

THE INFLUENCE OF CANADIAN INDIANS
ON
CANADIAN VITAL STATISTICS

1966

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The population of Canada in 1966 was estimated to have been at mid-year 20,014,900, comprised of 10,054,400 males and 9,960,500 females. Of these 222,300 were registered Indians, 114,000 males and 108,300 females, comprising 1.1% of the total population.

Table 1 Percentage Contribution
of Indians to the Population of Canada

Sex	Population in hundreds			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
Males	100544	1140	99404	1.1
Females	99605	1083	98522	1.1
Both sexes	200194	2223	197926	1.1

It might be said that the Indians of Canada increased the population of Canada in 1966 by 1.1%. To what extent did this small segment of the total population influence the provincial and national vital statistics and rates?

Note: National data used in this study are taken from "Vital Statistics, 1966" produced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Indian data has been supplied by the Registrar of Indian Affairs of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Table 2

Percentage Contribution
of Indians to Provincial Populations
1966

Province or Territory	Mid-year Populations expressed in hundreds			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1085	4	1081	0.4
N.S.	7560	42	7518	0.6
N.B.	6168	39	6129	0.6
Que	57808	239	57569	0.4
Ont	69609	513	69096	0.7
Man	9631	307	9324	3.3
Sask	9554	309	9245	3.3
Alta	14632	251	14381	1.7
B.C.	18737	439	18298	2.4
Yuk	144	23	121	19.0
N.W.T.	287	57	230	24.8
Canada	200149	2223	197926	1.1

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

There is a very significant difference between the contributions made by Indians east and west of the Ontario-Manitoba border.

Source of national data: Table S4, "Vital Statistics, 1966", D.B.S.

Indian data supplied by Indian Affairs Branch.

Table 3

Percentage Contribution
OF Indian to Provincial Births
1966

Province or Territory	Actual Numbers of Births			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	2199	12	2187	0.5
N.S.	15220	122	15098	0.8
N.B.	12722	123	12599	1.0
Que	109878	710	109168	0.7
Ont	131942	1627	130315	1.2
Man	18007	1466	16541	8.9
Sask	19037	1608	17429	9.2
Alta	30592	1170	29422	4.0
B.C.	32502	1577	30925	5.1
Yuk	369	72	297	24.2
N.W.T.	1158	209	949	22.0
Canada	387710	8696	379014	2.3

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

The contributions made by Indians east and west of the Ontario-Manitoba border again contrast significantly.

Source of national data: Table B1, "Vital Statistics, 1966", D.B.S.

Indian data supplied by Indian Affairs Branch.

Table 4

Influence of Indians
on Provincial Birth Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Populations in hundreds (Table 2)		Births (Table 3)		Birth rates per 1000		Percent by which rate including differs from rate excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1085	1081	2199	2187	20.3	20.2	+ 0.5
N.S.	7560	7518	15220	15098	20.1	20.1	0
N.B.	6168	6129	12722	12599	20.6	20.6	0
Que	57808	57569	109878	109168	19.0	19.0	0
Ont	69609	69096	131942	130315	19.0	18.9	+ 0.5
Man	9631	9324	18007	16541	18.7	17.7	+ 5.6
Sask	9554	9245	19037	17429	19.9	18.9	+ 5.3
Alta	14623	14381	30592	29422	20.9	20.5	+ 2.0
B.C.	18737	18298	32502	30925	17.3	16.9	+ 2.4
Yuk	144	121	369	297	25.7	24.5	+ 4.9
N.W.T.	287	230	1158	949	40.3	41.3	- 2.4
Canada	200149	197926	387710	379014	19.4	19.1	+ 1.6

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population is omitted.

The Indian birth rate in the N.W.T. is LESS than the territorial rate and, consequently, has the effect of reducing it from the non-Indian birth rate.

The different influences east and west of the Ontario-Manitoba border are startling.

Table 5

Comparison Table
Indian influence on Provincial Populations, Births & Birth Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Indian Influence		
	on population (Table 2)	on births (Table 3)	on birth rates (Table 4)
P.E.I.	+ 0.4%	+ 0.5%	+ 0.5%
N.S.	+ 0.6%	+ 0.8%	nil
N.B.	+ 0.6%	+ 1.0%	nil
Que	+ 0.4%	+ 0.7%	nil
Ont	+ 0.7%	+ 1.2%	+ 0.5%
Man	+ 3.3%	+ 8.9%	+ 5.6%
Sask	+ 3.3%	+ 9.2%	+ 5.3%
Alta	+ 1.7%	+ 4.0%	+ 2.0%
B.C.	+ 2.4%	+ 5.1%	+ 2.4%
Yuk	+19.0%	+24.2%	+ 4.9%
N.W.T.	+24.8%	+22.0%	- 2.4%
Canada	+ 1.1%	+ 2.3%	+ 1.6%

Comprising just over 1% of the population, Indians exert a disproportionate influence on the vital statistics, adding more than twice their due share to the births and raising the national birth rate by 1.6%. This influence affects the western provinces and the northern territories excessively.

