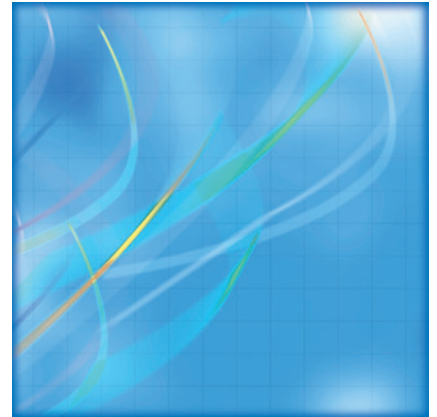




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Ethnic Diversity Survey: portrait of a multicultural society



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Ethnic Diversity Survey: portrait of a multicultural society

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Ethnic Diversity Survey: Portrait of a multicultural society

Introduction

Canada is a multicultural society whose ethno-cultural composition has been shaped over time by different waves of immigrants and their descendents, as well as by the Aboriginal peoples of the country. Each new wave of immigrants has added to its diversity.

Canada welcomed more than 13.4 million immigrants during the past century, the largest number having arrived during the 1990s. According to the 2001 Census, 18.4% of the population was born outside Canada, the highest proportion in 70 years.

As well, the sources of immigrants to Canada have changed in recent decades, with increasing numbers coming from non-European countries. These immigrants and their children are adding to the ethno-cultural make-up of Canada's population, making it one of the most ethnically diverse nations in the world.

This article presents some key findings from a new survey, the Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS). It examines Canada's ethno-cultural mosaic in 2002, providing a portrait of the different generations of Canadians who today make up this country. It also analyses the level of attachment that people in the different generations and ethnic groups have to their own ethno-cultural backgrounds and to the broader Canadian society.

The Ethnic Diversity Survey was developed by Statistics Canada, in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, to provide information on the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of people in Canada and how these backgrounds relate to their lives in Canada today. The survey covered topics such as ethnic or cultural ancestry and identity, family background, language use, social networks, interaction with others and civic participation.

The survey was conducted between April and August 2002. About 42,500 people aged 15 years and older were interviewed by telephone in the 10 provinces. The 2001 Census provided the frame to select the survey's sample. Canada's Aboriginal peoples were not included in the target population, as information on this population was collected through the 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). (Consult Appendix 1 for details of the Ethnic Diversity Survey design and methodology.)

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Canada's ethnic mosaic

One-half of the population report only British, French, Canadian ancestries

The Ethnic Diversity Survey examined the ethno-cultural backgrounds of Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 years and older.

Of this population of about 22.4 million, nearly one-half (46%), or about 10.3 million, reported only British,¹ French and/or Canadian ethnic or cultural origins. This reflects the longstanding presence of people of British and French heritage in Canada.

Of the British, French and Canadian group, the largest proportion – 21% of the total population aged 15 years and older – was those of only British ancestry. An additional 10% of the total population reported only French origins, including French Canadian; 8% were 'Canadian' only; and 7% had a mix of British, French and/or Canadian origins.

After the British, French and Canadian groups, the next largest proportion of Canada's population comprised the descendants of other Europeans (hereafter referred to as 'Europeans'). About 4.3 million people, or just under one-fifth (19%) of those aged 15 years and older, had only European origins.

People of non-European descent accounted for 13% of the population aged 15 years and older, or 2.9 million. The most frequent origins were Chinese and East Indian. (Non-Europeans have origins in places such as Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Australia and Oceania.)

In addition, 15% of the population aged 15 years and older, or 3.3 million, reported mixed ethnic heritages that included at least some European or non-European origins. The largest segment of this group comprised people who had reported European origins along with British, French, and/or Canadian, representing 12% of the population aged 15 years and older.

A portrait of the population by generation

The ethno-cultural make-up of the population varies considerably according to the number of generations a person's ancestors have lived in Canada. The ethnic composition of each generation reflects the origins of various waves of immigrants who have settled in Canada over time. It also hinges on the extent to which their descendants continued to report these ancestral origins.

1. 'British' refers to those of English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and other British Isles origins.

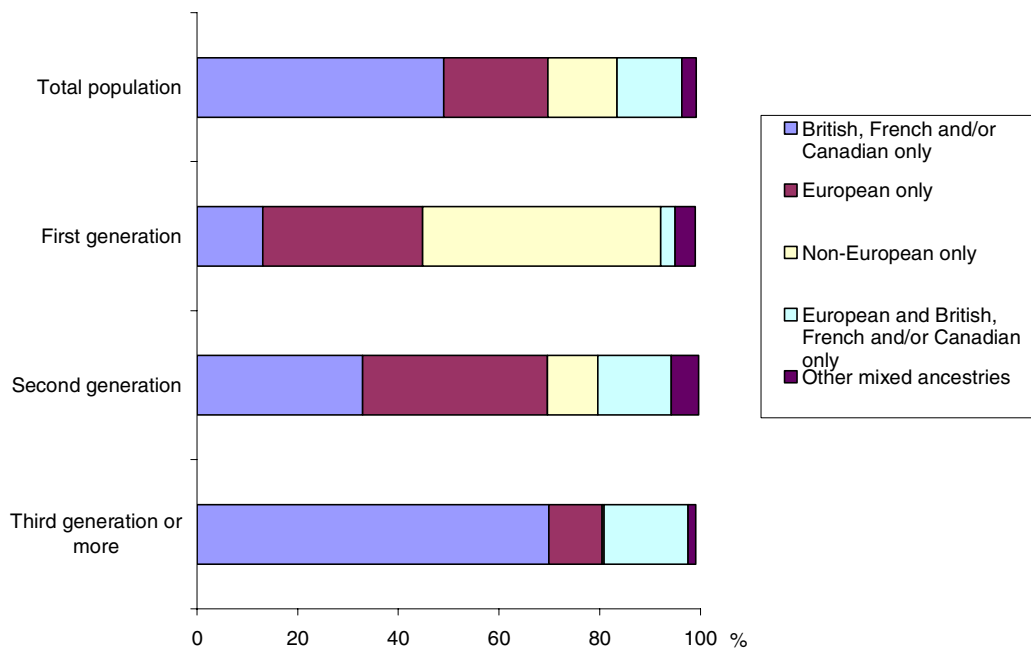
The Ethnic Diversity Survey takes a three-pronged look at Canada’s generational portrait:

- the first generation, who are themselves foreign-born;
- the second generation, who are Canadian-born and have at least one parent who was born outside Canada; and
- the third generation or more, who are the offspring of Canadian-born parents and possibly Canadian-born grandparents.

