

Table 576-0009 ^{1, 2, 3}

Aboriginal peoples survey, self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language, by Aboriginal identity, age group and sex, population aged 6 years and over, Canada, provinces and territories occasional (persons)

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The data below is a part of CANSIM table 576-0009. Use the [Add/Remove data](#) tab to customize your table.

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Geography = Nunavut Aboriginal identity ⁴ = Total, Aboriginal identity Statistics ^{14, 15, 16} = Number of persons			
Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012
Total, 6 years and over	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	23,460
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	21,970
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	17,150
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	4,820
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	930
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	560 ^E
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	23,460
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	22,380
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	19,200
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	3,150
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	520
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	560 ^E
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	11,250
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	10,510
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	7,920
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	2,580
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	460 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	290 ^E
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	11,250
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	10,680
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	9,020
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	1,640
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	290 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	290 ^E
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	12,210
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	11,460
Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²		9,230	
Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²		2,240	
Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}		F	
Does not speak an Aboriginal language		470 ^E	
Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		270 ^E	
Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹		12,210	
Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²		11,700	
Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}		10,180	
Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}		1,510	
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}		F	
Does not understand an Aboriginal language		230 ^E	
Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		270 ^E	
6 to 14 years	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	5,640
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	5,260
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	3,400
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	1,870
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	230 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	5,640

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	5,400
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	4,030
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	1,350
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	3,100
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,910
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	1,810
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	1,100
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	3,100
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,970
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	2,150
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	800
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	2,550
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,350
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	1,580
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	770
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	2,550
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,430
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	1,880
Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}		550	
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}		F	
Does not understand an Aboriginal language		F	
Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		F	
15 to 34 years	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	9,640
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	8,850
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	6,420
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	2,430
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	540
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	250 ^E
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	9,640
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	9,040
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	7,600
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	1,420
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	350 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	250 ^E
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	4,500
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	4,110
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	2,950
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	1,160
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	240 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	4,500
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	4,190
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	3,560
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	620
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	160 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	5,140
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	4,740
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	3,470
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	1,280
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	300 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	5,140
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	4,850
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	4,040
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	800
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	200 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
35 to 54 years	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	5,740
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	5,490
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	5,020
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	470 ^E
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	5,740
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	5,540
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	5,290
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	260 ^E
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	2,880
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,740
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	2,460
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	280 ^E
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	2,880
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,770
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	2,610
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	170 ^E
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	2,870	
	Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,750	
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	2,550	
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	190 ^E	
	Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F	
	Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F	
	Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
	Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	2,870	
	Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,770	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	2,680	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	90 ^E	
	Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F	
	Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F	
	Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
55 years and over	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	2,430
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,370
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	2,320
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	F
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012	
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	2,430	
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,400	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	2,280	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	F	
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F	
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	F	
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
		Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	780 ^E
			Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	750 ^E
			Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	700 ^E
			Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	F
			Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{9, 10}	F
			Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F
	Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		F	
	Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹		780 ^E	
	Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²		750 ^E	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}		700 ^E	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}		F	
	Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}		F	
	Does not understand an Aboriginal language		F	
	Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		F	
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	1,650	
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	1,620	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	1,620	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	F	
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{9, 10}	F	
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	F	
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	1,650	
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	1,650	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	1,590	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	F	
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}		F		
Does not understand an Aboriginal language		F		
Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		F		

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Symbol legend:

- F Too unreliable to be published
- E Use with caution

Footnotes:

1. Source: Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2012.
2. Excludes persons living on Indian reserves or settlements.
3. Aboriginal identity includes persons living off reserve who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status, that is registered under the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported membership in a First Nation or Indian band. The sum of the categories included in this variable is greater than the total population estimate for Aboriginal identity because a person may have reported more than one Aboriginal identity: for example, a person could self-identify as both First Nations and Métis.
4. Atlantic includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.
5. Registered or Treaty Indian status refers to whether or not a person reported being a Registered or Treaty Indian. Registered Indians are persons who are registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who belong to a First Nation or Indian band that signed a treaty with the Crown. Registered or Treaty Indians are sometimes also called Status Indians.
6. Proxy reporting was used in the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey for most children aged 6 to 14 years, nearly half of youth aged 15 to 17 years and for adults in certain specific situations (for example when the selected adult was not able to answer for health related reasons, due to a language barrier, or because the selected respondent was going to be away from home for the duration of the survey.)
7. All percentages for "self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language" are calculated using the number of persons in "total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language" as denominator.
8. Respondents who indicated being able to speak an Aboriginal language and who identified their primary Aboriginal language spoken (see following footnote) were asked, "How would you rate your ability to speak this Aboriginal language? Would you say you can speak... Very well? Relatively well? With effort? Only a few words?"
9. The primary Aboriginal language spoken is either (1) the only Aboriginal language a person is able to speak, or (2) the Aboriginal language that the person can speak the best, if he or she can speak more than one Aboriginal language (up to three languages can be reported). Secondary Aboriginal languages have not been assessed for ability level.
10. "Not specified" categories consist of item non-response ("Refusal", "Don't know", and "Not stated").
11. Respondents who indicated not being able to speak an Aboriginal language were asked if they were able to understand an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words. All respondents who indicated being able to either speak or understand an Aboriginal language and who identified their primary Aboriginal language spoken or understood (see footnotes 9, 13) were asked, "How would you rate your ability to understand this Aboriginal language? Would you say you can understand... Very well? Relatively well? With effort? Only a few words?"
12. Includes persons who are able to speak an Aboriginal language, and persons who are not able to speak an Aboriginal language but are able to understand an Aboriginal language.
13. The primary Aboriginal language understood is either (1) the only Aboriginal language a person is able to understand, or (2) the Aboriginal language that the person can understand the best, if he or she can understand more than one Aboriginal language (up to three languages can be reported). Secondary Aboriginal languages have not been assessed for ability level. Persons who can speak an Aboriginal language were not asked to indicate their primary Aboriginal language understood, since it is assumed that their primary Aboriginal language spoken is also their primary Aboriginal language understood.
14. Bootstrapping techniques were used to produce the coefficient of variation (CV) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs).
15. Data with a coefficient of variation (CV) from 16.6% to 33.3% are identified by an (E) and should be interpreted with caution.
16. Data with a coefficient of variation (CV) greater than 33.3% were suppressed (F) due to extreme sampling variability.

Source: Statistics Canada. *Table 576-0009 - Aboriginal peoples survey, self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language, by Aboriginal identity, age group and sex, population aged 6 years and over, Canada, provinces and territories, occasional (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database).* (accessed:)
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