



Living in Niagara – 2020 Report Community Safety

Our perception of safety at home, in our neighbourhood and on the road contributes to well-being. Trust in our surroundings helps us to be socially connected.

Happening Now

- As a Canada-US border community, Niagara is an epicenter for human trafficking. An estimated 75% of human trafficking victims who have been trafficked in the GTA will come through the Golden Horseshoe area at some point in their journey.
 - In 2018, 15 agencies across Niagara co-signed the Niagara Region Emergency Response Protocol for Human Trafficking, including police, fire departments, the YWCA, as well as those representing Indigenous women, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and at-risk youth.
 - In 2019, the Niagara Regional Police Service formed a Human Trafficking Unit, as part of its Special Victims Unit.
 - In 2020, the YWCA Niagara Region opened a safe house, where up to 6 survivors of human trafficking can access secure housing and resources in a healing environment.
- The new Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) service delivery model of Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has reduced call volumes; improved response times for critically ill patients; reduced patient transports to hospital; and increased access to appropriate services for specific groups such as individuals experiencing mental health challenges, seniors who have fallen, or palliative patients. A McMaster University analysis found that the MIH model provides opportunities for cost efficiencies as high as 64%.
- The Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN) reports a 25.3% increase in calls to Niagara EMS for possible overdoses between 2019 and 2020. In 2020, in the Niagara region there were 700 emergency department visits for opioid overdoses, compared to 689 in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to this increase, with people in isolation cut off from their support and supply systems, creating stress, anxiety, and desperation.
- The first supervised injection site in Niagara opened in December, 2018. StreetWorks operates out of Positive Living Niagara in St. Catharines. By early 2020, this harm-reduction program reported serving about 1,300 registered clients, with many of the individuals served being homeless.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Women's Shelters in Niagara are reporting a dramatic increase in the instances and severity of domestic violence. The pandemic self-isolation measures in place put victims of abuse at increased risk of violence.



What's Emerging

- Increased attention is being paid to the fact that there is an important connection between individuals feeling a sense of belonging, and feeling safe and secure in their own community.
- Crime Stoppers of Niagara has received funding to map elder abuse reporting in Niagara. Areas of concern for the new program include: financial crimes by strangers; crime and abuse by relatives and caregivers; and crime and abuse in institutional settings. Provincial research that shows between four and ten per cent of seniors report some form of elder abuse; and that the abuse is underreported, due to fear, isolation, dependency and shame.
- Niagara Region is preparing a community safety and well-being plan mandated by the provincial Police Services Act. The intent is to develop local strategies to address root causes of complex social issues, so that people in need of help receive the right response, at the right time, and by the right service provider. An interim report, released in 2020, identified five top priorities arising from a public survey and focus groups in Niagara: addictions/substance misuse; affordable housing; mental health; poverty and income; homelessness.

Suggested Community Action Steps

- Ensure ongoing investment in supports for women, children and youth within the violence against women shelter system, to meet operational needs despite agencies being unable to fundraise during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prioritize investments in affordable housing and mental health services in Niagara.
- As we emerge from the pandemic:
 - Acknowledge the impact of volunteers having to suspend their involvement in agencies such as women's shelters; and the impact of supporters not being able to participate in usual fundraising events. Raise awareness that these agencies welcome engagement from individuals with a desire to give back.
 - Recognize the pronounced tension between increasing levels of need for supports for victims of domestic violence, and limited availability of resources.
- Examine agencies' practices in terms of diversity and inclusion. This includes service delivery policies; what spaces look like; and recruitment of both staff and volunteers.

Indicators

- **Crime in Niagara**
- **Emergency Services**
- **Feeling Safe and Secure in Niagara**
- **Motor Vehicle Collisions and Fatalities**
- **Special Victims**





Indicator: Crime in Niagara

Overall Crime Rates and Violent Crime Rates

The violent crime rate includes the category of violent offences which involve the use of force or threat against a person. The following table and graph illustrate the reported number of violent criminal code incidents per 100,000 population in Niagara and three comparison municipalities.

In 2017, Statistics Canada, in collaboration with police services, amended the definition of “founded” criminal incidents, reported in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. The new definition, which represents a commitment to a victim-centred approach for crime, includes incidents where there is no credible evidence to confirm that an incident did not take place and those based on third-party reports. The new standards came into effect January 1, 2018 and it was acknowledged that the changes would have an impact on the number of criminal incidents reported to Statistics Canada.

Reported Number of Violent Criminal Code Incidents per 100,000 Population			
Municipality	2017	2018	2019
Niagara	591	673	725
Durham	633	671	689
Halton	406	401	366
Hamilton	978	937	1052
National Average	1,113	1,144	1,277

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada. 2018 and 2019 MBNCanada Performance Measurement Reports

Retrieved from: <http://www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/2018-mbncanada-performance-measurement-report/> and <https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/2019-Performance-Report-full-mar-19-2021.pdf>





The Nature of Crime and Crime Investigations

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) includes violent crime, property crime, other Criminal Code offences, as well as traffic, drug violations and all Federal Statutes as defined by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistic (CCJS). The CSI considers not only the change in volume but the relative seriousness of the crime.

Total Crime Severity Index			
Municipality	2017	2018	2019
Niagara	56	69	N/A
Durham	41	43	46
Halton	28	27	28
Hamilton	69	68	70
National Average	74	76	79

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada. 2018 and 2019 MBNCanada Performance Measurement Reports

Retrieved from: <http://www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/2018-mbncanada-performance-measurement-report/> and <https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/2019-Performance-Report-full-mar-19-2021.pdf>

Hate Crimes in Niagara

In 2017, police reported 2,073 criminal incidents in Canada that were motivated by hate, an increase of 47% or 664 more incidents than reported the previous year. The increase in the total number of incidents was largely attributable to an increase in police-reported hate crimes motivated by hatred of a religion (+382) or of a race or ethnicity (+212).

Following this increase in 2017, the number of police-reported hate crimes in Canada was down 13% in 2018. Even with this decline, the number of hate crimes remains higher (with the exception of 2017) than any other year since 2009, and aligns with the upward trend observed since 2014.

