



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

Selected Characteristics of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Population

Presentation to:

Strategies for Success Conference

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Outline

- **Basic Counts, Age, Residence**
- **Levels of Completed Education**
- **Employment and the Labour Market**

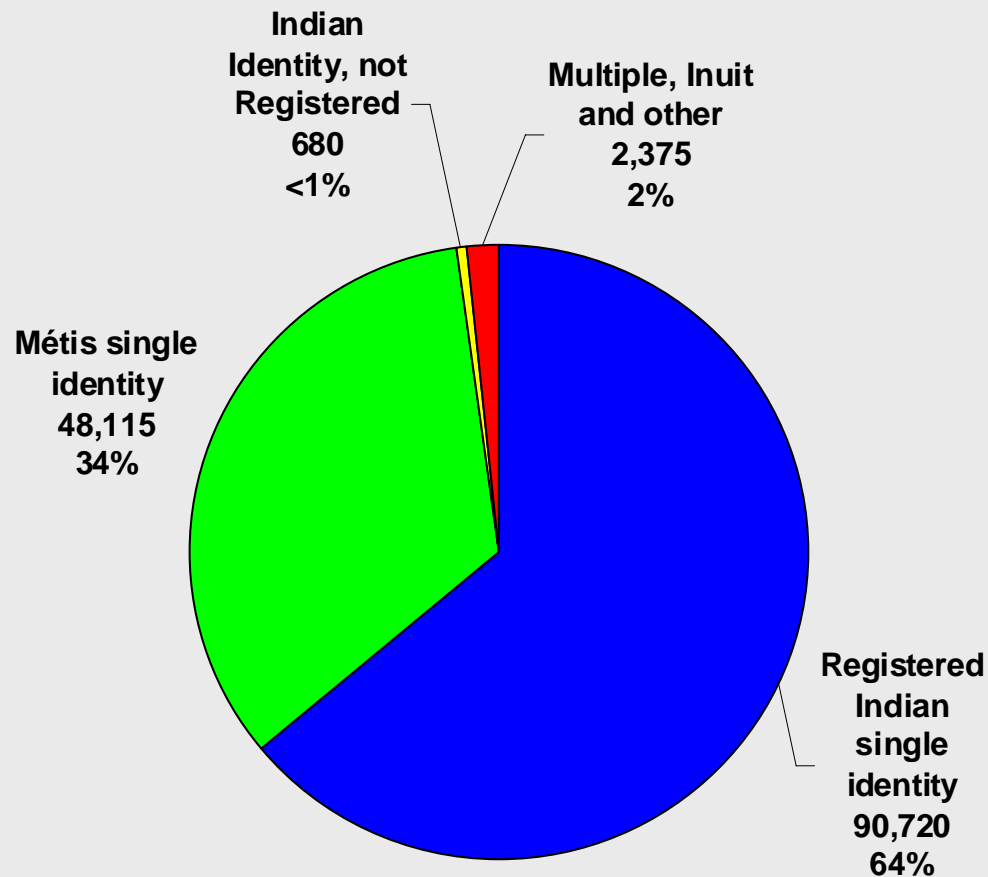
Definitions and Data Sources

- The only comprehensive source for statistics about the Aboriginal population is the Statistics Canada Census.
- Since 1996, Statistics Canada has been using the concept of self-identity to measure the size of the Aboriginal population. A person is considered Aboriginal if they answered yes to any one of the following questions.
 - (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?
- These data covers only those persons living in “private households”. That is, they exclude those in collective households such as group homes, special care facilities, hotels, correctional facilities, etc. They also exclude the homeless, that is, those with no fixed address.
- Unless otherwise indicated, these numbers are from the census. The responsibility for their interpretation remains with *Sask Trends Monitor*.

Basic Counts and Residence

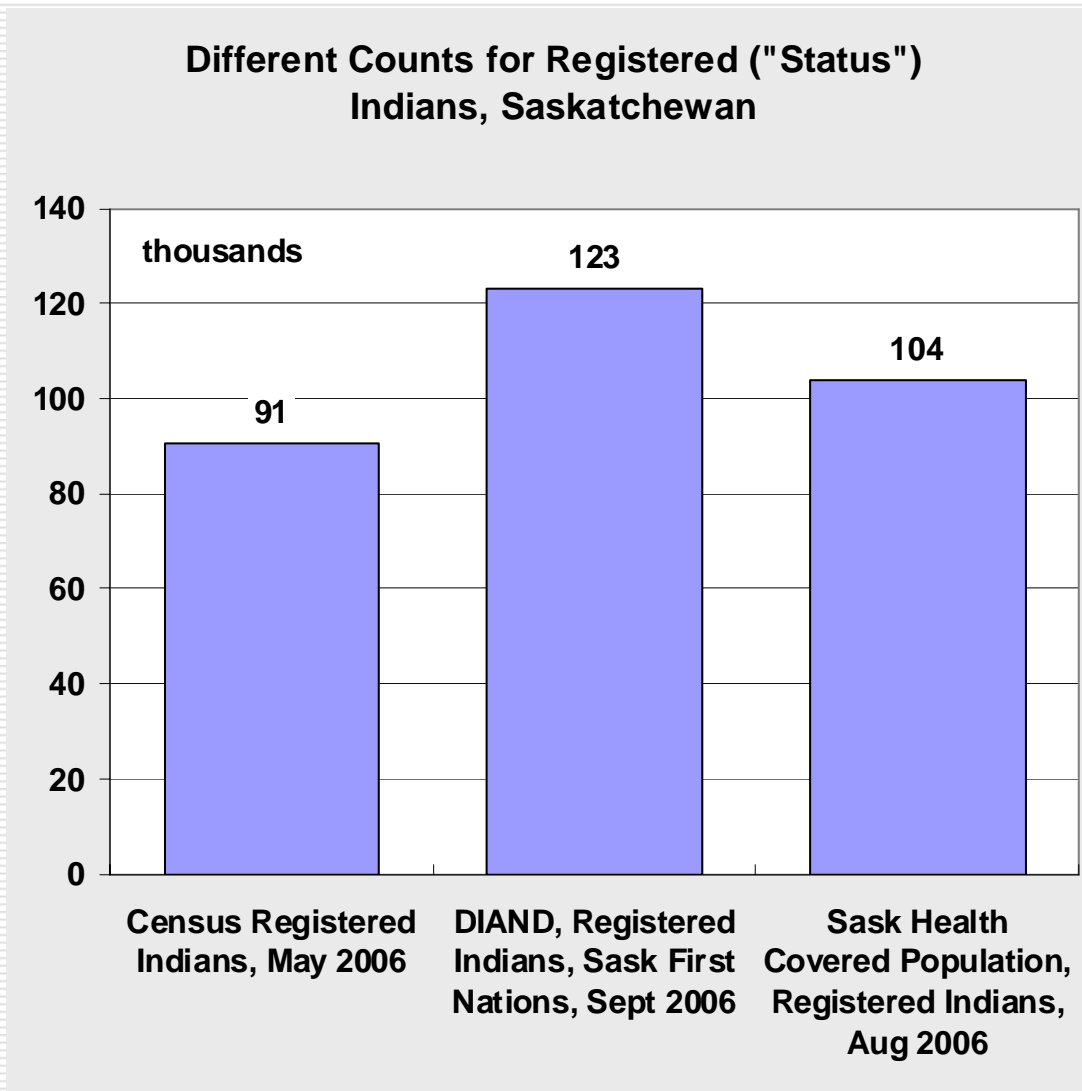
Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Population in 2006

Aboriginal Identity Population in Saskatchewan,
2006, (n = 141,890)



- Excluding the population in collective dwellings, there were 141,890 persons who reported an Aboriginal identity in 2006.
- Approximately two thirds are First Nation members, almost all of whom are "Registered" in the sense of *The Indian Act*.
- There are about 3,000 individuals who reported that they were:
 - Indian although not registered,
 - Inuit,
 - another Aboriginal identity, or
 - a combination of these.

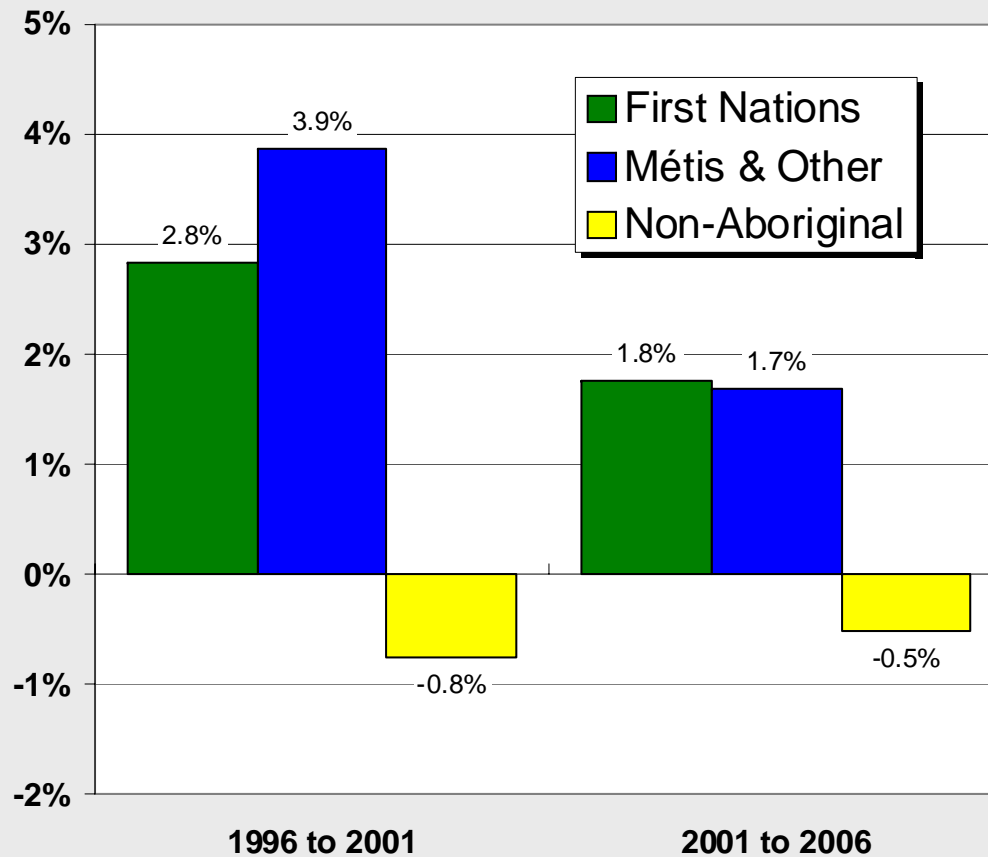
Different Counts from Different Data Sources



- In 2006, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada had 123,000 entries on the Indian Registry for Saskatchewan First Nations. This figure will include those First Nation members living in other provinces and in collective dwellings and exclude members of other First Nations who live in Saskatchewan.
- In 2006, the Ministry of Health recorded 104,000 persons who had a health registration card and who were Registered Indians. This excludes those in federal penitentiaries and members of the RCMP and armed forces.

