



Tracking economic, social, and demographic trends from a Saskatchewan perspective.

# Selected Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Aboriginal Population in Saskatchewan

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Presentation to the

**Canadian Bar Association  
Mid-Winter Meeting**

January 31, 2008

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# Outline

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- **Definitions and Data Sources**
  
- **How Large is the Aboriginal Population?**
  - **Compared with other provinces**
  - **In Saskatchewan Cities**
  
- **Population Growth Rates**
  
- **Age Distribution**
  
- **Other Socioeconomic Data**

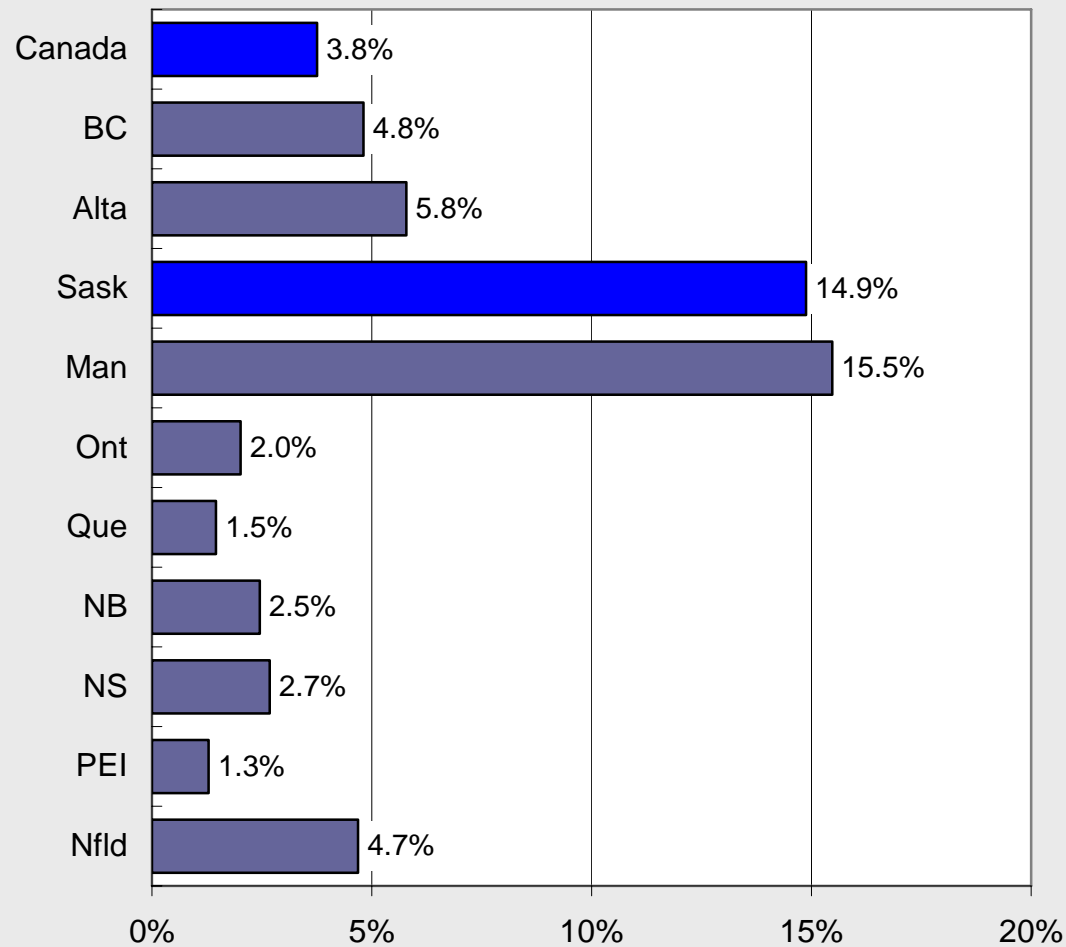
# Definitions and Data Sources

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- The only comprehensive source of information about the Aboriginal population comes from Statistics Canada generally and the Census in particular.
  
