

**AN OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
AMONG CANADA'S REGISTERED INDIAN
POPULATION**

prepared by

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10 September 1979

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AN OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC
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POPULATION

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of selected demographic, social and economic conditions of registered Indians in Canada in comparison with those of the general population of Canada. A variety of indicators are chosen to measure these conditions and they are discussed in the following sections:

2. demographic characteristics
3. health
4. education
5. employment
6. social services
7. housing
8. justice
9. summary and implications

The time period covered in the main is 1966-1976. This ten year span was used where possible to give an overview of the trends in the various indicators.

1.1 Data Sources and Notes

The sources of data used are primarily from the Indian Affairs Program's records such as the Indian Register, education enrollment records (Nominal Roll), social assistance and services records and the 1977 Housing Needs Analysis Survey of Indian Reserves and Settlements. Other sources include Statistics Canada's 1971 and 1976 Census, population estimates and projections and vital statistics, etc.; Health and Welfare's 1978 Health Data Book for health data on registered Indians; Canada Correctional Service's data on native and non-native characteristics of federal inmates.

Throughout most of the report the term "Indian" refers to those registered under the Indian Act. In some data sources, however, it is not possible to distinguish registered Indians from people of other native ancestry and this is noted when it occurs. Where figures are quoted for the total Canadian population, they include registered Indians, who constitute 1.3 per cent of the total population.

The population figures quoted for the registered Indian population do not correspond to the official counts available from The Indian Register data files. This is because the figures used in this report have been adjusted for late reporting of births to the Indian Register. The result is that the total registered Indian population used herein is about one to two per cent higher in the 1966-76 period.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Population Size and Growth

Two of the key information variables needed in developing policy and programs are population size and growth rates. The total registered Indian population as of 1976 was estimated at 291,171, which represents about 1.3 per cent of the total population of Canada.

The annual growth rates for the Indian population have varied during the 1966-76 period. The average percentage increase between 1966 and 1971 was approximately 3.0 per cent per year. During the 1971-76 period, the average annual growth rate dropped to 2.1 per cent per year. This compares to 1.6 per cent and 1.2 per cent per year for the total population over the same two five-year periods. Due to an expected continued decline in the Indian birth rate, it is forecast that the rate of growth in the Indian population will decrease to an average growth rate of 1.8 per cent per year between 1976 and 1981 and 1.4 per cent per year in the 1981-86 period. In absolute numbers, this population is projected to increase by about 27,000 to 318,081 in 1981, reaching 340,739 by 1986 (see Table 1).

As a percentage of the total population of Canada, the registered Indian population will remain virtually unchanged during the 1976-86 period.

2.2 Birth Rate Trends

In recent years there has been a marked decline in the birth rate in the registered Indian population. In the mid-1960's the birth rate among Indians was 41.6 births per 1,000 population which was more than twice as high as the Canadian birth rate (see Table 2). By 1976 the Indian rate had declined to 28.5

TABLE 1 - REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL POPULATIONS
1966, 1971 AND 1976 AND PROJECTIONS
FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN		TOTAL POPULATION	
	POPULATION	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	POPULATION (000's)	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
	N	%	N	%
1966	228,667	3.0	20,014.9	1.6
1971	263,499	2.1	21,568.3	1.2
1976	291,171	1.8	22,992.6	1.4
1981	318,081	1.4	24,472.5	1.4
1986	340,739		26,258.6	

¹The registered Indian population from 1966 to 1986 is adjusted for late reported births.

²The growth rates are five year average annual growth rates.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for Canada, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Statistics Canada, Population, Revised Annual Estimates, 1921-71, 1971-76, Cat. No. 91-512, 91-518.

_____, Population Projections for Canada, 1972-2001, Cat. No. 91-514.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program,
D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE .2 - BIRTH RATES¹ FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, 1966 TO 1976

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIANS			TOTAL POPULATION (/1000 POP.)
	BIRTHS N	MID-YEAR POPULATION N	BIRTH RATE (/1000 POP.)	
1966	9,257	222,677	41.6	19.4
1967	9,079	229,110	39.6	18.2
1968	9,190	235,827	39.0	17.6
1969	8,947	242,486	36.9	17.6
1970	9,088	249,337	36.5	17.5
1971	8,997	256,432	35.1	16.8
1972	8,913	263,541	33.8	15.9
1973	8,646	270,179	32.0	15.5
1974	8,595	276,387	31.1	15.6
1975	8,348	282,721	29.5	15.8
1976	8,232	289,024	28.5	15.7

¹The birth rate is computed by dividing the births in a specific year by the mid-year population, multiplied by 1000.

Sources: Birth Reported by Reporting Year and Year of Occurrence by Province, 1965-1977, Indian Membership System, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Preliminary Report, 1976, Cat. No. 84-201.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program,
D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

births per 1,000 population, a 32 per cent drop, while the Canadian birth rate had only decreased by 19 per cent to 15.7 births per 1,000 population.

An important aspect of this phenomenon is that while the number of births among registered Indians has declined, the number of females in the childbearing years (aged 15-49) has increased from about 44,600 to 67,400 between 1966 and 1976. It appears likely that the decline in birth rate will continue despite the fact that the number of women entering the childbearing years is still expected to increase in the 1980 decade.

2.3 Mortality Trends

Great reductions in the Indian mortality rate have occurred in recent years, although this rate is still considerably higher than that of the general population. The infant death rate has declined from about 79 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1960 to 32.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1976. The rate for the general population was 27.3 in 1960, down to 16.0 in 1976 (see Table 3). The average age at death (which should not be confused with life expectancy) for registered Indians has risen from 36 years in 1966 to 44 years in 1976. This compares to an average age at death in the general population of about 67 years in 1976.

Such a marked discrepancy between the Indian and general populations in the average age of death is explained by two factors. The first is that the Indian population still has much higher death rates among infants, as already noted, and among young adults (see Table 4). In the age group 20-44 the Indian death rate is four times higher than that of the

TABLE 3 - INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE REGISTERED
INDIAN AND TOTAL POPULATIONS
1960-76¹

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN	TOTAL POPULATION
1960	79.0	27.3
1961	76.3	27.2
1962	74.9	27.6
1963	70.4	26.3
1964	63.9	24.7
1965	52.6	23.6
1966	52.4	23.1
1967	53.6	22.0
1968	48.6	20.8
1969	41.1	19.3
1970 ²	34.2	18.8
1971	45.2	17.5
1972	47.5	17.1
1973	40.8	15.5
1974	41.2	15.0
1975	39.7	15.7
1976	32.1	16.0

¹Rate per 1000 live births.

²Indian infant mortality figures were not received from all regions; hence the rate in 1970 is low.

Sources: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Health Data Book, March 1978.

