

WOMEN IN THE NWT

SUMMARY

Prepared by the NWT Bureau of Statistics

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WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

Population

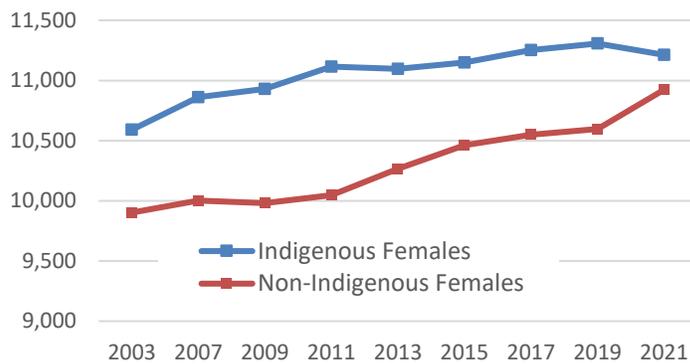
POPULATION

In 2021, there were 45,504 people living in the Northwest Territories (NWT) with females accounting for just under half of the population. The NWT population consists of similar proportions of Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit and Métis) and Non-Indigenous persons.

2021 Population	NWT		Female		Male	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	45,504	100.0	22,137	100.0	23,367	100.0
Indigenous	22,724	49.9	11,214	50.7	11,510	49.3
Non-Indigenous	22,780	50.1	10,923	49.3	11,857	50.7

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

Between 2003 and 2021, the female population in the NWT rose from 20,493 to 22,137.

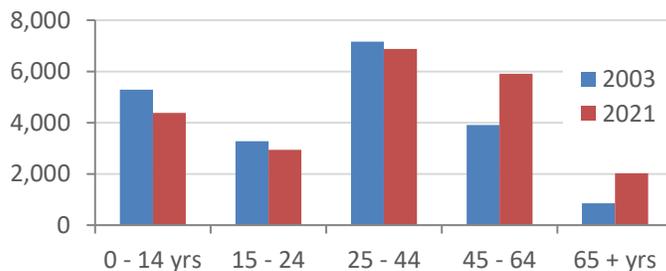


Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- The NWT Non-Indigenous female population increased by 10% compared to 6% for Indigenous females between 2003 and 2021.
- The total number of Indigenous females in Yellowknife increased by 1,350 persons in the 19-year period (+17%). By comparison, the female Indigenous population grew by 3% in smaller NWT communities.

When looking at population, the numbers of people 65 years and over as well as persons under the age of 15 are often analyzed due to the impacts these populations have on resources such as health care, education and housing.

NWT Female Population



Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- Between 2003 and 2021, the proportion of children decreased while the proportion of seniors increased in the NWT.
- Changes to the population distribution were consistent in all three NWT community types: Yellowknife, regional centres (Fort Smith, Inuvik & Hay River) and smaller NWT communities.

EMPLOYMENT

Overall employment rates for NWT females are slightly lower than that of NWT males. However, differences emerge when comparing rates by ethnicity and geography.

2019 Employment Rates	Female	Male
Northwest Territories	65.4%	66.0%
Yellowknife	73%	77%
Indigenous	54%	66%
Non-Indigenous	80%	80%
Rest of Communities	58%	56%
Indigenous	50%	46%
Non-Indigenous	79%	81%

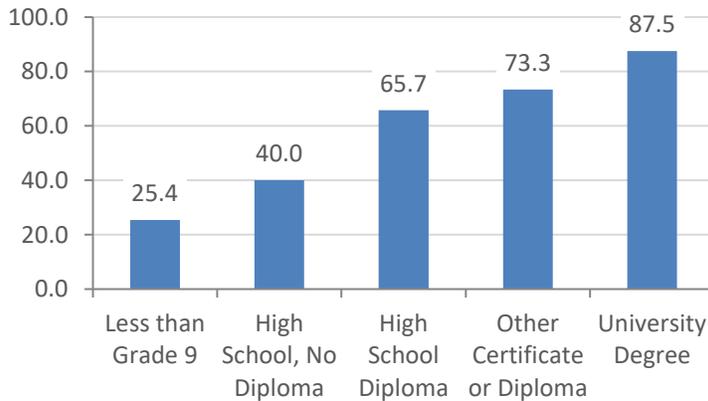
- NWT Indigenous females had an employment rate of 51% compared to 79% for Non-Indigenous females.
- Outside of Yellowknife, Indigenous females had a higher employment rate than Indigenous males (50% vs. 46%).

Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

EDUCATION

The relationship between education and employment is evident when comparing employment rates by highest level of education for women in the NWT as those with higher levels of formal education have higher the rates of employment.

2019 NWT Female Employment Rates



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

- Employment opportunities are limited for people with lower levels of formal education. This pattern holds regardless of ethnicity or geography.
- The employment rate for women with some high school (but no diploma) was 35% in Yellowknife, 52% in the regional centres and 37% smaller communities.

Education levels for females increased in the NWT between 1999 and 2019.

NWT Female Highest Education Level	1999	2019
Less than grade 9	13%	7%
High school, no diploma	19%	19%
High school diploma	21%	23%
Other certificate or diploma	30%	26%
University degree	14%	25%

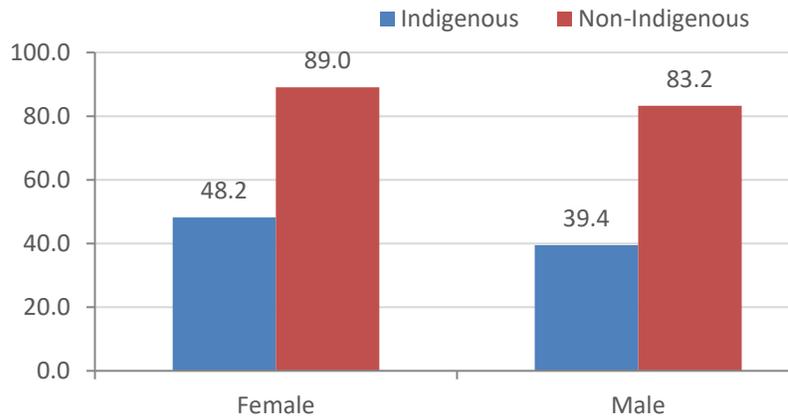
Source: 1999 & 2019 NWT Community Survey

- While increasing over the 20 year period, formal education levels of Indigenous women are below those of Non-Indigenous females in the NWT.
- In 2019, 9% of Indigenous women and 40% of Non-Indigenous women had a university degree as their highest level of education.

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Obtaining a high school diploma is generally an important predictor of social indicators such as health, housing and income. Between 1999 and 2019, the proportion of NWT females with a high school diploma rose from 56% to 66%.

Percentage of NWT Population with a High School Diploma, 2019



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

- Females are more likely to have a high school diploma than males.
- Just under half of Indigenous females had a high school diploma compared to 89% of Non-Indigenous.

INCOME

Higher levels of education are associated with both higher employment prospects and higher income. In comparing employment income of women working full-time and a full year, NWT women with higher levels of education had higher average earnings.

NWT Women

Average Employment Income, 2016

NWT Average (full year, full-time)	\$84,636
No certificate, diploma or degree	\$54,921
High school diploma	\$71,333
College	\$80,923
University	\$106,080

Source: 2016 Census

- In 2016, average employment income (full-time, full year) for NWT women was \$84,636 compared to \$96,979 for males.

Approximately half of NWT women (51%) and 57% of males between the ages of 25 to 64 and worked full-time for the full year compared to 57% of males.

The 2019 NWT Community Survey provided information on persons not in the work force. Around 14% of females and 12% of males over the age of 15 in the NWT did not want a job with being retired or elderly as the top reason for not wanting employment. Women in the NWT were more likely to be caregivers with 24% of females selecting caring for children or other relatives as the main reason for not wanting a job compared to 7% of males.

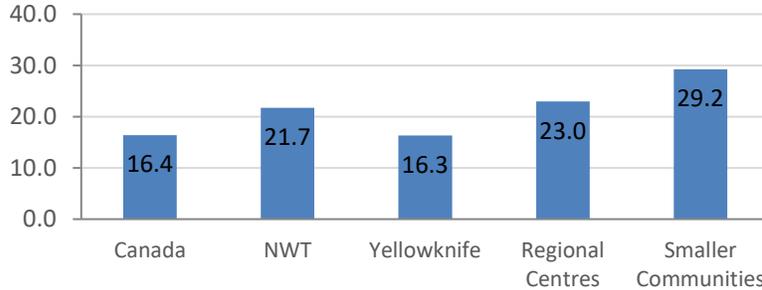
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Families

FAMILIES

The NWT has more lone-parent families compared to Canada.

