

# Community Safety & Well-Being in Halton



A Plan for Collaboration & Action



## Message from the Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr



Halton Region is committed to providing programs and services that support the health and well-being of all residents in our community. Halton is a vibrant and growing region with safe communities and a high quality of life. To help keep Halton safe and healthy today, tomorrow and for future generations, Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service have partnered to develop *Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton: A Plan for Collaboration and Action*.

Building safe and healthy communities is a shared responsibility. The Plan expands on our commitment to work with the Halton Regional Police Service and community partners by creating a model to identify and address emerging issues and trends that impact safety and well-being in our community. The Plan will also enhance our ability to respond to issues in a coordinated manner and builds on many successful efforts that contribute to a strong sense of community safety and well-being in Halton.

On behalf of Halton Regional Council, I would like to thank the Halton Region Police Service and all partners involved in this important initiative for all the work you do each day to make Halton one of the safest communities in Canada. Working together, we keep Halton a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

Gary Carr,  
*Halton Regional Chair*

## Message from the Halton Regional Police Services Board



The Halton Regional Police Services Board sees this first Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Halton Region as the next step on our community's shared path to creating a safer and more fulfilling community for everyone.

The Plan recognizes that community safety and well-being are responsibilities shared by all members of the community. Our Plan creates a model for agencies and community members to collaborate to raise the quality of life in our region.

Sir Robert Peel, the father of modern policing, believed that "the police should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic traditions that the police are the public and the public are the police." He said Police are members of the community who are paid to exercise full-time devotion to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of any community's very existence and welfare.

Responding to community needs remains at the forefront of our policing initiatives and partnering with Halton Region on the creation and implementation of this Plan is another way we are putting Sir Robert Peel's philosophy into practice. It also enables us to respond to emerging issues as we strive to maintain our longstanding distinction as Canada's safest regional municipality.

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton,  
*Chairman, Halton Regional Police Services Board*

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# Acknowledgements

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Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton: A Plan for Collaboration and Action was developed by a joint working group led by Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service. Members of the working group would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Global Network for Community Safety for advice in the development of Halton’s model for collaboration, planning and action. The working group would also like to thank members of the community that took part in a public consultation process that has helped shape the trajectory of the Plan. Finally, the working group would like to extend its appreciation to the Halton Situation Table for sharing their insight throughout the process.

# Introduction

Halton is a safe, healthy and vibrant region. Compared to similar jurisdictions in Ontario, Halton is performing well on a number of overall indicators of well-being and continues to be recognized as one of the safest communities in Canada<sup>1</sup>. Halton is also a growing community.

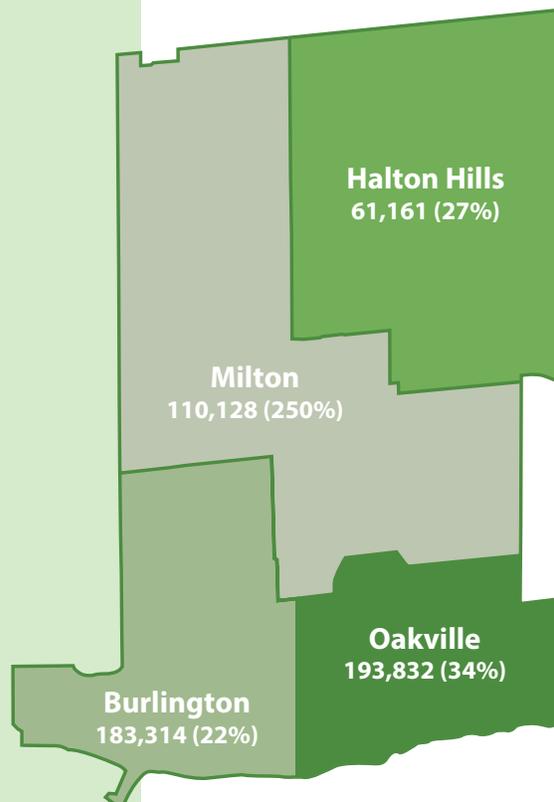
*Many calls to police are non-criminal in nature. These calls are often rooted in complex mental health or social issues, many of which could be dealt with more effectively outside of the emergency response system.*

Between 2001 and 2016, Halton's population increased from 375,000 residents to nearly 550,000, a rate of growth that is more than twice the provincial average. By 2041, Halton is expected to grow to more than one million people.

As Halton continues to grow, it is important to maintain high levels of safety and continue to enhance the well-being of residents and communities that are vulnerable due to social, economic or health related risk factors. A key step in addressing issues is the development of Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The Plan was developed in partnership between Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service as part of our shared commitment to be **the safest and healthiest region in Canada**. It builds on a strong history of partnering with our communities and positions Halton at the forefront of the emerging practice of community safety and well-being planning.

This approach to planning recognizes that complex risks to safety and well-being cannot be addressed in isolation by any one organization or sector. Too often, situations rooted in issues like mental health, addictions, a lack of safe and affordable housing, inadequate access to services or social isolation require an emergency response from the police, paramedics, hospital emergency department or other crisis-driven services.

**Figure 1: Population**  
(population growth in Halton - 2001-2016)



In many cases, these issues could be addressed earlier and more effectively through greater collaboration among sectors including police, paramedics, education, public health, healthcare, social services and community-based human services agencies. Community safety and well-being planning is a collaborative process so that people “in need of help receive the right response, at the right time, and by the right service provider.”<sup>2</sup>

Halton's Plan will strengthen how we collaborate with our partners on important issues that impact safety and well-being in Halton. Specifically, it provides a model for collaboration, planning and action to shape how we identify and respond to current and emerging issues through ongoing engagement with community stakeholders. In many respects, the Plan formalizes a strong ethos of collaboration amongst the Region, Halton Regional Police Service and our partners. It also documents and builds on successful initiatives that improve safety and enhance the well-being of vulnerable populations (Appendix 1).