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics 1976, Cat. No. 84-201.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

general population. In the other age groups, i.e., 1-4 and 5-19, the Indian rate is nearly three times higher than that for the general population. When these higher death rates are combined with the fact that most (66 per cent) of the Indian population is under age 30, it is a statistical concomitant that their average age at death would be lower than that of the general population.

There are many reasons for these high death rates particularly in the young age groups. A few of these reasons may include the relative isolation of Indian communities, the quality of housing, lack of sewage disposal and potable water, and access to medical facilities. These and other reasons combine to yield a low but improving average age at death among Indians.

It is particularly important to note the death rate in the adult age group 20-44, since it is this age group which will be increasing markedly in the 1980 decade as a result of the 1960's "baby-boom" in the Indian population. If major reductions in the mortality rate continue throughout the next decade, especially among infants and children, the Indian population may grow at a more rapid rate than has been forecast despite the expected decline in the fertility rate (see Table 4).

2.4 Age Composition

To determine the demand on or requirement for services and programs among various age groups, policy and decision makers require information concerning the current and expected age composition of the Indian population.

TABLE 4 - DEATH RATES BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, 1973 TO 1976¹

YEAR	SELECTED AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES (/1000 POPULATION)									
	1 - 4 yrs.		5 - 19 yrs.		20 - 44 yrs.		45 - 64 yrs.		65+ yrs.	
	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP..	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.
1973	3.1	0.8	1.7	0.7	6.5	1.6	15.6	9.2	61.0	56.0
1974	3.5	0.8	2.2	0.7	6.2	1.6	16.8	9.1	53.0	55.9
1975	2.4	0.8	1.6	0.7	5.5	1.5	14.8	8.9	60.4	54.5
1976	3.3	0.7	2.1	0.6	5.8	1.4	15.4	8.7	53.6	53.5
AVE. 1973-76	3.1	0.8	1.9	0.7	6.0	1.5	15.7	9.0	57.0	55.0

¹Registered Indian deaths are adjusted for late-reporting. All death rates are calculated by dividing the number of deaths by the population in each age group, multiplied by 1,000.

Source: Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program. Deaths Reported by Age at Death and by Year of Event, for Canada, 1973 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 5 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN¹
AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, 1966, 1971, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR
1981 AND 1986

YEAR	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP									
	0 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 64		65+		15 - 64	
	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL POP.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	47.7	32.8	24.4	22.7	23.7	36.8	4.2	7.7	48.1	59.5
1971	46.6	29.4	25.9	25.9	23.4	36.6	4.1	8.1	49.3	62.5
1976	42.1	25.5	29.3	28.3	24.5	37.5	4.1	8.7	53.8	65.8
1981	36.8	23.7	32.6	28.2	26.4	38.8	4.2	9.4	59.0	67.0
1986	31.9	24.5	34.2	25.3	29.7	40.4	4.2	9.8	63.9	65.7

¹The registered Indian population between 1966 and 1976 is adjusted for late reported births.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Canada, 1966 to 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 6 - REGISTERED INDIAN¹ AND TOTAL POPULATIONS BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS
1966, 1971, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUPS									
	0 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 64		65+		15 - 64	
	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL ('000'S)	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL ('000'S)	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL ('000'S)	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL ('000'S)	REG. INDIAN	TOTAL ('000'S)
1966	109,043	6,592.	55,893	4,541.	54,132	7,343.	9,559	1,530.	110,025	11,884.
1971	122,766	6,381.	68,178	5,587.	61,668	7,856.	10,887	1,733.	129,846	13,443.
1976	122,581	5,878.	85,372	6,460.	71,192	8,531.	12,026	1,975.	156,564	14,835.
1981	117,150	5,835.	103,790	6,917.	83,941	9,447.	13,200	2,273.	187,731	16,364.
1986	108,628	6,445.	116,431	6,664.	101,582	10,582.	14,345	2,565.	217,766	17,247.

¹The registered Indian population between 1966 and 1976 is adjusted for late reported births.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Canada, 1966 to 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

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The registered Indian population in the young adult age group 15-29 represented 25 per cent of the total Indian population in 1966 (see Table 5). By 1976 its share had risen to over 29 per cent or 85,372, and it is expected to reach 34 per cent (116,431) by 1986 (see Table 6).

In comparison, those in the young adult age group in the general population represented about 23 per cent of the total in 1966. By 1976 their percentage share had risen to 28 per cent, but due to the decline in the birth rate during the 1960's and early 1970's, the total population reaching the age group 15-29, in contrast to the Indian population, is expected to decline to 25 per cent by 1986.

The dependent population 15 years of age and under has undergone a marked change as a percentage of the total registered Indian population. In 1966 this group represented nearly 48 per cent of the total registered Indian population, but by 1976 its share had declined to 42 per cent. If the number of births continues to decline in the future, in 1986 the population under 15 will represent about 32 per cent (see Table 6). The respective percentages of the dependents in the general population are 33 per cent, 26 per cent and 24 per cent in 1966, 1976 and 1986 respectively. Therefore, while the percentage of Indian dependents has declined more slowly in the 1966-76 period than that in the general population, it is expected to decline much more rapidly in the 1976-86 period.

The reduction in the birth rate and increase in the average age at death will combine to age the population. This can be observed in the two age groups 15-29 and 30-64 (see Table 6), where their respective shares of the total registered Indian population are increasing between 1966 and 1986. The same phenomenon has been occurring in the total population, however the increase

in the percentage share in these two age groups is not nearly as marked as for the Indian population. The improvements in the Indian average age at death or life expectancy are particularly evident in the age group 30-44 which is projected to more than double in size from 31,198 in 1966 to 63,207 by 1986.

The registered Indian age composition appears to follow the same trends by age group as the age composition of the total population, however, the Indian age patterns lag behind Canada's by about ten years. Thus, while the effects of the post-war "baby-boom" and subsequent fertility decline have had major impacts on employment and educational enrollment for the total population in the 1970 decade, the same phenomenon will not be occurring for registered Indians until the 1980 decade.

In particular, the potential labour force age group (15-64 years) is expected to increase substantially in the 1980's while the birth rate declines. Therefore, the potential registered Indian labour force will have fewer dependents to support in the future, which should assist to increase the per capita standard of living assuming that improvements in the availability of employment occur as well.

The forecast decline in the birth rate also has other direct implications for many programs and services involving Indian children, such as education, child care, social welfare. These are discussed in later sections of this report.

2.5 On- and Off-Reserve Population

The trend in the on- and off-reserve distribution of the registered Indian population has been shifting over the last ten years. In 1966, 84 per cent of the population was living on-reserve and on Crown land (hereafter referred to as on-reserve) and 16 per cent off-reserve (see Tables 7 and 8). The latter levelled off in 1975 and remained at just over 27 per cent in 1976. Although it is difficult to predict, the proportion residing off-reserve will likely increase, albeit more slowly, in the 1980 decade. If current trends continue, it will probably be in the range of 32 to 34 per cent by 1986.

