

Niagara Priority Profiles



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To improve health and health equity, it is important to understand specific groups in the planning of programs and services. The information in these profiles will help you understand how the different conditions and systems in which people are born, grow, work, and live impact their health. They provide some comparisons of different groups and over time. As populations change, programs can adapt to meet changing needs.

These profiles were created for Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services, but can be used by anyone. You can use these profiles in planning and making decisions in any sector, department, or organization.

Intersectionality is the idea that people have many layers of their identity. Each person has a unique identity. That identity leads to different ways that the systems they live in benefit or harm them. Due to this, some individuals experience more health concerns than others. When you read these profiles, think about these different experiences. When planning projects, think about how you can include people with different voices and perspectives. To learn more about intersectionality, visit: [NCCDH Intersectionality and Health Equity](#)¹.

For further information, please visit:

[Government of Canada Health Inequalities Data Tool](#)²

[Public Health Ontario Health Equity Data Tool](#)³

Please note the date ranges used within these profiles vary based on the data available, and are included in the references. These Profiles were created in 2020 and updated in 2023. The intent is to update with each census cycle. For more information or if you have any concerns, please contact healthequity@niagararegion.ca.

¹ <https://nccdh.ca/resources/entry/public-health-speaks-intersectionality-and-health-equity>

² <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities/data-tool/index>

³ <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/health-equity>

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Niagara Priority Profiles: Ethno-Racial & Immigration
Version 2

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Suggested citation:

Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services (2023). *Niagara Priority Profile: Ethno-Racial & Immigration, Version 2.*

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/priority-profiles.aspx>

Note:

If referencing a hardcopy of this Niagara Priority Profile, please confirm that it is the most up to date version by visiting: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/priority-profiles.aspx>

The version number can be found at the top of this page on each profile.

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Ethno-Racial and Immigration: Demographic Information

Immigration Status in Niagara and Ontario

- Compared to Ontario (67.3%), a higher proportion of the population of Niagara is born in Canada (80.5%) (Table 1)
- Immigrants included in the Census numbers include anyone who are, or have been landed immigrants or permanent residents. The Census does not include temporary foreign workers, refugees, students or other visitor visas (1)

Table 1. Canadian born residents and non-Canadian born residents in Niagara and Ontario (2021)

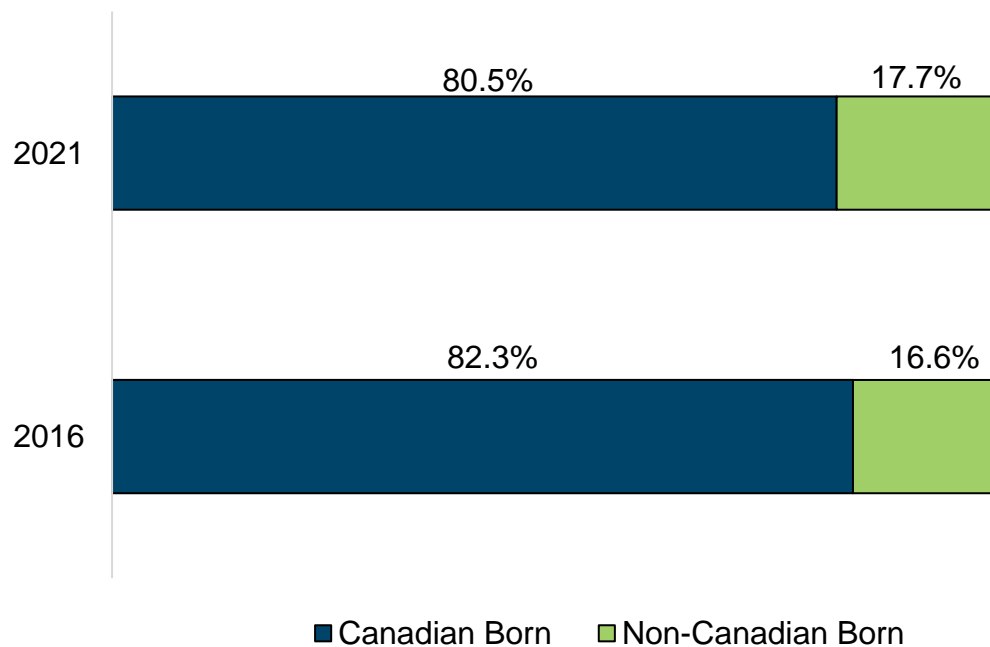
Immigration status	Niagara		Ontario	
	Number of People	% of Total Population	Number of People	% of Total Population
Canadian Born	378,060	80.5%	9,437,320	67.3%
Overall, non-Canadian born:	91,395	19.5%	4,594,435	32.7%
Non-permanent Resident	8,390	1.8%	387,850	2.8%
Immigrant	83,005	17.7%	4,206,585	30.0%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

