

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

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May 30, 2023

CL 8-2023, May 18, 2023

PEDC 5-2023, May 10, 2023

PDS 14-2023, May 10, 2023

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Niagara Region Highlights from the 2021 Census of Population

PDS 14-2023

Regional Council, at its meeting held on May 18, 2023, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That this Report **BE RECEIVED** for information and **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Home Builders Association, Niagara Industrial Association, Local Chambers of Commerce and School Boards.

A copy of PDS 14-2023 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

js

CLK-C 2023-060

Niagara Region Highlights from the 2021 Census of
Population May 30, 2023
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cc: C. Macdonald, Development Planner, Development Approvals Division
M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and
Economic Development

Distribution List

Local Area Municipalities
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Niagara Home Builders Association
Niagara Industrial Association
Local Chambers of Commerce
School Boards

Subject: Niagara Region Highlights from the 2021 Census of Population

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Recommendations

1. That this Report **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That this Report **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Home Builders Association, Niagara Industrial Association, local Chambers of Commerce and School Boards.

Key Facts

- The 2021 Census of Population (2021 Census) was undertaken by Statistics Canada in May of 2021 and results were released incrementally throughout 2022.
- PDS 9-2022 provided an overview of population and dwelling counts collected through the 2021 Census.
- This report, PDS 14-2023 provides highlights on the following Census indicators for the Niagara Region:
 - Age, Sex at Birth and Gender;
 - Families, Households and Martial Status;
 - Income and Education; and
 - Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth.
- Data related to Labour from the 2021 Census is excluded from this report, as report ED 5-2023 provides an update on current labour trends in Niagara Region, summarizing how labour in Niagara has rebounded since the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights employment growth since the Census was conducted.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Census data is used throughout the organization to inform various business units on social, economic and demographic trends throughout the region and area municipalities.

Analysis

2021 Census of Population

The Census of Population is conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The survey is sent out in May of the Census year to households across Canada for completion. The last survey was conducted in May 2021. Statistics Canada released the results from the 2021 Census throughout 2022 with the final release on November 30, 2022.

This report highlights key statistics for Niagara Region and Area Municipalities. Results from the Census are summarized by Census theme as follows:

- Age, Sex at Birth and Gender;
- Families, Households and Martial Status;
- Income and Education; and
- Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth.

Age, Sex at Birth and Gender

Niagara Region had a median age of 46 years old in 2021, slightly older than the 2016 median age of 45.7. The pace of aging in Niagara has slowed since 2011, dropping from 5% every five years to less than 0.5% per year between 2016 and 2021.

Niagara remains one of the oldest Census Divisions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, ranking 12th out of 16, in median age.

The median age across Niagara municipalities fluctuates by 20 years from 57.2 in Niagara-on-the-Lake and 37.2 in Thorold. Four municipalities in Niagara have a median age over 50, including Pelham (50.4), Port Colborne (50.4), Fort Erie (51.6) and Niagara-on-the-Lake (57.2).

The change in median age over the last five years is also unique by municipality, with Niagara-on-the-Lake having aged the most (+2.2 years) and Thorold decreasing the most (-3.9 years).

Appendix 1 provides an overview of key census results regarding Age, Sex at Birth and Gender.

Families, Households and Martial Status

Despite the increased cost to purchase a household in Niagara, there was a decline in proportion of adults, aged 20 to 34, and living with at least one parent in 2021. 41.3% of adults were living with at least one parent in 2021 compared to 42.0% in 2016.

Regarding housing mix, Niagara Region maintains a significantly higher share of single- and semi-detached units (72%) compared to both Ontario (59%) and Canada (58%). Between 2016 and 2021, 59% of newly occupied units were single or semi-detached, followed by 20% townhouse and 21% apartment.

Appendix 2 provides an overview of key census results regarding Families, Households and Martial Status.

Income and Education

Niagara had the second lowest Median Household Income (\$79,000) and the lowest five-year increase (\$13,900) compared to the other upper or single-tier municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Median Household Income varies by municipality in the Region. Pelham, West Lincoln, Grimsby and Lincoln all had a median household income over \$100,000. Port Colborne, Welland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie all had a median household income under \$80,000. However, those same five municipalities (and Thorold) had the greatest increase in income compared to the last census in 2016.

Regarding education, 25% of people aged 25 to 64 in Niagara had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 37% in Ontario and 33% in Canada. Niagara has a greater proportion of adult population with a college certificate or diploma (38%) compared to Canada (34%) and Ontario (31%).

