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Statistics Profile Series



# Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

This paper is one in a series of ten profiles funded through the federal Policy Research Initiative. The objective of these profiles is to provide data analysis on the experience of various groups as victims and offenders\* in the criminal justice system.

The profiles are based on Statistics Canada sources and include a mix of demographic, economic and justice data as well as information specific to each group.

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\*\* The literacy profile does not include a criminal justice component.

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# Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

## Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Aboriginal People<sup>1</sup>

### ***The Aboriginal population<sup>2</sup>***

According to the 1996 Census, about 800,000 people, 3% of the total population of Canada, identified themselves as Aboriginal people, that is, they were either North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit<sup>3</sup> (see Tables 1, 2, 3). The Aboriginal population also included people who did not identify with an Aboriginal group,<sup>4</sup> but who were Registered Indians and/or First Nation Indian Band members.<sup>5</sup> The majority of Aboriginal people in Canada are North American Indian (66%). In 1996, there were just under 530,000 persons who reported themselves as North American Indian,<sup>6</sup> while there were just over 200,000 Métis (26%) and 40,000 Inuit (5%).<sup>7</sup>

### ***Largest concentrations in the west***

As a percentage of the population, Aboriginal people account for the largest shares of the provincial populations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1996, 12% of all residents of Manitoba, and 11% of those in Saskatchewan were Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people also made up 5% of residents of Alberta, 4% of those in British Columbia, and 2% of those in the Atlantic provinces. Aboriginal people account for a large share of the population living in the territories. In 1999, the new territory of Nunavut was created out of the old Northwest Territories. Redistributing the 1996 Census population counts according to the new boundaries shows that 84% of those living in Nunavut were Aboriginal people, as were 48% of those in the new Northwest Territories and 20% of those in the Yukon.

In terms of actual numbers, however, the largest numbers of Aboriginal people in Canada live in Ontario and British Columbia.

There are different ways to represent the Aboriginal population of Canada. The Aboriginal identity population (799,010) from the 1996 Census was used to obtain information for those who identified with one or more Aboriginal group (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit). The 1996 Census also provides information on those reporting at least one Aboriginal origin or ancestry (1,101,960). Depending on the application, data using either concept may be appropriate for defining the Aboriginal population. This report uses the Aboriginal identity concept as the definition for the Aboriginal population.

In 1996, there were around 140,000 Aboriginal people in each of these provinces, with each accounting for about 18% of the total Aboriginal population in Canada. At the same time, 16% of the Aboriginal population lived in Manitoba, while figures were 15% in Alberta, 14% in Saskatchewan, 9% in Quebec, and 5% in the Atlantic provinces. The remaining 6% of Aboriginal people lived in the territories.

There is considerable variation, however, in the distribution of Aboriginal people in the different groups across the country. The largest shares of those identifying themselves as North American Indian in 1996, for example, lived in either Ontario (21%) or British Columbia (20%), while Alberta (24%) and Manitoba (22%) were home to the largest concentrations of Métis. In contrast, most Inuit lived in Nunavut; indeed, 51% of all Inuit resided in Nunavut that year, while 20% lived in Quebec and 10% lived in Newfoundland and Labrador.

<sup>1</sup> This profile provides descriptive socio-demographic and criminal justice characteristics associated with Aboriginal people. It does not however, account for the possibility that some additional factors, such as age, sex, disability status and low

income status may also be correlated with Aboriginal status. For more information on these additional factors, please refer to the other profiles in this series.

- <sup>2</sup> Data for the socio-demographic section of the Aboriginal profile are drawn from Statistics Canada's Census of Canada.
- <sup>3</sup> In the 1996 Census, two questions were used to determine the size of the Aboriginal population: one on Aboriginal origin/ancestry, and the other on Aboriginal identity. This profile refers to the latter, and includes the population who reported self-identifying with at least one Aboriginal group that is North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit.
- <sup>4</sup> This represents approximately 20,000 out of the 800,000 who identified themselves as Aboriginal people.
- <sup>5</sup> In 1996, 77 Indian reserves and settlements did not take part in the Census and the estimated 44,000 people living in these communities are not included in the data in this profile.
- <sup>6</sup> The North American Indian population includes those who are status or registered Indians according to the Indian Act of Canada, as well as those who are non-status Indians.
- <sup>7</sup> As well, small percentages of the total Aboriginal population were either Registered Indian and/or Band or First Nations members who did not report themselves to be Aboriginal (2%) or considered themselves to be members of more than one group (1%).

## Acknowledgements

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### **A relatively rural population**

In 1996, more than half of Aboriginal people lived in an area classified as rural, while less than half lived in an urban area. One reason for the relatively large Aboriginal population living in rural areas is that many Aboriginal people live on reserves. In 1996, close to 230,000 Aboriginal people, almost all of them North American Indian, lived on reserves.<sup>8</sup> Approximately 20% of the Aboriginal population lives in rural non-reserve areas of which the majority are Métis (approximately 50,000).

The fact that the Aboriginal population is largely rural contrasts sharply with the non-Aboriginal population, three-quarters of whom lived in an urban setting that year. In fact, only about one in four Aboriginal people lived in the country's 25 census metropolitan areas, less than half the figure for the non-Aboriginal population.

Among Aboriginal people, the Métis are the most urbanized. In 1996, 67% of the Métis were living in cities and towns, compared with 43% of North American Indian population and just 28% of Inuit.

Of major urban areas in Canada, Aboriginal people make up the largest percentage of the overall populations of Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, and Thunder Bay. In 1996, Aboriginal people made up 7% of the total populations in Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg, and 6% in Thunder Bay. Aboriginal people also accounted for 4% of the total population in Edmonton, 3% in Sudbury, and 2% in each of Vancouver, Calgary and Victoria, while they made up 1% or less of residents in all other major urban areas.

Winnipeg, however, is the urban centre with the largest actual number of Aboriginal people. In 1996, there were approximately 46,000 Aboriginal people in Winnipeg, while there were 33,000 in Edmonton, 31,000 in Vancouver, 16,000 in both Saskatoon and Toronto, 15,000 in Calgary, and 14,000 in Regina.

It is interesting to note, however, that children make up a relatively large share of the Aboriginal population in many of these urban areas. For example, Aboriginal children under 15 accounted for 13% of all children in both Regina and Saskatoon and 12% of those in Winnipeg.

### **A young population**

The Aboriginal population in Canada is relatively young compared with the overall population. In 1996, the average age of people identifying themselves as Aboriginal was 25.5 years, 10 years younger than the figure of 35.4 years in the general population. Indeed, children under 15 accounted for 35% of all Aboriginal people that year, compared with 20% of the non-Aboriginal population. At the same time, 18% of the Aboriginal population was aged 15-24, compared with 13% in the non-Aboriginal population. In contrast, seniors made up only 4% of the Aboriginal population, versus 12% of the non-Aboriginal population.

