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## Housing Statistics in Canada

# Housing experiences in Canada: Chinese people in 2018

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# Housing experiences in Canada: Chinese people in 2018

by Jeff Randle, Zheren Hu and Zachary Thurston

The Housing Experiences in Canada series of fact sheets highlights the diversity of housing situations experienced by different groups of people living across Canada.

This fact sheet focuses on the Chinese population living in private dwellings. Statistics below are derived from the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey (CHS). For the purposes of this analysis, Chinese people were identified based on survey responses of the reference person for the household.<sup>1</sup> The reference person provides information on the characteristics of each household member. More fact sheets in the Housing Experiences in Canada series are available on the [Housing Experiences in Canada series issue page](#).

The *National Housing Strategy Act* (2019) declared that “the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law.” Adequate housing is understood in international law as housing that provides secure tenure; is affordable; is habitable; provides access to basic infrastructure; is located close to employment, services and amenities; is accessible for people of all abilities; and is culturally appropriate.

This fact sheet focuses on the experience of Chinese people living in private dwellings, using the following indicators collected and produced by Statistics Canada. These are: tenure status of household, shelter costs, housing affordability, housing suitability, condition of dwelling, core housing need, dwelling satisfaction, neighbourhood satisfaction, and household living arrangements.

While these indicators together do not perfectly measure adequate housing as defined in international law, they are nevertheless useful proxies for understanding the housing experiences of people living in Canada.

## Highlights from the 2016 Census: Chinese population

Percent of the population: 4.6%
Average age: 39 years
Median household income <sup>1</sup> : \$64,893
Unemployment rate: 7.9%
Percent in rural areas: 1.4%
Percent who are immigrants: 65.3%

1. Visible minority status of the household for the 2016 Census estimate of median household income is determined by examining the characteristics of the primary household maintainer.

## Tenure status of household



The tenure status of a household refers to whether the household owns or rents its private dwelling.<sup>2</sup> Homeownership is an important aspect of Canadian society and can affect outcomes for many housing indicators. For this reason, owner and renter households are often considered separately in housing analyses. In many cases, researchers further examine whether households in owner-occupied dwellings have mortgages on their dwellings and whether renter households pay subsidized rent.

According to the 2018 CHS, 85% of 1,906,900 Chinese people lived in a private dwelling owned by a member of their household in 2018. This was larger than the share of the total population (73%) living in owner-occupied dwellings.

The 1,612,000 Chinese people who owned their homes or lived with someone who owned their homes can be further divided into the 1,018,200 Chinese people (53%) who lived in a dwelling with a mortgage and the remaining 593,800 Chinese people (31%) who lived in a dwelling without a mortgage. Chinese people were more likely to live in an owner-occupied dwelling without a mortgage than the total population (25%).

The remaining 294,900 Chinese people who lived in rented dwellings can be further divided into the 20,800 Chinese people (1%) living in subsidized housing and the 274,000 Chinese people (14%) not living in subsidized housing. Chinese people were less likely to live in rented dwellings (15%) than the total population (27%) and were less likely to live in subsidized rental housing (1%, compared with 3% for the total population).

1. One person (“the reference person” in each sampled household) was asked to complete the Canadian Housing Survey (CHS) questionnaire. The reference person provides proxy responses on behalf of all household members regarding information in accordance with the Employment Equity Act and its regulations and guidelines. These responses are used to derive a visible minority status for each household member according to [Statistics Canada departmental standards](#).

2. A household is considered to own its dwelling if a member of the household owns it, even if it is not fully paid for (for example, if there is a mortgage or another claim on it). A household is considered to rent its dwelling if no member of the household owns it. A household is considered to rent its dwelling even if the dwelling is provided without cash rent or at a reduced rent, or if the dwelling is part of a cooperative.

**Table 1**  
**Tenure status of private households for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, tenure status</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Owner	1,612,000	85*	26,694,500	73
With a mortgage	1,018,200	53*	17,696,300	49
Without a mortgage	593,800	31*	8,998,100	25
Renter	294,900	15*	9,749,700	27
Subsidized housing	20,800	1*	1,160,700	3
Not subsidized housing	274,000	14*	8,570,300	24

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

**Note:** Figures may not add up to 100% because of rounding

**Source:** 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Shelter costs



Shelter costs refer to the monthly dwelling-related expenses paid by households, including mortgage or rent. For owner-occupied dwellings, shelter costs include, where applicable, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services. For renter households, shelter costs include, where applicable, rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.

In Canada, the median shelter costs paid by Chinese households was \$1,330 in 2018.<sup>3</sup> This was higher than the median shelter costs of \$1,050 for all private households.