Appendix 3 provides an overview of key census results regarding Income and Education.

Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth

In 2021, 13,960 persons identified as Indigenous people in Niagara Region, representing 3% of the Region's population. In 2016, 12,250 persons identified as Indigenous peoples, representing an increase of 1,710 people. The 14% increase in

Indigenous population is greater than both increases in Canada (8%) and Ontario (8.6%).

In regards to immigration by year, Niagara has a larger share (40%) of pre-1980 immigrants compared to both Ontario (21%) and Canada (18%).

Appendix 4 provides an overview of key census results regarding Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth.

Labour Statistics from the 2021 Census of Population

Statistics related to Labour from the 2021 Census are excluded from this report. As the 2021 Census was collected in May 2021, it identified a significant decline in employment compared to 2016. This decline was related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff report prepared by Niagara Region Economic Development (ED 5-2023) provides an update on current labour trends in Niagara Region, summarizing how labour in Niagara has rebounded since the pandemic and highlights employment growth since the Census was conducted.

Conclusion

Niagara has experienced significant shifts in demographic, economic and societal trends over the past five years. These trends are highlighted by the results from the 2021 Census, a key primary resource of statistical information and used across all Regional departments.

Alternatives Reviewed

This report is for information purposes only and provides Planning and Economic Development Committee with a high level overview of the 2021 Census. No alternatives were considered.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The information in this report relates to the following Council Strategic Priorities:

- Priority 3: Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning

The Census is the authoritative source for population data that is used by departments across the Region. This information is critical for monitoring the Official Plan and insuring to the Region plans growth and infrastructure responsibly.

- Priority 4: Sustainable and Engaging Government

This report provides information from the 2021 Census so Council is engaged and aware of trends in Niagara.

Other Pertinent Reports

ED 5-2023 Niagara Economic Update

PDS 9-2022 2021 Census Release: Population and Dwelling Counts

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Recommended by:

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Commissioner
Planning and Development Services

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Julianna Vanderlinde, Employment Inventory Coordinator and reviewed by Angela Stea, Director of Community and Long Range Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Age, Sex at Birth and Gender

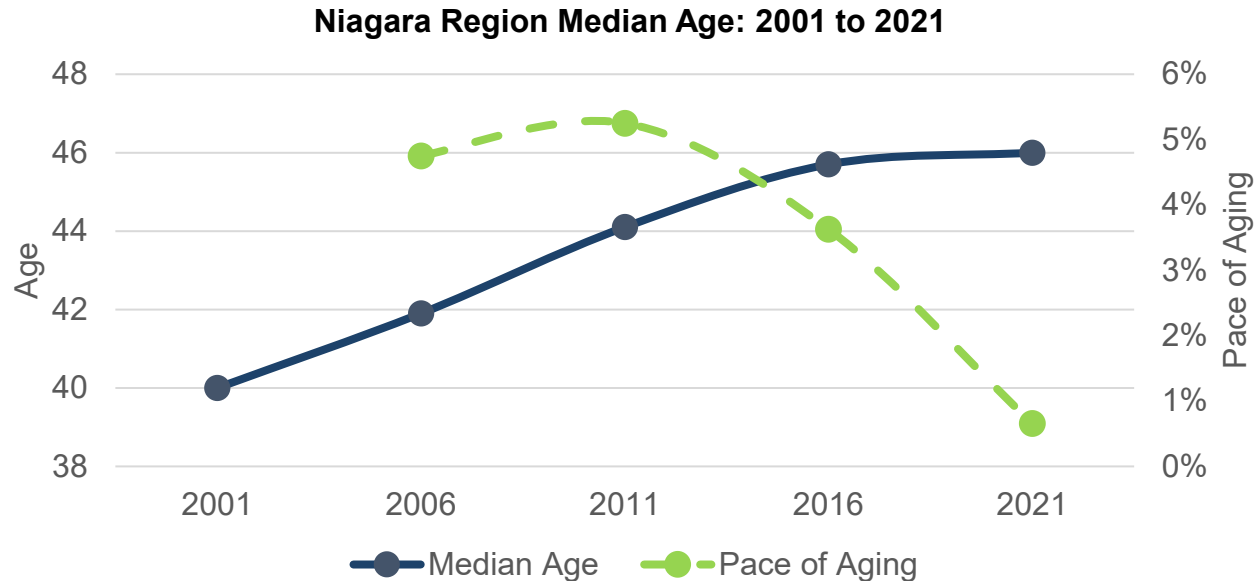
Appendix 2: Families, Households and Martial Status

