



Catalogue no. 89-618-XIE

# Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001 - Provincial and Territorial Reports: Off reserve Aboriginal Population



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# Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001 - Provincial and Territorial Reports: Off reserve Aboriginal Population

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## Note of appreciation

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## Acknowledgements

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## Symbols

The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- P preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published



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## Atlantic provinces

### Did you know...

- Around 6% of Aboriginal people in Canada live in one of the Atlantic provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In 2001, the combined Aboriginal populations of the Atlantic provinces totalled 54,125.
- About 2.4% of the population of the Atlantic provinces is Aboriginal.
- The Aboriginal population in the Atlantic provinces is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 43%, compared to a 2% decrease in the total population of the Atlantic provinces.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in the Atlantic provinces live off reserve (73%).
- Among the 32,485 North American people, 56% live off reserve and 44% live on reserve. One in four North American Indian people in the Atlantic provinces live in urban areas and almost one in three (31%) live in rural non-reserve communities.
- In 2001, 13,135 Métis people in the Atlantic provinces lived off reserve. The majority (61%) of Métis live in rural non-reserve settings; 8% live in census metropolitan areas and 30% in other urban areas.
- In 2001, 5,085 Inuit in the Atlantic provinces lived off reserve. The majority of Inuit (65%) live in rural non-reserve settings, 7% live in census metropolitan areas and 28% live in other urban areas. Approximately 90% of the Inuit population in the Atlantic provinces live in Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

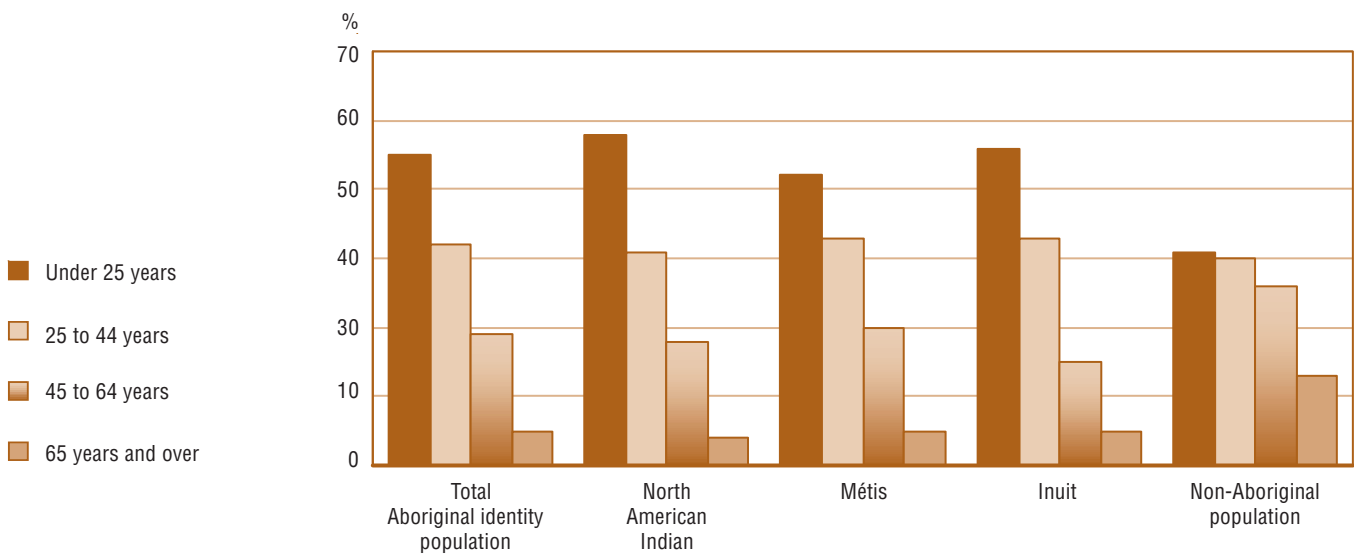
## Demographics

### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve in the Atlantic provinces is relatively young. In 2001, 45% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 5% were 65 years and over, compared to 13% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations is similar to that of the total Aboriginal population.

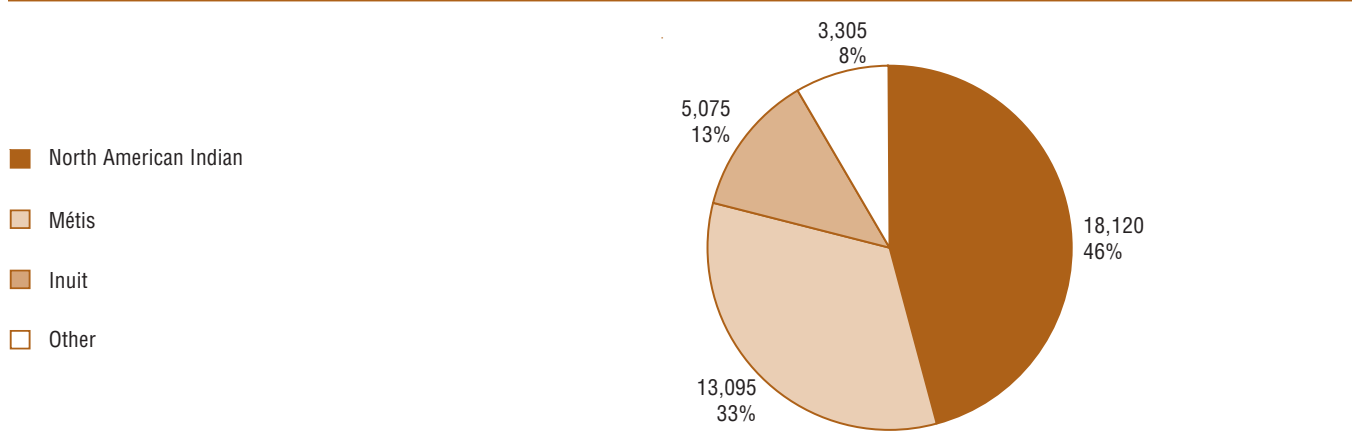
# Atlantic provinces

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, about 46% of the off reserve Aboriginal population in the Atlantic provinces were North American Indian, about one-third were Métis and 13% were Inuit. The remaining 8% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, more than half (58%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in the Atlantic provinces lived in rural non-reserve areas.

Around 11% of the off reserve Aboriginal population were living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Halifax was the CMA with the largest Aboriginal population at 3,520, although Aboriginal people represented only 1.0% of the total population living there.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Atlantic provinces, selected Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census**

Census Metropolitan Areas	Total Aboriginal population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
					number
Halifax, Nova Scotia	3,520	2,350	800	165	1.0
St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador	1,195	555	355	210	0.7
St. John, New Brunswick	945	675	200	15	0.8

1. Includes those who identified with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not identify with an Aboriginal group, but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

There are other cities and towns in the Atlantic provinces with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Port Hope Simpson (Newfoundland and Labrador), for example, the vast majority (89%) are Aboriginal.

**Table 2: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Atlantic provinces, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
					number
Port Hope Simpson Newfoundland and Labrador (town)	450	0	435	10	89.1
Cartwright, Newfoundland and Labrador (town)	545	0	465	80	86.5
Charlottetown, Newfoundland and Labrador (town)	295	0	295	10	85.5
Mary's Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador (town)	275	0	265	0	61.1
Saint-Charles, New Brunswick (parish)	360	40	305	0	17.2
Argyle, Prince Edward Island (municipal district)	660	20	615	0	7.7
Queens, Nova Scotia (regional municipality)	455	390	40	10	3.9

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Slight improvements in educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of North American Indians aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 40% in 1996 to 42% in 2001. The proportion of Métis aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 43% in

1996 to 45% in 2001. Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Inuit aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 36% to 41%.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 33% of the North American Indian population, 38% of the Métis population, and 35% of the Inuit population had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

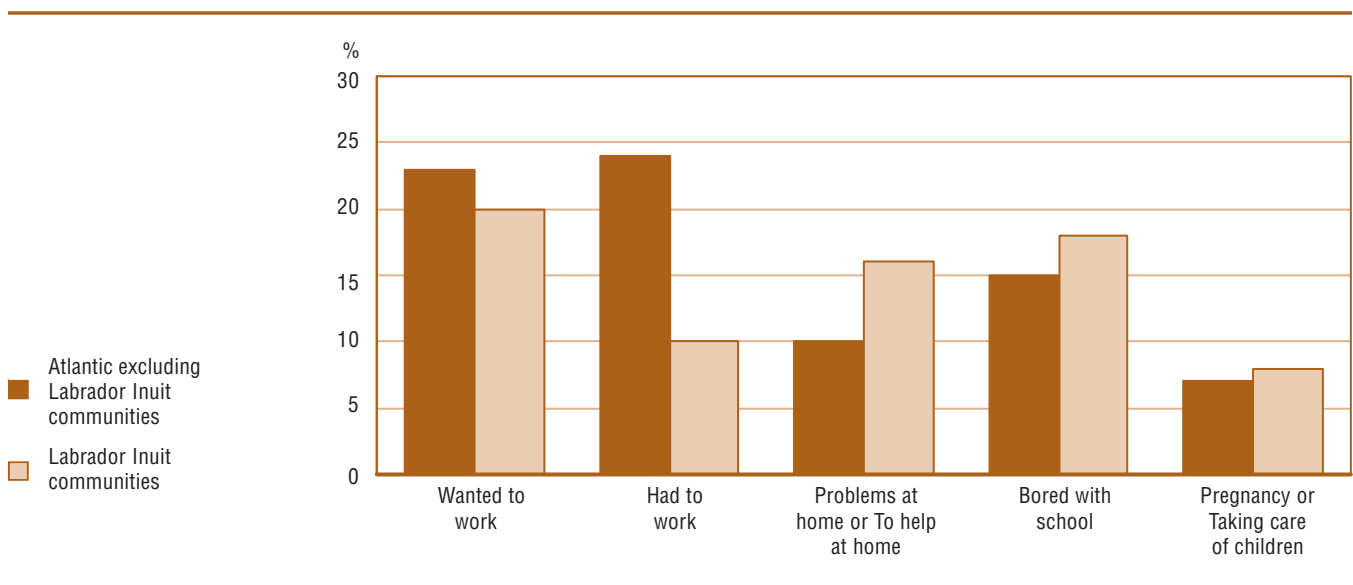
**Table 3: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	Percent				
Less than high school	39	38	42	42	36
High school graduation	8	10	7	7	11
Some postsecondary	11	6	10	10	7
Trades certificate or diploma	19	22	21	21	15
College certificate or diploma	14	17	13	13	1
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	2	1	3	3	2
University degree	7	6	3	3	13

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early for Aboriginal people in the Atlantic provinces (excluding Labrador Inuit communities) were ‘had to work’ and ‘wanted to work’. The most common reasons for those living in the Labrador Inuit communities, were ‘wanted to work’ and ‘bored with school’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

### Text box 2

In this report, 'Labrador Inuit communities' include Rigolet, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Makkovik, Nain and Postville.

For young North American Indian and Inuit women aged 15 to 34 the most common reason given for not completing high school was 'pregnancy/taking care of children'. For young Métis women the most common reason was 'wanted to work'.

For young North American Indian and Métis men aged 15 to 34 the most common reason given for not completing high school was 'wanted to work'. For young Inuit men the most common reason was 'bored with school'.

## Almost 1 in 10 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide

Almost one in ten (9%) Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school. In comparison, more than one in three (39%) adults living in the Labrador Inuit communities had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide.

Around 57% of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 living in the Atlantic provinces (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 8%<sup>E</sup> had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

Within the Labrador Inuit communities, 59% of children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program and of those around 29%<sup>E</sup> had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

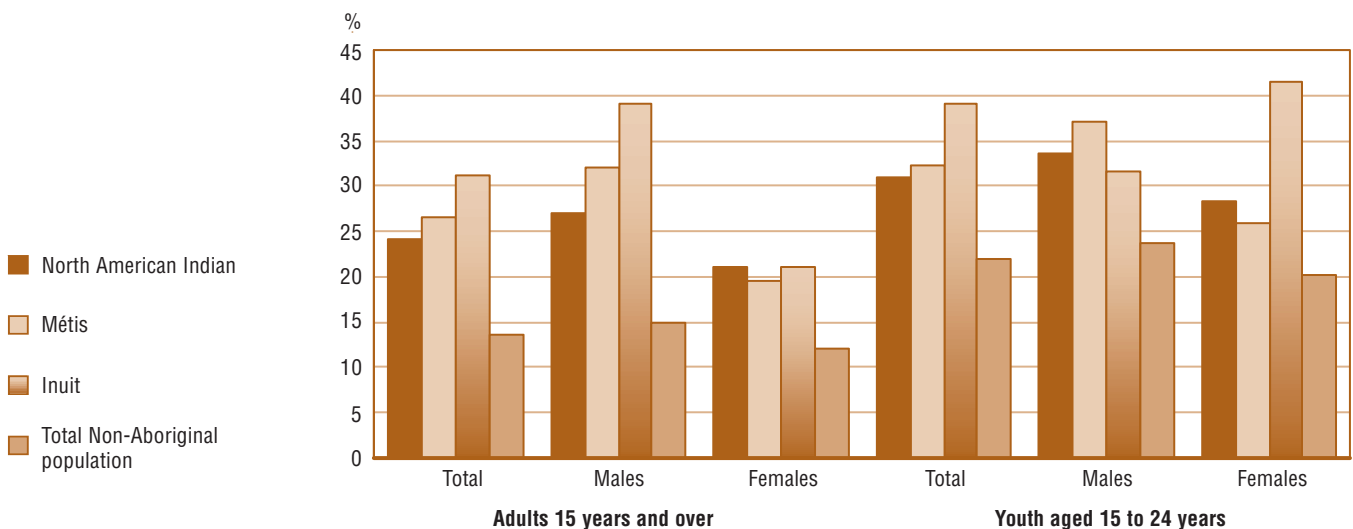
In 2001, more than two-thirds (67%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, over half (58%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet. Levels of computer and Internet usage were similar for the Labrador Inuit communities (65% and 54% respectively).

## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over experience much higher levels of unemployment than non-Aboriginal people. In 2001, 24% of the off reserve North American Indian population, 27% of the Métis population and 31% of the Inuit population were unemployed, compared to 14% of the non-Aboriginal population. In general, men were more likely than women to be unemployed.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over and youth aged 15 to 24 years, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



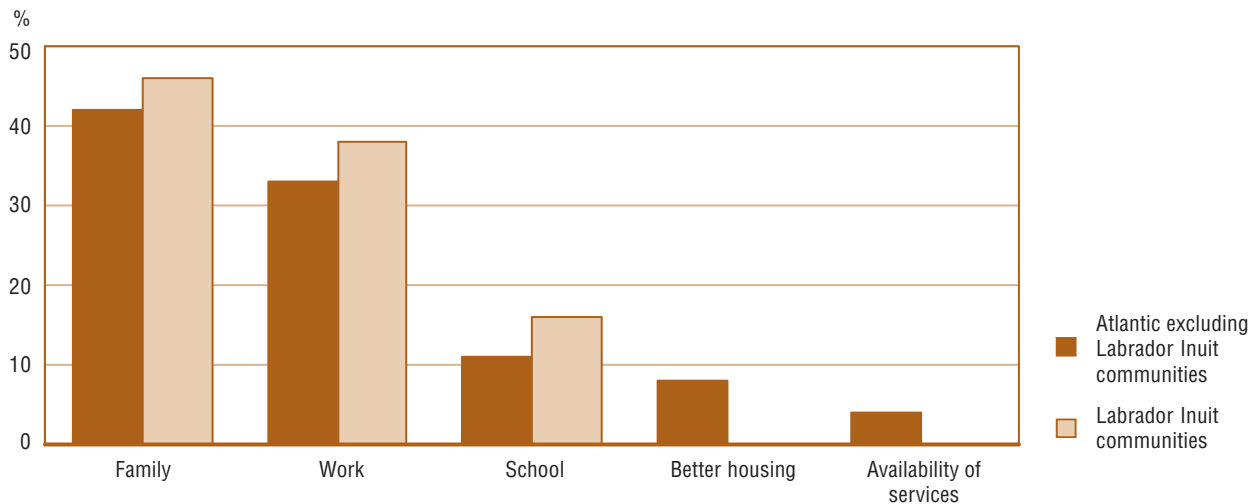
The unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve. Around 31% of North American Indian youth and 32% of Métis youth were unemployed compared to 22% of non-Aboriginal youth. North American Indian women, Métis women and non-Aboriginal women aged 15 to 24 were more likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed. The reverse was true for Inuit women aged 15 to 24.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, around 41% of North American Indians, 39% of Métis and 41% of Inuit had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 5: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

## Majority own or are purchasing their home

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing needs. The levels of home ownership varied across the Atlantic provinces and across Aboriginal groups. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 74% of North American Indian households and Métis households and 72% of Inuit households were owners, below the 79% of non-Aboriginal households that were owners.<sup>1</sup> In Nova Scotia, 58% of North American Indian households and 64% of Métis households were owners, compared to 73% of non-Aboriginal households that were owners. In New Brunswick, 59% of North American Indian households were owners compared to 76% of Métis and non-Aboriginal households.<sup>2</sup>

## More than 1 in 6 do not consider water safe to drink

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, more than one in six (18%) Aboriginal people living off reserve in the Atlantic provinces (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and more than one in four (26%) reported that there were times of the year when their water was contaminated.

About 9% of adults living in the Labrador Inuit communities considered the water available to their homes to be unsafe for drinking, and one in four reported their water was contaminated during times of the year.

In 2001, approximately 12% of the off reserve North American Indian population, 7% of the Métis population and 24% of the Inuit population were living in overcrowded homes in the Atlantic provinces.<sup>3</sup> This is compared to 4% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Levels of overcrowding differed among the specific Atlantic provinces. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 20% of North American Indians and 7% of Métis lived in overcrowded homes. In Prince Edward Island, 5% of North American

Indians and 36% of Métis lived in overcrowded homes. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had similar levels of overcrowding for their North American Indian population (10% and 7% respectively) and their Métis population (5% and 5% respectively).<sup>4</sup>

### Many in core housing need

The incidence of core housing need among off reserve North American Indian households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>5</sup> In contrast, the incidence of core housing need among off reserve Métis households increased in all the Atlantic provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island.

In 2001, 22% of off reserve North American Indian households and 21% of Métis households in Newfoundland and Labrador were in core housing need. In Prince Edward Island, 29% of North American Indian households and 19% of Métis households were in core housing need. The level of core housing need among North American Indians in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were similar (25% and 24% respectively), as was the level of core housing need among the Métis populations (22% and 21% respectively).

Between 1996 and 2001, the incidence of core housing among off reserve Inuit households increased in Newfoundland and Labrador (23% to 26%) and Nova Scotia (23% to 28%).<sup>6</sup>

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal households in core housing need, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 Census**

	North American Indian households		Métis households		Inuit households	
	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001
	percent					
Newfoundland and Labrador	27.5	22.3	15.9	20.6	23.3	26.0
Prince Edward Island	30.5	28.8	22.2	18.8	...	...
Nova Scotia	25.5	25.0	19.7	21.5	22.7	28.2
New Brunswick	28.2	24.3	18.6	20.9	...	...

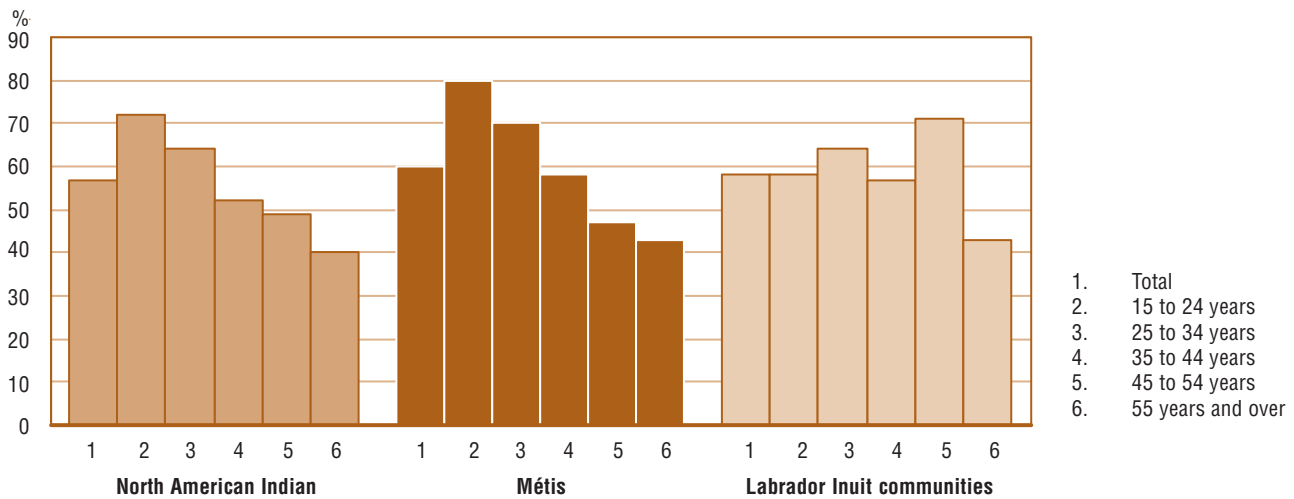
## Health

### Majority report very good or excellent health

In 2001, the majority of off reserve Aboriginal adults (excluding those living in the Labrador Inuit communities) – 59% – reported excellent or very good health. About 18% reported fair or poor health and 23% reported that their health was good. In the Labrador Inuit communities, 64% of adults reported excellent or very good health, 27% reported good health and 9% reported fair or poor health.



**Chart 6: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas of the Atlantic (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 86% did so. Only 2%<sup>E</sup> reported that their children’s health was fair or poor. The remaining 12% reported ‘good’ health for their children. Within the Labrador Inuit communities, 84% of parents reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good, 4%<sup>E</sup> reported their children’s health as fair or poor and the remaining 11%<sup>E</sup> reported ‘good’ health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 83% of children aged 6 to 14 living in the Atlantic provinces (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities), ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week. In the Labrador Inuit communities, around 78% of children ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism most commonly reported chronic condition

More than half of Aboriginal adults (53%) living in the Atlantic provinces (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) and 40% of Inuit adults living in the Labrador Inuit communities have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting approximately one in five North American Indians and Métis over the age of 15 and almost one in six (16%) Inuit aged 15 and over living in the Labrador Inuit communities.

**Table 5: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	North American Indian	Métis	Labrador Inuit communities
		percent	
Arthritis or rheumatism	21	21	16
High blood pressure	17	15	15
Asthma	10	9 <sup>E</sup>	11 <sup>E</sup>
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	11	10 <sup>E</sup>	9 <sup>E</sup>
Diabetes	8 <sup>E</sup>	4 <sup>E</sup>	5 <sup>E</sup>
Heart problems	5 <sup>E</sup>	8 <sup>E</sup>	5 <sup>E</sup>

Around 43% of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition, and about one in five Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

**Table 6: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Atlantic provinces, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children
	percent
Allergies	21
Asthma	15
Ear infections or ear problems	10
Learning disability	6 <sup>E</sup>

The majority (73%) of the Aboriginal adult population living in the Atlantic provinces (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 27% had been in contact with a nurse. In the Labrador Inuit communities, 61% of adults had been in contact with a doctor and 51% had been in contact with a nurse.

In the Labrador Inuit communities, less than half (42%) of children had been in contact with a doctor, almost half (47%) had been in contact with a nurse and around one in five (21%) had been in contact with a pediatrician. In the rest of the Atlantic provinces, around 61% of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, 25% had been in contact with a pediatrician and 18% had been in contact with a nurse.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 57% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’. Around three-quarters (74%) of adults in the Labrador Inuit communities thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

Approximately, 64% of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ compared to 49% of the Métis adult population.

The majority (61%) of North American youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language. In comparison, around 43% of Métis youth thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language. Approximately 70% of youth living in the Labrador Inuit communities felt the same way.

About 8% of the off reserve Aboriginal population (excluding the Labrador Inuit communities) can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About half (49%) of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

Within the Labrador Inuit communities around one in four (26%) people can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. The majority (81%) of those who said they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

1. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
2. Data on homeownership for the Inuit population is not available for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Data on home ownership is not available for all Aboriginal groups on Prince Edward Island.
3. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
4. Data on overcrowding for the Inuit population is not available for the separate provinces in the Atlantic.
5. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
6. Data on core housing need for the Inuit population is not available for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.



## Québec

### Did you know...

- Around 8% of Aboriginal people in Canada live in Québec. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, Québec had the sixth largest Aboriginal population at 79,400 people.
- The Aboriginal population made up only 1.1% of the total provincial population.
- The Aboriginal population in Québec is growing faster than the total population. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 11%, compared to a 1% growth in the total population of Québec.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in Québec live off reserve (59%).
- Among the 51,125 North American Indian people, 63% live on reserve and 37% live off reserve. About 28% of North American Indian people in Québec live in urban areas, with only 9% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The vast majority of the 15,850 Métis people in Québec live in urban settings; 40% live in census metropolitan areas and 25% in other urban areas. About 32% live in rural areas.
- Of all the provinces Québec has the largest Inuit population at 9,535 people. The vast majority (92%) of Inuit living in Québec live in the self-governing Inuit region of Nunavik. Around 780 Inuit live in other urban and rural non-reserve areas of Québec.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

## Demographics

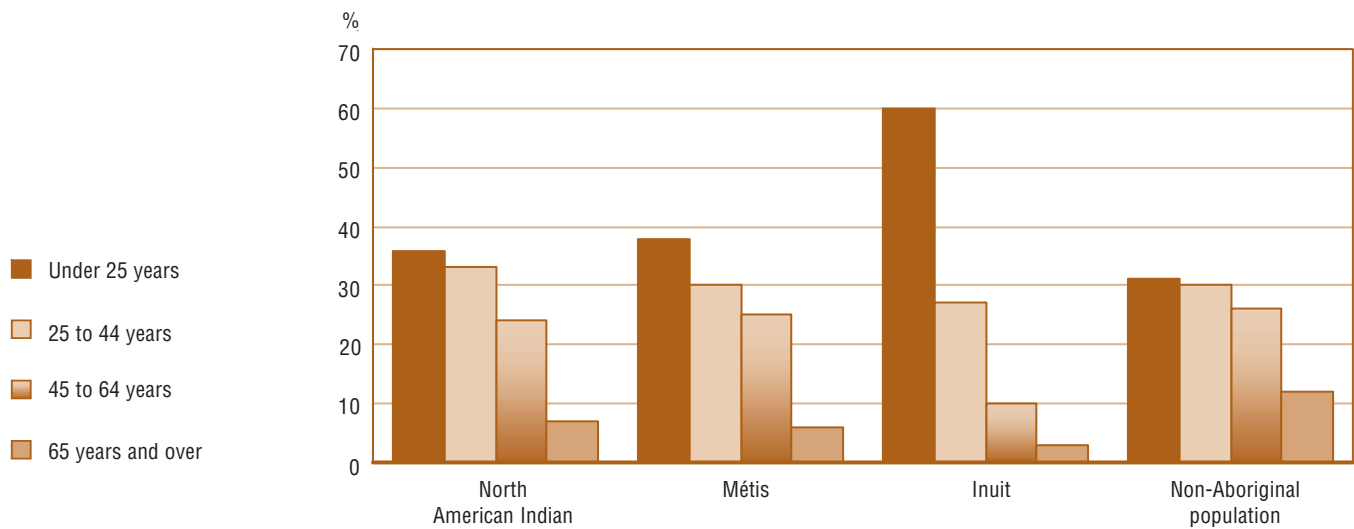
### Young, diverse and growing

The age distribution for the North American Indian and Métis populations living off reserve are relatively young. In 2001, 36% of North American Indians and 38% of Métis were under the age of 25 compared to 31% of the non-Aboriginal population. Only 7% of Métis and 6% of North American Indians were 65 years and over, compared to 12% of the non-Aboriginal population.

The age distribution of the Inuit off reserve population is even younger than that of the North American Indian and Métis populations. In 2001, 60% of the Inuit population living in Québec were under the age of 25 and only 3% were 65 years and over.

