

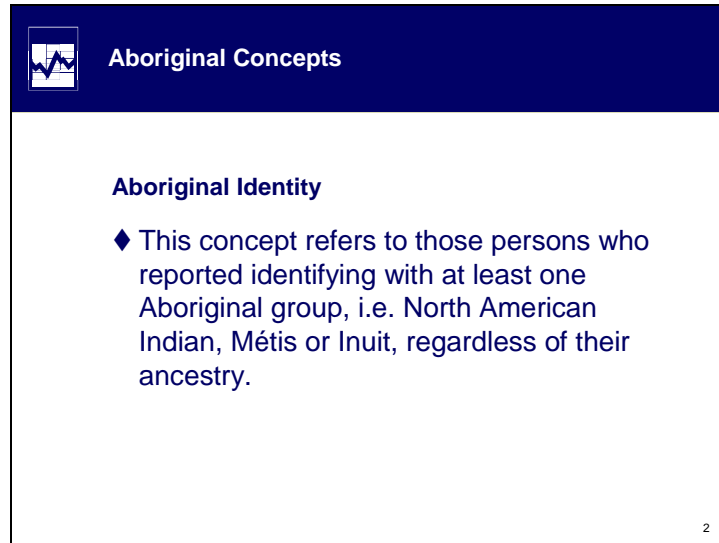
Slide 1



**A profile of Canada's North
American Indian population with
legal Indian status**

**Statistics Canada
November 2004**

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The slide features a dark blue header with a white line graph icon on the left and the text "Aboriginal Concepts" in white. The main content area is white with a black border. It contains the section title "Aboriginal Identity" in bold blue text, followed by a blue diamond bullet point and a paragraph of text. A small number "2" is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Aboriginal Concepts

Aboriginal Identity

- ◆ This concept refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, regardless of their ancestry.

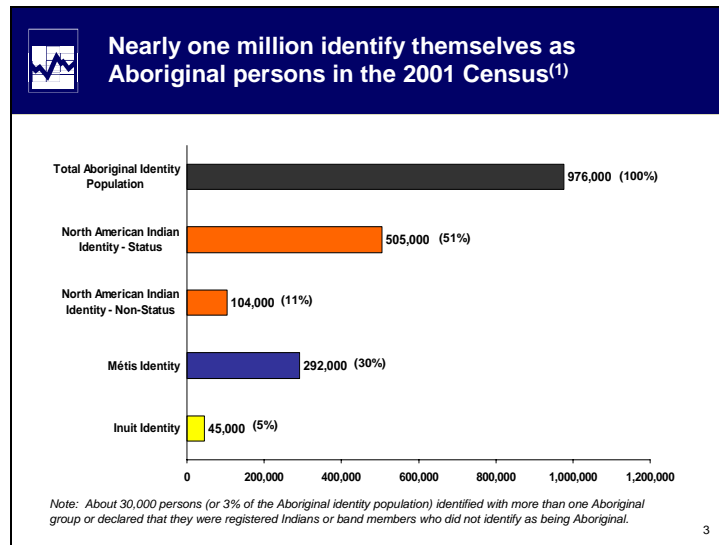
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Various definitions of the Aboriginal population exist. The one used in this profile is the identity concept that is based on a direct census question which asks each person if they are an Aboriginal person.

Focusing on the Aboriginal identity population allows for historical comparability with the concept used in the 1981 Census, so we can measure change over time, and it covers all three Aboriginal groups mentioned in the Constitution. Many government programs tend to target all Aboriginal groups.

This profile focuses on those persons who on their 2001 census form said they were North American Indian in terms of their Aboriginal identity and also said they were registered Indian according to the Indian Act of Canada, hereafter referred to as North American Indian with legal Indian status -- see Appendix A & B Glossary of Terms.

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In 2001, people who self-identified as Aboriginal accounted for just under 1 million, or 3.3% of the nation's total population, compared with 2.8% five years earlier.

Nearly 6 in 10 persons who identified as being Aboriginal also declared that they were registered Indians – see Appendix A..

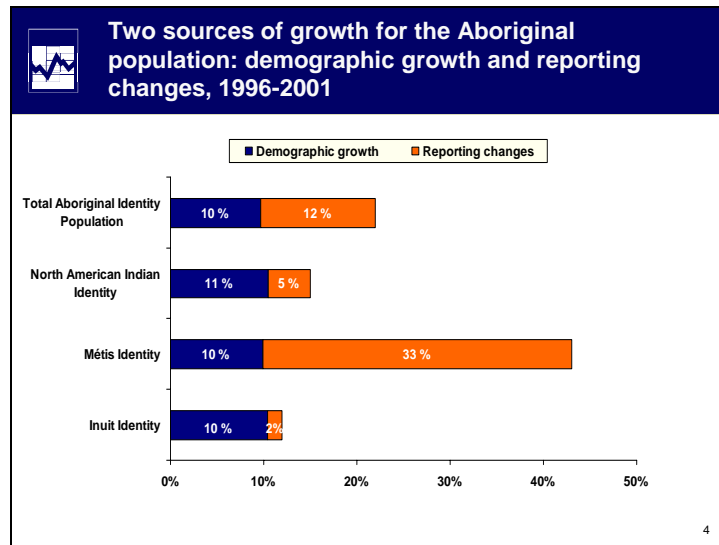
The majority of Aboriginal people, **608,850** or 62%, were North American Indian, of which **505,000** were registered Indians (or status) and **104,000** were without legal Indian status.

292,310 Métis, who represented about 30% of the total Aboriginal population.

5%, or 45,070, were Inuit.

(1) This Aboriginal population is not adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in the 2001 Census – see Appendix A.

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Overall the Aboriginal identity population grew about 22% over the five year period, 1996 to 2001.

