



Inuit Statistical Profile 2018

About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representational organization for the 65,000 Inuit in Canada, the majority of whom live in Inuit Nunangat, specifically, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Québec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Collectively, these four regions make up Inuit Nunangat, our homeland in Canada. It includes 51 communities and encompasses roughly 35 percent of Canada's landmass and 50 percent of its coastline. Consistent with its founding purpose, ITK represents the rights and interests of Inuit at the national level through a democratic governance structure that represents all Inuit regions.

The comprehensive land claim agreements that have been settled in Inuit Nunangat form a core component of our organization's mandate. These land claims have the status of protected treaties under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and we remain committed to fully implementing them in partnership with the Crown. ITK advocates for policies, programs, and services to address the social, cultural, political, and environmental issues facing our people.

ITK is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the following members:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivik Corporation
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

Vision

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination

Mission

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada



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Message from ITK's President

More and more, Inuit require statistics to guide decision-making and to inform the development of programs and policies aimed at improving the health and wellness of our families and communities. But finding the data we need to tell our own stories in an Inuit-specific, culturally appropriate way can be challenging. Data-based indicators are rarely developed with the unique cultural, historical and environmental realities of Inuit in mind. These indicators, developed often by those with little knowledge of who we are as a people, are often inappropriately applied to the Inuit context and can perpetuate harmful, negative stereotypes.

However, some standard, existing indicators of the health and wellness of our people, communities and lands can inform the work we do. Many of the indicators in this *Inuit Statistical Profile 2018* illustrate the gaps that exist between Inuit and other Canadians. They can bring attention to our concerns and, if used appropriately, can provide evidence that leads to action and change. For example, tuberculosis data have helped inform ITK's *Inuit-Specific Tuberculosis Strategy*, aimed at reducing TB rates among our people across Inuit Nunangat. Data can be used to track improved educational outcomes among Inuit, thus informing the objectives laid out in the *National Strategy on Inuit Education*.

Inuit want to move from a place of exclusion from data activities to a place of inclusion where these activities are governed by Inuit. We want to be able to determine the questions asked of us and to lead discussions on new indicators that accurately reflect our many strengths. As outlined in the *National Inuit Strategy on Research*, which was released early this year, it is time for Inuit self-determination in collecting, verifying, analyzing, and disseminating Inuit-specific data and information.

The upcoming Inuit Health Survey will provide Inuit across Canada with an opportunity to show the many benefits that an Inuit-governed and -determined undertaking can bring. We look forward to the time when we are able to showcase more Inuit-determined indicators and statistics that tell the many good news stories of resilience and strength that existing data sources cannot tell.

Nakummek,

Natan Obed





Introduction

The *Inuit Statistical Profile 2018* provides a series of data-based indicators designed to provide insights into some of the important issues and challenges facing Inuit in Canada. Data from indicators can provide evidence needed to guide program planning, to track progress over time, determine interventions and to advocate for change.

In previous years, ITK has developed similar Statistical Profiles. This edition contains up-to-date statistics, graphs and tables on a variety of topics. For each indicator, interpretive text summarizes some of the main stories behind the numbers and limitations of the data are provided. The statistics come from various sources, including:

- The 2007-2008 Inuit Health Survey (as part of International Polar Year)
- ITK's *National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy*
- The Public Health Agency of Canada's Tuberculosis Reporting System
- Statistics Canada's Census, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Canadian Birth-Census Cohort Database

Some indicators focus on the situation of Inuit nationally while others speak to the situation in Inuit Nunangat as a whole. In a few cases, data are provided as well for each Inuit region in Canada. There are no recent, national level sources of data for Inuit children.

Most indicators included here are not developed by Inuit and do not adequately measure the reality of our people, communities, cultures and histories. As we move forward with our goal of self-determined research and data collection, there will be many opportunities to develop new indicators that are Inuit-relevant, reflecting the realities of our lives and experiences. These new indicators will move beyond a deficits-based perspective and will provide us with data that showcase our resilience, resourcefulness, generosity and many other strengths.

In the meantime, existing data can point to unacceptable gaps that exist between Inuit and others in Canada. While most indicators are not strengths-based, they can provide us with evidence to highlight some of the changes that need to be made to ensure that Inuit live healthy and fulfilling lives.





