

Catalogue no. 46280001  
ISSN 2818-1344

## Housing Statistics in Canada

# Housing experiences in Canada: South Asian people in 2018

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Release date: November 22, 2021



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# Housing Experiences in Canada: South Asian 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 South Asian population living in private dwellings. Statistics below are derived from the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey (CHS). For the purposes of this analysis, South Asian 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 South Asian 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, 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.

## 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, 74% of 2,319,400 South Asian people lived in a private dwelling owned by a member of their household in 2018. This was comparable to the share of the total population (73%) living in owner-occupied dwellings.

The 1,726,600 South Asian people who owned or lived with someone who owned their homes can be further divided into the 1,423,000 South Asian people (61%) who lived in a dwelling with a mortgage and the remaining 303,500 South Asian people (13%) who lived in a dwelling without a mortgage. South Asian people were less likely to live in an owner-occupied dwelling without a mortgage than the total population (25%).

### Highlights from the 2016 Census: South Asian population

Percent of the population: 5.6%
Average age: 34 years
Median household income <sup>1</sup> : \$81,453
Unemployment rate: 9.2%
Percent in rural areas: 1.9%
Percent who are immigrants: 65.0%

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.

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.

The remaining 592,900 South Asian people who lived in rented dwellings can be further divided into the 67,300 South Asian people (3%) living in subsidized housing and the 525,500 South Asian people (23%) not living in subsidized housing. These proportions are very similar to the total population, where 3% of individuals lived in rented dwellings with a subsidy and 24% in rented dwellings without a subsidy.

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, tenure status</b>	<b>2,319,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Owner	1,726,600	74	26,694,500	73
With a mortgage	1,423,000	61*	17,696,300	49
Without a mortgage	303,500	13*	8,998,100	25
Renter	592,900	26	9,749,700	27
Subsidized housing	67,300	3	1,160,700	3
Not subsidized housing	525,500	23	8,570,300	24

\* Estimate for South Asian 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 cost paid by South Asian households was \$1,630 in 2018.<sup>3</sup> This was higher than the median shelter cost of \$1,050 for all private households.

South Asian households in owner-occupied and rented dwellings also had higher median shelter costs than their counterparts in all households. The median shelter cost paid by South Asian households in owner-occupied dwellings was \$1,990, compared with \$1,140 for all households. For South Asian households in rented dwellings, the median shelter cost was \$1,130, compared to \$960 for all households.

The median shelter cost 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. South Asian households with a mortgage on their dwelling (\$2,300) paid more per month in median shelter costs than all households in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage (\$1,770). Median shelter costs for South Asian households in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage (\$710) were higher than those for all owner households without a mortgage (\$540).

Similarly, the median shelter cost paid by renter households usually depends on the presence of a rent subsidy.<sup>4</sup> Median shelter costs for South Asian households in rented dwellings without a subsidy (\$1,190) were higher than the shelter costs for all households in rented dwellings without a subsidy (\$1,010).<sup>5</sup>

3. South Asian households refer to households where at least one member was a South Asian 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 South Asian households in rented dwellings and South Asian households in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

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

	South Asian households	All households
	median (dollars)	
<b>Total, tenure status</b>	<b>1,630*</b>	<b>1,050</b>
Owner	1,990**†	1,140
With a mortgage	2,300**†	1,770
Without a mortgage	710**†	540
Renter	1,130**†	960
Subsidized housing	540†	530
Not subsidized housing	1,190**	1,010

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

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

‡ Estimate for South Asian 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, 581,900 South Asian people (26%) 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.

South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings (27%) were more likely to be in unaffordable housing than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (15%).

Focusing on South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings, those in households with a mortgage experienced unaffordable housing at a higher rate than the total population. The proportion of South Asian people living in unaffordable housing was 33% for those in households with a mortgage and 21% for the total population.<sup>7</sup>

When considering those living in rented dwellings, differences in the rates of unaffordable housing between South Asian people and the total population, regardless of the presence of a housing subsidy, were not statistically significant.

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, shelter-cost-to-income ratio<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,264,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,669,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Spending more than 30% of income on shelter costs	581,900	26*	6,400,200	18
Owner	459,300	27*	3,895,800	15
With a mortgage	446,700	33**†	3,568,600	21
Without a mortgage	12,700	4**	327,200	4
Renter	122,600	21	2,504,400	26
Subsidized housing	15,400	23	269,500	23
Not subsidized housing	107,200	21	2,232,300	26

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

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

‡ Estimate for South Asian 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. The difference in the unaffordable housing rate between all South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings and South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage is 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, 582,600 South Asian people (25%) 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. This is higher than the 9% of the total population living in unsuitable housing.