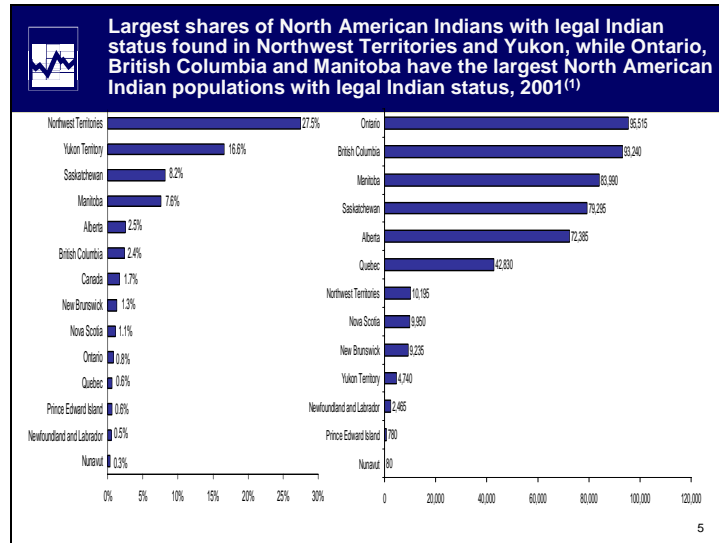
10% of the growth is due to natural demographic growth (i.e., the difference of births & deaths). The other 12% is due to reporting changes in the Census.

In the case of the North American Indian population, there was a 16% increase over five years, the second largest population gain among the three Aboriginal groups. The demographic factor is estimated to account for about 11 percentage points. The remainder is due largely to changes in reporting of their Aboriginal identity from one census to the next. Note that the growth relates to the total North American Indian population.

The North American Indian population with legal Indian status grew by 14% over the 1996 – 2001 period.

Non-demographic factors that have likely contributed to the increase in the population identifying as North American Indian include: increased awareness of Aboriginal issues which could have resulted from numerous events, such as the Oka crisis, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and recent court decisions on the rights of First Nations people, as well as better census enumeration of First Nations.

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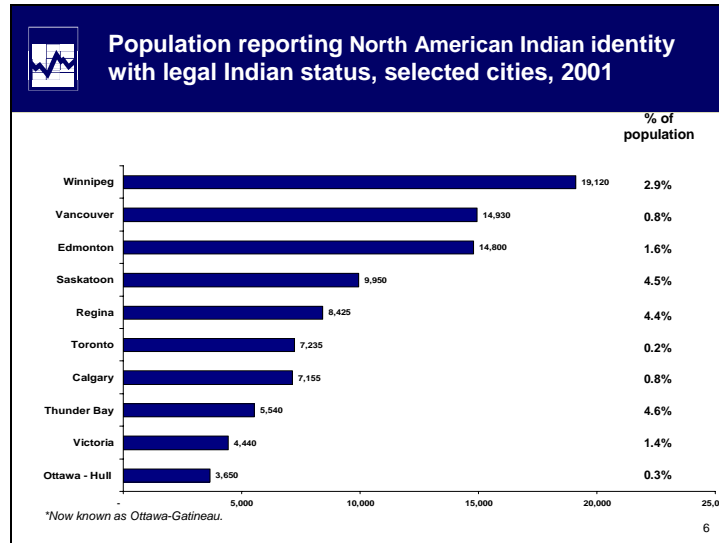
The 10,195 North American Indians with legal Indian status in the Northwest Territories represented nearly 28% of the territory’s total population, the highest concentration in the country.

However, the largest North American Indian population with legal Indian status, 95,515 lived in Ontario where they accounted for less than 1 % of the province’s population.

North American Indians with legal Indian status represented 17% of the Yukon Territory’s population; in Saskatchewan and Manitoba they represented 8% of each province’s population, and elsewhere they represented less than 5% of the provincial or territorial populations.

(1) This Aboriginal population is not adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in the 2001 Census – see Appendix A.

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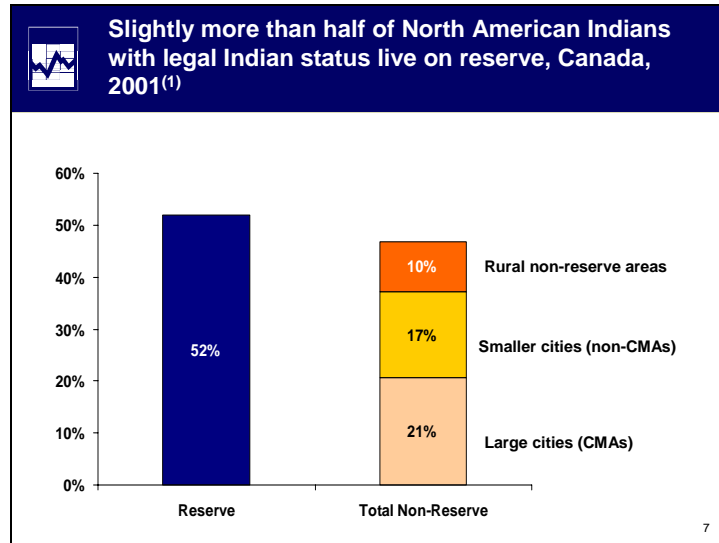
Winnipeg has the largest North American Indian population with legal Indian status at just over **19,000**, representing nearly 3% of the total metropolitan area's population in 2001.

Close to 5% of the people in Saskatoon are North American Indians with legal Indian status at nearly **10,000**.

Thunder Bay has the highest concentration, where nearly **1 out of 20 residents** in that city are North American Indians with legal Indian status.

While Toronto had more North American Indians with legal Indian status (7,235) than Thunder Bay, Toronto's share was **two-tenths of a percent** of the total population of Toronto, compared to Thunder Bay's 4.6% share.

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In 2001, **over half (52%) of North American Indians with legal Indian status lived in reserves:**

21% live in large cities;

17% in smaller cities and;

10% in rural non-reserve areas (latter includes those in the territories).

