

Selected Ethnic Profiles of Canada's Young Age Cohorts

November 16, 1999

Prepared by Fernando Mata & John Valentine
Strategic Research and Analysis
Multiculturalism Program
Citizens' Participation and Multiculturalism
Department of Canadian Heritage

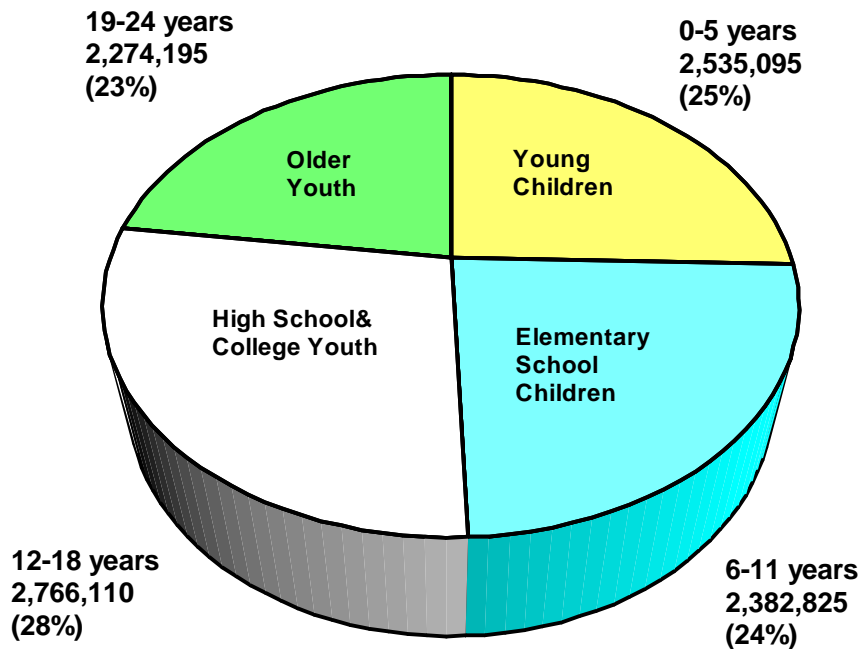
Introduction

Much of Canada's character as a society in the next century will be determined by the social, economic and ethnic attributes of its younger age cohorts. Using the 1996 population Census as its data source, the purpose of this document is to provide selected graphic profiles of age cohorts comprising children and youth of different ethnic and racial backgrounds as well as places of residence in Canada.

Canada's Young Age Cohorts

In 1996, there were 9.7 million individuals under the age of 25 (34% of the total population of Canada). This population was made-up by four age-groups: young children under 6 years of age (2.3 Million), elementary school children aged 6-11 (2.4 Million), high school and college youth aged 12-18 (2.8 Million) and older youth aged 19-24 (2.3 Million). A slight majority (51%) of them were females while 49% were males. According to the census, the majority of young age cohorts lived in Ontario (37%), Quebec (24%), British Columbia (12%) and Alberta (10%). Major concentrations of this population were found in Metropolitan Toronto (14%), Montreal (11%) and Vancouver (6%).

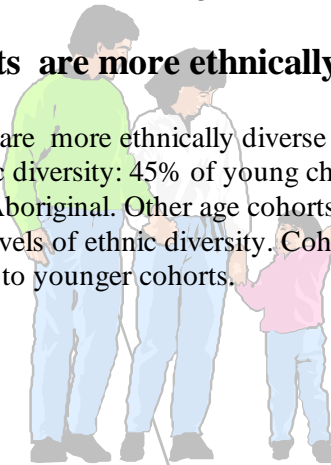
Age Cohorts Under 25 years of age: Canada, 1996



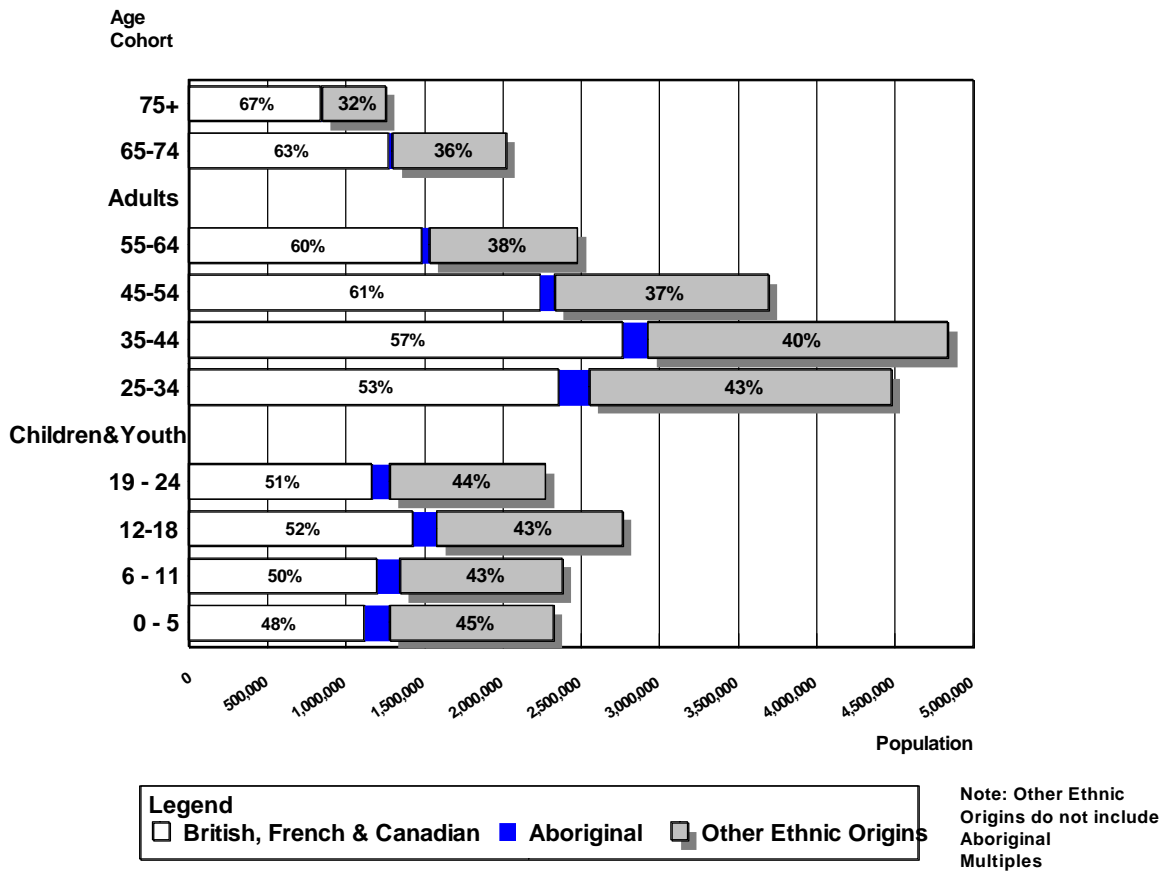
Source: 1996 Census of Population
Statistics, Canada

Canada's young age cohorts are more ethnically diverse than older cohorts

Younger age cohorts of Canadians are more ethnically diverse than older cohorts. The younger cohort displayed the highest level of ethnic diversity: 45% of young children had at least one ethnic origin other than British, French, Canadian or Aboriginal. Other age cohorts comprising children, youth as well as young adults also displayed high levels of ethnic diversity. Cohorts of seniors displayed much lower levels of ethnic diversity compared to younger cohorts.