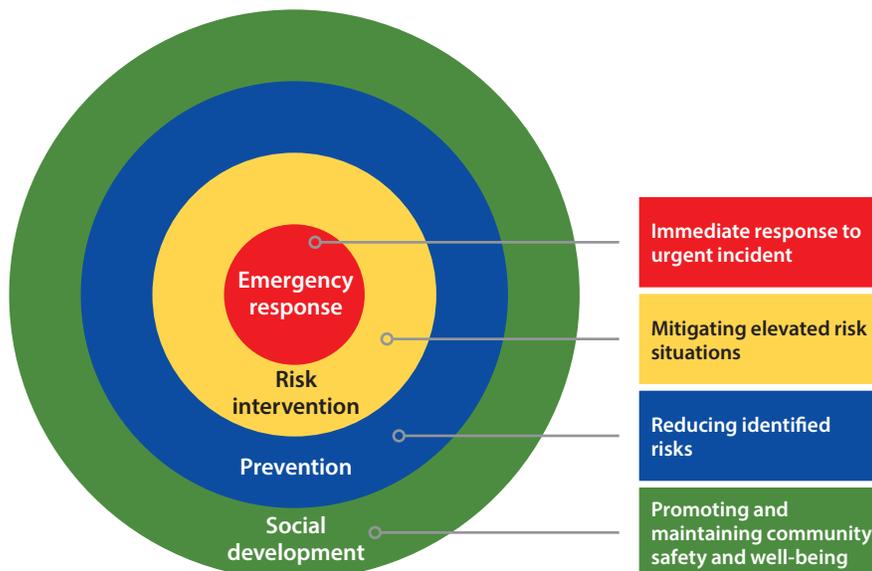
# Community Safety And Well-Being Planning In Ontario: An Emerging Approach

Provincially, the concept of community safety and well-being planning has been championed by the Ontario Working Group on Collaborative, Risk-driven Community Safety (a subcommittee of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police) and the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. In 2014, the Ontario Working Group released the report *New Directions in Community Safety* which encourages community safety and well-being planning within four levels of intervention.<sup>3</sup>

- **Social Development:** Addressing the underlying causes of social issues through upstream approaches that promote and maintain individual and community wellness. This includes opportunities for employment, income, adequate housing, access to education and other supports that promote social and economic inclusion.
- **Prevention:** Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated.
- **Risk Intervention:** Identifying and responding to situations of acutely elevated risk and mobilizing immediate interventions before an emergency or crisis-driven response is required.
- **Emergency Response:** Circumstances that require intervention by first responders such as police, paramedics and other crisis-driven services in the human services system.

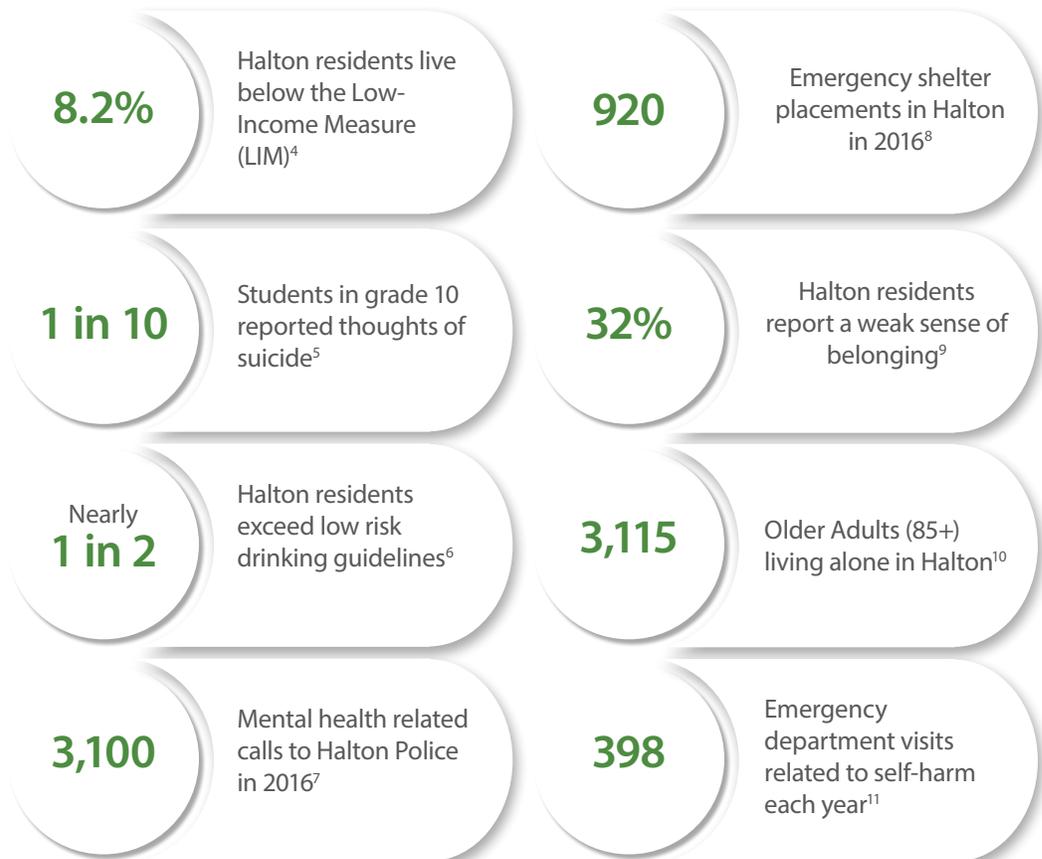
The approach is intended to be holistic and requires planning at all levels of intervention. The approach also recognizes that it is beneficial to maximize efforts in the outer zones to reduce harm to individuals, who have their needs met before the situation escalates into a crisis, and to prevent increases in demand for more costly, downstream interventions with police and other emergency response systems.

