

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Zaryab Ahmad, Economic Analyst, Burlington Economic Development  
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**Cc:** Anita Cassidy, Executive Director, Burlington Economic Development  
Mark Simeoni, Director of Community Planning  
Brynn Nheiley, Executive Director of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility  
Tim Commisso, City Manager

**Date:** June 24, 2022

**Re:** 2021 Census Release: Age, Sex at Birth and Gender, and Types of Dwelling

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This memo presents the 2021 Census age, gender, and type of dwelling data for the City of Burlington. The memo was jointly prepared by Burlington Economic Development and Community Planning to present the latest data in one comprehensive document while providing some analysis relevant to the interests of each department.

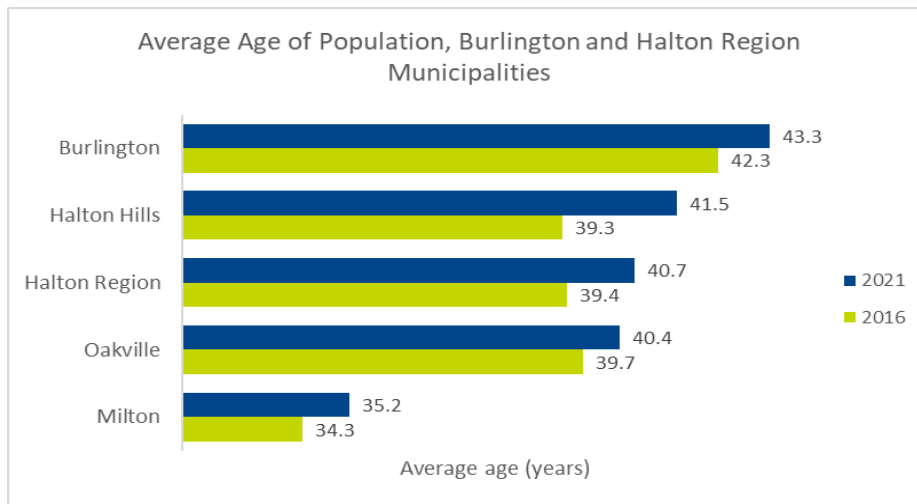
## **Background**

On April 27, 2022, Statistics Canada released the 2021 Census data for age, gender, and type of dwelling counts. This is the second release of the 2021 Census data with five future data sets to be released between now and November 30, 2022. The [first 2021 Census Release Memo](#) (page 32-38) covered the population and dwelling count release from February 9, 2022. The 2021 Census of Canada commenced in May 2021, during a global pandemic, with Statistics Canada reporting an overall response rate of 98.3% for Ontario.