Chinese households in owner-occupied dwellings had higher median shelter costs than all owner households, but the costs for renter households were comparable. The median shelter costs paid by Chinese households in owner-occupied dwellings was \$1,540, compared with \$1,140 for all households. The difference in median shelter costs between Chinese households and all households in rented dwellings was not statistically significant.

The median shelter costs paid by households in owner-occupied dwellings are typically larger when there is a mortgage on the dwelling, because a mortgage can represent a large portion of monthly shelter costs. Chinese households with a mortgage on their dwelling (\$2,310) paid more per month in median shelter costs than all households in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage (\$1,770). Median shelter costs for owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage were also higher for Chinese households (\$600) than for all households (\$540).

Similarly, the median shelter costs paid by renter households usually depends on the presence of a rent subsidy.<sup>4</sup> Chinese households in rented dwellings with a subsidy (\$550) had similar median monthly shelter costs as all households in rented dwellings with a subsidy (\$530). Median shelter costs for Chinese households in rented dwellings without a subsidy (\$1,170) were higher than the shelter costs for all households in rented dwellings without a subsidy (\$1,010).<sup>5</sup>

3. Chinese households refers to households where at least one member was a Chinese person.

4. 'Rent subsidy' refers to whether a renter household lives in a dwelling that is subsidized. Subsidized housing includes rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, non-profit housing, rent supplements and housing allowances.

5. The difference in median shelter costs between all Chinese households in rented dwellings and Chinese households in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

**Table 2**  
**Monthly shelter costs for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese households	All households
	median (dollars)	
<b>Total, tenure status</b>	<b>1,330*</b>	<b>1,050</b>
Owner	1,540**	1,140
With a mortgage	2,310**†	1,770
Without a mortgage	600**	540
Renter	1,100†‡	960
Subsidized housing	550†‡	530
Not subsidized housing	1,170**	1,010

\* Estimate for Chinese households is significantly different than all households at the 95% level

† Estimate for Chinese households by tenure type is significantly different than tenure subtotal at the 95% level

‡ Estimate for Chinese households by tenure type is significantly different than tenure counterpart at the 95% level

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Housing affordability



Housing affordability is derived using the shelter-cost-to-income ratio, which refers to the proportion of average total income households spend on shelter costs. A household is said to have affordable housing if it spends less than 30% of its total income on shelter costs.<sup>6</sup>

According to the 2018 CHS, 604,900 Chinese people (32%) lived in households that spent more than 30% of their total household income on shelter. This was higher than the 18% of the total population who lived in private households which spent more than 30% of their total household income on shelter.

Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings (32%) were more likely to be in unaffordable housing than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (15%). For Chinese people in renter households (31%), the difference in the rate of unaffordable housing compared with the total population (26%) was not statistically significant.

Focusing on Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings, those in households with a mortgage were more likely to be in unaffordable housing than the total population. The proportion of Chinese people living in unaffordable housing was 48% for those in households with a mortgage and 21% for the total population.

The rate of unaffordable housing was higher for Chinese people in renter households with a subsidy (50%) when compared to their counterparts in the total population (23%).<sup>7</sup>

**Table 3**  
**Unaffordable housing for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, shelter-cost-to-income ratio<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,878,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,669,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Spending more than 30% of income on shelter costs	604,900	32*	6,400,200	18
Owner	517,800	32*	3,895,800	15
With a mortgage	480,000	48**†	3,568,600	21
Without a mortgage	37,800	6**	327,200	4
Renter	87,100	31	2,504,400	26
Subsidized housing	9,800	50*	269,500	23
Not subsidized housing	77,400	29	2,232,300	26

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

† Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure subtotal at the 95% level

\*\* Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure counterpart at the 95% level

1. All persons in private dwellings excluding those living in households on reserves, households in farm dwellings, and households with zero or negative total household income.

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

6. In 1986, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the provinces agreed to use the 30% threshold to measure affordability for the purposes of defining need for social housing. This agreement was reached during the development of federal and provincial social housing programs. Research on housing affordability in the territories often uses the same threshold.

7. Other differences among renters were not statistically significant.

## Housing suitability



Housing suitability refers to whether a private household is living in suitable accommodations according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS), that is, whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household. The indicator assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age and sex of household members, and the relationships between them.

According to the 2018 CHS, 144,400 Chinese people (8%) were in unsuitable housing, meaning that there were not enough bedrooms in the dwelling to meet the needs of their household, according to the NOS.

Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings (6%) were less likely to be in unsuitable housing than Chinese people in renter households (18%). This difference was also reflected in the total population. The share of the population living in unsuitable housing was lower for individuals in owner-occupied dwellings (6%) than those in renter households (19%).

