

Overview

In 2001, just over 1.3 million Canadians reported that their ancestors belonged to at least one of the Aboriginal peoples defined by *The Constitution Act* (1982)—North American Indian, Inuit and Métis, each of which have unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

However, not everyone with Aboriginal ancestry reported that they were Aboriginal people. In the 2001 Census, 976,305 people identified themselves as members of at least one of these Aboriginal groups.

In 2001, North American Indians, also called First Nations peoples, made up 62% of the Aboriginal population, while 30% identified as Métis and 5% as Inuit. The remaining 3% could not be classified into just one Aboriginal group, or they were registered Indians or band members who did not identify as Aboriginal peoples. Eighty percent

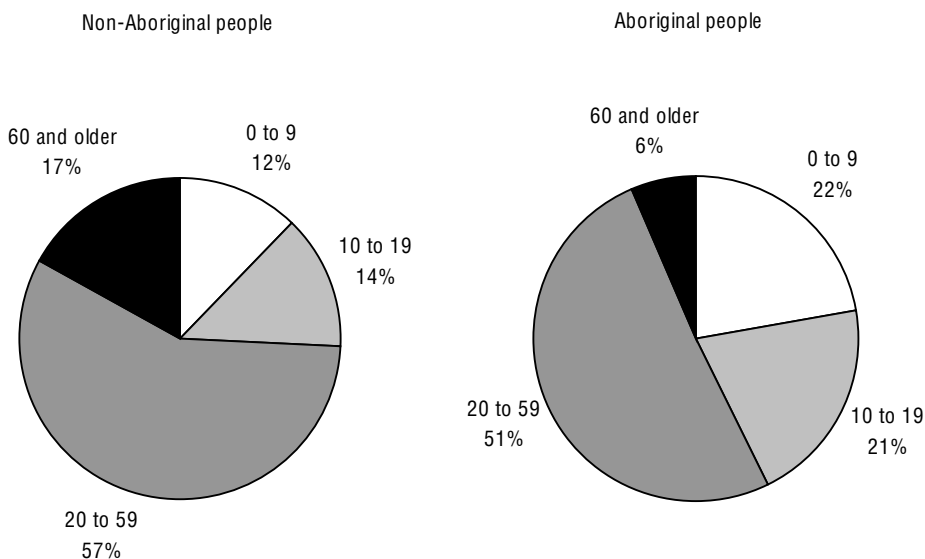
of First Nations people also reported they were registered under the *Indian Act*.

Distribution of Aboriginal people

Aboriginal people accounted for a large share of the population in the territories in 2001: 84% in Nunavut, 51% in the Northwest Territories and 24% in Yukon. However, the largest absolute numbers lived in Ontario (188,000), followed by British Columbia (170,000), Alberta (156,000), Manitoba (150,000) and Saskatchewan (130,000).

Among metropolitan areas, Winnipeg is home to the largest Aboriginal population. Almost 56,000 were counted in 2001, or more than 8% of the city's residents. Winnipeg is also home to the largest Métis population (just over 31,000) and registered Indian population (19,000). Vancouver has

Chart 1.1
Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations, by age group, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

the largest non-registered Indian population (8,000).

The Aboriginal identity population grew by 22% from 1996 to 2001, while the non-Aboriginal population grew 3%. About half of this Aboriginal population increase was the result of demographic or natural growth—higher fertility rates, for example. The other half was the result of non-demographic factors, such as better census coverage compared with previous years and a rising tendency for Aboriginal peoples to self-identify. Natural growth alone could increase the Aboriginal identity population to 1.4 million by 2017.

A young and growing population

From 1996 to 2001, the Métis population grew by 43%, First Nations people by 15% and the Inuit by 12%. Natural increase accounted for most of the growth among the First Nations and Inuit populations, whereas non-demographic factors explained most of the Métis population growth.

In 2001, half of all Aboriginal people were under 25. In sharp contrast, half of non-

Table 1.a
Aboriginal population in Canada, the territories and selected provinces

	2001	2017
	% of population	
Canada	3.4	4.1
Nunavut	84	83.6
Northwest Territories	50.5	57.7
Yukon	24	35.3
Saskatchewan	13.8	20.8
Manitoba	13.8	18.4
Ontario	1.8	1.9
Quebec	1.3	1.6

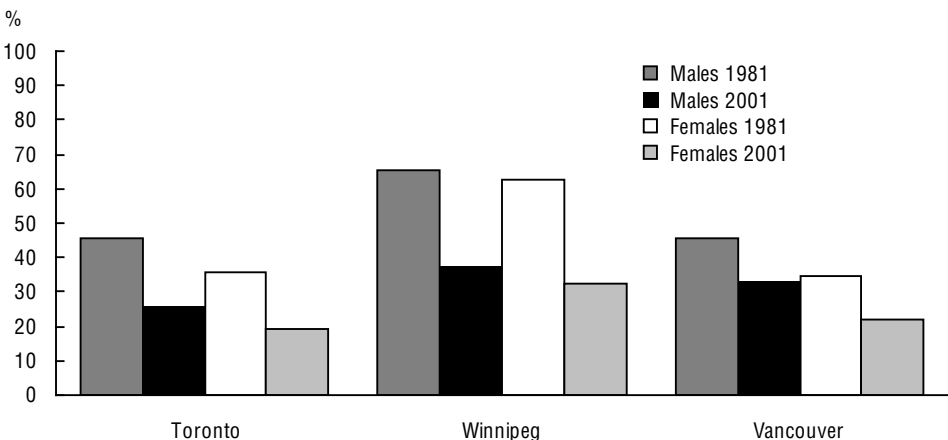
Note: Data for 2001 are final estimates and data for 2017 are projections.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-547-XIE.

Aboriginal people were under 38. The Inuit have the youngest population in Canada (half are under 21), followed by First Nations (half are under 24) and Métis (half are under 27).