The percentage distribution of the registered Indian population by age and residence indicates that the highly mobile age groups 20-24 and 25-29 have decreased their proportions on-reserve by 8 and 10 per cent respectively (see Table 7); for example, the on-reserve percentage of the 25-29 age group dropped from 77 per cent to 67 per cent on-reserve between 1966 and 1976. The same age group showed a corresponding increase in its percentage of off-reserve from 23 per cent to 33 per cent during the same period (see Table 8). However, since 1971 the percentage of on-reserve has declined more slowly than in the 1966-71 period. Over the three years, 1974-1976, in the mobile age groups and in most of the others, the on-reserve percentages have remained quite stable.

Many factors undoubtedly have affected changes in the on- and off-reserve distribution since 1971. For example, poor economic conditions in the cities throughout the 1970's have limited job opportunities and increased the competition in a limited labour market. Thus, a movement back to reserves and settlements may be contributing to the stable proportions on reserves. The

TABLE 7 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING
ON RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, 1966, 1971-76¹

YEAR	AGE GROUP							
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	87.2	87.3	80.9	77.2	77.2	81.6	87.4	84.1
1971	78.5	81.8	74.2	67.7	70.2	76.2	83.6	76.6
1972	77.4	80.5	74.4	67.3	69.5	75.7	82.7	75.7
1973	76.1	79.5	74.6	67.2	68.9	75.1	82.5	74.9
1974	74.9	76.6	73.0	66.1	67.1	73.2	79.1	73.2
1975	74.2	75.6	72.8	66.5	67.3	73.4	77.8	72.8
1976	74.0	75.3	73.0	67.2	67.1	73.4	77.8	72.7

¹On reserve includes those living on Crown land; the 1966, 1971-73 on reserve population has been adjusted for a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Canada, 1966 to 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE.8 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING
OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, 1966, 1971-76¹

YEAR	AGE GROUP							TOTAL
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	12.8	12.8	19.1	22.8	22.8	18.4	12.7	15.9
1971	21.5	18.2	25.8	32.3	29.8	23.8	16.4	23.4
1972	22.6	19.5	25.6	32.7	30.5	24.3	17.3	24.3
1973	23.9	20.6	25.4	32.8	31.1	24.9	17.7	25.1
1974	25.1	23.5	27.0	33.9	32.9	26.8	20.9	26.8
1975	25.8	24.4	27.9	33.5	32.7	26.6	22.2	27.2
1976	26.0	24.8	27.0	32.8	32.9	26.6	22.2	27.4

¹The 1966, 1971-73 off reserve population has been adjusted for a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Canada, 1966 to 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

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same economic conditions may also be contributing to discouraging out-migration from reserves. Improvements in housing supply and economic development on reserves and Indian control of education also may be combining to discourage out-migration from reserves or to draw people back.

2.6 Indian Bands by Selected Population Size Groupings

This brief description is included to provide the general reader with an appreciation of the population size of Indian bands. The majority of Indian bands have band memberships of 1,000 or less and usually within each band a certain proportion of their membership lives off the reserves, or settlements.

The largest number of bands is in the population size group 301-1,000. Of the 573 bands 224 (or 39 per cent) are in this category (see Table 9). The next largest number of bands (173 or 31 per cent) falls into the population size group 101-300. By contrast, only 16 bands have populations over 2,000 and most of these are located in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

2.7 The Geographic Distribution of Indian Bands

The geographic locations of Indian bands are broken down into four categories: urban, semi-urban, rural and remote. The definitions of these categories do not correspond to census definitions of urban and rural, but rather to the following:

Urban¹ - owns significant land in or contiguous to an urban centre (10,000 and over in population with economic characteristics of an urban centre).

TABLE 9.- THE NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF BANDS BY BAND SIZE GROUPINGS, CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

BAND SIZE	CANADA		ATLANTIC		QUEBEC		ONTARIO		MANITOBA		SASK.		ALBERTA		B.C.		MACKENZIE		YUKON	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-100	95	16.6	5	17.2	5	12.8	20	17.4	3	5.3	2	2.9	4	9.8	54	28.0	0	0	2	14.3
101-300	179	31.2	10	34.5	6	15.4	40	34.8	6	10.5	11	16.2	9	21.9	81	42.0	6	37.5	10	71.4
301-1000	224	39.1	12	41.4	17	43.6	40	34.8	32	56.1	41	60.3	18	43.9	53	27.0	9	56.3	2	14.3
1001-2000	59	10.3	2	6.9	10	25.6	10	8.7	12	21.1	12	17.7	6	14.6	6	3.0	1	6.3	0	0
over-2000	16	2.8	0	0	1	2.6	5	4.3	4	7.0	2	2.9	4	9.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	573	100.0	29	100.0	39	100.0	115	100.0	57	100.0	68	100.0	41	100.0	194	100.0	16	100.0	14	100.0

Source: Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D.

- Semi-Urban - is located within commuting distance of about 40 miles to nearest urban centre where good all-weather roads are available.
- Rural - consists of other bands (where commuting distance is over 40 miles to the nearest urban centre) located within the Canada Land Inventory boundaries and having reasonable means of transportation (at least one road).
- Remote - includes a) all bands not located within the Canada Land Inventory boundaries and b) all other bands within C.L.I. boundaries but considered as lacking reasonable means of transportation (no roads).

Table 10 indicates that nearly 71 per cent of all bands are situated in either rural or remote locations, i.e., 406 bands out of 573, or about 65 per cent of the total registered Indian band membership. Only 29 per cent of all bands are located in urban and semi-urban areas and account for 35 per cent of the total population.

Although the census definitions for rural and urban are not strictly comparable to the definitions used for Indian bands, the contrast in the percentage of the total population residing in rural and urban areas to that of the registered Indian population is significant enough to be worth noting. In 1976, 24 per cent of the total population were living in rural areas and 76 per cent in urban areas. By comparison, the percentage of the on-reserve Indian population living in rural or remote areas was 65 per cent in 1976.

Among those registered Indians living off-reserve, the largest percentage, i.e. 42 per cent, also comes from bands located in rural areas (see Table 11). The next largest percentage of the off-reserve population originates from semi-urban and remote bands, 23 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. The off-reserve population originating from urban bands represent only 14 per cent of the total off-reserve population.

TABLE 10 - NUMBER OF BANDS BY TYPE OF LOCATION - CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

REGIONS ²	TOTAL	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE
ATLANTIC	29	6	10	13	-
QUEBEC	39	5	15	5	14
ONTARIO	115	8	21	52	34
MANITOBA	57	1	5	26	25
SASKATCHEWAN	68	2	13	43	10
ALBERTA	41	3	12	19	7
BRITISH COLUMBIA	194	23	41	77	53
MACKENZIE	16	-	1	8	7
YUKON	14	1	-	-	13
TOTAL CANADA	573	49	118	243	163

- ¹ Urban - owns significant land in or contiguous to an urban centre (10,000 and over in population with economic characteristics of an urban centre).
Semi-Urban - is located within commuting distance of about 40 miles to nearest urban centre where good all-weather roads are available.
Rural - consists of other bands (where commuting distance is over 40 miles to the nearest urban centre) located within the Canada Land Inventory Boundaries and having reasonable means of transportation (at least one road).
Remote - includes a) all bands not located within the Canada Land Inventory Boundaries and b) all other bands with C.L.I. boundaries but considered as lacking reasonable means of transportation (no roads).

