

Our Halton 2018 Children and Youth

February 2019



© 2019 Community Development Halton, all rights reserved.

Copies of this document may be reproduced non-commercially for the purpose of community awareness or community development with appropriate recognition to Community Development Halton (CDH). In all other cases, permission must be sought from CDH.

Electronic copies of this report are available from:

Community Development Halton
3350 South Service Road
Burlington, ON
L7N 3M6
Phone: (905) 632-1975
Email: office@cdhalton.ca
Web: www.cdhalton.ca



Research Team

Richard Lau, Research Associate
Ted Hildebrandt, Director of Social Planning
Joey Edwardh, Executive Director

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



Contents

- Introduction 1
- Child and Youth Population 3
- Children in Families 6
- Children’s Family Life..... 8
- Childhood Development..... 1
- Child Care 3
- Highest Level of Education..... 5
- Youth Labour Market..... 6
- Employment and Educational Attainment..... 9
- Occupations..... 10
- The NEET Population 12
- Travel Habits..... 15
- Visible Minority 18
- Youth Income..... 21
- Poverty 23

List of Figures

- Figure 1. Population (0-24 years) by Municipality, Halton Region, 2001-2016 4
- Figure 2. Child and Youth Population by Age, Halton Region, 2001-2016 5
- Figure 3. Proportion of Child Population (0-14 years) by Family Structure and Age, Halton Region, 2016 7
- Figure 4. Children’s Family Situations in Private Household, Halton Region, 2016 1
- Figure 5. Average Market Rate* for Child Care, Halton Region, 2018 4
- Figure 6. Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Youth Aged 20-24, Halton Region, 2016 5
- Figure 7. Youth Employment Rate by Educational Attainment and Sex, Halton Region, 2016 7
- Figure 8. Employed Youth by Educational Attainment and Sex, Halton Region, 2016..... 8
- Figure 9. Employment Rate by Educational Attainment and Age Groups, Halton Region, 2016 9

Figure 10. Proportion of Employed Labour Force by Occupation and Age Group, Halton, 2016	11
Figure 11. Percentage of Population by Employment and Education Status and Age Group, Halton Region, 2016.....	13
Figure 12. The NEET Population and Percentage of Population (15-24 years) by Municipality Halton Region, 2016.....	14
Figure 13. Proportion of Trips (11-14 years) by Travel Mode, Halton Region, 2016	16
Figure 14. Proportion of Trips (15-24 years) by Travel Mode Halton Region, 2016	17
Figure 15. Percentage Distribution of Population (0-24 years) by Visible Minority Group, Halton Region, 2016.....	19
Figure 16. Percentage Distribution of Population (0-24 years) by Visible Minority Group and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016	20
Figure 17. Proportion of Population (15-24 years) by Total Income and Sex, Halton Region, 2016	21
Figure 18. Poverty Rate by Age and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016.....	23
Figure 19. Poverty Rate for Newcomer Population by Age and Municipality, Halton Region, 2015	24

List of Tables

Table 1. Families by Number of Children and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016.....	6
Table 2. Percentage of Children Vulnerable on One or More EDI Domains in Halton, 2003-2015	2
Table 3. Percentage of Children Vulnerable on One or More Domains by Municipality, Halton Region, 2015	2
Table 4. Licensed Child Care Space, Halton Region, 2018.....	3
Table 5. Youth (15-24 years) Work Activity by Sex, Halton Region, 2015	6

Introduction

Community Development Halton (CDH), introduces the Our Halton 2018 series to increase the awareness of the changing socio-demographic characteristics of residents of Halton Region. The series focuses on population groups such as seniors, women, visible minorities, recent immigrants, and the challenges and issues they are facing. The implications are developed in cooperation with community members with insights and lived experience in Halton communities.

Data is critical for understanding our communities and is used constantly in daily decision-making. Having data available is essential to give voice to civil society. Access to data facilitates important debate about the nature of our communities and development of innovative solutions. How do we get debate into the public square? How do we engage the citizen and public in important dialogues in our communities?

The data presented in this report can be used for various purposes. Data can be used to make a case for program development and solution building. Data can also be used to inform the public and other audiences of the changes happening in our communities. Through this process, data assists in improving transparency and builds public trust by supporting data-driven decisions. Using data allows community to better predict and analyze impacts of programming and know what is effective, to understand what is working and what is not working.

The main data source is the 2016 Census of Population. The Census which is conducted every five years provides the most reliable and detailed socio-demographic data on the Canadian population. However, the quality and reliability of this valuable data source was disrupted in 2011 when the federal government replaced the mandatory long form census with a voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). Due to the change in data collection methodology from a mandatory census to a voluntary survey, the non-response rate of the NHS is significantly higher than those of the previous long form census. In addition to an overall lower response rate, certain population groups are less likely to respond to the survey such as high and low income individuals, Aboriginals, newcomers and visible minority groups.

Given the high non-response rate and the associated non-response bias, Statistics Canada warns users to use caution when using the NHS data and comparing with previous censuses. In effect, it has created a ten-year data gap between 2006 and 2016. The 2016 Census not only provides, once again, quality and reliable demographic data on the population, but also remedies the data deficiency situation since 2006.

This report draws on the census datasets which are available from Statistics Canada's website and the census data tables obtained by the Community Data Program¹ (CDP). CDH is a member organization of the CDP's Halton Region Consortium. In addition, this report uses only the publicly released census datasets that are available at geographic levels of the Census Division (e.g. Halton Region) or Census Subdivision (e.g. City of Burlington). Finally, the language and terms used for the various data throughout this document reflects the language of the Census and Statistics Canada.

Our Halton 2018: Children and Youth focuses on the socio-economic characteristics of about one in three Halton's residents who are children. It highlights the issues and challenges faced by the children and youth. It looks at children's family life and childhood development. As women's participation in the labour market continues to rise, the demand for child care also increases. Many families are facing the challenge of rising cost and affordability of child care. For the youth population, educational attainment and entry into the job market are becoming important. Higher education usually translates to better employment outcomes.

¹ <https://communitydata.ca/>

Child and Youth Population

Canada's falling fertility rate continues to impact on its child population. A fertility rate of 2.1 children for every woman is required to produce enough children to replace their parents. Canada's fertility rate fell below the replacement rate in 1971. In 2016, the nation's fertility rate hit a low of 1.6 children per woman. There were as many children (0 – 14 years) in 2016 as there was twenty years ago (1996). The overall population increased by 22% over the same time period, primarily due to immigration.

In this report, children are defined as persons between the ages of zero and 14 and youth are between the ages of 15 and 24. However, Statistics Canada's definition of children² does not have an age limit as long as they are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s).

The proportion of the child and youth population has been declining. From 1991 to 2016, the share of this population group has decreased from 34.8% to 28.7%. Canada is aging.

Halton also experienced a similar decline but at a slower rate. From 1991 to 2001, the proportion of the population group dropped from 35% to 32%. However, for the following fifteen years (2001-2016), with a significant influx of families with young children into Halton, the proportion of this population group remains stable at around 32%.

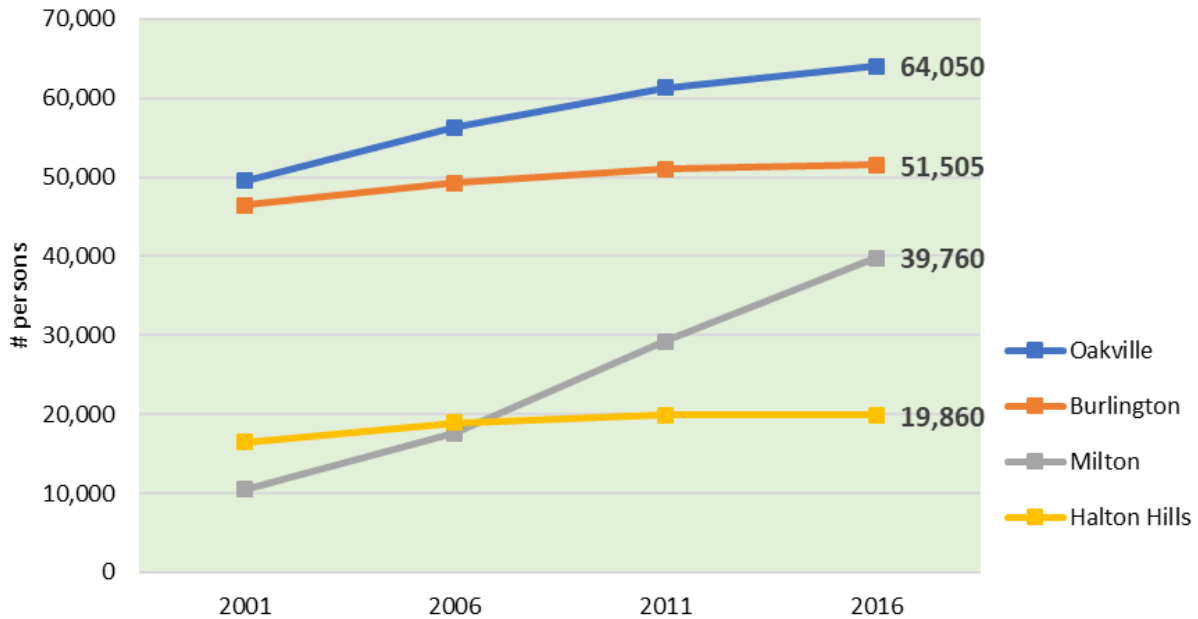
In 2016, there were 107,135 children (0-14 years) in Halton representing 61% of Halton's child and youth population. The remaining 39% or 68,040 persons were between 15 and 24 years of age.

The children and youth population in Milton has more than doubled between 2001 and 2016.

² 'Children' refers to blood, step or adopted sons and daughters (regardless of age) who are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s), as well as to grandchildren in households where there are no parents present. Sons and daughters who are living with their married spouse or common-law partner, or with one or more of their own sons and/or daughters, are not considered to be members of the census family of their parent(s), even if they are living in the same dwelling. In addition, sons and daughters who do not live in the same dwelling as their parent(s) are not considered members of the census family of their parent(s).

Figure 1 shows the population change by municipality between 2001 and 2016. The children and youth population in Milton has more than doubled. The growth is significant between 2006 and 2016. In comparison, the growth in the other three local municipalities is significantly slower. In fact, in the last five years (2011-2016), both Burlington and Halton Hills experienced no increase in the child and youth population.