Nationally, the number of hate crimes targeting the Muslim population fell 50% after spiking in 2017 because of large increases in Ontario and Quebec.

In 2018, there were also fewer police-reported hate crimes targeting Blacks (-12%) and fewer targeting sexual orientation (-15%). Hate crimes targeting the Jewish population accounted for 19% of hate crimes in 2018, down 4% from 2017. In 2018, non-violent hate crimes (-23%) declined more than violent hate crimes (-7%).





The following table compares Police-Reported Hate Crimes per 100,000 Population from 2017 to 2019, for Canada and 3 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA's), including St. Catharines-Niagara. Note: the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Police-Reported Hate Crimes per 100,000 Population, 2017-2019			
	2017	2018	2019
Canada	5.7	4.9	5.2
St. Catharines-Niagara CMA	4.6	1.7	1.9
Hamilton CMA	16.0	17.1	15.7
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA	9.5	6.7	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada

Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00008-eng.htm> and <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190722/dq190722a-eng.htm> and <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510019101>

Youth Crime

The following table shows the comparison of crime rates for youth (aged 12-17), adults (aged 18 and older), and the total population in the St. Catharines–Niagara CMA (does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln).

Crime Rates – Youth, Adults, Total Population St. Catharines – Niagara CMA, 2015-2018				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total, persons charged	5,124	5,315	5,888	6,120
Rate, total persons charged per 100,000 population	1,278	1,310	1,430	1,462
Total, adults charged	4,847	5,048	5,555	5,847
Rate, adults charged per 100,000 population	1,305	1,342	1,453	1,503
Total, youth charged	277	267	333	273
Rate, youth charged per 100,000 population	939	900	1,126	923

Source: Statistics Canada. *Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas*

Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3510017701>





Criminal Code Violations and Incidents

The following table takes a more detailed look at the nature of Criminal Code violations in Canada and the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA* (Census Metropolitan Area), with two additional CMAs as comparators. *The St. Catharines-Niagara CMA does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln.

“Other Criminal Code offences” include crimes such as disturbing the peace and offences against the administration of justice (eg. failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, and breach of probation).

Criminal Code Violations and Incidents per 100,000 Population, 2018					
	Total crime (rate)	Violent Crime (rate)	Property crime (rate)	Other Criminal Code offences (rate)	Drug offences (rate)
Canada	5,488	1,143	3,339	1,006	225
St. Catharines – Niagara CMA	3,996	673	2,755	569	332
Hamilton CMA	3,953	807	2,639	507	224
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA	5,493	1,181	3,398	913	160

Source: Statistics Canada. *Police-reported crime rate, by census metropolitan area, 2018*
Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00013/tbl/tbl12-eng.htm>





Indicator: Emergency Services

Calls to Police, Ambulance and Fire

► Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) provides Calls for Service data in their annual report.

- In 2018, a total of 127,694 calls for service were made to the NRPS
- In 2019, a total of 130,462 calls for service were made to the NRPS

Additional detail is available in the 2019 annual report.

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service 2019 Annual Report

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/who-we-are/resources/2019-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf>

► Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS) receives 80,000 calls annually, and makes 54,000 patient contacts each year. Additional information is available on the Niagara Region website.

Source: Niagara Region

Retrieved from: https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/ems/operations.aspx

► Local municipalities across Niagara provide statistics about calls for fire service. For example, statistics for Niagara Falls and Welland are provided in the following two tables.

This table is an excerpt from the Niagara Falls Fire Department 2018 Annual Report. In 2018, fire suppression crews responded to 6,124 calls with a wide variety of response types.

Response Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018 Call Percentage
<i>Property Fires/Explosions</i>	151	145	167	121	94	1.5%
<i>Overpressure/Rupture/Explosion</i>	5	9	6	5	0	0%
<i>Pre-Fire Conditions - No Fire</i>	160	160	164	156	131	2.2%
<i>Burning (Controlled)</i>	196	205	228	186	194	3.2%
<i>False Fire Calls</i>	647	611	564	612	678	11%
<i>CO False Calls</i>	175	217	243	211	216	4%
<i>Public Hazard</i>	171	139	167	138	125	2%
<i>Rescue</i>	433	440	478	529	545	9%
<i>Medical/Resuscitator Calls</i>	2364	2510	2570	2771	3084	50%
<i>Other Response</i>	1017	1114	1091	1128	1058	17%
Annual Response Total Calls	5319	5550	5678	5857	6125	N/A

Source: Niagara Falls Fire Department

Retrieved from: <https://niagarafalls.ca/pdf/fire/annual-report.pdf>





In 2017, Welland Fire and Emergency Services responded to 2,748 emergency calls, an increase of 119 calls from 2016. Although emergency calls for building fires decreased by 32 from the previous year, Welland Fire reports the fire loss in 2017 totaled \$3.7M, which is a \$2M increase from 2016. Kitchen fires were the most frequent fire type. Wood burning appliances were also the cause of a few fires in 2017.

Welland Fire and Emergency Services - Call Type	2016	2017
Building fires	102	70
Vehicle fires	20	18
Medical emergencies	1344	1414
Burning complaints	118	85
Car accidents	203	214
Technical rescue incidents (water/ice, elevator, high angle)	40	33

Source: Welland Fire and Emergency Services

Retrieved from: <https://www.welland.ca/Media/MR/2018/MR-WFESServiceIn2017.pdf>

Police Officers Per 100,000 Population in Niagara

Police Strength

According to Statistics Canada, police strength is measured by the number of staffed officers. The rate of police strength is a ratio of police to the total population, typically reported by the number of police per 100,000 population. Statistics Canada takes a snapshot of police strength every year on May 15th. For more details see <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00015-eng.htm>

This chart shows the number of police officers per 100,000 population in the Niagara Regional Police Service, from 2017 to 2019.

