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1996 Census Update

December 3, 1997

No. 2

Family Structure

Over the past decade, a trend has developed in Mississauga's family structure. Although Married Couples are still the most predominant family type in Mississauga, the percentage of Lone-Parent families increased marginally (*see Table 1*). Since 1991, the proportion of Lone-Parent families in Mississauga

increased from 11.6% to 13.2%. This represents an increase of 5,145 Lone Parent Families in Mississauga during that period. The category of Common-Law was added to the Census in 1991 and has remained stable at approximately 6% (*see Table 1*).

Table 1 - Family Structure

Family Types		1986		1991		1996	
Married Couple	Ontario	88.1%	2,154,985	80.7%	2,201,775	77.8%	2,283,115
	Mississauga	89.2%	90,515	82.5%	103,255	80.8%	120,190
Common-Law	Ontario	N/A	N/A	6.7%	182,155	7.8%	227,910
	Mississauga	N/A	N/A	5.9%	7,400	5.9%	8,815
Lone - Parent	Ontario	11.9%	290,755	12.6%	342,805	14.4%	421,705
	Mississauga	10.8%	10,905	11.6%	14,540	13.2%	19,685
Total Families	Ontario	100.0%	2,445,740	100.0%	2,726,735	100.0%	2,932,730
	Mississauga	100.0%	101,420	100.0%	125,195	100.0%	148,690

Source: 1996 Census

Table 2 - Growth Rate of the Total Number of Families

	1981-86	1986-91	1991-96
Ontario	6.8%	10.3%	7.0%
Mississauga	16.7%	19.0%	15.8%

Source: 1996 Census

Although the number of families is still growing along with the total population, the rate of increase in the number of families declined in both Mississauga and Ontario between 1991 and 1996 (*see Table 2*). According to Statistics Canada, the decline is attributed to couples waiting for a longer period to marry or enter a common-law relationship. Notwithstanding the declining rate of growth in number of families, Mississauga had a considerably higher growth rate than Ontario between 1981 and 1996.

Marital Status

The proportion of Married, Single and Widowed persons remained largely unchanged over the past decade. The proportion of Divorced persons nearly doubled in both Mississauga and Ontario (from 2.8% to 5.2% in Mississauga as shown in Figure 1 and from 3.3% to 6.3% Ontario).

Mississauga's Population Pyramid

The breakdown of age groups in Mississauga is shown in Table 3 and Figure 2. The largest age bracket is 30-34 with a population of 53,155 or 9.8% of the City population. In light of the foregoing discussion of family structure, it can be inferred from Figure 2 that Mississauga is comprised largely of young families as indicated by the high proportion of adults between the ages of 30 and 39 (see Figure 2) and the high proportion of children (ages 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14) which comprise 22.3% of the population. Women significantly outnumber men in categories age 70 and older.

