

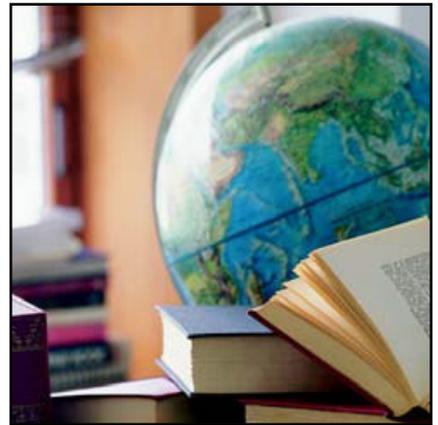
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Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheet

Métis youth: Experiences and outcomes in secondary and postsecondary learning

by Jaclyn Layton

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Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheet

by Jaclyn Layton

Métis youth: Experiences and outcomes in secondary and postsecondary learning

Métis are a distinct Indigenous people with unique communities, history and customs.¹ In Métis culture, lifelong learning is a key element in the health and well-being of individuals and their communities. For Métis, knowledge may stem from a variety of sources, including parents, knowledge holders, Elders, the community and formal education systems, such as early childhood education programs, and secondary and postsecondary education. For many Métis, land encompassing the “earth, sky, waters, and all living beings found there” acts as a teacher.² These are important considerations when measuring educational success for Métis.³

As with First Nations people and Inuit, the educational experience of Métis youth is shaped by the legacy of colonialism; Métis experiences with residential schools, day schools and the public system;⁴ and the absence of this history and Métis learning practices in existing education curricula.⁵ Métis are also affected by additional factors that may shape whether any individual pursues formal education, including access to essential services such as education, living in a low-income household (after-tax) and the familial responsibilities of young parents.⁶

New information available through the 2021 Census of Population allows for detailed analysis of the learning outcomes of Métis youth. This study presents 2021 Census data on the educational participation of self-identified Métis⁷ youth aged 19 to 30, in conjunction with characteristics that may affect whether they complete high school and participate in postsecondary education. Of note, this study is limited to measures from the 2021 Census of Population, which do not reflect comprehensive explanatory factors or the success measures for Métis.

This study is guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 55th Call to Action, which recognizes the importance of equitable education for the success of Indigenous peoples and calls for regular reporting on the educational attainment of Indigenous peoples in Canada compared with non-Indigenous people.⁸

1 See Statistics Canada (2022b).

2 See National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (2022, p. 14) and Canadian Council on Learning (2007a).

3 See Canadian Council on Learning (2007b).

4 Many Métis children attended residential schools and had the same experiences as First Nations children and youth, including “the high death rates, limited diets, crowded and unsanitary housing, harsh discipline, heavy workloads, neglect, and abuse” described in the volumes of *The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. For those who did not attend residential schools, access to federally and provincially funded education was not universally available, resulting in the absence of formal education altogether. “During the 19th and 20th century, Métis were forced off traditional Metis territories and created homes on land, often adjacent to reserves and settlements, that had been surveyed and reserved for highway development. These homes were often precarious dwellings and residents did not have fixed addresses” (Bell, 1999; Dkasstelein, 2017, as cited in Cooper et al., 2019). “Living on this Crown land designated as road allowance is what led to the Métis being referred to as ‘road allowance people,’ reflecting their highly precarious existence as being neither accepted in white settlements nor allowed to live on reserves” (Dollinger & Fee, 2017, as cited in Cooper et al., 2019). “Historically, many Métis children did not attend school. This was largely related to the lack of formal residential addresses necessary for school registration”. In the report “Canada’s Residential Schools: The Métis Experience,” the term “Métis” is used to describe people of “mixed descent who were not able, or chose not, to be registered as Indians under the *Indian Act*.” See Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015a, p. 3–4) and Cooper et al. (2019).

5 See Canadian Council on Learning (2007b), [Jubenville](#) et al. (2024), and [Vizina](#) (2023).

6 See Layton (2023a).

7 Counts for Métis in this fact sheet include individuals who reported a single Métis identity.

8 “We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to the educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.” See Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015b, p. 6).

2021 Census of Population: Membership in a Métis organization or Settlement

The 2021 Census of Population asked respondents who self-identified as Métis: “Is this person a registered member of a Métis organization or Settlement?”⁹

Respondents identified themselves in the following four broad categories (see Table A.1):⁹

1. Métis members of organizations that are a signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* of 2017 (Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Metis Federation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation British Columbia)
2. Metis members of one of the eight Metis Settlements in Alberta whose settlement corporations were established by the Alberta *Metis Settlements Act* in 1990 (Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, East Prairie Metis Settlement, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Kikino Metis Settlement, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement and Peavine Metis Settlement)⁹
3. Métis members of non-signatory Métis organizations who specified a local, regional, provincial, territorial or national Métis organization, or a designated Metis Settlement
4. Self-identifying Métis who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement.

While those registered with one of the five signatories under the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* or another Métis organization often regard themselves as citizens under a Métis government, the term “member of an organization” is used throughout this article to align with the language presented in the census.

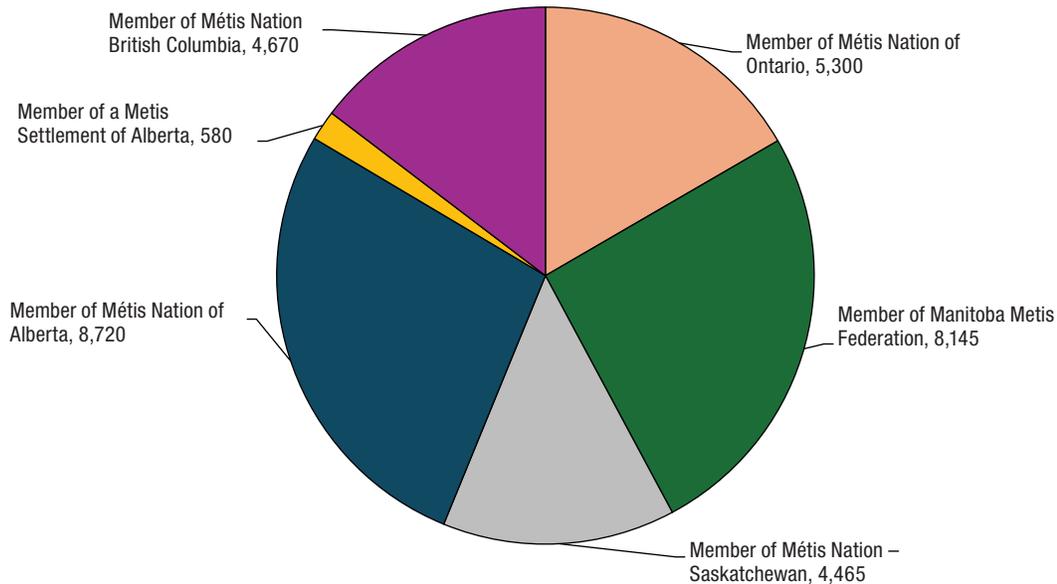
One-quarter (28%) of self-identified single-identity Métis youth aged 19 to 30 years were members of a signatory organization to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*

In 2021, over 31,000 Métis aged 19 to 30 identified as members of Métis organizations that are signatories to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* of 2017, which seeks to advance and exercise their right to self-determination, including self-government within Canada.

⁹ Counts of respondents reporting membership in a Métis organization or Settlement reflect self-reported responses to Question 28 of the 2021 Census and may differ from the administrative records collected by Métis organizations and Settlements. Users should refer to the individual Métis organizations and Settlements for counts.