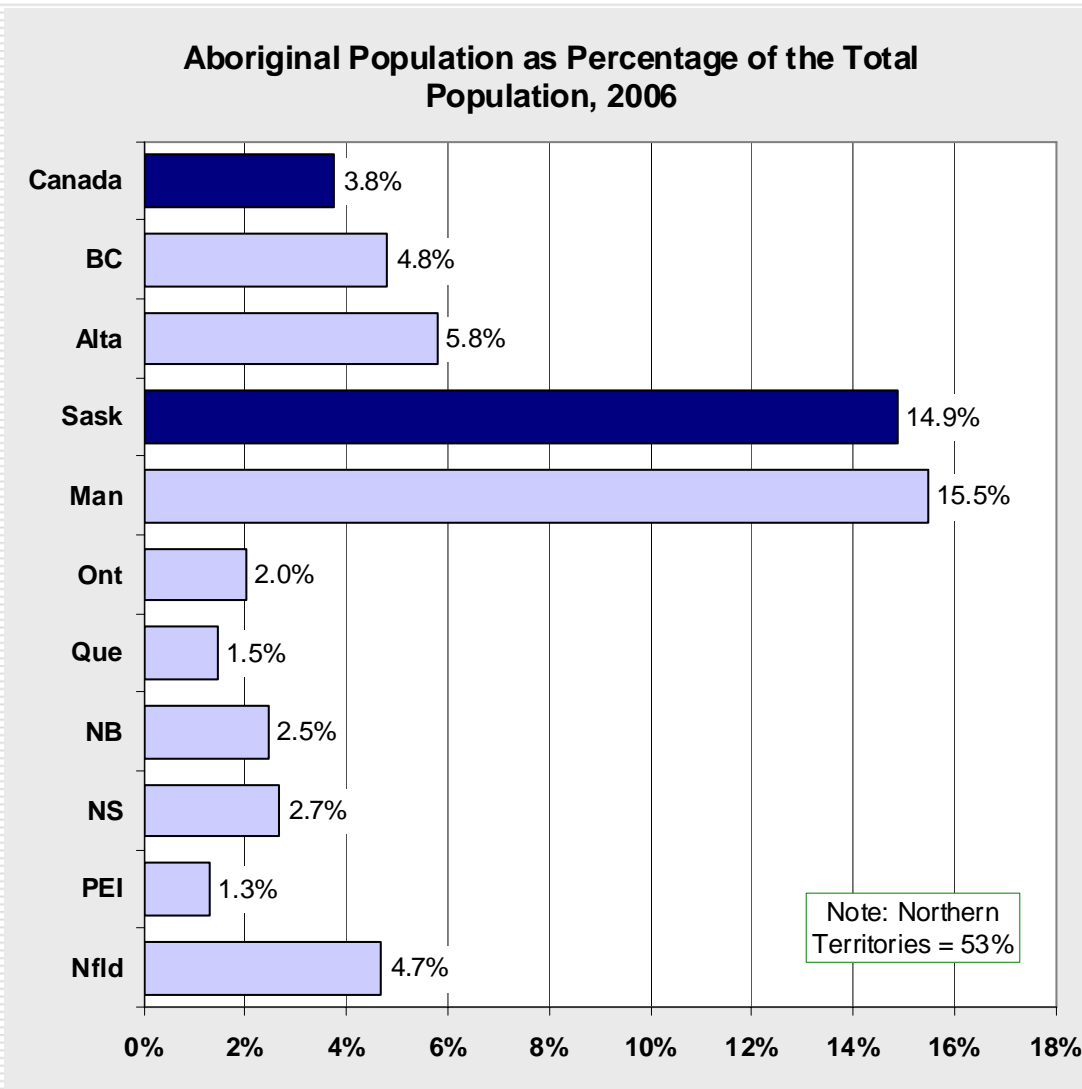
Population Growth Rates

Average Annual Population Growth Rates,
1996 to 2006



- The Aboriginal population has grown by an average of 2.5% per year over the last ten years. Over the same period, the size of the non-Aboriginal population declined.
- The rate of population growth is lower for the most recent five years than it was from 1996 to 2001.

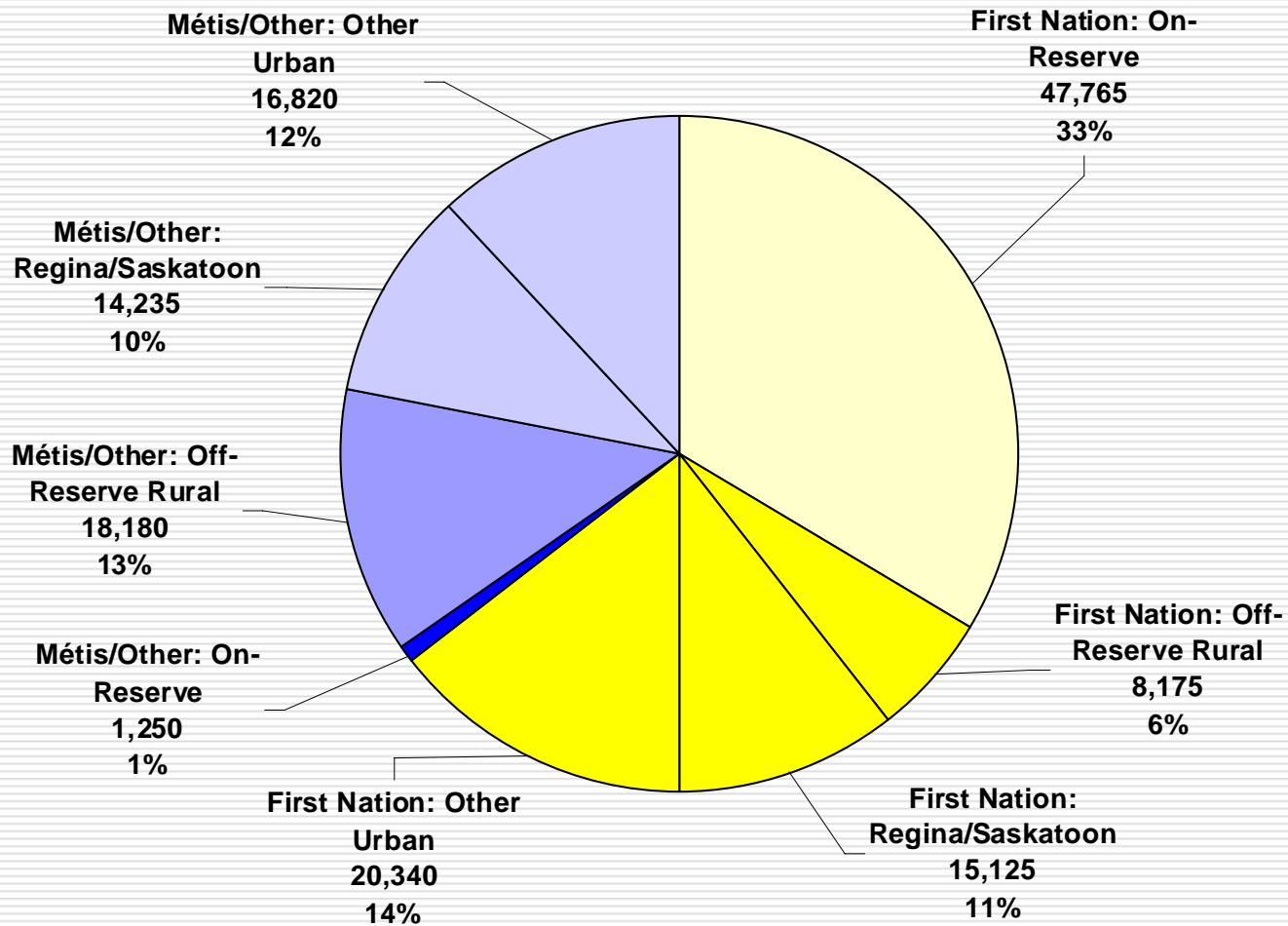
Aboriginal Population in 2006: Interprovincial Comparison



- Manitoba and Saskatchewan are, by far, the provinces with the largest Aboriginal populations as a percentage of the total population.
- Although the largest proportion of Aboriginal people in Canada live in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the highest number are in Ontario. In 2006, there were 242,000 Aboriginal people in Ontario compared with Saskatchewan's 142,000.

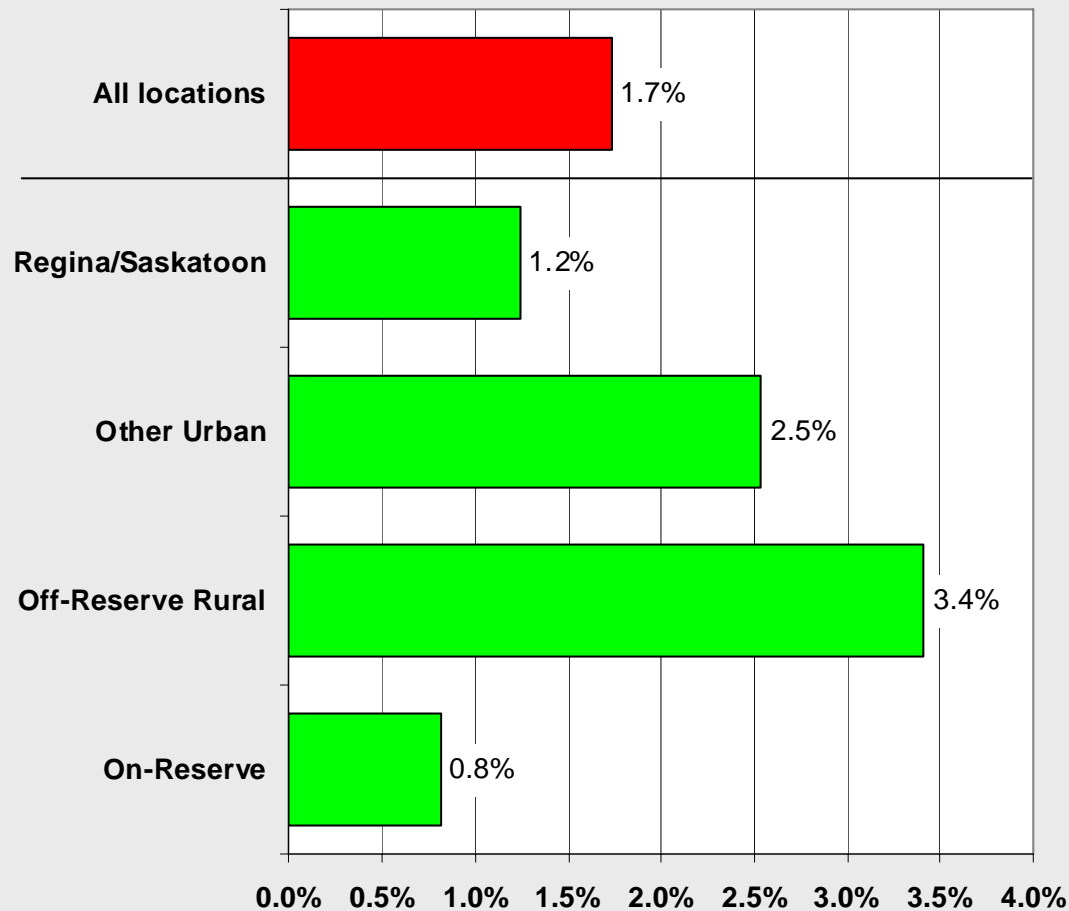
Aboriginal Population by Identity and Residence

Aboriginal Identity Population in Saskatchewan, 2006 (n=141,890)