Appendix 3: Income and Education

Appendix 4: Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth

Appendix 1: Age, Sex at Birth and Gender

The pace of aging in Niagara has slowed since 2011, dropping from around 5% every 5 years between 2001 and 2011 to less than 0.5% between 2016 and 2021.



| Census Division | Median Age (2021) | Median Age (2016) | 5-Year Change |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Waterloo | 38 | 38.5 | -0.5 |
| Peel | 38.4 | 38.1 | 0.3 |
| Toronto | 39.6 | 39.3 | 0.3 |
| Durham | 40 | 40.2 | -0.2 |
| Wellington | 40 | 40.3 | -0.3 |
| Dufferin | 40.4 | 40.7 | -0.3 |
| Halton | 40.8 | 40.5 | 0.3 |
| Hamilton | 40.8 | 41.5 | -0.7 |
| Brant | 41.6 | 41.7 | -0.1 |
| York | 42 | 41.1 | 0.9 |
| Simcoe | 43.2 | 43.1 | 0.1 |
| Niagara | 46 | 45.7 | 0.3 |
| Haldimand-Norfolk | 46.4 | 46.5 | -0.1 |
| Peterborough | 46.8 | 46.9 | -0.1 |
| Kawartha Lakes | 51.6 | 51.2 | 0.4 |
| Northumberland | 52.4 | 51.4 | 1.0 |

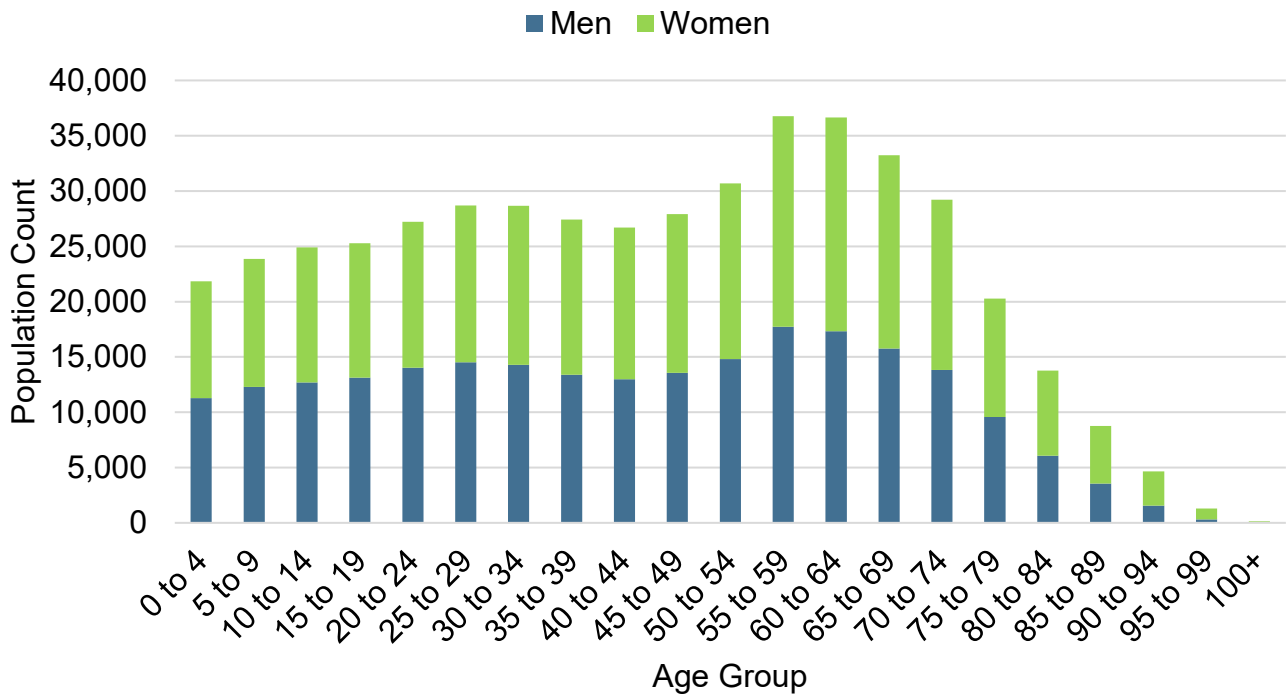
12th

Niagara had the 12th highest median age among GGH municipalities in 2021.

