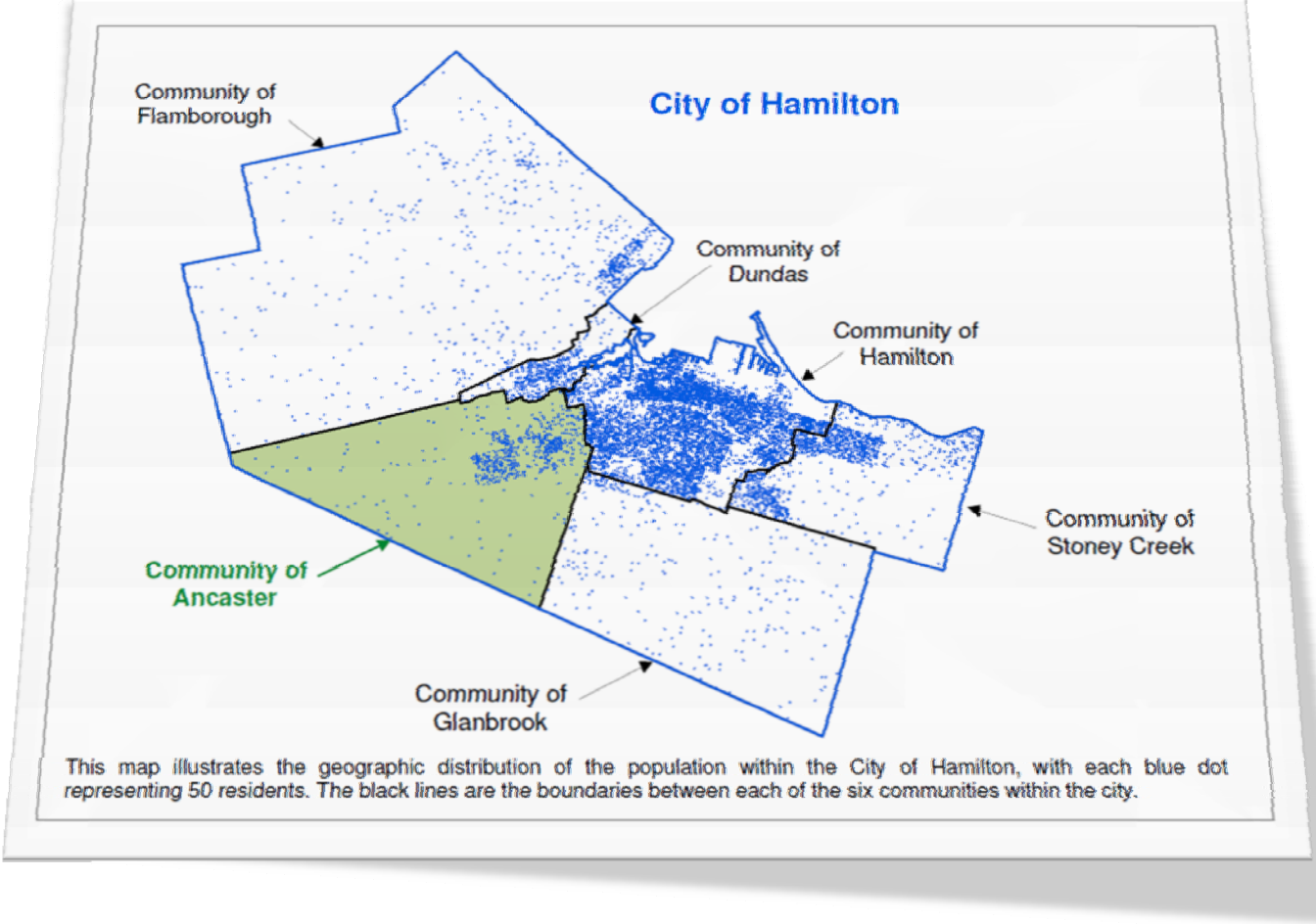
United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

Community Profiles

SPRC Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton

Ancaster



This map illustrates the geographic distribution of the population within the City of Hamilton, with each blue dot representing 50 residents. The black lines are the boundaries between each of the six communities within the city.

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Finally, thanks to all members of the SPRC staff team who have contributed to the development of these profiles.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION. 1

2.0 POPULATION 3

2.1 Children and Youth 5

2.2 Seniors 8

2.3 Female Lone Parents 11

2.4 Immigrants and Visible Minorities 13

2.5 Incomes and Poverty 16

3.0 LABOUR FORCE 20

3.1 Changing Labour Force Characteristics 20

4.0 FOOD SECURITY 23

4.1 Food Access Sites in Ancaster 24

5.0 UNITED WAY AGENCIES 25

5.1 Who is served by the United Way in Ancaster? 25

5.2 Some examples of United Way funded agencies and programs accessed by Ancaster residents 25

6.0 SUMMARY 27

QUESTIONNAIRE 28

1.0 INTRODUCTION

These Community Profiles have been developed to aid in understanding the unique social characteristics important to, yet distinct about, each community within the City of Hamilton. This series of reports will look at a number of demographic variables across each community. This edition focuses on the Community of Ancaster. The information provided can be used by community members to identify actions that might be taken to respond to changing conditions and to continue to improve city life.

On January 1 2001, the six municipalities of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region (Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Hamilton, and Stoney Creek) were amalgamated into the new City of Hamilton. The former municipalities continue to hold their unique character, population and geography and are now official communities within the City of Hamilton. The City of Hamilton has a population of over 504,000 people, and covers a vast and diverse geographical area – from rural Flamborough to the urban centre of the former municipality of Hamilton. There is also diversity among the people who live in the City of Hamilton. A growing population, increased immigration, growing numbers of seniors and a range of incomes – from rich to very poor characterize some of the differences that exist across the new city.

(For clarity, in this report the entire City of Hamilton will always be referred by its full name. References to Hamilton will indicate the former municipality of Hamilton, now officially the Community of Hamilton within the City of Hamilton. Please see the front cover for the boundaries of all the communities within the City of Hamilton.)

The information in this report is presented in five sections. In the first section, the selected characteristics of Ancaster are reviewed and illustrated with charts and maps. The second section presents information about the changing labour force characteristics in the entire City of Hamilton, including Ancaster. The fourth section provides information about food security issues in the City of Hamilton, and the fifth provides information about United Way agencies and clients in Ancaster.

The information provided in Section 2.0 of this report is primarily based on the 2006 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada), with additional data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses used as points of comparison[1]. The boundaries in the maps are census tract boundaries used by Statistics Canada. Census tracts are small and relatively stable areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000 people. Map 1 shows the roads and landmarks in Ancaster to help readers orient themselves for the maps throughout this document. The legends for the maps are based on the values for the entire City of Hamilton, so in some cases the legends in this report display classes that are not present on the maps for Ancaster. Configuring the legends in this manner was done to allow for easy comparisons of maps between different reports in this series of Community Profiles.

[1] At the time of publication parts of this report, Statistics Canada had not yet made available data grouped by former municipalities in the City of Hamilton. Instead, this report summarizes data from the census tracts within Ancaster (these combined census tracts have the exact same boundaries as Ancaster). However, due to rounding that Statistics Canada applies to data in each census tract, this method creates an error of approximately one half a percentage point for the data that is presented in this report, compared to the more accurate data that Statistics Canada will release at a later date.

Section 3.0 of this report addresses the changing labour force characteristics for the entire City of Hamilton with an emphasis on changes since the economic downturn that began in 2008. Data is from Statistics Canada's most recent indicators, and the City of Hamilton.

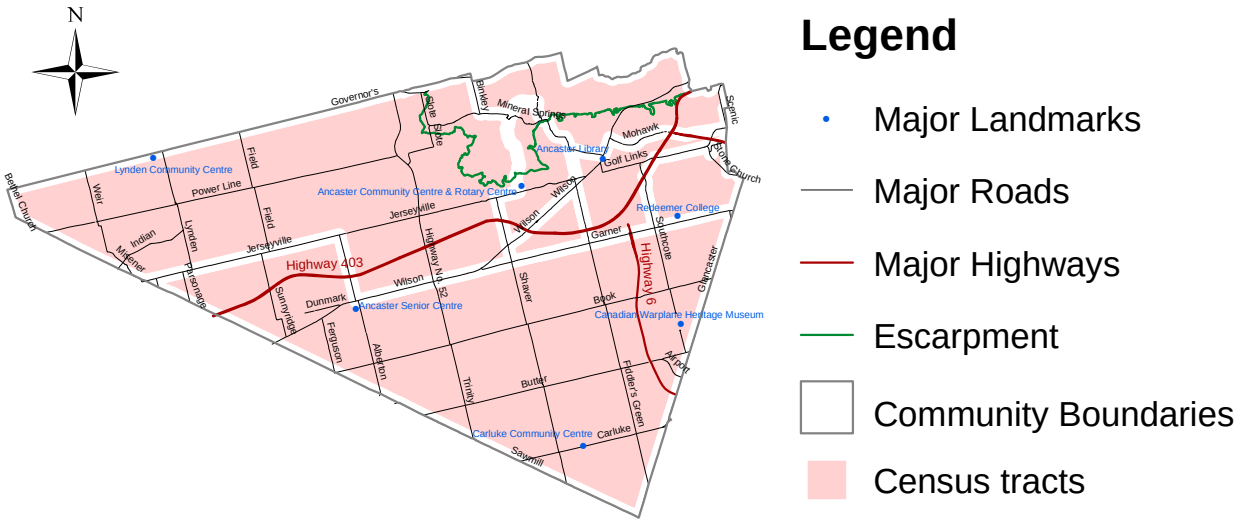
The information in Section 4.0 is from the Ontario Association of Food Banks, Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index, and the City of Hamilton's Food Access Guide.

The data presented in Section 5.0 of this report has been provided by the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton. The number of clients shown includes information collected from those agencies that track clients by residence in each former municipality. Some agencies do not collect data by client location because of their unique service characteristics; as a result, some client data is not included in this report. Over the coming years, the SPRC will continue to work with the United Way and its agencies to develop client and community service databases to ensure the best possible report of service to the community supported by the United Way.