² Regions correspond to the administrative regions of the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Source: Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, Canada and Regions, 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 11 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY RESIDENCE AND BAND LOCATION, 1977

RESIDENCE	BAND LOCATION ¹				
	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%
ON RESERVE ²	14.9	19.8	37.4	27.9	100.0
OFF RESERVE	13.9	22.6	41.6	21.9	100.0
TOTAL	14.6	20.6	38.6	26.2	100.0

¹See definitions in footnote 1, Table 10.

²On Reserve includes on Crown Land.

Source: Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

3. HEALTH

3.1 Major Causes of Death

The death rates for the registered Indian population are higher than those for the general population of Canada. The standardized² death rate of Indians when compared to that of the total population is nearly twice as high, i.e., 13.0 Indian deaths per 1,000 population versus 7.4 Canadian deaths per 1,000 population (see Table 12).

The major causes of death in the registered Indian³ population are accidents, violence and poisonings, which are three times higher than that of the general population (see Table 13), followed by circulatory diseases. Other major causes of death are the result of diseases of the respiratory system, neoplasms (i.e. cancer-related diseases), and diseases with ill-defined symptoms (predominantly associated with infant crib deaths and deaths due to old age). Diseases with ill-defined symptoms have a death rate six times higher than that of the general population.

Major causes of accidental death among Indians in 1976 were motor vehicle accidents (twice the risk of the general population), drowning (six times the risk). Suicides were twice the risk, and as a percentage of accidental and violent deaths, they increased from 8 per cent to 12 per cent between 1975 and 1976.⁴ One study indicates that the majority of such deaths among Indians are occurring in the young adult population.⁵

TABLE 12 - DEATH RATES FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND
TOTAL POPULATION FOR CANADA AND SELECTED
PROVINCES, 1974, 1976

REGION	STANDARDIZED DEATH RATE ¹ REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION 1976 (/1000 POP.)	DEATH RATE TOTAL POPULATION 1974 (/1000 POP.)
CANADA	13.0	7.4
QUEBEC	7.3	7.0
ONTARIO	9.1	7.5
MANITOBA	10.2	8.3
SASKATCHEWAN	15.9	8.6
ALBERTA	15.9	6.6
BRITISH COLUMBIA	12.4	8.0

¹The registered Indian death rate is standardized on the age structures of the total population of Canada and the provinces to take account of the different age structure in the Indian population otherwise the death rates would not be strictly comparable.

Sources: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare
Canada, Health Data Book, March 1978.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 13 - DEATHS BY CAUSE FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN/INUIT AND TOTAL POPULATIONS, 1974 AND 1976

CAUSE OF DEATH	INDIAN AND INUIT (1976)		TOTAL POPULATION (1974)	
	N	%	N	%
ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE AND POISONING	667	32.9	16,861	10.1
DISEASES: CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	415	20.5	82,162	49.3
DISEASES: RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	217	10.7	10,711	6.4
NEOPLASMS	159	7.8	34,065	20.5
SYMPTOMS ILL DEFINED	98	4.8	1,592	1.0
DISEASES: DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	93	4.6	6,176	3.7
PERINATAL MORTALITY	90	4.4	2,451	1.5
INFECTIVE PARASITIC DISEASES	48	2.4	1,119	0.7
DISEASES: NERVOUS SYSTEM	40	2.0	1,809	1.1
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	33	1.6	1,718	1.0
METABOLIC NUTRITIONAL DISEASES	26	1.3	3,889	2.3
DISEASES: GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	19	0.9	1,962	1.2
MENTAL DISORDERS	31	1.5	837	0.5
DISEASES: MUSCULOSKELETAL	4	0.2	615	0.4
DISEASES: BLOOD, BLOOD FORMING ORGANS	5	0.3	482	0.3
DISEASES: SKIN	1	0.1	110	0.1
COMPLICATIONS PREGNANCY/CHILDBIRTH	0	0.0	35	0.0
UNKNOWN	82	4.0	-	0.0
TOTAL	2028	100.0	166,594	100.0

Source: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Health Data Book, March 1978.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 14 - INFANT MORTALITY BY CAUSE: INDIANS/INUIT, 1976 AND TOTAL POPULATION, 1974

CAUSE OF DEATH	INDIAN/INUIT (1976)		TOTAL POPULATION (1974)	
	N	RATE ¹	N	RATE
CAUSES PERINATAL MORTALITY	66	10.2	2,451	7.1
SYMPTOMS ILL DEFINED	48	7.4	427	1.2
DISEASES: RESPIRATORY	45	6.9	420	1.2
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	26	4.0	1,204	3.5
INFECTIVE PARASITIC DISEASES	19	2.9	175	0.5
ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE	18	2.8	239	0.7
DISEASES: NERVOUS SYSTEM	8	1.2	74	0.2
DISEASES: DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	6	0.9	80	0.2
DISEASES: CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	3	0.5	27	0.1
DISEASES: GENITO-URINARY	2	0.3	8	-
NEOPLASMS	1	0.2	23	0.1
DISEASES: MUSCULOSKELETAL	1	0.2	3	-
ENDOCRINE METABOLIC DISEASES	-	-	37	0.1
BLOOD DISEASES	-	-	20	0.1
MENTAL DISORDERS	-	-	2	-
DISEASES: SKIN	-	-	2	-
ALL CAUSES	243	37.5	5,192	15.0

¹Rate is infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Source: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Health Data Book, April 1978.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

Respiratory diseases and infective and parasitic diseases ranked among the top four causes of infant deaths, according to Health and Welfare's Health Data Book. Despite the overall reduction in Indian infant death rates, these two causes of infant death were nearly six times the rate in the non-Indian infant population (see Table 14).

3.2 Incidence of Disease

At the present time, the only available information on the incidence of disease in the Indian population relates to the incidence of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis rates among registered Indians, according to the Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, were about 130 cases per 100,000 population in 1976, which contrasts with 20 cases per 100,000 population in the general population (see Table 15).

There are no comprehensive data available to indicate hospital utilization rates for Indian people. However, statistics are available from Manitoba which indicate hospital utilization rates for registered Indians and non-Indians.