According to 2001 Census:

North American Indians without legal Indian status: Cities = 73%

Métis: Cities = 68%

Inuit: Cities = 27% ; Rural non-reserve = 69% (mostly in Labrador, Northern Quebec, Nunavut & NWT)

All Canadians living in Cities = 80%

(1) Census data have been adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in 2001

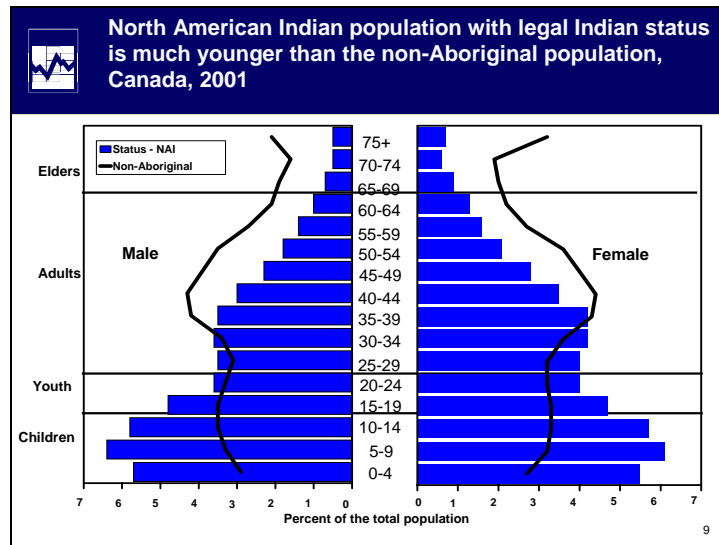
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North American Indians with legal Indian status are very mobile

- ◆ Overall, one in five (21%) North American Indians with legal Indian status changed residences in the year prior to the 2001 census, compared to only 14% of the non-Aboriginal population.
- ◆ This population “churn” makes service delivery a challenge.
- ◆ In large cities a third (33%) of the North American Indian population with legal Indian status move each year:
 - Movers within same city – North American Indian population with legal Indian status 23% versus non-Aboriginal 9%
 - Movers from outside the city -- North American Indian population with legal Indian status 10% versus non-Aboriginal 5%
- ◆ North American Indians with legal Indian status living on reserve were the least likely to move, with only 12% changing residences in the one year period.

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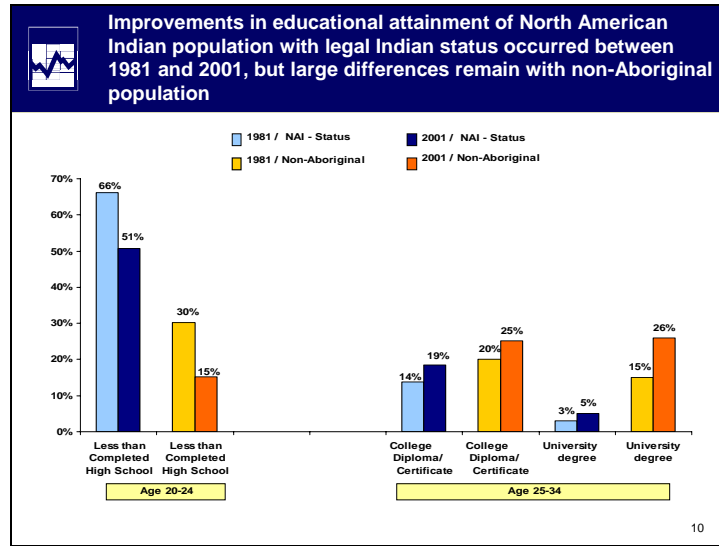


The North American Indian population with legal Indian status in 2001 was much younger than the non-Aboriginal population, a result of their higher birth rates and improving life expectancy.

Children under 15 years of age represented over a third (35%) of the North American Indian population with legal Indian status, while non-Aboriginal children represented one-fifth of their population. It should be noted, while birth rates are still higher than in the non-Aboriginal population, birth rates among North American Indians with legal Indian status have been declining over the last 30 years.

The number of North American Indian with legal Indian status seniors is growing but still remains relatively small. Seniors represent 4% of this population, compared to 13% of the non-Aboriginal population.

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This graph shows the changes, between 1981 and 2001, in educational attainment of the North American Indian with legal Indian status and non-Aboriginal populations in selected age groups.

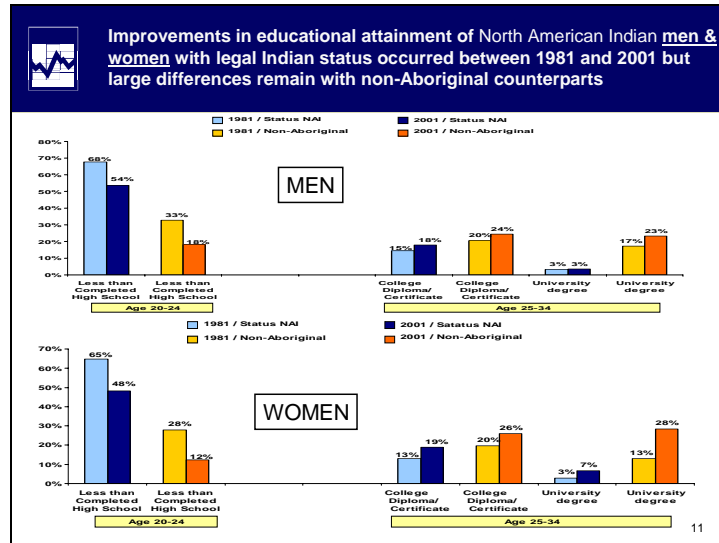
Among North American Indians with legal Indian status aged 20-24, the proportion who had less than completed high school dropped considerably between 1981 and 2001 from 66% to 51%.

However, the gap widened with their non-Aboriginal counterparts. It was more than twice as high in 1981 (66% vs 30%) and now is more than three times as high (51% vs. 15%).

At the other end of the education spectrum, young adult North American Indians with legal Indian status have made gains in their post-secondary schooling levels, where both college and university proportions increased over 20 years, almost doubling in the case of university degree holders.

However, on the university side the gap widened with their non-Aboriginal counterparts aged 25-34 years, while on the college side the gap remained unchanged.

