

5.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

This section provides an overview of social and economic characteristics of the population in the City of Hamilton. It starts with education and employment trends. It then presents some economic indicators describing the general population (e.g. census family income and non-family person income), and persons with low income. Lastly, it provides indicators related to housing.

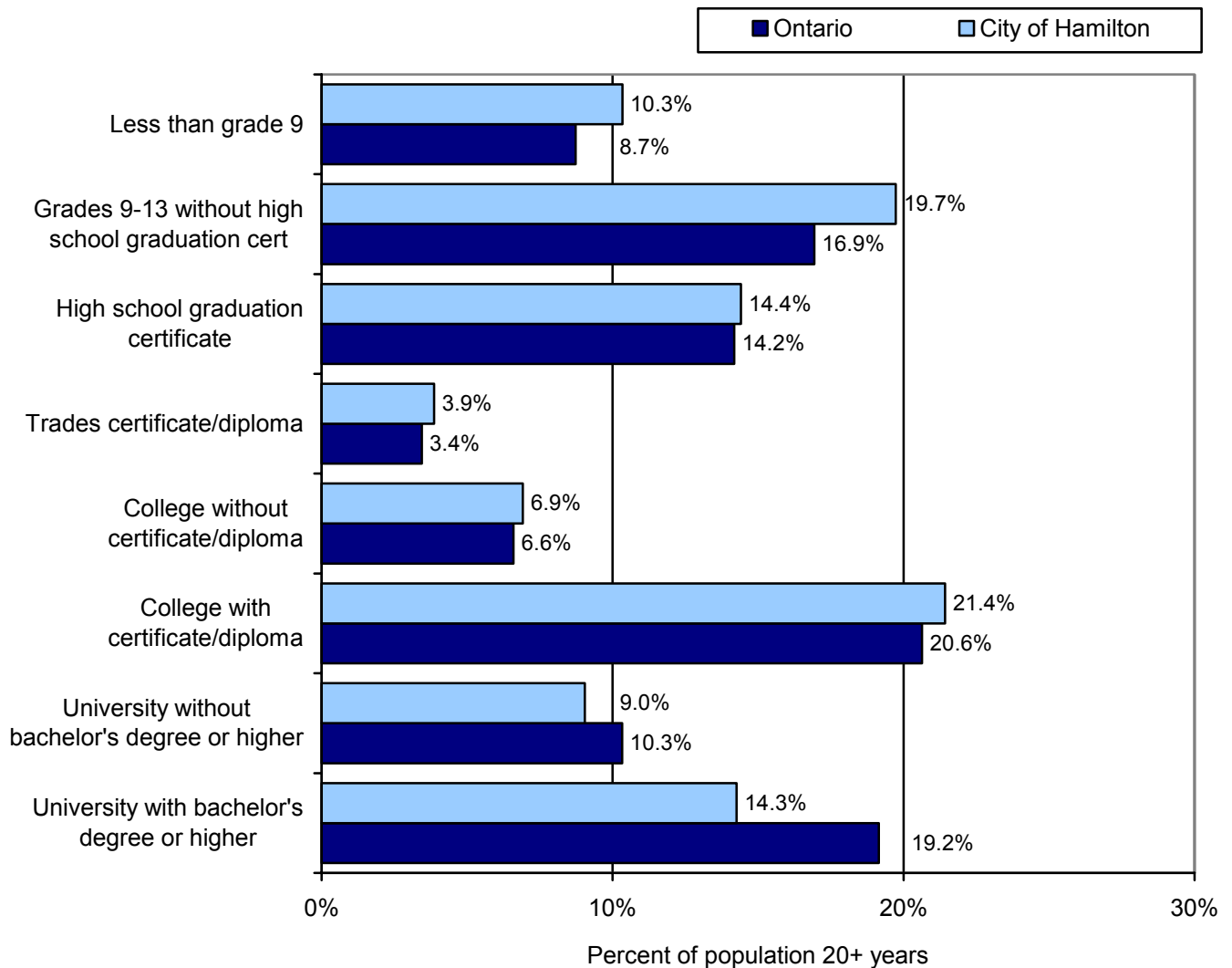


HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED

Description: The population of the City of Hamilton age 20 years and older by the highest level of education achieved.

- Key Message:**
- Almost a third of the City of Hamilton population 20 years and older have not attained a high school graduate certificate.
 - Compared to Ontario, a higher proportion of the City of Hamilton population report less than high school or successful high school education.
 - In the City of Hamilton, a higher percentage of the population reported having achieved a trade-related or college education compared with Ontario.
 - The proportion of the City of Hamilton population with some university education or who have completed university education is below the provincial and national proportions

Highest level of education achieved for population 20 years of age and over, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

