Community Foundation of Nova Scotia

HALIFAX'S VitalSigns®

Taking the pulse of our municipality

2012

Community Foundation
of Nova Scotia

Created by and for the people of Nova Scotia, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is a public charitable foundation which enables effective philanthropy. We work with private donors, businesses, communities and charitable organizations to build the financial and social capital that our communities need, both today and tomorrow. We do that by stimulating charitable giving, establishing permanent endowment funds and supporting initiatives that make an ongoing difference in communities throughout Nova Scotia.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be a comprehensive centre for philanthropy that inspires all Nova Scotians to play a role in shaping the future of our communities and our province.

In our vision, Nova Scotians actively make a difference in our communities by working with the Foundation to:

-Build the financial assets which make things possible;
-Use effective tools like Vital Signs® to identify community needs;
-Employ practical and innovative methods to generate common solutions;
-Share knowledge that will benefit local communities and all of Nova Scotia.

This report and more is available at www.cfns.ca

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Halifax's Vital Signs®! This is the fourth publication in our Nova Scotia's Vital Signs® series which provides a snapshot of quality of life in communities throughout our province. Since we first launched Wolfville's Vital Signs® in 2009, we have used these reports to inspire civic engagement, provide focus for public debate and guide philanthropic resources.

Halifax's Vital Signs® provides information on fourteen different, yet interconnected issue areas that are considered critical to the well-being of residents in this remarkable city of ours. This year, thanks to the generosity of Telus®, we have also included a special section on Halifax's Youth.

As you read through the pages in this report, you will discover that Halifax is a city that is moving forward. And, while we have our share of successes, we still face many challenges. Our population is aging quickly and it is clear that our future success lies in our ability to attract and retain larger pools of new immigrants and more of the thousands of post secondary students who choose to study here. In order to do this, we need to be able to offer attractive employment opportunities, appropriate housing, strong health and transportation systems, a safe and beautiful environment, and a vibrant arts and culture scene. At the same time, we need to ensure that we are adequately preparing our secondary students for the jobs of the future.

We would like to thank all of those who were involved in putting this report together: those who offered advice, support and guidance, and especially our youth who took the time to complete our surveys and to tell us what they think about life in HRM.

The next step is up to you, the reader, to take what you've read in this report and to use it in making Halifax a better place to live. Together we can create a stronger, more vibrant and vital Halifax.

Allison Kouzovnikov, BA, MBA, LLB
Executive Director

Dennice Leahey, CM
Board Chair

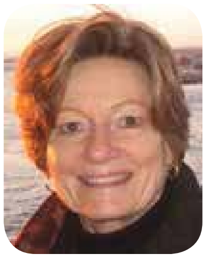
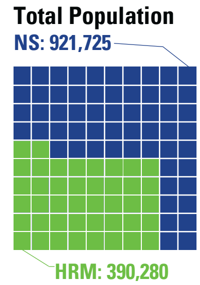
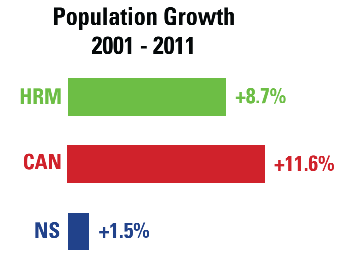


TABLE OF CONTENTS

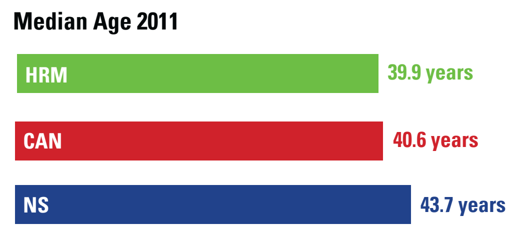
AT A GLANCE





POPULATION SIZE & GROWTH

In 2011, 390,280 people lived in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). HRM makes up 42.3% of the population of Nova Scotia (921,725), and 1.2% of the population of Canada (33,476,680). From 2001 to 2011, HRM's population grew 8.7%, while the provincial population grew 1.5% and the national population grew 11.6%.



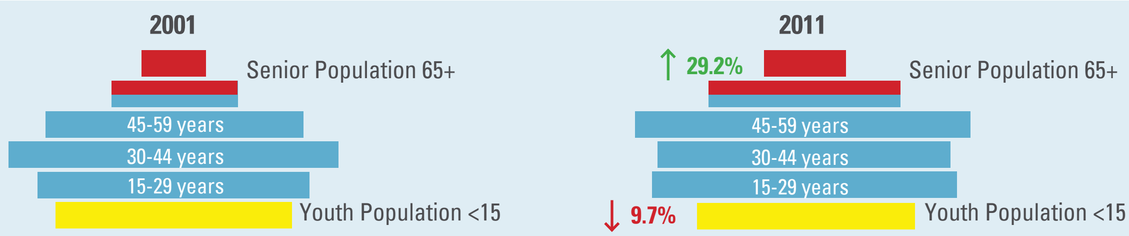
MEDIAN AGE

The median age (the age at which half of the population is younger and half of the population is older) in HRM is getting older: in 2001, it was 36.6 years, while in 2011, it was 39.9 years. Still, HRM's 2011 median age was below both the national (40.6 years) and provincial levels (43.7 years).

PROPORTION OF SENIORS (65+)

HRM's senior population is on the rise: from 2001 to 2011 it grew **29.2%** from 39,535 to 51,096. By comparison, the number of seniors 65 years or older grew 27.2% nationally and 21.2% provincially during the same time period.

On a proportionate basis, seniors comprised 11.0% of HRM's population in 2001 and 13.1% in 2011. Still, this proportion is below both the national (14.8%) and provincial (16.6%) levels.



YOUTH POPULATION (<15 YEARS)

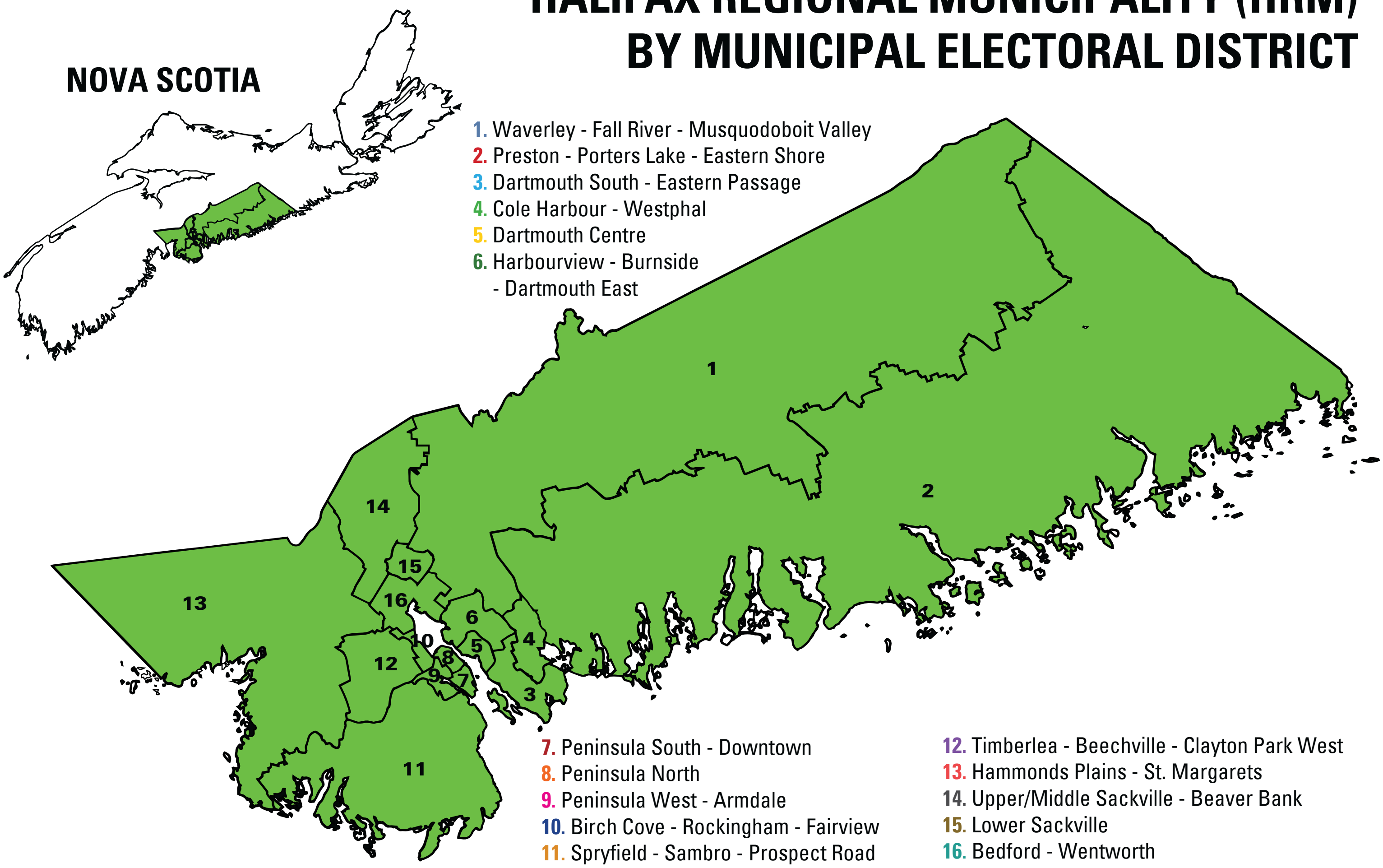
HRM's youth population is on the decline: from 2001 to 2011, it fell **9.7%** from 66,010 to 59,608. By comparison, the number of youth under 15 years fell 2.1% nationally and an astounding16.2% provincially during the same time period.

On a proportionate basis, youth comprised 18.4% of HRM's population in 2001, but only 15.3% in 2011. This proportion is below the national level (16.7%), but comparable to the provincial level (15.0%).

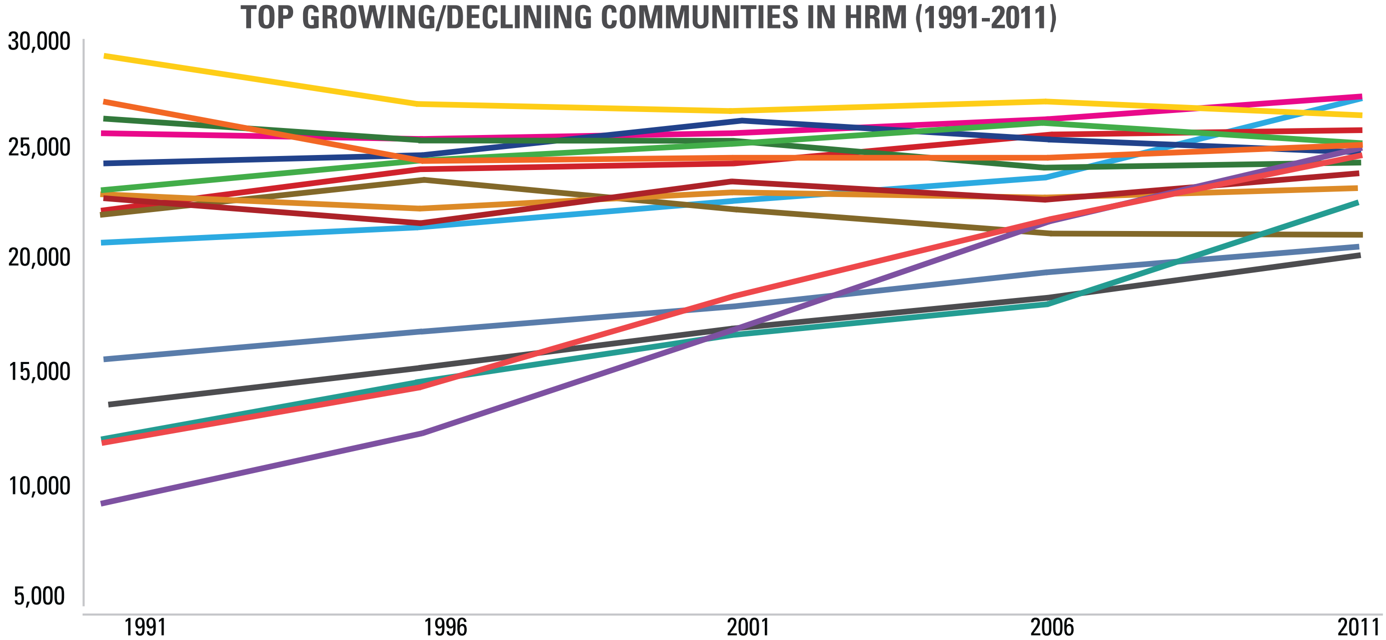
MOST COMMON LANGUAGES

In 2006, 95.9% of HRM residents reported that English was the language most often spoken at home, while 2.5% spoke a non-official language and 1.0% spoke French. By comparison, 91.4% of residents reported English as their mother tongue, while 5.3% reported a non-official language and 2.7% reported French. Of those who reported a non-official language as their mother tongue, 20.0% reported Chinese, 19.1% reported Arabic, 7.1% reported German, and 5.5% reported Polish.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY (HRM) BY MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT



TOP GROWING/DECLINING COMMUNITIES IN HRM (1991-2011)



Between 1991 and 2011, the communities which had the highest population **growth** in HRM were:

Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park (+162.7%)
Hammonds Plains – St. Margarets (+103.3%)
Bedford – Wentworth (+88.1%)

Between 1991 and 2011, the communities which had the highest population **decline** were:

Dartmouth Centre (-9.0%)
Peninsula North (-7.5%)
Harbourview - Burnside - Dartmouth East (-6.4%)

GETTING STARTED

WHY IT MATTERS:

To encourage others to make HRM their home, we must offer good employment opportunities and strong social supports.

MIGRATION AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION

Between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 HRM had a net gain of

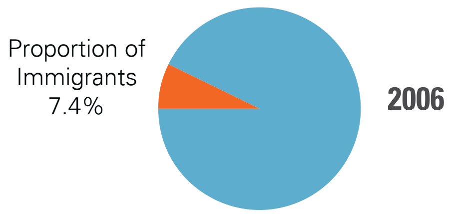
4,047 PEOPLE

↑ 1,536 people from natural increase
↑ 2,129 people from other countries
↑ 1,236 people from other parts of Nova Scotia
↓ 854 people to other parts of Canada

↑ 4,047 net gain in population

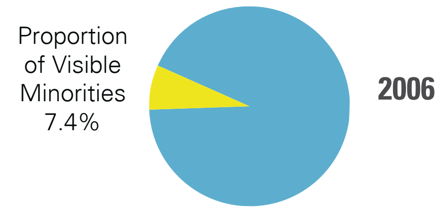
PROPORTION OF IMMIGRANTS

HRM's foreign-born population is on the rise: in 2001 it was 6.9%, while in 2006, it was 7.4%. Still, HRM's 2006 proportion was less than half of the national proportion (19.8%), but more than twice the proportion for the rest of the province (3.0%).



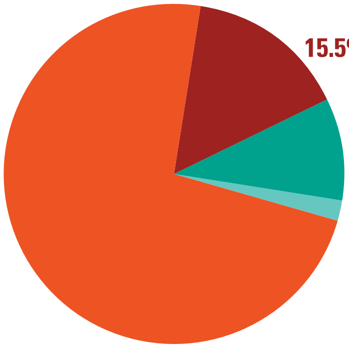
PROPORTION OF VISIBLE MINORITIES

The proportion of visible minorities in HRM is on the rise: in 2001 it was 7.0%, while in 2006, it was 7.4%. Still, HRM's 2006 proportion was less than half of the national proportion (16.2%), but almost twice the provincial proportion (4.2%).

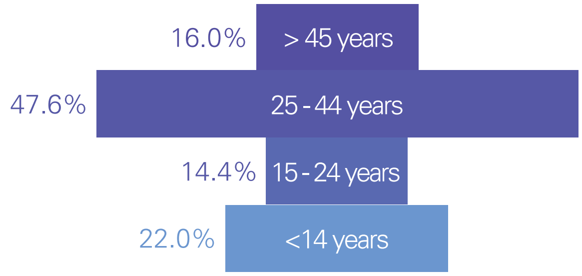


IMMIGRATION IN 2010

73.0% of new immigrants that came to HRM in 2010 were economic immigrants (skilled workers, investors and other similar categories with their families)



AGE BREAKDOWN OF NEW IMMIGRANTS



Where did our new immigrants come from in 2010?

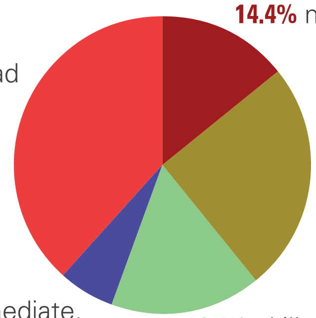
TOP 5 COUNTRIES

15.4% came from the **United Kingdom**
6.8% came from the **Philippines**
6.4% came from **Egypt**
5.8% came from **China**
5.5% came from **Iran**

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LABOUR FORCE

Approximately 52% of new immigrants to Nova Scotia in 2010 entered the labour force (meaning they were above the age of 15 and intended to work).

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the skill sets of these new workers made them suitable for work in the following areas:



BELONGING

SENSE OF LIFE SATISFACTION

In 2011, 93.3% of respondents in HRM reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their life, which was about the same as the national (92.3%) and provincial (92.6%) averages.

Life Satisfaction (2011)

SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING

By comparison, 68.4% of these respondents reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, which was slightly higher than the national average (65.8%) and slightly lower than the provincial average (71.6%).

Sense of Community Belonging (2011)

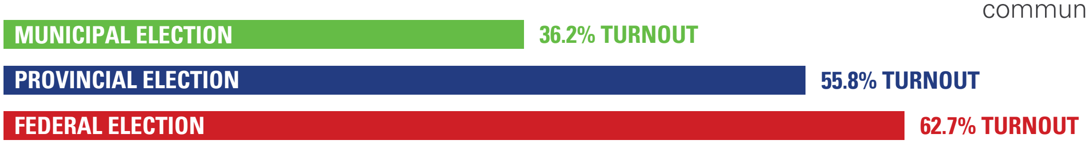
SENSE OF LIFE QUALITY

In 2012, 94% of HRM respondents rated their overall quality of life as good or very good. With respect to the past five years, about half (53%) said that their quality of life had stayed the same, while 19% said it had improved and 28% said it had worsened.

In your opinion, what would improve the Quality of Life for HRM Residents?

VOTER TURNOUT FOR ELECTIONS

A little more than a third (36.2%) of all HRM residents turned out to vote in the most recent municipal election, while a little more than half (55.8%) turned out to vote in the most recent provincial election and nearly two-thirds turned out to vote in the most recent Federal Election (62.7%).



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In 2012, more than half (57%) of HRM respondents said there were too few opportunities to participate in Municipal decision-making. Most respondents indicated that they would like to see more frequent surveys and community and Town Hall meetings.

In your opinion, what creates a good Quality of Place?

FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD	FOR YOUR HOME	FOR YOUR HOME'S LOCATION
1. How safe it feels	1. Affordability	1. Proximity to transit
2. Presence of trees	2. Quality	2. Proximity to work
3. The look and feel	3. Ability to work out of your home	3. Proximity to schools

CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR MUNICIPAL RESOURCES

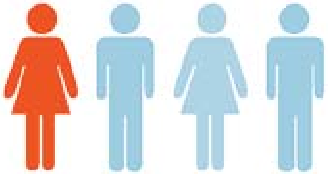
In 2012, when asked about prioritizing resources, 44% of HRM respondents identified transportation as the top priority, followed by economic development (31%), environmental progress (13%) and community development (11%).

CHARITABLE GIVING RATES & MEDIAN DONATION AMOUNT

In 2010, about a quarter (25.1%) of all tax filers in HRM declared a charitable donation. This rate is higher than both the national (23.4%) and provincial (22.6%) rates. In the same year, the median charitable donation in HRM was $310, meaning that exactly half of all donations exceeded $310 and half fell below $310. By comparison, the median donation nationally was $260 and provincially $310.

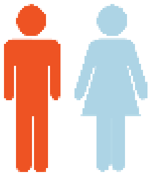
1 out of 4

of us donate to charity



VOLUNTEER RATES

In 2010, more than half (56.5%) of HRM's population engaged in unpaid volunteer activities as part of a group or organization, up from 45.3% in 2007. HRM's 2010 rate is above both the national (47.0%) and provincial (53.8%) rates.



