

# Public support for policies related to alcohol

## Health indicator report

### Background

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- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about support among Halton adults aged 18 and over for policies related to the labelling, cost and sale of alcohol.
- Alcohol consumption is a leading risk factor for disease, disability, and premature death in Canada.<sup>1</sup> Research has shown that controls on the price, physical availability, and marketing of alcohol can reduce the risk of alcohol-related harms in the community.<sup>2</sup>
- For more information on Halton residents' attitudes towards alcohol access and policy, see the [Awareness of the link between alcohol access and consumption](#) and the [Public support for changes in alcohol availability](#) indicator reports at [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).
- This health indicator report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

### Key findings

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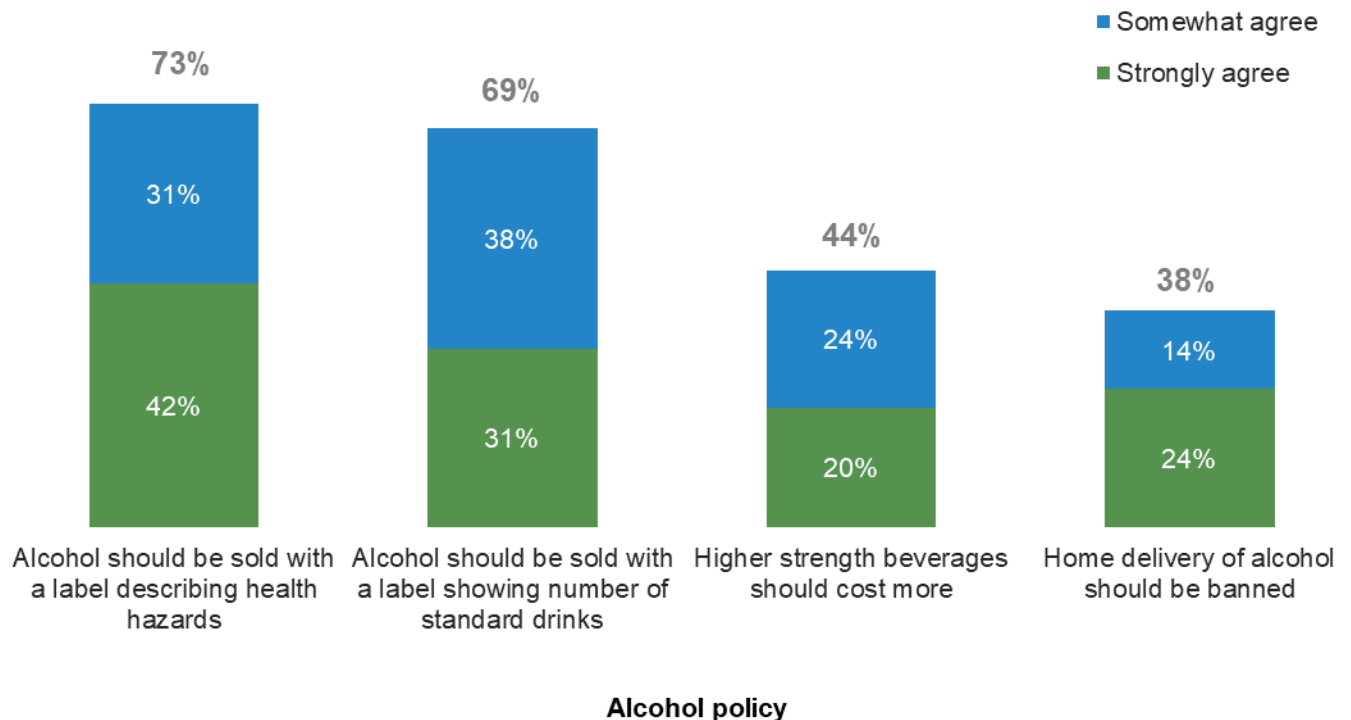
- In 2018 among Halton adults,
  - 73% agreed that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol.
  - 69% agreed that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within.
  - 44% agreed that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages by volume.
  - 38% agreed that buying alcohol for home delivery should be banned.
- In general, females and adults aged 18-24 were more likely to support policies related to alcohol use (with the exception of banning alcohol for home delivery).



# Support for policies related to alcohol

## Overview

- In 2018:
  - 73% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol.
  - 69% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within.
  - 44% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages by volume (i.e. a 500ml beverage with 10% alcohol content should cost more than a 500ml beverage with 5% alcohol content).
  - 38% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that buying alcohol for home delivery (e.g. ordering online or by phone) should be banned.



