

# **Regional Comparisons of Data on Canada's Registered Indians**

**by A.J. Siggner, D. Perley, D. Young and P. Turcotte**

**Research Branch  
Corporate Policy**

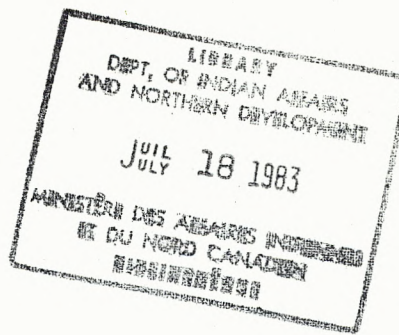


**Indian and Northern  
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**REGIONAL COMPARISONS OF DATA  
ON CANADA'S REGISTERED INDIANS**

By

Andrew J. Siggner, David Perley,  
Debra A. Young and Pierre Turcotte

Research Branch, Corporate Policy  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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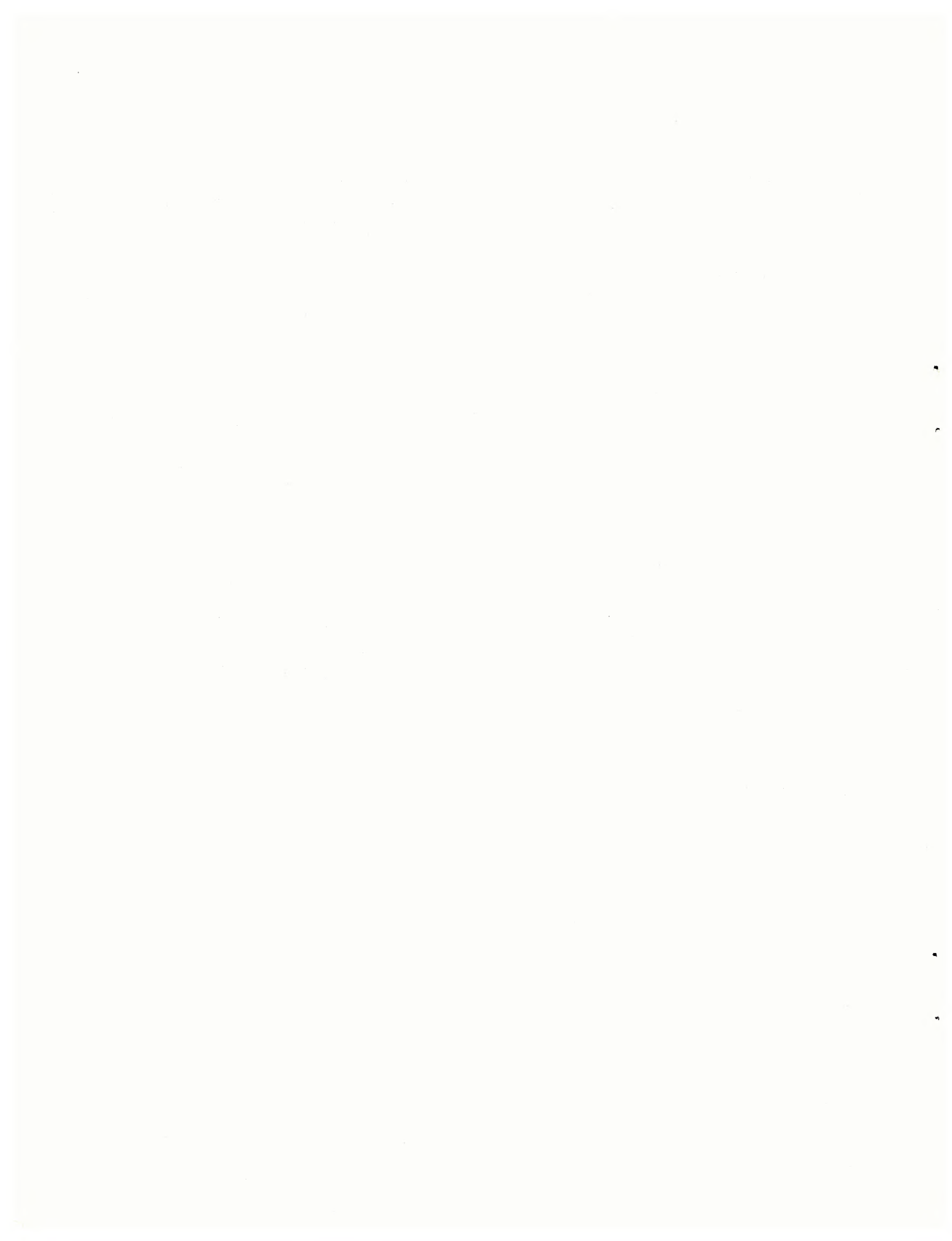
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to provide a regional comparison of selected demographic, social and economic conditions of registered Indians for specified time periods. The report should be useful to those involved in research, planning, policy development and evaluation activities concerning Canada's registered Indians since, for the first time, it combines the available data on registered Indians for all Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) regions, as well as providing an analysis of the trends of such data.

Eight demographic, two health, four education and two housing variables as well as a dependency ratio are examined for various years between 1966 and 1986. Different years have been used for these variables as the time coverage or geographical breakdown of existing data precluded a consistent standardized approach.

### **1.1 Data Sources and Methodological Notes**

This report is similar to a series of provincial reports based on the model used in the national study, An Overview of Demographic, Social and Economic Conditions Among Canada's Registered Indian

Population<sup>1</sup>. It is analogous in terms of topics treated and covers the same time period 1966-76 with projections for 1981 and 1986.

In contrast to the above series, however, this report focuses on regional comparisons rather than on any one selected province. To illustrate the regional patterns of registered Indian conditions it employs graphics rather than a tabular presentation of the data.

The sources of data are primarily the records of the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, such as the Indian Register, education enrollment records (Nominal Roll) and the 1977 Housing Needs Analysis Survey of Indian Reserves and Settlements. Other sources include Statistics Canada's 1971 and 1976 censuses, as well as their population estimates, projections, and vital statistics, and the 1973-77 annual reports of the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada.

Throughout this report, the term "Indian" refers to those registered under the Indian Act.

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1. Siggner, A.J., An Overview of Demographic, Social and Economic Conditions Among Canada's Registered Indian Population (Ottawa, September 1979). Research Support Section, Research Division, Research Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The term "region" corresponds to the regions administered by INAC. With the exception of the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon INAC regions, the regional boundaries are identical to the provincial or territorial boundaries. The Atlantic INAC region combines the registered Indian populations of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Ontario INAC region administers that part of the St. Regis band which is located in Quebec (which means that the entire population of the band has been computed with the Ontario INAC region). The Yukon INAC region administers the Atlin and Liard River bands located in northern British Columbia.

In the sections on "Demographic Characteristics" and "Dependent Population" the data for Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon are either provincial or territorial, not regional. An adjustment for late reported births and deaths was not feasible for these regional populations due to a lack of computed data (i.e., births and deaths within the year of occurrence and year of registration). Consequently for Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon, provincial data adjusted for late reported births and deaths were used.

The difference between the regional and provincial populations of Quebec or Ontario is very small (a part of the St. Regis band population), while for British Columbia and the Yukon, the

difference is about 600 persons. For British Columbia this is of no great significance as it is 1% of its Indian population. However, for the Yukon, it comprises 18% of its population. Nonetheless, for comparability, provincial and territorial data were used.

## 2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section examines registered Indian demographic patterns and trends by looking at population size, growth (i.e., births and deaths), age composition and on-/off-reserve distribution. The time period analysed is 1966-76, with projections for 1981 and 1986. These demographic variables are of importance to planning and policy development since both current and future demand for programs and services are affected by the age or life-cycle changes of a population.

The demographic data on registered Indians were derived from INAC's Indian Register, and have been adjusted for late-reported births and deaths. Hence these numbers will not correspond necessarily to the officially published Indian Register counts. Depending on the year and INAC region, the difference between adjusted and official data usually ranged from 1% to 3%.

The population figures quoted for 1981 and 1986 for each INAC region are projections using 1976 as the base year. Both the fertility and mortality assumptions were based on historical trends from 1966-76. Demographic patterns and trends are summarized graphically by Charts 1 to 7.2.



## 2.1 Population Size and Growth

Chart 1 shows that all regions will experience continuous growth in their registered Indian population and that each region is expected to stay in the same relative order according to population size.

Ontario and British Columbia are the two regions which have the greatest populations of registered Indians while Northwest Territories and the Yukon have the least.

By 1981, it has been forecast that there will be just over 319,000 registered Indians,<sup>2</sup> representing about 1.3% of the total Canadian population<sup>3</sup>. Despite this increase in absolute numbers the rates of population growth are expected to decrease by 1986. However, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories will continue to have higher rates of growth than the other regions (Chart 2). During the 1976-81 period, the annual growth rates of these regions varied between 1.9% and 2.6%. The remaining regions had low annual rates of growth in the range of 0.8% to 1.4% during this same time period.

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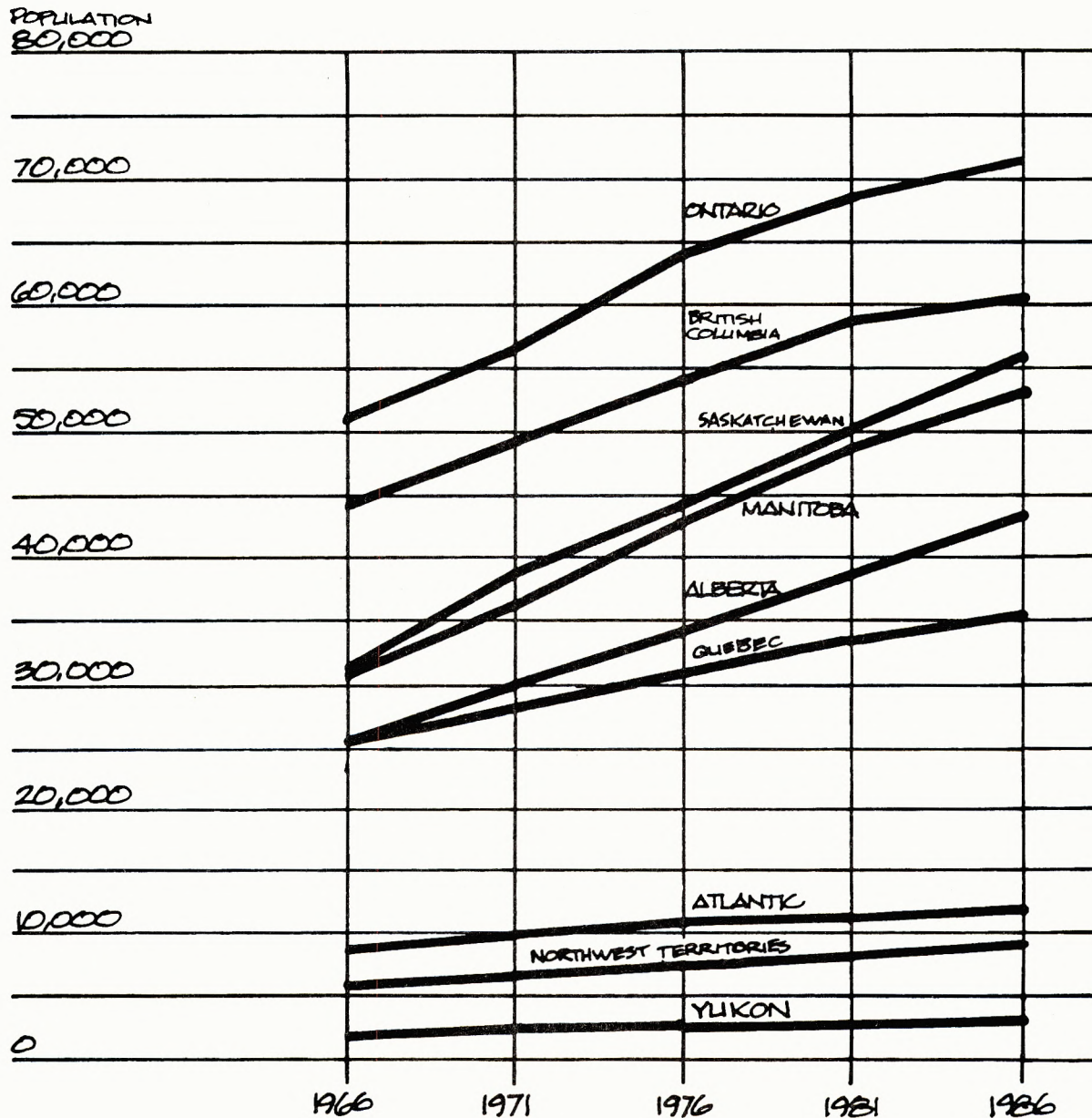
2. Research Support Section, Research Division, Research Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Population Projections (1977-91) (Ottawa, August 1979). Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

3. Op. cit., Siggner, 1979.

# CHART 1

## REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION

BY INAC REGIONS, 1966, 1971 AND 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES

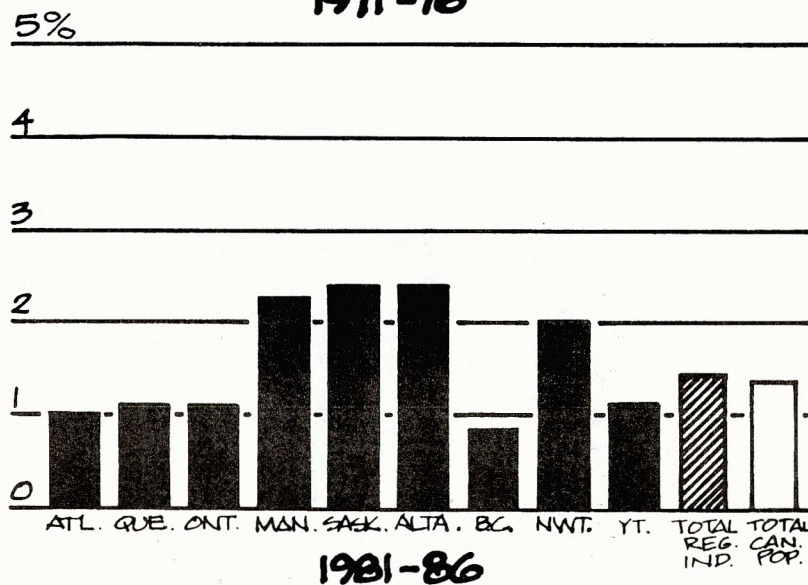
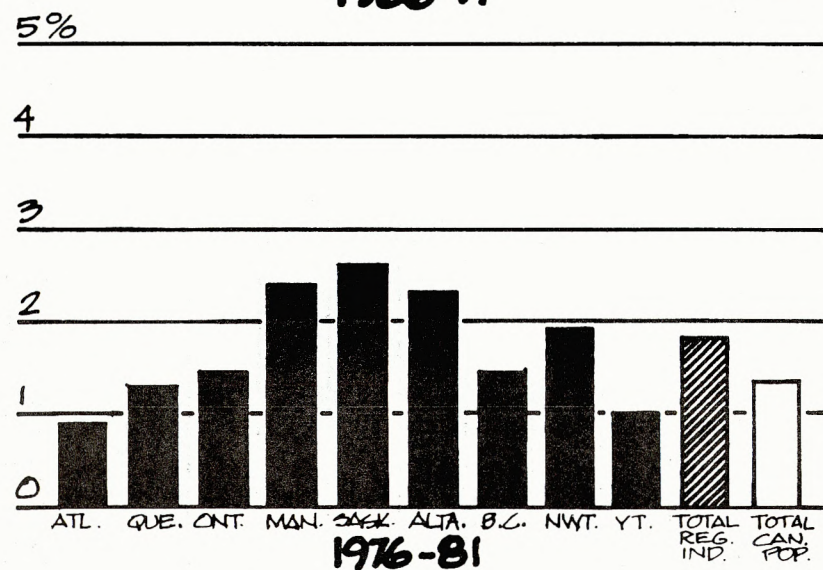
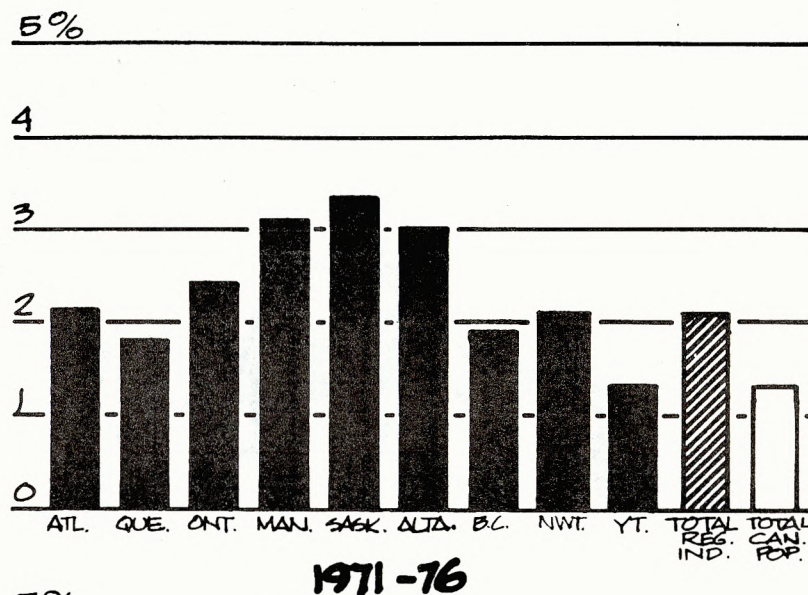
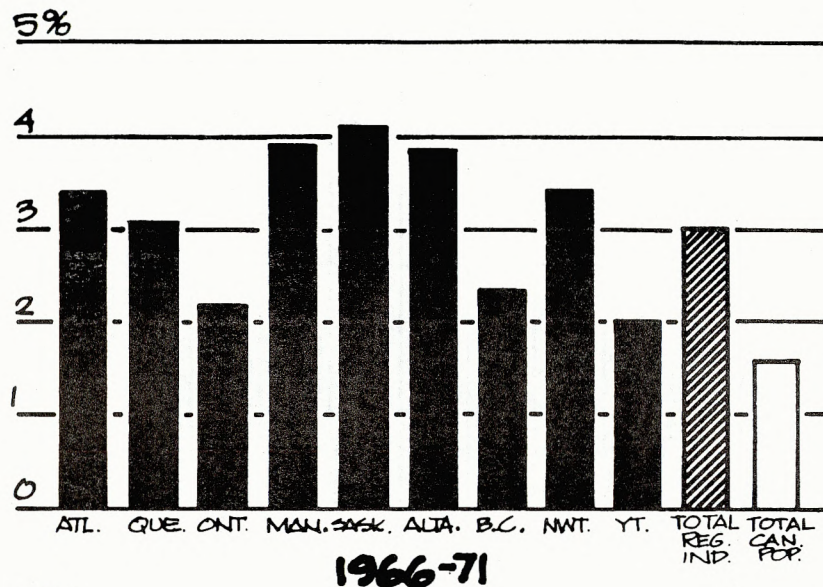
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# AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (PER 100)

FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, OVER QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS BETWEEN 1966-86\*

## CHART 2



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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## 2.2 Birth Rate Trends

The registered Indian birth rates for each region between 1967 and 1976 are summarized in Chart 3. The birth rate has been declining in all regions and by 1976, the birth rate for all registered Indians was 28.5 births per 1,000 population.<sup>4</sup>

Using this 1976 birth rate for all registered Indians as the norm, the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta regions have birth rates above this, with Saskatchewan's birth rate at the highest with 35. births per 1,000 population. Although the Northwest Territories falls into the "below" category because its 1976 birth rate was 26.3, from 1974 to 1976 the birth rates rose to rates high enough to include this region among the high birth-rate regions.

