

Appendix E – Data

Language and Culture

- Within B.C., there are 34 distinct Indigenous languages – approximately 60% of all Indigenous languages in Canada. This includes 93+ dialects.
- In 2018, there were 4,132 fluent speakers of First Nations languages in B.C., or 3% of the population that reported to the FPCC. This is a decrease of 1,157 speakers since 2014.
- Furthermore, 52% of fluent speakers are aged 65 or older, and the passing of fluent Elders is cited as a primary cause of the decline of fluency.¹
- While fluency rates have declined, it is promising to note that the number of language learners has increased since 2014, comprising 10.2% of the population. Importantly, 78.1% of these learners are aged 0-24 years.²

Health

- Indigenous Canadians are three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to experience intentional violence, about seven times more likely to be murdered, and are at increased risk of being trafficked and sexually exploited domestically.
- Additionally, the [*Health and Well-Being of Women in B.C.*](#) report by the [*Office of the Provincial Health Officer*](#) (2011) identified that pregnancy can be both a consequence of domestic violence and can trigger further abuse. Aboriginal women are among the most vulnerable to sexual assault and unintended pregnancy as their reported rate of spousal violence is three times the rate for non-Aboriginal women.³ Aboriginal women who live in rural, remote locations may be challenged by access to maternity care and other social services.
- Aboriginal women and youth are also disproportionately involved in sex work,⁴⁵⁶

¹ First People's Cultural Council. "Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages 2018 – Factsheet.

² First People's Cultural Council. "Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages 2018. 3rd ed.

³ Office of the Provincial Health Officer. "The health and wellbeing of women in BC." (2011).

⁴ Sikka, A. "Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls in Canada: Aboriginal policy research series." (Ottawa: Institute on Governance and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, 2009).

⁵ Farley, M., J. Lynne and A. J. Cotton. "Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the colonization of first nations women," *Transcultural psychiatry* 41, no. 2 (2005): 242-271.

particularly survival and outdoor sex work⁷ and are disproportionately at risk of trauma and associated harms due to factors such as racism and the legacy of colonization.⁸ Survival sex workers are deeply stigmatized, marginalized, and dehumanized and are at increased risk for HIV and other STIs, and vulnerable to multiple forms of interpersonal and societal violence, including physical, mental and sexual abuse and exploitation.⁹¹⁰¹¹ The [*Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study*](#)¹² found that of 356 women reportedly living with HIV/AIDS in B.C., 45% were Indigenous. First Nations women involved in the sex industry have expressed the importance of culturally appropriate and culturally safe supports and services in order to reach out to receive care

Mental Health and Addictions

- First Nations girls and women experience an overdose rate eight times higher than other female British Columbians – and the rate of overdose deaths is five times higher;
- Indigenous female youth were more likely to consider suicide than males (22% compared to 13%). The risk of attempting suicide was most strongly associated with feeling extreme despair and a history of physical and sexual abuse.

Children and Families

- In B.C., the rate of Indigenous children and youth in care per 1,000 (ages 0-18) population is almost 16 times higher - 48.5 per 1,000 - than for non-Indigenous children and youth - 3.1 per 1,000. [*Aboriginal Children in Care: A Historical Timeline*](#) details the events in B.C.'s history that have had compounding effects on Indigenous people.

⁶ Bingham, B., D. Leo, R. Zhang, J. Montaner and K. Shannon. "Generational sex work and HIV risk among Indigenous women in a street-based urban Canadian setting," *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 16, no. 4 (2014): 440-452.

⁷ Ouspenski, A. "Sex Work: Transitioning, retiring and exiting." (Online report, B.C. Ministry of Justice and the City of Vancouver, Vancouver [Unceded Coast Salish territories]).

⁸ Bingham, B., D. Leo, R. Zhang, J. Montaner and K. Shannon. "Generational sex work and HIV risk among Indigenous women in a street-based urban Canadian setting," *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 16, no. 4 (2014): 440-452.

⁹ Cusick, L. "Widening the Harm Reduction Agenda: From drug use to sex work," *International Journal of Drug Policy* 17 (2006): 3-11.

¹⁰ Lazarus, L., K. N. Deering, R. Nabess, K. Gibson, M. W. Tyndall, and K. Shannon. "Occupational stigma as a primary barrier to health care for street-based sex workers in Canada," *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 14, no. 2 (2012): 139-150.

¹¹ Lazarus, L., J. Chettiar, K. Deering, R. Nabess and K. Shannon. "Risky health environments: Women sex workers' struggles to find safe, secure, and non-exploitative housing in Canada's poorest postal code," *Social Science and Medicine* 73, no. 11 (2011): 1600-1607.

¹² "Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study", 2018.

- In June 2018 there were 6,695 children and youth in care. Of these, 4,235 (63%) were Indigenous children and youth in care and of those 2,491 were on a continuing custody order (where the Director of Child Welfare becomes the sole guardian of the child and the Public Guardian and Trustee becomes the guardian of the child's estate). Refer to [MCFD's Public Performance Portal](#) for more information on measures and data, including trends over time.

