

BURLINGTON'S Vital Signs®

**Measuring well-being and inspiring
change for a more connected community**



Thanks to our Sponsors

Presenting



Vital Supporters



Land Acknowledgement

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

The Burlington Community Foundation acknowledges that the land on which we gather, work and play is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We celebrate our Urban Indigenous brothers and sisters across Burlington and deeply value their contributions and voices in the community.



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A Message from our CEO



Megan Tregunno, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Burlington Community Foundation

For more than a decade, the Burlington Community Foundation (BCF) has been producing Vital Signs reports to inform and engage our city.

Vital Signs is Canada's most extensive community-driven data program, led by Community Foundations of Canada, and implemented by community foundations locally.

Our Burlington 2025 Vital Signs report builds on this national framework, providing a timely snapshot of our city and how Burlington residents are feeling about vital indicators that contribute to their quality of life and that of their fellow citizens.

This year, you may notice a few differences in our report: it has a refreshed look to pair with our recently updated brand identity; there is an easy-to-understand grading

system applied to each vital indicator; and we have added a wealth of first-hand data to accompany our contextual regional data, provided by our Regional Research Contributor, Community Development Halton.

With this report, we strived to create a vital local resource for our community. One that takes a comprehensive look at areas such as housing, arts and culture, diversity, equity and inclusion and much more. We asked Burlington residents detailed questions about more than a dozen vital indicators, in an effort to highlight where our city is thriving and where there are opportunities for growth.

We hope this report will be used to inform decision-making, enliven conversations, spark civic engagement, and activate more progress in areas where it's needed most.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, FirstOntario Credit Union and all of the sponsors, supporters and collaborators who have helped to ensure this Vital Signs resource is made available to the community.

As a Foundation, we are committed to using these findings to help guide our BCF-directed granting, ensuring resources and support are aligned with our city's greatest needs.

As our city's giving and generosity hub for more than 25 years, we work with generous individuals, businesses, governments, and charitable partners to make an impact locally and beyond. We know that together, we will be able to continue to strengthen community through generosity.

A Message from our Presenting Sponsor



Joanne Battaglia
SVP Marketing,
Communications &
Community Partnerships
FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario is more than just a financial institution. Strongly rooted in the communities we serve for over 86 years, we've become a mainstay not just because our members trust us when it comes to their finances, but also because of our commitment to being hands-on contributors and raising awareness about causes and initiatives that make a difference.

Through sponsorships, partnerships and the tireless efforts of our employee Blue Wave volunteers, we strive to make a positive impact in key areas that help to strengthen our communities: food security; affordable housing; youth, health and wellness; and financial literacy. Guided by our social purpose statement, we exist to unite communities for a sustainable future.

For more than a decade, FirstOntario has partnered with the Burlington Community Foundation, a partnership founded on our mutual commitment to overall well-being. We are proud to be the presenting sponsor for Burlington's 2025 Vital Signs Report, an integral local resource we know will help engage the community and contribute to lasting change; and we look forward to continuing to champion the work of this important organization.

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Burlington Community Foundation

Burlington Community Foundation has been the city's trusted philanthropic partner for more than 25 years.

Established in 1999 by Burlington residents, BCF brings together generous donors, businesses and community members who want to have a lasting impact in our local community and beyond.

We serve as a charitable giving hub, managing donor advised funds that provide on-going resources for granting in our local community and to charities across Canada.

With our support, generous individuals who want to make a difference can create a sustained stream of funding to meet their short and long-term generosity goals.



We also identify community needs and provide regular grants to charitable organizations working to strengthen quality of life in Burlington. We have invested more than \$12.7M into people, projects and initiatives that strengthen Burlington and communities across Canada.

BCF is part of a national network of more than 200 community foundations across Canada, all working to create communities where everyone belongs.

What is Vital Signs?

Vital Signs is a national program led by community foundations, and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada, that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and support action towards improving our collective quality of life.

Community foundations use the knowledge gained through Vital Signs to lead on impact in their community. Priorities identified by Vital Signs are often incorporated into the strategic direction of the foundation and guide decision-making as a community leader and funder. As a result, community foundations are able to move the needle on the most pressing issues.

Methodology and Demographics

1. Panel survey results were collected from 403 Burlington residents through Leger's online research panel, LEO. This group was randomly selected to reflect the city's population. To make sure the results match the community as closely as possible, the data was adjusted for age and gender using information from the 2021 Census. In this report, these findings are called "**Panel Survey**" results and letter grades are based on this data.

2. Community survey results are based on feedback from residents who joined the survey through a public link shared by the Burlington Community Foundation. These responses

provide valuable insights, but they may reflect the views of more engaged residents and might not fully represent the broader Burlington population. In this report, these findings are called the "**Community Survey**" results and are shown alongside the Panel Survey results for comparison.



Look for this symbol throughout the report.

3. Regional Data: This contextual data was compiled by our **Community Research Contributor Community Development Halton**.

		Panel Survey	Community Survey
	n=	403	254
Gender			
	Male	46%	29%
	Female	53%	69%
	Non-binary	<1%	<1%
	Other	<1%	-
Age			
	18-30	15%	3%
	31-44	25%	17%
	45-54	17%	20%
	55+	43%	60%
Ethnicity (can identify with more than one group)			
	White	87%	83%
	Total BIPOC	15%	12%
	Total Indigenous	2%	<1%
	Black	4%	2%
	South Asian	3%	4%
	Chinese	3%	1%
	Arab	2%	4%
	Latin American	1%	1%
	Other Asian	2%	4%
	Self-describe	1%	2%

		Panel Survey	Community Survey
Born in Canada	Yes	84%	76%
	No	16%	24%
Tenure in Canada	Up to 5 years	8%	3%
	6-10 years	10%	15%
	11-20 years	22%	19%
	20+ years	57%	61%
Tenure in Burlington	Up to 5 years	17%	11%
	6-10 years	12%	12%
	11-20 years	22%	14%
	20+ years	47%	63%

		Panel Survey	Community Survey
Education	HS or less	16%	5%
	College	25%	23%
	University	49%	65%
Employment	Working	60%	55%
	Not working	8%	5%
	Retired	26%	37%
	Student	4%	1%
	Other	1%	1%
HH Income	Less than \$50K	8%	9%
	\$50K – \$79,999	15%	10%
	\$80K – \$125K	27%	21%
	\$125K +	39%	39%

Rounded data: The Panel Survey results presented in this report have been rounded to make them easier to read. Since the totals were calculated using the original, unrounded figures, they may not exactly match the sum of the rounded values shown.

Key Findings

Most Burlington residents feel good about life in the city. Eight in 10 say the quality of life here is good or excellent. People who are especially positive include retirees, residents aged 55 and older, those without children, people who have lived in Burlington for many years, and those born outside Canada. The top things residents enjoy about Burlington are its waterfront, safety, convenient location, parks and green spaces, and community festivals and events. Many aspects of life in Burlington are rated highly, with sports and recreation and safety receiving an A- average grade. Most other areas are rated B+ or higher.

Housing and transportation stand out as the main areas where residents see room for improvement. Each received an overall grade of B-. More than 1 in 3 residents rate housing options as below average or poor, with the biggest concerns being the lack of affordable rentals and subsidized housing. When it comes to getting around, fewer than two-thirds say any form of transportation is easy to use. Public transit and active transportation (like cycling or walking) receive the lowest ratings. These challenges connect to the top issues residents identify in Burlington: cost of living, housing affordability, and traffic. Residents most often suggest adding affordable housing, lowering costs, and improving transit and traffic flow as the best ways to improve life in the city.

Residents feel positively about community engagement in Burlington, but participation doesn't always match perceptions. More than two-thirds say they see public spaces as places to connect with others, know where to find community resources, and feel they can engage with the community in ways that matter to them. However, only about half of residents say they take part in community activities, and fewer still volunteer their time.

Learning opportunities are generally viewed positively. About three-quarters of residents are happy with K-12 education in Burlington. Views on lifelong learning opportunities are also mostly positive, though somewhat less so. Affordability of post-secondary education stands out as an area for improvement, with fewer than half of residents rating it positively.

Burlington residents draw a clear distinction between parks and sensitive natural habitats. More than 8 in 10 feel positively about the quality and availability of parks and green spaces in their neighbourhoods. In contrast, fewer than two-thirds give positive ratings when it comes to protecting Burlington's sensitive habitats.

STRENGTHS

80% rate quality of life in Burlington as good/excellent

82% feel accepted for who they are

80% feel safe in their neighbourhood

74% rate their ability to participate in sports as good/excellent

72% believe it is important to learn about and respect Indigenous culture, values and traditions

57% rate their current household finances as good/excellent

A majority rate their spiritual (69%), mental (67%), and physical (62%) health as good/excellent

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

39% rate housing in Burlington as good/excellent

40% rate their wage in relation to cost of living as good/excellent

50% rate their ability to access mental health care in a timely manner as good/excellent

35% rate the availability of entry-level job opportunities as good/excellent

GRADE SUMMARY

	Panel Survey
	n= 403
Quality of Life	A-
Arts & Culture	B+
Belonging	B+
Community Engagement	B+
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	B+
Economy	B
Environment	B+
Health & Wellness	B+
Housing	B-
Learning	B+
Safety	A-
Sports & Recreation	A-
Standard of Living	B+
Transportation	B-

How to Read this Report

Overall Results Snapshot – Panel Survey

This shows the letter grade and the overall results for each vital indicator, giving a quick snapshot of how the community is doing in that area.

