

Indigenous Peoples – 2016 Census –

Statistics Canada recently released data on the Indigenous people from the 2016 Census. In the Northwest Territories (NWT), there were 20,860 Indigenous people, accounting for 50.7% of the total NWT population. The NWT had the second highest proportion of Indigenous persons after Nunavut (85.9%). Among the provinces, Manitoba (18.0%) and Saskatchewan (16.3%) had the highest proportions of Indigenous populations. The largest number of Indigenous persons (374,395) resided in Ontario (Table 1).

Between 2006 and 2016, the Indigenous population in the NWT grew by 1.1%, compared to a 42.7% growth rate for the Indigenous population of Canada.

Table 1 Population by Indigenous Identity, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2006 and 2016 Census

	2016						2006					
	Total population		Indigenous population		Non-Indigenous population		Total population		Indigenous population		Non-Indigenous population	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Canada	34,460,060	100.0	1,673,785	4.9	32,786,280	95.1	31,241,030	100.0	1,172,790	3.8	30,068,240	96.2
British Columbia	4,560,240	100.0	270,585	5.9	4,289,650	94.1	4,074,385	100.0	196,075	4.8	3,878,310	95.2
Alberta	3,978,145	100.0	258,640	6.5	3,719,505	93.5	3,256,355	100.0	188,365	5.8	3,067,990	94.2
Saskatchewan	1,070,560	100.0	175,020	16.3	895,540	83.7	953,850	100.0	141,890	14.9	811,960	85.1
Manitoba	1,240,695	100.0	223,310	18.0	1,017,390	82.0	1,133,515	100.0	175,395	15.5	958,120	84.5
Ontario	13,242,160	100.0	374,395	2.8	12,867,765	97.2	12,028,900	100.0	242,495	2.0	11,786,405	98.0
Quebec	7,965,450	100.0	182,885	2.3	7,782,565	97.7	7,435,905	100.0	108,430	1.5	7,327,475	98.5
New Brunswick	730,710	100.0	29,385	4.0	701,325	96.0	719,650	100.0	17,655	2.5	701,995	97.5
Nova Scotia	908,340	100.0	51,490	5.7	856,850	94.3	903,090	100.0	24,175	2.7	878,915	97.3
Prince Edward Island	139,690	100.0	2,740	2.0	136,945	98.0	134,205	100.0	1,730	1.3	132,475	98.7
Newfoundland & Lab.	512,255	100.0	45,725	8.9	466,525	91.1	500,610	100.0	23,450	4.7	477,155	95.3
Yukon	35,110	100.0	8,195	23.3	26,920	76.7	30,190	100.0	7,580	25.1	22,610	74.9
Northwest Territories	41,135	100.0	20,860	50.7	20,275	49.3	41,055	100.0	20,635	50.3	20,420	49.7
Nunavut	35,580	100.0	30,550	85.9	5,025	14.1	29,325	100.0	24,920	85.0	4,410	15.0

The Indigenous population is younger than the non-Indigenous. In the NWT, the average age of the Indigenous population is 32.7 years compared to 36.8 years for non-Indigenous population. By comparison, the average age in Canada is 32.1 for Indigenous persons and 40.9 of the non-Indigenous.

In the NWT, persons identifying themselves as North American Indian grew by 4.3% over the last 10 years. Since 2006, Métis and Inuit populations declined by 5.3% and 1.9% respectively.

Table 2 Population by Detailed Indigenous Identity, Northwest Territories, 2006 and 2016 Census Years

	2016		2006		% Change 2006 - 2016
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Northwest Territories	41,135	100.0	41,055	100.0	0.2
Total Indigenous	20,860	50.7	20,640	50.3	1.1
North American Indian	13,185	32.1	12,640	30.8	4.3
Métis	3,390	8.2	3,580	8.7	-5.3
Inuit	4,080	9.9	4,160	10.1	-1.9
Non-Indigenous	20,275	49.3	20,420	49.7	-0.7

As part of the recent Statistics Canada release, information was also provided for indicators such as housing and income. Differences exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations and between the NWT and Canada for both housing and income statistics.

In 2016, 29.3% of NWT Indigenous persons lived in dwellings in need of major repairs. In contrast, 19.4% of the Canadian Indigenous and 10.4% of the NWT non-Indigenous lived in dwellings with adequacy problems.

Three times as many NWT Indigenous persons (27.1%) lived in housing with not enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household compared to 9.2% of the NWT non-Indigenous population. In Canada, 18.3% of the Indigenous population lived in dwellings with suitability problems in 2016.

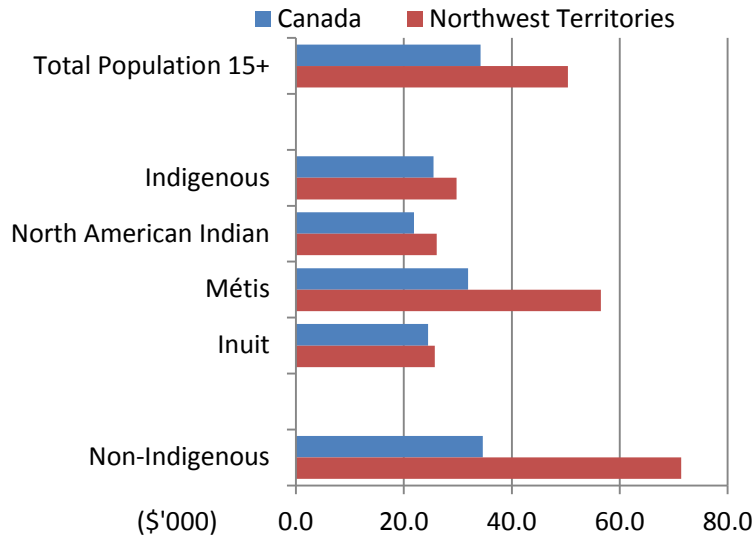
Table 3 Housing Adequacy and Suitability by Indigenous Identity, Northwest Territories & Canada, 2016

	Total		Major repairs needed		Not suitable	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Northwest Territories	41,135	100.0	8,220	20.0	7,530	18.3
Indigenous identity	20,860	100.0	6,110	29.3	5,655	27.1
Non-Indigenous identity	20,275	100.0	2,110	10.4	1,870	9.2
Canada	34,460,065	100.0	2,298,765	6.7	3,081,315	8.9
Indigenous identity	1,673,780	100.0	324,905	19.4	306,390	18.3
Non-Indigenous identity	32,786,280	100.0	1,973,860	6.0	2,774,930	8.5



Higher incomes in the NWT resulted in higher median incomes across all Indigenous groups compared to Canada. However, median income was lower for NWT Indigenous people (\$29,747) compared to Canadian non-Indigenous (\$34,604) and considerably lower than the NWT non-Indigenous median income of \$71,400. Among the NWT Indigenous population, Métis had a median income of \$56,502, which was more than double that of the Inuit (\$25,743).

Chart 1 Median Income by Detailed Indigenous Identity, Canada and Northwest Territories, 2016



The next release from the 2016 Census will be November 29, 2017 on education and labour.

For more information, contact:

NWT Bureau of Statistics
Government of the Northwest Territories
Telephone: 867-767-9169
Toll Free: 1-888-782-8768 (1-888-STATSNT)
Email: viktorija_bassarguina@gov.nt.ca

Or visit our website at:
<http://www.statsnwt.ca>