Growth Rates by Residence

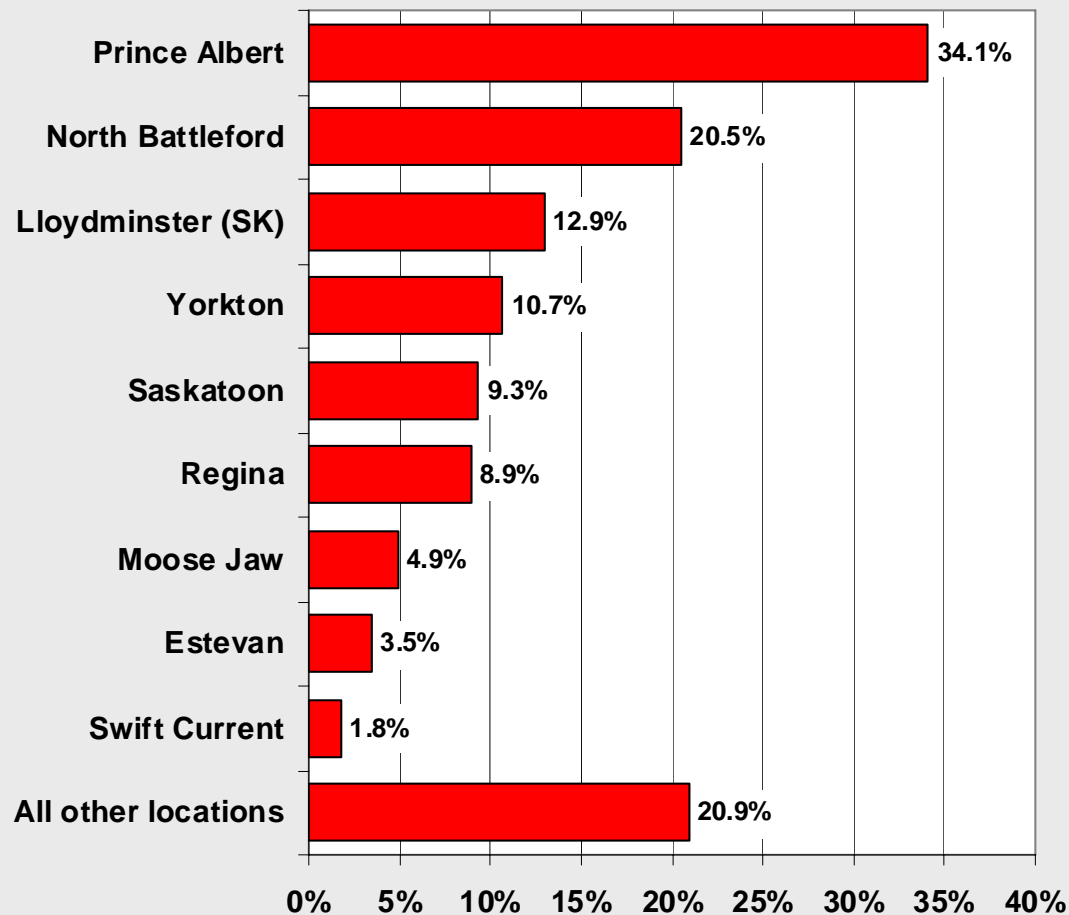
Average Annual Growth Rates, Aboriginal Population, 2001 to 2006



- The Aboriginal population is growing more quickly in urban areas outside Regina and Saskatoon than in the two major cities and more quickly in rural areas off- Reserve than on-Reserve.

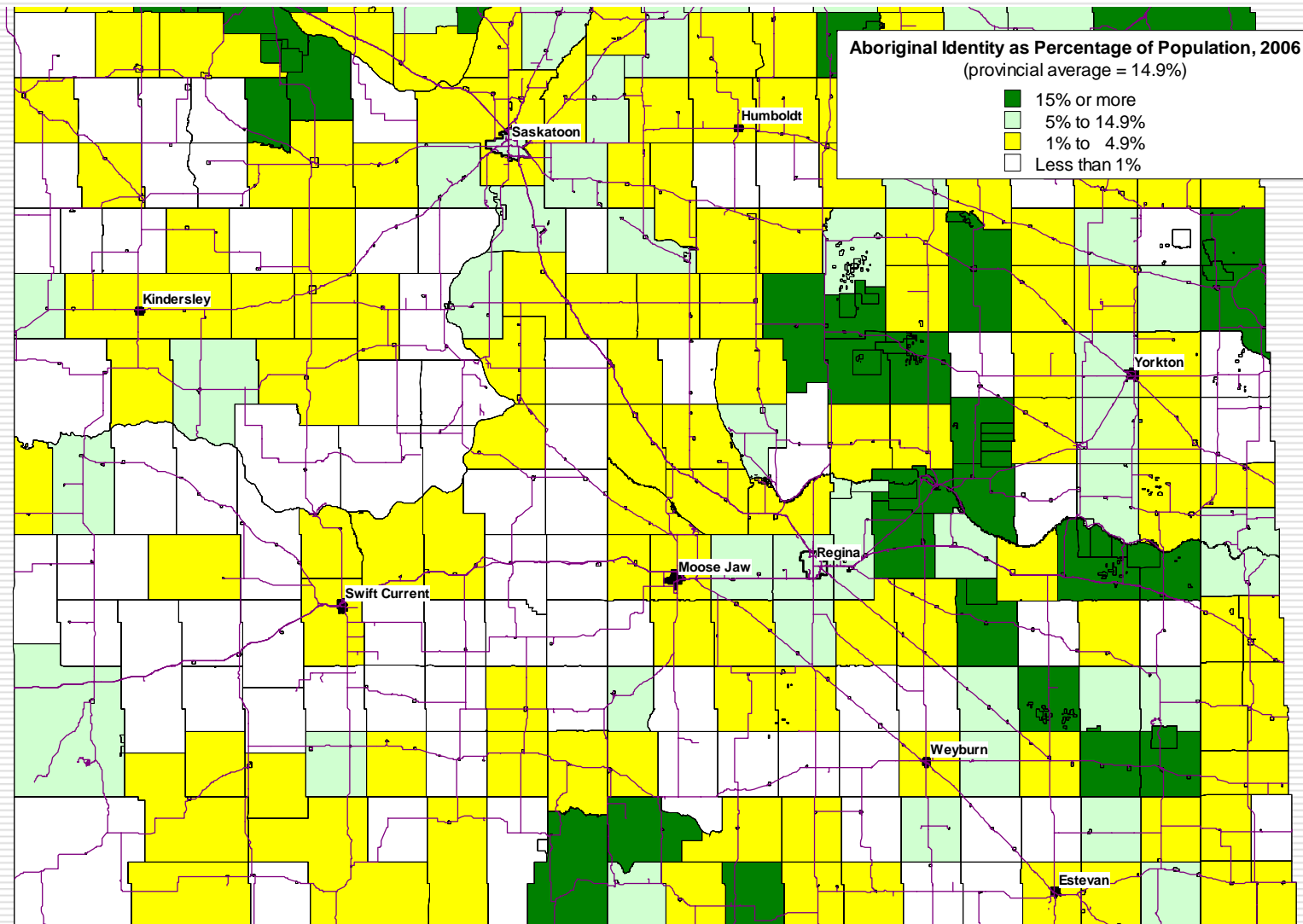
Basic Counts: Residence in Urban Areas

Aboriginal Population as Percentage of the Total Population, 2006

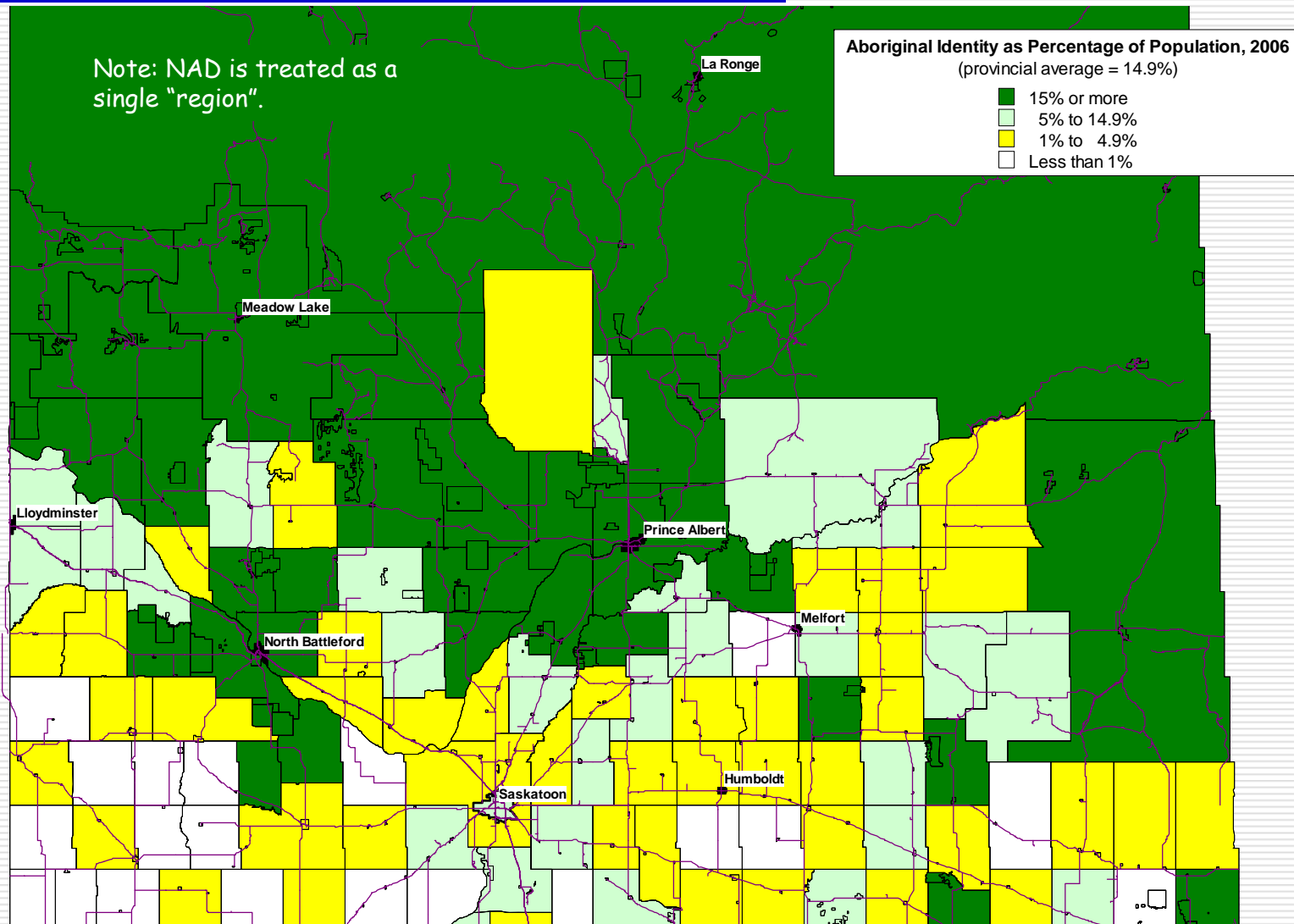


- As a proportion of the total population, Aboriginal people are more common in Prince Albert and North Battleford.
- They are less common in Regina and Saskatoon and almost non-existent in southern urban centres such as Estevan and Swift Current.
- Among urban centres, the fastest growing Aboriginal population from 2001 to 2006 was in Prince Albert.