Results Summary – Panel Survey

This provides a summary of each vital indicator, touching on both overall and specific results, as well as demographic differences.

Sustainable Development Goals

Throughout the report, you'll see icons for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These show how each vital indicator connects to global priorities for building a better future.

Community Impact & Action

Highlights examples of the positive role the Burlington Community Foundation has played in each issue and shares simple ways residents can get involved and make a difference.



Detailed Findings – Panel Survey

This presents a brief overview of detailed findings for each vital indicator, providing more information about how the community feels beyond the overall grade.

Community Survey Highlights – Community Survey



If relevant, this highlights differences between Community Survey and Panel Survey results.

What are Sustainable Development Goals?

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



End hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.



Ensure equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning.



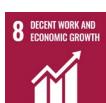
Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all.



Promote sustained, economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.



Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources.



Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice, and build accountable institutions.



Strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development.

Learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

The content of this publication has not been approved by the United Nations and does not reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

Be Informed, Get Engaged, Take Action

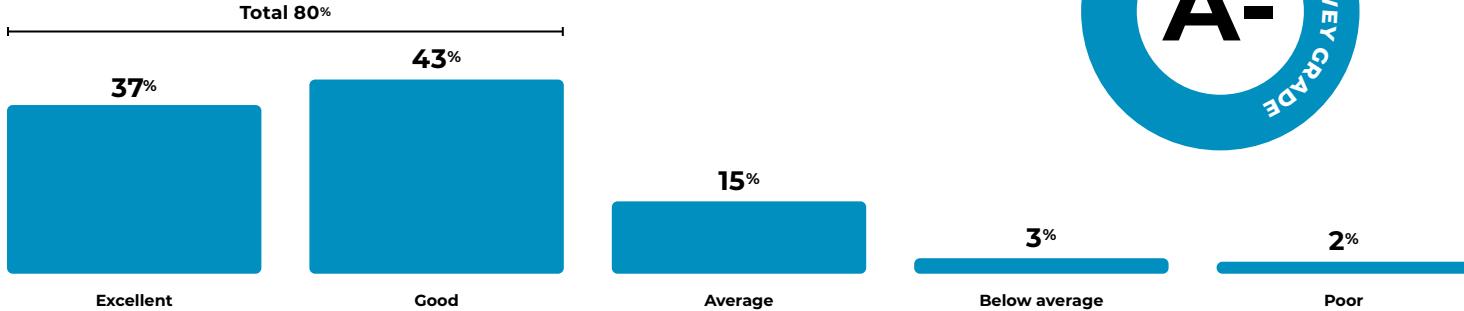
Vital Signs is Canada's largest community-driven data program, led by Community Foundations of Canada and implemented by community foundations locally. Vital Signs helps inform decision-making and creates opportunities for vital community conversations and taking civic action.



Here are 5 ways you can make a difference after reading Burlington's 2025 Vital Signs report:

1. Host a conversation with your neighbours, friends, peers or colleagues about one or more of the vital indicators.
2. Learn about local charities and organizations that advance community well-being.
3. Think about how your workplace can make a difference through volunteering or other community initiatives.
4. Donate to local organizations that support causes you care about and work to strengthen community.
5. Support the **Burlington Community Foundation** by making a donation, learning about ways to make a lasting impact in Burlington through a legacy gift, or discussing how you can start a fund to meet your philanthropic goals.

Quality of Life



Quality of Life represents the general well-being of individuals and society in Burlington, encompassing the 13 grading vital indicators assessed throughout the Burlington Vital Signs survey.

Burlington residents have a very positive view of quality of life in Burlington and give it an average grade of A-, with 8 in 10 residents giving good or excellent scores. Those born outside Canada, retirees and those aged 55+, those without children, and longtime residents of Burlington all are more likely to rate the quality of life more positively.

Cost of living, housing affordability, traffic, and community planning are the most important issues in Burlington according to residents; while waterfront access, safety, location, parks/green spaces, and festivals/events are among the best things Burlington has to offer.

When it comes to suggestions for making Burlington better, improving housing affordability, improving public transit, controlling development, addressing traffic congestion, and improving cost of living top the list of suggestions.

Most important issues facing Burlington

54%	Cost of living
42%	Housing affordability
30%	Traffic
20%	Community planning/development

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Best things about Burlington

51%	Access to waterfront and trails
38%	Feeling of safety
34%	Location
25%	Parks and green spaces
22%	Festivals & events

SOURCE: Panel Survey

What would make Burlington an even better place to live for you?

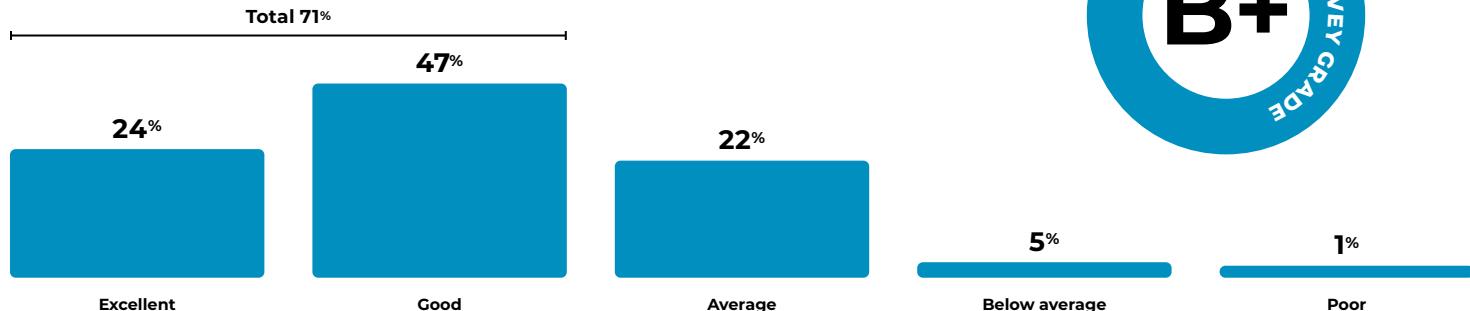
20%	Affordable housing/rent
16%	Improved public transportation
15%	Controlled development (e.g., fewer condos, less high-rises, etc.)
15%	Address traffic congestion
10%	Affordable cost of living/ Better living wage

SOURCE: Panel Survey



While their overall perceptions of quality of life in Burlington are consistent with the general population, Community Survey participants are notably more concerned about traffic and community planning and are more likely to suggest addressing traffic and controlled development as ways to make Burlington better. They are also more likely to cite Burlington's sense of community and the generosity and care its residents show as the best things about Burlington.

Arts & Culture



Arts & Culture make a community a vibrant and enriching place to live. An active and diverse mix of cultural offerings increases our sense of satisfaction with our environment and community pride.

Burlington residents are very positive regarding arts & culture in their city; more than 7 in 10 rate it good or excellent and it receives an average grade of B+ from residents. Older residents aged 55+ and those in middle income brackets (\$50k-\$79k) have more positive overall perceptions of arts & culture in Burlington.

Most residents perceive Burlington's arts & culture scene to be varied, affordable, and supportive. Greater than 6 in 10 residents are positive regarding the variety and affordability of arts and cultural events in Burlington, and a similar amount feel positively about the support that arts and culture communities, including artists, receive.



Sustainable Development Goals



Variety of arts or cultural events (e.g., festivals, concerts, etc.)



Affordability of arts or cultural events (e.g., festivals, concerts, galas)



Support of arts and culture communities, including artists' well-being



 Excellent Good

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Those with higher incomes are more positive regarding the affordability of arts and cultural events, indicating that there may be a gap in how different income brackets perceive the relative affordability of arts and cultural events in Burlington.

SOURCE: Panel Survey

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

\$343,187 in grants made to local arts and culture organizations in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Visit local galleries and historical sites and consider supporting by making a donation.



55

number of arts and cultural organizations in Halton Region

SOURCE: Halton Community Services Directory, Arts & Culture

13,208

jobs in Halton related to arts and culture

SOURCE: Nordacity, For the Ontario Arts Council, "Arts Across Ontario Impact Report 2025"

14.4%

of Halton's non-profit sector is made up of arts and cultural organizations

SOURCE: Community Development Halton, "State of the Nonprofit Sector," Community Data Watch (Nov. 2024)



15

performing arts venues and groups (includes municipally operated, non-profit and charities)

SOURCE: Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Halton Community Services Directory



8

non-profit galleries and arts societies (includes municipally operated)

Halton Region hosts many arts and cultural events each year, including both recurring major events and Culture Days (Halton Hills):

→ About **28** major recurring annual events across Halton

→ **130+** smaller events through Culture Days

SOURCE: ON Culture Days, 2023 Year-End Report, Halton Community Services Directory, Arts & Culture, <https://visitoakville.com>, <https://experiencemilton.com>, <https://www.milton.ca>, <https://www.visithaltonhills.ca>, Welcome to Burlington, Ontario Canada | Burlington Economic Development and Tourism

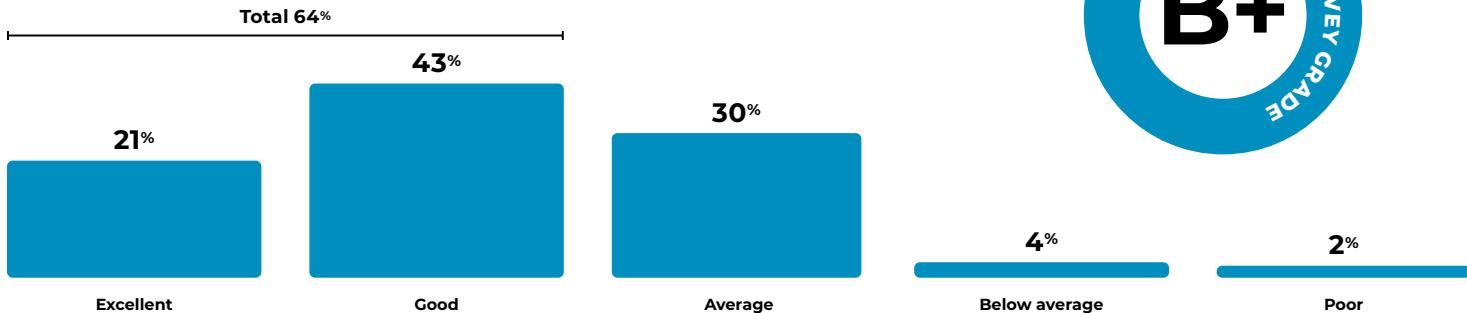
In 2024:

- There were **12** Indigenous History Month events in Halton.