The number of Aboriginal people in their twenties is projected to increase dramatically. This may change the profile of job seekers in some parts of the country. Projections indicate that by 2017, Aboriginal people aged 20 to 29 will make up 30% of those in their 20s in Saskatchewan, 24% in

Chart 1.2
Aboriginal young adults without high school completion, not in school, by sex, selected census metropolitan areas



Note: Aboriginal identity population aged 20 to 24.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-613-MIE.

Manitoba, 40% in Yukon and 58% in the Northwest Territories. Already, 80% of Nunavut's population of 20- to 29-year-olds are Aboriginal people, and the proportion is expected to grow.

Quality of life gaps

Aboriginal people in Canada do not share the same quality of life as the general population. Their situation differs greatly by where they live, by Aboriginal group and by gender. For example, 1 in 3 Inuit living in the Arctic in 2001 reported there were times of the year when their water was contaminated.

In 2001, 14% of Aboriginal people were living in overcrowded housing conditions, compared with 4% of the general population. The highest percentage for overcrowded housing was found among Inuit, a rate of 32%. The overcrowding rate for First Nations people on reserves was also high at 25%.

Although the employment rate from 1996 to 2001 increased at a faster pace for Aboriginal people than for non-Aboriginal people, a gap remains. In 2001, 62% of non-Aboriginal

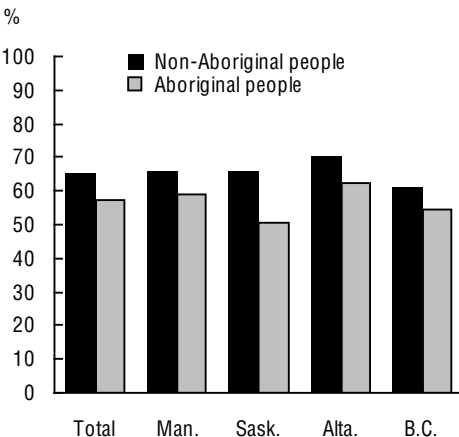
people were employed, compared with 59% of Métis, 49% of Inuit and 45% of First Nations peoples.

Among the off-reserve population in Western Canada in 2005, the employment rate for Métis was similar to the non-Aboriginal population, 65%. The employment rate was far lower for First Nations peoples, 51%.

The share of Aboriginal people aged 20 to 24 who had not completed high school dropped substantially from 1981 to 2001, tumbling from 64% to 47% for men and from 61% to 40% for women. Aboriginal women are now more likely than Aboriginal men to have a college diploma or a university degree.

Nonetheless, from 1981 to 2001, the proportion of non-Aboriginal people with a university degree grew faster than the same proportion for Aboriginal people. This is important because education appears to reduce the employment gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. In 2001, for instance, the employment rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal university graduates aged 20 to 64 were virtually identical.

Chart 1.3
Employment rates of non-Aboriginal and off-reserve Aboriginal people in Western Canada



Note: April 2004 to March 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-587-XIE.

Selected sources

Statistics Canada

- *Aboriginal peoples of Canada: A demographic profile, 2001 Census.* Occasional. 96F0030XIE2001007
- *The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance.* Occasional. 71-222-XWE
- *Perspectives on Labour and Income.* Monthly. 75-001-XWE
- *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada.* Occasional. 89-519-XWE
- *Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report.* Occasional. 89-503-XIE

Other

- Health Canada

Aboriginal women face a paradox

The situation of Aboriginal women is paradoxical. Although they have more education than Aboriginal men, they are less likely to be part of the work force. And when they work for a wage, they earn less than Aboriginal men and non-Aboriginal women.

Family status may be a factor. Fertility rates were much higher from 1996 to 2001 among Aboriginal women, at 2.6 children on average over the course of their lifetime, than among non-Aboriginal women, at 1.5 children.

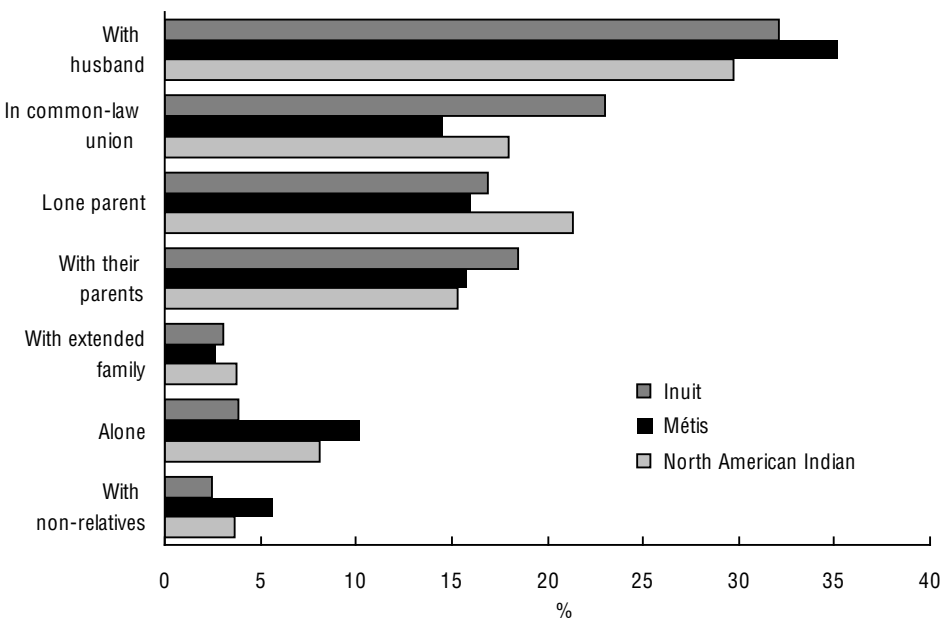
Among off-reserve Aboriginal women, 'family responsibilities' is the most common reason for not completing a postsecondary program, while 'pregnancy or the need to care for children' is the most common reason for dropping out of high school. However, Aboriginal women are also more likely than Aboriginal men or other women to return to school later in life.