56.5%

of us volunteer

DID YOU KNOW? LOCAL PARTICIPATION

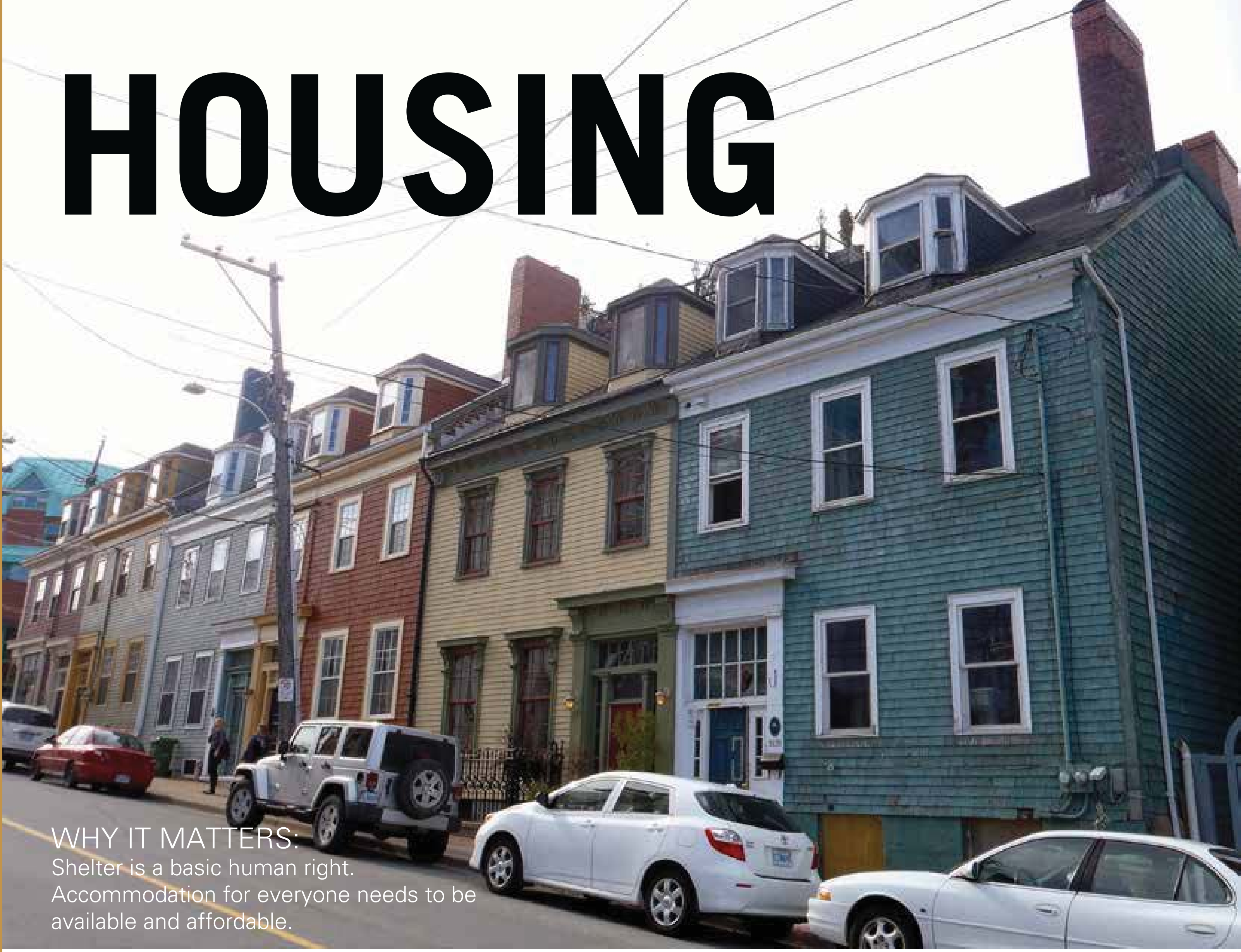
76% of us have never skated on a lake or pond.

63% of us have never gone for a bike ride!

49% of us have never swam at a local beach.

25% of us use HRM trails at least once a week!

HOUSING



WHY IT MATTERS:
Shelter is a basic human right. Accommodation for everyone needs to be available and affordable.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

In 2010, the average HRM resident buying a house within city limits, with a 25% down-payment and 25 year mortgage could expect to devote approximately 44.8% of his/her after-tax income to housing costs which placed Halifax fifth amongst 27 cities in Canada for housing ownership affordability. By comparison, a resident of St. John's could expect to pay 42.8% of his/her after-tax income, Quebec City (44.7%), London (39.2%) and Victoria (79.7%).

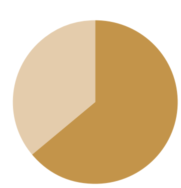
GROSS SHELTER INCOME RATIO

In 2010, the ratio of Multiple Listing Service's (MLS) average housing price to the pre-tax median income for an economic family in HRM was 3.3. This means that a family would need to save the equivalent of nearly 3 years and 4 months' worth of income to purchase an average house outright. This ratio is about a third lower than the national ratio (4.6) and about the same as the provincial ratio (3.2).

Average Cost of a House =
3 YEARS 4 MONTHS
of total family pre-tax income

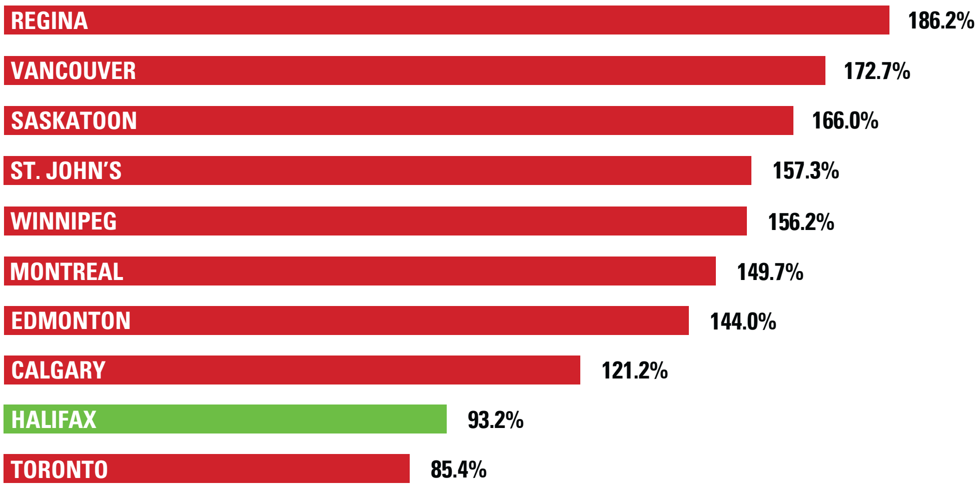
OWNERSHIP RATES IN HRM

In 2006, 64.0% of residents in HRM owned their dwelling, compared to 68.4% nationally.



64% of HRM residents own their home

GROWTH IN AVERAGE HOUSING PRICES FROM 2001-2011 FOR CANADIAN HUB CITIES



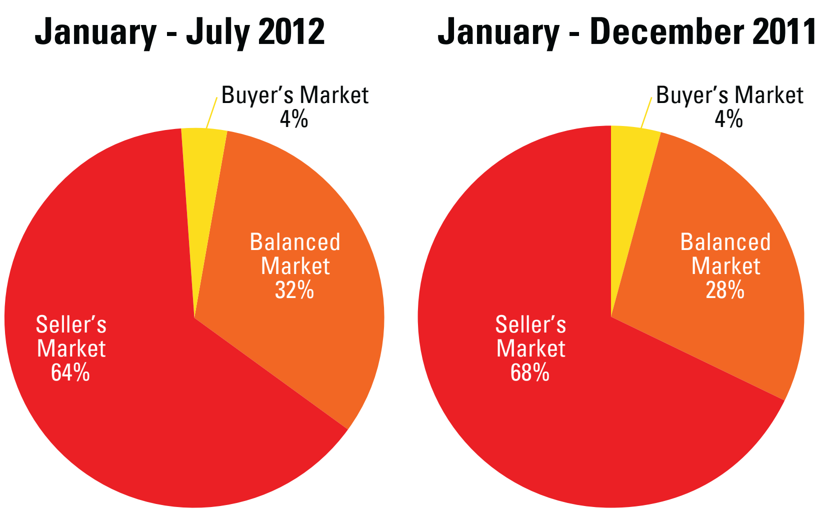
From 2001 to 2011, the average housing price in most major cities in Canada doubled, with the exception of Toronto which had the lowest increase (85.4%) and Halifax (93.2%).

HOUSING SALES TO NEW LISTINGS RATIO

The sales/new listings ratio compares the number of sales to the number of new listings and is used to measure market balance. A ratio between 40% and 60% indicates a balanced market, while a ratio below 40% indicates a buyer's market (supply exceeds demand) and a ratio above 60% indicates a seller's market (demand exceeds supply).

Hottest Housing Markets based on the MLS housing sales/new listings ratio were:

1. Halifax North (83%)
2. Purcell's Cove (79%)
3. Woodside to Cow Bay (78%)



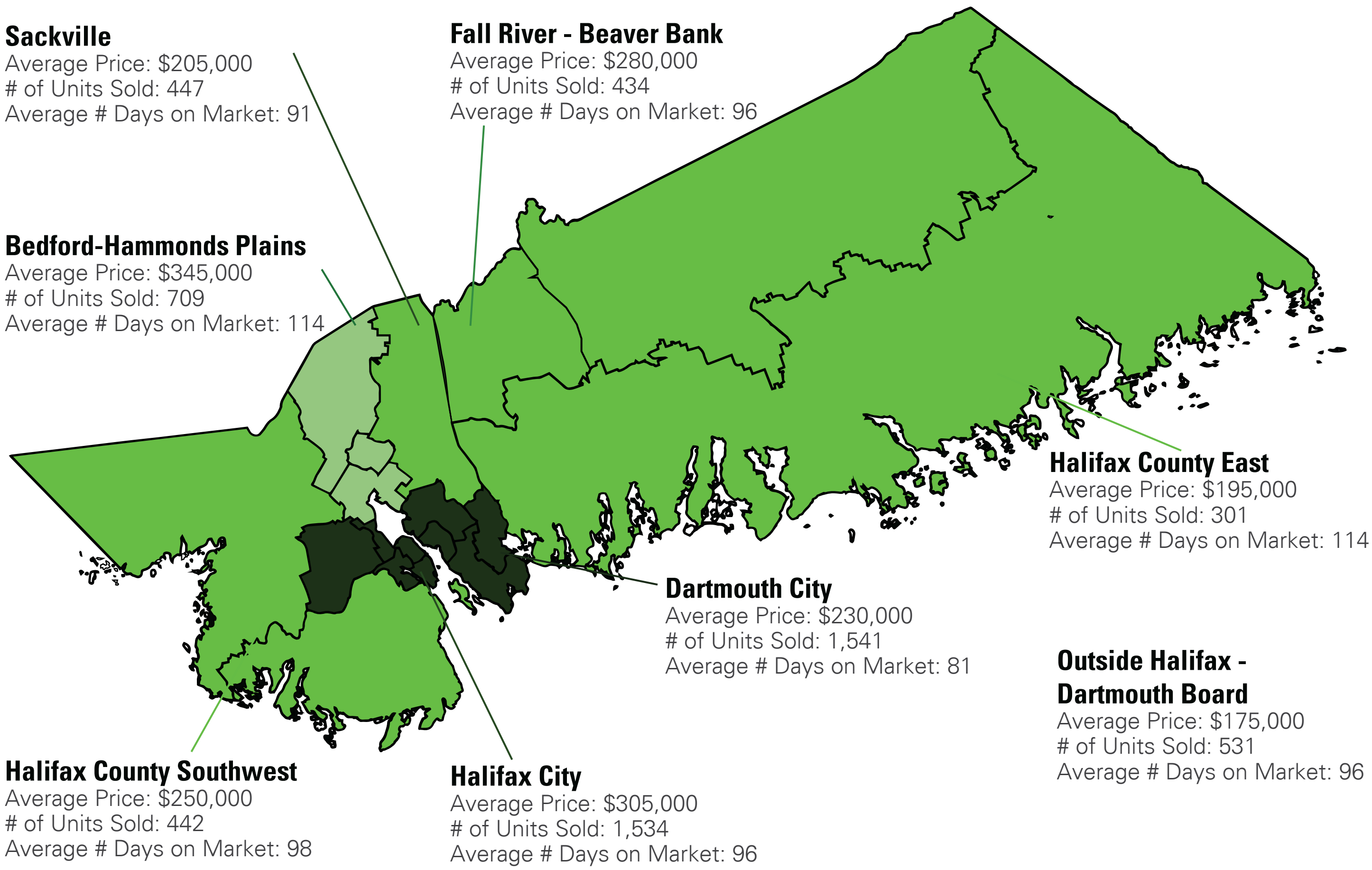
Hottest Housing Markets based on the MLS housing sales/new listings ratio were:

1. Halifax North (87%)
2. Halifax Central (81%)
3. Spryfield (79%)

In 2011 and for the first 7 months of 2012, the housing market in HRM has favoured sellers on about a 2:1 ratio. In 2011, a buyer's market could be found in only two MLS districts (Harrietsfield, Sambro, Ketch Harbour and Area, and Halifax County East), while in the first seven months of 2012 it could only be found in Halifax County East.

OWNING

AVERAGE HOUSING PRICES AND UNITS SOLD WITHIN HRM (2011)



AVERAGE HOUSING PRICES

In 2011, the average house in HRM cost $259,060. HRM's 2011 level was 28.9% below the national average ($364,289) and 21.9% above the provincial average ($212,512).

$259,060

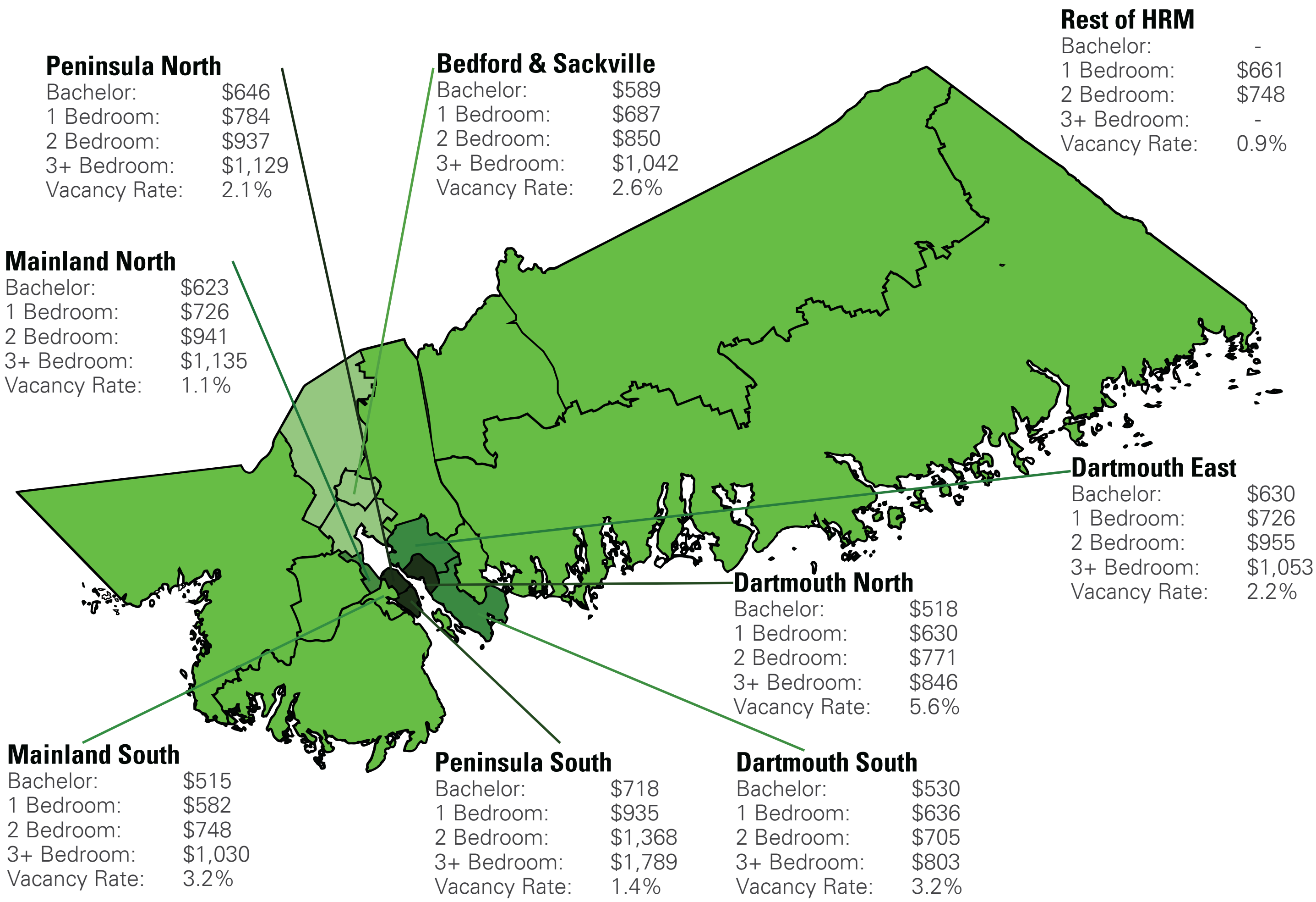
Average Cost of a House, 2011

NUMBER OF HOMELESS SHELTERS

In 2011, there were 5 emergency shelters in the city of Halifax, up from 4 in 2009.

RENTING

AVERAGE RENTS AND VACANCY RATES WITHIN HRM (2011)



RENTAL COSTS BY COMMUNITY

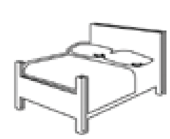
In October 2011, the average cost to rent an apartment in HRM was $866, up from $836 in October 2010. The three most expensive communities to rent an apartment in HRM in 2011 were: Peninsular South ($1,067), Mainland North ($894) and Peninsular North ($879).

RENTAL VACANCY RATES BY COMMUNITY

In Fall 2011, the overall vacancy rate for private apartments in HRM was 2.4%. The highest vacancy rate was in Dartmouth North (5.6%) while the lowest was in rural HRM (0.9%).

2.4%
Overall vacancy rate for private apartments in Fall 2011

NUMBER OF BEDS IN HOMELESS SHELTERS



In 2011, there were 171 beds in emergency shelters in the city of Halifax, up from 160 beds in 2009.

SAFETY

WHY IT MATTERS:
A sense of security contributes to our quality of life in HRM and our ability to enjoy life to its fullest. Personal safety affects how we socialize and participate in our communities.

How Safe Do We Feel?

OUR FEELINGS OF SAFETY – FEEL VERY OR COMPLETELY SAFE (2012)

	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Where you live?	74%	80%	93%
Where you go for shopping, recreation and work?	82%	87%	89%

PERSONAL SAFETY AND PERCEPTIONS

In 2009, 91% of us were satisfied with our perception of personal safety, down from 93% in 2004. The 2009 rate was about the same as the provincial (94%) and national rates (93%).

LEVEL OF CITIZEN SATISFACTION WITH POLICE VISIBILITY AND PRESENCE

In 2012, 71% of respondents living in urban areas of HRM rated their level of satisfaction with police visibility and presence in their area as mostly or completely satisfied, compared to 79% of those living in suburban areas and 82% of those living in rural areas of HRM.

A Tale of Five Cities

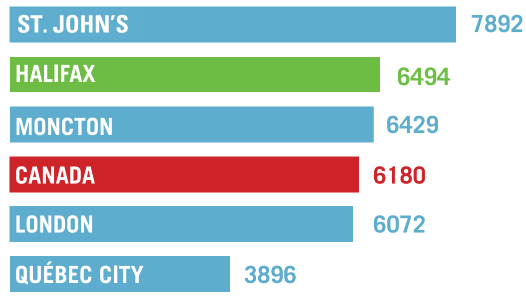
Not only are we curious about how crime rates have changed over time and how we compare to provincial or national averages, we also wonder how do we compare against similar Canadian cities?

TOTAL CRIME RATE

In 2011, HRM's total crime rate was 6,494 violations per 100,000 persons, the lowest it has been in thirteen years. HRM's total crime rate peaked at 9,925 violations in 2004 and has dropped by more than a third since that time.

Since 1998, HRM's total crime rate has consistently exceeded both the provincial and national rates, with the exception of 2011 when it was about at par with the provincial rate (6,501).

TOTAL CRIME RATE (2011)

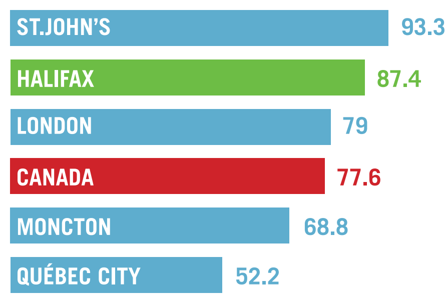


CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

The Crime Severity Index reflects the relative seriousness of the offences committed. The index was set at 100 for Canada in 2006.

In 2011, the Crime Severity Index in HRM was 87.4, the lowest it has been in thirteen years. HRM's Crime Severity Index peaked at 135.3 in 2004 and has dropped by more than a third since that time. Since 1998, HRM's Crime Severity Index has consistently exceeded both the provincial and national levels. Its 2011 level was 10.6% above the provincial figure (79.1) and 12.7% above the national figure (77.6).