- Starting in the 1996 Census, Statistics Canada began using the concept of self-identity to measure the size Aboriginal population. A person is considered as being Aboriginal if they answered yes to one of:
  - (Is this person) an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo)?
  - (Is this person) a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada?
  - (Is this person) a member of an Indian Band or First Nation?
  
- Unless otherwise indicated all of the material in this presentation is from the 1996, 2001, or 2006 census.

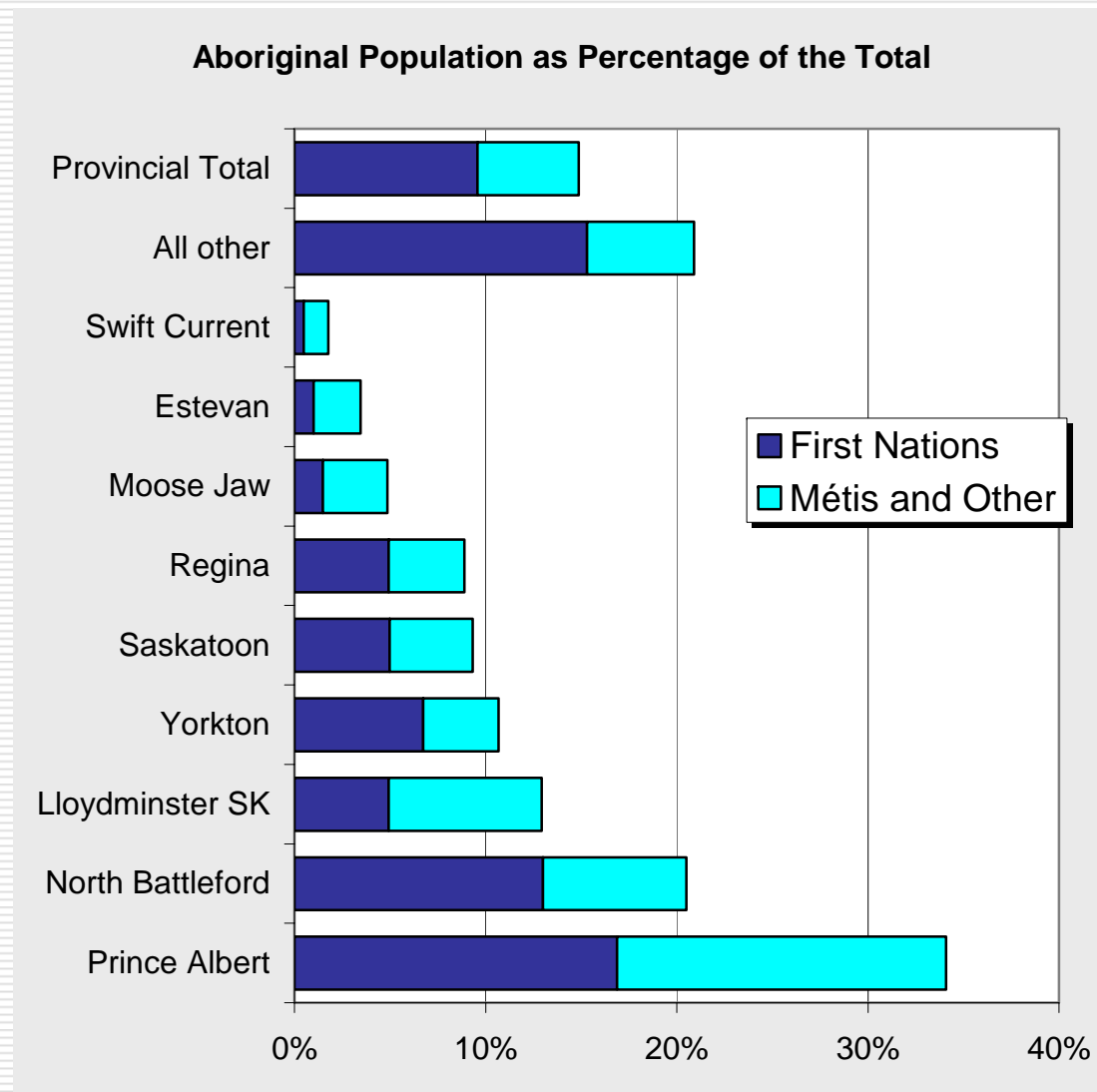
# The Size of the Aboriginal Population, 2006

