

Health Indicator Report

Sexual Health Behaviours

Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on the sexual health behaviours of residents aged 15 to 49 living in Halton Region and Ontario.

Sexual health is an important component of public health. Healthy sexual practices include, but are not limited to, providing contraception and the prevention and/or management of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs).¹ The Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol (2013) of the Ontario Public Health Standards provides guidelines to prevent and control STBBIs and to promote healthy sexuality for priority populations, people diagnosed with STBBIs, and their partners.² The Halton Region Health Department offers many programs and resources surrounding sexual health, which can be found at <http://www.halton.ca>.³

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

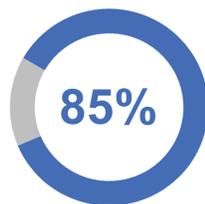
Ever Having Sexual Intercourse

Overall Findings

For 2009-2014 combined, 83% of Halton residents aged 15-49 and 85% of Ontario residents aged 15-49 reported ever having sexual intercourse. This difference was not statistically significant.



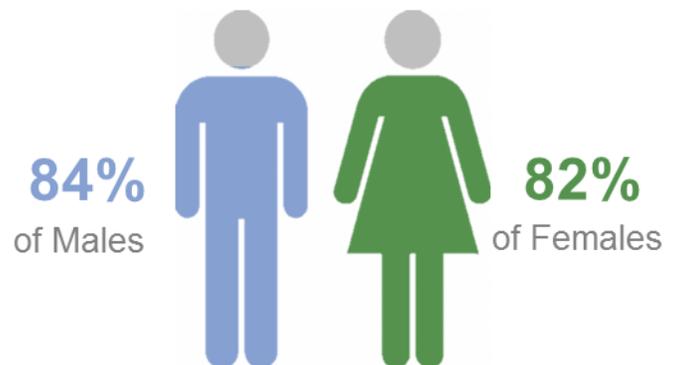
of Halton residents



of Ontario residents

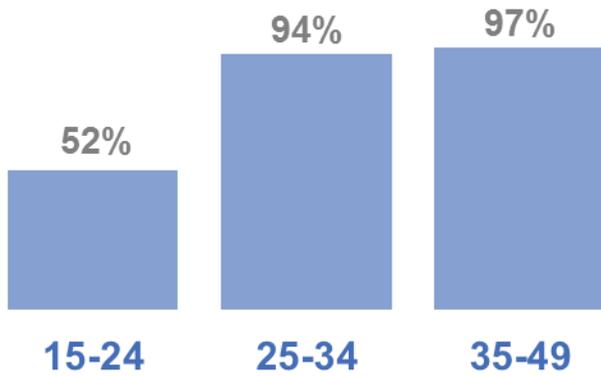
Sex

For 2009-2014 combined, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton residents who reported ever having sexual intercourse.



Age

For 2009-2014 combined, Halton residents aged 15-24 were less likely than residents in all other age groups to report ever having sexual intercourse, and these differences were statistically significant.



Percentage of residents aged 15-49 who reported ever having sexual intercourse, by age, Halton Region, 2009-2014 combined

Age of First Sexual Intercourse

For 2009-2014 combined, the median age of first sexual intercourse among Halton residents who had ever had sex was 18 years of age.

The median age of first sexual intercourse among Halton males who have ever had sexual intercourse was 17 years of age while for females it was 18 years of age.



Median age of first sexual intercourse (out of the total population who have ever had sexual intercourse) by sex, Halton Region and Ontario, 2009-2014 combined

Number of Sexual Partners

For 2009-2014 combined, 7% of Halton residents who have ever had sexual intercourse reported having no sexual partners in the past 12 months, 81% reported having one sexual partner and 12% reported having two or more sexual partners.



7% of Halton residents had no sexual partners



81% of Halton residents had one sexual partner



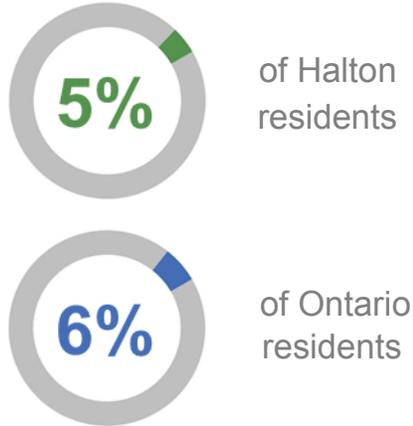
12% of Halton residents had two or more sexual partners