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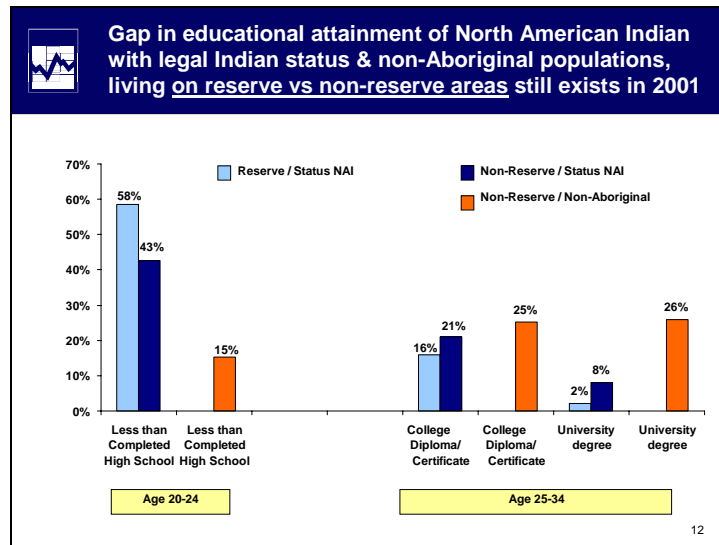
Among males who are North American Indian with legal Indian status aged 20-24, the proportion who had less than completed high school dropped considerably between 1981 and 2001 from 68% to 54%; for females the proportion dropped even more, from 65% to 48%.

However, the gap widened with their non-Aboriginal counterparts, of both sexes. For men, it was twice as high in 1981 (68% vs 33%) and now is three times higher (54% vs. 18%). For women, the gap was more than twice as high in 1981 (65% vs 28%) and now is four times higher (48% vs 12%).

At the other end of the education spectrum, adult North American Indian men and women with legal Indian status have made gains in their post-secondary schooling levels, where both college and university proportions increased substantially over 20 years, more than doubling in the case of female North American Indians with legal Indian status and who are university degree holders (3% vs 7%).

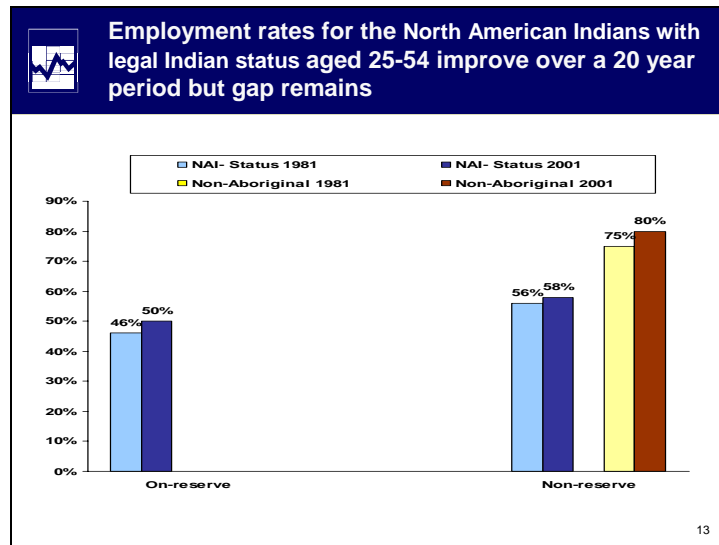
However, on the university side the gap did not close with their male and female non-Aboriginal counterparts aged 25-34 years, while on the college side it stayed about the same for both men and women.

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Among North American Indians with legal Indian status aged 20-24, the differences among those on reserves compared to those off-reserve were considerable (68% vs 43% respectively). Irrespective of the area of residence there are also large gaps with their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Among North American Indian adults with legal Indian status with college level diplomas, there are some differences between those on reserves and off-reserves, while the proportions of North American Indians with legal Indian status who have a university degree were way higher for those off-reserves than those living on reserves.

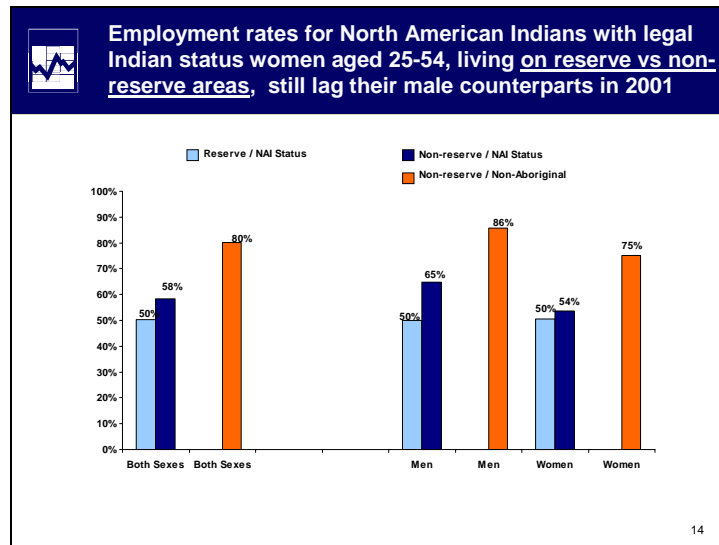


In both reserve and non reserve areas, the 25-54 North American Indian population with legal Indian status saw an improvement in their employment levels over the 1981-2001 period, although they still lagged behind their non-Aboriginal counterparts in 2001.

In 2001, half of the working age North American Indian adults with legal Indian status living on reserves were employed compared to 46% twenty years earlier.

The employment gap between North American Indian adults with legal Indian status and non-Aboriginal persons living in non-reserve areas increased from 19% to 22%, in the 20 year period.

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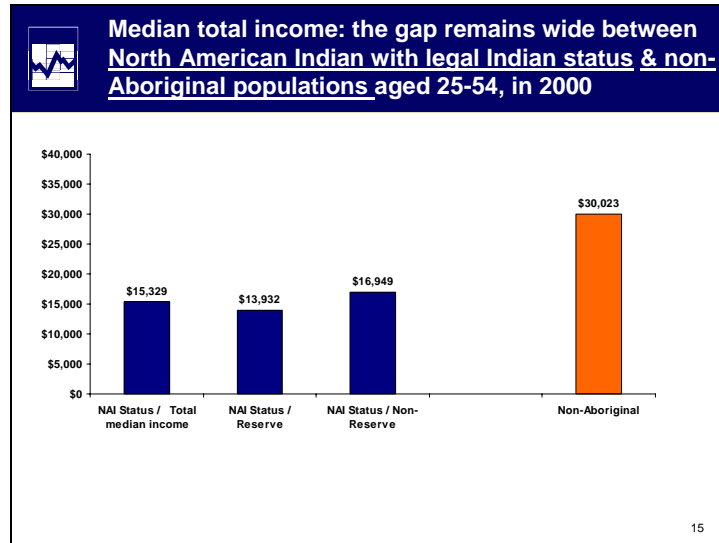


In 2001, the total North American Indian population with legal Indian status aged 25-54 had lower employment rates than non-Aboriginal people in this age group.