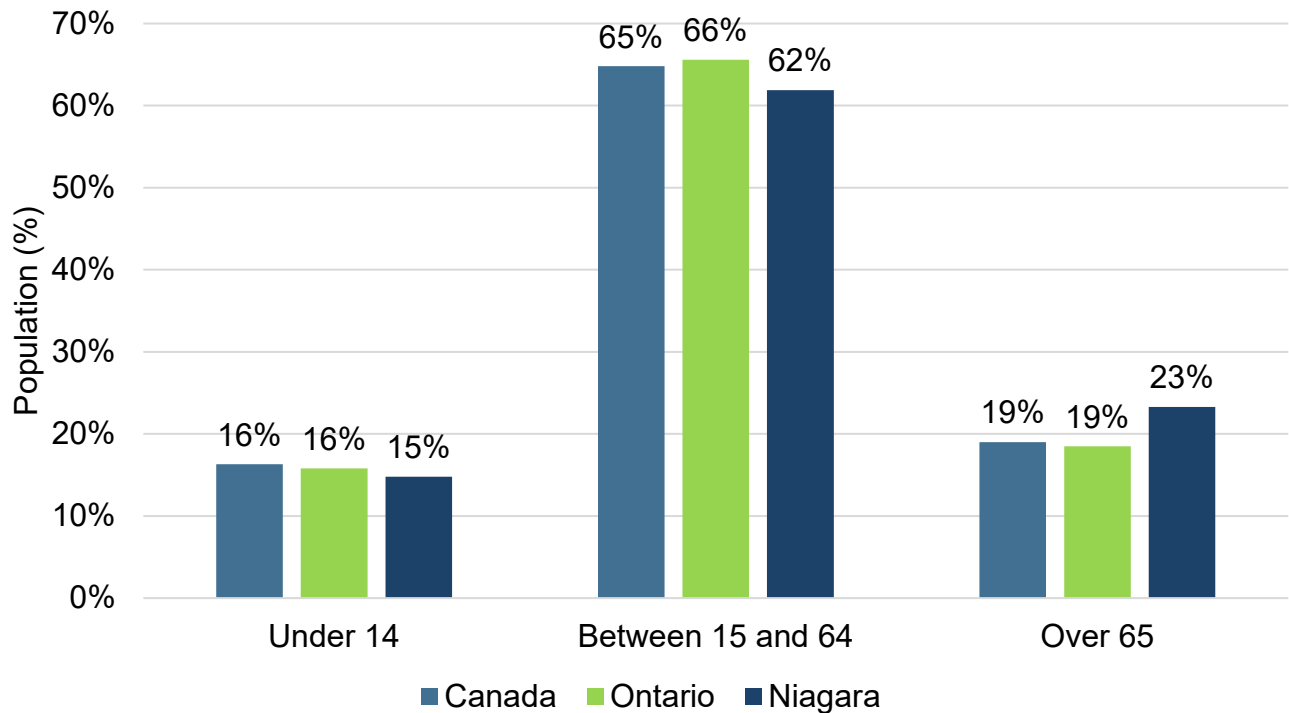
14.8%

Of Niagara's population are children aged 0 to 14

Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender



Percentage of Population By Age

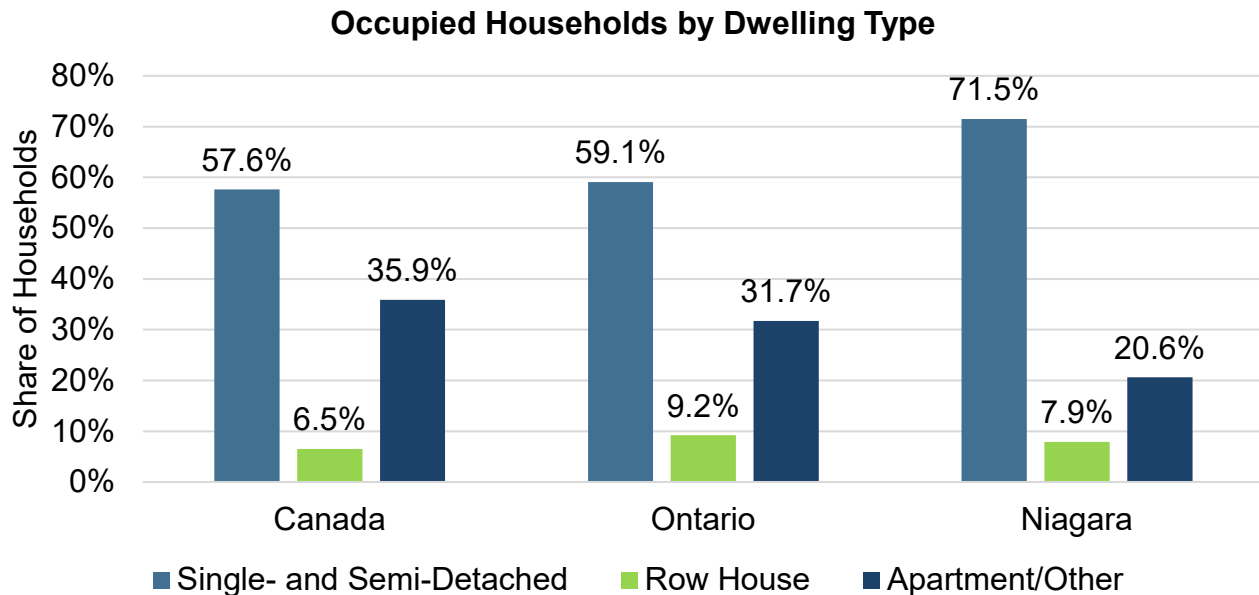


Niagara's 65 plus population is 20% higher than the Provincial average and 23% higher than Ontario.

