



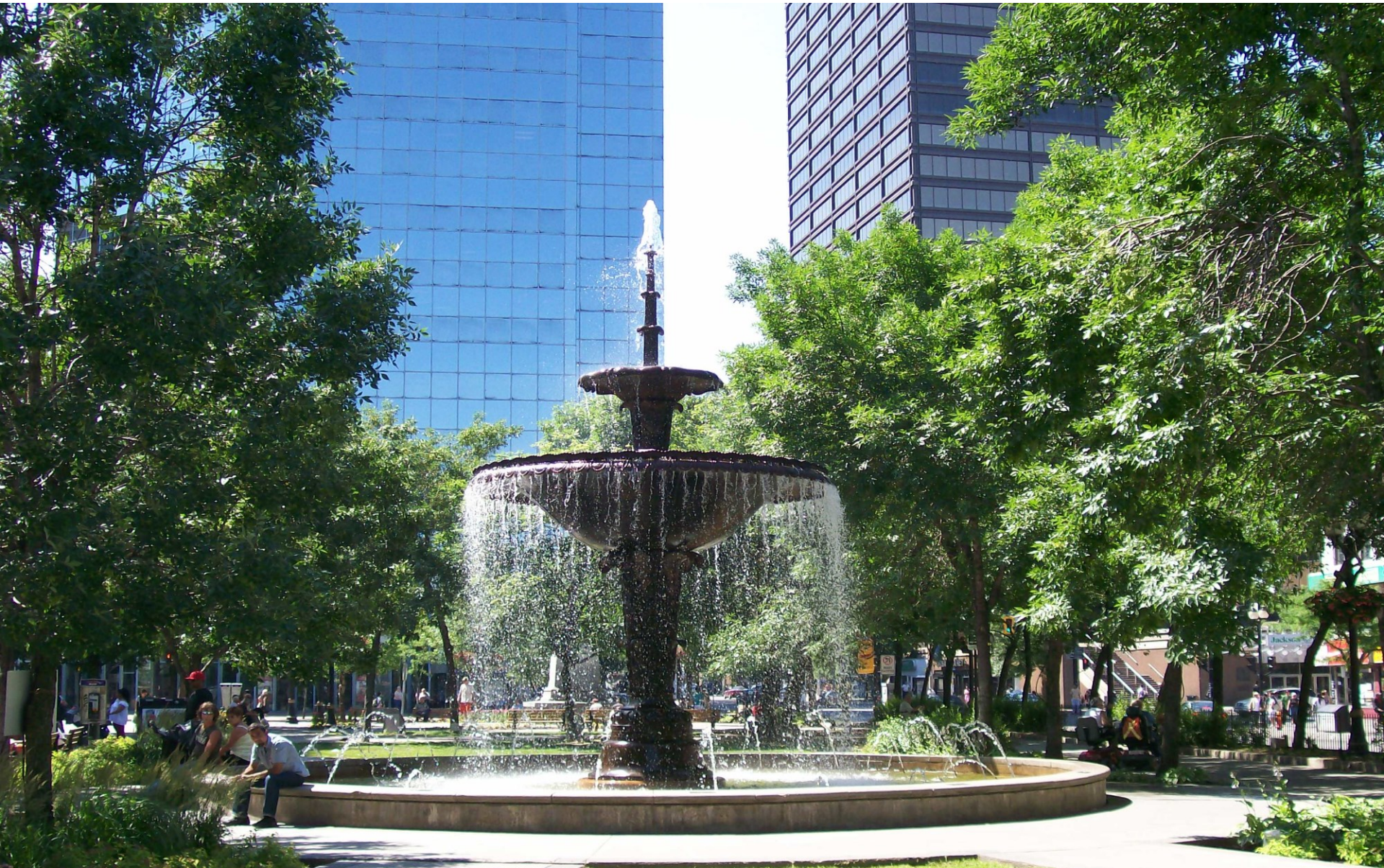
CODE
RED

thespec.com |

THE
HAMILTON SPECTATOR

TEN YEARS LATER

This is our city, Hamilton. It looks like this:



And this:



And this:



Unfortunately, our city also looks like this:



And this:



And this:



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But we mistakenly think “universal”health care
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I’m about to show you that there is nothing
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And there’s certainly nothing equal about the
health of people here in Hamilton.

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Using health and socioeconomic data from **2006** and **2007**, we mapped the health of Hamilton down to the level of neighbourhoods.

We showed the strong connections between **health, wealth and where you live.**

HIGHLIGHTS

21-year difference in life expectancy between best/worst neighbourhoods.

WEEKEND READER
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR ■ SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010 ■ THESPEC.COM

Worlds apart

Glaring disparities in wealth and health have taken a shocking toll on a huge number of Hamilton's people.

BY STEVE BUST

Two neighbourhoods, separated by just five kilometres as the crow flies. They might as well be worlds apart.

Between these Hamilton neighbourhoods, representing two ends of the spectrum, there's a difference of 21 years in average age at death.

Basically, it's a crude measure of life expectancy across this city, which is important because there's no clearer measure of health than whether you're dead or alive.

Of all the glaring disparities between Hamilton's neighbourhoods uncovered in this groundbreaking health mapping project, the gap in life expectancy is the most disturbing. That 21-year difference represents an entire generation lost between those neighbourhoods at the top and bottom.

At one extreme is the west Mountain neighbourhood bounded by Upper Paradise Road, the Mountain brow, Rice

CODE RED
WHERE YOU LIVE AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH

Avenue and Mohawk Road West, where the average age at death was 86.3 years, based on death statistics collected from 2000 to 2008. That's five years better than Canada's average life expectancy.

At the other extreme is the neighbourhood tucked between Wollington Street North, the harbourfront, Sherman Avenue North and the railway tracks near Barton Street, where the average age at death for the same period was 65.5 years.

Put another way, that same North End neighbourhood would rank 16th in the world for life expectancy, tied with Nepal, just ahead of Pakistan and worse than India, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.

"There's your story right there," said Neil Johnston, a Hamilton health researcher who has collaborated on this project for

three years and acted as the chief data analyst.

The huge gap in life expectancies across the city is one important piece of a much larger story concerning the health of Hamilton's neighbourhoods.

The Spectator's comprehensive analysis of more than 400,000 pieces of hospital and death data for Hamilton residents shows a staggering disparity between the best and poorest-performing neighbourhoods.

In parts of the lower-central portion of Hamilton, where poverty is deeply entrenched, some neighbourhoods live with Third World health outcomes and Third World lifespans — all the more shocking in a city with a major medical school and top teaching hospitals, in a country with universal, publicly funded health care.

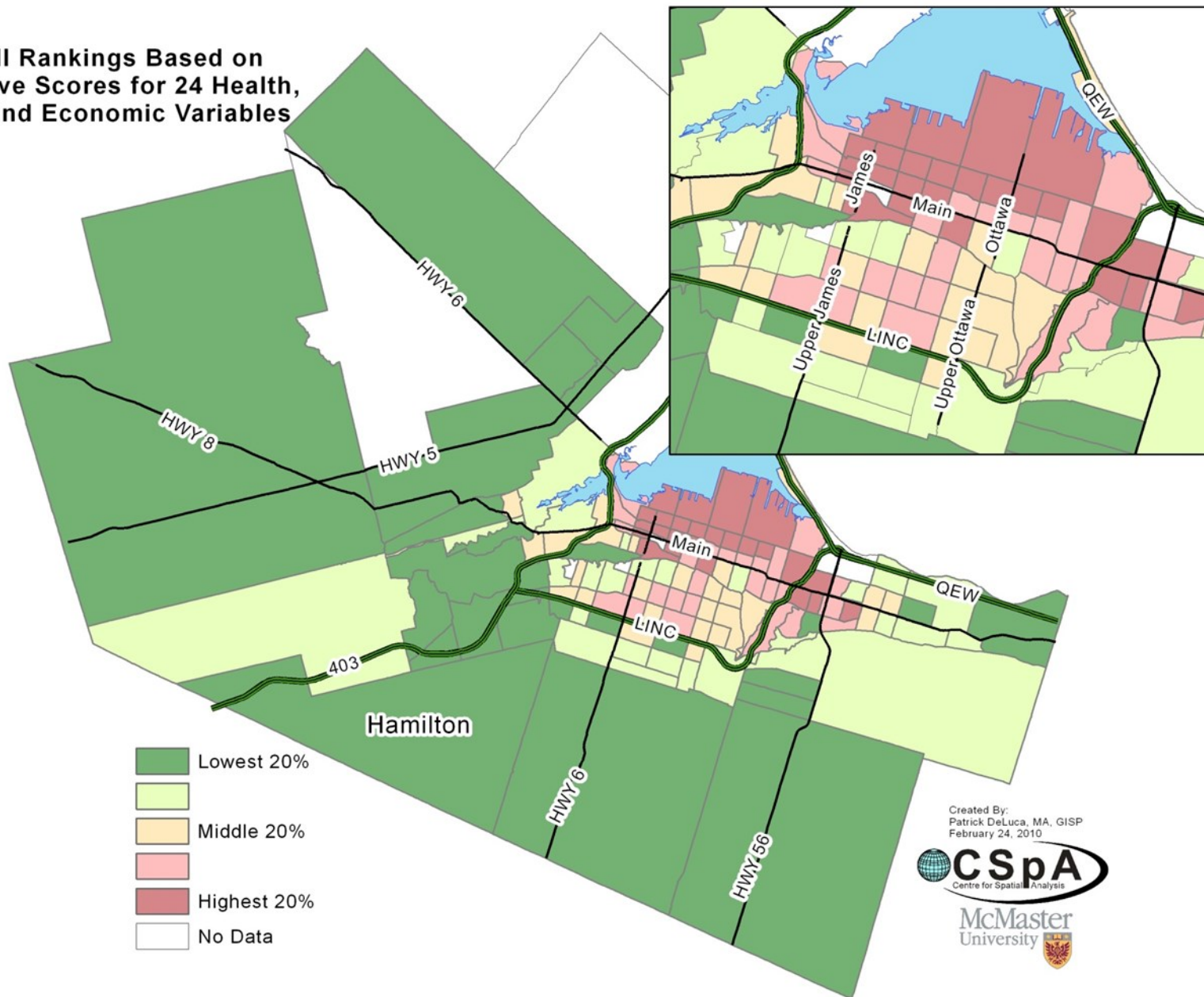
"It's absolutely appalling," said Johnston, an expert in analyzing and mapping health data.

"In the current circumstances, it may not be avoidable and that's the tragedy."

CODE RED continues WK1



**Overall Rankings Based on
Cumulative Scores for 24 Health,
Social and Economic Variables**



BORN

A CODE RED PROJECT



A tale of two cities

The Golden Horseshoe is a study in contrasts, with Hamilton's lower city posting one of the highest urban teen mother rates in the province while neighbouring Burlington has one of the lowest.

The Orchard

Median household income: **\$105,653**
 Female lone-parent families: **4.7%**
 Residents below poverty line: **6.5%**
 Children below poverty line: **12.1%**
 No high school (ages 25-64): **4.6%**
 University degree (ages 25-64): **44.5%**

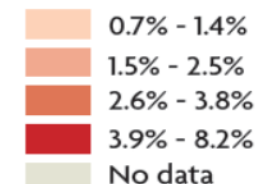
Teen mother rate: **0%**

The core of the problem

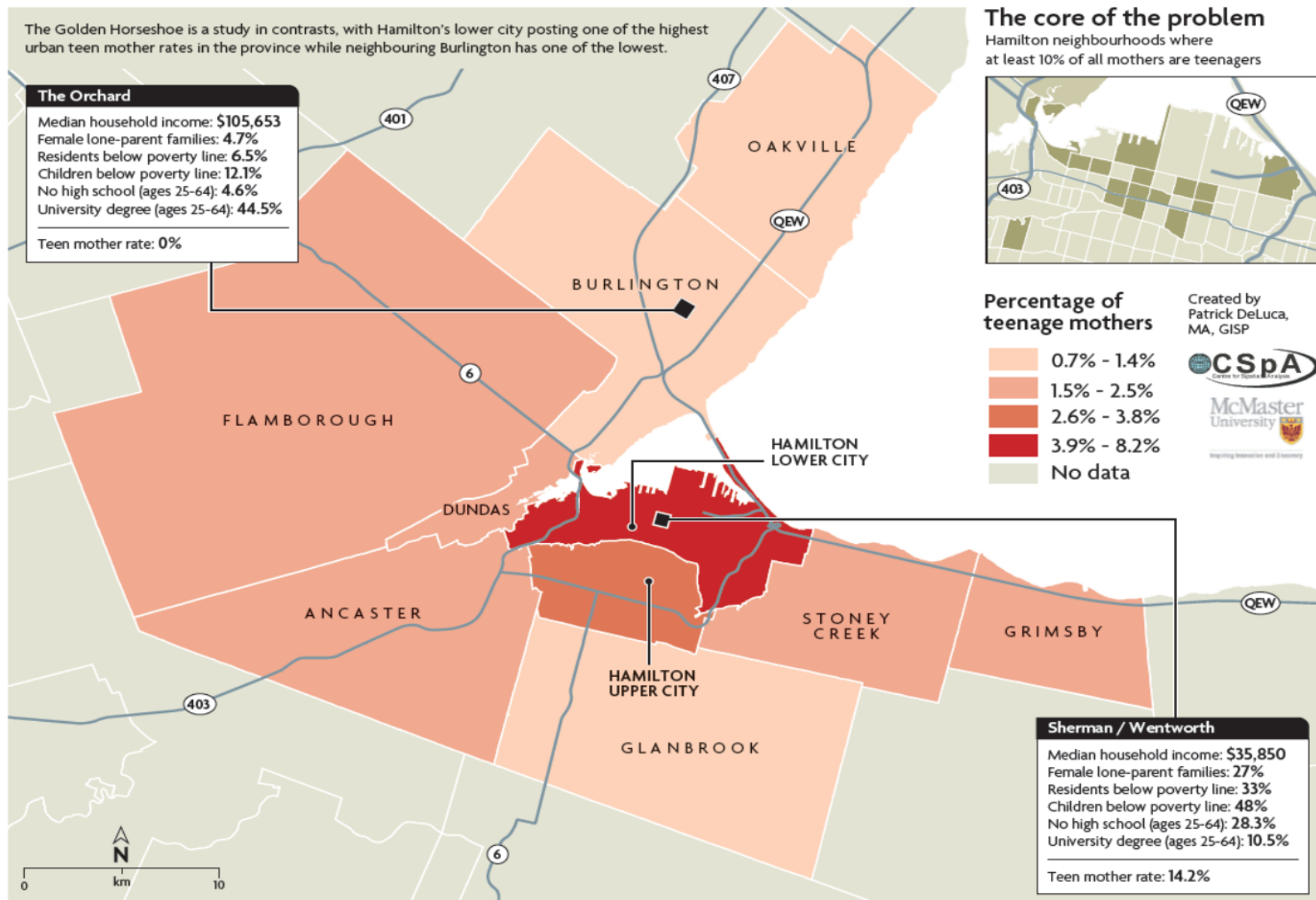
Hamilton neighbourhoods where at least 10% of all mothers are teenagers



