CANADA
TOTAL POPULATION:33,476,688
ABORIGINAL:1,400,685

THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'S SURVEY (APS)

The 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) is a national survey of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people living off reserve across Canada. Urban centers are defined by small population centre (1,000 to 29,999), medium population centre (30,000 to 99,999) and large population centre (100,000 or more).

The 2012 APS is the fourth cycle of the survey and provides detailed data on education, employment and health unique to urban Aboriginal people. The survey addresses topics such as number of schools attended, exposure to Aboriginal languages, traditional activities, peer influences and plans for further schooling. The APS provides key statistics to inform policy and programming activities aimed at improving the well-being of Aboriginal Peoples. The 2012 APS is a robust data source and valuable source of information for a variety of stakeholders including Aboriginal organizations, communities, service providers, researchers, governments and the general public.

This overview is based on data generated from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and Statistics Canada's 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.[i] It provides useful information that describes the population as well as information on income, housing, education, labour market activity, mobility patterns and language and traditional activities of urban Aboriginal people in Canada. It is intended to provide a quick access point for analyzed data for academics, government and private industry. It is helpful for community research and information, as well as for communities to use in proposal submissions, to identify new areas of development for programming and to better understand the population they work with, and to use this data in a more applied way. For a complete overview of the Aboriginal People's Survey (APS) please visit Statistics Canada at www.statcan.gc.ca

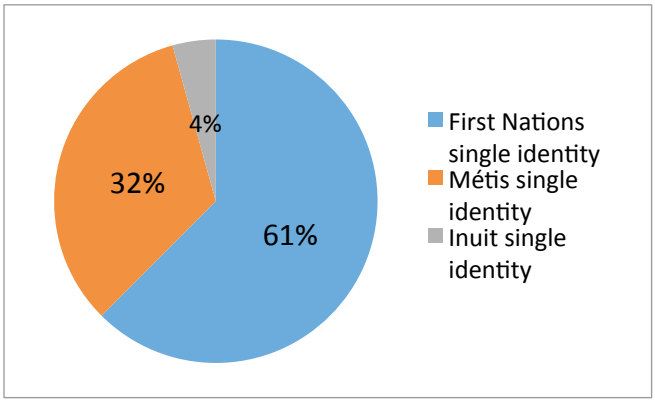
POPULATION

According to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) there are 1,400,685 people in Canada who reported having an Aboriginal identity. The Aboriginal population is young, vibrant and continues to grow. In 2011, Aboriginal people accounted for 4.3% of the total Canadian population compared to 3.8% of the population enumerated in the 2006 Census, 3.3% in the 2001 Census and 2.8% in the 1996 Census. According to the 2011 NHS, over half (56%) of Aboriginal people lived in urban areas, this is up from 49% in 1996. In Winnipeg, more than one in 10 is Aboriginal (11%), followed by Regina (10%) and Saskatoon (9%). About half (45%) of Registered Indians live on reserve while the majority of Non-Status Indians (75%) and Métis (71%) live in urban centers.

Figure 1 provides a snapshot of the total Aboriginal population in 2011 in Canada by identity group. As shown, First Nations represented over half (61%) of all Aboriginal people while Métis made up (32%), and Inuit people who predominantly reside in the Canadian North constituted 4% of the total Aboriginal population.

FIGURE 1

ABORIGINAL POPULATION



The 2011 NHS also reveals that Aboriginal children aged 14 and under made up 28.0% of the total Aboriginal population and 7.0% of all children in Canada which compares to 16.5% their counterparts within the total non-Aboriginal population. Meanwhile, Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 represented 18.2% of the total Aboriginal population, and 5.9% of all youth in Canada. While the data further show that non-Aboriginal youth

accounted for 12.9% of the total non-Aboriginal population. About 6% of the total Aboriginal population were aged 65 and over.