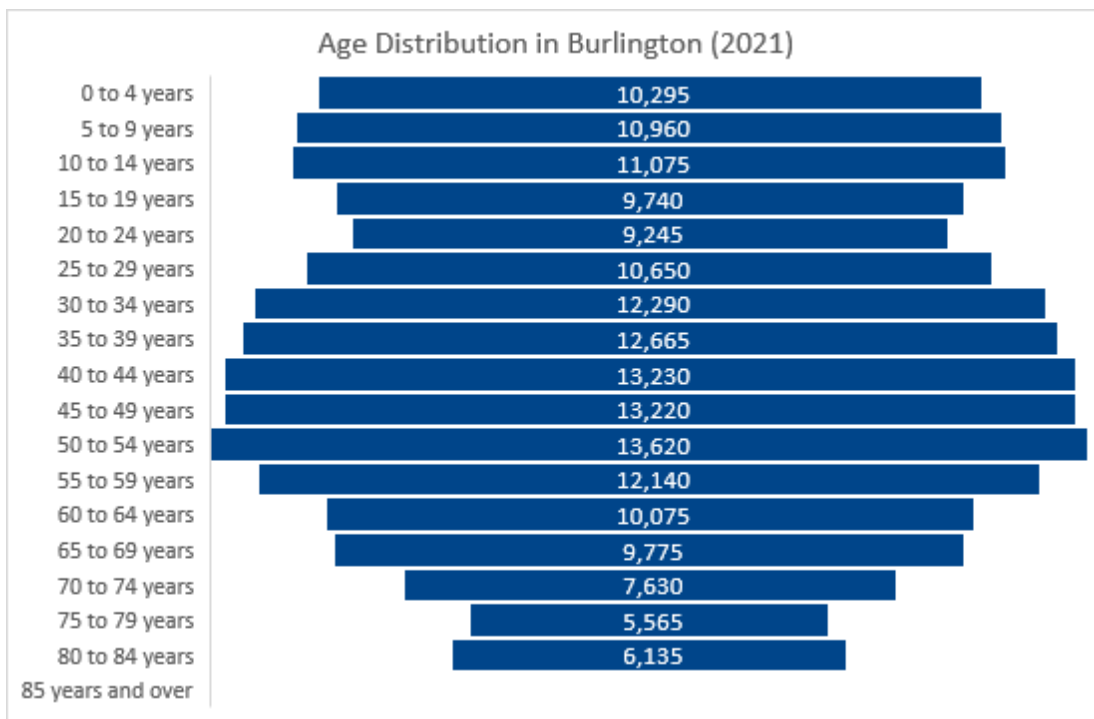
## **2021 Census Age**

Burlington has historically had the highest average age within Halton Region, and this trend continues in the 2021 census year. The average age in Halton in 2021 was 40.2 years and the median age was 40.8 years. In Burlington, the average age in 2021 was 43.3 years and the median age was 44.4 years. Both indicators are approximately three years older in Burlington when compared to the other municipalities in Halton Region.

Growth in Burlington's population aged 65 years and older is outpacing growth in every other age range. The number of youth aged 29 and younger declined in Burlington by 1.4% between 2016 and 2021, led largely by a reduction in the population of children aged 0-14 (-2.5%). This is a trend seen across Canada and is due to both the historically low fertility rates in the country (1.4 children per woman) and the aging baby boomer population.