South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings (18%) were more likely to be in unsuitable housing than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (6%). This difference was also reflected in rented dwellings, where the share of South Asian people living in rented dwellings (46%) that were unsuitable was higher than the share for the total population (19%).

When owner-occupied dwellings are differentiated by the presence of a mortgage, South Asian people living in dwellings with a mortgage (21%) experienced unsuitable housing at a higher rate than the total population in dwellings with a mortgage (7%).<sup>8</sup>

South Asian people in rented dwellings without a subsidy (47%) had higher rates of unsuitable housing than the total population (18%).<sup>9</sup>

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, housing suitability</b>	<b>2,319,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Not suitable	582,600	25*	3,408,400	9
Owner	312,700	18**	1,599,500	6
With a mortgage	292,200	21**	1,307,600	7
Without a mortgage	20,500	7†	291,900	3
Renter	269,900	46**†	1,808,900	19
Subsidized housing	24,100	36	227,000	20
Not subsidized housing	245,800	47*	1,578,200	18

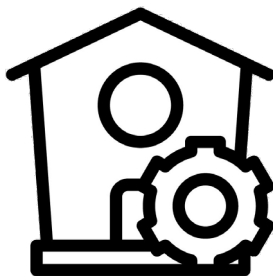
\* Estimate for South Asian population is significantly different than total population at the 95% level

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

‡ Estimate for South Asian 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, 4% of all South Asian people lived in private dwellings that were in need of major repairs. This is lower than the 7% of the total population that lived in dwellings in need of major repairs.

8. The difference in the unsuitable housing rate between all South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings and South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage is not statistically significant.

9. The difference in the unsuitable housing rate between all South Asian people in rented dwellings and South Asian people in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings (3%) lived in dwellings in need of major repairs at a lower rate than the total population (6%). This difference was also present among South Asian people in rented dwellings (6%), where the proportion of individuals living in dwellings in need of major repairs was lower than the total population (9%).

Similarly, South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage (3%) were less likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs than the total population (7%). South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage (1%) were also less likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs than the total population (5%).<sup>10</sup>

Among South Asian people in rented dwellings without a subsidy, 5% were in dwellings in need of major repair.<sup>11</sup> This was lower than the proportion of the total population in rented dwellings without a subsidy (9%) living in dwellings in need of major repairs.

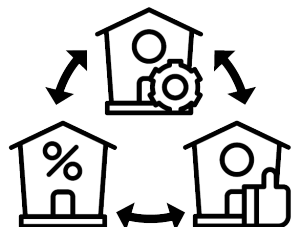
**Table 5**  
**Condition of dwelling for the population in private dwellings, Canada, 2018**

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, dwelling condition</b>	<b>2,319,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Dwelling in need of major repairs	87,400	4*	2,556,400	7
Owner	51,400	3*	1,657,400	6
With a mortgage	48,500	3*	1,162,500	7
Without a mortgage	3,000	1*	494,900	5
Renter	35,900	6*	899,000	9
Subsidized housing	10,100	15	134,000	12
Not subsidized housing	25,900	5*	761,800	9

\* Estimate for South Asian 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, 12% of South Asian people were living in households in core housing need. The core housing need rate for the total population was 9%, but the difference was not statistically significant.

South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings (9%) were less likely to be in core housing need than South Asian people in rented dwellings (22%). This relationship between owner and renter households mirrored that of the total population. The proportion of the total population in owner-occupied dwellings in core housing need was 5%, while for the population in rented dwellings, the rate was 19%.

Differences in the rates of core housing need between South Asian people and the total population in rented dwellings by presence of a housing subsidy were not statistically significant.

10. The difference in the proportion of individuals living in dwellings in need of major repairs between all South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings and South Asian people in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage is not statistically significant.