Percentage of Families that are Lone Parents, 2016



Source: 2016 Census

- Overall, one in five families in the NWT (21.7%) are lone-parent families.
- In smaller NWT communities, nearly one in three (29.2%) families are lone-parents.
- Lone-parents in the NWT are 74% lone-mothers and 26% lone-fathers.

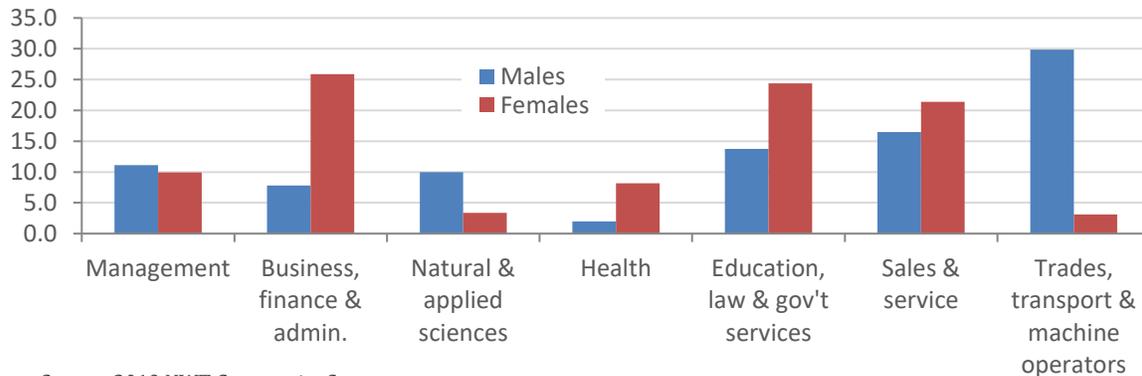
NWT couple families with children had a median income of \$165,912 in 2016 – the highest of all Canadian provinces and territories. Lone parent families in the NWT had a median income of \$65,408. The median income for a NWT female lone parent was \$60,032 compared to \$78,080 for a male.

Careers

CAREERS

Females working outside the home in the NWT were most likely to work in occupations related to business, finance & administration, closely followed by jobs within education, law, and social, community & government. While the jobs employing the highest number of NWT females were elementary school teachers, administrative officers/assistants, cashiers and nurses, the top jobs for males included heavy equipment operators, truck drivers and construction labourers. One in three men in the NWT were employed in the trades, transport or in machine operating occupations (30%) compared to 3% of NWT females.

Percentage of NWT Persons Employed by Select Occupations, 2019



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

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Crime Rate

CRIME

Crime rates tend to be higher in smaller communities in the NWT compared to rates in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

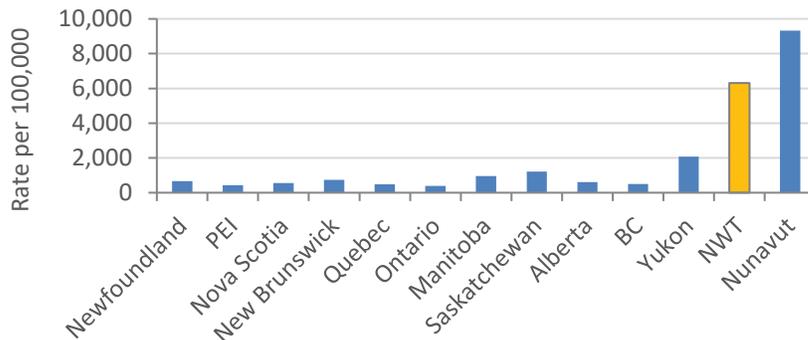
2020 Crime Rates Per 1,000 Persons	Violent Crime	Property Crime
Yellowknife	64.1	199.9
Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik	121.3	250.4
Smaller Communities	191.8	462.2
Northwest Territories	116.1	292.2

Source: Statistics Canada

- At 116.1 per 1,000 persons, the NWT violent crime rate is 9 times higher than the Canadian rate of 12.5.
- The property crime rate is also higher in the NWT compared to Canada (292.2 vs. 30.7).
- The NWT female crime rate is generally four times lower than that of males.

