

CITY OF HAMILTON

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Social Development and Early Childhood Services Division

Report to: Chair and Members Social Services Committee	Submitted by: Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community Services Department
Date: June 27, 2006	Prepared by: Barb Powell X3538

SUBJECT: Hamilton's Youth (SSC06017) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council receive the Preliminary Youth Scan Report as attached to this report in Appendix A attached to Report (SSC06017) for information.
- (b) That Council support the development and implementation of City-wide Summit on Youth in partnership with the committee convened by Police Services and other community stakeholders.
- (c) That staff be directed to explore the feasibility of instituting a City-wide Youth Advisory Committee of Council and other models of addressing the needs of youth.

Joe-Anne Priel
General Manager
Community Services Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In response to Council's request to develop a Youth Task Force, staff has undertaken a preliminary Youth Scan drawing on twenty-three indicators describing various characteristics of youth and their behaviour; the views of fifty-seven key informants and a review of best practices. The information was collated into themes and the following recommendations developed:

- a. That the City lead by example and begin to explore how to involve youth in existing local planning tables, networks that impact them.

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- b. That the City lead by example and continue to develop/strengthen approaches to reporting and designing programs with the view that young people are assets to be valued.
- c. That local youth focused reports are scanned and recommendations from across the various service sectors be consolidated into one document. This information should be shared with existing networks including youth, as a basis to inform future planning/initiatives (for example a *State of Youth Report, or Youth Symposium or further community development*).
- d. That the feasibility of a Youth Advisory Committee (comprised of youth) to the Mayor and Council be explored to provide guidance and advice on local youth quality of life, and or future initiatives that impact youth.

These recommendations have been shared with those who participated in the development of the report, as well as other networks and committees supporting youth in our community. One such group, convened by the Hamilton Police Service is planning a Youth Summit in the fall with the view to develop a community based response and plan to supporting youth in Hamilton. The Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction has also recently identified children and youth as the focus for future efforts.

BACKGROUND:

This report responds to Council's motion made at the October 25, 2005 Social & Public Health Services Committee Meeting, "that staff investigate the formulation of a Task Force which would initially include the invitation for participation (but not limited to) staff from Public Health, Community Services, Catholic Children's Aid, the Hamilton District School Board, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Hamilton Police Services, the RCMP and local youth serving agencies to develop recommendations and to address the ongoing negative adolescent behavior in a holistic manner."

There is a strong interest in examining how youth in our community are faring; the challenges they face and their quality of life. Locally, there are numerous youth targeted programs and services across several sectors (e.g. faith, foundations, family support agencies, private sector, education, health, employment, housing, culture and recreation, public health etc). Staff has undertaken a preliminary youth scan which provides a snapshot of the current landscape to better understand the challenges and opportunities present in our community. A small staff work group with representation from Public Health, Community Services and Hamilton Police Services guided the development of the youth scan which includes the following components:

- Socio-demographic indicators
- Key informant/focus group interviews
- Best practice literature review

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These various sources of information were analyzed and preliminary recommendations developed. Staff gathered feedback on these recommendations from those involved in the development of the report and various existing networks/coalitions working on youth related issues.

Concurrent to the development of this work, further community action to support youth has also been occurring. The Hamilton Police Services has convened a coalition of community organizations and citizens to address the issue of guns and gangs in our community. This group with broad representation from the police services, corrections, crown attorney, probation, school boards, the City (Community Services and Public Health) and youth serving agencies is gathering information across a broad spectrum of action from prevention to enforcement with a view to convene a Fall Youth Summit. The Hamilton Community Foundation, in a recent speech by their CEO, has challenged this community to see youth as valuable assets and proposed a host of innovative ideas that, when implemented, will make our City more youth friendly. This work is coupled with the Foundation's recent call for proposals through their Youth Advisory Committee for youth to take action on issues of concern in their community.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The Youth Scan undertaken to inform planning and policy development includes the review of indicators, key informant interviews and best practices review. Twenty-three indicators describing various characteristics of youth and their families, as well as behavioural indicators are collated in the report. (See Appendix A attached to Report SSC06017).

Some of the highlights from the review of the socio-demographic indicators include:

- Approximately 66,735 persons, 10 to 19 years of age, living in the City of Hamilton in 2001.
- 14% of the youth population, age 15 to 24 years, worked full year full-time in 2000, 57.8% worked part year or part-time and 28.5% of them did not work in 2000. The average income for youth from all sources, including employment income and government transfer payments was \$10,465.
- The proportion of the population, age 15 to 24 years that was not attending school was higher in the City of Hamilton than the proportion in Ontario (38.1% vs. 35.1% respectively).
- Over 22% of Hamilton residents, 12 to 18 years of age, live in households with income below the LICO threshold.

Some positive behavioural indicators include:

- 82-84% of first-time eligible students in Hamilton were successful in achieving Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test scores that met or exceeded the requirements.
- Over half of Hamilton residents, 12 to 19 years of age, reported that they are physically active.

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- In 2004, there were 3,074 criminal offences committed by youth. However, 2004 figures show a 16% decrease in the rate of youth criminal offences compared to 2003 and a 31% decrease compared to 1996.

An example of a behavioural indicator of concern is alcohol consumption:

- 48% of Hamilton residents, 12 to 19 years of age, are regular or occasional drinkers and 27.1% are binge drinkers.

The socio-demographic indicators were augmented through key informant interviews. Fifty-seven key informants contributed to the report representing City staff and a broad range of youth serving organizations, as well as youth receiving City or community based services. (See Appendix A attached to Report SSC06017 for a listing of sectors participating in key informant interviews). They provided their opinions on what influences youth behaviour most, the perception of youth in our community and their best advice regarding how to support youth and address gaps in services. Some themes noted in the key informant interviews are noted here (see full report for details) under the headings of: Influences on Youth; Perceptions of Youth in the Community; and, Best Advice on Supporting Youth.

Influences on Youth

- The vast majority of respondents believe that the greatest influences on youth are the quality of their relationships with their parents and with their peers at school and in their neighbourhoods.
- Youth need access to culturally sensitive recreation sports and social programs and they need to be involved in the process of determining exactly which programs and services will support/benefit them and meet their neighbourhood needs.
- It was noted by respondents that youth stereotyping, and cultural stereotyping are serious issues. Youth overall, and youth from visible minorities in particular, are frequently negatively portrayed as violent and aggressive in popular culture. Respondents described how it was a struggle for youth to get past these perceptions. *"Our youth are struggling; stereotyping youth is still a big issue."*

Perceptions of Youth in the Community

- A shared view amongst respondents was that while the vast number of youth are well adjusted, doing well in school and are successfully meeting the challenges and opportunities in their lives, youth are unfairly portrayed and negatively perceived by the cultural mainstream.
- One respondent noted that youth of colour are often viewed as dangerous. *"While the percentage of youth that experience discrimination may be small it has a negative impact on those youth"*.

Best Advice on Supporting Youth

- Improve access and availability of culturally sensitive, youth friendly and neighbourhood based programs.

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- Ensure youth consultation, participation, involvement, and transparency of process in community planning that impacts youth.
- A City plan for youth is needed, more services for youth are required and services need to be better coordinated. Partnerships across the service sectors need to be developed.
- Strategies to keep kids in school and strengthen their long-term employment opportunities are a worthwhile prevention strategy.
- Prevention is key. Examples of prevention strategies include, neighbourhood based youth intervention and outreach, mentoring, and incentives to keep youth in school and involved in sports, recreation and social activities.

The best practice review re-enforces the information gathered through the review of indicators and the views expressed by key informants.

Best Practice Models Underscore:

- The importance of an approach that is unique to the community's particular circumstances and needs.
- An approach that involves youth in every aspect of planning and creates a youth friendly community is essential.
- An integrated approach that promotes intersect oral communication and cooperation is necessary with programming that is skills based and flexible.

All of these findings point to the need for Community Services to initiate discussion with the Corporate Management Team to consider processes for including youth input in the development of City programs and services accessed by youth and advocate for the participation of youth on networks, or coalitions of which City staff are members, or in programs that receive grants from the City of Hamilton to respond to youth issues. This recommendation recognizes that there is an existing strong foundation for youth participation in the development and delivery of City programs to build on.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Any of the recommendations can be modified to better respond to Council direction.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff support to a community lead Fall Youth Summit can be accommodated within existing Departmental resources. Staff resources and an administrative budget would be required for the development and support of a Youth Advisory Committee of Council at an estimated cost of \$30,000 annually. Preliminary work to determine how to develop such a Committee, including the scope of work, recruitment and orientation could be achieved within the existing staff resources of the Social Development Team.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

This work supports our policies related to access and equity

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

The preliminary Youth Scan was shared with those who participated in its development. The members of the City of Hamilton staff work group (16), and their departments as well as the key informants (57) and the agencies and networks that they represent also reviewed the preliminary Youth Scan. Furthermore, the Scan was presented to the Youth committee convened through Police Services which represents more than (37) local agencies, community members and governmental service providers. Given the interest of the Hamilton Community Foundation and their granting programs and their Youth Advisory Council the report was also circulated to them.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “**Triple Bottom Line**”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

Engaging youth and developing services and programs that support youth in reaching their potential benefits the entire community, now and in the future.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

Youth engagement could have an impact on environmental well being if youth continue and expand their efforts on environmental issues.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

Economic well being is enhanced as youth remain in school and develop skills that ready them for participation in the changing local economy.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?
 Yes **No**

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?
 Yes **No**

Youth mentoring and support could be one way of public servants supporting their community and the corporation that could lead to increasing engagement and job satisfaction for employees.

Youth Scan **Preliminary Report**

February 2006

Prepared By:

*Joint Working Group
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City of Hamilton*

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Youth Scan Preliminary Report

1.0 Background

Recently much interest has been expressed to better understand the status of youth in Hamilton, the challenges they face, their quality of life, and trends that have been observed by those serving youth in local agencies and organizations.

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of youth in the Hamilton community¹. The outcomes are intended to inform future collaborative planning.

The scope of local youth programs and services spans multiple service sectors including, social services, health, family support, child protection agencies, police, school boards, sports, recreation, culture, and the justice system. For the purposes of this report, a series of key informant interviews were carried out by staff in the Public Health Services and Community Services departments.

Fourteen representatives from the aforementioned sectors were interviewed and asked for their views on local youth. Additionally nine public health nurses, two Culture and Recreation staff, nineteen youth and thirteen young mothers were interviewed between December 2005 and January 2006. In total fifty seven informants were interviewed.

In addition to identifying the highlights and themes emerging from the community interviews, this report provides a summary analysis of five best practice prevention models, key demographic indicators for youth and young adults, and based on all outcomes, provides recommendations and options for next steps.

The report has been prepared under the auspices of small internal workgroup with representatives from Community Services, Public Health Services and the Police Department from November 2005-January 2006.

¹ *The report focuses on youth aged 10 to 19 years of age, however the available statistics from various sources spans youth from aged 10 up to 24 years.*

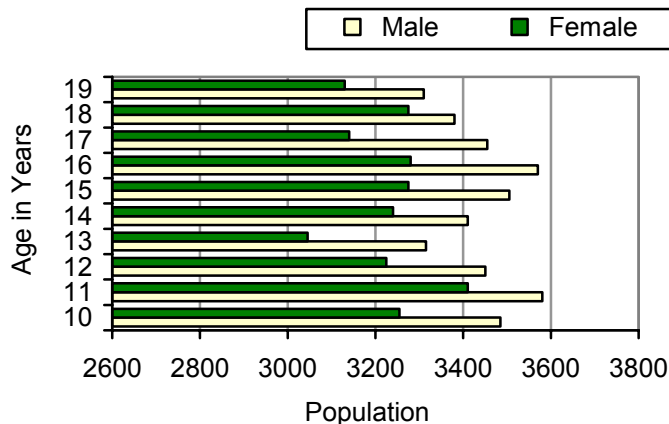
2.0 Overview: Socio Demographic Indicators

The *City of Hamilton Social and Health Issues Report (SHIR) 2005*, provides a description of the determinants of health, which indicates the range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that impact the health status of individuals and populations. This report includes important indicators that have an impact on the quality of life of families and youth, within the context of their daily surroundings. (See Appendix One)

Additionally statistics from *The Hamilton Police Service Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004* are included which provides an over-all picture of youth crime trends. It is important to note that youth involvement in crime has significantly decreased by more than fifty per cent between 1996 and 2004.

2.1 Age Distribution: Hamilton Population Count in Years by Age and Sex 2001

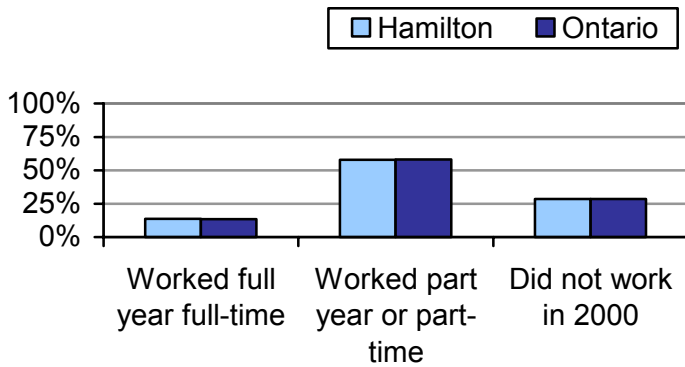
- In 2001, there were approximately 66,735 persons 10 to 19 years of age living in the City of Hamilton.
- For each year from ages 10 to 19 years, there are more males than females.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

2.2 Presence of Income: Employment Activity in Population Age 15 to 24 Years, Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area and Ontario, 2000

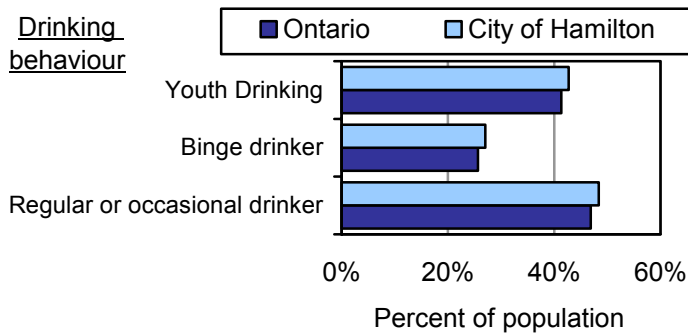
- In the Hamilton CMA, fourteen percent (13.7%) of the youth population age 15 to 24 years worked full year full-time in 2000, 57.8% worked part year or part-time and 28.5% of them did not work in 2000.
- In 2000, the employment activity of the youth population age 15 to 24 years in the Hamilton CMA was similar to that of Ontario as a whole.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

2.3 Alcohol Use: Drinking Behavior in Population 12 to 19 Years of Age, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003

- In 2003, forty-three percent of Hamilton's youth (age 12 to 18 years) reported that they drink alcohol on a regular or occasional basis.
- In 2003, forty-eight percent (48.4%) of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age are regular or occasional drinkers and 27.1% are binge drinkers.
- The proportion of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age who are regular or occasional drinkers is significantly higher than that of the province as a whole.

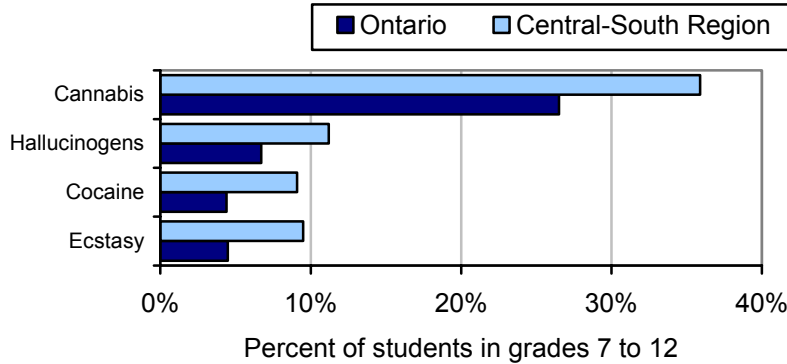


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2003

2.4 Drug Use Among Student: Students (grades 7 to 12) Who Used Illicit Drugs During the Past 12 Months, Central South Region, and Ontario, 2005

- In 2005, the percentage of students in the Central South region that reported using cannabis in the past 12 months was 35.9%.