**Figure 2: Zones of Intervention for Community Safety and Well-Being Planning**



Halton is performing well on many indicators of community safety and well-being, but like all communities, has risk factors that require attention. Figure 3 highlights examples of community safety and well-being risks in Halton.

**Figure 3: Examples of Risk Factors in Halton**



## Towards Collaboration And Action To Enhance Community Safety And Well-Being In Halton

In 2016, Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service formed a joint working group to develop a plan that builds on the levels of intervention for community safety and well-being planning (see Figure 2). In particular, the working group was tasked with developing a planning model to achieve greater coordination and collaboration on issues that result in demand on services that operate in the yellow (risk mitigation) and red (emergency response) zones. This includes responding to conditions that are contributing to demand at the Halton Situation Table.

The Situation Table is a collaborative of the Halton Regional Police Service, Halton Region, local municipalities, social services and community-based organizations that identify and support individuals at an acutely elevated risk of harm, committing an offence, or coming into contact with police or other crisis-driven services. To date, Halton Situation Table partners have intervened in approximately 450 situations of acutely elevated risk.<sup>12</sup>

*The Halton Regional Police Service was presented with the 2017 IACP/CISCO Community Policing Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The award is presented to a law enforcement agency that has demonstrated outstanding community policing initiatives globally.*

The challenge is that there are currently limited opportunities to communicate system-level barriers or gaps that negatively impact vulnerable populations. For example, inadequate access to mental health services and safe, affordable housing are barriers to stabilizing many vulnerable individuals, but there are few opportunities to address these issues at a systems level. Although Halton has many population-specific issue and planning tables, currently there is no mechanism to respond to a wide range of community safety and well-being issues and trends in a coordinated and integrative manner.

Based on these factors, a multi-sector planning model is the foundation of Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to achieve greater coordination on issues at a system-wide level. The model will also serve as a mechanism to respond to issues that require a collaborative or integrated response.

## Community consultation

In April 2017, Halton Regional Council and the Halton Regional Police Services Board endorsed a draft Community Safety and Well-Being Plan as the basis for consulting with the Halton community. The consultation process sought input on the proposed model for collaboration, planning and action and the key community issues requiring action. More than 500 people participated in the consultation process by completing an online survey and/or attending public meetings that were held in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

The Plan sets the trajectory for community safety and well-being planning in Halton over the coming years but is by no means a final destination. Community safety and well-being issues continually evolve. While it is important to establish immediate priorities for action, it is equally important to retain a high level of flexibility to respond to a wide range of known and emerging needs over time. Halton's Plan strikes this balance by:

- creating a model to identify and respond to emerging safety and well-being issues;
- outlining key issues informed by the consultation process that will set an initial focus for the Plan; and
- a commitment to ongoing engagement and dialogue to ensure the Plan remains community informed and reflective of evolving needs.



# Halton's Model For Collaboration, Planning And Action

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Issues that impact the safety and well-being of communities are often complex and require collective involvement, effort and action from many partners. While some issues and risks can be addressed at an individual level through approaches like the Halton Situation Table, others require a broader or 'systems-based' approach. Halton's model for collaboration, planning and action (illustrated in Figure 4) outlines a flexible, action-oriented process to identify and respond to a wide range of community and system-level issues that impact safety and well-being in Halton.

The model is designed to facilitate two core functions:

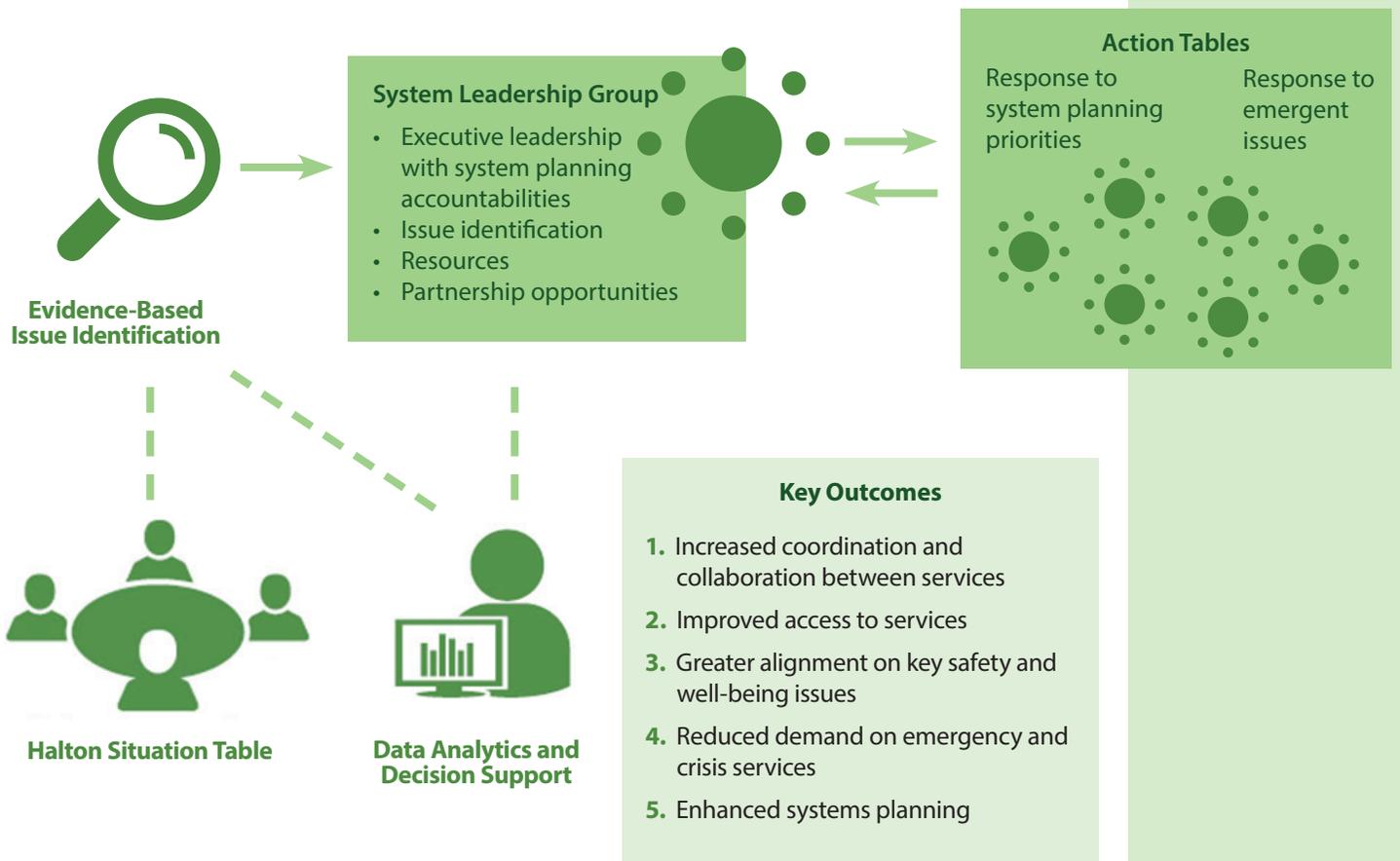
- 1. Provide an established mechanism through which known and emerging safety and well-being issues can be identified, prioritized and addressed in collaboration with the community.**
- 2. Address system-level barriers and gaps in the human services system that negatively impact people who are vulnerable and result in increases in demand on emergency and crisis-driven services.**

