

CHILDREN AND SENIORS

May 2012 (revised)

CITY OF HAMILTON OVERALL

◆ The latest census data shows Hamilton is aging, however, the large baby boom cohort has not yet had a significant impact on the senior population. Chart 1 shows that the largest age group is aged 45-64 years old. Chart 1 also shows the changing demographics of Hamilton's young residents, with more kids leaving than entering school age. This trend, combined with the expansion of the suburbs and the changing geography of where children live, has led to school closures across many parts of the city.

◆ For the first time since at least the 1996 Census, the number of young children in Hamilton has risen, all be it slightly. In 2011, there were 27,430 children aged 0 to 4 years old, an increase of 490 compared to 2006. A rise in births has been seen in communities across Canada, due in part to the echo effect from the baby boom generation as their children are now becoming parents. Hamilton remains a community with a low proportion of children in its population relative to other Ontario communities (Chart 2).

◆ Hamilton has a higher than average proportion of seniors (15.4% of residents), compared to Ontario (14.6% of residents). The number of seniors in Hamilton stood at 81,575 in 2011, an increase of over 6,000 seniors since 2006 (Chart 3).

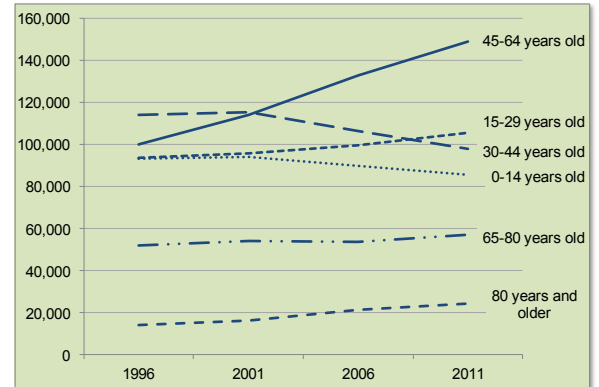


Chart 1. Comparison of number residents by age groups, city of Hamilton, 1996-2011 (Census of Canada, Statistics Canada)

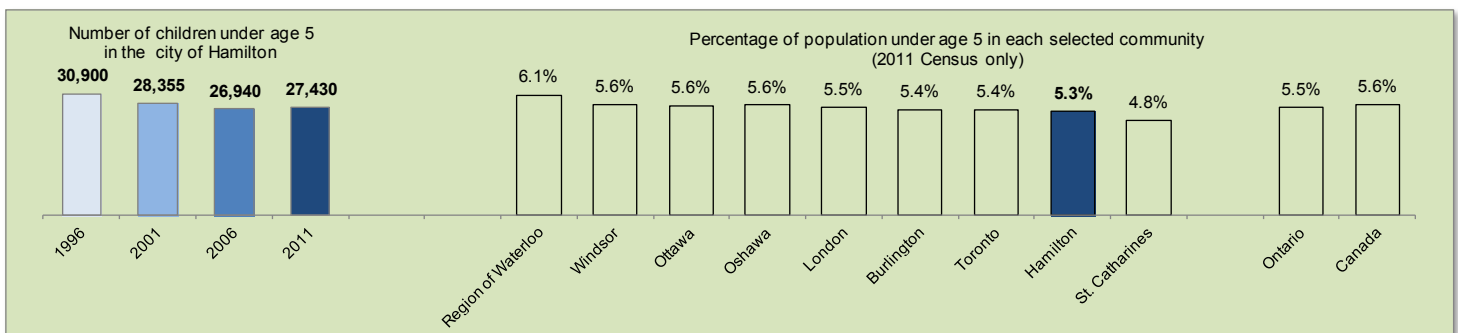


Chart 2. Young children, city of Hamilton and selected communities (Census of Canada, Statistics Canada)