Police Officers per 100,000 Population, Niagara Regional Police Service			
	2017	2018	2019
Total number of police officers	706	708	720
Police officers per 100,000 population	156	150	152

Source: Statistics Canada. Police resources in Canada, (2017, 2018, and 2019)

Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54912-eng.pdf?st=BpJD0-NJ> and <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00015-eng.htm> and <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00015-eng.pdf?st=hWdLgkRu>





EMS Response Times

► The following table reflects the number of unique events responded to by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Niagara, and three comparison municipalities. The median is the middle value of figures provided by the 12 municipalities across Canada that are a part of the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada.

Number of Unique EMS Responses per 1,000 Population			
	2017	2018	2019
Niagara	161	172	173
Durham	102	124	124
Halton	71	72	72
Hamilton	120	119	122
Median	117	131	131

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada. *2019 MBNCanada Performance Measurement Report*

Retrieved from: <https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/2019-Performance-Report-full-mar-19-2021.pdf>

► The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)’s Health Workforce Database collects aggregate-level, standardized data on Canada’s health care providers. The following table reflects the number of paramedics (total and per 100,000 population) in Ontario, 2017 to 2019.

Number of Paramedics in Ontario, 2017-2019			
	2017	2018	2019
Total number of paramedics	8,428	8,859	8,996
Number of paramedics per 100,000 population	59.9	61.9	62.8

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Canada’s Health Care Providers, 2015 to 2019 – Data Tables*

Retrieved from: <https://www.cihi.ca/en/paramedics> and <https://www.cihi.ca/en/access-data-reports/results?query=paramedics&Search+Submit=>





► Response Time Standards for Niagara Emergency Medical Services:

The following table summarizes Niagara EMS (Emergency Medical Services) response times. Targets for emergency medical response times are legislated by the province and set annually by local municipalities. Response times are defined by the Canadian Triage Acuity Score (CTAS), a commonly-used system that prioritizes patient care based on severity, signs and symptoms.

SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) refers to the time from dispatch receiving the call to the arrival of any trained/qualified person to provide defibrillation. CTAS 1 through 5 refers to the time when dispatch receives the call to the arrival of a Niagara EMS paramedic.

	Plan in Minutes	Plan in Percentage	Performance in Percentage, 2016	Performance in Percentage, 2017	Performance in Percentage, 2018
SCA	6	55%	53.10%	60.60%	59.04%
CTAS 1	8	80%	75.50%	76.90%	76.17%
CTAS 2	11	90%	83.60%	82.50%	81.76%
CTAS 3	15	90%	88.70%	85.40%	82.79%
CTAS 4	20	90%	95.30%	92.00%	89.43%
CTAS 5	30	90%	99.30%	99.0%	98.80%

Source: Niagara Region Public Health. Response Time Standards for Niagara Emergency Medical Services.

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/departments/health/ems-response-times.aspx>

► EMS Community Paramedic Program and Mobile Integrated Healthcare Model

An August, 2019 report by Niagara Region staff provides an update on the Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS) three-phase system transformation process:

1. Mobile Integrated Healthcare Model (implemented Q2 2018)
2. Evidence-based Clinical Response Plan (pending September 2019)
 - The planning for this Clinical Response Plan was facilitated by Brock University and included physicians, base hospital, SSCs and paramedics. It is being compared against the plan implemented in the UK with nearly identical outputs.
 - Anticipated impact of the CRP includes:
 - Paramedic response time based on clinical needs in relation to timely intervention
 - Reduction in number of lights and siren calls from ~40% to ~10-15%
 - Improved emergency response availability/response time for the most critically ill and injured patients





- Reduced requirement for tiered response, primarily fire services
- 3. Emergency Communications Nurse secondary triage (pending September 2019)

Three “unscheduled” Mobile Integrated Health Teams have been implemented by Niagara EMS. These multidisciplinary teams are an alternative response to low acuity 911 calls.

- I. Fall Intervention Team, consisting of a paramedic and occupational therapist
- II. Mental Health and Addictions Response Team, consisting of a paramedic and mental health nurse
- III. Community Assessment and Response Team, consisting of paramedics

Additionally, Niagara EMS continues to expand the Community Paramedic Programs, which help to reduce avoidable use of ambulance and emergency services, and the number of low acuity patients in the emergency department transported by paramedics.

As of August 2019, the following early results of the system transformation process have been observed, which increase the availability for paramedics to respond to high acuity calls:

- In 2018, there was a 2.6% volume increase compared to 6.6% yearly average from 2011-2017
- 0.22% for 2019 year-to-date (Q1 & 2)
- 5% reduction overall of mental health transports to hospital emergency department, despite an 8% increase in mental health calls coming into the communication centre
- Increase of 3% in calls for falls, but a 4% decrease in transports to emergency department (the previous year saw an increase in 9% in falls)
- 6% increase of calls for general unwell patients, but an overall decrease in transports to emergency department of 9% for this cohort

Source: Niagara EMS

Retrieved from: Niagara Region Public Health & Social Services Committee, August 6, 2019.

<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=4844#page=3>

A November, 2020 report shows the new Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) service delivery model of Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has reduced call volumes; improved response times for critically ill patients; reduced patient transports to hospital; and increased access to appropriate services for specific groups such as individuals experiencing mental health challenges, seniors who have fallen, or palliative patients. A McMaster U. Health Economics analysis found the MIH model provides opportunities for cost efficiencies as high as 64%.

Source: Niagara Region.

Retrieved from: <https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12432> and

<https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/economic-analysis-of-mobile-integrated-health-care-delivered-by-emergency-medical-services-paramedic-teams/>



Indicator: Feeling Safe and Secure in Niagara

Information and Safety Programs in Schools and the Community

► Port Colborne Situation Table – In February 2018, the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), along with 11 community agencies representing a variety of human services sectors, launched “Port-al”, the first Situation Table in the Niagara Region. “Port-all” represents an ever-growing trend in Ontario, known as a Situation Table, which provides a multi-agency response for rapid intervention strategies to assist persons who are experiencing an acutely elevated risk of harm. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Since the creation of “Port-all”, the NRPS has collaboratively worked with various subject matter experts from different community agencies, effectively assisting persons suffering acutely elevated risk of harm within the Port Colborne community. Participating agencies look forward to the benefits that “Port-al” brings to the Port Colborne community, specifically as it relates to community safety and well-being.