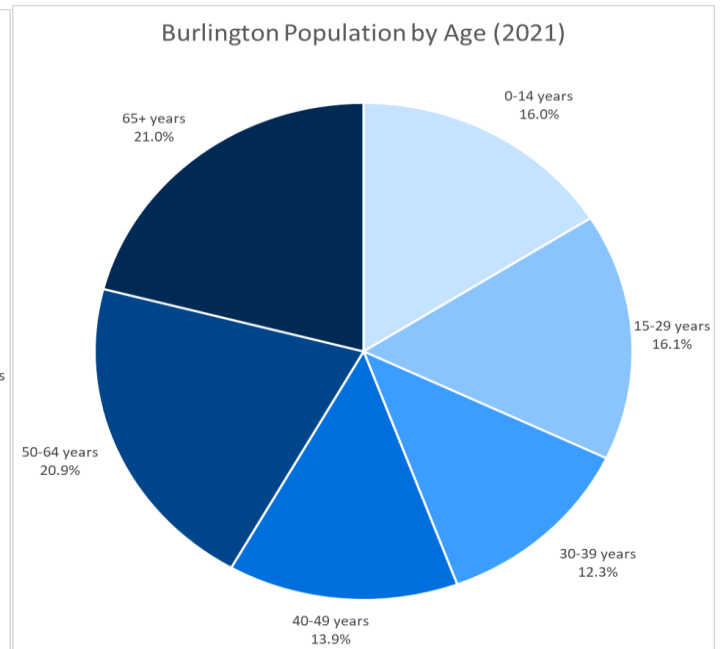
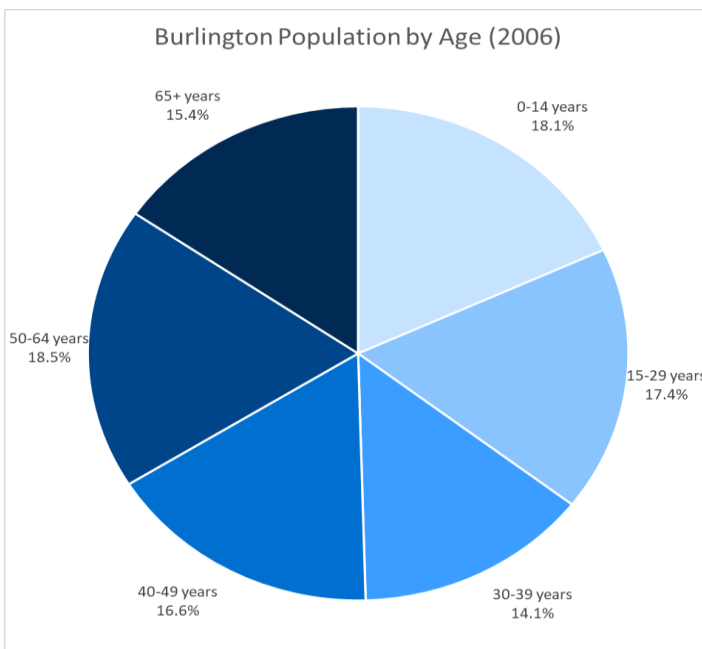
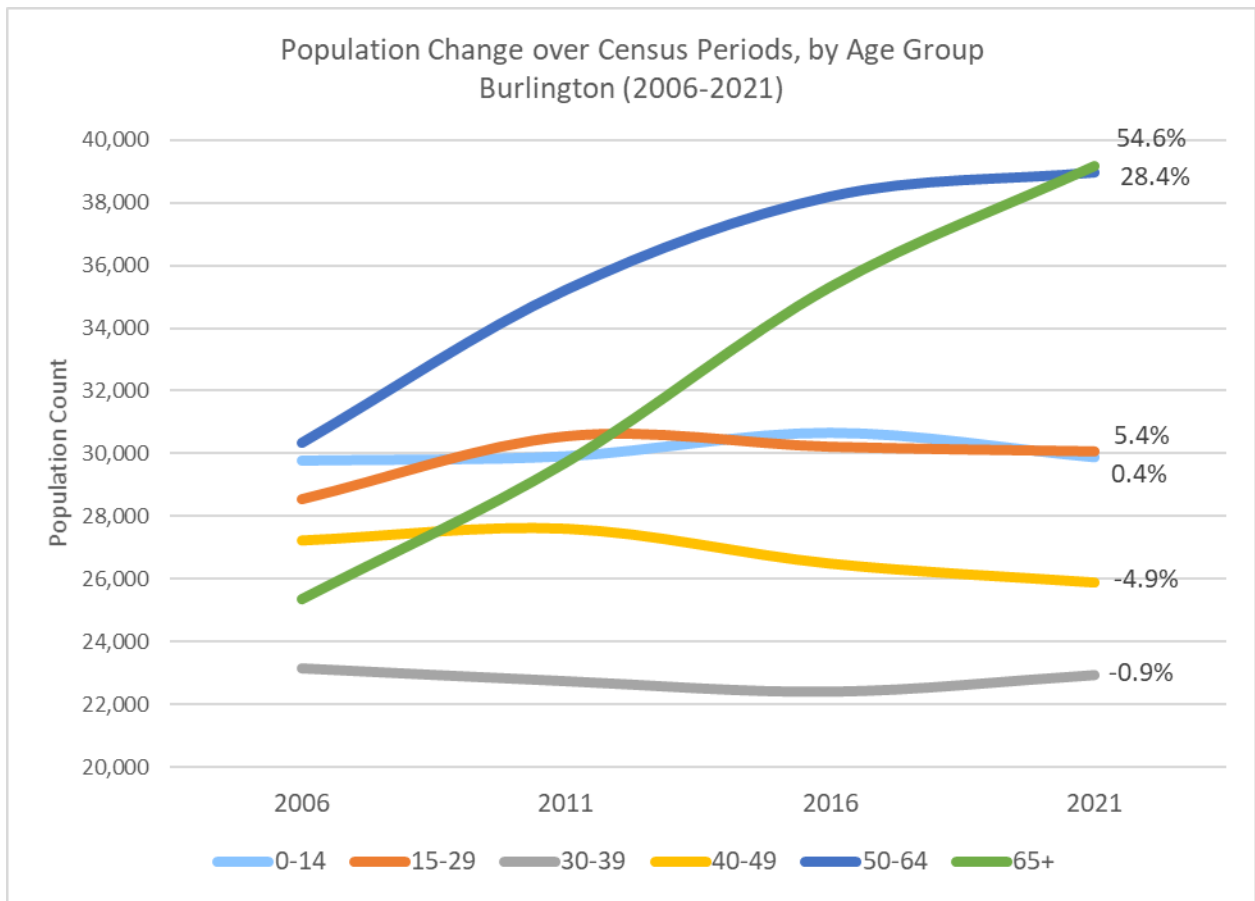
Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 and 2016 Census of Population



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

There is a declining working-age population (i.e., those aged 15 - 64) and a rising aging population in Burlington and across Canada. Currently, 63.2% of the city’s population is comprised of working-age individuals with one-third of this group made up of people aged 50-64. Between 2006 and 2021, the largest growth was seen in the 65+ age group (+55%), followed by 50-64-year-olds (+28.4%). As the last cohorts of the baby boomer generation enter retirement over the next decade, the trend of an aging population will likely accelerate. However, the number of people nearing retirement is expected to decline after 2030, as the smaller Generation X group replaces baby boomers.