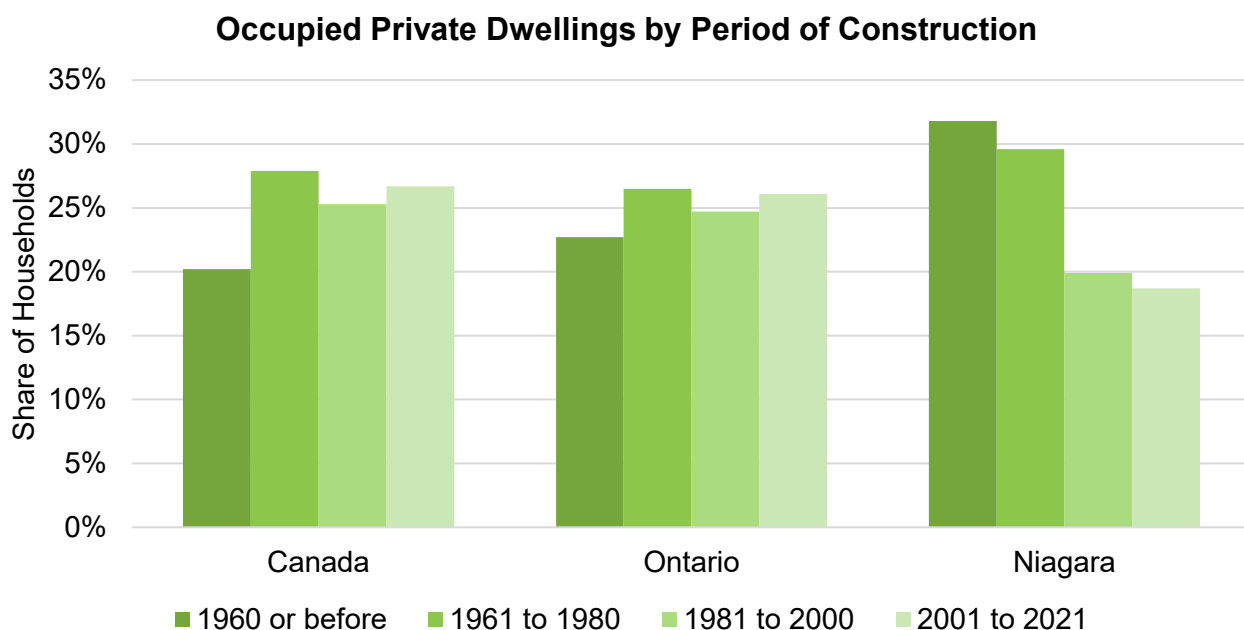


Appendix 2: Families, Households and Martial Status

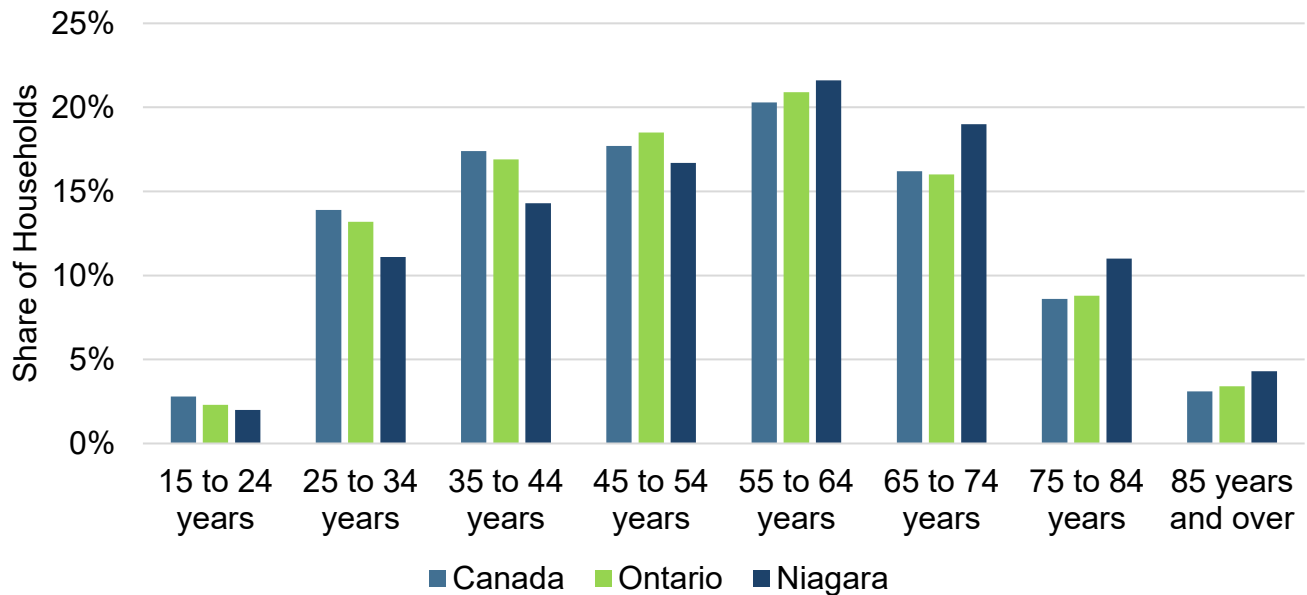
71.5% of dwellings in Niagara are single and semi-detached, higher than both the Provincial (59.1%) and National (57.6%) counts.



32% of dwellings in Niagara were constructed prior to 1960, again higher than both Provincial (23%) and National (20%) shares. Over 50% of homes in Canada and Ontario were build since 1981, whereas less than 40% of dwellings in Niagara were constructed in that time.



Private Households by Age of Primary Household Maintainers



In comparison to Canada and Ontario, Niagara has a disproportionate share of households maintained by residents over the age of 55.

Share of Households by Age of Primary Maintainer

| Municipality | Under 65 | Over 65 |
|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Fort Erie | 61% | 38% |
| Grimsby | 68% | 32% |
| Lincoln | 67% | 33% |
| Niagara Falls | 67% | 33% |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | 49% | 51% |
| Pelham | 60% | 40% |
| Port Colborne | 63% | 37% |
| St. Catharines | 66% | 34% |
| Thorold | 75% | 25% |
| Wainfleet | 66% | 33% |
| Welland | 67% | 33% |
| West Lincoln | 71% | 29% |