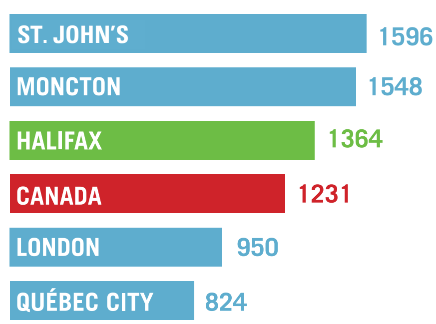
CRIME SEVERITY INDEX (2011)



VIOLENT CRIME RATE

In 2011, HRM's violent crime rate was 1,364 violations per 100,000 persons, the lowest it has been in thirteen years. HRM's violent crime rate peaked at 2,301 violations per 100,000 persons in 2004 and has dropped by more than 40% since that time. Since 1998, HRM's violent crime rate has generally exceeded both the provincial and national rates; however, its 2011 level was below the provincial rate (1,458), but above the national rate (1,231).

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME RATE (2011)

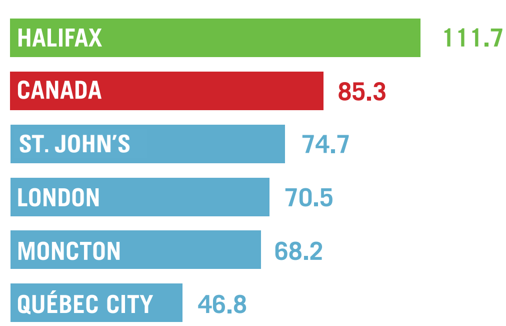


VIOLENT CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

The Violent Crime Severity Index reflects the relative seriousness of the offences committed. Violent crimes involve the application, or threat of application, of force to a person. The index was set at 100 for Canada in 2006.

In 2011, the Violent Crime Severity Index in HRM was 111.7. HRM's Violent Crime Severity Index peaked at 154.6 in 2006 and has been declining fairly consistently since that time. Since 1998, HRM's Violent Crime Severity Index has consistently exceeded both the provincial and national levels. Its 2011 level was about a third higher than the provincial (84.7) and (85.3) national levels.

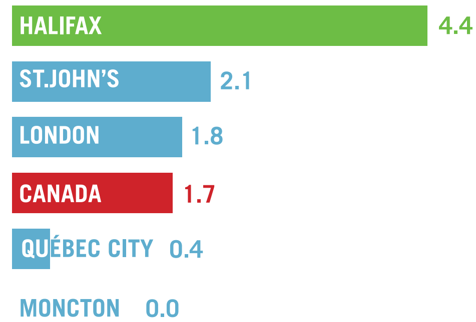
VIOLENT CRIME SEVERITY INDEX (2011)



HOMICIDE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER RATES

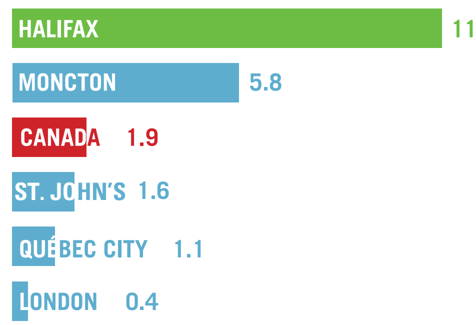
In 2011, at 4.4 homicides per 100,000 persons (18 in total), HRM reported the second highest homicide rate amongst all Census Metropolitan Areas in Canada. It was also the highest rate recorded in HRM since 1998 when it was 3.5 per 100,000 persons. HRM's homicide rate has generally exceeded both the provincial and national rates and, in 2011, it was about twice the provincial (2.3) and national (1.7) rates.

HOMICIDE RATE (2011)



Similarly, HRM's 2011 attempted murder rate, at 11.0 attempts per 100,000 persons (45 in total), was almost twice the provincial rate (6.4) and far above the national rate (1.9). Since 1998, HRM's attempted murder rate has generally been on the rise.

ATTEMPTED MURDER RATE (2011)

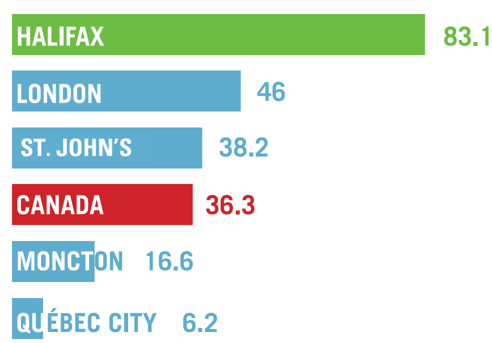


WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

Excludes firearms documentation or administration offenses and unsafe storage offenses.

In 2011, HRM had a weapons violation rate of 83.1 per 100,000 persons. This rate was more than 50% higher than the provincial rate (52.8) and more than twice the national rate (36.3). Since 1999, weapons violations in HRM have generally been on the rise. They have also consistently exceeded both the provincial and national rates.

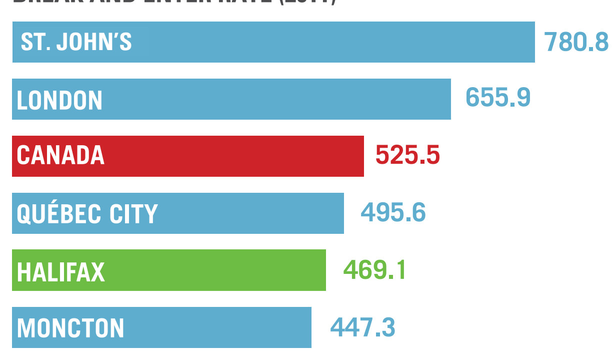
WEAPONS VIOLATION RATE (2011)



BREAK AND ENTERS

In 2011, HRM's break and enter rate was 469.1 violations per 100,000 persons, the lowest it has been in thirteen years. HRM's 2011 rate was 6.9% below the provincial rate (503.9) and 10.8% below the national rate (525.5).

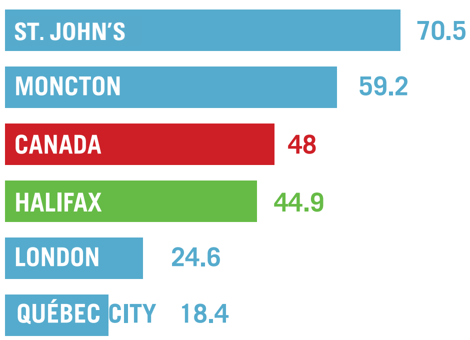
BREAK AND ENTER RATE (2011)



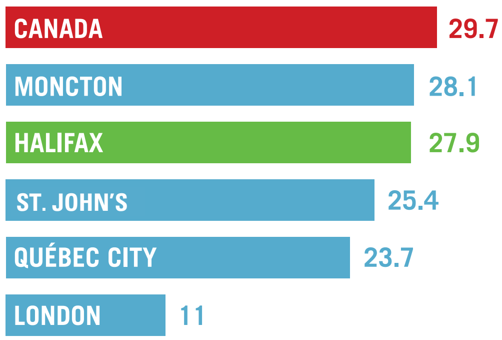
DRUG TRAFFICKING, PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

In 2011, violations for the trafficking, production or distribution of cannabis in HRM (44.9 violations per 100,000 persons) was similar to the national average (48.0), but significantly lower than the provincial average (71.8), while the same violations involving cocaine in HRM (27.9) tracked closer to the national average (29.7), but was higher than the provincial average (23.4).

CANNABIS (2011)



COCAINE (2011)



DID YOU KNOW?

NUMBER OF POLICE VEHICLES

Marked: 283
Unmarked: 275

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALLS TO THE POLICE PER DAY:

228 emergency
767 non-emergency

COSTS OF POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES PER CAPITA

In 2010, it cost $224 per person to deliver police services in HRM and $151 to deliver fire services.

FIRE FACTS

In 2010/11 there were:
4,202 fire alarms and investigations
1,524 real fires
3 deaths by fire

TOP 5 REASONS WHY A FIRE TRUCK IS DISPATCHED:

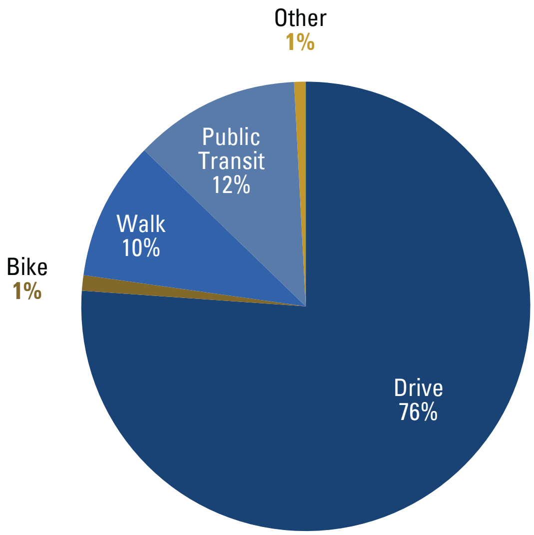
1. Fire alarms go off accidentally (1,764 incidents)
2. Actual Fires (1,524 fires)
3. Medical Assistance (1,479 medical emergencies)
4. Smoke/Odour Investigations (1,406 incidents)
5. Motor Vehicle Accidents (1,357 incidents)

GETTING AROUND

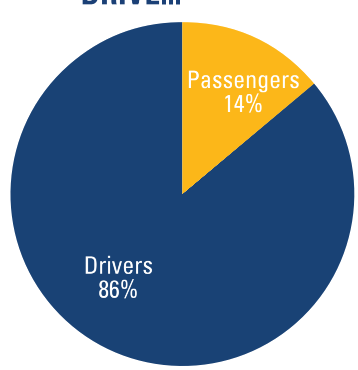
WHY IT MATTERS:
The prosperity of the economy, the health of the environment and the productivity of citizens depends upon the availability of strong transportation systems.

HOW DO WE TRAVEL TO WORK?

In 2006, 76% of HRM residents travelled by car to work. Car-pooling is becoming slightly more popular, with the relative proportion of drivers down slightly from the 2001 level (86% vs. 88%) and the relative proportion of passengers up slightly from the 2001 level (14% vs. 12%).



OF THOSE THAT DRIVE...



MEDIAN COMMUTING DISTANCE FROM HOME TO WORK

In 2006, the median commuting distance to work in HRM was 6.5 km, up from 6.3 km in 2001. The 2006 median distance was below the national (7.6 km) and provincial (8.4 km) medians.

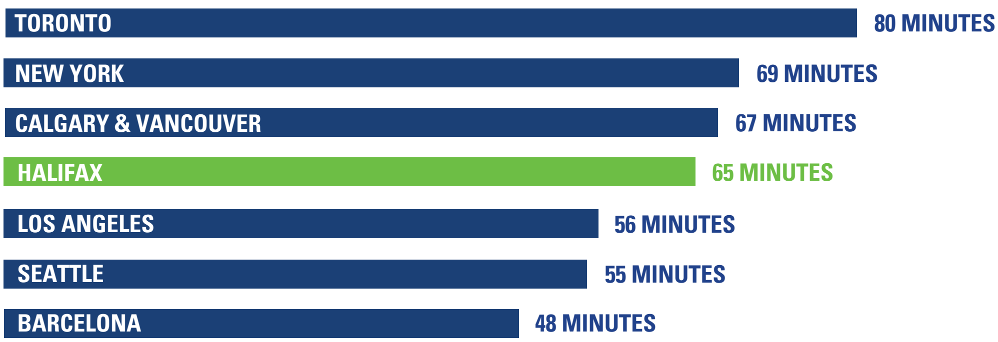
6.5 km
one way

AVERAGE COMMUTE TIMES (ROUND TRIP)

In 2006, the average commuting time (to and from work) in HRM was 65 minutes, which earned it a rank of 10th out of 21 world cities by the Toronto Board of Trade. It was the highest ranked Canadian city (where highest rank means lowest commute time).

65 mins
round trip

AVERAGE COMMUTE TIMES (ROUND TRIP) COMPARED TO OTHER MAJOR CITIES



EXPENDITURES ON TRANSPORTATION

In 2010, HRM spent $1,319 on transportation per household, almost a two-fold increase over the 2008 level of $681 per household.

TOP CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR SPENDING ON TRANSPORATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

2012 HRM Citizen Survey (excludes responses for "other" category)

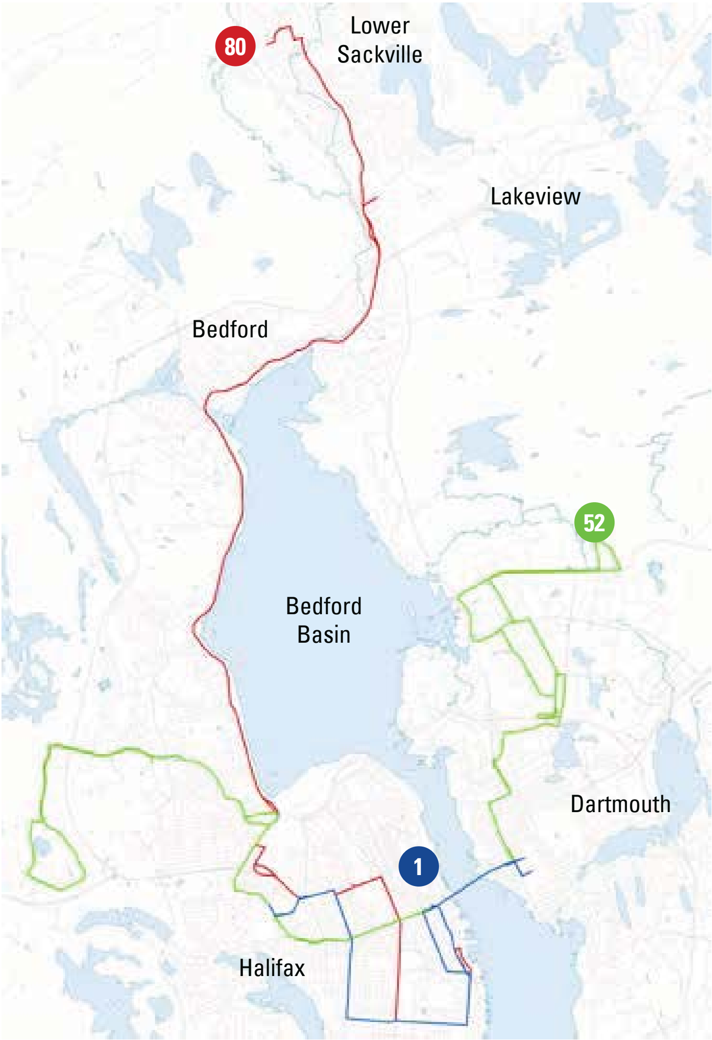
1. Improve the public transit system
2. Invest in commuter rail, if feasible
3. Improve the bike lane network

TOP CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR MITIGATING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

2012 HRM Citizen Survey (excludes responses for "other" category)

1. Maintain existing streets and roads
2. Upgrade major roadways to provide increased capacity
3. Make improvements for active transportation (e.g., trails, sidewalks, bike lanes)

METRO



TOP 3 BUS ROUTES

1. Route #1 Spring Garden
   (11,571 daily passenger boardings)
2. Route #52 Crosstown
   (5,985 daily passenger boardings)
3. Route #80 Sackville
   (5,085 daily passenger boardings)

FERRY USAGE

In 2011, average daily boardings for the ferry to and from Alderney was 2,693 passengers, while for Woodside it was 1,625 boardings.

DID YOU KNOW?

On average it takes approximately one hour to walk 5-6 kms depending on the terrain.

There are 1,677 km of asphalt pavement in the core of HRM.

There are 87 km of bicycle lanes and 11 km of wide-curb lanes in the core of HRM .

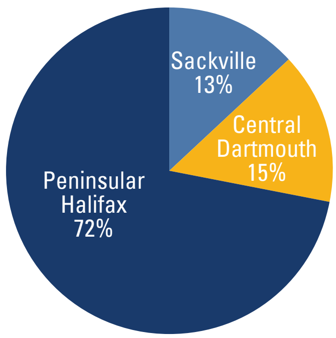
Halifax's Stanfield International Airport has year-round domestic service to nine locations in Atlantic Canada, as well as Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and Calgary, year-round-trans-border service to Boston, Newark, Philadelphia, New York and Chicago, and year-round international service to London, St. Pierre et Miquelon and Santa Clara, Cuba.

TRANSIT

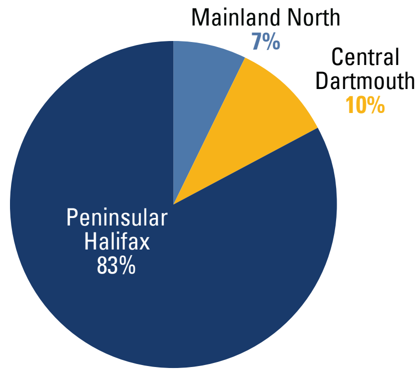
WHERE DO WE START AND END OUR TRIPS?

In 2011-12, of the three most popular departure and destination locations, 72% of respondents started their one-way trip in peninsular Halifax, 15% in central Dartmouth and 13% in Sackville, while 83% ended their trip in peninsular Halifax, 10% in central Dartmouth and 7% in Mainland North.

WHERE WE START OUR TRIPS

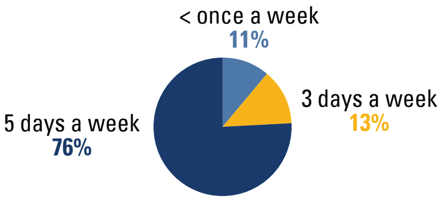


WHERE WE END OUR TRIPS



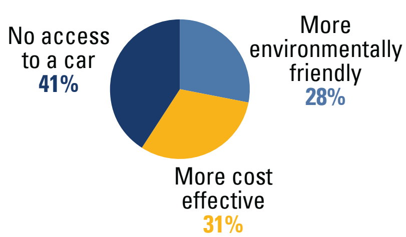
HOW OFTEN ARE WE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT?

In 2011-12, of the three most popular frequencies, 76% of riders used Metro Transit 5 days a week, 13%, 3 days a week and 11% less than once a week.



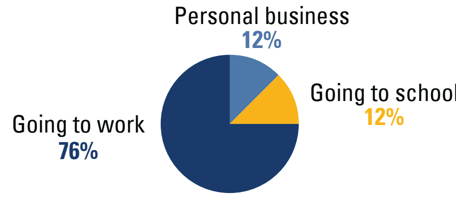
WHY ARE WE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT?

In 2011-12, of the three most popular reasons why they used Metro Transit, 41% of riders indicated no access to a car, 31% indicated it was more cost effective and 28% indicated it was more environmentally friendly.



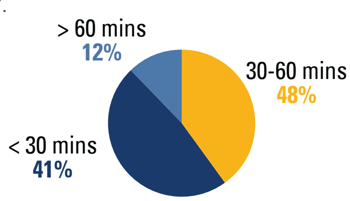
WHERE ARE WE GOING ON PUBLIC TRANSIT?

In 2011-12, of the three most popular places where riders are going on Metro Transit, 76% are going to work, 12% are going to school and 12% are attending to personal business.



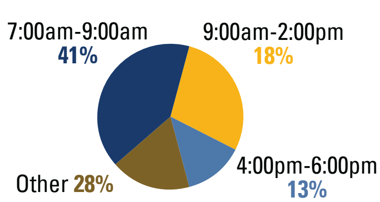
AVERAGE RIDE TIMES (ONE WAY)

41% of riders travel for less than 30 minutes to complete a one-way trip, for 48% of riders it takes 30-60 minutes and for 12% of riders it takes more than an hour.



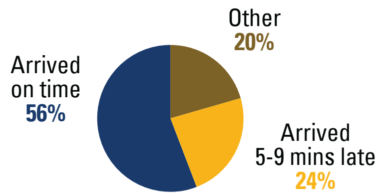
BUSIEST TIMES OF THE DAY

41% use Metro Transit between 7:00am and 9:00am, 18% between 9:00am and 2:00pm, 13% between 4:00pm and 6:00pm.



ARRIVING ON TIME

56% of riders indicated that Metro Transit arrived on time, while 24% indicated that it was 5-9 minutes late.



ENVIRONMENT

WHY IT MATTERS:

Clean air and water, uncontaminated soil, and green spaces are essential to healthy living. Preserving and protecting our local environment creates a strong foundation for our children's future.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

In 2010, HRM had an annual mean temperature of 8.2°C, a mean minimum temperature of -7.9°C in January, and a mean maximum temperature of 23.9°C in July. With respect to the longer-term trends, the annual mean temperature for the last ten years in HRM (7.0°C) is 0.7° warmer than the annual mean temperature for the 1971 to 2000 period, while the mean minimum in January for the last ten years (-10.5°C) has remained relatively unchanged (0.2°) and the mean maximum in July (24.8°C) is 1.1° warmer.

