

References:

1. Statistics Canada, *1996 Census Dictionary*, p.12
2. Morteza Jafarpour, Executive Director, SI SO. Personal interview, March 21, 2000.
3. Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration Statistics, 1998.
4. Morteza Jafarpour, Executive Director, SI SO. Personal interview, March 21, 2000.
5. Both ISAP and non-ISAP figures are cumulated beginning in March 1999. These numbers were acquired prior to March 31, 2000, so the figures for March were estimated.

For more detailed information please contact:

Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SI SO)
 135 Rebecca Street
 Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1B9
 Phone: 905-521-9917
 Fax: 905-521-9917
 Email: siso@icom.ca

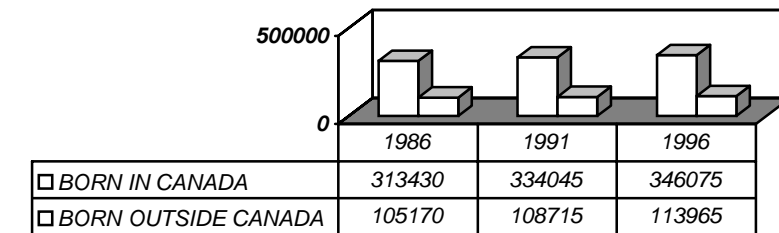
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton-Wentworth (SPRC)
 255 West Avenue, North
 Hamilton, Ontario L8R 5C8
 Phone: 905-522-1148
 Fax: 905-522-9124
 Email: sprc_hw@yahoo.com

Information Sheet Ethnic Diversity in Hamilton-Wentworth was published by:
 The Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton-Wentworth
 255 West Avenue North Hamilton, Ontario L8L 5C8
 Phone: (905)522-1148 Fax: (905)522-9124
 Email: sprc_hw@yahoo.com Website: <http://www.netaccess.on.ca/~sprc>

Information Sheet Ethnic Diversity in Hamilton-Wentworth

By: Joel Martin, SPRC Placement Student McMaster University,
School of Social Work

People Living in Hamilton-Wentworth 1986, 1991, 1996



An Ever-Growing Community

Hamilton is home to a large number of immigrants and refugees, individuals and families. To understand the demographics of people living here, Statistics Canada census data from 1996 on immigration will be presented, followed by more recent trends found by Settlement & Integration Services (SI SO), a local community agency. It is hoped that the voices of immigrant and refugee residents of

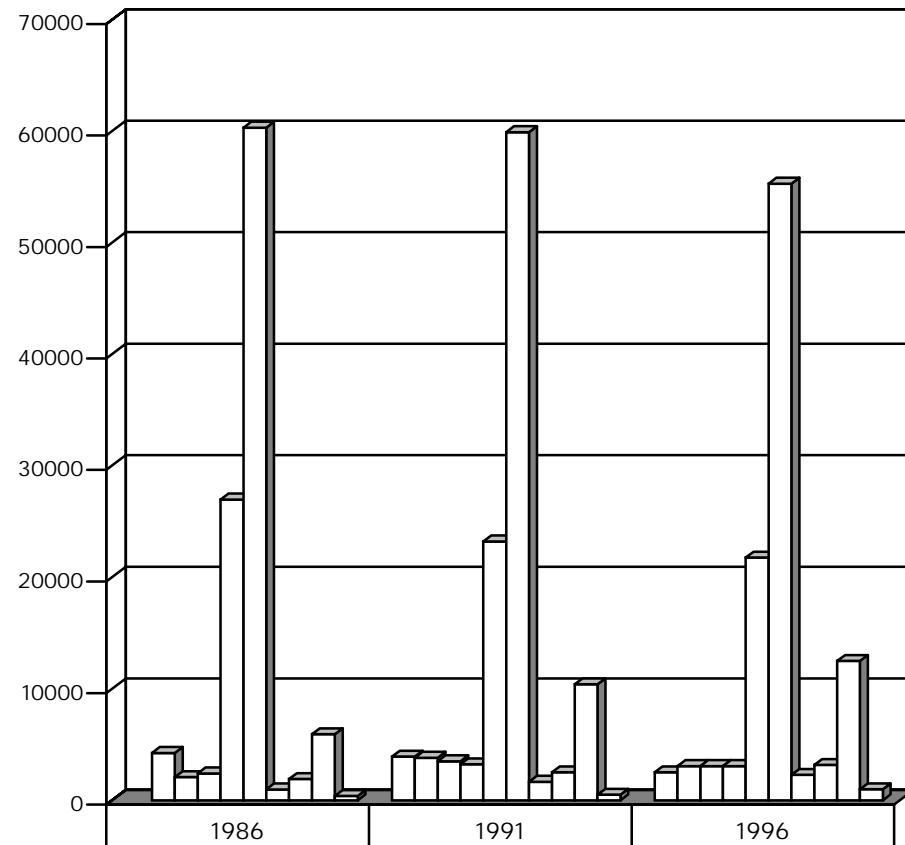
Hamilton-Wentworth will be heard through this Trends document.

