

Introduction

Statistics Canada has recently released new data from the 2016 Census on visible minority groups. This bulletin provides a summary of some of the key trends about persons who identify with visible minority groups in Hamilton.

The long-form Census asks respondents if they identify with a visible minority group, specifically: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean or Japanese (or multiple groups). Statistics Canada's definition of visible minorities is based on the federal Employment Equity Act and does not include Indigenous peoples. Visible minority is becoming an outdated term as many communities and cities in Canada, such as Toronto and Vancouver, have more than half of residents identifying with a visible minority group.

The term 'racialized' is now becoming more common, which includes both visible minorities and Indigenous peoples. The Ontario Human Rights Commission, in their factsheet on racial discrimination, explains that because 'race' has its roots in social, not biological, characteristics and includes much more than skin colour, their preferred term is "racialized group or person":

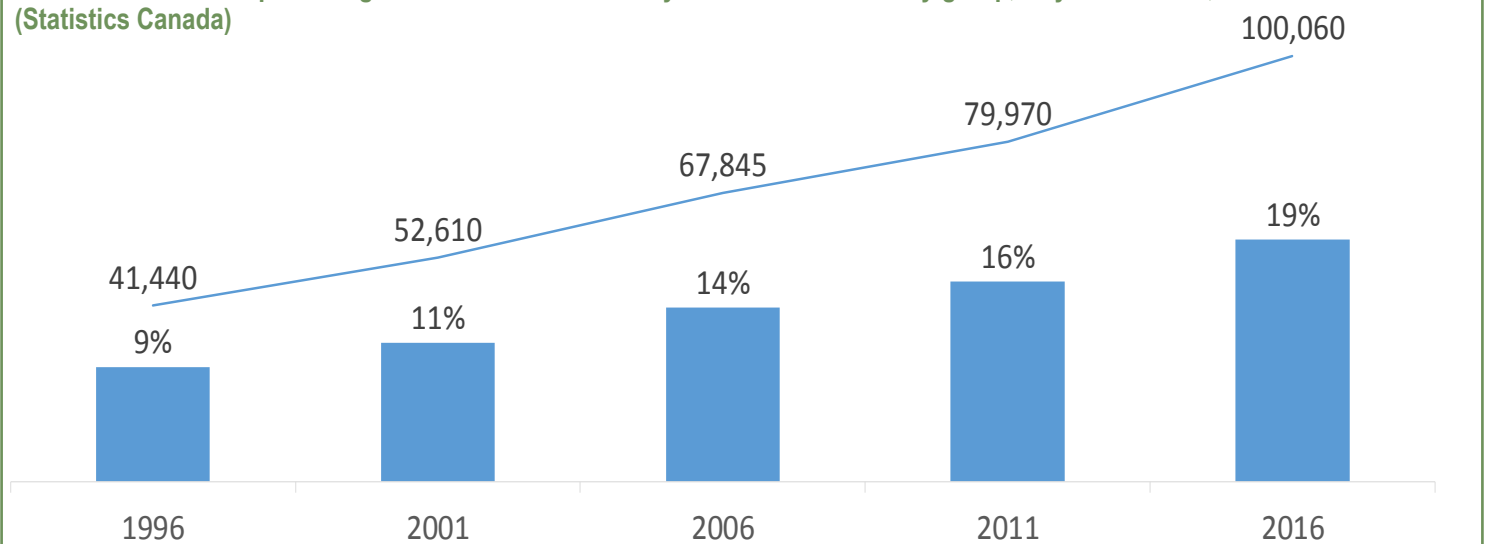
"The Commission has explained 'race' as socially constructed differences among people based on characteristics such as accent or manner of speech, name, clothing, diet, beliefs and practices, leisure preferences, places of origin and so forth. The process of social construction of race is called racialization: the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life. Recognizing that race is a social construct, the Commission describes people as 'racialized person' or 'racialized group' instead of the more outdated and inaccurate terms 'racial minority', 'visible minority', 'person of colour' or 'non-White'."