The Inuit population is particularly young. In 1996, 60% of all those identifying themselves as Inuit were under age 25, compared with 50% of the Métis and 54% of North American Indians. In contrast, only 2% of the Inuit were aged 65 and over, versus 4% of both the Métis and North American Indian populations.

The on-reserve population is also relatively young. In 1996, 56% of all reserve residents were under age 25, compared with 50% of the Aboriginal population living in CMAs. Seniors also account for a relatively large share of the on-reserve population. That year, people aged 65 and over made up 4% of the on-reserve population, versus less than 3% of Aboriginal people in large urban areas. In contrast, relatively few on-reserve residents are in the prime working years of 25 to 44. In 1996, just 28% of those living on reserves, compared with 34% of Aboriginal people in CMAs, were in the 25-44 age range.

### **Family status**

Most Aboriginal people live with their immediate family. In 1996, 79% of Aboriginal people aged 15 and over lived with members of their immediate family, about the same figure as their counterparts in the overall population.

There are, however, substantial differences between the specific family arrangements of Aboriginal people and those in the overall population. Among people aged 15-64, for example, Aboriginal people were considerably less likely to be living with their spouse in 1996 - 31% versus 51% - while they were about twice as likely to be living in a common-law relationship: 18% versus 9%. Aboriginal people aged 15-64 are also much more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be lone parents: 11% versus 5%.

As with the non-Aboriginal population, Aboriginal women are much more likely to be lone parents than their male counterparts. In fact, females made up 86% of all Aboriginal lone parents in 1996. That year, 18% of Aboriginal women aged 15-64, versus just 3% of Aboriginal men in this age range, were heading lone-parent families.

Aboriginal children are also significantly more likely to be members of a lone-parent family than non-Aboriginal children. In 1996, 32% of Aboriginal children under 15 years of age lived in a lone-parent family, twice the rate in the non-Aboriginal population (16%). In fact, in western cities like Winnipeg, Regina, and Saskatoon, close to half of all Aboriginal children lived with a single parent.

There is a similar pattern among Aboriginal seniors, who are also less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be living with a spouse and more likely to be a lone parent. Aboriginal seniors, however, were also much more likely than non-Aboriginal people

<sup>8</sup> Again, this excludes the 77 Indian reserves and settlements did not take part in the Census.

aged 65 and over to be living with members of their extended family in 1996: 16% versus 7%. In contrast, Aboriginal seniors were somewhat less likely than other seniors to be living alone: 26% versus 29%.

### **Educational attainment**

Aboriginal people have made gains in educational attainment in recent years. However, large gaps still exist between the education levels of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. For example, just 3% of Aboriginal people aged 15 and over had a university degree in 1996, compared with 13% of the non-Aboriginal population. On the other hand, 54% of Aboriginal people had not completed high school, compared with 34% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Young Aboriginal people are also less likely than other young Canadians to attend school. In 1996, 68% of Aboriginal people aged 15-19 were attending school on either a full- or part-time basis, compared with 83% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. There was a similar story among those aged 20-24, among whom 31% of Aboriginal people, versus 49% of non-Aboriginal people, were in school.

Among Aboriginal people, the Métis are the most likely to have a university education. In 1996, 4% of Métis had a university degree, compared with 3% of the North American Indian population and just 1% of Inuit.

There are also differences in the educational attainment of Aboriginal people depending on where they live. As of 1996, 34% of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over living on reserve had some postsecondary education experience, compared with 42% of those living in a census metropolitan area and 41% of those in other urban areas.

### **Language**

A substantial minority of Aboriginal people in Canada can speak an Aboriginal language. In 1996,

234,000 Aboriginal people, 29% of the total Aboriginal population, reported that they were able to carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language.

Among Aboriginal people, the Inuit are, by far, the most likely to be able to speak an Aboriginal language. In 1996, 73% of those who identified as Inuit reported an ability to conduct a conversation in Inuktitut, whereas only 35% of North American Indians, and just 9% of Métis, reported an ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language.

People living on reserves are more likely than those living in other areas to be able to speak an Aboriginal language. In 1996, 55% of those living on reserves or other Indian settlements said they were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language, whereas this was the case for only 11% of Aboriginal people living in large urban areas.

The ability to converse in an Aboriginal language is most common among older Aboriginal people. In 1996, over half (54%) of Aboriginal people aged 65 and over reported an ability to converse in an Aboriginal language, compared with less than one-quarter (24%) of those under age 25.

### **Lower employment levels**

Aboriginal people are much less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be part of the paid workforce. In 1996, 48% of Aboriginal men aged 15 and over were employed, compared with 66% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Similarly, just 41% of Aboriginal women were part of the paid workforce that year, versus 53% of non-Aboriginal women.

Among Aboriginal people, the Métis are the most likely to be employed. In 1996, 52% of all Métis aged 15 and over were part of the paid workforce, while the figures were 41% among the North American Indian population and 47% among the Inuit.

As well, those Aboriginal people who are employed tend to be concentrated in low-paying occupations. In 1996, Aboriginal people made up a disproportionate share of those employed in primary industries, in sales and service jobs, and those working in trades. In contrast, Aboriginal people were underrepresented among those employed in management positions and in professional occupations.

### **Unemployment**

Unemployment<sup>9</sup> rates tend to be high among Aboriginal people. In fact, in 1996, almost one in four (24%) Aboriginal labour force participants was unemployed, more than double the rate for non-Aboriginal people, who had an unemployment rate of 10% that year.

As with the overall population, unemployment rates among Aboriginal people are highest for young adults, particularly young males. In 1996, 32% of all Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15-24, and 35% of males were unemployed. At all ages, however, unemployment rates are much higher among Aboriginal people than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Among Aboriginal people, those identifying themselves as North American Indian have the highest unemployment rates, although unemployment rates are high among all Aboriginal groups. In 1996, 26% of North American Indian labour force participants were unemployed, as were 20% of Métis and 22% of Inuit.

Unemployment is particularly high among the on-reserve population. In 1996, 29% of all labour force participants aged 15 and over living on reserve were classified as unemployed, compared with 21% of those living in CMAs.

<sup>9</sup> *The unemployed include those who are not working for pay or profit, but who are looking for employment.*

### **Low average incomes**

As might be expected, given their relatively low education and employment levels, the incomes of Aboriginal people are substantially lower than those of non-Aboriginal Canadians. In 1995, Aboriginal people had an average income from all sources of \$15,700, just 62% of the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (\$25,400).

Among the Aboriginal population, the Métis have the highest average incomes. In 1995, people identifying themselves as Métis had an average income of \$17,600, compared with \$16,800 among the Inuit and just \$14,900 among the North American Indian population.

The largest share of the income of Aboriginal people comes from employment earnings. In 1995, wages and salaries, plus net income from self-employment, constituted 70% of all income of Aboriginal people, somewhat less than the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (75%).

