

National Household Survey

May 9, 2013

2011 Highlights: Release #1

Introduction

Statistics Canada released the first of three sets of data gathered through the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The release presents data on two broad themes: Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. This report¹ presents a general overview of this new information, focusing on Alberta. A series of three analytical articles will follow over the next month, providing a more in-depth examination of the NHS data released on May 8, 2013.

Highlights of Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Alberta

Alberta was home to one in ten of the Canadian foreign-born population²

Alberta's immigrant population continues to grow, and the province was home to about one in ten of all immigrants in Canada in 2011. Alberta had the third largest proportion of immigrants³, behind only Ontario and British Columbia. Alberta's foreign-born population numbered about 645,000 in 2011, representing 18% of the province's total population. Over 144,000 new immigrants came to Alberta between 2006 and 2011, accounting for 12.4% of Canada's total immigrants during the five-year period.

Origin of immigrants changing over time

Some immigrants have lived in Canada for many years, while others are recent arrivals. The overall picture of immigrants living in Alberta represents multiple waves of immigrants over a long historical period. Overall, the top three source countries for immigrants in Alberta were the Philippines, India and the United Kingdom. However, a change over time is apparent

- 1 All data in this publication is from the 2011 National Household Survey.
- 2 All data in this publication refers only to people in private households.
- 3 The immigrant population is also referred to as foreign-born in this report. An immigrant is a person who is/has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident.

TABLE 1: TOP FIVE PLACES OF BIRTH OF IMMIGRANTS IN ALBERTA BY PERIOD OF IMMIGRATION

All Immigrants	Arrived before 2001	Arrived between 2006-2011
Philippines	UK	Philippines
India	Philippines	India
UK	India	China
China	China	UK
USA	USA	USA

About the NHS

During the Spring/Summer of 2011, the National Household Survey collected social and economic information from a random sample of 4.5 million Canadian households. Participation in the survey was voluntary.

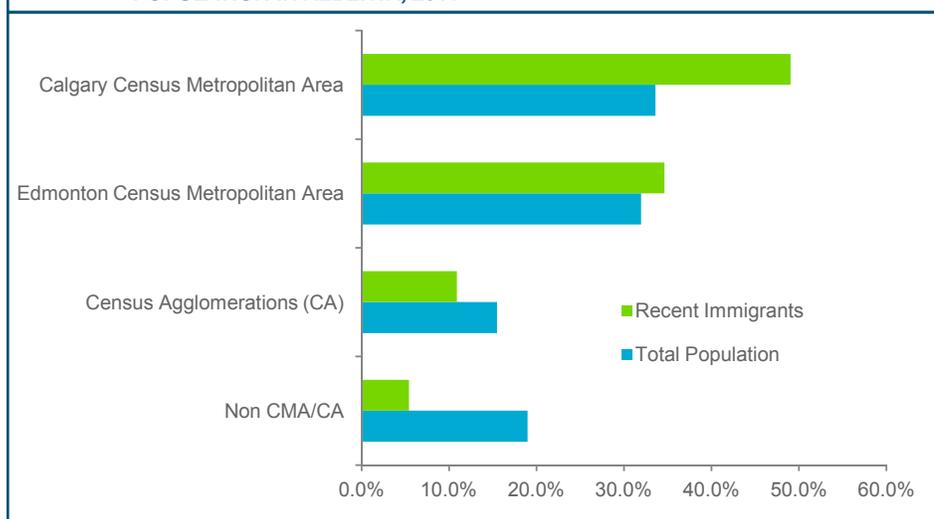
As with any voluntary survey, non-response bias may be a significant source of error in the survey results. The risk of non-response bias rises rapidly as response rate drops, because non-respondents tend to have different characteristics than the respondents, thus compromising the ability of the survey results to represent the true population.

Despite content similarities with the long form census, comparability to previous censuses may be compromised. Issues with data quality will be more prevalent for small populations (i.e. finer levels of geography and/or specific subgroups).

Users are cautioned to consult the reference materials provided by Statistics Canada to ensure appropriate use and analyses of NHS data.

See the [National Household Survey User Guide](#) for more information.

FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS (ARRIVED 2006 TO 2011) AND TOTAL POPULATION IN ALBERTA, 2011



when we compare the sources of recent immigrants with those of earlier arrivals. The top three source countries of those who arrived between 2006 and 2011 (recent immigrants) were the Philippines, India and China, while most earlier arrivals were born in the United Kingdom, the Philippines or India (Table 1).

Recent immigrants disproportionately settled in Alberta's two largest metro areas

The overwhelming majority (84%) of recent immigrants living in Alberta were residing in the province's two major urban centres of Edmonton and Calgary in 2011 (Figure 1). In contrast, two-thirds of Alberta's overall population lived in the Edmonton and Calgary metro areas. Calgary was the most common location, with almost half of the province's recent immigrants. Recent immigrants were least likely to be living outside of the province's large and mid-sized urban centres.

Albertans reported a diverse array of ethnic backgrounds

Albertans reported more than 200 ethnic origins in the 2011 NHS, with the most common being European, Other North American (including 'Canadian') and Asian. Considering only the immigrant population, the top three recorded origins were Asian, European and African.

Diversity in an individual's reported ethnic origin increases with the number of generations⁴ in Canada, with first generation immigrants the most likely to report a single ancestry. Almost two-thirds of Albertans of third generation or greater reported multiple ethnic origins.

Alberta's population has the third highest share of visible minorities

In 2011, about 18% of Alberta's population identified themselves as a visible minority⁵, behind only BC (27%) and Ontario (26%).

4 The first generation refers to those born outside of Canada. The second generation were born in Canada with at least one parent born outside Canada. The third (and higher) generation refers to those who were Canadian born to Canadian born parents.

5 As defined by the *Employment Equity Act*, visible minorities are 'persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour'.

Numbering over 656,000, Albertans represented 10.5% of the national visible minority population in 2011.

A growing number of visible minorities in Alberta were second generation in 2011, meaning they were born in Canada with at least one parent born outside the country. The share of visible minorities who were second generation was 27% in 2011, compared to 4% that was at least third generation. The remaining visible minorities were first generation Canadian residents born outside of Canada.

In comparison, only one out of five of all Albertans were first generation while 61% were third generation or more.

South Asians the most common visible minority group in Alberta

The greatest proportion of visible minorities in Alberta were South Asians in 2011, a group which included East Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan (Figure 2). Chinese was the next most common group, followed by Filipino and Black. Compared with the national average, a greater proportion of visible minorities in Alberta belonged to the Filipino, Latin American and Southeast Asian groups.

