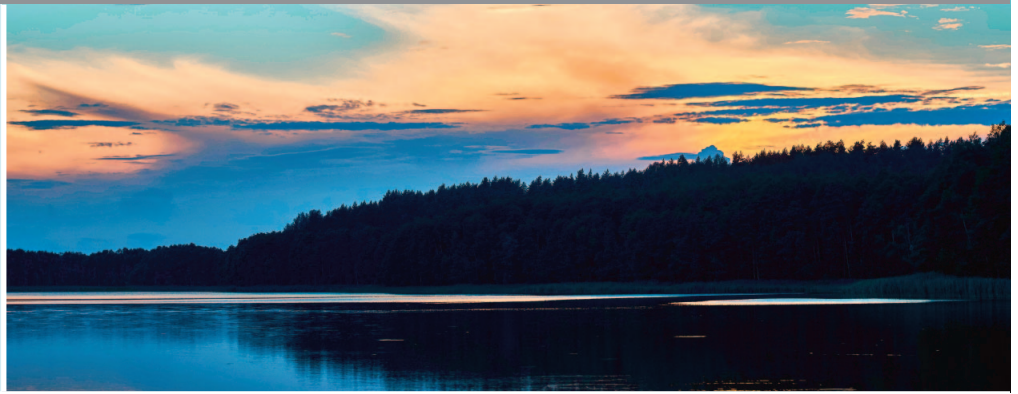


# FACTS AND STATS



## Indigenous Families in Canada

The Vanier Institute of the Family recognizes and honours Indigenous families in Canada, which have sustained rich and vibrant Nations across this land since time immemorial.<sup>1</sup> As we engage in conversation with Indigenous communities to build a foundation of data to support evidence-based decision making, we recognize that the realities and experiences of Indigenous people – including First Nations, Métis and Inuit families – are highly diverse and, as such, the statistics and information below are presented by specific group wherever possible.

The language surrounding identity and Indigenous people is evolving, and we have attempted to identify and use current terminology while also recognizing that there is always diversity regarding people's preferences. As we continue the conversation, we welcome any feedback you may have, which can be sent to [publications@vanierinstitute.ca](mailto:publications@vanierinstitute.ca).

**1.7M** Total population of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada in 2016, accounting for 4.9% of the total population.<sup>2</sup> The total Indigenous population grew by approximately 43% since 2006 (vs. 9.6% among the non-Indigenous population), and is projected reach 2.0 million to 2.6 million by 2036.<sup>3,4</sup>

**977,000** Number of people in Canada reporting First Nations<sup>5</sup> identity in 2016 (44% of whom live on a reserve), up by 40% since 2006.<sup>6</sup> First Nations people accounted for 58% of the total Indigenous population in 2016, and the First Nations population is projected to reach as many as 1.7 million by 2036.<sup>7</sup>

**588,000** Number of people in Canada reporting Métis identity in 2016, up by 51% from 2006.<sup>8</sup> People reporting Métis identity accounted for 35% of the total Indigenous population in 2016, and the Métis population is projected to reach as many as 835,000 by 2036.<sup>9</sup>

**65,000** Number of people in Canada reporting Inuit identity in 2016, up by 29% from 2006 – nearly three-quarters (73%) of whom lived in Inuit Nunangat.<sup>10</sup> People reporting Inuit identity accounted for 3.9% of the total Indigenous population in 2016, and the Inuit population is projected to reach as many as 95,000 by 2036.<sup>11</sup>

**30.6, 34.7 and 27.7** Average age of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada in 2016, respectively (vs. 40.9 years among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>12</sup>

**29%, 22% and 33%** Proportion of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada, respectively, who were **aged 14 and under** in 2016, totalling approximately 449,000 children (vs. 16% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>13</sup>

**6%, 9% and 5%** Proportion of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada, respectively, who were **seniors** in 2016, totalling approximately 116,000 (vs. 16% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>14</sup>

**39%, 26% and 27%** Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children aged 4 and under, respectively, who **lived in a lone-parent family** in 2016 (vs. 13% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>15</sup>

