

**AN OVERVIEW OF REGISTERED INDIAN
CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA**

by
GEORGE K. JARVIS

Under the direction of N.H. LITHWICK
LITHWICK ROTHMAN SCHIFF ASSOCIATES LTD.

for
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

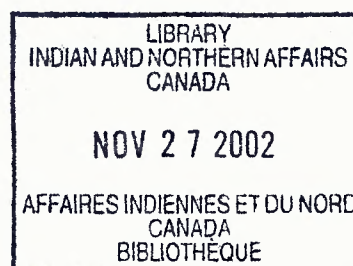
E78
.A34
J37
c.1

1987

E78. A34
J37
C.1

AN OVERVIEW OF REGISTERED INDIAN
CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA

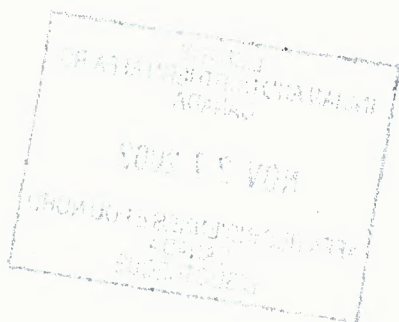
by
GEORGE K. JARVIS



Under the direction of N.H. LITHWICK
LITHWICK ROTHMAN SCHIFF ASSOCIATES LTD.

for
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

1987



The opinions in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

FOREWORD

As registered Indians reassume control of their political, social and economic affairs, it is essential that those involved in this process have available a comprehensive and accurate picture of Indian conditions. The **Overview Series on Registered Indian Conditions**, of which this research report is a part, was initiated and sponsored by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). This series provides analyses of key demographic, social and economic conditions of registered Indians in the early 1980s. It draws comparisons between the situation of on- and off-reserve Indians and the general population at that time.

The reports in this series are intended to provide the reader with as complete a picture as possible of the past situation of registered Indians. While the series makes some use of information from the mid-1970s to early 1980s drawn from various federal administrative data bases, it is based primarily on 1981 Census data. By providing extensive baseline data, the series establishes a reference point against which future comparisons with data on Indian conditions collected by subsequent Censuses may be made.

The data in this series of reports should be used with care. Many of them may not reflect current conditions. There is some more recent evidence of significant improvements in Indian conditions. Most noteworthy, the number of post-secondary students sponsored by INAC has grown significantly over the years. In 1981-82, the department provided financial assistance to the equivalent of 4,445 full-time students (based on a 32-week academic year). In 1985-86, the number increased to 9,906 of which an estimated 423 received funding from INAC after registration under Bill C-31. There is also good evidence of expanding Indian entrepreneurship and business enterprise both on- and off-reserve which is increasing the Indian private sector contribution to Indian income and employment. As well, in recent years, Indians have exercised greater control over their economic development through the establishment of a growing number of Indian-controlled economic and financial institutions operating locally, regionally and nationally.

Following are the titles of the 14 research reports in the series:

- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Canada
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Quebec
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Ontario
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Manitoba
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Saskatchewan
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in Alberta
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions in British Columbia
- * An Overview of Registered Indian Conditions - Methodology Report (Canada and Selected Provinces)
- * An Overview of the Housing Conditions of Registered Indians in Canada
- * An Overview of the Educational Characteristics of Registered Indians in Canada
- * An Overview of Economic Circumstances of Registered Indians in Canada
- * An Overview of Socio-Demographic Conditions of Registered Indians Residing Off-Reserve

As with all major long-term undertakings, this series of reports is the product of the cooperation and efforts of many individuals too numerous to mention here. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

I expect that the series will be a useful and supportive information source for those interested in Indian conditions and hope that it will generate future related research.

Mike Sims
Director General
Policy, Economic Development



PREFACE

This report is one in a series designed to provide an overview of the social, demographic and economic conditions of registered Indians in Canada and the provinces. It updates the material provided in an earlier overview series on registered Indian conditions prepared by the Research Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) under the direction of Andrew Siggner, and includes new material in a number of important areas. The most significant source of this new material has been the 1981 Census of Canada, which has provided data not only on key demographic variables, but in the areas of families and households, language, education, employment, income and housing. As a result, this overview series represents a significant extension of our knowledge about the conditions of registered Indians in Canada.

The series was commissioned by the Research Branch of Corporate Policy and completed under the auspices of the Policy Development Branch of Economic Development, INAC. The officers responsible for this project were Viviane Renaud initially, followed by Tom Brecher. The support and advice throughout this project of Tom Brecher and Gilles Larocque, as well as that of colleagues of theirs, have been invaluable.

The preparation of the reports involved a two-stage research program. The first stage included the identification of relevant variables, the location and assembly of data, and the production of appropriate tables and graphs. This was accomplished by a Central Coordinating Team, consisting of Monica Boyd, Allan Maslove, Roger Roberge and Mark Rosenberg, under the general direction of Harvey Lithwick. Each member of the team was responsible for particular subject areas: Boyd, for demography, language, families and households; Maslove for housing and justice; Roberge for education, employment and income; and Rosenberg for health and social services. Gilles Larocque, Viviane Renaud and Gary Cohen of INAC were most helpful in this phase.

In addition, the very substantial task of processing the data and computations was headed by Roger Roberge, with the assistance of Salamuddin Ansari and Pierre Nantel.

Because of the complexity of the data and the variety of sources, a companion Methodology Report was prepared by Monica Boyd and Mark Rosenberg. It provides more detailed information on the actual materials used and their sources, so that interested readers and researchers can replicate or modify all materials contained in the geographic overviews of the series.

The second stage involved the actual writing of the national and provincial reports. A team of Regional Research Associates, residing in the respective regions and familiar with the local circumstances of registered Indians, wrote these reports. It included: Katie Cooke, British Columbia; George Jarvis, Alberta and Saskatchewan; Jeremy Hull, Manitoba and Quebec; Katherine Graham, Ontario; and Hugh Lautard, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The national overview was prepared by Harvey Lithwick, Marvin Schiff and Eric Vernon, with the assistance of Joan Katz and Alex Lithwick.

Harvey Lithwick, Marvin Schiff and Eric Vernon edited all of the reports. Pierre Gauvin of INAC coordinated the crucial task of reviewing the data. Alex Lithwick and Paul Ting prepared the graphics.

Eric Vernon supervised the revision of all reports for Lithwick, Rothman, Schiff.

Assistance in supplying data was provided by Wendy Wright, M.V. George and Jeannine Perreault at Statistics Canada. We are also grateful to Bob Neil, Alain Marcil and Audrey McDonnell at Correctional Service Canada, Kirsti Walker and Ovila Gobeil at INAC and Roy Addie and Ellen Bobet at Health and Welfare Canada, for assistance in supplying and interpreting complex data sets. Additional computing services were provided by Bernard Stepien. Sheila Klein at INAC offered special assistance with both the customized census data and with the adjusted register data and projections. In addition, Jacques Denault and Jean McNiven helped with the preparation of this manuscript.

Finally, a word of thanks to our typists and word-processor operators, including Margaret Johnston, Janet Stewart, Jane Tallim, Dana Rothman, Maria Sergiò, Rosa Stone and Lil Levitin, for their good-natured and invaluable assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Introduction

- This report examines the conditions of registered Indians in Alberta using data from the 1981 Census of Canada, the Indian Register and other appropriate sources from the Government of Canada. It examines the situation of on- and off-reserve registered Indians in comparison with a reference population, the total population of Alberta less its registered Indians, unless otherwise noted.

2. Demography

- In Alberta, over 75 per cent of Indians lived on reserves in 1986, somewhat more than the average of other provinces. Registered Indians increased in number from 30,482 in 1971 to 40,730 in 1981 and 45,595 in 1986, although because of general population growth in Alberta, Indians captured only a slightly larger share of the total population over this period. Most of the increase was due to high fertility and decreasing mortality among Indians.

- The off-reserve population increased faster than the on-reserve, thereby decreasing the share of Indians who lived on a reserve, but this trend is expected to stabilize.

- The 1981 Census of Canada reported 39,915 registered Indians in Alberta, 12 per cent of the Canadian total. Registered Indians accounted for 55 per cent of the Native population in Alberta in 1981.

- Alberta's 90 reserves were the largest in Canada, averaging over 18,000 acres per reserve. Yet with the exception of the Atlantic provinces, Indians in Alberta enjoyed the best access to urban centres; over one-half the bands were located less than 50 kilometres from a regional centre. This increased the availability of health services, educational and occupational opportunities, but made it more difficult to preserve a unique cultural heritage.

- Because of high fertility, the Indian population was more youthful than the Alberta population as a whole. The proportion of Indians aged zero to 14 is expected to decline by 1991 but will still be 15 percentage points higher than the total Alberta population.

- Alberta received more Indian migrants than any province or territory from 1976 to 1981. Generally speaking, on-reserve Indians were less likely to have moved during the past five years than those living off-reserve. Overall, the proportions of Indians and non-Indians who moved were similar.
- The smaller proportion of zero to 14 year-olds will also be reflected in a drop in the Indian dependency ratio of 39 per cent from 1971 to 1991, but the Indian ratio will still be just over one-half higher than the ratio for all Albertans.
- Indians had higher standardized death rates than the total provincial population, as well as higher age-specific death rates in every age category.
- Indian life expectancy was approximately 10 years less than that of the Canadian population, but in recent years the difference decreased. Most progress in Indian life expectancy occurred at the younger ages.

3. Families and Households

- Registered Indian census families in Alberta were larger on average than non-Indian census families, 4.1 versus 3.2 members per census family. Census families were larger on average on- than off-reserve, 4.5 versus 3.5 members.
- These differences were mainly due to there being one more child on average in Indian versus non-Indian families.
- As well, the family structure in which Indians live was generally different, with proportionally more children and other relatives living with families, and more single-parent situations than was the case among non-Indians. Lone parents in census families, for example, were almost three times as common among registered Indians than in the reference population.
- More non-Indian than Indian members of economic families were spouses, 53 versus 27 per cent, while more Indian than non-Indian economic family members were children.

- In general, there were proportionally more single persons, individuals who were separated, widowed or divorced, and persons living common-law among Indians than among other Albertans. Indians off-reserve tended more to be separated, widowed, divorced or living common-law than among the on-reserve population.

4. Language

- English was the mother tongue for more than one-half of the registered Indians in Alberta. Few who began life speaking English changed this language for another.
- Forty-two per cent of registered Indians in Alberta indicated an Aboriginal language as mother tongue. In 1981, thirty-four per cent of them used English as the principal language in their homes.
- The very young, the very old and those who lived on-reserve were the ones most likely to resist the tendency toward linguistic assimilation.

5. Health

- Indian mortality was generally higher than that for non-Indians from most major causes.
- Some of the most important differences were in the violent causes of death such as accident and suicide.
- Indians had a higher suicide rate than the provincial population, particularly among young adults aged 20 to 29 for whom the Indian suicide rate in 1982 was five times higher.
- Indians in Alberta had higher rates of accidents and suicide than Indians in many other provinces.
- The Indian population has a history of frequent infant death and high tuberculosis incidence, but definite improvements in these conditions have been made over the last few years.

6. Education

- Indian children were more likely to be in grades which were inappropriate for their age.
- Enrolments in band-operated schools in Alberta increased nearly four-fold in the past five years reaching almost 10 per cent of registered Indian students.
- As was the case among other Canadians, younger Indians had higher levels of educational attainment than older Indians, although at all ages Indians were less educated than their non-Indian counterparts.
- Forty per cent of Indians in Alberta, versus 12 per cent of non-Indians, were "functionally illiterate", that is, had achieved less than Grade 9 education. On the other hand, 56 per cent of non-Indians had achieved high school completion or higher, more than twice the Indian proportion of 25 per cent.
- Ten per cent of non-Indians had completed university versus one per cent of Indians.
- Off-reserve Indians attended school more often, reaching higher levels of education and participating more in continuing education programs than Indians who lived on-reserve.

7. Employment and Income

- Labour force participation was much lower for Indians than for non-Indians in Alberta. Under-participation was most pronounced at the young and old ends of the age distribution, among those living on-reserve and for those with little education.
- Forty per cent of Indians were employed compared with 70 per cent of the reference population.
- Chances for full-time work were fewer in primary occupations than in secondary or tertiary occupations. Overall, Indians were slightly more likely to work part-time than non-Indians, but only because the male Indian part-time rate was almost twice the corresponding non-Indian rate, 15 versus eight per cent.

- In 1980, 27 per cent of Indians had no income, over double the reference population proportion.
- Average individual Indian income was about \$8,300, 56 per cent of average individual non-Indian income (\$14,800).
- Indians received less income on average than non-Indians in virtually all occupational categories. Indians with more education tended to receive more income, especially Indians who had moved from the reserves.
- Income levels were lower for Indian females than for males in similar occupations; they were also lower for Indians living on-reserve than for those off-reserve.
- Although Indian females received less income than Indian males, their incomes were closer to those of Indian males than non-Indian female incomes were to those of non-Indian males.
- Government transfer payments were the major source of income for 20 per cent of all Indians, more than double the non-Indian proportion. Indians living off-reserve were more likely than Indians living on-reserve to report employment income and less likely to report government transfer payments as their major source of income.
- Overall, more than twice the proportion of non-Indian than Indian economic families received 1980 income of \$30,000 and up. Conversely, four per cent of non-Indian economic families received under \$5,000 versus 14 per cent of Indian economic families.

8. Housing

- Indian housing was generally inferior to non-Indian by every measure. Housing on-reserve was especially inadequate.
- On-reserve Indian households tended to occupy their dwellings for longer periods of time than non-Indian households. Indian households off-reserve, however, were extremely mobile, as almost one-half had occupied their present dwelling for less than one year.

- Although home-ownership data on-reserve are questionable, the data show that a larger proportion of registered Indian households on-reserve in Alberta owned their homes than non-Indian households, 71 versus 63 per cent. Off-reserve households, however, showed only a 29 per cent ownership proportion.
- Alberta's off-reserve households paid a higher proportion of household income for major owner's payments and gross rent than did non-Indian households.
- The residential housing stock of on-reserve Indians was generally the newest, followed by non-Indian dwellings and those of Indians off-reserve. For example, 61 per cent of dwellings on-reserve were built in the decade prior to the 1981 Census compared with 47 and 45 per cent of non-Indian and off-reserve Indian dwellings, respectively.
- Despite their relative newness on-reserve dwellings were in comparatively inferior condition. More on-reserve dwellings were crowded (almost two-fifths), in need of major repair (nearly one-quarter), lacked central heating (slightly over one-half), and lacked a bathroom (36 per cent). By contrast, for example, only six per cent of non-Indian dwellings lacked central heating and only two per cent were without a bathroom.

9. Social Services

- The number of Indian children adopted increased sevenfold in Alberta between 1971 and 1981, and more of these children, two-thirds in 1981, were adopted by non-Indians than in the past.
- Although this represented an increased use of social services, other services such as children in care on reserves and on-Crown land, social assistance on reserves and adults in residential care on reserves all decreased in the last few years.

10. Justice

- North American Indians comprised nearly 12 per cent of the total federal inmate population of Alberta over the 1974 to 1983 period.

- There was an increase in incarcerations among both North American Indians and the reference population from 1974 to 1983, with the North American Indian rate increasing slightly more.
- North American Indian males were somewhat younger and female North American Indian prisoners were somewhat older than the average national prison population.
- North American Indians in Alberta were more likely to have served multiple prison terms than the reference population.
- North American Indians more often served sentences for crimes against persons; non-Indians more often for crimes against property and for drug offences.
- North American Indians had proportionally more short sentences than non-Indians.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
FOREWORD	iii
PREFACE	v
HIGHLIGHTS	vii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Historical Review	1
1.2 Data Sources and Technical Notes	5
2. DEMOGRAPHY	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Population Size	9
2.3 Population: Age-Sex Distribution	13
2.4 Geographic Distribution	20
2.5 Population Processes	27
2.6 Conclusion	40
3. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS	43
3.1 Introduction	43
3.2 Family Size	43
3.3 Household Size	44
3.4 Registered Indians in Census and Economic Families	46
3.5 Marital Status	49
3.6 Conclusion	53
4. LANGUAGE	55
4.1 Introduction	55
4.2 Language Retention	55
4.3 Official Language Capability	60
4.4 Conclusion	60
5. HEALTH	63
5.1 Introduction	63
5.2 Mortality	63
5.3 Violent Deaths	66
5.4 Infant Mortality	71
5.5 Tuberculosis	71
5.6 Conclusion	72

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
6. EDUCATION	75
6.1 Introduction	75
6.2 Enrolment	76
6.3 Educational Attainment	79
6.4 School Attendance	87
6.5 Conclusion	91
7. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME	93
7.1 Introduction	93
7.2 Labour Force Activity	94
7.3 Individual Income	104
7.4 Economic Family Income	114
7.5 Conclusion	118
8. HOUSING	119
8.1 Introduction	119
8.2 Length of Occupancy	120
8.3 Tenure	120
8.4 Major Payments for Owners and Renters	122
8.5 Age of Housing	123
8.6 Condition of Housing	125
8.7 Conclusion	128
9. SOCIAL SERVICES	131
9.1 Introduction	131
9.2 Adoption of Indian Children	131
9.3 Other Social Services	133
9.4 Conclusion	133
10. JUSTICE	135
10.1 Introduction	135
10.2 Characteristics of Inmates	135
10.3 Incarceration	137
10.4 Major Offences	140
10.5 Conclusion	144
APPENDIX I: GLOSSARY	145

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>FIGURE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.1	Percentage Distribution of Registered Indians Among the Provinces and Territories, 1982	10
2.2	Age-Sex Profiles, Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991	14
2.3	Census Data on Population Distribution by Rural-Urban Location, Alberta, 1981	23
2.4	Rates of Reported Births Outside Marriage by Age of Mother, Alberta, 1981	30
5.1	Suicide Rates, Alberta, 1976-1982	69
5.2	Tuberculosis Rates, Alberta, 1976-1982	73
6.1	School Leavers as a Percentage of Enrolment, by Age and School Type, Alberta INAC Region, 1982-83	80
6.2	Highest Level of Schooling, Age 15 and Over, Alberta, 1981	81
6.3	Entrants by Intended Education Program, Alberta, 1979-1983	92
7.1	Labour Force Activity, Alberta, 1981	96
7.2	Income Distribution, Alberta, 1980	107
8.1	Indicators of Housing Conditions, Alberta, 1981	126
10.1	Percentage Distribution of Major Offences of Inmate Population, Alberta, 1974-1983	142

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.1	Population Distribution, Registered Indians On-Reserve and Off-Reserve, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1982	11
2.2	Age Distribution by Sex, Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991	15
2.3	Distribution of Census Population by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	17
2.4	Dependency Ratios, Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991	19
2.5	Number and Percentage of Bands and Band Population and Distribution by Population Size Group, Alberta INAC Region, 1982	21
2.6	Registered Indians On- and Off-Reserve and as a Proportion of the Provincial Population, Alberta, 1971 - 1991	25
2.7	Growth and Shares of Registered Indian Population Residing On- and Off-Reserve, Alberta, 1971 - 1991	26
2.8	Number of Live Births, Age-Specific Birth Rates and Total Fertility Rates, Registered Indians, Alberta, 1971, 1976 and 1981	29
2.9a	Mobility Status by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	32
2.9b	Mobility Status by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	34
2.10	Crude and Standardized Death Rates of the Registered Indian Population and Crude Death Rates of the Total Provincial Population, Alberta, 1971, 1976 and 1981	35
2.11	Crude Death Rates by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	37

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.12	Average Age at Death, Alberta, 1971, 1976 and 1981	38
2.13	Components of Natural Increase, Registered Indians, Alberta, 1972-1991	41
3.1	Census Family Type by Average Number of Children, Alberta, 1981	45
3.2	Census Family Status, Alberta, 1981	47
3.3	Economic Family Status, Alberta, 1981	50
3.4	Marital Status by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	52
4.1a	Population Showing Relationship of Home Language to Mother Tongue by Age, Alberta, 1981	57
4.1b	Population Showing Relationship of Home Language to Mother Tongue by Age, Alberta, 1981	58
4.2	Population Showing Relationship of Official Language to Mother Tongue, Alberta, 1981	61
5.1	Death Rates by Cause, Alberta, 1980 and 1982	64
5.2	Deaths From Injury and Poisoning by Cause, Alberta, 1980 and 1982	67
5.3	Suicide Rates by Age, Alberta, 1982	70
6.1	Registered Indian Student Population Showing Grade by Age and Sex, Alberta INAC Region, 1978-79 and 1982-83	77

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
6.2	Registered Indian Student Population Showing School Type by Grade, Alberta INAC Region, 1978-79 and 1982-83	78
6.3	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Highest Level of Schooling, Alberta, 1981	82
6.4	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Highest Level of Schooling by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	84
6.5	University Attainment by Sex, Age 15 and Over, Alberta, 1981	86
6.6	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing School Attendance by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1980-81	88
6.7	Registered Indian Cumulative Entrants in Continuing Education On- and Off-Reserve by Age and Sex, Alberta INAC Region, 1979-1983	90
7.1	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Labour Force Activity by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1981	97
7.2	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Not Attending School Showing Labour Force Activity by Highest Level of Schooling, Alberta, 1981	99
7.3	Experienced Labour Force, Occupation by Sex, Alberta, 1981	101
7.4	Experienced Labour Force, Work Activity by Occupation, Alberta, 1981	103
7.5	Population 15 Years of Age and Over With Income Showing Average Individual Income by Sex, Alberta, 1980	105

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
7.6	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Total Individual Income Groups by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1980	108
7.7	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Not Attending School Showing Individual Income Groups by Highest Level of Schooling, Alberta, 1980	110
7.8	Average Income of Experienced Labour Force with Income, by Sex and Occupation, Alberta, 1980	111
7.9	Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Major Source of Income, Alberta, 1980	113
7.10	Economic Families Showing Average Size of Families by Income Group, Alberta, 1980	115
7.11	Economic Families Showing Income Group by Family Size, Alberta, 1980	117
8.1	Private Households by Length of Occupancy, Alberta, 1981	121
8.2	Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction, Alberta, 1981	124
8.3	Indicators of Housing Conditions, Alberta, 1981	127
9.1	Registered Indian Children Adopted by Registered Indians and by Others, Alberta, 1971-1981	132
10.1	Inmate Population as of 31 December, Alberta, 1974-1983	136
10.2	Inmate Population by Age and Sex, Alberta, 1974-1983	138

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
10.3	Length of Sentence of Inmate Population by Age, Alberta, 1974-1983	139
10.4	Number of Previous Commitment of Inmates by Age, Alberta, 1974-1983	141
10.5	Major Offences of Inmate Population by Age, Alberta, 1974-1983	143

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historical Review

Indians in Alberta before the arrival of the European typically are perceived as having lived in stable tribes, and having maintained a valued and traditional way of life in their tribal hunting grounds. It has been said that this way of life was disrupted and, for the most part, supplanted by something akin to that of European immigrants. Such a perception may be close to the truth in many areas of North America, but not in Alberta. Before Europeans arrived in Alberta, Indian populations hunted, warred and changed their settlement patterns according to opportunities for trade and their level of success in warfare with neighbouring tribes.

One of the major Native peoples in present-day Alberta is the Cree. In the early 17th century, the Cree lived in what is now Northern Ontario. At that time some of them had become involved in the fur trade with trappers and traders in what is now eastern Canada. When the Hudson's Bay Company arrived in 1670, the Cree became "middlemen" in the trading of furs.

As the Cree became more active in the fur trade, they began moving to the west in search of furs. They divided into two groups--the Woodland Cree and the migratory Plains Cree. By the middle of the 19th century the Plains Cree were the most widespread Indian people in Canada. As they pushed westward, they changed from a forest-hunting people to a nomadic people who hunted buffalo across the prairies on horseback. In time, they allied themselves with the Assiniboine, a Siouan-speaking people, and pushed the Athabaskan-speaking peoples, such as the Chipewyan, farther to the north. As they moved to the west, they came in often hostile contact with peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy who were settled in south central Alberta and southern Saskatchewan.

As pressure on the Blackfoot mounted from the east, they, in turn, pushed the Kootenai people westward to the Rocky Mountains and the Shoshoni south and westward.

In the northern parts of Alberta lived the Athabascan-speaking people, including the Chipewyan, Beaver, Slave and Sarcee. The Cree began to push these Athabascan peoples to the north and west, forcing them to disperse. The Sarcee moved south and allied themselves with the Blackfoot. Others moved into Inuit territory farther north and still others moved toward the west coast tribes.

Not all relations among the Plains Indians were warlike. Sometimes the Blackfoot, Cree and Assiniboine were at peace and co-operated on hunting ventures and permitted intermarriage with each other. Missionaries and traders discouraged fighting, but economic realities created rivalries for trade and for the items that brought the best prices.

During the next period the Indians came increasingly under the sway of the fur trade. Their livelihood was under the control of the European demand for fur garments, which underwent a period of great popularity.

The first whites to move into the Plains area in the late 1700s and early 1800s were fur traders, mainly American, who sought new sources for furs and set up trading posts. Missionaries of both the Protestant and Catholic faiths followed in the 1860s, then government administrators in the 1870s.

Many of the early Americans who lived in this area were active in the whiskey trade. Some Americans were also buffalo bounty hunters. The idea was popular that if the buffalo were reduced in number, the Indians would be more easy to control and to contain. This would free the land for agricultural settlement.

In 1873 Canadian Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, on advice from Lieutenant William Francis Butler of the Fort Garry Regiment on the Red River, established the North West Mounted Police to rid the plains of American whiskey traders and to control the Indians while the transcontinental railroad was being built.

By this time the Indians were in a demoralized state. Buffalo had decreased in number, and the use of whiskey had increased. A severe smallpox epidemic struck the Indians, killing many and leading to a population decline. Informed estimates place the

Indian population living in the area that later became Canada at 220,000 when Europeans first arrived. By Confederation this number had declined to about 100,000, and it remained fairly constant for the next 70 years.

At this time two events occurred which helped the Indians. First, the Cree chief, Poundmaker, and the Blackfoot chief, Crowfoot, sought inter-tribal peace. Secondly, the Mounties, so impressed the Indians by locking up the American traders and dumping their whiskey that the chiefs promised to support the Mounties against any American raids. Two more forts were built; one, Fort Walsh, was built on the border of what became the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the other at Calgary.

The Indians had suffered greatly, though, and were affected further when the Hudson's Bay Company pulled out. This suffering and population decline, combined with their growing dependency on the whites for food and protection, made the Indians more amenable to the signing over of land in treaties.

In 1867 the Crown had given Canada the right to represent it in all dealings with the Indians as stipulated in the British North America Act. The Canadian government sought these treaties to put the Indians on limited tracts of land which were to be called reserves. The boundaries of reserves were established in many cases on grounds of expediency and to benefit the railroad. As a result, different language and cultural groups were often lumped together in one treaty group, making any sort of communication and cohesion difficult.

In 1876, Treaty Number Six was signed. This took in the parkland area of central Alberta, including Cree, Stoney and Chipewyan Indians. In 1876 the Indian Act was established, which served mainly to organize existing legislation. In 1877, Chief Crowfoot signed Treaty Number Seven. This included the foothill areas of southern Alberta. Treaty Number Eight was signed in 1899 and took in the boreal forest area of northern Alberta--basically the area north of the present Yellowhead Highway.

In the late 1890s a major influx of European immigrants arrived in the West, further altering the balance of population in favour of Europeans. By this time the buffalo had

been depleted, and the Indians were to a great extent confined to reserves, which demoralized them.

Little was done to help the Indians for half a century following the treaty signings. Missionaries provided some assistance as they attempted to convert Indians to Christianity. They also de-emphasized Indian culture in an attempt to get Indians to assimilate. Children were taken from the reserves and placed in boarding schools off the reserves.

The Indians' economic base underwent a radical change. Hunting, fishing and gathering were no longer adequate means of support, even for the reduced numbers of Indians. An attempt to change the Indians to farmers did not succeed. Non-Indians moved to take over some of the land granted to the tribes; a portion of this land was surrendered voluntarily, and some of it was expropriated.

In the face of past and present difficulties, Indians have attempted to organize themselves so as to influence government in their favour. The organizations at first were small and fragmented. Intertribal rivalries, personality clashes, differences in resources and wealth, geographical dispersion and a variety of differences in languages and cultures have all made unification of interests difficult and have worked against effective organization in defence of Indian interests.

In 1951 the Revised Indian Act was established as a result of hearings held by the government over the previous five years. The hearings involved churches, schools, governments, individuals and, to a limited extent, Indians. Many Indians believed this was typical of the way things were decided concerning their lives. Too many decisions were made without taking their opinions into account.

To rectify this situation, during the first half of the 20th century, many small provincial and tribal groups were formed. The first truly national Indian organization was the National Indian Council, later followed by the National Indian Brotherhood, founded in 1968.

In 1965 in Alberta, Indians were given the right to vote. Since then there has been further development of Indian political organization and lobbying among Indians. There has also been change in the position of the federal government. The tendency now is for Indians to be given increased responsibilities in self-government, and local self-determination in the administration of programs.

Since the end of the 19th century, many changes have occurred. In some ways conditions have become better: Indians are no longer starving and health conditions have improved, as have other basic circumstances of life. Yet much remains to be done, as will be seen in the succeeding chapters of this report.

1.2 Data Sources and Technical Notes

This overview is one of a series of provincial and national overviews prepared for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). A common methodology has been used to obtain and present the data for the various provinces and for Canada. The procedures followed are set out in our accompanying Methodology Report. In this section a brief description of the major data sources is provided; readers wishing to obtain more detailed information on data sources and methods used should refer to the Methodology Report. For definitions, the reader is referred to the Glossary in this report.

1981 Census of Canada

The 1981 Census of Canada has for the first time provided a source of data through which a full range of Indian socio-economic conditions could be compared with the conditions prevailing among the general population or among other ethnic groups. The ability to obtain this type of information was the result of improved questions dealing with Native status and self-identification in the 1981 Census and special efforts to reach the Native population in 1981. Some initial analysis of the success of the Census in obtaining responses from the Native population has suggested that there may have been some undercount among registered Indians, but that this undercount was much reduced from

previous years.

A set of special tabulations was obtained by INAC from Statistics Canada for the overview series. These tabulations have been run in each instance for registered Indians as well as for other Native peoples, and for the "reference population" which is the total population less the registered Indians.

There are some particular constraints in making use of census data, however. Information was suppressed by Statistics Canada for any number less than 25 in order to protect individuals' privacy. However, these suppressed numbers were included in the appropriate higher aggregate sub-totals and totals. The data concerning Indians are based on a 20 per cent sample of households although exceptions to the one in five procedure were made in some northern communities. Data have also been subject to Statistics Canada's standard random rounding procedures.