Almost one-quarter (23%) of the population aged 15 years and older, or 5.3 million people, were first generation. Not since 1931 has the proportion of people born outside the country been this high.

The second generation accounted for 17% of the total population aged 15 years and older, or 3.9 million people. About 13.0 million people, or 6 out of every 10 (58%) aged 15 and older, were third generation or more in 2002.

Figure 1. Ethnic ancestry of the population, by generation in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada’s non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

First generation: one-half had non-European origins only

Of the 5.3 million people in the first generation, nearly one-half (46%), or 2.4 million, reported non-European origins in the Ethnic Diversity Survey.

Among these individuals, Chinese was the most frequently reported ancestral group, followed by East Indian, Filipino and Vietnamese. (East Indian includes responses of only East Indians and Indians from India. Punjabis, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans and other groups were counted separately.)

The proportion of people reporting non-European origins reflects the growing number of immigrants who have come to Canada since the 1970s from regions such as Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

After non-Europeans, the next highest proportion of the first generation consisted of those with only European ancestry. They made up nearly one-third (31%) of the first generation, or 1.6 million people. The most frequently reported European backgrounds among the first generation were Italian, German, Portuguese and Polish.

Across Canada, the provinces with the highest proportions of the first generation were those that have received most of the immigrant flow during the past 50 years. In Ontario and British Columbia, 34% and 33%, respectively, of the population aged 15 years and older was first generation.

Second generation: nearly 4 in 10 were European

The ethnic composition of the second generation reflects to a large extent the long history of European immigration and settlement in Canada.

Of the 3.9 million second generation Canadians aged 15 years and older, the largest proportion, 36%, or 1.4 million, had only European ethnic ancestry. An additional 14% of the second generation reported European ancestry in combination with British, French and/or Canadian. The five most frequent origins reported by second generation Europeans were German, Italian, Dutch, Ukrainian and Polish.

The vast majority of Europeans in the second generation were those who were born in Canada to at least one parent who had immigrated here during the first half of the 1900s. These immigrant parents came from Western, Eastern and Southern Europe, often settling in the Prairie provinces and the urban centres of Ontario and British Columbia.

The second largest proportion of the second generation in Canada (32%) consisted of people with only British, French and/or Canadian ancestry.

Just 10% of the second generation had only non-European origins, of which the most frequent ancestries were Chinese and East Indian. This group tends to be younger than others in the second generation because they are to a large extent the Canadian-born offspring of immigrants who had come from Asia since the 1970s.

The size of the second generation population varied across Canada, as did its ethnic make-up. British Columbia had the highest proportion (25%) of second-generation people in its population aged 15 and older in 2002, followed by the Prairie provinces (24%) and Ontario (21%).

The second-generation population in the Prairies had the highest proportion (42%) of any region of Canada of those with only European ancestry. This compared with just 28% in British Columbia, for example. One of the largest inflows of immigrants in the past 100 years occurred between 1901 and 1921, bringing 3.4 million immigrants to Canada from Britain and other European countries, such as the Ukraine and Germany. Many of these European immigrants settled in the Prairie provinces.

In contrast, the ethnic composition of the second generation in British Columbia essentially reflects two waves of immigration to the West Coast: an earlier British settlement as well as more recent Asian immigration to the province.

Third generation or more: British, French and Canadian origins

The third generation or more was composed mainly of those of British and French heritage – ethnic groups that have a longer history in Canada.

Of the 13.0 million people aged 15 years and older in the third generation or more, 8.3 million, or more than 6 in 10 people (63%), reported British, French and/or Canadian origins alone.

An additional 2.1 million, or 15%, reported British, French and/or Canadian origins in combination with European and/or non-European origins.

Those of only European ancestry made up only 10% of the third generation or more, and those with only non-European origins less than 1%.

On a regional basis, the parts of Canada with the highest proportions of the third generation or more were areas settled earliest in the nation's history, namely the Atlantic provinces and Quebec.

In the Atlantic provinces, 88% of the population were third generation or more, of which 44% were of British only ancestry and 11% a mix of British origins with French and/or Canadian ancestries only.

In Quebec, 80% of its population aged 15 years and older in 2002 were in Canada for at least three generations. The third generation or more in this province was composed mainly of those of French descent.

Connectedness to ethnic background

Half the population had strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group

While everyone has an ethnic background, ethnic or cultural ancestry may be more important to some people than to others. As well, some people may feel very close to their ethnic group and may have a strong desire to maintain the customs and traditions of their ancestors, while others may not feel this way.

The Ethnic Diversity Survey asked Canadians how strong their sense of belonging was to their ethnic or cultural group(s). Half (50%) of the population aged 15 years and older indicated that they had a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic or cultural group.

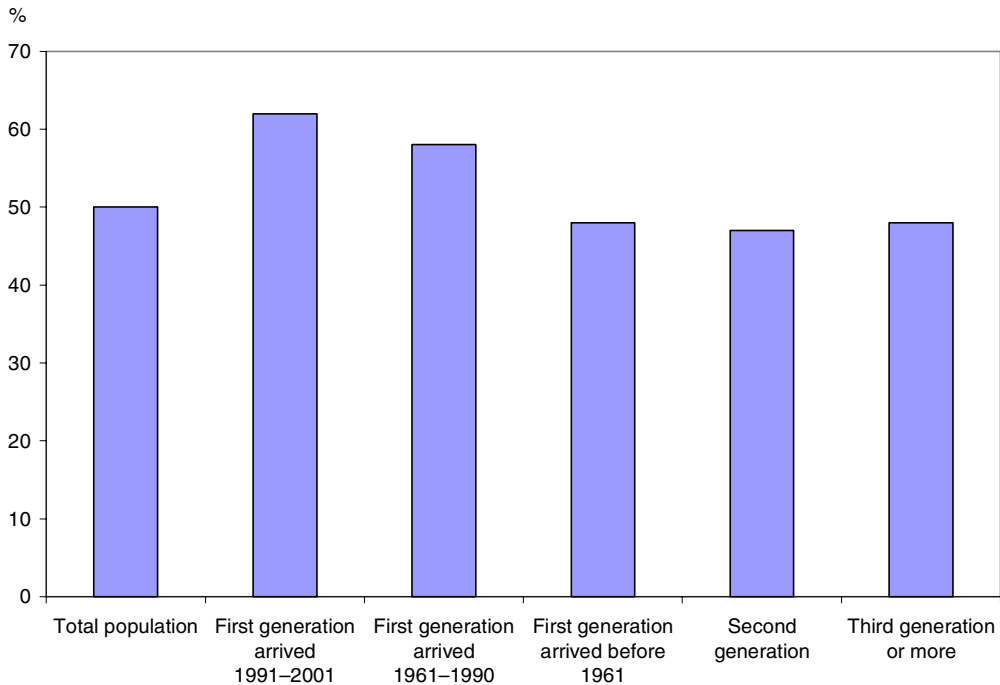
Sense of belonging to one's ethnic group varied, not surprisingly, by specific ethnic ancestries. For example, 78% of Filipinos reported a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group, as did 65% of East Indians, 65% of Portuguese, 60% of French Canadians, 58% of Chinese and 56% of Italians. Some of this variation among groups may be related to the extent to which the group is composed of new arrivals to Canada and of people who have been here for many generations.

