

Diversity of the Black population in Canada: An overview



Ethnicity, Language and
Immigration Thematic Series



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Release date: February 27, 2019

Catalogue number 89-657-X2019002

ISBN 978-0-660-29529-9

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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Diversity of the Black population in Canada: An overview

Context

The Black population has contributed to Canada’s heritage since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa (a navigator and interpreter for Pierre Du Gua de Mons and Samuel de Champlain), whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

Black people in Canada have diverse backgrounds and experiences – while some can trace their roots in Canada for many generations, others have immigrated in recent decades. They have contributed in many ways to the growth, diversity and development of the country.

In conjunction with both the United Nations’ initiatives for the *International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)*, and Black History Month, this portrait aims to highlight the diversity of the Black population in terms of their ethnic and cultural origins, places of birth and languages.

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Population of interest

There are many different ways to define and measure the population of interest: a vastly diverse community of people in terms of history, ethnic and cultural origins, place of birth, religion and languages.

For this portrait, the population refers to persons who self-identified as “Black” in the population group question in the Census of Population. Since the 1996 Census, “Black” is one of the population groups listed on the census questionnaire. Respondents can choose to mark one or more population group, or to specify another group. With the exception of respondents who identified as belonging to both Black and White groups, multiple responses are excluded from this analysis.

This question collects information in accordance with the *Employment Equity Act* and its Regulations and Guidelines to support programs that promote equal opportunity for everyone to share in the social, cultural, and economic life of Canada.

19 Is this person:

Mark “X” more than one circle or specify, if applicable.

- White
- South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Chinese
- Black
- Filipino
- Latin American
- Arab
- Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)
- West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- Korean
- Japanese

Other — specify:

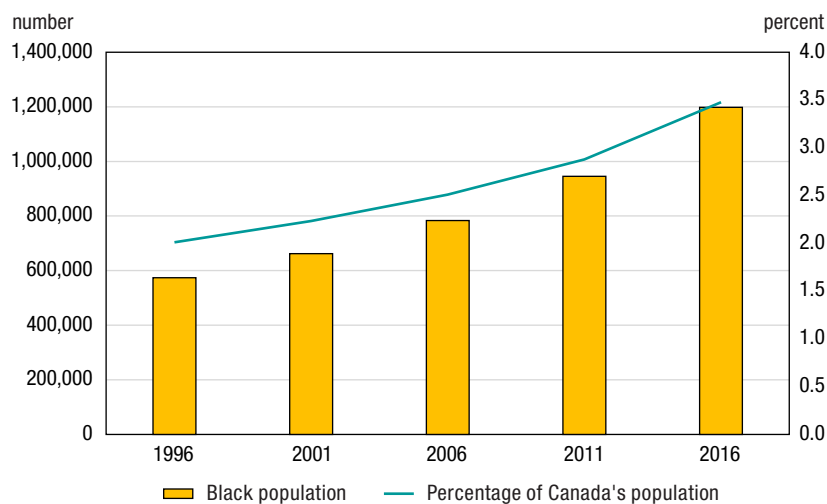
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population 2A-L questionnaire.

In 2016, close to 1.2 million people in Canada reported being Black

- In 20 years, the Black population has doubled in size, going from 573,860 persons in 1996 to 1,198,540 persons in 2016.
- Among the Black population, 12% have reported being both “White” and “Black” in the 2016 Census.
- The Black population now accounts for 3.5% of Canada’s total population and 15.6% of the population defined as a visible minority.
- According to the population projections from Statistics Canada¹, the Black population would continue to increase and could represent between 5.0% and 5.6% of Canada’s population by 2036.
- Both international net migration (difference between immigration and emigration) and natural increase (difference between births and deaths) have contributed to the growth of the Black population in Canada.

Chart 1

Number of persons and percent of the population who are Black, Canada, 1996 to 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2016; 2011 National Household Survey.

The Black population is a young population...

- In 2016, the Black population was younger than the total population in Canada. The median age for the Black population was 29.6 years, while it was 40.7 years for the total population.
- Children under 15 years old represented 26.6% of the Black population, while they represented 16.9% of the total population. At the other end of the age spectrum, 7.3% of the Black population were aged 65 years and over, compared to 15.9% of the total population.
- Similar to the total population, there are slightly more Black women than Black men. In 2016, 51.6% of the Black population was comprised of women. This was similar to the proportion in the total Canadian population, where 50.8% of the population was comprised of women.

Chart 2
Age pyramid for the Black and total populations, Canada, 2016

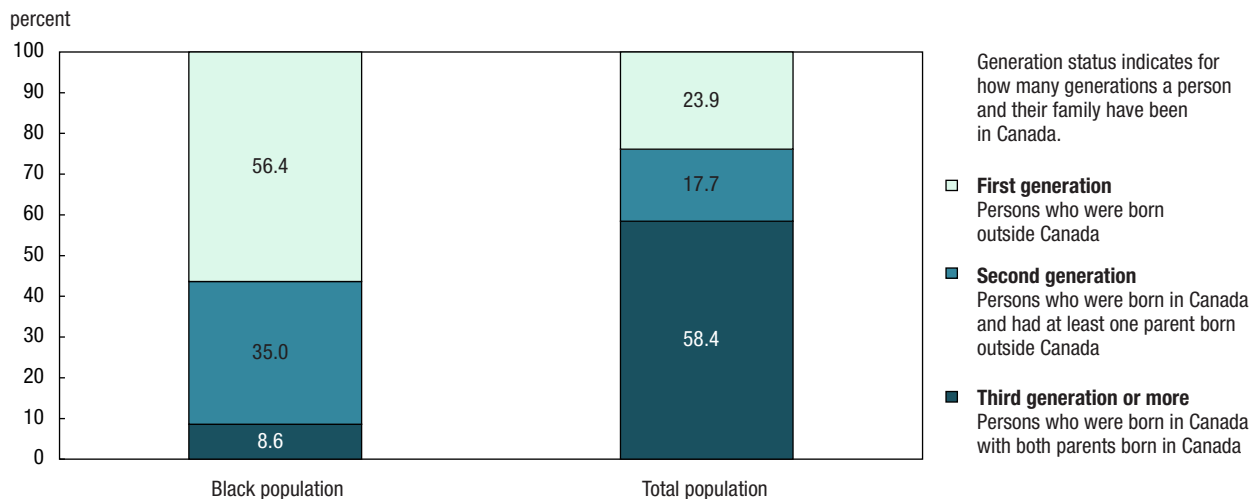


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

...with a history in Canada

Canada is the top place of birth of the Black population. In 2016, more than 4 in 10 Black people were born in Canada.