North American Indian men with legal Indian status had better employment rates than their female counterparts, regardless of where they lived, and women's rates were lower off-reserves than they were on reserves, in 2001.

Both North American Indian men & women with legal Indian status lagged behind on employment rates when compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

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In 2000, the median income of North American Indian individuals with legal Indian status was half that of the total non-Aboriginal population.

Among the Aboriginal groups, in the year 2000, North American Indians individuals with legal Indian status living on reserves had the lowest median income (\$13,932), followed by:

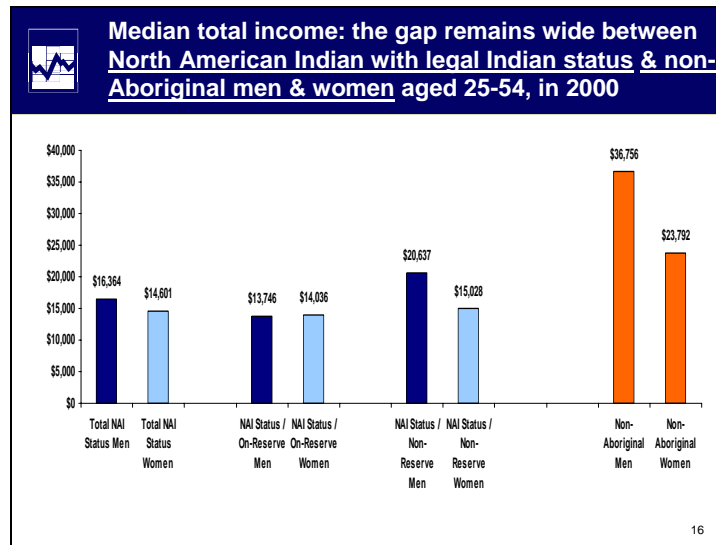
North American Indians with legal Indian status in non reserve areas (**\$16,949**)

North American Indians without legal Indian status (**\$20,377**)

Métis (**\$22,167**)

Inuit (**\$18,118**)

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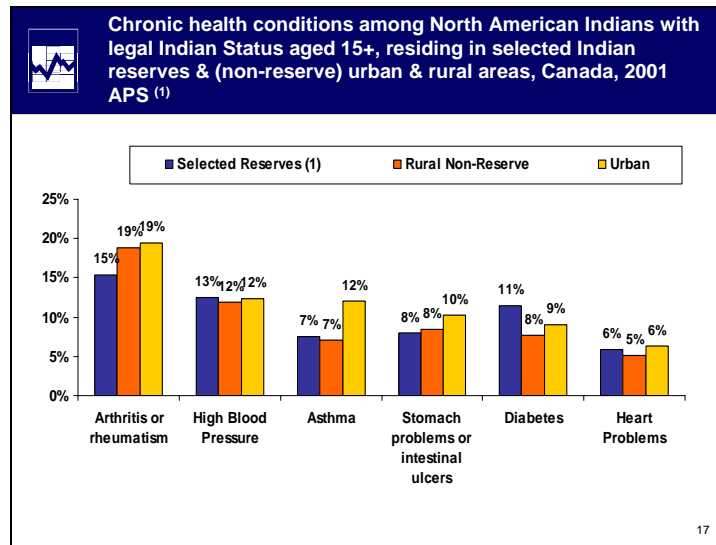
In 2000, the median income of North American Indian men & women with legal Indian status is substantially below that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

North American Indian women with legal Indian status lag their male counterparts by \$1,700 per year.

The gap across locations (reserve vs. non reserve) is rather wide (\$7,000) for North American Indian men with legal Indian status, but not for their female counterparts (\$1,000).

Among the North American Indian population with legal Indian status the lowest income (**\$13,746**) was that of on reserve men and the highest was that of their non-reserve counterparts (**\$20,637**) and both of these were considerably lower than the income of non-Aboriginal men (**\$36,756**).

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North American Indians with legal Indian Status show very high rates of arthritis and rheumatism with almost one in five adults reporting this disease in urban and rural non-reserve areas and 1 in 7 on reserves. The rate is only 1 in 10 in the general population.

High blood pressure is the next highest reported disease in all three areas of residence (12-13%), compared to 9% in the general population.

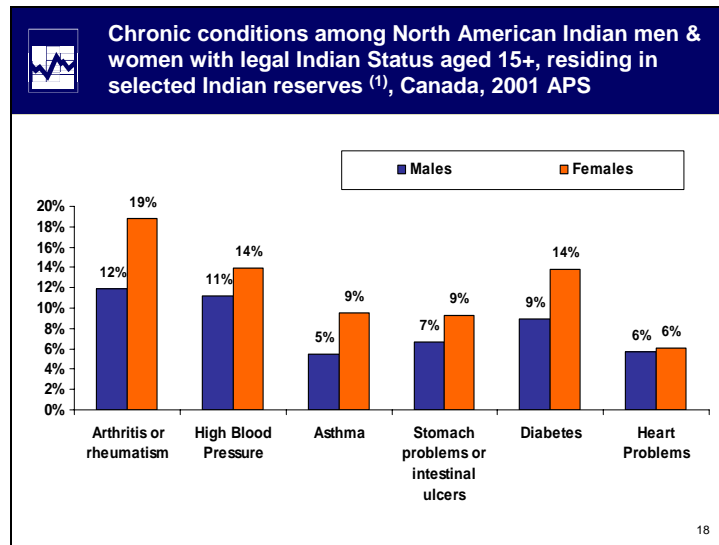
While asthma is not as prevalent (7%) on reserves and rural non-reserve areas, 12% reported having asthma in urban areas.

Diabetes was reported for 11% of adults on reserves, while for North American Indians with legal Indian Status living off reserves it was somewhat lower (8-9%). The comparable rate is 3% in the general population (age standardized).

About one in 20 North American Indians with legal Indian Status reported heart problems.

(1) Selected reserves are those which participated in the 2001 APS. They may not be representative of all Reserves in Canada.