Chart 1

Membership in a Métis organization that is a signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* or a Metis Settlement of Alberta



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

The purpose of the accord is to “advance reconciliation of the rights, claims, interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation.”¹⁰ For example, the *Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord* was signed in 2019, leading to the development of the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy. The strategy is designed to close the postsecondary educational attainment gap between Métis Nation students and non-Indigenous students in Canada through distinctions-based and regionally delivered strategic support.¹¹

The Metis Settlements of Alberta are the only collectively held Métis land base in Alberta

In 2021, over 500 Métis aged 19 to 30 reported being registered members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta. While each Settlement is self-governed, education and health care fall under provincial jurisdiction.¹² The Metis Settlements General Council has identified gaps in programming that exist between the Metis Settlements of Alberta and neighbouring communities and continues to advocate for improved access to essential services within its communities.¹³

¹⁰ See Government of Canada (2017).

¹¹ See Government of Canada (n.d.b).

¹² “Students who live on settlements go to schools that are under the Alberta *Education Act*, just like students who live in other municipalities. The Northland School Division oversees and controls education on six of the Métis settlements. Buffalo Lake and Kikino are serviced by Northern Lights School Division. Schools on settlements are provincially funded schools that are different than the federally funded reserve schools, which are controlled by their education authorities.” See Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (2017, p. 3).

¹³ See Metis Settlements General Council (2020) and CBC News (2023).

Metis Settlements of Alberta

The *Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord* was signed in 1989, establishing a new land-based governance model for the Metis Settlements of Alberta (Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, East Prairie Metis Settlement, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Kikino Metis Settlement, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement and Peavine Metis Settlement).¹⁴ Governed through the Metis Settlements General Council, the Metis Settlements of Alberta are composed of eight communities spanning 1.25 million acres in rural and northern areas.¹⁵

Roughly 70,000 people aged 19 to 30 years who self-identify as Métis did not report membership in an organization or Settlement

In 2021, two-thirds (65%) of all self-identified Métis respondents aged 19 to 30 did not report membership in an organization or Settlement. In the Atlantic provinces (71%) and Quebec (85%), individuals in this category accounted for a large share of self-identified Métis respondents aged 19 to 30.

Further, Métis youth who are not registered to a Métis organization or Settlement represent over half of all self-identified Métis aged 19 to 30 in the historic Métis Nation Homeland,¹⁶ which encompasses Alberta (59%); Saskatchewan (60%); Manitoba (56%); and contiguous parts of British Columbia (67%), Ontario (72%) and the Northwest Territories (49%).¹⁷ It is important to note that Métis youth who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement may still be eligible but may have not completed registration for various reasons.¹⁸

Nearly 6,000 Métis identified as members of a Métis organization that was neither a signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* nor a Metis Settlement of Alberta

In addition, nearly 6,000 individuals aged 19 to 30 reported membership in a Métis organization that was neither a signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* nor a Metis Settlement of Alberta. While respondents could specify a local, regional, provincial, territorial or national Métis organization or a designated Metis Settlement, some did not specify to which organization or Settlement they belonged.

14 The Metis Settlements of Alberta were established under the *Métis Population Betterment Act* (1938). The goals of the *Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord* (1989) were to establish a Métis land base for future generations, local autonomy and economic self-sufficiency. See Métis Settlements General Council & Government of Alberta. (2023). The Metis Settlements of Alberta are not signatories to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*.

15 See Government of Alberta (n.d.).

16 According to the Métis National Council, the historic Métis Nation Homeland encompasses Manitoba; Saskatchewan; Alberta; and parts of Ontario, British Columbia and the northern United States. Because of data limitations, the entirety of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia are included in the calculation of statistics for the historic Métis Nation Homeland. See Métis National Council (n.d.a).

17 See Rupertsland Institute (n.d.).

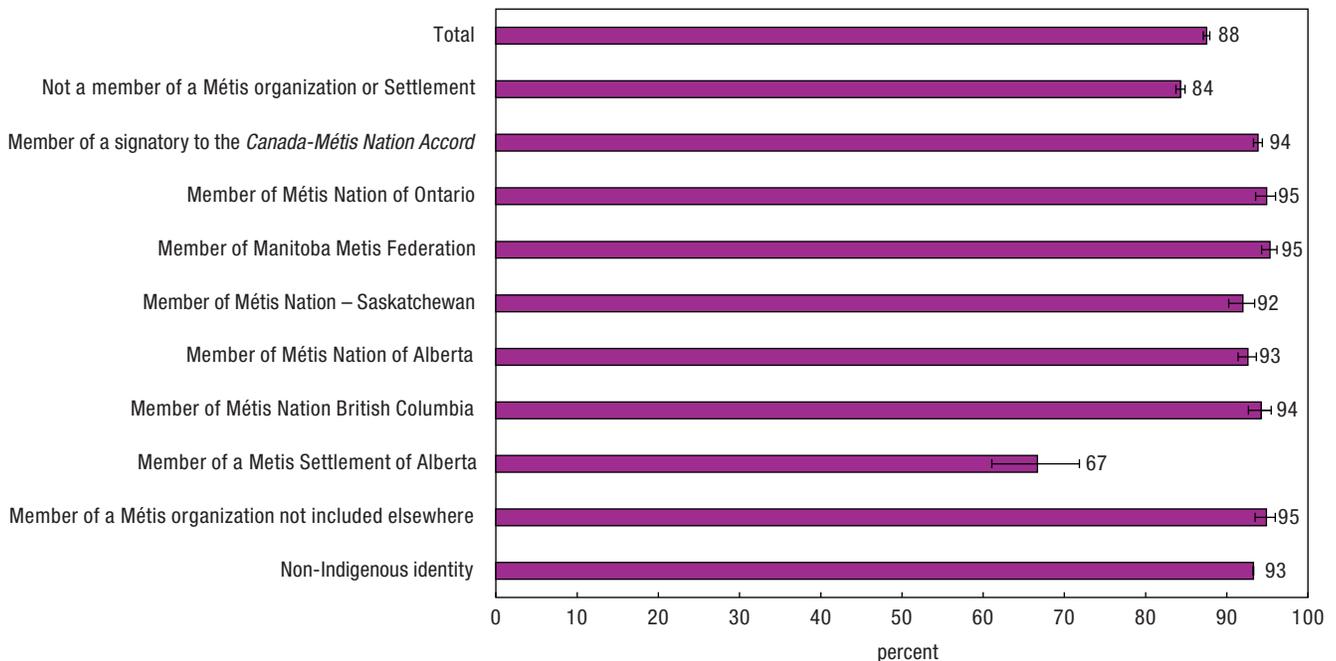
18 Reasons may include letting a prior registration expire, lacking the necessary support to complete the registration process, choosing not to register, or other factors related to capacity and identity.

Approximately 9 in 10 members of organizations that are signatories to the Canada-Métis Nation Accord had a high school diploma (or equivalent) in 2021

In 2021, nearly 9 in 10 Métis youth aged 19 to 30 (88%) had obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent), slightly less than that of non-Indigenous youth (93%). Further, over 9 of 10 Métis youth who reported membership in an organization that is a signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* (94%) and Métis youth who reported membership in a non-signatory Métis organization (95%) had completed high school. Self-identifying Métis who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement (84%) and members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta (67%) had lower levels of high school completion.

