

## 6.0 GENERAL HEALTH

This section provides an overview of aspects related to the general health of the population of the City of Hamilton. It includes indicators such as self rated health status, life expectancy and mortality rates. This section also provides information related to the social environment of the City of Hamilton which may impact on the quality of life such as crime rate and commuting.

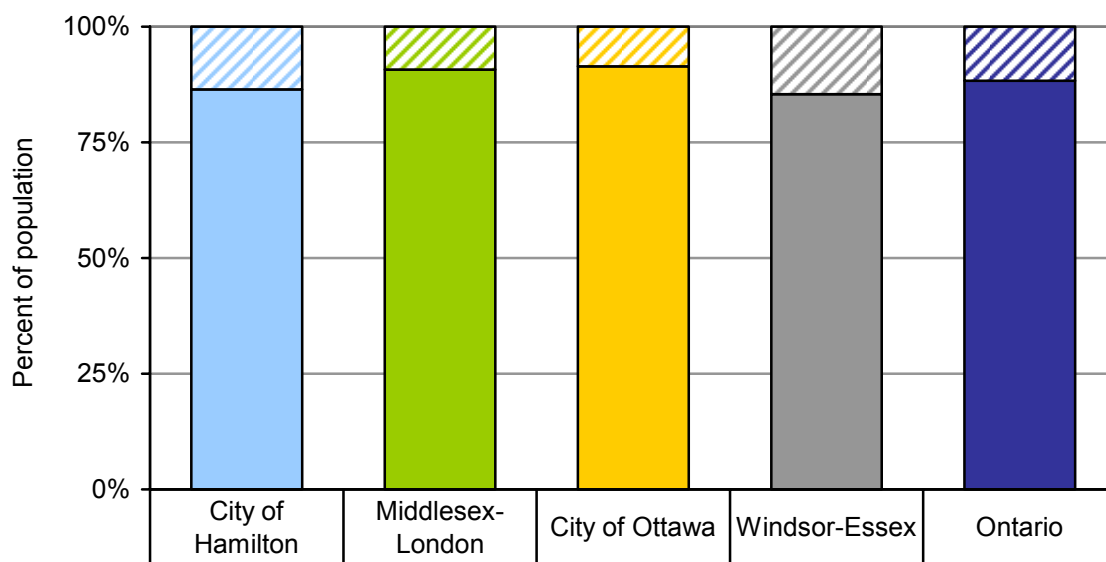


## SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS— PEER COMPARATORS

- Description:**
- Population 12 years of age and older by how they rate their own health; as excellent/very good/good or fair/poor.
  - Self-rated health status is a well known indicator of population health that is strongly correlated with health care utilization.  
*Source: Idler EL, Benyamini (1997). Self-rated health and mortality: a review of twenty-seven community studies. Journal of Health and Social Behavior 38(1): 21-37.*
  - This information can be used to help predict the future burden of care and monitor past social, economic, and environmental initiatives targeted at improving the health of the population in the City of Hamilton.

- Key Message:**
- Among the population in the City of Hamilton, 13.6% reported their health as fair or poor, which was higher than that for Ontario.
  - Twenty-two percent of the population in the City of Hamilton reported their health as excellent, which is higher than the proportion seen among Ontario's population.
  - The percentage of the population that rated their health as fair or poor in the City of Hamilton is considerably higher than in London and Ottawa.

**Population who report their health-status to be excellent/very good/good or fair/poor, City of Hamilton, select cities and Ontario, 2003**



□ Fair or poor	13.6%	9.3%	8.5%	14.5%	11.6%
■ Excellent, very good or good	86.4%	90.7%	91.3%	85.5%	88.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2.1, 2003



## POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST – PEER COMPARATORS

**Description:**

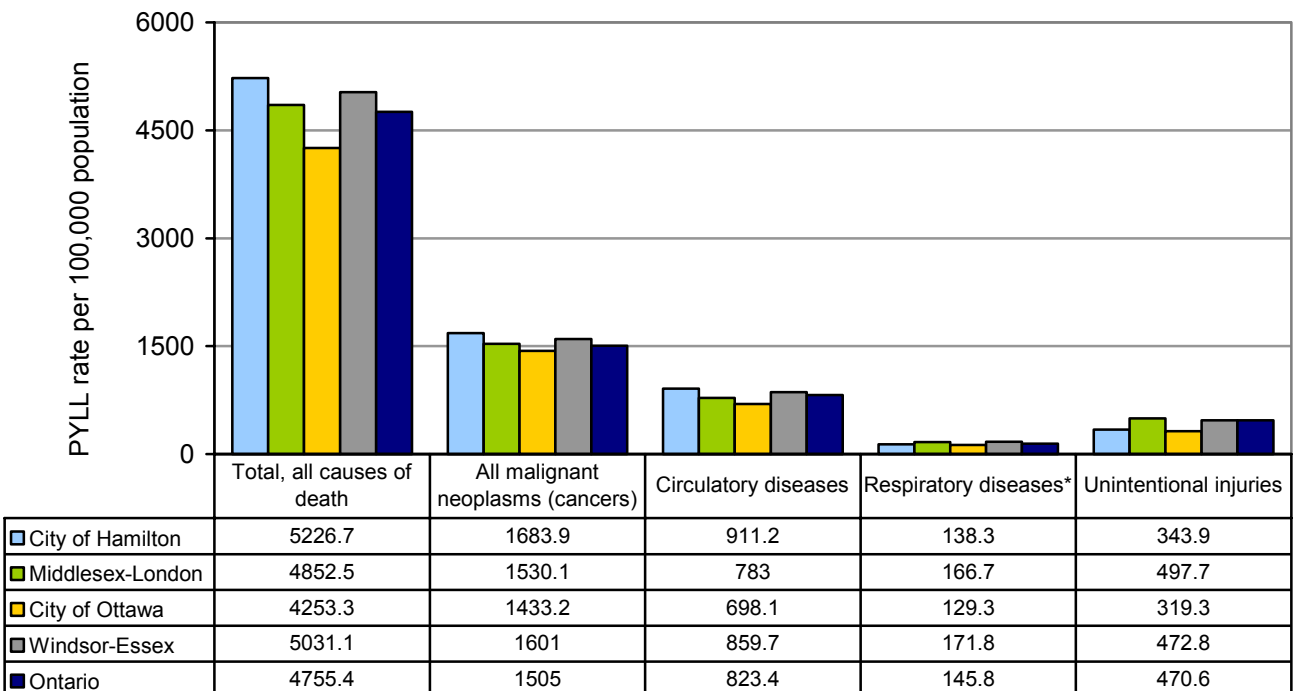
- Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is the number of years of potential life not lived when a person dies "prematurely", defined for this indicator as before age 75.
- PYLL is a measure of the relative impact of various diseases and lethal forces on society. PYLL highlights the loss to society as a result of youthful or early deaths.

*Source: Last, John M. (2001). A Dictionary of Epidemiology: Fourth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.*

**Key Message:**

- The total potential years of life lost was higher in the City of Hamilton than in Middlesex-London, Ottawa, Windsor-Essex and Ontario. This means that in the City of Hamilton, more people are dying prematurely than in the select comparison cities.
- PYLL due to cancers and circulatory diseases were higher in the City of Hamilton than the select comparison cities.

**Potential years of life lost (PYLL), by selected causes of death, population aged 0 to 74, three-year average, City of Hamilton, select cities and Ontario, 2001**



\*Respiratory diseases does not include infectious and parasitic diseases

*Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database, and Demography Division (population estimates), 2001*