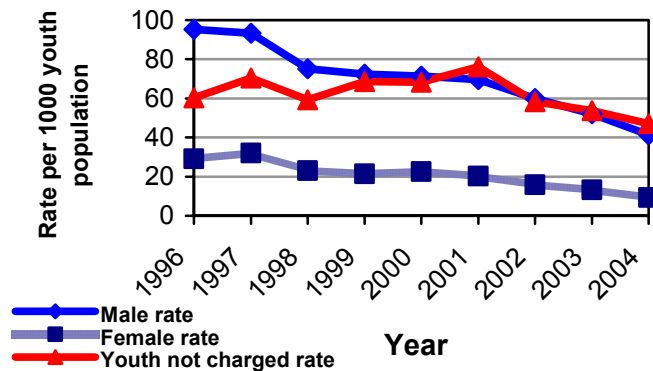
- In 2005, a significantly greater proportion of students in the Central South region compared to those in the province a whole reported using hallucinogens, cocaine, and/or ecstasy.



Source: Ontario Student Drug Use Survey, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2005.

2.5 Youth Criminal Offences: Number of Youths 12 to 17 Years of Age With Criminal Offences, City of Hamilton, 1996-2004

- In 2004, there were 3074 offences were committed by youth
- Since 1996, a significantly greater proportion of male than female youth have been charged with criminal offences.
- 2004 figures show a 16% decrease in the rate of youth criminal offences compared to 2003 and a 31% decrease compared to 1996.



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005.

3.0 Best Practice Models Summary

For the purposes of this report a selected review rather than a full analysis of literature was conducted. All articles referenced for this report are in *Appendix Four: Bibliography*.

Since each community is unique, best practices should be used to create programs that fit with the size, resources available, population and culture of the community. As a first step, it is important to identify the challenges that face the community's youth and develop strategies and programming for improving their lives. By identifying these challenges early on, strategies can be designed with built-in flexibility allowing programs that can be responsive to the needs of the community.

It is important to involve youth in this process. Young people need to be involved in the process of community building, with opportunities to participate and take charge of their own futures, including identifying service gaps and needs. One of the key approaches to designing programs is to begin with the view that young people are not problems, but are assets to be valued. Inherent in this approach is creating programming that is youth-centred. That is, putting youth first by demonstrating a commitment to youth participation, ownership, and success in programs.

Programming that is part of a cohesive infrastructure with the integration of schools, municipalities, libraries, community agencies, and family resources is desirable for youth and the community at-large. This can be fostered by inter-sectoral collaboration, communication, and coordination.

The best practices literature has been clear about a number of characteristics of services that are essential for youth serving agencies. One of the most important goals of these services is to offer youth positive, productive activities outside the traditional school day to help promote their health and well-being. Youth serving agencies should attempt to provide a tangible sense of belonging at home and in the community, so that youth do not turn to high-risk activities.² Programs should be loosely structured and small in size, so that they can remain engaging and interactive.

A recurrent theme in the literature is that youth programs need to promote skills development. These skills need to be comprehensive and conducive to social, academic, or vocational success. Programming should also go one step further and provide opportunities for youth to participate in community and public life and to gain employment and leadership skills.

Some youth are at high risk for violence and the best practice literature shows that programming should be targeted to early intervention for youth at high risk for violence and other negative behavioral outcomes.³

² *The combined consequences of identified "risk behaviors" (i.e. smoking, alcohol abuse, illicit drug use, unprotected sex, and delinquency) are all threats to the overall health of youth and resultant behaviors. Studies show that these behaviors are not independent of one another and cluster together both in individual youth as well as in groups of youth (Effectiveness of School-Based Interventions in Reducing Adolescent Risk Behavior: A Systematic Review of Reviews. PHRED, March 1999).*

³ *Children exposed to violence experience mental and emotional difficulties and it has been shown that children tend to use this learned behavior of violence in situations where conflict is involved (The Effectiveness of Public Health Interventions to Reduce or Prevent Spousal Abuse Towards Women, PHRED, December 2001). Public Health tends to focus on the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of prevention which are defined temporally but research now*

Programming needs to be flexible and responsive to diversity in the community to enable access for the hardest-to-serve youth in communities, including: youth with disabilities, school dropouts, youth who are questioning their sexuality, gang-involved youth, youth of both genders, and youth various ethnic backgrounds. All subgroups of youth, therefore, need to be included in program development.

While this is *not* a comprehensive list of characteristics necessary for youth-serving agencies, they have been identified in the literature as keys to success in youth programming.

4.0 Key Informant Interviews

Key Informant interviews were conducted informally with service providers across several sectors (See *Appendix Two*). Key informants were asked the following open ended questions:

- What in your opinion influences youth behavior most? How can youth be supported?
- What is the perception of youth in our community? How are youth viewed?
- What is your best advice regarding how to support youth and address gaps in services?
- Please identify any local reports with outstanding recommendations that you are aware of (see appendix four).

Responses to the questions by key informants demonstrated agreement in several areas. The following themes emerged from the service provider and youth key informant interviews:

4.1 Influences: Youth Behavior

- The vast majority of respondents believe that the greatest influences on youth are the quality of their relationships with their parents and with their peers at school and in their neighborhoods.
- Respondents noted that connectedness to others is further reinforced through cultural bonds, shared community identity and access to programs and services in the neighborhood.
- Youth need access to culturally sensitive recreation sports and social programs and they need to be involved in the process of determining exactly which programs and services will support/benefit them and meet their neighborhood needs.

suggests that violence prevention should focus on selected targeted interventions (World Report on Violence and Health Summary, World Health Organization, Geneva, 2002)

- While many youth do very well at school, have strong family ties and have access to opportunities to experience success, some face greater challenges and are at risk for depression, drug use, alcohol abuse or criminal behavior.
- Negative stereotyping is having a detrimental effect on youth self-esteem, particularly aboriginal youth, new Canadians and visible minorities.

Respondents pointed out that the quality of relationships can influence youth behavior both positively and/or negatively. *"Family, parents are an important support system. If that is not there, youth face greater risk for drugs, alcohol".*

"Peers have a significant influence over youth behavior. Family circumstances are also underlying factors. It influences youth themselves as well as who the youth chooses to be friends with." One key informant indicated that street involved youth sometimes flee their home situation because of some form of abuse and go on to develop relationships with other street youth from similar circumstances.

"Street youth are lost so they connect with whatever makes them feel connected. There is a great risk of street youth being pulled into gangs because gangs can give them an identity. We must keep youth connected because they become very vulnerable to drug use, gangs and crime."

Respondents agreed that newcomers sometimes face greater challenges. Adjusting to a new environment, language barriers and being in transition from one culture to a new culture can make youth vulnerable. *Re-settlement "can be especially acute between parents and children. Religious and/or cultural strains, perceptions of racism and discrimination are strongly felt."*

It was noted by respondents that youth stereotyping, and cultural stereotyping are serious issues. Youth overall, and youth from visible minorities in particular, are frequently negatively portrayed as violent and aggressive in popular culture. Respondents described how it was a struggle for youth to get past these perceptions. *"Our youth are struggling, stereotyping youth is still a big issue."*

Respondents noted that it was important to raise overall awareness and respect for the cultural uniqueness of Hamilton's population. *"Racism has the effect of forcing kids to stay in their own groups, which can sometimes lead to isolation, and makes them more vulnerable to peer pressure"*

Respondents expressed the importance of accessible youth programs in neighborhoods so that youth can participate and experience success in culturally sensitive, recreational, sports and social activities. *"Certainly in the city's downtown core, the very presence of youth is viewed as a "problem" which negatively affects the community"*

Several respondents noted that poverty denies access to youth programs and that this has a very significant impact on the quality of life on youth and families.

We need "Youth programs with strong community focus and to create programs where youth experience successes in sports, recreational activities, and in school." Youth do not, nor can they access programs, designed to enhance a sense of community or prevent risk behavior if they do

not exist or are unaffordable. *"Poverty has a huge impact on the quality of life of youth and families"*.

The majority of informants expressed that it was very important to involve youth in the community development process to ensure that their point of view is obtained before neighborhood programs and services are put in place. Many respondents expressed that consultation with youth was extremely important, and that there should be community dialogue with youth about what they need, ask them what systemic barriers exist: *"Speak directly to youth, not just to service providers---reach out to student council representatives, youth organizations, to get their perspective"* *"Youth consultation is critical. New ideas must involve youth. We may think we have good ideas but do they?"*

4.2 Perceptions of Youth in the Community

- The majority of respondents believe that youth are unfairly portrayed and that a negative perception of youth is highlighted in the media.
- A shared view amongst respondents was that while the vast number of youth are well adjusted, doing well in school and are successfully meeting the challenges and opportunities in their lives, youth are unfairly portrayed and negatively perceived by the cultural mainstream.

Frequently respondents expressed that a very small number of youth were involved in criminal behavior, yet this group was creating the perception that the majority of youth were violent, unstable, and putting citizens at risk. *"There is a small core group of youth that account for a large percentage of the negative violent behavior that is highly publicized"*. *"Generally adults see youth as trouble-makers"* *"All youth are painted with the same brush"*. As one respondent said: Youth are viewed as *"all up to no good, for example, enforcing the no more than three youth rule in stores sends a powerful message"*.

One respondent noted that youth of colour are often viewed as dangerous. *"While the percentage of youth that experience discrimination may be small it has a negative impact on those youth"*. Amongst Aboriginal youth, it was noted that self-esteem issues are a very serious concern. *"Often when youth feel unwelcome, they begin to internalize the negative perceptions of other people"*. *"Often youths opinions and thoughts are dismissed"*.

All of the public health nurses interviewed for this report feel that youth are misjudged, that the vast majority of youth are successful and are under recognized for their achievements. It was noted by several respondents that while there may be a tendency for people to remember a headline or a negative experience with youth, knowing youth, or becoming familiar with youth changes their opinion. *"When people become familiar with youth their perception changes and it becomes more positive"*.

4.3 Best Advice

- Improve access and availability of culturally sensitive, youth friendly and neighborhood based programs.

- Ensure youth consultation, participation, involvement, and transparency of process in community planning that impacts youth.
- A city plan for youth is needed, more services for youth are required and services need to be better coordinated. Partnerships across the service sectors need to be developed.
- Mentoring programs would greatly assist youth
- Strategies to keep kids in school and strengthen their long term employment opportunities is a worthwhile prevention strategy.

The majority of respondents agreed that culturally sensitive and youth friendly prevention strategies targeted to reduce risk behavior are vitally important. Programs and services need to be flexible, so that they are accessible to youth (for example drop in programs, after school programs or services that are available in evening hours, and where advance appointments are not mandatory). *"Programs need to be sensitive to youth culture"*. It is important to *"foster an atmosphere of respect, acceptance and belonging"*.

Key to prevention was the involvement of youth in planning and access to programs and services to support youth and families in neighborhoods. *"Youth need to be involved in governance, for example, put youth on the Board of your agency"*

Examples of prevention strategies include, neighborhood based youth intervention and outreach, mentoring, and incentives to keep youth in school and involved in sports, recreation and social activities. Respondents noted that more neighborhood based opportunities need to be created to enable youth to mix, socialize and form positive relationships with each other. Staffing of programs by other youth, coaches, reflective of the neighborhood population was another step in the right direction. *"We need strong role models in neighborhoods that would have a positive impact on youth"*

Also respondents expressed the need for a broader city wide youth plan developed with youth and service providers across the service continuum. As one respondent put it, *"it would be great to put agencies and service providers together, and share their experiences, and ask as a community how are we going to plan for our youth"?*

Respondents were aware of gaps in youth employment, and felt it was critical to the long term success of youth to find ways to support youth apprenticeship curb the drop out rate and continue develop educational programs for kids who can't learn in a regular classroom, each student and school is different. The existence of a criminal record on a youth job application was viewed by respondents as a significant barrier to employment, and supports to address or intervene with potential employers was suggested.

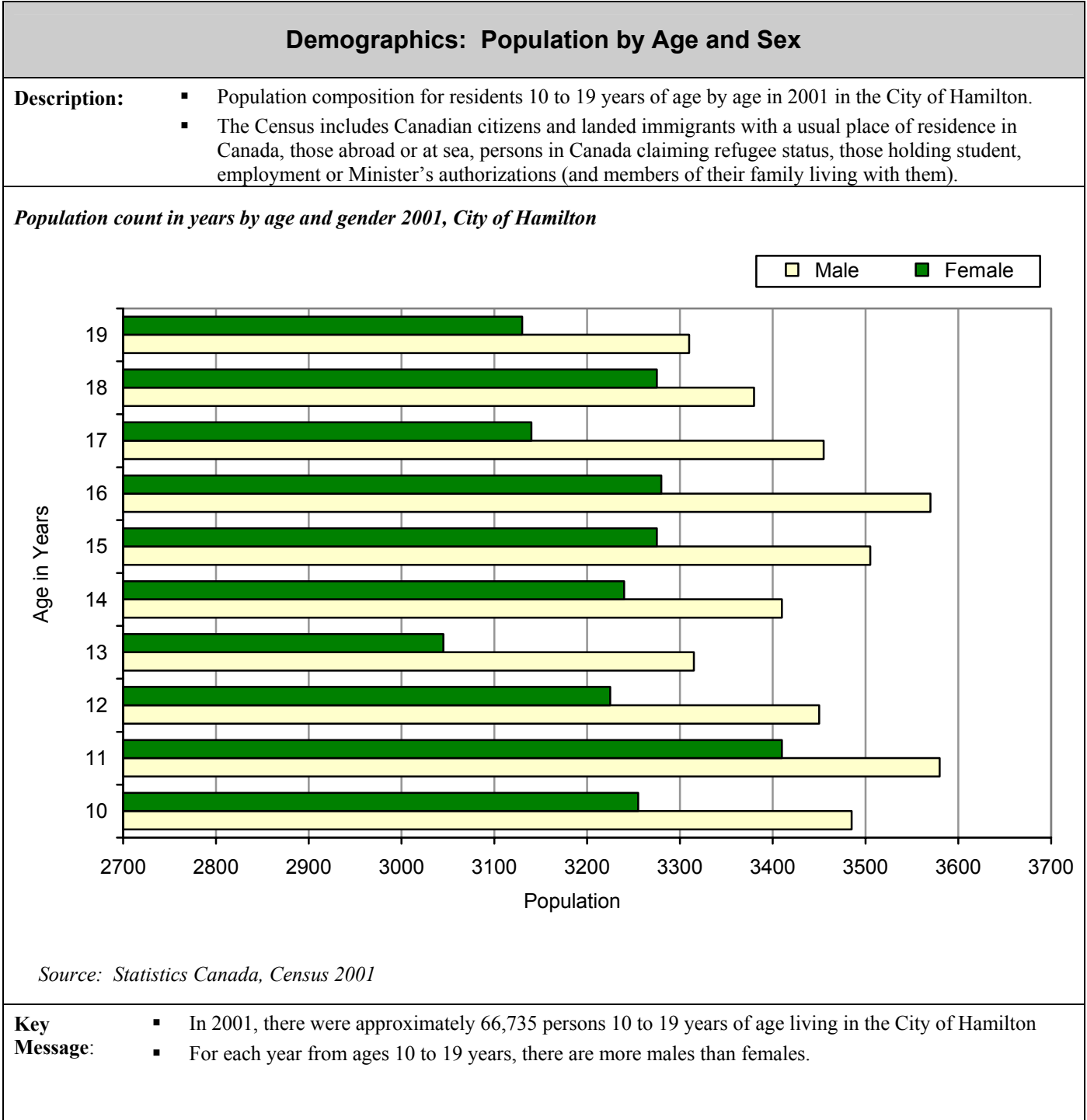
5.0 Recommendations

Several suggestions gleaned from youth and service provider respondents are reflected in the following overarching recommendations:

Appendix A to Report Hamilton's Youth (SSC 06017) (City Wide)

- a. That the City lead by example and consult with youth, invite youth to participate in any existing local planning tables, networks that impact them.
- b. That the City lead by example and continue to develop/strengthen an asset-based approach to reporting and designing programs with the view that young people are assets to be valued.
- c. That local youth focused reports be scanned and recommendations from across the various service sectors be consolidated into one document. This information should be shared with existing networks including youth, as a basis to inform future planning/initiatives (for example a *State of Youth Report, or Youth Symposium or further community development*).
- d. That the feasibility of a Youth Advisory Committee, (comprised of youth) to the Mayor be explored to provided guidance and advice on local youth quality of life, and or future initiatives that impact youth.