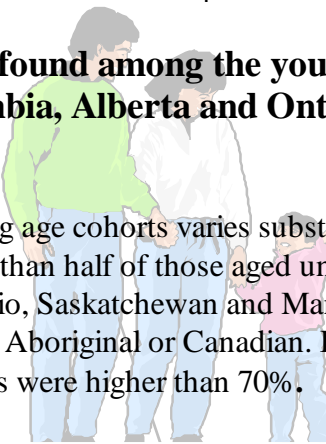
British, French and Canadian, Aboriginal and Other Ethnic Origins: Age Cohorts, Canada, 1996



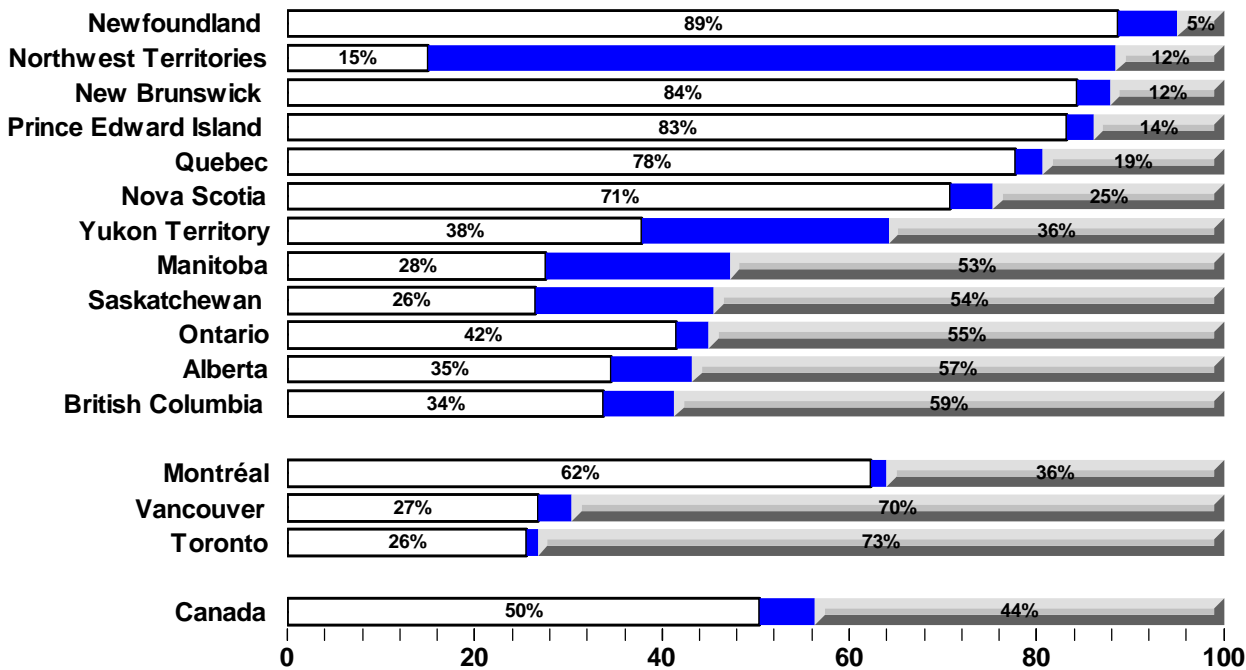
Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Greater ethnic diversity is found among the young cohorts living in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario and in the cities such as Toronto and Vancouver.

Ethnic diversity among the young age cohorts varies substantially across Canada's provinces and major metropolitan areas. More than half of those aged under 25 and living in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba reported at least one ethnic origin other than British, French, Aboriginal or Canadian. In the metropolitan areas of Toronto and Vancouver these percentages were higher than 70%.



**Ethnic Origins, Census Metropolitan Areas
1996: Individuals aged Under 25**



Legend
 □ British, French and Canadian ■ Aboriginal ▒ Other Ethnic Origins

Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins
 Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Among the young cohorts of Canada, the largest ethnic group at the national level other than British, French or Canadian was the German. However, Italian and South Asian children and youth predominated in Toronto and Montreal while Chinese constituted the dominant group in Vancouver

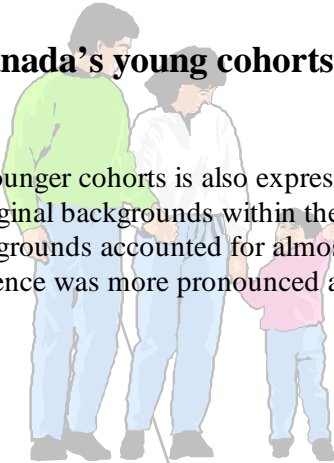
Children and youth of single or multiple German backgrounds constituted the largest group other than British, French or Canadian among Canada's young age cohorts. However, in Metropolitan Toronto and Montreal, Italian and South Asian children made-up the largest groups across the young age cohorts. Chinese children and youth were numerically larger than any other groups in Vancouver. Ukrainian children and youth comprised the largest group among the 19-24 age cohort living in Winnipeg.

Largest Ethnic Group (single and multiple reporting) other than British, French or Canadian by Young Age Cohorts and City of Residence				
City of Residence	AGE COHORTS			
	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-18 years	19-24 years
Canada	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	280600	281,670	305,125	228,315
Halifax	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	3230	3,495	3,965	3,845
Montreal	Italian	Italian	Italian	Italian
<i>Number</i>	19300	16,085	18,240	18,710
Ottawa - Hull	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	6385	6,405	6,550	5,620
Toronto	South Asian	South Asian	South Asian	Italian
<i>Number</i>	40040	36,180	37,675	36,625
Winnipeg	German	German	German	Ukrainian
<i>Number</i>	11710	10,980	11,005	9,595
Regina	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	6000	6,485	7,165	5,945
Saskatoon	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	7020	7,025	7,670	6,985
Calgary	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	14540	13,745	13,850	12,900
Edmonton	German	German	German	German
<i>Number</i>	16255	16,530	17,235	14,095
Vancouver	Chinese	Chinese	Chinese	Chinese
<i>Number</i>	20310	22,200	33,050	28,195

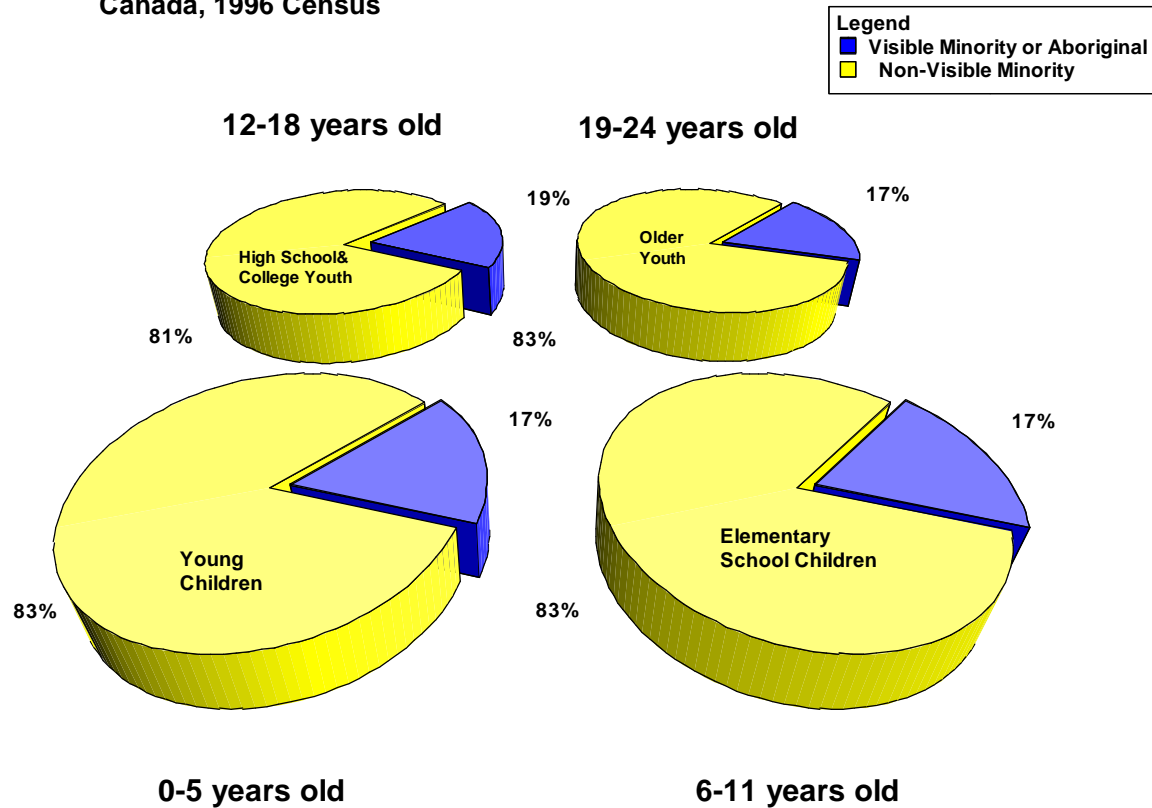
Table T-2 in the Appendix presents more detailed census counts by age cohorts and cities of residence for the top 5 ethnic groups other than British, French or Canadian.

