

Getting Started in our Community



Hamilton's youth and recent immigrants are more likely to be unemployed than the overall population. Hamilton gained over 4,600 people from other parts of Canada, and those that have moved here tend to be under the age of 45.

Recent Immigrants

In Hamilton, recent immigrants are twice as likely to be unemployed as non-immigrants (11.7% vs. 6.0% in 2006). This difference decreases with length of residence in Canada. Almost half of recent immigrant families have an income below \$40,000, and recent immigrants have the highest poverty and child poverty rate of any sub-population in Hamilton at 50.5%.

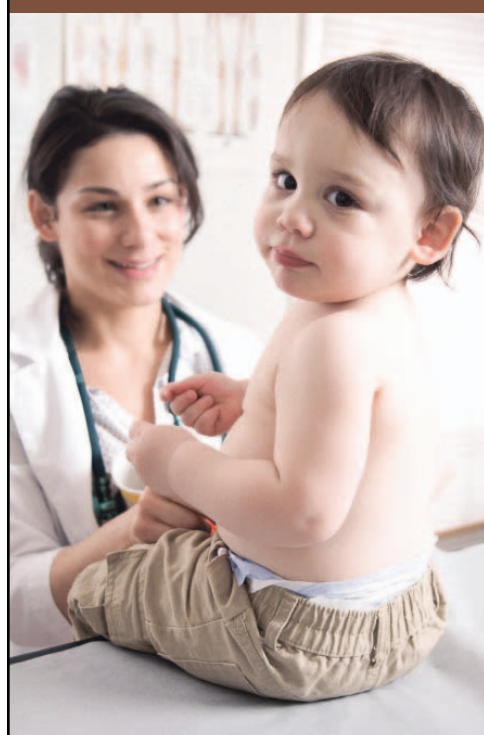
Youth Unemployment

The youth unemployment rate for the Hamilton CMA has remained between 12% and 15% over the last four years, approximately double that for the overall population (6.0 to 7.5%). Youth unemployment peaked in April 2010 at 19.2%, but returned to 14.8% in June 2010. This rate is consistently two to three percentage points better than the provincial average.

Migration within Canada

From 2002 to 2007 (the most recent figures available), 93,368 people moved to Hamilton from other parts of Canada. During the same time period, 88,742 people moved away, resulting in a net gain of 4,626 people or an average of 771 people per year. People moving to Hamilton tended to be younger: 81% of the people who moved to Hamilton were under age 45; 6% were over 65.

Health and Well-Being



Hamilton is on par with Ontario on measures like low birthweight and physical activity, but is worse on obesity. We have more physicians than average, but almost 7% of people say they don't have a family doctor.

Low Birthweight

Low birthweight describes babies born weighing between 500 grams and 2,500 grams (5 lbs, 8 oz), which puts them at higher risk of health and other problems. Hamilton's 6.1% low birthweight rate in 2008 was similar to the 6.3% provincial average, but between 2004 and 2008 ranged from a low of 4.8% in some areas of the city to a high of 9% in other areas.

Physical Activity and Obesity

In 2007-8, almost half of Hamiltonians 12 years and older reported being active (enough to improve cardiovascular health), or somewhat active (enough to have some health benefit), similar to the province. The percentage of Hamilton adults who are overweight or obese increased to 59.8% from 50.4% between 2001 and 2008; and is significantly higher than the provincial average of 50.0%.

Physicians per 100,000 Persons

In 2008, Hamilton had 1,383 physicians including 443 family doctors and 940 specialists. Adjusted for population size, Hamilton was equal to the Ontario average for family doctors, and had nearly double the number of specialists. Currently, 6.9% of Hamiltonians 12 years old and over report not having a family doctor – better than the 8.5% provincial average and 15.1% national average.

Housing



On average, housing is more affordable in Hamilton than elsewhere in Canada, but the gap is closing. Emergency shelter usage by men has fallen in the last three years.

Homeowner Affordability

In 2008, the ratio of average house price to median annual family income was 3.44, meaning families spent about three and a half times their annual income to buy a house, lower than the 3.95 provincial average and the 4.12 national average. Hamilton's housing is getting less affordable over time: in 2001, the ratio was just below two and a half times family income.

