

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, 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: Education
Version 2

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Suggested citation:

Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services (2023). *Niagara Priority Profile: Education, 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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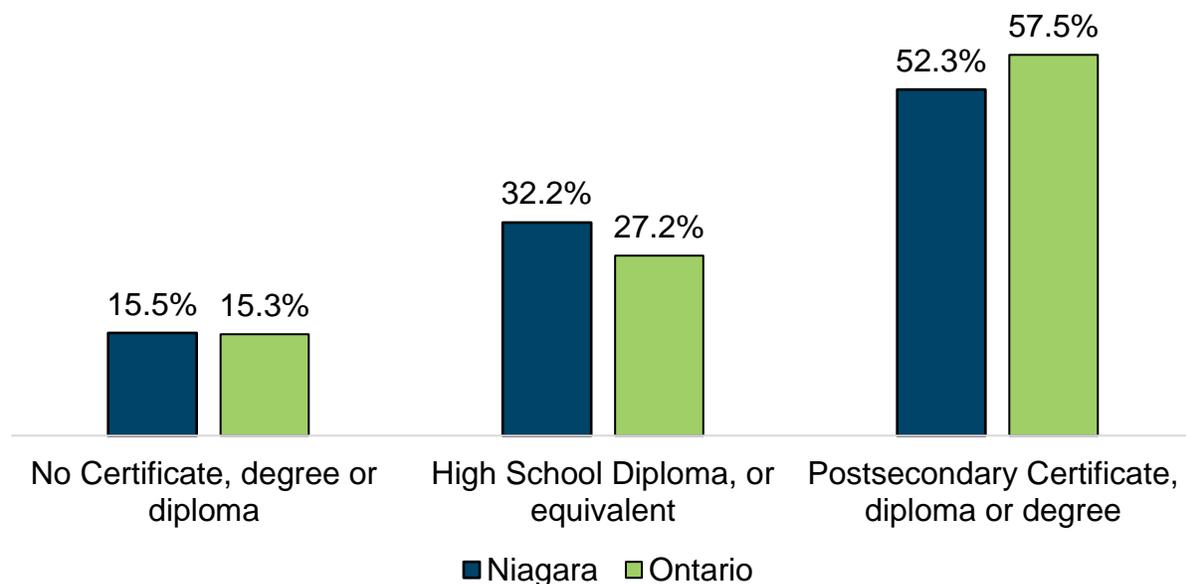


Education: Demographic Information

Education Level

- 15.5% of Niagara residents aged 15 years and older have no certificate, diploma, or degree, while 32.2% have their high school diploma, and 52.3% have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree (Figure 1)
- Compared to Ontario, there is a smaller proportion of the population of Niagara who have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Level of Education, Niagara and Ontario



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

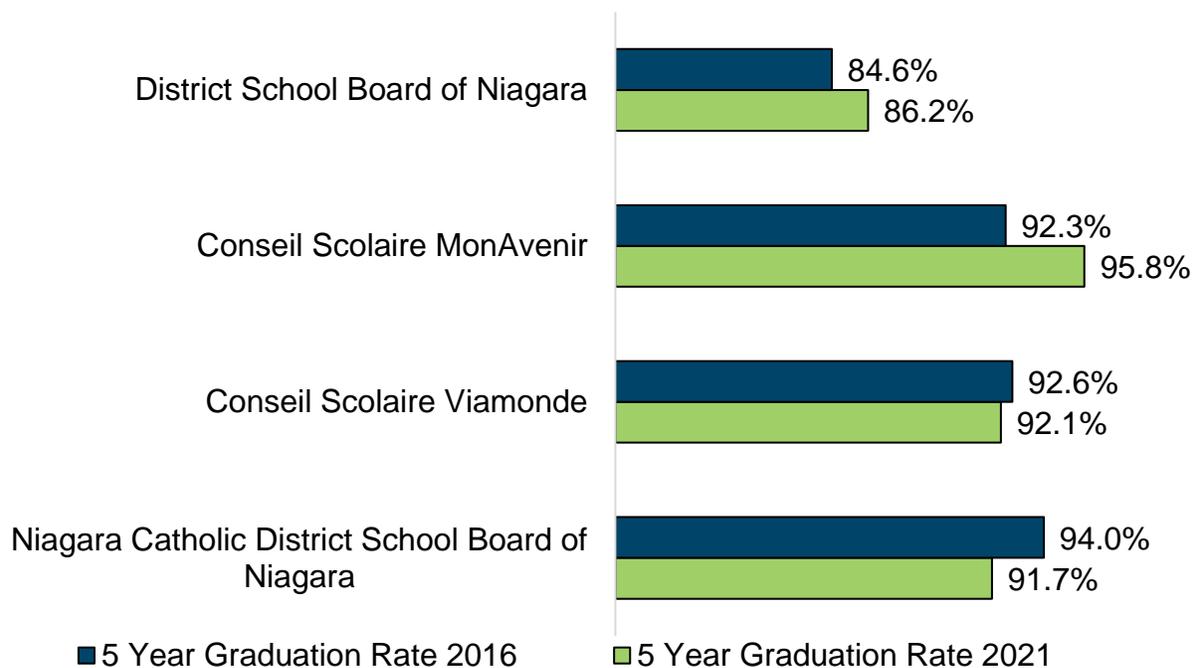
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School Board Graduation Rates

- 4 year graduation rate represents the percent of high school students that graduated within 4 years and 5 year graduation rate represents the percentage of high school students that graduated within 5 years
- As of August 2021, 89.0% of students in Ontario were graduating in five years while 84.2% of students were graduating in four years (2)
- All school boards in Niagara had 5 year graduation rates of 85% or higher (Figure 2)

Figure 2: 5 Year Graduation rates for each school board in Niagara (2016 & 2021)



Data Source: School Board Progress Reports, Ontario Ministry of Education & Living in Niagara (2017 Report) – Level of Education Attained

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Education: Social Outcomes

People with a higher level of education tend to experience better health, higher incomes, more secure employment, and better working conditions than those with less education.



In Canada, those with less than a high school education:

- Experience food insecurity at a rate that is 5.2 times higher compared to those who are university graduates
- Experience current unemployment at a rate that is 2.1 times higher compared to those who are university graduates
- Live in housing below standards at a rate that is 1.4 times higher compared to those who are university graduates
- Experience homelessness in their lifetime at a rate that is 6.1 times higher compared to those who are university graduates

Data Source: Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Data Tool (3)

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References

1. Living in Niagara (2017). Levels of Education Attainment. Retrieved from <http://www.livinginniagarareport.com/learning-education-2017/levels-of-education-attainment-2/>
2. Ontario Ministry of Education. (2021). *School Board Progress Reports*. Retrieved from <https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/allBoards.asp?chosenIndicator=11>
3. Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Data Tool (2017). *A joint initiative of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Pan - Canadian Public Health Network, Statistics Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Health Information*. Retrieved from <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities/data-tool/>