At the same time, however, Aboriginal people receive a relatively large share of their income from government transfer payments. In 1995, about one-quarter (26%) of all income of Aboriginal people came from these sources, compared with 14% of that of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among the various Aboriginal groups, the North American Indian population receives the largest share of its income from government transfers. In 1995, 29% of all the income received by people identifying themselves as North American Indian came from these sources, while the figures were 22% for both the Métis and Inuit.

### **Many with low income<sup>10</sup>**

Aboriginal people are more likely than non-Aboriginal people to have low incomes. In 1995, 46% of all Aboriginal people had incomes below \$10,000, compared with 27% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Furthermore, Aboriginal youth aged 15-24 are more likely than

their non-Aboriginal contemporaries to have low incomes. In 1995, 75% of Aboriginal youth had incomes below \$10,000, as opposed to 69% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Among the various Aboriginal groups, the North American Indian population was the most likely to have low incomes. In 1995, 48% of North American Indians, versus 46% of Inuit and 41% of Métis, had incomes below \$10,000.

Low income is also very high among Aboriginal people living in major urban areas, particularly those in the west. In fact, over 40% of Aboriginal people in each of Saskatoon (51%), Regina (48%), Edmonton (47%), and Winnipeg (46%) had incomes below \$10,000 in 1995, while the figures were 44% in Sudbury, and 40% in both Calgary and Vancouver.

## **Aboriginal People and the Criminal Justice System**

### **Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of crime**

According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) (see Box 1), approximately 35% of the Aboriginal population reported having been the victim of at least one crime<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> While Statistics Canada's Low-income Cut-Offs are generally used to measure low income situations, they do not apply to the population on Indian reserves, or in the territories. Since a large proportion of Aboriginal people reside on Indian reserves and in the territories, for this profile, the income category that falls below \$10,000 is used as a proxy for low income.

<sup>11</sup> This section includes personal and household victimization as well as incidents of spousal violence that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey.

### **Box 1: The General Social Survey**

Statistics Canada, as part of the General Social Survey Program, conducts a survey on criminal victimization every 5 years. The most recent survey was conducted in 1999, and involved telephone interviews with approximately 26,000 people, aged 15 and older, living in the 10 Canadian provinces. Similar to previous surveys, all respondents were asked about their experiences with criminal victimization, and their opinions on a variety of justice related topics including their fear of crime, and their perceptions about the performance of the police, criminal courts, and prison and parole systems.

GSS respondents were asked to self-identify their cultural or racial background which included whether they identified with an Aboriginal group, including North American Indian, Inuit, and Métis. Based on responses to this question, a variable was derived which distinguishes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents. Although it is recognized that Aboriginal culture is diverse, small numbers in the sample survey prohibit a more detailed breakdown of Aboriginal groups. Those who refused to provide their cultural background were excluded from the current analysis.

The reader is cautioned that GSS results exclude data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut, territories in which high concentrations of Aboriginal people reside. Furthermore, the GSS uses random digit dialing, a telephone sampling method which includes both on/reserve and off/reserve Aboriginal populations, yet does not distinguish between them. In the 1999 GSS, Aboriginal people aged 15 and older represented 2% of the population aged 15 and over in the 10 provinces, a proportion which is similar to that of the 1996 Census.

It is important to note that the GSS data are estimates. They are based on information collected from a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling error. The GSS analysis uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate with a CV of more than 33.3% is considered unreliable and is not published. When the CV of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%, the symbol '+' is used. These estimates should be used with caution.

in the 12 months preceding the survey. This was much higher than the proportion of non-Aboriginal people (26%) who were victimized in the same time period. Part of the reason for this difference could be attributed to the fact that the Aboriginal population in Canada is relatively young compared with the overall population, and young people are more likely to be victimized than their older counterparts.

Aboriginal people were also more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be victimized more than once. Approximately 19% of the Aboriginal population reported being victimized two or more times in the previous 12 months, compared to only 10% of the non-Aboriginal population.

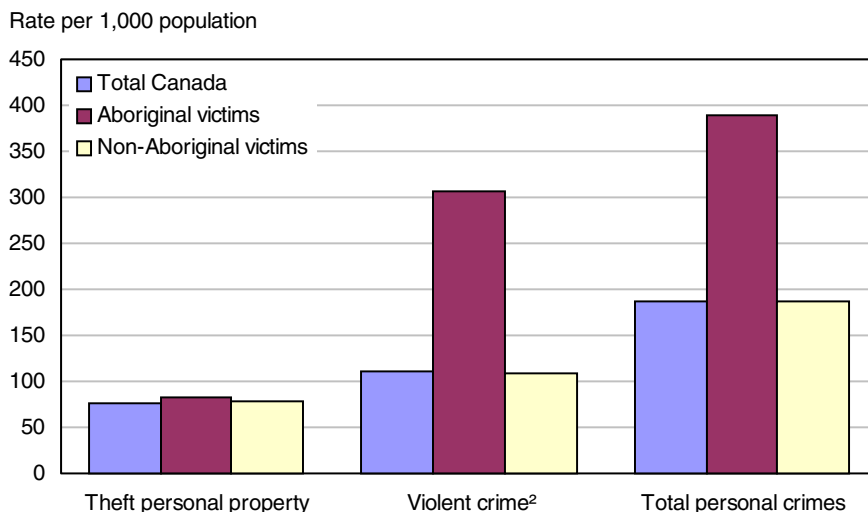
**Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of violent crime**

For the offence types (see Box 2), rates of theft of personal property were similar for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. However, Aboriginal people experienced violent crime at a rate that was nearly three times greater than that of non-Aboriginal people (307 versus 110 incidents per 1,000 population) (see Figure 1).

**Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of spousal violence**

The 1999 General Social Survey also measured the incidence and prevalence of spousal violence.

Figure 1  
**Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of violent crime<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault

<sup>2</sup> Includes sexual assault, assault and robbery

Source: Statistics Canada General Social Survey, 1999.

Approximately 20% of Aboriginal people who reported having a current or ex-spouse with whom they had contact in the past 5 years, reported being assaulted by their spouse, as compared to 7% of non-Aboriginal people.

While there were no statistically significant differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal male spouses, there were large variations for females. Approximately 25% of Aboriginal women reported having

been assaulted by a current or ex-spouse in the 5 years preceding the survey as compared to 8% of non-Aboriginal women.

**Fear levels relatively low for Aboriginal people**

The GSS also asked respondents about their levels of fear while engaging in certain activities. The analysis, therefore, is based only on the responses of those people who indicated that they did engage in these activities.

**Box 2: Offence types**

The 1999 GSS measured the incidence of personal and household victimization looking at eight offence types, based on the *Criminal Code* definitions for these crimes. Analysis of the Aboriginal population only takes into account the four personal offences since for personal crimes, it is an individual who is victimized. For household crimes, it is all members of the household who are victimized. Rates of personal offences are calculated per 1,000 persons aged 15 and older.