In terms of precipitation, in 2010, HRM received a total of 1,323.8 mm. This amount is less than the average total precipitation received for the 1971 to 2000 period (1,452.2 mm), and comparable to the average for the 2001 to 2010 period (1,317.9 mm).

AIR QUALITY

Halifax ranks first amongst 20 world cities for air quality with a score of four. By comparison, the second ranked city, Calgary, had a score of 7, while other cities trailed behind: Vancouver (14), Montreal (20), New York (22), Toronto (23), Barcelona (39) and Shanghai (79).

WATER QUALITY

Between April 2010 and March 2011, 99.8% of HRM's drinking water was compliant with the norms for coliform bacteria content – an indicator which measures the success of disinfection.

During the same time period, 73.3% of HRM's wastewater treatment facilities were compliant with Nova Scotia Environment's Discharge Requirements for CBOD5 (a measure of the amount of organic material), 66.7% were compliant with the requirements for fecal coliform but only 40.0% were compliant with the requirements for total suspended solids.

RESIDENTIAL WATER COSTS

In 2011, the average annual cost of residential water and wastewater services in HRM was $637 per household. This is $39 more than the annual cost in Toronto ($598), $471 less than Edmonton ($1,108) and $485 less than Regina and Windsor ($1,122).

WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

In 2009, 61.8% of households in HRM had a low-flow showerhead, compared to 62.5% nationally and 66.2% provincially.

Low-volume toilets were present in 38.2% of households in HRM, compared to 42.1% nationally and 39.3% provincially.

About three quarters of households in HRM had lawns, and of those, 21.7% watered their lawns three or more times a week, compared to 12.4% nationally and 15.4% provincially.

In 2012, 43% of HRM respondents said they turned off the tap more regularly when brushing their teeth compared to the previous year and 24% said they were more likely to wash full loads of wash instead of partial ones.

PER PERSON WATER CONSUMPTION RATE

In 2009, each person in HRM used an average of 290.3 litres of water per day (about the same as a full bathtub), up marginally (1.4%) from 2006. Nationally, the average rate decreased by 4.1% to 274.0 litres during the same time period, while provincially it decreased 6.7% to 292.0 litres.

TREES

In 2007, there were approximately 57.8 million trees in HRM's urban forest, or 148 trees per person! More than 700,000 of these trees line the streets in HRM.

HRM's urban forest provides the following annual benefits:

It removes about 1,478 metric tonnes of pollutants worth an estimated $9.6 million in air pollution mitigation;

It stores 2.1 million metric tonnes of carbon and removes 118,000 metric tonnes of carbon from the air;

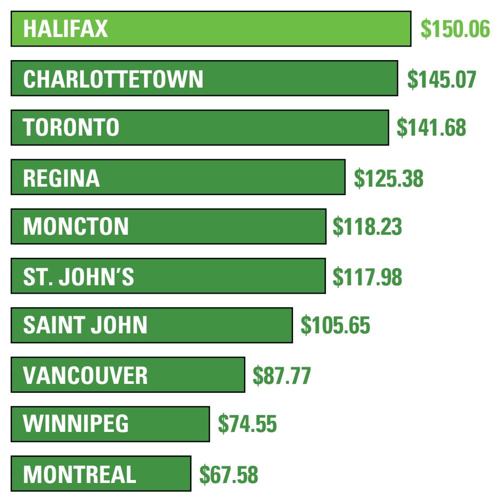
The shade provided by HRM's street trees saves more than $12.4 million in energy costs;

HRM's street trees provide about $2.1 million in storm water reduction services.

ENERGY COSTS

In 2012, the average monthly bill for a household that consumes 1,000 kWh of electricity (common for families of four) in HRM was $150.06, the highest cost of a sampling of ten Canadian cities. The lowest cost was found in Montreal (less than half of HRM's).

AVERAGE MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BILL



REASONS TO CONSERVE ENERGY

In 2012, 67% of HRM residents said they are mostly motivated to conserve energy because of a concern for the environment. This is a major shift from three years ago when 55% of respondents indicated that they were motivated by cost savings or the need to comply with regulations.

PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS

In 2009, 25% of households in HRM had a programmable thermostat, and 76% of those who did actually programmed them. HRM's 2009 rates are roughly at par with the provincial levels (25%/ 77%) and are well below the national levels (49%/85%).

HOUSEHOLD USE OF ENERGY-SAVING LIGHT BULBS

In 2009, 90% of households in HRM used some form of energy-saving light bulbs. HRM's 2009 rates are comparable to the provincial (93.2%) and national (88.9%) averages.

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 330 tonnes of recyclables are picked up at the curb each week in HRM – the weight of 16 metro transit buses!
Daily, eight trucks deliver blue bag and paper recyclables to the HRM recycling facility.
Each week, the average person in HRM produces: 2.9 kg of garbage, 1.6 kg of organics and 0.8 kg of recyclables. That's more than 5 bags of sugar!

Ever wondered what happens to your recyclables when they leave the curb? Take a virtual tour of HRM's Recycling and Compost Facilities at **http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/**

RECYCLING RATES

In 2007, 98% of households that had access to a paper recycling program in HRM used it. This is comparable to both the provincial (97%) and national (96%) rates. Eighty percent of all recyclables picked up in HRM are paper products. By recycling properly, we are saving an entire acre of forest everyday which is close to the size of a soccer field!

REASONS TO RECYCLE

In 2012, 80% of HRM residents said they recycle because of environmental concerns.

COMPOSTING RATES

Kitchen Waste
In 2009, 91% of households in HRM reported composting kitchen waste. This rate is comparable to the provincial rate (91%) and more than twice the national rate (43%).

Yard Waste
In 2009, 59% of households in HRM reported composting their yard waste. This rate is below the provincial rate (64%) and above the national rate (50%).

TOP CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (2012)

1. Renewable energy projects (35%)

2. Reduce demand for additional landfill cells (28%)

3. Invest in expanding recycling infrastructure (17%)

ARTS & CULTURE

WHY IT MATTERS:
Arts and culture inspire people and help to fuel innovation.

EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

In 2011, roughly 4,000 people (or 1.8% of the total employed in all industries in HRM) were employed in cultural industries, down 11.1% from 4,500 in 2010 and down nearly a third (29.8%) from 5,700 in 2000. On a proportionate basis, about the same number of people are employed in cultural industries in HRM as compared to the provincial level (1.7%), but fewer people are employed compared to the national level (2.0%).

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON READING, PERFORMING ARTS AND MUSEUMS

In 2008, compared to major cities in every other province in Canada, HRM had a higher than average proportion of households that reported annual spending on reading (78.6% in HRM vs. 76.3% average), the performing arts (43.9% vs. 41.5% average) and museums (37.0% vs. 34.2% average).

LIBRARY USE

In 2010, 13.2 items were circulated per person within the Halifax Regional Library system, up nearly a third (29.4%) from 10.2 items in 2000.

LIBRARY VISITS

In 2010-11, over two million (2,349,138) visits were made in person to Halifax Public Libraries' 14 branches, up 97,600 visits from the 2009-10 level. In this same year, almost 19,000 new borrowers registered for a library card, bringing the total percentage of the population of HRM who have a library card to 45.1%.

TOP THREE BUSIEST LIBRARY BRANCHES BY CIRCULATION (2010-2011)

1. Keshen Goodman (971,889)

2. Spring Garden Rd. (673,275)

2. Woodlawn (595,323)

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010 - 2011,

Someone walked into a library in HRM every minute that the libraries were open!

Halifax Public Libraries offered 1,894 programs for adults and 3,222 programs for youth

3,686 adults attended 418 literacy programs offered by Halifax Public Libraries

8,509 adults attended 597 English Language Learning Classes offered by Halifax Public Libraries

4,815 youth attended 513 reading development programs offered by Halifax Public Libraries

93,119 children, parents and caregivers came for a variety of programming

5,679 deliveries of materials were made to those who are homebound

MUNICIPAL SPENDING ON CULTURE AND RECREATION PER HOUSEHOLD

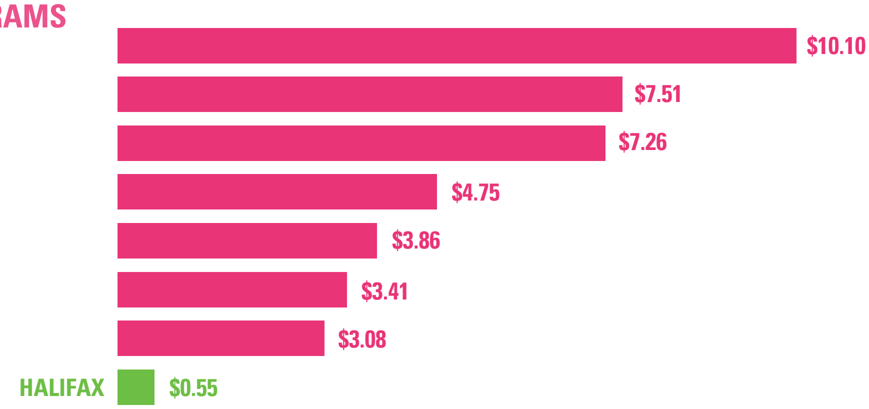
In 2008, the municipal government spent an average of $457 per household on culture and recreation. This figure represents 11.0% of the total municipal spending per household in that year of $4,166, and places Halifax above the proportionate spending in Montreal (10.7%) and London (7.9%), but below that in Kingston (12.7%), Kitchener (19.3%) and Victoria (24.3%).

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON RECREATION

In 2010, the average household in HRM spent $3,615 on recreation. This level of spending was 14.6% higher than the provincial average ($3,154), and comparable to the national average ($3,539). On a proportionate basis, this spending accounted for 6.9% of the average household budget in HRM, which was higher than the proportions in Montreal (6.2%) and Toronto (5.8%), but lower than Calgary (7.5%).

Average Household Spending on Recreation (2010)

MUNICIPAL SPENDING (PER PERSON) ON ARTS & CULTURE GRANTING PROGRAMS

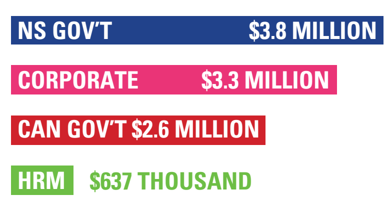


In 2011, the municipal government spent less than $1 per person ($0.55) on arts and culture granting programs which placed it at the bottom of eight other Canadian cities.

FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

In 2011, the provincial government provided the most funding for professional arts organizations in HRM ($3,825,189), followed by the corporate sector ($3,343,074), federal government ($2,621,215) and the municipal government ($637,450). This means that for every $1.00 the municipal government spent on professional arts organizations in HRM, the provincial government spent about $6.00, the corporate sector spent about $5.25, and the federal government spent about $4.10.

Proportion of Funding for Professional Arts Organizations by Source (2011)



ATTENDANCE AT PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS IN HRM

In 2011, the total attendance at productions by professional arts organizations in HRM exceeded 900,000, and more than a third of those who attended were 25 years and younger.

ATTENDANCE AT NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS IN HRM

In 2010, approximately 210,000 people visited the three museums in the HRM which are part of the Nova Scotia Museum system (Fisherman's Life Museum, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History). From 2001 to 2010, total attendance at these three museums has dropped by about 3% annually or 23.3% overall.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA, SYMPHONY NOVA SCOTIA AND NEPTUNE THEATRE

For its fiscal year-ending in 2012, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia reported paid attendance of 37,198 at its Halifax location, Symphony Nova Scotia reported paid ticket sales of 31,693 (excluding Beer & Beethoven) and Neptune Theatre reported paid ticket sales of 68,162. Since 2009, attendance at the Art Gallery's Halifax location has declined an average of 5.4% annually for a total decline of 15.3%, attendance at the Symphony has grown an average of 4.6% annually for a total increase of 14.6%, and attendance at Neptune Theatre has declined an average of 2.8% for a total decline of 8.1%.

ARTS AND CULTURAL MEMBERSHIPS IN HRM

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia has 353 members in HRM, and nearly a third of these (110) have published works in fiction, non-fiction, children's books, poetry, plays or journalism.

Theatre Nova Scotia has 132 members in HRM of which 47 are groups, 69 are artist/practitioners and 12 are students.

Music Nova Scotia has 911 members in HRM. The top three music genres represented by its membership are Rock (381) 29.6%, Folk (202) 15.7% and Alternative (92) 7.2%.

JUST DANCE!

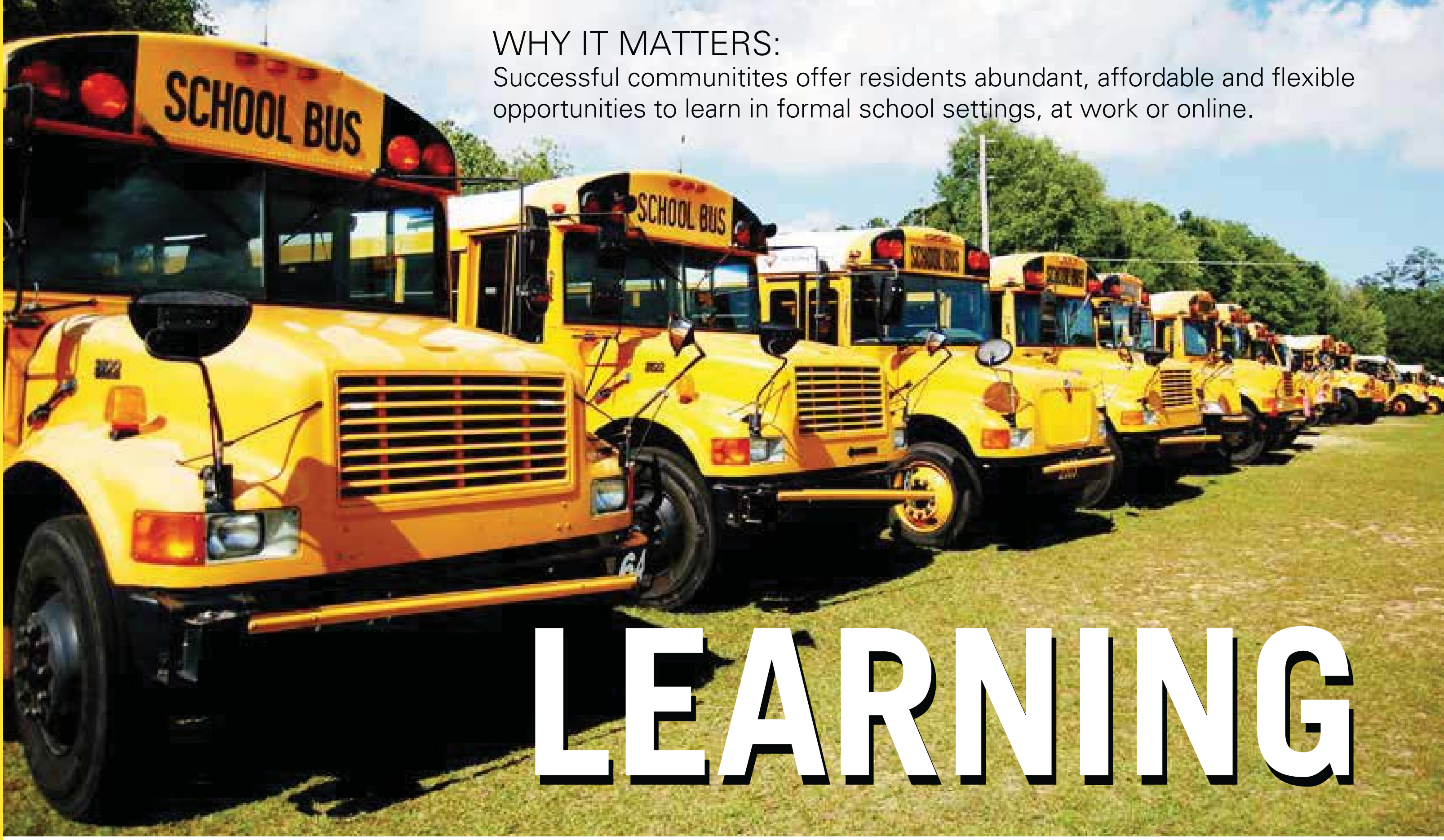
Number of Professional Dance Groups in HRM: 9

Number of Presenters: 3

Number of Dance Schools offering mainly adult recreation programs: 15

Number of Dance Schools offering programs mainly for children: 17

Number of Community Dance groups or Organizations: 9



WHY IT MATTERS:

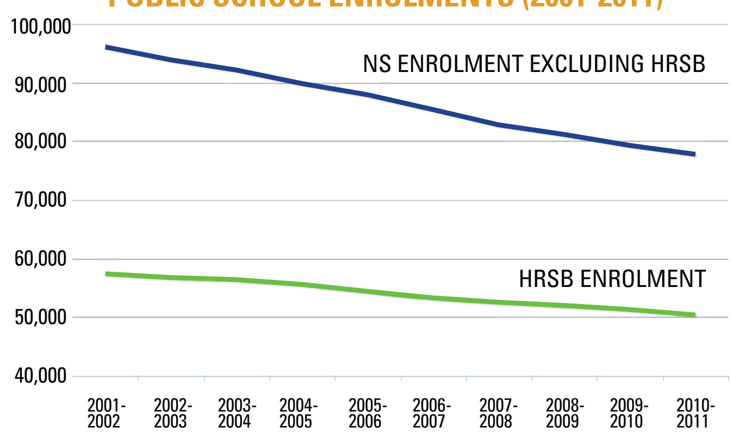
Successful communitites offer residents abundant, affordable and flexible opportunities to learn in formal school settings, at work or online.

LEARNING

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

In the 2010-11 academic year, 50,370 students were enrolled with the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), which accounted for nearly 40% of all public students in the province. Since 2001-02, student enrolment within the HRSB has declined at an average rate of 1.4% per year, for an overall drop of about 12%. By comparison, the total number of public students enrolled in the rest of province has declined at an average rate of 2.3% per year, for an overall drop of about 19% over the same time period.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLMENTS (2001-2011)



SCHOOL FUNDING

In the 2010-11 academic year, HRSB received about $403 million in general funding from the following sources: Province of Nova Scotia (72% of total revenue), Halifax Regional Municipality (24%) and Government of Canada (1%). The HRSB generated in excess of $12.5 million itself (3% of total revenues). It also received about $18.5 million in supplementary funding from HRM, for a total budget of about $422 million. From 2001 to 2011, at 3.9%, the average annual growth rate in contributions from all public sources (excluding supplementary funding) to the HRSB exceeded that of CPI (2.3%). The most growth came from the HRM (with an average increase of 5.6% annually for a total increase of 62.7%), followed by the federal government (3.7%/ 38.2%), and the provincial government (3.4%/ 35.0%). Board-generated revenues increased an average of 15.8% annually for a total increase of 273.2%.

FUNDING PER STUDENT

From 2001 to 2011, funding per student has increased an average of 5.4% annually, for a total increase of about 60% from $5,238 per student in 2001 to $8,373 per student in 2011.

$8,373
per student

HRSB AVERAGE CLASS SIZES (SEPTEMBER 2011)

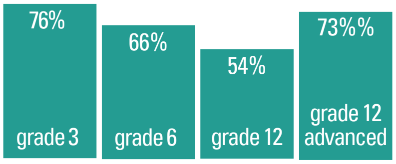
Grade	Number of Students
Primary-2	21.4
3-6	23.2
7-9	24.1
10-12	25.7

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ASSESSMENT RESULTS

MATH

While math scores for students in the HRSB consistently exceed the provincial average, they tend to decline as students progress through school. In the 2010-11 academic year, 76% of Grade 3's met the Department of Education's expectations for math, while only 66% of Grade 6's did. In addition, only 54% of Math 12 students passed their respective provincial exam, while 73% of advanced math students did (where 50% or more is a passing score).

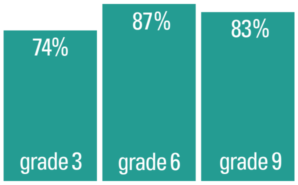
MATH (2010-2011)



READING

Reading scores for students in the HRSB consistently exceed the provincial average and show improvement as students move from Grade 3 to Grade 6, before declining in Grade 9. In the 2011-12 academic year, 74% of Grade 3's met the Department of Education's expectations for reading, while 87% of Grade 6's did and 83% of Grade 9's did.

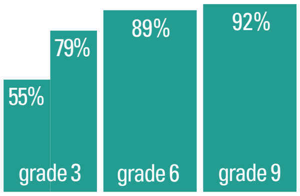
READING (2011-2012)



WRITING

Writing scores for students in the HRSB are comparable to the provincial average and show improvement as students progress through school. In the 2011-12 academic year, only 55% of Grade 3's met the Department of Education's expectations for narrative writing, while 79% of the same group met the expectations for information writing. Eighty-nine percent of Grade 6's met expectations for writing as did 92% of Grade 9's.

WRITING (2011-2012)



DID YOU KNOW?

