

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Zaryab Ahmad, Economic Development Officer, Burlington Economic Development
Kate Hill-Montague, Coordinator of Planning Policy, Community Planning

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: December 9, 2022

Re: 2021 Census Release: First Nations peoples, Métis and Inuit in Canada & Canada's Housing Portrait

This memo presents the 2021 Census First Nations People, Métis and Inuit & Housing 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 September 21, 2022, Statistics Canada released the 2021 Census data on First Nations People, Métis and Inuit People in Canada & Canada's Housing Portrait. This was the fifth release of the 2021 Census data. The final census releases were published on October 26th (Immigration, place of birth and citizenship, Ethnocultural and religious diversity, Mobility and migration) and November 30th (Education, Labour, Language of work, Commuting, Instruction in the official minority language). Staff will provide memos on those releases shortly. The Census of Canada commenced in May 2021 during a global pandemic, with Statistics Canada reporting an overall response rate of 98.3% for Ontario.

Previous 2021 Census Release Memos:

February 25, 2022: [2021 Census Release: Population and Dwelling Counts](#)

June 30, 2022: [2021 Census Release: Age, Sex at Birth and Gender, and Types of Dwellings](#)

July 13, 2022: [2021 Census Release: Income, Canadian Military Experience & Families Households & Marital Status](#)

October 28, 2022: [2021 Census Release: Language](#)

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples

In 2021, there were 2,385 Indigenous people living in Burlington, comprising 1.3% of the total population. Between 2016 and 2021, the rate of growth in Burlington's Indigenous population (+20.8%) was significantly higher than its non-Indigenous population (+2.0%), although both have slowed since the last census period. The majority of Indigenous people reported a single Indigenous identity – either First Nations, Métis, or Inuk

(Inuit). Of the Indigenous population in Burlington, 59.7% (1,425) were First Nations peoples, 35.2% (840) were Métis, and 0.6% (15) were Inuit. In addition to those who reported a single Indigenous identity, 25 people reported more than one Indigenous identity, and 85 identified with an Indigenous identity that was not included elsewhere.

The Indigenous population of Burlington is younger than the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous children aged 14 and younger represented 18.2% of the total Indigenous population, while non-Indigenous children of the same age group accounted for 16.2% of the non-Indigenous population. The average age of the Indigenous population in Burlington was 37.5 years compared to the non-Indigenous average of 43.3 years.

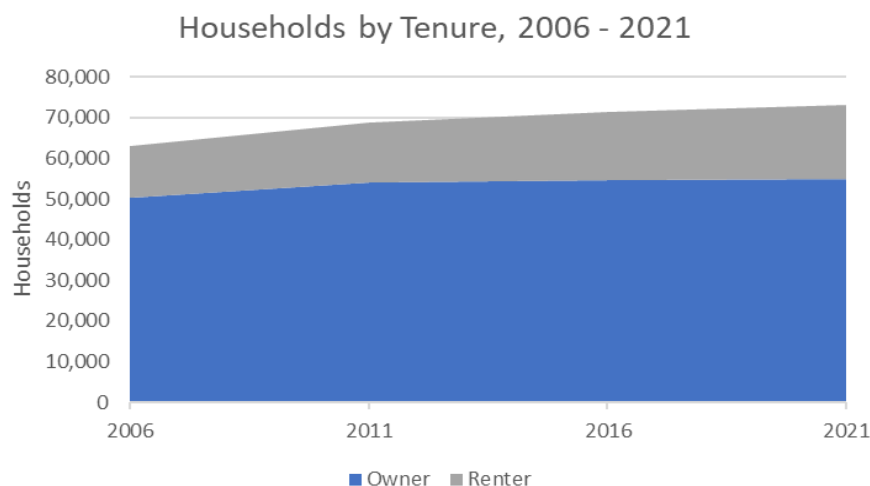
Compared to the rest of Halton Region, Burlington has the largest Indigenous population, with the city accounting for over 40% (2,385) of Halton Region's 5,900 Indigenous people. The city with the largest proportion of Indigenous people, however, is Halton Hills at 1.8% (1,145 people). Overall, Halton Region's Indigenous population makes up 1.0% of its total population. This is significantly smaller than the rest of Ontario (2.9%) and Canada (5.0%).

