

## **Inuit Population, 1996**

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### **Abstract**

Inuit are the Aboriginal people of Arctic Canada. The word "Inuit" means "the people" in Inuktitut, the Inuit language, and is the term by which Inuit refer to themselves. The Inuit population is almost entirely situated north of the 50th parallel.

For the first time in 1996, Statistics Canada asked a question about Aboriginal identity, whereas in previous censuses the figures on Aboriginal peoples were derived mainly from a question about ancestry.

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This map shows the distribution of the 41 000 persons identifying themselves as Inuit in the 1996 Census. The Inuit population is illustrated by means of point symbols that increase in size with the size of the population. The symbols are located at the centre of the 276 census subdivisions (CSDs) containing a population of 15 or more Inuit.

The Inuit population is almost entirely situated north of the 50th parallel. The great majority (84%) of the population of Nunavut is Inuit, this being one of the reasons why land claims led to the creation of the territory of Nunavut in 1999. Sixty-two per cent of the Inuit live in Nunavut and in the Northwest Territories, 21% in northern Quebec and 10% in Labrador.

The communities of Nunavut are composed of a fairly homogenous Inuit population. Canada contains 15 communities of more than 1000 Inuit: eleven are located in Nunavut, three in northern Quebec and one is in Labrador. Less than 10% of Inuit live in cities in southern Canada.

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### **Map Sources**

#### **Aboriginal Population, 1996**

Statistics Canada. 1996 Census of Population.

### **References**

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Communications Branch. 2000. Words First: An Evolving Terminology Relating to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. November. Ottawa: (unpublished)

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Corporate Information Management Directorate. 2001. Aboriginal Labour Force Characteristics from the 1996 Census. Ottawa. ([http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/alfc\\_e.pdf](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/alfc_e.pdf))

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Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Research and Analysis Directorate. 1997. Implications of First Nations Demography. Final Report prepared by Four Directions Consulting Group, Winnipeg, Manitoba. ([http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/ra/execs/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/ra/execs/index_e.html))

Canada. Statistics Canada. 1998. 1996 Census: Aboriginal Data. The Daily, January 13, 1998. Ottawa. (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/980113/dq980113-eng.htm>)

Canada. Statistics Canada. 1999. First nations Profiles. Canadian Social Trends. Catalogue Number 11-008. Ottawa.

## **Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)**

### **Federal Government**

Aboriginal Canada Portal

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/980113/dq980113-eng.htm>

A gateway to national and provincial Aboriginal organizations, economic development, claims and treaties, environment and natural resources, language, heritage and culture.

Government of Canada. Canada's Digital Collections. Aboriginal Digital Collections

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/e/adc.asp>

Gateway to web sites of Canadian Aboriginal images and information, created by Aboriginal youth with funding from Industry Canada.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/>

Information on the Department and on services offered to First Nations People. See "Publications and Research" for recent data on Aboriginal population, First Nations Profiles, news on treaties and land claims, etc.

### **Other**

Inuit Tapisirat.

<http://www.itk.ca/>

A site on Inuit culture created by the Inuit Tapisirat.