Appendix One: Youth Scan Indicators

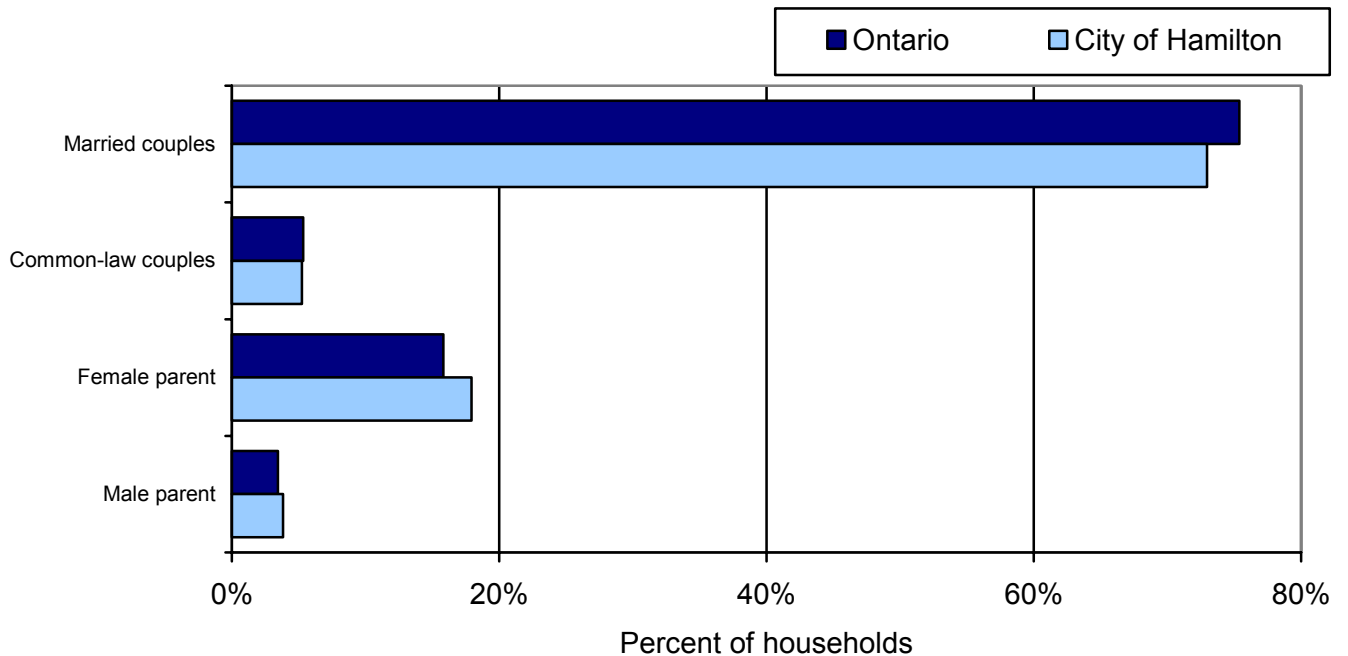


Family Structure

Description:

- Percentage of persons 10 to 19 years of age by classification of family structure in 2001 in the City of Hamilton.
- Refers to the classification of census families into married couples (with or without children of either or both spouses), common-law couples (with or without children of either or both partners), and lone-parent families by sex of parent. A couple living common-law may be of opposite or same sex. 'Children' in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present.

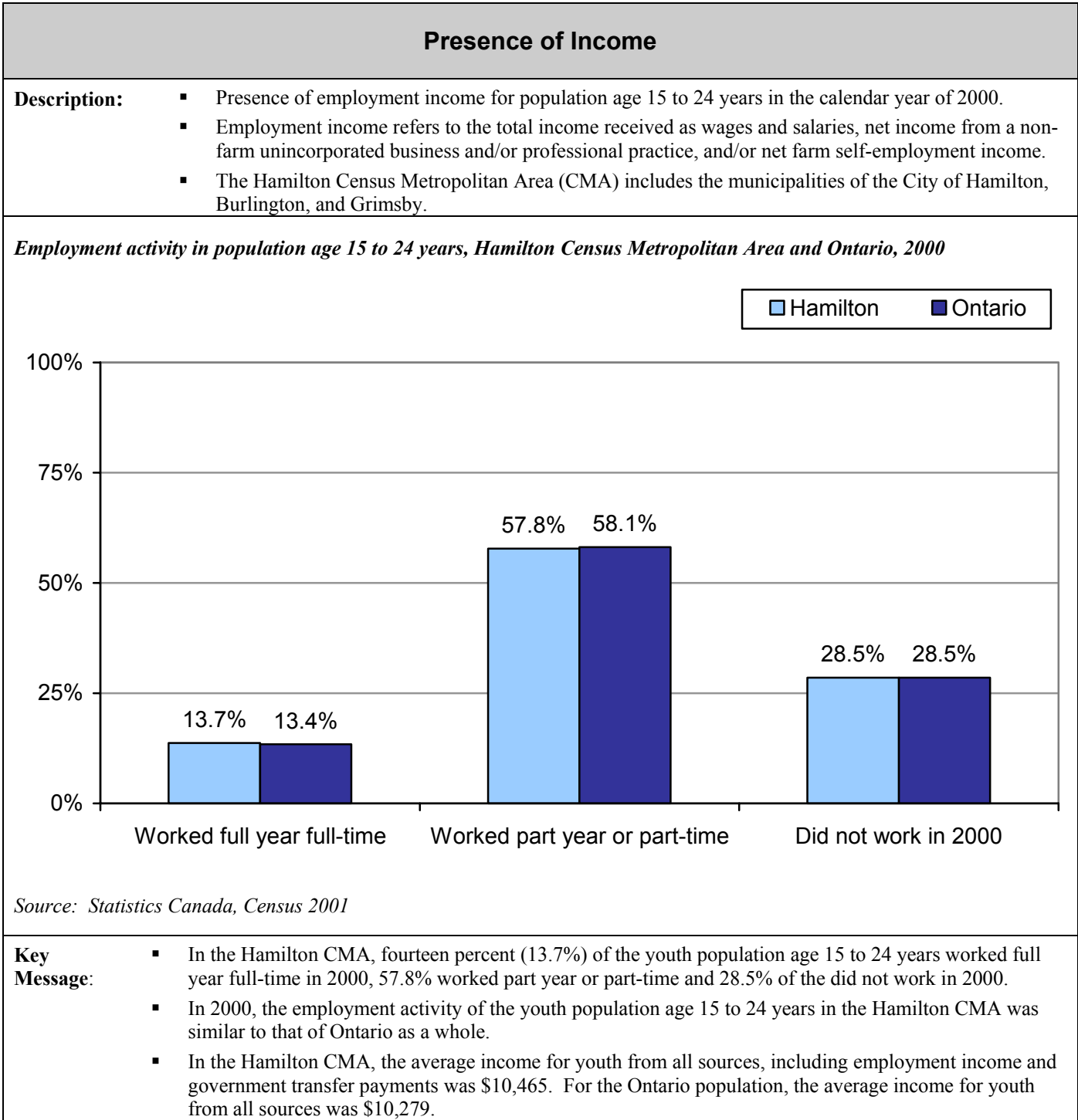
Family Structure of residents 10 to 19 years of age, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

Key Message:

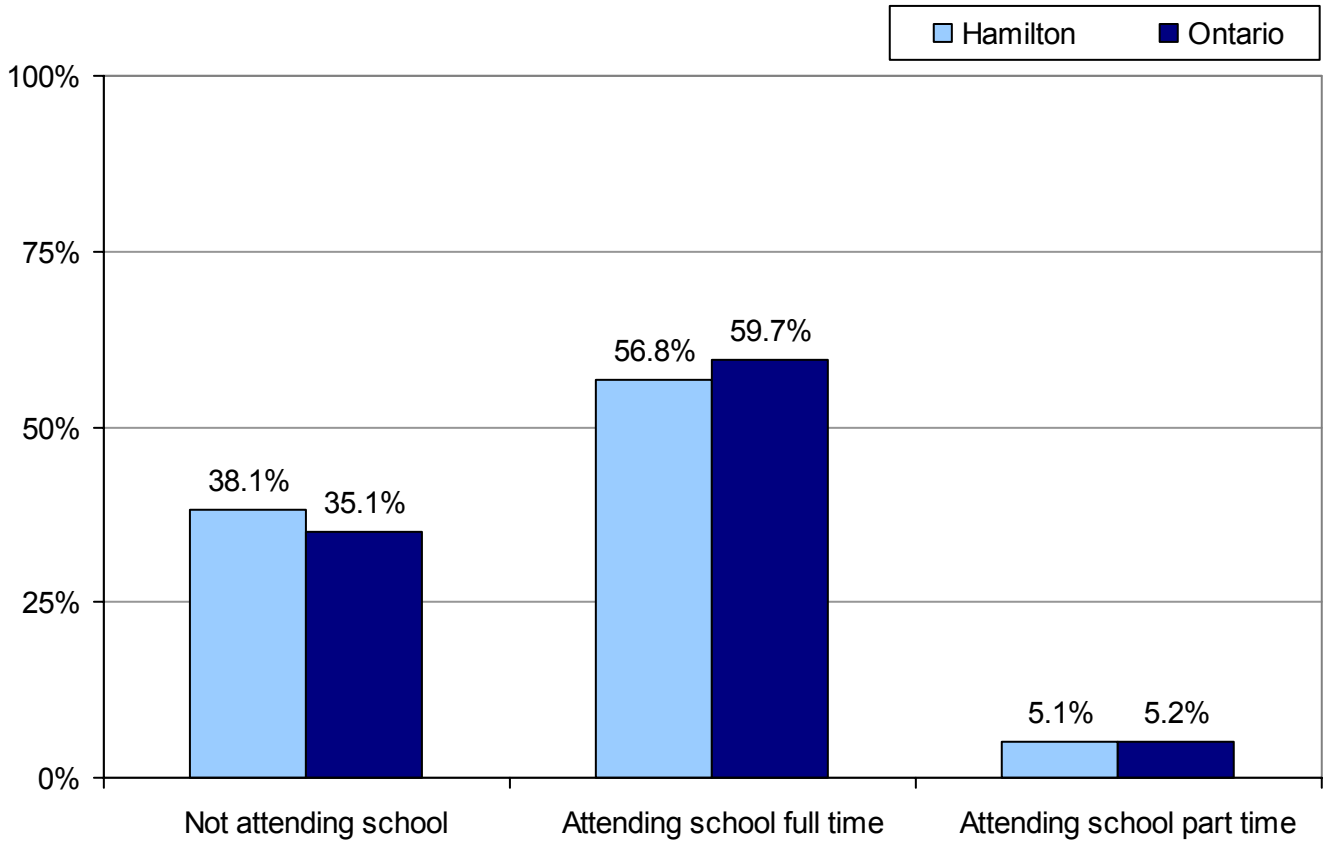
- Seventy-three percent (72.9%) of persons in the City of Hamilton 10 to 19 years of age are part of married couple families.
- Five percent (5.2%) of persons 10 to 19 years of age live in common-law couple families, 17.9% live in female lone-parent families, and 3.8% live in male lone-parent families.
- The proportion of female lone-parent families in Hamilton is significantly greater than the proportion in Ontario as a whole.



School Attendance

Description: ▪ The population age 15 to 24 years by school attendance. School attendance refers to either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at school, college or university during the nine-month period between September 2000 and May 15, 2001. Attendance is counted only for courses which could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.

Population age 15 to 24 years by school attendance, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

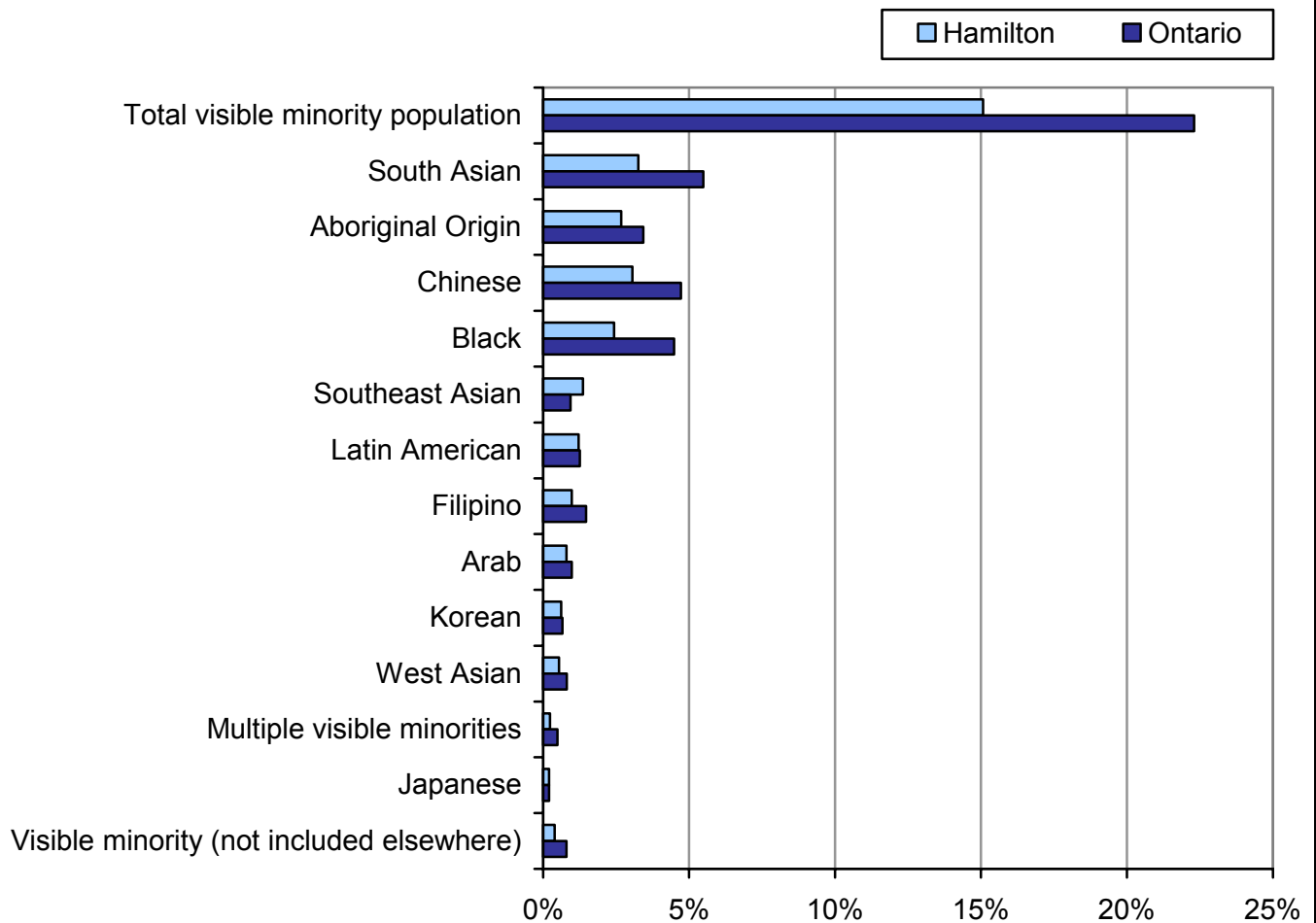
Key Message:

- In 2001, the proportion of the population age 15 to 24 years that was not attending school was higher in the City of Hamilton than the proportion in Ontario (38.1% vs. 35.1% respectively).
- The proportion of the population age 15 to 24 years attending school part time was similar in the City of Hamilton and Ontario.

