

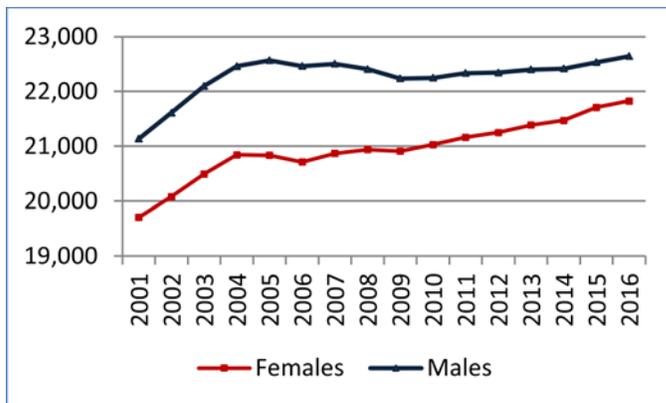
WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

In 2016, 44,469 people lived in the Northwest Territories (NWT) with females accounting for just under half (49%) of the population. The NWT population consists of almost equal numbers of Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit and Métis) and Non-Indigenous females.

2016 Population	NWT		Female		Female		Female	
	Total #	(%)	Total		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
Yellowknife	20,960	100.0 %	10,335	49.3 %	2,569	12.3 %	7,766	37.1 %
Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik	9,349	100.0 %	4,714	50.4 %	2,724	29.1 %	1,990	21.3 %
Smaller Communities	14,160	100.0 %	6,777	47.9 %	5,682	40.1 %	1,095	7.7 %
Northwest Territories	44,469	100.0 %	21,826	49.1 %	10,975	24.7 %	10,851	24.4%

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics

Between 2001 and 2016, the female population in the NWT rose from 19,707 to 21,826.

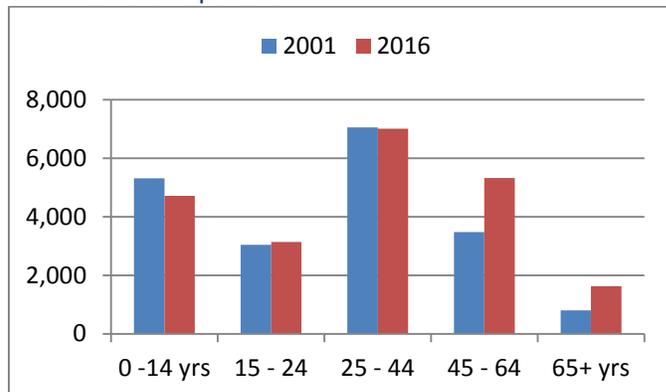


Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- Growth rate was highest amongst NWT Non-Indigenous females between 2001 and 2016 at +16.4% compared to +5.7% for Indigenous females.
- The number of Indigenous females in smaller communities declined during the 15 year period while increasing by 484 Indigenous females in Yellowknife.

When looking at population, the numbers of people 65 years and over as well as persons under the age of 15 are often analyzed due to the impacts these populations have on resources such as health care, education and housing.

NWT Female Population



Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- Between 2001 and 2016, the proportion of those under the age of 15 decreased while the proportion of those 65 years and over increased.
- The changes to the population distribution were consistent in all three NWT community types - Yellowknife, the regional centres (Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik) and the smaller NWT communities.

WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

In 2016, approximately 71% of the total NWT female population fell between the ages of 15 to 64, the ages typically considered working age.

Overall, NWT women had an employment rate of 64% compared to males at 67%. The employment rate varied considerably in the NWT depending on community type. Only in the smaller NWT communities do females have a higher employment rate than males.

