

MCQUESTEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE

March 2012

Prepared for:

United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton



Prepared by:

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Any mistakes or omissions in this report are solely due to the author.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Neighbourhood service delivery has been a major focus of United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton investment for many years. Donors' contributions to the United Way have helped 27 agencies deliver neighbourhood-focused services to tens of thousands of Hamiltonians.

To aid the United Way and service providers to better understand the neighbourhoods they are serving, the SPRC was asked to complete a set of profiles of some of Hamilton's neighbourhoods. This profile is the most in-depth in the series, but still only captures a small part of the assets and challenges within the McQuesten neighbourhood. Demographic information about the ten other neighbourhoods that are part of the city's Neighbourhood Action Strategy is available in the Neighbourhood Profiles report available on the SPRC website:

http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports/pdf/SPRC_Neighbourhood_Profiles_March_2012.pdf

1.1. McQuesten Neighbourhood

The McQuesten neighbourhood was chosen to be profiled in part because of its long history of neighbourhood community development. This neighbourhood is bounded by the Red Hill Valley to the east, Queenston to the south, Parkdale to the west and the railroad tracks between Barton and Burlington Street to the north. It is home to over 7,000 residents.

The boundaries of this neighbourhood include two City of Hamilton planning units, McQuesten East and McQuesten West. But the McQuesten Community Planning Team has determined that this distinction does not have any meaning with McQuesten residents, and they operate for the entire McQuesten community. The McQuesten Community's boundaries are the same as those for Statistics Canada's census tract 5370071.00, making it fairly simple to analyze census data for this neighbourhood.

This profile will attempt to illustrate some of the characteristics and diversity that make up this neighbourhood. No profile can show all the variety and complexity of a population. This document should not be used as the ultimate definition of what makes up McQuesten but rather a starting point for further discussion and investigation.

Sprinkled in the document, there are boxes titled "McQuesten Voices" that contain quotes from residents that participated in a visioning day in 2009 titled "Strengths Discovery Process for the McQuesten Neighbourhood".

McQuesten Voices

"[In the future, I see] the McQuesten community as a village in a city...art, education, health and fitness centre, child care programs, everyone involved and working..
Made possible by a community that took care of themselves."

Map 1. McQuesten neighbourhood, City of Hamilton



ID	School name
1	Queen Mary
2	St. John the Baptist
3	Green Acres
4	Roxborough Park
5	A.M. Cunningham
6	Parkdale
7	W. H. Ballard
8	Delta
9	Sir Winston Churchill
10	St. Eugene
11	St. David
12	Lake Avenue
13	Viscount Montgomery
14	Glendale
15	Sir Isaac Brock
16	Woodward
17	Glen Brae
18	Glen Echo
19	Adult Alternative Training - Stoney Creek Campus
20	CNIB - Literacy for Deaf/Blind Adults
21	CCE - Parkway Learning Centre
22	Hillcrest
23	Woodview Mental Health & Autism - Delta
24	St. Charles Adult Education
25	Holy Name of Jesus (temporary 2009/2010)

Legend

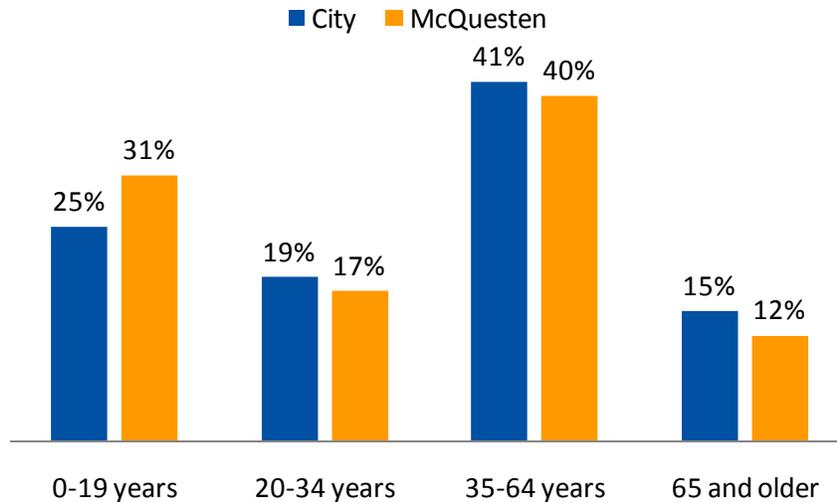
- McQuesten neighbourhood
- Community Centres
- Elementary and Middle schools
- Secondary schools
- Recreation Centres and Arenas
- Libraries
- Parks
- Major roads
- Streets

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2.0 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Chart 1. Age groups,
McQuesten and City of Hamilton, 2006 Census



Findings

Children are a large part of the McQuesten neighbourhood, with about 31% of the population younger than 20. This is the biggest proportion of children among all the lower city neighbourhoods and higher than the average for the entire city (25%).

While children are a large group, the young adult age group (20-34) represents 17% of McQuesten's population, smaller than that group's proportion within the city (19%).

Persons aged 65 and older are also under represented in McQuesten, with just 12% of the population, while the city's population is composed of 15% seniors.

Implications

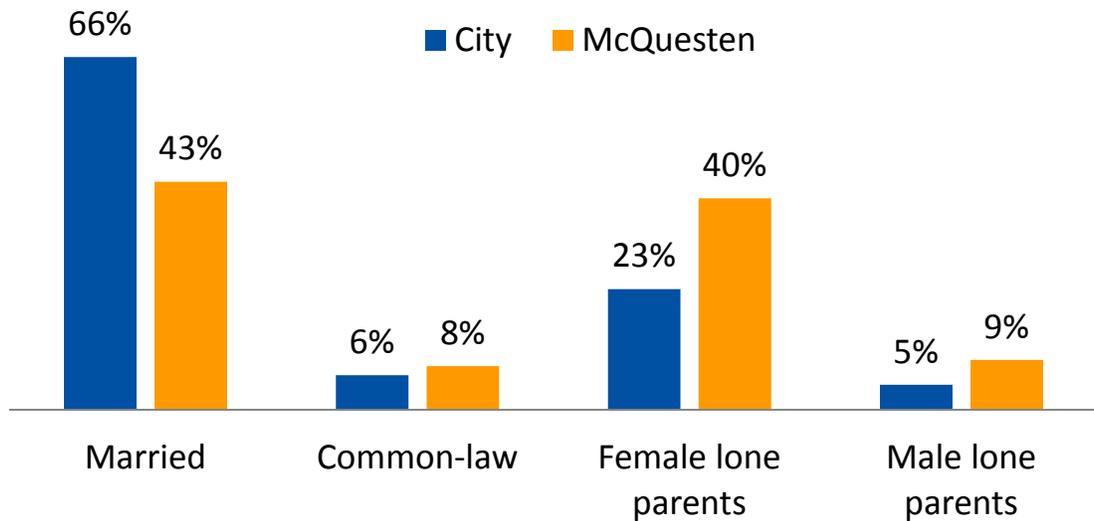
Clearly, accommodating children and their families should be a large focus for service providers in McQuesten.

The lower than average rate of young adults in McQuesten could be due to a variety of factors. For example, youth may be leaving the neighbourhood to find work elsewhere or for post-secondary education.

A more detailed breakdown of seniors by age group shows that seniors in McQuesten are much younger than the city as a whole. This could be due to aging seniors leaving McQuesten, because they may find there aren't enough services such as public transportation, grocery stores and seniors centres in the neighbourhood, or because they want to live in a seniors' residence, of which there is only one small one in the neighbourhood.

While seniors and young adults have a smaller than average presence in McQuesten, their needs must still be included by service providers. They are significant populations by numbers alone: 830 seniors and 1,175 young adults.

Chart 2. Families with children at home, by family structure, City of Hamilton and McQuesten, 2006 Census



Findings

The profile of families with children in McQuesten is nearly opposite to the profile for the City of Hamilton. While two thirds of families with children in the city are married and almost one quarter are led by female lone parents, in McQuesten these categories are almost equal (43% are married, 40% are led by female lone parents). The proportion of single dads is almost double in McQuesten as compared to the city (9% vs. 5%).

Implications

Since just under half of families are led by lone parent families, it is important that service providers plan services and activities with their needs in mind. For example, attending meetings where childcare is not provided is more difficult for single parents since another adult may not be available to take care of the children at home.

2.1. Youth profile

Youth aged 15-24	McQuesten		City of Hamilton
	Number of people	Percentage of youth	Percentage of youth
with activity limitations	110	12%	8%
who identify as a visible minority	300	33%	17%
who are immigrants	250	28%	15%
who live on incomes below the poverty line	440	49%	21%
		percentage of population	percentage of population
Total population of persons aged 15-19	490	7%	7%
Total population of persons aged 20-24	415	6%	7%
Total population of persons aged 15-24	905	13%	14%

Findings

McQuesten youth are about twice as likely as Hamilton's youth to be from culturally diverse backgrounds, either as immigrants or as visible minorities, and almost 2.5 times as likely to be living in poverty. Just under half of McQuesten youth were living in poverty according to the 2006 census. McQuesten youth are also more likely to have activity limitations, an indicator of disability.

Implications

Services that target McQuesten's youth population must pay particular attention to being welcoming and inclusive of all backgrounds, since the neighbourhood's cultural diversity is made up of many different communities. The high rate of poverty among McQuesten's youth shows the needs for effective services to help combat the effects of poverty along with poverty reduction strategies for this age group.

McQuesten Voices

"I participated in a visioning day with youth who were able to articulate their interests, record them, and prioritize them. They indicated that they wanted to have a neighbourhood basketball league, a music studio, Friday night youth dinners, and more games for the games room. The young people seemed willing to share their ideas with the expectation that they were being listened to and valued. I helped to prepare a spaghetti lunch with some youth and adult volunteers."

2.2. Senior profile

Table 2. Seniors profile, 2006 census

	McQuesten	City
Aged 75 and over	44%	47%
Women	56%	57%
Living alone	33%	29%
With activity limitations	59%	56%
Same address five years ago	88%	84%
Don't speak English	5%	5%
Born in Canada	59%	54%
Born in Italy	7%	10%
Born in Poland	6%	2%
Born in Croatia	5%	2%
Born in the UK	5%	9%
Median income	\$18,628	\$22,856
Living on incomes below the poverty line	28%	17%
Senior poverty rate for men	18%	10%
Senior poverty rate for women	36%	22%
Housing needing major repairs		
Senior families	13%	5%
Unattached seniors	20%	6%
Renters		
Senior families	31%	14%
Unattached seniors	68%	43%
Owners with mortgage		
Senior families	35%	23%
Unattached seniors	26%	15%

Findings

Compared to seniors in the City of Hamilton, seniors in McQuesten are younger, more likely to be living alone (33% in McQuesten vs. 29% city), living in poverty, and live in rental housing. Among senior families who own their own homes, more than a third (35%) are still paying a mortgage, while less a quarter of Hamilton's senior families are in this situation (23%). Among McQuesten's single seniors, almost 7 in 10 are living in rental housing (68% compared to 43% for the city). McQuesten's seniors are slightly more likely to be born in Canada (59% vs. 54%) and among McQuesten's immigrant seniors they are much more likely to be born in Poland or Croatia than the city's average seniors. The median income of seniors in McQuesten is \$18,628, a figure that is only slightly higher than the combined basic income that is provided to low income seniors in Canada (OAS and GIS combined are about \$15,000 per year).

Implications

While the proportion of seniors is lower in McQuesten than in the city, and McQuesten seniors are younger than the average senior in Hamilton, seniors in McQuesten are much more vulnerable than in other neighbourhoods. The higher share of seniors living alone means that a larger proportion are isolated and have less access to support if they face illness or disability.

The higher proportions of owners still carrying a mortgage and renters means that few seniors in McQuesten can draw from home equity either to help finance their own retirement or as an asset to pass on to their children through an inheritance or while living. Not being able to pass on wealth between generations is a significant barrier to their children and grandchildren being able to save for their own down payments, or attend university, for example.

