

## Social Risk Index, 2011

**What is the Social Risk Index?** The Social Risk Index is the risk score for a certain neighbourhood based on the average characteristics of neighbourhoods in a larger area. We compare each neighbourhood in Halton to the average characteristics of all Ontario neighbourhoods, so social risk in Halton is shown relative to social risk in Ontario. The index was developed by Statistics Canada and is calculated from nine census variables that relate to socio-economic risk factors. These variables measure education, employment, income, reliance on government-subsidized incomes, unemployment, family structure, mobility, language, and immigration.

**Why is the Social Risk Index important?** The Social Risk Index is a tool that gives you a general picture of the socio-economic health of our neighbourhoods and the types of challenges faced by neighbourhoods.

**How is the Social Risk Index calculated?** For each of the nine risk factors, we compare neighbourhoods in Halton to the average score for neighbourhoods in Ontario. A risk factor is considered present when the neighbourhood has a higher score on the census variable (e.g., a greater percentage of adult unemployment) than the average for neighbourhoods in Ontario. The Social Risk Index score for the neighbourhood increases by one point each time it has a higher score on a risk factor than the provincial average.

**How do I use this information?** The highest Social Risk Index score for a neighbourhood is nine – this means that the neighbourhood had higher scores than the provincial average on all nine of the census variables. If the score is zero, the neighbourhood had lower scores on all nine of the census variables. Generally, neighbourhoods with a Social Risk Index score greater than four are considered to be “high” on the risk index.

Use this data to develop your understanding of the key social and economic demographics of the people living in the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood	Burlington	Halton Hills	Milton	Oakville	Halton	Ontario
Lone Parent Families	14.3%	13.4%	10.9%	12.9%	13.1%	<b>16.7%</b>
Low Income (LIM-AT)	7.6%	5.7%	7.0%	8.6%	7.6%	<b>13.9%</b>
Non-Official Mother Tongue	16.1%	10.7%	27.2%	26.4%	20.9%	<b>26.3%</b>
Recent Immigrants	2.1%	0.7%	3.8%	4%	2.9%	<b>4.0%</b>
Rent Home	21.5%	13.1%	10.1%	16.2%	16.9%	<b>28.4%</b>
1-Year Mobility Rate	11.3%	8.8%	13.3%	9.7%	10.8%	<b>11.6%</b>
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	6.6%	5.6%	7%	6.3%	<b>8.3%</b>
Pop. aged 25 - 64 yrs with no diploma, degree or certificate	5.3%	7.7%	6.3%	4.4%	5.4%	<b>11%</b>
Income from Govt Transfer Payments	9.1%	8.2%	7.8%	6.1%	7.6%	<b>12.3%</b>
<b>Social Risk Index Score</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	