Chart 3
Distribution of the Black and total populations by generation status, Canada, 2016

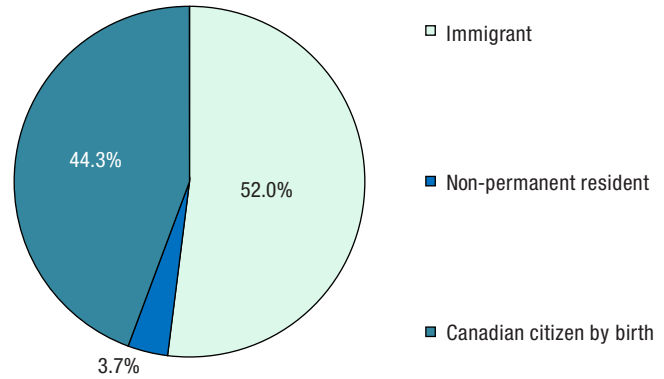


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population. 2016.

About half of the Black population is or has ever been a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada...

In 2016, about 623,195 Black people were immigrants, which included landed immigrants/permanent residents and Canadian citizens by naturalization.²

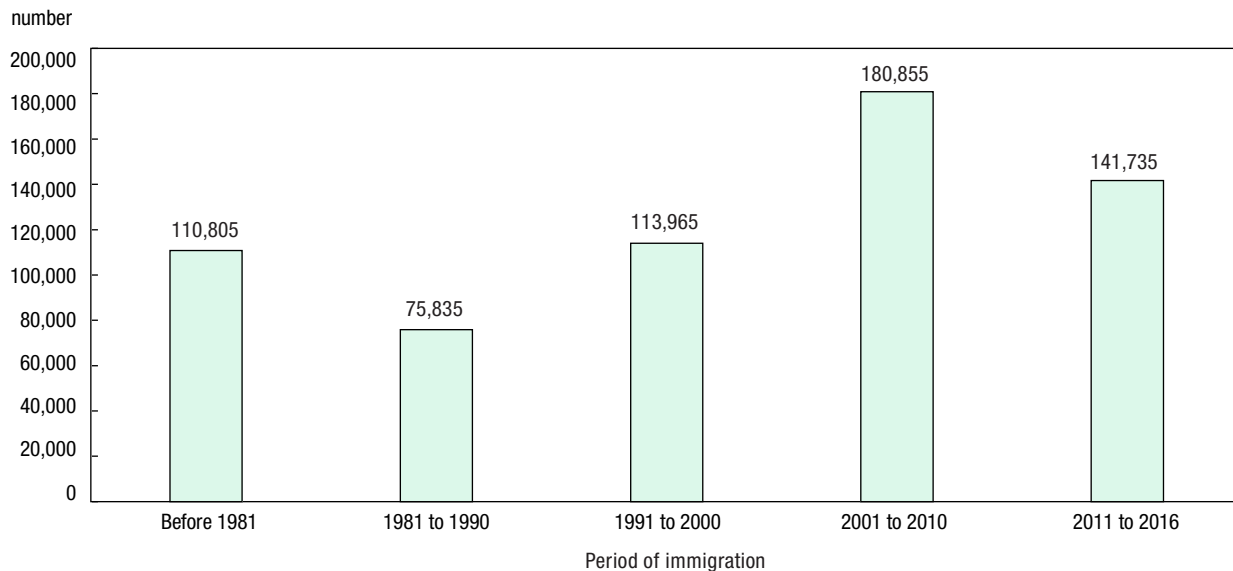
Chart 4
Immigrant status for the Black population, Canada, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

...who came at different points in time

Chart 5
Period of immigration for Black immigrants, Canada, 2016

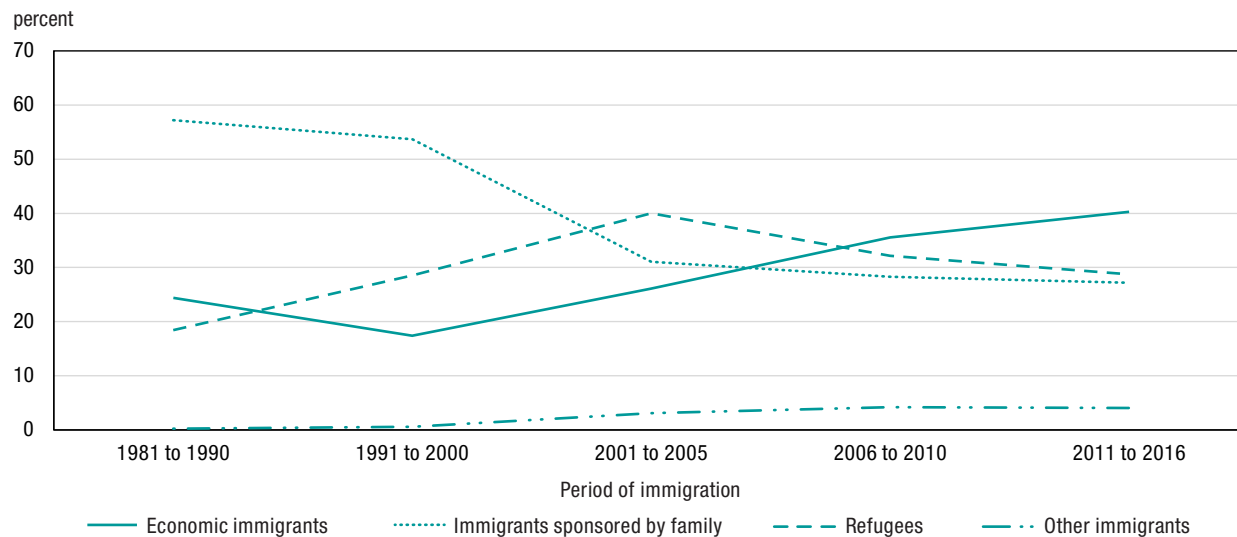


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

...and through different gateways to Canada

- In the late 1960s, Canada's immigration policy changed significantly. The discriminatory policy based on race or national origins was removed and the first point-based system focusing on criteria such as occupational skills, education and knowledge of official languages was introduced to select economic immigrants.
- Among those who still lived in Canada in 2016, the majority of the Black immigrants who landed in the 1980s and 1990s were sponsored by their family already living in the country.
 - Women outnumbered men among those who were admitted in these two decennials. Most of them came from Jamaica and Haiti.
- By contrast, the largest share (40.3%) of newcomers (2011 to 2016) were admitted under the economic program. About three in 10 Black newcomers were refugees.
 - Top countries of birth of economic newcomers were: Nigeria, Haiti, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Jamaica.
 - Top countries of birth of new refugees were: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Somalia and Ethiopia.
- About 44,285 Black people were non-permanent residents in Canada in 2016. They were living temporarily in Canada on a work or study permit or as refugee claimants (asylum seekers).