3.0 CHILD AND YOUTH ASSETS IN AND AROUND MCQUESTEN (PARTIAL LIST)

Ontario Early Years Centre- Hillcrest school location	40 Eastwood St 905-545-5995	Monday – Thursday 8:45 am – 3:15 pm Friday: 8:45 - noon	Eligibility: Children 0-6 with their parents/caregivers
<p>Drop-in centre play and support program for all children aged 0-6 years and their families. The vision for Hamilton's Early Years Centres is to create a welcoming and accessible environment for all parents and caregivers. The Early Years Centres allow parents and caregivers to acquire information, resources and support they need to ensure that all children have the best possible start in life. Toy lending library services are available at this location. This site is run by Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club.</p> <p>www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/oeyc/locations/oeyc.aspx?Center=352</p>			
St Eugene Parenting and Family Literacy Centre	St. Eugene Elementary School, 120 Parkdale Ave S.	Hours: September-June Mon-Fri 8:30 am-12:30 pm (closed on all school holidays)	Eligibility: Children 0-6 with parents/caregivers
<p>Parenting and Family Literacy Centres are school-based programs for parents and their children, aged birth to six years of age that operate during the school day. The parent/caregiver stays with the child at all times.</p> <p>These program help to prepare children for school and encourage families to be a part of their children's learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping children build essential literacy and numeracy skills through stories, music, reading and playing • Encourage families to engage in their children's learning • Offering a book-lending library in different languages, so parents can read to their children in their first language • Helping parents and children feel comfortable and familiar with school staff and school routines • Giving families the chance to spend time with other families • Linking families with appropriate community resources for special needs, health and other related services • Expanding the network of services already available to families in Hamilton by collaborating with their local Ontario Early Years Centres, child care centres and other programs for families with young children <p>Program facilitators in the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres work as partners with the Kindergarten teachers and local community programs, collaborating to create a welcoming learning environment that will help prepare children for school. Centres are free to attend and no pre-registration is required. Parents and children are invited to come to the centre at any time during the scheduled hours.</p>			
Niwasa Early Learning and Care	Wesley Neighbourhood Centre 93 Delena Ave N		
<p>Licensed childcare centre for children aged 2 years and 3 months to 5 years.</p> <p>www.niwsaheadstart.com</p>			

Niwasa Early Years Centre	Wesley Neighbourhood Centre, 93 Delena Ave N 905-549-4884 ext. 227	Hours: Mondays 1pm – 3pm Saturday: 10 am – noon	Eligibility: Children 0-6 with their parents/caregivers
Aboriginal curriculum open to all cultures. Parents and caregivers with children 6 years and under can drop-in to this program for: Early Learning activities, interactive play experiences, arts, crafts, dramatic play, reading and various workshops. www.niwasaheadstart.com			
Niwasa Head Start Preschool	1869 Main St. East 905-549-4884		
Licensed pre-school program for Aboriginal children aged 2.5 years to 5 years. Aboriginal program and languages are offered at this centre. There are no fees for this program but, however, monthly volunteer hours are required and there is a nominal annual transportation fee. Children participating in this program must be toilet trained. Special needs children are accepted in this program. www.niwasaheadstart.com			
Umbrella Family and Child Centres of Hamilton	Hillcrest School 40 Eastwood St 905-545-6558		
Licensed childcare program for children aged 2.5 years to 5 years. Also offers free universal pre-school program for 3 year olds. www.umbrellafamily.com			
McQuesten Boys and Girls Club	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave. 905-549-2814 ext 238 905-523-2301	Hours: Mon-Fri 6 pm-8 pm	Eligibility: Ages 7 years - 13 years
The McQuesten Boys and Girls Club provides a barrier-free, drop-in recreational opportunity for young people in the evening with a focus on positive social interaction, inclusion, adventure, play, discovery, empowerment and appropriate role modelling by staff and volunteers.			
STAR of Hamilton	2 Oriole Crescent Unit 41 905-545-6698	Hours: School Year Mon-Thu 4 pm-9 pm Summer Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm March Break Mon-Fri 10am-4pm	Eligibility: Ages 5 year(s) - 15 year(s) Children and youth in catchment area
S.T.A.R. of Hamilton is a recreation/skill development program, which provides barrier-free skill development programs to children aged five to fifteen living in select Hamilton Housing Corporation Communities. S.T.A.R.'s goal is to provide these children with opportunities for participation in recreational activities. Overall S.T.A.R. aims to enhance the self-image, confidence and quality of life for children and their families. Program is offered at 3 sites: Oriole Crescent, Kenora Ave & Congress Crescent, registration for programs can be completed over the phone as well as visiting our head office at 2 Oriole Crescent Unit 41. www.starhamilton.ca			

SNAP Under 12 Outreach Program, Banyan Community Services	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave.	905-544-7778	Eligibility: Ages 6-12 years
<p>Do you know someone between 6 and 12 years of age who is having difficulty at home, school and/or in the community? Are they: physically aggressive, verbally aggressive or defiant, having conflict with authority, or having trouble keeping friends Do they: fight, steal vandalize (damage property) , or set fires or trespass Our SNAP® Connection program can help. To enrol or find our more, contact SNAP® Connection at 544.7778 Participation at SNAP® Connection is free of charge. Childcare at the Program is available at no cost while parents attend parent training groups SNAP® (STOP NOW AND PLAN) helps participants handle their emotions and manage difficult situations successfully. SNAP® provides social and recreational activities for groups and individuals. These activities help build a trust-based relationship between SNAP® Connection staff and the child and family. These relationships form the foundation from which we teach self-control and problem solving skills. http://www.snapconnection.org/</p>			
Hamilton Muslim Basketball Association	Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School 1715 Main St E	Phone: After 5 pm only or on weekends * 416- 574-6319 (cell) or 905-648-1822 (land line)	Eligibility: Youth boys and girls: Ages 6 years – 13 years Teen girls and women: Ages 14 and up (basketball, volleyball, and soccer) Teen boys and men: Ages 14 and up
<p>The Hamilton Muslim Basketball Association (HMBA) is an organized basketball league which caters to the Islamic community of Hamilton and the surrounding area * HMBA's mission statement is to provide a means for Muslim brothers, sisters and youth to interact, communicate and learn within an Islamic environment www.hamiltonmba.com</p>			
St Eugene Before and After School Program	120 Parkdale Ave S 905-545-9598		
<p>Licensed childcare centre for children aged 3 years 8 months to 12 years. Offers before and after school care.</p>			
Doors of Friendship, Day Camp Programs	Wesley Neighbourhood Centre, 93 Delena Ave N 905-521-0926 ext 233	Camp operates July and August Monday- Friday, 9am – 4pm	Eligibility: Ages 7-12 years
<p>Summer day camp operates in partnership with Wesley Urban Ministries. Activities include games, sports, swimming, special events and field trips.</p>			

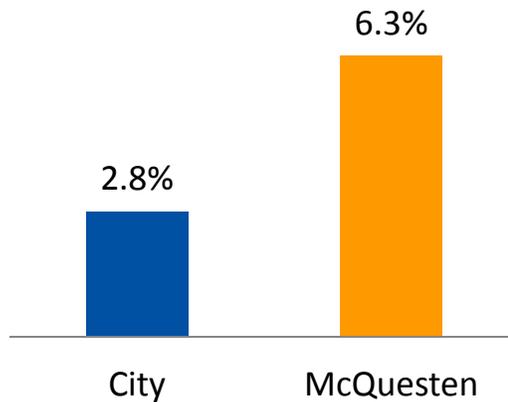
4.0 SENIORS' ASSETS IN AND AROUND MCQUESTEN (PARTIAL LIST)

St. Matthew's House Seniors Centre	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave 905-537-0195	Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu 9 am-3:30 pm	Eligibility: ages: 55 year(s) and up Seniors, retired persons	
This Seniors Centre program of St Matthew's House provides a variety of activities and programs to promote enjoyment and well being for older adults and retirees. Services include: * Recreational and Educational Programs * Bingo * Pot Luck Lunches * Stretch & Relax; Tai Chi * Crafts * Information and Referrals * Intergenerational activities * Some foot care * Special Events * Computer Training				
Montgomery Lodge	1605 Main St E 905-544-4668			
Seniors' retirement residence				
Teamsters Retirees	Teamster Hall 460 Parkdale Ave N 905-547-3231			
Members of this club enjoy activities such as dances, trips, and picnics.				
Hamilton and Area CAW Retirees Association	Union Hall 307 Queenston Rd 905-545-8770	Hours: Administration Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm		
A seniors club of retired employees of the firms where local CAW collective bargaining agreements took place.				
Dofasco Retired Employees Association	Moose Lodge 1860 Barton St			
Club composed of retired Dofasco employees who meet regularly for games socializing and good times				

5.0 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

5.1. Aboriginals

**Chart 3. Population with Aboriginal ancestry,
City of Hamilton and McQuesten, 2006 Census**



Findings

The census has never been a reliable data source for urban Aboriginal populations in Hamilton, but it remains at this time the only source of data for this population at the neighbourhood level¹. Keeping this in mind, we can see from Chart 3, that there is a much higher proportion of Aboriginal population in McQuesten than the city as a whole.

Implications

The large Aboriginal population in McQuesten is an important component of McQuesten's cultural diversity. Some Aboriginal-specific services already exist in and near McQuesten including the Niwasa Head Start Preschool. Aboriginal residents also access services from mainstream organizations and these organizations should continue to build relationships with Aboriginal services to expand referral and training networks.

¹ For more information about urban Aboriginal data in the census, please see the SPRC's recent report: Hamilton's Social Landscape.

5.2. Newcomers

Chart 4. Period of arrival of newcomers to Canada living in the McQuesten neighbourhood and the City of Hamilton during the 2006 Census, as a proportion of the entire population.

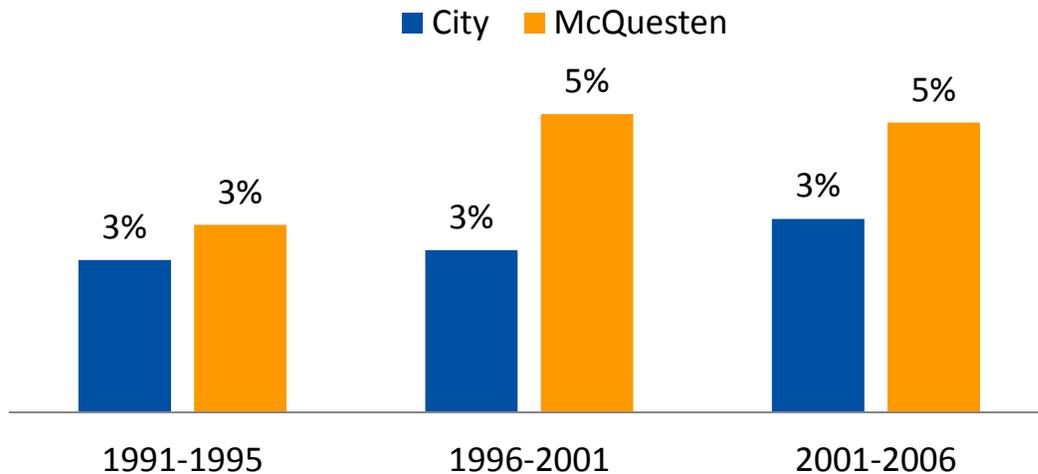
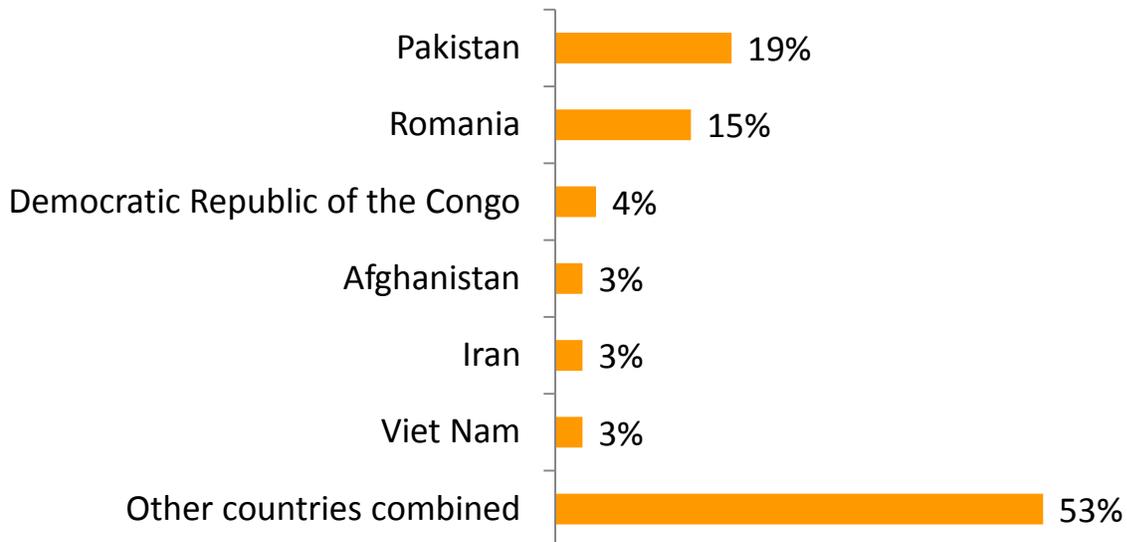


Chart 5. Countries of birth of recent immigrants (arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2006) and living in the McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census



Findings

Chart 4: McQuesten has a higher than average rate of newcomers to Canada among its residents. 10% of McQuesten's population arrived in Canada between 1996-2006, compared to 6% of Hamilton's population. The proportion of McQuesten's population that arrived in the 1991-1995 period is lower at 3%, only slightly higher than the city's proportion of residents in this category.

