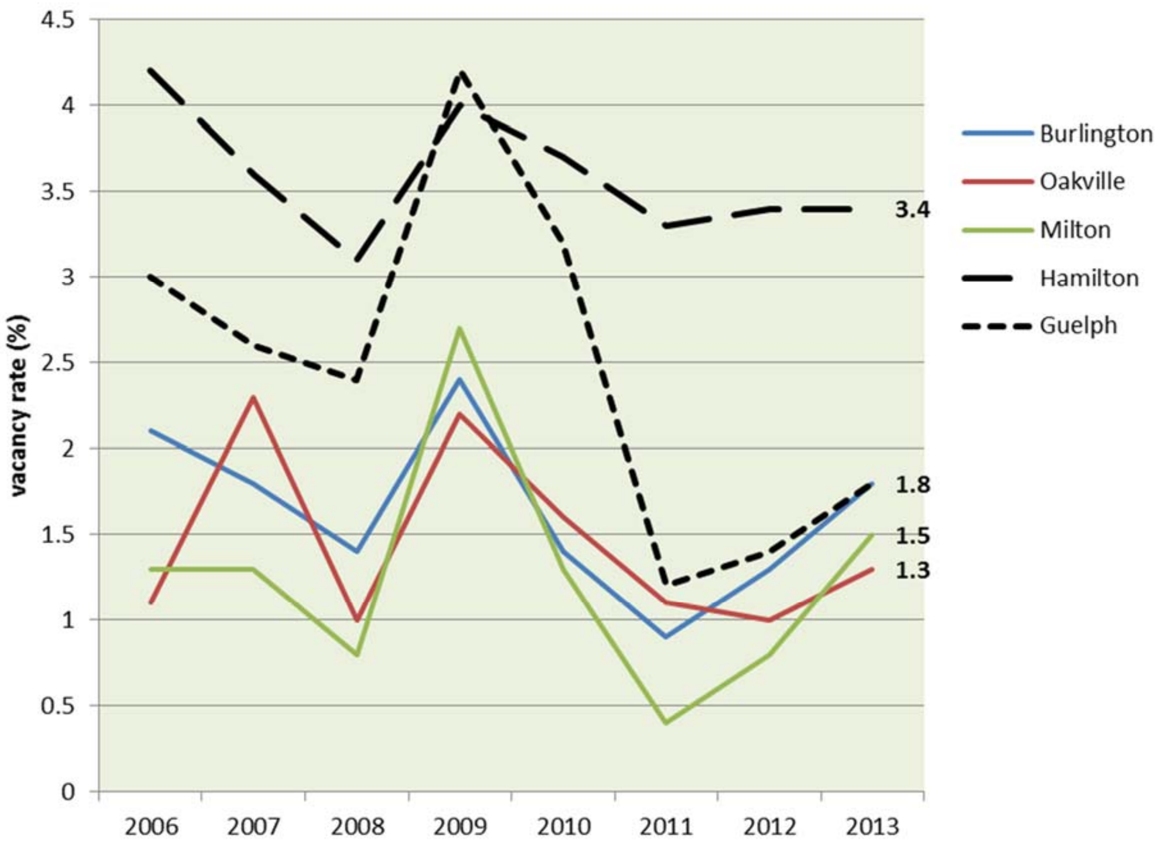
As shown in Figure 13, within Halton Region, Oakville has the lowest vacancy rate at 1.3% followed by Milton at 1.5%. On the other hand, Hamilton not only has lower rent but also higher vacancy rate (3.4%) doubling the Halton average.

According to CMHC[11], the "spike" in vacancy rate in 2009 is probably due to slower growth in youth employment and improved affordability of homeownership options. At the same

[11] CMHC, News release, *National Rental Vacancy Rate Increases in October 2009*, Ottawa, December 16, 2009

time, rental construction and competition from the condominium market also added upward pressure on vacancy rates.

Figure 13. Private Apartment Vacancy Rates, 2006-2013



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

3.3 Housing Affordability

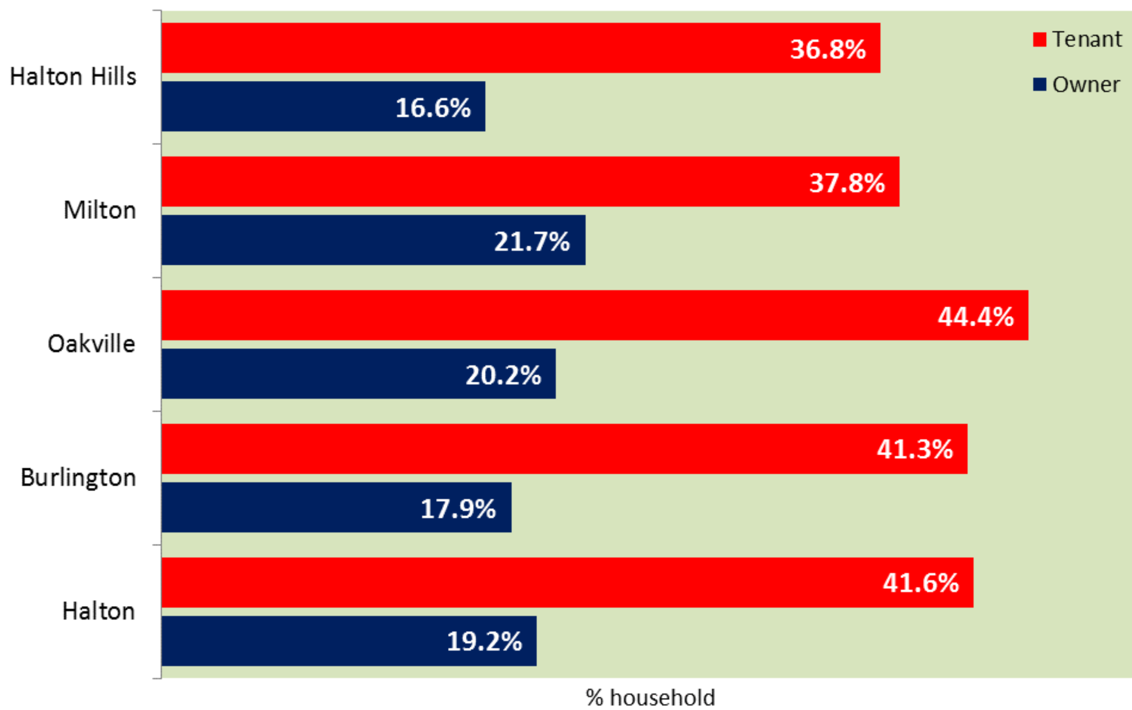
The proportion of total income spent by each household on shelter is generally accepted as a measure of housing affordability. For tenant households, shelter costs include rental payments and utilities (electricity, fuels, water, and other municipal services). For households that own, shelter costs include mortgage payments, property taxes, condominium fees, and utilities.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the standard for affordable shelter cost is 30% of gross household income. However, there are households that spend 30% or more of their household income and may do so by choice.

Housing affordability differs between tenant and owner households and varies geographically. In general, there is a higher percentage of tenant households spending 30% or more of their household income on shelter than their owner counterparts. According to the 2011 NHS, over 40% of tenant households and 19% of owner households face the challenge of housing affordability in Halton (Figure 14).

Oakville has the highest proportion (44%) of tenant households facing issues of housing affordability. On the other hand, Halton Hills has the lowest proportion (17%) of owner households spending 30% or more of their total income on shelter.

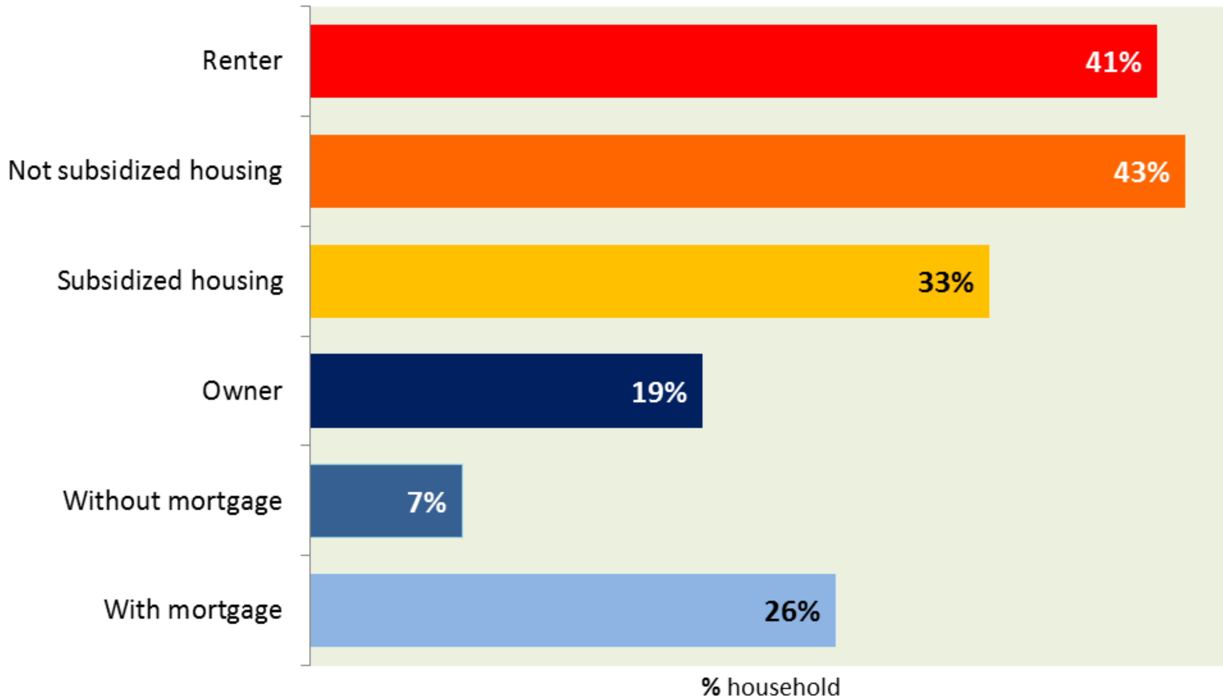
Figure 14. Proportion of Household Spending 30%+ Of Income on Shelter by Tenure, Halton Region, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

As shown in Figure 15, among owner households, those with a mortgage are three times more likely to spend 30% or more of their total income on shelter costs. For tenant households with or without subsidized housing, the difference is less. About 43% of households not in subsidized housing spent 30% or more of income on shelter compared to 33% of their counterparts in subsidized housing.

Figure 15. Proportion of Household Spending Over 30% of Their Income on Shelter (Presence of Mortgage and Subsidized Housing), Halton Region, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Implications:

- With above average rents and low vacancy rates, rental housing in Halton becomes less affordable and available.
- Rental accommodations are in short supply in both Milton and Halton Hills.
- High shelter costs erode limited financial resources of low income families and individuals.
- It may be harder for young persons to move away from home.
- Residents may find it difficult to live and work in the same community; some may move to another community or commute between communities.
- Demand for social housing has surpassed supply, forcing applicants to be on long wait lists.

Labour Force

4.1 Occupation

In 2011, over 280,000 Halton residents aged 15 years and over were in the labour force. About 94% of the labour force were employed. A majority of the workers worked as employees for a business or corporation. About 11% (30,280) of the labour force were self-employed which included persons with or without a business as well as unpaid family workers. Among those worked in 2010, over 80% (217,350) worked full-time (30 hours or more per week).

As shown in Figure 16, over half (56%) of the workers living in Halton worked in one of the three major occupation groups (sales and services – 21.9%, business, finance and administration – 18.5%, management – 16.5%). This ranking was similar to that of the province with the exception of the third occupation group. Instead of management occupation, the trade, transport and equipment operator occupation ranked third provincially at 13%.

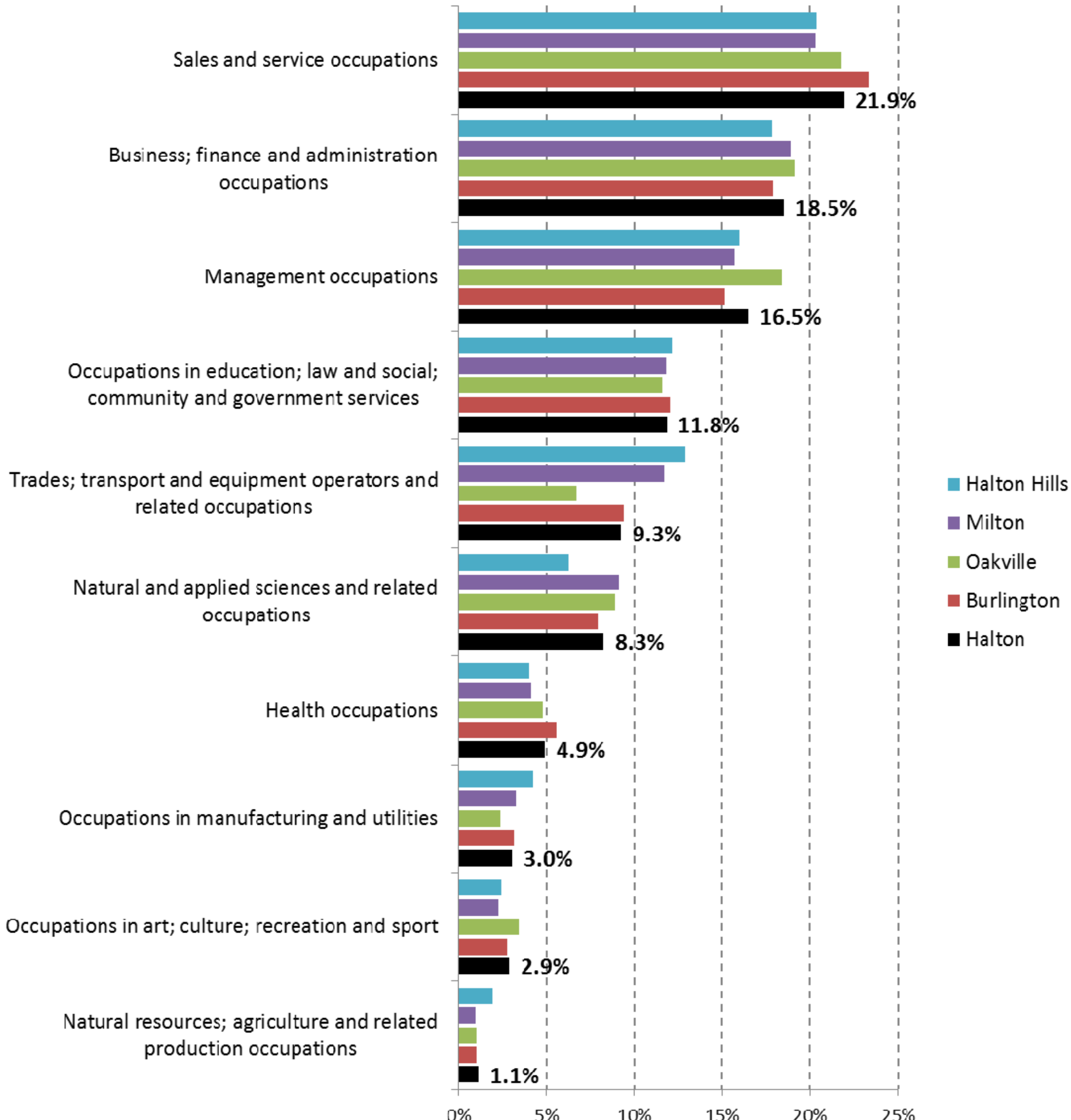
Among the detailed occupations, the most common occupations were retail sales persons and sales clerks, retail trade managers, elementary school and kindergarten teachers.

Oakville has the highest proportion (18.4% or 18,475) of workers in the management occupation. The percentage is higher than the regional average. In fact, almost 4 in 10 (39.7%) of the region's management workers lived in Oakville.

The largest proportion (23.4% or 23,100) of workers in Burlington were in the sales and service occupations. Burlington's proportion of workers in health occupations is also higher than the regional average as well as those of the other three municipalities.