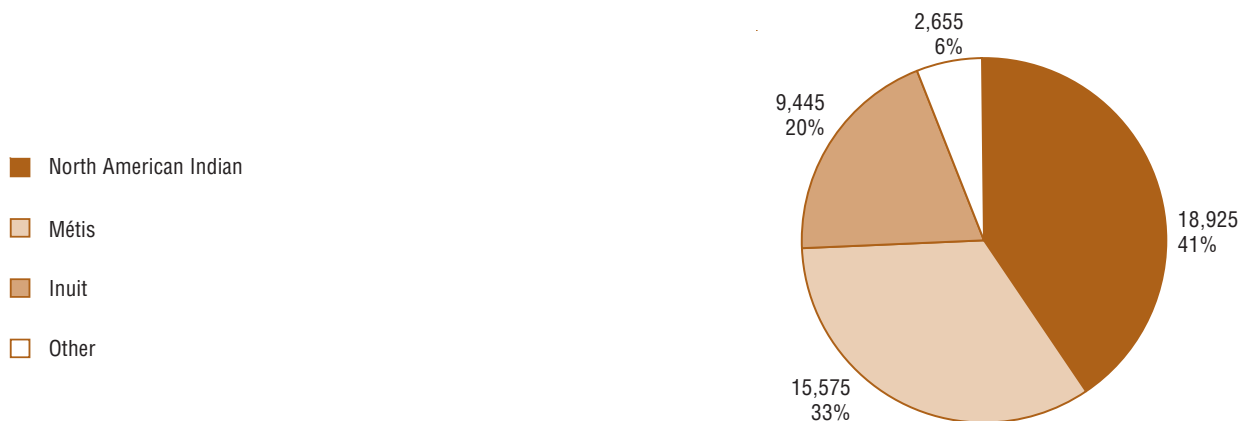
Québec

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, about 41% of the off reserve Aboriginal population were North American Indian, one-third were Métis and 20% were Inuit. The remaining 6% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, 55% of the off reserve North American Indian population in Québec was living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Approximately 41% of the Métis population and 5% of the Inuit population in Québec were living in CMAs.

Montréal was the CMA with the largest Aboriginal population at 11,085, although Aboriginal people represented only 0.3% of the total population living there.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Québec, selected Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census**

Census Metropolitan Areas	Total Aboriginal population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
					number
Montréal	11,085	6,105	3,665	435	0.3
Ottawa - Gatineau (excluding Ontario part)	4,325	2,230	1,870	10	1.7
Québec	4,125	3,015	870	35	0.6
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	1,150	665	370	10	0.8
Trois - Rivières	730	410	255	0	0.5
Sherbrooke	280	155	100	10	0.2

1. Includes those who identified with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not identify with an Aboriginal group, but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

There are other cities and towns in Québec with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Maniwaki, for example, almost one in eight people (12%) are Aboriginal.

**Table 2: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Québec, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
				number
Mansfield-et-Pontefract (canton unis)	410	100	300	20.1
Fort-Coulonge (village)	320	60	255	19.5
Maniwaki (ville)	415	135	260	12.0
Témiscaming (ville)	285	135	155	9.9
Pontiac (municipalité)	295	85	210	6.4

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve North American Indian population is improving. The proportion of North American Indians aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 32% in 1996 to 36% in 2001. The educational profile of the off reserve Métis and Inuit populations remained relatively unchanged over the same period. The proportion of Métis aged 25 and

over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 33% in 1996 to 34% in 2001 and the proportion of Inuit aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 19% in 1996 to 20% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, one in four North American Indians and one in four Métis had college or trades certificates and diplomas. Inuit in Québec were less likely than the North American Indian and Métis populations to have college, or trades certificates and diplomas. In 2001, 17% of Inuit aged 25 years and over had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

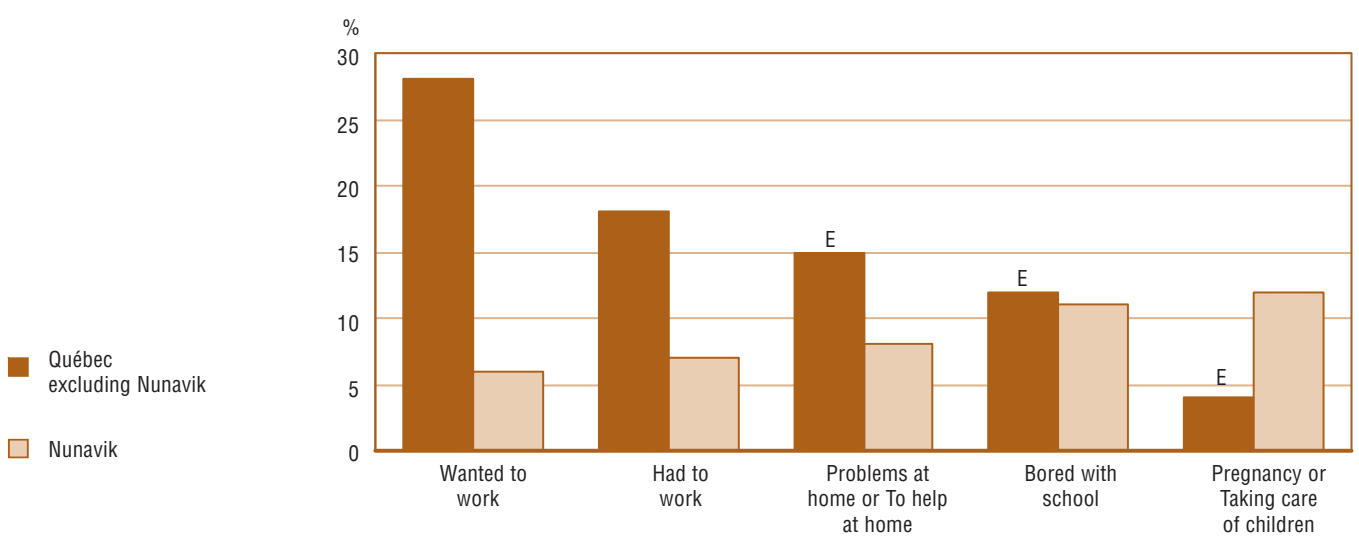
**Table 3: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent			
Less than high school	39	40	63	31
High school graduation	16	17	6	18
Some postsecondary	9	9	10	7
Trades certificate or diploma	11	14	12	11
College certificate or diploma	14	11	5	14
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	2	3	1	4
University degree	9	7	1	16

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults living in Québec have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early for Aboriginal people living in areas outside of Nunavik, were ‘wanted to work’ or ‘had to work’. In Nunavik, the most common reasons were ‘pregnancy/taking care of children’ and ‘bored with school’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.



## Text box 2

Nunavik is a self-governing Inuit region which lies north of the 55th parallel in Québec. The vast majority (92%) of Inuit in Québec live in Nunavik. For this report the Nunavik region includes: Akulivik, Aupaluk, Inukjuak, Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk, Kuujuaq, Kuujuarapik, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq, Salluit, Tasiujaq, Umiujaq and Chisasibi.

For young North American Indian and Inuit women aged 15 to 34, the most common reason was 'pregnancy/taking care of children'. For young Métis women, the most common reason given for not completing high school was 'bored with school'.

Young North American Indian men aged 15 to 34 reported that they 'wanted to work' as their most common reason for not completing high school. For young Inuit men and Métis men the most common reason was 'bored with school'.

### About 1 in 10 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide

About one in ten (9%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over who lived in areas outside of Nunavik had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school. In Nunavik, the majority (68%) of people aged 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school.

Around half of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 living in Québec (excluding Nunavik) had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 6%<sup>E</sup> had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children. Within Nunavik, around one in five children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended, 91% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

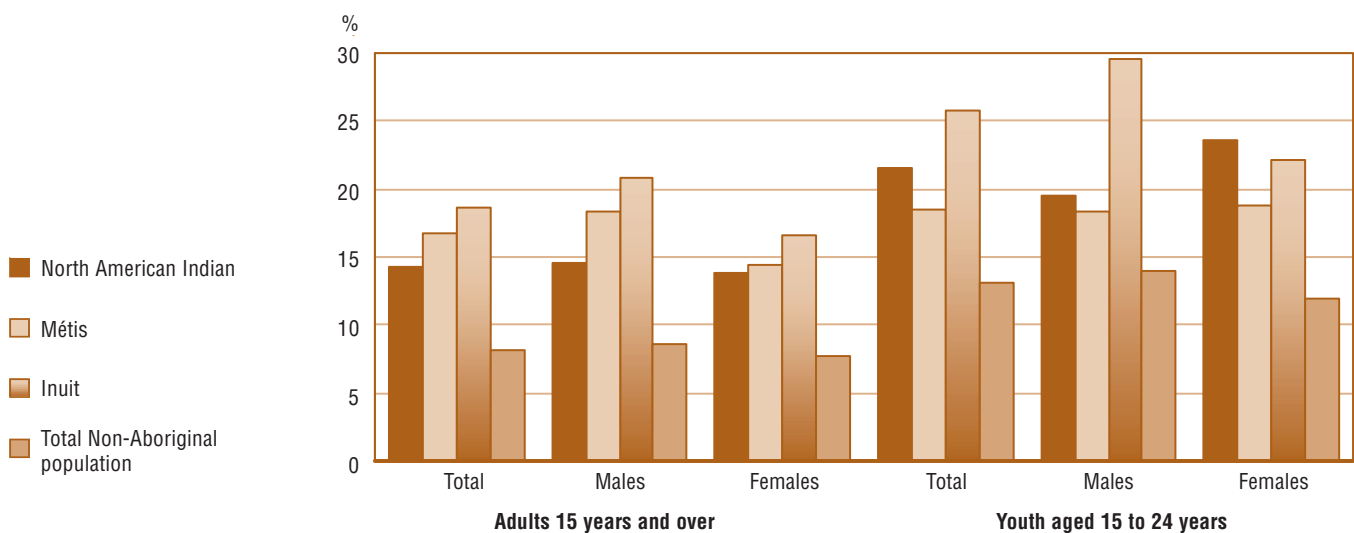
In 2001, two out of three Aboriginal adults living outside of Nunavik reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months whereas 44% of the adult population in Nunavik had used a computer. During the same period, more than half (56%) of the Aboriginal adult population outside of Nunavik had utilised the Internet. Within Nunavik, 28% of the adult population had used the Internet.

## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over experience much higher levels of unemployment than non-Aboriginal people. In 2001, 14% of the off reserve North American Indian population, 17% of the Métis population and 19% of the Inuit population were unemployed, compared to 8% of the non-Aboriginal population. Across all groups, men were generally more likely to be unemployed than women.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over and youth aged 15 to 24 years, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



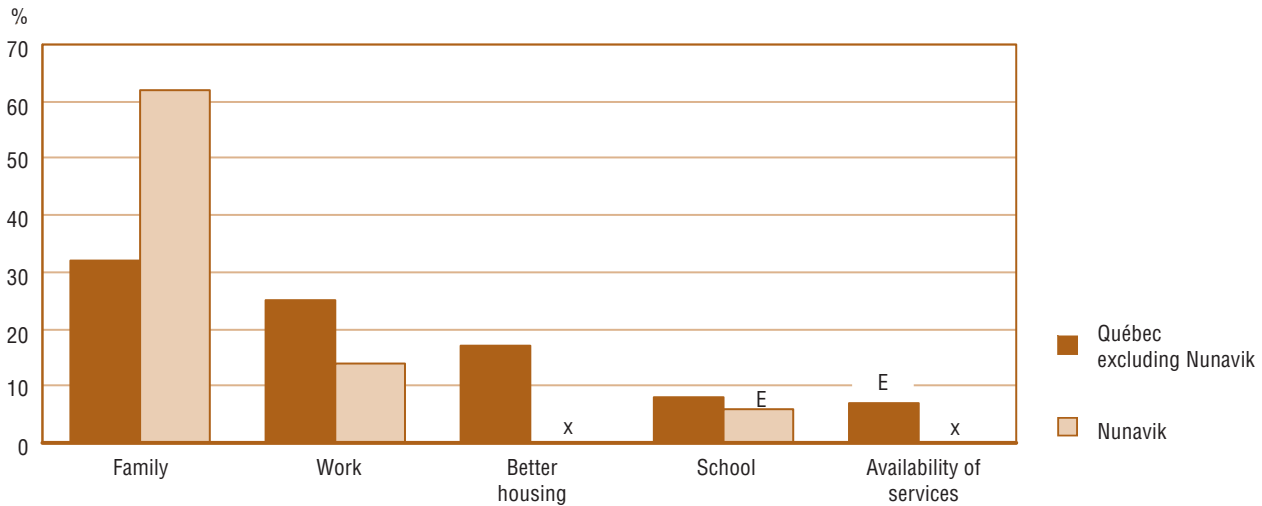
The unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve. Around 21% of North American Indian youth, 18% of Métis youth and 26% of Inuit youth were unemployed compared to 13% of non-Aboriginal youth. North American Indian women aged 15 to 24 were more likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed, as were Métis women aged 15 to 24. The reverse was true for Inuit and non-Aboriginal women aged 15 to 24.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, half (51%) of the North American Indian population, almost half (48%) of the Métis population and just over a third (36%) of the Inuit population in Québec had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed that most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 5: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



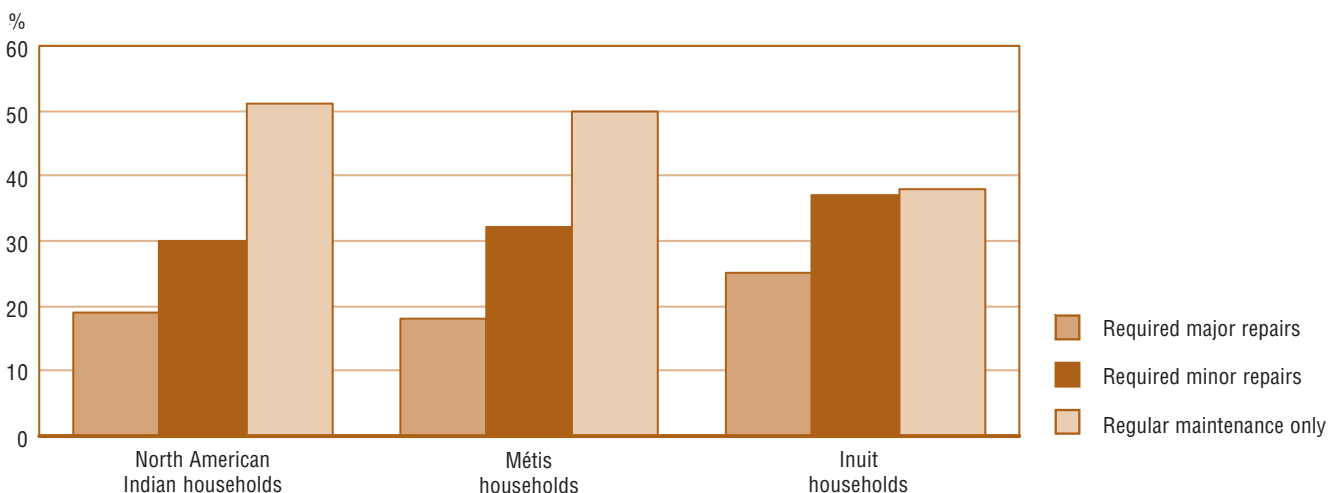
1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

### Rates of home ownership lower for Aboriginal population

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing needs. Off reserve, almost half of North American Indian households and 53% of Métis households owned their homes in 2001, slightly below the 59% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners in Québec.<sup>7</sup> Rates of home ownership were much lower for the Inuit – only 9% of Inuit households owned their own home.

The 2001 Census found approximately 19% of off reserve North American Indian households, 18% of Métis households and 25% of Inuit households in Québec required major repairs.

**Chart 6: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Québec, off reserve, 2001 Census**



## **1 in 10 do not consider water safe for drinking – levels higher in Nunavik**

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, one in ten Aboriginal people living off reserve in Québec (excluding Nunavik) reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and 21% reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated. In Nunavik, 43% of the population reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking and almost three-quarters (74%) reported that their water was contaminated at various times of the year.

In 2001, approximately 16% of the off reserve North American Indian population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>8</sup> In contrast, 6% of the Métis and 5% of the non-Aboriginal population were living in overcrowded homes. Almost two-thirds (64%) of Inuit in Nunavik lived in overcrowded homes.

## **1 in 6 in core housing need**

The incidence of core housing need among North American Indian and Métis households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>9</sup> In 1996, around 25% of North American Indian households and 26% of Métis households in off reserve areas were in core housing need. By 2001 these rates had dropped to 17% of North American Indian households and 20% of Métis households.

The percentage of Inuit households in core housing need remained relatively unchanged from 1996 to 2001, dropping slightly from 17% to 16%. Readers are cautioned that the majority of Inuit housing in Nunavik is subsidized, and if the effect of the subsidies were removed or factored out then more Inuit households may be considered in core housing need.

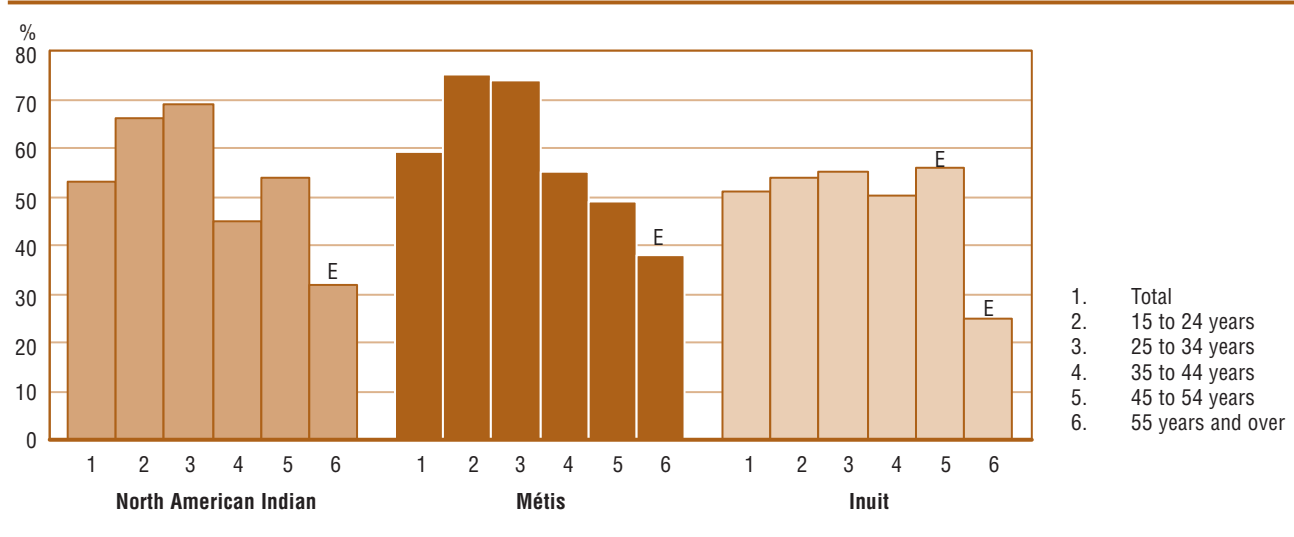
## **Health**

### **Majority report very good or excellent health**

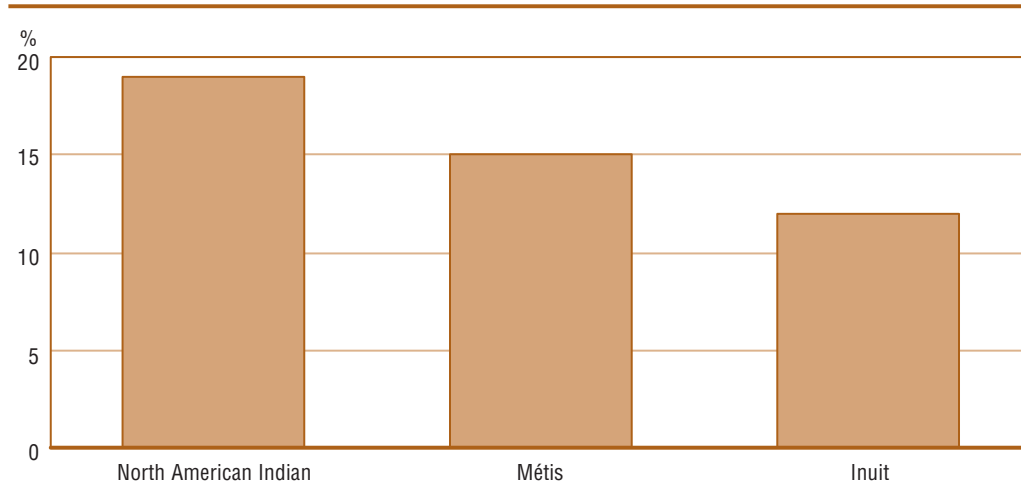
In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 55% – reported excellent or very good health. About 28% reported fair or poor health, and the remaining 16% described their health as good.

Among Aboriginal groups there were some variations on health status. The Métis population were more likely than the North American Indian and Inuit populations to report very good or excellent health (59% compared to 53% and 51% respectively). However, the Inuit population were less likely to report fair or poor health than the Métis and North American Indian populations (12% compared to 15% and 19% respectively).

**Chart 7: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 8: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in Québec (excluding Nunavik) reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 92% did so. In Nunavik around three-quarters (76%) of parents of children reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good, and around one in five (21%) reported that their children’s health was good.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 92% of children aged 6 to 14 living in Québec (excluding Nunavik) ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week. Within Nunavik, approximately 85% of children ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

## Arthritis or rheumatism affects about 1 in 5 North American Indian and Métis adults

Almost half of all Aboriginal adults (48%) have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting about one in five North American Indian and Métis adults over the age of 15.

In general, Inuit in Québec reported lower levels of long term health conditions. This may be because many Inuit fall into younger age groups when chronic conditions are less prevalent. It may also be due in part to a substantial number of undiagnosed conditions due to limited access to health care professionals.

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	North American Indian	Métis percent	Inuit
Arthritis or rheumatism	19	20	4
High blood pressure	14	13	4
Asthma	16	12	3 <sup>E</sup>
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	8 <sup>E</sup>	11	4 <sup>E</sup>
Diabetes	7 <sup>E</sup>	5 <sup>E</sup>	2 <sup>E</sup>
Heart problems	8 <sup>E</sup>	6 <sup>E</sup>	3 <sup>E</sup>

Almost half (46%) of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age living in Québec have been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about 18% Aboriginal children were reported to have ear infections or ear problems.

**Table 5: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Québec, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children percent
Allergies	10.8
Asthma	8.3
Ear infections or ear problems	18.0
Learning disability	6.5 <sup>E</sup>

The majority (72%) of the Aboriginal adult population in Québec (excluding Nunavik) reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year and around 27% had consulted with a nurse. The adult population living in Nunavik were less likely than Aboriginal people living elsewhere in Québec to have been in contact with a doctor (50%). However, adults in Nunavik were more likely than Aboriginal adults living elsewhere in Québec to have been in contact with a nurse (61%).

Around half (51%) of Aboriginal children living in Québec (excluding Nunavik) had been in contact with a doctor, 35% had been in contact with a pediatrician and 29% had been in contact with a nurse. In Nunavik, children were

more likely to have been in contact with a nurse. In 2001, around 58% of children living in Nunavik had been in contact with a nurse, 28% had been in contact with a doctor and 21% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 43% of Aboriginal adults living in Québec (excluding Nunavik) reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’. Within Nunavik, 95% of adults thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Many North American Indian and Métis youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language (43% and 40%<sup>E</sup> respectively). Around 92% of Inuit aged 15 to 24 thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

French is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of Québec’s total and Aboriginal populations, including the North American Indian and Métis populations. About 63% of North American Indians and 75% of Métis living in off reserve areas reported speaking only French at home. In Nunavik, the vast majority (92%) of adults speak Inuktitut at home ‘all the time’ or ‘most of the time’.<sup>10</sup>

Around one in ten Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, living in Québec (excluding Nunavik), can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. More than half (54%) of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

In Nunavik, almost all (99%) adults 15 years and over, can speak or understand an Aboriginal language and almost all (98%) of those that said they understood an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

7. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
8. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
9. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
10. Included here are a very small number of Aboriginal adults who speak an Aboriginal language other than Inuktitut.





## Ontario

### Did you know...

- Nearly one in five Aboriginal people in Canada live in Ontario. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, Ontario had the largest Aboriginal population at 188,315 people.
- While Ontario had the largest Aboriginal population, the Aboriginal population made up only 1.7% of the total provincial population.
- The Aboriginal population in Ontario is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 33%, compared to a 6% growth in the total population of Ontario.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in Ontario live off reserve (78%).
- Among the 131,560 North American Indian people, 70% live off reserve and 30% live on reserve. About 56% of North American Indian people live in urban areas, with only 13% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The vast majority of the 48,340 Métis people in Ontario live in urban settings; 38% live in census metropolitan areas and 33% in other urban areas. About 29% live in rural areas.
- There is a small Inuit population in Ontario (1,375 people), the majority of whom (70%) live in census metropolitan areas; 17% live in other urban areas and 12% live in rural areas.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

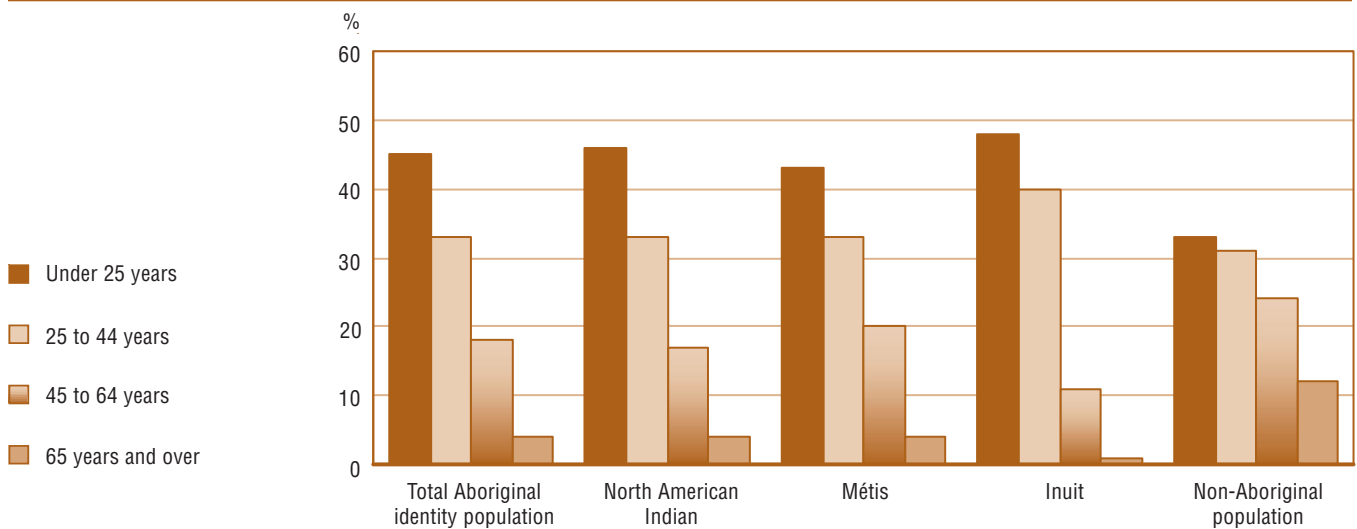
### Demographics

#### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 45% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 4% were 65 years and over, compared to 12% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian, the Métis and the Inuit populations is similar to that of the total Aboriginal population.

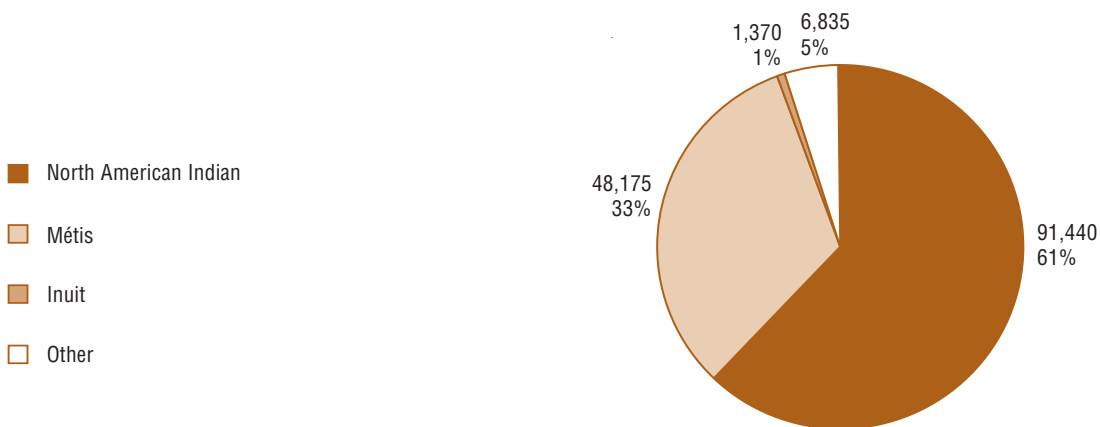
Ontario

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



The majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population were North American Indian (62%), about one-third were Métis and 1% was Inuit. The remaining 5% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, almost half (47%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in Ontario were living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Toronto was the CMA with the largest Aboriginal population at 20,305, although Aboriginal people represented only 0.4% of the total population living there.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Ontario, selected Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census**

Census Metropolitan Areas	Total Aboriginal population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
					number
Toronto	20,305	13,785	5,095	355	0.4
Ottawa - Hull (Ontario part only)	9,160	5,325	2,825	440	1.2
Thunder Bay	8,200	6,090	1,795	20	6.8
Greater Sudbury	7,385	3,860	3,305	0	4.8
Hamilton	7,265	5,600	1,185	15	1.1
London	5,640	4,420	980	55	1.3
St. Catharines – Niagara	4,970	3,370	1,330	10	1.3
Windsor	3,965	2,435	1,325	20	1.3
Kitchener	3,235	2,115	865	70	0.8
Oshawa	3,015	1,890	880	15	1.0
Kingston	2,205	1,535	525	45	1.5

1. Includes those who identified with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not identify with an Aboriginal group, but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

There are other cities and towns in Ontario with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Sioux Lookout, for example, almost one in four people (24%) are Aboriginal.

