WHO LIVES IN PEEL REGION?

The Region of Peel, located directly west of Toronto and York Region, includes the City of Mississauga, the City of Brampton and the Town of Caledon.

Compared to Ontario, Peel has a higher proportion of children and young families, is slightly better educated and has a higher proportion of immigrants, visible minorities and those who speak neither official language.

At the time of the 2006 census, 1,159,405 people lived in Peel, making it one of the largest municipalities in Canada; in Ontario it is second in size only to Toronto.

Between 1991 and 2006, the population of Peel grew by 426,607 people — an increase of 58%. Brampton experienced growth of 85% during this period. "The growth of a population is a balance between the rate of immigration and births on the one hand and the rate of emigration and deaths on the other. Map 4.1 (next page) shows the composition of positive growth in Peel between 2001 and 2006.

By 2031, Peel’s population is expected to exceed 1.5 million (Table 4.1 on page 41).

For more demographic information about Peel Region, please see the Peel Data Centre web site at http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/pdc/index.htm.

Figure 4.1 (page 41) is a population pyramid showing the age and sex distribution of Peel’s and Ontario’s populations in 2006. Peel has a higher proportion of adults aged 25 to 44 years and children aged 0 to 14 years. This might be explained by Peel’s high numbers of new immigrants and younger families within these age ranges.

By 2031, the age structure of Peel is expected to change. It is projected there will be fewer young adults and more seniors compared to today.

Seventy-seven per cent of Peel households contain one family, 17% have people living alone or with non-relatives and 6% have multiple families. Brampton has the highest proportion of multiple-family households at 9%, while Mississauga has 5% and Caledon, 4%.

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a comprehensive report on health in peel

Map 4.1
Positive Population Growth Attributed to Births, Immigration and Migration by Municipality, Peel, 2001 to 2006

Mississauga
2006 Population: 688,549
- Births
- New immigrants
- Migrants from elsewhere in Canada

Brampton
2006 Population: 433,806

Caledon
2006 Population: 57,050

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada
Ontario Live Birth Database, 2001-2004, HELPS (Health Planning System), Ministry of Health Promotion
NIDAY Perinatal Database, 2005-2006
Fifteen per cent of Peel families are headed by a lone parent. Within Peel, Caledon is the municipality where families are least likely to be led by a lone parent. Across Peel, the majority of lone parent families are led by women.
The proportion of female lone parent families has increased in Peel over the past 15 years (Table 4.2).

**Homeless people have significantly worse health than the general population**

Homelessness affects a wide spectrum of people, including single men and women, youth, families with and without children, people of all ethnicities, life-long Canadians, immigrants and refugees.

**Homelessness is defined as one or more of the following:**
- Being absolutely without shelter
- Being forced to share accommodation under conditions that offer no security of tenure or that are adverse to physical or emotional health
- Living with substantial risk of being on the street in the immediate future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4.2</th>
<th>Proportion of Male and Female Lone Parent Census Families, Peel, 1991–2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male lone parent</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female lone parent</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did You Know**

Compared to other family types, lone parent families, especially those led by women, tend to have lower levels of education, fewer job skills and, therefore, lower income. These factors contribute to poorer health on average for both lone parents and their children. Studies show that lone mothers with low socioeconomic status are more likely than partnered mothers to be current smokers, overweight and obese.

**Definition**

Individual factors that contribute to homelessness include being a victim of physical or sexual violence, lower educational level, lack of employment, family breakdown, physical disability, mental health issues and substance use.

Homeless people tend to have significantly worse health than the general population. Many people who access Peel’s emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities do not have a family doctor, and some are without a health card.

New applicants for subsidized housing face a wait of up to 21 years for a housing unit; seniors can expect to wait three to seven years.

Provincial government funding announced in April 2005 through the Ontario Affordable Housing Program will support the construction of 465 rental and supportive units in Peel.