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Figure 1. Canadian born residents and non-Canadian born residents in Niagara in 2016 compared to 2021



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

Permanent Resident Immigrants

- The total number of immigrants in Niagara is 83,005 (1)
 - The United Kingdom is the highest source country at 18.5% followed by Italy at 10.9% (Table 2)
- Between 2016-2021, 8,720 immigrants came to Niagara (1)
 - India is the highest source country for immigrants at 15.7% followed by China at 9.7% (Table 2).

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Table 2: Birthplace percentage for immigrants in Niagara (2021)

Top 5 immigrant birthplaces at any time of life	% of all immigrants	Top 5 immigrant birthplaces for immigrants from 2016-2021	% of all immigrants
United Kingdom	15.0%	India	15.7%
Italy	8.4%	China	9.7%
United States	7.0%	Philippines	8.6%
Philippines	5.4%	United States	6.6%
India	5.2%	Syria	4.0%

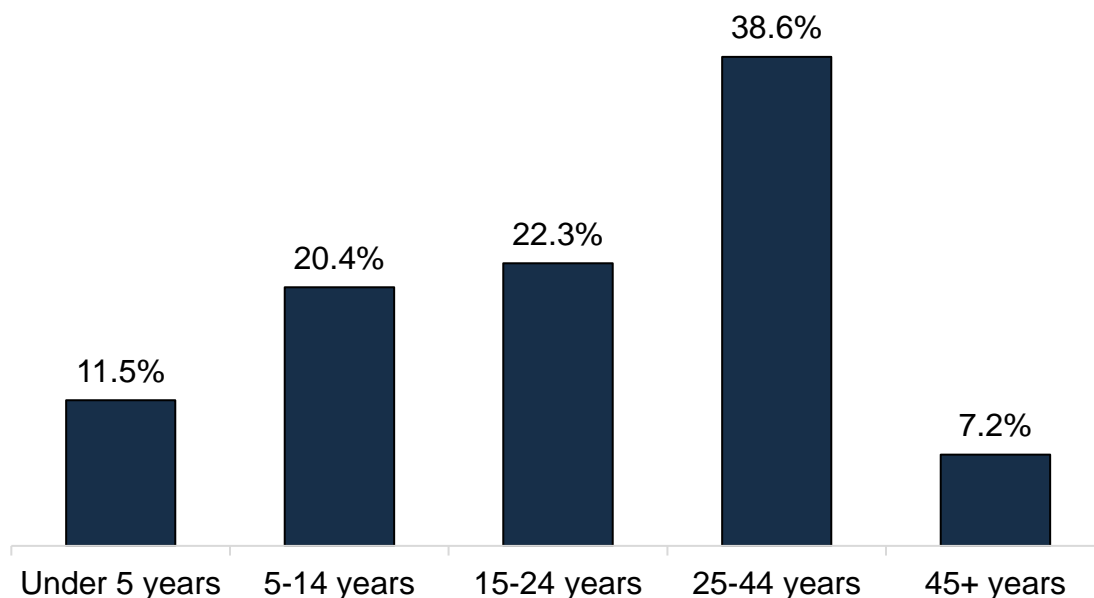
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

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- Most individuals are 25 to 44 years old when they immigrate and the fewest individuals are over 45 years old when they immigrate (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Age at immigration for all immigrants in Niagara (2021)