Aboriginal People by RM (Southern Saskatchewan)

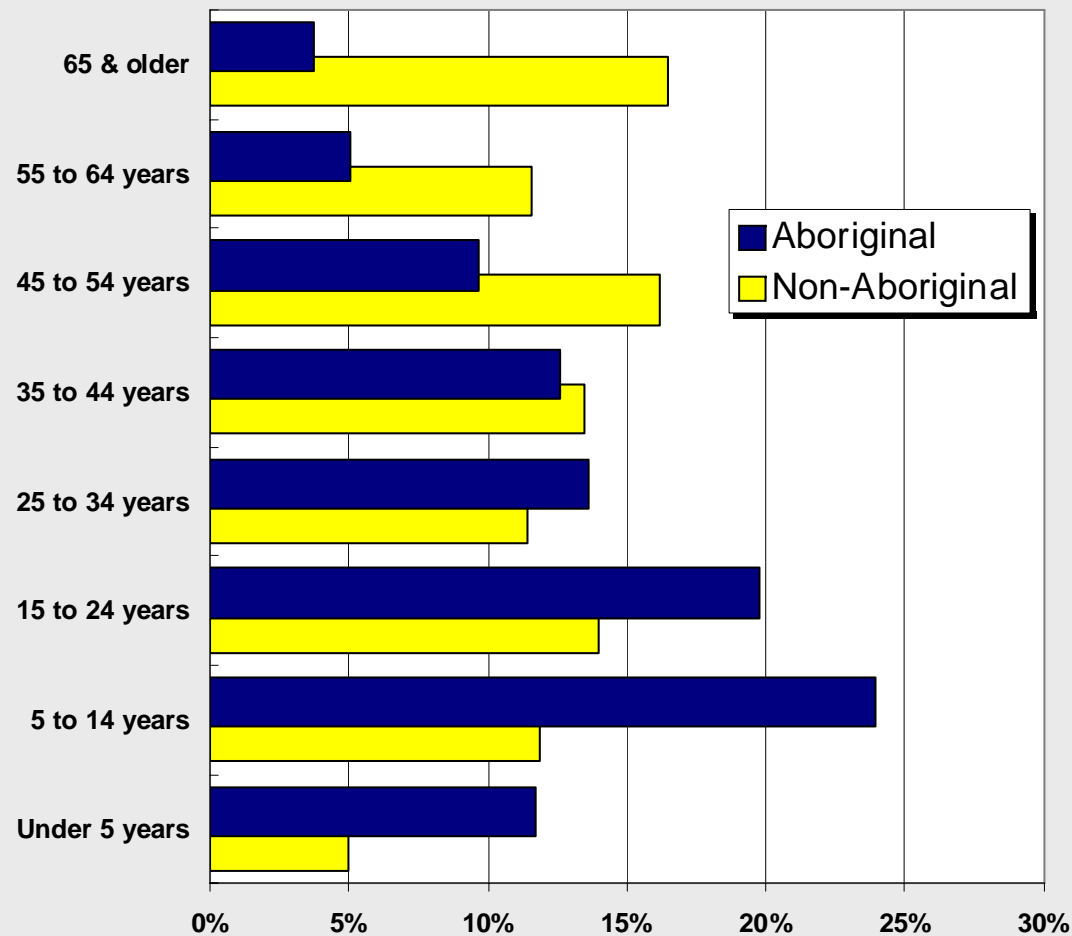


Aboriginal People by RM (Northern Saskatchewan)



Age Comparison with the Non-Aboriginal Population, 2006

Age Distribution in 2006, Aboriginal Population

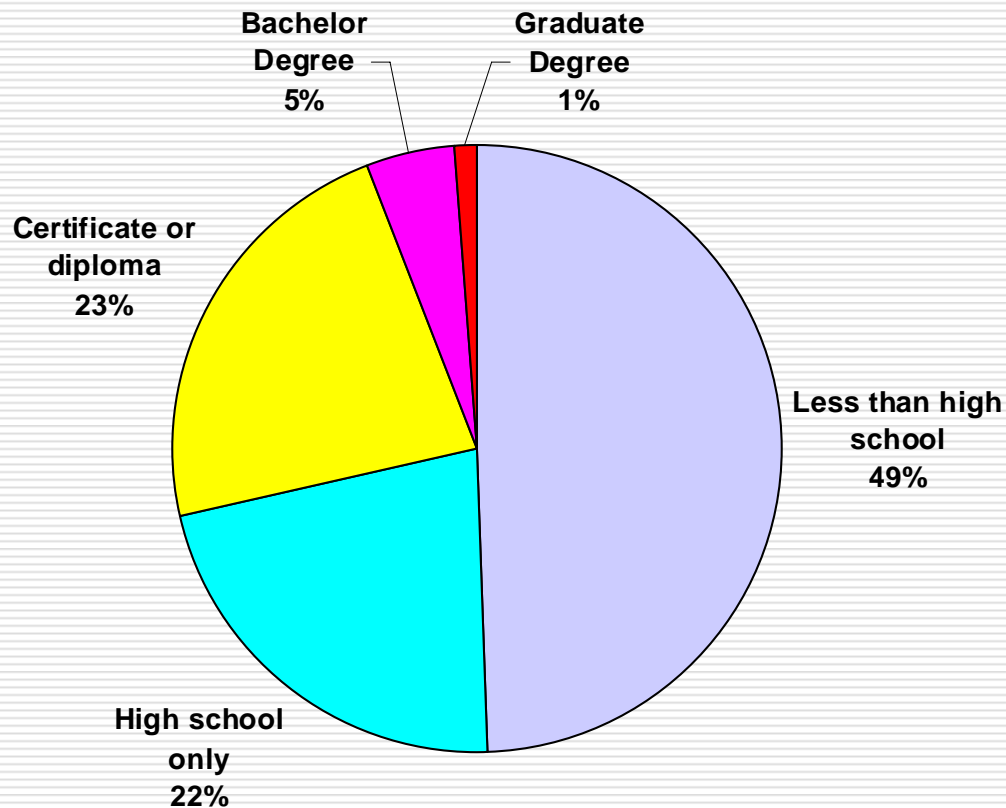


- The age distribution of the Aboriginal population is one of its most important characteristics.
- In terms of age, Aboriginal people are the opposite of non-Aboriginal people. In 2006, for example:
 - 55% of the Aboriginal population was under 25 years of age compared with 31% of the non-Aboriginal population; and
 - 18% of the Aboriginal population was 45 years of age or older compared with 44% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Completed Formal Education Levels

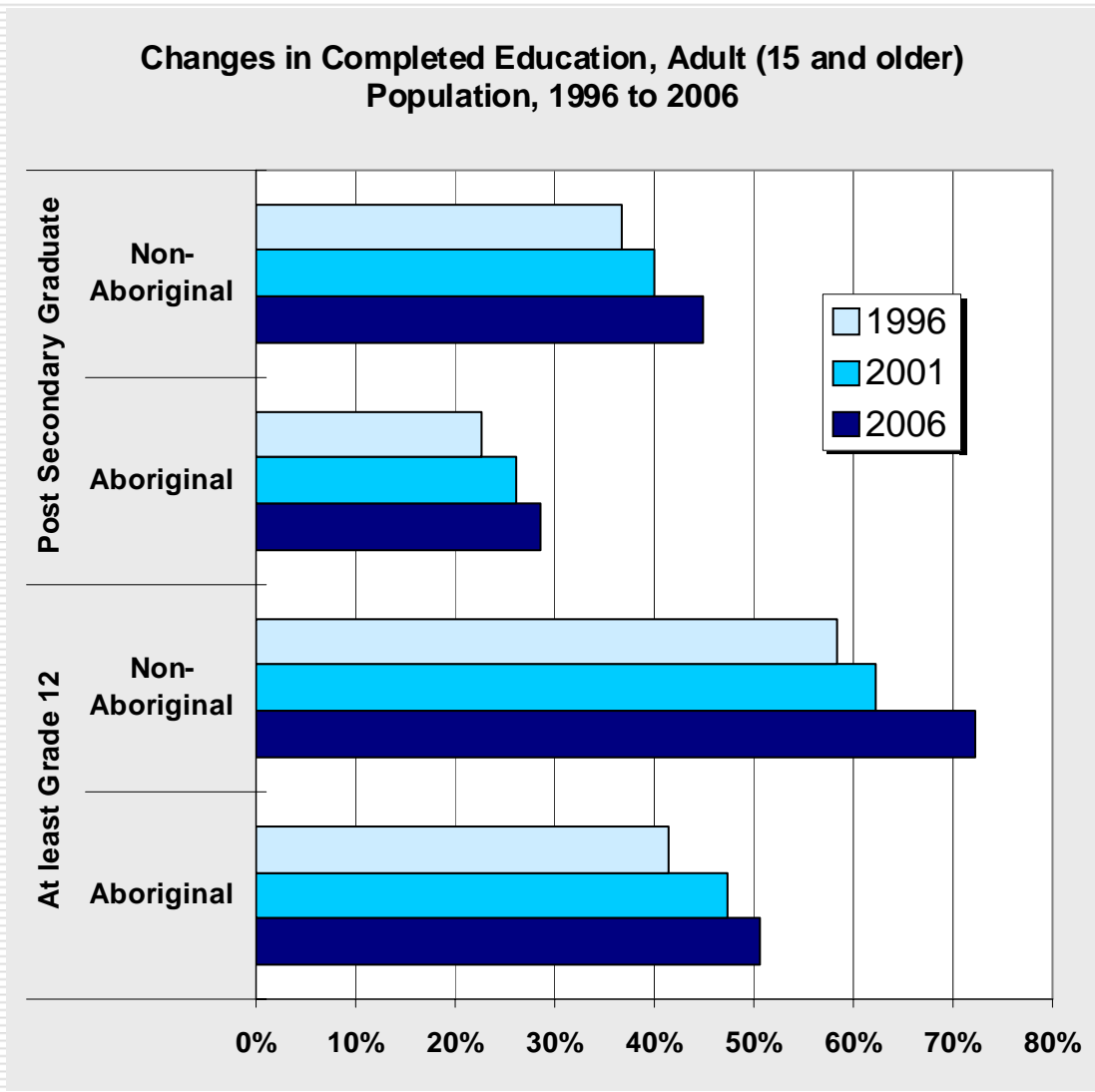
Completed Education in the Aboriginal Population in 2006

Complete Formal Education, Adult (15 & older)
Aboriginal Population, Saskatchewan, 2006
(n = 91,295)