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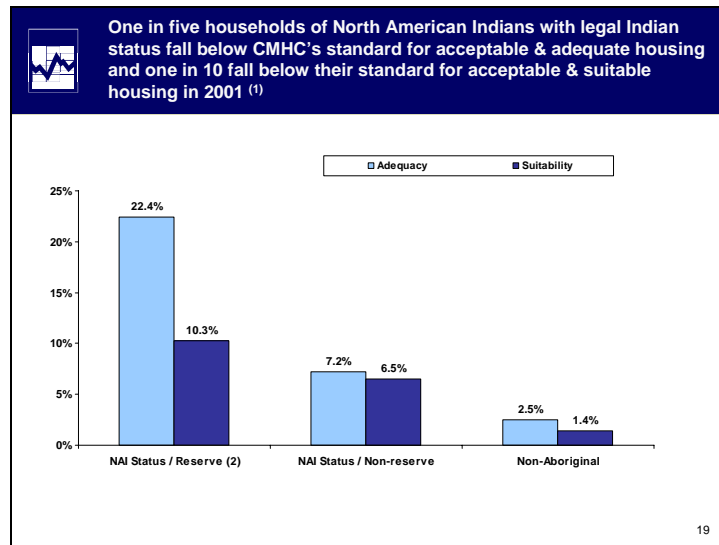


Quite a different picture emerges for the North American Indians with legal Indian status aged 15+, by gender and residing on selected Indian reserves.

North American Indian women with legal Indian Status show a much higher prevalence of arthritis and rheumatism (19%) than men (12%), and this trend is also true for those with asthma (9% vs 5%) and diabetes (14% vs 9%).

There are not as large differences between women and men for high blood pressure, stomach problems and heart problems.

(1) Selected reserves are those which participated in the 2001 APS. They may not be representative of all Reserves in Canada.



Over 22% of on-reserve status Indian households are living in housing below the CMHC adequacy standard (measured by houses in need of major repair) and are unable to afford acceptable housing. This is almost 10 times higher than for non-Aboriginal housing in 2001.

Status Indian households on reserves are also 10 times as likely to be below the suitability standard and are unable to afford acceptable housing, as compared to non-Aboriginal households. These households are considered crowded (as measured by the National Occupancy Standard).

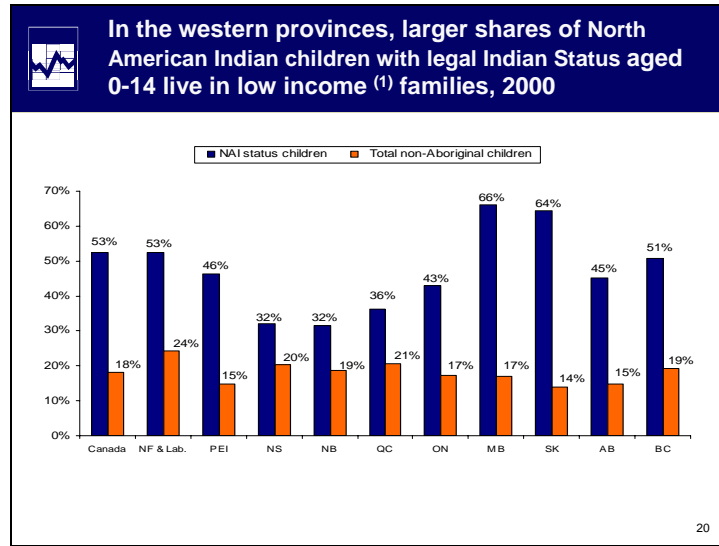
In non-reserve areas the gaps on housing adequacy and suitability are not as wide as on reserves when compared to non-Aboriginal housing, but still high relative to the latter's housing conditions.

*(1) **Adequacy** - Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs. Thus, housing that falls below this standard means they do require major repairs. Also, see Glossary in Appendix B.*

***Suitability** - Suitable dwellings are not crowded, meaning that they have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements. Thus, housing that does not meet the NOS would mean they are crowded – see Glossary of terms in Appendix B.*

***Acceptable housing** - is housing that is both adequate in condition and suitable in size, which can be afforded by the household for less than 30% of before-tax household income - see Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, "Research Highlight: 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households", Socio-Economic Series # 04-036*

(2) Note that the on-reserve statistics may include other Aboriginal households (non-status North American Indian, Métis, etc.).

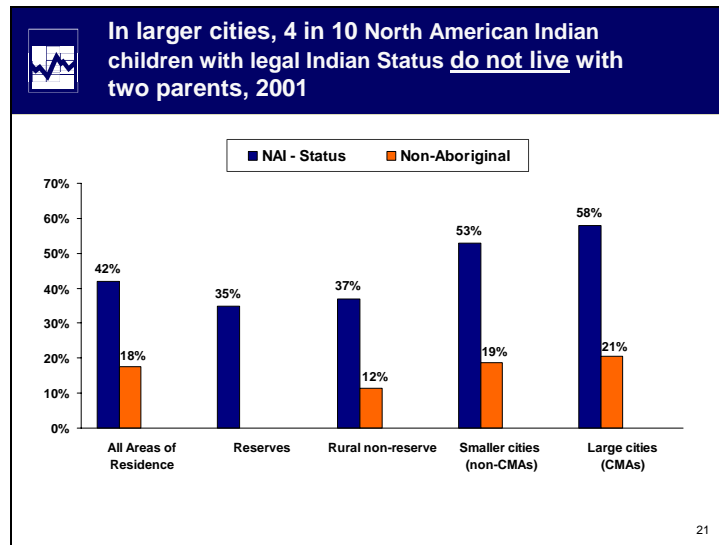


The shares of North American Indian children with legal Indian status living in low income families are much higher compared to those of non-Aboriginal children.

Regionally, among children under age 15, the percentage living in low income families was particularly much higher in Manitoba & Saskatchewan in 2000, where two-thirds of North American Indian children with legal Indian status children were in low income situations.

(1) These figures are for the non-reserve population only, as the low income cut-off (LICO) index is not available for reserves.