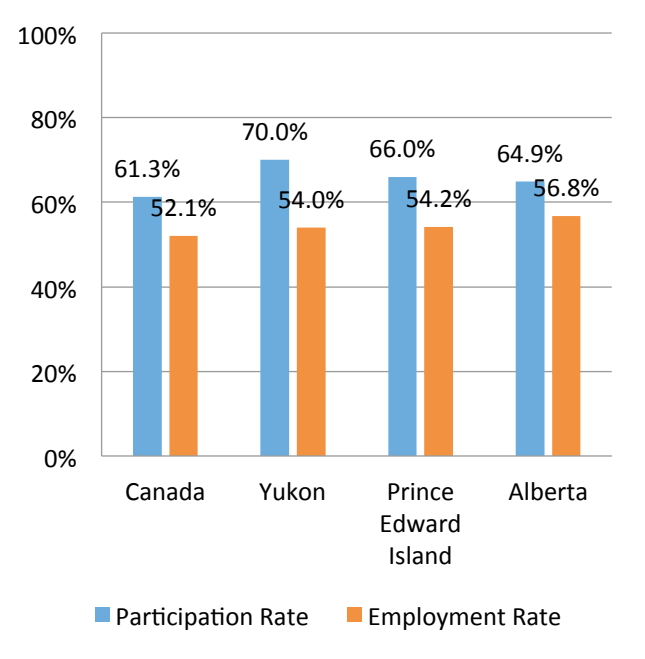
LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY

Labour market activity is usually comprised of two main components. The first is the participation rate which refers to the number of people who are either employed or are actively looking for work. The second is the employment rate which refers to the percentage of the labour force that is currently employed.

The data presented in Figure 2 shows that the three provinces or territories that had the highest participation rates among urban Aboriginal people were the Yukon (70.0%), Prince Edward Island (66.0%) and Alberta with (64.9%) when compared to the total of Canadian population.

FIGURE 2

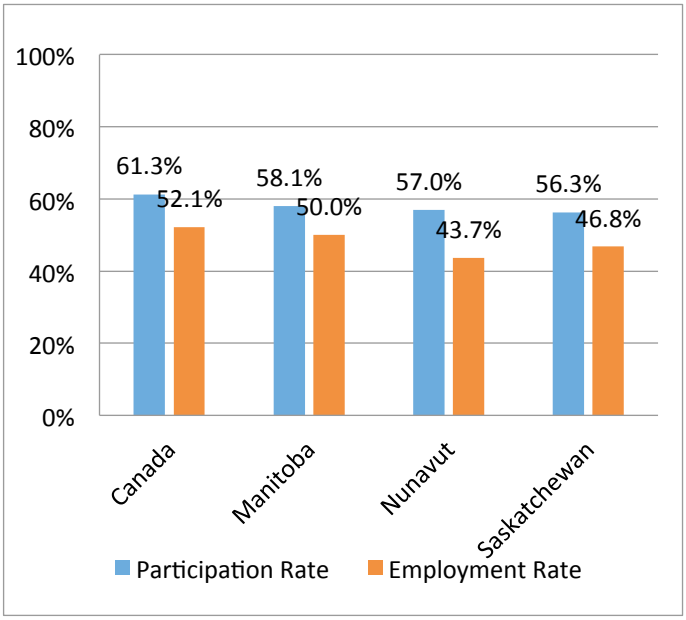
LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY



Meanwhile, from Figure 3 we see that the three provinces with the lowest rates in terms of labour force participation include: Saskatchewan (56.3%), Nunavut (57.0%) and Manitoba (58.1%).

FIGURE 3

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY



INCOME

Median household income is a useful way to evaluate income distribution among a population because it provides the point where half the population lies below and half the population lies above an income figure. According to the 2012 APS the Canadian median income value for urban Aboriginal people was $52,581.

FIGURE 4

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

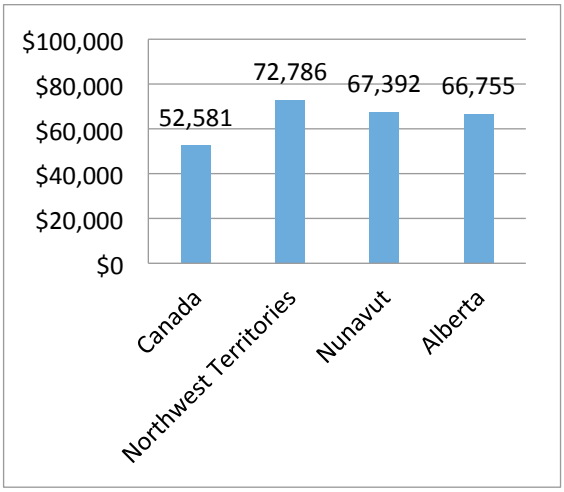
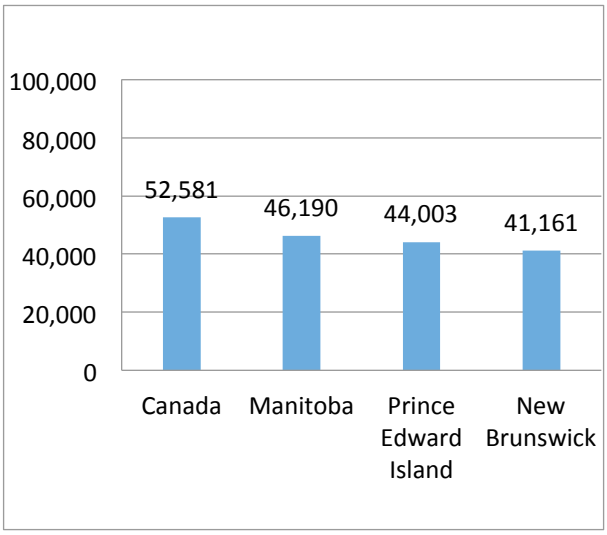