Figure 1 - Divorced Persons

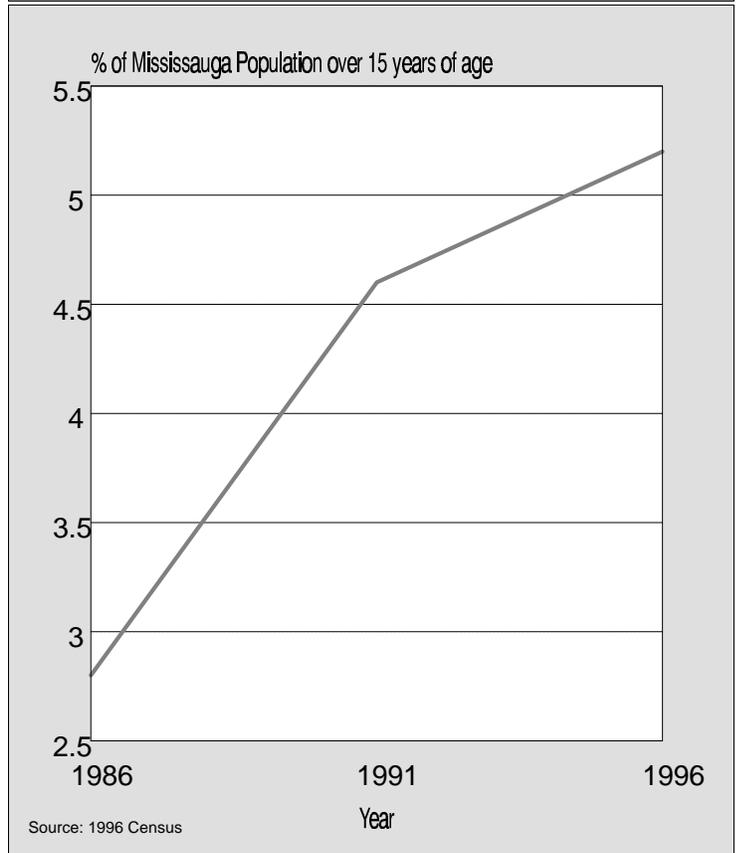


Figure 2 - Mississauga Population Pyramid

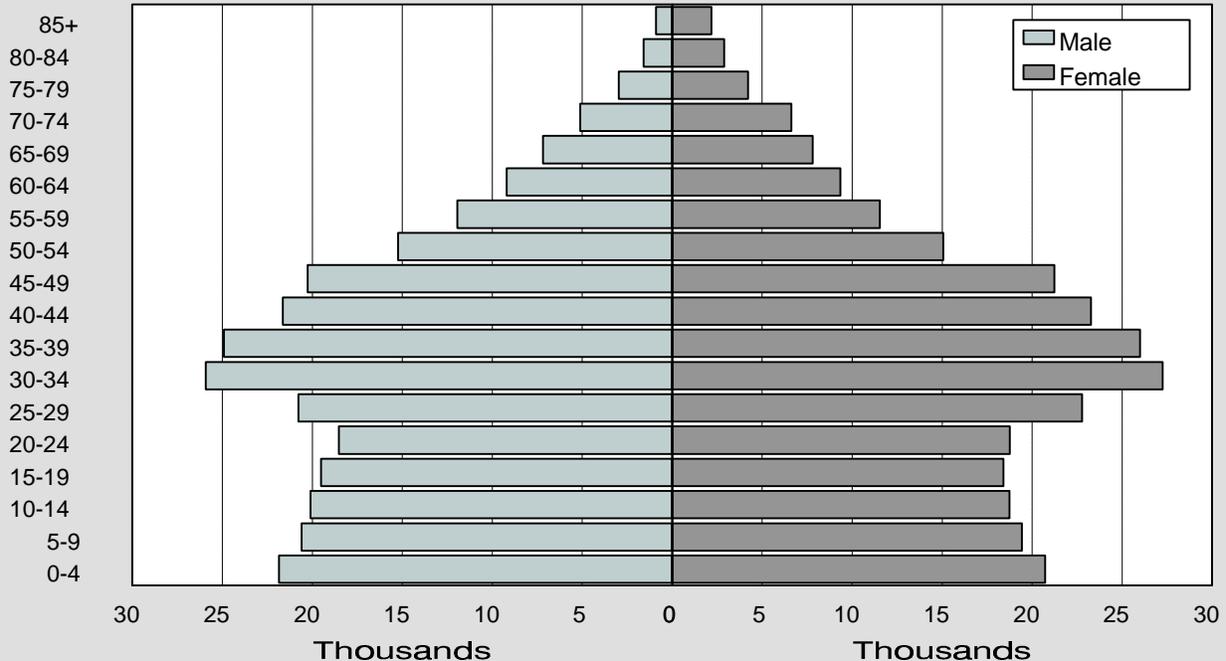


Table 3 - Mississauga and Ontario Age Groups

Age Group	Number in Mississauga	% of Mississauga Population	Number in Ontario	% of Ontario Population
0-4	42,580	7.8	734,170	6.8
5-9	40,025	7.4	748,065	7.0
10-14	38,820	7.1	731,980	6.8
15-19	37,910	7.0	698,005	6.5
20-24	37,295	6.9	703,475	6.5
25-29	43,535	8.0	773,020	7.2
30-34	53,155	9.8	944,030	8.8
35-39	50,905	9.4	937,480	8.7
40-44	44,895	8.2	841,685	7.8
45-49	41,495	7.6	775,300	7.2
50-54	30,295	5.6	592,460	5.5
55-59	23,480	4.3	489,320	4.6
60-64	18,540	3.4	450,470	4.2
65-69	14,975	2.8	424,035	3.9
70-74	11,725	2.2	369,425	3.4
75-79	7,195	1.3	251,010	2.3
80-84	4,480	0.8	164,715	1.5
85+	3,075	0.6	124,905	1.2
TOTAL	544,380	100	10,753,550	100

Source: 1996 Census

Over the last ten years, the proportion of Seniors (age 65+) has increased from 5.9% to 7.6%; to put it another way, roughly one of every thirteen Mississauga residents is a Senior. The proportion of population ages 45-64 also increased from 18% in 1996 to 20% in 1996 (see Figure 3). Therefore, the proportion of Seniors can be expected to increase in the future. The population between the ages 15-24 decreased from 17% in 1986 to 14% in 1996. These trends indicate that the population of Mississauga is shifting to an older age profile over time; however, Mississauga has a younger age profile than Ontario (see Figure 4, page 4). The proportion of Mississauga residents in all age categories between 0 and 54 is greater than Ontario while the proportion of Mississauga residents in all age categories 55 through 85+ is much lower than Ontario. In summary, Mississauga is experiencing an overall age shift towards an older population but this shift is less extensive than in the Ontario population as a whole.