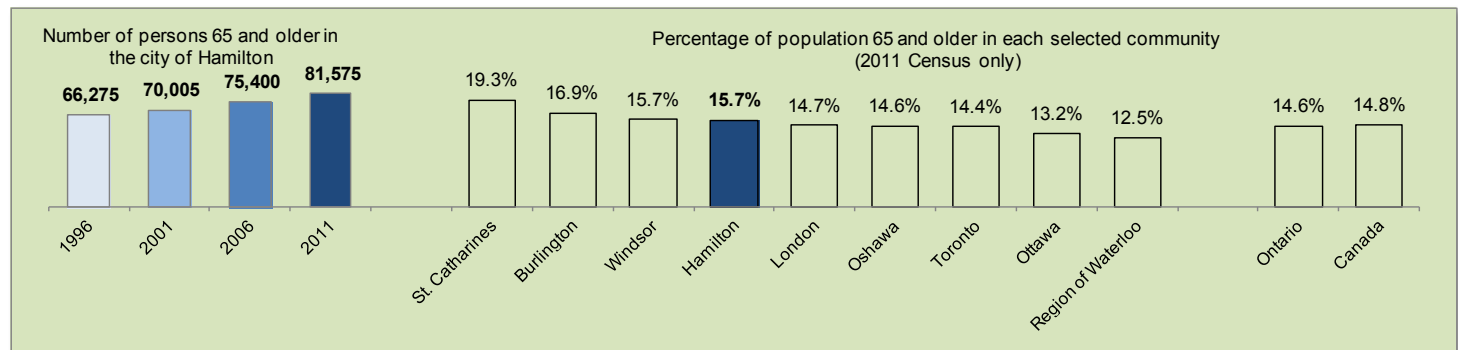


Chart 3. Seniors, city of Hamilton and selected communities (Census of Canada, Statistics Canada)

More detailed information from the Age and Sex release of 2011 Census data is available on Statistics Canada's website at www12.statcan.gc.ca including maps of children and seniors in the Hamilton CMA at the following shortened addresses:
 Map of children <http://bit.ly/LckyMI> Map of seniors <http://bit.ly/Lcklcc>
 A very detailed interactive map of census data including sub-neighbourhood level data is available here:
<http://www.openfile.ca/interact/census>



CITY OF HAMILTON BY WARD

◆ Most wards across Hamilton have seen steady declines in both the proportion of children in their population as well as the total number of children, since at least 2001. This is due to both low fertility rates in Canada, and in Hamilton, a lower than average rate of immigration.

◆ Due to the construction of new housing subdivisions, the fastest growing suburban areas including Ancaster, Glanbrook and parts of Stoney Creek including Winona (Wards 11 and 12) have seen a rise in the number of children. While the number of children in Ward 15 Flamborough is declining, it remains the area with the highest proportion of children (approximately 20.1% of residents were aged 14 or younger in 2011).

◆ Ward 7 Central Mountain has the largest number of children in the city: approximately 11,000 under age 15. This is approximately 1,300 fewer children than in 2001.

◆ In the lower city, Ward 3 Central Hamilton has the largest number of children: approximately 7,000 children aged 14 or younger. Wards 3 and 4 were the only wards in the lower city to see an increase in the number of babies: in 2011, there were approximately 915 babies under age 1 in these wards combined, an increase of 100 babies compared to 2006.