Percentage of teenage mothers



Created by
 Patrick DeLuca,
 MA, GISP



Sherman / Wentworth

Median household income: **\$35,850**
 Female lone-parent families: **27%**
 Residents below poverty line: **33%**
 Children below poverty line: **48%**
 No high school (ages 25-64): **28.3%**
 University degree (ages 25-64): **10.5%**

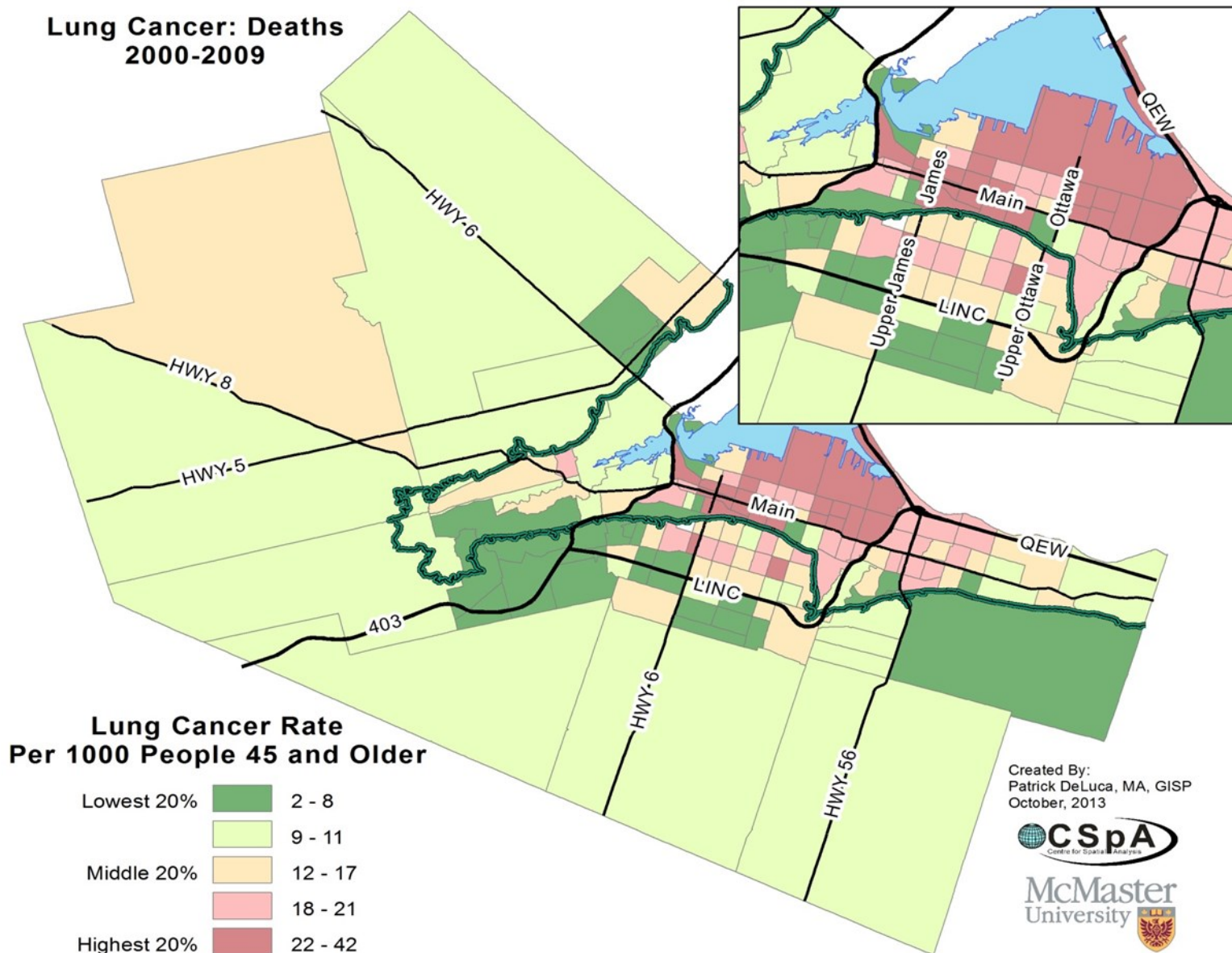
Teen mother rate: **14.2%**



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cancer mortality rate in inner-city core 90% higher than Ancaster.
- Mortality rate in worst neighbourhood **4X** higher than best neighbourhood.
- Lung cancer mortality rate in worst neighbourhood **15X** higher than best.

Lung Cancer: Deaths 2000-2009



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In fact, **10** of **13** health outcomes actually worsened.

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7. Family physician accessibility.
8. Socioeconomic factors.

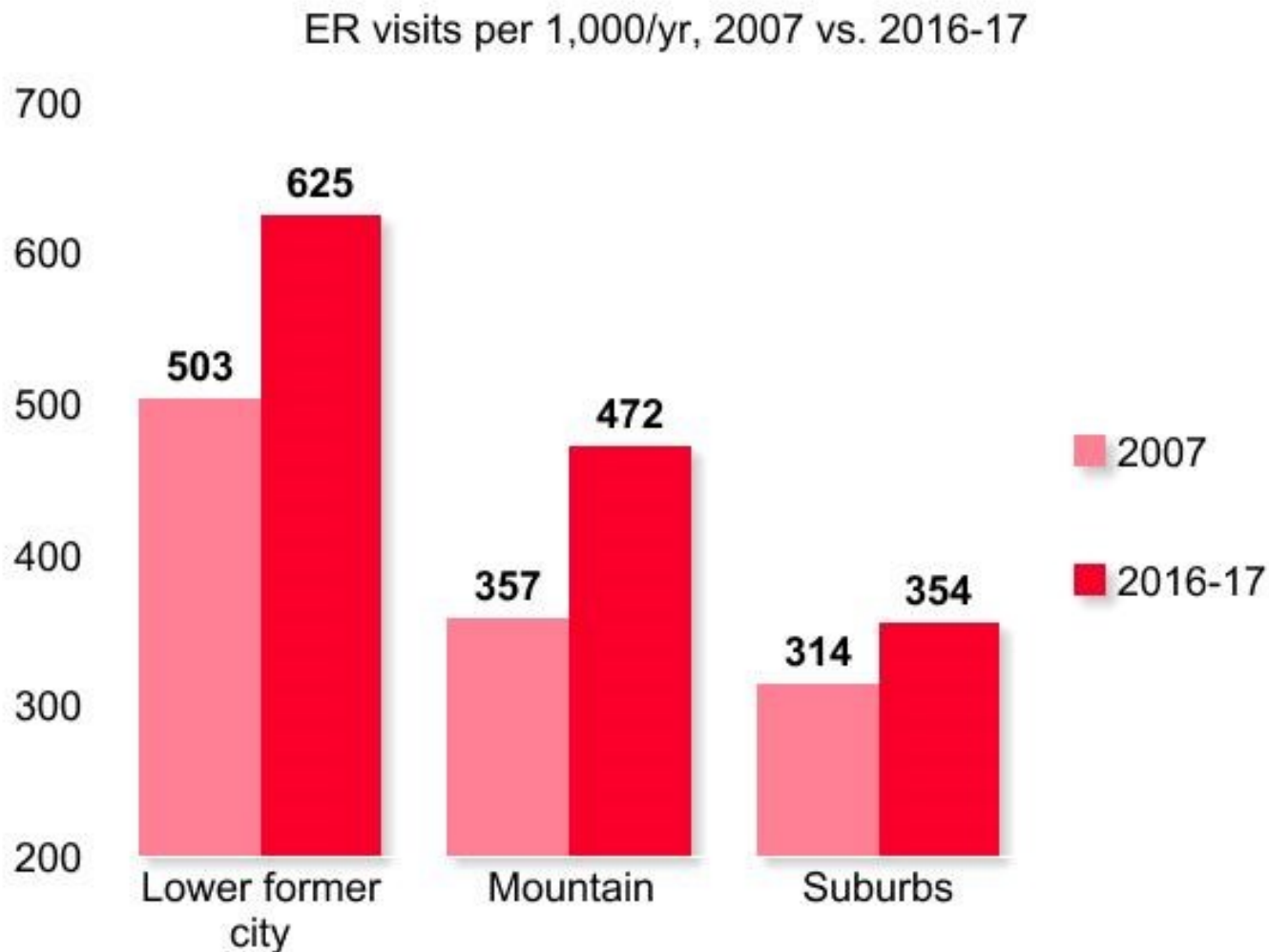
1. Emergency Department use:

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FY 2006-07: **200,000 visits/yr**

2016-17: **255,000 visits/yr**

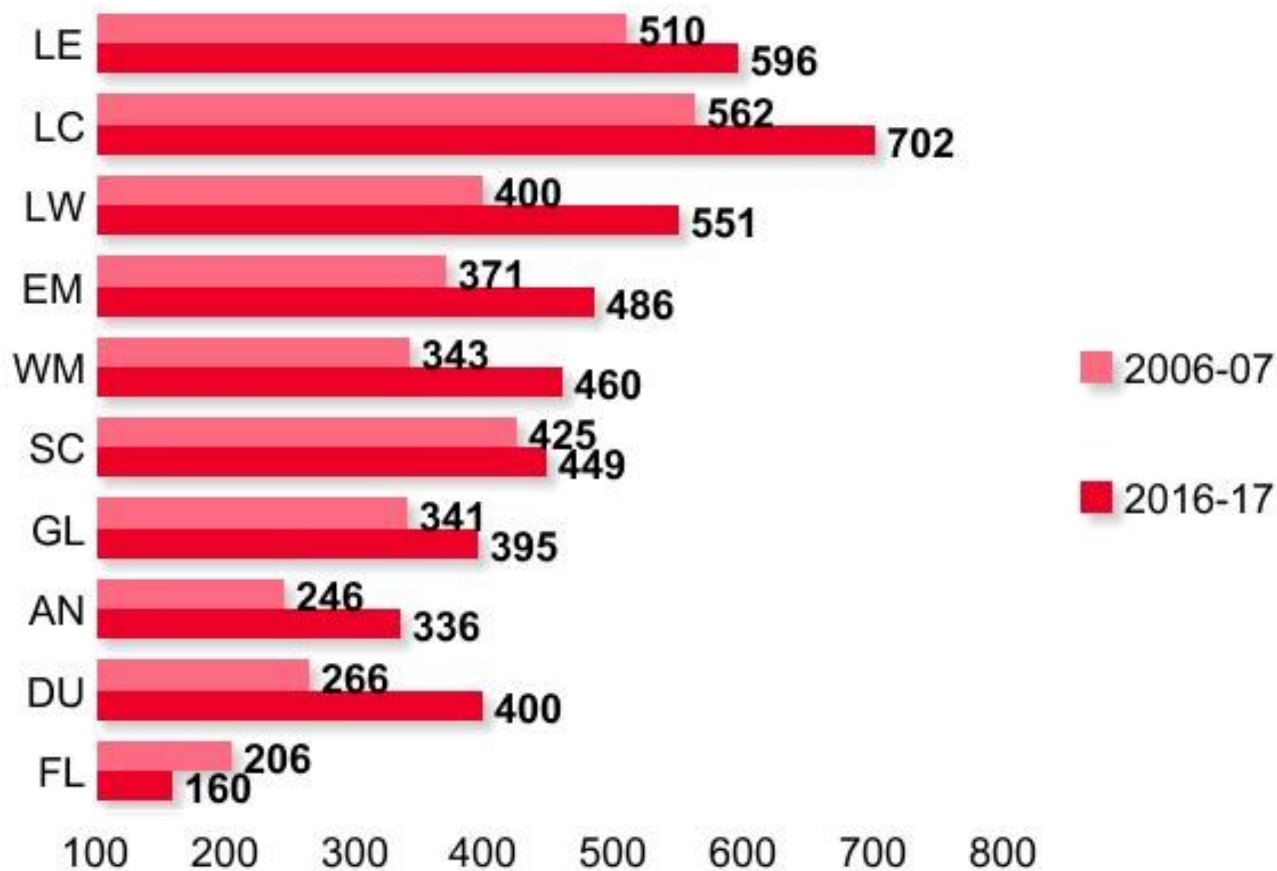
1. Emergency Department use:



SOURCE: CIHI / Hamilton Health Sciences

1. Emergency Department use:

ER visits per 1,000/yr, 2006-07 vs. 2016-17, by area

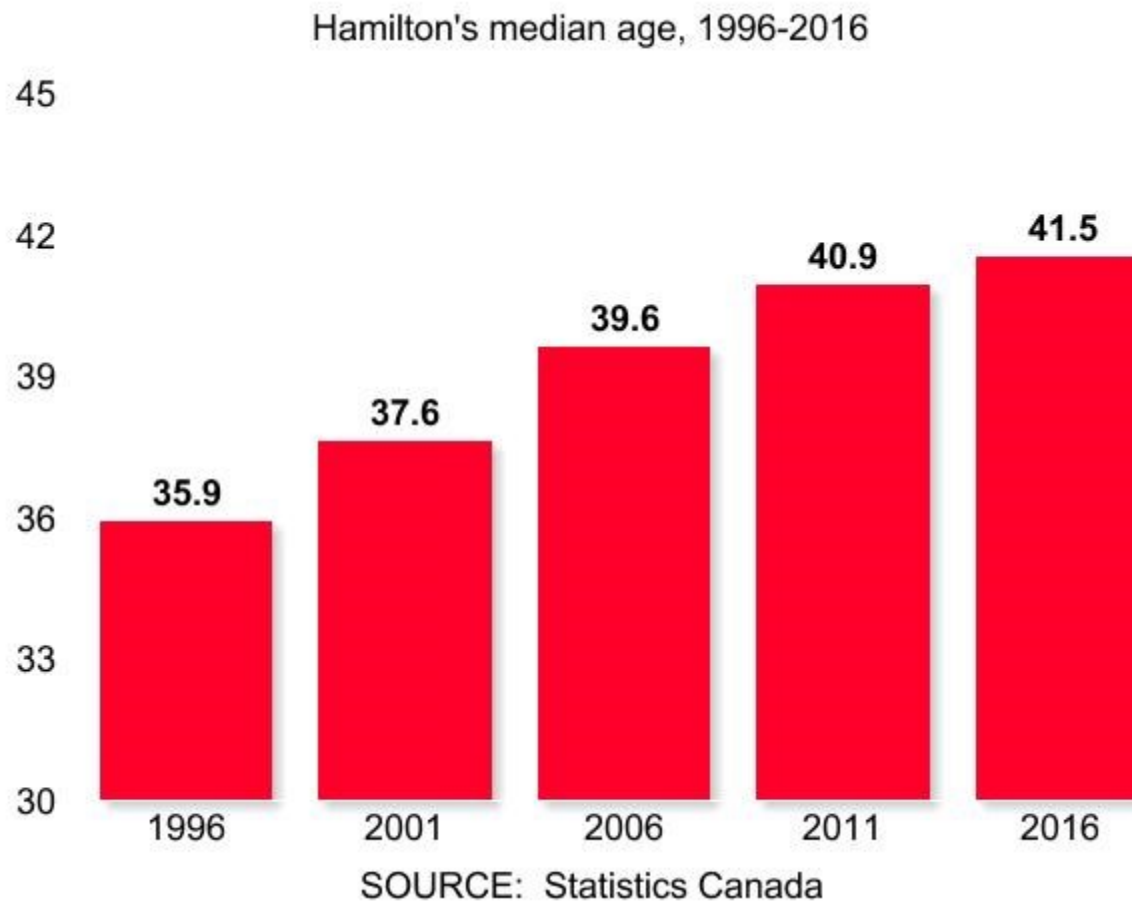


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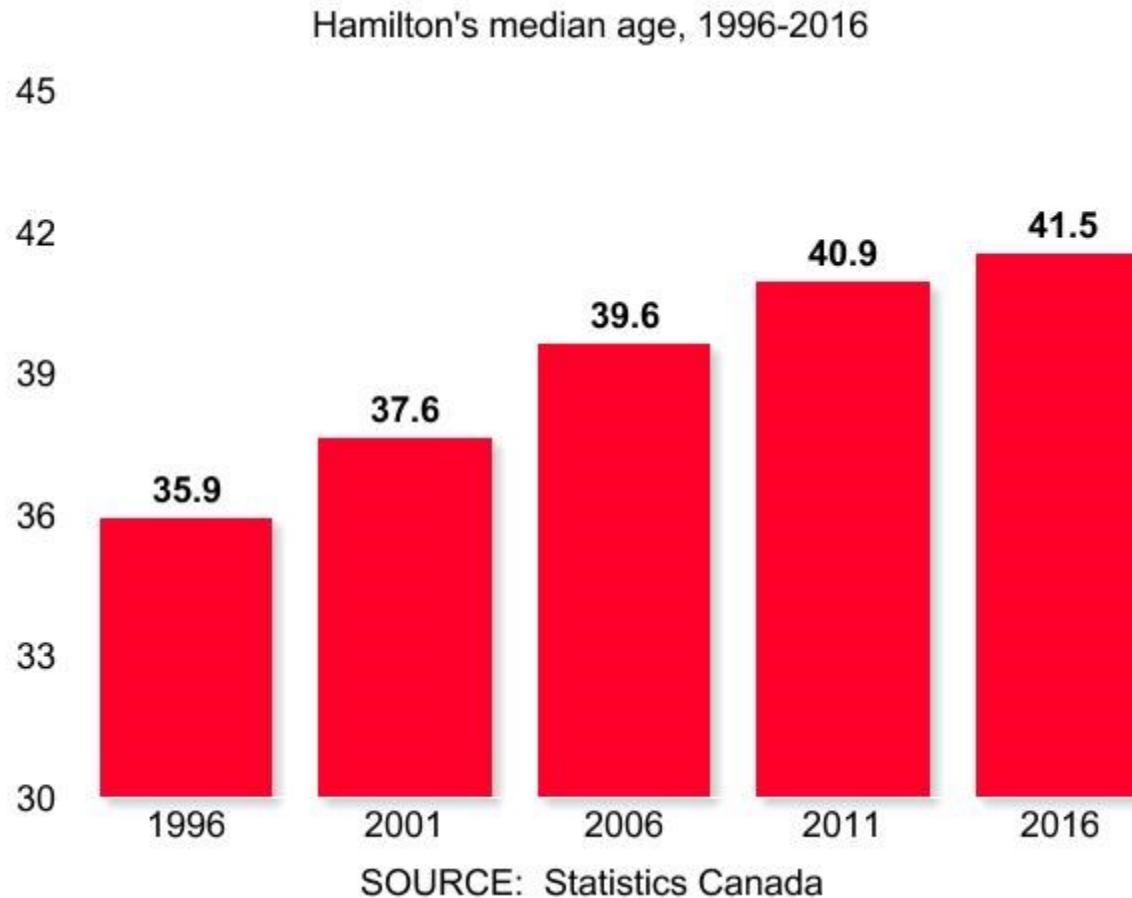
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Possible reason?

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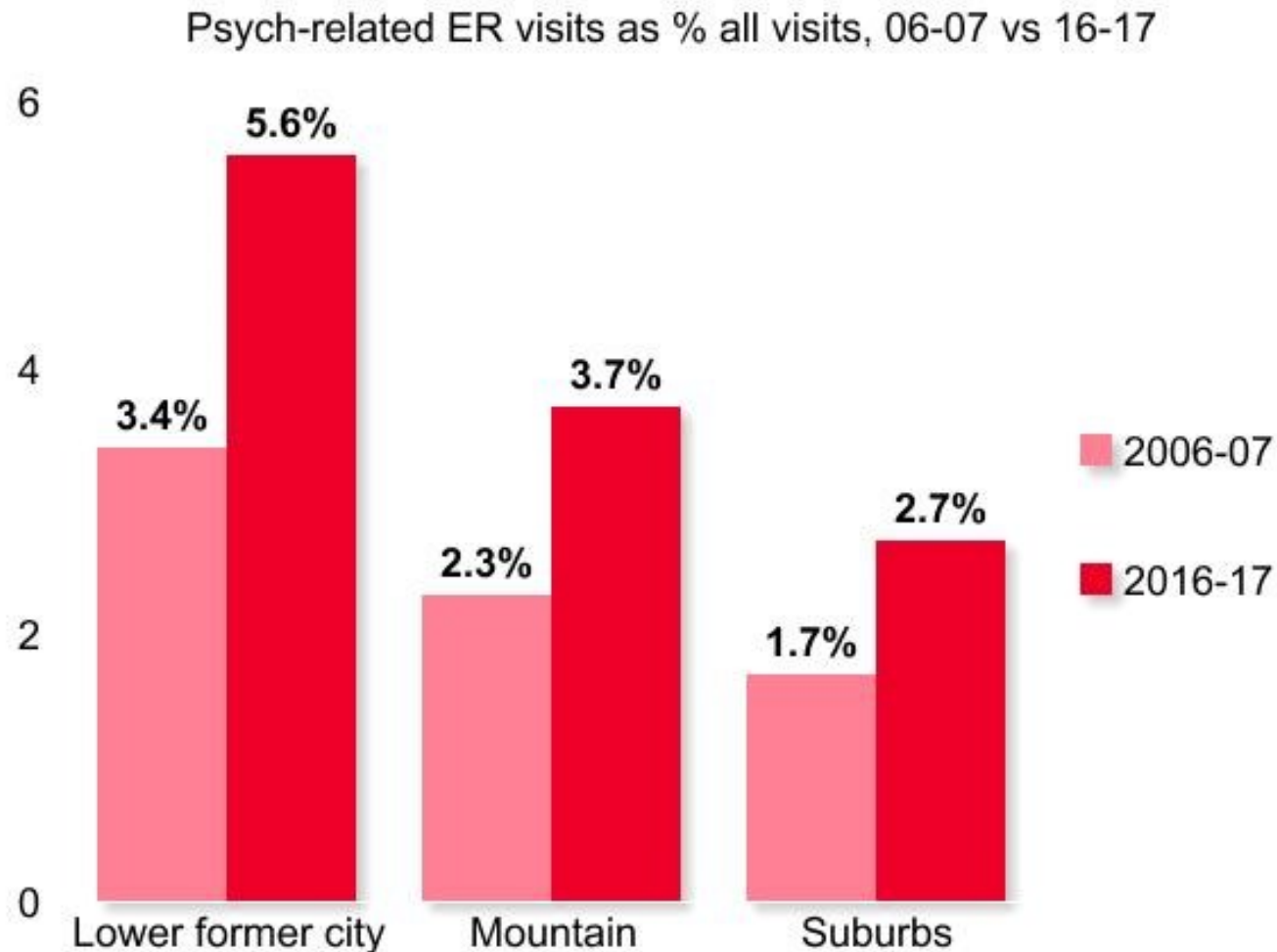
1. Emergency Department use:



93,000 people (17.3% of pop.) in Hamilton are 65 and older

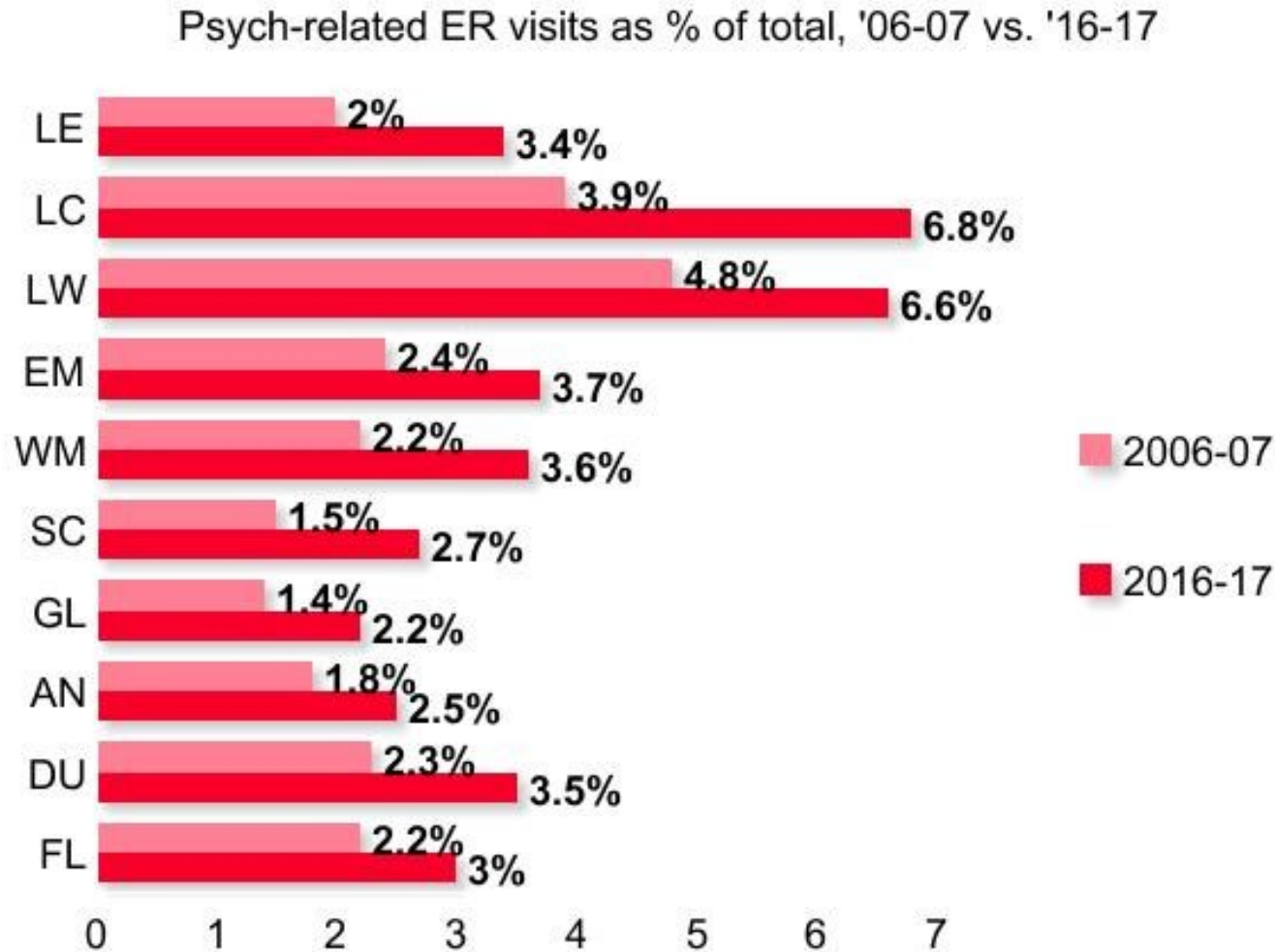
2. Psychiatric-related issues:

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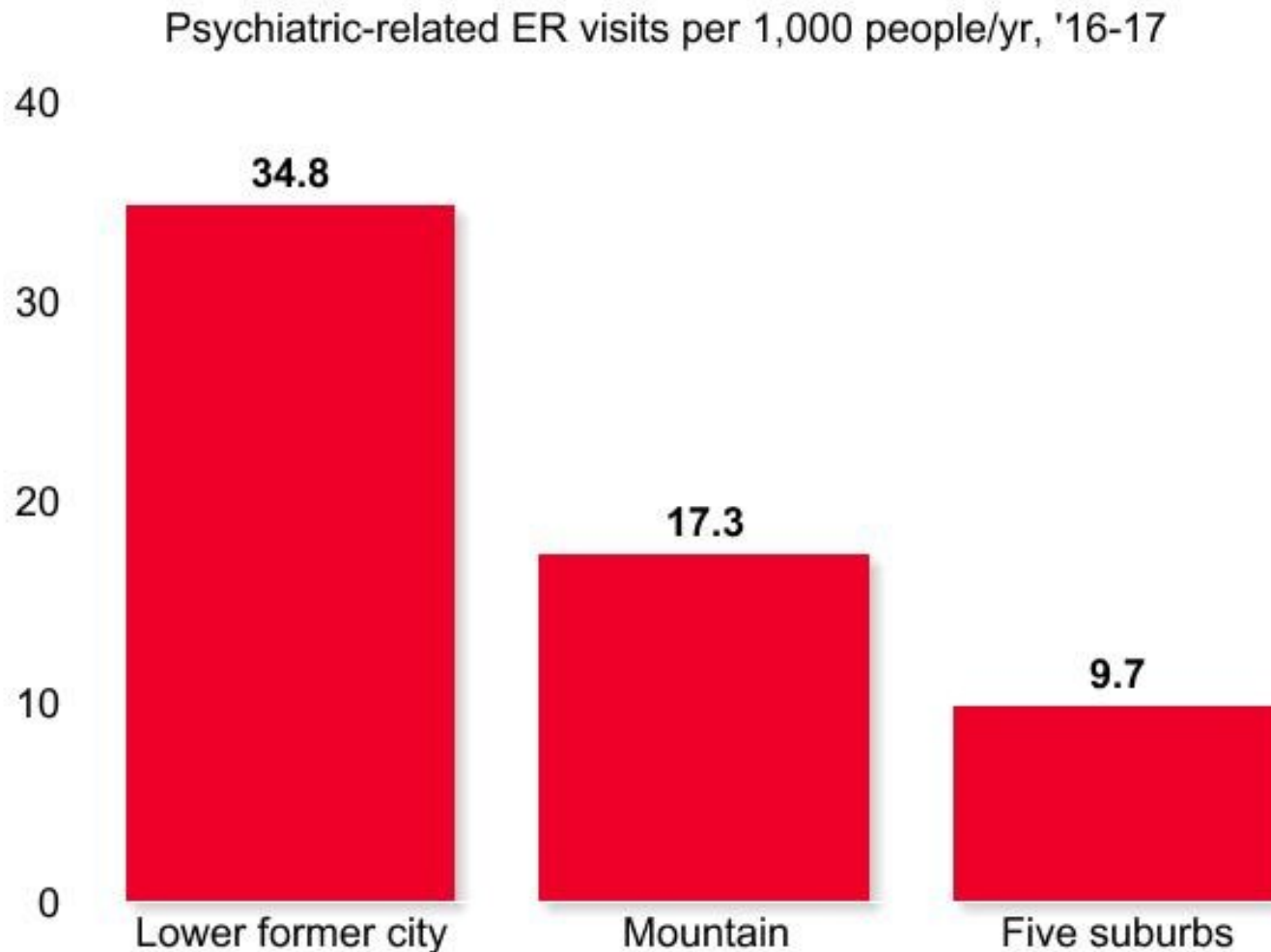
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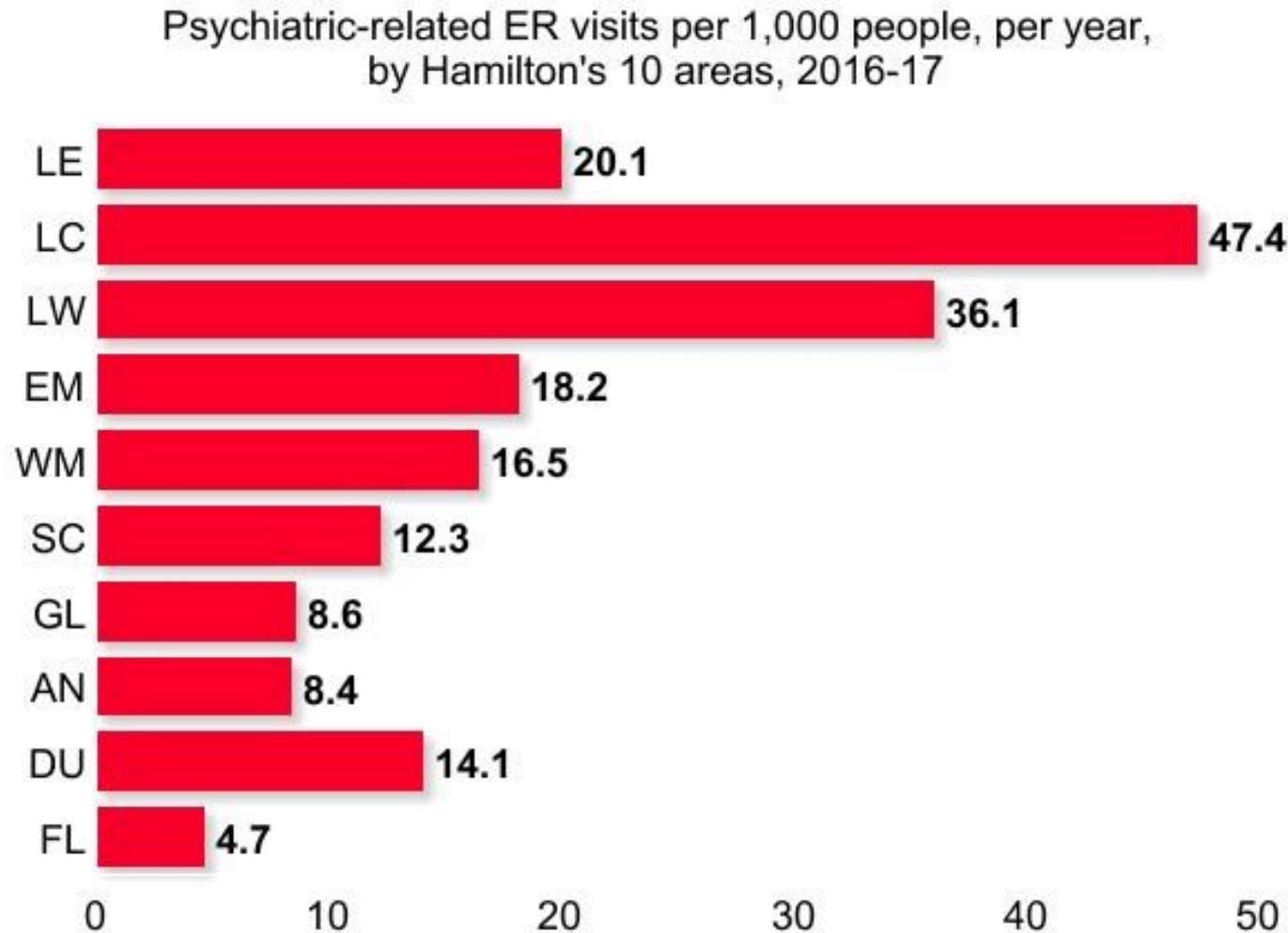
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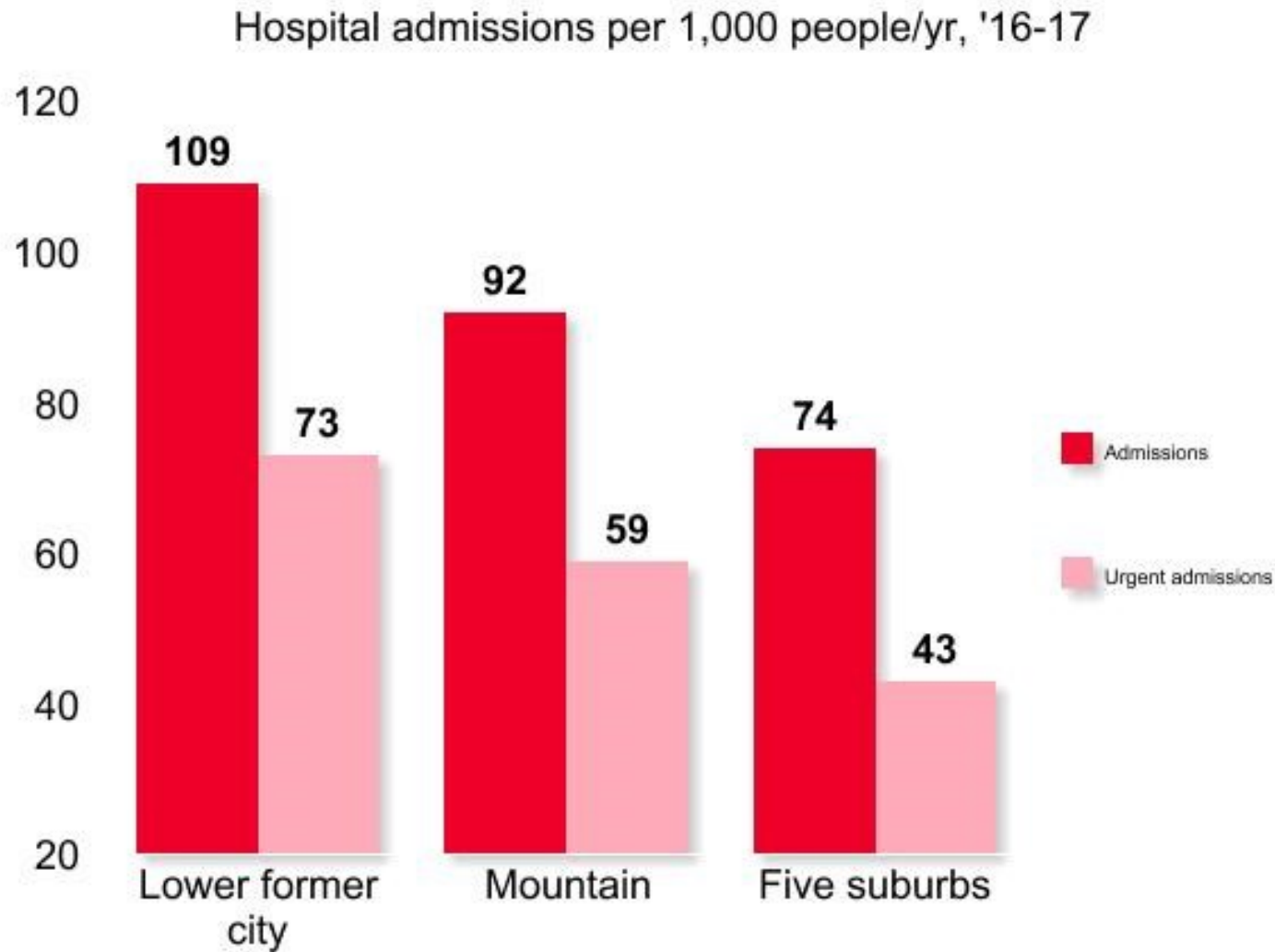
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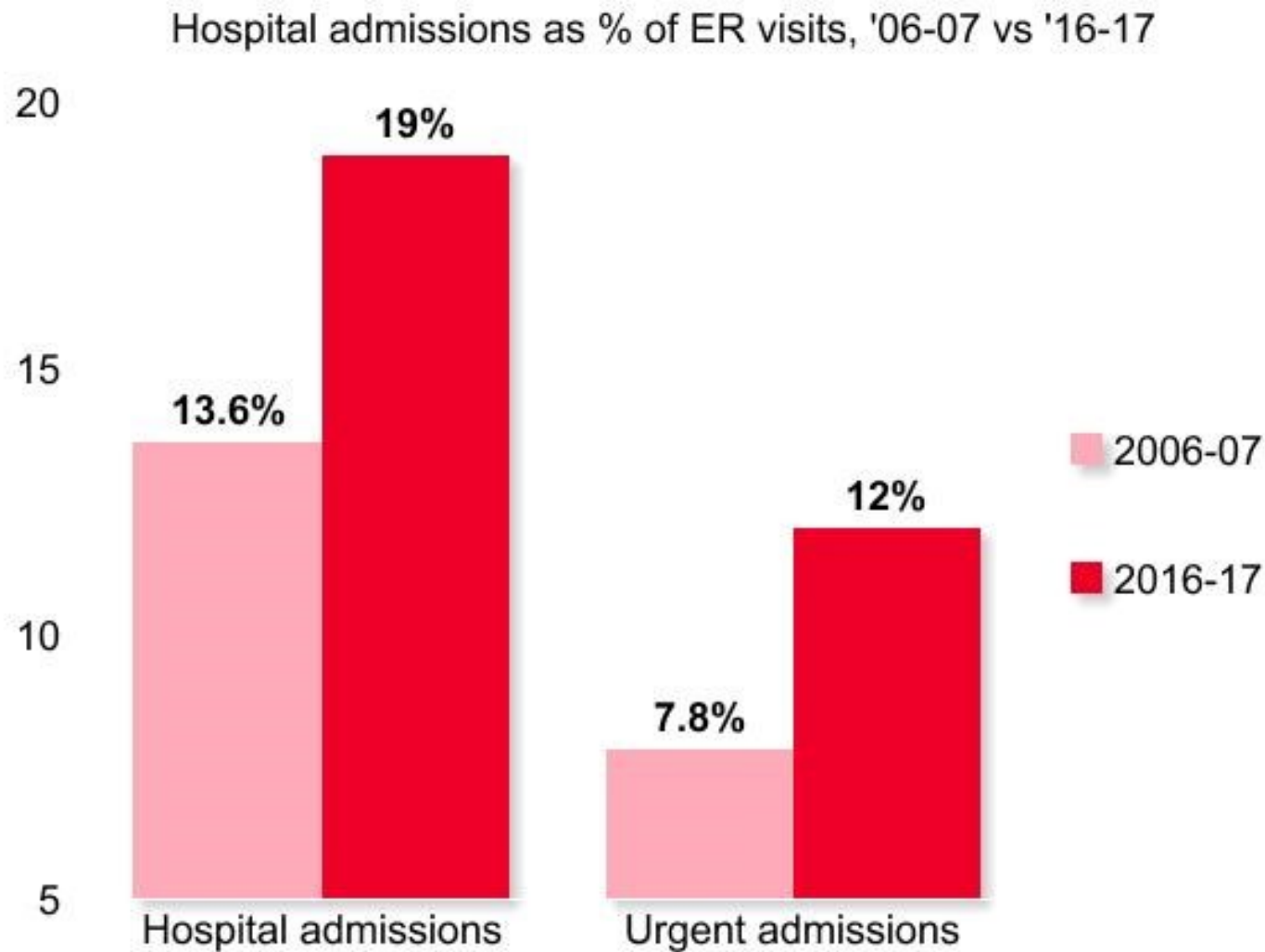
3. Hospital admissions:

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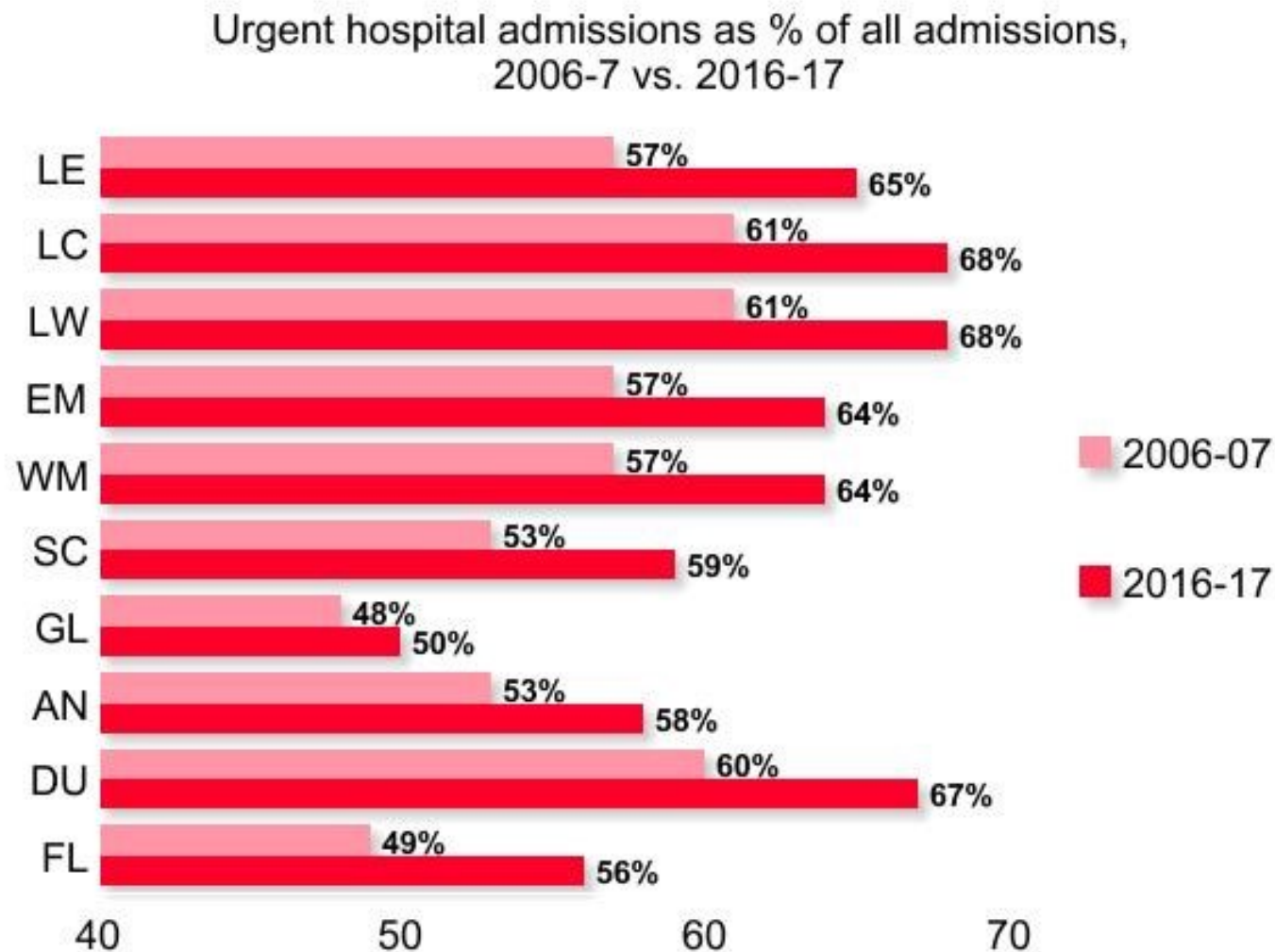
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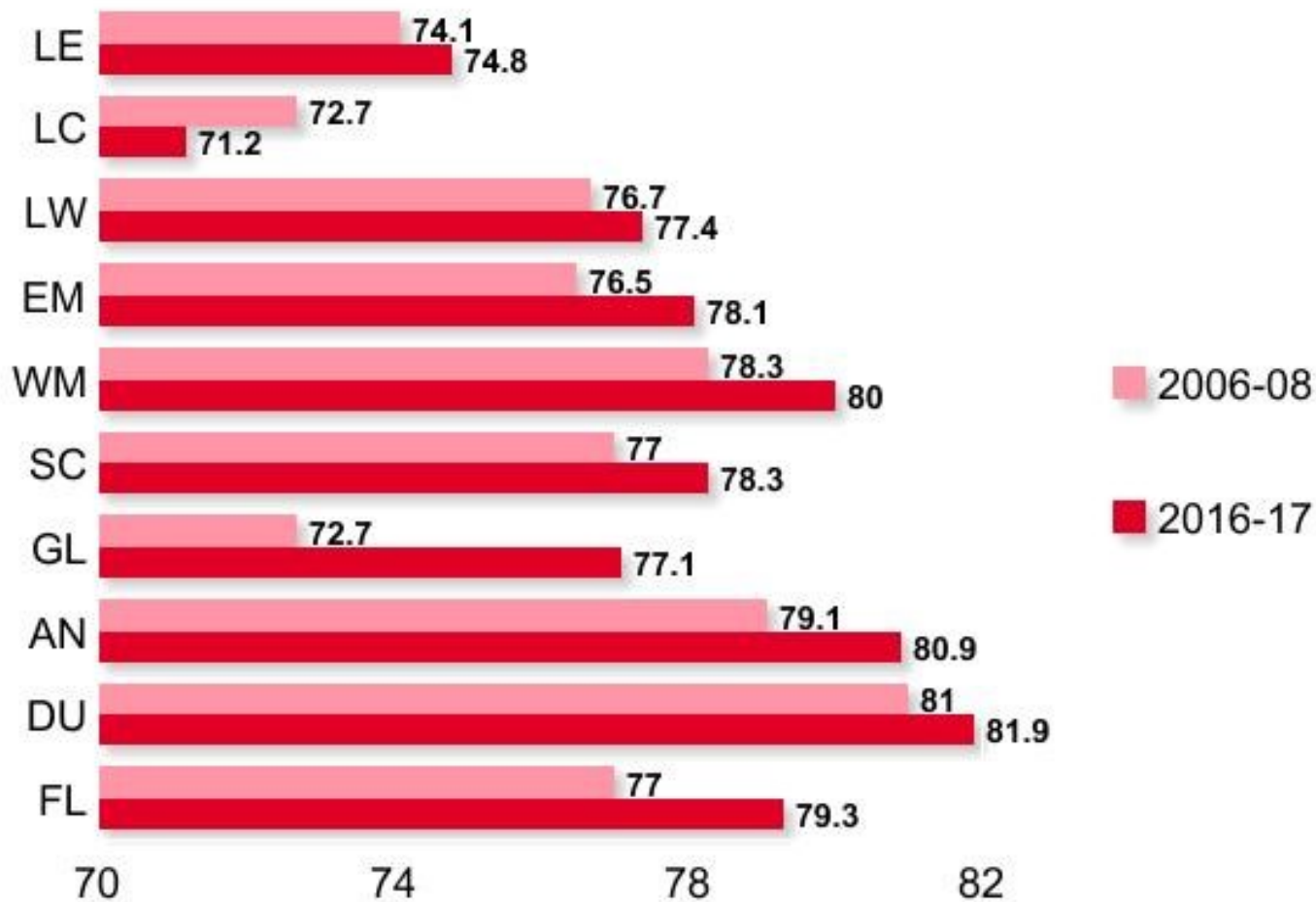
2006-08: **21-year** gap between best/worst

2016-17: **23-year** gap between best/worst

We have one neighbourhood now where the life span is **64.8** years !!

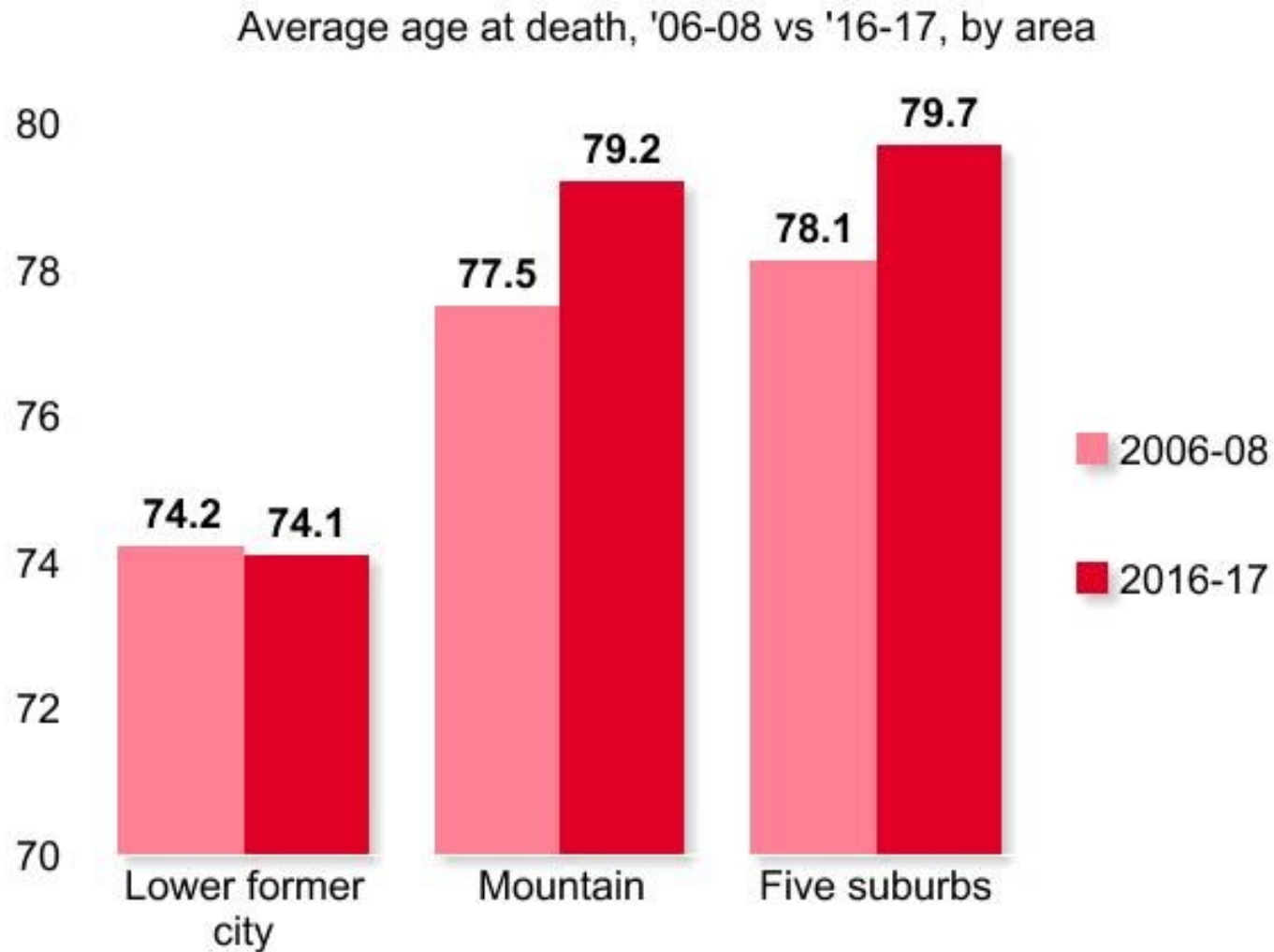
4. Life span:

Avg. age at death, '06-08 vs. '16-17, by 10 areas



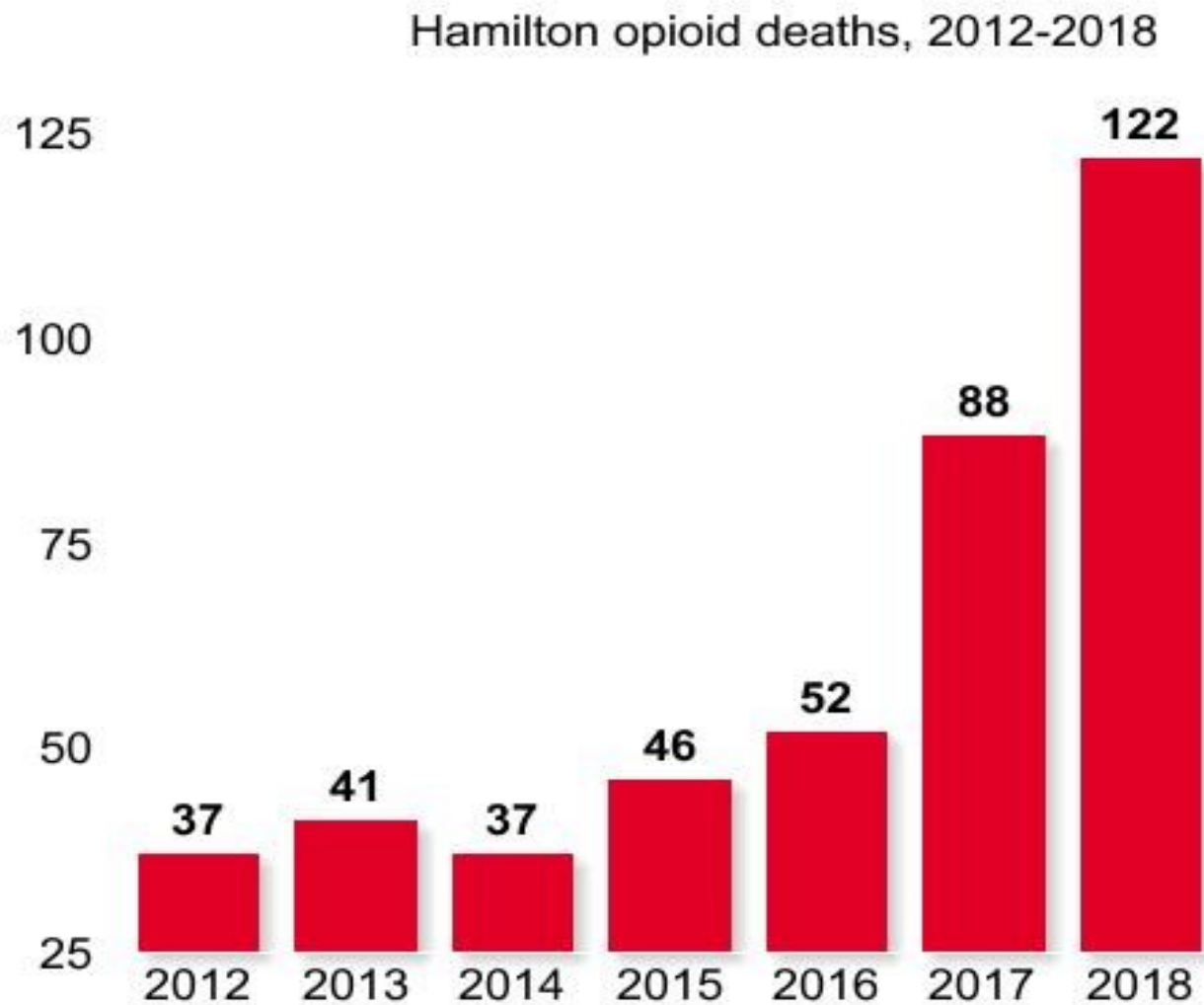
SOURCE: Service Ontario

4. Life span:



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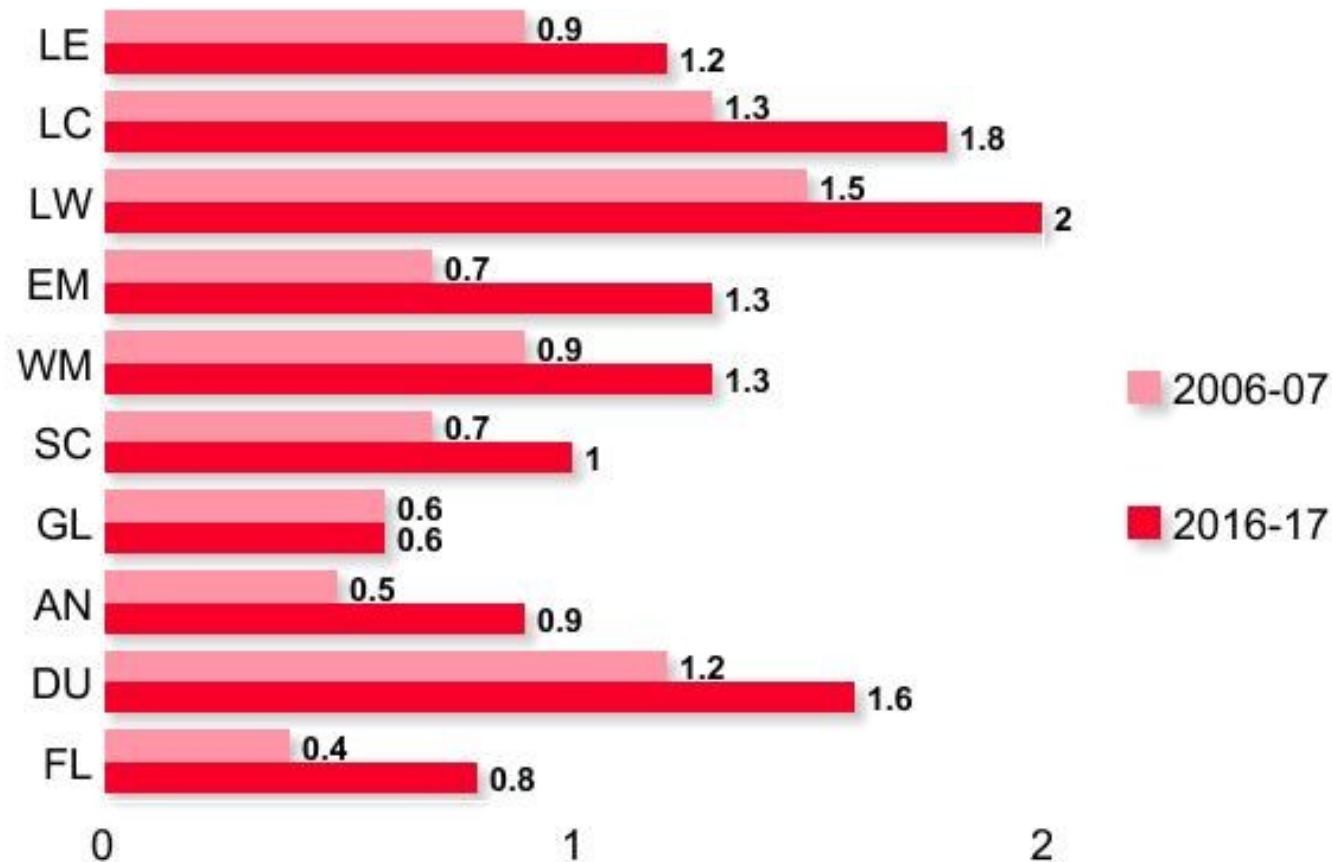


SOURCE: Hamilton Health Sciences

5. ALC days:

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Avg. ALC days per hospital admission, '06-07 vs. '16-17



Figures expressed in days per hospital admission.

SOURCE: CIHI / Hamilton Health Sciences

5. ALC days:

Why is this important?

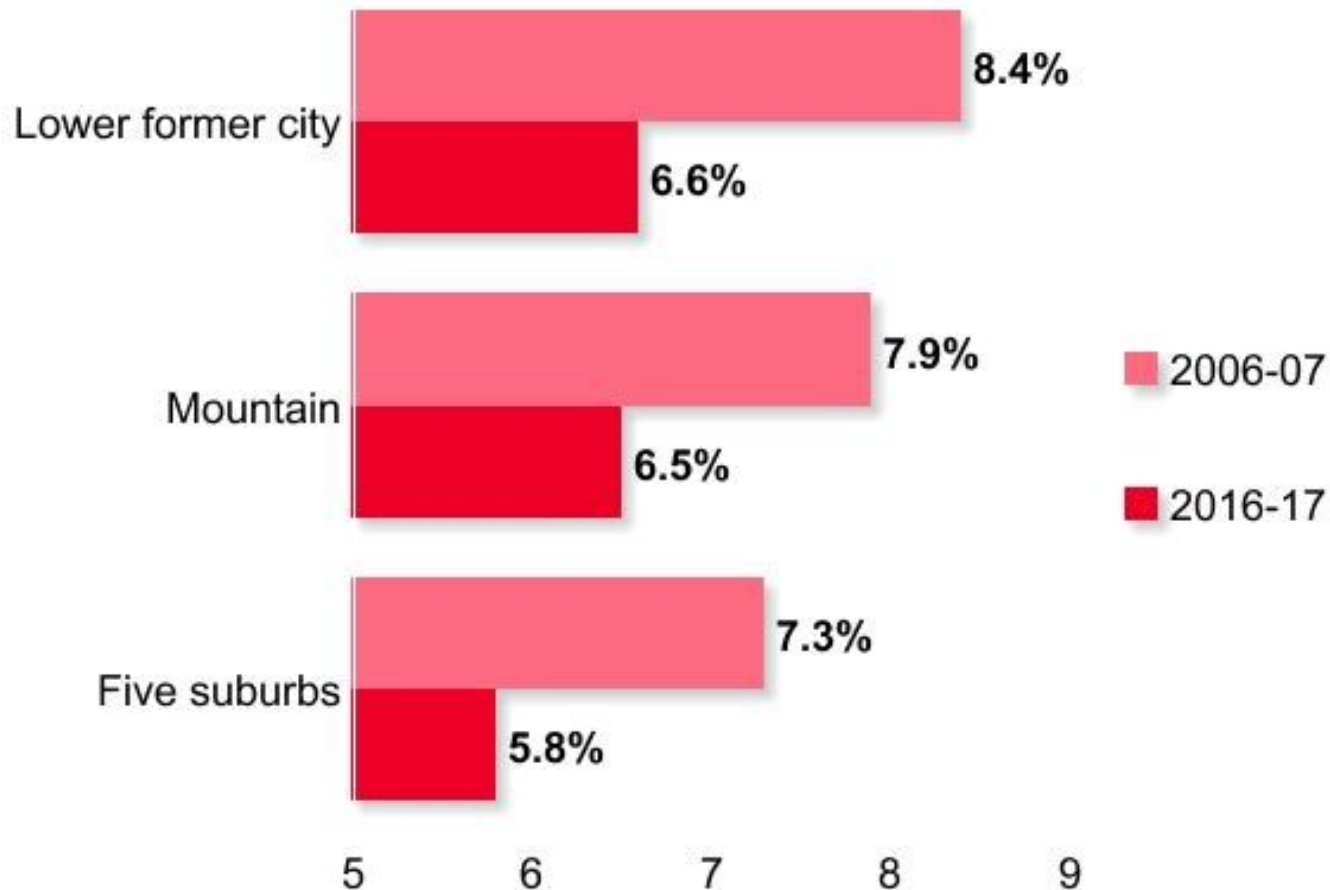
In 2017, more than 69,000 bed-days in Hamilton hospitals were used for ALC patients.

That's equal to **189 hospital beds a day** on average out of service because they're taken up with ALC patients.