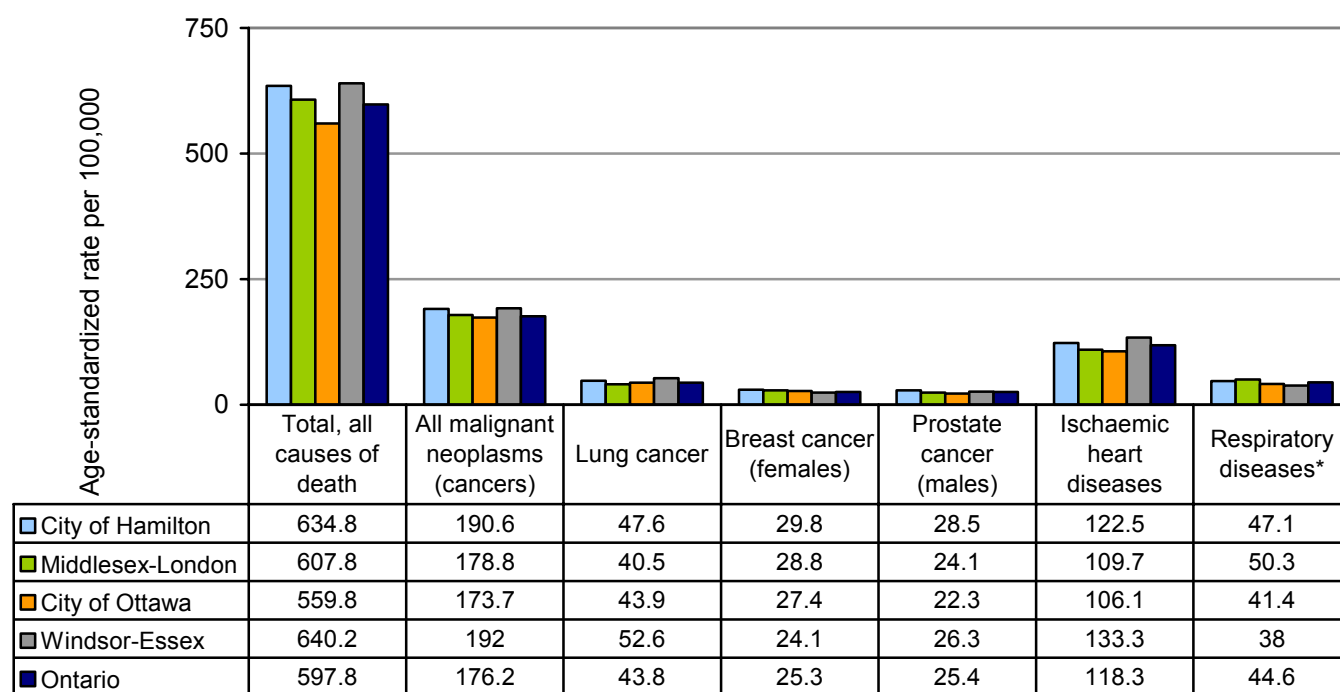


## MORTALITY – PEER COMPARATORS

- Description:**
- The three year average age-standardized mortality rates of select causes of death. A mortality rate of a select cause of death is an estimate of the portion of a population that dies from the select cause during a specified time period.
  - An age-standardized rate is a summary measure of a rate that a population would have if it had a standard age structure. Age-standardization is necessary for two reasons. Firstly, it minimizes the effects of varying age composition among different populations on the calculated rate. Secondly, age-standardization minimizes the effects of age as a risk factor for disease on the calculated rate.
  - The cause of death is taken from the primary cause of death on the death certificate, co-morbidity factors are not considered.
  - Can be used to measure long-term success in reducing deaths due to leading causes. Lower death rates can indicate success in disease/injury prevention, detection, and treatment.
  - Useful for comparing overall burden of particular diseases in a given population therefore useful in determining service priorities and identifying health objectives

- Key Message:**
- The total mortality rate was higher in the City of Hamilton than in Ontario.
  - Mortality rates for all malignant neoplasms (cancers), lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, circulatory and respiratory diseases were higher in the City of Hamilton than in Ontario
  - Mortality rates of female breast cancer and male prostate cancer was highest in the City of Hamilton compared to the select comparison cities and Ontario.