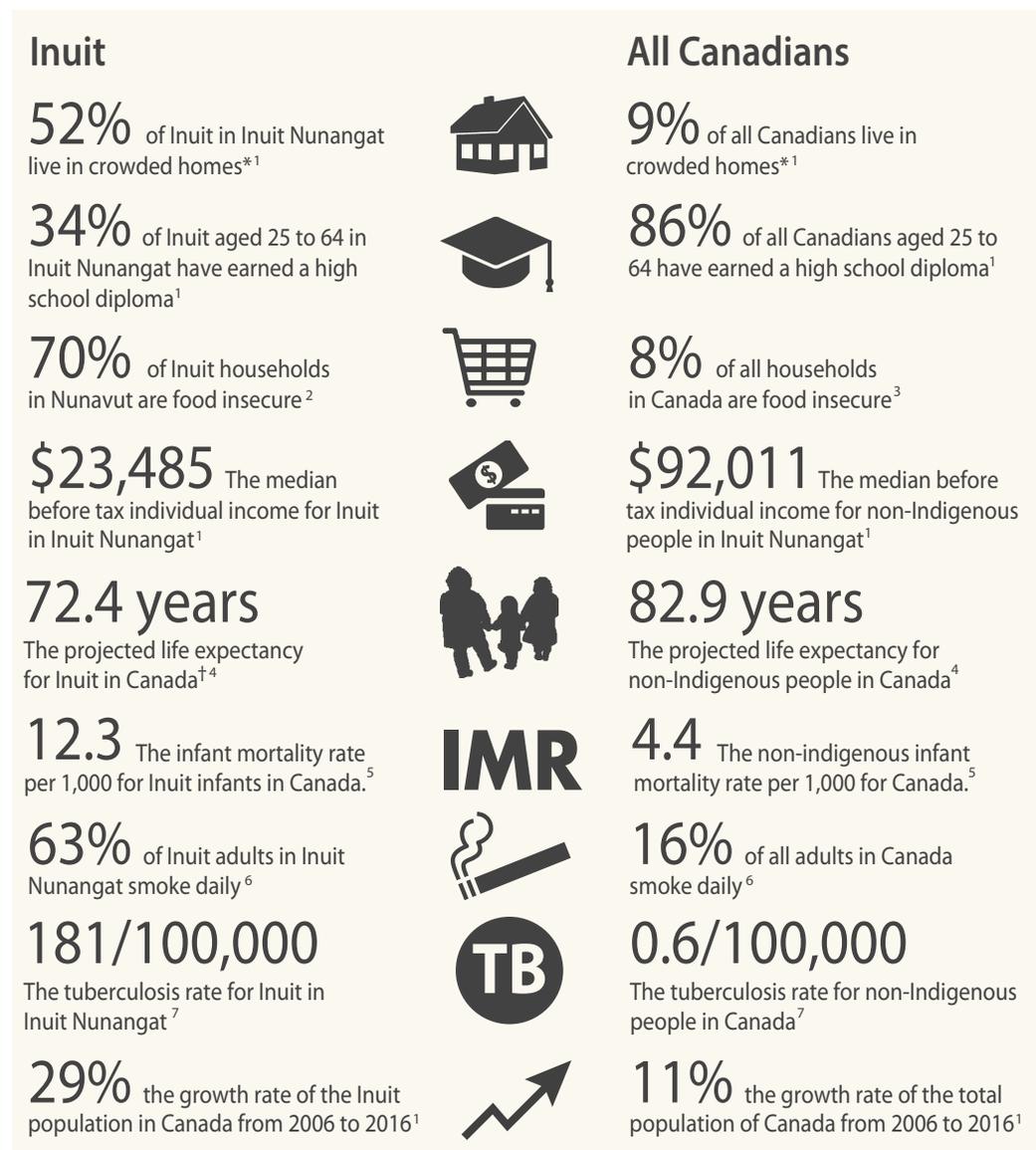
Inuit Nunangat





Summary Infographic: Social and Economic Inequity in Inuit Nunangat

Many statistics point to social and economic inequities that impact our health and wellbeing.



* Should not be compared with crowding data for previous years. Based on the suitability definition (whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household). The previous figure was based on the number of persons per room definition.

† Should not be compared with previous life expectancy data. The figure is a national 2017 projection of life expectancy for Inuit. Previous figures were for 2004-2008 for all residents of Inuit Nunangat, including non-Inuit.

1 Statistics Canada, 2016 Census. (crowded homes: 98-400-X2016163; high school diploma 98-400-X2016265; income: unpublished custom table provided to ITK; employment: 98-400-X2016266; population growth: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025a-eng.pdf>).

2 Grace M. Egeland, *Inuit Health Survey 2007-2008: Nunavut* (Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC: Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, May 2010), 12.

3 Shirin Roshanafshar and Emma Hawkins. Health at a Glance: Food Insecurity in Canada (Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada, March 25, 2015).

4 Custom table based on Statistics Canada's *Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036*.

5 Sheppard et al 2017. "Birth outcomes among First Nations, Inuit and Metis populations." Health Reports Vol. 28. No. 11.

6 Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-653-x/89-653-x2014003-eng.htm#a3>.

7 Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System — April, 2018.





Number of Inuit and Population Growth

In 2016, over 65,000 Inuit lived in Canada. Of these, the majority, 73%, lived in the Inuit homeland of Inuit Nunangat. Between 2006 and 2016, the Inuit population in Canada grew at a rate nearly three times that of the total Canadian population (29% versus 11%)¹.

Inuit in Canada, Inuit Nunangat and Elsewhere, 2006 and 2016

Geographic areas	# of Inuit, 2016	# of Inuit, 2006	Growth, 2006 to 2016
Inuit in Canada	65,030	50,345	29.2%
Inuit in Inuit Nunangat, total	47,330	39,425	20.1%
Inuit in Nunatsiavut	2,285	2,160	5.8%
Inuit in Nunavik	11,800	9,565	23.4%
Inuit in Nunavut	30,135	24,595	22.5%
Inuit/Inuvialuit in Inuvialuit Region	3,115	3,105	0.3%
Inuit outside Inuit Nunangat	17,690	10,920	62.0%

Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006 and 2016.

Interpretation

This table shows information on the number of Inuit nationally and regionally. The growth of the national and regional level Inuit populations over time is also shown.

Technical Note

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110443&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THME=122&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

¹ The total population of Canada includes both Inuit and non-Inuit.



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Age Distribution

The Inuit population is young and growing, with 33% under the age of 15 compared to 17% of the total population of Canada¹. While seniors make up 5% of the Inuit population, 16% of the total population of Canada is made up of those aged 65 and over. It is essential to have adequate resources and appropriate programs in place to ensure that the unique health, education and general wellbeing needs of young Inuit are met. A continuing acknowledgement and deep respect for elders, as culture bearers, teachers and advisors will help ensure that traditional Inuit ways of knowing and being are passed on from one generation to the next.

Age distribution of Inuit and total population of Canada, 2016

Age group	Total Inuit population		Total Canadian population	
	#	%	#	%
All ages	65,030		34,460,060	
0 - 4	7,380	11	1,891,500	5
5 - 9	7,595	12	2,011,280	6
10 - 14	6,520	10	1,914,270	6
Subtotal 0 - 14	21,495	33	5,817,050	17
15 - 24	11,990	18	4,231,725	12
25 - 34	9,910	15	4,576,575	13
35 - 44	7,475	11	4,507,775	13
45 - 64	11,090	17	9,847,035	29
65 and over	3,060	5	5,479,905	16

Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Interpretation

This table shows the age distribution of Inuit and the total population of Canada¹. Population counts are provided for various age groups and the percent distribution of both the Inuit and total population is shown.

Technical Note

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others who are not counted.

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Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110443&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=122&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

1 The total population of Canada includes both Inuit and non-Inuit.



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Fertility Rates

The Inuit population is one of the youngest in Canada. On average, Inuit women have 2.7 children compared to 1.6 children for non-Indigenous women in the country. This emphasizes the need for good pre- and post-natal care and supports and resources in Inuit communities for both infants and their mothers.

Total fertility rates, 2011

Group	Fertility rate 2011
Inuit women	2.7
First Nations women with status	2.7
First Nations women without status	1.5
Métis women	1.8
Non-Indigenous women	1.6

Source

Statistics Canada, Women in Canada, 2016.