The model will also:

- convene executive leaders from organizations with a system planning accountability in Halton;
- anticipate issues and service gaps through enhanced data and knowledge sharing;
- ensure that Halton is response-ready when emerging issues are identified;
- achieve greater coordination between existing issue and planning tables and support consolidation where appropriate;
- strengthen how the human services system plans and deploys resources to address priority issues; and
- create opportunities to align resources and effort to collectively achieve impact on identified community safety and well-being priorities.

The four zones of intervention for community safety and well-being planning provides a conceptual lens for implementing Halton's model (see Figure 2). Emphasis will be placed on the outer zones (prevention and social development) to address issues in a proactive, upstream manner to mitigate increases in demand for emergency and crisis-driven services. Halton's model is open to responding to a wide range of issues and/or risk factors that impact community safety and well-being, particularly for vulnerable residents. As a starting point, the Plan's consultative phase has informed a number of issues that will shape an action focus during the first stages of implementation (see page 11).

**Figure 4: Halton’s Model for Collaboration, Planning and Action**

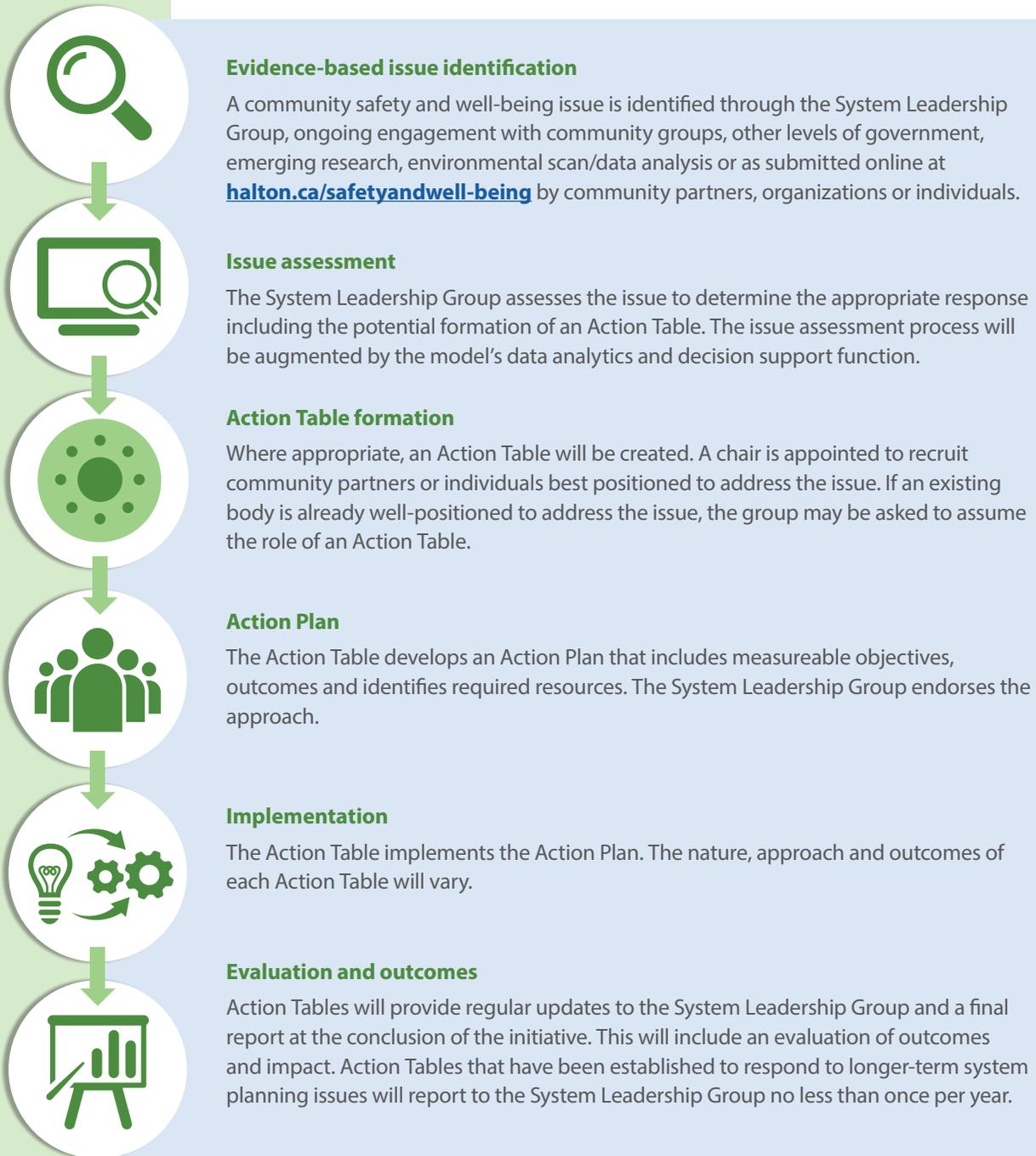


### How the model will operate

Halton’s model for collaboration, planning and action is directed by a System Leadership Group comprised of executive leaders from organizations with a key system planning accountability in the human services system. The System Leadership Group will have a broad mandate to apply an interdisciplinary lens to known, emergent and anticipated community and system-level issues. Issues will then be prioritized and addressed primarily by establishing Action Tables that will respond to both emergent issues and longer-term system planning priorities. Criteria will be applied to issues raised through the model to determine if an Action Table response may be effective (see page 9). In some instances, an organization within the System Leadership Group may be well positioned to respond to an issue and will take direct action.

Community partners are essential to the model to provide insight into the identification of issues and as active members of Action Tables where they contribute expertise and engage in solutions. The model will be supported by a data analytics and decision support function that will aid the issue identification process and facilitate information sharing on key issues. Figure 5 provides an overview of the issue identification and Action Table response process.

**Figure 5: Issue Identification and Action Table Response Process**



## The System Leadership Group

The System Leadership Group will steward the ongoing implementation of Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and direct Halton's model for collaboration, planning and action. This may include the following key roles:

- strategically identify and prioritize community safety and well-being issues for a potential response which may include establishing Action Tables;
- provide oversight and guidance to Action Tables through organizational and systems expertise, resources and other support as required;
- actively recruit Action Table participants when an issue falls within the mandate or system responsibilities of the member's organization;
- undertake environmental scans to identify issues in consultation with Provincial Ministries and other groups;
- lead systems change within the human services system;
- regularly seek input from community partners; and
- measure and report on progress and achievements.

The following membership has been proposed for the System Leadership Group. Membership is based on the presence of a systems planning accountability. Membership will be reviewed periodically.

- Halton Region – Chief Administrative Officer
- Halton Regional Police Service – Chief of Police
- City of Burlington – City Manager
- Town of Halton Hills – Chief Administrative Officer
- Town of Milton – Chief Administrative Officer
- Town of Oakville – Chief Administrative Officer
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde – Director of Education