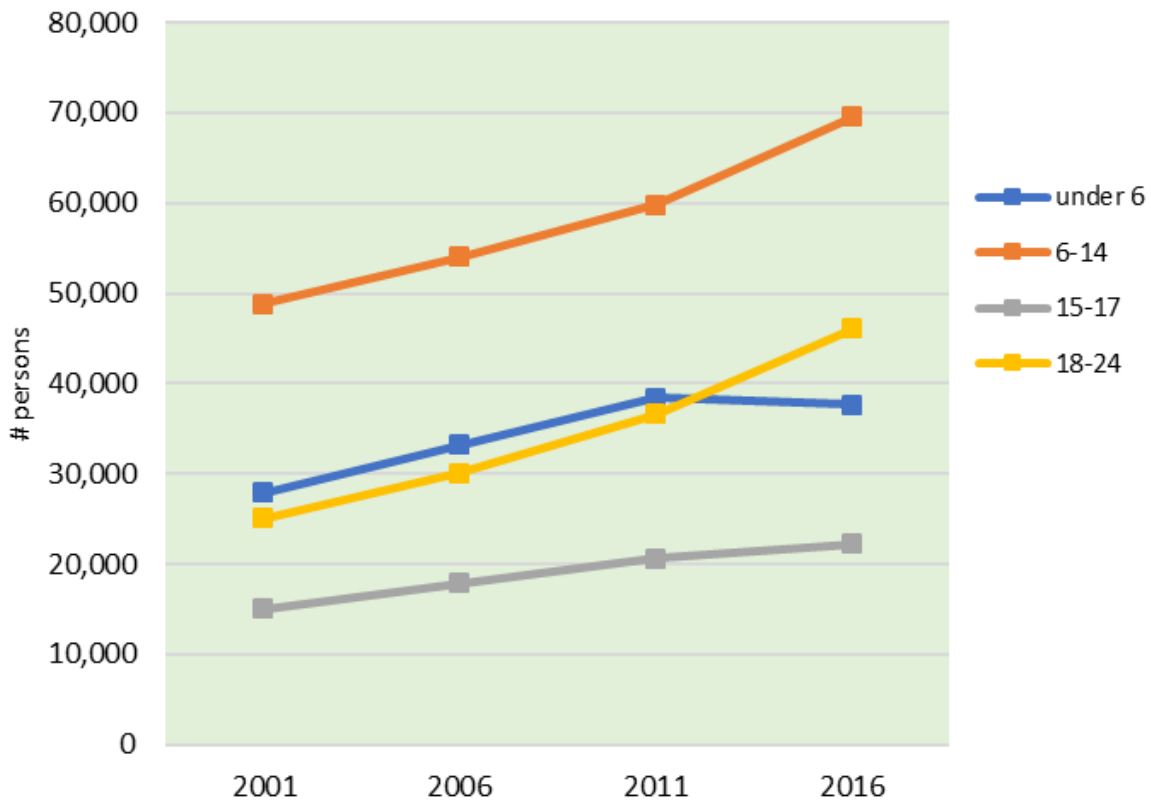
Figure 1. Population (0-24 years) by Municipality, Halton Region, 2001-2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2001-2016 Censuses

This population group can be further broken down into four smaller age groups (under 6, 6-14, 15-17, 18-24) in order to see the changes in more details. As revealed in Figure 2, the growth pattern for the four age groups is very similar between 2001 and 2011. After 2011, different growth rates emerge. The two age groups (6-14 and 18-24) grow faster than they did in the previous five-year period (2006-2011). The 15-17 age group increases at a slower rate. The under 6 age group shows a decrease of 2%. Milton is the only municipality that recorded a gain of over 1,000 children (under 6).

Figure 2. Child and Youth Population by Age, Halton Region, 2001-2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2001-2016 Censuses

Children in Families

In 2016, there were over 156,000 families in Halton. About one-third or 51,000 families were childless or had no children living at home (regardless of age). Families with children include 84,000 couple families and 21,000 single-parent families.

As shown in Table 1, almost half (48%) of couple families have two children compared to 46% in 2001. The proportion of one-child couple families remains the same at 34%. For families with three or more children, the percentage decreases from 20% to 18%.

Burlington has the highest percentage (37%) of one-child couple families compared to Milton's 31%. Milton has the highest percentage (21.6%) of couple families with three or more children.

Over half (57.2%) of single parent families have only one child living at home, while one-third (32.6%) have two children.

Table 1. Families by Number of Children and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016

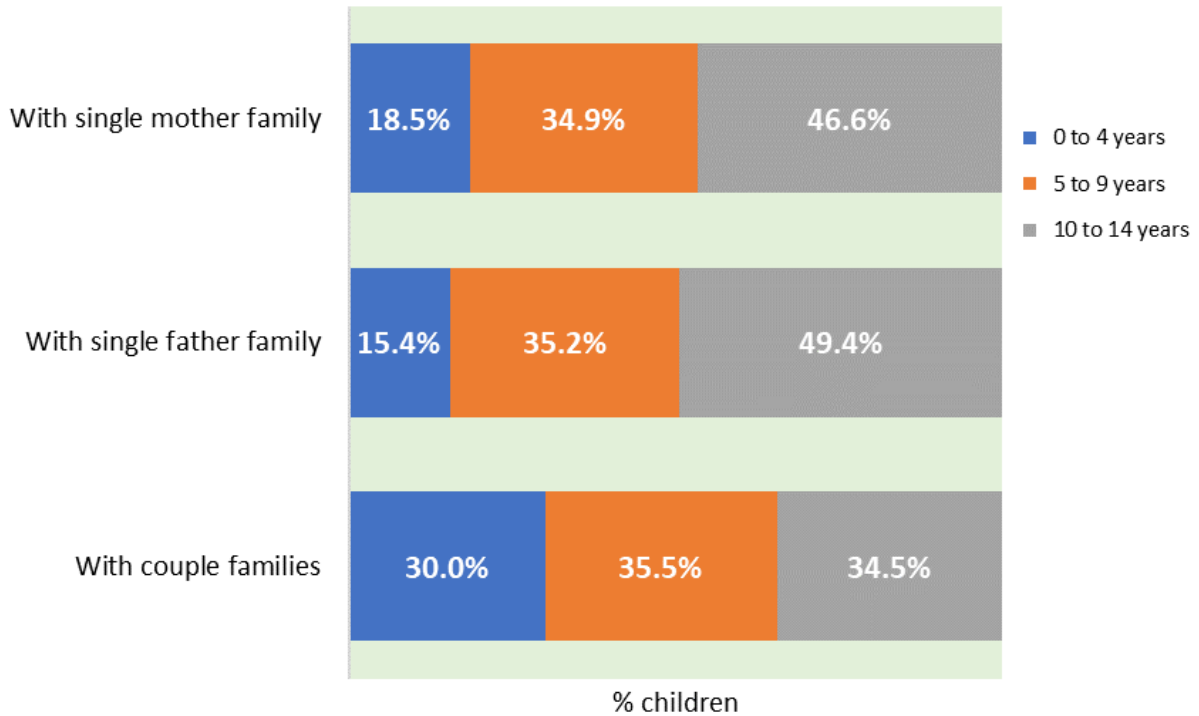
	Oakville		Burlington		Milton		Halton Hills		Halton Region	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couple family with children	31,155	100%	24,855	100%	18,735	100%	9,500	100%	84,245	100%
1 child	10,135	32.5%	9,180	36.9%	5,780	30.9%	3,220	33.9%	28,320	33.6%
2 children	15,300	49.1%	11,705	47.1%	8,915	47.6%	4,565	48.1%	40,485	48.1%
3 or more children	5,715	18.3%	3,970	16.0%	4,040	21.6%	1,725	18.2%	15,445	18.3%
Lone parent family	7,130	100.0%	7,815	100.0%	3,600	100.0%	2,385	100.0%	20,930	100.0%
1 child	4,000	56.1%	4,635	59.3%	1,980	55.0%	1,365	57.2%	11,975	57.2%
2 children	2,395	33.6%	2,450	31.3%	1,205	33.5%	785	32.9%	6,830	32.6%
3 or more children	730	10.2%	730	9.3%	425	11.8%	235	9.9%	2,125	10.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Milton has the highest percentage (21.6%) of couple families with three or more children.

There were over 107,000 children aged 14 and under living in families (Figure 3). Most of them (88%) lived in couple families and 12% lived with single parents. Almost half of the children living with single parents are between 10 and 14 years of age compared to about one third in couple families.

Figure 3. Proportion of Child Population (0-14 years) by Family Structure and Age, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Children's Family Life

The family life of children may have a direct impact on their health; their economic, social, and emotional well-being; and on their life course in the long run.³ For example, family life during childhood may affect the long-term relationship between children and their parents, particularly when the parents are older and need support themselves.

Today, children are having greater diversity of living arrangements mostly due to the choices of parents (to divorce or separate, or to bear less children, to bear children within a common-law relationship or outside of a relationship).⁴ As Figure 4 illustrates, many children are living in both simple and complex stepfamilies.⁵

Over one in ten children aged 0-14 (12,600 children) lived in a single parent family. Over 80% of those children are with single mothers.

In Halton, 84% or 90,000 children under the age of 14 lived with two biological or adoptive parents (Figure 4). About 2,400 lived in complex stepfamilies. 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 other children.

About 4,200 children lived in one biological or adoptive parent and one step-parent families.

Over one in ten children aged 0-14 (12,600 children) lived in a single parent family. Over 80% of those children are with single mothers.

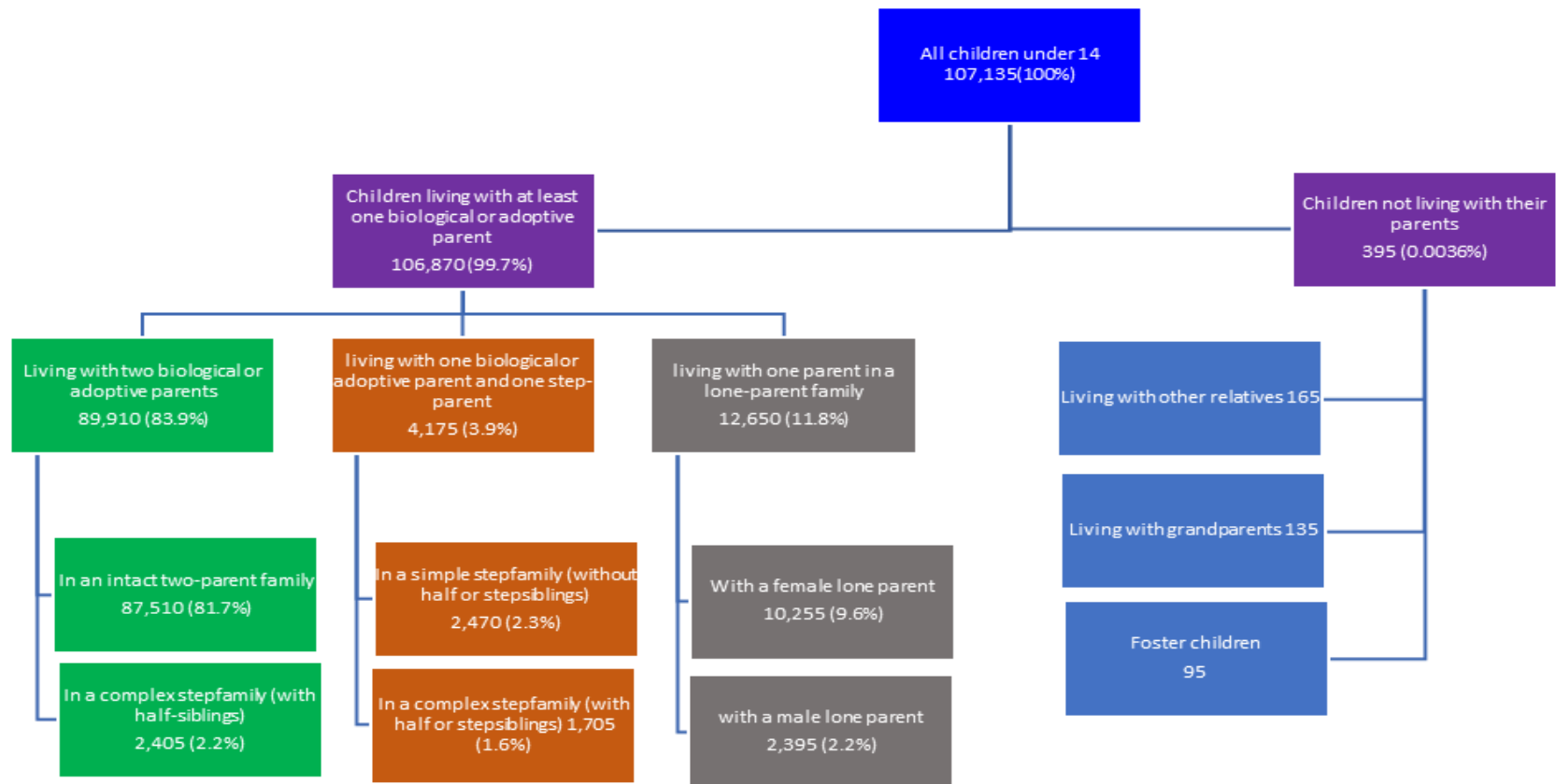
Close to 400 children did not live with their parents.