Crime category	Offence	Description
Personal crimes	Violent crimes	
	Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling.
	Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
	Assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
	Theft of personal property	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet. (Unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim.)

Despite the fact that Aboriginal people experienced high levels of victimization in 1999, a large proportion reported low levels of fear. Of those who walked alone in their neighbourhood after dark, almost 90% of Aboriginal people reported that they felt safe doing so (see Table 4). Furthermore, nearly 8 in 10 reported feeling not at all worried when home alone in the evening and approximately 60% were not worried using public transportation alone in the evening. These proportions were fairly consistent with fear levels among the non-Aboriginal population.

Consistent with findings that women are generally more fearful of crime than men,<sup>12</sup> female Aboriginal people reported higher levels of fear than their male counterparts. For example, 33% of Aboriginal females reported feeling somewhat or very worried when home alone in the evening, as compared to only 13% of males, and 56% of females reported feeling somewhat or very worried when using public transportation alone in the evening as compared to only 19% of males.

Respondents were also asked whether, compared to other areas in Canada, they thought their neighbourhood had a higher amount of crime, about the same or a lower amount of crime. The majority (6 in 10), regardless of Aboriginal status, felt that crime in their neighbourhood was lower than in other areas of Canada.

#### **Aboriginal people more likely to have some forms of contact with the police**

While there were virtually no differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in their contact with the police for such things as a public information session or for a traffic violation, Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to have had contact with the police for what could be considered more serious reasons. For example, they were more likely to come into contact with the police: as victims of a crime

(17% versus 13%), as witnesses to a crime (11% versus 6%) and by being arrested (4%<sup>†</sup> versus 1%).

#### **Aboriginal people less satisfied with the police**

The 1999 GSS also asked respondents to rate the performance of their local police, the criminal courts, the prison and parole systems using the scale: good job, average job, or poor job.<sup>13</sup>

Since previous research has shown that Canadians who come into contact with the police are less likely to feel that the police are doing a good job,<sup>14</sup> it is not surprising that overall, Aboriginal people were less satisfied with the performance of the police (see Table 5). They were less likely to rate the police at doing a good job with the following: being approachable and easy to talk to (58% versus 67%), ensuring the safety of citizens (55% versus 63%), enforcing the laws (48% versus 61%), supplying information on ways to reduce crime (46% versus 55%) and responding promptly to calls (43% versus 50%).

#### **Aboriginal people more likely to assess courts positively**

While there were no differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in their assessments of the court's ability to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to ensure a fair trial for the accused, Aboriginal people were slightly more likely than non-Aboriginal people to assess the court as doing a good job with the following: providing justice quickly (17% versus 13%) and helping the victim (20% versus 15%).

#### **Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people assess prison and parole systems similarly**

There were virtually no differences in the opinions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in their assessments of the prison system and parole systems. In 1999, approximately one-quarter of the Aboriginal population felt that the prison system was doing a good

job at supervising and controlling prisoners, while 14% felt that it was doing a good job at helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens.

As for the parole system, 16% of Aboriginal people were of the belief that it was doing a good job at releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend, and 13% believed that it was doing a good job at supervising offenders on parole. It is important to note that a large proportion of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (between 16% and 25%) were uncertain about how to assess the performance of the prison system and the parole system.

#### **Aboriginal youth are over-represented in alternative measures<sup>15</sup>**

Alternative measures are formalized programs whereby young people who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Typical programs include personal service to a victim; financial compensation to a victim; community service; educational sessions; personal or written apology; and essays or presentations related to the offence. In 1998-99, while representing 4% of the youth population, Aboriginal youth accounted for 15% of alternative measures cases in provinces and territories that were able to provide

<sup>12</sup> See Besserer and Trainor (2000)

<sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

<sup>13</sup> The analysis of the performance of the criminal justice system is based on the responses from all survey respondents and also considers the respondents who gave an answer of 'don't know/not stated'. This was done in order to acknowledge the importance of those who had no response since this information is a crucial element in data regarding public opinion.

<sup>14</sup> See Tufts (2000)

<sup>15</sup> Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Alternative Measures Survey (1998-99). See Engler and Crowe (2000)



data.<sup>16</sup> This is slightly higher than in 1997-98 (12%).

Among those jurisdictions that provided data, the largest proportion of Aboriginal youth participating in alternative measures occurred in Saskatchewan, which made up 48% of alternative measures cases assigned (see Figure 2). This proportion is more than three times higher than Saskatchewan's percentage of Aboriginal youth (15%). In addition to Saskatchewan, both Alberta and Yukon had much higher proportions of Aboriginal youth in alternative measures than their relative proportion of Aboriginal youth in the population. While Aboriginal youth accounted for 6% of the youth in Alberta, 14% of youth participating in alternative measures were Aboriginal. While 24% of Yukon's youth population is Aboriginal, 38% of youth who participated in alternative measures were Aboriginal.

**Aboriginal youth more likely remanded in custody<sup>17</sup>**

In 1998-99, there were 24,061 remand admissions, accounting for 60% of total youth custody admissions.<sup>18</sup> Of reporting jurisdictions where Aboriginal status was known,<sup>19</sup> Aboriginal youth

admissions made up 26 % of the total admissions to remand (see Table 6). In comparison, Aboriginal youth made up only 7% of youth aged 12 to 17 in those jurisdictions. The most disproportionate representation was evident in the western provinces. In Manitoba, for example, 69% of youth admissions into remand were identified as being Aboriginal, whereas only 16% of Manitoba's youth population were Aboriginal. In Alberta, 33% of youth remand admissions were Aboriginal, compared to 6% of the youth population. In comparison, Aboriginal youth accounted for 4% of youth remand admissions and 2% of the general youth population in the reporting eastern provinces (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia).

**Aboriginal youth over-represented in sentenced custody admissions**

In the reporting jurisdictions where Aboriginal status was known, in 1998-99 Aboriginal youth admissions accounted for nearly one-quarter of the total admissions to sentenced custody.<sup>20</sup>

With the exception of Prince Edward Island, Aboriginal youth were over-represented in each reporting jurisdiction, particularly among the

western provinces. In Manitoba, for example, three-quarters (75%) of sentenced custody admissions were identified as Aboriginal even though 16% of Manitoba's youth population were Aboriginal. The situation in Saskatchewan was similar, where 74% of youth admissions were Aboriginal, while only 15% of the youth population in that province were Aboriginal (see Figure 3).

**Aboriginal people account for 14% of youth on probation**

Probation is the most common disposition imposed on young offenders. Once again, probation admissions show an over-representation of Aboriginal youth, particularly among the western provinces. In 1998-99, Aboriginal youth accounted for 14% of probation admissions.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Data were not available for Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario (12-15 years), Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Therefore, the population data from the above-mentioned jurisdictions were also excluded from the calculation of proportions. In the jurisdictions where Aboriginal status data were available, the proportion of 'not stated' ranged from 0% in Prince Edward Island and Yukon to 44% in Alberta.

