

Aboriginal Population Younger than the Non-Aboriginal Population

Aboriginal identity refers to 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.

The Aboriginal identity population has been counted the same way for the past three censuses (that is, in 2006, 2001 and 1996). However, not all Indian reserves and settlements have participated in the census. On some, enumeration was not permitted or it was interrupted before completion.

In Canada, there were 22 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in 2006, down from 30 in 2001 and 77 in 1996. In New Brunswick, all Indian reserves participated in 2006 and 2001; only two reserves were incompletely enumerated in 1996 (Buctouche 16 and Eel Ground 2).

Data presented on Aboriginal people (below) focuses on the **Aboriginal identity** population.

- In 2006, a total of 17,655 persons in New Brunswick identified themselves as an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian (First Nations people), Métis or Inuit. People who identified themselves as Aboriginal accounted for 2.5% of the province's total population.
- Between 1996 and 2006, New Brunswick's Aboriginal population grew by 67.2%, compared with a drop of 2.4% for the non-Aboriginal population.
- The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population. In 2006, the median age of the Aboriginal population in New Brunswick was 31.5 years, while that of the non-Aboriginal population was 41.4 years.