Chart 5: Among the most recent immigrants for which data is available, those arriving between 2001-2006, the largest country of birth is Pakistan, with 19% of recent immigrants of Pakistani origin. This is more than twice the rate for the city as a whole (9% of Hamilton's recent immigrants were born in Pakistan). Romania is the country of birth of 15% of McQuesten's recent immigrants, almost 4 times the rate for the entire city (4%). The 3rd most common country of birth for recent immigrants living in McQuesten is the Democratic Republic of Congo. While only 4% of McQuesten's recent immigrants were born there, it is almost six times the rate for Hamilton.

Implications

McQuesten is one of Hamilton's "arrival cities", along with other neighbourhoods such as Riverdale, Jamesville, and Corktown. Service providers should be especially sensitive of the struggles, persecution and strife that recent immigrants may have witnessed or fled from in their countries of birth. For example, wars and political upheavals are a major part of the recent histories of Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Iran (a combined 29% of McQuesten's recent immigrants were born in one of these countries). Immigrants from Romania are largely from the Roma ethnic group, formerly known as gypsies, which has throughout history and continuing today been subjected to discrimination and violence in Europe. Understanding the challenges that immigrants may have survived before coming to Canada is an important part of recognizing the unique needs of this population.

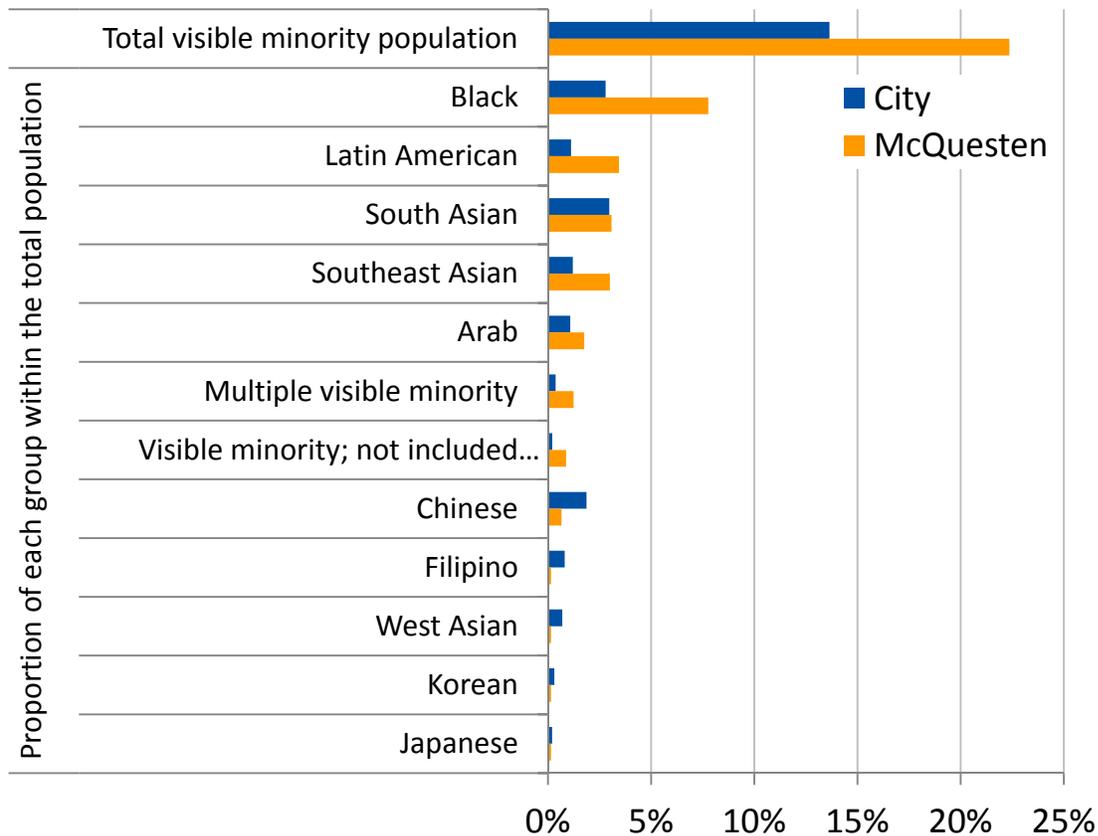
Like many arrival cities, McQuesten's recent immigrants often move to another neighbourhood within a few years. This can be seen in the lower numbers of newcomers from the 1991-1996 period. This pattern of secondary migration within a city may signal that McQuesten may not have all the services, opportunities, or housing types that immigrants are looking for once they have settled.

McQuesten Voices

"I am relatively new to the McQuesten community, but I had the chance to attend and help out with the Eid celebration in December and found it very rewarding. I was accepted by the community and it felt great to be able to celebrate and learn about an event which I was unfamiliar with."

5.3. Visible Minorities

Chart 6. Visible Minority groups as a proportion of the entire population, McQuesten neighbourhood and City of Hamilton, 2006 Census



Findings

More than 1 in five (22%) of McQuesten’s residents identify with a visible minority group, higher than the 14% rate for the city as a whole. Black is by far the largest visible minority group in McQuesten, representing 7% of residents, more than twice the rate for Hamilton. Latin American is the second most common visible minority group, with 4% of McQuesten’s population, compared to 2% for the city. While South Asian is the 3rd most common visible minority group, the rate is the same in both McQuesten and Hamilton (3%).

Implications

Cultural diversity is a major asset for any community, and it is one that service providers should be responsive to. Culturally appropriate services, events, and food for example, demonstrate that a service provider is welcoming for all residents. This *inclusion lens* (“generating the feeling and reality of belonging”) is what the City of Hamilton wants its service providers to use when planning their activities:

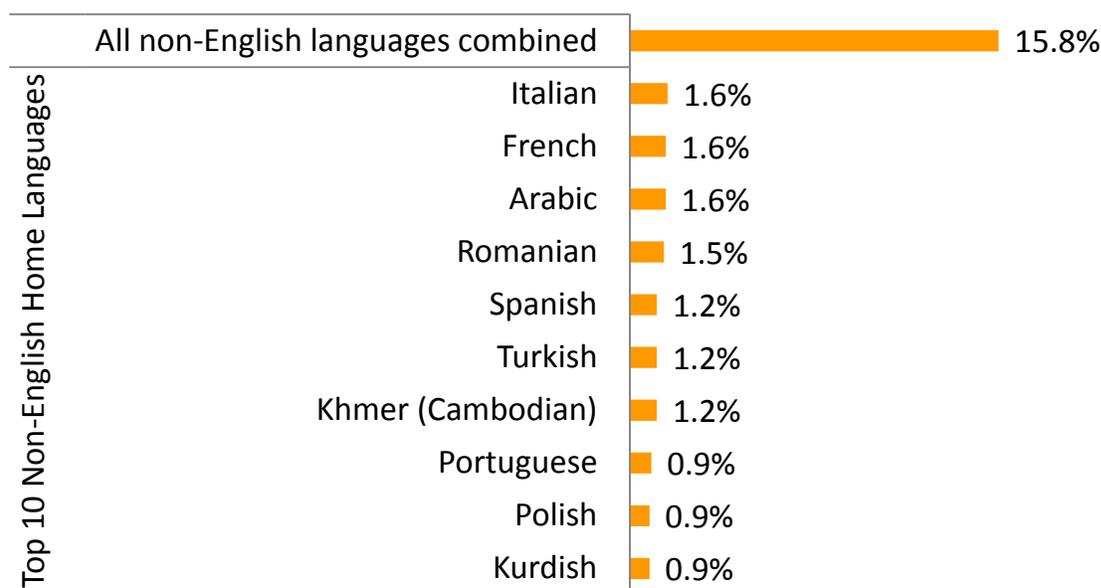
“Attention should be paid to providing services that create a welcoming inclusive community with deliberate and sustained policy and service delivery planning to ensure that the city moves towards a community that demonstrates acceptance and integration of all diverse groups. The unique skills and talents of

those who self-identify as a visible minority could be better recognized, acknowledged and integrated into more aspects of city life”
 — *The Playbook: A Framework for Human Services Planning in Hamilton*, City of Hamilton, 2010

Visible minorities in Canada are often subjected to discrimination in housing², education and employment³. The larger proportion of visible minorities in McQuesten shows the need for more services tailored to the unique needs of this portion of McQuesten’s residents.

5.4. Languages

Chart 7. Languages other than English spoken most often at home, McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census



Findings

Almost 16% of McQuesten’s residents speak at language other than English at home, slightly higher than the proportion for Hamilton (14.9%). Italian, French and Arabic are all tied as the most common non-English home language in McQuesten, each spoken by 1.6% of the population. Arabic is one of Hamilton’s fastest growing languages, so would probably claim first spot if a census was held today.

Implications

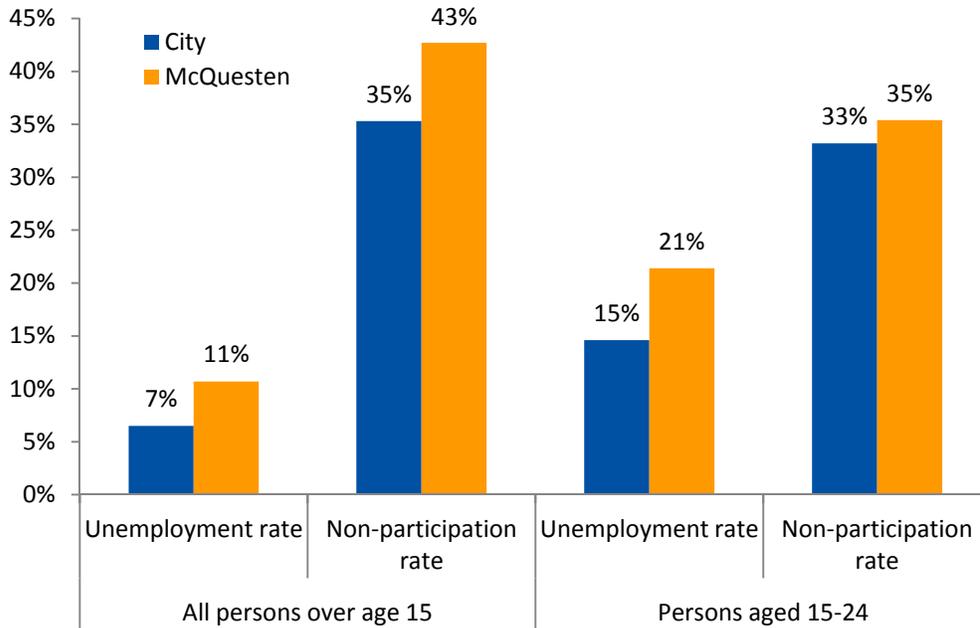
It is important for service providers to be aware that a certain portion of their potential clients may not be comfortable or literate in English. While this “home language” data does not specifically answer that question, it does show which languages McQuesten’s residents are spoken most often at home.

