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In-Depth Profile of Indigenous People

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Executive Summary

1.0 Background

In 2016, Statistics Canada conducted a special census of Indigenous people on and off-reserve in consultation with the Indigenous people. Many of the traditional Census variables were re-designed to shed light on the unique family, social and personal life story of the Indigenous people.

The Census Data published applied the same set of variables to the non-indigenous population, as well to the three peoples, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. The way the data is organized allows planners to see the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous that is not possible by studying the traditional Census. Unlike the traditional census, planners can now ask questions such as:

- (1) Is the profile of the off-reserve Indigenous like the on-reserve Indigenous?
- (2) Is the profile of the off-reserve Indigenous different that the non-indigenous population in the same geographic area?
- (3) Do the off-reserve Indigenous people in the cities and towns acquire the geographic differences apparent in the general census (i.e.) variations in the fraction of lone parents.
- (4) Are there geographic areas of *concentrated disadvantage* apparent in the Indigenous profiles?
- (5) Are they the same geographic areas identified in the general census?

The 2016 Census Indigenous Profile was downloaded from Statistics Canada. The data was organized and displayed in Excel files as described below. The raw data is exactly as published by Statistics Canada. To answer the planning questions above, the data on people of indigenous identity was placed next to people who identify as non-indigenous, with corresponding percentages. The subject areas of the Indigenous Tables line up with the logic of the core Census report.

1.1 The Indigenous Profile Tables

(1) *Indigenous Demo 2016 Table One*

- a. Special Census Profile in 2016 of people identifying with the Indigenous community. The data is derived from the main Census database with values extracted for the target group. The data displayed in *Indigenous Demo 2016 Table One* links to the data for the total population in *Demographic Profile table one* and *Families table two*.
- b. Source: Statistics Canada Census Profile series
- c. Tab
 - *Ind Tot Pop tab 1a*: population with indigenous identity, comparing growth from 2016 to 2021
 - *Children <14 tab 1b*:
 - *Ages 15 – 24 tab 1c*:
 - *Adults tab 1d*:
 - *Small age groups tab 1e*: Population of people with indigenous identity by 5- and 10-year age groups
 - *Three Peoples tab 1f*: specifying First Nations, Metis and Inuit
 - *Age Stats tab 1g*:
 - *Marital Status tab 1h*: comparing Indigenous and non-indigenous
 - *Children in families tab 1i*:
 - *Children apart tab 1j*: Children living in foster care or with other relatives
 - *Pop >15 living independently tab 1k*:

(2) *Indigenous Housing Table Three*

- a. There is no Indigenous table two. The table number, “Three”, is meant to link it to the general table, *Housing Table Three*.
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *Owner/renter tab 3a*:
 - *Bedrooms tab 3b*:
 - *Housing Distress tab 3c*:
 - *Owner Costs tab 3d*:
 - *Renter Costs tab 3e*:

(3) *Indigenous Employment Table Five*

- a. There is no Indigenous Table Four. The Indigenous Table number, “Five”, is meant to link it to the general population labour data in *Employment and Jobs table five*.
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *Ind Labour Stats tab 5a*: contrasts the official labour stats between people of indigenous identity and everyone else (i.e.) mainstream.

- *Hidden unemployment tab 5b*: similar contrast quantifying the hidden unemployed, a high-risk sub-group.
- *Worker activity tab 5c*: similar contrast examining the contrast between the number of people in the official labour force, (i.e.) excluding the hidden unemployed, who haven't worked for over one year, the number who worker full time and part time.
- *Class of worker tab 5d*: similar contrast for employee status and self-employed
- *Place of work tab 5e*: from home,

(4) *Indigenous Income Table Six*

- a. The data in this table links with the population wide table, *Income Table Six*.
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *Household Income tab 6a*:
 - *Low-income groups tab 6b*:
 - *Middle Income Groups tab 6c*:
 - *Upper Income Groups tab 6d*:
 - *Individual Income tab 6e*:

(5) *Indigenous Mobility Table Seven*

- a. The data in this table links with the population wide table, *Mobility Table Seven*
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *One-Year mobility tab 7a*:
 - *Five-Year Mobility tab 7b*:

(6) *Indigenous Ethnicity Table Nine*

- a. The data in this table links with the population wide table, *Ethnicity Table Nine*
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *Most harmed minorities tab 9a*: Visible Minorities, Blacks, and Indigenous identity among the total population
 - *Aboriginal identity tab 9b*: status under the Indian Act, identity and ancestry
 - *Cross linked identity tab 9c*: Individuals who identify as mainstream, but also disclose aboriginal ancestry.
 - *Ottawa ancestries tab 9d*: Distinct indigenous ancestries of the residents of Ottawa
 - *Lanark ancestries tab 9e*: Distinct indigenous ancestries
 - *Leeds ancestries tab 9f*: Distinct indigenous ancestries
 - *Language at home tab 9g*: language usually spoken at home

(7) *Indigenous Education Table Eleven*

- a. The data in this table links with the population wide table, *Education Table Eleven*
- b. Source: as above
- c. Tab
 - *High School Level tab 11a*: fraction of indigenous and non-indigenous people currently with and without high school education.
 - *Low Education tab 11b*: the highest educational level achieved, specifically those without high school and with high school.
 - *College grads tab 11c*: the highest educational level achieved in post secondary – non-University certificate programs.
 - *University tab 11d*: the highest educational level achieved, in University, with less than a BA, a BA and more than a BA
 - *Liberal Arts tab 11e*: education, the arts, and humanities
 - *Social Sciences tab 11f*:
 - *STEM tab 11g*:

(8) *Indigenous Summary Table Seventeen*

Ten highlights of the tables described above are re-published in ten tabs. Hopefully, these summary tabs will be helpful to planners.

2.0 Findings of the Indigenous Profile

2.1 Population tab 17.a

The data from this tab comes from Census 2011, the Indigenous Census of 2016 and Census 2021. All Census years include the number of people who identify as Indigenous. This table shows that people who identify as Indigenous grew by 24.2% between 2011 and 2016 and 8.6% between 2016 and 2021. In contrast the general population of Ontario grew by 6.3% and 5.8%, respectively.

The far-right column shows the number of people with Indigenous Identity that moved in from outside the province. This includes 1,345 people who immigrated to Ontario and 7,815 who moved into Ontario from another province. This is referred to as the *inflow of external and inter-provincial migrants*. These people likely identified with Indigenous people in the country or province from which they came. In total, this inflow represents 2.6% of the Indigenous population over 5 years of age.

This means that the net inflow from outside the province is making a small contribution to the growth of people with Indigenous identity. Most of the growth (24.2%, from 2011 to 2016) is coming from internal forces (i.e.) net of births – deaths, people who acknowledged their Indigenous identity for the first time in 2016.

At the level of census subdivisions, the internal forces expand to include people who moved around within Ontario, including from Ontario reserves to the cities and towns.

Statistics Canada provides data on the number of Indigenous children under one year in 2016, which is a close estimate of the number of babies born in 2016. Indigenous women have a higher fertility rate (i.e.) 2.2 per 1,000 women 15-49, compared to 1.6 for non-Indigenous¹. The estimated number of babies born between 2011 and 2016 accounts for a third of the growth in the people with Indigenous identity during that period.

2.2 Child Pop tab 17.b

The tab shows the number of children ages 0 to 14 years comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Across Ontario, Indigenous children represent 24% of the Indigenous population. In contrast, non-Indigenous children represent 16%. The exact percentages vary by place, but the Indigenous group of people in general have a higher percentage of children.

The four columns on the right hand side show the fraction of all children ages 0 to 14 years in 2016 who were Indigenous, in contrast with the fraction of the total population in 2016 who were Indigenous. The numbers vary by location, but the data clearly shows that Indigenous children represent a larger share of the child population than the fraction that applies to people of all children. The Indigenous people are younger than the non-Indigenous population. Please see the *Indigenous Fact Sheet*, published by Statistics Canada in the publications section of the Leeds and Lanark Dropbox.

2.3 Marital status tab 17.c

This tab compares Indigenous and non-Indigenous on *married* versus living in *common law*. The data shows that Indigenous couples are much more likely to live common-law compared to non-Indigenous. The pattern between the different sub-divisions varies significantly and does not appear to be related to areas of concentrated disadvantage. This suggests that the differences in marital status of Indigenous people is not a marker for adverse outcomes.

2.4 Children in Fam tab 17.d

This tab shows a much more complex picture of how children are raised in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous families. Specifically, the table shows the number and percentage of children growing up in:

- An intact family with two parents (45% of Indigenous, 68% non-ind)
- A stepfamily with two parents (11% Indigenous, 6% non-ind)
- A lone-parent family (37% Indigenous, 23% non-ind)
- Grandparents without parents present (2.7% Indigenous, 0.7% non-ind)

These patterns vary significantly at the local level. Furthermore, the differences are not consistent with areas of concentrated disadvantage, reinforcing the finding that differences in the way Indigenous raise their children is not a marker of adverse outcomes.