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

Temporary Foreign Workers

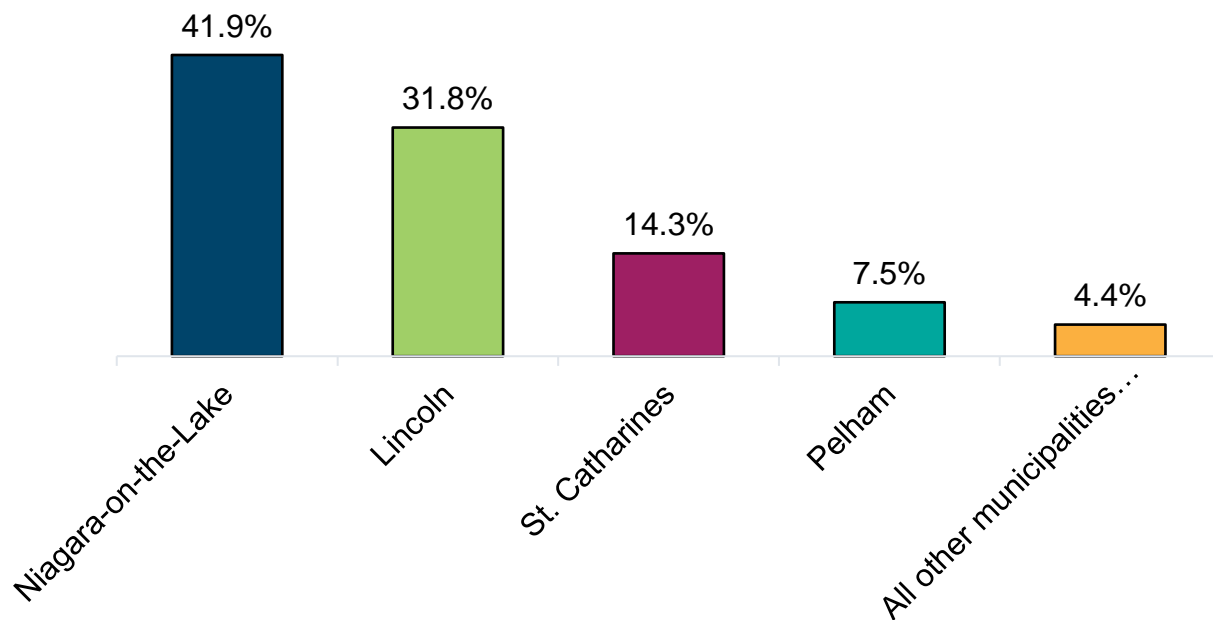
- Temporary Foreign Workers, also known as Migrant or International Agricultural Workers, serve an integral economic role in the Niagara region
- Within Canada, Temporary Foreign Workers are not included in the Census
- The maximum housing capacity for Temporary Foreign Workers approved in Niagara is 3,755 people in 2019. This capacity tends to be reached during the spring and summer, prime season for farms and greenhouses. (Figure 3)

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- Of these 3,755 approved spaces, the highest proportion are located in Niagara-on-the-Lake at 42.0%, followed by Lincoln with 32.0%, and Pelham with 7.5% of spaces (Figure 3)
- Wainfleet, Niagara Falls, Thorold, Fort Erie, Welland, and Port Colborne each only account for 1% of the share of maximum housing capacity (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Percentage of maximum capacity for Temporary Foreign Workers (2019)



Data Source: Municipality and occupancy breakdown for Temporary Foreign Workers for July 2019

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Refugees

- Refugees make up 18.2% of all recent immigrants in Niagara (Table 3)

Table 3. Recent immigrants by admission category in Niagara (2016-2021)

Admission Category	Number of Recent Immigrants (2016-2021)	Percent of Total Immigrants
Economic Immigrants-Principal Applicants	1,875	22.8%
Economic Immigrants-Secondary Applicants	1,760	21.4%
Immigrants Sponsored by Family	2,710	33.0%
Refugees	1,495	18.2%
Other	380	4.6%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

International Student Population

- The international student population play an important role in Niagara's post-secondary institutions and are not captured within the Census
- In 2021, 2,529 students at Brock University were international students studying on a student visa. This represents 13.1% of all full and part-time students at Brock University (3)
 - Of the total international students at Brock University, the top three countries of citizenship are: China (31.3%), India (27.5%), and Nigeria (8.1%) (3)
- In 2022, 4,304 full-time students at Niagara College were international students studying on a student visa. This represents 44.3% of all full-time students at Niagara College (4)
 - Of the total number of international students at Niagara College the top three countries of citizenship are: India (61.6%), Philippines (12.9%), and Nigeria (3.4%) (4)