The following graphs depict changes in broad age groups in Burlington over the last 15 years (2006-2021). More detailed data can be found in Appendix A.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2021 Census of Population

Included in Appendix B is a map prepared by Statistics Canada illustrating the percentage of the population aged 65 and over in 2021 by Census Tract in the City of Burlington, which is part of the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

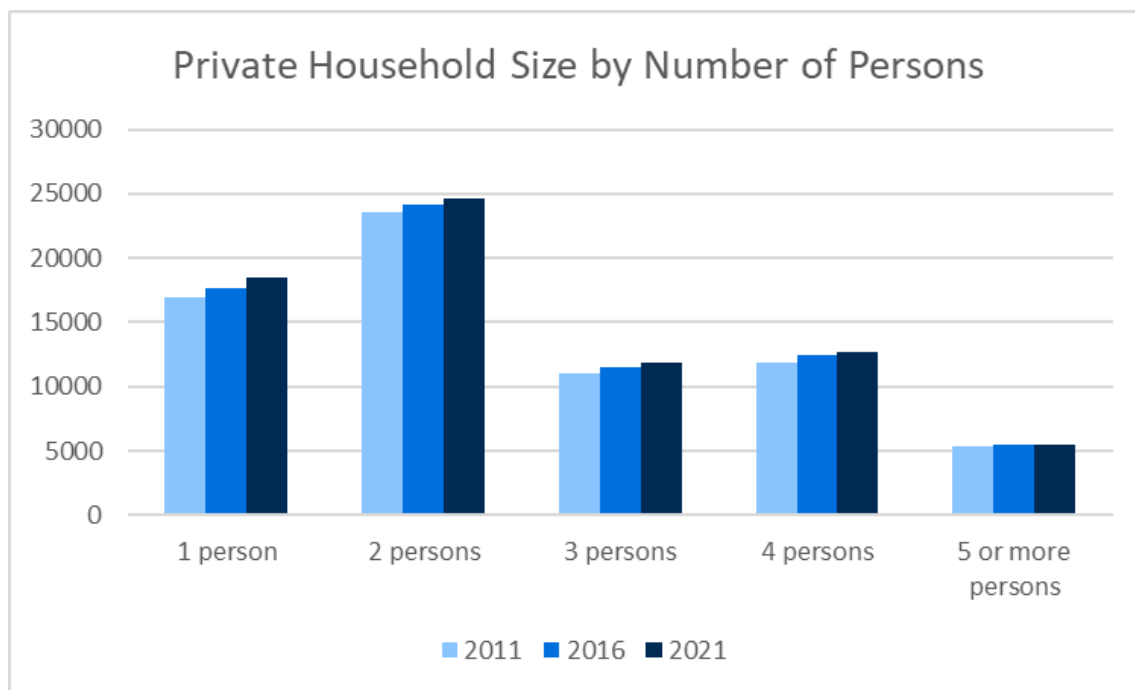
## 2021 Census Sex at Birth and Gender

For the 2021 Census, Statistics Canada modified its question on sex to include sex “at birth” and added a new question on gender for greater data inclusivity. The updated categories presented are male+ and female+, which include cisgender, transgender, and non-binary people in each category. Distribution by gender in Burlington is split 48% to 52% between male+ and female+ groups.

## 2021 Census Household Characteristics

In 2021, the average household size in Burlington was 2.5 persons per household. The average household size has remained the same since the 2011 census. Burlington has the smallest average household size in the Region, with the average household size in Halton being 2.8 persons per household. The Burlington Growth Analysis Study provided an average household size of 2.59 persons in 2021, and the Halton Region Modified Preferred Growth Concept (2021-2041) had the average household size as 2.63 persons per household for Burlington in 2021. The average household sizes provided in the Burlington Growth Analysis Study and the Halton Region Modified Preferred Growth Concept for 2021 are not significantly different from the data provided in the 2021 Census.

The below graph depicts the private household size by number of persons. More detailed data can be found in Appendix A.

