

# #UNIGNORABLE issues are hurting our community.

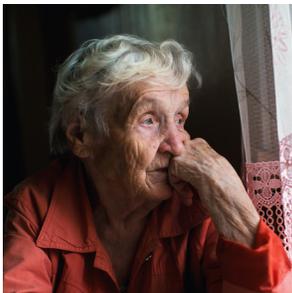
Issues like food insecurity or mental illness are easy to ignore when you don't know they exist. Unfortunately it took a pandemic to bring these social issues to the forefront. Often, poverty is at the root of many of the issues we see. United Way works to tackle #UNIGNORABLE issues in Niagara, investing in programs that provide **real solutions to local problems.**



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Nearly **half of** women are said to experience domestic abuse of some kind in their lives. The pandemic has only increased the risk for so many in Niagara. The trauma of family violence creates long-term repercussions for survivors and their children.

**In 2020**    **3,489**  
individuals who either experienced or  
witnessed abuse were supported.

**531**  
women and their families  
accessed safe housing.



**SOCIAL ISOLATION:** **1 in 5** people in Niagara experience social isolation. Over the last year, forced isolation has amplified loneliness, wreaking havoc on those already struggling with a mental illness and/or addiction.

**In 2020**    **8,352**  
seniors accessed supports improving  
mental health and wellbeing.

**22,795**  
individuals were connected  
with the services they needed.



**FOOD INSECURITY:** Nearly **60,000** people in Niagara are currently experiencing food insecurity. The struggle to make ends meet is a source of tremendous stress and anxiety, and when forced to choose between healthy food or paying rent, shelter becomes the priority.

**In 2020**    **29,330**  
individuals accessed emergency food  
and affordable, nutritious food options.

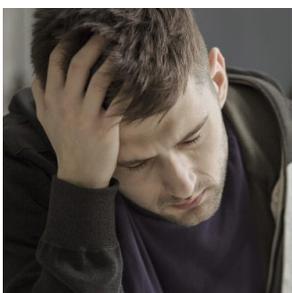
**11,027**  
people benefited from access  
to community gardens.



**HOMELESSNESS:** The last point-in-time count showed **665 individuals** were homeless at a given time in Niagara. Additionally, 1 in 4 families spend 30% or more of their income on shelter/housing costs putting them in core housing need or at-risk of homelessness.

**In 2020**    **31,969**  
individuals at-risk of or experiencing  
homelessness accessed programs to  
find or maintain housing.

**904**  
individuals developed the skills  
for financial literacy and better  
employability.



**MENTAL ILLNESS:** By the time Canadians reach 40 years of age, **1 in 2** have, or have had, a mental illness. While it is normal to feel anxious while we deal with the effects of this pandemic, people living with mental illness may be finding it especially difficult to cope.

**In 2020**    **17,579**  
individuals received immediate crisis  
or suicide prevention/intervention  
supports.

**465**  
individuals were trained on  
Naloxone and kits were  
reportedly used 1210 times.



**DISADVANTAGED YOUTH:** **1 in 4** children in Niagara are living in poverty. Children and youth are resilient but require support from their community to overcome challenges and reduce barriers to success.

**In 2020**    **31,055**  
youth increased emotional and  
physical wellbeing.

**7,412**  
youth were equipped with  
skills and strategies to thrive.