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service, 2019 Annual Report; and Canal Days 2018.

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/who-we-are/resources/2019-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf> and <http://canaldays.ca/page/news&iArticle=2496>

► [Niagara Safety Village](#) (NSV) – is a non-profit educational facility located on the Niagara College Campus in Welland. The NSV provides a safe and controlled environment in which to provide safety education to the residents of the Niagara Region, in partnership with the Niagara Regional Police, Regional Fire Services and Niagara EMS.

The Niagara Safety Village provides onsite safety education programs to over 7,100 students annually and those numbers continue to grow. Since the NSV first opened its doors in the fall of 2003, it has expanded its safety programs to include all grades at the elementary level. They have also provided safety programs to specialized groups including community living, senior safety, homeschoolers of Niagara and private daycares and schools.

Source: Niagara Safety Village

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarasafetyvillage.com/>

► Indigenous Community Justice Program (ICJP; formerly known as Three Fires Community Justice program) - The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres' Community Justice Program (OFIFC) is an initiative developed in response to needs expressed by Indigenous people who have been involved in the court system (youth and family, and criminal); and to the broad over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the mainstream justice system. The ICJP is built on the Aboriginal Court-worker Councils' Support Coordinator Program, and is available where communities have undergone a comprehensive needs assessment, and funding has been made available.

Source: Niagara Regional Native Centre, Programs.

Retrieved from: <https://nrnc.ca/nrnc-programs/>



► The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (FENFC) Indigenous Criminal Courtwork Program assists accused offenders to better understand their rights, options and responsibilities when appearing before the courts, through the guidance of a Courtworker. Indigenous Courtworkers are not Lawyers and do not give legal advice. Priorities for Courtwork are advocacy at the time of bail and sentencing for accused Indigenous people.

Source: Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
Retrieved from: <https://www.fenfc.org/crime>

► Through the Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc. an Aboriginal Child Advocate works with Aboriginal children and families involved in care with the child welfare system, whether they have Native Status or not. The role is to keep them connected to their Indigenous relatives, culture and community; to teach cultural awareness and sensitivity to the FACS Niagara employees; and to seek out Indigenous families who would consider becoming Foster or Kinship parents in efforts to keep the child(ren) connected to relatives, culture and community.

Additionally, an Aboriginal Youth in Transition Worker serves Aboriginal youth 16-24 years old who are or have been a Crown Ward or involved with a CAS anywhere in Ontario, to assist them to transition into adult life utilizing various services and programs.

The Aboriginal Approaches to Alternative Dispute Resolution program serves Aboriginal children and families through a culturally appropriate dispute resolution method to reduce or eliminate court appearances by resolving child protection issues out of court. This is a collaborative initiative between Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc., FACS Niagara, and other community and legal agencies.

Source: Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc.
Retrieved from: <http://ncnw.net/>

► Women's Place of South Niagara operates a free 24-Hour Support Line for individuals 16 and older experiencing abuse, in which counsellors provide assistance in completing a personal and detailed safety plan. Their Child and Youth Advocates work with moms and their children who have witnessed or experienced trauma related to domestic violence. One-on-one counselling is offered in the areas of safety planning, learning the signs of abuse, self-esteem building, life skills, goal-setting, education or job training, and resume building. Additionally, Family Court Support Workers provide information and support for leaving abusive partners and safety planning.

In fiscal year 2018-2019, Women's Place of South Niagara reports that 194 women and 66 children stayed in Women's Place shelters; 2,988 support calls were received; 182 women used the services of their Legal Advocate; and 187 women used the services of their Transitional and Housing Support Advocates.

Source: Women's Place of South Niagara
Retrieved from: <https://womensplacesn.org/>





► Pathstone Mental Health offers several mental health-based programs that support the safety of schools and communities. High Risk is a program for youth that have been identified as being at elevated risk to harm themselves (ie. suicide) and/or others (homicide). These youth are provided intensive individualized service designed to reduce the imminent risk they pose to themselves and/or others.

Pathstone's Sexual Treatment Outpatient Program (S.T.O.P) is a mental health treatment-based program for children/youth ages 4 to 18 who are exhibiting sexual behaviour problems or have been charged with a sexual offence.

The Pathstone Crisis Support Line is an intervention service providing immediate telephone counselling. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for children and youth up to the age of 18 and their families. Resources that can be provided on a call include crisis stabilization/intervention, an immediate response, clinical support, parenting strategies, psychoeducation, behavioural management strategies and linkages to community resources.

Source: Pathstone Mental Health

Retrieved from: <https://pathstonementalhealth.ca/>

► Teen Connect is a child abuse awareness presentation delivered to students across Niagara in grades 7-10, co-led by the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Youth Outreach Coordinator and FACS Family Enrichment Worker. The goal is to inform children and youth of the caring support services available to help them, or someone they know, who may be experiencing abuse within Niagara.

Kristen French CACN's Teen Creative Program is a no-cost, artist-led, weekly two-hour education and abuse prevention group for youth ages 12-15, who have gone through and completed their investigative process with Family and Children Services Niagara and/or Niagara Regional Police Service. Topics include defining abuse, effects of abuse, managing emotions, risky behaviour, understanding the self, self-care coping strategies, grief, impact of social media, family and friend challenges, empowerment and confidence and recovery and resiliency. This group is intended for youth to better understand themselves and learn the power of creative self-expression.

Source: Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre

Retrieved from: <http://www.kristenfrenchcacn.org/programs-services/teen-connect-creative/>

► The REWIND program offered by the John Howard Society uses a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing harmful incidents in schools across all four school boards in Niagara. The goal is to provide a safe, open environment to achieve restorative justice.

The John Howard Society also administers Strengthening Families for the Future, a prevention program for families with children of all ages who may be at risk for substance misuse, depression, violence, delinquency, and school failure. The program aims to reduce children's





or adolescents' intention to use alcohol and/or other drugs, reduce other behaviour problems, increase children's resilience and life skills, increase positive and effective parenting, and increase family communication.