Chart 6
Distribution of Black immigrants living in Canada in 2016 by broad admission categories and period of immigration



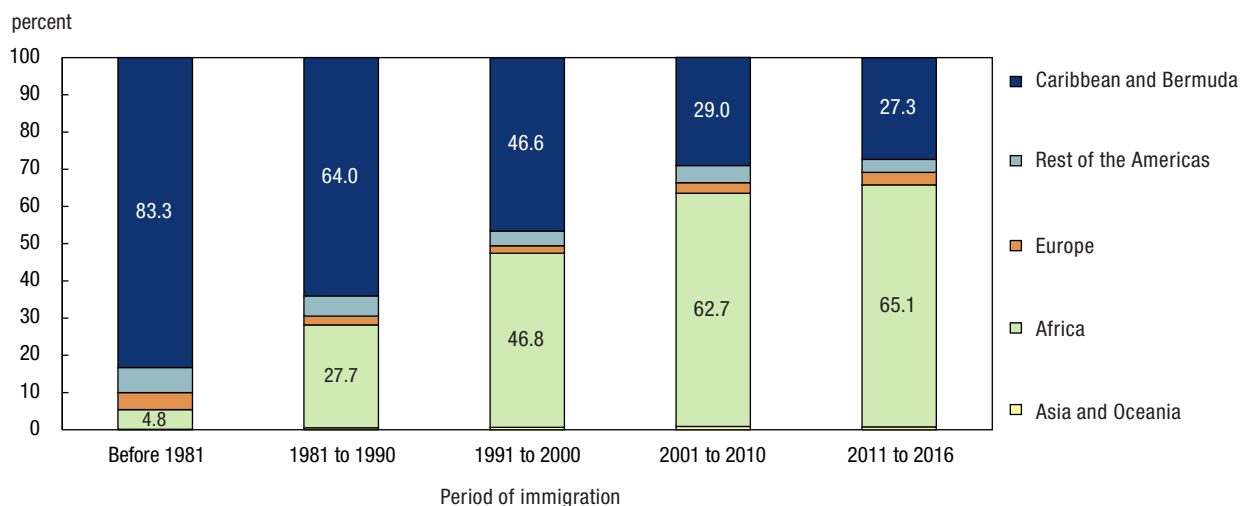
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

The source regions of immigration have changed over time

Long-established Black immigrants were mostly from the Caribbean, but recent immigrants were predominantly from Africa.

- According to the 2016 Census, more than half (56.7%) of the Black immigrants who landed before 1981 were born in Jamaica and Haiti.
- Black newcomers now come from about 125 different countries. The top countries of birth for Black immigrants admitted between 2011 and 2016 were Haiti, Nigeria, Jamaica, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Chart 7
Region of birth of Black immigrants by period of immigration, Canada, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

More than 170 different places of birth for the Black immigrants in Canada

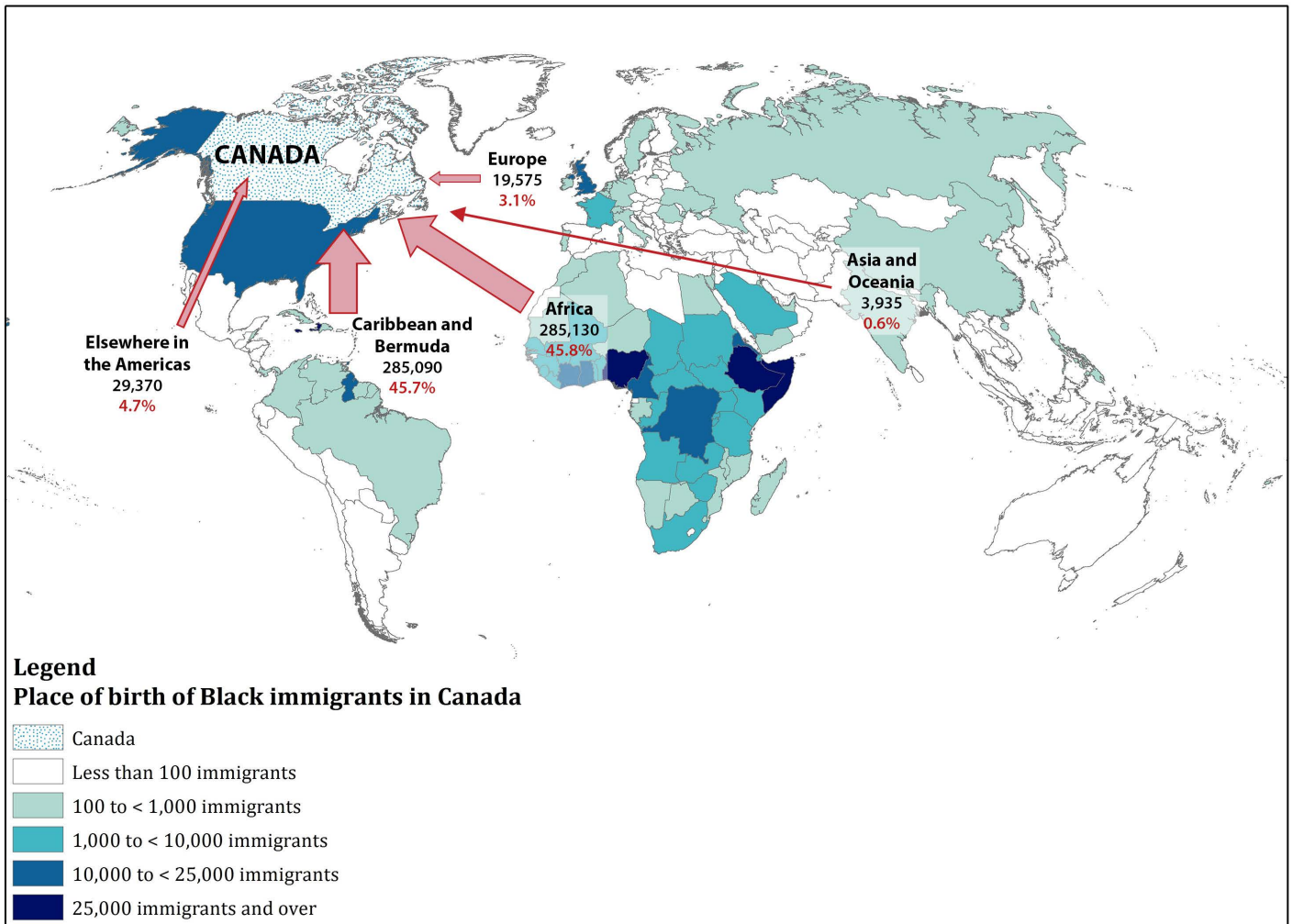
Jamaica and Haiti are the two main countries of birth for Black immigrants in Canada.