Interpretation

This table shows the total fertility rate for various groups of women in Canada. The total fertility rate is the average number of children that the average woman gives birth to in her lifetime.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. 2016. Women in Canada. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-503-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2015001/article/14313-eng.htm>

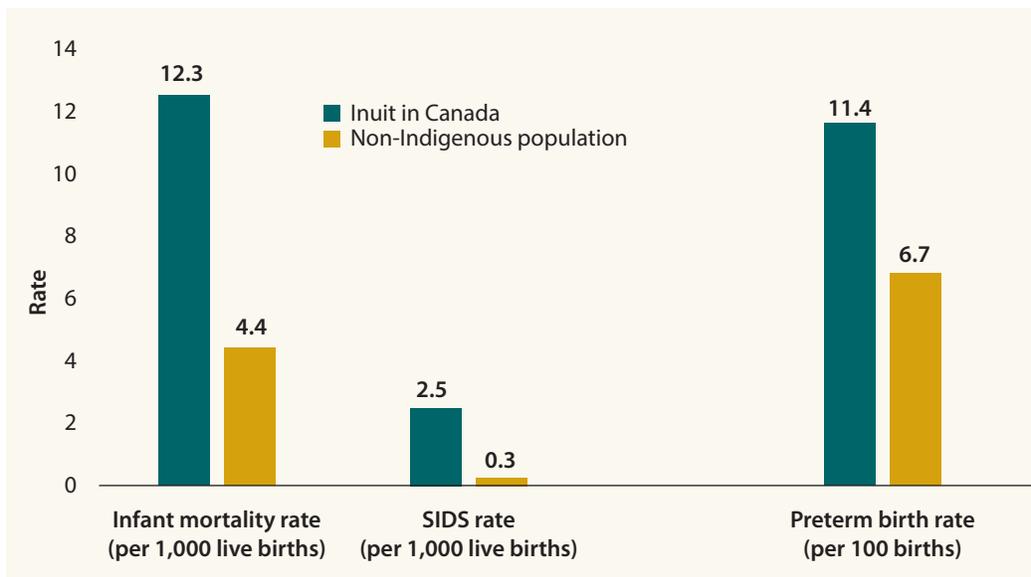




Infant Mortality, Sudden Infant Death and Preterm Birth

For the 2004 through 2006 period, the Inuit infant mortality rate was almost three times that for non-Indigenous infants and the sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) rate was over eight times the non-Indigenous rate. The rate of preterm birth for Inuit infants in Canada was almost double that for non-Indigenous infants. These high Inuit rates point to an urgent need to address underlying causes such as lack of access to timely, adequate and culturally appropriate pre- and post-natal care, environmental issues and insufficient public health programs and targeted interventions.

Infant mortality rate, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and preterm birth rate for Inuit and non-Indigenous infants in Canada, 2004 through 2006



Source

2006 Canadian Birth-Census Cohort Database

Interpretation

Data are shown for three birth outcome measures – the infant mortality rate, the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS rate and the preterm birth rate. The green bars are for Inuit infants in Canada while the gold bars are for non-Indigenous infants.

Technical Note

The infant mortality rate reflects children dying before their first birthday. SIDS is the sudden, unexplained death of a child under the age of one year that cannot be explained after thorough investigation. Both rates are expressed per 1,000 live births. Preterm births are those prior to 37 weeks of pregnancy (full-term pregnancy is 40 weeks) and are expressed as a percentage of all births.

These rate for Inuit infants at the national level cannot be directly calculated due to the lack of an Indigenous identifier on many provincial data bases. Data here are from a data linkage. Rates here are not comparable with those from other sources because of methodology differences.

Excluded are Inuit who did not take part in or were missed by the 2006 Census, and those whose records could not be linked.

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Sheppard, A. et. al. 2017. "Birth outcomes among First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations". Statistics Canada, Health Reports Vol. 28, no. 11. Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

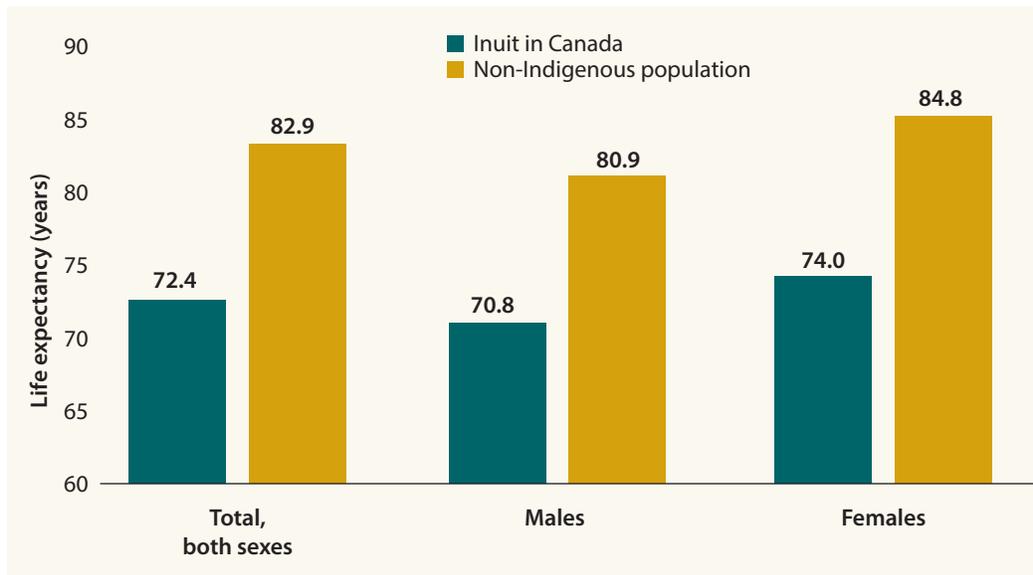




Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is one of the most fundamental indicators of the overall health and wellness of a population. It is influenced by many factors such as access to good quality health care, nutrition, living conditions, lifestyle and others. A significant life expectancy gap of over ten years exists between Inuit in Canada and Canada’s non-Indigenous population. Investments that address the social determinants of physical and mental health and that lead to more accessible, culturally appropriate health care would increase Inuit life expectancy and narrow the unacceptable gap with others in Canada.

Life expectancy at birth (projected) for Inuit and non-Indigenous population of Canada, 2017



Source

Statistics Canada, custom tabulation based on "Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036".

Interpretation

This chart shows national level data on life expectancy which is the average number of years a person can expect to live. Green bars are for Inuit in Canada while gold bars are for the non-Indigenous population. The first two bars are for both sexes combined, followed by bars for males and females.

Technical Note

National level life expectancy data for Inuit cannot be directly calculated due to the lack of an Indigenous identifier on many provincial data bases. Data here are projected. These figures are based on a three year average for 2016-2018. Data are not comparable with data from other sources because of methodology differences. Inuit-specific data are not available for Inuit Nunangat.