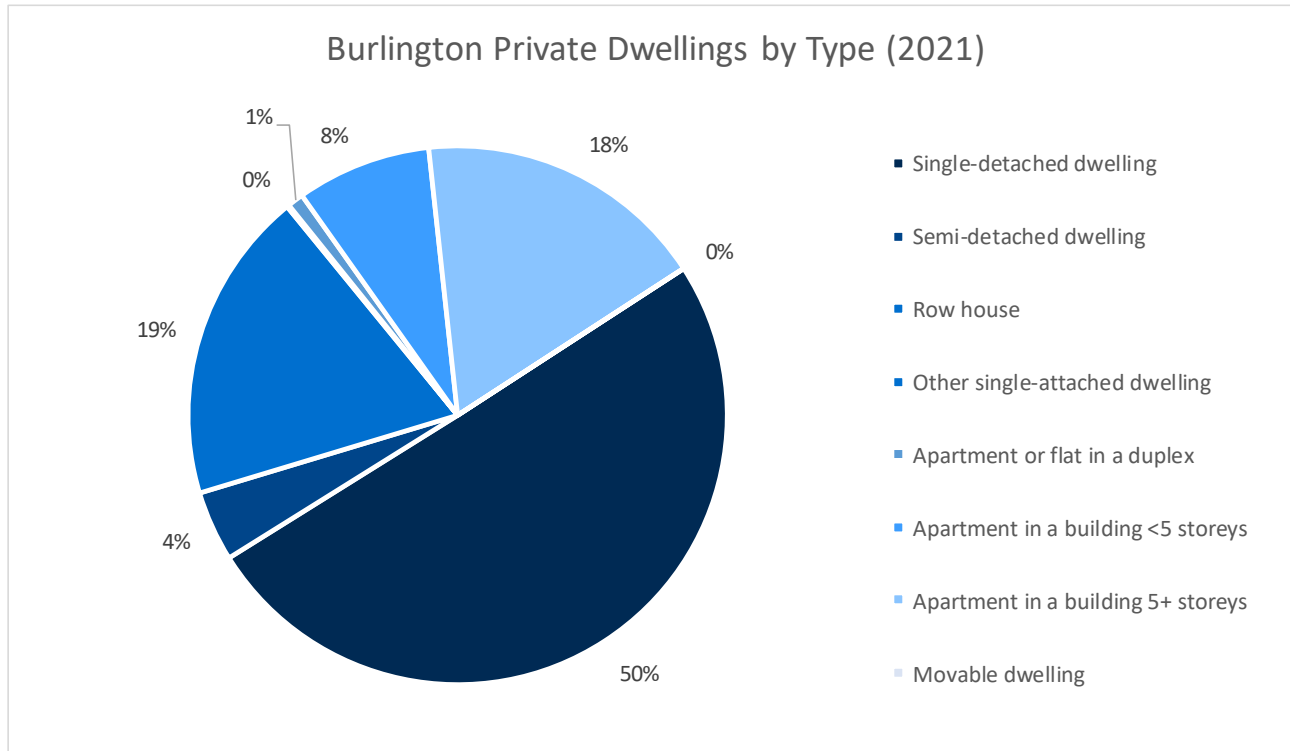


In Burlington, approximately 59% of people live in a 1- or 2-person household, with approximately 25.1% in 1-person households and 33.7% in 2-person households. All households except for the 5 or more person households have seen growth between 2016 and 2021, with the highest growth rate within 1-person households (4.1%). The 2- and 3 person households have also grown at a rate of 2.0% and 2.7% respectively.

