



Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada



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Aboriginal Demographics

From the 2011 National Household Survey

Planning, Research and Statistics Branch



Aboriginal Demographics

Overview

1) Aboriginal Peoples

Size

Age Structure

Geographic Distribution

2) Population Growth

Population Growth Rate

Components of the Demographic Explosion



Part 1.

Aboriginal Peoples : Highlights

- In 2011, the Aboriginal Population was **1,400,685** according to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS).
- The age structure of the Aboriginal population is much younger than the rest of the Canadian population.
- There is great variation in the geographic distribution across Aboriginal groups.



Aboriginal Peoples (identity-based)

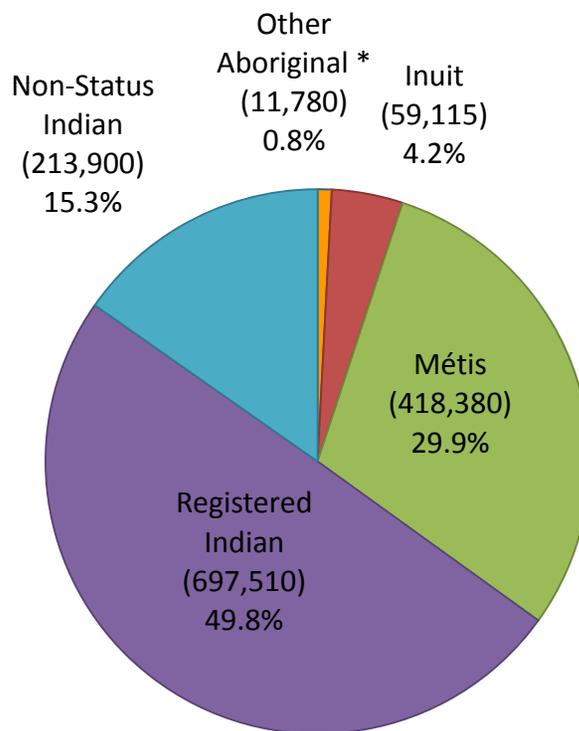
Aboriginal population **was 1,400,685** in 2011, up from 1,172,790 in 2006.

Aboriginal people accounted for 4.3% of the total population of Canada enumerated in the 2011 NHS, up from 3.8% in 2006.

Statistics Canada's analysis focuses on the three main Aboriginal identity groups of First Nations, Métis and Inuit, with a distinction by registration status among the population with First Nations identity only.

AANDC uses the entire count of individuals who indicated registration status as a unique group, along with the three other non-registered groups of Non-Status Indians, Métis and Inuit.

The size of the Aboriginal population was 1,400,685 in 2011.



Note:

* *Other Aboriginal* refers to respondents who reported more than one identity group, and those who reported being a Band member with no Aboriginal identity and no Registered Indian status.

Source:

Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC tabulations.