Burlington's Housing Portrait, 2021

Housing Tenure

The 2021 census counted 73,180 private households in Burlington,¹ growing by 2.5% over the last five years (or by 1,805 households). The majority of households in Burlington are owner households accounting for 75% of households. Over the last ten years, the share of owner households has decreased from 78.5% in 2011. Conversely, the share of renter households has continued to grow steadily in Burlington over the last 10 years. In 2021, a quarter (24.9%) of all households in Burlington were renter households up from 21.5% in 2011. The number of renter households has grown by 23% (3,410 households) over the last 10 years, outpacing the growth seen in Toronto's renter households (17.2%).

This trend was highlighted in the City of Burlington's [Housing Needs and Opportunities Report](#), published in December 2021 as a part of the City's [Housing Strategy project](#). This report highlighted the ongoing trend in Burlington of increased demand for rental. This is further reflected in Burlington's rental vacancy rate which has been at or below 2.0% since 2010². The Housing Needs and Opportunities Report cautions that the city will require an additional 250 rental units per year to keep pace with the growing demand for rental dwellings.

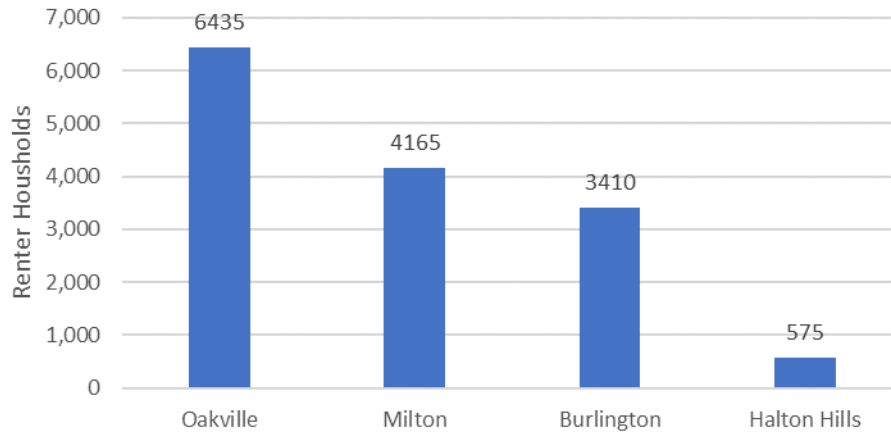


¹ Private household refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad (Statistics Canada).

² The Region of Halton's target for a healthy vacancy rate target is 3.0%, City of Burlington, Housing Needs and Opportunities Report

This mirrors an overall trend in Halton Region of growing demand for rental units. Over the last decade, the number of renter households has grown by 48.1% or 14,585 households. With the towns of Oakville and Milton accounting for the majority of renter household growth in Halton Region (44% and 29% respectively).

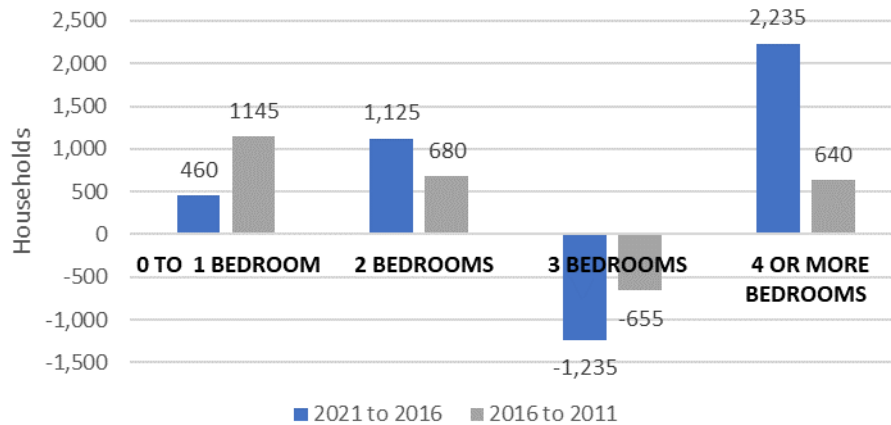
Growth in the Number of Renter Households in Halton, 2011-2021