Chart 2

High school completion rates for Métis youth who reported membership in a signatory organization are similar to those of non-Indigenous youth



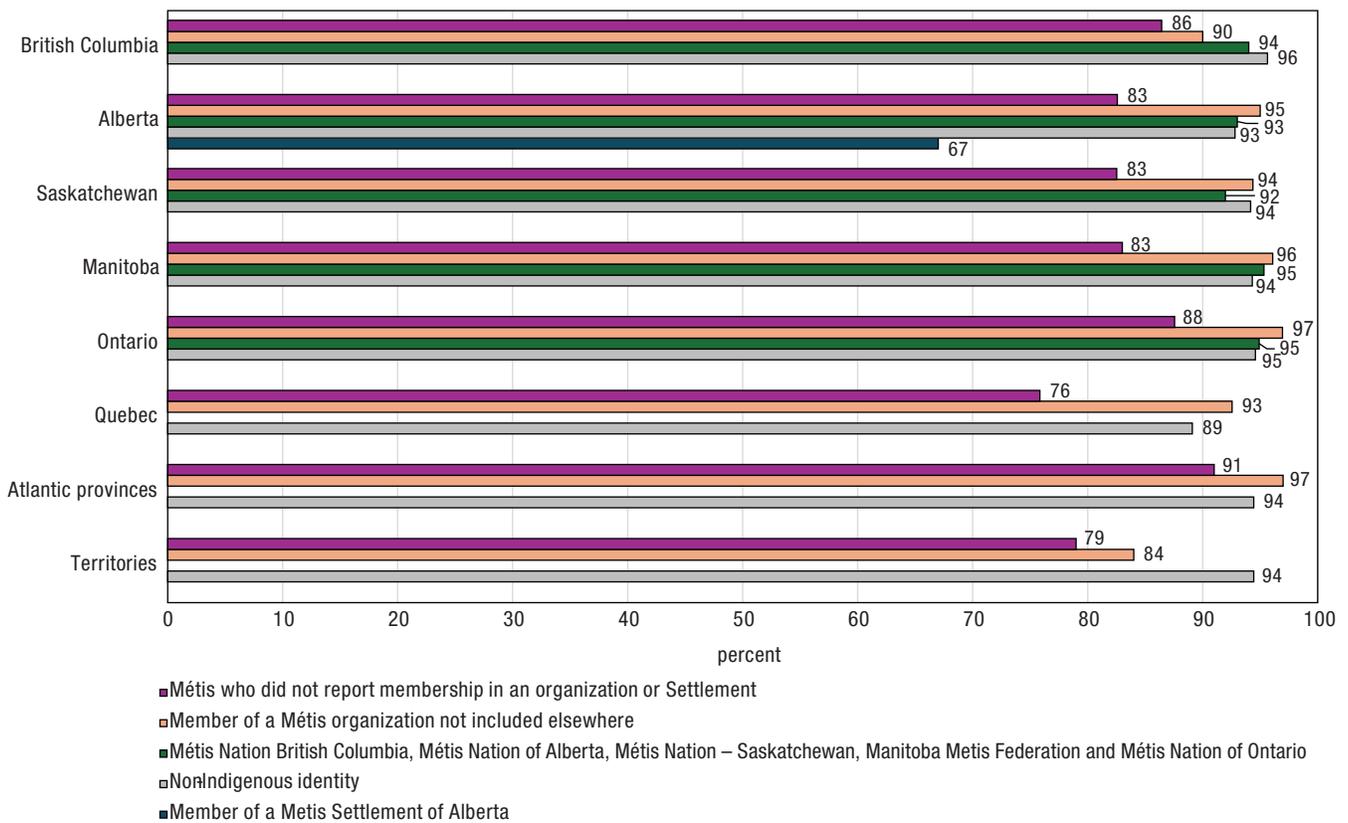
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Further, three-quarters (75%) of Métis youth who reported membership in a non-signatory organization and non-Indigenous youth (73%) were participating in postsecondary education in 2021, compared with two-thirds (65%) of young Métis who reported membership in a signatory Métis organization, half (48%) of self-identified Métis youth who did not report membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, and one-third (30%) of Metis youth living in the Metis Settlements of Alberta (see Table A.2).

Experiences and outcomes of Métis youth vary by province, territory and Métis group membership

The provinces and territories are responsible for providing education to their populations.¹⁹ Additionally, educational resources, supports, and programming are available through Métis organizations.²⁰ This may be reflected in the different educational outcomes of Métis youth who are members of one of the five signatory organizations to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* (see Table A.3).²¹

Chart 3
High school completion rates vary across provinces, territories and Métis groups



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

19 This study examines the outcomes of Métis youth according to the province or territory in which they resided at the time of the 2021 Census.

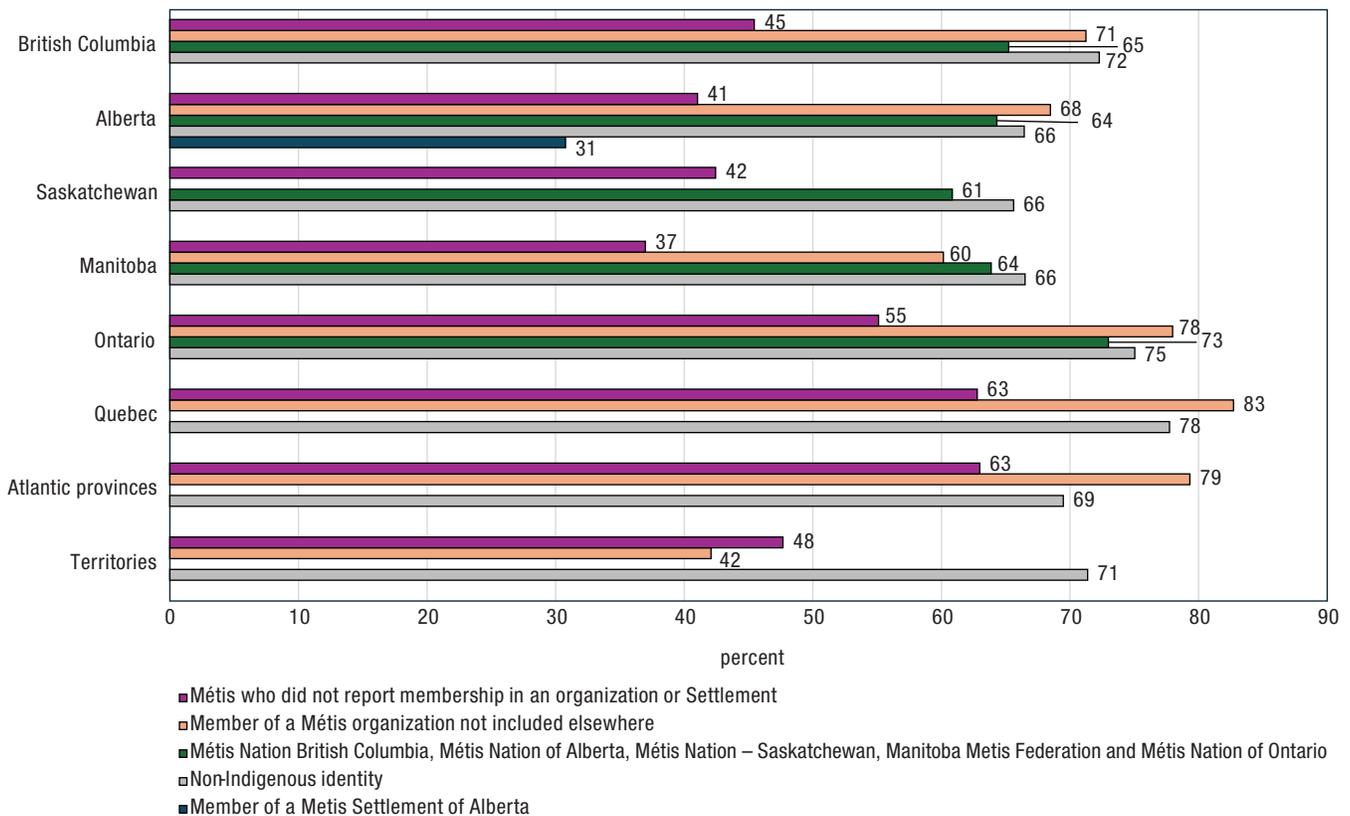
20 See Métis National Council (n.d.b).

