

As more detailed data has been released from the 2016 Census, it is possible to examine in more detail some key trends for older adults in Hamilton, comparing 2006 and 2016 census data for the older age groups (aged 55 and over where possible, age 65 and above otherwise).

As common for communities across Canada, the older adult population is increasing rapidly in each of Hamilton's former municipalities. Table 1 breaks down the population size and growth by older adult age groups. Across the city, 30% of the population is aged 55 and older, with the highest rate in Dundas (38%) and lowest in Glanbrook (28%). The growth rate of the overall older adult age group, however has been the highest in Glanbrook, at 69%, followed by Ancaster (39% growth), and Flamborough (35% growth).

Table 1. Number of residents by older age groups, city of Hamilton communities, 2016 Census

	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek	City of Hamilton
55-64 years	5,780	3,745	6,160	3,220	44,595	9,810	73,310
65-74 years	3,710	3,120	4,040	2,935	29,005	6,755	49,565
75-84 years	1,830	1,730	1,590	1,595	16,850	3,305	26,900
85+ years	700	660	585	480	6,800	1,170	10,395
Total 55 years and older	12,020	9,255	12,375	8,230	97,250	21,040	160,170
% of total population in 2016	30%	38%	29%	28%	29%	30%	30%
% growth from 2006-2016	39%	20%	35%	69%	14%	33%	22%

Hamilton's population of older adults is getting more linguistically diverse, reflecting Canada's changing immigration laws and trends over the previous decades. Among persons aged 65 and over, Italian remains the top non-English language spoken at home by people in Hamilton. Portuguese has moved from 4 to 2, Croatian remains at 3, and Chinese languages (all dialects) have risen to 4. Polish has entered the list of languages and is number 5 for non-English languages spoken by Hamilton seniors. Serbian remains at 6. New to the list as well are Punjabi, Spanish, and Greek (7, 8, and 9).

Table 2. Top Non-English Languages Spoken at Home by residents aged 65 and older, city of Hamilton			
		Rank in 2016 Census	
1	Italian	1	Italian
2	Polish	2	Portuguese
3	Croatian	3	Croatian
4	Portuguese	4	Chinese languages (all dialects combined)
5	Chinese languages (all dialects combined)	5	Polish
6	Serbian	6	Serbian
7	German	7	Punjabi
8	Ukrainian	8	Spanish
9	Hungarian	9	Greek

The increase in older adults across Hamilton is driven in part by a large growth in the growth of racialized and Indigenous residents in these age groups. The number of indigenous residents aged 55 and older in Hamilton counted by the Census more than doubled between 2006-2016. The growth in the visible minority population in this age group was 85% in this time period. Chart 2 shows that residents identifying with a visible minority group was just under 11% in 2016.

Chart 1. Indigenous residents aged 55 and older, city of Hamilton, 2006 and 2016 Census

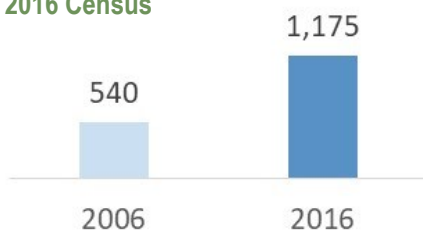
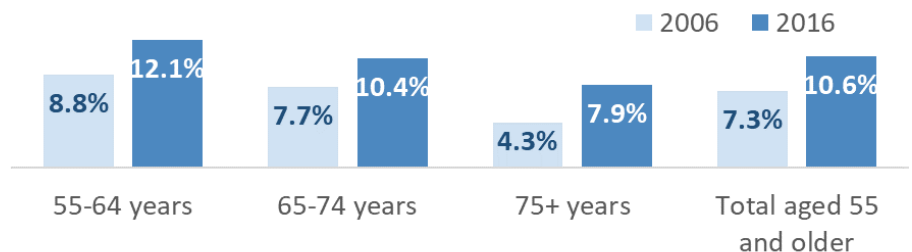


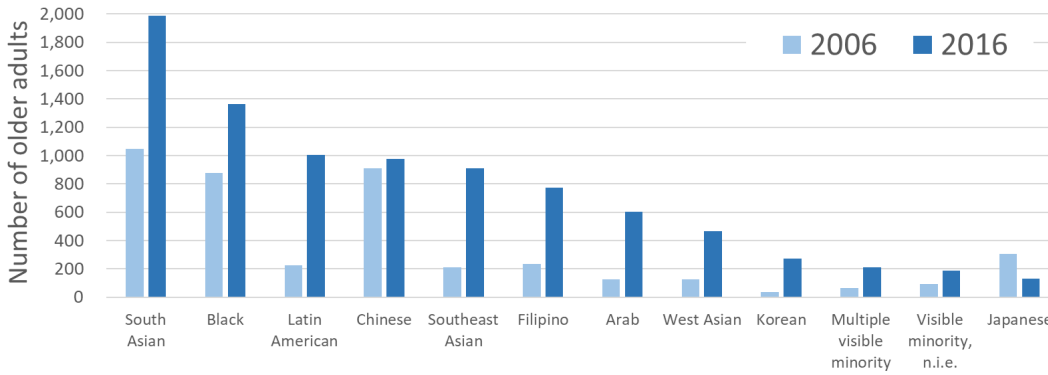
Chart 2. Percentage of older adults identifying with a visible minority group, city of Hamilton, 2006 and 2016 Census



This series of bulletins focusses on issues highlighted in the *Hamilton's Social Landscape* report and bringing attention to more recent trends. This bulletin is published by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and funded in part by the Hamilton Council on Aging, the United Way Halton Hamilton and the City of Hamilton Enrichment Fund.

