

**Aboriginal Women
A Profile from the 2001 Census**

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Introduction

The circumstances of Aboriginal women and the social factors that affect them are often different from those of Aboriginal men, and from Non-Aboriginal women and men. In order to provide descriptive information concerning how Aboriginal women may differ from others, a statistical profile was prepared by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, 2001) based mainly on information from the 1996 Census. The study explored a number of dimensions including demography, language, family, employment, income, education and migration. Given the availability of data from the 2001 Census, INAC commissioned this updated version of the 1996 Census study.

The purpose of this study is to provide information describing the socio-economic characteristics and circumstances of Aboriginal women in the hope that this will be useful to policy-makers, community leaders, researchers and advocates. Gender and race have an impact on the well-being of Aboriginal women as individuals, as members of communities, as members of families, and as part of the economy. It is important for policy makers and those involved with Aboriginal social developments to understand the issues affecting Aboriginal women and how they participate in and contribute to society. At the same time, the study is not intended to advocate any particular position or viewpoint, but rather to provide basic information and understandings that will be useful for a variety of purposes.

The preparation of the 2001 study provides an opportunity to re-examine the issues addressed in 1996, and to look at how things may have changed between 1996 and 2001. In addition the 2001 study provides the opportunity to consider aspects that were not included in the earlier study. Like the initial study, it is meant to provide a broad overview of some of the significant aspects of the experiences of Aboriginal women to the extent that these are reflected in the Census. It is hoped that the study will be a basic reference for a variety of policy makers, researchers or others, while those requiring more in-depth analysis will look to special studies concerning Aboriginal people in Canada, such as some of those that have been carried out by INAC or others. (Some of these are listed in the References Section at the end of this report.)

The approach taken in this study has three main elements. First, in order to have maximum comparability with the 1996 study, the same topics and variables are included in this study, and in many cases the tables and figures follow the same format as was used in the earlier study. This is meant to allow readers to compare findings and easily identify how circumstances may have changed over the five year period. Second, the study looked at comparisons between Aboriginal women and men, usually including data for both genders in the provided tables. The differences between women and men are often striking, in such areas as employment and income for example, and in order to show this it is necessary to provide comparative data for men. Even when there is not a great deal of difference between women and men, it may be of interest for readers to be able to see this. Third, the study has provided systematic comparisons among "identity groups," that is, the Registered Indian, Métis, Inuit, and Other Aboriginal populations, and for the sake of comparison, the

Non-Aboriginal population. Although this is similar to the approach taken in the 1996 study, readers should keep in mind that a different definition of the Other Aboriginal population was used in that study. For this and other reasons, comparisons between the 1996 and 2001 studies should be restricted mainly to the Registered Indian and Inuit populations. (Further discussion of this issue is provided in the Notes to Readers.)

The general contents of this report are similar to the contents of the 1996 report, with some additional detail concerning specific topics. It is divided into sections covering demography, language knowledge and use, employment and occupations, family characteristics, education, income and mobility. The **Notes to Readers** section provides many technical details concerning variable definitions and data and will help readers interpret the findings provided throughout the report.

Notes to Readers

When reading this report and interpreting the data it includes, it is important to keep in mind how the terms are defined. The variables used in the report can be defined in various ways, and the choice of definitions has had an impact on the findings and on the comparability of the findings of this study with other studies. Some comments on the definitions of variables are provided in the text, but the following notes are intended to provide additional details and clarification. Readers may also review the standard Census definitions in the 2001 Census dictionary (Statistics Canada, 2001).

Data Sources

This report relies on data from the 2001 Census of Canada. The census uses two questionnaires, a short form and a long form, to establish various demographic, social and economic characteristics of Canadians. In 2001 the 2A (short) form consisted of seven basic questions and was used in 80% of all off-reserve households. For the remaining 20% of off-reserve households, the 2B (long) form with 55 questions was used. A variant of the long form was used in all on-reserve households.

Data presented in this study are based on INAC's custom 2001 Census tabulations. Custom tabulations can be affected by suppression of data where the numbers fall below a certain level, and by random rounding. In some tables data for particular sub-categories is missing either because the data was suppressed or because the number of cases is too small to be meaningful. This has been noted where it occurs.

Definitions of Variables

Aboriginal Identity Categories

The Aboriginal identity population includes all those who identified themselves in the 2001 Census as Aboriginal and/or identified themselves as Registered Indians or members of an Indian Band or First Nation. The population is derived from Census questions 18, 20 and 21. Question 18 asks people if they are North American Indian, Métis or Inuit and allows for multiple responses. Question 20 asks people whether they are a member of an Indian Band or First Nation and, if so, to give the name of the First Nation. Question 21 asks if the person is a “treaty or Registered Indian,” defined as someone who is registered under the *Indian Act*. The following table shows the four sub-divisions of the Aboriginal identity population used in this report, along with their population size in 2001.

Identity Group	Population in Private Households
Total Population in Private Households	29,639,035
Total Aboriginal Identity	976,305
Registered Indian (including those with North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit identity who have Registered Indian status or membership in an Indian Band)	558,175
Métis Identity (excluding multiple Aboriginal responses)	262,100
Inuit Identity (excluding multiple Aboriginal responses)	44,150
Other or Mixed Aboriginal (including North American Indian identity only, those with more than one Aboriginal identity, and those who are members of Indian Bands but do not have Registered Indian status or Aboriginal identity)	111,885
Non-Aboriginal Identity (the remaining population that doesn't fall into one of the Aboriginal identity categories)	28,662,725

Aboriginal Census Families

The census family concept requires that family members be either a male or female spouse, a male or female common-law partner, a male or female lone-parent, or a child with a parent present. In this study an “Aboriginal family” is one in which the lone-parent or at least one of the members of the couple has Aboriginal identity, or is a Registered Indian or a Band Member. Sub-categories are determined by cross-tabulating Registered Indian status and Aboriginal identity status. Families that have mixed Aboriginal status are assigned to the Registered Indian category if one of the parents is Registered Indian. Otherwise they are assigned to the “Other Aboriginal/Mixed category. Métis and Inuit families are those where at least one parent is Métis or Inuit respectively, and where no other Aboriginal identity is indicated (although there may be Non-Aboriginal family members). The following table provides the number of Census Families within each category.

All Census Families	8,371,025
Registered Indian Families	172,460
Registered Indian and/or Band Member	146,925
Registered Indian and/or Band Member AND Other Aboriginal Identity	25,535
Other Aboriginal Families	141,705
Métis Families	93,370
Inuit Families	11,265
Other/Mixed Aboriginal Families	37,075
Non-Aboriginal Families	8,056,855

Aboriginal Economic Families

The economic family concept is broader than the census family concept. Two or more related census families living together also constitute one economic family. For example, a man and his wife living with their married son and daughter-in-law. Two or more brothers or sisters living together, apart from their parents, will form an economic family, but not a census family, since they do not meet the requirements for the latter. Economic families are therefore somewhat larger on average than census families. The economic family concept is used as the basis for calculating family incomes.

The classification of economic families into identity groups is based on whether they include census families that have a given Aboriginal identity as defined above. In some cases economic families do not include any census families, and where this happens, the families are categorized as Aboriginal if at least 50% of the family members have Aboriginal status. The sub-categorization of economic family identity follows the same approach used for census families, resulting in the number of families shown in the following table.

All Economic Families	8,273,215
<hr/>	
Registered Indian Families	164,840
Registered Indian and/or Band Member	127,675
Registered Indian and/or Band Member AND Other Aboriginal Identity	37,220
Other Aboriginal Families	139,530
Métis Families	89,575
Inuit Families	9,820
Other/Mixed Aboriginal Families	40,135
Non-Aboriginal Families	7,968,840

Composition of Income

Composition of family income identifies the *percentage* of total income derived from three major sources in the year 2000:

- ! Income from **employment** (including wages, salaries and self-employment),
- ! Income from **government transfer payments** (including social assistance, employment insurance, old age security and Canada or Quebec pension plans), and
- ! Income from **other sources** (including income from investments and private pensions).

Together these three categories equal 100% of total income.

Family Structure

Three types of family structure are used in the report:

- ! **Single Mother** (Female Lone-parent) **Families**
- ! **Single Father** (Male Lone-parent) **Families**
- ! **Couple Families** (includes common-law marriages and same-sex couples)

Highest Level of Schooling

Highest level of schooling refers to the highest grade or certification achieved by an individual. It assumes that any type of post-secondary education is a higher level than secondary schooling, and that any university is a higher level than non-university post-secondary education. Only the highest level achieved is identified. The following categories were used in this study:

Less than grade 9 schooling

- ! No schooling or kindergarten only
- ! Grades 1-4
- ! Grades 5-8

Grades 9-13

- ! with a secondary school certificate
- ! without a secondary school certificate

Non-university post-secondary (not including those with university education)

- ! with a trades school certificate or diploma
- ! with other non-university certificate or diploma (e.g. from public or private colleges)
- ! without a certificate or diploma

University

- ! with a university certificate, diploma or degree
- ! without a university certificate, diploma or degree

These categories have been summarized and re-grouped in various ways as identified in the text.

Labour Force Activity

Labour market indicators are standard Statistics Canada concepts. The **labour force participation rate** is defined as all those (15 or older) who were employed or looking for work during the week prior to enumeration, divided by the total population (15 or older). The **employment rate** is the number of people (15 or older) who were employed during the week prior to enumeration divided by the total population (15 or older). This is sometimes referred to as the “employment/population ratio.” The **unemployment rate** is the number of people (15 or older) who were unemployed and actively looking for work during the week prior to enumeration, divided by the total number of labour force participants, as described above. Those who were not working and not looking for work because they were on temporary lay-off, or expected to start a job within the next four weeks were also considered unemployed.

Major Field of Study

Refers to the predominant discipline or area of learning or training of a person's highest post-secondary degree, certificate or diploma. The major field of study classification structure consists of 10 broad or major categories:

- ! Educational, Recreational and Counselling services;
- ! Fine and Applied Arts;
- ! Humanities and related fields;
- ! Social Sciences and related fields;
- ! Commerce, Management and Business Administration;
- ! Agricultural, Biological, Nutritional, and Food Sciences;
- ! Engineering and Applied Sciences;
- ! Applied Science Technologies and Trades;
- ! Health Professions and related technologies; and
- ! Mathematics, Computer and Physical Sciences.

Marital Status

This set of categories was used in the migration tables and identifies whether an individual is:

- ! **Married** (and not separated) includes common-law marriages
- ! **Separated** (but still legally married),
- ! **Divorced**,
- ! **Widowed**, or
- ! **Never married** (single)

Number of Children in Census Family

Families are classified in terms of the number of children in the family and the average number of children per family is also identified.

Occupations

Occupational data in this study uses the 2001 National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC classifies occupations in Canada in terms of both skill types and skill levels, as described below.

NOC Skill Type

The skill type is based on the type of work performed, but it also reflects the field of training or experience that is normally required for entry into the occupation. This includes the educational area of study required, as well as the industry of employment in cases where experience within an internal job ladder is required for entry. The following categories are used.¹

Management Occupations

This skill type category contains legislators, senior management occupations and middle and other management occupations. These occupations span all skill type categories.

Business, Finance and Administration Occupations

This category contains occupations that are concerned with providing financial and business services, administrative and regulatory services and clerical supervision and support services. Some occupations in this category are unique to the financial and business service sectors; however, most are found in all industries.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations

This category contains professional and technical occupations in the sciences, including physical and life sciences, engineering, architecture and information technology.

Health Occupations

This category includes occupations concerned with providing health care services directly to patients and occupations that provide support to professional and technical health care staff.

Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion

This skill type category includes occupations that are concerned with law, teaching, counselling, conducting social science research, developing government policy, and administering government and other programs.

¹ See <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/index.shtml>

Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport

This skill type category includes professional and technical occupations related to art and culture, including the performing arts, film and video, broadcasting, journalism, writing, creative design, libraries and museums. It also includes occupations in recreation and sport.

Sales and Service Occupations

This skill type category contains sales occupations, personal and protective service occupations and occupations related to the hospitality and tourism industries.

Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations

This skill type category includes construction and mechanical trades, trades supervisors and contractors and operators of transportation and heavy equipment. These occupations are found in a wide range of industrial sectors, with many occurring in the construction and transportation industries.

This category includes most of the apprenticeable trades, including all of those related to the construction industry. Other occupations in this category usually require completion of college or other programs combined with on-the-job training. Progression to supervisory or self-employed contractor status is possible with experience. There is limited mobility or transferability of skills among occupations in this category due to specific apprenticeship, training and licensing requirements for most occupations.

Occupations Unique to Primary Industry

This category contains supervisory and equipment operation occupations in the natural resource-based sectors of mining, oil and gas production, forestry and logging, agriculture, horticulture and fishing. Most occupations in this category are industry specific and do not occur outside of the primary industries.

Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities

This category contains supervisory and production occupations in manufacturing, processing and utilities.

NOC Skill Level

The NOC skill level corresponds to the type and/or amount of training or education required for the work of an occupation. The NOC consists of four skill levels identified A through D and each is assigned a numerical value ranging from 1 to 6 as shown in the following chart.

Chart 1
The 4 Skill Levels Used in the NOC
(Both Alphabetic Characters and Numerical Values)

<i>NOC Skill Levels</i>		
<i>Skill Level (alpha)</i>	<i>Skill Level (digit)</i>	<i>Nature of Education/Training</i>
A Occupations usually require university education.	1	! University degree at the bachelor's, master's or doctorate level.
B Occupations usually require college education or apprenticeship training.	2 or 3	! Two to three years of post-secondary education at a community college, institute of technology or CEGEP; or ! Two to five years of apprenticeship training; or ! Three to four years of secondary school and more than two years of on-the-job training, specialized training courses or specific work experience. ! Occupations with supervisory responsibilities and occupations with significant health and safety responsibilities, such as firefighters, police officers and registered nursing assistants are all assigned the skill level B.
C Occupations usually require secondary school and/or occupation-specific training	4 or 5	! One to four years of secondary school education; or ! Up to two years of on-the-job training, specialized training courses or specific work experience.
D On-the-job training is usually provided for occupations	6	! Short work demonstration or on-the-job training; or ! No formal educational requirements.

Area of Residence (On and Off Reserve)

In most tables, data for the Registered Indian population is sub-divided and provided separately for those living on reserves and those living off reserves. The "on reserve" concept includes a small number of primarily Aboriginal northern communities in the Northwest Territories and in northern Saskatchewan.

School Attendance

Refers to whether an individual was attending school at any level during the 2000-2001 school year. Attendance is classified as **full-time** if the course is longer than 6 weeks and if the individual is taking 75% or more of a normal class load. While this study does not report on attendance directly, many of the tables concerned with the labour market provide data for the population **not attending school full-time**. This is done to maintain

consistency with the 1996 report and on the grounds that the labour market characteristics of those who are attending school full-time do not reflect the way the population will behave once they complete their schooling.

Urban and Rural Areas

Based on the current census population count, an urban area has minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre. All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

1. Population Age and Gender

The age structure of the Aboriginal population is quite different from that of the Non-Aboriginal population, and there are also differences between Aboriginal identity groups, between the female and male populations and between those living in different geographic locations. This section will explore some of these differences by looking at population pyramids, dependency ratios and on and off reserve or urban and rural residency.

1.1 Population Pyramids

The Aboriginal population continues to be much younger in age distribution than the Non-Aboriginal population of Canada, as may be seen in the series of population pyramids below. Each population pyramid is built upwards from the youngest to the oldest age groups. Each horizontal bar represents a 5-year age group. The left side of each pyramid shows the percentage of the total female population in a given age group, while the right side shows the percentage of the total male population. In general, a population pyramid that is wide at the bottom indicates a young and growing population, while a pyramid that is wider towards the top indicates an older and slow growing or shrinking population. When a pyramid is off-centre this indicates an imbalance between the female and male population.

Table 1-1 shows the age structure of the various identity groups. About 43% of the Aboriginal population is below the age of 20, compared to about 26% of the Non-Aboriginal population. The age and gender structure of each population group is illustrated in Figures 1-1 through 1-7. Figure 1-1 shows the age and gender structure of the total Aboriginal population. It can be seen that the figure is wide at the bottom, in the younger age groups, and becomes narrower at the top, among older age groups. This indicates a youthful and fast growing Aboriginal population. The largest age group among the Aboriginal population is the 5-9 year-old age cohort, with the female and male populations each amounting to about 6% of the total Aboriginal population, as shown in Figure 1-1. The Aboriginal 0-4 age cohort is slightly smaller than the 5-9 age cohort, perhaps reflecting declining numbers of

women of child-bearing age and declining fertility rates among the Aboriginal population. In general, the male Aboriginal population has a similar distribution to that of the female population except that the youngest age cohorts (ages 0-19) are slightly larger, and the older age cohorts (ages 30-44) are slightly smaller, than among the female population.

Table 1-1
Population Distribution by Five-year Age Groups, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001 (Both Sexes)

Age Group	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
All Ages	976,305	558,175	274,220	283,960	262,100	44,150	111,885	28,662,725
0-4	10.5	11.0	11.5	10.4	8.7	12.6	11.8	5.6
5-9	11.6	12.2	12.9	11.6	9.9	13.2	11.7	6.5
10-14	11.1	11.3	12.3	10.4	10.4	13.2	10.7	6.8
15-19	9.5	9.4	10.0	8.9	9.7	10.2	9.2	6.8
20-24	7.8	7.6	7.3	7.9	8.2	8.1	7.7	6.5
25-29	7.6	7.6	7.0	8.1	7.6	7.9	7.2	6.3
30-34	7.7	7.8	7.3	8.3	7.5	7.9	7.1	7.0
35-39	7.9	7.8	7.1	8.5	8.3	7.2	7.9	8.5
40-44	7.0	6.7	6.2	7.2	7.9	5.4	7.3	8.7
45-49	5.6	5.2	4.7	5.7	6.4	3.9	5.9	7.9
50-54	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.3	5.1	3.5	4.4	7.1
55-59	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.6	2.1	3.1	5.4
60-64	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.7	2.2	4.3
65-69	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.3	3.9
70-74	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.2	3.4
75-79	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.8	2.7
80-84	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.6
85+	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.0

Figure 1-1
Total Aboriginal Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001

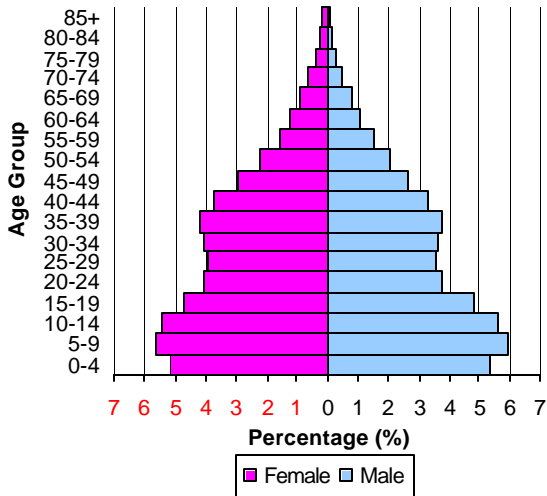


Figure 1-2
Registered Indian On-Reserve Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001

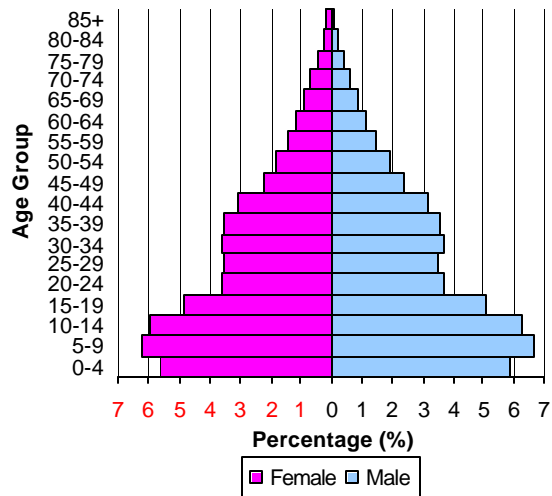


Figure 1-3
Registered Indian Off-Reserve Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001

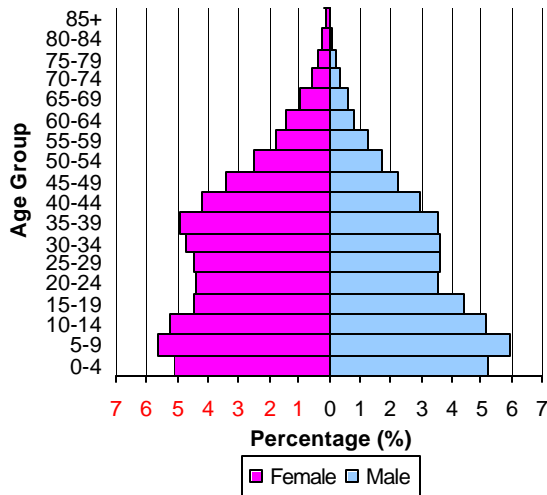
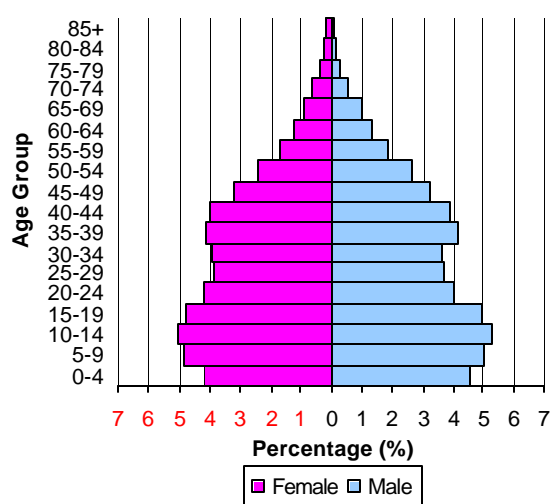
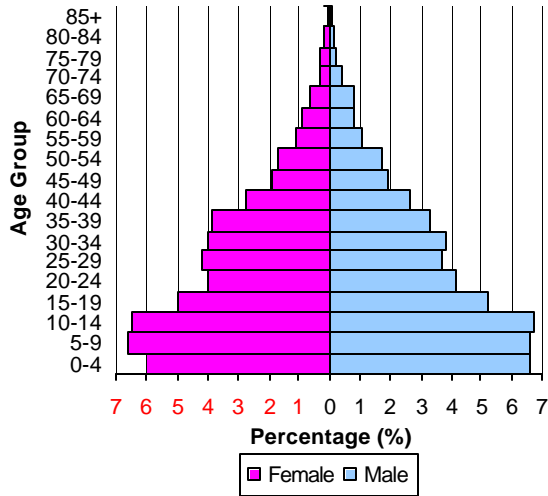


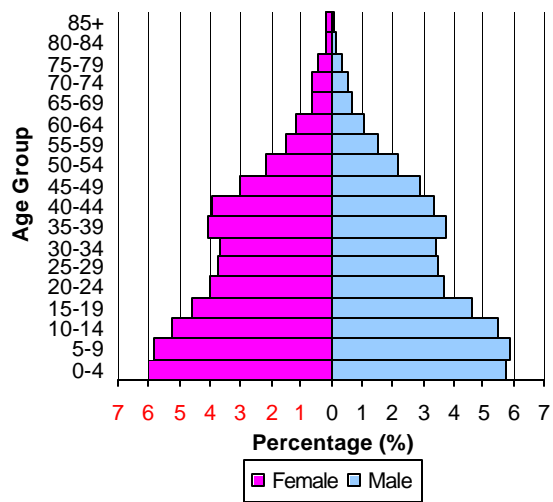
Figure 1-4
Métis Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001



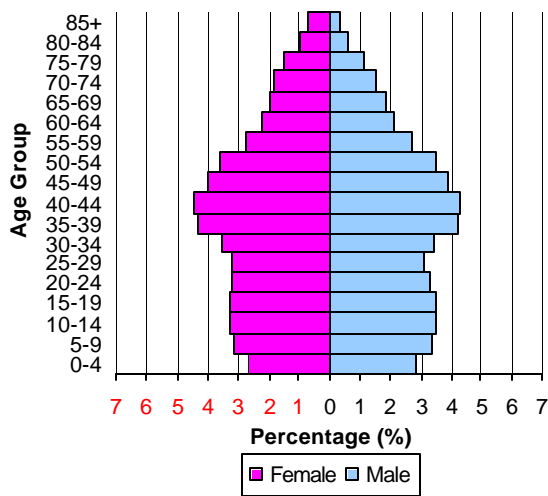
**Figure 1-5
 Inuit Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001**



**Figure 1-6
 Other Aboriginal Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001**



**Figure 1-7
 Non-Aboriginal Population by Five-year Age Groups and Gender, Canada, 2001**



Figures 1-2 and 1-3 provide population pyramids for the Registered Indian population living on and off reserve. From Figure 1-2 it can be seen that the on-reserve Registered Indian population has a relatively wider base and narrower peak than the total Aboriginal population. This indicates a population with relatively more children, one that is even faster growing than the general Aboriginal population. Again, the 5-9 age group has the largest share of the population. The 0-4 age group is also slightly smaller than the 5-9 age group. Comparing Figure 1-3 to Figure 1-2 it can be seen that the off-reserve Registered Indian population has quite a different age distribution compared to the on-reserve population. The off-reserve population pyramid is not as wide as the on-reserve population pyramid at the bottom (ages 0-9), but is wider in the older age groups, especially ages 25-49. Still, with 41% of the off-reserve Registered Indian population below the age of 20, it is a young population compared to the Non-Aboriginal population.

Figure 1-3 also shows that there are imbalances between the male and female Registered Indian population living off reserve. For this population, the percentage of females under the age of 20 is substantially lower (38%) than the percentage of males (46%). On the other hand the percentage of females between the ages of 30 and 64 is substantially higher (42%) than the percentage of males in this age group (36%). This is in contrast to the Registered Indian population on reserves where there is little difference in the proportions of male and female populations in the various age groups.

