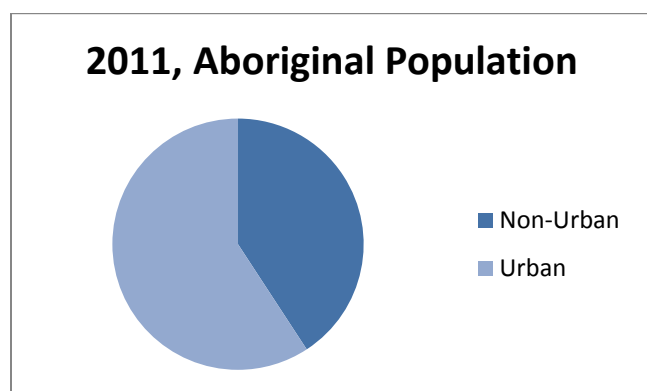


The Urban Aboriginal Population is Young and Growing in Canada

According to the 2006 Census, 54% of Aboriginal peoples lived in urban areas. According to the National Household Survey (NHS) 2011, nearly 60% of Aboriginal peoples lived in urban areas.



In 2011, about 27% of urban Aboriginal peoples were 15 years of age or younger, compared to about 17% of the urban Canadian population. About 13.6% of the urban Canadian population is 65 years of age or older, compared to about 6% of urban Aboriginal peoples. (NHS 2011, NAFC Tabulations)

Urban Aboriginal Education Levels are Improving

The 2011 NHS shows that attainment rates for First Nations people, Inuit and Métis at the trades and college levels are comparable to non-Aboriginal attainment rates. Still, many Aboriginal peoples do not finish high school, and their university completion rates lag behind those of the non-Aboriginal population.

In 2012, 72% of First Nations people living off reserve, 42% of Inuit and 77% of Metis aged 18-44 had a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 89% of the non-Aboriginal population. (Statistics Canada, 2013)



Student Support is Important

Those who completed high school reported feeling safe and happy at their school compared to leavers, and those who completed were more likely to report receiving support from school staff during their last year in school.

Of those who completed high school, 9-15% left school at least once before obtaining their high school diploma. Males commonly dropped out due to a desire to work, money problems, school problems and lack of interest, females cited pregnancy or child care responsibility as a major reason for leaving. Those who returned did so because they “realized the value of an education/wanted a diploma.” (Statistics Canada, 2013)

Aboriginal Employment and Education Gaps Remain

In 2012, 43% of off-reserve First Nations people, 26% of Inuit and 47% of Métis aged 18-44 had a post-secondary qualification; the 2011 NHS reported a figure of 64% for non-Aboriginal people.

Employment outcomes for those who completed high school were significantly better, than those who did not complete: 72% versus 47% for off-reserve First Nations people, 71% versus 44% for Inuit, and 80% versus 61% for Métis.

Many reported shortage of jobs, lack of education or training and work experience as reasons for not being able to find work.

One highlight these numbers reveal is that there is a strong desire for Aboriginal people to pursue further education. 65% of off reserve First Nation people, 55% of Inuit and 59% of Métis planned to pursue further education. (Statistics Canada, 2013)

Traditional Activities Remain Focal

Participation in traditional activities were lower for Aboriginal peoples living in urban areas, as compared to off-reserve rural areas; 71% of off reserve, rural Aboriginal people over the age of 15, compared to 54.9-64.9% of urban Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal peoples living in small urban areas were more likely to engage in traditional activities than those living in large urban areas. (APS 2012, NAFC Tabulations)





Impact of Friendship Centres

In any one year, Friendship Centres across Canada serve over 2.3 million client contacts through 1,493 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a First Nation, Métis, Inuit or non-Aboriginal.

62% of off-reserve Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over lived in Friendship Centre Catchment Areas in 2006 (APS 2006, NAFC Catchment Area Analysis)

For more information visit: www.uakn.org