**Age standardized mortality rates of select causes of death, three-year average, City of Hamilton, select cities and Ontario, 2001**



\*Respiratory diseases does not include infectious & parasitic diseases

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Database, 2001

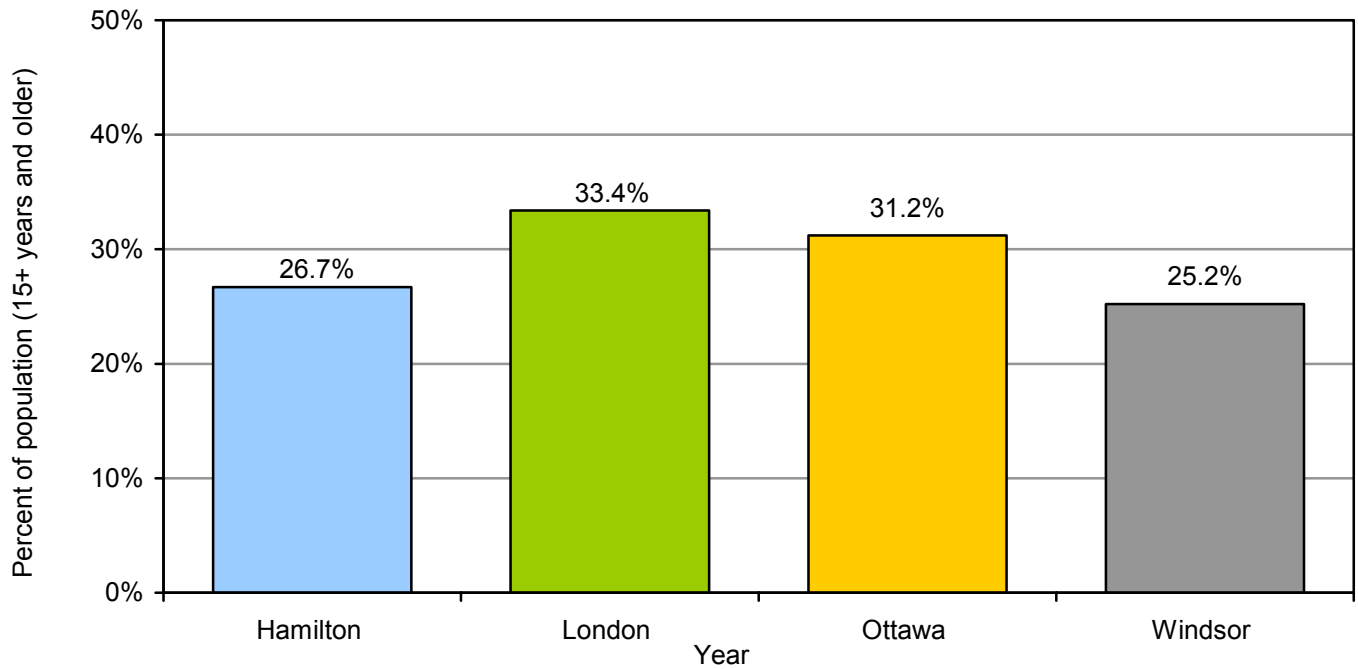


## VOLUNTEERISM – PEER COMPARATORS

- Description:**
- The population aged 15 years and older who do volunteer work.
  - Volunteerism is an essential component in building the community.
  - Volunteerism is an indicator for social engagement, which in turn is a determinant of health and wellness.

- Key Message:**
- The proportion of the population in the City of Hamilton who do volunteer work is lower than London and Ottawa.

**Population 15 years of age and older who do volunteer work, City of Hamilton and select cities, 2000**



Source: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering & Participating, 2000



## BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**Description:**

- The population 12 years of age and older who felt they had unmet health care needs, and the reasons why they felt they did not receive health care.
- Data is based on self-reported experiences and perceptions.

**Key Message:**

- The proportion of the population who felt they had unmet health care needs was higher in the City of Hamilton than in Ontario.
- The top reasons of why health care needs was not met include long waiting times and unavailability of health care at the time required.