Figure 4 represents the provinces with the highest median household income: Northwest Territories ($72,786), Nunavut ($67,392), and Alberta ($66,755).

Figure 5 represents the provinces with the lowest median household income: New Brunswick ($41,161), Manitoba ($46,190) and Prince Edward Island ($44,003). A review of both Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows that New Brunswick has the lowest median household income at $41,161 and the Northwest Territories has the highest median household income of $72,786.

FIGURE 5

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



MOBILITY PATTERNS

Nearly sixty percent of all Aboriginal people in Canada live in an urban center. A vast majority of the research on mobility patterns of Aboriginal people tends to focus on migration or moving between communities i.e. between a city and reserve. While important, there is also a need to understand the issues surrounding mobility patterns or changing residences within the same community i.e. within a particular city or neighbourhood.

FIGURE 6

MOVES WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS

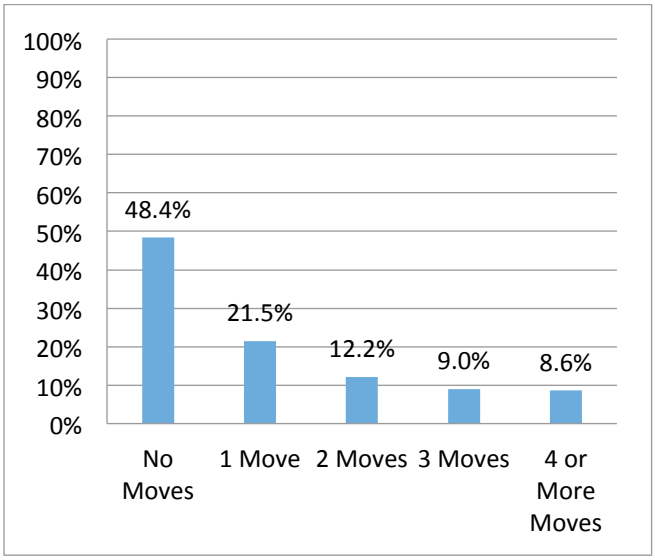


Figure 6 presents APS data that shows that mobility or the number of moves made by urban Aboriginal people in city within a five year period to the time of the 2012 APS. We see that close to 20% of the population had at least one move while 10% were moving more frequently.

Table 1 compares the percentages of moves with the last 5 years for urban Aboriginal males and urban Aboriginal females.

TABLE 1

URBAN ABORIGINAL MOBILITY PATTERNS BY FREQUENCY AND GENDER

Total No.of Move in 5 Years	Aboriginal Males	Aboriginal Females
No Moves	49.7	47.2
1 Move	21.4	21.6
2 Moves	11.6	12.7
3 Moves	8.8	9.1
4 or More Moves	8.1	9.0
Total Population	99.6	99.7
the remaining 100% is attributed to those you did not respond		

We see that the number of moves made in the past 5 years is consistent among females and males. However, further inquiry could reveal variation by

other socio-demographic factors like age, family structure and number of children.

LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are over 60 Aboriginal languages are spoken in Canada today. Aboriginal languages are important to the identity of many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada. According to the 2011 Census there were 213,490 people who reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue; that is the first language they learned and still understand. The Cree languages, Inuktitut and Ojibway were the most frequently reported Aboriginal languages in Canada. While Dene, Innu/Montagnais and Oji-Cree were other Aboriginal languages with a mother tongue population size of 10,000 or more. Other Aboriginal languages that are still common in terms of mother tongue are Squamish, Tlingit, Sarcee, Oneida and Gwich'in.