<sup>17</sup> Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, 1998-99. See Moldon and Kukec (2000)

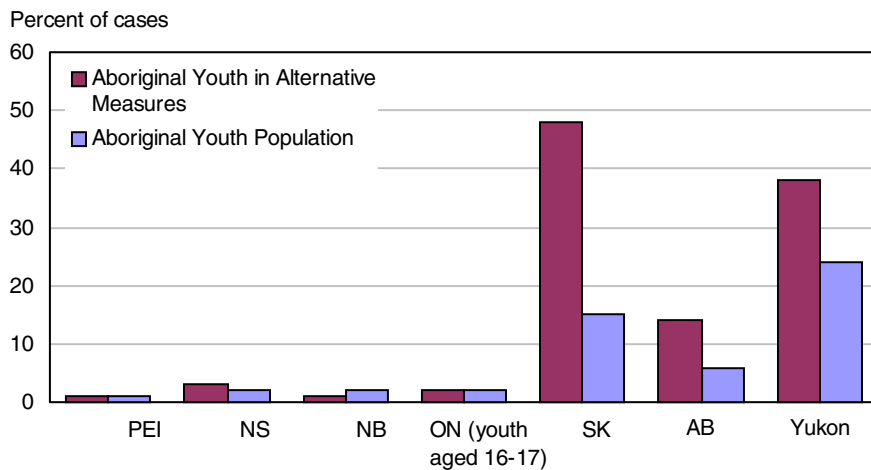
<sup>18</sup> This figure excludes Saskatchewan remand admissions, which were not reported.

<sup>19</sup> Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories reported remand admissions by Aboriginal status. New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario MCSS and Saskatchewan were unable to report remand data by Aboriginal status.

<sup>20</sup> In those jurisdictions that reported "Aboriginal status", 7% were unknown. New Brunswick and Quebec were unable to report sentenced custody admissions by Aboriginal status.

<sup>21</sup> This proportion increases to 18% when only the jurisdictions that were able to report both custody and probation admissions by Aboriginal status are taken into account. These jurisdictions are: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon.

Figure 2  
**Aboriginal youth overrepresented in alternative measures<sup>1,2</sup>**

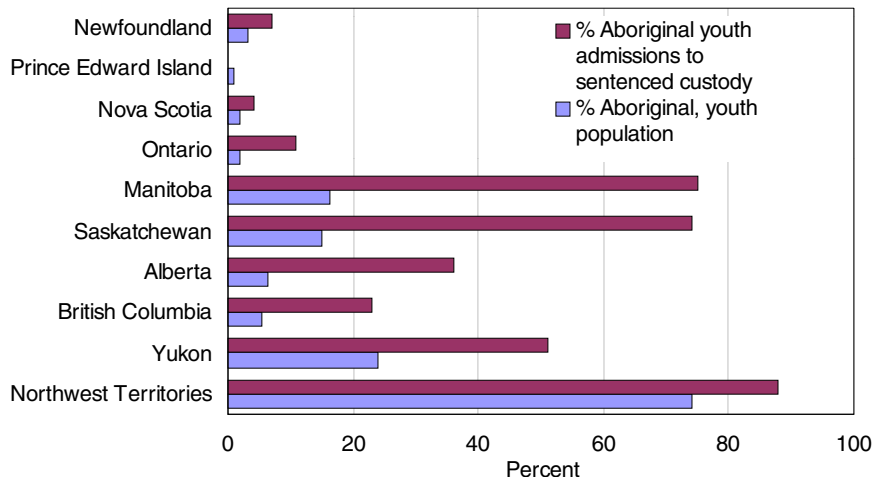


<sup>1</sup> Data unavailable for Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario (youth aged 12-15), Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

<sup>2</sup> Unknown Aboriginal Status: Prince Edward Island (0%); Nova Scotia (19%); New Brunswick (11%); Ontario (youth aged 16-17) (0%); Saskatchewan (18%); Alberta (44%); Yukon (0%).

**Source:** Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Alternative Measures Survey (1998-99).

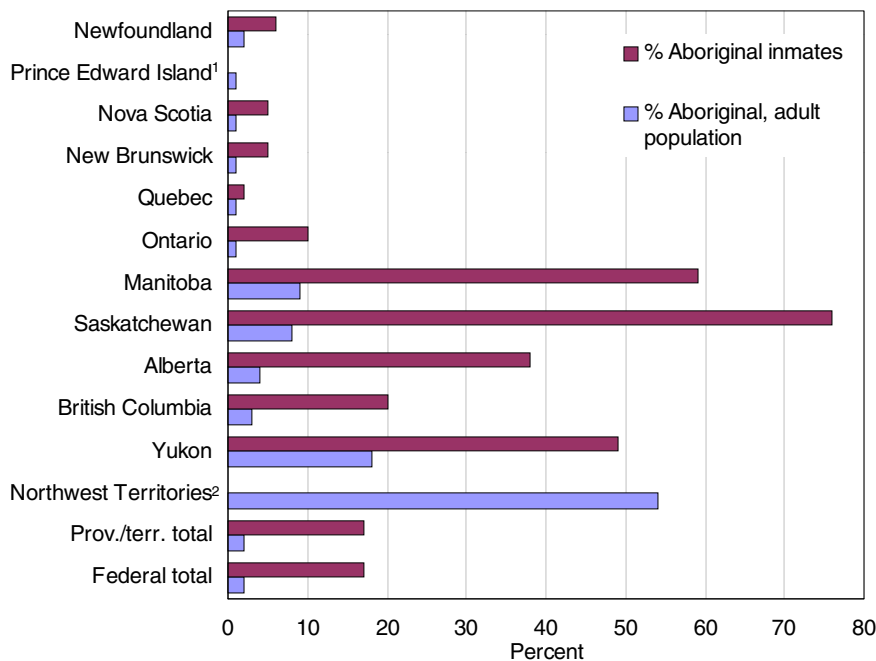
Figure 3  
**Aboriginal youth overrepresented in admissions to sentenced custody<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> New Brunswick and Quebec were unable to report sentenced custody admissions by Aboriginal status. Figure excludes unknown numbers.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, CCJS and Statistics Canada, 1996 Census: Aboriginal Population.

Figure 4  
**Aboriginal adults overrepresented in admissions to custody**



<sup>1</sup> Amount too small to be expressed for % Aboriginal inmates

<sup>2</sup> Figures not available for % Aboriginal inmates

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of the Population, 20% Sample, Statistics Canada.