Population Projections

A special study of the demography of the registered Indian population and its expected growth by provinces and INAC regions from 1982 to 1996 was prepared for INAC by the Population Projections Section, Demography Division of Statistics Canada. This information has been fed into the reports of the overview series, and is based on an analysis of Indian Register data (see below). The medium growth scenario (Projection 3) was used in these reports. For further details, see INAC's 1985 publication entitled, Population Projections of Registered Indians, 1982 to 1996.

The Indian Register

Because of their special legal status, a list of all registered Indians (as defined in the Indian Act) is kept by INAC and information on the demographic characteristics of the Indian population is updated regularly by band officials and published for December 31 of each year. These data, adjusted for late reporting of births and deaths, are the basis for the

population projections and the demographic data in this report.

The Nominal Roll

Another source of information for the present study is the Nominal Roll, a listing of all Indian elementary and secondary students whose education is funded by INAC. The Nominal Roll is updated once a year, in October, and describes various characteristics of the students and schools they attend. The major limitations of these data are that the data have been inconsistently defined and collected over the years and are limited mainly to students living on-reserve. (c.f. Glossary and Methodology Report.)

Continuing Education Information System (CEIS)

This system records the post-secondary and adult training activities of registered Indian students who receive financial assistance from INAC. Therefore the data do not cover those registered Indian students who do not receive financial assistance. The data from this source are incomplete.

Health and Welfare Canada

Health and Welfare Canada is responsible for the provision of medical services to Indians and maintains data concerning the Indian population served (c.f. Glossary). These data cover causes of death, suicides, infant deaths, and various diseases.

Other Data Sources

Several other sources of data have been used in preparing the present study. These include social services information maintained by INAC and reported by Statistics Canada and justice information from Correctional Service Canada.

Symbols

We have used a dash (-) in our tables to represent a zero value, a number rounded to zero or a small absolute value that was suppressed by Statistics Canada and for which a percentage could not be calculated. The symbol n/a signifies not available.

Usage of Term "Indian"

The reader should also be aware that the term "Indian" as used in this report signifies "registered" or "status" Indian unless otherwise specified.

The Glossary explains the different definitions of registered Indians according to the Indian Register and the 1981 Census.

2. DEMOGRAPHY

2.1 Introduction

Population is the basic ingredient for human society. Demographic data, or facts about population, provide an inventory of the most fundamental characteristics of a population, characteristics which shape the social issues confronting a nation. A population's size and composition define its make-up which affects all aspects of the social fabric. The way a population is distributed shapes the need for essential services. The population's processes---fertility, mortality and migration---are some of the most important components of change in a society.

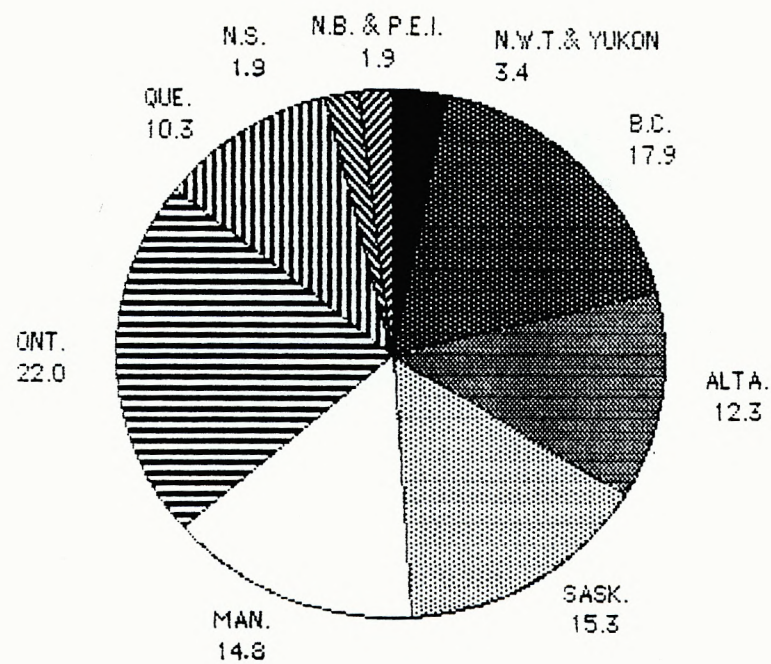
The size of the Indian population, its age-sex distribution, the geographic distribution, and the population processes occurring within that structure are examined in this chapter. In each case, comparisons have been drawn between the Indian population and a reference population made up in this chapter either of the total Alberta population or the total provincial population minus registered Indians (Census data).

2.2 Population Size

It is not simple to ascertain the number of Indians in a given province (see Methodology Report). The population of registered Indians as recorded by the Indian Register differed from the number who reported themselves as registered Indians in the 1981 Census of Canada.

As shown in Table 2.6 below, in 1986 there were 45,595 registered Indians in Alberta. Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1 show the earlier distribution of registered Indians in Canada as represented in the Indian Register. In 1982 Alberta contained 12.3 per cent of the nation's registered Indians, a total of 42,102 in all.

FIGURE 2.1
Percentage Distribution of Registered Indians
Among the Provinces and Territories
1982



Note: Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

TABLE 2.1

**Population Distribution, Registered Indians
On-Reserve and Off-Reserve
Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1982**

Province/Territory	Registered Indians On-Reserve		Registered Indians Off-Reserve		Total Registered Indians	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage of Canada
Nova Scotia	4,904	(75)	1,643	(25)	6,547	2
New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island	5,065	(76)	1,606	(24)	6,671	2
Quebec	29,538	(83)	5,907	(17)	35,445	10
Ontario	50,805	(67)	24,581	(33)	75,386	22
Manitoba	36,968	(73)	13,791	(27)	50,759	15
Saskatchewan	34,704	(66)	17,911	(34)	52,615	15
Alberta	31,823	(76)	10,279	(24)	42,102	12
British Columbia	38,344	(62)	23,188	(38)	61,532	18
Northwest Territories Yukon Territory	10,513	(89)	1,290	(11)	11,803	3
Canada	242,664	(71)	100,196	(29)	342,860	100

Note: Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

According to the census figures presented in Table 2.3, there were 39,915 Indians in Alberta in 1981. Projections prepared by Statistics Canada lead us to expect that in the following decade an additional increase of almost 10,000 will occur. (See Table 2.6). This somewhat slow rate of growth may be attributed to a continuing decline in the fertility rate among registered Indians.

Although the registered Indian population increased substantially between 1971 and 1986, and is expected to continue this pattern, their overall proportion of the total provincial population did not significantly increase, nor is it expected to do so to 1991. This is because Alberta has been the recipient of substantial internal migration,---that is, from the rest of Canada---which has enabled the non-Indian population to increase at a similar rate to the Indian population. During the past two to three years, the pace of internal migration to Alberta has slowed substantially. If this continues, Indians may, in the near term, increase as a percentage of the provincial population.

At this point, it should be noted that the June 28, 1985 passage of Bill C-31, "An Act to amend the Indian Act", removed discriminatory sections from the Indian Act. The Bill also allowed for the re-instatement of people who were struck from the Indian Register due to the sexually discriminatory and enfranchisement sections, plus the first-time registration of these people's first generation children. The re-instatement and first time registration of these people will obviously affect the number of registered Indians, but also the age-sex and on-/off-reserve location distributions of Canada's registered Indian population.

Ethnic Composition. Another aspect of population composition is the ethnic composition. The 1981 Census permits us to ascertain how many persons classified themselves as Native, and, if so, whether they identified themselves as registered Indians, Métis, non-status Indians or Inuit, or if they considered themselves non-natives (Canada Overview, Table 2.1). It should be noted that these data have been obtained from self-classification and are different in origin from the register data on Indians. Sophisticated efforts have been made to weed out inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the self-identification process (see Methodology Report), but the census data are still not entirely comparable with Indian Register data.

The 1981 Census of Canada reported approximately 320,200 registered Indians, of whom 39,915 resided in Alberta. "Other Natives" which include Métis, non-status Indians and Inuit, totalled 179,300 throughout the country, and 33,255 lived in Alberta. Put in terms of percentages, Alberta had 12.5 per cent of the registered Indians in Canada as defined by the census compared with 9.2 per cent of the total population of Canada. Among Alberta's native population, over one-half were registered Indians and over one-third were Métis.

2.3 Population: Age-Sex Distribution

The composition of a population spells out characteristics which in turn shape the contours of social organization. In this section age and sex structure will be considered.

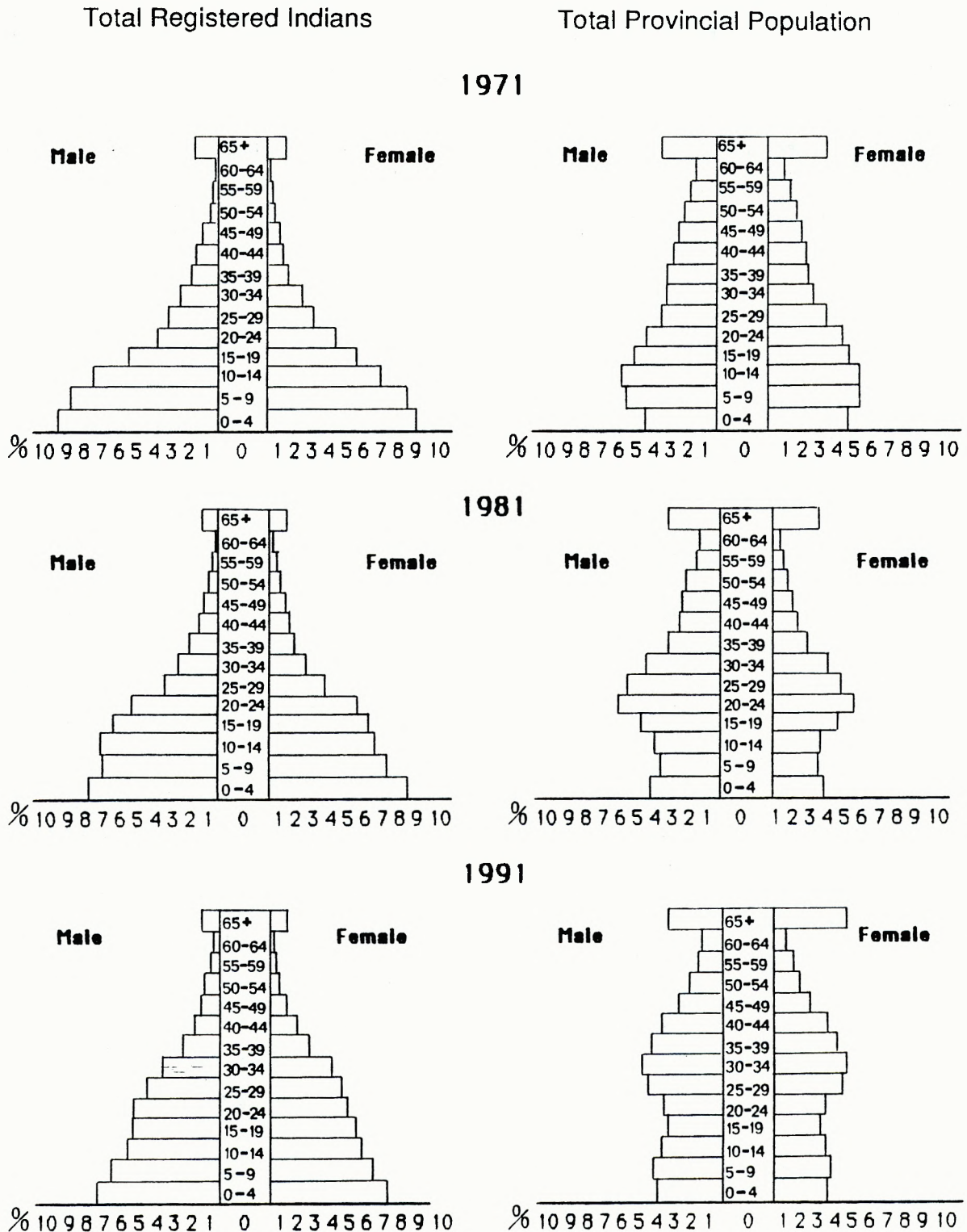
Age and Sex Structure. One of the most important population composition characteristics is the age and sex structure. Analysis of the age and sex distribution tells us the number and proportions of persons who are likely to be childhood dependents, persons of working age, and old age dependents, all necessary information as a basis for planning and policy-making. The age and sex distribution may also indicate whether there are imbalances in the sex distribution at particular age levels.

The age distribution of registered Indians in Alberta, as depicted in Figure 2.2 and Table 2.2, shows a high-fertility, youthful population when compared with the provincial population as a whole. Both males and females were over-represented in the ages under 15. Among males, the off-reserve population showed higher proportions of children; for females, the on-reserve child population was slightly greater.

Projections for 1991 show a decrease in the size of youthful age groups, but they will still be substantially larger than in the provincial population. In the zero to 14 age group, for example, the Indian proportion will be 39 per cent, versus 24 per cent in the total provincial population. Not only do these findings indicate higher proportions of youthful

FIGURE 2.2
Age-Sex Profiles¹, Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991

14



Note: ¹ Five-Year age groups up to 65+ are depicted as a percentage of the relevant population.

Source: See Table 2.2

TABLE 2.2
Age Distribution by Sex
Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991

	(Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve			Registered Indians Off-Reserve			Total Registered Indians			Provincial Population		
		1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
Male													
0-14		50	43	38	57	52	47	51	45	40	32	24	24
15-24		19	24	22	14	22	21	19	24	22	18	22	15
25-44		18	21	27	22	19	26	19	21	27	26	32	36
45-64		8	8	10	6	5	6	8	8	9	17	16	18
65+		4	4	3	2	1	1	4	3	3	7	6	7
Total %		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)		13.2	15.8	19.7	2.4	4.5	5.6	15.6	20.3	25.3	827.8	1,143.2	1,332.9
Female													
0-14		51	44	39	49	44	38	51	44	39	31	24	23
15-24		20	24	22	19	23	20	20	24	21	19	21	14
25-44		17	20	26	25	26	34	19	21	28	25	30	35
45-64		8	8	10	6	5	6	8	7	9	17	16	18
65+		4	4	4	1	1	1	3	3	3	7	8	10
Total %		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)		12.3	15.1	18.6	2.7	5.4	6.8	14.9	20.4	25.4	800.1	1,094.5	1,328.4
Both Sexes													
0-14		50	43	39	53	48	42	51	44	39	32	24	24
15-24		20	24	22	17	23	20	19	24	21	19	21	15
25-44		18	20	27	23	23	30	19	21	27	25	31	36
45-64		8	8	10	6	5	6	8	8	9	17	16	18
65+		4	4	3	2	1	1	4	3	3	7	7	9
Total %		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)		25.4	30.8	38.3	5.0	9.9	12.4	30.5	40.7	50.7	1,627.9	2,237.7	2,661.4

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Sources: Registered Indians:

1971, 1981: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

1991: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

Provincial Population:

1971: Statistics Canada, Revised Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age & Sex, for Canada and the Provinces, 1971-76, Cat. No. 91-519, July 1979.

1981: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, Population, Age, Sex and Marital Status, Cat. No. 92-901, Sept. 1982, Table 1.

1991: Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada & the Provinces, 1976-2001, Cat. No. 91-520, Feb. 1979, Projection 4.

dependents but they highlight the special needs of young parents, especially female single parents, who may require child care assistance.

At the other end of the age scale there were far fewer persons aged 65 and over in the Indian population than in the province as a whole, fewer than one-half in 1981 and one-third fewer projected for 1991. Proportionately more older Indians tended to live on-reserve in 1971 and 1981 and are assumed to do so in 1991.

Not much increase in the older age categories is foreseen by 1991. In that year it is expected older persons will constitute three per cent of the Indian population as it did in 1981. Among Alberta residents in general, the proportion of elderly men is expected to increase to seven per cent of the population, from a 1981 level of six per cent and the proportion of elderly women should increase to 10 per cent in 1991 from eight per cent in 1981.

In the adult working years, ages 25 to 64, the Indian population was under-represented. In 1981, 29 per cent of the Indian population was in the working years, compared with 47 per cent of the total Alberta population. In the future, as the youthful groups shrink somewhat in size, the numbers in the working years will increase, but this differential of 18 percentage points is expected to persist in 1991.

Table 2.3 reports age and sex structure data from a different source, the 1981 Census of Canada. Again, we see strong evidence of a youthful population of registered Indians both on- and off-reserve. The proportion of the reference population aged zero to 14 was 24 per cent; that for on-reserve registered Indians was 44 per cent, and for registered Indians living off-reserve, 48 per cent.

This situation has resulted from the previous high fertility in the Indian population. It is interesting to speculate as to why the Indian population living off-reserve shows a higher proportion of children. It may be because the population was concentrated somewhat more in the child-bearing years than the on-reserve population. Especially important was the high proportion of females aged 25 to 44 off-reserve (30 per cent), compared with only 20 per cent of the on-reserve female population in this age group. It is also interesting to note

TABLE 2.3
Distribution of Census Population by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1981

Row %	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	
						%	No.
<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>							
Male	44.9	22.8	20.1	8.5	3.8	100.0	12,500
Female	44.0	24.5	19.8	8.1	3.6	100.0	12,355
Both Sexes	44.4	23.6	19.9	8.3	3.7	100.0	24,855
<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>							
Male	56.6	20.2	18.1	4.1	1.0	100.0	6,675
Female	40.4	22.9	29.6	6.0	1.0	100.0	8,385
Both Sexes	47.6	21.7	24.5	5.2	1.0	100.0	15,060
<u>Total Registered Indians</u>							
Male	48.9	21.9	19.4	7.0	2.8	100.0	19,180
Female	42.6	23.8	23.8	7.3	2.5	100.0	20,735
Both Sexes	45.6	22.9	21.7	7.2	2.6	100.0	39,915
<u>Reference Population¹</u>							(000)
Male	24.1	21.7	32.0	16.1	6.0	100.0	1,113
Female	24.0	21.3	30.9	16.4	7.4	100.0	1,061
Both Sexes	24.1	21.5	31.5	16.3	6.7	100.0	2,174

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

that the percentage of off-reserve females in the 25 to 44 age group was 64 per cent higher than among their male counterparts. Furthermore, fully 57 per cent of off-reserve males were aged zero to 14 as opposed to only 40 per cent of off-reserve females. There were no significant sex differentials on-reserve.

As well, more persons aged 45 and over lived on-reserve than off, 12 versus six per cent. The proportion of registered Indians in the age categories 45 to 64 and 65 and over was usually less than half the reference population's proportion in these age categories. In other words, there were far more middle-aged and elderly non-Indians than middle-aged and elderly Indians.

Analysis of the age structure is especially helpful in that it indicates the size of the dependency burden facing a particular group. A population with large proportions of youthful and/or old dependents has special difficulties in supporting these less productive persons. This seems to be the case with Indians in Alberta.

Dependency relationships are presented in numerical form by the calculation of dependency ratios. The ratios presented in Table 2.4 are computed by adding the number of persons aged zero to 14 to those aged 65 and over and dividing by the number aged 15 to 64. The projected drop in dependency ratios to 1991 for registered Indians both on- and off-reserve reflects a diminution of the youthful population and only a small increase in the elderly, relative to persons of working years.

The Indian dependency ratio in 1971 was 1.19, almost twice as high for registered Indians as for the total Alberta population, and slightly higher for those on-reserve than those off-reserve. The marked decrease in children by 1991 should result in a dependency ratio for Indians (.73) which is only slightly more than 50 per cent higher than for the provincial population.

TABLE 2.4

Dependency Ratios ¹
Alberta, 1971, 1981, 1991

	1971	1981	1991
Registered Indians On-Reserve	1.20	.89	.72
Registered Indians Off-Reserve	1.18	.96	.76
Total Registered Indians	1.19	.91	.73
Provincial Population	.64	.46	.47

Note: 1. Calculated as Population $\frac{(0 - 14) + (65+)}{(15 - 64)}$

Sources: Registered Indians:

1971,1981: Adjusted Indian Register Data,
 Research Branch, INAC, 1985.
 1991: Population Projections of Registered
 Indians, Research Branch, INAC,
 1985.

Provincial Population:

1971: Statistics Canada, Revised Annual
 Estimates of Population by Marital
 Status, Age and Sex, for Canada and
 the Provinces, 1971-76, Cat. No. 91-
 519, July 1979.
 1981: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of
 Canada, Population, Age, Sex and
 Marital Status, Cat. No. 92-901,
 Sept. 1982, Table 1.
 1991: Statistics Canada, Population
 Projections for Canada and the
 Provinces, 1976-2001, Cat. No. 91-
 520, Feb. 1979, Projection 4.

2.4 Geographic Distribution

The way a population is distributed spatially informs the reader of some of the problems facing that population. For instance, if a group is isolated from others, it may have difficulty getting essential services or finding access to major markets. If a group is surrounded by others, it may be subject to problems of pollution, crowding, high costs and have difficulty maintaining a unique entity for itself.

Size of Reserves. In 1982, Alberta had 90 reserves, a small number relative to the other provinces and territories. British Columbia, for example, had 1,608. Ontario had the greatest total acreage devoted to Indian reserves, but Alberta's reserves were on average the largest in the nation, averaging over 18,000 acres per reserve. (Canada Overview, Table 2.4).

Size of Bands. Table 2.5 shows that in 1982 of the 41 bands in Alberta the largest number, 12, were between 500 and 999 in population. Nevertheless, the largest percentage of band population, 37 per cent, resided in bands that were between 1,000 and 2,999 in population. At the extremes there were eight bands numbering less than 250 persons, and one band, the Blood, which numbered 5,910.

Location of Indian Population. Nationally, some 71 per cent, or 242,664, of all registered Indians lived on reserves in 1982. In Alberta the proportion was slightly higher at 76 per cent. (Canada Overview, Table 2.2). It is probably true that the proportion living on reserves was somewhat inflated due to delays in the reporting of changes (see Methodology Report).

Whether a reserve is remote or has good access to larger urban centres is an important factor in the degree of access to essential services such as health care and is also a factor in the pressure toward assimilation of language and culture. In order to analyze these differences, INAC has categorized bands according to their degree of remoteness from the nearest urban regional centre. For a band to be classified as "urban" it had to be located within 50 kilometres of the nearest regional centre with year-round road access. A "rural" band was located between 50 and 350 kilometres from such a centre also with year-round

TABLE 2.5

Number and Percentage of Bands
and
Band Population and Distribution by Population Size Group
Alberta INAC Region, 1982

Size Group	Number Of Bands	Percentage Of Bands	Population	Percentage of Population
1 - 249	8	19.5	981	2.4
250 - 499	9	22.0	2,988	7.3
500 - 999	12	29.3	8,922	21.9
1,000 - 2,999	9	22.0	15,010	36.8
3,000 - 4,999	2	4.9	7,009	17.2
5,000 +	1	2.4	5,910	14.5
Total	41	100.0	40,820	100.0

Note: Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Reserves and Trusts, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 30 November 1983 (mimeo). Population is based on unadjusted Indian Register Data.

road access. "Remote" bands were located more than 350 kilometres from a regional centre still with year-round road access. Bands in some areas had no year-round access to a regional centre and required "special access," which was usually more costly.

Alberta's bands were among the most accessible to urban centres with 54 per cent located less than 50 kilometres from a centre. Most of the rest, 37 per cent, were classified as rural; none were remote, and only four, constituting nine per cent, required special access. Only the bands in the Atlantic provinces were closer to cities. This was quite remarkable in view of Alberta's large size and great distances, but reflected in part the wide spread of major centres throughout Alberta and the good network of highways (Canada Overview, Table 2.6).

The high degree of access to urban centres was made even more clear by the distribution of band population classified by degree of access to regional centres. Using the same four classifications of urban, rural, remote and special access, Alberta's band population had by far the greatest access of any province to regional centres. Seventy-two per cent of registered Indians living on-reserve and on-Crown land in Alberta were urban, more than in any province (Canada Overview, Table 2.7).

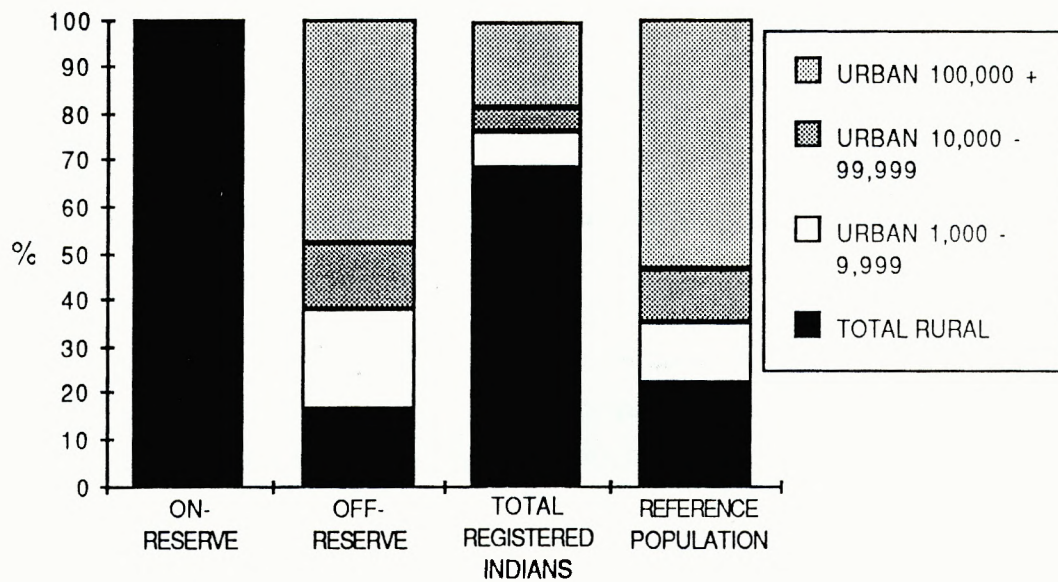
The 1981 Census permits us to examine the rural and urban location of registered Indians on- and off-reserve. It should be noted, however, that census definitions of rural and urban differ from INAC's, stressing size and density rather than location (c.f. Glossary). Figure 2.3 shows that the on-reserve census population in 1981 was totally rural, compared with only 22 per cent of the reference population. The off-reserve population was more urban, with 84 per cent classified as such, than was the non-Indian population of the province, with 78 per cent. Just over one-third of the off-reserve Indian population lived in urban places of less than 100,000 population. In larger centres off-reserve Indians were under-represented, such as Calgary and Edmonton where registered Indians made up 0.5 and 0.7 per cent, respectively, of the total population (Canada Overview, Table 2.22).

Remoteness from health services entails costs in getting aid for medical emergencies of a serious nature. Lack of access to educational and occupational opportunities makes

FIGURE 2.3

Census Data on Population Distribution by Rural-Urban Location

Alberta, 1981



Note: Reference Population = Total Population less Registered Indians

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada

economic integration difficult with the larger society, but such remoteness simplifies the maintenance of one's original linguistic and cultural heritage.

Population Growth. Table 2.6 shows that within the province of Alberta the number of registered Indians according to the Indian Register increased from 30,482 in 1971 to 40,730 in 1981 to an estimated 45,595 in 1986. Projections prepared by Statistics Canada lead us to expect that by 1991 an additional increase of just over 5,000 will occur. The rate of growth will be slow likely due to a continuing decline in the fertility rate among registered Indians and the reduced in-migration of Indians from other provinces.

Between 1971 and 1981 a somewhat greater proportional increase occurred in the off-reserve population than in the on-reserve population. This population growth was fed not only by natural increase but also by a continuing migration of Indians from the reserve. There was virtually no change in the proportional on-/off-reserve distribution to 1986 and no change at all is expected to 1991.

Although the registered Indian population increased substantially between 1971 and 1986, and is expected to continue this pattern, the overall Indian proportion of the total provincial population did not increase (1.9 per cent in 1986). This is because Alberta has been the recipient of substantial internal migration, that is from the rest of Canada, which has enabled the non-Indian population to increase at a similar rate to the Indian population. During the past two to three years, the pace of internal migration to Alberta has slowed substantially. If this continues, Indians may in the near term increase as a percentage of the provincial population.

Since 1971 there has been a shift of registered Indians from the reserve to other locations, principally the cities. In Table 2.7 we can see that the proportion of registered Indians who lived on-reserve decreased between 1971 and 1981 from 84 to 76 per cent. Correspondingly, the proportion of registered Indians who lived off-reserve increased in this period from 17 to 24 per cent. However, between 1976 and 1981 the average annual growth rate of the off-reserve population decreased from a very high 8.0 per cent for the 1971-1976 period to 5.5 per cent for the years 1976-1981. On the basis of this trend Statistics Canada projects a decrease in the off-reserve annual growth rate to 2.4 per cent

TABLE 2.6

**Registered Indians On- and Off-Reserve
and as a
Proportion of the Provincial Population
Alberta, 1971-1991**

	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991
Registered Indians					
<u>On-Reserve</u>					
Number	25,444	27,705	30,838	34,447	38,285
Per cent	83.5	78.7	75.7	75.5	75.5
<u>Off-Reserve</u>					
Number	5,038	7,520	9,892	11,148	12,413
Per cent	16.5	21.3	24.3	24.5	24.5
<u>Total</u>					
Number	30,482	35,225	40,730	45,595	50,698
Per cent	100	100	100	100	100
Provincial population (000)	1,628	1,838	2,237	2,402	2,661
Registered Indians as a % of provincial population	1.87	1.92	1.82	1.90	1.91

Sources: Registered Indians: 1971-81: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.
1986-91: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

Provincial Population: 1971: 1971 Census of Canada, Population, Age Groups, Cat. No. 92-715, April 1973, Table 7.
1976-1981: 1981 Census of Canada, Population, Age, Sex and Marital Status, Cat. No. 92-901, Sept. 1982, Table 1.
1986-1991: Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada and Provinces, 1976-2001, Cat. No. 91-520, Projection 4, Feb. 1979.

TABLE 2.7

**Growth and Shares of Registered Indian Population
Residing On- and Off-Reserve
Alberta, 1971-1991**

Year	<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>		<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>		<u>Total Registered Indians</u>		<u>Total Provincial Population</u>
	Percent of Reg. Ind.	Growth Rate ¹	Percent of Reg. Ind.	Growth Rate ¹	Percent of Reg. Ind.	Growth Rate ¹	Growth Rate ¹
1971	83.5	-	16.5	-	100	-	-
1976	78.7	1.70	21.3	8.01	100	2.89	2.43
1981	75.7	2.14	24.3	5.48	100	2.90	3.94
1986	75.5	2.21	24.5	2.39	100	2.26	1.42
1991	75.5	2.11	24.5	2.15	100	2.12	2.05

Note: 1. Average annual growth rate for the previous five years.

Sources: Registered Indians: 1971-81: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.
1986-91: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

Provincial Population: 1971: 1971 Census of Canada, Population, Age Groups, Cat. No. 92-715, April 1973, Table 7.
1976-1981: 1981 Census of Canada, Population, Age, Sex and Marital Status, Cat. No. 92-901, Sept. 1982, Table 1.
1986-91: Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada and Provinces, 1976-2001, Cat. No. 91-520, Feb. 1979, Projection 4.

for 1981-1986 and 2.2 per cent between 1986 and 1991. For the latter period the projected growth rate is not much more than the projected rate of growth for the on-reserve population. In effect, the projection is for a decrease in the major growth advantage of the off-reserve registered Indian population during the coming decade, and a rather steady growth rate for Indians on-reserve.