- There were **13** Black History Month events in 2024 across the four municipalities.

SOURCE: Welcome to Burlington, Ontario Canada | Burlington Economic Development and Tourism, <https://visitoakville.com>, <https://experiencemilton.com>, <https://www.milton.ca>, <https://www.visithaltonhills.ca>

Belonging

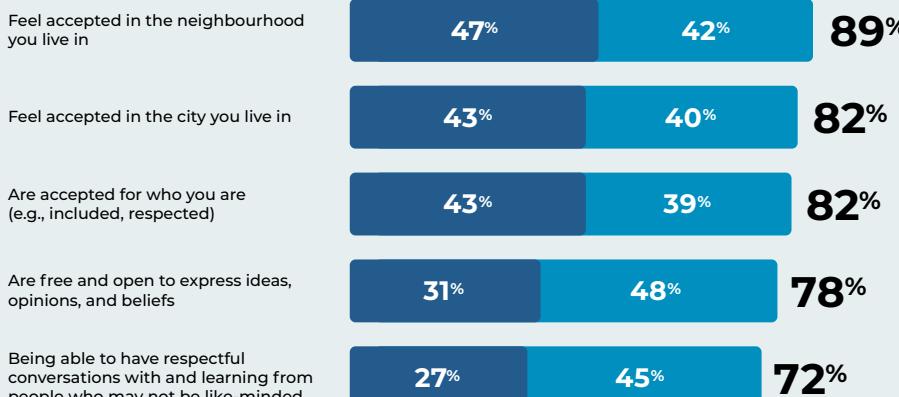


Belonging isn't just a concept for newcomers, but something that is applicable to everyone in a community. This includes members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, those who have a low income, Indigenous and BIPOC community members and others.

Burlington is perceived by residents as a strong performer in belonging; nearly two-thirds rate Burlington as good or excellent in this area, and it received an overall average grade of B+. Overall perceptions of belonging are consistent across all demographic groups, meaning that perceptions of belonging in Burlington are not heavily influenced by demographics such as age, gender, and ethnicity at the city-wide level.

Burlington residents are extremely positive regarding feelings of acceptance, with greater than 8 in 10 reporting they feel accepted in their neighbourhood, in the city, and for who they are. In addition, around three-quarters of residents report positive ratings for freedom of expression and respectful conversations with those who may not be like-minded. These overwhelmingly positive figures point towards the vast majority of Burlington residents being happy with the level of acceptance currently observable in the city.

Sustainable Development Goals



Strongly agree Somewhat agree

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Among the Community Survey participants, those who are older, have a higher-income, and identify as white tend to feel more positive about acceptance and freedom of expression in Burlington. At the same time, they report feeling slightly less of a sense of belonging compared to the overall population, giving an average grade of B. These differences suggest that experiences of belonging may not be the same for everyone, and that some of these differences are more noticeable among the Community Survey participants.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

BCF connects generous community members and businesses to causes they care about, creating long-term change.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Introduce yourself to your neighbours; take the lead on creating a neighbourhood skills map to identify what skills are available in your local community and call on each other when help is needed with a household task or special project.

85.3%

of those aged 65+ reported the strongest sense of belonging in Halton

67.1%

of newcomers and

65.2%

of non-native English speakers reported experiencing a strong sense of belonging

25%

of Indigenous survey respondents reported a strong sense of belonging

48.4%

of respondents in the 2SLGBTQIA+ group reported a strong sense of belonging

50.6%

of respondents with a disability reported a strong sense of belonging

64.9%

of respondents with low income reported a strong sense of belonging

74%

of people who participate in groups, associations and organizations were more likely to report a strong sense of belonging

56%

reported having positive neighbourhood cohesion in Burlington

SOURCE: Community Development Halton and Our Kids Network, Halton Sense of Belonging Survey, 2025

Places noted as being most inclusive

- Halton Multicultural Council (HMC) Connections
- YMCA
- Dare to be Youth

Religious institutions were places noted as inclusive

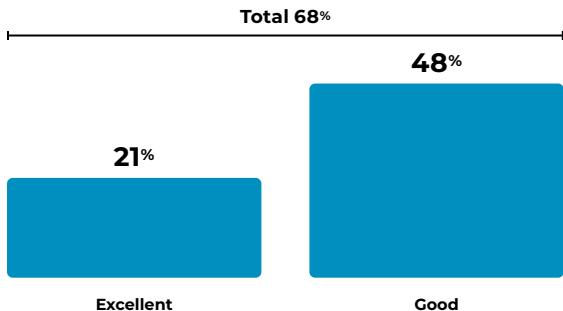
Places noted as not being most inclusive

- Golf courses
- Libraries
- Social services
- Driving centres
- Some hospital emergency rooms
- School registration offices

SOURCE: CCAH Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton Report 2022



Community Engagement



Community Engagement is how engaged members of the community are when it comes to volunteering and participating in community activities, or collaborating with individuals, groups, or the community at large, to address issues and solve problems that affect the community.

Community Engagement is perceived to be an area of relative strength by Burlington residents, with nearly 7 in 10 providing good or excellent ratings in the area and the overall average grade being B+. Those in middle income brackets (\$50k-\$79k) have more positive overall perceptions of community engagement in Burlington.

Burlington residents demonstrate strong community awareness and engagement. More than two-thirds say they know where to find community services, feel able to engage with their community in the way they want, and view public spaces like libraries as opportunities for connection. However, fewer residents report active involvement, as only about half say they participate in community activities or volunteer.

Sustainable Development Goals



You view spaces such as the public library system as a way to seek opportunities for community connection

29% 43% 72%

You are aware of where you can find/access community services or resources

25% 46% 70%

You are able to engage with your community in the way you want to

25% 44% 69%

You participate in community activities (e.g., food bank, community clean-up, etc.)

18% 33% 51%

You are an active volunteer within the community

20% 26% 46%

Those with higher incomes are more likely to be active volunteers in their community, indicating the potential presence of barriers limiting those with lower incomes from volunteering.

Women are less likely to agree that they are able to engage with their community in the way they want, presenting an opportunity for improving engagement channels targeted at women.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Community Survey participants are slightly more negative than the general population regarding community engagement in Burlington, with the overall average grade being B among this group. That said, Community Survey participants are more likely to identify as active volunteers, reinforcing the deeper level of engagement present within this group.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

BCF hosts Vital Community Conversations for community members to connect with each other and learn about ways they can lend support through volunteering or donating.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Participate in your own community conversation by connecting with neighbours and new friends.

80.5%

of non-profits in Halton report difficulty in recruiting new volunteers

51.2%

of non-profits facing the challenge of volunteers retiring

22%

of Halton's non-profits are entirely driven by volunteers

SOURCE: Community Data Watch: The State of Halton's Nonprofit Sector, November 2024

21%

of people said affordability was a factor in why they chose to volunteer, or be involved in a community association. The cost of being involved in the community as a volunteer (e.g., transportation, equipment, memberships) can be a barrier for some Halton residents.

SOURCE: Community Development Halton and Our Kids Network. Halton Sense of Belonging Survey, 2025

27.6%



Burlington voter turnout (2022 municipal election)

SOURCE: Elections - City of Burlington



IN HALTON REGION, BETWEEN 2018 AND 2023

97,000

number of donors in 2023, compared to **100,060** donors in 2018, a **3% decrease**

\$2,682

average donation in 2023, compared to **\$2,368** in 2018, a **13.2% increase**

\$500

median donation in 2023, compared to **\$400** in 2018, a **25% increase**

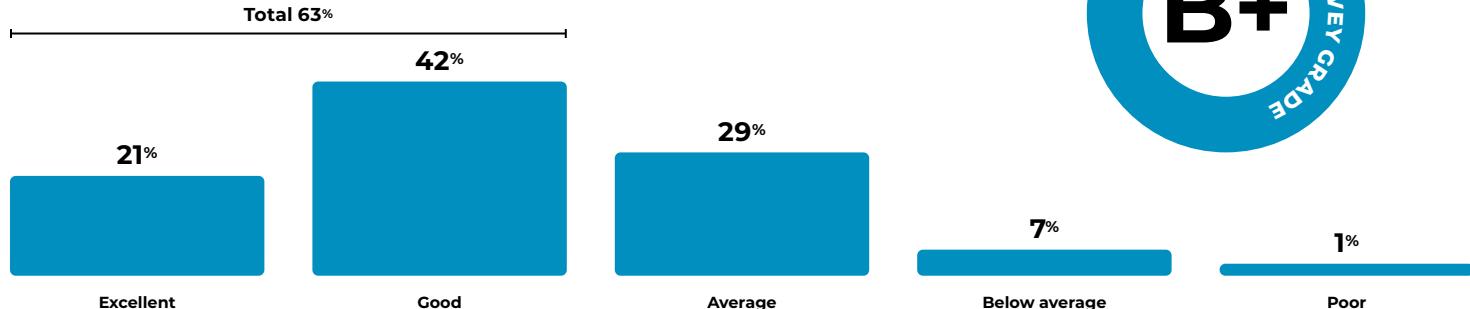
donors under 24 years old represented **2%** of all donors – with average donation of **\$690**

donors over 65 years old represented **29%** of all donors – with average donation of **\$3,570**

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, T1FF taxfiler data, 2018 and 2023



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Diversity refers to the presence of differences, equity focuses on allocating resources based on need to ensure equal outcomes, and inclusion is about a sense of belonging and being heard.

