

Demographic Analysis of the Black Population in the Region of Peel

**Peel Anti-Black Racism Project
Family Services of Peel- Peel Institute of Research and Training
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Demographic Analysis of the Black Population in the Region of Peel

A. Introduction

There are over 1.4 million residents in the Region of Peel located within Southern Ontario. It encompasses the cities of Mississauga and Brampton and the town of Caledon. The Region of Peel was founded in 1971, the same year as Family Services of Peel.

Family Services of Peel (FSP) is one of the leading organizations providing services and programs to the racialized population of the Region of Peel. The Peel Institute of Research and Training (PIRT) is the research arm of FSP.

This demographic analysis applies the FSP Framework of Equity, Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism. This framework helps us examine the topic of anti-Black racism within the Region of Peel by considering behavioural and environmental factors; community infrastructures, systems, and resources; and historical, social, political, and economic factors which influence the inclusion and exclusion of individuals and populations in society.

This preliminary report was compiled to document the Region of Peel's existing demographics and examine critical life areas such as education, housing, employment, and mental health in the Black community.

B. Overview of Findings

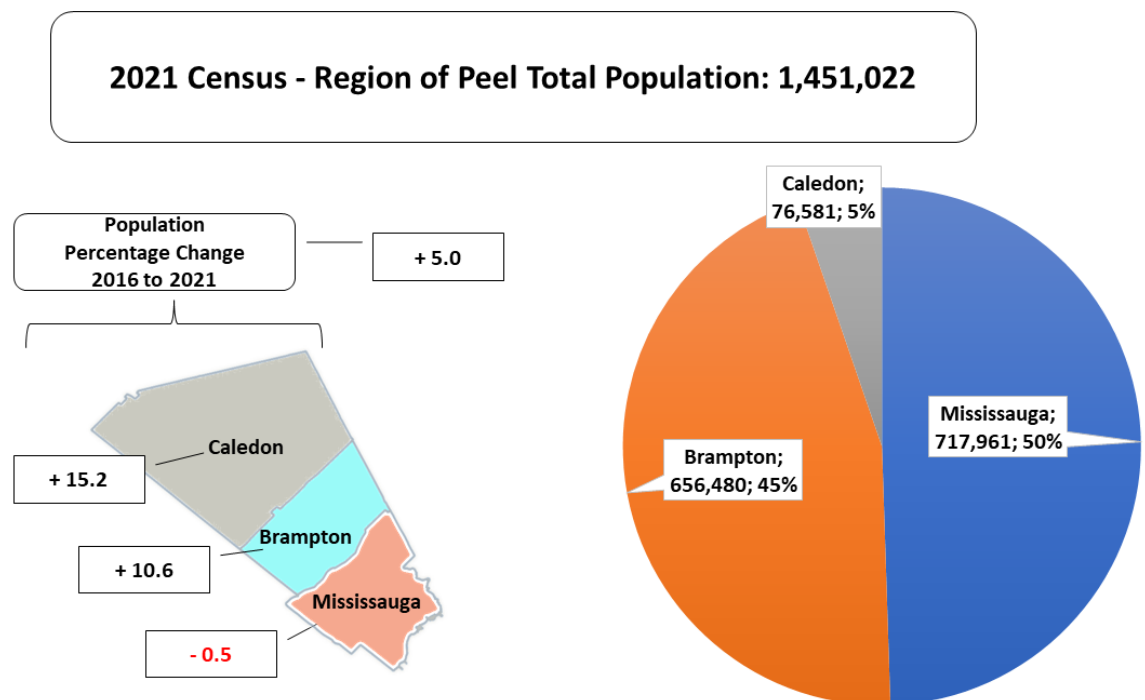
- The Black population in the Region of Peel represents the second largest visible minority in the Region of Peel, after the South Asian population.
- The Region of Peel's Black community has been steadily increasing from 116,265 in 2011 to 137,295 in 2021.
- There has been a positive population growth of 18% in the Black population of the Region of Peel over the last 10 years, from 2011 to 2021.
- Migration is the main driving force behind the population increase in the Region of Peel. The top countries of birth of Black immigrants are Jamaica, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Somalia, Ghana, and Ethiopia.
- Most Black people live in Brampton (62%), followed by Mississauga (35.8%), and the fewest reside in Caledon (2%).
- The Black community in the Region of Peel faces difficulties in housing, employment, education, and health, especially compared to the rest of the region's population.

- Black people in the Region of Peel have a relatively negative outlook and inherent distrust of the Peel Regional Police, with discrimination and systemic racism commonly reported as areas for police to improve.
- Despite these vulnerabilities, the Black community in the Region of Peel continues to grow and demonstrate resilience and optimism. This is especially evident when analyzing mental health data.
- Black services were identified, with the location of services reflecting areas with high concentrations of Black people in the region, yet accessibility gaps remain.

C. Demographic Analysis of 2021 Canada Census

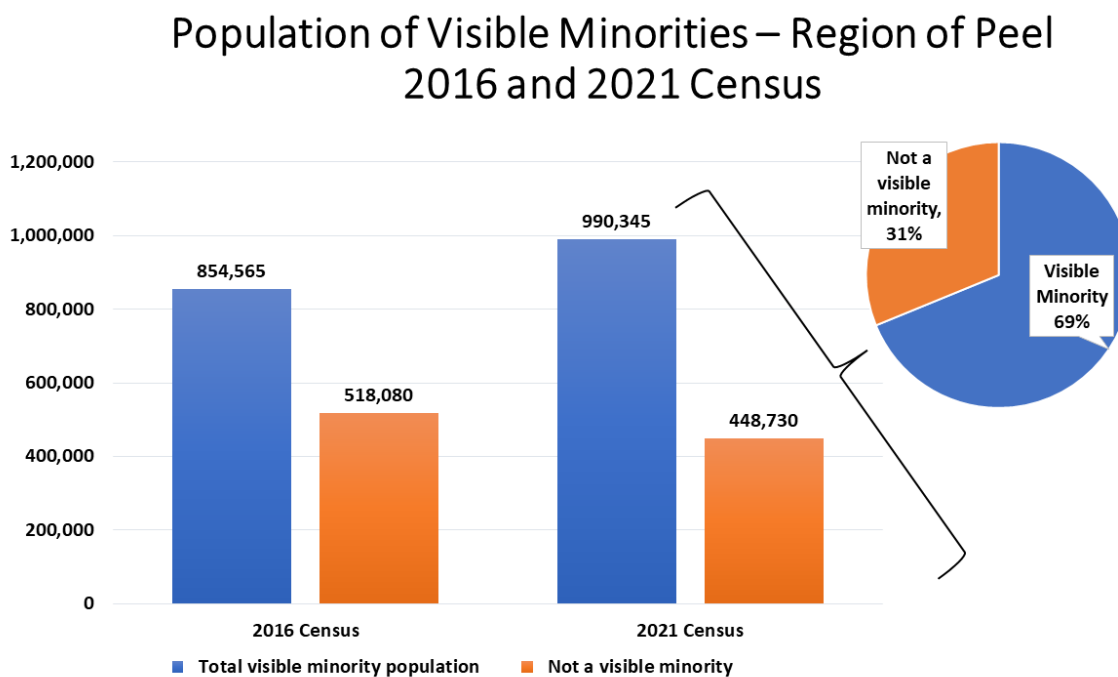
C1. Demographic Overview of the Region of Peel

The population of the Region of Peel continues to grow. Its total population in 2021 was 1,451,022 compared to 1,381,739 in 2016 (Statistics Canada, 2023b). This is an increase of 5% over five years, showing that the Region of Peel is growing relatively fast.



