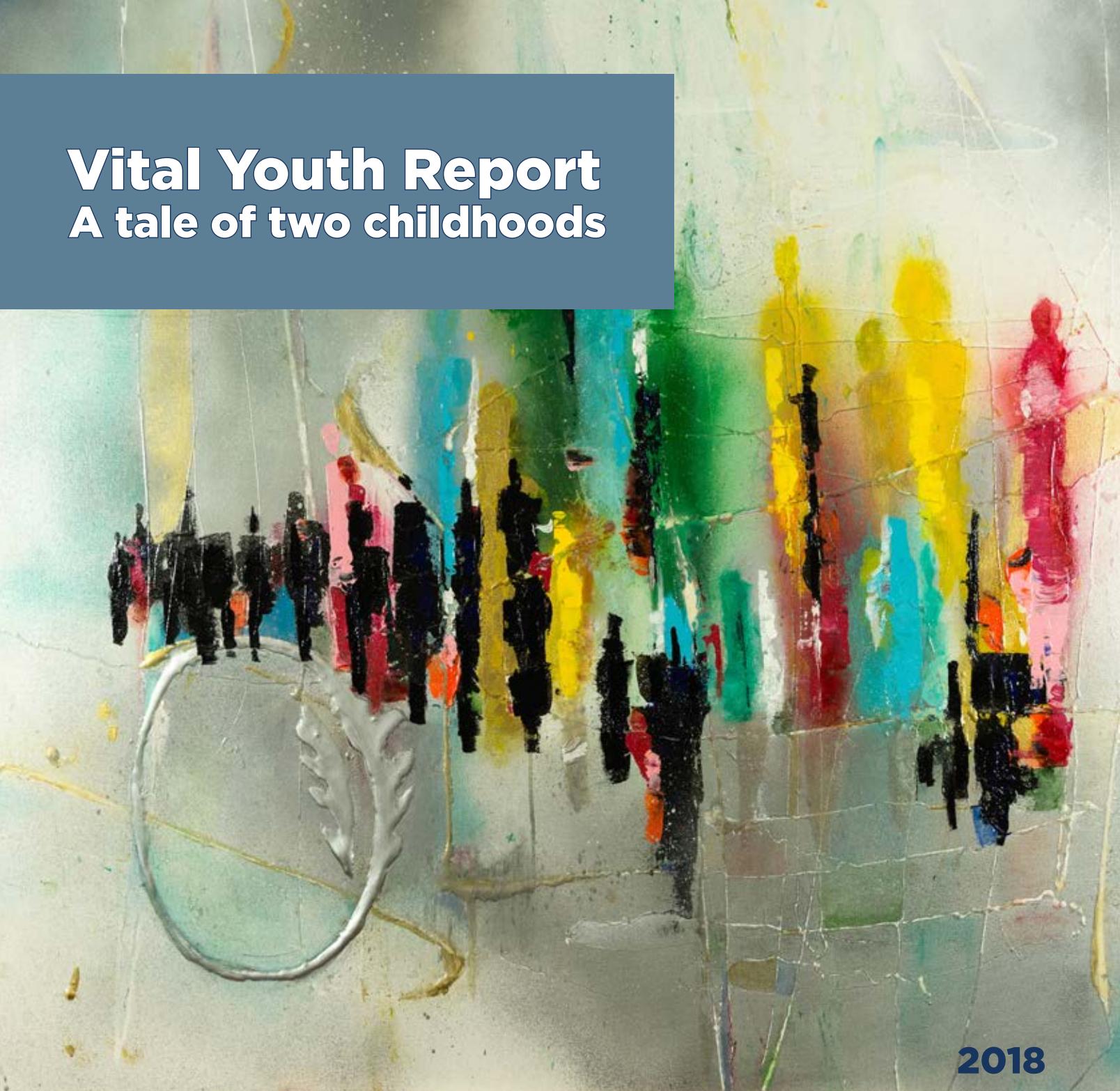


Vital Youth Report

A tale of two childhoods



2018

Title Sponsor



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Acknowledgement of the Territories

We begin by acknowledging Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills lie on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishnaabe. We recognize that these lands include Treaties 14, 19, and 22 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We also acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who now call our Region home. We are grateful for the opportunity to have conducted the research on this land.



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Legend

- Referenced Data Points
- Data Points comparing Male/Female
- Newcomer Data Points
- Adverse Childhood Watch List Item

Special Thanks to our Youth Artists: Aiden Lee, Aida Javan, Carla Jacobs, Christina(Xinyi) Nium, Cindy Zhang, Hanna Jandrew, Jay Dahms, Jiayi Deng, Kevin Cai, Madeleine North, Rania Abdallah, Sara Mokhtari, Sophia Mokhtari, Yifei Lyu

What is it like to grow up in our communities?

Overall it looks like childhood in the communities of Oakville and North Halton is a positive experience. In many cases, we rank on par or higher than the national and provincial averages on relevant, positive criteria. We have relatively strong economic growth, high levels of household wealth, community connection and abundant opportunities.

However, when you scratch the surface, it begins to become apparent that the **opportunities for our youth are not equal**. That the struggles for many of our youngest residents are real. And, that it's not a clear-cut divide of rich versus poor. Of course, wealth is helpful in providing the basics of life, but we are seeing troubling data that indicates **children of privilege are not exempt** from dealing with some adverse childhood experiences as well.

In fact, when we look at exposing the "Two Childhoods", **disparities appear** between those with means and those without, between boys and girls, or even in some cases between

newcomers and longtime residents. And, while it doesn't clearly break down into two easy to follow versions of what childhood looks like in Oakville and North Halton, there are clear dichotomies that can affect youth at various stages of their childhood - dichotomies that need to be addressed if we want to ensure opportunity for all our children and the best chance for a successful adulthood. To continue the vitality of our communities into the future, **we need to support our children as they become well-adjusted adults.**

This is why The Oakville Community Foundation, The Community Foundation of Halton North and the YMCA of Oakville have come together to research **what makes childhood successful** and what makes childhood more challenging? We want to understand where and how our kids most need support - to be sure that none are being left behind and that all of our kids are being provided with a strong start in life.

In this Vital Youth Report, A Tale of Two Childhoods, we have assembled data that give us a clearer picture of what it means to grow up in Oakville and North Halton. We are assessing childhood from many perspectives with an emphasis on **areas which have an impact on healthy development.**

The good news is that generous local leaders and our Fundholders have already told us that they care deeply about our kids. Supporting children and youth is their primary concern and they want to know how we can make the most significant impact.

We are pleased to share what we've learned about the local experience of childhood and how it is different across our communities.

Legally in Ontario a "child" is defined in the Child and Family Services Act as a person under 18 years of age. Recent studies of brain development identify that the rational part of the teen brain is not fully developed until about 25 years of age ⁽¹⁾. As such the focus of the report will primarily be on those under 18 with insights into the years of transition between youth and adulthood, post 19 years of age.

This report is primarily focused on the communities represented by the two Community Foundations: 1) Oakville and 2) North Halton specifically, Milton and Halton Hills (Acton & Georgetown). While we have to be reliant on Halton-wide data in many instances, where available we have used the data lens of the three census municipalities: Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills, and at times a more granular level with postal code data in order to geo-target areas where philanthropic dollars will have the greatest impact. The limitations of this report are a result of data availability, not interest, particularly the limited focus on vulnerable populations.

At the end of this report you will find our **Watch list** of challenges facing our youth. Please join us, as we work to create solutions to the biggest challenges facing our children and youth today.





Demographic Context: Young, Growing Communities

Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills are experiencing a significant population boom, driven by young people and the young families to which they belong. From 2011 to 2016, Halton's population grew by 9.3% - much higher than the provincial average of 4.6% and the national average of 5.0%. ⁽²⁾

Young people comprise a larger percentage of the total population in Halton than in most other communities in Canada. More than 1 in 4 in Milton (25.8%) and almost 1 in 5 in both Oakville (18.9%) and Halton Hills (18.7%) are aged 0-14, ⁽³⁾ compared to 16.6% in Canada.⁽⁴⁾ This means that long-term prosperity and stability hinge on the opportunities we provide to this generation.

A total of 76,500 residents were ages 0-14 in 2016: with 36,710 in Oakville, 28,405 in Milton and 11,435 in Halton Hills.

When data on youth aged 15-19 years is added to those in the 0-14 age cohort, **the share of the population under 20 shifts to more than 1 in 4 in Oakville (26.5%) and Halton Hills (26%) to almost 1 in 3 in Milton (31.6%).** With a significant share of the population in childhood and transitioning to adulthood, philanthropic dollars need to focus on the particular challenges this demographic faces and provide the structures, supports, resources and programs they need to realize their full potential as vital, productive adults. ⁽⁵⁾

The Basics.