Aboriginal language is an essential component of Aboriginal culture and is presented in two ways in this profile. The first is by “mother tongue” which refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual. The second way is through “home language” which refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.

FIGURE 7

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE

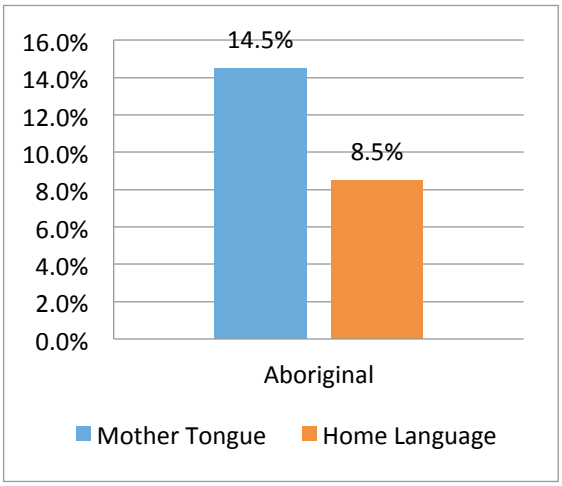


Figure 7 represents the percentage of Aboriginal Canadians who have knowledge of/or speak an Aboriginal language. According to the 2011 Census of the total Aboriginal population 14.5% reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue. Meanwhile, 8.5% of Aboriginal people in Canada reported an Aboriginal language as their home language. According to Statistics Canada, of those people who reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue, the highest proportion lived in Quebec (20.9%) followed by Manitoba (17.7%) and then Saskatchewan (16.1%)

Language and culture are aspects of urban Aboriginal life. Taking part in traditional activities has shown to be an important part of Aboriginal culture, and helps to build a strong cultural identity that leads to a strong sense of self-identity. The 2012 APS captures involvement in traditional activities include making clothing or footwear and making arts or crafts.

Figure 8 provides a snapshot of those Aboriginal people by identity group who participated in one or more traditional activities within the last year across Canada. The data shows that (48.6%) of First nations, (51.8%) of Metis and (61.6%) of Inuit people reported that they were involved in some type of traditional activity.

FIGURE 8

PARTICIPATION IN TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES BY IDENTITY

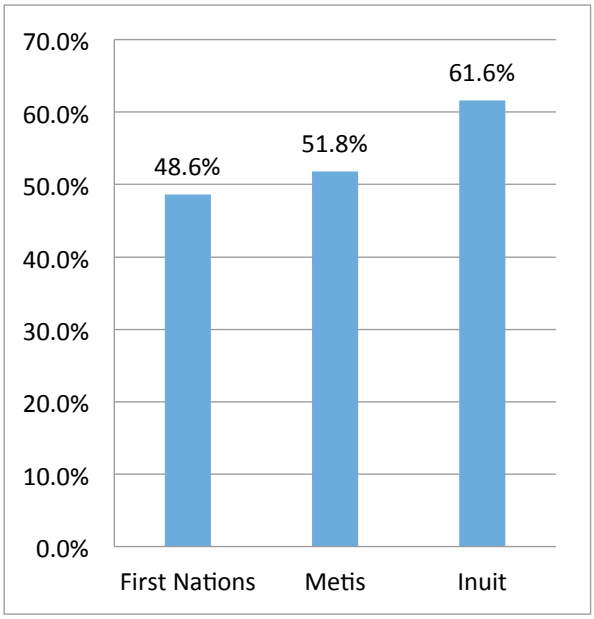
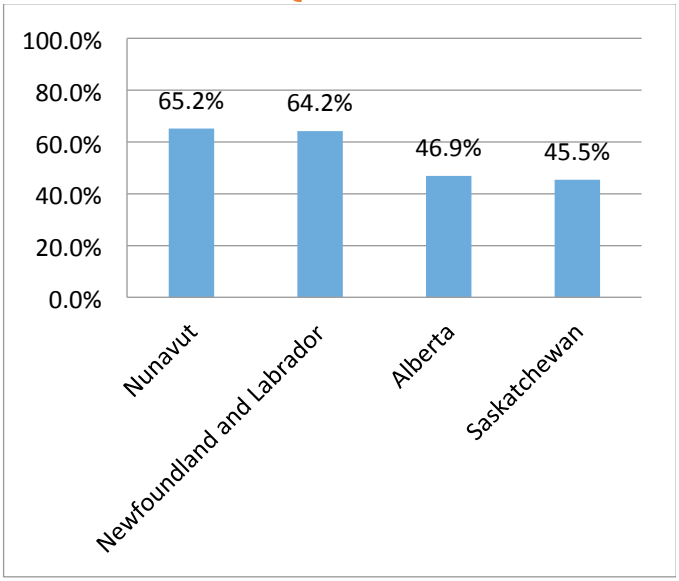