The Métis population pyramid, shown in Figure 1-4, is somewhat similar to the off-reserve Registered Indian population. It is not as wide at the bottom as the Registered Indian population on reserves, but not as narrow at the bottom as the Non-Aboriginal population. Still, 39% of the Métis population is under the age of 20. Unlike the Registered Indian off-reserve population, there is not a great imbalance between the male and female Métis populations.

As seen in Figure 1-5, the Inuit population pyramid shows that this population has the youngest age structure of any of the identity groups. Almost half of the Inuit population (49%) is under the age of 20. As with the Registered Indian and Métis populations, the largest proportion of population is found in the 5-9 age group, with a slightly lower proportion in the 0-4 age group. As shown in Figure 1-6, the Other Aboriginal population (those with North American Indian, or multiple Aboriginal identities and who are not Registered Indian) also has a young age structure, although not to the extent of the Inuit or on-reserve Registered Indian populations. Among the Other Aboriginal population, 43% are under the age of 20.

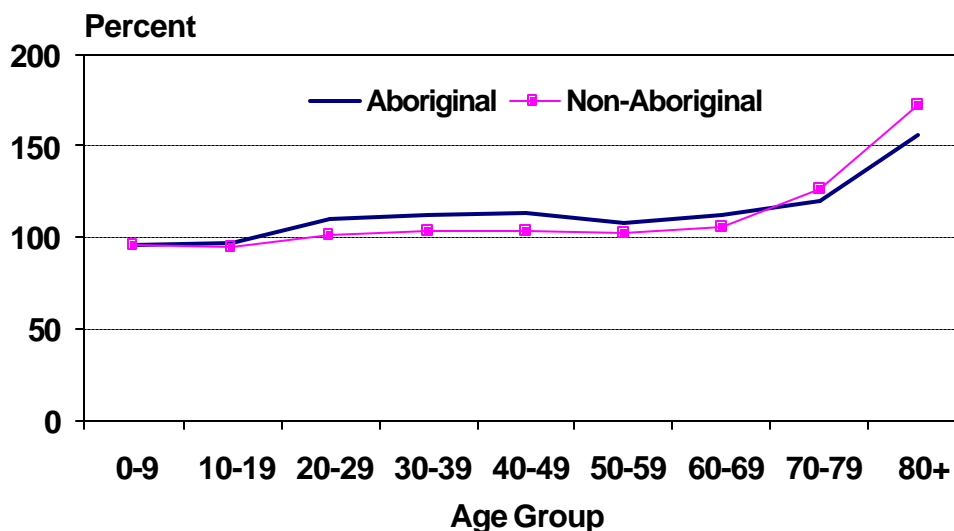
1.2 Ratio of Female/Male Populations

From the population pyramids it can be seen that some age groups have a larger female population while other age groups have a larger male population. In general, for both the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal identity groups, the female population tends to be smaller

than the male population for younger age groups, and larger than the male population for older age groups. This reflects a slightly higher proportion of male births, together with a higher mortality rate or lower life expectancy among males.

Figure 1-8 illustrates this pattern by showing the female population as a percentage of the male population for ten year age groups and for both the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations. The figure shows that for both populations the number of females is slightly smaller than the number of males for age groups under 20 years old, and slightly larger for age groups from 20 through 69 years old. After the age of 60, females outnumber males by a large margin, especially among those over the age of 80.

Figure 1-8
Ratio of Female/Male Populations by Age Group and Aboriginal Identity,
Canada, 2001



It can be seen that there are some differences between the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations in the extent to which females outnumber males. Among the Aboriginal population between 20 and 50 years old, the female/male ratio is higher than among the Non-Aboriginal population of the same ages. One possible explanation for this would be that there is greater differences in mortality rates of women and men among the Aboriginal population than there is among the Non-Aboriginal population. This would be consistent with the data presented in Table 3-1 showing that the percentage of widows among women in the 25-44 and 45-64 age groups is greater for Aboriginal women than for Non-Aboriginal women. Another possible explanation would be a higher relative incarceration rate among Aboriginal men, compared to Non-Aboriginal men, since those who are in correctional facilities are not counted in the Census.

Among the population over 60 the female/male ratios are higher among the Non-Aboriginal population than among the Aboriginal population. This pattern may reflect in part a smaller difference in life expectancy between men and women among the Aboriginal population compared to the Non-Aboriginal population. Meaning that, Aboriginal women are living by as many years as Aboriginal men.

1.3 Dependency Ratio

Table 1-2 identifies the “dependency ratio” for each identity group. This ratio is based on the assumption that those who are younger than 15 or older than 65 are not likely to be in the work force and are therefore dependent on others who are of working age. The dependency ratio is calculated by dividing these dependent populations by the working age population of 15-64 years. The table shows that the dependency ratio is substantially higher among the Aboriginal population (.59) than among the Non-Aboriginal population (.46). It also shows that dependency ratios range widely among the different Aboriginal identity groups, from .50 among the Métis population to .73 among the Inuit population. The dependency ratios of the Inuit and on-reserve Registered Indian populations are highest at .73 and .71 respectively, somewhat lower among the Other Aboriginal population (.62) and lowest among the Métis (.50) and off-reserve Registered Indian (.56) populations.

Table 1-2
Dependency Ratios* by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Age Group	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Children 0-14	0.53	0.56	0.63	0.51	0.43	0.67	0.55	0.28
Older Persons 65+	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.18
Total	0.59	0.63	0.71	0.56	0.50	0.73	0.62	0.46

* Dependent population (0-14 or 65+) divided by the working age population (15-64).

The table also shows the components of the dependency ratio. Among the Non-Aboriginal population the old age component is .18, much higher than among any of the Aboriginal identity groups, while the ratio for the young age component is .28, much lower than among any of the Aboriginal groups. It can be seen that the old age component for the on-reserve Registered Indian population (.08) is higher than among any of the other Aboriginal identity groups, including the off-reserve (.05) Registered Indian population.

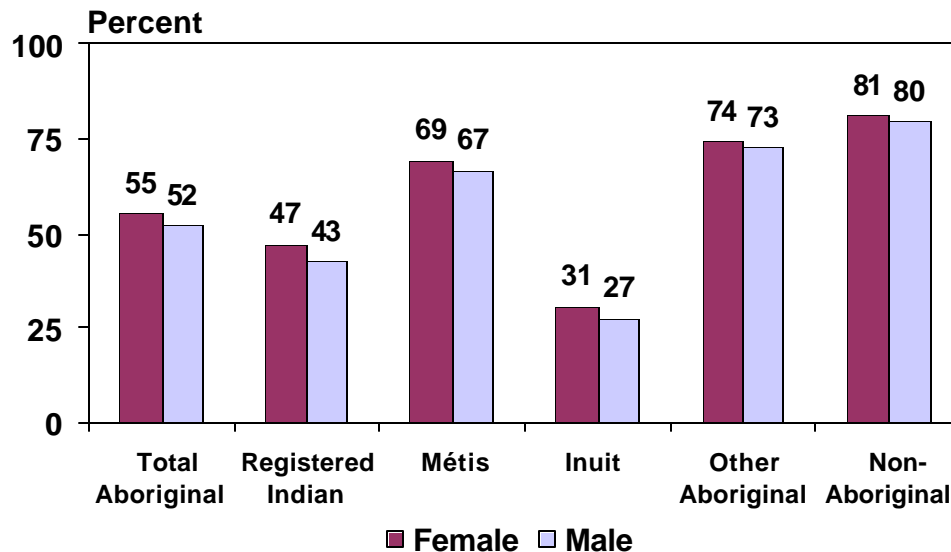
A similar table was included in the 1996 study. Because the 1996 study used a different definition for the Other Aboriginal population, and because of changes in the population identifying themselves as Métis, the figures in the two studies for these populations and for the total Aboriginal population cannot be compared. However, the Registered Indian and Inuit populations are comparable between Census years. A comparison of the two years shows that the dependency ratio of the Registered Indian population declined from .65 in 1996 to .63 in 2001, and among the Inuit population it declined from .77 to .73. The dependency ratio of the Non-Aboriginal population also declined slightly from .47 to .46.

Given the different age structures of the populations, and given the declining trend in the Aboriginal fertility rates (see Figure 3-1) it is expected that the dependency ratio will continue to decline among the Aboriginal populations as the large population under the age of 15 moves into the 15-64 age group. The dependency ratio among the Non-Aboriginal population, on the other hand, is expected to increase in future years as the large population now in the 40-64 age range moves into the 65 and older age group.

1.4 Urban/Rural Residency

Some differences were noted concerning the proportions of women and men living off reserves. Figure 1-9 looks at the proportions of the female and male populations living in urban areas (concentrated populations of 1,000 or more). Among the total Aboriginal population a majority of both the females and males live in urban areas although the proportion is slightly larger among females (55%) than among males (52%). The groups with the largest percentages living in urban areas are the Non-Aboriginal population with more than 80% in urban areas, the Other Aboriginal population with 73% to 74% in urban areas, and the Métis population with 67% to 69% in urban areas. For all of these groups the differences between the female and male populations are small.

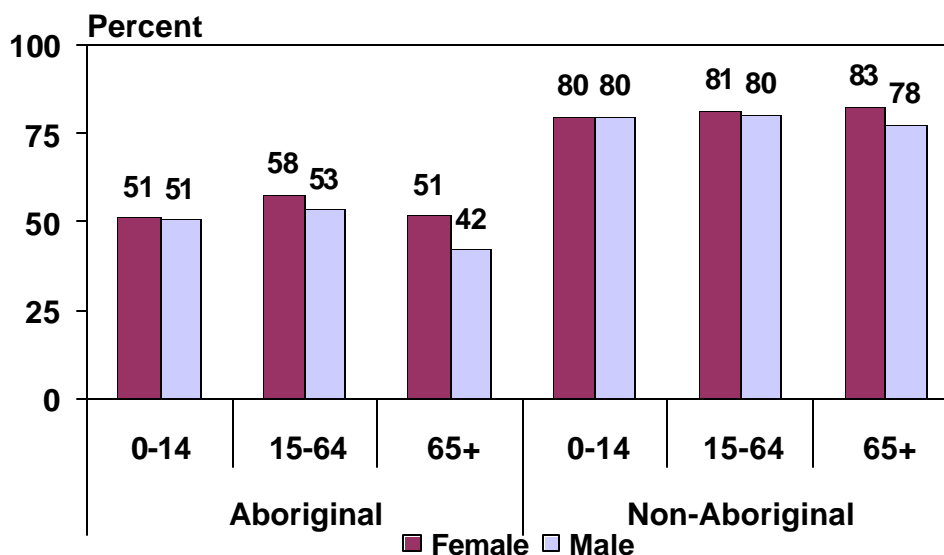
Figure 1-9
Percent of the Population Living in Urban Areas by Gender and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001



Among the Inuit and Registered Indian populations less than half of the population lives in urban areas. Among the Inuit 27% to 31% of the population lives in urban areas, while among the Registered Indian population 43% to 47% lives in urban areas. These are also the groups where the differences between the female and male populations are greatest, with higher percentages of females living in urban areas among both groups.

Figure 1-10 shows that the tendency to live in urban areas is related to both age and gender. In this figure the total Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations are compared in three broad age groups: 0-14, 15-64, and 65 or older. For both the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations, among children there is little difference between the female and male populations in the proportions living in urban areas. Among older age groups, however, higher proportions of women live in urban areas. Among the Aboriginal women aged 15-64, the proportion living in urban areas is five percentage points higher than among Aboriginal men, and for the Aboriginal population over the age of 65, the difference between women and men is nine percentage points. Among the Non-Aboriginal population these differences are smaller for both age groups.

Figure 1-10
Percent of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population Living in Urban Areas by Age Group and Gender, Canada, 2001



2. Language Use and Knowledge

Language use is a central aspect of any culture, important in all aspects of life, including the transmission of cultural values as well as other social and economic activities. As acculturation takes place in Canada, the continued existence of all Aboriginal languages in Canada is threatened to a greater or lesser extent. It has been suggested that only three of the many Aboriginal languages in Canada are likely to survive (Norris 1998).

The 2001 Census provides several ways of looking at language knowledge and use.

- ! **Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
- ! **Home language** refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.
- ! **Knowledge of official languages** refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in one of Canada's official languages.

The role of women is especially important in the transmission of languages since most early language education is done by mothers in the home. In addition, it is possible to use data on mother tongues and home languages to look at language continuity, by calculating an **index of continuity**. This section will look at each of these dimensions of language with an emphasis on the female population. (Language characteristics are generally similar among the male population.)

2.1 Mother Tongue

Table 2-1 provides information on the mother tongues of the Aboriginal female population by age group. The table shows that the vast majority - 72% - of Aboriginal female population in Canada learned English as their first language, while only 19% learned either an Amerindian language or Inuktitut, and 6% learned French as their first language. The proportion of Aboriginal girls or women with an Aboriginal (Amerindian or Inuktitut) mother tongue is relatively low among the younger age groups, and higher among the older age groups. About one quarter of Aboriginal women in the 45-64 age range have an Aboriginal mother tongue, while about 35% of Aboriginal women over the age of 65 have an Aboriginal mother tongue. Similarly, the proportion with French as their mother tongue is higher among older age groups, while the proportion whose mother tongue is English is lower among older age groups. This clearly points to a shift from both Aboriginal languages and French to English over time.

**Table 2-1
Female Aboriginal Population by Aboriginal Identity, Age Group and Mother
Tongue, Canada, 2001**

Aboriginal Identity and Age	Mother Tongue							
	Total (=100%)	English	French	Amer- indian	Inuktitut	English and Aboriginal	French and Aboriginal	All Other
Percent								
Total Aboriginal	499,605	72.2	6.4	16.2	2.9	1.5	0.1	0.6
0-4	50,235	81.1	3.1	10.6	3.4	1.2	0.1	0.5
5-14	108,385	80.9	3.3	10.8	3.2	1.2	0.1	0.4
15-19	45,970	79.6	4.3	11.5	2.9	1.1	0.1	0.5
20-24	39,505	77.6	5.2	12.7	2.8	1.1	0.1	0.4
25-34	78,275	73.2	5.3	16.0	3.1	1.7	0.1	0.6
35-44	77,450	68.8	7.9	18.2	2.5	1.8	0.1	0.6
45-64	78,260	57.7	11.8	24.9	2.5	2.1	0.2	0.8
65+	21,535	43.3	15.6	34.9	2.2	2.3	0.3	1.3
Registered Indian	289,745	67.7	3.7	25.8	0.0	2.2	0.2	0.3
0-4	29,930	79.1	2.1	16.7	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.3
5-14	64,335	78.8	2.2	17.0	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.2
15-19	26,060	75.7	3.0	19.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.5
20-24	22,310	74.1	3.0	20.9	0.0	1.6	0.2	0.2
25-34	45,810	68.2	3.2	25.4	0.0	2.5	0.2	0.4
35-44	44,180	62.5	4.6	29.6	0.0	2.7	0.2	0.4
45-64	44,385	50.2	6.1	40.0	0.0	3.1	0.2	0.4
65+	12,745	35.0	8.4	52.8	0.1	3.1	0.2	0.5
Métis	208,015	83.7	11.7	3.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	1.0
0-4	20,135	91.6	6.1	1.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.8
5-14	43,850	91.4	6.1	1.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7
15-19	19,825	90.9	6.6	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.8
20-24	17,045	88.8	8.6	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7
25-34	32,110	87.1	9.1	2.4	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.9
35-44	32,965	81.4	13.7	3.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9
45-64	33,465	71.0	20.8	5.6	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.6
65+	8,625	55.2	30.1	9.4	0.0	1.0	0.9	3.4
Inuit	53,135	31.6	0.8	0.1	65.5	1.5	0.1	0.3
0-4	6,335	32.7	0.4	0.0	64.5	2.3	0.0	0.0
5-14	11,815	36.6	0.9	0.0	60.4	1.6	0.2	0.2
15-19	4,870	36.2	0.9	0.5	61.5	1.1	0.0	0.0
20-24	4,225	33.2	0.9	0.0	63.9	1.7	0.6	0.6
25-34	7,630	30.7	1.2	0.5	65.6	1.5	0.0	0.3
35-44	8,240	31.3	0.3	0.0	66.7	1.4	0.0	0.3
45-64	7,955	18.3	0.8	0.4	78.9	0.8	0.0	1.0
65+	2,070	20.3	0.0	0.0	77.2	0.0	1.6	0.0
Other Aboriginal	22,060	84.3	10.3	3.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.9
0-4	2,660	92.2	3.3	3.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.3
5-14	5,775	90.6	4.8	3.2	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.8
15-19	2,195	90.1	6.7	2.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3
20-24	1,760	85.6	10.0	3.5	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.6
25-34	3,645	84.3	9.7	4.0	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.2
35-44	2,925	82.1	13.0	3.4	0.0	0.4	0.2	1.3
45-64	2,490	72.3	20.6	5.6	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.9
65+	615	65.6	22.6	9.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.6

The proportion of the population with an Aboriginal mother tongue is highest among Inuit, for whom Inuktitut is the mother tongue of 65% of the female population. Among the Registered Indian population the proportion with an Aboriginal mother tongue is much lower at 26%, while among the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations the proportions with an Aboriginal mother tongue are quite small. The differences among age groups in the proportions with an Aboriginal mother tongue are dramatic, especially for the Registered Indian population. While about 17% of Registered Indian girls under the age of 15 have an Aboriginal mother tongue, more than 50% of Registered Indian women over 65 have an Aboriginal mother tongue. This suggests that the shift in language use away from Aboriginal languages has been taking place most rapidly among the Registered Indian population over the past number of years.

2.2 Home Language

Table 2-2 provides information on the home languages of the population – that is, the language(s) spoken most often in the home at the time the census was taken. This shows, again, that the vast majority (75%) of the Aboriginal population speaks English as their primary home language, while 18% speak an Aboriginal language and only 4% speak French. The proportion of Aboriginal people primarily speaking an Aboriginal language at home is, therefore, slightly lower than the proportion with an Aboriginal mother tongue.

**Table 2-2
Population by Home Language, Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of
Residence, Canada, 2001**

Home Language*	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve			
Female Population (=100%)	499,605	289,745	135,030	154,715	130,630	22,060	57,170
English	75.0	71.3	57.0	83.7	86.2	32.5	84.5
French	3.8	3.0	1.5	4.3	4.8	0.7	7.1
Aboriginal languages	18.1	24.3	41.1	9.8	2.7	65.8	3.6
All other languages	3.1	1.4	0.4	2.3	6.3	1.0	4.8
Male Population (=100%)	476,700	268,435	139,190	129,245	131,475	22,090	54,720
English	74.6	70.1	56.9	84.3	85.9	32.0	86.1
French	3.9	2.8	1.4	4.4	5.4	0.6	6.5
Aboriginal languages	18.7	25.6	41.4	8.7	2.8	66.7	3.5
All other languages	2.9	1.4	0.4	2.5	5.9	0.7	3.8

* Refers to the language(s) spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.

The data in Table 2-2 may be compared to the similar Table 2-2 in the 1996 study. Because the 1996 study used a different definition for the Other Aboriginal population, and because of changes in the population identifying themselves as Métis, the figures in the two studies for these populations and for the total Aboriginal population cannot be compared. However, the Registered Indian and Inuit populations are comparable between Census years. The reported Aboriginal home language use among these two populations increased between 1996 and 2001. Among the female Registered Indian population, the proportion speaking an Aboriginal home language increased from 22% to 24%, while among the Inuit female population the proportion speaking Inuktitut at home increased from 58% to 66% of the population.

2.3 Index of Continuity

The Census can be used to assess the continuity of a given language by comparing the number of people speaking the language at home daily to the number of people who first learned the language as their mother tongue. For this purpose the **index of continuity** is defined as the population with a given home language divided by the population with the same mother tongue times 100. Table 2-3 provides these numbers for the female Registered Indian population living on and off reserve, for some 30 Aboriginal languages or language groups, as well as for French and English.

Table 2-3
Registered Indian and Inuit Female Populations by Area of Residence, Mother Tongue, Home Language and Index of Continuity, Canada, 2001

Language	On Reserve			Off Reserve		
	Mother Tongue	Home Language	Index*	Mother Tongue	Home Language	Index*
Total	135,030	135,030	100	154,715	154,715	100
English	72,875	77,030	106	123,395	129,450	105
French	2,215	2,010	91	8,560	6,580	77
Aboriginal languages	59,830	55,440	93	21,985	15,095	69
Algonquian	49,135	46,335	94	17,745	12,790	72
Algonquin	760	640	84	230	165	72
Attikamekw	2,000	2,005	100	290	245	84
Blackfoot	1,125	1,095	97	480	360	75
Cree	26,025	24,995	96	10,770	8,090	75
Malecite	250	150	60	160	125	78
Micmac	3,445	3,210	93	415	300	72
Montagnais-Naskapi	3,945	3,950	100	455	405	89
Ojibway	7,100	6,105	86	4,460	2,720	61
Oji-Cree	4,475	4,225	94	455	380	84
Other Algonquian	15	0	**	35	0	**
Athapaskan	6,380	5,960	93	2,050	1,210	59
Carrier	425	315	74	375	160	43
Chilcotin	340	270	79	170	105	62
Chipewyan	130	105	81	195	70	36
Dene	3,215	3,225	100	655	505	77
Dogrib	795	800	101	135	95	70
Kutchin-Gwich'in	145	70	48	45	15	**
North Slave (Hare)	385	330	86	70	40	57
South Slave	595	595	100	150	95	63
Other Athapaskan	355	245	69	250	120	48
Haida	55	35	64	25	30	**
Iroquoian languages	10	10	**	335	200	60
Mohawk	0	0	**	190	160	84
Other Iroquoian	0	0	**	135	40	30
Kutenai	60	30	50	15	10	**
Salish languages	1,175	710	60	425	240	56
Dakota/Sioux	1,845	1,645	89	310	135	44
Tlingit	35	20	**	20	15	**
Tsimshian languages	615	430	70	400	190	48
Wakashan languages	465	260	56	330	140	42
Other Aboriginal languages	35	30	86	285	95	33

* Index of Continuity = (Number with Home Language / Number with Mother Tongue) x 100.

** Number not reported because of small population count.

It can be seen that Cree is the largest spoken language followed by Ojibway. Use of Aboriginal languages in general is greater on reserves, where the index of continuity is 93, than off reserves, where the index is 69. Among the female Aboriginal population living on reserves, there are several languages where the index of continuity is 100, meaning that there are as many people currently using the language as there are people for whom it is their first language. These languages include: Attikamekw, Montagnais-Naskapi, Dene, Dogrib and South Slave. Other Aboriginal languages with a high on reserve index of continuity include: Blackfoot, Cree, Micmac and Oji-Cree. Off reserves, the index of continuity tends to be substantially lower, as would be expected. Those languages that have relatively high indexes off reserve include: Attikamekw, Montagnais-Naskapi, Oji-Cree and Mohawk.

Table 2-4 shows the index of continuity for the various languages and for each Aboriginal identity group. Like Table 2-3 it is concerned only with the female populations. From the table, it is clear that the Inuit female population has the highest overall index of continuity (98), followed by the Registered Indian female population (86) the Other Aboriginal population (80) and the Métis population (74). Again, there are several languages with especially high indexes, particularly among the Inuit and Registered Indian female populations, but sometimes also including the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations. The Aboriginal languages with indexes above 90 for one or more identity groups include Montagnais-Naskapi, Inuktitut, Attikamekw, Dogrib, Dene, South Slave, Oji-Cree, Micmac, Blackfoot, and Cree. On the other hand, several languages have indexes below 60, including Kitchin-Gwich'in, Wakashan, Chipewyan, and several small language groups.

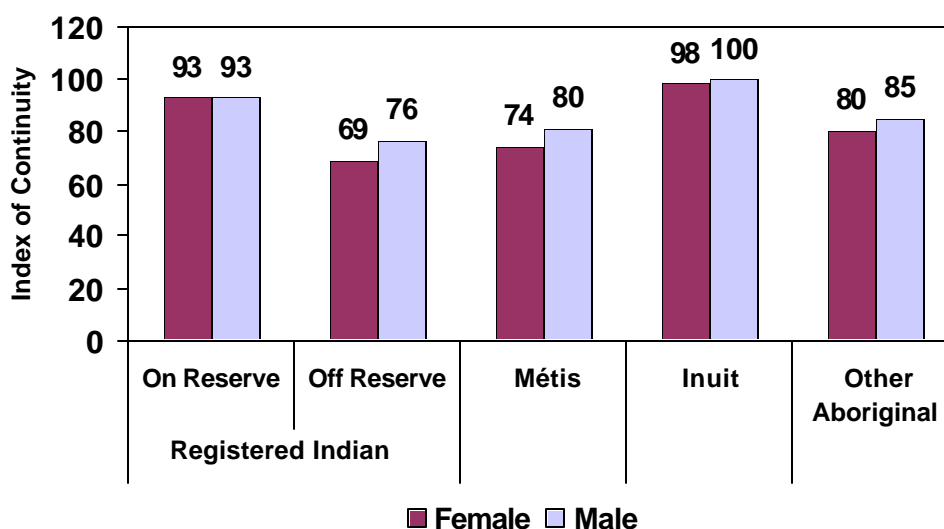
Table 2-4
Female Population Showing Index of Continuity* by Language and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001

Language	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian	Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal
All Languages	100	100	100	100	100
English	104	105	103	103	100
French	59	80	41	83	68
Aboriginal languages	87	86	74	98	80
Algonquian	87	88	70	---	82
Algonquin	81	82	---	---	---
Attikamekw	97	98	---	---	---
Blackfoot	92	91	---	---	---
Cree	88	90	70	---	74
Malecite	67	67	---	---	---
Micmac	91	91	---	---	---
Montagnais-Naskapi	99	99	---	---	99
Ojibway	76	76	70	---	81
Oji-Cree	93	93	---	---	---
Other Algonquian	56	---	64	---	---
Athapaskan	86	85	95	---	87
Carrier	60	60	---	---	---
Chilcotin	72	73	---	---	---
Chipewyan	53	55	---	---	---
Dene	97	96	99	---	94
Dogrib	96	97	---	---	---
Kutchin-Gwich'in	48	42	---	---	---
North Slave	84	83	---	---	---
South Slave	92	93	---	---	---
Other Athapaskan	59	61	---	---	---
Haida	---	---	---	---	---
Iroquoian	57	61	---	---	---
Mohawk	78	80	---	---	---
Other Iroquoian	29	29	---	---	---
Kutenai	---	---	---	---	---
Salish	60	59	---	---	---
Dakota/Sioux	83	83	---	---	---
Tlingit	---	---	---	---	---
Tsimshian	61	61	---	---	---
Wakashan	52	49	---	---	---
Other Aboriginal	33	37	---	---	---
Inuktitut	98	---	---	98	---

* Index of Continuity = (Number with Home Language / Number with Mother tongue) x 100.