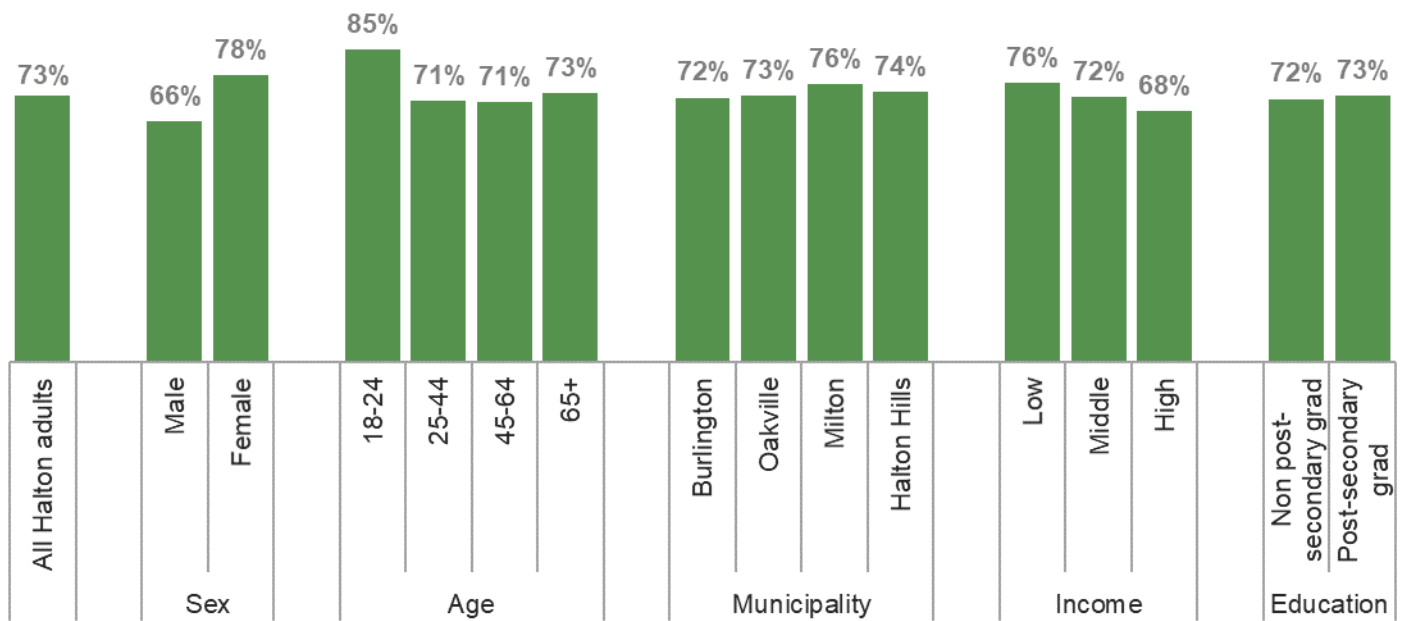
Percentage of Halton adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree with alcohol policies, Halton Region, 2018



# Support for policies related to alcohol

## Support for health hazard warning labels

- In 2018:
  - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol. This difference was **statistically significant**.
  - Halton adults aged 18-24 were more likely than all other age groups to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 18-24 to adults aged 45-64.
  - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol.



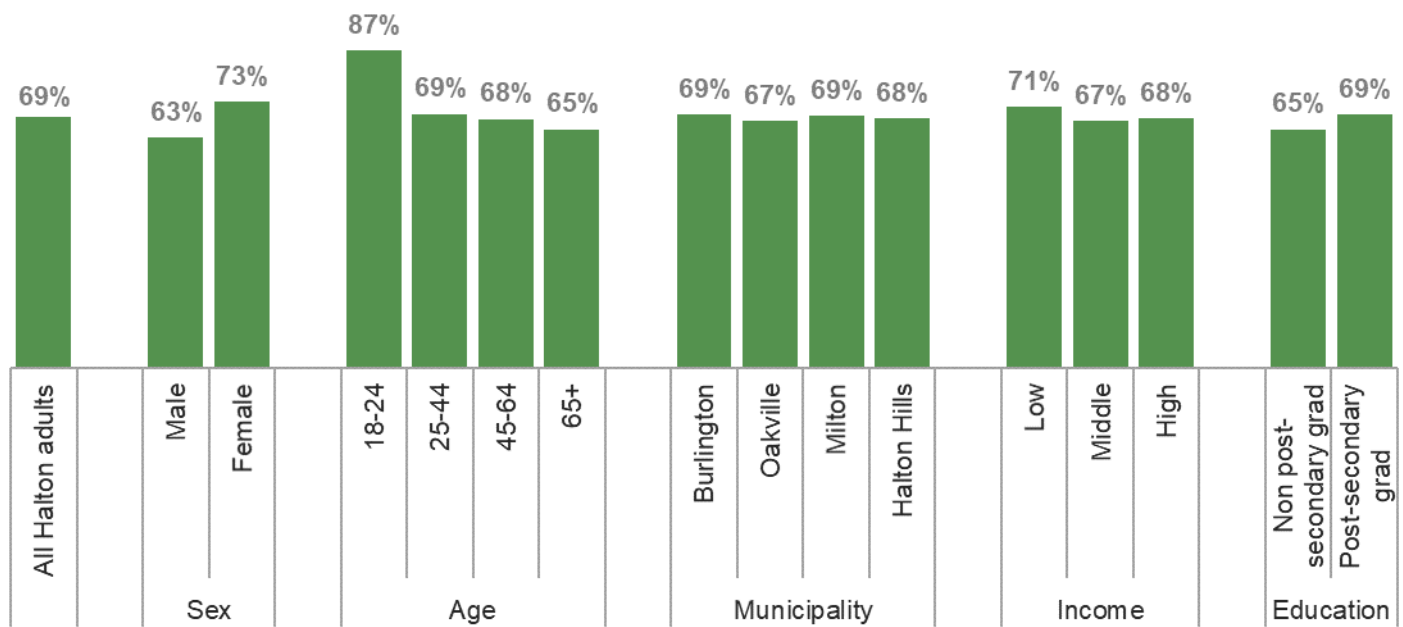
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a warning label that describes the health hazards of drinking alcohol, Halton Region, 2018