6. Low birth weight babies:

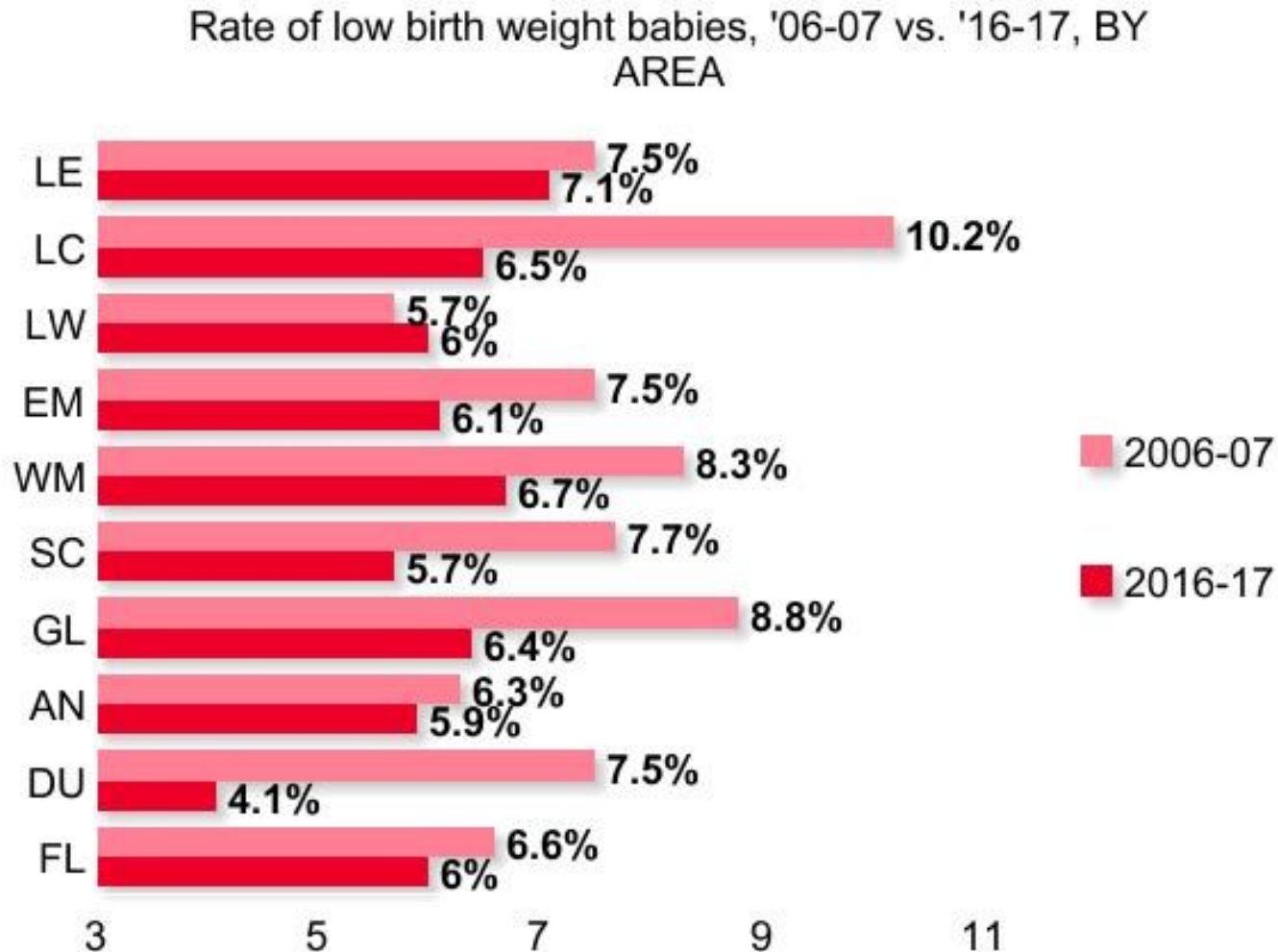
6. Low birth weight babies:

Low birth weight rate, by area, '06-07 vs. '16-17



SOURCE: CIHI and Hamilton Health Sciences

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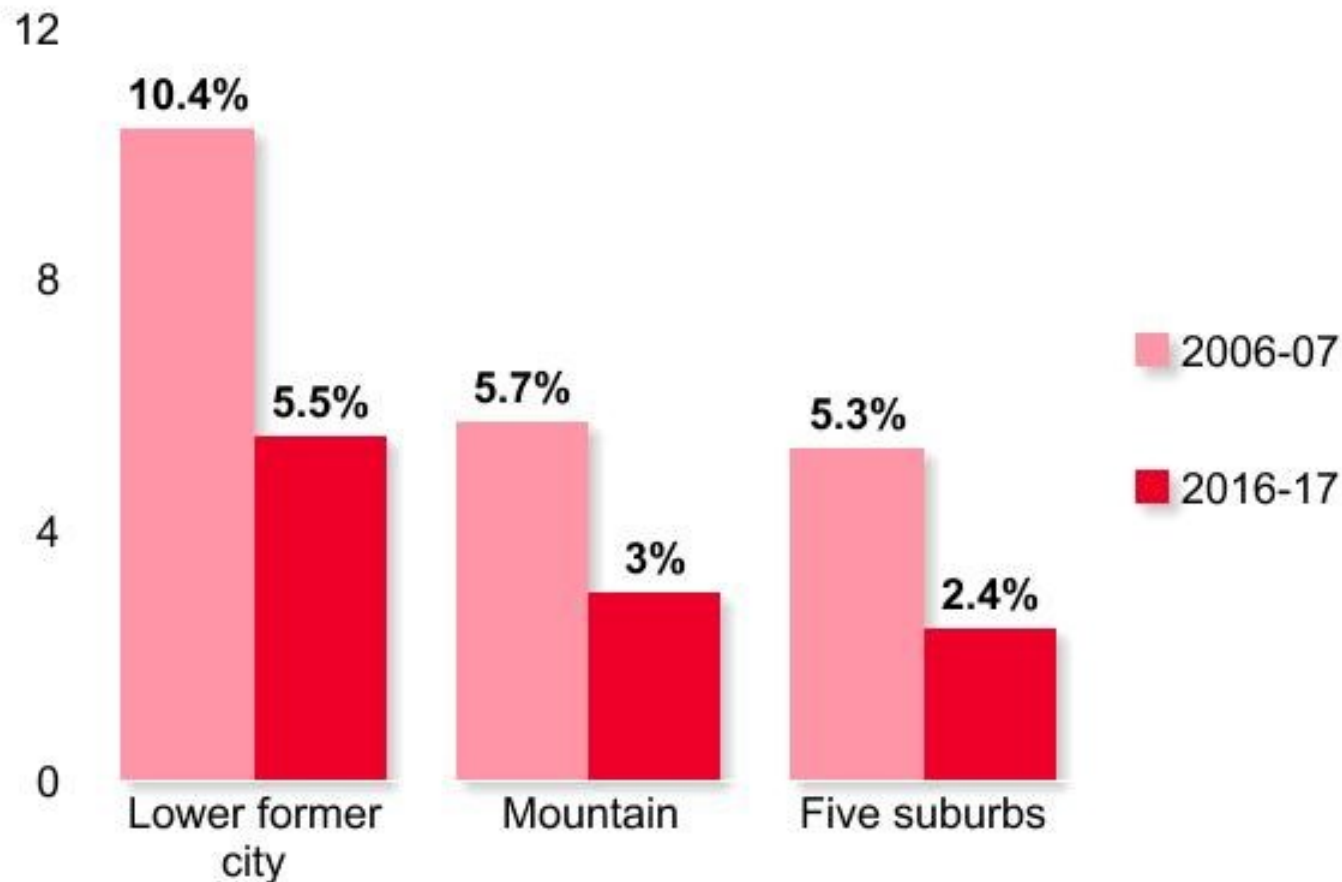


SOURCE: CIHI / Hamilton Health Sciences

7. Family physician accessibility:

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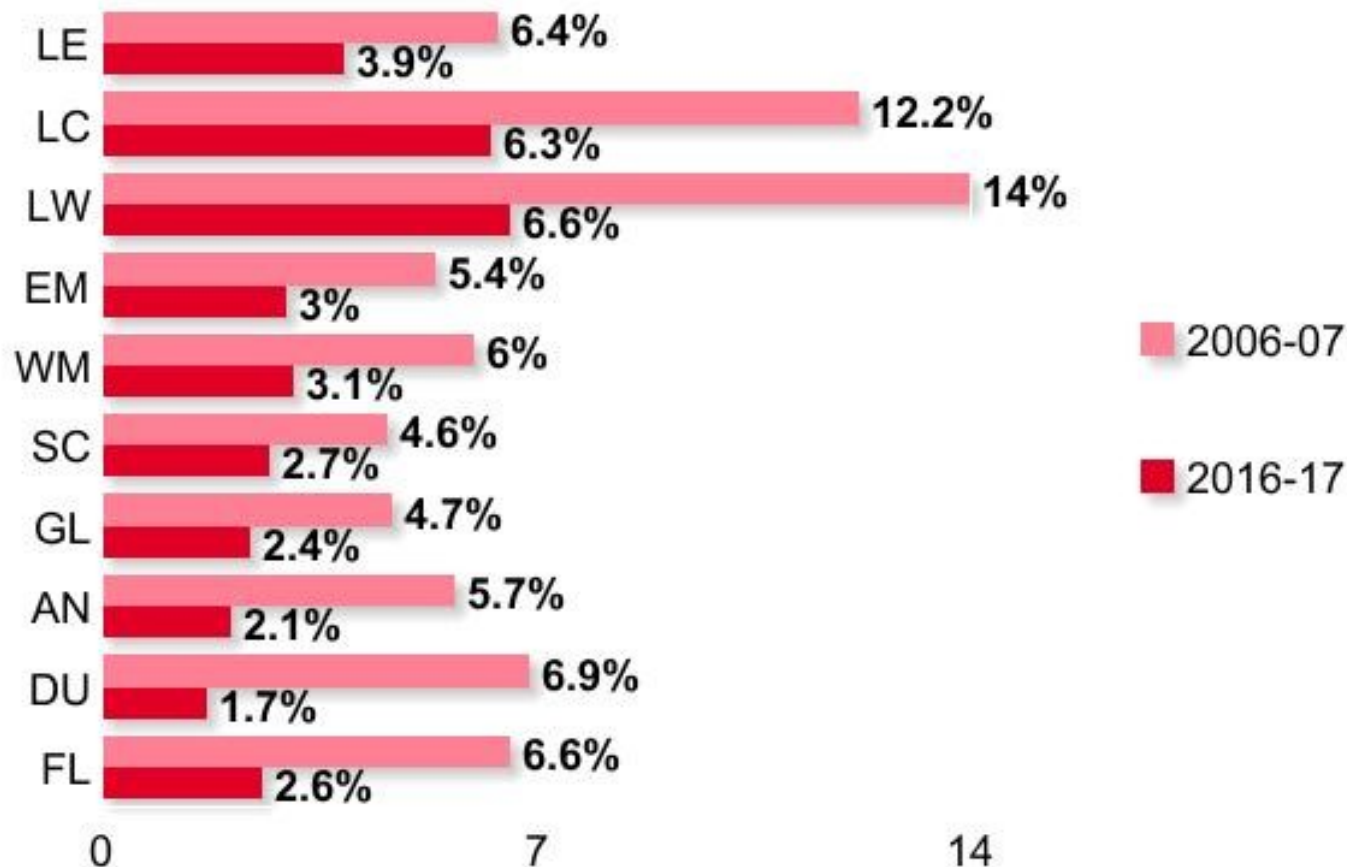
Rate of people arriving in ER reporting they have no family physician, '06-07 vs. '16-17, by area



SOURCE: CIHI / Hamilton Health Sciences

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Rate of people arriving in ER reporting they have no family physician, '06-07 vs. '16-17



SOURCE: CIHI / Hamilton Health Sciences

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The paradox?

Fewer people are showing up in the ER without a family physician but it's not keeping people out of the ER.

