

Who Is Living Alone in Halton?

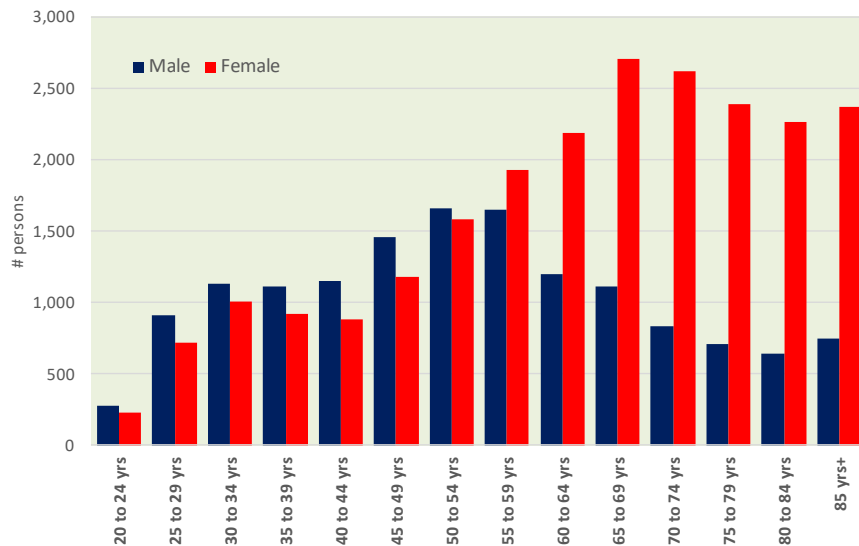
Living alone has become a significant living arrangement among Canadians. In 2016, there were almost 4 million Canadians living alone. It represented one in seven persons aged 20 and over. In fact, for the first time, the number of one-person households have overtaken the two predominant household types – couple families with and without children. Nationally, over one-quarter (28.2%) of all households now has only one resident.

The growing number of living alone individuals is also prevalent in other developed countries such as France, Sweden, Norway, Japan, and Germany. This phenomenon is mainly driven by high divorce rates, people remaining single, people marrying later and seniors outliving their spouses. While many choose to live alone, there are those who are forced into this living arrangement by circumstances.

In Halton, there are over 37,000 individuals living alone, a 90% increase since 1996, while the overall population grew by 63%. About one in ten persons aged 20 and over live alone. Oakville has the highest percentage at 11% followed by Burlington (7.9%), Halton Hills (7.6%) and Milton (5.6%).

Over half (61%) of the living alone population is female. About 55% of those living alone are non-seniors (20 to 64 years of age). The proportion of females living alone surpasses that of their male counterparts beyond age 55. At age 85 and over, three-quarters (76%) of seniors living alone are women.

Living Alone Individuals by Age Group and Sex
Halton Region, 2016

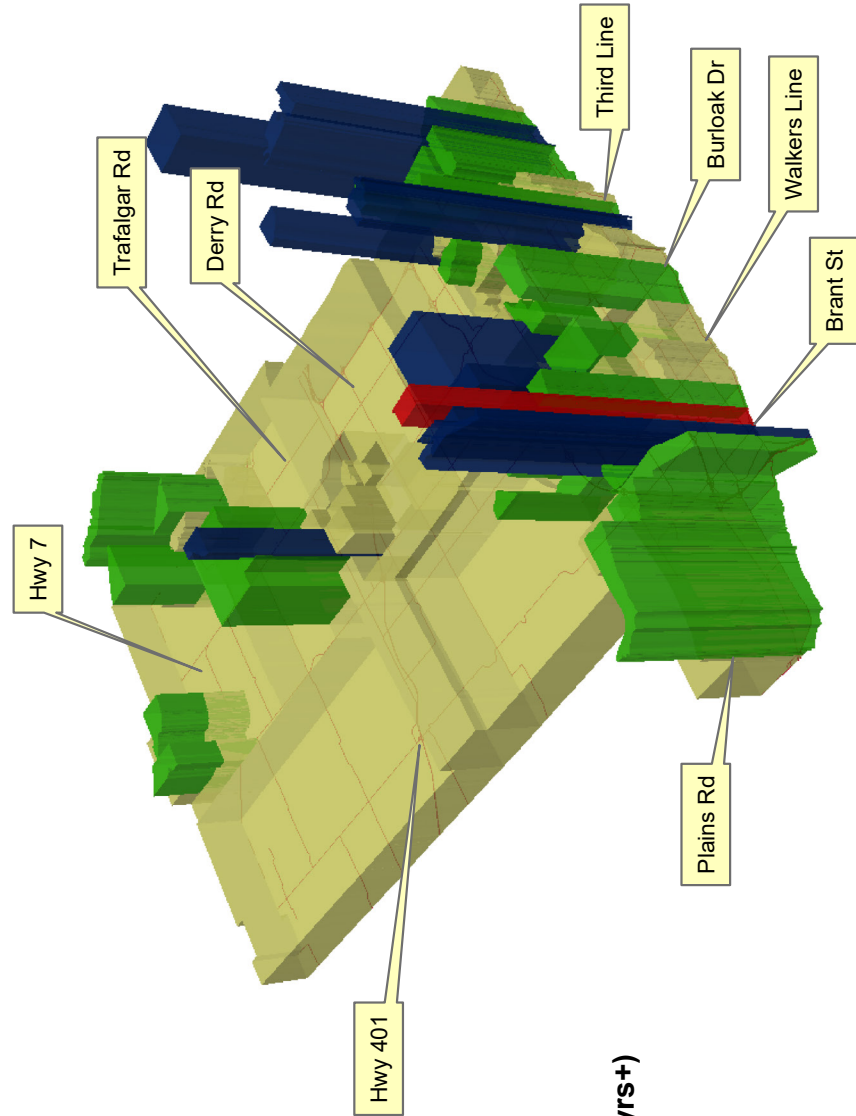


Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

The following map shows the geographic distribution of living alone persons by neighbourhood (i.e. Census Tract¹). The majority of living alone residents cluster in a number of neighbourhoods. About one-third of the neighbourhoods have percentages of living alone individuals above the regional average of 10%. In one Burlington neighbourhood, one in three residents live by themselves, the highest rate in Halton. In one neighbourhood in Milton, over 20% of the residents live alone.

1 Statistics Canada defines a Census Tract (CT) as a relatively permanent area with a population range from 2,000 to 8,000 and the greatest possible social and economic homogeneity.

Proportion of Living Alone Individuals by Census Tract Halton Region, 2016



Legend % individuals (20 yrs+) by CT

- 1.5% - 10% (73)
- 10.1% - 20% (27)
- 20.1% - 30% (9)
- 30.1% - 30.8% (1)

() number of CTs