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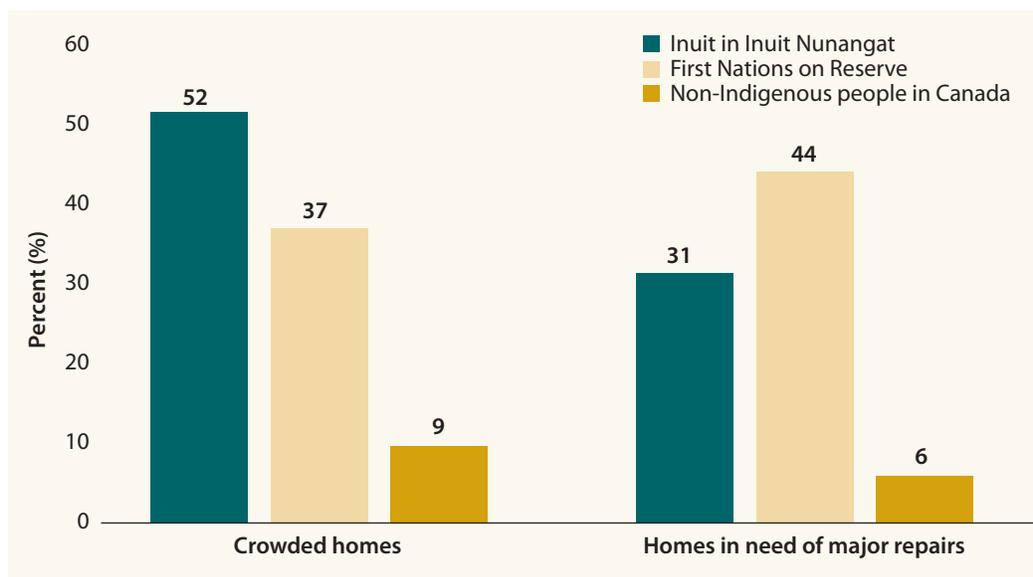




Housing

Crowded housing is associated with high rates of communicable disease (such as tuberculosis), stressors that can lead to friction and violence between family members, poor conditions in which children must learn and study, and other challenges. Rates of inadequate housing conditions for Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat are unacceptably high by any measure. Among Inuit in Inuit Nunangat, 52% live in crowded homes. This is almost six times the rate for non-Indigenous people in Canada. Almost one-third of Inuit live in homes in need of major repair. This clearly shows the inequity between Inuit and others with regard to housing suitability and gives concrete evidence to what most Inuit already know anecdotally: that Inuit face a housing crisis which needs to be addressed.

Percent of people in crowded homes and homes in need of major repair, 2016



Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Interpretation

This chart shows information for Inuit (green bars), First Nations on reserve (beige bars) and non-Indigenous people (gold bars) for two indicators of housing. The first three bars focus on the percent of people in crowded homes. The next set of three focus on the percent in homes needing major repairs.

Technical Note

Crowded home: There are many definitions of crowding. The one used here is based on Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s “suitability” definition. Accommodations are suitable if the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members. While this is a commonly used measure for southern Canada, it may be less appropriate for Inuit.

Data from this definition cannot be compared with those based on other definitions (ie: more than one person per room).

Major repair: e.g. dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, as reported by the census respondent.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/dwelling-logements003-eng.cfm>

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110519&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=122&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

and

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110520&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=122&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>



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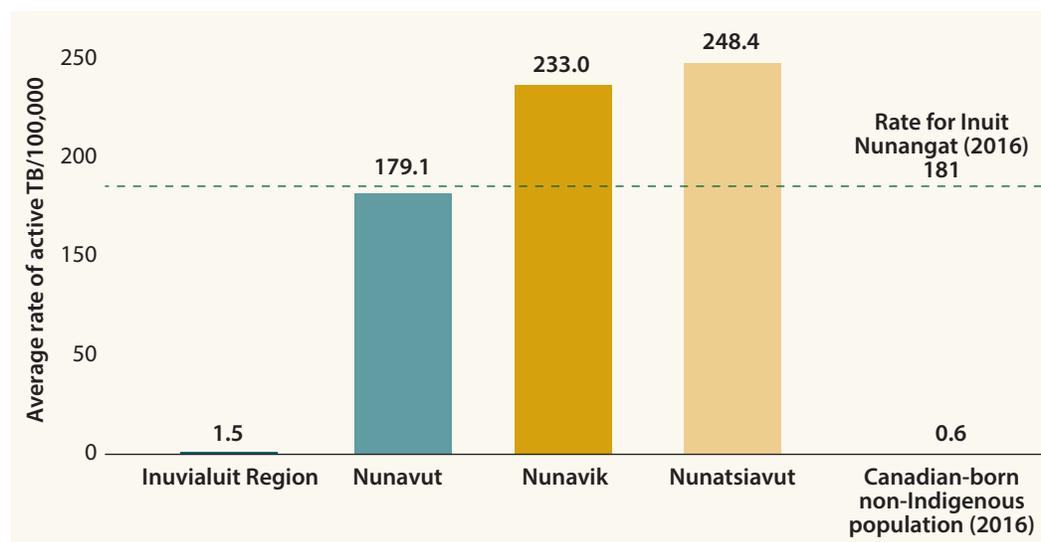


Tuberculosis (TB) Rates

The tuberculosis rate for Inuit in Canada is comparable to rates in many third world countries.¹ The average rate of active TB among Inuit in Inuit Nunangat was over 300 times the rate for the Canadian-born non-Indigenous population. Rates in each Inuit region were higher than those for others in Canada and ranged from 1.5/100,000 in the Inuvialuit region to 248.4/100,000 in Nunatsiavut.

High rates in many Inuit communities are rooted in multiple factors, including inadequate housing, food insecurity, poverty, stigma, and the enduring impacts of government-led TB control measures during the 1940's and 1950's.² During this period, many Inuit were transported south by ship to TB hospitals thousands of kilometres from their families and communities. Those who survived did not return home for several years. In some situations, the fate of those who did not return remains unknown. The unacceptably high Inuit TB rates point to a need for more effective approaches to TB prevention, control, and care for Inuit. Recently, the Government of Canada has committed to the elimination of TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030.³

Average rate of active tuberculosis by region 2006 to 2016



Source

Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System.

Interpretation

This chart shows average rates of active tuberculosis (TB) per 100,000 population. The four bars on the left show Inuit-specific TB rates based on a 2006 to 2016 average for each Inuit region. The rate for the Canadian born non-Indigenous population on the far right is for the year 2016. The line shows the rate for Inuit Nunangat for 2016.

Technical Note

Given the small size of the Inuit population, the regional rates are subject to fluctuations. TB outbreaks in a few communities can cause the rate for a given year to spike while fewer cases in other years result in a rate drop. For this reason, an 11 year Inuit-specific average rate is provided for each Inuit region. The rate for the Canadian-born non-Indigenous population is for 2016 as it is less impacted by small counts.