Differences in rates of unsuitable housing for Chinese people by presence of a mortgage for those in owner-occupied households, or by presence of a housing subsidy for those in renter households, were not statistically significant.

**Table 4**  
**Housing suitability for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

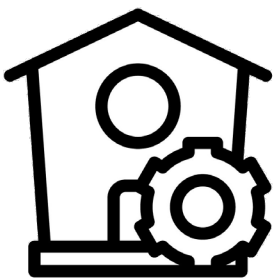
	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, housing suitability</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Not suitable	144,400	8	3,408,400	9
Owner	90,400	6 <sup>†</sup>	1,599,500	6
With a mortgage	68,300	7	1,307,600	7
Without a mortgage	22,000	4	291,900	3
Renter	54,000	18 <sup>‡</sup>	1,808,900	19
Subsidized housing	2,200	10	227,000	20
Not subsidized housing	51,800	19	1,578,200	18

<sup>†</sup> Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure subtotal at the 95% level

<sup>‡</sup> Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure counterpart at the 95% level

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Condition of dwelling



Data on condition of dwelling are used to provide some insight into whether housing is habitable. Dwellings are classified into three groups by condition: needing regular maintenance only, needing minor repairs and needing major repairs. Dwellings in need of major repairs are considered to be inadequate housing. Examples of dwellings in need of major repairs include homes with defective plumbing or electrical wiring, and housing needing structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings.

In 2018, according to the CHS, 5% of all Chinese people lived in private dwellings that were in need of major repairs. This rate was the same for Chinese people in all owner-occupied dwellings, regardless of the presence of a mortgage.

Chinese people in rented dwellings (4%) were less likely to be living in a dwelling in need of major repairs than the total population in rented dwellings (9%). This was also true when comparing Chinese people in renter households without a subsidy (3%) to their counterparts in the total population (9%).<sup>8</sup> Other differences in proportion of Chinese people living in dwellings in need of major repairs by other housing tenure types are not statistically significant.

8. The difference in the proportion of individuals living in dwellings in need of major repairs between all Chinese people in rented dwellings and Chinese people in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

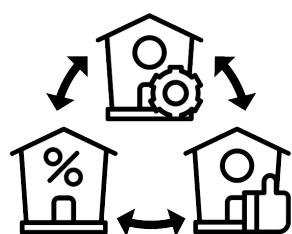
**Table 5**  
**Condition of dwelling for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, dwelling condition</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Dwelling in need of major repairs	94,000	5	2,556,400	7
Owner	82,800	5	1,657,400	6
With a mortgage	52,700	5	1,162,500	7
Without a mortgage	30,100	5	494,900	5
Renter	11,300	4*	899,000	9
Subsidized housing	3,000	14	134,000	12
Not subsidized housing	8,300	3*	761,800	9

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Core housing need



Core housing need touches on several elements of the right to adequate housing. It considers whether the affordability, suitability, and condition of dwelling needs of the household are being met and if not, whether affordable rental housing is available that meets all these needs. A household is said to be in core housing need if their dwelling falls below at least one of the affordability, suitability, or condition of dwelling standards, and would have to spend 30% or more of their total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three housing standards).

According to the 2018 CHS, 15% of Chinese people were living in households in core housing need. This is higher than the 9% of the total population in core housing need.

Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings (14%) were more likely to be in core housing need than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (5%). This was different for renter households, where the difference in the rates of core housing need for Chinese people and the total population was not statistically significant.

The incidence of core housing need was higher for Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage, but comparable for those without a mortgage. Among Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage, 18% were in core housing need, compared with 6% of the total population.<sup>9</sup> Among Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage, 8% were in core housing need, compared with 4% of the total population.

Similarly, the incidence of core housing need varied for renters depending on whether there was a rent subsidy. Among Chinese people in renter households with a subsidy, 48% were in core housing need, while the rate was 19% for those without a subsidy.<sup>10</sup>

**Table 6**  
**Core housing need status for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, core housing need<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,793,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,128,000</b>	<b>100</b>
In core housing need	270,100	15*	3,151,900	9
Owner	215,400	14*	1,358,700	5
With a mortgage	170,900	18**	982,800	6
Without a mortgage	44,400	8††	375,900	4
Renter	54,800	21	1,793,200	19
Subsidized housing	8,500	48††	342,000	30
Not subsidized housing	46,200	19‡	1,447,300	18

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

† Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure subtotal at the 95% level

‡ Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure counterpart at the 95% level

1. All persons in private dwellings excluding those living in households on reserves, households in farm dwellings, and households with zero or negative total household income before tax or a shelter-cost-to-income ratio greater than or equal to 100%.