Milton (11% or 5,630) and Halton Hills (13% or 4,410) have a higher proportion of workers in the trades, transport and equipment operator occupations. On the other hand, Halton Hills has the lowest percentage (6.3%) of workers in the natural and applied sciences occupations.

Figure 16. Employed Labour Force by Occupation Groups, Halton Region, 2011

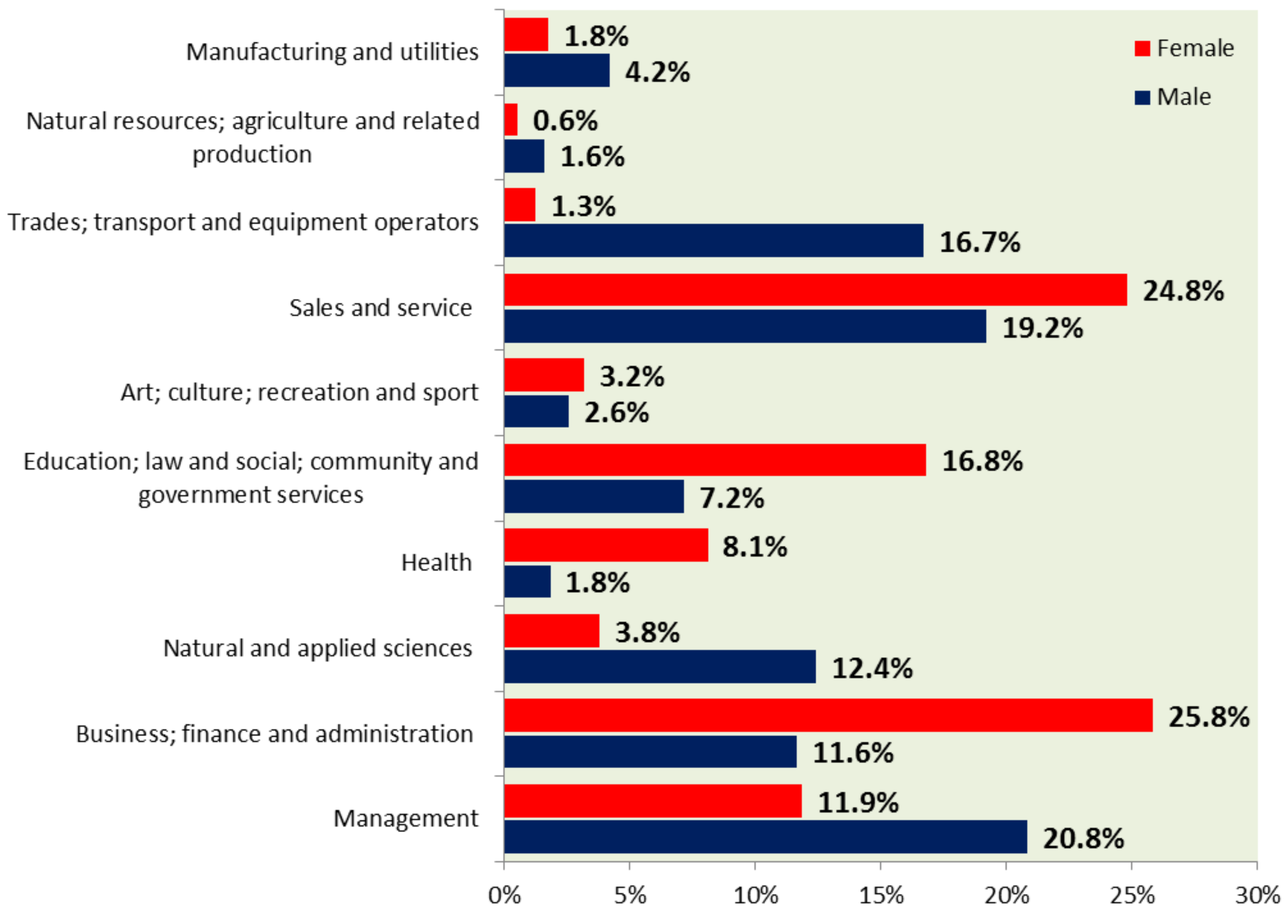


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

In Halton, in 2011, women were most likely to be employed in two major occupation groups (business, finance and administration – 26% and sales and service occupation – 25%). Together the two occupations accounted for over half of women working (Figure 17). About 17% of women worked in the education, law and social, community and government services.

The distribution of occupational groups for male workers was different. The most common occupation was management, where it accounted for 21% of the male workforce. This was followed by sales and service occupations at 19% and trades, transport and equipment operator occupations at 17%. The least held occupation for both men (1.6%) and women (0.5%) was natural resources, agriculture, and related productions.

Figure 17. Proportion of Employed Population by Occupation and By Sex, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

4.2 Employment and Unemployment

Statistics Canada tracks the changes in the Canadian labour market via its monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).[12] However, the LFS data are not normally produced at the municipality level. In a special tabulation, data on unemployment for Health Regions (mostly equivalent to upper tier municipalities such as Halton Region in Ontario) were made available. Figure 18 shows the trends of the unemployment rate for the labour force in Halton Region and other Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities between 2006 and 2013.

In comparison with other GTHA regional municipalities and the province, Halton Region fares particularly well in terms of the unemployed labour force. Between 2006 and 2013, Halton had the lowest unemployment rate every year. In fact, Halton's unemployment rate is almost half of that of Toronto (highest in 2006) and Peel Region (highest in 2013) respectively.

The graph also highlights the impact of the 2008-2009 recession resulting in the rise of unemployment rates for all the GTHA municipalities. Although the economy has improved, unemployment rates remain higher than those prior to the recession.

[12] The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. Since its inception in 1945, the objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications – employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force – and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

Figure 18. Unemployment Rate, Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), 2006-2013

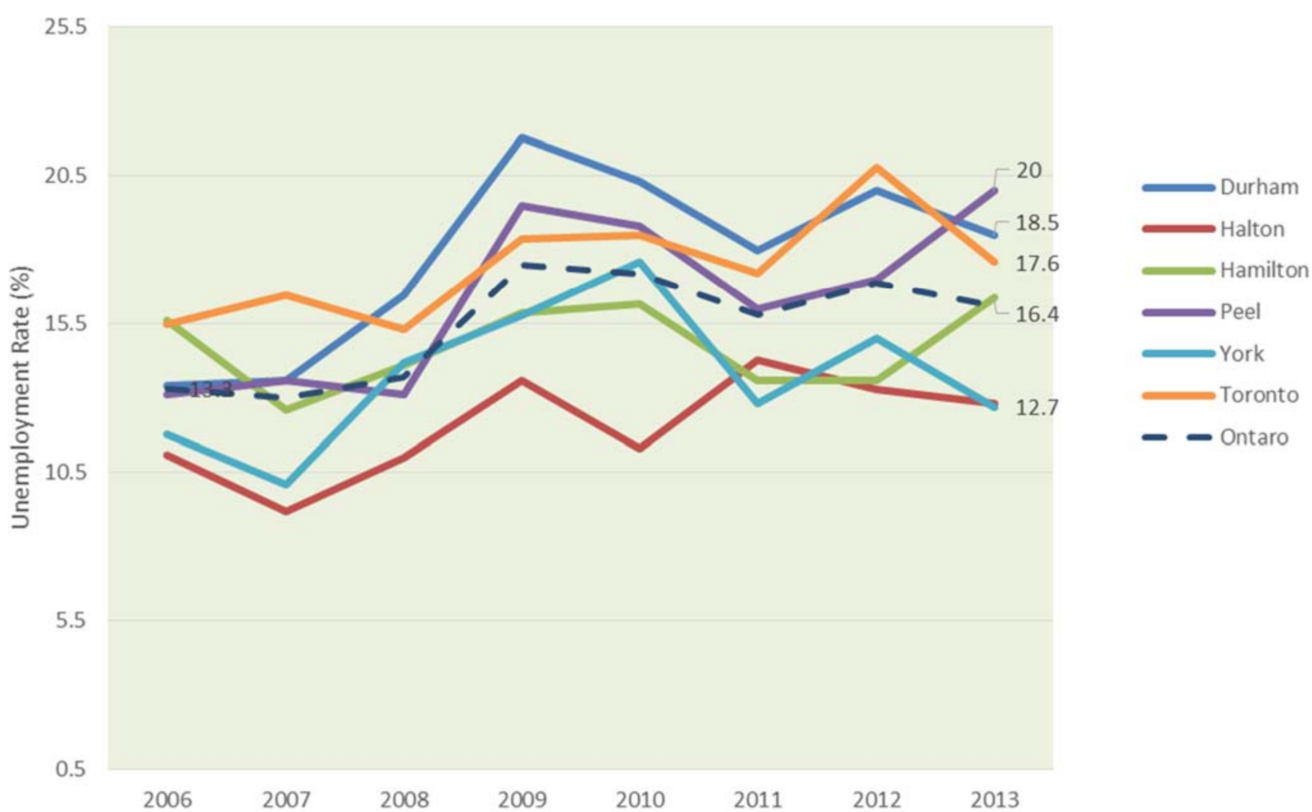
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM 109-5324

4.3 Youth Unemployment

Historically, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15-24 has always been higher than that for the total population (15 years and over). In 2006, as shown in Figure 19, the provincial youth unemployment rate of 13.3% was more than double that of the general population (6.3%). In 2013, the corresponding unemployment rates were 16.1% and 7.5% respectively. The youth unemployment rates in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area show a similar trend. Noticeably, the youth unemployment rates for Toronto, Peel, and Durham are above the provincial average. Those for Hamilton, York, and Halton are below the provincial average.

Again, Halton Region fares better than the other GTHA municipalities with the exception of 2011 when its rate rose above those of York and Hamilton. As with the general unemployment rate, the youth unemployment rate has not recovered to its pre-recession level.

Figure 19. Youth Unemployment Rate, Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), 2006-2013



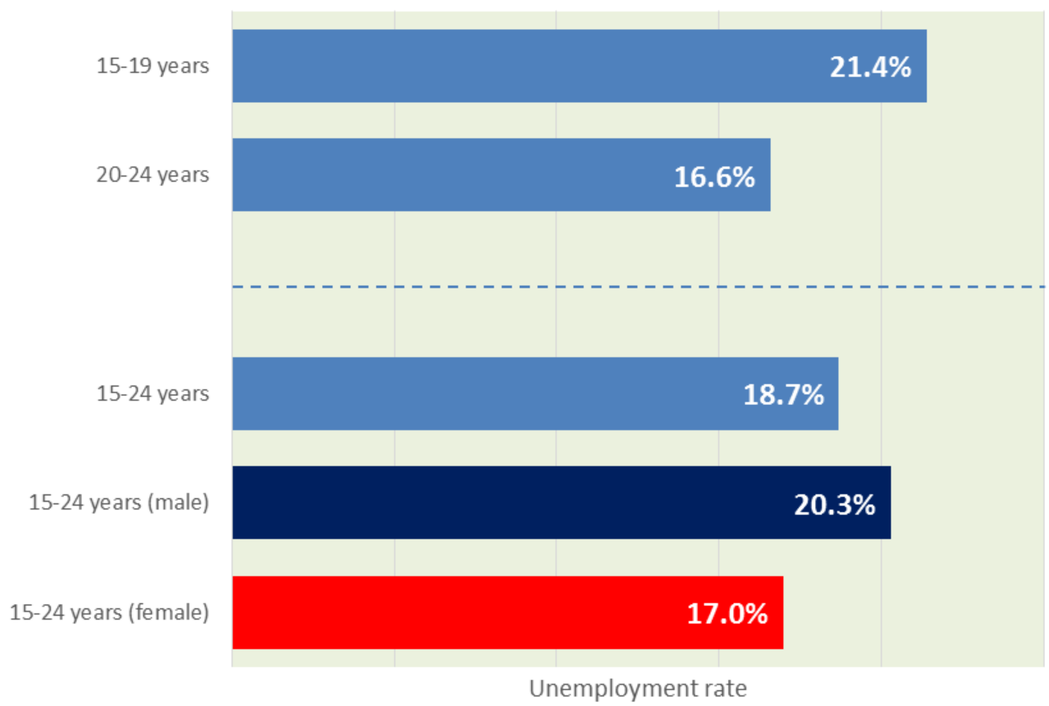
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM 109-5324

The 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) provides a more detailed set of labour market data for the youth population in Halton Region. Given the difference in data collection methodology, the NHS data should not be used in comparison with those collected by the Labour Force Survey or previous censuses.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, of the 63,000 youth in Halton, about 40,000 (63.3%) were in the labour force (Figure 20). They were either employed or unemployed. The unemployed 7,400 youth include those with unpaid work or without self-employed work and who were available for work.

In 2011, the unemployment rate for youth (15-24) was 18.7%. For those between 15 to 19 years of age, the unemployment rate was 21.4%. Approximately one in five youth was looking for work. Young men (15-24 years) have a higher unemployment rate (20.3%) than their female counterparts (17%).

Figure 20. Youth Unemployment Rate by Age and By Sex, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Implications:

- In addition to unemployment, many unemployed youth have to repay student loans and have other financial obligations.
- Unemployed youth may be forced to take on precarious employment.
- Long-term unemployment may have detrimental impacts on mental and health of youth.
- Long-term unemployment also has a negative impact on the future earning potential of youth.
- Youth unemployment can lead to anti-social behaviour.
- Are we training our youth for the current and future labour market?

Daily Travel

Transportation plays a vital role in our daily lives. We rely on it to get us to a variety of activities such as work, school, shopping, visiting, and volunteering. The Canadian Census and the 2011 National Household Survey do not collect data on daily travel activities except commuting between a place of residence and a place of work.

The Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) collects information on our daily use of the various transportation services in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and surrounding municipalities for the population aged 11 years and older. It provides an opportunity to learn about our travel characteristics as well as the trends and changes that have taken place.

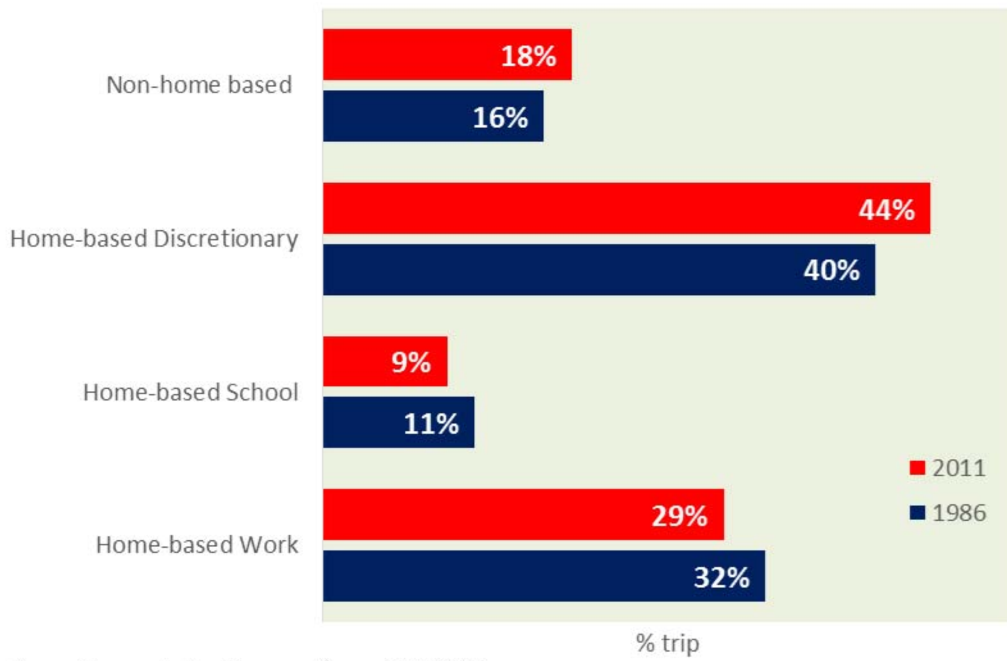
Over a period of 25 years (1986–2011), the amount of daily travel as measured by the number of trips made by Halton residents aged 11 and over has increased by 84%. On average, we made less trips (2.6 trips/person) now than a quarter of century ago (2.8 trips/person).