Aboriginal Population as Percentage of the Total



- In 2006, Saskatchewan had 141,890 Aboriginal people:
  - 91,400 who reported being only “North American Indian”,
  - 48,115 who reported being only Métis; and
  - 2,375 who were Inuit, neither or a combination.
- Saskatchewan has 12% of the Aboriginal population in Canada. In absolute terms, the largest number (242,000) are in Ontario.
- Manitoba and Saskatchewan are, by far, the provinces with the largest proportion of the Aboriginal population.

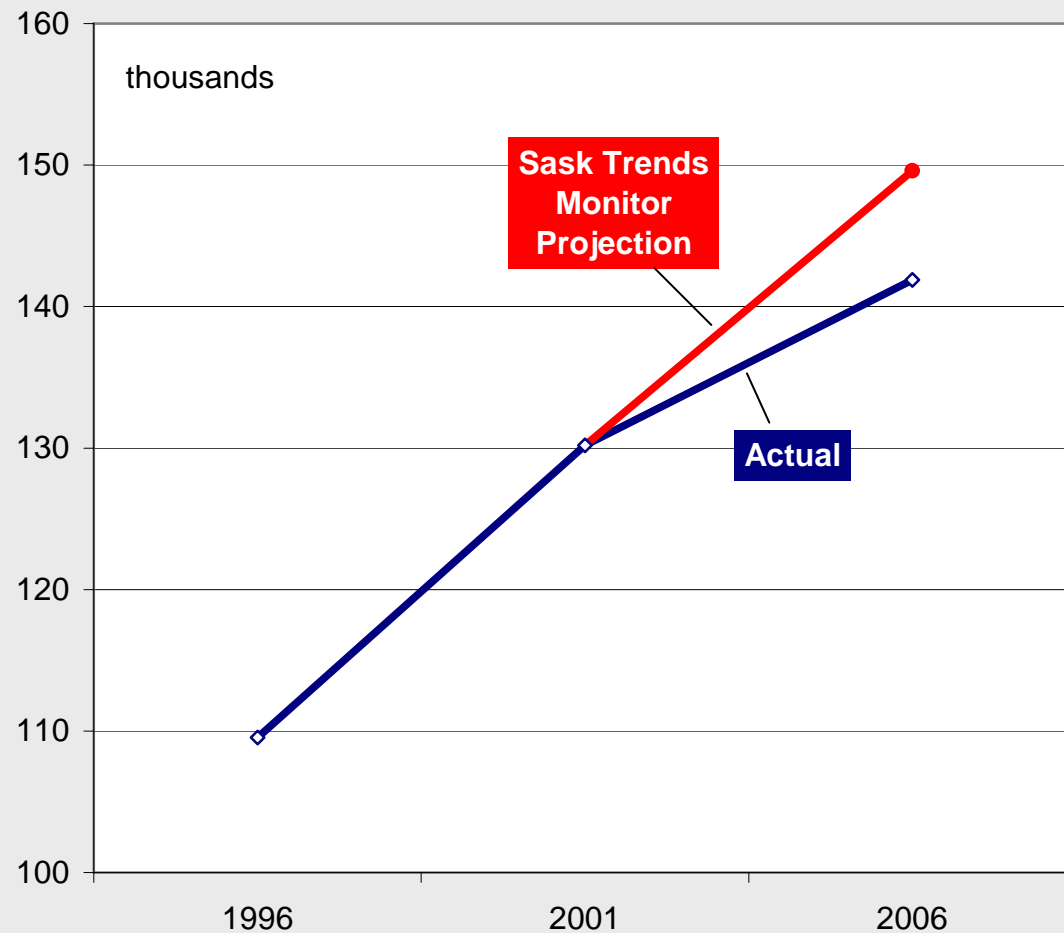
# The Size of the Aboriginal Population in Larger Centres