Growth rates for the total registered Indian population have in most years been greater than the growth for the total provincial population, except for the period 1976 to 1981 when the province experienced an exceptionally heavy influx of migrants due to economic buoyancy. Such an influx is not likely to be repeated in the near future.

2.5 Population Processes

Population processes include fertility, mortality and migration, the major components of change in a population.

Fertility. The number of children ever-born is the standard measure of fertility in the census of Canada. It gives a measure of comparative numbers of children ever-born per thousand women in different population categories. It does not tell us to what extent these women have completed their reproduction. For instance, in a population of younger women there will be fewer children ever having been born than in a population of older women, other things being equal. The younger women will still give birth to other children, while the older women are more likely to have completed this phase of their lives. Completed family size would be the ideal statistic to obtain in this regard. Unfortunately, children ever-born only approximates completed family size in the oldest categories, not in any of the younger age categories of women.

Therefore, in making the comparisons, we must be aware that the on-reserve population has more middle-aged and older women and thus is more likely to reflect completed families for those women than the data from the off-reserve population.

Another difficulty in using these data for Indian women is that only married women are counted, which in the Indian population is unnecessarily restrictive. Many Indian women with children have not been formally married.

The Alberta reference population in 1981 had below average levels of children ever-born, when compared with other provinces. Children ever-born to on-reserve women were at higher levels than the reference population but average for Canadian Indians living on-reserve. Off-reserve Alberta registered Indian women had only 2,765 children ever-born per 1,000 women compared with the Canadian level of 3,024. The on-reserve figure in Alberta was 4,682 and that of the reference population was 2,346. Off-reserve women reflected lower fertility levels in the Alberta population in general, although their fertility was higher than that of non-Indians. (Canada Overview, Table 2.12).

Age-specific birth rates and their derivatives such as the total fertility rate, are more sensitive data bases than children ever-born as measures of fertility, because they take the age structure of a population into account. The total fertility rate is a measure which adds all of the age-specific fertility rates and multiplies this sum by the number of years in the age categories used for the age-specific birth rates.

From Table 2.8 we can see that total fertility rates for registered Indians declined sharply between 1971 and 1976, from 5,800 to 4,530, and somewhat less sharply between 1976 and 1981, from 4,530 to 3,780. They declined much more rapidly than total fertility rates among the total provincial population. In 1971 the Indian total fertility rate was between two and three times the provincial rate. In 1976 the Indian rate was just over twice as high. By 1981 the Indian rate was less than two times as large as the total fertility rate for the provincial population. The decline was particularly pronounced in the later reproductive years. For instance, the age-specific birth rate for Indians aged 20 to 24 decreased from 310 in 1971 to 250 in 1981. The rate for Indians aged 25 to 29 decreased from 280 in 1971 to 200 in 1981.

Figure 2.4 provides data on births outside marriage by age of mother. The distinction between the proportions of registered Indians in Alberta and the reference population is

TABLE 2.8

Number of Live Births, Age-Specific Birth Rates
and
Total Fertility Rates¹
Registered Indians, Alberta, 1971, 1976, and 1981

	1971	1976	1981
<u>Total Births:</u>	1,172	1,227	1,399
<u>Age-Specific Birth Rates:</u> ² (per 1,000 women)			
Age			
15-19	170	160	150
20-24	310	260	250
25-29	280	210	200
30-34	190	130	110
35-39	130	90	40
40-44	60	40	10
45-49	20	10	-
<u>Total Fertility Rate:</u> (per 1,000 women)			
Registered Indians	5,800	4,530	3,780
Provincial Population	2,430	2,040	1,940

- Notes:**
1. Total Fertility Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-49. It is derived by multiplying the age specific birth rate by 5 and summing for all ages.
 2. Age-Specific Birth Rate is the number of births per 1,000 women in the relevant age group. Rounded to the nearest 10.

Sources: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

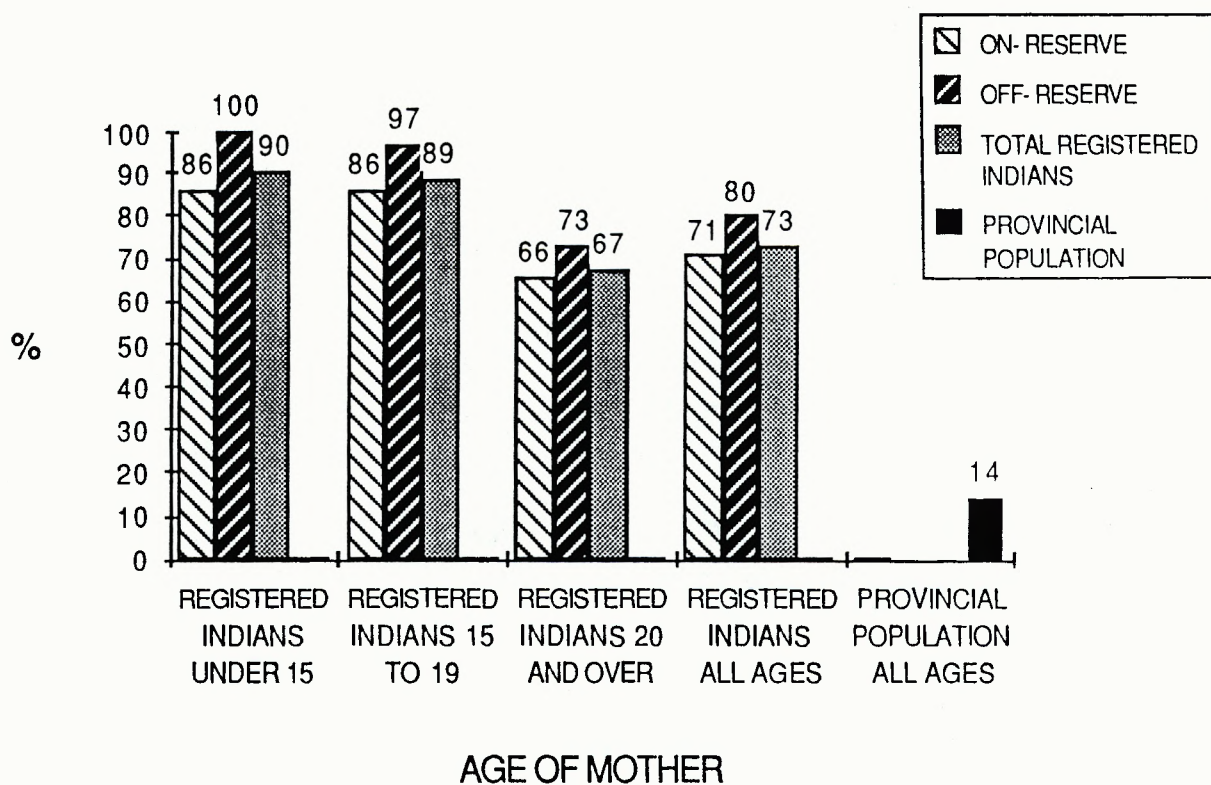
Provincial Population:

- 1971, 1976: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Births, 1975-76, Vol. 1, Cat. No. 84-204, Nov. 1978, Table 6.
- 1981: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, 1981, Vol. 1, Cat. No. 84-204, Feb. 1983, Table 5.

FIGURE 2.4

Rates of Reported Births Outside Marriage by Age of Mother

Alberta, 1981



Sources: Unadjusted Indian Register data, Reserves and Trusts, INAC.
For provincial population, Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, 1981, Cat. No. 84-204, 1981, Table 7, p. 11.

quite stark, 73 per cent as opposed to 14 per cent. The differences in the rates between registered Indians on- and off-reserve are quite small by comparison, although the off-reserve rates are higher for all age categories.

It is possible that some off-reserve Indian women living with non-Indians did not marry in order to retain status for themselves and their children. This discriminatory section of the Indian Act was revoked in 1985.

Migration. The geographic mobility of a population is of interest because movement influences the size, growth and composition of a population both at its origin and at its destination. Nevertheless, the assumption is often made that registered Indians have not migrated since the time they began to live on reserves.

Data in Table 2.21 of the Canada Overview contradict the latter conclusion. Provincial net migration data show that Indian net migration followed rather closely the general patterns in interprovincial migration. Between 1976 and 1981 the largest gainer in migration was the general Alberta population. The same was true for registered Indians. Alberta was far and away the most favoured destination for in-migrating Indians. Alberta also had the second highest total of out-migrating Indians. Generally, out-migration is associated with subsequent return migration. When many persons migrate to an area of choice, some inevitably are disappointed and return to their place of origin. Nevertheless, the net migration was almost five times as great in Alberta as in British Columbia, the second greatest recipient of net migration.

Table 2.9a describes the proportion of the population aged five and up in various categories which moved in the five years prior to the 1981 Census. Off-reserve Indians in Alberta were much more likely to have moved in the five years before the census than those living on-reserve, 82 per cent as compared with 49 per cent. This was true for all ages and for both sexes except males aged 65 and over. Persons aged 65 and over living off-reserve were more similar in mobility status to those living on-reserve than were those at younger ages for males and females. Those living off-reserve of all ages and both sexes were 11 times more likely to have moved from a different province. Movers among the off-reserve population were also much more likely to have been migrants, that is, they

TABLE 2.9a
Mobility Status by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1981

Mobility Status ¹ (Col. %)	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 5+	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 5+	All Ages 5+
	Male						Female						Both Sexes
Registered Indians On-Reserve													
Movers	50	46	55	37	28	48	47	57	54	37	30	50	49
Migrants	9	8	14	7	-	10	6	12	12	6	-	9	9
From Outside Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From Different Province	2	-	3	-	-	2	1	3	3	-	-	2	2
From Same Province	8	7	10	6	-	8	5	9	8	5	-	7	7
Non-Migrants	40	37	41	30	27	38	41	45	42	31	27	41	39
Non-Movers	50	54	45	64	72	52	53	43	46	63	69	50	51
Total % No. (000)	100 3.7	100 2.8	100 2.5	100 1.1	100 0.5	100 10.6	100 3.5	100 3.0	100 2.4	100 1.0	100 0.4	100 10.4	100 21.0
Registered Indians Off-Reserve													
Movers	79	81	91	68	-	81	82	88	87	59	35	83	82
Migrants	45	53	61	38	-	50	47	55	49	25	-	48	49
From Outside Canada	1	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	1
From Different Province	17	31	29	16	-	23	17	30	22	6	-	21	22
From Same Province	27	22	29	18	-	26	28	25	26	19	-	26	26
Non-Migrants	34	27	30	30	-	31	35	33	37	35	-	35	33
Non-Movers	21	19	9	34	75	19	18	13	13	41	65	17	18
Total % No. (000)	100 2.5	100 1.4	100 1.2	100 0.3	100 0.1	100 5.4	100 2.2	100 1.9	100 2.5	100 0.5	100 0.1	100 7.2	100 12.6

Notes: 1. Terms are defined in the Glossary.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

crossed census sub-divisions in their move.

There was little difference between registered Indians and others in the province of Alberta in the percentage who moved. In Table 2.9b it may be seen that rates for Indians aged five to 14 were almost identical with non-Indians in the proportion who had moved, three-fifths. Younger adults, especially males, aged 15 to 44, tended to be more mobile in the reference population. The proportion of male non-Indian movers aged 15 to 24, for example, was 65 per cent, versus 57 per cent of the corresponding Indian population. Older adults, aged 45 and over, both male and female, were more mobile in the Indian population. Ten percentage points more Indian females aged 45 to 64 were classified movers than their non-Indian counterparts.

More people in the reference population moved from outside Canada, or from a different province, than among registered Indians. A comparison of Tables 2.9a and 2.9b shows, however, that off-reserve Indians moved proportionally more than the reference population from a different province, 22 versus 17 per cent.

Although in some populations females predominate over males in the rural-urban migration pattern, this did not seem to be the case among registered Indians in Alberta. Instead, the pattern was irregular. After age 15, the older the person the less likely he or she will have moved in the past five years. This was generally true for all categories.

Mortality. Crude death rates consist of deaths in a year per thousand population. When used to compare two populations, the reader should be aware that crude death rates ignore differences in the age composition of the populations. For this reason sophisticated measures such as standardized death rates are more frequently used for detailed comparisons.

Table 2.10 provides a comparison of crude death rates for registered Indians and for Alberta and standardized death rates for the Indian population. On the whole it indicates that rates were higher for both Indian males and females. The crude death rate, however, artificially deflates the comparison. The standardized rate indicates more clearly the strong differences that exist to the disadvantage of registered Indians. Equally disturbing is the

TABLE 2.9b
Mobility Status by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1981

Mobility Status ¹ (Col. %)	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 5+	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 5+	All Ages 5+
	Male						Female						Both Sexes
Total Registered Indians													
Movers	62	57	67	43	28	59	61	69	70	44	30	63	61
Migrants	24	23	29	13	-	23	22	28	31	12	-	25	24
From Outside Canada	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
From Different Province	8	11	12	4	-	9	7	13	13	3	-	10	9
From Same Province	16	12	16	9	-	14	14	15	17	10	-	15	14
Non-Migrants	38	34	37	30	25	36	39	40	40	32	26	38	37
Non-Movers	38	43	33	57	71	41	39	31	30	56	69	37	39
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	6.2	4.2	3.7	1.3	0.5	16.0	5.7	4.9	4.9	1.5	0.5	17.6	33.6
Reference Population²													
Movers	61	65	76	36	25	60	61	72	71	34	29	59	60
Migrants	34	41	45	18	11	35	34	44	41	16	11	34	34
From Outside Canada	4	4	5	2	2	4	4	4	5	3	2	4	4
From Different Province	15	24	22	7	3	18	15	23	19	6	4	16	17
From Same Province	16	13	17	8	6	14	16	17	17	7	6	14	14
Non-Migrants	27	24	32	18	14	26	26	28	30	17	17	26	26
Non-Movers	39	35	24	64	75	40	39	28	29	66	71	41	40
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	174.7	240.9	356.3	179.5	67.3	1,018.7	166.2	226.0	327.4	174.3	78.2	972.1	1,990.8

Notes: 1. Terms are defined in the Glossary.
2. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

TABLE 2.10

**Crude¹ and Standardized² Death Rates of the Registered Indian
Population and Crude Death Rates of the Total Provincial Population
Alberta, 1971, 1976 and 1981**

(Rate per 1,000)

	<u>Registered Indians</u>						<u>Total Provincial Population</u>		
	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>			<u>Standardized Death Rate</u>			<u>Crude Death Rate</u>		
	1971	1976	1981	1971	1976	1981	1971	1976	1981
Male	9	10	9	15	15	14	8	8	7
Female	6	6	6	8	10	11	5	5	5
Both Sexes	7	8	8	12	13	12	7	6	6

- Notes:**
1. Crude death rates are the total number of deaths for a group divided by the total population of that group.
 2. Standardized death rates adjust the registered Indian crude death rates using the age-sex structure of the total provincial population.

Sources:

Registered Indians:	Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.
1971:	1971 Census of Canada, <u>Population Age Groups</u> , Cat.No.92-715, April 1973, Table 7.
1976, 1981:	1981 Census of Canada, <u>Population, Age, Sex and Marital Status</u> , Cat. No. 92-901, Sept. 1982, Table 1.
Total Provincial Population:	Statistics Canada, <u>Vital Statistics, Deaths, 1977</u> , Vol. III, Cat. No. 84-206, March 1980, Table 4. Statistics Canada, <u>Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, 1981</u> , Vol. I, Cat. No. 84-204, Feb. 1983, Table 19.

rise in the female Indian standardized death rate over the decade preceding the 1981 Census from eight to 11 per 1,000. There was no clear trend in crude death rates either for Indians or for Albertans as a whole between 1971 and 1981.

Table 2.11 breaks down the crude death rates, which are the rates for "all ages", into age- and sex-specific rates of death for 1981. These allow greater sensitivity in evaluating age-compositional differences in the populations.

The table indicates higher rates of death for males than females at all ages for registered Indians as well as the population of Alberta as a whole. This finding is typical of all major world populations today: as a general rule, females tend to have lower rates of death than males.

Registered Indians had higher age- and sex-specific rates of death for every single age and sex category in the table, a remarkably consistent record of Indian disadvantage in life chances. For example, the male Indian crude death rate among 25 to 44 year olds was five and one-half times the corresponding provincial population rate; female Indians aged 45 to 64 had a crude death rate more than three times that of females in the total provincial population.

The average age at death is simply the average age at which persons from a group die. It is not the same as the sophisticated and often-used life expectancy. Table 2.12 shows first of all a very great difference in average age at death between Indians and others in Alberta, with Indians dying much earlier. Some factors which have contributed to this situation are the younger age structure of the Indian population plus Indian life conditions including isolation, less adequate medical facilities and so on.

Indian males died later on average than females until 1981, when the pattern reversed. The 1981 average age at death for Indian males was 41.0 years and for Indian females, 42.7 years. Corresponding averages in the total population were 62.7 and 68.2, respectively. The average age at death increased over the years between 1971 and 1981, by six and eight years for Indian males and females, and by one-half and two and one-half years for total population males and females, respectively. In short, Indians died sooner,

37
TABLE 2.11

**Crude Death Rates¹ by Age & Sex
Alberta, 1981**

(Rate per 1,000)

Age	Male	Female	Both Sexes
<u>Registered Indians</u>			
0-14	3	2	2
15-24	8	2	5
25-44	11	8	9
45-64	22	17	20
65-90	68	52	60
<u>Provincial Population²</u>			
0-14	1	1	1
15-24	2	1	1
25-44	2	1	1
45-64	9	5	7
65-90	55	34	44

Notes: 1. Crude death rates are the total number of deaths for a group divided by the population of that group.

2. Excludes a small number of deaths for which age was not reported.

Sources: — — Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

For Provincial Population, Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, 1981, Vol. 1, Cat. No. 84-204, Feb. 1983, Table 18; and 1981 Census of Canada, Population, Age, Sex and Marital Status, Cat. No. 92-901, Sept. 1982, Table 1.

TABLE 2.12

**Average Age at Death
Alberta, 1971, 1976 and 1981**

	<u>1971</u>		<u>1976</u>		<u>1981</u>	
	Registered Indians	Provincial Population	Registered Indians	Provincial Population	Registered Indians	Provincial Population
Male	35.0	62.5	42.6	63.2	41.0	62.7
Female	34.6	65.7	39.8	67.8	42.7	68.2

Sources: Registered Indians: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

 Provincial Population:

 1971,1976: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Deaths, 1977, Vol. 3, Cat. No. 84-206, Mar. 1980, Table 8A.

 1981: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, 1981, Vol. 1, Cat. No. 84-204, Feb. 1983, Table 18.

but the gap was narrowing. They have a long way to go, however, before they are equal to Alberta's total population in average age at death.

Life expectancy of registered Indians was computed for both males and females at different ages. Life expectancy is generated as the product of a life table which uses current mortality rates to project the probability of surviving, or dying, as one moves through different life intervals. It is perhaps the most accurate way of comparing length of life in different populations, as differences in age and sex composition are taken into account. Life expectancy is also a powerful indicator of health care effectiveness and attentiveness to lifestyle factors in a population. Although life expectancy comparisons between Indians and others are not available for Alberta, we can refer to data for Canada.

In 1976 Canadian male life expectancy at birth was 70.2 and that for females, 77.5. The registered Indian at his or her birth could anticipate a much shorter life. Indian males had a life expectancy of 59.8; for Indian females it was 66.3. In both populations females enjoyed a similar proportional advantage over the males. But the Indian male could expect 10.4 fewer years of life, and the Indian female 11.2 years fewer than their non-Indian counterparts. These are striking differences and tell the analyst that the lifestyles of Indians and non-Indians are very different. (Canada Overview, Table 2.16).

Between 1976 and 1981 some improvement was realized. In the total Canadian population males gained 1.7 years of expected life at birth, while females gained 1.5 years. For the first time in many decades male life expectancy increased more rapidly than that of females.

In the Indian population the results were even more favourable. Both Indian males and females gained 2.6 years of life in a five-year span. The life expectancy gap between the total population and Indians has narrowed to 9.5 years for men and 10.1 years for women. Perhaps the same pattern of decreasing differences is beginning to evolve which has been noted in the United States between whites and blacks.

Examining age differences in life expectancy in 1976 and 1981, one can see that most Indian life expectancy progress has occurred in infancy and the years of childhood. By age

25 the gain between 1976 and 1981 was only 0.9 years for males and 0.7 years for females. Nevertheless, there were gains in life expectancy of at least 0.4 years at all ages. It should be noted that the pattern of decreasing mortality at earlier ages and slower drops at later ages has also occurred in the Canadian total population during most of this century.

Components of Natural Increase. In Table 2.13 are expressed the birth and death rate components in the natural increase of the Alberta registered Indian population. Between 1972 and 1976 the crude birth rate was 36.1 per 1,000 population, an extremely high birth rate, comparable to that in a developing country. As the crude death rate was only 7.8 per 1,000, the natural increase rate was 28.3 per 1,000, which indicated very rapid growth.

In the next period, 1977 to 1981, the birth rate among registered Indians in Alberta fell to 35.1. The death rate remained constant at 7.8. Natural increase was still a very high 27.3 per 1,000.

Projections for 1982 to 1986 and 1987 to 1991 expect a moderate drop in birth rates, a slight drop in death rates, and a declining but continued high rate of natural increase between 1987 and 1991.

2.6 Conclusion

The demographic transition experienced by the Indian population will have significant implications for many programs and services affecting Indians, such as health care, education, employment, housing and social welfare. These major policy areas are discussed in succeeding chapters of this report.

TABLE 2.13
Components of Natural Increase
Registered Indians, Alberta, 1972-1991
(Rate per 1,000)¹

Period	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Natural Increase Rate
1972 - 76	36.1	7.8	28.3
1977 - 81	35.1	7.8	27.3
1982 - 86	33.9	6.2	27.7
1987 - 91	31.5	5.6	25.9

Note: 1. Average for the five-year period.

Sources: 1972 - 81: Adjusted Indian Register Data, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.
1982 - 91: Population Projections of Registered Indians, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

3. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

3.1 Introduction

The family is the basic human social unit, the cradle of human nature. It is the most important social unit in any society. The family and its modern substitute, the household, are also extremely important as units which organize economic consumption and, for some, economic production as well. The way a group's families and households are organized will tell much about its style of life, cohesiveness, strengths and weaknesses.

In this chapter we shall examine several aspects of Indian families and households. Topics will include the size of units, family and household structure, and marital status.

3.2 Family Size

The average size of families is an important indicator of family lifestyle. It is closely related to the number of children per household, although other family members are often included, especially in rather large, inclusive families such as are often found among Indians. The census family refers to a husband and a wife (with or without children who have never married, regardless of age), or a lone parent of any marital status with never-married children, regardless of age, living in the same dwelling.

This has been interpreted to include common-law arrangements, which were defined as a husband-wife family. For the purpose of this study, to be a registered Indian census family one or both spouses must have had registered status. Families of registered Indians in Alberta averaged 4.1 persons per family, whereas reference population census families averaged only 3.2 (Canada Overview, Table 3.1). This was a large difference and was due to the greater number of children in Indian families. Registered Indian families in Alberta were slightly larger than average registered Indian families throughout Canada.

Indian families on-reserve averaged 4.5 persons per family, whereas families living off-reserve averaged only 3.5 persons. Off-reserve families, as was noted in Chapter 2, appeared to be younger and farther from completed family status, which may explain at least part of this difference. Families living in urban places may also reflect the different marital status of the parents and the generally lower fertility in Canadian urban places.

It is also instructive to examine the number of children by type of family. In Table 3.1 it may be seen that registered Indians in Alberta averaged 2.3 children per family, more than the 1.3 children found in the average Alberta reference population family. This demonstrates again the higher fertility in the Indian family.

Husband-wife families and female single parents had more children than average, but only if they lived on-reserve. Female single parents living on-reserve are likely to have begun childbearing at an early age with resulting larger family size. Off-reserve, where female single parents are more likely to be involved in educational and occupational pursuits which conflict with childbearing, they had fewer children. Male single parents, to the contrary, had slightly more children if they lived off-reserve. Lone female parents living on-reserve had the greatest average number of children, 3.0, and husband-wife families living off-reserve had the smallest number of children, 1.6.

We do not know where these families were located when they had their children, but the smaller number of children in families located off-reserve suggests conformity to smaller family norms in the towns and cities.

3.3 Household Size

It should be noted at the outset that the household is different from the family. The household "refers to a person or group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. The number of private households equals the number of occupied private dwellings" (c.f. Glossary). (Households referred to herein are private households.) The person or persons do not need to be related by blood or marriage; they only need to share the same

TABLE 3.1
Census Family Type by Average Number of Children
Alberta, 1981

Census Family Status	Average Number of Children			
	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ¹
Husband-Wife Family	2.8	1.6	2.2	1.3
Lone Parent - Male	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.7
Lone Parent - Female	3.0	2.3	2.6	1.7
Total	2.8	1.8	2.3	1.3

Note: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

dwelling. For the purpose of this study, a registered Indian household must contain either a registered Indian census family or 50 per cent or more of the household members as registered Indians.

Registered Indian households in Alberta averaged 4.4 members, compared with 2.8 for others in the province. (Canada Overview, Table 3.5). Alberta Indians also had households which were larger than the average Indian household across Canada. This was true for both on- and off-reserve Indians.

Indian households located on a reserve in Alberta averaged 5.1 persons per household, compared with only 3.6 for Indian households located off-reserve. On-reserve households contained older, more established families, more often having completed childbearing and apparently including more non-family persons as well. This can be seen by subtracting average family size from average household size.

3.4 Registered Indians in Census and Economic Families

The family structure in which persons live is surely an important dimension of life and affects aspects of family life such as the socialization of children in ways not fully understood. Census family status arranges persons according to the various types of family which qualify as census families. According to the 1981 Census Highlights, among registered Indian census families in Alberta, 76 per cent were husband-wife families, significantly less than the 90 per cent of non-Indian census families that were this type. Among both populations, female lone-parent families were approximately five times as prevalent as male lone-parent families among census families, but the Indian level of 21 per cent female lone-parent families was about two and one-half times the non-Indian proportion. Male lone-parent census families were more prevalent on- than off-reserve while the opposite was true for female lone-parent census families.

In Table 3.2 the percentage of persons in each type was depicted; comparisons of the percentages in each family status were made between registered Indians and the reference population, and the percentages were compared for on- and off-reserve populations.

TABLE 3.2
Census Family Status
Alberta, 1981

Census Family Status (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Popula- tion ¹
Persons in Husband-Wife Census Families	79	74	77	92
Spouses in Husband-Wife Census Families	32	32	32	56
Never-Married Children	47	43	46	36
Under 18	41	40	41	30
18+	6	2	5	6
Persons in Lone-Parent Census Families	21	26	23	8
Male Lone Parents	1	-	1	1
Female Lone Parents	4	7	5	2
Never-Married Children	16	18	17	5
Under 18	12	16	13	4
18+	4	2	3	1
Total Persons in Census Families %	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	20.8	12.6	33.4	1,809.2

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

In Alberta, 77 per cent of registered Indians in census families lived in a husband-wife family, compared with 92 per cent of others in the province. This difference indicated either higher than average rates of husband-wife break-up, higher rates of births outside marriage, or, perhaps, both.

There was a higher proportion of spouses in the reference population as compared with registered Indians, and a lower proportion of never-married children living in husband-wife census families. This was because children represented a larger proportion of Indian families due to the higher fertility of Indian females. The proportion of Indians living in lone-parent census families was also larger than among others in Alberta, 23 per cent versus eight per cent, a ratio of nearly 3:1. This statistic points out a major family status difference between the two populations: the proportion living in single-parent families was much greater among registered Indians than among others.

The proportion of Indian never-married children in lone-parent census families was more than three times the proportion in the reference population, 17 as opposed to five per cent.

There were few significant on-/off-reserve differentials. There were slightly higher proportions of persons in husband-wife families and fewer persons in single-parent families on-reserve than among Indians living elsewhere. There were more children aged 18 and over on-reserve than off-reserve living in husband-wife census families. More persons lived in lone-parent census families off- than on-reserve. This was especially true for female lone parents.

Family structure may be further illuminated by consideration of economic family status. An economic family "refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption" (c.f. Glossary). Common-law couples are considered to be "related by marriage" in this discussion. A registered Indian economic family "refers to an economic family where the reference person or their spouse or both the reference person and spouse are registered Indians". The reference person refers to the person in the family or household who is

primarily responsible for family or household payments, and replaces the "head of family," "head of household" terms found in previous censuses.

According to INAC customized 1981 Census data, proportionally more Indians lived in economic families than did members of the reference population. Table 3.3 shows that some of the same relationships were found for economic family status that were described for census family status. A much lower proportion of Indians than non-Indians in economic families were spouses, 27 versus 53 per cent. Slightly more Indians than non-Indians lived in non-husband/wife economic families, particularly as female Indian reference persons.

More Indians than non-Indians in economic families were never-married children under the age of 15, 41 versus 27 per cent. There was a substantially higher percentage of such children among off-reserve members of economic families, 48 per cent, as opposed to 37 per cent among on-reserve members of economic families. Conversely, while the proportions of Indians and non-Indians in economic families who were never-married children aged 15 and up were identical, the proportion on-reserve was just under twice the off-reserve proportion.

The notion that economic families on-reserve tended to be more extended seems to be borne out by Table 3.3. One per cent of on-reserve Indians in economic families were married children 15 years of age and up, compared with virtually no off-reserve members of economic families, and the total proportion of "other relatives" was 15 per cent of on-reserve economic family members versus six per cent off-reserve.

3.5 Marital Status

Marital status is another important index of life-style. Whether a person is married or single, divorced, or widowed, says a great deal about the major preoccupations of his or her life. Census data concerning marital status should be considered separately from data on various types of families and households because they encompass such things as prevalence of living common-law, separation, divorce and widowhood.

TABLE 3.3
Economic Family Status
Alberta, 1981

Economic Family ¹ Status (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ²
Spouses in Economic Families	26	29	27	53
Ref. Persons in Non H/W Fams. ³	5	7	6	4
Male Reference Person	1	1	1	1
Female Reference Person	4	7	5	3
Never-Married Children Under 15	37	48	41	27
Never-Married Children 15+	16	9	13	13
Married Children 15+	1	-	1	-
Other Relatives of Ref. Person 15+	6	4	5	3
Other Relatives of Ref. Under 15	9	2	6	-
Total Persons in Economic Families %	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	23.7	13.3	37.0	1,877.8

Notes: 1. See Glossary for definition.
2. Total Population less Registered Indians.
3. Non-Husband-Wife Economic Families.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Indians overall were 10 percentage points more likely than non-Indians to be single (Table 3.4). Broken down, this type of pattern was true for both sexes aged 25 to 64. More on-reserve Indians were single than their counterparts off-reserve, for both sexes and most age categories.