Our communities are among the wealthiest in Canada. But child poverty, food insecurity, inadequate housing, and a host of other hardships remain prominent features in the lives and realities of many children in our community. On average, across the region, more than 1 in 10 childhoods is disadvantaged by poverty.⁽⁶⁾

Poverty rates

10.5%

 of children 0-17 are poor in Halton⁽⁶⁾

12.4%

 in Oakville, 11% in Milton and 5.9% in Halton Hills are living in poverty⁽⁶⁾

Income, housing and food security are all important social determinants of health for growing minds and bodies. Not all of our kids are getting the basics they need, safe adequate shelter in affordable homes (costing less than 30% of family income⁽⁷⁾) and access to balanced, nutritious foods.

 747 families in Oakville / 549 in Milton and Halton Hills are receiving Ontario Works as their primary source of income⁽⁸⁾

\$744

Shelter Allowance



 A family of four gets \$744 for shelter leaving \$476 for all other expenses (on average)⁽⁸⁾

\$476

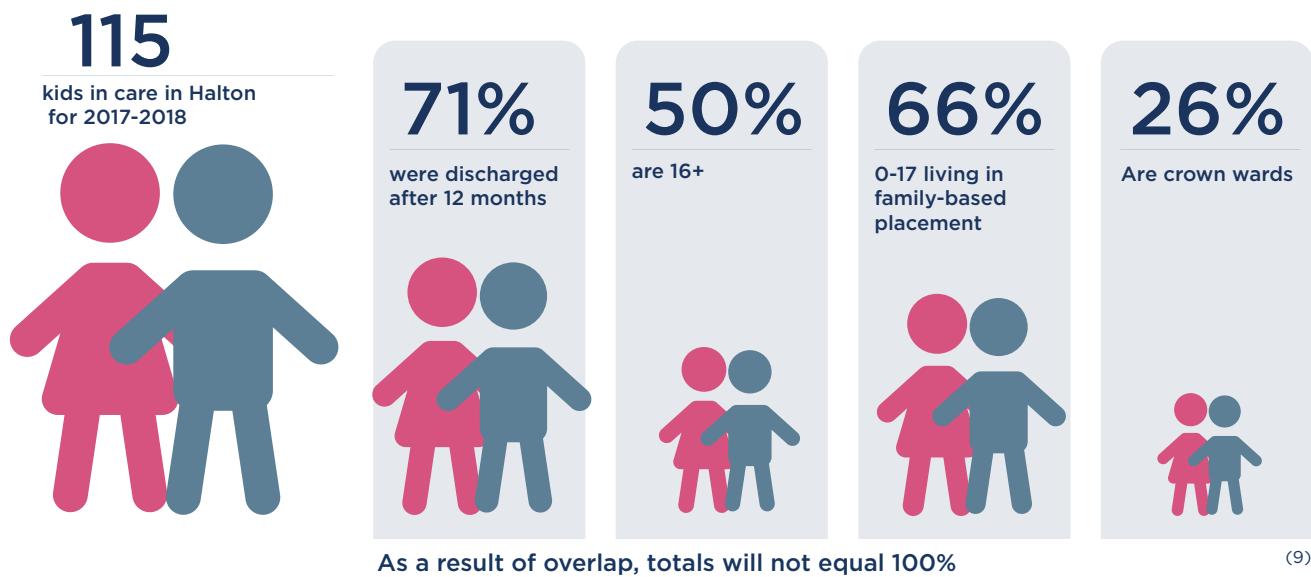
All other expenses



Youth in Care



In addition, over 100 children are in care in Halton with two-thirds in family-based placements and the remaining third are crown wards. Older youth over 16 years of age make up 35% of youth in care in Halton compared to the provincial average of 23%. When they grow up in these circumstances, research suggests children are less likely to realize their full potential as adults.⁽⁹⁾



Housing

A Youth In/At Risk research report in Halton developed for the Halton Granters Roundtable*, interviewed many youth and youth-facing agencies and recommended an increase in the number and range of housing supports available to youth living independently in Halton region.⁽¹⁰⁾

*Halton Granters Roundtable is a voluntary network of grantmakers which aims to share knowledge, expertise and focus on initiatives that align with emergent and strategic priorities to have a significant impact on community issues.

Families on Social Assistance

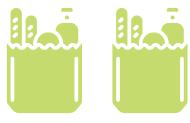
Local families who are renting are spending a significant portion of their income on housing - more than the 30% recommended.

47.6% of renters in Oakville, 42.8% of renters in Milton and 41.4% of renters in Halton Hills residents spend more than 30% of their income on shelter⁽¹¹⁾

14.2% of Oakville, 7.5% of Milton and 14.7% of Halton Hills residents live in subsidized family units⁽¹¹⁾

Well Nourished

🔍 Weekly cost of a healthy diet for a family of four per week: \$212.47 ⁽¹²⁾



🔍 For the 2017-18 school year, 88 Halton Hills, 85 Milton and 162 Oakville students were supported with weekend backpack food programs. ⁽¹⁴⁾



162 Oakville



85 Milton



88 Halton Hills

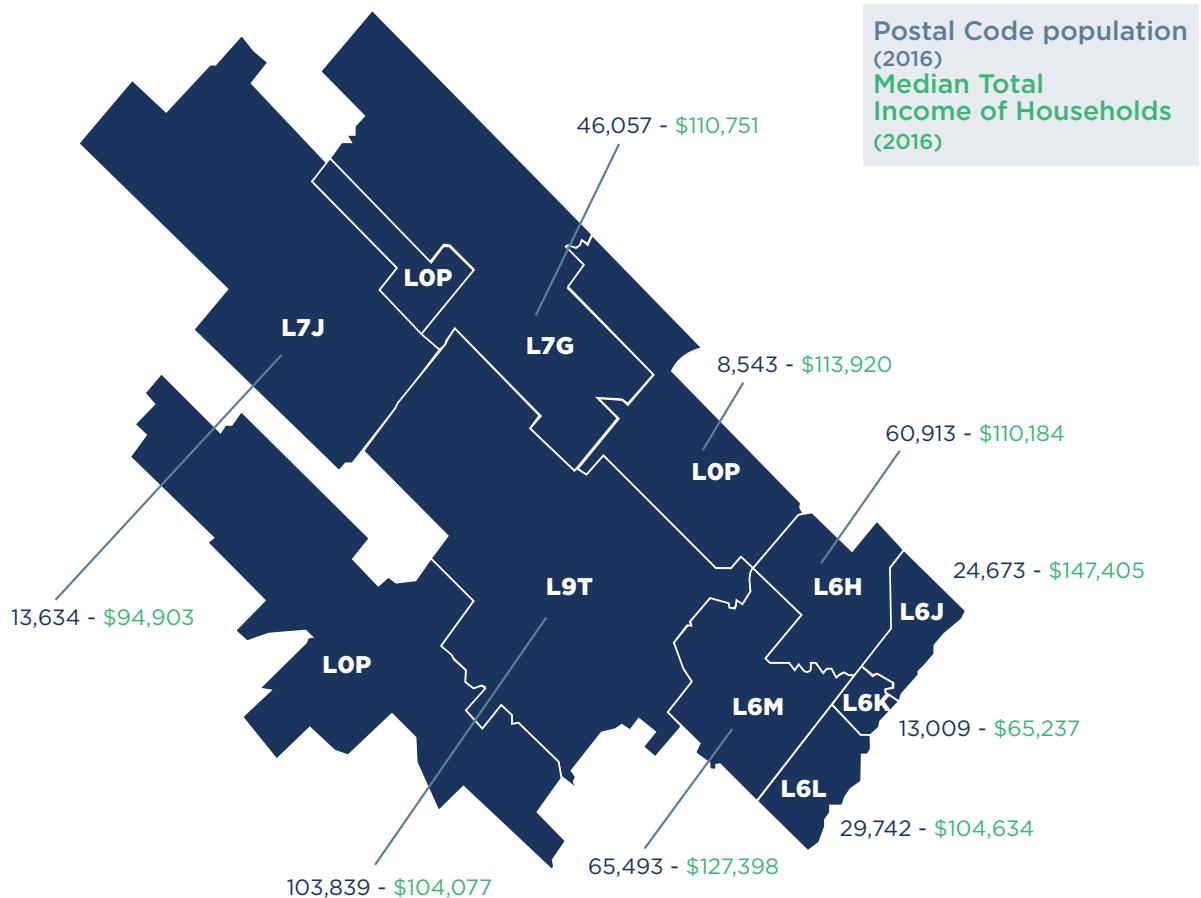
🔍 200 school nutrition programs feeding 27,700 students in Halton ⁽¹³⁾

6.8%



of Halton households experience food insecurity in the last two years ⁽¹²⁾, 35% of Food for Life clients are children. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Household Income ^{(16) (17)}



Health And Safety.

