

StatsUpdate

Topic: **Mother Tongue and Language Spoken Most Often at Home**
 2011 Census of Population
 Released by Statistics Canada, October 24, 2012

Background: In 2011, Inuktitut was the most predominant mother tongue in Nunavut, with **21,230** persons declaring it as their only mother tongue, followed by English, with **8,925** persons. About **285** people declared that Inuinnaqtun was their only mother tongue.

The proportion of persons in Nunavut whose only mother tongue was Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun was **68%** in 2011, down from 2006. The proportion of Nunavummiut who spoke Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun most often at home also declined slightly during that five year period, from **54%** in 2006 to **52%** in 2011.

Although English was the only mother tongue of about **28%** of Nunavut residents in 2011, it was the language spoken most often at home for **46%** of the population.

Detail:

Population by Mother Tongue and Language Spoken Most Often at Home, for Nunavut , 2006 and 2011 Censuses				
	Mother Tongue		Language Spoken Most Often at Home	
	2011	2006	2011	2006
Total Population	31,765	29,325	31,765	29,325
Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun Only	21,515	20,480	16,595	15,695
Inuktitut Only	21,230	20,185	16,495	15,645
Inuinnaqtun Only	285	295	100	50
English Only	8,925	7,770	14,440	12,955
French Only	435	370	245	205
Other Language only	530	405	210	115
English and Non-Official Language	310	260	230	315
Other Multiple Responses	25	40	20	35

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2011 Censuses of Population, Catalogues #98-314-XCB2011049 and #94-577-XCB2006001.

Notes:

1. **Mother Tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
2. **Language Spoken Most Often at Home** refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.
3. Data may not add to totals due to random rounding.

StatsUpdate

Background: In 2011, Inuktitut was the mother tongue of almost 7 out of 10 persons in Nunavut. This proportion was the highest amongst Nunavummiut aged 65 years and over, where about **80%** of persons in that age group declared having Inuktitut as their only mother tongue. Youths aged 15 to 24 years had the second highest proportion of Inuktitut as their only mother tongue at **72%**. On the other hand, adults aged 55 to 64 years had the lowest proportion (**57%**) of all age groups to have Inuktitut as their only mother tongue.

Detail:

Population by Selected Mother Tongues and by Age Groups, Nunavut, 2011 Census					
	Total Population	Inuktitut Only	Inuinnaqtun Only	English Only	French Only
Total Age Groups	31,770	21,225	285	8,925	435
0 to 4 years	3,965	2,685	5	1,185	10
5 to 9 years	3,335	2,235	5	1,035	15
10 to 14 years	3,110	2,180	10	855	5
15 to 24 years	5,975	4,285	30	1,515	40
25 to 39 years	6,940	4,400	40	2,120	150
40 to 54 years	5,380	3,445	105	965	95
55 to 64 years	2,035	1,160	50	655	65
65 years and over	1,045	835	50	125	10

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, Catalogue #98-314-XCB201103

Notes:

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