

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples

2016 Census

ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

New data from the 2016 Census shows Saskatchewan's population of self-identified Aboriginals was 175,020 or 16.3% of the total population. This was the second highest proportion among provinces, following Manitoba.

The largest component in this group remains members of the First Nations people of the province. In the 2016 Census, 114,570 individuals reported this single identity which corresponds to 10.7% of the population, the highest among provinces. The self-identified Métis population was 57,875 persons, or 5.4% of the population, which trails only Manitoba among provinces. There were also 360 individuals in the province that identified as Inuit.

In the 2006 Census, 141,890 persons self-identified as Aboriginal. Of these, 91,400 self-identified as First Nations people, while 48,115 self-identified as Métis. Additionally, 215 individuals self-identified as Inuit.

Table 1 highlights provincial shares of Aboriginal population for the 2016 Census.

FIRST NATIONS OVERVIEW

Of the 114,570 self-identified First Nations individuals living in Saskatchewan in 2016, 54,460, or 47.5% lived on reserve.

In 2016, 15,775 individuals, or 5.5% of the population of the City of Saskatoon self-identified as First Nations. For the City of Regina 13,150 persons or 5.7% self-identified as First Nations, while for the City of Prince Albert similar figures were 9,045 persons or 21.3%.

In 2006, 5.4 per cent of the population of the City of Saskatoon self-identified as First Nations. The similar totals for the Cities of Regina and Prince Albert were 5.2% and 18.0% respectively.

MÉTIS OVERVIEW

Of the 57,875 Métis persons identified by the 2016 Census, 14,900 live in the City of Saskatoon, making up 5.2% of the total population. In the City of Regina, 7,975 persons, or 3.4% of the total population are Métis. In Prince Albert the Métis comprise 7,570 persons, or 17.9% of the City's population.

In 2006, 4.3% of the population of the City of Saskatoon self-identified as Métis. The similar totals for the Cities of Regina and Prince Albert were 3.8% and 17.1% respectively.

Table 1: Percentage of Canadians Self-Identifying as Aboriginal by Province or Territory, 2016 Census

	CAN	NFLD	PEI	NS	NB	QUE	ONT	MAN	SASK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
First Nations	2.8%	5.5%	1.3%	2.8%	2.4%	1.2%	1.8%	10.5%	10.7%	3.4%	3.8%	19.0%	32.1%	0.5%
Métis	1.7%	1.5%	0.5%	2.6%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	7.2%	5.4%	2.9%	2.0%	2.9%	8.2%	0.5%
Inuit	0.2%	1.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.6%	9.9%	84.7%

Does not include other or multiple Aboriginal identities

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

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ABORIGINAL AGE DISTRIBUTION

In the 2016 Census, the average age of self-identified Aboriginals living in Saskatchewan is 28.2 years, significantly lower than for non-Aboriginals at 40.6 years.

In the 2016 Census, 74,445 Aboriginals in Saskatchewan were under the age of 19, or 42.5% of the total Aboriginal population. Among the non-Aboriginal population, there were 205,320 individuals under the age of 19, or 22.9% of the non-Aboriginal population.

In the 2006 Census, 66,710 individuals self-identified as Aboriginals in Saskatchewan in 2006 were in the 0-19 age group, or 47.0% of the total. The corresponding percentage for the non-Aboriginal population was 24.1%.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

In the 2016 Census, 37,870 individuals self-identifying as Aboriginal indicated having knowledge of at least one Aboriginal language, including 26,895 individuals with knowledge of at least one Cree language, 9,070 with knowledge of the Dene language, 1,290 with knowledge of Ojibway and 505 with knowledge of a Siouan language. Finally, 28,100 persons or 16.1% of all self-identified Aboriginals indicated having an Aboriginal language as one of their mother tongues.

Data in this report are based on the 2016 Census of Canada and the 2006 Census of Canada, which may not be directly comparable due to methodological changes. For more details, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics at (306) 787-6327 or visit www.stats.gov.sk.ca.