Childhood is an important time to develop lifelong habits for physical and mental health. Child physical and mental health is inter-related: poor physical health can lead to an increased risk of developing mental health problems. Similarly, poor mental health can negatively impact on physical health and well-being.

Health guides prescribe daily amounts of food, exercise and sleep for a healthy lifestyle at every age. As a group, children and youth in our communities enjoy better-than-average physical and mental health. But there are a number of warning signs.

Physical Activity

While local child physical health may be better than national averages, Canada ranks poorly compared to other countries. ParticipACTION gives Canadian kids a D+ for physical activity. A recent study of 10,000 8-12-year-old Canadians found that only one third had physical literacy, how to throw a ball, perform aerobic activity, etc. For health benefits, youth aged 12-17 years should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity daily.⁽¹⁸⁾ Two out of three secondary students report engaging in 30 minutes of intense activity after school, however, those rates differ for males, females and newcomers⁽¹⁹⁾. Of newcomer students who have been in Canada for less than five years, 63% report 30+ minutes of physical activity.⁽¹⁹⁾

In the region:

63%

-  of regional elementary school-aged newcomers who have been
-  in Canada for less than five years do 30+ minutes of intense physical activity after school (along with 69% of newcomers who have been in Canada for more than five years and 71% of students born in Canada)⁽²⁰⁾

55%

-  of secondary school-aged newcomers who have been in
-  Canada for less than five years do 30+ minutes of intense physical activity after school (along with 62% of newcomers who have been in Canada for more than five years and 66% of students born in Canada)⁽¹⁹⁾

65%

-  of secondary students report 30+ minutes of intense physical activity after school (70% male / 60% female)⁽¹⁹⁾

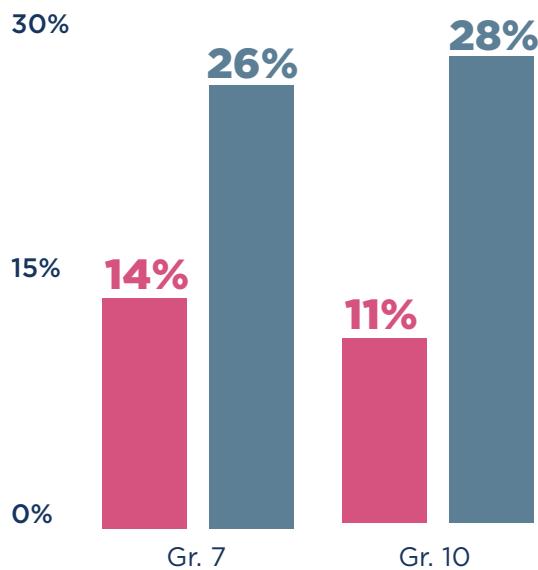


Healthy Weight

Last year, more than 1 in 4 (27.9%) Canadians aged 12-17 reported being overweight or obese.⁽²¹⁾ Closer to 1 in 5 Halton students are reporting unhealthy Body Mass Index. Boys are indicating a body mass index⁽²²⁾ much higher than girls of the same age, through self-reported height and weight. Boys also have higher rates of screen time than girls. However, in Halton, both boys and girls in secondary school are exceeding 2 hours of screen time.⁽¹⁹⁾ Fewer than half of elementary students spend more than 2 hours in front of a screen.⁽²⁰⁾ And, at the same time as youth report increased screen time with age, parents report decreased awareness of youth online activities.⁽²³⁾

In the region:

 21% of Grade 7 (26% males/14% females) students
 and 20% of Grade 10 (28% males/11% females) students
 are overweight or obese.
Of these,⁽²²⁾



 Parental awareness of youth online and social media dropped from 91% in Grade 7 to 75% in Grade 10⁽²³⁾

43%

 of elementary students spend more than two hours in front of a screen after school every day (50% male / 42% female)⁽²⁰⁾

 7% of Grade 7 students and 3% of Grade 10 students are underweight⁽²⁴⁾

90%

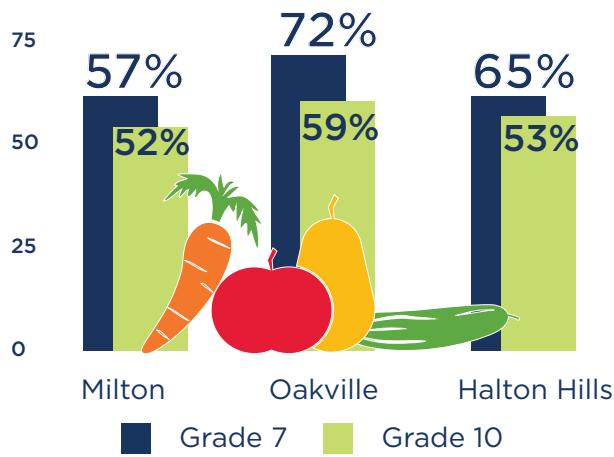
 90% of secondary students spend more than two hours
 in front of a screen after school every day (91% male / 89% female)⁽¹⁹⁾



Eat Your Fruits and Vegetables

Canada's Food Guide recommends 6 servings of fruits and veggies for 9-12-year-olds and 7-8 servings for teens. Parents will be happy to know that a single fruit or vegetable may be equivalent to more than one serving. Almost 2 out of 5 teens surveyed in the region said they eat fruits and vegetables five or more times per day approaching the standard. More Oakville students consume fruits and vegetables five or more times per day than students in Milton and Halton Hills, ⁽²⁵⁾ as it's possible that wealthier families generally have greater access to pricier and better tasting fresh produce.

 Student eats 5+ fruits/vegetables or juice per day.⁽²⁵⁾
 100



 **30%**
 of Halton kindergarten students ate fruits or vegetables five or more times per day ⁽²⁶⁾



Sexuality & Pregnancy

In 2015 Halton's teenage (15-19 years) pregnancy rate of 8.1 births per 1,000 women was less than half the provincial rate of 17.5. Live births (30) for young women under 20 in 2015 were less than half the number (74) a decade earlier. The rate of teen mothers in our separate communities was not statistically significant enough to report on. ⁽²⁷⁾

 **52%**
of Halton youth 15-24 reported ever having sexual intercourse ⁽²⁸⁾

 The median age for Halton males first sexual intercourse was 17 / for females was 18 ⁽²⁸⁾

Mental Health

Physical activity in childhood is essential for healthy brain development and leads to improved brain functions. Most importantly for mental health, healthy brain development provides greater ability to cope with anxiety and depressive symptoms as well as improved self-esteem and self-worth.⁽²⁹⁾ The decline in child physical health appears to correlate with the high rates of youth experience of anxiety and depression.

1 in 5 elementary students reports feelings associated with anxiety.⁽²⁰⁾ One in four secondary school students reports feelings associated with anxiety.⁽¹⁹⁾ Students who immigrated to Canada in the last five years report more feelings associated with anxiety than students who immigrated to Canada more than five years ago.