Table 6

Percentage Contribution
of Indians to Provincial Deaths
1966

Province or Territory	Actual Number of Deaths			Percent by which Total including exceeds Total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1048	3	1045	0.3
N.S.	6478	28	6450	0.4
N.B.	4771	28	4743	0.6
Que	38680	155	38525	0.4
Ont	54171	458	53713	0.9
Man	7938	262	7676	3.4
Sask	7427	276	7151	3.9
Alta	9677	196	9481	2.1
B.C.	16290	471	15819	3.0
Yuk	82	25	57	43.9
N.W.T.	229	31	198	15.7
Canada	149863	1933	147930	1.3

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

Source of data: Table D1, "Vital Statistics, 1966," D.B.S.

Indian data supplied by Indian Affairs Branch.

Table 7

Influence of Indians
on Provincial Death Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Populations in hundreds (Table 2)		Deaths (Table 6)		Death rates per 1000		Percent by which rate including differs from rate excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1085	1081	1048	1045	9.7	9.7	0
N.S.	7560	7518	6478	6450	8.6	8.6	0
N.B.	6168	6129	4771	4743	7.7	7.7	0
Que	57808	57569	38680	38525	6.7	6.7	0
Ont	69609	69096	54171	53713	7.8	7.8	0
Man	9631	9324	7938	7676	8.2	8.2	0
Sask	9554	9245	7427	7151	7.8	7.7	+ 1.3
Alta	14632	14381	9677	9481	6.6	6.6	0
B.C.	18737	18298	16290	15819	8.7	8.6	+ 1.2
Yuk	144	121	82	57	5.7	4.7	+21.3
N.W.T.	287	230	229	198	8.0	8.6	- 7.0
Canada	200149	197926	149863	147930	7.5	7.5	0

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population is omitted.

The "Indian Influences" on the mortality rates in the two northern territories stand in marked contrast to each other.

Table 8

Comparison Table
Indian Influence on Provincial Populations, Deaths and Death Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Indian Influence		
	on population (Table 2)	on deaths (Table 6)	on death rates (Table 7)
P.E.I.	+ 0.4%	+ 0.3%	nil
N.S.	+ 0.6%	+ 0.4%	nil
N.B.	+ 0.6%	+ 0.6%	nil
Que	+ 0.4%	+ 0.4%	nil
Ont	+ 0.7%	+ 0.9%	nil
Man	+ 3.3%	+ 3.4%	nil
Sask	+ 3.3%	+ 3.9%	+ 1.3%
Alta	+ 1.7%	+ 2.1%	nil
B.C.	+ 2.4%	+ 3.0%	+ 1.2%
Yuk	+ 19.0%	+ 43.9%	+21.3%
N.W.T.	+ 24.8%	+ 15.7%	- 7.0%
Canada	+ 1.1%	+ 1.3%	nil

With the exception of the Yukon, the Indian contribution to the total number of deaths was not significantly out of proportion to their contribution to the population and, consequently, the death rates were not affected to any significant degree.

Table 9

Percentage Contribution
of Indians to Provincial Natural Increase
1966

Province or Territory	Actual Births Less Deaths			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1151	9	1142	0.8
N.S.	8742	94	8648	1.1
N.B.	7951	95	7856	1.2
Que	71198	555	70643	0.8
Ont	77771	1169	76602	1.5
Man	10069	1204	8865	13.6
Sask	11610	1332	10278	13.0
Alta	20915	974	19941	4.9
B.C.	16212	1106	15106	7.3
Yuk	287	47	240	19.6
N.W.T.	929	178	751	23.7
Canada	237847	6763	231084	2.9

Newfoundland, having officially no "Indian" population, is omitted.

The data shown in this table are calculated from Tables 3 and 6.

The sharp contrast between the Indian influence east and west of the Ontario-Manitoba border is again very evident.