In the coming months, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton will be publishing a profile of the social landscape for the City of Hamilton. This report will include many of the same demographic variables as found in this Community Profile, but for the entire city and with comparisons to other cities. It is our hope that these reports will complement each other.

At the end of this report, we have included an evaluation questionnaire. We encourage readers to complete this survey to help us improve future editions of this report. Respondents will be entered in a prize draw for a $50 gift certificate for Bryan Prince Bookseller in Hamilton, which will be drawn at the SPRC's Annual General Meeting in June of 2010.

Map 1: Reference map for Community of Ancaster, City of Hamilton



2.0 POPULATION

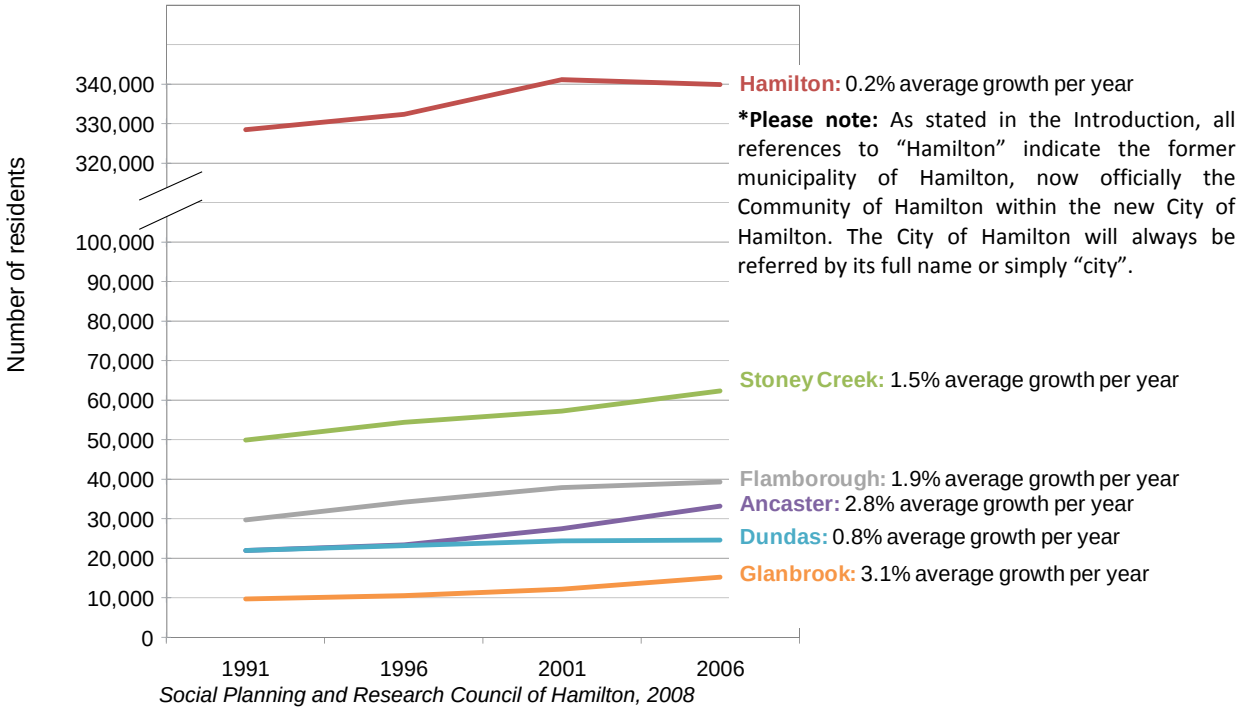
Seven percent of City of Hamilton residents live in Ancaster

At 33,235 persons in 2006, Ancaster is the fourth largest community in the City of Hamilton, with 7% of the total population.

Ancaster is the second fastest growing Community in the City of Hamilton.

The Community of Ancaster had a population of 33,235 people in 2006, an increase of 11,247 persons since 1991 (Chart 1). The average annual growth rate over the last 15 years in Ancaster has been 2.8%, much higher than the average of 0.7% per year for the City of Hamilton (formerly Hamilton-Wentworth Region) for that same period. By comparison, the average annual increase in population for the province of Ontario has been 1.3% since 1991. The growth in Ancaster accelerated to 3.9% per year over the 2001-2006 period.

Chart 1: Population Growth, Communities with the City of Hamilton, 1991-2006

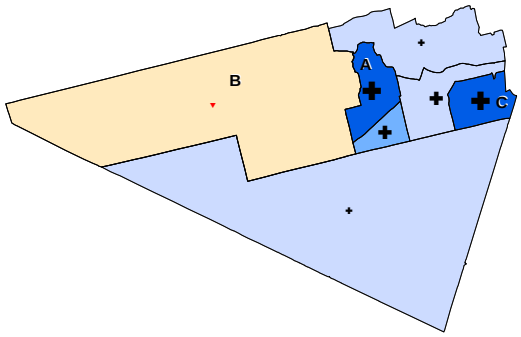


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Centre of Ancaster is a major growth area

Map 2 shows that the population growth has not been evenly spread across Ancaster. Some of the more densely populated parts of Ancaster are experiencing high growth. For example, the census tract north of Wilson Road surrounding the Ancaster Community Centre (location A) had 1,352 additional residents in 2006 compared to 2001, a 27% increase. In contrast, the more rural area along the border with Flamborough (location B) has experienced a very small decrease in population (8 fewer residents). The area with the highest growth has been the new subdivision development in the Meadowlands (3,264 additional residents, which is an 85% increase between 2001 and 2006 in location C).

Map 2: Population Change in Ancaster, 2001-2006



Legend

Increase or decrease in the number of people in each census tract

- 1000 to 3264
- 250 to 999
- 0 to 249
- -250 to -1
- -1156 to -251

% change in population in each census tract

- 25.0% to 85.0%
- 10.0% to 24.9%
- 0.0% to 9.9%
- -5.0% to -0.1%
- -10.0% to -5.1%

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

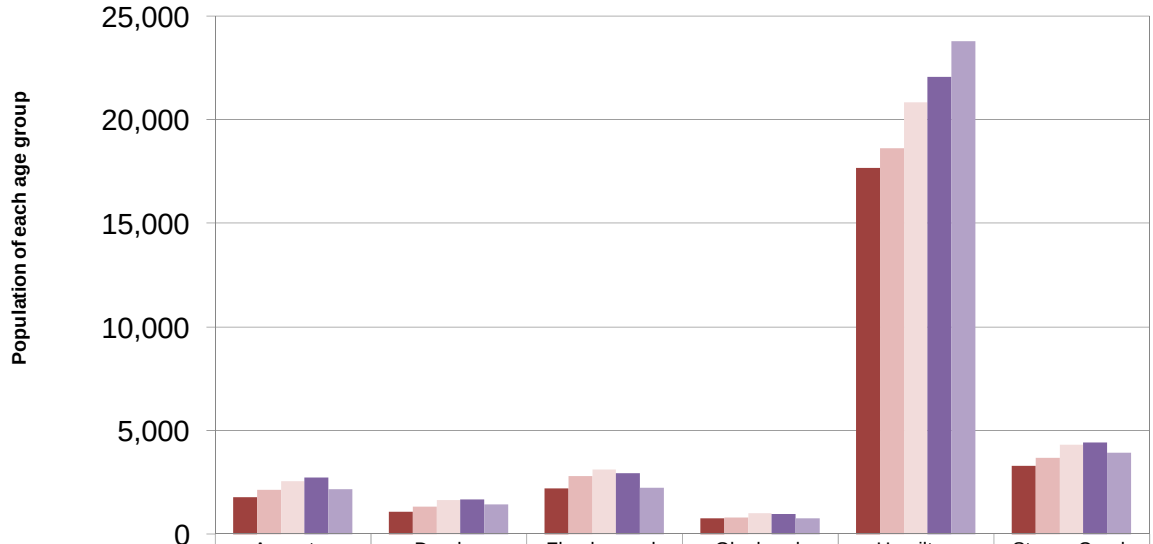
Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.1 Children and Youth

Children are one fifth of Ancaster's population

In 2006, there were 6,530 children aged 0-14 years of age in Ancaster (Chart 2). This represents just under 20% of Ancaster's population. The proportion of children in Ancaster is higher than the average for the City of Hamilton (17%).

Chart 2: Children and Youth, Communities within City of Hamilton, 2006



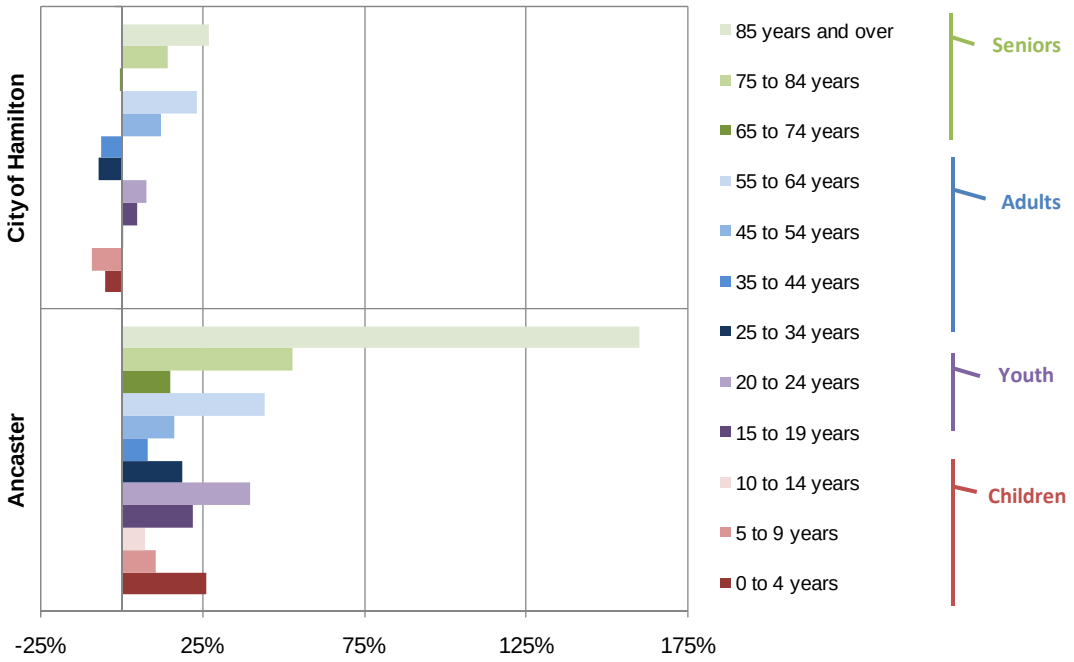
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
0 to 4 years	1,800	1,090	2,225	790	17,700	3,295
5 to 9 years	2,155	1,335	2,805	805	18,625	3,695
10 to 14 years	2,575	1,640	3,140	1,020	20,845	4,330
15 to 19 years	2,745	1,695	2,970	975	22,095	4,430
20 to 24 years	2,185	1,445	2,250	770	23,805	3,945
Total Children (0 - 14)	6,530	4,065	8,170	2,615	57,170	11,320
Total Youth (15 - 24)	4,930	3,140	5,220	1,745	45,900	8,375

