

## Stay-at-Home Adult Children

The number and percentage of adult children living at home continues to grow. In 2016, over one in three (34.7%) adult children aged 20 to 34 was living with their parents compared to 30.6 % in 2001. The stay-at-home adult children has reached 6.7 million. This cohort includes both children who have left home earlier and returned, and those who have never left.



There are many reasons why adult children are staying home longer. The most quoted is economic. Given the rising cost of living including housing, education, childcare, underemployment, and precarious employment, a parent's home can provide the needed shelter, support and security. Other reasons include serious illness, relationship issues and caregiving. In many cases, this living arrangement can be mutually beneficial. Stay-at-home children can look after their parents financially, emotionally or otherwise.

The growing at home adult children population can have a negative impact on the housing market. The longer this cohort stays at home, the longer they will stay away from the housing market as a homeowner or renter. On the other hand, parents may have to create more space in their homes. This in turn can have a positive impact on the home renovation business.<sup>1</sup>

A recent Statistics Canada study<sup>2</sup> shows significant association between stay-at-home children aged 20 to 29 and their ethnocultural characteristics. The frequency of living with parents varies according to immigrant's country of birth. For example, immigrants in their twenties who were born in Hong Kong (73%), South Korea (69%) and Taiwan (68%) had the highest proportion of parental co-residence. There were also differences within visible minority groups. Specifically, more than one-half West Asian<sup>3</sup> (57%), Filipino (55%), Korean (55%), South Asian (54%), Latin American (42%) and Japanese (40%) lived with their parents.

According to the 2016 Census, there were over 43,000 adult children aged 20 to 34 living at home in Halton. It represents almost half (49.6%) of the adult children population. Its share is about 15 percentage points above the national average. A decade ago, Halton's percentage was at 38.4%.

Among the local municipalities, Oakville has the highest percentage in 2016, six in ten adult children lived at home. Although, Milton has the lowest percentage (37.3%), it is still higher than the national average.

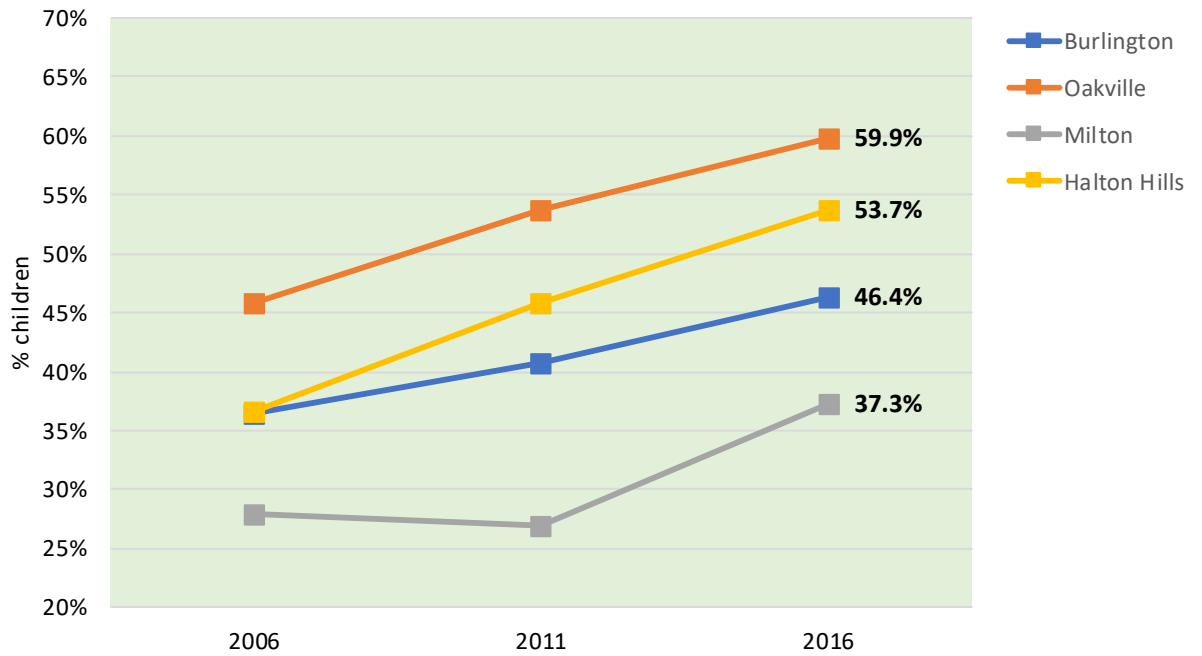
There is a higher proportion of male adult children living with their parents than their female counterparts. This reflects the tendency for female adult children getting married and left home at a younger age than male children. Over half of male adult children in Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hilton lived at home. Less than one-third (31.1%) of female adult children in Milton lived with their parents.

1 Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Housing Market Insight, September 2016

2 Statistics Canada, *Diversity of young adults living with their parents*, Insights on Canadian Society, June 15, 2015, Catalogue no. 75-006-X

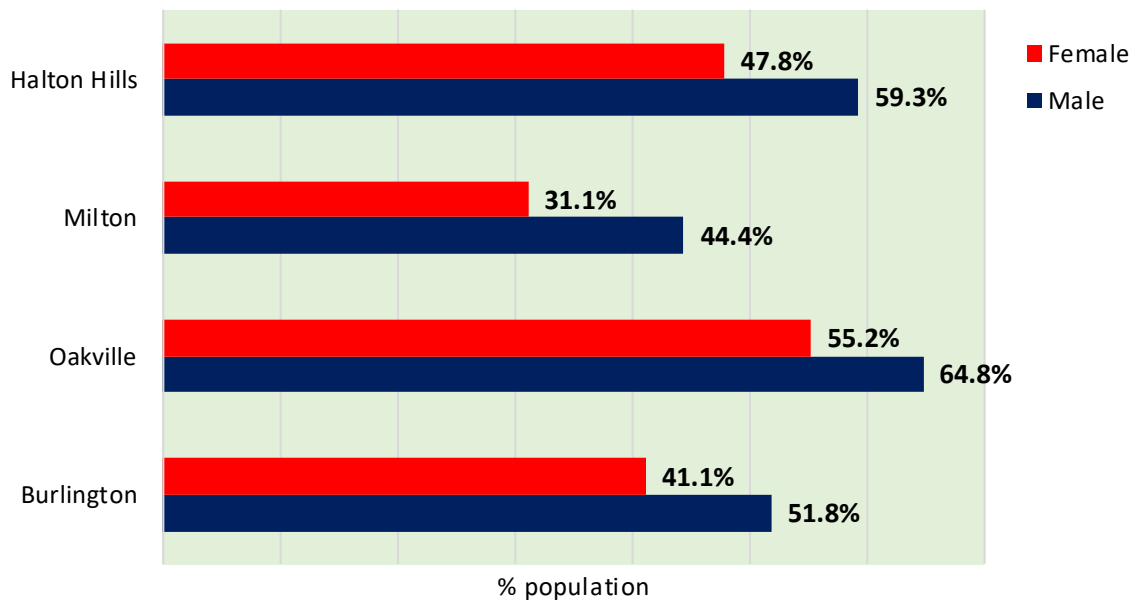
3 For example, Iranian, Afghan, etc.

## Proportion of Stay-at-home Children (20-34 years) Halton Region, 2006-2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2006-2016 Censuses

## Proportion of Stay-at-home Children (20-34 years) by Sex, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census



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