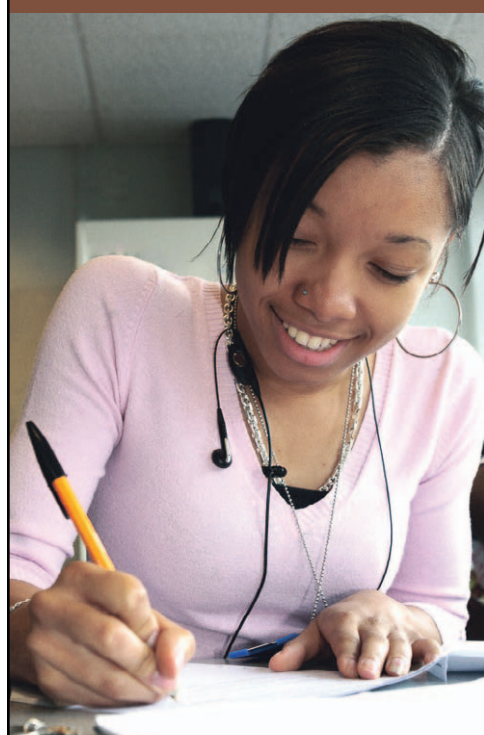
Renter Affordability

Hamilton's rents remain below provincial average. The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in 2009 was \$767, compared to a provincial average of \$955. Just over 1 in 5 tenant households in Hamilton are paying more than half their income on rent, making their housing very precarious.

Emergency Shelter Use

The number of people using emergency homeless shelters dropped 7% to 3,617 in 2009 from 3,950 in 2007. The number of people who stayed in shelters most of the year also dropped to 40 from 70. The occupancy rate in men's shelters has fallen from 87% to 70%. Occupancy in emergency shelters for women and their families leaving abusive situations climbed from 86% to over 95% for the same period.

Learning



Hamilton's high school completion and post-secondary education rates are lower than the provincial average. School readiness is slightly below the provincial average and standardized test performance varies widely by school.

Completed Post-Secondary Education

As of the 2006 census, 58% of Hamiltonians aged 25-64 had completed either a post-secondary certificate, trades program, diploma, or degree, compared to the provincial average of 61%. One-quarter of Hamilton residents had completed a university degree compared with 31% across Ontario. Degree completion among Hamilton's recent immigrants is higher, at 38%.

High School Non-Completion

In Hamilton, 16% of people aged 25-64 have not completed high school, higher than the 14% provincial average. This varies both by sub-population and by neighbourhood: e.g. 27% of Aboriginal people aged 25-64 have not completed high school, and the proportion of 20-24 year olds who do not have a diploma and

are not in school varies from 0% in 23 neighbourhoods to over 65% in four neighbourhoods.

Standardized Student Test Scores

Students in Hamilton schools are tested in Grade 3, Grade 6, and Grade 9 by the "EQAO", which measures student performance against provincial standards. The HWCDSB consistently achieves higher than the provincial averages. Though improving, the HWDSB is usually just under the provincial average. In most areas measured, girls outperform boys and there is a wide variation by school: in both boards there are schools that exceed the provincial average, and schools that are below. Hamilton children are also slightly below the provincial average in school readiness, as measured by the "Early Development Instrument".

Safety



Property and violent crime rates have fallen by more than 20% over the last decade. Calls-for-service and charges laid related to domestic violence have increased by 10% over the past three years.

Property Crime

Property crime rates have dropped steadily since the late 1990s. In the Hamilton CMA, property crimes dropped by 28% from 4,963 crimes per 100,000 persons in 1998 to 3,578 per 100,000 in 2009. Overall, Canada experienced the same decline, and Ontario had an even larger decline of 35%. Hamilton's property crime rate is lower than the national average, but higher than the provincial average.

Violent Crime

Violent crime rates have fallen by 21%, from 1,377 per 100,000 in 1998 to 1,092 per 100,000 in 2009, a decrease greater than the provincial (17%) and national (2%) decline over the same period.

Similar to the property crime rate, Hamilton's violent crime rate is lower than the national average, but higher than Ontario's average.

Domestic Violence

In 2009, Hamilton Police Service received 5,769 calls-for-service relating to domestic violence (7.3% of all calls), representing an increase from the two prior years, when there were 5,178 calls (2007) and 5,604 calls (2008). Of these calls, 711 charges were laid in 2007 and 789 in 2008.