***Population 12 years of age and older who needed health care but felt they didn't receive it and the top 10 reasons why they felt health care was not received, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003***

	Hamilton	Ontario
Percent of population age 12 and older who needed health care but felt they didn't receive it	11.4%	10.5%
Reasons for not receiving health care		
Wait too long	32.2%	29.7%
Not available at time required	16.8%	17.8%
Felt would be inadequate	11.3%	9.3%
Not available in the area	10.7%	12.9%
Decided not seek care	8.6%	8.5%
Didn't get around to it	8.2%	9.2%
Cost	8.1%	9.5%
Doctor didn't think it was necessary.	7.8%	6.1%
Didn't know where to go	3.7%	4.7%
Too busy	3.7%	6.5%

*Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2.1, 2003*



## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES – PEER COMPARATORS

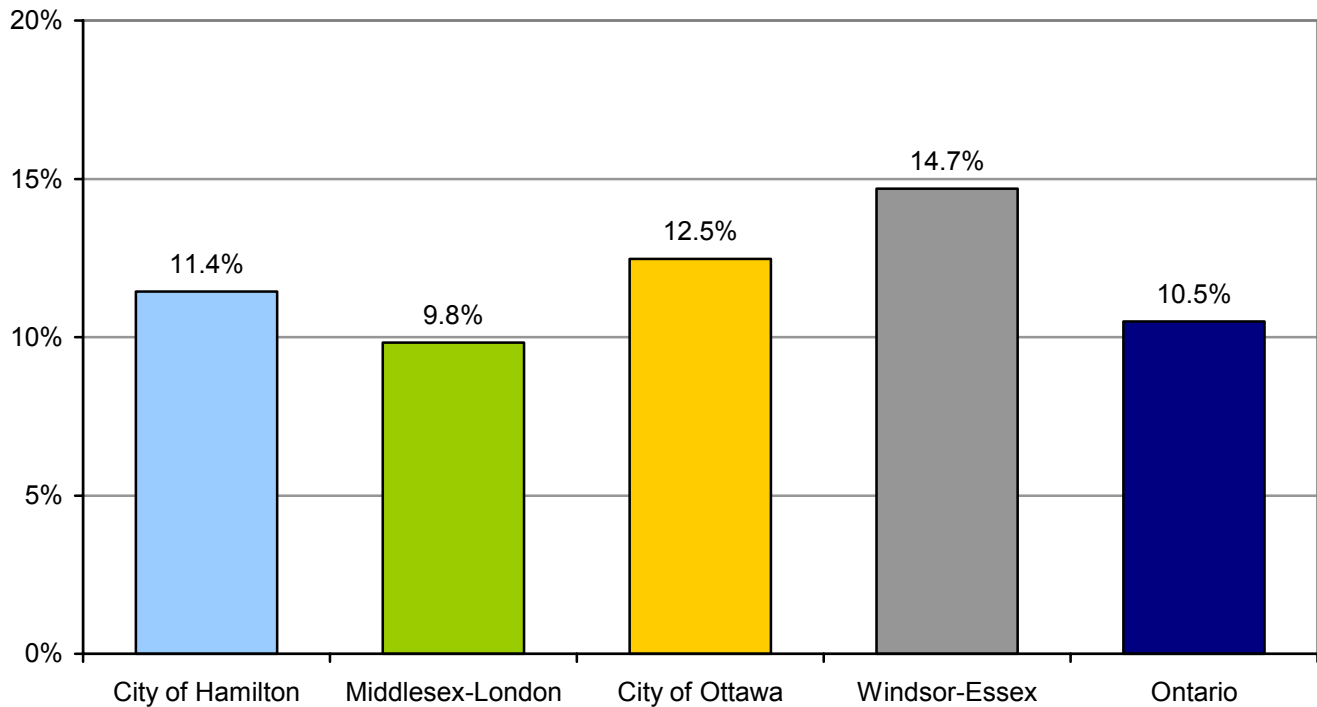
**Description:**

- Population 12 years of age and older who feel they have unmet health care needs.
- Data is based on self-reported experiences and perceptions.

**Key Message:**

- A higher proportion of the population in the City of Hamilton (11.4%) felt they have unmet health care needs compared to proportions in Middlesex-London and Ontario.