C2. Visible Minorities and Black Population in the Region of Peel

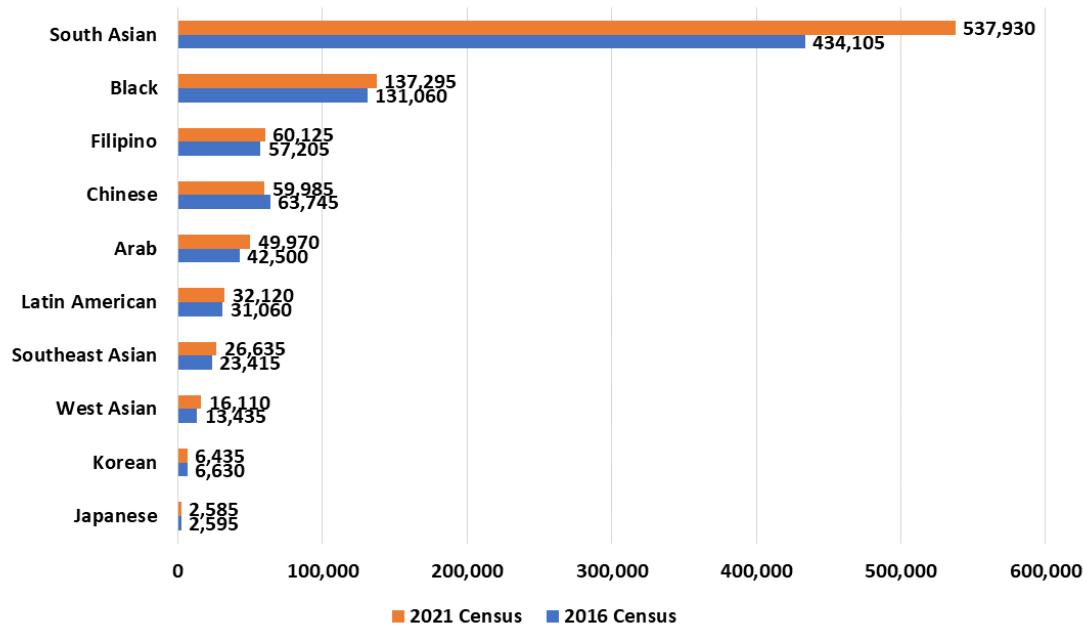
The modern Region of Peel is a highly diverse and racialized area. In 2011 the percentage of visible minorities was 56.8%. By 2021 the percentage increased to 68.82%. The chart below shows the population of visible minorities in the Region of Peel according to the 2016 and 2021 Census.



The Black population is the second largest visible minority in the Region of Peel. South Asian, Black, Chinese and Filipino people are the more prevalent visible population groups in the Region of Peel, but their percentage has decreased because of the inclusion of new racialized groups like West Asian, Arab, Korean, Japanese or Ukrainian.

The proportion of South Asian people in the Region of Peel has decreased from 48.6% in 2011 to 37.38% in 2021, the Black population from 15.9% to 9.54%, and the Chinese and Filipino people from 8.0% to 4.0% respectively.