¹ Arriagada, Paula (2016), *Women in Canada: First Nations, Metis and Inuit*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-503-X

2.5 Foster Care tab 2.e

This tab shows the number of children living in foster care in each jurisdiction for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The data at each census subdivision is not the place where their families of origin reside, but the location of the foster home.

The data shows that 1.6% of Indigenous children are living in foster care in Ontario compared to 0.2% of non-Indigenous children who are living in foster care. This means that Indigenous children are nine times (9.0) more likely to be in foster care than non-Indigenous children.

The same data from a different perspective shows that 25% of the children in foster care are Indigenous. This reinforces the priority of the province to uphold rigorous standards of culturally competent care in the residential care sector.

2.6 Housing Stress tab 2.f

The data on housing stress for the Indigenous people off-reserve is compared to the situation for the total population. Three types of housing are displayed:

- *Suitability of housing for the number of occupants:* 7% for both groups in Ontario. In fact, the Indigenous population has zero values on this indicator. This suggests that this is a local issue, especially on reserves.
- *Major Repairs Needed:* The homes of Indigenous people are twice likely to need major repairs (14% across Ontario and 13% in the Ottawa corona, compared to 6% and 7% respectively)
- *Spending over 30% of gross income on shelter:* Twenty-five percent (25%) Indigenous households spend more than 30% of income on shelter in Ontario, like the general population (24%). However, locally, Indigenous households are under greater stress. Indigenous households in jurisdictions of high need (i.e.) Cornwall, Brockville, Smith Falls, Hawkesbury, Perth and Prescott have a consistently higher percentage with this stressor. Forty-one percent (41%) of Indigenous households in the high-risk communities spend too much on shelter compared to 23% generally.
 - An average of 24% of Indigenous households in the other 37% census subdivisions on this table spend more than 30% of gross income on shelter, compared to 13% of the general population.

Findings related to Housing Stress

- (1) Two aspects of housing stress, major repairs needs and unaffordability, are two times (2x) more prevalent among Indigenous households.
- (2) Indigenous households in six jurisdictions, previously identified as centres of concentrated disadvantaged, share the same stressors only to a greater degree. Both groups identify the same communities as high-risk.

2.7 Hidden Unemployment tab 17g

This table is based on the same logic as the general table *Employment and Jobs Table Five*. The same sociological research evidence applies to the Indigenous people. Hidden, structural unemployment is one of the most potent risk factors in society, responsible for many adverse outcomes.

Across Ontario and locally, Indigenous people have between 1.5 and 2.0 times as much hidden unemployment as the non-Indigenous population. I have highlighted 10 local jurisdictions with hidden unemployment above 40%. Most of them are in rural townships, not known for high-risk indicators.

The distribution locally of this potent risk factor among the Indigenous people is not aligned with the non-Indigenous population. This is illustrated by the two tables below:

Table #1: Communities of Highest Risk for Non-Indigenous People

	Indigenous	Non_indigenous
<i>Akwesasne (Part) 59</i>	52.5%	25.0%
<i>Cornwall</i>	38.8%	27.8%
<i>Hawkesbury</i>	53.3%	28.2%
<i>Prescott</i>	42.1%	28.1%
<i>Smiths Falls</i>	35.7%	28.8%

Table #2: Communities of Highest Risk for Indigenous People

	Indigenous	Non_indigenous
<i>Akwesasne (Part) 59</i>	52.5%	25.0%
<i>South Dundas</i>	52.6%	19.7%
<i>Hawkesbury</i>	53.3%	28.2%
<i>Alfred and Plantagenet</i>	40.4%	17.2%
<i>Augusta</i>	43.3%	17.4%
<i>Prescott</i>	42.1%	28.1%
<i>Westport</i>	100.0%	10.2%
<i>Drummond/North Elmsley</i>	40.0%	16.3%
<i>Tay Valley</i>	47.8%	16.4%
<i>Frontenac Islands</i>	57.1%	7.5%
<i>North Frontenac</i>	54.5%	32.0%

Findings Related to Hidden Unemployment

The Indigenous people have a significantly higher rate of hidden, structural unemployment than the non-Indigenous. The highest rates are spread out across more communities, many of which were not loaded with risk factors in the *Risk and Resilience* paper.

2.8 Languages Spoken tab 17.h

This table shows the languages spoken regularly at home by the Indigenous people. The Indigenous people. In most jurisdictions, more than 97% speak English regularly at home. In Prescott-Russell, 71% speak English at home and 68% speak French.