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Ancaster's population of young children is growing fastest

Between 2001 and 2006, there was a 26% increase in the number of children 0-4 in Ancaster (Chart 3), which is above the average growth rate for all age groups (21%) during that same five year period in Ancaster. This is likely due a combination of more families with young children moving to Ancaster, and current residents experiencing a higher fertility rate, among other factors.

Chart 3: Population change by age groups, 2001-2006

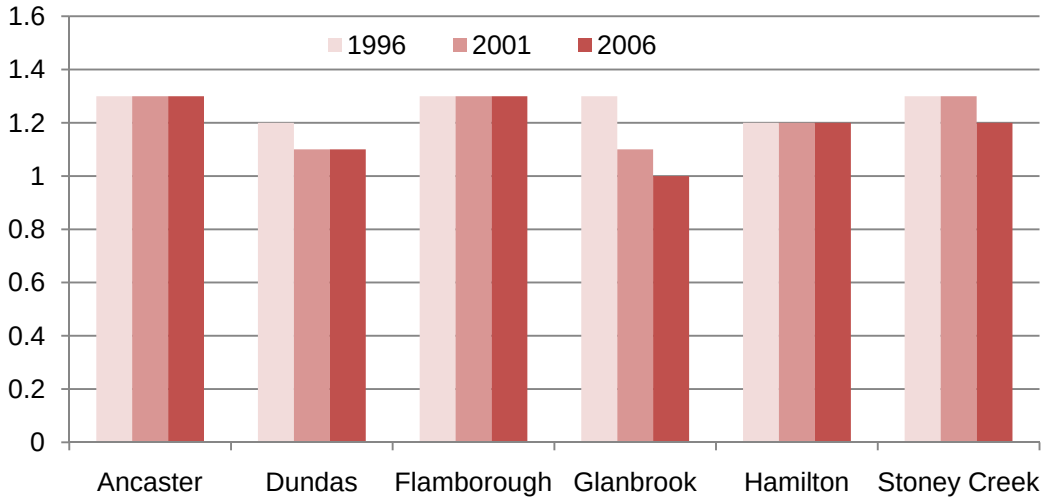


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Ancaster tied for first place in family size

The average family in Ancaster has 1.3 children living at home in 2006, a number which has been stable since 1996 (Chart 4). This is tied with Flamborough for the largest number of children at home in the City of Hamilton.

Chart 4: Number of children living at home per family, 1996-2001

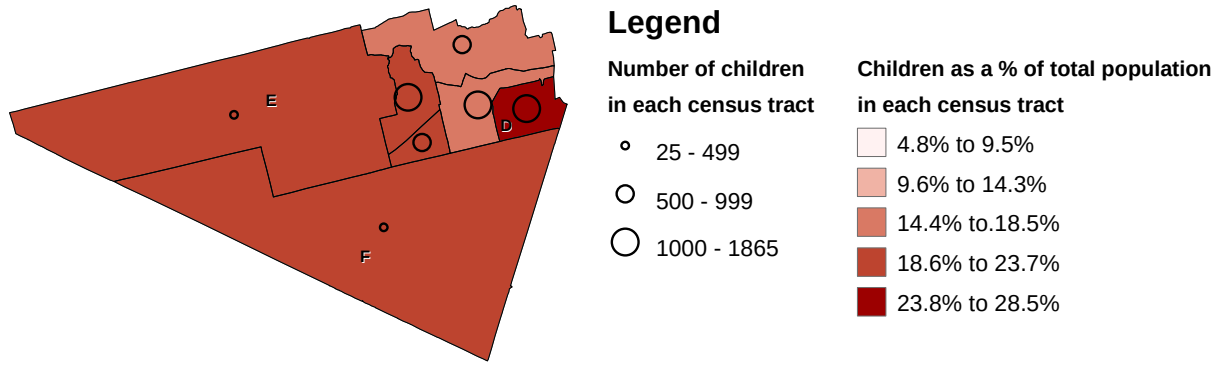


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Children are a large proportion of residents in new subdivisions

Map 3 shows that in Ancaster the greatest number of children (1,865 children 0-14 years of age) are found in the Meadowlands (location D); in this area 26% of the population is children 0-14. Very small numbers of children live in the more rural parts Ancaster (395 in the area bordering Flamborough identified by location E and 410 in the area bordering Sawmill and Glancaster roads identified by location E). The reason that these areas have small numbers of children is that the general population is also low in the areas. When we look at the proportion of children in this area it is in the mid range as compared to other areas.

Map 3: Children 0-14 years of age in Ancaster, 2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

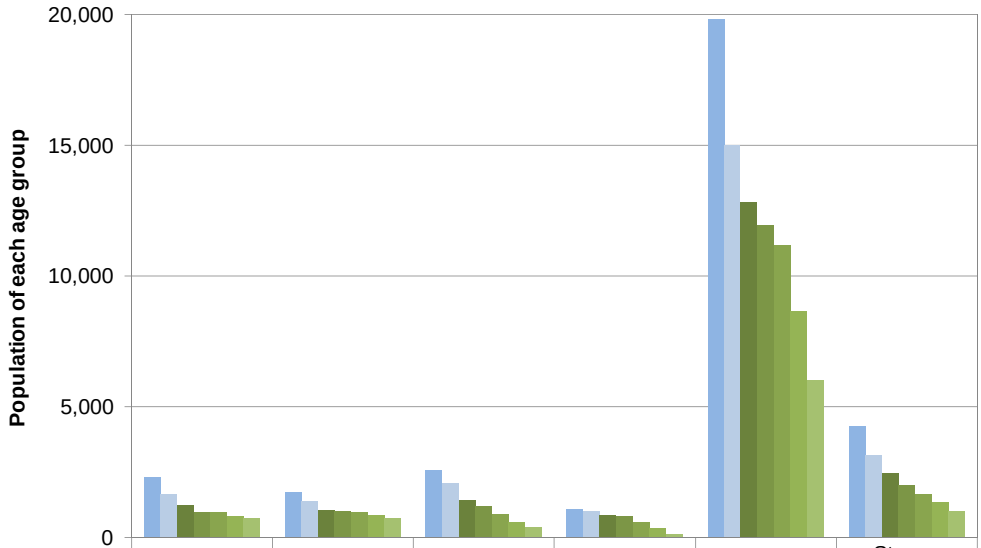
Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.2 Seniors

Just under 1 in 7 Ancaster residents is over age 65

In 2006 there were 4,655 persons age 65 and over living in Ancaster (Chart 5) – 2,035 men and 2,620 women. This represents 14% of the population. By comparison, the entire City of Hamilton has a slightly higher concentration of seniors at 15% of the total population.

Chart 5: Older Adults, Communities within City of Hamilton, 2006



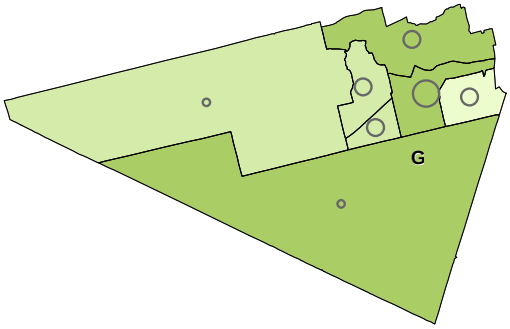
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
55 to 59 years	2,335	1,760	2,560	1,090	19,795	4,275
60 to 64 years	1,665	1,395	2,085	995	14,995	3,135
65 to 69 years	1,230	1,050	1,405	840	12,835	2,435
70 to 74 years	960	990	1,200	820	11,915	1,975
75 to 79 years	955	965	910	590	11,170	1,645
80 to 84 years	795	840	590	370	8,660	1,350
85 years and over	715	725	385	155	6,015	1,005
Total Seniors (65 years and over)	4,655	4,570	4,490	2,775	50,595	8,410

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Greatest number of seniors is found near 403

The geographical distribution of seniors across Ancaster reveals that greatest number of seniors is found in the area just south west of the 403 and Mohawk Road interchange (location G on Map 4), where large retirement and long term care residential facilities have been built in recent years. In this area, there were 1,335 seniors in 2006, representing 19% of the population. This is the highest proportion of all of Ancaster's census tracts.