Ethnic Diversity

- Description:**
- Population age 15 to 24 years who self-identify as a visible minority.
 - The Census includes Canadian citizens and landed immigrants with a usual place of residence in Canada, those abroad or at sea, persons in Canada claiming refugee status, those holding student, employment or Minister's authorizations (and members of their family living with them).
 - Aboriginal Origin refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal origin (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit) to the ethnic origin question on the Census.
 - The Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes the municipalities of the City of Hamilton, Burlington, and Grimsby.

Population age 15 to 24 years who self-identify as a visible minority, Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area and Ontario, 2001



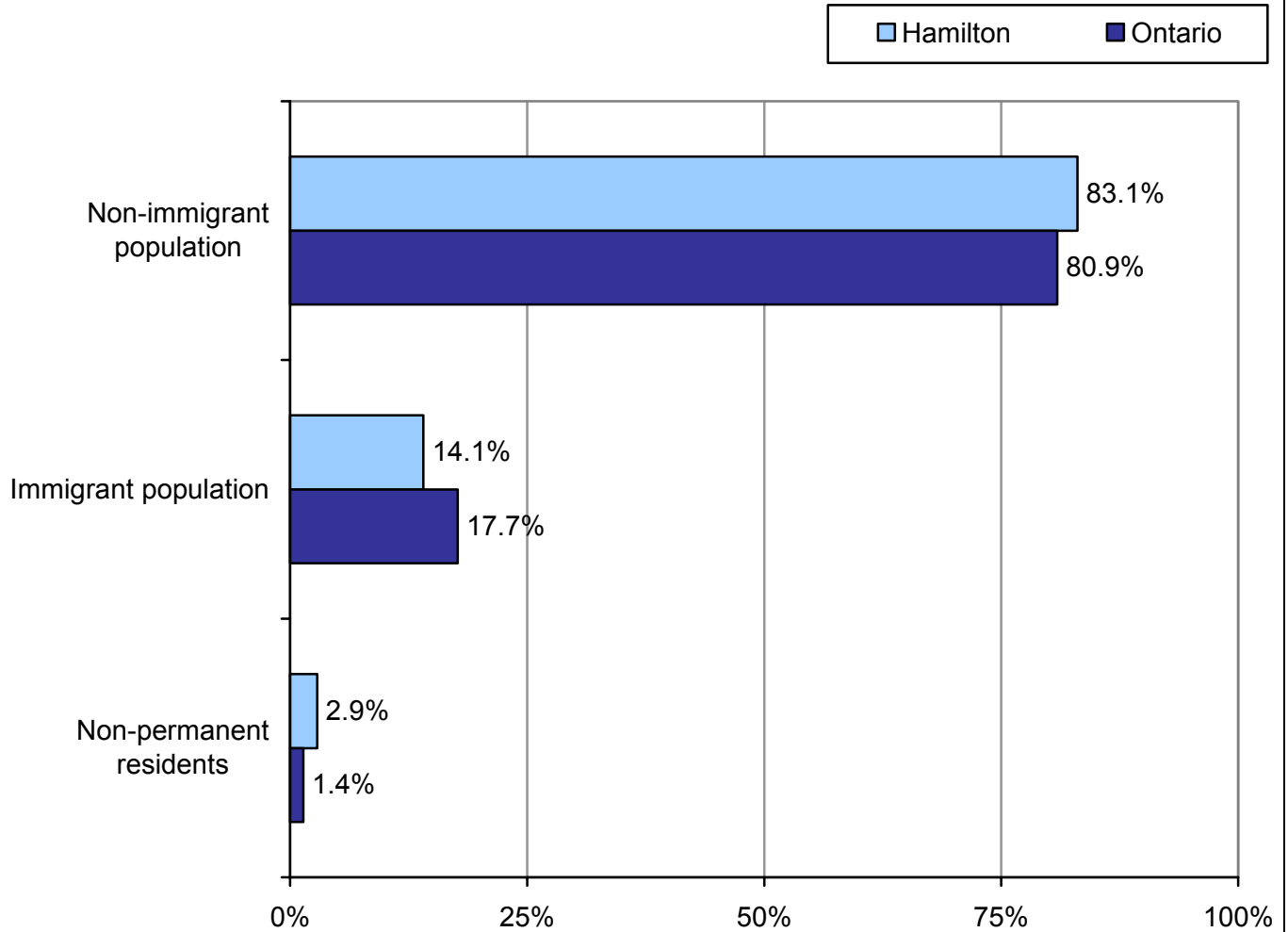
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

- Key Message:**
- In the CMA of Hamilton, 15.1% of the population age 15 to 24 years self-identify as a visible minority.
 - In the CMA of Hamilton, 84.9% of the population age 15 to 24 years do not self-identify as a visible minority.
 - The proportion of the population age 15 to 24 years of age in the CMA of Hamilton that self-identify as a visible minority is lower than that of the province as a whole.

Immigrant Status

- Description:**
- Immigrant status of the population age 15 to 24 years.
 - Immigrant population refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.
 - Non-permanent resident refers to persons who, at the time of the census, held a student or employment authorization, Minister's permit or who were refugee claimants, and includes family members living with them.

Immigrant status of population age 15-24 years, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001



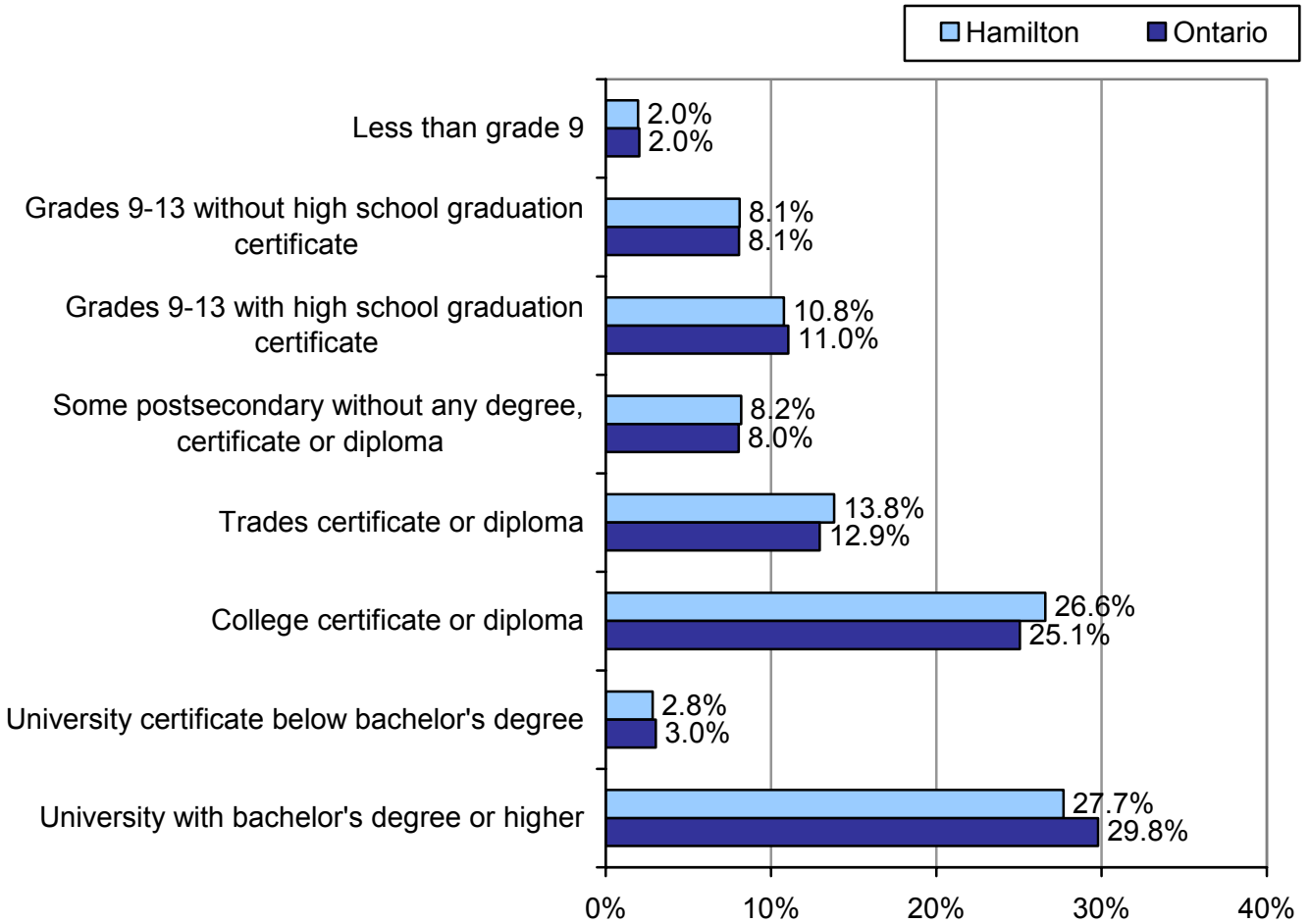
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

- Key Message:**
- The proportion of the population age 15 to 24 years who are immigrants is slightly lower in the City of Hamilton compared to that of Ontario (17.7% vs. 14.1% respectively).
 - In the City of Hamilton, there is a slightly higher percentage of non-permanent residents age 15 to 24 years compared to that of Ontario (2.9% vs. 1.4% respectively).
 - The immigrant population, particularly the recent immigrant population, in Canada does not have equal access to the labour market and have been recognized as a group at risk of experiencing higher levels of low income.

Highest Level of Education of Parents

- Description:**
- Highest level of schooling of parents of children aged 10 to 17 years in couple families.
 - Couple families include married and common law couples.
 - Excludes sole-support parent families.
 - The Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area includes the municipalities of the City of Hamilton, Burlington, and Grimsby.

Highest level of schooling of parents of children age 10-17 years in couple families, Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area and Ontario, 2001



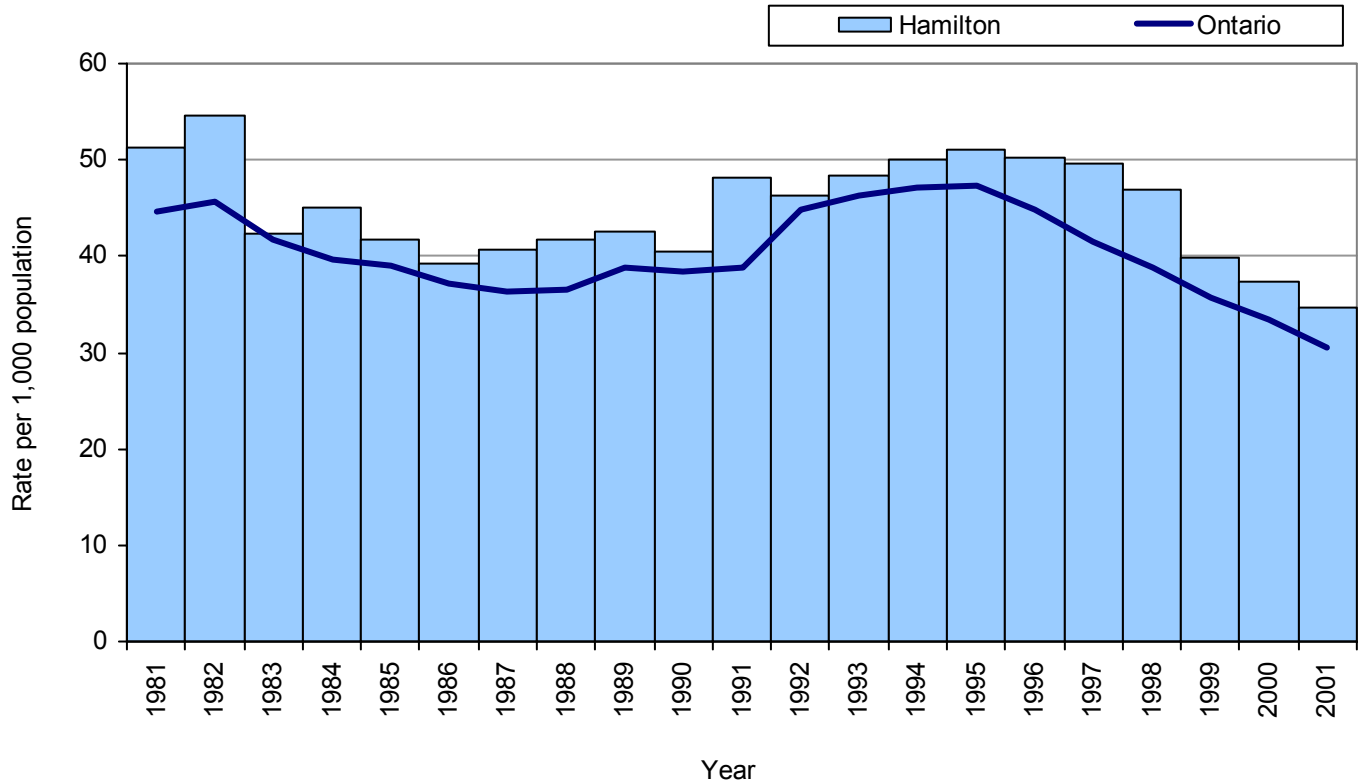
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001

- Key Message:**
- In the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area, approximately twenty-eight percent (27.7%) of children aged 10 to 17 years in couple families have at least one parent with a university bachelors' degree or higher.
 - In Hamilton, over 10 percent of children age 10 to 17 years in couple families have at least one parent without a high school graduation certificate.

Teenage Pregnancy Rate

- Description:**
- The number of pregnancies to teenage women per 1,000 women in the population.
 - Teen pregnancy is defined as pregnancy resulting in a live birth, abortion or stillbirth to a female age 15 to 19 years.
 - A high rate of teen pregnancy is often seen as a cause for concern because teen mothers and their infants are at increased risk of poor health outcomes. Poor health outcomes for teen mothers are related to limited financial resources because of increased barriers in entering the labour force. Poor health outcomes for infants include premature birth and low birth weigh, with can result in reduced brain development, which can lead to learning difficulties, and poor immune function, which can lead to increased susceptibility to infection.