In 1976 the number of hospital days per 1,000 population was highest among registered Indians for diseases of the respiratory system (nearly 600 days per 1,000 which is three times higher than the non-Indian population). Infective and parasitic diseases were responsible for the second highest utilization rate with 350 days per 1,000 population which was also three times higher than the non-Indian rate, followed by the accidents, poisonings and violence group with a rate of 300 days per 1,000 population.⁶

TABLE 15 - TUBERCULOSIS: CASES AND RATES, INDIAN/INUIT, 1966, 1973, 1974,
1975, 1976 AND TOTAL POPULATION, 1973, 1974

YEAR	CASES INDIAN/INUIT		'ALL CANADA	
	TOTAL	RATES/1000 POP.	TOTAL	RATES/1000 POP.
1966	577	2.4	--	--
1973	427	1.5	4,130	0.2
1974	439	1.5	3,770	0.2
1975	388	1.3	--	--
1976	370	1.3	--	--

-- Not available.

Source: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Health Data Book,
March 1978.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D.,
22-6-79.

4. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the ten-year period between 1965 and 1975, the number of Indian children attending school at all levels and those staying through primary and secondary grades have increased markedly (see Table 16). The retention rate from grades 2 to 12 has increased from 11 per cent in 1965-66 to nearly 18 per cent by 1975-76 (see Table 17). However, this rate is still far below that for the total population which was at 75 per cent in 1975-76.

Since 1972-73 the percentage of registered Indian young people aged 14-18 enrolled in secondary school has declined from a high of 76 per cent to 61 per cent by 1976-77 (see Table 18).

There has been a marked increase in the number and percentage of the Indian population enrolled in post-secondary schools since 1965 (see Table 19). From 130 attending university in 1965 the numbers have grown to just over 2,000 in ten years. As a percentage of the Indian population aged 18-24 in 1965, university students represented only half a per cent as compared to 9 per cent of the same age group in the general population.

By 1975, the percentage for the Indian population had risen ten times to 5 per cent, however it still lagged behind the percentage in the general population which was 12 per cent. Although the data are not currently available, there is some indication that a certain proportion of the increase in Indian enrolment in university may be attributable to mature matriculants who have not received the usual high school prerequisites for university admission.

TABLE 16 - ENROLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIAN STUDENTS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 1965-66 TO 1975-76¹

YEAR	ENROLMENT BY GRADE					
	K4-K5	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 13	SPECIAL	TOTAL
1965-66	3,538	27,779	19,702	2,691	960	54,670
1966-67	3,694	28,811	20,608	2,840	1,205	57,158
1967-68	4,409	28,994	21,443	3,249	1,232	59,327
1968-69	5,762	28,939	22,404	3,844	1,500	62,449
1969-70	6,807	29,568	24,302	4,349	1,207	66,233
1970-71	6,836	29,321	25,568	5,149	1,575	68,449
1971-72	7,707	29,354	26,349	5,571	1,480	70,461
1972-73	7,810	29,288	27,012	5,755	1,274	71,139
1973-74	8,666	28,954	27,098	6,047	1,338	72,103
1974-75	9,273	28,482	27,509	5,718	1,267	72,249
1975-76	8,582	27,990	27,557	6,332	1,356	71,817

¹Includes federal and land operated schools, provincial and private schools.

Source: Summary of Indian Enrolment by Grade, Canada, 1965-66 to 1975-76, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 17 - RETENTION TO GRADE XII ENROLMENT, RELATED TO GRADE II ENROLMENT TEN YEARS EARLIER FOR THE TOTAL AND REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATIONS, 1965-66 TO 1975-76

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIANS	CANADA
1965-66	11.1	50.5
1969-70	16.8	67.8
1970-71	17.7	69.8
1971-72	18.3	71.5
1972-73	17.9	71.0
1973-74	19.0	70.8
1974-75	15.3	71.5
1975-76	17.9	75.4

Sources: Education in Canada, Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 81-229, Annual Report.

Summary of Indian Enrolment by Grade, Canada, 1965-66 to 1975-76, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 18 - THE NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL AGED INDIAN CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, 1969-70 TO 1977-78

YEAR	NUMBERS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE GROUP 4-13			NUMBERS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE GROUP 14-18		
	TOTAL STUDENTS (1)	TOTAL CHILDREN (2)	PERCENT ENROLLED $(1) \div (2) \times 100\%$	TOTAL STUDENTS (4)	TOTAL CHILDREN (5)	PERCENT ENROLLED $(4) \div (5) \times 100\%$
1969-1970	47,139	56,618	83.26	12,453	20,784	59.92
1970-1971	50,021	57,011	87.74	15,294	21,524	71.06
1971-1972	49,872	55,679	89.57	16,051	22,257	72.12
1972-1973	49,255	57,120	86.23	17,550	23,000	76.30
1973-1974	51,452	57,148	90.03	16,718	23,791	70.27
1974-1975	54,682	58,734	93.10	16,515	25,327	65.21
1975-1976	54,049	58,471	92.44	16,722	26,283	63.62
1976-1977	53,982	58,641	92.06	16,439	26,953	60.99
1977-1978	55,371	58,400	94.81	16,661	27,904	59.71

Source: Student Population by Grade and Age, Canada, 1969-70 to 1977-78, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 19 - FULL TIME POST-SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIANS,
1965, 1970, 1975

YEAR	POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENT ¹		UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT		UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION AGED 18-24	
	NUMBER	FIVE-YEAR GROWTH	NUMBER	FIVE-YEAR GROWTH	REGISTERED INDIAN	TOTAL POPULATION
1965	3,103	% --	131	% --	.5	8.7
1970	10,946	252.8	432	229.8	1.4	11.8
1975	11,103	1.4	2,071	379.4	5.3	12.2

¹ Enrolment Post-Secondary- Registered Indians includes the following: University Teaching, Nursing Vocational, Auxiliary, Pre-vocational Formation and Special Courses.

Sources: Post-Secondary Courses for Indian Students, 1965, 1975, Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.
Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 81-229.
Registered Indian Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada, 1965, 1970, 1975, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