- Halton Catholic District School Board – Director of Education
- Halton District School Board – Director of Education
- Halton Healthcare – President and Chief Executive Officer
- Joseph Brant Hospital - President and Chief Executive Officer
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network – Chief Executive Officer
- Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network – Chief Executive Officer

### **Criteria for considering an Action Table response**

- *The issue is supported by data/evidence.*
- *Achieving the desired outcome requires a collaborative or multi-sector approach.*
- *If the issue is not addressed, there is a risk to community safety or well-being.*
- *Another group is not already well-positioned to successfully address the issue within its current capacity or resources.*
- *The issue requires a broader community or system-level response. For instance, beyond the scale of an individual or family.*
- *The issue is of a size and scope that is actionable.*
- *There is a high likelihood that an Action Table will achieve the desired outcome.*

## Data analytics and decision support

Accurate and timely program and population data is critical to making informed policy and planning decisions at both an organizational and systems level. Halton's model will create an opportunity to facilitate data and knowledge sharing within the human services sector. This will occur through a data analytics and decision support function that will facilitate a number of key objectives involving:

- identifying evidence of emerging issues and trends to support the creation of Action Tables;
- supporting the data requirements of the System Leadership Group;
- establishing data, information sharing and privacy protocols between partner organizations including opportunities to share anonymized data to enable holistic and integrated human services planning;
- supporting the development and monitoring of community safety and well-being indicators for Halton; and
- developing neighbourhood level community safety and well-being profiles to guide human services planning efforts.

## Backbone support

Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service will provide staff support to Halton's model for collaboration, planning and action. Responsibilities will include:

- supporting the issue identification and Action Table response process;
- maintaining [halton.ca/safetyandwell-being](https://www.halton.ca/safetyandwell-being) as part of a multi-channeled approach to community engagement;
- providing analysis, advice and recommendations to support the System Leadership Group to set priorities for action;
- serving as a liaison between the System Leadership Group, Action Tables and community partners;
- providing advice, project management and operational support to Action Tables; and
- engaging regularly with the community on safety and well-being issues including faith-based, cultural and community organizations that represent the diversity of Halton and those who have lived experience of issues being considered for an Action Table response.

## Governance

The System Leadership Group will report its activities to Halton Regional Council and the Halton Regional Police Services Board. This will include an overview of progress made through Action Tables and other work undertaken by Halton Region, the Halton Regional Police Service, and members of the System Leadership Group to enhance community safety and well-being.

# Preliminary Issues for Attention

The System Leadership Group has begun a process of issue identification and prioritization, using feedback from the community consultation phase as a key input. The following issues have been identified for further examination and a potential action focus for Halton's model.

## 1. Reduce hospital readmissions for individuals with mental health issues:

Between 2013- 2015 there was an average of 1,600 hospitalizations for mental health issues in Halton each year.<sup>13</sup> In 2015, approximately 12 per cent of those hospitalized for a mental illness aged 15 and over were readmitted within a 30 day period.<sup>14</sup> Readmissions may be an indication that a more effective system-based response is needed. A focused approach to reduce Halton's readmission rate will result in better patient outcomes and alleviate demand on mental health services.