# Support for policies related to alcohol

## Support for standard drink labels

- In 2018:
  - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within. This difference was **statistically significant**.
  - Halton adults aged 18-24 were more likely than all other age groups to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 18-24 to all other age groups.
  - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within.



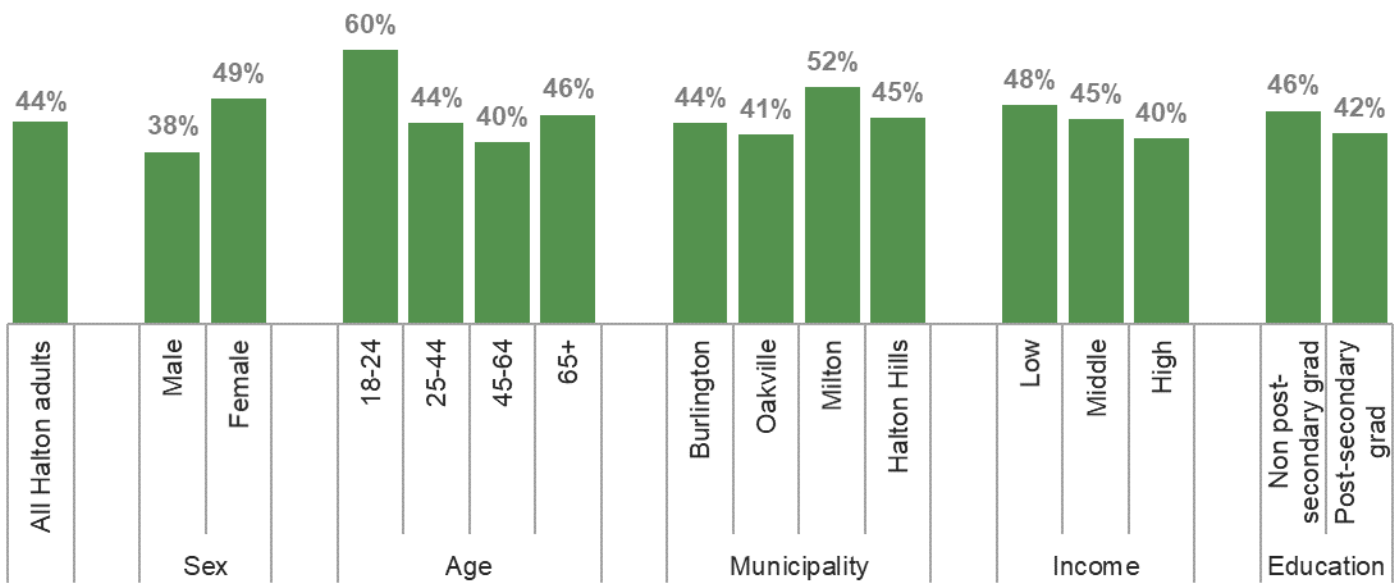
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that alcohol at retail outlets should be sold with a label that shows how many standard drinks are contained within, Halton Region, 2018



# Support for policies related to alcohol

## Support for price increases for higher strength beverages

- In 2018:
  - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages by volume (i.e. a 500ml beverage with 10% alcohol content should cost more than a 500ml beverage with 5% alcohol content). This difference was **statistically significant**.
  - Halton adults aged 18-24 were more likely than all other age groups to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages by volume. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 18-24 to adults aged 45-64.
  - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages by volume.