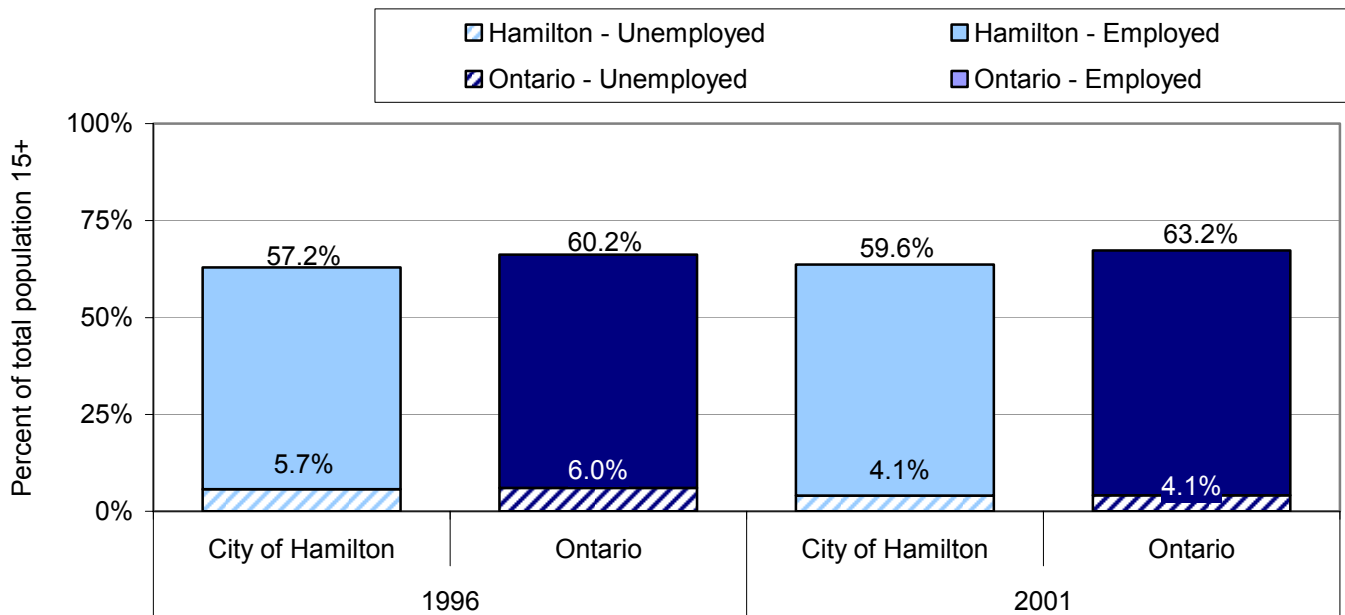


EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Description:**
- The labour force participation rate for the population 15 years of age and over is the persons employed and person unemployed, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.
 - Employed persons are those who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001): (a) did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice; (b) were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of a vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons.
 - Unemployed persons are those who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001), were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either: (a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; (b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.
 - Unemployment rates do not capture the population that has stopped actively looking for a job or that does not participate in the labour force, such as retirees or people who are unable to work due to disability, etc.

- Key Message:**
- Recent labour force participation rates have remained relatively stable in the City of Hamilton at approximately two thirds of the population working or looking for work.
 - Compared to the City of Hamilton population, a slightly larger proportion of the Ontario population participates in the labour force.
 - The proportion of City of Hamilton population who are unemployed approximates the provincial proportion.

Population 15 years and over in the labour force, employed and unemployed, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 1996 and 2001



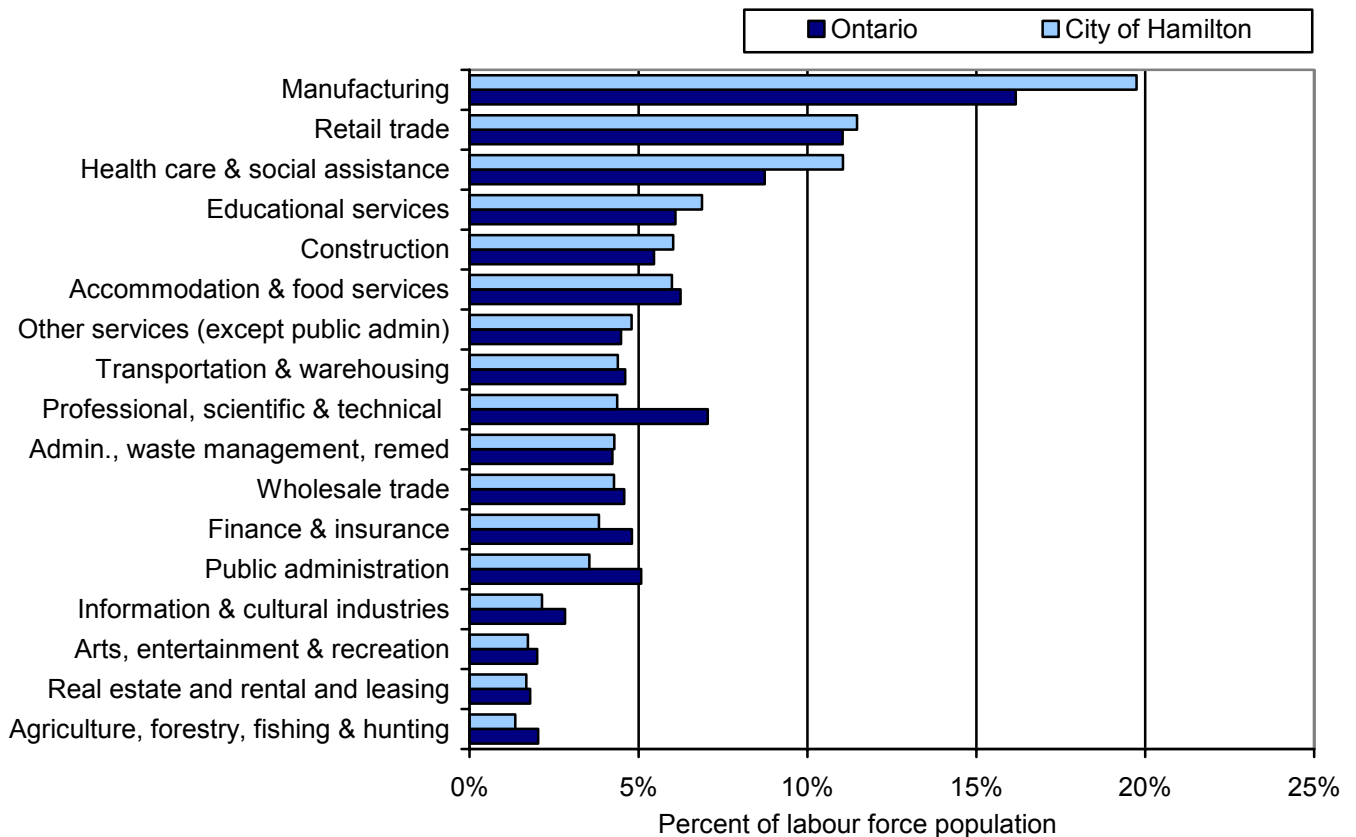
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996 and 2001



LABOUR FORCE

- Description:** ▪ The labour force population by various industries within the City of Hamilton and Ontario.
- Key Message:** ▪ Employment in the City of Hamilton is strongly influenced by the manufacturing industry, as twenty percent of the City of Hamilton's population in 2001 was employed in this sector. Other sectors that employ more than 10% of the labour force are the retail trade and the health care/social assistance industries.
- With some exceptions, the overall distribution of employment in the various industries presented is similar in the City of Hamilton and Ontario.
 - Compared to Ontario, a larger proportion of the City of Hamilton's labour force works in manufacturing and health care and social services.
 - Compared to Ontario, a smaller proportion of the City of Hamilton's labour force is working in the professional, scientific, and technical services industries and public administration.