Table 1
Top countries of birth for Black immigrants, Canada, 2016

	number	percent	percent of women
Total	623,195	100.0	53.3
Jamaica	122,550	19.7	56.9
Haiti	92,040	14.8	56.2
Nigeria	41,415	6.6	48.4
Ethiopia	30,960	5.0	50.8
Somalia	25,300	4.1	55.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	24,385	3.9	52.6
Ghana	22,475	3.6	49.9
Trinidad and Tobago	20,925	3.4	55.6
Cameroon	18,335	2.9	50.1
United States	14,505	2.3	46.6
Other	210,305	33.7	52.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Map 1
Place of birth of Black immigrants, Canada, 2016



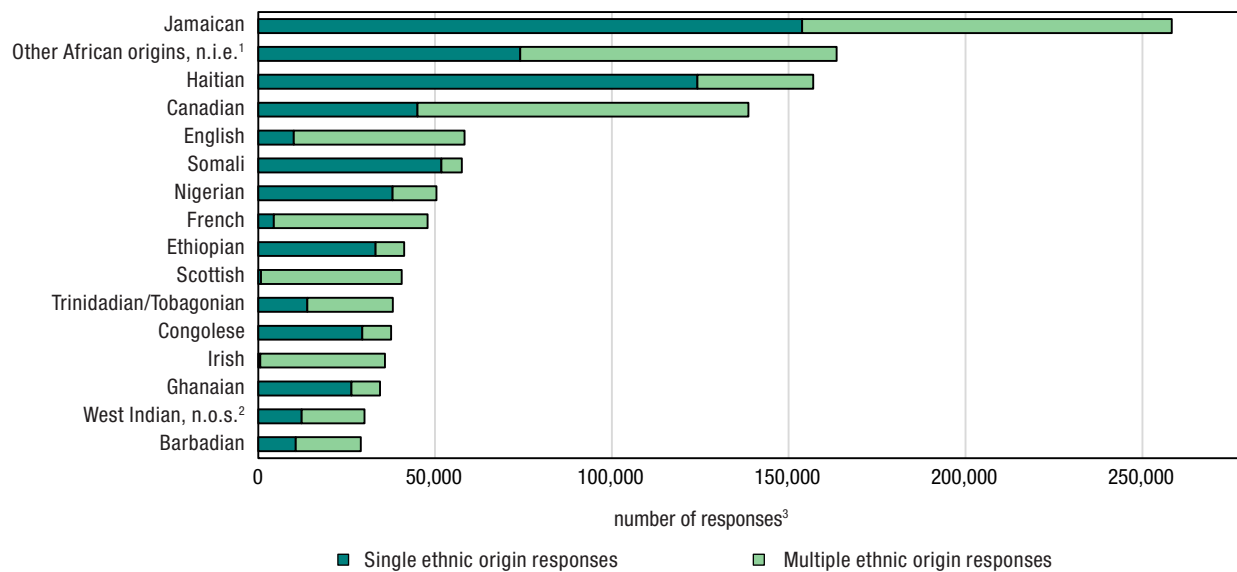
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Overall, more than 200 ethnic or cultural origins were reported by the Black population in Canada

- Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. An ancestor is usually more distant than a grandparent.
- Close to 30% of the Black population reported more than one ethnic origin in 2016.
- The 10 most frequently reported origins among the Black population were: Jamaican, African³, Haitian, Canadian, English, Somali, Nigerian, French, Ethiopian and Scottish.
- In 2016, five new African origins were published in the census products: Edo, Ewe, Malinké, Wolof and Djiboutian – a reflection of the most recent immigration waves.

Chart 8

Ethnic origins (single and multiple responses) most often reported by the Black population, Canada, 2016



1. "Other African origins, not included elsewhere" includes mostly general responses (e.g., 'African'), as well as a few more specific African responses (e.g., 'Saharan') that have not been included elsewhere in the ethnic origin classification.