Source: John Howard Society

Retrieved from: <https://www.jhs-niagara.com/>

► The Niagara Sexual Assault Centre provides public education programming to community agencies, workplaces, and elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. Presentation topics vary by audience, but include empowerment, recognizing different types of abuse and strategies to use in these situations, and sexual harassment.

In addition to educational workshops, the Niagara Sexual Assault Centre operates a 24-hour crisis line that provides access to information, crisis intervention, support, and community referrals. The Centre offers individual assessment and counselling to women and men 16 years and older who have experienced sexual violence, and provides support and advocacy in the St. Catharines General Hospital for individuals who have been sexually assaulted within the past 10 days.

Source: Niagara Sexual Assault Centre

Retrieved from: <http://niagarasexualassaultcentre.com/>

► In 2018, Niagara Region engaged the community to gather feedback on what Niagara Regional Council should focus on in the development of their 2019-2022 strategic plan. Input was collected through in-person engagement events and an online survey. The resulting strategic plan was released in 2019.

Of the five priorities that were identified, one is directly relevant to the Community Safety Sector:

Priority 2: Healthy and Vibrant Community – foster a high quality of life through safe, inclusive neighbourhoods and delivery of quality, affordable and accessible human services

Objective 2.1: Enhance Community Wellbeing

- Foster safe and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities tied to a larger strategic Community Safety and Wellbeing strategy
- Drive positive and healthy early childhood education and experiences through the delivery of high quality and affordable child care services
- Increase the capacity of long-term care across the region to meet the needs of the aging population

Source: Niagara Region

Retrieved from: <http://www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/niagara-region-strategic-plan-2019-2022/>



Mental Health and Addictions

► [CMHA \(Canadian Mental Health Association\) Niagara Branch](#) provides information about two programs that support individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. CMHA works with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) to deliver the COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team) services and MCRRT (Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team) service.

MCCRT Service and COAST Service for Adults in Mental Health Crisis in Niagara	
MCRRT (Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team)	COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team)
Uniformed police officer and mental health professional in a police cruiser	Plain-clothed police officer and mental health professional in unmarked vehicle
First response team	Secondary response team
Dispatched from 911	24/7 Crisis Line
	Provide follow up to police interactions

[Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team \(MCRRT\)](#) is a first response unit service that includes a mental health worker riding alongside an officer, responding to 911 calls related to mental health.

Operated by Niagara Region Mental Health, Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) provides early treatment for individuals between the ages of 14 and 35 years who are experiencing their first episode of psychosis so that the condition is managed immediately, minimizing long term impact on the client.

MCRRT Hours: 12:00 p.m. (noon) – 12:00 a.m. (midnight), 7 days per week

Location: St. Catharines and Thorold

- Provides a quick connection to a mental health worker on emergency service calls
- Offers community based mental health and risk assessments
- Offers hospital and criminal justice system diversion as appropriate
- Connects individuals to appropriate community-based services

This team is dispatched through Niagara Regional Police 911 Emergency Service.

(see table on next page for MCRRT Statistics)





Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Niagara Branch Statistics						
Year	Contacts	Individuals Served	Referrals	Connections to Service	Diversions from Hospital	Average Response Time
2015-16	540	427	497	357	379	7 min 38 sec
2016-17	824	596	985	604	537	8 min 14 sec
2017-18	1074	737	1006	813	700	9 min 1 sec
2018-19	903	623	907	678	625	9 min 54 sec
2019-20	884	582	868	629	620	9 min 19 sec

Source: CMHA Niagara Branch [data files]

[Crisis Outreach and Support Team \(COAST\)](#) service in Niagara began in November, 2011. COAST offers 24/7 telephone support through their crisis line. Trained mental health professionals provide therapeutic intervention over the phone to individuals in crisis across the Niagara Region, to prevent calls to emergency services and visits to the hospital. COAST also offers in-person crisis outreach with a trained mental health worker and non-uniform police officer. This team is available Monday to Saturday from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m. The COAST team triages situations of elevated risk that do not meet the criteria for 911 and require more than phone support. This team will meet with individuals in crisis and when appropriate their families, to provide support, obtain information, and assess the individual’s current stressors, coping strategies, needs and risk. The team helps to connect individuals to appropriate supports within the community.

(see table on next page for COAST statistics)





COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team) Niagara CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) Niagara Branch Statistics					
Most Frequent Referral Sources	Number of Referrals/Occurrences				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Police	1658	2348	2709	2273	1431
Client/Family	986	955	713	650	624
Clients' Community	65	76	210	231	222
Hospital	6	9	17	10	13
Total Referrals	3388	4125	3649	3164	2290
Number of unique clients served	2719	3408	1757	1572	1308

Source: CMHA Niagara Branch [data files]

The above information is also included in the Health and Wellness Sector of this report.

► [The Niagara Justice Collaborative](#), consisting of approximately 30 agencies, created an evidence-informed intervention that involves a coordinated community response for youth with mental health and/or addiction issues in the court system. The Collaborative also supported development of a dedicated youth court as part of their intervention.

[The Niagara Youth Court Screening Initiative \(NYCSI\)](#) involves a cross-sector team of service providers who are present at either the St. Catharines or Welland court house on days that Youth Court is held. All youth appearing in court for the first time are invited to participate in the screening process to identify potential mental health, addictions, and other needs (e.g., employment, housing, etc.). Based on youth needs and interest in receiving services, the NYCSI team connects youth with organizations in Niagara that can help provide support. They also assist transitions between different systems (justice, health, social, education) with the goal of improving outcomes for youth and families. The NYCSI team offers screening in French, and includes a community service provider from the First Nations, Inuit and Métis sector.

The team also collects basic, non-personal information about the types of youth seen in court as well as their self-identified needs, and runs quarterly reports to ensure the intervention continues to be working.

Source: Youth Resources Niagara and CAMH

Retrieved from: <https://yrn.ca/index.php/community-engagement/> and <http://improvingystems.ca/projects/niagara-youth-court-screening-initiative-1>





► The [Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara \(OPENN\)](#) formed in 2016. OPENN consists of members from prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement agencies. They are working together to address increased substance use and raise awareness around the disturbing increase in opioid overdoses in Niagara.

