



RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS, WHITE SUPREMACY, AND POLICE VIOLENCE IN WATERLOO REGION

Racial Demographics

- Nearly 1 in 5 (19%) people in Waterloo identify as a visible minority
- Waterloo Region has the **4th highest proportion of visible minorities** of Ontario regional municipalities, behind Toronto (51%), Ottawa (25%), and Windsor (21%).
- The population of visible minorities has increased 61% in the last decade.
- Indigenous people were 1.7% of Waterloo Region's total population in 2016, but the number of people identifying as indigenous in Waterloo almost doubled (87% increase) between 2006 and 2016.

White Supremacy

White supremacist activity is not something for which a lot of statistics are available. However, the lived experience of Black, Indigenous, and other racialized people in our community as well as news coverage shows us that white supremacy is alive and well in Waterloo Region.

- Waterloo Region ranks fourth-highest in Ontario for proportion of visible minorities, but ranked [third in the country for reported incidents of hate crimes](#). (2016 Census)
- [In 2020 there was a rash of disturbing hate incidents](#), including an inflatable doll being hung from the Highway 85 overpass, a cyclist threatening a couple on the Spur Line Trail with a knife while shouting racist slurs, and vandalism and death threats of a local family's home - among others.
- There is active hate group presence in the Region. [Canadian Heritage Alliance](#) (now defunct?) was founded here. The Proud Boys, which were recently [unanimously declared a terrorist group](#) by the Canadian House of Commons, conducted [a poster campaign in 2019](#). In 2020, there was a [white supremacist sticker campaign](#) in downtown Kitchener.

- In 2019, a Kitchener man was arrested after allegedly traveling to a Hamilton Pride event, where he [attacked four people with a helmet and broke a teenager's nose](#).

Police Violence

- 24% of Ontario trans people have been harassed by police in Ontario (TransPULSE)
- [A 2020 report into use of force shows](#) that WRPS disproportionately used force against Black people.
- In a study of seven regional policing organizations, WRPS had by far the most [complaints of sexual harassment against police officers](#)
- In June 2020, during BLM protests against police violence, the [ACB Network of Ontario put out a press release](#) calling for defunding of WRPS. The press release specifically mentions violence against Black, Indigenous, and other racialized trans and Two-Spirit people as a problem.
- Other racial justice organizations like BLM WR have cited police violence against queer, trans, and Two-Spirit BIPOC people as [a historical problem that is widespread but underreported](#)