

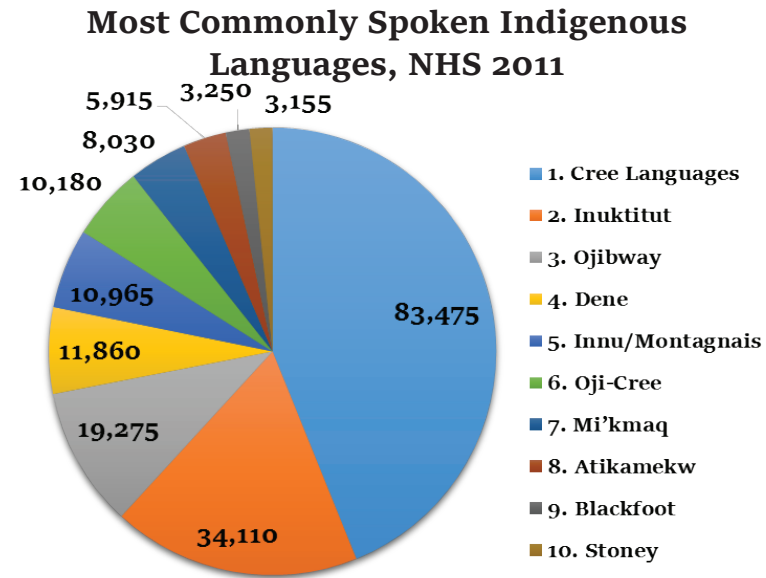
Indigenous Languages in Canada

Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Canada

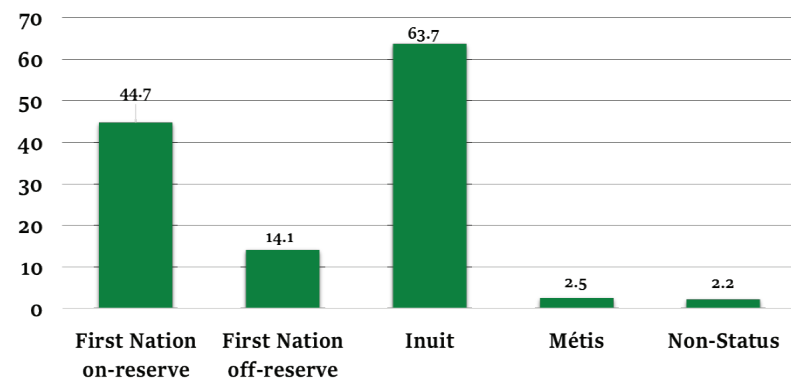
Many Indigenous languages are spoken in Canada; about 60 in 12 language families according to Statistics Canada and approximately 90 languages according to UNESCO.

The Algonquian language family, which includes Cree, Ojibway, Innu and Oji-Cree, is the most commonly spoken language family, followed by Inuktitut and Athapaskan language families. (2011 NHS)

There is a rich diversity of Indigenous languages in both rural and urban settings. (Norris 2017)



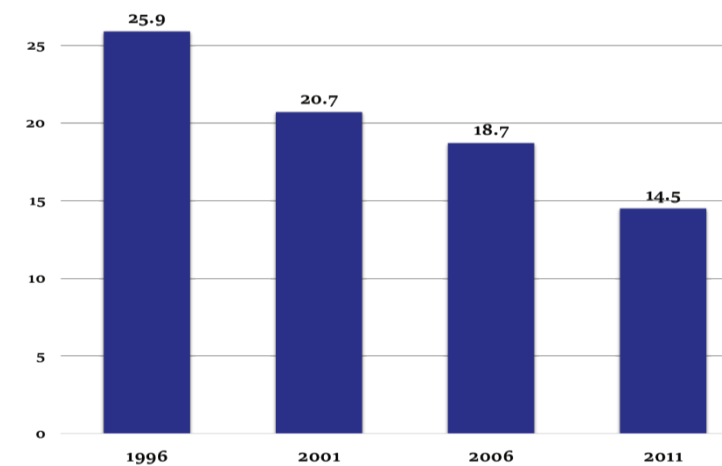
Percentage who Reported an Ability to Conduct a Conversation in an Indigenous Language, NHS 2011



The Indigenous identity groups with greater likelihood of residing in an urban setting have lower ability to conduct a conversation in an Indigenous language than those more likely to reside in a rural or remote Indigenous community.