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Visible Minorities

- The most common visible minorities in Niagara are Black (2.83%), South Asian (2.95%), and Latin American (1.49%) (Table 4)
- 13.3% of individuals living in Niagara identify as members of a visible minority while 34.3% of individuals living in Ontario identify as members of a visible minority

Table 4. Number and proportion of Niagara residents who identify as a visible minority in 2016 vs. 2021

Visible Minority Category	2016		2021	
	Number of People	% of Population Identifying as Minority	Number of People	% of Population Identifying as Minority
Total Population	438,160		469,455	
Black	7,970	1.82%	13,305	2.83%
South Asian	6,170	1.41%	13,845	2.95%
Chinese	6,055	1.38%	6,675	1.42%
Latin American	4,620	1.05%	6,975	1.49%
Filipino	3,900	0.89%	6,505	1.39%
Arab	2,570	0.59%	3,580	0.76%
Southeast Asian	2,050	0.47%	3,210	0.68%
Multiple Visible Minorities [individuals belonging to two or more ethnic minority categories]	1,765	0.40%	3,050	0.65%
Korean	1,445	0.33%	1,920	0.41%
West Asian	860	0.20%	1,030	0.22%
Japanese	730	0.17%	770	0.16%
Visible Minority not Included Elsewhere	690	0.16%	1,525	0.32%

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Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

Ethno-Racial and Immigration: Social Outcomes

In Canada, visible minorities and immigrants face unique health challenges. For some health outcomes, immigrants experience better health outcomes than the general population. However, research has repeatedly found a "healthy immigrant effect"—immigrants' health is generally better than that of the Canadian-born, although it tends to decline as their years in Canada increase (8). Some immigrants fare poorer in outcomes related to income and housing. Minority groups face poorer health outcomes that may differ by the specific ethnic or racial group they identify as. It is important to note that an individual's racial and ethnic identity is not what causes them to be predisposed to different outcomes. Race and ethnicity are both socially constructed concepts meaning that it is not biological differences that cause people of certain "races/ethnicities" to be more likely to experience an outcome. Rather, these differences are driven by geographic and social conditions (9).

Ethno-Racial Outcomes



In Canada, visible minority populations experience:

- A 81% higher risk of experiencing housing below standard
- A higher risk of experiencing food insecurity at a rate that is 2.8 times higher in Black populations and 2.0 times higher in Latin American populations compared to White populations
- An increased rate of experiencing an occupational mismatch where they are overqualified for their current position at a rate that is 5.0 times higher in Southeast Asian populations and 3.9 times higher in South Asian populations compared to White populations

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In Canada, visible minority populations are:

- More likely to complete university at a rate that is 1.9 times higher among East Asian and West Asian populations compared to White populations

Data Source: Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Data Tool (5)

Immigrant Outcomes



In Canada, immigrants are:

- 3.0 times more likely to be in an occupational mismatch, where they are overqualified for their current position, when compared to non-immigrants
- 1.2 times more likely to be in a low skilled occupation, when compared to non-immigrants
- 3.4 times more likely to be on a waitlist for social or affordable housing, when compared to non-immigrants

In Canada, recent immigrants experience:

- A 2.7 times higher rate of having children in low-income families, when compared to non-immigrants
- A 1.7 times higher rate of living in below standard housing, when compared to non-immigrants
- A 2.0 times higher rate of being members of the working poor, when compared to non-immigrants

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In Canada, immigrants:

- As youth are 12% less likely to not be in education or employment compared to non-immigrants
- As seniors are 27% less likely to live on their own, when compared to non-immigrants

Data Source: Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Data Tool (5)

Additional Ethno-Racial & Immigration Health Areas

Temporary Foreign Worker Health Barriers

- In Niagara, the majority of Temporary Foreign Workers originate from the Caribbean and Mexico (6)
- Temporary Foreign Workers have barriers that include: social isolation, access to health care, language/cultural issues, and low literacy levels (6,7)
- The most common health issues reported by Quest Community Health Centre in 2017 in Niagara among Temporary Foreign Workers were musculoskeletal (e.g., strains, sprains) at 20%, and chronic disease (e.g., diabetes) at 18% (6)

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