## 2.3 Death Rates

The age-specific death rates averaged over the period 1973-77 are shown by Charts 4.1 to 4.3. It is evident that for all age groups, the total registered Indian death rate was higher than that for all Canadians.

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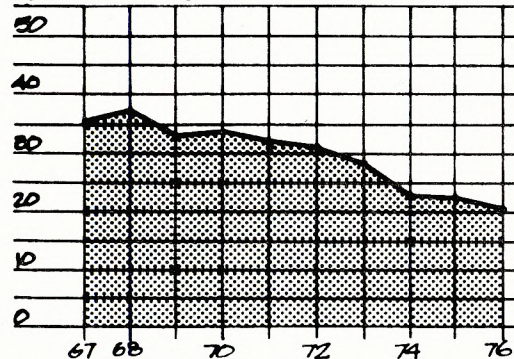
4. Ibid.



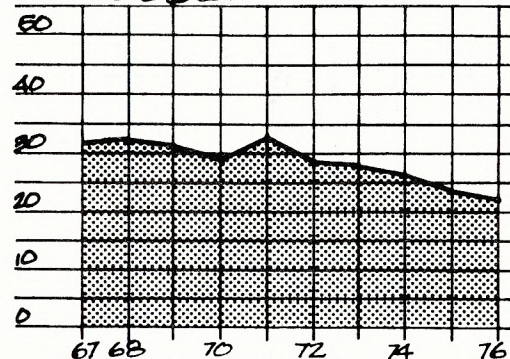
# BIRTH RATES (PER 1,000) FOR REGISTERED INDIANS BY INAC REGIONS, 1967 TO 1976\*

## CHART 3

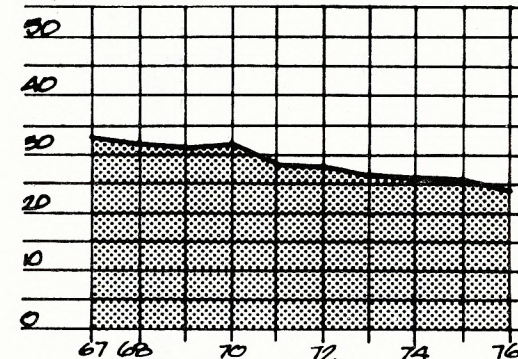
**% ATLANTIC**



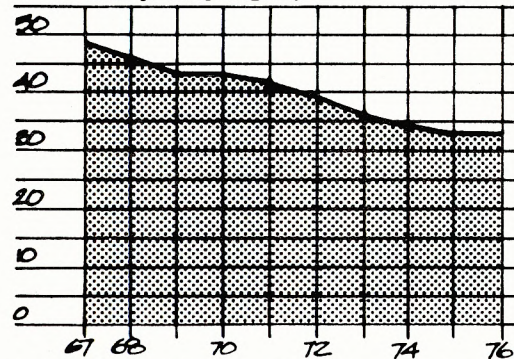
**% QUEBEC**



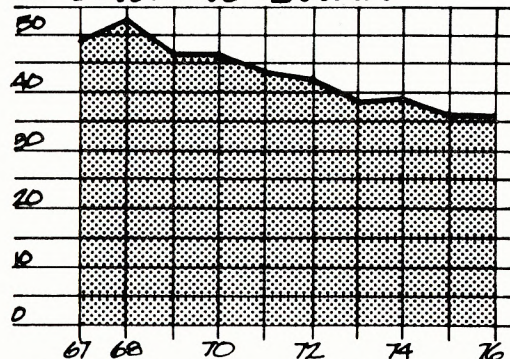
**% ONTARIO**



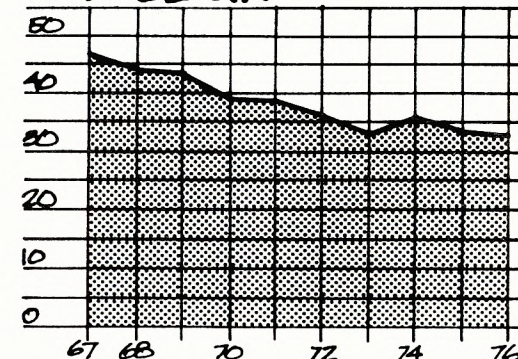
**% MANITOBA**



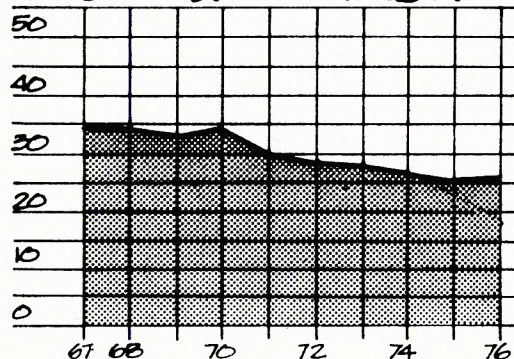
**% SASKATCHEWAN**



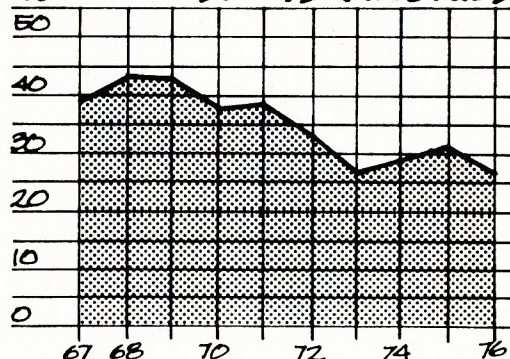
**% ALBERTA**



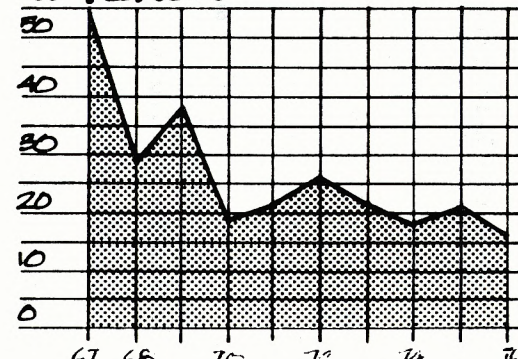
**% BRITISH COLUMBIA**



**% NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**



**% YUKON**



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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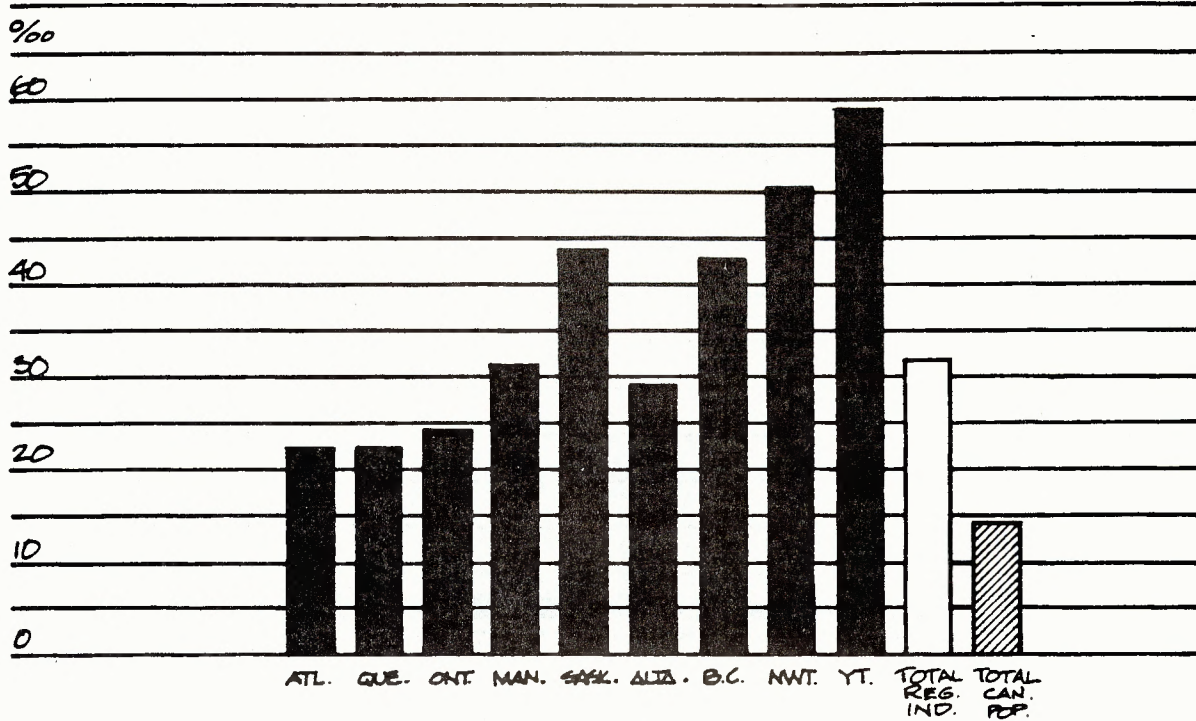


# DEATH RATES (PER 1,000)

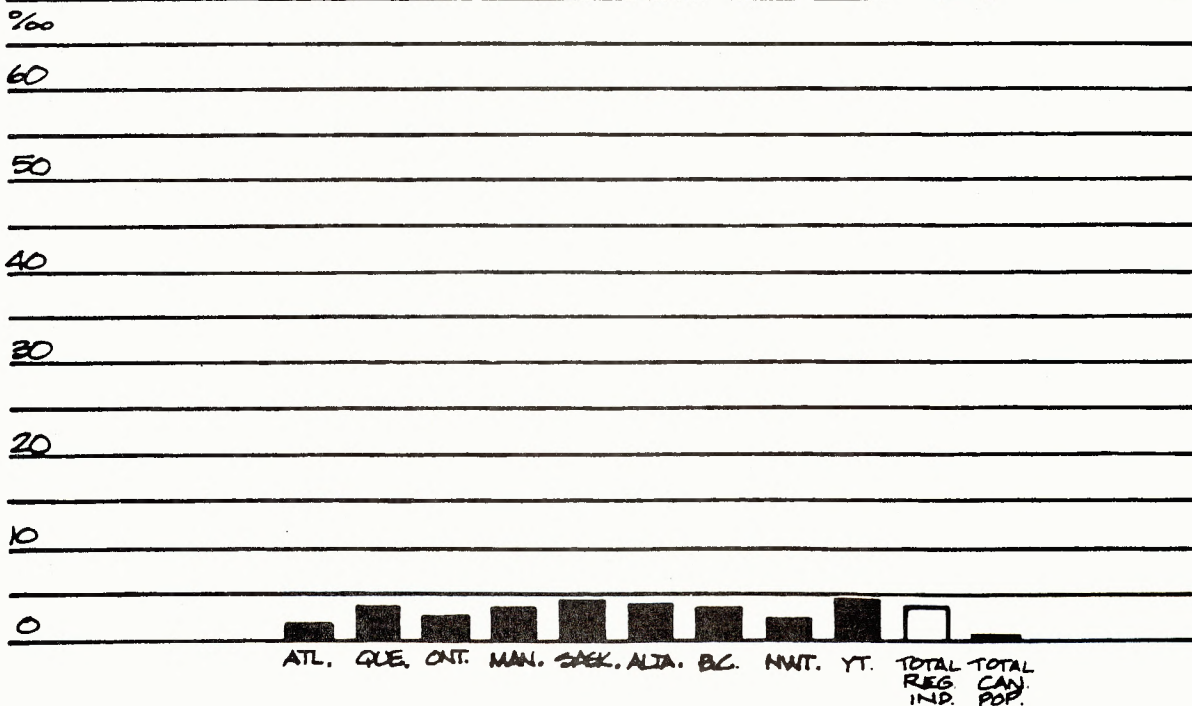
## CHART 4.1

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, AVERAGED OVER 1973-77\*

### UNDER 1 YEAR



### 1-4 YEARS



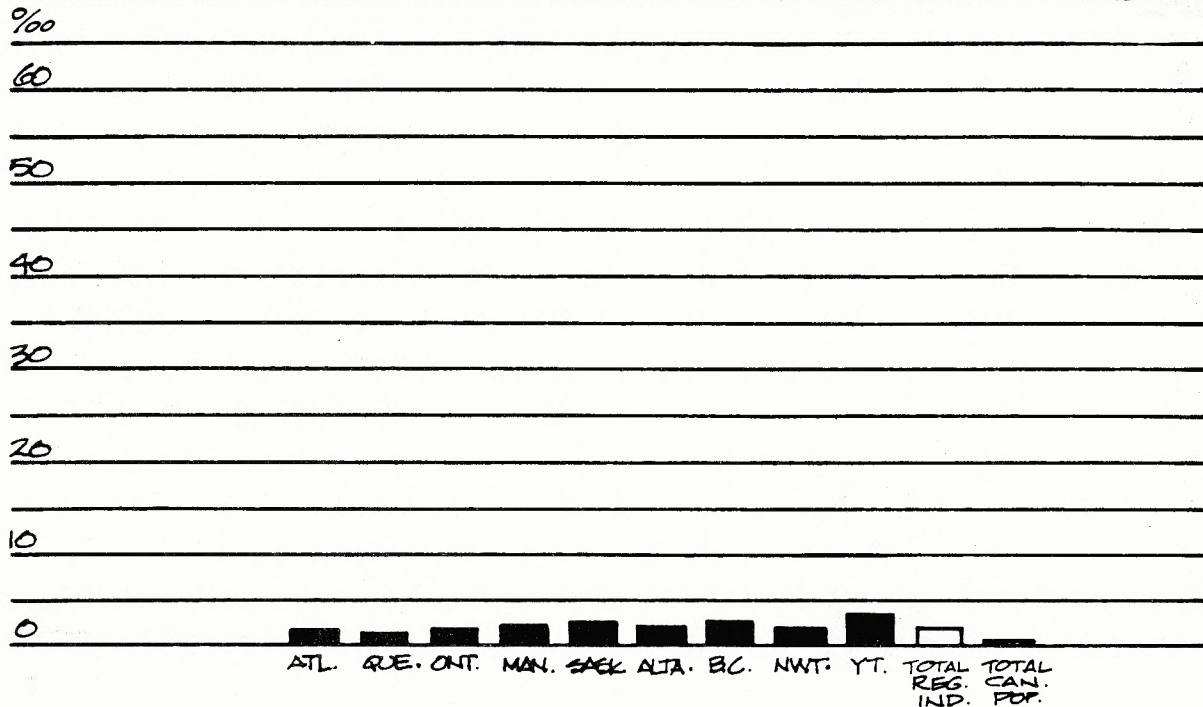
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# DEATH RATES (PER 1,000)<sup>-12-</sup>