Teenage pregnancy rate per 1,000 population, City of Hamilton, 1981-2001



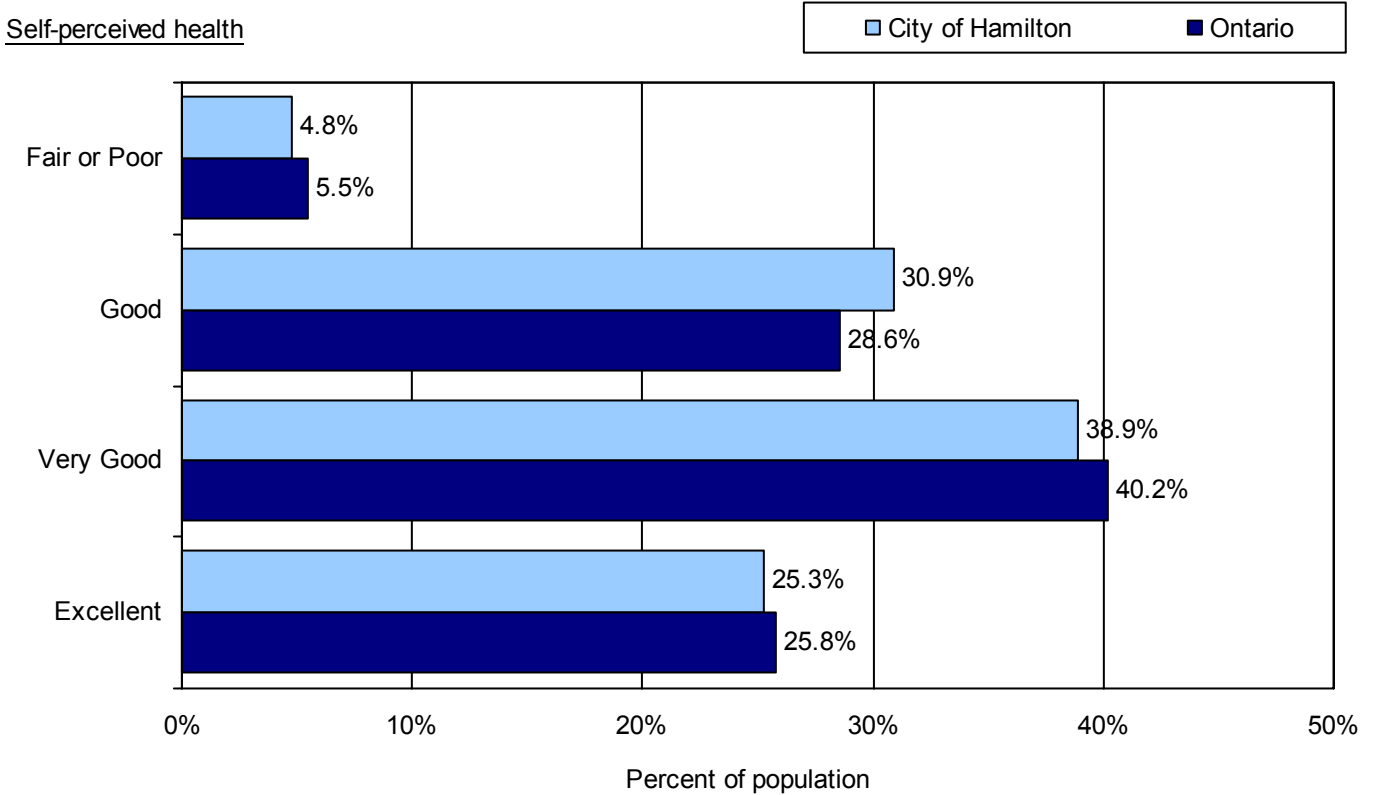
Source: Ontario Live Birth, Still Birth Database 1986-2001, Health Planning System, Ontario MOHLTC.

- Key Message:**
- In Hamilton, teen pregnancy rates have steadily declined between 1995 and 2001.
 - The trend in teen pregnancy rates in Hamilton has been similar to that of Ontario over the past 22 years. Rates in Hamilton, however, have been consistently higher than those in Ontario throughout that entire period.

Self-Rated Health

- Description:**
- The population 12 to 19 years of age that rated their own health as excellent, very good, good, or fair/poor.
 - Self-rated health status reflects both health and social exposures over the life course.

Self-perceived health, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003



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

- Key Message:**
- Twenty five percent of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age reported that their health is excellent, 38.9% reported that their health is very good, 30.9% reported that their health is good, and 4.8% reported that their health is fair or poor.
 - The proportion of Hamilton residents that reported their health as fair or poor is significantly lower than that of the province as a whole. In contrast, the proportion of Hamilton residents that reported their health as good was significantly higher than that of the province as a whole.

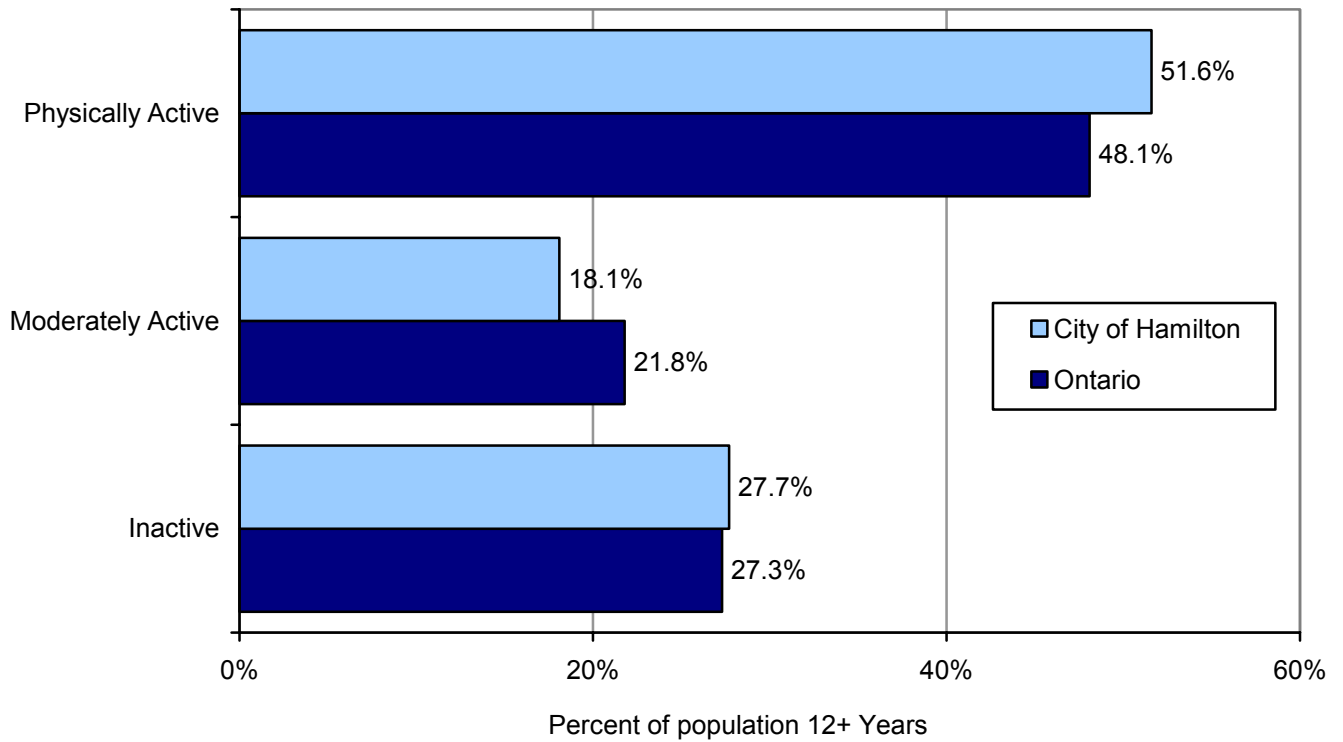
Physical Activity

- Description:**
- The population 12 to 19 years of age over who, during their leisure time, reported that they are physically active, moderately active, or physically inactive.
 - Physical activity is associated with improved mood, healthy weights, and character building in youth.

Level of physical activity for population 12 to 19 years of age, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003

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Physical activity level



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

- Key Message:**
- In 2003, over half of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age reported that they are physically active. This proportion is significantly higher than the provincial average.
 - The proportion of Hamilton residents who is physically inactive is similar to the provincial average.

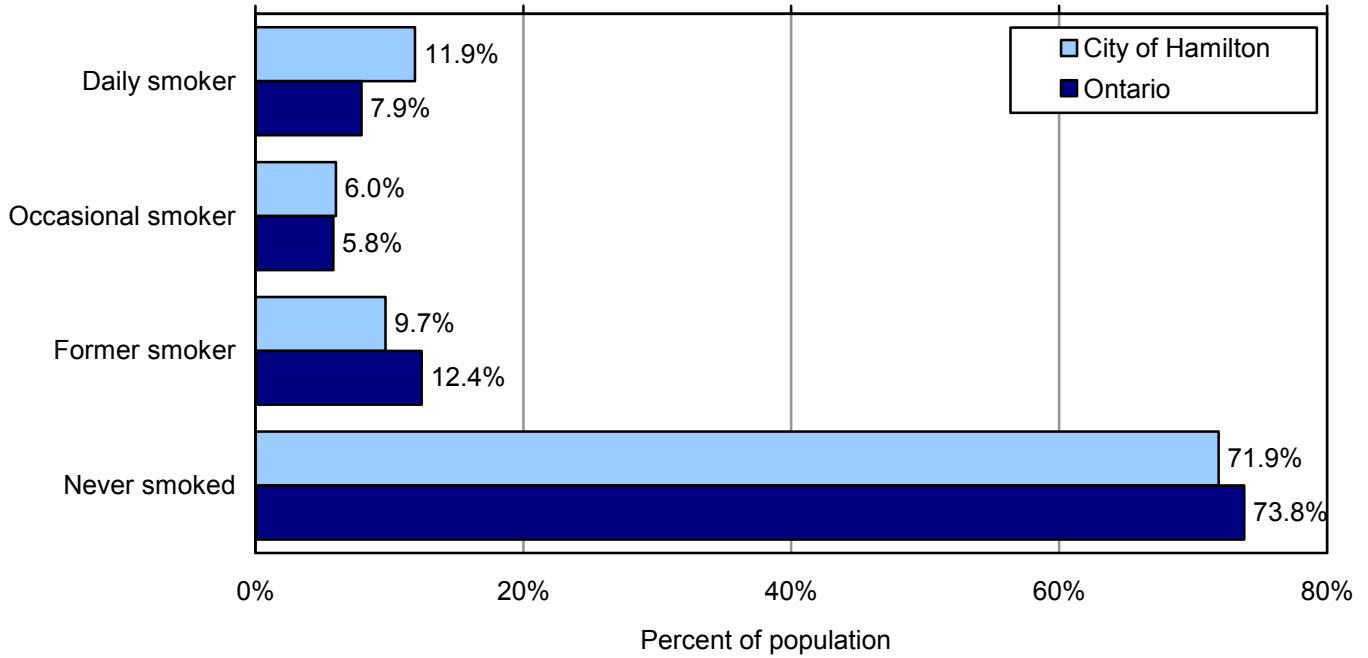
Smoking Status

- Description:**
- Population age 12 to 19 years of age who reported being either a smoker (daily or occasional) or a non-smoker (former smoker or never smoked).
 - Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of illness and premature death in Canada.
 - Early initiation of smoking is highly correlated with daily tobacco use and lifetime nicotine dependence.

Population 12 years of age and older by smoking status, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003

Appendix A to Report Hamilton's Youth (SSC 06017) (City Wide)

Smoking status



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

Key Message:

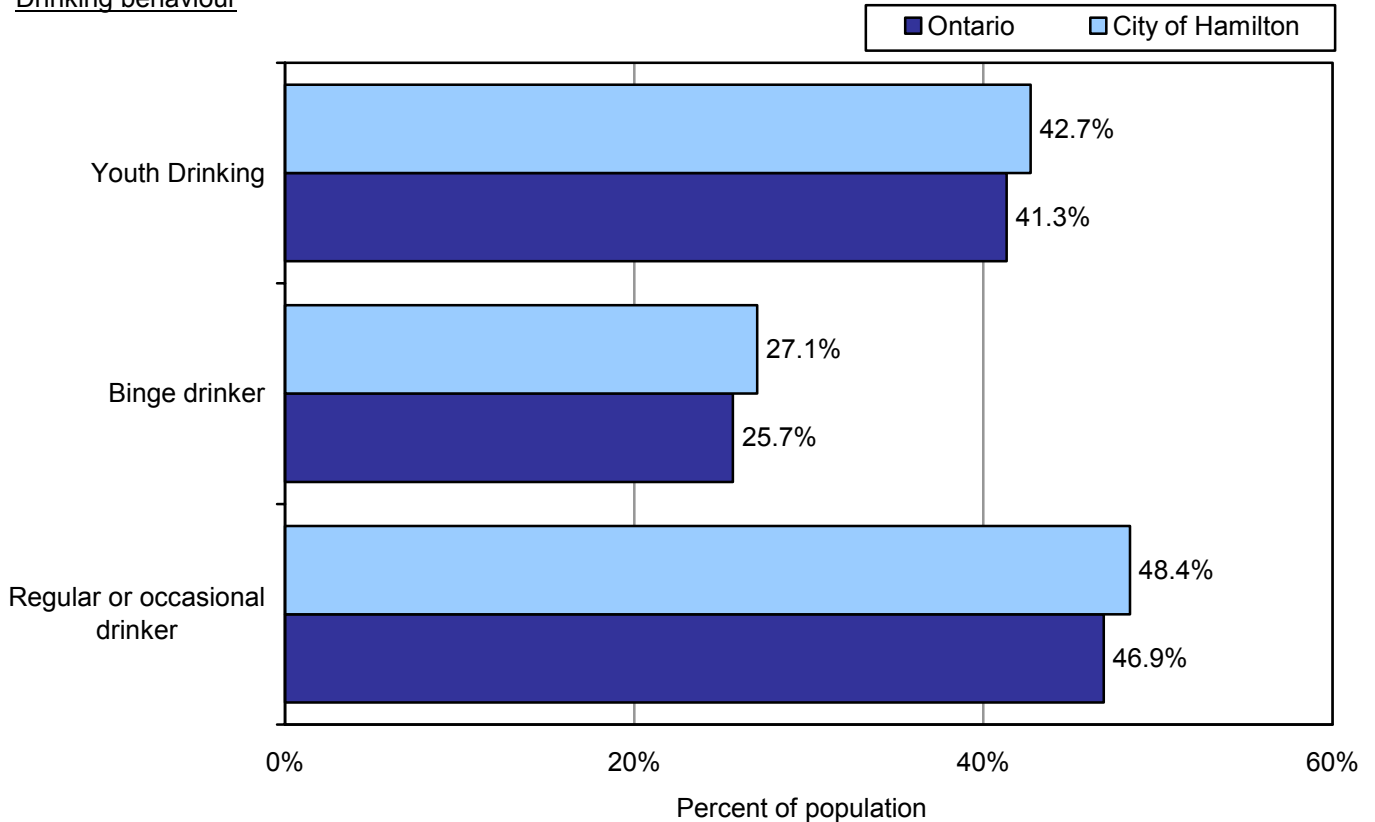
- In 2003, seventy-two percent of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age have never smoked a cigarette in their lifetime, while 9.7% are former smokers.
- Twelve percent of Hamilton residents age 12 to 19 years of age smoke on a daily basis and 6.0% smoke on an occasional basis.
- The proportion of daily smokers in the Hamilton youth population is significantly higher than the provincial average.

Alcohol Use

- Description:**
- Population age 12 to 19 years/12 to 18 years classified by drinking behaviour, based on self-reported alcohol consumption in the past 12 months.
 - Binge drinking is defined as consumption of more than 5 drinks on one occasion.
 - Youth drinking is defined as regular or occasional consumption of alcohol by those less than 19 years of age. In Ontario the legal age to drink alcohol is 19 years old.
 - Prevalence of alcohol abuse can be an indicator of overall community well-being.
 - There are significant differences in the social context of drinking for youth.