Labour force population by industry, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



Industries that comprise less than 4% of the labour force population are not shown in the graph above.

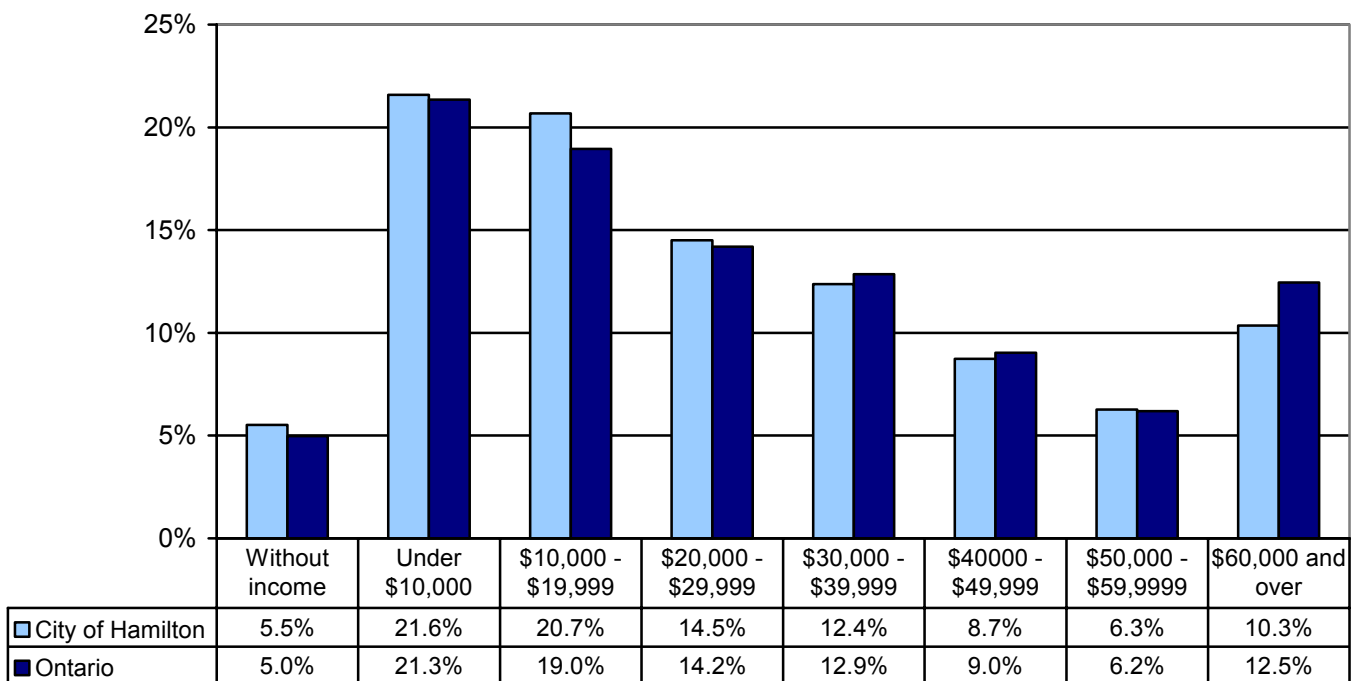
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001



INCOME

- Description:**
- The total money income for individuals 15 years of age and older received during the calendar year 2000 from any source, expressed as a percentage of all persons 15 years of age.
- And
- Total income dollars received by Hamiltonians 15 years and over during calendar year 2000, broken down by source, and expressed as a percentage of the total.
 - Employment income refers to wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income.
 - Government transfers refers to all transfer payments received from federal, provincial or municipal governments including: the Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Child Tax benefits, and other income from government sources.
 - Other income refers to regular cash income not reported in any of the sources listed on the questionnaire, including alimony, child support, periodic support from other persons not in the household, income from abroad (excluding dividends and interest), non-refundable scholarships and bursaries, severance pay and royalties.
- Key Message:**
- Compared to Ontario, a higher proportion of the population age 15 years and older in the City of Hamilton are without income or in the lower income categories.
 - There is a lower proportion of the population age 15 years and older that have annual income over \$60,000 in the City of Hamilton than in Ontario.

