



No. 3: The Urban Aboriginal Population

Population

According to Census 2006, the Aboriginal population in Ontario living in urban areas numbered 150,565, or 62% of the total Aboriginal population of Ontario (Figure 2). This population is concentrated in cities, with the highest percentage of Ontario's Aboriginal population living in Toronto (Figure 1).

Urban Aboriginal Population Identity

As of 2006, the majority of the urban Aboriginal population, 60%, is comprised of those who identify as First Nations. An additional 35% of the urban Aboriginal population in Ontario identify as Métis. In comparison, 64% of the Aboriginal population identified as First Nations in 2001 while another 30% identified as Métis. The urban Aboriginal population increased by 35,535 between 2001 and 2006, an increase of 30% (Figure 2). By comparison, the urban non-Aboriginal population increased by 645,755 (a growth rate of 7%). The growth rate of the urban Aboriginal population from 2001-2006, and especially of the Métis population, can be attributed to a rising birthrate, but also to more people self-identifying as Aboriginal.

Income

While the average income of the urban Aboriginal population is significantly higher than that of the on-reserve population (\$28,000 vs \$17,000, respectively), it remains significantly lower than that of the non-Aboriginal population (\$38,000) (Figure 3).

Last updated: July 8, 2009

Highlights

- The majority (62%) of Ontario's Aboriginal population is urban
- The percentage of Aboriginal people living in urban areas is higher in Ontario than the national average
- Both labour force participation and employment rates for Aboriginal people are higher in urban areas than on-reserve
- Aboriginal people living in urban areas have education levels higher than those on-reserve, but still lower than the urban non-Aboriginal population

Figure 1: Percentage of Ontario Aboriginal Population in Major Cities

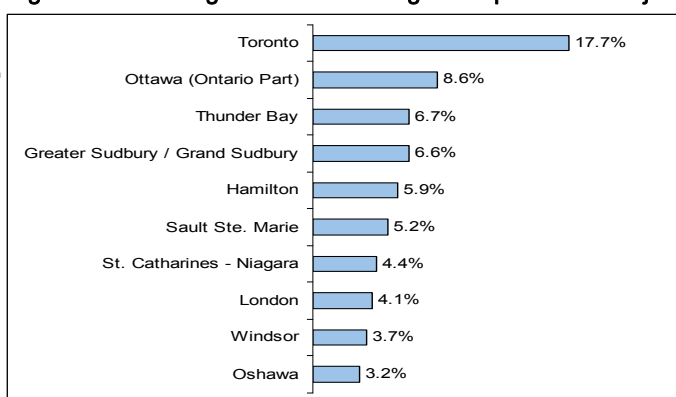


Figure 2: Urban Aboriginal Population by Identity

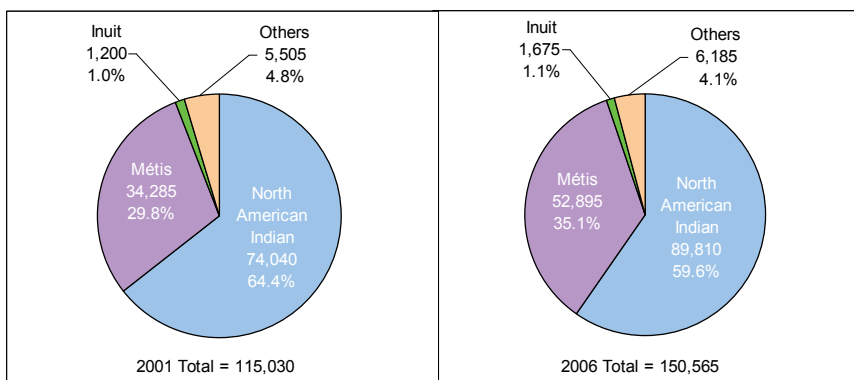
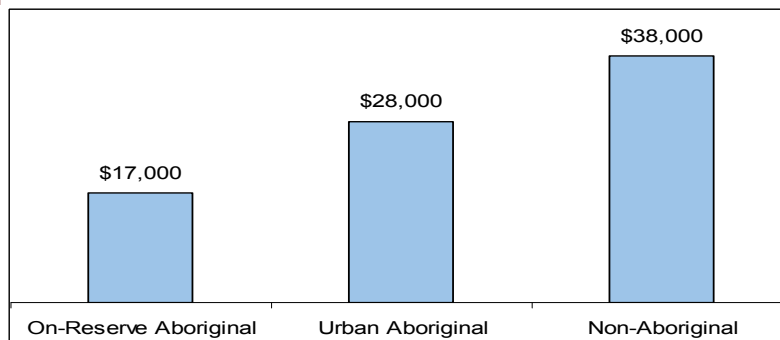


