

Appendix 2: Diversity in Niagara

Diversity within the population of Niagara is increasing. According to the 2016 census, 8.9% of people in Niagara are a visible minority (38,810 individuals), up from 7.0% in 2011. The majority of visible minorities in Niagara are Black, South-Asian, and Chinese. In addition, in 2016 there were 18,625 people (4.3%) in Niagara with North American Indigenous origins (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis). In 2011, there were 14,720 people (3.8%) with North American Indigenous origins.

In Niagara, the 2016 census shows evidence of linguistic diversity - 13.8% of the population have a non-official language as the first language they learned at home, with the top three languages spoken being Italian, German, and Spanish. French was the first language spoken for 2.7% of the population in Niagara.

Additionally, research from The 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) estimates that 1 in 5 Canadians (6.2 million) over the age of 15 has one or more disabilities that limit their daily functions which means that accessibility and removing barriers related to access to services requires greater attention.¹ In the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area, there are 90,500 persons with disabilities (28.9%) compared to 24.1% of the population of Ontario.²

Various forms of discrimination and barriers remain for many marginalized groups. LGBTQ2S+ individuals continue to be one of the most marginalized groups worldwide with persisting barriers related to health outcomes, employment, housing, and support services³. There is some evidence that overt discrimination might be on the rise in Niagara. There were 21 hate crimes reported to police in Niagara in 2017, which was an increase from 11 in the previous year⁴. At the national level, hate crimes are most often

¹ Statistics Canada (2018). Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm>. Accessed on 2019-06-24

² Statistics Canada. (2019) Type of disability for persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310037601>. Accessed on 2019-06-24.

³ CCUNESCO (2019). LGBTQ+ Inclusiveness: Toolkit for Inclusive Municipalities in Canada and Beyond Retrieved from: <https://en.ccunesco.ca/-/media/Files/Unesco/Resources/2019/06/CIMToolkitLGBTQ2PlusInclusiveness.pdf>. Accessed on 2020-10-01

⁴ Statistics Canada (2018). Table 35-10-0191-01 Police-reported hate crime, number of incidents and rate per 100,000 population, Census Metropolitan Areas. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510019101>. Accessed on 2019-07-24.

motivated by race or ethnicity (45%), religion (35%) and sexual orientation (11%).⁵ Research suggests that racism, discrimination and other forms of exclusion do not occur any less - rather, it is more likely they are occurring in new ways that are harder to identify.⁶ In this way, both overt and covert forms of discrimination persist and should be addressed.

⁵ Statistics Canada (2018). Table 35-10-0066-01 Police-reported hate crime, by type of motivation, Canada (selected police services). Retrieved from:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510006601> Accessed on 2019-06-24.

⁶ Sue D.W., Bucceri J., Lin A. I., Nadal K.N. & Torino G. C. (2009). "Racial Microaggressions and the Asian American Experience." *Asian American Journal of Psychology* S(1):88-101