Income of population age 15 years and older, City of Hamilton, and Ontario, 2000



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001



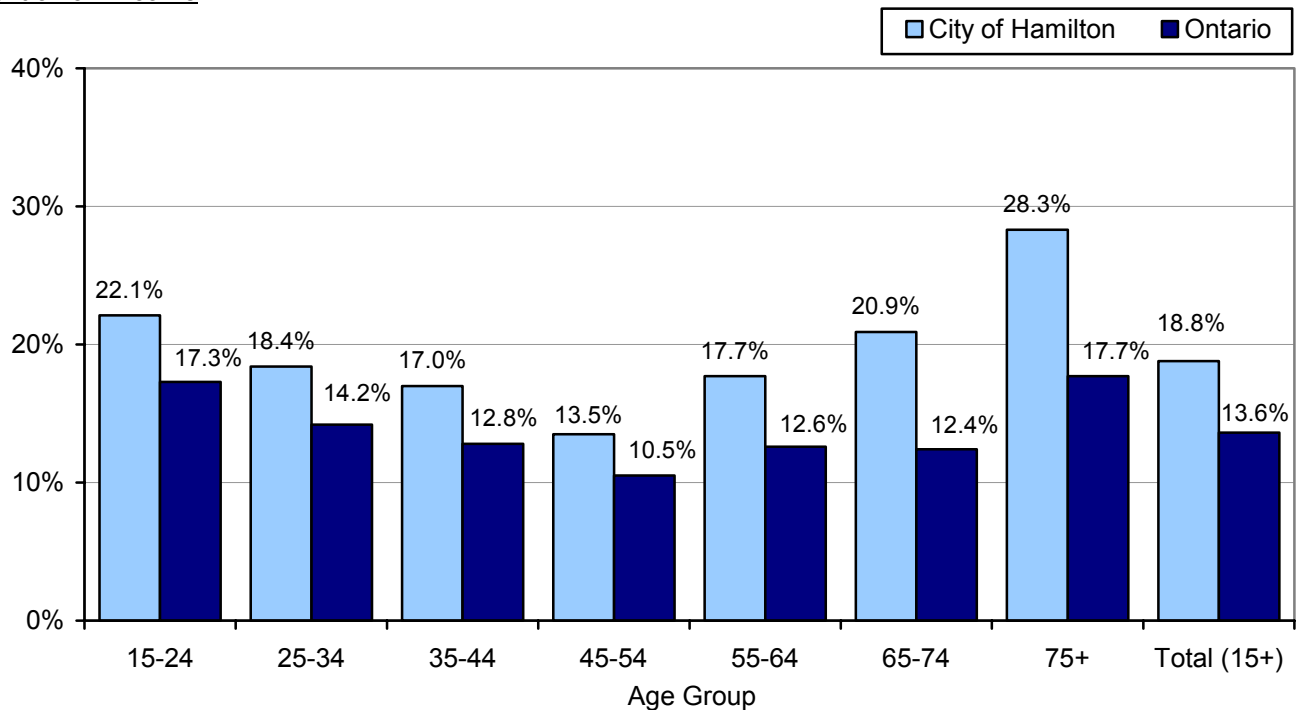
LOW INCOME

- Description:**
- Population age 15 years of age and over in relation to Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs (LICOs).
 - Low Income Cut Off is the threshold to define low income used by Statistics Canada. Low Income Cut-offs are income levels at which households, families or unattached individuals spend at least 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing. LICOs are based on size of family and the size of the city of residence.
 - LICOs are not a measure of poverty, rather, LICOs reflect a consistent and well-defined methodology that identifies those who are substantially worse-off than average.

- Key Message:**
- Compared to Ontario, a substantially higher proportion of the population in the City of Hamilton live below the low income cut-off (18.8% in the City of Hamilton vs. 13.6% in Ontario). This is true for all age groups, but is worse for those aged 75 years or older.

Incidence of low income among population 15 years of age and over by age group, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2000

Percent of low income



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

- Limitations:**
- LICOs are calculated for census metropolitan areas and are based on the average living costs in these cities, thus they do not take into account differences in the cost of basic necessities between these cities (e.g. housing, food and transportation).
 - The data in the above graph shows incidence of low income in the City of Hamilton based on comparisons to the LICO derived by Statistics Canada for the Hamilton CMA which includes the City of Hamilton, Burlington and Grimsby.

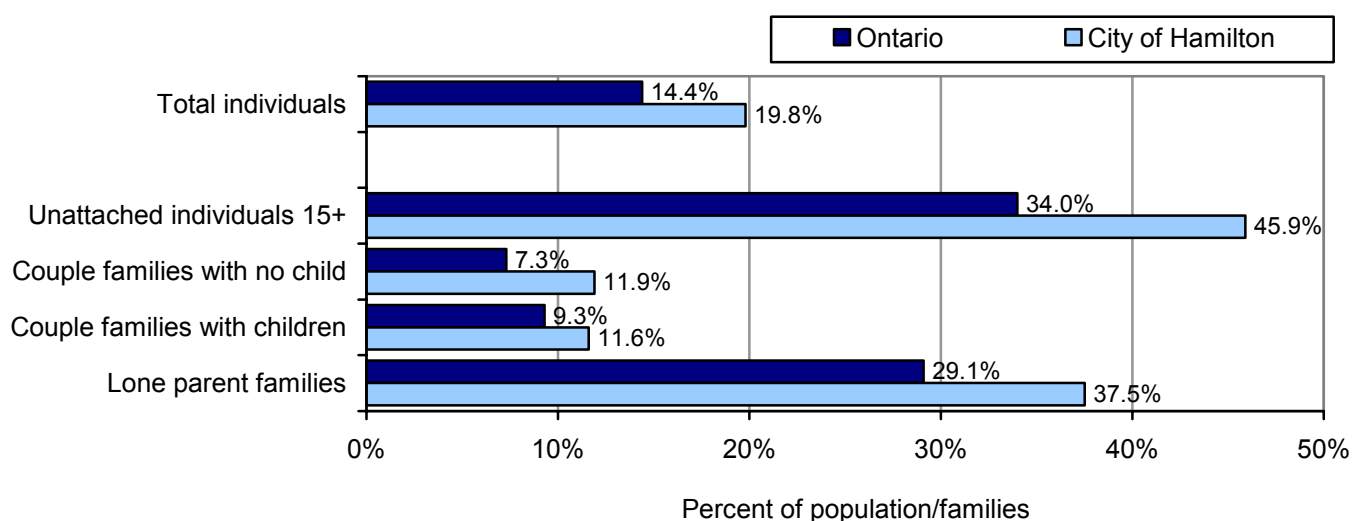


LOW INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE

- Description:**
- Individuals and various family types (unattached individuals, couples with and without children, and lone parent families) with income below the low income cut-offs (LICOs).
 - Private household refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada.
 - Low Income Cut Off is the threshold to define low income used by Statistics Canada. Low Income Cut-offs are income levels at which households, families or unattached individuals spend at least 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing. LICOs are based on size of family and the size of the city of residence.
 - LICOs are not a measure of poverty, rather, LICOs reflect a consistent and well-defined methodology that identifies those who are substantially worse-off than average. Low income affects health-related purchases like nutritious foods, warm clothing, and safety or recreational equipment. It can also affect one's access to shelter and transportation. Income can influence health indirectly by its relationship to education, unemployment, type of employment, stress, self-esteem and power (the ability to exert control over the factors that influence a person's health and well-being).

- Key Message:**
- Almost twenty percent of the City of Hamilton population subsist on an income below the Low Income Cut-off thresholds. This is substantially higher than for Ontario as a whole.
 - For all family types, the City of Hamilton has a higher proportion below LICO than the province.
 - Almost half of the unattached individuals in the City of Hamilton have low income.
 - Lone parent families are over three times more likely to have low income than couple families.

