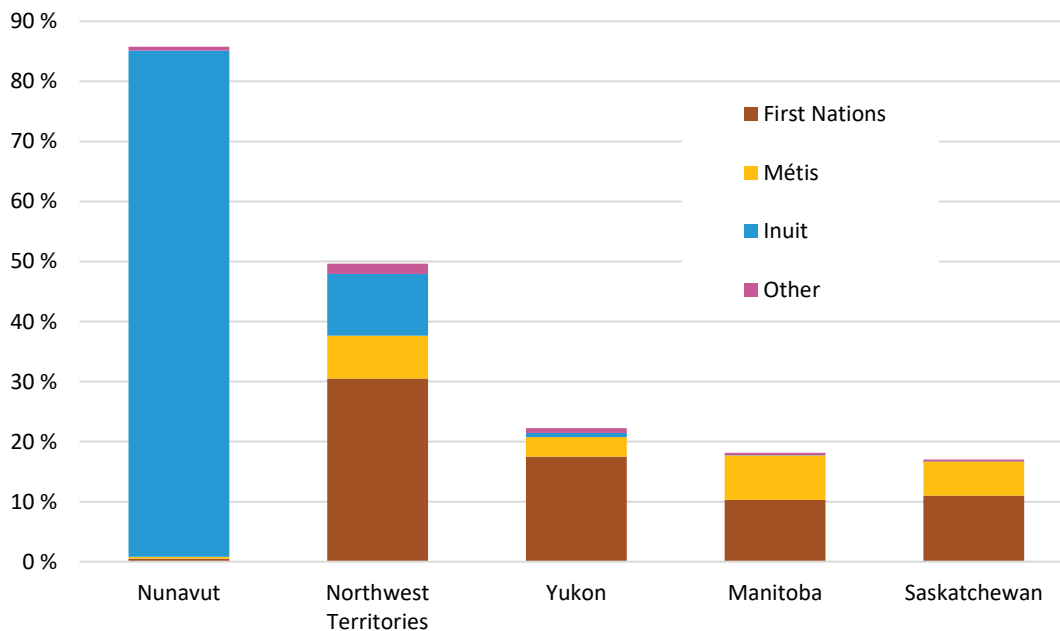


Indigenous Peoples 2021 Census

Today, Statistics Canada released data on Indigenous peoples from the 2021 Census. The national census is conducted every five years to gather important data and track change across the country. In the Northwest Territories (NWT), there were 20,035 Indigenous people, accounting for 49.6% of the total NWT population. Canada’s proportion of indigenous people is comparatively low at 5.0%. NWT had the second highest proportion of Indigenous persons after Nunavut (85.7%), followed by the third highest, Yukon (22.3%). Among the provinces, Manitoba (18.1%) and Saskatchewan (17.0%) had the highest proportions of Indigenous populations (Figure 1). The largest number of Indigenous persons (406,585) resided in Ontario.

Figure 1 Distribution of Indigenous Populations by Specific Indigenous Identity, Territories and Select Provinces, 2021 Census



Note: “Other” includes persons who identify as any two or all three of the following: First Nations (North American Indian), Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit). It also includes persons who do not identify as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) but who report having Registered or Treaty Indian status and/or Membership in a First Nation or Indian band.



Table 1: Population by Specific Indigenous Identity, Northwest Territories, 2021

	2021	
	Persons	%
Northwest Territories	40,380	100.0
<i>Indigenous identity</i>	<i>20,040</i>	<i>49.6</i>
First Nations	12,315	30.5
Métis	2,890	7.2
Inuit	4,155	10.3
Other	680	1.7
<i>Non-Indigenous identity</i>	<i>20,340</i>	<i>50.4</i>

Note: "Other" includes persons who identify as any two or all three of the following: First Nations (North American Indian), Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit). It also includes persons who do not identify as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) but who report having Registered or Treaty Indian status and/or Membership in a First Nation or Indian band.

Of the three predominant Indigenous groups in the NWT, the First Nation groups constitute the largest proportion at 30.5% of the total NWT population, followed by the Inuit population at 10.5%. Canada has a population proportion of 1.7% for Métis peoples while NWT has one of 7.2%.

In the NWT, the Indigenous population was younger than the non-Indigenous; with an average age of 34.1 and 37.9 respectively. Similar to the NWT, Canadian Indigenous people were younger but by a greater margin. On average, Canadian Indigenous peoples were 8 years younger than non-Indigenous (33.6 years old and 41.8 years old, respectively).

For the first time, the 2021 census collected data on the number of Inuit Nunangat enrollees and beneficiaries and whether or not they still live within the Nunangat region. The Nunangat is the homeland of the Inuit in Canada and spans across the northern parts NWT, Québec and Labrador, including the whole of Nunavut.

Some 5,655 persons identified as a beneficiary of the Inuvialuit final agreement with approximately 55% living in the Inuvialuit region.

Like the Inuit Nunangat, new data was collected on membership in a Métis organization or settlement. Of the 2,890 persons who identified as Métis in the NWT, nearly 60% were part of an organization.

Please note that counts for membership under specific Inuit and Métis organizations may differ from administrative records. Please refer to the individual Inuit or Métis organizations for their official counts.