³ Statistics Canada, *Portrait of children's family life in Canada in 2016*, Census in Brief, August 2, 2017

⁴ Statistics Canada, *Enduring diversity: Living arrangements of children in Canada over 100 years of the census*, April 2014

⁵ A simple stepfamily is a couple family in which all children are biological or adopted children of only one, married spouse or common-law partner whose birth or adoption preceded the current relationship. There are three types of complex stepfamilies. First, a couple family in which there is at least one child of both parents and at least one child of only one parent. Second, a couple family in which there is at least one child of each parent and no children of both parents. Third, a couple family in which there is at least one child of both parents and at least one child of each parent.

Figure 4. Children’s Family Situations in Private Household, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

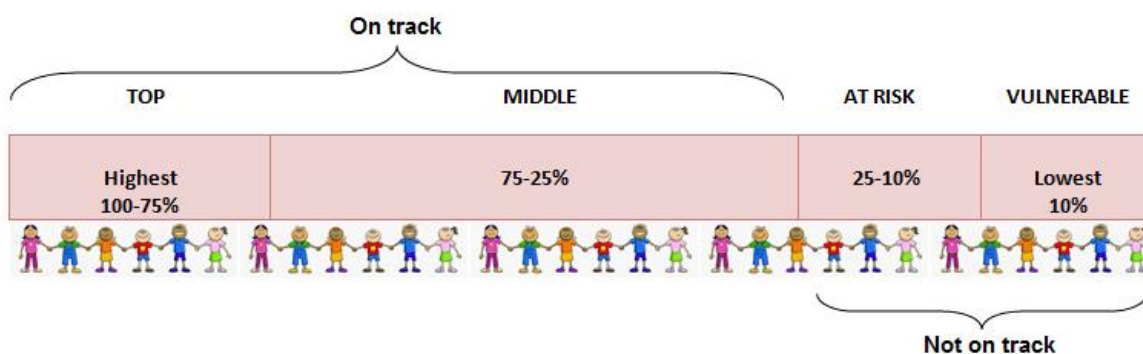
Childhood Development

“Early childhood development is the key to a full and productive life for a child and to the progress of a nation. Early childhood is a critical stage of development that forms the foundation for children’s future well-being and learning. Research has shown that half of a person’s intelligence potential is developed by age four....” UNICEF – Early Childhood Development⁶.

Our Kids Network Halton⁷ uses Early Development Instrument (EDI) to assess young children’s development in five key domains:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social Competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge

The Offord Centre for Child Studies has produced a graph, illustrated below, that shows the average EDI scores for each developmental area are divided into categories representing the highest scores to the lowest scores in the community and the province. For more information about interpreting EDI scores, please see visit the EDI website.⁸



As demonstrated in Table 2, in 2015, 28.1% of Halton children aged five years were considered developmentally vulnerable on one or more EDI domains. The vulnerability rate has increased from 23.8% in 2012 to 28.1% in 2015. This increased vulnerability trend is

⁶ UNICEF, *Early Childhood Development*, <https://www.unicef.org/dprk/ecd.pdf>

⁷ Our Kids Network, *Early Development Instrument Halton Community Profile, 2003-2015 results*

⁸ <https://edi.offordcentre.com/researchers/how-to-interpret-edi-results/>

also evident in the provincial data. Halton’s 2015 data demonstrates a trend to align with provincial averages. Future reporting cycles will confirm if this trend is sustained.⁹

In 2015, physical health and well-being is the developmental domain with the most vulnerability. The domain with the least vulnerability is language and cognitive development. Vulnerability rates are highest for boys, children who do not speak English and for those children born in the last quarter of the year.

Table 2. Percentage of Children Vulnerable on One or More EDI Domains in Halton, 2003-2015

	2015	2012	2009	2008	2003
Percent vulnerable by EDI Domain					
<i>Physical health and well-being</i>	15.5%	12.9%	12.2%	12.6%	8.5%
<i>Social competence</i>	10.1%	8.1%	7.4%	7.9%	8.3%
<i>Emotional maturity</i>	11.8%	8.9%	8.8%	9.1%	9.5%
<i>Language and cognitive development</i>	5.5%	4.9%	5.7%	6.9%	9.3%
<i>Communication and general knowledge</i>	9.5%	8.1%	8.6%	9.6%	7.8%
Percent vulnerable on 1 or more EDI domains					
	28.1%	23.8%	23.9%	25.5%	23.8%
Percent vulnerable on 2 or more EDI domains					
	13.4%	10.4%	10.4%	11.4%	11.2%

Source: Our Kids Network Halton, Early Development Instrument, Halton Community Profile 2003-2015 results

There are some differences in the rate of Developmental Vulnerability on one or more EDI domains between the four Halton municipalities (Table 3). The highest rate is found in Halton Hills (34.9%) and the lowest rate is found in Oakville (26.5%).

Table 3. Percentage of Children Vulnerable on One or More Domains by Municipality, Halton Region, 2015

	% Vulnerable	# Vulnerable
Oakville	26.5%	530
Burlington	28.8%	512
Milton	26.6%	484
Halton Hills	34.9%	239
Halton Region	28.1%	1,765

Source: Our Kids Network Halton, Early Development Instrument, Halton Community Profile 2003-2015 results

in 2015, 28.1% of Halton children aged five years were considered developmentally vulnerable on one or more EDI domains.

⁹ https://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Page/Files/130_OKN%20EDI%20Report_2003-2015.pdf

Child Care

Woman’s participation in the labour market has been rising over the last few decades. At the same time, there is a steady increase in two-income earner families. Together they drive up the demand for child care.

In 2011, almost half (45%) of parents reported using some type of child care for their children aged 14 years and younger. Child care was more often used for children aged 4 and younger (54%), than for children above the age of 4 (39%).¹⁰

There are various types of child care providers including licensed home care, licensed child care centre, kindergarten before-and-after-school care, and unlicensed care.

In 2016, Halton Region projected¹¹ that one in five (23%) children would need licensed child care space. Data on the number of children in unlicensed care is not available.

According to Halton Region’s Child Care Market Analysis¹², currently, there is an excess of licensed child care spaces in all four categories: infant, toddler, preschool and school age (Table 4). However, some categories of child care space are in shortage at the local municipality level. For example, there is a shortage in infant, toddler, and preschool spaces in Milton. Burlington and Halton Hills are also in need of school age spaces.

Table 4. Licensed Child Care Space, Halton Region, 2018

	Infant (13-18 months)	Toddler (19-30 months)	Preschool (31 months to 3.8 yrs)	School Age (3.8 to 5.8 yrs)
Burlington	51-75	101-150	200+	76-100
Oakville	151-200	200+	200+	200+
Milton	20-50	200	0-25	50+
Halton Hills	0-25	0-25	0-25	0-25
Halton Region	151-200	200+	200+	200+

Source: Halton Region Child Care Market Analysis, March 2018

shortage

in excess

¹⁰ Statistics Canada, Child Care in Canada, Spotlights on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey, October 24, 2014

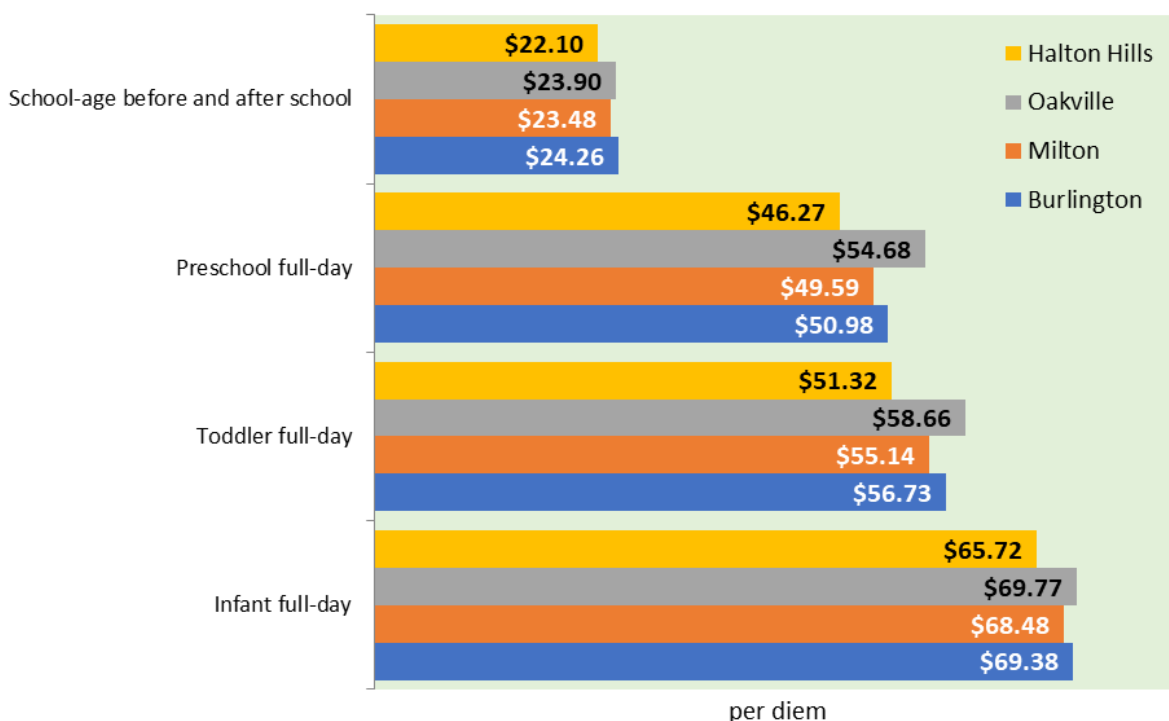
¹¹ Regional Municipality of Halton, Early Learning and Child Care Plan for Licensed Child Care Spaces, 2016-2020

¹² Regional Municipality of Halton, Halton Child Care Market Analysis, 2018

The cost of licensed child care is also rising. According to the latest child care fee report¹³ from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Ontario cities are among those with the highest child care fees in the country. A typical family with young children pays about 30% of its income to child care.