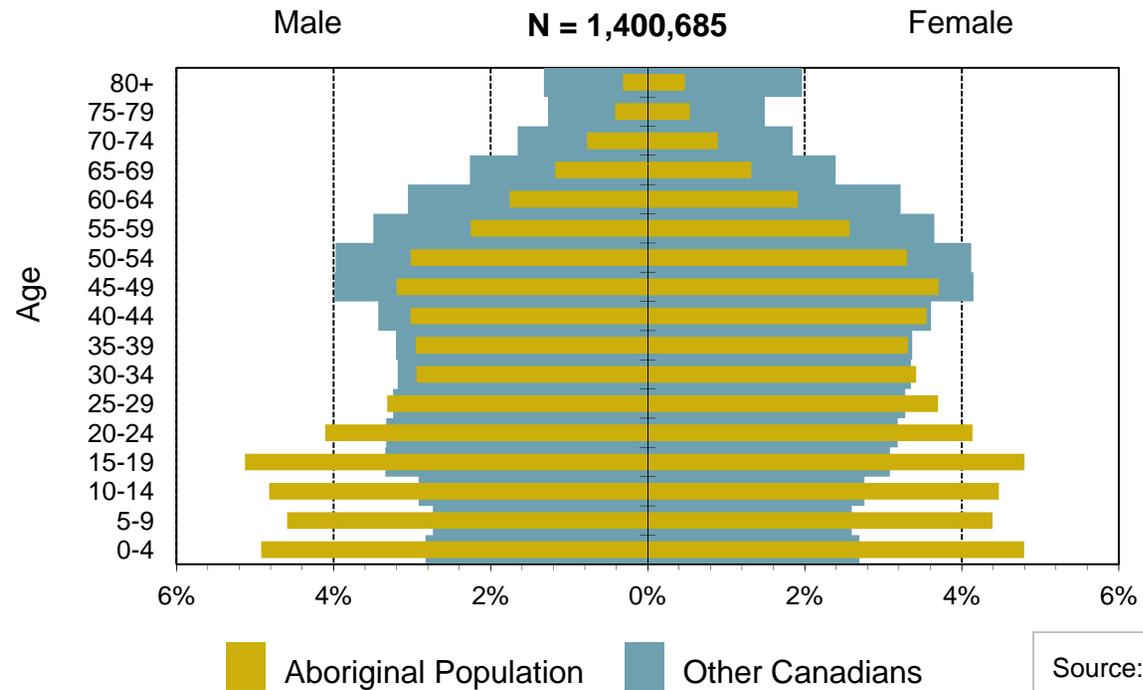


Aboriginal Peoples (identity-based)

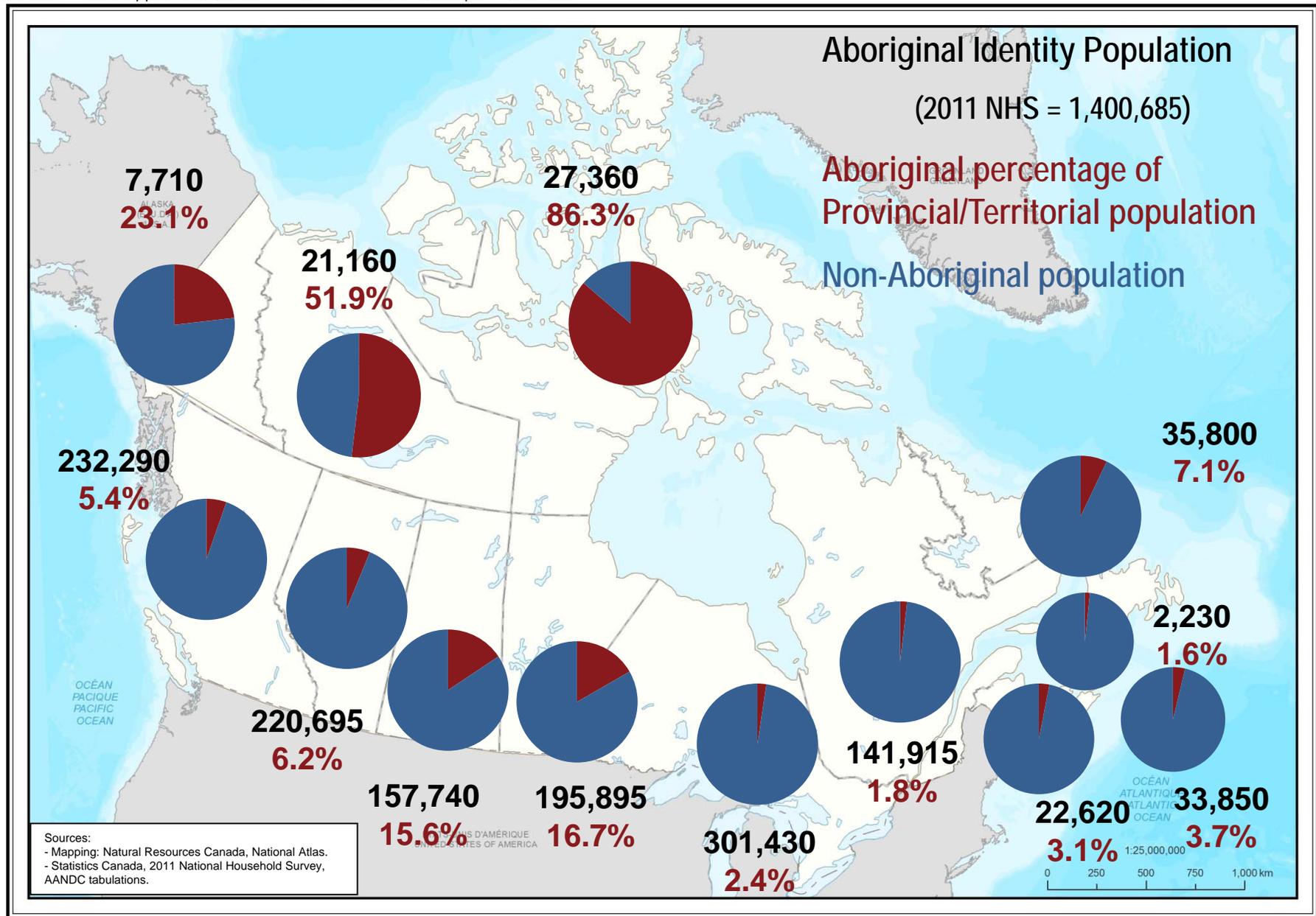
Age Pyramid of Aboriginal Population, 2011

