

2021 Census

Indigenous Peoples Highlights

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Canada's Fastest Growing Metropolitan Area



**CENTRAL
OKANAGAN**
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Total Population of Indigenous Identity –Kelowna CMA

Geography	2016 Indigenous Population (%)	2021 Indigenous Population (%)	% Change
Canada	5.9	5.0	-0.9
British Columbia	4.9	5.9	+1.0
Kelowna (CMA)	6.0	6.1	+0.1

Total population by Indigenous identity and Registered or Treaty Indian status—Kelowna CMA

Indigenous Identity	2016 Census Number	2016 Percent (%)	2021 Census Number	2021 Percent (%)
Total – Population by Indigenous identity	190,565	100.0	218,530	100
Indigenous identity	11,370	6.0	13,420	6.1
Single Indigenous responses	11,020	5.8	12,835	5.9
First Nations (North American Indian)	5,235	2.7	6,075	2.8
First Nations (Registered or Treaty Indian)	3,025	1.6	3,330	1.5
First Nations (not a Registered or Treaty Indian)	2,210	1.2	2,745	1.3
Métis	5,645	3.0	6,690	3.1
Inuk (Inuit)	140	0.1	70	0.0
Multiple Indigenous responses	210	0.1	380	0.2
Indigenous responses not included elsewhere	140	0.1	200	0.1
Non-Indigenous identity	179,195	94.0	205,105	93.9 ^N

Age distribution by Indigenous identity–Kelowna CMA

Age groups	2016 Indigenous Identity (%)	2016 Non-Indigenous Identity (%)	2021 Indigenous Identity (%)	2021 Non-Indigenous Identity (%)
55 years and over	16.2	36.8	19.1	37.9
35 to 54 years	23.8	25.8	23.5	24.8
15 to 34 years	34.2	23.6	33.5	24.0
0 to 14 years	25.8	13.7	23.9	13.3

First Nations people, Métis and Inuit for selected Indigenous language indicators—Kelowna CMA

Indigenous identity	Ability to conduct a conversation in an Indigenous language (%)		% Change	Indigenous language as a mother tongue (%)		% Change
	2016	2021		2016	2021	
First Nations single identity	3.5	2.7	-0.8	2.7	1.1	-1.6
Métis single identity	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inuit single identity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Key Takeaways

- The total population of indigenous identity has decreased in Canada by -0.95% whereas British Columbia grew by 1.0%, and the Kelowna CMA grew by 0.1%.
- In general, the Indigenous population in Kelowna CMA is younger than the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous children aged 14 and under, represented 23.9% of the total Indigenous population, while Non-Indigenous children aged 14 and under accounted for 13.3% of the Non-Indigenous population.
- Mother tongue speakers of Syilx (Okanagan) language grew by 50% since 2016.