Figure 3 - Mississauga Age Trends

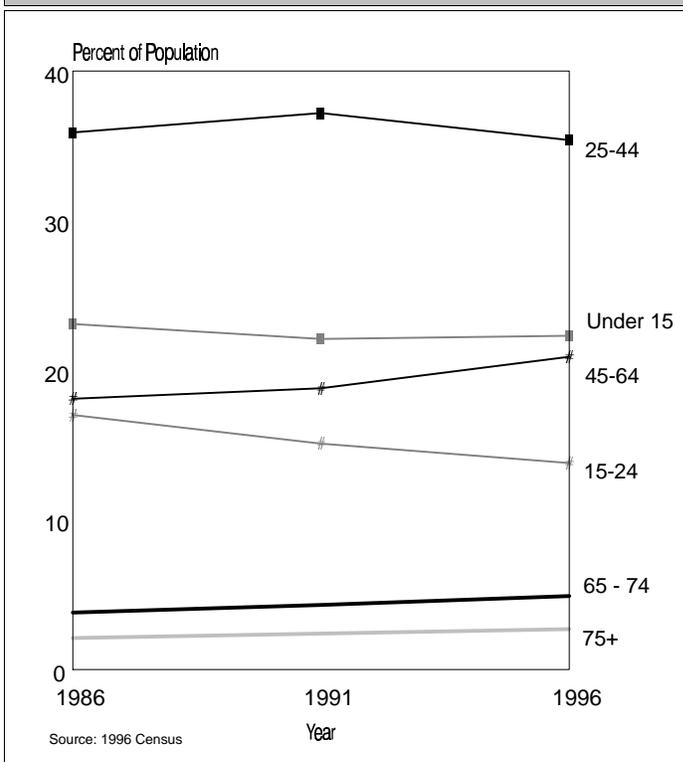
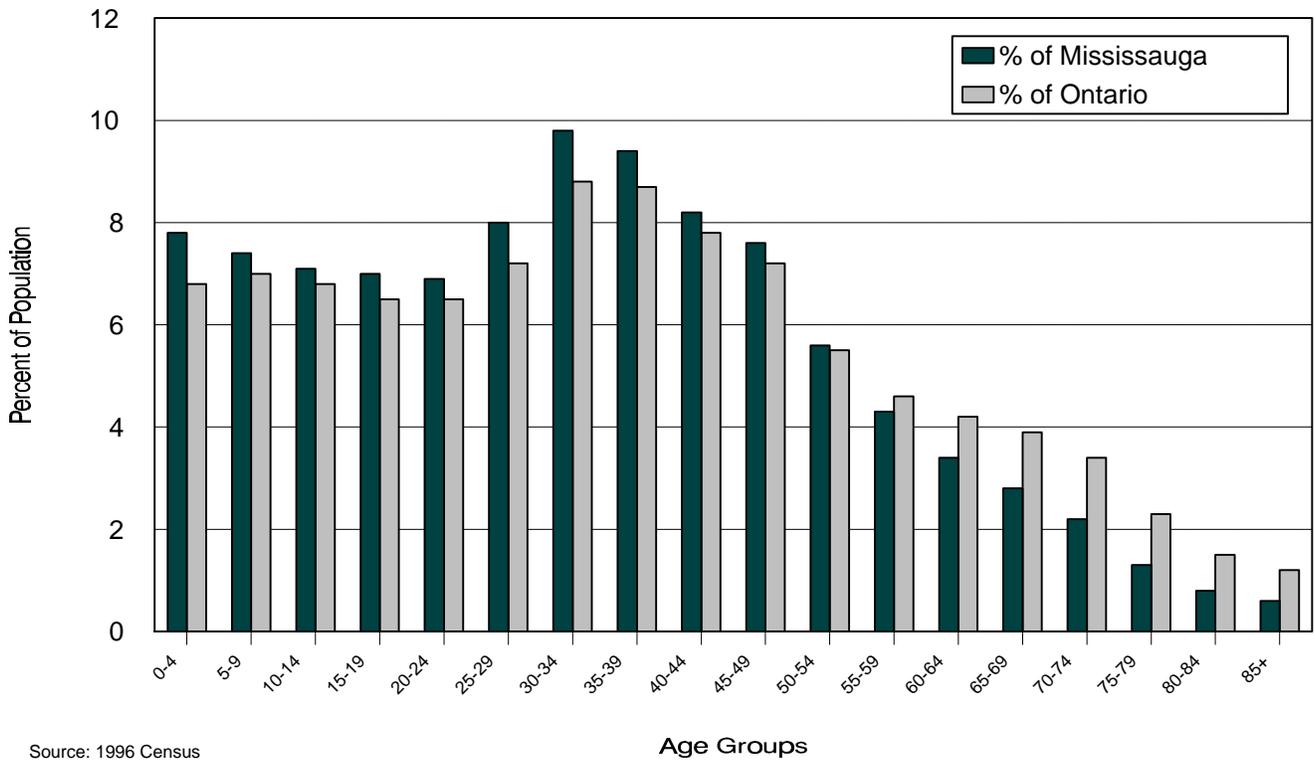


Figure 4 - Mississauga and Ontario Age Group Comparison



Editors:
Mark Paoli
 Telephone: (905) 615-3927
 mark.paoli@city.mississauga.on.ca

Mike Wilson
 Telephone: (905) 896-5875
 mike.wilson@city.mississauga.on.ca

Fax: 896-5553

Policy Planning Division
 Planning and Building Department
 City of Mississauga
 300 City Centre Drive
 Mississauga, Ontario
 L5B 3C1