41%

The proportion of young adults aged 20 to 34 that were living with at least one parent in 2021.

68% of census families were married couples, 14% were common-law and 18% were one-parent families.

68%

73%

of households in Niagara were owned in 2021. 27% were rented in 2021.

Appendix 3: Income and Education

\$79,000

In 2020, the median total income of households in Niagara Region was \$79,000, an increase of 21.3% from \$65,100 in 2015.

Median Total Income of Households in 2020 by Local Area Municipality

| Municipality | Median household total income 2020 (\$) | Median household total income 2015 (\$) | Change (%) |
|-----------------------|---|---|------------|
| Fort Erie | 76,000 | 60,800 | 25 |
| Grimsby | 104,000 | 93,100 | 12 |
| Lincoln | 102,000 | 86,800 | 17 |
| Niagara Falls | 74,500 | 60,700 | 23 |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | 98,000 | 85,500 | 15 |
| Pelham | 110,000 | 95,000 | 16 |
| Port Colborne | 70,000 | 57,200 | 22 |
| St. Catharines | 72,500 | 59,300 | 22 |
| Thorold | 82,000 | 64,700 | 27 |
| Wainfleet | 96,000 | 80,200 | 20 |
| Welland | 71,500 | 57,000 | 25 |
| West Lincoln | 106,000 | 91,300 | 16 |
| Niagara Region | 79,000 | 65,100 | 21 |