Overall, the first generation had a higher proportion than subsequent generations of a strong sense of belonging. About 57% of the first generation reported a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic or cultural group, compared with 47% of the second generation and 48% of the third generation or more.

Among the first generation, the more recently people had arrived in Canada, the more likely they were to report a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group. More than 6 in 10 (62%) of those who had arrived since 1991 reported a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group, compared with only 48% of those who had come to Canada prior to 1961.

According to data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, family and friends play an important role in new immigrants' initial settlement in this country, whether it is to assist in finding jobs or to help in determining where to live in Canada. Contact with these family and friends, who are likely of the same ethnic or cultural background, may help those in the first generation maintain stronger ties to their ethnic group once in Canada.

Figure 2. Reporting of a strong sense of belonging to ethnic group, by generation in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Valuing ethnic customs and traditions

Feelings of belonging to one's ethnic group may also be reflected in a better awareness of ethnic heritage, customs and traditions.

Survey respondents who had rated at least one ethnic ancestry other than Canadian high in importance,² 10.3 million people in total, were subsequently asked how important it was for them to carry on the customs and traditions of that ethnic group, such as holidays, celebrations, food, clothing or art.

About 63% of these people, or 6.5 million, said that maintaining these customs or traditions was important.

The first generation was more likely than other generations in Canada to indicate that ethnic customs and traditions were important. More than two-thirds (68%) of the first generation who had rated their ancestry highly said that it was important to carry on the customs and traditions of at least one of their ancestral groups.

2. In addition to asking about belonging, the Ethnic Diversity Survey asked respondents to rate the importance of each of their ethnic ancestries separately. Just over half (52%) of the population aged 15 and older said that at least one of their ethnic ancestries was important to them.

There was no difference between the proportion of the second generation (59%) and third generation or more (60%) who rated their ancestry highly and said it was important to maintain the customs and traditions of their ethnic ancestry.

Among the first generation, more recent arrivals in Canada were more likely than earlier arrivals to say that their customs and traditions were important to them. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of those who had arrived in Canada since 1991 and who rated their ancestry highly also rated their customs and traditions as being important.

Some ethnic groups, regardless of the number of generations in Canada, had a high proportion of those who had rated their ancestry highly and who also rated their customs and traditions as important. For example, 92% of Punjabis who rated their ancestry highly also rated their customs and traditions as important, as did 81% of Greeks, 79% of Filipinos and 76% of Jamaicans.

First generation have more contact with family in their country of origin

Those who have a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group may also have a greater level of contact with their family's country or countries of origin.

The Ethnic Diversity Survey asked respondents how often in the past year they had seen, talked to, written or e-mailed members of their family who were living outside Canada in their countries of origin. (Countries of origin are defined as either the respondent's place of birth or the places of birth of their parents or grandparents.)

More than 3 in 10 (34%) of the 9.1 million people who had family living in their countries of origin at the time of the survey, or 3.1 million people in total, reported that they had seen, talked to, written or e-mailed these members of their family at least once a month during the previous year.

Monthly or more frequent contact with family in one's countries of origin was highest among the first generation, particularly among the recent arrivals. Whereas three-quarters (75%) of the first generation who had arrived in Canada in the 1990s were in contact with family in their countries of origin at least once a month, just under half (46%) of the first generation who had arrived earlier than 1991 maintained this level of contact.

In contrast, just 18% of second-generation and 8% of third-plus-generation Canadians with family in their countries of origin indicated that they had been in contact with these relatives at least once a month in the year prior to the survey.

In part reflecting time of arrival in Canada, some ethnic groups were more likely to have frequent contact with relatives in their country of origin than were others. To illustrate, 62% of those with Filipino ancestry reported monthly or

more frequent contact with their relatives in their country of origin, compared with 46% of Chinese, 31% of Italians and 20% of those with German origins.

Many report 'Canadian' as their ethnic identity

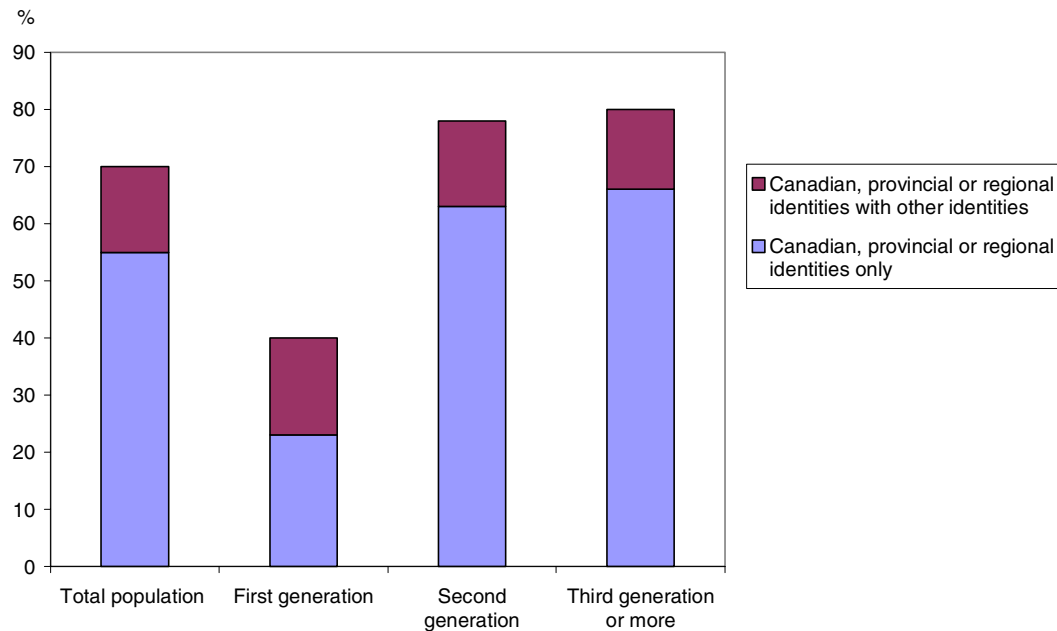
In addition to asking about ethnic ancestry, the Ethnic Diversity Survey also asked people to report their ethnic or cultural identity.