**Aboriginal adults over-represented in prisons, probation and conditional sentences<sup>22</sup>**

Aboriginal people represent 2% of the adult population, but accounted

for 17% of the admissions to provincial/territorial custody in 1998-99 (see Table 7), and the same proportion to federal custody. At the provincial/territorial level,

this represents a slight increase (2%) in the proportion of Aboriginal admissions over 1997-98, while the representation of Aboriginal persons as a proportion of federal custodial admissions has remained relatively stable.

There is considerable variation across the country with respect to the presence of Aboriginal people in the general adult and adult inmate populations (see Figure 4). The Western provinces and the territories are home to the largest proportions of Aboriginal persons in the general adult population, as well as the greatest disproportionate representation of adult admissions to custody. For example, in 1998-99 the proportion of Aboriginal persons admitted to adult provincial facilities in Saskatchewan (76%) was almost ten times that of their proportion in the provincial adult population (8%). In Manitoba 59% of admissions to provincial custody were Aboriginal (compared to 9% in the provincial adult population) and in Alberta, 38% of admissions to provincial facilities were Aboriginal persons (compared to 4% in the provincial adult population). In other jurisdictions, the proportion of Aboriginal admissions ranged from twice to ten times their proportion in the provincial/territorial population.

Over-representation of Aboriginal persons is not only evident in admissions to custody but also in admissions to probation and conditional sentences. In 1998-99, there were approximately 78,819 probation admissions and 14,236 admissions to conditional sentences in Canada. As mentioned, Aboriginal persons account for only 2% of the adult population, but in 1998-99 they represented 13% of admissions to probation (see Table 8) and 11% of conditional sentence admissions.

<sup>22</sup> See Thomas (2000)

**Aboriginal women account for almost one-quarter of female inmates<sup>23</sup>**

Women comprise a relatively small proportion of those in provincial and territorial jails and federal prisons. According to the October 1996 "One-day Snapshot" of inmates,<sup>24</sup> females accounted for 5% of inmates on-register in Canadian correctional facilities (1,807 women out of 37,541 inmates). In provincial/territorial facilities, 7% of the inmates were women, and in federal facilities, less than 2% of the inmates were women. Aboriginal female inmates accounted for almost one-quarter (23%) of the female inmate population (23% of female provincial and territorial inmates and 20% of female federal inmates). In contrast, Aboriginal males accounted for 18% of the male inmate population (18% of provincial and territorial inmates and 14% of federal inmates).

**Aboriginal adult inmates are more likely to be incarcerated for crimes against the person**

Results from the Snapshot survey also showed that Aboriginal inmates were incarcerated more often for crimes against the person (e.g., serious assault, sexual assault, minor assault, robbery) than non-Aboriginal inmates (42% compared to 31% in provincial and territorial facilities, and 79% versus 72% in federal facilities).

**Aboriginal inmates are younger, have less education, more likely to be unemployed**

Aboriginal inmates were also younger, had less education, and were more likely to be unemployed than non-Aboriginal inmates. The median age of Aboriginal provincial and territorial inmates was three years younger than for non-Aboriginal inmates (29 versus 32); while the median age for federally incarcerated inmates was four years younger (31 compared to 35). Similarly, whereas 48% of Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial custody and 56% of those in federal custody had grade 9 or less, this was the case for 31% of non-Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial custody

and 43% of those in federal custody. Finally, 70% of Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial custody and 53% of those in federal custody were unemployed at the time of admission. In contrast, 47% of non-Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial custody and 40% of those in federal custody were unemployed.

**Aboriginal inmates are considered higher risk to re-offend and have higher needs<sup>25</sup>**

Aboriginal inmates are considered higher risk to re-offend and had higher needs than non-Aboriginal inmates. According to the 1996 One-day Snapshot study, 57% of Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial facilities were classified as high risk to re-offend, as compared to 44% of non-Aboriginal inmates. Similarly, 69% of Aboriginal inmates in federal facilities were classified as high risk, as compared to 57% of non-Aboriginal inmates. Aboriginal inmates in provincial and territorial facilities scored higher on all need dimensions, substance abuse and employment in particular. At the federal level, Aboriginal inmates

scored higher on four of seven dimensions. These include substance abuse, personal needs, employment, and family/marital needs.

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<sup>23</sup> The data presented in the following sections are based on a "One-Day Snapshot" survey of all inmates who were on-register in adult correctional facilities on Saturday, October 5th, 1996. See Finn, Trevethan, Carrière and Kowalski (1999)

<sup>24</sup> It should be noted that these data are based on inmates who were in a facility on one particular day. As such, generalizations should be made with caution.

<sup>25</sup> Risk refers to the probability that an offender will engage in criminal behaviour in the future. An overall index of risk combined information regarding the extent of criminal history with ratings on seven need dimensions. The criminal history factors examined included number of previous convictions, previous incarcerations, number of current offences, negative outcome on community supervision, and history of escape from custody. The need factors examined included substance abuse, personal/emotional, community functioning, attitude, social interaction, marital/family and employment. See Finn, Trevethan, Carrière and Kowalski (1999)

Table 1

**Selected characteristics of Aboriginal people, by area of residence, 1996**

	Off reserve				On reserve <sup>1</sup>	Total
	Census Metropolitan Areas	Other urban areas	Rural	Total off reserve		
<b>Total population</b>	221,295	173,990	171,580	566,865	232,145	799,010
<b>As % of the total population</b>	1.3	3.1	2.8	2.0	89.3	2.8
<b>% aged</b>						
Less than 15	32.1	35.2	35.1	34.0	37.9	35.1
15-24	17.9	18.9	17.1	17.9	18.2	18.0
25-44	34.2	31.0	29.0	31.7	27.6	30.4
45-64	13.1	12.0	14.4	13.2	12.1	12.9
65 and over	2.7	3.0	4.3	3.3	4.2	3.5
<b>Percentage living with family<sup>2</sup></b>	83.2	88.9	92.2	87.7	94.2	89.6
<b>Percentage of seniors living with extended family<sup>2</sup></b>	13.8	11.7	14.0	13.3	20.2	15.6
<b>Percentage of seniors living alone</b>	36.6	32.6	21.3	29.4	18.5	25.7
<b>Percentage of women aged 15-44 who are lone parents</b>	25.0	23.1	11.4	20.7	12.5	18.6
<b>Percentage able to speak an Aboriginal language</b>	10.9	15.7	31.7	18.7	55.2	29.3
<b>Percentage speaking an Aboriginal language at home<sup>3</sup></b>	1.3	4.0	18.8	7.4	33.7	15.1
<b>Percentage aged 15-24 attending school</b>	54.0	54.0	51.1	53.2	43.8	50.4
<b>% with less than grade 9</b>	11.5	14.3	23.8	16.0	29.1	19.7
<b>% with university degree</b>	5.8	2.9	2.4	3.9	1.8	3.3
<b>Percentage employed</b>	47.9	47.1	46.8	47.3	36.5	44.3
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	21.3	23.9	22.6	22.4	28.8	24.0
<b>Average income (\$)</b>	17,087	17,319	16,784	17,067	12,262	15,699
<b>% with 1995 income below \$10,000<sup>4</sup></b>	41.9	42.1	43.9	42.6	54.1	45.8
<b>% of income from employment sources</b>	55.9	59.2	61.3	58.4	45.4	54.8
<b>% of income from government transfers</b>	40.3	37.0	34.7	37.7	47.6	40.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes reserves in urban areas. Does not include an estimated 44,000 people living in incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and settlements.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to people living with members of their extended family.