Burlington residents feel the city is doing well in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), with more than 6 in 10 rating the city as good or excellent in this area. The average overall grade assigned by residents is a B+. However, Canadian-born residents are less likely to provide positive ratings for DEI.

Cultural education is important to Burlington residents; most agree it is important to learn about and respect Indigenous culture and values and that there should be more opportunities to support cross-cultural education and awareness. Perceptions are also positive when it comes to anti-racism, equity, inclusion, and equal treatment and opportunities.



Sustainable Development Goals



Which of the following should Burlington focus on when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Provide affordable housing/more rental opportunities	55%
Provide supports for people experiencing mental health problems, addictions, and homelessness	52%
Provide equal opportunities to all citizens	39%
Host cultural events/festivals/celebrations	31%
Provide opportunities that promote social, cultural and racial equality	30%

SOURCE: Panel Survey

It is important to learn about and respect Indigenous culture, values and traditions

40% Strongly agree 32% Somewhat agree 72%

Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour have equal opportunities and are treated as equals (e.g., equal access to employment, education, housing)

28% Strongly agree 38% Somewhat agree 65%

Burlington residents are committed to anti-racism, equity, and inclusion

18% Strongly agree 47% Somewhat agree 65%

There should be more opportunities to support cross-cultural education and awareness

26% Strongly agree 33% Somewhat agree 59%

Younger residents aged 18-30 are more positive regarding Indigenous-focused and other cultural education and awareness opportunities. They are also more likely to believe Burlington should focus on cultural events, provide opportunities that promote equality, and provide educational opportunities that teach diversity and inclusion.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Overall, Community Survey participants give diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in Burlington a grade of B. Within this group, those with higher incomes are more likely to share positive views overall. Participants also place strong importance on learning about Indigenous culture and values. At the same time, they are less positive about the opportunities available to BIPOC residents and about the commitment of Burlington residents to anti-racism and inclusion. They show strong support for providing more help to people experiencing mental health challenges, addictions, and homelessness.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

\$130,450 in grants made towards local charities advancing social justice, inclusion and women's support in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Make a donation to organizations that support inclusivity and diversity education.

REGIONAL DIVERSITY

The region's ethnic makeup remains predominantly **English (18%)**, **Scottish (14%)**, **Irish (14%)**, and **Canadian (10%)**.

Mother tongue: According to Statistics Canada, mother tongue is defined as the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data is collected.

English → 386,360 → 65.3%

Top 5 Languages after English:



SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

The most prevalent second language in Burlington, spoken by **9.1%** of the population, is **Spanish**, followed by **Arabic (8.6%)**, **Polish (6.4%)**, **Mandarin (5.9%)** and **Punjabi (5.2%)**.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

24% of Halton's racialized population are under the age of 18, compared to **19%** of the general population

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Between 2016-2021, Halton's racialized population grew from **138,995** to **209,505**, a **50.7% change**.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Between 2016 and 2021, Halton's population of racialized women increased **49.5%** from **72,105** to **107,824**.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Between 2016 and 2021, more than **31,000** newcomers settled in Halton.

20% from India

14% from China

8% from Pakistan

5% from the Philippines

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DISABILITIES

23%

of people in Halton had a disability in 2022



111,000

approximate number of people in Halton with one or more disabilities in 2022

15,318

youth with one or more disabilities in Halton. Youth experienced the largest increase of people with disabilities in Halton Region between 2017 and 2022.

Mental health-related disabilities saw the most significant rise, from **33%** to **39%** between 2017 and 2022.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017, 2022

STUDENT GENDER DIVERSITY

5% of elementary and secondary students in the Halton District School Board identified as **Gender Diverse**, which also includes multiple gender identities

15% (grades 7 and 8) and 17% (secondary) in the Halton District School Board identified as one or more of the following: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Pansexual, and/or additional sexual orientation(s) not specified

SOURCE: HDSB, Student Census Update, May 2022

6.9% of secondary Halton Catholic District School Board students identified as **other gender identities**

21% of secondary students in the Halton Catholic District School Board identified as one or more of the following: Bisexual, Pansexual, Queer, Asexual, Lesbian, Gay, Questioning or additional sexual orientation

SOURCE: HCDSB, Student Census 2022 Results Report, March 2023

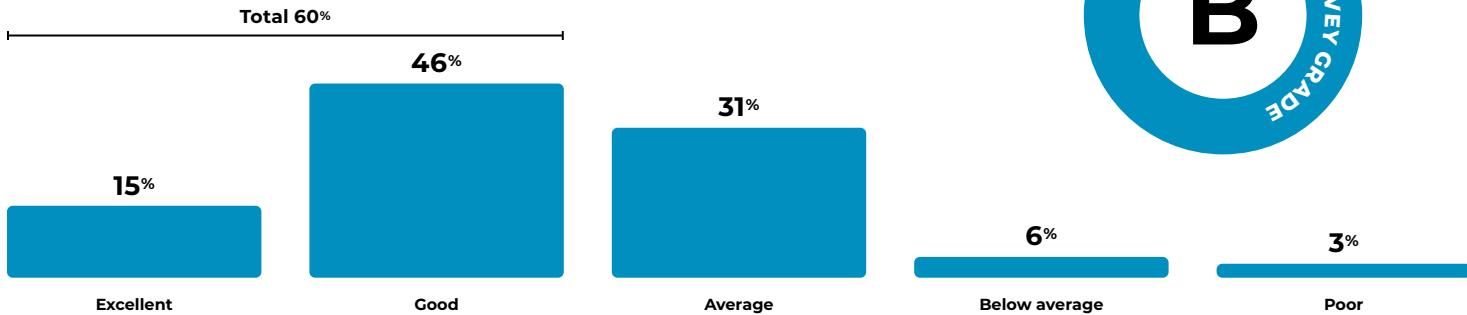
115 hate crimes were reported in 2024, a decrease from 146 in 2023

The Black community was targeted the most with 23 incidents, followed by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with 18 incidents and the Jewish community with 15 incidents.

SOURCE: Halton Regional Police Services "Annual Report 2024"



Economy

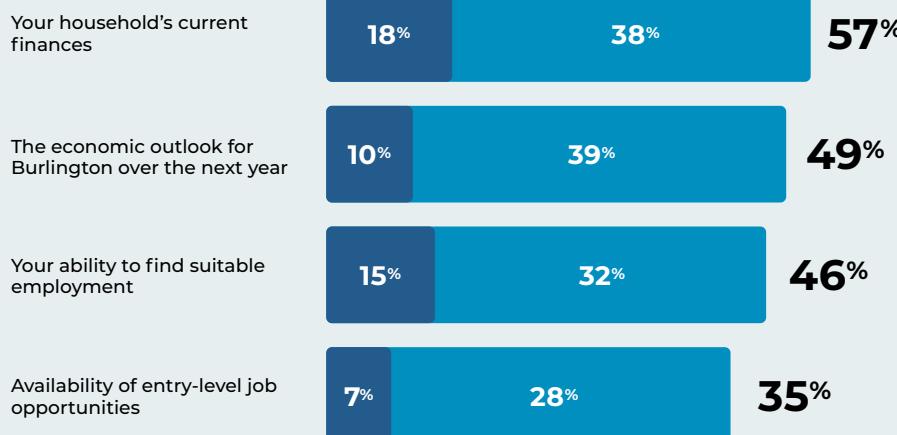


Strong and vibrant communities have diverse local economies and a wide variety of options for fulfilling, secure, and well-paid work.

Burlington residents rate the city moderately overall when it comes to the economy. Six in 10 provide good or excellent ratings in this area, while the overall average grade is a B. Retirees and men are more likely to feel positively about the economy in Burlington.

More than half of residents feel good about their household finances. Just under half feel positive about Burlington's overall economic outlook and their chances of finding suitable work. The most concerning result is entry-level job opportunities; only one-third of residents see them positively, making this the lowest-rated part of Burlington's economy.

Sustainable Development Goals



Those with higher incomes are more likely to provide positive ratings regarding all sub-aspects related to the economy.

Younger residents aged 18-30 and BIPOC-identifying residents are significantly more likely to provide positive ratings regarding the availability of entry-level job opportunities.

Men are more likely to be positive regarding Burlington's economic outlook and their household finances.

SOURCE: Panel Survey

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

BCF was certified by the Ontario Living Wage Network as a Living Wage Employer in 2024.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Support charities that increase opportunities for jobs and training programs.