**Population 12 years of age and older who needed health care but felt they didn't receive it, City of Hamilton, select cities and Ontario, 2003**



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2.1, 2003

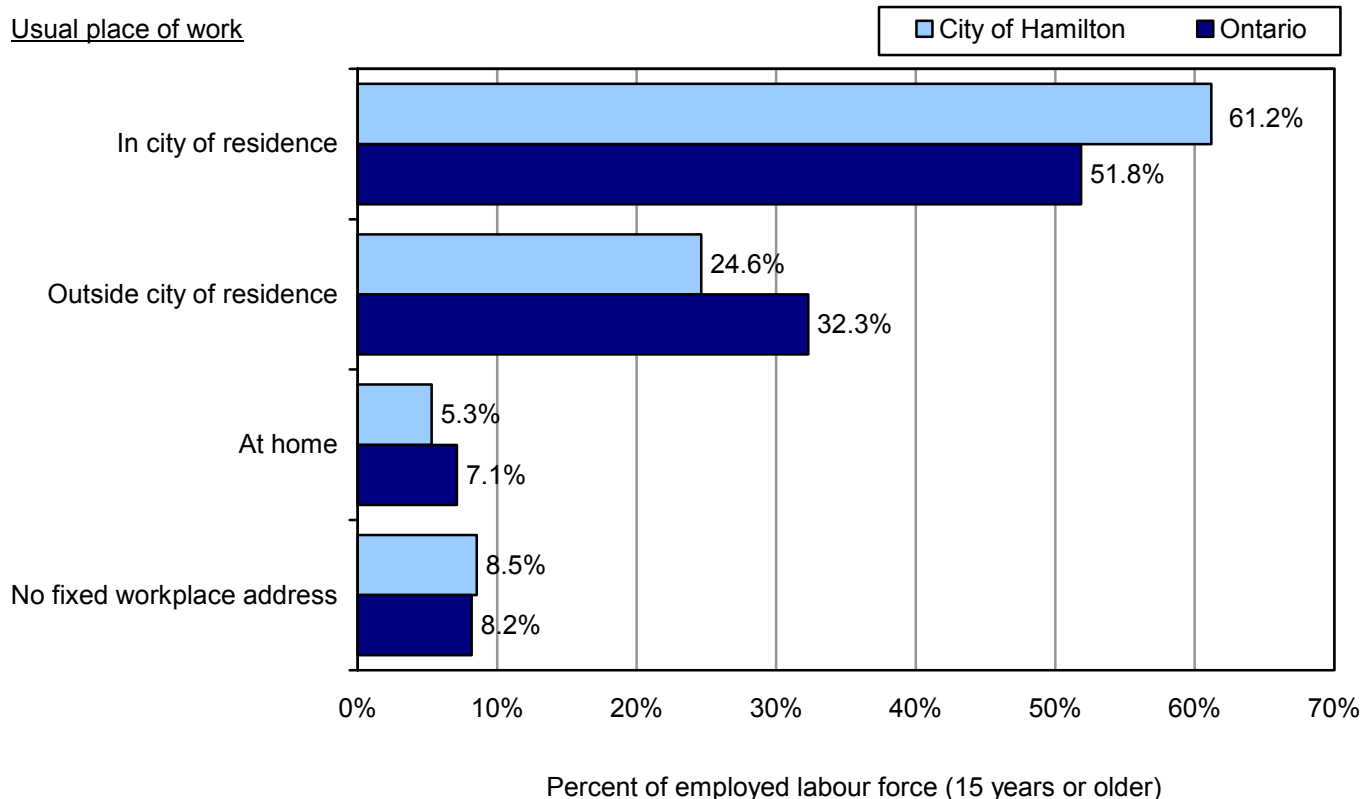


## COMMUTING POPULATION

- Description:**
- The employed labour force population 15 years of age and older whose usual place of work is within their city of residence and the percentage whose usual place of work is outside their city of residence.
  - An indication of job availability within the city compared to outside of the city.
  - Long commutes to work can cause stress and fatigue and hence affect quality of life.
  - A useful indicator for planning service delivery to the City of Hamilton population (e.g., availability of programming outside of work hours).