The age structure of the Aboriginal population is much younger than the rest of the Canadian population.

Amongst the Aboriginal population, 46% of individuals are under age 25, compared to 29% for the rest of the Canadian population.



Source:
Statistics Canada,
2011 National
Household Survey,
AANDC tabulations.

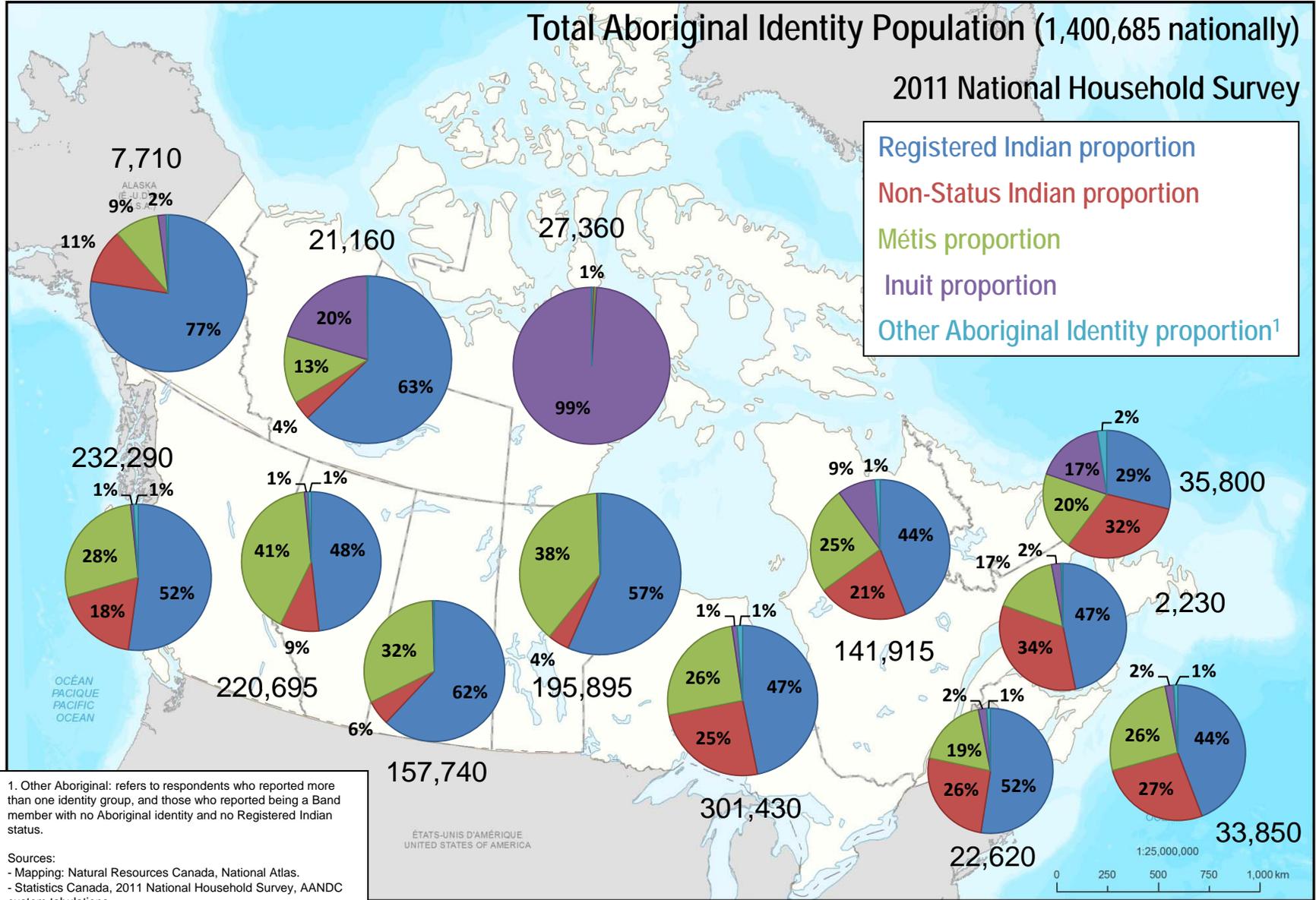




Total Aboriginal Identity Population (1,400,685 nationally)

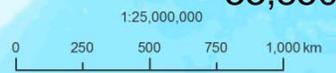
2011 National Household Survey

Registered Indian proportion
 Non-Status Indian proportion
 Métis proportion
