Introduction

The City of Hamilton's recent decision to modify its vision to become "The best place to raise a child and age successfully" indicates two demographic groups it wants to pay special attention to (children and seniors) and, more generally, that it wants to improve quality of life across the life course for all residents. With increasing expectation on evidenced-based decision-making, data about Hamilton's demographics has now become even more vital to city planning and for residents themselves to be able to know and understand trends shaping our population.

Using a variety of data sources, the *Demographic shifts* series of *Hamilton's Social Landscape* bulletins will explore differences between older and younger generations to uncover trends in a range of demographic characteristics of Hamilton's population.

Key findings

To give an overview of the findings from this *Demographic Shifts* series, highlights of each of the six other bulletins in this series are described below.

Demographic Shifts: Age groups and generational changes (Issue 8)

◈ **There has been a steep decline in the number of children in Hamilton since 1996, which has led to the net loss of 32 schools.**

◈ **There is a higher proportion of Millennials in Hamilton compared to Ontario, analogous to the post-war period when the pre-Boomer generation flocked to Hamilton because of its strong economy.**

◈ **The number of seniors in Hamilton has now surpassed the number of children under age 14. The working age population (age 15-64) is now in decline due to the aging of the population and declining rates of immigration.**

Demographic Shifts: Rise of the Millennial generation (Issue 9)

◈ **For the first time since at least 1997, Hamilton's population growth rate has now caught up with the provincial average, but remains lower than the average in the GTHA.**

◈ **Increase in population is largely due to increasing net migration from other Ontario communities, while immigration from other countries is declining sharply.**

◈ **All of Hamilton's age groups are on track to hitting growth targets, except for the youngest age group 0-19. This indicates there may policy gaps that need to be filled to create the conditions were more children are raised in Hamilton so that it truly does become "The best place to raise a child."**

Demographic Shifts: Population growth, forecasts and targets (Issue 10)

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◈ **Increase in population is largely due to increasing net migration from other Ontario communities, while immigration from other countries is declining sharply.**

◈ **All of Hamilton's age groups are on track to hitting growth targets, except for the youngest age group 0-19. This indicates there may policy gaps that need to be filled to create the conditions where more children are raised in Hamilton so that it truly does become "The best place to raise a child."**

Demographic Shifts: Birth rates and delayed child-rearing (Issue 11)

◈ **Since 2010, Hamilton's estimated crude birth rate has dropped at the same time as an increase in residents in their prime reproductive years (ages 25-35).**

◈ **The trend in delayed-child rearing may be linked to increased precarious employment in Hamilton.**

◈ **McMaster's Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario study has developed many policy recommendations to support family formations in this era of rising precarious employment.**

Demographic Shifts: Ethnic origins, Indigenous residents and visible minority groups (Issue 12)

◈ **British Isles and Canadian are the top ethnic origins of Hamilton residents**

◈ **The number of children identifying with Indigenous and visible minority groups in Hamilton is much higher than among older age groups, indicating high growth rates of these groups.**

◈ **Discrimination faced by racialized Canadians continues to be high, with research demonstrating that just having a non-English sounding name reduces employment opportunities..**

Demographic Shifts: Immigration and languages (Issue 13)

◈ **More than four in ten of Hamilton's seniors arrived to Canada as immigrants, but the immigration rate drops to 26% among adults under age 65, and 7% among Hamilton's children.**

◈ **The most common age of arrival to Canada for Hamilton's immigrants is in or near their 30s, but recently Hamilton has seen a big jump in the number of immigrants arriving at age 45 or later. Services for adults may need to adjust to meet this growing older newcomer population.**

◈ **Top non-English languages spoken at home include Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Polish and Serbian.**

Data sources

The 2016 Census will soon be an opportunity for in-depth analysis of Hamilton's demographics, which has not been possible since the 2006 Census due to differences in methodology and the lower data quality of the voluntary National Household Survey that replaced the mandatory long form Census in 2011. The 2016 Census was returned to being fully mandatory and has recently set records for an almost perfect response rate, with 98.4% of Canadians completing the Census, including 97.8% response rate for the long form Census. While the 2016 Census data collection period is over, the detailed data will not be fully released by Statistics Canada until the end of 2017.

While the lower quality 2011 NHS data cannot be compared with to previous Census data due to differences in methodology, it is still possible to analyse NHS data more closely to see trends in Hamilton's demographics and forecast potential differences that may become more apparent when the 2016 Census data is released. Using 2011 NHS data, many demographics in these bulletins are reported for the child, working age adult and older adult age groups, to uncover demographic groups that may be growing faster than others.

In addition to NHS data, this series of bulletin relies on the following data sources:

- Statistics Canada: *Estimates of population by census division, sex and age group* (Table 051-0062), *Components of population growth by census division, sex and age group* (Table 051-0063), *Building permits, values by activity sector* (Tables 026-0003 and 026-0010). *Population Projections, 2013-2063* (Table 052-0005). These data tables are all available on CANSIM: http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/
- Vital Signs 2015 *Hamilton's Economic Renaissance: A prosperity unevenly shared* http://www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/VS-2015-FINAL_Jan.2016.pdf
- Ministry of Education, *School Board Funding Projections for the 2001/2002, 2009/10* and *2016/2017 years:* http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html
- City of Hamilton, *Invest in Hamilton* reports: http://www.investinhamilton.ca/research-and-data/
- Hemson Consulting *Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Forecasts to 2014: Technical Report November 2012:* http://www.hemson.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/HEMSON-Greater-Golden-Horseshoe-Growth-Forecasts-to-2041-Technical-Report-Addendum-and-Rev.-Appendix-B-Jun2013.pdf
- Poverty and Employment in Southern Ontario: https://pepso.ca/
- The definition of generations used in this report is based on the age groupings defined by Environics Analytics. The Abacus Canada website www.canadianmillennials.ca ca is also a useful primer on broad differences between generations.

Previous bulletins in this series

Please visit **www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca/sociallandscape** to view all the reports and bulletins in this series:

Hamilton's Social Landscape: 1996-2006 (full report published in 2011)

Hamilton's Social Landscape bulletins:

- *Trends in Basic Needs* (2012)
- *Children & Seniors* (2012)
- *Recession Impacts: Unemployment* (2013)
- *Recession Impacts: Employment* (2013)
- *Recession Impacts: Gender, Income and Employment* (2013)
- *Recession Impacts: Youth* (2013)

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