² Ontario Human Rights Commission (2007). Human Rights and Rental Housing in Ontario: Background Paper. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/news/housingback/pdf>

³ A 2009 Canadian survey by Ipsos-Reid found that 21% of visible minority employees felt discriminated against at their workplace in the last year http://www.ipsos-na.com/dl/pdf/knowledge-ideas/loyalty/Ipsos_Minute_inclusiveWorkplace.pdf

6.0 ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Chart 8. Unemployment and non-participation rates in the labour market, City of Hamilton and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census (May 2006).



Findings

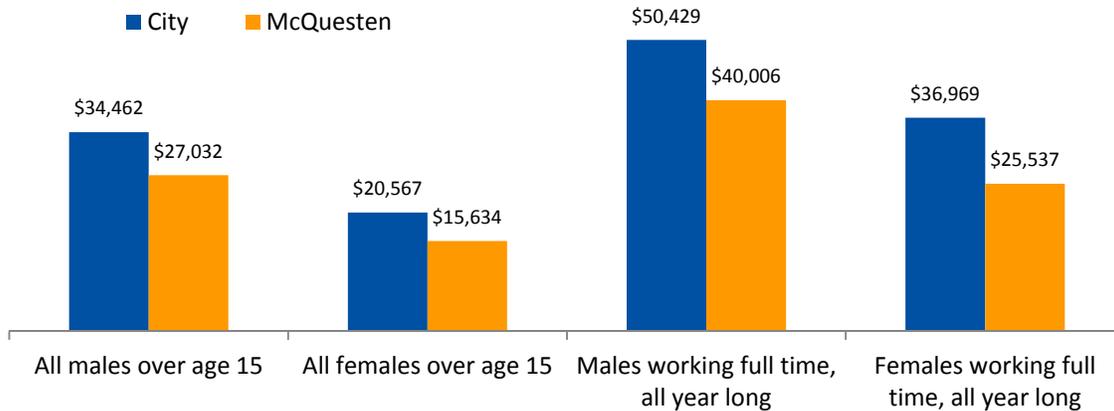
At the time of the 2006 census, McQuesten's unemployment rate was 11%, compared to 7% for the city. Among McQuesten youth aged 15-24, the unemployment rate climbed to 21%. The rate of people not participating in the labour force is higher in McQuesten (43% vs. 35%). Those not participating in the labour force include students, parents caring for children at home, retired seniors and adults who have been frustrated by the lack of jobs and difficulty finding employment and no are no longer actively searching for employment. The non-participation rate for McQuesten youth is almost the same as for the city (35% vs. 33%).

Implications

A greater proportion of non-participants in the labour market in McQuesten may indicate that more residents feel excluded by the labour market and have given up hope of finding a job. It may also be related to the higher proportion of children in the neighbourhood and which has led more parents staying home to raise their kids. These figures date from 2006, before the latest recession and the unemployment rates may be much higher in this more fragile economic time. The higher unemployment rate in McQuesten both for the general population and youth is also concerning. Changing the forces of globalization, economic policies, taxation, interest rates, fluctuating currencies and economic cycles and crises that control the labour market are beyond the reach of residents, services providers and to most extents even the city's leaders. Within this broader context, service providers still have a role in helping residents be better prepared for the challenges of the current labour market and making it more accessible. Many agencies are serving residents in this way already.

6.1. Female and Male Labour Market Profiles

Chart 9. Median incomes by sex and by full-time status, City of Hamilton and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census



Findings

Median incomes in McQuesten are lower than in the City while the gender gap in salaries is maintained. Half of males over age 15 in McQuesten earn less than \$27,032, while half of females earn less than \$15,634 (compared to the equivalent city medians of \$34,462 for men and \$27,567 for women). While a higher rate of social assistance recipients in McQuesten explains in part the differences in salaries between McQuesten and the city, it is not the only factor. McQuesten workers working full-time all year long still have much lower incomes than the city's full-time workers. Half of McQuesten male full-time workers earn less than \$40,006, fully \$10,000 less than the male median income across the city. Women in McQuesten face even greater challenges, as of full-time female workers in McQuesten earn less than \$25,537, more than \$11,000 less than women across Hamilton.

Implications

The large gaps in incomes between men and women in McQuesten and between McQuesten and Hamilton are striking. Social assistance rates that are precariously low combined with a challenging labour market for McQuesten residents has led to the low incomes for many in McQuesten. When overall incomes are so low, the obstacles for renewing and revitalizing a neighbourhood are especially challenging. The variety of private businesses in and around neighbourhoods is an important component of what can improve a neighbourhood's quality of life and vitality. But when incomes are so low, residents have little to no disposable income to spend and in turn, businesses chose to locate in further more affluent areas of a city. The relatively limited variety of businesses along Parkdale Avenue, McQuesten's main artery to its West, shows the lack of interest from businesses in serving this community. This compounds the challenges faced by residents. Not only are McQuesten residents' incomes quite low, but they also have to spend more travel time and money to spend the small amount of income they have on businesses further away from their homes, than would be the case in other neighbourhoods in Hamilton.

McQuesten residents and service providers have found some ways to combat the economic isolation that confronts their neighbourhood. The McQuesten grocery shuttle, for example, offers rides once a week to help residents access a greater selection of food than is available in McQuesten.

Table 3. Top occupations by sex, McQuesten neighbourhood (Hamilton), 2006 Census

Top 5 occupations for males

1. Machine operators in manufacturing
2. Transportation equipment operators and related workers, excluding labourers
3. Sales and service occupations, not otherwise classified
4. Construction trades
5. Machinists, metal forming, shaping and erecting occupations

Top 5 occupations for females

1. Sales and service occupations, not otherwise classified
2. Clerical occupations
3. Cashiers
4. Retail salespersons and sales clerks
5. Assisting occupations in support of health services

Findings

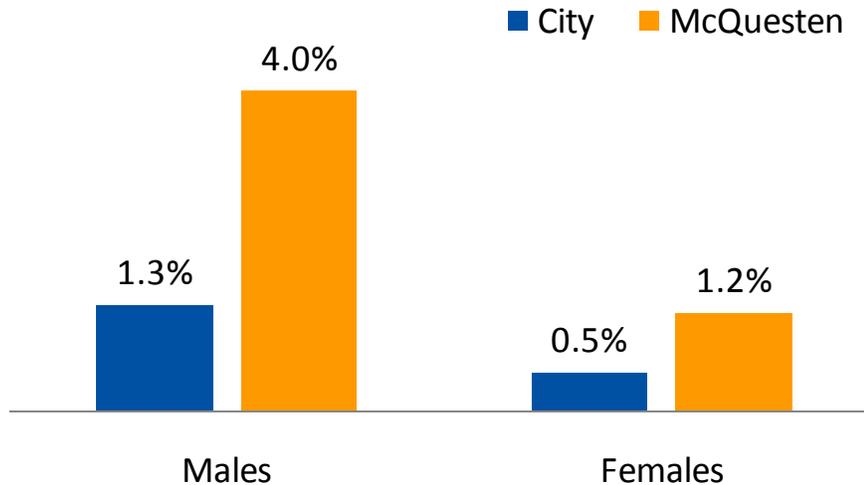
Table 1 shows that most of the top occupations for men are jobs in manufacturing, transportation and construction. The most common occupations for women are in the service sector.

Implications

The low incomes of McQuesten's workers can be explained in large part by the occupations they are employed in. In a different era, male-dominated manufacturing jobs were stable, well paying jobs that a worker could raise his family on. In the last few decades, economic globalization has reduced the value of Canadian manufacturing labour. More recently manufacturing and transportation jobs have become victims of economic model that prizes a low cost and flexible workforce, meaning that contracts are short term, shifts may be unstable and wages are low. Female-dominated occupations in the service sector are also often precarious in this way.

6.2. Mode of transportation to work

Chart 10. Proportion of persons aged 15 and over who travel to work by bicycle, by sex, McQuesten neighbourhood and City of Hamilton, 2006 Census



Findings

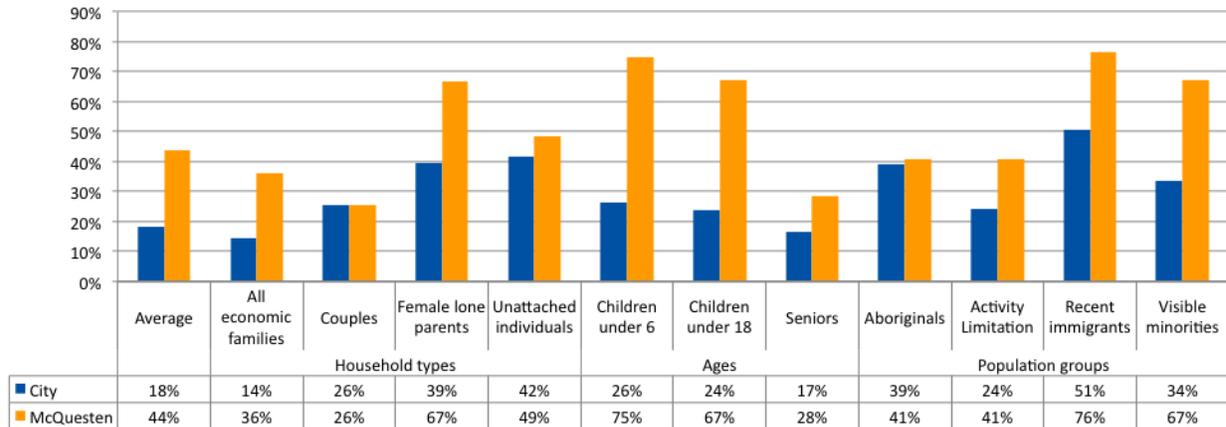
While the rates of cycling are still low, McQuesten residents are much more likely to cycle to work than other Hamiltonians. McQuesten men in particular chose to cycle to work at a rate more than three times the rate for the City of Hamilton.

Implications

McQuesten residents may be cycling to work more often not by choice, but because more residents cannot afford a car on the incomes they live on. They may also be cycling because their job sites are relatively close to their neighbourhood. This may explain the highest rate of cycling among men, as Table 1 also showed that many top occupations for men are in the manufacturing and related sectors, and McQuesten is within a short distance to many employers in these sectors in the Barton and Burlington streets area. There is a project in the development stages in McQuesten currently to create a bicycle co-op. This data supports the need for such a project, especially as there are no bike repair shops in McQuesten.

7.0 POVERTY

Chart 11. Poverty rates by group, McQuesten and City of Hamilton, 2006



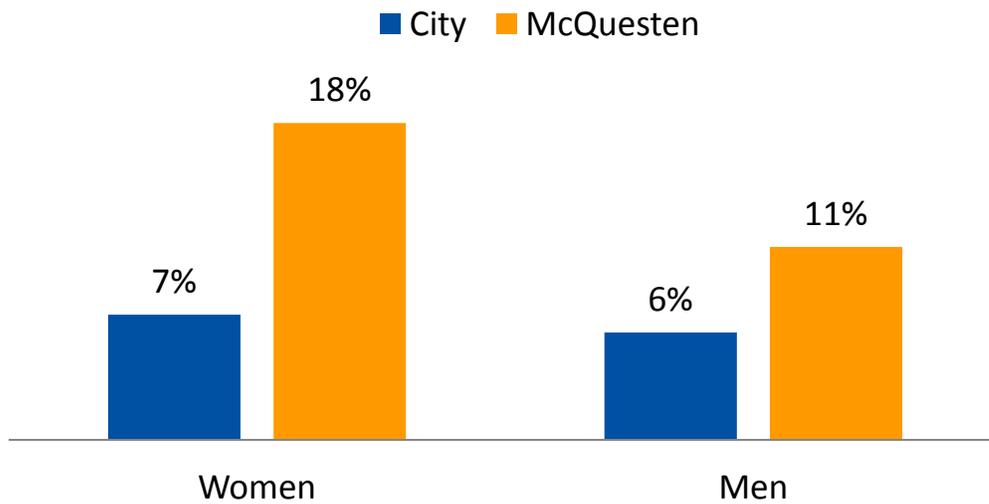
Findings

Single and Aboriginal people in McQuesten, while still having very high poverty rates of over 40%, have only small differences as compared to the overall city poverty rate for these groups. The group that has the largest difference in poverty rates between McQuesten and the city are children (24% poverty rate for the city, 67% for McQuesten – rising as high as 75% for children under 6). The poverty rate for young children in McQuesten is in fact the highest in the entire city. The poverty rate for recent immigrants is also very high, at 76% in McQuesten, compared to 51% for the city. McQuesten’s couples and seniors have poverty rates that are much lower than the neighbourhood average. The poverty rate for couples is 26% - the same rate as the city. Among seniors the poverty rate is 28%, still higher than the city’s 17% rate.