Language continuity among the female and male populations is shown in Figure 2-1. From this figure it can be seen that the index of continuity is slightly lower among the female population than among the male population for all Aboriginal groups, apart from the Registered Indian population on reserves. For both female and male populations, the index is highest among the Inuit (98-100), followed by the Registered Indian population on reserves (93), the Other Aboriginal population (80-85), the Métis population (74-80), and the Registered Indian population off reserves (69-76). Not only is the index lowest among the Registered Indian population off reserves, but the difference between the female and male populations is greatest for this group.

Figure 2-1
Index of Continuity for Amerindian or Inuktitut Languages Among Total Population by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001



A comparison of the 2001 findings with similar information from 1996 study suggests that the index of continuity has increased for the Registered Indian and Inuit populations. The 1996 study reports that the index for the Inuit population was 84 in 1996 compared to 98 in 2001, and the index for Registered Indian population was 66 in 1996 compared to 88 in 2001. Table 2-5 looks at the factors underlying this striking improvement in the index among the Registered Indian female population. As the table shows, while the number with an Aboriginal mother tongue declined slightly between 1996 and 2001, the number with an Aboriginal home language increased dramatically. The result is that the index of continuity increased from 66 in 1996 to 86 in 2001 among the Registered Indian female population. The substantial increase in the use of an Aboriginal home language is very encouraging for those interested in the survival and development of Aboriginal languages. On the other hand, the size of the increase suggests that this could represent a change in how people are responding to the survey question rather than a change in actual language use.

Table 2-5
Factors Affecting Change in the Index of Continuity Among the Female Registered Indian Population, Canada, 1996 and 2001

Language Measure	1996	2001	Change
Population with Aboriginal Mother Tongue	83,432	81,820	-1,612
Population with Aboriginal Home Language	55,195	70,535	+15,340
Index of Continuity	66	86	+20

2.4 Knowledge of Official Languages

Table 2-6 examines another dimension of language – knowledge of Canada’s two official languages. As the table shows almost all Aboriginal people in Canada have the ability to carry on a conversation in English, French or both. Only among the Inuit are there many without knowledge of either official language, amounting to about 13% of the population. It should be kept in mind, however, that the ability to carry on a conversation doesn’t imply complete fluency or literacy in the language.

Table 2-6
Aboriginal Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Official Language Knowledge	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve			
Percent							
Female Population (=100%)	499,605	289,745	135,030	154,715	130,630	22,060	57,170
English	86.0	89.5	89.2	89.8	81.1	79.1	82.2
French	3.6	4.0	5.0	3.1	2.5	2.9	4.4
English and French	8.8	4.8	2.7	6.7	16.4	4.8	13.1
Neither official languages	1.6	1.6	3.2	0.3	0.1	13.2	0.4
Male Population (=100%)	476,700	268,435	139,190	129,245	131,475	22,090	54,720
English	86.6	90.0	89.8	90.1	81.8	80.4	84.1
French	3.4	3.8	4.7	2.9	2.6	2.2	3.4
English and French	8.5	4.6	2.7	6.7	15.5	4.0	12.1
Neither official languages	1.6	1.6	2.9	0.2	0.1	13.4	0.4

3. Marital Status and Family Structure

Marriage and family life are important social institutions that have historically been seen as more the domain of women than of men. Families are the primary vehicle for child rearing, socialization and transmission of culture, and also have important educational and economic dimensions. This section will provide information concerning the marital status of women and men, fertility and the size and types of families. Other sections of this profile will touch on family income and unpaid household activities, including child care.

3.1 Marital Status

Tables 3-1 and 3-2 show the marital status of the female and male populations within the various identity groups. These distributions are shown for the population 15 years old or older and for various age groups. In the table, "Married" includes common-law marriages.

Table 3-1
Marital Status of the Female Population Aged 15+ by Age Group, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Age and Marital Status of Women	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Total 15+	340,990	195,485	86,200	109,290	93,830	13,630	38,035	11,933,585
Married*	49.3	48.4	50.6	46.6	50.1	55.7	49.7	58.4
Separated	4.4	4.3	3.1	5.3	4.9	2.0	4.3	2.8
Divorced	6.0	5.3	3.1	7.0	7.3	1.7	7.9	6.3
Widowed	5.2	5.6	6.6	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.4	8.9
Never married	35.1	36.4	36.5	36.2	33.0	35.7	33.7	23.6
15-24	85,470	48,370	23,200	25,170	23,520	3,955	9,635	1,868,440
Married*	20.6	21.1	22.3	20.0	18.9	25.5	19.9	14.0
Separated	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.3
Divorced	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
Widowed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Never married	78.6	78.2	77.2	79.1	80.0	74.1	78.8	85.4
25-44	155,725	89,985	37,985	52,000	41,875	6,565	17,300	4,452,210
Married*	60.5	59.1	64.3	55.2	61.6	69.7	61.8	71.1
Separated	5.7	5.6	4.1	6.7	6.6	2.7	5.2	3.7
Divorced	5.4	4.7	2.8	6.1	6.9	1.7	7.4	5.1
Widowed	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.5
Never married	27.6	29.7	27.8	31.1	24.5	24.8	24.9	19.6
45-64	78,260	44,385	18,340	26,040	22,585	2,490	8,800	3,601,710
Married*	61.9	60.2	63.6	57.8	64.8	70.9	60.9	73.1
Separated	6.1	6.1	4.9	7.0	6.2	2.6	6.8	3.5
Divorced	13.2	12.0	7.7	15.1	15.0	4.2	17.3	11.2
Widowed	8.2	9.2	10.7	8.1	6.5	11.0	6.9	5.4
Never married	10.5	12.4	13.1	11.9	7.5	11.0	8.1	6.8
65+	21,535	12,740	6,665	6,245	5,855	615	2,320	2,011,225
Married*	33.3	32.1	32.7	32.8	33.4	37.4	38.8	44.0
Separated	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.1	4.9	1.6	1.7	1.7
Divorced	7.4	6.2	3.2	3.3	10.2	2.4	8.0	5.9
Widowed	47.4	48.5	50.5	50.4	46.8	52.0	42.0	42.7
Never married	8.0	9.4	10.6	10.4	4.8	7.3	9.5	5.7

* Includes common-law marriage.

**Table 3-2
Marital Status of the Male Population Aged 15+ by Age Group, Aboriginal Identity
and Aea of Residence, Canada, 2001**

Age and Marital Status of Men	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Total 15+	311,355	170,140	87,460	82,680	92,440	13,295	35,490	11,315,415
Married*	49.2	47.9	48.7	47.1	51.4	51.3	48.4	61.8
Separated	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	1.8	3.5	2.1
Divorced	4.1	3.5	2.5	4.4	5.3	1.3	5.3	4.4
Widowed	1.6	1.8	2.3	1.2	1.2	2.4	1.2	2.0
Never married	42.3	43.9	43.6	44.3	39.3	43.2	41.6	29.7
15-24	83,600	46,820	24,215	22,600	23,355	4,135	9,290	1,950,695
Married*	12.2	13.0	13.3	12.8	10.3	15.5	11.2	7.0
Separated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Divorced	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Widowed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Never married	87.5	86.7	86.4	87.0	89.4	84.4	88.3	92.7
25-44	138,675	77,090	37,990	39,105	39,980	5,940	15,670	4,300,565
Married*	59.9	59.2	60.5	58.0	61.4	64.1	57.5	66.3
Separated	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.6	2.0	4.5	2.4
Divorced	3.3	2.8	2.0	3.4	4.4	1.1	3.6	3.4
Widowed	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
Never married	33.2	34.6	34.0	35.1	30.5	32.5	33.9	27.7
45-64	70,940	36,265	19,095	17,170	23,630	2,460	8,590	3,490,225
Married*	69.0	66.2	67.2	65.1	72.3	78.0	68.8	79.9
Separated	4.9	5.4	5.1	5.7	4.1	4.3	5.0	3.0
Divorced	9.6	8.6	6.3	11.2	10.9	3.7	12.3	7.9
Widowed	2.1	2.5	3.2	1.7	1.5	2.8	1.8	1.2
Never married	14.4	17.3	18.1	16.4	11.2	11.2	12.0	8.0
65+	18,150	9,965	6,165	5,760	5,475	760	1,950	1,573,945
Married*	46.5	41.4	49.0	49.1	54.7	66.7	48.1	58.2
Separated	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	2.0	4.9	2.3
Divorced	8.5	6.9	4.1	4.3	10.6	2.6	13.6	5.8
Widowed	18.0	20.5	22.2	22.2	13.9	31.6	11.3	11.9
Never married	13.9	15.3	16.1	15.6	12.4	9.2	13.3	5.7

* Includes common-law marriage.

In 2001 almost half (49%) of adult Aboriginal women were married, legally or common-law, while 10% were separated or divorced and 5% were widowed. The remaining 35% of Aboriginal women were single and never married. There was some variation among Aboriginal identity groups in these proportions. A larger proportion (56%) of Inuit women were married while a smaller proportion (4%) were separated or divorced, compared to the total Aboriginal population. In addition, a slightly lower percentage of Registered Indian women living off reserves were married (47%) and a slightly higher percentage (12%) were separated or divorced compared to the total Aboriginal population. The reverse was true for Registered Indian women living on reserves; they had a slightly higher percentage who

were married (51%) and a slightly lower percentage separated or divorced (6%). The proportion of single, never married women did not vary by much among the Aboriginal identity groups, ranging between 33% and 37%.

There were larger differences in marital status between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. Non-Aboriginal women had a higher percentage who were married (59%) a higher percentage who were widowed (9%) and a lower percentage who were single (23%) compared to Aboriginal women. In part these variations reflect differences (variations/modifications/changes) in the age structures of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations. (See Table 3-2)

An individual's marital status is likely to change over time. Younger women are less likely to be married or separated and more likely to be single compared to older women. Those who are widowed are likely to be older. Table 3-2 shows the pattern of changing marital status by looking at three age groups: those 15-24, 25-44 and 45-64 years old. In 2001, about 21% of young Aboriginal women (15-24) were married and about 79% were single, these two categories accounted for almost the total population. However, in the next older age group (25-44), 61% were married, 28% were single, and 11% were separated or divorced. In the oldest of the three age groups (45-64), there was a similar proportion of married women (62%) but the proportion of single, never married women was only 11%. A larger proportion of women in this age group was separated or divorced (19%), and the proportion of widows had become significant (8%).

There are some differences among the Aboriginal identity groups in marital status that can be seen in the older age groups. Inuit women and Registered Indian women living on reserves tend to have lower proportions that were separated or divorced and higher proportions who were widowed, compared to Métis and Other Aboriginal women and Registered Indian women living off reserves. Compared to other Aboriginal women, high proportions of Inuit women in the older age groups were married.

There are age-specific differences in marital status between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. The proportion of young Non-Aboriginal women who were married (14%) was smaller than the proportion among young Aboriginal women (21%). In the 25-44 age group, however, the proportion of married Non-Aboriginal women was over 71%, much higher than among Aboriginal women (62%). On the other hand, compared to Aboriginal women the proportion of never married women was greater among Non-Aboriginal women in the youngest age group, but smaller among older age groups. The proportions of separated, divorced and widowed women were also smaller among Non-Aboriginal women compared to Aboriginal women, particularly in the 45-64 year old age group.

When comparing Table 3-2 to Table 3-1, it can be seen that there were differences in the marital status reported by men and women. Among all identity groups, a larger percentage of men identified themselves as single, never married, and a smaller percentage identified themselves as separated or divorced. For example, 42% of Aboriginal men 15 or older were single, compared to 35% of Aboriginal women, and 7% of Aboriginal men were separated or divorced, compared to 10% of Aboriginal women.

There are also differences between Aboriginal men and within the different age groups. Among young Aboriginal men (ages 15-24) a smaller percentage (12%) identified themselves as married compared to the percentage among young Aboriginal women (21%), and a larger percentage identified themselves as never married (88% of young men compared to 79% of young women). In the older age groups, the proportions of Aboriginal men who were married were about the same as the proportions among Aboriginal women, but the proportions of men who were separated or divorced were smaller than the proportions among women. In addition, the proportions who were never married were larger among Aboriginal men than among Aboriginal women. It can be seen that there are similar differences in marital status between Non-Aboriginal men and women.

3.2 Fertility and Family Size

Family size is important from several standpoints. Larger families contribute to population growth. They also face greater economic challenges, and have implications for educational and social services systems. Underlying population growth and family size is the fertility rate of the population. Figure 3-1 illustrates the estimated and projected **total fertility rate** of Registered Indian women from 1976 through 2021.² The total fertility rate is the average number of children per female according to the fertility in a given year computed by the summation of the series of age-specific fertility rates. As the figure shows the Registered Indian fertility rates have been declining since 1976 and are expected to continue to decline through 2021. In 2000 the total fertility rate of all Canadian women was 1.5, compared to a rate of 2.9 among Registered Indian women.³

² Source: Development and Demographic Methods Section, Demography Division, Statistics Canada, 2002. Derived from the 2000-based registered Indian population projections. Data not available for other Aboriginal identity groups.

³ Statistics Canada, **The Daily**, Dec. 22 2003.

Figure 3-1
Estimated and Projected Total Fertility Rate Among Registered Indian Women,
Canada, 1976-2021

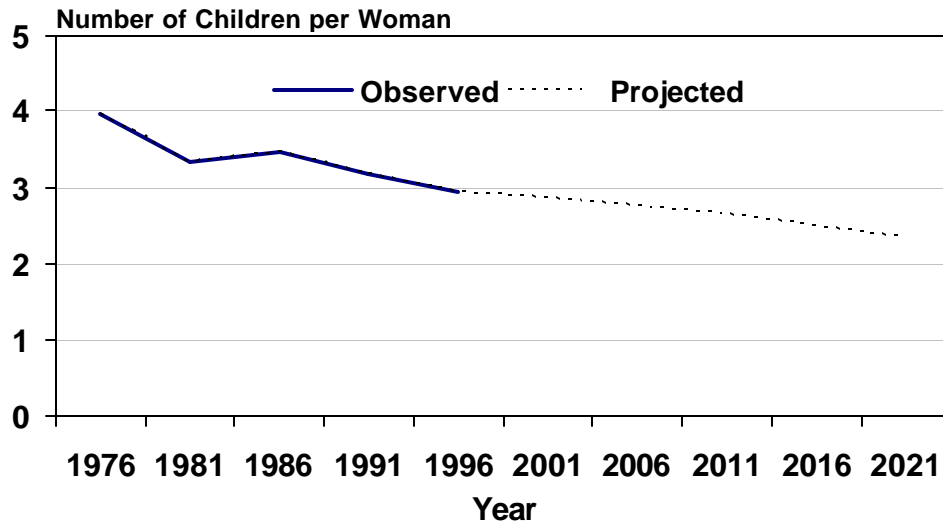


Figure 3-2 shows the distribution of families by number of children and identity group. Inuit families tend to have the largest number of children, with 33% of Inuit families having three or more children, compared to 23% of Registered Indian families. The other identity groups tend to have smaller numbers of children, with only 14% to 13% of Métis and Other Aboriginal families having three or more children. This is only slightly higher than the proportion (11%) of Non-Aboriginal families that have three or more children.

Figure 3-2
Distribution of Families by Number of Children and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001

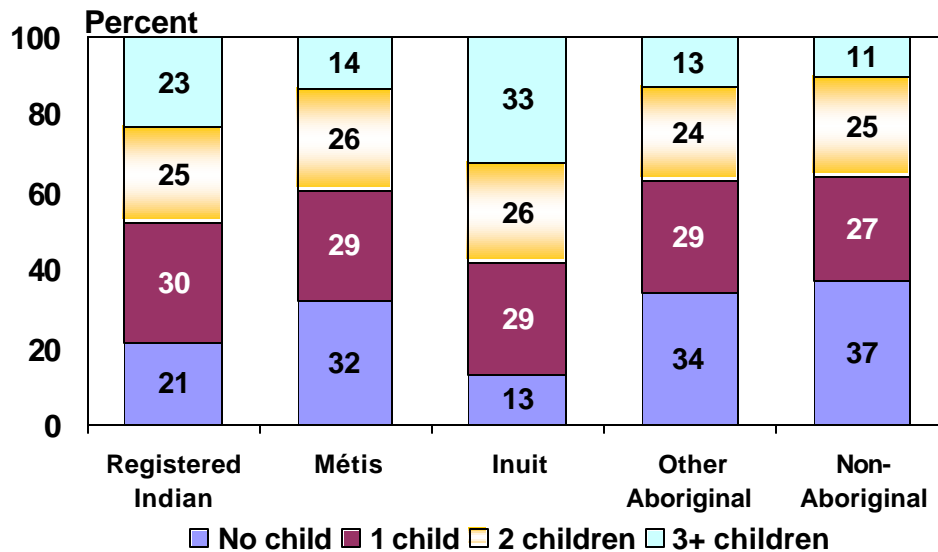
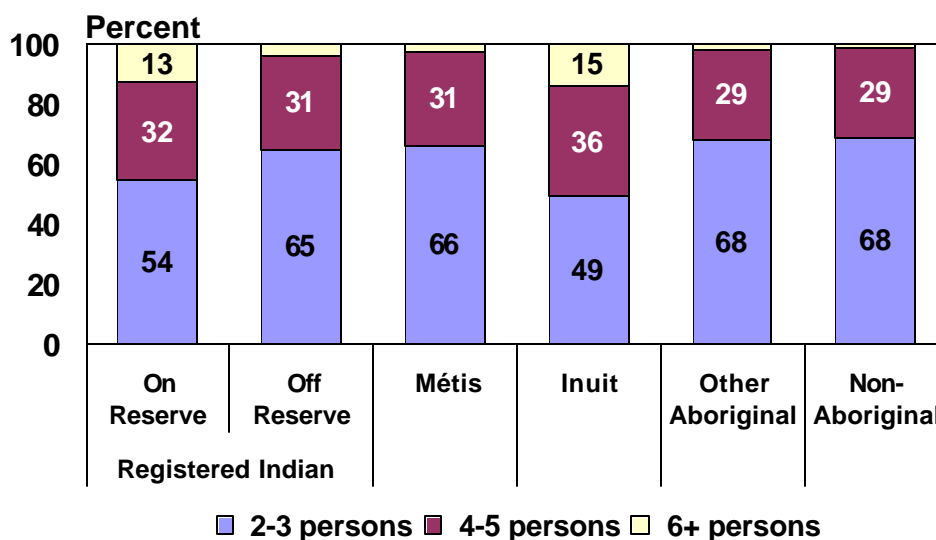


Figure 3-3 looks at the total size of the family for each identity group. Again, Inuit families tend to be larger than the families of other identity groups, with 15% of Inuit families having six or more family members. The size of Registered Indian families varies according to whether they live on or off reserves. Among those living on reserves, 13% have six or more members, while among those living off reserves the proportion is about 5%. This is similar to the family size distributions of the other identity groups including Métis and Other Aboriginal families (about 3% with six or more members) and Non-Aboriginal families (2% with six or more members).

Figure 3-3
Distribution of Family by Number of Persons, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001



3.3 Family Structure

As shown in Figure 3-4, about one quarter of Registered Indian families are single mother families. This percentage is slightly higher on reserves than off reserves. Among the Inuit family population the proportion of single mother families is somewhat lower at 20%. Among Métis and Other Aboriginal families the proportion is about 16% - 15%, while among Non-Aboriginal families it is 12%. There are very few single father families among most of the identity groups, about 3% of Métis, Other Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal families. However, the proportion of single fathers is higher among Registered Indian families on reserves (9%) and Inuit (7%) families. When both single mother and single father families are combined, 35% of Registered Indian on-reserve families and 27% of Inuit families are single parent families.⁴

⁴ For additional information on Aboriginal Single Mothers see Hull, 2001 and Hull, forthcoming.

Figure 3-4
Census Family Structure by Type of Family, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

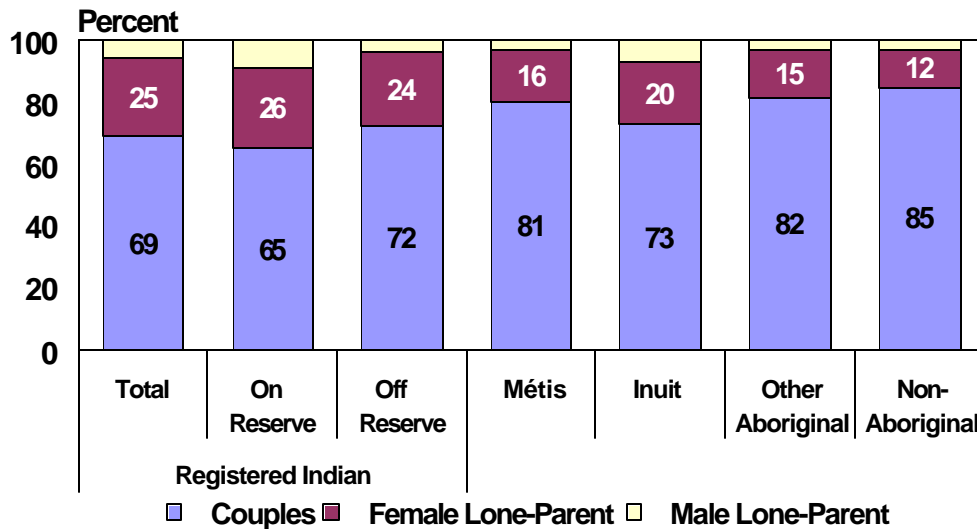
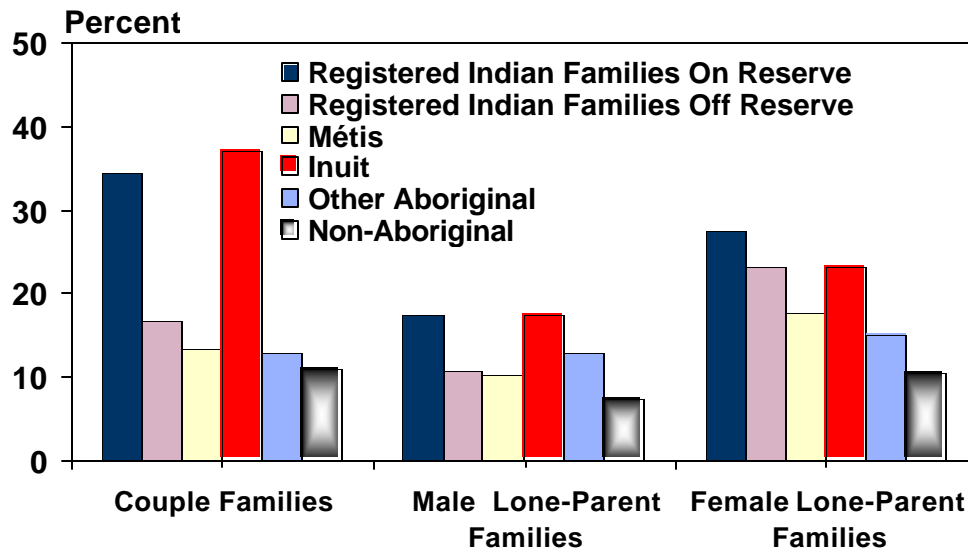


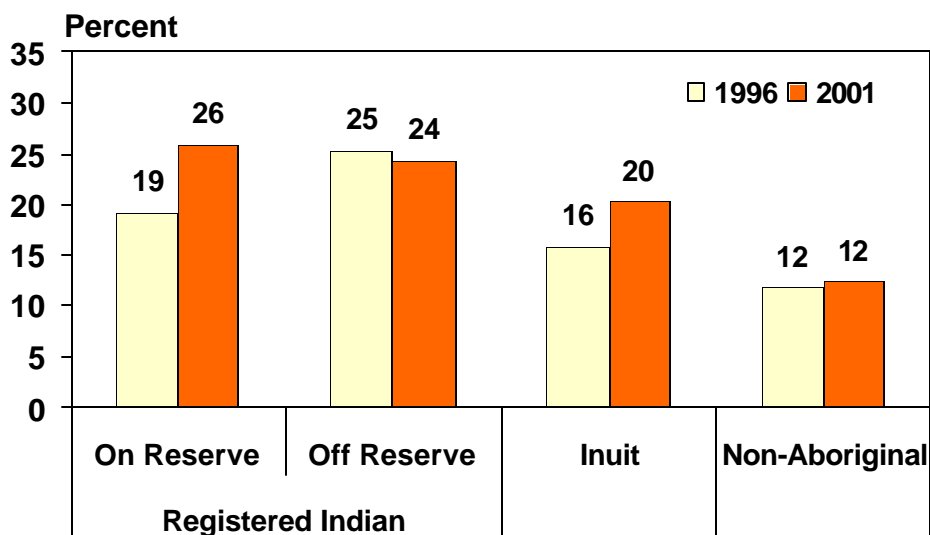
Figure 3-5 shows the percentage of families that have three or more children, by family type and identity. The figure shows, first, that Registered Indian and Inuit families of all types (couples or single parent families) tend to have more children than families of other identity groups. This is especially true for couple families. Thirty-five percent of Registered Indian couples on reserves and 37% of Inuit couples have three or more children, compared to 11% to 13% among Métis, Other Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal couples. Secondly, the figure shows that Inuit couples and Registered Indian couples on reserves have more children than Inuit single mothers or Registered Indian single mothers on reserves. On the other hand, among Registered Indian families off reserves, and among Métis and Non-Aboriginal families, single mothers tend to have more children than couples. Third, it can be seen that single father families have fewer children than either single mother families or couples.