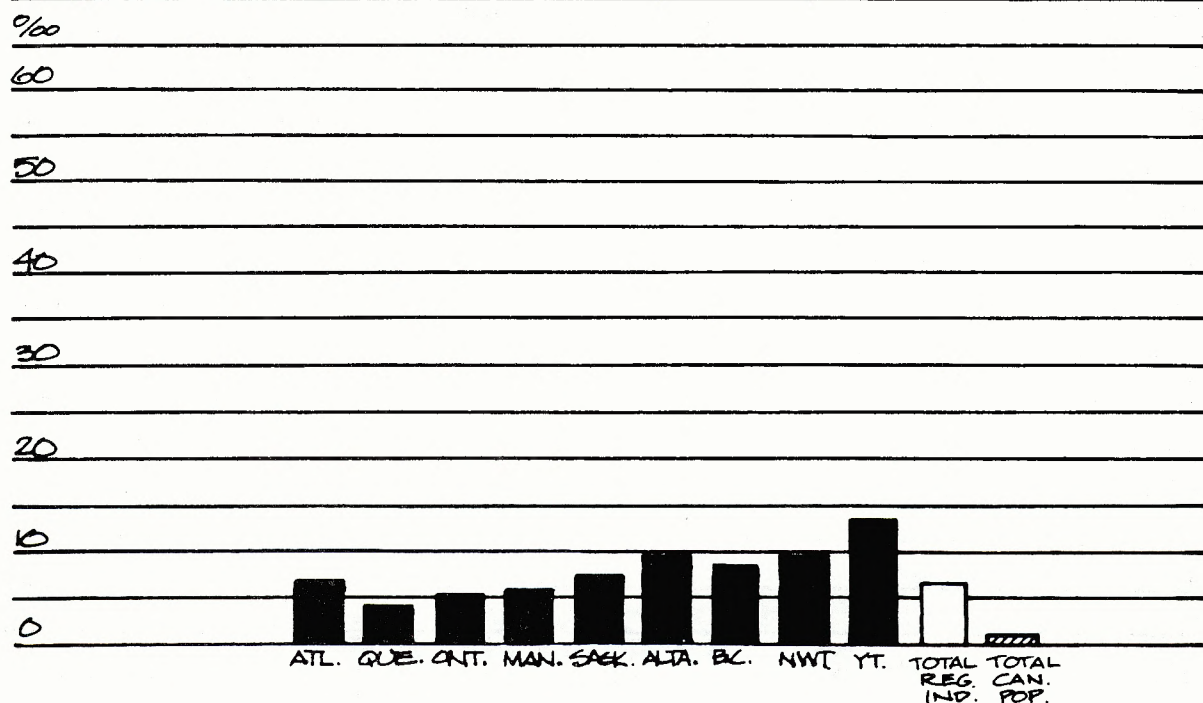
## CHART 4.2

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, AVERAGED OVER 1973-77\*

### 5-19 YEARS



### 20-44 YEARS



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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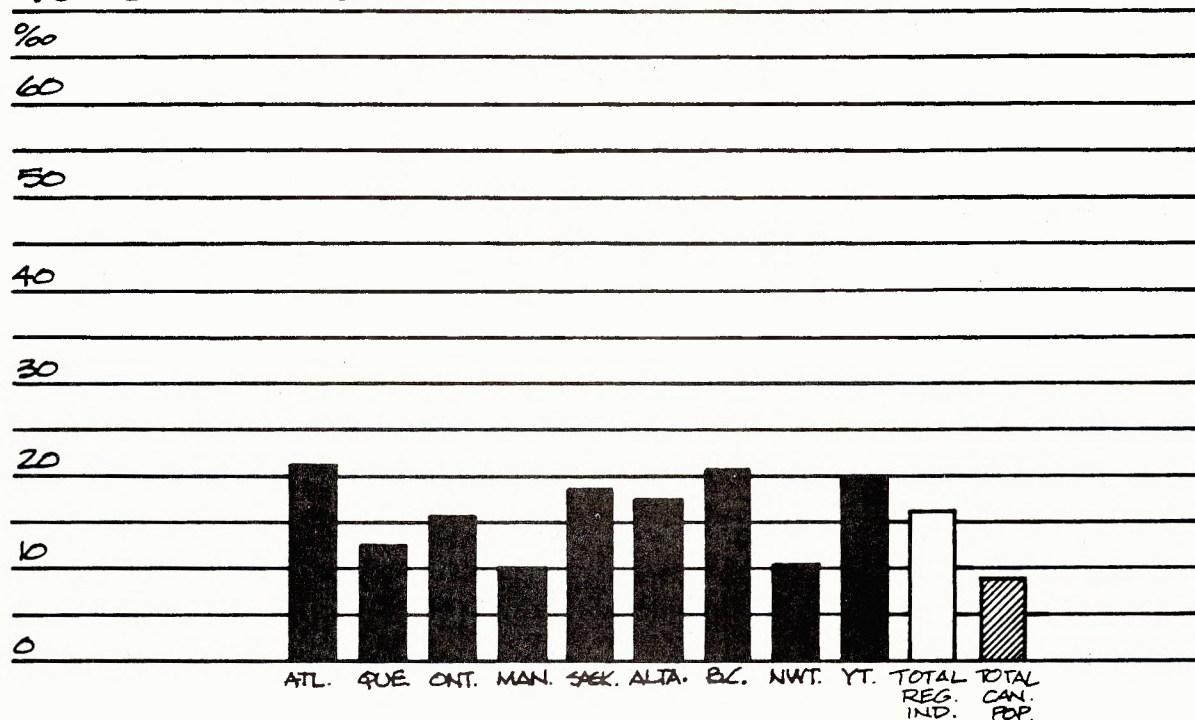


# DEATH RATES (PER 1,000)

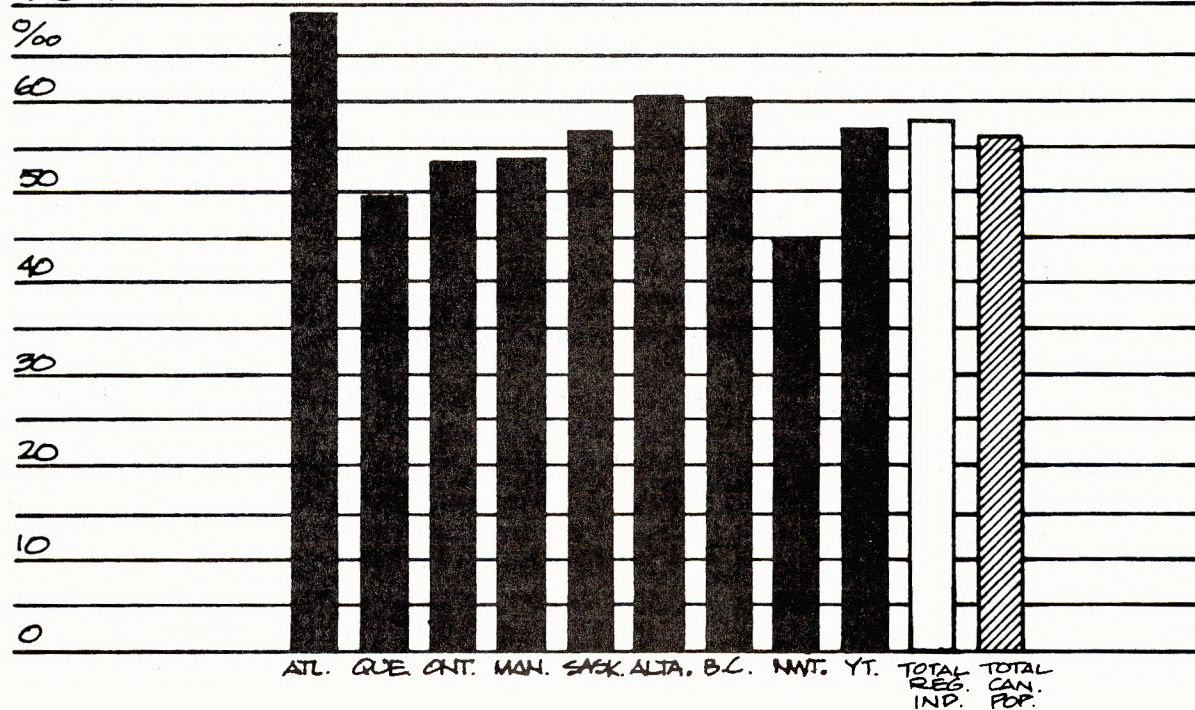
## CHART 4.3

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS. TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, AVERAGED OVER 1973-77\*

### 45-64 YEARS



### 65+ YEARS



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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The greatest variation between regions is for infant mortality, with the Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Yukon regions having infant mortality rates above that for all registered Indians. The Yukon region had an average rate of 58.8 infant deaths per 1,000 population, nearly twice the infant mortality rate for all registered Indians and almost four times the rate for all Canadians.

Lower infant mortality rates were reported for the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta regions. It should be noted that the low Atlantic and Quebec region infant mortality rate, 22.4 infant deaths per 1,000 population, is still nearly one and a half times the rate for all Canadians.

The death rates of the 20-44 age group are of some importance as this age group will increase in size throughout the 1980s (Chart 4.2). The death rates of registered Indians by regions were much higher than that for the total Canadian population. In several regions, this rate was nearly six times larger than the Canadian rate. Again, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, in addition to the Atlantic region, had death rates higher than that for all registered Indians.

## 2.4 Age Composition

Age composition is an important factor for planning and developing programs and service delivery. Charts 5.1 and 5.2 show how the relevant age groups have changed and are expected to change in the future.

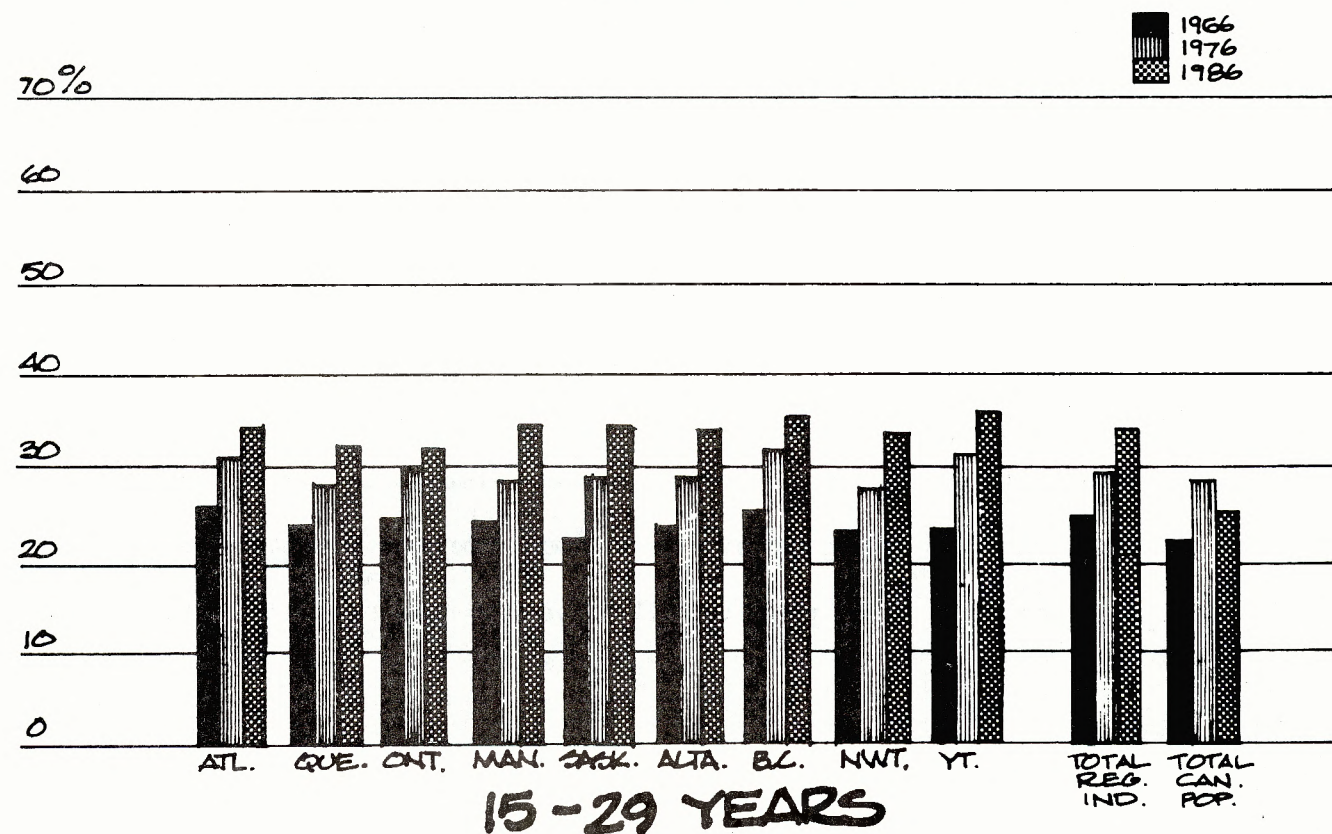
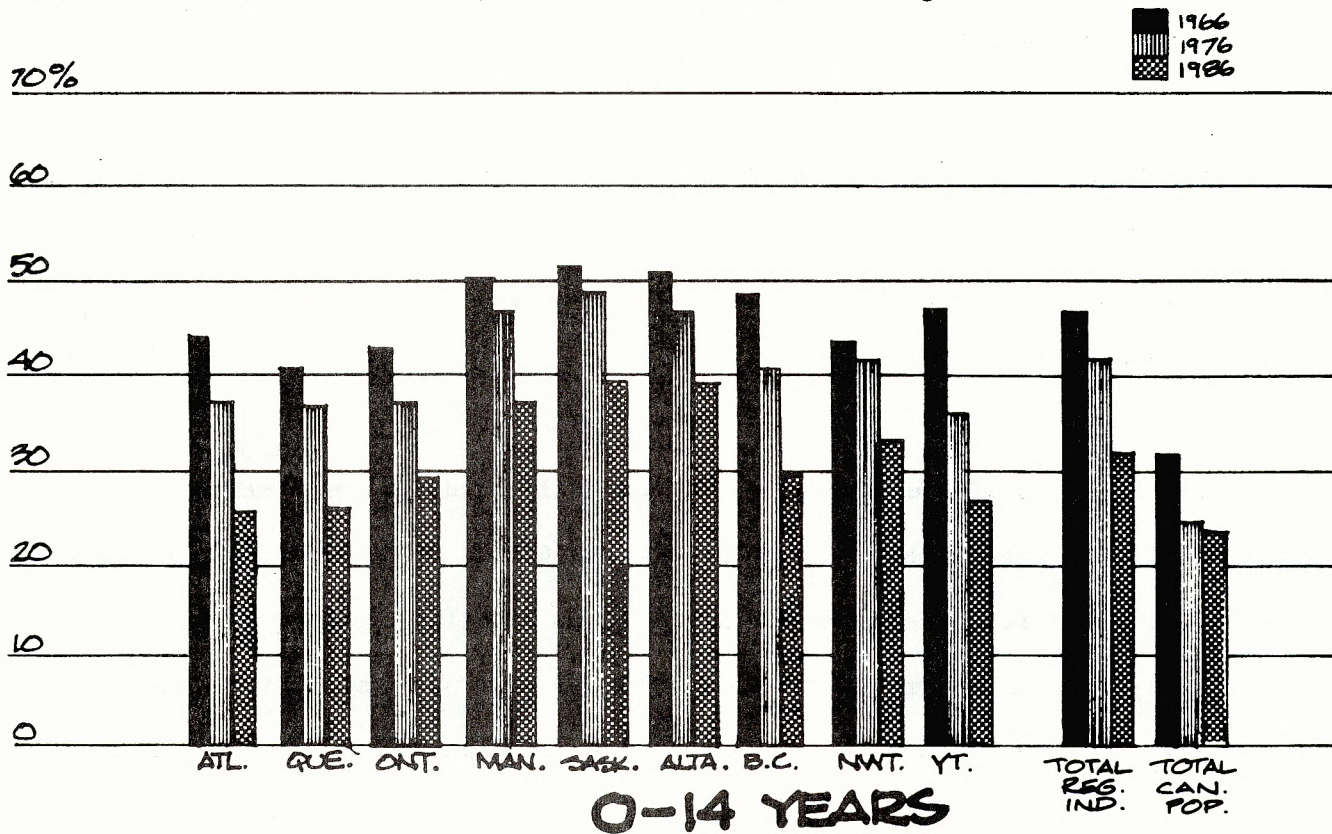
In all regions, the percentage of the registered Indian population aged 0-14 years has declined between 1966 and 1976. All regions will see further declines in their Indian population under age 15 by 1986 if birth rates continue to decrease as projected. The Atlantic, Quebec and the Yukon regions are expected to have lower shares of their population under age 15 by 1986. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories are expected to have larger shares of their population aged 0-14 by 1986.

By contrast, the young adult Indian population (15-29 years) is expected to increase in all regions both absolutely and relatively during the 1980s due primarily to an Indian "baby boom" in the 1960s. These young adults will enter post-secondary school age, the labour force and the housing market simultaneously. This expected increase in age distribution will be consistent across all regions and each region will have at least 30% of its

# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION

## CHART 5.1

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION

CHART 5.2

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*

70%



60

50

40

30

20

10

0

ATL. QUE. ONT. MAN. SASK. ALTA. B.C. NWT. Y.T.

TOTAL REG. IND. TOTAL CAN. POP.

30-64 YEARS



70%

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

ATL. QUE. ONT. MAN. SASK. ALTA. B.C. NWT. Y.T.

TOTAL REG. IND. TOTAL CAN. POP.

65+ YEARS

\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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registered Indian population in the 15-29 age group by 1986 (Chart 5.1). As recently as 1966, all regions had about one-quarter of their registered Indian population in this age group.

It is evident that over time the registered Indian population in the age groups 30-64 and, on a smaller scale, 65 and older, has been increasing. This trend should occur in all regions.

## **2.5 On- and Off-Reserve Residence Distribution by Age Group**

The distribution of the registered Indian population on and off reserve has shifted during the decade 1966-76. In 1966, 84% of this population was living on reserve and 16% off reserve. By 1971, 23% was living off reserve, an increase of 44%. By 1976, this off-reserve migration had increased at a slower rate and just over 27% of the registered Indian population was residing off reserve. It has been projected that during the 1980s, the proportion residing off reserve will continue to increase slowly to approximately 34% by 1986<sup>5</sup>.