Drinking behaviour in population 12 to 19 years of age, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003

Drinking behaviour



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

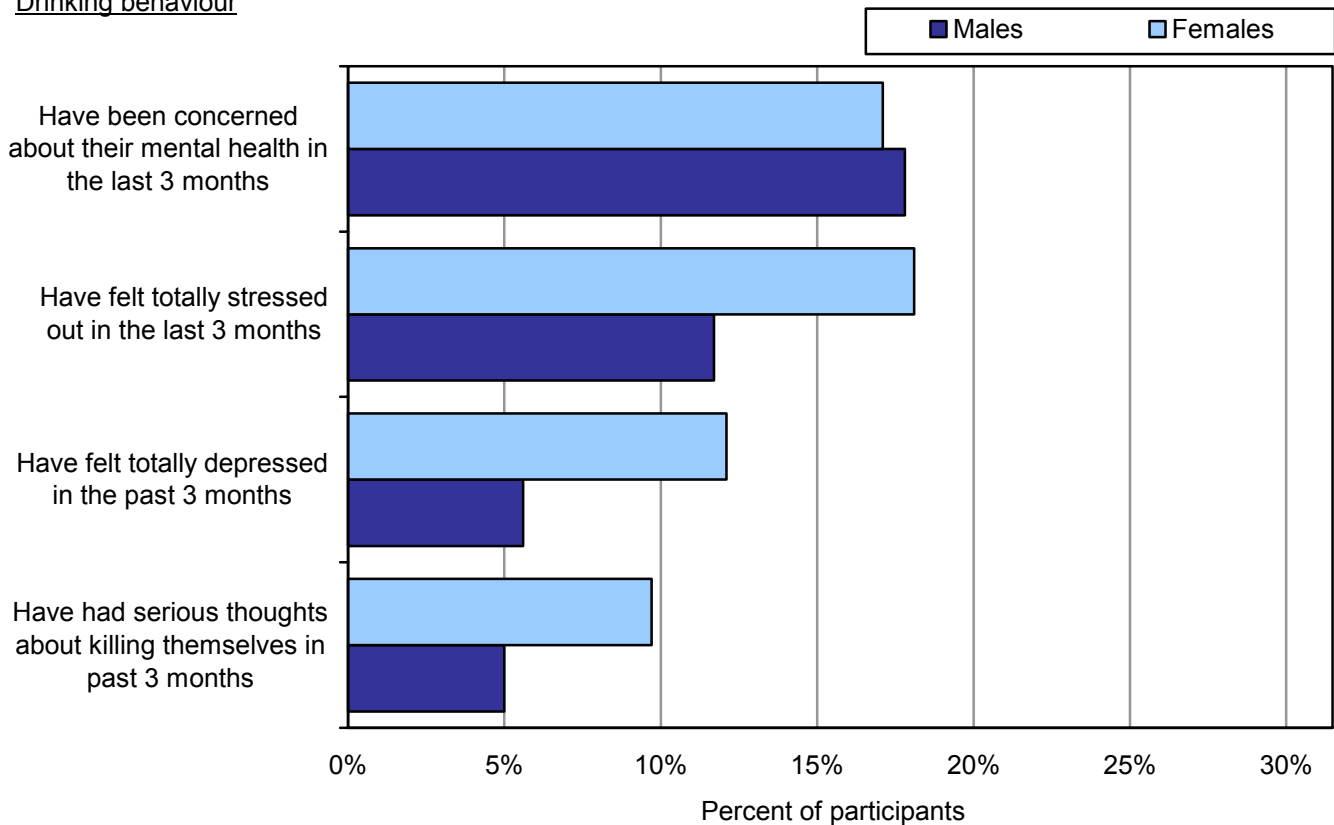
- Key Message:**
- In 2003, forty-three percent of Hamilton's youth (age 12 to 18 years) reported that they drink alcohol on a regular or occasional basis.
 - In 2003, forty-eight percent (48.4%) of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age reported that they drink alcohol on a regular or occasional basis and 27.1% report being binge drinkers.
 - The proportion of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age who are regular or occasional drinkers is significantly higher than that of the province as a whole.
 - Similarly, the proportion of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age who are binge drinkers is significantly higher than that of the province.

Youth Mental Health

- Description:**
- Percentage of male and female youth 13 to 18 years of age by selected views about their mental health, as reported in Youth Net Hamilton focus groups.
 - Youth Net Hamilton is a community-based mental health promotion and early identification program for youth. It reaches out through focus groups to find out what issues affect the lives of youth and how youth deal with these issues. Focus groups for youth (ages 13 to 18 years) are led by older trained youth (ages 19 to 30 years) in high schools and other community settings.
 - In its fifth year (April 2004-March 2005), Youth Net Hamilton reached 1112 youth through 131 focus groups. All 131 focus groups took place Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HDSB) secondary schools.

Percentage of secondary school students who reported selected views about their mental health, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, 2004-2005

Drinking behaviour



Source: Youth Net Hamilton, Focus Group Statistics, 2004-2005

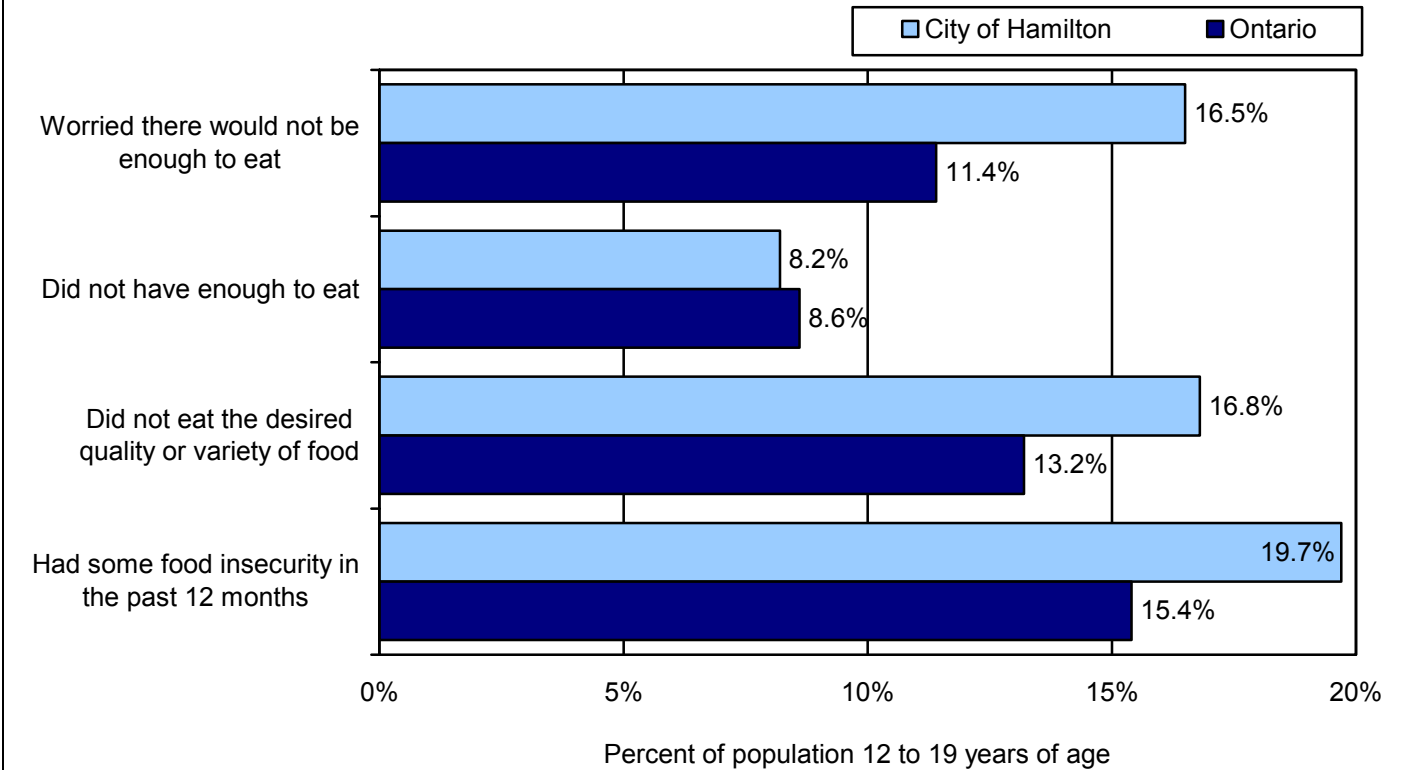
- Key Message:**
- Seventeen percent of females and 17.8% of males reported that they have been concerned about their mental health a few times a week in the last 3 months.
 - Eighteen percent (18.1%) of females and 11.7% of males reported that they have felt totally stressed out a few times a week in the last 3 months.
 - Twelve percent of females and 5.6% of males reported that they have felt totally depressed a few times a week in the last 3 months.
 - Ten percent of females and 5.0% of males reported that they have had serious thoughts about killing themselves in the last 3 months.

Food Insecurity

Description:

- Definition of Food Security: The ability of individuals and families to access foods necessary for healthy eating based on current nutrition recommendations.
- Proportion of the population 12 to 19 years of age 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.
- A measure of food insecurity is an important component of socio-economic status and strongly affects quality of life.

Population 12 to 19 yrs of age 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

Key Message:

- Sixteen percent of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age worried that there would not be enough food to eat. Eight percent did not have enough to eat, 16.8% did not eat the desired quality or variety of food, and 19.7% had reported some food insecurity in the past 12 months.
- The proportions of Hamilton residents 12 to 19 years of age who reported that they worried there would not be enough to eat, did not eat the desired quality or variety of food, and had some indication of food insecurity significantly exceeded the provincial average.

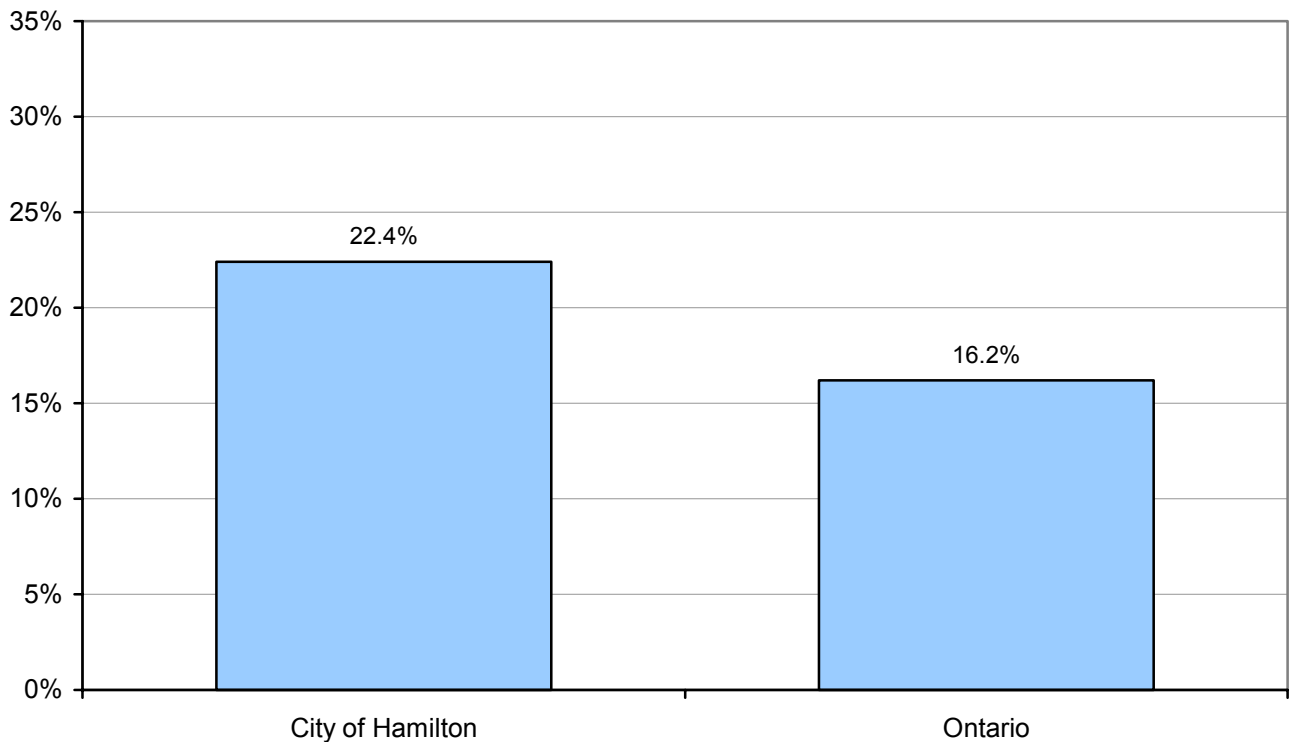
Youth in LICO Households

Description:

- Proportion of children 12 to 18 years of age in economic families with household income that falls below the Low Income Cut-Off threshold (LICO).
- An economic family is a group of individuals sharing a common dwelling unit who are related by blood, marriage (including common-law relationships) or adoption.
- 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.

Population 12 to 18 years of age with household income below the LICO threshold, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2001

Percent of low income



Source: Census 2001, Statistics Canada.

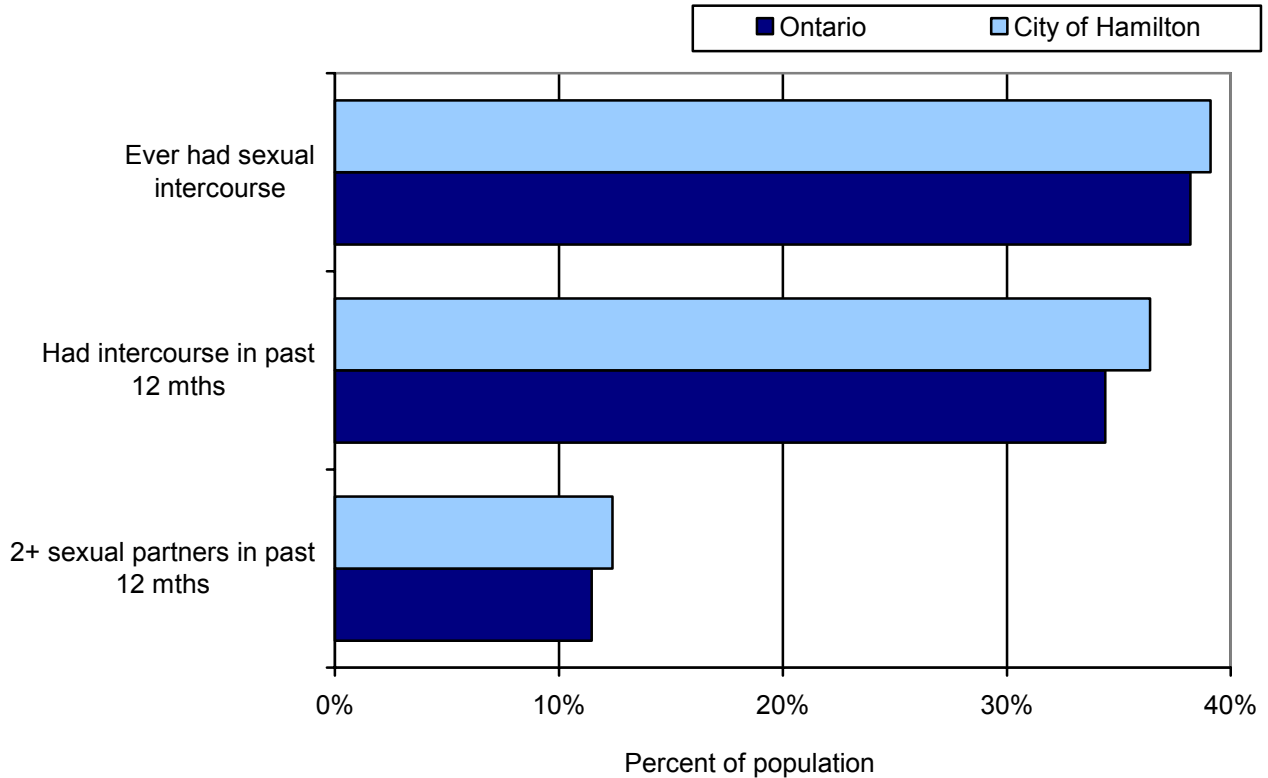
Key Message:

- Over twenty-two percent of Hamilton residents 12 to 18 years of age live in households with income below the LICO threshold.
- A higher percentage of Hamilton residents 12 to 18 years of age live in households with income below the LICO threshold.
- The percentage of Hamilton residents 12 to 18 years of age that live in households with income below the LICO threshold is higher than that of Ontario.

