

StatsUpdate

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

2016 Censuses of Population

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Background: In 2016, **84.7%** of the population of Nunavut identified themselves as Inuit - about the same from **84.8%** in 2011.

The Inuit population is much younger than the Non-Inuit population. In 2016, children and youth under 25 years of age made up **50%** of all Inuit people in Nunavut, compared with **20%** of the Non-Inuit population. Almost four out of ten Inuit in Nunavut were under the age of 15, compared to **11%** of the Non-Inuit population. In contrast, adults aged 25 and over accounted for **50%** of all Inuit people in Nunavut, compared with **81%** of the Non-Inuit population.

Details:

Nunavut Population by Inuit Identity and Age Group, 2011 and 2016				
	2016		2011	
	Number	% of Inuit population	Number	% of Inuit population
Total Inuit population	30,140	100	27,070	100
Under 15 years	10,905	36	9,915	37
15 to 24 years	5,760	19	5,595	21
25 to 64 years	12,370	41	10,675	39
65 years and over	1,105	4	885	3
Total Non-Inuit population	5,440	100	4,335	100
Under 15 years	745	14	475	11
15 to 24 years	375	7	325	7
25 to 64 years	4,115	76	3,410	79
65 years and over	210	4	125	3

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues #98-400-X2016155 and #99-011-X2011031

Notes:

1. Data may not add up to totals due to random rounding.

Note to Readers:

When comparing data on Aboriginal people from the 2016 Census of Population to previous cycles, several factors should be taken into account. Among these are differences in methodology, changes to the wording and format of Aboriginal questions, legislative changes and differences in the list of incompletely enumerated reserves.

Along with these factors, some people, for a variety of reasons, report their Aboriginal identity differently from one data collection period to another.

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Background: According to the 2016 Census, about **85%** of Inuit in Nunavut could converse in Inuktitut - down slightly from 2011. Older Inuit were more likely to be able to converse in Inuktitut than younger people. About **82%** of those less than 15 years of age could converse in Inuktitut, compared to **89%** of adults aged 25 and over.

In 2016, Inuktitut was the mother tongue of approximately **74%** of the Inuit population in the territory - also down from 2011. Children under 15 years of age had the lowest proportion of all age groups reporting Inuktitut as their mother tongue, while those 65 years and older had the highest percentage.

Details:

Inuit Identity Population with Knowledge of Inuktitut and with Inuktitut as Mother Tongue, by Age Group, Nunavut, 2011 and 2016				
	2016		2011	
	Number	% of Age Group	Number	% of Age Group
Total Inuit population with knowledge of Inuktitut	25,755	85	24,090	89
Under 15 years	8,985	82	8,260	83
15 to 24 years	4,800	83	4,900	88
25 to 64 years	10,970	89	10,055	94
65 years and over	1,000	90	875	99
Total Inuit population with Inuktitut as mother tongue	22,445	74	21,410	79
Under 15 years	7,160	66	7,055	71
15 to 24 years	4,025	70	4,285	77
25 to 64 years	10,195	82	9,205	86
65 years and over	1,070	97	865	98

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues #98-400-X2016160 and # 99-011-X2011031

Notes:

1. Data may not add up to totals due to random rounding.
2. **Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
3. **Knowledge of Inuktitut** refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in Inuktitut.
4. **Inuktitut** includes all the dialects in Nunavut, including Inuinnaqtun.

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