Bibliography

Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System, April 2018. <https://itk.ca/ending-tuberculosis-backgrounder/>

1 For international rates, see the World Health Organization tuberculosis country profiles: <http://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en/>
 2 Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, March 2013. Inuit-Specific Tuberculosis (TB) Strategy. <http://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/20130503-EN-FINAL-Inuit-TB-Strategy.pdf>
 3 Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/03/eliminating-tuberculosis-across-inuit-nunangat-by-2030-at-least-a-50-reduction-by-2025.html>

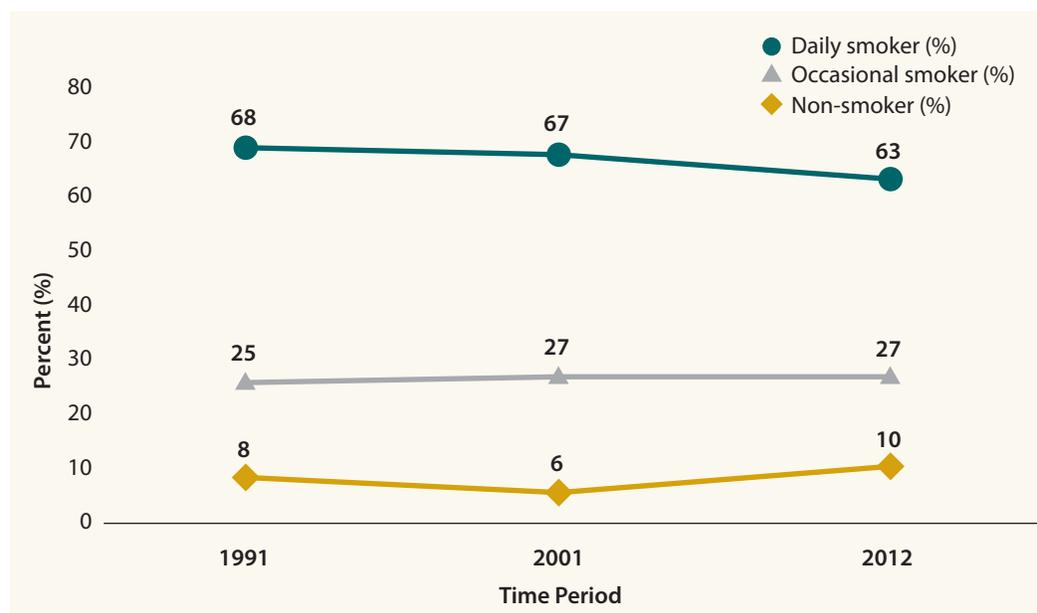




Smoking Rates

From 1991 to 2012, the daily smoking rate among Inuit adults aged 15 and over in Inuit Nunangat declined from 68% to 63%. The decline in smoking rates in recent years is encouraging, although the gap with the total population of Canada remains large. The 2012 Inuit daily smoking rate was over three times the rate for the overall population of Canada¹. Inuit have the highest rate of lung cancer in the world². These data outline the need for Inuit-specific policies, programs, services and strategies to reduce the rate of smoking among Inuit.

Percent of Inuit daily, occasional and non-smokers aged 15 and over in Inuit Nunangat, 1991, 2001 and 2012



Source

Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS), 1991, 2001, and 2012.

Interpretation

This chart shows smoking data for Inuit in Inuit Nunangat aged 15 and over. Data are shown for three time periods: 1991, 2001 and 2012. The top line is for daily smokers. The centre line is for non-smokers while the bottom line is for occasional smokers.

Bibliography

Custom tables from Health Analysis Division, Statistics Canada based on Aboriginal Peoples Survey data.

1 The total population of Canada includes both Inuit and non-Inuit.
 2 Young et. al. 2016. Cancer among circumpolar populations: an emerging public health concern. International Journal of Circumpolar Health 75: 29787



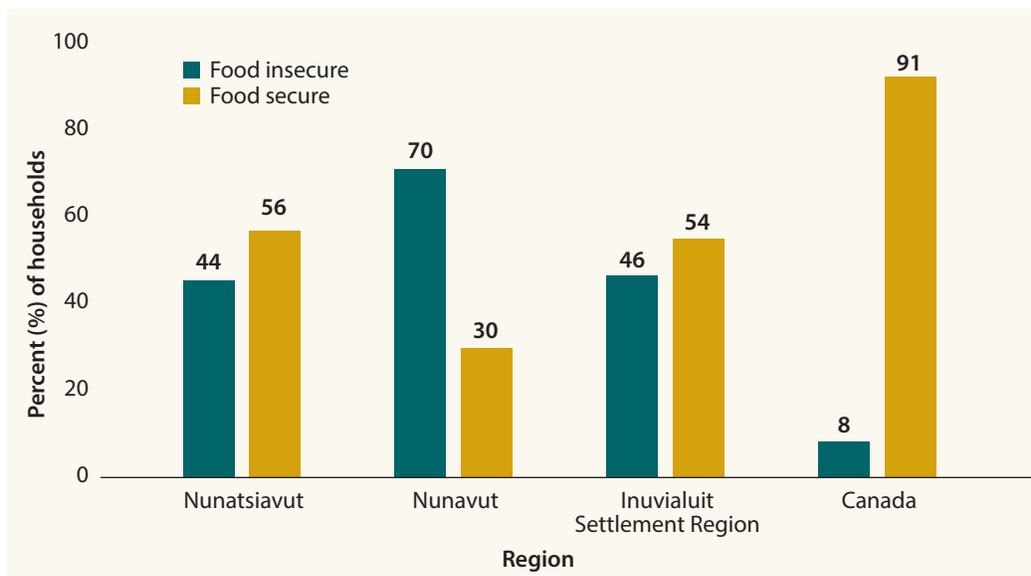


Food Insecurity

Far too many Inuit struggle with food insecurity. Some reasons include the high cost of food in Inuit communities, poverty, the cost of supplies required for harvesting and the decline in some animal species such as caribou. Adults in food insecure households often have poorer physical and mental health, including higher rates of heart disease, diabetes and depression. Food insecurity impacts children’s cognitive, academic and psychosocial development. For Inuit, the impacts of food insecurity also extend to cultural well-being because of the continued importance of country foods such as seal, whale, and fish harvested from the local environment.

In Nunatsiavut, 44% of households are food insecure, similar to the 46% for households in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The rate of food insecurity is highest in Nunavut where 70% of households are food insecure.¹ Conversely, 8% of all households in Canada are food insecure².