## 2. Enhance access to mental health supports for adolescents and youth:

In Halton, emergency department visits for mental health issues are highest among older teenagers and young adults. Between 2013 and 2015, youth ages 15-24 had more than 5,800 visits per year, which accounted for over a quarter of all mental health visits at emergency departments in Halton.<sup>15</sup> Halton's model for collaboration, planning and action will explore strategies to reduce emergency department visits through earlier interventions. This may include strengthening supports during the early years where symptoms of mental health issues often emerge<sup>16</sup>.

## 3. Establish a proactive response to opioid misuse:

The misuse of opioids like fentanyl is a growing public health concern across Canada. While indicators of opioid use are consistently lower in Halton than in many other communities, rates of opioid-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations are on the rise.<sup>17</sup> Opioid use is a complex issue that requires the involvement of multiple agencies across different sectors, levels of government and the community. Halton's model is well-positioned to lead a collaborative approach to monitor trends and prevent further increases in opioid misuse in the region.

## 4. Coordinate efforts to reduce homelessness and prevent eviction:

Homelessness can result from many challenges in life such as a mental health issue, job loss, family conflict, domestic violence or an illness. During a one-day point-in-time-count in 2016, it was identified that approximately 264 people in Halton were homeless<sup>18</sup>; this is in addition to many others that are precariously housed, couch surfing or facing other circumstances that place them at-risk of becoming homeless or being evicted. A coordinated strategy to wrap services together with housing solutions can reduce the risk of homelessness in Halton.

## 5. Improve responses to sexual assault and support survivors:

According to self-reported data from the General Social Survey on Victimization, there were 37 incidents of sexual assault for every 1,000 women in Canada in 2014.<sup>19</sup> Opportunities exist to work together to reduce gender-based violence and enhance support to survivors will be addressed.



1,600

average number of hospitalizations for mental health issues in Halton each year<sup>20</sup>



27%

of emergency department visits for mental health issues in Halton were from youth aged 15-24<sup>21</sup>



127

emergency department visits for opioid overdose in Halton in 2016<sup>22</sup>



264

individuals in Halton who were homeless during a 2016 point-in-time count<sup>23</sup>



20%

of Halton residents  
aged 65+ lived alone in  
2016<sup>29</sup>

6. **Support youth exiting child welfare services to achieve positive outcomes:** Youth in and from care face a wide range of challenges that are disproportionate to peers that have not been involved in the child welfare system. For example, 44 per cent of youth in and from care complete secondary school compared to 82 per cent of Ontario youth overall.<sup>24</sup> Youth in and from care also have greater involvement in the youth justice system and are more likely to become homeless.<sup>25</sup> A made-in-Halton approach will be developed to enhance support to youth exiting care.
7. **Address isolation among older adults:** Isolation and lack of connectedness in one's older adult years can have economic, social, physical and mental health impacts.<sup>26</sup> For example, older adults in Halton who report a strong sense of community belonging also report better mental health compared to those who did not have a strong sense of belonging.<sup>27</sup> Halton is home to nearly 82,000 older adults age 65 years or older including 16,000 who live alone — more than 3,000 of whom are over 85.<sup>28</sup> As Halton's older adult population continues to grow, it is important to take steps to build aging-friendly communities that foster a strong sense of belonging, and to support those who are most at-risk of poor outcomes due to a lack of social support. The objective will be to identify strategies to mitigate older adult isolation, particularly for those who are most vulnerable.

## Moving Forward

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Halton's Plan sets a collaborative trajectory to strengthen how we work together to continually enhance the health and well-being of our communities and maintain our long-standing reputation as the safest region in Canada. We are taking action now to ensure that our human service system is well-positioned to identify and respond to emerging issues as the region continues to grow. This includes enhanced data collection and coordination to keep a pulse on the evolving needs of communities so that we can stay ahead of the curve and respond to issues in a more proactive manner. As we move from planning to implementation, we are committed to maintaining an action focus and will continue to seek input and active participation from community partners.

# Appendix 1. Leading Halton-Based Practices: Enhancing Community Safety And Well-Being Within The Four Levels Of Intervention

Halton Region, the Halton Regional Police Service and our partners continue to respond to community needs through a range of initiatives at all four levels of intervention within the community safety and well-being framework. Several leading practices are highlighted below.

## Homeward Bound Halton: Supporting single, mother-led families to reach their full potential

Homeward Bound Halton is an initiative of Home Suite Hope, an Oakville-based charitable organization that supports single, mother-led families in partnership with Halton Region, Sheridan College, the Oakville Community Foundation and many other community partners. The program is modeled on a highly successful, evidence-based approach by Toronto's Woodgreen Community Services. Homeward Bound Halton provides single, mother-led families at-risk of homelessness with comprehensive supports including:

- child care and housing subsidies from Halton Region;
- fully funded tuition at Sheridan College through the Oakville Community Foundation, Genworth Canada and TD Bank, and other community partners; and
- access to internship and employment opportunities through an industry council comprised of community and business leaders.

By addressing the underlying factors that contribute to safety and well-being such as housing, education, and employment, Homeward Bound Halton is a model of social development that is breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

## Creating welcoming communities: The Halton Newcomer Strategy

Part of building a safe and healthy community is ensuring that everyone feels included. The Halton Newcomer Strategy (HNS) is a community based initiative with participation from Halton Region (HNS lead), the Halton Regional Police Service, Halton Multicultural Connections, the Halton District and Catholic District school boards, community agencies and the private sector.