Number of Bedrooms

The 2021 census shows that 3-bedroom dwellings³ represent the largest share of dwellings in Burlington (37.4%) followed by dwellings with 4 bedrooms or more (29.3%). This has been a continuing trend over the last decade. The 2021 census shows that this trend may be shifting, as the share of 3-bedroom and 4 or more-bedroom households in Burlington declined while the share of 1 and 2-bedroom dwellings increased over the last five years. In 2021, there are 1,890 fewer 3-bedroom dwellings in Burlington than there were in 2011 despite an overall increase in the number of dwellings over the last ten years.

Change in Number of Households by Number of Bedrooms, 2011-2021



Housing Suitability

Housing suitability refers to whether a private household is living in suitable accommodations according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS); that is, whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household. Housing Suitability is one indicator used to assess Core Housing Need⁴. In 2021, 96.5% of households in Burlington were in suitable dwellings; meaning that those dwellings had enough bedrooms for the size of the household. This is down from 97.1% in 2016. While the vast majority of

³ A private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing.

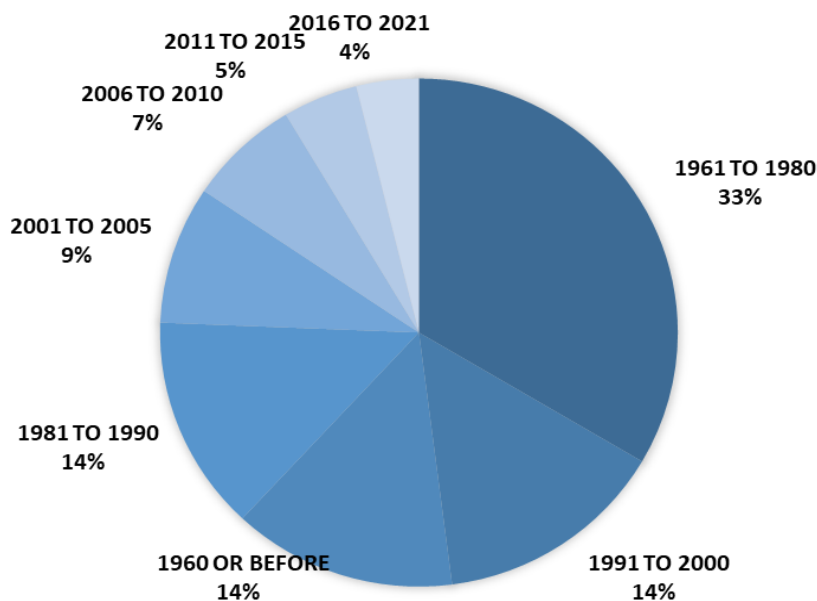
⁴ "Core Housing Need" is defined as "a private household's that's housing falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for housing: adequacy, affordability or suitability and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (attains all three housing indicator thresholds).

households in Burlington were in suitable dwellings in Burlington, the number of households in dwellings that were not suitable increased over the last five years by 460 households with a total of 2,535 in 2021.

Period of Construction

The largest share of dwellings in Burlington were built between 1961 and 1980, representing 33.5% of Burlington's housing stock (or 24,485 dwellings) followed by dwellings constructed between 1991 and 2000, representing 14.5% of Burlington's housing stock or 10,595 dwellings. Burlington's newest housing stock; constructed between 2016 and 2021 represents 3.9% of Burlington's housing stock or 2,855 dwellings.

Private Dwellings by Date of Construction



Housing Adequacy

Adequate housing is reported by the residents as dwellings not requiring any major repairs, Adequacy is an indicator used to assess Core Housing Need. In 2021, the census reported that 2,980 private dwellings in Burlington were in need of major repairs⁵ accounting for 4.1% of dwellings in Burlington. Since 2016, the number of dwellings in need of major repairs has decreased by 0.3% or by 3,135 dwellings.