Annual social assistance rates, before tax

\$8,796



maximum for a single person receiving Ontario Works

SOURCE: Government of Ontario

\$16,896



maximum for a single person receiving Ontario Disability Support Program

SOURCE: Government of Ontario

Minimum wage annual earnings (35 hours per week) as of Oct. 1, 2025

\$32,032

for Minimum Wage (\$17.60/hour)

\$47,320

for Living Wage (\$26/hour)

SOURCE: Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Ontario Living Wage

246,000 → jobs identified in Halton in 2024

70.1% full-time positions

43.2% were provided by independently-owned businesses

SOURCE: Halton Region Employee Survey Results 2024



390,200 → individuals 15 years or older in Halton's labour force in 2024 (Q1)

SOURCE: Halton Region Labour Market Highlights 2024

4% → Halton's unemployment rate in 2024 (Q1)

SOURCE: Halton Region Labour Market Highlights 2024

The 2024 top 5 sectors in Halton, based on job count



SOURCE: Halton Region Employee Survey Results 2024



\$45,700: average annual employment income for racialized women

\$47,800: average annual employment income for non-racialized women

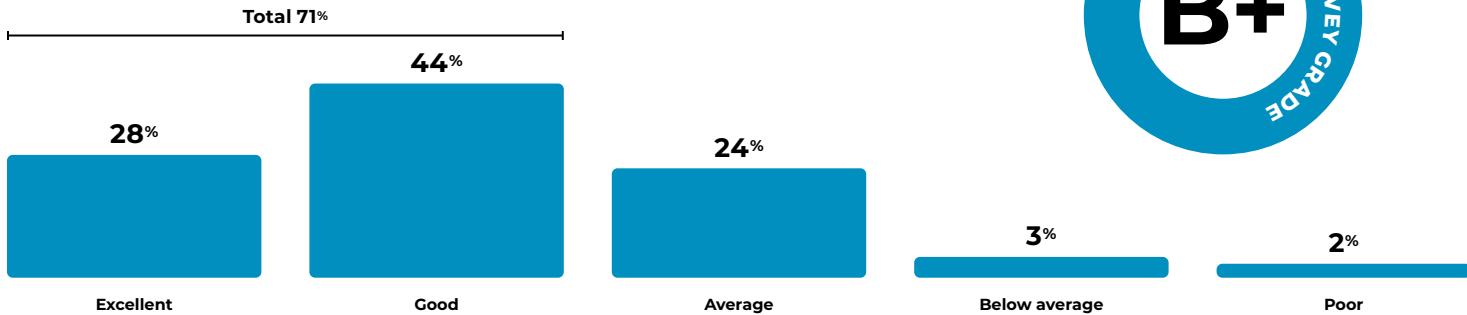
\$51,600: average annual employment income for racialized men

\$54,100: average annual employment income for non-racialized men

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Racialized Canadians are less likely to find good jobs as their non-racialized and non-Indigenous counterparts early in their careers, The Daily, 2023-01-18, https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230118/dq230118b-eng.htm?utm_source=chatgpt.com



Environment



From the air we breathe to the ground we walk on, a healthy and sustainable environment is an important part of quality of life. A healthy environment is reflective of a healthy community.

Burlington residents rate the city positively overall when it comes to environment. More than 7 in 10 provide good or excellent ratings in this area, while the overall average grade is a B+. Those born outside Canada, those in middle income brackets, retirees, and older residents aged 55+ are more likely to provide good or excellent overall ratings for environment.

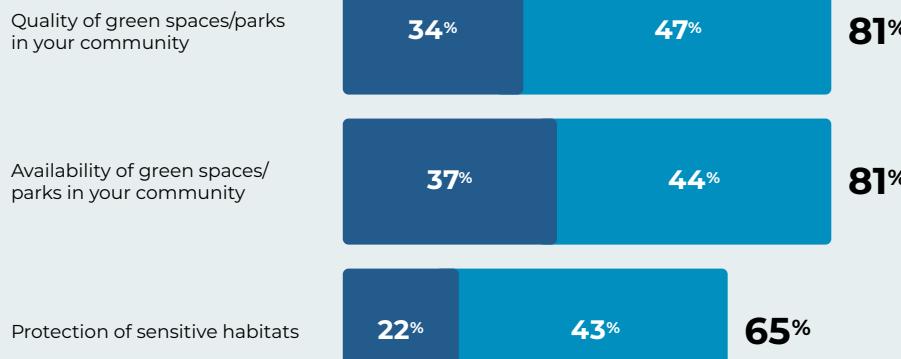
Most residents are very positive about Burlington's parks and green spaces. More than 8 in 10 say the quality and availability of these spaces are good. However, fewer than two-thirds feel positive about how sensitive habitats are being protected. This shows a difference in how residents view developed natural spaces, such as parks, compared to undeveloped areas, such as sensitive habitats.

Sustainable Development Goals



Those born outside Canada, men, BIPOC residents, and newcomers to Burlington are more likely to be positive regarding protection of sensitive habitat in Burlington. Those born outside Canada are also more likely to be positive regarding the quality of green spaces in the city.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



SOURCE: Panel Survey

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

- **\$51,082** granted to environmental-based charities in the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- BCF operates out of a shared coworking space, which reduces our carbon footprint.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

- Donate to organizations that have a commitment to climate action.
- Participate in a community clean-up through a local charity, or volunteer to help sustain a community garden. Register your eco actions through [BurlingtonGreen](#).

17+

environmental groups that are assessing issues, providing education and working on environmental improvements

SOURCE: Halton Community Services Directory Organization/Program Search

1 million

number of visitors to Conservation Halton's nine parks in 2024

SOURCE: Conservation Halton, "2024 Annual Report"



703

hectares of regional forests

12

conservation areas managed by Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation

6

public gardens

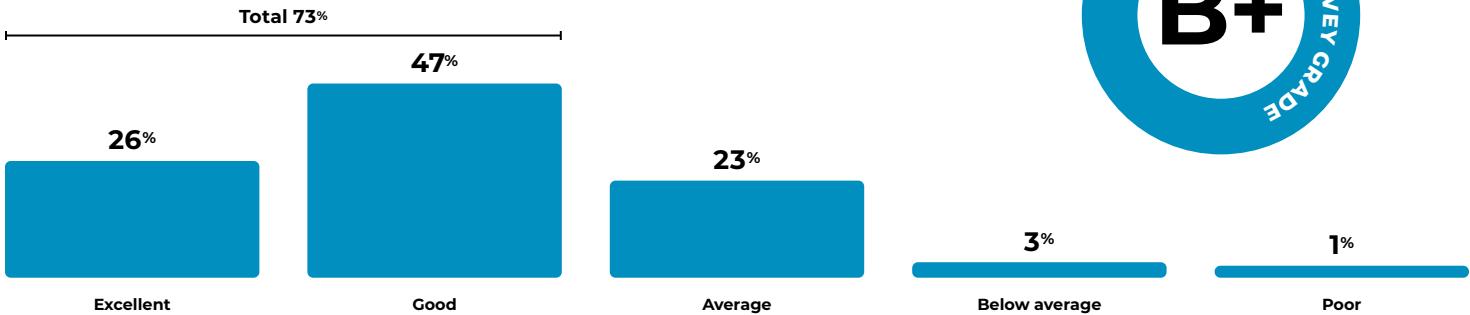
12+

community food gardens

SOURCE: City of Burlington, "Community Gardens," Town of Oakville, "Designated gardening spaces," Milton & District Horticultural Society, "Sunny Mount Community Garden, Town of Oakville, "Planting for our future: Town of Oakville partners with community groups to launch sustainable gardening initiative"



Health & Wellness



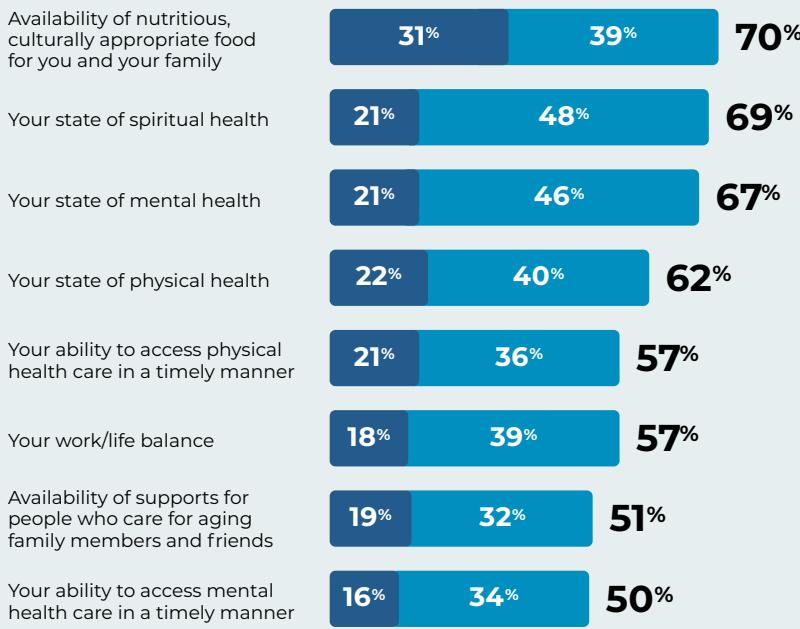
Good physical and mental health and wellness improves the quality of individual lives and reduces health care costs. The health status of people depends on good health practices and behaviours, and access to health care services.

Burlington residents are quite positive regarding health and wellness in the city. Nearly three-quarters of residents provide good or excellent ratings in this area, while the overall average grade is a B+. Those born outside Canada, men, and those with a long tenure in Burlington are more likely to be positive about this vital indicator overall.