<sup>3</sup> Includes multiple responses, that is, people who speak both a non-Aboriginal and an Aboriginal language at home.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include those with no income in 1995.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2

**Selected characteristics of Aboriginal people, by province and territory, 1996**

	Canada	Total Atlantic provinces	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta	B.C.	Yuk.	N.T.	Nun.
<b>Total population<sup>1</sup></b>	799,010	37,785	71,415	141,520	128,680	111,245	122,835	139,655	6,175	19,005	20,690
<b>As % of the total population</b>	2.8	1.6	1.0	1.3	11.7	11.4	4.6	3.8	20.1	48.2	83.9
<b>% aged</b>											
Less than 15	35.1	32.2	30.7	31.1	37.4	41.7	36.9	32.1	31.2	36.3	42.7
15-24	18.0	18.8	17.2	17.7	18.4	18.4	18.1	17.7	15.1	17.2	19.0
25-44	30.4	32.2	31.4	32.7	28.8	26.5	30.7	32.5	35.4	29.2	25.6
45-64	12.9	13.2	15.9	14.7	11.9	10.1	11.6	14.0	13.7	12.3	10.3
65 and over	3.5	3.6	4.9	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.6	4.5	4.9	2.4
<b>Percentage living with family<sup>2</sup></b>	89.6	91.7	89.9	88.1	90.1	91.8	90.0	86.4	87.7	92.1	96.4
<b>Percentage of seniors living with extended family<sup>1</sup></b>	15.6	19.3	14.5	13.2	16.9	16.7	16.7	16.2	8.9	14.1	15.3
<b>Percentage of seniors living alone</b>	25.7	18.8	22.9	32.0	25.8	25.6	25.1	25.3	30.4	21.7	7.1
<b>Percentage of women aged 15-44 who are lone parents</b>	18.6	15.6	14.0	18.4	20.7	23.0	18.3	19.0	18.1	12.8	9.6
<b>Percentage able to speak an Aboriginal language</b>	29.3	26.4	49.0	19.4	34.0	35.2	26.7	12.9	18.6	39.6	93.2
<b>Percentage speaking an Aboriginal language at home<sup>3</sup></b>	15.1	14.8	40.7	8.4	18.3	16.1	10.0	1.4	2.8	16.7	70.9
<b>Percentage aged 15-24 attending school</b>	50.4	52.7	49.4	56.0	44.1	50.4	50.0	51.6	54.8	54.4	43.8
<b>% with less than grade 9</b>	19.7	18.5	29.1	15.0	22.9	23.1	16.5	13.9	13.9	30.1	39.0
<b>% with university degree</b>	3.3	4.7	3.8	4.3	2.9	3.9	2.6	2.9	3.1	1.6	0.7
<b>Percentage employed</b>	44.3	40.3	42.6	48.0	40.2	37.7	48.2	46.2	52.9	48.5	46.4
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	24.0	31.0	24.6	20.9	25.5	26.0	21.2	25.4	26.2	23.3	21.0
<b>Average income (\$)</b>	15,699	14,983	16,610	17,886	13,361	12,744	15,409	16,674	19,312	..	..
<b>% with 1995 income below \$10,000<sup>4</sup></b>	45.8	46.4	42.4	38.8	50.7	54.3	47.4	44.1	37.4	40.8	47.8
<b>% of income from employment sources</b>	70.2	..	66.8	71.4	66.5	63.4	74.6	71.8	79.0	..	..
<b>% of income from government transfers</b>	26.1	..	29.1	24.2	30.7	33.3	22.2	24.2	18.6	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Includes multiple Aboriginal responses, as well as those who do not consider themselves an Aboriginal person but who are Registered Indian and/or Band/First Nation members.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to people living with members of their extended family.

<sup>3</sup> Includes multiple responses, that is, people who speak both a non-Aboriginal and an Aboriginal language at home.

<sup>4</sup> Includes people whose 1995 total income was less than \$10,000. Does not include people who had no income in 1995.

.. Figures not available

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 3

**Selected characteristics of Aboriginal people, by group, 1996**

	Total Aboriginal population <sup>1</sup>	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal population
<b>Total population</b>	799,010	529,035	204,115	40,225	27,729,115
<b>As % of the total population</b>	2.8	1.9	0.7	0.1	97.2
<b>% aged</b>					
Less than 15	35.1	36.0	31.4	41.3	20.3
15-24	18.0	17.8	18.3	18.8	13.4
25-44	30.4	30.2	32.0	27.0	32.7
45-64	12.9	12.4	14.4	10.4	21.9
65 and over	3.5	3.5	3.8	2.4	11.7
<b>Percentage living with family<sup>2</sup></b>	89.6	89.9	87.8	94.8	87.1
<b>Percentage of seniors living with extended family</b>	15.6	16.8	12.7	14.4	7.4
<b>Percentage of seniors living alone</b>	25.7	24.8	30.3	8.4	28.7
<b>Percentage of women aged 15-44 who are lone parents</b>	18.6	19.0	19.0	10.7	8.3
<b>Percentage able to speak an Aboriginal language</b>	29.3	34.7	8.8	72.7	..
<b>Percentage speaking an Aboriginal language at home<sup>3</sup></b>	18.2	20.7	3.4	57.5	..
<b>Percentage aged 15-24 attending school</b>	50.4	50.0	52.8	45.4	65.8
<b>% with less than grade 9</b>	19.7	20.5	15.0	33.4	11.9
<b>% with university degree</b>	3.3	3.2	3.9	1.3	13.4
<b>Percentage employed</b>	44.3	41.2	51.6	47.0	59.2
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	24.0	25.9	20.4	21.7	9.8
<b>Average income (\$)</b>	15,699	14,864	17,639	16,819	25,414
<b>% with 1995 income below \$10,000<sup>4</sup></b>	45.8	47.7	41.1	46.0	27.4
<b>% of income from employment sources</b>	70.2	67.9	74.3	74.9	75.4
<b>% of income from government transfers</b>	26.1	28.6	21.5	22.0	13.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes multiple Aboriginal responses, as well as those who do not consider themselves an Aboriginal person but who are Registered Indian and/or Band/First Nation members.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to people living with members of their immediate and/or extended family.

<sup>3</sup> Includes multiple responses, that is, people who speak both a non-Aboriginal and an Aboriginal language at home.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include those with no income in 1995.