One in five members of Canada's young cohorts has either visible minority or Aboriginal backgrounds

The ethnic diversity of Canada's younger cohorts is also expressed in the percentage of children and youth of visible minority and aboriginal backgrounds within the young age cohorts. In 1996, children of visible minority or Aboriginal backgrounds accounted for almost one fifth of the total population of the four young age cohorts. Their presence was more pronounced among youth of high school or college years (19%).



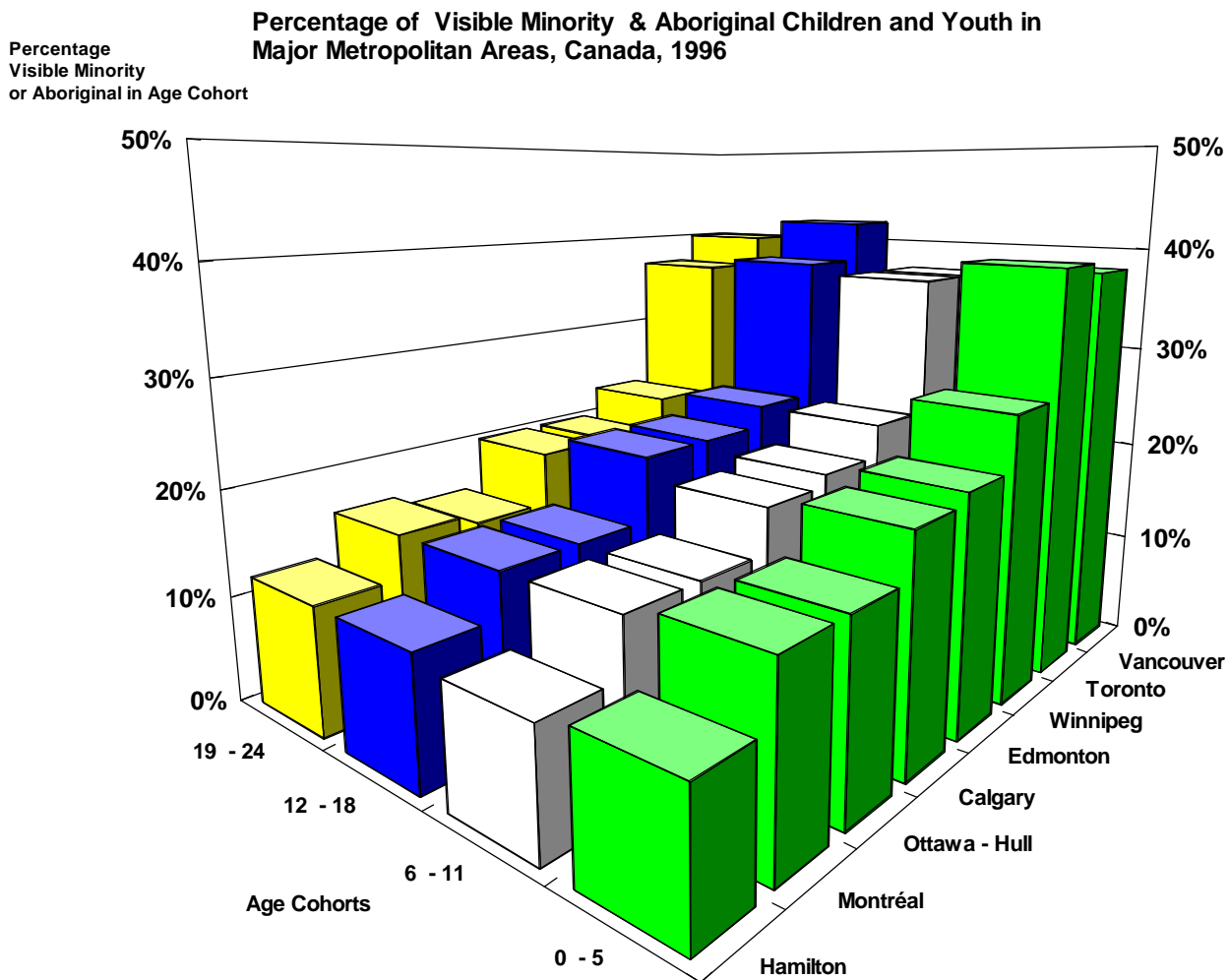
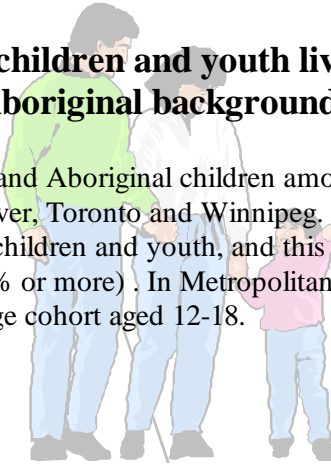
**Visible Minority and Aboriginal Population, Age Cohorts
Canada, 1996 Census**



Source: Statistics Canada

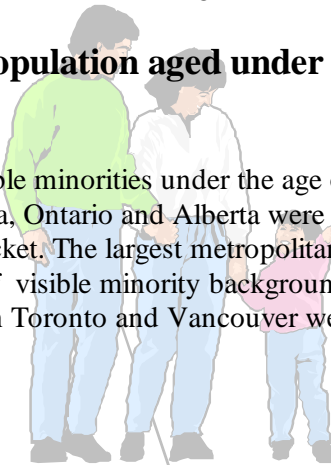
Significant proportions of children and youth living in major Canadian cities are of visible minority or Aboriginal backgrounds

The percentage of visible minority and Aboriginal children among Canada's young age cohorts is noticeable in cities such as Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg. They major cities are home to thousands of visible minority and Aboriginal children and youth, and this is reflected in their share of the total population of each age cohort (20% or more) . In Metropolitan Toronto, this share can be as high as 40% among the high school&college cohort aged 12-18.