Registered Indians were more likely than others to be separated, widowed or divorced, for each sex of all ages except males aged 15 to 44. In some categories, such as those aged 65 and over, small numbers may have produced irregularities in the data.

Both Indian and reference women had higher totals in this marital status category than the males in their populations. Furthermore, proportions of separated, widowed or divorced Indians were higher off-reserve than on-reserve, for both sexes and all age ranges with the exception of males aged 65 and up.

At all ages and for both males and females, living common-law was more popular for registered Indians than for the reference population. In some age categories, especially older adults, the proportions living common-law among Indians were many times that of non-Indians. Among all Indians aged 25 to 44, for example, the proportions were 19 to five per cent, respectively. Female Indians had a slightly higher proportion living common-law than males on-reserve while proportions off-reserve were identical.

With more Indians single, and with a greater number of Indians living common-law, it should not surprise the reader that fewer Indians were married than were other Albertans. This was true for all ages and for both males and females.

Overall, 58 per cent of the reference population was married, compared with 37 per cent of Indians. The widest age-group gap was among those aged 45 to 64 in which the reference proportion was 25 percentage points higher. One sex and age-group distinction is noteworthy: the proportion of married Indian females aged 65 and up was only seven percentage points below the reference female proportion of that age; the male Indian proportion aged 65 and over trailed the corresponding reference proportion by 23 percentage points.

TABLE 3.4
Marital Status by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1981

Marital Status (Col. %)	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total 15+	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total 15+	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total 15+
	Male					Female					Both Sexes				
<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>															
Single	81	27	13	-	45	65	17	7	-	36	72	22	10	5	40
Separated, Widowed, Divorced	1	3	16	39	7	1	11	24	53	11	1	7	20	46	9
Common-Law	7	18	12	-	12	13	19	11	-	14	10	19	11	5	13
Married	11	52	58	51	36	21	53	58	38	39	16	52	58	45	37
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	2.8	2.5	1.1	0.5	6.8	3.0	2.4	1.0	0.4	6.8	5.8	4.9	2.0	0.9	13.6
<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>															
Single	77	17	11	-	44	57	12	7	-	28	65	13	9	-	34
Separated, Widowed, Divorced	2	9	28	-	8	5	18	36	65	16	4	15	34	46	13
Common-Law	11	23	15	-	16	16	18	10	-	16	13	20	12	-	16
Married	11	50	45	73	32	23	52	46	29	40	18	52	45	46	37
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.1	2.8	1.9	2.5	0.5	0.1	4.9	3.2	3.6	0.8	0.1	7.7
<u>Total Registered Indians</u>															
Single	79	24	13	6	45	62	14	7	-	33	70	18	10	4	38
Separated, Widowed, Divorced	1	5	19	38	7	3	15	28	56	13	2	11	24	46	10
Common-Law	8	20	13	-	13	14	19	11	-	15	11	19	12	4	14
Married	11	51	56	53	35	22	52	54	37	39	17	52	55	45	37
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	4.1	3.7	1.3	0.5	9.6	4.9	4.9	1.5	0.5	11.8	9.0	8.5	2.8	1.0	21.4
<u>Reference Population¹</u>															
Single	80	17	7	8	32	64	9	3	4	23	72	14	5	6	28
Separated, Widowed, Divorced	1	7	9	15	6	2	9	18	52	13	2	8	13	35	10
Common-Law	6	6	2	1	5	9	5	1	1	5	7	5	2	1	5
Married	13	70	83	76	57	25	77	77	44	59	19	73	80	59	58
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	233.9	350.5	177.0	66.1	827.5	221.8	324.2	172.5	76.7	795.2	455.8	674.8	349.4	142.8	1,622.7

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Proportions of those married were identical for all Indians whether living on- or off-reserve, 37 per cent. Across the age groups a significant differential was the 13 percentage-point male advantage among those aged 45 to 64 living on-reserve.

3.6 Conclusion

The larger average size of Indian families will likely add to the strain on housing and education and access to health and other social services. This situation will likely be exacerbated by the higher proportion of lone-parent, especially female, Indian families together with the general pattern, examined later, of lower average Indian annual income. Some of these implications are explored in succeeding chapters.

4. LANGUAGE

4.1 Introduction

One's language is an important representation of the particular environment and has an effect on how one approaches that environment. Language, as a practical matter, also affects interaction with other human beings. If a person's language is seldom used, his or her spoken and written communication is not likely to be understood by many others. Communication is limited. In today's world communication represents power and opportunity. The power and opportunity of those who only speak little-used languages is limited.

Language binds together those who share a particular cultural identity. If the language used by a group is replaced by another language, much of what is unique to that culture may be lost, perhaps forever. This is more true for native languages than for immigrant languages in Canada. If immigrants lose their ability to use their mother tongue, there remains a home country where others continue to speak that language. With Natives, once the language is lost, there is no home country to serve as a cultural repository. The language, and cultural elements attached to it, are lost for all time.

So language is a very important variable to consider, as we continue this overview of Indian conditions. Native languages operate both as a barrier to assimilation, advancement and opportunity, and also as a precious means by which the past is preserved and a group's unique cultural identity is maintained. What languages are spoken will tell us much about the type of contacts being generated with others outside the Indian group and what the potential is for economic and social integration and co-operation.

4.2 Language Retention

The balance of this chapter is devoted to an analysis of the extent to which registered Indians reporting a Native mother tongue retain it as a home language or are able to use at

least one of the official languages (c.f. Glossary for definitions). Tables 4.1a and 4.1b examine the relationship between mother tongue and language used in the home. The mother tongue was the "...first language learned in childhood and still understood" by a respondent. Home language was the "...specific language spoken at home by the respondent at the time of the census." If more than one language was spoken, the one picked was the one most often spoken by the respondent. Home language was a new term in the census and replaced the earlier term, "language most often spoken at home," from the 1971 Census.

The literature on language assimilation has devoted much time to comparisons of mother tongue and home language, with the thought that changes from mother tongue to home language will provide an index of linguistic assimilation and, more generally, cultural assimilation of one group into another. Caution is required in using these data. There are many other measures of cultural assimilation and as an index of linguistic assimilation, the transition from mother tongue to home language has been questioned.

Of the 39,900 total registered Indians in Alberta in 1981, 22,700 , or 57 per cent, indicated English as their mother tongue. Of those beginning life with the English language, 94 per cent had retained that language in the home; six per cent cited a Native language as their principal language of use in the home.

Contrast this high retention rate with that of the individuals who began life with a Native language as their mother tongue, some 16,700, or 42 per cent, in all. Only 65 per cent of these still maintained this language as their home language; 34 per cent had begun using English as the principal language in their homes.

Among languages used less often, French, learned as mother tongue by only 200 Indians in Alberta, has been replaced by English in 64 per cent of cases. Some 400 Indians began with some other language as a mother tongue. Only 11 per cent of these had retained their language, 83 per cent having adopted English for use in the home.

Among Indians whose mother tongue was an Amerindian language or Inuktitut, those aged 25 to 44 were the most likely to have adopted English as their home language, with

TABLE 4.1a
Population Showing Relationship of Home Language to Mother Tongue, by Age
Alberta, 1981

Age/Home Language (Col. %)	Mother Tongue														
	Registered Indians On-Reserve					Registered Indians Off-Reserve					Total Registered Indians				
	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total
All Ages															
English	90	100	29	73	55	98	60	68	86	93	94	64	34	83	69
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	1	-	33	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	10	-	71	-	45	2	-	32	-	6	6	-	65	-	31
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	11	-
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	10.4	0.1	14.4	0.1	24.9	12.3	0.1	2.3	0.3	15.1	22.7	0.2	16.7	0.4	39.9
Age 0-14															
English	93	-	27	-	64	99	-	54	73	95	96	50	29	75	76
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	-	1	-	50	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	7	-	73	-	36	1	-	46	-	4	4	-	71	-	24
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total %	100	-	100	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	6.1	-	4.9	-	11.0	6.6	0.1	0.5	0.1	7.2	12.7	0.1	5.4	0.1	18.2
Age 15-24															
English	88	-	31	-	55	97	100	56	85	91	92	89	34	93	68
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	12	-	69	-	45	3	-	44	-	8	7	-	66	-	32
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total %	100	-	100	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	2.4	-	3.4	-	5.9	2.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	3.3	5.2	0.1	3.9	0.1	9.1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

TABLE 4.1b
Population Showing Relationship of Home Language to Mother Tongue, by Age
Alberta, 1981

Age/Home Language (Col. %)	Mother Tongue														
	Registered Indians On-Reserve					Registered Indians Off-Reserve					Total Registered Indians				
	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total	English	French	Amerindian & Inuktitut	Other	Total
Age 25-44															
English	82	-	36	-	51	97	-	77	96	91	91	55	46	91	68
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	-	-	1	-	45	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	17	-	64	-	49	3	-	23	-	8	8	-	54	-	32
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total %	100	-	100	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.6	-	3.3	0.1	5.0	2.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	3.7	4.1	0.1	4.4	0.2	8.6
Age 45-64															
English	85	-	29	-	36	96	-	68	63	83	92	-	35	70	49
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	15	-	70	-	64	-	-	30	-	16	8	-	64	-	50
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total %	100	-	100	-	100	100	-	100	100	100	100	-	100	100	100
No. (000)	0.2	-	1.8	-	2.1	0.4	-	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.6	-	2.2	0.1	2.9
Age 65+															
English	-	-	8	-	10	89	-	78	-	83	81	-	15	-	17
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amerindian & Inuktitut	-	-	92	-	90	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	85	-	80
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total %	-	-	100	-	100	100	-	100	-	100	100	-	100	-	100
No. (000)	0.1	-	0.9	-	1.0	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	1.0	-	1.1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

46 per cent of that age group speaking it. Those aged 45 to 64 were the second most likely to have adopted this home language, with 35 per cent of them speaking it.

At the youthful and elderly extremes, there seems to have been less assimilation from Native to English languages. Although the numbers were far fewer, there also was more change from English to an Amerindian language or Inuktitut during the years between ages 25 to 64 and less at the younger and older ages.

Language change from Native mother tongues to English occurred much more often among those who lived off-reserve than among those who lived on-reserve. Among all off-reserve Indians with an Amerindian language or Inuktitut as mother tongue, 68 per cent in 1981 used English as their home language. Among those with Inuktitut or an Amerindian mother tongue on-reserve, only 29 per cent overall had adopted English.

Native language retention on-reserve was highest at the ends of the age spectrum. Among those aged zero to 14, 73 per cent indicated a Native language as both mother tongue and home language. This proportion dipped to 64 per cent in the 25 to 44 age group and rose to a peak of 92 per cent among those aged 65 and up. Off-reserve home language retention by those with a Native mother tongue, meanwhile, fell from 46 per cent in the zero to 14 age group to 23 per cent of those aged 25 to 44, rose a bit to 30 per cent among the 45 to 64 year olds and then apparently fell into total disuse in the home by those 65 years of age and up.

Ten per cent overall of those who claimed English as their mother tongue on-reserve had changed to an Amerindian language or Inuktitut for use in the home. In only two per cent of cases did this happen among those living off-reserve. Among the various age groups, English was retained in the home by those for whom it was mother tongue by no less than 82 per cent on-reserve (except for the eldest) and 89 per cent off-reserve. This demonstrates the power of the reserve as a force in the retention of Indian culture and language, or conversely, the power of off-reserve forces in the assimilation of the Indian into the mainstream Canadian culture and economy.

4.3 Official Language Capability

Official language refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in one of the official languages of Canada, English or French. Comparison of a person's mother tongue with his or her ability to use one or both of the official languages constitutes another index of linguistic assimilation. As may be seen in Table 4.2, those with an Amerindian mother tongue or Inuktitut in Alberta had in 93 per cent of cases learned to conduct a conversation in English or both English and French. Only seven per cent remained unable to speak in either official language.

The tendency among Indians with Native mother tongues to become conversant in English or French was more common off-reserve than on-reserve. Off-reserve 99 per cent could converse in one or the other official languages, compared with 92 per cent on-reserve.

4.4 Conclusion

In Alberta most Indians who began life speaking French or some language other than English or a Native mother tongue had learned to converse in English. Thus we see once again the potent force moving persons who began life speaking lesser-used languages toward English. In Alberta the official language selected was almost always English. This tendency toward English was resisted only by a small minority, and this minority of speakers with an Amerindian language or Inuktitut only was located predominantly on the reserves.

TABLE 4.2
Population Showing Relationship of Official Language to Mother Tongue
Alberta, 1981

Official Language	(Col. %)	Mother Tongue				Total
		English	French	Amerindian and Inuktitut	Other Languages	
<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>						
English Only		99	-	92	100	95
French Only		-	-	-	-	-
Both English and French		-	-	-	-	-
Neither English nor French		-	-	8	-	5
Total %		100	-	100	100	100
No. (000)		10.4	0.1	14.3	0.1	24.8
<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>						
English Only		97	32	96	92	96
French Only		-	-	-	-	-
Both English and French		3	60	3	8	3
Neither English nor French		-	-	1	-	-
Total %		100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)		12.3	0.1	2.3	0.3	15.0
<u>Total Registered Indians</u>						
English Only		98	39	92	92	96
French Only		-	-	-	-	-
Both English and French		2	55	1	7	1
Neither English nor French		-	-	7	-	3
Total %		100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)		22.7	0.2	16.7	0.4	39.9

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

—
—
—

5. HEALTH

5.1 Introduction

Most Canadians today believe that it is the right of everyone to have adequate health care. Canada is part of a developed world in which it is becoming the privilege of the majority to live into old age in reasonably good health. This has never happened before in the history of mankind.

For most of Canada's early history the health of Indians was not recorded. We are not able to compare it with non-Natives. In more recent times Indian health was not as good as that of non-Indians. They had higher death rates and population decline, and high rates of serious conditions such as tuberculosis until as recently as 20 years ago.

Health and Welfare Canada maintains information of specific diseases and causes of death among the registered Indian population served (c.f. Glossary). Information on the provincial population is maintained by Statistics Canada. In this chapter the reference population is the total provincial population.

In this overview we do not attempt to present an exhaustive review of Indian versus total provincial population health differences, only a few selected indicators of population mortality and health. We shall consider general mortality rates by cause, rates of incidence of a crucial infectious disease, tuberculosis, as well as infant mortality, violent deaths such as those from injury and poisoning, and suicide.

5.2 Mortality

Table 5.1 shows a comparison of crude death rates by cause for registered Indians and the total provincial population in 1982 and indicates changes in death rates in the registered Indian population between 1980 and 1982. It should be noted that differences in rates between registered Indians and the total provincial population are influenced by

TABLE 5.1
Death Rates by Cause
Alberta, 1980 and 1982
 (Rate per 100,000)

Causes of Death	<u>Registered Indians¹</u>		<u>Provincial Population</u>
	1980	1982	1982
I Infectious and Parasitic	34.4	5.0	2.5
II Neoplasms	44.9	47.5	124.8
III Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	15.9	17.5	12.4
IV Blood and blood-forming organs	5.3	2.5	2.3
V Mental disorders	23.8	20.0	5.9
VI Nervous system and sense organs	10.6	5.0	7.7
VII Circulatory system	97.8	132.4	231.5
VIII Respiratory system	47.6	62.4	42.0
IX Digestive system	79.3	77.4	24.9
X Genito-urinary system	10.6	7.5	6.3
XI Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	-	-	-
XII Skin and subcutaneous tissue	-	2.5	0.6
XIII Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	-	-	2.4
XIV Congenital anomalies	15.9	5.0	6.3
XV Certain conditions originating in the prenatal period	18.5	25.0	7.2
XVI Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	23.8	10.0	19.1
XVII Injury and poisoning	333.2	262.3	63.3
All Causes	811.7	701.8	559.3

Note: 1. Population served by Health and Welfare Canada (see Glossary).

Sources: Indian Population: 1980: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Annual Review.
 1982: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, unpublished statistics. Janie Reed, Indian and Inuit of Canada: Health Status Indicators, Health and Welfare Canada, June, 1985 (draft).

Provincial Population: 1982: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics. Causes of Death, 1982, Vol. IV, Cat. No. 84-203 Annual, January, 1984. Statistics Canada Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1982 and 1983, Cat.No. 91-210, Nov. 1984.

their distinct age composition, particularly the younger age of the Indian population.

Rates of death for infectious and parasitic diseases were predictably higher among the more remote and less cared for Indian population. In 1982, Indian rates of death from these causes were twice as high as those of the total Alberta population. This was partly due to the more youthful Indian population, more likely to suffer from many acute, infectious conditions. The 1980 death rate for registered Indians from infectious and parasitic diseases was extremely high.

The provincial population's rate of death from neoplasms (cancers) was more than two and one-half times the Indian rate. This was partly due to the relatively younger Indian population which was less subject to neoplasms because of age. With only crude death rates no comparison can be made independent of age.

As well, death from diseases of the circulatory system was markedly less frequent among Indians than the total provincial population. This was also due in large part to the older average age of the total population and their later average age at death.

Respiratory deaths seem to have been more frequent among Indians than the total provincial population. It is well known, for example, that Indians have higher rates of smoking than the total population in Canada. This may be a factor in their higher rate of respiratory deaths. (There may also be a link with higher Indian incidence of tuberculosis; c.f. Section 5.5).

Deaths from diseases of the digestive system were three times more frequent among Indians than the total provincial population. Diet, including amount of alcohol consumed, is likely to be a major factor in this result.

Conditions originating in the prenatal period resulting in early death were more likely to happen to Indians than to the total provincial population in 1982. The cause of this was not clear but could also be related to life-style differences such as tobacco and alcohol consumption. It is well known that fetal alcohol syndrome is very high among Indian infants. Both alcohol and tobacco are known to be teratogenic. Clearly, more thorough

analysis of this important issue is called for.

Injury and poisoning, the violent causes of death, were emphatically over-represented in the Indian population. Among Indians these were the leading causes of death, ahead of circulatory disorders, neoplasms and respiratory disorders, which were also major killers in the total provincial population. This was in part fostered by excessive alcohol consumption, but may also be related to more general factors in Indian life style, such as family patterns, lack of education and opportunity, and remoteness from medical care.

5.3 Violent Deaths

Violent causes of death normally include mortality from accidents, from homicide and suicide.

Deaths from some of these types of accidents are presented in Table 5.2. Even a cursory glance shows that Indians had higher death rates from all of these causes than did the total provincial population. Although differences between 1980 and 1982 in the registered Indian population indicated unstable small number variation, the difference between Indians and the total population was immediately and tragically apparent.

Using 1982 data, the ratio of the Indian rate to that of the total population gives us a measure of the degree that Indians differ from others in a particular type of deadly accident. If the ratio was 1.0, then the Indian rate of death was exactly the same as that for the total population. For motor vehicle accident deaths the ratio was 4.4, meaning the Indian rate was over four times that of the total population. Drowning claimed Indians at almost six times the rate of total population victims in Alberta. Deaths by exposure among Indians were 18 times as frequent. Accidental fire deaths were almost 14 times more frequent among Indians than others. Gunshot accidents resulting in death were more than five times as frequent among Indians. Fatal falls and overdoses were almost twice as frequent.

TABLE 5.2
Deaths From Injury and Poisoning by Cause
Alberta, 1980 and 1982

67

(Rate per 100,000)

Cause	<u>Registered Indians¹</u>		<u>Provincial Population</u>
	1980	1982	1982
Motor Vehicle	121.6	92.4	20.8
Drowning	15.9	10.0	1.7
Exposure	5.3	20.0	1.1
Fire	21.2	27.5	2.0
Falls	23.8	12.5	7.0
Firearms	37.0	37.5	7.1
Overdoses	37.0	15.0	9.3
Other	71.4	47.5	13.9

Note: 1. Population served by Health and Welfare Canada (see Glossary).

Sources: Indian Population:

1980: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Annual Review.

1982: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, unpublished statistics. Janie Reed, Indian and Inuit of Canada: Health Status Indicators, Health and Welfare Canada, June, 1985 (draft).

Provincial Population:

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Mortality, 1982, Vol. III Cat. No. 84-206, Annual. March, 1984.

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Causes of Death, 1982, Vol. IV, Cat. No. 84-203, Annual, Jan. 1984.

Statistics Canada, Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1982 and 1983, Cat. No. 91-210, Nov. 1984.

Moreover, Alberta Indians were in some respects more prone to these type of deaths than Indians in other provinces (Canada Overview, Table 5.2). The rate of death from motor vehicle accidents was substantially higher among Alberta Indians than among all Indians in Canada. Other accidental deaths were also more frequent than the average for Canada; in fact, only drowning deaths were less frequent than average for all Indians in this country. Alberta's status as an inland province may reduce the risk of death from this source.

From these statistics we can see the extent of accidental death among the Indians of Alberta. We must remember that some of this excess, though not all, resulted from age structural differences between the relatively young Indian population and the older, less accident-prone total population. Some accidents were due to heavy use of alcohol, as other sources have elsewhere indicated. Whatever the cause, early death from violent means is a common feature of Indian life in Alberta today and a source of much grief in Indian communities.

Suicide

Suicide is a particularly damaging form of violent death. It is sudden and is often perceived as a rejection by bereaved survivors. In many cases it causes those survivors needless pain as they are subjected to public disapproval. A high rate of suicide is a source of concern to any group.

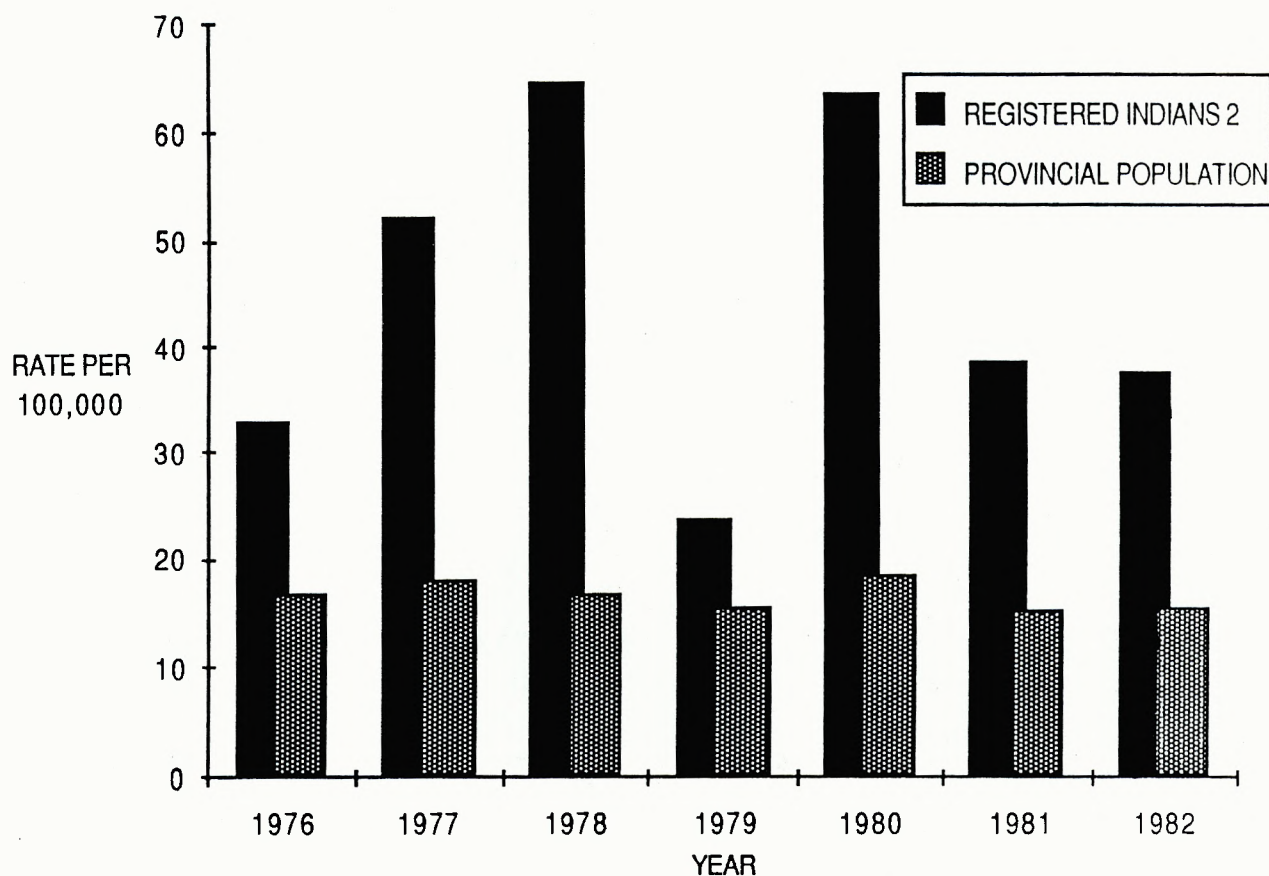
Figure 5.1 shows that the suicide rate has fluctuated over the past seven years in Alberta. In 1982 the overall rate was 15.5 per 100,000 Albertans, although among registered Indians the rate that year was 37.5, more than twice as high. Suicide was not only more frequent among Indians, it also occurred at an earlier age in that population. This magnifies the societal impact, especially on families, and causes greater concern. According to Table 5.3 among those aged 20 to 29 years the Indian rate was five times that of the total population in Alberta.

There were also a substantial number of elderly Indian suicides. In 1982, the rate was 75.6 per 100,000 for those 65 and over, or four times the corresponding rate of the

FIGURE 5.1

Suicide Rates¹

Alberta, 1976-1982

**Notes:**

1. Number of suicides per 100,000 population.
2. Population served by Health and Welfare Canada (c.f. Glossary).

Sources: Janie Reed, Indian and Inuit of Canada: Health Status Indicators, Health and Welfare Canada, June 1985, (draft), Table B-155, p. 287.
 For Provincial Population, Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Causes of Death, Vol. IV, Cat. No. 84-203, Annual.

TABLE 5.3
Suicide Rates by Age
Alberta, 1982
(Rate per 100,000)

Age	Registered Indians ¹	Provincial Population
0 - 19	17.7	4.8
20 - 29	100.2	19.3
30 - 44	35.3	20.0
45 - 64	-	24.9
65+	75.6	18.5

Note: 1. Population served by Health and Welfare Canada (c.f. Glossary).

Sources:

Indian Population: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, unpublished Statistics.

Provincial Population: Statistics Canada, Health Division, Vital Statistics and Disease Registries, unpublished Statistics, 1982.

total provincial population.

5.4 Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates provide one of the most often used measures of health care efficacy. Infants are thought to be particularly susceptible to conditions which reflect the quality of health care. The first year of life, even in Canada, is the most dangerous of all years in the first half of a person's life. Infants tend to die either from conditions over which we have little control, or from an array of diseases over which good health care will in many cases triumph.

Between 1976 and 1982, Canadian infant mortality rates declined by about one-third, as health care improved and reduced the diseases of infancy. Among Indians in Canada the rate of infant death decreased by nearly one-half. But Indian infants continued to die at about twice the rate of children in the total population.

Among registered Indians in Alberta there has been a substantial decrease between 1976 and 1982 in infant mortality from all causes. The rate of 26 per 1,000 live births in 1976 had decreased to 16 per 1,000 by 1982, which reflects measurable progress. Infant mortality in the total provincial population in 1982 was 10 per 1,000. (Table 5.4, Canada Overview).

In summary, there is still room for improvement in the Indian infant mortality rate, particularly as it is almost twice the rate for the total population in Canada. Nevertheless, definite improvement in infant life chances has resulted from better pre- and post-natal care among registered Indians.

5.5 Tuberculosis

Rather than presenting a review of mortality and morbidity from all types of infectious disease, this report will be limited to a presentation of the incidence of tuberculosis.

For many years in this century tuberculosis was the scourge of young Canadian adults, although it affected persons of all ages to some degree. As recently as 25 years ago it had declined as a cause of death among Canadians but was still very prevalent among Indians. Many non-Indians also contracted the disease, but death resulted in only a few cases due to modern medical therapy.

Figure 5.2 summarizes the incidence of tuberculosis over a seven-year period among both registered Indians and the total population in Alberta. By 1982, the rate for Alberta Indians was the same it had been in 1976, 1.32 per 1,000 compared with 0.12 per 1,000 for the total population, or eleven times greater.

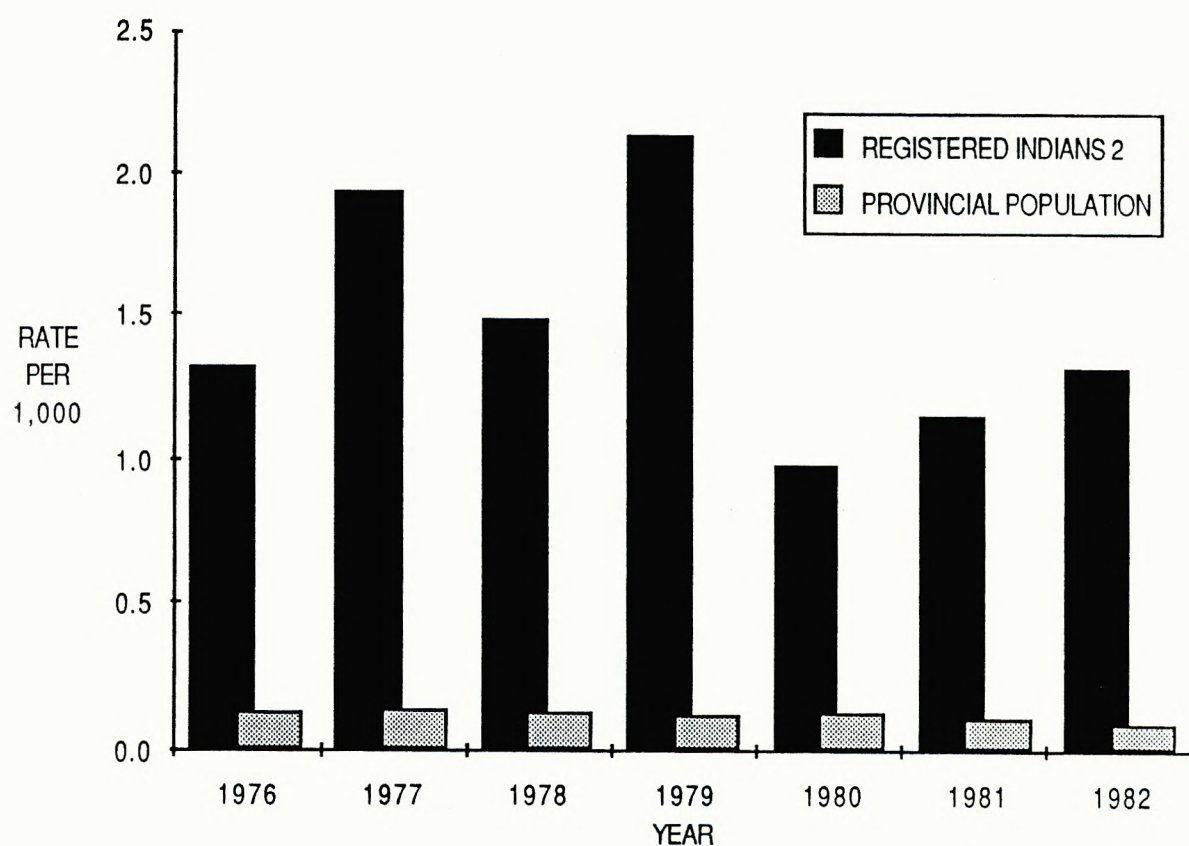
5.6 Conclusion

In summary, we see some major differences in health-related rates between Indians and the total Alberta population. Indian mortality was generally higher for all causes in 1982 except neoplasms, congenital anomalies and disorders of the circulatory and nervous systems. But some of the most important differences were in the violent causes of death such as accident and suicide. Indians in Alberta were more severely affected by these conditions than were Indians in most other provinces. Indians, because of social and health conditions, have had a history of high infant death and tuberculosis incidence, but definite improvement has occurred over the last few years.