Provincial examinations at the Grade 12 level have been discontinued as of the 2012-2013 school year.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

In the 2009-10 academic year, HRSB's high school graduation rate was 88.3% which was above the provincial average of 86.1%. HRSB's rate was third in the province behind the South Shore Regional School Board (94.5%) and the Acadien provincial School Board (89.5%).

ABORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES

In 2006, the high school completion rate for Aboriginals aged 15 and over in HRM was 75.7%, which was about a third higher than the national rate (56.3%) and about 20% higher than the provincial rate (63.6%). The high school completion rate for Aboriginals aged 25 to 64 was 84.7% which was almost a third higher than the national rate (65.9%) and 15% higher than the provincial rate (73.5%).

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES

In the 2010-11 academic year, 1,738 students graduated from metro campuses of the Nova Scotia Community College, an increase of approximately one-third since 2000-01.

IN FOUR YEARS, THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN HRM GREW 64.2%.

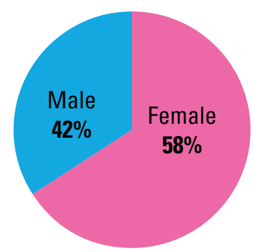
UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

In the 2010-11 academic year, 6,433 students graduated from graduate, undergraduate and diploma programs at universities in HRM. The largest graduate cohort (19.0%) came from commerce programs.

FOREIGN STUDENTS

From 2007 to 2011, the number of foreign students in HRM grew 64.2% from 3,691 to 6,061.

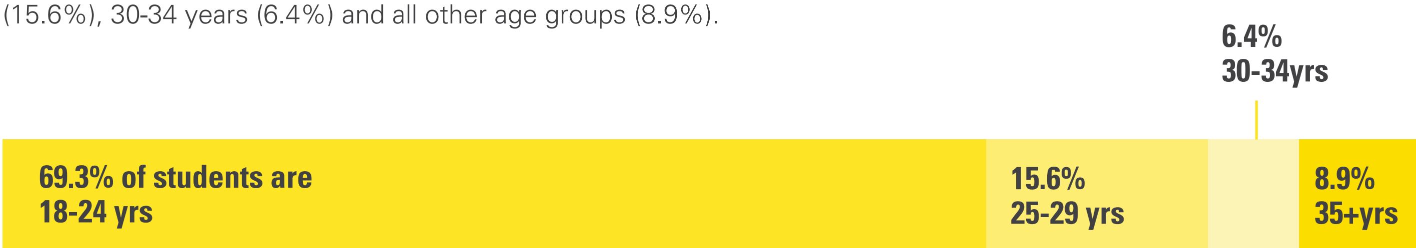
UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY BY GENDER 2010-2011



UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

In the 2010-11 academic year, total reported enrolment in graduate, undergraduate and diploma programs at the six universities in HRM was 29,427, up 3.0% from the previous academic year. Dalhousie University and the University of King's College accounted for 58.5% of this total, followed by Saint Mary's University (24.7%), Mount Saint Vincent University (12.9%), Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (3.5%) and Atlantic School of Theology (0.4%).

In the 2010-11 academic year, female students accounted for more than half of all university students (57.5%), while those aged 18-24 accounted for nearly 70% of the total student population in HRM, followed by those aged 25-29 (15.6%), 30-34 years (6.4%) and all other age groups (8.9%).



STUDENT TUITION COSTS AND DEBT LOADS

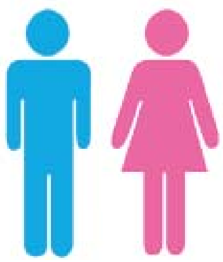
In the 2011-12 academic year, Nova Scotia had the fourth highest average undergraduate tuition fees ($5,722) in Canada, while Ontario had the highest ($6,815) and Quebec had the lowest ($2,520). Nova Scotia's 2011-12 average was up 4.1% from the previous year ($5,497).

In 2009, the average amount of student debt amongst bachelor degree holders in Nova Scotia was $30,128 - nearly twice the average in Quebec ($15,102) and the highest of all Canadian provinces that participated in the survey (Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island did not).

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY (TOTAL POPULATION, 2006)

MEN

1. Architecture, engineering, and related technologies
2. Business, management and public administration
3. Personal, protective and transportation services

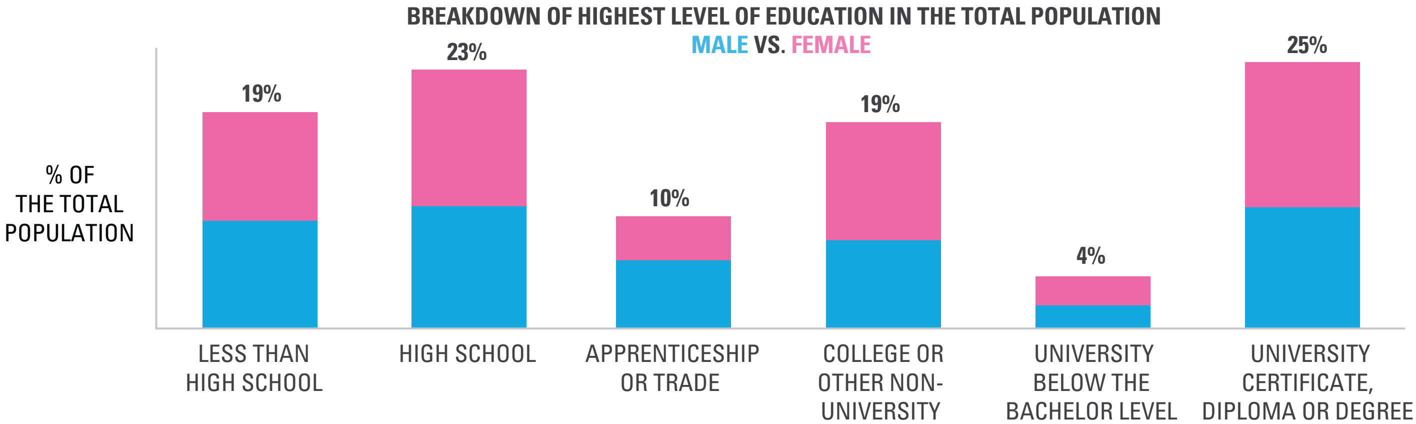


WOMEN

1. Business, management and public administration
2. Health, parks, recreation and fitness
3. Social and behavioural sciences and law

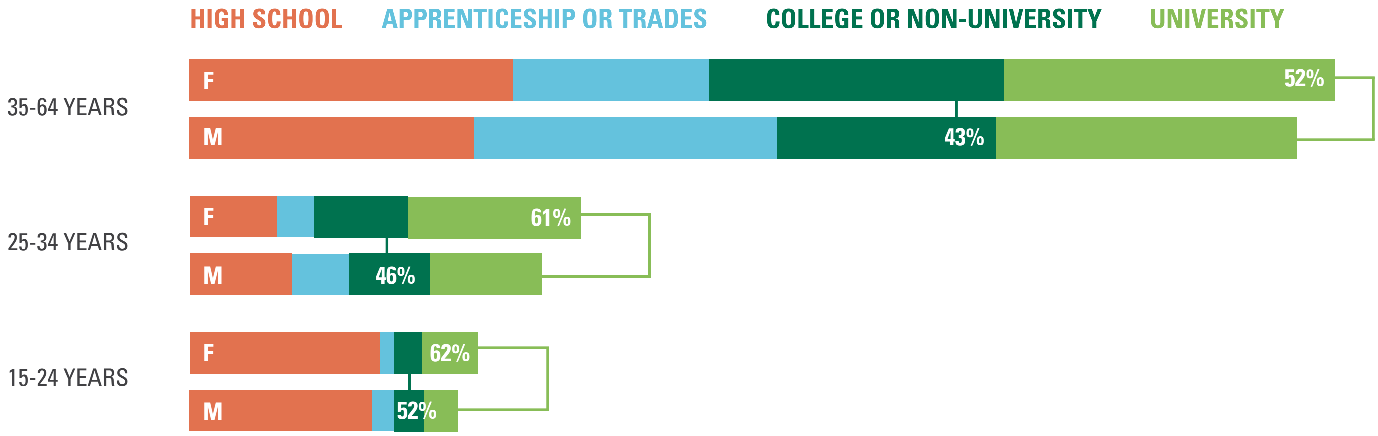
HIGHEST LEVELS OF EDUCATION FOR ALL HRM RESIDENTS

In 2006, nearly a quarter of all HRM residents reported having a university certificate, diploma or degree, 4% reported having a university certificate or diploma below the Bachelor's level, 19% reported having college or other non-university education, 10% reported having an apprenticeship or trade certificate, and 23% reported having a high school certificate or equivalent.



CHANGING LEVELS OF EDUCATION (2006)

Today's generation has had more years of formal education than the ones that came before it. From a gender perspective, the most significant change over time has been in the proportion of females who are university educated: females account for 52% of this category in the 35-64 years cohort, 61% in the 25-34 years cohort and 62% in the 15-24 years cohort. In the proportion of males who are college educated: males account for 43% of this category in the 35-64 years cohort, 46% in the 25-34 years cohort and 52% in the 15-24 years cohort. The trend in the split between males and females with respect to high school and apprenticeships or trades as the highest level of education has remained fairly constant over time.

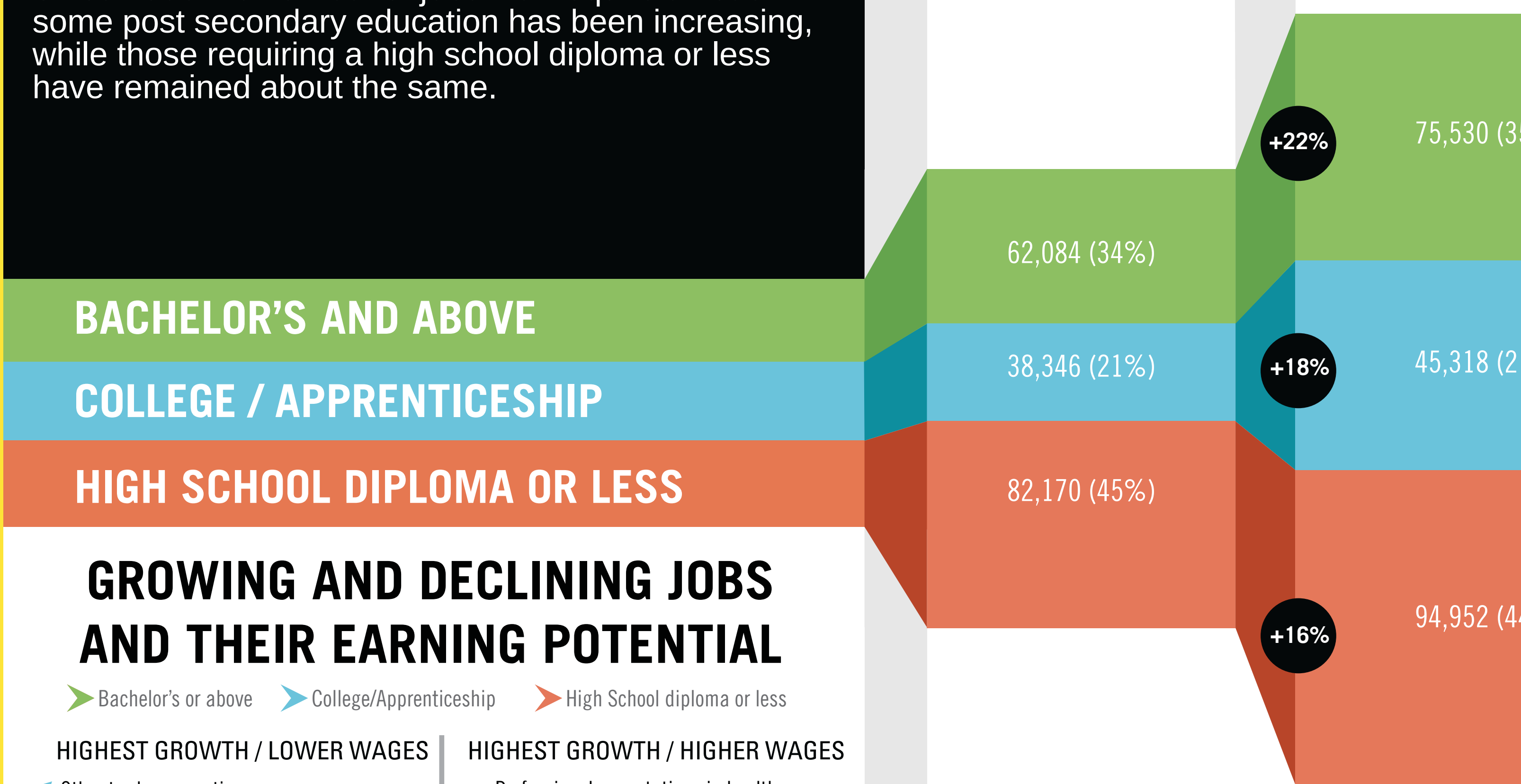


EDUCATING OUR WORKFORCE

Since 1996 the number of jobs that require at least some post secondary education has been increasing, while those requiring a high school diploma or less have remained about the same.

1996
182,600 WORKERS

200
215,80
WORKER



GROWING AND DECLINING JOBS AND THEIR EARNING POTENTIAL

Bachelor's or above | College/Apprenticeship | High School diploma or less

HIGHEST GROWTH / LOWER WAGES

- Other trade occupations
- Occupations unique to primary industry
- Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
- Wholesale, technical, insurance, real estate specialists and retail, and wholesale and grain buyers
- Chefs and cooks, and occupations in food and beverage service, including supervisors
- Financial, secretartial and administrative occupations

HIGHEST GROWTH / HIGHER WAGES

- Professional occuptations in health, nurse supervisors and registered nurses
- Teachers and professors
- Professional occupations in business and finance
- Other management occupations
- Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
- Construction trades
- Technical, assisting and related occupa-tions in health

LOWEST GROWTH / LOWER WAGES

- Machine operators and assemblers in manufacturing, including supervisors
- Labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities
- Sales and service occupations not elsehere classified, including occupations in travel and accomodations, attendants in recreation and sport as well as supervisors
- Childcare and home support workers
- Retail salespersons, sales clerks, cashiers, including retail trade supervisors

LOWEST GROWTH / HIGHER WAGES

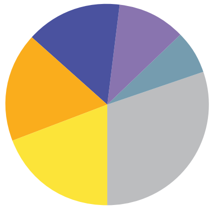
- Occupations in social science, government service and religion
- Senior management occupations
- Occupations in protective services
- Contractors and supervisors in trades and transportation
- Transport and equipment operators
- Trade helpers, construction, and transportation labourers and related occupations
- Clerical occupations, including supervisors

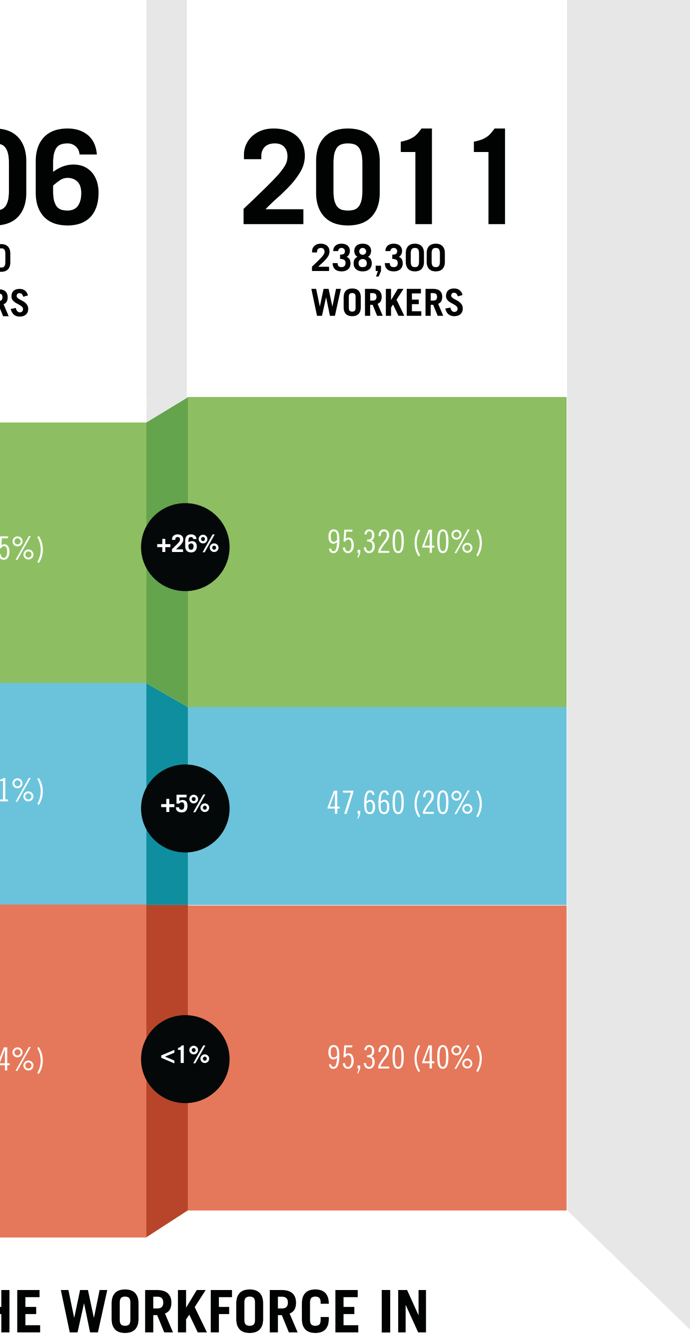
PREPARING TO JOIN TH THE HALIFAX REGIONA

Are post secondary institutions in HRM meet labour force demands?

Most Popular Fields of Study (2010-2011)

1. Commerce and Administration (19.4% of students)
2. Arts and General Science (17.5%)
3. Social Sciences and Related (15.1%)
4. Health Professions and Occupations (10.8%)
5. Engineering and Applied Sciences (7.2%)





HE WORKFORCE IN
L MUNICIPALITY

M preparing their students to

60%

OF THE JOBS (AND GROWING) REQUIRE AT LEAST SOME POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

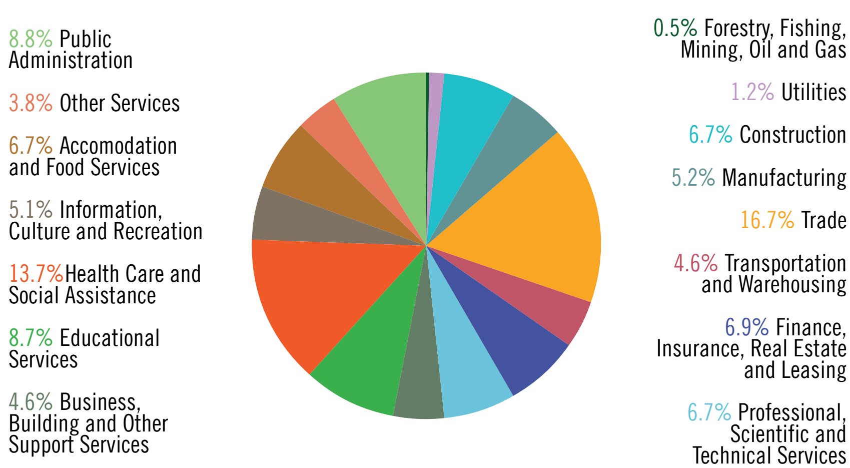
BUT ONLY

25%

OF HALIGONIANS OBTAIN THIS LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY THE AGE OF 24.