Table 10

Influence of Indians
on Provincial Rates of Natural Increase
1966

Province or Territory	Populations in hundreds (Table 9)		Natural Increase (Table 9)		Rate of increase per 1000		Per cent by which rate including differs from rate excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	1085	1081	1151	1142	10.6	10.6	0
N.S.	7560	7518	8742	8648	11.6	11.5	+ 0.9
N.B.	6168	6129	7951	7856	12.9	12.8	+ 0.8
Que	57808	57569	71198	70643	12.3	12.3	0
Ont	69609	69096	77771	76602	11.2	11.1	+ 0.9
Man	9631	9324	10069	8865	10.5	9.5	+10.5
Sask	9554	9245	11610	10278	12.2	11.1	+ 9.9
Alta	14632	14381	20915	19941	14.3	13.9	+ 2.9
B.C.	18737	18298	16212	15106	8.7	8.3	+ 4.8
Yuk	144	121	287	240	19.9	19.8	+ 0.5
N.W.T.	287	230	929	751	32.4	32.7	- 0.5
Canada	200149	197926	237847	231084	11.9	11.7	+ 1.7

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

The differing impacts of the Indian segments of the populations east and west of the Ontario-Manitoba border are again manifest as are also the sharply differing impacts in the Yukon and North West Territories.

Table 11

Comparison Table
Indian Influence on Provincial Populations, Natural Increase
and Rate of Natural Increase
1966

Province or Territory	Indian Influence		
	on population (Table 2)	on natural increase (Table 9)	on rate of increase (Table 10)
P.E.I.	+ 0.4%	+ 0.8%	nil
N.S.	+ 0.6%	+ 1.1%	+ 0.9%
N.B.	+ 0.6%	+ 1.2%	+ 0.8%
Que	+ 0.4%	+ 0.8%	nil
Ont	+ 0.7%	+ 1.5%	+ 0.9%
Man	+ 3.3%	+ 13.6%	+ 10.5%
Sask	+ 3.3%	+ 13.0%	+ 9.9%
Alta	+ 1.7%	+ 4.9%	+ 2.9%
B.C.	+ 2.4%	+ 7.3%	+ 4.8%
Yuk	+ 19.0%	+ 19.6%	+ 0.5%
N.W.T.	+ 24.8%	+ 23.7%	- 0.9%
Canada	+ 1.1%	+ 2.9%	+ 1.7%

In relation to their proportional representation in the population the Indians exerted an undue influence on the natural increase and raised the national rate by 1.7%. Their impact is very considerable in the western provinces.

Table 12

Percentage Contribution
of Indians to Provincial Infant Mortality
1966

Province or Territory	Actual Number of Deaths under twelve months			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Registered Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	57	1	56	1.8
N.S.	384	4	380	1.1
N.B.	306	3	303	1.0
Que	2776	30	2746	1.1
Ont	2669	56	2613	2.1
Man	383	89	294	30.3
Sask	461	95	366	26.0
Alta	640	62	578	10.7
B.C.	779	99	680	14.6
Yuk	20	9	11	81.8
N.W.T.	90	8	82	9.8
Canada	8960	456	8504	5.4

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

The contribution made by Indians in the western provinces to infant deaths is very significant.

Source of national data: Table D12, "Vital Statistics, 1966", D.B.S.

Indian data supplied by Indian Affairs Branch.

Table 13

Influence of Indians
on Provincial Infant Mortality Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Live Births (Table 3)		Deaths under 12 months (Table 12)		Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births		Percent by which rate including differs from rate excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	2199	2187	57	56	25.9	25.6	+ 1.2
N.S.	15220	15098	384	380	25.2	25.2	0
N.B.	12722	12599	306	303	24.1	24.0	+ 0.4
Que	109878	109168	2776	2746	25.3	25.2	+ 0.4
Ont	131942	130315	2669	2613	20.2	20.1	+ 0.5
Man	18007	16541	383	294	21.3	17.8	+ 19.7
Sask	19037	17429	461	366	24.2	21.0	+ 15.2
Alta	30592	29422	640	578	20.9	19.6	+ 6.6
B.C.	32502	30925	779	680	24.0	22.0	+ 9.1
Yuk	369	297	20	11	54.2	37.0	+ 46.5
N.W.T.	1158	949	90	82	77.7	84.6	- 10.1
Canada	387710	379014	8960	8504	23.1	22.4	+ 3.1

Newfoundland, officially having no "Indian" population, is omitted.

The significant influence exerted by Indians on the infant mortality rates in the western provinces is apparent. Contrast the Indian influence in the Yukon with that in the North West Territories. In the N.W.T., the Indian infant mortality rate was lower than the territorial rate (determined largely by Eskimos) and thus reduces it.