Girls are visiting emergency departments for anxiety and depression more than boys. Most concerning is among females aged 10-17 in the region, 49% of mental health related emergency department visits were for depression while 21% were for anxiety.⁽³⁰⁾

1 in 5

 **Anxiety:** 1 in 5 elementary students surveyed show moderate-high anxiety (males 16% / **females 23%**)⁽²⁰⁾

1 in 4

 **Anxiety:** 1 in 4 secondary students surveyed show moderate-high anxiety (males 17% / **females 33%**)⁽¹⁹⁾

24%

 **Depression:** 24% of secondary students show moderate-high depression (males 17% / **females 31%**)⁽¹⁹⁾

 **Anxiety:** 28% of newcomers in Canada for less than five years secondary students / 25% of secondary students born in Canada / 23% of secondary students in Canada for 5+ years show moderate-high anxiety⁽¹⁹⁾

Emergencies

 **Anxiety:** 18% of males (10-17) emergency department visits related to mental health / 21% of females (10-17) emergency department visits related to mental health⁽³⁰⁾

22%

 **Depression:** 22% of males (10-17) emergency department visits related to mental health / **49% of females** (10-17) emergency department visits related to mental health⁽³⁰⁾

*The anxiety measure indicated in the survey results is based on a series of survey items that assess a student's feelings of worry. The depression measure in the survey results is based on six items including "I feel sad or depressed." Students rated how often they felt the way described in the six items. The criteria used in these calculations are not equivalent to those used in clinical diagnoses.⁽¹⁹⁾

Safety

Safety at play is an important health consideration in light of the burgeoning research on the long-term health consequence from concussions. The highest amount of childhood injuries are unintentional injuries, including falls for children aged 0-4 and sports and recreation injuries for youth 10-14. Males have significantly higher rates of unintentional injuries than females. Females have higher unintentional poisonings than males. ⁽³²⁾

Injuries (2009-2013)

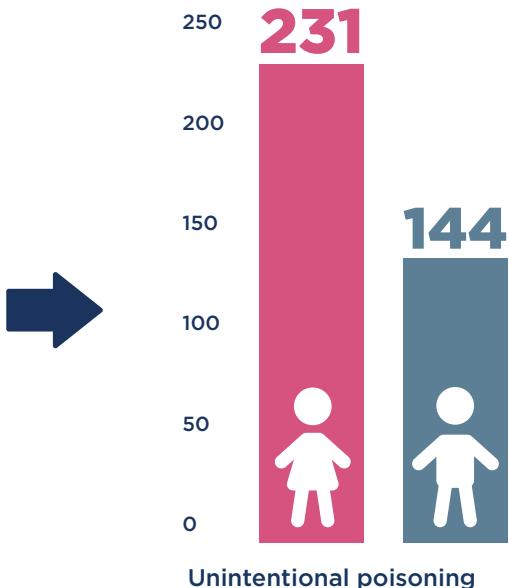
 Unintentional injuries: 13,307 emergency department (ED) visits per 100,000 males aged 0-4 / 10,866 ED visits per 100,000 females 0-4 ⁽³²⁾

 Unintentional injuries: 15,075 ED visits per 100,000 for males 10-14 / 10,151 ED visits per 100,000 females 10-14 ⁽³²⁾

 Unintentional poisoning: females age 15-19 had a significantly higher age-specific rate of ED visits & hospitalizations due to unintentional poisoning and substance misuse compared to males of the same age ⁽³²⁾

 Sports and Recreation: 6,582 ED visits per 100,000 males 10-14 / 2,651 ED visits per 100,000 for females 10-14 ⁽³²⁾

 Falls: 5,640 ED visits per 100,000 males 0-4 / 4,748 ED visits per 100,000 females 0-4 ⁽³²⁾



Immunization

60% 

 of 7-8 year olds are Immunizations of School Pupils Act (ISPA) compliant ⁽²⁵⁾

85% 

 of 16-17 year-olds are ISPA compliant ⁽²⁵⁾

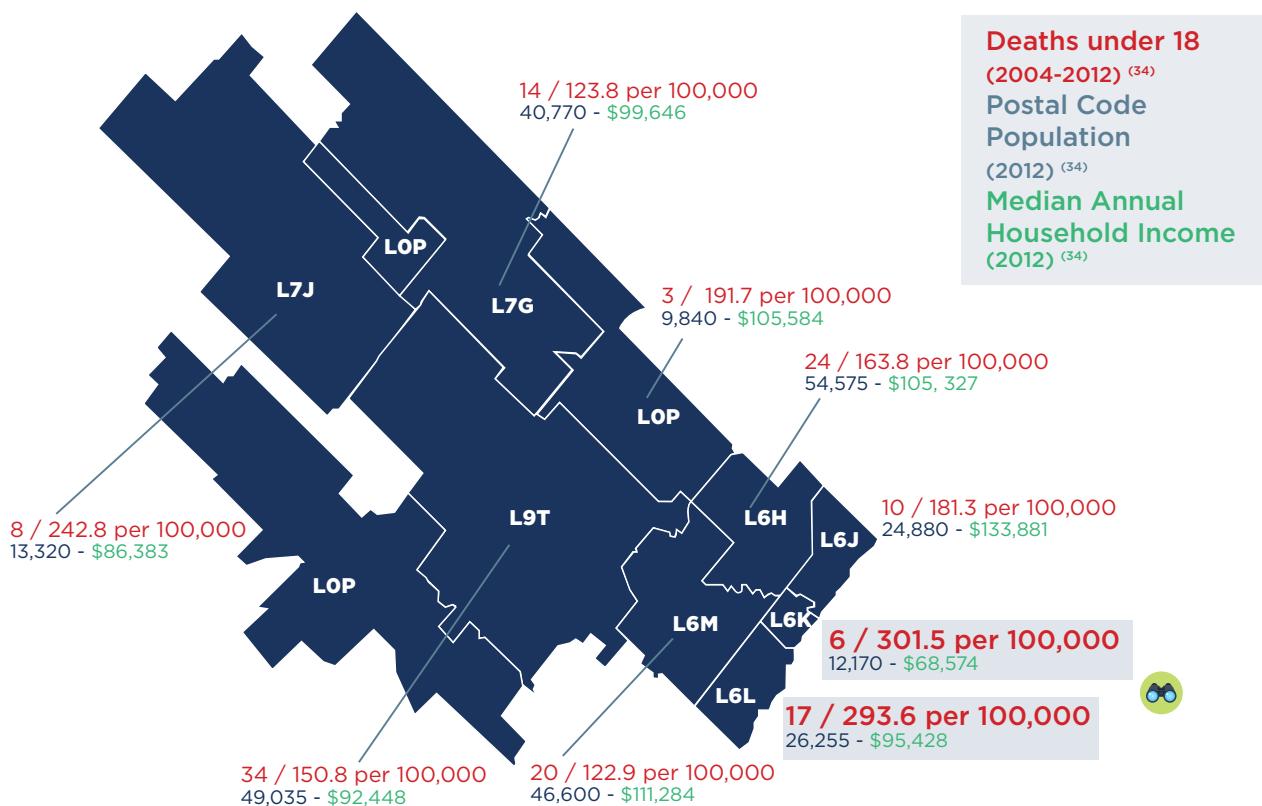
Safety is also a feature of our neighbourhoods.

Income, living conditions, and working conditions are strongly connected to mortality. Conditions in which people live and work directly affect the quality of their health and mortality.⁽⁶⁰⁾

“Below the age of 18, kids are more likely to die from injuries, if they’re low-income. It has to do with their actual day-to-day living conditions, living in high-rises where children are more likely to fall out the window, having parents that are working many jobs, more likely to be out on the street and hit by cars.”

Dennis Raphael⁽³⁴⁾

An analysis linking postal code-based income data and information from Ontario death certificates shows the relationship between income and median age of death. Oakville is home to the postal codes with the highest and lowest incomes as identified in earlier sections. According to the data of the mortality rate of those under 18 from all causes, between 2004-2012, Oakville has the postal codes with the highest mortality rates for those under 18; L6K and L6L which are also the lowest income areas in Oakville. As well Oakville has the postal code L6M with the lowest mortality under 18; which is the second highest income neighbourhood in Halton. These youth mortality rates align to Oakville’s status as the community with the greatest share of highest and lowest income households in the Region.



Risky Behaviour.

We are learning more and more just how important the childhood years are for making us who we are. Looking for new experiences is normal for teenagers, and sometimes it involves thrill-seeking or even risky behaviour. Teenagers need to explore their own limits and abilities, as well as social boundaries. They also need to express themselves as an individual as part of their path to becoming independent young adults, with their own identities. Some of our kids are engaging in behaviours that put themselves or others at risk up to and including impaired driving, overdoses, and the loss of life. These high risk activities are occurring but only a few times a year, so we have not provided details to protect identities.

Assault & Criminal Activity

Self-control is one of the best predictors of a child's success at school, and later in the work context. Studies have revealed that children aged 6 to 11 in the middle years are often overlooked, or "forgotten". Children in this developmental phase (especially before age 10) tend to be good candidates for learning self-control⁽²⁹⁾. Important changes are happening in the brain during these formative years that have fundamental impacts on what kind of person we are likely to become⁽³⁵⁾, and can determine if a child is en route to being a healthy adult or if they will spend their adult years recovering from their childhood. One in four male elementary school students reports being in a physical fight.