During the same time period, the average number of trips made by a household also decreased from 6.8 trips/household to 6.1 trips/household. This change in trip rate by household reflects the rapid increase of the number of households and decreasing household size.

5.1 Trip Purpose

The TTS groups daily travel into four major trip purposes. Home-based work trips are trips made from home to work and vice versa. Home-based school trips are trips to school, Home-base discretionary trips are trips not related to work or school, such as shopping, entertaining and visiting. Non-home based trips are trips where neither end of the trip is home (e.g. from work to shopping, from school to visit friends).

Figure 21. Proportion of Trips by Purpose, Halton Region, 1986 and 2011



Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 1986, 2011

As shown in Figure 21, there are some changes in the percent distribution of trips by trip purposes. Both work and school trips experienced a decrease. The increases go to home-based discretionary and non-home based travel. Almost one in two (44%) daily trips made in 2011 are not related to work or school.

5.2 Car Ownership

One of the major factors that influence travel patterns and behaviour is the level of car ownership. Higher car ownership usually leads to increased level and distance of travel. On the other hand, the likelihood of walking and biking is inversely related to the number of vehicles owned per household.[13] Also, to a certain extent, the level of car ownership can affect the level of transit usage (modal split) in communities where public transit is available. A modal split is the percentage of travelers using a particular type of transportation or number of trips using said type.

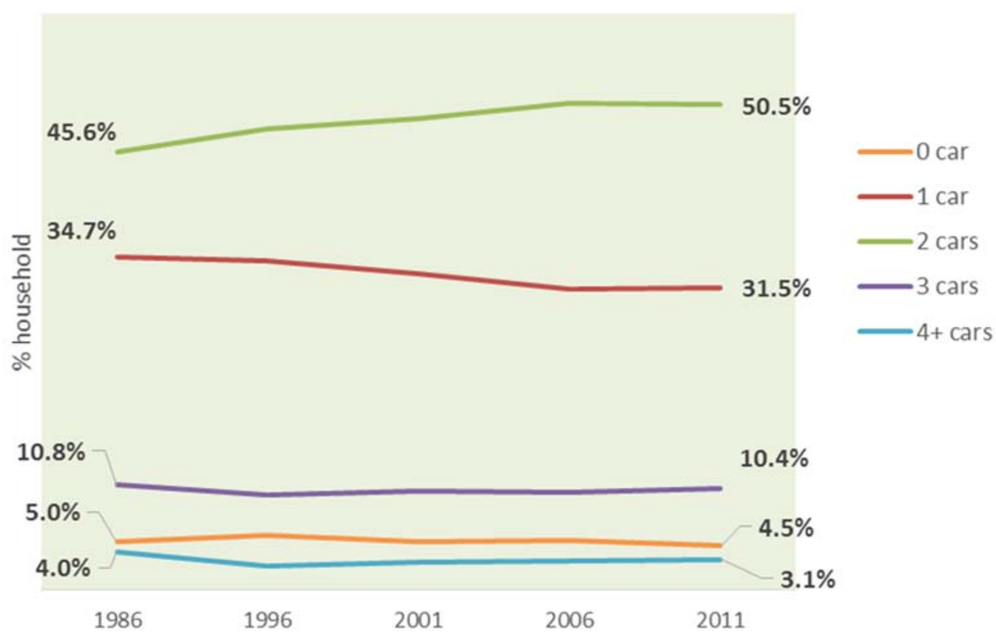
The level of car ownership in Halton Region is still rising. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of vehicles per household rose from 1.74 to 1.76. Similar to the findings from the 2006 TTS, rural areas have higher car ownership than urban areas. Halton Hills has the

[13] Brownson, R & Boehmer, T. *Patterns and trends in physical activity, occupation, transportation, land use and sedentary behaviors,* in TRB Special Report 282: *Does the built environment influence physical activity? Examining the Evidence*, Washington D. C. Transportation Research Board

highest average of 1.9 vehicles/household compared to 1.6 for Burlington and 1.8 for Oakville.

As shown in Figure 22, almost two-thirds (64%) of households have two or more vehicles. Households with three, four, and five vehicles had grown by more than 20%. The proportion of one car households remains at 31.5% as recorded in 2006. The share of households with no vehicle experienced a drop of about half a percentage point from 5% to 4.5%. Half of the households with no vehicle are located in Burlington.

Figure 22. Proportion of Household by Number of Vehicle, Halton Region, 1986-2011



Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 1986-2011

5.3 Mode of Travel

The automobile not only maintains its dominance as the preferred mode of travel for Halton residents, its usage has also increased. In 1986, about 86% of all daily trips were made by automobile (71% as driver and 15% as passenger). In 2011, the share of automobile trips increased to 89% (73% as driver and 16% as passenger).

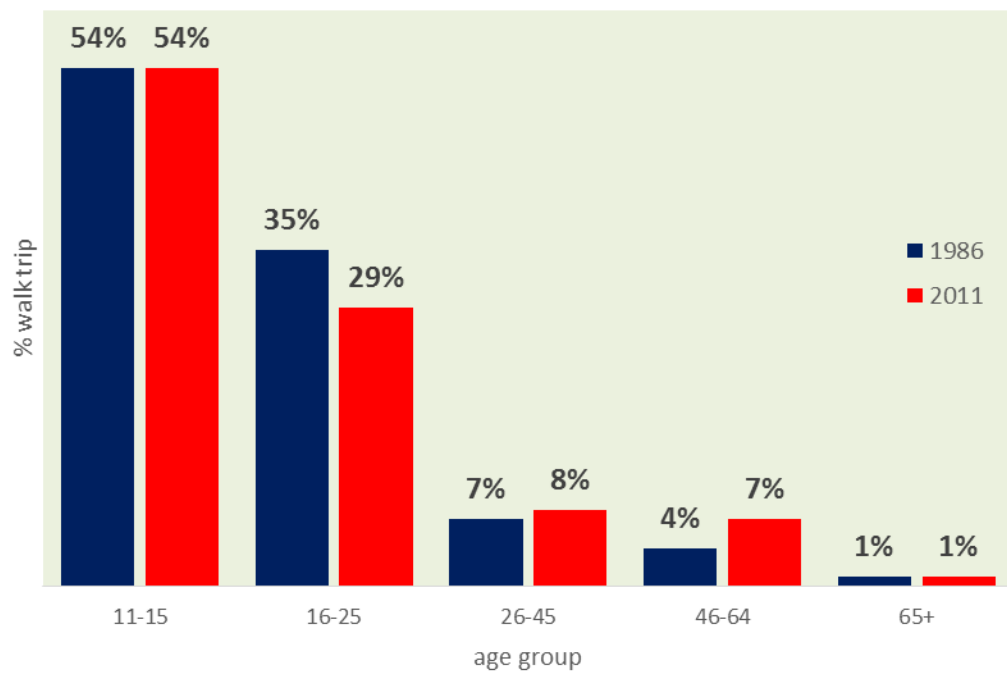
Although the share of the transit trips experienced an increase from 4% to 6% between 1986 and 2011, the increase mainly came from the GO Transit ridership and not from trips on local municipal transit services. Over 85% of the municipal transit trips originated from Oakville and Burlington.

The share of active transportation (walking and cycling) declined from 6% to 4%. In fact, the number of walking trips decreased between 2006 and 2011. We are walking less than five years ago.

Figure 23 shows little change in the proportion of walk trips by three age groups (11-15, 26-45, and 65+) over a period of 25 years. Over half (54%) of the walk trips were made by residents between age 11 and 15. The majority of them were students walking to school.

The 16-25 age group experienced a decrease in walk trips and the 46-64 age grouped recorded an increase.

Figure 23. Proportion of Walk Trips by Age Group, Halton Region, 1986-2011



Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 1986, 2011

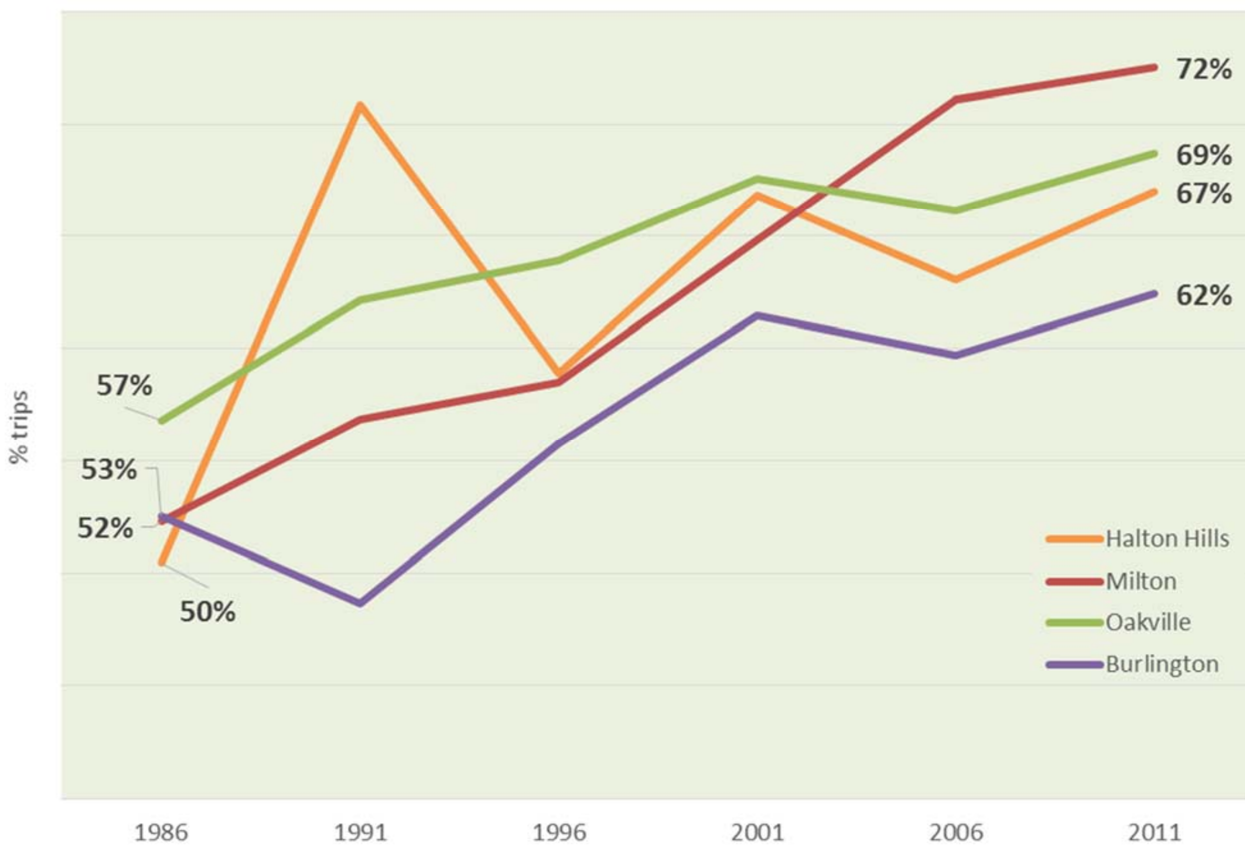
5.4 Commuting Pattern

Although work trips rank second after discretionary trips in terms of the amount of daily travel, the fact that a majority of people commute every day during certain hours of the day makes commuting a topical subject. As such, most investment in our urban transportation system is also directed to address the peak demand of the commuter traffic.

One of the noticeable changes of the commuting pattern is the proportion of work trips leaving the municipality of residence – the out-commuters. In most cases, out-commuter trips on average are longer in distance and travel time compared to work trips that originate and end within the municipality.

In 1986, about half (50-57%) of the work trips in all four local municipalities were out-commuter trips (Figure 24). In a period of 25 years, the proportion of out-commuter trips rose considerably to between 62% and 72%. Milton experienced the greatest increase from 52% to 72%.

Figure 24. Proportion of Out-Commuter Trips, Halton Region, 1986-2011

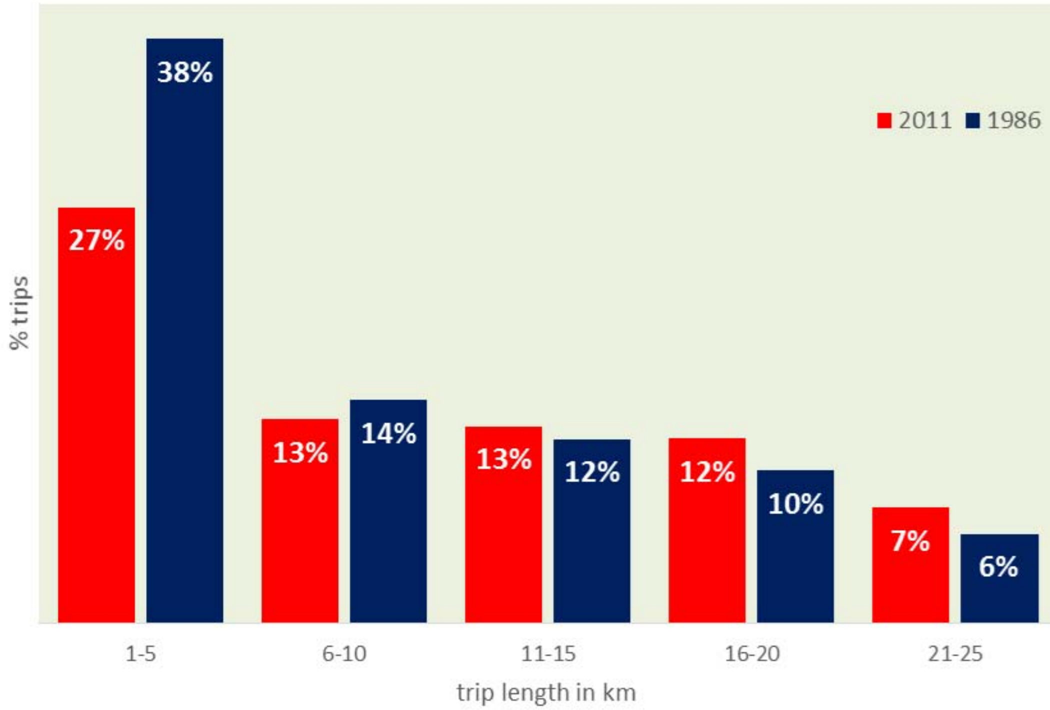


Source: 1986-2011 Transportation Tomorrow Survey

The increase in the proportion of out-commuter trips is also reflected in the increase of distance travelled. For example, in 1986, over one-third (38%) of the work trips were five kilometres[14] or less (Figure 25). That percentage dropped to 27% in 2011. The proportion of work trips over 5 kilometres rose from 42% to 45%.

[14] Straight line distance between home and place of work

Figure 25. Proportion of Work Trips by Distance, Halton Region, 1986 and 2011



Source: 1986 and 2011 Transportation Tomorrow Survey

Implications:

- Increase in commuting time and distance adds stress, anxiety, and fatigue, leading to chronic health problems.
- With more time being spent on daily commuting, less time is available with children and family. Families with young children are especially impacted.
- Increase in commuting also reduces the amount of time available for participation in community activities (e.g. volunteering or sport and recreation).
- Families and individuals with no access to a vehicle have to rely on other means of transportation, such as walking, cycling, public transit, or taxi. Their accessibility to employment and social opportunities and activities may be limited.
- Increase in car ownership reinforces our dependence on the automobile and continues to negatively impact the environment and the provision of improved public transit systems.

Immigrants

In this section, data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Statistics Canada's National Household Survey (NHS) will be used. While the data provided is not comparable, it does provide a more complete picture of the changing diversity in the Halton community.

6.1 Permanent Resident Landings

According to data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the annual number of permanent resident[15] landings[16] in Halton has increased by over 160% from 1,200 to 3,145 between 2000 and 2012. Halton Region's share of Ontario's total landings has also increased (Figure 26).

