

StatsUpdate

Topic **Aboriginal peoples in Canada: Focus on Inuit in Nunavut**

2006 Census of Population

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Background In 2006, **84%** of the population of Nunavut identified themselves as Inuit, down slightly from **85%** in 2001. A decade ago, that proportion was **83%**.

The Inuit population is much younger than the non-Inuit population. In 2006, children and youth aged 24 and under made up **59%** of all Inuit people in Nunavut, compared with **23%** of the non-Inuit population. Almost four Inuit out of ten in Nunavut were under the age of 15, compared to **14%** of the non-Inuit population. On the other hand, adults aged 45 and above accounted for **15%** of all Inuit people in Nunavut, compared with **33%** of the non-Inuit population.

Detail

Nunavut population by Inuit identity and age group, 2001 and 2006				
	2006		2001	
	Number	% of Inuit population	Number	% of Inuit population
Total Inuit population	24,635	100	22,560	100
14 years and under	9,330	38	9,335	41
15 to 24 years	5,150	21	4,190	19
25 to 44 years	6,560	27	6,055	27
45 to 64 years	2,900	12	2,355	10
65 years and over	705	3	625	3
	2006		2001	
	Number	% of non-Inuit population	Number	% of non-Inuit population
Total non-Inuit population	4,690	100	4,110	100
14 years and under	655	14	650	16
15 to 24 years	440	9	390	9
25 to 44 years	2,030	43	1,890	46
45 to 64 years	1,470	31	1,110	27
65 years and over	90	2	70	2

Source : Statistics Canada, Catalogues # 97-558-X2006015 and 97F0011XCB01040.

Note: Data may not add up to totals due to random rounding.

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Background According to the 2006 Census, about **91%** of Inuit in Nunavut could converse in Inuktitut, a similar level observed in 2001. Older Inuit were more likely to be able to converse in Inuktitut than younger people. About **86%** of those aged 14 and under could converse in Inuktitut compared to **97%** of adults aged 45 and over.

In 2006, Inuktitut was the mother tongue of approximately **83%** of the Inuit population in the territory, down slightly from 2001. This small decline was observed amongst most age groups. Children aged 14 and under had the lowest proportion of all age groups reporting Inuktitut as their mother tongue.

Detail

Inuit identity population with knowledge of Inuktitut and with Inuktitut as mother tongue, by age group, Nunavut, 2001 and 2006				
	2006		2001	
	Number	% of age group	Number	% of age group
Total Inuit population with knowledge of Inuktitut	22,345	91	20,625	91
14 years and under	8,030	86	8,110	87
15 to 24 years	4,585	89	3,800	91
25 to 44 years	6,220	95	5,770	95
45 to 64 years	2,800	97	2,325	99
65 years and over	705	100	600	96
	2006		2001	
	Number	% of age group	Number	% of age group
Total Inuit population with Inuktitut as mother tongue	20,430	83	19,025	84
14 years and under	7,085	76	7,275	78
15 to 24 years	4,105	80	3,450	82
25 to 44 years	5,825	89	5,415	89
45 to 64 years	2,735	94	2,290	97
65 years and over	695	99	610	98

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues # 97-558-X2006015 and 97F0011XCB01040.

Note: Data may not add up to totals due to random rounding.

Mother tongue refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

Knowledge of Inuktitut refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in Inuktitut.

Inuktitut includes all the dialects in Nunavut, including Inuinnaqtun.

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Background According to the 2006 Census Inuit in Nunavut were more than 6 times as likely as non-Inuit in the territory to live in crowded homes. Almost four Inuit out of ten (**39%**) lived in crowded homes, compared to **6%** of the non-Inuit population in Nunavut. Crowding rates for Inuit in Nunavut have declined from **43%** in 1996.

A growing percentage of Inuit in Nunavut live in homes requiring major repairs. In 2006, **26%** of Inuit lived in homes in need of major repairs, up from **21%** in 1996. In 2006, **14%** of the non-Inuit population in Nunavut lived in homes in need of major repairs.

Detail

Nunavut population in private households by Inuit identity, condition of dwelling and number of persons per room, 2006

	Inuit population		Non-Inuit population	
	Number	% of Inuit population	Number	% of non-Inuit population
Condition of dwellings				
Total population in private households	24,595	100	4,605	100
Regular maintenance	9,440	38	2,705	59
Minor repairs	8,775	36	1,285	28
Major repairs	6,375	26	625	14
Number of persons per room				
Total population in private households	24,595	100	4,605	100
One person or fewer per room	15,090	61	4,345	94
More than one person per room	9,505	39	265	6

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Catalogue #97-558-X2006023.

Note: Data may not add to totals due to random rounding.

Crowding is defined as more than one person per room. Not counted are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms solely used for business purposes.

Dwellings in need of major repairs are those that, in the judgment of the respondent, require major repairs to such things as defective plumbing or electrical wiring, and/or structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.

Background

In 2006, over three quarters of Inuit lived in Inuit Nunaat. This is the Inuktitut expression for 'Inuit homeland' consisting of four regions across the Arctic. Nunavut was the largest region with **49%** of all Inuit (24,635) living here. Nunavik contained **19%** of all Inuit (9,565). The Inuvialuit region was home to **6%** of all Inuit nationally (3,115). There were 2,160 Inuit in Nunatsiavut accounting for **4%** of all Inuit in Canada. Nunavik was the region with the highest concentration of Inuit, with **91%** of its population identifying as Inuit. The lowest proportion of Inuit was found in the Inuvialuit region.

The Inuktitut language was strongest in the region of Nunavik, as virtually all Inuit (**99%**) in this region could speak the language well enough to have a conversation. In Nunavut the vast majority (**91%**) of Inuit could converse in Inuktitut. In the other two Inuit regions, the proportion of Inuit able to converse in Inuktitut was much lower.

Within Inuit Nunaat, Inuit in Nunavut were the least likely to live in dwellings in need of major repairs. In 2006, 6,375 Inuit in the territory lived in homes requiring major repairs, **26%** of the total, compared with **46%** in Nunavik, **34%** in Nunatsiavut, and **28%** in the Inuvialuit region.

In all four regions of Inuit Nunaat, crowding rates for Inuit were higher than the rate for the non-Inuit population in this region. In Nunavik, about 4,710 Inuit, **49%** of the total, lived in crowded dwellings, as did **39%** of those in Nunavut, **19%** in the Inuvialuit region and **13%** in Nunatsiavut.

Detail

Selected characteristics for Inuit population by Inuit Nunaat, Canada, 2006				
	% of Inuit in total population	% of Inuit able to converse in Inuktitut	% of Inuit living in dwellings with major repairs	% of Inuit living in crowded dwellings
Total Inuit population in Canada	0.2	69	28	31
Inuit Nunaat (Inuit regions)	82	84	31	38
Nunavut	84	91	26	39
Nunavik	91	99	46	49
Nunatsiavut	89	27	34	13
Inuvialuit region	55	20	28	19
Outside Inuit Nunaat	0.04	15	15	5
Rural	0.04	15	21	6
Urban	0.03	15	13	5

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Catalogues #97-558-X2006023 and #97-558-X2006024.

Note: Data may not add to totals due to random rounding.

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Crowding is defined as more than one person per room. Not counted are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms solely used for business purposes.