 Inuit proportion
 Other Aboriginal Identity proportion¹



1. Other Aboriginal: refers to respondents who reported more than one identity group, and those who reported being a Band member with no Aboriginal identity and no Registered Indian status.

Sources:
 - Mapping: Natural Resources Canada, National Atlas.
 - Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC custom tabulations.





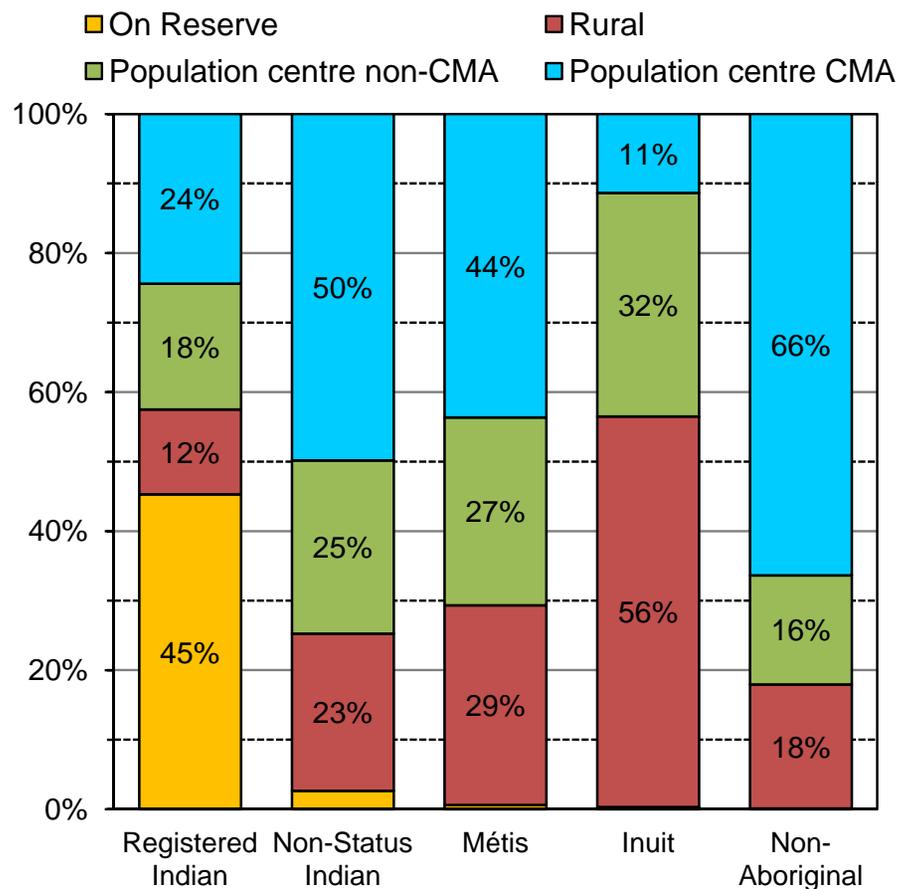
Aboriginal Peoples (identity-based) Distribution across Residency Type, 2011

Place of residence varies across groups.