2. The abbreviation "n.o.s." means not otherwise specified.

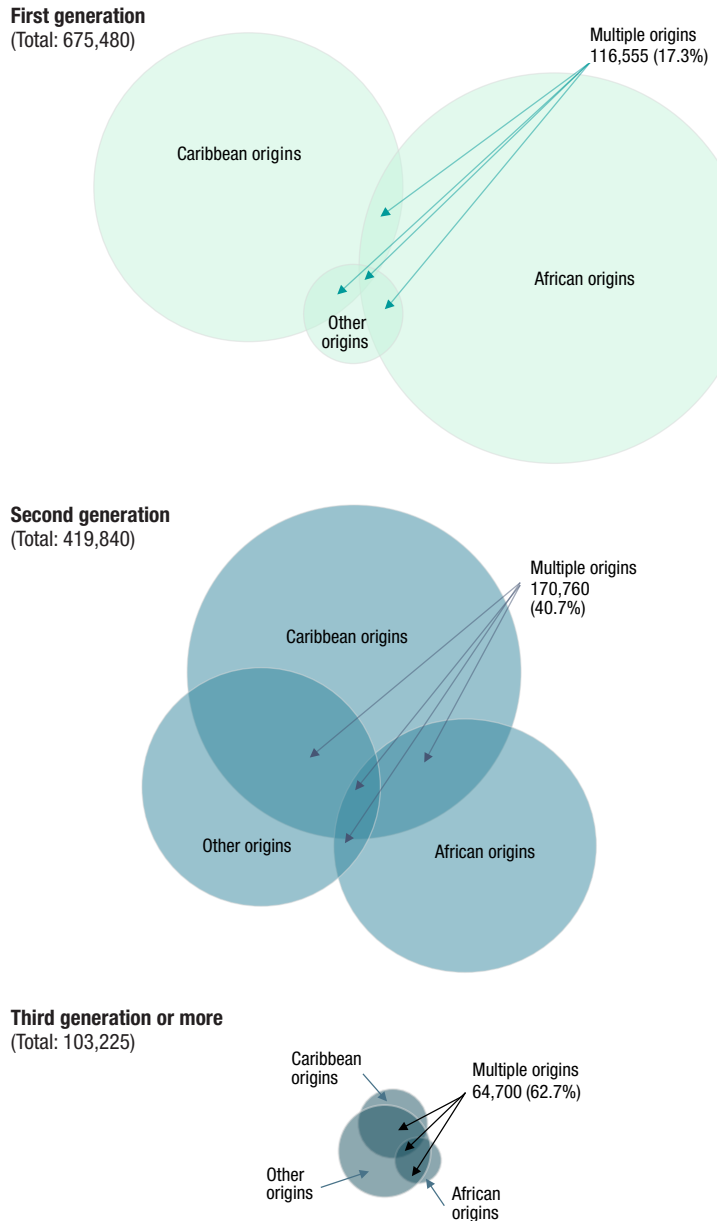
3. The sum of the ethnic origins is greater than the total population because a person can report more than one ethnic origin in the census questionnaire.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

The long established Black population in Canada is more likely to report several ethnic or cultural origins

- In 2016, 62.7% of the third generation or more Black population reported more than one origin, compared with 40.7% and 17.3% of the second and first Black generations, respectively. Various factors can explain why people report more than one origin, such as mixed marriages between people from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds or knowledge of family history.
- African and Caribbean origins are the most common ethnic origins reported by the first and second Black generations in Canada. Jamaican, African³, and Haitian are the three most common origins reported by the foreign-born Black population (first generation in Canada), while Jamaican, Canadian and Haitian were reported by the second generation (born in Canada, with at least one parent born abroad).
- The third generation or more have a longer history in the country. They have reported less often Caribbean and African origins. It includes: Canadian, Jamaican, African³, English, Irish, Scottish French and First Nations (North American) origins.

Figure 1
Ethnic origin reported as single or multiple responses by generation status, Black population in Canada, 2016



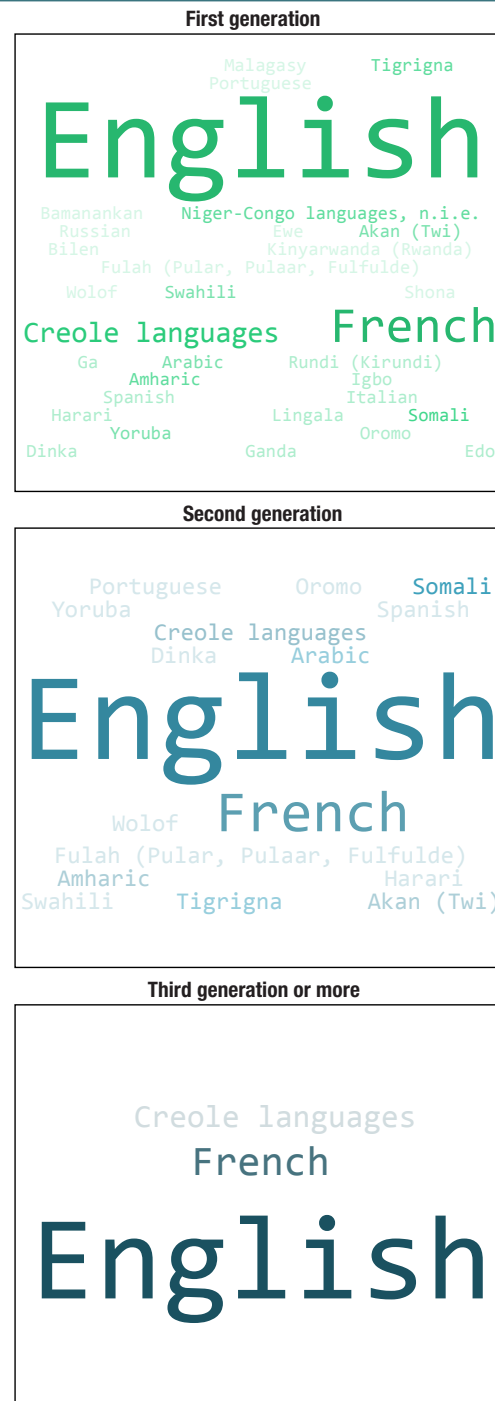
Note: **Single origin** occurs when a person provides only one origin, while **multiple origins** occurs when a person provides two or more origins. Multiple origins includes different combinations, such as two different African origins or an African origin with a Caribbean origin, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

The mother tongues reported among the first generation Black population are much more diverse than the mother tongues among the third generation or more

- In 2016, when both single and multiple responses were considered, English was the mother tongue (defined as the language first learned at home in childhood and still understood) of 59.8% of the Black population, while French was the mother tongue of 19.6%.
- Creole languages, Somali, Amharic and Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.⁴ were the other top mother tongues most frequently reported. Overall, more than 100 languages were reported as a mother tongue by the Black population in the country.

Figure 2
Mother tongue for the Black population, by generation status, Canada, 2016



Note: The word clouds show the mother tongue most frequently reported by each generation. The cut-off for inclusion in the word cloud is 0.1%. The data table can be found in the appendix.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

A higher percent of people within the Black population (28.0%) speak French at home compared to the total population (23.3%)

- The Black population is more likely to speak a language other than English or French at home (28.0% - when all categories are taken into consideration) than the total population (21.8%). In many cases, the Black population speaks English or French primarily at home, in addition to other languages on a regular basis.
- Both the Black population and the total population show similar percentages for those who speak English at home – around 74%.