In 2001, Aboriginal women were twice as likely as non-Aboriginal women to be lone parents (19% versus 8%). First Nations women were more likely to be lone parents (21%) than either Inuit (17%) or Métis (16%) women. As well, lone-parent families headed by Aboriginal women tend to be larger.

In 2001, 47% of Aboriginal women were employed, compared with 56% of non-Aboriginal women and 53% of Aboriginal men.

However, employment rates do not always reflect work for which no payment is received. Work of this type is common in many Aboriginal communities, especially in rural and remote ones, where much time is spent fishing, trapping, hunting, sewing, and providing care for children. Also, seasonal work is common in many Aboriginal communities.

Chart 1.4
Aboriginal women's living arrangements, by Aboriginal identity group, 2001



Note: Women aged 15 and older, Aboriginal identity population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-503-XIE.

Seniors: Foundation of their communities

Seniors have influential and important roles in Aboriginal communities. As elders, Aboriginal seniors share their knowledge of traditions, culture and languages.

In 2001, 39,700 seniors aged 65 and older identified themselves as Aboriginal peoples. While Aboriginal peoples made up 3% of the total population, Aboriginal seniors made up only 1% of the total senior population.

Only 4% of Aboriginal peoples were aged 65 and older in 2001, compared with 13% of the non-Aboriginal population. Projections indicate that the number of Aboriginal seniors could climb to 7% of the total Aboriginal population by 2017, well below the 17% projected for non-Aboriginal seniors.

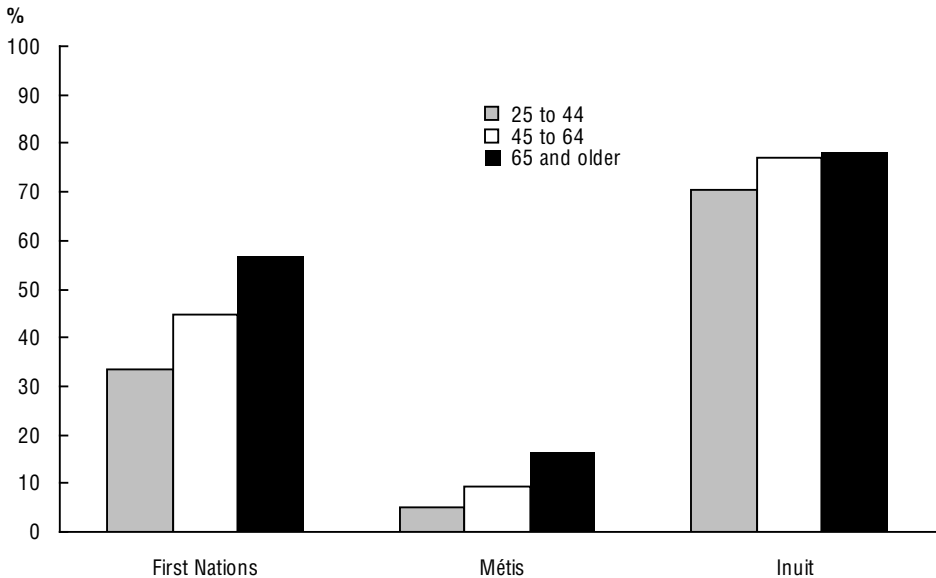
Aboriginal seniors have a lower median income than other seniors. In 2000, the

median income of Aboriginal seniors was 83% that of non-Aboriginal seniors, or \$14,259 compared with \$17,123.

Seniors are especially vital in the retention of Aboriginal languages. The vast majority of Inuit seniors are able to carry on a conversation in Inuktitut; 78% of those aged 65 and older and 77% of those aged 45 to 64 can converse in Inuktitut. Among Métis seniors, 16% are able to carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language.

First Nations seniors who live on reserve have very different characteristics from those who live off reserve. Among First Nations seniors living on reserve lands in 2001, 79% could converse in an Aboriginal language. That contrasts with 32% of First Nations seniors who lived off reserve lands.

Chart 1.5
Knowledge of Aboriginal languages, by Aboriginal identity group and selected age groups, 2001



Note: Aboriginal identity population.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Where do Aboriginal people live?

According to the 2001 Census, 70% of 976,305 people with Aboriginal identity lived off reserves. Indian reserves are lands set aside for First Nations people, also referred to as North American Indians. In 2001, more than half (53%) of 505,000 First Nations people with legal Indian status lived on reserves. Because reserves are set aside for First Nations people, very few Métis or Inuit live on reserve lands.

In 2001, only 7,315 Métis—3% of Canada's 292,310 Métis—lived on reserves. Nearly 7 in 10 lived in cities: 4 in 10 in large cities, 3 in 10 in smaller cities.

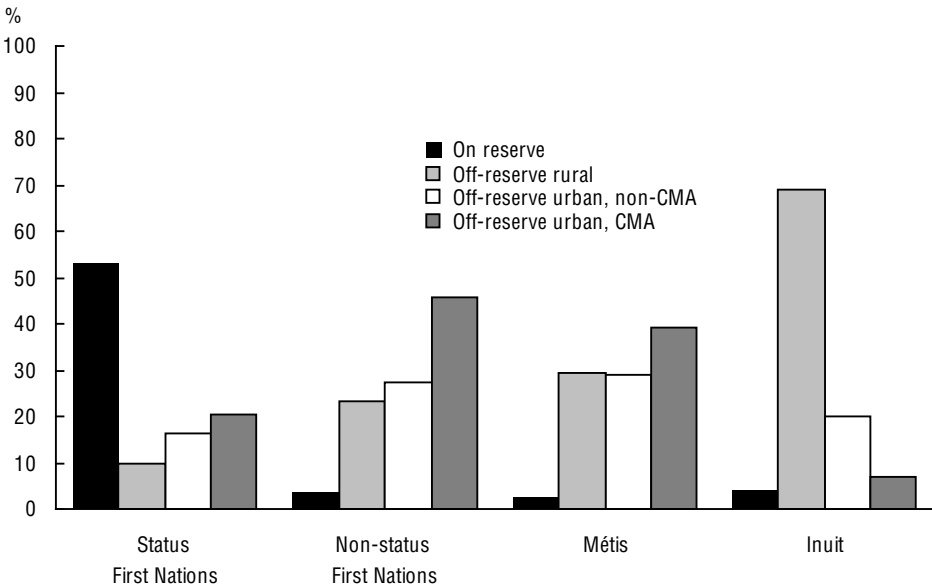
The Inuit live predominantly in the North. In 2001, about half of Canada's 45,070 Inuit population was living in Nunavut, 21% in Nunavik (Northern Quebec), 10% in

Nunatsiavut (Labrador) and 9% in Inuvialuit (Northwest Territories). With just 7% in large urban centres, the Inuit are the least likely of all Aboriginal people to live in large urban centres.