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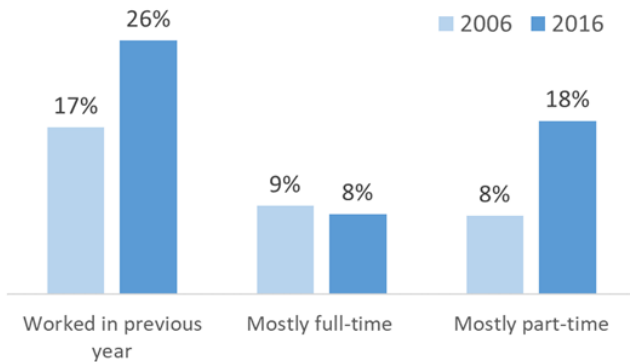
Chart 3. Residents aged 55 and older who identify with a specific visible minority group, city of Hamilton, 2006 and 2016 Census



Analysis of growth of specific racialized groups among older adults in Hamilton in Chart 3 shows that Korean, Arab, and Latin American groups has the highest growth between 2006 and 2016. Latin American is by size the third largest racialized group among Hamilton's older adults, with South Asian and Black being the first and second largest groups, respectively.

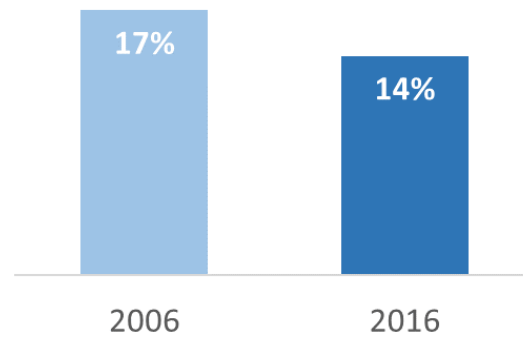
Chart 4 Older adults age 65-74 were represented more in the labour force in 2016 than in 2006. The overall rate of having worked in the previous year increased from 17% to 26% driven by a large increase in part time workers.

Chart 4. Residents aged 65-74 who worked in the previous year, city of Hamilton, 2006 and 2016 Census



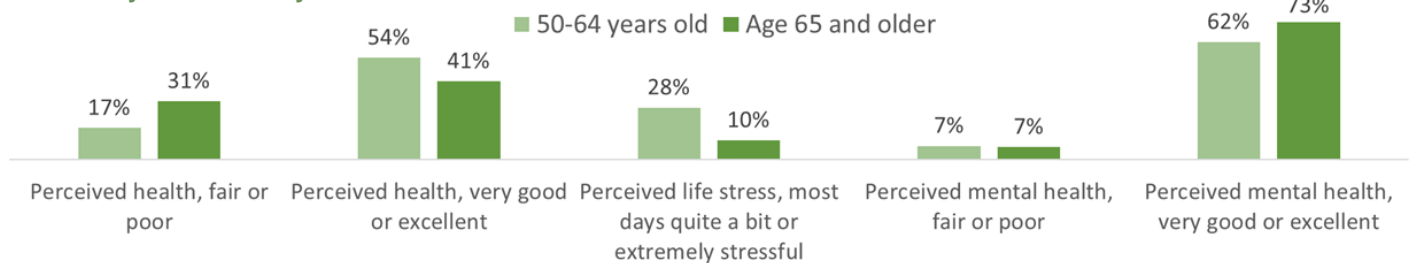
Using the Low Income Measure (before tax), the poverty rate for people age 65 and over in Hamilton has decreased since 2006 (chart 5) The rate in Hamilton remains higher than the provincial average.

Chart 5. Poverty rate among seniors aged 65 and over using LICO-BT measure, city of Hamilton, 2006 and 2016 Census



A complimentary dataset to the Census is Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The CCHS provides some health information at the city level, but is not as comprehensive as the Census as it only surveys a sample of residents. Results from the 2017-18 CCHS shows that older adults aged 50-64 years in Hamilton are more likely to state perceived life stress as high (28%) than older adults age 65 and over (10%). Older adults age 50-64 are also more likely to rank their perceived health as very good or excellent, and less likely to rank their perceived health as fair or poor. Older adults age 65 and over are more likely to rank their perceived mental health as very good or excellent (73%), though rates are high for age 50-64 for this category as well (62%). Seven percent in both age groups perceived their mental health as only fair or poor.

Chart 6. Selected health indicators, residents aged 50-64 and 65 and older, city of Hamilton, 2017-2018 Canadian Community Health Survey



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