Incidence of low income among individuals and select family types, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2000



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

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ONTARIO WORKS (OW) RATES

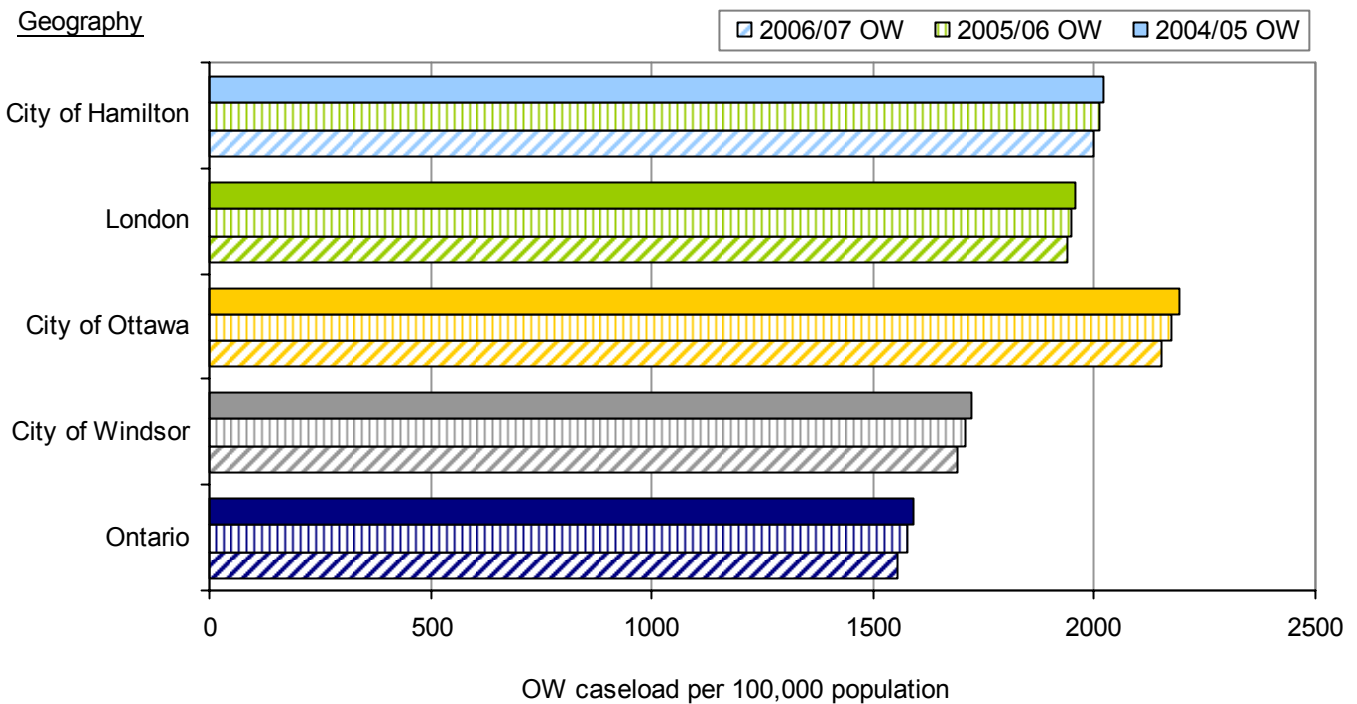
Description:

- The actual average monthly Ontario Works (OW) caseload per 100,000 population for 2004/05 and the forecasted average monthly caseloads per 100,000 population for 2005/06 and 2006/07.
- Cases refer to single individuals and family heads receiving social assistance. The average caseload per 100,000 population provides some indication of the caseload burden on municipalities of various sizes.

Key Message:

- In 2004/05, the actual average monthly Ontario Works (OW) caseload in Hamilton was 2020 cases per 100,000 population. This means that over 10,000 single individuals or family heads living in Hamilton received OW social assistance that year.
- The actual average monthly OW caseload has consistently decreased since 2001 and is projected to continue decreasing until 2007.
- In 2004/05, the actual average monthly OW caseload in Hamilton was significantly higher than the Ontario average.
- The forecasted average monthly OW caseloads in Hamilton for 2005/06 and 2006/07 are significantly higher than those forecasted for Ontario

Average monthly Ontario Works (OW) caseload per 100,000 population, actuals for 2004/05, forecasted for 2005/06 and 2006/07, select CMSMs and Ontario



Source: Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services Provincial Assistance Caseload Forecast 2005, Ministry of Finance Population Projections, 2004



ONTARIO WORKS (OW) ADEQUACY

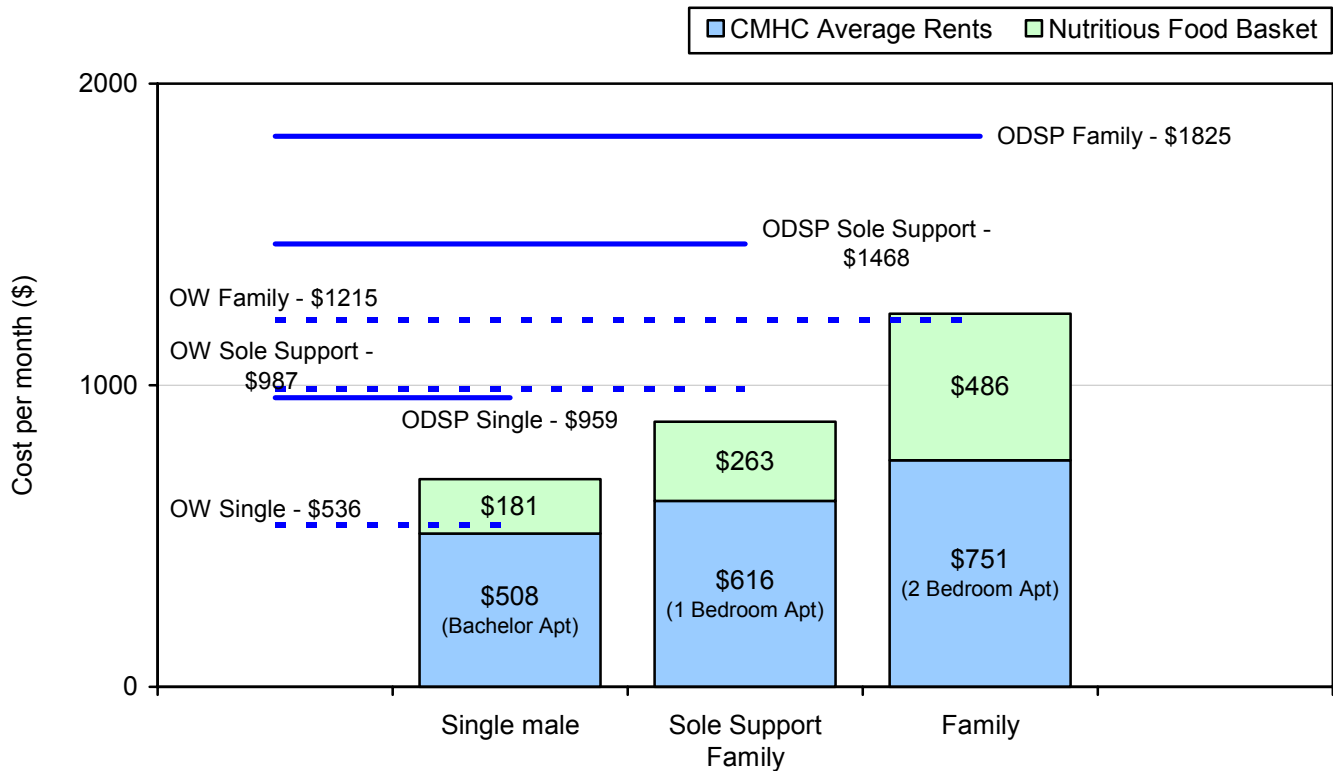
Description:

- A comparison of the average market rent and cost of a nutritious food basket for different family situations to the respective Ontario Works social assistance rate.
- It should be noted that average market rent and the Nutritious Food Basket reflect basic costs of food and shelter and do not include: necessities such as clothing, utilities, transportation, medication, or other personal items.

Key Message:

- The Ontario Works Single and Family maximum allowances do not adequately cover the costs of average rent and basic food costs for the respective family situations in the City of Hamilton.

Social Assistance Rates compared to Hamilton Nutritious Food Basket Costs and Hamilton Average Rents



*Single Male – Male (25-29)
 *Sole Support Family - Female (25-49), Boy (10-12)
 *Family – Man (25-49), Woman (25-49), Girl (10-12), Boy (7-9)

Source: Province of Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services 2004, Canada Mortgage and Housing, 2004, City of Hamilton Public Health and Community Services 2003

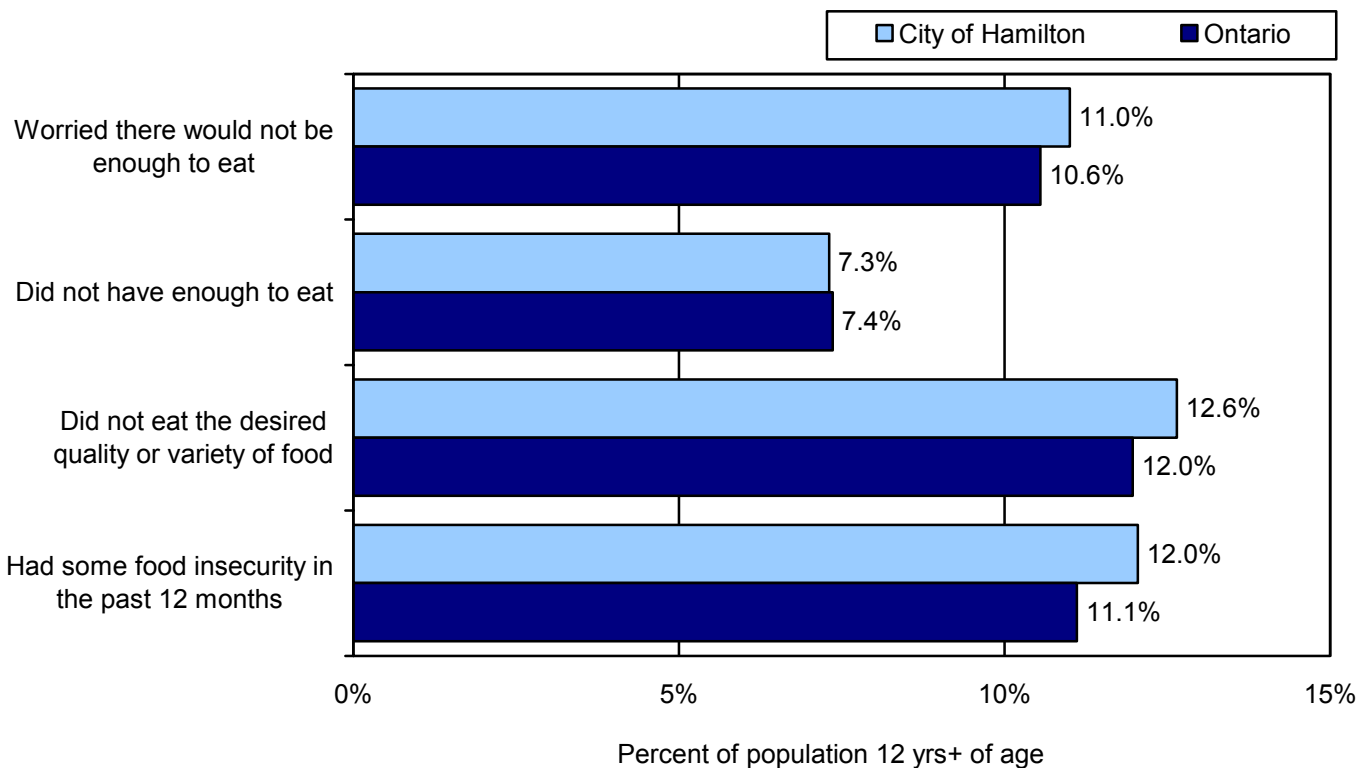


FOOD SECURITY

- Description:**
- The proportion of the population who in the last 12 months, because of lack of money, worried that there would not be enough to eat, or didn't have enough food to eat, or didn't eat the quality or variety of foods that they wanted to eat.
 - Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.
Source: World Food Summit, 1996.
 - A measure of food security is an important component of socio-economic status and provides information on health inequalities which strongly affects quality of life.

- Key Message:**
- Eleven percent of the population in the City of Hamilton 12 years of age and over worried that there would not be enough food to eat. Seven percent did not have enough to eat, thirteen percent did not eat the desired quality or variety of food, and twelve percent had reported some food insecurity in the past 12 months.
 - In general, the proportion of the population in the City of Hamilton who reported some indication of food insecurity exceeded the provincial proportion.