Figure 3-5
Distribution of Families with 3 or More Children by Aboriginal Identity, Family Structure and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001



There were some changes in the distribution of families by family type, at least among some identity groups, between 1996 and 2001. Figure 3-6 illustrates the changes in the percentages of female lone-parent families among Registered Indian families living on and off reserves, Inuit families, and Non-Aboriginal families. As the figure shows, the proportion of female lone-parent families increased sharply among the Registered Indian population on reserves and among the Inuit population, while it fell slightly among the Registered Indian population living off reserves. Among the Non-Aboriginal population there was little change. In previous years single mother families were relatively less common among the on-reserve Registered Indian population, as compared to the off-reserve Registered Indian population, but by 2001 the percentage on reserves was slightly higher than off reserves.

Figure 3-6
Female Lone-parent Families as a Percentage of All Families Among Selected Aboriginal Identity, Canada 1996 and 2001



Although it is not shown in the figure, there was a similar pattern in the percentages of single father families, with increases among Registered Indian families on reserves and among Inuit families. The result was that the total percentage of lone-parent families among the Registered Indian population on reserves increased from 25% in 1996 to 35% in 2001. Among Inuit families the total percentage increased from 20% to 27%. Among Registered Indian families living off reserves, the total proportion of lone-parent families was almost unchanged from 1996 to 2001 at about 28%.

The findings from this section show that Aboriginal family characteristics are closely related to identity and geography. The characteristics of the Registered Indian population on reserves and the Inuit population often stand in contrast to those of the Registered Indian population off reserves, along with the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations. It also appears that a rapid change in family structure has been taking place among the reserve population.

4. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important factor affecting employment and occupations and is also closely related to socio-economic status and various other social circumstances from housing to child care and social services. In this section educational attainment is described in terms of an individual's highest level of schooling and, for those who have completed post-secondary education, in terms of the major field of study.

4.1 Highest Level of Schooling

Educational attainment is captured by the Census as the “highest level of schooling.” This concept assumes that there is a hierarchy of schooling from elementary school through secondary and post-secondary education. Individuals are identified only in terms of the highest level they have achieved, and readers should keep in mind that this is a simplification of a more complex reality. For example, many people have attended both university and non-university (college) post-secondary programs. If they have completed one year of university and have also earned certification in a college program, their highest level of schooling will be identified as university without certification or degree. To the extent possible within the constraints of the highest level of schooling concept, this section uses a variety of educational categories in order to provide different ways of looking at educational attainment.

Table 4-1 provides a comprehensive look at the highest level of schooling among women and men over the age of 15 within the various identity groups. The table excludes those who were attending school full-time during 2000-2001 on the grounds that they have not completed their schooling yet (and to be consistent with the 1996 profile of Aboriginal women). It can be seen from the table that the bulk of Aboriginal women either have secondary school attainment (40%) or non-university post-secondary school attainment (30%). Smaller proportions of women have less than grade 9 education (16%) or some level of university education (14%).

**Table 4-1
Population Aged 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Gender, Aboriginal Identity
and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001**

Highest Level of Schooling	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Women 15+	283,520	161,080	71,680	89,400	78,725	11,205	32,510	10,571,390
Less than grade 9	16.2	19.3	26.6	13.5	10.0	32.7	10.5	11.2
No schooling or Kindergarten	2.2	2.6	4.4	1.1	0.7	9.5	1.3	1.1
Grades 1-4	2.1	2.4	3.3	1.7	1.5	3.7	1.3	1.5
Grades 5-8	12.0	14.3	18.9	10.6	7.8	19.6	7.9	8.6
Grades 9 - 13	39.5	39.1	36.7	40.9	40.4	31.2	42.3	34.8
Without certificate	28.8	29.8	29.5	30.0	27.6	24.6	28.4	18.8
With certificate	10.7	9.3	7.3	10.9	12.8	6.7	13.9	16.0
Non-university	30.3	27.9	25.3	30.0	34.6	29.5	32.2	29.1
Without certificate	8.6	8.4	7.4	9.2	8.6	10.8	8.6	6.2
Trades certificate	9.3	8.8	9.0	8.6	10.4	8.5	9.7	7.8
Non-university certificate	12.4	10.7	8.9	12.1	15.7	10.2	13.9	15.1
University	14.0	13.8	11.4	15.7	15.0	6.6	15.1	24.9
Without degree*	8.6	8.8	8.0	9.4	8.8	4.1	8.8	9.5
With degree	5.4	5.0	3.5	6.3	6.2	2.4	6.3	15.4
All Post-Secondary**	44.3	41.7	36.7	45.6	49.7	36.0	47.3	54.0
No degree or certificate	17.2	17.2	15.4	18.6	17.4	14.9	17.4	15.7
Degree or certificate	27.1	24.5	21.3	27.0	32.3	21.0	29.9	38.3

* Includes certificate or diploma below the bachelor level.

** Includes University and Non-University.

Table 4-1 (concluded)
Population Aged 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Highest Level of Schooling	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Men 15+	264,495	143,215	74,965	68,245	79,775	11,035	30,475	10,004,725
Less than grade 9	17.6	20.5	27.5	12.8	12.2	31.2	12.8	10.3
No schooling or Kindergarten	2.2	2.7	4.0	1.3	0.7	8.8	1.2	0.8
Grades 1-4	2.6	3.0	4.1	1.8	1.9	3.3	1.9	1.5
Grades 5-8	12.8	14.9	19.5	9.8	9.6	19.0	9.7	8.1
Grades 9 – 13	41.8	41.5	39.2	44.0	42.6	31.5	44.7	33.0
Without certificate	31.2	32.3	32.3	32.5	30.2	25.2	30.9	19.3
With certificate	10.5	9.2	7.0	11.6	12.4	6.3	13.7	13.7
Non-university	30.6	28.6	26.8	30.6	33.3	33.3	31.7	30.7
Without certificate	7.5	7.5	6.8	8.3	7.2	10.4	6.8	5.6
Trades certificate	15.8	14.5	14.6	14.3	17.9	15.4	16.5	14.5
Non-university certificate	7.3	6.6	5.3	8.0	8.2	7.5	8.4	10.6
University	10.1	9.4	6.5	12.6	11.9	4.0	10.8	26.0
Without degree*	6.5	6.6	5.0	8.4	7.0	2.7	6.2	8.8
With degree	3.5	2.7	1.4	4.2	4.9	1.3	4.6	17.1
All Post-Secondary**	40.6	38.0	33.3	43.1	45.2	37.3	42.5	56.7
No degree or certificate	14.0	14.2	11.9	16.7	14.2	13.1	13.0	14.4
Degree or certificate	26.6	23.8	21.4	26.5	31.0	24.2	29.5	42.3

* Includes certificate or diploma below the bachelor level.

** Includes University and Non-University.

Within these various levels of schooling, those who have achieved certification are distinguished from those without certification. At the secondary level certification refers to a high school or secondary school graduation certificate. At the post-secondary level certification can take the form of a trades certificate or diploma, a certificate or diploma from a college program, or a university degree. Table 4-1 also includes a post-secondary summary that combines university and non-university post-secondary attainment, categorized as “complete” if a certificate, diploma or degree has been attained, or “incomplete” if such certification has not been attained. In general, Aboriginal women have improved their educational standing over time and have a somewhat higher level of educational attainment than Aboriginal men. At the same time, gaps continue in the levels of educational attainment achieved by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women

It can be seen from the table that most Aboriginal women with secondary school (grades 9-13) attainment do not have a secondary school certificate. While 11% of Aboriginal women have a secondary school certificate, 29% have grade 9-13 attainment without a certificate. On the other hand, most Aboriginal women who have gone on to post-secondary education have achieved some type of certification. Only 9% of Aboriginal women have some non-university post-secondary education without a certificate, while about 22% have a trades or other non-university certificate or diploma. At the university level, however, the percentage without a degree is greater (9%) than the percentage with a degree (5%). When university and non-university education are combined it is found that 44% of Aboriginal women have some level of post-secondary attainment, including 27% with a certificate, diploma or degree and 17% without certification.

When the attainment levels of different identity groups are compared it can be seen that Inuit women and Registered Indian women on reserves have lower levels of attainment than Métis women, Other Aboriginal women, or Registered Indian women living off reserves. Métis women have been especially successful, with 50% having some level of post-secondary attainment and only 10% having less than grade 9 attainment. Among Inuit women, on the other hand, the corresponding proportions are 36% with post-secondary attainment and 33% with less than grade 9 attainment. It can also be seen that the Non-Aboriginal population has a higher level of attainment than any of the Aboriginal identity groups, especially when comparing the percentages with university attainment. While the proportion of Aboriginal women with some level of university attainment ranges from 7% (among Inuit women) to 16% (among off-reserve Registered Indian women), the proportion among the Non-Aboriginal population is 25%. In addition, the majority of Non-Aboriginal women with university attainment have completed a degree, while this is not the case among the Aboriginal identity groups.

When compared to Aboriginal men, on the other hand, Aboriginal women have been relatively successful. Unlike Non-Aboriginal women, Aboriginal women tend to have higher levels of attainment than their male counterparts, particularly in terms of university attainment. While 14% of Aboriginal women have some level of university attainment, only 10% of Aboriginal men have attained this level. There are also differences in the **types** of post-secondary certification achieved by Aboriginal women and men. Only 9% of Aboriginal

women, compared to 16% of Aboriginal men, have trades certification, while 12% of Aboriginal women, compared to 7% of Aboriginal men, have other non-university certification. These comparisons show that post-secondary education paths are at least partly linked to gender.

Figure 4-1 illustrates the attainment of women in the various identity groups for four broad levels of attainment. As the figure shows, Inuit and Registered Indian women living on reserves have the largest proportions with less than grade 9 and the smallest proportions with university attainment. Figure 4-2 illustrates the attainment of men in the various identity groups for comparison purposes.

Figure 4-1
Distribution of the Female Population Aged 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

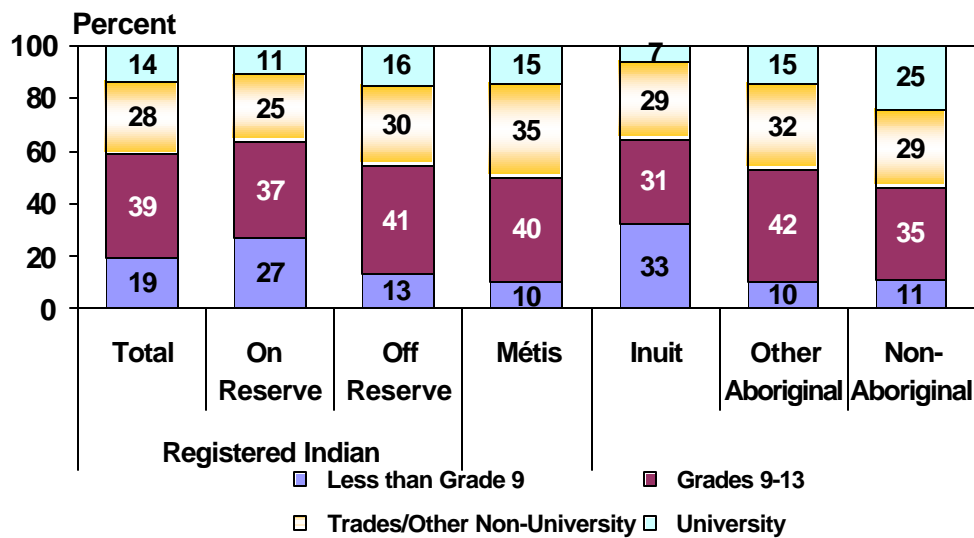


Figure 4-2
Distribution of the Male Population Aged 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

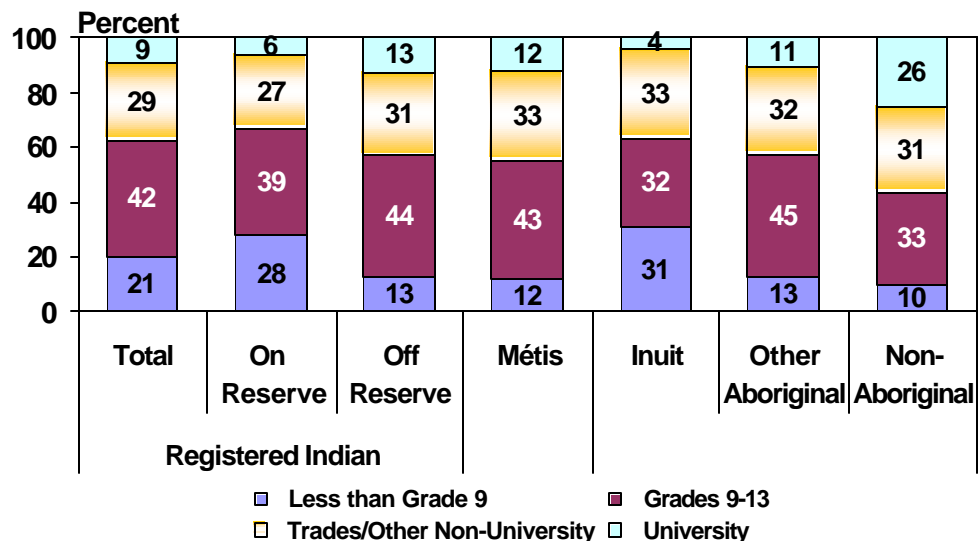
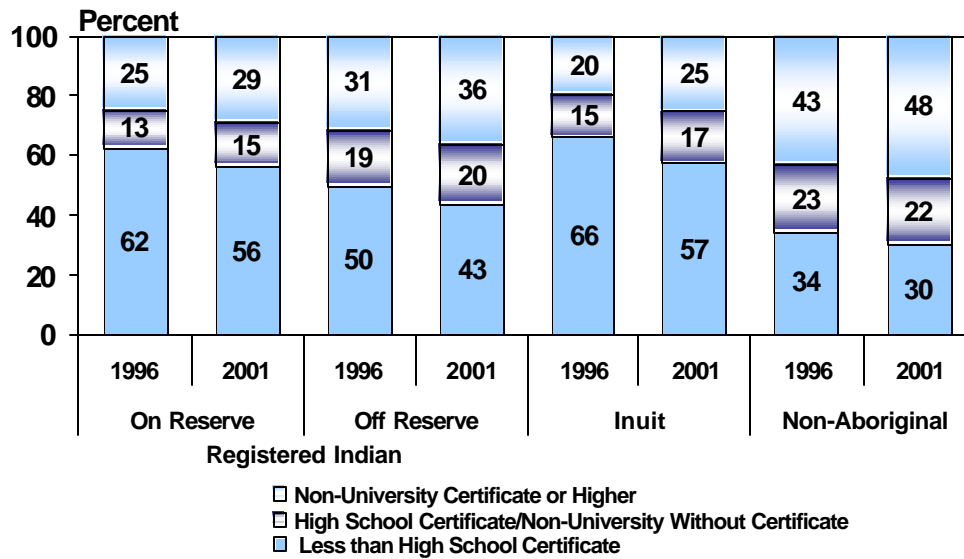


Figure 4-3 provides a comparison of educational attainment in 1996 and 2001 for selected identity groups. The figure is based on three categories of attainment: (1) less than high school certification; (2) secondary certification or non-university post-secondary attainment without certification; and (3) any post-secondary certification and any university attainment, with or without a degree. As shown in other studies, these three levels correlate well with labour market outcomes. (Hull 2005) The figure demonstrates that all the identity groups improved their levels of educational attainment between 1996 and 2001. For example, the proportion of Registered Indian women on reserves with post-secondary certification or university attainment increased by four percentage points from 25% to 29%, and the proportion with secondary school certification or some non-university post-secondary attainment increased from 13% to 15%. Among Registered Indian women living off reserves and Inuit women there were similar increases. At the same time, the attainment of Non-Aboriginal women also increased from 43% to 48% having post-secondary certification or university attainment.

Figure 4-3
Distribution of the Female Population Aged 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Selected Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 1996 and 2001



4.2 Major Field of Study

The census includes a question asking graduates of post-secondary programs, including university and non-university programs, to identify the field of study of their highest certificate or degree. Table 4-2 shows the distribution of men and women with post-secondary qualifications by major field of study and identity. The table includes 10 major fields plus an "Other/No Specialization" category. It should be kept in mind that these graduates of non-university programs are the majority of the total graduates. As seen in Table 4-1, 22% of Aboriginal women have completed non-university certificates or diplomas, while 5% have completed university degrees. Therefore most of those included in Table 4-2 have graduated from non-university programs.

Table 4-2
Major Field of Study of the Population With Post-secondary Degrees, Certificates or Diplomas by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Major Field of Study	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
		Percent						
Women with Degree, Certificate or Diploma	104,825	55,615	21,190	34,425	33,415	3,085	12,715	5,156,145
Educational, Recreational and Counselling Services	15.2	17.1	21.8	14.2	13.0	22.4	11.3	15.2
Fine and Applied Arts	7.3	5.9	3.5	7.3	8.7	4.2	10.9	7.6
Humanities and related fields	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.9	3.7	4.4	4.3	7.5
Social Sciences and related fields	15.9	17.9	17.8	18.0	13.9	12.2	13.3	10.7
Commerce, Management and Business Administration	27.0	26.0	23.1	27.8	28.1	30.0	27.8	27.7
Agricultural and Biological, Nutritional, and Food Sciences	4.5	4.5	5.4	4.0	4.5	5.2	4.0	4.6
Engineering and Applied Sciences	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.5
Applied Science Technologies and Trades	8.2	8.3	9.2	7.7	7.7	8.6	8.9	4.5
Health Professions and related technologies	16.6	15.2	14.7	15.5	18.8	10.7	18.1	17.9
Mathematics, Computer and Physical Sciences	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	2.6
No Specialization	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.3	0.3

Table 4-2 (concluded)
Major Field of Study of the Population With Post-secondary Degrees, Certificates or Diplomas by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Major Field of Study	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
		Percent						
Men with Degree, Certificate or Diploma	87,880	43,650	19,780	23,875	30,135	3,140	10,950	5,117,545
Educational, Recreational and Counselling Services	6.2	7.0	8.5	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.3	5.5
Fine and Applied Arts	3.0	2.7	1.8	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.4
Humanities and related fields	3.3	3.2	2.6	3.7	3.3	2.9	4.1	5.5
Social Sciences and related fields	11.8	14.2	14.8	13.8	9.6	8.8	8.9	9.0
Commerce, Management and Business Administration	9.7	9.7	8.6	10.7	9.5	10.2	9.8	16.0
Agricultural and Biological, Nutritional, and Food Sciences	5.2	4.9	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.0	6.7	4.9
Engineering and Applied Sciences	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.1	3.0	8.1
Applied Science Technologies and Trades	53.0	50.6	50.2	50.9	55.8	58.4	53.2	38.1
Health Professions and related technologies	4.1	4.4	5.6	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.7	4.3
Mathematics, Computer and Physical Sciences	1.4	1.0	0.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	5.0
No Specialization	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2

The largest group of Aboriginal women is found in Commerce, Management and Business Administration, amounting to 27% of the total. Three other major fields also include large percentages of Aboriginal women: Health Professions (17%), Social Sciences (16%) and Education (15%). These four major fields added together account for 75% of female Aboriginal post-secondary graduates. Very few Aboriginal women have qualifications in engineering, mathematics or science-based fields. The distribution is similar among women in the various Aboriginal identity groups with some minor differences. Registered Indian women on reserves and Inuit women tend to have higher proportions in the major field of Education, while Métis and Other Aboriginal women have higher proportions in Health, compared to the other identity groups.

In general, the distribution of Aboriginal women is similar to the distribution among Non-Aboriginal women. The major exceptions are in the fields of Social Sciences and Applied Science Technologies and Trades where the proportion of Aboriginal women is somewhat higher than the proportion of Non-Aboriginal women, and Humanities, Mathematics and Science where the proportion of Aboriginal women is lower than the proportion of Non-Aboriginal women. The distribution of major fields is quite different among both groups of women from the distribution among either Aboriginal or Non-Aboriginal men.

As seen in Table 4-2 the distribution of men by major field is quite different from the distribution of women. More than half (53%) of Aboriginal men are found in the field of Applied Science Technologies and Trades. This field includes a wide range of non-professional occupations, many of which, such as construction trades, have long been male-dominated. The next largest two major fields among Aboriginal men are Social Sciences and Commerce, with 12% and 10% of the total respectively. These three major fields added together account for almost 75% of male Aboriginal post-secondary graduates. The distributions of the various male Aboriginal identity groups are similar, all with at least 50% in Applied Science Technologies and Trades. Non-Aboriginal men are somewhat less concentrated with 38% in this field. It can be concluded that Aboriginal men are generally more concentrated into a smaller number of major fields than Aboriginal women.

Table 4-3 compares women and men by dividing women's percentages by men's percentages in each major field and for each identity group. This shows that the proportion of Aboriginal women is more than twice as high as the proportion of Aboriginal men in the fields of Education, Fine Arts, Commerce and Health. The proportion of Aboriginal men is more than twice as high as the proportion of Aboriginal women in the fields of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Applied Science Technologies and Trades. Generally speaking, these relative comparisons are true for all the Aboriginal identity groups, and for the Non-Aboriginal population as well. In short, there are marked gender-based differences in major fields of studies among the Aboriginal population, and these differences are similar to those found among the general Canadian population.

Table 4-3
Ratio: Percentages of Women/Men in Major Field of Study by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Major Field of Study	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Educational, Recreational and Counselling Services	2.44	2.42	2.55	2.44	2.37	3.70	2.15	2.77
Fine and Applied Arts	2.44	2.17	1.99	2.10	2.71	1.39	3.13	2.22
Humanities and related fields	1.12	1.12	1.21	1.05	1.11	1.53	1.06	1.38
Social Sciences and related fields	1.35	1.26	1.21	1.30	1.44	1.39	1.49	1.19
Commerce, Management and Business Administration	2.79	2.67	2.67	2.61	2.97	2.94	2.84	1.73
Agricultural and Biological, Nutritional, and Food Sciences	0.86	0.92	1.03	0.87	0.86	1.30	0.59	0.94
Engineering and Applied Sciences	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	0.27	0.29	0.15	0.18
Applied Science Technologies and Trades	0.15	0.16	0.18	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.12
Health Professions and related technologies	4.01	3.47	2.61	4.65	4.73	3.05	4.89	4.12
Mathematics, Computer and Physical Sciences	0.58	0.69	0.89	0.60	0.55	0.51	0.44	0.52
No Specialization	1.32	1.18	1.19	1.27	0.98	3.56	---	1.11

Note: Ratios are shown in bold numbers when they are less than 0.50 or greater than 2.0.

In order to see if the pattern of major fields has changed in recent years, the 1996 numbers for selected identity groups were subtracted from the 2001 numbers. To the extent that the base population did not change over the period, the net difference would reflect qualifications earned during the period from 1996 to 2001. While the net difference would also reflect some changes in the base population due to mortality and changes in Census coverage, these differences are believed to be small. The distribution of the net change in the major fields is shown in Table 4-4.

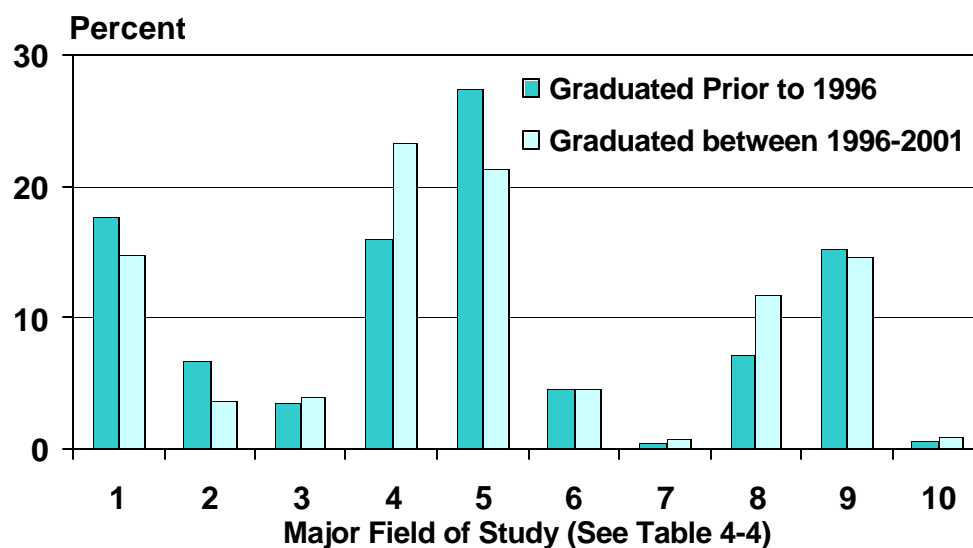
Figure 4-4 compares the distribution of the women in 1996 to the distribution of women who gained qualifications between 1996 and 2001. This comparison shows that the proportion of Registered Indian in Social Sciences and Applied Science Technologies and Trades has been increasing while the percentage of Registered Indian women in Commerce, Education and Health has been decreasing between 1996 and 2001. Inuit women also seem to have shifted towards Social Sciences and Technologies and Trades and away from Education and Health between 1996 and 2001.