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

9. The difference in the core housing need rate between all Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings and Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage is not statistically significant.

10. The difference in the core housing need rate between all Chinese people in rented dwellings and Chinese people in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

## Housing experiences of Chinese men and women

In 1995, the Government of Canada committed to using GBA+ to advance gender equality in Canada, as part of the ratification of the [United Nations' Beijing Platform for Action](#).

Gender equality is enshrined in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which is part of the Constitution of Canada. Gender equality means that diverse groups of women, men and gender diverse people are able to participate fully in all spheres of Canadian life, contributing to an inclusive and democratic society.

GBA+ is an analytical process used to assess how diverse groups of women, men, and gender diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The “plus” in GBA+ is not just about differences between people on the basis of gender. We all have multiple characteristics that intersect and contribute to who we are. GBA+ considers many other identity factors such as race, ethnicity, immigrant status, religion, age, presence of a mental or physical disability, and how the interaction between these factors influences the way we experience government policies and initiatives.

The data presented here highlight differences in housing experiences for Chinese men and women. Compared to Chinese men, Chinese women were just as likely to live in owner-occupied dwellings, unaffordable housing, unsuitable housing, dwellings requiring major repairs, and be in core housing need.

**Table 7**  
**Housing indicators for Chinese men and women, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese men	Chinese women
	percent	
In an owner-occupied dwelling	85	84
In household spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs	32	32
In unsuitable housing	7	8
In dwelling requiring major repairs	4	6
In core housing need	15	15

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

More information on GBA+ can be found at the Government of Canada’s [Status of Women](#) web page.

More information on the housing experiences of other subpopulations broken down by age and gender groups, immigrant status, population groups designated as visible minorities, Indigenous populations and other groups can be found in the additional fact sheets on the [Housing Experiences in Canada issue page](#). Additional data products that focus more on an intersectional GBA+ analysis of housing experiences will also be released through the [Housing Experiences in Canada issue page](#) as they become available.

## Dwelling satisfaction



According to the 2018 CHS, approximately 74% of Chinese people were in homes where the reference person said that they were satisfied with their dwelling. This is lower than the proportion of the total population satisfied with their dwelling (82%).

By tenure, 76% of Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings lived in households where the reference person was satisfied with the dwelling. This is lower than the 87% of the total population in owner-occupied dwellings where the reference person was satisfied.

Focusing on Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings, those with a mortgage (75%) had a lower dwelling satisfaction rate than the total population with a mortgage (86%).<sup>11</sup>

11. The difference in the dwelling satisfaction rate between all Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings and Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage is not statistically significant.

Chinese people without a mortgage (78%) were also less likely to be satisfied with their dwelling than the total population without a mortgage (89%).<sup>12</sup>

Differences in rates of dwelling satisfaction for Chinese people in rented dwellings, regardless of the presence of a subsidy, were not statistically significant.

**Table 8**  
**Overall dwelling satisfaction for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, overall dwelling satisfaction</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Satisfied (or very satisfied) with dwelling overall	1,405,500	74*	29,977,600	82
Owner	1,225,400	76**	23,295,900	87
With a mortgage	759,400	75*	15,267,800	86
Without a mortgage	466,000	78*	8,028,100	89
Renter	180,100	61††	6,681,700	69
Subsidized housing	14,700	70	775,800	67
Not subsidized housing	165,400	60	5,892,600	69

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

† Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure subtotal at the 95% level

‡ Estimate for Chinese population by tenure type is significantly different than tenure counterpart at the 95% level

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Neighbourhood satisfaction



At the time of the 2018 CHS, 78% of Chinese people lived in households where the reference person indicated that they were satisfied with their neighbourhood. This is lower than the proportion of the total population satisfied with their neighbourhood (86%).

By tenure, 79% of Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings lived in households where the reference person was satisfied with their neighbourhood. This is lower than the 88% of the total population in owner-occupied dwellings where the reference person was satisfied. For Chinese people in renter households (75%), the rate of neighbourhood satisfaction was comparable to the total population in renter households (80%).

Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage (80%) had lower rates of neighbourhood satisfaction than the total population with a mortgage (88%).<sup>13</sup> Chinese people without a mortgage (78%) were also less likely to be satisfied with their neighbourhood than the total population without a mortgage (89%).<sup>14</sup>

Differences in rates of neighbourhood satisfaction for Chinese people by presence of a subsidy for those in rented dwellings were not statistically significant.