- Regina and Saskatoon together account for more than one quarter of the province's Aboriginal population.
- Except for Regina, there are negligible numbers of Aboriginal people living in the southern urban areas.
- Aboriginal people are the most common (i.e. expressed as a proportion of the total population) in Prince Albert and North Battleford.

# Changes Over Time

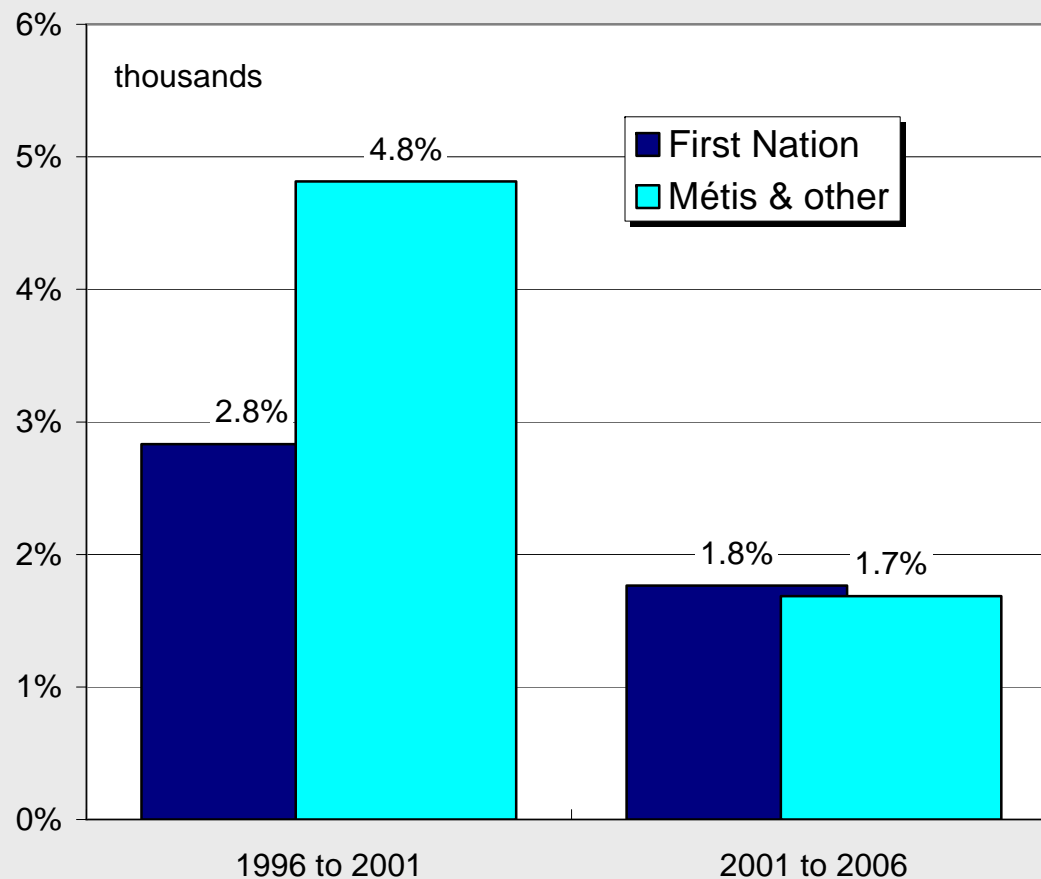
Aboriginal Population in Saskatchewan



- The growth rate in the Aboriginal population slowed from an average of 3.5% per year from 1996 to 2001 to 1.7% per year from 2001 to 2006.
- Most projections of the size of the Aboriginal population overstated the growth rate. *Sask Trends Monitor*, for example, was projecting a growth rate of 2.8%. Others were even higher.
- What happened?

