

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: Religion
Version 2

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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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Religion: Demographic Information

Religious Affiliation

- Niagara and Ontario have about the same percentage of people that have religious affiliation (66.1% for Niagara, and Ontario 68.4%) (1)
- Christians represent the largest religious affiliation in Niagara at 32.0%, and in Ontario at 26.1% (Table 1)
 - Niagara has a lower percentage of people with the following religious affiliations when compared to Ontario: Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Traditional (North American Indigenous Spirituality) (Table 1)
 - Niagara has a higher percentage of people with Christian and Catholic religious affiliations when compared to Ontario (Table 1)

Table 1: Percentage of religious affiliation- Niagara versus Ontario (2021)

Religious Affiliation	Percentage of Population (Niagara)	Percentage of Population (Ontario)
No Religion	33.9%	31.6%
Christian	32.0%	26.1%
Catholic	29.0%	26.0%
Muslim	2.4%	6.7%
Hindu	0.8%	4.1%
Other	0.5%	0.6%
Sikh	0.5%	2.1%
Jewish	0.3%	1.4%
Traditional (North American Indigenous Spirituality)	0.0%	0.1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)

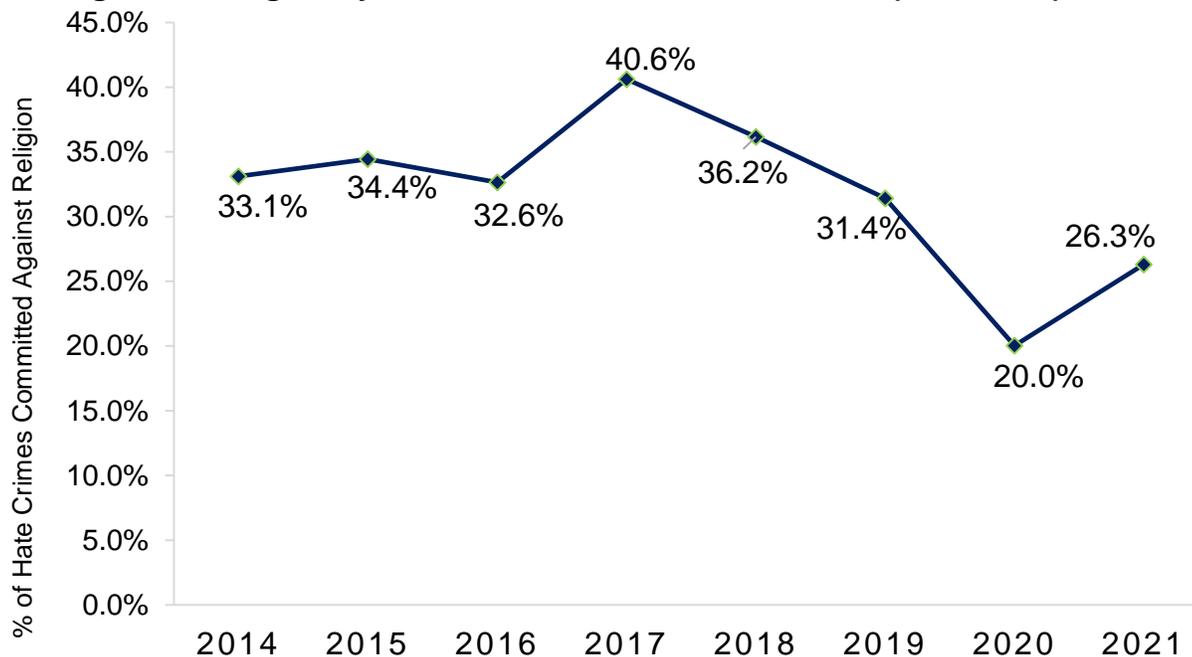
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Hate Crimes

- A **hate crime** refers to a criminal incident that is motivated by hatred toward an identifiable group that is distinguishable by race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or on any other similar factor (2).
- In 2021, hate crimes motivated by religion represented 26.3% of all hate crime cases in Canada (Figure 1)
- However, hate crimes are known to be underreported and hard to prosecute. As such, the actual number is most likely much higher than this
 - Over the last five years, religion has been documented as the motivation for between 20.0% and 40.6% of all hate crimes (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Religiously motivated hate crimes in Canada (2014-2021)