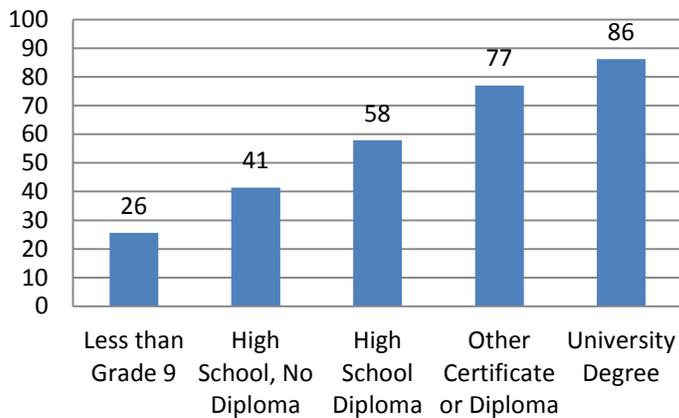
2014 Employment Rates	Males	Females
Yellowknife	78%	74%
Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik	72%	65%
Smaller Communities	48%	49%
Northwest Territories	67%	64%

Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

- NWT Indigenous women had an employment rate of 52% compared to 76% for Non-Indigenous women.
- The gap in employment rates between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous females was lowest in Yellowknife (68% vs. 76%) and highest in smaller communities (44% vs. 80%).

The relationship between education and employment is evident when comparing employment rates by highest level of education for women in the NWT; the higher the levels of formal education, the higher the rates of employment.

NWT Women Employment Rate
By Highest Level of Education



Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

- Lower levels of formal education limit employment opportunities in smaller NWT communities.
- In Yellowknife, the employment rate for women without a high school diploma was 53% compared to 24% in smaller NWT communities.

Education levels for females increased dramatically in the NWT between 1999 and 2014 primarily driven by more Indigenous females obtaining higher levels of formal education.

NWT Female
Highest Education Level

Highest Education Level	1999	2014
Less than grade 9	13%	6%
High school, no diploma	19%	18%
High school diploma	21%	24%
Other certificate or diploma	40%	29%
University degree	14%	22%

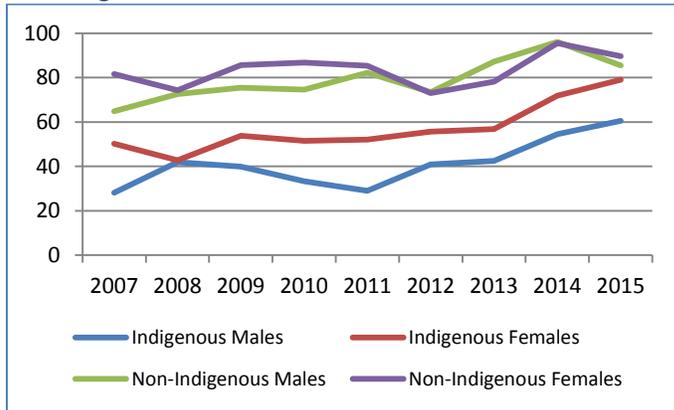
Source: NWT Community Surveys

- While increasing over the 15 year period, formal education levels for Indigenous women are below those for Non-Indigenous females in the NWT (e.g. 6% with a university degree compared to 39%).

WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

The high school graduation rate in the NWT has consistently been higher for females than for males. In 2015, females had a high school graduation rate of 83% compared to 70% for males. More Indigenous females are obtaining a high school diploma, closing the gap between high school graduation rates for NWT Indigenous and Non-Indigenous females.

NWT High School Graduation Rates, 2007 to 2015



Sources: Department of Education, Culture & Employment
NWT Bureau of Statistics Population Estimates

- High school graduation rates for NWT Indigenous females increased from 50% to 79% between 2007 and 2015.
- Non-Indigenous females had a graduation rate of 90% in 2015.

Higher levels of education are associated with both higher employment prospects and higher income. In comparing employment income of women working a full year and full-time, NWT women with higher levels of education had higher average earnings.

NWT Women

Average Employment Income in 2010

No certificate, diploma or degree	\$46,568
High school diploma	\$60,799
Postsecondary	\$77,445
NWT Average	\$70,037

Source: 2011 National Population Survey (Census)

- In 2010, average employment income for NWT women who worked full year, full time employment, was \$70,037.
- In comparison, average employment income for NWT men earned who worked full year, full time was \$82,589.