FIGURE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF VISIBLE MINORITIES BY GROUP, ALBERTA AND CANADA, 2011

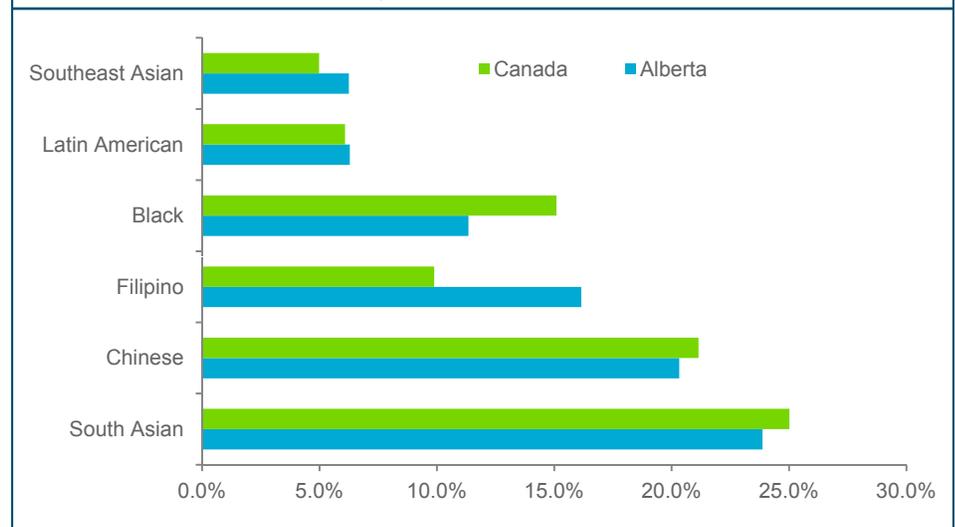
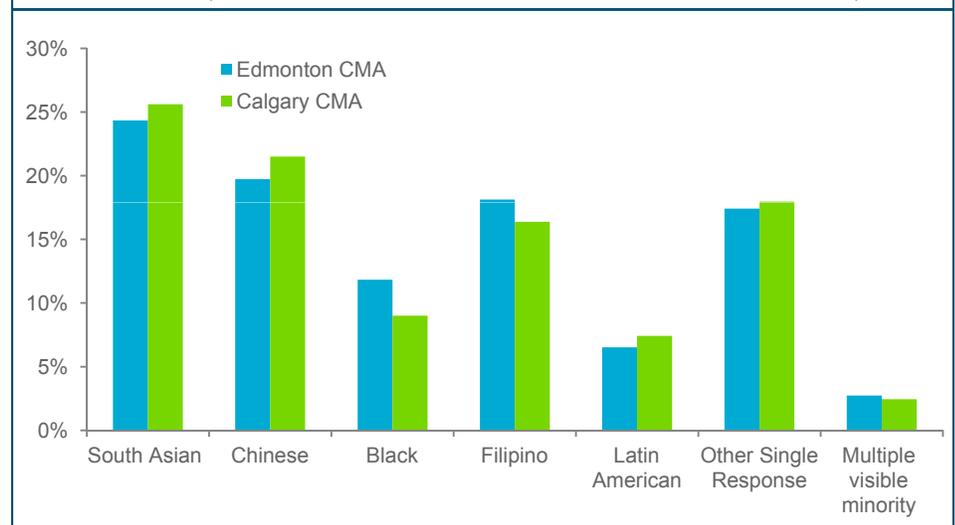


FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF VISIBLE MINORITIES IN LARGE URBAN CENTRES BY GROUP, EDMONTON AND CALGARY CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2011



Calgary and Edmonton had a similar distribution of visible minorities in 2011 (Figure 3). However, the Edmonton CMA had a larger proportion of Filipino and Black groups, while the Calgary CMA had a greater share of South Asians and Chinese.

Majority of Albertans identified themselves as Christian

Six out of ten Albertans reported an affiliation with a Christian religion in 2011, with Catholicism the most commonly reported Christian religion (Figure 4). Compared with the national picture, relatively fewer Albertans identified as Christian. Almost a third of Albertans reported no religious affiliation, a much higher proportion than national average. At 3.2% of Albertans, Muslim was the next most commonly reported religion.

Highlights of Aboriginal Peoples in Alberta

Just over one in twenty Albertans were Aboriginal in 2011

Over 220,000 Albertans identified themselves as Aboriginal in 2011, split between First Nations⁶ (52.9%), Métis (43.9%) and a very small number of Inuit (0.9%).

Among provinces, Alberta had the fourth highest share of Aboriginals in its population, at 6.2% (Figure 5).

Alberta had the third largest Aboriginal population in Canada

Alberta was home to the third largest share (15.8%) of the national Aboriginal population in 2011, behind Ontario and BC (Figure 6).

Alberta was home to the largest number of Métis

Over one in five of all Métis people in Canada lived in Alberta in 2011, the largest share of any jurisdiction in Canada (Figure 6).

Aboriginal people in Alberta younger than average

The Aboriginal population in Alberta was younger than the national average, with a median age of 25.3 compared with 27.7 nationally.