Figure 3: Income Comparison On- and Off-Reserve





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Labour Force

The unemployment rate among the urban Aboriginal population is lower than that of the on-reserve population (10% vs. 18%, respectively). The urban Aboriginal population also has a higher labour force participation rate than that of the on-reserve population (67% vs. 57%, respectively), indicating that the employment rate of Aboriginal people is significantly higher in urban areas. However, both these figures indicate that the urban Aboriginal population still has a slightly higher unemployment rate and a slightly lower labour force participation rate than the non-Aboriginal urban population (Figure 4).

Education

Education outcomes for the urban Aboriginal population are higher than for those living on-reserve, with 22.5% more completing high school. Those living in urban areas are also more likely to have completed a university degree. However, education outcomes for the urban Aboriginal population still remain well below that of the non-Aboriginal urban population, with 12% fewer completing a university degree (Figure 5).

Source: All Data from Statistics Canada, Census 2006. All comparisons in this Data Sheet are made to the non-Aboriginal population of Ontario.

Note: The Aboriginal identity population is composed of those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.

Figure 4: Urban Aboriginal Population, Ontario vs Canada

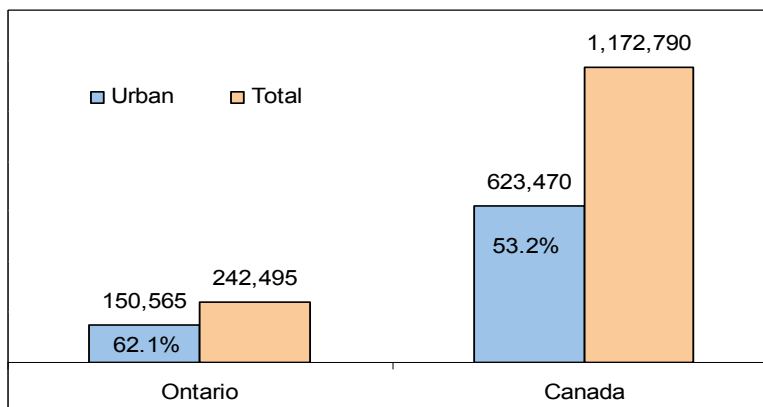


Figure 5: Unemployment and Labour Force Participation Rates

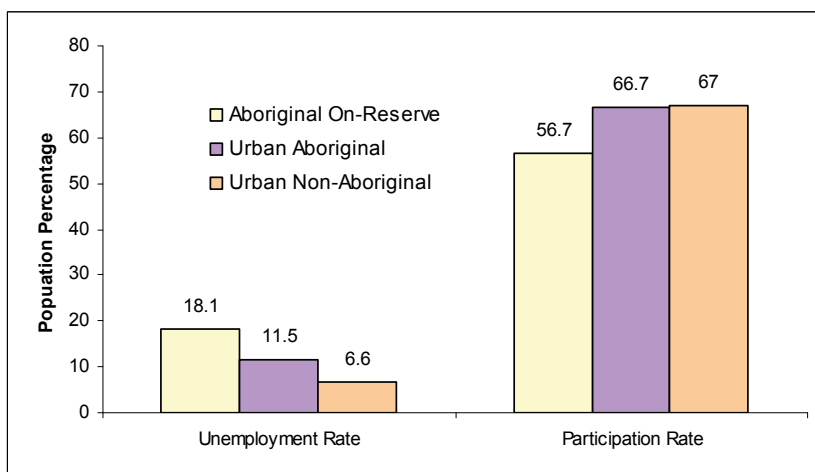


Figure 6: Education Outcomes Urban vs On-Reserve vs Non-Aboriginal (>=15)