A survey of students school safety experience indicated that secondary students were more likely to verbally threaten a fellow student than try to physically harm them. However, the amount of physical fights and threatening language are comparatively low, and secondary students indicated they do feel safe at school. ⁽¹⁹⁾



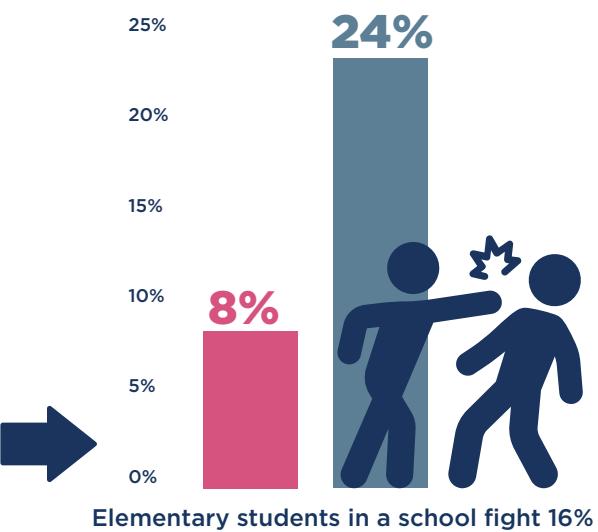
Threats: 22% of secondary students in the region heard another student threaten to hurt someone else in the school⁽¹⁹⁾



Assault: 6% secondary students in the region report being in a physical fight at school
(male 10% / female 3%) ⁽¹⁹⁾



16% elementary students in the region report being in a physical fight at school
(male 24% / female 8%) ⁽²⁰⁾

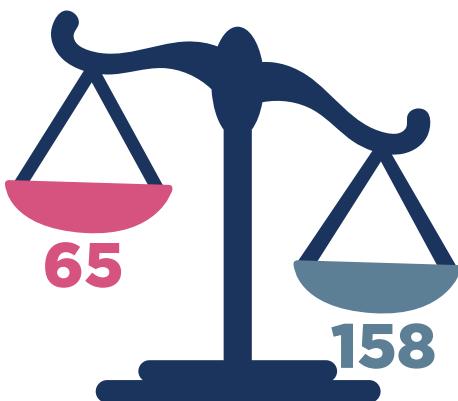


Assault is the third highest of charges laid on youth in the three communities by Halton Regional Police after Theft Under \$5,000 (413 charges) and Marijuana possession (343 charges). ⁽³¹⁾ While youth physical violence resulting in assault charges is predominantly male, young females make up a significant share of the aggressors. Between January 2017 and August 2018, 1 in 4 assault charges, and 1 in 5 charges for assault with a weapon as well as uttering a death threat was by a female perpetrator ⁽³¹⁾. 1 in 5 visits to the emergency department (ED) by 15-19-year-olds for an assault-related incident, including both aggressor and victim, were female ⁽³²⁾.

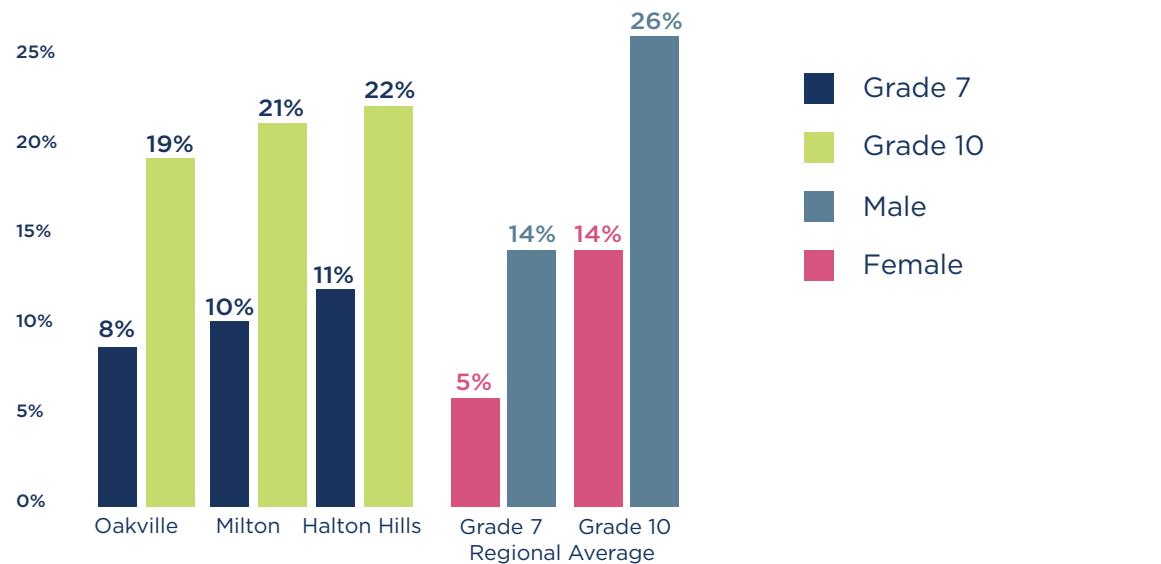
In the region:

-  158 males, 65 females under 17 charged with assault ⁽²¹⁾
- 
- 

Charges of Robbery with Violence (69 occurrences), Weapons Possession (97 occurrences), Break & Enter (29 occurrences), Motor Vehicle Theft (24 occurrences), Sexual Assault (24 occurrences), and improper use of a firearm causing death (1 occurrence) were disproportionately or completely committed by males. There is only one charge in which females (16) exceed males (14) which is unauthorized use of a credit card. ⁽³¹⁾

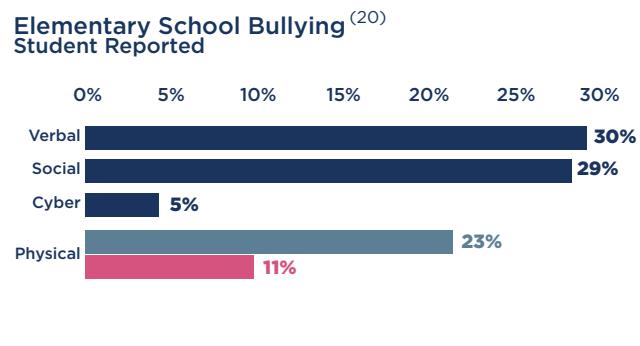
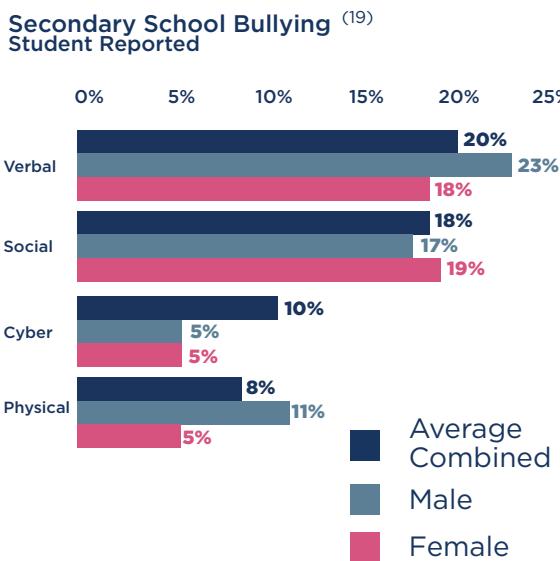


-  Student self-reported being involved in some type of criminal behaviour (one or more of vandalism, carrying a weapon, selling drugs or group and gang involvement) (Gr. 7: Oakville 8% / Milton 10% / Halton Hills 11% | female 5% / male 14%) (Gr. 10: Oakville 19% / Milton 21% / **Halton Hills 22%** | female 14% / male 26%) ⁽²⁵⁾
- 



Bullying

North Halton is experiencing higher rates of bullying involving the police and students reporting involvement in criminal activity. Females indicate that they are experiencing equal rates of non-physical bullying, but males are mostly being reported to the police.



126 Police Incidents Report Occurrences

Jan 2017-Aug 2018, 126 occurrences in Milton and Halton Hills, 63 occurrences in Oakville with a victim under 17⁽³¹⁾

Drinking and Drugs

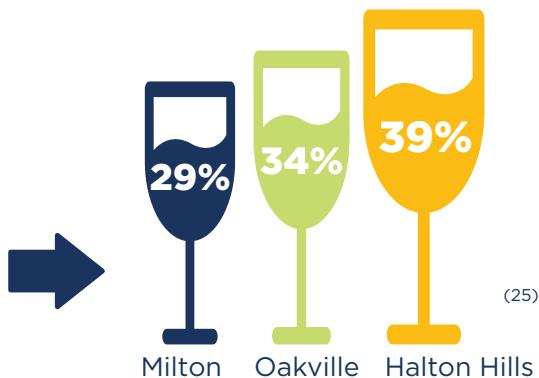
Underage drugs and alcohol consumption can have an impact on brain development and can also lead to problems later in life including chronic disease, addiction and mental health disorders.