Implications

The high rate of poverty in McQuesten has made McQuesten a focus neighbourhood for many service providers. Service providers should continue to find ways to both alleviate the effects of poverty and reduce the rates of low income in general. Since the last census, the provincial government has focussed its recent poverty reduction strategy on children, and in 2008 introduced the Ontario Child Benefit, which gave additional income to many of McQuesten’s families with children. Recent increases to the minimum wage will also have positive effects for residents. But the lack of jobs available for those with fewer skills and/or less education is a barrier to eliminating poverty in McQuesten. The SPRC’s Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton 2009 report also noted that social assistance rates for singles have also been maintained at extremely low levels since they were cut in 1995.

Chart 12. Poverty rate among full-time, full year workers, by sex, City of Hamilton and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 census



Findings

Among full-time, full-year workers in McQuesten during the last census, a full 15% were earning wages that still fell under the poverty line. This is more than twice the rate for the city (7%). The differences along gender lines are very pronounced in McQuesten as compared to the City. Among McQuesten women, 18% of full time workers were living in poverty 11 percentage points above the city's rate and seven percentage points above the rate for McQuesten men.

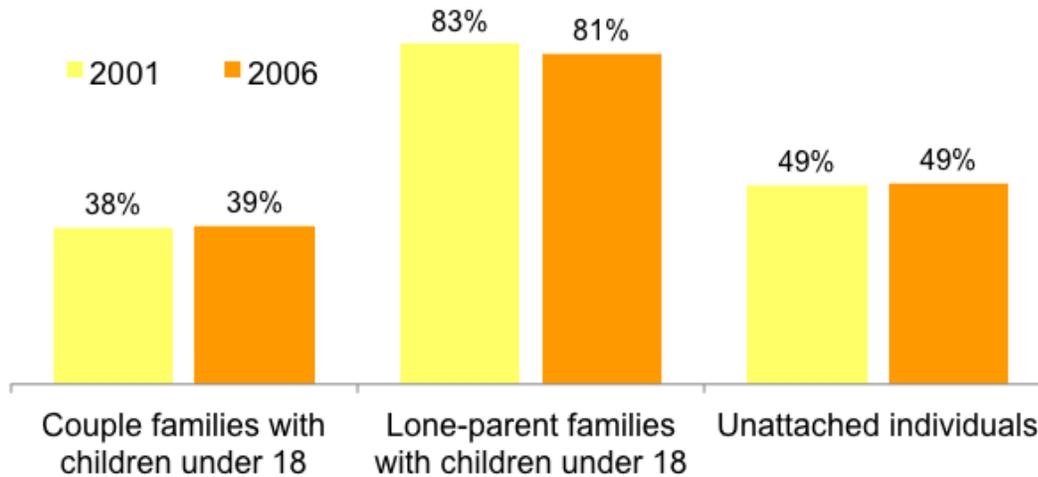
Implications

The high poverty rate among McQuesten's full time workers is especially distressing. As noted previously in this report a large proportion of McQuesten women are single parents, therefore already face significant challenges to entering the labour market. This data shows that even for women who are major contributors to the paid labour market (working full-time all year long), a substantial number of them are not compensated enough to be able to raise their families.

One positive change for McQuesten's working poor has been the recent increases to the minimum wage. At the time of the last census, the minimum wage was \$7.45 an hour, while the current rate is \$10.25 per hour. This has improved the lives of McQuesten's minimum wage workers and should positively impact the rates of poverty for full-time full-year workers by the next census.

The application of a living wage, a concept promoted by the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and the SPRC among others, would also help reduce poverty among McQuesten workers.

Chart 13. Poverty rates by selected family types, McQuesten neighbourhood, 2001 and 2006 Censuses



Findings

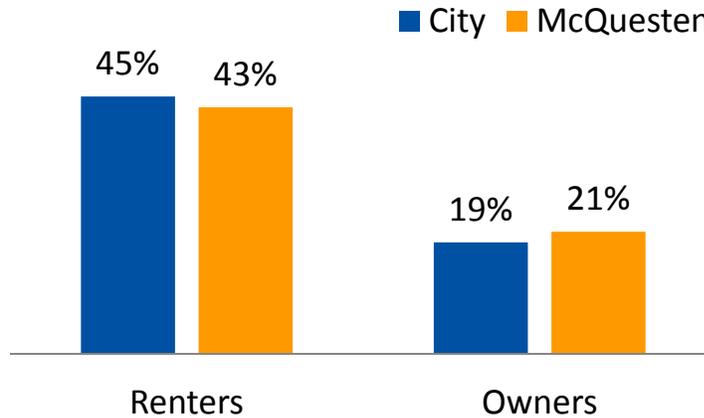
There has been virtually no change in the poverty levels of couples and lone parent families with children and unattached individuals between the 2001 and 2006 censuses. Lone parents with minor children have extremely high rates of poverty in McQuesten, at 81% in 2006.

Implications

While Hamilton’s poverty rate decreased from 20% in 2001 to 18% in 2006, there was no change in McQuesten. However, as previously noted, income supports for families with children and increases to the minimum wage since 2006 will contribute to improving the incomes of McQuesten residents more recently. But the recent recession and continued tight labour market have continued to make it difficult for many families to climb out of poverty entirely.

8.0 HOUSING

Chart 14. Proportion of households living in unaffordable dwellings, by tenure type, City of Hamilton and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census



Findings

Spending 30% or more of a household's income on rent or mortgage and other major housing payments is considered by banks, mortgage lenders, and housing advocates to be unaffordable. While the poverty rates in McQuesten are much higher than the average rates for the city, the proportion of households living in unaffordable housing is virtually the same as the city. For renters the rate in McQuesten is slightly lower than in the city (43% vs. 45%), while for owners there is a slightly higher rate of unaffordability (21% vs. 19%).

Implications

For owners, part of the reasons that housing affordability rates are so similar to the city may be that while incomes are lower in McQuesten, so are property values. McQuesten is a neighbourhood in Hamilton where many relatively low income working families can afford to purchase a home. According to the 2006 Census, the average value of an owner occupied house was approximately 40% lower in McQuesten than in the city (about \$149,000 in McQuesten compared to \$252,000 for the city). 41% of dwellings are owner-occupied in McQuesten, compared to 68% across the city.

Tenants do not enjoy as much of a differential in the rent they pay, as the average rent in McQuesten is only 15% lower than the city (\$664 vs. \$781). However approximately 10% of McQuesten rental units are rent-geared-to-income (RGI) townhouses owned by City Housing Hamilton. These RGI units are by definition affordable even for residents living on low social assistance rates. While RGI units do not reduce the poverty rates of the residents, they do help to improve families' quality of life by alleviating poverty and allowing them to have more disposable income to spend on other necessities such as food, children's activities, and transportation.

**9.0 EMPLOYMENT, INCOME SUPPORT, AND HOUSING ASSETS IN
AND NEAR MCQUESTEN
(PARTIAL LIST)**

St. Matthew's House Basic Needs and Practical Assistance Program	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave. 905-545-0565	Mondays and Thursdays 9 am -12 noon	Eligibility: All ages
<p>Clients have access to the following through the emergency support program: * a food bank, clothing, foot wear, toiletries, infant formula, diapers, and bus tickets * furnishings and household items such as bedding and appliances Clients also have access to: * information about housing, employment, training and a wide range of community services, programs and resources * referrals, advocacy and counselling</p>			
City Housing Hamilton Community Resource Workers	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave.	Every Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and every 3 rd Tuesday of the month, 6pm - 8pm	Eligibility: Current or prospective tenants of City Housing Hamilton
City Housing Hamilton staff available to answer questions and address issues for tenants.			
Ontario Works community outreach	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave.	Every Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and every 3 rd Tuesday of the month, 6pm - 8pm	Contact for eligibility information
Hamilton Legal Clinics, McQuesten location	1440 Main St E (will be moving in the Spring)	Mon-Thu 8:30 am-12 noon, 1 pm-4:30 pm * Fri 8:30 am-12 noon Phone Hours: Mon-Thu 8:30 am-12 noon, 1 pm-3:30 pm * Fri 8:30 am-12 noon	Ages: 16 year(s) and up None - legal services are free to all who meet financial eligibility requirements.
<p>Provides legal information, advice and advocacy to the local community * Services include confidential legal information is provided by telephone and by personal interview in the following areas of law: * Tenant Protection Act * Consumer Protection/Debt and Credit * Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program * Employment Insurance * Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (formerly Workers' Compensation) * Employment and Labour (non-unionized) * Human Rights * Criminal Injuries Compensation Board * Canada Pension Plan</p> <p>Legal representation in the above areas of law is provided to individuals and groups living in the City of Hamilton who meet the financial eligibility requirements Legal education programs are provided upon request to groups interested in learning more about a particular area of law. In addition, the Community Development Coordinator provides groups with expertise in organizing and resources, and assists with community projects</p>			

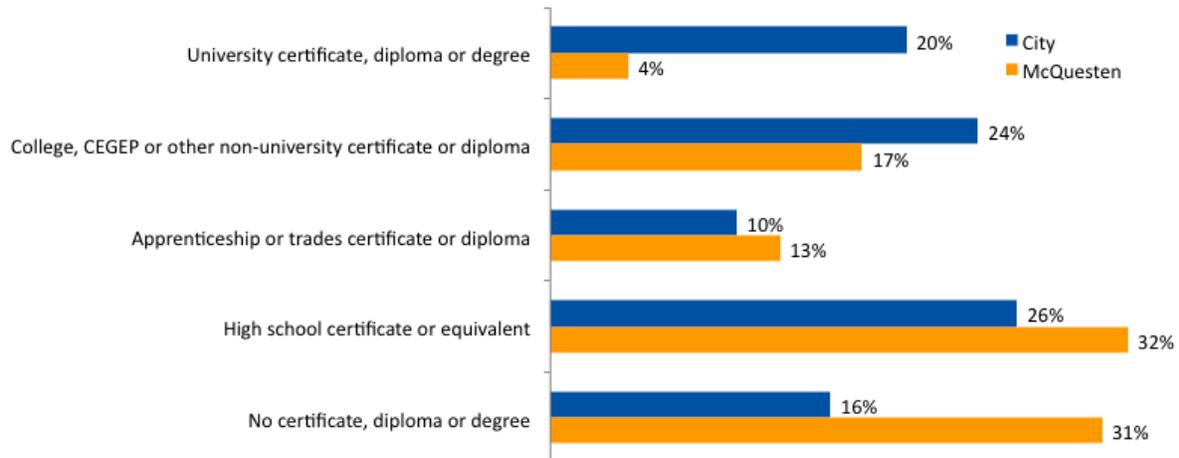
ReStore (Habitat for Humanity)	285 Nash Rd N, Unit 1	Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm		
<p>An innovative response to the current landfill crisis * "thrift-shop" for reusable building materials * good, resalable building materials can be purchased * builders, contractors, do-it-yourselfers and renovators can donate new and used building materials, avoid dumping charges and get a charitable donation receipt for fair market value of the product donated * stores and manufactures can donate end-of-line, scratch and dent, old stock, customer returns, and avoid the cost of returning them to the manufacturer * shop at the Habitat ReStore for quality used materials at about 50%, or less, of the original cost * Habitat has a small experienced crew of volunteers with their own tools to help remove salvaged materials on larger jobs * call for free pickups, by appointment</p> <p>www.habitahamilton.ca/ReStoreTop/Restore</p>				

Other assets are the many major employers around McQuesten, such as ArcelorMittal Dofasco, Lowes, and many smaller employers.