The Limitations of Census Data

Unfortunately, in some cases where change is rapid, census data can become old quickly. Sometimes, immigrants and refugees will arrive in an area upon entering Canada and remain there for two

to three years, before moving to a new area for permanent settlement. For instance, in 1998-1999, the single largest settlement of refugees in Canadian history arrived in Hamilton-Wentworth from Kosovo. Having entered the Region after the 1996 census, if people leave the area before the next census in 2001, their presence in the municipalities will not be counted. Nevertheless, organizations like SI SO are gathering valuable information on the numbers of immigrants and refugees as well as their experiences.

People Living in Hamilton-Wentworth, 1986, 1991 1996



	1986	1991	1996
□ Non-permanent residents	*	3,920	2,515
□ United States	4,240	3,820	3,075
□ Central & South America	2,075	3,495	3,065
□ Caribbean & Bermuda	2,410	3,235	3,075
□ United Kingdom	26,955	23,190	21,745
□ Other Europe	60,305	59,905	55,275
□ Africa	975	1,665	2,275
□ India	1,905	2,515	3,165
□ Other Asia	5,920	10,395	12,505
□ Oceania	390	495	995

* There was no accounting for the number of non-permanent resident before the 1991 census

Our Community: The 1996 Census

As of 1996, there was an immigrant population of almost 114,000 people in Hamilton-Wentworth.

5,250 people arrived in the Region between 1991 and 1996. Hamilton is the third-largest port of entry/choice for immigrants and refugees in the country, next to

Toronto and Vancouver.

Place of Birth

According to the 1996 census, the number of

experience, discrimination and credentials not being recognized and have lead to extremely high poverty rates for immigrants and visible minorities in our community.

Where the regional poverty rate was 21.9% in 1996, recent immigrants have a poverty rate that is more than double this figure.



Poverty Rates for Immigrants, Visible Minorities and Aboriginal People in Hamilton-Wentworth, 1996

	Total	Poor	Poverty Rate
Recent Immigrants	15400	7700	50%
Visible Minorities	41100	16900	41%
Aboriginal Identity	4700	2300	48%

Canadian Council on Social Development, Urban Poverty in Canada

Housing

There are problems with discriminatory practices of landlords of housing, requesting co-signers and being unable to pay first and last months' rent.

Education

As well, since refugees do not have official status, children over the age of eight are not allowed to attend school without student authorization numbers. The local office which would normally deal with providing such authorization is no longer in existence, so refugees must deal with an office in Alberta. This process can take over four months, while

children sit at home, wasting valuable learning time.

Demand on Settlement & Integration Services

SI SO is an organization which assists immigrants and refugees in settling within the Region, in whatever areas of life people require assistance. Each case SI SO opens usually represents an entire family, but is counted as one unit. There are two streams within SI SO based upon government funding. Immigration Settlement Adaptation Program (I SAP) provides services for government sponsored, recognized immigrants, while Non-I SAP supplies resources for refugee claimants (95%)

and other citizens or visitors (5%). According to SI SO's I SAP statistical report for 1999-2000, there were 1,286 new clients and 6,836 returning clients, accumulating 28,022 service units; this has increased 15% over the previous year. Service statistics do not include phone calls, but only in-person contact in which some service was provided. The Non-I SAP statistical report for the past year showed 909 new clients (a 17% increase), 3,345 returning clients and 13,312 service provisions.⁶

