

Safety



Hamilton's property crime rates continued a decade-long decline while violent crime rates showed a slight increase after a long decline. The number of domestic violence occurrences reported to police has increased over the last four years.

Property Crime Rate

Last year, property crimes rates fell by 5% in the Hamilton CMA to 3,417 per 100,000 people. The provincial decline was 7%; national decline was 6%. Since 1998, Hamilton's property crime rate has declined 31.1%. The rate is lower than the national average, but higher than the provincial average.

Violent Crime Rate

Violent crime rates increased by 3% from last year to 1,129 violent crimes per 100,000 people in the Hamilton CMA. Provincial and national violent crime rates decreased over this time by 2% and 3% respectively. In spite of Hamilton's 2010 increase, the violent crime rate has decreased by 18% since 1998. Similar to the property crime rate, Hamilton's violent crime rate is lower than the national average, but higher than Ontario's average.

Police-reported Domestic Violence

The number of domestic violence occurrences reported to police increased by more than 70% in 2010 to 3,798 from 2,189 in 2007. The number of charges laid increased by 24% to 973 from 782 for the same years.

On the Web

- Police-reported hate crimes
- Child welfare caseloads
- Road and pedestrian safety

Work



Hamilton's unemployment rate has been below provincial and national rates for over two years. Average earnings have increased for women, but have fallen for men. More Hamiltonians are working for less than a living wage.

Unemployment Rate

The June 2011 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Hamilton CMA was 5.9%, up from 5.4% in May, when it was the lowest rate in Canada. Over the last year, Hamilton's unemployment rate has been substantially below provincial and national averages (7.8% and 7.5% in June 2011, respectively). The last time that Hamilton's unemployment rate was above the Ontario average was over two years ago: March 2009, when Hamilton's rate was 8.8%, and the Ontario average was 8.7%.

Average Earnings

From 2006 to 2009, individual average earnings in the Hamilton CMA fell slightly when adjusted for inflation. Men's average earnings fell over that time to \$46,400 from \$51,700, while women's average earnings grew to \$33,200 from \$29,800. These are similar to, but more pronounced than, provincial and national trends.

Living Wage

Hamilton's Social Planning and Research Council reports that, according to most recent data available (2006), there were 10,155 people in Hamilton working full-time, full-year, whose income was still below the poverty line. This was up from 8,310 in 2001. This group made up 6.7% of the working population – lower than Toronto (9.0%), but higher than Ottawa, London, and Waterloo. Ontario's average for those employed at less than a living wage was 5.5%, and the national average was 5.8%.

On the Web

- Percentage of full-time vs part-time jobs
- Employment insurance beneficiaries
- Participation rate by gender

Methodology

Indicator Selection

The *Vital Signs* Advisory Committee comprises members of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction's Evaluation and Learning Committee plus additional experts from the environment, business and economic, and arts and culture sectors. The indicators selected and prioritized by the committee build on those identified by HRPR to measure a wide range of socio-economic issues and provide a broad quality of life picture. They incorporate those identified by Community Foundations of Canada to be included as part of the national *Vital Signs* initiative.

Progress was examined in three ways:

- The indicator's change over time, including changes from the data presented in last year's report
- Its comparison to provincial and national averages
- The disparity present within the indicator – e.g. between different neighbourhoods or between different groups of Hamiltonians.

References

Information was gathered with researchers from many local and national organizations and reviewed by Advisory Committee members and other external experts. Complete references, links to data sources and other information is available at www.hamiltonvitalsigns.ca.

Every effort was made to use information pertaining to the city of Hamilton where possible. Some Statistics Canada data was only available for the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which includes Burlington and Grimsby. This is indicated where applicable.

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. *Vital Signs* is co-ordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

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About Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation's mission is to strengthen Hamilton's quality of life as an inclusive and sustainable community through philanthropy. We help donors make the difference *they* want to make by:

- Working with donors to build funds that meet their philanthropic and financial objectives
- Granting to the widest possible range of charitable organizations and initiatives
- Fostering community leadership by bringing people, knowledge and resources together around the community's needs and opportunities.

Since it was founded in 1954, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants to our community totalling approximately \$65 million, including almost \$4 million last year.

Why we're publishing *Hamilton's Vital Signs*

Building and sharing knowledge about our city is at the heart of our mission. It's a resource we offer as we work with our community towards a strong and vibrant city. Knowledge enables us to help donors make informed decisions on how to have the greatest impact with their gifts. It provides institutions and charities with information for community planning and decision-making, and inspires action and engages citizens further in civic life.

Hamilton's Vital Signs is one aspect of informing our own work as a grantmaker and catalyst for community change. Examples of

HCF's support to programs and organizations in the context of *Hamilton's Vital Signs*' highlights include:

- Working with partners to strengthen challenged neighbourhoods
- Preparing citizens for a changing economy through literacy and skill acquisition
- Empowering youth to turn their environmental ideas into action
- Supporting a range of arts and cultural initiatives
- Integrating newcomers
- Reducing and preventing poverty by addressing its root causes.

All the evidence shows that these strategies are effective, but as *Vital Signs* affirms, the challenges are complex. Each of us has a critical role, but by itself, is not enough. The broad engagement and collaboration of our whole community is needed to move our city forward.

We encourage you to visit www.hamiltonvitalsigns.ca for more information about the work HCF is funding and to visit www.hcf.on.ca to learn how we can help you make long-lasting change.



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For Hamilton, For Ever

Thank You to Our Partners

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Hamilton Air Monitoring Network
Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
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