In 2020 in the Niagara region, there were 700 emergency department visits for opioid overdoses, compared to 689 in 2019. There has been a 25.3% increase in calls to Niagara Emergency Medical Services for possible overdoses, between 2019 and 2020.

In 2020, OPENN released its [Substance Use Prevention Strategy](#). The strategy document includes this graph, showing 2003 to 2018 data:

Rates of **ED visits**, **hospitalizations** and **deaths** due to opioids appear to have quadrupled, doubled and tripled in Niagara, respectively

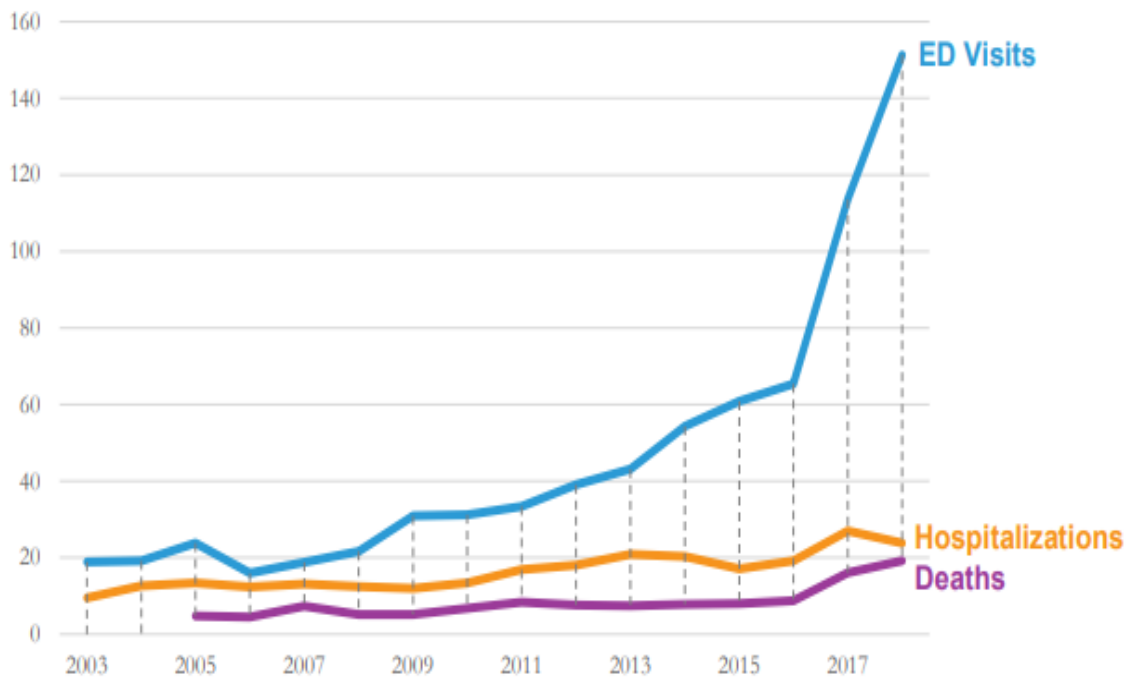


Figure 1
Opioid-related morbidity and mortality in Niagara, Rate per 100,000, 2003-2018
Data source: Public Health Ontario⁵

Source: Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN)
Retrieved from: <https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/openn-newsletter/> and <https://niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/openn-substance-use-prevention-strategy/>

The information on this page is also included in the Health and Wellness Sector of this report.



**Indicator: Motor Vehicle Collisions and Fatalities**Motor Vehicle Collisions

► The Ontario Ministry of Transportation provides Ontario Road Safety Annual Reports. The following table shows the number and type of motor vehicle collisions that occurred in Niagara in 2017. Collisions are divided into class of collision and fatalities or injuries. Also included are the number of registered vehicles in Niagara that year. These statistics are available for the years 2010 – 2017, at: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/publications/ontario-road-safety-annual-report.shtml>

Place of Collision, Persons Killed, Injured and Motor Vehicle Registrations, 2017							
Place of Collision	Total Collisions	Class of Collision			Persons		Motor Vehicle Registrations
		Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage	Fatality	Injury	
Fort Erie	294	3	46	245	3	71	
Grimsby	206	0	27	179	0	35	
Lincoln	211	1	40	170	1	52	
Niagara Falls	11,68	7	183	978	7	251	
Niagara-on-the-Lake	228	0	47	181	0	83	
Pelham	141	0	22	119	0	32	
Port Colborne	127	1	18	108	1	21	
St.Catharines	1,596	1	190	1,405	1	248	
Thorold	207	2	25	180	2	30	
Wainfleet	53	0	14	39	0	20	
Welland	512	0	92	420	0	128	
West Lincoln	160	0	26	134	0	36	
Provincial Highway	1,288	3	218	1,067	3	345	
Other Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Niagara Total	6,191	18	1,050	5,225	18	1,352	367,387

Source: Ministry of Transportation. Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2017

Retrieved From: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/publications/pdfs/ontario-road-safety-annual-report-2017.pdf>



► Niagara Regional Police Service publishes data about fatal and life-threatening collisions in Niagara in their annual report.

Fatal and Life-Threatening Injury Collisions in Niagara, 2017 - 2019			
Collision Type	2017	2018	2019
MTO* Reportable Fatal Collisions	16	14	13
MTO Non-Reportable Fatal Collisions due to medical reasons	2	2	4
Life-Threatening Injuries	24	14	12

*MTO – Ministry of Transportation Ontario. MTO Reportable Fatal Collisions involve deaths that were directly caused by injuries sustained in a collision. Non-Reportable Fatal Collisions are those caused by a medical event (eg. heart attack, aneurysm, etc.) leading to a collision.

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/whoweare/reportspublications.asp>

The above tables are also included in the Transportation and Mobility Sector of this report

Impaired Driving

The following table and graph illustrate trends in impaired driving violation rates in Canada, Ontario, the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA*, and two other Ontario centres, for comparison.