More than half of Peel residents (53%) over the age of 15 years report some post-secondary education (Figure 4.2 on next page).
In 2005, the median after-tax income among Peel residents aged 15 years and older was $25,157 ($30,034 for males and $20,891 for females) (Table 4.3). The median income is higher in Caledon than in Mississauga or Brampton.

The median income of a population is the income level at which half of the population has a higher income and half the population has a lower income.

Table 4.3
Median After-Tax Income of Individuals 15 Years and Older, Peel, Greater Toronto Area and Ontario, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males ($)</th>
<th>Females ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peel</td>
<td>30,034</td>
<td>20,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>35,208</td>
<td>22,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton</td>
<td>38,876</td>
<td>24,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>25,882</td>
<td>19,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>31,378</td>
<td>21,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>30,182</td>
<td>20,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada
In 2005, 11% of people in private households in Peel lived with low income after tax (Map 4.2 on next page). The overall proportions of residents living with low income after tax are:

- 26% of unattached individuals
- 15% of children under six years of age
- 10% of all families
- 7% of individuals 65 years and older

In the past 10 years, the percentage of families living with low income before tax has fallen, with the decline most marked in female lone parent families; however, female lone parent families are still more likely to live in poverty (Figure 4.3).

Please note that Figure 4.3 (as opposed to the figures in the rest of this section) refers to low income before tax; after-tax figures became available for the first time in the 2006 Census.

In September 2007, 8,219 cases received social assistance in Peel. With partners and dependents taken into account, the total number of beneficiaries of social assistance for the month was 18,994.

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In the 2006 Census, the incidence of low income was defined as the proportion of families or unattached individuals who spent 20% or more of their total income on food, shelter and clothing than did the average family or unattached individual. If the average family spends 35% of its total income on food, shelter and clothing, a family of the same size having low income would spend at least 55% of its total income on these items. This low-income cut-off is based on a matrix that includes both family size and size of the community of residence. For example, a family of four living in an area with a population of 100,000 to 499,999 people would be classified as low income if its income level for 2005 was $33,251 or less.

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**Figure 4.3**

Proportion of Low Income Before Tax by Economic Family Type, Peel, 1995 and 2005

- 11.4†
- 17.4
- 40.8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic family type</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couple families</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male lone parent families</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female lone parent families</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Included married couples only
Source: 1996 and 2001 Census, Statistics Canada
Map 4.2
Prevalence of Low Income After Tax†
by Census Tract, Peel, 2005

Prevalence of Low Income
After Tax (2005)†

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Number of Census Tracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.00–5.50</td>
<td>(43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.60–7.90</td>
<td>(42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00–9.90</td>
<td>(40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00–13.50</td>
<td>(40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.60–25.60</td>
<td>(40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Percentage of economic families or persons not in economic families who spend 20% or more of their after-tax income than average on food, shelter and clothing
Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Peel’s unemployment rate is similar to Ontario’s rate

Peel is home to 746,060 residents aged 25 years and older. Seventy-four per cent of these residents are in the labour force. Peel’s unemployment rate of 5% (representing 27,250 people) is similar to the provincial rate.³⁷

Peel’s unemployment rate has increased in the past five years. This increase in unemployment has been greater in younger age groups.³⁸

The leading industries in Peel are manufacturing, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, wholesale trade and professional, scientific and technical services. The list of leading industries has not changed in the past five years.³⁹

Immigrants are generally healthy

Immigration status and length of time since immigration can have a significant impact on health status for a variety of reasons. In general, recent immigrants are healthier than long-term immigrants or non-immigrants. Typically, the immigration process favours people who are younger and better educated and, in turn, healthier. This is known as the “healthy migrant effect.” Despite their initial health advantages, immigrants face major life changes that can generate high stress levels and undermine health. As well, immigrant populations from parts of the world in which diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria are prevalent might have health care needs that are different from the non-immigrant population.