In Halton, parents can pay an average market rate (Figure 5) of \$1,520 monthly for licensed child care for infants and about \$1,250 for toddlers.

Figure 5. Average Market Rate* for Child Care, Halton Region, 2018



Community Development Halton/Source: Halton Child Care Market Analysis, 2018

* only for licensed child care programs

Child care use differs by income level where families earning a higher income are more likely to use licensed child care. For example, families that earn more than \$150,000 annually use child care at a rate of 84% as compared to 48% of families with an annual income of less than \$50,000¹⁴.

Halton Region provides child care subsidy to families in need of financial assistance. The eligibility criteria include total income and number of children.

¹³ Canadian Centre for Policy Analysis, *Time Out, Child Care Fees in Canada, 2017*, December 2017

¹⁴ Regional Municipality of Halton, *Halton Child Care Market Analysis, 2018*

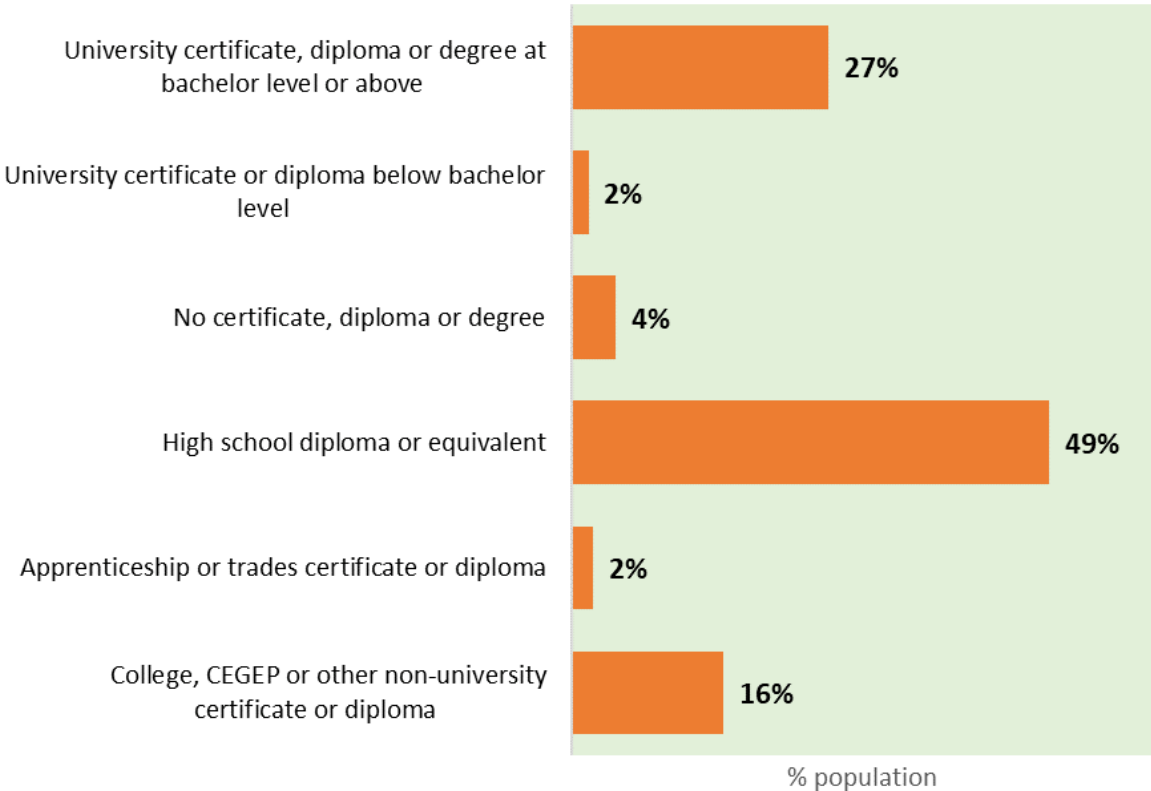
Highest Level of Education

In Halton, over one-third (36%) of the youth between 15 and 19 years completed high school or equivalent while many of them were still in school (e.g. with no certificate, diploma, or degree). A more appropriate measure of the number of youth with a high school diploma as their highest educational level attained is to look at the older age group (20-24 years). In 2016, almost half (49% or 15,645 youth) of that cohort successfully completed high school as their highest level of education (Figure 6).

Within the 20 to 24 years age group, about half (14,610) have obtained postsecondary education. Over one-quarter (27% or 8,415) have received a university certificate, diploma, or degree at the bachelor level or above.

However, only 2% (685) of the 20 to 24 age group has an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to the provincial average of 2.6% and national average of 6.8%.¹⁵

Figure 6. Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Youth Aged 20-24, Halton Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

¹⁵ Community Development Halton, *Challenges Facing Youth Transitioning to Work*, November 2015

Youth Labour Market

The participation rate refers to the proportion of the total population who are in the labour force, including those who are employed, looking for work or on temporary leave from work. It can include students, if they are working or looking for work. It does not include those outside the labour force, such as students not currently looking for work or staying at a parent's home and not currently looking for work.

In 2006, the youth's participation rate for Halton was 67% and decreased to 60% in 2010 following the economic downturn of 2008. It rose again to 63% in 2016.

Participation in the labour force for youth is linked to enrolment in school and most of the decline is explained by higher enrolment rates. Of particular note is the increase in the percentage of high school graduates pursuing postsecondary education. This would seem to indicate youth are staying in school in order to boost future employment opportunities and earnings instead of being unemployed or being paid low wages.¹⁶

In Halton, the employment rate¹⁷ for population between 15 and 24 years is 53%.

Over 46,000 youths worked for pay or were self-employed in 2015. As shown in Table 5, the majority (87.8%) of workers worked part year and/or part-time (less than 30 hours per week). Many of them are also attending school. The other 12% are full year full-time workers working 49 to 52 weeks in 2015.

There is a slightly higher percentage of female youth working part year and/or part-time.

Table 5. Youth (15-24 years) Work Activity by Sex, Halton Region, 2015

	Total	Male	Female
Did not work	21,975	11,520	10,455
Worked	46,065	23,225	22,840
Worked full year, full-time	12.2%	14.3%	10.0%
Worked part year and/or part-time	87.8%	85.7%	90.0%

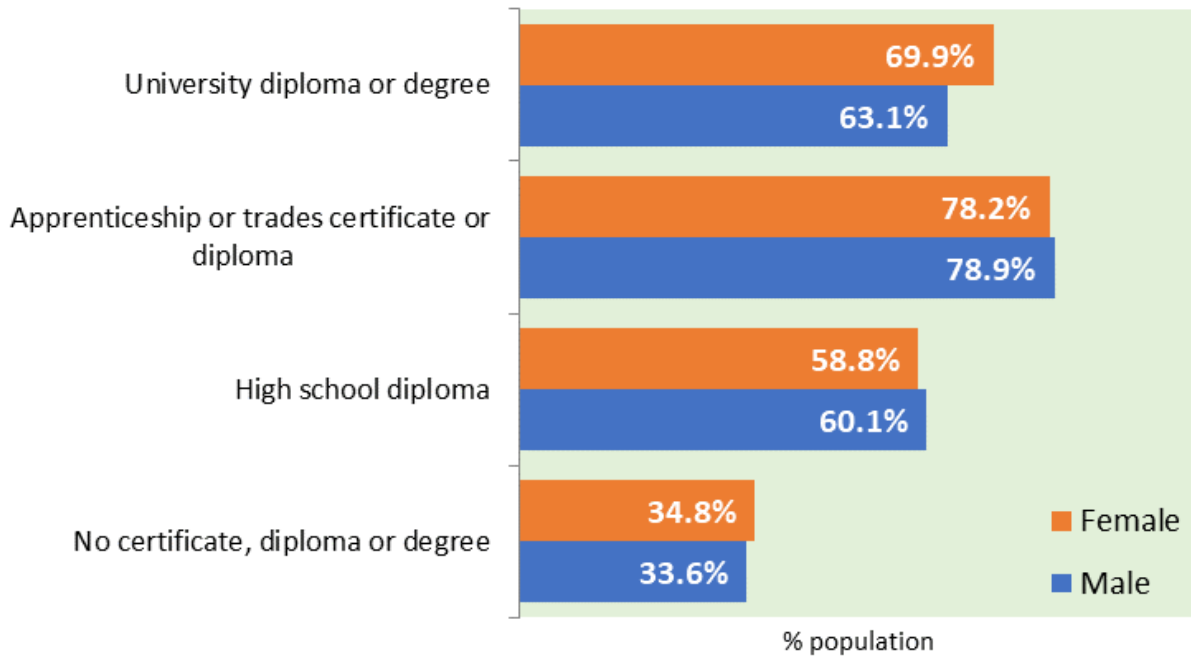
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

¹⁶ Community Development Halton, *Challenges Facing Youth Transitioning to Work*, November 2015

¹⁷ The employment rate refers to the number of persons employed in the week prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

Youth with a higher educational attainment are more likely employed than those with less (Figure 7 and 8). Those with apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma have the highest employment rate. Almost 80% are employed regardless of sex. Female youth with a university diploma or degree have an employment rate higher than their male counterparts.