While many different ancestries were reported when respondents were asked about ancestral background, many people reported Canadian as their ethnic or cultural identity in 2002. In total, 11.6 million people, or 55% of the population aged 15 and older, said that Canadian was either their only ethnic identity, or was part of their ethnic identity.

In addition to Canadian, provincial or regional identities, such as Québécois, Acadian and Newfoundlander, were also frequently reported. For example, in Quebec, Québécois was the most common ethnic identity and was reported by 37% of Quebec's population aged 15 years and older, either as their only identity or alongside other identities. In the Atlantic provinces, Newfoundlander was reported by 10% of the population and Acadian was reported by 6%.

Not surprisingly, the reporting of Canadian and provincial or regional ethnic identities increased with the number of generations a person's family had lived in Canada. In 2002, 40% of the first generation said that their identity included Canadian or a provincial or regional identity, compared with 78% of those in the second generation and 80% of those in the third generation or more.

Figure 3. Reporting of Canadian, provincial or regional ethnic identities, by generation in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada’s non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.
Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Participation in Canadian society

The Ethnic Diversity Survey looked at participation in groups or organizations among Canadians of diverse backgrounds in the 12 months prior to the survey. It measured membership and participation in groups or organizations such as sports teams, hobby clubs, community organizations and ethnic associations; frequency of participation in these groups or organizations; and voting in the most recent federal, provincial and municipal elections.

According to the survey, 10.1 million Canadians, or 46% of the population, reported being a member of, or taking part in, the activities of at least one type of group or organization in the past year. Participation was highest among the youngest age group (those aged 15 to 24); with 52% reporting that they participated in a group or organization.

Participation increased with time lived in Canada

Participation in groups or organizations was less common among the first generation than among the second generation and third generation or more, but it increased with time lived in Canada. This was the case across all age groups.

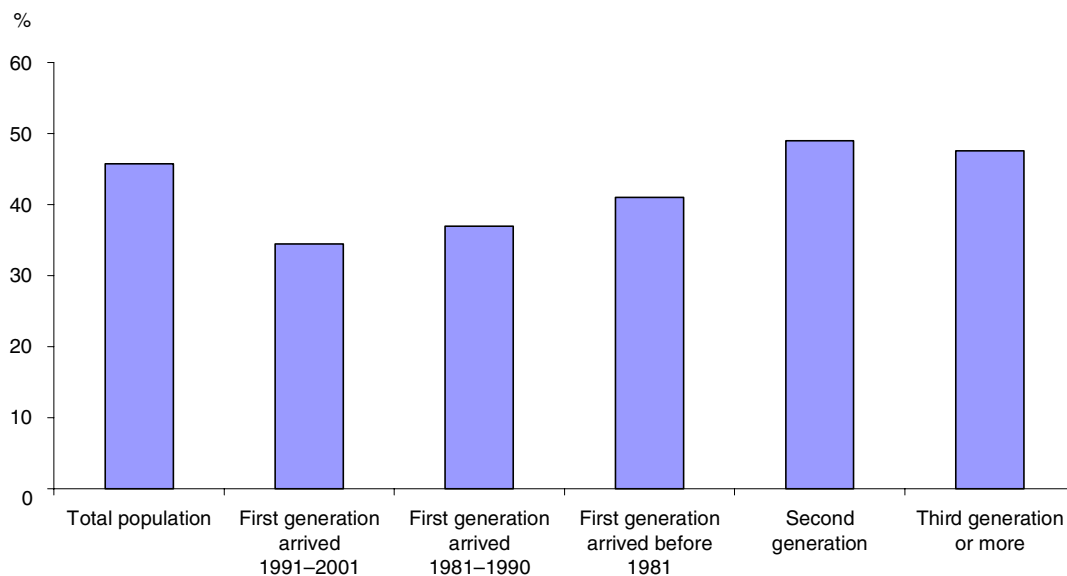
About one-third of the first generation (34%) who arrived in Canada in the 1990s indicated that they had been members of or had taken part in the activities of at least one group or organization in the previous year. This figure climbed to 37% among those who had arrived during the 1980s and to 41% among those who had arrived before 1981.

In contrast, almost half of second- and third-plus-generation Canadians reported participating in groups or organizations (49% and 48%, respectively).

Even among those who reported participating in a group or organization, the first generation reported less frequent participation than the second generation and third generation or more. For example, just over half (51%) of the first generation reported taking part in the activities of their group or organization at least once a week in the year prior to the survey, compared with 64% of those who had lived in Canada for two or more generations.

It is likely that as newcomers to Canada, the first generation need to adjust to their new country, make new friends, establish networks, and settle into jobs and the community where they live.