21 Provincial and territorial estimates include members of signatory Métis organizations and residents of a given province or territory. For example, the analysis in Alberta includes members of MNA and members of Metis Settlements of Alberta (regardless of residence in 2021), alongside self-identified Métis who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement and non-Indigenous youth residing in Alberta. Notably, the majority of Métis aged 19 to 30 who reported membership in a signatory organization lived in the respective province, ranging from 89% in Ontario to 96% in the Metis Settlements of Alberta.

The majority of Métis youth who reported membership in Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) (94%), Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) (93%), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) (92%), Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) (95%) and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) (95%) had completed high school in 2021, as had non-Indigenous youth (93%). The results are similar for Métis who reported membership in a non-signatory organization.

Nearly 9 in 10 Métis who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement had completed high school in British Columbia (86%), Alberta (83%), Saskatchewan (83%), Manitoba (83%), Ontario (88%) and the Atlantic provinces (91%). These shares were slightly lower in Quebec (76%) and the territories (79%). In the Metis Settlements of Alberta, two-thirds (67%) of Métis youth had completed high school.

Chart 4
Postsecondary participation rates vary across provinces, territories and Métis groups



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

The rate of postsecondary participation was relatively high among Métis youth who reported membership in an organization that is signatory to the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*. Nearly two thirds of MN-S (61%), MMF (64%), MNA (64%) and MNBC (65%) members aged 19 to 30 and three-quarters (73%) of their MNO counterparts were attending or had completed postsecondary education in 2021. Members of these organizations can access support for Métis Nation students pursuing postsecondary education, including financial assistance, career counselling, student cultural support and more.²²

These shares were similar to those of Métis youth who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement in Quebec (63%) and the Atlantic provinces (63%). Postsecondary participation rates were slightly lower among Métis who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement in the remaining provinces and territories, ranging from one-third (37%) in Manitoba to just over half (55%) in Ontario. Those who reported membership in the Metis Settlements of Alberta also participated in postsecondary education at a lower rate (31%).

The share of non-Indigenous youth aged 19 to 30 participating in postsecondary education ranged from two-thirds (66%) in the Prairie provinces to three-quarters (78%) in Quebec.

Members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and Métis residing in the Atlantic provinces and the territories were more likely to live in relatively remote areas, relative to other Métis groups and non-Indigenous youth

The availability of essential services such as education facilities, health care and retail business in a province or territory is related to whether an individual can successfully pursue education, particularly high school. Remote communities incur high costs in providing essential services, including education, resulting in outdated infrastructure and higher staff turnover rates.²³

Overall, Métis were more likely than non-Indigenous youth to reside in relatively remote areas.^{24,25} Further, members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta and Métis residing in the territories were the most likely to reside in relatively remote communities.

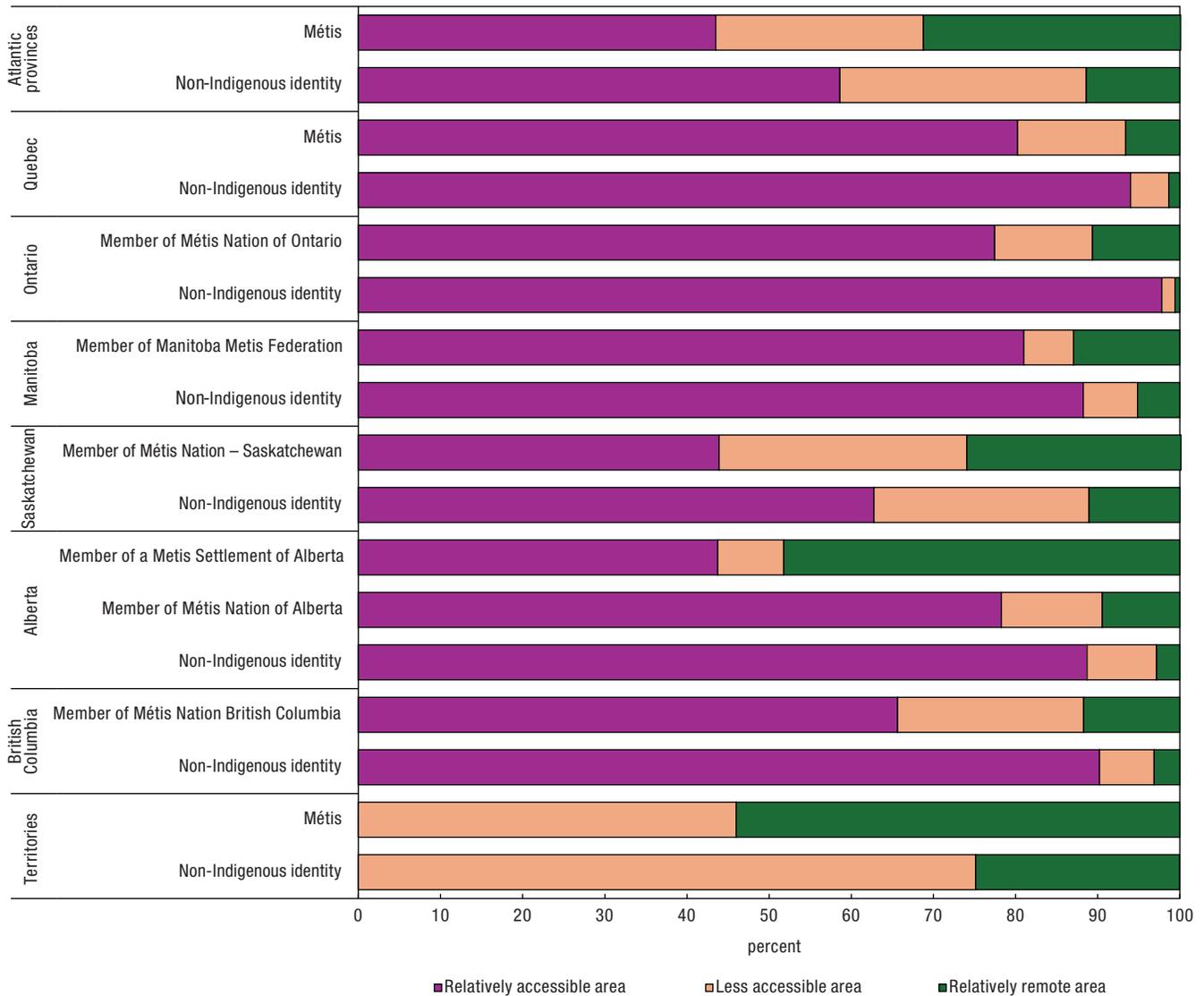
²² See Government of Canada (n.d.b).

²³ See Sisco et al. (2012).

²⁴ This paper uses the manual classification of the remoteness index. “Relatively remote area” includes census subdivisions classified as “remote” or “very remote” while “relatively accessible area” includes “easily accessible” and “accessible” areas. See Subedi et al. (2020).