Table 2
Frequency of English, French and other languages spoken at home for the Black and total populations, Canada, 2016

	Black population		Total population	
	number	percent	number	percent
English				
Languages spoken at home	1,198,540	100.0	34,460,050	100.0
English spoken at home	887,955	74.1	25,694,855	74.6
Primarily	753,605	62.9	22,031,180	63.9
Only	656,370	54.8	19,650,025	57.0
Mostly	97,235	8.1	2,381,155	6.9
Equally with another language	65,275	5.4	1,488,820	4.3
Regularly (secondary use)	69,075	5.8	2,174,855	6.3
No mention of English	310,585	25.9	8,765,195	25.4
French				
Languages spoken at home	1,198,540	100.0	34,460,050	100.0
French spoken at home	335,350	28.0	8,028,300	23.3
Primarily	235,315	19.6	6,842,960	19.9
Only	143,835	12.0	5,994,055	17.4
Mostly	91,480	7.6	848,905	2.5
Equally with another language	54,935	4.6	366,160	1.1
Regularly (secondary use)	45,100	3.8	819,180	2.4
No mention of French	863,190	72.0	26,431,750	76.7
Other language(s)				
Languages spoken at home	1,198,540	100.0	34,460,050	100.0
Other language(s) spoken at home	335,655	28.0	7,500,780	21.8
Primarily	113,205	9.4	3,950,050	11.5
Only	61,635	5.1	2,280,995	6.6
Mostly	51,570	4.3	1,669,055	4.8
Equally with another language	79,745	6.7	1,481,480	4.3
Regularly (secondary use)	142,705	11.9	2,069,250	6.0
No mention of other language	862,885	72.0	26,959,270	78.2

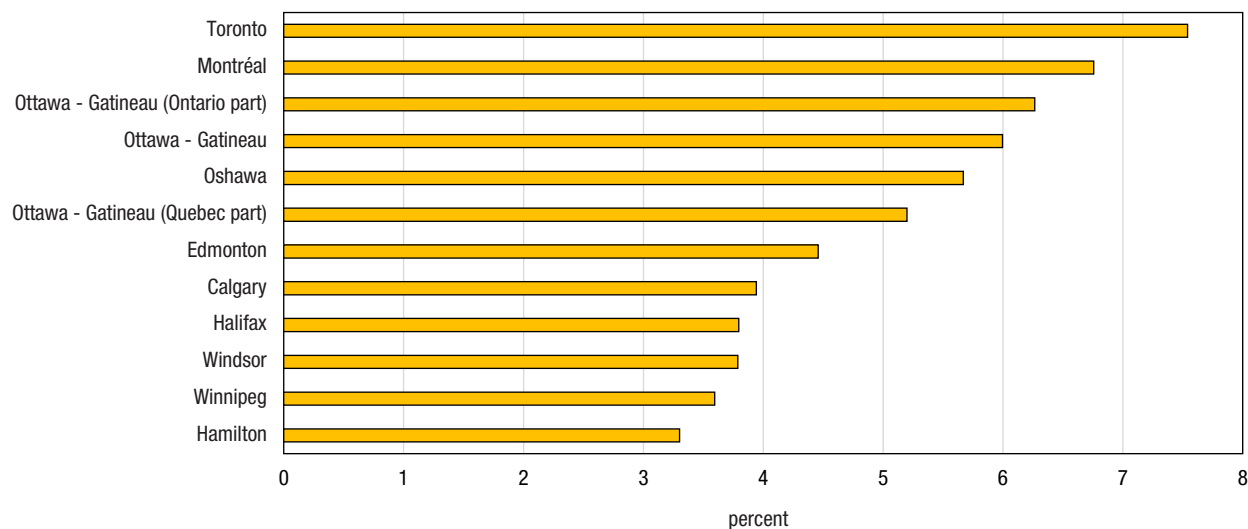
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

The vast majority of the Black population live in large urban areas

- In 2016, 94.3% of Black people lived in Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), compared with 71.2% of the country's total population.
- Toronto, Montréal, Ottawa-Gatineau, Edmonton and Calgary were each home to at least 50,000 people who reported being Black in 2016.
- Toronto has the largest Black population in the country, with 442,015 people or 36.9% of Canada's Black population. The size of this population has increased in 15 years, but it now represents a smaller share of Canada's Black population than in 2001 (46.9%).
- CMAs of Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part), Lethbridge and Moncton had the fastest growing Black population in the country between 1996 and 2016.
- Black people represented 7.5% of Toronto's total population, the highest proportion among census metropolitan areas. Montréal and Ottawa-Gatineau had the second and third highest proportions.

Chart 9

Black population as a percentage of the population in selected census metropolitan areas, Canada, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES: LONGEST HISTORY



Nova Scotia has the largest Black population in the Atlantic provinces and the fifth largest Black population in the country.

Table 3.1
Key Statistics for the Black population in the Atlantic provinces, 2016

	Total - Atlantic provinces	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
	number				
Total population in 2016	32,080	2,350	825	21,910	6,995
	percent				
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+45.2	+291.7	+211.3	+21.0	+124.2
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+27.2	+159.7	+27.9	+14.0	+57.0
Percent of Canada's Black population	2.7	0.2	0.1	1.8	0.6
Percent of region/province's total population	1.4	0.5	0.6	2.4	1.0
	number				
Median age	26.7	22.4	22.6	28.3	25.0
Ratio Men/Women	98.3	104.8	107.6	96.1	102.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



The majority of the Black population living in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were born in Canada.

Table 3.2
Generation status for the Black population in the Atlantic provinces, 2016

	Total - Atlantic provinces		Newfoundland and Labrador		Prince Edward Island		Nova Scotia		New Brunswick	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
First generation	8,705	27.1	1,440	61.3	440	53.3	3,820	17.4	3,005	43.0
Second generation	4,550	14.2	610	26.0	175	21.2	2,360	10.8	1,405	20.1
Third generation or more	18,820	58.7	300	12.8	205	24.8	15,730	71.8	2,585	37.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



Three in four (75.9% or 4,605) Black immigrants in the Atlantic provinces have immigrated between 2001 and 2016. Their top birthplaces were Nigeria, Jamaica, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



The ethnic and cultural origins that were the most frequently reported by the Black population in this region included: Canadian, African³, English, Irish, Scottish and French.



In New Brunswick, close to one third (30.7%) of the Black population had French as their first official language spoken - this was very similar to the overall provincial rate (31.7%).

Non-official languages that were most reported as a mother tongue included Niger-Congo languages n.i.e.⁴, Swahili and Amharic.

QUEBEC: FRENCH SPEAKING



Quebec has the second largest Black population, with 26.6% of Canada's total Black population.

In 20 years, the Black population has more than doubled in size in this province – going from 131,970 people in 1996 to 319,230 people in 2016.