## Changes by Identity

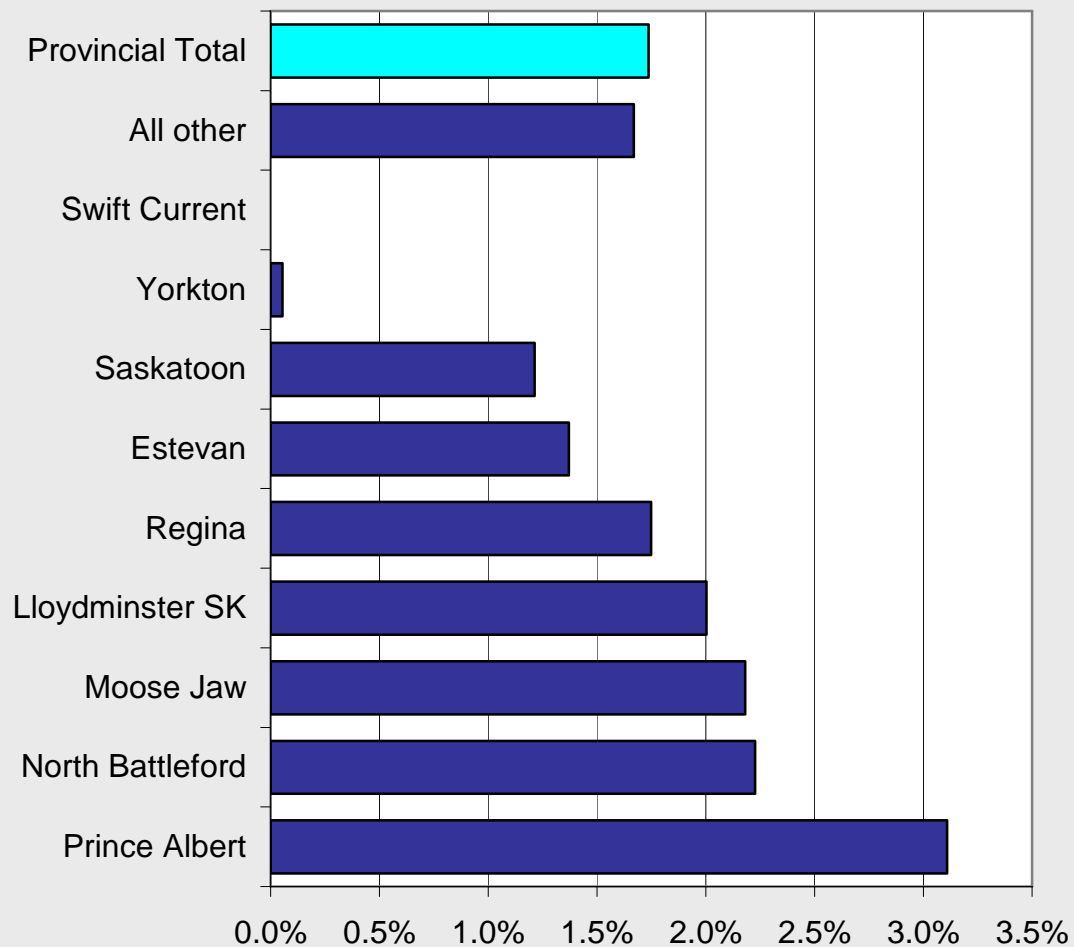
Average Annual Growth Rates, Aboriginal Population in Saskatchewan



- A preliminary analysis suggests that the slower growth rate is the result of two factors.
- Migration rates may have been underestimated because there are fewer young adults (15 to 34 years) than expected. The confirmation of this, one way or the other, is still a few months away.
- The number of persons self-identifying as Métis may have been artificially high in 2001.