In 2000, Halton's share was less than 1% and rose to 3.1% in 2012. Overall, Halton is attracting more immigrants. However, it is important to note that the CIC data records the intended destinations in Canada of permanent residents and not necessarily their final place of residence. For example, a permanent resident may indicate their intention to land in Burlington and, upon arrival, may move to Toronto and vice versa.

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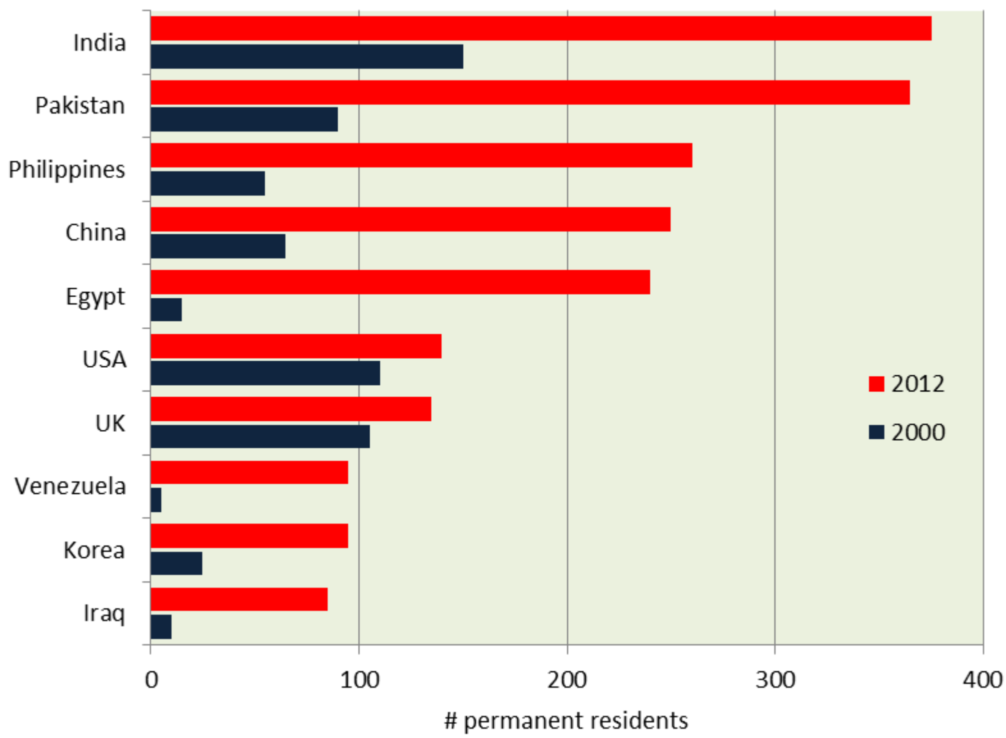
[15] A permanent resident is someone who had acquired permanent resident status by immigrating to Canada, but is not yet a Canadian citizen.

[16] Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and figures 2012 – Immigration overview, Permanent and temporary residents.*

Figure 26. Immigrants and Share of Ontario's Total, Halton Region, 2000-2012

Since the 1970s, the main countries of origin of immigrants to Canada has shifted from Europe to non-European countries. In 1971, about 60% of recent immigrants were from European countries; in 2006, only 16%. This trend continues as illustrated in Figure 27.

Figure 27. Top 10 Countries of Origin (Place of Birth), Halton Region, 2000 and 2012



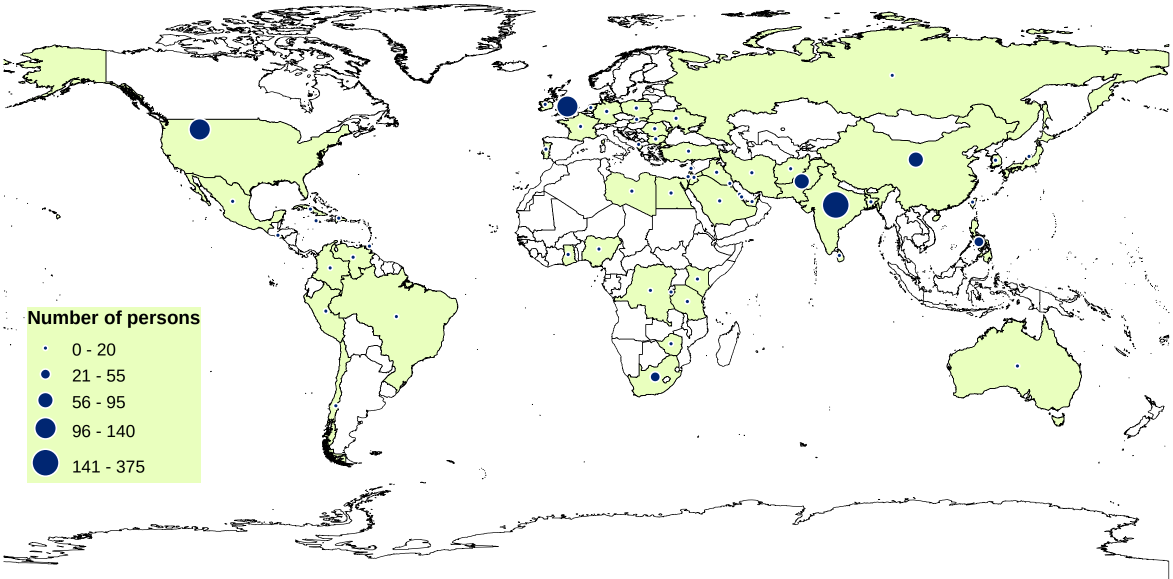
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

In Halton, in 2000, the top two countries of birth were from Europe; the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. In 2012, United Kingdom was the only European country that remained in the top ten countries list. The new countries of origin were Egypt, Venezuela, and Iraq. India maintains the top spot followed closely by Pakistan. Maps 2 and 3 show geographically the countries of origin for 2000 and 2012 respectively.

With the exception of Halton Hills, Halton municipalities experienced significant growth in immigrant population. This was especially true for Milton where the number of immigrants increased by over ten fold. In 2000, Milton accounted for less than 5% of immigrants destined to Halton Region; in 2012, its proportion rose to over 25%. One in four immigrants to Halton chose Milton as their intended place of residence.

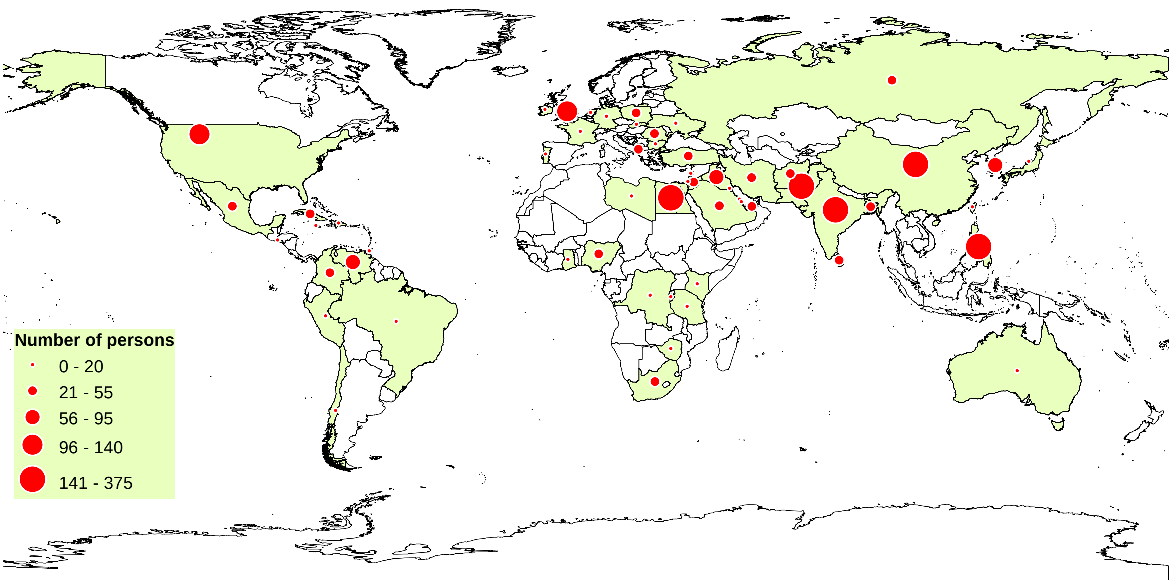
Oakville maintained its position as a dominant intended destination. It continues to attract half (51% in 2000 and 50% in 2012) of the intended landings in Halton. Burlington, however, saw its share of the region's immigrant population reduced from 38% to 23%.

Map B. Immigrant Landings in Halton by Country of Birth, 2000



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Natural Earth

Map C. Immigrant Landings in Halton by Country of Birth, 2012



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Natural Earth

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6.2 Recent Immigrants

Statistics Canada defines immigrants who arrived in Canada during the five years prior to a census as recent immigrants. For the 2011 NHS, recent immigrants were those who migrated between 2006 and 2011. During that period. Halton received about 14,500 immigrants representing about 11% of the total immigrant population.

In 2011, Oakville had the highest foreign born population, about one in three (57,875) of the residents were immigrants. It had about 45% of the region's immigrants and half of its recent immigrants. About 13% (7,300) of immigrants in Oakville were recent immigrants.

Burlington received about one-quarter (25% or 3,690) of Halton's recent immigrants. They represented about 10% of the city's total immigrant population.

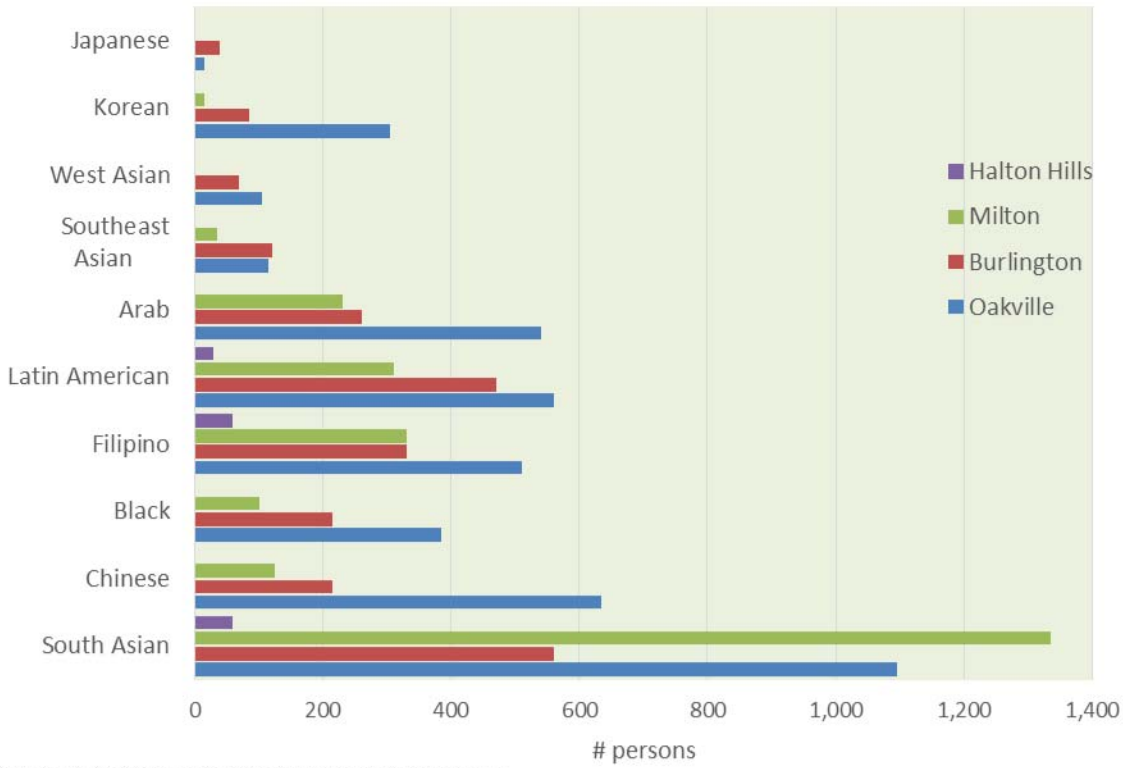
Milton had about 22% (3,185) of Halton's recent immigrant population. Similar to Oakville, about 13% of its immigrants were recent immigrants.

Halton Hills received only 400 recent immigrants representing less than 5% of its immigrant population.

Two in three (66%) recent immigrants belong to one of the ten visible minority groups. The largest visible minority group is South Asian (30%). They are followed by Latin American (14%) and Filipino (13%). Both the Chinese and Arab groups represent about 10% of the recent immigrants.

While Oakville accounts for 46% of all visible minority recent immigrants, Milton and Burlington each shared about 25%. As shown in Figure 28, each visible minority group seems to have its own settlement pattern among the local municipalities. For example, over half (58%) of Black and half (50%) of Arab recent immigrants settled in Oakville respectively. Over 40% of South Asian immigrants live in Milton. Oakville is also home to over 60% of the Chinese recent immigrants. Over three-quarters of Latin American recent immigrants settles in Burlington (35%) and Oakville (41%) respectively.

Figure 28. Recent Immigrants by Visible Minority Group, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

6.3 Immigrant Languages

In order to reflect the growing complexity of the Canadian linguistic reality, Statistics Canada introduced the term "immigrant languages" to refer to languages (other than English, French, and Aboriginal languages) whose presence in Canada is originally due to immigration.[17]

In 2011, over 100,000 Halton residents identified one of the immigrant languages as their mother tongue, which is the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood. Over one in five (21%) of the population speaks one of the seventy immigrant languages in Halton. This ratio is the third highest among Ontario municipalities of a similar size as Halton (500,000 persons) after Brampton (43%) and Hamilton (23%).

As shown in Figure 29, the top five immigrant language mother tongues in 2011 were Polish, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Urdu. Collectively, they were spoken by over 7%

[17] Statistics Canada, *Linguistic Characteristics of Canadians*, Language, 2011 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-314-X2011001

(36,000 persons) of Halton residents or 35% of immigrant mother tongue residents. Spanish and Italian were also among the top five immigrant languages spoken in Ontario and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Figure 29.Top Five Immigrant Mother Tongues, 2011

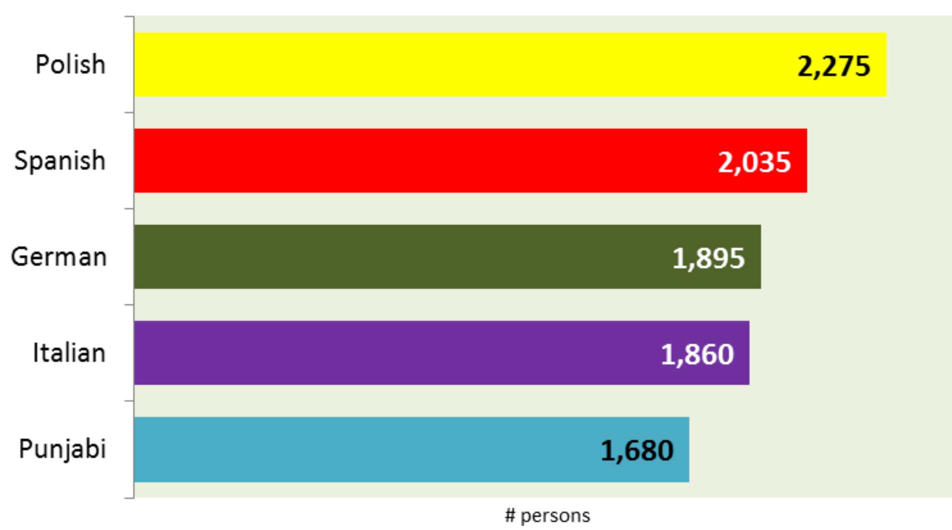
Halton	Ontario	GTHA (Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area)
Polish (1.7%)*	Italian (1.9%)	Italian (2.8%)
Spanish (1.6%)	Chinese n.o.s. (1.5%)	Cantonese (2.6%)
Italian (1.5%)	Cantonese (1.4%)	Chinese n.o.s. (2.5%)
Portuguese (1.4%)	Spanish (1.4%)	Punjabi (2.4%)
Urdu (1.3%)	Punjabi (1.3%)	Spanish (2%)

* Percent population
n.o.s. – not otherwise specified
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Burlington

About 16% (28,025) of Burlington residents speak an immigrant language. As shown in Figure 30, Polish is the most spoken language followed by Spanish, German, Italian and Punjabi. Although, German is not the top five immigrant mother tongues in Halton, Burlington has one of the two largest German speaking populations in Halton. Burlington also has the second largest Punjabi speaking community next to Oakville.