Percentage of residents aged 15-49 who reported the number of sexual partners they have had in the past 12 months (out of the total population who have ever had sexual intercourse), Halton Region, 2009-2014 combined

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Overall Findings

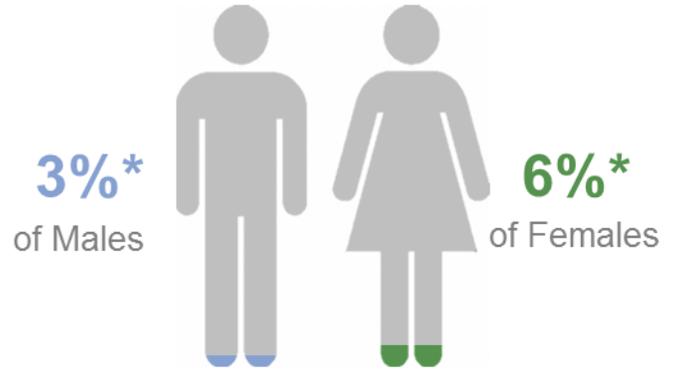
For 2009-2014 combined, there was no statistically significant difference in the percentage of Halton and Ontario residents who have ever had sexual intercourse who reported ever being diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection.



Percentage of residents aged 15-49 who reported ever having a STI (out of the total population who have ever had sexual intercourse), Halton Region and Ontario, 2009-2014 combined

Sex

For 2009-2014 combined, Halton females were more likely than males to report ever being diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection. However, this difference was not statistically significant.

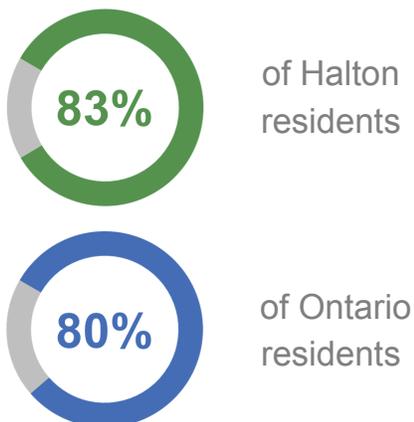


Percentage of residents aged 15-49 who reported ever having a STI (out of the total population who have ever had sexual intercourse), by sex, Halton Region and Ontario, 2009-2014 combined

Birth Control

Overall Findings

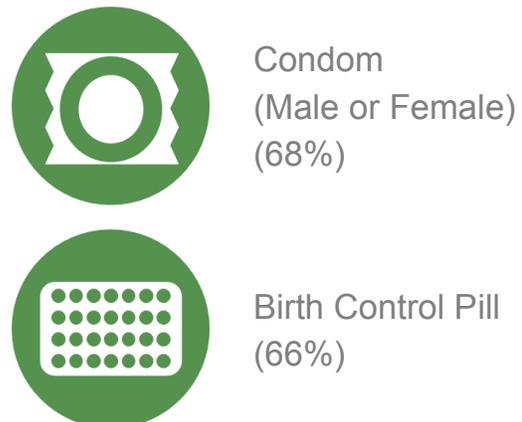
For 2009-2014 combined, there was no statistically significant difference in the percentage of Halton and Ontario residents aged 15-24 who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months who reported that they and/or their partner usually used birth control in the past 12 months.



Percentage of residents aged 15-24 who reported usually using birth control in the past 12 months (out of the population who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months), Halton Region and Ontario, 2009-2014 combined

Most Common Types

For 2009-2014 combined, the top two forms of birth control used among both Halton and Ontario residents who reported that they usually used birth control in the past 12 months were condoms and the birth control pill.



Percentage of residents aged 15-24 who reported usually using specific types of birth control in the past 12 months (out of the population who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months and usually use birth control), Halton Region and Ontario, 2009-2014 combined

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

Data Source: Canadian Community Health Survey [2009-2014], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario MOHLTC.

Limitations: As CCHS is self-reported, measures can be subject to social desirability bias and recall bias, particularly for sensitive topics like sexual activity. Data from 2009 to 2014 were combined to allow a sufficient sample size for analysis. It is also important to note that the question regarding the most common types of birth control contains outdated response categories and does not include options such as contraceptive vaginal rings or intrauterine devices (IUDs).

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

References

1. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. 2017. Ontario Public Health Standards: Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Blood-borne Infections. Accessed April 2017 from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/shstibb.aspx
2. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. 2013. Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2013. Accessed April 2017 from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/sexual_health_sti.pdf
3. Halton Region. 2017. Sexual Health. Accessed April 2017 from <http://www.halton.ca>.

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

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