**Table 2: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Ontario, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
				number
Sioux Lookout (town)	1,295	1,170	95	24.5
Ear Falls (township)	275	135	125	23.9
Deseronto (town)	345	300	0	19.2
Nipigon (township)	370	315	40	19.0
Mattawa (town)	400	110	270	18.4
Kenora (city)	1,695	895	745	10.9
Sault Ste. Marie (city)	4,530	2,530	1,845	6.2

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 37% in 1996 to 42% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 32% of the North American Indian population, and 35% of the Métis population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

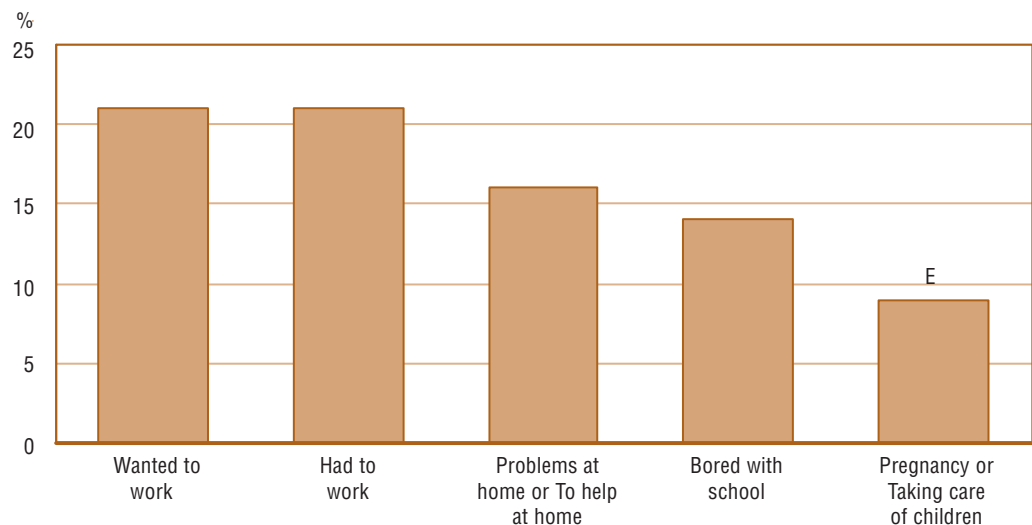
**Table 3: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent				
Less than high school	34	35	31	37	27
High school graduation	13	12	14	13	14
Some postsecondary	12	12	11	10	9
Trades certificate or diploma	14	14	16	12	11
College certificate or diploma	18	18	19	15	17
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	1	1	1	0	2
University degree	8	7	8	14	20

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school were ‘wanted to work’ or ‘had to work’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was 'bored with school'. 'Pregnancy/taking care of children' topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

Aboriginal people are more likely to return to school at later ages to complete their education. In 2001, one in ten Aboriginal people over the age of 25 was attending school compared to 7% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Of the Aboriginal groups, 11% of North American Indian adults (25 years and over) were enrolled in a school, compared to 10% of Inuit adults and 8% of Métis adults.

### **1 in 10 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide**

About one in ten (11%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school.

Half of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 8%<sup>E</sup> had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## **Information technology**

### **High levels of IT usage**

In 2001, more than three-quarters (77%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, over two-thirds (68%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

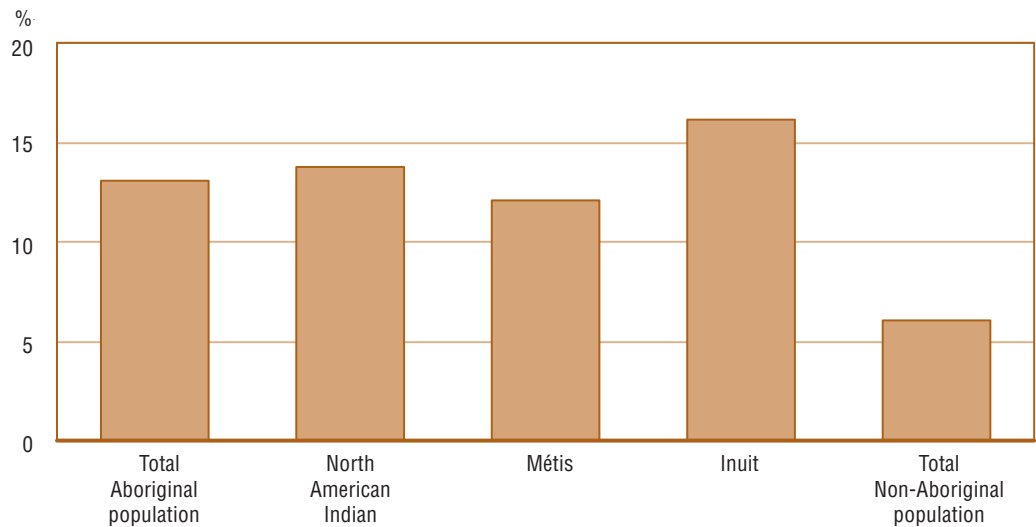
## **Employment**

### **Unemployment remains high**

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001, 13% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed, compared to 6% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among the three Aboriginal groups living off reserve, Inuit have the highest unemployment rate at 16%, followed by North American Indians at 14% and Métis at 12%.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



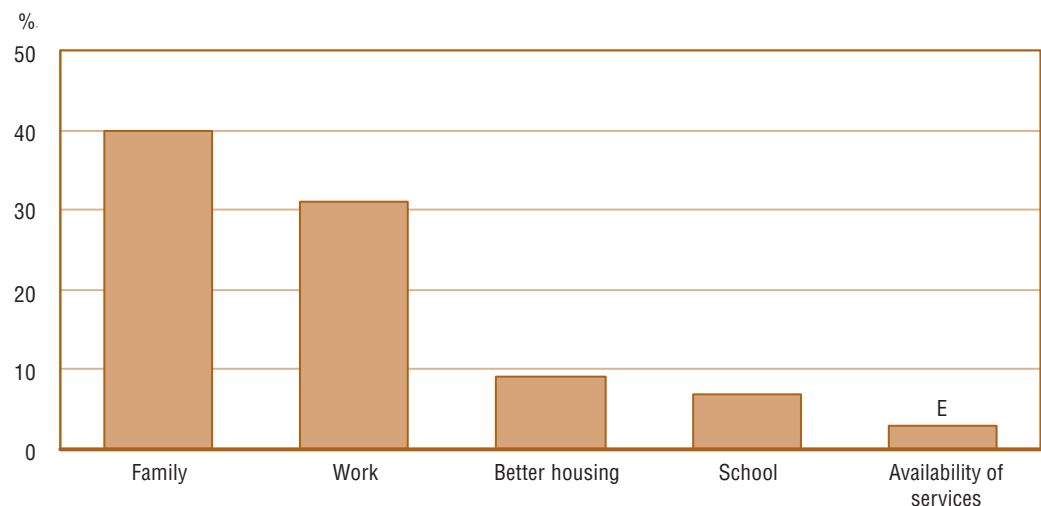
The unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 23%, compared to 13% among non-Aboriginal youth.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, over half (55%) of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 5: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

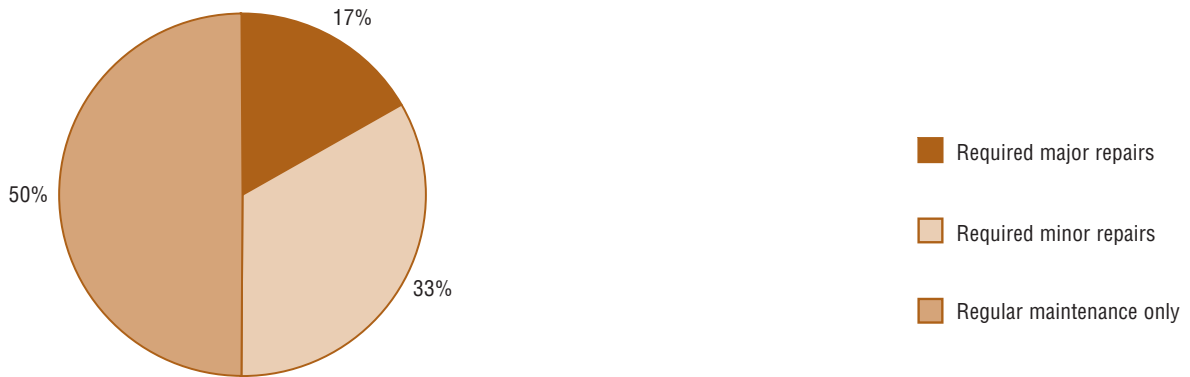
While all Aboriginal groups were highly mobile, levels did vary. From 1996 to 2001 71% of Inuit, 58% of North American Indians and 51% of Métis had moved at least once.

### Majority own or are purchasing their home

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing needs. Over half (54%) of Aboriginal households owned their home in 2001, below the 69% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners.<sup>11</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (63%), compared to half of North American Indian households (50%) and 43% of Inuit households.

The 2001 Census found approximately 17% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Ontario required major repairs, 33% required minor repairs and 50% required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 6: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



### More than 1 in 8 do not consider water safe for drinking

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001 around one in eight (13%) Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and 15% reported that there were times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 8% of the off reserve Aboriginal population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>12</sup> Similar levels of overcrowding were found among Ontario's non-Aboriginal population (9%). Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 16% of Inuit live in crowded homes, compared to 9% of North American Indians and 6% of Métis.

### 1 in 5 Aboriginal households in core housing need

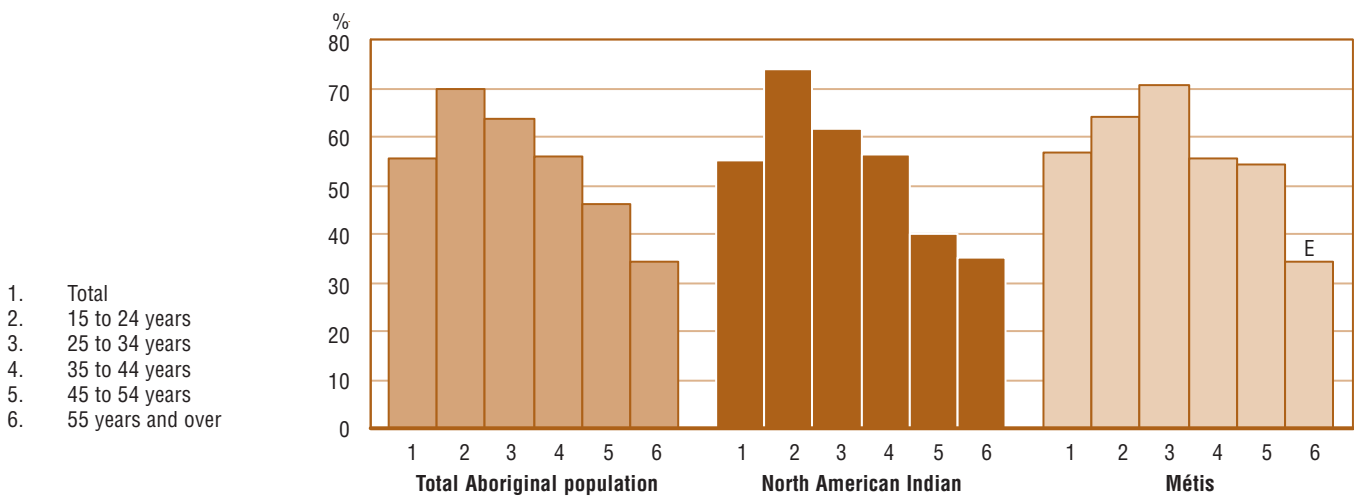
The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001. In 1996, around 30% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Ontario were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to just more than one in five (22%) off reserve Aboriginal households in core housing need.<sup>13</sup> According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 24% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 19% of Métis households and 22% of Inuit households.

# Health

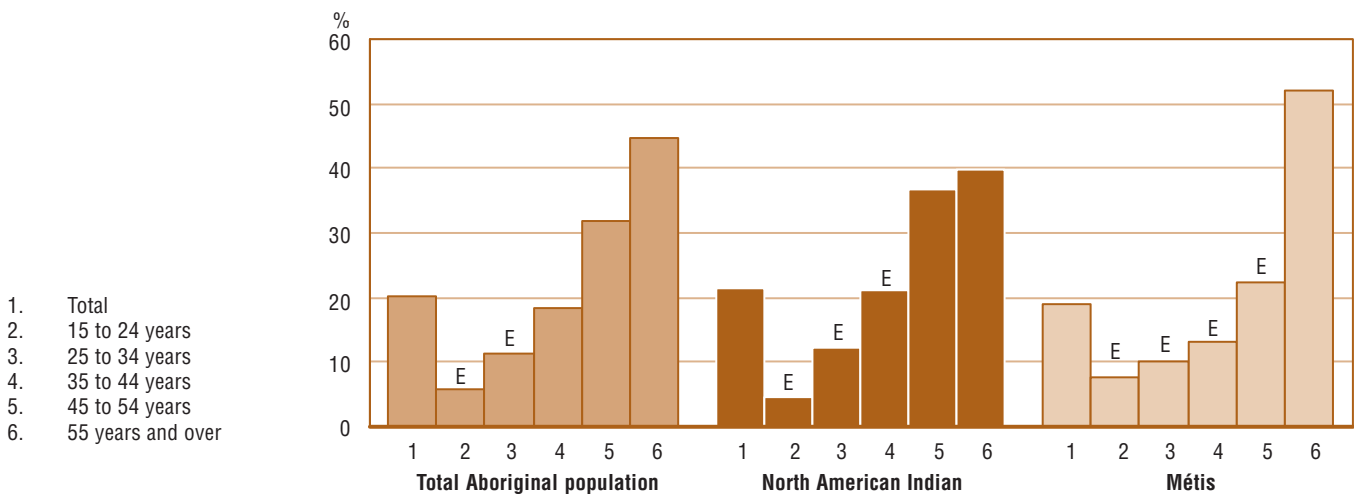
## Majority report very good or excellent health

In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 56% – reported excellent or very good health. About 20% reported fair or poor health – the tendency to do so increased with age. The North American Indian population and the Métis population reported similar levels of health status as the total Aboriginal population.<sup>14</sup>

**Chart 7: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 8: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in Ontario reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 82% did so. Only 4%<sup>E</sup> reported that their children’s health was fair or poor. The remaining 14% reported ‘good’ health for their children.



Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning's activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 90% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism affects 1 in 4 Aboriginal adults

The majority of Aboriginal adults (57%) have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting more than one in four Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

More than one in ten (11%) North American Indians 15 years and over, living in off reserve areas, have been diagnosed with diabetes. This was the highest rate for North American Indians among all provinces and territories. This is compared to 2.9% of the total Canadian population 15 years and over, who have been diagnosed with diabetes (age standardised). Evidence suggests that rates of diabetes for North American Indians are even higher on reserve.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis
	percent		
Arthritis or rheumatism	26	27	24
High blood pressure	15	15	15
Asthma	16	17	15
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	13	12	13
Diabetes	9	11	6
Heart problems	9	8	12

Half of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about one in five Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

**Table 5: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Ontario, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children
	percent
Allergies	20.5
Asthma	18.1
Ear infections or ear problems	10.8
Learning disability	9.2

The majority (76%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 6% had contacted a traditional healer. Around two-thirds (65%) of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, and 31% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 58% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Approximately, 61% of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ compared to 48% of the Métis adult population.<sup>16</sup>

The majority (56%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of Ontarians, including Aboriginal people. About 88% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

About 16% of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 44% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

11. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
12. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
13. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
14. Data on health status is not available for Inuit in Ontario.
15. Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
16. Data on the importance of keeping, learning or relearning an Aboriginal language is not available for the Inuit population in Ontario.



## Manitoba

### Did you know...

- More than 15% of Aboriginal people in Canada live in Manitoba. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, Manitoba had the fourth largest Aboriginal population at 150,045 people.
- The Aboriginal population of Manitoba represents 14% of the total provincial population. Of all the provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the largest shares of their populations comprised of Aboriginal people (both 14%).
- The Aboriginal population in Manitoba is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 17%, compared to less than 1% growth in the total population of Manitoba.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in Manitoba live off reserve (65%).
- Among the 90,340 North American Indian people, more than half (56%) live on reserve and 44% live off reserve. Over one-third (35%) of North American Indian people in Manitoba live in urban areas, with only 9% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The majority of 56,795 Métis people in Manitoba live in urban settings; over half (52%) live in census metropolitan areas and 18% in other urban areas. About 29% live in rural areas.
- There is a small Inuit population in Manitoba (340 people); almost half (47%) live in census metropolitan areas, 12% live in other urban areas and 38% live in rural non-reserve communities. Only 3% live on reserve.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

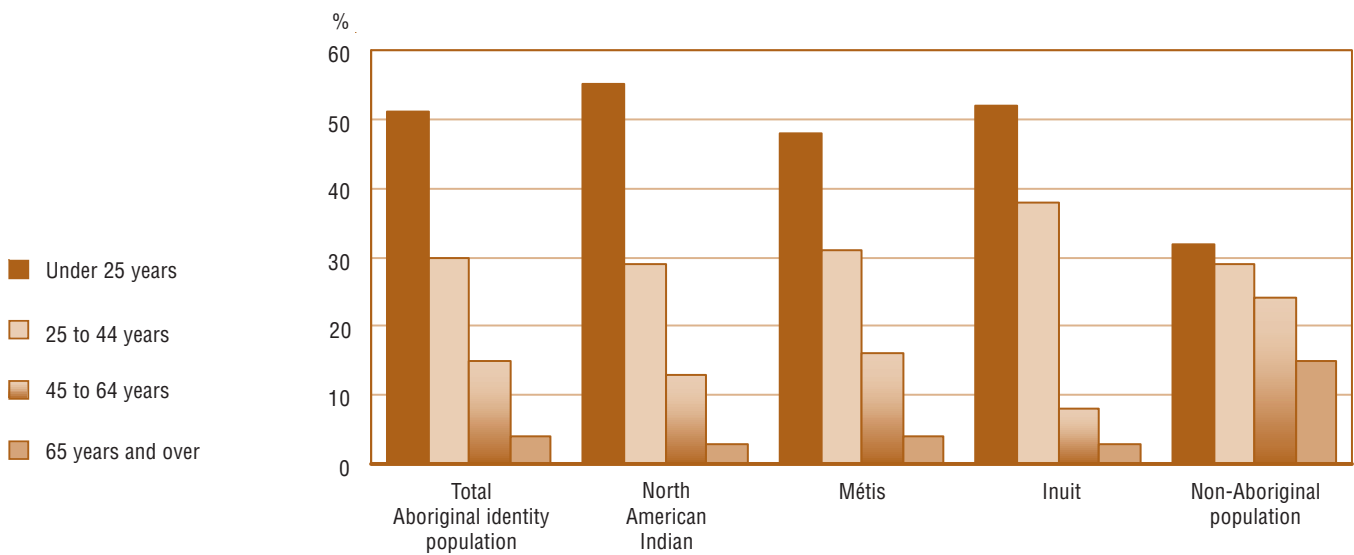
### Demographics

#### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 51% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 4% were 65 years and over, compared to 15% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations was similar to that of the total Aboriginal population.

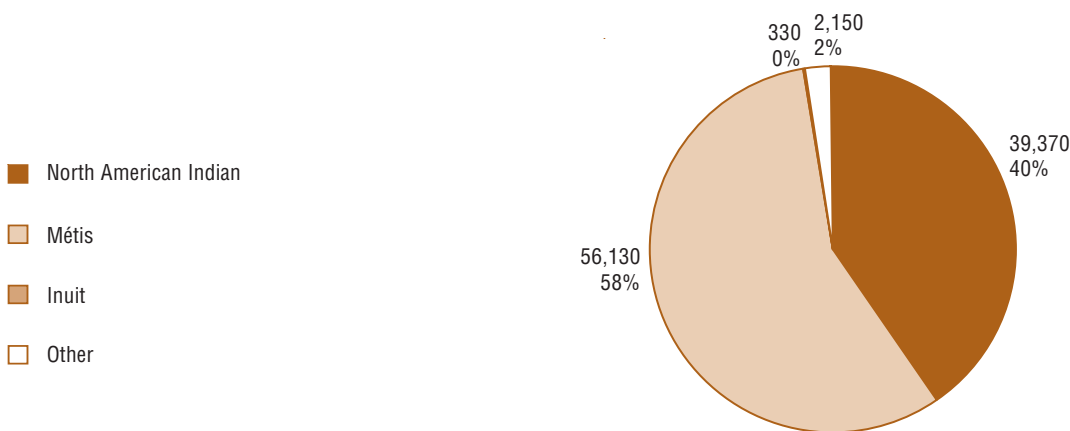
Manitoba

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



The majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population were Métis (58%), about 40% were North American Indian and less than 1% were Inuit. The remaining 2% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, Manitoba, by Aboriginal group, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, over half (54%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in Manitoba were living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Winnipeg is the only CMA in Manitoba and it has an Aboriginal population of 55,760 representing 8.4% of the total population living there. In comparison, Toronto’s Aboriginal population represents 0.4% of the total population living there and Vancouver’s Aboriginal population represents 1.9%. Winnipeg has the largest population of Aboriginal people of all CMAs in Canada.

Around 37% of Manitoba's total Aboriginal population lives in Winnipeg. Between 1981 and 2001 the Aboriginal population in Winnipeg increased by 247%. In 2001, there were 22,950 North American Indians, 31,390 Métis and 190 Inuit, living in Winnipeg.

There are other cities and towns in Manitoba with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In St. Laurent, for example, more than half of the population (58%) are Aboriginal.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Manitoba, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
		number		percent
Grand Rapids (town)	260	150	110	73.2
St. Laurent (rural municipality)	675	20	655	58.4
Lynn Lake (town)	380	315	65	54.7
Alonsa (rural municipality)	830	350	470	50.8
Churchill (town)	485	245	185	50.5

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 29% in 1996 to 35% in 2001.

In 2000, Aboriginal graduates in Manitoba accounted for 17% of college-level graduates in the province and 9% of Manitoban graduates at the bachelor level. The proportion of college graduates with Aboriginal identity roughly reflected the proportion of Aboriginal people in the general population in Manitoba. In contrast, Aboriginal people were under-represented at the bachelor level.<sup>17</sup>

## College and trades certificates popular

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 29% of the Métis population, and 25% of the North American Indian population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

According to the National Graduates Survey (Class of 2000), Aboriginal graduates living in Manitoba chose different fields of study than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. This was true at both the college and at the bachelor level. At the college level, Aboriginal graduates were more likely to study in Health, Parks, Recreation and Fitness, and less likely to study in Engineering Technologies. At the bachelor level, about half of Aboriginal bachelor graduates studied in Social Sciences and Law (of which more than four out of ten specialized in Child Care and Support Services Management), compared with 20% of non-Aboriginal graduates.

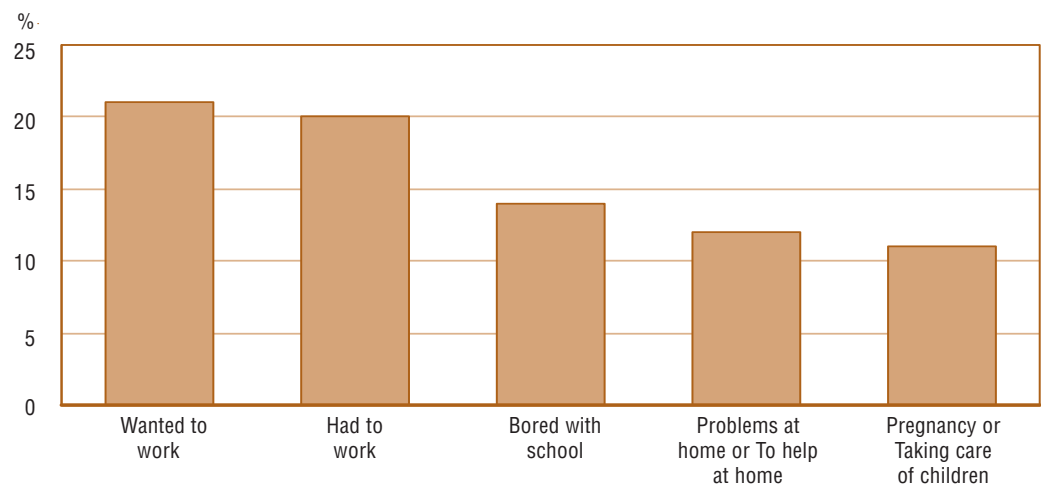
**Table 2: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent			
Less than high school	44	45	43	34
High school graduation	9	7	10	11
Some postsecondary	12	15	11	10
Trades certificate or diploma	14	12	15	12
College certificate or diploma	14	13	14	15
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	1	2	1	3
University degree	6	7	6	16

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early were ‘wanted to work’ or ‘had to work’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was 'wanted to work' (28%). 'Pregnancy/taking care of children' (34%) topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

## Many return to school later

Aboriginal people are more likely to return to school at later ages to complete their education. In 2001, 12% of the Aboriginal population over the age of 25 was attending school, twice the amount of their non-Aboriginal counterparts (6%). Of the Aboriginal groups, 17% of North American Indian adults (25 years and over) were enrolled in a school, compared to 10% of Inuit adults and 9% of Métis adults.

The National Graduates Survey (Class of 2000) found that Manitoba's Aboriginal population is more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to delay entry into post-secondary education and is thus older than the non-Aboriginal graduate population. At college level, only one in five (24%) Aboriginal graduates were under the age of 25, compared to 61% of non-Aboriginal graduates. At the Bachelor level, 38% of Aboriginal graduates were under 25 compared to 67% of non-Aboriginal graduates.

## 1 in 5 had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide

More than one in five (22%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school.

Over half (53%) of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 8% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## Residential school attendance

### 1 in 10 North American Indians attended a residential school

In 2001, 44% of Aboriginal adults living in Manitoba reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 3,510 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve attended a residential school. This represented 5% of the Aboriginal population with some formal education. People aged 55 years and over were the most likely to have attended. About 13% of people in this age group stated that they had attended a residential school.

There were also differences in residential school attendance between Aboriginal groups. Within the off reserve adult Aboriginal population, North American Indians were the most likely to have attended a residential school (10%).