Percent of food insecure households by region, 2007-2008



Source

Inuit Health Survey, 2007-2008 and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2007-08.

Interpretation

This chart shows data for the percent of households in Nunatsiavut (far left), Nunavut, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Canada as a whole (far right) that are food insecure (green bars) and food secure (gold bars). Data for Canada are for all households in the country, both Inuit and non-Inuit.

Technical Note

Food security is “a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”³ Data for Canada are for all households in the country, excluding those on reserve.

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https://www.mcgill.ca/cine/files/cine/adult_report_-_inuvialuit.pdf

Canadian Community Health Survey 2007-08, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-625-x/2010001/article/11162-eng.htm>

1 Comparable data are not available for Nunavik.

2 All Canadian households include Inuit and non-Inuit.

3 World Food Summit, 1996 <http://www.fao.org/forestry/13128-0e6f36f27e0091055bec28ebe830f46b3.pdf>





Income

For Inuit in Inuit Nunangat in 2015, the median income for those aged 15 years and over was \$23,485 compared with \$92,011 for non-Indigenous people in this region. This represents an income gap of almost \$70,000. The cost of living in Inuit Nunangat is high with many Inuit struggling to buy healthy food, hunting and fishing supplies, clothing and other necessities. In addition, many Inuit families are large and low incomes must be spread thin in an effort to meet the basic needs of family members.

Median individual income, Inuit and non-Indigenous population aged 15 and over by region, 2015

Region	Inuit population	Non-Indigenous population
Total, Canada	\$24,502	\$34,604
Inuit Nunangat	\$23,485	\$92,011
Nunatsiavut	\$23,211	\$51,584
Nunavik	\$25,627	\$79,328
Nunavut	\$24,768	\$84,139
Inuvialuit region	\$22,523	\$101,494
Outside Inuit Nunangat	\$27,665	\$34,597

Source

Statistics Canada, custom tabulation, 2016 Census.

Interpretation

This table shows the total median income for Inuit and non-Indigenous populations aged 15 and over in the various regions across Canada. The median income is the midpoint – half of incomes fall below this point while half are above.

Technical Note

Income includes income from all sources including employment, investments, government transfers such as Canada Pension, Old Age Security, Employment Insurance, child benefits etc. Excluded are those without income. When interpreting income data for Inuit, it is important to keep in mind the high cost of food, clothing and other necessities in Inuit communities and the larger family size. Smaller incomes must be stretched further across Inuit Nunangat.

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others.

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Statistics Canada. 2016 Census. Custom tabulation prepared for ITK.



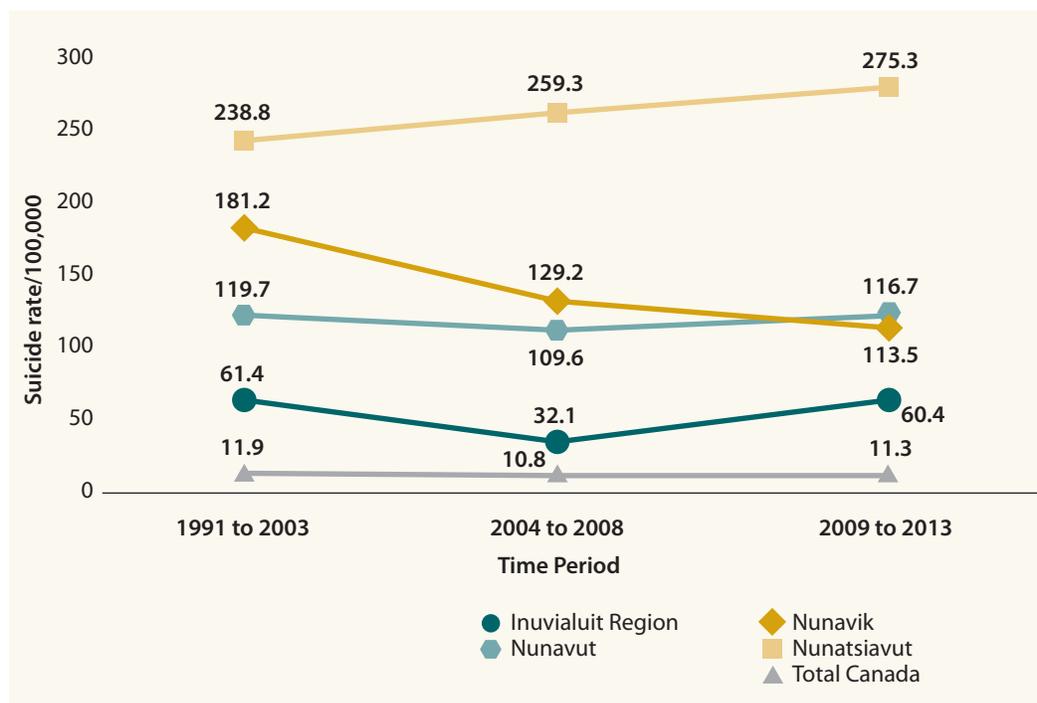
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 INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI



Suicide Rates

The four Inuit regions in Canada have rates of suicide that range from five to 25 times the rate of suicide for Canada as a whole. The high rates of suicide in Inuit Nunangat are a symptom of the social and economic inequities that have existed between Inuit Nunangat and most other regions of Canada since Inuit began to be impacted by colonization and the transition off the land into permanent settlements. The stress our people experienced during this transition, coupled with the prejudice and social inequities families faced in settlements, led to enduring social challenges that create risk for suicide in our communities. Suicide among Inuit is a preventable public health crisis that can and must be addressed.

Suicide rates for Inuit in Inuit regions and total population of Canada¹, 1999-2013



Source

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2016.

Interpretation

This chart shows data on suicide rates for three different time periods – 1999-2003, 2004-2008 and 2009-2013. Rates are provided for each of the four Inuit regions and the total population of Canada over time.

Technical Note

Data for Inuit living outside Inuit Nunangat are not available because death certificates in the provinces are not coded by Indigenous identity the way they are in the territories.

Bibliography

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. 2016. National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy. <https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ITK-National-Inuit-Suicide-Prevention-Strategy-2016.pdf>

¹ The total population of Canada includes both Inuit and non-Inuit.