**Population of the Top 10 Visible Minorities
in the Region of Peel - 2021 and 2016 Census**

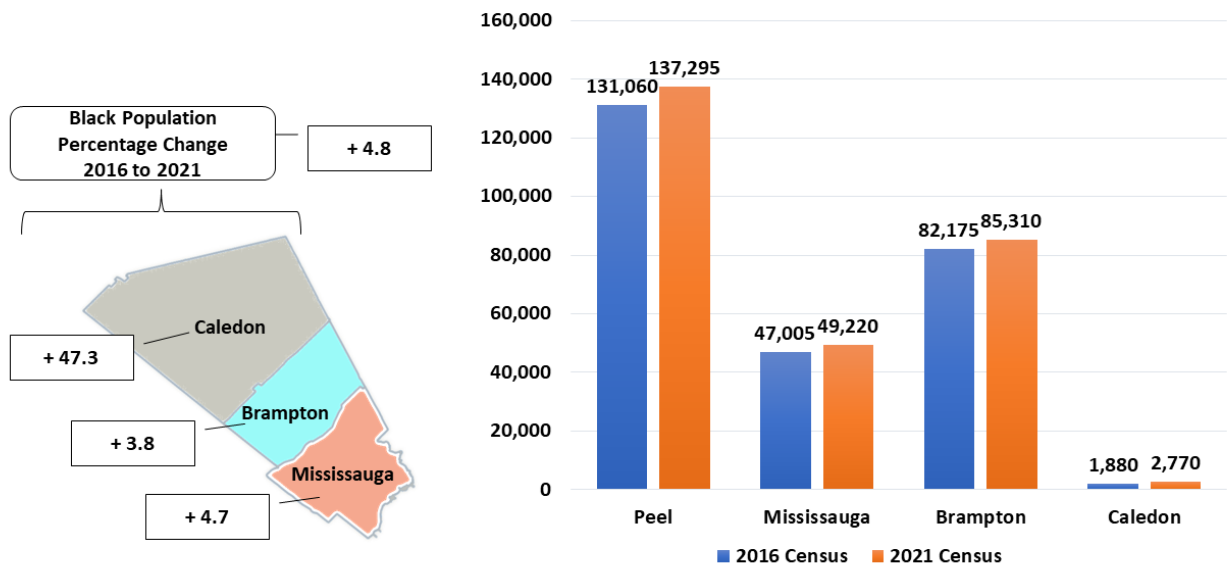


C3. Distribution of the Black Population in the Region of Peel

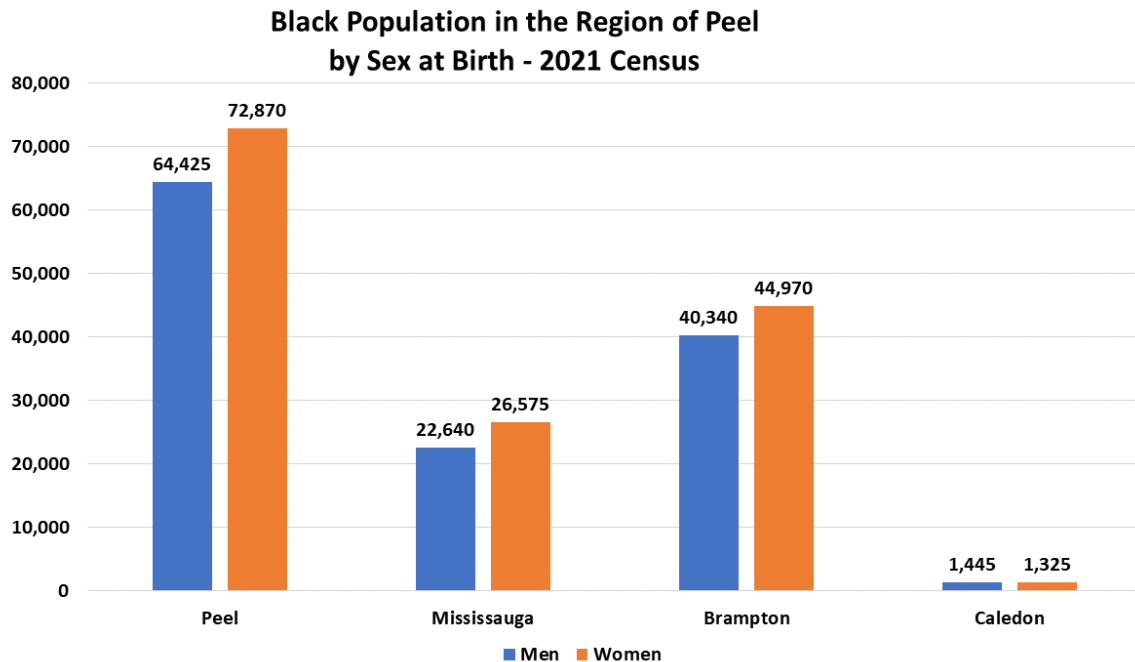
The most diverse municipality of the Region of Peel is Brampton with 80.57% of visible minorities, followed by Mississauga (61.93%) and Caledon (32.88%). Despite the changes in the ethnicity composition, census data shows that the two most dominant racialized groups in the region have consistently been Black and South Asian people (Statistics Canada, 2021).

The Black population in the Region of Peel has increased from 131,060 in 2016 to 137,295 in 2021. Most Black people live in Brampton (62%), followed by Mississauga (35.8%), and the fewest reside in Caledon (2%).

Black Population in the Region of Peel by Municipalities - 2016 and 2021 Census



Black Population by sex at birth among municipalities:



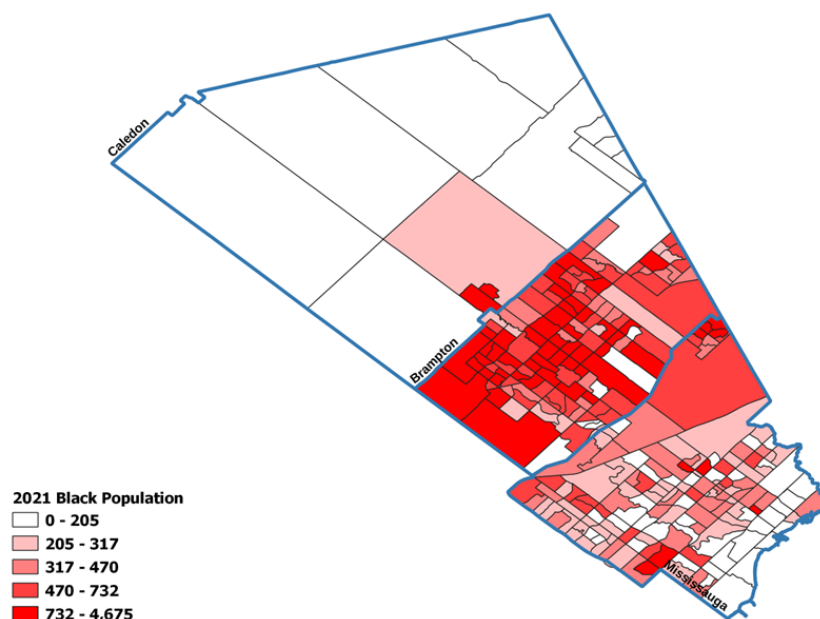
In 2021, there were more Black women in the Region of Peel (53.1%) than Black men (46.9%), with numbers broken down in Mississauga (54% women, 46% men) and Brampton (52.7% women, 47.3% men). Caledon had more Black men (52.2%) than women (47.8%).

Specific data from the 2021 Census on the Black population by age group, which would provide more detailed analysis, has not yet been released.

The illustration below was created based on data from the census tract. This shows which parts of the Region of Peel hold the highest concentrations of the Black community. Brampton has the highest concentration of Black people, especially towards the Northwestern corner of the city.

The Black community in Mississauga is spread out relatively evenly, with a slightly higher number in the Northeast corner of the city. Caledon has the least Black residents in the Region of Peel, with a single neighbourhood along the Brampton border holding most of its Black residents. In contrast, Mississauga and Brampton have several neighbourhoods with a high concentration of Black residents. This data is in line with previous race statistics in the region.

2021 Census – Region of Peel Black Population Distribution by Census Tracts



D. Critical Life Areas of the Black Community

This report is focusing on analysis of the following areas:

- Immigration
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Health and Mental Health
- Peel Regional Police and the Black Community
- Black Youth LGBTQTTIQ Population in the Region of Peel
- Access to Services for the Black Population in the Region of Peel

D.1. Limitations

Various limitations were acknowledged during the development of this analysis.