About half (45%) of Registered Indians live on reserve.

The majority of Non-Status Indians (75%) and Métis (71%) live in urban areas.

Inuit live predominantly in rural areas (56%).



Population centre: Area with a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre (replaces the term 'urban area').

Census metropolitan area (CMA): An area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. Must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC tabulations.

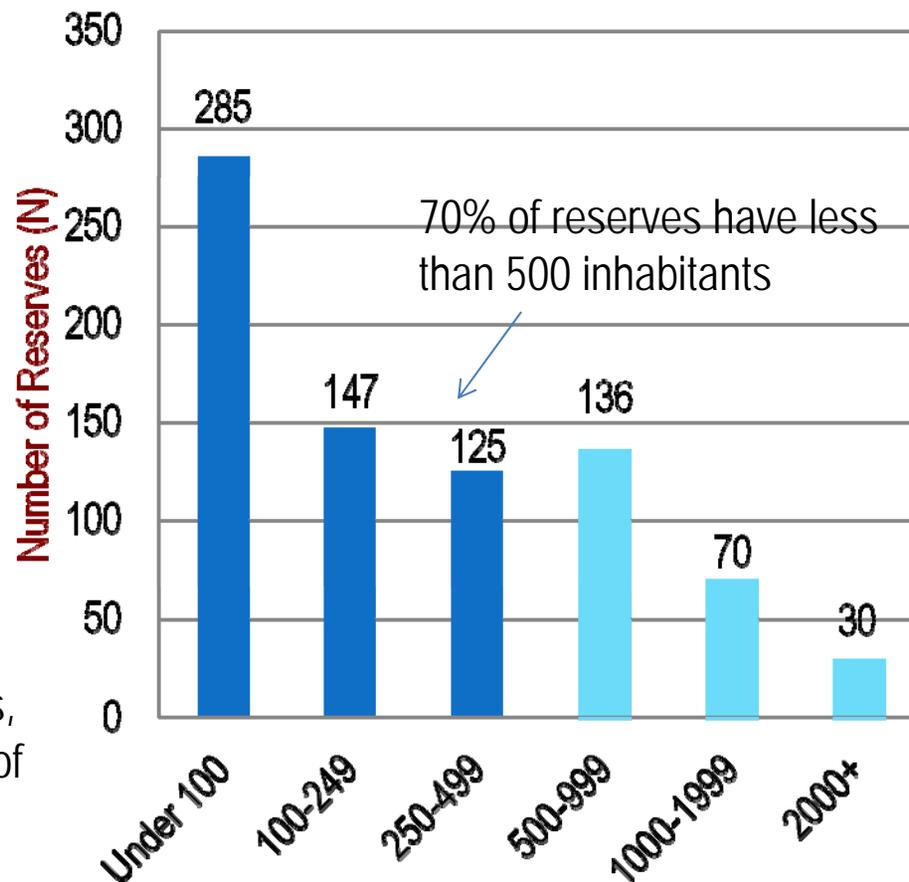


Aboriginal Peoples

First Nation Reserves by Population Size, 2011

According to the 2011 Census of Population, 70% of First Nations reserves have less than 500 inhabitants.

First Nations reserves include legally defined Indian reserves, Indian settlements, other land types created by the ratification of Self-Government Agreements, and the northern village of Sandy Bay in Saskatchewan.



Notes:
 - N=793 out of a possible 997 First Nation reserves delineated by Statistics Canada in 2011. Not included are unpopulated reserves and 31 incompletely enumerated reserves for which population counts are not available.

-A major change to the "on-reserve" definition occurred in 2011. All communities in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories with the exception of two legally defined Indian reserves were excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, Geosuite.

