



# WOMEN IN THE NWT

SUMMARY

*Prepared by the NWT Bureau of Statistics*



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## WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

# Population

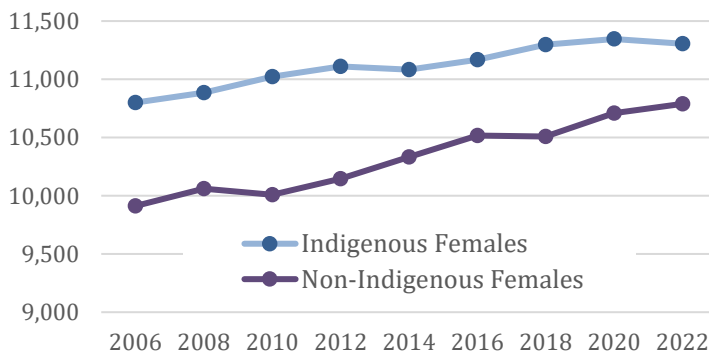
### POPULATION

In 2022, there were 45,605 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. Of the 11,306 Indigenous women in the NWT, 66% are First Nation (Dene), 11% Metis and 24% Inuit.

2022 Population	NWT		Female		Male	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,605</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22,095</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23,510</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Indigenous	22,935	50.3	11,306	51.2	11,629	49.5
Non-Indigenous	22,670	49.7	10,789	48.8	11,881	50.5

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

Between 2006 and 2022, the female population in the NWT rose from 20,712 to 22,095.

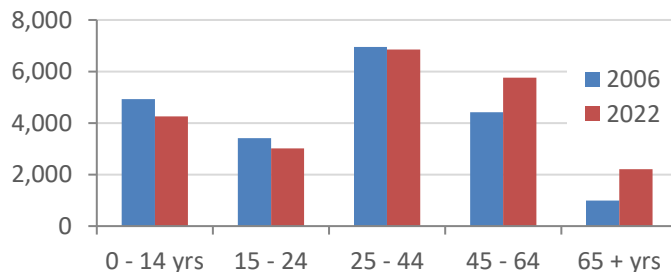


Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- The NWT Non-Indigenous female population increased by 9% compared to 5% for Indigenous females between 2006 and 2022.
- In the 16-year period, the total number of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous females decreased in the regional centres (Hay River, Fort Smith & Inuvik), increased by 5% in smaller communities, and rose by over 12% for both groups in Yellowknife.

When looking at population, the number 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 2006 and 2022, the proportion of children decreased while the proportion of seniors increased.
- Unlike the downward trend in the 0- to 14-year-old population in regional centres and smaller NWT communities, the proportion of children remained consistent in Yellowknife between 2006 and 2022.

## WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

### 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.

2021 Employment Rates	Women+	Men+
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>63.8%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>
Indigenous	51%	49%
Non-Indigenous	76%	79%
<b>Yellowknife</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Indigenous	57%	64%
Non-Indigenous	77%	80%

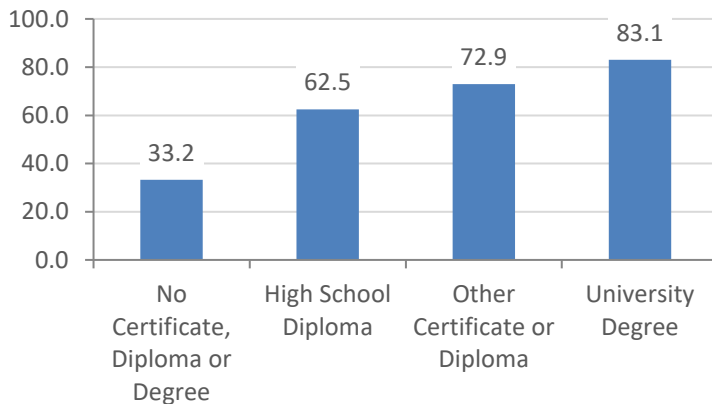
Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- Non-Indigenous NWT females had higher employment rates compared to Indigenous females (76% vs 51%).
- Outside of Yellowknife, historic patterns continued with Indigenous females having higher employment rates than Indigenous males.

### 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 rates of employment.

2021 NWT Women+ Employment Rates



Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- Employment opportunities are limited for people with lower levels of formal education. This pattern holds regardless of ethnicity, gender or geography.
- Employment rates for women+ in the NWT range from 33% for those with less than a high school diploma to 83% for those with a university degree.