²⁵ See Layton (2025).

Chart 5
Remoteness by Indigenous identity, membership in a Métis organization or settlement, and province or territory



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Despite the challenges faced by a larger share of Métis residing in relatively remote areas, where access to essential services can be limited, high school completion rates were high for many Métis youth (see Table A.4).

Métis residing in relatively remote areas belonging to MNO (95%) had completed high school in equal proportions to those residing in relatively accessible areas (95%). Further, this share was comparable with that of non-Indigenous youth residing in relatively accessible (94%) and relatively remote (90%) areas.

Nearly 9 in 10 members of and MNBC (90%), MMF (89%), MN-S (86%) and MNA (87%) residing in relatively remote areas had completed high school in 2021, a somewhat lower share than their counterparts residing in relatively accessible areas (-6 percentage points, -8 percentage points, -8 percentage points and -7 percentage points, respectively). A similar result was observed for Métis youth who did not report membership in a Métis organization who were residing in a relatively remote area (79%), compared with those in a relatively accessible area (85%).

Finally, those residing in the Metis Settlements of Alberta were more than five times (48%) as likely as members of MNA (9%) or non-Indigenous youth (3%) to reside in relatively remote areas in Alberta. Less than two-thirds (60%) of members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta residing in relatively remote areas had completed high school in 2021, compared with three-quarters (75%) of those residing in relatively accessible areas.²⁶

Additional factors that affect education include caring for children and financial stress

Many factors can affect an individual's educational pursuits. Typically, young parents who have additional familial responsibilities are less likely to attend school, leading to lower rates of high school completion and participation in postsecondary education.²⁷ This is also true for individuals living in low-income households, who may seek employment rather than education. As these are known determinants of educational attainment, policies and programs have been developed by governments and Métis organizations to provide support where needed.

In 2021, women aged 19 to 30 who reported membership in the Metis Settlements of Alberta were nearly three times as likely to be parents as non-Indigenous women (43% and 15%, respectively) (see Table A.5). Among reported members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta, three-quarters (72%) of non-parents had completed high school as of 2021, compared with half (55%) of those who were parents (see Table A.6).

While Métis women who reported membership in a signatory Métis organization were also more likely to be parents than their non-Indigenous counterparts, their high school completion rate was comparable (89% and 87%, respectively). These individuals may benefit from policies developed by the Métis Nation in partnership with the Government of Canada, such as the principles of the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework.²⁸ These principles were developed to provide “programs and services [that] support improved education, health and social outcomes for young Métis children, rooted in Métis culture.”

Additionally, in 2021, a higher proportion of Métis women who did not report membership in a Métis organization or Settlement were living in low-income households (14%), compared with Métis women who reported membership in signatory (8%) or non-signatory (7%) organizations and non-Indigenous women (10%).

Among Métis women who did not report membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, nearly half (49%) of those who did not live in low-income households participated in postsecondary education, compared with one-third (30%) of those who lived in low-income households. A similar pattern was observed for those who reported membership in a signatory or non-signatory Métis organization.

Financial assistance to support Métis Nation students pursuing postsecondary education is available through several programs, including the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy, which may contribute to the relatively low share of Métis youth who were members of a signatory Métis organization living in low-income households.²⁹

26 Similar patterns have been observed for First Nations people residing on reserve, as a greater proportion of First Nations youth living on reserve face financial insecurity and access to fewer essential services, resulting in a larger disparity in educational attainment relative to non-Indigenous youth. See Layton (2023b).

27 See Bougie, Kelly-Scott & Arriagada (2013).

28 See Government of Canada (n.d.a).

29 See the [Government of Canada](#) (n.d.b).

High school completion for Métis youth aged 19 to 30 years has increased over time³⁰

Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of Métis men and women with a high school diploma (or equivalent) increased (see table A.7). The proportion of Métis men who had completed high school increased from 81% in 2016 to 86% in 2021. For Métis women, the increase was from 86% to 90% over the same period. At the same time, high school completion for non-Indigenous men and women remained within 1 percentage point.

Métis youth were pursuing their education later in life, relative to non-Indigenous youth

For Métis, lifelong learning is linked to community well-being and extends beyond learning in the formal education system.³¹ Because Métis may have different pathways to learning, examining their education outcomes over a longer period may better reflect their relationship to education.

Participation in postsecondary education was 8 percentage points higher for Métis members of Metis Settlements of Alberta when the study's age range was expanded from 19 to 30 year to 19 to 45 (see Table A.8).

Additionally, among Métis men who did not report membership in an organization or Settlement, 40% of those aged 19 to 30 participated in postsecondary education, compared with 46% of those in the expanded age range. Similarly, postsecondary participation for women in this group increased by 5 percentage point (55% and 60%, respectively).

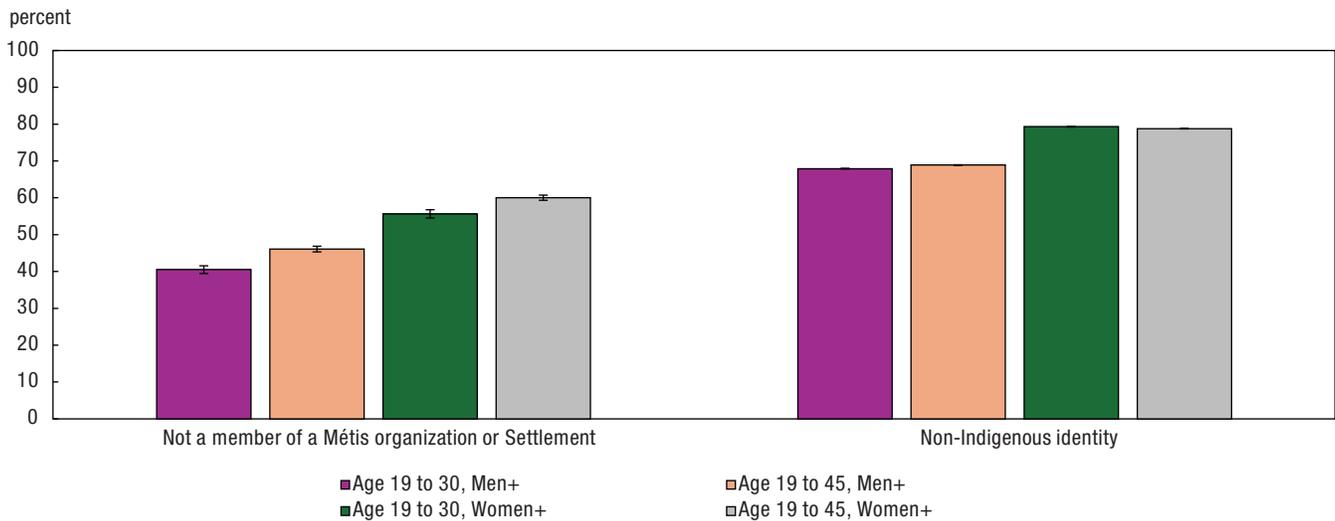
For members of signatory and non-signatory Métis organizations and non-Indigenous people aged 19 to 45, participation in postsecondary education remained within 1 percentage point of the smaller age range.

³⁰ Historical comparisons should be interpreted with caution. The change (increase or decrease) in the number of people reporting Indigenous identity is partly caused by demographic growth and partly caused by changes in reporting patterns between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Changes in Indigenous counts over time can also be affected by differences in the wording and format of questions, legislative changes, differences in the set of incompletely enumerated reserves and Settlements, and changes made to the definition of reserves and Settlements. See O'Donnell & LaPointe (2019).