Map 4: Seniors (65 and over) in Ancaster, 2006



Legend

Number of seniors in each census tract

- 10 to 499
- 500 to 999
- 1000 to 2165

Seniors as a % of total population in each census tract

- 5.0% to 9.9%
- 10.0% to 14.9%
- 15.0% to 19.9%
- 20.0% to 29.9%
- 30.0% to 40.0%

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

White letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

Very large increase in seniors over age 85

Between 2001 and 2006 there were quite different growth rates of the different senior age groups (Chart 3). Youngest seniors (aged 65-75) grew by 15%, which is under the average growth for all age groups in Ancaster (21%). In comparison, seniors 75-85 grew by over 50%. Most strikingly, the number of seniors over age 85 grew by over 150%, from 275 in 2001 people to 715 in 2006. For this age group, Ancaster was almost tied with Dundas (725 seniors over age 85) in 2006 and had more than Flamborough and Glanbrook combined. This large growth is due in part to the opening of new long term care residences (such as the Willowgrove on Old Mohawk Road), which attracted older seniors from other parts of the city or province. Other factors affecting the growth of the senior population in Ancaster could include seniors living longer and a possible increase in previous years of a particular age cohort in Ancaster that has now aged and is now in one of the senior age groups.

Evidence that seniors population will continue to grow at a rapid pace

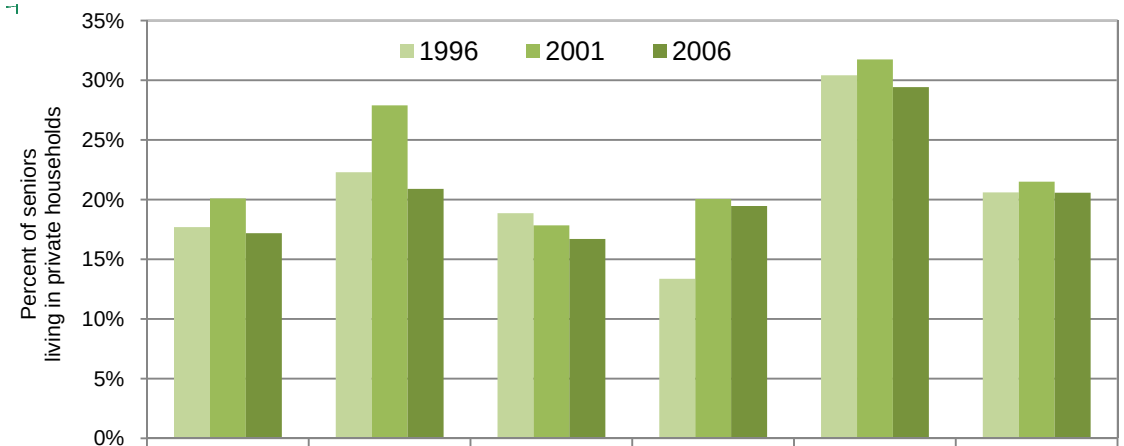
The breakdown of Ancaster older adults (Chart 5) shows that the senior population is set to continue to grow substantially as there are high numbers of persons aged 55-65 living in Ancaster in 2006. Some of these people may move away from Ancaster as they grow older, but the current growth rate of seniors suggests many will stay within this community.

Proportion of seniors living alone is tied for smallest in City of Hamilton

Seniors living alone generally have more difficult access to support if they face illness or disability as compared to seniors living with a spouse, with family or in institutional care[2]. In Ancaster, the number of seniors living alone has been growing steadily (from 500 in 1996 to 800 in 2006, see Chart 6) but due to different growth rates of the general senior population the proportion of seniors living alone has not increased accordingly. In 2006 it was 17%, tied with Flamborough for the smallest proportion in the City of Hamilton.

[2] Statistics Canada. 2007. A Portrait of Seniors in Canada. Catalogue no. 89-519.

Chart 6: Seniors living alone, Communities within City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	18%	22%	19%	13%	30%	21%
2001	20%	28%	18%	20%	32%	21%
2006	17%	21%	17%	19%	29%	21%
1996	500	875	615	165	14,845	1,285
2001	670	990	660	390	14,940	1,450
2006	800	955	750	540	14,885	1,730

Percentage of seniors who are living alone each year in each community

Number of seniors who are living alone each year in each community

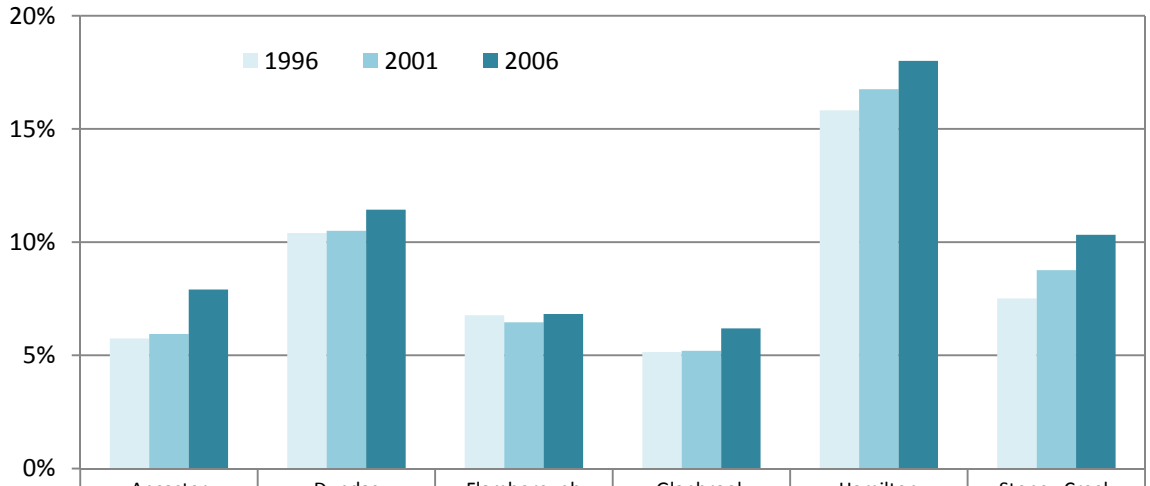
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

2.3 Female Lone Parents

Single moms are a growing population in Ancaster

Female lone parent-led families have traditionally reported a disproportionally high rate of poverty, reflecting the challenge of running a household and raising kids on a single income. The particular challenges that women face in the labour market has also meant that single moms are more likely to live on a low income than single dads. In Ancaster, the proportion of families led by single moms in the population was stable in the 1996-2001 period at 6%, but then increased to 8% in 2006 (Chart 7). Ancaster also had the largest percentage increase in the number of families led by female lone parents, standing at 745 in 2006, almost double from 1996.

Chart 7: Families led by Female Lone Parents,
Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	6%	10%	7%	5%	16%	8%
2001	6%	11%	6%	5%	17%	9%
2006	8%	11%	7%	6%	18%	10%
1996	380	665	665	155	13,745	1,145
2001	470	720	710	190	15,090	1,445
2006	745	795	770	295	16,140	1,875

Number of female lone parents

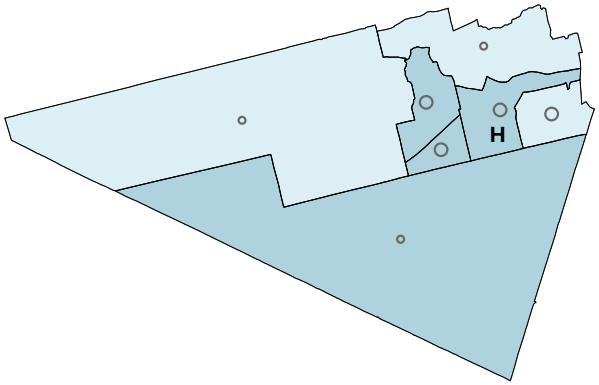
Percentage of families led by female lone parents

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Female lone parents concentrated in urban areas

The areas with the highest concentration of families led by single moms in Ancaster, both in terms of proportion and raw numbers is in and around downtown Ancaster. The census tract south of Mohawk Road, West of Fiddler's Green (location H on Map 5) has the largest number of female lone parent-led families (185) of all the census tracts in Ancaster.

Map 5: Female Lone Parents in Ancaster, 2006



Legend

Number of families led by female lone parents

- 0 - 125
- 126 - 250
- 251 - 350
- 351 - 510

Female lone parent-led families as a % of total families

- 0 - 8%
- 8.1% - 14%
- 14.1% - 19%
- 19.1% - 25%
- 25.1% - 32%

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

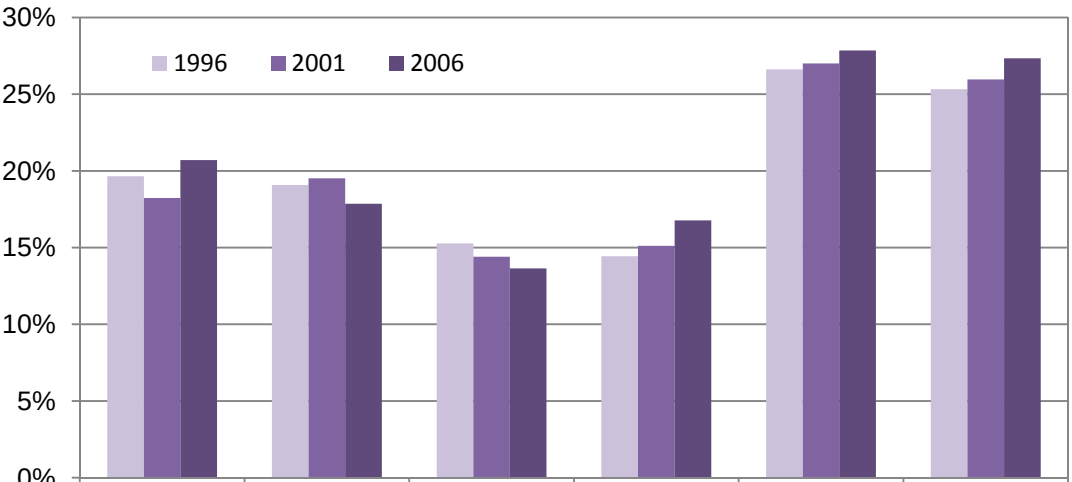
Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.4 Immigrants and Visible Minorities

The number of Ancaster residents born outside of Canada is increasing

From 1996 to 2006 there was an almost 50% increase in the number of immigrants living in Ancaster (Chart 8). But due to the general population's similarly rapid increase in Ancaster during that period, the proportion of the population who were born outside of Canada has been relatively stable, standing at 21% in 2006. This makes Ancaster the community with both the third largest number of immigrants and the third highest immigrant proportion within the City of Hamilton. The top three regions of birth of Ancaster immigrants are Northern Europe, Southern Europe and Western Europe.