Formal education levels for females increased in the NWT between 2006 and 2021; however, Indigenous highest levels of education remain below that of Non-Indigenous.

NWT Women+ Highest Education Level	2006	2021
No certificate, diploma or degree	32%	23%
High school diploma	22%	24%
College certificate or diploma	22%	19%
University degree	17%	27%

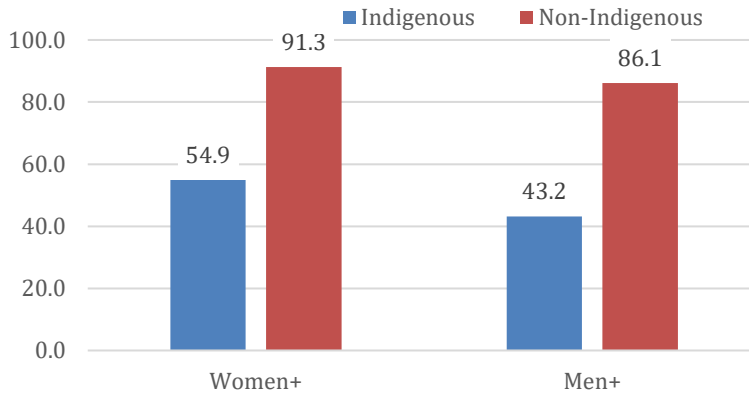
Source: 2006 & 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- In 2021, 40% of Indigenous NWT women had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of education compared to 8% of Non-Indigenous.
- In contrast, 44% of Non-Indigenous NWT females have university degrees compared to 9% of Indigenous females.

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Obtaining a high school diploma is generally an important predictor of social indicators such as health, income and housing stability. Between 2001 and 2021, the proportion of NWT females with a high school diploma rose from 52% to 73%.

Percentage of NWT Population with a High School Diploma, 2021



Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- Females are more likely to have a high school diploma than males.
- Just over half of Indigenous NWT females had a high school diploma compared to 91% of Non-Indigenous females.

### INCOME & WORK ACTIVITY

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, 2020

<b>NWT Average (full year, full-time)</b>	<b>\$92,900</b>
No certificate, diploma or degree	\$59,200
High school diploma	\$73,600
College	\$86,600
University	\$114,900

Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- In 2020, average employment income (full-time, full year) for NWT women+ was \$92,900 compared to \$100,200 for men+.
- Full-time, full year is defined as more than 30 hours per week and more than 49 weeks per year.

Following historic patterns, males were more likely to work full year, full-time than females, with higher proportions of women working part-time or not in the workforce. The work activity differences between gender however is less than the difference between ethnicity in the NWT. For example, 56% of 25 to 64 year old NWT males worked full year, full-time compared to 54% of females (a 2% difference), whereas a 20% difference exists between Non-Indigenous and Indigenous females in terms of full employment. Just over 40% of Indigenous females worked full-time, full year compared to 63% of Non-Indigenous females.

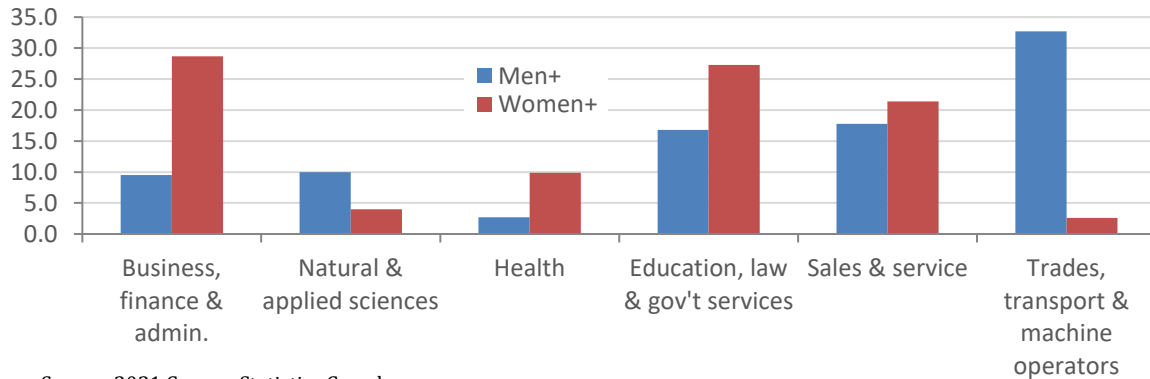
For both males and females, approximately one in ten Non-Indigenous people (11%) aged 25 to 64 years did not work compared to one in three Indigenous people (33%).