Figure 30. Top 5 Immigrant Mother Tongues, Burlington, 2011

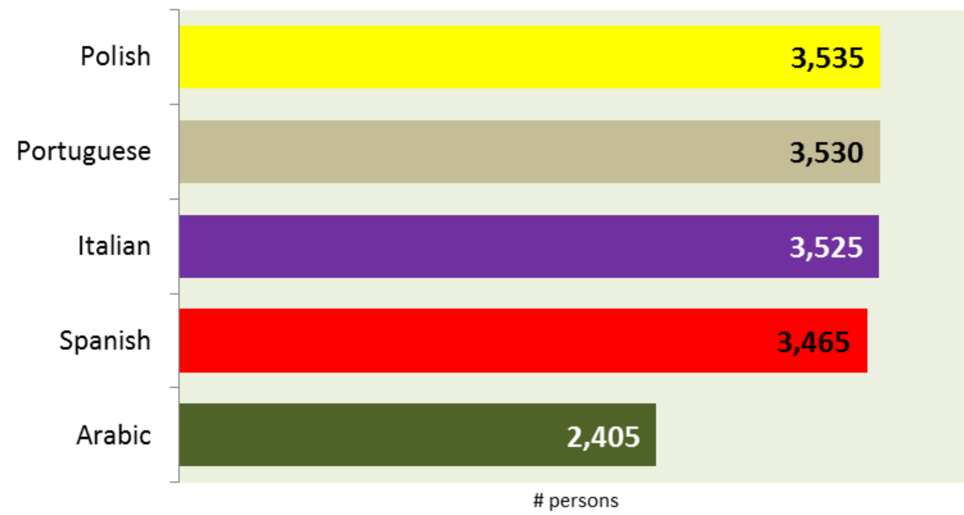


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Oakville

Oakville and Milton are the two most linguistically diverse municipalities in Halton. Oakville has the highest number and proportion of immigrant mother tongues. About 46% of Halton's immigrant language speaking population lives in Oakville. One in four Oakville residents (26% or 47,935) speak an immigrant language. Figure 31 shows that Polish, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish rank equally among the top immigrant languages. There were also three immigrant mother tongues (Arabic, Punjabi, and Korean) with more than 2,000 persons.

Figure 31. Top 5 Immigrant Mother Tongues, Oakville, 2011

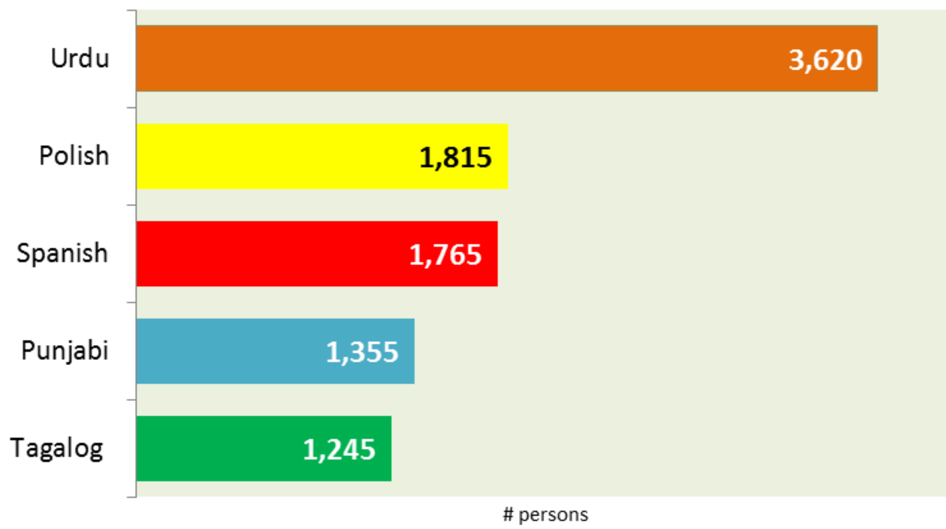


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Milton

Similar to Oakville, one in four Milton residents (26% or 21,760) speak an immigrant language. As seen in Figure 32, Polish and Spanish were also two of the top five immigrant languages. In Milton, the most spoken immigrant language is Urdu. Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and is also widely spoken in India where it is an official language of five states. In fact, Milton has the largest Urdu speaking community (58%) in Halton.

Figure 32. Top 5 Immigrant Mother Tongues, Milton, 2011

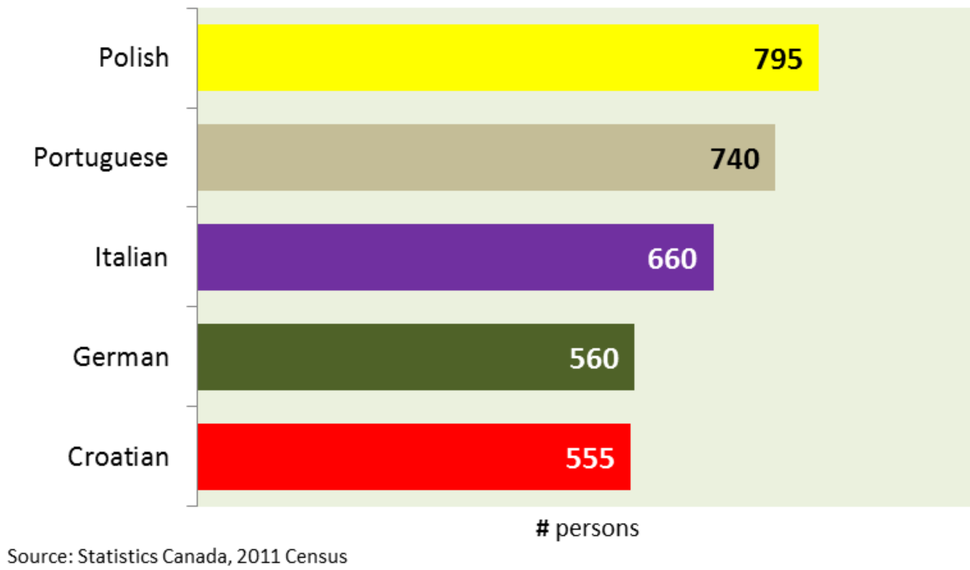


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

Halton Hills

About 10% (6,305) of Halton Hills residents speak an immigrant language. Its proportion of immigrant mother tongues is the lowest among the four local municipalities. The top five immigrant languages, as shown in Figure 33, represent over half (52%) of all the immigrant languages spoken in Halton.

Figure 33. Top 5 Immigrant Mother Tongues, Halton Hills, 2011



6.4 Home Language

Home language refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home. In 2011, there were over 45,000 Halton residents speaking a home language other than English or French and over 16,000 speaking both English and an immigrant language. Together these Halton residents using an immigrant language at home represent about 12.3% of the total population. This percentage is slightly below the national average of 13.7%.

Research has established the importance of home language in allophone[18] newcomer families. Their children's knowledge of the home language will help them to learn English or French. Knowing and using the home language will develop a child's security and pride in identity and understanding of their roots and heritage.[19]

As reported in the 2011 Census, not all residents with a mother tongue other than English or French spoke an immigrant language at home. Nearly half (48%) of the 100,000 non-official mother tongue residents spoke English only at home. About 42% spoke an immigrant language and 11% spoke both English and an immigrant language at home respectively.

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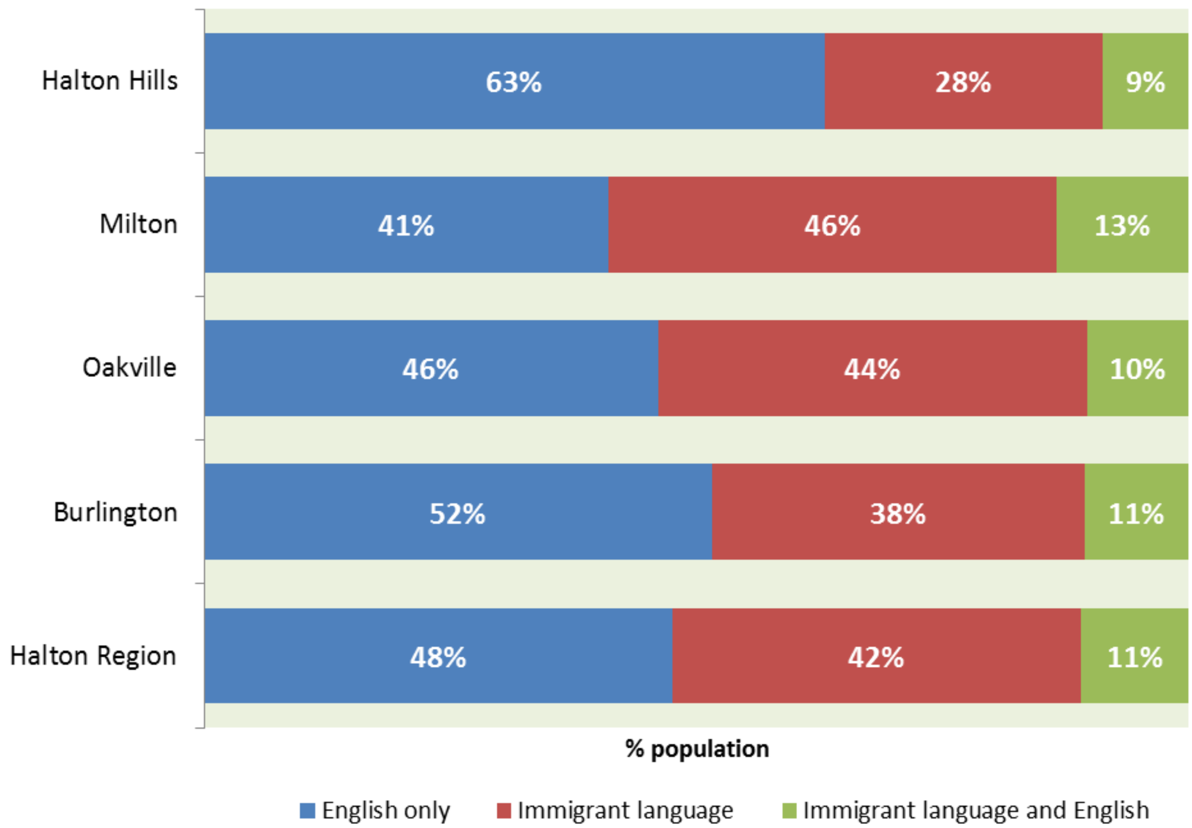
[18] People whose mother tongue is neither English nor French

[19] http://www. MyLanguage.ca

The percentage distribution of immigrant home language (Figure 34) shows some variations among local municipalities in Halton. Over half (59% or 12,780) of the non-official mother tongue population in Milton speak an immigrant language (immigrant language only or immigrant language and English) most often at home compared to 37% in Halton Hills. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the immigrants in Halton Hills speak only English at home.

Figure 34. Proportion of Non-Official Mother Tongue Population by Home Language, Halton Region, 2011



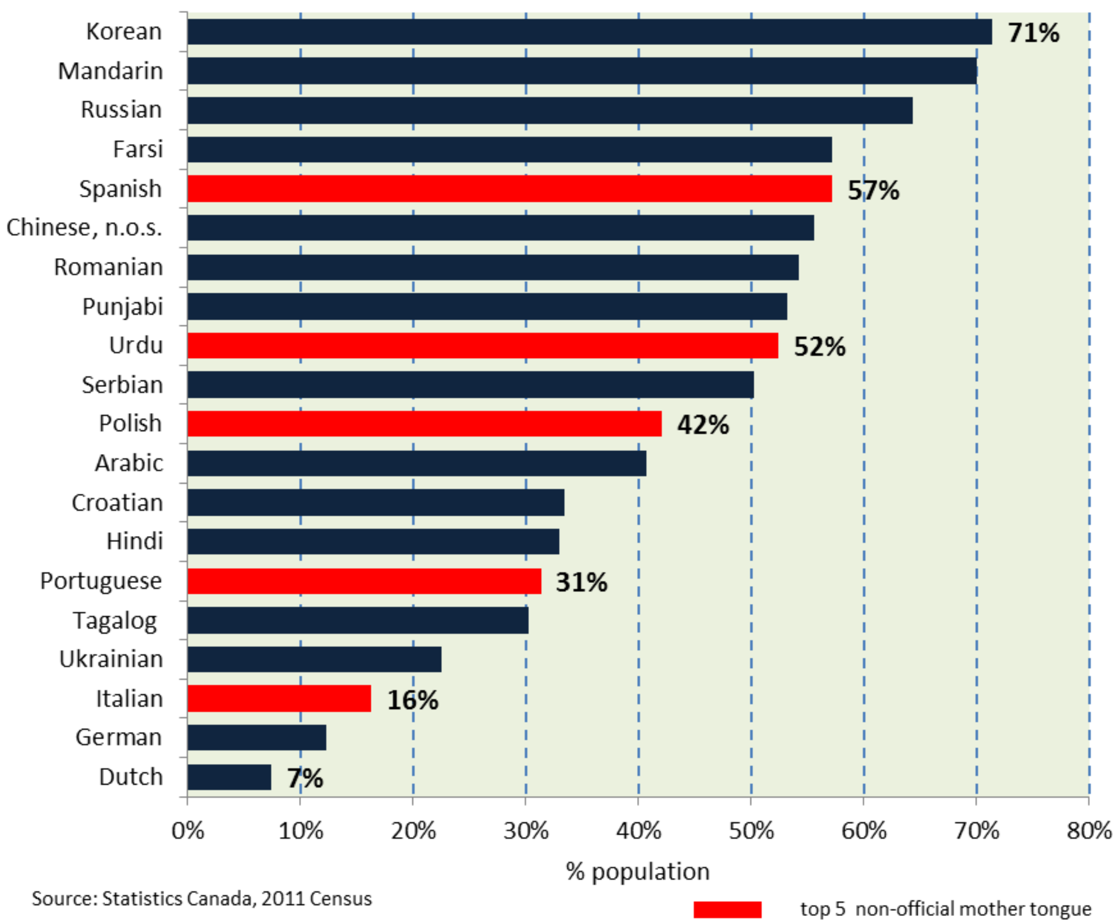
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

The top five non-official mother tongues are: Polish, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Urdu. Collectively, they were spoken by 35% of the non-official mother tongue population in Halton.

The proportion of the non-official mother tongue population speaking an immigrant language most often at home varies among immigrant languages (Figure 35). The differences are significant. For example, over 70% of the Korean mother tongue population spoke an immigrant language (most likely Korean) at home. On the other hand, only 7% of the Dutch mother tongue population reported speaking an immigrant language (most likely Dutch) at home.

Although Polish is the most spoken non-official mother tongue in Halton, it was spoken by less than half (42%) of that language group at home. Similarly, Italian which ranks after Polish and Spanish as a non-official mother tongue, was spoken by 16% of the Italian mother tongue population at home.

Figure 35. Proportion of Non-Official Mother Tongue Population Speaking Immigrant Language At Home, Halton Region, 2011



Implications:

- Growing diversity in language and cultural backgrounds of newcomers will have a major impact on the need for settlement services, cultural and language translation capacities in agencies and in cultural sensitivity and diversity competence training for service providers.

- To understand and support an increasingly diverse community, the Region's and municipalities' policies, services, and programs have to be inclusive and focus on the various needs of its changing diversity.
- Diversity also brings opportunities. Citizens with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives can provide alternative approaches and solutions to many of our challenges (e.g. environmental, health, education, and training). Mechanisms should be put in place to harness their contributions.
- Government should set examples in building inclusivity and encourage the private sector to follow. Diversity and inclusion make good business sense.