HNS partners work 'upstream' to foster conditions that positively impact new immigrant and refugee settlement outcomes. This includes strengthening awareness and capacity to successfully integrate newcomers, working with employers to improve labour market opportunities, and coordinating settlement services to improve access. By strengthening newcomer supports, HNS partners are contributing to lasting change to ensure that Halton continues to remain a welcoming community.



## Preventing vulnerable persons from going missing: Project Lifesaver Halton

In January, 2017, the Halton Regional Police Service launched Project Lifesaver Halton in partnership with Halton Region and Project Lifesaver International. Project Lifesaver Halton is a program that helps families protect members who may wander or bolt, typically individuals living with:

- Alzheimer's disease;
- Autism;
- Down Syndrome;
- Acquired Brain Injury; or
- other kinds of cognitive impairment.

Participants in the program wear a small bracelet with a transmitter that sends out a radio tracking signal 24-hours a day, seven days a week.



When a caregiver notifies the police that an individual is missing, a specially trained emergency response team will use mobile tracking equipment to locate the missing person. To ensure Project Lifesaver is accessible to everyone in the community, Halton Region is fully subsidizing the start-up costs of the program for residents with low incomes.

## A proactive approach to maintain health and well-being: The Community Health Assessment Program



In response to a disproportionate number of paramedic calls at two senior residences operated by the Halton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC), Halton Paramedic Services partnered with HCHC and McMaster University to pilot the Community Health Assessment Program.

The program provides weekly access to Halton paramedics who provide health risk assessments, referrals and health education to older adults in HCHC and other senior housing communities. The goal of the program is to proactively support the health of older adults to prevent health decline and reduce the demand for paramedic services. The program is being evaluated by McMaster University.

## Intervening in situations of acutely elevated risk: The Halton Situation Table

The Situation Table is a critical component of Halton’s approach to community safety and well-being. Coordinated by the Halton Regional Police Service, the Situation Table is a partnership with Halton Region, local municipalities and non-profit human services organizations that



meet on a weekly basis to identify and support individuals at an acutely elevated risk of requiring intervention from police or other emergency and crisis driven services. When a situation is presented, the Situation Table partner best positioned to lead the response assumes responsibility and coordinates services to address risk factors and stabilize the situation.

The Situation Table began in 2013 as a pilot in Milton and was successfully

expanded to all communities in Halton in 2015 due to its potential to reduce the need for more costly ‘down-stream’ interventions in the criminal justice, healthcare and human services systems. As of September 2017, Situation Table partners have intervened in nearly 450 situations of elevated risk. Situation Table Partners are listed in Appendix 2.

## Mitigating health risks: The Community Referrals by Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) Program

Launched in 2010, the Community Referrals by Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) Program is an initiative of Halton Region Paramedic Services in partnership with the Home and Community Care (HCC) services offered through Halton-serving LHINs. The CREMS program provides support to patients who are frequent users of Paramedic Services or persons who are unable to cope in their current living environment.

During any paramedic response, if a paramedic feels the patient would benefit from HCC services, a CREMS referral is completed and forwarded to the local HCC for action. Reasons for a referral can include: mental health or cognitive impairments, a risk of falls, social isolation or chronic health conditions like Diabetes.

Once a CREMS referral is received, HCC contacts the patient within 24 hours to determine if services can be provided to stabilize the situation and/or reduce the likelihood of further contact with paramedic services or other emergency supports.



## Optimizing emergency response: Enhancing supports for mental health through the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team

Between 2012 and 2015, the Halton Regional Police Service experienced a 37 per cent increase in the number of reportable mental health occurrences dealt with by front line officers. In response to this emerging trend, the Halton Regional Police Service partnered with St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton to establish the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT).

Rapid Response Teams consist of a St. Joseph's mental health professional and a Halton Regional Police Service officer trained to defuse and de-escalate crisis situations. The teams are dispatched to mental health calls seven days per week to ensure that Halton residents with a mental health issue are provided with timely, specialized services that meet their immediate needs.

*Since being launched in 2015, the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team has responded to over 1,300 mental health related occurrences in Halton.<sup>30</sup>*

## Supporting the health, safety and well-being of Halton residents: The Halton Region Community Investment Fund

The Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF) provides funding to non-profit community health and social service programs that support the health, safety and well-being of Halton residents. This includes programs that:

- strengthen mental health;
- maintain housing and prevent homelessness;
- enhance food security;
- support children, youth and older adults; and
- meet the needs of other residents that experience social, economic or health inequities.

Between 2012 and 2017 the base budget for the HRCIF grew from \$700,000 to an investment of more than \$2 million in annual funding. This includes a \$600,000 increase approved through Halton Region's 2017 Budget and Business Plan with an emphasis on supporting programs and initiatives that strengthen safety and well-being. In 2017, the HRCIF provided funding to 55 programs that contribute to a wide range of outcomes that support the health, safety and well-being of Halton residents.

Examples of recent HRCIF investments that are supporting the health, safety and well-being of Halton residents include:

- \$391,000 over two years (2017-2018) to support the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide 24/7 mental health and addictions support.
- \$410,000 over three years (2016-2018) to the Halton Gatekeepers program of Catholic Family Services of Hamilton to support those who live in self-neglect to improve their environment, prevent eviction and connect to services.
- \$56,000 (2016-2018) over three years to support a partnership between Halton Women's Place and the Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK) to provide mental health support to children and youth who have witnessed domestic violence.