Figure 9 represents the four provinces with the highest and lowest proportions of individuals participating in traditional activities. According to the 2012 APS, the highest proportion of urban Aboriginal people who reported participating in traditional activities were found in Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador with (65.2%) and (64.2%) respectively, and the lowest in Alberta and Saskatchewan with (46.9%) and (45.5%) respectively.

FIGURE 9

PARTICIPATION IN TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES BY FREQUENCY



EDUCATION RATES

Overall, the Canadian High School Graduation rate is 74.7%. Figure 10 represents the provinces with the highest high school graduation rates for urban Aboriginal people compared with the rest of Canada. We see that Ontario had the highest proportion of high school graduates at 83.5%, followed by the Atlantic Provinces 81.2% and then Quebec 82.1%.

FIGURE 10

ABORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

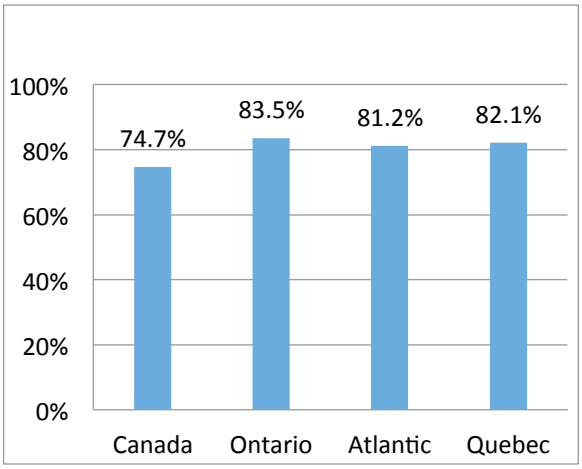


Figure 11 represents the provinces with the lowest high school graduation rates for urban Aboriginal people when compared with urban non-Aboriginal people. Here we see that Nunavut had the lowest proportion of high graduates at 48.4%, followed by the Yukon at 60.5% and then British Columbia at 65.1%

FIGURE 11

ABORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

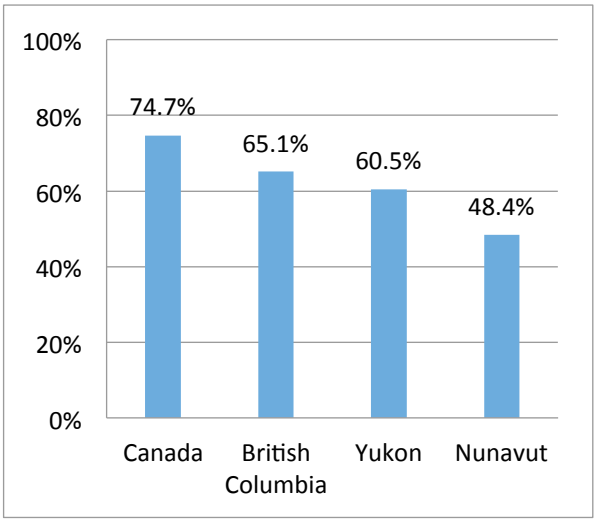
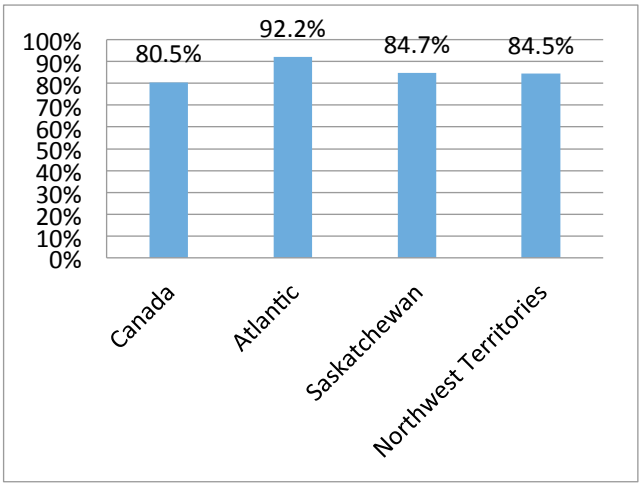