Occupations

OCCUPATIONS

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 included school teachers, office & administrative support and cashiers, the top occupations for males included truck drivers, drillers & blasters, and jobs related to programs & policy. Approximately 3% of NWT females were employed in the trades, transport or in equipment operating occupations compared to 33% of NWT males.

Percentage of NWT Persons Employed by Select Occupations, 2021



Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

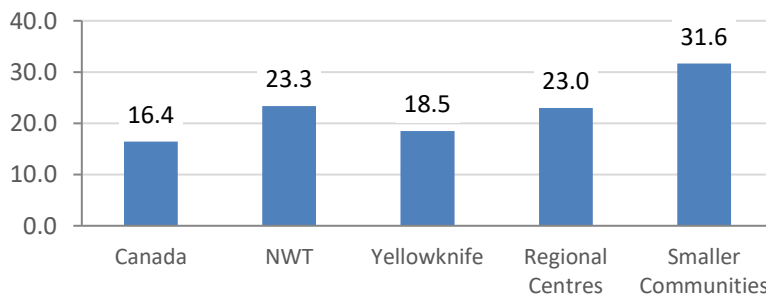
Families

FAMILIES

In 2020, the NWT had the highest family median income of all Canadian provinces and territories at \$151,00. Median income in one-parent families where the lone parent was female was \$85,000, compared to a median income of \$103,000 for male one-parent families.

NWT had a higher proportion of lone parent families than Canada with one in three families in smaller NWT communities led by a single parent.

Percentage of Families that are Lone Parents, 2021



Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- Single parent families in the NWT are 73% lone-mothers and 27% lone-fathers.

## WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

### Crime Rate

#### CRIME

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

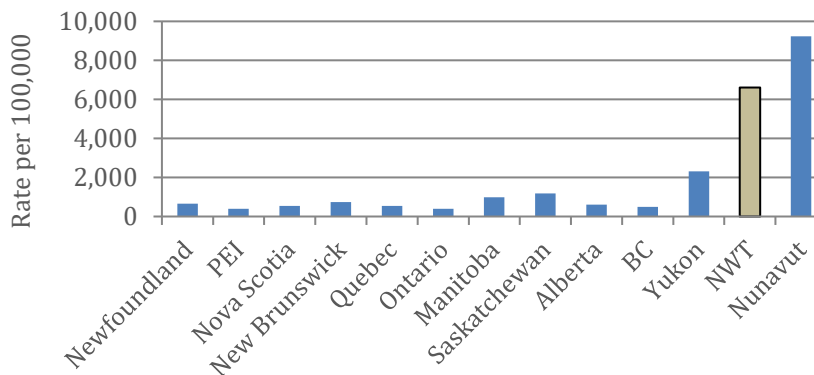
2021 Crime Rates Per 1,000 Persons	Violent Crime	Property Crime
<b>Yellowknife</b>	72.3	174.0
<b>Fort Smith, Hay River &amp; Inuvik</b>	114.1	255.1
<b>Smaller Communities</b>	198.1	442.4
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	120.4	274.9

Source: Statistics Canada

- At 120.4 per 1,000 persons, the NWT violent crime rate is 11 times higher than the Canadian rate of 13.2.
- The property crime rate is also higher in the NWT compared to Canada (274.9 vs. 30.4).
- 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, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada

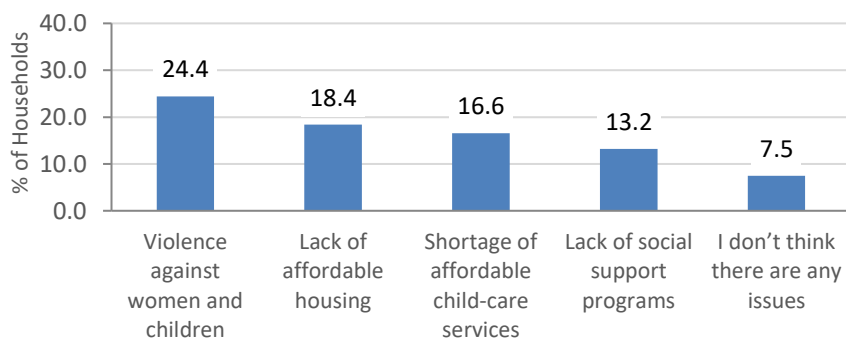
- In 2021, the number of NWT female victims from police-reported intimate partner violence was 6,609 per 100,000 (age 15-84).
- Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current or former married spouses, common-law partners, or boyfriends/girlfriends.