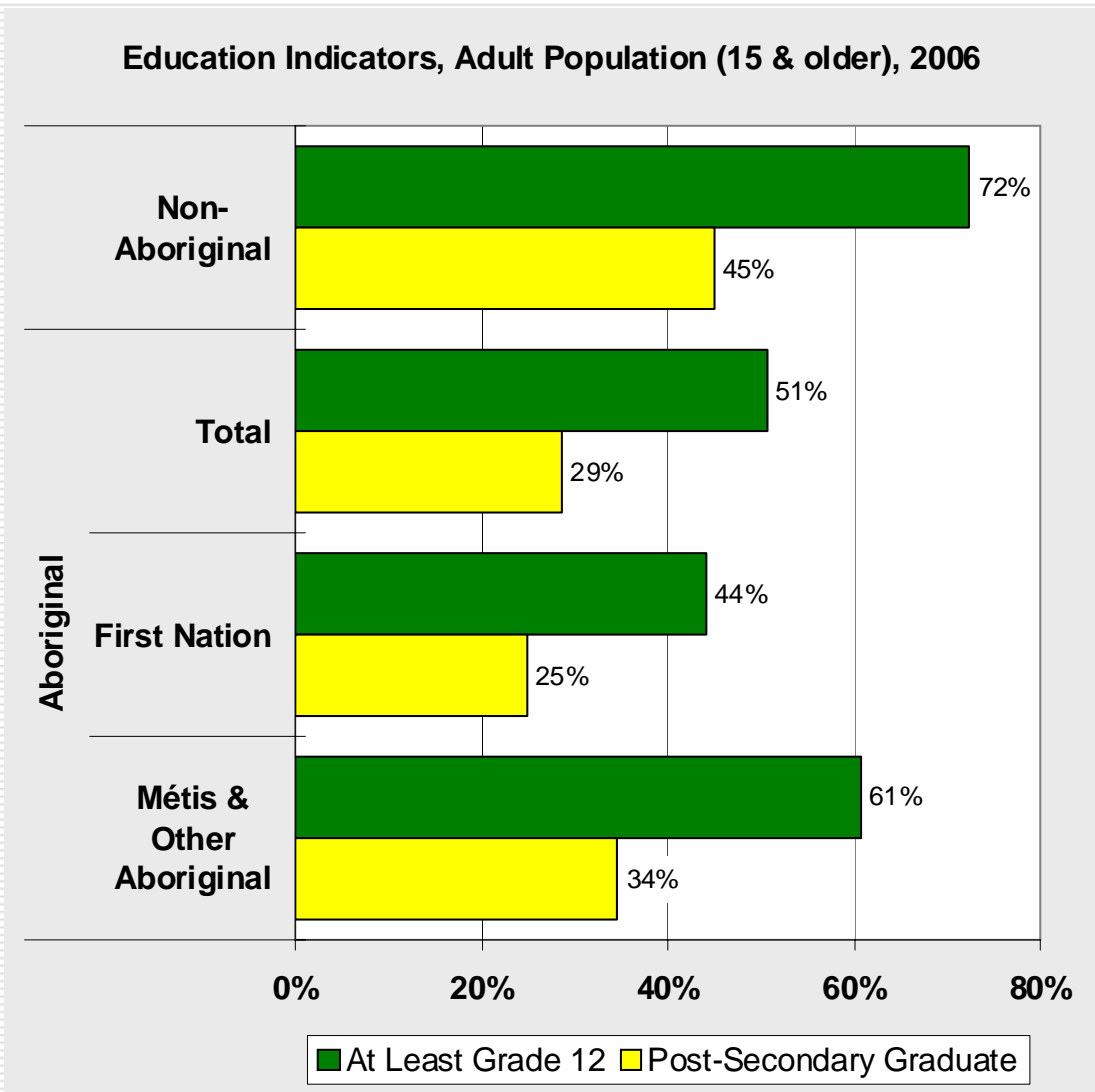
- The level of completed education measured in the census uses a hierarchical structure with a university degree classified as “higher” than a certificate or diploma.
- On-the-job training and other short skills courses are excluded from consideration.
- In 2006, almost one half of the adult (15 years of age and older) Aboriginal population had not completed grade 12. Just under one third (29%) were post-secondary graduates.

Completed Education: Changes over Time



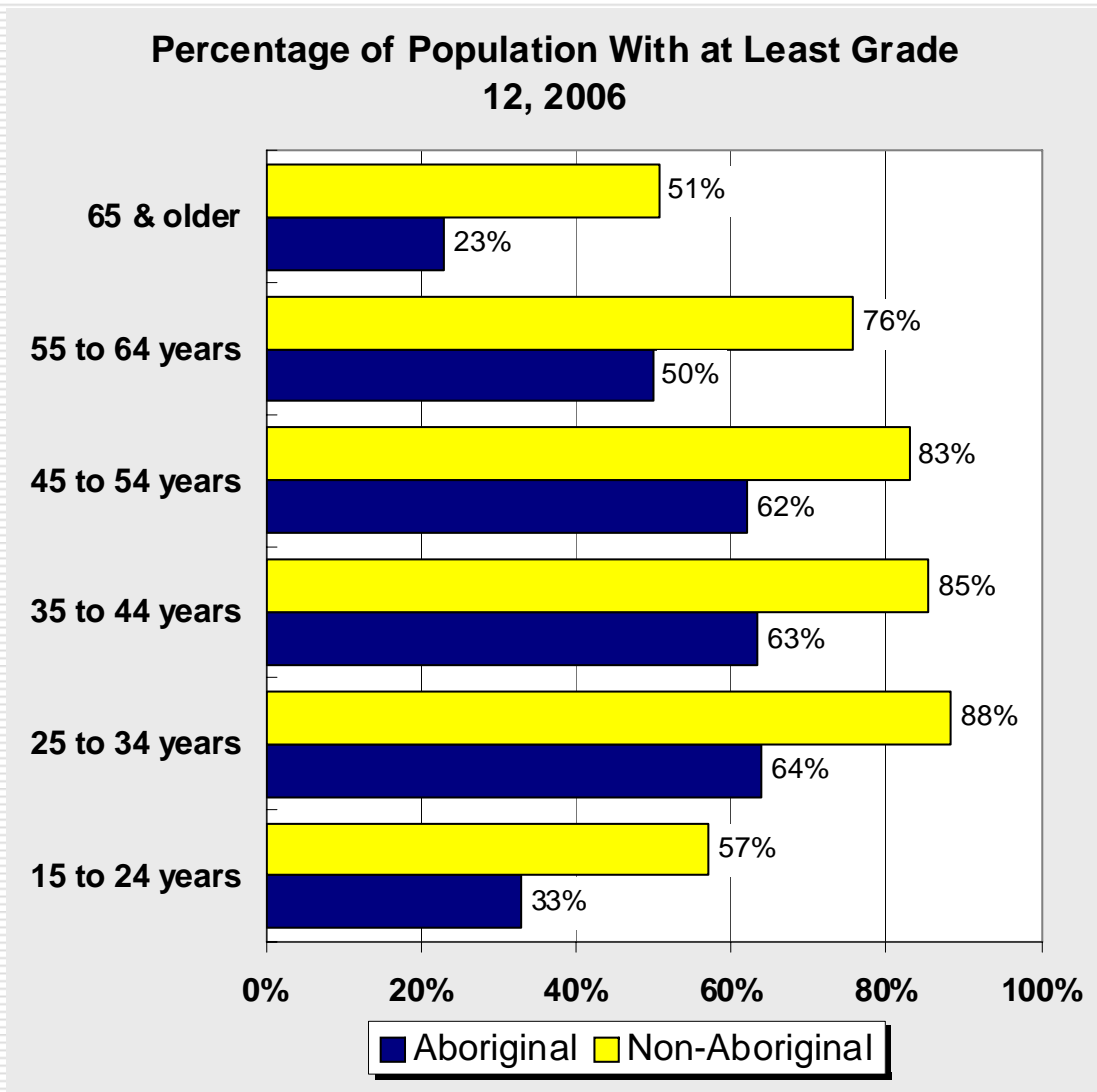
- The levels of completed education are rising in the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in Saskatchewan. The gap between the two is, however, widening.
- From 1996 to 2006, for example, the proportion of adults with a post-secondary education increased:
 - from 37% to 45% in the Non-Aboriginal population; and
 - from 23% to 29% in the Aboriginal population.

Completed Education by Identity, 2006



- The levels of completed education are higher among the Métis than among those with a First Nations identity.

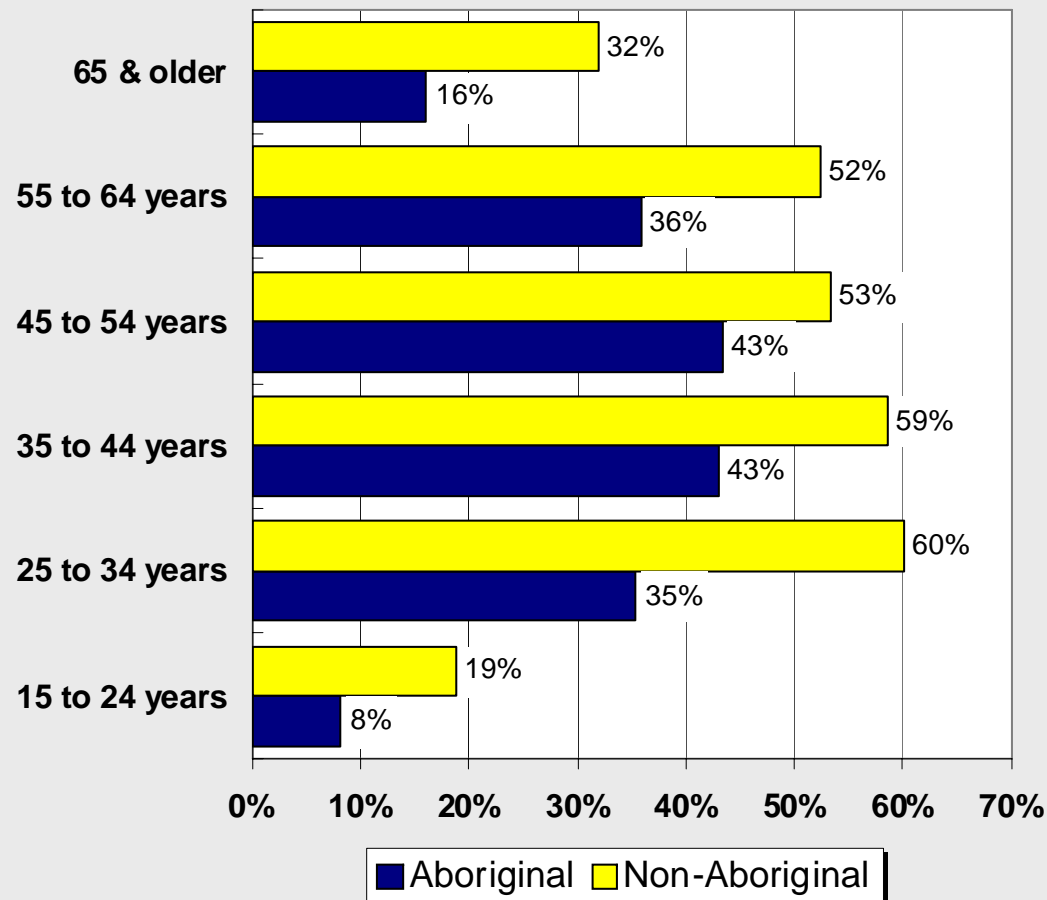
Completed Education by Identity and Age Group, 2006



- Because the Aboriginal population is younger, on average, than the non-Aboriginal population, one would expect the level of completed education to be higher. This is not the case.
- The gap between the non-Aboriginal population and the Aboriginal population is present at all age levels but is most pronounced among young adults – those 25 to 44 years.