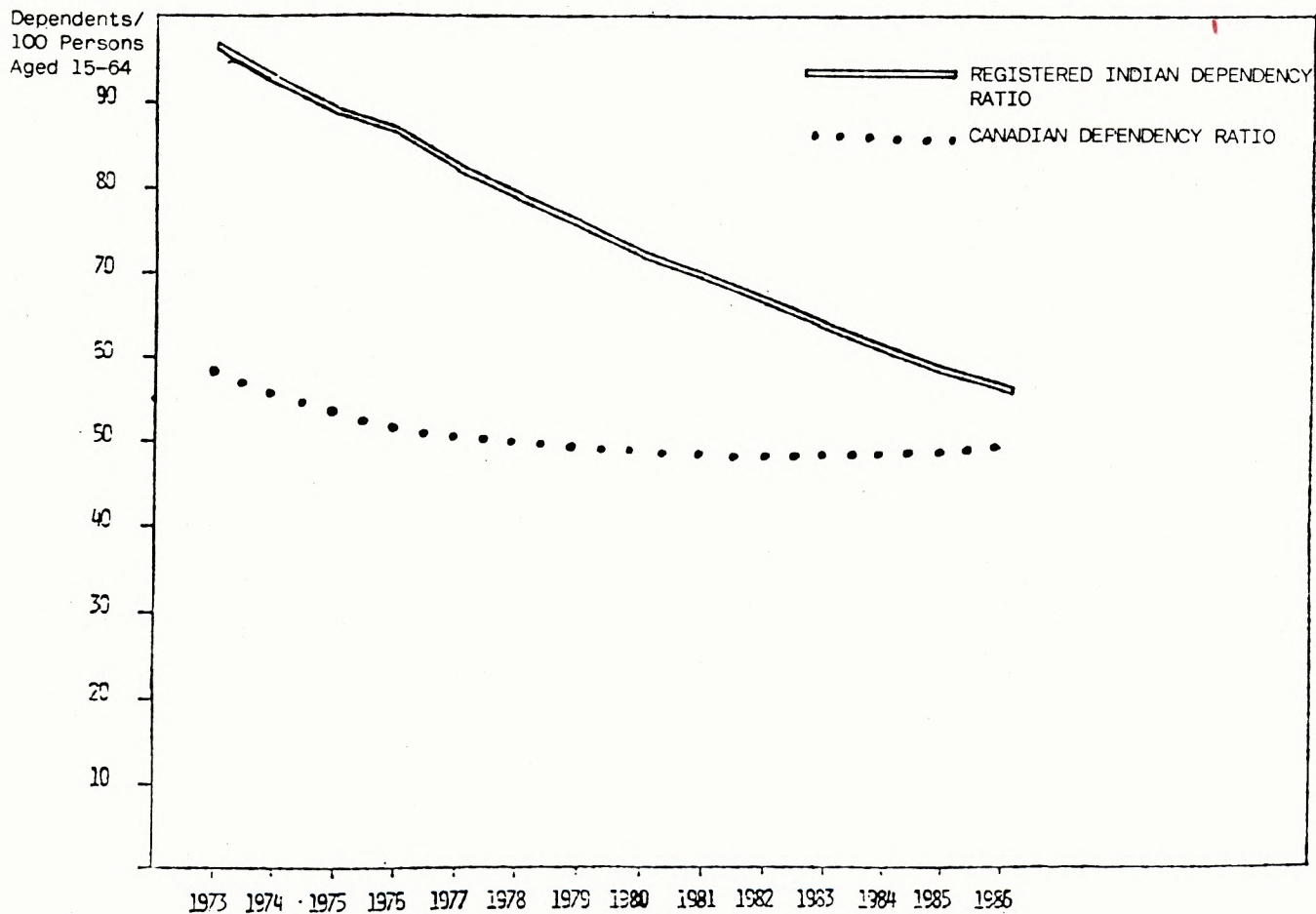
Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

The retention rate of Indian students through Grade 12 is a key to their future educational development. Unless a substantial increase in the retention rate occurs from the present levels, it will be a limiting factor on the number of potential recruits for post-secondary education and training.

5. EMPLOYMENT

In discussing levels of unemployment in the Indian population the reader should realize there are conceptual difficulties with the term unemployment. Statistics Canada definitions, for example, are not meaningful for Indian people who follow a traditional way of life. There are also conceptual problems with respect to what constitutes "full" versus "part" time employment. Thus, considerable caution is suggested when comparing an average unemployment rate of 7 to 8 per cent for the total population with one which is variously "guesstimated" as being in the range of 50 to 90 per cent for the Indian population.

There are no accurate statistical data available describing either the current unemployment or employment levels among registered Indians; however, a substantial majority of Indian families are receiving social assistance payments (see Section 6).

CHART 1 - REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL DEPENDENCY RATIOS, 1973-1986¹

¹ The Dependency Ratio is calculated by dividing the population aged 0-14 and 65 and over by the population aged 15-64 multiplied by 100.

Sources: Siggner, A., "Population Projections for the Registered Indian Population 1973-1990", Research Branch, D.I.A.N.D., August, 1977.
 Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada and Provinces, 1972-2001, Projection B, Cat. No. 91-514.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

In 1976, the ratio of the dependent population (aged 0-14 years and 65 years and over) to the potential labour force age group (aged 15-64 years) was 86 per 100 for registered Indians (see Chart 1), while the total dependency ratio for all Canada stood at 53 per 100 in 1976. Demographic forecasts indicate that the Indian ratio may shift to 56 dependents per 100 persons aged 15-64 and thus converge on the ratio in the general population which is expected to be at 52 per 100 by 1986. The increase in the population age group 15-64 will have significantly reduced the dependency burden in 1986. The so-called "productive" Indian population includes many who are unemployed and unemployable (e.g. students, the handicapped, etc.) If they are deducted from the labour force age group and added to the dependent population, the economic burden borne by the very small remaining labour force population would increase.

As a consequence, the decline in the dependency ratio could assist the amelioration of Indian economic conditions and the raising of their per capita standard-of-living if sufficient employment opportunities are available for the Indian labour force.

6. SELECTED ASPECTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

In 1974 there were over 7600 Indian children in care for a variety of social and personal reasons or almost 8 per cent of the relevant population (see Table 20). This percentage is four times higher than the rate for the total population.

TABLE 20 - NUMBER OF REGISTERED INDIAN CHILDREN IN CARE AND IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR SOCIAL REASONS RELATED TO RELEVANT AGE POPULATION, 1965-66 TO 1973-74

YEAR	TOTAL	CHILDREN IN CARE ²			IN STUDENT RESIDENCES FOR SOCIAL REASONS
		CHILD CARE AGENCIES	INDIAN AFFAIRS	SUB-TOTAL	
1965-66	4,780	1,962	1,090	3,052	1,728 ³
1966-67	5,121	2,171	1,174	3,345	1,728 ³
1967-68	5,900	2,617	1,465	4,082	1,818 ³
1968-69	6,371	2,971	1,468	4,439	1,932 ³
1969-70	6,911	3,317	1,613	4,930	1,982
1970-71	7,346	3,653	1,644	5,297	2,049
1971-72	7,523	3,842 ⁴	1,571 ⁴	5,413	2,110
1972-73	7,927	3,853 ⁴	1,561 ⁴	5,414	2,513
1973-74	7,641	4,112 ⁴	1,258 ⁴	5,370	2,271
CHILDREN IN CARE AS A PERCENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP ⁵					
1965-66	-	-	-	-	-
1966-67	5.4	2.3	1.2	3.5	1.9 ³
1967-68	6.1	2.7	1.5	4.2	1.9 ³
1968-69	6.5	3.0	1.5	4.6	1.9 ³
1969-70	7.1	3.4	1.6	5.0	2.1
1970-71	7.5	3.7	1.7	5.4	2.1
1971-72	7.7	3.9 ⁴	1.6 ⁴	5.5	2.2
1972-73	8.1	3.9 ⁴	1.6 ⁴	5.5	2.6
1973-74	7.8	4.2 ⁴	1.3 ⁴	5.5	3.3

¹For children in care, average quarterly figures: autumn enrolment figures for students.