³¹ See Canadian Council on Learning (2007a).

Chart 6

Postsecondary participation increased with age for Métis youth who did not report membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, but not for members of signatory or non-signatory Métis organizations, or for non-Indigenous people



Note: The category “men+” includes men, boys and some non-binary people, while the category “women+” includes women, girls and some non-binary people.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Conclusion

The health and well-being of Métis draw on knowledge from their communities and land, alongside early learning programs and elementary, secondary and postsecondary education.³² This paper explores the gaps in educational outcomes between Métis and non-Indigenous youth in Canada and demonstrates that these gaps were unequal among the four groups identified in the analysis.

Métis youth who reported membership in signatory organization of the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* achieve educational outcomes nearly equal to their non-Indigenous peers, which may be linked to educational resources, supports and programming available through Métis organizations. However, the experiences of Métis youth are distinct across each province and territory. For example, high school completion rates were consistently higher in relatively accessible areas, compared with relatively remote areas. Those who reported membership in a Metis Settlement of Alberta were more likely to live in a relatively remote area. Improved outcomes may stem from improved access to essential services, including secondary and postsecondary education.³³

This study provides an overview of secondary and postsecondary education for Métis youth. Importantly, the outcomes measured in this study are limited to high school completion and participation in postsecondary education. Further research could shed light on alternative measures of success for Métis, such as access to land-based learning, education in Michif or another Indigenous language, and the presence of supports that foster spirituality and cultural connectedness, to capture the experiences and outcomes of Métis youth more fully.

³² See Canadian Council on Learning (2007a).

³³ See Paulson, Poitras Pratt & Contreras (2015) and Metis Settlements General Council (2021).

Data sources, methods and limitations

The data used in this study are from the 2021 Census of Population long-form questionnaire.³⁴ This survey reports Indigenous identity, educational attainment and other sociodemographic characteristics that are determinants of educational outcomes.³⁵ The population of interest is restricted to single-identity Métis and non-Indigenous people aged 19 to 30. This age group was chosen to be inclusive of lifelong learners while limiting the analysis to the contemporary educational context.

The first outcome measured in this study is high school completion, which refers to whether a person has completed a high school or secondary school diploma, graduation certificate or equivalency certificate. A secondary school (high school) diploma or graduation certificate includes academic or vocational high school diplomas or certificates as may be obtained by graduating from a secondary school. High school equivalency certificate includes the successful completion of a high school equivalency test such as the General Educational Development (GED) test, or obtaining an Adult Basic Education (ABE) certificate where it is equivalent to the completion of secondary school.

The second outcome measured in this study is participation in postsecondary education, which includes youth who completed a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree at the time the data were collected or were attending a postsecondary educational institution in the nine-month data collection period. These youth are considered to have begun or completed a postsecondary education program. As those who were participating in postsecondary education are likely to have a high school diploma (or equivalent), respondents to the 2021 Census may be represented in both outcomes examined in this study.

The after-tax low-income measure refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of private households. The household after-tax income is adjusted by an equivalence scale to take economies of scale into account. This adjustment for different household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase, but at a decreasing rate, as the number of members increases. Low-income status (after tax) is based on the 2020 income threshold, which is suitable for the population residing in the territories and on reserve. However, caution should be used when applying low-income concepts to the territories, on reserve and Inuit Nunangat. The existence of substantial in-kind transfers (such as subsidized housing), economies based on sharing and consumption from own production (such as products from hunting, farming or fishing), differences in cost of living and expenditure patterns, and challenges in data collection (such as non-response), must be considered when interpreting low-income statistics.

Beginning in 2021, the Census of Population asked questions about the sex at birth and gender of individuals. While data on sex at birth are needed to measure certain indicators, as of the 2021 Census, gender (and not sex) is the standard variable used in concepts and classifications. For more details on the new gender concept, see [Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#).

Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. Individuals in the category “non-binary people” are distributed into the other two gender categories. Unless otherwise indicated in the text, the category “men” includes men (or boys) and some non-binary people, while the category “women” includes women (or girls) and some non-binary persons.

³⁴ See Statistics Canada (2022a).

³⁵ See Frenette (2003) and Frenette (2007).

The term “Two-Spirit,” which is specific to some Indigenous peoples of North America, falls within the response category of “non-binary.” For the population aged 15 and older, this response was provided in greater proportion by non-binary people living in Western Canada, especially in Manitoba (4.8%) where a large Indigenous population (First Nations people, Métis and Inuit) resides.

Two fact sheets on gender concepts, [Filling the gaps: Information on gender in the 2021 Census](#) and [Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people](#), are also available.

Appendix

Table A.1
Population of Métis aged 19 to 30 by province/territory, and membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, 2021

	Population of Métis					
	Total	Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	Member of a Métis organization or Settlement	Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	Métis Nation of Ontario	Manitoba Metis Federation
Atlantic provinces	6,000	4,255	1,740	275	X	X
Quebec	8,120	6,915	1,205	145	X	X
Ontario	23,175	16,625	6,550	5,035	4,745	X
Manitoba	17,835	10,055	7,775	7,475	X	7,370
Saskatchewan	11,305	6,790	4,515	4,315	X	X
Alberta	23,965	14,280	9,685	8,745	X	X
British Columbia	17,165	11,585	5,585	5,240	X	X
Territories	680	335	355	X	X	X
Total	108,235	70,830	37,400	31,305	5,300	8,145

	Population of Métis					Total population
	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	Métis Nation of Alberta	Metis Settlements of Alberta	Métis Nation British Columbia	Métis organization not included elsewhere	
Atlantic provinces	X	X	X	X	1,440	323,365
Quebec	X	X	X	X	1,060	1,178,510
Ontario	X	X	X	X	1,515	2,219,245
Manitoba	X	X	X	X	300	212,660
Saskatchewan	4,025	X	X	X	205	161,490
Alberta	X	8,095	560	X	380	624,590
British Columbia	X	X	X	4,390	335	746,955
Territories	X	X	X	X	270	19,695
Total	4,465	8,720	580	4,670	5,520	5,486,515

 X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
Notes: Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to the use of conversion factors or rounding of fractions to whole numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021.

Table A.2
High school completion and postsecondary participation for youth aged 19 to 30 by Indigenous identity, and membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, 2021

	High school diploma (or equivalent)			Attending or completed postsecondary education		
	percent	95% confidence limits		percent	95% confidence limits	
		from	to		from	to
Métis						
Total	87.51	87.10	87.91	54.35	53.74	54.95
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	84.31	83.75	84.85	48.09	47.33	48.85
Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	93.85	93.28	94.37	65.30	64.21	66.38
Métis Nation of Ontario	94.90	93.54	95.99	72.98	70.45	75.36
Manitoba Metis Federation	95.33	94.29	96.19	63.87	61.58	66.10
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	91.97	90.24	93.42	60.85	57.96	63.66
Métis Nation of Alberta	92.59	91.38	93.64	64.30	62.15	66.39
Métis Nation British Columbia	94.22	92.67	95.46	65.23	62.34	68.01
Metis Settlements of Alberta	66.66	61.05	71.85	30.76	25.21	36.94
Métis organization not included elsewhere	94.89	93.50	95.99	75.01	72.77	77.13
Non-Indigenous						
Total	93.28	93.24	93.33	73.48	73.40	73.56

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021.