Women in the NWT were more likely than men to work part-time. In 2013, approximately one in five (18.5%) employed women worked less than 30 hours per week, while one in ten (9.9%) of employed men worked part-time. Part-time employment was highest in the smaller communities where 23% of the female workforce worked part-time hours.

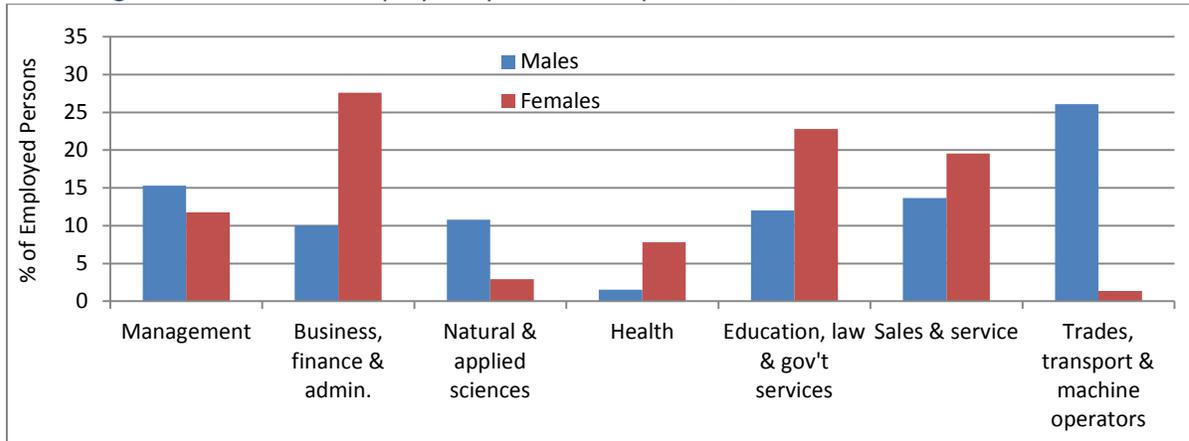
The 2014 NWT Community Survey also provided information on persons not in the work force. Just over 20% of females over the age of 15 in the NWT did not want a job (3,629 of 16,741). The top reason for women in the NWT not wanting to work was being retired or elderly, followed by going to school and caring for children or other relative. Of those women not wanting a job, 19% were caregivers (caring for children or other relatives) compared to 2% of males.

WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

Careers

Females working outside the home in the NWT were most likely to work in occupations related to business, finance and administration, closely followed by jobs within education, law, and social, community and government. One in four men in the NWT (26%) were employed in the trades, transport or in machine operating occupations.

Percentage of NWT Persons Employed by Select Occupations, 2014

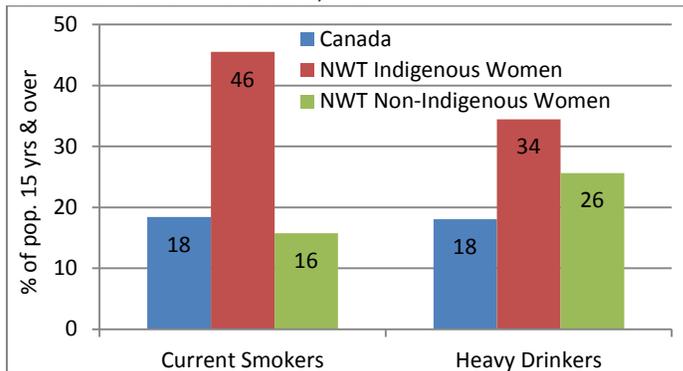


Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

Health

In looking at health indicators, and healthy behaviours in particular, differences of note exist between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women in the NWT. NWT Indigenous women are more likely to be smokers and to also be heavy drinkers.

Selected Health Indicators, 2014



Source: 2014 Canadian Community Health Survey

- Close to 1 in 2 Indigenous women in the NWT are daily or occasional smokers (46%) compared to 1 in 5 Canadians (18%).
- Differences also exist between women in the NWT and the rest of Canada related to heavy drinking – defined as consuming four or more drinks on one occasion at least once per month. Compared to 18% of Canadian women, 26% of Non-Indigenous and 34% of Indigenous NWT females are heavy drinkers.