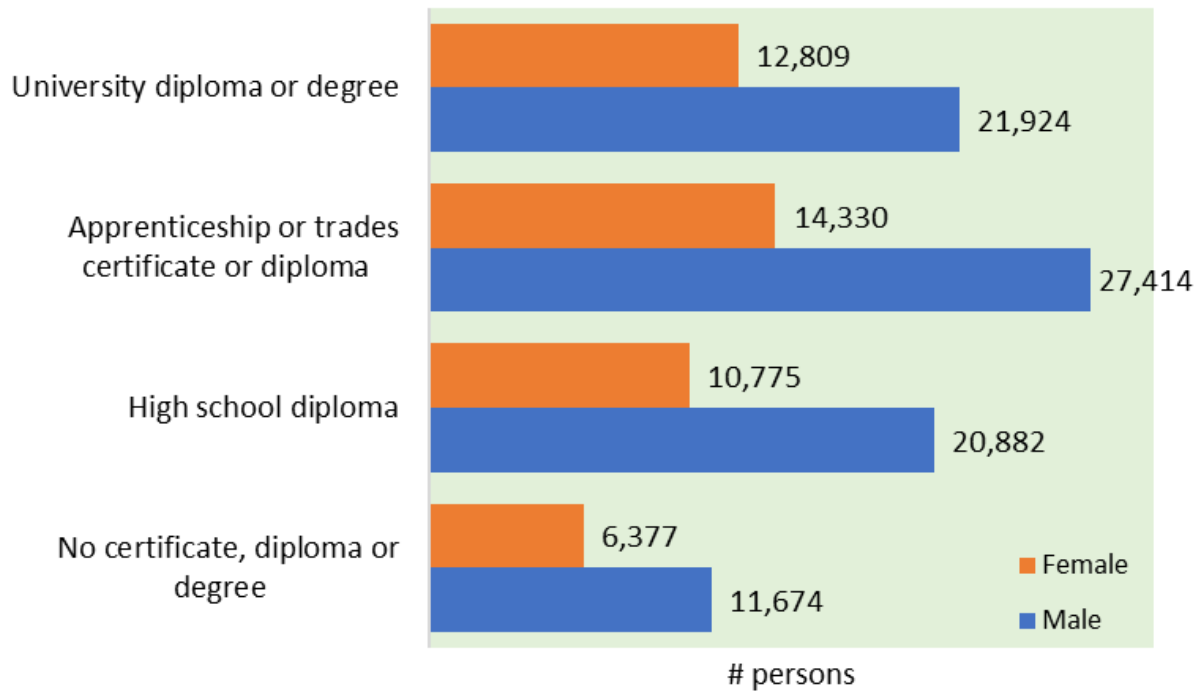
Figure 7. Youth Employment Rate by Educational Attainment and Sex, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Youth with a higher educational attainment are more likely employed than those with less. Those with apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma have the highest employment rate.

Figure 8. Employed Youth by Educational Attainment and Sex, Halton Region, 2016



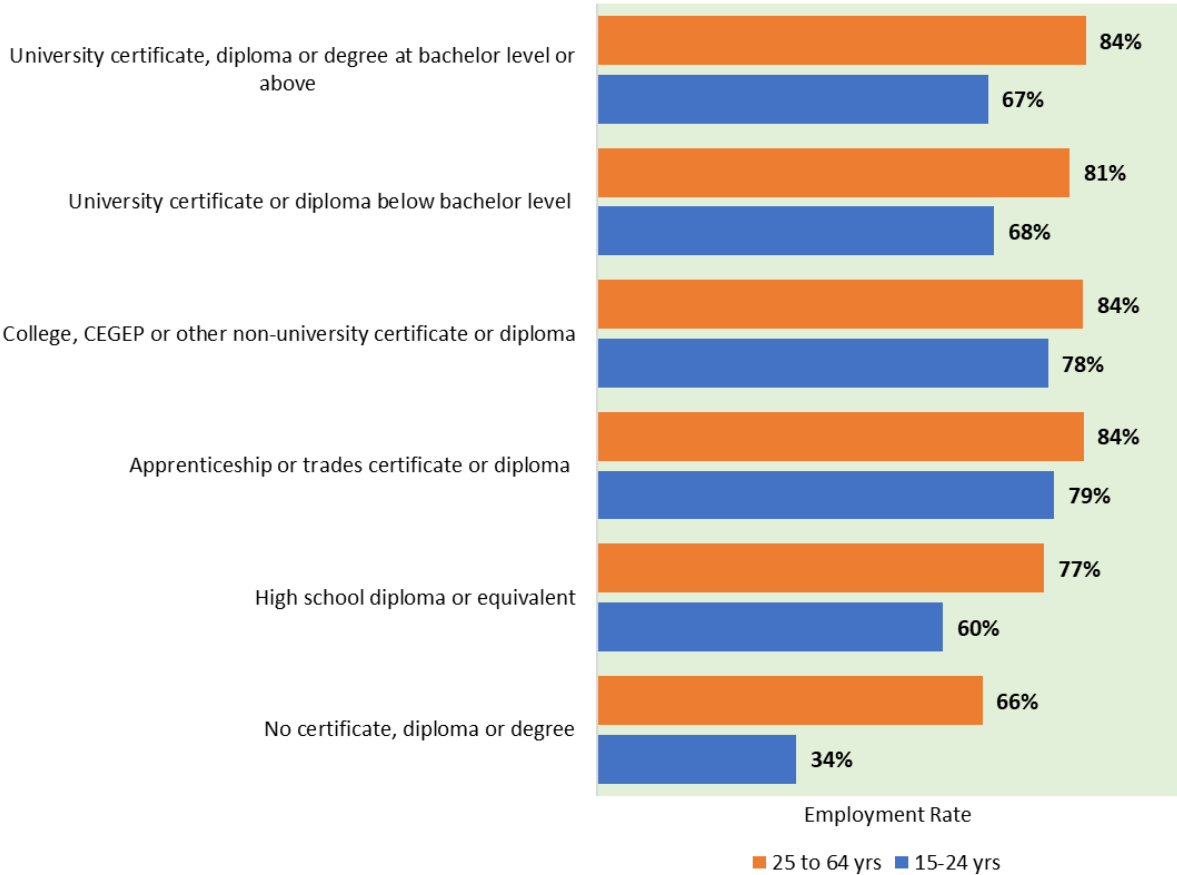
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Employment and Educational Attainment

In general, there is a positive relationship between higher education and better employment outcomes. The employment rate for the adult population (25 to 64 years) with no certificate, diploma or degree was at 66% and rose to 84% for those with a university degree at the bachelor level or above, a difference of 12 percentage points.

For the youth population (15 to 24 years), the difference in the employment rate is more significant. As illustrated in Figure 8, the employment rate for those with no certificate, diploma or degree was 34%, less than half of the adult population. With a university diploma or degree, their employment rate improved to 67%. While this does seem to indicate an improved employment rate with higher education, youth in the 15 to 19 years age group also participate in the labour force at a much lower rate (49%) than the 20 to 24 year age group (79%).

Figure 9. Employment Rate by Educational Attainment and Age Groups, Halton Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Occupations

By far the most common occupation for youth is sales and services (Figure 9). It accounts for over half (52%) of youth workers. This proportion is more than double the average for the total labour force.

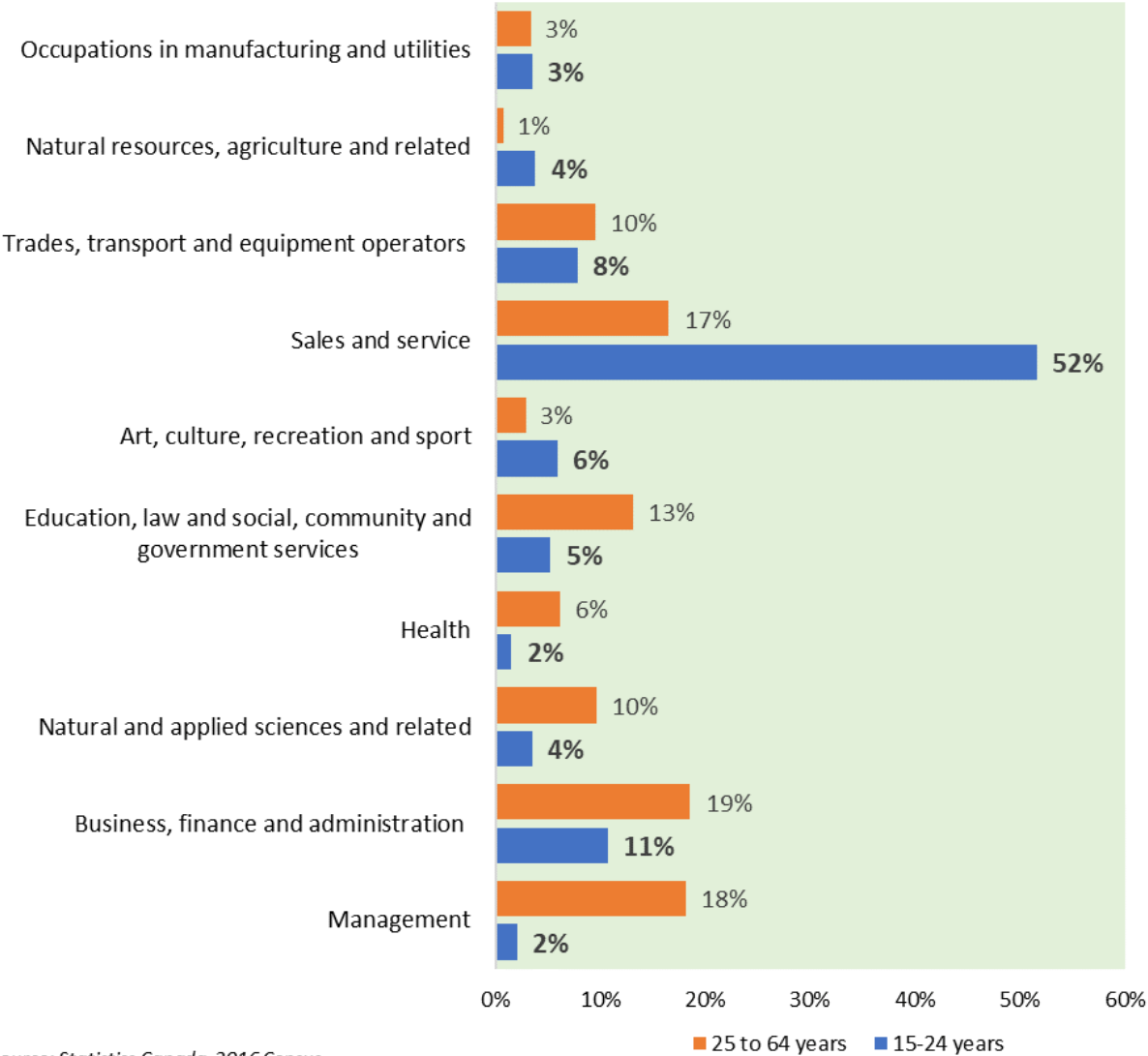
The next popular occupation is business, finance and administration (11%) followed by the trades, transport and equipment operators occupation (8%).

One in eight youth worked as retail salespersons or sales clerks. One in ten worked as food counter attendants or kitchen helpers. About 9% worked as cashiers.

Most of the jobs are characterized as precarious, meaning they are poorly paid, minimal or no benefits, and insecure.

Most of the jobs that youth hold can be characterized as precarious, meaning they are poorly paid, minimal or no benefits, and insecure.

Figure 10. Proportion of Employed Labour Force by Occupation and Age Group, Halton, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

The NEET Population

Among the youth population aged 15 to 24, there is a subgroup who is neither in education/training nor in employment, they are the NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) population. The transition from school to work has become more complicated and increasingly unpredictable. Students are working and working youth are also studying. However, some are neither working nor studying.