## 2021 Census Types of Dwelling

### Occupied Dwellings: Type & Population

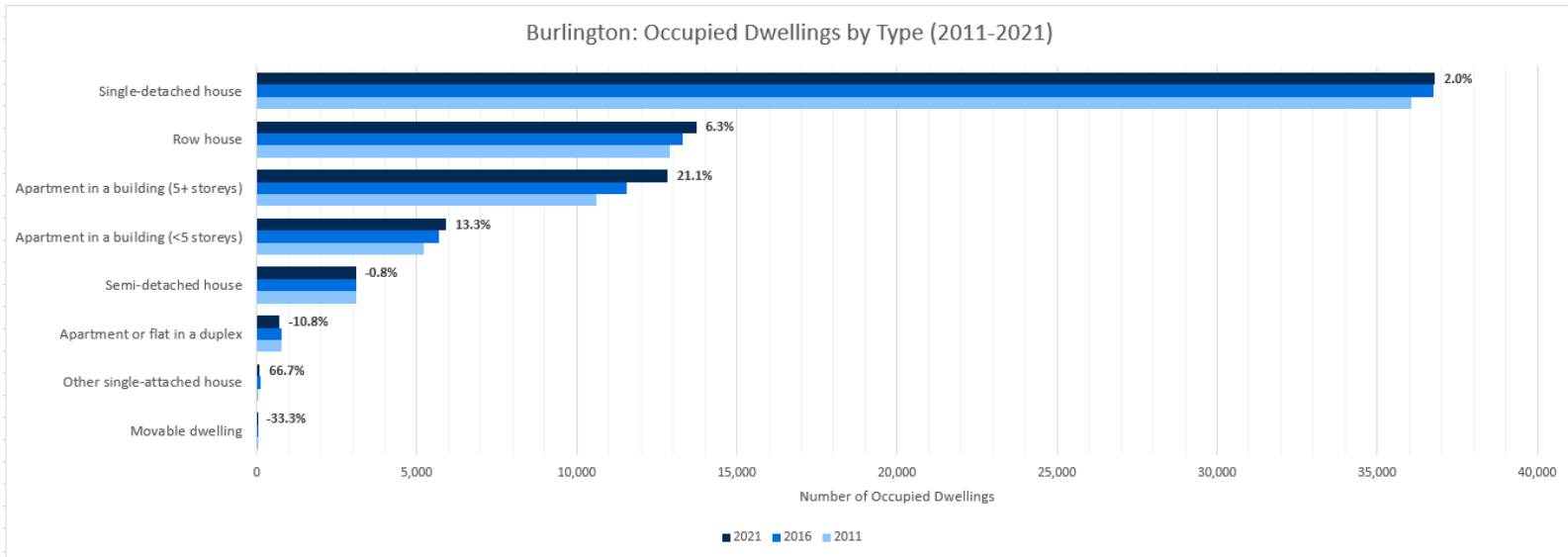
In 2021, approximately half (50%) of the occupied dwellings in Burlington were single-detached dwellings. Row houses and apartments in a building 5 storeys or more made up 37% of the occupied dwelling types with approximately 19% and 18% respectively.



The graph below depicts the total number by census year by dwelling type and the percentage of growth for each dwelling type between 2011 and 2021. Over the past decade, higher density dwelling types have seen the largest growth in Burlington.

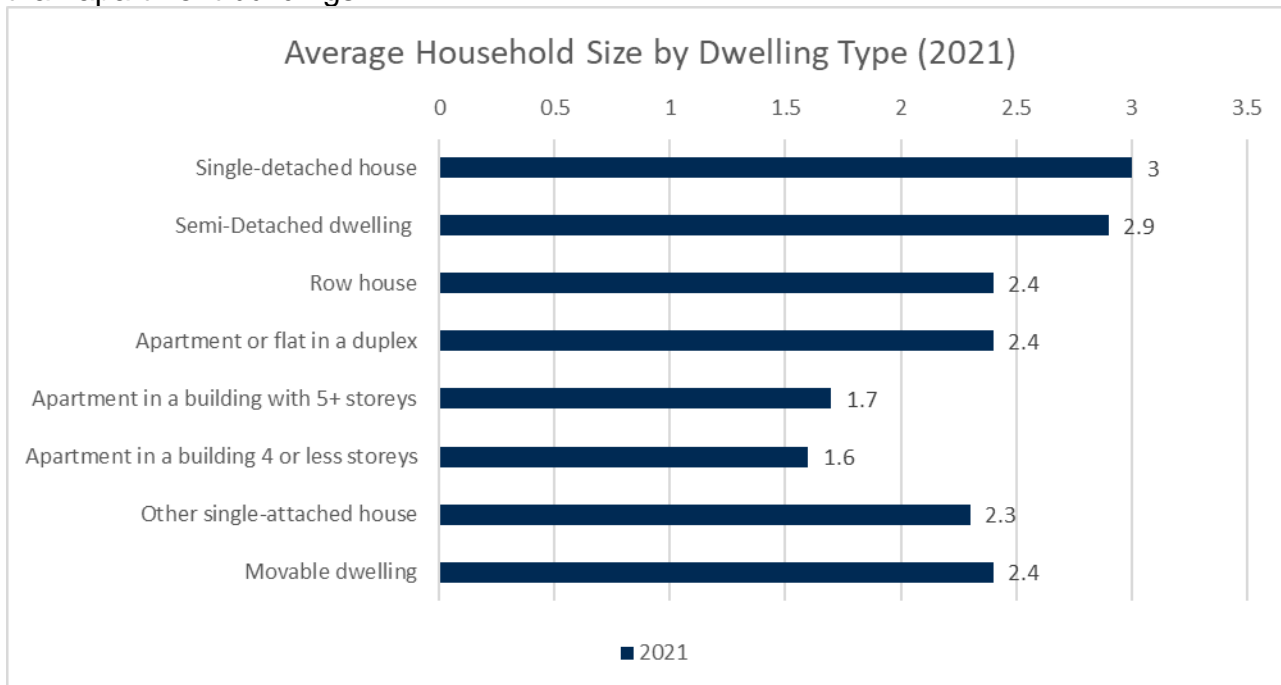
Apartment units in buildings of 5 or more storeys, and apartment units in buildings under 5 storeys have seen an increase at approximately 21.1% and 13.3% respectively. There was also an increase in row houses (6.3%) and single-detached dwellings (2.0%) between 2011 – 2021. There was a decrease in the number of semi-detached dwellings, apartment or flats in a duplex, and movable dwellings by - 0.8%, -10.8%, and -33.3% respectively. Technical studies from the [Housing Needs and Opportunities Report](#) of the Housing Strategy provided similar commentary on the City moving towards increased density based on 2016 Census information. The trend towards higher density growth in the City has continued, with the growth of single-detached dwellings dropping from 7.6% growth between 2006 - 2016 to 2.0% growth between 2011-2021 as mentioned above.