Figure 4. Proportion participating in all groups and organizations, by generation in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada’s non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older. Because more than one type of organization could be reported, the total of all organizations is greater than 100%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

First generation likely to participate in ethnic or immigrant organizations

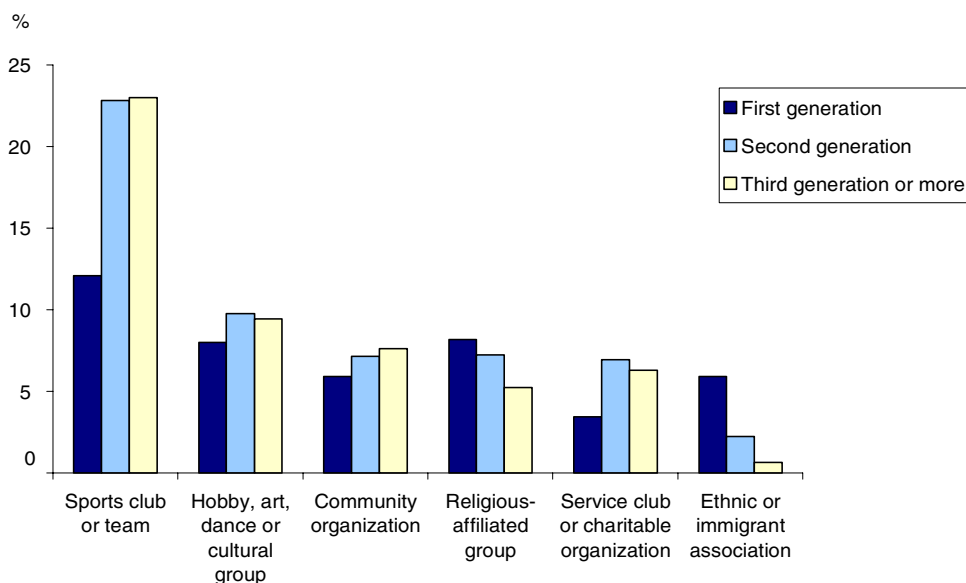
In addition to there being differences in frequency of participation among the different generations, there were also differences in the types of groups or organizations in which people participated.

For example, those who had lived in Canada for two or more generations were twice as likely as the first generation to participate in sports clubs or teams (23% versus 12%). Sports clubs or teams were the most common type of organization belonged to across all generational groups.

Not surprisingly, one area where the first generation tended to have a higher participation rate was in ethnic or immigrant associations. In 2002, about 6% of the first generation participated in ethnic or immigrant associations, compared with just 2% of second-generation and 1% of third-plus-generation Canadians.

These findings were consistent with those from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada. According to this survey, the social network of family and friends was key to the integration and initial settlement of newcomers to Canada. Ethnic or immigrant organizations also sometimes provide settlement services to immigrants and may account for their higher participation in these organizations.

Figure 5. Proportion participating in selected groups and organizations, by generation in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older. Because more than one type of organization could be reported, the total of all organizations is greater than 100%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Participation in elections: first generation more likely to vote the longer they are in Canada

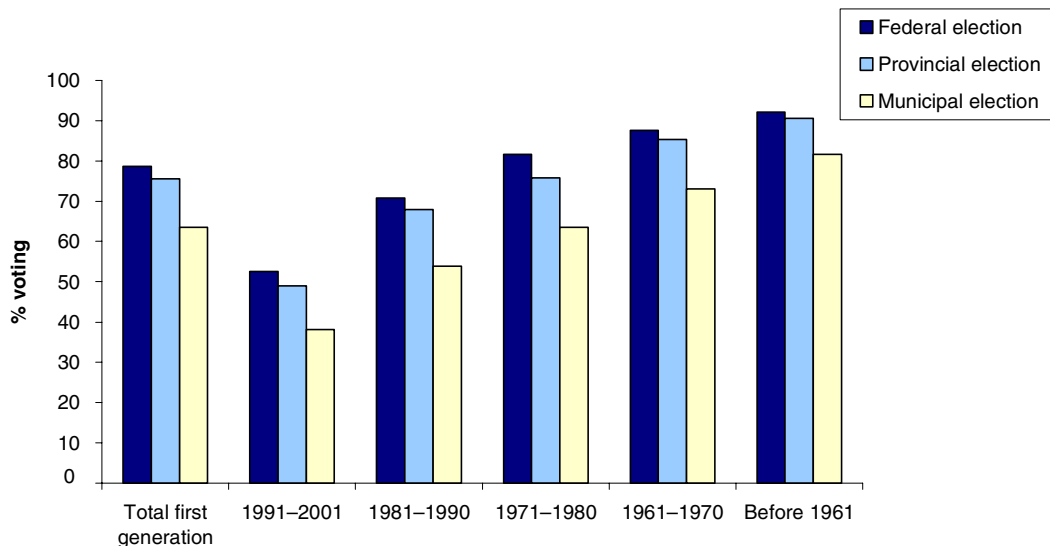
The Ethnic Diversity Survey looked at voting patterns among different groups as another way of measuring participation and inclusion in society.

Nearly 8 in 10 Canadians who were eligible to vote said that they had voted in the last federal and provincial elections, while 6 in 10 said they had voted in the last municipal election.³ This was true regardless of the number of generations a person or their family had lived in Canada.

Nevertheless, among the first generation there were differences in participation depending on the length of time lived in Canada. Half (53%) of those in the first generation who had come to Canada since 1991 and who were eligible to vote reported voting in the last federal election, compared with 92% of those who had arrived before 1961.

This pattern of voting at the federal level was similar to that for provincial and municipal elections, with those who had arrived in Canada earlier being more likely to report voting than more recent arrivals.

Figure 6. Proportion voting in the most recent elections, by period of arrival in Canada, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

3. Survey findings on rates of voting, which are self-reported, tend to be higher than actual rates of voter turnout.

Inclusion in Canadian society

Some feel occasionally uncomfortable or out of place because of ethno-cultural characteristics

The Ethnic Diversity Survey asked people how often – all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, rarely or never – they felt out of place in Canada at the time of the survey because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion.

More than three-quarters of the population aged 15 years and older (78%), or 17.1 million people, said that they never felt uncomfortable or out of place in Canada because of these characteristics.

Another 13% of this population, or 2.8 million people, said they felt uncomfortable or out of place only rarely in 2002.

However, an additional 2.2 million, or 10%, reported that they felt uncomfortable or out of place sometimes, most of the time or all of the time because of their ethno-cultural characteristics.

Of this last group, the majority, about 1.8 million people, or 8% of the total population aged 15 years and older, indicated that they felt this way some of the time. Some 330,000, about 2% of the total population, reported feeling this way most or all of the time.

Visible minorities more likely to feel uncomfortable or out of place

Visible minorities were more likely than others to say that they felt uncomfortable or out of place in Canada at least some of the time because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion.

Visible minorities are defined, according to the *Employment Equity Act*, as “persons other than the Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race and non-white in colour.” In 2002, Canada’s 3 million visible minorities represented 13% of the non-Aboriginal population aged 15 years and older. The majority (84%) of visible minorities were first generation, while 14% were second-generation and 2% were third-plus-generation Canadians.