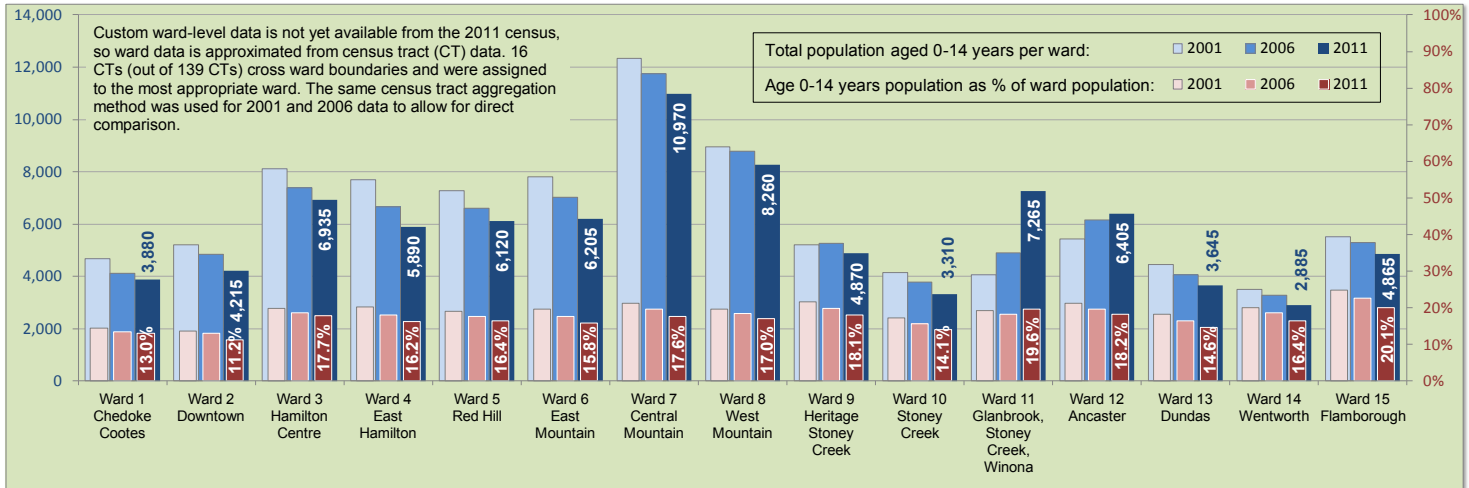


Chart 4. Children under age 15, city of Hamilton wards (derived from census tract boundaries), 2001-2011 (Census of Canada, Statistics Canada)

◆ Although the city overall is aging, not all wards are seeing an increase in the number of persons aged 65 and older. Most wards in the lower city (Wards 1, 2, 3 & 4) have each seen small decreases in the senior population over the last 10 years. This trend may be reversed by the next census as there is a large cohort aged 45-64 in these wards.

◆ The mountain wards have the greatest total number of seniors. The suburban and rural parts of the city are seeing the largest increases in the senior population: Ward 13 Dundas has the largest proportion of seniors, at 21.6% of the population, while Ward 11 Glanbrook Stoney Creek Winona and Ward 12 Ancaster have seen the largest gain with more than 2,000 extra seniors in each ward in the last decade.

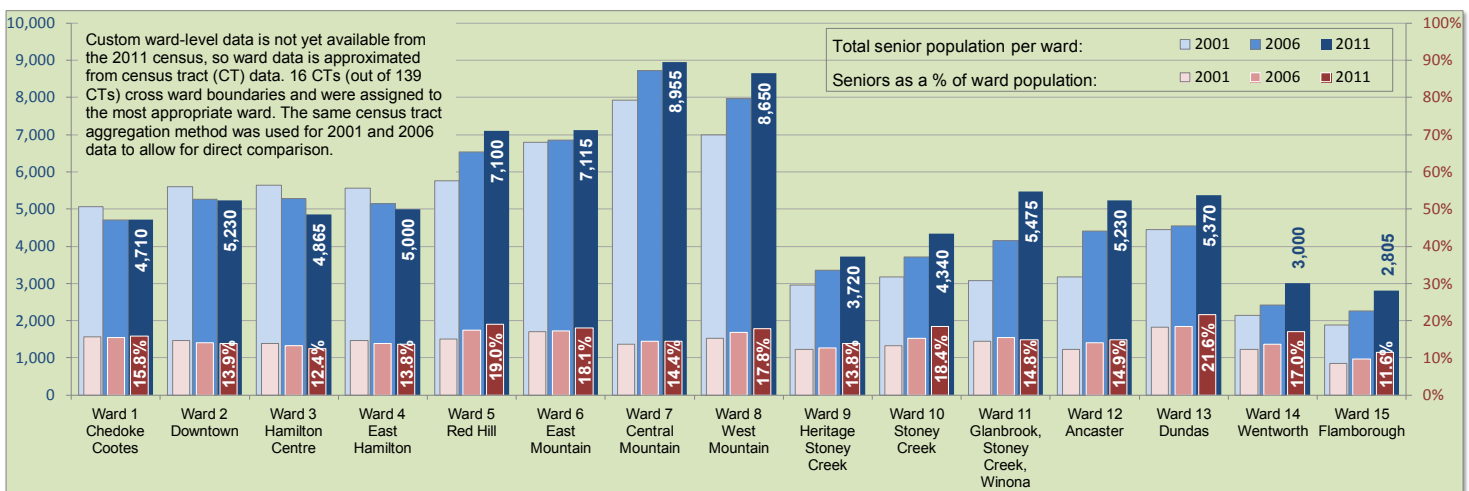


Chart 5. Seniors (aged 65 and older), city of Hamilton wards (derived from census tract boundaries), 2001-2011 (Census of Canada, Statistics Canada)