7. Family physician accessibility:

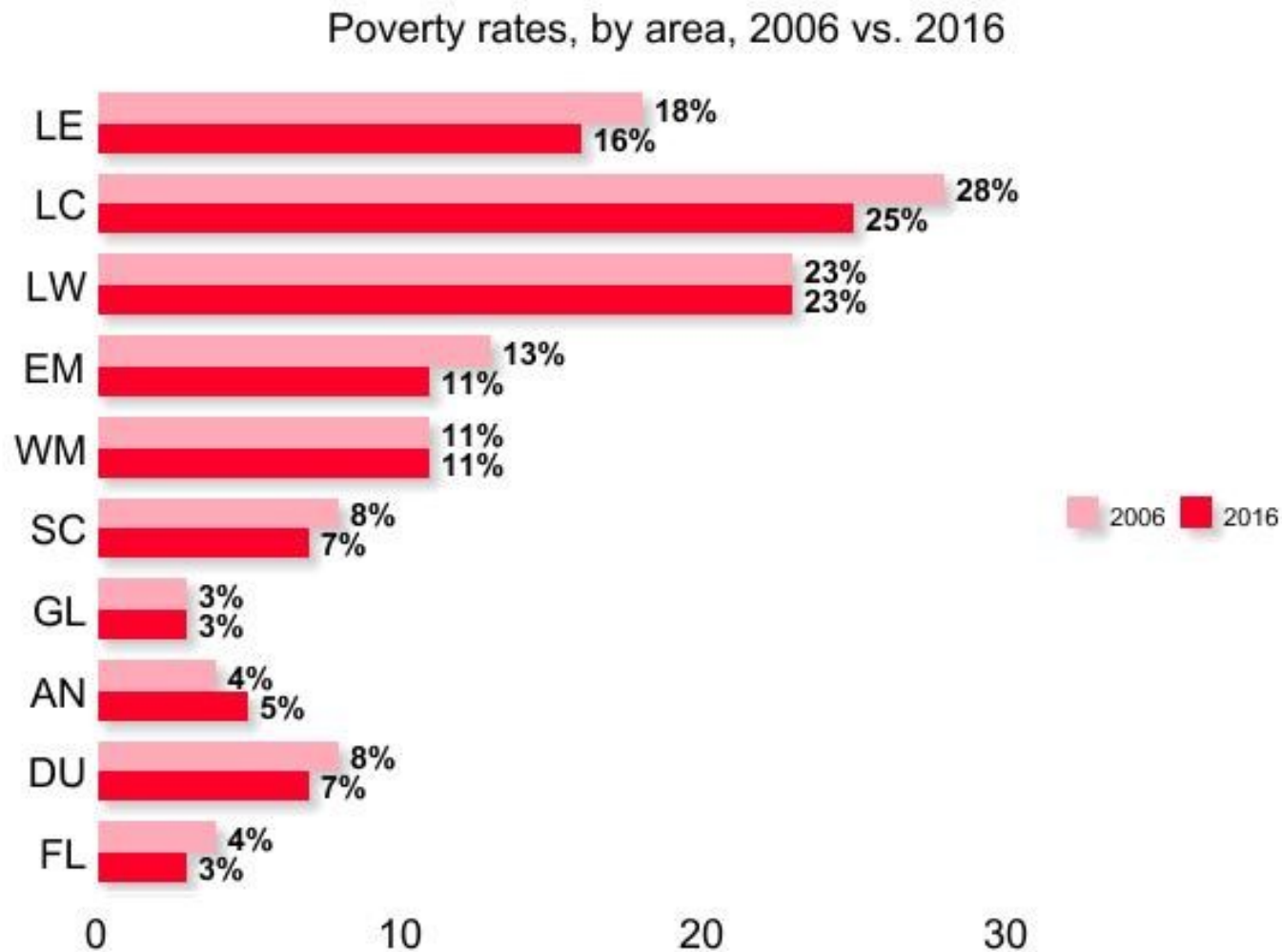
The paradox?

Fewer people are showing up in the ER without a family physician but it's not keeping people out of the ER.

Proportion of unique visitors to the ER is about the same, 2006-07 vs. 2016-17, while the number of ER visits per unique visitor is increasing.

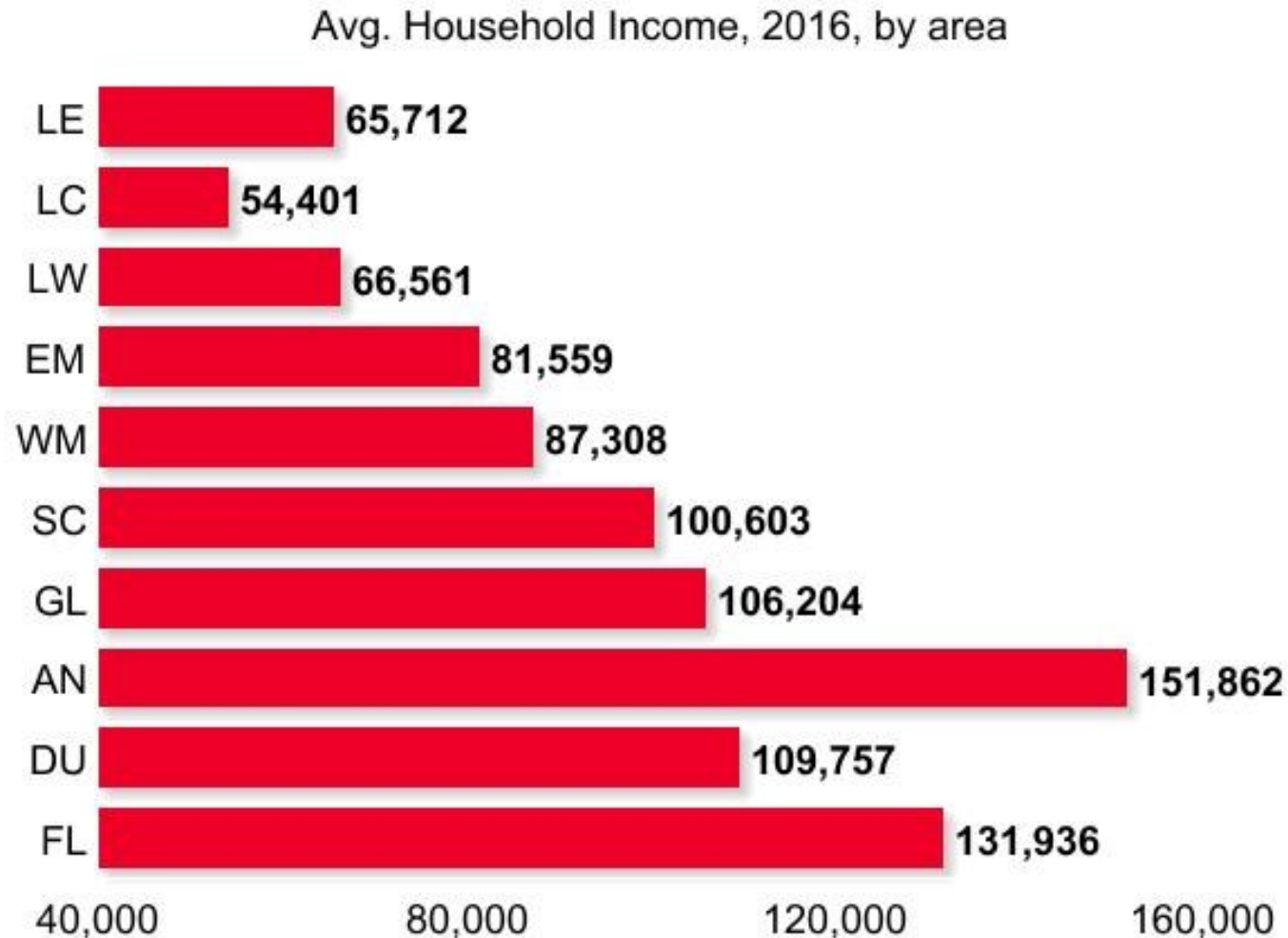
8. Socioeconomic factors:

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SOURCE: Statistics Canada

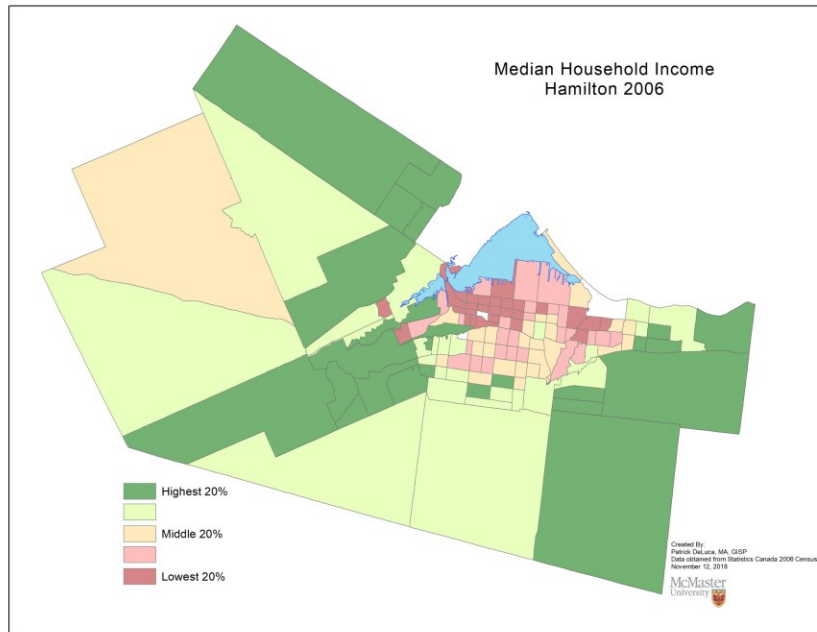
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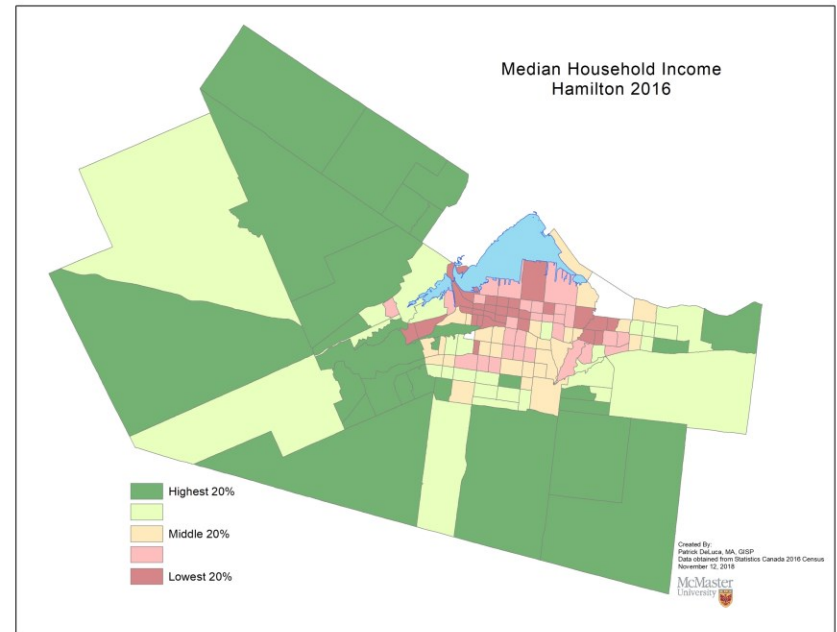
SOURCE: Statistics Canada

8. Socioeconomic factors:

Median household income:



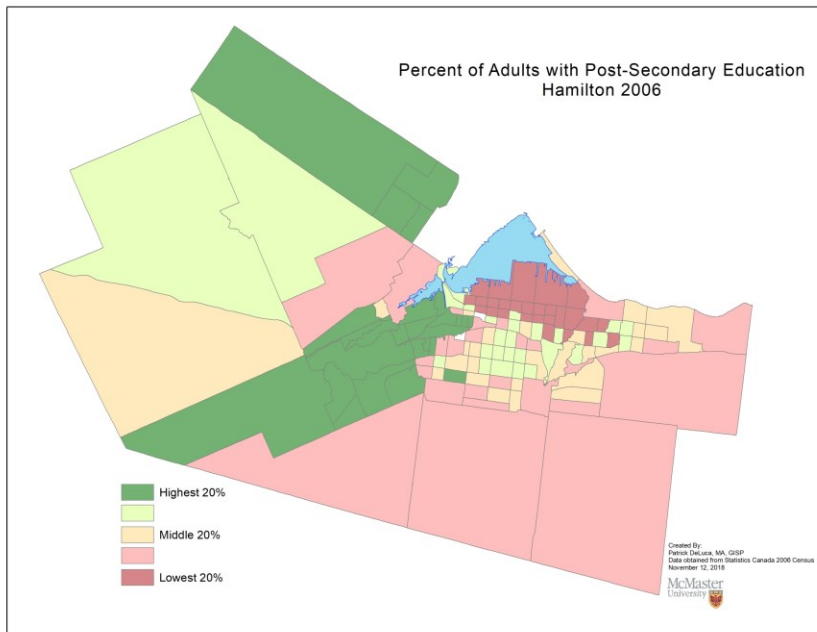
2006-07



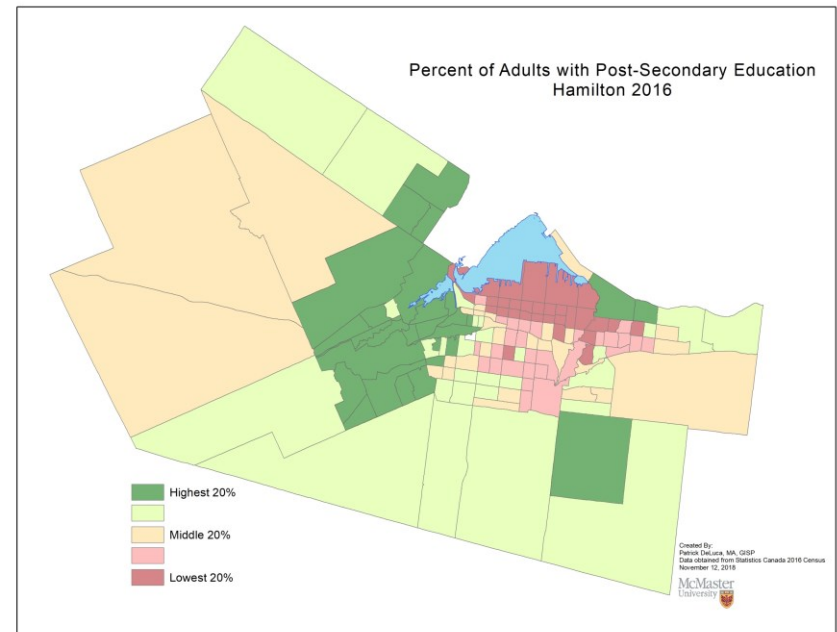
2016-17

8. Socioeconomic factors:

Proportion of adults with post-secondary education:



2006-07



2016-17

Ten years may seem like a long time but it may not be a long enough period of time to change something as fundamental as population health.

It means also changing social and economic factors and that requires all three layers of government.

But while 10 years might not be long enough to see big changes, it's more than enough time to be concerned about the lack of progress we're seeing in this city.

Thank you.

Code Red: Ten Years Later can
found at:

projects.thespec.io/codered10/