This well-established indicator is closely followed by governments and tracked internationally by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)¹⁸. As young people who are not in employment or education may be experiencing difficulties making the transition from school to the labour market and could be at a higher risk of social exclusion and depression.¹⁹

In Canada, between 2001 and 2016, the NEET rate for 15-19 age group has ranged from a high of 9% to a low of 6%.

In 2016, there were 3,600 NEET youths in Halton. They represent 4.1% of the age group between 15 and 19 years and 6.8% of the age group between 20 and 24. Over half (55%) of the NEET youth are male.

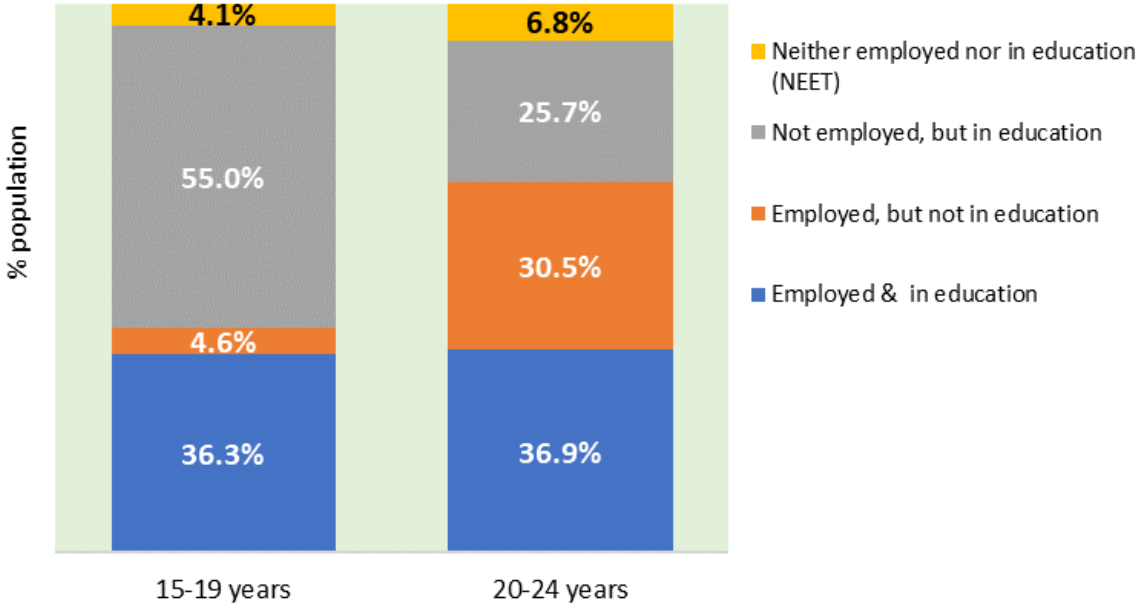
As expected, the majority (91%) of youth between 15 and 19 years are in school/ education and over 40% are working. For the age cohort between 20 and 24 years, three-quarters (67%) are employed and of that group, 37% are also in education (Figure 10).

In 2016, there were 3,600 Halton youth not in employment, education, or training.

¹⁸ <https://data.oecd.org/youthinac/youth-not-in-employment-education-or-training-neet.htm>

¹⁹ Statistics Canada, *The Transition from school to work – the NEET indicator for 15 to 19 year olds in Canada*, February 22, 2018

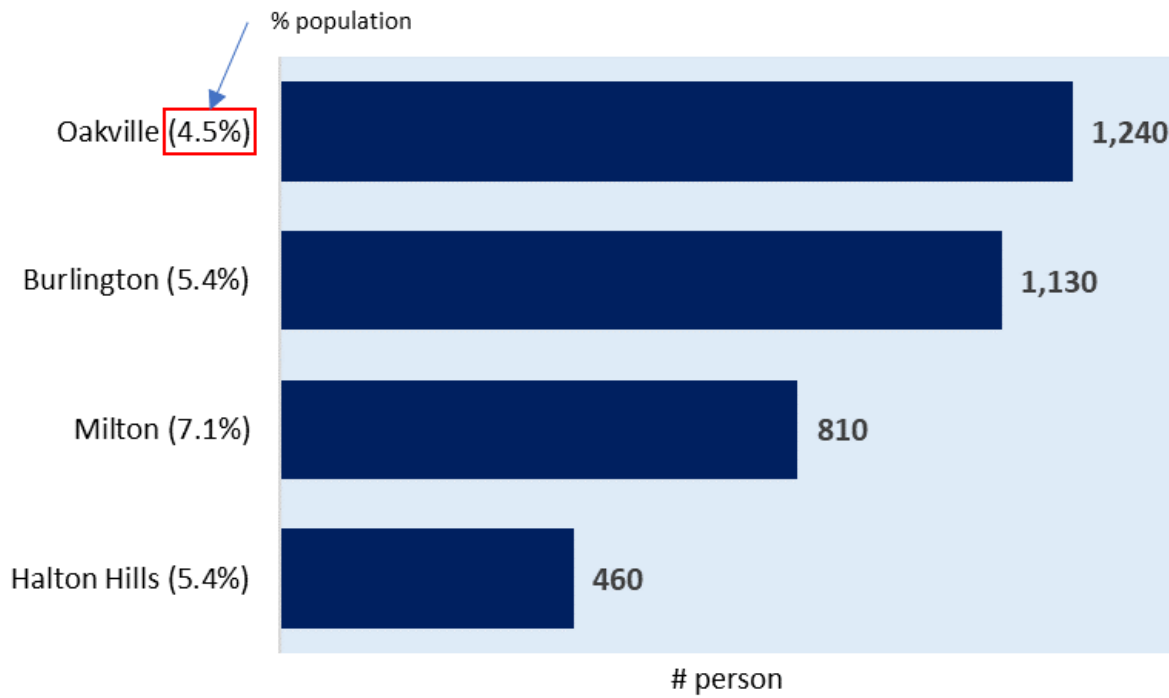
Figure 11. Percentage of Population by Employment and Education Status and Age Group, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

The proportion of NEET population (15-24 years) for the local municipality ranges from 4.5% in Oakville to 7.1% in Milton (Figure 11).

Figure 12. The NEET Population and Percentage of Population (15-24 years) by Municipality Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Travel Habits

There is a growing concern among health professionals and parents that our children are not doing enough physical exercise. Physical inactivity is associated with several health issues such as overweight, obesity and type 2 diabetes.

What are the travel habits of our children and youth? What travel modes do they use to go to work, school, shopping, and other activities? Do these travel habits change as they grow older?

As the Canadian Census does not collect data on daily travel activities except commuting between place of residence and place of work, the data source from the Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS)²⁰ is used.

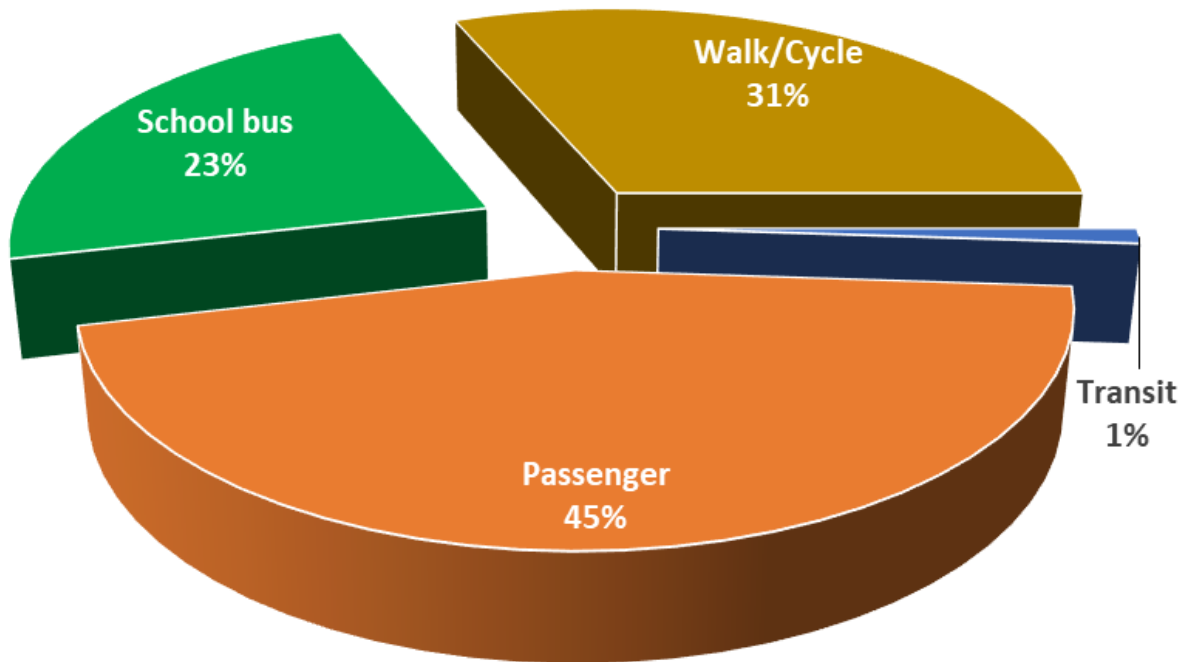
The TTS is a comprehensive travel survey conducted in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and surrounding areas once every five years and corresponds to the census years. It collects data on travel habits of residents as well as key socio-demographic characteristics.

Since the TTS does not collect data for children under 11 years of age, the travel characteristics for the child population are restricted to children between 11 and 14 years. As shown in Figure 12, in Halton almost half (45%) of the trips are made as passengers in a vehicle. About one third (31%) of the trips are walking and/or cycling. Riding a school bus accounts for 23% of all trips. Only 1% of the cohort takes public transit.

**31% of youth aged 11-14 and
17% of youth aged 15-24
walk or cycle as their mode of
travel.**

²⁰ University of Toronto, Data Management Group, Transportation Tomorrow Survey

Figure 13. Proportion of Trips (11-14 years) by Travel Mode, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2016

Most of trips made by this cohort are school trips (70%). About 42% of the students either walked or cycled to schools. About 32% rode the school bus and 26% were passengers driven in a vehicle.