Among the 48% of First Nations peoples with legal Indian status who lived off reserves in 2001, most were in urban areas (21% in large cities and 17% in small cities), while the remaining 10% lived in rural non-reserve areas. Of First Nations peoples without legal Indian status, 73% lived in cities (both large and small).

Contrary to popular belief, Indian reserves are not losing population. Over the last 20 years, reserves have experienced small net gains in population with 3% of their population moving away, but 4% moving to reserves.

Chart 1.6
Area of residence of Aboriginal people, by Aboriginal identity and status group, 2001



Note: Aboriginal identity population.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Aboriginal health and well-being

Two particularly pressing concerns for Aboriginal peoples today are access to adequate housing and their overall health. Compared with the general population, the percentage of Aboriginal peoples living in overcrowded housing is five to six times higher on reserves and in the North. Poor housing conditions allow diseases such as tuberculosis to spread.

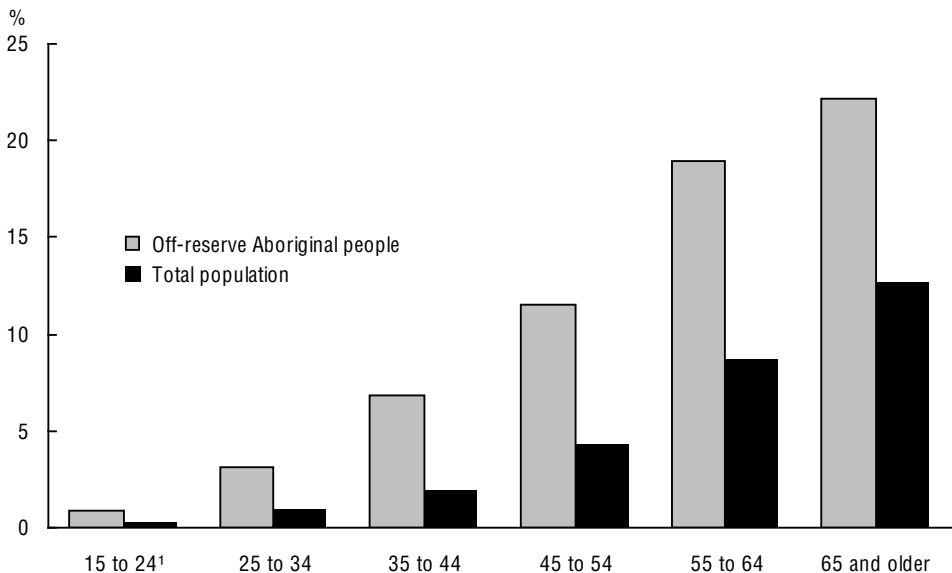
In 2005, the tuberculosis rate was 27 active cases per 100,000 in Aboriginal peoples compared with 5 active cases per 100,000 in the Canadian population. Of the 1,600 active tuberculosis cases reported in Canada in 2005, 19% of the patients were Aboriginal peoples, 13% were non-Aboriginal Canadian-born and 63% were foreign-born.

HIV/AIDS rates among Aboriginal peoples is an ongoing concern, especially for Aboriginal women and youths. From

1998 to 2005, women made up 47% of all new HIV diagnoses among Aboriginal people, compared with 21% among non-Aboriginal people. Moreover, Aboriginal people receive a diagnosis of HIV at a younger age than non-Aboriginal people—one out of three Aboriginal persons newly diagnosed with HIV is under 30 years of age. By contrast, one out of five non-Aboriginal persons newly diagnosed is under 30.

Higher rates for diabetes mellitus among Aboriginal peoples is also of great concern. In 2001, 11% of Aboriginal adults on reserves had been diagnosed with diabetes, compared with 8% of First Nations adults off reserves, 6% of Métis, 2% of Inuit and 3% of the general population. High rates of diabetes are linked to key health determinants such as income, employment levels, education, social conditions and access to health care.

Chart 1.7
Population diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, by age group, 2001



1. Data should be used with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2001 and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2000/2001.

Table 1.1 Aboriginal origins population, by sex and by province and territory, 2001