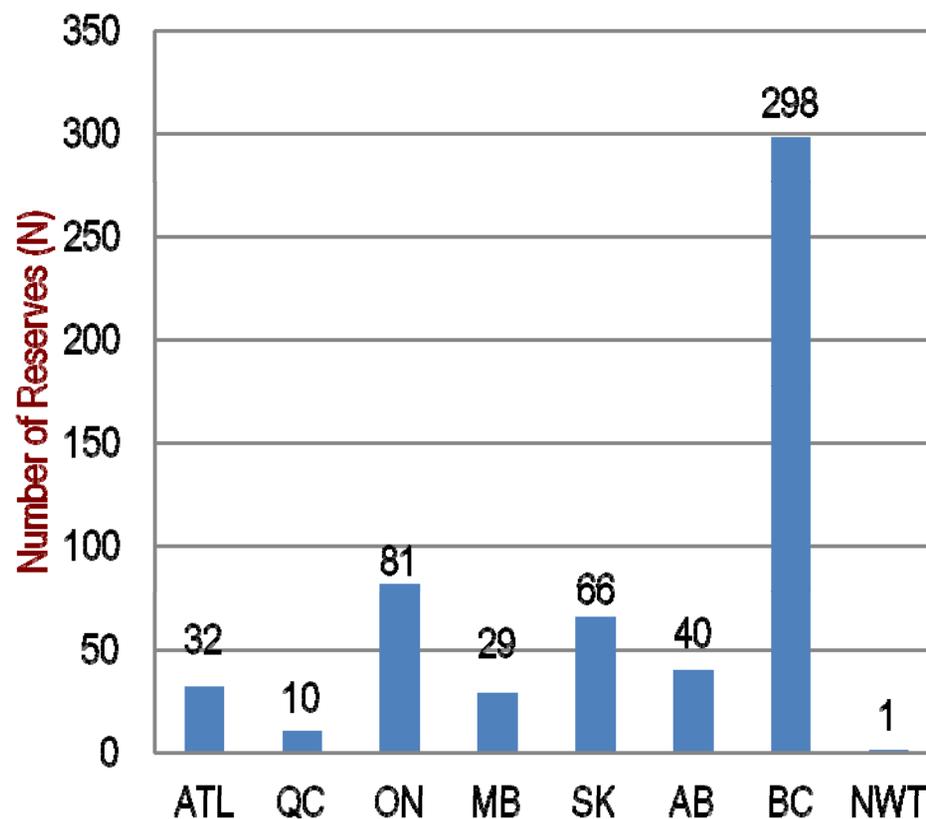


Aboriginal Peoples

First Nation Reserves with less than 500 inhabitants by Region, 2011

According to the 2011 Census, there were 557 reserves with less than 500 inhabitants.*

54% of First Nation reserves with less than 500 inhabitants are in British Columbia.



Notes:

* Not included are unpopulated reserves and 31 incompletely enumerated reserves for which population counts are not available.

-A major change to the "on-reserve" definition occurred in 2011. All communities in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories with the exception of two legally defined Indian reserves were excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, Geosuite.



Part 2.

Population Growth: Highlights

- The Aboriginal population is growing substantially faster than the rest of the Canadian population.
- There is great variation in growth rates among Aboriginal groups.
- Fertility, migration and legislative changes can explain some of the growth in the Aboriginal Population.
- However, a significant portion of the population growth is attributable to *ethnic mobility* (changes in self-reporting of cultural affiliation).