Forty-nine per cent of Peel’s population are immigrants. In comparison, immigrants represent 28% of the Ontario population and 20% of the Canadian population. Within Peel, Mississauga has the highest proportion of immigrants at 52%.

More than half (51%) of Peel’s immigrants were born in Asia and the Middle East, which includes Eastern Asia (including China, Hong Kong), Southeast Asia (including the Philippines), Southern Asia (including India) and the Middle East. Twenty-seven per cent of Peel immigrants were born in Europe.⁴⁰

Ten per cent of Peel’s residents arrived in Canada within the past five years (Figure 4.4 on next page). This is double the amount for Ontario as a whole. Three quarters of these immigrants to Peel were born in Asia and the Middle East.

Areas with a higher proportion of new immigrants tend to have lower median household incomes, as shown in Map 4.3 (page 48). Please note that for the purposes of Map 4.3, the definition of “new immigrant” is those who have arrived within the past five years, which is different that the definition used in the rest of this report.
Map 4.3
After-Tax Median Household Income and New Immigrants by Census Tract, Peel, 2006

After-Tax median household income
Canadian Dollars (2005)
- $35,500–$50,000
- $50,001–$62,000
- $62,001–$68,500
- $68,501–$75,000
- $75,001–$135,000

New immigrants (2001 to 2006) represented as a percentage of total immigrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Number of Census Tracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.00–11.60</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.61–16.02</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.03–20.57</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.58–26.68</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.69–30.30</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Ethnic origin can have an impact on health

With the high rates of immigration to Peel comes a mix of ethnic origins and languages that enhance the community’s diversity. Ethnic origin can have an impact on health due to differences in diet, health behaviours and genetic make-up, among other factors (Figure 4.5).

Map 4.4 (page 49) shows, for areas within Peel, the most common ethnic origin identified by residents.

Figure 4.4
Period of Immigration, Peel and Ontario, 2006

![Figure 4.4 Period of Immigration, Peel and Ontario, 2006](image)

Figure 4.5
Top 10 Ethnic Origins†, Peel and Ontario, 2006

![Figure 4.5 Top 10 Ethnic Origins, Peel and Ontario, 2006](image)
Map 4.4
Dominant Ethnic Origins
by Dissemination Areas, Peel, 2006

Ethnic Origin Responses
- North American / British Isles / Western European
- Eastern European
- Southern European
- East and Southeast Asian
- South Asian
- West Asian
- Caribbean
- African
- Arab

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Half of Peel residents identify themselves as a visible minority

One half of Peel’s population self-reported themselves as members of a visible minority, which is a much higher proportion than that for the province (23%). In Peel, South Asian is the most commonly reported visible minority category; this category is much more common in Peel than Ontario as a whole (Figure 4.6).

Religion

Religion can have an impact on health, most directly through the influence on health-related practices. For example, religions might encourage members to be vegetarian or prohibit alcohol consumption (Table 4.4).

### Figure 4.6
Visible Minority Status, Peel and Ontario, 2006

![Figure 4.6](image)

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

### Table 4.4
Most Commonly Reported Religions†, Peel and Ontario, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mississauga (%)</th>
<th>Brampton (%)</th>
<th>Caledon (%)</th>
<th>Peel (%)</th>
<th>Ontario (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>69.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Ranking based on Peel
Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada
In 2006 in Peel, most of the population (96%) reported having knowledge of English or French. However, 43,180 Peel residents do not speak either official language.

Figure 4.7 shows the difference between 1991 and 2006 in the proportion of Peel residents reporting no knowledge of either official language. Note that the increase was most marked in Brampton, while the rise in Ontario as a whole has been slight. In 2006 in Peel, the top three non-official languages spoken at home were Punjabi (7%), Urdu (3%) and Polish (2%).

Figure 4.7
No Knowledge of English or French, Peel and Ontario, 1991 and 2006

Per cent of population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peel</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledon</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missisauga</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 1991 and 2006 Censuses, Statistics Canada