Sexual Activity

- Description:**
- The percentage of the population 15 to 19 years of age that ever had sexual intercourse, had intercourse in the past 12 months, and had two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months.
 - Contemporary adolescents are becoming sexually active at younger ages than in previous generations and few recognize the important risks to their sexual health, which include unwanted pregnancy and contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Sexual Activity in teen population 15 to 19 years of age, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2003



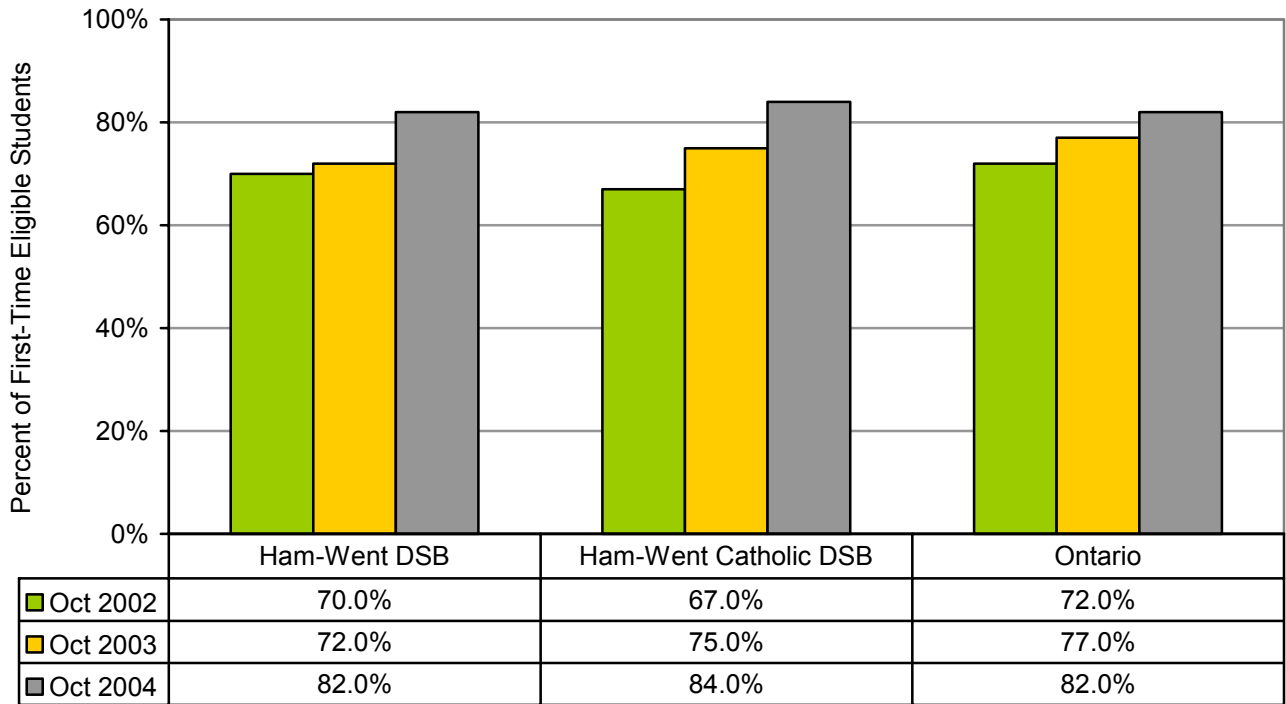
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2003

- Key Message:**
- In 2003, 39.1% of Hamilton residents 15 to 19 years of age reported that they have had sexual intercourse.
 - Thirty-six percent (36.4%) of residents 15 to 19 years of age reported that they have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months and 12.4% reported that in this time, they have had two or more sexual partners.
 - The proportions of Hamilton residents 15 to 19 years of age that reported ever having intercourse, having intercourse in the past 12 months, and having two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months are significantly higher than the provincial average.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Rates

- Description:**
- Percentage of first-time eligible students who were successful in achieving Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) scores that meet or exceed the requirements.
 - First-time eligible students: Students who were working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma who typically entered in grade 9 during the school year and were required to write the OSSLT for the first time.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Achievement Results for First-Time Eligible Students, Hamilton-Wentworth DSB, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic DSB, Ontario, 2004/2005.



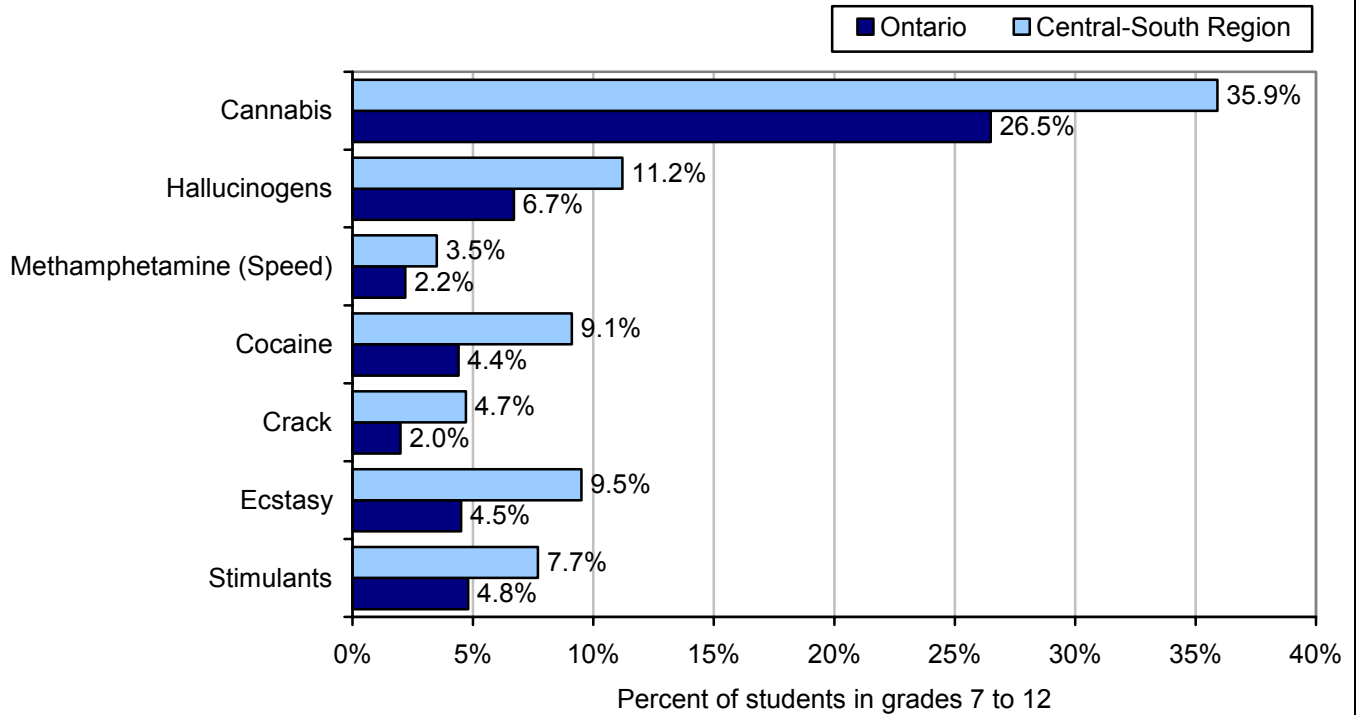
Source: EQAO, School, Board and Provincial Results, 2004-2005

- Key Message:**
- Eighty-two percent of first-time eligible students in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (DSB) were successful in achieving OSSLT scores that meet or exceed the requirements.
 - Eighty-four percent of first-time eligible students in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic DSB were successful in achieving OSSLT scores that meet or exceed the requirements.
 - The increase in proportion of first-time eligible students that were successful in achieving scores that meet or exceed the requirements in the Hamilton-Wentworth DSB and Catholic DSB is consistent with trends in the province.

Drug Use Among Students

- Description:**
- Students grades 7 to 12 in the Central South Region who reported using selected drugs during the past 12 months.
 - Students in grades 7 to 12 are typically between the ages of 12 and 19 years.
 - Central South Region includes Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth, Brant, and Haldimand-Norfolk.
 - Use of illicit drugs has serious negative consequences on mental, physical, and psychosocial health and well-being. In addition, use of illicit drugs can lead to other illegal activities, such as deviant behaviour and crimes.

Students (grades 7 to 12) who used illicit drugs during the past 12 months, Central South Region, and Ontario, 2005



Source: Ontario Student Drug Use Survey, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2005.

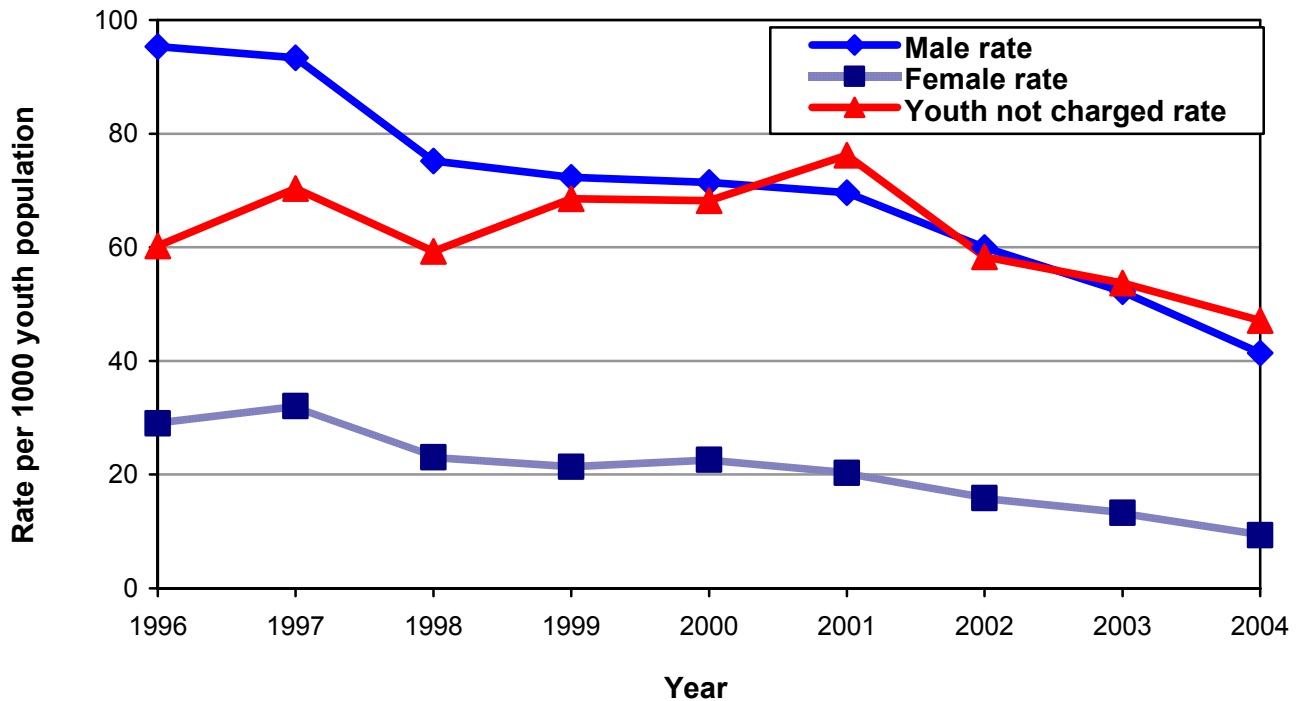
- Key Message:**
- In 2005, the percentage of students in the Central South region that reported using cannabis in the past 12 months was 35.9%.
 - In 2005, a significantly greater proportion of students in the Central South region compared to those in the province as a whole reported using hallucinogens, speed, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, and stimulants.

Youth Criminal Offences

- Description:**
- The number of youth charged and not charged with criminal offences to total youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton population.
 - On April 2003, the Youth Criminal Justice Act replaced the Young Offenders Act. The Act contains sweeping changes on how we address youth crime, including Extrajudicial Measures as alternatives to processing youth through the formal court process. Extrajudicial Measures include: no further action, a warning, a caution, or a referral to a community agency.

- About 75% of young people are at low risk to offend and have no or little contact with the police.

Total number of youths 12 to 17 years of age charged and not charged with criminal offences, City of Hamilton, 1996-2004



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005.

Key Message:

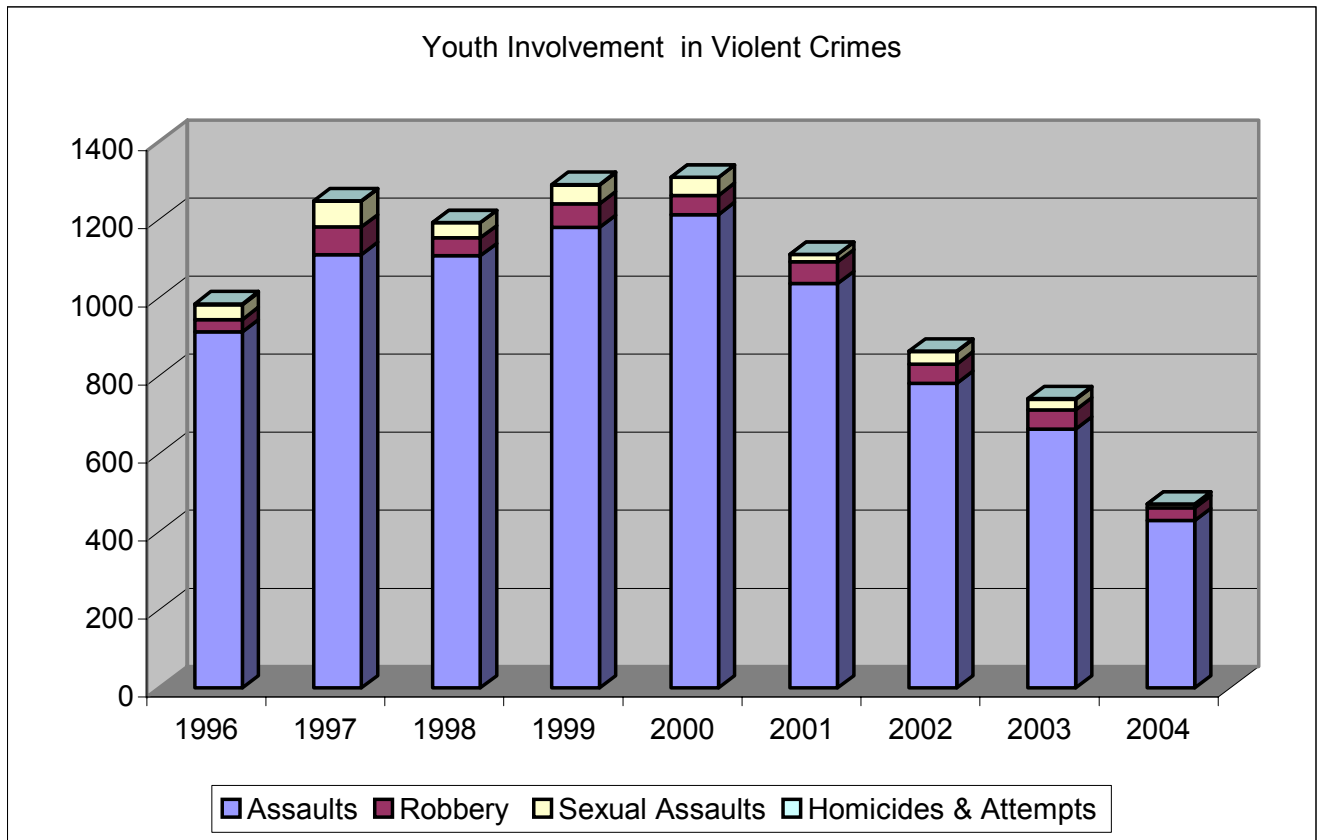
- In 2004, there were 3074 offences were committed by youth .
- In 2004 in the City of Hamilton, the rate of criminal offences in the male youth population was 41 offences per 1000 male youth, in the female youth population the rate was 9 offences per 1000 female youth, and for youth not charged the rate was 47 offences per 1000 youth.
- Since 1996, a significantly greater proportion of male than female youth have been charged with criminal offences.
- 2004 figures show a 16% decrease in the rate of youth criminal offences compared to 2003 and a 31% decrease compared to 1996.

Youth Violent Criminal Offences

Description:

- Overall count of violent criminal offences involving youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- This count includes youths charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. This count also includes youths dealt with using Extrajudicial Measures, which include: no further action, a warning, a caution, or a referral to a community agency.
- Violent criminal offences include assaults, robbery, sexual assaults, homicides, and attempted homicide.

