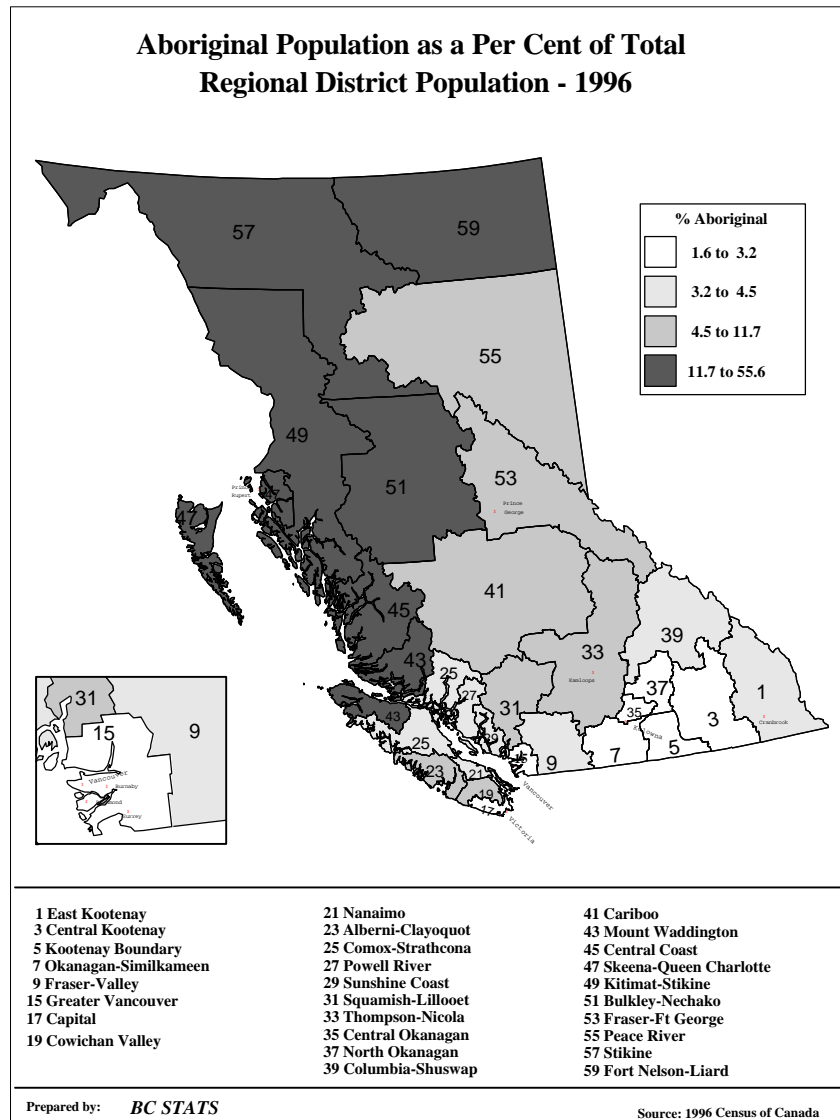


BC STATS

1996 Census Fast Facts

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Focus on BC Aboriginals: Where They Live



- In British Columbia, 3.8 per cent of the population reported an aboriginal identity in the 1996 Census.
- Over one-half, 52.9 per cent, of the total aboriginal population live in the south/east corner of the province; the lower mainland and Vancouver Island.
- It follows that with almost fifty per cent of the total population living in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), the highest number of Aboriginals, 22.3 per cent, also live in the GVRD. However, relative to the total population in the GVRD, the aboriginal population account for only 1.7 per cent.

- North American Indians represented 76.9 per cent of the population reporting an aboriginal identity. In past Censuses when ethnic origin rather than ‘identity’ was asked, the per cent reporting North American Indian was much higher. The 1996 Census recorded a large increase in the per cent of the population reporting a Métis identity, 18.3 per cent. Over time, the definition of Métis has shifted from an exclusive mixture of French Canadian and Aboriginal to include different mixtures of aboriginal and other ethnic groups. This could be a factor in the large increase in the number of Métis in the province.
- As the map at the beginning of this article indicates, the Regional Districts that have the highest ratio of aboriginal population are in the coastal and northern regions of the province (ie. Central Coast, Skeena-Queen Charlotte, Kitimat-Stikine and Stikine).
- The Central Coast Regional District reports the highest proportion of aboriginal population to total population at 55.6 per cent.