Table A.3

High school completion and postsecondary participation for youth aged 19 to 30 by Indigenous identity, membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, and province/territory, 2021

	Métis					
	Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement			Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
High school diploma (or equivalent)						
Newfoundland and Labrador	95.38	91.31	97.59	X	X	X
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	90.99	88.38	93.05	X	X	X
New Brunswick	91.88	87.54	94.80	X	X	X
Quebec	75.85	73.72	77.86	X	X	X
Ontario	87.55	86.47	88.56	95.26	93.90	96.33
Manitoba	83.01	81.35	84.54	95.04	93.92	95.96
Saskatchewan	82.53	80.46	84.42	92.24	90.50	93.69
Alberta	82.58	81.21	83.87	92.56	91.34	93.61
British Columbia	86.43	85.08	87.67	94.18	92.71	95.36
Territories	78.99	71.45	84.96	X	X	X
Attended or completed postsecondary education						
Newfoundland and Labrador	67.58	60.53	73.92	X	X	X
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	63.97	59.98	67.78	X	X	X
New Brunswick	57.75	51.54	63.72	X	X	X
Quebec	62.78	60.42	65.08	X	X	X
Ontario	55.11	53.53	56.67	73.97	71.40	76.39
Manitoba	36.98	35.02	38.99	62.70	60.31	65.03
Saskatchewan	42.44	40.10	44.81	61.25	58.32	64.10
Alberta	41.03	39.35	42.74	64.45	62.36	66.49
British Columbia	45.45	43.57	47.34	64.82	62.09	67.46
Territories	47.68	38.78	56.73	X	X	X

	Métis								
	Member of a Métis Settlement			Métis organization not included elsewhere			Non-Indigenous identity		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
High school diploma (or equivalent)									
Newfoundland and Labrador	X	X	X	95.59	91.42	97.78	93.79	93.35	94.20
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	95.18	94.49	95.78
Nova Scotia	X	X	X	98.33	94.37	99.52	94.46	94.20	94.71
New Brunswick	X	X	X	X	X	X	94.72	94.42	95.01
Quebec	X	X	X	92.55	88.60	95.21	89.10	88.98	89.22
Ontario	X	X	X	96.94	94.49	98.32	94.58	94.52	94.64
Manitoba	X	X	X	96.09	88.46	98.75	94.31	94.07	94.53
Saskatchewan	X	X	X	94.37	80.19	98.58	94.17	93.90	94.44
Alberta	65.74	59.92	71.12	94.54	85.73	98.03	92.81	92.67	92.95
British Columbia	X	X	X	90.10	81.29	95.02	95.63	95.53	95.73
Territories	X	X	X	84.00	78.51	88.30	94.43	93.48	95.25
Attended or completed postsecondary education									
Newfoundland and Labrador	X	X	X	77.27	71.14	82.42	71.38	70.57	72.17
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	70.16	68.88	71.41
Nova Scotia	X	X	X	79.32	71.71	85.31	70.89	70.38	71.40
New Brunswick	X	X	X	X	X	X	66.30	65.68	66.93
Quebec	X	X	X	82.72	77.53	86.91	77.73	77.58	77.89
Ontario	X	X	X	77.98	73.37	81.99	75.03	74.91	75.15
Manitoba	X	X	X	60.14	48.21	70.98	66.50	66.03	66.97
Saskatchewan	X	X	X	X	X	X	65.61	65.06	66.16
Alberta	30.87	25.26	37.10	68.47	58.10	77.29	66.45	66.19	66.70
British Columbia	X	X	X	71.23	60.16	80.24	72.27	72.05	72.49
Territories	X	X	X	42.08	35.20	49.29	71.37	69.58	73.10

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021.

Table A.4

High school completion for youth aged 19 to 30 by Indigenous identity, membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, and relative remoteness, 2021

High school completion	Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement			Métis Nation of Ontario			Manitoba Metis Federation		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Relatively accessible area	85.22	84.57	85.83	95.34	93.79	96.51	96.36	95.29	97.19
Less accessible area	83.01	81.50	84.42	92.45	87.49	95.54	95.61	90.84	97.95
Relatively remote area	79.03	77.02	80.91	94.94	90.08	97.48	88.79	84.32	92.11

High school completion	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan			Métis Nation of Alberta			Métis Nation British Columbia		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Relatively accessible area	94.05	91.59	95.83	93.99	92.70	95.07	95.61	93.84	96.89
Less accessible area	93.35	89.82	95.71	88.37	83.70	91.84	92.06	87.96	94.85
Relatively remote area	86.35	82.41	89.53	86.73	82.04	90.33	90.47	84.16	94.43

High school completion	Member of a Metis Settlement			Métis organization not included elsewhere			Non-Indigenous		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Relatively accessible area	74.66	66.44	81.44	94.74	92.95	96.09	93.51	93.47	93.56
Less accessible area	X	X	X	95.84	91.63	97.98	91.27	91.06	91.47
Relatively remote area	60.30	51.73	68.28	94.75	92.43	96.39	89.73	89.37	90.08

 X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Table A.5
Distribution of socio-economic characteristics for youth aged 19 to 30, by Indigenous identity, membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, and gender¹, 2021

	Young parent			Living in a low-income household (after tax)		
	percent	95% confidence limits		percent	95% confidence limits	
		from	to		from	to
Métis						
Men+ ²	10.11	9.59	10.64	8.82	8.34	9.32
Women+ ³	21.92	21.22	22.64	12.28	11.73	12.85
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement						
Men+	10.26	9.62	10.93	10.23	9.59	10.90
Women+	23.55	22.65	24.47	14.28	13.54	15.05
Métis Nation of Ontario						
Men+	7.94	6.07	10.31	6.26	4.62	8.44
Women+	16.47	13.77	19.59	X	X	X
Manitoba Metis Federation						
Men+	11.75	9.84	13.97	6.02	4.67	7.73
Women+	18.56	16.25	21.12	8.67	7.07	10.60
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan						
Men+	12.72	10.17	15.81	8.70	6.60	11.38
Women+	26.18	22.79	29.88	12.95	10.48	15.91
Métis Nation of Alberta						
Men+	9.19	7.50	11.20	6.06	4.71	7.77
Women+	17.34	15.24	19.66	9.18	7.62	11.00
Métis Nation British Columbia						
Men+	X	X	X	X	X	X
Women+	15.14	12.33	18.45	X	X	X
Metis Settlements of Alberta						
Men+	24.22	18.41	31.16	X	X	X
Women+	43.86	37.39	50.55	18.95	13.47	26.01
Métis organization not included elsewhere						
Men+	10.38	8.41	12.74	X	X	X
Women+	18.59	15.96	21.53	6.59	5.03	8.60
Non-Indigenous						
Men+	7.27	7.21	7.34	X	X	X
Women+	15.08	14.99	15.17	10.27	10.19	10.35

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

2. This category includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons.

3. This category includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021.

Table A.6
High school completion and postsecondary participation for youth aged 19-30, by selected socio-economic characteristics, Indigenous identity, and membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, 2021