Religion

According to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), over three-quarters (78%) of Halton residents identified a religious affiliation. The proportion is about two percentage points above the national average. It is important to note that the data collected by past censuses and the 2011 NHS are on religious affiliation only, regardless of whether the respondents actually practice their religion.

In Halton, as illustrated in Figure 36, the largest religious group is Catholic, representing 35% (173,190 persons) of the total population which is below the national average of 39%. The second largest religious group is Protestant at 23%. The proportion of Protestant faiths is higher than the national percentage of 17%.

Within the Protestant faith group, the two largest denominations in Halton are United Church (35%) and Anglican (35%). The Lutheran and Pentecostal denominations represent less than 10% of the total.

Muslim is the largest non-Christian faith group, representing about 4% of the population at 18,980 persons and is higher than the national average (3%).

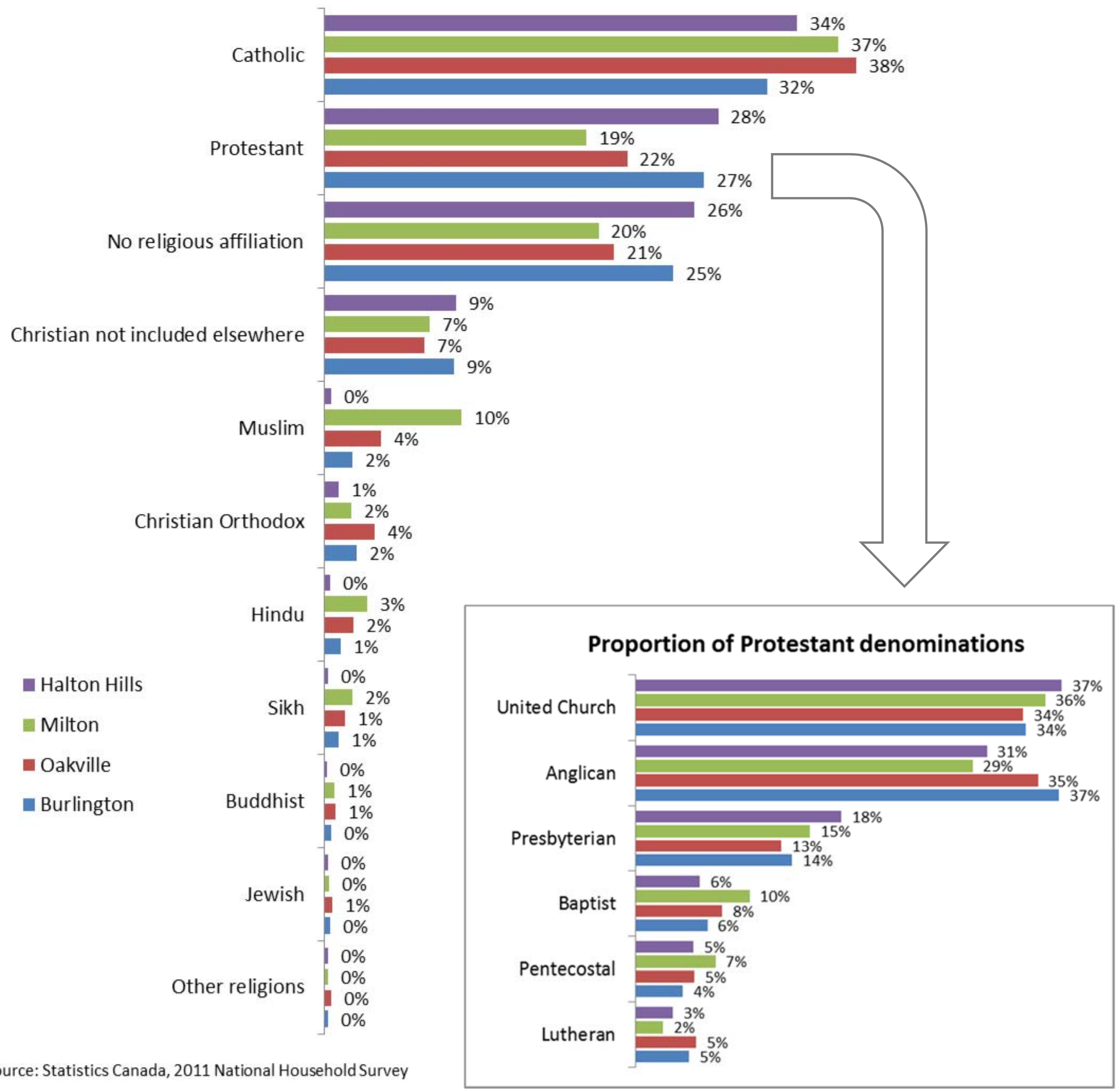
Oakville has the highest proportion (38%) of Catholics. It also has the largest non-Christian population of about 17,000, of which Muslim is the majority.

Burlington has the second highest proportion (27%) of the Protestant faith group. Its proportion of Anglican (37%) is the highest among the Protestant denominations.

Although Milton indicates the highest proportion of its population as religious (80%), it has the lowest proportion (65%) of the Christian faith groups. Over 8,000 people identified themselves as member of the Muslim faith representing about 10% of the residents.

Over one-quarter (26%) of the residents of Halton Hills have no religious affiliation. It has the highest proportion (28%) of the Protestant faith group. Its proportion of United Church ((37%) affiliates is the highest among the Protestant denominations.

Figure 36. Proportion of Population by Religious Affiliation, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is not only the core principle of democracy but also leads to more efficient and effective decision making.[20] It can include individual volunteerism, organizational involvement, and electoral participation.

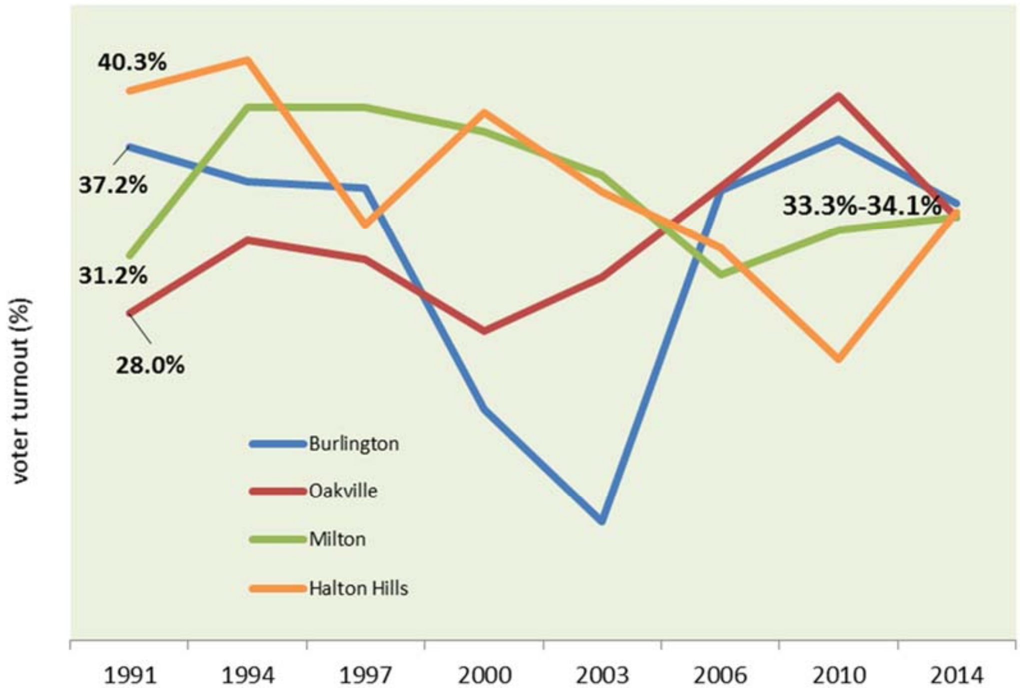
8.1 Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in elections is often used as a measure of citizen (civic) engagement and interest in the political process. In the past few decades, there has been a declining trend in voter turnout at the federal, provincial, and municipal elections. In general, the municipal election had the lowest turnout rate. Efforts are being sought to engage more citizens to exercise their rights and responsibilities to vote.

In Halton, after a period of declining voter turnout, civic engagement is largely similar (Figure 37). In the most recent municipal election in 2014, all four municipalities recorded a voter turnout of around 33%. Burlington had the highest at 34.1%, followed by Halton Hills at 33.6% and Oakville and Milton tied at 33.3%. Both Burlington and Oakville saw a decrease from the 2010 election, while Halton Hills experienced the largest increase in voter turnout, going from 25.5% in 2010 to 33.6% in 2014.

[20] Emily Ruf, *Why is civic engagement important?* TMI inclusion for innovations, March 2013

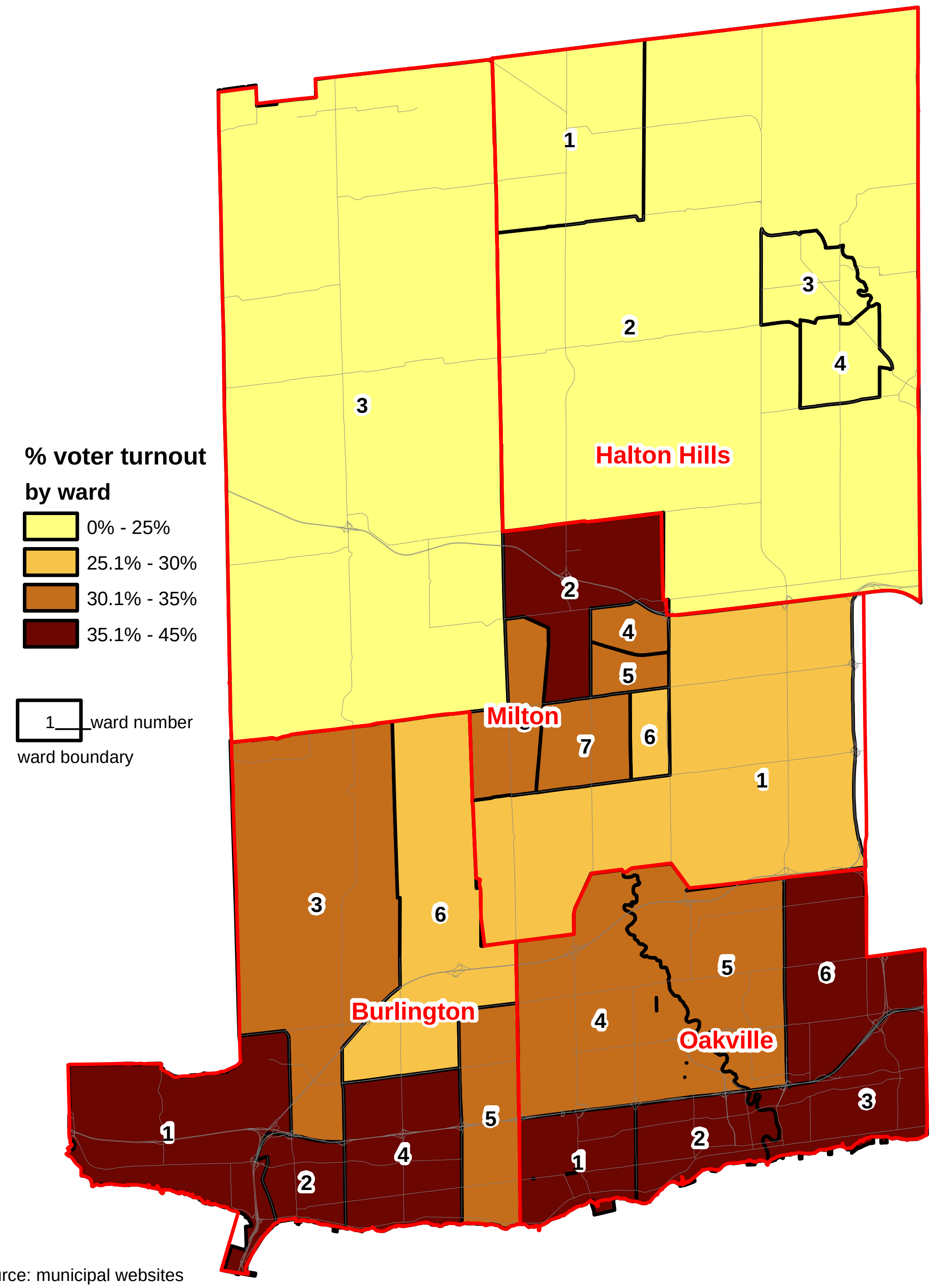
Figure 37. Municipal Election Voter Turnout, Halton Region (1991-2014)



Source: Municipal websites and municipal officials

Unfortunately, complete ward data for the 2014 election was not available at the time of this document creation. Therefore, Map D shows the voter turnout of the 2010 municipal election by ward within each municipality. Four out of six wards in Oakville had voter turnout between 35% to 45%. The other two wards were between 30% and 35%. There was only one ward in Burlington with voter turnout below 30%. For Milton, there was one ward in the rural area had voter turnout below 25%. All the wards in Halton Hills are below 25%. One in four voters cast their ballots.

Map D. Voter Turnout by Ward, 2010 Municipal Election, Halton Region



Source: municipal websites

8.2 Volunteering

Individual volunteerism is another form of civic engagement. There are many ways an individual can contribute one's time to the community on behalf of a group or an organization. This includes any unpaid help one provides to schools, religious groups, sports, or community associations.

Examples of volunteer work include: canvassing, fundraising, board/committee membership, teaching/mentoring, organizing/supervising an event, providing health care and support, serving and delivering food/goods and volunteer driving.

According to the 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, over half (59%) of the Halton residents aged 15 and over volunteered their time through an agency, a group or an organization (Figure 38). As in 2007, Halton's volunteering rate was still higher than both the provincial (47.7%) and national (47%) averages. With a volunteer rate of 59%, it is estimated that there were about 235,000 volunteers in Halton in 2010 in areas such as sport, recreation, social services, health, and civic engagement.

In 2007, volunteers in Halton spent an average of 165 hours helping others. In 2010, the average hours contributed by volunteers in Halton increased to 188 hours.[21] Collectively, Halton volunteers contributed over 44 million hours in the 12 month reference period.

The number of volunteer hours, when converted into employment, is equivalent to 23,055 full-time year-round jobs (assuming 40 hours of work per week for 48 weeks). In other words, without volunteers, Halton would need to hire a workforce of more than 23,000 people to do the work. This represents about 9% of Halton's employment.[22]

Another way to measure the impact of volunteers in Halton is to convert the full-time employment into economic contribution. By multiplying the number of volunteer hours by an hourly wage of $28.15 (average hourly wage in health care and social assistance industry[23] for Ontario – December 2009)[24], Halton volunteers collectively have contributed over $1.25 billion worth of time to the economy.

