

**Aboriginal Population Young and Growing**

**Aboriginal identity** refers to whether the person reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or being a Registered or Treaty Indian, (that is, registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada) and/or being a member of a First Nation or Indian band.

In New Brunswick, all 18 Indian reserves participated in the 2011 National Household Survey. In Canada, 36 of 863 inhabited reserves were incompletely enumerated.

- The National Household Survey (NHS) showed that 22,620 New Brunswickers had an Aboriginal identity in 2011, representing 3.1% of the province’s total population. Aboriginal people numbered 17,655 and accounted for 2.5% of the provincial population enumerated in the 2006 Census.
- The majority of Aboriginal people in the province were First Nations people. In 2011, 16,120 people identified as a First Nations person, representing 71.3% of the total Aboriginal population.
- First Nations people in New Brunswick who reported being Registered Indians are more likely to live on-reserve than off-reserve. Almost seven in ten (68.8%) First Nations people with registered Indian status lived on reserves. This compares to roughly one-half (49.3%) for all of Canada.
- The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population. The 2011 NHS showed the median age of the Aboriginal population in New Brunswick was 31.3 years, while that of the non-Aboriginal population was 43.6 years.