This bulletin uses visible minority, not racialized group, because the charts and map are based Census data that was collected using the visible minority term and because this data does not include Indigenous residents.

Key Trend: Hamilton's visible minority population tops 100,000 persons

Hamilton's visible minority population has more than doubled in the last 20 years, to just over 100,000 persons in 2016. The proportion of Hamilton's residents who identify with a visible minority group is now 19%.

Chart 1. Number and percentage of residents who identify with a visible minority group, City of Hamilton, 1996-2016 Censuses (Statistics Canada)



This is a series of occasional bulletins focussing on issues highlighted in the *Hamilton's Social Landscape* report and bringing attention to more recent trends. These bulletins are published by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and funded in part by the United Way Halton Hamilton and the City of Hamilton Enrichment Fund.

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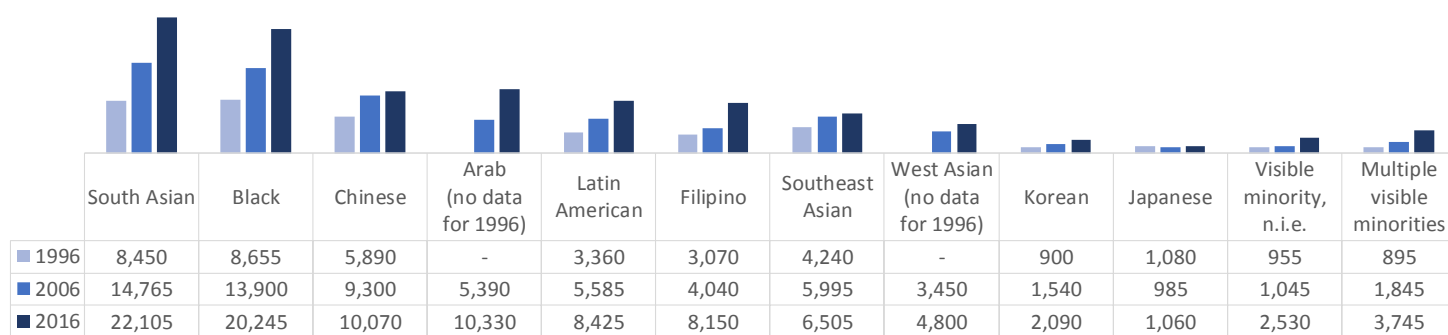


Hamilton

Key Trend: South Asian is Hamilton's largest visible minority group, while Filipino is the fastest growing group

The two largest visible minority groups in Hamilton are South Asian with just over 22,000 residents, and Black with just over 20,000 residents. The next largest groups, with about 10,000 residents each, are Chinese and Arab. The Chinese and Southeast Asian visible minority groups had the slowest growth between 2006 and 2016. Conversely, Filipino and Arab were the fastest growing visible minority groups in that time period.

Chart 2. Number of persons identifying with specific visible minority groups, City of Hamilton, 1996, 2006 and 2016 Censuses (Statistics Canada)



Key Trend: Downtown, Riverdale and South Mountain, including Meadowlands, have highest proportions of visible minority residents

The population of residents who identify as visible minorities is spread across Hamilton, with the highest concentrations (around 40% each) in three main areas of the city:

- Downtown Hamilton and surrounding neighbourhoods, including Central and Beasley neighbourhoods, and the part of the Strathcona neighbourhood north of York Boulevard.
- Riverdale West (near Centennial Parkway and Queenston Road), one of Hamilton's largest "arrival cities" for immigrants, where about half of residents were born outside of Canada.
- The Meadowlands neighbourhood in Ancaster along with nearby neighbourhoods on the south Mountain (south of the Lincoln Alexander Parkway and on either side of Upper James).

Map 1. Percentage of residents who identify with a visible minority group, City of Hamilton, by aggregated dissemination areas, 2016 Census (Statistics Canada)