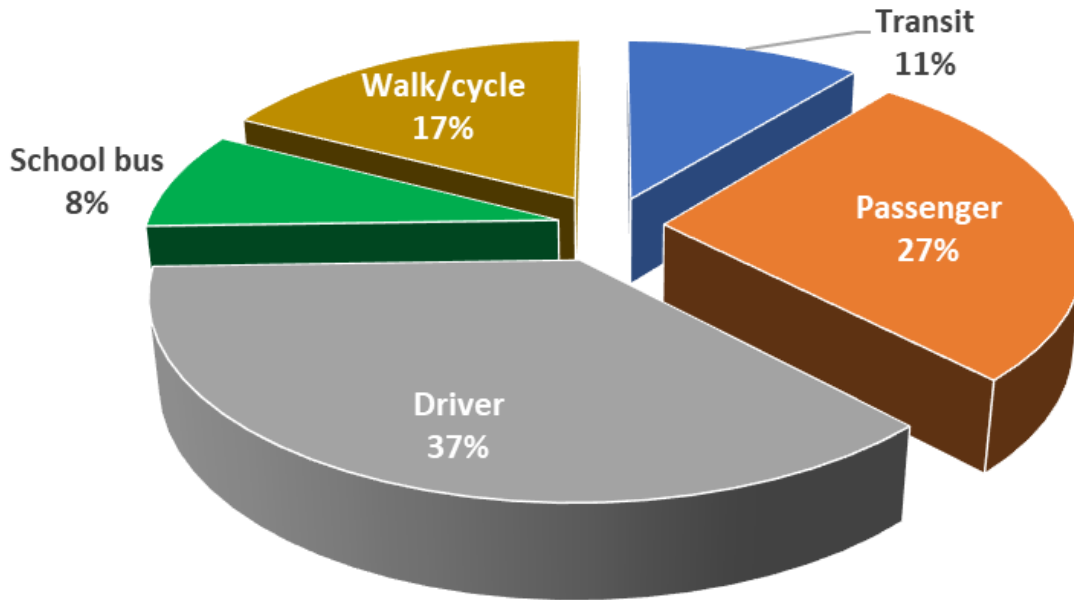
Walking to school is an economic and effective way to incorporate physical activity in a school age child’s daily routine. Governments, school boards, health agencies, concerned organizations and individuals are encouraging students to participate in active transportation to schools. The Walking School Bus (WSB)²¹ where a designated parent or trusted adult leads a group of children on the walk to school is an example of many such initiatives. Between 2009 and 2011, about 900 students from 23 schools of Halton District School Board participated in the WSB initiative

The travel mode changes significantly for the youth population aged 15-24 because at age 16, a youth can obtain a driver’s licence. Three in four (76.5%) youths between 16 and 24 possess a driver’s licence. With access to a vehicle, over one third (37%) of trips were made

²¹ Active and Safe Route to School, <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca>

as a driver of a vehicle. The next popular mode of transportation was as a passenger (27%). Walking and/or cycling and public transit are at 17% and 11% respectively. School trips account for almost half (47%) of the trips made by the youth aged 15-24 years. Over one in five trips (22%) are commuting to and from work.

Figure 14. Proportion of Trips (15-24 years) by Travel Mode Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2016

Visible Minority

Statistics Canada's definition of visible minorities²² includes residents who identify with many racialized groups but does not include Indigenous residents. The term 'racialized' is now becoming more common, which includes both visible minorities and Indigenous peoples. The Ontario Human Rights Commission, in their factsheet on racial discrimination, explains that because 'race' has its roots in social, not biological, characteristics and includes much more than skin colour, their preferred term is "racialized group or person":

"The Commission has explained 'race' as socially constructed differences among people based on characteristics such as accent or manner of speech, name, clothing, diet, beliefs and practices, leisure preferences, places of origin and so forth. The process of social construction of race is called racialization: the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life. Recognizing that race is a social construct, the Commission describes people as 'racialized person' or 'racialized group' instead of the more outdated and inaccurate terms 'racial minority', 'visible minority', 'person of colour' or 'non-White'."

This document uses visible minority, not racialized group, because the charts are based on Census data that was collected using the visible minority term and because this data does not include Indigenous residents.

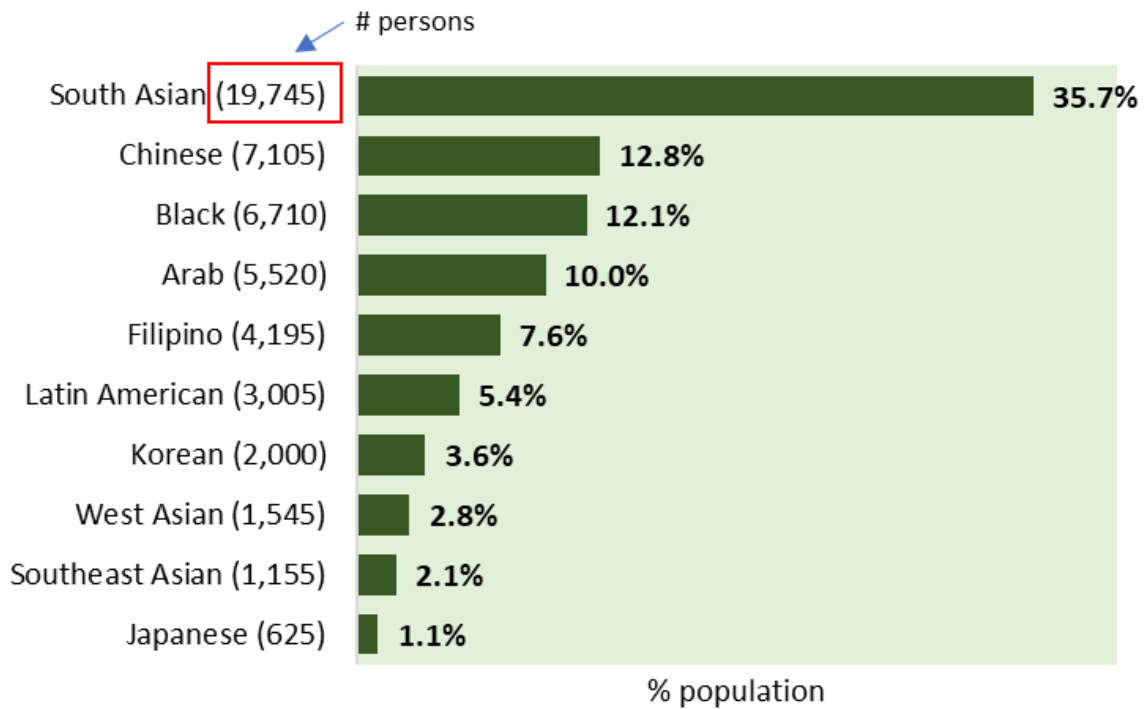
In Halton, the visible minority population accounts for 26% of the population. Almost one in three children and youth (32%) belong to the visible minority population. The visible minority population is younger.

As shown in Figure 15, over 35% of the children and youth visible minority population are South Asian, followed by Chinese (12.8%), Black (12.1%) and Arab (10%).

Almost one in three children and youth (32%) belong to a visible minority population.

²² Statistics Canada's definition of visible minorities is based on the federal Employment Equity Act and does not include Indigenous peoples.

Figure 15. Percentage Distribution of Population (0-24 years) by Visible Minority Group, Halton Region, 2016



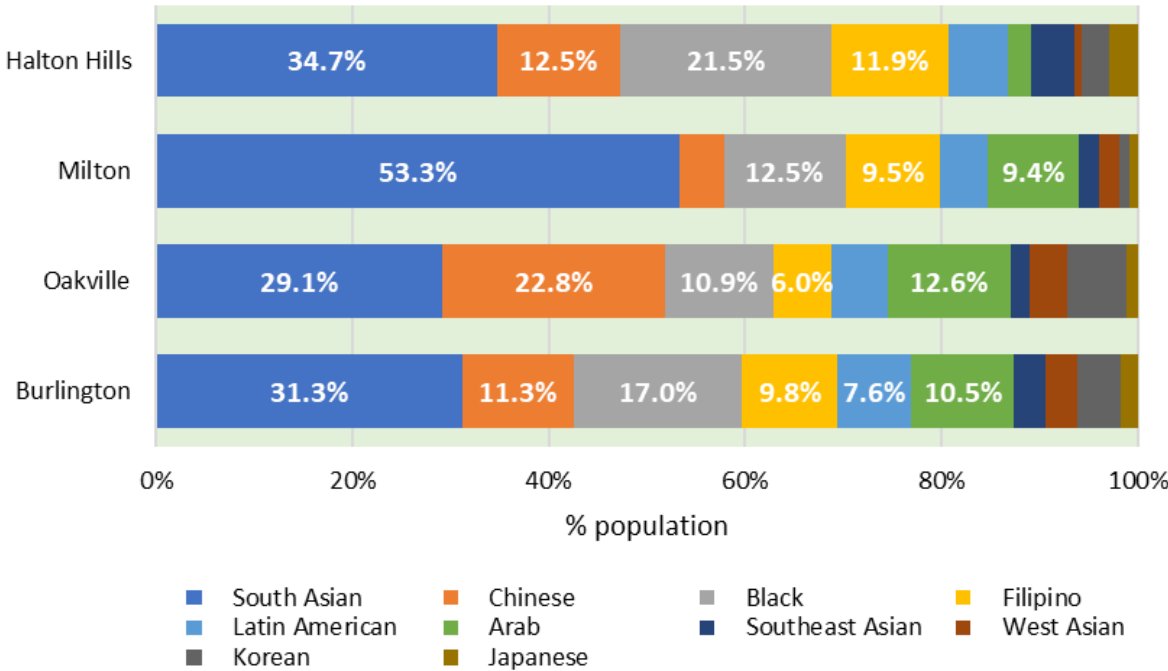
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Examples of visible minority groups are:

- South Asian – East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan
- Southeast Asian – Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai
- West Asian – Iranian, Afghan

Figure 16 shows the geographic distribution of the children and youth visible minority population by municipality. There is concentration of specific visible minority groups. For example, over half (53.3%) of the children and youth visible minority population in Milton are South Asian followed by Halton Hills at 34.7%. In Oakville, over one in five (22.8%) visible minority children and youth are Chinese compared to less than 5% in Milton.