Table 4-4
Change in the Number of Women With Post-secondary Qualifications,
Between 1996 and 2001, by Major Field of Study,
Selected Aboriginal Identity Groups, Canada

Major Field of Study	Registered Indian			Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
	Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve		
			Percent		
Female Net Population Change (=100%)	13,795	5,765	9,020	990	795,610
1. Educational, Recreational and Counselling Services	14.8	15.4	14.3	18.7	12.5
2. Fine and Applied Arts	3.7	1.2	5.5	2.5	6.5
3. Humanities and related fields	4.0	3.6	4.2	2.0	8.9
4. Social Sciences and related fields	23.3	24.9	22.3	18.2	14.2
5. Commerce, Management and Business Administration	21.3	19.4	22.8	31.3	22.4
6. Agricultural and Biological, Nutritional, and Food Sciences	4.5	6.8	2.9	3.5	5.4
7. Engineering and Applied Sciences	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.0	3.8
8. Applied Science Technologies and Trades	12.0	10.5	12.9	7.1	7.1
9. Health Professions, and related technologies	14.8	17.2	13.2	12.6	14.2
10. Mathematics, Computer and Physical Sciences	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.5	4.5
11. No Specialization	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.5	0.6

Note: The net population change was calculated by subtracting the 1996 population from the 2001 population for each identity group and major field. Because of changes in the makeup of the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations this procedure was not appropriate for these groups.

Figure 4-4
Major Field of Study of Registered Indian Women Who Graduated Prior to 1996 and Between 1996 and 2001, Canada



5. Employment and Occupations

This section of the profile will look at several aspects of employment, including labour market activity, weeks worked during the year, occupations and non-paid household work.

5.1 Labour Market Indicators

Labour market activity is commonly measured in terms of three indicators. The **labour force participation rate** is the percentage of the adult population that is either employed (for wages or salaries) or actively looking for work. The **unemployment rate** is the percentage of labour force participants who are unemployed and looking for work. The **employment rate** is the percentage of the total population that is employed (for wages or salaries). Table 5-1 provides these rates along with the population counts from which the rates are calculated for women and men and for the various identity groups. In addition, Table 5-1 sub-divides the unemployed population into experienced and inexperienced sub-groups. The inexperienced labour force is made up of those, as of Census Day 2001, who were looking for work but who had not been employed in either 2000 or 2001. The **inexperience rate** is defined as the percentage of labour force participants who were “inexperienced.”

**Table 5-1
Labour Force Activity of the Population Aged 15+ by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence,
Canada, 2001**

Labour Force Activity	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Women 15+	340,985	195,480	86,195	109,290	93,830	13,630	38,045	11,933,585
Labour Force Participants	192,520	100,620	40,875	59,745	60,480	8,165	23,245	7,227,540
Employed	160,455	80,615	32,000	48,615	53,205	6,600	20,040	6,724,385
Unemployed	32,060	20,005	8,875	11,125	7,280	1,565	3,210	503,155
- Experienced	20,705	12,265	5,405	6,860	5,140	1,045	2,250	359,885
- Inexperienced	11,355	7,745	3,475	4,270	2,140	515	960	143,270
Not in Labour Force	148,470	94,860	45,320	49,545	33,345	5,460	14,795	4,706,045
Participation rate (%)	57	52	47	55	65	60	61	61
Unemployment rate (%)	17	20	22	19	12	19	14	7
Employment rate (%)	47	41	37	45	57	48	53	56
Inexperience rate (%)*	6	8	9	7	4	6	4	2

* Inexperienced workers as a percentage of labour force participants. Inexperienced workers are those who, at the time of the 2001 Census, were unemployed labour force participants but had not been employed in 2000 or 2001.

Table 5-1 (concluded)
Labour Force Activity of the Population Aged 15+ by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence,
Canada, 2001

Labour Force Activity	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Men 15+	311,365	170,140	87,460	82,680	92,440	13,295	35,485	11,315,425
Labour Force Participants	207,915	105,045	49,020	56,030	69,115	8,695	25,060	8,244,095
Employed	163,485	77,170	32,995	44,180	58,665	6,545	21,110	7,646,805
Unemployed	44,430	27,870	16,020	11,850	10,455	2,150	3,955	597,295
- Experienced	33,495	20,415	11,430	8,990	8,440	1,600	3,045	467,345
- Inexperienced	10,930	7,460	4,595	2,860	2,020	545	910	129,950
Not in Labour Force	103,445	65,095	38,445	26,650	23,320	4,600	10,425	3,071,330
Participation rate (%)	67	62	56	68	75	65	71	73
Unemployment rate (%)	21	27	33	21	15	25	16	7
Employment rate (%)	53	45	38	53	64	49	59	68
Inexperience rate (%)*	5	7	9	5	3	6	4	2

* Inexperienced workers as a percentage of labour force participants. Inexperienced workers are those who, at the time of the 2001 Census, were unemployed labour force participants but had not been employed in 2000 or 2001.

The table shows that, at the time of the 2001 Census, the labour force participation rate among Aboriginal women was 57%, slightly lower than the rate among Non-Aboriginal women of 61%. However, there were differences among the various Aboriginal identity groups. The rate among Registered Indian women was 52% while among the other Aboriginal identity groups it ranged from 60% among Inuit women to 65% among Métis women, higher than the participation rate of Non-Aboriginal women (61%). Among Registered Indian women the labour force participation rate was lower on reserves (47%) than off reserves (55%). Therefore there were larger differences among women in different Aboriginal identity groups than between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. A very similar pattern is found among men, except that men's labour force participation rates were roughly ten percentage points higher than those of women for most identity groups.

The Aboriginal women's unemployment rate was 17% at the time of the Census, more than double the rate of Non-Aboriginal women (7%). Again, women's unemployment rates varied substantially among Aboriginal identity groups. The highest rates were those of Registered Indian women (20%) and Inuit women (19%). The unemployment rates of Métis and Other Aboriginal women were lower at 12% and 14% respectively, but they were still higher than the unemployment rate of Non-Aboriginal women. For all of the Aboriginal identity groups, women's unemployment rates were lower than those of their male counterparts. The difference between men and women's unemployment rates were much larger for some identity groups than for others, and this difference was especially large among the on reserve Registered Indian population for whom the men's unemployment rate was 11 percentage points higher than the women's unemployment rate.

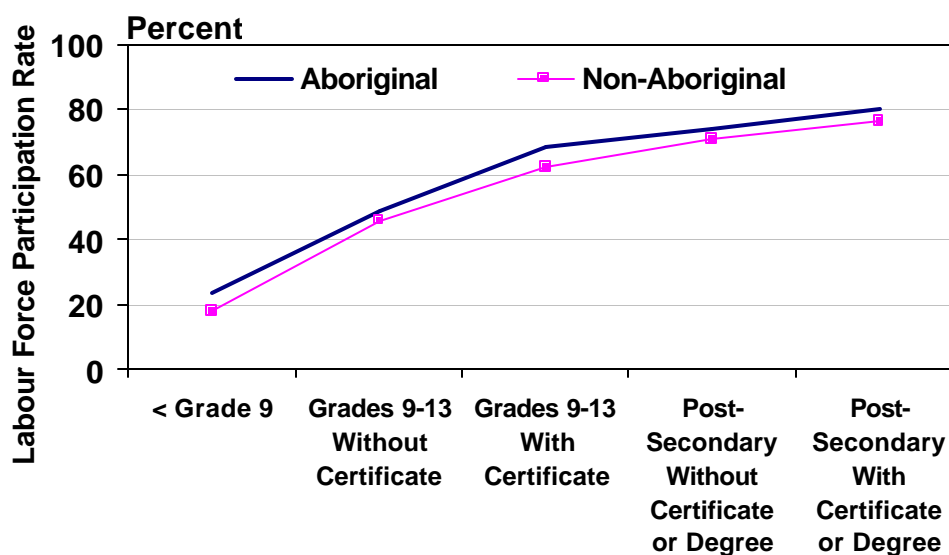
Employment rates are, by definition, lower than labour force participation rates. However, they tend to follow a similar pattern. The employment rate among Aboriginal women at the time of the Census was 47%, compared to an employment rate of 56% among Non-Aboriginal women. Again, there was substantial difference among Aboriginal identity groups, with the lowest employment rates found among Registered Indian women on reserves (37%) and off reserves (45%) and among Inuit women (48%). The highest employment rates were among Métis women (57%) and Other Aboriginal women (53%). Again, the employment rate among Métis women was slightly higher than among Non-Aboriginal women. The gaps between Aboriginal women's and men's employment rates were not as large as the gap in labour force participation rates, ranging from one to eight percentage points.

A relatively large proportion of Aboriginal women in the labour force were inexperienced (6%), compared to the rate among Non-Aboriginal women (2%). The inexperience rate was especially high among Registered Indian women, both on reserves (9%) and off reserves (7%). The inexperience rate was only slightly lower among Aboriginal men (5%). The inexperience rate reflects, in part, the relative youthfulness of the Aboriginal population, but it also reflects high unemployment rates among the Aboriginal population, particularly among the Registered Indian and Inuit populations.

5.2 Educational Attainment, Age and Labour Market Indicators

Labour market activity is affected by other factors, most notably age and educational attainment. Figure 5-1 examines the relationship between educational attainment and labour force participation rates for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. In this figure five levels of educational attainment have been used: (1) those with less than grade 9; (2) those with secondary school education but without certification; (3) those with secondary school certification; (4) those with some post-secondary education but without certification; and (5) those with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. The figure shows that, for both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women, labour force participation increases dramatically with higher levels of education, especially as we move from the lowest level through secondary school completion. In addition, the figure shows that Aboriginal women have slightly higher participation rates than Non-Aboriginal at each educational level.

Figure 5-1
Labour Force Participation Rates of Women 15+ by Highest Level of Schooling and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001

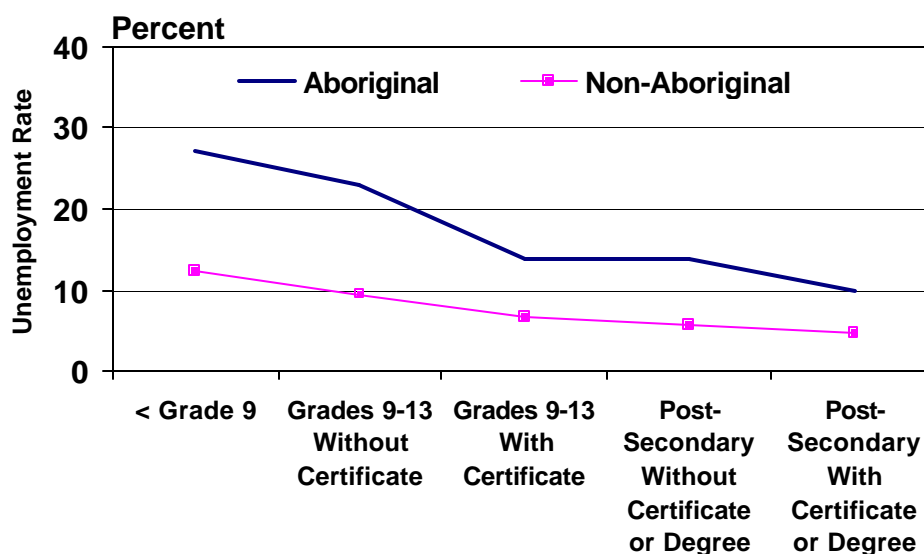


It is perhaps surprising that the participation rates of Aboriginal women are higher than those of the Non-Aboriginal women. In part this reflects differences in the age distributions of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal populations. A larger proportion of Non-Aboriginal women are 45 or older, and women in the older age groups have lower participation rates than younger women. This results in lower average participation rates among Non-Aboriginal women that normally would be found in a younger population. In addition, labour force participation is affected by such factors as total household income and regional labour

markets. For example, women living in higher income households, or women with more substantial pensions, may choose not to participate in the labour market, where women with less financial resources have a greater need for employment.

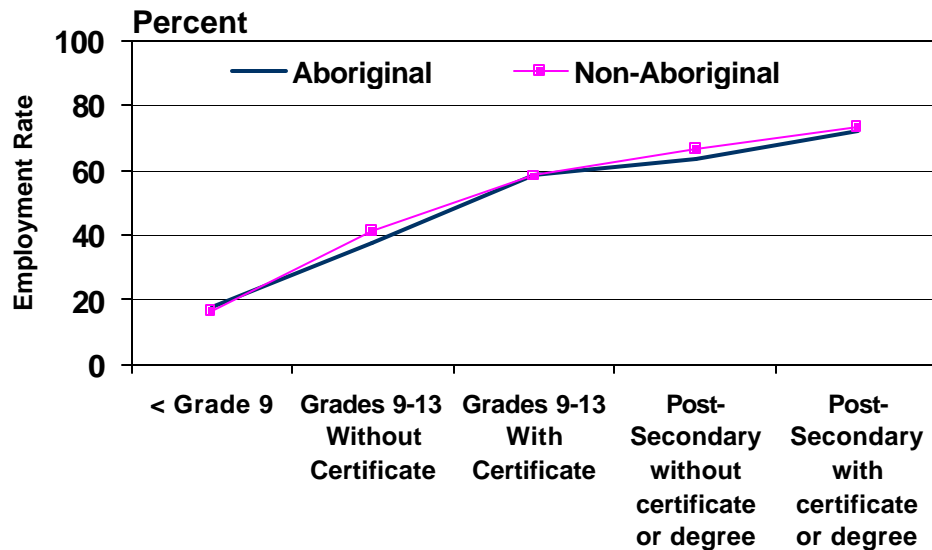
Figure 5-2 is similar to Figure 5-1 and examines the relationship between educational attainment and unemployment rates for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. This figure shows that among both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women unemployment rates decline as educational attainment increases. The drop in unemployment rates is greatest as we move from those with a “less than grade 9” education to those who have a “grade 9-13 with certificate”. There is little difference in unemployment rates between those with a secondary school certificate and those with incomplete post-secondary education without any certification. The figure also shows that the impact of educational attainment on unemployment rates is greater among Aboriginal women than among Non-Aboriginal women.

Figure 5-2
Unemployment Rates of Women 15+ by Highest Level of Schooling and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001



Although the unemployment rates of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women are substantially different, there is little difference between the two groups in the proportion of the population that is employed. This is shown in Figure 5-3 which focuses on the employment rates of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women with various educational levels. Again, it can be seen that educational attainment has a strong impact on employment, particularly when moving from less than secondary education to secondary completion. The pattern is remarkably similar for the two groups, once education is taken into consideration.

Figure 5-3
Employment Rates of Women Aged 15+ by Highest Level of Schooling and
Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001



As previously noted, labour force indicators are related to age as well as gender and educational attainment.

Figures 5-4 and 5-5 illustrate how age and education affect the relative labour force participation and employment rates among Aboriginal women. It can be seen from Figure 5-4 that, when age and education are controlled, the labour force participation rates of Aboriginal women are somewhat lower than those of Non-Aboriginal women. The differences between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal rates are largest for the 15-24 age group and smallest for the 45-64 age group. As educational attainment increases, the participation rates of Aboriginal women approach those of Non-Aboriginal women, especially among the 45-64 age group. The effect of education is greatest among the youngest age group. Among this age group, Aboriginal women's participation rates are only .62 of Non-Aboriginal women's participation rates for those with less than grade 9 education, but among young Aboriginal women with post-secondary certification participation rates are .92 of Non-Aboriginal women's participation rates.

Figure 5-4
Ratio of Labour Force Participation of Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Women by Age and Education, Canada, 2001

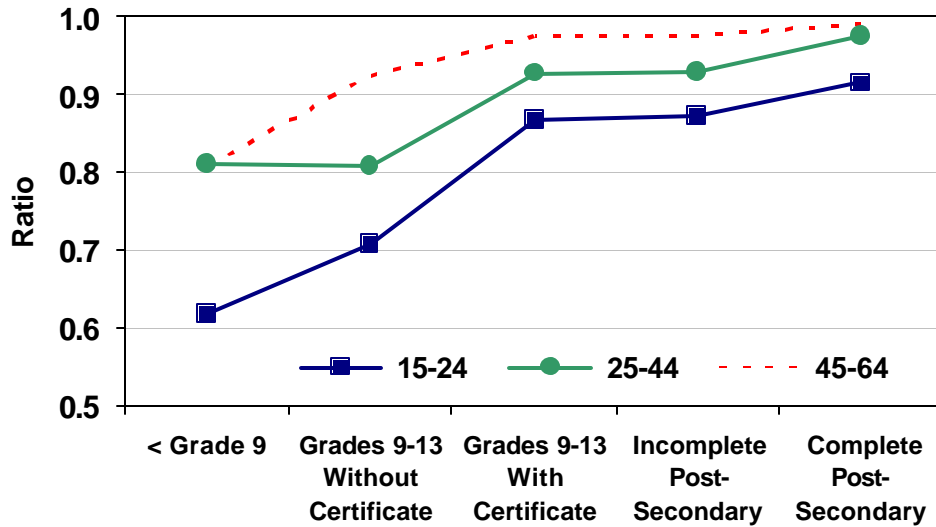
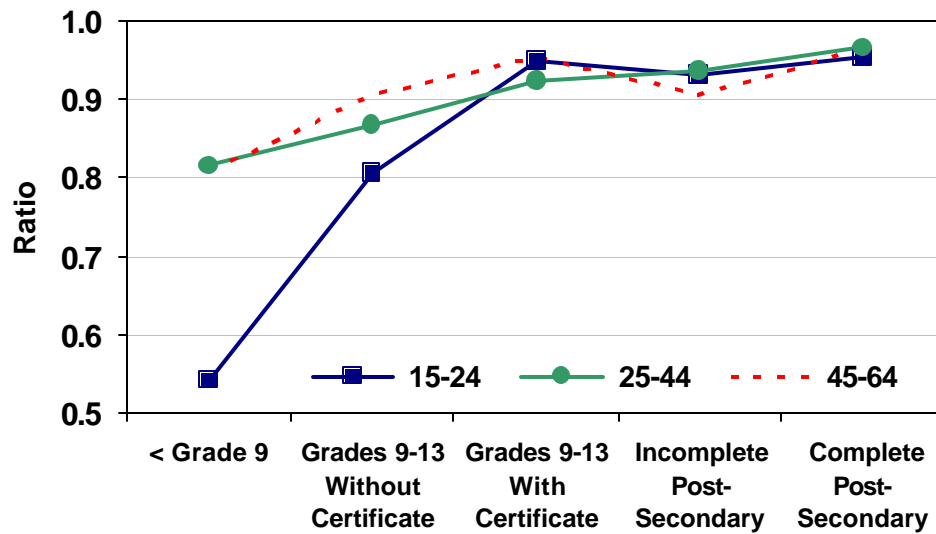


Figure 5-5
Ratio of Employment of Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Women by Age and Education, Canada, 2001



As Figure 5-5 shows, there is a slightly greater difference in employment rates between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. Otherwise, the effects of age and education are similar to the effects on participation rates. As education increases, Aboriginal women's employment rates begin to approach those of Non-Aboriginal women. This is true for all three age groups, but especially dramatic among those 15-24 years old. For those who have achieved high school completion or higher educational levels, the employment rates of Aboriginal women are at least .90 or more of the employment rates of Non-Aboriginal women.

The relationship between age, education and labour force participation is shown in greater detail in Table 5-2. In this table data is provided separately for each Aboriginal identity group. It can be seen that, for some age groups and levels of education, Inuit or Métis women may have higher participation rates than Non-Aboriginal women. Especially among women in the 25-44 and 45-64 age groups, Inuit women tend to have higher participation rates than women in the other identity groups, including Non-Aboriginal women. This shows that other factors, in addition to age and education, are playing a role in labour force participation. These factors may include the effects of regional labour markets, particularly in the case of Inuit women who are largely in Northern Canada. Or they may include the effects of differences in household income, although this aspect is not examined in this profile.

**Table 5-2
Labour Force Participation Rates of the Population Aged 15+ and Not Attending
School Full-time by Highest Level of Schooling, Age, Gender and Aboriginal
Identity, Canada, 2001**

Aboriginal Identity and Education	15-24 Years		25-44 Years		45-64 Years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Percent						
Registered Indian						
Less than grade 9	21.8	31.7	37.9	57.2	26.4	46.0
Grade 9-13 without certificate	35.6	51.5	51.8	72.3	45.2	65.3
Grade 9-13 with certificate	63.1	77.5	68.7	81.7	61.7	72.5
Incomplete post-secondary	69.1	81.1	76.0	85.8	69.2	74.3
Complete post-secondary	79.5	87.0	84.5	91.1	73.0	81.5
Métis						
Less than grade 9	38.5	50.0	48.6	72.9	27.6	53.7
Grade 9-13 without certificate	59.3	74.9	63.6	85.5	57.5	73.2
Grade 9-13 with certificate	79.8	92.3	77.4	91.1	64.0	83.1
Incomplete post-secondary	84.1	90.0	79.9	91.9	72.0	77.2
Complete post-secondary	87.1	94.3	86.1	93.8	77.1	83.0
Inuit						
Less than grade 9	37.1	42.9	57.9	71.0	44.8	58.8
Grade 9-13 without certificate	50.4	58.6	69.3	80.1	66.0	70.6
Grade 9-13 with certificate	84.0	83.1	78.8	89.7	73.3	85.7
Incomplete post-secondary	72.5	85.4	82.2	85.5	70.0	84.2
Complete post-secondary	80.8	86.5	88.4	92.7	81.1	85.6
Other Aboriginal						
Less than grade 9	22.0	44.3	33.6	59.7	19.4	42.7
Grade 9-13 without certificate	60.0	75.3	60.2	78.9	45.6	65.2
Grade 9-13 with certificate	78.3	90.5	76.0	88.8	66.3	74.1
Incomplete post-secondary	82.1	83.9	81.9	87.1	62.6	72.9
Complete post-secondary	89.0	93.2	84.0	92.8	71.7	75.8
Non-Aboriginal						
Less than grade 9	40.9	65.8	50.8	75.1	34.1	60.1
Grade 9-13 without certificate	62.9	75.2	69.7	88.7	53.6	75.3
Grade 9-13 with certificate	82.5	89.7	78.5	93.3	64.9	80.9
Incomplete post-secondary	86.2	90.3	83.8	93.9	71.1	83.2
Complete post-secondary	91.7	94.9	87.2	95.8	75.2	84.7

The table also shows that the participation rates of Aboriginal women are generally lower than those of their male counterparts, but that they tend to approach the male participation rates as educational levels increase. Across all identity groups, the highest participation rates are found among women in the 25-44 age range, and lower participation rates are found among those in the 15-24 and 45-64 age ranges. As age and education increase, the differences among identity groups in participation rates tend to decrease.

5.3 Child Care and Labour Force Participation

Labour force participation is thought to be affected by child care responsibilities, limiting parent's abilities to participate in the labour market. Since women generally have greater child care responsibilities, their lower levels of participation in the labour market may be in part the result of these responsibilities. In order to examine this question, Table 5-3 looks at the relationship between the various labour force indicators and the age of the youngest child living at home. The table provides, for women as well as and men, data for three age groups. It can be seen from the table that when women have a child living with them, who is under the age of 16, their labour force participation and employment rates tend to be lower, and their unemployment rates higher, compared to women who don't have a child of this age. This varies, however, according to the woman's age. Young Aboriginal women, 15-24 years old, with no child under 16, have a labour force participation rate that is about 25 percentage points higher than those with a child at home. In the 25-44 age group, the difference between Aboriginal women with or without a child at home is much smaller, about 8 percentage points. Among Aboriginal women 45-64 years old, those with a child at home have a slightly higher participation rate than those without a child. This pattern of large differences in labour force indicators among younger women, and smaller differences among older women holds true for both unemployment and employment rates. It is younger Aboriginal women with children who most often experience low participation and employment rates and high unemployment rates, compared to young Aboriginal women without children.

**Table 5-3
Labour Force Indicators by Age, Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Age of Youngest
Child, Canada, 2001**

Labour Force Participation	Age	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		Youngest Child 0-15 Years Old	No Child 0-15 Years Old	Youngest Child 0-15 Years Old	No Child 0-15 Years Old
Percent					
Labour Force Participation Rate					
Women	15-24	44.4	69.2	62.4	86.3
	25-44	69.0	76.7	78.0	87.8
	45-64	60.3	58.2	79.0	62.6
Men	15-24	55.7	73.7	74.5	87.7
	25-44	85.5	81.5	95.4	92.0
	45-64	77.1	71.5	92.4	78.5
Unemployment Rate					
Women	15-24	33.3	21.8	15.8	9.0
	25-44	15.9	12.2	6.6	5.0
	45-64	12.2	9.2	4.7	4.7
Men	15-24	37.8	28.0	15.0	12.9
	25-44	19.2	21.5	4.6	6.8
	45-64	17.5	15.2	4.3	5.2
Employment Rate					
Women	15-24	29.5	54.0	52.5	78.5
	25-44	58.0	67.4	72.8	83.4
	45-64	53.0	52.9	75.3	59.7
Men	15-24	34.8	53.0	63.4	76.4
	25-44	69.0	64.0	91.0	85.7
	45-64	63.6	60.7	88.4	74.4

When comparing the rates of Aboriginal women to those of Non-Aboriginal women, it can be seen that the participation and employment rates of Non-Aboriginal women are consistently higher, and the unemployment rates consistently lower, than those of Aboriginal women. At the same time, like young Aboriginal women, young Non-Aboriginal women with children also experience lower participation and employment rates and higher unemployment rates than those without children. It can also be seen that young Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal men with children at home also have lower levels of labour force participation and employment than those without children.