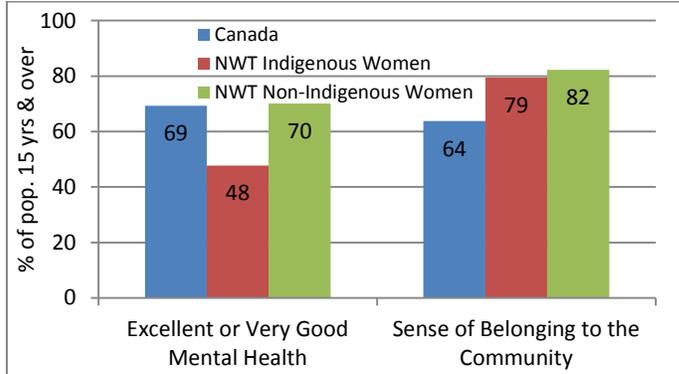
Only 38% of Indigenous women in the NWT considered their health to be very good or excellent – lower than Indigenous women in Canada (40%) and much lower than the 68% of Non-Indigenous women in the NWT rate their health as excellent or very good.

WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

Wellness

Although differences exist between self-perceived mental health of NWT Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women, both feel a strong sense of belonging to their communities.

Selected Health Indicators, 2014



Source: 2014 Canadian Community Health Survey

- Approximately 8 in 10 women in the NWT felt a very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their community.
- Less than half of Indigenous women in the NWT consider their mental health to be very good or excellent, compared to 70% of Non-Indigenous women.

Crime Rate

Crime rates tend to be higher in smaller communities in the NWT compared to rates in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

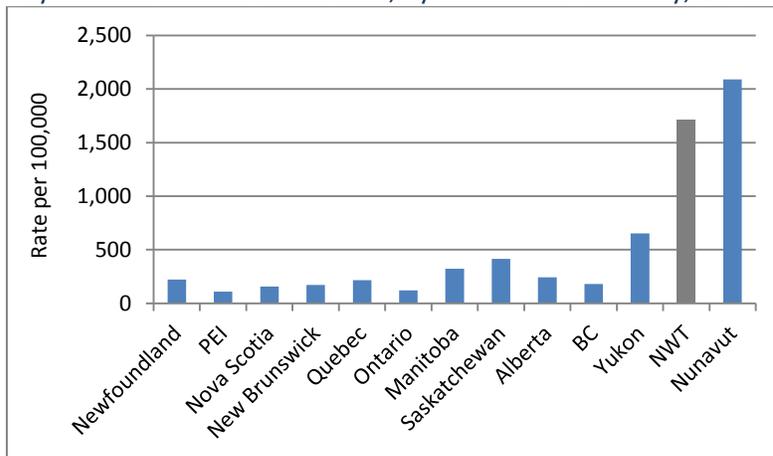
2015 Crime Rates Per 1,000 Persons	Violent Crime	Property Crime
Yellowknife	36.7	206.2
Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik	95.7	202.8
Smaller Communities	120.5	296.2
Northwest Territories	75.9	234.0

Source: Statistics Canada

- At 75.9 per 1,000 persons, the NWT violent crime rate is 7 times higher than the Canadian rate of 10.6.
- The property crime rate is also higher in the NWT compared to Canada.

The NWT has the second highest rate of police-reported family violence in Canada.

Physical and Sexual Assault Rate, by Province or Territory, 2015

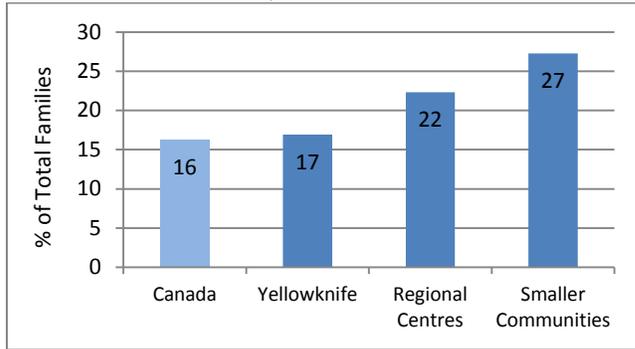


Source: Statistics Canada

- In 2015, the NWT had a police reported physical and sexual assault rate from a family member of 1,709 per 100,000 – up 5% from 2014.
- Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses, parents, children, siblings & extended family members.