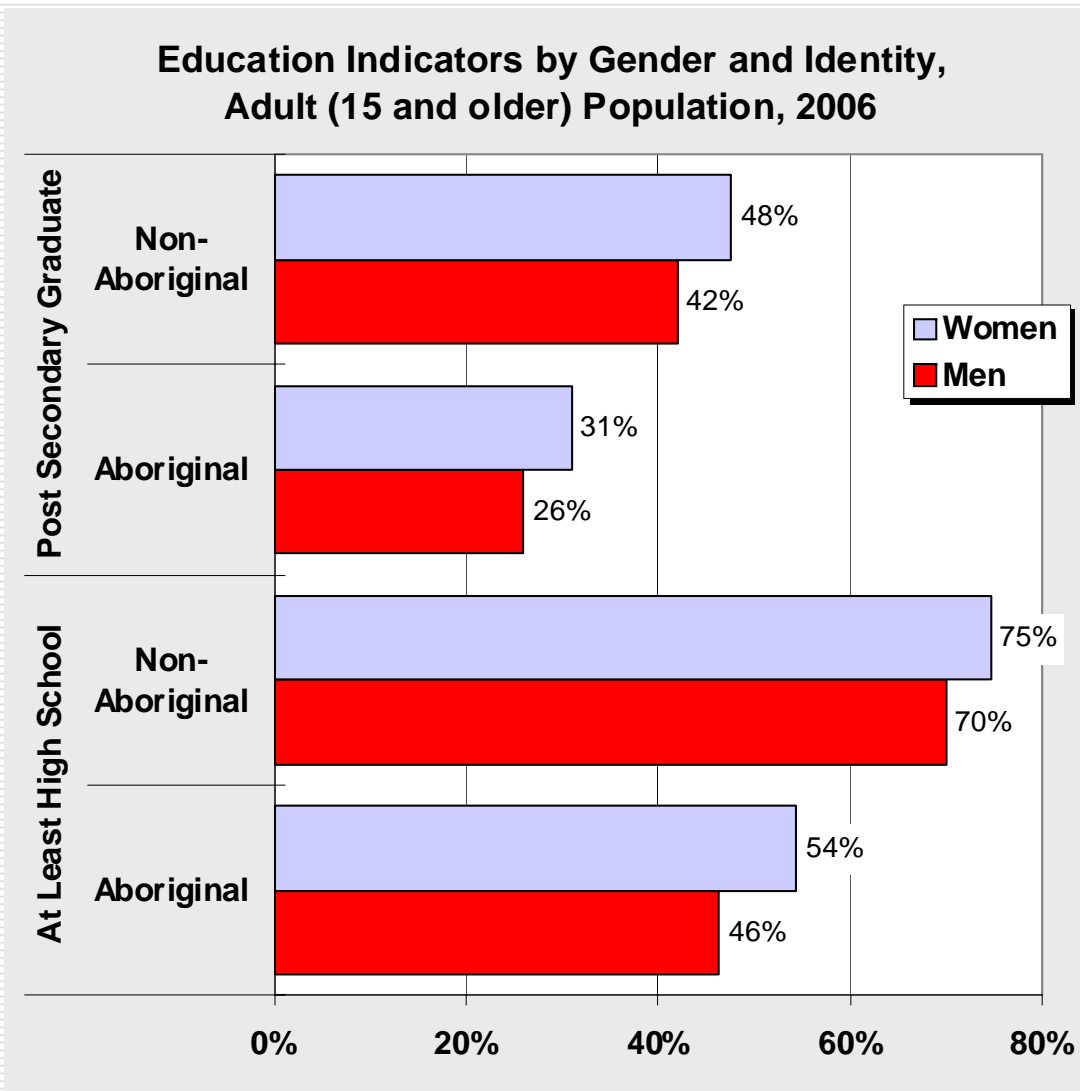
Completed Education by Identity and Age Group, 2006

Percentage of Population who are Post-Secondary Graduates, 2006



- The gap in the proportion who are post-secondary graduates is also present at all age groups but is of most concern among those 25 to 34 years of age.
- Compared with the non-Aboriginal population, there are relatively few Aboriginal people with a post-secondary education in the sciences or in health-related fields of study.
- Aboriginal graduates are more likely to have an education in law and the social sciences and in protective and transportation services.

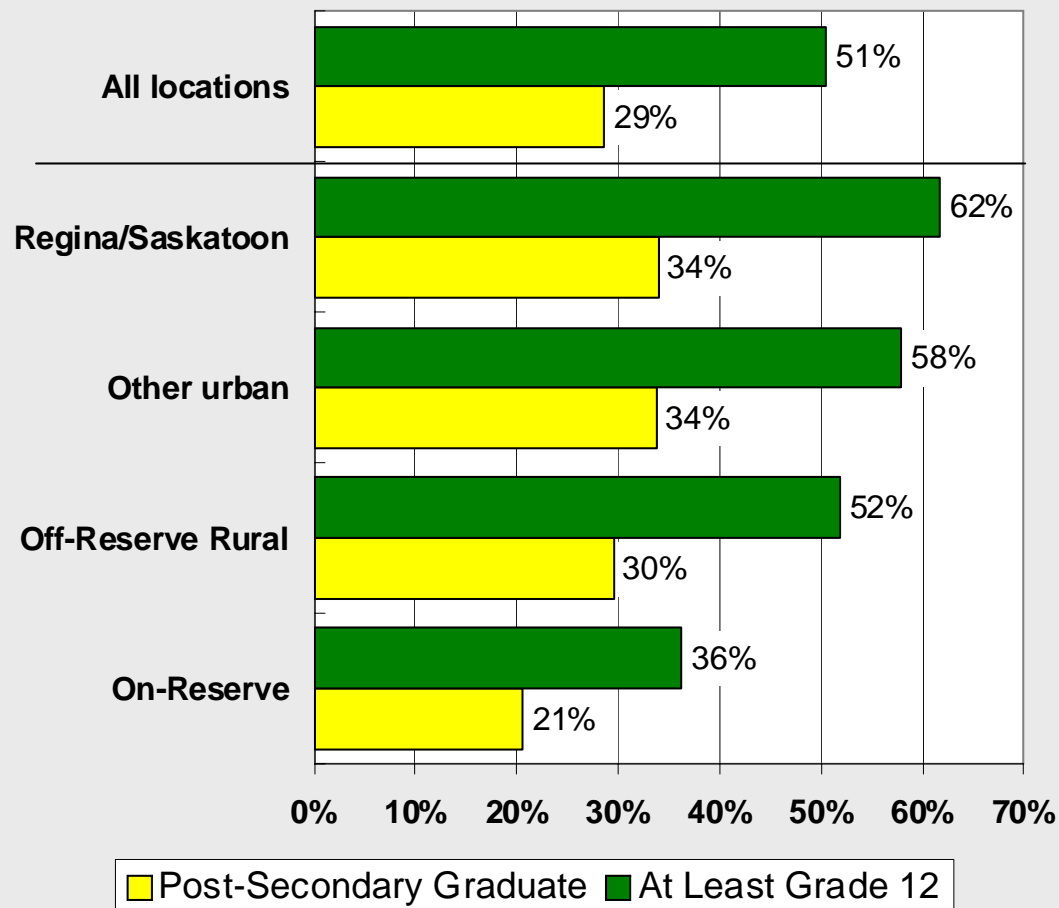
Completed Education by Gender, 2006



- As in the non-Aboriginal population, the levels of completed education are higher for women than for men.

Completed Education: Differences by Type of Residence

Education Indicators, Aboriginal Adult (15 and older) Population, 2006



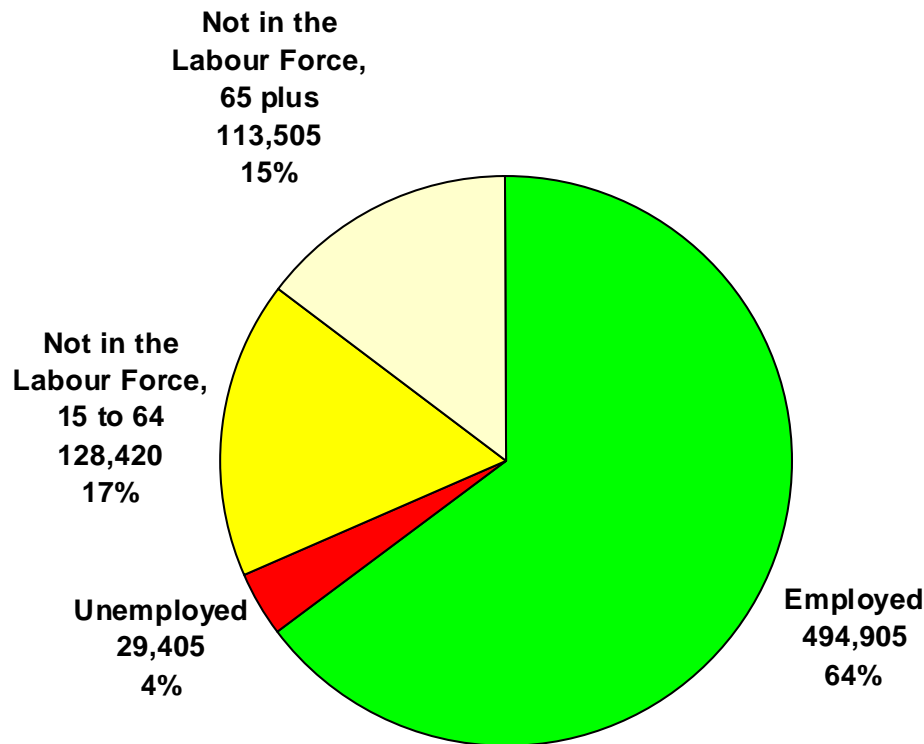
- The highest levels of completed education are among Aboriginal adults who live in urban areas generally and Regina/Saskatoon specifically.
- The lowest levels are among the on-Reserve population. For example, only one third of the adult population living on-Reserve has completed high school.

Employment and the Labour Force

- Information from the 2001 and 2006 Statistics Canada Census
- Limited data on the off-Reserve population from the Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Status, Saskatchewan Population in 2006

**Labour Force Status, Saskatchewan Adults,
2006
(n = 766,235)**

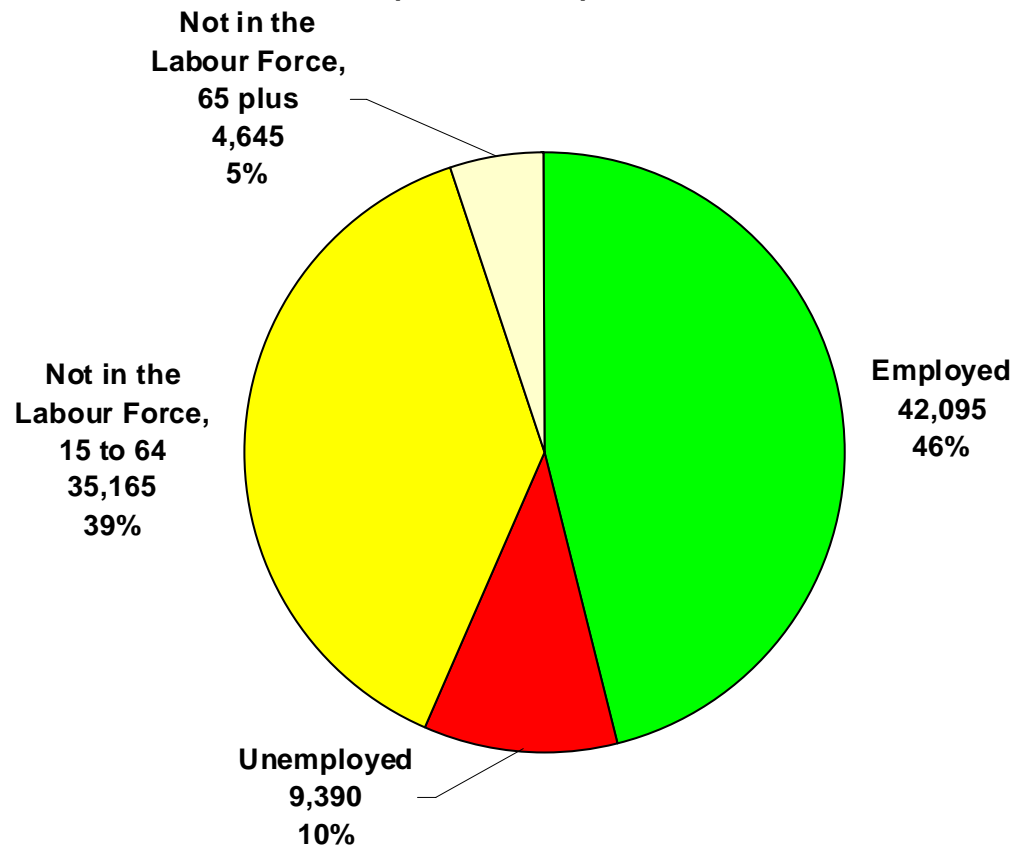


employment rate = 64%; participation rate = 68%; unemployment rate = $29,405 \div 524,310 = 5.6\%$

- The census uses labour market activity in the week prior to the survey to classify adults, those 15 years of age and older, into one of three categories.
- The employed are those who are working either in a full-time or part-time position, self-employed or in paid work.
- The unemployed are those who are not working but are actively looking for work and are available for work.
- The rest of the population is classified as "out of the labour force".