Chart 8: Immigrants, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



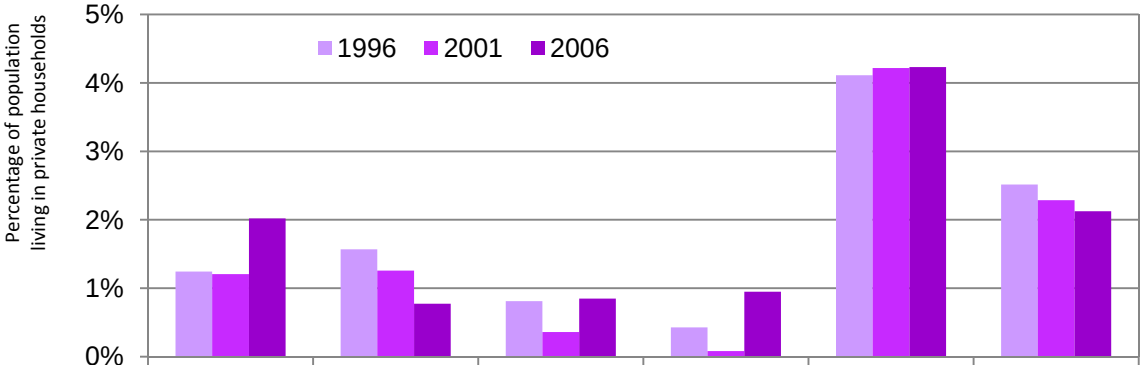
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
Percentage of the population composed of immigrants: 1996	20%	19%	15%	14%	27%	25%
2001	18%	20%	14%	15%	27%	26%
2006	21%	18%	14%	17%	28%	27%
Number of immigrants: 1996	4,580	4,260	5,185	1,520	84,790	13,636
2001	4,990	4,580	5,425	1,830	88,295	14,755
2006	6,770	4,270	5,315	2,560	89,765	16,860

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Ancaster now has third highest proportion of recent immigrants

Recent immigrants are defined by Statistics Canada as arriving in Canada in the previous five years of any given census year. Recent immigrants can be a population with high needs, as they are less familiar with the community services and supports available, and often face language and labour market barriers. In Ancaster, after almost no change from 1996 to 2001, there was a large increase in both the percentage of its population composed of recent immigrants (from 1.2% in 2001 to 2.0% in 2006, see Chart 9) and the actual number of recent immigrants (which almost doubled from 330 in 2001 to 660 in 2006). If Ancaster's high growth in its proportion of recent immigrants continues, the 2011 census could show that Ancaster has moved up to being the community with the second highest proportion of recent immigrants in its population above the current number two community, Stoney Creek (whose share of recent immigrants is declining). In Ancaster, the top three regions of birth of recent immigrants in the 2006 census were Eastern Europe, Eastern Asia and the USA.

Chart 9: Recent Immigrants (arriving to Canada in the previous five years), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	1.2%	1.6%	0.8%	0.4%	4.1%	2.5%
2001	1.2%	1.3%	0.4%	0.1%	4.2%	2.3%
2006	2.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	4.2%	2.1%
1996	290	350	275	45	13,100	1,355
2001	330	295	135	10	13,785	1,300
2006	660	185	330	145	13,635	1,310

Number of recent immigrants

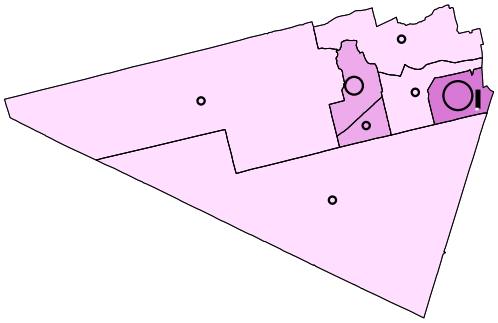
Percentage of the population composed of recent immigrants

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Meadowlands has highest concentration of recent immigrants

The concentration of recent immigrants is in some of the more urbanized parts of Ancaster (Map 6). The largest number (280 recent immigrants) and highest percentage (4% of the population) is in the Meadowlands area (location I).

Map 6: Recent Immigrants (arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2006) in Ancaster



Legend

Number of recent immigrants

- 0 - 100
- 101 - 250
- 251 - 650
- 651 - 1140

Recent immigrants as a % of total population

- 0% - 1.5%
- 1.6% - 3%
- 3.1% - 6%
- 6.1% - 12%
- 12.1% - 25%

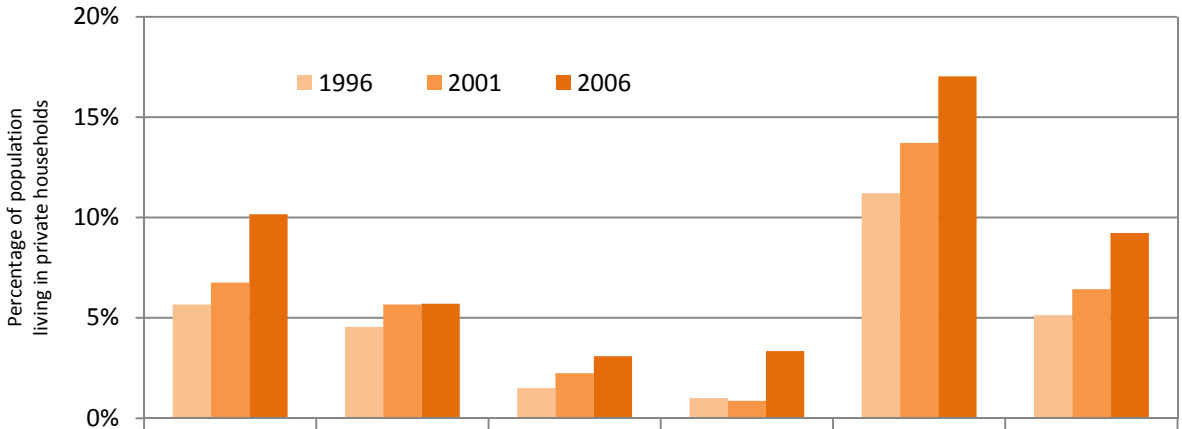
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

Ancaster now has second highest proportion of visible minorities

Ancaster has had a big jump in its proportion of visible minorities from just under 6% in 1996 to 10% in 2006 (Chart 10), and is the community with the second highest percentage of visible minorities, after Hamilton. The number of visible minorities is also increasing at an even more rapid pace going from 1320 in 1996 to 3320 in 2006. In Ancaster, South Asian and Chinese are the largest visible minority groups, accounting for over half of the visible minority population (Chart 11).

Chart 10: Visible Minorities, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



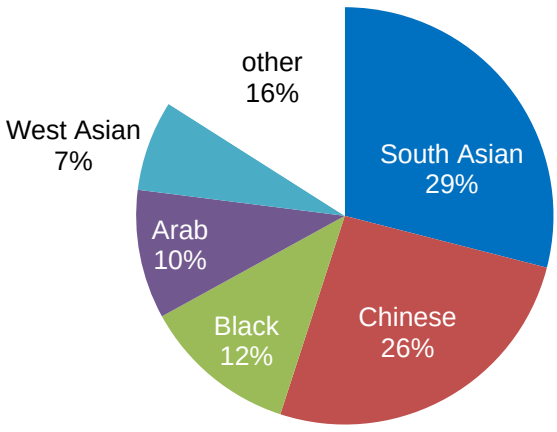
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	6%	5%	2%	1%	11%	5%
2001	7%	6%	2%	1%	14%	6%
2006	10%	6%	3%	3%	17%	9%
1996	1,320	1,015	510	105	35,720	2,765
2001	1,850	1,330	845	105	44,825	3,655
2006	3,320	1,365	1,205	510	54,895	5,690

Number of persons identifying themselves as visible minorities

Percentage of the population composed of visible minorities

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Chart 11: Visible Minority Groups, Ancaster, 2006



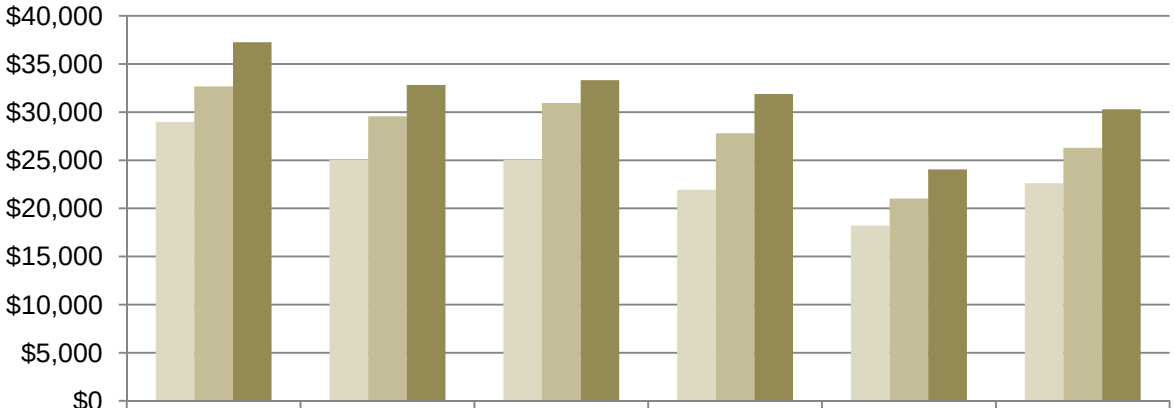
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

2.5 Incomes and Poverty

Ancaster has highest median income in the City

Median income is the point at which half the population earns more and half the population earns less. It is a better measure than average income, as it is not inflated by a few residents earning 10 or 20 times what others in the area earn. In each census during the 1996-2006 period, Ancaster had the highest individual median income in the City, standing at over $37,000 in 2006 (Chart 12).