Levels were even higher for certain age groups within the North American Indian off reserve population.<sup>18</sup> Around 25% of North American Indians aged 45 to 54 years reported that they had attended residential school, as did 28% of those aged 55 and over.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

In 2001, 70% of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, 58% of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

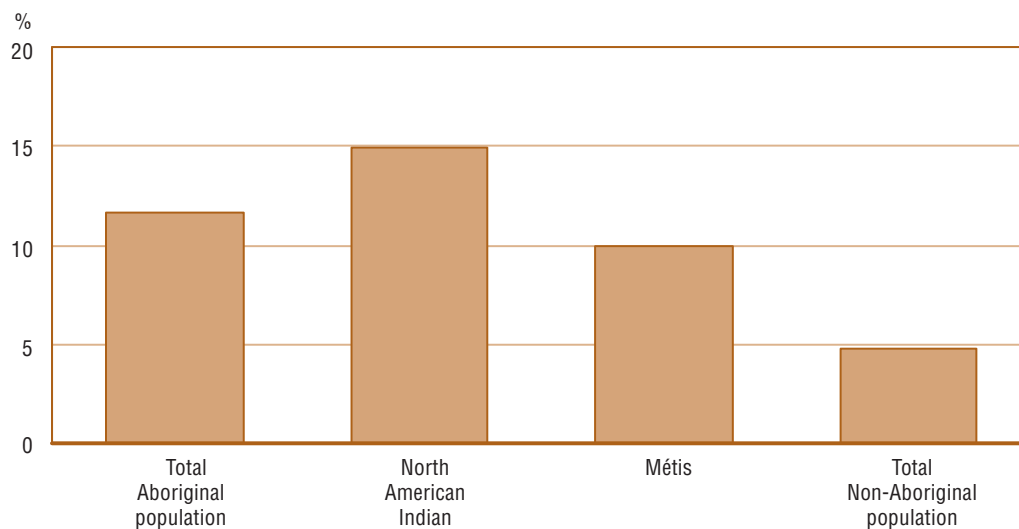
## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. According to the 2004-2005 Labour Force Survey, in 2005, 12% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed, compared to 5% of the non-Aboriginal population.<sup>19</sup>

Among the North American Indian and Métis population living off reserve, North American Indians had the highest unemployment rate at 15% compared to 10% for the Métis population.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**



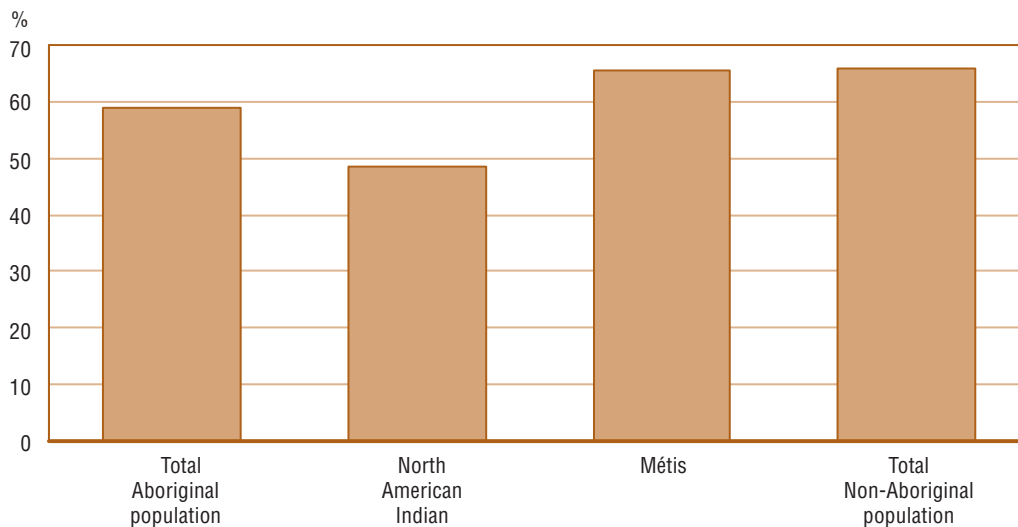


According to the 2001 Census, the unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 21.6%, compared to 9.5% among non-Aboriginal youth.

### Rate of employment for Métis similar to non-Aboriginal population

In 2005, the Aboriginal population had lower rates of employment than the non-Aboriginal population (59% compared to 66%). The Métis and North American Indian populations had different experiences in the labour market.<sup>20</sup> The rate of employment for the Métis population was more similar to that of the non-Aboriginal population than that of the North American Indian population.

**Chart 5: Employment rate, Adults 15 years and over, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**



### Rates of employment and income for graduates similar to non-Aboriginal graduates<sup>21</sup>

According to findings from the National Graduates Survey, Aboriginal bachelor graduates in Manitoba had similar employment levels to those of non-Aboriginal graduates in the province.

The employment level of Aboriginal college graduates was slightly lower than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. About 80% of Aboriginal college graduates were employed in Manitoba in 2002, compared with more than 90% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

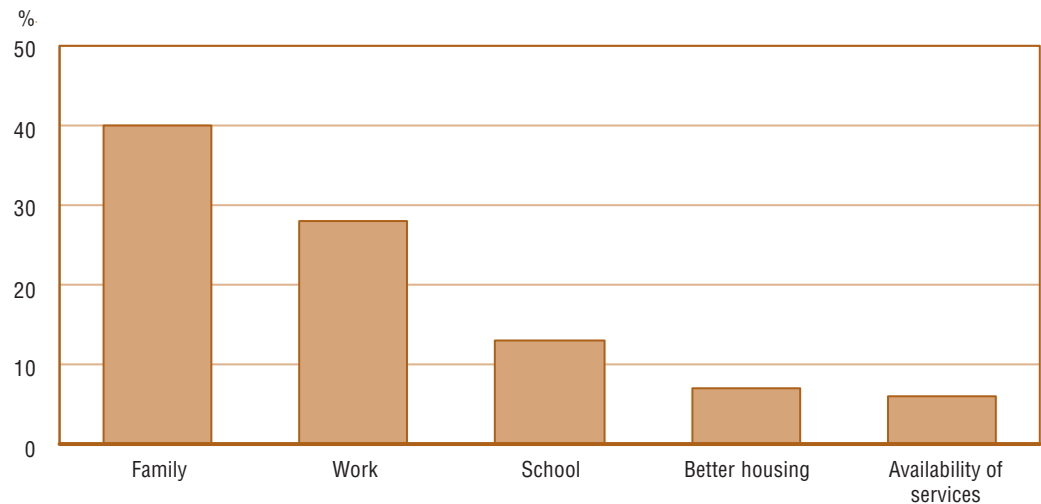
Within Manitoba, Aboriginal graduates had similar levels of earnings compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts. This was true for both college and bachelor graduates.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, over half (59%) of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 6: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

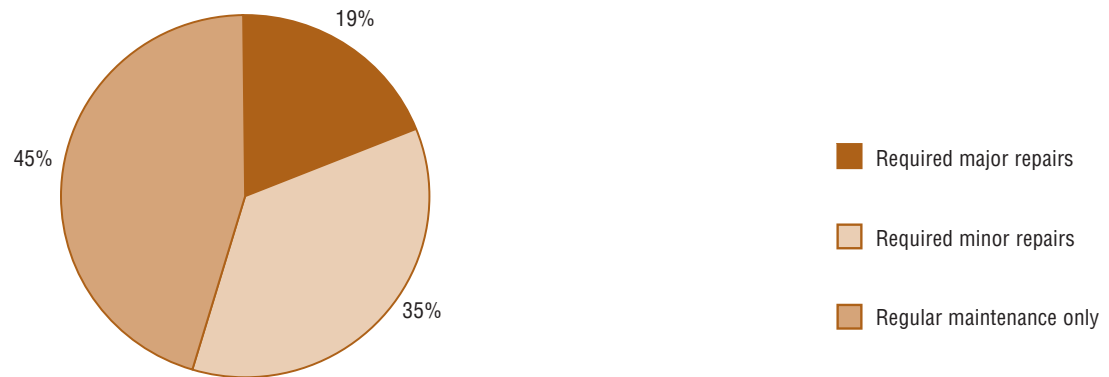
While all Aboriginal groups were highly mobile, levels did vary. From 1996 to 2001, 76% of Inuit, 68% of North American Indians and 53% of Métis had moved at least once.

### Less than half own their own home

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing need. Less than half (47%) of Aboriginal households owned their home in 2001, well below the 72% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners.<sup>22</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (56%) compared to 33% of North American Indian households.<sup>23</sup>

The 2001 Census found approximately 19% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Manitoba required major repairs, 35% required minor repairs and 45% required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 7: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



### More than 1 in 8 do not consider water safe for drinking

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, more than one in eight (13%) Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and more than one in seven (15%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 18% of the off reserve Aboriginal population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>24</sup> This is compared to 6% of the non-Aboriginal population. Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 24% of North American Indians lived in crowded homes, compared to 20% of Inuit and 13% of Métis.

### 1 in 4 in core housing need

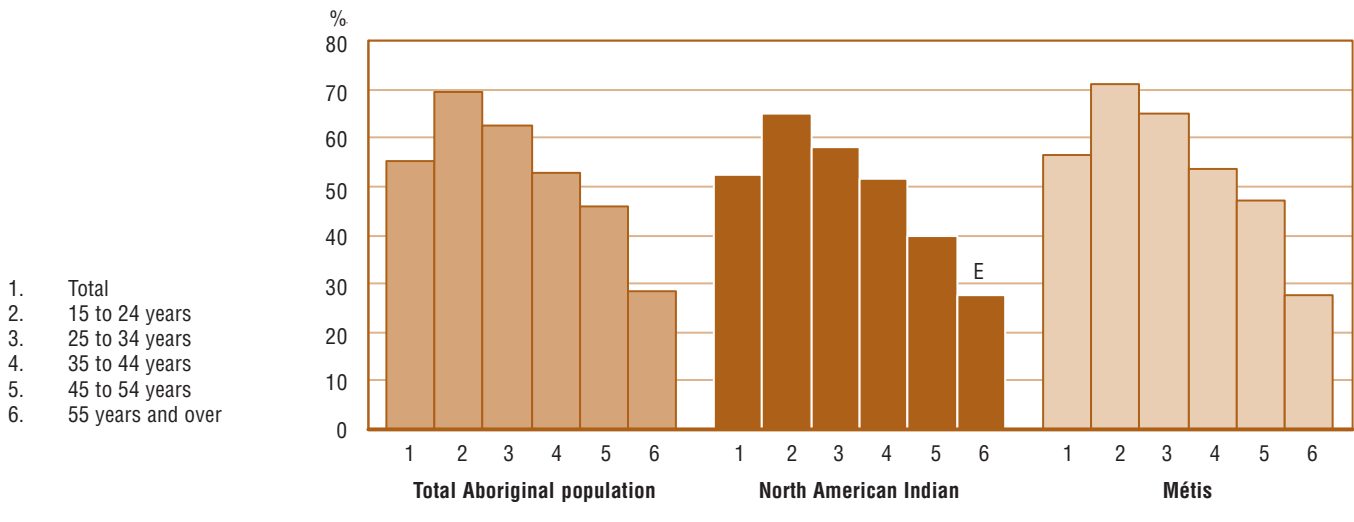
The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001. In 1996, around 34% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Manitoba were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to 26% of off reserve Aboriginal households in core housing need.<sup>25</sup> According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 35% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 20% of Métis households and 30% of Inuit households.

## Health

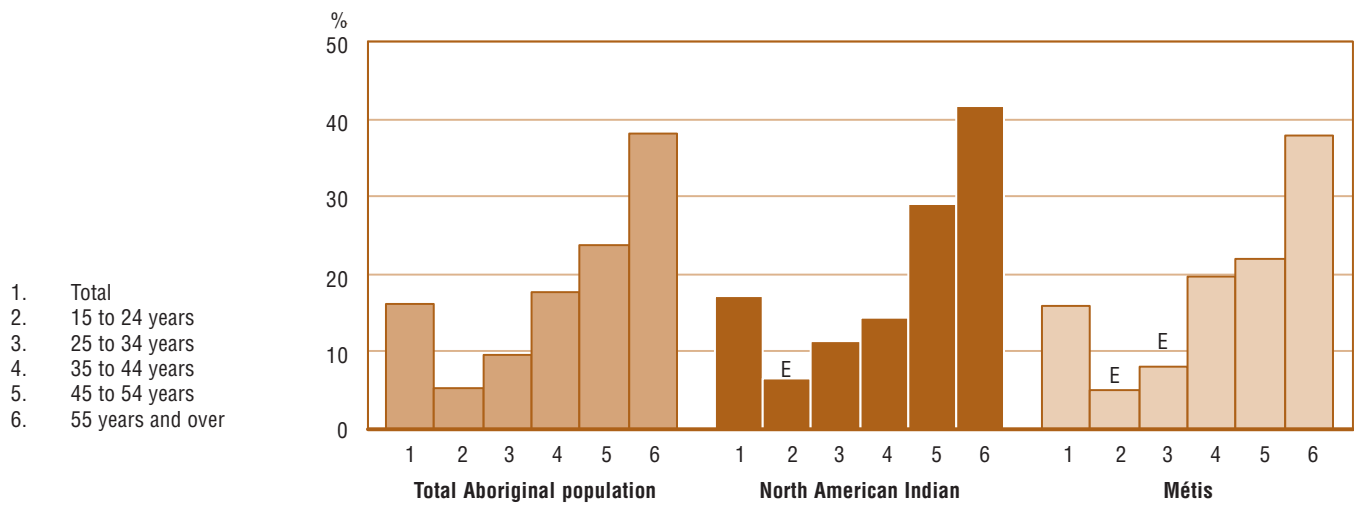
### Majority report very good or excellent health

In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 55% – reported excellent or very good health. About 16% reported fair or poor health – the tendency to do so increased with age, and the remaining 29% described their health as good. The North American Indian population and the Métis population reported similar levels of health status as the total Aboriginal population.<sup>26</sup>

**Chart 8: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 9: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in Manitoba reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 78% did so. Only 4% reported that their children’s health was fair or poor. The remaining 18% reported ‘good’ health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 87% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

## Arthritis or rheumatism affects 1 in 6 Aboriginal adults

Slightly less than half of Aboriginal adults (49%) have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting more than one in six Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

Around one in ten North American Indians 15 years and over, living in off reserve areas have been diagnosed with diabetes. This is compared to 2.9% of the total Canadian population 15 years and over who have been diagnosed with diabetes (age standardised). Evidence suggests that the rates of diabetes for the North American Indian population are even higher on reserve.<sup>27</sup>

**Table 3: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian percent	Métis
Arthritis or rheumatism	17	18	17
High blood pressure	13	13	13
Asthma	11	11	10
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	9	9	9
Diabetes	8	10	6
Heart problems	5	5	5

Almost 40% of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, around 13% of Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies and asthma.

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Manitoba, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children percent
Allergies	13.4
Asthma	12.7
Ear infections or ear problems	8.1
Learning disability	6.3

The majority (73%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 7% had contacted a traditional healer. Slightly less than half (49%) of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, and 42% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 55% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Approximately, 68% of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was 'somewhat important' or 'very important' compared to 46% of the Métis adult population.<sup>28</sup>

The majority (53%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was 'somewhat important' or 'very important' to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of the population in Manitoba, including Aboriginal people. About 87% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

Just under one-third (30%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. Almost two-thirds (65%) of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so 'very well' or 'relatively well'.

## Endnotes

17. Data are from the National Graduates Survey, Class of 2000 and includes the Aboriginal identity population of Manitoba.
18. Data on attending a residential school for the Métis and Inuit population is not available for Manitoba.
19. Data for the Inuit off reserve population in Manitoba is not available.
20. Data for the Inuit off reserve population in Manitoba is not available.
21. Data in this section are from the National Graduates Survey, Class of 2000 and includes the Aboriginal identity population of Manitoba.
22. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
23. Home ownership data is not available for the Inuit population in Manitoba.
24. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
25. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
26. Data on health status for the Inuit population in Manitoba is not available.
27. Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
28. Data on the importance of keeping, learning or relearning an Aboriginal language is not available for the Inuit population in Manitoba.



## Saskatchewan

### Did you know

- Over 13% of Aboriginal people in Canada live in Saskatchewan. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, Saskatchewan had the fifth largest Aboriginal population at 130,185 people.
- The Aboriginal population of Saskatchewan represents 14% of the total provincial population. Of all the provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the largest shares of their populations comprised of Aboriginal people (both 14%).
- The Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 17%, compared to a decrease of just over 1% in the total population of Saskatchewan.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan live off reserve (64%).
- Among the 83,740 North American Indian people, about half (48%) live off reserve and about half (52%) live on reserve. About 39% of North American Indian people in Saskatchewan live in urban areas, with only 9% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The majority of the 43,695 Métis people in Saskatchewan live in urban settings; 31% live in census metropolitan areas and 29% in other urban areas. One-third lives in rural areas.
- There is a small Inuit population in Saskatchewan (225 people), the majority of whom (81%) live in urban areas; 15% live in rural areas.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

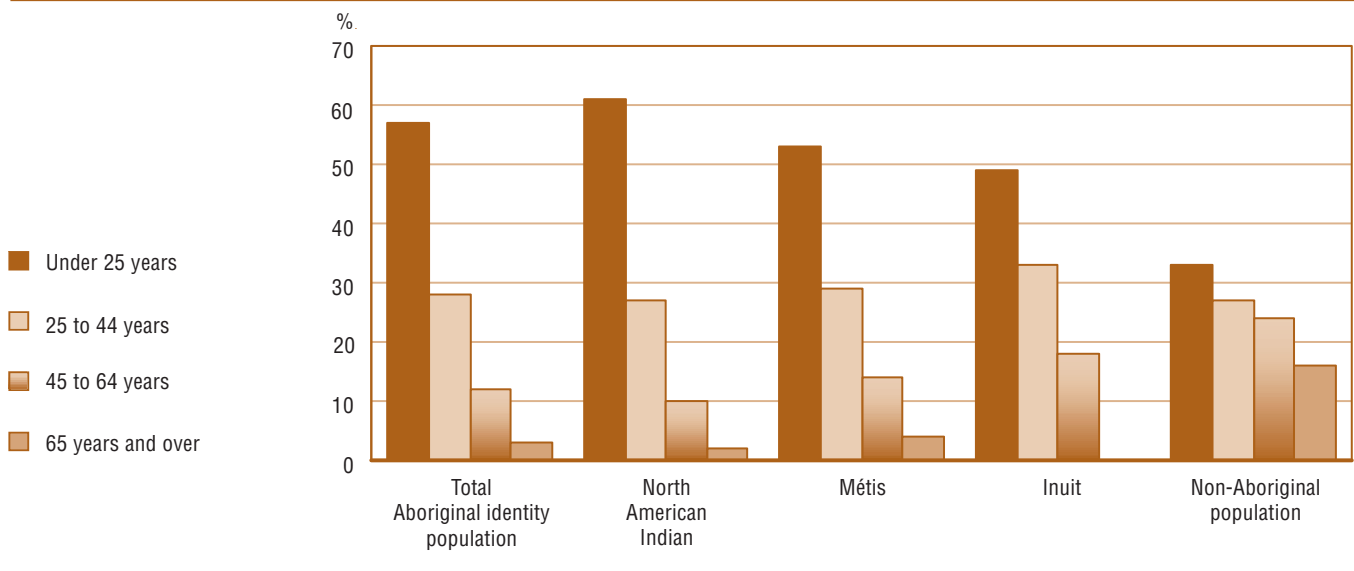
### Demographics

#### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 57% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 3% were 65 years and over, compared to 16% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations in Saskatchewan were similar to the total Aboriginal population.

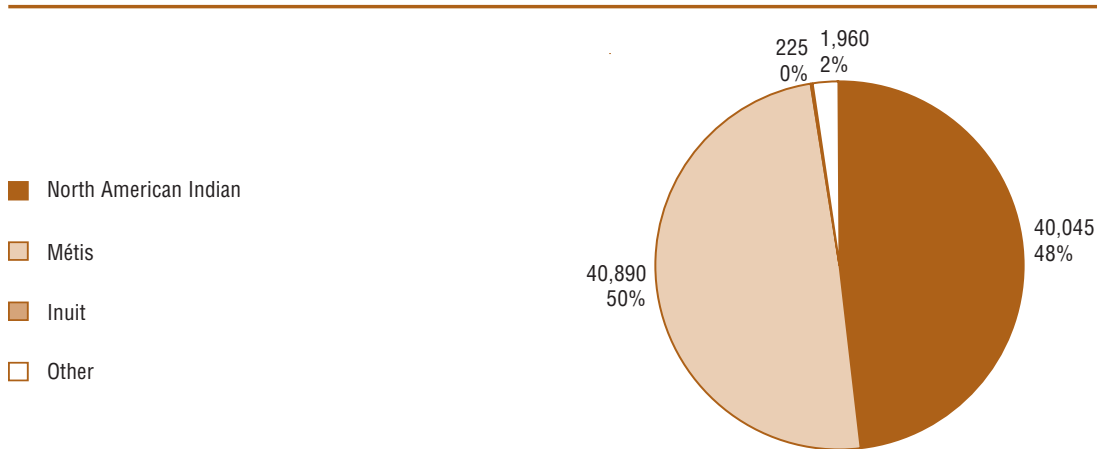
# Saskatchewan

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



Half the off reserve Aboriginal population were Métis, just under half (48%) were North American Indian and less than 1% were Inuit. The remaining 2% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, 42% of the off reserve Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan was living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Saskatoon was the CMA in Saskatchewan with the largest Aboriginal population at 20,275, and Aboriginal people represented 9.1% of the total population living there. In comparison, Toronto’s Aboriginal population represents 0.4% of the total population living there and Vancouver’s Aboriginal population represents 1.9%.



Around 16% of Saskatchewan's total Aboriginal population lives in Saskatoon. Between 1981 and 2001 the Aboriginal population grew by 382%. In 2001, there were 11,290 North American Indians, 8,305 Métis and 125 Inuit, living in Saskatoon.

In 2001, the Aboriginal population of Regina was 15,690, representing 8% of the total population living there. Around 12% of Saskatchewan's total Aboriginal population lives in Regina. The Aboriginal population in Regina grew by 145% between 1981 and 2001. In 2001, there were 9,200 North American Indians, 5,990 Métis and 35 Inuit, living in Regina.

There are other cities and towns in Saskatchewan with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Île-à-la-Crosse, for example, almost all residents (97%) are Aboriginal.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
		number		percent
Pelican Narrows (northern village)	670	655	10	97.1
Île-à-la-Crosse (northern village)	1,220	120	1,095	96.8
Cumberland House (northern village)	600	230	365	94.5
Beauval (northern village)	790	90	695	94.0
Green Lake (northern village)	465	50	415	93.0

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 32% in 1996 to 37% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 30% of the Métis population, 23% of the North American Indian population and 21% of the Inuit population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

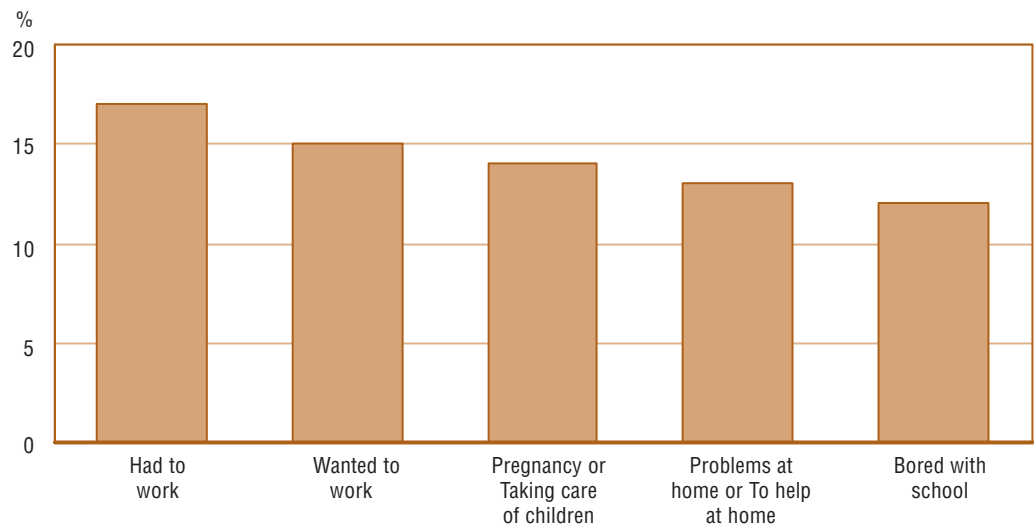
**Table 2: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
			percent		
Less than high school	40	41	40	46	36
High school graduation	8	6	9	8	11
Some postsecondary	15	18	13	8	9
Trades certificate or diploma	14	12	16	13	14
College certificate or diploma	13	11	14	8	14
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	3	3	2	0	3
University degree	7	9	6	25	13

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early were ‘had to work’ and ‘wanted to work’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was ‘wanted to work’ (22%). ‘Pregnancy/taking care of children’ (39%) topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

Aboriginal people are more likely to return to school at later ages to complete their education. In 2001, around 13% of Aboriginal people over the age of 25 were attending school compared to 5% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Of the Aboriginal groups, 17% of North American Indian adults (25 years and over) were enrolled in a school, compared to 9% of Métis adults and 8% of Inuit adults.

## 1 in 4 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide

More than one in four (28%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school. More Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide than in any other province.

Around half (51%) of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, around 28% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## Residential school attendance

### 1 in 5 adults aged 55 or over attended a residential school

In 2001, 57% of Aboriginal adults living in Saskatchewan reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 6,850 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve attended a residential school. This represented almost 12% of the Aboriginal population with some formal education. People aged 55 and over were the most likely to have attended. More than one in five (22%) people in this age group reported that they had attended a residential school.

There were also differences in residential school attendance between Aboriginal groups. Within the off reserve adult Aboriginal population, North American Indians were more likely to have attended a residential school (22%) than Métis (3%). Nearly half (47%) of North American Indians aged 55 and over living off reserve attended a residential school.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

In 2001, more than two-thirds (68%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, over half (56%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

## Employment

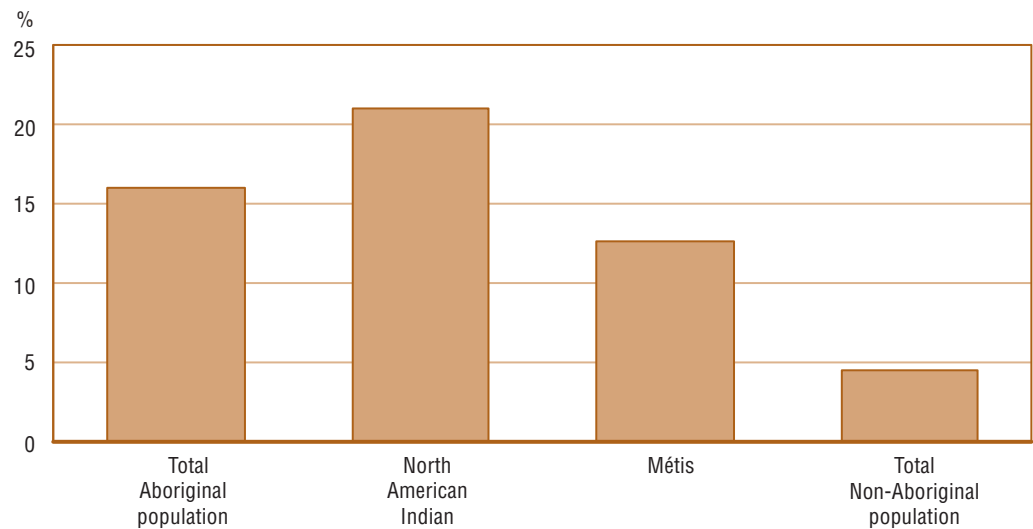
### Unemployment remains high

Compared to the off reserve Aboriginal populations in the other western provinces, Saskatchewan's off reserve Aboriginal population had the lowest employment rates.<sup>29</sup>

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. According to the 2004-2005 Labour Force survey, in Saskatchewan 16% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed, compared to 5% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among the North American Indian and Métis populations living off reserve, the North American Indian population had the highest unemployment rate at 21% compared to 13% for the Métis population.<sup>30</sup>

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**



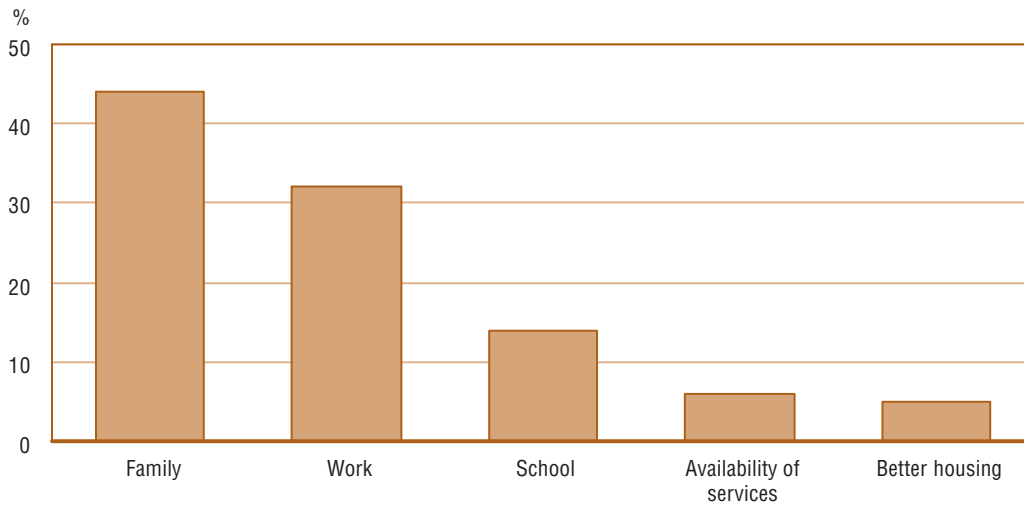
According to the 2001 Census, the unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 24%, compared to 11% among non-Aboriginal youth.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, well over half (61%) of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 5: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



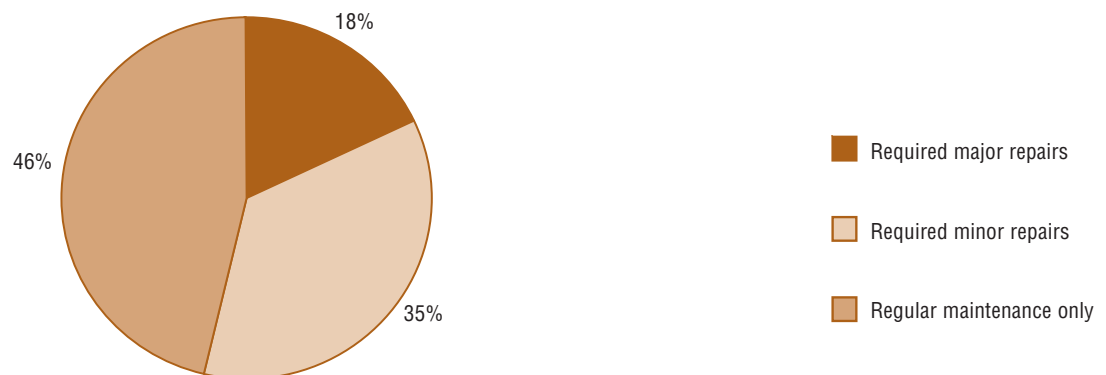
1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

### Less than half own their home

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing need. Around 45% of off Aboriginal households owned their home in 2001, well below the 74% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners.<sup>31</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (56%), compared to 31% of North American households.<sup>32</sup>

The 2001 Census found approximately 18% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Saskatchewan required major repairs, 35% required minor repairs and 46% required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 6: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



## **Almost one in eight do not consider water safe for drinking**

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, almost one in eight (12%) Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and nearly one in six (16%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 21% of the off reserve Aboriginal population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>33</sup> This is compared to 4% of the non-Aboriginal population. Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 27% of North American Indians lived in crowded homes, compared to 15% of Métis.<sup>34</sup>

## **1 in 4 in core housing need**

The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>35</sup> In 1996, around 36% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Saskatchewan were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to 29% of off reserve Aboriginal households in core housing need. According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 38% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 22% of Métis households and 24% of Inuit households.