5.4 Work Activity

Work activity refers to the number of weeks worked by an individual during the complete 2000 calendar year, including part-time and full-time work for wages or through self-employment. In Table 5-4 the population is categorized by the number of weeks worked, including a category of those who did not work during 2000. It can be seen that 59% of Aboriginal women worked in 2000, while 41% did not. The biggest component of the female Aboriginal workforce was made up of those who worked for at least 40 weeks during the year, representing about 35% of all Aboriginal women. Another group worked between 10 and 40 weeks, representing about 18% of the workforce. Apart from those who did not work at all, only a small proportion (6%) of Aboriginal women worked less than 10 weeks during the year.

Table 5-4
Population Aged 15+ by Weeks Worked in 2000 by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada

Weeks Worked in 2000	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Women 15+ (=100%)	340,985	195,480	86,195	109,290	93,830	13,630	38,045	11,933,585
Did not work in 2000	41.4	46.8	50.6	43.8	32.7	35.7	37.3	36.8
Worked in 2000	58.6	53.2	49.4	56.2	67.3	64.3	62.7	63.2
1 - 5 weeks	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.4	5.7	2.6	1.5
6 - 9 weeks	3.0	3.2	3.7	2.8	2.5	4.1	2.6	1.4
10 - 20 weeks	8.5	8.3	8.0	8.5	8.9	11.2	8.0	6.1
21 - 39 weeks	9.0	8.3	7.4	9.0	10.1	11.0	9.2	7.5
40 or more weeks	35.2	30.4	27.0	33.1	43.4	32.2	40.3	46.6
Men 15+ (=100%)	311,365	170,140	87,460	82,680	92,440	13,295	35,485	11,315,425
Did not work in 2000	31.7	36.9	42.0	31.5	23.4	29.2	28.9	25.0
Worked in 2000	68.3	63.1	58.0	68.4	76.6	70.8	71.1	75.0
1 - 5 weeks	3.2	3.6	4.0	3.1	2.5	6.2	2.1	1.4
6 - 9 weeks	3.4	3.9	4.6	3.0	2.8	5.5	2.2	1.4
10 - 20 weeks	10.2	11.0	12.2	9.8	8.8	12.5	9.0	5.9
21 - 39 weeks	11.7	11.5	11.2	11.9	12.5	11.7	10.9	7.9
40 or more weeks	39.8	33.1	26.0	40.6	50.1	34.9	47.0	58.5

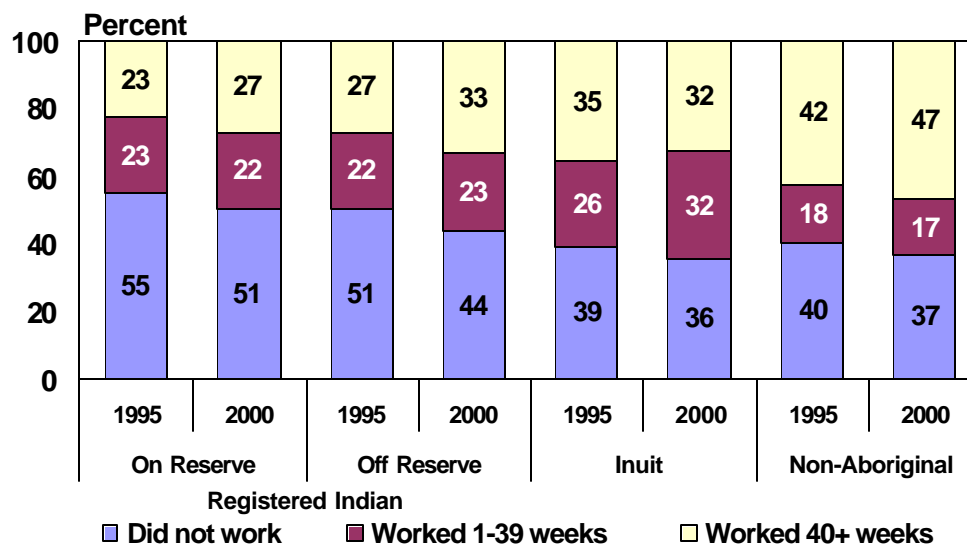
The proportion of women who worked varies considerably among the different identity groups. Among all groups, including Non-Aboriginal women, Métis women had the largest proportion who worked during the year at 67%. Among Inuit, Other Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women, about 63% - 64% worked in 2000, while 53% of Registered Indian women worked in 2000. Among Registered Indian women, 56% of those off reserves but only 49% of those on reserves worked.

There were also similar differences among the identity groups in the proportion who worked for at least 40 weeks of the year. Among Aboriginal women the largest proportion who worked 40 or more weeks is again found among Métis women at 43%, although the proportion of Non-Aboriginal women who worked 40 or more weeks was somewhat higher at 47%. The lowest proportion of women working 40 or more weeks was again found among Registered Indian women (30%) followed by Inuit women (32%). Among Registered Indian women on reserves only 27% worked 40 or more weeks, compared to 33% of Registered Indian women off reserves. When looking at the categories for smaller numbers of weeks worked it can also be seen that higher proportions of Aboriginal women worked less than 40 weeks in 2000, compared to Non-Aboriginal women. Among the Aboriginal identity groups, the largest proportions of women working for less than 40 weeks in the year are found among Inuit women. For example, 22% of Inuit women worked between 10 and 40 weeks, compared to 19% of Métis women, 17% of Other Aboriginal women, and 17% of Registered Indian women.

When comparing women's work activity to that of men, it can be seen that more men were in the workforce in 2000, and that more men than women worked all or most of the year. The proportion of Aboriginal men who worked in 2000 was almost ten percentage points higher than among Aboriginal women: 68% compared to 59%. The percentage of Aboriginal men who worked 40 or more weeks in the year is also higher, by almost five percentage points: 40% of Aboriginal men compared to 35% of Aboriginal women.

Employment conditions improved for women between 1995 and 2000. As shown in Figure 5-6, the proportion of women who did not work at all declined for all the identity groups for whom an appropriate comparison could be made. The improvement was greatest among Registered Indian women living off reserves, for whom the proportion employed increased from 49% to 56%, and the proportion who worked 40 or more weeks increased from 27% to 33% between 1995 and 2000. Employment also improved among Registered Indian women living on reserves, although still only slightly less than half of this group was employed in 2000. An increase in the proportion employed was also experienced by Inuit women, although the proportion of Inuit women working 40 or more weeks declined slightly. In comparison, the proportion of Non-Aboriginal women employed, and the proportion employed 40 or more weeks in the year, increased by about three and five percentage points respectively.

Figure 5-6
Weeks Worked by Women 15+ Among Selected Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 1995 and 2000



5.5 Occupations

The 2001 Census can provide occupational data in several ways. In this study occupational data is presented using the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC organizes occupations into categories based on skill types and skill levels. This allows occupations to be grouped into four broad skill levels based on the extent of education and training required for a given occupation. (See Notes to Readers.)

In Table 5-5 distributions are shown for women and men in 14 occupations within 4 skill levels. Occupations within Level A require the most extensive education and training, while occupations within Level D require the least education and training. In general, Aboriginal women tend to be found in semi-skilled occupations, and especially Sales and Service occupations. The largest proportion of Aboriginal women is found within Level C, or semi-skilled, occupations, especially in Intermediate Sales and Service occupations. This category accounts for 19% of Aboriginal women in the labour force. Another 18% of Aboriginal women are found in unskilled sales and service occupations (Level D). Other large occupational groups among Aboriginal women are semi-skilled Clerical occupations (13%), Professional occupations (12%) and Semi-Professional occupations (10%).

**Table 5-5
Occupations of Experienced Labour Force by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence,
Canada, 2001**

Gender and Occupation (NOC)	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
		Percent						
Women (=100%)	212,945	111,730	45,815	65,910	66,555	9,315	25,340	7,806,070
Level A	17.9	18.8	20.0	18.0	16.5	22.2	15.6	24.8
Senior Managers	0.9	1.2	1.9	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7
Middle Managers	4.7	4.2	4.0	4.4	5.3	3.9	5.4	7.0
Professionals	12.3	13.3	14.0	12.8	10.7	17.3	9.7	17.2
Level B	25.2	25.7	27.6	24.4	24.9	24.9	24.3	25.9
Semi-professionals and Technicians	10.2	11.0	13.3	9.4	9.1	11.6	9.3	8.5
Supervisors	1.3	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.5
Supervisors: Trades	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.2	1.0	1.3
Administrative and Senior Clerical	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.6	6.9	9.7
Skilled Sales and Service	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.8	3.4	4.4	3.9
Skilled Crafts and Trades	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.0
Level C	36.5	34.8	32.4	36.5	39.7	27.2	38.9	36.1
Clerical Personnel	13.0	12.7	11.3	13.7	13.6	11.8	13.3	14.6
Intermediate Sales and Service	18.9	17.7	17.2	18.1	21.4	12.9	19.5	16.3
Semi-skilled Manual	4.6	4.4	3.8	4.8	4.7	2.5	6.1	5.1
Level D	20.4	20.7	20.0	21.1	18.9	25.8	21.1	13.1
Other Sales and Service	17.6	17.6	16.7	18.3	16.3	24.2	18.1	11.1
Other Manual	2.8	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.6	1.7	3.0	2.1

Table 5-5 (concluded)
Occupations of Experienced Labour Force by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence,
Canada, 2001

Gender and Occupation (NOC)	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
		Percent						
Men (=100%)	223,540	113,580	53,705	59,870	73,690	9,815	26,490	8,718,510
Level A	12.9	12.9	13.3	12.5	12.7	14.5	12.8	26.2
Senior Managers	1.6	2.2	3.4	1.1	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.8
Middle Managers	5.1	4.4	4.1	4.7	5.9	4.4	6.1	10.5
Professionals	6.2	6.3	5.8	6.7	5.9	8.4	5.9	13.8
Level B	33.2	32.3	30.8	33.5	35.3	29.2	33.0	33.0
Semi-professionals and Technicians	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.5	7.7	5.9	7.0
Supervisors	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Supervisors: Trades	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.9	4.5	1.6	3.4	4.8
Administrative and Senior Clerical	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.5
Skilled Sales and Service	3.8	3.8	2.8	4.6	3.8	2.5	4.7	4.4
Skilled Crafts and Trades	18.1	17.6	17.6	17.6	19.5	15.1	17.3	14.2
Level C	30.4	29.3	27.6	30.8	31.5	29.9	32.3	27.6
Clerical Personnel	3.4	2.9	1.8	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.9
Intermediate Sales and Service	5.6	5.1	4.2	5.9	6.3	5.6	6.0	6.8
Semi-skilled Manual	21.4	21.3	21.6	21.0	21.5	20.4	22.1	15.8
Level D	23.5	25.5	28.2	23.1	20.6	26.4	21.9	13.3
Other Sales and Service	11.5	11.9	12.7	11.2	10.3	16.9	11.2	7.9
Other Manual	12.0	13.6	15.5	12.0	10.2	9.5	10.7	5.4

Some differences can be seen when comparing women in the various Aboriginal identity groups. The proportions of women at both the highly skilled (Level A) and unskilled (Level D) ends of the skills spectrum are largest among Inuit women, followed by Registered Indian women. On the other hand, Métis and Other Aboriginal women have larger percentages than the other identity groups in Level C occupations. As seen elsewhere in this study, Inuit and Registered Indian women tend to have lower levels of labour force participation and employment. The occupational data show that these same identity groups have the most polarized occupational distributions. In addition it may be noted that while Registered Indian women on reserves have less favourable labour force and employment indicators than Registered Indian women off reserves, their occupational distributions are also more polarized than those of off-reserve Registered Indian women.

It can be seen from Table 5-5 that Aboriginal men's occupational distributions are quite different from those of Aboriginal women. Smaller proportions of Aboriginal men are found in Level A and C occupations and larger proportions are found in Level B and D occupations. The largest occupational groups among Aboriginal men are Semi-skilled Manual occupations (21% of the labour force) and Skilled Crafts and Trades (18% of the labour force). All this suggests that Aboriginal men tend to be found in lower skill level occupations than Aboriginal women. Still, when Levels A and B are combined, they include a larger proportion of Aboriginal men (46%) than Aboriginal women (43%).

Aboriginal women's occupational distributions are also somewhat different from those of Non-Aboriginal women, at least when Level A and D occupations are compared. The proportion of Non-Aboriginal in Level A occupations is about 7 percentage points higher than among Aboriginal women, while the proportion in Level D occupations is about 7 percentage points lower. On the other hand, the proportions of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women in Level B and C occupations are quite similar.

Figures 5-7 and 5-8 illustrate the distributions of the various identity groups by skill levels for women and men respectively.

Figure 5-7
Occupational Levels of Women in the Labour Force by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

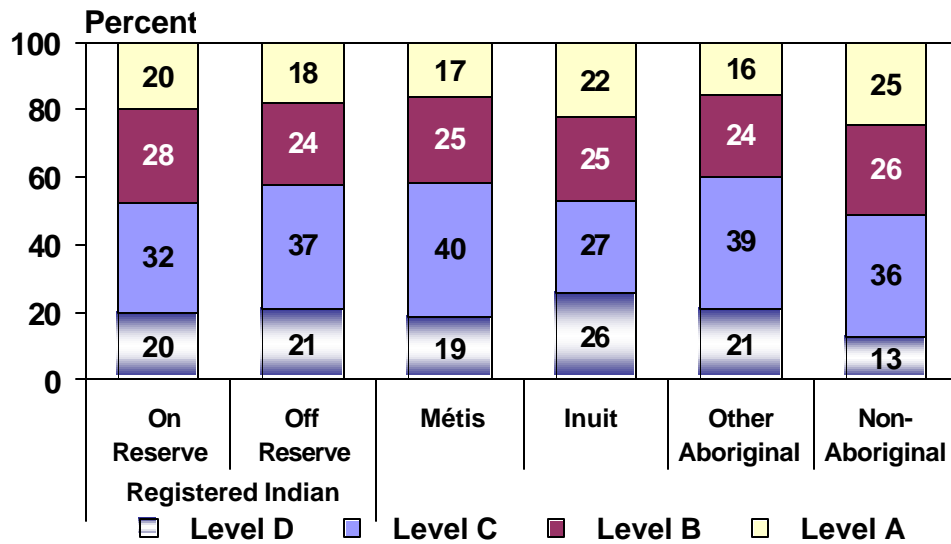


Figure 5-8
Occupational Levels of Men in the Labour Force by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

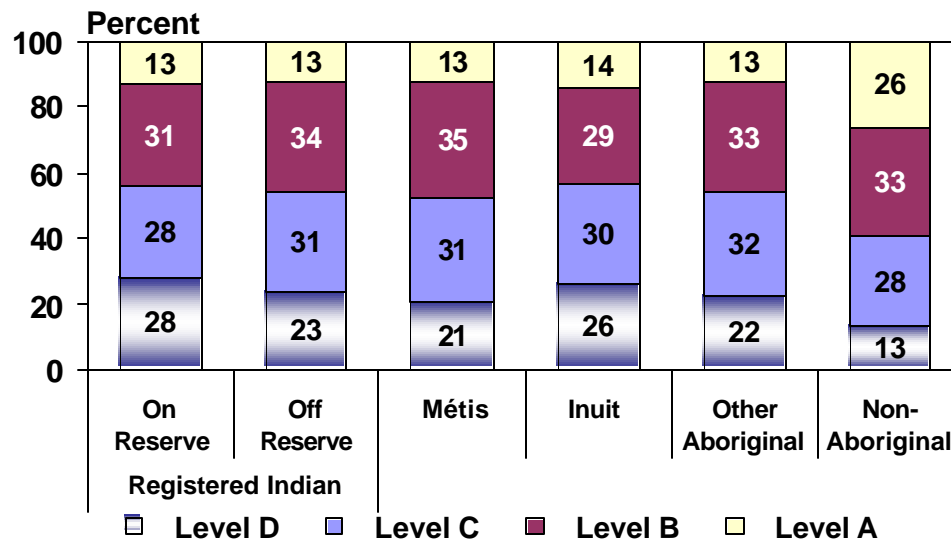
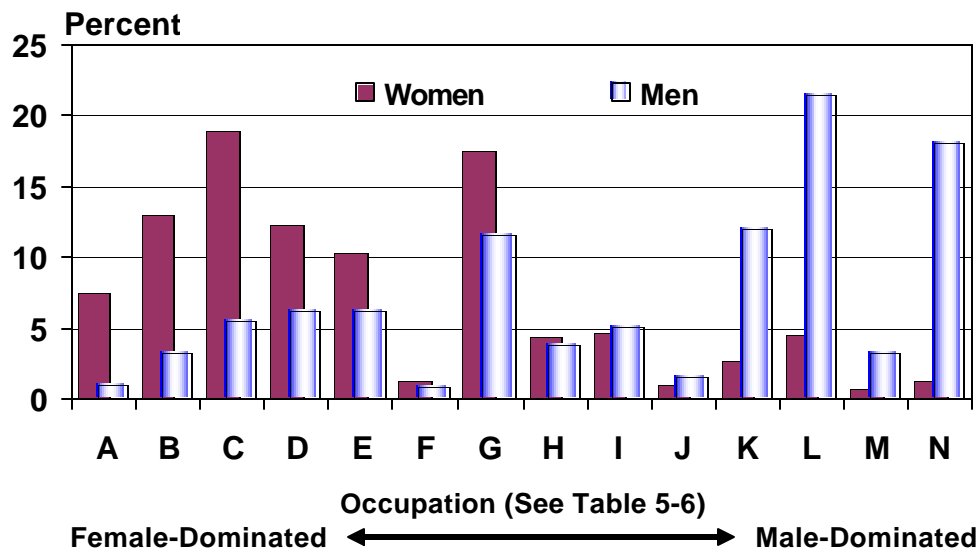


Table 5-6 compares the occupational distributions of Aboriginal women and men by showing the percentages of women and men within each of the 14 occupations, the differences in the percentages and the ratio of the percentage of women divided by the percentage of men. The table groups the 14 occupations into a set of seven female dominated occupations, five male dominated occupations, and two that are close to being evenly balanced. It can be seen that Aboriginal women are much more frequently found in clerical, sales, service and professional occupations, while Aboriginal men are much more frequently found in crafts, trades, manual labour and management. Figure 5-9 illustrates the differences between the occupational distributions of Aboriginal women and men, showing the occupations in the same order as in Table 5-6.

Table 5-6
Percentage Distribution of the Aboriginal Labour Force by Gender and Occupation, Showing the Ratio of Women/Men, Canada, 2001

Occupation	Aboriginal Women	Aboriginal Men	Difference	Ratio: Women/Men
			Percent	
Female-Dominated Occupations				
A. Administrative and Senior Clerical	7.5	1.0	6.5	7.59
B. Clerical	13.0	3.4	9.7	3.87
C. Intermediate Sales and Service	18.9	5.6	13.3	3.36
D. Professionals	12.3	6.2	6.0	1.97
E. Semi-professionals and Technicians	10.2	6.2	4.0	1.65
F. Supervisors: Clerical Sales and Service	1.3	0.8	0.5	1.60
G. Unskilled Sales and Service	17.6	11.5	6.0	1.52
More Balanced Occupations				
H. Skilled Sales and Service	4.4	3.8	0.6	1.15
I. Middle Managers	4.7	5.1	-0.4	0.92
Male-Dominated Occupations				
J. Senior Managers	0.9	1.6	-0.6	0.59
K. Unskilled Manual	2.8	12.0	-9.1	0.24
L. Semi-skilled Manual	4.6	21.4	-16.8	0.21
M. Supervisors: Crafts and Trades	0.6	3.3	-2.7	0.19
N. Crafts and Trades	1.2	18.1	-16.9	0.07

Figure 5-9
Distribution of the Aboriginal Labour Force by Gender and Occupation,
Canada, 2001



5.6 Unpaid Household Activities

In addition to employment or self-employment for wages or other income, people do a lot of unpaid work in or around the home such as: cleaning, cooking, yard work, household maintenance, child care and care for seniors. The Census asks about the amount of time spent on this kind of work within the Census “reference week” (May 6-12 2001). The Census identifies three types of household activities: housework (including cleaning, cooking, yard work, and home maintenance), child care, and senior care. As Table 5-7 shows, more than 90% of Aboriginal women reported spending some time doing housework, 59% reported time spent caring for children, and 24% reported time spent caring for seniors. The table also shows that while the proportion of housework reported by women in the various identity groups was similar, the proportions of child care and senior care varied among identity groups.

Table 5-7
Hours of Unpaid Housework, Child and Senior Care During the Census Reference Week Among Population Aged 15+ by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Type of Unpaid Work	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Women 15+ (=100%)	340,985	195,485	86,195	109,290	93,830	13,625	38,040	11,933,585
Housework*								
No Housework	7.5	8.0	8.7	7.5	6.1	7.9	8.0	7.5
With Housework	92.5	92.0	91.3	92.5	93.9	92.1	92.0	92.5
Percent of those reporting some housework								
Less than 5 hrs	16.0	15.1	12.4	17.3	17.2	15.6	17.9	18.9
5-14 hrs	29.5	28.4	24.6	31.3	31.2	28.0	31.9	32.2
15-29 hrs	23.9	23.5	23.3	23.7	24.5	22.5	24.5	25.9
30-59 hrs	16.5	17.0	18.3	16.0	16.0	17.6	15.2	16.1
60+ hrs	14.0	16.0	21.5	11.8	11.0	16.2	10.5	6.8
Child Care								
No Child Care	41.0	36.7	28.0	43.6	48.2	25.4	51.1	58.9
With Child Care	59.0	63.3	72.0	56.4	51.8	74.6	49.0	41.1
Percent of those reporting some child care								
Less than 5 hrs	14.1	13.1	11.4	14.8	16.6	11.9	15.5	21.8
5-14 hrs	17.1	17.1	16.2	17.9	17.3	15.0	18.0	22.9
15-29 hrs	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.9	14.6	14.0	15.2	17.4
30-59 hrs	15.8	15.7	15.9	15.6	15.5	18.5	15.6	15.6
60+ hrs	38.2	39.3	41.9	36.7	36.0	40.6	35.5	22.3
Senior Care								
No Senior Care	75.6	74.4	66.0	81.0	78.3	64.1	79.4	79.2
With Senior Care	24.4	25.6	34.0	19.0	21.7	35.9	20.6	20.8
Percent of those reporting some senior care								
Less than 5 hrs	48.1	44.9	38.9	53.3	54.3	47.8	53.2	60.9
5-9 hrs	23.8	23.8	24.3	23.1	23.6	22.1	25.0	22.7
10-19 hrs	11.2	11.8	12.8	10.4	10.3	11.4	9.7	8.3
20+ hrs	16.8	19.5	23.9	13.3	11.7	18.8	12.2	8.1

* Includes cleaning, cooking, household maintenance, yard work.

Table 5-7 (concluded)
Hours of Unpaid Housework, Child and Senior Care During the Census Reference Week Among Population Aged 15+ by Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Type of Unpaid Work	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Men 15+ (=100%)	311,360	170,140	87,460	82,680	92,440	13,295	35,485	11,315,425
Housework*								
No Housework	15.1	15.8	15.8	15.9	13.4	18.2	15.0	13.3
With Housework	84.9	84.2	84.2	84.1	86.6	81.8	85.0	86.7
Percent of those reporting some housework								
Less than 5 hrs	30.8	28.6	22.6	34.9	33.2	32.7	34.2	34.7
5-14 hrs	34.4	33.3	30.2	36.6	35.7	32.0	37.4	38.7
15-29 hrs	18.8	19.5	21.7	17.2	18.6	17.3	17.1	17.7
30-59 hrs	9.3	10.2	13.1	7.2	8.2	10.1	7.4	6.8
60+ hrs	6.6	8.4	12.4	4.1	4.4	7.9	3.9	2.1
Child Care								
No Child Care	55.0	50.7	43.3	58.6	61.7	39.6	63.5	65.9
With Child Care	45.0	49.3	56.7	41.4	38.3	60.4	36.5	34.1
Percent of those reporting some child care								
Less than 5 hrs	22.9	21.6	19.1	25.1	25.4	22.8	24.3	31.4
5-14 hrs	23.9	23.0	21.3	25.6	25.5	21.2	27.1	30.4
15-29 hrs	17.2	17.0	16.9	17.1	18.0	15.8	16.9	18.8
30-59 hrs	13.7	13.9	14.3	13.4	13.5	15.2	12.4	10.9
60+ hrs	22.3	24.5	28.4	18.8	17.6	24.9	19.3	8.5
Senior Care								
No Senior Care	79.9	77.8	70.2	85.8	83.8	67.7	84.9	84.9
With Senior Care	20.1	22.2	29.8	14.2	16.2	32.3	15.1	15.1
Percent of those reporting some senior care								
Less than 5 hrs	51.3	47.3	42.1	58.8	58.6	51.0	59.4	69.0
5-9 hrs	23.0	23.5	24.1	22.0	22.6	22.0	22.0	19.1
10-19 hrs	9.9	10.6	11.9	7.7	8.3	10.5	8.8	6.1
20+ hrs	15.8	18.6	21.9	11.5	10.5	16.6	9.9	5.8

* Includes cleaning, cooking, household maintenance, yard work.

Comparing Aboriginal women to Non-Aboriginal women, the proportion who reported doing housework was identical (93%) and the distribution of women across the various categories of time spent on housework were very similar as well. However, in the areas of child care and senior care there were substantial differences between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women. The proportion of Aboriginal women involved with child care (59%) was 18

percentage points higher than among Non-Aboriginal women (41%) and in addition, among those with child care responsibilities, Aboriginal women tended to spend more time taking care of children than Non-Aboriginal women. This finding is clearly related to the larger proportion of Aboriginal women with children, and the larger average number of children in Aboriginal families, compared to Non-Aboriginal families. (See previous Figures 3-2, 3-3 and 3-5.)