**Table 9**  
**Overall neighbourhood satisfaction for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, overall neighbourhood satisfaction</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Satisfied (or very satisfied) with neighbourhood overall	1,496,600	78*	31,255,800	86
Owner	1,276,400	79*	23,504,200	88
With a mortgage	813,600	80*	15,494,800	88
Without a mortgage	462,800	78*	8,009,400	89
Renter	220,200	75	7,751,600	80
Subsidized housing	15,900	77	840,500	72
Not subsidized housing	204,300	75	6,897,100	80

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

12. The difference in the dwelling satisfaction rate between all Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings and Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage is not statistically significant.

13. The difference in the neighbourhood satisfaction rate between all Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings and Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage is not statistically significant.

14. The difference in the neighbourhood satisfaction rate between all Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings and Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage is not statistically significant.

## Household living arrangements



Household living arrangements refer to whether a person lives with another person or people, and, if so, whether they are related to that person or those people. Households can be further differentiated based on whether they are census family households or non-census-family households. Census family households contain at least one census family.<sup>15</sup> Non-census-family households are either one person living alone or a group of two or more people who live together but do not constitute a census family (for example, roommates).

According to the 2018 CHS, about three quarters (76%) of Chinese people lived as part of a one-census-family household. Chinese people in one-census-family households were more likely to live in a couple family with children (48%) than without (18%). Chinese people (10%) were just as likely to live in a one parent family household as the total population (10%).

Living in a non-census-family household was less common for Chinese people (12%) than the total population (16%). This is because a small proportion of Chinese people lived alone (7%). By comparison, 12% of the total population in private households in Canada lived alone.

**Table 10**  
**Household living arrangements for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	Chinese population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, household type</b>	<b>1,906,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
One-census-family household <sup>1</sup>	1,447,000	76	28,959,300	79
Couple family without children	335,400	18*	8,583,600	24
Couple family with children	913,200	48	16,782,900	46
One parent family	198,500	10	3,592,800	10
Multiple-census-family household <sup>1</sup>	224,200	12*	1,799,100	5
Non-census-family household	235,700	12*	5,685,800	16
One-person household	126,600	7*	4,243,300	12
Two- or more person household	109,100	6*	1,442,400	4

\* Estimate for Chinese population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

1. One-census-family households and multiple-census-family households may include additional persons that do not belong to a census family.

**Note:** Figures may not add up to 100% because of rounding

**Source:** 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## Interpreting the results

The Canadian Housing Survey (CHS) is a representative sample survey drawn from a frame of private dwellings across Canada. Since the survey sample is drawn from private households, individuals living in the following forms of housing are not included in the data:

- people living on reserves and in other Indigenous settlements
- official representatives of foreign countries living in Canada, and their families
- members of religious and other communal colonies
- members of the Canadian Armed Forces living on military bases
- people living in seniors' residences
- people living full time in institutions (e.g., inmates of penal institutions, and chronic care patients living in hospitals and nursing homes)
- people living in other types of collective dwellings (e.g., shelters, campgrounds and hotels).

15. A census family is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either or both partners; or a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Children may be children by birth, marriage, common-law union or adoption regardless of their age or marital status as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own married spouse, common-law partner or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family.

The survey results are an outcome of the sampling procedure that estimates a true value with an acceptable level of uncertainty. Therefore, it is not recommended to compare any two numbers published above unless the comparison is made in the text. This fact sheet features three types of comparisons:

1. comparisons of estimates between the focus population group and the total population (for example, the percentage of Chinese people in rented dwellings in core housing need, compared with the percentage of the total population in rented dwellings in core housing need)
2. comparisons of estimates between a category and the category total within the focus population group (for example, the percentage of Chinese people in rented dwellings in core housing need, compared with the percentage of all Chinese people in core housing need)
3. comparisons of estimates between categories within the focus population group (for example, the percentage of Chinese people in rented dwellings in core housing need, compared with the percentage of Chinese people in owner-occupied dwellings in core housing need).

Each of these three comparisons provides a different insight to understand the housing experiences of the focus population group. A statistical test is conducted to see whether the two estimates are different from one another at the 95% confidence level—often stated as 19 times in 20. The test results are presented for percentage statistics in the tables on relative prevalence or median shelter costs only; test results are omitted for statistics on the associated number of people.

When other comparisons are made between sample results presented in the fact sheets or data tables, it is important to remember that it cannot be concluded with a degree of certainty that the observed difference is not attributable to variation from the sampling procedure.

### About the data

The estimates presented in this fact sheet are from the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey (CHS). Additional socioeconomic and demographic highlights are from the 2016 Census of Population. For detailed information on the CHS or any of the indicators in this fact sheet, please refer to the following:

- [Canadian Housing Survey](#)
- [Census of Population](#)