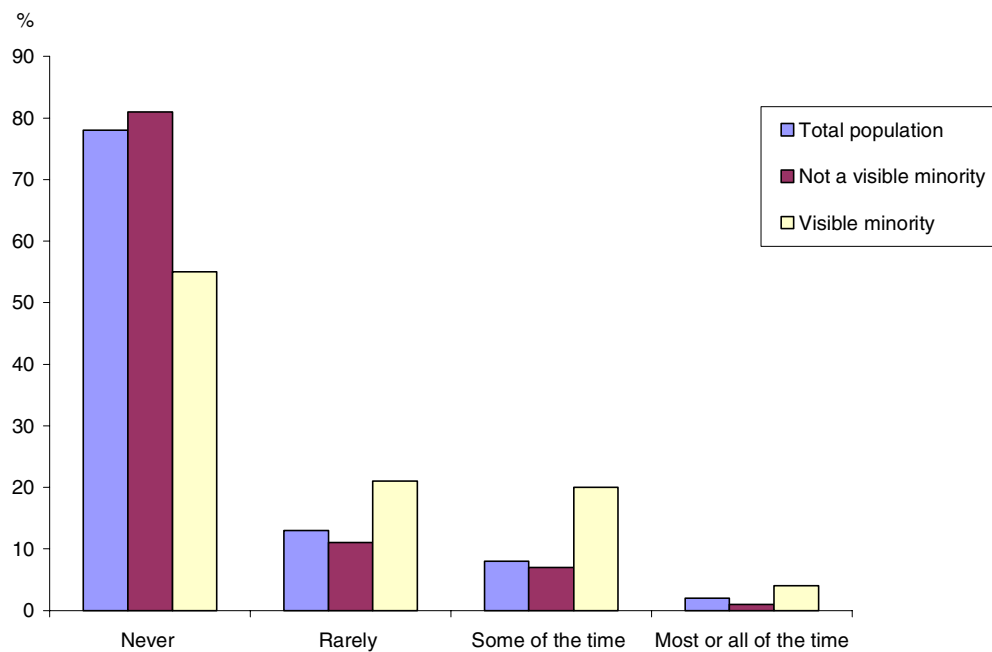
In total, 24% of all visible minorities in Canada, or 683,000, said that they felt uncomfortable or out of place because of their ethno-cultural characteristics all, most or some of the time. This was almost three times the share of people who were not visible minorities and who felt uncomfortable (8%, or 1.5 million people).

Generational differences indicate that visible minorities may feel uncomfortable for a longer period of time than do their non-visible minority counterparts after they or their families arrive in Canada.

First generation visible minorities who arrived in Canada some time ago do not seem to feel more comfortable than recent arrivals. Among visible minorities who had arrived between 1991 and 2001, 29% said they felt uncomfortable or out of place in Canada some, most or all of the time. This proportion was only slightly lower, at 23%, for visible minorities who came before 1991

In contrast, among the population who were not visible minorities, a higher proportion of recent arrivals than of those who had resided here for over 10 years (18% versus 9%) felt uncomfortable or out of place in Canada because of their ethno-cultural characteristics.

Figure 7. Frequency of feeling uncomfortable or out of place in Canada because of ethno-cultural characteristics, 2002



Note: Refers to Canada’s non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Almost 9 in 10 report no discrimination or unfair treatment in the past five years

In addition to asking about feelings of being uncomfortable or out of place in Canada, the Ethnic Diversity Survey asked respondents whether they felt they had experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada in the five years prior to the survey because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language accent or religion.

If respondents said they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment, they were then asked how often they felt they had experienced this: often, sometimes or rarely.

The vast majority (86%) of Canadians aged 15 years and older, about 19 million, said that they did not feel they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in Canada because of their ethno-cultural background during the previous five years.

Nevertheless, there were those in Canada who said that they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in the past five years because of these characteristics.

In 2002, 6%, or 1.4 million, said that they felt they had only rarely experienced discrimination or unfair treatment because of their ethno-cultural characteristics.

In addition, 5% of the population aged 15 years and older, or 1.2 million people, said they felt that they had sometimes been discriminated against or treated unfairly, while 2%, or 376,000 people, said that this had often happened to them.

In total, 7%, or 1.6 million Canadians, said they had sometimes or often experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in the past five years because of their ethno-cultural characteristics.

One in five visible minorities report discrimination or unfair treatment 'sometimes' or 'often'

Perceived discrimination or unfair treatment varied considerably by visible minority status, according to the survey.

About 20% of visible minorities, or 587,000 people, said they had sometimes or often experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in the previous five years because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion. An additional 15% of visible minorities reported such treatment occurring rarely.

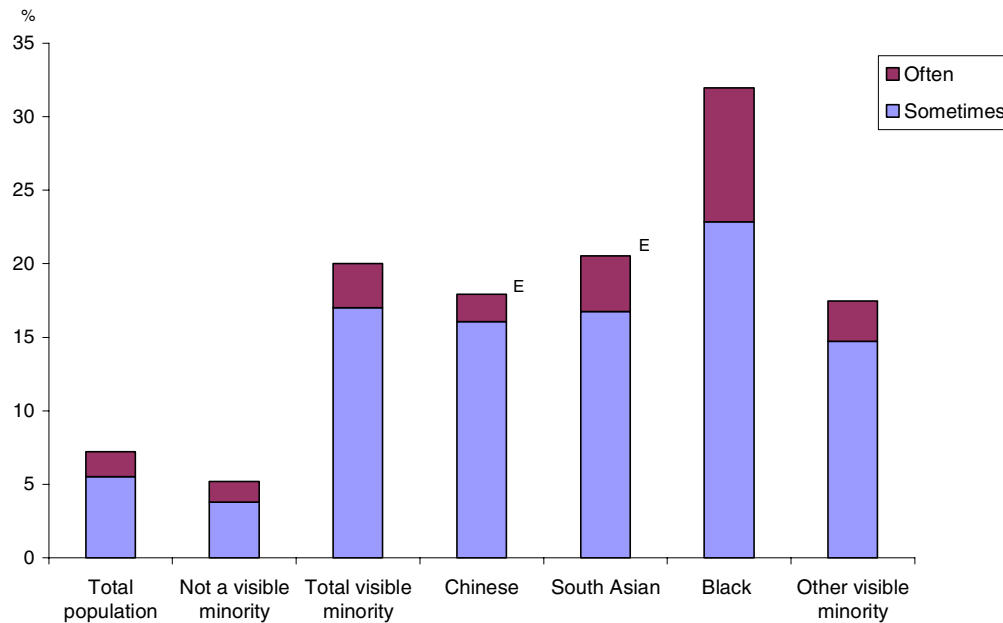
Blacks were more likely to report feeling that they had been discriminated against or treated unfairly by others because of their ethno-cultural characteristics. Nearly one-third (32%) of Blacks, or 135,000, said that they had had these experiences sometimes or often in the past five years, compared with 21% of South Asians and 18% of Chinese.

