

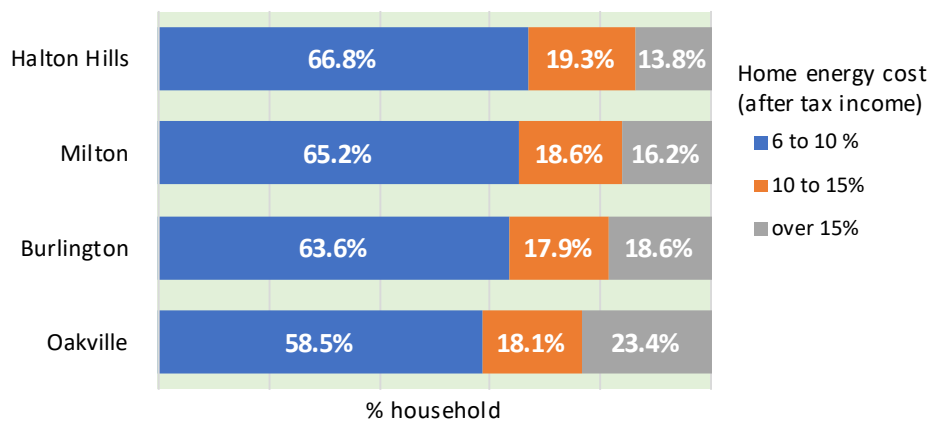
Home Energy Poverty

Most Canadian households spend less than 3% of their after-tax income on home energy¹ needs. Households that spend more than twice this value (6% or more)² are considered to be experiencing disproportionately high home energy cost burdens. The impact of high energy costs becomes more severe for low income families and individuals. In order to reduce the cost burdens, households may choose to keep their homes at lower temperatures in winter months and consequently impact the health of the residents, especially the young and the elderly.

In 2016, over 22% of Ontario's 5.1 million households were home energy poor. The average for Halton Region was 15.5%, representing almost 30,000 households. Almost one in five (18.3% or 3,800) households in Halton Hills spent more than 6% of their after-tax income on home energy, followed by Oakville at 16.6% (11,000 households), Milton at 14.7% (5,000 households) and Burlington at 14% (10,000 households). Over one in five (23.4%) of energy poor households in Oakville spent over 15% of their after-tax income on energy costs.

In Halton, almost 60% of low-income households³ are paying at least 6% of their after-tax income on home energy costs.

Proportion of Home Energy Poor Households by Home Energy Cost, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

The following map shows the spatial distribution of the households experiencing high energy cost burdens by neighbourhood (Census Tract⁴). Among other factors, the type and age of dwelling can affect energy consumption and hence the level of energy cost burdens. Households in less energy efficient dwellings are more likely to experience higher energy cost burdens than households in more energy efficient ones.

¹ Home energy typically includes electricity and home heating fuels.

² Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP), *Energy Poverty in Canada: A CUSP Background*, July 31st, 2019.

³ As defined by Low Income Measure – After Tax (LIM-AT) which is a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted household income where “adjusted” indicates that household needs are taken into account.

⁴ 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.

Home Energy Poor Households by Census Tract, Halton Region, 2016

Legend

household by CT

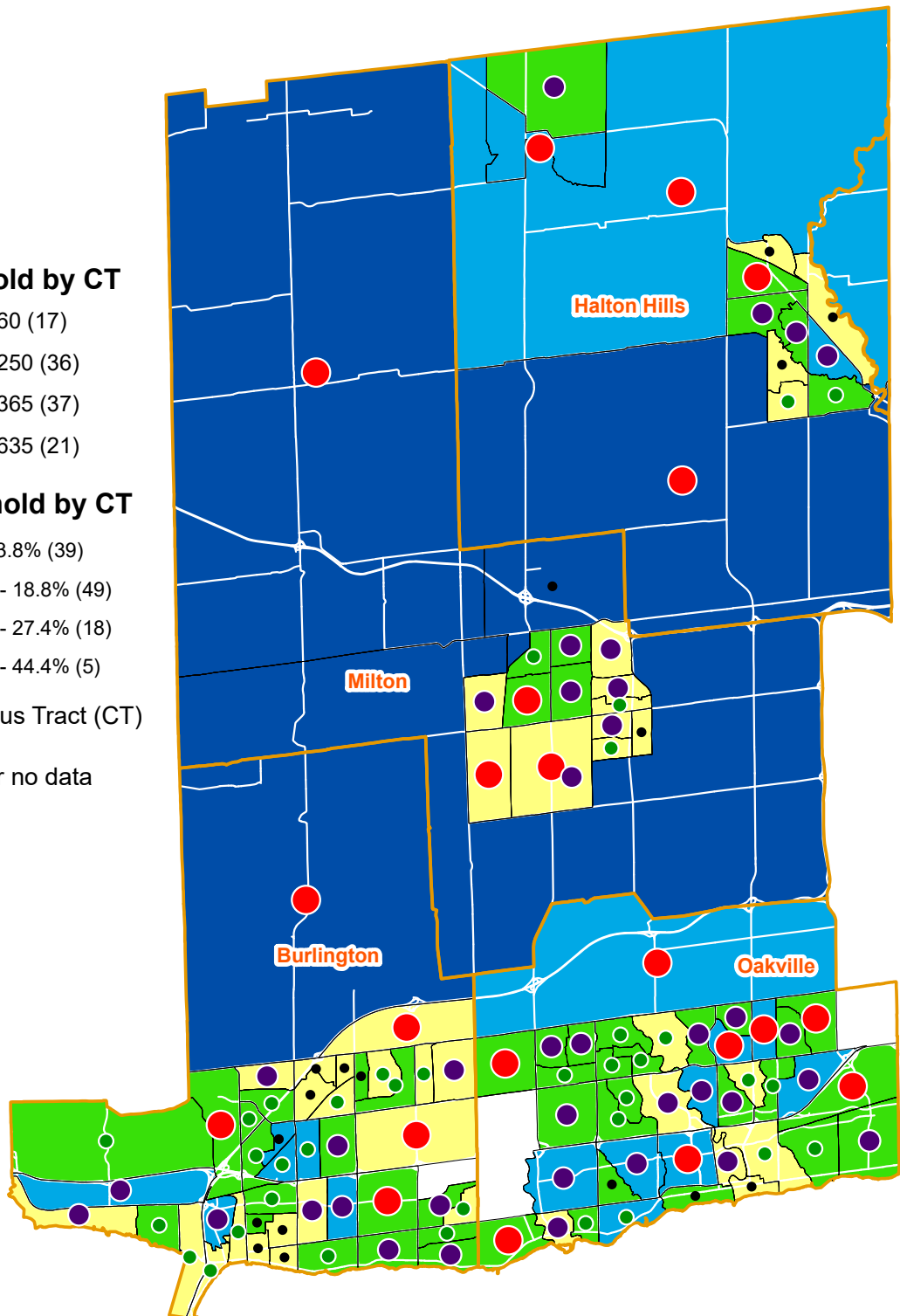
- 60 - 160 (17)
- 161 - 250 (36)
- 251 - 365 (37)
- 366 - 635 (21)

% household by CT

- 6% - 13.8% (39)
- 13.9% - 18.8% (49)
- 18.9% - 27.4% (18)
- 27.5% - 44.4% (5)

() # of Census Tract (CT)

□ zero or no data



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census



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