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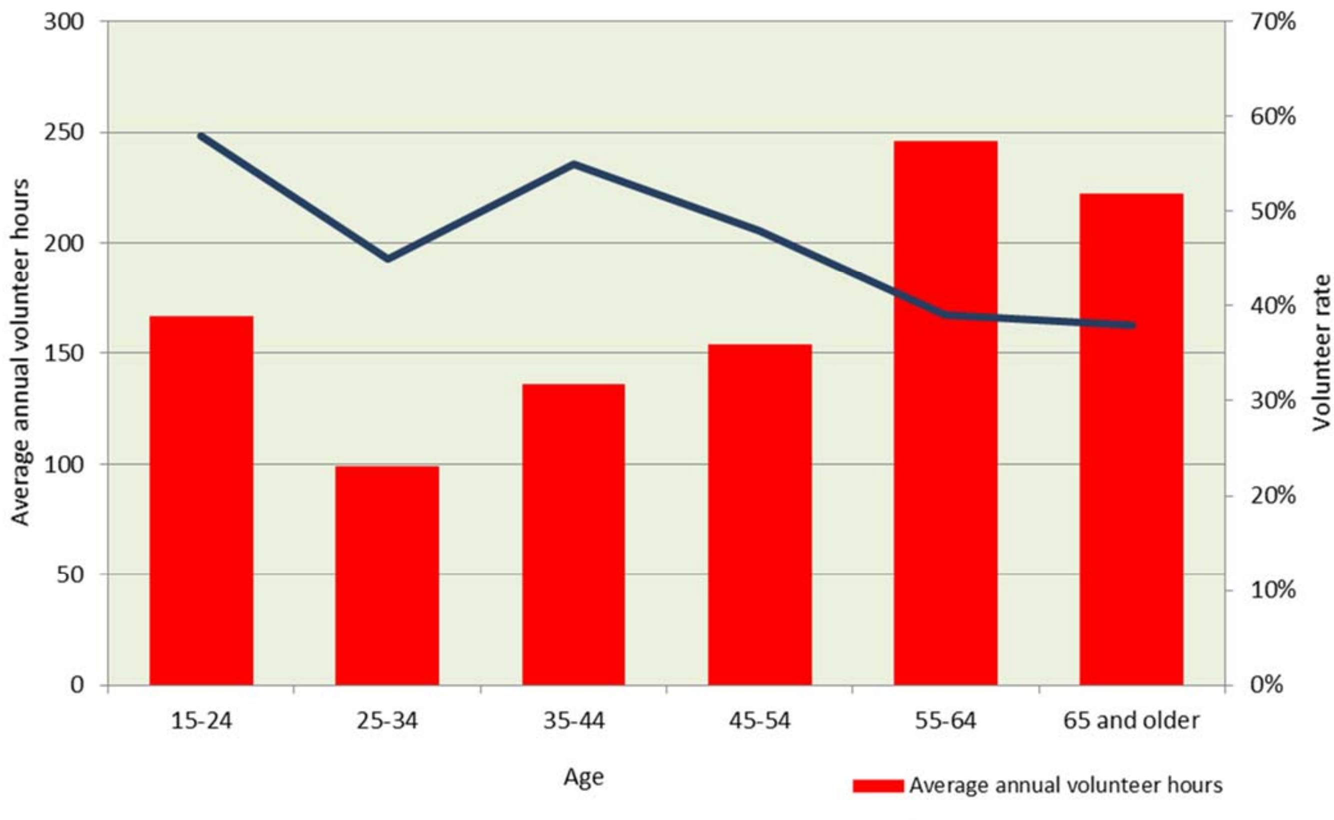
[21] Given that the number of respondents in Halton is low in the 2010 survey, the estimate of average hours is less precise than those reported in 2007.

[22] According to *Halton Region, Best Planning Estimates of Population, Occupied Dwelling Units and Employment, 2007-2021, April 2007*, total employment for Halton (2009) is 254,646

[23] This sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing health care by diagnosis and treatment, providing residential care for medical and social reasons, and providing social assistance, such as counselling, welfare, child protection, community housing and food services, vocational rehabilitation and child care, to those requiring such assistance.

[24] Statistics Canada*, Employment, Earnings and Hours, December 2009*, Catalogue No. 72-002_x

Figure 38. Volunteer Rate, Average Annual Volunteer Hours Population Aged 15 and Over, Ontario 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2010

8.3 Charitable Donation

Donation of money to charitable or nonprofit organizations is another way of contributing to society. In 2010, over 100,000 residents representing almost 30% of the taxfilers in Halton made a charitable donation. This contribution was higher than the national (23.4%) and provincial (24.5%) averages.

Burlington and Oakville tie at 30% of taxfilers making a charitable donation, followed by Georgetown (29.5%), Milton (26.4%), and Acton (25.6%). Collectively, Halton residents donated over $177 million to charities. The average donation is over $1,700 per donor.

However, this average donation can be distorted by extreme high and low values, median donation is a more representative measure. The median donation for Oakville is $390 which means that half of Oakville's donors contribute more than $390 and the other half less than that amount. The median donation for Burlington is $310, followed by

Georgetown at $280, Acton at $250 and Milton at $240. The median donation for Canada is $260 and Ontario is $320 respectively.

As expected, higher income donors contribute more than their lower income counterparts. For example, over 60% of the donations in Burlington came from donors with a total income over $80,000. Those with a total income less than $40,000 contributed about 10% of the total donations. Also, almost half (48%) of the donors in Oakville have a total income of over $80,000 compared to 4% with an income less than $20,000.

Implications:

- Low voter turnout can be a threat to civic engagement.
- Volunteering is an effective way for newcomers to integrate into society.
- Volunteers play a vital role in our community. Volunteers are engaged in delivering services and programs that improve and enhance the life of our communities.
- Government should properly recognize the human resource and financial contribution of volunteering in communities.

Income

From the annual tax returns filed by Canadians, Statistics Canada groups the taxfiler population into three family types: couple family, lone-parent family, and non-family person. Couple families consists of a couple living together (married or common-law) with children at the same address. A lone-parent family is a family with only one parent and with at least one child. A non-family person is an individual who is not part of a couple or lone-parent family. That person may also live alone. Due to the difference in data collection methodology (e.g. sampling, variables and time frame), there may be variations in some demographic variables between the taxfiler data and those from the Census or National Household Survey.

In 2011, about 80% of Halton residents live in couple families and 8% in lone-parent families. Non-family persons represent the remaining 12% of the population.

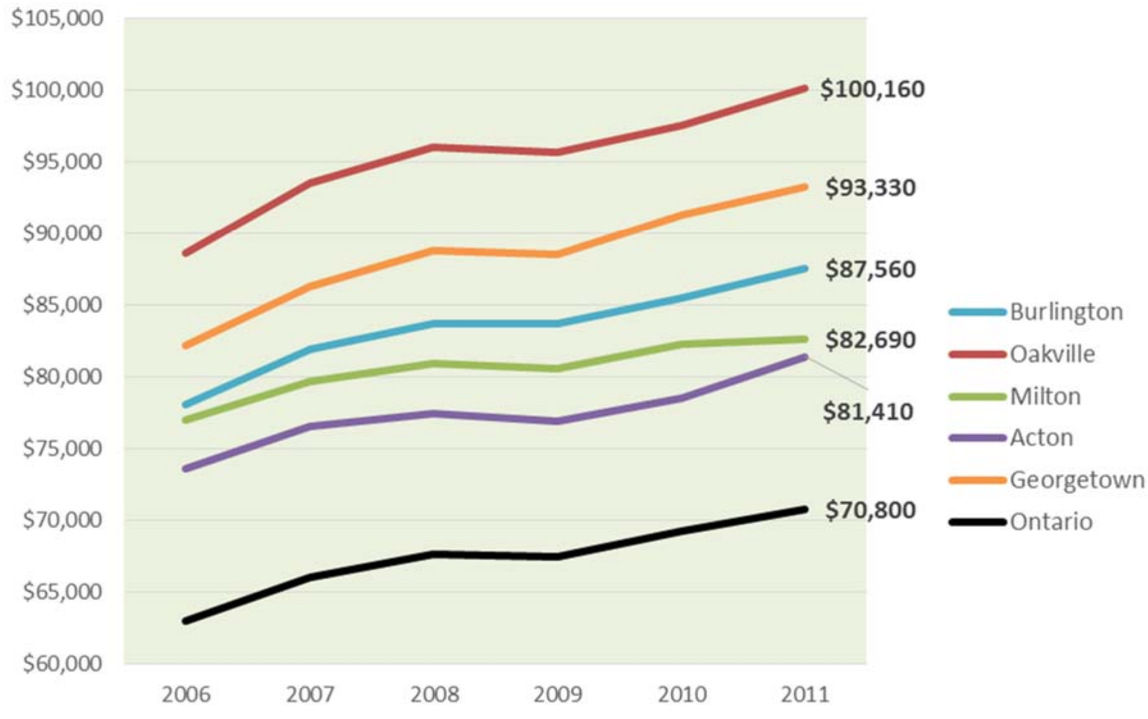
9.1 Couple Families

As shown in Figure 39, between 2006 and 2011, the median income of couple families changed among the four local municipalities.[25] However, they all experienced negligible or negative growth between 2008 and 2009 as the result of the global recession. Both Oakville and Georgetown enjoyed the highest growth of 13%. On the other hand, median income for couple families in Milton only increased by 7.4%, which is five percent the provincial average.

Notwithstanding the various growth rates, the median income for couple families in Halton is higher than that of Ontario. Oakville's median income is 41% higher. Acton's median income which is the lowest in Halton is still 15% higher the provincial average.

[25] Pre-2011 income data are available for Georgetown and Acton separately instead of Halton Hills

Figure 39. Couple Family Median Income, Ontario and Halton Region, 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data

9.2 Lone-Parent Families

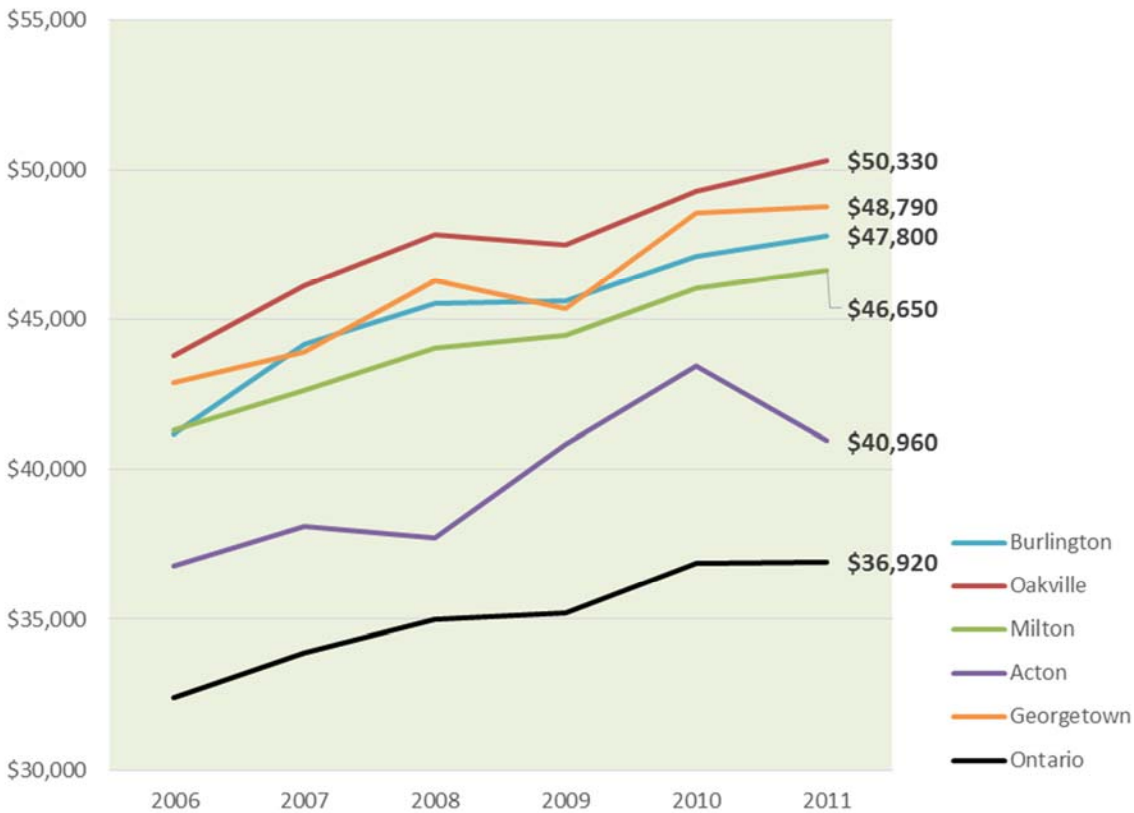
It is not surprising that with a single parent, the median income of lone-parent families is lower than their couple family counterpart. A majority of lone-parent families are headed by single mothers. According to the 2011 Census, in Halton, single mother families represent about 80% of all lone-parent families.

In 2011, in Halton, the median income of lone-parent families was about half (53%) of that of couple families. The provincial ratio is about 52%.

Although lone-parent families also experienced the impact of the global recession, they were slightly better off in terms of the change in median income. Between 2006 and 2011, the median income of lone-parent families in Burlington grew by 16% and was followed closely by Oakville at 15% (Figure 40). Both were higher than the provincial average of 14%. On the other hand, the median incomes for Milton, Acton, and Georgetown are below the provincial average.

In addition, lone-parent families in Acton and Georgetown saw a decrease in their median income between 2010 and 2011. The provincial average stalled.

Figure 40. Lone-Parent Family Median Income, Ontario and Halton Region, 2006-2011



Source: Statitics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data

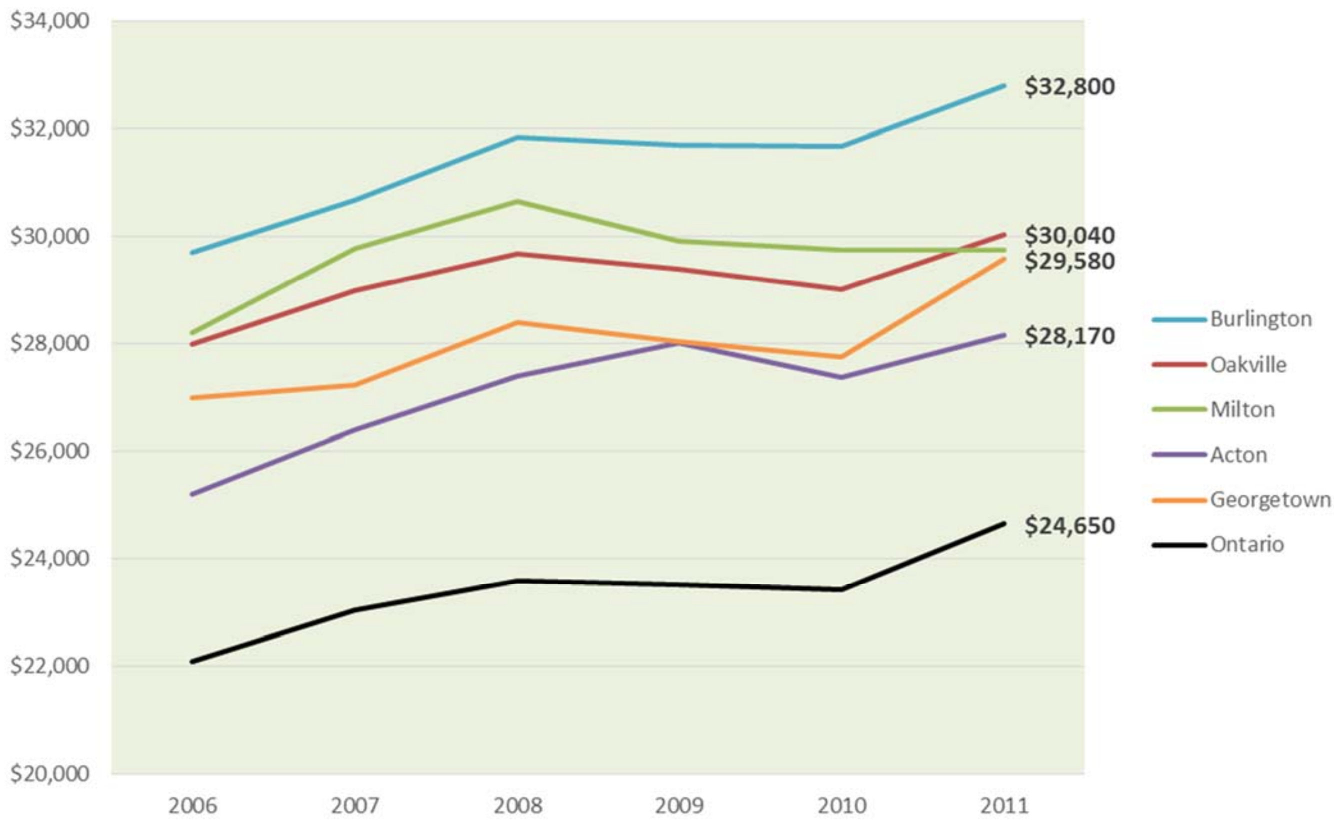
9.3 Non-Family Persons

In 2011, there were over 58,000 non-family persons living in Halton. Over one in ten residents is a non-family person. A non-family person is an individual who is not part of a couple family or lone-parent family. These persons may live with their married children or with their children who have children of their own (e.g. grandparent). They may be living with a family to whom they are related (e.g. sibling, cousin) or unrelated (e.g. lodge, roommate). They may also be living alone or with other persons not in a couple or lone-parent family.