Another 17% of Blacks, 13% of South Asians and 15% of Chinese reported that these experiences had occurred rarely.

Among visible minorities, more frequent discrimination or unfair treatment may not appear to be linked to the number of generations the person's family had lived in Canada.

About 21% of first-generation visible minorities, compared with 18% of visible minorities who had been in Canada for two or more generations, reported they had sometimes or often experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in the past five years.

Figure 8. Percentage reporting discrimination or unfair treatment 'sometimes' or 'often' in the past five years, by visible minority status, 2002



^E use with caution

Note: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older reporting discrimination or unfair treatment in Canada because of ethno-cultural characteristics.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Those who were not visible minorities also report discrimination or unfair treatment

In 2002, 5% of people who did not identify as a visible minority, or 982,000 people, said that they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment sometimes or often because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion in the previous five years. In addition, 5% of non-visible minorities said that this had rarely occurred.

Among the population who were not a visible minority, those who had arrived in Canada most recently appeared to be slightly more likely to report that discrimination or unfair treatment had sometimes or often occurred because of ethno-cultural characteristics.

About 9% of non-visible minorities who had arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001 reported that such treatment had sometimes or often occurred, compared with 5% of those who had arrived in Canada prior to 1991 and 5% of those in both the second generation and third generation or more.

Table 1. Population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment in Canada in the past five years because of ethno-cultural characteristics, by generation in Canada and visible minority status, 2002

	Frequency of discrimination			
	Total population	Sometimes or often	Rarely	Did not experience
				discrimination
'000s	%	%	%	
Total population	22,445	7	6	86
Not a visible minority	19,252	5	5	90
Visible minority	3,000	20	15	64
First generation	5,272	13	10	77
Not a visible minority	2,674	5	6	89
Visible minority	2,516	21	14	65
Second generation or more	16,929	6	5	89
Not a visible minority	16,349	5	5	90
Visible minority	480	18	23	59

Note: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Race or colour most common reason for perceived discrimination or unfair treatment

People who felt they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment in the five years prior to the survey were asked whether they thought they had been mistreated because of their ethnicity or culture, race or skin colour, language or accent, and/or religion.

Visible minorities who had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment were most likely to say that this had occurred because of their race or skin colour. More than 7 in 10 visible minorities (71%) who reported sometimes or often experiencing discrimination or unfair treatment gave race or skin colour as the reason, either alone or in combination with other reasons.

Among Canadians who were not visible minorities, language or accent was the characteristic most commonly associated with perceived discrimination or unfair treatment. About 43% of non-visible minorities, who had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment sometimes or often in the past five years, gave this reason for the treatment, either alone or in combination with other responses.

Discrimination or unfair treatment most likely to occur in the workplace

The survey asked respondents who had reported discrimination or unfair treatment because of their ethno-cultural characteristics in the previous five years whether they had experienced such treatment on the street; in a store, bank or restaurant; at work or when applying for a job or promotion; when dealing with the police or courts; or somewhere else.

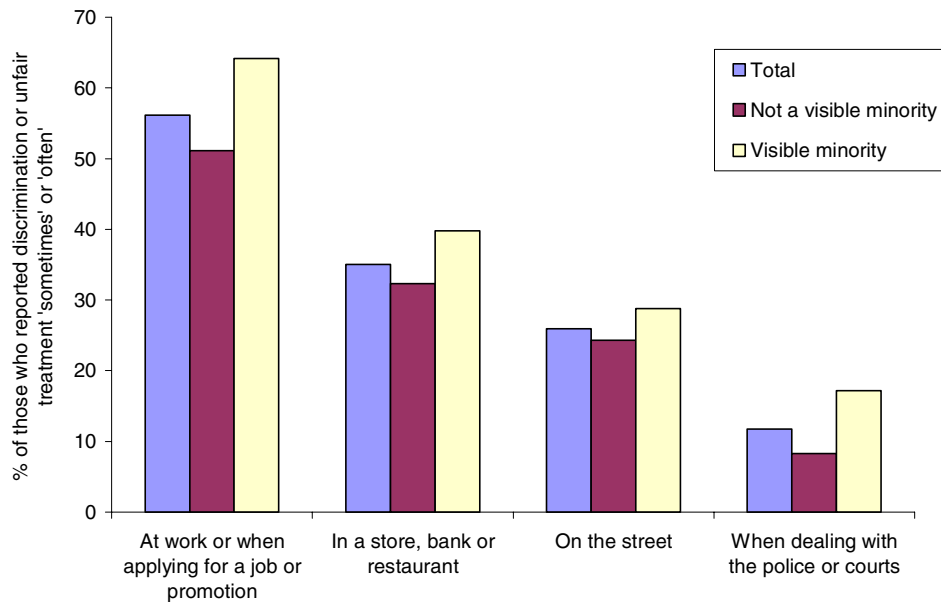
Among the places and situations asked about, the most common situation where perceived discrimination or unfair treatment was experienced was at work or when applying for a job or promotion. Overall, 880,000 people, or 56% of those who had sometimes or often experienced discrimination or unfair treatment because of their ethno-cultural characteristics in the past five years, said that they had experienced such treatment at work or when applying for work.

The next most common place where perceived discrimination or unfair treatment occurred was in a store, bank or restaurant. This type of location was identified by about 35% of those aged 15 years and older who had sometimes or often been discriminated against, or 549,000 Canadians.

As well, about 26% of the population reporting sometimes or often experiencing discrimination in the past five years, or 406,000 Canadians, said that they felt they had been discriminated against or treated unfairly on the street.

