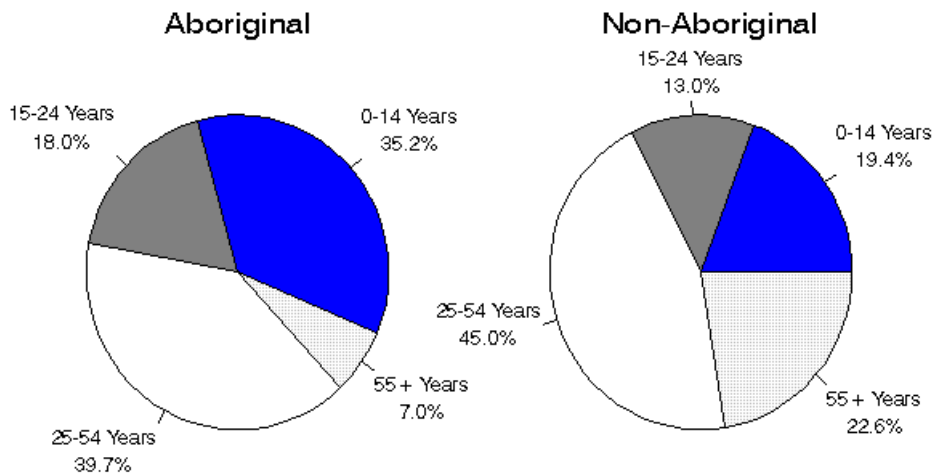


Issue 21: Aboriginal Demographics

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- The age make-up of the Aboriginal community is notably different from that of the non-aboriginal population.
- British Columbia's Aboriginal population is young and growing. Of the 169,040 Native Indians in the province, over 35 per cent are under 15 years of age, compared to 19 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.

The Aboriginal Community is Younger Than the Rest of B.C.



- Although the fertility rate of Aboriginal women is still higher than that of non-Aboriginal women, the gap between the two has been narrowing over time and forecasters expect that trend will continue.
- Whereas the population of young Aboriginals is relatively higher than that of non-Aboriginals, the reverse is seen in the elderly population. Aboriginals 55 years of age and over constitute only 7 per cent of the population while in the non-Native community, the elderly account for almost 23 per cent of the total population.

Age Structure of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population of B.C.

	Age Group	Aboriginal Population	% Dist	Non Aboriginal Population	% Dist
1991	0-14	59,580	35.2	602,665	19.4
	15-24	30,405	18.0	405,700	13.0
	25-54	67,160	39.7	1,400,350	45.0
	55+	11,910	7.0	704,285	22.6
	Total	169,040	100.0	3,113,025	100.0
1986	0-14	44,445	35.1	545,825	20.0
	15-24	26,135	20.6	410,270	15.1
	25-54	47,320	37.4	1,176,250	43.2
	55+	8,720	6.9	590,615	21.7
	Total	126,625	100.0	2,722,965	100.0
1981	0-14	30,785	37.3	557,090	21.2
	15-24	19,340	23.4	469,175	17.8
	25-54	27,020	32.7	1,079,035	41.0
	55+	5,495	6.6	525,665	20.0
	Total	82,640	100.0	2,630,965	100.0

Source: 1991 Census of Canada