State of Indigenous Languages in Canada

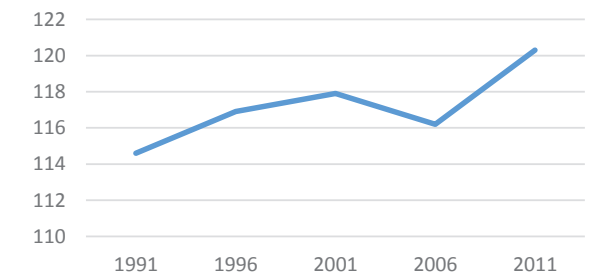
Aboriginal mother tongue dropped from almost 26% in 1996 to 14.5% in 2011, close to 50% drop in 15 years. (Census)



The average age of the Indigenous population with an Indigenous language mother tongue increased by over 7.5 years from 1981 to 2011.

Trends in **second language acquisition** point to the growing influx of the largely younger populations of second-language speakers among the population of Indigenous people who are able to speak an Indigenous language. (Norris 2017)

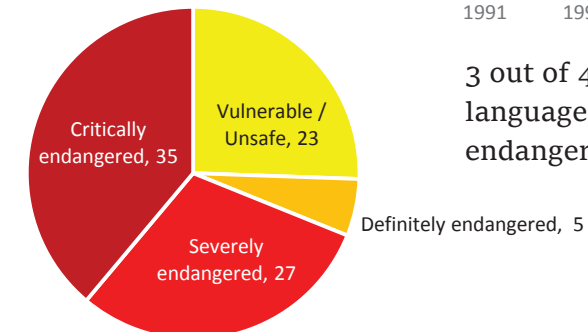
Second Language Acquisition Index, Census



3 out of 4 Indigenous languages are endangered.

Language Security

In Canada, there are no Indigenous languages considered to be safe. Indigenous languages currently spoken in Canada fall within four degrees of endangerment. (UNESCO; Norris 2013)

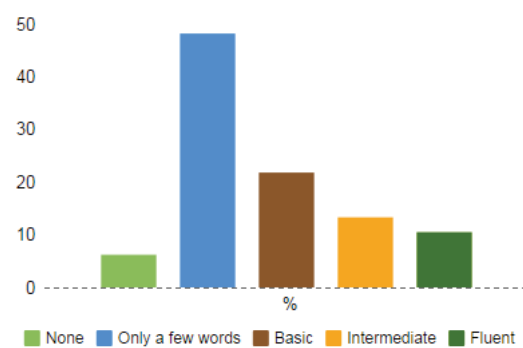


First Nations

70% of First Nations youth on reserve who reported having "excellent" First Nations language skills also reported high levels of life balance (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being), compared to 45% of those who said they had "poor" First Nations language skills.

82.8% of First Nations youth on reserve reported having some knowledge of a First Nations language. (FNREES 2013)

Speaking proficiency among First Nations youth

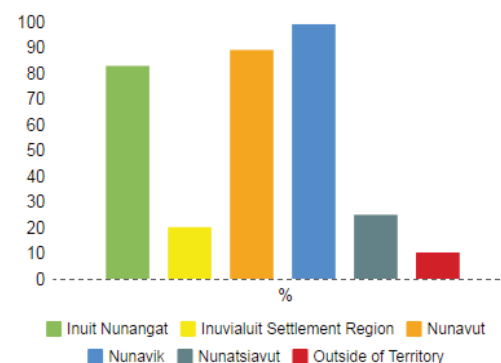


Inuit

Approximately 63.3% of Inuit are able to converse in Inuktitut.

The percent of Inuit who in 2011 self-reported being able to converse in Inuktitut varied widely by region, ranging from 20% in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to 99% in Nunavik. (NHS 2011)

Percentage of Inuit with the capacity to speak Inuktitut by region



Métis

Michif is critically endangered. The average age of the mother tongue population was over 50 years old in 2011, and was the highest average age of all language speakers in Winnipeg. (Norris 2017; Census 2011)

The Indigenous language spoken by the largest number of Métis were the Cree languages, followed by Dene, Michif and Ojibway. (NHS 2011)

Average Age of Speakers : Five Most Frequently Spoken Languages in Winnipeg