Most Burlington residents feel positive about their health and wellness. At least half gave good ratings for each specific aspect. The areas rated highest include access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food, as well as support for spiritual and mental health, with each receiving positive feedback from about two-thirds of residents. On the other hand, timely access to mental health care and supports for older adults are rated less positively, with around half of residents feeling good about these services.



Sustainable Development Goals



■ Excellent ■ Good

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Retirees and those born outside Canada are especially positive about health and wellness in Burlington and are more likely to provide positive ratings for most health and wellness related elements. Men, older residents aged 55+, and those with a university education also tend to be more positive about specific elements.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Community Survey participants are less likely to provide excellent ratings for health and wellness, though positive ratings are more common among higher income members of this group. When it comes to more specific elements, Community Survey participants are more positive regarding the availability of nutritious and culturally appropriate food and their physical health, and less positive about the availability of aging supports.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

\$249,652 granted to charities addressing health, mental health and well-being in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Donate to BCF's Mental Wellness Fund at www.BurlingtonFoundation.org.

1.9 hours

average wait time in emergency before being seen by a doctor, across Halton's three hospitals

SOURCE: Health Quality Ontario, Time Spent in Emergency Departments, May 2025

1.6 hours

average wait at Joseph Brant Hospital

10

Family Health Teams across Halton

SOURCE: Government of Ontario, "Family Health Teams," Health and Wellness

23%



number of Halton residents aged 15 years and older who had one or more disabilities that limited daily activities in 2022

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Canada Survey on Disability, 2017-2022

33%



of those with a disability, noted as mental health-related

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Canada Survey on Disability, 2017-2022



The Halton Information Providers Database lists the following Mental Health Support Services:

4

call-in support lines

10

distinct programs provided by the Canadian Mental Health Association

6

Halton Healthcare mental health clinics

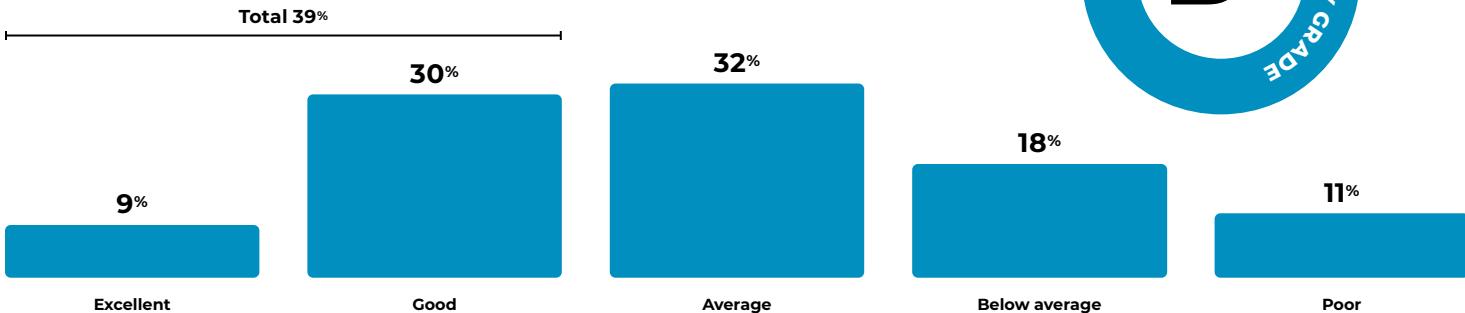
3

major youth-specific supports

SOURCE: Halton Community Services Directory



Housing

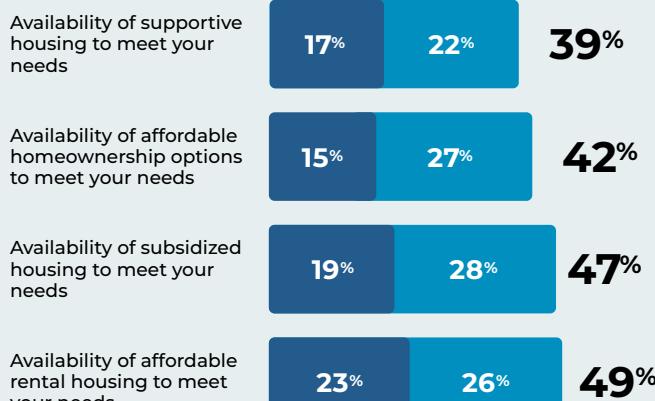


Having safe and accessible housing people can afford is a basic need that contributes significantly to quality of life.

Housing in Burlington receives a relatively low overall average grade of B- and is tied with transportation for the vital indicators with the lowest ratings. Less than 4 in 10 residents provide good or excellent ratings in this area, with those who were born outside Canada, BIPOC residents, and men being more likely to do so.

Ratings for the specific aspects of housing reveal a consistent dissatisfaction with the state of housing availability and affordability in Burlington. Around 4 in 10 residents provide negative ratings for the availability of supportive housing and affordable home ownership options in the city, and just less than half are negative regarding the availability of subsidized housing and affordable rental opportunities. More Burlington residents are unhappy with housing than satisfied, showing that housing is an important issue for the community.

Sustainable Development Goals



SOURCE: Panel Survey

Dissatisfaction with the current state of housing in Burlington is not distributed equally across demographics; those who are white, college educated, aged 31-44, or a woman tend to be more likely to provide negative ratings for specific elements related to housing.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Community Survey participants rate housing in Burlington lower than the general population, with an overall average grade of C+. Ratings for specific aspects of housing are also lower across the board. This may reflect that this group has a closer awareness of current housing challenges in Burlington.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

55 youth (ages 16-24) have been supported through BCF's partnered social impact investment with Halton Children's Aid Society's Bridging the Gap Program.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

- Support charities that identify solutions to help address housing needs.
- Advocate to your local government for affordable and supportive housing.



72%

increase to the Halton Access to Community Housing (HATCH) waitlist for rental geared-to-income housing from 2021 to 2024

8,048

number of applicants on the waitlist

SOURCE: Halton Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy 2025 – 2035

16%

↓
increase in shelter intakes in Halton Region in 2024, compared to 2023

Halton Region's shelter system operated at **40%** over capacity in 2024.



SOURCE: Halton Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy 2025 – 2035

343 → Halton households experiencing homelessness in 2024

84% → people who reported that low incomes were a barrier to finding housing

77% → people who said high rents were a barrier to housing

Source: Halton Region's 2024 Point in Time Count

22% of Halton residents rent

1.6%: Halton's vacancy rate – **3%** is considered healthy

SOURCE: CMHC, Fall 2024 Rental Market Report

\$1,900+: average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Halton

SOURCE: CMHC, Fall 2024 Rental Market Report

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

8.4%

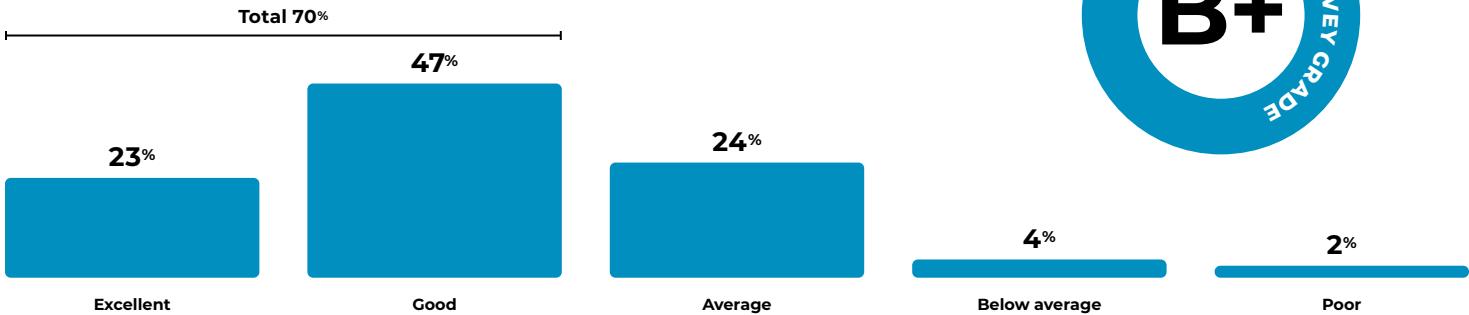
Halton families living in multigenerational housing in 2021

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

Racialized households in Halton are more likely to experience core housing need. These are the top five racialized groups experiencing core housing needs more than others: Arab, West Asian, Black, Korean, Chinese.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

Learning



Lifelong learning and educational achievement affect our ability to participate in a competitive workforce, achieve higher incomes, and escape the cycle of poverty.

Burlington residents feel the city is doing well in terms of learning, with 7 in 10 rating the city as good or excellent in this area. The average overall grade assigned by residents is a B+. Retirees and residents without children are more likely to rate this aspect positively.

K-12 education is extremely well received by Burlington residents, with just less than three-quarters providing positive ratings for this specific aspect. Ratings for access to lifelong learning opportunities are lower, but still mostly positive, while sentiment on the ability to afford post-secondary education is split, with just less than half rating this aspect as good or excellent.

Sustainable Development Goals



Your ability to access quality K-12 education that meets your kids' needs



Your ability to access diverse lifelong learning opportunities



Your ability to afford post-secondary education



 Excellent

 Good

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Residents with higher incomes are more positive about their ability to access lifelong learning opportunities and afford post-secondary education. This points to a gap in accessibility for those with lower incomes.

Views on post-secondary affordability also differ by education level. University-educated residents are more likely to see it positively, while college-educated residents are less likely.