FIGURE 5.2

Tuberculosis Rates¹

Alberta, 1976-1982



- Notes:**
1. Tuberculosis rates are for new and reactivated cases.
 2. Population served by Health and Welfare Canada (c.f. Glossary).

Sources: Janie Reed, Indian and Inuit of Canada: Health Status Indicators, Health and Welfare Canada, June 1985, (draft) Table C-8, p.306.
For Provincial Population: Statistics Canada, Tuberculosis Statistics, Cat. No. 82-212, Annual.

—
—
—

6. EDUCATION

6.1 Introduction

Education may well be the principal ladder to upward mobility in Canada, the way most people "get ahead". In an increasingly technical, bureaucratic society, learned skills are rewarded. One who has not been so prepared is disadvantaged, bypassed, overlooked and left behind by others. Education conveys other benefits besides vocational skills. It imparts a style of thought, a set of general, critical skills and dispositions with which individuals assert themselves and function in a bureaucratic world.

Early attempts to integrate Indians into Canadian society sometimes included efforts to introduce them to non-Native education. These educational programs met with varying degrees of success and with divergent responses from the Indian community. Many individuals benefitted; others felt estranged from family and traditions.

Whatever our attitude toward these programs, we must recognize that Indians in Canada have not had full access to the educational system, particularly regarding the lack of high schools on-reserve. In this chapter it is our task to review data on Indian educational attainment from the present and from the past few years.

Some of the topics to be covered are types of schools attended, educational attainment, school attendance and continuing education. Comparisons will examine differences between Indians and non-Indians, between on- and off-reserve populations, and between males and females.

Enrolment data are from the Nominal Roll and the Continuing Education Information System (CEIS) of INAC (c.f. Glossary), and attendance and attainment data from the 1981 Census of Canada. For limitations of the education data the reader should consult the Methodology Report for the Overview Series.

6.2 Enrolment

While Nominal Roll data have no age restrictions, Table 6.1 has been limited to the on-reserve Indian student population up to 15 years of age in order to focus on the enrolment patterns of younger students. This information should help to supplement the analysis of 1981 Census data, presented later, which were collected only for the population 15 years of age and over. Data from the Nominal Roll are presented in Table 6.1 and relate the grade of the student to his or her age. Patterns have not changed much between 1978-79 and 1982-83. There was a slightly higher proportion of the students in the later academic year who were attending Kindergarten, and a slightly higher proportion attending grades 1 through 4. There were also rather few male-female differences in the age distribution of students, except at ages 14 to 15. A few more males than females were old for their grade in school. For instance, 54 per cent of 14 to 15 year-old boys were only in grades 5 through 8; only 45 per cent of 14 to 15 year-old girls were placed in grades 5 through 8. These percentages represent a rather large number of both male and female students in these grades who were older than average.

Unlike Table 6.1, Table 6.2 covers the entire Nominal Roll student population in order to focus on the overall enrolment pattern. Table 6.2 presents the registered Indian student population according to the five types of schools they attended: Band-Operated, Federal, Private Tuition, Provincial Joint Tuition, and Provincial Tuition. (c.f. Glossary).

The different types of schools seemed to specialize in different types of students. Band-operated schools in 1978-79 had the highest proportion of Kindergarten students, not many special students, and students from all grades, including the highest proportion of students in the secondary school years. Only 209 students attended such schools. By 1982-83 ~~there~~ there was considerable expansion in these schools, largely as the result of the Government's decision to devolve more authority for education to the local level. By this time they taught 1,023 students. The emphasis on secondary instruction declined somewhat, while the emphasis on Kindergarten and early elementary years increased.

Federal schools had 3,864 students enrolled in 1978-79 which included few special students, covered the whole age range, but specialized somewhat in the elementary grades,

TABLE 6.1
Registered Indian Student Population¹
Showing Grade by Age and Sex
Alberta INAC Region, 1978-79 and 1982-83

Grade/Sex (Col. %)	<u>1978-79</u>			<u>Age</u>		<u>1982-83</u>		
	<u>4-10</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>14-15</u>	<u>All Ages 4-15</u>	<u>4-10</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>14-15</u>	<u>All Ages 4-15</u>
Male								
Kindergarten	16	-	-	9	18	-	-	10
Special Students ²	2	3	2	2	2	3	5	2
1-4	73	13	1	44	73	14	2	46
5-8	9	82	54	37	8	81	54	35
9-13	-	2	43	7	-	2	40	7
All Grades %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No.	2,827	1,435	782	5,044	2,698	1,291	774	4,763
Female								
Kindergarten	16	-	-	9	17	-	-	10
Special Students ²	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	1
1-4	73	8	1	43	71	10	1	44
5-8	10	86	45	36	11	86	45	37
9-13	-	2	51	9	-	2	51	8
All Grades %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No.	2,810	1,363	806	4,979	2,659	1,289	687	4,635
Both Sexes								
Kindergarten	16	-	-	9	17	-	-	10
Special Students ²	2	3	3	2	1	2	4	2
1-4	73	10	1	44	72	12	1	45
5-8	9	84	49	37	9	83	50	36
9-13	-	2	47	8	-	2	45	8
All Grades %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No.	5,637	2,798	1,588	10,023	5,357	2,580	1,461	9,398

Notes:

1. On-reserve student population up to 15 years of age funded by INAC and enrolled in elementary and secondary schools as of Oct. 15.
2. See Glossary.

Totals include a number of unallocated. These crosstabulations were based on raw data provided via the Education Branch; subtotals may differ from those published by INAC's Program Reference Centre. See also Methodology Report. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: ⁴ Nominal Roll, Education Branch, INAC.

TABLE 6.2

**Registered Indian Student Population¹
Showing School Type by Grade
Alberta INAC Region, 1978-79 and 1982-83**

	<u>Band- Operated</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Private Tuition</u>	<u>Provinc'l Joint</u>	<u>Provinc'l Tuition</u>	<u>All Schools</u>
Grade (Col. %)	1978-79					
Kindergarten	18	14	3	6	4	8
Special Students ²	2	3	55	1	1	2
Grades 1-4	27	39	21	41	38	39
Grades 5-8	14	31	7	35	38	34
Grades 9-13	39	13	14	17	19	17
All Grades %	100	100	100	100	100	100
No.	209	3,864	29	4,020	3,087	11,209
	1982-83					
Kindergarten	26	11	-	7	2	9
Special Students ²	-	3	100	1	4	2
Grades 1-4	36	42	-	41	33	39
Grades 5-8	20	30	-	35	38	32
Grades 9-13	18	14	-	16	24	17
All Grades %	100	100	100	100	100	100
No.	1,023	3,727	2	3,768	2,257	10,777

Notes:

1. On-reserve student population funded by INAC and enrolled in elementary and secondary schools as of Oct. 15.
2. See Glossary.

Totals include a number of unallocated. These cross tabulations were based on raw data provided via the Education Branch; subtotals may differ from those published by INAC's Program Reference Centre. See also Methodology Report. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Nominal Roll, Education Branch, INAC.

1 to 8. By 1982-83 the overall enrolment decreased slightly to 3,727 students. The basic distribution of students did not change.

Private Tuition schools taught only 29 students in 1978-79 and specialized mainly in the instruction of special students, those who required either special instruction or facilities due to disabilities. By 1982-83 this form of school had almost disappeared, teaching only two students. The students had either been absorbed by other types of schools or they were not receiving special instruction.

Provincial Joint Tuition schools serviced the largest number of students in Alberta (4,020 in 1978-79; 3,768 in 1982-83), although the number of their students decreased during that time period. Their distribution of students by grade was very much like the federal schools, especially strong in the elementary years. They had very few special students.

Provincial Tuition schools taught 3,087 students in Alberta in 1978-79 and 2,257 in 1982-83, a substantial drop in enrolment. They also concentrated in the elementary grades. They provided only a few students with Kindergarten and taught very few special students. They instructed a higher proportion of their students in grades 9 through 13 than the other types of school in 1982-83.

School Leavers. Figure 6.1 presents data on school leavers on the Nominal Roll aged four to 15, by age for the various types of schools. These data do not demonstrate drop-out rates, for there are many other reasons for leaving school, such as moving. Nevertheless, they do indicate a rather high and increasing proportion of students leaving school at older ages. The highest rate, over 20 per cent for students aged 4 to 10, and about 40 per cent for those 14 and 15, occurred in Provincial schools. Federal schools had the lowest rate of school leaving.

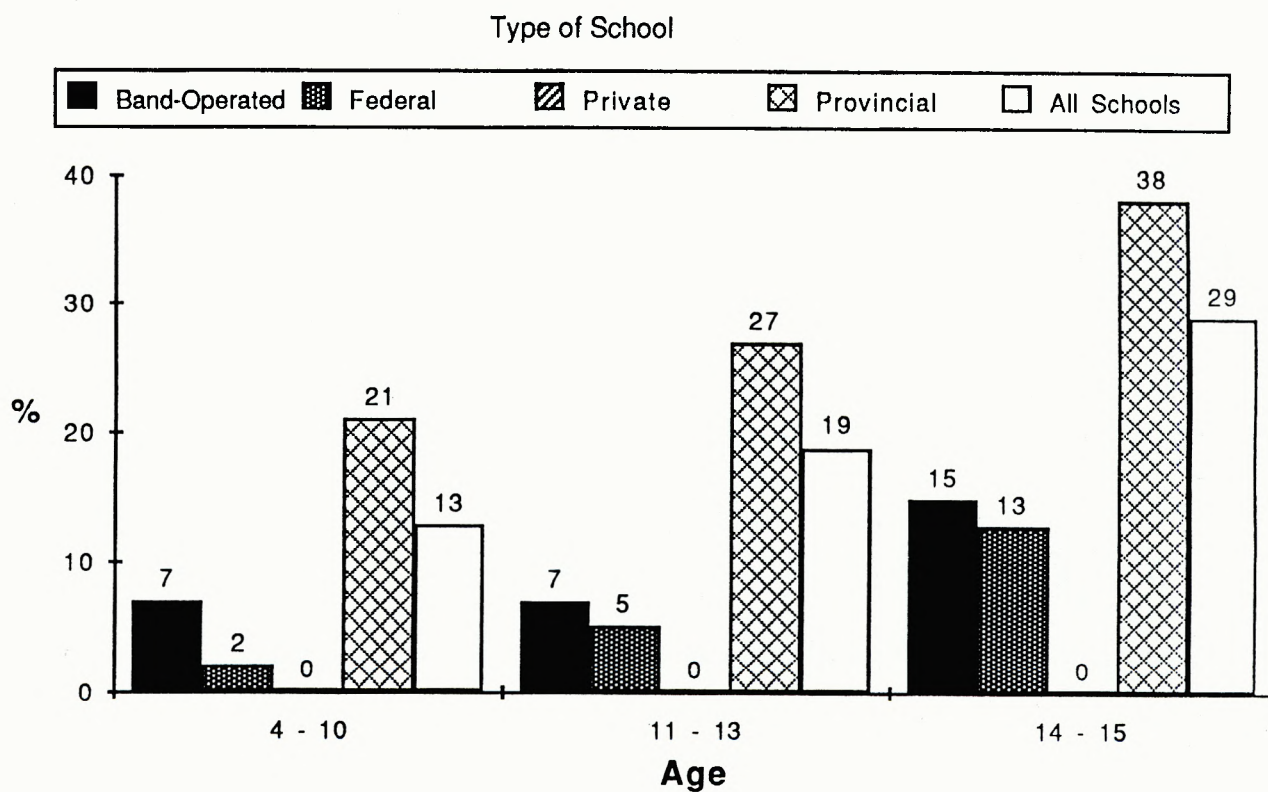
6.3 Educational Attainment

In Figure 6.2 and Table 6.3 data are presented which describe the percentage of Indians and non-Indians achieving different levels of educational attainment as of 1981.

FIGURE 6.1

School Leavers¹ as a Percentage of Enrolment, by Age and School Type

Alberta INAC Region, 1982 - 83



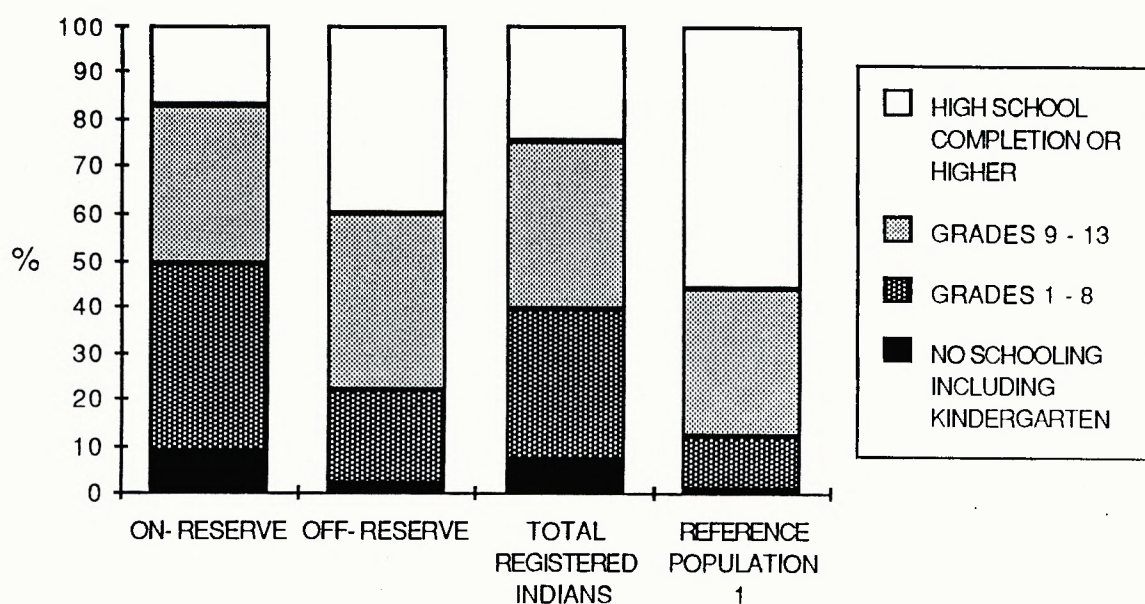
Note: 1. Includes departures from school for all reasons among on-reserve Indian students aged four to 15 funded by INAC.

Source: Nominal Roll, Education Branch, INAC.

FIGURE 6.2

Highest Level of Schooling, Age 15 and Over

Alberta, 1981



Note: 1. Reference Population = Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based On 1981 Census of Canada

TABLE 6.3
Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing
Highest Level of Schooling

Alberta, 1981

Highest Level of Schooling (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ³
No Schooling or Kindergarten ¹	9	2	7	1
Grades 1 - 8	40	20	33	11
Grades 9 - 13	34	38	36	32
High School Plus ²	17	40	25	56
Total %	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	13.8	7.9	21.7	1,650.9

Notes: 1. Persons with no schooling or having completed only Kindergarten.
 2. High school completion or higher.
 3. Total Population less Registered Indians.
 Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Registered Indians had larger proportions of persons with low levels of education than the reference population. Registered Indians had much lower percentages of population with higher levels of education. Off-reserve Indians were between the lower educated on-reserve population and the higher educated non-Indian population.

The data in Table 6.4 allow for comparisons between registered Indians and non-Indians of different ages, and also permit male-female educational comparisons. Looking at the educational attainment extremes for Indians overall relative to the reference population clearly evidences the Indian disadvantage. Having less than Grade 9 education is often cited as "functional illiteracy". Forty per cent of Indians aged 15 and over had less than Grade 9 education, just under three and one-half times the 12 per cent of the reference population in this situation.

At the other end of the spectrum, fully 56 per cent of the reference population aged at least 15 had completed high school or more. This was more than twice the Indian proportion of only 25 per cent. Interestingly, in neither of these educational categories were there any significant sex differentials.

Elderly Indians, those aged 65 and over, had very restricted opportunities for formal education. This fact was reflected in the 1981 educational status of that category. Over half, 52 per cent, had no schooling at all. Almost all the rest, 41 per cent, achieved to some point between grades 1 and 8 only. Five per cent attended secondary school, and almost none at all graduated from high school or had any university experience.

By contrast, elderly non-Indians, while undereducated compared with younger Albertans, were far more educated than their Indian counterparts. Only six per cent of elderly non-Indians had no schooling, whereas 28 per cent either graduated from secondary school or had university experience.

Compared with younger Indians, more Indians aged 25 to 64 had completed high school. This was partly because many younger Indians were still completing their education. Only seven per cent had no schooling or Kindergarten only, and 33 per cent had completed high school or beyond. In both these comparisons they lagged behind their

TABLE 6.4
Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing Highest Level of Schooling by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1981

Highest Level of Schooling (Col. %)	Male				Female				Both Sexes			
	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+
Total Registered Indians												
No Schooling or Kindergarten ¹	-	8	54	7	-	7	51	6	-	7	52	7
Grades 1-8	32	36	39	34	23	36	43	31	27	36	41	33
Grades 9-13	52	23	6	34	55	25	5	37	53	24	5	36
High School Plus ²	15	34	-	24	22	31	-	26	19	33	-	25
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	4.2	5.1	0.5	9.8	4.9	6.4	0.5	11.9	9.1	11.5	1.1	21.7
Reference Population³												
No Schooling or Kindergarten ¹	-	-	5	1	-	1	7	1	-	1	6	1
Grades 1-8	4	11	45	12	3	10	39	11	3	11	42	11
Grades 9-13	47	24	22	30	44	30	27	33	45	27	25	32
High School Plus ²	49	65	28	57	53	59	27	54	51	62	28	56
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	241.0	536.2	67.3	844.6	226.1	502.0	78.2	806.4	467.2	1,038.2	145.5	1,650.9

Notes: 1. Persons with no schooling or having completed only Kindergarten.
2. High school completion or higher.
3. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

non-Indian counterparts, of whom only one per cent had no school and 62 per cent had completed high school or beyond.

Almost all Indians between the ages of 15 and 24 received some formal education. Fifty-three per cent completed between nine and 13 years of school, and 19 per cent graduated from high school and/or acquired university training. Although we do not have a direct comparison with the previous generation when they were the age of today's young Indians, age differences between today's youth and the elderly seem to indicate a major improvement in education. Still, fully 51 per cent of non-Indians aged 15 to 24 had achieved high school completion or more.

Furthermore, while it is likely that many students aged 15 to 24 had not yet completed their education it is still striking that nine times more Indians than non-Indians so aged had achieved only Grades 1 to 8, 27 versus three per cent.

In the past there has been little difference between Indian males and females in educational attainment. But at the time of the Census, among Indians aged 15 to 24, significantly more females reached the higher levels of education. Twenty-two per cent of females aged 15 to 24 had completed high school or beyond, whereas only 15 per cent of males had achieved this level of education. At the lower end of educational achievement 32 per cent of males completed only elementary grades (1 to 8), whereas 23 per cent of females stopped at this level. It is possible that male Indians leave school early to hit the job market. (c.f. employment rate, Section 7.2).

The upper levels of educational attainment are usually considered to be achieved through the obtaining of a university certificate, diploma or a degree. Failing that, many persons receive some university training without completing a course of study. The proportions of Indians and non-Indians who attain these educational levels are presented in Table 6.5.

What emerges from the table once more is the disadvantaged educational status of Indians. This disadvantage increases the higher the educational level; it was greater for university completion (9.7 per cent for non-Indians, 1.2 per cent for Indians) than for

TABLE 6.5

University Attainment by Sex, Age 15 and Over

Alberta, 1981

Per Cent Completing	Male	Female	Both Sexes
<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>			
Some University	3.4	3.2	3.3
University Certificate, Diploma, Degree	0.4	0.5	0.5
Total	3.8	3.7	3.8
<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>			
Some University	6.9	6.4	6.6
University Certificate, Diploma, Degree	2.4	2.3	2.3
Total	9.3	8.7	8.9
<u>Total Registered Indians</u>			
Some University	4.4	4.5	4.5
University Certificate, Diploma, Degree	1.0	1.3	1.2
Total	5.4	5.8	5.6
<u>Reference Population¹</u>			
Some University	8.9	8.9	8.9
University Certificate, Diploma, Degree	11.5	7.8	9.7
Total	20.4	16.7	18.6

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

some university training only (8.9 per cent for non-Indians, 4.5 per cent for Indians). Off-reserve Indians seem to have had greater opportunities for university training (2.3 per cent completing university versus 0.5 per cent for on-reserve). Finally, Indian males and females had rather equally availed themselves of university education, whereas in the non-Indian population more males had completed university education (11.5 per cent) than had females (7.8 per cent).

In summary, Indians are less educated than non-Indians. The whole society is becoming more educated and Indians are part of this pattern. However, Indians have not yet overtaken non-Indians in their educational advantage. Although in the past male and female Indians have been almost equally disadvantaged in education, there are signs that youthful females are now taking somewhat better advantage of their educational opportunities.

6.4 School Attendance

In Table 6.6 registered Indians, both on- and off-reserve, are compared with their non-Indian counterparts as to whether they were attending school. The table shows that for all ages 15 and up combined registered Indians had a slightly higher percentage of school attenders attending full-time (particularly those residing off-reserve). Non-Indians, on the other hand, showed twice the proportion of Indian part-time attenders, six versus three per cent. Due to the age structure of the populations, non-Indians overall showed a greater tendency toward full-time attendance in the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 age groups.

Looking at ages 15 to 19, we see that fewer Indians, 39 per cent, were attending school full-time or part-time than the reference population's 62 per cent. However, the major difference was between on-reserve Indians, where only 34 per cent attended, and Indians off-reserve, where 49 per cent were attending. It would seem that Indians in their late teens were less likely to be attending school than non-Indians of the same age but that off-reserve Indians were more like their non-Indian associates in this regard than Indians living on a reserve. Indian males were more likely to be attending school if living

TABLE 6.6
Population 15 Years of Age and Over Showing School Attendance by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1980-81¹

School Attendance (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Reg. Indians	Reference Popula- tion ²	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Reg. Indians	Reference Popula- tion ²	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Reg. Indians	Reference Popula- tion ²	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Reg. Indians	Reference Popula- tion ²
	Age 15 - 19				Age 20 - 24				Age 25 +				All Ages (15 +)			
Male																
Not Attending School	71	48	64	39	93	84	89	73	97	89	94	92	89	77	86	82
Total Attending School	29	52	36	61	7	16	11	27	4	11	6	8	11	23	14	18
Attending Full-time	27	50	34	57	6	12	7	17	2	4	3	2	9	17	11	12
Attending Part-time	2	-	2	4	-	4	3	10	2	6	3	6	2	5	3	6
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.7	0.7	2.4	106.6	1.1	0.6	1.8	134.5	4.0	1.6	5.6	603.5	6.9	2.9	9.8	844.6
Female																
Not Attending School	62	54	59	38	88	81	85	79	95	88	92	93	95	80	83	84
Total Attending School	38	46	41	62	12	19	15	21	5	12	8	7	15	20	17	16
Attending Full-time	36	44	39	59	8	13	10	13	4	7	5	2	12	15	14	11
Attending Part-time	3	-	2	4	4	6	5	8	2	5	3	6	2	5	3	6
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.7	1.0	2.7	101.7	1.3	0.9	2.2	124.5	3.9	3.1	7.0	580.2	6.9	5.0	11.9	806.4
Both Sexes																
Not Attending School	66	51	61	38	90	82	87	76	96	89	93	92	87	79	84	83
Total Attending School	34	49	39	62	10	18	13	24	4	11	7	8	13	21	16	17
Attending Full-time	31	47	37	58	7	13	9	15	3	6	4	2	11	16	13	11
Attending Part-time	2	2	2	4	3	5	4	9	2	6	3	6	2	5	3	6
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	3.4	1.7	5.2	208.2	2.4	1.6	4.0	259.0	7.9	4.6	12.6	1,183.7	13.8	7.9	21.7	1,650.9

Notes: 1. School Year Sept. 1980 to June 3, 1981.
2. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

off-reserve where 52 per cent attended, compared with 29 per cent on-reserve. Female school attendance was also more frequent off-reserve but was more equally distributed between on-reserve at 38 per cent, and off-reserve at 46 per cent. Females made more of their on-reserve opportunities, and males were stimulated more to education by the off-reserve environment.

In the next older age category, ages 20 to 24, the proportion attending school was much less, but some of the same patterns emerged. Persons in the reference population were more likely than registered Indians to be attending school, 24 per cent compared with 13 per cent. Indians living off-reserve attended school more often than Indians living on-reserve, 18 per cent compared with 10 per cent. Female Indians were more likely to be attending school than males, 15 per cent compared with 11 per cent.

Even in the 25 years of age and over category the same patterns seemed to be in effect, although the difference between registered Indians attending school, seven per cent, and the reference population's school attendance rate, eight per cent, was very small. Quite a few Indians seemed to be attending school as adults to make up for what they missed earlier. Eleven per cent of off-reserve adults 25 and over, attended school compared with only eight per cent of non-Indians. On-reserve the numbers were smaller, with four per cent attending. This could reflect greater opportunity for adult education in the towns and cities than on the reserves. Incentive is also greater off-reserve in that many jobs, especially off-reserve, require educational certification.

Continuing Education. Table 6.7 shows the age distribution of registered Indian entrants in continuing education in Alberta, according to INAC's records. The reader should be aware that the Continuing Education Information System data used for this section may not be entirely reliable. The data show that on-reserve continuing education entrants tended to be both younger (under age 25) and older (35 and over) than those off-reserve. The off-reserve students were concentrated in the 25 to 34 age category. This tends to reflect the age distribution of on- and off-reserve Indian populations.

Females outnumbered males in continuing education both on- and off-reserve. Female participation was more noticeable off-reserve where female students outnumbered

TABLE 6.7

**Registered Indian Cumulative Entrants in Continuing Education
On- and Off-Reserve by Age and Sex
Alberta INAC Region, 1979-83¹**

Age and Sex (Col. %)			Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off- Reserve	Total Registered Indians
<u>Male</u>					
18-24			33	31	33
25-34			48	54	49
35-44			19	15	18
All Ages 18-44 %			100	100	100
No.			2,075	806	2,881
<u>Female</u>					
18-24			30	28	29
25-34			47	54	50
35-44			23	18	21
All Ages 18-44 %			100	100	100
No.			2,844	1,718	4,562
<u>Both Sexes</u>					
18-24			31	29	30
25-34			48	54	50
35-44			22	17	20
All Ages 18-44 %			100	100	100
No.			4,919	2,524	7,443

Notes: 1. Includes all years. Years refer to Training Period Starting Date. CEIS data are incomplete. For further information see the Education Overview and the Methodology Report. Due to administrative reporting changes in 1983-84, the occupational skills portion of the 1983 CEIS data pertain only to the first three months. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: CEIS, Education Branch, INAC.

males by more than two to one.

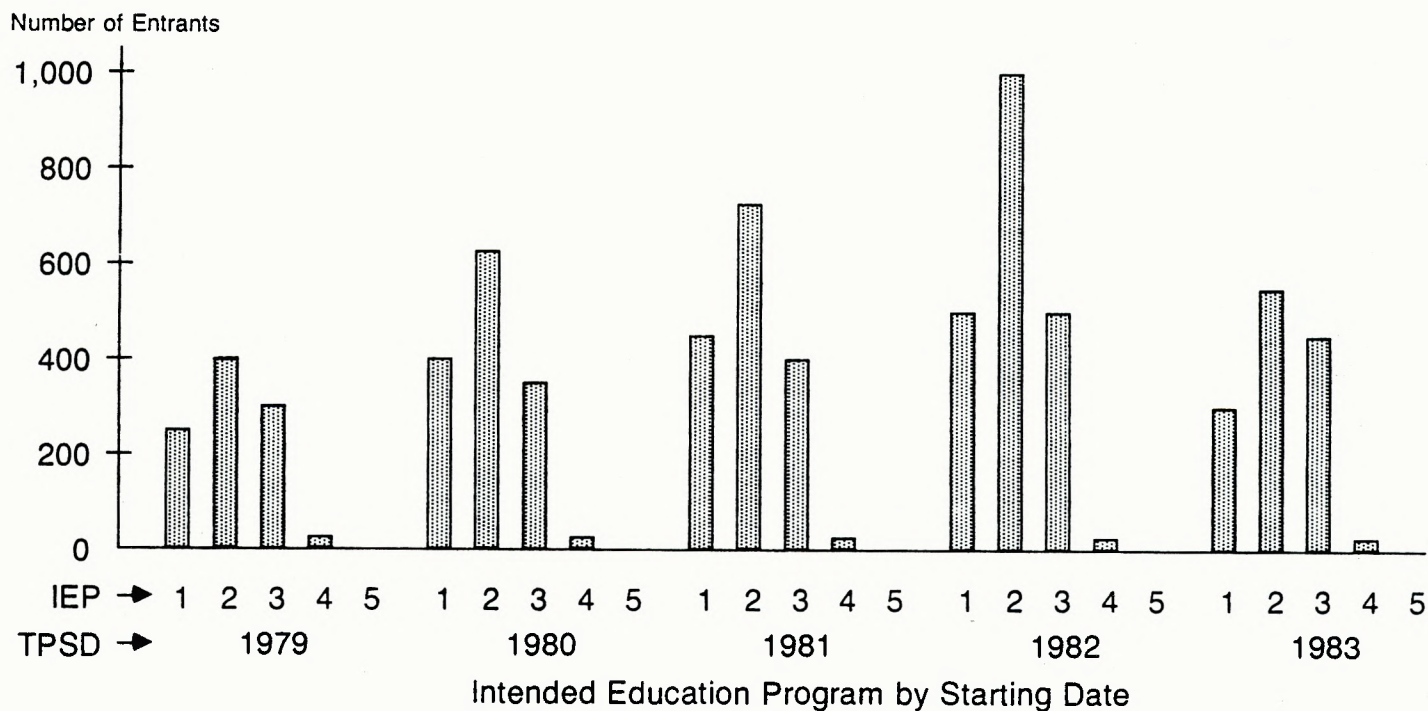
Child care is a real problem which must be addressed in any educational program for this population. It may be tempting to say that because these persons are less often married, they have greater freedom to move and to attend school than the average person of similar age in Alberta. Nonetheless, these students often have meaningful common-law and dependency relationships of long standing which restrict mobility.