Table 5-7 also provides data for each Aboriginal identity group. It can be seen that Inuit women and Registered Indian women on reserves reported the largest proportions of both child care and senior care. While 75% of Inuit women and 72% of Registered Indian women on reserves were engaged in child care, the proportions of other Aboriginal women varied between 49% and 56%. There are also large differences in the numbers of women engaged in seniors care. Among Inuit women and Registered Indian women on reserves, 36% and 34% were engaged in seniors care, compared to 19% to 22% among the other identity groups. These differences correspond to the differences in family size and numbers of children identified in Section 3 of this study.

Of these three types of household activities, child care is the most time-consuming. Among Aboriginal women engaged in child care, 54% spent 30 hours or more caring for children. Among Aboriginal women engaged in housework, however, about 31% spent 30 hours or more doing housework. Seniors care tends to be less time-consuming. Seventy-two percent of the Aboriginal women who were involved in caring for seniors spent less than 10 hours in this activity during the reference week.

Table 5-7 provides data on the involvement of men in household activities. This shows that smaller percentages of Aboriginal men are involved in each type of household activity, compared to Aboriginal women, and the difference is greatest in the area of child care. Eighty-five percent of Aboriginal men are involved in housework, compared to 93% of Aboriginal women, 45% are involved with child care, compared to 59% of Aboriginal women, and 20% are involved with senior care compared to 24% of Aboriginal women. In addition, looking at the amounts of time spent on these activities, those Aboriginal men who are involved in each type of activity report fewer hours engaged in the activity than do Aboriginal women. About 16% of Aboriginal men who did any housework spent 30 hours or more on housework, compared to 31% of Aboriginal women. Thirty-six percent of men who cared for children spent 30 or more hours engaged in this activity, compared to 54% of Aboriginal women. Aboriginal men (16%) engaged in caring for seniors spent 20 or more hours on this activity compared to 17% of Aboriginal women. In summary, smaller proportions of Aboriginal men are engaged in each household activity, and they are engaged in each activity for smaller amounts of time compared to Aboriginal women, at least in the areas of housework and child care. There is little difference between Aboriginal men and women in the time devoted to seniors care.

6. Individual and Family Income

This section will provide four different ways of looking at Aboriginal women's incomes. First, the average incomes of women will be profiled by age group and compared to those of men. Second, the distribution of the population by income groups will be described. Third, the composition of women's and men's incomes will be examined in terms of three major income sources – employment, government transfer payments, and other sources. And finally, the distribution of families by income groups will be described. Additional information on the incomes of Aboriginal women and families can be found in other INAC studies focussing on post-secondary education (Hull 2005) and single mothers (Hull forthcoming).

Throughout the section on incomes, it should be kept in mind that pay rates and cost of living vary substantially in different regions of the country. This has implications for comparisons involving the Inuit and the Registered Indian populations in particular. The great majority of the Inuit population live in northern Canada where both the cost of living and average wages are higher than elsewhere in the country. In addition, a large minority of the Registered Indian population lives on reserves where the cost of living may be quite different from other rural or urban areas of the country. For example, the cost of food and clothing tends to be higher than other areas, while the cost of housing tends to be lower because of government subsidies.

6.1 Average Individual Income

Table 6-1 provides information, from all sources, on the average individual incomes of women and men over the age of 15 in the various identity groups. Because income varies greatly by age group, average incomes are shown for ten year age groups as well as for the total adult population. In 2000 the average income of Aboriginal women was \$16,519, compared to an average income of \$23,065 among Non-Aboriginal women in Canada. This means that the average incomes of Aboriginal women were about 72% of the average incomes of Non-Aboriginal women. When comparing the various Aboriginal identity groups, it can be seen that Inuit women and Métis women have the highest average incomes at about \$18,700 and \$18,100 respectively, while Registered Indian women on reserves have the lowest average income at about \$14,000. When considering the relative income levels of the Aboriginal identity groups, it should be kept in mind that most of the Inuit population lives in Northern Canada (Nunavut, northern Quebec, the Northwest Territories, Labrador) and that wage levels as well as costs are generally higher in these areas than in other parts of Canada. Many jobs in northern areas include a cost of living allowance in addition to the basic wage or salary. Because of the high cost of living in the North, the relatively high income levels of the Inuit population does not indicate relatively high levels of purchasing power.

Table 6-1
Average Individual Income of the Population with Income by Age Group, Gender, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

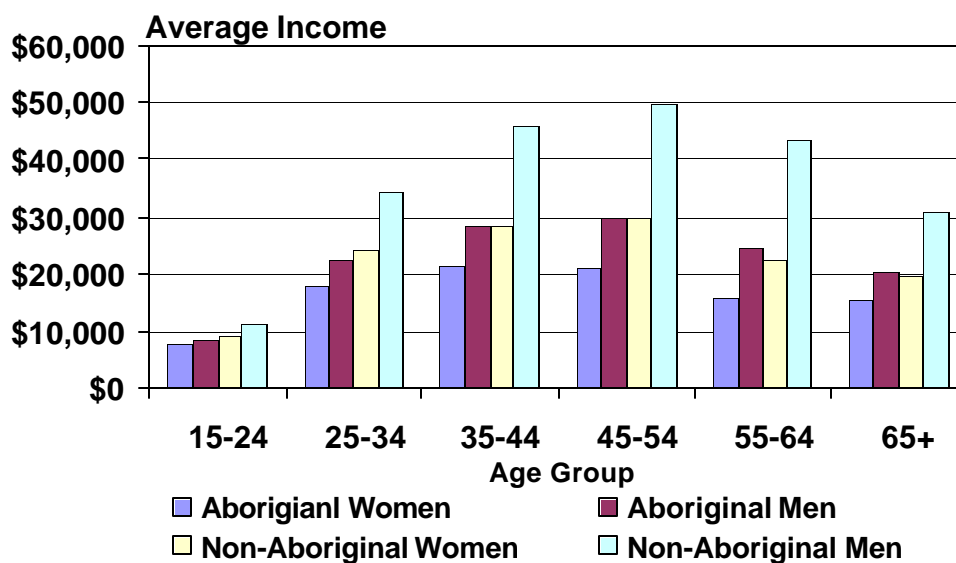
Age and Gender	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Women 15+	16,519	15,365	13,968	16,483	18,144	18,721	16,240	23,065
15-24	7,536	6,829	5,689	7,934	8,506	8,312	6,628	9,115
25-34	17,765	16,525	15,639	17,200	19,562	20,566	18,691	24,089
35-44	21,144	19,793	18,633	20,615	22,976	24,385	21,758	28,458
45-54	20,773	19,248	17,839	20,208	23,144	22,802	19,914	29,817
55-64	15,799	14,412	13,303	15,308	17,533	22,259	15,428	22,391
65+	15,595	15,006	14,462	15,602	15,965	15,999	17,718	19,502
Men 15+	21,958	18,724	14,907	22,849	26,634	21,103	23,827	37,265
15-24	8,727	7,230	5,374	9,416	11,050	8,238	8,046	11,379
25-34	22,403	19,206	15,235	22,996	27,615	21,133	26,696	34,393
35-44	28,425	24,525	19,523	29,501	33,703	28,128	32,609	45,997
45-54	29,895	25,668	20,887	30,668	35,217	32,581	31,898	49,739
55-64	24,450	20,958	16,772	26,134	28,777	22,636	27,872	43,647
65+	20,280	18,422	17,002	20,720	22,711	22,047	22,193	30,896
Ratio of Incomes: Women/Men	0.75	0.82	0.94	0.72	0.68	0.89	0.68	0.62
15-24	0.86	0.94	1.06	0.84	0.77	1.01	0.82	0.80
25-34	0.79	0.86	1.03	0.75	0.71	0.97	0.70	0.70
35-44	0.74	0.81	0.95	0.70	0.68	0.87	0.67	0.62
45-54	0.69	0.75	0.85	0.66	0.66	0.70	0.62	0.60
55-64	0.65	0.69	0.79	0.59	0.61	0.98	0.55	0.51
65+	0.77	0.81	0.85	0.75	0.70	0.73	0.80	0.63

For all identity groups women's average incomes are very low among youth aged 15-24. Average incomes increase with age, reaching their highest levels among those in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups, and then decline again in the older age groups. The differences between the incomes of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women are smallest, in both absolute and percentage terms, among those in the youngest and oldest age groups when income levels are generally lower. In the middle age groups the differences between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women are larger, especially among those 45-54 and 55-64 years old.

The table also shows that the average incomes of women in all identity groups are smaller than those of men. From the ratios of women's to men's incomes shown in the table, it can be seen that the average income of Aboriginal women 15 or older is 75% of the average income of Aboriginal men. The difference between women's and men's incomes is smallest among those 15-24 years old, where Aboriginal women's incomes are about 86% of Aboriginal men's incomes. The difference increases with age so that by the age of 55-64, Aboriginal women's incomes are 65% of Aboriginal men's incomes. The differences between women's and men's incomes are smallest among the Registered Indian

population on reserves, for whom women's incomes are 94% of men's incomes, and among the Inuit population, for whom women's incomes are 89% of men's incomes. The differences between women's and men's incomes are greatest among the Non-Aboriginal population, for whom women's incomes are 62% of men's incomes, and for the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations, for whom women's incomes are 68% of men's incomes. It could be said that Aboriginal women have achieved a greater degree of income parity with Aboriginal men, than Non-Aboriginal women have achieved in relation to Non-Aboriginal men. On the other hand, this is mainly because of the enormous difference in the incomes of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal men, as can be seen in Figure 6-1.

Figure 6-1
Average Income by Age Group, Gender and Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001



In addition to age, educational levels have an impact on incomes, as shown in Table 6-2. The average incomes of Aboriginal women increase from about \$11,600 among those with less than grade 9 to about \$33,600 among those with a university degree. The table suggests that income increases are most strongly affected by completion of formal certification at various levels, particularly attaining a high school graduation certificate, a non-university post-secondary certificate, or a university degree. Those with partial completion of a given level of education do not appear to receive much benefit in average incomes. For example, those with partial post-secondary education have lower average incomes than those with secondary school certificates. (It should be kept in mind that the table includes those who were attending school, and this may have reduced the income levels for some levels of attainment more than others.)

Table 6-2
Average Individual Income of the Population With Income by Gender, Highest Level of Schooling, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

Gender and Highest Level of Schooling	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Women - All Levels	16,519	15,365	13,968	16,483	18,144	18,721	16,240	23,065
Less than grade 9	11,619	11,175	10,989	11,480	12,157	14,179	10,470	14,249
Grades 9-13 without certificate	11,378	10,612	9,421	11,649	12,701	12,765	9,918	15,582
Grades 9-13 with certificate	16,041	15,174	13,692	15,984	16,826	19,063	15,886	20,363
Non-University without certificate	15,785	14,928	15,153	14,785	17,030	18,387	15,412	19,824
Trades certificate	18,360	17,329	17,273	17,375	19,277	24,935	18,422	21,574
Other Non-University certificate/diploma	22,408	21,624	20,652	22,191	22,484	31,080	22,526	26,324
University without degree	20,754	19,708	19,709	19,708	21,842	27,139	21,670	24,387
University degree	33,624	32,323	32,737	32,153	34,682	41,871	34,653	38,276
Men - All Levels	21,958	18,724	14,907	22,849	26,634	21,103	23,827	37,265
Less than grade 9	15,948	14,317	12,961	17,555	19,642	17,865	16,535	22,721
Grades 9-13 without certificate	16,365	13,708	10,948	16,872	20,855	14,000	16,320	25,531
Grades 9-13 with certificate	23,201	20,819	14,936	24,797	25,910	20,476	23,591	32,041
Non-University without certificate	20,676	18,118	16,231	19,738	24,333	21,444	23,521	29,456
Trades certificate	28,387	23,973	19,920	28,475	33,804	29,266	31,499	37,865
Other Non-University certificate/diploma	30,467	27,464	22,689	30,886	33,317	32,834	33,617	41,854
University without degree	26,299	23,871	21,147	25,482	28,321	35,825	30,205	36,583
University degree	43,752	41,185	34,458	43,530	44,829	43,199	48,056	63,255

Table 6-2 (concluded)
Average Individual Income of the Population With Income by Gender, Highest Level of Schooling, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

Gender and Highest Level of Schooling	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Ratio of Incomes: Women/Men	0.75	0.82	0.94	0.72	0.68	0.89	0.68	0.62
Less than grade 9	0.73	0.78	0.85	0.65	0.62	0.79	0.63	0.63
Grades 9-13 without certificate	0.70	0.77	0.86	0.69	0.61	0.91	0.61	0.61
Grades 9-13 with certificate	0.69	0.73	0.92	0.64	0.65	0.93	0.67	0.64
Non-University without certificate	0.76	0.82	0.93	0.75	0.70	0.86	0.66	0.67
Trades certificate	0.65	0.72	0.87	0.61	0.57	0.85	0.58	0.57
Other Non-University certificate/diploma	0.74	0.79	0.91	0.72	0.67	0.95	0.67	0.63
University without degree	0.79	0.83	0.93	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.72	0.67
University degree	0.77	0.78	0.95	0.74	0.77	0.97	0.72	0.61

It appears that among the Aboriginal population with lower educational levels the ratio of women's income to men's income is lower, while among those with higher educational levels the ratio is higher. This suggests that Aboriginal women may receive greater income benefits from higher educational levels than do Aboriginal men.⁵ The ratio of women's to men's incomes is highest among Inuit women and Registered Indian women living on reserves. This seems to be the result of limited nature of northern and on-reserve labour markets, in combination with the types of skills obtained by Aboriginal women and men. For example, labour markets on reserves are dominated by public sector occupations, such as clerical, administrative, health and education-related jobs. These are fields in which women predominate and for which they are more likely than men to obtain qualifications.

6.2 Distribution by Individual Income Groups

Figures 6-2 and 6-3 show the distribution of women and men by income size among selected identity groups. In the figures four income levels have been used: incomes of less than \$20,000, incomes of \$20,000 to \$39,999, incomes of \$40,000 to \$69,999, and incomes of \$70,000 or more. Those without any income in the year 2000 are not included in the percentages. It can be seen from Figure 6-2 that the great majority of Aboriginal women in the various identity groups had incomes of less than \$20,000 in the year 2000. The proportion in this income group varied from 65% of Métis women to 75% of Registered Indian women on reserves. Among Non-Aboriginal women the proportion was smaller at 55%. Another group of women was found in the \$20,000 - \$39,999 income range, from 21% to 25% of those in the various Aboriginal identity groups, and 29% of Non-Aboriginal women. The proportions of Aboriginal women with incomes of more than \$40,000 were very small, ranging from about 5% of Registered Indian women on reserves to 12% of Inuit women. Among Non-Aboriginal women the proportion with incomes of more than \$40,000 was about 16%.

⁵ This is consistent with other research concerning the ratio of women's to men's incomes. For example see Galarnau and Earl, 1999.

Figure 6-2
Female Population Aged 15+ With Income in 2000 by Income Groups, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada

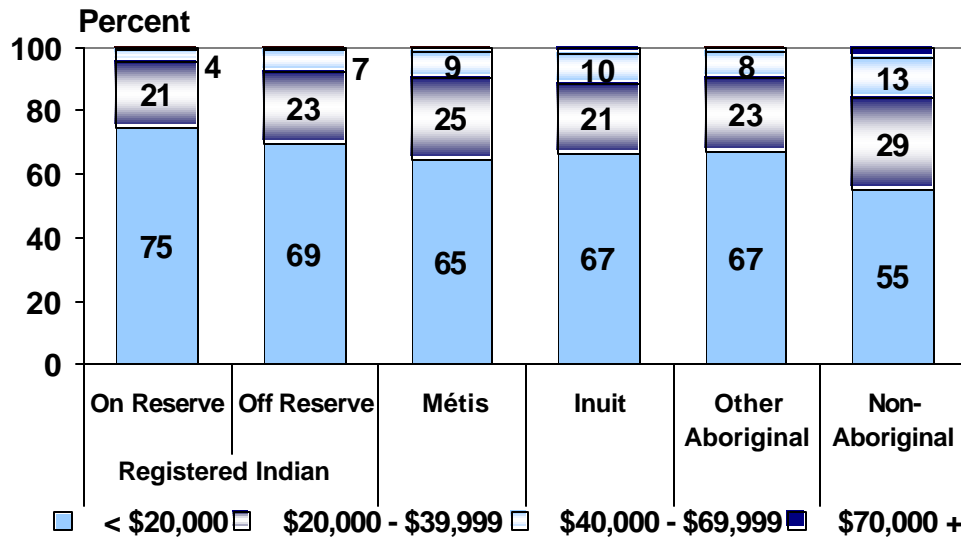
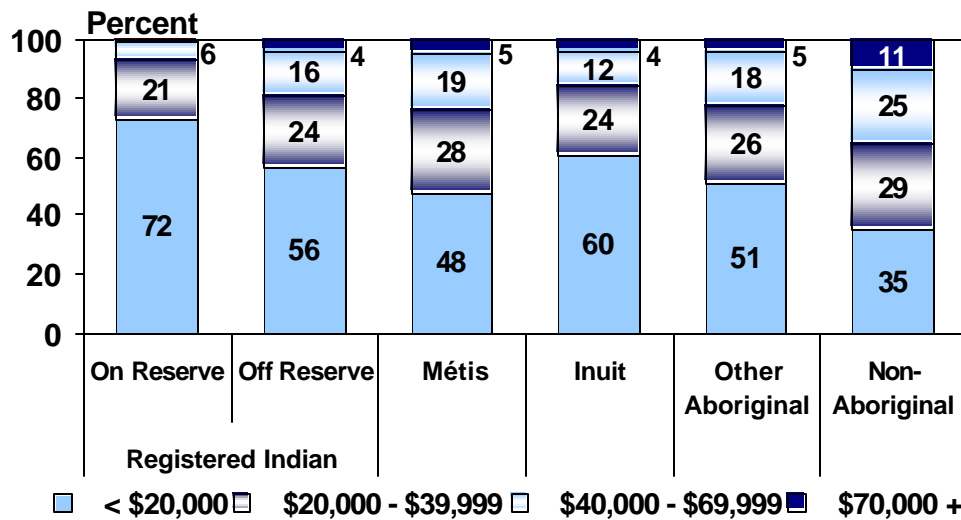


Figure 6-3
Male Population Aged 15+ With Income in 2000 by Income Groups, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada



The proportions of men in the lowest income range (less than \$20,000) are generally smaller than the proportions of women. For the Registered Indian population living on reserves and for the Inuit population, the differences are smaller, but for other identity groups the differences are large. For example, among the Registered Indian population living off reserves, 56% of men had incomes below \$20,000 compared to 69% of women, a difference of 13 percentage points. Among the Other Aboriginal and Métis populations these differences were 16 and 17 percentage points respectively. At the other end of the income scale, the proportions with incomes greater than \$40,000 were substantially higher among men than among women, for all identity groups except for the Registered Indian population living on reserves.

6.3 Income Composition

Figures 6-4 and 6-5 show the amount of individual income from three major sources: employment, government transfer payments, and other sources, for men and women. As seen in Figure 6-4 the largest portion of income in 2000 among women in all identity groups was derived from employment. This proportion ranged from 61% of the income of Registered Indian women living on reserves to 75% of Métis women. In general the proportion of employment income was smaller among Registered Indian women than among women of other identity groups. On the other hand, the proportion of income from government transfers was higher among Registered Indian women than among women in other Aboriginal identity groups. In particular, 37% of the income of Registered Indian women on reserves was derived from government transfer payments, compared to 27% of the income of Registered Indian women off reserves, and 21% to 24% of the incomes of other Aboriginal women. Among Non-Aboriginal women this proportion was 16%. Non-Aboriginal women were the only group with a significant portion of income (12%) from other sources, such as pensions, support payments and investment income.

Figure 6-4
Income Composition Among Women 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

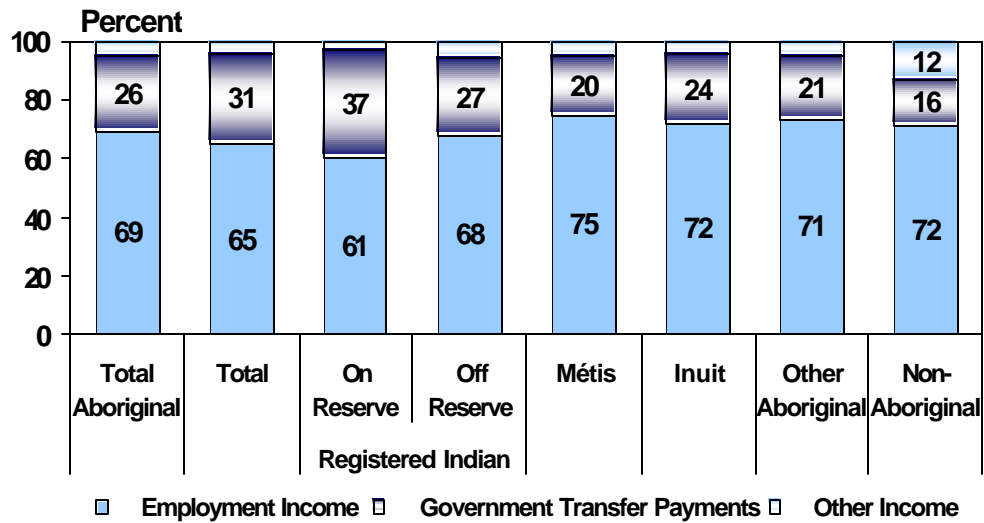
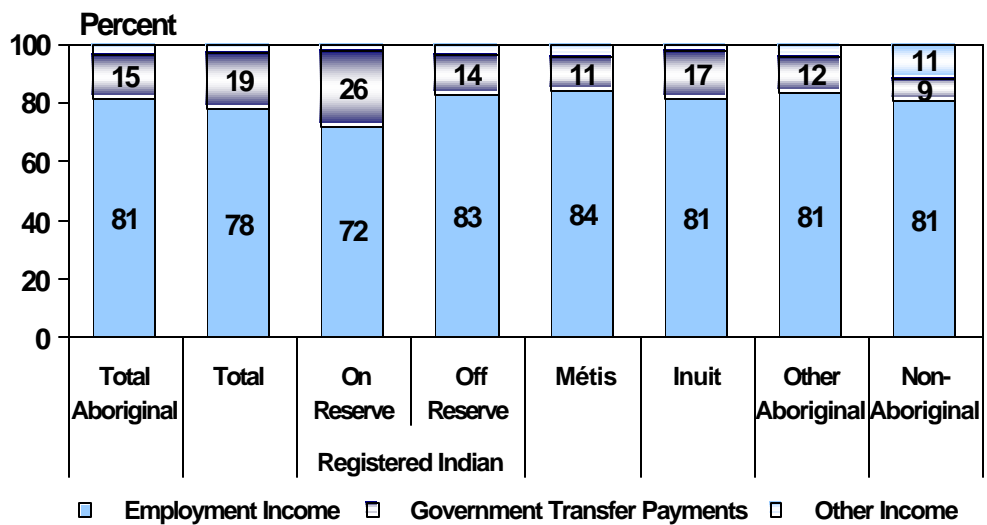


Figure 6-5
Income Composition Among Men 15+ Not Attending School Full-time by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

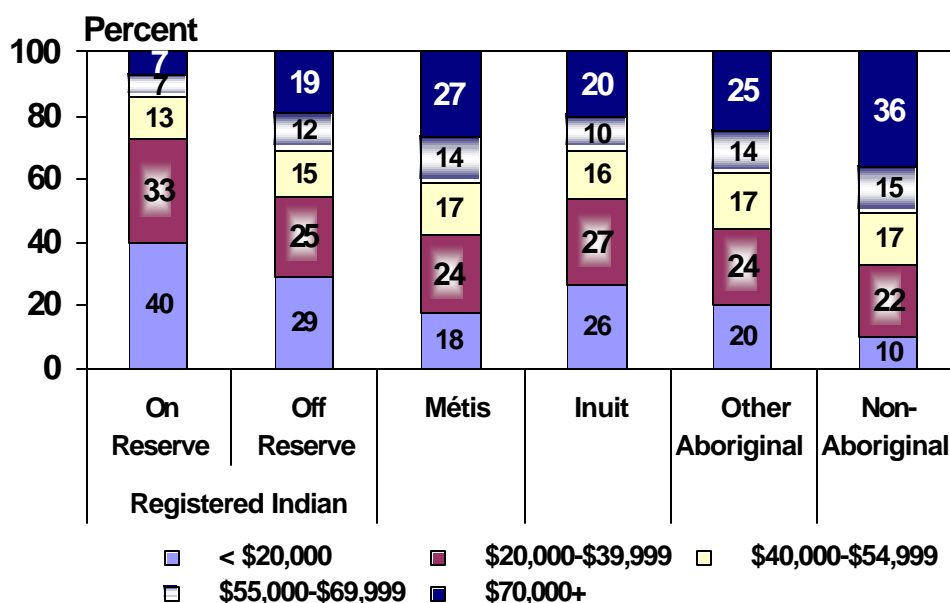


From Figure 6-5 it can be seen that higher percentages of men's incomes came from employment, compared to women's incomes, and lower percentages came from government transfer payments. Apart from Registered Indian men on reserves, 72% of whose income was from employment, 81% to 84% of men's incomes came from employment. The proportion of income from transfer payments was much smaller among men than women, ranging from 11% among Métis men to 17% among Inuit men and 26% among Registered Indian men on reserves. Among Non-Aboriginal men, 9% of income was derived from government transfer payments, and 11% was from other sources.