Household Maintainers

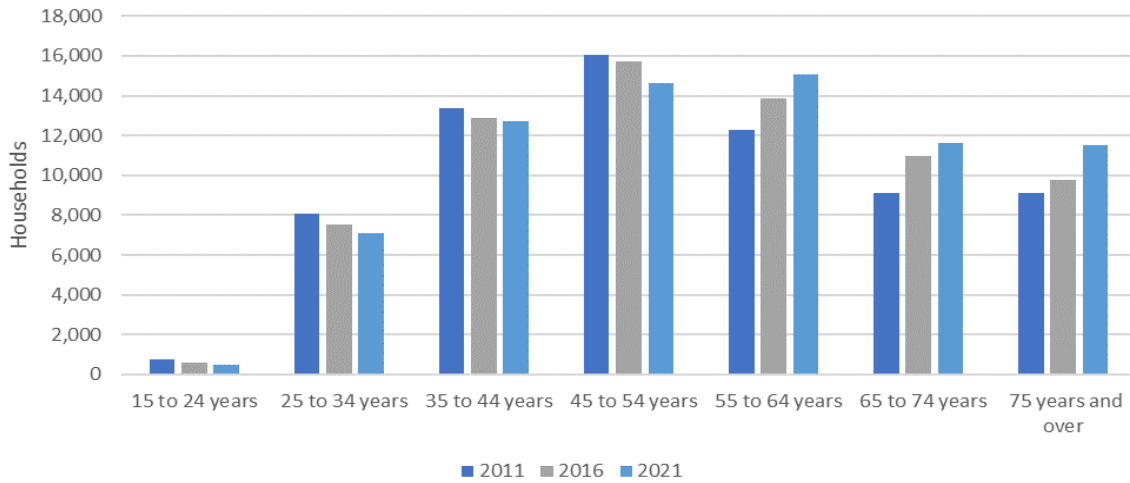
The number of household maintainers⁶ per private household has continued to increase over the last 10 years. In 2021, half (49.9%) of households had two household maintainers representing the majority of households for the first time, followed by 1-maintainer households (47.1%). Historically, 1-maintainer households had represented the majority in Burlington, accounting for 54.9% of households in 2016 and 56.2% of households in 2011. The number of 3 or more-maintainer households has also been steadily increasing over the last decade from 1.3% of households in 2011 to 3% of households in 2021 (or by 2,165 households).

The age of private household maintainers has increased as well over the last five years. The share of household maintainers in the older age brackets (55 years and over) has increased over the last 10 years while the younger age brackets have declined. The greatest declines have been seen in the 45 to 54-year age bracket, which in 2016 and 2011 represented the largest share of household maintainers. They now fall behind the 55 to 64-year age bracket showing an overall increase in the age of household maintainers.

⁵ The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.

⁶ Household maintainer status refers to whether or not a person residing in the household is responsible for paying the rent, or the mortgage, or the taxes, or the electricity or other services or utilities

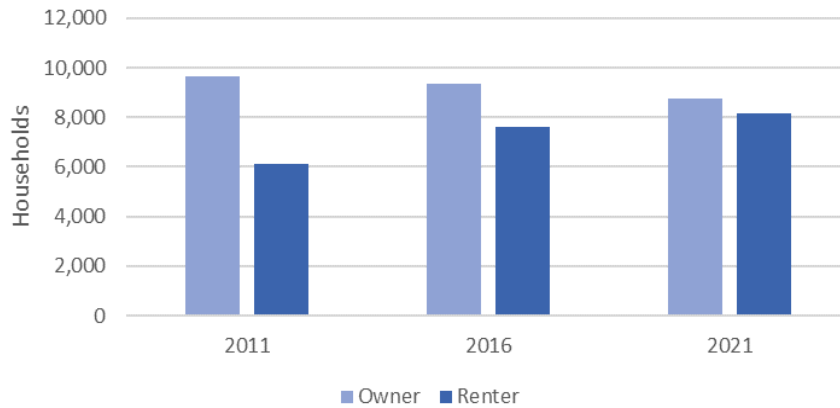
Household Maintainer by Age, 2011-2021



Affordability

Housing affordability is measured by Statistics Canada by identifying households that spend less than 30% of their total income, before tax, on shelter costs⁷. Affordability is an indicator used to assess Core Housing Need. 15.9% of owner households in Burlington are spending 30% or more of their total income on shelter needs. By comparison, 45% of renter households are spending 30% or more of their total income on shelter costs, this is an increase from 44.7% over the last 5 years or an additional 660 renter households facing affordability issues. While the rate of homeowners spending 30% or more of their total income on shelter needs has remained relatively stable, the proportion of renters facing affordability issues has increased steadily over the last decade (up 3.2%).