# Growth Rates by Residence

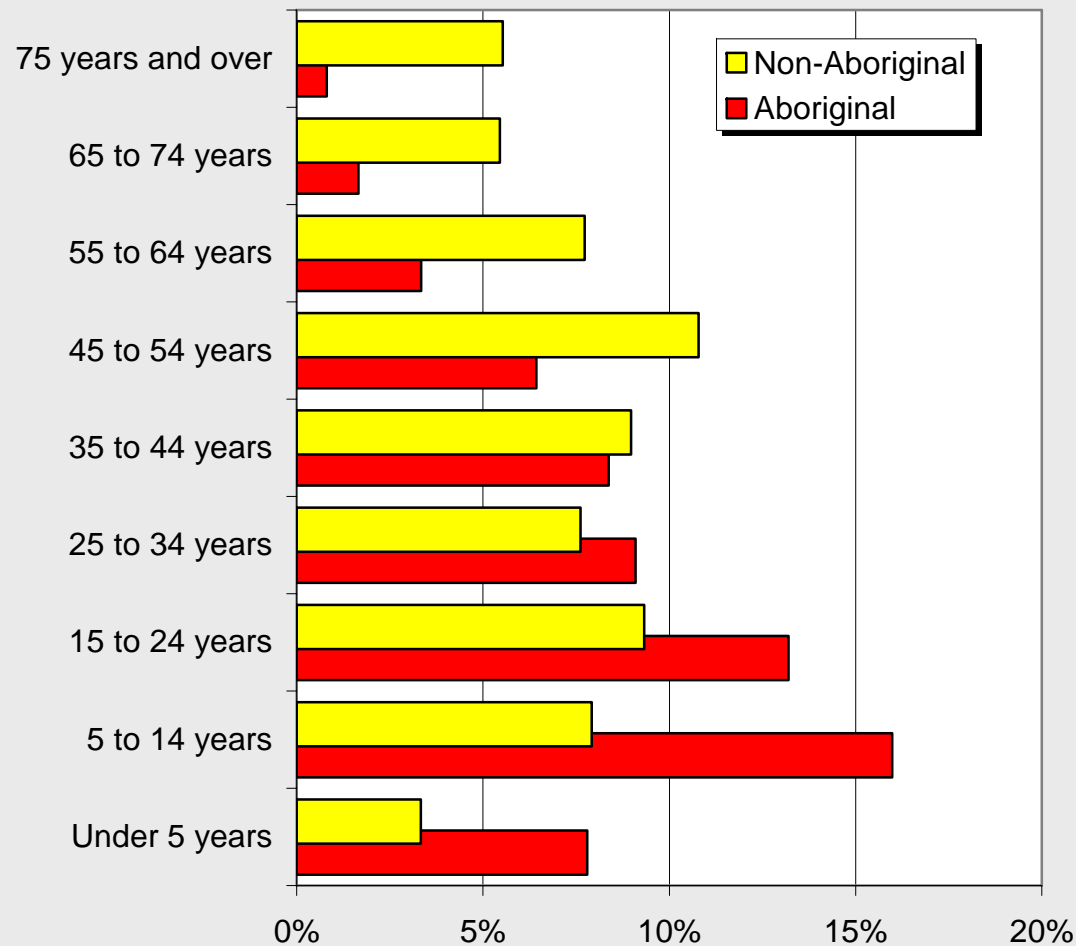
Average Annual Increase, 2001 to 2006



- In the past five years, the Aboriginal population has become more concentrated in northern urban centres.
- Population growth on Reserve was almost non-existent (0.7% per year) between 2001 and 2006.