- Key Message:**
- Sixty-one percent of the City of Hamilton's employed population work within the city boundaries, whereas a quarter of the employed population commutes out of the city boundaries to work.
  - The proportion of commuters in the City of Hamilton is less than the provincial proportion (24.6% versus 32.3% respectively).

**Employed labour force 15 years of age and older by usual place of work, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

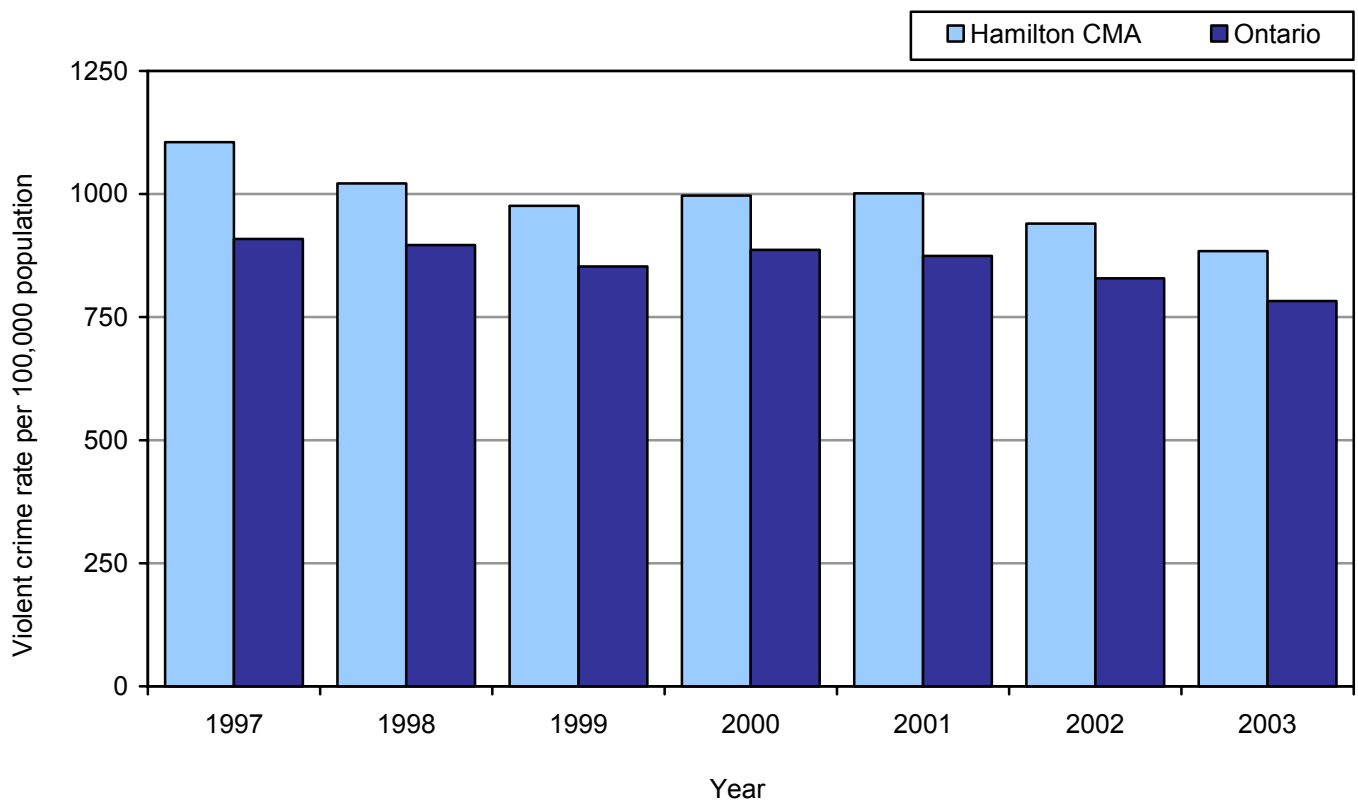


## CRIME

- Description:**
- The number of violent crime offences reported to police for every 100,000 persons.
  - Violent crime offences include: homicide, attempted murder, assaults, other assaults, sexual assaults, other sexual offences, abduction, and robbery.
  - A quality of life indicator of public safety and security in the community.