Chart 12: Median Individual Income (aged 15 and over), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	$28,987	$25,056	$25,060	$21,935	$18,203	$22,617
2001	$32,682	$29,562	$30,944	$27,806	$21,025	$26,284
2006	$37,269	$32,828	$33,317	$31,871	$24,043	$30,301

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

The following section of the Community Profile considers the level of poverty in the City of Hamilton based on the most commonly reported measure – Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). The LICO measure is a relative measure of poverty introduced in Canada in 1968. When researchers or the media refers to "poverty lines" or "incidence of low-income", they are generally referring to the LICO measure.

The LICO considers the average cost of basic necessities (considered to be housing, food, and clothing) for different sized households in different sized communities. The measure then adds an additional 20% to determine the low-income cut-off for the specific group. A Statistics Canada survey of family expenditure in 1992 determined that the average Canadian family spent about 35% its income on food, clothing and shelter. Statistics Canada concluded that a family that spent significantly more (i.e., 20 percentage points more) than half its income on essentials was living in straitened circumstances. As a result, it has adopted 55 per cent of income as the cutoff point: families that spent more than 55% of their income on essentials would have little income left to spend on transportation, health, personal care, education, household operation, recreation, insurance and other unexpected expenses.[3]

[3] The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty 1994, by David Ross, E. Richard Shillington and Clarence Lochhead. Canadian Council on Social Development http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/archive/fb94/fs_povbk.htm

Table 1 shows the LICO for the City of Hamilton. Please note that the LICO presented here represents before tax household incomes. The data presented were collected during the 2006 census and represent 2005 household incomes.

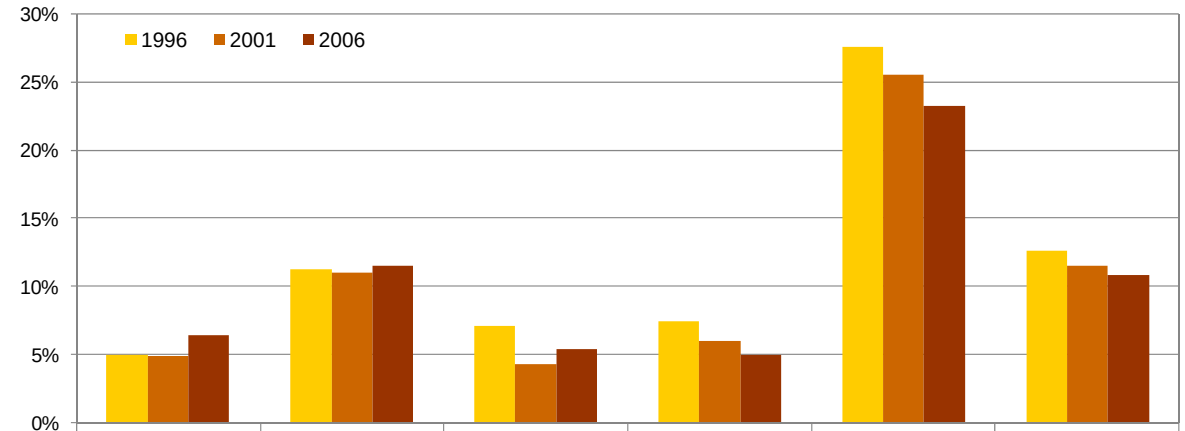
Table 1: LICO Thresholds for City of Hamilton (Before Tax) – 2005[4]	
Family Size	**Low-Income Cut-Off**
1 person	$20,778
2 person	$25,867
3 person	$31,801
4 person	$38,610
5 person	$43,791
6 person	$49,389
7+ person	$54,987

Ancaster's poverty rate is increasing

Ancaster's low income rate is still among the lowest in the City, but it has increased from 1996 to 2006, going from 5% to 6% (Chart 13), with an 80% increase in the number of people living on low incomes (1,160 in 1996, and 2,094 in 2006). Ancaster is the only community that saw an increase in its poverty rate in this period. Ancaster's poverty rate moved from being the lowest among the communities to ranking 4th out of 6 within the City of Hamilton. The rate of poverty for young children in Ancaster is slightly higher than the rate for seniors, but both are just below the rate for the general population (Chart 14).

[4] Statistics Canada varies its LICO calculation based on population size and density parameters for five different community sizes which they define and identify. Their definitions of urban and rural communities do not correspond to municipal boundaries. The values in the table above are for an urban area with a population of 500,000 or more. For detailed information, please see this Statistics Canada document: http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/75F0002MIE/75F0002MIE2006004.pdf

Chart 13: Poverty Rates (before tax), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



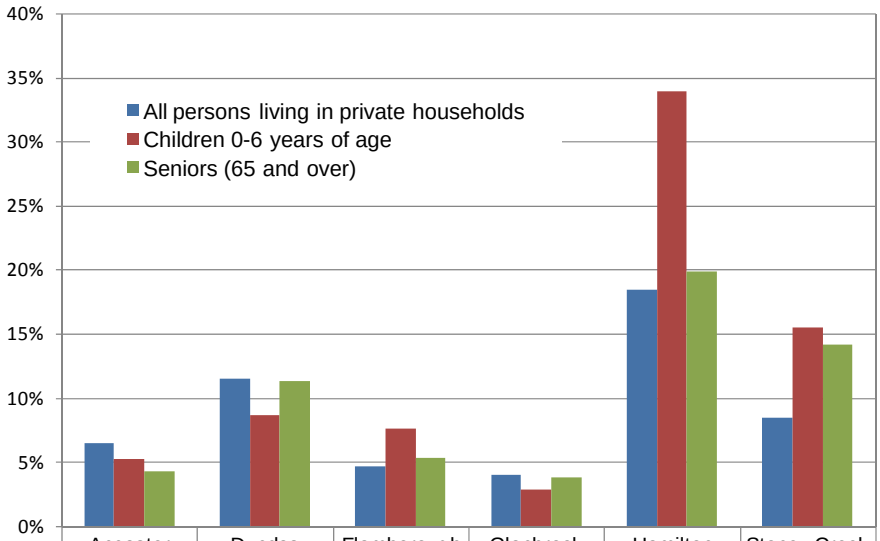
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	5%	11%	7%	7%	28%	13%
2001	5%	11%	4%	6%	25%	11%
2006	6%	11%	5%	5%	23%	11%
1996	1,160	2,500	2,400	785	87,545	6,800
2001	1,350	2,545	1,625	725	82,610	6,515
2006	2,094	2,718	2,097	762	74,572	6,662

Percentage of the population living on a low income

Number of persons living on a low income

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Chart 14: Poverty Rates (before tax) for selected groups, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
All persons living in private households	6%	11%	5%	4%	18%	8%
Children 0-6 years of age	5%	9%	8%	3%	34%	15%
Seniors (65 and over)	4%	11%	5%	4%	20%	14%
All persons living in private households	2,094	2,718	2,097	762	74,572	6,662
Children 0-6 years of age	117	120	207	28	7,129	616
Seniors (65 and over)	173	417	220	105	9,316	1,098

Percentage of each group living on a low income

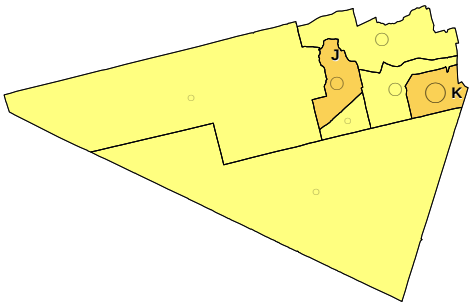
Number of persons in each group living on a low income

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Highest concentration of low income persons is in Meadowlands

The distribution of low income persons in Ancaster is fairly even, with slightly higher proportions in the downtown area north of Wilson Street (location J on Map 7) and Meadowlands areas (location K).

Map 7: Poverty (Before Tax) in Ancaster, 2006



Legend

Number of persons living on a low income	Percentage of persons living on a low income
0 - 250	0% - 7%
251 - 500	8% - 15%
501 - 1000	16% - 25%
1001 - 2996	26% - 40%
	41% - 58%

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

3.0 LABOUR FORCE

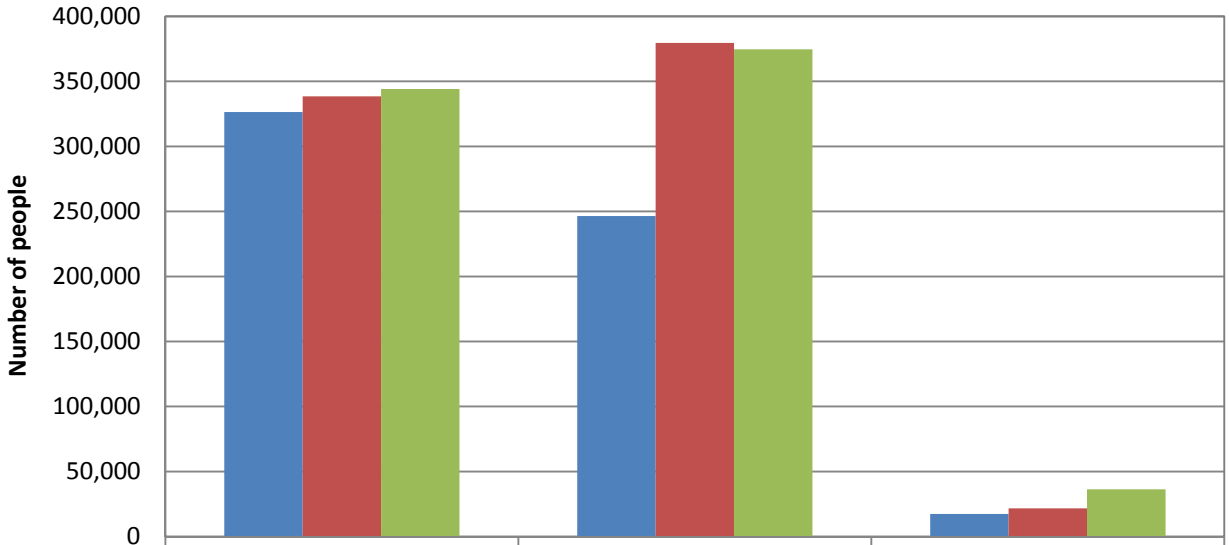
3.1 Changing Labour Force Characteristics

The City of Hamilton has a labour force in flux: the economic downturn has hit the city and local industry particularly hard, and 2009 saw the downsizing and/or closure of a number of manufacturing operations, leading to a drastic increase in the number of unemployed persons, number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries, and number of Ontario Works cases.

