Building Connected Communities: Halton, Oakville – 2016 Census Older Immigrants

Sheridan Centre for Elder Research

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However, most immigrants over the age of 65 in Oakville are not racialized.

Visible Minority Groups

As a comparison, in Oakville the total population of people who are visible minorities is 31%.

Live Alone Vs. Live with Others

In all age groups, those who immigrated before 1971 are more likely to report living alone in later life than individuals who immigrated later, but who are the same age.

Those who immigrated to Canada pre-1971 are less likely to be a visible minority (88% reported they are not a visible minority).

81% immigrants age 65+
WHO LIVE ALONE
SPEAK ENGLISH
or English plus another language at home.

Immigrants age 65+ who speak other languages speak the following: Italian (5%), Portuguese (2%) and Polish (2%) are also spoken by immigrants age 65+ who live alone, followed by Mandarin (1%), Spanish (1%), and Russian (1%).

(all others are 1% or less, or 1% N.I.E.)
Median Income Differentials

Immigrants who are age 65+ have substantially lower median incomes than non-immigrants who are 65+.

Men and women who are immigrants both make less compared to their non-immigrant counterparts. However, immigrant women make substantially less than immigrant men.

The difference is more substantial when considering the time frame when someone immigrated to Canada.

Lack of access to Old Age Security and other benefits programs is a likely explanation for this striking difference in the more recent years, but cannot account for all differences.

Racialized Immigrants

Racialized immigrants ages 65+ report lower median incomes than non-racialized immigrants 65+.

Considerations for the Town of Oakville

Over half of Oakville’s population aged 65+ are immigrants, census data indicates that most of these older adults are not racialized. The provision of services to low-income immigrants who are not fluent in English is an area of need specific to the Town of Oakville. Income needs will be greater among women, racialized individuals, and relatively recent immigrants to Canada.

Programs and services should be offered in Mandarin, Portuguese, Italian, Punjabi, Cantonese and Polish, in addition to English, will serve the majority of older adult immigrants living in Oakville.

Most immigrant older adults in Oakville live with family – however, older adult immigrants can still experience social isolation and/or feelings of loneliness while living in multigenerational households.

For details about this research study and other resources in this Toolkit visit https://source.sheridancollege.ca/centres_elder_building_connected_communities/