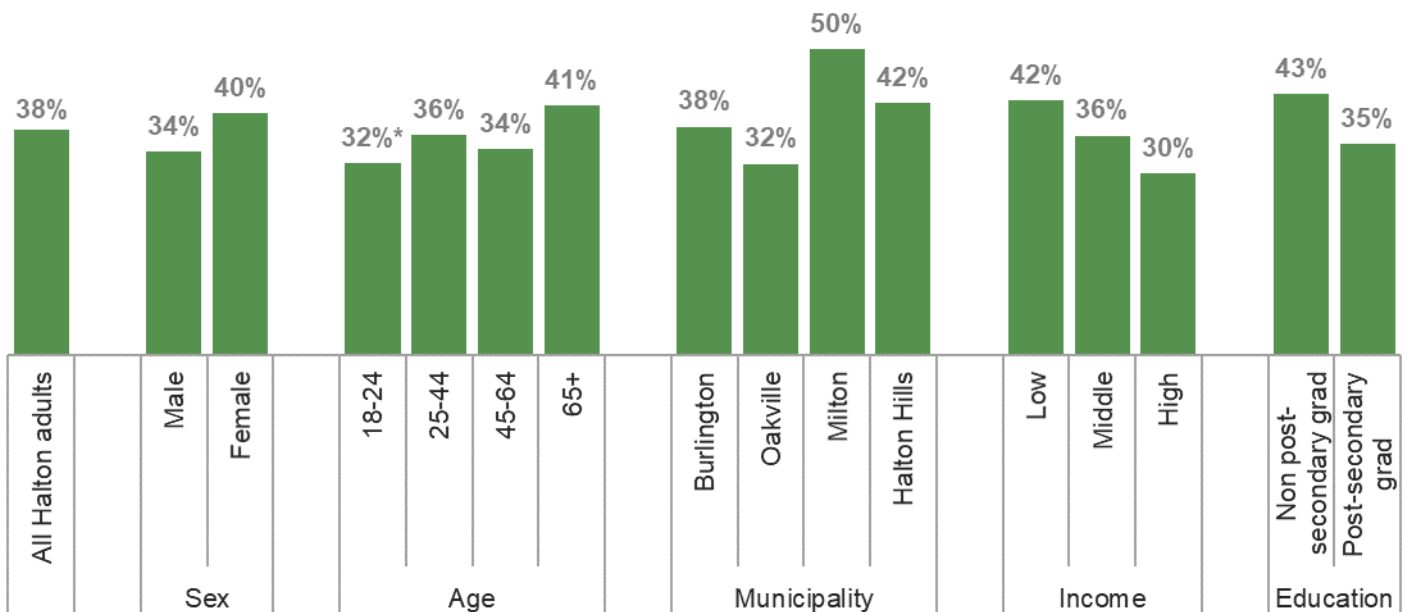
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that the price of alcohol should be higher for higher strength beverages, Halton Region, 2018



## Support for policies related to alcohol

### Support for banning home delivery of alcohol

- In 2018:
  - Halton adults living in Milton were more likely than adults living in Oakville to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that buying alcohol for home delivery (e.g. ordering online or by phone) should be banned. This difference was **statistically significant**.
  - There were no statistically significant differences by sex, age, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that buying alcohol for home delivery should be banned.



Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that buying alcohol for home delivery should be banned, Halton Region, 2018

# About RRFSS

- The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) is an on-going telephone survey (land line and cell phone) used to collect information on attitudes, behaviours, knowledge and awareness of issues related to health in Halton. RRFSS is conducted by the Institute of Social Research and York University.
- Each year, a random sample of approximately 1,200 adults aged 18 and over are surveyed in Halton Region.
- In 2016, RRFSS underwent changes in sampling and analysis methodology. **Therefore, it is not recommended to compare data from the 2016 onwards to past years of RRFSS data.**
- For more information on RRFSS methodology, limitations and statistical terms see the RRFSS Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

# Data notes

## Definitions:

A **standard drink** is one bottle/can/glass of beer, one glass of wine (5 oz), one wine cooler or a drink/cocktail with 1 and a 1/2 ounces of liquor.

**Data Source:** Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2018], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Estimates marked with an asterisk (\*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability.

The education variable includes adults aged 25 and over.

## References

1. Public Health Ontario. 2019. Alcohol. Retrieved November 2019 from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/health-promotion/alcohol>
2. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. 2019. Alcohol policy framework. Retrieved November 2019 from <http://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---public-policy-submissions/camh-alcoholpolicyframework-2019-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=6DCD59D94B92BBC148A8D6F6F4A8EAA6D2F6E09B>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics webpage at [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

*Last updated: November 2019*