²The number of children being cared for outside their home under the supervision of children care agencies and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

³Estimated by Statistics Canada.

⁴Estimated by D.I.A.N.D.

⁵The percentages have been obtained by relating the number of children to the population aged 0-16 on-reserve and Crown land.

Source: Statistics Canada, Social Security, National Programs 1976, Cat. No. 86-201.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

TABLE 21 - SOCIAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE REGISTERED INDIAN
POPULATION, 1972-73 NAD 1973-74¹

YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	PER CENT RECEIVING SOC. ASSISTANCE
1972-73	105,247	56.9
1973-74	102,481	54.8

¹ Social assistance consists of needs-tested financial assistance to registered Indian families and individuals on-reserve and Crown land; it does not include payments on behalf of people in institutions. Figures exclude Northwest Territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Social Security, National Programs, 1976, Cat. No. 86-201.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

In 1974, 55 per cent of the total Indian population on-reserve were receiving social assistance, or welfare, payments (see Table 21). In a more recent study in Ontario, an estimated 70 per cent of the total Indian population on-reserve were recipients of social assistance. The study also designated some 72 per cent of these recipients as able-bodied and employable. Under the Canada Assistance Plan only 6 per cent of the total population was receiving assistance in 1974.

Given the expected rise in the population entering the labour force age group during the 1980's, and if no substantial improvements in on-reserve employment levels occur, the demand for social assistance and social services, especially among the unemployed employables, could well increase.

Another trend which may have important implications for special types of social services and for social assistance has been the increase in single parent families in the registered Indian population. For example, the 1971 Census indicates that there is a greater proportion of single Indian women who are heads of households in comparison with the total. For example, 25 per cent of all Indian households occupied by 2 or 3 persons were headed by women as compared with 14 per cent of households for the total population.

Another indicator of the increase in single-female parent families has been the increase in the number of Indian births occurring to unmarried women, even though the overall birth rate in the Indian population generally has been declining. The percentage share of births occurring to unmarried Indian women has increased from 33 per cent in 1971 to just over 50 per cent in 1976. The growth in the general population of such births has been from 8 per cent in 1966 to 11 per cent in

1976. One study has estimated that 53 per cent of unmarried Indian women with one or two children are living in common-law unions (Lachance-Brulotte, 1975, p. 135).

With the expected growth in the number of women in the child-bearing years in the 1980 decade, there likely will be an increase in the number of single-female parent families in the future. This trend could affect the demand for social services and social assistance.

7. HOUSING

The latest housing data as of 1977 indicate that 40 per cent of Indian reserve and settlement houses were in need of major repairs or replacement. While the majority of Indian houses had electricity (90 per cent), only 50 per cent had potable water and only 45 per cent had sewage disposal and indoor plumbing. These conditions were particularly marked in rural and remote communities (see Table 23). By contrast, the 1971 Census indicated that at least 60 per cent of all rural area houses were equipped with these types of facilities (see Table 22).

When these Indian housing conditions are combined with the fact that 32 per cent of the units accommodate two or more families or require an addition to accommodate large families,⁸ it appears that overcrowding may be a problem for Indians living in housing on-reserve. Such living conditions may also be linked to the current levels of health of Indian people as compared to those in the total population in general.

TABLE 22 - SELECTED HOUSING CONDITIONS FOR REGISTERED INDIAN RESERVES AND
FOR THE TOTAL POPULATION :
 1971, 1977

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSES BY TYPE OF FACILITIES							
	ELECTRICITY		POTABLE WATER		SEWAGE SYSTEM		INDOOR PLUMBING	
	REGISTERED INDIAN ³ 1977	TOTAL 1971	REGISTERED INDIAN 1977	TOTAL 1971	REGISTERED INDIAN 1977	TOTAL 1971	REGISTERED INDIAN 1977	TOTAL 1971
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
URBAN ¹	96	99	74	99	71	98	71	98
RURAL ²	93	95	49	84	38	64	38	76
REMOTE	79	--	22	--	17	--	18	--
TOTAL	90	98	50	96	45	90	45	94

¹Urban area includes reserves in urban and semi-urban locations; (see Table 2.9 for definitions).

²The 1971 housing conditions for the total population derive from the 1971 Census which used different definitions for urban and rural areas. However, it was assumed that these definitional differences would not distract the general comparisons being made between Indian and Canadian housing conditions.

-- not available

Source: Housing Needs Analysis Survey 1977, Community Services Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, 1979.

Statistics Canada, 1971 Census Bulletins: Cat. No. 93-738.

Prepared by: Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

During the decade 1976 to 1986, it is expected that there will be an increased demand for housing on-reserve. Demographic projections indicate that the principal family-formation age group (20-29 years), will increase by nearly 36 per cent or by over 30,000 persons during this period. In addition, it can be assumed that the expected increase in the single-parent families will also have an effect on housing demand. This large numerical increase anticipated in the 1980's reflects a) the high birth rates of the late 1950's and early 1960's and b) stabilization in the percentage of the young adult age group living on-reserve caused by expected lower levels of out-migration and higher levels of return migration.

8. JUSTICE

Native inmates in relation to their percentage share of the national population, estimated at 2 to 3 per cent,⁹ are over-represented in federal prisons representing 9 per cent of the total inmate population. According to age groups, both the native and non-native inmates tend to be concentrated in the 20 to 34 age group (see Table 23).

With respect to incarceration for violent crimes (e.g. murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, etc.) Table 23 shows that 48 per cent native inmates have been convicted of such crimes, while only 27 per cent of the non-native inmates have. There is a significant difference among natives and non-natives convicted of manslaughter, where the former represents 14 per cent of all native inmates and the latter only 5 per cent of all non-native inmates.

TABLE 23 - SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE
INMATES IN FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES, 1979

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	INMATES	
	NATIVE ¹	NON-NATIVE
Number ¹	802	8,442
Per Cent	8.7	91.3
AGE GROUP:	%	%
Under 20	6.0	4.0
20 - 34	76.0	66.0
35 and Over	18.0	30.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
OFFENCE TYPE:	%	%
Violent ²	48.0	27.0
Non-Violent	52.0	73.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
NO. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS:	%	%
0	62.0	65.0
1	19.0	21.0
2	12.0	9.0
3+	7.0	5.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
LENGTH OF SENTENCE:	%	%
Under 2 yrs.	7.0	4.0
2 - 3 yrs.	24.0	18.0
3+ yrs.	69.0	78.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

¹Includes registered non-status Indians, Metis and Inuit except in the number of Native inmates which excludes Inuit.