### 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.

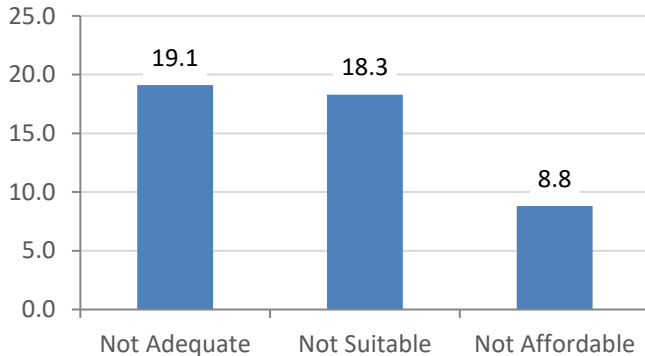


Housing

HOUSING

In 2021, adequacy was the leading housing issue in the NWT, followed closely by issues with suitability. Since 2011, approximately 20% of the NWT population live in houses with adequacy issues compared to 7% of the Canadian population.

Percentage of NWT Population Living in Houses with Issues, 2021



Source: 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

- 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.
- Affordability issues – when shelter costs (like rent or mortgage payments, utilities, insurance etc.) are more than 30% of household income.

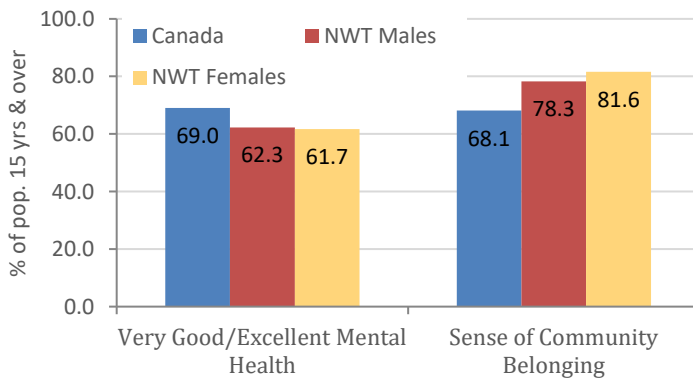
Housing adequacy issues, primarily due to the need for major repairs, was more common in smaller NWT communities. In Fort McPherson, Smbaa K'e and Wrigley, 50% or more of the houses required major repairs.

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



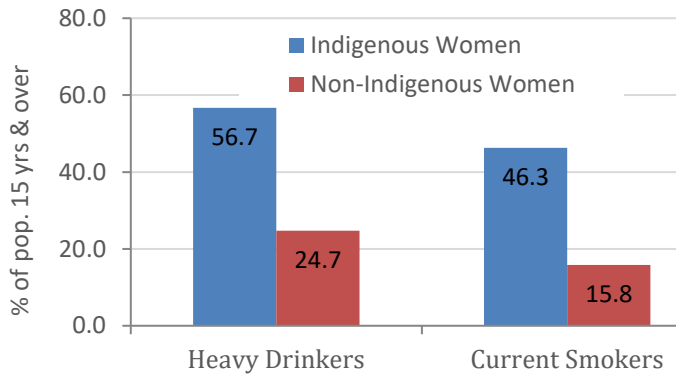
Source: 2017/2018 Canadian Community Health Survey

- 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



- 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.

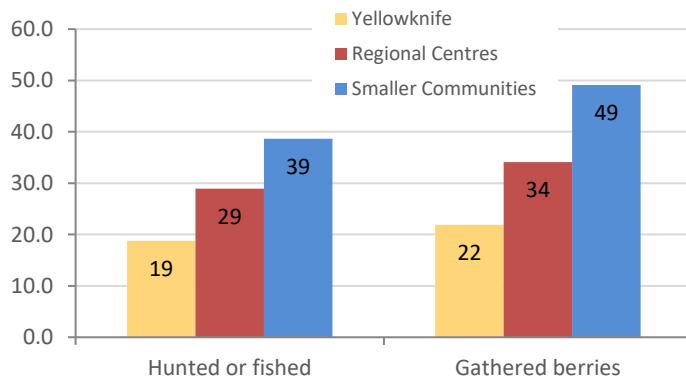
Source: 2018 NWT Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Survey

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



- 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%).

Source: 2019 NWT Community Survey

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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.

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