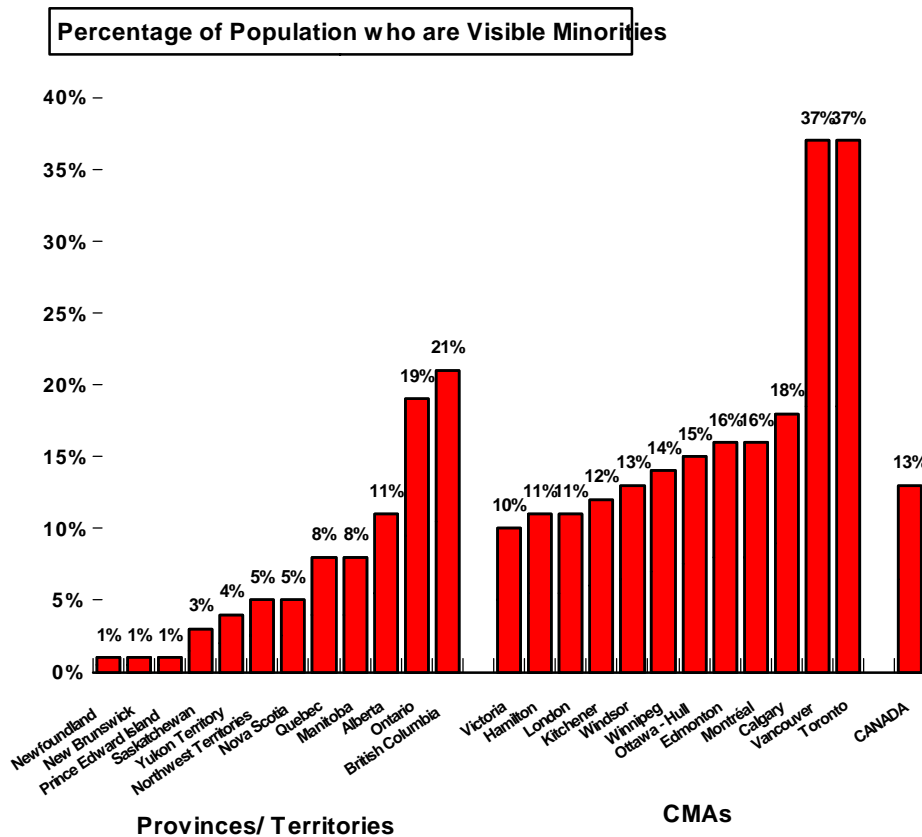


About 13% of Canada's population aged under 25 is of visible minority background

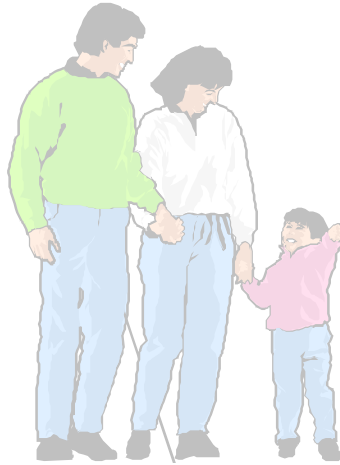
In 1996, there were 1.3 million visible minorities under the age of 25 in Canada. They represented 13% of this population. British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta were the provinces with the largest percentages of visible minorities in this age bracket. The largest metropolitan areas of the country are home to thousands of children and youth of visible minority backgrounds. In 1996, more than one third of the population under 25 years of age in Toronto and Vancouver were visible minorities.



Visible Minority Population, Census Metropolitan Areas 1996: Individuals aged Under 25



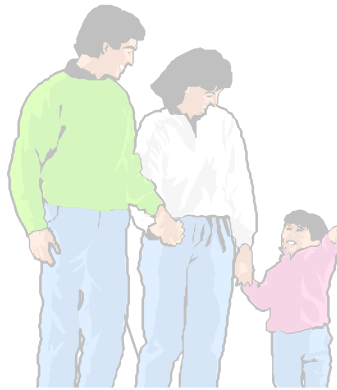
Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada



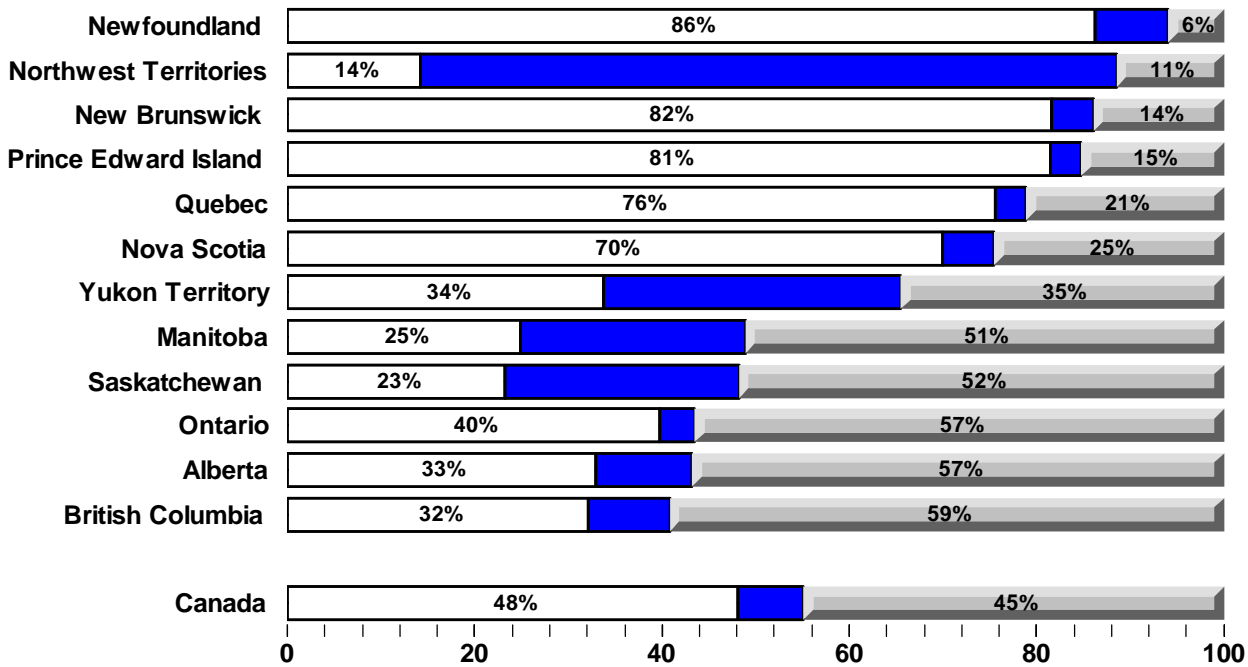
Appendices

- Provincial and CMA charts (C-1 to C-8)**
- 1996 Census Counts of Age Cohorts (T-1)**
- Top 5 Ethnic Groups by Age Cohorts and CMA of Residence (T-2)**
- NLSCY Socio-Economic Data of 6-11 cohort (T-3)**

Chart C-1



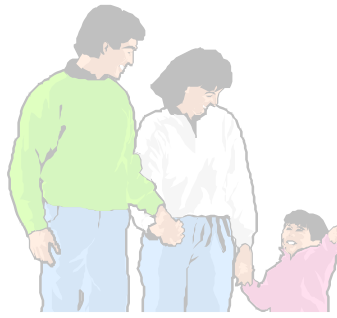
**Ethnic Origins, Canada, 1996:
Provinces and Territories
Children Aged 0- 5**



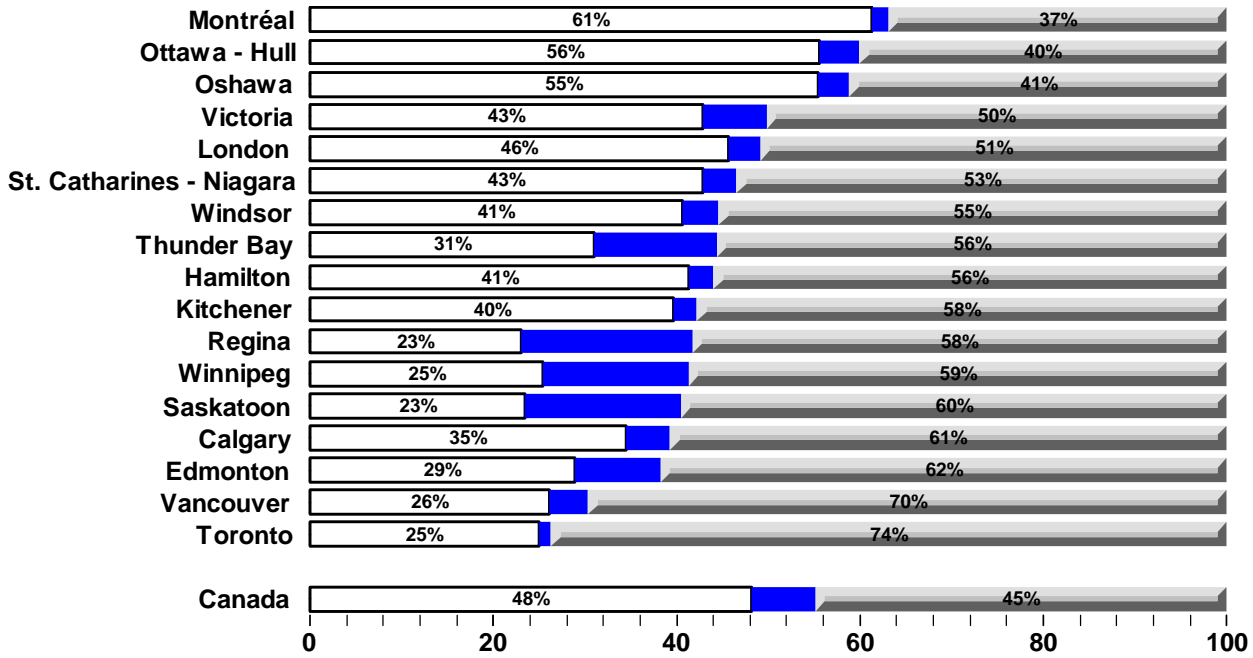
Legend
 British, French and Canadian
 Aboriginal
 Other Ethnic Origins

Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins
 Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-2



**Ethnic Origins, Census Metropolitan Areas
1996: Children aged 0- 5**

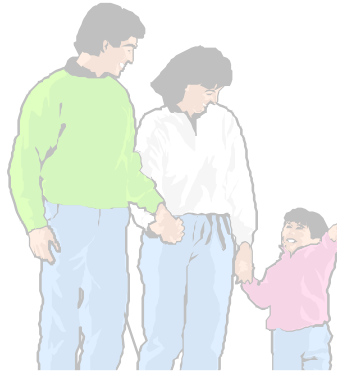


Legend
 British, French and Canadian
 Aboriginal
 Other Ethnic Origins

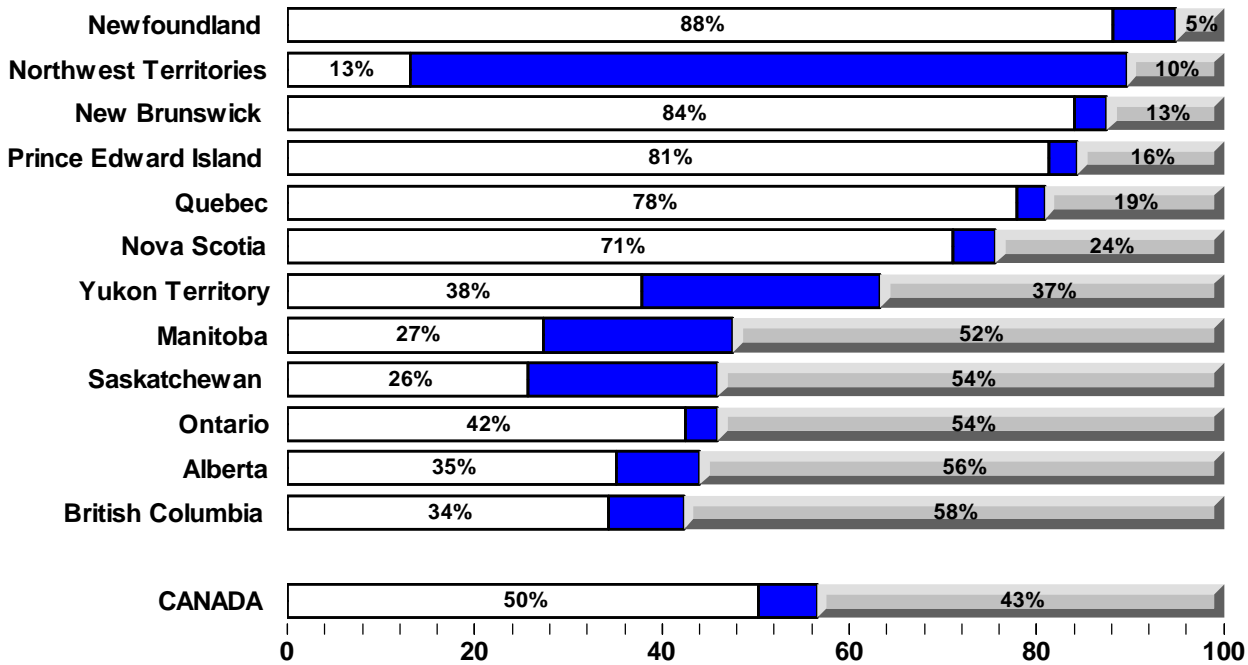
Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins

Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-3



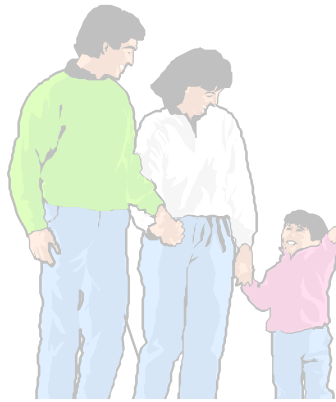
**Ethnic Origins, Canada, 1996:
Provinces and Territories
Children aged 6- 11**



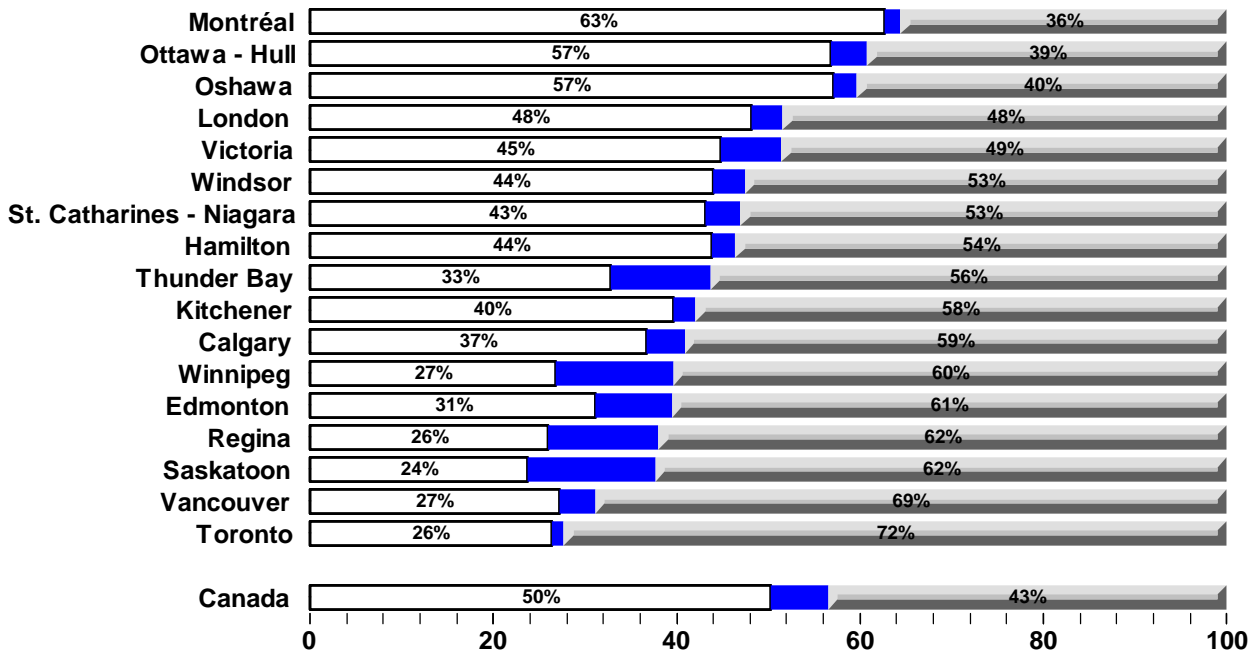
Legend
 British, French and Canadian
 Aboriginal
 Other Ethnic Origins

Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins
 Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-4



