

Statistics Canada

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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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Geography = Yukon
 Aboriginal identity ² = Total, Aboriginal identity
 Statistics ^{14, 15, 16} = Number of persons

Age group ⁶	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ⁷	2012
Total, 6 years and over	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	4,950
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	2,770
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	370 ^E
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	2,290
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	110 ^E
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	2,080
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	4,950
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	3,300
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	610 ^E
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	2,630
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	1,540
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	1,980
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	970
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	780
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	960
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	1,980
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	1,260
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	280 ^E
Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	950		
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F		

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	660 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	2,970
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	1,800
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	240 ^E
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	1,510
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	50 ^E
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	1,120 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	2,970
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	2,040
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	330 ^E
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	1,680
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	880 ^E
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		6 to 14 years	Both sexes
Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	660 ^E		
Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F		
Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	540		
Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F		
Does not speak an Aboriginal language	250 ^E		
Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F		
Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	920		
Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	700 ^E		
Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	170 ^E		
Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	510 ^E		
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F		
Does not understand an Aboriginal language	220 ^E		
Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F		
Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language		
	Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸		220 ^E
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²		F
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²		180 ^E
	Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}		F
	Does not speak an Aboriginal language		140 ^E
	Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰		F
	Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹		350 ^E

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	250 ^E		
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	90 ^E		
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	150 ^E		
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F		
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	110 ^E		
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F		
	Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	560 ^E		
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ³	450 ^E		
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F		
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	360 ^E		
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{9, 10}	F		
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	120 ^E		
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F		
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	560 ^E		
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	450 ^E		
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	F		
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	360 ^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		
		15 to 34 years	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	1,730
				Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ³	860
				Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	110 ^E
				Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	700
Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{9, 10}	F				
Does not speak an Aboriginal language	800 ^E				
Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F				
Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	1,730				
Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	1,090				
Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	130 ^E				
Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	940				
Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F				
Does not understand an Aboriginal language	570 ^E				
Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F				
Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language			660 ^E	
	Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ³			300 ^E	
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²			F	

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	200 ^E
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	340 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	660 ^E
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	400 ^E
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	F
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	320 ^E
		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	F
		Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language
	Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ²		560 ^E
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²		F
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²		500 ^E
	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		F
	Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹		1,070 ^E
	Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²		690
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}		60 ^E
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}		630 ^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		
35 to 54 years	Both sexes	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	1,370
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ²	660
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	590
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	670 ^E
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	1,370
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	800
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	150 ^E
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	610
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F

Age group ⁴	Sex	Self-rated ability to speak and understand an Aboriginal language ²	2012	
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	540 ^E	
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
	Male	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	640 ^E	
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	260 ^E	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	210 ^E	
		Ability to speak primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{2, 10}	F	
		Does not speak an Aboriginal language	350 ^E	
		Not specified if speaks an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
		Total, ability to understand an Aboriginal language ¹¹	640 ^E	
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	330 ^E	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	F	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	210 ^E	
		Ability to understand primary Aboriginal language not specified ^{10, 12, 13}	F	
		Does not understand an Aboriginal language	280 ^E	
		Not specified if understands an Aboriginal language ¹⁰	F	
		Female	Total, ability to speak an Aboriginal language	730 ^E
			Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	410 ^E
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²		F	
	Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²		380 ^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		730 ^E	
	Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²		470 ^E	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}		F	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}		410 ^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	930 ^E
			Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ⁸	580 ^E
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ²	450 ^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	930 ^E	

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	710 ^E	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	150 ^E	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, with effort or only a few words ^{12, 13}	560 ^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	330 ^E	
		Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ³	F	
		Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F	
		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	330 ^E	
		Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²	F	
		Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}	F	
		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	600 ^E
			Speaks an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ³	380 ^E
			Speaks primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ²	F
			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		600 ^E	
	Understands an Aboriginal language, even if only a few words ¹²		430 ^E	
	Understands primary Aboriginal language, very well or relatively well ^{12, 13}		140 ^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	

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Symbol legend:

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

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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