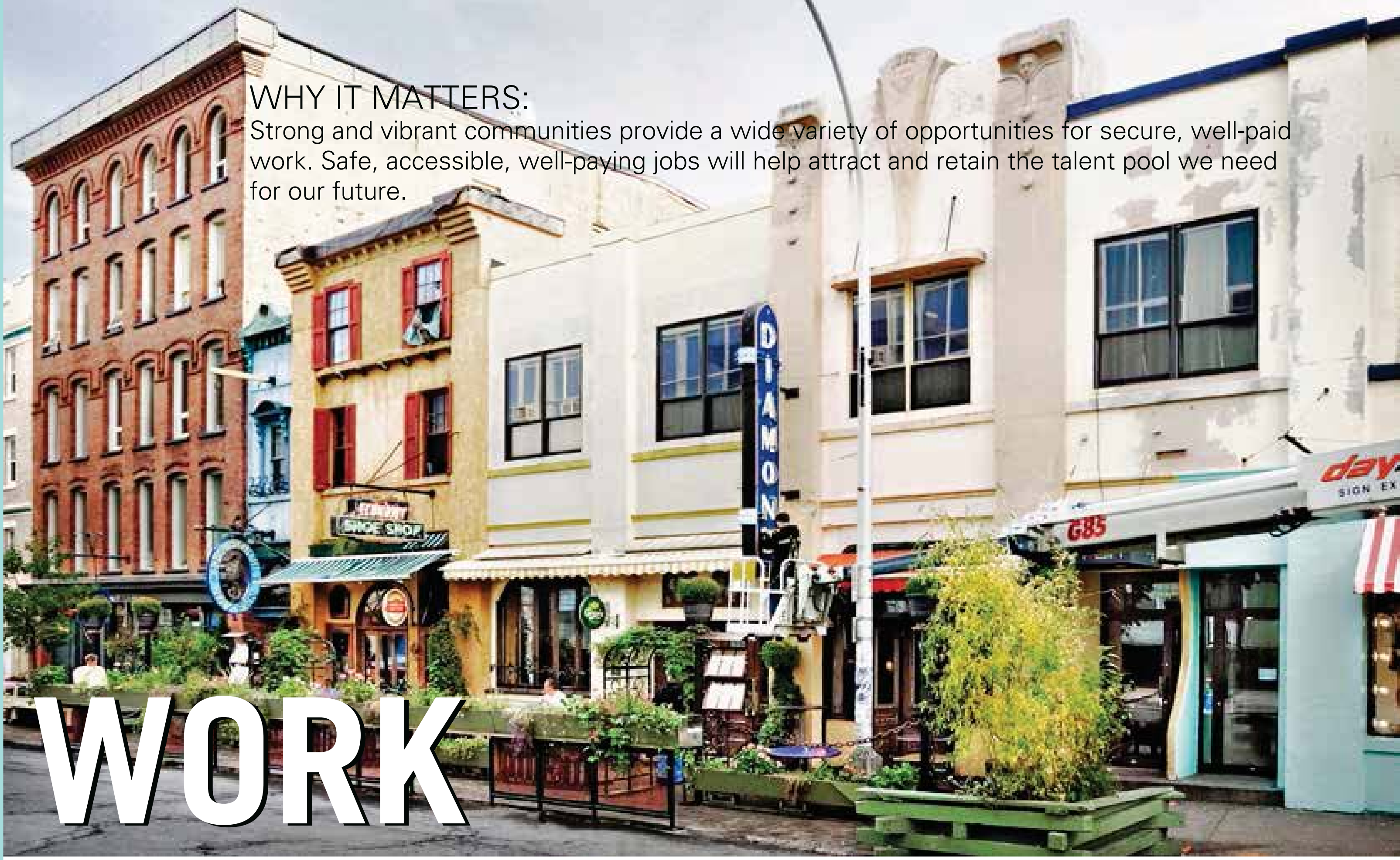
73% of first-degree holders from Nova Scotia remained in Nova Scotia two years after graduating according to a recent report conducted by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Breakdown of Today's Workforce (2011)



WHY IT MATTERS:

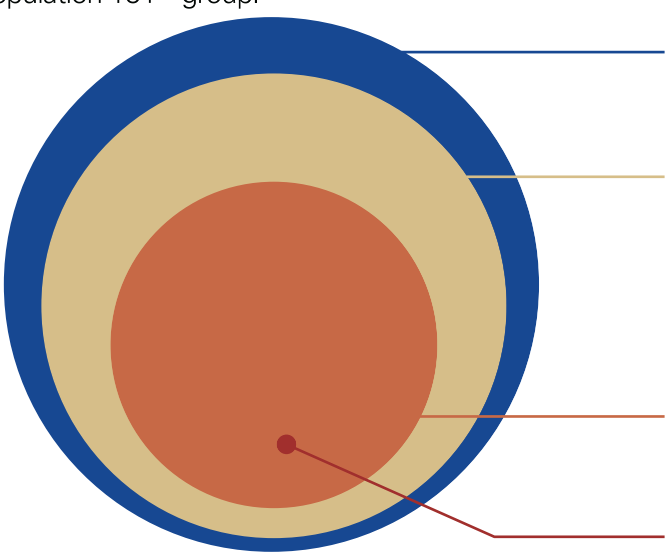
Strong and vibrant communities provide a wide variety of opportunities for secure, well-paid work. Safe, accessible, well-paying jobs will help attract and retain the talent pool we need for our future.



WORK

*People who are unemployed but have stopped searching for work get placed back into the "Population 15+" group.

THE LABOUR FORCE



Total Population in HRM in 2011
= 390,280

Population 15+ years
=330,672

Labour Force= Employed + Unemployed
=238,300

Employed
=223,900

Unemployed* (persons without work who are available to work and are actively seeking work)
=14,400

COMMON RATIOS AND INDICATORS EXPLAINED

$$\text{Participation Rate} = \frac{\text{Labour Force}}{\text{Population 15+ years}} = \frac{238{,}300}{330{,}672} = 72.1\%$$

$$\text{Employment Rate} = \frac{\text{Employed}}{\text{Population 15+}} = \frac{223{,}900}{330{,}672} = 67.7\%$$

EMPLOYMENT RATE

The employment rate is the number of employed persons as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

The average seasonally adjusted employment rate for the first half of 2012 in HRM was 65.7%, down slightly from 66.1% in the second half of 2011. The rate for the first half of 2012 was above the national rate (61.8%) and above the provincial rate (58.5%).

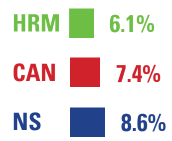
Employment Rate (first half of 2012)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate is the number unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

The average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the first half of 2012 in HRM was 6.1%, up slightly from 5.9% in the second half of 2011. The rate for the first half of 2012 was below the national rate (7.4%) and below the provincial rate (8.6%).

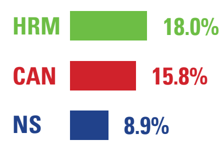
Unemployment Rate (first half of 2012)



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

In 2011, 223,900 people were employed in HRM. Between 2001 and 2011, HRM's employment level grew an average of 1.7% per year, for an overall growth of 18.0%, compared to a 1.5% annual growth rate nationally (15.8% growth overall), 0.9% annual growth rate provincially (8.9% growth overall) and 0.1% average annual growth rate for the province excluding HRM (1.3% growth overall).

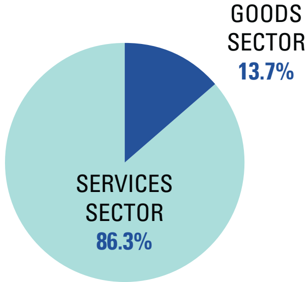
Employment Growth (2001-2011)



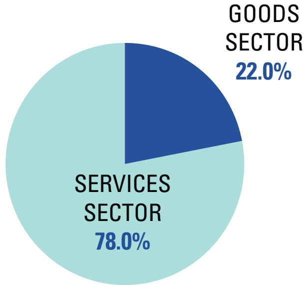
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 2011, 13.7% of those employed in all industries in HRM were employed in the goods-producing sector, while 86.3% were employed in the services sector. The proportion employed in the goods-producing sector was well below the national average of 22.0% and below the provincial average of 18.6%. Within the goods-producing sector, slightly more than half of all goods produced in this sector were associated with the construction industry (51%), followed by manufacturing (40%) and utilities (9%). Within the service sector, trades were the most common service (20%), followed by health care and social assistance (16%), education services (10%), and public admin (10%).

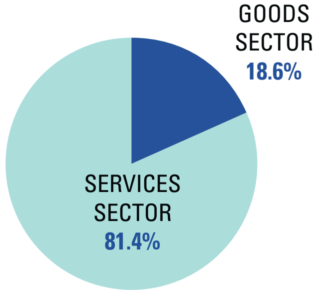
HRM 2011



CAN 2011



NS 2011



GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT IN HRM (2012)

Type of Government	Number of Employees	% of Total Employment
Halifax Regional Municipality	4,000	1.8%
Province of Nova Scotia	4,275	1.9%
Government of Canada	2,330	1.0%

TOP 5 OCCUPATIONS IN HRM BY EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS (2010)

1. Sales and service (29.5%)
2. Business, finance and administration (21.9%)
3. Management (11.1%)
4. Social science, education, government and religion (10.8%)
5. Health professions (9.2%)

TOP 5 OCCUPATIONS IN HRM BY EARNINGS (2010)

1. Management ($62,700)
2. Health ($56,400)
3. Social science, education, government and religion ($53,700)
4. Natural/applied sciences ($51,400)
5. Business, finance and administration ($42,800)

TOP 5 EMPLOYERS IN THE HRM BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (2012)

Organization	No. of Employees	% of Total Employment
CFB Halifax	14,460	6.50%
Capital District Health Authority	11,000	4.90%
Government	10,605	4.70%
Dalhousie University	5,700	2.50%
Emera/Nova Scotia Power	3,500	1.60%

These top 5 employers accounted for approximately 20% of all employment in the HRM area.

MINIMUM WAGES ACROSS CANADA (2012)

Nunavut	$11.00
Yukon	$10.30
British Columbia	$10.25
Manitoba	$10.25
Ontario	$10.25
Nova Scotia	$10.15
New Brunswick	$10.00
Newfoundland	$10.00
Northern Territories	$10.00
Prince Edward Island	$10.00
Quebec	$9.90
Alberta	$9.75
Saskatchewan	$9.50

$10.15/hr

CONSTRUCTION UNION WAGE RATE, HOURLY PAY FOR LABOURERS

In 2011, the average hourly wage for construction union labourers in HRM was $23.67. This figure is unchanged from 2010 and up 28.1% from $18.48 in 2000.

$23.67/hr

AVERAGE WEEKLY ACTUAL HOURS WORKED IN REFERENCE WEEK

In 2011, workers in HRM worked an average of 36.0 hours per week, down from 37.9 hours in 2000. The 2011 figure was below the national figure of 36.4 hours and below the provincial figure of 36.2 hours. Nationally, more than half (52%) of those in the top 1% of wage earners work at least 50 hours a week, while less than 20% of the overall population works this many hours on a weekly basis.

Average Hours Worked per Week (2011)

HRM: 36 hours/week

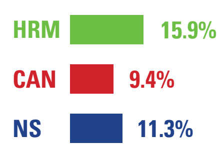
CAN: 36.4 hours/week

NS: 36.2 hours/week

WORK ABSENCE

In 2011, full-time workers in HRM were absent from work an average of 10.2 days (excluding days spent on maternity leave), compared to 9.3 days nationally and 10.8 days provincially. Since 2001, the number of days workers have been absent from work in HRM has grown an average of 1.5% annually (for a total increase of 15.9%), compared to 1.1% provincially (for a total increase of 11.3%) and 0.9% nationally (for a total increase of 9.4%).

Growth in Work Absence (2001-2011)



REGULAR EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES

In 2011, there were 5,560 regular employment insurance beneficiaries per month on average in the HRM, down from 6,121 beneficiaries in 2010.

ECONOMY

WHY IT MATTERS:

A healthy economy is the engine of prosperity. Quality of life, in all its aspects, is greater for all residents when the economy is strong. Businesses and residents have greater resiliency when the economy is robust and vibrant.

GDP IN CONSTANT 2002 DOLLARS

In 2011, HRM's GDP was $14.4 billion which accounted for more than half of the province's total GDP ($27.3 billion). Between 2001 and 2011, HRM's average annual GDP growth rate of 2.8% far exceeded the national (1.9%) and provincial levels (NS: 1.5%), (NS excluding HRM: 0.3%).

HRM's GDP as a proportion of NS's GDP (2011)

PRODUCTIVITY: GDP PER WORKER IN CONSTANT 2002 DOLLARS

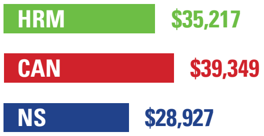
In 2011, HRM's productivity level or GDP per worker was $64,204, or 81.9% of the national average ($78,404), and 106.3% of the provincial average ($60,400). Between 2001 and 2011, HRM's average annual productivity growth of 1.1% far exceeded the national (0.4%) and provincial (0.7%) levels.

Productivity Per Worker (2011)

GDP PER PERSON

In 2011, HRM's GDP per person was $35,217, or 89.5% of the national average ($39,349), and 121.7% of the provincial average ($28,927). Between 2001 and 2011, HRM's average annual GDP per person growth rate of 1.8% far exceeded the national (0.9%) and provincial (1.4%) rates.

Productivity Per Person (2011)



R&D FUNDING

In the 2008-09 academic year, Federal government funding of R&D to Universities in HRM totalled $80.6 million, up 16.4% from the 2005-06 level of $69.2 million. Dalhousie received 81% of this funding ($65.5 million), followed by Saint Mary's at 13% ($10.6 million), Mount Saint Vincent at 5% ($3.9 million), Nova Scotia College of Art and Design at 1% ($0.5), and King's at less than 1% (<$100,000).

BUSINESS COST COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

In 2012, the average cost of doing business in HRM was 7.3% lower than the U.S. average. By comparison, in 2002, the average cost of doing business in HRM was 16.1% lower than the U.S. average.

BUSINESS COUNTS IN HRM

In 2011, there were approximately 24,000 businesses in HRM, which was practically unchanged from the 2010 level, and 97.2% of these were classified as small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees).

Over half of all businesses in HRM are concentrated in the following five industries:

1. Real Estate / Rental and Leasing
2. Utilities
3. Finance and Insurance
4. Wholesale Trade
5. Accomodation

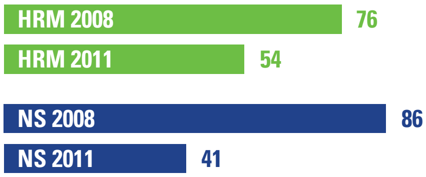
97.2%

of businesses in HRM employ fewer than 50 people

BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES

In 2011, there were 54 business bankruptcies in HRM, down from 76 in 2008. By comparison, there were 41 bankruptcies in the rest of Nova Scotia in 2011, compared to 86 in 2008.

Total Business Bankruptcies (2011)



BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES PER 1,000 BUSINESSES

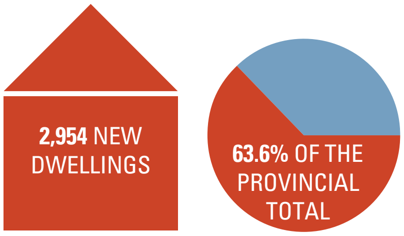
In 2010, there were 3.3 bankruptcies per 1,000 businesses in HRM which was nearly twice the national rate (1.8), and about 25% higher than the provincial rate (2.6). Since 2000, the number of business bankruptcies locally, provincially and nationally has generally been on the decline, although HRM's rate tends to exceed its provincial and national counterparts.

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT VALUES

In 2011, non-residential building permits in HRM were valued at $273 million or 50.3% of total building permit values in the province. The 2011 value was up $10 million from the 2010 level.

HOUSING STARTS

In 2011, construction of 2,954 new dwellings began in HRM, up from 2,390 in 2010. HRM's 2011 housing activity accounted for 63.6% of the total provincially.



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), 2002 = 100

An indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians. It is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by consumers. This is why it is widely used as an indicator of the change in the general level of consumer prices or the rate of inflation.

In 2011, the CPI in HRM was 121.7, up 3.5% from 117.6 in 2010. HRM's 2010-11 increase was higher than the national level (2.9%), but lower than the provincial one (3.8%). From 2001 to 2011, the HRM's CPI grew an average of 2.3% annually compared to 2.4% provincially and 2.1% nationally.

CITIZEN PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN HRM

In 2012, the top three priorities identified by HRM survey respondents for local government spending to improve economic prosperity were:

#1 Increased efforts to attract and retain young professionals

#2 Investment in the public transit system

#3 Improvements to HRM's roadway system/road conditions

how we spend our money

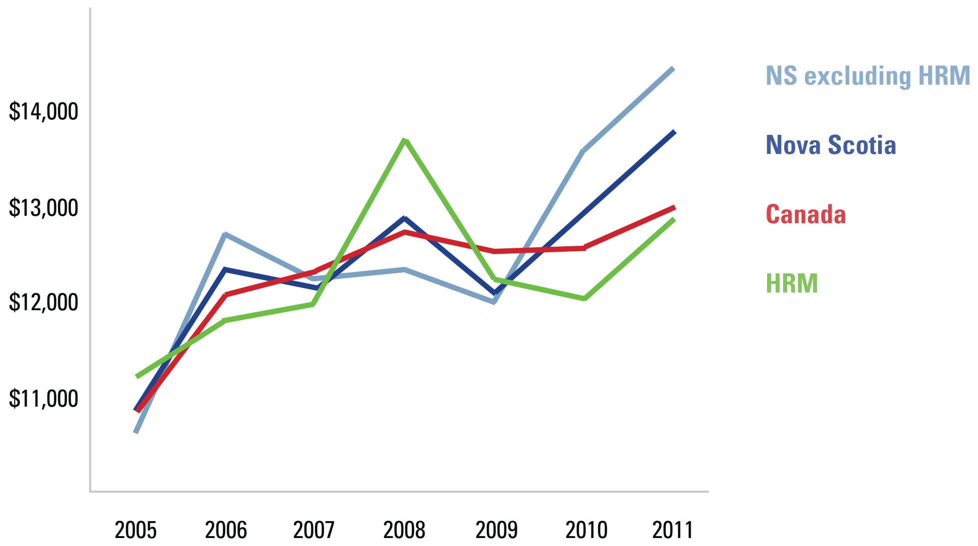
RETAIL SALES

Retail sales for HRM are estimated to be $5.6 billion in 2012, up 7.4% from $5.2 billion in 2011. This is similar in percentage terms to the currently estimated increase in retail sales nationally of 7.2% and provincially of 5.2%.

RETAIL SALES PER PERSON

In 2011, retail sales on a per person basis in HRM was $12,850, which was comparable to the national level ($12,998), but lower than the provincial level ($13,740), particularly when the data for HRM is factored out ($14,420). Since peaking in 2008, per person retail sales declined in HRM for a few years, before turning around in 2011.

RETAIL SALES PER PERSON (2005 - 2011)

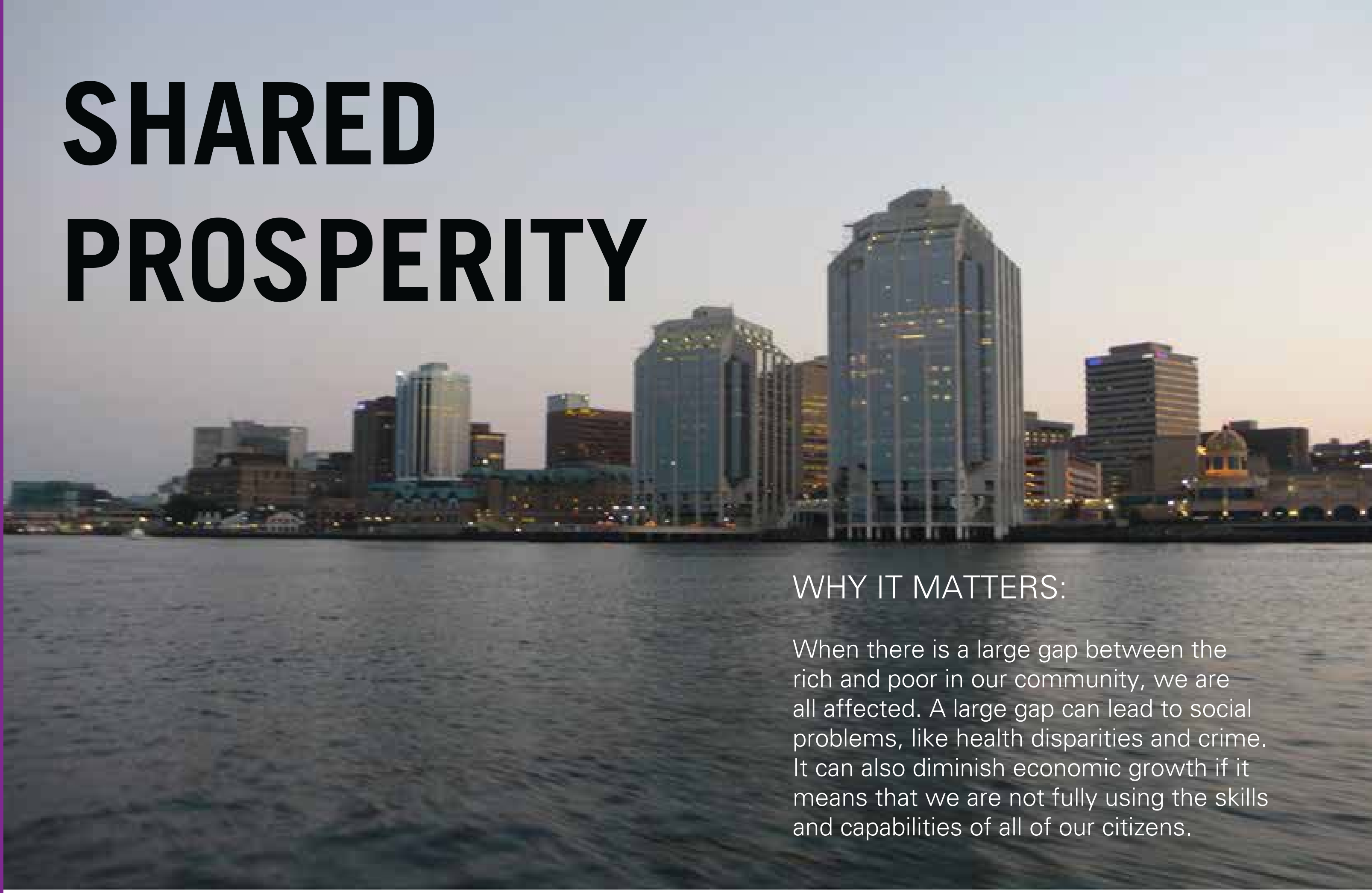


CONSUMER DEBT LOADS

In April - June of 2012, the average consumer debt load (excluding mortgages) in HRM was $6,857, which was $350 higher than the Canadian average, and reflected an increase of $289 over the same time last year.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCIES

In 2011, there were 1,307 consumer bankruptcies in HRM, down more than 20% from a five-year high of 1,674 in 2009. By comparison, there were 2,280 bankruptcies in the rest of the province in 2011 and 2,905 in 2009.