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
	number													
Both sexes	1,319,890	28,065	2,720	33,415	28,470	159,905	308,105	160,250	135,035	199,015	216,110	6,990	18,955	22,860
North American Indian	455,805	5,435	580	9,035	8,180	49,980	80,065	74,690	70,385	64,940	78,685	3,895	9,855	85
North American Indian and non-Aboriginal ¹	501,840	10,035	1,775	19,005	14,785	77,560	163,740	27,870	24,045	68,205	90,295	2,320	2,095	110
Métis	72,210	2,540	10	510	855	5,375	9,230	14,190	12,475	17,315	8,305	115	1,265	20
Métis and non-Aboriginal ²	193,810	2,460	230	3,385	3,390	14,095	46,470	35,975	19,880	35,620	31,190	325	765	20
Inuit	37,030	3,135	20	135	105	8,535	625	165	145	600	365	75	2,945	20,185
Inuit and non-Aboriginal ³	14,365	3,030	105	775	245	1,635	2,700	375	235	1,305	1,055	100	555	2,260
Multiple Aboriginal origins	44,835	1,425	10	575	910	2,725	5,280	6,990	7,865	11,025	6,220	165	1,480	180
Males	640,780	13,725	1,320	15,800	14,100	76,125	148,195	78,155	65,460	97,080	106,335	3,415	9,470	11,600
North American Indian	223,775	2,565	270	4,435	4,025	24,545	38,675	36,225	34,660	31,915	39,555	1,925	4,940	40
North American Indian and non-Aboriginal ¹	239,345	4,880	865	8,715	7,080	35,985	77,985	13,710	11,100	33,055	43,770	1,135	1,005	60
Métis	36,740	1,340	10	285	470	2,705	4,910	7,210	6,020	8,790	4,285	60	670	10
Métis and non-Aboriginal ²	93,945	1,200	130	1,620	1,805	6,590	22,500	17,565	9,720	17,210	15,085	155	365	15
Inuit	18,560	1,535	10	50	75	4,315	290	75	75	245	165	20	1,460	10,245
Inuit and non-Aboriginal ³	6,975	1,570	45	360	170	740	1,225	185	115	615	470	65	270	1,140
Multiple Aboriginal origins	21,445	635	0	330	490	1,245	2,615	3,190	3,775	5,245	3,005	55	760	95
Females	679,105	14,340	1,395	17,620	14,370	83,775	159,910	82,095	69,570	101,935	109,775	3,570	9,485	11,255
North American Indian	232,035	2,865	315	4,595	4,155	25,440	41,395	38,465	35,725	33,025	39,125	1,970	4,915	45
North American Indian and non-Aboriginal ¹	262,495	5,155	910	10,290	7,705	41,570	85,755	14,165	12,945	35,150	46,530	1,185	1,085	50
Métis	35,470	1,205	0	225	390	2,665	4,325	6,980	6,460	8,530	4,020	60	600	10
Métis and non-Aboriginal ²	99,860	1,265	105	1,765	1,585	7,510	23,970	18,410	10,160	18,415	16,105	170	390	0
Inuit	18,465	1,600	10	85	35	4,220	335	90	65	350	195	50	1,490	9,940
Inuit and non-Aboriginal ³	7,390	1,455	60	410	80	895	1,470	190	125	690	580	30	285	1,120
Multiple Aboriginal origins	23,390	790	10	245	420	1,480	2,665	3,795	4,095	5,780	3,205	105	720	85

1. The respondent reported having both North American Indian and non-Aboriginal origins.

2. The respondent reported having both Métis and non-Aboriginal origins.

3. The respondent reported having both Inuit and non-Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 1.2 Aboriginal origins population, by age group, sex and province and territory, 2001

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
	number													
Both sexes, all ages	976,305	18,780	1,345	17,015	16,990	79,400	188,315	150,040	130,185	156,220	170,025	6,540	18,730	22,720
0 to 4	102,610	1,465	160	1,800	1,675	7,580	17,160	18,000	16,785	16,890	15,445	635	1,880	3,135
5 to 9	113,075	1,665	115	1,880	1,660	8,090	20,165	18,985	17,885	18,675	17,900	665	2,245	3,150
10 to 14	108,270	1,920	170	1,730	1,550	7,840	18,320	17,085	16,855	18,130	18,650	675	2,245	3,100
15 to 19	92,985	2,050	125	1,570	1,630	6,700	16,575	14,400	13,395	15,535	16,315	575	1,800	2,330
20 to 24	76,080	1,550	115	1,425	1,200	6,085	14,150	11,615	10,570	13,145	12,415	450	1,485	1,880
25 to 34	148,550	2,920	155	2,730	2,645	11,780	28,745	22,890	18,870	25,190	25,470	900	2,705	3,535
35 to 44	145,855	2,995	165	2,455	2,840	12,130	31,710	20,820	16,355	22,330	27,555	1,230	2,685	2,585
45 to 54	96,365	2,285	180	1,915	1,945	9,240	20,925	13,305	9,890	14,005	18,860	665	1,675	1,480
55 to 64	52,830	1,055	80	835	1,085	5,405	11,935	7,410	5,375	7,185	10,170	405	985	895
65 and older	39,680	875	80	675	755	4,555	8,630	5,540	4,210	5,135	7,240	345	1,025	625
Males, all ages	476,700	9,395	635	8,320	8,655	38,995	91,140	73,030	63,290	75,945	83,220	3,190	9,355	11,520
0 to 4	52,375	740	85	890	825	3,935	8,660	9,325	8,515	8,680	7,835	320	945	1,630
5 to 9	57,905	850	65	975	830	4,150	10,500	9,720	9,085	9,415	9,210	330	1,190	1,600
10 to 14	55,060	965	65	800	830	4,055	9,370	8,510	8,360	9,355	9,680	350	1,135	1,590
15 to 19	47,020	1,060	65	840	855	3,345	8,390	7,255	6,700	7,895	8,220	295	900	1,200
20 to 24	36,585	785	65	660	640	2,975	6,810	5,305	4,910	6,490	6,045	220	725	945
25 to 34	70,275	1,415	65	1,330	1,345	5,665	13,385	10,710	8,535	11,935	12,375	435	1,335	1,740
35 to 44	68,405	1,360	90	1,165	1,435	5,720	14,910	9,765	7,790	10,290	12,770	570	1,275	1,260
45 to 54	45,800	1,210	55	880	955	4,530	9,940	6,470	4,695	6,280	8,950	310	795	735
55 to 64	25,140	560	45	425	590	2,570	5,505	3,540	2,735	3,220	4,770	205	525	450
65 and older	18,145	450	35	360	355	2,055	3,675	2,435	1,975	2,390	3,365	150	535	375
Females, all ages	499,605	9,380	710	8,690	8,330	40,405	97,175	77,010	66,895	80,270	86,805	3,350	9,375	11,200
0 to 4	50,235	720	75	905	850	3,645	8,500	8,675	8,270	8,210	7,615	310	935	1,510
5 to 9	55,170	820	50	905	830	3,935	9,665	9,265	8,805	9,260	8,685	340	1,055	1,550
10 to 14	53,210	955	105	930	720	3,785	8,950	8,575	8,500	8,775	8,975	325	1,110	1,505
15 to 19	45,970	985	60	735	770	3,355	8,185	7,140	6,695	7,645	8,095	280	895	1,130
20 to 24	39,500	765	45	770	560	3,110	7,340	6,305	5,655	6,650	6,370	230	755	935
25 to 34	78,275	1,505	85	1,400	1,305	6,115	15,360	12,185	10,335	13,255	13,100	465	1,370	1,800
35 to 44	77,450	1,635	70	1,285	1,405	6,410	16,800	11,055	8,565	12,040	14,790	655	1,410	1,325
45 to 54	50,565	1,075	125	1,035	990	4,710	10,985	6,840	5,190	7,730	9,915	355	885	750
55 to 64	27,690	495	35	410	500	2,840	6,435	3,870	2,645	3,965	5,400	200	460	445
65 and older	21,530	425	45	315	405	2,495	4,955	3,110	2,235	2,740	3,875	195	490	250