Ethnic Origins, Census Metropolitan Areas 1996: Children aged 6- 11

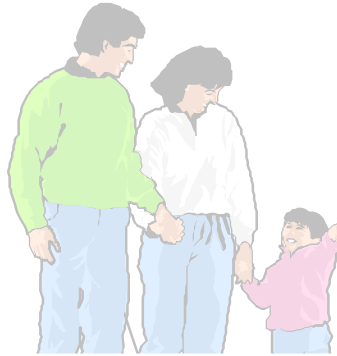


Legend
 □ British, French and Canadian ■ Aboriginal ▒ Other Ethnic Origins

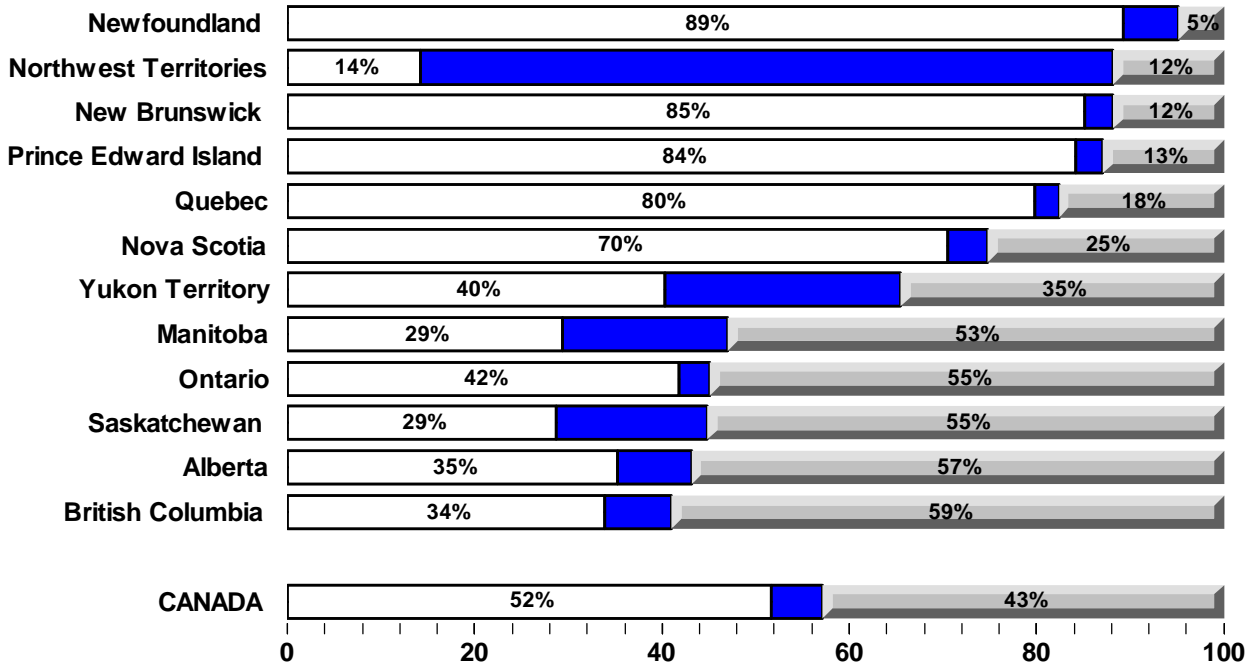
Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins

Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-5



**Ethnic Origins, Canada, 1996:
Provinces and Territories
Youth aged 12- 18**

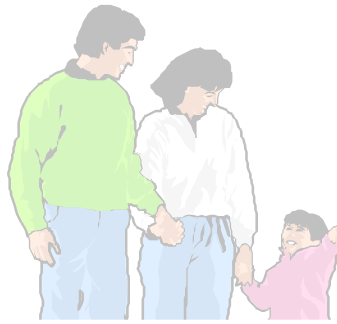


Legend
 □ British, French and Canadian ■ Aboriginal ▒ Other Ethnic Origins

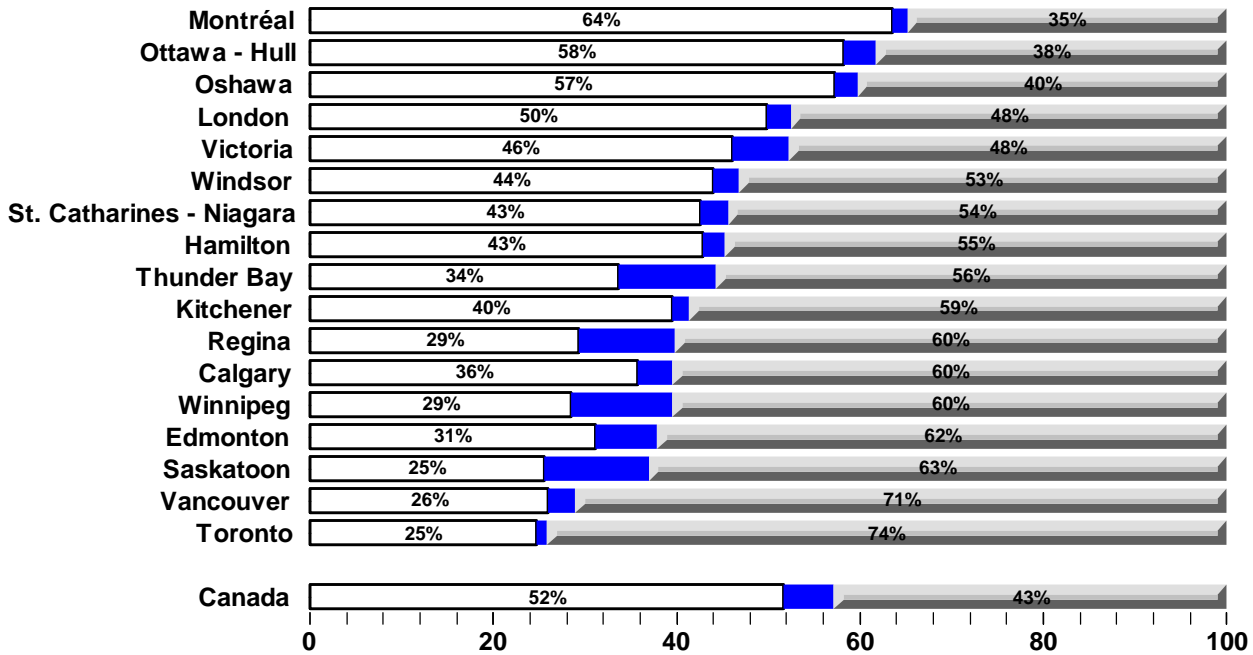
Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins

Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-6



**Ethnic Origins, Census Metropolitan Areas 1996:
Youth aged 12-18**

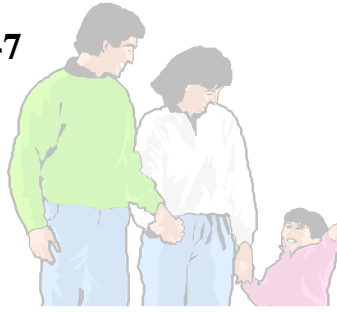


Legend
 British, French and Canadian
 Aboriginal
 Other Ethnic Origins

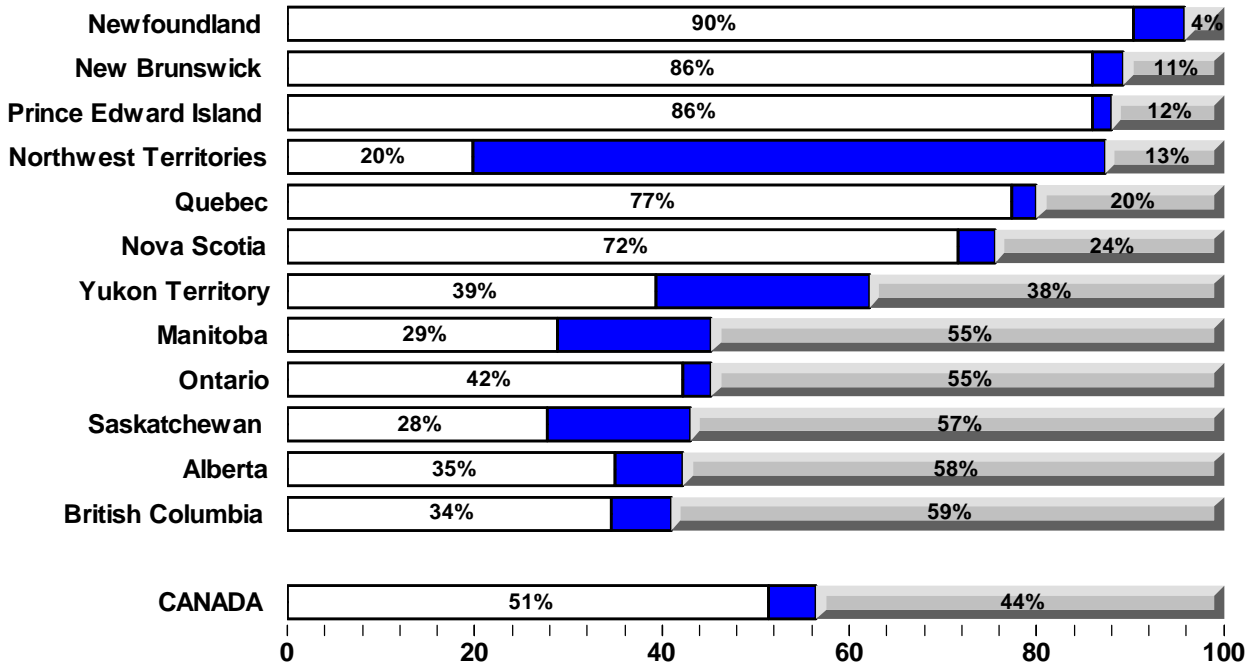
Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins

Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-7



**Ethnic Origins, Canada, 1996:
Provinces and Territories
Older Youth aged 19- 24**



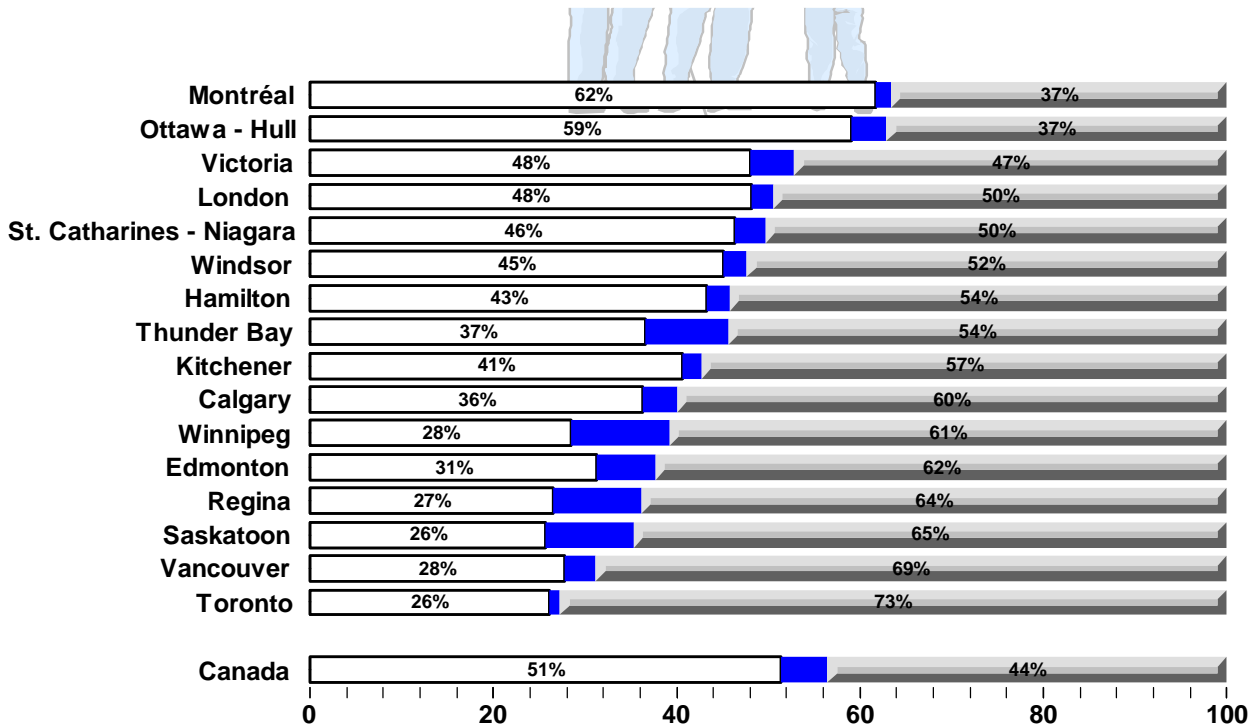
Legend
 □ British, French and Canadian ■ Aboriginal ▒ Other Ethnic Origins

Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins
 Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Chart C-8



Ethnic Origins, Census Metropolitan Areas 1996: Older youth aged 19- 24



Note: Other Origins do not include Multiple Aboriginal Origins

Source: 1996 Census, Statistics Canada

Table T-1: Young Age Cohorts of Canadians: 1996 Census Counts for Canada, Provinces&Territories and CMAs

Provinces/ CMAs	AGE COHORTS							Total Population	% Aged 0-24
	0 - 5	6 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 24	Total 0-24	25+			
CANADA	2,325,095	2,382,825	2,766,110	2,274,195	9,748,225	18,779,900	28,528,125	34%	

AGE COHORTS								
Provinces/ CMAs	0 - 5	6 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 24	Total 0-24	25+	Total Population	% Aged 0-24
Newfoundland	37,575	46,160	62,465	51,845	198,045	349,095	547,140	36%
P.E.I.	10,925	12,185	14,125	11,210	48,445	84,395	132,840	36%
Nova Scotia	67,900	75,090	86,315	74,220	303,525	596,410	899,935	34%
New Brunswick	53,950	59,430	73,705	63,065	250,150	479,445	729,595	34%
Quebec	553,840	538,625	675,995	548,520	2,316,980	4,728,075	7,045,055	33%
Ontario	887,125	893,680	993,550	838,750	3,613,105	7,029,690	10,642,795	34%
Manitoba	97,385	98,955	110,200	90,885	397,425	702,870	1,100,295	36%
Saskatchewan	86,145	94,220	110,775	78,510	369,650	606,930	976,580	38%
Alberta	235,905	253,400	278,895	221,665	989,865	1,679,295	2,669,160	37%
British Columbia	282,315	299,720	349,040	287,045	1,218,120	2,471,640	3,689,760	33%
Yukon	2,845	3,040	3,170	2,435	11,490	19,155	30,645	37%
N.W.T.	9,135	8,290	7,840	6,020	31,285	32,845	64,130	49%
CMAs (1)								
St. John's	12,475	14,275	18,025	17,450	62,225	109,845	172,070	36%
Halifax	26,515	27,250	28,790	29,150	111,705	218,030	329,735	34%
Saint John	9,945	10,555	12,395	10,460	43,355	80,850	124,205	35%
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	11,595	12,440	18,405	13,040	55,480	103,380	158,860	35%
Québec	47,800	45,165	62,055	56,610	211,630	452,245	663,875	32%
Sherbrooke	10,935	10,820	14,780	13,760	50,295	94,270	144,565	35%
Trois-Rivières	9,810	9,575	13,585	11,055	44,025	93,670	137,695	32%
Montréal	265,830	241,975	285,315	261,445	1,054,565	2,233,070	3,287,635	32%
Ottawa - Hull	84,060	83,955	90,745	81,355	340,115	660,825	1,000,940	34%
Oshawa	26,890	25,060	25,905	19,770	97,625	168,945	266,570	37%
Toronto	359,665	336,630	374,970	339,795	1,411,060	2,821,830	4,232,890	33%
Hamilton	49,635	51,190	54,845	48,095	203,765	414,040	617,805	33%
St. Catharines - Niagara	27,975	29,745	33,260	27,945	118,925	248,850	367,775	32%
Kitchener	33,910	33,345	36,600	32,890	136,745	242,570	379,315	36%
London	33,070	33,220	36,095	33,900	136,285	257,620	393,905	35%
Windsor	22,550	22,605	25,320	24,860	95,335	180,405	275,740	35%
Sudbury	12,240	12,575	15,910	14,770	55,495	103,440	158,935	35%
Thunder Bay	9,495	9,960	11,835	10,260	41,550	82,755	124,305	33%
Winnipeg	54,580	54,305	60,005	56,685	225,575	434,465	660,040	34%
Regina	16,445	17,670	19,890	17,335	71,340	120,130	191,470	37%
Saskatoon	20,060	20,165	22,085	21,500	83,810	132,615	216,425	39%
Calgary	69,360	72,960	76,135	68,505	286,960	529,010	815,970	35%
Edmonton	73,120	77,255	86,985	72,790	310,150	544,070	854,220	36%
Vancouver	134,290	134,410	158,880	151,495	579,075	1,234,840	1,813,915	32%
Victoria	19,390	20,660	24,355	24,080	88,485	211,525	300,010	29%

(1)- A census metropolitan area (CMA) is defined by Statistics Canada as a large urbanized core together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of integration with that core. Such area has (or has had) a population of at least 100,000 persons.