Median Total Income of Households in 2020 by Upper or Single-Tier Municipality in the Greater Golden Horseshoe

| Census Division | Median household income 2020 (\$) | Median household income 2015 (\$) | 5 Year Change (\$) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Highest Median Household Income in 2020 | | | |
| Halton | 121,000 | 103,000 | 18,000 |
| York | 112,000 | 96,000 | 16,000 |
| Dufferin | 108,000 | 89,600 | 18,400 |
| Lowest Median Household Income in 2020 | | | |
| Kawartha Lakes | 82,000 | 67,200 | 14,800 |
| Niagara | 79,000 | 65,100 | 13,900 |
| Peterborough | 78,500 | 64,400 | 14,100 |

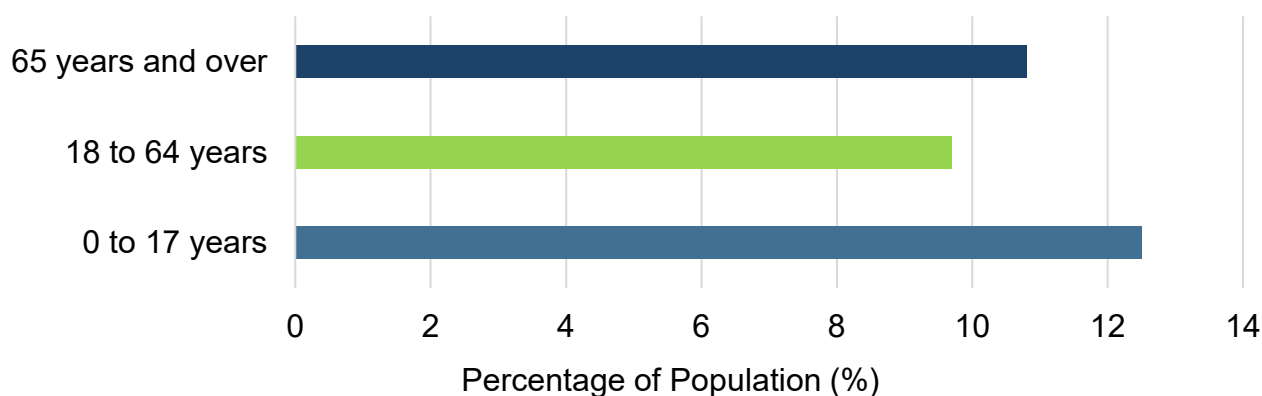
71%

In 2020, the percentage of persons 15 years and older in Niagara with income from any COVID-19 government income support and benefits was 70.8%.

10%

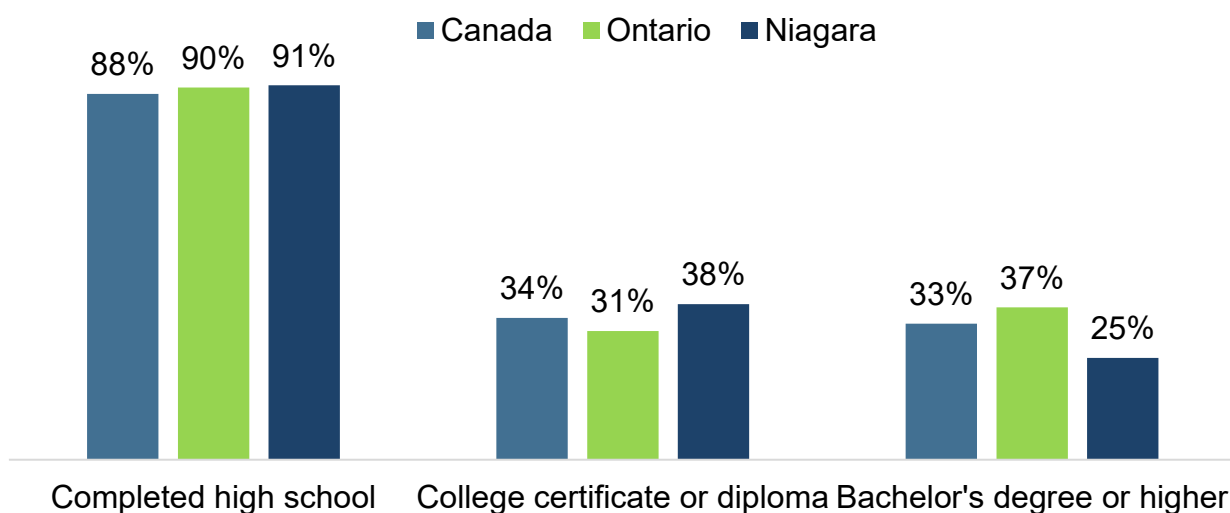
10.4% of individuals living in a household fall below the low income after-tax measure (LIM-AT). LIM-AT measures the population that earn less than half of the National median after-tax income. 14.5% of individuals in Niagara met the LIM-AT measure in 2016.