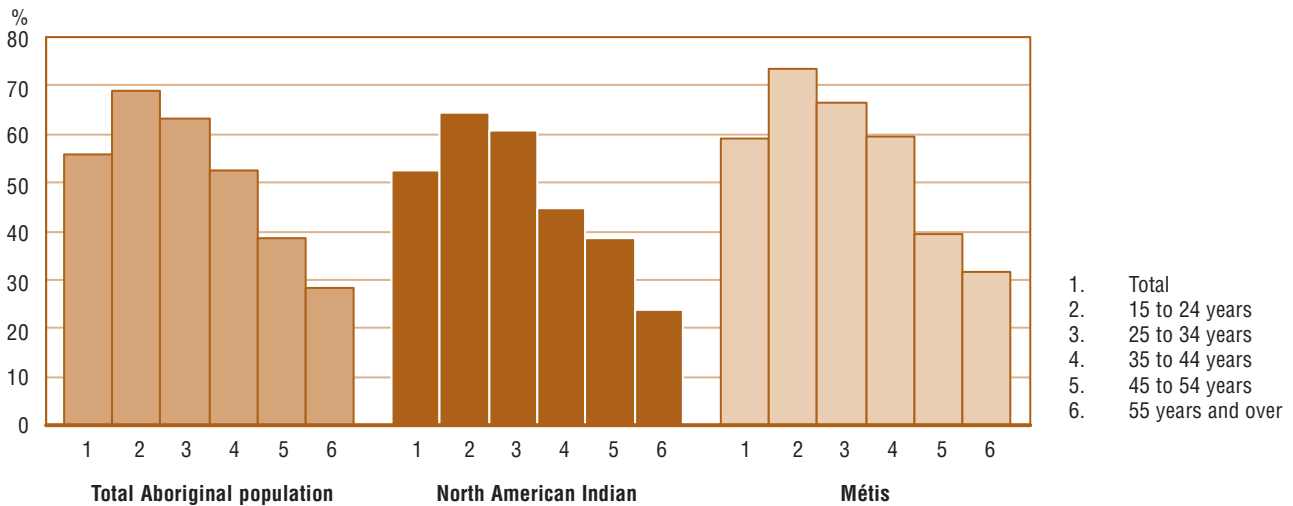
# **Health**

## **Majority report very good or excellent health**

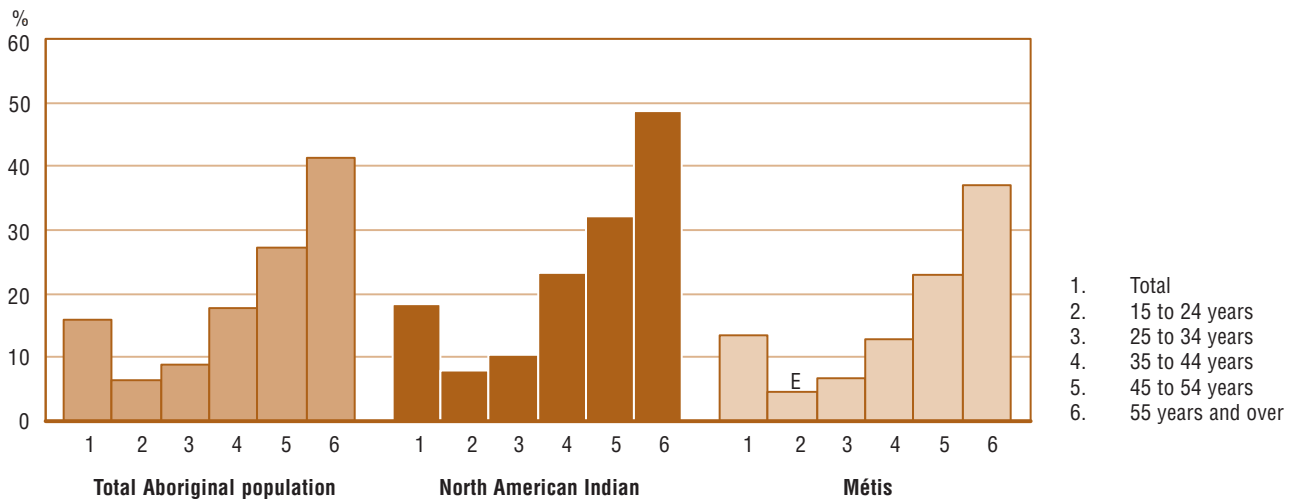
In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 56% – reported excellent or very good health. About 16% reported fair or poor health – the tendency to do so increased with age, and the remaining 28% described their health as good.

The North American Indian population reported slightly lower levels of excellent or very good health (53%) than the Métis population (59%). The North American Indian population reported slightly higher levels of fair or poor health (19%) than the Métis population (14%).<sup>36</sup>

**Chart 7: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 8: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in Saskatchewan reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 81% did so. Only 3% reported that their children’s health was fair or poor. The remaining 16% reported ‘good’ health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 89% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

## Arthritis or rheumatism affects 1 in 6 Aboriginal adults

Slightly less than half of Aboriginal adults (46%) have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting more than one in six (17%) Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

**Table 3: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal population	percent	
		North American Indian	Métis
Arthritis or rheumatism	17	17	17
High blood pressure	11	10	12
Asthma	10	9	10
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	9	10	10
Diabetes	8	9	7
Heart problems	6	6	5

Around 9% of the North American Indian population 15 years and over, living in off reserve areas have been diagnosed with diabetes. This is compared to 2.9% of the total Canadian population 15 years and over who have been diagnosed with diabetes (age standardised). Evidence suggests that the rates of diabetes for the North American Indian population are even higher on reserve.<sup>37</sup>

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Saskatchewan, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children	
	percent	
Allergies	14.3	
Asthma	11.4	
Ear infections or ear problems	10.5	
Learning disability	4.5	

Over one-third (38%) of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about one in seven Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

The majority (70%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 9% had contacted a traditional healer. Slightly less than two-thirds (61%) of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, and one in four had been in contact with a pediatrician.



## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority 65% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was 'somewhat important' or 'very important'.

Approximately, 76% of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was 'somewhat important' or 'very important' compared to 53% of the Métis adult population.<sup>38</sup>

The majority (63%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was 'somewhat important' or 'very important' to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of the population in Saskatchewan, including Aboriginal people. About 89% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

About 42% of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 63% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so 'very well' or 'relatively well'.

## Endnotes

29. Source: Statistics Canada. 2005. *Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in Western Canada – Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, April 2004 - May 2005* (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 71-587-XIE) p.7.
30. Data for the Inuit off reserve population in Saskatchewan is not available.
31. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
32. Home ownership data is not available for the Inuit population in Saskatchewan.
33. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
34. Overcrowding data is not available for the Inuit population in Saskatchewan.
35. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
36. Data on health status is not available for Inuit in Saskatchewan.
37. Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
38. Data on the importance of keeping, learning or relearning an Aboriginal language is not available for the Inuit population in Saskatchewan.



## Alberta

### Did you know...

- Nearly one in six Aboriginal people in Canada live in Alberta. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, Alberta had the third largest Aboriginal population at 156,225 people.
- In 2001, the Aboriginal population made up 5.3% of Alberta's total provincial population.
- The Aboriginal population in Alberta is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 27%, compared to a 10% growth in the total population of Alberta.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in Alberta live off reserve (76%).
- Among the 84,995 North American Indian people, 57% live off reserve and 43% live on reserve. About 45% of North American Indian people in Alberta live in urban areas, with only 13% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The vast majority of the 66,060 Métis people in Alberta live in urban settings; 45% live in census metropolitan areas and 27% in other urban areas. About 27% live in rural areas.
- There is a small Inuit population in Alberta (1,090 people), more than half (56%) of whom live in census metropolitan areas; 32% live in other urban areas and 11% live in rural areas.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

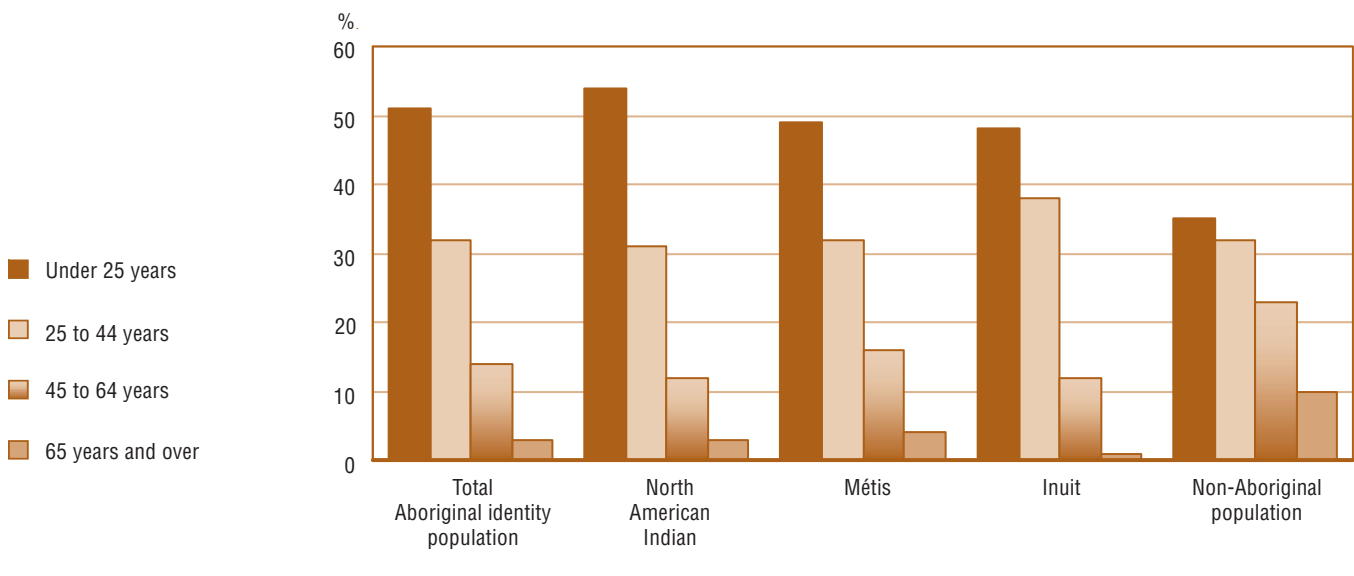
### Demographics

#### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 51% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 3% were 65 years and over, compared to 10% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations in Alberta were similar to the total Aboriginal population.

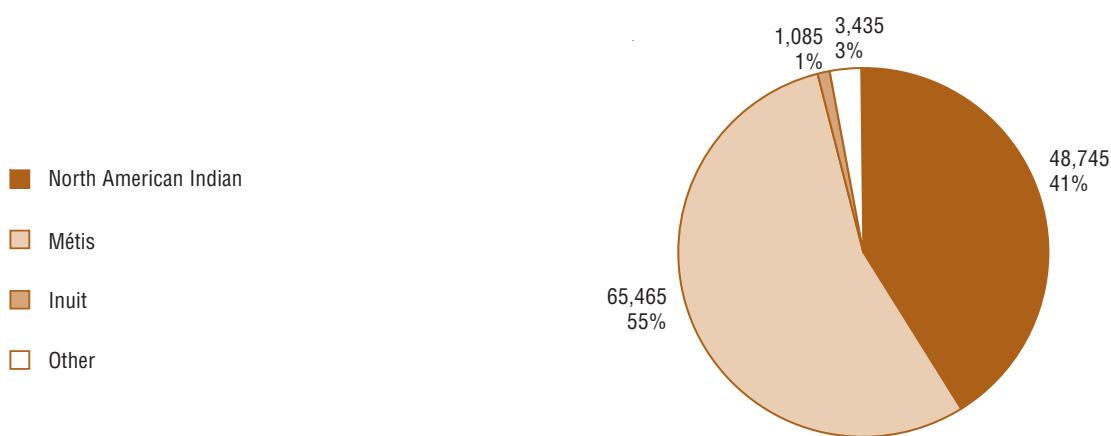
Alberta

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



Over half of the off reserve Aboriginal population were Métis (55%), about 41% were North American Indian and about 1% were Inuit. The remaining 3% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, almost half (47%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in Alberta were living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Edmonton was the CMA in Alberta with the largest Aboriginal population at 40,930. Aboriginal people represented 4.4% of the total population living there. In comparison, Toronto’s Aboriginal population represents 0.4% of the total

population living there and Vancouver's Aboriginal population represents 1.9%. Edmonton had the second largest population of Aboriginal people of all CMAs in Canada.

More than one-quarter (26%) of Alberta's total Aboriginal population lives in Edmonton. This population includes 21,065 Métis, 18,260 North American Indians, and 460 Inuit. Between 1981 and 2001 the Aboriginal population in Edmonton increased by 205%.

In 2001, Calgary had an Aboriginal population of 21,910, representing 2.3% of the total population living there. Around 14% of Alberta's total Aboriginal population lives in Calgary. The Aboriginal population includes 10,575 Métis, 10,155 North American Indians, and 190 Inuit. Between 1981 and 2001 the Aboriginal population in Calgary increased by 213%.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of Alberta's off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 33% in 1996 to 39% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 28% of the North American Indian population, 33% of the Métis population and 43% of the Inuit population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

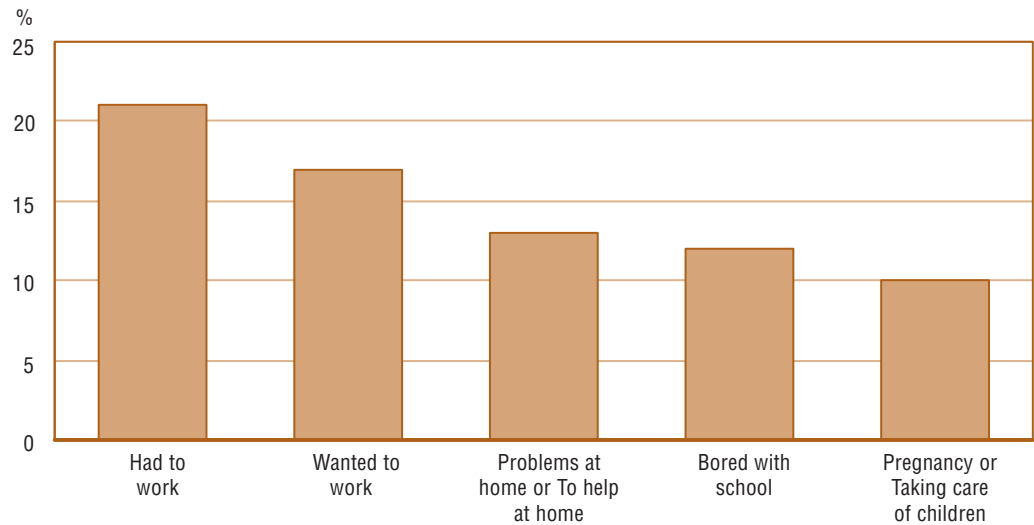
**Table 1: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent				
Less than high school	37	37	38	29	26
High school graduation	9	8	9	12	11
Some postsecondary	15	18	14	14	10
Trades certificate or diploma	16	14	18	19	15
College certificate or diploma	15	15	15	24	17
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	2	2	2	0	2
University degree	6	7	5	0	18

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early were ‘had to work’ and ‘wanted to work’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was ‘wanted to work’ (28%). ‘Pregnancy/taking care of children’ (26%) topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

Aboriginal people are more likely to return to school at later ages to complete their education. In 2001, around one in ten Aboriginal people over the age of 25 were attending school compared to 7% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Of the Aboriginal groups, 13% of North American Indian adults (25 years and over) were enrolled in a school, compared to 9% of Métis adults and 9% of Inuit adults.

### 1 in 7 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide

More than one in seven (15%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide while at elementary or high school.

Over half (56%) of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 15% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## Residential school attendance

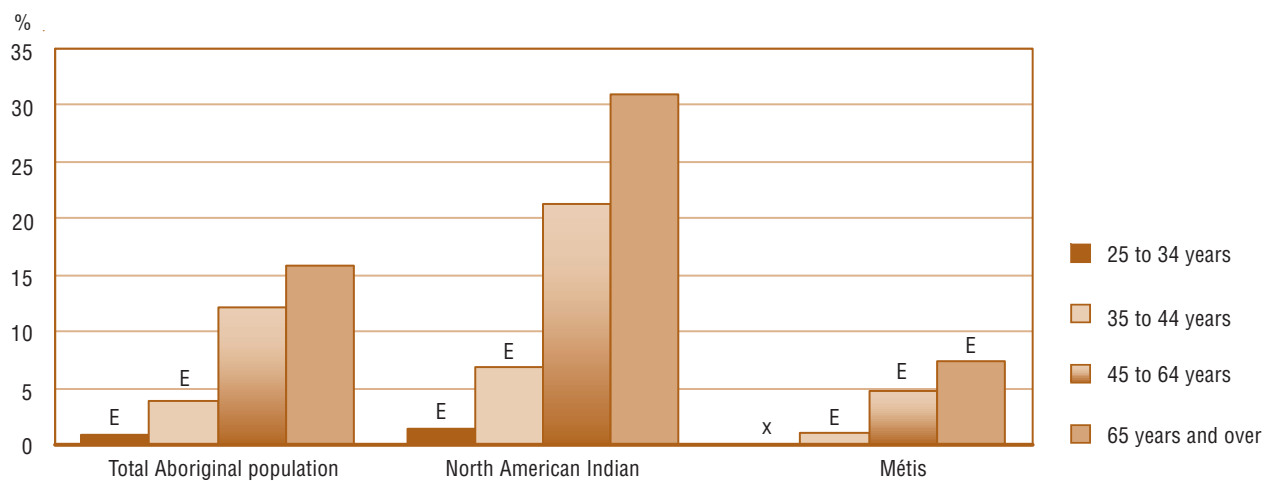
### Almost 1 in 6 people over the age of 55 attended a residential school

In 2001, over half (51%) of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 4,360 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve reported attending a residential school. This represented almost 5% of Aboriginal people 15 years and over with some formal education.

People in the older age groups were the most likely to have attended a residential school. About 16% of Aboriginal adults 55 years and over stated that they had attended a residential school.

**Chart 4: Percentage who attended a residential school, Aboriginal adults 25 years and over, by age groups, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



North American Indians were more likely to have attended a residential school than Métis people. Among the off reserve North American Indian population, 21% of those aged 45 to 54 years, and 31% of those 55 years and over had attended a residential school.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

In 2001, almost three-quarters (73%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, almost two-thirds (64%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

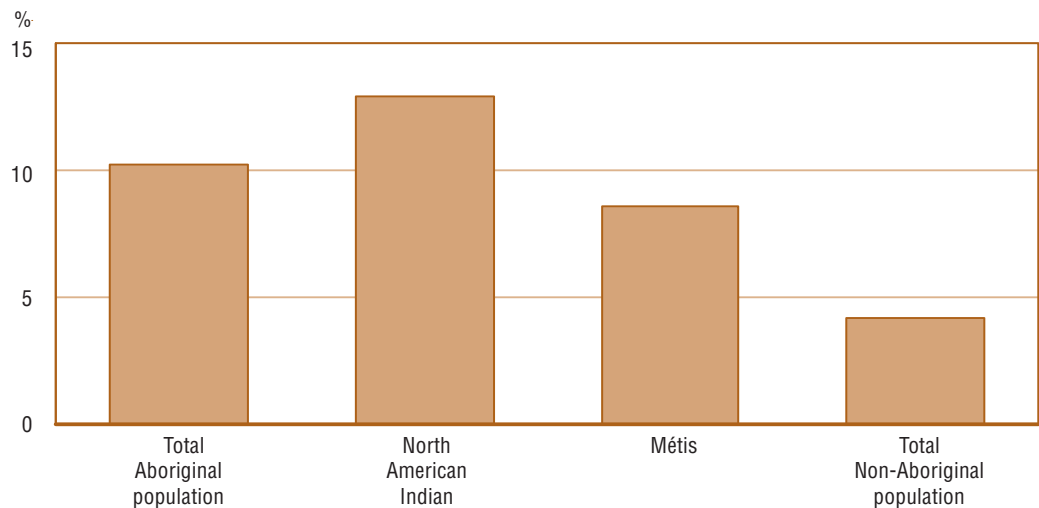
## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. According to the 2004-2005 Labour Force Survey, 10% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed, compared to 4% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among the North American Indian and the Métis populations living off reserve, the North American Indian population had the highest unemployment rate at 13%, compared to 9% for the Métis population.<sup>39</sup>

**Chart 5: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, Alberta, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**



According to the 2001 Census, the unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 18%, compared to 10% among non-Aboriginal youth.

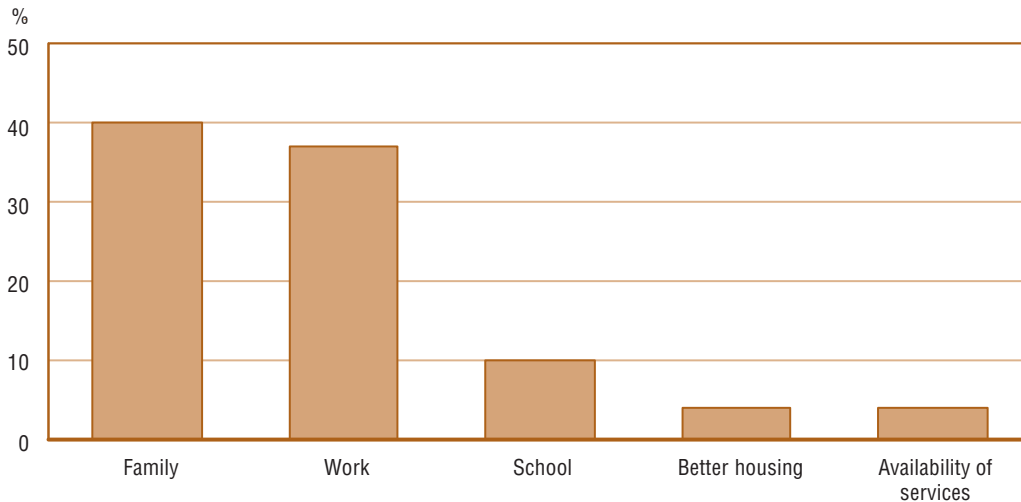
Compared to the off reserve Aboriginal populations in the other western provinces, Alberta's off reserve Aboriginal population had the lowest unemployment rate. Alberta's off reserve Aboriginal population also had the highest employment rate (62.6%), close to the Canadian average in 2005 of 62.7%.<sup>40</sup>

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, 63% of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.



**Chart 6: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**

1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

## Around half own or are purchasing their home

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing need. Around half of Aboriginal households owned their homes in 2001, below the 72% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners.<sup>41</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (55%), compared to 45% of North American Indian households and 50% of Inuit households.

## 1 in 10 do not consider water safe for drinking

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, one in ten Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and around one in seven (14%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 17% of Aboriginal people lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>42</sup> This is compared to 6% of non-Aboriginal people. Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 22% of North American Indians lived in crowded homes, compared to 14% of Métis and 5% of Inuit.

## 1 in 5 in core housing need

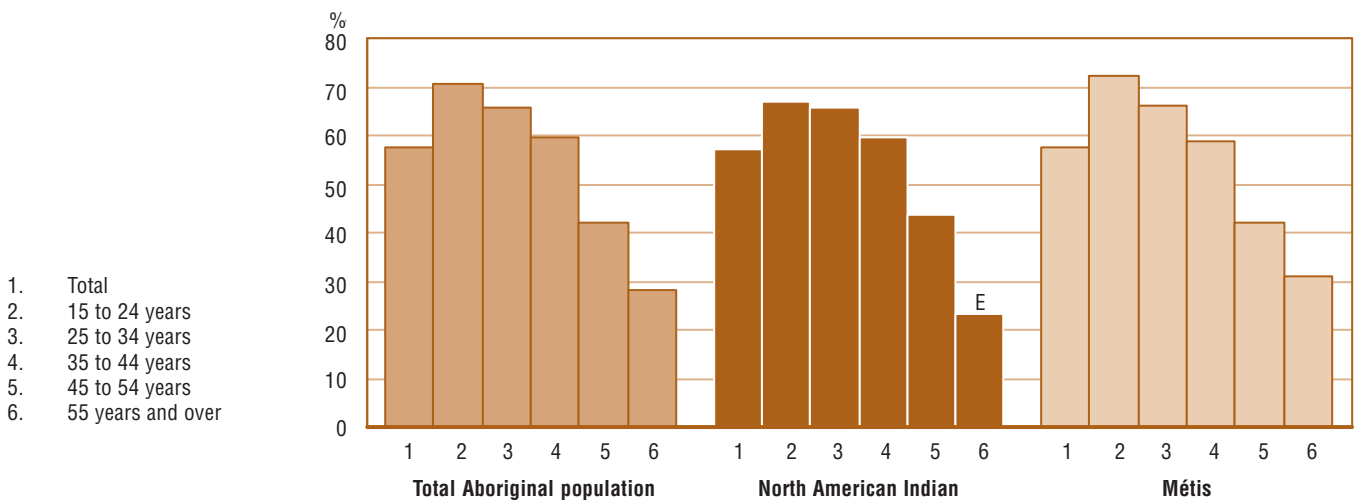
The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>43</sup> In 1996, around 28% of off reserve Aboriginal households in Alberta were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to around one in five (21%) off reserve Aboriginal households in core housing need. According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 23% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 19% of Métis households and 19% of Inuit households.