Total number of violent criminal offences involving youths 12 to 17 years of age charged and not charged, City of Hamilton, 1996-2004



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005.

Key Message:

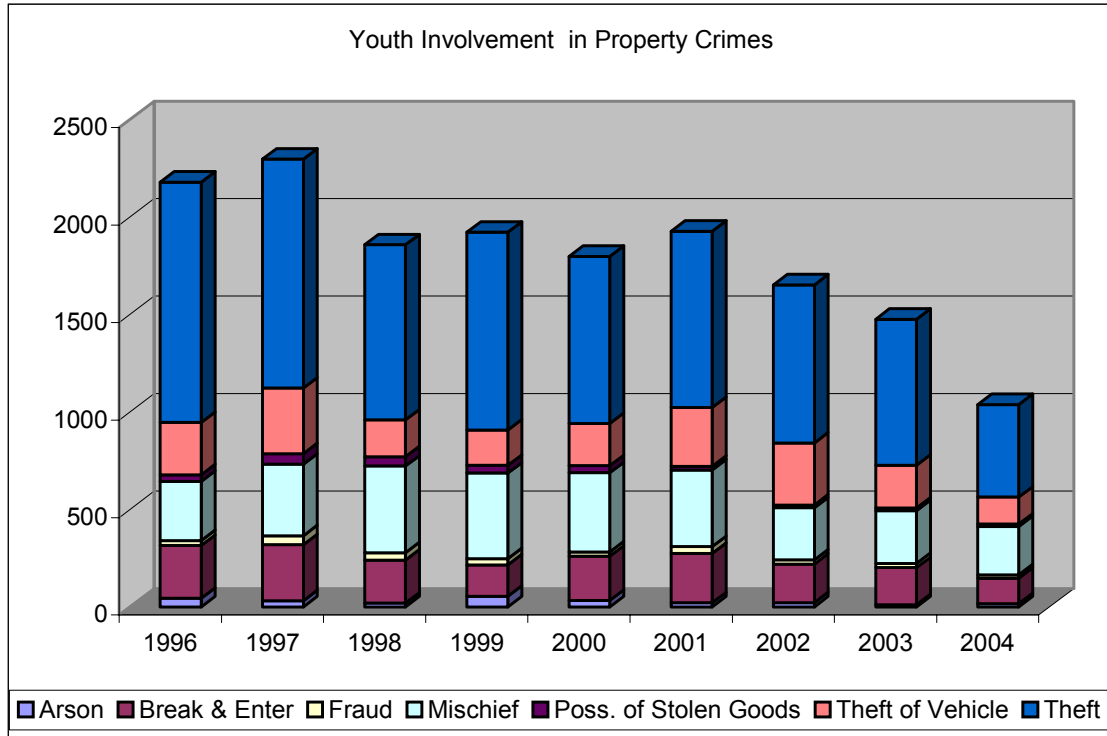
- In 2004, there were 471 violent criminal offences involving youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- There are very few Homicide incidents that involve youth and in 2004, there were not any Homicides or Attempt Murders that involved youth.
- Since 2000, there has been a steady decrease in the number of violent criminal offences involving youth in the City of Hamilton.

Youth Property Criminal Offences

Description:

- Overall count of property criminal offences involving youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- This count includes youths charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. This count also includes youths dealt with using Extrajudicial Measures, which include: no further action, a warning, a caution, or a referral to a community agency.
- Property criminal offences include arson, break & enter, fraud, mischief, possession of stolen goods, theft of vehicle, and theft.

Total number of youths 12 to 17 years of age charged and not charged with property criminal offences, City of Hamilton, 1996-2004



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005

Key Message:

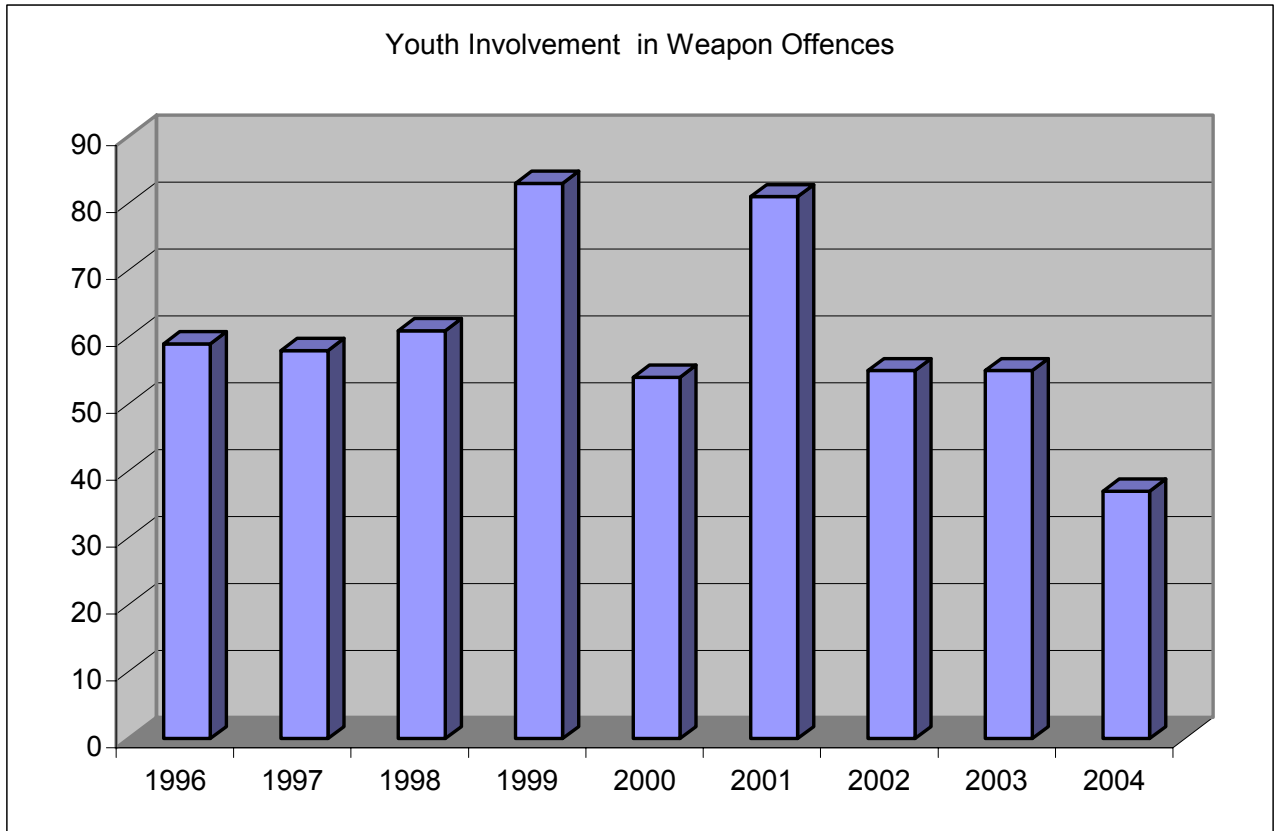
- In 2004, there were 1039 property criminal offences involving youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- Since 1996, there has been an overall decrease in the number of property criminal offences involving youth in the City of Hamilton.

Youth Weapons Criminal Offences

Description:

- Overall count of possession of weapons criminal offences committed by youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- This count includes youths charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. This count also includes youths dealt with using Extrajudicial Measures, which include: no further action, a warning, a caution, or a referral to a community agency.
- Weapons can include firearms, pepper spray, knives, etc.

Total number of youths 12 to 17 years of age charged and not charged with weapons criminal offences, City of Hamilton, 1996-2004



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005

Key Message:

- In 2004, there were 37 weapons criminal offences involving youth 12 to 17 years of age in the City of Hamilton.
- In 2000, there was a major increase in possession of illegal weapon offences involving youth in the City of Hamilton.
- From 2002 to 2004, however, there was a significant decrease in the rate of weapons offences involving youth in Hamilton.

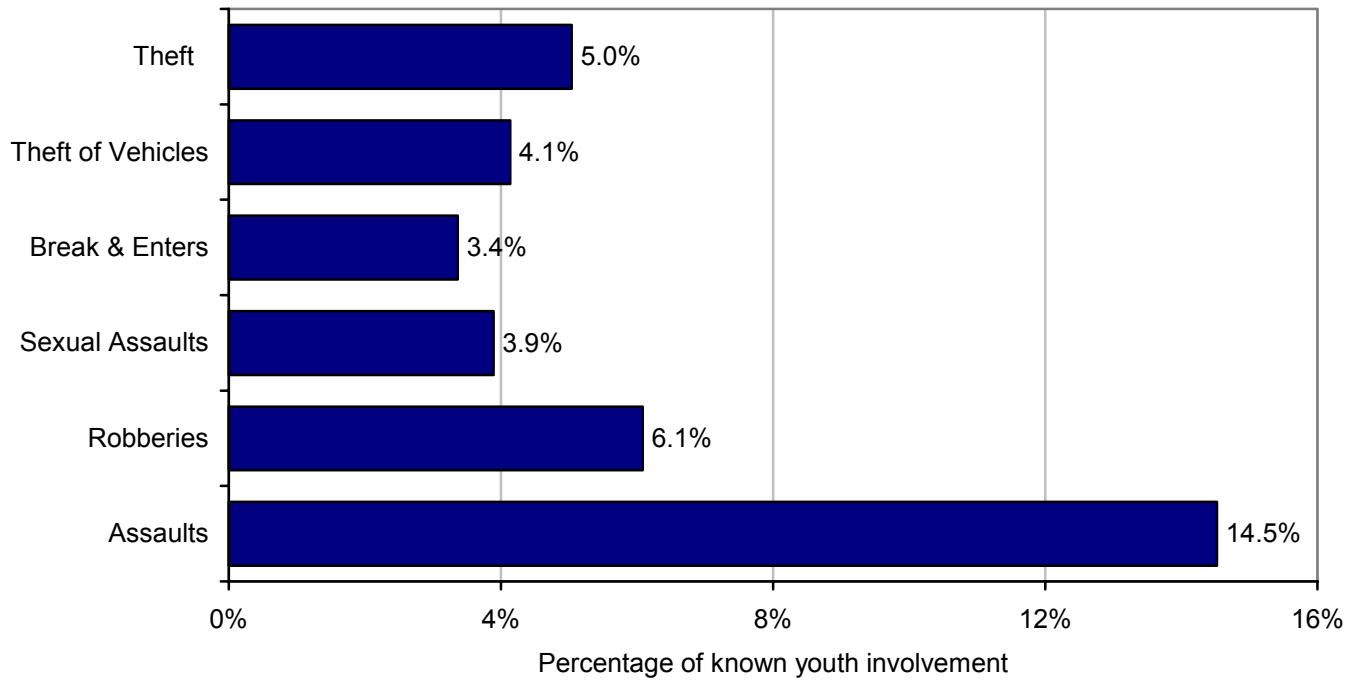
Youth Involvement in Selected Crimes

Description:

- Percentage of all selected criminal offences in 2004 in the City of Hamilton population that involved youths 12 to 17 years of age.

Percent of known youth involvement for selected crimes, City of Hamilton, 2004

Appendix A to Report Hamilton's Youth (SSC 06017) (City Wide)



Source: Hamilton Police Services, Youth Crime Analysis 1996-2004, 2005

- Key**
- In 2004, 14.5% of assaults committed in the City of Hamilton involved youths 12 to 17 years of age.
- Message:**
- In that same year, 5.0% of all thefts, 4.1% of all thefts of vehicles, 3.4% of all break & enters, 3.9% of all sexual assaults, and 6.1% of all robberies in the City of Hamilton involved youths 12 to 17 years of age.

Appendix Two: Key Informants

- Aboriginal Youth Serving Agency (1)
- Wraparound Program (1)
- St. Martin's Manor (1)
- Children's Aid Society (1)
- Justice (1)
- United Way (1)
- Volunteer Sector (1)
- City Councilor (1)
- Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC) (1)
- Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO) (1)
- Hamilton Community Foundation (1)
- Public Board of Education (1)
- Transitional Youth (8)
- Notre Dame Youth Shelter(10)
- School Public Health Nurses (5)
- Mental Health (4 public health nurses, 1 outreach worker and 1 youth serving agency (6)
- Culture and Recreation Staff (2)
- Culture and Recreation Youth Consumer (1)
- Learning Earning and Parenting (LEAP) (13 young mothers)

Appendix Three: Terms of Reference Youth Scan

Background

At the October 25, 2005 Social & Public Health Services Committee Meeting, Council put forward a motion "that staff investigate the formulation of a Task Force which would initially include the invitation for participation (but not limited to) staff from public health, community services, Catholic Children's Aid, the Hamilton District School Board, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Hamilton Police Services the RCMP and local youth serving agencies to develop recommendations and to address the ongoing negative adolescent behavior in a holistic manner."

Youth Scan

There are a number of issues concerning youth that have culminated in a strong interest to examine how youth can be better supported on a community wide level. Locally, there are numerous youth targeted programs and services funded by and/or through various local service providers across several sectors (e.g. faith sector, foundations, family support agencies, private sector, education, health, employment, housing sectors, culture and recreation, etc).

A youth scan that provides a snapshot of the current landscape would be a valuable first step to better understand the challenges and opportunities present on our community that would inform collaborative planning. In order to complete the scan, available demographic indicators will be collated, key informant/focus group interviews will be conducted and a summary analysis of all outcomes will be undertaken.

Workgroup

A small staff workgroup will oversee and guide this process. P3 will function as the point lead, to chair, coordinate and complete key informant work activities, culminating in a memo to senior management and councilors. The workgroup will provide input (identify key informants, interview questions, options, recommendations, next steps) and inform the content of a memo to senior management/councilors by the target completion date January 31 2006.

- Decisions of the work group shall be by consensus of the members present.
- Maximum of three meetings prior to completion date.
- The workgroup will be comprised of staff from Healthy Life Styles and Youth, Culture and Recreation, Employment and Housing, Parent and Child, Health Protection and Police Department.

Deliverables

1. Summary compilation/analysis socio-demographic / youth population data⁴
2. Key Informant Interview Outcomes
 - Key informant interviews (combination of 7-10 key informant /focus group interviews). General questions for informants will be identified by the workgroup: Examples of questions include:
 - What is your view of the current scope of supports and services provided for youth?
 - What are the greatest needs and gaps in the youth and in the broader support system (community at large)?
 - What is your best advice with regard to supporting youth? What are top three priorities?
 - What steps need to be put into place to develop actions based on best practice and uniquely local considerations?

⁴ Dependent on time a listing of (2000-05) local reports and composite of their recommendations will also be included.

- 3. Memo/short report with appendices that report statistics on Hamilton youth aged 10-19).
 - Summary/ analysis of all collected data, key findings, and themes, from interviews, focus groups, workgroup deliberations.
 - Recommend next steps and two options based on the outcomes

Key Informants: Informal-conversation-type Interview

Outline a set of issues and then discuss with Key informant(s)/focus group(s) ensuring that questions are covered off. Allow for informant to expand on responses and for interviewer to probe as pertinent to situation.

- *Purpose: to determine need for/ identify what if any action steps need to be taken to address youth issues.*
- *Workgroup composed of cross departmental city staff who will conduct interviews, collate responses identify themes and prepare m memo/report*
- *Confidential/ responses will not identify informant*
- *Themes/options to be identified by January 31 2006 for decision-makers.*
- *Ask also for reports where appropriate (local or best practice) to refer workgroup to re: recommendations for options or future planning*

Youth Scan Sector: _____

Question One: What in your opinion influences youth behavior the most? (I.e. positive youth behavior. How can youth be supported)?

Question Two: What in your opinion is the perception of youth in our community? How are youth viewed?

Question Three: What is your best advice regarding how to support youth, and address what you believe are the weaknesses and gaps in the service system, community, neighborhood?

Please identify any local reports with outstanding recommendations that you are aware of that should be reviewed by the workgroup?

Appendix Four: Bibliography (Including recommended resources by respondents)

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Appendix A to Report Hamilton's Youth (SSC 06017) (City Wide)

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