SHARED PROSPERITY

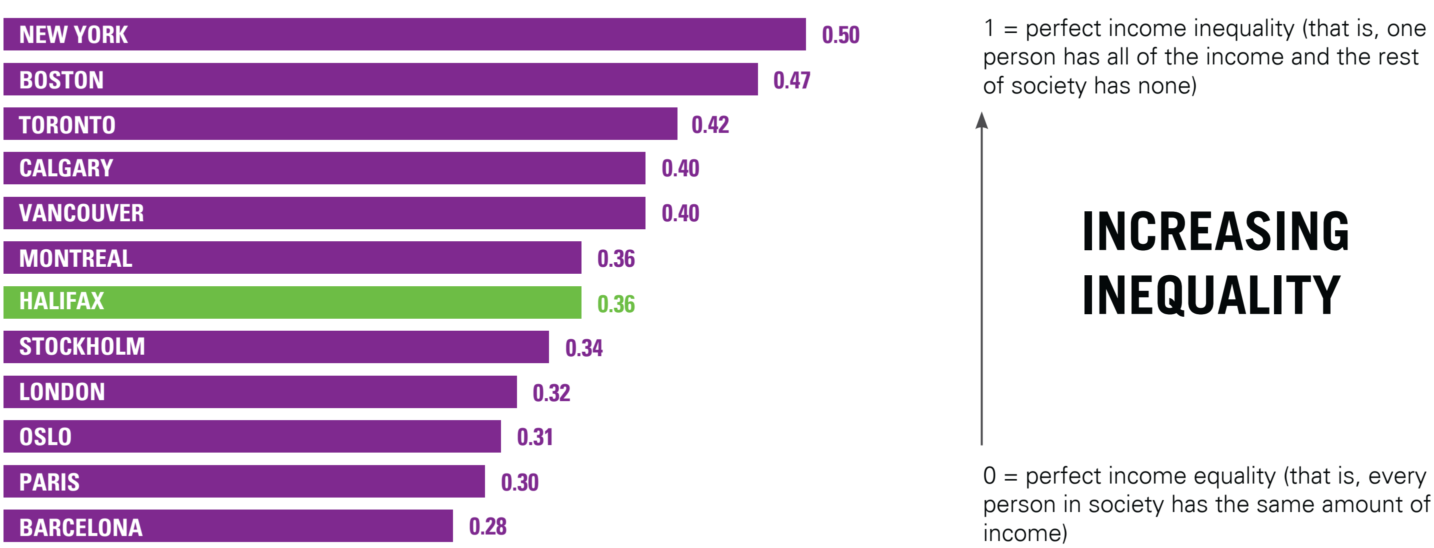
WHY IT MATTERS:

When there is a large gap between the rich and poor in our community, we are all affected. A large gap can lead to social problems, like health disparities and crime. It can also diminish economic growth if it means that we are not fully using the skills and capabilities of all of our citizens.

GINI COEFFICIENT (A MEASURE OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION; BASED ON AFTER-TAX INCOMES)

In 2009, Halifax had a Gini coefficient of 0.36, which placed it in the middle of the pack of a dozen world cities. It had slightly less equality than the generally socialistic European countries, was on par with Montreal, and had more equality than its Canadian peers of Calgary (0.40), Vancouver (0.40) and Toronto (0.42).

HRM ON A WORLD STAGE - INCOME (IN)EQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD (2009)



AVERAGE AND MEDIAN FAMILY AFTER-TAX INCOME (2010 CONSTANT DOLLARS)

READER TIP

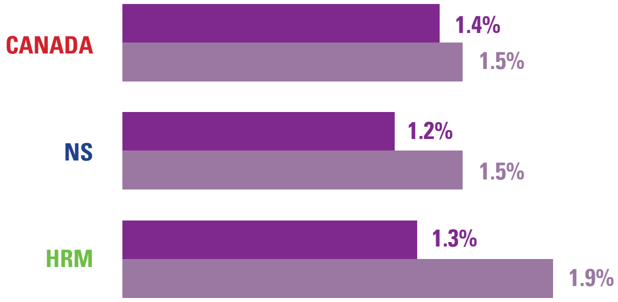
Average income is not necessarily a good measure of how the majority of people are doing as it can be skewed by a few who earn more than the most.

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups – half having income above that amount and half having income below that amount. These figures are more effective because they are not skewed by a few who earn more than the most.

MEDIAN AND AVERAGE FAMILY AFTER TAX INCOME (2010)

Families in HRM are better off today than they were ten years ago, with both median and average incomes growing at rates which generally exceeded the provincial and national levels. In 2010, the median family after-tax income in HRM was $65,000, which was about the same as the national level ($65,500), and 14.4% higher than the provincial level ($56,800) while the average family after-tax income in HRM was $74,800, just 2.3% below the national level ($76,600), and 14.2% above the provincial level ($65,500).

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH OF MEDIAN AND AVERAGE FAMILY AFTER TAX INCOME (2000 - 2010)



Since 2000, the median after-tax income for economic families in HRM has grown an average of 1.3% annually for a total growth of 14.0% overall, while nationally it has grown an average of 1.4% annually (total growth of 14.9%) and 1.2% provincially (total growth of 12.5%). By comparison, the average family after-tax income in HRM has grown an average of 1.9% annually for a total growth of 21.0% overall, while nationally it has grown 1.5% annually (total growth of 16.4%) and 1.5% provincially (total growth of 15.9%).

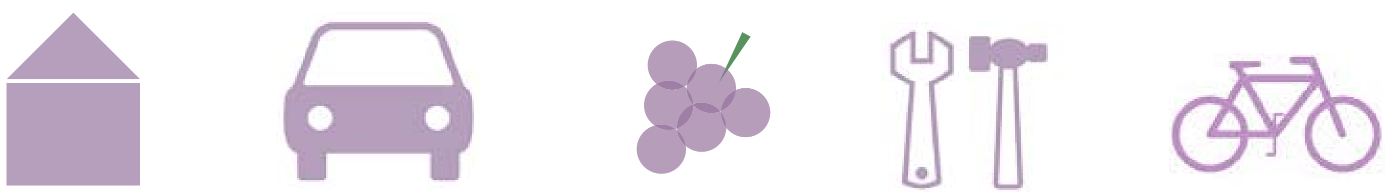
DISPOSABLE INCOME PER PERSON

City	Average After-Tax Income (2011, US$ / population, adjusted for Cost of Living	City	Disposable Income Growth (2006 - 2011)
Boston	$45,630	Calgary	5.0%
Calgary	$35,538	Boston	4.0%
New York	$34,109	**Halifax**	**3.9%**
Halifax	**$26,230**	New York	3.8%
Toronto	$25,469	Montreal	3.7%
Vancouver	$24,527	Toronto	3.6%
Montreal	$23,765	Vancouver	3.6%

In 2011, at $26,230 USD, Halifax had an adjusted disposable income per person that was higher than Toronto ($25,469), Vancouver ($24,527) and Montreal ($23,765). Its growth rate during the 2006 to 2011 period of 3.9% also exceeded that of its Canadian peers, with the exception of Calgary, which had the highest growth rate at 5.0%.

TOP 5 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES ON CONSUMABLES

In 2009, households in HRM spent an average of $49,226 on the following:



1. Shelter ($13,567/27.6% of total consumption budget)

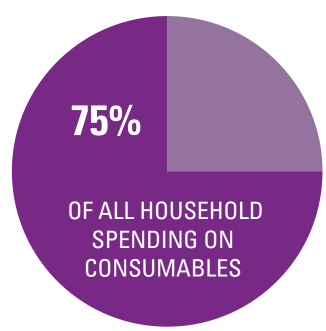
2. Transportation ($8,749/17.8%)

3. Food ($7,157/14.5%)

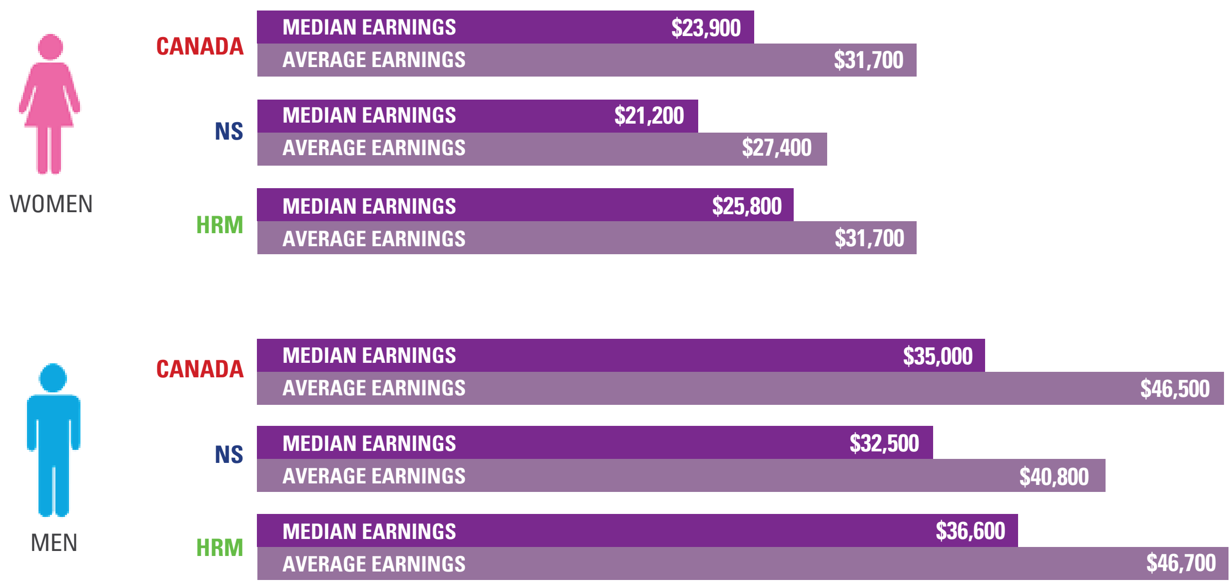
4. Household Operation ($3,876/7.9%)

5. Recreation ($3,706/7.5%)

These five expense lines accounted for about **75%** of all household spending on consumables in that year. In addition, despite regional differences both within the province and throughout the Country, the relative proportions of our budgets devoted to each of these categories is about the same, on average, no matter where we live!

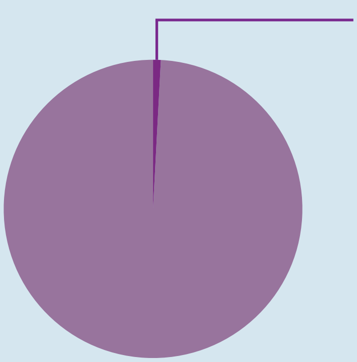


INCOME DISTRIBUTION AMONGST MEN AND WOMEN (IN 2010 CONSTANT DOLLARS, BEFORE TAX)



In 2010, on both measures of median and average earnings, females made about one third less than their male counterparts in HRM, Nova Scotia and Canada. This gap is slowing narrowing, with females achieving greater increases than their male counterparts during the 2000-2010 period.

DID YOU KNOW? The Top 1% in Canada...



You need an annual income of at least $230,000 to be part of the top 1% (in 2006, in Canada this was 275,000 people)

The top 1% is a brotherhood – 83% are men

Just 10% of those in the top 1% work in the finance and insurance industry. Senior managers and CEOs account for 14%. Physicians, dentists and veterinarians comprise almost 10% of the top 1%, despite representing less than 1% of the workforce.

$450,000 The average income within the top 1%

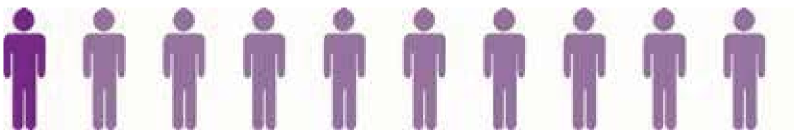
$36,000 The average income for the rest of the Canadian Population

58% The proportion of people in the top 1% that have at least a bachelor's degree

19% The proportion of the general population that have at least a bachelor's degree

SNAPSHOT OF POVERTY IN HRM

Poverty Rates referenced below are based on the Market Basket Measure (MBM), after-tax, 2008 base. The MBM is a measure of the disposable income a family would need to be able to purchase a basket of goods that includes food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other basic needs. The dollar value of the MBM varies by family size and composition, as well as community size and location.



More than 1 in 10 children and members of the general public between the ages of 19 and 64 live in poverty in HRM.

OVERALL POVERTY RATE

In 2010, HRM's overall poverty rate was 11.5%, the lowest it has been in ten years. This rate has dropped by nearly one-third since peaking at 16.9% in 2003. Despite this good news, HRM's overall poverty rate has remained relatively steady since 2005 and has generally exceeded both the provincial and national rates.

CHILD POVERTY RATE (UNDER 18 YEARS)

In 2010, HRM's child poverty rate was 10.1%, the second lowest it has been in ten years (the lowest was 7.3% in 2009). This rate has dropped by more than half since peaking at 24.6% in 2003. HRM's child poverty rate has generally been on the decline since 2003 and in 2009 it fell below both the provincial and national rates for the first time in ten years. Despite this good news, HRM's rate increased 38.4% from 2009 to 2010, which placed it about at par with the national rate (10.0%), but was still lower than the provincial rate (15.4%).

SENIOR POVERTY RATE (65 YEARS+)

In 2010, HRM's elderly poverty rate was 7.8%, the second highest it has been in ten years (the highest was 10.4% in 2000). This rate has been on the rise since hitting a ten year low of 3.3% in 2005 and has more than doubled since that time. Over the past ten years, HRM's rate has generally tracked below the provincial rate and above the national rate.

COST OF A NUTRITIOUS DIET

In 2010, it cost about $755/month to feed an average family of four in Nova Scotia with a nutritious diet.

HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY STATUS

In 2007, 8.3% of those living in HRM reported being moderately or severely food insecure. This rate is higher than the national level of 7.1% and marginally lower than the provincial level of 8.7%.

BASIC INCOME ASSISTANCE RATES

The provincial government provides three separate types of income assistance (also known as welfare, family benefits or social assistance) for those in need: a shelter allowance, a personal allowance and special needs assistance. These monthly amounts are listed below.

SHELTER ALLOWANCE (MUST COVER ELECTRICITY AND HEATING EXPENSES AS WELL)

Family Size	Rent or Mortgage Payments	Boarding Costs
1	$300*	$223
2	$570	$242
3+	$620	$282

** Up to $535 under certain circumstances (e.g., if you are disabled, fleeing domestic abuse, are unable to work for medical reasons, are over 55 years or between 16 and 18 years of age).*

PERSONAL ALLOWANCE

Shelter Situation	Adult	Dependent Child 18 to 20 years	Dependent Child up to age 18
Rent, own home, board	$229	$229	$133

Special Needs Assistance is very limited and is provided on a case-by-case basis to cover expenses related to health (diet, medical, dental), safety, children, or work/education.

CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) AND OLD AGE SECURITY (OAS) RATES

Type of Benefit	Average Benefit (March 2012)	Maximum Amount (2012)
CPP Retirement	$530	$985
OAS Pension	$510	$545
CPP Disability	$845	$1,185

USE OF FOOD BANKS

In March 2011, about 9,500 different individuals visited a food bank in HRM compared to 9,300 in March 2010, a 2% increase.

HEALTH

WHY IT MATTERS:

Lifestyle choices, such as what we eat and how much we exercise, can have a greater effect on our mental and physical health than the ability of doctors.

Data reported in this section relates to the population served by the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA) which includes HRM and East Hants. In 2011, HRM comprised 95% of the total population served by the CDHA.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Children born today in HRM are expected to live about 80.6 years, if there are no further medical advances which increase life expectancy. Those who are now 65 years are expected to live another 19.4 years (65 + 19.4 = 84.4 years).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

This rate is the best overall indicator of a society's health because it reflects the social, economic and environmental conditions in which people live, as well as their health care systems.

In 2012, HRM's infant mortality rate was 3.3 per 1,000 births, 34.0% below the national rate of 5.0 and 8.3% below the provincial rate of 3.6.

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES

This indicator gives us a glimpse of how we are doing in terms of long-term maternal malnutrition, ill health, hard-work and poor health care in pregnancy.

In 2010-11, 5.9% of babies born in HRM were of low birth weight, down from 6.3% in 2009-10. The 2010-11 rate was below the national rate (6.2%) and at par with the provincial rate.

HEALTH BEHAVIOURS (TWO YEAR AVERAGE FOR 2009/2010)

How we compare nationally	Men	Women	How we compare nationally
About the same	57.8% of men are moderately active or active during their leisure time	55.8% of women are moderately active or active during their leisure time	13.9% higher
27.5% higher	32.9% of men get annual flu shots	48.6% of women get annual flu shots	53.3% higher
15.3% lower	32.0% of men consume the recommended fruits and veggies daily	43.0% of women consume the recommended fruits and veggies daily	14.7% lower
21.8% higher	30.2% of men drink heavily	16.1% of women drink heavily	61.0% higher
4.7% higher	24.5% of men are current smokers	20.7% of women are current smokers	17.6% higher

HEALTH CONDITIONS (TWO YEAR AVERAGE FOR 2009/2010)

10.7% higher	66.4% of men are overweight or obese	50.1% of women are overweight or obese	14.4% higher
65.6% higher	20.2% of men have arthritis	27.4% of women have arthritis	42.7% higher
7.8% lower	15.4% of men have high blood pressure	18.9% of women have high blood pressure	9.2% higher
26.1% higher	8.7% of men have asthma	12.6% of women have asthma	31.3% higher
About the same	7.2% of men have diabetes	5.7% of women have diabetes	7.5% higher

DID YOU KNOW? In Canada...

Incidence of exposure to second-hand smoke has been on the decline since 2003. Exposure to second-hand smoke in the home was 3.2% in 2010 compared to 10.8% in 2003, while in public places it was 13.5% in 2010 compared to 19.1% in 2003.

WELL-BEING & FUNCTION

63.5% of us report having very good or excellent **General Health**, compared to 58.5% provincially and 60.3% nationally
76.7% of us report having very good or excellent **Mental Health**, compared to 73.6% provincially and 73.9% nationally
21.1% of us report being quite a bit or extremely **Stressed Daily**, compared to 19.0% provincially and 23.4% nationally

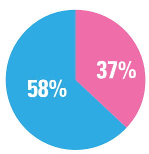
PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITHOUT A REGULAR MEDICAL DOCTOR

Approximately 7.8% of HRM residents do not have a regular medical doctor. This figure is about half the national average of 15.2%, and is above the provincial average of 6.8%.