Figure 12 represents the provinces with the highest percentage of urban Aboriginal people with a post-secondary education compared to the total Canadian urban Aboriginal population of post-secondary graduates at 80.5%. The data show that

the Atlantic Provinces have the highest graduation rate at 92.2% followed by Saskatchewan at 84.7% and then Northwest Territories at 84.5%.

FIGURE 12

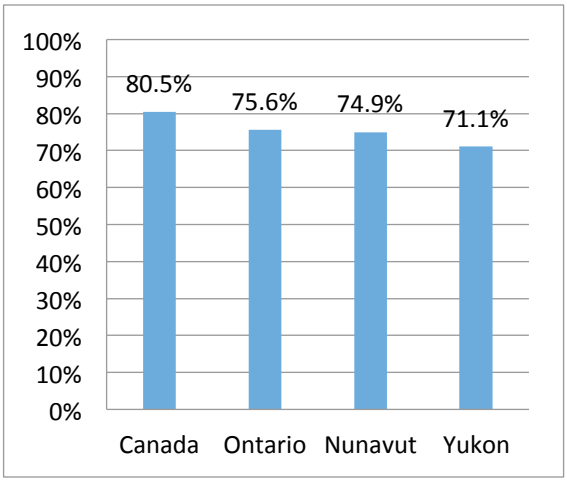
ABORIGINAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



The three provinces with the lowest proportion of post-secondary graduates are shown in Figure 13. Here we see that the Yukon has the lowest proportion of post-secondary graduates at 71.1%, followed by Nunavut at 74.9% and then Ontario 75.6%.

FIGURE 13

ABORIGINAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

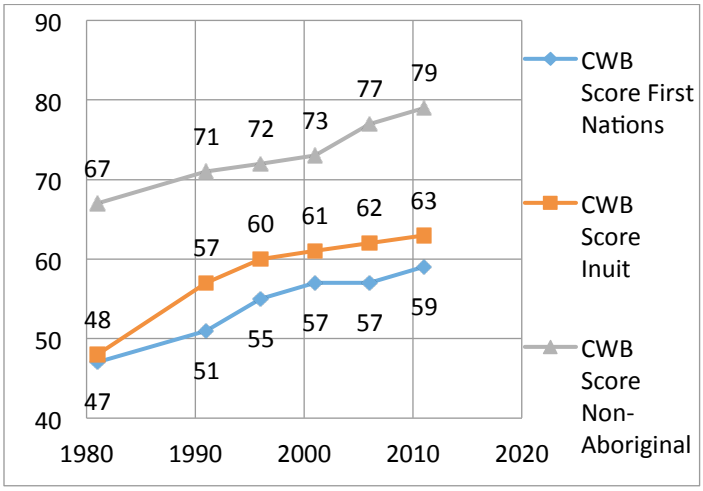


COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The Community Well-Being (CWB) Index was created by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).[ii] The scores are a way of measuring community well-being across Canada. The scores are derived from education, labour force activity, income and housing then combined to give each community a well-being "score." Figure 14 demonstrates the change in the CWB scores from 1981 to 2011 for First Nations, Inuit and non-Aboriginal communities in Canada. Overall, it should also be noted that in 2011, the CWB "gap size" between First Nations and Inuit to non-Aboriginal communities was substantial and similar to the same gap size reported for these communities in 1981.

FIGURE 14

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING SCORES FOR FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND NON-ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN CANADA 1981-2011



[i] Figures 1 – 13 and Table 1 were tabulated by using data from Statistics Canada's 2011 Census Data, semi-custom tabulations of the 2012 Aboriginal People's Survey and the 2011 National Household Survey for more information on these data sets and the data visit www.statscan.gc.ca and http://uakn.org/methodology/

[ii] Figure 14 data is from AANDC's Community Well-Being Index, found: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1421175988866/1421176016084#chp5