The trend in the on-/off-reserve distribution has varied by region and age group during this same time period. Charts 6.1 to 7.2

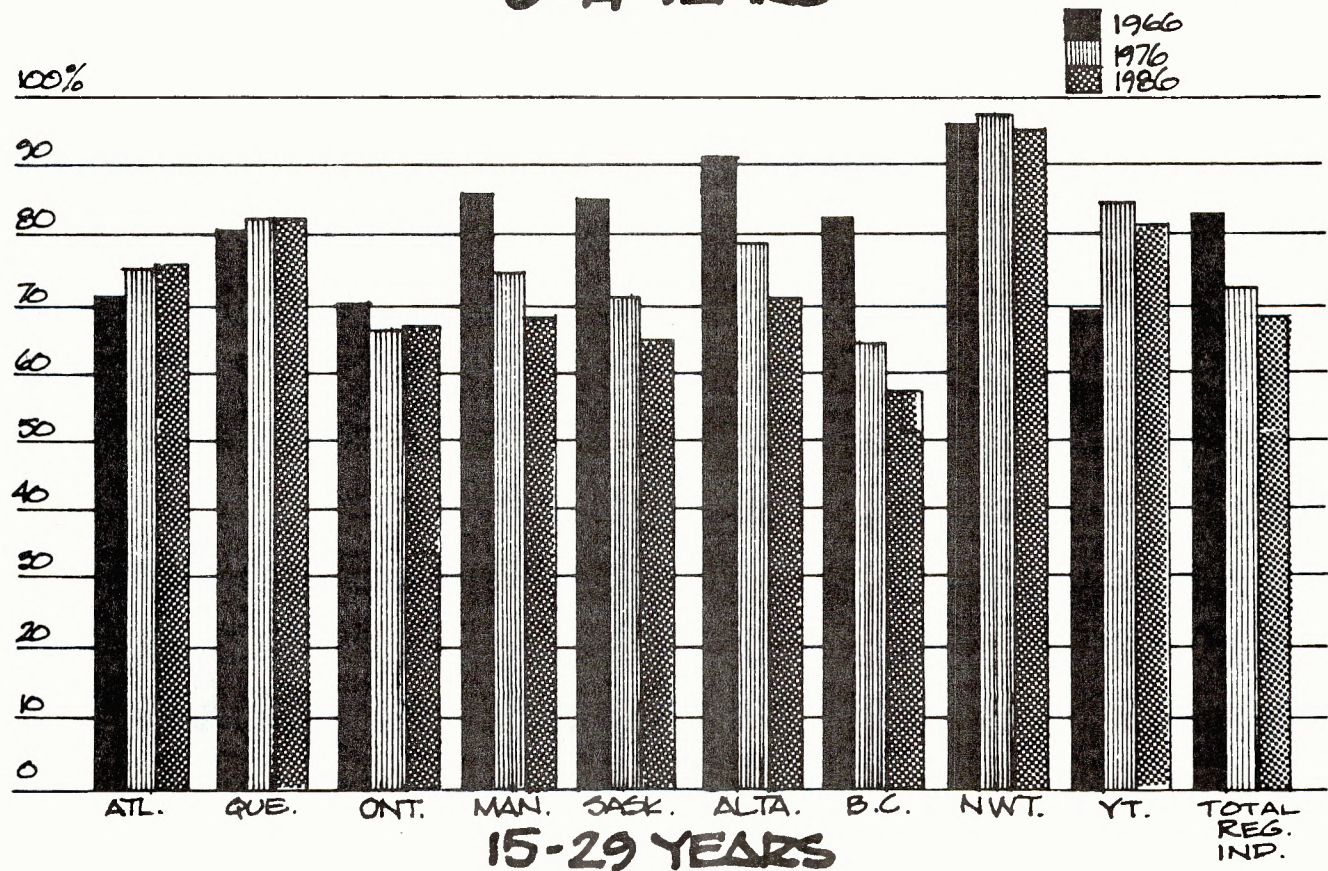
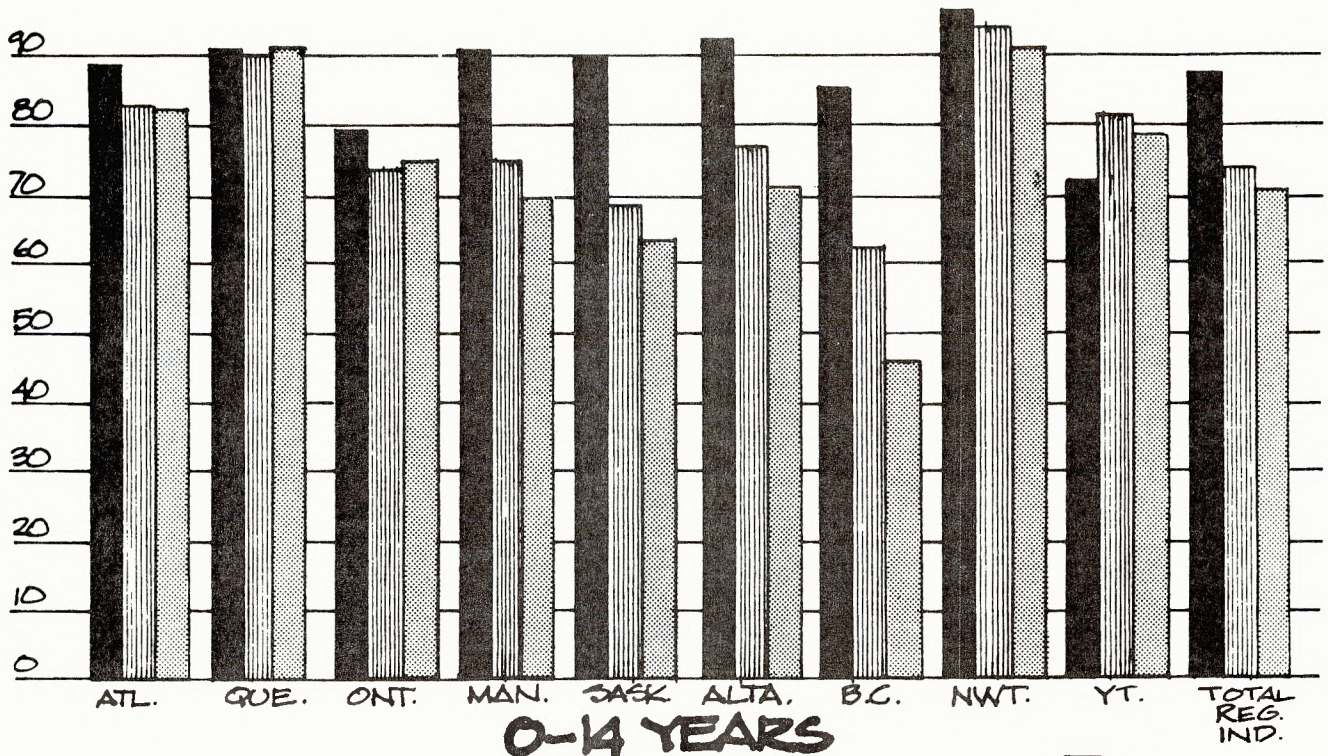
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5. Ibid.



# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIANS RESIDING ON RESERVE CHART 6.1

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS AND TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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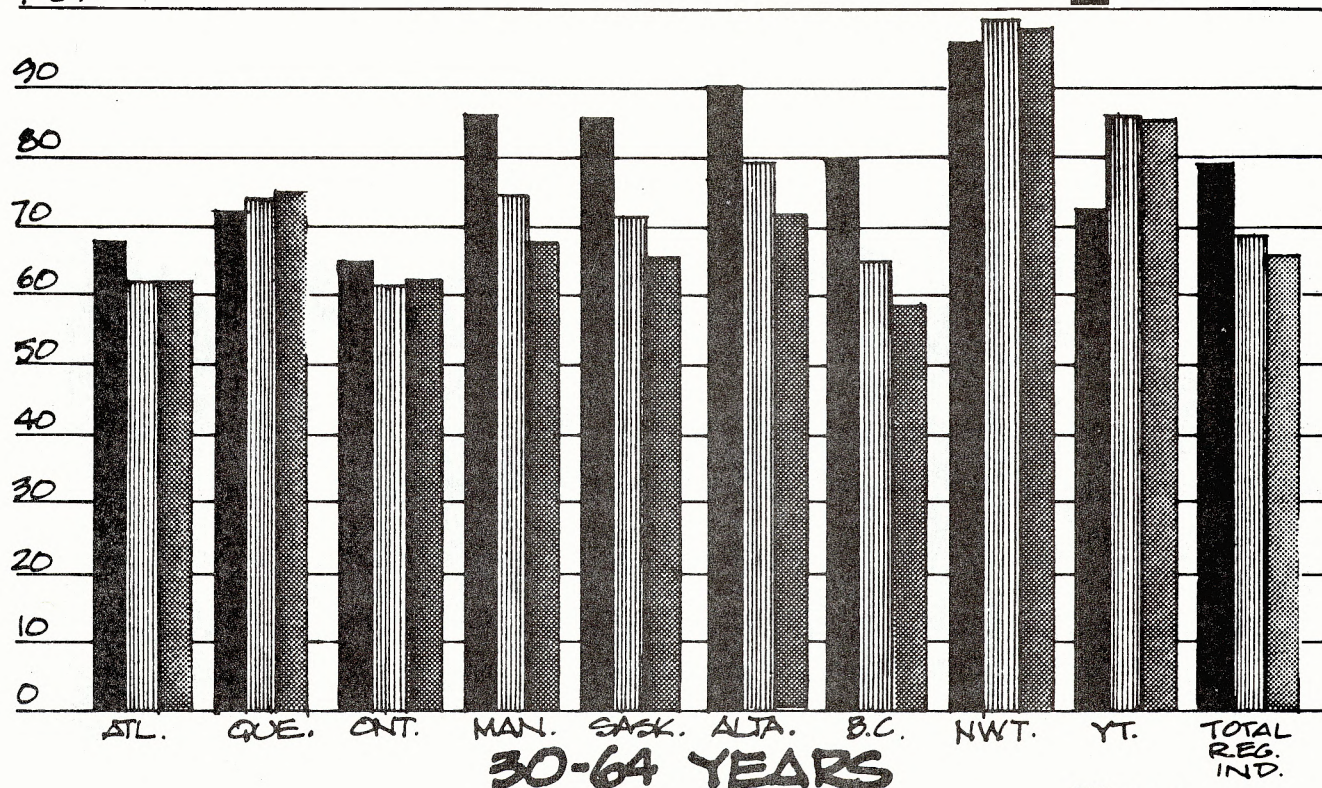


# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIANS RESIDING ON RESERVE

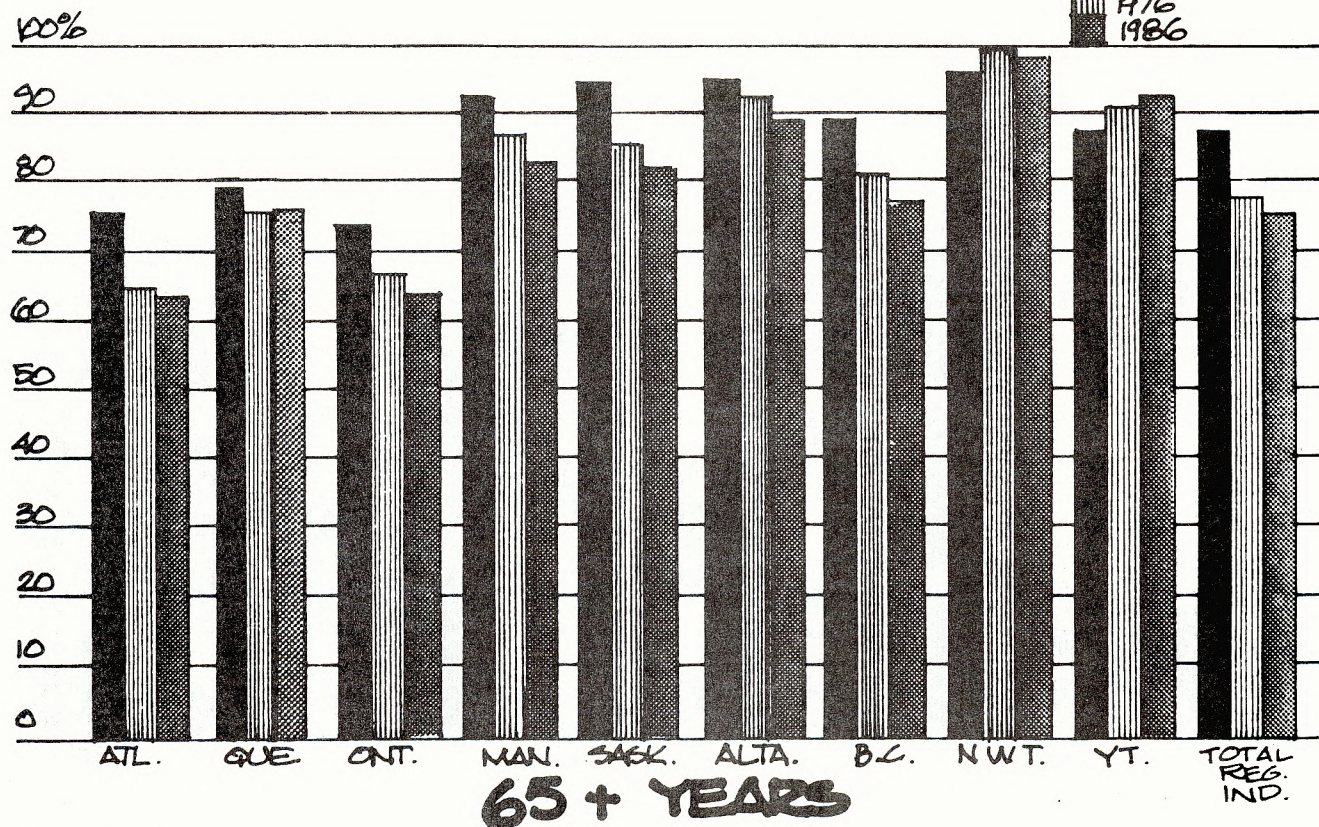
CHART 6.2

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS AND TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*

1966  
1976  
1986



1966  
1976  
1986



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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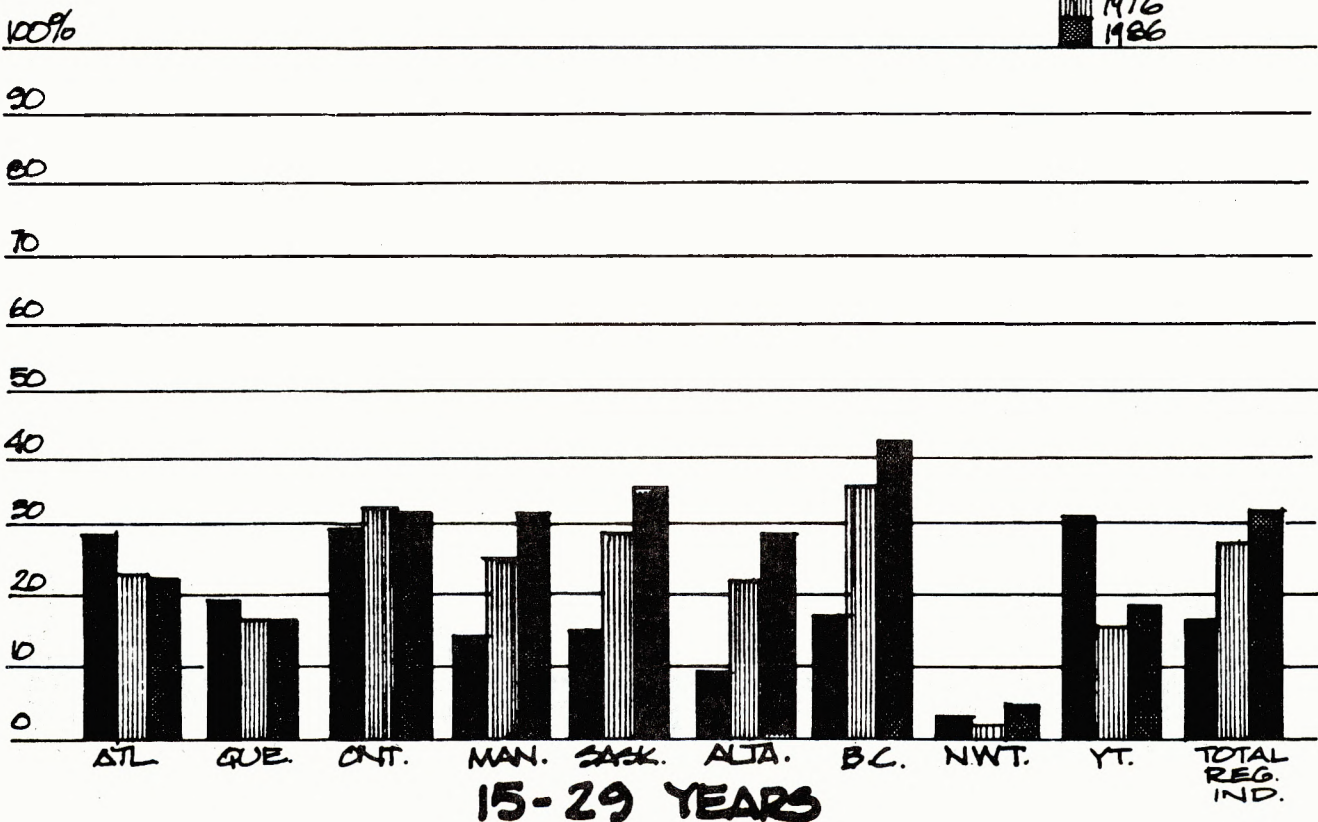
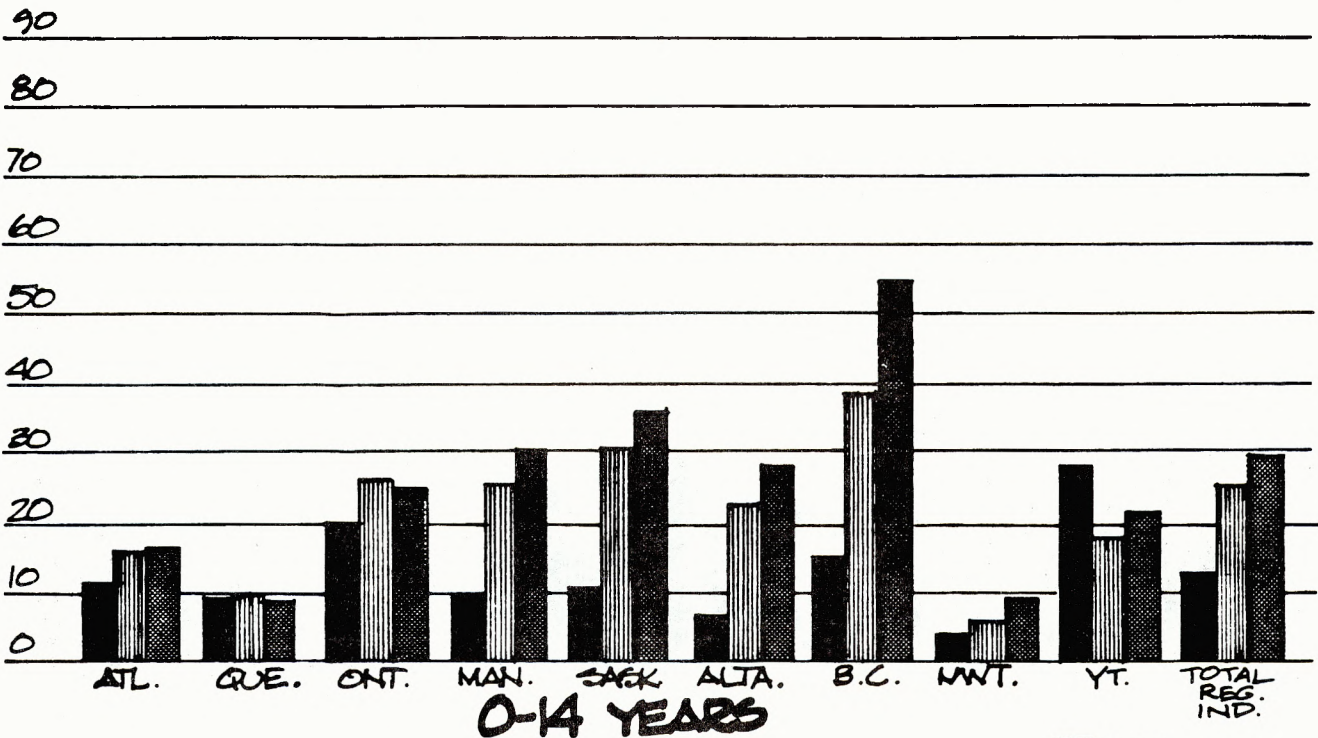


# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIANS RESIDING OFF RESERVE

CHART 7.1

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS AND TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*

100%



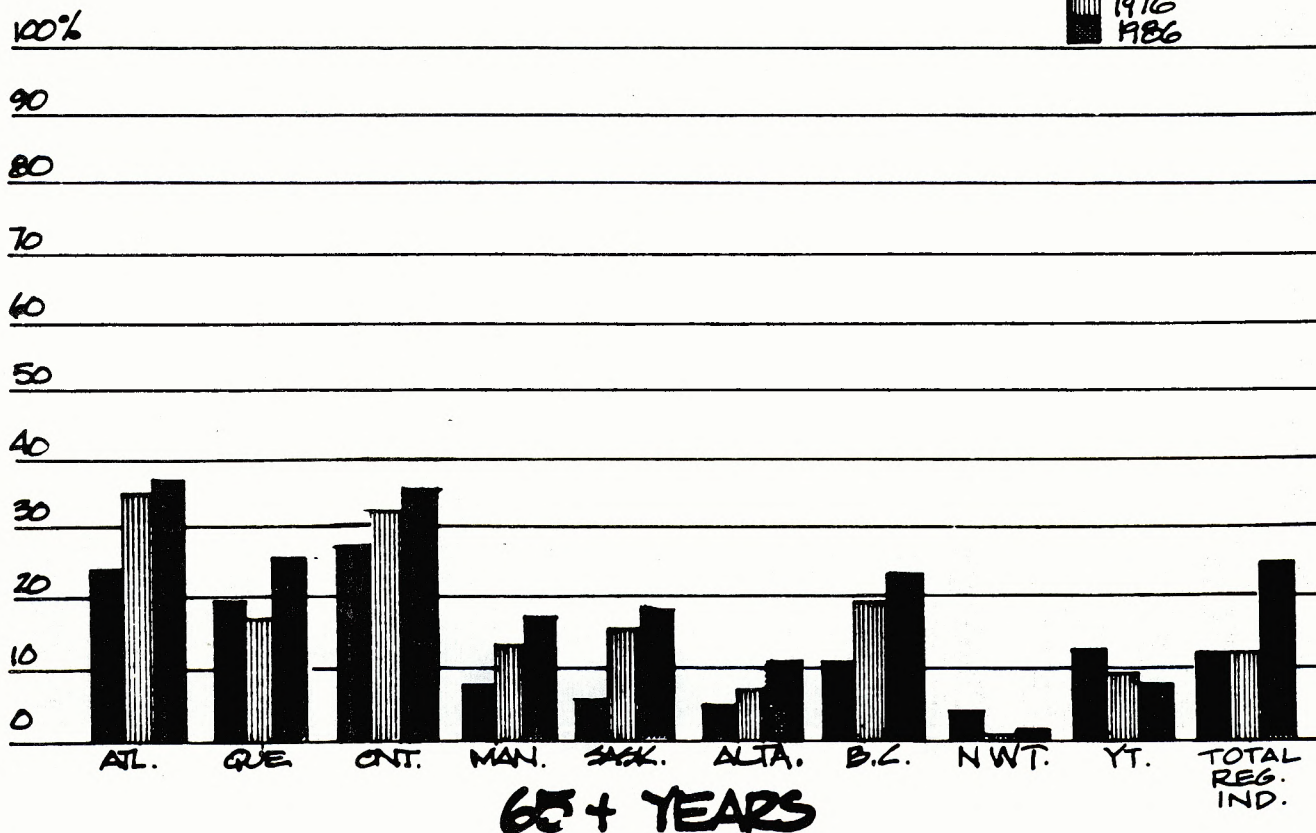
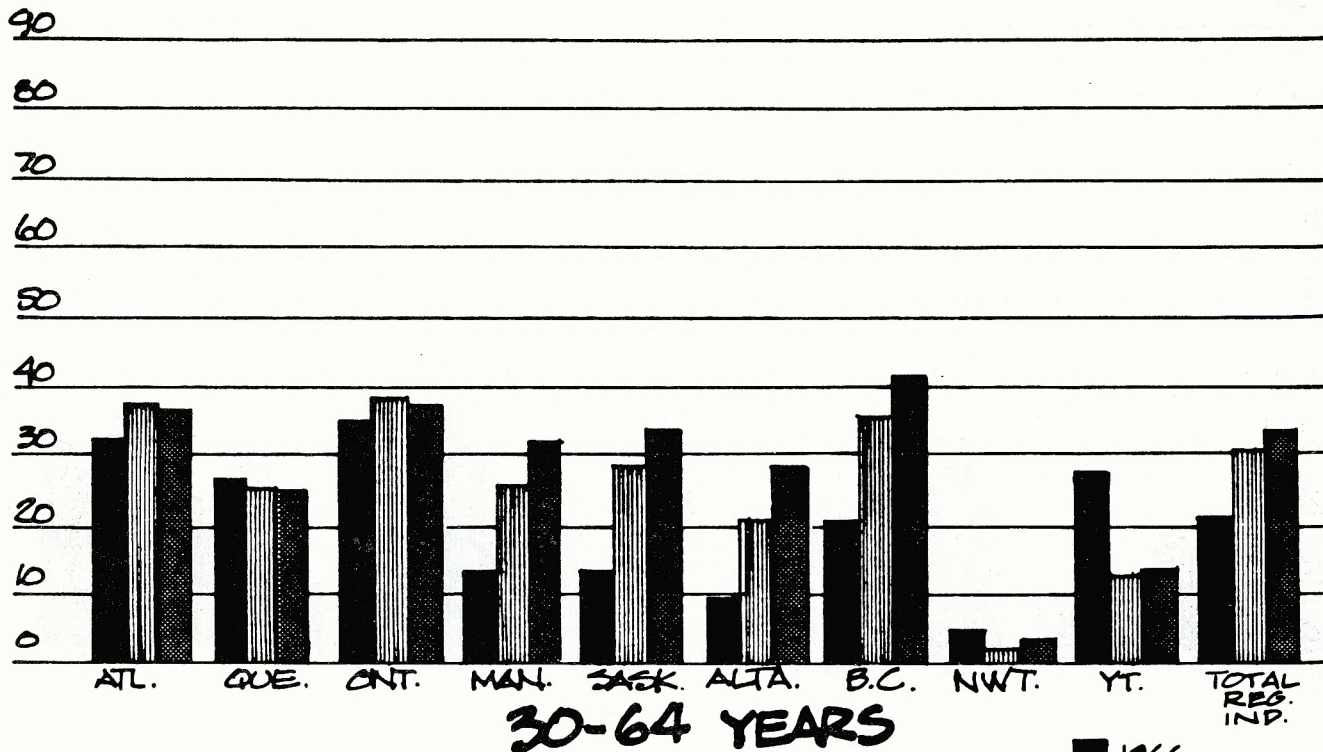
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# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIANS RESIDING OFF RESERVE

CHART 7.2

BY AGE GROUPS FOR INAC REGIONS AND TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS, 1966, 1976, AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
 PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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show the on-/off-reserve registered Indian population by age group.

The decline in the on-reserve population during the 1966-76<sup>6</sup> decade was evident in all age groups for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Northwest Territories regions experienced either a small decrease or an increase, especially in the age group 15-29 years. It is expected that by 1986, the decline in the on-reserve population will be far less severe generally and in the Ontario and Atlantic regions it will increase slightly. Indeed, those regions which had a high proportion of their 15-29 year age group on reserve in 1976 are projected to continue to have a on-reserve proportion higher than the rate for the total registered Indian population by 1986. This increase, both numerically and relatively, in all regions, together with a trend to remaining or returning to the reserves or settlements should create an increased demand for housing, employment and other social services.

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6. Ibid.

### **3.0 HEALTH CONDITIONS**

The regions referred to in this section are those of the Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, and correspond closely to INAC administrative regions. Limited data on the causes of death and incidence of disease are available from the Medical Services Branch. The years considered for causes of death are 1974 through 1976, and for the incidence of tuberculosis, 1973, 1975 and 1977. These data demonstrate the level of health experienced by registered Indians across Canada and are often related to other conditions which measure quality of life.

Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were the regions which frequently had rates above the average for selected causes of death. Saskatchewan and Alberta also had higher incidences of tuberculosis. These data are discussed below and summarized graphically by Charts 8.1, 8.2 and 9.

#### **3.1 Deaths by Cause**

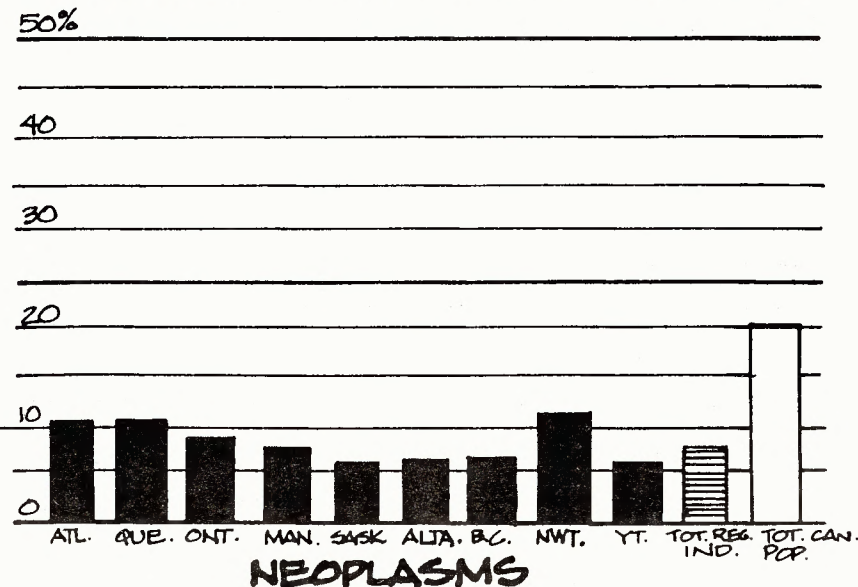
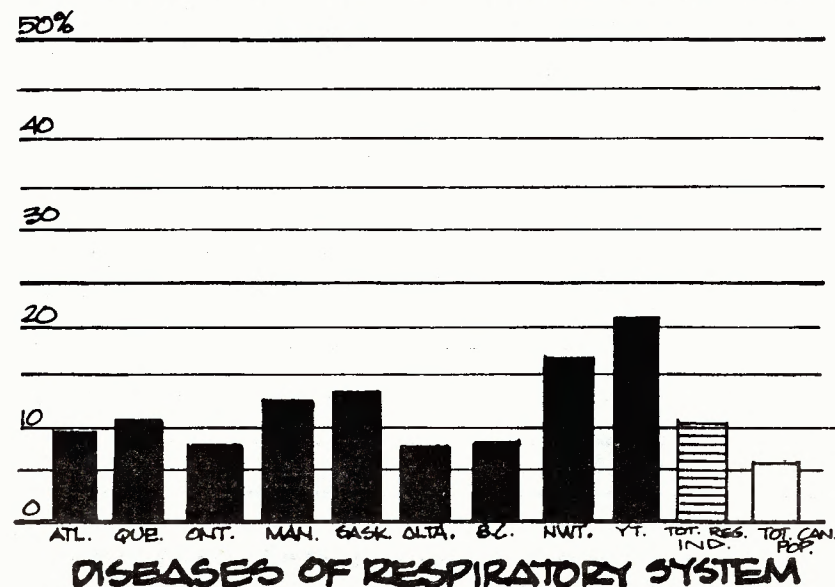
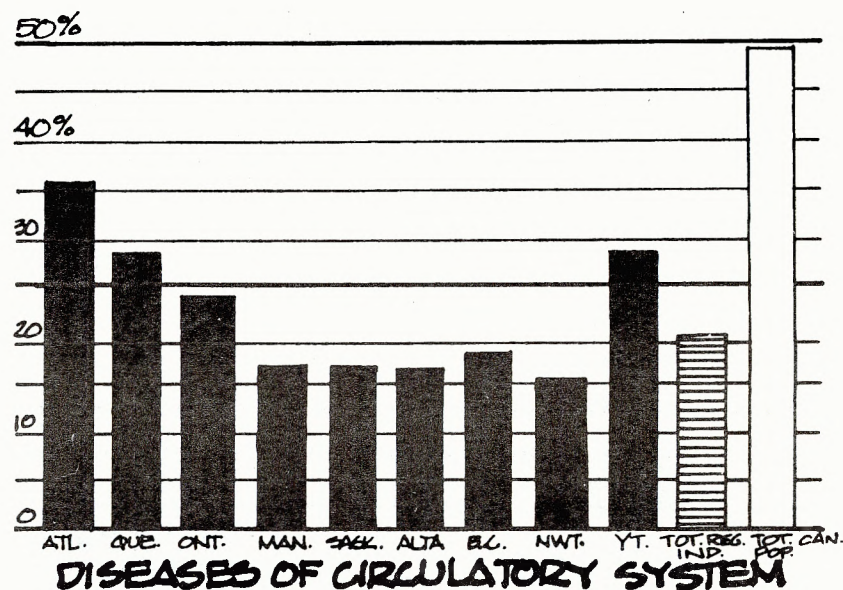
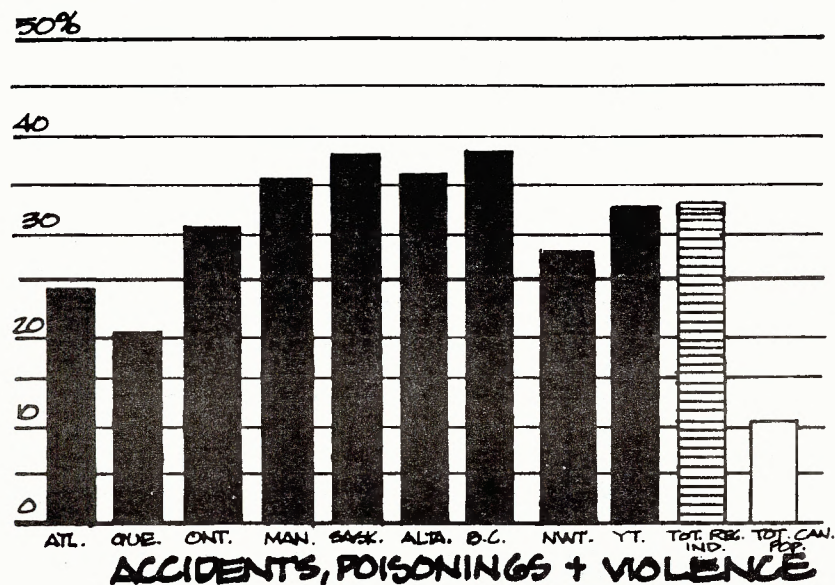
Accidents, poisoning and violence accounted for approximately one third of registered Indian deaths (Chart 8.1). By contrast, these causes accounted for only 10% of deaths for all Canadians in 1976.



# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH

CHART 8.1

FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, CUMULATED FROM 1974 THROUGH 1976\*

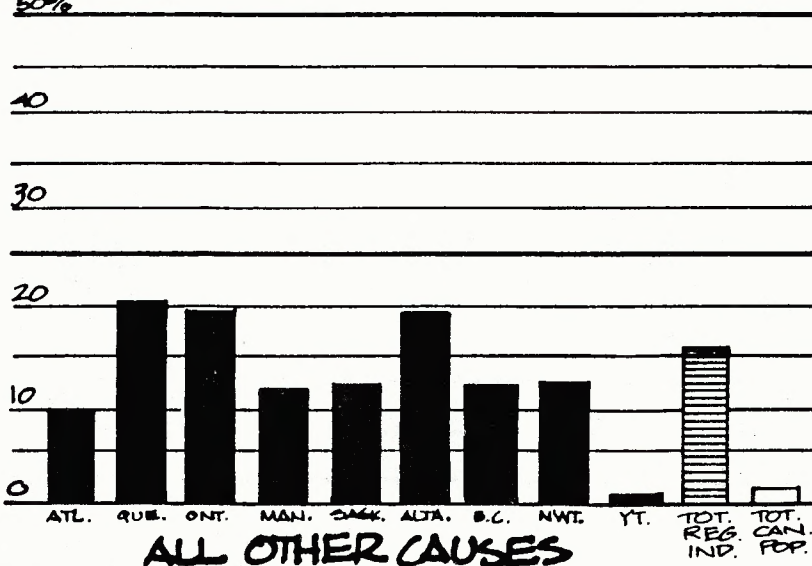
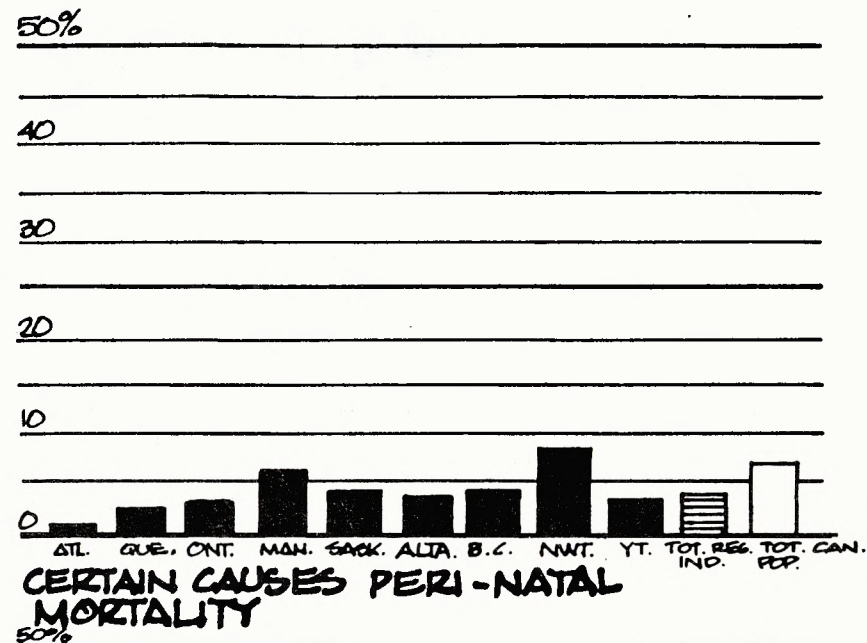
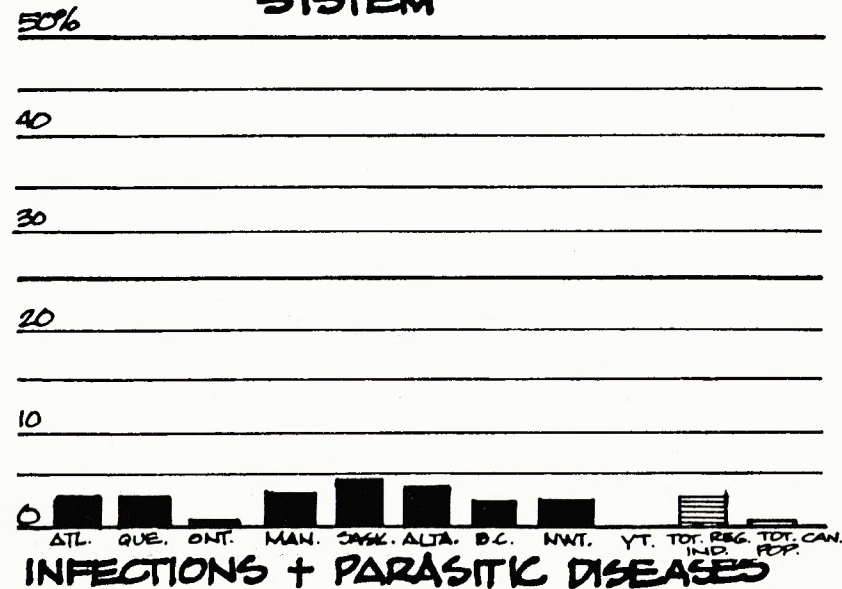
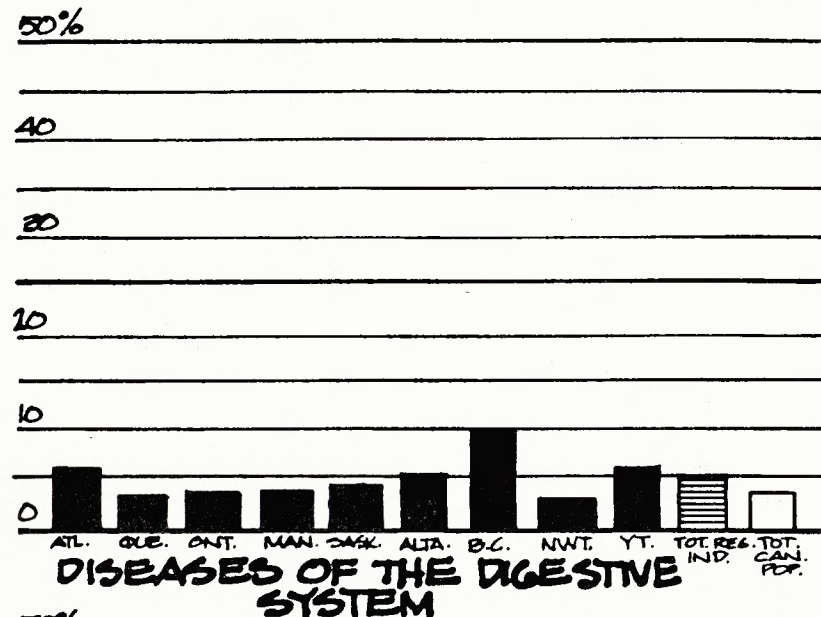


\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA, OTTAWA, 15-08-1982

# PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH

CHART 8.2

FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, CUMULATED FROM 1974 THROUGH 1976\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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Those regions whose rates of death due to these causes are above the norm for all registered Indians in Canada were Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

While diseases of the circulatory system account for nearly half of all Canadian deaths, the rate for the total registered Indian population was less than half that for all Canadians (Chart 8.1). In the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Yukon regions, however, a large percentage of the registered Indian deaths was due to these diseases.

An examination of the remaining causes of death revealed that they account for less than half of all the deaths for registered Indians (Charts 8.1 and 8.2). Diseases of the respiratory system and all other causes showed the greatest regional variation. For certain causes peri-natal mortality all the regions, except the Northwest Territories, had rates lower than that for the Canadian population.

### **3.2 Incidence of Tuberculosis**

Chart 9 describes the incidence of tuberculosis among the registered Indian population.



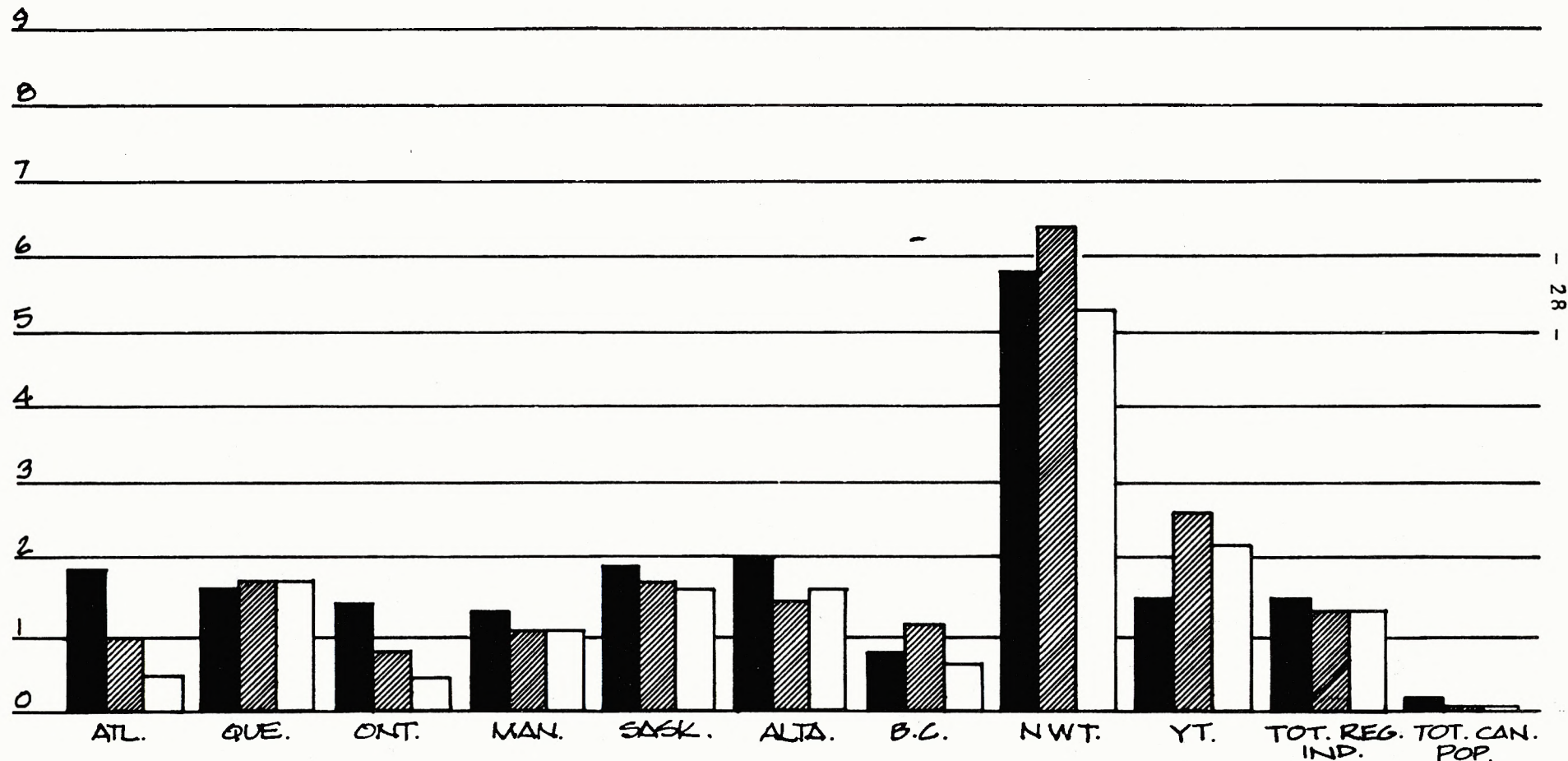
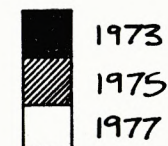
# INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG REGISTERED INDIANS (PER 1,000)

FOR INAC REGIONS, TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS AND ALL CANADIANS, 1973, 1975, AND 1977. NEW AND REACTIVATED CASES \*

%

10

## CHART 9



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA, OTTAWA, 15.08.1982

Wide regional variation is shown for 1973, 1975 and 1977. For instance, in 1977 both the Atlantic and Ontario regions had a rate of 0.4 tuberculosis cases per 1,000 population while the Northwest Territories had 5.3 cases and the Yukon 2.2 cases per 1,000 population.

The incidence of tuberculosis had declined between 1973 and 1977 for most regions. However, by 1977, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories and the Yukon had rates which were higher than the 1.3 cases per 1,000 population for all registered Indians. This rate for registered Indians is over 10 times greater than the incidence rate for all Canadians.



#### **4.0 EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS**

This section examines the participation and retention rates of registered Indians at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels for the period 1966-76. These data are important as they provide an indication of the level of education to be found among the future labour-force population.

The data contained in this section are derived from the educational enrollment records (Nominal Roll) but are more easily obtainable from the "Overview" report series.

##### **4.1 Participation in Primary and Secondary Grades**

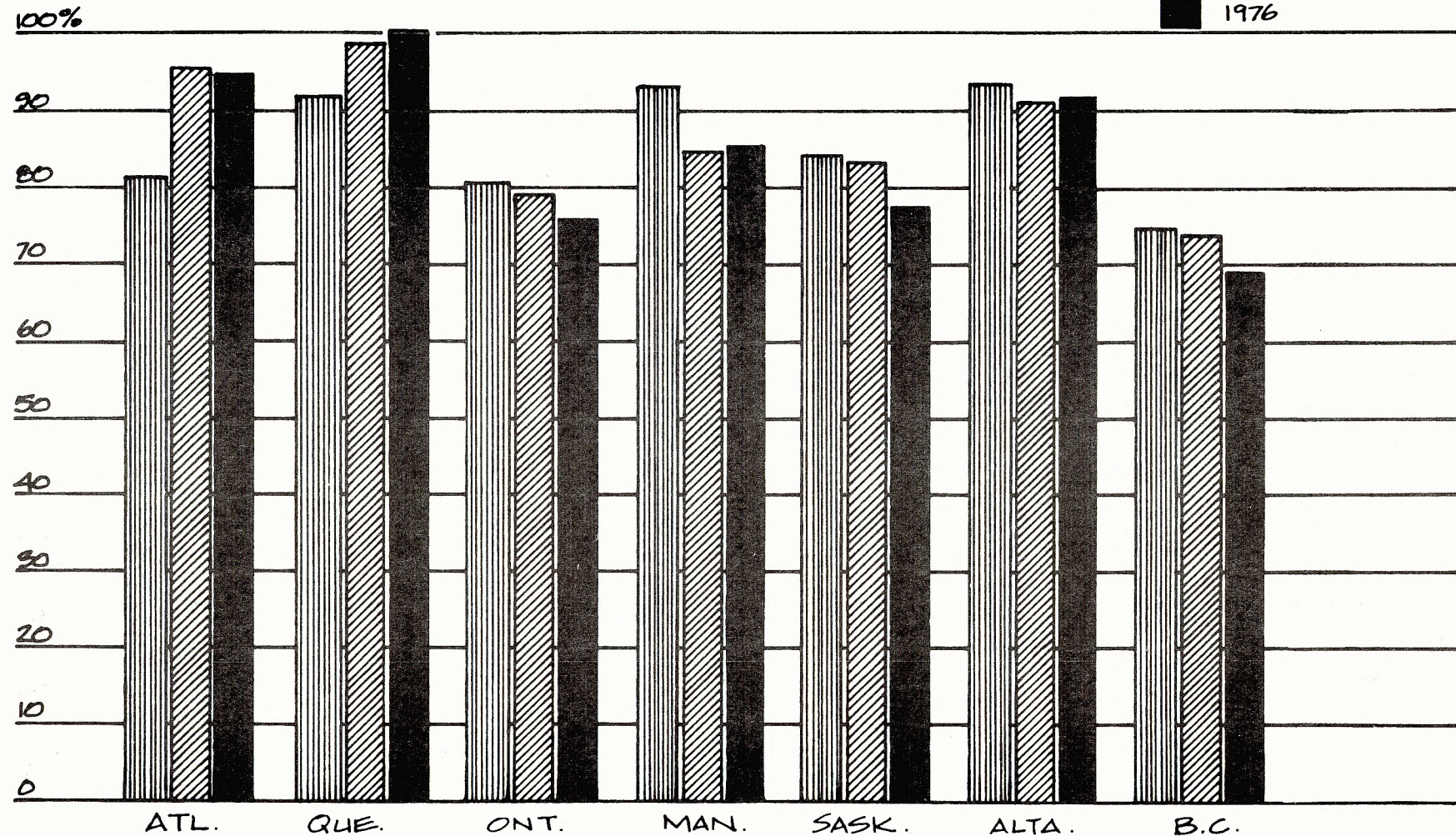
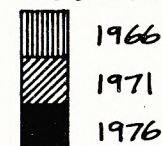
The participation rates of registered Indians in the primary and secondary grades in 1966, 1971 and 1976 are shown in Charts 10 and 11. The participation rate is the level of enrollment as a percentage of the relevant population selected by age group. These two charts indicate that far more Indians attended primary grades than the secondary grades during the selected years.

Between the years 1966 and 1976, a decline in primary grade participation had occurred in the Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia regions. The Atlantic and Quebec regions,

# ENROLLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIANS IN PRIMARY GRADES

AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 5-15 BY INAC REGIONS, 1966,  
1971, 1976\*

CHART 10



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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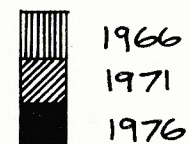


# ENROLLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIANS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 14-18 BY INAC REGIONS, 1966,  
1971, 1976\*

## CHART II

100%



90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

ATL.

QUE.

ONT.

MAN.

SASK.

ALTA.

B.C.

- 32 -

\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES

PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA, OTTAWA, 15.08.1982

however, experienced increases in their primary grade participation rates, making them the regions with the highest rates at 95.3% and 100% respectively.

Participation rates for the secondary level also varied greatly by region: from 46.5% in Quebec to 20.3% in Saskatchewan in 1976. All regions except Alberta had an increase in the proportion of registered Indians attending high school between 1966 and 1976. The Atlantic and Quebec regions had the largest increases in their registered Indian participation rates.