Across Ontario, 97% speak English, 8% speak French and 6.9% speak an Indigenous language. On the Akwesasne Reserve, 31% regularly speak and Indigenous language at home.

2.9 Low Education tab 17.i

This table displays the highest level of education or training achieved. The data compares Indigenous and non-indigenous or *mainstream*.

The data shows the fraction of the population over 15 years of age who did not graduate from high school, graduated from high school and the combined group of high school graduation of less education.

Low education is a robust risk factor for adverse outcomes, poverty, structural unemployment, and health problems. The Indigenous population has consistently higher rates of *never graduating from high school* (i.e.) 29% across Ontario compared to 17% for mainstream.

The population who graduated from high school is 28% Indigenous and 27% mainstream for the province. Indigenous and mainstream people have similar percentages who graduated from high school in each jurisdiction. The combined group includes 57% of Indigenous people and 45% of mainstream.

The Akwesasne reserve is below average on the combined group (51%). The jurisdictions with the highest fraction of people with very low educational attainment for either Indigenous or mainstream populations are:

- Cornwall: 65% Indigenous, 60% mainstream
- South Dundas: 71% Indigenous, 54% mainstream
- Hawkesbury: 67% Indigenous, 64% mainstream
- Brockville: 61% Indigenous, 52% mainstream
- Smith Falls: 66% Indigenous, 56% mainstream
- Perth: 68% Indigenous, 50% mainstream
- Central Frontenac: 66% Indigenous, 51% mainstream
- Lennox & Addington: 62% Indigenous, 48% mainstream

Five of the six areas of concentrated disadvantage are included on this list. Low educational achievement is a risk factor that is very strong among the Indigenous population.

2.10 University tab 17.J

Across Ontario only 10% of Indigenous people attain a BA or higher, compared to 26% of the mainstream population.

Summary

The Indigenous Census provides some answers to the planning questions:

- (1) Is the profile of the off-reserve Indigenous like the on-reserve Indigenous?
 - a. No, 117 reserves in Ontario are poorer:
 - o medium income for pop over 15 in private households is \$18,313
 - o off-reserve income in 473 census sub-divisions is \$24,779
 - b. No, Indigenous on-reserve have fewer job opportunities.
 - o the official unemployment rate on reserves is 20.3%
 - o for Off-reserve Indigenous population the unemployment rate is 9.6%
- (2) Is the profile of the off-reserve Indigenous people different that the Non-indigenous population in the same geographic area?
 - a. Yes, to a profound degree.
 - o The Indigenous population has a higher percentage of children ages 0 to 14 years (24% across Ontario, compared to 16% for non-Indigenous)
 - o The larger proportion of Indigenous children applies to 85% of the census subdivisions.
 - o The Indigenous population has a higher percentage of young adults in the 15-24 year old range.
 - o The Non-Indigenous population has a larger share of adults in the 25-64 year old age bracket
 - o The Non-Indigenous population twice (2x) the share of adults ove 65 years of age
 - o The Indigenous population has a larger share of couples who live common-law rather than married (33% vs 14%)
 - o A lower percentage of Indigenous children are growing up in an intact family (45% to 68%)
 - o A higher percentage of Indigenous children are living with step-families (11% to 6%)
 - o A higher percentage of Indigenous children are living in a lone parent home (37% to 23%)
 - o Indigenous children are 9 times more likely to be in foster care

- A higher percentage of Indigenous people do not attain educational standing beyond high school (57% to 45%)
 - b. But there are exceptions:
 - Both groups have an equal share of marriage breakdown (21%).
 - Both groups have the same degree of housing which is not suitable or not affordable.
- (3) Do the off-reserve Indigenous people in the cities and towns acquire the geographic differences apparent in the general census (i.e.) variations in the fraction of lone parents.
- a. Yes, both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous have metrics that are correlated with location.
 - High-need areas have a higher percentage of risk factors, stressors, low income for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous.
- (4) Are there geographic areas of *concentrated disadvantage* apparent in the Indigenous profiles?
- a. Yes, five of the six locations found to have concentrated disadvantage on the general census also displayed higher rates of risk factors, stressors and low income on the Indigenous profiles.
 - b. But, there were more locations of concentrated disadvantage; five were not observed on the general census.
 - However, there were significantly fewer variables counted in the Indigenous census compared to the general census. This fact requires a note of caution in this finding.
 - c. The Indigenous population is less than 3% of the mainstream population. This means that the margins of error are much greater for the Indigenous population and this requires additional caution with all finding on this report.

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