10.0 EDUCATION

10.1 Educational attainment

Chart 15. Highest certificate, diploma, or degree obtained by persons aged 25 to 64, City of Hamilton and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2006 Census



Findings

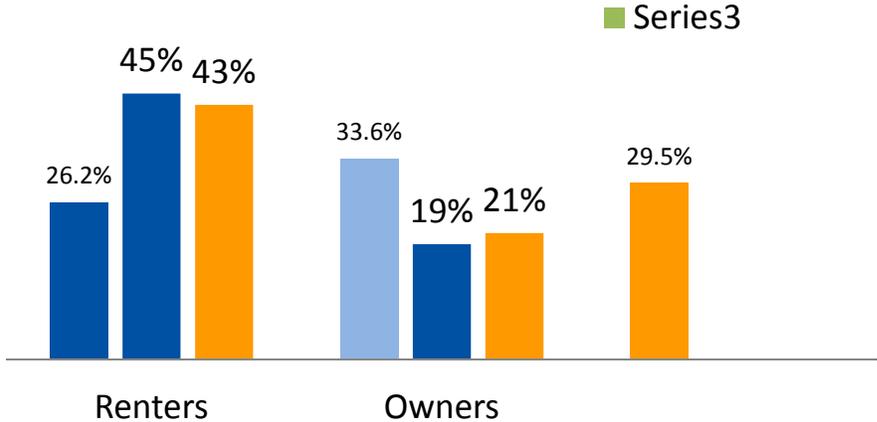
McQuesten's educational attainment profile is very different from the city's. While one in five Hamiltonians has a university degree, this is true for only one in 25 McQuesten residents. While 16% of Hamiltonians have less than high school education, the rate is almost doubled in McQuesten (31% have no certificate, diploma or degree).

Implications

The high rates of high school education or less, combined with significant numbers of newcomers means that service providers must keep in mind the vastly different English-language literacy levels among McQuesten residents. Written documentation may not be the best way to transmit information as it will exclude many residents who are not proficient at reading. When information must be conveyed through words on paper or electronic means, clear everyday language should always be used and any jargon or 'legalese' should be eliminated.

10.2. Readiness for school

Chart 15. Proportion of kindergarten-aged children who are vulnerable according to the Early Development Instrument, City of Hamilton, lower city and McQuesten neighbourhood, 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2010 combined.



Note: Red bars show the variability of the point estimates (i.e. error bars).

Findings

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a measure of children’s early development with a focus on readiness to learn at school. EDI assessments are conducted by senior kindergarten teachers in sites across Canada. In Hamilton, over 20,000 students have taken part in the EDI project since 2002. Using EDI data, a child is considered vulnerable if they score low on one or more domains (physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge). Data at the neighbourhood level are quite variable due to small sample sizes, so multiple years are grouped to get a more accurate picture. The EDI vulnerability data for McQuesten shows that McQuesten has a higher rate of vulnerability among its five and six year olds than the city (approximately 29.5% of McQuesten kids are vulnerable, compared to 26.2% for the city). But McQuesten’s results are better than for the lower city (approximately 33.6% of kindergarten kids in the lower city are considered vulnerable).

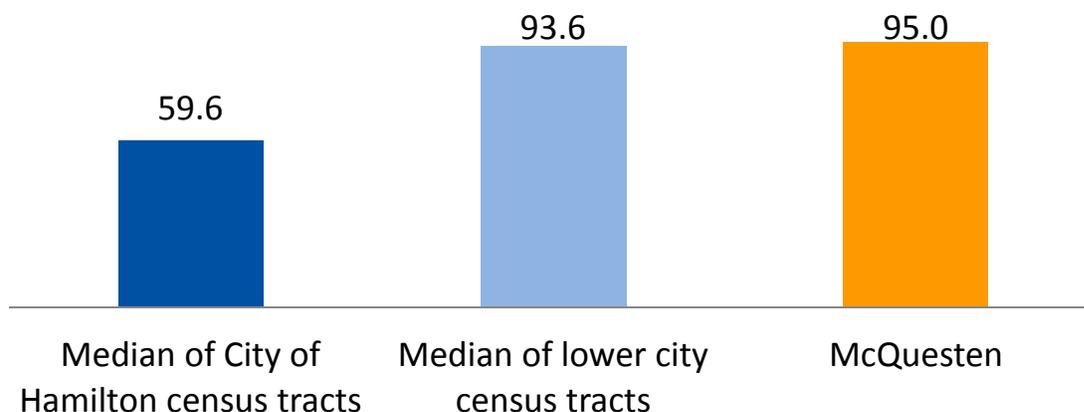
Implications

Research has shown that there is a significant relationship between poverty and early childhood development, including readiness to learn at school⁴. The finding that McQuesten has a lower rate of vulnerability in the early years as measured by the EDI than Hamilton’s lower city, despite having a much higher poverty level is noteworthy (McQuesten’s rates of poverty for children under six is 75% compared to 42% across the lower city). Other factors may play an important role in McQuesten. For example, some of the reasons could be related to more affordable housing in McQuesten giving low income parents more disposable income and/or the extra parental support offered by many child-focussed service providers in McQuesten. More investigation is needed to determine the validity of potential explanations for these results.

⁴ See for example: Ministry of Children and Youth Services (2009). *The relationship between children’s readiness-to-learn at school and early risk factors*. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/research/poverty_2.ppt

10.3. Youth and school

Chart 16. High school dropout rate per 1,000 students, City of Hamilton, lower city and McQuesten Neighbourhood



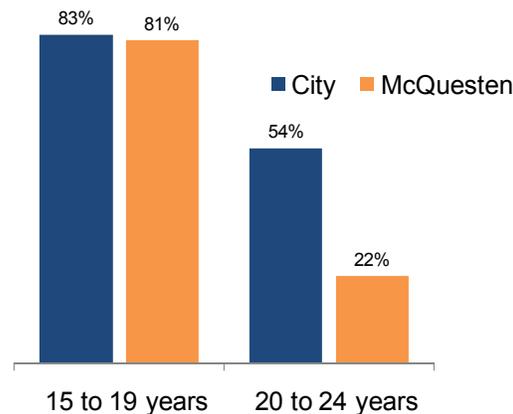
Findings

McQuesten's rate of high school non-completion is more than 50% higher than the median for all of Hamilton's census tracts (Statistics Canada's version of neighbourhoods). When compared to the median for just lower city census tracts, McQuesten's dropout rate is only slightly higher (95 per 1,000 students in McQuesten, 93.6 per 1,000 students among lower city census tracts). A further analysis shows that among the city's 12 census tracts with a poverty rate of over 30%, McQuesten has the second lowest high school dropout rate.

Implications

The high dropout rate in McQuesten is a concern as not completing high school limits a person's job prospects and lifetime income. Generally most neighbourhoods' dropout rates are directly related to the area's poverty rate, but McQuesten's relatively low dropout rate compared to other neighbourhoods with above average poverty rates is a sign that other factors such as parental involvement in school, extra tutoring, and after-school programs are helping McQuesten buck the trend.

Chart 17. School attendance by age group, youth in the City of Hamilton and McQuesten, 2006 Census



Findings

McQuesten's 15 to 19 year olds are in school at almost the same rate as for the city as a whole (81% vs. 83%). But for older youth, aged 20-24, the rate of school participation falls dramatically to only 22% for McQuesten, while overall half of this age group remains in school across the city (54%).

Implications

The higher high school dropout rate in McQuesten is part of the reason that so few older youth are in school: if they have not finished high school then higher education is not possible. But among the vast majority of students from McQuesten who do finish high school, there still is a much more significant portion that does not go on to further education than in the city as a whole. Research shows that high school graduates from lower income families are less likely to go to college or university due to factors such as cost, no other post-secondary educated members of their family, or needing to work to gain income for their family. McQuesten's relative geographic isolation could also have an impact. McQuesten is quite far from McMaster University and Mohawk College, Hamilton's two major post-secondary education institutions especially if one does not have a car to travel there. It could also be that in order to attend these or other post-secondary institutions, McQuesten youth leave the neighbourhood to find housing closer to their school.

11.0 LEARNING ASSETS IN AND AROUND MCQUESTEN (PARTIAL LIST)

Adult Basic Education Association	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave	Hours: Every Thursday 9am-5pm and every 3 rd Tuesday of the month 6pm-8pm	Eligibility: Ages 16 year(s) and up Must be out of the public school system to access these services which are designed for adults
<p>The Adult Basic Education Association exists to improve the quality of life for the community of Hamilton through the promotion and support of life long learning. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Adult literacy services plan development * Free information and referrals to adult education and training programs * Essential skills assessments * Pre-GED testing * Learning challenges assessments * Clear Writing training and consulting * Workplace education brokering * Organizational training needs assessments * External project evaluation * Make referrals to Literacy and Basic Skills programs 			
Hamilton Public Library Branches	Kenilworth: 103 Kenilworth N. 905-546-3960 Red Hill: 695 Queenston Rd 905-546-2069	Kenilworth: Open 5 days a week (closed Sundays and Fridays) Red Hill: Open 6 days a week (closed Mondays)	
Hamilton Public Library Bookmobile	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Avenue (former St. Helen's School)	Hours: Thursday 2:30-4:30	
Hillcrest School	40 Eastwood Drive	JK to Grade 8	
Parkdale School	139 Parkdale Avenue North	JK to Grade 5 (including full day kindergarten)	
Roxborough Park School	20 Reid Avenue North	JK to Grade 5 (including full day kindergarten)	
St. Eugene School	120 Parkdale Ave. S.	JK to Grade 5	
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School	1715 Main Street East	Grades 9 to 12	

Brock University, Hamilton Campus	1842 King St E 905-547-3555		
Primarily offers Teacher education courses www.foed.brocku.ca			

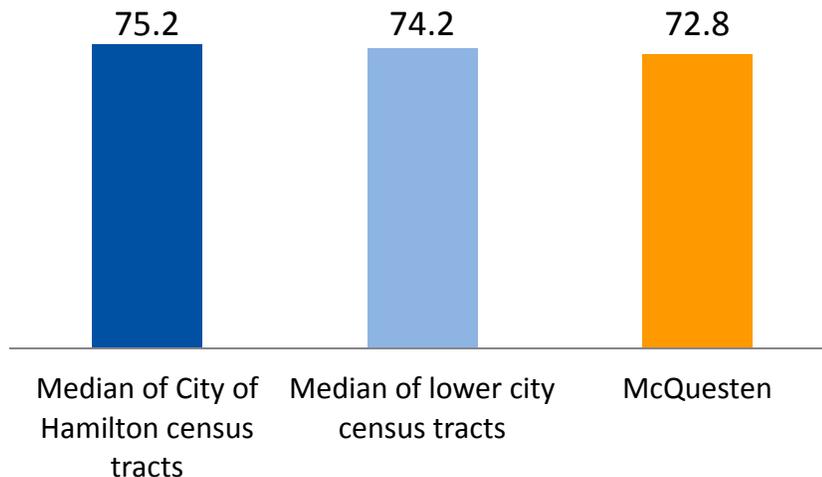
12.0 HEALTH

“At every stage of life, health is determined by complex interactions between social and economic factors, the physical environment and individual behaviour. These factors are referred to as ‘determinants of health’. They do not exist in isolation from each other. It is the combined influence of the determinants of health that determines health status.”

Public Health Agency of Canada. *What determines health?*
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/index-eng.php>

The social determinants of health, for example income, social support networks, education levels, and physical environments, are not equally distributed within cities. This leads to important differences in health outcomes for residents. The Spectator’s Code Red series highlighted some of the major health inequalities that exist among Hamilton’s neighbourhoods. This report will examine three health measures available through Code Red for McQuesten: age at death, rate of emergency visits related to psychiatric-issues and no family doctor (among those who visited an ER).

Chart 18. Average age at death, City of Hamilton, lower city, and McQuesten census tracts



Findings

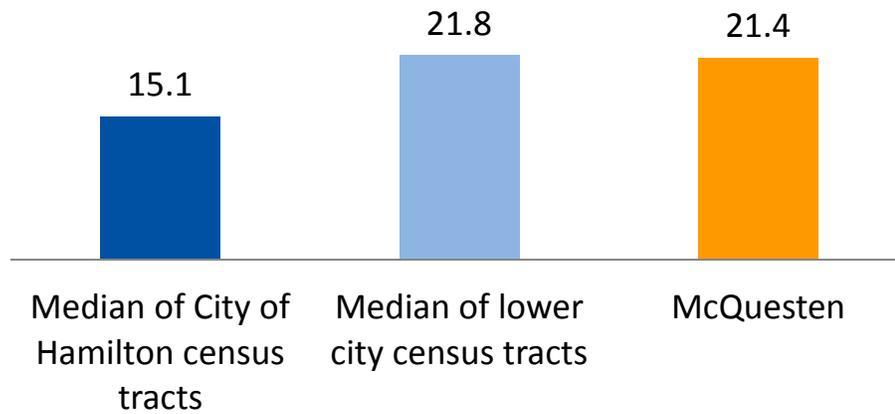
The average age that McQuesten residents die is 72.8 years, almost 2.5 years less than the average age at which City of Hamilton residents die, and almost 1.5 years less than just in the lower city.