Figure 6.3 gives data on intended education program, for the years 1979 to 1983. The major destination has been Community Colleges, which grew from 400 to close to 1,000 by 1982. Steady but slower growth occurred in Technical Institutes and Bachelor's programs.

6.5 Conclusion

We began this chapter with the assertion that Indians as a group were significantly disadvantaged with respect to access to high quality formal education. The data in the preceding tables have supported this perspective. Indeed, the patterns of school attendance and educational attainment shown above have profound implications for the income and employment patterns of Alberta Indians, a topic covered in the next chapter.

Figure 6.3
Entrants by Intended Education Program
Alberta, 1979-1983



Notes: CEIS data are incomplete. See the Education Overview and Methodology Report for more information. Due to administrative reporting changes in 1983-84, the occupational skills portion of the 1983 CEIS data pertain only to the first three months.

IEP = Intended Education Program.

1 = Upgrading & Technical Institute.

2 = Community College (including CEGEP).

3 = Bachelor's.

4 = Master's.

5 = Ph.D.

TPSD = Training Period Starting Date.

Source: CEIS, Education Branch, INAC.

7. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

7.1 Introduction

In today's industrial world a person's occupation is his or her single greatest source of identification with society. It is the individual's most important social characteristic. Without work the person is largely without label, without identity, without social approval.

Income earned is an important measure by which persons are judged. The power of income extends not only to what can be purchased with money, but to the symbolic meaning of earnings. For instance, individuals tend to evaluate their own worth and the worth of others in terms of earning capacity.

Indians have traditionally been a group set apart from the wage employment system. They have not so much been unemployed as they have been outside conventional employment. In recent years, increasing numbers have found their way into the standard employment system and realized the income that results from employment. But others have not joined the employed.

This is not to say that the Indian is economically uninvolved. Often the central unit of economic involvement, especially for the registered Indian, is not the individual but the band. Much that is owned and much of the wealth is controlled by the band. In many cases income is also controlled and distributed by the band. The emphasis is less individual and more collective than in non-Indian society.

We are in a time now, however, when some of these patterns are eroding. As Indians attain higher levels of education and become more experienced and skilled, and as more of them live off-reserve, increasing numbers have become active in the wage-earning economy. It is in this general context that the following tables should be considered.

The chapter will include sections on labour force activity, income and economic families. Also included will be material on labour force activity by education and occupation, and income by sex, age, residence, education, occupation, and major source of income. Additional tables include data on economic family income.

With regard to labour force activity among Indians, the reader should remember that standard measures of unemployment may distort the facts. The following statement appeared in Statistics Canada's "Canada's Native People" (June 1984):

Statistics Canada's definitions of labour force participation and unemployment were formulated in concert with other industrialized countries and are relevant under conditions of a well-developed labour market. These definitions are not fully appropriate for Native people who pursue a traditional way of life or live in remote communities. Many Native people who are living on the land may not show up as participating in the labour force because what they produce is consumed rather than sold in the market-place. This is especially the case for on-reserve status Indians and the Inuit. In addition, the isolation of the areas where many Native people live discourages active job search, and thus they may not be counted among the unemployed. These conceptual limitations of census labour market information are important to keep in mind.

With these facts in mind, one should rely more on the "employment rate" variable throughout this chapter rather than the "unemployment rate" and the "participation rate".

7.2 Labour Force Activity

The extent of labour force activity for individuals aged 15 and over is depicted in Figure 7.1. Registered Indians are compared with non-Indians and on- and off-reserve Indians are compared. In Table 7.1 various age categories are also included, as are data for males and females. For these categories we shall describe the labour force participation rate, the unemployment rate and the employment rate.

According to the 1981 Census Dictionary, the total labour force "refers to the population 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates, who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to enumeration." This was further broken down into the employed and the unemployed.

Those who were employed "include those persons who, during the week prior to enumeration: a) did any work at all; or b) were absent from their jobs or businesses because of their own temporary illness or disability, vacation, labour dispute at their place of work, or were absent for other reasons."

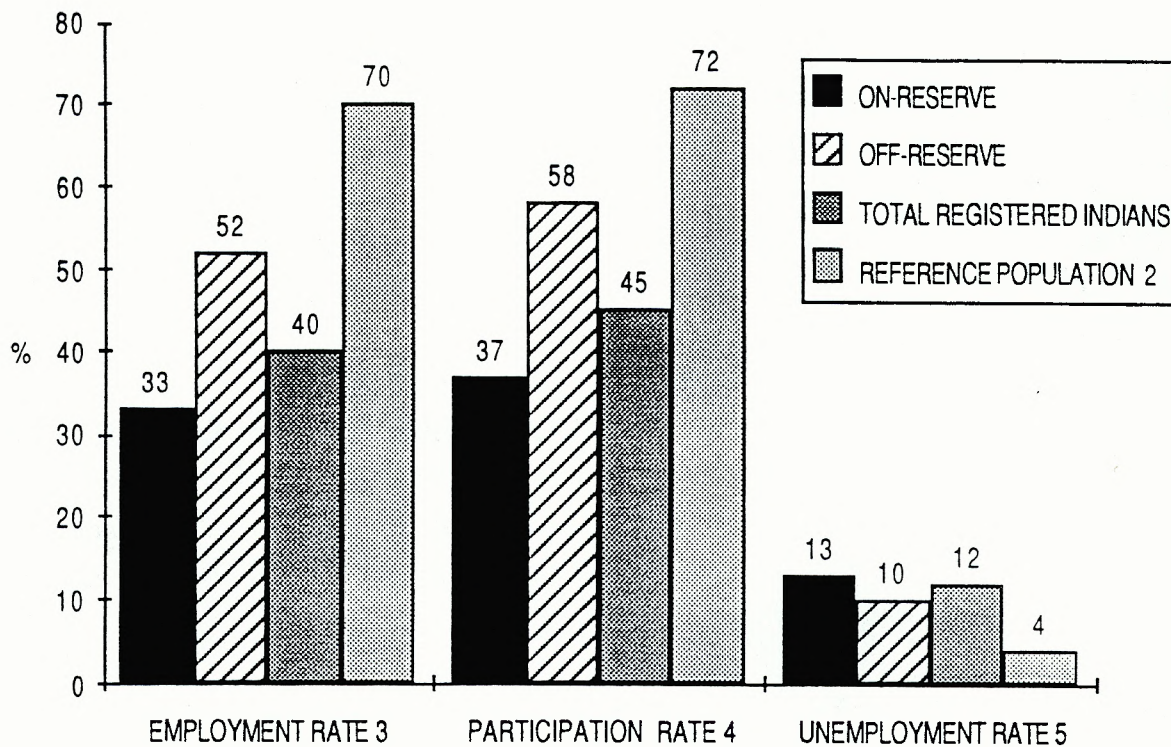
Those who were unemployed "include those persons who, during the week prior to enumeration: a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or b) had been on lay-off for 26 weeks or less and expected to return to their job; or c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less." It should be noted that this standard definition of unemployment understates the actual level of unemployment of the registered Indian population. Since many registered Indians have not been employed in more than two years they were no longer counted as unemployed. They were counted as being not in the labour force.

Being not in the labour force is a classification which "refers to persons who, in the week prior to enumeration, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply their labour services under conditions existing in the labour market." It includes persons who looked for work during the last four weeks but who were not available to start work in the reference week as well as persons who did not work, have a job, or look for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration.

Figure 7.1 and Table 7.1 present data on the participation rate which, to reiterate, are underestimates for Indians. The table shows that the labour force participation rate was much lower for registered Indians, 45 per cent, than for the reference population, 72 per cent. Indian males were just about as underrepresented, 57 per cent to 85 per cent, as were Indian females, 35 per cent to 59 per cent, but as in the non-Indian population, males were more likely than females to participate in the labour force. Under-participation by Indians was pronounced at both the younger and the older ends of the age range. Indian rates of participation most nearly approached those of non-Indians in the ages 25 to 44 years.

At all ages except for the very old, and for both males and females, those living off-reserve were more likely than those living on-reserve to participate in the labour force. The overall participation rate for Indians living off-reserve was closer to that of non-Indians than on-reserve Indians.

FIGURE 7.1
Labour Force¹ Activity
Alberta, 1981



- Notes:**
1. Population 15 Years of Age and Over who were either Employed or Unemployed during the week prior to enumeration.
 2. Reference Population = Total Population less Registered Indians.
 3. Employed as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 4. Labour Force as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 5. Unemployed as a percentage of Labour Force.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

TABLE 7.1

97

Population 15 Years of Age and Over
Showing Labour Force Activity by Age and Sex

Alberta, 1981

(Percentages)

Labour Force Activity ¹ /Sex	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages 15+
<u>Participation Rate²</u>	Registered Indians On-Reserve					Registered Indians Off-Reserve				
Male	36	71	50	3	49	68	92	74	2	77
Female	22	37	21	2	26	43	53	38	-	47
Both Sexes	29	54	36	2	37	53	66	51	1	58
<u>Unemployment Rate³</u>										
Male	21	11	6	7	13	17	7	7	-	11
Female	20	8	3	-	12	14	8	3	-	10
Both Sexes	20	10	5	5	13	15	8	5	-	10
<u>Employment Rate⁴</u>										
Male	29	63	48	3	42	56	86	68	2	68
Female	18	34	20	2	23	37	49	37	-	43
Both Sexes	23	49	34	2	33	45	61	48	1	52
<u>Participation Rate²</u>	Total Registered Indians					Reference Population⁵				
Male	46	78	55	3	57	80	97	90	23	85
Female	31	45	27	1	35	68	67	53	8	59
Both Sexes	38	59	40	2	45	74	83	72	15	72
<u>Unemployment Rate³</u>										
Male	19	10	6	7	12	6	2	2	2	3
Female	16	8	3	-	11	6	4	3	3	4
Both Sexes	18	9	5	5	12	6	3	2	2	4
<u>Employment Rate⁴</u>										
Male	37	71	52	3	50	75	95	89	23	82
Female	26	41	26	1	31	64	65	52	7	56
Both Sexes	31	54	38	2	40	70	80	70	15	70

- Notes: 1. See Glossary for definition of terms.
 2. Labour Force as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 3. Unemployed as a percentage of Labour Force.
 4. Employed as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 5. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Unemployment was higher among registered Indians than among the rest of Alberta workers. The overall unemployment rate was three times as high among Indians. Unemployment, which among non-Indians was slightly higher for females, was actually slightly higher among Indian males. Off-reserve Indian levels were between the levels of on-reserve Indians and the reference population in unemployment.

Rates of employment, which eliminate some of the understatement of the unemployment and participation rates, nevertheless follow the same basic pattern: highest for non-Indians, followed by off-reserve, then by on-reserve Indians. Employment rates reached their peak in the years 25 to 44 for both Indians and non-Indians and were higher for males than females.

Education. In Table 7.2 the relationship between level of education and labour force activity is examined. For all populations in the table, labour force participation was greater the higher the education level achieved. For those who graduated from high school or went beyond, the differences between Indians on- and off-reserve and the reference population were the smallest. Eighty-one per cent of non-Indians with this level of education were in the labour force, compared with 78 per cent of off-reserve Indians, and 72 per cent of Indians living on-reserve. At lower education levels differences were greater to the disadvantage of Indians, with those on the reserve being the most disadvantaged.

With regard to unemployment the pattern was slightly different. Off-reserve Indians experienced higher levels of unemployment at intermediate levels of education than did on-reserve Indians. Overall unemployment, at 13 per cent, was highest on-reserve, followed by off-reserve at 11 per cent and non-Indians at three per cent.

Generally, education had a more positive effect on non-Indian than Indian employment. Ten per cent of Indians with no schooling or Kindergarten only were employed versus 26 per cent of non-Indians. This reference rate was just three percentage points below the Indian rate of employment for those with Grades 1 to 8 education. In

TABLE 7.2

Population 15 Years of Age and Over Not Attending School
Showing Labour Force Activity by Highest Level of Schooling

99

Alberta, 1981

(Percentages)

	Highest Level of Schooling				
Labour Force Activity ¹	No School or Kindergarten ²	Grades 1 - 8	Grades 9 - 13	High School Plus ³	Total
<u>Registered Indians On-Reserve</u>					
Participation Rate ⁴	11	33	41	72	39
Unemployment Rate ⁵	23	17	11	9	13
Employment Rate ⁶	9	28	37	65	34
Inexperienced Proportion ⁷	-	14	15	23	17
<u>Registered Indians Off-Reserve</u>					
Participation Rate ⁴	21	41	60	78	62
Unemployment Rate ⁵	3	21	14	5	11
Employment Rate ⁶	20	33	52	74	55
Inexperienced Proportion ⁷	-	-	24	-	19
<u>Total Registered Indians</u>					
Participation Rate ⁴	12	35	48	75	47
Unemployment Rate ⁵	19	18	12	7	12
Employment Rate ⁶	10	29	42	70	41
Inexperienced Proportion ⁷	-	13	21	18	17
<u>Reference Population⁸</u>					
Participation Rate ⁴	28	49	70	81	73
Unemployment Rate ⁵	5	4	5	3	3
Employment Rate ⁶	26	47	67	79	70
Inexperienced Proportion ⁷	23	12	10	9	10

- Notes: 1. See Glossary for definition of terms.
 2. Persons with no schooling or having completed only Kindergarten.
 3. High school completion or higher.
 4. Labour Force as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 5. Unemployed as a percentage of Labour Force.
 6. Employed as a percentage of Population 15 years and over.
 7. Proportion of Unemployed that are inexperienced (See Glossary for explanation).
 8. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

fact, the reference employment rate with primary education was actually five percentage points higher than the next Indian employment rate, those with some high school education. Finally, in the highest achievement category, high school completion or higher, the gap narrowed to only a nine percentage-point Indian disadvantage. Apparently a high school diploma was something of an employment leveller.

The inexperienced proportion gives some idea of the percentage of the labour force that had not worked before or that only worked prior to 1 January 1980. This proportion was greatest for off-reserve Indians, followed by on-reserve Indians and non-Indians in that order. Inexperience was a further drawback to the Indian who sought work. He or she was not only less educated but also less likely to have work experience. Higher levels of education improved the chances of non-Indians gaining work experience more than Indians. The non-Indian inexperienced portion for those with Grade 9 through high school completion or better was just under one-half that of the corresponding Indian proportion, 19 versus 39 per cent.

Occupation. Table 7.3 provides data on the occupational mix of the experienced labour force. Occupations were divided into primary, secondary and tertiary categories. (See Glossary for an explanation of these categories). Slightly more of the Indian than non-Indian experienced labour force was in the primary sector of occupations, 12 versus nine per cent. The on-reserve proportion was 17 per cent. The reference male/female ratio of three to one was the smallest of any particular experienced labour force. The forestry and logging subcategory topped fishing and trapping in its proportion of the on-reserve Indian experienced labour force but the miscellaneous "other" primary subcategory was most prevalent for all experienced labour forces.

The proportions of Indian and non-Indian experienced labour forces in secondary occupations were identical, nine per cent. The off-reserve proportion was higher than that on-reserve by three percentage points in secondary occupations. With the exception of on-reserve Indians, women had smaller portions of their experienced workers in the secondary sector. In most cases, a distinct preference in favour of machinery, product fabricating, assembly and repairs was indicated over processing.

TABLE 7.3
Experienced Labour Force, Occupation by Sex
Alberta, 1981

Occupation (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve			Registered Indians Off-Reserve			Total Registered Indians			Reference Population ¹		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	25	2	17	10	1	6	19	2	12	12	4	9
Fishing and Trapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forestry and Logging	10	-	7	-	-	-	6	-	4	-	-	-
Other Primary	14	-	10	10	1	5	13	1	8	11	4	8
Secondary	7	9	8	17	5	11	11	7	9	14	3	9
Processing	3	-	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
Machinery, Product Fabricating, Assembly and Repairs	4	8	5	13	3	8	8	5	7	11	2	7
Tertiary	58	86	67	65	91	78	61	89	73	69	92	78
Managerial ²	12	26	17	12	23	17	12	24	17	25	25	25
Clerical	2	27	11	6	29	18	4	29	14	5	39	19
Sales	1	4	2	4	7	6	3	6	4	9	10	9
Service	8	21	13	11	29	20	10	26	16	8	16	11
Construction	28	2	19	27	1	14	28	2	17	16	1	10
Transportation, Equipment Operating	5	4	5	5	1	3	5	3	4	7	1	4
All Other Occupations	10	4	8	8	3	5	9	3	7	6	2	4
Total Experienced Labour Force (All Occupations) % No. (000)	100 3.3	100 1.7	100 5.0	100 2.2	100 2.3	100 4.5	100 5.5	100 4.0	100 9.5	100 716.7	100 469.0	100 1,185.7

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
2. Includes Technical, Social, Religious, Teaching and Medical Occupations.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.
See Glossary for definition of Experienced Labour Force and an explanation of occupation categories.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

The majority of each population's experienced labour force was in tertiary occupations, and more females than males by proportion were represented. There were 25 per cent more reference females in the tertiary sector than males and 32 per cent more Indian females. Overall, the reference tertiary proportion was five percentage points higher than the Indian proportion, although the off-reserve Indian proportion matched that of the reference force.

Among reference female tertiary experienced workers clerical jobs were the most prevalent followed by the managerial subcategory. The male proportion in this latter subcategory was identical although for reference men it was the highest subcategory proportion followed by construction. Clerical jobs were also most prominent among Indian women followed closely by service and managerial. Construction jobs were pre-eminent among Indian experienced males in the tertiary sector with managerial a distant second. (At one-half the Indian female proportion, incidently.) There were no significant variations to the Indian patterns according to on-/off-reserve location.

One interesting location difference, though, lay in the overall division of the total experienced labour force between the sexes. Off-reserve, the experienced labour force was virtually split down the middle for men and women. On-reserve, however, males made up two-thirds of the experienced labour force, a finding that bears further study.

A person's occupation may affect his chances to work, in that at any given time there is greater demand for some occupations than for others. Differential demand for occupations may also relate to whether a person is an Indian or not. Table 7.4 shows Indians, on- and off-reserve, compared with non-Indians of the experienced labour force in their occupational classification and indicates whether they were working in 1980.

Those who worked in primary occupations were more likely than those in secondary and tertiary occupations to have been out of work in 1980. Tertiary workers had a slightly greater chance of working full-time than secondary workers.

Of their respective experienced labour forces, Indians were nearly three times more likely than non-Indians not to have worked in 1980 and less likely to have worked mostly

TABLE 7.4
Experienced Labour Force¹, Work Activity by Occupation
Alberta, 1981

Work Activity/Sex (Col. %)	Occupation ²															
	Registered Indians On-Reserve				Registered Indians Off-Reserve				Total Registered Indians				Reference Population ³			
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All Occ. ⁴	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All Occ. ⁴	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All Occ. ⁴	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All Occ. ⁴
Male																
Did not work in 1980	10	-	5	7	-	-	3	5	10	5	5	6	4	2	2	2
Worked in 1980 - mostly full-time ⁵	63	74	83	77	71	83	86	82	64	79	84	79	84	93	90	89
Worked in 1980 - mostly part-time	27	19	11	16	20	14	10	13	26	16	11	15	12	5	8	8
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	0.8	0.2	1.9	3.3	0.2	0.4	1.4	2.2	1.1	0.6	3.4	5.5	93.5	100.3	493.3	716.7
Female																
Did not work in 1980	-	-	9	10	-	-	8	8	-	13	8	9	11	6	5	5
Worked in 1980 - mostly full-time ⁵	100	63	74	73	-	74	69	69	55	69	71	70	53	76	67	67
Worked in 1980 - mostly part-time	-	25	17	17	-	-	23	23	-	20	21	21	36	18	28	28
Total %	100	100	100	100	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	0.1	0.2	1.5	1.7	-	0.1	2.1	2.3	0.1	0.3	3.5	4.0	18.3	12.3	430.5	469.0
Both Sexes																
Did not work in 1980	11	8	7	8	10	7	6	7	10	7	6	8	5	2	3	3
Worked in 1980 - mostly full-time ⁵	64	71	79	76	63	80	76	75	63	75	77	75	78	91	79	81
Worked in 1980 - mostly part-time	26	22	14	16	27	13	18	18	27	17	16	17	16	6	17	16
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	0.9	0.4	3.4	5.0	0.3	0.5	3.5	4.5	1.1	0.9	6.9	9.5	101.8	112.6	923.8	1,185.7

- Notes: 1. See Glossary (Labour Force) for explanation of Experienced Labour Force.
2. See Glossary for explanation of Occupation categories.
3. Total Population less Registered Indians.
4. Also includes other occupations not classified under primary, secondary or tertiary.
5. The Census definition of full-time and part-time relates to whether most of the number of weeks worked in 1980 by respondents were full weeks of work or weeks in which they worked only part of the week.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

full-time. Primary occupations showed the largest proportion of each population's experienced labour force which did not work in 1980, 10 versus five per cent for the Indian and non-Indian labour forces, respectively. For the Indians, the tertiary sector showed the smallest percentage not working while the secondary sector was the lowest for the reference population. The highest non-Indian proportion of mostly full-time workers was also in the secondary sector while for Indians it was the tertiary. Off-reserve experienced workers, though, showed the highest proportion of full-time work, 80 per cent, in the secondary sector. Among female Indians employed in tertiary occupations, the chance of working full-time was actually four percentage points greater than among corresponding non-Indians.

Females worked part-time more than the males in each population. This was most pronounced among the reference workers (a three and one-half times differential) and much more so for off-reserve Indians than for those working on-reserve. The proportion of reference males who worked part-time was about one-half that of their Indian counterparts; conversely, Indian females worked part-time at a proportion seven percentage points less than reference population females.

7.3. Individual Income

According to Table 7.5 Indians received less income than non-Indians in Alberta. Average individual income was about \$8,300 for registered Indians as a group, but \$14,800 for non-Indians. Indians living on-reserve received \$7,700 compared with \$9,400 for those living off-reserve.

Income patterns by sex are reported in Table 7.5. Indian females were closer to their male counterparts in income received than non-Indian females were to theirs. This was especially true on-reserve. In the Alberta reference population, males' incomes averaged more than twice those of females, \$19,400 compared with \$9,000. Among Indians as a whole, men received \$10,100 on average while women averaged \$6,500. Off-reserve males received \$12,600, females, \$7,100. On-reserve males still received more income than females, about 50 per cent more (\$9,000 compared with \$6,000).

TABLE 7.5
Population 15 Years of Age and Over With Income
Showing Average Individual Income by Sex

Alberta, 1980

(\$)

	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Registered Indians On-Reserve	8,970	6,006	7,672
Registered Indians Off-Reserve	12,604	7,144	9,370
Total Registered Indians	10,146	6,542	8,346
Reference Population ¹	19,377	9,036	14,760

Note: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Figure 7.2 shows the income distribution for registered Indians and the reference population. The expected higher proportion with no incomes in the Indian population is clearly evident, (27 versus 12 per cent, respectively) but this is particularly due to the influence of the on-reserve population, among whom 31 per cent were without income. This is 55 per cent more than those in the off-reserve population, and more than two and one-half times the proportion in the reference population. At the other end of the income distribution, 49 per cent of the reference population had incomes of \$10,000 and over, compared with 22 per cent of all Indians, 18 per cent of the on-reserve and 29 per cent of the off-reserve populations.

It should be noted that census data for registered Indians do not accurately reflect their "real" income as most obtain a variety of free or subsidized services from governments. In addition, particularly on-reserve, a portion of food consumed may have been grown at home or obtained through hunting, trapping or fishing. This also does not register as "real income".

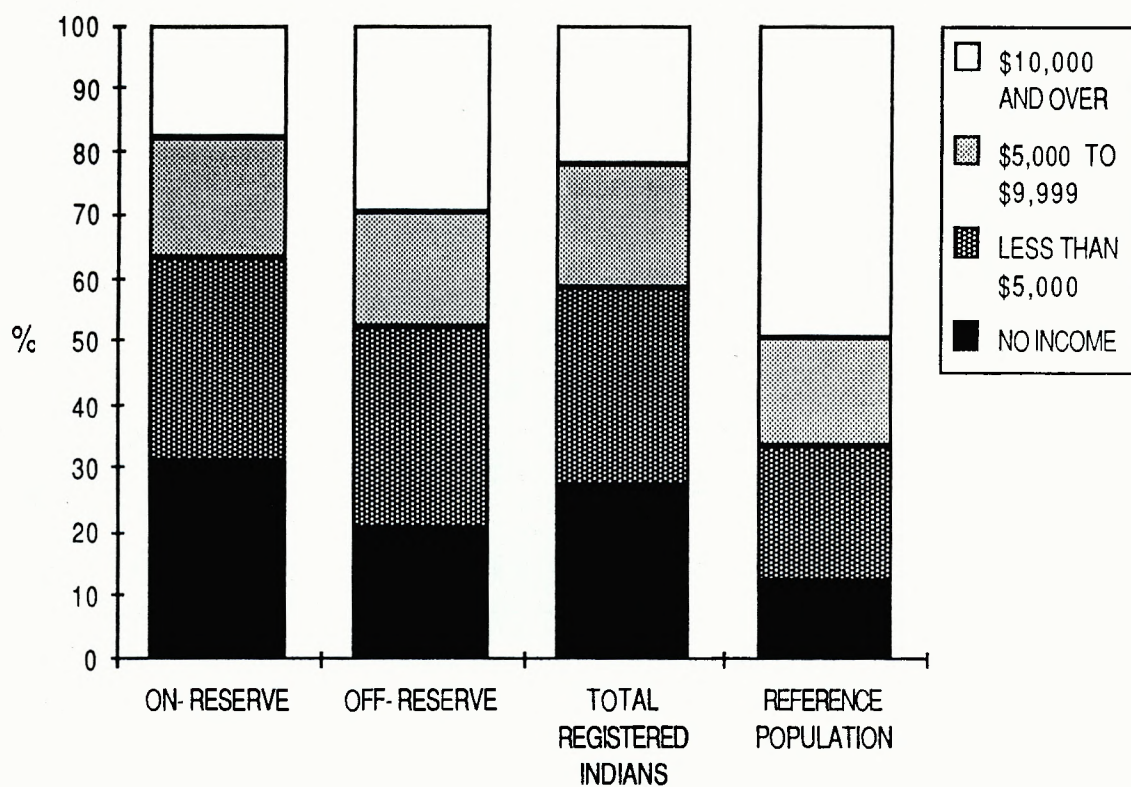
Table 7.6 provides a further breakdown of these data by age and sex. The higher proportions of Indians without income or with less than \$5,000, and of non-Indians with \$10,000 or over held for every age category, for most age categories by sex and on-/off-reserve location. In the prime wage-earning years 25 to 64, the proportion of Indians with no incomes or under \$5,000 was slightly under twice the non-Indian proportion, 48 versus 26 per cent. On the other hand, slightly less than one-half the Indian than non-Indian proportion in this age group had incomes of \$10,000 and up. These wide differentials resulted primarily from the major gaps in male Indian earnings vis-à-vis reference males. For example, four times as many Indian than non-Indian males had no income or income under \$5,000.

Off-reserve Indians had significantly higher incomes than their on-reserve counterparts. This, too, was principally due to a lag in male on-reserve income. Among those aged 25 to 64, for example, 36 per cent of males on-reserve had no income or income under \$5,000 and 38 per cent had incomes of \$10,000 and over. Respective

FIGURE 7.2

Income Distribution

Alberta, 1980



Note: Reference Population = Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

TABLE 7.6
Population 15 Years of Age and Over
Showing Total Individual Income Groups by Age and Sex
Alberta, 1980

Income Groups/Sex (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve				Registered Indians Off-Reserve				Total Registered Indians				Reference Population ¹			
	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+	15-24	25-64	65+	All Ages 15+
Male																
Without Income	44	7	-	22	23	-	-	11	37	6	-	19	14	1	1	5
With Income	56	93	100	78	77	99	100	89	63	95	99	81	86	99	99	95
Less than \$5,000	35	29	32	32	39	16	-	27	36	25	32	30	29	7	17	14
\$ 5,000 - \$9,999	10	25	64	22	17	16	58	17	12	23	64	20	18	8	43	14
\$10,000 and Over	11	38	-	25	21	66	-	44	15	46	-	31	39	83	39	67
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	2.8	3.6	0.5	6.9	1.4	1.5	0.1	2.9	4.2	5.1	0.5	9.8	241.0	536.2	67.3	844.6
Female																
Without Income	52	33	-	39	29	23	-	25	43	29	-	34	21	22	2	20
With Income	48	67	99	61	71	77	94	75	57	71	98	67	79	78	98	80
Less than \$5,000	34	33	34	33	44	29	29	35	38	31	33	34	37	24	33	29
\$ 5,000 - \$9,999	9	17	60	16	16	20	65	19	12	18	61	17	20	18	47	21
\$10,000 and Over	6	17	-	11	11	28	-	21	8	21	-	15	22	37	17	31
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	3.0	3.5	0.4	6.9	1.9	3.0	0.1	5.0	4.9	6.4	0.5	11.9	226.1	502.0	78.2	806.4
Both Sexes																
Without Income	48	20	-	31	26	16	-	20	40	19	-	27	17	11	2	12
With Income	52	80	99	69	74	84	93	80	60	81	99	73	83	89	98	88
Less than \$5,000	34	31	32	32	42	25	33	32	37	29	33	32	33	15	26	21
\$ 5,000 - \$9,999	9	21	63	19	16	19	60	18	12	20	62	19	19	13	45	17
\$10,000 and Over	8	28	4	18	15	40	-	29	11	33	4	22	31	61	27	49
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	5.9	7.0	0.9	13.8	3.3	4.5	0.2	7.9	9.1	11.5	1.1	21.7	467.2	1,038.2	145.5	1,650.9

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

proportions for off-reserve males were 16 and 66 per cent.

Education. It has long been maintained that formal education increases the likelihood of greater income for the average person. Although we must view the findings presented in Table 7.7 with caution because they do not control for age, the table seems to support the view that education and income are positively correlated.

Each population showed smaller percentages of those without income who had achieved high school completion or more. The highest proportions with incomes of \$20,000 and up were those with the highest educational category. For example, among Indians with high school completion or higher, 37 per cent had no income or less than \$5,000 and 16 per cent received \$20,000 and up. With Grades 9 to 13, the respective proportions were 62 and five per cent.

