



Indigenous Families in Canada

1.4M Number of people in Canada who reported an **Aboriginal identity**¹ in 2011, accounting for more than 4.3% of the total population. This includes 852,000 First Nations people, 452,000 Métis and 59,000 Inuit.²

2.0M to 2.6M Projected size of the **Aboriginal population in Canada in 2036**, which would account for 4.6%–6.1% of the projected *total* population in Canada that year.³

23, 26 and 31 Median age of people reporting Inuit, First Nations and Métis identity in Canada, respectively, in 2011 (compared with 41 among the non-Aboriginal population).⁴

28% Proportion of the population in Canada reporting an Aboriginal identity in 2011 who were **aged 14 and under** (392,000 children). This rate varies by Aboriginal identity (34% Inuit, 30% First Nations, 23% Métis), and is significantly higher than in the non-Aboriginal population (17%).⁵

48% Proportion of **foster children** in Canada who have an Aboriginal identity, representing 14,000 children (82% First Nations, 13% Métis, 4% Inuit). Aboriginal children account for 7% of all children across the country.⁶

6% & 14% Proportion of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population in Canada, respectively, who were **seniors** in 2011.⁷ Among seniors reporting an Aboriginal identity,⁸ 46% were First Nations, 45% were Métis and 3% were Inuit.⁹

59%, 77% and 53% Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit **children** who live with both of their parents,¹⁰ respectively, whose parents were a **married couple** in 2011 (compared with 84% among non-Aboriginal children).¹¹

41%, 23% and 47% Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit **children** who lived with both of their parents,¹² respectively, whose parents were a **common-law couple** in 2011 (compared with 16% among non-Aboriginal children).¹³

37%, 30% and 26% Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit **children**, respectively, who **lived in lone-parent families** in 2011 (compared with 17% among non-Aboriginal children).¹⁴

50% Proportion of Aboriginal children who **lived with both parents** (biological or adoptive) in 2011, compared with 76% among non-Aboriginal children.¹⁵

11% Proportion of **Aboriginal children** who **lived in a multi-generational household** in 2011,¹⁶ compared with 8% of non-Aboriginal children. Rates vary by Aboriginal identity, with 13% of Inuit children, 12% of First Nations children and 7% of Métis children living in multi-generational homes.¹⁷

2.7% Proportion of **Aboriginal children** who **lived with at least one grandparent in a skip-generation household**¹⁸ in 2011 (compared with 0.4% of non-Aboriginal children). Rates vary by Aboriginal identity, with 3.3% of First Nations children, 2.3% of Inuit children and 1.4% of Métis children living in skip-generation homes.¹⁹

17% and 7% Proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children, respectively, who **lived in households with four or more children** in 2011. Rates vary by Aboriginal identity, with 20% of First Nations children, 20% of Inuit children and 8% of Métis children living in homes with four or more children.²⁰

52%, 54% and 43% Proportion of First Nations children living off-reserve, Métis children and Inuit children who are in some type of **non-parental child care arrangement** (slightly lower than the rate for *all* children across Canada, which stood at 57% in 2011).²¹

26%, 17% and 67% Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, respectively, who report that their child care arrangement **promotes traditional and cultural values and customs**. Participation in traditional activities has been positively associated with pro-social behaviours among children.²²

¹ According to [Statistics Canada](#), "The term 'Aboriginal identity' refers to whether the person reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or being a Registered or Treaty Indian (registered under the *Indian Act of Canada*), and/or being a member of a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada."

² Statistics Canada, "Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit," *2011 Analytical Products*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 99-011-X (2013), <http://bit.ly/IG4IOA>.

³ Jean-Dominique Morency, Éric Caron-Malenfant, Simon Coulombe and Stéphanie Langlois, *Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036* (September 17, 2015), <http://bit.ly/2pPqxBf>.

⁴ Statistics Canada, *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit*.

⁵ Annie Turner, "Living Arrangements of Aboriginal Children Aged 14 and Under," *Insights on Canadian Society*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 75-006-X (April 13, 2016), <http://bit.ly/1qr8XUj>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Vivian O'Donnell, Michael Wendt and the National Association of Friendship Centres, "Aboriginal Seniors in Population Centres in Canada," *Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-653-X (March 21, 2017), <http://bit.ly/2pMTAcl>.

⁸ Living off-reserve.

⁹ O'Donnell et al., 2017.

¹⁰ Biological or adoptive parents.

¹¹ Turner, 2016.

¹² Biological or adoptive parents.

¹³ Turner, 2016.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Multi-generational households are those comprised of three or more generations.

¹⁷ Turner, 2016.

¹⁸ Skip-generation households are comprised of grandparents living with grandchildren with none of the grandchild(ren)'s parents living in the home.

¹⁹ Turner, 2016.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Leanne C. Findlay and Dafna E. Kohen, "Child Care for First Nations Children Living Off Reserve, Métis Children, and Inuit Children," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 11-008-X (2010), <http://bit.ly/2pDjhwO>.

²² Ibid.