Population 12 years and over who worried that there would not be enough to eat or didn't eat the quality or variety of foods that they wanted to eat in the past 12 months, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2000/01



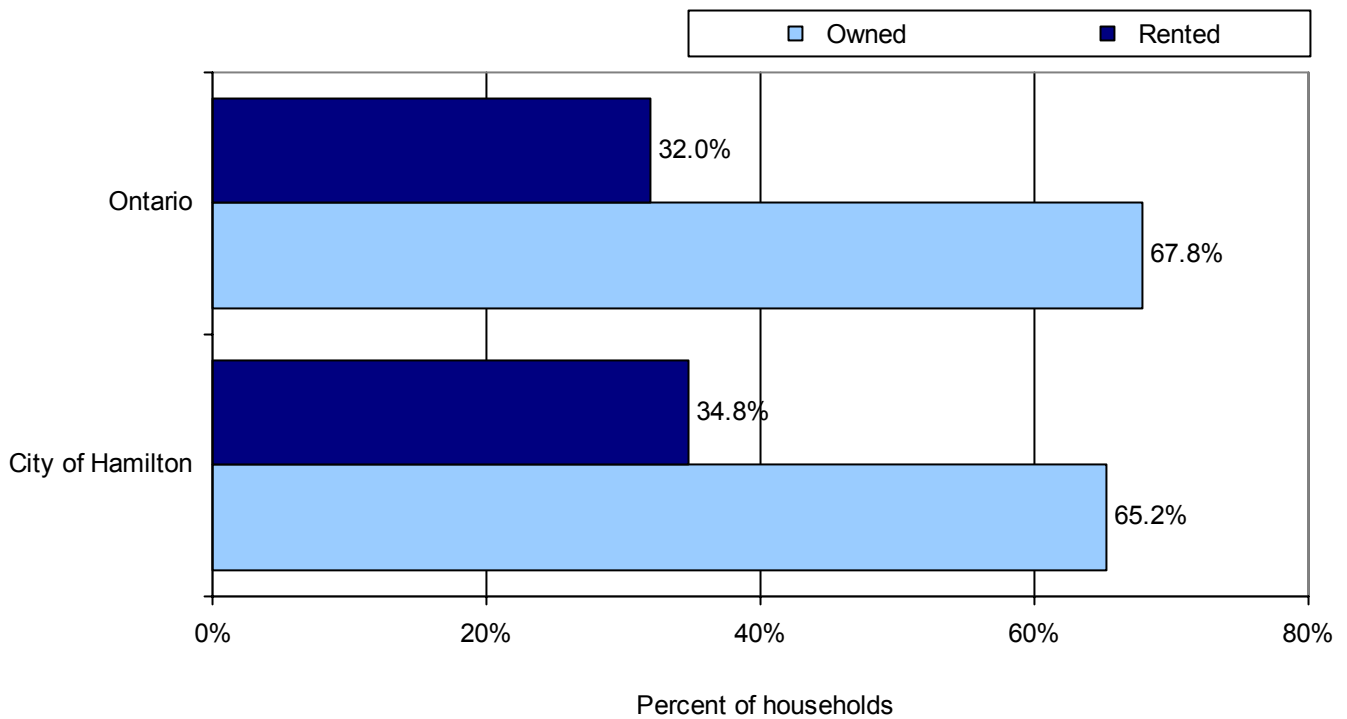
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 1.1, 2000/01



OWNERSHIP OF PLACE OF RESIDENCE

- Description:**
- Households who own or rent the property in which they reside.
 - Home ownership can be associated with quality of life and health status as it is often a marker for self-esteem, a sense of security and stable income.
 - Knowing the proportion of renters can be useful in planning and priority setting for housing related programs.
- Key Message:**
- In the City of Hamilton, significantly more households own their housing property than rent their housing property.
 - The proportion of households in the City of Hamilton with rental housing is slightly higher than the provincial proportion

Households by ownership of housing property, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

