

# Hamilton Centre Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial  
Riding  
Profiles

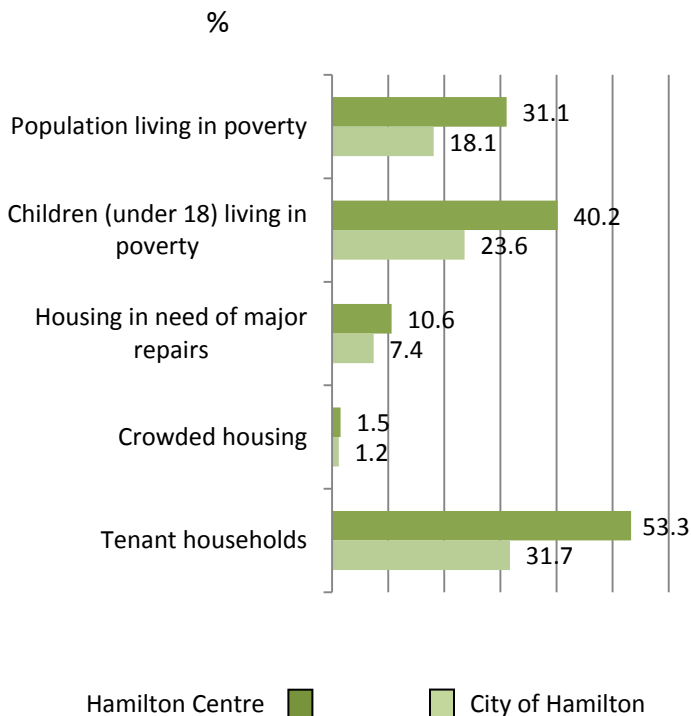


## Story Behind the Stats

Hamilton Centre is bounded by Hamilton Harbour on the north, Ottawa Street on the east, and follows the base of the Niagara Escarpment to James St. Mountain Road, then south along West 5th Street, west along Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway, north along the hydroelectric transmission line situated west of Upper Horning Road, northeast along Highway 403, east along the Desjardins Canal and back to Hamilton Harbour.

Much of this riding includes the lower city which is also the oldest part of the city. There is a high concentration of renter households living in housing in need of repair. Many residents have health problems and many work in low wage jobs that do not provide an adequate income.

## Key Figures



**117,525 people live in  
Hamilton Centre**  
**35,233 live in poverty – 31.1%\***

**“Over 4,000 of those living below the low income cut-off in the riding of Hamilton Centre have full time full-year jobs, but don’t earn enough to pull themselves or their families out of poverty. It impacts family health, education levels and our community’s future prosperity. Our community has identified a solution that is practical and necessary: paying all employees a Living Wage.”**

**Tom Cooper**  
**Director**  
**Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction**

This “Action on Poverty” series has been coordinated by member organizations of the Social Planning Network of Ontario.

This profile includes Census data from the City of Hamilton and the Community Data Consortium and was produced by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton.

\*For details on calculations and definitions, go to:

<http://www.spno.ca/images/pdf/povertyprofiles/Stats-Info.pdf>

# Taking Action in Hamilton Centre

In Hamilton Centre, many parents with low wage jobs end up facing impossible choices: buy their children clothing or heat the house, feed their families or pay the rent. Child poverty in Hamilton is very much a low wage story. Many children growing up in poverty live in families with working parents. In fact, 30,000 of those living below the low income cut-off in Hamilton have jobs, but don't earn enough to pull themselves and their families out of poverty. This impacts family health, education levels and our community's future prosperity. The solution is both practical and simple; it's called a Living Wage.

Hamilton's living wage rate in 2011 was \$14.95 per hour for a full year of full time work.

Living Wage Hamilton is currently developing a Living Wage Employer Recognition program. The program will recognize the living wages employers already pay and the steps they want to take towards ensuring all workers earn at least a living wage. The details of the program are part of the conversations Living Wage Hamilton is holding with employers and workers across the city. They are preparing the launch of a full Living Wage Employer Recognition program and invite all Hamilton employers to take part.

For more information: <http://livingwagehamilton.ca/>

## Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

The SPRC works with many community partners to reduce and eliminate poverty including the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, HOPE (Hamilton Organizing to Eliminate Poverty), and the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits.

We are committed to working with people who have the lived experience of poverty to develop a comprehensive plan of action to eliminate poverty in Hamilton and across Ontario.

Want to get involved?

Contact us at [sprc@sprc.hamilton.on.ca](mailto:sprc@sprc.hamilton.on.ca) or 905-522-1148.

[www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca](http://www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca)

## How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Bob Bratina*, 905-546-4200, [mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Andrea Horwath*, 905-544-9644, [ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca)

Member of Parliament (MP): *David Christopherson*, 905-526-0770, [david.christopherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.christopherson@parl.gc.ca)

City Councillors: *Jason Farr*, 905-546-2711, [Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca)  
*Brian McHattie*, 905-546-2416, [Brian.McHattie@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brian.McHattie@hamilton.ca)  
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