**21%, 11% and 23%** Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children aged 4 and under, respectively, who **lived with at least one grandparent** in 2016 (vs. 10% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>16</sup>

**2.2%, 0.9% and 1.2%** Proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit **children** aged 4 and under, respectively, who **lived in a “skip-generation” household**, that is, living with their grandparents without their parents present, in 2016 (vs. 0.3% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>17</sup>

**23%, 9% and 41%** Proportion of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit, respectively, who **lived in crowded housing**<sup>18</sup> in 2016 (vs. 9% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>19</sup>

**24%, 11% and 26%** Proportion of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit, respectively, who **lived in a dwelling in need of major repairs** (vs. 6% among the non-Indigenous population).<sup>20</sup>

**51%** Proportion of **foster children** in Canada aged 4 and under in 2016 who were Indigenous (approximately 4,300 total), up slightly from 49% in 2011. Indigenous children represent only 7.7% of *all* children in this age group.<sup>21</sup>

**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.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>1</sup> First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), “FNHA and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report,” *First Nations Health Authority Support for Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations* (2015). [Link: https://bit.ly/2JsrxC](https://bit.ly/2JsrxC).

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, “Aboriginal Identity Population by Both Sexes, Total – Age, 2016 Counts, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data,” *Aboriginal Peoples Highlight Tables, 2016 Census* (page last updated October 11, 2017). [Link: https://bit.ly/2H2kge3](https://bit.ly/2H2kge3).

<sup>3</sup> According to Statistics Canada, the two main contributing factors behind the growth of the Indigenous population: *natural growth* (life expectancy and relatively high fertility rates) and *changes in self-reported identification* (“Put simply,” says a 2016 Census report, “more people are newly identifying as Aboriginal on the census – a continuation of a trend over time”). [Link: http://bit.ly/2xma9fV](http://bit.ly/2xma9fV).

<sup>4</sup> Jean-Dominique Morency, Éric Caron-Malenfant, Simon Coulombe and Stéphanie Langlois, *Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036* (page last updated November 30, 2015). [Link: http://bit.ly/2pPqxBf](http://bit.ly/2pPqxBf).

<sup>5</sup> First Nations people include those who are registered or treaty Indians under the *Indian Act*, that is, *Registered Indians* (76% of the total First Nations population) – as well as *non-status Indians* (24%).

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada, “Aboriginal Identity Population by Both Sexes, Total – Age, 2016 Counts, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data.”

<sup>7</sup> Morency et al., 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada, “Aboriginal Identity Population by Both Sexes, Total – Age, 2016 Counts, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data.”

<sup>9</sup> Morency et al., 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Inuit Nunangat refers to the land as well as the surrounding water and ice, which Inuit consider to be integral to their culture and way of life. Learn more on the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami website. [Link: https://www.itk.ca](https://www.itk.ca).

<sup>11</sup> Morency et al., 2015.

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada, *The Aboriginal Population in Canada, 2016 Census of Population* (infographic), Statistics Canada catalogue no. 11-627-M (October 25, 2017). [Link: https://bit.ly/2sqH6GY](https://bit.ly/2sqH6GY).

<sup>13</sup> Statistics Canada, “Aboriginal Identity Population by Both Sexes, Total – Age, 2016 Counts, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data.”

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Statistics Canada, “Census in Brief: Diverse Family Characteristics of Aboriginal Children Aged 0 to 4,” *Analytical Products, 2016 Census* (page last updated October 26, 2017). [Link: https://bit.ly/2gDixBa](https://bit.ly/2gDixBa).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Housing that was considered not suitable for the number of people who lived there, according to the National Occupancy Standard.

<sup>19</sup> Statistics Canada, “Census in Brief: The Housing Conditions of Aboriginal People in Canada,” *Analytical Products, 2016 Census* (page last updated October 26, 2017). [Link: https://bit.ly/2nMqTJK](https://bit.ly/2nMqTJK).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Statistics Canada, “Census in Brief: Diverse Family Characteristics of Aboriginal Children Aged 0 to 4.”

<sup>22</sup> 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). [Link: http://bit.ly/2pDjhwO](http://bit.ly/2pDjhwO).