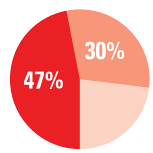
HRM PHYSICIANS BY THE NUMBERS

1,458 = Total number of physicians in 2011 in HRM

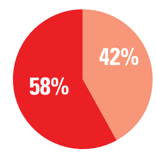
50 = Average age (comparable to the national average)



58% are male; 37% are female



47% are Dalhousie graduates;
30% are international graduates



42% (645) are family doctors;
58% (813) are specialists

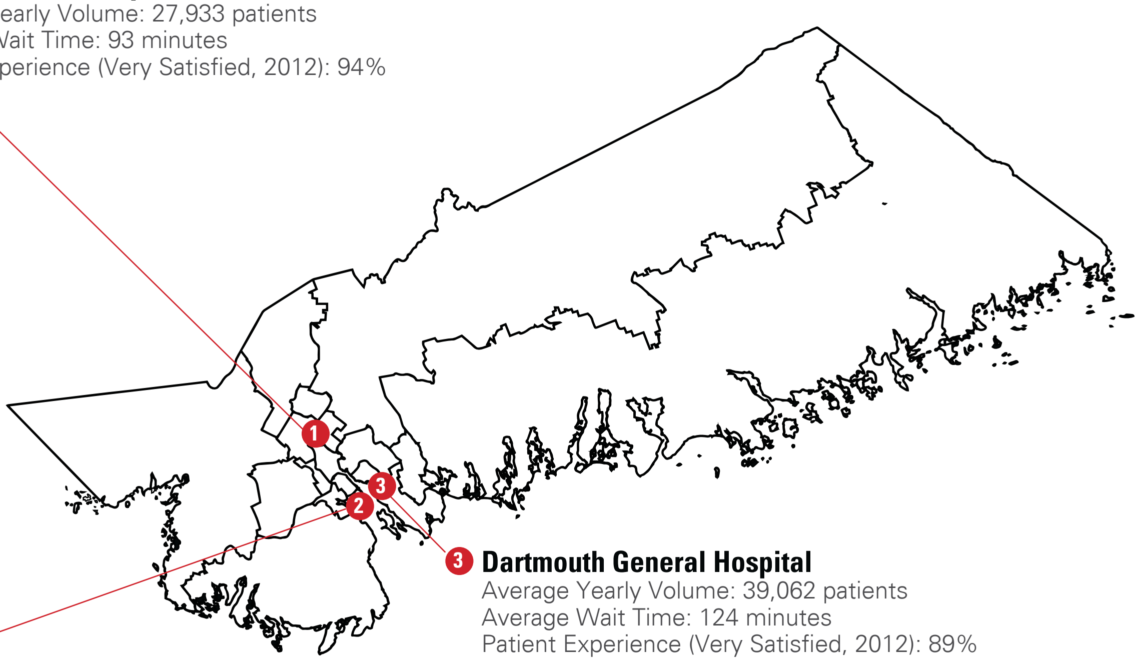
HOW WHAT KILLS US COMPARES (2012)

Rates are in deaths per year per 10,000 people (age-standardized)

Cause of Death	Rates for Men	How we compare nationally	Rates for Women	How we compare nationally
All Cancers	22.5	11.2% higher	15.5	9.5% higher
Colorectal Cancer	2.3	About the same	1.5	7.7% higher
Lung Cancer	6.2	8.0% higher	4.3	19.7% higher
Breast Cancer	---	---	2.1	About the same
Prostate Cancer	2.3	10.0% higher	---	---
Circulatory Diseases	21.2	6.0% higher	13.8	11.3% higher
Respiratory Diseases	6.3	6.2% higher	4.4	21.6% higher
Unintentional Injury	3.7	6.1% higher	2.2	35.6% higher

EMERGENCY FACILITY COMPARISON (2007-2011)

1 Cobequid Community Health Centre
Average Yearly Volume: 27,933 patients
Average Wait Time: 93 minutes
Patient Experience (Very Satisfied, 2012): 94%



3 Dartmouth General Hospital
Average Yearly Volume: 39,062 patients
Average Wait Time: 124 minutes
Patient Experience (Very Satisfied, 2012): 89%

2 QEII
Average Yearly Volume: 61,233 patients
Average Wait Time: 115 minutes
Patient Experience (Very Satisfied, 2012): 91%

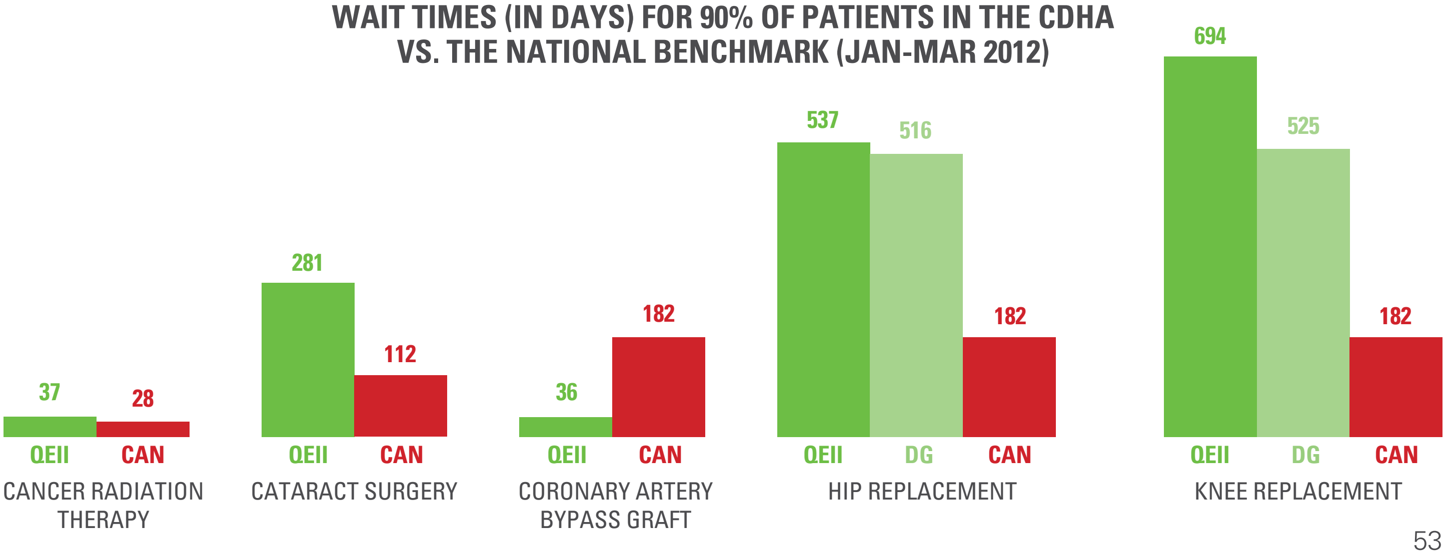
MENTAL HEALTH – OUTPATIENT WAIT TIMES (2011)

81% of **regular referrals** are seen within 90 days
72% of **semi-urgent follow-ups** are seen within 28 days
87% of **urgent follow-ups** are seen within 7 days

WAIT TIMES (IN DAYS) FOR NATIONALLY-PRIORITIZED PROCEDURES

Canada's First Ministers have identified five priority areas for improvement in wait times - cancer, joint replacements, vision, cardiac surgery, and diagnostic imaging. In the first quarter of 2012, hospitals in the Capital District Health Authority (QEII and Dartmouth General) were exceeding these national standards on coronary artery bypass procedures, but lagging behind on all other procedures.

WAIT TIMES (IN DAYS) FOR 90% OF PATIENTS IN THE CDHA VS. THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK (JAN-MAR 2012)



HALIFAX'S YOUTH

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TELUS®

Halifax's Youth Vital Signs® was designed to measure the vitality of our municipality from a youth perspective and to provide a vehicle through which our youth voices can be heard.

THE SURVEY

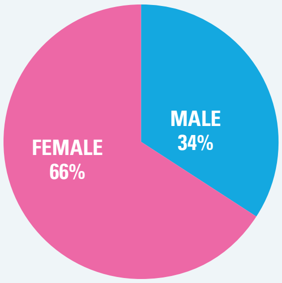
Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 were asked to grade subject areas considered important to their quality of life in HRM and to indicate what things they would change if they could. Over 360 paper and online surveys were completed in July and August of 2012. What follows is a snapshot of the thoughts and lives of our youth. Their time and participation is greatly appreciated. Please take time to read and reflect on their comments and suggestions. They may surprise you.

PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

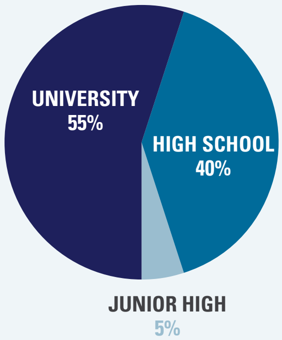
While the majority of respondents were born in Canada (93%), there were also responses from youth who were born in 12 other countries. Most respondents (88%) speak English at home, but in a reflection of HRM's increasing diversity, they also report speaking Arabic, Cantonese, Chinese, French, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Tamil.

In terms of national or ethnic origin, 70% of respondents identified as either European or Caucasian, 10% as African Nova Scotian, 5% Middle Eastern, 5% Aboriginal, 4% Asian, 3% Latin American and 4% did not identify.

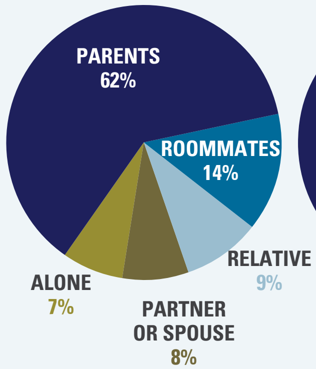
GENDER BREAKDOWN



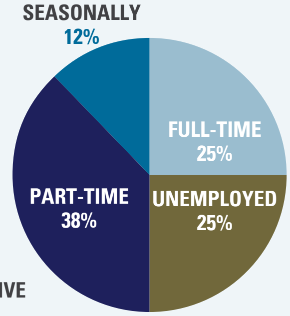
83% OF RESPONDENTS GO TO SCHOOL, OF THOSE WHO DO…



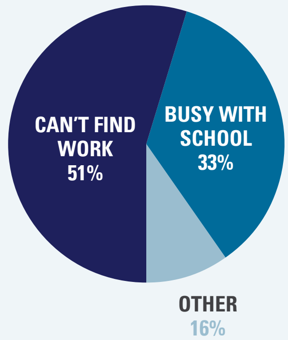
LIVING SITUATION (LIVE WITH)



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



TOP 5 REASONS YOUTH ARE UNEMPLOYED



YOUTH REPORT CARD ON HRM

GRADING: The indicators used in Halifax's Youth Vital Signs have been graded by youth using a report card scale of A, B, C, D and F.

Identity & Belonging	C+	Getting Around	C+	Employment	C
Youth Engagement	C	Environment	C+	Health & Wellness	C+
Youth Housing	D	Arts & Culture	C+	Overall Quality of Life	B-
Youth Spaces	C+	Recreation & Sports	C+		
Safety	C	Education & Learning	C+		

IDENTITY AND BELONGING C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of fostering a sense of identity and belonging?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like feeling connected to your community, discrimination, homophobia, class and gender issues, welcoming immigrant youth, having opportunities to explore and understand your own culture as well as that of other people. Survey respondents shared concerns about racism and homophobia and encouraged education and awareness as a means of fostering greater tolerance.

"HRM could be more inclusive if there were more programs that involved bringing us together and less programs designed to separate us. Separating races is not helping the problem, and there are simply a lack of things to do for youth to help change the communities we live in."

"It's hard to feel a sense of belonging (unless you're from a minority community)."

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT C

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth engagement?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like volunteering, participation in town hall meetings, voting, youth activism, and other opportunities to be involved in HRM. Nearly 80% of survey respondents volunteer in their communities, and of that 80%, about half volunteer one-two hours per week and another 45% volunteer more than three hours per week! That's a lot of community involvement and our youth want more. They want to offer more than their opinions; they want to be included in the decision-making process. If you ask, they will come. They just need to know what opportunities are out there (especially through social media).

"Allow youth to truly have a voice when it comes to the decisions that are made in schools... Let them be heard, and their matters attended to with just as much importance as any matter brought up by an adult, a parent, teacher, principal or member of the administration."

"Engage in topics and conversations that are of genuine concern and interest to the youth of HRM, and make that demographic a serious consideration in terms of budget and community planning; in a way which would automatically intrigue and interest a young person. Making it known to high school students when town hall meetings are will not engage the majority of that demographic."

YOUTH HOUSING D

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth housing?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like youth homelessness, cost and quality of rental housing, type of neighbourhoods surrounding affordable housing, etc. They commented about the need for safe, affordable housing. Expensive rents are contributing to student debt-loads and substandard housing adds stress and worry.

"People with little money have to live in places that aren't quite safe."

"There needs to be stricter standards for student housing and access to resources for housing complaints."

YOUTH SPACES C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth spaces?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like libraries, community centres, youth centres, coffee shops, nightclubs, parks and other places to hang out. Suggestions about public facilities like libraries, community centres and recreation centres dominated the comments. While youth were generally positive about these facilities, their concerns focussed on limited programming for older teens and general accessibility (e.g., costs, transportation, lack of programming information and closing hours).

"There should be more money invested into public libraries, where art, theatre, literature, dance, films, live music, festivals, sustainable living, recycling and environmental programs, activist groups, voting, youth outreach and youth engagement happen ALL UNDER ONE ROOF. I can't say enough how much the libraries do for our communities, specifically teens looking to get engaged."

"I, myself have never even been in a community center or anything like that. Maybe if they were introduced properly and youth were made aware of what the spaces were for and who goes there, they would go. I have no idea what they do in community centres or youth centres. "

SAFETY C

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth safety?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like bullying, feeling safe in public areas or at night, crime rate (violent and non-violent), internet exploitation, relationship between police and youth, emergency preparedness (flood, fire...) and sexual exploitation of youth. Safety was a hot topic amongst survey respondents. They told us that they don't feel safe walking at night and that bullying was a big concern for them as well.

"Far too many swarmings and muggings of university students in both the north and south ends of the city. Many incidents go unreported and it is hard to feel safe when you know several people that it has happened to."

"Bullying continues to be not addressed properly and frankly it doesn't matter how many people wear pink, bullying is not properly addressed in schools. All I can say is DO SOMETHING HRM!"

GETTING AROUND C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of getting around?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like cost, accessibility, convenience and reliability of the bus/ferry, bike routes, pedestrian walkways, the reliance on cars, and accessibility of HRM for youth with disabilities. Two themes dominated the comment section: the need for improved public transit (e.g., more frequent buses, more late night buses and extended routes into suburban and rural areas) and for improved bike lanes.

"I would like to see more late-night transit options. A night bus, even one, would make a big difference for students wanting to live in Dartmouth who go to school in Halifax. Right now there isn't an affordable way to get to and from Dartmouth at night."

"Bike lanes! If more cycling infrastructure exists within HRM, more people will choose to bike to work and school, lessening the traffic in city centres and leading to a healthier, happier population."

GROWING UP GREEN: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & ACTION C+

How would you rate HRM when it comes to the environment?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like environmental awareness and education, air quality, recycling in schools and at home, littering, pollution and sustainable living (composting, community gardens). Environmental awareness is high among Halifax's youth and it's clear that they feel a collective responsibility for maintaining the beauty of our city.

"There should be fines for littering, fines for smoking in no-smoking areas (bus terminals, etc.), restrictions on household garbage for pickup, and caps on corporate emissions."

"Halifax has good clean water, but we need to keep our streets and public places free of garbage and litter."

ARTS AND CULTURE C+

How would you rate HRM when it comes to our local arts scene?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like the cost of events, range and access to local arts programs and performances including theatre, literature, dance, films, live music, festivals, etc. Two main themes dominated the comments about arts and culture: the need for increased investment in this sector to make it more accessible for youth and the need for more widespread advertising (preferably through social media) so that youth are more aware of local offerings.

"I would like to increase the accessibility of arts/cultural events, likely by reducing costs. Perhaps this could be done in part by promoting youth volunteerism at these events, which would allow them to gain both cultural experiences and engagement."

"The art scene could use more publicity so that people are informed about upcoming events."

RECREATION AND SPORTS C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of sports and recreation for youth?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like the availability of recreation facilities, variety and affordability of recreation programs, promotion and exposure to fun and healthy activities, etc. The need to reduce barriers for youth participation in sport and recreation activities by, for example, more broadly advertising existing offerings that are free or inexpensive dominated our comment section.

"Organized sports and gym memberships should not be so expensive. We encourage people to be active and participate in sports, yet the average person cannot afford the gym membership prices, or the cost of organized sports."

EDUCATION AND LEARNING C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of education and learning?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like quality, relevance, and rigor of teaching and of the curriculum, adequate preparation for and cost of post-secondary education, testing and grading, class sizes, ELS supports, and opportunities for special students needs. Three main themes dominated the comment section: the need for smaller class sizes and more discipline and rigour in the classroom.

"Students need to be pushed and treated like they can rise to the occasion."

"Class sizes are large, and this means that a) Teachers can't spare the time and attention for each individual student b) Less space equals crowded, more stressful conditions. Students at my cousin's school sometimes have to eat lunch sitting on the hallway floors because the cafeteria can't fit everyone."

EMPLOYMENT C

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth employment?

Survey respondents were asked to think about things like the availability of work, the age when you can start working, average wages, training needed for certain jobs, career planning, etc.Three themes dominated our comment section: the difficulty in getting a job either because of a lack experience or training, the desire to have more job options that pay above minimum wage and the need for more job opportunities for recent university graduates.

"Employment: too few jobs, too few GOOD jobs, too few well-paying jobs, too little support for new workers to understand their rights, too much nepotism."

"Break the stereotypes surrounding young professionals and work with employers to create compensation packages that are on par with national averages and competitive."

"It is too hard for excellent international students to find a job because they do not know many local persons."

HEALTH AND WELLNESS C+

How would you rate HRM in terms of youth health and wellness?

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Survey respondents were asked to think about things like access to healthcare, activities that promote healthy lifestyles, mental health and addiction, family health services, youth clinics, etc. The importance of health education and the need for increased awareness of, and access to, existing services dominated our comment section.

"Education is perhaps the best way to encourage health and wellness among youth; ensure that youth are educated about such topics and that there is a general awareness of them."

"Youth mental health care at the IWK should be more than five days a week, working hours. Crises happen at all times."

Note: Data provided below is for youth living within the Capital District Health Authority in 2009-10 and are two-year period estimates which reduces data variability.

MENTAL HEALTH

About 84% of males and 70% of females age 12-19 reported their mental health as very good or excellent. For those age 20-34, the rate for males is about the same (81%), while the rate for females improves significantly (82%).

GENERAL HEALTH

About 76% of males and 70% of females age 12-19 reported their general health as very good or excellent. These rates are consistent with those age 20-34, with males at 77% and females at 68%.

HEALTHY EATING

Less than half (40%) of youth age 12-19 and about one third (36%) of youth age 20-34 reported eating fruits and vegetables 5 or more times a day – the amount recommended by Health Canada. The rate for 20-34 year-olds was statistically lower than the national average for that age group (44%).

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RATE

About 85% of males and 76% of females age 12-19 reported being active or moderately active in their leisure time. The rate for 20-34 year-olds was lower for both genders with males at 68% and females at 54%.

SMOKING AND HEAVY DRINKING

About 18% of males and 35% of females age 20-34 reported smoking daily or occasionally. The rate for males was statistically lower than the national average for males in this age group (31%), while the rate for females was statistically higher (23%). In terms of heavy drinking (defined as 5 or more drinks at one time at least once a month in the past year), about 23% of females and 53% of males age 20-34 reported drinking heavily. The rate for males was statistically higher than the national average for males in this age group (41%).

CONTACT WITH A MEDICAL DOCTOR

About 66% of males and 81% of females age 12-19 reported visiting a medical doctor within the past 12 months. The rate for 20-34 year olds was higher for both genders with males at 76% and females at 90%. The rate for 20-34 year-old males was statistically higher than the national average for males in that age group (63%).

OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN HRM B-

Survey respondents gave their overall quality of life in the HRM a B-. This is the highest score of any category and tells us that life as a youth in HRM is pretty good. And, just imagine how much better it can be if we take the time to engage with our youth and benefit from their energy and enthusiasm. They've shown us that they have the interest and ideas. It's now up to us to do something with that.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is proud to have published Vital Signs® for four consecutive years starting with Wolfville in 2009, Lunenburg County in 2010, Nova Scotia in 2011 and Halifax in 2012. While the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia itself is a young initiative, the community foundation movement across Canada has been connecting people who care with causes that matter for more than 90 years. In less than five years, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia has helped to create over 30 endowment funds, distributed more than $250,000 as grants and impacted over 125 charities throughout Nova Scotia.

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is a public charitable foundation established by Nova Scotians for Nova Scotians. We connect donors with the community issues they care about most and create lasting impacts.

Our three core activities are...

1. Growing Philanthropy - We help others to establish and grow endowments that will make a long-term difference in Nova Scotia;

2. Building Knowledge – We provide the public with objective information about community strengths and opportunities through our Vital Signs® reports;

3. Strengthening Community – We support charities and community organizations throughout Nova Scotia and Canada.

So what's so special about a Community Foundation? At the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia we do philanthropy differently. We've tossed out the old idea of "who" creates a Foundation and created a space where people of all financial means can build their own Fund and begin to make their own impact in their own way.

We've also created a space where donors, charities and other community stakeholders can learn more about what's happening in their own backyard through the publication of Vital Signs® reports. All of these efforts are aimed at inspiring civic engagement – or in other words – encouraging you, your co-workers, family, friends and neighbours to get together to try to figure out how we can pool our resources to bring a new perspective to some age-old issues and ultimately build more resilient communities throughout Nova Scotia.

How will you make a positive impact in your community?

Take a look at some of our endowments...

2008

Heart of the Bay Fund

An initiative of the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association to preserve and enhance the Bay's natural environment, it's heritage and quality of life.

2009

Buddy Daye Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund for African Nova Scotians age 14-24 years that celebrates athletic accomplishments, community involvement and scholastic achievement.

2010

Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society Fund

An initiative aimed at nourishing our connections with the land and protecting the cultural and natural heritage of the Cole Harbour area.

For more visit www.cfns.ca

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The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is grateful to all of those who helped to make this report possible.

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Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

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