The proportion of non-Indians with Grades 9 to 13 receiving \$20,000 or more incomes surpassed the proportion of Indians with such an income level who had achieved high school completion or higher. More than twice the proportion of non-Indians than Indians with high school completion or more had incomes of \$20,000 and up, 33 versus 16 per cent, respectively. This may be even more significant in that more than twice as many non-Indians had achieved high school or more in Alberta, 54 versus 24 per cent.

The patterns for Indians living on- and off-reserve were similar, although off-reserve Indians generally fared better.

These findings emphasize the need for greater access to education for Indians. Opportunity to earn substantial income was linked closely with educational opportunities for the Indian population, especially for those who have moved from the reserve.

Occupation. Average income is presented in Table 7.8 for on- and off-reserve Indians and non-Indians, both male and female, for various occupations. Statistical information within occupational groups associates education to income. Should Indians choose to be involved in these occupational groups in a more representative proportion to the general population, Indian individuals will require the necessary education.

TABLE 7.7

Population 15 Years of Age and Over Not Attending School
Showing Individual Income Groups by Highest Level of Schooling

Alberta, 1980

110

Income Groups (Col. %)	No School or Kg. ¹	Grades 1 - 8	Grades 9 - 13	High School Plus ²	Total	No School or Kg. ¹	Grades 1 - 8	Grades 9 - 13	High School Plus ²	Total
	Registered Indians On-Reserve					Registered Indians Off-Reserve				
Without Income	18	30	36	11	28	16	27	18	9	17
With Income	82	70	64	89	72	81	73	82	91	83
Under \$ 5,000	37	34	30	29	32	-	33	38	26	32
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	37	22	15	19	21	55	20	20	16	19
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	11	14	28	14	-	13	17	30	21
\$20,000 and Over	-	3	4	13	5	-	7	7	19	12
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.3	5.2	3.8	1.9	12.1	0.2	1.5	2.2	2.4	6.3
	Total Registered Indians					Reference Population ³				
Without Income	18	29	29	10	24	17	14	14	7	11
With Income	82	71	71	90	76	83	86	86	93	89
Under \$ 5,000	34	34	33	27	32	28	24	22	15	18
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	39	21	17	17	20	38	28	19	15	18
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	12	15	29	17	12	20	27	30	28
\$20,000 and Over	2	4	5	16	7	6	14	18	33	25
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.4	6.6	6.0	4.3	18.3	15.6	183.1	424.1	744.5	1,367.4

Notes: 1. Persons with no schooling or having completed only Kindergarten.

2. High school completion or higher.

3. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

TABLE 7.8
Average Income of Experienced Labour Force with Income, by Sex and Occupation
Alberta, 1980
(\$)

Occupation	Registered Indians On-Reserve			Registered Indians Off-Reserve			Total Registered Indians			Reference Population ¹		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Total Experienced Labour Force (All Occupations)	11,296	8,420	10,331	13,955	8,717	11,336	12,356	8,588	10,802	20,681	10,486	16,722
Total Primary Occupations	10,134	-	9,994	12,915	4,186	11,806	10,734	4,229	10,420	16,965	7,210	15,612
Fishing and Trapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,576	-	14,947
Forestry and Logging	6,889	-	6,844	-	-	-	6,930	-	6,800	15,118	6,228	14,401
Total Secondary Occupations	9,297	9,577	9,407	13,633	8,086	12,455	11,931	8,995	11,063	18,669	9,761	17,716
Total Tertiary Occupations	12,429	8,431	10,719	14,748	8,741	11,251	13,420	8,612	10,988	22,106	10,635	16,829
Managerial ²	17,499	10,592	13,908	21,131	11,664	14,864	18,924	11,169	14,365	29,423	14,444	23,518
Clerical	13,223	8,038	8,779	11,883	9,560	9,954	12,375	8,928	9,475	15,273	10,079	10,987
Sales	8,057	6,883	7,391	11,417	7,863	9,216	10,267	7,574	8,643	21,073	8,653	15,754
Service	10,097	7,488	8,636	9,042	5,700	6,629	9,611	6,352	7,483	14,051	7,019	10,065
Construction	11,150	6,159	10,957	14,551	11,774	14,422	12,463	8,585	12,301	18,356	11,700	18,206
All Other Occupations	8,932	6,338	8,566	9,161	11,650	9,779	9,009	9,020	9,011	15,544	9,035	14,483

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
2. Includes Technical, Social, Religious, Teaching and Medical Occupations.
See Glossary for explanation of Occupations and Experienced Labour Force.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

Nevertheless, the comparisons in Table 7.8 are instructive to show to what extent Indian incomes were lower than those of non-Indians in similar occupations. The difference in primary occupation income was \$6,200 in favour of non-Indian men, a 58 per cent difference, and \$3,000, or 70 per cent, for non-Indian females. The non-Indian male and female advantages in the secondary sector were \$6,700 (56 per cent) and \$800 (nine per cent); in the tertiary sector the male and female reference advantages were \$8,700 (65 per cent) and \$2,000 (23 per cent).

Compared with their male counterparts, reference females were as severely disadvantaged as Indians in most categories. For example, reference male sales workers received \$12,400, or 144 per cent, more than their female counterparts.

Indians received less than non-Indians in all occupational categories, except female on-reserve service workers and female off-reserve construction workers. In a few occupations, such as service occupations, on-reserve Indian incomes were higher than those of their off-reserve counterparts, but usually the advantage lay with Indians living off-reserve.

Source of Income. Another way to inspect these relationships is to look at source of income by residence. In Table 7.9 data from the 1981 Census shows that 12 per cent of the reference population had no income in the reported year; 27 per cent of registered Indians were without income in the same year. Among Indians living on-reserve, 31 per cent had no income and were most likely of all to be in this situation. Living away from a reserve, Indians were more likely to have had income and, indeed 80 per cent did so.

Twenty-three per cent of Indians living on-reserve reported their major source of income to be government transfer payments. These include family allowances, old age security pension and guaranteed income supplement and benefits from the Canada Pension Plan, unemployment insurance and income from other government sources. With 15 per cent claiming them, off-reserve Indians were less likely to depend on transfer payments as their major income. The least likely were non-Indians at eight per cent.

When employment income was considered, the group most likely to report employment income as their major source was the non-Indians with 73 per cent, followed

TABLE 7.9
Population 15 Years of Age and Over
Showing Major Source of Income

Alberta, 1980

Major Source of Income ¹	(Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Popula- tion ²
Without Income		31	20	27	12
With Income		69	80	73	88
Employment Income ³		42	63	49	73
Government Transfer Income ⁴		23	15	20	8
Miscellaneous Income		4	2	3	7
Total		100	100	100	100

- Notes:**
1. See Glossary for definition of terms.
 2. Total Population less Registered Indians.
 3. Income received as wages and salaries, net income from non-farm self-employment, and/or net farm income.
 4. Income received from all cash transfer payments from all levels of government. Included are family allowances, old age security pensions and guaranteed income supplements from the Canada Pension Plan, Unemployment Insurance and welfare payments, together with income from other government sources.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

by off-reserve Indians at 63 per cent, and Indians living on a reserve at 42 per cent. This demonstrates the great importance of government payments as a source of income for Indians, especially on-reserve.

7.4 Economic Family Income

In the interpretation of economic family income data we must remember that the Indian economic family size was typically greater than that of the non-Indian family. Even with this proviso, we may see that registered Indian economic families received much less on average than non-Indian economic families. Moreover, off-reserve economic families averaged higher income than on-reserve families. In Canada as a whole, off-reserve economic families received 72 per cent of non-Indian family income; on-reserve families received only 55 per cent as much as non-Indians.

In Alberta, where provincial population economic family income, at \$31,100, was the highest in Canada, Indian economic families received \$18,400, or 59 per cent as much. Typically, on-reserve Indian economic families received a smaller percentage of non-Indian family income (52 per cent) than off-reserve families (67 per cent) in Alberta.

Indian economic families in Alberta had the fourth-highest income of Indians in any province or territory, behind only those in British Columbia, Quebec and the Yukon. (Table 7.7, Canada Overview).

Table 7.10 shows that in Alberta as a whole, there was a general tendency for larger economic families to receive more. This seems to be due to several factors. Other things being equal, the more wage earners in a family, the more total family income. Among Indians, where transfer payments were a larger than average proportion of income, the family received benefits directly proportional to the number of persons in the family. In some cases larger numbers generated incentive to work more and receive more. For many persons income increased with age; the size of the family also followed this same pattern.

TABLE 7.10
Economic Families Showing Average Size of Families by Income Group
Alberta, 1980

Income Group	Average Size of Economic Families ¹			
	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ²
Economic Families Without Income	2.5	-	2.7	2.9
Economic Families With Income	5.1	3.8	4.5	3.3
Less Than \$5,000	4.5	3.8	4.2	3.2
\$5,000 - \$9,999	4.6	3.5	4.2	2.8
\$10,000 - \$14,999	5.2	3.6	4.7	2.9
\$15,000 - \$19,999	5.5	3.9	4.8	3.1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	5.5	3.8	4.5	3.3
\$30,000 and Over	5.9	3.9	4.7	3.5
Total Economic Families	5.1	3.8	4.5	3.3

Notes: 1. See Glossary for definition of terms.
2. Total Population less Registered Indians.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

This tendency was generally true among non-Indians and among Indians living on- and off-reserve. The reference and the off-reserve Indian families showed a higher average number of persons in the lowest income category, a decrease to the \$5,000-9,999 level, and a general increase thereafter in family size as income increased. On-reserve families increased quite regularly in size from the lowest income category upward. This was perhaps due to the nature of transfers and income on the reserve. On-reserve economic families were also much larger than either off-reserve Indian or Alberta families in general.

In Table 7.11 these data were examined from a different perspective. Rather than looking at average family size for each income category, this table looked at the proportion of economic families of each size that were located in each income category.

It is clear that non-Indian economic families proportionally outnumbered Indian economic families in each of the higher income brackets, and that Indian families proportionally outnumbered non-Indians in each of the lower income categories. There were no surprises in this comparison. Among non-Indian families, 34 per cent of two person families received \$30,000 and more. That percentage increased sharply to 49 per cent for three to four person families and, again, to 57 per cent of families containing five to six persons. The numbers did not increase after that. Among Indian families in the highest income category the largest increase shown between family size groups was between three to four person families, which had 17 per cent receiving \$30,000 or more, and five to six person families with 22 per cent. More three to four person families, 18 per cent, received less than \$5,000 per annum than any other category.

Both on- and off-reserve families had the highest proportion receiving \$30,000 and more per year among families of five to six persons. For both categories of residence, the greatest proportion receiving under \$5,000 was among families of three to four persons.

These findings verify those of the previous section, that larger families received somewhat greater income. However, they show that there was a distinct threshold between families of three to four persons and five to six persons, and that after this point, larger families did not receive higher income.

TABLE 7.11
Economic Families¹ Showing Income Group by Family Size
Alberta, 1980

Income Group (Col. %)	2 Person Families	3&4 Person Families	5&6 Person Families	7+ Person Families	All Economic Families	2 Person Families	3&4 Person Families	5&6 Person Families	7+ Person Families	All Economic Families
Registered Indians On-Reserve						Registered Indians Off-Reserve				
Economic Families Without Income	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Families With Income										
Under \$5,000	18	22	14	11	16	10	14	13	-	12
\$5,000 - \$9,999	36	20	21	16	21	20	18	15	-	18
\$10,000 - \$14,999	19	21	16	24	20	13	10	10	-	11
\$15,000 - \$19,999	10	13	13	16	13	12	13	10	-	13
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9	13	16	16	14	20	22	24	-	21
\$30,000 and Over	-	10	18	16	13	24	23	27	16	25
Total Economic Families %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	0.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	4.4	1.0	1.7	1.0	0.2	3.9
Total Registered Indians						Reference Population ²				
Economic Families Without Income	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Families With Income										
Under \$5,000	13	18	13	11	14	4	4	3	4	4
\$5,000 - \$9,999	26	19	19	15	20	11	5	4	4	7
\$10,000 - \$14,999	15	15	14	22	16	14	7	6	7	10
\$15,000 - \$19,999	12	13	12	18	13	13	10	8	8	10
\$20,000 - \$29,999	16	18	19	16	17	24	25	22	20	24
\$30,000 and Over	17	17	22	19	19	34	49	57	56	45
Total Economic Families %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	1.6	3.2	2.2	1.3	8.4	210.7	259.0	88.2	9.5	567.4

Notes: 1. See Glossary for definition of terms.
2. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding or to data suppression due to small numbers.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

7.5 Conclusion

The data in this chapter present an overview of registered Indians in the Alberta work-force. Low Indian labour force participation and employment should be matters of concern especially given the connections between lower levels of education and lower average annual income. This situation is likely to have an impact on the demand for housing, necessity for social services and conflict with the law, the topics of the remaining three chapters, respectively, of this report.

8. HOUSING

8.1 Introduction

It is said that a man's home is his castle. Yet some "castles" are very different from other castles. Some homes serve their occupants well, keeping them sheltered from the elements, providing security and comfort for those who live within. Others are in poor repair, inadequately heated, and, although their occupants get used to them and may even grow sentimental toward them, do not serve or protect them as well.

Canadians spend much of their lives in their homes. The conditions in homes are an important aspect of general lifestyle. They express a person's tastes, preferences, and means. They are also important indicators of the status of the family that lives in them.

Yet homes are more than just expressions of taste or status symbols. They may be a factor in the survival of a family. The climate of Alberta is harsh and unforgiving in winter. Good heating is essential for life itself. If the heating plant in a home is antiquated, improperly maintained, or otherwise unsafe, it may contribute to serious, even fatal accidents. As observed in Chapter Five, these accidents occur far more often to Indians than to others.

In this chapter we shall consider data on the housing of registered Indians in Alberta. Length of occupancy and tenure of housing, as well as such economic considerations as gross rent and major payments as a proportion of household income will be examined. Period of construction, crowding, the need for major repairs, and the presence of central heating and bathrooms were also topics which were considered by means of special tabulations from the 1981 Census. For definitions of "dwelling" and "occupied private dwelling" see the Glossary.

It should be noted that for this report the number of occupied private dwellings equals the number of private households, and that the housing conditions for each population refer to its households. As well, a registered Indian occupied private dwelling is a private dwelling occupied by a registered Indian household. (See section 3.3 on households).

8.2 Length of Occupancy

Length of occupancy "refers to the period of continuous occupancy of the dwelling by the person responsible for household payments or, if such person is not present in the household, the individual completing the dwelling questions" (c.f. Glossary). According to Table 8.1, Indian private households were more likely than others to have lived in a dwelling less than one year. In fact, thirty-three per cent of Indian private households did so, compared with 26 per cent of others. This relatively temporary residential status was supported as a characteristic of Indians by the smaller proportion, 13 per cent, of registered Indian households which had lived in their dwellings over 10 years, compared with 21 per cent for the reference population.

The major group responsible for this difference, however, was the off-reserve Indian households. Almost half of this group, 47 per cent, had lived in their current dwellings less than one year. The on-reserve Indian households actually were slightly more stable than the households in the reference population, and far more stable in residence than those living away from the reserves. Only seven per cent of off-reserve Indian households had lived as long as six to 10 years in their dwelling; only six per cent had lived more than 10 years in their dwelling. It may be in part that the scarcity of dwellings on-reserve contributes to residential stability. In any case, we see that Indian households as a group were not more mobile than the households in the reference population; only Indian households living off the reserve were more mobile. Higher off-reserve mobility may result, in part, from the difficulties Indians experience finding suitable, inexpensive dwellings.

8.3 Tenure

Sociologists and others have long contended that those who own their homes have a greater stake in society and are likely to be more stable, responsible citizens. It is in some respects difficult to evaluate whether Indians own their homes in the conventional sense. When Indians live off-reserve, they are subject to the same potential conditions of tenure as anyone else: they may own or rent. A dwelling is classed as owned even if it is not paid

TABLE 8.1
Private Households by Length of Occupancy
Alberta, 1981

Length of Occupancy (Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ¹
Less than 1 year	19	47	33	26
1 - 2 years	17	25	21	21
3 - 5 years	27	15	21	19
6 - 10 years	16	7	12	13
Over 10 years	20	6	13	21
Total Households %	100	100	100	100
No. (000)	4.7	4.6	9.4	748.9

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

for. It may also be owned even if situated on rented or leased land or if it is part of a condominium development. A dwelling is classified as rented even if it is provided without cash rent or at a reduced rent or if the dwelling is part of a co-operative (c.f. Glossary).

However, when Indians live on-reserve, there are some patterns of ownership that are unique. For instance, they may live in housing owned communally by the band. In this case, individuals may either consider they are renting their dwelling or they may, as part of the band, consider themselves as actually owning the home.

These difficulties aside, Table 8.8 of the Canada Overview gives data on the percentage of householders who claimed to own their own home. Half of Alberta registered Indian households owned their homes, compared with 63 per cent of non-Indian households in the province. Registered Indian households on the reserve actually were more likely, 71 per cent, to have owned a home than those in the reference population. It was the Indian households off the reserve that had very low rates of ownership, 29 per cent. Even with this in mind, Indian households in Alberta tended to have lower rates of ownership than Indian households in Canada as a whole. On-reserve ownership in Alberta, in fact, was the lowest among the provinces. It was not clear to what extent these data were distorted on reserves by special ownership arrangements which were not comparable across provinces. Off-reserve ownership in Alberta, however, was also among the lowest of the provinces; only Manitoba was lower.

8.4 Major Payments for Owners and Renters

Major payments for owners include electricity, fuel, water, mortgage payments, and property and school taxes (c.f. 1981 Census Dictionary). The proportion of total household income which such major payments constitute, is an indicator of how strapped a family is by such payments. It also indicates how much of their total income is left over for discretionary use.

In Alberta, off-reserve Indian households paid a somewhat higher proportion of household income for such payments than did non-Indian households in the province

(Canada Overview, Table 8.9). Major payments of 25 per cent and over of annual household income are conceded to represent a financial burden. Twenty-three per cent of Alberta's Indian households were at this level compared with 30 per cent of non-Indian households. The Alberta non-Indian proportion, incidentally, was the highest of any province or territory in Canada, reflecting tight housing market conditions.

Among the Indian populations the situation was much more severe off-reserve, although again the circumstances are not easily comparable. Fully 41 per cent of off-reserve households paid 25 per cent or more of 1980 household income in major payments versus only 16 per cent of on-reserve households.

Exactly the same patterns may be observed in the payment of gross rent that we have just seen in major payments of owners. The proportion of off-reserve Indian households which paid 25 per cent or more of 1980 household income in gross rent was higher than the non-Indian proportion, 57 versus 48 per cent, and significantly higher than the 17 per cent of on-reserve households paying this much. Both Albertans in general and off-reserve Indians paid more than the national average for rents. This, of course, reduces the amount of disposable household income for other things. (See Canada Overview, Table 8.10).

8.5 Age of Housing

Table 8.2 presents data on the age of residential construction for Alberta. The residential housing stock for Indians on-reserve was newer than the homes of both Indians off-reserve and those of non-Indians. On the reserves, 61 per cent of dwellings were built in the decade prior to the 1981 Census, compared with 45 per cent for off-reserve Indian dwellings and 47 per cent for non-Indians. Fewer on-reserve dwellings were more than 20 years old as well. Only 18 per cent of on-reserve dwellings were built before 1961. By comparison, 32 per cent of non-Indians lived in dwellings which were built before 1961. Off-reserve Indians were most likely to live in older residences, with 34 per cent of their dwellings constructed before 1961.

TABLE 8.2
Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction
Alberta, 1981

Period of Construction	(Col. %)	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ¹
Before 1921		1	5	3	4
1921 - 45		3	11	7	8
1946 - 60		14	18	16	20
1961 - 70		22	21	22	21
1971 - 81		61	45	53	47
Total Occupied Private Dwellings		100	100	100	100

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

8.6 Condition of Housing

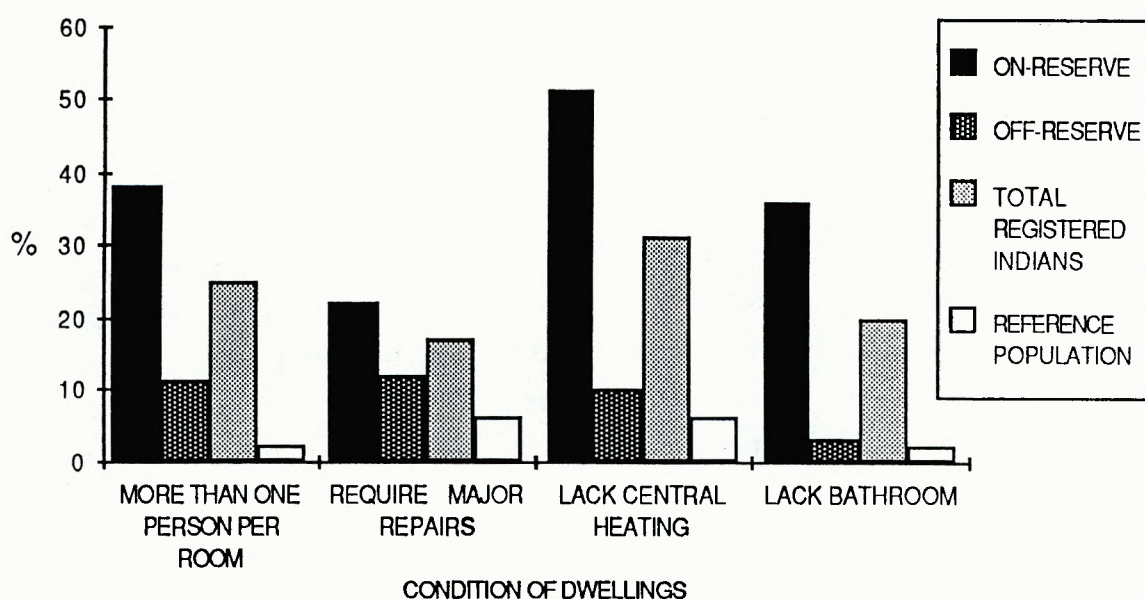
Figure 8.1 depicts graphically various undesirable housing conditions, including crowding, the need for major repairs, the lack of central heating systems and the lack of a bathroom in dwellings. These data are also presented in Table 8.3 for registered Indians on- and off-reserve, and for the non-Indian population of Alberta.

Crowding. Crowding was measured by the number of persons per room. By this standard registered Indians on-reserve in Alberta were among the most crowded in Canada (Canada Overview, Table 8.1). They had 1.2 persons per room, compared with 1.0 person per room among registered Indians on-reserve throughout the entire country. Indian off-reserve dwellings in Alberta were considerably less crowded, 0.7 persons per room, but they were still more crowded than non-Indians in the province, 0.5 persons per room. According to Table 8.3, 38 per cent of dwellings on-reserve in Alberta were crowded, having more than 1.0 person per room. This compared with 11 per cent of Indian dwellings off-reserve and only two per cent of non-Indian dwellings in Alberta. Indians had larger families and more relatives living with them than non-Indians. This was especially true on-reserve. (c.f. Chapter 3.) It would be interesting to know to what degree these living arrangements were dictated by preference and to what degree by financial necessity.

Need for Major Repairs. Not only were Indians on-reserve living in more crowded conditions than others, but, despite their newness, their dwellings were more often in need of major repair. Indian dwellings on-reserve in 22 per cent of cases need such repairs, compared with 12 per cent of Indian dwellings off-reserve and only six per cent of non-Indian places of residence. These differences may be due to a number of factors including cultural factors, shortage of money to pay for repairs, lack of skill to perform repairs on one's home and lack of skilled workmen on-reserve.

Central Heating. Most non-Indian households in Alberta, 94 per cent, lived in dwellings with central heating. Indians living away from the reserves had central heating in their dwellings in 90 per cent of cases, a figure quite similar to non-Indians. This was

FIGURE 8.1
Indicators of Housing Conditions
Alberta, 1981



Note: Reference Population = Total Population less Registered Indians

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada

TABLE 8.3
Indicators of Housing Conditions
Alberta, 1981

Housing Conditions	Per Cent of Occupied Private Dwellings of:			
	Registered Indians On-Reserve	Registered Indians Off-Reserve	Total Registered Indians	Reference Population ¹
Crowded ²	38	11	25	2
In Need of Major Repairs	22	12	17	6
Lack Central Heating System	51	10	31	6
Lack Bathroom	36	3	20	2
Total Number of Occupied Private Dwellings	4,730	4,650	9,380	748.9 ³

Notes: 1. Total Population less Registered Indians.
2. Percentage of Dwellings with More than One Person per Room.
3. In Thousands.

Source: INAC Customized Data Based on 1981 Census of Canada.

not true for Indian on-reserve dwellings, however, where 51 per cent of dwellings did not have this important feature.

Alberta winters are long and cold. Heating may be needed for some days in every month of the year. The necessity to rely on expedients other than central heating, such as heating stoves, cooking stoves and space heaters is an inconvenience for many households. Moreover, these less convenient types of heating are often faulty and sometimes contribute to fatal accidents in the home involving fire and toxic gases.

Bathroom in the Home. A bathroom in the home is a basic amenity enjoyed by household members in 98 per cent of Alberta non-Indian dwellings. It is also a useful indicator of the availability of running water. Table 8.3 shows that 97 per cent of Indian households living off-reserve also had bathrooms in their homes. However, 36 per cent of Indian dwellings on-reserve did not have a bathroom in the home. This is a major difference and indicates the degree of inconvenience in housing which many Indians living on-reserve still must face.

8.7 Conclusion

The general picture presented by these data is one of inadequate housing on-reserve. Although Indians off-reserve usually lived in housing that was not quite up to non-Indian standards, the differences were much less than between on-reserve housing and all other housing. Indians on-reserve, despite somewhat newer housing, were more crowded in their homes, lived in places which were more likely to need substantial repairs, usually lacked central heating and in many cases did not have a bathroom.

These conditions should be a high priority for improvement and are such a priority among the residents of many reserves at this time. They are not only an inconvenience but may adversely affect the health of reserve residents.

In spite of such conditions Indians living on-reserve were more stable in the occupancy of their dwellings than other people in Alberta. The advantages of stability, familiarity and ownership, seemed to tip the balance for many of the Indians who continued residence on the reserve.

9. SOCIAL SERVICES

9.1 Introduction

The nature and extent of social services required by a population are highly indicative of standards that the population is able to maintain in other areas of its life. They reflect, for instance, employment and income levels, standards of health and housing and the stability of family life.

Social welfare data on registered Indians are available for single years between 1971-72 and 1982-83. This chapter will consider the adoption of Indian children, and other services such as children in care, social assistance and residential care on-reserve and on-Crown land.

9.2 Adoption of Indian Children

In Alberta, as elsewhere, the adoption of Indian children by non-Indians has been a contentious issue in recent years. Table 9.1 presents data on adoption of Indian children in Alberta. Single years are presented between 1971 and 1981. The number of children adopted has increased sevenfold during these years. In 1971, 10 children were adopted; in 1981, 83. The greatest number adopted was 94 in 1980.

Over the years there was a tendency for fewer of the children to be adopted by registered Indians and more by others. In the early 1970s, when the number of adopted children was small, approximately 50 per cent were adopted by Indians. By the early 1980s, with increasing numbers of adopted children, the great majority, in 1980 over 80 per cent, were adopted by others.

Table 9.1
Registered Indian Children¹
Adopted by Registered Indians and by Others
Alberta, 1971 - 1981

Year	<u>Total</u> Number	<u>Adopted By</u>	
		Registered Indians %	Others %
1971	10	50.0	50.0
1972	14	42.9	57.1
1973	10	50.0	50.0
1974	22	40.9	59.1
1975	27	59.3	40.7
1976	27	29.6	70.4
1977	25	44.0	56.0
1978	41	36.6	63.4
1979	91	25.3	74.7
1980	94	19.2	80.8
1981	83	32.5	67.5

Note: 1. Refers to registered Indians aged zero to 16 regardless of whether they lived on- or off-reserve.

Source: Statistics Canada, Social Security, National Programs, Other Programs, 1982, Cat. No. 86-511, January 1983, p. 87.

9.3 Other Social Services

Children in Care. The number of children in care among registered Indians living on-reserve and on-Crown lands in Alberta has traditionally been very high. (Table 9.3 of the Canada Overview). In 1976-77, 1,832 children were in care in Alberta. This represented 13.4 per cent of all registered Indian children aged zero to 16 years in the province, the highest proportion of any province or territory. It is evident that since 1976-77 this number has decreased substantially, both in absolute terms and compared with other provinces. By 1982-83 only 756 Indian children, or 5.3 per cent of Indian children aged zero to 16 years, were in care.¹ At these levels, Alberta was still above the national average, 4.8 per cent, but was no longer the leading province.

Social Assistance. Another measure of the extent of social services is the percentage of the population receiving social assistance. The proportion of registered Indians on-reserve or on-Crown land receiving social assistance was above the Canadian average in Alberta but seemed to decrease somewhat between 1972-73 and 1980-81 (Canada Overview, Table 9.1). It should be remembered, however, that these data were estimated from partial data and by at least two different methods over the time period.²

Adults in Residential Care. Lastly, we examine the number of adult (aged 16 and over) registered Indians in residential care living on-reserve or on-Crown land in Alberta.³ The number of such adults in care was small. There were 42 in 1980-81, and only 32 in 1982-83. (Canada Overview, Table 9.2). It should be noted that numbers for Indian adults in residential care on-reserve or on-Crown land may be low due to inadequate facilities and due to a long-standing tradition of family care for the elderly.

9.4 Conclusion

The general pattern of social welfare service utilization is somewhat inconsistent. The number of children adopted each year has increased greatly in Alberta, although recently more of these children have been adopted by non-Indians. On the other hand, children in care on reserves, the percentage of the population receiving social assistance on

reserves, and the number of adults in residential care on-reserve all have decreased over the past few years.

Notes for Chapter 9

1. Data calculated from: Statistics Canada, Social Security, National Programs, Other Programs, 1982, Catalogue No. 86-511, January 1983, p. 83 (for 1976-77 to 1980-81); Social Development Directorate, INAC, March 1985 and "Registered Indian Population by Age, Sex and Residence" for Canada and the Regions, 31/12/81 and 31/12/82, Reserves and Trusts, INAC (for 1981-82 and 1982-83). Data on Northwest Territories are not included (c.f. Canada Overview, Table 9.3).
2. Statistics Canada, Social Security, National Programs, Other Programs, 1982, Catalogue No. 86-511, January 1983, pp. 66 and 74. "Social assistance" is provided by INAC for individuals and families who satisfy the need criteria. Such assistance includes financial allowances for necessities such as food, clothing, fuel and utilities and rent or housing loan payments. It may also, in special circumstances, include assistance for items beyond basic needs like furniture, medical dietary supplements and additional food allowances for pregnant women and residents of isolated areas. The coverage excludes those maintained by other government assistance programs such as those for education, child welfare and training allowances, as well as those for social security such as unemployment insurance and old age security. The data are from two sources: partial data on the number of social assistance beneficiaries of responding bands together with payment statistics; and case unit data. These two sources yield somewhat different proportions (c.f. Canada Overview, Table 9.1).
3. Social Development Directorate, INAC, March 1985. Coverage includes registered Indian adults who were resident on a reserve or on-Crown land prior to the provision of care and who required the equivalent of Canada Assistance Plan Type I and Type II care (c.f. Canada Overview, Table 9.2).