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 1.3 Population, by Aboriginal identity, highest level of schooling and sex, 2001

	All levels	Less than high school	High school only	Some post- secondary	Trade school ¹	College ¹	University ²	University ³
	number							
Both sexes	23,901,360	7,476,900	3,367,900	2,590,165	2,598,925	3,578,400	601,425	3,687,650
Aboriginal identity population	652,350	313,315	64,390	81,940	79,225	75,505	9,125	28,845
North American Indian	395,325	200,070	35,470	50,355	45,425	42,170	5,660	16,165
Métis	207,610	87,490	24,655	25,665	28,160	27,830	2,865	10,950
Inuit	27,610	15,940	1,700	3,550	3,070	2,610	230	515
Multiple Aboriginal identities	4,535	2,005	550	465	540	700	105	165
Other Aboriginal identity	17,265	7,805	2,010	1,910	2,030	2,200	260	1,050
Non-Aboriginal population	23,249,015	7,163,585	3,303,510	2,508,225	2,519,700	3,502,890	592,300	3,658,800
Males	11,626,790	3,662,275	1,520,080	1,239,015	1,643,455	1,455,130	242,160	1,864,675
Aboriginal identity population	311,360	157,520	30,660	35,305	47,290	26,730	3,060	10,795
North American Indian	186,020	99,290	16,775	21,175	26,655	14,860	1,745	5,525
Métis	102,515	45,800	12,035	11,490	17,380	9,920	1,165	4,725
Inuit	13,650	7,950	815	1,630	1,920	1,095	65	175
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,030	1,045	205	175	285	240	20	55
Other Aboriginal identity	7,155	3,440	825	835	1,045	615	65	325
Non-Aboriginal population	11,315,430	3,504,755	1,489,420	1,203,710	1,596,165	1,428,400	239,100	1,853,880
Females	12,274,570	3,814,625	1,847,820	1,351,150	955,470	2,123,275	359,265	1,822,975
Aboriginal identity population	340,985	155,795	33,730	46,635	31,935	48,780	6,060	18,050
North American Indian	209,300	100,780	18,700	29,180	18,770	27,305	3,920	10,645
Métis	105,100	41,690	12,620	14,170	10,775	17,905	1,700	6,225
Inuit	13,960	7,990	885	1,915	1,155	1,515	160	345
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,510	960	340	290	255	465	90	110
Other Aboriginal identity	10,115	4,370	1,185	1,075	980	1,585	200	720
Non-Aboriginal population	11,933,585	3,658,830	1,814,090	1,304,520	923,530	2,074,495	353,195	1,804,925

Note: Population aged 15 years and older.

1. Certificate or diploma.

2. Certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree.

3. Degree at the bachelor's level or higher.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 1.4 Population, by Aboriginal identity, labour force characteristics and sex, 2001

	All labour force status	In the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Partici- pation rate	Employ- ment rate	Unemploy- ment rate
	number					%		
Both sexes	23,901,360	15,872,070	14,695,135	1,176,940	8,029,290	66.4	61.5	7.4
Aboriginal identity population	652,350	400,435	323,940	76,490	251,915	61.4	49.7	19.1
North American Indian	395,325	226,670	176,345	50,320	168,655	57.3	44.6	22.2
Métis	207,615	143,360	123,280	20,080	64,255	69.1	59.4	14.0
Inuit	27,610	17,260	13,425	3,830	10,345	62.5	48.6	22.2
Multiple Aboriginal identities	4,535	2,755	2,305	450	1,780	60.7	50.8	16.3
Other Aboriginal identity	17,270	10,390	8,585	1,805	6,880	60.2	49.7	17.4
Non-Aboriginal population	23,249,010	15,471,640	14,371,190	1,100,445	7,777,370	66.5	61.8	7.1
Males	11,626,790	8,452,015	7,810,290	641,720	3,174,775	72.7	67.2	7.6
Aboriginal identity population	311,365	207,920	163,490	44,425	103,450	66.8	52.5	21.4
North American Indian	186,020	116,655	87,445	29,210	69,365	62.7	47.0	25.0
Métis	102,515	76,335	64,575	11,760	26,180	74.5	63.0	15.4
Inuit	13,650	8,930	6,720	2,210	4,715	65.4	49.2	24.7
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,030	1,220	985	235	810	60.1	48.5	19.3
Other Aboriginal identity	7,150	4,770	3,760	1,015	2,380	66.7	52.6	21.3
Non-Aboriginal population	11,315,430	8,244,100	7,646,805	597,290	3,071,330	72.9	67.6	7.2
Females	12,274,570	7,420,055	6,884,840	535,220	4,854,515	60.5	56.1	7.2
Aboriginal identity population	340,985	192,520	160,455	32,060	148,470	56.5	47.1	16.7
North American Indian	209,305	110,010	88,895	21,115	99,290	52.6	42.5	19.2
Métis	105,100	67,020	58,705	8,315	38,080	63.8	55.9	12.4
Inuit	13,960	8,330	6,705	1,620	5,630	59.7	48.0	19.4
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,505	1,535	1,320	215	975	61.3	52.7	14.0
Other Aboriginal identity	10,120	5,620	4,830	795	4,495	55.5	47.7	14.1
Non-Aboriginal population	11,933,580	7,227,540	6,724,385	503,155	4,706,045	60.6	56.3	7.0

