

HAMILTON FOR ALL

FACTSHEETS



FACTSHEET 1: VISIBLE MINORITIES

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The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion are launching a new public education campaign, #HamiltonForAll, that aims to stimulate dialogue and open minds by encouraging Hamiltonians to stand up against prejudice, exclusion and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, country of origin, disability, sexual orientation or other differences.

Recently, in response to the hate-motivated deaths of six Canadian men at a Quebec City mosque, the Hamilton and District Labour Council (HDLC) has released a Shut Down Hate pledge asking labour and community groups to band together to commit to anti-racism and anti-fascism through words and deeds. The HDLC connects the rise in precarious employment and economic insecurity to a troubling response by some to blame immigration for these trends. "If left unchallenged, racist rhetoric and actions can stir up anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-Indigenous sentiment. In times of economic downturn and diminishing opportunity, the seeds of division are fertilized by the same sections of the corporate elite who seek to divide working people. We have seen how right-wing populism can take hold, especially when people are frustrated with economic injustice. History shows us that at its extreme, such populism can be incredibly destructive. Today, challenging this situation is more important than ever for working people." (HDLC's Shut Down Hate Pledge: www.shutdownhate.ca)

The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton is publishing this series of Hamilton For All factsheets to improve understanding of Hamilton's changing racialized, immigrant and linguistic communities and better support community dialogue around deconstructing misconceptions so that everyone in Hamilton feels welcome in our city.

INTRODUCTION

Statistics Canada's definition of visible minorities includes residents who identify with many racialized groups, but does not include Indigenous residents. 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":

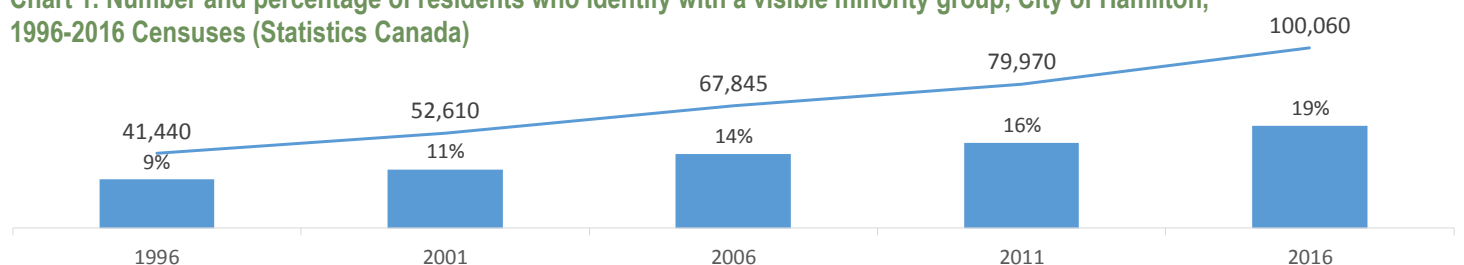
"The Commission has explained 'race' as socially constructed differences among people based on characteristics such as accent or manner of speech, name, clothing, diet, beliefs and practices, leisure preferences, places of origin and so forth. The process of social construction of race is called racialization: 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 REACHES 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%.

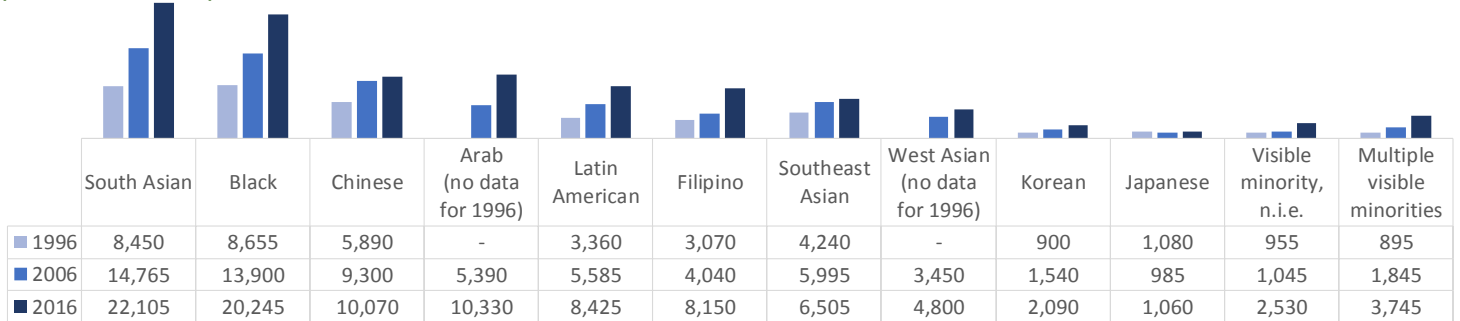
Chart 1. Number and percentage of residents who identify with a visible minority group, City of Hamilton, 1996-2016 Censuses (Statistics Canada)



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 ANCASTER 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)