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



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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, core housing need<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,252,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,128,000</b>	<b>100</b>
In core housing need	278,100	12	3,151,900	9
Owner	148,400	9 <sup>†</sup>	1,358,700	5
With a mortgage	x	x	982,800	6
Without a mortgage	x	x	375,900	4
Renter	129,800	22 <sup>††</sup>	1,793,200	19
Subsidized housing	27,400	41	342,000	30
Not subsidized housing	102,400	20	1,447,300	18

x Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

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

‡ Estimate for South Asian 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

## Housing experiences of South Asian 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 highlights differences in housing experiences for South Asian men and women. Compared to South Asian men, South Asian women were just as likely to live in owner-occupied dwellings, unaffordable, unsuitable, and inadequate housing, and be in core housing need.

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

	South Asian men	South Asian women
	percent	
In an owner-occupied dwelling	74	75
In household spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs	25	27
In unsuitable housing	25	26
In dwelling requiring major repairs	4	4
In core housing need	12	13

\* Statistically different from South Asian men at the 95% confidence level

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 75% of South Asian 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, 81% of South Asian 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. For South Asian people in rented dwellings (59%), the rate of dwelling satisfaction was also lower than the total population in rented dwellings (69%).

Differences in the rates of dwelling satisfaction between South Asian people and the total population in owner-occupied dwellings by presence of a mortgage were not statistically significant.

For South Asian people in rented dwellings without a subsidy (57%), the rate of dwelling satisfaction was lower than the total population in dwellings without a subsidy (69%).<sup>12</sup>

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, overall dwelling satisfaction</b>	<b>2,319,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
Satisfied (or very satisfied) with dwelling overall	1,742,200	75*	29,977,600	82
Owner	1,394,700	81**	23,295,900	87
With a mortgage	1,165,200	82	15,267,800	86
Without a mortgage	229,500	76	8,028,100	89
Renter	347,500	59**†	6,681,700	69
Subsidized housing	48,000	71	775,800	67
Not subsidized housing	299,400	57*	5,892,600	69

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

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

‡ Estimate for South Asian 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, 81% of South Asian 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, 83% of South Asian 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.

South Asian people who lived in an owner-occupied dwelling without a mortgage (73%) were less likely to be satisfied with their neighbourhood than their counterparts in the total population (89%).<sup>13</sup>

Differences in the rates of neighbourhood satisfaction between South Asian people and the total population in rented dwellings by presence of a housing subsidy were not statistically significant.

12. The difference in the dwelling satisfaction rate between all South Asian people in rented dwellings and South Asian people in rented dwellings without a subsidy is not statistically significant.

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

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, overall neighbourhood satisfaction</b>	2,319,400	100	36,444,100	100
Satisfied (or very satisfied) with neighbourhood overall	1,886,700	81*	31,255,800	86
Owner	1,428,600	83*	23,504,200	88
With a mortgage	1,206,100	85	15,494,800	88
Without a mortgage	222,500	73*	8,009,400	89
Renter	458,100	77	7,751,600	80
Subsidized housing	43,700	65	840,500	72
Not subsidized housing	414,400	79	6,897,100	80

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

Source: 2018 Canadian Housing Survey

## 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>14</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 South Asian people lived as part of a one-census-family household. South Asian people who lived in one-census-family households were more likely to live in a couple family with children (61%) than without (10%). The same was true for the total population, where 46% of individuals lived in a couple family with children and 24% lived in a couple family without children.

Living in a non-census-family household was less common for South Asian people (6%) than the total population (16%). This difference is mainly derived from the smaller proportion of South Asian people that lived alone (3%) in comparison with the 12% of the total population in private households in Canada that lived alone.

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

	South Asian population		Total population	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, household type</b>	<b>2,319,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,444,100</b>	<b>100</b>
One-census-family household <sup>1</sup>	1,768,800	76	28,959,300	79
Couple family without children	239,500	10*	8,583,600	24
Couple family with children	1,421,700	61*	16,782,900	46
One parent family	107,500	5*	3,592,800	10
Multiple-census-family household <sup>1</sup>	422,700	18*	1,799,100	5
Non-census-family household	128,000	6*	5,685,800	16
One-person household	66,100	3*	4,243,300	12
Two- or more person household	61,800	3	1,442,400	4

\* Estimate for South Asian 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

14. 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.

## 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).

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 South Asian 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 South Asian people in rented dwellings in core housing need, compared with the percentage of all South Asian people in core housing need)
3. comparisons of estimates between categories within the focus population group (for example, the percentage of South Asian people in rented dwellings in core housing need, compared with the percentage of South Asian 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](#)