SOURCE: Panel Survey

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

- BCF provides scholarships annually to students ranging from **\$750** to **\$5,000**, through donor advised funds held by generous individuals and businesses.
- **\$72,419** granted towards education in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Give to an existing BCF scholarship fund to help more students gain access to post-secondary education at www.BurlingtonFoundation.org.



4 Post-secondary education institutions

- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Conestoga College
- McMaster University
- Brock University

SOURCE: Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security | ontario.ca

4 School Boards in Halton

Schools in Halton Region:

- 145 elementary schools
- 32 secondary schools
- 1 school for the deaf

SOURCE: HDSB and HCDSB for 2023-2024 from the Ministry of Education, Accueil | Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir - MonAvenir Conseil scolaire catholique, CS Viamonde | Écoles francophones en Ontario | Éducation en langue française de qualité en Ontario – Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf

78%

of Halton's **312,505** residents aged 25-64 held a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in 2021 (243,754 residents)



51% had a bachelor's degree or higher for Halton residents aged 25-64

1.4% had a medical degree

13% had a master's degree

28% had a STEM degree or diploma

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

The 5-year high school graduation rates for 2023:

HDSB: 93.6% **HCDSB: 94.8%**

SOURCE: Ontario Ministry of Education, School Board Progress Reports % Five-Year Graduation Rate

About **80%** of working-age (25-64) women held a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in 2021.

84% of working-age (25-64) men held a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in 2021

88.3% of Halton newcomers had a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in 2021

85.2% of Halton's racialized population had a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in 2021

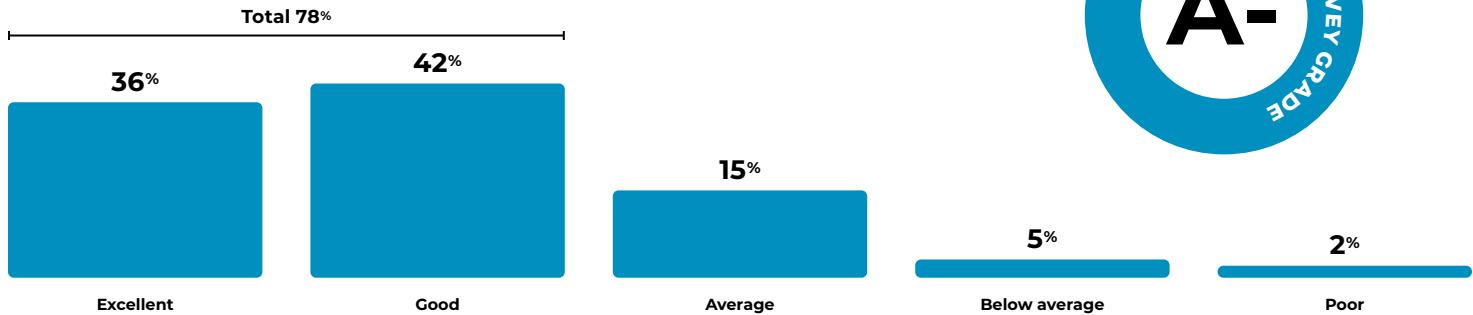
65% of racialized women had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to **46%** of non-racialized women, as of 2021

Racialized women were twice as likely to have a master's degree or a degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry than their non-racialized counterparts.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021



Safety



Public and personal safety affects the way we socialize and participate in community life.

Burlington residents have a very positive view of safety in the city and give it an average grade of A-. Just less than 8 in 10 residents are positive regarding safety, with more than one-third rating it as excellent. That said, men are much more likely than women to feel positive about safety in Burlington.

Most Burlington residents say they feel safe at home and in their neighbourhood. Eight in 10 give positive ratings, and about 4 in 10 rate their sense of safety as excellent.

Sustainable Development Goals



Excellent Good

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Residents with a university education and those living alone are more likely to feel safe in their neighbourhood. People born outside Canada and newcomers to Burlington are more likely to feel safe in their own home.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Community Survey participants are less positive about safety overall, providing an average letter grade of B+. They are also less likely to be emphatically positive in their ratings of safety, with only around one-quarter providing excellent ratings in this area.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

BCF recognized Social Justice, Inclusion and Women's Support, which includes Intimate Partner Violence, as a key community priority area in the 2024/25 fiscal year. This helped inform our BCF-directed granting.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Get to know your neighbourhood and neighbours, support each other by checking in and being aware of issues that may cause safety concerns.

2,380.7
per 100,000



the crime rate in Halton Region in 2023

SOURCE: Halton Region Community Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

For Halton Region in 2024:

139,119
calls for service

↗ 0.16% increase from 2023

SOURCE: Halton Women's Place Annual Report 2024



15,967

total reported crimes

17

human trafficking occurrences reported to police

34.9%

crime clearance rate

3,559

number of reported Intimate Partner Violence-related criminal incidents

SOURCE: Halton Regional Police Service Annual Report 2024

80%

of Halton residents aged 18+ who felt safe walking in their neighbourhood after dark in 2019

SOURCE: Halton Region Community Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

Approximately:

30-50%

of **transgender and gender diverse people** will experience IPV

61%

of **Indigenous women** are likely to experience IPV in their lifetime compared to **44% of non-Indigenous women**

57% / 53%

of women / of men

who reported a household income of \$20,000 or less in 2018 experienced IPV

97% of parents/guardians of senior kindergarten children in Halton felt their neighbourhood was a safe place to bring up children in 2023

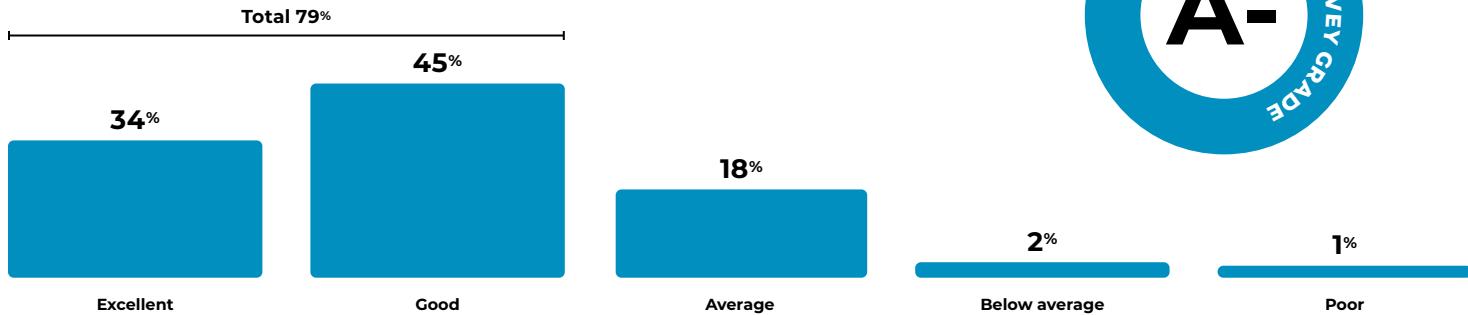
SOURCE: Our Kid's Network Kindergarten Parent Survey 2023

80% of students in grades 4-12 felt safe at school in 2021

SOURCE: Halton Youth Impact Survey 2021



Sports & Recreation



Sports & Recreation play a foundational role in developing and sustaining healthy citizens and communities.

Burlington residents are very positive regarding sports and recreation and provide an overall average grade of A-. Just less than 8 in 10 residents provide good or excellent ratings in this area. Older residents and couples tend to be most receptive to sports and recreation in Burlington; retirees, those aged 55+, and households with two people, are more likely to give positive ratings, as are those with a longer tenure living in Burlington.

Access to community facilities such as libraries, parks, and community centres is the top-ranked individual aspect of sports and recreation in Burlington, with more than 8 in 10 giving it positive ratings. The ability of residents to participate in the recreational activities and competitive sports they want is also well received, with around 7 in 10 rating each of these areas positively.

Sustainable Development Goals



Access to community facilities (e.g., libraries, parks, community centres)

40% Excellent 43% Good 83%

Ability to participate in the recreational/competitive sports you want

32% Excellent 42% Good 74%

Ability to participate in recreational activities you want (e.g., crafting, book club, gardening)

28% Excellent 41% Good 69%

Perceptions of access to community facilities are more positive among those who are retired.

College-educated residents are less likely to provide positive ratings regarding their ability to participate in sports opportunities.

SOURCE: Panel Survey

SOURCE: Panel Survey

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

\$23,642 granted to sports and recreation organizations in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Enjoy one of the city's recreation centres by taking a class or trying a new activity.