*The St. Catharines-Niagara CMA does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Impaired Driving Violations, per 100,000 Population					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canada	201.30	197.47	189.11	191.14	227.92
Ontario	111.55	106.65	102.28	99.35	104.23
St. Catharines-Niagara CMA	124.34	133.48	130.16	93.14	104.76
Hamilton CMA	107.30	94.54	93.88	102.98	100.25
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA	100.35	104.99	99.10	92.31	86.15

Source: Statistics Canada. *Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations*

Retrieved from:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.16&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.149>





Indicator: Special Victims

Domestic Violence

► The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) provides information on domestic violence, which means: any use or attempted use of physical force, sexual force, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, or threatening/harassing behaviour that is directed toward a past or present intimate partner by a past or present intimate partner.

NRPS Domestic Violence Investigations in 2019	
Classification	Number of Incidents
Domestic Violence Investigations	1,383
Domestic Violence Investigations – Criminal Charges	737
Domestic Violence Investigations – No Charges	646

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/who-we-are/resources/2019-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf>

► The Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) is a diverse collective voice of organizations from the Niagara region, working toward ending gender-based violence against all women, and their children, by raising public awareness, educating, sharing information, networking, and identifying and breaking down systemic barriers that perpetuate violence. CEVAW is made up of 27 Niagara-based organizations. The CEVAW website provides information about resources available for victims of domestic violence, including:

- Crisis phone support
- Shelter and housing
- Help for victims of sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse
- Native women support services
- Services for men
- Counselling
- On-scene crisis intervention
- Health services
- Financial support
- Legal assistance
- French language support services
- Multicultural services
- Transition support services

Source: The Coalition to End Violence Against Women

Retrieved from: <https://cevaw.com/>





Human Trafficking

► The following table from Statistics Canada provides information about human trafficking violations by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) from 2009 to 2016. *The St. Catharines-Niagara CMA does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Police-Reported Human Trafficking Violations, by CMA, 2009 to 2016		
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	Human Trafficking Violations	
	Number of violations	Percentage of all violations reported in Canada
St. Catharines-Niagara*	21	1.9%
Hamilton	48	4.4%
Toronto	272	24.7%

Source: Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2016. Statistics Canada, June 27, 2018.
Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54979-eng.htm>

► In October 2018, Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines hosted a community forum to raise awareness and educate community members about the issue of human trafficking and its footprint in Niagara. Participants heard stories of lived experience, learned about how traffickers control and exploit their victims, and received information about warning signs and what to do if you believe someone is being trafficked.

Source: Niagara Connects. Human Trafficking in Niagara, January 21, 2019.
Retrieved from: <http://www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/community-blog/human-trafficking-in-niagara/>

► In May 2019, The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The hotline is a confidential, multilingual service operating 24/7 to connect victims and survivors with social services, law enforcement and emergency services, as well as receive tips from the public.

The hotline uses a victim-centred approach when connecting human trafficking victims and survivors with local emergency, transition, and/or long-term supports and services across the country, as well as connecting callers to law enforcement where appropriate.

Source: The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking
Retrieved from: <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/what-we-do/>





► The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) Human Trafficking Unit was formed in 2019, and is part of the Special Victims Unit. Human trafficking investigators work closely with community partners, in accordance with the Niagara Region Emergency Response Protocol to Human Trafficking.

Investigations are referred from calls for service, local community agencies, other police services and the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The overarching goal of human trafficking investigations is support for survivors and an end to exploitation of vulnerable victims. The NRPS Human Trafficking Unit also works closely with the community to increase public awareness of the pervasiveness and the devastating effects of human trafficking on our communities/

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) 2019 Annual Report

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/who-we-are/resources/2019-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf>

► The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN) has developed an [interactive map](#) that allows parents, youth and victims of human trafficking to easily find local service providers within Niagara who are there to help and answer any questions. Additional information about human trafficking is available on the KFCACN site, at:

<https://niagaraantihumantrafficking.com/>

Source: Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara

Retrieved from: <http://www.kristenfrenchcacn.org/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-service-providers-map/> and <https://niagaraantihumantrafficking.com/>

► A June 11, 2019 report to the Niagara Region Public Health and Social Services Committee focused on the Human Trafficking Safe House pilot program, a partnership initiative between the YWCA Niagara Region and the Niagara Regional Native Centre, with Niagara Region funding 50% of the costs, leveraging the Provincial Home for Good supportive housing funding.

Public Safety Canada defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour. It is often described as a modern form of slavery."

The YWCA Niagara Region documented 134 disclosures of human trafficking in the 2018-2019 year. Victims Services Niagara made 49 referrals for trafficked individuals. In the last fiscal year, YWCA Niagara Region's drop-in program for sex trade workers supported 140 individual women, of which 80% stated that they were initially trafficked as young girls.

The YWCA Niagara Region has seen an increase in individuals accessing shelter as a response to fleeing a trafficking situation. Previously, one or two people every few months requested assistance, however in the first half of 2019, the average had increased to five or six



survivors accessing YWCA emergency shelter every month. This does not include data from Niagara's domestic violence shelters.

The intent of establishing a safe house pilot is to provide safe housing and programming to young women fleeing or exiting their exploitive situation. The house will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and have a peer worker on staff. The pilot will run for up to two years and will support six to eight women at any given time.

Source: Niagara Region Public Health and Social Services Committee Agenda Package, June 11, 2019.

Retrieved from: <https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=3903#page=103>

The YWCA Niagara Region website provides Anti-Human Trafficking information. In its fight against human trafficking, the YWCA is focusing on: building partnerships; prevention; and supporting survivors. In the summer of 2020, the YW Safe House: "Home, to New Beginnings" was opened. The YWCA points out that human trafficking is happening right here in Niagara, with 75% of human trafficking victims who have been trafficked in the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) coming through the Golden Horseshoe at some point in their journey. Positioned on the Canada-US border, Niagara functions as an epicenter of national and international human trafficking.