Poverty Reduction

- Although it is clear that Indigenous people are overrepresented on the SDPR caseload, it is difficult to determine exact numbers as many individuals choose not to self-identify to SDPR as Indigenous. Indigenous people represented 5.9% of B.C.'s population in 2016, while in 2015/16, over 19% of new cases starting income assistance self-identified as Indigenous.
- The disability rate among Indigenous people is twice that of the general population. While Stats Canada reported that 14% of Canadians self-identify as having a disability, the Journal of Aboriginal Health found that up to 32% of Indigenous Canadians self-identify as a person with a disability.¹³ Statistics show a higher rate of environmental and trauma-related disabilities in First Nations communities and there are also higher rates of specific diseases, such as Type II diabetes. The higher rate of disability and related barriers, such as access to health care, has significant implications on poverty and education levels.
- As compared to the entire population of B.C., Indigenous people have lower rates of employment (64% vs. 76%), levels of education (10% vs. 31% having a bachelor's degree or higher), and incomes (based on 2015 data-median income \$24,000 vs. \$34,000).
- From April 2012 to July 2018, 42,239 clients self-identifying as Indigenous received employment services and supports through WorkBC.
- The employment rate of Indigenous people has been increasing over the last 5 years from 32% in 2013/14 to 52% in 2017/18. As of July 2018, the employment rate for clients

¹³ Durst, D., S. M. South and M. Bluechart. 2006. "Urban First Nations People with Disabilities Speak Out." *Journal of Aboriginal Health* 36, 34-43.

identifying as Indigenous for fiscal year 2018/19 was 61%, as compared to the program wide rate of 66%.

Housing

- According to the 2016 Census, there were 136,425 First Nations, 48,880 Métis and 855 Inuk women in B.C.
- 55% of the province's total population of Indigenous women live in urban areas.
- Vancouver has the largest urban Indigenous female population in Canada, where 29,505 Indigenous women live.
- Indigenous women are less likely to be legally married and more likely to live in common-law relationships, to have more children, to be a lone parent and to be living with either immediate or extended family members when compared to non-Indigenous women.
- 86% of Indigenous lone-parent families are headed by women.
- Indigenous families residing off-reserve are more likely than other Canadian households to be headed by a female lone parent. They tend to live in cities and towns and 35.7% are in serious core housing need.

Indigenous Women: Migration and Urban Housing Mobility Patterns

- 50% of the Indigenous female population moved between 2011 and 2016.
- This was slightly higher than the mobility rate among the non-Indigenous female population (41%).
- The difference is greater when we compare the proportions of the Registered Indian women and girls off-reserve (58%) who reported moving compared to Indigenous females living on-reserve (24%) between 2011 and 2016.
- Significantly more off-reserve Registered Indian women and girls moved, across all age groups when compared to females living on-reserve.
- Among all Indigenous women and girls living off-reserve, approximately 56% were local movers and almost 44% had moved from a different area.
- Among Registered Indian women from 20 to 24 years of age living off-reserve, about 78% moved between 2011 and 2016 and more than 53% were local movers.

- Among women from 20-34 years of age, the proportion of movers increased to about 63%, with about 55% being local movers and 45% migrating from a different area.
- After the age of 45, urban mobility declined, reaching their lowest rates among Indigenous women over the age of 65+ years.

Core Housing Need

- 20.4% of Indigenous households live in core housing need, compared with 14.6% of non-Indigenous households.
- One in five Indigenous people live in a dwelling in need of major repairs.
- The on-reserve population is more likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs.
- One in 10 Indigenous families live in a dwelling with a one-bedroom shortfall.
- 25% of Indigenous people live in crowded housing.

Education (K-12)

- There are approximately 70,000 Indigenous students attending B.C. public and independent schools with the majority of those, about 65,000, attending public schools. This makes up about 11.6% of the public school population and has remained stable since 2006-2007. Of note, about 2,500 of the Indigenous students in public schools are children in care. The Ministry of Education invests about \$72 million annually in supplemental funding for enhanced services to Indigenous students attending public schools.
- Though the graduation rate for Indigenous students has consistently improved since 2000, climbing from 49% to 66%, the graduation rate for First Nation status students living on reserve and attending public school is lower, at 57%. This rate has also improved over the past 10 years climbing from 35% in 2008. The overall graduation rate for all students is 84%.

Corrections

- Indigenous women represented 41% of the female inmates in our correctional centres and 35% of women under community corrections supervision.
- There is significant regional variation in the proportion of Indigenous women under

community corrections supervision in the province. Specifically, of all women clients under community supervision, Indigenous women represent 22% of female clients in the Fraser Metro Region, 28% in the Interior Fraser Region, 35% in the Coastal region, 34% in the Lower Mainland Region, and 59% in the Northern Interior Region.

- Approximately 3 in 4 (72%) Indigenous women admitted to custody were identified as having at least one mental health issue.
- Approximately 58% of Indigenous women in custody self-reported as not having graduated from high school, compared to 40% of non-Indigenous women inmates. In community corrections, 53% of Indigenous women self-reported not having graduated high school compared to 30% of non-Indigenous women.