No matter what the location, a higher proportion of visible minorities than of non-visible minorities reported discrimination or unfair treatment in Canada in the previous five years.

Figure 9. Selected situations where discrimination or unfair treatment was reported as occurring 'sometimes' or 'often' in the past five years, 2002



Notes: Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older reporting discrimination or unfair treatment in Canada because of ethno-cultural characteristics. Because more than one situation could be reported, the total of all situations added together is greater than 100%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Conclusion

Results from the Ethnic Diversity Survey show that the attachment people in Canada have to their ethnic or cultural background vary by ethnic group and by the length of time, or number of generations they or their families have lived in Canada.

People in the first generation reported a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic or cultural ancestry. At the same time, the first generation tended to participate less in groups or organizations in Canada, particularly most recently after their arrival in the country.

Most people in Canada felt comfortable in this country regardless of their ethno-cultural characteristics, although visible minorities were more likely than people who were not visible minorities to feel uncomfortable or out of place here because of their ethnicity or culture, race or skin colour, language, accent or religion.

Visible minorities were also more likely to report having been discriminated against or treated unfairly in Canada in the past five years because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion. Nevertheless, the vast majority of Canadians reported no discrimination or unfair treatment in this country in the past five years.

Further inquiry

For more information about the analysis contained in this release, contact Jane Badets (613-951-2561; jane.badets@statcan.ca), Jennifer Chard (604-666-8880; jennifer.chard@statcan.ca) or Andrea Levett (613-951-0246; andrea.levett@statcan.ca) Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

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Appendix 1: Ethnic Diversity Survey: methodology and data quality

The information that follows presents a brief description of the methodology of the survey and the main aspects of data quality. This information will help users to better understand the strengths and the limits of the data, as well as the best way to use them.

Methodology

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS) is a postcensal survey because it uses the microdata of the 2001 Census to identify its target population and select its sample.

Target population

The target population for the survey consists of persons aged 15 years or older living in private households in the ten Canadian provinces. The following groups are excluded from the Ethnic Diversity Survey:

- persons under 15 years of age;
- persons living in collective dwellings;
- Indian reserves;
- persons declaring an Aboriginal origin or identity in the 2001 Census;
- persons residing in territories and remote areas.

Indian reserves and Aboriginal peoples were excluded because of the response burden, since both groups were covered by the Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Reference period

The reference period for the survey was the period of data collection, which took place between April and August 2002.

Collection

The data for the Ethnic Diversity Survey were collected using the *Blaise* software and the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) method. The average length of interviews was 35 to 40 minutes, but this varied with the respondent's situation. Proxy (or third person) responses were not permitted. In addition to the two official languages, interviews were conducted in seven non-official languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Punjabi, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Spanish.

Sample selection

Respondents for the EDS were selected from those who answered the long questionnaires of the 2001 Census, which had been distributed to one household in

five in Canada. The population sampled in the survey were selected on the basis of the responses given to questions on ethnic origin, place of birth, and place of birth of parents. Responses to the ethnic origin question were divided up to form the two main categories of interest: **CBFA+** (Canadian or British or French or Americans or Australians and/or New Zealanders) and **Non-CBFA+** (all other responses containing at least one origin other than CBFA+). This final category was divided into European origins and non-European origins.

Finally, questions on the birthplace of respondents and their parents were used to establish the respondent's generational status. The first generation includes respondents born outside Canada. The second generation includes respondents born in Canada with at least one parent born outside Canada. The third-plus generation includes respondents born in Canada both of whose parents were also born in Canada. These strata by generations were then consolidated to obtain a sufficiently high number of persons in the stratum.

Because of the goals of the survey and the data requirements for certain subpopulations, sample distribution was established at one-third for CBFA+ and two-thirds for non-CBFA+. This distribution ensured that a sufficient number of persons would be obtained in the categories of interest, especially where immigrants were concerned.

The final sample was 57,242 persons. Of that number, 42,476 responded to the survey, which corresponds to an overall response rate of 75.6% if the 1057 persons classified as being outside the scope of the survey are taken into account.

Weighting and estimation

Since the Ethnic Diversity Survey is a survey based on a probability sampling plan, each respondent represents a certain number of other persons of the population who do not form part of the sample. This number of persons is known as the weight. A weight is attributed to each respondent selected. The weight is then adjusted in order to take into account non-respondents as well as the differences between the sample's characteristics and those of the target population.

Data quality

The possible errors of a survey can be grouped into two main categories: sampling errors and non-sampling errors. Sampling error derives from the fact that the estimates were obtained from a sample, rather than from a census of the entire population performed under the same conditions. In the Ethnic Diversity Survey, this error was measured using the coefficient of variation (c.v.). This number, expressed as a percentage, corresponds to the standard error (or square root of the variance of the estimator) divided by the estimator itself. The smaller the c.v., the smaller the variability of the sample and the more accurate the estimators. The EDS uses the following measurements:

- (i) when the c.v. is greater than 33.4%, the estimator is considered “unacceptable” and the symbol “F” appears beside the corresponding estimator;
- (ii) when the c.v. falls between 16.6% and 33.3%, the estimator is considered “poor” and the symbol “E” for caution appears beside the estimator;
- (iii) when the c.v. is 16.5% or less, the estimator is considered “acceptable”, it can be used without restriction and no indication appears beside it.

All other types of errors are not due to sampling and may arise at any stage of a survey. This type of error includes primarily errors in coverage, in non-response, response and processing. In general, the effect of some of these errors (response and processing) is more difficult to identify and to quantify. The editing and verification steps taken at each phase of the survey were done to minimize these two types of errors.

As mentioned earlier, the total response rate to the survey was 75.6%. Rates of response per stratum ranged from 72% to 80%. As might be expected, the first generations had the lowest response rate, 73% compared with 77% for the second and third generations or more. Partial non-response accounted for only 3.2% of responses, which means that, generally, when a person began the interview for this survey, all the questions were answered.

Confidentiality and rounding

The figures presented in any tables from the survey have been rounded off to the nearest thousand. This method rounds all figures, including totals, up or down to the nearest multiple of 1000. The purpose of rounding the results of survey data is first to establish a degree of consistency with the level of accuracy of the sampling plan. It also serves to protect the confidentiality of the information supplied. Since the totals are rounded separately, they do not necessarily report the sum of the values in each category. Similarly, the sum of percentages, which are calculated from the rounded data, is not necessarily 100.