Implications

The lower age of death for McQuesten residents explains in part why the average senior in McQuesten is younger than in the rest of the city. For McQuesten residents who have lived most of their lives on limited incomes, the negative health effects of poverty accumulate and lead to lower life spans.

At the same time, given the much lower incomes in McQuesten than in the rest of the city, the average age of death is arguably better than might otherwise be predicted. Of the 12 Hamilton census tracts with average poverty rates of 30% or higher, McQuesten has the 4th highest average age of death.

Chart 19. Rate of psychiatric-related emergency room visits per 1,000 residents, City of Hamilton, lower city, and McQuesten census tracts



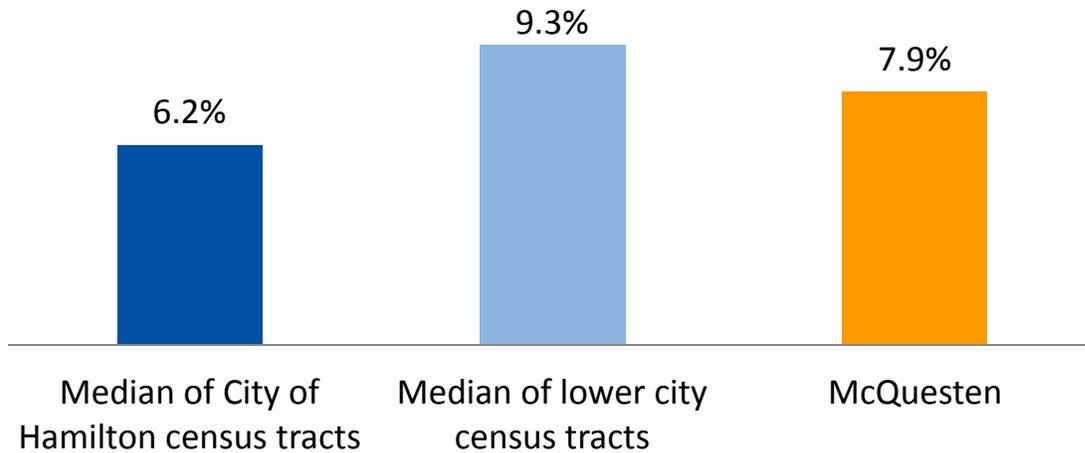
Findings

The rate of emergency psychiatric visits for McQuesten is just over 21 persons per 1000 residents, more than 40% higher than the rate for the city (just over 15 persons admitted persons per 1,000 residents). The McQuesten rate however is slightly lower than the rate for the lower city (almost 22 admissions per 1,000 residents). A further analysis reveals that among the 12 Hamilton census tracts with a poverty rate of over 30%, McQuesten has the second lowest rate of emergency psychiatric admissions.

Implications

McQuesten’s rate of emergency psychiatric admissions is high and deserves closer attention. However, the fact that it compares favourably to its closer geographic and income peers could be a sign that more mental health issues in McQuesten may be prevented or dealt with before they become emergencies than is the case in other lower city neighbourhoods.

**Chart 20. Percentage of Emergency Room Visits with Patients Reporting No Family Physician,
City of Hamilton, lower city, and McQuesten census tracts**



Findings

Among McQuesten residents who visit a hospital emergency room, 7.9% do not have a family doctor. While this is higher than the median rate among Hamilton's census tracts (6.2%), the McQuesten rate is much lower than the median rate for census tracts in the lower city alone which is 9.3%. Among Hamilton's census tracts with a poverty rate of 30% or higher, McQuesten has the lowest rate of no family physician reported during ER visits (the next lowest rate among this group of census tracts is over 11%).

Implications

While there is still room for improvement, this data could indicate that residents themselves along with service providers have done a good job of getting connected to family doctors. This data however does not indicate if residents are satisfied or not with their primary health care access (for example, availability and appropriateness of care by family physician, distance to travel, etc.).

13.0 FOOD SECURITY

The nearest major grocery store is about a 30 minute walk from the centre of McQuesten. As a result, many residents shop at convenience stores and stores like Shoppers' Drug Mart. Consultations with residents confirmed that both the distance to major grocery stores and the limited income that many residents live on, are major obstacles to eating well. Residents said that their access to affordable and nutritious food is limited by several factors:

- Fixed incomes (such as Ontario Works) can make fresh produce unaffordable. Cheques are also usually twice a month, and produce often spoils between cheques.
- More affordable food is often not as fresh, and is processed, packaged, and less nutritious.
- There are no grocery stores within the McQuesten neighbourhood itself. Grocery stores nearest to the neighbourhood are not within walking distance and most are far from each other, so they are difficult to access without a car.
- Bus routes do not always go to stores where people would like to shop. Handling groceries on buses can also be challenging, especially with walkers, strollers, or other mobility issues. Some newcomers to Canada are also not comfortable taking the bus alone for grocery shopping.
- Non-European residents often have to travel outside the neighbourhood in order to get culturally appropriate foods. Many foods have added gelatin, making them inappropriate for residents who maintain a Halal diet.
- Some residents have the space and desire to garden, but would like gardening support and training to get started.

— *quoted with permission from Carla Klassen and Sarah Wakefield: McQuesten Community Food Security Workshop Results (2010)*

McQuesten Voices

“The beginning of the Breakfast club was an exceptional moment for me. With this I knew that several students would receive a healthy breakfast in a safe environment. I contributed by supporting this and doing some of the initial site preparation.”

“There are so many wonderful events and activities that have happened and I am proud to say that I haven't missed one. The breakfast club is by far the most rewarding part for me. The kids really are very thankful and it's not only a great way for them to start the day, it's also a great way for me as a volunteer to start my day.”

**14.0 FOOD AND HEALTH ASSETS IN AND NEAR
MCQUESTEN
(PARTIAL LIST)**

McQuesten Grocery Shuttle	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave.	Tuesdays at 6:30 pm	
Free shuttle for McQuesten residents to go to local grocery stores.			
McQuesten Community Garden	2 Oriole Cr.		
McQuesten Breakfast Club	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave (formerly St. Helen's School)	Hours: School days 7:30-8:30 am	Eligibility: Open to all students of McQuesten area schools
St. Matthew's House Roxborough House Food Bank	McQuesten Community Centre 785 Britannia Ave (formerly St. Helen's School) 905-545-0565	Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 9 am-12 noon	Eligibility: Open to all families and individuals who are in need and on low income. ID is required
Emergency food assistance program provides basic needs and practical assistance.			
Catholic Family Services	Wesley Neighbourhood Centre 93 Delena Ave N 905-527-3823	Hours: Mondays 1 pm-3:30 pm	Eligibility: Adults, Seniors, Youth, Children
<p>People applying for counselling for the first time should contact this clinic first * Clinic provides one, solution-oriented session of counselling from a team of therapists * While studies indicate single session counselling is extremely effective for many people, some problems are more complex and require further counselling * Walk in clinic provides point of intake for clients wishing to continue with counselling beyond single session * Goal of the clinic is to provide all counselling clients with faster access and more effective service * Catholic Family Services provides service to people of all faiths and cultures</p> <p>www.cfshw.com/counselling/#walkin</p>			

Queenston Medical Walk In Clinic	631 Queenston Rd, Ste 103 905-578-9255 905-578-5738	Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun and Holidays 10 am-4 pm	Available to anyone requiring non-life threatening medical care
<p>Walk-in and after-hours medical clinic * No appointment necessary * Services offered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Family Medicine * Minor Surgical Procedures * Physical Exams * Prescriptions * Immunizations and flu shots * STD Exams * Allergy shots * Wart Treatment * Workplace Safety and Insurance Board medical issues * Other health services in the building include pharmacy, x-ray, laboratories, ECG and physiotherapy <p>www.queenstonwalkinclinic.com</p>			
Sexual Health Clinic (Public Health Department of the City of Hamilton)	247 Centennial Pkwy N, Unit 8 at Barton and Centennial (behind Wendy's) 905-546-3750	Hours: Mon 12:30 pm-4 pm, Thu 3 pm-6 pm	Eligibility: All ages.
<p>The City of Hamilton provides confidential sexual health services to females and males at clinics by physicians, nurse practitioners and public health nurses.</p> <p>Note: Appointments are required for some services. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Information about abstinence from sexual activity and birth control options * Free and/or low cost STD protection and birth control available, including Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP) also know as Morning After Pill * Free urine pregnancy testing, counselling and referrals as needed * Pap test for females 19 and under. * Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (clients of all ages and gender are welcome for STD testing) * Anonymous HIV Testing on a walk-in basis <p>www.hamilton.ca/std</p>			

15.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15.1. McQuesten Community Planning Team

McQuesten's Community Planning Team is a resident-led body that meets once a month to discuss community projects and events and also acts as a forum for service providers to share information with the McQuesten community and receive feedback from residents. The Planning Team has adopted the motto "residents and service providers working to make McQuesten the best place to raise a family". They also have welcomed researchers into their meetings who may be conducting surveys or focus groups in the neighbourhood, as the Planning Team is a strong believer in "Nothing about us, without us".

Among its many activities, the McQuesten Planning Team organizes an annual block party. Thousands of residents have participated in the block parties over the almost 10 year history of the event in McQuesten. The first block party was organized in 2002 by the Martha Movers, named after the residents of Martha Street who wanted McQuesten residents to know each other better and help improve the neighbourhood. The block party is also attended by many community agencies to speak directly with residents and inform them of the services available in their neighbourhood.

Another major milestone for community organizing in McQuesten was the improvements for tenants of City Housing Hamilton's Oriole Crescent housing complex. Working with the Affordable Housing Flagship, they negotiated better lighting and signage, upgraded fencing, a new play structure and other improvements that helped improve the neighbourhood. Not all problems have been resolved, but residents now have the added opportunity to raise their concerns in person with City Housing Hamilton staff at weekly drop-in sessions or at the Planning Team meetings.

The closing of St. Helen's Elementary School by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in 2009 has allowed the building to become a community centre. Now operated by Banyan Community Services, a major city-wide organization focusing principally on at risk youth, the future of the building as a physical hub for community activities seems to be secured.

The McQuesten Community Planning Team receives funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation's Neighbourhood Hubs program. Part of this funding is dedicated to small-scale resident led projects. The Planning Team decides on all requests for this fund.

Currently, meetings are every second Monday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the McQuesten Community Centre.