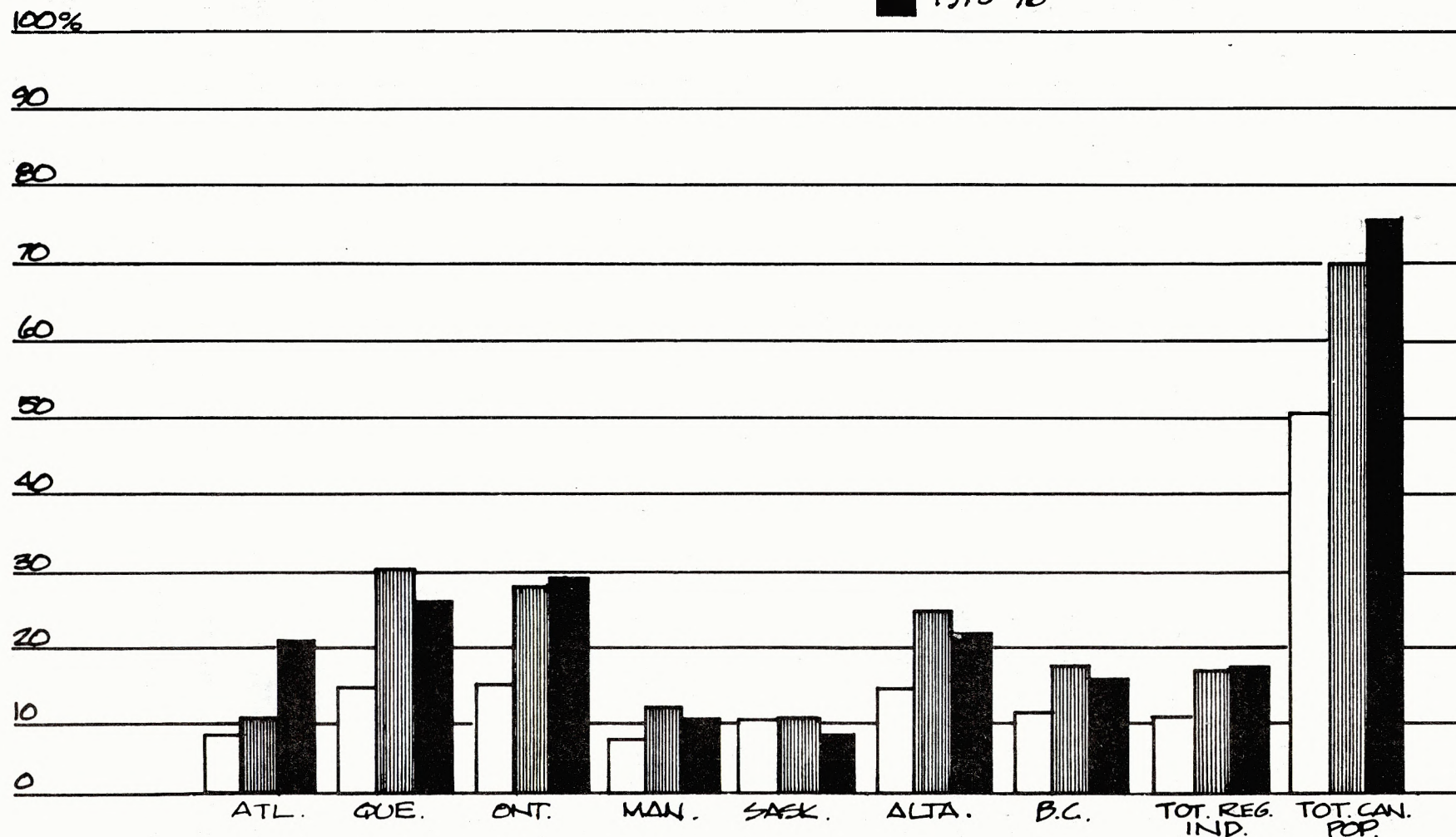
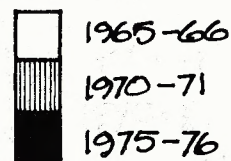
The retention of students through high school is crucial to their participation in post-secondary and adult education programs and their future employability. Chart 12 shows the percentage of registered Indians and all Canadian students who were enrolled in Grade 2 and who were still enrolled as of Grade 12.

The total registered Indian retention rate (norm) by 1976 was 17.9%, approximately four times smaller than the Canadian rate of 75.4%. The Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta regions had higher retention rates than this norm. Ontario had the highest rate at 29.7%, which is still far less than the Canadian retention rate. The Manitoba and Saskatchewan regions had the two lowest retention rates at 10.8% and 8.6% respectively.

# RETENTION TO GRADE 12 ENROLLMENT

CHART 12

RELATED TO GRADE 2 ENROLLMENT TEN YEARS  
EARLIER FOR THE REGISTERED INDIANS STUDENTS  
IN CANADA AND INAC REGIONS, AND FOR TOTAL  
CANADIAN POPULATION, 1965-66, 1970-71, 1975-76\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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#### 4.2 Participation in Post-Secondary Education

From 1968-75, each region experienced an increase in the percentage of their registered Indian population aged 19 to 29 years enrolled in post-secondary institutions (Charts 13 and 14).

By 1975, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan had the highest university enrollment rates, at 8.9%, 11.1% and 9.0% respectively. The Ontario region exhibited the lowest enrollment increase and enrollment percentage (2.6%).

Between 1968 and 1975, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta experienced increases in their vocational enrollment levels. In Manitoba, the enrollment level increased from 4.2% in 1968 to 22.8% in 1975. Quebec reported a sharp enrollment increase between 1968 and 1971, largely due to the inclusion of an unknown percentage of adult education courses.

Decreases in vocational enrollment between 1968 and 1975 were reported for the Atlantic, Saskatchewan and British Columbia regions. Enrollment for the Atlantic region declined from 17.0% in 1968 to 5.7% in 1975 while, in British Columbia, enrollment declined from 10.8% to 6.1%. Between 1971 and 1975, however, all regions except Manitoba reported declines in vocational

# ENROLLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIANS IN UNIVERSITY

AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 19-29 BY INAC REGIONS,  
1968, 1971, 1975 \*

CHART 13



70%

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

ATL. QUE. ONT. MAN. SASK. ALTA. B.C.

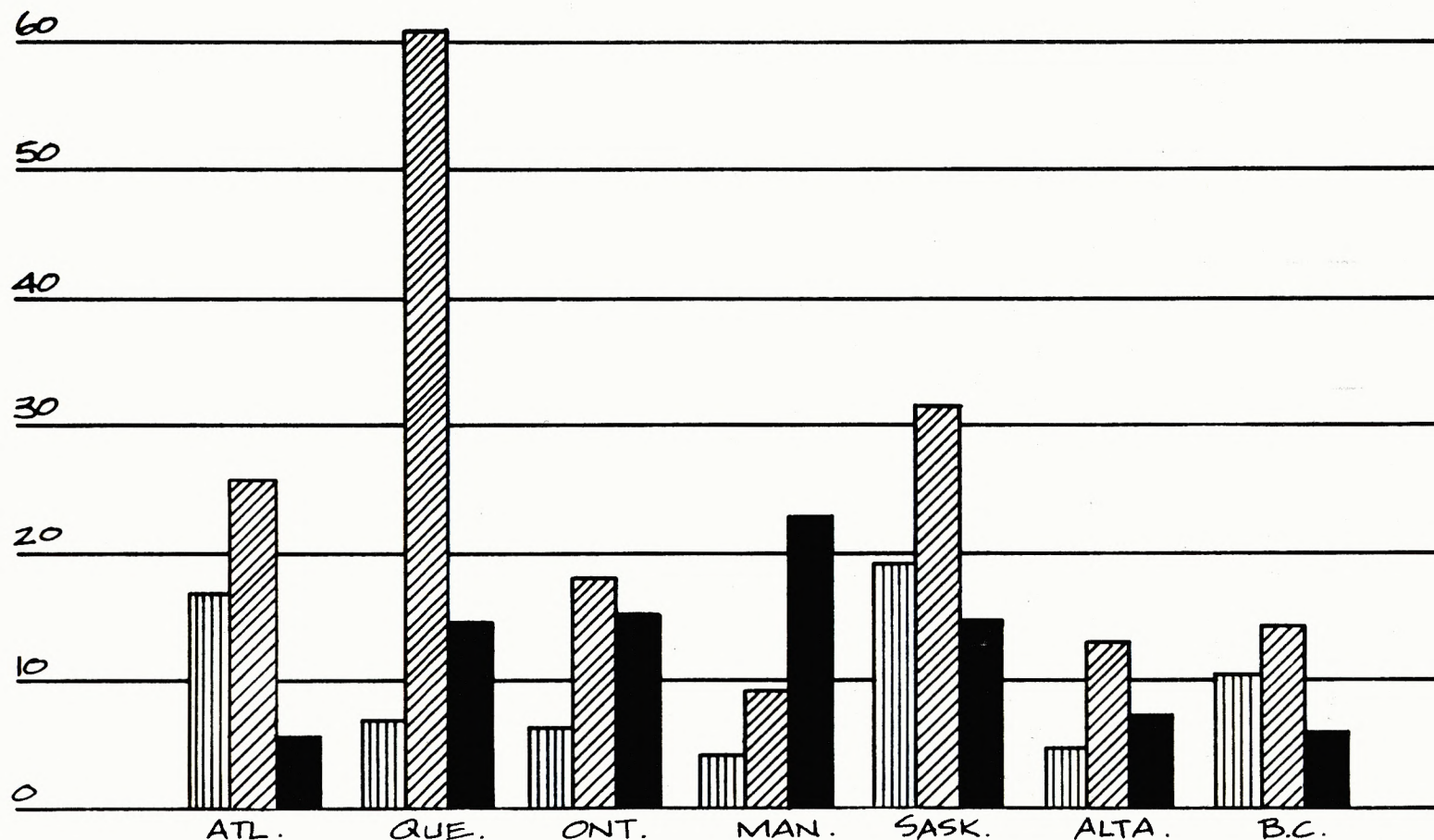
\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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# ENROLLMENT OF REGISTERED INDIANS IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

CHART 14

AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 19-29 BY INAC REGIONS,  
1968, 1971, 1975\*

70%



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES

PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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enrollment. This trend may be a function of the data as after 1971, Employment and Immigration Canada began to sponsor certain types of post-secondary training such as adult education courses and some vocational training for Native people. INAC may not have included these students in their records, hence the decline in the participation rate after 1971.

Despite these increases in the participation rates of the registered Indian population aged 19-29 in post-secondary institutions, the participation rates at the secondary grade level were less than 50% in all regions and the retention rates to Grade 12 were extremely low in comparison to that for all Canadians. It is worth noting that this secondary/post-secondary and young labour-force-aged group will be increasing during the 1980 decade.

## 5.0 HOUSING CONDITIONS

This section examines the conditions of on-reserve housing in each INAC region with the exception of the Northwest Territories. The data summarizing rates of inadequate or overcrowded housing and the presence of certain facilities such as electricity, sewage disposal, indoor plumbing and running water were taken from the Housing Needs Analysis Survey<sup>7</sup> conducted by INAC in 1977.<sup>8</sup> The conditions described are related to the quality of life of registered Indians. Health is also affected by on-reserve housing conditions.

The on-reserve housing in the Atlantic, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia regions was more frequently equipped with such facilities as running water and sewage disposal than the average for all registered Indians in Canada. Inadequate housing was more prevalent in the Manitoba and Yukon regions, and overcrowded housing was more frequent than the norm in the Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia regions. Charts 15 and 16 provide further detail.

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7. Housing Needs Analysis Survey 1977, (Statistical Report) Program Support Group, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.
8. The Housing Needs Analysis Survey 1977 includes Indian and Inuit people for all INAC regions except the Northwest Territories.

### 5.1 On-Reserve Housing Conditions

The Housing Needs Analysis Survey indicated that approximately one-third of the Indian reserve and settlement housing in most regions was either inadequate or overcrowded (Chart 15). It is noted that with the exception of Manitoba and the Yukon, there was no significant difference within regions in the percentage of housing classified as inadequate or overcrowded.

Manitoba and the Yukon had the highest percentage of inadequate housing at 46% and 47% respectively. Only Ontario had less than 30% of its housing classified as inadequate. In addition, except for Quebec and the Yukon, the remaining regions had more than 30% of their housing considered to be overcrowded. Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia had the highest rates of overcrowded housing, while the Yukon reported only 5% of its housing as overcrowded.

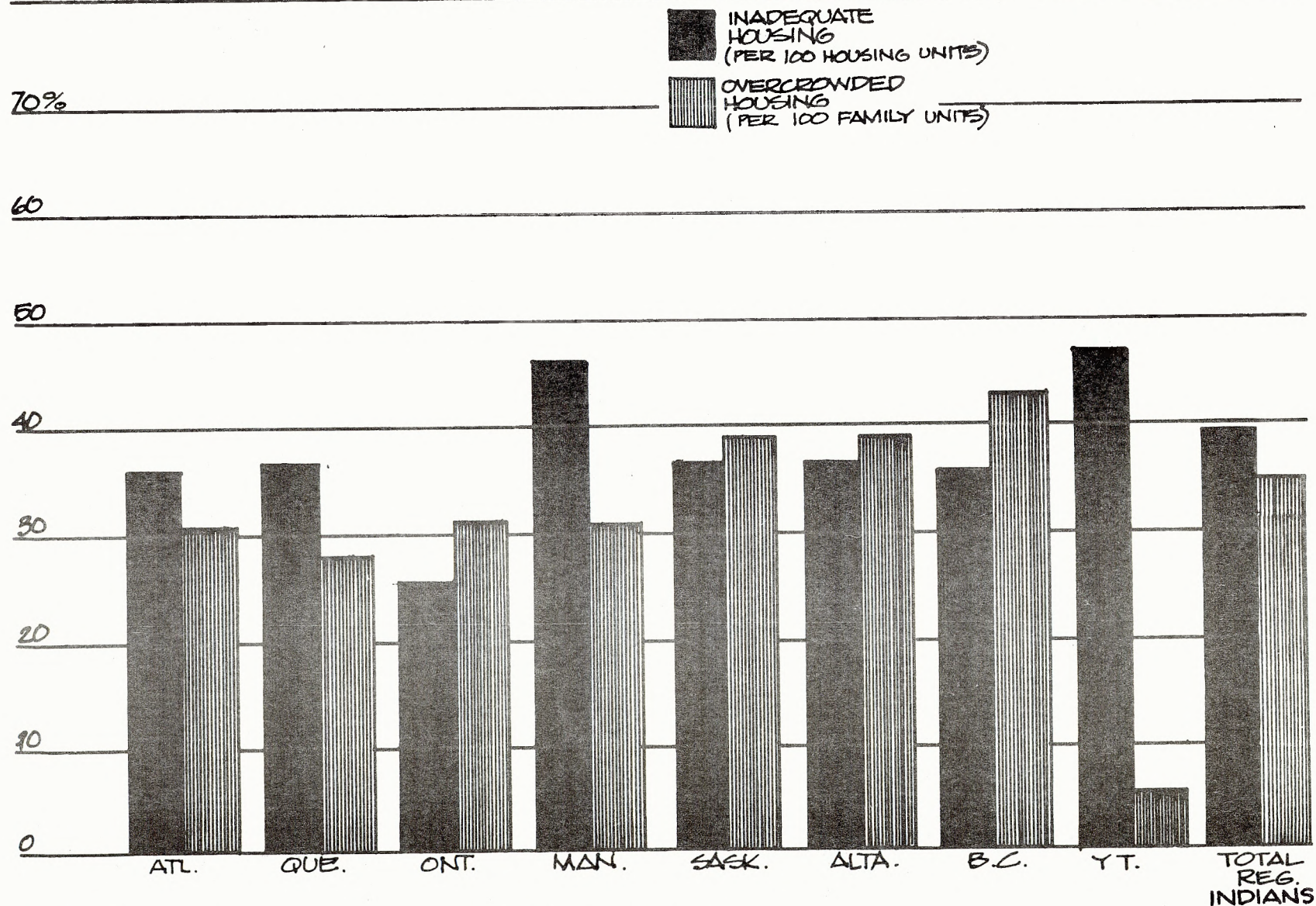
The percentage of housing with selected facilities for each region is shown on Chart 16. With the exception of electricity, the presence of the three other facilities varied greatly across the regions.