While “other single-detached dwellings” had the overall highest increase between 2011 – 2021 at a rate of approximately 66.7%, the number of units is minimal at a total of 100 units in 2021. The “other single-detached dwellings” are defined as a single-detached dwelling that is attached to another building and that does not fall into any of the other categories, such as a single detached dwelling attached to a non-residential structure (e.g., a store or a church) or occasionally to other residential structure.



### Average Household Size by Dwelling Type

The below graph depicts the average household size by dwelling type in Burlington. More detailed data can be found in Appendix A. The average household size in Burlington has remained the same for the majority of dwelling types. “Apartments or flats in a duplex”, and other single-attached dwellings each increased by 0.1 since 2016 and are now at an average household size of 2.4 and 2.3 persons per household in 2021, respectively. While the average household size in moveable dwellings has increased by 0.6 to 2.4 persons per household, since 2011, the average household size of moveable dwellings has decreased by 0.6. Single-detached and semi-detached dwellings have the largest household size with 3.0 persons and 2.9 persons per household, respectively. Row houses had a slightly smaller household size at 2.4 persons per household. Apartments in buildings of 5 or more storeys, and apartments in buildings under 5 storeys had 1.7 and 1.6 persons per household, respectively. As has historically been the case ground-oriented units typically had larger households than apartment buildings.



## Next Steps

Staff will use the 2021 Census population and dwelling count data as well as other data sources to support any growth-related studies and initiatives that would benefit from this data. The data from this current and all future releases will be used as part of baseline data for the economic development strategic plan and future City of Burlington strategic planning exercises. Staff will also continue to update Council on future 2021 Census releases, as appropriate, in accordance with the following Statistics Canada release schedule:

- **July 13, 2022:** Families, households, and marital status, Canadian military experience, Income
- **August 17, 2022:** Language
- **September 21, 2022:** Indigenous peoples, Housing
- **October 26, 2022:** Immigration, place of birth and citizenship, Ethnocultural and religious diversity, Mobility and migration
- **November 30, 2022:** Education, Labour, Language of work, Commuting, Instruction in the official minority language

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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## Attachments:

Appendix A: Census Age, Sex at Birth and Gender, and Type of Dwelling Tables (2006-2021)

Appendix B: Hamilton CMA: Percentage of Population aged 65 and over in 2021 by Census Tract.