McQuesten's assets

The McQuesten Community Planning Team prides itself on working from an asset-focussed perspective. Chart 17 shows the results from a workshop on individual skills assets led by the McQuesten Community Planning Team in 2010. This was an opportunity for residents to discuss what skills they wanted to share with other residents, and what skills they had a desire to learn. The findings show that there is a

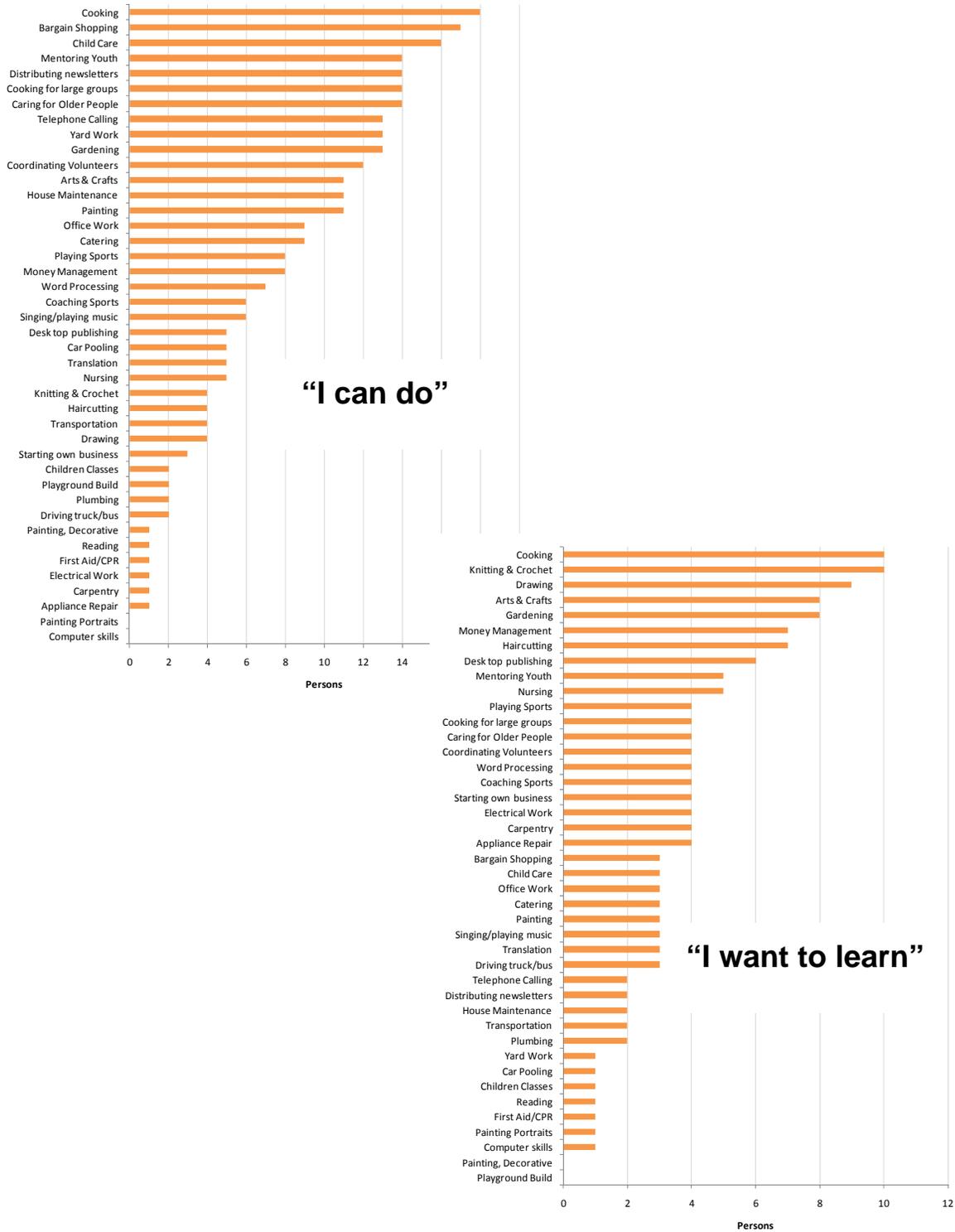
McQuesten Voices

"I decided to get involved when I participated in the first block party on Martha and my neighbours who are long time residents put my name in for the group the Martha Movers. From that it led to the parent council at the school and from then it was to McQuesten Planning team."

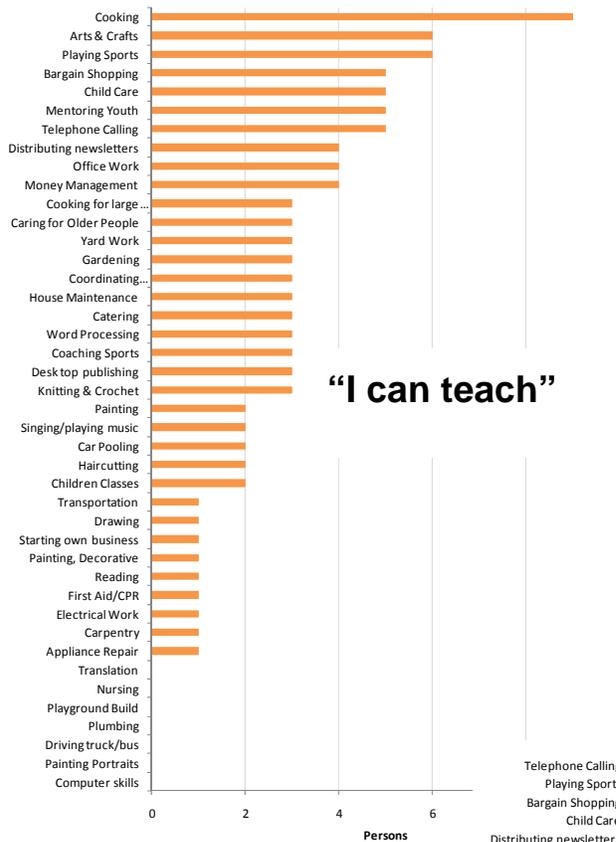
"Several things stand out in working with this Community Hub...the involvement and commitment of residents in engaging each other and service providers is exceptional, I joined the group when the application for funding the to the Hamilton Community Foundation was due and was particularly impressed with the process used to selected to "approve" the applications."

wide variety of skills in the neighbourhood and there is potential to increase the sharing of these skills for everyone's benefit.

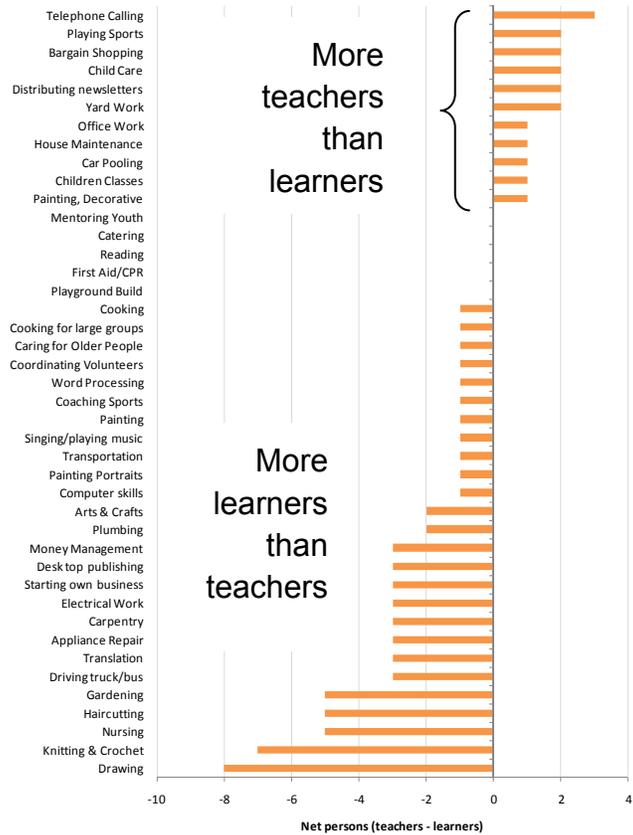
Charts 17 A and B. Individual Asset Mapping Workshop Results, McQuesten Neighbourhood, February 2010



Charts 17 C and D. Individual Asset Mapping Workshop Results, McQuesten Neighbourhood, February 2010



“I can teach”

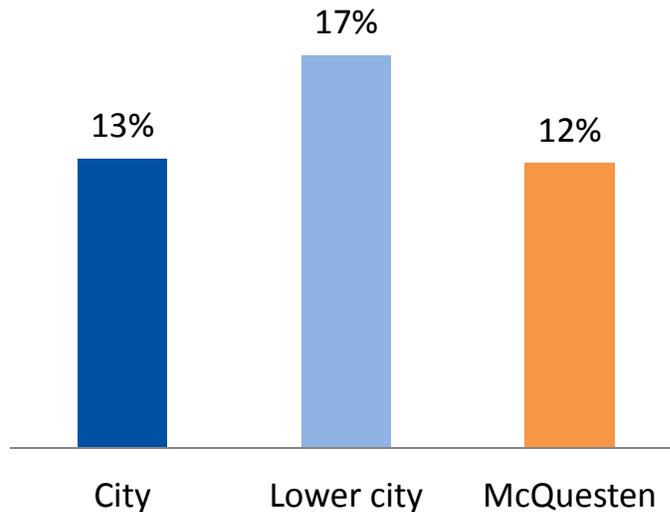


More teachers than learners

More learners than teachers

15.2. Neighbourhood cohesion

Chart 18. Residents who moved within one year, City of Hamilton, lower city and McQuesten, 2006 Census



Findings

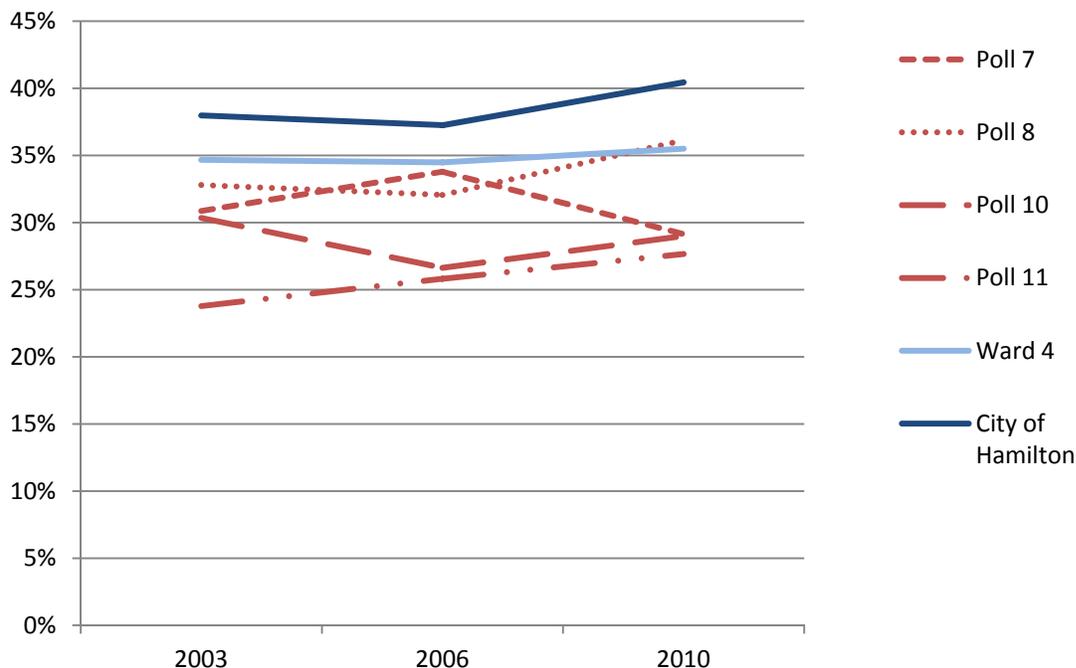
One area where McQuesten compares favourably to the city is in the rate of movers per year. In the year before the census, 12% of McQuesten's residents had changed address, slightly below the city's average of 13%. McQuesten's 1 year mobility rate of 12% is 5 percentage points lower than the rate for the lower city.

Implications

McQuesten's relatively stable population is an asset when it comes to community development and neighbourhood cohesion. Higher turnover rates in other lower city neighbourhoods make it more difficult for residents to build relationships and sustain community projects. For service organizations, a low mobility rate means that word of mouth will be a big way that people find out about their services, as residents may be more connected to each other than in other neighbourhoods.

15.3. Civic participation

Chart 19. Voter turnout rates for municipal elections in polling divisions serving the McQuesten neighbourhood, compared to the ward and city-wide rates, City of Hamilton, 2003, 2006 and 2010



Findings

In all polls that serve McQuesten, the voter turnout rates during the last 3 municipal elections have been lower than the city and ward averages, with the exception for one poll this past election, poll 8 which had a turnout rate of 36.13%, slightly higher than the ward rate of 35.5% but still lower than the city (40.45% in 2010). The other three McQuesten polls had less than 30% in the 2010 municipal election.

Implications

In its 2010 Ontario Social Landscape Report, the Social Planning Network of Ontario demonstrated that voter turnout is inextricably linked to income and poverty levels, yet there are no targeted programs to increase participation in this population, in contrast to efforts to increase participation among youth voters. The City of Hamilton noted low voter turnout in its Demographic Profile for its Framework for Human Services Planning (*"The Playbook"*): "Voter turn-out is linked to the level of civic engagement in a community.

Strategies should be explored to not only increase the percentage of citizens who vote, but to reach out to marginalized communities within which the voter turn-out rates may be particularly low. Since political representatives (either federal/provincial/municipal) may not always be reflective of the diversity within the city, political parties might also wish to make extra efforts to be more inclusive when seeking candidates to run in elections or creating an environment where candidates from marginalized communities would be supported to run for office."