# Health

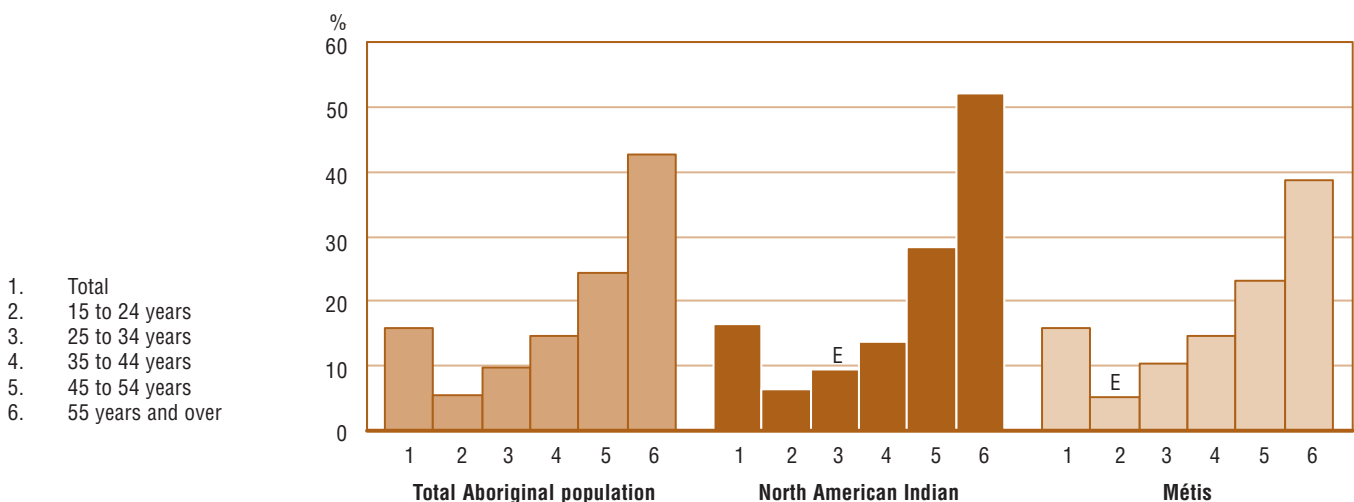
## Majority report very good or excellent health

In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 57% – reported excellent or very good health. About 16% reported fair or poor health – the tendency to do so increased with age. The North American Indian population and the Métis population reported similar levels of health status as the total Aboriginal population.<sup>44</sup>

**Chart 7: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 8: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in Alberta reported that their children's health was excellent or very good – 82% did so. Only 3% reported that their children's health was fair or poor. The remaining 15% reported 'good' health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning's activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 86% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism affects 1 in 6 Aboriginal adults

Almost half of Aboriginal adults (48%) living off reserve have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting about one in six Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

Around 6% of the North American Indian population 15 years and over, living in off reserve areas have been diagnosed with diabetes. This is compared to 2.9% of the total Canadian population 15 years and over who have been diagnosed with diabetes (age standardised). Evidence suggests that the rates of diabetes for the North American Indian population are even higher on reserve.<sup>45</sup>

**Table 2: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal population	North American Indian		Métis
		percent		
Arthritis or rheumatism	17	16		17
High blood pressure	10	9		11
Asthma	11	11		11
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	9	8		10
Diabetes	6	6		5
Heart problems	5	6		5

Over one-third (38%) of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about one in seven (15%) Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

**Table 3: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Alberta, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children	
	percent	
Allergies		15.0
Asthma		10.3
Ear infections or ear problems		8.2
Learning disability		6.8

The majority (72%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 8% had contacted a traditional healer. Around 61% of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, and 28% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 59% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Approximately two-thirds (67%) of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ compared to 54% of the Métis adult population.<sup>46</sup>

The majority (57%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of the population of Alberta, including Aboriginal people. About 92% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

About 32% of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 52% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Métis settlements

Alberta is home to the only constitutionally protected Métis lands in Canada. The Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001 interviewed adults and children living in all eight Métis settlements, and the following table provides a brief summary of some of the findings. Data for the total off reserve Aboriginal population of Alberta are also provided for comparison purposes.

**Table 4: Summary characteristics of Aboriginal identity population living in Métis settlements, Alberta, 2001 APS**

	Buffalo Lake	East Prairie	Elizabeth	Fishing Lake	Gift Lake	Kikino	Paddle Prairie	Peavine	Alberta off reserve Aboriginal population
	percent								
<b>In the past 12 months adults who have:</b>									
Hunted	37	36	29	41	29	32	51	35	12
Fished	40	x	37	48	24	25	24	24	27
Gathered wild plants (berries, sweet grass, etc.)	37	41	40	41	33	32	30	35	25
<b>Adults who say their health is:</b>									
Excellent or very good	49	45	46	35	49	55	46	37	58
Good	30	27 <sup>E</sup>	29	35	27	24	30	37	26
Fair or Poor	21	32	23	31	24	22	24	23	16
<b>Adults who saw or talked on the telephone about physical, emotional or mental health in past 12 months to:</b>									
Family doctor or general practitioner	67	73	69	73	56	53	68	60	72
Nurse	33	23 <sup>E</sup>	20 <sup>E</sup>	35	27	22	38	26	24
Dentist or orthodontist	33	36	43	54	33	37	32	29	51
Other health professional	56	45	46	69	42	35	46	49	60
Adults who have been diagnosed with one or more long-term health conditions	50	59	39	56	35	56	47	47	48
Children who have been diagnosed with one or more long-term health conditions	32	31	24	53	25	39	33	33	38
Adults who had Aboriginal teachers or teachers' aides while in high school or elementary school	42	28 <sup>E</sup>	36	20 <sup>E</sup>	60	27	35	29	15
Adults who had teachers or teachers' aides who taught in an Aboriginal language	24	18 <sup>E</sup>	27	12 <sup>E</sup>	46	21	15 <sup>E</sup>	19 <sup>E</sup>	7
Adults taught an Aboriginal language in elementary or high school	29	17 <sup>E</sup>	30	16 <sup>E</sup>	45	20	26	19 <sup>E</sup>	7
Children aged 6 to 14 years who attended an early childhood development or preschool program	64	36	58	63	72	71	75	93	56
Adults with family member(s) who attended residential or industrial school	70	65	46	33	79	80	59	86	51
Adults who can speak or understand an Aboriginal language	57	68	71	56	96	63	62	65	32
Adults who have always lived in same community	49	55	49	48	58	51	43	45	27
Adults who have used a computer in the past 12 months	63	64	63	44	49	63	51	50	73
Adults who have used the Internet in the past 12 months	48	57	51	37	39	52	41	37	64

## Endnotes

39. Data for the Inuit off reserve population in Alberta is not available.
40. Source: Statistics Canada. 2005. *Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in Western Canada – Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, April 2004 - May 2005* (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 71-587-XIE) p.7.
41. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
42. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
43. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
44. Data on health status is not available for Inuit in Alberta.
45. Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
46. Data on the importance of keeping, learning or relearning an Aboriginal language is not available for the Inuit population in Alberta.



## British Columbia

### Did you know...

- Nearly one in six Aboriginal people in Canada live in British Columbia. In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, British Columbia had the second largest Aboriginal population at 170,025 people.
- While British Columbia had the second largest Aboriginal population, the Aboriginal population made up only 4.4% of the total provincial population.
- The Aboriginal population in British Columbia is growing rapidly. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 22%, compared to a 5% growth in the total population of British Columbia.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in British Columbia live off reserve (73%).
- Among the 118,290 North American Indian people, 63% live off reserve and 37% live on reserve. About 51% of North American Indian people in British Columbia live in urban areas, with only 11% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The vast majority of the 44,265 Métis people in British Columbia live in urban settings; 35% live in census metropolitan areas and 41% in other urban areas. About 22% live in rural areas.
- There is a very small Inuit population in British Columbia (805 people), the majority of whom (76%) live in urban areas, 21% live in rural non-reserve areas and only 2% live on reserve.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

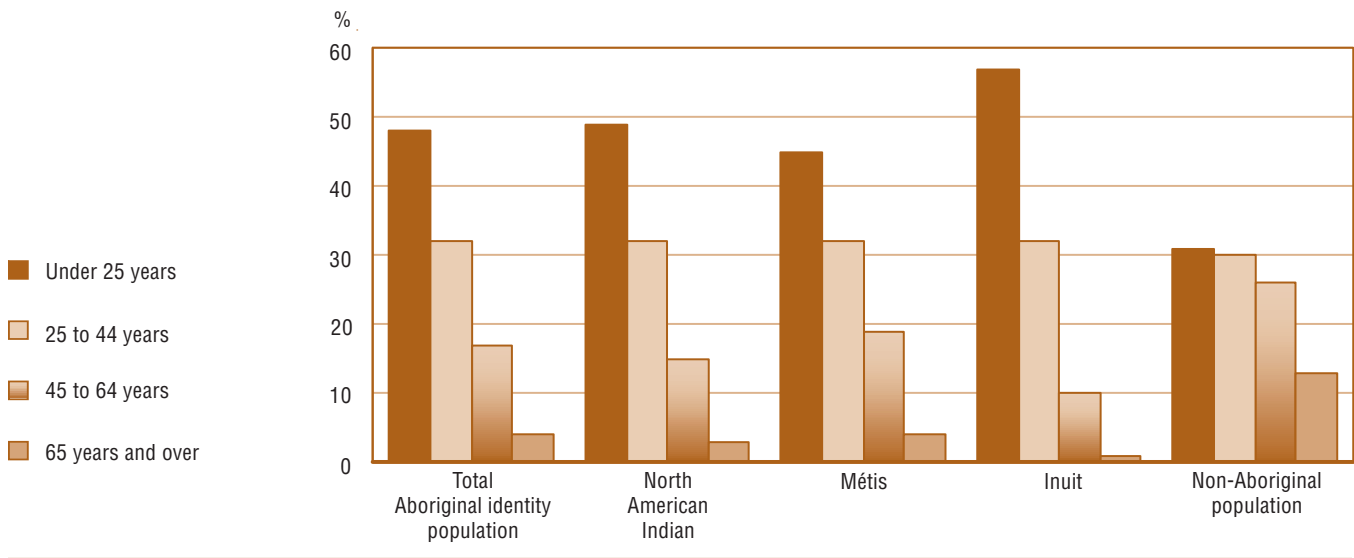
## Demographics

### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 48% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 4% were 65 years and over, compared to 13% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian and Métis populations was similar to that of the total Aboriginal population. In contrast, the Inuit population was somewhat younger with 57% of the population under the age of 25 and only 1% aged 65 years and over.

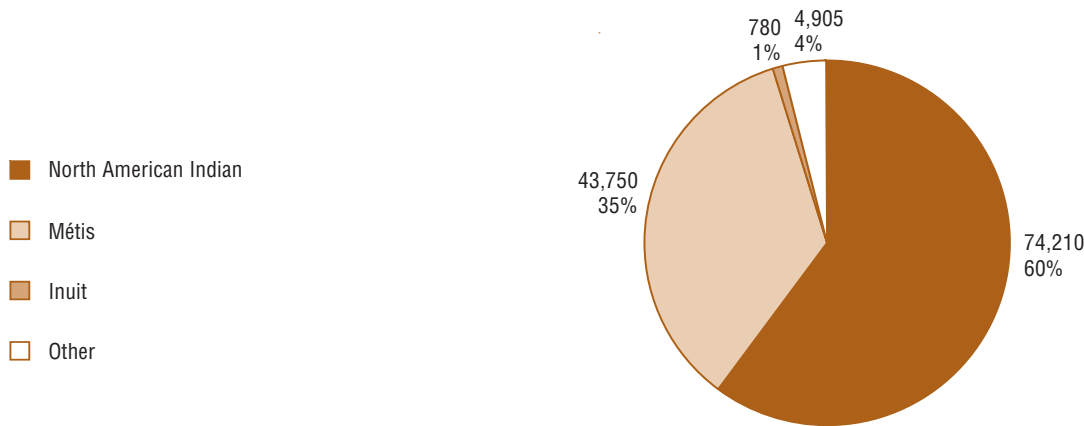
British Columbia

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



The majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population were North American Indian (60%), over one-third (35%) were Métis and less than 1% were Inuit. The remaining 4% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Percentage reporting an Aboriginal identity, British Columbia, by Aboriginal group, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, one-quarter (25%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in British Columbia were living in large urban centres with populations of at least 100,000 people. These large urban centres are referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Vancouver was the CMA with the largest Aboriginal population at 36,855, although Aboriginal people represented only 1.9% of the total population living there. Between 1981 and 2001 the Aboriginal population in Vancouver grew by 140%.



**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, British Columbia, selected Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census**

Census Metropolitan Areas	Total Aboriginal population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
					number
Vancouver	36,855	22,700	12,505	255	1.9
Victoria	8,700	5,965	2,385	70	2.8
Abbotsford	4,215	2,350	1,570	35	2.9

1. Includes those who identified with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not identify with an Aboriginal group, but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

There are other cities and towns in British Columbia with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Prince Rupert, for example, around 30% of the residents are Aboriginal.

**Table 2: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, British Columbia, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population
				number
Port Edward (district municipality)	290	265	15	44.3
Prince Rupert (city)	4,330	3,745	295	29.8
Fort St. James (district municipality)	505	420	60	26.0
Chetwynd (district municipality)	670	315	320	26.0
Valemount (village)	255	55	195	21.5

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 35% in 1996 to 41% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 31% of the North American Indian population, 35% of the Métis population and 26% of the Inuit population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

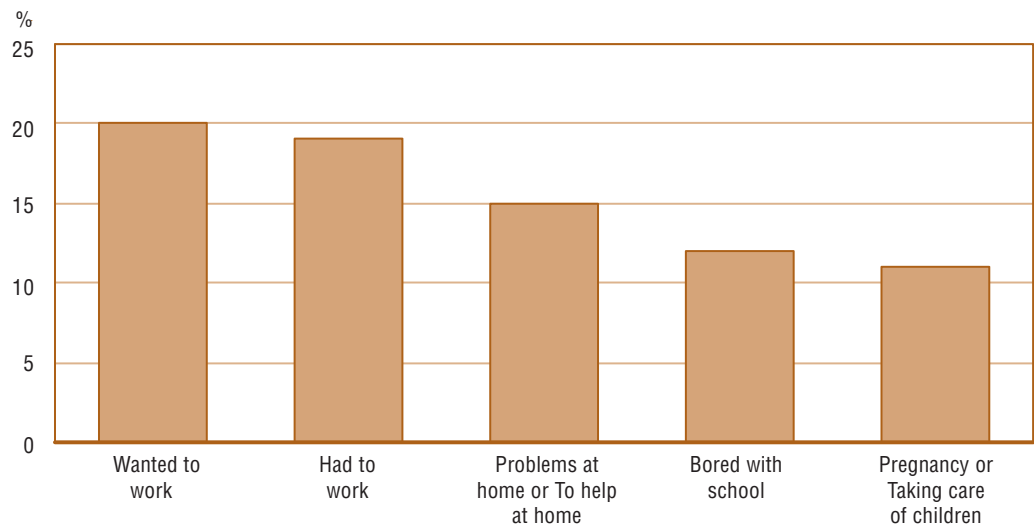
**Table 3: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent				
Less than high school	35	37	32	34	25
High school graduation	10	10	10	13	12
Some postsecondary	14	15	13	13	11
Trades certificate or diploma	16	15	17	15	13
College certificate or diploma	17	16	18	12	17
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	2	2	2	3	3
University degree	6	5	7	7	19

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early were ‘wanted to work’ or ‘had to work’.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was ‘wanted to work’ – about one in three (34%) gave this reason. ‘Pregnancy/taking care of children’ (35%) topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

Aboriginal people are more likely to return to school at later ages to complete their education. In 2001, 13% of Aboriginal people over the age of 25 were attending school compared to 8% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Of the Aboriginal groups, 14% of North American Indian adults (25 years and over) were enrolled in school, compared to 12% of Métis adults and 16% of Inuit adults.

### **1 in 6 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide**

Around one in six Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers' aide while at elementary or high school.

More than half (55%) of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 15% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.

## **Residential school attendance**

### **About 15% of people aged 55 and over attended residential school**

In 2001, 63% of Aboriginal adults living in British Columbia reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 5,850 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve attended a residential school. This represented 6% of the Aboriginal population with some formal education. People aged 55 years and over were the most likely to have attended. About 15% of people in this age group stated that they had attended a residential school.

In British Columbia, around 8% of the North American Indian population aged 15 and over with some formal education, attended a residential school. About 21% of North American Indians aged 55 years and over had attended a residential school.

## **Information technology**

### **High levels of IT usage**

In 2001, more than three-quarters (79%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, over two-thirds (68%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

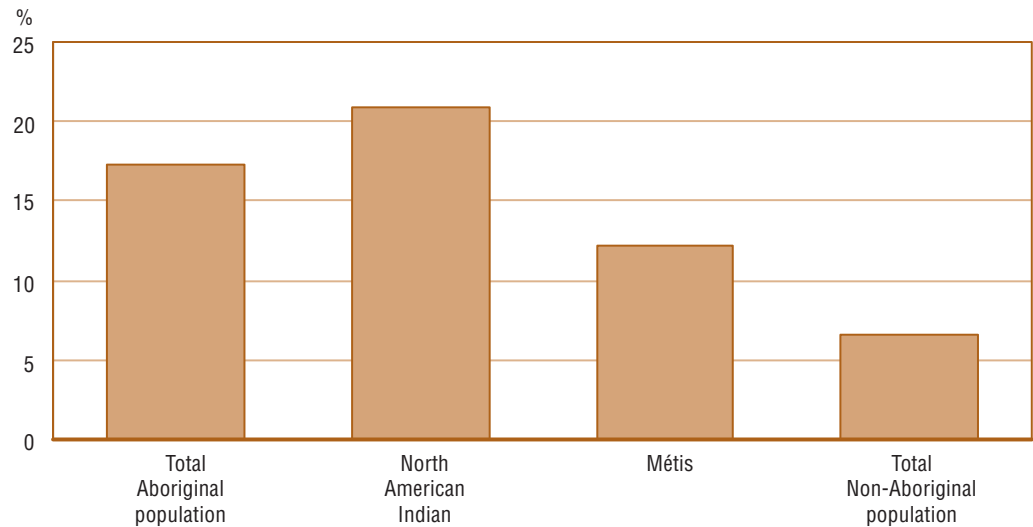
## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. According to the 2004-2005 Labour Force Survey, 17% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed compared to 7% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among the North American Indian and Métis populations, the North American Indian population had the highest unemployment rate at 21% compared to the Métis population at 12%.<sup>47</sup>

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**

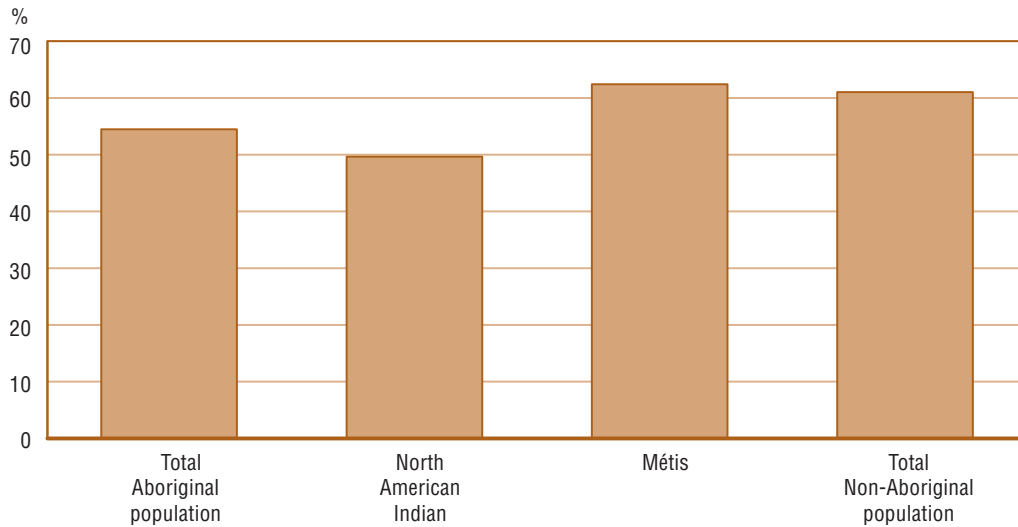


According to results from the 2001 Census, the unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 25.5%, compared to 15.2% among non-Aboriginal youth.

### Rate of employment for Métis higher than non-Aboriginal population

In 2005, the Aboriginal population had lower rates of employment than the non-Aboriginal population (55% compared to 61%). The Métis and North American Indian populations had different experiences in the labour market.<sup>48</sup> The rate of employment for the Métis population was more similar to that of the non-Aboriginal population than that of the North American Indian population. In 2005 the rate of employment for the Métis population in British Columbia was slightly higher than the rate of employment for the non-Aboriginal population (63% compared to 61%).

**Chart 5: Employment rate, Adults 15 years and over, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2004 to 2005 Labour Force Survey**

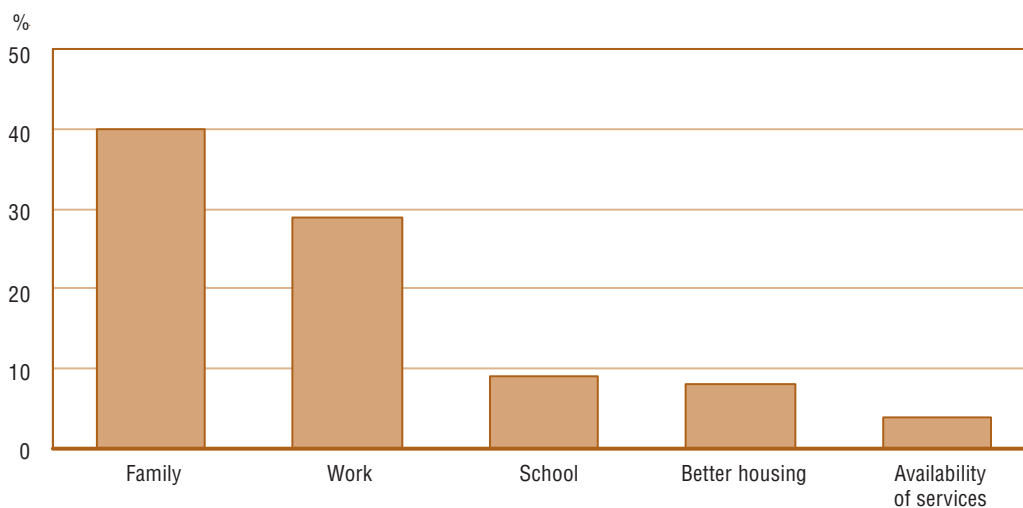


## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, over half (62%) of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 6: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



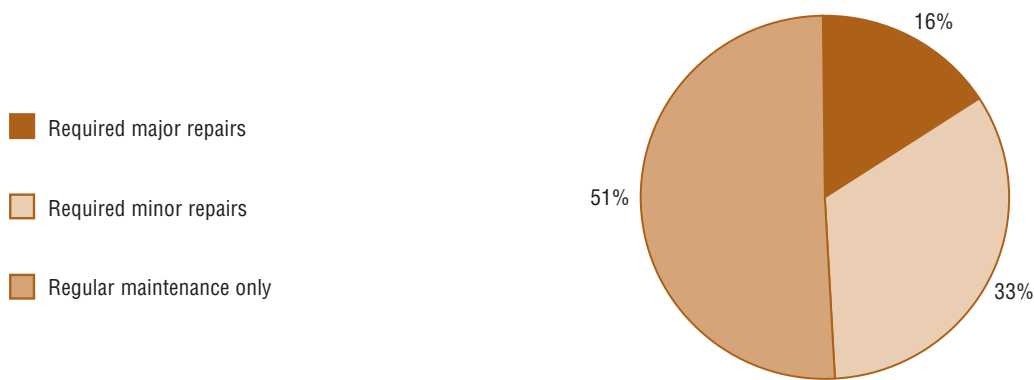
1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

## Less than half of Aboriginal households own their homes

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing need. Less than half (47%) of Aboriginal households owned their home in 2001, below the 68% of non-Aboriginal households.<sup>49</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (56%), compared to 43% of North American Indian households and 25% of Inuit households.

The 2001 Census found approximately 16% of off reserve Aboriginal households in British Columbia required major repairs, 33% required minor repairs and 51% required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 7: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



## More than 1 in 6 do not consider water safe for drinking

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, more than one in six (17%) Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and around one in five (21%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 12% of the off reserve Aboriginal population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>50</sup> This is compared to 8% of non-Aboriginal people. Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 13% of North American Indians and 13% of Inuit lived in crowded homes, compared to 9% of Métis.

## Almost 1 in 3 in core housing need

The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>51</sup> In 1996, around 36% of off reserve Aboriginal households in British Columbia were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to around 30% of off reserve Aboriginal households. According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 32% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 25% of Métis households and 38% of Inuit households.

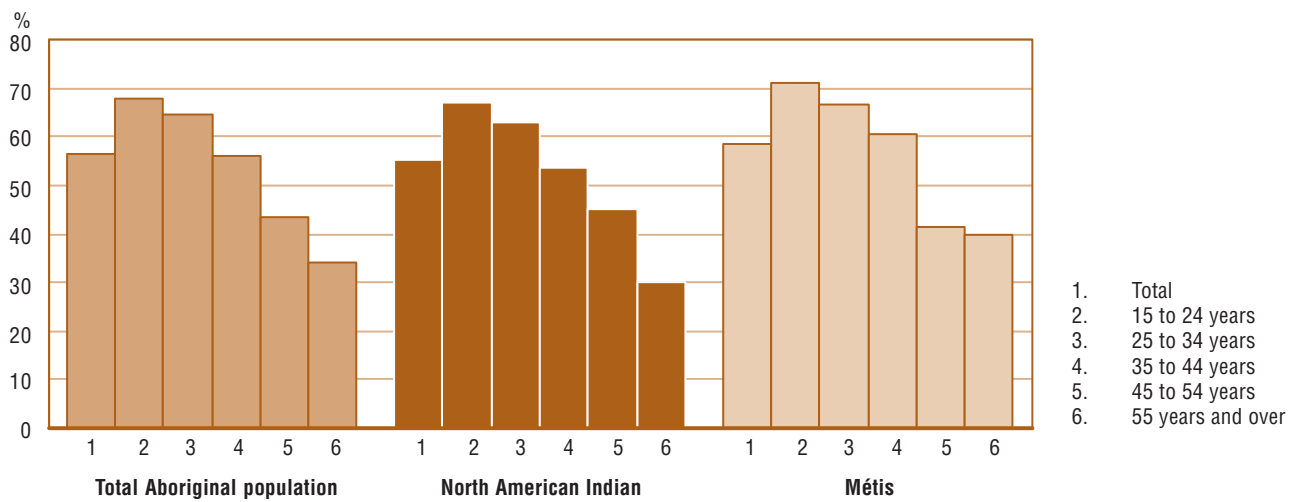
# Health

## Majority report very good or excellent health

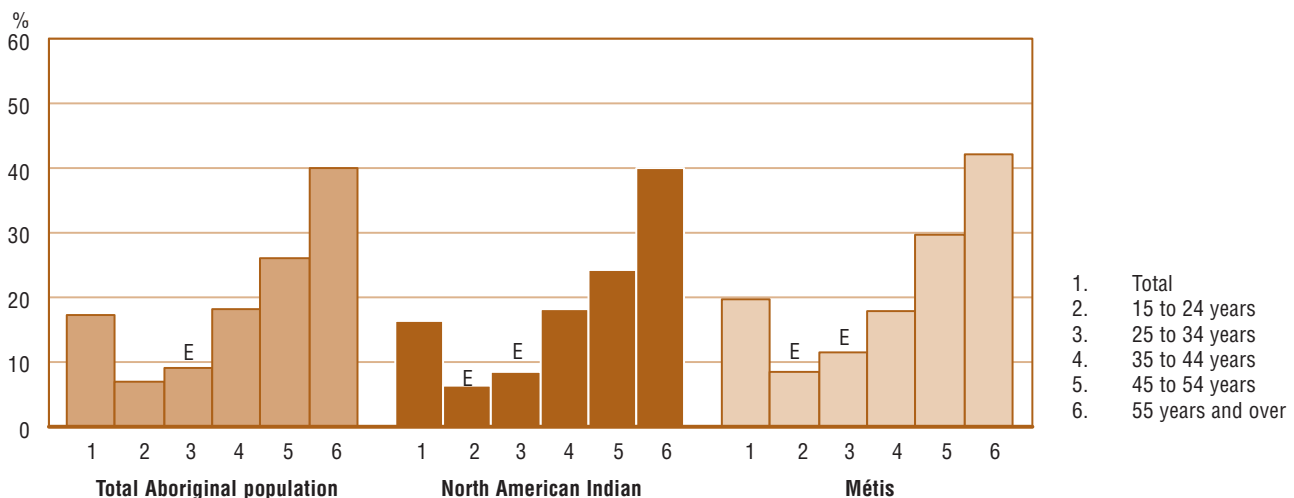
In 2001, the majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 56% – reported excellent or very good health. About 17% reported fair or poor health – the tendency to do so increased with age, and the remaining 26% described their health as good.

A slightly smaller proportion of North American Indian people reported excellent or very good health (55%) than the Métis population (58%). However, a higher percentage of Métis reported fair or poor health (20%) than the North American Indian population (16%).<sup>52</sup>

**Chart 8: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 9: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in British Columbia reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 85% did so. Around 11% reported ‘good’ health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 90% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism affects 1 in 5 Aboriginal adults

Half of Aboriginal adults (50%) have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting almost one in five (19%) Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

Around 6% of the North American Indian population 15 years and over, living in off reserve areas have been diagnosed with diabetes. This is compared to 2.9% of the total Canadian population 15 years and over who have been diagnosed with diabetes (age standardised). Evidence suggests that the rates of diabetes for the North American Indian population are even higher on reserve.<sup>53</sup>

**Table 4: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis
		percent	
Arthritis or rheumatism	19	18	21
High blood pressure	10	9	12
Asthma	11	10	12
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	12	11	12
Diabetes	6	6	7
Heart problems	6	6	6

Around 43% of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about one in six Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

**Table 5: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, British Columbia, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children
	percent
Allergies	16.4
Asthma	10.7
Ear infections or ear problems	7.4
Learning disability	11.8



The majority (77%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 6% had contacted a traditional healer. Almost three-quarters (71%) of Aboriginal children had been in contact with a doctor, and 21% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 57% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Approximately 62% of the North American Indian adult population thought that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ compared to 50% of the Métis adult population.<sup>54</sup>

The majority (52%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of the population of British Columbia, including Aboriginal people. About 96% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

Almost one-quarter (22%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 37% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

47. Data for the off reserve Inuit population in British Columbia is not available.
48. Data for the off reserve Inuit population in British Columbia is not available.
49. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
50. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
51. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
52. Data on health status is not available for the Inuit population in British Columbia.
53. Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
54. Data on the importance of keeping, learning or relearning an Aboriginal language is not available for the Inuit population in British Columbia.



