

Health Indicator Report

Community Belonging

Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on the sense of community belonging among residents aged 12 and over in Halton Region and Ontario.

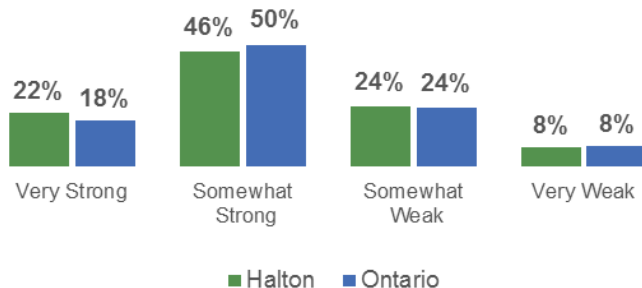
A community belonging is the “degree to which an individual is, or perceives to be, connected to their community”.¹ A sense of community belonging has been linked to improved physical and mental health.² Lack of social engagement can be detrimental to health and therefore it is important to continue to improve feelings of community belonging as an upstream approach to assist in preventing illness and promoting health.²

This health indicator report uses data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

Overall Findings

In 2013/14, 22% of Halton residents aged 12 and over reported a very strong sense of community belonging, 46% a somewhat strong sense, 24% somewhat weak and 8% very weak.

There were no statistically significant differences between Halton and Ontario residents who reported their sense of community belonging.

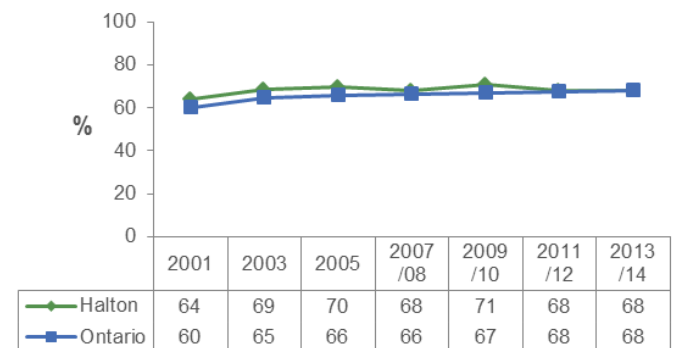


Sense of community belonging, residents aged 12 and over, Halton Region and Ontario, 2013/14

Trends Over Time

In 2013/14, 68% of Halton residents reported a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. There were no statistically significant changes over time in Halton Region from 2003 to 2013/14.

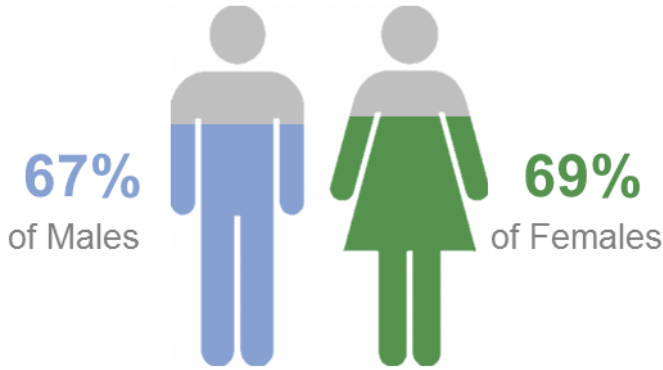
From 2003 to 2013/14, the percentage of Ontario residents who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging increased from 60% to 68%. This increase was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, Halton Region and Ontario, 2003-2014

Sex

In 2013/14, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton residents who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.