Similar to couple and lone-parent families, non-family persons also experienced the impact of the global recession in 2008/2009, with the exception of Acton, where it took a longer period for their median incomes to recover (Figure 41). For example, it took three years for the median income of non-family persons in Oakville to reach its pre-recession level. The 2011 median income in Milton was still below that of 2008.

Although the median incomes of non-family persons in Halton was higher than the provincial average of $24,650, they experienced lower growth rates between 2006 and 2011. For example, the growth rate in Milton (5.5%) was only half of the provincial average (11.5%). Acton's growth rate, which is similar to the provincial average, is the highest among the local municipalities.

Figure 41. Non-Family Person Median Income, Ontario and Halton Region, 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data

Implications:

- The overall income levels in Halton are above the provincial averages.
- The income gap between the wealthy and the poor is widening.
- In an affluent community such as Halton, poverty can easily become invisible and forgotten.

Low Income

The Low Income Cut-offs (LICO) established by Statistics Canada is a widely recognized approach to estimating low income thresholds below which a family or an individual will likely spend 20% or more than average on food, shelter and clothing. Although Statistics Canada maintains that LICO thresholds do not necessarily imply poverty, they have been generally accepted as measures of economic hardship faced by families and individuals.

For past censuses, Statistics Canada provided data on socio-demographic characteristics on low income populations using the Low Income Cut-offs. In addition to learning about the various low income groups, we are able to look at changes over time through time series data.

However, with the replacement of the mandatory 2011 long-form census with the voluntary 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), Statistics Canada used a different way to measure low income of the population. The after-tax low income measure (LIM-AT) is used instead of LICO. Unfortunately, the LIM is not related to LICO presented in previous censuses and therefore, the prevalence rates are not conceptually comparable.

The taxfiler data file uses LIM-AT to measure low income. As such, the historical taxfiler data between 2006 and 2011 can be used to study changes and trends of the low income population in Halton.

10.1 Low Income Measures (LIM)

In simple terms, the LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of median[26] adjusted economic family income, where "adjusted" indicates that family needs are taken into account. Adjustment for family sizes reflects the fact that a family's needs increase as the number of members increases. Most would agree that a family of five has greater needs than a family of two. Similarly, the LIM allows for the fact that it costs more to feed a family of with grown children than a family of two adults and young children.[27] Figure 42 shows the LIM-AT thresholds by family size.

[26] Median income is the dollar amount which divides the population into two halves; the incomes of the first half are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median

[27] Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, *Census Families User's Guide, (13C0016),* June 2011

Figure 42. 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			

As shown in Figure 43, between 2006 and 2011, the increase (22.5%) of the number of low-income families grew faster than that of all families (12.4%). By far the greatest absolute and relative increase of low income families occurred in Milton. The number of low-income families doubled to over 2,000 families. Milton's share of Halton's low-income families rose from 11% to almost 20%, accounting for over half (55%) of the increase of low-income families in Halton between 2006 and 2011.

Figure 43. Change in Low Income Families, 2006-2011

	All Families		Low Income Families	
	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change
Burlington	+3,400	+7.2%	+200	+6.7%
Oakville	+4,040	+8.4%	+680	+18.2%
Milton (urban area)	+8,330	+53.3%	+1,070	+107%
Halton Hills (Acton and Georgetown)	+160	+1%	0	0%
Halton Region	+15,935	+12.4%	+1,955	+22.5%
Note: the data in this table do not cover areas outside the Urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA)				
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data				

As illustrated in Figure 44, the significant increase in the number of low income families and the prevalence of low income takes place after 2008 with the onset of the global recession. By 2009, over 10,000 families lived in low income generating a poverty rate of 7.5%. After a slight dip in 2010, the rate climbed to 7.4% in 2011.

Figure 44. Low Income Families and Prevalence of Low Income, Halton Region, 2006-2011

Source: Statistics Canada, Taxfiler data (2006-2011)

10.2 Low Income Groups

Low income affects families and individuals. With different available financial resources and circumstances, certain population groups fare worse than others. The taxfiler data provide a glimpse at the prevalence of low income of several population groups such as couple families, lone-parent families, non-family persons, seniors, and non-family seniors.

Figure 45 shows the prevalence of low income (proportion of the population with income below the LIM-AT threshold) for the selected population groups as well as the changes between 2006 and 2011.

The prevalence of low income for all residents in Halton Region experienced an increase of less than one percentage point between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, about 8.8% of Halton's population lived in low income compared to the provincial average of 15.1%.

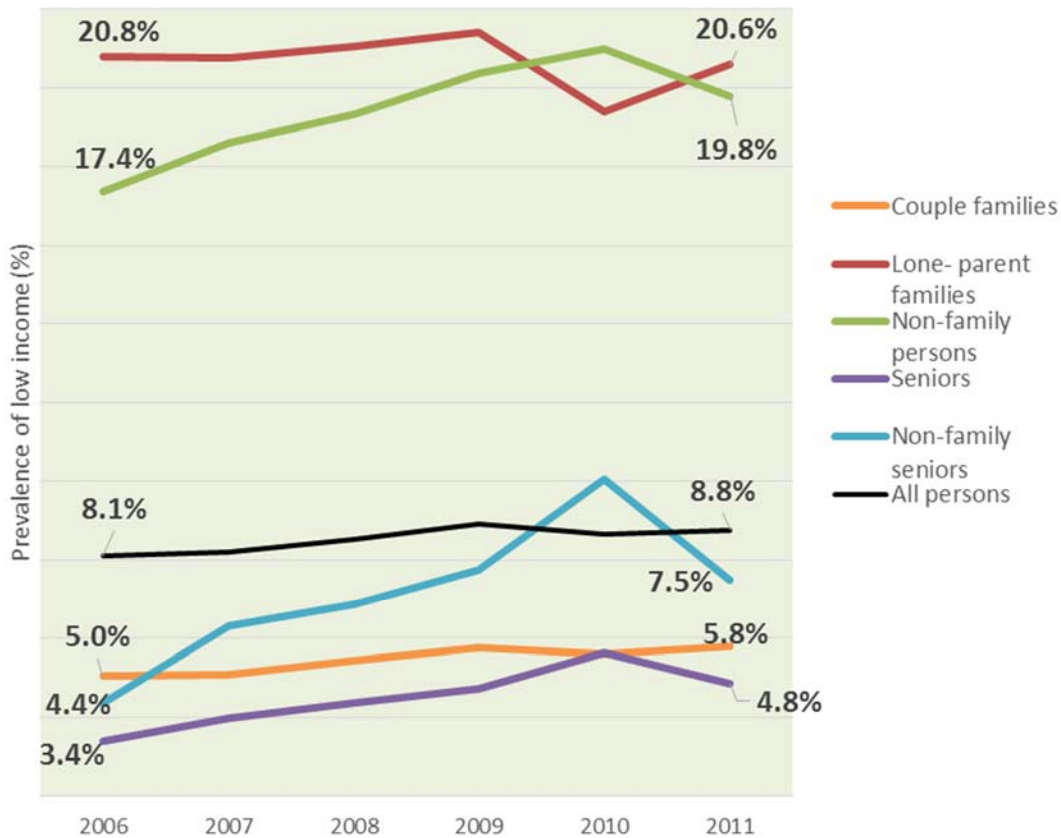
As noted earlier, 7.4% of all families lived in low income. The prevalence of low income between couple families and lone-parent families is significant. Lone-parent families, which represent about 11% of all families, are 3.5 times more likely to be in low income than their couple family counterparts (Figure 45). Over one-fifth (20.6% or 3,380) of lone-parent families are in low income.

Although the prevalence of low income for non-family persons in Halton is lower than the provincial average (26.5%), almost one in five (19.8% or 11,150) lived in low income. Between 2006 and 2011, this population group grew by 35%.

In general, the senior population as a whole in Halton fared better than non-family seniors (e.g. seniors living alone or lived with relatives/friends). About 3.4% seniors in 2006 and 4.8% seniors in 2011 lived in low income respectively. After climbing to a historic high of 7.7% in 2009, the prevalence of low income fell consecutively for two years to 4.8% or 3,250 seniors.

Between 2006 and 2011, the prevalence of low income for non-family seniors almost doubled from 4.3% (770) to 7.5% (1,600). In fact, in 2010, one in ten non-family seniors lived in low income.

Figure 45. Prevalence of Low Income by Population Groups, Halton Region, 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2011 Taxfiler data

Implications:

- Poverty has profound effects on individuals and families creating a series of vulnerabilities that need to be addressed by both the public and social sector.
- Low income families and individuals cannot afford all the basics and necessities of life. They are forced to choose among essentials such as food, shelter, utilities (gas/water/electricity), or clothing on a daily basis.
- Public policy can influence the redistribution of wealth, thus eliminating poverty (i.e. social transfers such as child tax credit).
- Benefits, such as Ontario Works, should be raised to low income thresholds.

Glossary of Selected Terms

Age (Census)
Refers to the age at last birthday before the reference date, that is, before May 10, 2011.

Census Division (Census)
A Census Division (CD) is defined by Statistics Canada as the general term for counties or regional municipalities such as Peel, Hamilton, or Halton. Census Divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province level and the municipality.

Census Family (Census)
Refers to a married couple (with or without children of either and/or both spouses), a common-law couple (with or without children of either and/or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child. A couple may be of opposite sex or same sex. A couple family with children may be further classified as either an intact family in which all children are the biological and/or adopted children of both married spouses or of both common-law partners or a stepfamily with at least one biological or adopted child of only one married spouse or common-law partner and whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. Stepfamilies, in turn may be classified as simple or complex. A simple stepfamily is a couple family in which all children are biological or adopted children of one, and only one, married spouse or common-law partner whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. A complex stepfamily is a couple family which contains at least one biological or adopted child whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. These families contain children from:

- each married spouse or common-law partner and no other children
- one married spouse or common-law partner and at least one other biological or adopted child of the couple
- each married spouse or common-law partner and at least one other biological or adopted child of the couple.

Census Family Composition (Census)
Refers to the classification of census families (that is, married or common-law couples, with or without children, and lone parents with at least one child) by the number and/or age group of children living at home. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. A couple with children may be further classified as either an intact family or stepfamily, and stepfamilies may, in turn, be classified as simple or complex. Children in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present.

Census Family Status (Census)

Classification of persons according to whether or not they are members of a census family and the status they have in the census family (a census family is composed of a married couple or two persons living common-law, with or without children, or of a lone parent living with at least one child in the same dwelling). A person can be a married spouse, a common-law partner, a lone parent, a child or a person not in a census family.

Census Family Structure (Census)

Refers to the classification of census families into **married couples** (with or without children of either and/or both spouses), **common-law couples** (with or without children of either and/or both partners), and **lone-parent families** by sex of parent. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. A couple with children may be further classified as either an intact family or stepfamily, and stepfamilies may, in turn, be classified as simple or complex. Children in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present.

Ethnic Origin (NHS)

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors.

Household (NHS)

Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. It may consist of a family group (census family) with or without other persons, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, of a group of unrelated persons, or of one person living alone. Household members who are temporarily absent on May 10, 2011 (e.g., temporarily residing elsewhere) are considered as part of their usual household. Every person is a member of one and only one household. Unless otherwise specified, all data in household reports are for private households only.

Households are classified into three groups: **private households, collective households** and **households outside Canada**.

Household Type (NHS)

Refers to the basic division of private households into **family** and **non-family households**. **Family household** refers to a household that contains at least one census family, that is, a married couple with or without children, or a couple living common-law with or without children, or a lone parent living with one or more children (lone-parent family). **One-family household** refers to a single census family (with or without other persons) that occupies a private dwelling. **Multiple-family household** refers to a household in which two or more census families (with or without additional persons) occupy the same private dwelling. Family households may also be divided based on the presence of persons not in a census family.

Non-family household refers to either one person living alone in a private dwelling or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling, but who do not constitute a census family.

Immigrant Language (NHS)

Refers to languages (other than English, French and Aboriginal languages) whose presence in Canada is originally due to immigration.

Immigrant Status (NHS)

Immigrant status refers to whether the respondent is a non-immigrant, an immigrant or a non-permanent resident.

Non-immigrant refers to a person who is a Canadian citizen by birth.

Immigrant refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Some immigrants are Canadian citizens, while others are not. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number are born in Canada. In the 2011 National Household Survey, 'Immigrants' includes immigrants who landed in Canada prior to May 10, 2011.

Non-permanent resident refers to a person from another country who has a work or study permit or who is a refugee claimant, and any non-Canadian-born family member living in Canada with them.

Labour Force (NHS)

Refers to persons who, during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011, were either employed or unemployed.

Labour force = Employed + Unemployed

Early enumeration was conducted in remote, isolated parts of the provinces and territories in February, March and April 2011. When enumeration has taken place before May 2011, the reference date used is the date on which the household was enumerated.

Labour Force Activities: Employed (NHS)

Persons who, during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011:

(a) did any work at all at a job or business, that is, paid work in the context of an employer-employee relationship, or self-employment. It also includes persons who did unpaid family work, which is defined as unpaid work contributing directly to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned and operated by a related member of the same household;

(b) had a job but were not at work due to factors such as their own illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation or a labour dispute. This category excludes persons not at work because they were on layoff or between casual jobs, and those who did not then have a job (even if they had a job to start at a future date).

Labour Force Activities: Full-time or part-time weeks worked in 2010 (NHS)

Refers to persons who worked for pay or in self-employment in 2010. These persons were asked to report whether the weeks they worked in 2010 were full-time weeks (30 hours or more per week) or not, on the basis of all jobs held. Persons with a part-time job for part of the year and a full-time job for another part of the year were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most weeks.

Labour Force Activities: Occupation (NHS)

Refers to the kind of work performed by persons as determined by their kind of work and the description of the main activities in their job.

Labour Force Activities: Participation Rate (NHS)

The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the total labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group.

Labour Force Activities: Unemployed (NHS)

Refers to persons who, during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011, were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either:

(a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or
(b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or
(c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Language: Unemployment Rate (NHS)

Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011.

The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that group.

Language: Home Language (Census)

Refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.

Language: Knowledge of Non-Official Languages (Census)

Refers to the language or languages, other than French or English, in which the respondent can conduct a conversation.

Language: Knowledge of Official Languages (Census)

Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French or in none of the official languages of Canada.

Language: Mother Tongue (Census)

Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

Marital Status (Census)

Refers to the marital status of the person, taking into account his/her common-law status. Persons who are married or living common law may be of opposite sex or of the same sex. The classification is as follows:

> **Married (and not separated):** A person who is married and has not separated or obtained a divorce, and whose spouse is living.
>
> **Common-law:** A person who is living with another person as a couple but who is not legally married to that person.
>
> **Separated:** A person who is married but who no longer lives with his/her spouse (for any reason other than illness, work or school) and who has not obtained a divorce. Persons living common law are not included in this category.

Divorced: A person who has obtained a legal divorce and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.

Widowed: A person who has lost his/her spouse through death and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.

Single (never legally married): A person who has never married or a person whose marriage has been annulled and who has not remarried. Persons living common law are not included in this category.

Religion (NHS)
Religion refers to the person's self-identification as having a connection or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, sect, cult or other religiously defined community or system of belief. Religion is not limited to formal membership in a religious organization or group. Persons without a religious connection or affiliation can self-identify as atheist, agnostic or humanist, or can provide another applicable response.

Rent, Gross (NHS)
Refers to the total average monthly payments paid by tenant households to secure shelter.

Subsidized Housing (NHS)
Refers to whether the dwelling is subsidized.

Subsidized housing includes rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, nonprofit housing, rent supplements and housing allowances.

Tenure (NHS)
Refers to whether some member of the household owns or rents the dwelling, or whether the dwelling is band housing (on an Indian reserve or settlement).

Visible Minority (NHS)
Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as 'persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.' The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.