Heavy drinking is defined as five or more drinks on one occasion in the last 12 months.⁽³⁷⁾ 1 in 3 Grade 10 students reports engaging in heavy drinking with male and female students reporting similar rates.⁽³⁶⁾

In a separate survey, newcomers reported lower rates of having one drink or more once per week than Canadian born students.⁽¹⁹⁾

Heavy Drinking: 3% of Grade 7 students (2% female / 4% male)⁽³⁶⁾
 34% of Grade 10 students
(**34% female** / 33% male)⁽²⁷⁾:

Grade 10 Students who have had more than 5 drinks on one occasion in the last 12 months.



20%

 of newcomer students in Canada with fewer than five years reported having at least one drink once a week / 22% of students in Canada for 5+ years / 27% of students born in Canada ⁽¹⁹⁾

 Illegal prescription use: 7% of Grade 7 students (7% female / 7% male) / 11% of Grade 10 students (**12% female** / 9% male) ⁽³⁶⁾

Opioid Crisis

Canadian youth aged 15 to 24 have the highest self-reported use of illicit substances compared to other Canadians and are about 5 times more likely to report harm from drug use than adults. ⁽³⁸⁾

Of great concern to parents, Fentanyl is a highly addictive, more potent opioid that is often combined with other drugs. These factors increase the potential for a fatal overdose.

Halton Police have advised that “fentanyl is in our backyard”. Although the prevalence of negative outcomes from opioid misuse is lower in the region than the provincial average, since 2013, there has been a steadily increasing number of fentanyl-related seizures and deaths. The second highest number of emergency department visits in the region between 2013-2015 came from the 15-24 demographic with 64 per 100,000 residents ⁽³⁹⁾.



Self Harm & Suicide

Suicide is second only to accidents as the leading cause of death for young people in Canada. In 2005, 146 people between the ages of 8 and 24 died by suicide in Ontario, according to coroner data.⁽⁴⁰⁾ In 2016, the figure was 181. Given the low number of youth suicides reported to police, if we release this data, it may facilitate identifying the individual. Of concern is the 14% of female and 8% of male Grade 10 students who reported thoughts of suicide⁽³⁶⁾.

Across Canada, approximately 2,500 children (10-17) are hospitalized every year due to self-harm injuries. Self-harm hospitalizations increased 90% between 2009-2014.⁽²¹⁾ Our communities are not immune to this trend. Teenage girls have the highest rates of emergency department visits and hospitalization for self-harm. **Halton Region reports that 80% of self-harm Emergency Department visits** were due to self-poisoning.⁽³²⁾ When reviewed in the context of the ED visits and hospitalizations related to unintentional poisonings and substance misuse for this age group, it indicates too many of our youth are gaining access to substances that can harm them.

14%

 Thoughts of suicide: **14% of female** Grade 10 students in the region / 8% of male Grade 10 students in the region⁽³⁶⁾



Halton females aged 15-19 had the highest emergency department visits & hospitalizations due to self-harm, more than double the rate of any other age group⁽³²⁾



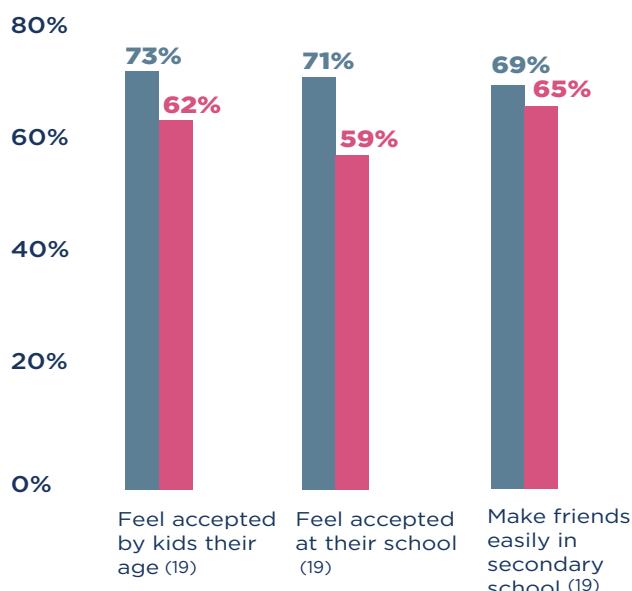
Relationships.

A strong sense of belonging is a factor in current and future success. But within our three communities, not all kids are feeling the same levels of inclusion and acceptance.

Girls report lower rates of acceptance by their fellow students and schools, as well as a slightly lower ability to make friends than boys. Newcomers also reported a slightly lower ability to make friends than Canadian-born students.

While youth give their neighbourhoods high marks for safety their view of their neighbourhoods as “caring” is ranked lower, particularly by high school students. Less than 6 out of 10 Grade 10 students feel their neighbours care about them. ⁽³⁶⁾ The Youth In/At Risk study for the Halton Granters Roundtable recommended more youth-dedicated spaces that were within a walkable distance from their homes and that offer a variety of programming.

Friends



76%

of elementary students say they make friends easily
(73% newcomers / 76% Canadian born) ⁽²⁰⁾

Community

“My neighbours care about me”
(Gr. 7: Oakville 73% / Milton 68% / Halton Hills 72% | **female 74%** / male 69%) (Gr. 10: Oakville 58% / Milton 55% / Halton Hills 59% | **female 60%** / male 56%) ^{(36) (25)}

“I live in a safe community”
(Gr. 7: Oakville 93% / Milton 88% / Halton Hills 90% | **female 92%** / male 90%) (Gr. 10: Oakville 90% / Milton 84% / Halton Hills 84% | **female 88%** / male 87%) ^{(36) (25)}

“My school is a friendly and welcoming place”
(Gr. 7: Oakville 91% / Milton 89% / Halton Hills 87%)
(Gr. 10: Oakville 84% / Milton 77% / Halton Hills 77%) ^{(36) (25)}

Opportunity.

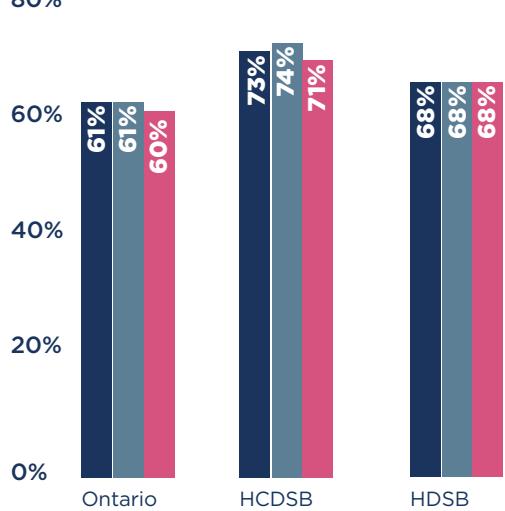
Education provides the opportunity for personal growth and development and after graduation, it should provide the benefit of a sustainable job and social inclusion. A good education should empower youth to reach their full potential and enjoy the fruits of their labour, regardless of their circumstances at birth.

When it comes to certain markers of success in education, such as graduation rates and EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) test scores, our communities are doing very well.

But our local data reveal barriers and factors that keep some students from experiencing positive educational achievements and successes while transitioning into adulthood.

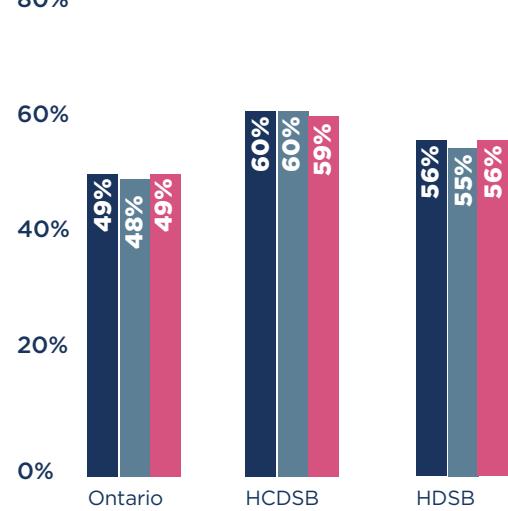
Learning - Elementary Grade 3 Math

(42) (43)