70%

of people identified access to affordable/low cost recreation opportunities as important to them related to sense of belonging

27.3%

of people reported being a member, participant, or volunteer in sports or recreational organizations in the past 12 months

SOURCE: Community Development Halton and Our Kids Network, Halton Sense of Belonging Survey, 2025

Sport and recreation are local municipal responsibilities. Here are some of the amenities across Halton Region:

- **23** community centres
- **9** seniors centres
- **18** arenas
- **17** pools (indoor and outdoor)

- **47** splash pads
- **22** courts (indoor and outdoor)
- **459** parks and parkettes
- **13** skate parks

- **1** cricket pitch
- **1** cycling centre
- **1** beach
- **3** harbours

SOURCE: Town of Oakville Open Data Portal, Parks and Trails - Halton Hills, Open Data | Discover the Town of Milton, Facility List - Town of Milton, Recreation - City of Burlington

12

conservation authority parks located in Halton Region

9 Conservation Halton Parks, and **3** Credit Valley Conservation Parks within Halton Region

SOURCE: Conservation Halton, "2024 Annual Report," Credit Valley Conservation, "Annual Report 2024"

168

number of non-profit organizations listed in the Halton Information Providers Database as offering sport and recreation across Halton

SOURCE: Halton Community Services Directory

1 Provincial Park



SOURCE: Ontario Parks

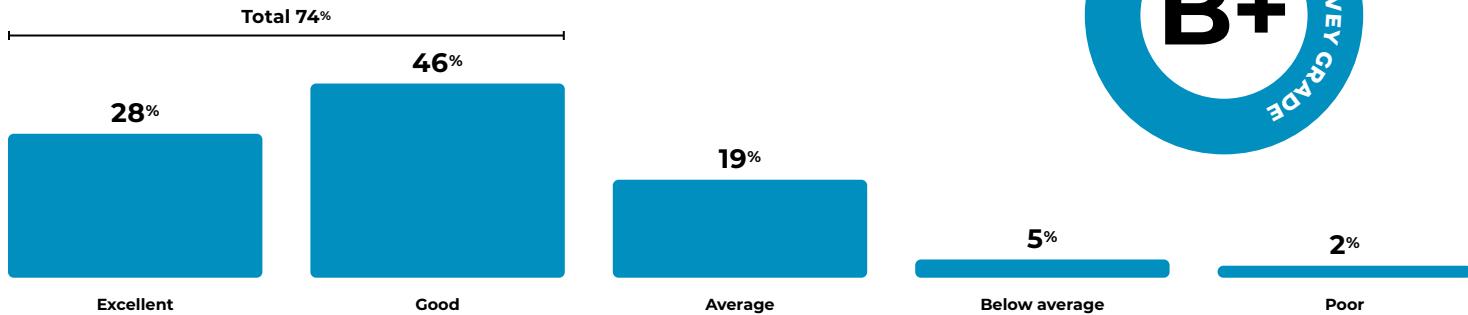
26

community organizations listed in the Halton Information Providers Database that offer sports with a focus on disability

SOURCE: Halton Community Services Directory



Standard of Living



Individuals, families, and children living below the poverty line may face many obstacles, which can limit their ability to enjoy quality of life.

Most Burlington residents feel positive about the standard of living in the city, with nearly three-quarters giving good ratings and it receiving an overall average grade of B+. Men, retirees, residents aged 55 and older, two-person or childless households, higher-income residents, and longtime residents are especially likely to view the standard of living positively.

While overall ratings for standard of living are relatively positive, residents are more critical when it comes to individual aspects. Only around half of residents provide positive ratings for youth and senior standards of living, as well as the ability to afford necessities and find suitable employment. Wages in relation to cost of living received even lower ratings, with only 4 in 10 being positive about this aspect.

Sustainable Development Goals



Standard of living for seniors	16%	39%	55%
Your ability to afford necessities (e.g., food, shelter, clothing, etc.)	19%	34%	53%
Standard of living for youth	12%	38%	49%
Your ability to find suitable employment	15%	34%	49%
Your wage in relation to cost of living	15%	25%	40%

■ Excellent ■ Good

SOURCE: Panel Survey

Men and women tend to have different views on standard of living, with men more likely than women to give positive ratings. Higher-income residents also tend more to rate most aspects positively.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Overall, Community Survey participants are less likely to rate standard of living as excellent despite the combined excellent and good proportion being similar to the general population. They are also notably less positive regarding the standard of living for youth in Burlington.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

\$154,295 granted to charities addressing poverty reduction, including food insecurity, in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Donate to BCF's Community Fund, which addresses the city's most urgent needs through local charities by visiting www.BurlingtonFoundation.org.

13.1%

Halton's poverty rate in 2023



Who is most affected:

29.8% of individuals not part of a family unit (including those living alone)

25.6% of lone-parent families

13.6% of children (0-17)

12.4% of seniors

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, T1FF taxfiler data, 2023

9.9%

Burlington's poverty rate in 2022



Who is most affected:

Children (0-17 yrs)	10.9%
---------------------	--------------

Seniors	7.5%
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Lone-parent families	22.2%
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Non-family persons	22.9%
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SOURCE: Statistics Canada, T1FF taxfiler data.

\$290.57

→ The amount a family of four needs to spend weekly to maintain a basic nutritious diet.

SOURCE: 2024 Ontario Nutritious Food Basket, Halton Region Halton Health Data

14.2%

Halton households that faced food insecurity between 2021 and 2023

SOURCE: Household food affordability indicator report, Halton Region, 2025

25%

increase in food security program use across Halton from 2023 to 2024

SOURCE: CDH, Community Data Watch: Household Food Insecurity in Halton, April 2025

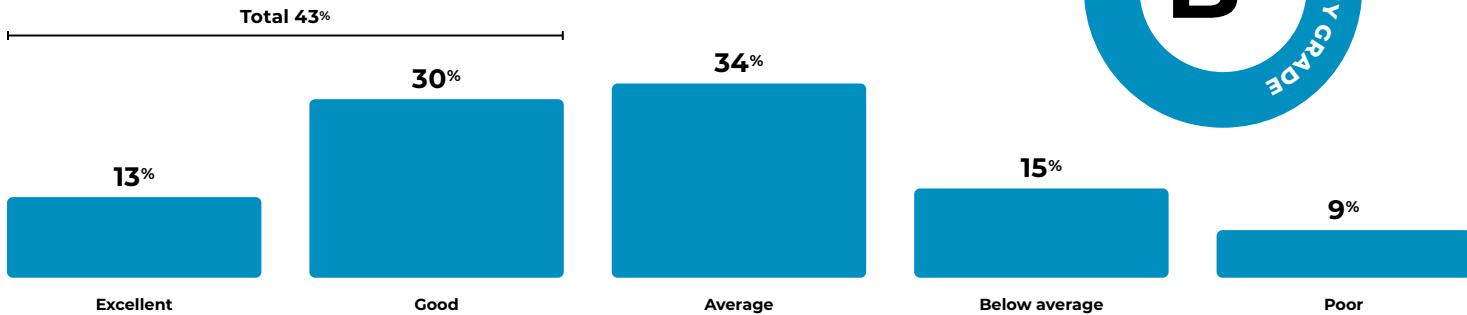
10.6%

number of Halton residents experiencing energy poverty in 2021

SOURCE: CDH, Community Data Watch: Home Energy Vulnerability In Halton, June 2025



Transportation

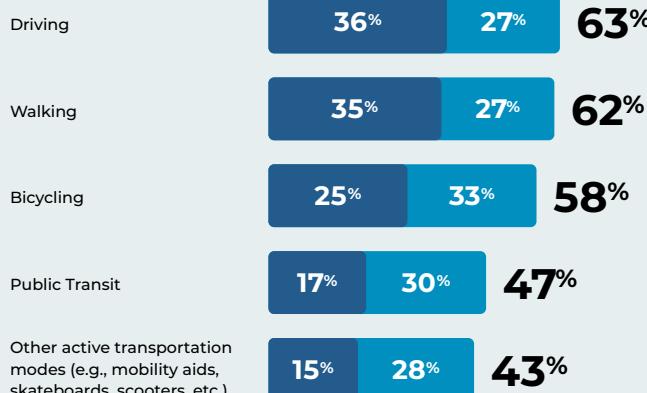


Transportation includes the ability to get around and transport people and goods. The capacity and convenience of transportation, such as our transit and road systems, have a big impact on quality of life.

Transportation in Burlington receives a relatively low overall average grade of B- and is tied with housing as the vital indicator with the lowest ratings. More than 4 in 10 rate this aspect as good or excellent, with consistent positive ratings across all demographic groups.

Perceptions of specific transportation modes in Burlington are mixed. Most residents rate driving, walking, and bicycling positively in terms of ease of use, while fewer than half are positive regarding public transit and other active transportation modes.

Sustainable Development Goals



Younger residents aged 18–30 tend to give higher ratings for both driving and public transit in Burlington. Residents with middle or higher incomes also rate public transit more positively, while BIPOC residents give higher ratings for driving.

SOURCE: Panel Survey



Overall, Community Survey participants are less positive than the general population regarding transportation in Burlington, providing an average grade of C+. Their opinions on the ease of use of specific transportation modes differ from the general population as they are more likely to provide lower ratings for all transportation modes except walking.

*Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding of results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

IMPACT & ACTION



BCF IMPACT

Through compiling first-hand data on issues around transportation in this Vital Signs report, we aim to inform community action and investments.



CREATE YOUR IMPACT

Explore alternative methods of transportation; carpool when able; and check in with neighbours or colleagues who might need a ride.



1.87

number of vehicles per household

3.3%

households that have no vehicle

SOURCE: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2022

Households earning less than \$15,000 make more trips by **transit (12.9%)** and **walking (12.8%)**.

Transit use drops to **below 3%** among most households earning \$40,000 and above.

30-40%

of residents in Halton Region work in their home municipality

SOURCE: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2022



2.97 million:

bus passengers on Burlington Transit in 2023

SOURCE: Burlington Transit



470 km:

approximate amount of dedicated cycling infrastructure in Halton Region

SOURCE: Halton Region, 2011 "Transportation Master Plan (2031) – The Road to Change"

\$60 million:

amount Halton Region plans to spend on active transportation facilities and road safety improvements through 2031

SOURCE: Halton Region, 2011 "Transportation Master Plan (2031) – The Road to Change"



To learn more about how you can use Vital Signs to engage in community conversations and take action, please connect with our team.

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