Figure 16. Percentage Distribution of Population (0-24 years) by Visible Minority Group and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

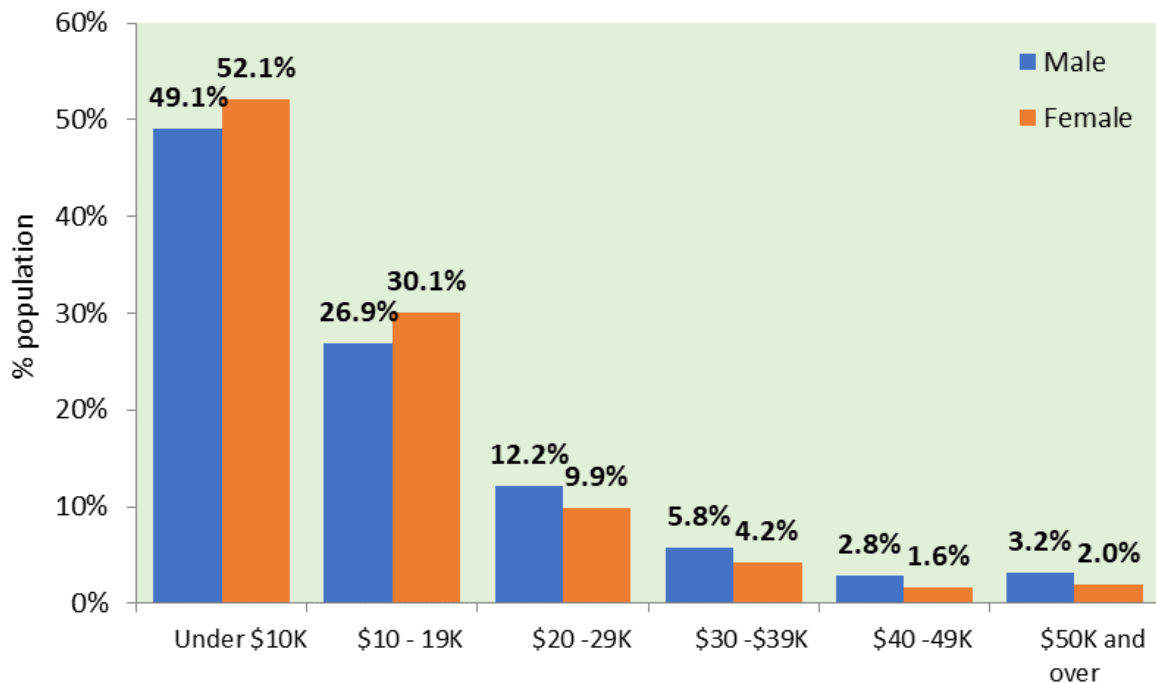
Youth Income

One in five (20.6%) youth did not report any income in 2015. This percentage was highest in Milton at 25.4% and lowest in Burlington at 16.9%. A higher proportion (30%) of youth did not report any income from employment. On average, employment income represents about three-quarters of total income for the overall population.

The median total income²³ for youth (15 -24 years) was \$9,840. This income level partly reflects youth’s work activity. Most of the youth worked part year and/or part-time. At the same time, they were also most likely holding jobs at the entry level. Male youth earned about \$10,217, which is 8% higher than the income of female youth. The income disparity between men and women starts to emerge as youth enter the labour market.

About half of the youth population made less than \$10,000 and about 30% made between \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Figure 17. Proportion of Population (15-24 years) by Total Income and Sex, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

²³ Median income means that exactly half of the incomes reported are greater than or equal to an amount, and that the other half is less than or equal to the median amount

As shown in Table 7, youth in Halton Hills have the highest median total income. The income level is about 15% higher than those earned by youth in Oakville, the lowest. Female youths in Milton have the lowest income at \$8,863.

Table 7. Median Total Income by Municipality and Sex, Halton Region, 2015

15-24 years	Oakville	Burlington	Milton	Halton Hills
Median total income	\$9,354	\$10,193	\$9,592	\$10,750
Median total income - male	\$9,449	\$10,677	\$10,512	\$11,024
Median total income - female	\$9,212	\$9,704	\$8,863	\$10,458

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

In 2016, about half of Halton’s youth population made less than \$10,000 and about 30% made between \$10,000 to \$20,000.

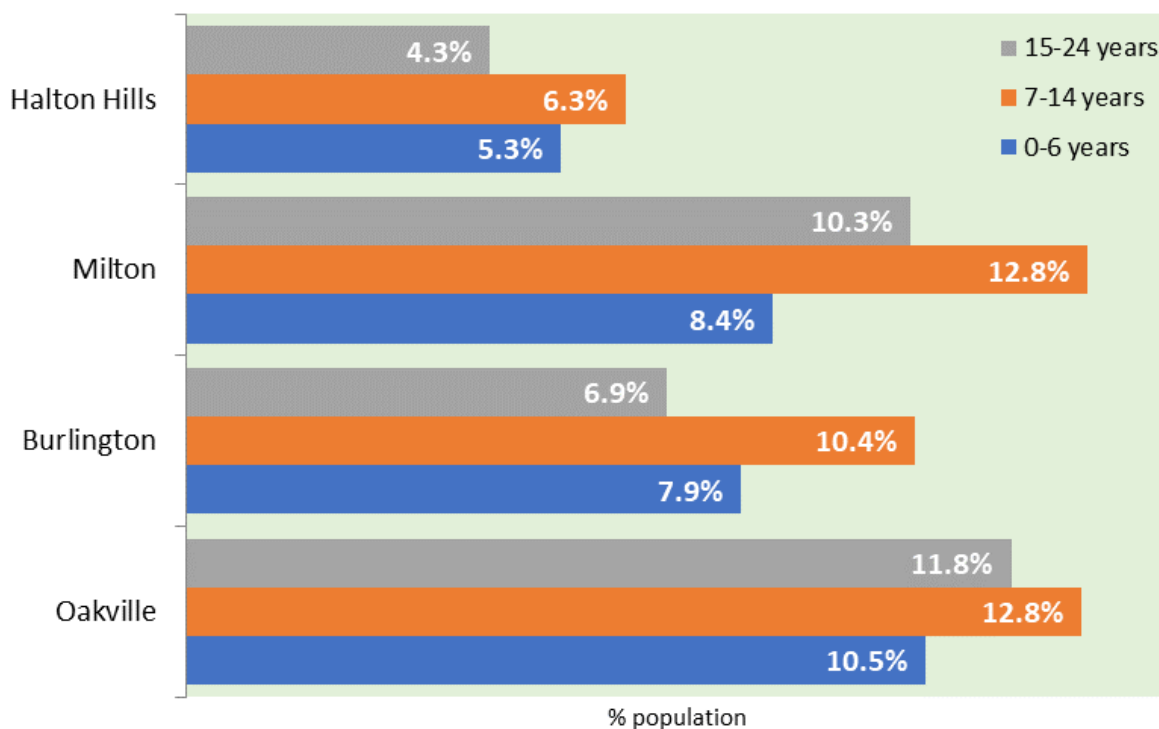
Poverty

There were 4.8 million Canadians living in low-income households in 2015, of whom 1.2 million (nearly one in four) were children younger than 18 years of age. The poverty rate reached 17.0%.²⁴ Under various government programs, families are receiving financial support for children. However, according to an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report²⁵, Canada ranks 25th among countries in child poverty.

In Halton, there were almost 11,000 children (0-14 years) and 6,200 youths (15-24 years) living in low income households.²⁶ The poverty rate for children under 14 is about 10% and for youth is about 9%.

As shown in Figure 17, children between 7 and 14 years living in Oakville and Milton have the highest poverty rate at 12.8%. In fact, Oakville's children (0-14 years) and youth (15-24 years) have the highest poverty rates among the municipalities.

Figure 18. Poverty Rate by Age and Municipality, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

²⁴ Statistics Canada, *Children Living in Low Income Households*, Census in Brief, September 2017

²⁵ OECD, http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/CO_2_2_Child_Poverty.pdf

²⁶ Prevalence of low income based on the Low-income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT).

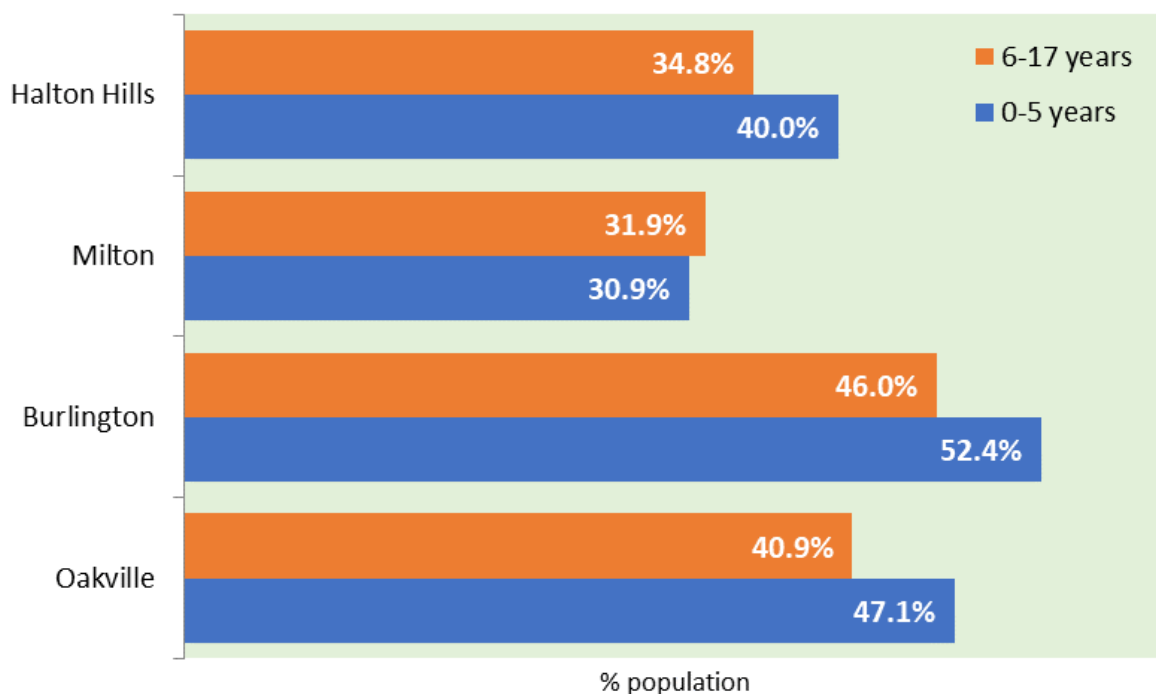
The likelihood of children living in a low income household increases with the number of children under 18 years in the family. For example, according to the 2016 Census, in a two-parent family with one child, the poverty rate is about 9%. That percentage increases to 16% when there are three or more children.

In a lone-parent family situation, that percentage jumps from 30% with one child to 55% with three or more children.

Children living in a lone-parent family are more than three times as likely to live in a low-income household as children in a two-parent family. Many children living in a lone-parent family lived with their mother. The poverty rate for these children was much higher than for children who lived with their father (42% compared to 25.5%)

Children in newcomer families who arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2016 also have high incidence of low income (Figure 18). Over half (52.4%) of these children under 6 in Burlington live in poverty. Over 40% of newcomer children under 17 in Oakville live in low income families.

Figure 19. Poverty Rate for Newcomer Population by Age and Municipality, Halton Region, 2015



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

With limited financial resources, low income families must make tough choices on food, rent, transportation, clothing, and other daily essentials. In 2016²⁷, low income families spent almost half (47%) their income on shelter and food. When families do not have access to adequate and nutritious food, they often find assistance at food banks or other supportive organizations. Food insecurity is a constant challenge. In 2013-14, 6.8% of Halton households experienced food insecurity.²⁸ Food insecurity has a detrimental effect on immediate and long-term children's physical development, mental health, and behaviour. For example, many children go to school hungry. According to a survey conducted by Halton Our Kids Network, almost one in three (31%) grade 7 students and nearly half (47%) of grade 10 students did not have breakfast everyday during a school week.

Children between 7 and 14 years living in Oakville and Milton have the highest poverty rate at 12.8%.

²⁷ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Household Spending, 2016*. CANSIM Table 203-0022

²⁸ Halton Region, *Health Indicator Report*, February 2018