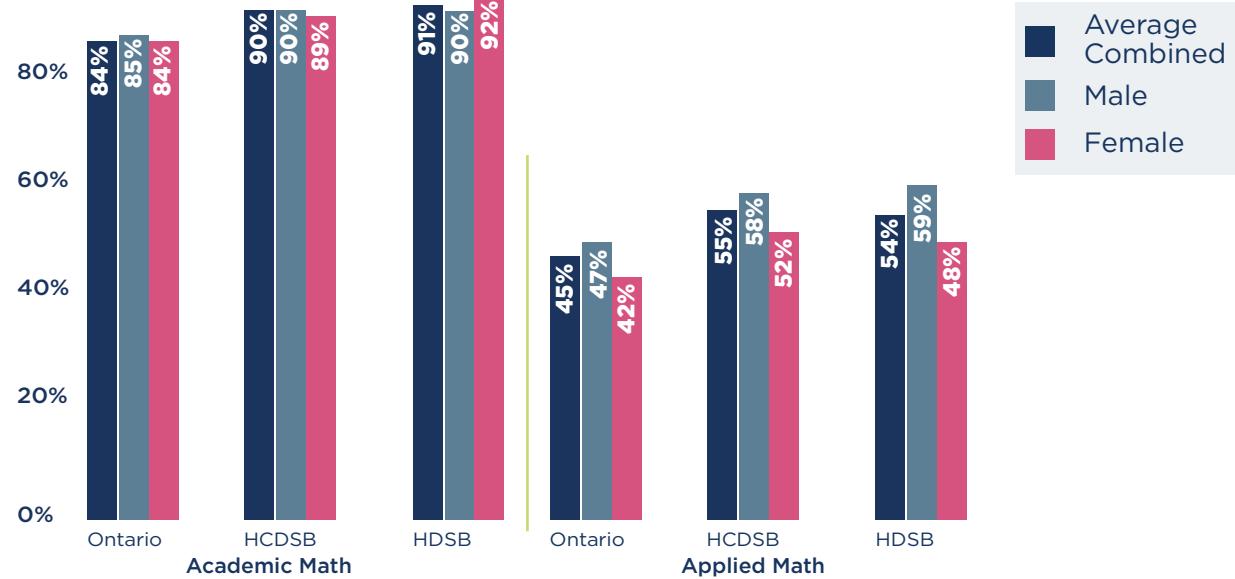
Learning - Elementary Grade 6 Math

(42) (43)



Learning - Secondary Grade 9 Math

(42) (43)



Wealthy and Low income Elementary Schools

The Ministry of Education collects data on the student populations of each school including: the percent of students who live in lower income households, whose parents have some university education and whose first language is not English and tracks against the provincial average. For this report we reviewed the attributes of the student bodies in two of the schools in each municipality: the one with the highest share of low income students (identified as Low Income) and the one with the lowest share of low income students (identified as Wealthiest)

In a comparison of EQAO scores between schools with the Low-income schools and the Wealthiest schools, the difference in scores was pronounced in Oakville and Georgetown with lower income schools performing poorly.

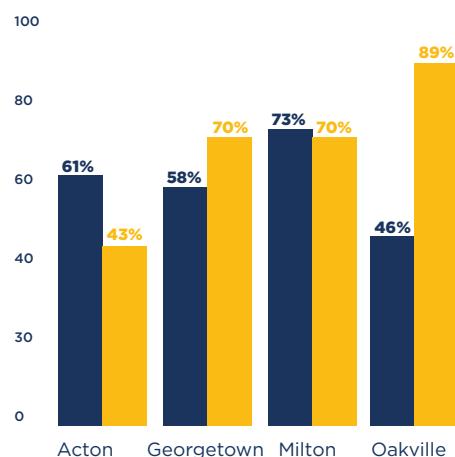
The greatest gap in scores between schools was in Oakville which again aligns with its greater income equity gap. In fact this low income Oakville school at 27.1% low income was the lowest in the four municipalities and the only one to fall below the Provincial average of 19.5% low income students.

Test scores in Milton and Acton were opposite, with lower-income students performing better indicating that other factors may be at play, such as the share of ESL students, parent educational achievement, and less disparity between wealthy and low-income schools.

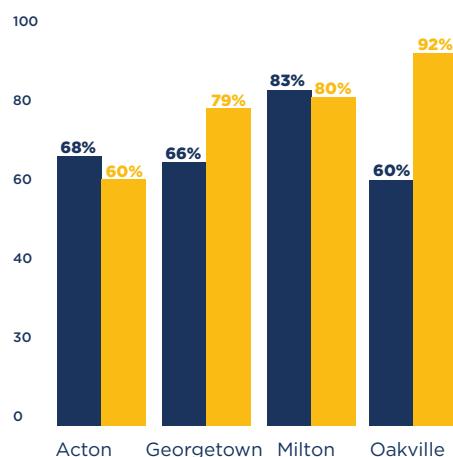
EQAO Test Scores By Elementary Schools

Comparing the School with the Greatest Share of Low Income Students to the School with the Wealthiest in each of 4 Halton municipalities ⁽⁴⁴⁾

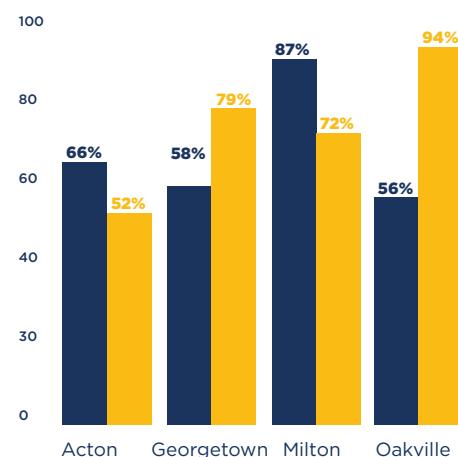
EQAO Math Test Scores



EQAO Reading Test Scores

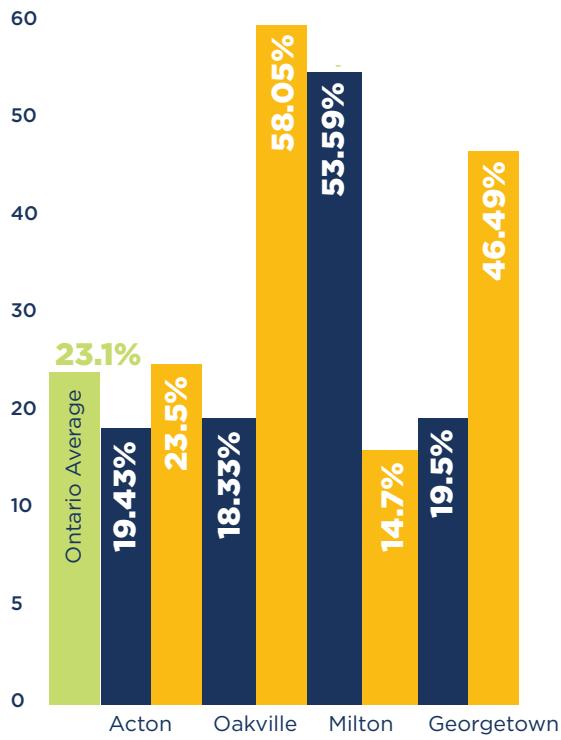


EQAO Writing Test Scores

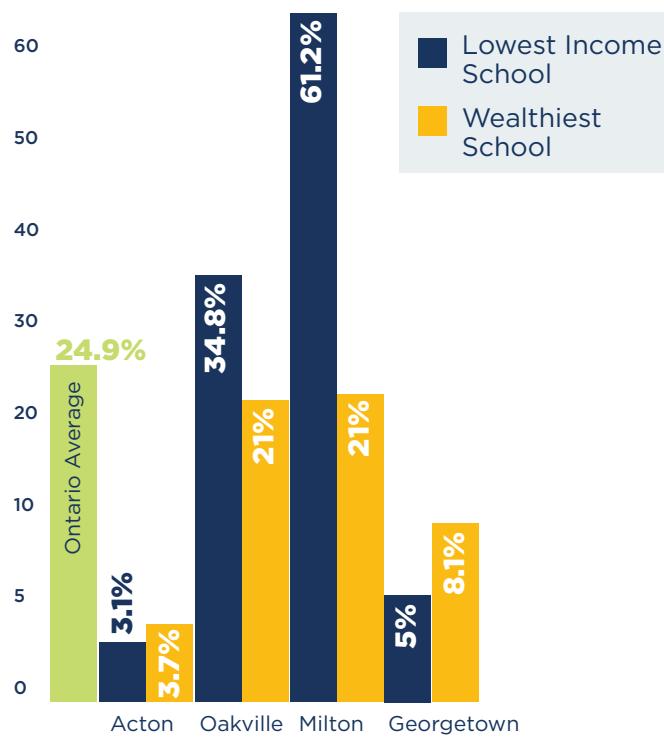


 Lowest Income School  Wealthiest School

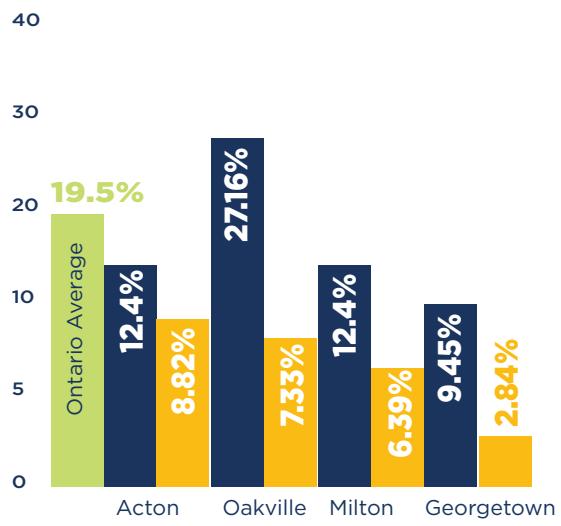
Percentage Whose Parents Have Some University Education