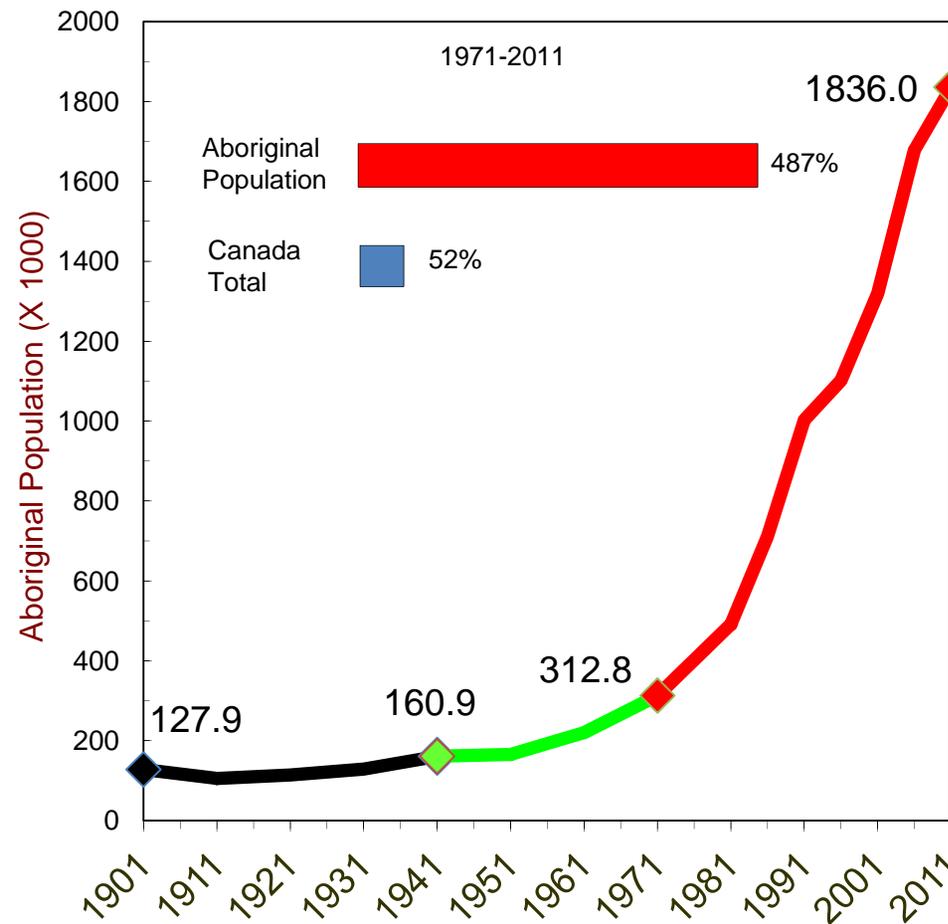
Population Growth

Aboriginal Ancestry Population, 1901-2011*

The Aboriginal ancestry population has been growing substantially faster than the Canadian population since 1971.

There were three distinct periods of population growth:

- 1901 - 1941
Slow Growth
- 1941 - 1971
Rapid Growth
- 1971 - 2011
Explosion



Note:
* Only Ancestry population counts are available prior to 1996.

Sources:
Statistics Canada, 1901 to 2006 Censuses of Population and 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC tabulations.