The NWT has the second highest rate of female victim intimate partner violence in Canada.

Female Victims of Intimate Partner Violence, by Province or Territory, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada

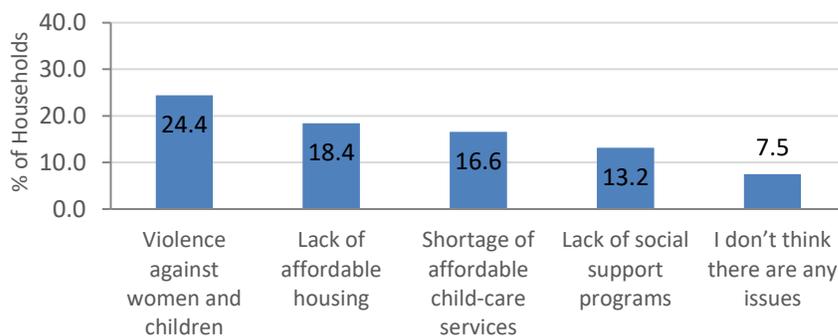
- In 2020, the number of NWT female victims from police-reported intimate partner violence was 6,310 per 100,000 (age 15-84).
- Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current or former married spouses, common-law partners, or boyfriends/girlfriends.

NWT Issues

MAIN ISSUES FACING NWT WOMEN

The 2019 NWT Community Survey asked what was the single most important issue women face in the NWT. One in five households (24%) cited violence against women and children as the most important issue, followed by lack of affordable housing (18%).

Main Issues Facing NWT Woman, 2019



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

- NWT households also indicated shortages of affordable child-care and social support programs as issues for NWT women.
- Approximately 8% of households felt that NWT women did not face any important issues.

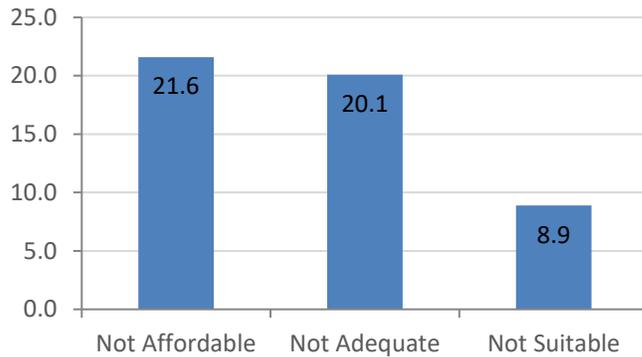
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Housing

HOUSING

In 2019, affordability was the leading housing issue in the NWT, followed closely by issues with adequacy. Four out of ten NWT households (43%) had at least one problem related to the three main types of housing issues:

Percentage of Households with Housing Issues, 2019



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

- Affordability issues – when shelter costs (like rent or mortgage payments, utilities, insurance etc.) are more than 30% of household income.
- Adequacy issues – when houses require major repairs, or are without running water or an indoor toilet.
- Suitability issues – when houses lack the suitable number of bedrooms for the characteristics of household occupants.

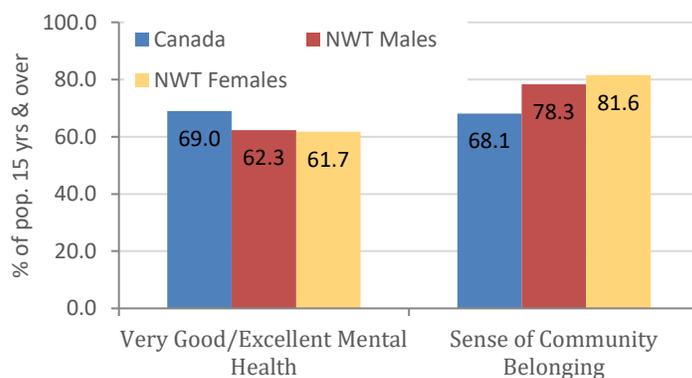
Housing adequacy issues, primarily due to the need for major repairs, was more common in smaller communities. Affordability was the top housing issue in Yellowknife with 29% of households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs.

Wellness

WELLNESS

A variety of indicators can be used to help measure the health and wellness of a population, such as self-perceived mental health and a sense of community belonging.