Note: Population aged 15 years and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 1.5 Population, by Aboriginal identity and selected labour force characteristics, Western Canada, 2005

	Western provinces	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	%				
Employment rate					
Aboriginal identity	57.2	58.9	50.7	62.6	54.5
North American Indian	50.1	48.6	42.1	57.4	49.8
Métis	63.7	65.6	57.9	66.4	62.5
Non-Aboriginal population	65.2	65.9	65.7	70.4	61.2
Unemployment rate					
Aboriginal identity	13.6	11.6	16.0	10.2	17.3
North American Indian	17.7	14.9	21.0	12.9	20.9
Métis	10.5	10.0	12.6	8.6	12.2
Non-Aboriginal population	5.3	4.8	4.5	4.2	6.6
Participation rate					
Aboriginal identity	66.2	66.6	60.3	69.7	65.9
North American Indian	60.9	57.0	53.3	65.8	62.9
Métis	71.2	72.9	66.2	72.7	71.2
Non-Aboriginal population	68.9	69.2	68.7	73.5	65.5

Notes: Non-reserve population aged 15 years and older.

Period from April 2004 to March 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-587-XIE.

Table 1.6 Importance of keeping, learning and relearning an Aboriginal language, by Aboriginal identity group, age and province and territory, 2001

	All age groups	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and older
	% responding "very important" or "somewhat important"				
Aboriginal identity	59.1	57.2	62.1	56.6	52.5
Atlantic provinces	58.3	56.1	62.0	54.4	56.4
Quebec	51.4	51.1	60.2	44.1	34.0 ^E
Ontario	57.7	56.0	60.8	55.1	48.5
Manitoba	54.7	52.6	57.2	52.5	53.3
Saskatchewan	64.5	62.5	67.7	61.3	58.4
Alberta	59.2	57.1	61.3	59.6	49.6
British Columbia	56.9	52.4	58.8	58.8	54.2
Yukon	77.5	76.1	78.3	81.8	67.6
Northwest Territories	75.2	72.0	75.9	75.9	80.6
Nunavut	95.0	93.5	95.1	96.9	97.0
North American Indian	63.8	62.0	66.9	61.2	55.9
Atlantic provinces	63.8	60.7	69.7	58.4	60.4 ^E
Quebec	47.6	43.3	62.5	39.4	23.3 ^E
Ontario	61.1	61.6	62.8	59.8	50.4 ^E
Manitoba	68.2	65.4	70.0	66.7	73.5
Saskatchewan	76.0	69.5	79.7	77.1	77.6
Alberta	66.5	64.4	67.1	69.8	57.7
British Columbia	61.6	57.9	63.7	61.2	62.1
Yukon	78.2	76.5	78.7	82.0	66.6
Northwest Territories	81.8	77.6	83.0	82.1	84.6
Métis	49.6	47.0	52.9	47.9	42.6
Atlantic provinces	48.8	43.2	53.1	45.6	44.6 ^E
Quebec	42.5	39.9 ^E	44.5	42.1	42.6 ^E
Ontario	47.7	43.9	53.2	44.6	36.9 ^E
Manitoba	46.3	43.7	48.8	45.6	41.0
Saskatchewan	53.4	55.0	56.1	48.0	44.2
Alberta	53.8	52.1	56.9	52.7	43.2
British Columbia	49.6	42.9	51.8	53.8	45.4 ^E
Northwest Territories	51.9	48.1	56.1	50.0	57.1 ^E
Inuit	86.9	86.8	87.6	85.1	87.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	74.1	69.8	77.4	73.0	68.4
Quebec	91.2	91.6	95.2	80.5 ^E	100.0
Northwest Territories	74.6	71.4	72.5	82.6	81.2
Nunavut	95.2	93.7	95.3	96.4	97.0

Note: Non-reserve population aged 15 years and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-592-XIE.