Table 14

Comparison Table
Indian Influence on Population, Infant Mortality
and Infant Mortality Rates

Province or Territory	Indian Influence		
	on population (Table 2)	Infant Mortality (Table 12)	Infant Mortality Rate (Table 13)
P.E.I.	+ 0.4%	+ 1.8%	+ 1.2%
N.S.	+ 0.6%	+ 1.1%	nil
N.B.	+ 0.6%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.4%
Que	+ 0.4%	+ 1.1%	+ 0.4%
Ont	+ 0.7%	+ 2.1%	+ 0.5%
Man	+ 3.3%	+30.3%	+ 19.7%
Sask	+ 3.3%	+26.0%	+ 15.2%
Alta	+ 1.7%	+10.7%	+ 6.6%
B.C.	+ 2.4%	+14.6%	+ 9.1%
Yuk	+ 19.0%	+81.8%	+ 46.5%
N.W.T.	+ 24.8%	+ 9.8%	- 10.1%
Canada	+ 1.1%	+ 5.4%	+ 3.1%

In all provinces, except the Northwest Territories, Indians made a disproportionately large contribution to the infant mortality in contrast to their contributions to the population and raised the national infant mortality rate by 3.1%. Indian infant deaths made a major contribution in the western provinces.

Table 15

Percentage Contribution
of Indians to Provincial Illegitimate Births
1966

Province or Territory	Actual Numbers of Illegitimate Births			Percent by which total including exceeds total excluding Indians
	Including	Registered	Excluding	
P.E.I.	145	1	144	0.7
N.S.	1551	27	1524	1.8
N.B.	882	21	861	2.4
Que	6366	71	6295	1.1
Ont	8476	443	8033	5.5
Man	1844	404	1440	28.1
Sask	1923	671	1252	53.6
Alta	3198	508	2690	18.9
B.C.	3926	659	3267	20.2
Yuk	72	54	18	300.0
N.W.T.	176	36	140	25.7
Canada	29391	2895	26496	10.9

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population, is omitted.

Source of national data: Table B8, "Vital Statistics, 1966", D.B.S.

Indian data supplied by Indian Affairs Branch.

Table 16

Influence of Indians
on Provincial Illegitimacy Rates
1966

Province or Territory	Live Births (Table 3)		Illegitimate Births (Table 15)		Illegitimacy Rate per 1000 live births		Percent by which rate including differs from rate excluding Indians
	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	Including Indians	Excluding Indians	
P.E.I.	2199	2187	145	144	65.9	65.8	+ 0.2
N.S.	15220	15098	1551	1524	101.9	100.9	+ 0.9
N.B.	12772	12599	882	861	69.3	68.3	+ 1.5
Que	109878	109168	6366	6295	57.9	57.7	+ 0.3
Ont	131942	130315	8476	8033	64.2	61.6	+ 4.2
Man	18007	16541	1844	1440	102.4	87.1	+ 17.6
Sask	19037	17429	1923	1252	101.0	71.8	+ 40.7
Alta	30592	29422	3198	2690	104.5	91.4	+ 14.3
B.C.	32502	30925	3926	3267	120.8	105.6	+ 14.4
Yuk	369	297	72	18	195.1	60.6	+ 221.9
N.W.T.	1158	949	176	140	152.0	147.5	+ 3.1
Canada	387710	379014	29391	26496	75.8	69.9	+ 8.4

Newfoundland, officially not having an "Indian" population is omitted.

The difference between eastern and western Indians is again notable.

Illegitimacy among Saskatchewan and Yukon Indians is so prevalent that it suggests a cultural pattern.

SUMMARY

In 1966, Canadian Indians had the effect of increasing

a) the population	from 19,792,600 to 20,014,900 or by	1.1%
b) births	" 379,014 " 387,710 " "	2.3%
c) the National Birth Rate,	" 19.1 19.4 " "	1.6%
d) deaths in infancy,	" 8,504 " 8,960 " "	5.4%
e) the National Infant Mortality Rate	" 22.4 " 23.1 " "	3.1%
f) natural increase,	" 231,084 " 237,847 " "	2.9%
g) the National Rate of Natural Increase	" 11.7 " 11.9 " "	1.7%
h) illegitimate births	" 26,496 29,391 " "	10.9%
i) the National Rate of Illegitimacy	" 69.9 75.8 " "	8.4%
j) deaths from all causes	" 147,930 149,863 " "	1.3%

The national death rate was not affected as the above increase is not significantly out of proportion to the ratio of Indians in the population. Provincial death rates in Saskatchewan and British Columbia were slightly elevated by a little over 1% each but only in the Yukon did Indians seriously influence the death rate, raising it by 21.3%.

In P.E.I., N.S., N.B., Que and Ontario Indians do not affect provincial vital statistics to any significant degree.

In Man, Sask, B.C. and Alta, however, Indians do affect provincial vital statistics to quite a significant degree.

In the Yukon, although comprising barely one fifth of the population, Indians virtually determine the territorial vital statistics.

In the North West Territories, where Indians comprise one quarter of the population, the territorial vital statistics reflect more the influence of Eskimos and the influence of the Indians is actually to reduce the various rates.