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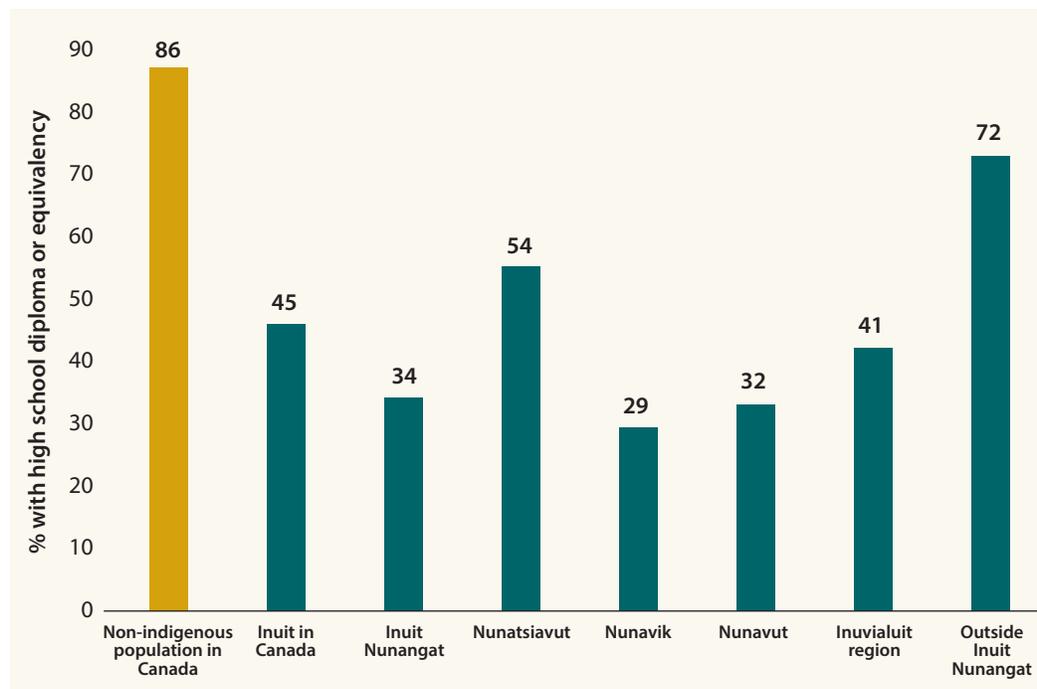


Education

In 2016, 45% of Inuit in Canada reported having a high school diploma, compared to 86% of the non-Indigenous population in the country. Figures for Inuit varied from one region to the next. Inuit outside Inuit Nunangat were more likely than Inuit elsewhere to have completed high school.

The difference between Inuit and the non-Indigenous population in Canada is a result of several factors including the impact of residential school attendance on many generations of Inuit, children often having to learn in a second language, insufficient numbers of Inuit teachers and culturally irrelevant curriculum, among others. Addressing the Inuit education deficit will fulfill the goal of graduating bilingual Inuit students, grounded in Inuit culture, history and world view who have the skills and knowledge to contribute to Inuit Nunangat, Canada and the world with pride and confidence.

Percent of non-Indigenous and Inuit populations aged 25 to 64 with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, 2016



Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Interpretation

This chart shows the percent of Inuit aged 25 to 64 years with a high school diploma or equivalency. Data for various regions are provided. The first gold bar shows the percentage for the non-Indigenous population in Canada. Green Inuit-specific bars are for Inuit in Canada, in Inuit Nunangat, each Inuit region and outside Inuit Nunangat.

Technical Note

Included are those with a GED and a regular high school diploma. Excluded are those who did not finish high school but who obtained a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree.

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. 2016 Census of Population. Table 98-400-X2016265

Aboriginal Identity (9), Secondary (High) School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate (14), Labour Force Status (8), Registered or Treaty Indian Status (3), Residence by Aboriginal Geography (10), Age (13A) and Sex (3)

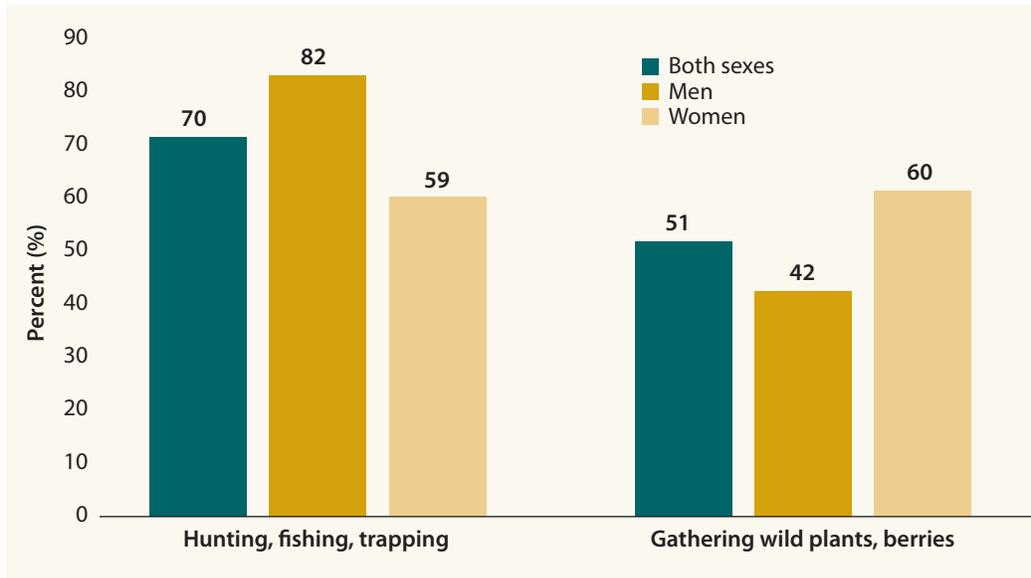




Harvesting Country Food

Country foods from the land and sea provide a healthy and nutritious food source for many Inuit. Our harvesting, sharing and country food consumption reinforces family and community ties and contributes to the continuity of an ancient tradition. In Inuit Nunangat, the overwhelming majority (70%) of Inuit adults take part in harvesting activities and half (51%) gather wild plants and berries. Inuit men are more likely than Inuit women to hunt, fish and trap while the reverse is true for gathering activities. This provides clear evidence of the resilience and importance of the Inuit traditions of harvesting and gathering these foods.

Percent of Inuit in Inuit Nunangat aged 18 and over who harvested in previous year, 2012



Source

Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) 2012.

Interpretation

This chart shows data for the percent of Inuit men and women aged 18 and over in Inuit Nunangat who reported harvesting or gathering at least once in 2011. Data on the left are for those who hunted, fished and /or trapped. Data shown are for both sexes combined, males and females. Similar numbers are shown on the right for those who gathered wild plants and/or berries.

Technical Note

Information is for those who did any of these activities at least once in the past year. The percentages include those who harvested on a regular basis, along with those who rarely harvested.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. 2012. Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). Custom tabulation for ITK.