Table T-2: Top 5 Ethnic Groups by Age Cohorts and Selected CMAs in Canada

Age Cohort 0-5	1	2	3	4	5
Canada	German	Aboriginal	Italian	Ukrainian	Dutch
Number	280,600	162,070	123,755	104,395	100,260
Halifax	German	Dutch	Aboriginal	Italian	Chinese

<i>Number</i>	3,230	1,160	935	740	390
Montreal	Italian	South Asian	German	Chinese	Aboriginal
<i>Number</i>	19,300	5,755	5,605	5,170	4,685
Ottawa - Hull	German	Italian	Aboriginal	Chinese	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,385	4,090	3,600	2,460	2,435
Toronto	South Asian	Italian	Chinese	German	Polish
<i>Number</i>	40,040	39,880	28,845	22,150	14,710
Winnipeg	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	11,710	10,125	8,650	5,235	2,890
Regina	German	Aboriginal	Ukrainian	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,000	3,065	2,665	1,245	575
Saskatoon	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	7,020	3,760	3,415	1,390	995
Calgary	German	Ukrainian	Chinese	Dutch	Polish
<i>Number</i>	14,540	5,945	4,205	4,005	3,340
Edmonton	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	16,255	12,120	6,765	5,255	4,420
Vancouver	Chinese	German	South Asian	Ukrainian	Italian
<i>Number</i>	20,310	18,400	13,970	7,320	6,780
Age Cohort 6-11	1	2	3	4	5
Canada	German	Aboriginal	Italian	Ukrainian	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	281,670	148,555	112,020	104,320	102,435
Halifax	German	Dutch	Aboriginal	Italian	Polish
<i>Number</i>	3,495	1,320	885	475	410
Montreal	Italian	German	South Asian	Aboriginal	Chinese
<i>Number</i>	16,085	4,895	4,160	4,025	3,920
Ottawa - Hull	German	Italian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,405	3,380	3,310	2,380	2,310
Toronto	South Asian	Italian	Chinese	German	Polish
<i>Number</i>	36,180	34,570	27,530	19,215	14,760
Winnipeg	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	10,980	9,610	6,935	4,805	2,590
Regina	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,485	2,765	2,125	1,310	625
Saskatoon	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	7,025	3,980	2,805	1,365	1,255
Calgary	German	Ukrainian	Chinese	Dutch	Polish
<i>Number</i>	13,745	5,670	4,555	4,160	3,670
Edmonton	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	16,530	11,695	6,420	5,600	5,000
Vancouver	Chinese	German	South Asian	Ukrainian	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	22,200	16,090	11,750	6,495	6,185

Table T-2: Top 5 Ethnic Groups by Age Cohorts and Selected CMAs in Canada (contin...)

Age Cohort 12-18	1	2	3	4	5
Canada	German	Aboriginal	Italian	Ukrainian	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	305,125	150,295	114,945	110,585	106,645
Halifax	German	Dutch	Aboriginal	Italian	South Asian

<i>Number</i>	3,965	1,395	830	445	435
Montreal	Italian	German	Chinese	Aboriginal	South Asian
<i>Number</i>	18,240	5,245	4,915	4,690	4,615
Ottawa - Hull	German	Aboriginal	Italian	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,550	3,190	3,065	2,600	2,480
Toronto	South Asian	Chinese	Italian	German	Polish
<i>Number</i>	37,675	36,765	35,395	19,030	17,015
Winnipeg	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	11,005	9,965	6,610	5,430	2,540
Regina	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	7,165	2,470	2,080	1,240	775
Saskatoon	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	7,670	3,670	2,540	1,755	1,345
Calgary	German	Chinese	Ukrainian	Dutch	Polish
<i>Number</i>	13,850	5,475	5,230	3,830	3,780
Edmonton	German	Ukrainian	Polish	Aboriginal	Chinese
<i>Number</i>	17,235	12,795	6,220	5,920	4,825
Vancouver	Chinese	German	South Asian	Ukrainian	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	33,050	16,230	13,055	6,715	6,545
Age Cohort 19-24	1	2	3	4	5
Canada	German	Aboriginal	Italian	Chinese	Ukrainian
<i>Number</i>	228,315	113,760	106,145	89,815	85,710
Halifax	German	Dutch	Aboriginal	Chinese	Italian
<i>Number</i>	3,845	1,355	935	395	375
Montreal	Italian	Chinese	South Asian	German	Aboriginal
<i>Number</i>	18,710	5,905	5,340	5,110	4,160
Ottawa - Hull	German	Italian	Aboriginal	Dutch	Chinese
<i>Number</i>	5,620	3,270	3,025	2,345	2,155
Toronto	Italian	South Asian	Chinese	German	Polish
<i>Number</i>	36,625	33,260	32,415	15,795	11,815
Winnipeg	Ukrainian	German	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	9,595	9,555	6,090	4,820	2,295
Regina	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	5,945	2,395	1,670	955	585
Saskatoon	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	6,985	3,830	2,045	1,190	1,025
Calgary	German	Ukrainian	Chinese	Dutch	Polish
<i>Number</i>	12,900	4,680	4,570	3,505	2,750
Edmonton	German	Ukrainian	Aboriginal	Polish	Chinese
<i>Number</i>	14,095	10,780	4,660	4,620	3,865
Vancouver	Chinese	German	South Asian	Ukrainian	Dutch
<i>Number</i>	28,195	15,110	12,855	5,900	5,795

Table T-3: Selected Socio-Economic Profiles of children aged 6-11 from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

Ethnic Origins	% Attending Public School	% Foreign Born	% Living with a single parent	Average Family Income	Mean Socio-Economic Status Index (1)
Single Origins					
British	82.3%	1.2%	15.1%	\$57,087	0.16
Aboriginal	87.7%	0.0%	15.0%	\$32,710	-0.52
Canadian	70.9%	0.0%	16.1%	\$51,434	-0.09
French	64.5%	1.4%	44.8%	\$39,424	-0.32
German	81.9%	8.2%	32.6%	\$44,526	-0.18
Italian	24.5%	0.2%	9.9%	\$63,022	0.27
Ukrainian	79.7%	10.4%	34.1%	\$46,372	0.13
Dutch	44.2%	17.5%	18.4%	\$44,228	0.15
Chinese	88.8%	26.3%	13.5%	\$49,643	0.00
Polish	35.8%	37.7%	8.4%	\$47,917	0.06
Portuguese	45.6%	50.1%	9.8%	\$48,224	-0.37
South Asian	96.1%	52.1%	12.7%	\$47,030	0.09
Black	74.6%	25.0%	60.9%	\$28,762	-0.44
Other	70.7%	28.4%	19.0%	\$42,283	-0.11
Multiples					
British&French	71.1%	2.3%	5.0%	\$57,816	0.14
British&Canadian	81.9%	0.0%	8.1%	\$56,594	0.16
British&European	80.0%	0.0%	2.3%	\$61,795	0.32
British&Other	84.7%	7.5%	5.0%	\$61,471	0.12
French&Canadian	75.0%	0.0%	11.0%	\$52,601	-0.05
French&European	69.0%	3.6%	35.4%	\$44,585	-0.20
French&Other	56.7%	18.5%	28.5%	\$42,657	-0.27
Canadian&European	57.2%	0.0%	11.0%	\$59,191	-0.04
Canadian&Other	79.1%	6.2%	6.0%	\$44,247	-0.45
European&Other	62.6%	7.7%	15.3%	\$50,235	0.02
Aboriginal&Other	82.1%	3.3%	1.5%	\$38,895	-0.51
Other multiples	79.5%	0.0%	3.0%	\$56,989	0.11
All Groups	72.7%	6.4%	16.5%	\$49,300	-0.05

(1) - The SES family index is derived from five sources: the level of education of the mother and the father, the prestige of the mother's and father's occupation and household income. It ranges from +2.00 to -2.00.

Source: First cycle, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1994