Increasing unemployment in the City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton has seen a 67% increase in unemployed individuals from 2008 to 2009, and a 110% increase from 2006 to 2009. The number of people employed shrank by 4,900, although the total number of individuals participating in the work force has increased 1.6% from 2008 to 2009.

Chart 15: Unadjusted labour force characteristics for the City of Hamilton, 2006, 2008 and 2009

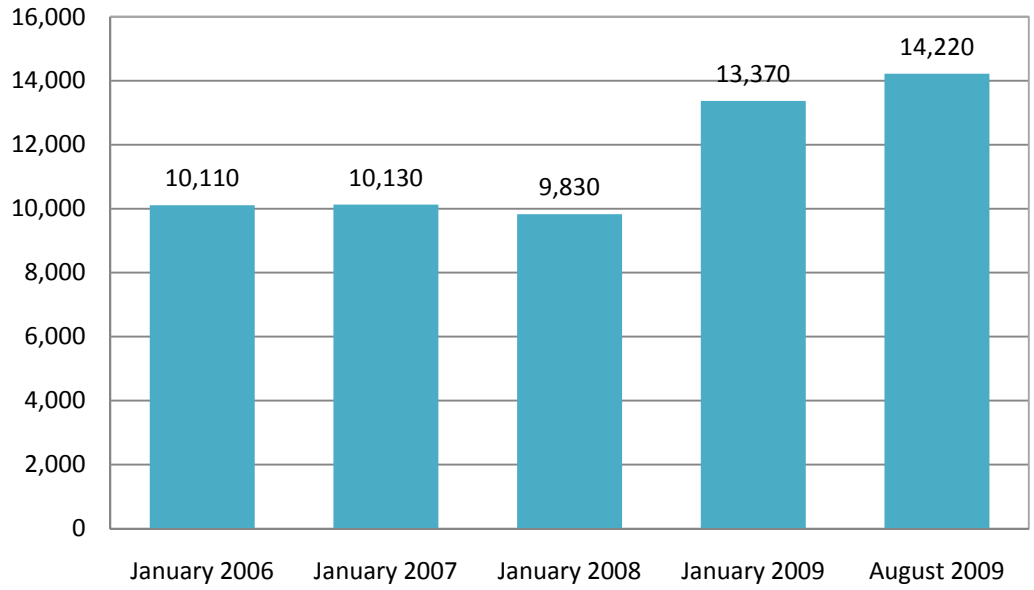


	Participating in Workforce	Employed	Unemployed
2006	326,400	246,400	17,300
2008	338,500	379,600	21,700
2009	344,100	374,700	36,300

The City of Hamilton has seen an increase in the number of EI beneficiaries

The number of people receiving Employment Insurance has risen sharply since 2008. From January 2008 to August 2009, Employment Insurance beneficiaries in the City of Hamilton increased by 4,390 people, or 45%.

Chart 16: Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, City of Hamilton, 2006-2009

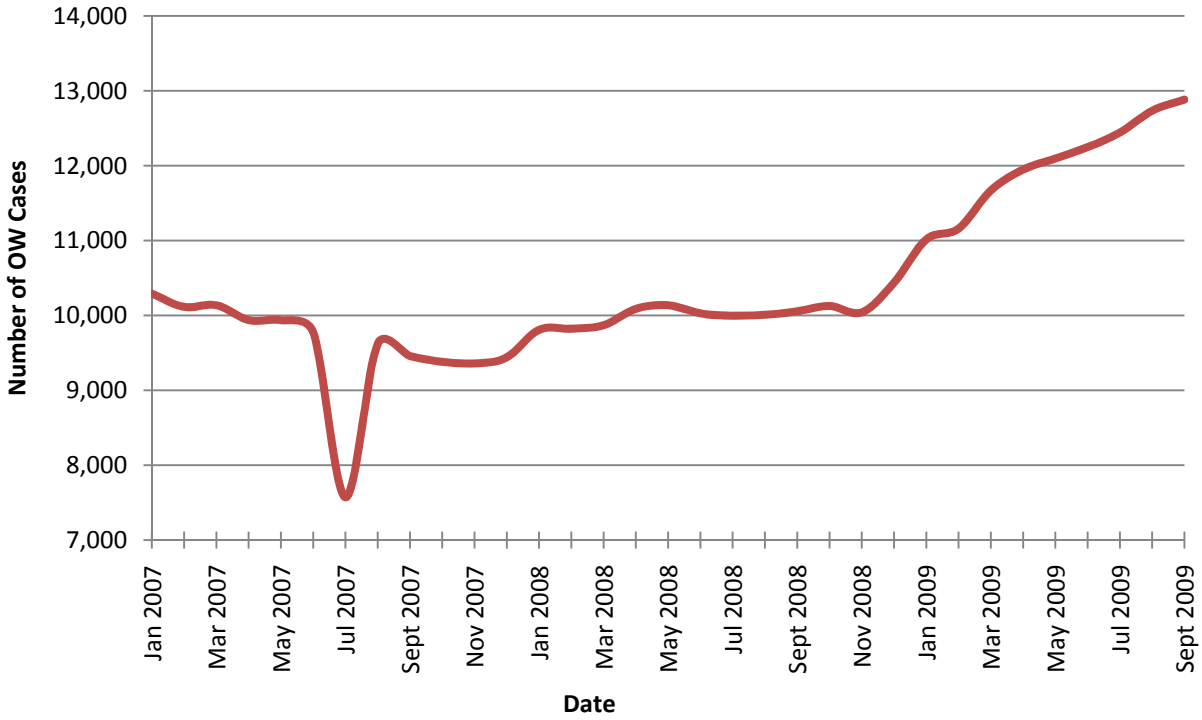


OW Caseload numbers in the City of Hamilton are rising

The number of Ontario Works caseloads in the City of Hamilton has also seen an increase over the past twelve months: from September 2008 to September 2009, the number of caseloads as risen by 28%. This trend is expected to continue into 2010, especially as Employment Insurance (EI) applications increase and people require emergency supplemental income while waiting for their first EI payments, or as EI benefits expire and individuals are still in need of income support. In addition to a rising number of caseloads, the City of Hamilton reports that fewer people are leaving the caseload for employment or other reasons.[5]

[5] City of Hamilton. Community Services Department, Employment and Income Support Division. June 2, 2009 Implementation of Phase 2 Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan (CS09021(a)) (City Wide). Available online at: http://www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/6B0367B7-11F1-41F0-BFDC-B6978E4506DC/0/Jun17Item84CS09021aREPORTImplementationOWContingencyPlan.pdf

Chart 17: Ontario Works Caseloads, City of Hamilton 2007-2009[6]



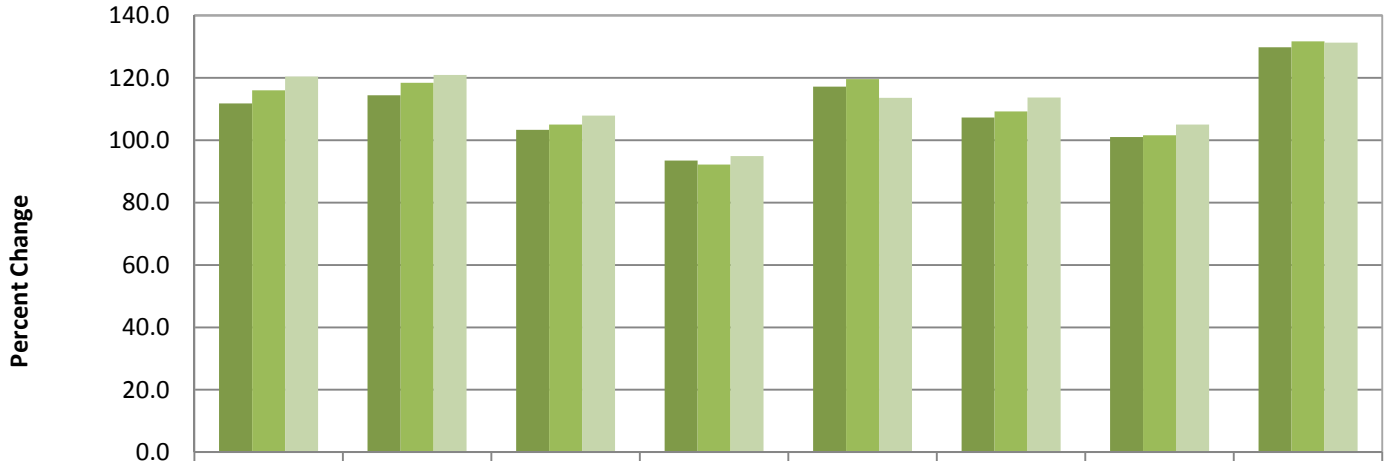
[6] Data courtesy of the City of Hamilton's Community Wellness Indicators. Available online at: http://www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/17F5D3A4-E0AB-423F-8D2A-22E3AA603C1A/0/HCWSep01.pdf

4.0 FOOD SECURITY

The Ontario Association of Food Banks is reporting that Ontario's food banks are increasingly stressed due to rising unemployment, high food prices, and increased demands for their services. Many food banks have experienced a decline in both financial and food donations in the past year, and existing food reserves are precariously low.[7]

Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index shows that the price of food has been rising significantly. A 3.8% increase in food prices from January 2008 to September 2009 combined with increased costs for shelter, household expenses, clothing and footwear, health and personal items, and a failing economy means that Canadian families are increasingly in need of social supports like food banks and meal programs.