In looking at family structure, the NWT has more lone-parent families compared to Canada.

Lone Parent Families, 2011



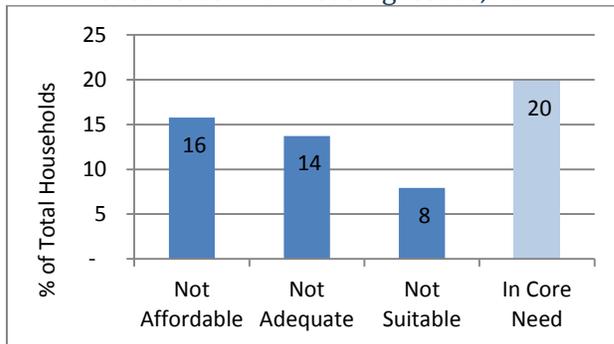
Source: Statistics Canada

- One in five families in the NWT (21.3%) are lone-parent families.
- In smaller NWT communities, one in four (27%) families are lone-parents.

NWT lone-parent families typically have lower incomes. In 2014, the median total income for NWT lone-parents was \$36,980 compared to \$41,780 in Canada. In contrast, NWT couple families had median incomes of \$136,290 while the Canadian couple median income was \$86,410.

In 2014, affordability was the largest major housing issue in the NWT.

NWT Households with Housing Issues, 2014



Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

- Affordability issues – when shelter costs (like rent or mortgage payments, utilities, insurance etc.) are more than 30% of household income.
- Adequacy issues – when houses require major repairs, or are without running water or an indoor toilet.
- Suitability issues – when houses lack the suitable number of bedrooms for the characteristics of household occupants.

Housing issues typically differ depending on community type. Houses not being adequate, primarily because of needing major repairs, were more commonly found in smaller NWT communities. In Yellowknife, affordability was the top housing issue with one in five households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs.

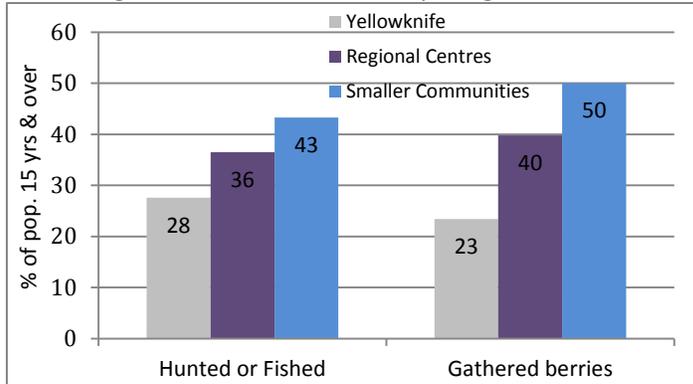
Overall, one in five households in the NWT are in core need – defined as having affordability, adequacy and/or suitability issues and a total household income below a set threshold.

WOMEN IN THE NWT - SUMMARY

Traditional Activities

Females in the NWT were involved in a number of traditional activities including fishing and hunting, gathering berries and spending time on the land.

Percentage of NWT Women Participating in Selected Traditional Activities, 2014



Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

- Indigenous women in the NWT were more likely to be active in traditional activities like fishing, hunting, or berry picking than Non-Indigenous women.

Both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women were more likely to participate in traditional activities if they lived in the rest of the territories compared to those living in Yellowknife.

Overall, 50% of females living in smaller communities gathered berries and the same proportion also spent time on the land. The percentage of Yellowknife women spending at least one night on the land, not including paid campgrounds, dropped to 32%.

Over 1 in 3 (35%) of all women in the NWT indicated they were involved in making or producing arts or crafts, with sewing or needlecraft being the most common craft.

Please contact the NWT Bureau of Statistics for more information on any of the topics provided in this summary.

NWT Bureau of Statistics

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