Households Spending 30% or more of Income on Shelter Needs, 2011- 2021



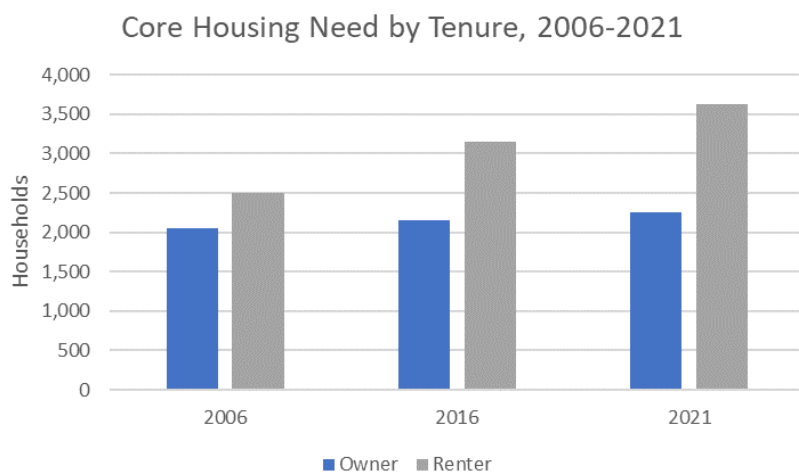
Acceptable Housing

In 2021, Statistics Canada began including Acceptable Housing data as a part of its standard profile data. Acceptable housing is housing that is adequate in condition (not in need of major repairs), suitable in size, and affordable. In Burlington in 2021, 71.1% of households were in acceptable dwellings; meaning that 28% of households did not meet the threshold for acceptable housing in Burlington.

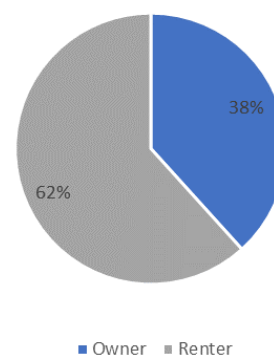
⁷ A household is said to have affordable housing if it spends less than 30% of its total income on shelter costs. Note. According to the 2016 Census, people in poverty were more than three times more likely to live in households that spent more than 30% of their total household income on shelter.

Core Housing Need

In 2021, Statistics Canada began including “Core Housing Need”⁸ in its standard profile data. In Burlington, the 2021 Census reported that overall, 7.9% of households in Burlington were in Core Housing Need which is comparable with the national rate of 10.1%. For owner households, 4.1% were in Core Housing Need. Comparatively, nearly 20% of renter households in Burlington are in Core Housing Need. Despite renter households accounting for just a quarter of the households in Burlington, the number of renter households in Core Housing Need (3,627) outnumbers the owner households in Core Housing Need (2,252). The [Housing Needs and Opportunities Report](#), published in December 2021 highlights this growing disparity between owner and renter households in terms of Core Housing Need. Showing that the rate of growth of Core Housing Need in rental Households continues to grow, increasing by 45.4% over the last fifteen years while owner households in Core Housing Need have increased by just 9.6%⁹.



Core Housing Need by Tenure, 2021



Next Steps

Staff will use the 2021 Census First Nations People, Métis and Inuit & Housing data as well as other data sources to support any growth-related studies and initiatives that would benefit from this data. Staff will also continue to update Council on future 2021 Census releases, as appropriate, in accordance with the following Statistics Canada release schedule:

- **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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⁸ “Core Housing Need” is defined as “a private household’s that’s housing falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for housing: adequacy, affordability or suitability and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (attains all three housing indicator thresholds).

⁹ Source: City of Burlington, Housing Needs and Opportunities Report, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; 2006, 2016

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