For the majority of regions, sewage disposal, indoor plumbing and running water were also less prevalent. The Manitoba,

# HOUSING CONDITIONS ON INDIAN RESERVES

BY INAC REGIONS AND FOR TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS IN CANADA, 1977\*

CHART 15



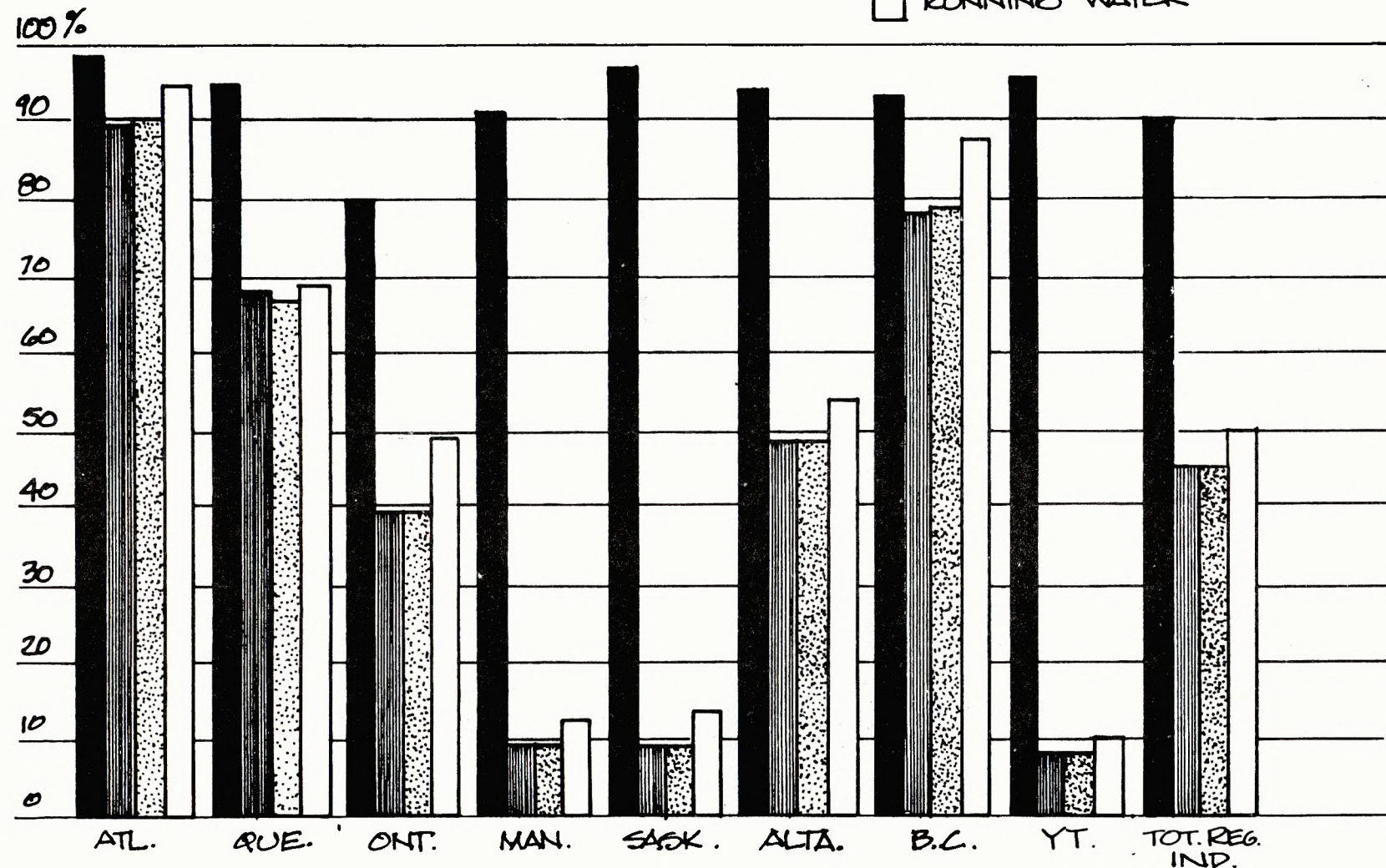
\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
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# CHART 16

## HOUSING CONDITIONS ON INDIAN RESERVES

BY SELECTED FACILITIES, BY INAC REGIONS AND FOR TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS IN CANADA, 1977\*



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
 PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
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Saskatchewan and Yukon regions reported that less than 10% of their Indian houses were equipped with sewage disposal and indoor plumbing while a slightly higher percentage had running water. The Atlantic and British Columbia regions had the highest percentage of houses with sewage disposal, indoor plumbing and running water.

The condition of the majority of Indian housing on reserve combined with the increasing family formation age group of 15-29 years will mean intensified pressure for on-reserve housing.



## 6.0 DEPENDENT POPULATION

The dependency ratio is a crude measure of the economically inactive population, namely children and the aged, to the active population or labour-force group aged 15-64 years. This ratio gives some indication of the potential for change in the standard of living of a population. The dependency ratios for the selected years 1966, 1976 and 1986 are shown in Chart 17.

Each INAC region experienced a decline in their dependency ratio for the period 1966-76. However, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories continued to have ratios higher than that for all registered Indians<sup>9</sup>. Saskatchewan had the highest dependency ratio, with 111 dependants per 100 persons aged 15-64 in 1976. The regions with the lowest dependency ratios were the Atlantic and the Yukon.

Throughout the projection period to 1986, it is expected that the dependency ratio will continue to decline within each region and that Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories will continue to have the highest dependency ratios relative to

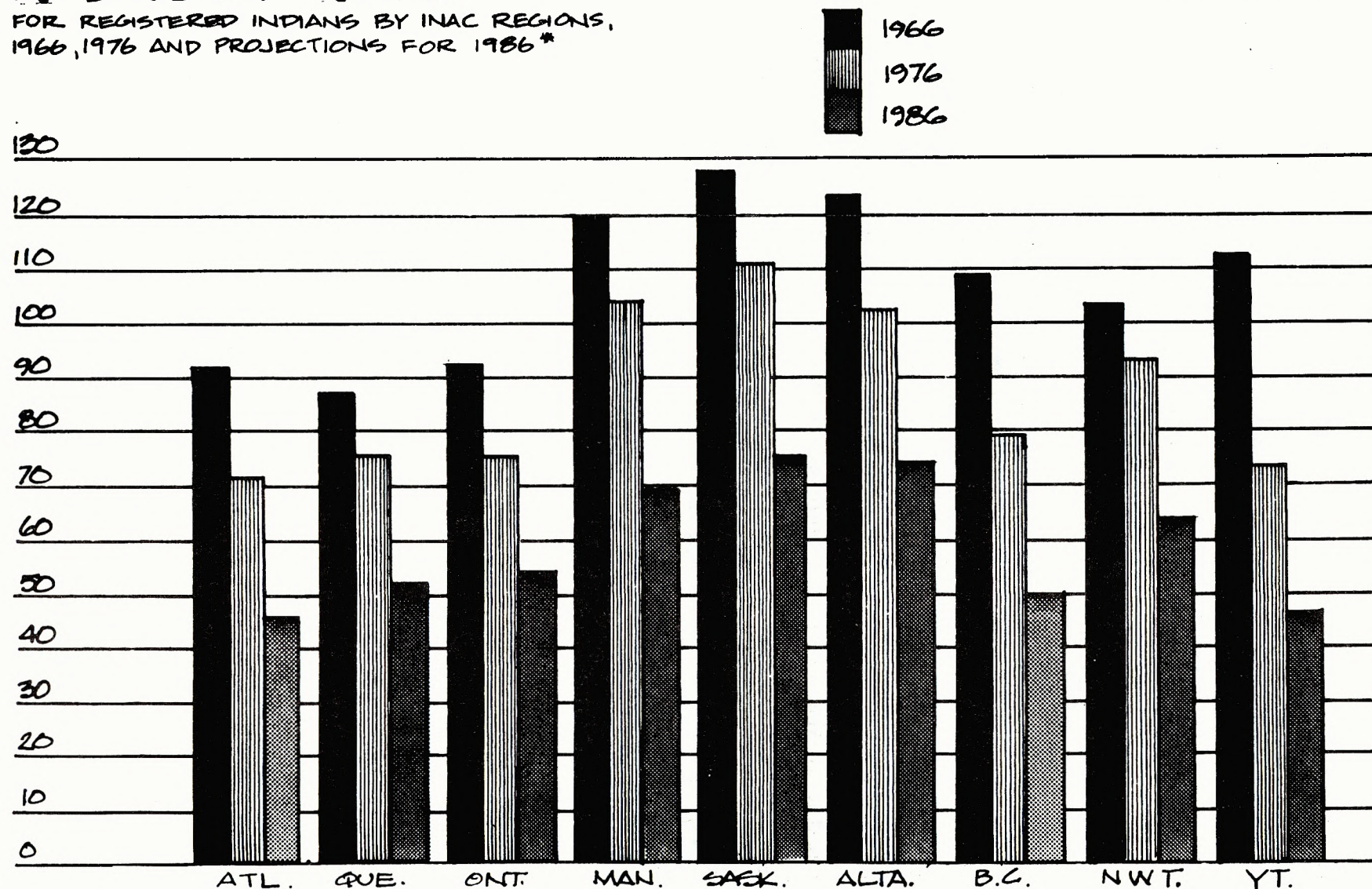
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9. Op. cit., Siggner, 1979.

# DEPENDENCY RATIOS

FOR REGISTERED INDIANS BY INAC REGIONS,  
1966, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1986\*

## CHART 17



\* SEE SECTIONS 9 AND 10 FOR ALL SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES  
PREPARED BY RESEARCH SUPPORT SECTION, RESEARCH DIVISION, RESEARCH BRANCH,  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA, OTTAWA, 15.08.1982

the other regions. Although by 1986<sup>10</sup> these ratios are expected to decline and converge on the ratio for the total Canadian population (52 per 100) those regions having high dependency ratios will continue to exhibit ratios significantly higher than that for the total Canadian population.

Thus, the forecast decline in the registered Indian birth rates combined with the rapidly growing labour-force-aged group means that by 1986 all regions will have less than three-quarters of one dependent for every person in the labour-force-aged group. A decline in the dependency ratio could help improve Indian economic conditions and raise the per capita standard of living, providing, of course, sufficient employment opportunities are available for the Indian labour force.

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10. Ibid.



## 7.0 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

The preceding sections have provided a regional comparison of a number of demographic, social and economic indicators regarding the conditions of Canada's registered Indian population. In this section, however, a broader perspective is taken. From each section a number of indicators measuring, albeit crudely, the "quality of life" of registered Indians have been selected and are discussed.

The indicators chosen to measure the quality of life are the infant mortality rate, other age-specific death rates, the percentage distribution of deaths by cause, the incidence of tuberculosis, dependency ratio, education and the condition of on-reserve Indian housing.

Another group of indicators has also been chosen which by itself does not measure the "quality of life" but is relevant when combined with those that do. These indirect indicators are growth rates, birth rates and age distribution.

If the Indian population's norm for each of these selected indicators is used, INAC regions can be categorized as to whether they are "above" or "below" this norm. When INAC regions are

dichotomized in this manner, these quality of life indicators reveal regional differences.

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon have rates which indicate a limited quality of life for their registered Indian population. For example, the infant and young adult death rates and rates for several causes of death in these regions are above the norm; for education and housing conditions they are below.

When the indirect quality of life indicators are examined these same regions showed high rates of population growth. In addition, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta had birth rates which were higher than the norm.

The Indian birth rate has been declining and this trend, coupled with the rapid growth of the labour-force-aged population (15-64 years), will result in a declining dependency ratio. In Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, however, this ratio is above the norm and is expected to remain so in 1986. This will result in a higher than average proportion of their populations in the 0-14 year age group.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report has been to provide researchers, policy makers, planners and evaluators with information on the demographic, social and economic conditions and trends of registered Indians by INAC regions since 1966.

The results of this comparison and analysis indicate that the 1980 decade should be a challenging one for Indian people and those organizations which serve them. Demographic changes will create greater housing, education and health needs. Social support programs, including social assistance and affirmative action, also will be affected.

The data presented demonstrate the differences between the INAC regions. Analytically, the data in this report can be taken only so far. Much more detailed information, such as subregional, labour force and social services data, is required. The availability and/or accessibility of such data has been limited by the lack of relevant data collection vehicles, standardized information systems among INAC regions, and by the costs of data retrieval in support of policy development, planning and evaluation.



A subsidiary objective of this report has been to encourage greater inter-regional communication in solving some of the problems faced in INAC regions, especially if some regions have had success in improving certain conditions. At the same time, this report should assist managers in establishing priorities for program resource and funding allocation activities.

## 9.0 SOURCES

CHART 1      Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Registered Indian Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada and Regions, 1966, 1971, 1976 (Ottawa). Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

Research Support Section, Research Division, Research Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Population Projections (1977-91) (Ottawa, 1979). (Regional Population Projections by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada's Registered Indian Population.) Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

CHART 2      Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Registered Indian Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada and Regions, 1966, 1971, 1976 (Ottawa). Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

Research Support Section, Research Division, Research Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Population Projections (1977-91) (Ottawa, 1979). (Regional Population Projections by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada's Registered Indian Population.) Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

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Population Estimates and Projections Division, Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada and the Provinces, 1972-2001, Catalogue No. 91-514, Series B projections, (Ottawa, June 1974).

CHART 3      Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Demographic Events by Year of Reporting and Year of Occurrence, Canada and Provinces, 1967-76. (Births by Reporting Year and Year of Occurrence.) Computer printouts available from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

CHART 4.1      Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and  
4.2      Northern Affairs Canada, Demographic Events by Year  
4.3      of Reporting and Year of Occurrence, Canada and  
                Provinces, 1973-77. (Deaths by Age at Death and  
                Year of Occurrence.) Computer printouts available  
                from Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit  
                Affairs Program, INAC.

Health Division, Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Volume III, Deaths, 1973, 1975, 1977,  
Catalogue No. 84-206, (Ottawa, 1975, 1978, 1980).

CHART 5.1      Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and  
5.2      Northern Affairs Canada, Registered Indian  
                Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada and  
                Regions, 1966, 1971, 1976 (Ottawa). Computer  
                printouts available from Program Reference Centre,  
                Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, INAC.

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Population Projections (1977-91) (Ottawa, 1979).  
(Regional Population Projections by Age, Sex and  
Residence for Canada's Registered Indian  
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Provinces, 1971-76, Catalogue No. 91-518, (Ottawa,  
March 1979).

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Population By Sex and Age Group, Canada and  
Provinces, 1921-71, Catalogue No. 91-512, (Ottawa,  
July 1973).

Population Estimates and Projections Division,  
Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada  
and the Provinces, 1972-2001, Catalogue No. 91-514,  
Series B projections, (Ottawa, June 1974).



CHART 6.1 Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and  
6.2 Northern Affairs Canada, Registered Indian  
Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada and  
Regions, 1966, 1971, 1976 (Ottawa). Computer  
printouts available from Program Reference Centre,  
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(Regional Population Projections by Age, Sex and  
Residence for Canada's Registered Indian  
Population.) Computer printouts available from  
Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, INAC.

CHART 7.1 Membership Division, Reserves and Trusts, Indian and  
7.2 Northern Affairs Canada, Registered Indian  
Population by Age, Sex and Residence for Canada and  
Regions, 1966, 1971, 1976 (Ottawa). Computer  
printouts available from Program Reference Centre,  
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Population Projections (1977-91) (Ottawa, 1979).  
(Regional Population Projections by Age, Sex and  
Residence for Canada's Registered Indian  
Population.) Computer printouts available from  
Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, INAC.

CHART 8.1 Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada,  
8.2 Annual Report, 1973, 1975, 1977 (Ottawa, 1974, 1976,  
1978).

Health Division, Statistics Canada, Vital  
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FOOTNOTES

CHART 1      The registered Indian population is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; those whose age was unstated were excluded.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

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

The average annual growth rate for the Yukon region was found to be 0.4 for the 1976-81 period. However, the drop from 1.3 to 0.4 was considered too drastic and probably indicated an error in the data due to provincial/regional disparities in reporting. It was therefore decided to compute the rate for the 1977-81 period.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 3      The birth rate is computed by dividing the births in a specific year by mid-year population, multiplied by 1,000.

The registered Indian population is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; those whose age was unstated were excluded.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 4      The death rate is computed by dividing the deaths in a specific year by mid-year population, multiplied by 1,000.

The registered Indian population is adjusted for late reported deaths; those whose age was unstated were excluded.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 5        The registered Indian population is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; those whose age was unstated were excluded.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 6        The 1966 on-reserve populations have been adjusted as a result of a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 7        The 1966 off-reserve population have been adjusted as a result of a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.

CHART 8        The regions are those of the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada and are virtually the same as INAC's. The only difference occurs in the Atlantic region where the province of Newfoundland is included in the Medical Services Branch regions and not in INAC's Atlantic region.

Data for the Northwest Territories combines registered Indians and Inuits.

Infection and parasitic diseases do not apply to the Yukon region.

CHART 9        The regions used are those of the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada and are virtually the same as INAC's. The only difference occurs in the Atlantic region where the province of Newfoundland is included in the Medical Services Branch region and not in INAC's Atlantic region.

Data for the Northwest Territories combine registered Indians and Inuits.

CHART 10 "Primary grade" is five-year-old kindergarten through Grade 8 plus special education.

The percentage is calculated by dividing the actual enrollment by the population age 5-13.

No data were available for the Northwest Territories region.

The data for the Yukon Region are not reliable (due to deficiencies in the data system). Therefore, it was decided not to use it.

The percentage in 1976 for the Quebec region was found to be 101.6%. This was probably due to the fact that the number of students was greater than the population aged 5-13 because of the migration of students from other provinces, and repeaters in primary school who are 14 years old. This percentage has been changed therefore to 100.

CHART 11 "Secondary grade" is grades 9 through 12, including special programs.

The percentage is calculated by dividing the actual enrollment by the population aged 14-18.

CHART 12 No data were available for the Northwest Territories and Yukon regions.

For the Quebec region the retention is for grade XI enrollment, related to grade II enrollment nine years earlier.

The Atlantic region retention rates include the average of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick regional rates. Nova Scotia's first retention rate is for the 1966-67 year because a deficiency existed in the data system for the 1965-66 year.

CHART 13 No data were available for the Northwest Territories and Yukon regions.

CHART 14 The vocational enrollment included pre-vocational, formal vocational and special vocational.

No data were available for the Northwest Territories and Yukon regions.



CHART 15      Inadequate housing is estimated by dividing the number of houses (both vacant and occupied) that need major repairs or replacement (only those that are occupied) by the total number of houses (excluding vacant houses needing replacement).

Overcrowded housing is estimated by dividing the number of houses that are overcrowded or require additions, by the total number of family units.

The Quebec region included 13 Inuit communities from the Arctic Quebec District.

CHART 16      No data were available for the Northwest Territories.

The Quebec region included 13 Inuit communities from the Arctic Quebec District.

CHART 17      The dependency ratio is the ratio of children under age 15, plus the elderly, age 65 and over, to the population aged 15-64 years.

The registered Indian population is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; those whose age was unstated were excluded.

The chart shows INAC regional data except for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which are provincial, and the Yukon, which is territorial.