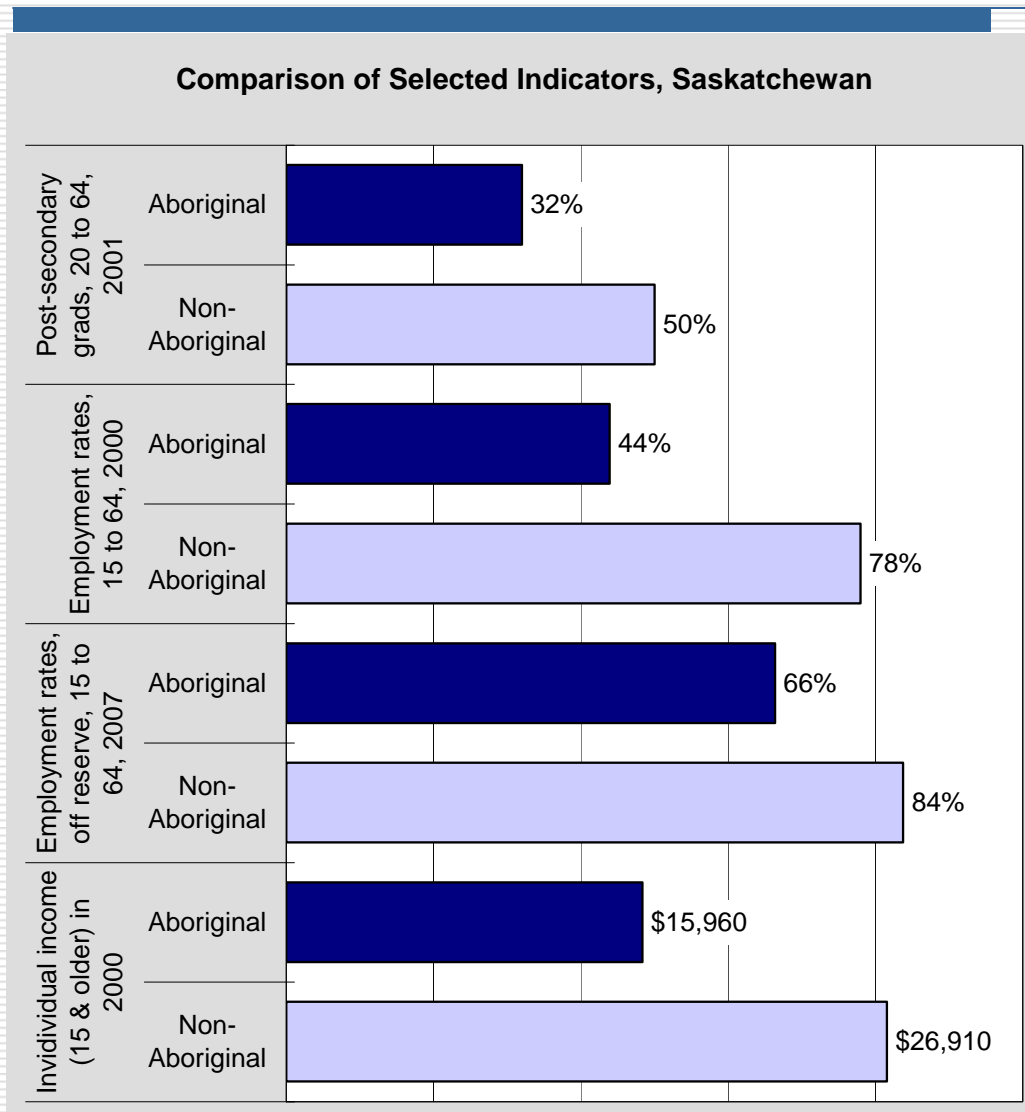
# Age Distribution

Age Distribution in 2006



- Notwithstanding the lower fertility rates, the Aboriginal population is still very young relative to the non-Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan.

# Other Socioeconomic Information



- In the coming months we will be getting more information about the socioeconomic status of the Aboriginal population.
  
- We expect that:
  - the quality of the housing stock will be a major problem on Reserve;
  - levels of completed education will be rising but still too low;
  - employment levels off Reserve are increasing but probably not on Reserve;
  - income off Reserve will be increasing more quickly than on Reserve.

**....questions?**

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A copy of this presentation will be made available on [www.sasktrends.ca](http://www.sasktrends.ca)