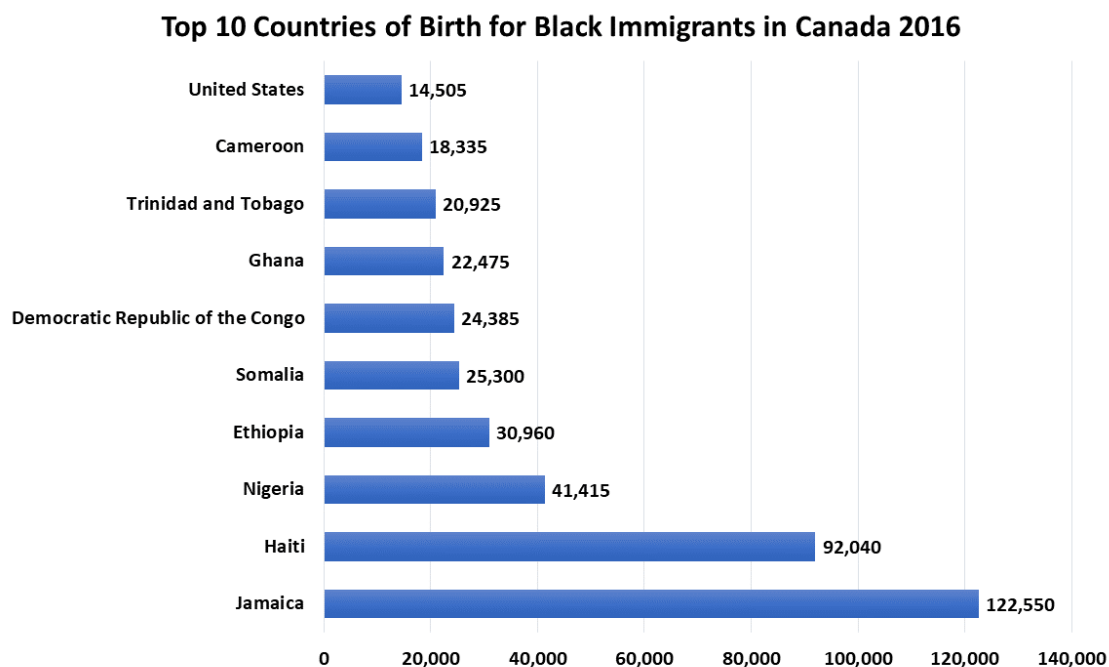
- Firstly, more detailed data related to the Black population has not yet been released from the last Canada Census of 2021. Most of the analysis of this report is based on the 2016 Census, in combination with partial information released from the 2021 Census and other secondary sources of information.
- Secondly, a significant portion of the data collected in this analysis was based on self-reported surveys. When utilizing surveys, various factors can impact responses, such as clarity of questioning, formatting, and the sensitive nature of some questions.
- A third limitation relates to the challenges faced when compiling data based on ethnicity and race. Statistics Canada acknowledged this in their Ethnic Origin Reference Guide, stating, "Ethnicity is a difficult concept to measure, and there is no internationally recognized classification for what constitutes this concept (Statistics Canada, 2017). Furthermore, according to the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3 (2017), ethnicity is defined as "multidimensional and is more a process than a static concept, and so ethnic classification should be treated with movable boundaries" (p. 204).
- Finally, there is a wide range of conceptual frameworks related to ethnicity and race that are used in collecting data and interpreting the results. "Ethnicity can be measured using a variety of concepts, including ethnic ancestry or origin, ethnic identity, cultural origins, nationality, race, colour, minority status, tribe, language, religion or various combinations of these concepts" (United Nations, 2017, p. 205). The conflation of race and ethnicity,

and the “movable boundaries” associated with its definition, create a unique challenge when trying to gather and analyze race-based data.

D.2. Immigration

In 2016, the Black population in Canada represented 3.5% of the total population and 15.6% of the visible minority population. It is also a younger population than the total population in Canada, with a median age of 29.6 years for the Black population, versus 40.7 years for the total population (Statistics Canada, 2019).

Migration is the main driving force behind the population increase in Canada. The top countries of birth of Black immigrants in 2016 were Jamaica, Haiti, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Somalia (Statistics Canada, 2019),



The Black population in Ontario in 2016 was more than half (52%) of the total Black population in Canada, and Black newcomers during the period 2011-2016 represented 14.1% of all Black immigrants (Ontario Government, 2016).

In Ontario, one-half of Black immigrants were born in the Caribbean, and most of them (33.9%) came from Jamaica. Other most frequent countries of birth reported for Black immigrants were Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Somalia, Ghana, and Ethiopia (Ontario Government, 2016).

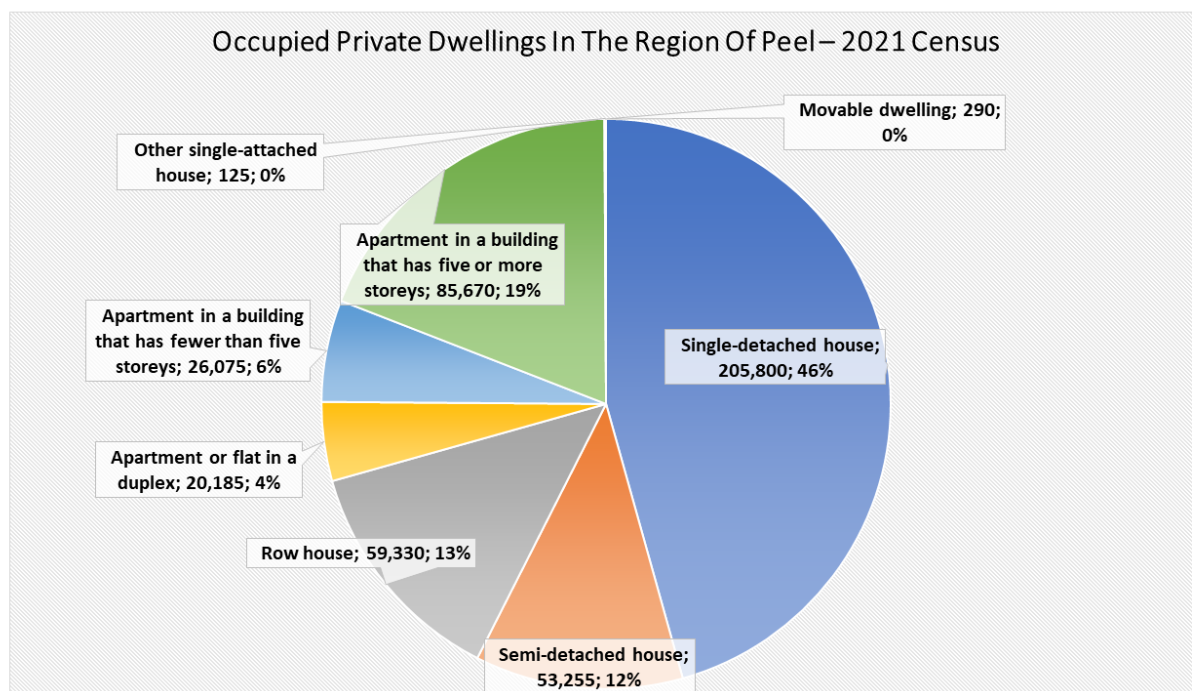
D.3. Housing

Reports on experiences with housing in the Black community have shown that landlord discrimination against Black tenants is a common barrier to adequate housing (Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)). Specifically, studies in Toronto and Montreal have revealed exclusionary screening methods, refusal to rent, or imposing financial barriers to renting (for example: increasing the first and last month's rent). Racism is also a significant barrier in Canada's urban housing market. Research has uncovered that discrimination was more pronounced among Black people, especially those with darker skin (Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)).