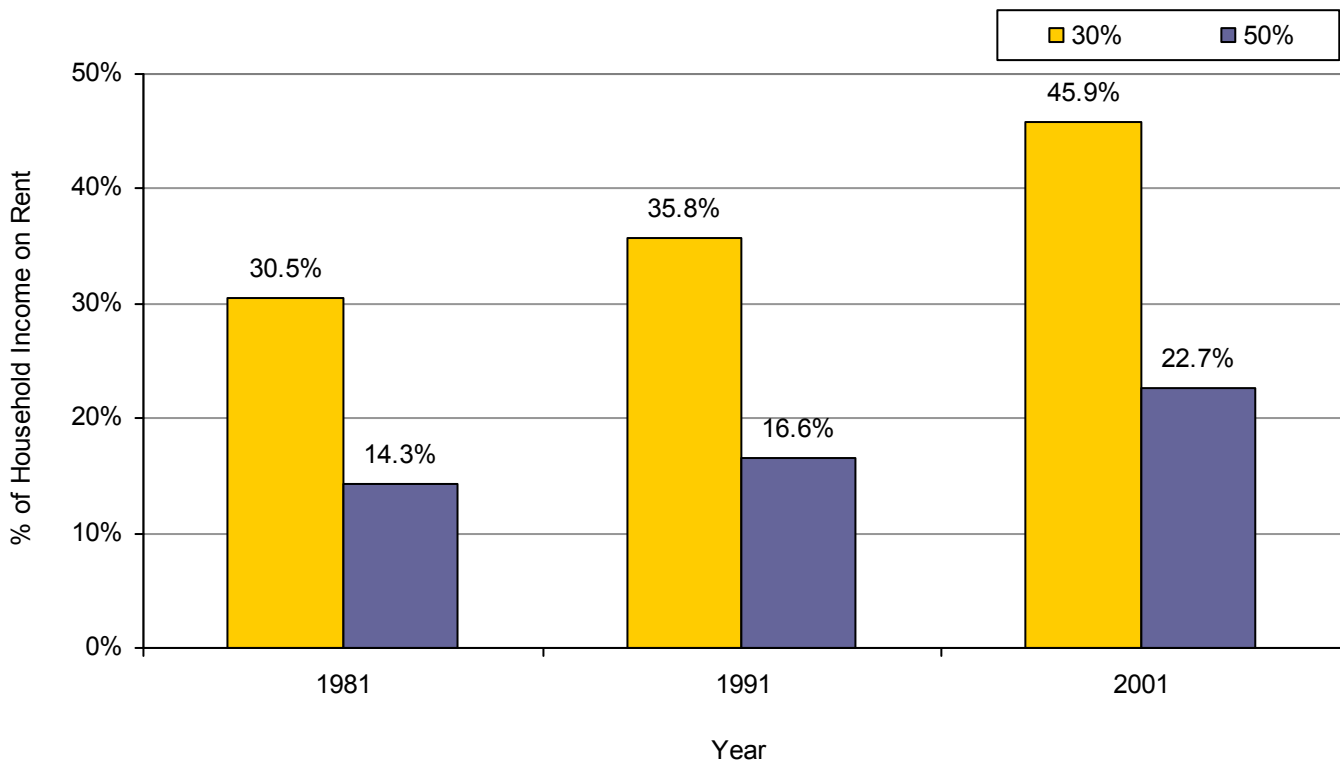


HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- Description:**
- Households in the City of Hamilton spending 30% or more of their total household income on rental expenses.
 - Households that are experiencing affordability problems are said to be in 'core housing need,' which is defined by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) as a household in which "housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its income to pay the average market rent or alternative local market housings that meets all three standards" (*Keys to the Home, 2004, p22*).
 - Affordable housing in the City of Hamilton, particularly in the rental market, is a key concern for maintaining a healthy and productive workforce.

- Key Message:**
- In 2001, almost 46% of households that rent housing in the City of Hamilton spent more than 30% of their total household income on rent. Twenty-three percent (22.7%) of households that rent housing in the City of Hamilton spent more than 50% of their total household income on rent.
 - The proportion of households in the City of Hamilton that spend more than 30% of their household income on rent increased from 30.5% in 1981 to 45.9% in 2001.
 - Similarly, the percentage of households in the City of Hamilton that spend more than 50% of their household income on rent consistently increased over the past two decades.

Renter households that spend more than 30% and more than 50% of total household income on rent, Former City of Hamilton, 1981, 1991 and 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1981, 1991 and 2001

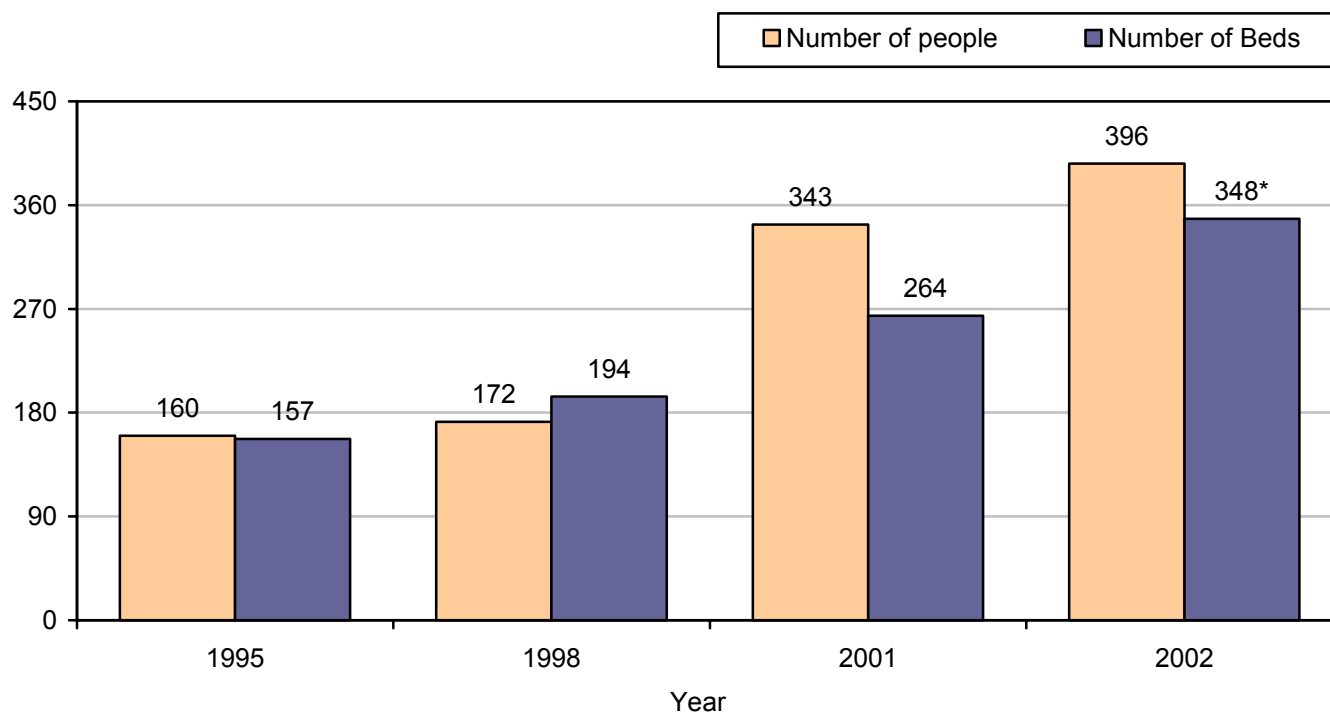


HOMELESSNESS - SHELTER OCCUPANCY

- Description:**
- The number of people accessing emergency shelters and permanent beds available on a given night in November in The City of Hamilton.
 - Surveys were conducted on weeknights near the end of the month (when resources may be running short, and when people were more likely to need emergency shelter).
 - Surveys were completed in 12 emergency shelters that serve a variety of populations including men, women, youth, and families.

- Key Message:**
- The number of people accessing emergency shelters on a given night has dramatically increased since 1995.
 - Unpublished figures since 2002 suggest that the numbers of people accessing emergency shelters appear to be stabilizing. This is particularly true in the men's emergency shelter system where preliminary numbers seem to indicate a slight decrease in the numbers.
 - People who are homeless or have low income have increased risk of illness and premature death.
 - It is difficult to provide exact measures of homelessness. While some people who are experiencing homelessness are included in service utilization figures, many others are on the street or "hidden."

Number of people accessing emergency shelters and permanent beds available on a given night in November, City of Hamilton, 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2001



*On the night of the SPRC Survey, Inasmuch House had 8 fewer beds due to construction. The total number of beds available generally is 356.

Source: Report on Homelessness in Hamilton 2003, Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC), May 2003