## Appendix A

### Census Age Data (2006-2021)

Age Distribution	2006		2011		2016		2021		2006-2011		2011-2016		2016-2021		2006-2021	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ
0-14	29,790	18.1%	29,930	17.0%	30,665	16.7%	29,895	16.0%	140	0.5%	735	2.5%	-770	-2.5%	105	0.4%
15-49	78,925	48.0%	80,905	46.0%	79,115	43.2%	78,895	42.2%	1980	2.5%	-1790	-2.2%	-220	-0.3%	-30	0.0%
15-29	28,530	17.4%	30,545	17.4%	30,210	16.5%	30,060	16.1%	2015	7.1%	-335	-1.1%	-150	-0.5%	1530	5.4%
30-39	23,155	14.1%	22,745	12.9%	22,405	12.2%	22,940	12.3%	-410	-1.8%	-340	-1.5%	535	2.4%	-215	-0.9%
40-49	27,240	16.6%	27,615	15.7%	26,500	14.5%	25,895	13.9%	375	1.4%	-1115	-4.0%	-605	-2.3%	-1345	-4.9%
50-64	30,350	18.5%	35,235	20.0%	38,215	20.8%	38,980	20.9%	4885	16.1%	2980	8.5%	765	2.0%	8630	28.4%
65+	25,350	15.4%	29,720	16.9%	35,320	19.3%	39,180	21.0%	4370	17.2%	5600	18.8%	3860	10.9%	13830	54.6%
<b>Total, all ages</b>	<b>164,415</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>175,790</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>183,315</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>186,950</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11375</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>7525</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>3635</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>22535</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021, 2016, 2011, and 2006 Census of Population

### Census Sex at Birth and Gender Data (2006-2021)

Characteristic	Burlington			
	2006	2011	2016	2021*
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>164,415</b>	<b>175,775</b>	<b>183,315</b>	<b>186,948</b>
Male	78,985	84,520	87,955	89,465
Female	85,425	91,255	95,360	97,490
Male %	48.0%	48.1%	48.0%	47.9%
Female %	52.0%	51.9%	52.0%	52.1%

\* 2021 data includes transgendered and non-binary persons in both male and female categories. Source: Statistics Canada, 2021, 2016, 2011, and 2006 Census of Population

### Census Private Household Size by Number of Persons (2011-2021)

Private Household Size by Number of Persons	2021	2016	2011
1 person	18,430	17,705.00	16,940.00
2 persons	24,680	24,190.00	23,610.00
3 persons	11,865	11,545.00	11,025.00
4 persons	12,670	12,395.00	11,825.00
5 or more persons	5,535	5,535.00	5,380.00



## Census Type of Dwelling Data (2011-2021)

Private Dwelling Type	2011		2016		2021		2011-2016		2016-2021		2011-2021	
	# Occupied	% Occupied	# Occupied	% Occupied	# Occupied	% Occupied	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ
Movable dwelling	15	0.02%	60	0.08%	10	0.01%	45.00	300.0%	-50.00	-83.3%	-5.00	-33.3%
Other single-attached house	60	0.09%	105	0.15%	100	0.14%	45.00	75.0%	-5.00	-4.8%	40.00	66.7%
Apartment or flat in a duplex	790	1.15%	780	1.09%	705	0.96%	-10.00	-1.3%	-75.00	-9.6%	-85.00	-10.8%
Semi-detached house	3,115	4.53%	3,110	4.36%	3,090	4.22%	-5.00	-0.2%	-20.00	-0.6%	-25.00	-0.8%
Apartment in a building (<5 storeys)	5,220	7.59%	5,690	7.97%	5,915	8.08%	470.00	9.0%	225.00	4.0%	695.00	13.3%
Apartment in a building (5+ storeys)	10,600	15.41%	11,570	16.21%	12,835	17.54%	970.00	9.2%	1265.00	10.9%	2235.00	21.1%
Row house	12,915	18.77%	13,310	18.65%	13,730	18.76%	395.00	3.1%	420.00	3.2%	815.00	6.3%
Single-detached house	36,075	52.44%	36,745	51.49%	36,795	50.28%	670.00	1.9%	50.00	0.1%	720.00	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,790</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>71,370</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>73,180</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2580</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>4,390</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 and 2016 Census of Population, 2011 National Household Survey

## Census Average Household Size by Type of Dwelling (2011-2021)

Average Household Size by Type of Dwelling	2011	2016	2021
Single-detached house	3	3	3
Semi-Detached dwelling	2.8	2.9	2.9
Row house	2.4	2.4	2.4
Apartment or flat in a duplex	2.4	2.3	2.4
Apartment in a building (5+ storeys)	1.6	1.7	1.7
Apartment in a building (<5 storeys)	1.5	1.6	1.6
Other single-attached house	2.1	2.2	2.3
Movable dwelling	3	1.8	2.4
<b>Overall Average Household Size</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 and 2016 Census of Population, 2011 National Household Survey

# Appendix B