## Yukon

### Did you know...

- In 2001, of all the provinces and territories, the Yukon had the second smallest Aboriginal population at 6,540 people. While the Yukon had one of the smallest Aboriginal populations, the Aboriginal population made up 22.9% of the total provincial population.
- The Aboriginal population in the Yukon is growing. From 1996 to 2001, it grew by 6%, compared to a 7% decrease in the total population of the Yukon.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in the Yukon live off reserve (70%).
- Among the 5,600 North American Indian people, 68% live off reserve and 33% live on reserve. About 41% of North American Indian people in the Yukon live in urban areas, with 27% living in rural non-reserve communities.
- The Yukon has a small Métis population (535 people). The majority of Métis people in the Yukon live in urban settings (57%) and about 33% live in rural areas.
- There is a small Inuit population in the Yukon (145 people), the majority of whom (76%) live in urban areas. About 21% live in rural non-reserve communities, and 7% live on reserve.

### Off reserve Aboriginal population

The remainder of this report will focus on the off reserve Aboriginal population.

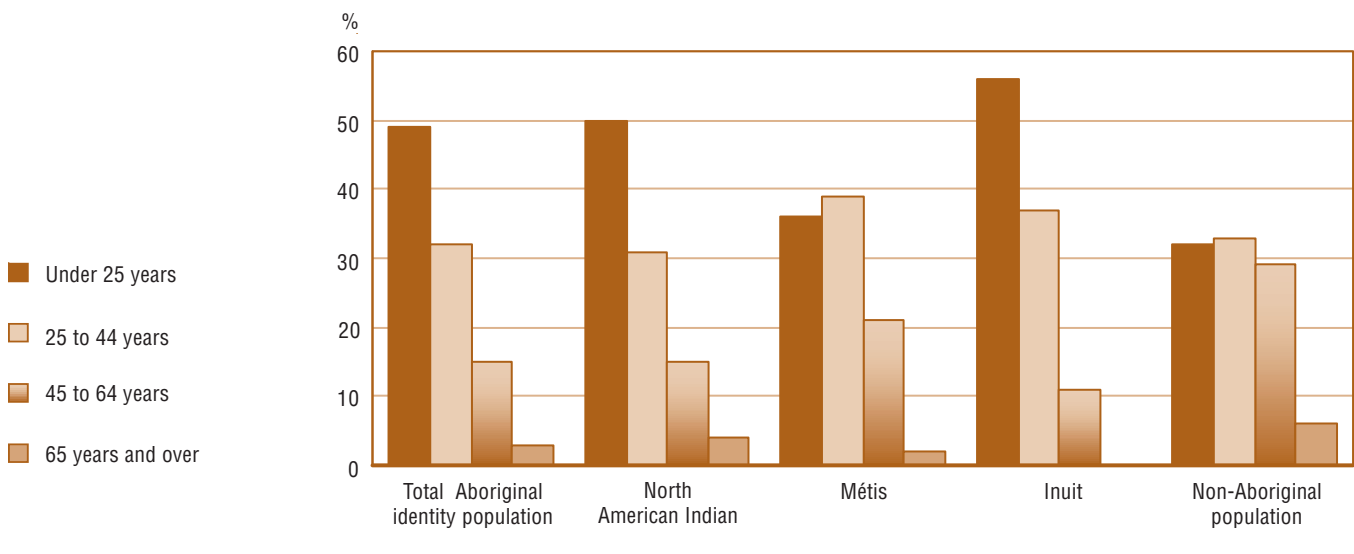
### Demographics

#### Young, diverse and growing

The Aboriginal population living off reserve is relatively young. In 2001, 49% of Aboriginal people were under the age of 25. Only 3% were 65 years and over, compared to 6% of the non-Aboriginal population. The age distribution of the North American Indian and Inuit populations was similar to that of the total Aboriginal population. In comparison, the Métis population was somewhat older with 36% under the age of 25.

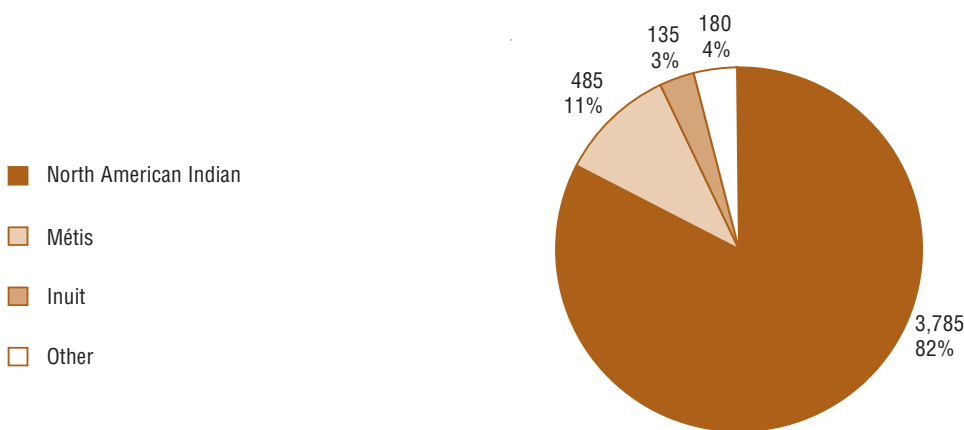
Yukon

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



The vast majority of the off reserve Aboriginal population were North American Indian (82%), about 11% were Métis and 3% were Inuit. The remaining 4% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



In 2001, the majority (62%) of the off reserve Aboriginal population in the Yukon were living in urban areas.

Whitehorse was the urban centre with the largest Aboriginal population at 3,015. Aboriginal people represented about 16% of the total population living there.

There are towns and settlements in the Yukon with high proportions of Aboriginal people. In Carmacks, for example, the majority (69%) of the population is Aboriginal.

**Table 1: Population reporting Aboriginal identity, Yukon, selected Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people, 2001 Census**

Municipalities with high percentages of Aboriginal people	Aboriginal identity population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population		
			Métis	Inuit	
			number	percent	
Carmacks (village)	295	285	0	10	68.6
Watson Lake (town)	265	225	30	0	29.1
Dawson (town)	340	315	10	10	27.4
Whitehorse (city)	3,015	2,395	350	120	15.9

1. The groups do not add up to the total because of random rounding. Also, included in the total Aboriginal identity population are those who reported identifying with more than one Aboriginal group, and those who did not report identifying as Aboriginal but who reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

#### Text box 1

When looking at the population counts of Aboriginal people living in cities and towns, it is important to remember that many people move between communities – for example, someone might move from a reserve community to a large city and back again within the same year. The census counts people where they are living on one particular day (Census Day).

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the off reserve Aboriginal population is improving. The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 44% in 1996 to 47% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 37% of the North American Indian population, 46% of the Métis population and 23% of the Inuit population, had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

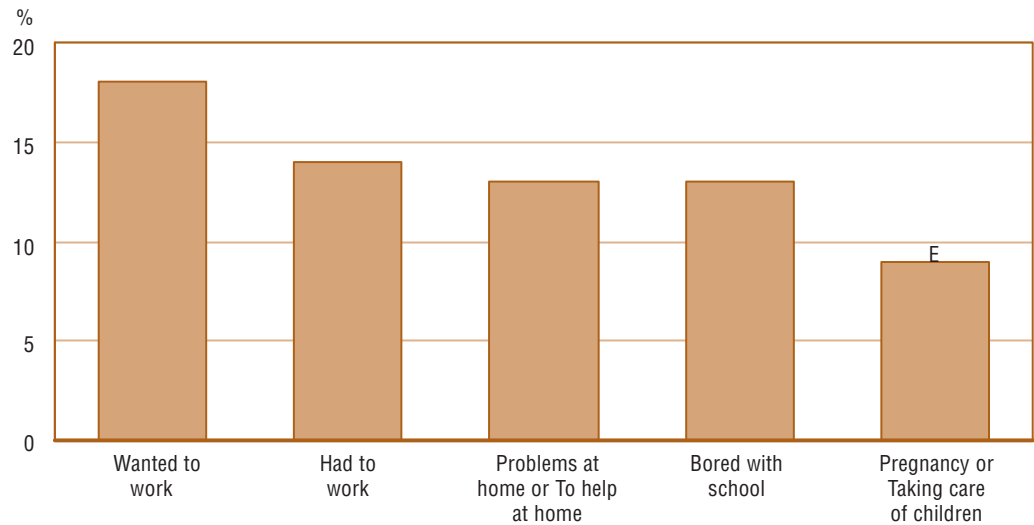
**Table 2: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Total non-Aboriginal population
percent			
Less than high school	31	33	17
High school graduation	5	5	9
Some postsecondary	16	17	11
Trades certificate or diploma	21	19	17
College certificate or diploma	18	18	20
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	2	2	3
University degree	7	6	22

1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early were 'wanted to work' or 'had to work'.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Men and women had different reasons for not completing high school. For young Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34, the most commonly reported reason was ‘wanted to work’. ‘Pregnancy/taking care of children’ topped the reasons provided by young Aboriginal women in the same age group.

### 1 in 4 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide

About one in four (24%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide while at elementary or high school.

More than half (53%) of off reserve Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger.

## Residential school attendance

### Almost 1 in 4 adults attended a residential school

In 2001, 87% of Aboriginal adults living in the Yukon reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 1,030 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve attended a residential school.<sup>55</sup> This represented almost 24% of the Aboriginal population with some formal education.

Levels were even higher for certain age groups within the North American Indian adult population.<sup>56</sup> Around 60% of North American Indians aged 45 to 54 years attended a residential school. Over half (55%) of North American Indians aged 55 and over reported that they attended a residential school, as did 30% of those aged 35 to 44 years.

## Information technology

### High levels of IT usage

In 2001, the majority (67%) of the off reserve Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, more than half (57%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than non-Aboriginal people. In 2001, 25% of the off reserve Aboriginal population was unemployed, compared to 8% of the non-Aboriginal population.

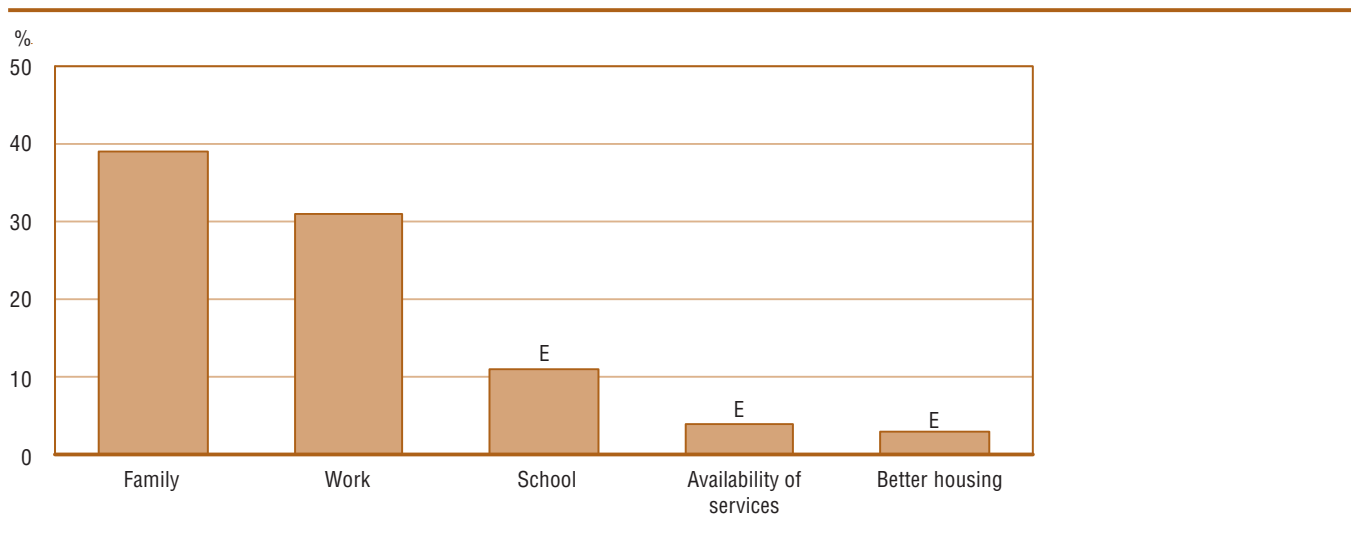
The unemployment rate was particularly high among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 living off reserve at 36%, compared to 17% among non-Aboriginal youth.

## Mobility and housing

### Highly mobile population

The off reserve Aboriginal population is highly mobile – from 1996 to 2001, over half (57%) of Aboriginal people had moved at least once. The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 4: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



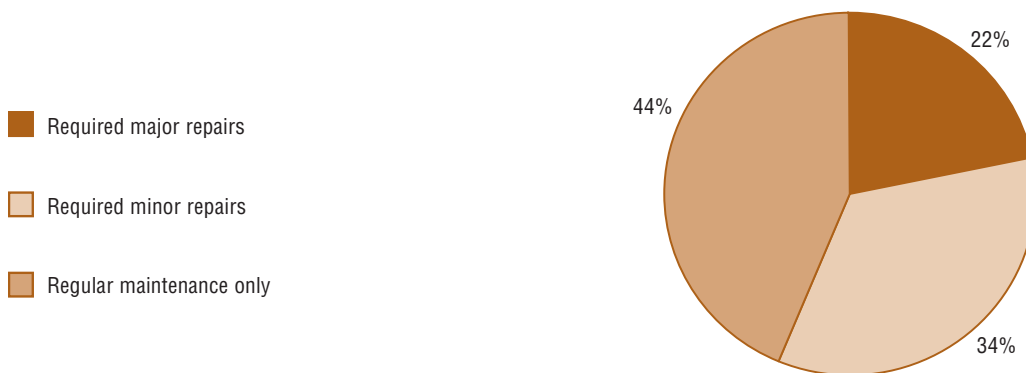
1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

## More homes are owned or being purchased than rented

Whether one owns or rents their home is an important factor when examining housing need. Just over half (52%) of Aboriginal households owned their home in 2001, well below the 72% of non-Aboriginal households that are owners.<sup>57</sup> Among the Aboriginal groups, Métis households were the most likely to own their homes (67%), compared to 55% of North American households.<sup>58</sup>

The 2001 Census found approximately 22% of off reserve Aboriginal households in the Yukon required major repairs, 34% required minor repairs and 44% required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 5: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 Census**



## Almost one in eight do not consider water safe for drinking

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001 almost one in eight (12%) Aboriginal people living off reserve reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and almost one in four (23%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated.

In 2001, approximately 18% of the off reserve Aboriginal population lived in overcrowded homes.<sup>59</sup> This is compared to 6% of the non-Aboriginal population. Levels of overcrowding differed among the Aboriginal groups – 21% of North American Indians lived in crowded homes, compared to 7% of Inuit and 4% of Métis.

## Almost 1 in 4 in core housing need

The incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households declined between 1996 and 2001.<sup>60</sup> In 1996, around 30% of off reserve Aboriginal households in the Yukon were in core housing need. By 2001, this had dropped to one in four (25%) off reserve Aboriginal households in core housing need. According to results from the 2001 Census, approximately 25% of North American Indian households and 21% of Métis households were in core housing need.

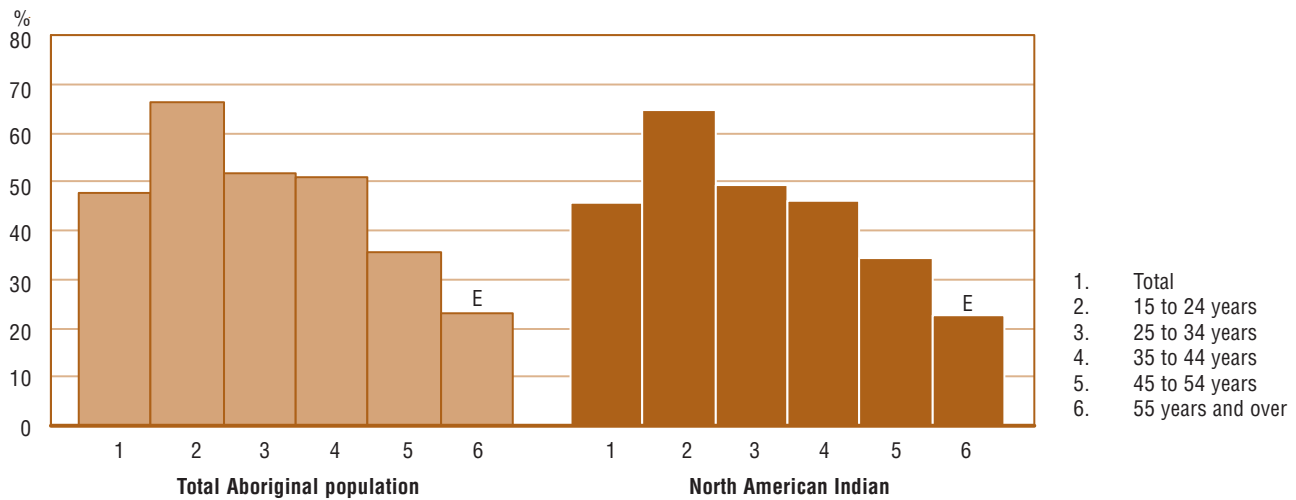


# Health

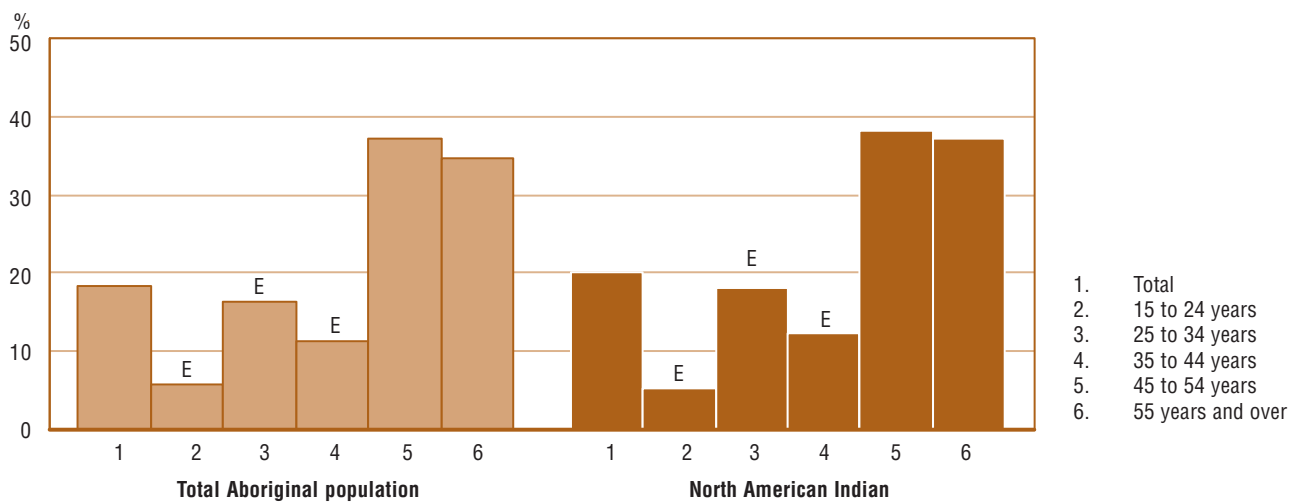
## Majority report very good or excellent health

In 2001, nearly half of the off reserve Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 48% – reported excellent or very good health. About 19% reported fair or poor health, and the remaining 34% described their health as good. Older people were less likely to report excellent or very good health than younger people.

**Chart 6: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



**Chart 7: Percentage reporting fair or poor health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in off reserve areas in the Yukon reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 79% did so. A further 17% reported ‘good’ health for their children.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 88% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism affects almost 1 in 6 Aboriginal adults

Almost half (48%) of the Aboriginal adult population in the Yukon has been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting almost one in six Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

**Table 3: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Yukon, Off reserve, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal population	North American Indian percent
Arthritis or rheumatism	16	15
High blood pressure	13	13
Asthma	10	10
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	11	12
Diabetes	5 <sup>E</sup>	5 <sup>E</sup>
Heart problems	5	6

More than one-third (39%) of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition.

The majority (68%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 10% had contacted a traditional healer. Half the population of Aboriginal children in the Yukon had been in contact with a doctor, and 21% had been in contact with a pediatrician.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 78% of Aboriginal adults living off reserve reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

The majority (76%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language.

English is the language spoken most often at home for the majority of the population in the Yukon, including Aboriginal people. About 94% of Aboriginal people living in off reserve areas reported speaking only English at home.

About 45% of the off reserve Aboriginal population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About half of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

55. Percentages for residential school attendance are based on the population that ever attended any school. Excluded are those with no formal education.
56. Due to small numbers, data on attending a residential school, for the Métis and Inuit population in the Yukon, have been suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.
57. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
58. Home ownership data is not available for the Inuit population in the Yukon.
59. For the purpose of this analysis, crowding is defined as 1.0 or more people per room.
60. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.



## Northwest Territories

### Did you know...

- In 2001, of all of the provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories had the fifth smallest Aboriginal population at 18,730 people, representing 2% of all Aboriginal people in Canada.<sup>61</sup>
- Around half (50.5%) of the population of the Northwest Territories is Aboriginal.
- Less than 2% of Canada's North American Indian population live in the Northwest Territories. Among the North American Indian population living in the Northwest Territories about 15% live in urban areas.
- Slightly more than 1% of Canada's Métis population live in the Northwest Territories. More than one-third (35%) of Métis people living in the Northwest Territories live in urban areas.
- In 2001, the Northwest Territories had the fourth largest Inuit population in Canada (3,905 people). More than three-quarters (76%) of Inuit living in the Northwest Territories live in the self-governing Inuit region of Inuvialuit. Around 935 Inuit live in other areas of the Northwest Territories.

## Aboriginal population

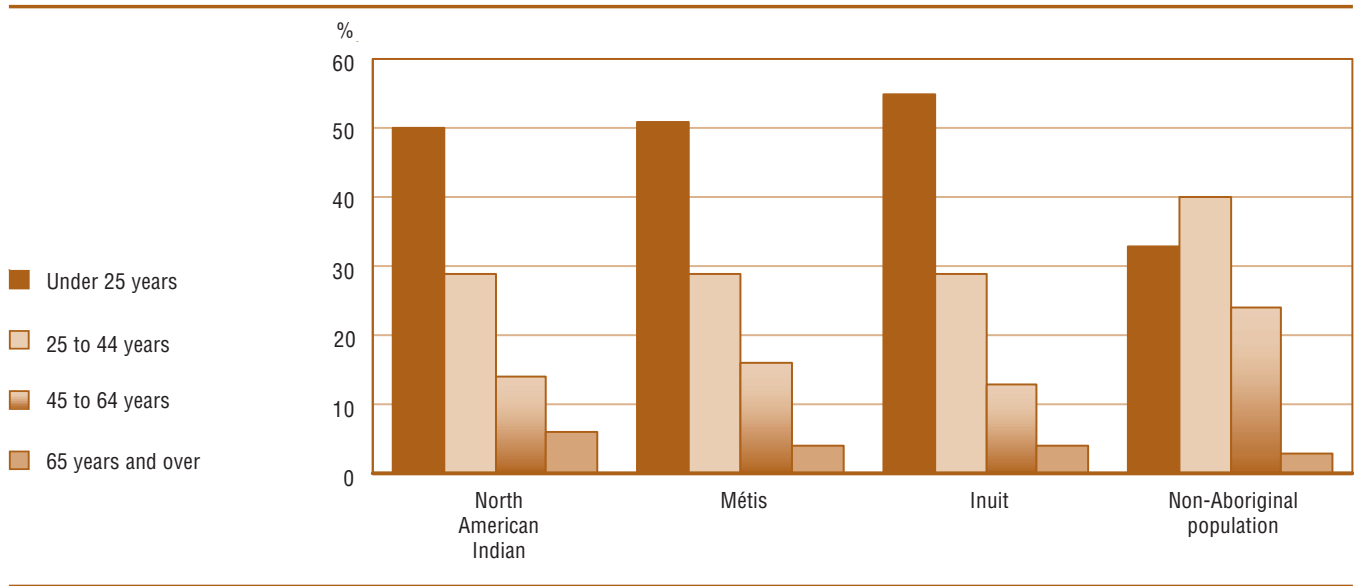
## Demographics

### Young, diverse and growing

The age distribution for the North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations living in the Northwest Territories is relatively young. In 2001, 50% of North American Indians, 51% of Métis and 55% of Inuit were under the age of 25 compared to 33% of the non-Aboriginal population. Around 21% of North American Indians, 20% of Métis and 17% of Inuit were 45 years and over compared to 27% of the non-Aboriginal population.

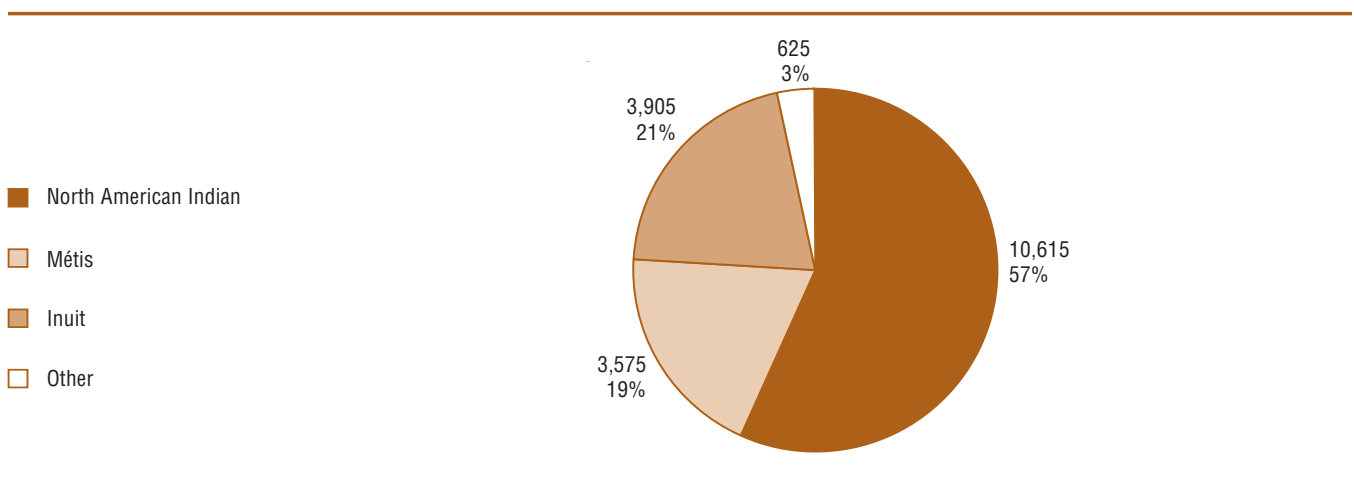
# Northwest Territories

**Chart 1: Age distribution, Aboriginal identity groups, Northwest Territories, 2001 Census**



The majority of the Aboriginal population were North American Indian (57%), about 21% were Inuit and 19% were Métis. The remaining 3% either identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or did not identify with an Aboriginal group but reported having registered Indian status and/or band membership.

**Chart 2: Population reporting an Aboriginal identity, by Aboriginal group, Northwest Territories, 2001 Census**



Yellowknife was the urban area with the largest Aboriginal population at 3,640 representing around 19% of the total Aboriginal population in the Northwest Territories.

In 2001, there were 1,595 North American Indians, 1,290 Métis and 660 Inuit, living in Yellowknife, and Aboriginal people represented 22% of the total population living there.

## Education

### Improving educational profile

The educational profile of the Métis and Inuit populations are improving. The proportion of Métis aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 44% in 1996 to 47% in 2001. The proportion of Inuit aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased from 27% in 1996 to 32% in 2001. The educational profile of the North American Indian population remained relatively unchanged over the same period. The proportion of North American Indians aged 25 and over with post-secondary qualifications increased slightly from 28% in 1996 to 29% in 2001.