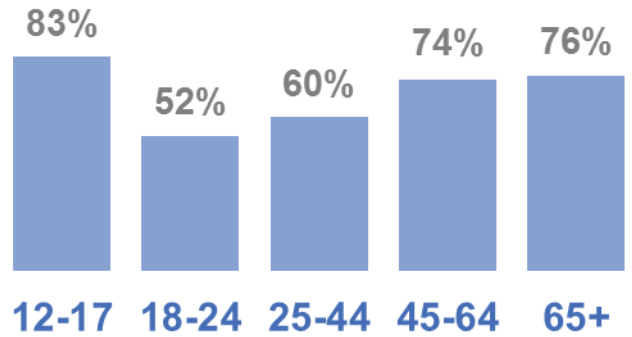


Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, by sex, Halton Region, 2013/14

Age

In 2013/14, with the exception of the 12-17 age group, sense of community belonging in Halton increased as age increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing ages 18-24 and 25-44 with ages 45-64 and 65+.

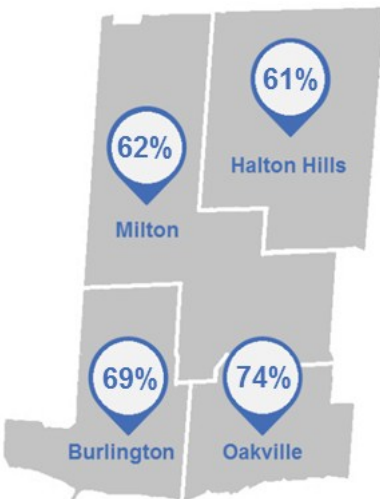
Halton youth aged 12-17 were most likely to report a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing ages 12-17 to ages 18-24 and 25-44.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, by age, Halton Region, 2013/14

Municipality

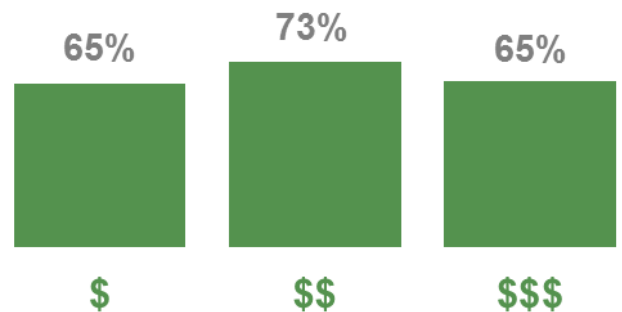
In 2013/14, residents in Oakville were more likely than residents in Milton and Halton Hills to report a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. However, these differences were not statistically significant.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, by municipality, Halton Region, 2013/14

Income

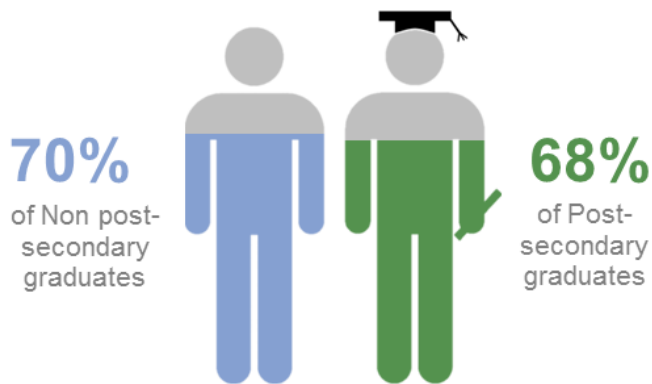
In 2013/14, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton residents who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, by income, Halton Region, 2013/14

Education

In 2013/14, there was no statistically significant difference by education in the percentage of Halton residents who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.



Percentage of residents aged 25 and over who reported a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community, by education, Halton Region, 2013/14

Data Notes

For more information on CCHS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, please see the Data Notes and Guide available at www.halton.ca/healthstats.

Data Source: Canadian Community Health Survey [2001-2014], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario MOHLTC

References

1. Hystad P, Carpiano RM. 2012. Sense of community-belonging and health-behaviour change in Canada. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 66(3), 277-283.
2. Statistics Canada. 2016. Community Belonging. Accessed November 24 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-229-x/2009001/envir/cob-eng.htm>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at www.halton.ca/healthstats.