.. Figures not available

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 4

**Feelings of safety from crime by Aboriginal status<sup>1,2</sup>, 1999**

	% of population	
	Aboriginal population	Non-Aboriginal population
<b>While waiting for/using public transportation alone after dark, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Not at all worried	60	54
Somewhat worried	32	39
Very worried	--	7
Don't know/Not stated	--	--
<b>How safe do you feel from crime when walking alone in your area after dark?</b>		
Very safe	43	43
Reasonably safe	45	46
Somewhat or very unsafe	12	11
Don't know/Not stated	--	--
<b>While alone in your home in the evening or at night, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Not at all worried	76	80
Somewhat worried	21	18
Very worried	3	2
Don't know/Not stated	--	--
<b>In general, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Very satisfied	39	45
Somewhat satisfied	50	47
Somewhat dissatisfied	5 <sup>†</sup>	4
Very dissatisfied	3 <sup>†</sup>	2
Don't know/Not stated	--	2

<sup>1</sup> Includes only respondents who engaged in these activities.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes responses of those whose Aboriginal status was not known or refused.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

**Note:** <sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 5

## Perceptions of the justice system among the Aboriginal population aged 15+, 1999

	Aboriginal population 15+									
	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/ Not stated	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/ Not stated
	(000s)					%				
<b>What kind of job are your local police doing at ...</b>										
Being approachable?	469	274	117	40 <sup>†</sup>	39 <sup>†</sup>	100	58	25	8 <sup>†</sup>	8 <sup>†</sup>
Ensuring the safety of citizens?	469	258	146	44 <sup>†</sup>	21 <sup>†</sup>	100	55	31	9 <sup>†</sup>	4 <sup>†</sup>
Enforcing the laws?	469	223	167	62	17 <sup>†</sup>	100	48	36	13	4 <sup>†</sup>
Supplying information on reducing crime?	469	216	143	68	43 <sup>†</sup>	100	46	31	14	9 <sup>†</sup>
Responding promptly to calls?	469	202	121	79	67	100	43	26	17	14
<b>What kind of job are criminal courts doing at ...</b>										
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused?	469	172	187	62	48	100	37	40	13	10
Determining the guilt of the accused?	469	98	196	116	59	100	21	42	25	12
Helping the victim?	469	94	161	167	48	100	20	34	36	10
Providing justice quickly?	469	81	148	195	45	100	17	32	42	10
<b>What kind of job is the prison system doing at ...</b>										
Supervising/controlling prisoners?	469	119	141	116	93	100	25	30	25	20
Helping prisoners become law-abiding?	469	65	151	150	104	100	14	32	32	22
<b>What kind of job is the parole system doing at ...</b>										
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend?	469	74	158	161	77	100	16	34	34	16
Supervising offenders on parole?	469	62	139	169	99	100	13	30	36	21

**Note:** <sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.  
 Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.



Table 6

**Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey, 1998-99  
Admissions to Remand, Custody and Probation by Aboriginal Status<sup>1</sup>**

Jurisdiction		% Aboriginal			
		Remand <sup>2</sup>	Secure Custody <sup>3</sup>	Open Custody <sup>4</sup>	Probation <sup>5</sup>
Newfoundland	Total	3	3	10	5
	Male	3	2	11	5
	Female	2	4	4	7
Prince Edward Island	Total	-	-	-	1
	Male	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	Total	5	6	4	5
	Male	5	7	3	4
	Female	6	-	9	7
New Brunswick	Total	..	..	..	4
	Male	..	..	..	4
	Female	..	..	..	6
Ontario 12-15	Total	..	10	8	7
	Male	..	10	7	6
	Female	..	11	13	10
Ontario 16-17	Total	9	13	10	8
	Male	8	11	10	6
	Female	16	26	11	13
Manitoba	Total	69	71	76	..
	Male	66	68	73	..
	Female	80	94	89	..
Saskatchewan	Total	..	67	72	56
	Male	..	68	71	52
	Female	..	65	74	68
Alberta	Total	33	36	37	25
	Male	31	36	35	23
	Female	40	38	45	32
British Columbia	Total	22	23	23	17
	Male	20	22	20	16
	Female	27	26	35	20
Yukon	Total	57	50	54	52
	Male	51	49	42	48
	Female	76	56	86	61
Northwest Territories	Total	71	64	89	..
	Male	88	62	89	..
	Female	88	76	88	..
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total - Males</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total - Females</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data unavailable for Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

<sup>2</sup> Aboriginal status was unknown in some jurisdictions; ranged from 0-17%

<sup>3</sup> Aboriginal status was unknown in some jurisdictions; ranged from 0-29%

<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal status was unknown in some jurisdictions; ranged from 0-18%

<sup>5</sup> Aboriginal status was unknown in some jurisdictions; ranged from 0-45%

.. Figures not available.

- Number is nil or zero.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1998-99 Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Table 7

**Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, 1989-90 to 1998-99  
Admissions to Custody by Aboriginal Status**

Jurisdiction	% Aboriginal									
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Newfoundland	4	3	3	5	5	5	7	8	7	6
Prince Edward Island <sup>1</sup>	3	4	2	4	3	3	3	3	0	..
Nova Scotia	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	5
New Brunswick	5	5	5	7	6	6	6	5	4	5
Quebec	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2
Ontario	8	8	8	8	7	7	8	9	9	10
Manitoba	47	49	50	51	53	55	55	58	61	59
Saskatchewan	66	68	66	69	72	71	72	74	72	76
Alberta	31	34	33	33	34	34	36	39	39	38
British Columbia	19	18	19	16	15	17	17	18	16	20
Yukon	65	63	63	64	62	58	64	59	77	49
Northwest Territories	88	91	90	90	90	90	..	..	..	..
<b>Provincial/Territorial Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for 1994-95 and 1996-97.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes NWT because data were not available for all years.

.. Figures not available.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1989-90 to 1998-99 Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 8

**Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, 1989-90 to 1998-99  
Admissions to Probation by Aboriginal Status**

Jurisdiction	% Aboriginal									
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Newfoundland	11	7	6	6	6	7	9	6	6	6
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	5	5	4	3	3	4	4	5	5	4
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	8
Ontario <sup>1</sup>	4	3	3	4	5	5	7	8	7	7
Manitoba <sup>2</sup>	43	44	43	44	55	47	47	47	47	..
Saskatchewan	56	58	58	56	58	62	56	62	61	63
Alberta	21	23	24	23	23	23	22	21	24	20
British Columbia	15	17	17	16	15	15	16	15	16	17
Yukon	60	65	71	72	79	81	69	88	96	80
Northwest Territories	91	93	93	91	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Provincial/Territorial Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimate for 1992-93.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates for 1996-97 and 1997-98.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes PEI, NB and NWT because data were not available for all years.

.. Figures not available.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 1989-90 to 1998-99.