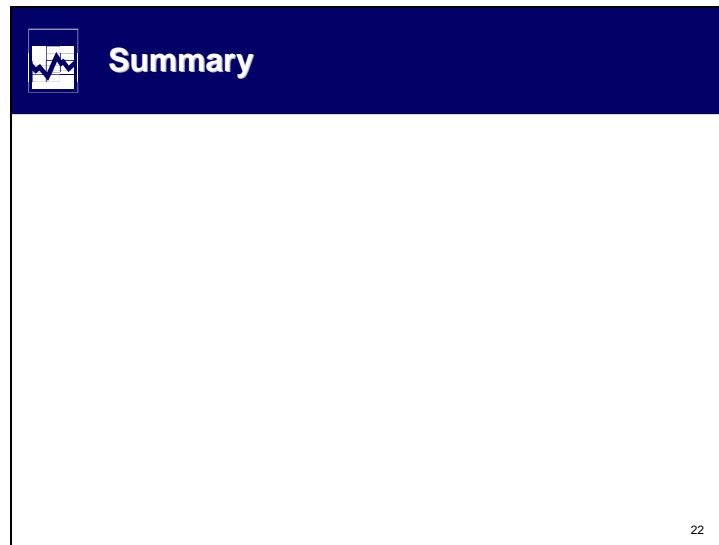
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This chart shows the percent of children not living with both parents, that is living with one parent, other relatives or non-relatives.

The proportion of North American Indian children with legal Indian status living with a lone parent or with other relatives or non-relatives is more than twice as high as non-Aboriginal children, in all areas of residence, in 2001.

On reserve, slightly more than **one-third** (35%) North American Indian children with legal Indian status lived with a lone parent or, other relatives or non-relatives; **53%** lived in such arrangements in small cities, while in the larger cities, **58%** lived with lone parents or other relatives or non-relatives.



The demography of Aboriginal peoples in Canada is **complex** and basic demographic growth factors do not always apply. The North American Indian population with legal Indian status grew by 14% in the 1996 – 2001 period.

The North American Indian population with legal Indian status population is quite young.

A little more than half of North American Indian population with legal Indian status live on reserves.

North American Indian population with legal Indian status is very mobile: lots of “churn”, particularly in the cities.

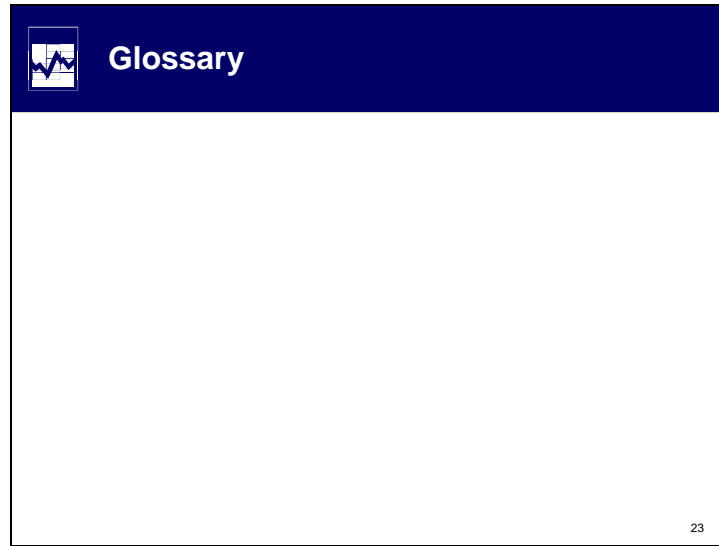
Advances in education for the young North American Indian population with legal Indian status have occurred since 1981, BUT the gap with the non-Aboriginal population has widened.

Employment rates for the North American Indian population with legal Indian status improved somewhat over the 1981 – 2001 period – the gap remained unchanged between the North American Indian with legal Indian status and non-Aboriginal populations.

In 2000, the median income of North American Indian individuals with legal Indian status is half that of the total non-Aboriginal population.

Proportionately, more than twice as many North American Indian children with legal Indian status children do not live with two parents.

A ten-fold higher proportion of households of North American Indians with legal Indian status living on reserves have poor housing adequacy and suitability in terms of repairs and crowding compared to non-Aboriginal households.



**APPENDIX A:
METHODOLOGICAL NOTES**

2001 Census counts

Aboriginal Ancestry --- 1,319,980 ¹

Aboriginal Identity --- 976,305

Registered Indians --- 558,000 ²

Not everyone who reports that they have an Aboriginal ancestor necessarily identifies themselves as an Aboriginal person.

To be a legally registered Indian does not necessarily require one to declare or to be a North American Indian. Metis, Inuit, and non-Aboriginal people can have legal Indian status.

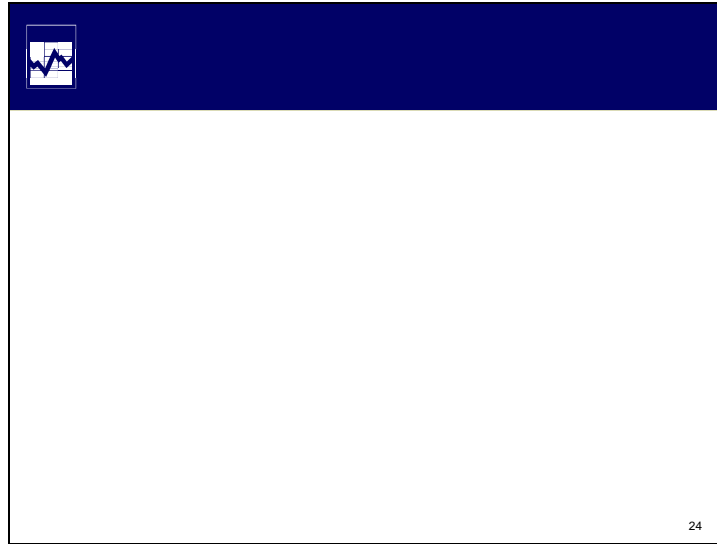
2001 INAC Indian Register count– 690,000

Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) maintains their own count of Registered Indians on the Indian Register. There are differences between the Indian Register and Census. They can be attributed to differences in definitions and collection procedures. The census count is low for registered Indians due to: a) 30 non-participating reserves (with an estimated 31,500 population); b) the population in collective dwellings (e.g. prisons) are not identified specifically as Aboriginal;

and c) a general undercount in enumerated areas. The INAC register is a population register which uses events like births and deaths reported throughout the year to obtain a population count. The register includes status Indians living out of the country (which the Census does not), and the reporting of vital events such as registering births and removing deaths may be slow, or not reported at all.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves and Indian Settlements in the 2001 Census

On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2001 Census, enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it was completed. These geographic areas (a total of 30) are called "incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements". Data for 2001 are not available for these areas, and therefore have not been included in the charts in this document, unless otherwise specified. The estimated size of the population on these 30 reserves is about 31,000. (See - <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Meta/appendix03.cfm>)



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aboriginal Concepts:

Aboriginal Identity - Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation. In 1991 and previous censuses, Aboriginal persons were determined using the ethnic origin question (ancestry). The 1996 Census included a question on the individual's own perception of his/her Aboriginal identity. The 2001 Census question is the same as the one used in 1996. In 1981, the ethnic origin question was used, but the wording and format of this question allows the Aboriginal categories to be treated as an identity concept.