6.4 Distribution by Family Income Groups

Family income is important since families often act as an economic unit for the purposes of paying for such necessities as housing and food. In this section incomes are described for two slightly different definitions of families. The "Census Family" is defined as parents and their children, and/or spouses, living together, while the "Economic Family" includes a broader range of relatives living together. Figure 6-6 shows the proportions of Census Families with income in given income ranges for families with various identities. (For definitions of Aboriginal families see Notes to Readers.) In the figure, five income ranges have been used: incomes of less than \$20,000, \$20,000 to \$39,999, \$40,000 to \$54,999, \$55,000 to \$69,999, and \$70,000 or more. Families without any income in the year 2000 are not included in the percentages.

Figure 6-6
Census Family Distribution by Income Groups, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000

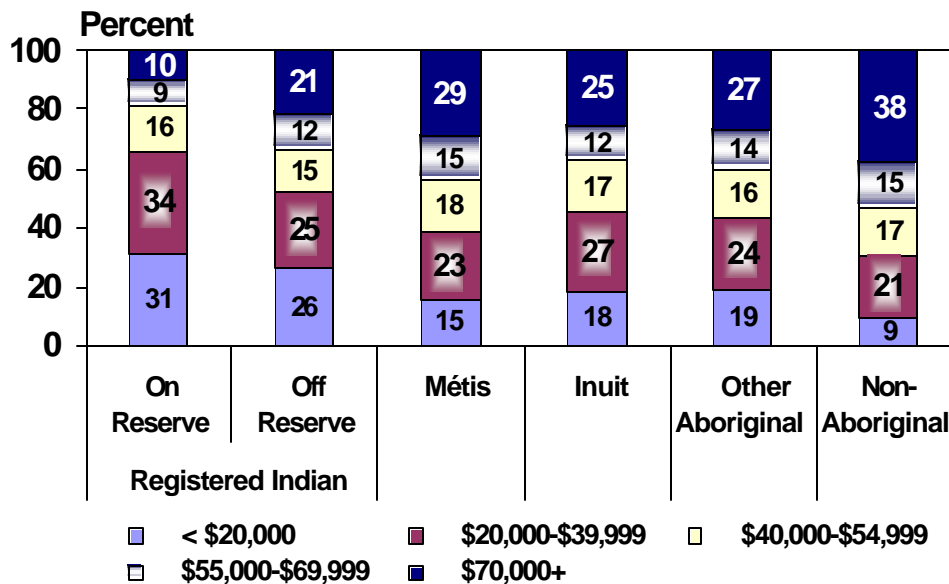


Census family incomes are higher, naturally, than individual incomes. Still a substantial proportion of Aboriginal families had incomes lower than \$20,000 in the year 2000. This proportion was highest among Registered Indian families living on reserves (40%), somewhat lower among Registered Indian families living off reserve (29%) and Inuit families (26%) and lowest among Other Aboriginal (20%) and Métis (18%) families. In comparison only 10% of Non-Aboriginal families had incomes below \$20,000. The second lowest income range, \$20,000 - \$39,999, followed a similar pattern, with a higher proportion of Registered Indian families on reserves (33%) in this income range compared to other identity groups (22% to 27%). When these two levels are combined, the differences between identity groups become larger. While about 72% of Registered Indian families on reserves have incomes below \$40,000, among Registered Indian families off reserves and among Inuit families the proportion is about 54%, while among Métis and Other Aboriginal families the proportions are 42% and 44% respectively. Only 32% of Non-Aboriginal families had incomes below \$40,000.

At the high end of the income scale the differences are equally dramatic. Again, the distinction between Registered Indian families living on reserves and off reserves is important. The proportion of Registered Indian families on reserves with incomes of \$55,000 or more was 14% in 2000, compared to 31% of both Registered Indian families living off reserves, and Inuit families. Among Métis and Other Aboriginal families the proportions were 41% and 39%, while 51% of Non-Aboriginal families had family incomes of \$55,000 or more.

Figure 6-7 provides a similar view of the incomes of Economic Families. The distribution of families by income ranges is very similar for Economic Families as was described for Census Families. For each identity group, the proportions of Economic Families in the lower income ranges were a few percentage points smaller, while the proportions of families in the higher income ranges were a few percentage points greater than the corresponding numbers among Census Families. The relative distributions of the various identity groups were much the same as for Census Families.

Figure 6-7
Economic Family Distribution by Income Groups, Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2000



7. Migration and Mobility

The Census identifies the mobility status of those over the age of 5 years by identifying where they lived five years earlier. Those who lived in a different location are referred to as **movers**. This group is further sub-divided into those who lived in the same Census Division (CD) and those who lived in a different Census Division five years earlier. Those who moved but lived in the same Census Division are referred to as **non-migrants** or as **local movers** and those who lived in a different Census Division are referred to as **migrants**. The migrants are further sub-divided according to whether they used to live in the same Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), a different location within the same province, a different province within Canada, or a different country. It should be kept in mind that the Census does not capture such things as multiple moves or situations where someone may have moved away and then returned to the same Census Division or address.

7.1 Mobility Status

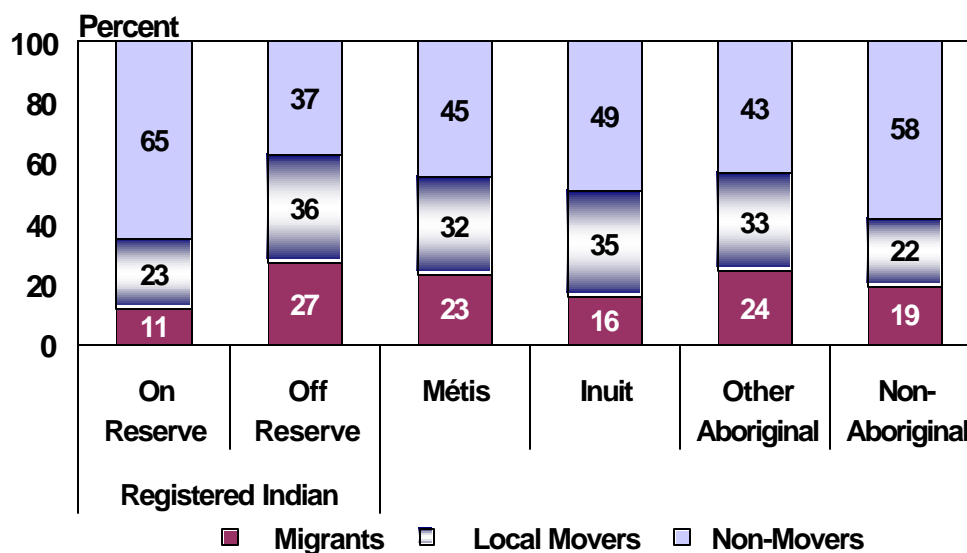
Table 7-1 shows the mobility status of women and men by identity group. As the table shows, just over half of the Aboriginal female population (52%) moved between 1996 and 2001. This was much higher than the mobility rate among the Non-Aboriginal female population (42%). Looking at the two components of movers, the proportion of non-migrants (local movers) among the Aboriginal female population (31%) greatly exceeded the proportion among the Non-Aboriginal female population (22%). There was much less difference between the proportions of the Aboriginal female population (21%) and the Non-Aboriginal female population (19%) who were migrants.

Table 7-1
Five-year Mobility Rates of the Population Aged 5+ by Gender,
Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Gender and Mobility Rates	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indian			Métis	Inuit	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve				
Percent								
Female Population 5+ (=100%)	449,350	259,805	119,670	140,135	119,685	19,395	50,455	13,793,770
Non-mover	47.8	50.1	65.2	37.2	44.7	49.2	43.4	58.5
Mover	52.2	49.9	34.8	62.8	55.3	50.8	56.7	41.5
Non-migrant	31.2	30.1	23.4	35.8	32.4	35.1	32.5	22.1
Migrant	20.9	19.8	11.4	27.0	22.9	15.7	24.1	19.4
Same CMA	1.7	1.1	0.2	1.8	2.3	0.7	3.5	4.5
Same province	14.3	14.7	9.4	19.2	14.2	9.5	14.3	8.3
Different province	4.6	3.7	1.6	5.6	6.1	5.3	5.5	3.1
Outside Canada	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8	3.6
Male Population 5+ (=100%)	424,310	237,215	122,950	114,265	119,680	19,185	48,230	13,265,160
Non-mover	50.2	52.7	66.9	37.3	47.8	52.5	43.3	58.3
Mover	49.8	47.3	33.1	62.7	52.2	47.5	56.7	41.7
Non-migrant	29.9	28.9	22.8	35.3	30.2	34.6	32.2	22.1
Migrant	19.9	18.5	10.2	27.3	22.0	13.0	24.5	19.6
Same CMA	1.6	1.0	0.2	1.9	2.1	0.4	3.3	4.5
Same province	13.4	13.5	8.4	19.1	13.4	7.7	14.9	8.2
Different province	4.6	3.5	1.4	5.8	6.2	4.8	5.5	3.2
Outside Canada	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.8	3.6

When comparing the Aboriginal identity groups, it can be seen that the Registered Indian female population living on reserves has lower rates of mobility than the other Aboriginal female identity groups. Only 23% of the Registered Indian on-reserve female population moved locally (compared to more than 30% of other identity groups) and only 11% of the Registered Indian on-reserve female population migrated from another Census Division (compared to 16% to 24% among other identity groups). Mobility rates are slightly lower among the Aboriginal male than among the Aboriginal female population. Figure 7-1 illustrates the major components of the female population 5 years or older in terms of mobility.

Figure 7-1
Five-year Mobility Status of the Female Population Aged 5+ by Aboriginal Identity and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001



Mobility is also slightly greater among the Aboriginal female population than among the Aboriginal male population. For example, about 50% of Aboriginal males moved in the five year period, compared to 52% of Aboriginal females. At the same time, the Aboriginal male population has greater rates of mobility than the Non-Aboriginal male population.

7.2 Mobility Status and Age Groups

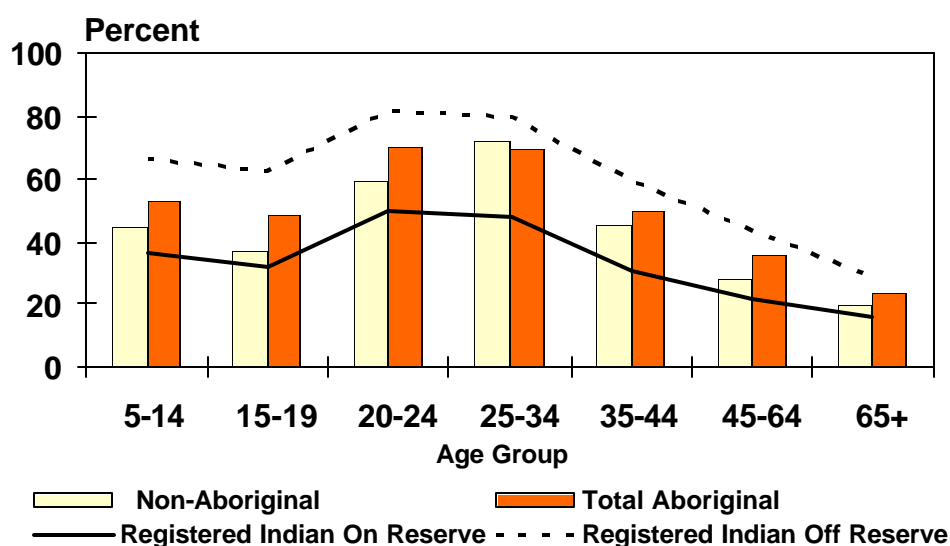
Table 7-2 shows mobility rates by age groups and identity for the female population. Among Aboriginal girls 5-19 years old, approximately 50% were movers, about 30% being local movers and 20% being migrants from other Census Divisions. In the 20-34 age range the proportion of movers increases to about 70% among Aboriginal women, with about 40% local movers and 30% migrants. After the age of 35 the proportions of movers decline, reaching their lowest rates among women over the age of 65. A similar pattern is found among all of the identity groups, with higher rates of migrants and non-migrants among women in the 20-34 age range. At the same time the rates are lowest among the Registered Indian population living on reserves and highest among the Registered Indian population living off reserves. Among Registered Indian women from 20 to 34 years old and living off reserves, about 80% moved between 1996 and 2001 and more than 40% were local movers. Similar proportions of Inuit women aged 20 to 34 were also local movers, but the proportion of migrants was relatively low among Inuit women.

Table 7-2
Selected Five-year Mobility Indicators Among the Female Population Aged 5+ by
Aboriginal Identity, Age Group and Area of Residence, Canada, 2001

Aboriginal Identity and Mobility Indicator	Age Group						
	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+
	Percent						
Total Aboriginal							
Movers	53.2	48.8	70.1	69.4	50.1	36.1	23.9
Non-migrants	32.2	28.9	40.8	41.1	30.5	21.6	14.9
Migrants	21.0	19.9	29.3	28.3	19.6	14.4	9.0
Registered Indian - Total							
Movers	51.2	47.0	67.7	65.9	47.8	34.5	21.9
Non-migrants	31.2	28.0	39.9	39.2	29.2	21.1	13.9
Migrants	20.0	19.0	27.8	26.8	18.6	13.3	8.0
Registered Indian - On Reserve							
Movers	36.9	32.0	50.0	48.0	30.7	21.7	15.6
Non-migrants	25.2	21.0	35.9	32.4	19.6	13.6	11.1
Migrants	11.7	11.0	14.0	15.7	11.1	8.1	4.4
Registered Indian - Off Reserve							
Movers	66.8	63.0	81.6	79.4	59.8	43.4	28.9
Non-migrants	37.7	35.0	43.0	44.3	35.9	26.4	17.0
Migrants	29.1	28.0	38.6	35.1	23.9	17.0	11.9
Métis							
Movers	55.8	50.0	75.0	75.4	54.2	38.2	26.8
Non-migrants	32.5	29.0	41.9	43.8	33.5	22.3	16.3
Migrants	23.4	21.0	33.0	31.6	20.7	15.9	10.4
Inuit							
Movers	49.3	46.0	64.8	63.5	51.3	34.9	28.5
Non-migrants	34.1	33.0	46.9	44.2	32.6	23.5	22.8
Migrants	15.2	14.0	17.9	19.2	18.5	11.4	5.7
Other Aboriginal							
Movers	60.1	55.0	72.9	76.6	51.4	39.2	25.9
Non-migrants	36.1	31.0	40.3	43.8	29.3	21.8	14.2
Migrants	24.0	24.0	32.5	32.9	22.1	17.4	11.9
Non-Aboriginal							
Movers	45.3	37.0	59.7	72.3	45.8	28.7	19.6
Non-migrants	24.8	20.0	26.9	36.4	25.5	15.9	11.3
Migrants	20.5	17.0	32.8	36.0	20.3	12.7	8.3

Figure 7-2 illustrates mobility rates of the female population by age group and selected identity groups. As the figure shows, the mobility rate was greatest among the Registered Indian female population living off reserves and smallest among the Registered Indian female population living on reserves. The mobility rates of the total Aboriginal and the Non-Aboriginal female populations were similar and were between those of the on- and off-reserve Registered Indian populations. This pattern is very similar to the findings of the 1996 study, although Aboriginal mobility rates have increased slightly.

Figure 7-2
Mobility Rates of the Female Population Aged 5+ by Age Group and Selected Aboriginal Identity, Canada, 2001



8. Conclusions and Highlights

This profile is intended as a summary description of some of the key circumstances concerning Aboriginal women in Canada within the limitations of the data that can be obtained through the 2001 Census of Canada. The major limitations of the Census as a source of information are that it is a cross-sectional survey of the population, and that it focuses on quantifiable data. This profile has focussed on the “Aboriginal identity” population, that is, Aboriginal women who define themselves as Aboriginal in response to the Census. The approach throughout the profile has been to compare the characteristics and circumstances of Aboriginal women with those of Non-Aboriginal women and of Aboriginal men. In addition, because the Aboriginal population is not uniform, it has been subdivided into several commonly identified groups based on cultural, historic and legal considerations. Geographic differences among the Aboriginal population have been addressed to a limited degree through the distinction of on- and off-reserve residency

among the Registered Indian population, used throughout the study. Various other characteristics, such as age, education, and urban and rural residency, have been used to further explore the variations among different segments of the population. Given the purpose and scope of the profile such explorations have been limited.

While readers can refer to the individual sections of the profile for details concerning specific topics, some general themes or conclusions have emerged, and these are described below with some references to the findings of the profile.

Aboriginal identity is related to many aspects of the lives of Aboriginal women.

The profile has documented that in almost every area examined there are differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women. The differences encompass demography, family characteristics, educational attainment, labour market characteristics, and income levels, among other areas. Some of these differences are described below.

Population

The Aboriginal population continues to be much younger than the Non-Aboriginal population. Even though the fertility rate is gradually declining among Aboriginal women, it is still almost double the rate of Canadian women generally.

Education

Aboriginal women improved their educational attainment significantly between 1996 and 2001. As of 2001 almost half - 44% - of Aboriginal women had some level of post-secondary attainment, including 27% with a college or university certificate, diploma or degree. However, the gap between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women has not become any smaller as Non-Aboriginal women also increased their attainment between 1996 and 2001.

Employment

While labour market participation rates of Aboriginal women were not much lower than those of Non-Aboriginal women, their unemployment rates were more than double those of Non-Aboriginal women.

Income

In 2000 the average income of Aboriginal women was about \$16,500 compared to an average income of \$23,000 among Non-Aboriginal women in Canada. The average incomes of Aboriginal women were about 72% of the average incomes of Non-Aboriginal women.

A substantial proportion of Aboriginal families had incomes lower than \$20,000 in the year 2000. This proportion was highest among Registered Indian families living on reserves (40%), somewhat lower among Registered Indian families living off reserve (29%) and Inuit families (26%) and lowest among Inuit (20%) and Métis (18%) families. In comparison only 10% of Non-Aboriginal families had incomes below \$20,000.

Mobility

Aboriginal women are much more likely to move within a local area than are Non-Aboriginal women. The proportion of non-migrants (local movers) among the Aboriginal female population (31%) greatly exceeded the proportion among the Non-Aboriginal female population (22%).

Gender also has a major impact on the lives of Aboriginal women as it does on the lives of other women.

On- and Off-Reserve Residency

The percentage of Registered Indian women living off reserve is substantially higher than the percentage among Registered Indian men, especially in the 30-64 age range.

Employment

A larger proportion of Aboriginal men than women worked during 2000, and those who worked tended to work for more weeks during the year. Sixty-eight percent of Aboriginal men were employed during 2000 compared to 59% of Aboriginal women. The percentage of Aboriginal men who worked 40 or more weeks in the year was 40% compared to 35% of Aboriginal women. On the other hand, Aboriginal women's unemployment rates were lower than those of their male counterparts, reflecting the higher participation rates of Aboriginal men.

Income

Aboriginal women have lower incomes than Aboriginal men and a higher percentage of their income is derived from government transfer payments. In 2000 the average income of Aboriginal women was 75% of the average income of Aboriginal men. While 69% of Aboriginal women's income was from employment, 81% of the income of Aboriginal men was from employment.

Aboriginal women have achieved greater educational success than Aboriginal men and have also followed different educational paths compared to Aboriginal men.

Post-secondary education paths of Aboriginal women are at least partly linked to gender. While 14% of Aboriginal women have some university attainment, only 10% of Aboriginal men have attained this level. In the area of non-university post-secondary certification, 9% of Aboriginal women compared to 16% of Aboriginal men have trades certification, but 12% of Aboriginal women compared to 7% of Aboriginal men have other non-university certification.

It appears that higher educational attainment provides a way for Aboriginal women to achieve incomes that are closer to those of Aboriginal men. Among those with lower educational levels, the ratio of women's income to men's income is lower, while among those with higher educational levels, the ratio is higher.

Aboriginal women and men are highly concentrated into different fields of study and occupations.

Major Field of Study of Post-Secondary Graduates

Among college and university graduates the largest numbers of Aboriginal women are found in four major fields of study:

- 1) Commerce, Management and Business Administration (27%),
- 2) Health Professions (17%),
- 3) Social Sciences (16%), and
- 4) Education (15%).

These four major fields account for 75% of female Aboriginal post-secondary graduates. In comparison 75% of Aboriginal men are found in three fields:

- 1) Technologies and Trades (53%),
- 2) Social Sciences (12%), and
- 3) Commerce (10%).

Occupation

Aboriginal women tend to be found in semi-skilled occupations, and especially Sales and Service occupations. Aboriginal women are also frequently found in clerical and professional occupations, while Aboriginal men are frequently found in crafts, trades, manual labour and management occupations.

Compared to men, larger proportions of Aboriginal women are found in Level A (professional/managerial) and Level C (semi-skilled) occupations, and smaller proportions are found in Level B (semi-professional and technical) and D (unskilled) occupations.

Larger proportions of Aboriginal women are engaged in housework and child care, for greater amounts of time, compared to Aboriginal men, but there is little difference between Aboriginal women and men in the time devoted to seniors care.

There are substantial differences among Aboriginal identity groups and Aboriginal women often fall into two groups with differing characteristics:

- (a) Inuit women and Registered Indian women living on reserves; and**
- (b) Métis, Other Aboriginal women and Registered Indian women living off reserves.**

Population

The on-reserve Registered Indian and Inuit population have younger age structures and higher dependency ratios than other Aboriginal identity groups. The other groups have age structures more like that of the Non-Aboriginal population.

The proportion of the Registered Indian population living in urban areas is small, and among Inuit the proportion is smaller still, compared to the other Aboriginal identity groups.

Language

The proportion with an Aboriginal mother tongue is highest by far among the Inuit, for whom Inuktitut is the mother tongue of 65% of the female population. Among the Registered Indian population, the proportion with an Aboriginal mother tongue is much lower at 26%, while among the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations the proportions with an Aboriginal mother tongue are quite small.

The index of language continuity for Aboriginal languages is highest among the Inuit, followed by the Registered Indian population on reserves, and lower among the other identity groups. In addition, the index of continuity has increased for the Registered Indian and Inuit populations.

Family

The findings from this section show that Aboriginal family characteristics are closely related to identity and geography. The characteristics of the Registered Indian population on reserves and the Inuit population often stand in contrast to those of the Registered Indian population off reserves, along with the Métis and Other Aboriginal populations. It also appears that a rapid change in family structure has been taking place among the reserve population.

Inuit women and Registered Indian women living on reserves tend to have lower proportions than those who are separated or divorced and higher proportions than those who are widowed, compared to Métis, Other Aboriginal women and Registered Indian women living off reserves.

Inuit families also tend to have the largest number of children per family, with 33% of Inuit families having three or more children, compared to 23% of Registered Indian families. The other identity groups tend to have smaller proportions (13%-14%), similar to those of Non-Aboriginal families (11%).

The highest proportion of single mother families is found among Registered Indian families (25%), followed by Inuit families (20%). Among Métis and Other Aboriginal families the proportions are 15% to 16%, while among Non-Aboriginal families the proportion is 12%.

Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of female lone-parent families increased sharply among the Registered Indian population on reserves and among the Inuit population, while it fell slightly among the Registered Indian population living off reserves.

Education

Inuit women and Registered Indian women on reserves have lower levels of educational attainment than Métis women, Other Aboriginal women, or Registered Indian women living off reserves.

Employment

The proportion of Registered Indian women who were employed in 2000 was much smaller than among other identity groups, especially among those living on reserves. The largest proportion of Aboriginal women who worked 40 or more weeks is found among Métis women at 43%, and the smallest proportion was found among Registered Indian women on reserves (27%) and Inuit women (32%).

Unemployment rates varied substantially among women in different Aboriginal identity groups. The highest rates were those of Registered Indian women (20%) and Inuit women (19%). The unemployment rates of Métis and Other Aboriginal women were lower at 12% and 14% respectively, but they were still higher than the unemployment rate of Non-Aboriginal women (7%).

The proportions of women at both the highly skilled (Level A) and unskilled (Level D) ends of the skills spectrum are largest among Inuit women, followed by Registered Indian women. Métis and Other Aboriginal women, on the other hand, have larger percentages than the other identity groups in semi-skilled (Level C) occupations.

Income

Inuit and Métis women have the highest average incomes at about \$18,700 and \$18,100 respectively, while Registered Indian women on reserves have the lowest average income at about \$14,000. The relatively high income of Inuit women is related to higher average wages in Northern Canada where most Inuit women live.

The proportion of income derived from employment ranged from 61% of the income of Registered Indian women living on reserves to 75% of Métis women. Conversely, the proportion derived from government transfer payments was 37% among Registered Indian women on reserves, 31% among Registered Indian women off reserves, and 21% to 24% of the incomes of other Aboriginal women. Among Non-Aboriginal women this proportion was 16%.

Mobility

Mobility rates are lowest among the Registered Indian population living on reserves and highest among the Registered Indian population living off reserves. Among Registered Indian women from 20 to 34 years old and living off reserves, more than 40% moved within their local Census Divisions between 1996 and 2001.

In many ways, gender affects the Aboriginal population much as it does the Non-Aboriginal population.

The differences between Aboriginal women and men are often similar to the differences between Non-Aboriginal women and men. This is particularly true in the areas of occupational distribution, educational attainment and fields of study, labour market activity and income.

It can be concluded that the circumstances of Aboriginal women are often different from those of other Canadian women and from those of Aboriginal men. Particularly in the areas of employment and income, Aboriginal women are at a disadvantage. At the same time Aboriginal women do not all have the same characteristics and there are distinct variations between identity groups and between geographic locations. In addition, the relative positions of different segments of the population change depending on the issue being considered. These findings suggest that those involved in policy and program development need to define both the populations and the issues that they are concerned with as precisely as possible in order to best achieve their policy goals.

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