Table 4.1
Key statistics for the Black population in Quebec, 2016

	Quebec
	number
Total population in 2016	319,230
	percent
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+141.9
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+69.7
Percent of Canada's Black population	26.6
Percent of region/province's total population	4.0
	number
Median age	29.5
Ratio Men/Women	93.3

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



The Black population in Quebec is predominately first generation living in the country, but some have also called Canada home for many generations.

Table 4.2
Generation status for the Black population in Quebec, 2016

	Quebec	
	number	percent
First generation	194,010	60.8
Second generation	109,680	34.4
Third generation or more	15,535	4.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



In Quebec, nearly 43% of the foreign-born Black population were born in Haiti. In fact, the largest Haitian community in Canada live in the census metropolitan area of Montréal.

About 52,935 (or three in 10) Black immigrants in Quebec are newcomers in the country and were admitted between 2011 and 2016. Close to six in 10 of them came from African countries, but Haiti remains the top source country of recent immigrants.



About 180 different ethnic and cultural origins were reported by Black people in Quebec, with Haitian as the top reported origin.



French is the most reported mother tongue by the first (38.5%), second (72.8%) and third generation or more (57.2%) of Black people living in Quebec.

- French is an official language in all of the top six countries of birth of Black immigrants living in Quebec (Haiti, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Senegal and France).
- About 28% of the Black population reported that they had a mother tongue other than English or French. The top three languages were Creole, Niger-Congo languages n.i.e.⁴ and Rundi (Kirundi).
- When considering the two official languages of Canada, the Black population with French as their first official language spoken represented 81.1%, while the share of those with English as their first official language spoken was 18.1%.

ONTARIO: LARGEST BLACK POPULATION IN CANADA



Ontario was home to slightly more than half (52.4%) of the total Black population in Canada.

Although the overall Black population in Ontario is growing, its share of the Black population in the country has decreased in 15 years. In 2001, 62.1% of Canada's Black population was living in this province.

Table 5.1
Key statistics for the Black population in Ontario, 2016

	Ontario
	number
Total population in 2016	627,710
	percent
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+76.2
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+32.5
Percent of Canada's Black population	52.4
Percent of region/province's total population	4.7
	number
Median age	30.6
Ratio Men/Women	89.4

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



Close to half of Ontario's Black population was born in Canada, which reflects in part, their long immigration history in this province.

Table 5.2
Generation status for the Black population in Ontario, 2016

	Ontario	
	number	percent
First generation	335,025	53.4
Second generation	240,900	38.4
Third generation or more	51,790	8.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



In Ontario, Black immigrants came from 150 different countries. About one-half were born in the Caribbean, with Jamaica (33.9%) as the leading source country.

Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Somalia, Ghana and Ethiopia were the five other most frequently reported countries for Black immigrants.

About 44,415 people in Ontario were Black newcomers (2011 to 2016) and represented 14.1% of all Black immigrants in Ontario. Top countries of birth for this group were Jamaica, Nigeria, Haiti and Ethiopia.



Overall, more than 200 ethnic and cultural origins were reported by the Black population in Ontario, with Jamaican as the most frequently reported origin.



Nearly 80% of Black people in Ontario reported English as their mother tongue, and close to 6% reported French.

Somali, Akan (Twi) and Amharic were the other most frequently reported mother tongues by the Black population in Ontario.

Among the 83,940 immigrants with French as their first official language spoken in Ontario, 31.4% were Black. This proportion reached 48.4% among newcomers (2011-2016).

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES: FASTEST GROWING



The fastest growing Black population in Canada is in the Prairies, where it has more than quadrupled in size over 20 years, from 39,955 in 1996 to 174,655 in 2016.

The Albertan Black population grew fivefold between 1996 and 2016, while Manitoba's Black population has almost tripled in size and the Black population in Saskatchewan has more than tripled in the same period of time.

This rapid growth of the Black population in the Prairies has been driven by immigration, mainly from African countries.

Table 6.1
Key statistics for the Black population in the Prairie provinces, 2016

	Total - The Prairie provinces			
	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	
	number			
Total population in 2016	174,655	30,340	14,925	129,390
	percent			
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+337.1	+181.6	+249.9	+419.3
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+157.5	+93.7	+193.5	+174.9
Percent of Canada's Black population	14.6	2.5	1.2	10.8
Percent of region/province's total population	2.8	2.4	1.4	3.3
	number			
Median age	27.3	26.8	25.6	27.7
Ratio Men/Women	107.8	108.5	110.8	107.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



Black people in the Prairies are predominately first generation living in the country, but some have also called Canada home for many generations.

Table 6.2
Generation status for the Black population in the Prairie provinces, 2016

	Total - Prairie provinces		Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
First generation	113,395	64.9	20,515	67.6	10,290	68.9	82,590	63.8
Second generation	50,060	28.7	7,750	25.5	3,575	24.0	38,735	29.9
Third generation or more	11,195	6.4	2,075	6.8	1,055	7.1	8,065	6.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



In 2016, the main birthplaces for Black immigrants in the Prairies were Nigeria, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Somalia and Eritrea.

About 37,290 of the Black population were newcomers in the country, which represented 36.2% of the Black immigrant population in the Prairies.



African³, Jamaican and Nigerian were among the top reported ethnic or cultural origins for the Black population in the Prairie provinces.



Almost all (94.6%) of the Black population in this region reported a single mother tongue.

English was the mother tongue of more than half of this population, while 4.6% reported French as their mother tongue.

Those with a non-official mother tongue represented 35.7% of the Black population. Somali, Amharic, and Tigrigna were the top non-official mother tongues reported for the region.

Of all immigrants with French as their first official language spoken in the Prairies (23,305), 39.8% were Black. This proportion reached 53.3% among newcomers (2011-2016).

BRITISH COLUMBIA: FEW RECENT BLACK IMMIGRANTS



In British Columbia the Black population is growing, but at a slower pace compared to neighbouring provinces.

Between 1996 and 2016, the Black population in British Columbia almost doubled in size.

Table 7.1
Key statistics for the Black population in British Columbia, 2016

	British Columbia	
	number	percent
Total population in 2016	43,505	
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+86.9	
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+53.6	
Percent of Canada's Black population	3.6	
Percent of region/province's total population	1.0	
	number	
Median age	28.6	
Ratio Men/Women	106.7	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



Many Black people in British Columbia have a long history in the country.