Labour Force Status, Aboriginal Population in 2006

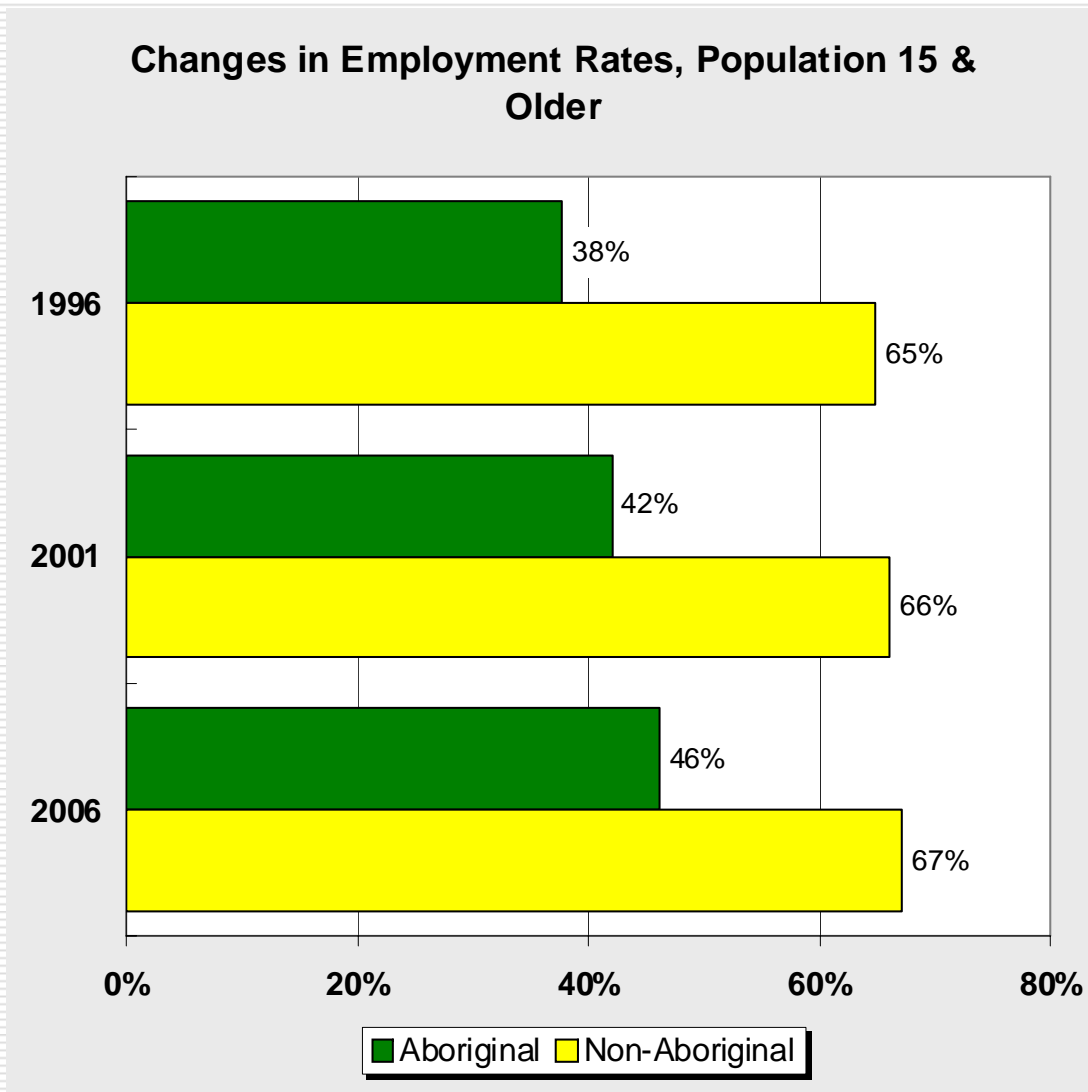
**Labour Force Status, Adult (15 & older)
Aboriginal Population, Saskatchewan, 2006
(n = 91,295)**



employment rate = 46%; participation rate = 56%; unemployment rate = $9,390 \div 51,485 = 18\%$

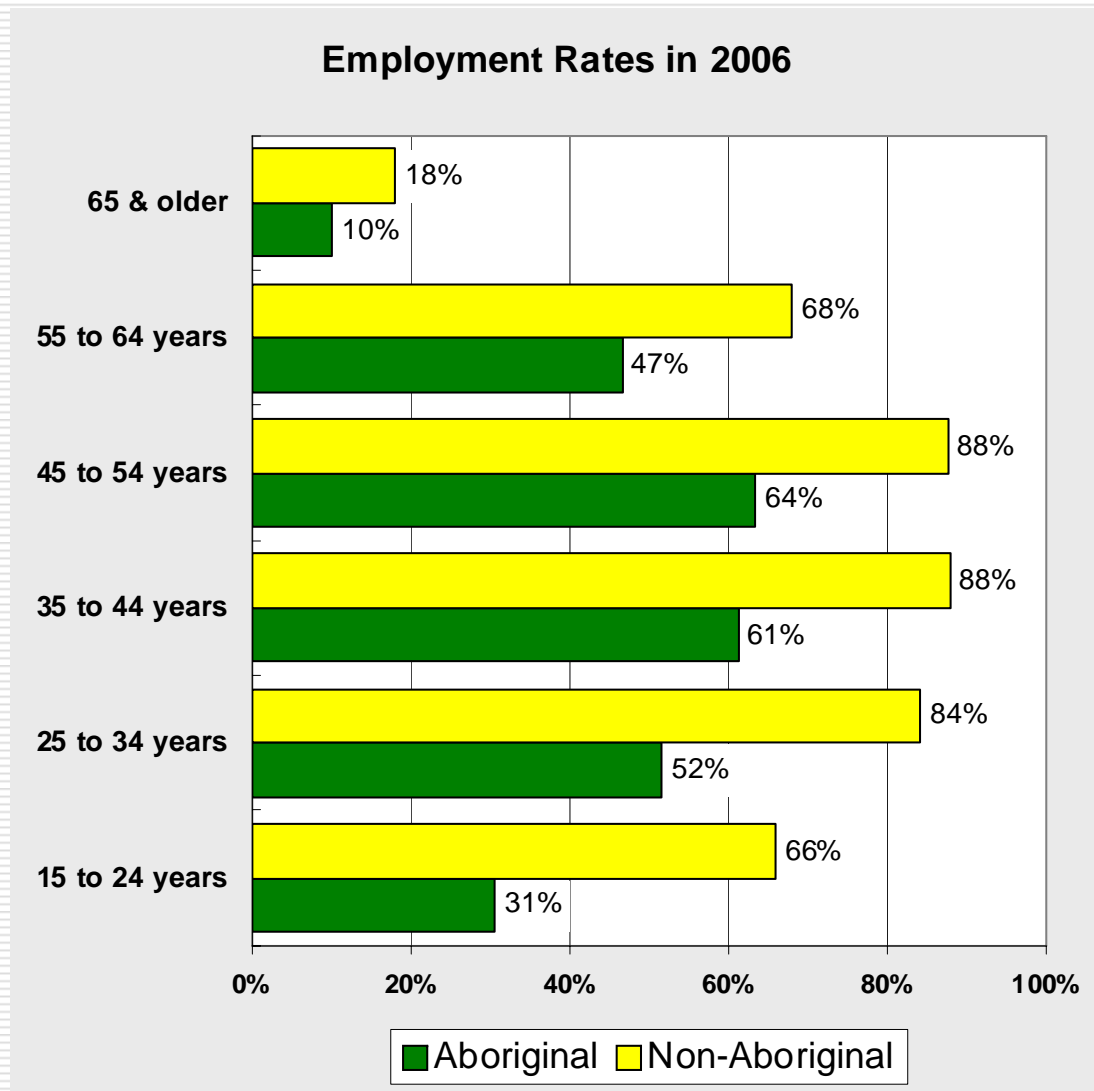
- Compared with the non-Aboriginal population, the Aboriginal population were, in 2006,
 - much less likely to be employed (46% compared with 64%);
 - more likely to be unemployed (10% compared with 4%); and
 - more likely to be out of the labour force (44% compared with 32%) in spite of their relative youth.

Changes in the Employment Rate over Time



- The employment rate is affected by the availability of jobs and the suitability of the population to take those jobs.
- The rate also varies by the age distribution of the population because most seniors are out of the labour force.
- The employment rate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults narrowed from 27% to 21% between 1996 and 2006.
- Employment growth off Reserve has been higher than on Reserve.

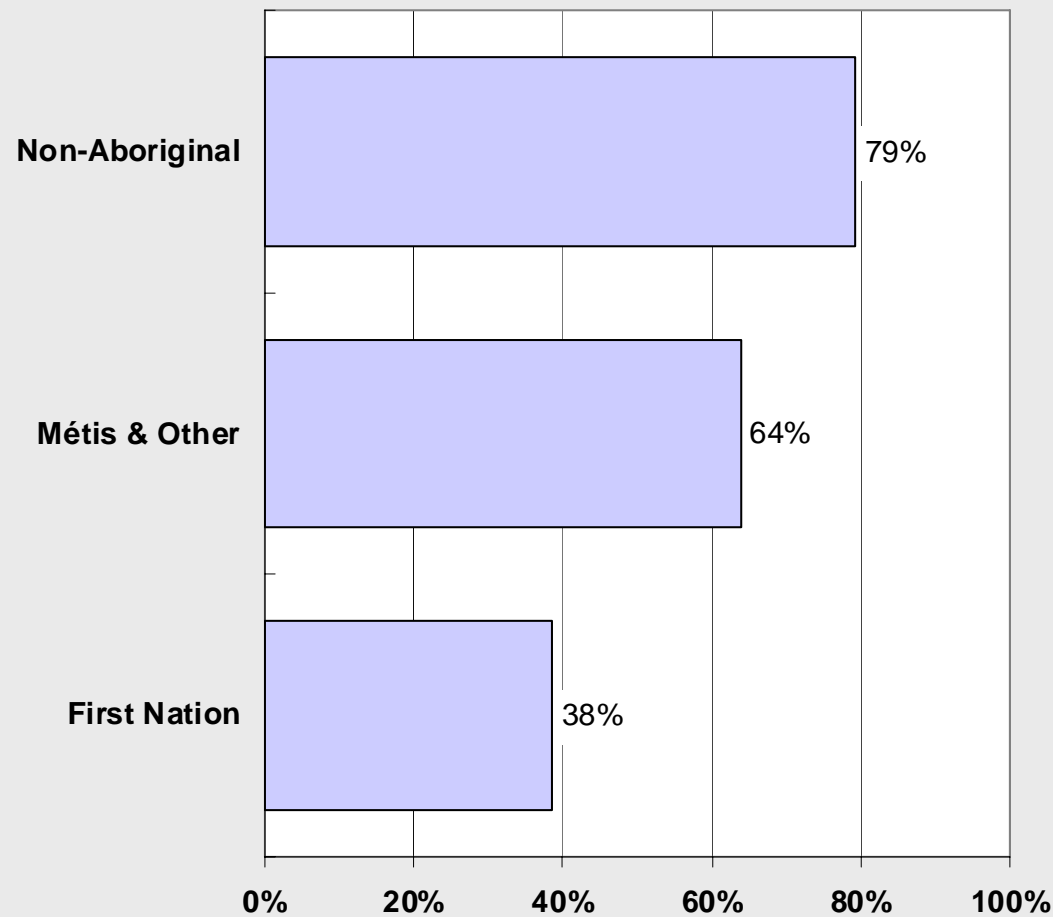
Employment Rates by Age Group, 2006



- In 2006, the employment rate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults was much higher among those in younger age groups.
- For example, among those 25 to 34 years of age, the gap is 32% compared with 24% among those 45 to 54 years of age.