FIGURE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS, ALBERTA AND CANADA, 2011

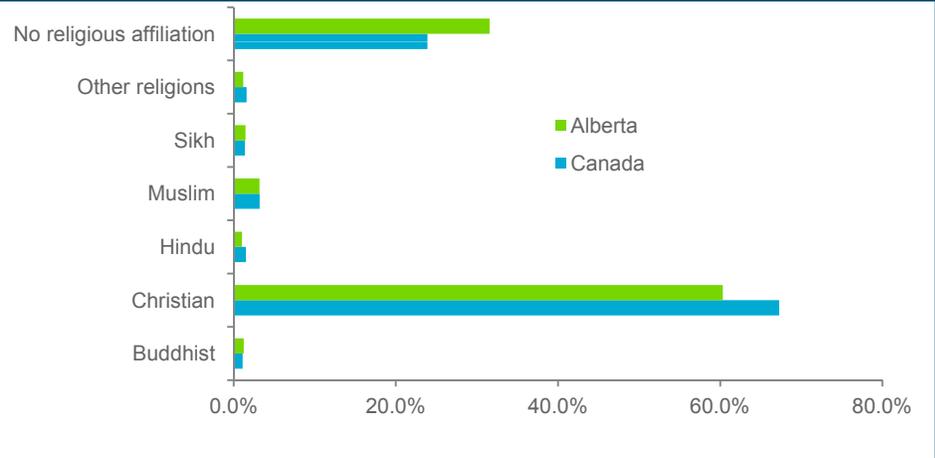


FIGURE 5: ABORIGINAL IDENTITY AS SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION, 2011

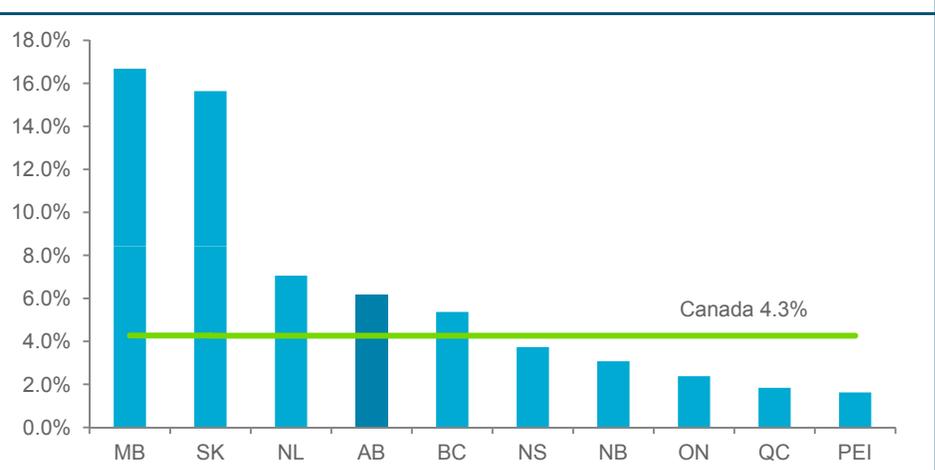
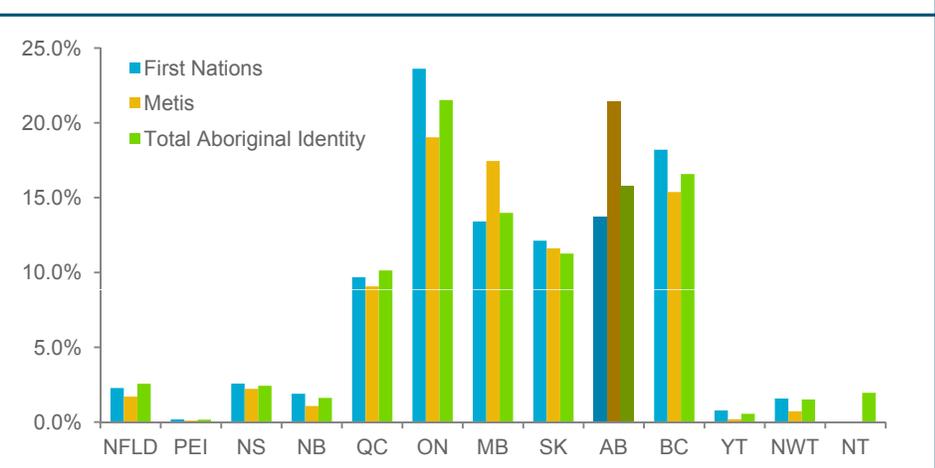


FIGURE 6: REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN CANADA, 2011



6 This distribution of identity groups are for single responses only.