Chart 18: Consumer Price Index, Statistics Canada 2006-2009



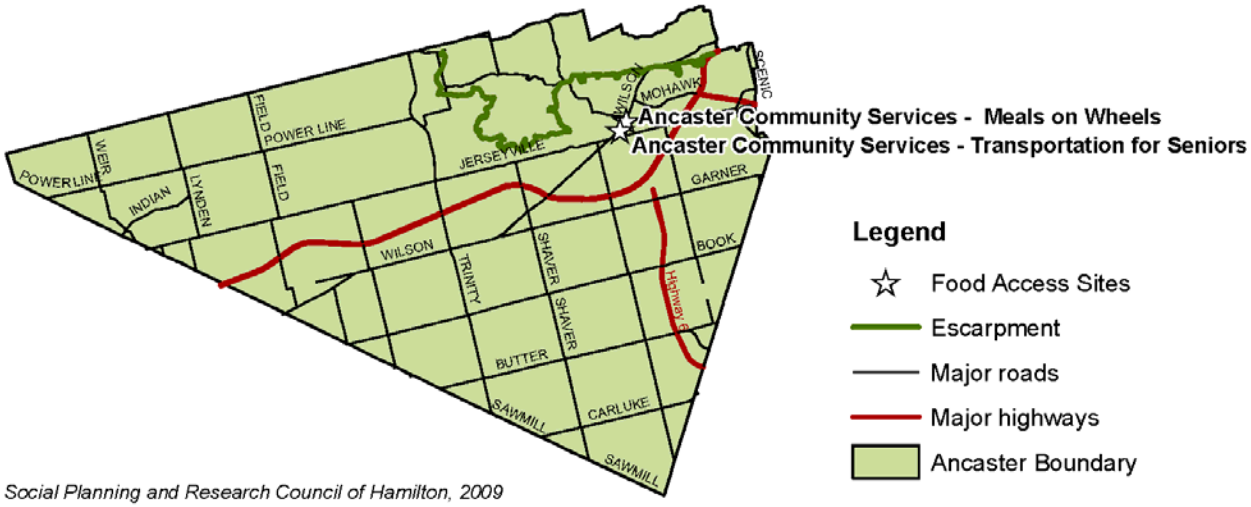
	Food	Shelter	Household	Clothing and footwear	Transportation	Health and personal	Recreation, education, reading	Alchoholic beverages, tobacco products
2007	111.8	114.4	103.3	93.5	117.2	107.3	101.0	129.8
2008	116.0	118.4	105.0	92.2	119.6	109.2	101.6	131.7
September 2009	120.4	120.9	107.9	94.9	113.6	113.7	105.0	131.3

[7] Ontario Association of Food Banks (2009). Special Report: In the Midst of the Storm: the Impact of the Economic Downturn for Ontario's Food Banks in 2009. Available online at: http://www.oafb.ca/assets/pdfs/SpecialReport.pdf

4.1 Food Access Sites in Ancaster[8]

☆	**Ancaster Community Services – Meals on Wheels** 300 Wilson St. East, Ancaster, ON L9G 2B9 Phone: (905) 648-6675 http://www.ancastercommunityservices.ca Mon-Fri, 11:30AM – 12:45 PM	Hot noon meal with soup, main course, bread and desert is delivered. Some special diets are available. $5.50 per meal invoiced monthly. Rural Ancaster served as resources permit.
☆	**Ancaster Community Services – Transportation for Seniors** 300 Wilson St. East, Ancaster, ON L9G 2B9 Phone: (905) 648-6675 http://www.ancastercommunityservices.ca	Volunteer transportation for seniors living in Ancaster, to medical or related appointments in the Greater Hamilton Area. A referral service is offered for shopping needs. Must be able to walk independently. Call coordinator for cost (based on destination)

Map 8: Locations of Food Access Sites in Ancaster, 2009



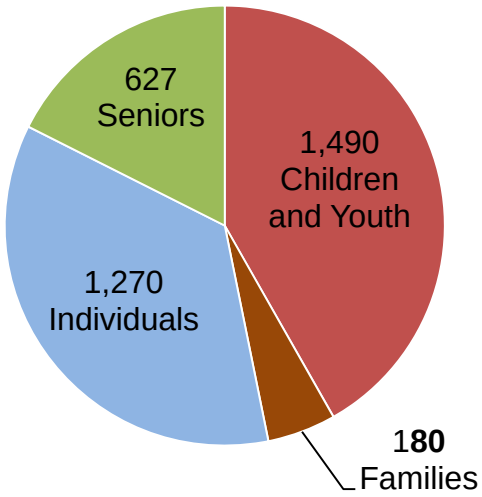
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2009

[8] All information about food access sites was collected from the City of Hamilton's 2009 Food Access Guide, which is a comprehensive listing of places in the City of Hamilton where free or low cost food or meals are available. Electronic copies can be found at the City of Hamilton website: http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/HealthandSocialServices/TopicsAtoZ/#F

5.0 UNITED WAY AGENCIES

5.1 Who is served by the United Way in Ancaster?

In 2007 over **3,567*** individuals and families from the Ancaster community accessed United Way funded services.



5.2 Some examples of United Way funded services and programs accessed by Ancaster residents

Children & Youth accessed recreational and day camp programs, counseling supports. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Alternatives for Youth
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Hamilton & Burlington
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Community Living Hamilton
- YMCA Hamilton/Burlington
- YWCA of Hamilton

Families accessed family counseling and credit counseling programs. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Dundas Community Services
- Catholic Family Services
- Hamilton Jewish Social Services
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, Hamilton Chapter

Individuals accessed information and referral services; volunteer opportunities; literacy and basic skills; services for those in conflict or at risk of conflict with the law; counseling; health

supports; education & awareness on violence and sexual assault; women transitional housing; employment support services; adult health fitness and recreation. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Community Information Hamilton
- Dundas Community Services
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Hamilton & District Ostomy Association
- Hamilton Literacy Council
- Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hamilton Chapter
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, Hamilton Chapter
- Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area
- Volunteer Hamilton
- YWCA of Hamilton

Seniors accessed programs and services that allow them to continue to live independently, i.e. meals on wheels, homemaking, friendly visiting, telephone care, transportation, case management, home health care equipment, dog therapy visits to long term care and retirement homes, hearing impairment; vision loss; and information & referral. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Afro Canadian Caribbean Association
- Ancaster Community Services and Information
- Canadian Hearing Society
- CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)
- Canadian Red Cross Society
- Catholic Family Services
- Dundas Community Services
- Hamilton Jewish Social Services
- St. John Ambulance
- St. Joseph's Villa Day Program
- VON Hamilton
- Wesley Urban Ministries

*The numbers above include information collected by the United Way from those agencies that continue to track clients that reside in the former municipalities.

6.0 SUMMARY

This overview of key census indicators indicates that Ancaster faces multiple challenges and opportunities. In Ancaster, the single biggest trend has been growth. Ancaster is the second fastest growing community in the city, with an average growth rate of 2.8% per year -- more than double the rate for Ontario. In the period from 2001-2006 showed the fastest growth with an almost 4% increase in population per year. Ancaster's population of very young is the fastest growing in Hamilton, which is one reason for the high growth rate. In fact, all age groups in Ancaster are experiencing higher growth than for the same age groups on average across the City of Hamilton. However, it is the oldest senior age group (85 and above) that is growing most quickly of all the age categories In Ancaster. This is due in part to an influx of older seniors to recently built long term care residences. Seniors living alone (which does not include those living institutionally or in seniors' residences) are also a growing population, standing at 800 people in 2006.

Ancaster also had a big jump in its proportion of female lone parents. The number of families led by female lone parents has almost doubled from 1996-2006 to almost 750 families. If the growth continues, the next census in 2011 will show that Ancaster has the third highest population of single moms in the City of Hamilton (compared to 1996 when it was tied for last place in this category).

This growth pattern was also evident in Ancaster's population of residents born outside of Canada. Recent immigrants in particular are choosing to live in Ancaster in greater numbers and will probably overtake Stoney Creek as the community with the second highest proportion of recent immigrants by the next census. Ancaster's cultural diversity is also increasing at a rapid pace, with Ancaster now having the second largest proportion of its population identifying with a visible minority group (10%), only lower than Hamilton (17%).

Ancaster is the wealthiest community in the City of Hamilton, with a median income over $37,000 in 2006. While the poverty rate is relatively low, it is the only community with an increase since the last census (standing at 6% in 2006), and over 2,000 Ancaster residents are living on incomes below the poverty line. The poverty rate for young children is slightly higher than for seniors but both are lower than the rate for the general population, indicating that single adults are a large proportion of the lower income population in Ancaster.

In order to respond to the community conditions outlined in this report, the United Way has established that its priorities for investment in the City of Hamilton are Poverty Prevention (children, youth and families), Strengthening Neighbourhoods (children, youth, families and individuals) and Supporting Seniors. In addition the United Way asks that submissions for funding consider how the unique challenges of women, visible minorities, recent immigrants and aboriginal groups can be addressed. In Section B, we have given a glimpse into the United Way's system of service and the number of Ancaster residents that are served by a United Way funded program. The United Way's priorities are reflected in the services and programs funded in Ancaster, and are an important part of the community's response to the challenges and opportunities that Ancaster faces.

This picture of Ancaster only shows part of the issues facing this community, and further investigations are necessary to identify and understand more clearly the reasons behind some of these trends. But it is hoped that this Profile can be used as a starting point for planning purposes by social service agencies, community groups and citizens.

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Did you find information clear and easily understandable?

Very clear Mostly clear Somewhat clear Not clear

2. Were there any difficulties in understanding definitions, charts, maps, in this report?

_____

_____

_____

3. How did you use this report? (Circle all that apply)

Personal use	General background reading for work	Quoted data, maps or charts for presentation/program/proposal	This information will help guide my organization's response to community conditions

4. What other information were you looking for but didn't find in this report? What other data, maps, graphs, analysis of demographic conditions would have been useful to you in this report?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. How would you rate this report?

Excellent Very Good Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Please return it by fax to: 905-522-9124
Or by mail to:
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162 King William St. Suite 103, Hamilton, ON L8R 3N9

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