	Non-parent			Young parent			Not living in a low-income household			Living in a low-income household (after tax)		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
High school completion												
Métis												
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	85.63	85.04	86.21	77.79	76.23	79.27	86.49	85.92	87.03	68.71	66.65	70.69
Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	94.55	93.95	95.09	89.59	87.66	91.25	94.78	94.23	95.28	82.32	78.94	85.26
Métis Nation of Ontario	95.48	94.09	96.56	90.70	85.01	94.38	95.80	94.50	96.81	80.85	70.47	88.20
Manitoba Metis Federation	95.84	94.75	96.71	92.46	88.92	94.94	96.50	95.54	97.26	80.59	73.28	86.28
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	92.86	90.98	94.37	88.40	83.69	91.87	93.26	91.55	94.65	81.48	73.48	87.47
Métis Nation of Alberta	93.35	92.05	94.45	87.78	83.68	90.96	93.21	91.98	94.27	85.18	79.04	89.76
Métis Nation British Columbia	94.98	93.42	96.18	87.27	79.18	92.52	94.91	93.38	96.09	82.26	70.36	90.06
Member of a Metis Settlement	72.61	66.46	78.01	55.32	45.16	65.06	69.65	63.83	74.91	49.55	34.89	64.29
Métis organization not included elsewhere	95.20	93.67	96.37	93.04	89.17	95.60	95.68	94.47	96.64	82.29	72.83	88.96
Non-Indigenous												
Total	94.05	94.01	94.10	87.08	86.90	87.26	93.93	93.88	93.97	87.37	87.18	87.56
Postsecondary participation												
Métis												
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	49.17	48.33	50.00	42.80	41.00	44.63	50.42	49.61	51.23	31.43	29.44	33.49
Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	66.45	65.27	67.60	58.35	55.43	61.22	66.42	65.29	67.52	51.49	47.34	55.62
Métis Nation of Ontario	73.24	70.55	75.78	71.06	62.89	78.05	74.37	71.80	76.78	X	X	X
Manitoba Metis Federation	65.62	63.26	67.90	54.13	48.49	59.67	65.21	62.88	67.47	47.05	38.99	55.27
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	62.08	58.85	65.21	55.85	49.48	62.02	62.91	59.88	65.84	44.06	35.30	53.21
Métis Nation of Alberta	65.27	63.01	67.46	58.15	52.61	63.49	64.70	62.50	66.84	59.48	51.94	66.59
Métis Nation British Columbia	66.10	63.08	69.01	57.23	47.73	66.21	65.80	62.84	68.64	X	X	X
Member of a Metis Settlement	31.06	23.93	39.22	30.20	22.91	38.64	30.58	24.57	37.33	X	X	X
Métis organization not included elsewhere	75.91	73.48	78.19	69.68	63.22	75.45	76.12	73.84	78.26	57.46	46.84	67.42
Non-Indigenous												
Total	74.89	74.81	74.97	62.15	61.89	62.41	74.08	74.00	74.16	67.94	67.67	68.21

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Table A.7

High school completion and postsecondary participation for youth aged 19 to 30 by Indigenous identity, and gender¹, 2016 and 2021

	2016						2021		
	Male			Female			Men+ ²		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
High school diploma (or equivalent)									
Métis	80.95	80.30	81.60	86.30	85.81	86.80	85.59	84.99	86.19
Non-Indigenous	90.17	90.11	90.24	93.47	93.41	93.53	91.92	91.86	91.99
Attending or completed postsecondary education									
Métis	47.99	47.14	48.84	60.57	59.83	61.31	47.00	46.30	47.69
Non-Indigenous	67.46	67.35	67.57	77.85	77.74	77.96	67.91	67.82	68.00

	2021			Difference between cycles					
	Women+ ³			Male/Men+			Female/Women+		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
High school diploma (or equivalent)									
Métis	89.39	88.94	89.84	-4.64	-3.81	-5.48*	-3.09	-2.40	-3.77*
Non-Indigenous	94.70	94.65	94.76	-1.75	-1.66	-1.84*	-1.24	-1.15	-1.32*
Attending or completed postsecondary education									
Métis	61.55	60.68	62.41	0.99	2.10	-0.11	-0.98	0.13	-2.09
Non-Indigenous	79.31	79.21	79.40	-0.45	-0.30	-0.60	-1.46	-1.31	-1.60*

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

1. The sex variable in census years prior to 2021 and the two-category gender variable in the 2021 Census are combined in this table. Although sex and gender refer to two different concepts, the introduction of gender is not expected to have a significant impact on data analysis and historical comparability, given the small size of the transgender and non-binary populations. For additional information on changes of concepts over time, please consult the Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide.

Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

2. Prior to the 2021 Census, this category was called "males." As of the 2021 Census, it was renamed "men+" and includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons.

3. Prior to the 2021 Census, this category was called "females." As of the 2021 Census, it was renamed "women+" and includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016 and 2021.

Table A.8
High school completion and postsecondary participation for youth aged 19 to 30 and 19-45 by Indigenous identity and membership in a Métis organization or Settlement, 2021

	19-30						19-45					
	Men+			Women+			Men+			Women+		
	95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits			95% confidence limits		
	percent	from	to									
High school diploma (or equivalent)												
Métis												
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	82.03	81.19	82.85	86.57	85.82	87.29	82.37	81.79	82.94	87.82	87.34	88.29
Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	92.74	91.85	93.55	94.89	94.14	95.54	91.04	90.38	91.66	94.48	93.97	94.95
Métis Nation of Ontario	93.78	91.61	95.41	96.04	94.21	97.31	92.79	91.34	94.02	96.14	95.03	97.01
Manitoba Metis Federation	93.94	92.23	95.30	96.66	95.34	97.62	91.11	89.80	92.27	96.01	95.08	96.78
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	91.46	88.70	93.59	92.44	90.02	94.31	89.15	87.21	90.82	92.26	90.75	93.55
Métis Nation of Alberta	91.00	88.87	92.75	93.93	92.38	95.18	89.37	87.93	90.66	93.23	92.14	94.18
Métis Nation British Columbia	93.64	91.29	95.38	94.83	92.60	96.42	93.33	91.71	94.66	94.65	93.22	95.79
Metis Settlements of Alberta	65.03	57.95	71.51	68.18	60.00	75.38	67.03	61.76	71.92	71.02	65.86	75.69
Métis organization not included elsewhere	93.90	91.92	95.42	95.88	94.21	97.09	91.42	90.03	92.63	94.48	93.30	95.46
Non-Indigenous identity												
Total	91.92	91.85	91.99	94.70	94.65	94.76	91.61	91.57	91.66	94.45	94.41	94.49
Attending or completed postsecondary education												
Métis												
Not a member of a Métis organization or Settlement	40.50	39.44	41.56	55.64	54.52	56.75	46.08	45.33	46.84	60.02	59.30	60.73
Signatories of the <i>Canada-Métis Nation Accord</i>	58.02	56.40	59.63	72.14	70.70	73.54	59.77	58.67	60.86	72.69	71.73	73.63
Métis Nation of Ontario	65.16	61.36	68.78	80.90	77.62	83.81	66.12	63.64	68.52	80.09	77.90	82.12
Manitoba Metis Federation	55.54	52.34	58.70	71.90	69.00	74.62	56.52	54.36	58.65	72.65	70.69	74.53
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	55.26	51.04	59.41	65.87	61.94	69.58	56.16	53.22	59.06	69.34	66.88	71.70
Métis Nation of Alberta	55.85	52.63	59.03	71.42	68.71	73.98	59.00	56.81	61.16	70.31	68.43	72.13
Métis Nation British Columbia	60.27	56.14	64.25	70.44	66.41	74.18	62.30	59.41	65.11	72.03	69.41	74.50
Metis Settlements of Alberta	28.36	22.05	35.65	33.00	25.35	41.67	36.07	31.00	41.48	42.85	37.15	48.75
Métis organization not included elsewhere	71.29	67.98	74.39	78.78	75.71	81.56	68.88	66.70	70.98	78.24	76.20	80.15
Non-Indigenous identity												
Total	67.91	67.79	68.03	79.31	79.20	79.41	68.89	68.81	68.96	78.79	78.72	78.85

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

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