Prevalence of Low Income Based on the Low-Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT) by Age Group



24.6% of people aged 25 to 64 in Niagara had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 36.8% in Ontario and 32.9% in Canada.

Proportion of Adults (25 to 64) By Education Level



Appendix 4: Indigenous Peoples, Immigration and Place of Birth

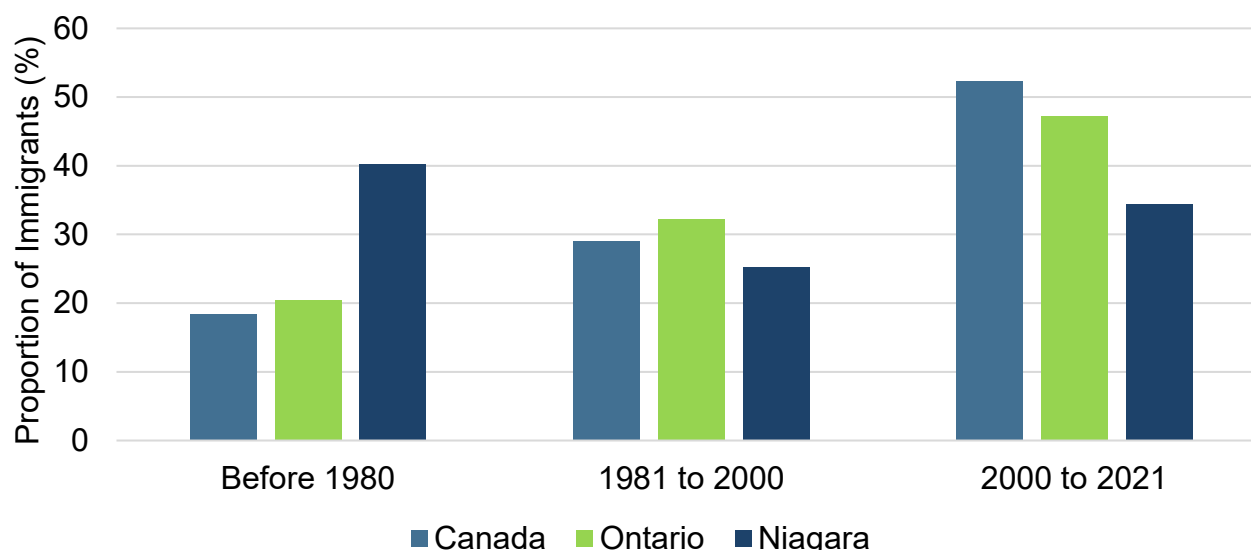
3%

In 2021, there were 13,960 Indigenous people in Niagara Region, making up 3% of the Region's population. In comparison, there were 12,250 Indigenous people in Niagara in 2016, representing an increase of 1,710 people and 14%, a significantly higher increase than both Canada (8%) and Ontario (8.6%).

| Geography | Indigenous Identity (2016) | Indigenous Identity (2021) | % Change |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Canada | 1,673,785 | 1,807,250 | 8.0 |
| Ontario | 374,395 | 406,585 | 8.6 |
| Niagara | 12,250 | 13,960 | 14.0 |

Niagara Region has a significantly higher proportion of immigrants that arrived prior to 1980 compared to both National and Provincial averages. 40% of Niagara's immigrants settled in Niagara prior to 1980 followed 25% between 1981 and 2000, and 34% between 2000 and 2021.

Immigration by Period of Time



| Top 5 places of birth of immigrants in the Niagara Region | |
|---|------------|
| Country | Population |
| United Kingdom | 12,460 |
| Italy | 6,955 |
| United States of America | 5,850 |
| Philippines | 4,495 |
| India | 4,275 |