Selected Indicators, 2017/2018



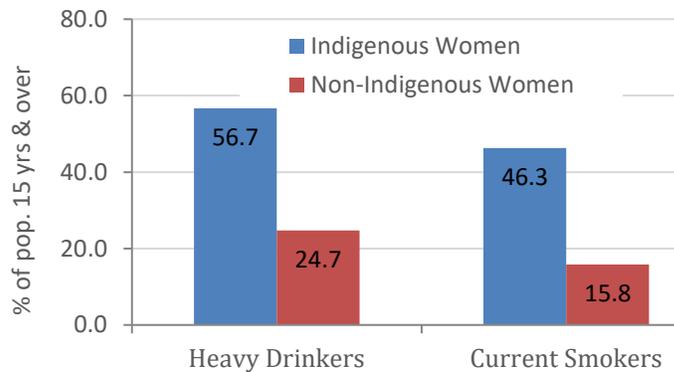
Source: 2017/2018 Canadian Community Health Survey

- Approximately 8 in 10 women in the NWT felt a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their community, higher than the Canadian rate.
- Compared to Canada, females in the NWT were less likely to rate their mental health as very good or excellent (69% vs. 62%).

HEALTH

In looking at health indicators, and healthy behaviors in particular, differences of note exist between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women in the NWT. While more NWT Non-Indigenous women drink alcohol (83% vs. 66%), Non-Indigenous women drink less frequently and consume less when they do drink. Of current drinkers, 25% of female Non-Indigenous compared to 57% of female Indigenous are considered heavy drinkers.

Selected Health Indicators, 2018



Source: 2018 NWT Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Survey

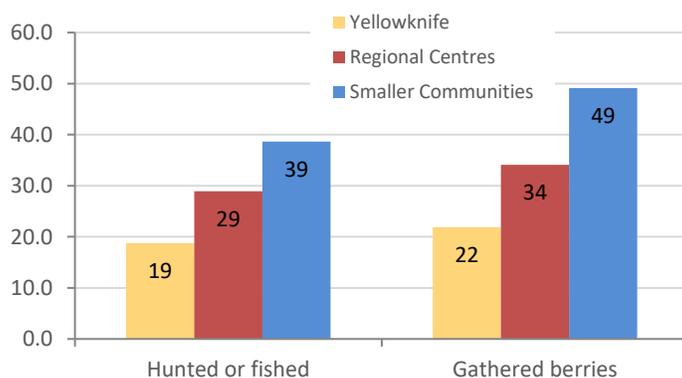
- Heavy drinking is defined for females as consuming four or more drinks on one occasion at least once per month.
- In 2018, 46% of Indigenous women in the NWT were daily or occasional smokers, a drop from 59% in 2002.
- While smoking rates have dropped historically in the NWT, the use of marijuana has increased.

In 2018, prior to its legalization, 20% of females had used marijuana in the past 12 months, up from 16% in 2002. Rates of marijuana use increased for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous NWT women.

TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Women living outside of Yellowknife were more likely to participate in a number of traditional activities including fishing and hunting, gathering berries and doing arts and crafts.

Percentage of NWT Women (15 yrs & over) Participating in Selected Traditional Activities, 2019



Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

- Indigenous women in the NWT were more likely to be active in traditional activities like fishing, hunting, or berry picking than Non-Indigenous women. For example, 1 in 3 Indigenous females (33%) hunted or fished in 2019 compared to 1 in 5 Non-Indigenous females (21%).

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Traditional Activities

Over the past 20 years, participation in hunting or fishing has fallen in the NWT. In 2019, 36% of those over the age of 15 hunted or fished compared to 42% in 1999. While both male and females are less likely to hunt or fish than in the past, the drop is less pronounced for Indigenous females (35% to 33%) than Indigenous males (57% to 52%).

Approximately 1 in 3 NWT women (32%) indicated they were involved in making or producing arts or crafts, with sewing or needlecraft being the most common. Of the over 5,500 women in the NWT involved in arts or crafts, 28% (or 1,546 women) had sold their work.

Contact

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the NWT Bureau of Statistics for more information on any of the topics provided in this summary.

Phone: (867) 767-9169
Toll-free: 1-888-STATSNT (1-888-782-8768)
Website: www.statsnwt.ca