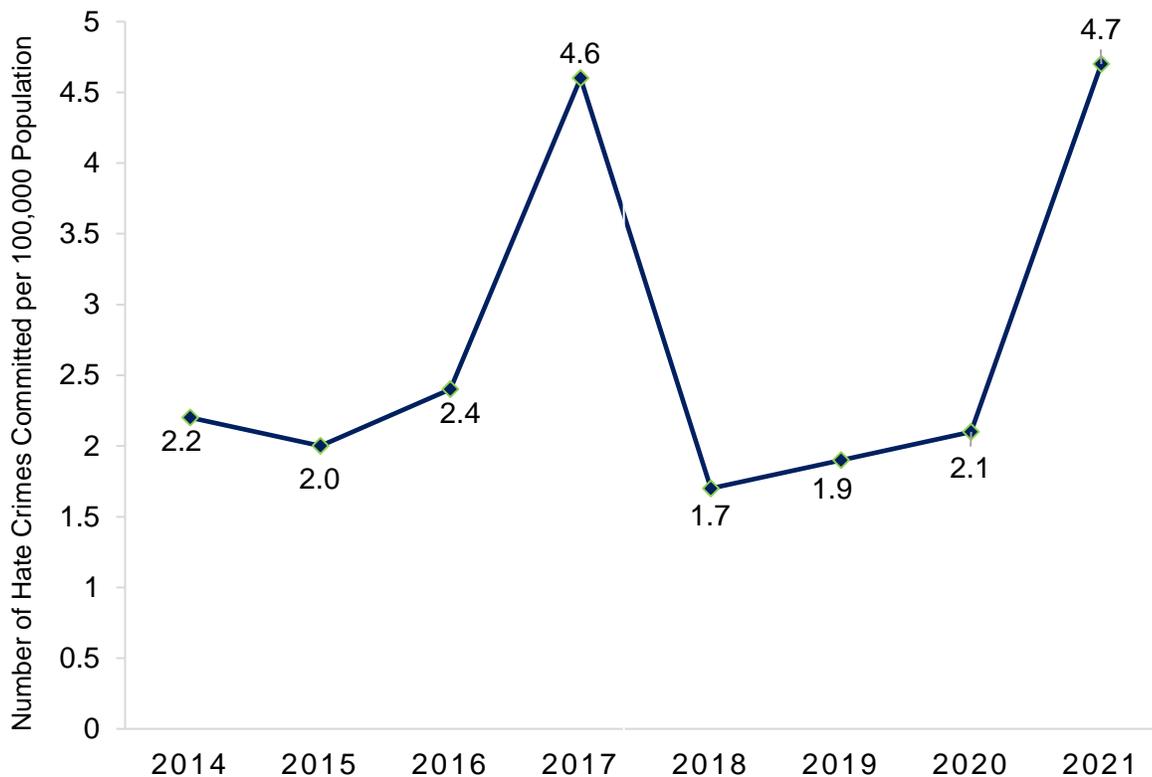


Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0066-01: Police-reported hate crime, by type of motivation, Canada (selected police services)

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Figure 2: Hate crimes per 100,000 population in St. Catharines-Niagara CMA (2014-2021)



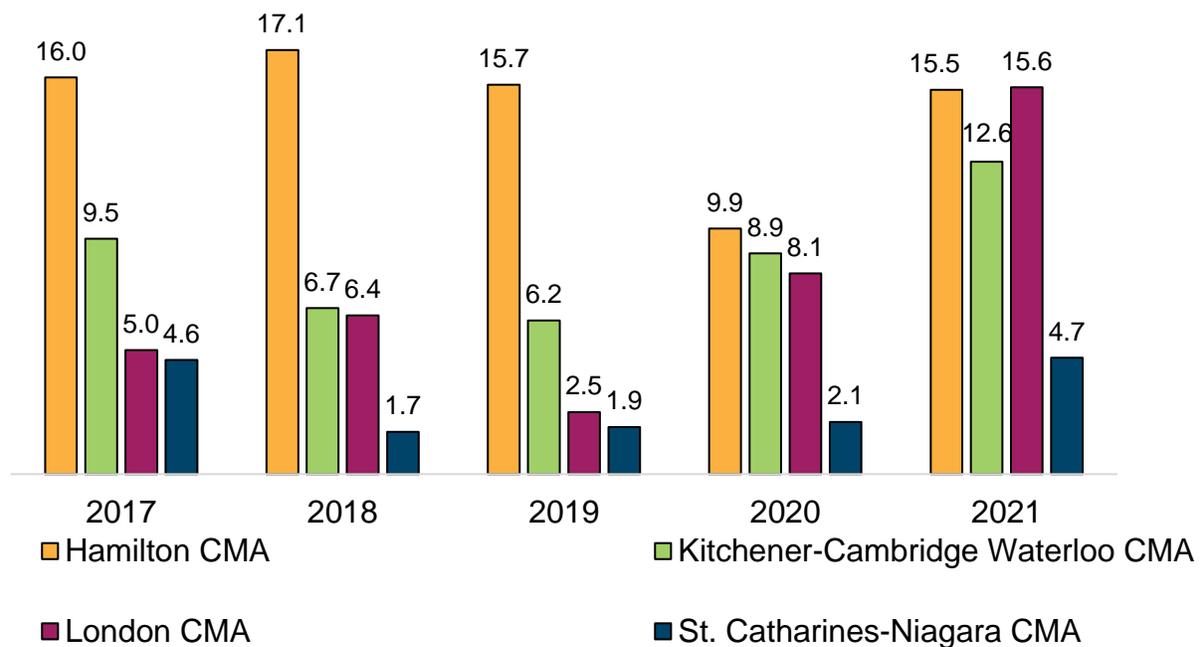
Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0191-01: Police-reported hate crime, number of incidents and rate per 100,000 population, Census Metropolitan Areas

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- In the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), there were 4.7 hate crimes per 100,000 people in the year 2021 (Figure 2)
- In comparison to selected comparator CMAs in Ontario, the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA has the lowest rate of hate crimes per 100,000 (Figure 3)
 - London CMA has the highest rate per 100,000 (Figure 3)
- Note: The St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area is not inclusive of the entire Niagara region, it excludes Grimsby and portions of West Lincoln

Figure 3: Hate Crimes per 100,000 population, Niagara and comparator CMAs 2017-2021



Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0191-01: Police-reported hate crime, number of incidents and rate per 100,000 population, Census Metropolitan Areas

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References

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profiles (2021)
2. Canadian Race Relations Foundation. (2019). *Hate Crime in Canada*. Crrf-Fcrr.ca. <https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en/news-a-events/articles/item/26823-hate-crime-in-canada>