



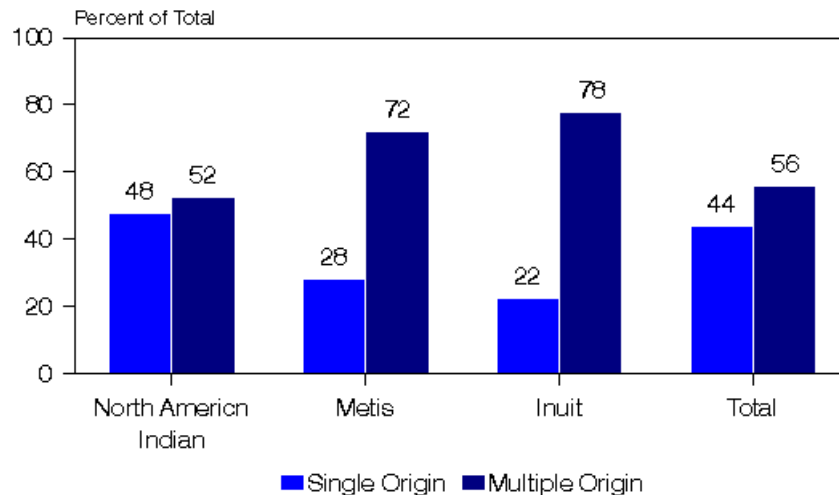
Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 19: Aboriginal Children

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- In 1991, 5.2% of the population of British Columbia reported an Aboriginal ethnic origin. Of these 169,040 persons, 44% reported having a single Aboriginal ancestry while 56% reported multiple ancestries, most of which were a combination of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins.
- The majority of Aboriginal people living in B.C., 85.8%, are North American Indians. Of those, 48% are of single origin. British Columbia reported the highest number of single origin North American Indians of all the provinces at 69,060.

Over Half of All Aboriginal Peoples in B.C. Reported Multiple Origins



- Of the Aboriginal population living on Indian reserves, 92% are of single origin. Forty-seven per cent of all people reporting a single aboriginal origin live on reserve.
- The population reporting an Aboriginal origin increased 33.5% between 1986 and 1991, with single origin responses increasing by 21.8% and multiple origins by 44.4%. These increases may be exaggerated for a number of reasons. In 1986 there were more incompletely enumerated Indian reserves than in the 1991 Census. This would have created a relatively higher number of unenumerated Aboriginals in the 1986 Census, especially for those in the single ethnic response category. Also, the measurement of ethnicity is affected by other factors such as awareness of family background and confusion with concepts such as citizenship, nationality, language or identity. The increase in the responses for Aboriginal origins is likely a combination of true increase, improved enumeration and various social and personal considerations.

Aboriginal Population of British Columbia, Showing Single and Multiple Responses, 1991

	Single Origin	% Change 1991/1986	Multiple Origin	% Change 1991/1986	Total	% Change 1991/1986
North American Indian	69,060	21.3	75,990	41.9	145,050	31.2
Metis	5,065	28.9	13,040	42.7	18,105	38.6
Inuit	295	22.9	1,030	106.0	1,325	79.1
Other Multiple	-	-	4,560	97.4	4,560	97.4
Total	74,420	21.8	94,620	44.4	169,040	33.5

Definition of Single and Multiple Aboriginal Origins:

Single Origin:

Persons who reported only one Aboriginal Origin.

Multiple Origins:

Persons who reported one Aboriginal Origin and one or more non-Aboriginal origin.

Other Multiple:

Persons reporting two or more Aboriginal origins with or without a non-Aboriginal origin.

Source: 1991 Census of Canada