Language

It has been said that “our language is who and what we are and the health of our language lies at the core of our well-being”¹. At the national level, 64% of Inuit of all ages reported being able to speak Inuktitut² well enough to have a conversation. However, less than half (45%) said that Inuktitut was the language used most often at home, the place where language is most likely to be passed on from one generation to the next. While there are many Inuktitut speakers in Nunavik and Nunavut, there is a smaller percentage of speakers in Nunatsiavut and the Inuvialuit region, largely because of their different histories and experiences with colonialism, including the residential school system, that have contributed to language decline. In all regions, Inuktitut is under threat and resources and programs must be in place to ensure the promotion and protection of its many dialects across Inuit Nunangat and among Inuit in southern Canada.

Percent of Inuit reporting being able to converse in Inuktitut², using Inuktitut at home and with Inuktitut as their mother tongue, 2016

	Able to converse in Inuktitut [%]	Inuktitut used most at home [%]	Inuktitut mother tongue [%]
Language by age group			
Inuit of all ages in Canada	64%	45%	57%
0-14 years	65%	48%	56%
15-24 years	64%	46%	57%
25-64 years	64%	42%	58%
65 years and over	61%	46%	61%
Language by Inuit region			
Nunatsiavut	21%	5%	17%
Nunavik	99%	95%	98%
Nunavut	89%	58%	77%
Inuvialuit region	22%	1%	16%
Outside Inuit Nunangat	11%	2%	10%

Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Interpretation

This table shows information for three indicators of language strength: a) % able to converse in Inuktitut b) % reporting using Inuktitut as the language used most at home and c) % reporting Inuktitut as their mother tongue. The top section of the table provides information for Inuit at the national level by age while the bottom section shows information for each indicator for each Inuit region.

Technical Note

Mother tongue is the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood. Included in the mother tongue data is a small number of Inuit who speak an Indigenous language other than Inuktitut.

Language information is based on self-assessment, rather than a formal assessment tool. While information on the percentage of Inuit who can speak Inuktitut well enough to have a conversation is useful, it can hide some important changes. For example, due to ongoing language erosion, it is likely that many younger Inuit who report being conversant in Inuktitut cannot speak the language to the same level of proficiency as older Inuit.

The census misses some Inuit. Excluded from the Inuit population counts are those who are homeless, those living in institutions such as prisons and hospitals and others.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. 2016 Census of Population. Table 98-400-X2016265.

Aboriginal Identity (9), Secondary (High) School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate (14), Labour Force Status (8), Registered or Treaty Indian Status (3), Residence by Aboriginal Geography (10), Age (13A) and Sex (3).

1 Mary Simon, 2008 Arctic Indigenous Language Summit, Tromso, Norway.

2 There are several dialects of Inuktitut spoken throughout Canada including Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun, and various others. Here, these are collectively known as the Inuktitut. While some dialects have many speakers, others have a smaller number.



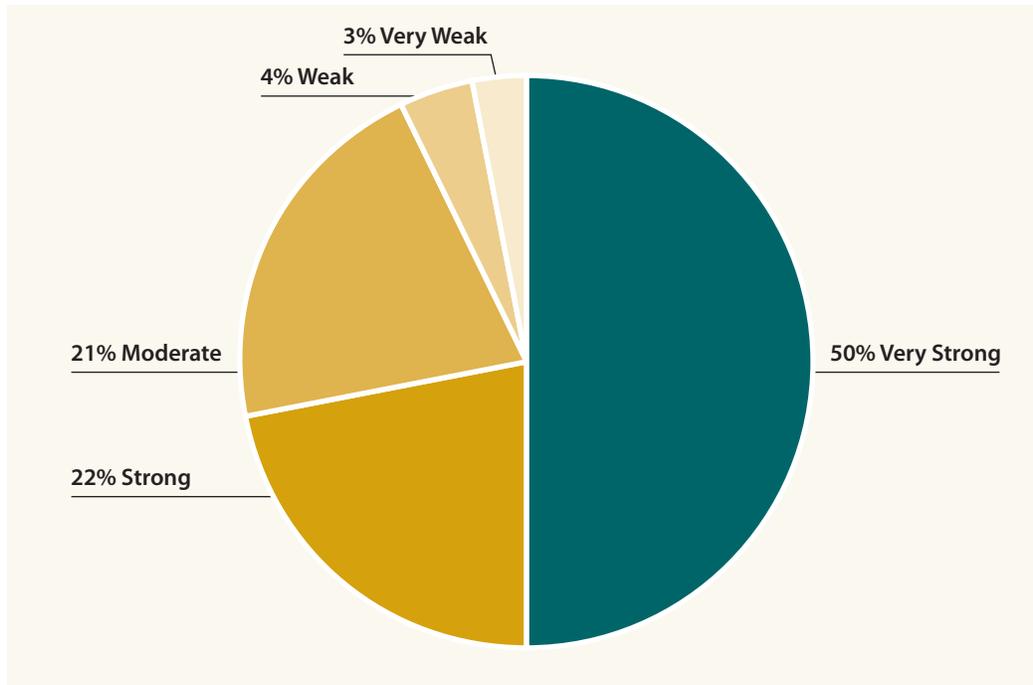
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Strength of Family Ties

Strong connections with family members in the community can provide social support that contributes to overall wellbeing and that can protect against a number of health problems.¹ Half (50%) of Inuit aged 18 and over in Inuit Nunangat reported that they had very strong ties with family members in another household within their community. An additional 22% reported having strong ties.

Strength of ties with family in another household in the community, Inuit population in Inuit Nunangat aged 18 and over, 2012



Source

Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS), 2012.

Interpretation

This chart shows the strength of family ties with family members in other households within the community reported by Inuit aged 18 and over living in Inuit Nunangat. Strength of ties ranges from very strong to very weak.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. 2012. Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). Custom tabulation prepared for ITK.

¹ Public Health Agency of Canada. "What makes Canadians healthy or unhealthy?" <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php>





Conclusion

Statistics can provide a wealth of information. They can show improvements in education outcomes, bring emerging health concerns to the attention of public health officials and provide evidence to advocate for resources required to ensure the health of our languages and cultures. In some cases, they can point to unacceptable gaps between Inuit and others that must be addressed. Inuit look forward to working together in partnership to meet the challenges highlighted by statistics.

As we move towards self-determination in research and data activities, Inuit-specific data-based indicators will better reflect our lives and circumstances. Strengths-based indicators will allow us to tell our own stories in our own ways, and to showcase our many strengths. These Inuit-informed indicators will provide more balance to future editions of the *Inuit Statistical Profile*.





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