## Appendix 2. Halton Situation Table Partners

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- A.C.T.T. (Assertive Community Treatment Team)
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton
- Halton ADAPT (Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Assessment, Prevention and Treatment Services)
- Halton Children’s Aid Society
- Halton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC)
- Halton Paramedic Services
- Halton Probation and Parole
- Halton Region
- Halton Regional Police Service
- Halton Women’s Place
- Halton Youth Justice Services
- Health Links (Oakville)
- John Howard Society of Peel, Halton and Dufferin
- Links2Care
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Mississauga Halton Home and Community Care
- North Halton Health Alliance
- ROCK (Reach Out Centre for Kids)
- St. Joseph’s Healthcare (Halton Seniors Mental Health Outreach Program)
- STRIDE (Supported Training & Rehabilitation in Diverse Environments)
- Town of Milton – Bylaw
- Town of Milton – Fire Department

# End Notes

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1. *Well-Being*: For example, the proportion of Halton residents (8.2%) that fall below the Statistics Canada Low Income Measure (LIM) (after tax) is 43% lower than the Provincial average (14.2%) ([2016 Census, Halton Profile](#)). Halton residents also report higher self-rated mental health and overall life satisfaction compared to provincial averages (2013/14 Community Health Survey as noted in Halton Region's Health Indicator Reports on [Self-Perceived Mental Health](#) and [Life Satisfaction](#)). *Safety*: Based on the Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index, which measures the volume and seriousness of crime, Halton has the lowest (best) values for overall crime, violent crime and non-violent crime, when compared to other sizable Municipalities in Ontario (2015) (cited in [Halton Regional Police Service: Corporate Business Plan 2017-2019](#))
2. From [Strategy for a Safer Ontario](#): public discussion paper: A discussion paper outlining the seven key areas the government will publically consult on as it develops the Strategy for a Safer Ontario; the province's new community-based policing strategy. Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2016.
3. Description of the four areas of intervention adapted from [New Directions in Community Safety: Consolidating Lessons Learned about Risk and Collaboration](#). Framework for Planning Community Safety and Well-being. Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Ontario Working Group on Collaborative, Risk-driven Community Safety (Russell and Taylor, 2014).
4. 8.2% of Halton residents have incomes below the after-tax Low Income Measure (LIM). Source: [2016 Census, Halton Profile](#).
5. In the 2012/13 [Halton Youth Survey](#), 11% of grade 10 students in Halton reported having serious thoughts of suicide in the last 12 months. The Halton Youth Survey is an initiative of the Our Kids Network.
6. 46% of Halton residents exceed Low Risk Drinking Guidelines compared to 42% provincially (2013/14 Community Health Survey as noted in [Alcohol Consumption in Halton](#) (Halton Region, 2017).
7. Data provided by the Halton Regional Police Service.
8. Data is from the Halton Region Housing Services Division as cited in [Attachment # 1 to Report No. SS-04-17 re: Allocation of Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative \(CHPI\) Funding 2017-2018](#).
9. In the 2013/14 Community Health Survey, 22% of Halton residents aged 12 and over reported a very strong sense of community belonging, 46% a somewhat strong sense of belonging, 24% a somewhat weak sense of belonging and 8% a very weak sense of belonging (data cited in Halton Region Health Indicator Report: [Community Belonging](#)). Note: There were no statistically significant differences between Halton and Ontario residents who reported their sense of community belonging.
10. Data provided by Community Development Halton based on analysis from the 2016 Census.
11. Each year in Halton, injuries related to self-harm result in an average of 398 emergency department visits, 241 hospitalizations and 34 deaths. Source: [Halton Injury Report 2007-2013](#) (Halton Region, 2015).
12. Data provided by the Halton Regional Police Service.
13. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System [2006-2015], Ontario MOHLTC: IntelliHEALTH Ontario, extracted June 2017.
14. Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2015). Health Indicators Interactive Tool. Note: The definition of a mental health issue for the 30 day readmission rate used by the Canadian Institute for Health Information is different than the definition of a mental health issue used to identify the average number of hospitalizations for mental health issues in Halton each year. Please also note that the 30 day admission rate only includes individuals ages 15 and over.

15. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System [2006-2015], Ontario MOHLTC: IntelliHEALTH Ontario, extracted June 2017.
16. The Mental Health Strategy for Canada: A Youth Perspective (Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2015) notes that “70 per cent of young adults with mental illnesses report that their symptoms first started in childhood”.
17. Opioid Use in Halton: Opioid-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations: 2006-2015 (Halton Region, 2017).
18. Data is from the Halton Region Housing Services Division as cited in Attachment # 3 to Report No. SS-04-17 re: Allocation of Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Funding 2017-2018.  
  
**Note:** On April 5, 2016 Halton Region conducted a Point in Time (PiT) count to identify the number of Halton residents experiencing homelessness. The PiT was funded by the Federal Government. Twelve volunteer teams with over 60 volunteers from 25 community agencies across all four municipalities in Halton participated. Surveys were conducted in the community, emergency shelters and transitional housing. It is important to highlight that the enumeration methodology mandated by the federal government provides the minimum number of residents experiencing homelessness in a given 24 hour period. It is not intended to be an exhaustive picture of homelessness in a community. Transient residents living temporarily in motels or on couches as well as those without a residential discharge plan in provincially funded institutions were not included as per Federal criteria.
19. Statistics Canada General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization). See Conroy S. and Cotter A. (2016) Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014.
20. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System [2006-2015], Ontario MOHLTC: IntelliHEALTH Ontario, extracted June 2017.
21. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System [2006-2015], Ontario MOHLTC: IntelliHEALTH Ontario, extracted June 2017.
22. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2017.
23. Refer to end note 18.
24. Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. (2013). Blueprint for Fundamental Change to Ontario’s Child Welfare System: Final Report of the Youth Leaving Care Working Group.
25. Ibid.
26. See: Community Development Halton. (2016). Seniors: Loneliness and Social Isolation.
27. Canadian Community Health Survey [2009-2014], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario MOHLTC.
28. Data provided by Community Development Halton based on analysis from the 2016 Census.
29. There are approximately 81,810 Halton residents over the age of 65. Of these residents, more than 16,000 live alone.
30. Data provided by Halton Regional Police Service.





For more information, visit  
**halton.ca/safetyandwell-being** or call 311.



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