In 2021, 11.3% of racialized Canadians lived in a household in core housing need, defined as one whose dwelling does not meet the threshold of at least one of the housing adequacy, affordability, or sustainability indicators, among other requirements (Statistics Canada, 2023c).

Despite a decrease of 6.5 percentage points from the 2016 census, the proportion is higher than those observed in the total population (Statistics Canada, 2023c). In addition, the percentage of each racialized group declined from 2016 to 2021 due to the temporary pandemic income supports (Statistics Canada, 2023c).

Urbanization is transforming the face and size of dwellings in the Region of Peel with the top increase of occupied apartments in buildings that have 5 or more storeys.



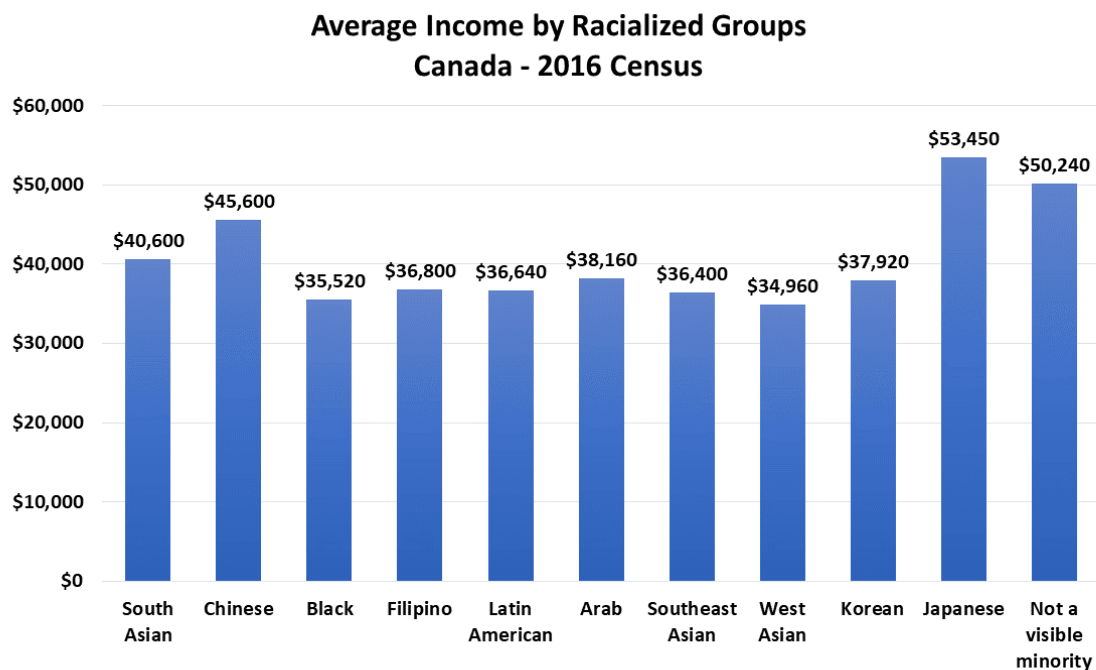
D.4. Employment

Although we could not find specific statistics analyzing race and employment in the Region of Peel, Canadian statistics can be analyzed. In 2021, the employment rate of Black men aged 25 to 54 was 83.1% compared with 86.4% for other men (excluding Indigenous men), a difference of 3.3 percentage points (Statistics Canada, 2023a).

When looking at the employment rate for Black women, the number was more comparable to the overall numbers for women (excluding Indigenous women). 67.1% of Black women were employed compared to 66.1% of women in general (Statistics Canada, 2023a). The employment rate among Black immigrant women was 68.7% in 2021, 4.3 percentage points higher than all other immigrant women (64.4%) (Statistics Canada, 2023a).

In 2021, Black female workers were primarily concentrated in the health care and social assistance industry, where 33.8% of them held employment, which is 11.3% percentage points more than the overall employment rate for the female population (22.5%) (Statistics Canada, 2023a). This gap was even wider among immigrant women, as 37.9% of Black immigrant women worked in the health care and social assistance industry, compared with 21.6% of other immigrant women. In 2021, Black Canadians in the core-aged group of 25 to 45-year-olds were more likely to hold a bachelor's degree or higher (41.1%) than Canadians in the same age group who were not a visible minority or Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2023a).

The statistics also demonstrated differences in workplace discrimination when analyzing race. For example, 13% of Black Canadians reported experiencing workplace discrimination, compared to 6% of the rest of the population (Government of Canada, 2020). This data makes it clear that the Black community faces unique barriers to employment not present in other communities. This fact is compounded in the Region of Peel due to our high immigrant population. Specifically, Black immigrants face additional challenges when seeking employment, such as discrimination against foreign accents, difficulty adapting to unfamiliar workplace cultural norms, the lack of Canadian work experience, and not having previous education, work experience, and other credentials recognized (Government of Canada, 2020).



D.5. Education

The diversity of the ethnic composition of the Region of Peel is further reflected within the Peel District School Board. According to the 2016 census, the top three self-reported ethnicities were Indian (30.2%), Canadian (23.1%), and Pakistani (11.6%), with Jamaican (6.4%) following in fourth place (Peel District School Board, 2020).

Students were permitted to select multiple answers to this census question to represent mixed-ethnicity individuals. From this, it is evident that the top three mixed ethnic backgrounds are Punjabi and Indian, Sikh and Indian, and Hindu and Indian (Peel District School Board, 2020). Punjabi and Indian were reported 1,700 times, making up 1.4% of the total PDSB student population (Peel District School Board, 2020). Sikh and Indian were reported 885 times, making up 0.7% of the PDSB student population (Peel District School Board, 2020). Finally, Hindu and Indian were reported 747 times, making up 0.6% of the PDSB student population (Peel District School Board, 2020).

The same census asked students about their racial background. The top three named were South Asian, (61,040 or 48.8%), White (16,651 or 13.3%), and Black (11,895 or 9.5%) (Peel District School Board, 2020).

Students were also allowed to select multiple answers to the census question to represent mixed-race individuals. The top three mixed racial backgrounds were Black and White, South Asian and White, and East Asian and White (Peel District School Board, 2020). Black and White as a mixed racial background were reported 993 times, making up 0.8% of the student population (Peel District School Board, 2020). South Asian and White as a mixed racial background was reported 875 times, making up 0.7% of the PDSB student population (Peel District School Board, 2020). Finally, East Asian and White were reported 597 times as mixed racial background, making up 0.5% of the PDSB student population (Peel District School Board, 2020).