Source: YWCA Niagara Region

Retrieved from: <https://www.ywcaniagararegion.ca/anti-human-trafficking/>

Child Abuse

► Suspected or actual child abuse or neglect can be reported to [Family and Children's Services \(FACS\) Niagara](#) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Reports must be made in person or by phone. FACS Niagara will assess the information, make referrals to other helping community agencies (such as those named below) and/or investigate further.

In addition to Child Protection, FACS Niagara offers a variety of programs and services for families in Niagara, including child care, consultation regarding child development, family counselling, and support for youth transitioning from foster care to living independently in the community. The Family Counselling Centre (FCC) is a fully accredited family service agency, offering Adult Protective Services in addition to counselling programs. In 2019-2020, the FCC provided 4,098 scheduled sessions for 945 individuals.

In 2019-20, FACS worked with 150 foster families and 206 volunteers. A total of 44,105 volunteer hours were completed; and 2,035,385 volunteer kilometers were driven.

The chart at the top of the next page shows FACS annual report statistics for 2018, 2019 and 2020.





FACS Niagara Annual Report Statistics, 2018-2020			
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Number of child protection referrals	6,341	6,360	6,016
Number of investigations	3,252	3,654	3,585
Percentage of children served within their family homes/community	95%	93%	93%
Monthly average of children in foster care	463	462	460
Number of youth participating in youth programs	118	94	140

Source: FACS Niagara Annual Reports and website

Retrieved from: <https://www.facsniagara.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Annual-Report-Version-FINAL-2020-06-17.pdf> and <https://www.facsniagara.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FACS-AnnualReport-2018-19-Fv2.pdf> and https://www.facsniagara.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FACS_AnnualReport-2017-18_web.pdf and <https://www.facsniagara.on.ca/child-protection/>

► The [Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara](#) (Kristen French CACN) provides a safe place to help, heal and end child abuse for Niagara’s children and youth who have experienced alleged physical abuse, sexual abuse, become the targets of internet luring, or were the unwilling witness of violence.

The environment at the Centre is child-focused and private, providing a safe and non-threatening place for children and youth to disclose their experience of abuse to specially trained teams from the Niagara Regional Police Service and Family and Children’s Services (FACS) Niagara who respectively, investigate to determine criminal charges and protection needs. Mental health professionals from Family Counselling Centre Niagara provide much needed follow-up counselling support at no cost and without a wait list.

The following statistics are provided in the Kristen French CACN’s 2018 Annual Report:

In 2018, the Niagara Regional Police Service Child Abuse Unit reported:

- 764 incidents involving the welfare of children under the age of 16
- Members of the unit continued investigations into 303 of the aforementioned matters
- A total of 184 charges were laid by members of the Unit

In 2018, the CACN-located FACS (Family and Children’s Services Niagara) unit managed 310 cases involving 569 children and youth. Abuse affects kids of all genders and ages. 37.1% of abuse cases involved allegations of sexual abuse/mistreatment, 34.5% involved allegations of physical abuse/mistreatment, and 28.4% involved other allegations (eg. regarding supervision, neglect, abandonment or history of abuse).



livinginniagarareport.com



In 2018, in partnership with KFCACN, Family Counselling Centre Niagara helped 117 people through 191 individual counselling sessions. An additional 130 hours of group counselling coverage was provided for art and trauma counselling groups.

Source: Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara website; 2018 Annual Report; and 10th Anniversary Video, “Our History”, November, 2018.

Retrieved from: <http://www.kristenfrenchcacn.org/about/our-story/> and <http://www.kristenfrenchcacn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2018-Annual-Report.pdf> and <https://niagaraantihumantrafficking.com/>

► PECAN (Partners to End Child Abuse Niagara) is a group of Niagara not-for-profit agencies who have created a website that provides the community with a convenient hub to reduce the time spent searching for help and connect people with the right program or agency. It highlights community programs and facilitators to help implement programs that are available from local agencies, as well as links to other trusted organizations.

Source: Partners to End Child Abuse Niagara (PECAN)

Retrieved from: <http://endchildabuseniagara.com/about-pecan/>

Elder Abuse

► This chart provides 2018 information about the number and rate of senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence in the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area* (CMA), with two other CMAs for comparison. *The St. Catharines-Niagara CMA does not include Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Senior Victims of Police-Reported Family and Non-Family Violence, by CMA, 2018				
Census Metropolitan Area	Family Violence		Non-Family Violence	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000
St. Catharines-Niagara	36	37	97	100
Hamilton	52	56	165	178
Toronto	463	58	1,291	162
Canada	4,061	67	8,136	135

Source: Statistics Canada, December, 2019

Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00018/tbl/tbl03-9-eng.htm>





► The Niagara Elder Abuse Prevention Network works collaboratively with agencies and seniors to prevent elder abuse and create a safe community where older adults are valued and respected within the Niagara Region. Guiding Principles include:

- Promote awareness and provide education and information exchange on elder abuse and its prevention.
- Advocate for changes in the service delivery system based on identified gaps and relevant research.
- Develop strategies to improve the identification, prevention and response to elder abuse.

Source: Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region, Niagara Elder Abuse Prevention Network
Retrieved from: <https://alzheimer.ca/niagara/en/help-support/programs-services/resources/niagara-elder-abuse-prevention>

► In January 2020, Crime Stoppers of Niagara received Ontario Trillium Foundation funding for a yearlong study to assess whether Niagara requires a more streamlined and coordinated response to elder abuse. Focus groups are being held across Niagara to engage service providers and the community to identify gaps in service and lay the groundwork for developing an abuse reporting protocol.

Source: Crime Stoppers of Niagara

Retrieved from: <https://crimestoppersniagara.com/programs/protecting-our-seniors/>

► Niagara Gatekeepers is a phone line referral service that anyone can call to help connect an at-risk senior (55 years of age or older) with programs and services to help them stay safe and independent at home. Information provided is forwarded to a partner agency, who will contact the senior and arrange services. All information is kept confidential and callers may remain anonymous.

Source: Niagara Gatekeepers

Retrieved from: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/seniors/programs/gatekeepers.aspx>