When it comes to post-secondary schooling, many Aboriginal people pursue college and trades certification. Among those 25 years and over, 26% of the North American Indian population, 39% of the Métis population and 29% of the Inuit population had college or trades certificates and diplomas.

**Table 1: Highest level of schooling, Adults 25 years and over, Northwest Territories, 2001 Census<sup>1</sup>**

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Total non-Aboriginal population
	percent			
Less than high school	56	33	47	13
High school graduation	4	8	5	10
Some postsecondary	10	12	16	11
Trades certificate or diploma	14	20	16	17
College certificate or diploma	12	19	13	20
University certificate or diploma (below Bachelor level)	1	1	1	3
University degree	2	7	2	26

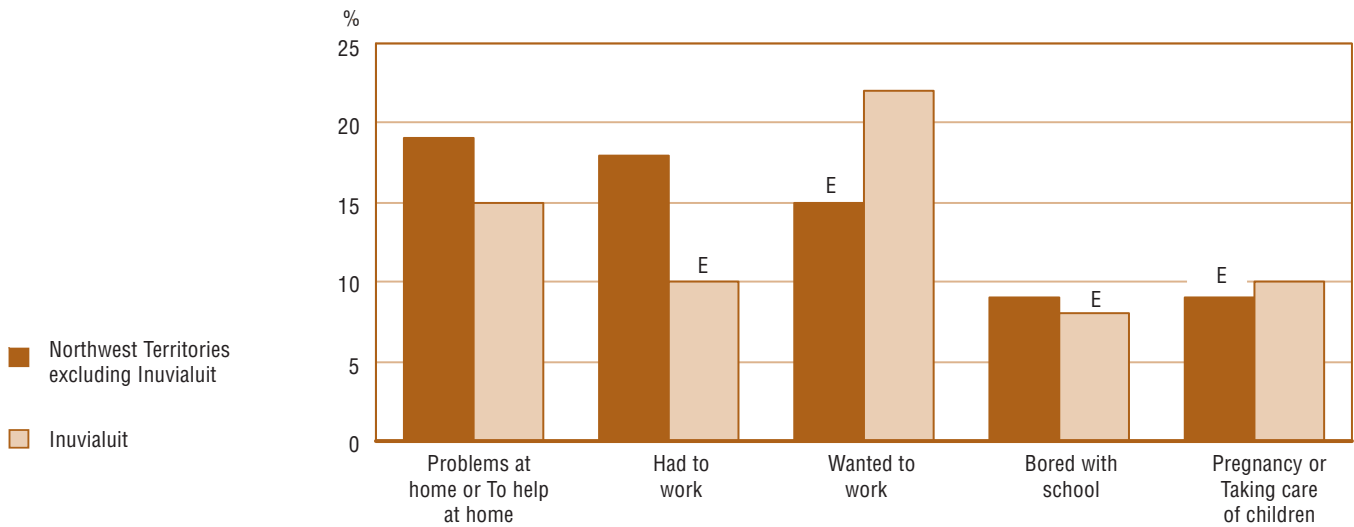
1. Some columns may not add to 100% due to random rounding.

Many Aboriginal adults have not completed high school. The 2001 APS showed the most common reasons for leaving high school early, for Aboriginal people living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit), were 'problems at home/to help at home' or 'had to work'. Within Inuvialuit, the most common reasons for adults were 'wanted to work' and 'problems at home/to help at home'.

#### Text box 2

In this report the Inuvialuit region includes Paulatuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and Holman.

**Chart 3: Reasons for not finishing high school, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**



1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

Young men and women gave different reasons for not completing high school. Aboriginal men aged 15 to 34 most often reported that they ‘wanted to work’ (29% reported this reason). For Aboriginal women aged 15 to 34, the top reason was ‘pregnancy/taking care of children’ (27% gave this reason).

### 1 in 3 adults had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide

Almost one in three (31%) Aboriginal people 15 years and over living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide while at elementary or high school. Within Inuvialuit, 38% of people aged 15 and over had an Aboriginal teacher or teachers’ aide while at elementary or high school.

More than half (52%) of Aboriginal children aged 6 to 14 living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) had attended an early childhood development or preschool program when they were younger. Of those who had attended an early childhood development or preschool program, about 34% had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children. Within Inuvialuit, 41% of children aged 6 to 14 had attended an early childhood development or preschool program and of those 24%<sup>E</sup> had attended a program specifically designed for Aboriginal children.



## Residential school attendance

### More than 1 in 5 adults attended a residential school

In 2001, 80% of Aboriginal adults living in the Northwest Territories reported that at least one of their family members had attended a federal residential school or industrial school.

About 2,740 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over reported attending a residential school, representing 23% of the Aboriginal adult population.<sup>62</sup>

North American Indians were more likely to have attended a residential school (24%) than Métis (15%); however Inuit were most likely to have attended (27%). Within Inuvialuit, 31%<sup>E</sup> of adults had attended a residential school.

People in older age groups were the most likely to have attended a residential school. Approximately 60% of North American Indians aged 45 to 54 years of age had attended a residential school, as had 54% of North American Indians aged 55 years and over. Among Inuit, 74% of those aged 45 to 54 and 63% of those 55 years and over reported that they had attended residential school.

## Information technology

In 2001, the majority (60%) of the Aboriginal adult population reported that they had used a computer in the past 12 months. During the same period, almost half (49%) of the Aboriginal adult population had utilised the Internet.

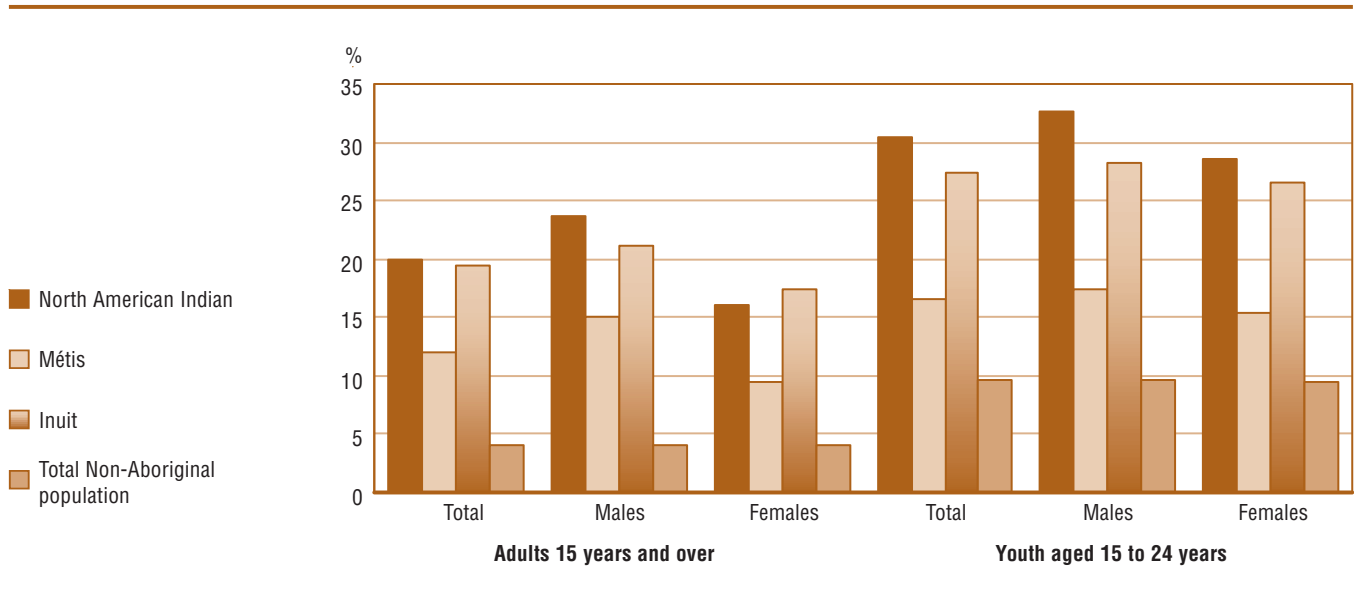
## Employment

### Unemployment remains high

Overall, North American Indian, Métis and Inuit adults 15 years and over, experience much higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001, 20% of the North American Indian population, 12% of the Métis population and 20% of the Inuit population were unemployed, compared to 4% of the non-Aboriginal population. Across all groups, men were more likely to be unemployed than women. This pattern was also reflected among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24.

The unemployment rate was particularly high among North American Indian, Métis and Inuit youth aged 15 to 24. Around 31% of North American Indian youth, 17% of Métis and 27% of Inuit youth were unemployed compared to 10% among non-Aboriginal youth.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate, Adults 15 years and over, and youth aged 15 to 24 years, Northwest Territories, 2001 Census**



## Mobility and housing

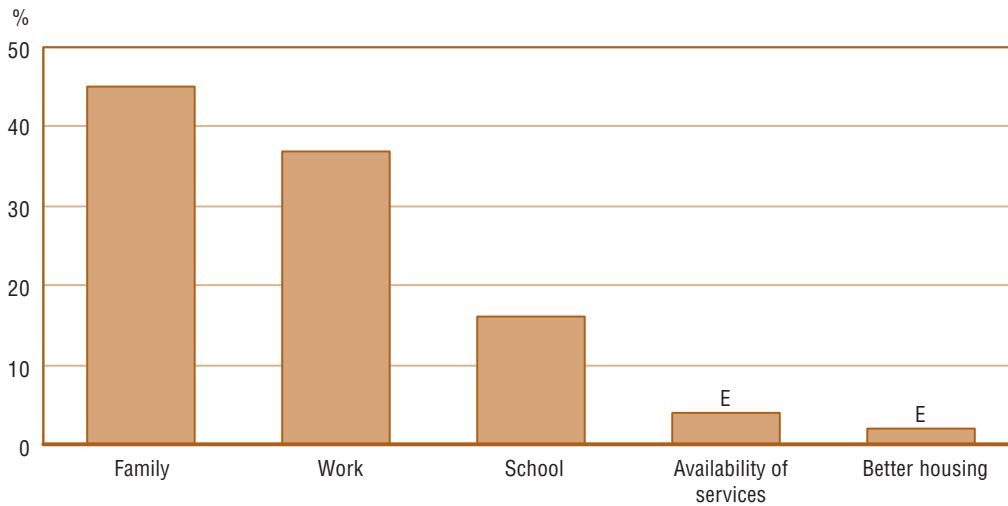
### Aboriginal people less likely to change residence

Unlike other areas of Canada, Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories were less likely to change residences than non-Aboriginal people. From 1996 to 2001, less than half (49%) of Aboriginal people had changed residences, compared to 60% of the non-Aboriginal population.

North American Indian people were the least likely to move. In 2001, 43% of North American Indians reported moving at least once in the previous five years, compared to 54% of Métis and 59% of Inuit.

The 2001 APS showed most people moved to the community where they currently live because of family reasons.

**Chart 5: Reasons for moving to current city, town or community, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS<sup>1</sup>**

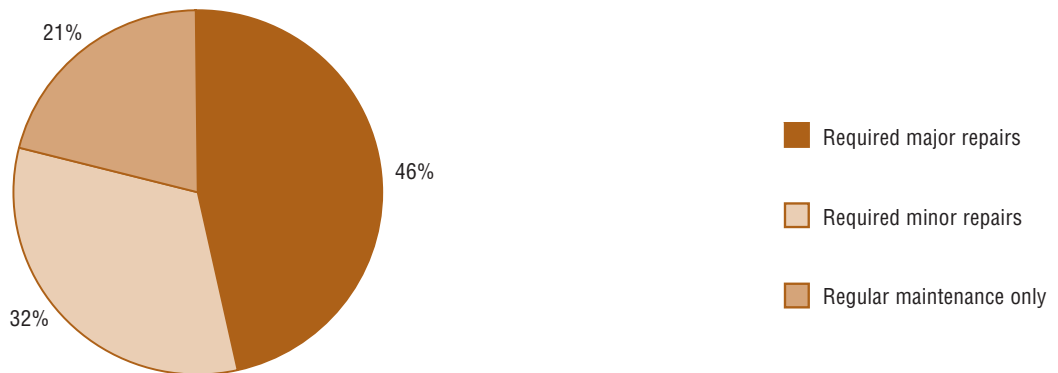


1. Respondents could give more than one answer.

### One in five Aboriginal homes require major repairs

The 2001 Census found approximately 21% of all Aboriginal households in the Northwest Territories required major repairs.<sup>63</sup> Around 32% of Aboriginal households required minor repairs and 46% of Aboriginal households required regular maintenance only.

**Chart 6: Percentage of Aboriginal homes requiring repairs, Northwest Territories, 2001 Census**



### 1 in 8 do not consider water safe to drink

A safe source of drinking water is fundamental to good health. In 2001, around one in eight (13%) Aboriginal people living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) reported that the water available to their homes was not safe for drinking, and nearly one in four (24%) reported that there are times of the year when their water is contaminated. Within Inuvialuit, almost one in six (16%) considered

their water at home to be unsafe for drinking and one in three (33%), reported that there were times of the year when their water was contaminated.

In 2001, almost one in ten (9%) Aboriginal households in the Northwest Territories were considered to be overcrowded.<sup>64</sup>

### Core housing need higher among off reserve Aboriginal households

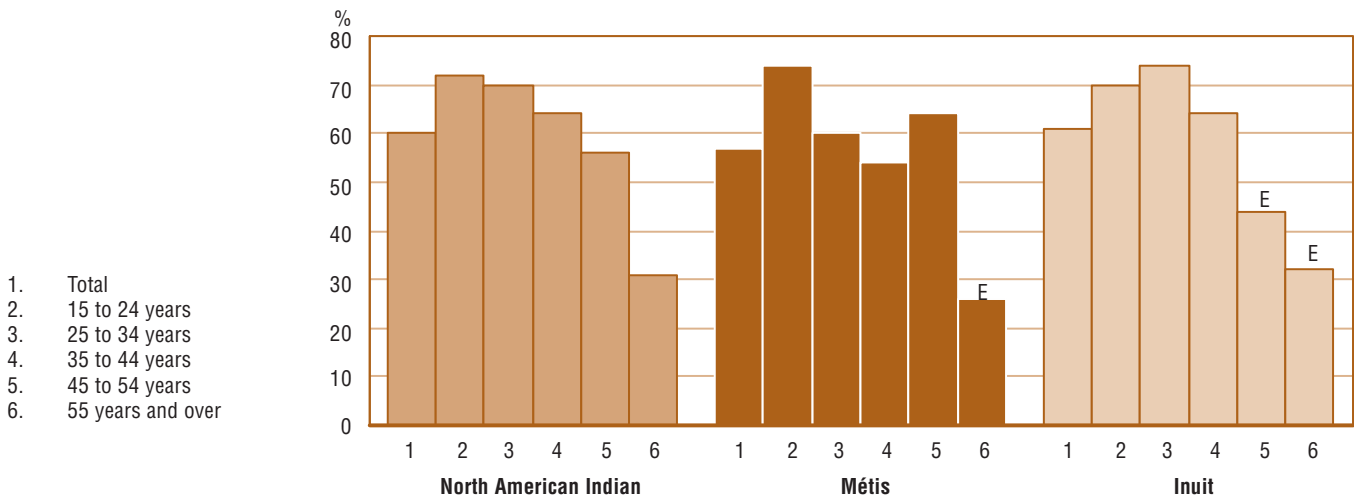
The incidence of core housing need in off reserve areas of the Northwest Territories was higher among North American Indian, Métis and Inuit households than non-Aboriginal households.<sup>65</sup> In 2001, approximately 27% of North American Indian households were in core housing need, as were 17% of Métis households and 26% of Inuit households. In comparison, around 12% of non-Aboriginal households in the Northwest Territories were in core housing need.

## Health

### Majority report very good or excellent health

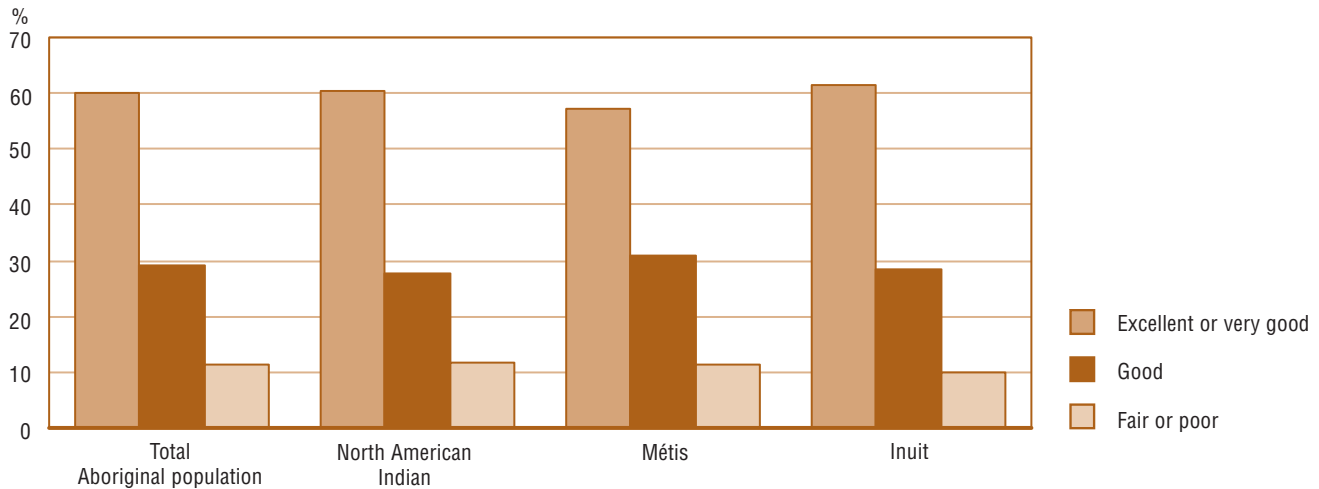
In 2001, the majority of the Aboriginal population aged 15 or older – 60% – reported excellent or very good health. Older people were less likely to report excellent or very good health than younger people.

**Chart 7: Percentage reporting excellent or very good health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, by age groups, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS**



About 11% of Aboriginal people reported fair or poor health, and the remaining 29% described their health as good. In general, the North American Indian, the Métis and the Inuit populations reported similar levels of health status as the total Aboriginal population.

**Chart 8: Self-rated health status, Aboriginal adults 15 years and over, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS**



The majority of parents of Aboriginal children living in the Northwest Territories reported that their children’s health was excellent or very good – 81% did so. Approximately 16% reported ‘good’ health for their children and 3%<sup>E</sup> reported that their children’s health was fair or poor.

Eating breakfast has many benefits for children, including providing energy for the morning’s activities, helping them to get ready to learn and maintaining a healthy body weight. In 2001, 88% of children aged 6 to 14 ate breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.

### Arthritis or rheumatism most reported chronic condition

More than one-third (36%) of Aboriginal adults have been diagnosed with at least one long-term health condition. Arthritis or rheumatism was the most commonly reported chronic condition, affecting around one in nine Aboriginal people over the age of 15.

**Table 2: Percentage of Aboriginal adults, 15 years and over, diagnosed with selected chronic conditions, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Total Aboriginal population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
	percent			
Arthritis or rheumatism	12	11	14	11
High blood pressure	8	6	7 <sup>E</sup>	11
Asthma	5	5	7 <sup>E</sup>	4 <sup>E</sup>
Stomach problems or intestinal ulcers	7	8	6 <sup>E</sup>	4 <sup>E</sup>
Diabetes	3	3	6 <sup>E</sup>	X
Heart problems	4	3	4 <sup>E</sup>	5 <sup>E</sup>

Around 30% of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age had been diagnosed with a long-term health condition. In 2001, about one in ten Aboriginal children were reported to have allergies.

**Table 3: Percentage of Aboriginal children, under 15 years of age, with selected chronic conditions, Northwest Territories, 2001 APS**

Diagnosed with...	Aboriginal children
	percent
Allergies	10.4
Asthma	4.8
Ear infections or ear problems	8.0
Learning disability	4.0

The majority (56%) of the Aboriginal adult population living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) reported seeing or talking on the telephone with a doctor about their physical, emotional or mental health in the previous year. About 7% had contacted a traditional healer and 52% had contacted a nurse. In Inuvialuit, approximately half of the adult population had been in contact with a doctor and 58% had been in contact with a nurse.

Around 41% of Aboriginal children living in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) had been in contact with a doctor, 12% had been in contact with a pediatrician and 53% of children had been in contact with a public health nurse or nurse practitioner. Within Inuvialuit, around 39% of children had been in contact with a doctor, 17% had been in contact with a pediatrician, and 58% had been in contact with a public health nurse or nurse practitioner.

## Language

### Aboriginal languages a priority for many Aboriginal people

The 2001 APS found that many Aboriginal people consider Aboriginal languages to be an important priority — 75% of Aboriginal adults reported that learning, relearning or maintaining their Aboriginal language was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’.

Approximately 82% of the North American Indian population thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to keep, learn or relearn their Aboriginal language compared to 52% of the Métis population and 75% of the Inuit population.

Many North American Indian, Métis and Inuit youth aged 15 to 24 also thought it was ‘somewhat important’ or ‘very important’ to learn, relearn or maintain their Aboriginal language (78%, 48% and 71% respectively).

About 69% of the Aboriginal adult population in the Northwest Territories (excluding Inuvialuit) can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 78% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’. Approximately 66% of those who said that they could speak an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

In Inuvialuit about 59% of the adult population can speak or understand an Aboriginal language, even if it is with effort or a few words. About 59% of those who said that they could understand an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’. Approximately 44% of adults living in Inuvialuit who said they could speak an Aboriginal language reported that they could do so ‘very well’ or ‘relatively well’.

## Endnotes

61. One of the goals of the Census is to enumerate the entire population on Census Day. Inevitably, however, some people are not counted, this is termed undercoverage. For the 2001 Census the population net undercoverage rate was 2.99%. This means that, on a net basis, the census missed 2.99% of the persons (924,429 persons) that it should have enumerated. Among the provinces and territories the highest net undercoverage rate was in the Northwest Territories at 8.11% that is 3,295 persons. Some of the people missed by the census may have been Aboriginal.
62. Percentages for residential school attendance are based on the population that ever attended any school. Excluded are those with no formal education.
63. For Aboriginal family households, any household in which at least one spouse, common-law partner or a lone parent identifies as Indian (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. For Aboriginal non-family households, any household in which at least half the members identify as Indian (Status, or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit is counted accordingly. In cases where two or more identity groups are represented in the same household, the household will be counted in both groups. For example, a household with one Métis and one Inuit spouse will be counted as both a Métis and as an Inuit household. CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.
64. For the purpose of this analysis, overcrowding is defined as more than 1.0 person per room.
65. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards). Source: CMHC, 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households. August 2004.





## Methodology and data quality

The following information should be used to ensure a clear understanding of the basic concepts that define the data provided in this product, of the underlying methodology of the survey, and of key aspects of the data quality. This information will provide you with a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of the data, and of how they can be effectively used and analysed. The information may be of particular importance to you when making comparisons with data from other surveys or sources of information, and in drawing conclusions regarding change over time.

### About the survey

Statistics Canada, in partnership with several Aboriginal organizations, conducted the 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) to collect information on the lifestyles and living conditions of Aboriginal people in Canada. The Aboriginal organizations included: the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis National Council, National Association Friendship Centres and Native Women's Association of Canada and initially, the Assembly of First Nations.<sup>66</sup>

The survey was conducted between September 2001 and January 2002, from a sample of about 117,000 people. The APS was last conducted in 1991.

In this article, invalid and not stated responses were included when calculating percentages.

### Definitions

#### APS Aboriginal identity population

The APS sample was selected from respondents who had indicated on their 2001 Census questionnaire that they:

- had Aboriginal origins and/or
- were North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit and/or
- had registered Indian status and/or
- had Band membership.

The Aboriginal identity population refers to those people who reported on the APS: 1) being North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit, and/or 2) having registered Indian status as defined by the *Indian Act*, and/or 3) having Band or First Nation membership.

# Methodology

## Aboriginal groups – North American Indian, Métis and Inuit

Three Aboriginal groups are cited in this report – North American Indian, Métis and Inuit. The APS asked an Aboriginal identity question that allowed for multiple responses. In other words, a respondent could identify as North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit. A number of people identified with more than one Aboriginal group. Data in this publication represent both single and multiple Aboriginal identity populations. For example, an individual who identifies as both North American Indian and Métis would be included in the tables for both the North American Indian and Métis groups. However, such persons are only counted once in the total Aboriginal identity population.

Multiple responses to the Aboriginal identity question in the 2001 Census were limited. As a result, Census data for the three Aboriginal groups refer to the ‘single response’ categories. In other words, the 6,145 people in the off reserve Aboriginal population who reported belonging to more than one Aboriginal group were not redistributed into the specific Aboriginal groups. However, such persons are included in the total Aboriginal identity population.

## Off reserve population

Off reserve population refers to those living outside of most First Nation or Band affiliated communities, such as Indian Reserves, Indian Settlements, Indian Government District, Terres Réservées, Nisga’a Villages, Teslin Lands and a set of communities which Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) designates as Band-affiliated communities. See the [2001 Census Dictionary](#) for a full definition of these communities.

However, for the purposes of this report, the total Aboriginal population of the Northwest Territories is included.

For the purposes of this report, the following communities (listed with their census geographic designation) are considered as part of the off reserve population:

In Saskatchewan: Deschambault Lake (Northern Hamlet), La Loche (Northern Village), Pinehouse (Northern Village), Sandy Bay (Northern Village)

In Alberta: Fort Mackay (Indian Settlement)

In the Yukon Territory: Pelly Crossing (Settlement), Old Crow (Settlement) and Ross River (Settlement)

**Arctic** refers to the four Inuit regions as defined by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, where the majority of Inuit live 1) the northern coastal and south eastern area of Labrador; 2) Nunavik, which lies north of the 55th parallel in Quebec; 3) the territory of Nunavut, and; 4) the Inuvialuit region in the north-western corner of the Northwest Territories.

**Urban areas** refer to those areas outside of the Arctic with a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

All areas outside of urban areas and the Arctic are considered **rural**.

## APS population counts

There are some differences in the APS Aboriginal identity population and the 2001 Census Aboriginal identity population. Specifically, the APS Aboriginal identity population is larger, and many more respondents identified with more than one Aboriginal group.

Because APS is meant to provide an overview of characteristics of the Aboriginal population rather than provide a count of the Aboriginal population, the differences between the APS and the census counts have been left intact in the data tables to minimize distortion of the characteristics.

Respondents may have provided different responses regarding affiliation to the Aboriginal population on the census questionnaire and the APS questionnaire because of several factors:

The proxy effect has been removed for adults responding to the APS. Usually only one member of the household fills in the census questionnaire for the entire household. Because APS selected specific individuals, the person who answered the APS may not be the same person who filled in the census questionnaire.

The questions about Aboriginal origin and Aboriginal identity are asked slightly differently on the APS. The APS Aboriginal identity question follows three specific questions about North American Indian, Métis and Inuit origins, whereas the census Aboriginal identity question follows an open-ended question on ethnic origin in general.

The APS has an Aboriginal identity question that allows for multiple responses whereas the census Aboriginal identity question may lead to more single responses. A higher percentage of people identified with more than one Aboriginal group in the APS than in the census. The data in this publication represent both single and multiple Aboriginal identity populations. For example, an individual who identifies as both North American Indian and Métis would be included in the tables for both the North American Indian and Métis groups.

In addition, some respondents who reported only Aboriginal origins (and no Aboriginal identity) on the census reported Aboriginal identity on the APS. Conversely, people who reported identity on the census were less likely to change their response to Aboriginal origin without identity on the APS.

For more detailed information about the 2001 APS, the types of information it collected, and the populations for which data is available, clients should consult the Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001: Concepts and methods guide.

## Endnote

66. The Assembly of First Nations participated in the content development of the APS questionnaire.

## References

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- Health Canada. 2000. *Diabetes among Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) People in Canada: The Evidence*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
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## Related products

Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001: Initial findings – Well-being of the non-reserve Aboriginal Population

Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001 - Internet community profiles

Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001: Concepts and methods guide

Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001: Initial release – Supporting tables 1

Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001: Initial release – Supporting tables 2

A portrait of Aboriginal children living in non-reserve areas: Results from the 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

*Daily* July 9, 2004: Children who live in non-reserve areas

*Daily* September 24, 2003: Well-being of the non-reserve Aboriginal population

Off-Reserve Aboriginal Internet Users, *Canadian Social Trends*, Winter 2004

Trends and conditions in metropolitan areas: Aboriginal conditions in Census Metropolitan Areas 1981-2001

Well-being of off reserve Aboriginal children, *Canadian Social Trends*, Winter 2004

Well-being of the non-reserve Aboriginal population, *Canadian Social Trends*, Spring 2004