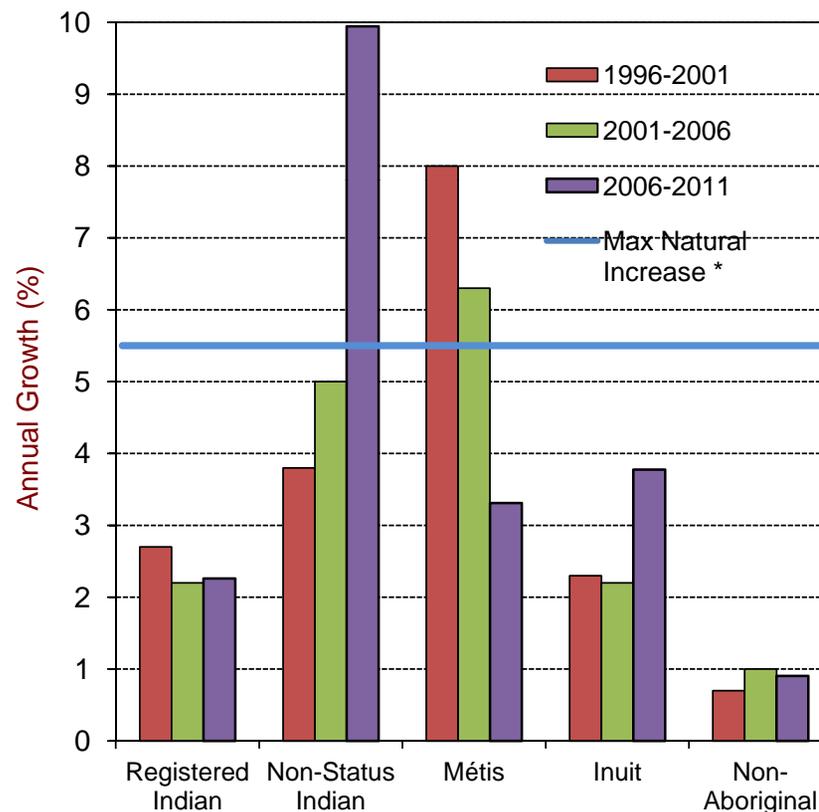
Population Growth

Annual Growth Rate of Aboriginal Groups, 1996-2011

Growth rates vary across groups.

Between 1996 and 2006, Métis population growth exceeded the theoretical maximum natural increase of 5.5% per year due in large part to an increased propensity to self-identify.

Between 2006 and 2011 the Métis annual growth dropped to 3.3% while the Non-Status Indian growth rose to almost 10%.



Note:

* This rate is obtained from the highest birth rate observable in exceptional conditions from which the lowest mortality rate is subtracted. Such a combination of high fertility and low mortality has probably never been observed (Guimond, 1999).

Sources:

Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Population, and 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC tabulations.



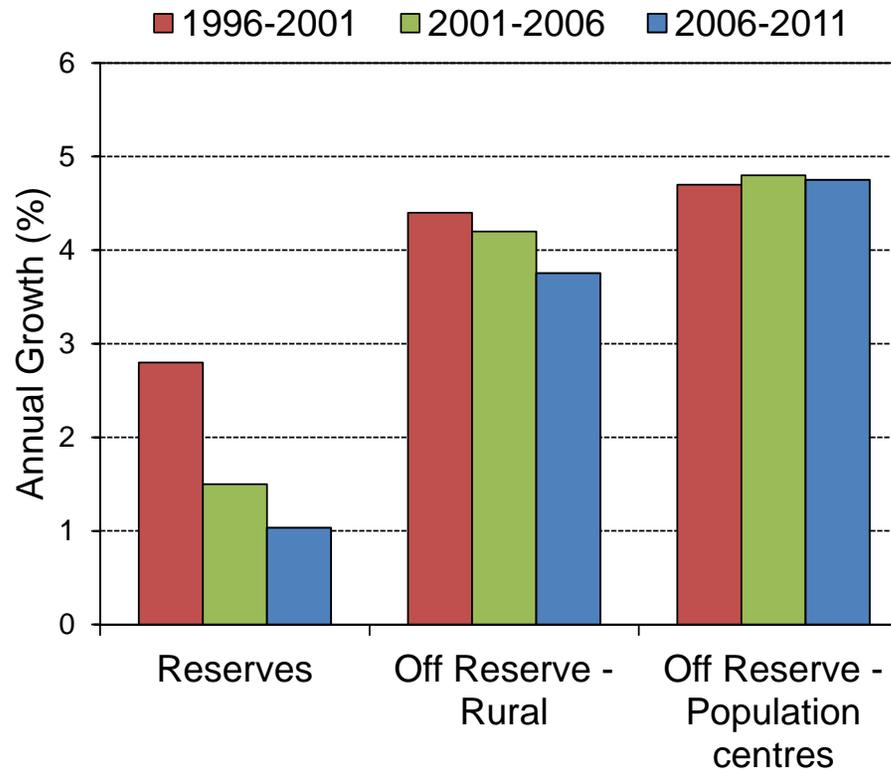
Population Growth

Annual Growth Rate of Aboriginal Population by Residency Type, 1996-2011

Growth varies by place of residence.

Nationally, the growth of the total Aboriginal population between 1996 and 2011 was more rapid off Indian reserves.

However the annual growth rate on reserve between 2006 and 2011 was slightly higher than the rate of the non-Aboriginal population off reserve .



Note:

A major change to the “on-reserve” definition occurred in 2011. All communities in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories with the exception of two legally defined Indian reserves were excluded.

Sources:

Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Population, and 2011 National Household Survey, AANDC tabulations.