10. JUSTICE

10.1 Introduction

Equal justice before the law is a basic right in any democratic society. Canadians have long prided themselves on providing fair and equal justice to the diverse ethnic groups that make up the country. Nevertheless, many Indians and other Native Canadians have felt that police and judicial discretion do not work in their favour. Patterns of incarceration seem to indicate that persons of Native background more often find their way behind bars than persons of other ethnic origins. Barriers of custom, remoteness and poverty operate so that Indians appear to receive more severe treatment than others for the offences they commit.

In this chapter data from Correctional Service Canada will be examined which bear on some of these issues. Data will be presented on inmates, patterns and trends in incarceration, and major offences committed in the Province of Alberta. They focus on inmates who are serving sentences of two or more years and are, therefore, in federal institutions, although if no space is available they may be serving their time in provincial penitentiaries. It should be noted that the statistics include a larger population than registered Indians only. In addition, non-status Indians and those whose status is undefined are included in a combined group called North American Indians. As a result, Indian totals in the justice data should not be attributed to registered Indians only. The reference population, furthermore, is the total inmate population less North American Indians.

10.2 Characteristics of Inmates

The number of North American Indians who were imprisoned during the years 1974 to 1983 is shown in Table 10.1. (These data are for inmates who identified Alberta as their last known residence prior to admission). In general, increase in the number of incarcerations was gradual to 1979, followed by a slight decrease until 1981, then a rapid increase until 1983.

TABLE 10.1
Inmate Population as of 31 December
Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983

Year	North American Indians ²	Reference Population ³
1974	102	823
1975	118	839
1976	126	895
1977	130	863
1978	124	860
1979	136	903
1980	128	914
1981	124	992
1982	144	1,212
1983	177	1,312

- Notes:**
1. Province of residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Includes registered and non-status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 3. Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (Note 2).

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

In the reference population there was generally a gradual increase until 1980, then more rapid increase until 1983. Increase in incarcerations was slightly more rapid among North American Indians than the reference population so that the ratio of North American Indian to reference population inmates rose from .12 to .13 during this 1974 to 1983 period.

Table 10.2 presents data on the age and sex composition of Alberta prison inmates. The numbers were aggregated for the years 1974 to 1983. Among non-Indian prisoners females were slightly younger than males; among North American Indians, males in prison were more youthful than females. The youngest age category, 16 to 19 years, contains 16 per cent of all North American Indian male inmates, but only nine per cent of all females. Among those aged 40 to 49 years were found 11 per cent of North American Indian female prisoners, but only three per cent of North American Indian male prisoners, and, incidentally, only one per cent of female reference inmates. The preponderance of youthful non-Indian female prisoners is often ascribed to society's protective attitude toward girls in trouble. Either society is less protectively disposed toward North American Indian females, or young North American Indian males are incarcerated in such great numbers that they alter the relationship.

10.3 Incarceration

Length of Sentence. The proportion of persons receiving various lengths of sentence is shown in Table 10.3. From these data it was evident that North American Indians had more short sentences than the Alberta reference population. Non-Indians were more likely to have a long sentence. Fifteen per cent of North American Indian sentences were less than two years, compared with eight per cent of sentences to non-Indians. Twenty-nine per cent of Indian sentences were between two and less than three years, compared with 23 per cent for non-Indians. This general tendency was found in all age categories except for persons aged 16 to 19 and 65 or more years, the very young and very old of the populations.

TABLE 10.2
Inmate Population by Age & Sex
Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983²

<u>Age³</u> (Col. %)	<u>North American Indians⁴</u>			<u>Reference Population⁵</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Both Sexes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Both Sexes</u>
16 - 19	16	9	16	16	16	16
20 - 24	33	36	33	33	36	33
25 - 29	25	28	25	24	26	24
30 - 39	21	17	21	19	20	19
40 - 49	3	11	4	6	1	6
50 - 64	-	-	-	2	1	2
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Notes:**
1. Province of residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Aggregated for all years.
 3. Age upon admission as of 31 December.
 4. Includes registered and non-status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 5. Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (Note 4).
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

TABLE 10.3

Length of Sentence of Inmate Population by Age

Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983²

Length of Sentence ³	Age ⁴								
	(Col. %)	<u>16-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>All Ages</u>
North American Indians ⁵									
Less than 2 years		4	18	19	15	13	-	-	15
2 and less than 3 years		30	31	26	27	29	25	-	29
3 and less than 4 years		27	18	14	18	19	-	-	18
4 and less than 5 years		8	10	9	10	6	75	-	10
5 and less than 10 years		25	13	18	20	19	-	-	18
10 and less than 20 years		2	4	6	4	15	-	-	5
20 years and over		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indeterminate		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lifers		2	4	8	5	-	-	-	5
Quashed		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		100	100	100	100	100	100	-	100
Reference Population ⁶									
Less than 2 years		6	8	9	10	8	5	10	8
2 and less than 3 years		31	24	20	19	22	13	60	23
3 and less than 4 years		22	20	16	17	14	11	-	18
4 and less than 5 years		12	13	12	10	10	11	10	12
5 and less than 10 years		17	22	22	26	22	22	20	22
10 and less than 20 years		3	6	10	6	7	15	-	7
20 years and over		-	-	1	2	2	-	-	1
Indeterminate		-	-	2	2	3	6	-	1
Lifers		10	7	8	7	10	16	-	8
Quashed		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Notes:**
1. Province of residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Aggregated for all years.
 3. Aggregate sentence length for an inmate's offences.
 4. Age upon admission as of 31 December.
 5. Includes registered and non-status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 6. Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (Note 5).
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

Recidivism. For the years 1974 through 1983, Table 10.4 presents the number of previous terms in prison for persons of different ages. North American Indians were more likely to have served a prior term in prison than were non-Indians; 39 per cent of North American Indians had served prior terms, compared with 32 per cent of non-Indians. They were also twice as likely, 10 per cent versus five per cent, to have served three or more terms than were non-Indians. This tendency for Indians to have served multiple terms was more likely up to the age of 40; the pattern is reversed for those aged 40 years and up.

These patterns are consistent with the criminological literature where one may read that if a person commits a major crime, he will go to prison no matter what his ethnic origin. However, if he commits a minor crime, he stands a greater chance of serving time if he is a member of a minority group such as North American Indians. Of course, from these data another interpretation is possible: that Indians receive lighter sentences for the same offence than non-Indians. To the observer of the court system this is not plausible. A more realistic appraisal would be that Indians are more often incarcerated than non-Indians for relatively minor offences, but that they often receive light sentences for these offences.

10.4 Major Offences

The reader may compare the major types of offence committed by Indians and non-Indians in Figure 10.1 and Table 10.5. North American Indians were more likely to have committed crimes against persons, 42 per cent of offences, than were non-Indians, 27 per cent of offences. The proportion of North American Indian inmates incarcerated for such crimes rose dramatically from 39 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds to 75 per cent of those aged 50 to 64. Robberies were equally likely to have been perpetrated by members of the two groups, although the highest North American Indian proportion was in the 25 to 29 age group versus the 16 to 19 year olds in the reference population. Crimes against property, narcotics offences and the miscellaneous "other" offences were more likely to have been committed by non-Indians. One-half of the crimes committed by those in the reference population aged 65 and over were in the "other" category.

TABLE 10.4
Number of Previous Commitments of Inmates by Age
Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983²

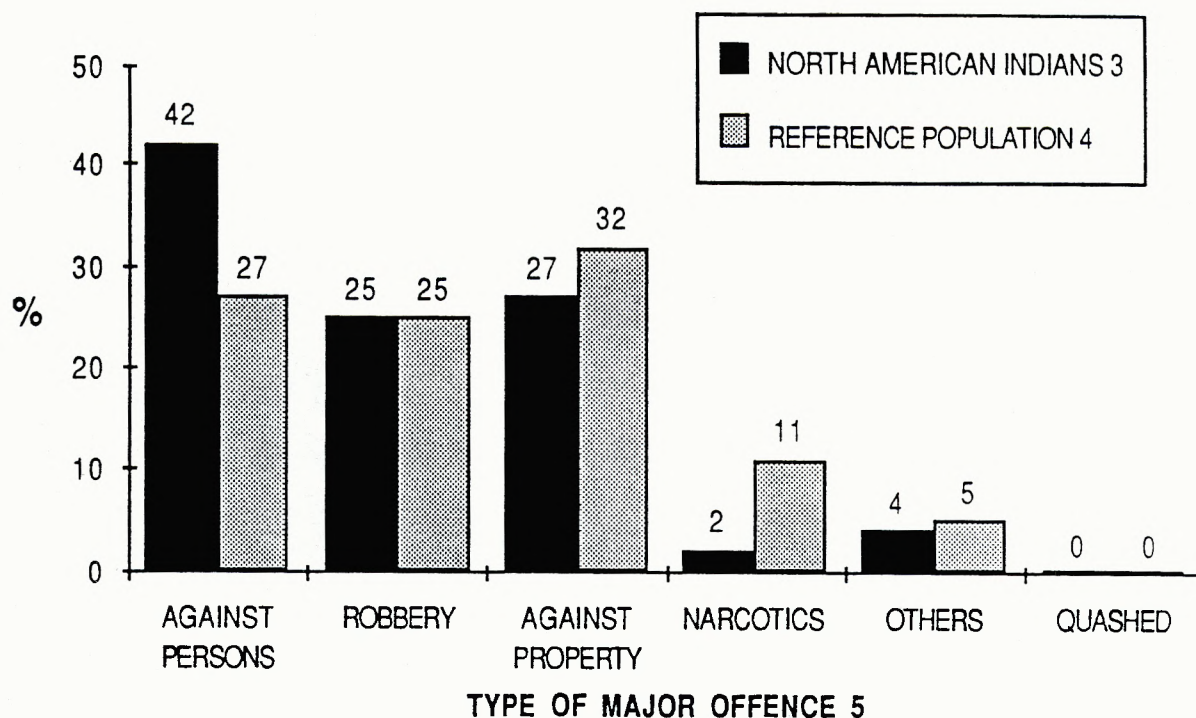
Number of Previous Commitments (Col. %)	Age ³							All Ages
	<u>16-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
North American Indians ⁴								
0 Terms	89	64	55	39	67	25	-	60
1 Term	9	22	24	17	17	75	-	19
2 Terms	2	9	7	23	4	-	-	10
3 - 5 Terms	-	3	8	11	2	-	-	6
6 - 9 Terms	-	1	4	7	4	-	-	3
10 or More Terms	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	-	100
Reference Population ⁵								
0 Terms	94	73	58	53	57	59	80	67
1 Term	5	18	21	21	21	25	10	18
2 Terms	1	7	13	13	10	12	10	9
3 - 5 Terms	-	2	5	7	5	2	-	3
6 - 9 Terms	-	-	2	3	3	-	-	1
10 or More Terms	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Notes:**
1. Province of residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Aggregated for all years.
 3. Age and previous commitments upon admission as of 31 December.
 4. Includes registered and non-status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 5. Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (Note 4). Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

FIGURE 10.1

Percentage Distribution of Major Offences of Inmate Population

Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983²

- Notes:**
1. Province of Residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Aggregated for all years.
 3. Includes Registered and non-Status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 4. Reference Population = Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (see above).
 5. Most serious crime for current term.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

TABLE 10.5
Major Offences of Inmate Population by Age
Alberta¹, 1974 - 1983²

143

Type of Major Offence ³	Age ⁴							
(Col. %)	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	All Ages
North American Indians ⁵								
Crime Against Persons	39	33	45	48	69	75	-	42
Robbery	28	23	31	23	10	25	-	25
Crime Against Property	26	36	20	24	19	-	-	27
Narcotics	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	2
Others	5	6	2	2	2	-	-	4
Quashed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	-	100
Reference Population ⁶								
Crime Against Persons	25	22	30	33	34	37	30	27
Robbery	32	28	25	19	12	12	-	25
Crime Against Property	35	34	27	31	36	31	20	32
Narcotics	4	12	14	11	8	10	-	11
Others	5	4	4	6	8	10	50	5
Quashed	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Notes:**
1. Province of residence. Inmates whose residence is outside the province or unstated are excluded.
 2. Aggregated for all years.
 3. Most serious crime for current term.
 4. Age upon admission as of 31 December.
 5. Includes registered and non-status Indians as well as those whose status is undefined.
 6. Total Inmate Population less North American Indians (Note 5).
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Correctional Service Canada.

10.5 Conclusion

Female North American Indian inmates tended to be older than non-Indian female inmates, although the numbers are small in both cases. North American Indian males who served time were somewhat younger than non-Indian inmates. There has been a definite increase in incarcerations among both North American Indians and non-Indians during the past decade. North American Indians in Alberta were more likely to have served multiple prison terms in the past than non-Indians. North American Indians served sentences more often for crimes against persons; non-Indians more often served time in prison for crimes against property and drug offences. North American Indians also received more short sentences than did non-Indians.

APPENDIX I**GLOSSARY**

Many of the technical terms used in this report have very precise meanings. We have provided, in this Glossary, explanations of the more difficult terms. Readers who wish further explanations are referred to the Methodology Report of the overview series and to Statistics Canada (StatsCan), 1981 Census Dictionary, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, May, 1982 (Cat. No. 99-901).

ADJUSTED INDIAN REGISTER DATA: See Register.

AGE: (StatsCan) Age at last birthday as of **Census Day**.

BAND and INDIAN BAND: (INAC) A "body of Indians recognized by government for whose benefit and use land and money have been set aside and held by the government." (Indian Conditions: A Survey, INAC, 1980:2). A **Band** may have one or more **Reserves**.

Indian Act definition: "'Band' means a body of Indians (a) for whose use and benefit in common, lands, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, have been set apart before, on or after the 4th day of September, 1951, (b) for whose use and benefit in common, moneys are held by Her Majesty, or (c) declared by the Governor in Council to be a band for the purposes of this Act." (RSC, 1985:1)

CENSUS DAY: (StatsCan) June 3, the day on which the 1981 Census was taken.

CENSUS FAMILY: (StatsCan) "Refers to a husband and a wife (with or without children who have never married, regardless of age), or a lone parent of any marital status, with one or more children who have never married, regardless of age, living in the same dwelling. For census purposes, persons living in a common-law type of arrangement are considered as **now married**, regardless of their legal marital status; they accordingly appear as a husband-wife family in the census family tables." In this overview series a **Registered Indian Census Family** "refers to a census family in which one spouse or

both spouses are **Registered Indians**", as defined by INAC. See the Methodology Report.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (CEIS): (INAC)

Refers to the system used to record the post-secondary and adult training activities of registered Indian students who receive financial assistance from INAC. Therefore the data do not cover those registered Indian students who do not receive financial assistance. CEIS data are incomplete.

DEPENDENCY RATIOS: Calculated as the non-wage-earning, or dependent, population (zero to 14 and 65 and up) divided by the wage-earning, or working-age, population (15 to 64). The term "dependency" implies that those in the former population require some support, either directly or indirectly, from those in the latter. A dependency ratio greater than one indicates that there is more than one dependent for each adult of working age.

DWELLING: (StatsCan) Statistics Canada uses the phrase "**OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLING**" which means "a private dwelling in which a person or group of persons is permanently residing. Also included are private dwellings whose usual residents are temporarily absent on Census Day. Unless otherwise specified, all data in housing reports are for occupied private dwellings rather than for unoccupied dwellings or dwellings occupied solely by foreign and/or temporary residents." See also **Tenure** and **Household, Private Household**.

ECONOMIC FAMILY: (StatsCan) "Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption." Common-law couples are included as "**now married**." In this overview series a **Registered Indian Economic Family** "refers to an economic family which has a **Registered Indian Census Family** present or in which the reference person or their spouse or both the reference person and spouse are **Registered Indians**", as defined by INAC. See **Census Family** and the Methodology Report.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: See **Schooling, Highest Level of.**

EMPLOYED: See **Labour Force, Total.**

ETHNIC ORIGIN: (StatsCan) "Refers to the ethnic or cultural group to which the respondent or the respondent's ancestors belonged on first coming to this continent. For Native Peoples, the phrase 'on first coming to this continent' in the question was to be ignored." In censuses prior to 1981, ethnic origin was limited to paternal ancestry but for 1981 maternal ancestry or multiple responses were acceptable as well. The respondent self-defined his or her ancestry. INAC's definition of Indian is based on legal/administrative considerations.

EXPERIENCED LABOUR FORCE: See **Labour Force, Total.**

FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD TOTAL INCOME: (StatsCan) The total income of a census/economic family or household is the sum of the total incomes of the members of that family or household.

GEOGRAPHIC ZONES: (INAC) INAC classifies bands according to proximity to regional centres and access by road year-round. Four categories are used:

- Urban - a zone where the band is located within 50 Km from the nearest regional centre by year-round road access.
- Rural - a zone where the band is located between 50 Km and 350 Km from the nearest regional centre by year-round road access.
- Remote - a zone where the band is located over 350 Km from the nearest regional centre by year-round road access.
- Special Access - a zone where the band has no year-round access to the nearest regional centre and as a result experiences a higher cost of transportation.

The "urban" and "rural" zones included in this classification are not the same as those of Statistics Canada. See **Rural, Urban Population.**

GROSS RENT: See **Owner's Major Payments/Gross Rent.**

HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING: See **Schooling, Highest Level of.**

HOME LANGUAGE: (StatsCan) The "...specific language spoken at home by the respondent at the time of the census. If more than one language was spoken, the language spoken most often by the respondent was to be reported." The term is new. In the 1971 Census, it was "language spoken most often at home." In 1981, the individual was newly emphasized.

HOUSEHOLD, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD: (StatsCan) "Refers to a person or group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. The number of **private households** equals the number of **occupied private dwellings**." In this overview series, a **Registered Indian Household** "refers to a private household in which there is a **Registered Indian Census Family** or where 50 per cent or more of the household members are **Registered Indians**", as defined by INAC. See **Census Family** and the Methodology Report.

INCOME: MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME (StatsCan) "Refers to a derived variable which indicates that income component which constitutes the largest proportion of the total income of an income unit. In the 1981 Census output, several combinations were used to derive this classification. At the most detailed level, the income sources were combined into five components as follows: wages and salaries, self-employment (non-farm and farm), government transfer payments, investment income and other income. The absolute values for these components were compared and the component with the largest absolute value was designated as the major source of income." The income data are for 1980.

INDIAN: Indian Act definition: " 'Indian' means a person who pursuant to this Act is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian." (RSC, 1985:2) As used in this report, the term "Indian" is intended to conform to the Indian Act definition. In INAC administrative data, a **Registered Indian** (or **Status Indian**) is a person, usually of Amerindian ancestry, who is registered as an **Indian** under the Act. The Census definition is based on self-identification of the respondent. INAC and Statistics

Canada have produced a census variable that helped to meet INAC's data requirements and upon which our census data are based. Chart II of the Methodology Report provides the algorithms used in this customized data set and in the special tabulations from the 1981 Census. Other definitions are used in this report under the headings for specific data sets.

INDIAN REGISTER: See Register.

LABOUR FORCE, TOTAL: (StatsCan) "Refers to the population 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates, who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to enumeration (June 3, 1981)." This is the **Total Labour Force** which is broken down into **Employed**, and **Unemployed**. The remainder of the population 15 years of age and over are classified as **Not in the Labour Force**. **EMPLOYED** "includes those persons who, during the week prior to enumeration: a) did any work at all; or b) were absent from their jobs or businesses because of temporary illness or disability, vacation, labour dispute at their place of work, or were absent for other reasons." The **UNEMPLOYED** "includes those persons who, during the week prior to enumeration: a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or b) had been on lay-off for 26 weeks or less and expected to return to their job; or c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less." The **NOT IN LABOUR FORCE** classification refers to "those persons, who in the week prior to enumeration, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply their labour services under conditions existing in their labour markets. It includes persons who looked for work during the last four weeks but who were not available to start work in the reference week, as well as persons who did not work, did not have a new job to start in four weeks or less, or did not look for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration." There is also the **EXPERIENCED LABOUR FORCE** which is "derived by deleting from the **Total Labour Force** unemployed persons 15 years of age and over who had never worked or who had worked only prior to January 1, 1980."

LENGTH OF OCCUPANCY: (StatsCan) "Refers to the period of continuous occupancy of the dwelling by the person responsible for household payments or, if such a person is not present in the household, the individual completing the dwelling questions."

MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME: See **Income: Major Source of Income.**

MARITAL STATUS: (StatsCan)

Now married (excluding separated) = "Persons whose husband or wife is living, unless the couple is separated or a divorce has been obtained. Persons living common-law are considered as **Now married**."

Separated = "Persons who have been deserted or who have parted because they no longer want to live together, but have not obtained a divorce."

Divorced = "Persons who have obtained a legal divorce and who have not remarried."

Widowed = "Persons who have lost their spouse through death and who have not remarried."

Never married (single) = "Persons who never married (including all persons less than 15 years) and persons whose marriage was annulled."

MIGRANT/NON-MIGRANT: (StatsCan) **MIGRANTS** "are **Movers** who, on Census Day, were residing in a different Census Subdivision within Canada five years earlier (**INTERNAL MIGRANTS**) or who were living outside Canada five years earlier (**EXTERNAL MIGRANTS**)". **NON-MIGRANTS** "are **Movers** who, on Census Day, were living within the same Census Subdivision they resided in five years earlier."

MOBILITY STATUS: (StatsCan) "Refers to the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on **Census Day** and his/her usual place of residence five years earlier. On the basis of this relationship, the population is classified as **Non-movers** and **Movers** (**MOBILITY STATUS**). Within the category **Movers**, a further distinction is made between **Non-migrants** and **Migrants** (**MIGRATION STATUS**)."

MOTHER TONGUE: (StatsCan) The "... first language learned in childhood and still understood" by a respondent.

MOVERS/NON-MOVERS: (StatsCan) "Movers are persons who, on Census Day, were living in a different dwelling than the one occupied five years earlier. Non-movers are persons who, on Census Day, were living in the same dwelling they occupied five years earlier."

NATIVE: This term includes registered or status Indians, non-status Indians, Métis and Inuit.

NOMINAL ROLL: (INAC) A list of all Indian elementary and secondary school students whose education is funded by INAC. It identifies the enrolment characteristics of Indian children living on-reserve, but not the children whose families live off-reserve. The location of the school is not a factor. (The Nominal Roll includes a small number of non-Indian students; it also contains a small number of off-reserve Indian students, between 1971 and 1982). Any statistics prepared from the Nominal Roll base must be seen as not representing the actual number of Indian children attending school.

OCCUPATION: (StatsCan) "Refers to the kind of work persons 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates, were doing during the reference week, as determined by their reporting of their kind of work and the description of the most important duties in their job. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1980. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours."

For purposes of this Overview, we have used three major occupation groups, as follows:

Primary Occupations

Fishing and Trapping

Forestry and Logging

Other Primary Occupations

Secondary Occupations

Processing Occupations

Machinery, Product Fabricating, Assembling and Repairing

Tertiary Occupations

Managerial, Technological, Social, Religious, Teaching, Medicine, Health
and Artistic Occupations

Clerical and Related Occupations

Sales Occupations

Service Occupations

Construction Trades Occupations

Transportation Equipment Operating

Other Occupations

For an explanation of terms and inclusion, see Statistics Canada, Standard Occupational Classification, 1980, Cat. No. 12-565E, Feb. 1981.

OFF-RESERVE: See **Reserve**.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: (StatsCan) "Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in either of the official languages of Canada."

ON-CROWN LAND: See **Reserve**. (used by INAC).

ON-RESERVE: See **Reserve**.

OWNER'S MAJOR PAYMENTS/GROSS RENT as a percentage of Household Income: (StatsCan) Refers to the proportion of average monthly 1980 **Household Total Income** spent on **Owner's Major Payments/Gross Rent** (i.e., total average monthly payments made by households to secure shelter). Data for this variable are for private households in owner/tenant-occupied non-farm dwellings excluding owner/tenant households who reported a loss in their total household income, or had no income in 1980. See **Family/Household Total Income**.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS: The demographic projections for registered Indians are derived from J. Perreault, L. Paquette, & M.V. George, Population Projections of Registered Indians, 1982 to 1996, INAC, February 1985. We have used the Medium-

Growth Scenario (Projection 3) in this overview series. For the total Canadian and provincial populations, we have used projection number four which assumes a declining fertility rate, constant mortality, net international immigration of 50,000 per year and an estimation of internal migration rates of the mid-1970's. See Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada and the Provinces, 1976-2001, Cat. No. 91-520, Feb. 1979. See also the Methodology Report.

POPULATION SERVED: (Health and Welfare Canada) "... Since vital statistics are reported by the regions and represent individuals served by the Medical Services Branch (MSB), the 'population at risk' ... should be population served, not total Indian population. Since MSB population data are not available by age group, the 'population by age' figures were calculated by subtracting the number of individuals not served by the Branch (known for Ontario and Quebec only) from the INAC population. This calculation resulted in a total population larger (by about 5,000 individuals) than was reported by the regions. It appears that the population served by MSB differs from the INAC total population for the seven other regions as well. In any case, the age-specific rates are based on 'population-served' calculated in this manner. Crude rates (i.e. not age-specific) are calculated using population-served as reported by the regions. MSB data are also subject to variations in coverage. Some regions obtain statistics for both on- and off-reserve Indians whereas other regions obtain figures for on-reserve Indians only (e.g. Ontario and Quebec)." See Janie Reed, Indian and Inuit of Canada: Health Status Indicators, Health and Welfare Canada, June 1985 (draft), pp. 1-2.

PROVINCE OF RESIDENCE: (Correctional Service Canada) Refers to a federal inmate's last known place of residence prior to admission. This information is self-reported by the inmate.

REFERENCE POPULATION: For the purposes of these overviews, this term is used to denote either the total Canadian or provincial populations less registered Indians, unless otherwise indicated.

REGISTER: (INAC) The Indian Register is a list of all registered Indians (as defined in

the Indian Act) which is kept by INAC. Information on this list concerning the demographic characteristics of the Indian population is updated regularly by band officials and published for December 31 of each year. Register data may be unadjusted or adjusted for late reporting of births and deaths. Adjusted Indian Register data are the basis for the population projections and the demographic data in this overview series.

REGISTERED INDIAN: (INAC) A person who, pursuant to the Indian Act, is "registered as an Indian in the Indian Register." (Indian Act, RSC 1985:2) See **Indian**.

RESERVE: (INAC) "... means a tract of land, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, that has been set apart by Her Majesty for the use and benefit of a band." (Indian Act, RSC 1985:2). In this overview, two terms are used with respect to the place of residence of registered Indians: **On-Reserve** and **Off-Reserve**. Residence **On-Reserve** includes the Indian population living on actual reserves plus those residing **On-Crown Land** or in **Settlements**. The Indian population residing **Off-Reserve** lives someplace other than in locations defined as being **On-Reserve**. The Census definition of off-reserve is somewhat different from that of the Indian Register. The latter defines it as involving persons who have lived off-reserve for 12 consecutive months for other than health or educational reasons. For the 1981 Census, it is an indication of place of residence on the day of the Census. How these concepts have been in large part reconciled is discussed in more detail in the Methodology Report.

RURAL POPULATION: (StatsCan) "Refers to persons living outside 'Urban Areas.'" There is also **Rural Farm Population** and **Rural Non-Farm Population**. See **Urban Population**. As discussed in chapter 2, the census definition of rural, which is based on population size and density, differs from that of INAC, which stresses proximity and access to the nearest regional centre. See the Methodology Report.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: (StatsCan) "Refers to either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at a school, college or university at any time between September 1980 and June 3, 1981. Attendance is considered to be full-time if the person was taking 75 per cent or more of the normal course load in the grade or year in which the person is

registered. Short-term courses of six weeks or less taken during the day are considered to be part-time attendance. If the person attended both full-time and part-time during the reference period, then only full-time is to be recorded. Attendance at courses that were taken for leisure or recreation is not included." Data are reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates.

SCHOOL LEAVERS: (INAC) These are elementary or secondary school Indian children who were on the Nominal Roll the previous year but are not entered in the current year. Reasons for this include: moved to off-reserve residence, withdrew (for example, to take a job), transferred or deceased.

SCHOOL TYPE: (INAC) This is an administrative/financial classification:

BAND-OPERATED SCHOOL is one which is operated/run by a band located on a reserve, using funding provided by INAC.

FEDERAL = a school on-reserve operated by INAC.

PRIVATE = a school run by any private group, religious or otherwise, with which the federal government has tuition agreements and may or may not provide federal funding for buildings or other facilities.

PROVINCIAL: These are schools run by the province. Indians attend these schools under one of two federal/provincial arrangements: a) **Provincial Joint Tuition Schools** in which there are both federal tuition agreements and federal investment in buildings and facilities; b) **Provincial Tuition Schools** with which the federal government has tuition agreements but there is no federal investment in buildings and facilities.

SCHOOLING, HIGHEST LEVEL OF (StatsCan) "Refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary school attended, or the highest year of university or other non-university completed. University education is considered to be above other non-university. Also, the attainment of a degree, certificate or diploma is considered to be a higher level than years completed or attended without an educational qualification. Although this variable is described as 'highest level of schooling', implying a hierarchy of educational attainment, there are in fact a number of instances which are not quite

hierarchical." Data are reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates.

SETTLEMENT/INDIAN SETTLEMENT: (INAC) Refers to a place (usually on-Crown land), identified for statistical purposes, which is inhabited more or less permanently by a self-contained group of Indians.

SPECIAL STUDENT: (INAC) Refers to students having special needs whether because of mental or physical handicaps (e.g., students who are deaf, blind, have cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, etc.).

STATUS INDIAN: See **Registered Indian**.

TENURE: (StatsCan) "Refers to whether some member of the household owns or rents the dwelling. A dwelling is classified as **`owned`** even if it is not fully paid for, such as one which has a mortgage or some other claim on it. The dwelling may be situated on rented or leased land or be part of a condominium (whether registered or unregistered). A dwelling is classified as **`rented`** even if it is provided without cash rent or at a reduced rent or if the dwelling is part of a co-operative. For census purposes, in a co-operative all members jointly own the co-operative and occupy their dwelling units under a lease agreement." See also the Methodology Report.

UNEMPLOYED: See **Labour Force, Total**.

URBAN POPULATION: (StatsCan) "Refers to persons living in an area having a population-concentration of 1,000 or more plus a population density of 400 or more per square kilometre." There is also **URBAN POPULATION SIZE GROUP** for which categories in this overview series are: 1,000 to 9,999; 10,000 - 99,999 and 100,000 and over. See **RURAL POPULATION** and the Methodology Report.