Table 7.2
Generation status for the Black population in British Columbia, 2016

	British Columbia	
	number	percent
First generation	23,465	53.9
Second generation	14,280	32.8
Third generation or more	5,755	13.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



Black immigrants in British Columbia came from different parts of the world, such as Jamaica, Nigeria, the United States, Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Kingdom and Somalia.

About 4,405 Black people were newcomers, which represented 2.5% of the total recent immigrant population living in the province.



African³, Canadian, Jamaican, English, American and Scottish were the most frequently reported ethnic origins by the Black population in British Columbia.



Of the non-official languages reported for mother tongue, the top languages were Somali, Amharic and Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.⁴.

Considering Canada's two official languages, 94.4% of the Black population had English as their first language spoken compared to 4.4% with French as their first official language spoken. Among Black immigrants, these proportions were 92.0% and 6.0%, respectively.

THE TERRITORIES: SMALLEST BLACK POPULATION IN CANADA



The Territories had the fewest number of Black people in the country.

Table 8.1
Key statistics for the Black population in the Territories, 2016

	Total - The Territories	Yukon Territory	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
	number			
Total population in 2016	1,350	265	760	325
	percent			
Population growth rate (1996-2016)	+285.7	+112.0	+322.2	+622.2
Population growth rate (2006-2016)	+125.0	+112.0	+102.7	+225.0
Percent of Canada's Black population	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Percent of region/province's total population	1.2	0.8	1.8	0.9
	number			
Median age	35.3	35.9	35.0	36.4
Ratio Men/Women	118.5	82.8	133.8	120.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2006 and 2016.



The first generation Black population makes up the majority of the total Black population in the Territories.

Table 8.2
Generation status for the Black population in the Territories, 2016

	Total - The Territories		Yukon Territory		Northwest Territories		Nunavut	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
First generation	865	64.1	120	45.3	515	67.8	230	70.8
Second generation	360	26.7	95	35.8	185	24.3	80	24.6
Third generation or more	125	9.3	50	18.9	60	7.9	15	4.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.



Top places of birth for the Black population in the Territories are: Canada, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Somalia.



Canadian and Jamaican were the two most frequently reported ethnic or cultural origins for the Black population in the Territories.



The top reported mother tongues: English, French, Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.⁴, Arabic and Shona.

Conclusion

This portrait of Canada's Black population from the Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics is based mainly on 2016 Census data. It provides a demographic overview of the Black population, as well as key statistics related to their ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity and a few geographical highlights. However, this portrait is not meant to be exhaustive.

Although it highlights the great diversity within the Black population, it does not present any result related to the several challenges and issues faced by many members of Black communities in Canada.

Challenges and issues such as those related to labour market integration, income inequalities, differential access to resources, health conditions, discrimination, school dropout, etc., may impact differently various groups within the Black population. Moreover, although the Black population generally has similar characteristics compared to the overall population, they often present different socio-economic outcomes. For example, the unemployment rate for the Black population is higher than for Canada's total population.

Disaggregated 2016 Census data tables with selected demographic, cultural, labour market and income characteristics are available on [Statistics Canada's Census program website](#) which can provide insights on similarities and differences within the Black population as well as between the Black population and other populations in Canada.

New analytical products will be released later which will describe in more detail the characteristics of Canada's Black population, as well as their socio-economic outcomes.

Acknowledgments

This portrait was prepared by H el ene Maheux and Deniz Do, analysts of the Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. Special thanks to Jean-Pierre Corbeil and  Eric Caron Malenfant for their advice and guidance. The authors also wish to thank  Emilie Lavoie, Alejandro Paez Silva, Julien Acaffou, Christine Bizier, Nathalie Villemure and Denis Theriault for their input and assistance in the verification and finalizing of this portrait. They would also like to thank Jennifer Arkell for the creation of the cover page for this portrait.

The authors are also grateful for the members of the Expert Working Group on Black Communities for their invaluable insight and comments for this project. Members include: Malinda S. Smith (professor, University of Alberta), Myrlande Pierre (researcher, Centre de recherche en immigration, ethnicit e et citoyennet e de l'UQAM), Carl James (professor, York University), Scot Wortley (professor, University of Toronto), and Frantz Voltaire (director, Centre international de documentation et d'information ha tienne, carib enne et afro-canadienne).

Notes

1. Statistics Canada (2017). *Immigration and Diversity: Population Projections for Canada and its Regions, 2011 to 2036*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-551-X. (low immigration and high immigration scenarios).
2. Naturalization is the process through which landed immigrants/permanent residents acquire Canadian citizenship.
3. "Other African origins, not included elsewhere" includes mostly general responses (e.g., 'African'), as well as a few more specific African responses (e.g., 'Saharan') that have not been included elsewhere in the ethnic origin classification.
4. n.i.e. = not included elsewhere

Appendix

Data table for figure 2
Mother tongue for the Black population,
by generation status, Canada, 2016

	percent
First generation	
English	45.0
French	14.6
Creole languages	8.9
Somali	4.1
Amharic	2.9
Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e. ¹	2.7
Tigrigna	2.1
Akan (Twi)	1.8
Swahili	1.6
Yoruba	1.3
Arabic	1.1
Rundi (Kirundi)	0.8
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	0.7
Igbo	0.6
Oromo	0.6
Lingala	0.5
Wolof	0.5
Shona	0.5
Fulah (Pular, Pulaar, Fulfulde)	0.4
Portuguese	0.3
Spanish	0.3
Ewe	0.2
Edo	0.2
Dinka	0.2
Bamanankan	0.2
Ganda	0.2
Ga	0.1
Harari	0.1
Bilen	0.1
Malagasy	0.1
Italian	0.1
Russian	0.1
Second generation	
English	68.5
French	22.2
Somali	1.6
Creole languages	0.8
Amharic	0.4
Akan (Twi)	0.4
Tigrigna	0.3
Arabic	0.3
Swahili	0.2
Oromo	0.2
Portuguese	0.1
Yoruba	0.1
Fulah (Pular, Pulaar, Fulfulde)	0.1
Wolof	0.1
Dinka	0.1
Spanish	0.1
Harari	0.1
Third generation or more	
English	88.6
French	9.8
Creole languages	0.1

1. The abbreviation "n.i.e." means not included elsewhere.

Note: The word clouds show the mother tongue most frequently reported by each generation of the Black population. The cut-off for inclusion in the word cloud is 0.1%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.