Percentage First Language Not English



Percentage Of Low Income Households



Graduation

HCDSB rate of 93.5% / HDSB rate of 90.7% ⁽⁴⁴⁾



Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

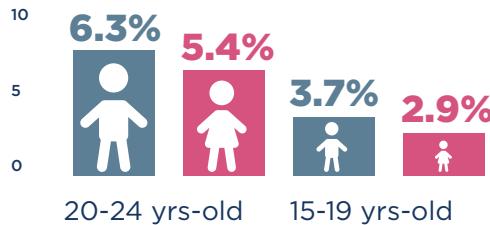
Post high school, young people who are Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) may be experiencing difficulty making the transition from school to the labour market and could be at higher risk of social exclusion and depression.

The Labour Force survey tracks the NEET rate for youth nationally and provincially. In 2016, the NEET for Canadian youth age 15-19 was 6.3% (7.2% male/5.4% female) and 5.2% for Ontario youth. The National average for 20-24-year-olds was 14.9% (16.4% male/13.3% female).⁽⁴⁵⁾

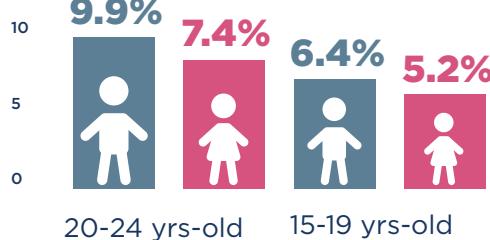
From the 2016 census data, Milton has the highest rate of NEET for both age groups of 15-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds. The age cohort experiencing the greatest difficulty in transitioning to the labour force in Milton was 20-24 year olds with 1 in 10 young men and 1 in 13 young women NEET. There are over 2,500 NEET youth between the ages of 15-24 in our three communities (1,240 in Oakville, 810 in Milton and 460 in Halton Hills).⁽⁴⁶⁾

Similar to national trends, young men are having a greater challenge than young women making the transition into adulthood. In a small sample size, youth in two Oakville private schools have the lowest NEET (0%)⁽⁴⁷⁾ while youth coming out of care have a rate of more than 1 in 4.⁽⁴⁸⁾

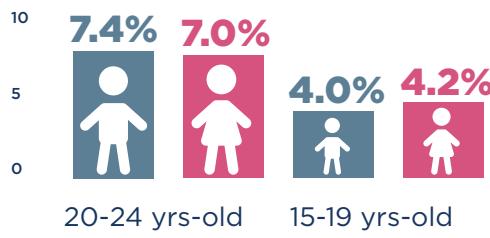
Oakville -NEET⁽⁴⁶⁾



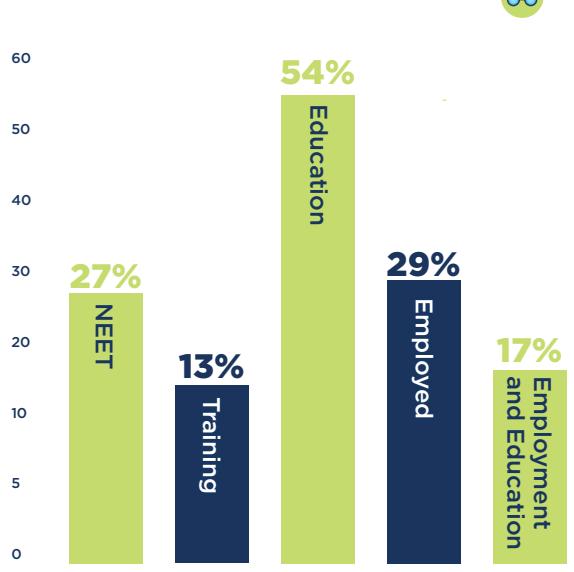
Milton -NEET⁽⁴⁶⁾



Halton Hills -NEET⁽⁴⁶⁾



Youth Out-of-Care - 82 Youth⁽⁴⁸⁾



Stay at Home Adult Children

Oakville young adults are more likely to be living at home with their adult parents at the same time they are more likely to be in education, employment or training than their neighbours.⁽⁴⁹⁾ Clearly, other factors like housing affordability may be a more important contributor. A recent nationwide survey of millennial prospective homebuyers indicates that Oakville is the most unattainable housing market in Ontario and the third most unaffordable city to buy a home in Canada. The average home price in Oakville is \$1,074,230 and the average down payment is \$214,846. The survey suggests that if Oakville millennials set aside 20 per cent of their income every month, they would have to save for 16 years for a down payment.⁽⁵⁰⁾

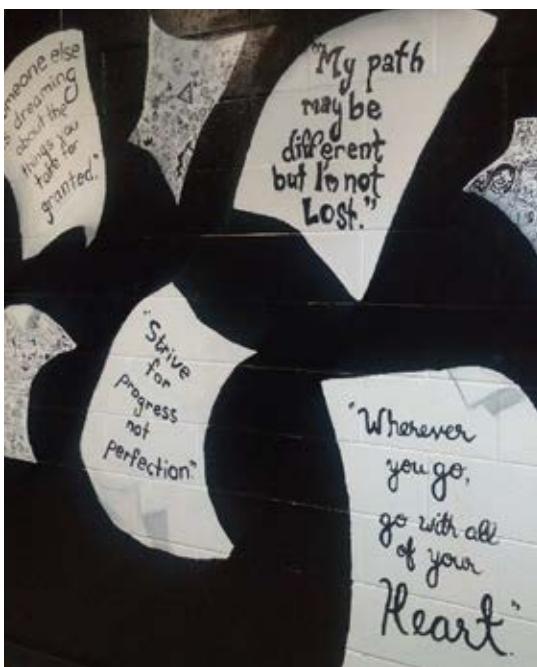
- 🔍 Halton Hills 53.7% of 20-34 (female 47.8% / male 59.3%) Milton 37.3% of 20-34 (female 31.1% / male 44.4%) Oakville 59.9% of 20-34 (female 55.2% / male 64.8%)⁽⁴⁹⁾

Summary.

Creating Successful Childhoods For All Of Our Kids

Though this has been a Tale of Two Childhoods, there's only one childhood we want for all of Halton's next generation: a happy, healthy childhood that sets them up for future success.

So where do we direct philanthropic dollars to have the most benefit? We have created the Watchlist on the next page to identify pressing needs in our community for greater philanthropic impact.



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Adverse Childhood Experiences - Watchlist

- Addressing child poverty in our communities
- All Kids - healthy weights, increases in screen time, not meeting standards for physical activity and healthy eating
- Playing safe and unintentional injuries
- Safety in low-income neighbourhoods, particularly Oakville
- Bullying - All ages, particularly in communities in North Halton
- Teenage heavy drinking, risky behaviours and criminal activity, particularly amongst male youth
- Youth anxiety, depression, and self-harm, particularly amongst female youth
- Opioid misuse
- The teenage perception that neighbours do not care about them
- EQAO scores, particularly in some lower-income Oakville neighbourhoods
- 2,500 NEET Youth, particularly in Milton, and Youth Out Of Care
- Affordable housing for young adults, particularly in Oakville

We conducted this research to help ourselves, our charity partners, our Fundholders and our community to identify where we need to concentrate and focus on making an impact on behaviours of our kids.

The next step is to come together to create collaborative, community-based solutions to address the areas of greatest need and inequity for our children and youth.

Learn More, Do More, Give More.

www.theocf.org

www.cfhn.ca

www.ymcafoakville.org

Sources are available in the digital report at: www.theocf.org/vitalyouthreport

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