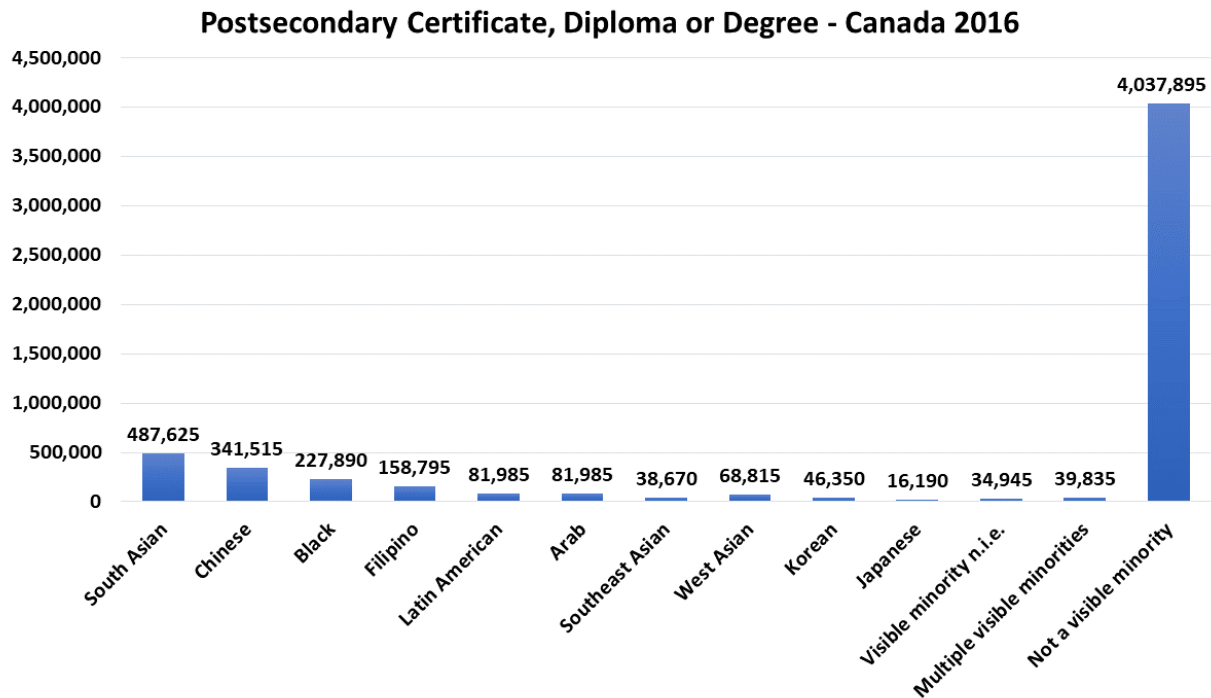
The census also included questions about whether students felt the Peel District School Board was inclusive. The students were asked if they had opportunities to learn about their own cultural/racial background. 6% strongly disagreed, 14% disagreed, 34% agreed, 13% agreed, 20% said neither, and 12% said not sure (Peel District School Board, 2020).

Students were also asked if they have opportunities to express their own cultural identity, and 3% said strongly disagree, 7% said disagree, 42% said to agree, 19% said strongly agree, 11% said not sure, and 18% said neither (Peel District School Board, 2020).

We can attain further insight by analyzing data collected on the Black population in all of Canada.

- In 2016, 71,365 Black Canadians, 25 years and older, had a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- In 2016, almost 7 in 10 Black adults had a postsecondary diploma.
- Among those with post-secondary education in 2016, the unemployment rate for the Black population was 9.2%, compared to 5.3% for those in the rest of the population.
- In 2016, Black youth aged 23 to 27 were less likely to have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree than other Canadian youth in that age group.
- In 2016, 94% of Black youth aged 15 to 25 said they would like to get a bachelor's degree or higher (compared with 82% of other youth).
- However, only 60% expected that they would achieve this, compared to 79% of other youth (Statistics Canada, 2023a)

From this data, we can see the education system in Peel is reflective of the ethnic diversity that makes the region unique. However, when looking at the broader black community in Canada, we can see that Black youth have higher educational aspirations than others, but lower levels of educational attainment. Again, this can be attributed to systemic variables.



D.6. Health and Mental Health

Black Canadians represent a relatively small proportion of the Canadian population (about 3.5%), and there are challenges in analyzing and reporting (Government of Canada, 2020).

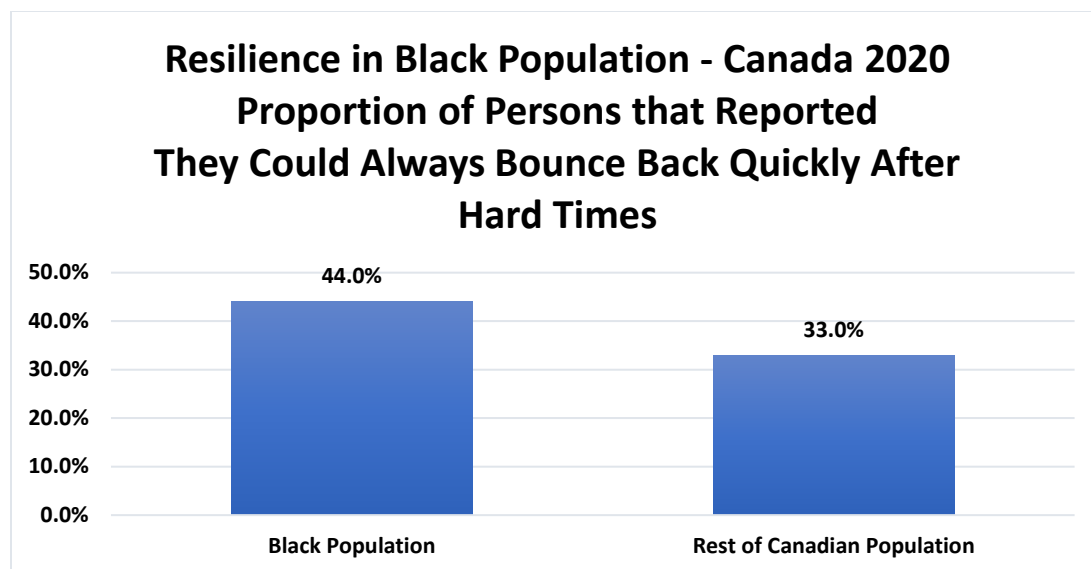
Ischemic heart disease was the leading cause of death among adult Black males (12%) and females (9,8%) in Canada based on data from 2001, 2006 and 2011 Canadian Census Health and Environment Cohorts. Black females had an increase for 6 causes of death: HIV/AIDS, stomach cancer, corpus uteri cancer, lymphomas and multiple myeloma, diabetes mellitus and endocrine disorders. Black males had an increased risk of dying from four causes: HIV/AIDS, prostate cancer, diabetes mellitus, and cerebrovascular disease (Statistics Canada, 2023d).

With reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, neighbourhoods with more ethnic diversity in Ontario, especially those with a higher composition of Black, Arab, Middle Eastern, West Asian, South East Asian or Latin American, are experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 and related complications and deaths compared to less diverse neighbourhoods (Public Health Ontario, 2022).

Health and mental health outcomes measured at a national level may not reflect how different communities understand and talk about health.

Between 2010 and 2013:

- 14.2% of Black Canadians aged 18 years and older reported their health as fair or poor, compared to 11.3% of White Canadians (Government of Canada, 2020). The prevalence of fair or poor health for Black women reached 15.0% (Government of Canada, 2020).
- 64.0% of young Black women aged 12-17 reported their mental health as 'excellent or very good' (Government of Canada, 2020). However, this is significantly lower than the 77.2% of young White women who reported excellent or very good mental health (Government of Canada, 2020).
- The prevalence of diabetes among Black Canadian adults was 2.1 times the rate among White Canadians (Government of Canada, 2020).
- 40.8% of Black Canadians aged 18 years and older reported being active or moderately active, compared to 54.2% of White Canadians (Government of Canada, 2020).
- Black Canadians also reported positive health behaviours, including significantly lower rates of heavy alcohol use and smoking than White Canadians (Government of Canada, 2020).
- Despite difficulties, Black people reported higher levels of resilience and optimism than the rest of the Canadian population (Government of Canada, 2020).
- 65% of the Black population aged 15 and older felt that they always learned something after difficult experiences, compared with 48% of the rest of the Canadian population (Government of Canada, 2020).
- 44% of the Black population aged 15 and older reported that they could always bounce back quickly after hard times, compared with 33% for the rest of the Canadian population (Government of Canada, 2020).



D.7. Peel Regional Police and the Black Community

Use of Force

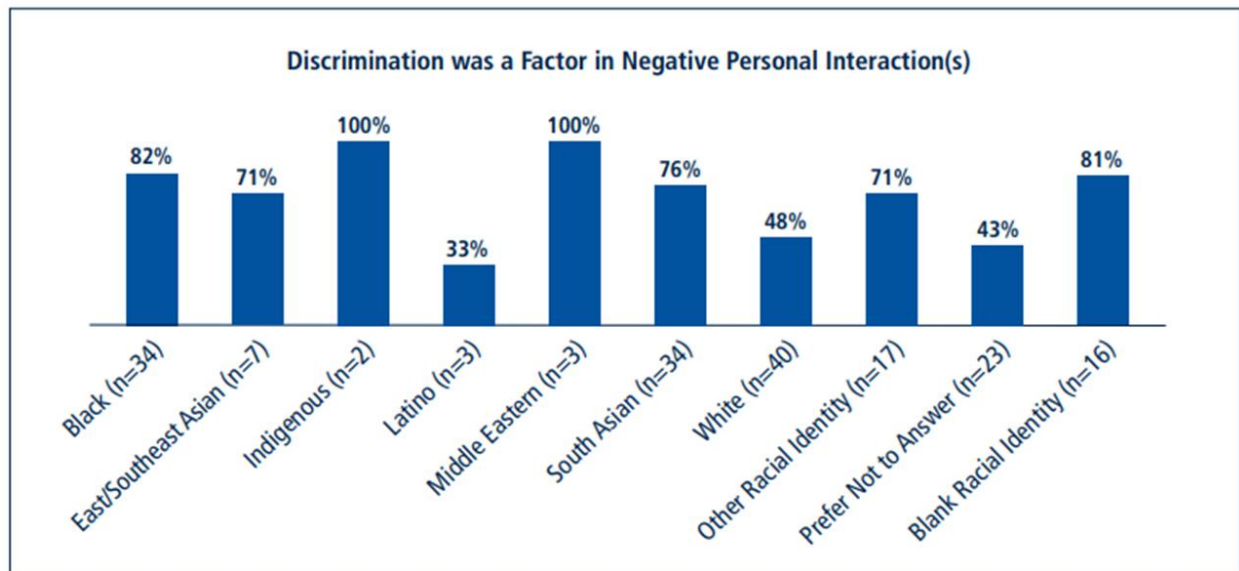
Peel Regional Police used less force on Black people in 2021 than in 2020 with a reduction of 21.68% (Peel Police Board, 2021b). However, Black People in the Region of Peel accounted for 32% of all use of force reports, which is the highest proportion among seven different racial groups, including White, East and South Asian, Middle Eastern, Latino and Indigenous (Peel Police Board, 2021a).

Peel Regional Police also compiled a report based on surveys done in the Region of Peel regarding police/community interactions. The following data was taken from the 2021 Community Policing Survey.

Police Interaction

The Peel Regional Police surveyed 1,102 participants asking if they had any interactions with police in the last two years. 634 (58%) said yes, 461 (42%) said no, and 7 (1%) did not answer the question (Peel Police Board, 2021a).

Out of the 180 respondents who indicated negative police interactions, they were asked if they believed discrimination to be a factor in the negative interaction. 66% said yes, 23% said no, and 11% said not applicable (Peel Police Board, 2021a). This was further broken down by race, where we see 82% of Black respondents who indicated negative interactions with police, believe discrimination was a factor (Peel Police Board, 2021a).



D8. Black Youth LGBTTTTIQQ Population in the Region of Peel

The Peel LGBTTTTIQQ Youth Needs Assessment surveyed 44 youth in the Region of Peel who identify as part of the LGBTTTTIQQ community (Access Alliance, 2009). Most respondents lived in Mississauga and had been living within the Region of Peel for over ten years. Specifically, 61% of respondents came from Mississauga, 32% from Brampton, and 7% from Caledon (Access Alliance, 2009).

Gender

When respondents were asked about their gender, all identified as male or female, although they were given further options to select all that apply. 69% identified as female and 31% as male, with four respondents also selecting other gender identities as follows (Access Alliance, 2009):

- Female, MTF, Transsexual
- Female, Androgyne
- Male, FTM, transsexual
- Male, FTM, transgendered and genderqueer

Sexual Orientation

Most respondents identified as bisexual, gay or lesbian, with 30% choosing multiple answers (Access Alliance, 2009).