²Violent offences include murder, rape, assault, etc.; non-violent are offences not against persons.

Source: Information Systems and Statistics Division, Minister of the Solicitor General, July, 1979.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 22-6-79.

On federal non-violent offences, non-natives as a percentage of all non-native inmates show higher percentages than that for the native inmates. For example, 31 per cent of non-native inmates were incarcerated for robbery as compared with 21 per cent among native inmates; 11 per cent for narcotics crimes among non-natives and only 2 per cent among natives.

There do not seem to be significant differences on the extent of recidivism (number of previous commitments) for federal crimes between the two populations (see Table 23). Among both inmate populations about 20 per cent have had one previous commitment, about 10 per cent two commitments. Among native inmates, 24 per cent have two to three year sentences compared to 18 per cent among non-native inmates. However, this may be due to a difference in the types of federal offences for which each group has been incarcerated and a cross-classification of offence by length of sentence was not readily available.

9. SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

The objective of this report has been to describe the trends in a number of selected demographic, social and economic indicators in the registered Indian population in comparison with the trends in the general population. It is hoped that this information will be useful to decision and policy makers, planners and administrators within the government. Several demographic, social and economic findings are highlighted and some possible implications are summarized below.

Like the general population, the Indian population has experienced a recent "baby-boom", although it occurred during the 1960's rather than the 1950's as in the general population. This group will enter the labour force, family formation stage and housing market almost simultaneously throughout the 1980 decade. For example, the population aged 15-29 will grow from over 85,000 in 1976 to over 116,000 by 1986, a ten year increase of 34 per cent. The ranks of the entire labour force age group 15-64 is expected to grow in size from approximately 157,000 in 1976 to 218,000 by 1986.

While the labour force has been increasing, the number of dependent children under age 15 has been declining since 1971 and is expected to do so throughout the 1980's. The underlying cause of this trend is a rapid decline in the Indian birth rate which has dropped from nearly 42 births to 29 births per 1,000 population between 1966 and 1976. Although the Indian birth rate is still almost twice as high as that of the general population, it is expected to decline in the 1980's. This decrease will have an effect on the size of primary school enrolments in the future. Furthermore, the declining birth rate could lead to a smaller family size. The decrease in the number of dependent children combined with the increase in the labour force age group will reduce the dependency ratio. As a consequence, this trend could have a beneficial effect on the per capita standard of living of Indian people if there is a concomitant improvement in employment opportunities.

Marked reductions in infant mortality among Indians have occurred since 1960, but the infant death rate is still twice as high as that of the general population. Other age groups up to the age of 44 years have death rates also, at least twice as high as those in the general population. For example, the age group 20-44 among Indians has a death rate four times the general population.

In general, the most frequent causes of death among Indians are due to accidents, poisoning and violence. These account for 33 per cent of all Indian deaths compared to only about 10 per cent in the total population. One study indicates that the majority of such deaths occur to young Indian adults. Since the young adult population is expected to increase rapidly throughout the 1980 decade, the number of deaths due to such causes could increase unless their underlying social causes are alleviated.

Recently there has been a slowing down in the rate of growth of the off-reserve Indian population which implies a return migration to reserves and/or a lessening of out-migration from reserves. This is particularly true of the usually mobile young adult population. If this trend continues, it could add to the demand for employment, housing, etc., on reserves in the 1980 decade.

There has been a significant increase in the number of Indian students enrolled in post-secondary and university institutions since the 1960's. However, secondary school retention rates for Indian students have not shown major improvements in recent years. It is this school aged population, i.e. 10-19, which is, in absolute numbers the second largest group in the total Indian population surpassed in size only by the group under age ten. It is from these two age groups that post-secondary school recruits will be drawn and who will be entering the labour force in the 1980 decade.

As a rough measure of unemployment the majority of Indian families were receiving social assistance in the 1970's. If this trend continues combined, once again, with the expected increase in the population entering the labour force age group in the 1980's, the amount of social assistance required could grow significantly.

Another trend which may have implications for social assistance and special social service requirements is the growing number of single female parent families. A rough indicator of this trend is the growing percentage of all births occurring to unmarried Indian women which has increased from 33 per cent of all births in 1971 to over 50 per cent in 1976. The comparable percentage for unmarried women in the general population in 1976 was only 11 per cent. Thus, single parenthood with its social service needs of day care, etc., could increase in the 1980 decade despite the overall decline in the Indian birth rate.

The expected rise in the numbers of registered Indians entering the family formation stage in the 1980's will increase the demand for housing, as already noted. However, as of 1977, nearly one-third of on-reserve housing units had two or more families living in them or required an addition to accommodate large families. Furthermore, in rural and remote reserves (where the majority of the Indian population reside) less than 50 per cent of housing units had running water, sewage disposal and indoor plumbing as compared to rural housing for the rest of Canadians which had at least 60 per cent of such facilities in 1971.

When native (registered and non-status Indians and Metis) and non-native inmates in federal penitentiaries are compared, both inmate populations are concentrated in the age group 20-34. However, the percentage share of native inmates incarcerated for violent crimes, i.e. crimes against persons, is markedly higher than the percentage among non-native inmates, namely 48 per cent as compared with 27 per cent. The percentage distribution of the number of previous commitments in the two populations is similar.

In conclusion, the Indian population still remains disadvantaged compared to the general population. As this report demonstrates, it is the young Indian adult population which seems to be most affected by the present level of social and economic conditions. They have poorer school retention rates than the total population and have tended recently to move back to or stay on reserve due to poor economic opportunities off-reserve. They are beginning to enter the family formation stage in large numbers with attendant housing problems and have a higher proportion of single female parent families compared to the total population. They form a large proportion of the native inmate population in federal penitentiaries and have death rates considerably higher than those of the general population. Finally, it is this young adult population which is expected to increase rapidly throughout the 1980 decade.

10. FOOTNOTES

¹"Economic Classification Indian Bands of Canada", Development Services Division, Indian-Eskimo Economic Development Branch, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, December 1973.

²The Indian death rate is standardized on the age structure of the total population because the Indian population has a much younger age structure than that of the overall. Therefore, the Indian death rate is more comparable to the total.

³Includes registered Indians and Inuit.

⁴Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Health Data Book, April 1978, p. 44.

⁵Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Pacific Region, 1976 Annual Report, Appendix C.

⁶Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Manitoba Regional Office, unpublished report, 1976.

⁷Lachance-Brulotte, G., La nuptialité des Indiens inscrits du Canada, Maitrise ES Science, Dept. de Démographie, Université de Montréal, December 1975, p. 135.

⁸Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Program Support Group, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, Listing of Information related to the Housing Needs Analysis Survey, 1977. Ottawa 1979, p. 1.

⁹This is a "ball park" estimate since the penitentiary data includes registered Indians, non-status Indians and Metis.