Aboriginal Ancestry/Origin which refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestor who was North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, based on the ethnic origin question

Registered (or Status) Indian - Refers to those persons who reported they were registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who are registered under the *Indian Act* and can prove descent from a Band that signed a treaty. In 1996 and in 2001, one direct

question was developed to collect data on legal Indian status. The wording of the 1996 question differed slightly from the one in previous years. Prior to 1996, the term "treaty" was excluded from the question. It was added to the registered Indian question in 1996 at the request of individuals from the Western provinces, where the term is more widely used.

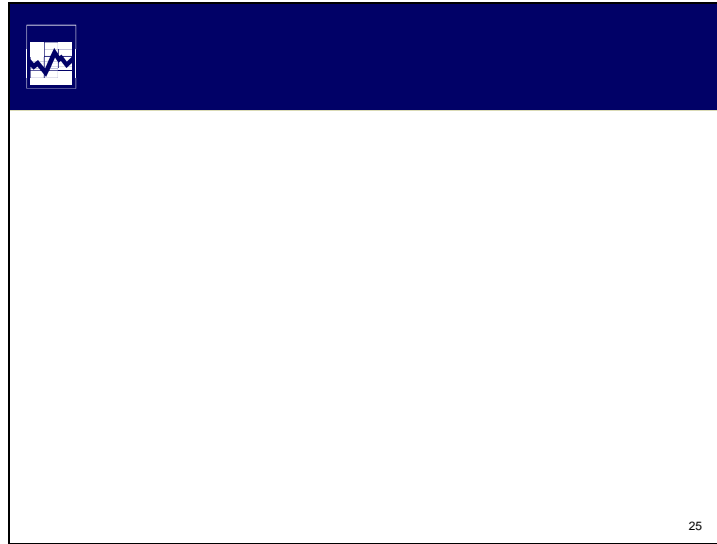
Geographic Terms:

Census Metropolitan Area - A CMA is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a CMA, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

Urban Area - An urban area has a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, based on the current census population count.

Rural Area - All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Indian reserve – The on-reserve population is a derived census variable that is captured according to criteria established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The on-reserve population includes all people living in any of seven community types legally affiliated with First Nations or Indian Bands (i.e., Indian Reserve, Indian Settlement, Indian Government District, Terres réservées, Nisga'a Village, Nisga'a Land and Teslin Land), as well as selected communities of various other types that are located in northern Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory.



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS cont'd...

Other Terms:

Aboriginal household - Any single-family household where at least one spouse, common-law partner or lone parent is considered part of the Aboriginal identity population, or at least 50% of the household members are considered to be part of the Aboriginal identity population; any multiple-family household where at least one of the families in the household is an Aboriginal household (as defined above); and any non-family household where at least 50% of the household members are considered to be part of the Aboriginal identity population.

Condition of Dwelling - Refers to whether, in the judgement of the respondent, the dwelling requires any repairs (excluding desirable remodelling or additions). **Responses include:** No, only regular maintenance is needed; Yes, minor repairs are needed; Yes, major repairs are needed where:

Regular maintenance refers to painting, furnace cleaning, etc.

Minor repairs refer to the repair of missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.

Major repairs refer to the repair of defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.

Employment Rate - Refers to the number of persons employed in the week prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

Highest Level of Schooling - Refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary (high) school attended, or to the highest year of university or college education completed. University education is considered to be a higher level of schooling than college education. Also, the attainment of a degree, certificate or diploma is considered to be at a higher level than years completed or attended without an educational qualification.

Incidence of Low Income - The incidence of low income is defined as the proportion or percentage of economic families or unattached individuals in a given classification below the low income cut-offs. For the 2001 Census, these incidence rates are calculated from unrounded estimates of economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over. The incidence of low income can also be derived for census families, non-family persons and the population in private households.

Low Income Cut-Off - Measures of low income known as low income cut-offs (LICOs) were first introduced in Canada in 1968 based on 1961 Census income data and 1959 family expenditure patterns. At that time, expenditure patterns indicated that Canadian families spent about 50% of their total income on food, shelter and clothing. It was arbitrarily estimated that families spending 70% or more of their income (20 percentage points more than the average) on these basic necessities would be "straitened" circumstances. With this assumption, low income cut-off points were set for five different sizes of families. Subsequent to these initial cut-offs, revised low income cut-offs were established based on later national family expenditure survey data. As of 1992, these data indicated that Canadian families spent, on average, 34.7% of their total income on basic necessities. Since then, data from the expenditure survey have indicated that this proportion has remained fairly stable. By adding the original difference of 20 percentage points to the basic level of expenditure on necessities, new low income cut-offs were set at income levels differentiated by family size and degree of urbanization. Since 1992, these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the consumer price index.



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS cont'd...

Median Income of Individuals – The dollar amount that marks the midpoint of a distribution of individuals, with income, ranked by size of income. The median income of a specified group of income recipients is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median.

Mobility Status – Place of Residence 1 Year Ago - Information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 15, 2001), as he or she did one year before (May 15, 2000). This means that we have "movers" and "non-movers". There are different types of "movers": people who moved within the same city or town (non-migrants), people who moved to a different city or town (internal migrants), and people who came from another country to live in Canada (external migrants).

National Occupancy Standard - According to the National Occupancy Standard (see *Core Housing Need in Canada*, CMHC, 1991, p. 4) enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitating adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e. a unit with no bedroom).