Table 3.1 - Sexual Orientation (n=44, multiple responses allowed)	
Bisexual	48% (21)
Gay	20% (9)
Lesbian	20% (9)
Not sure/Questioning	16% (7)
Fluid/Unlabeled	14% (6)
Queer	11% (5)
Polysexual	7% (3)
Two-Spirit	5% (2)
Other - "Homoflexible", - "Just sexual"	5% (2)
Straight (Heterosexual)	2% (1)

(Access Alliance, 2009)

The Peel District School Board 2016 census also had relevant data on sexual orientation within Peel. Respondents were asked to identify their gender identity and sexual orientation from the data. We see that 97% (123,881) of respondents identify as male or female, and roughly 1% identify with multiple gender identities, questioning, transgender, intersex, or as a gender identity not listed (Access Alliance, 2009). Another 1% of respondents were either not sure or preferred not to answer (Access Alliance, 2009). We can also extrapolate that the top three sexual orientations among respondents were heterosexual (79.21), bisexual (2.5%) and asexual (2.1%) (Access Alliance, 2009).

Gender Identity	Peel Board	
	Number	Percentage of Responses
Male	63,879	50.7%
Female	60,002	47.7%
Multiple gender identities	327	0.3%
Questioning	151	0.1%
Transgender	85	0.1%
Intersex	62	0.05%
Other gender identity not listed (e.g., Nonbinary, Gender fluid, Gender non-conforming, etc.)	210	0.2%
Prefer not to answer	728	0.6%
Not sure	466	0.4%
Total responses	125,910	100%

Note. Total responses in this table represent 125,910 of 127,377 responses (98.8%), and do not include missing data (n = 1,456 or 1.1%) and inadmissible data (n = 11 or 0.01%).

(Peel District School Board, 2020)

As these studies focused on the youth population of diverse cultures and ethnic origins in the Region of Peel, it does reflect some of the characteristics and challenges that face the Black youth population on gender identities.

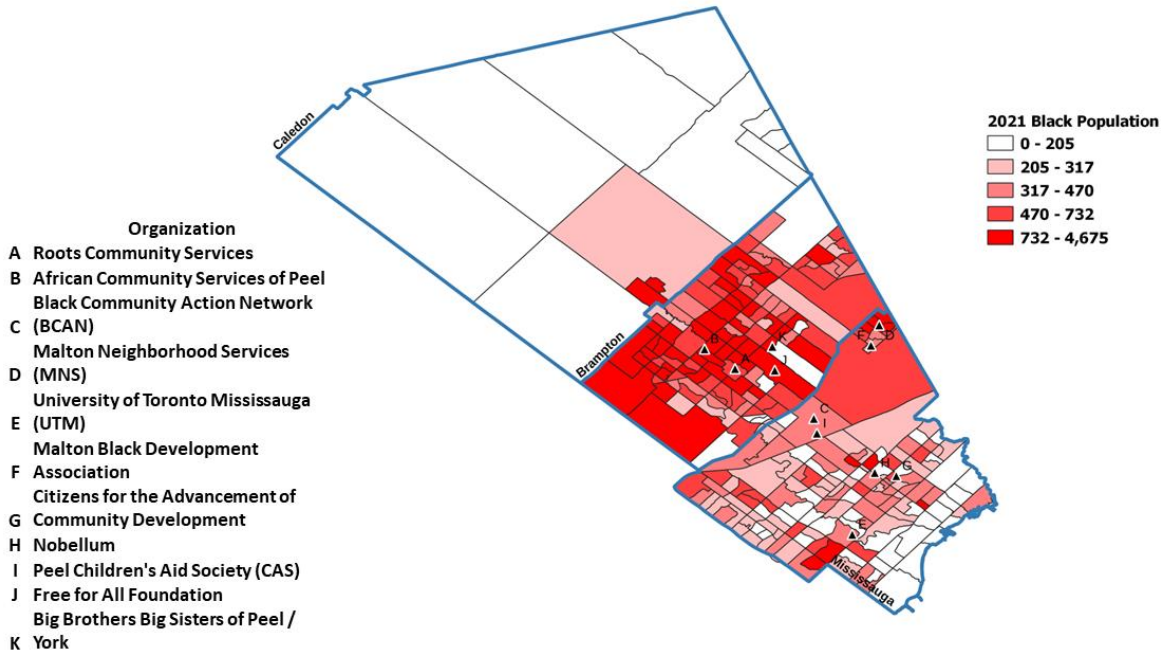
D9. Access to Services for the Black Population in the Region of Peel

After some research, a list was compiled of all the organizations in the Region of Peel that either directly offer services or have specific programs tailored to the Black community. A list of some of the identified services is shown below:

- A. **Roots Community Services:** Provides mentorship, tutoring, counselling, and substance use programs for the Black community in the Region of Peel.
- B. **African Community Services of Peel** offers outreach, crisis response, employment programs, mental health support, and after-school clubs.
- C. **Black Community Action Network (BCAN):** Has a business directory for Black-owned businesses in Peel and works in collaboration with various organizations throughout the GTA regarding racial reform in the criminal justice system.
- D. **Malton Neighborhood Services (MNS):** Offers a family counselling program specifically for Black families.
- E. **University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM):** Offers a program which supports Black high school students to assist them throughout their university journey. The program is called “Black Access to Education Excellence.”
- F. **Malton Black Development Association:** Offers various education programs, and social and recreational programs for Black youth in the Region of Peel.
- G. **Citizens for the Advancement of Community:** Offers internships, school tutoring, and crime prevention programs for Black youth.
- H. **Nobellum:** Offers a program that teaches financial planning, business development, technology, and commercialization to BIPOC individuals looking to enter the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) field.

Using our list of identified services and the map previously displayed, we illustrate below where the major concentrations of the Black community are in the Region of Peel, compared to where the Black-focused services are in the region. The services are in areas with high Black populations, yet there are still gaps in accessibility. For example, most services are in the middle area of the Region of Peel. This could be improved by spreading services more evenly from east to west and prioritizing Brampton's west end.

Social Services Specific for Black Population in the Region of Peel



E. Conclusions

- The Black population in the Region of Peel is growing, and new Black immigrants make the Black population younger than the total population.
- The data analysis in this report presents robust evidence about the inclusion and exclusion of the Black community in critical areas such as employment, housing and education and portrays inequities in institutions such as police, health, and education.
- This is a work in progress, and further demographic analysis will be done once Statistics Canada releases further information about the Black population in the Region of Peel.
- Considering the lack of race-based data on the Black youth population of the Region of Peel, more efforts need to be made to ensure this information is collected to identify the most vulnerable communities, to oppose racism, and provide accessible and equitable services.

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