- Key Message:**
- The violent crime offences rate in the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has declined since 1997. However, the rate in the Hamilton CMA has been consistently higher than in Ontario.

***Violent crime offences reported to police (rate per 100,000 persons), Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and Ontario, 1997-2003***



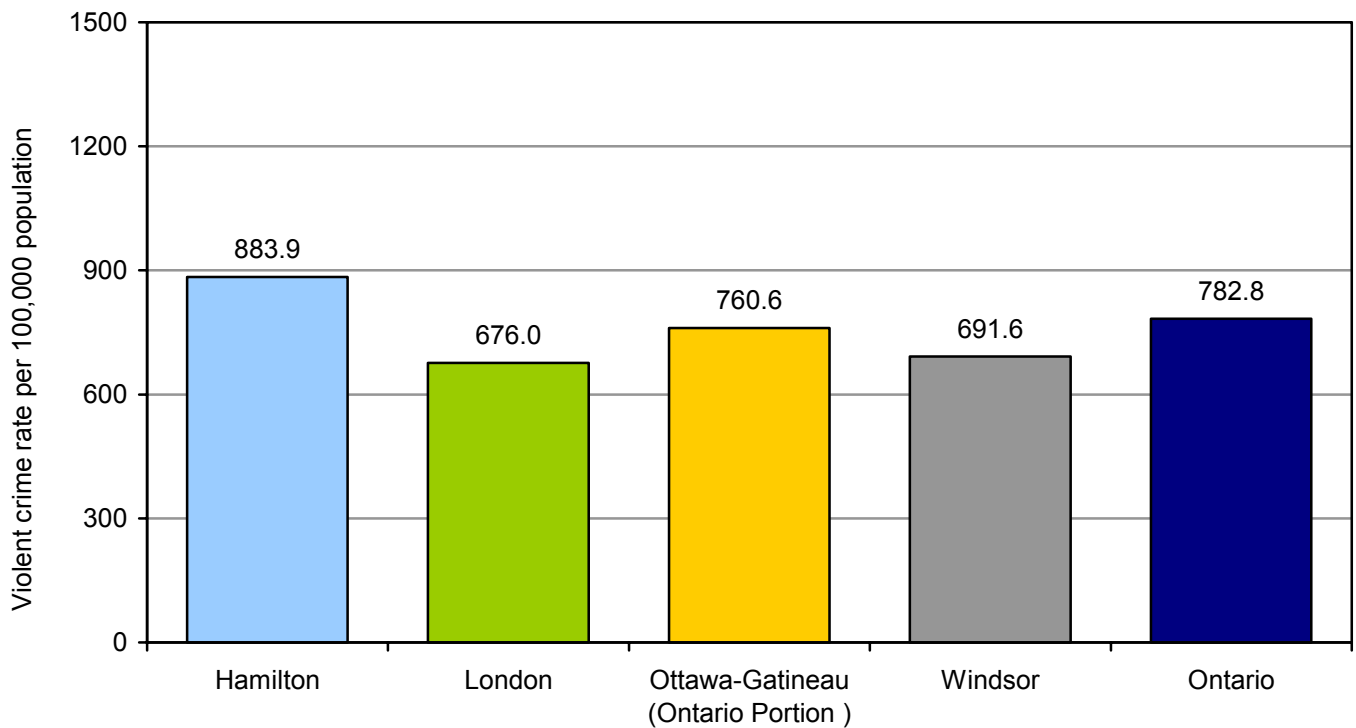
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-2003



### CRIME – PEER COMPARATORS

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  - A quality of life indicator of public safety and security in the community.
- Key Message:**
- The violent crime rate was higher in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Hamilton than the other select CMAs and Ontario.

***Violent crime offences reported to police (rate per 100,000 persons), Census Metropolitan Areas of Hamilton, London, Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario portion), Windsor and Ontario, 2003***



*Source: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2003*