Other 1996 Census Fast Facts Available on BC Aboriginal People

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Title</u>
2	Population Living on Indian Reserves
10	Aboriginal Identity
11	Aboriginals - A Youthful Population
13	Aboriginals Living On-Reserve/Off Reserve
14	Living Arrangements of Aboriginals

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Canada

Prepared by: BC STATS.



Aboriginal Identity in British Columbia - 1996

<u>Regional District</u>	<u>Total Population</u>		<u>Aboriginal Population</u>			<u>North American Indian</u>		<u>Metis</u>		<u>Multiple & Other</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of BC</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of BC</u>	<u>% of Region</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
East Kootenay	55,975	1.5	2,110	1.5	3.8	1,330	63.0	745	35.3	40	1.9
Central Kootenay	57,535	1.6	1,350	1.0	2.3	845	62.6	470	34.8	35	2.6
Kootenay Boundary	32,535	0.9	525	0.4	1.6	250	47.6	270	51.4	10	1.9
Okanagan-Similkameen	75,205	2.0	2,040	1.5	2.7	1,490	73.0	510	25.0	30	1.5
Fraser Valley	218,750	5.9	9,090	6.5	4.2	7,115	78.3	1,600	17.6	375	4.1
Greater Vancouver	1,813,935	49.2	31,140	22.3	1.7	21,280	68.3	8,150	26.2	1,715	5.5
Capital	313,605	8.5	6,920	5.0	2.2	5,005	72.3	1,630	23.6	290	4.2
Cowichan Valley	70,525	1.9	5,655	4.0	8.0	4,805	85.0	660	11.7	185	3.3
Nanaimo	120,785	3.3	4,230	3.0	3.5	2,950	69.7	965	22.8	320	7.6
Alberni-Clayoquot	31,435	0.9	3,690	2.6	11.7	3,170	85.9	395	10.7	120	3.3
Comox-Strathcona	97,385	2.6	4,220	3.0	4.3	3,375	80.0	690	16.4	155	3.7
Powell River	19,760	0.5	845	0.6	4.3	685	81.1	95	11.2	55	6.5
Sunshine Coast	24,785	0.7	1,120	0.8	4.5	940	83.9	110	9.8	60	5.4
Squamish-Lillooet	29,315	0.8	2,430	1.7	8.3	2,210	90.9	180	7.4	45	1.9
Thompson-Nicola	117,980	3.2	9,985	7.1	8.5	8,205	82.2	1,315	13.2	460	4.6
Central Okanagan	135,280	3.7	2,785	2.0	2.1	1,695	60.9	975	35.0	105	3.8
North Okanagan	70,845	1.9	2,300	1.6	3.2	1,630	70.9	575	25.0	100	4.3
Columbia-Shuswap	47,765	1.3	1,745	1.2	3.7	1,060	60.7	525	30.1	165	9.5
Cariboo	66,225	1.8	5,895	4.2	8.9	4,705	79.8	890	15.1	295	5.0
Mount Waddington	14,590	0.4	2,460	1.8	16.9	2,225	90.4	110	4.5	125	5.1
Central Coast	3,915	0.1	2,175	1.6	55.6	2,095	96.3	30	1.4	50	2.3
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	24,705	0.7	8,120	5.8	32.9	7,515	92.5	165	2.0	445	5.5
Kitimat-Stikine	43,445	1.2	10,210	7.3	23.5	9,495	93.0	285	2.8	430	4.2
Bulkley-Nechako	41,510	1.1	5,660	4.1	13.6	5,000	88.3	340	6.0	315	5.6
Fraser-Fort George	98,505	2.7	6,355	4.6	6.5	4,070	64.0	1,880	29.6	405	6.4
Peace River	56,205	1.5	5,135	3.7	9.1	2,970	57.8	1,875	36.5	290	5.6
Stikine	1,390	0.0	560	0.4	40.3	540	96.4	10	1.8	15	2.7
Fort Nelson-Liard	5,855	0.2	890	0.6	15.2	715	80.3	125	14.0	50	5.6
British Columbia	3,689,755	100.0	139,655	100.0	3.8	107,370	76.9	25,575	18.3	6,710	4.8

Prepared by: BC STATS
Source: 1996 Census of Canada

* Multiple & Other includes Inuit, Multiple Aboriginal, and others who are Registered Indians or members of an Indian Band.