Table 1.7 Population, by Aboriginal identity, income level and sex, 2001

	Total	Without income	With income	Under \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$59,999	\$60,000 and over	Median income
	number											
	\$											
Both sexes	23,901,360	1,178,305	22,723,050	2,945,715	2,477,270	5,008,265	3,565,425	2,974,545	2,022,035	1,338,810	2,390,990	22,120
Aboriginal identity population	652,350	43,065	609,280	141,860	94,630	151,135	85,580	58,910	33,455	19,155	24,555	13,525
North American Indian	395,325	26,950	368,375	94,600	60,485	93,310	49,740	32,445	17,000	9,595	11,200	12,263
Métis	207,615	12,440	195,170	36,835	27,065	46,700	29,800	22,035	13,680	7,960	11,100	16,342
Inuit	27,610	2,380	25,230	5,860	3,970	6,175	3,295	2,365	1,400	895	1,270	13,699
Multiple Aboriginal identities	4,535	255	4,280	1,000	705	1,020	585	405	220	140	200	13,573
Other Aboriginal identity	17,270	1,040	16,225	3,565	2,400	3,930	2,165	1,665	1,150	570	785	14,535
Non-Aboriginal population	23,249,010	1,135,240	22,113,770	2,803,850	2,382,640	4,857,130	3,479,840	2,915,635	1,988,585	1,319,655	2,366,440	22,431
Males	11,626,785	437,755	11,189,035	1,195,190	878,755	1,931,575	1,681,570	1,587,695	1,236,905	886,090	1,791,255	29,276
Aboriginal identity population	311,365	18,665	292,690	66,840	39,170	63,075	40,830	31,055	20,470	12,705	18,545	15,512
North American Indian	186,020	11,765	174,250	45,465	25,405	39,375	23,400	16,025	10,000	6,185	8,390	13,173
Métis	102,515	5,205	97,310	16,575	10,800	19,165	14,635	12,825	8,960	5,615	8,740	20,767
Inuit	13,645	1,135	12,515	3,035	1,750	2,725	1,710	1,250	730	500	810	14,902
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,030	145	1,880	415	315	345	250	190	135	95	140	14,824
Other Aboriginal identity	7,150	415	6,740	1,350	900	1,465	835	770	645	305	465	16,859
Non-Aboriginal population	11,315,430	419,085	10,896,340	1,128,350	839,580	1,868,500	1,640,735	1,556,645	1,216,430	873,385	1,772,710	29,730
Females	12,274,570	740,555	11,534,015	1,750,520	1,598,520	3,076,690	1,883,855	1,386,850	785,135	452,720	599,735	17,122
Aboriginal identity population	340,985	24,395	316,585	75,020	55,460	88,065	44,750	27,855	12,985	6,445	6,010	12,311
North American Indian	209,305	15,180	194,125	49,130	35,080	53,940	26,340	16,420	7,000	3,405	2,805	11,844
Métis	105,095	7,235	97,860	20,260	16,270	27,535	15,160	9,215	4,725	2,340	2,360	13,592
Inuit	13,960	1,240	12,715	2,825	2,220	3,455	1,585	1,110	670	390	460	12,987
Multiple Aboriginal identities	2,510	110	2,395	585	395	675	340	220	90	45	60	12,971
Other Aboriginal identity	10,115	625	9,490	2,215	1,500	2,465	1,325	890	505	260	320	13,055
Non-Aboriginal population	11,933,585	716,155	11,217,430	1,675,500	1,543,055	2,988,625	1,839,100	1,358,995	772,150	446,275	593,725	17,273

Notes: Population 15 years and older.

Income level of individuals in 2000.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 1.8 Commonly reported chronic conditions, by Aboriginal identity and by province and territory, 2001

	Arthritis or rheumatism	High blood pressure	Asthma	Digestive disorders ¹	Diabetes	Heart problems
	%					
Aboriginal identity	19.3	12.0	11.6	10.2	7.0	6.5
Atlantic provinces	20.5	15.2	9.9	10.4	5.9	6.1
Quebec	17.0	12.7	13.1	8.8	5.8	6.7
Ontario	25.7	14.6	15.8	12.6	9.4	9.3
Manitoba	17.3	12.6	10.7	8.7	7.6	4.8
Saskatchewan	17.1	11.0	9.5	9.5	7.9	5.5
Alberta	17.0	10.3	11.1	9.1	5.9	5.4
British Columbia	19.0	10.3	10.6	11.5	6.5	6.3
Yukon	15.6	12.7	9.8	10.7	5.4 ^E	5.4
Northwest Territories	11.5	7.5	5.2	6.7	3.2	3.5
Nunavut	7.3	6.8	2.8	4.2	1.8 ^E	5.1
North American Indian	20.3	12.1	12.5	10.4	8.3	6.6
Atlantic provinces	20.8	16.8	10.1	10.8	8.0 ^E	5.1 ^E
Quebec	18.7	13.8	15.8	8.4 ^E	6.9 ^E	8.0 ^E
Ontario	26.7	14.9	16.6	12.0	11.0	8.1
Manitoba	17.7	12.8	11.4	8.7	10.3	5.5
Saskatchewan	17.3	9.9	9.2	9.5	8.7	5.8
Alberta	16.3	9.2	10.9	8.4	6.4	5.5
British Columbia	18.4	9.3	10.3	11.3	6.1	6.2
Yukon	15.0	12.5	9.4	11.7	5.3 ^E	5.9
Northwest Territories	10.8	6.4	5.0	7.7	3.1	2.9
Métis	19.5	12.7	11.7	10.5	5.9	6.8
Atlantic provinces	21.2	15.2	8.9 ^E	10.1 ^E	3.6 ^E	7.6 ^E
Quebec	19.9	13.4	12.4	10.8	5.2 ^E	5.9 ^E
Ontario	24.0	14.7	14.9	13.2	6.0 ^E	12.0
Manitoba	17.3	12.8	10.3	8.7	5.8	4.6
Saskatchewan	16.6	12.0	9.8	9.6	7.1	5.1
Alberta	17.4	11.4	11.2	9.5	5.3	5.4
British Columbia	21.1	11.8	11.7	11.4	6.7	6.3
Northwest Territories	14.2	7.3 ^E	6.8 ^E	6.4 ^E	6.0 ^E	4.3 ^E
Inuit	9.4	8.1	5.6^E	5.8	2.3	4.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	15.9	14.9	10.6 ^E	8.6 ^E	4.9 ^E	4.9 ^E
Quebec	4.2	4.3	2.9 ^E	3.6 ^E	2.4 ^E	2.6 ^E
Northwest Territories	11.0	11.4	3.5 ^E	4.3 ^E	x	4.7 ^E
Nunavut	7.0	6.9	2.8	4.1	1.8 ^E	5.0

Note: Non-reserve population aged 15 years and older.

1. Includes stomach problems or intestinal ulcers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-592-XIE.

Abbreviations and symbols



Provinces and territories

Newfoundland and Labrador	N.L.
Prince Edward Island	P.E.I.
Nova Scotia	N.S.
New Brunswick	N.B.
Quebec	Que.
Ontario	Ont.
Manitoba	Man.
Saskatchewan	Sask.
Alberta	Alta.
British Columbia	B.C.
Yukon	Y.T.
Northwest Territories	N.W.T.
Nunavut	Nvt.

Measurements

centimetre	cm
metre	m
kilometre	km
gram	g
kilogram	kg
litre	L
millilitre	mL
hour	h
watt	W
kilowatt	kW
degrees Celsius	°C

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins, including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to zero where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Note: In some tables, figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

When the figure is not accompanied by a data quality symbol, it means that the quality of the data was assessed to be 'acceptable or better' according to the policies and standards of Statistics Canada.

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