Employment Rates by Identity, 2006

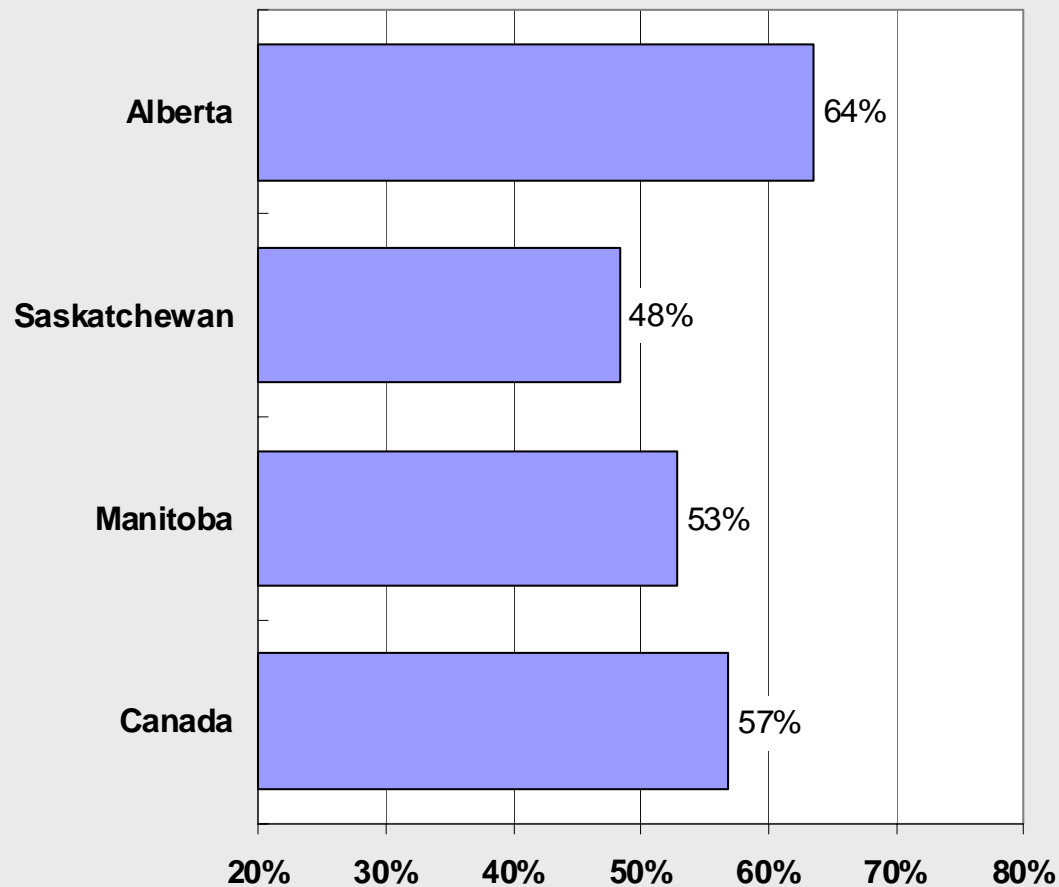
Employment Rates in 2006, Population 15 to 64 Years of Age



- Removing seniors from the comparison shows that the employment rate for the First Nation population is well below the rate for other Aboriginal people which is in turn below the non-Aboriginal rate.

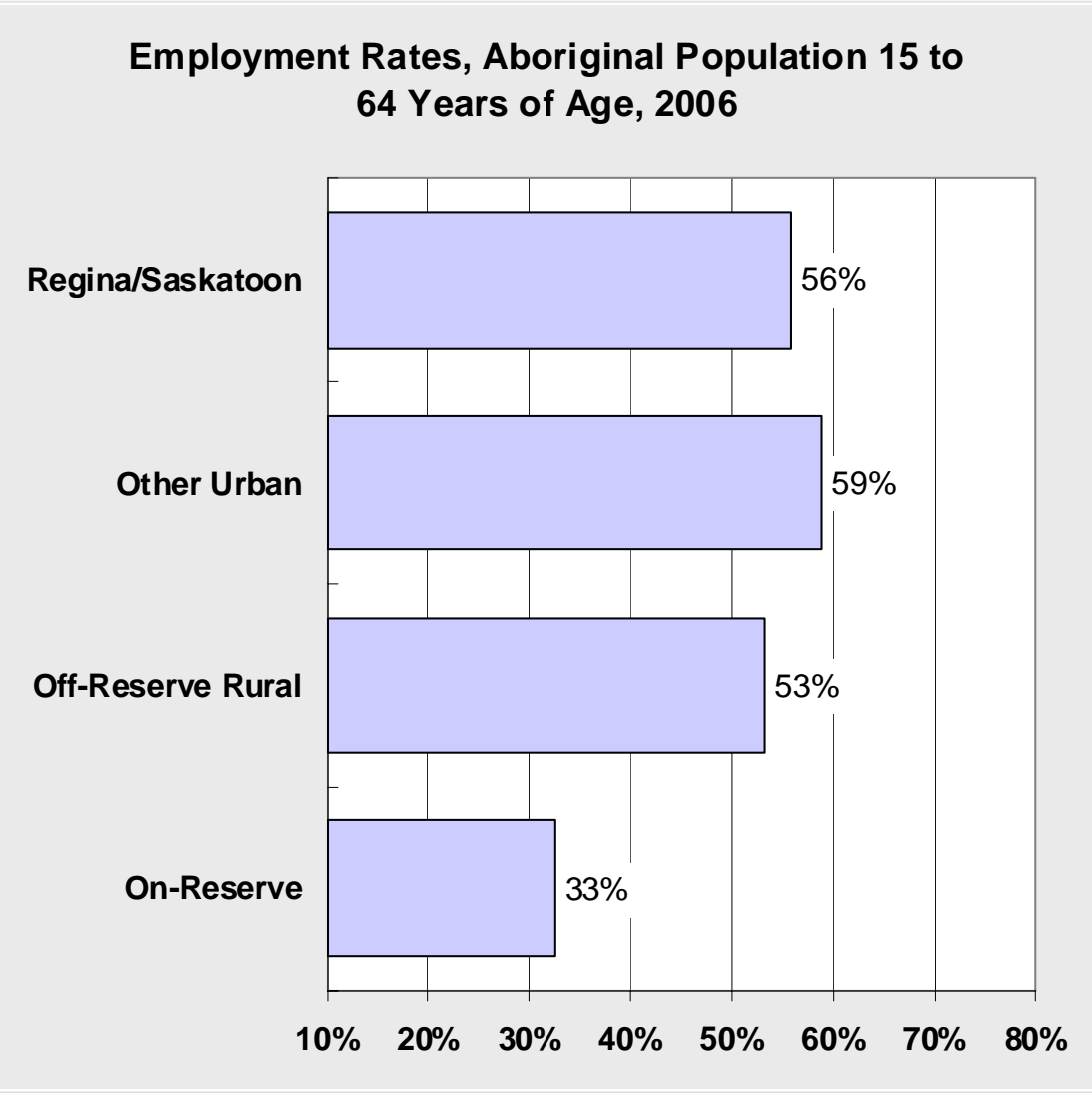
Employment: Interprovincial Comparison, 2006

Employment Rates, Aboriginal Population 15 to 64 Years of Age, 2006



- The employment rates for the Aboriginal population are lower in Saskatchewan than in Canada as a whole or in either of our neighbouring provinces.

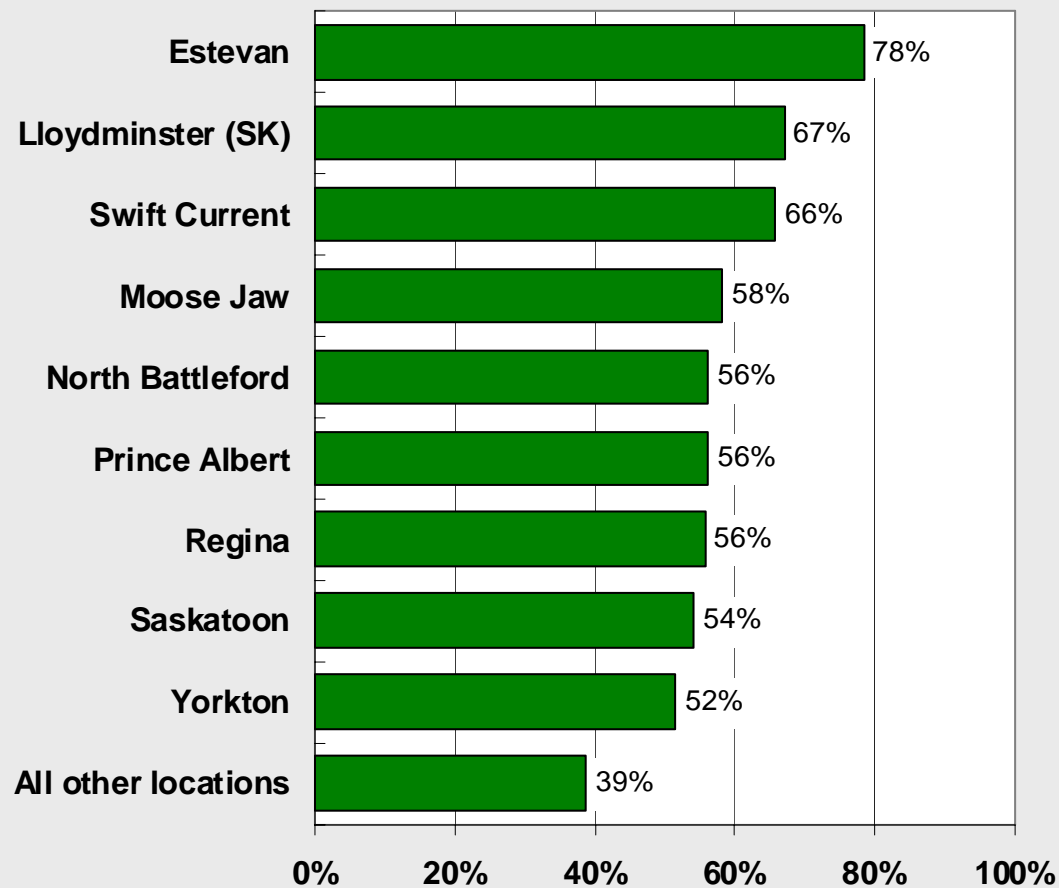
Employment Rates by Type of Residence, 2006



- Employment rates for Aboriginal people living on-Reserve are much lower than for those living in other locations.
- There is also some evidence of greater employment success in urban areas outside Regina and Saskatoon.

Employment Rates by Urban Area, 2006

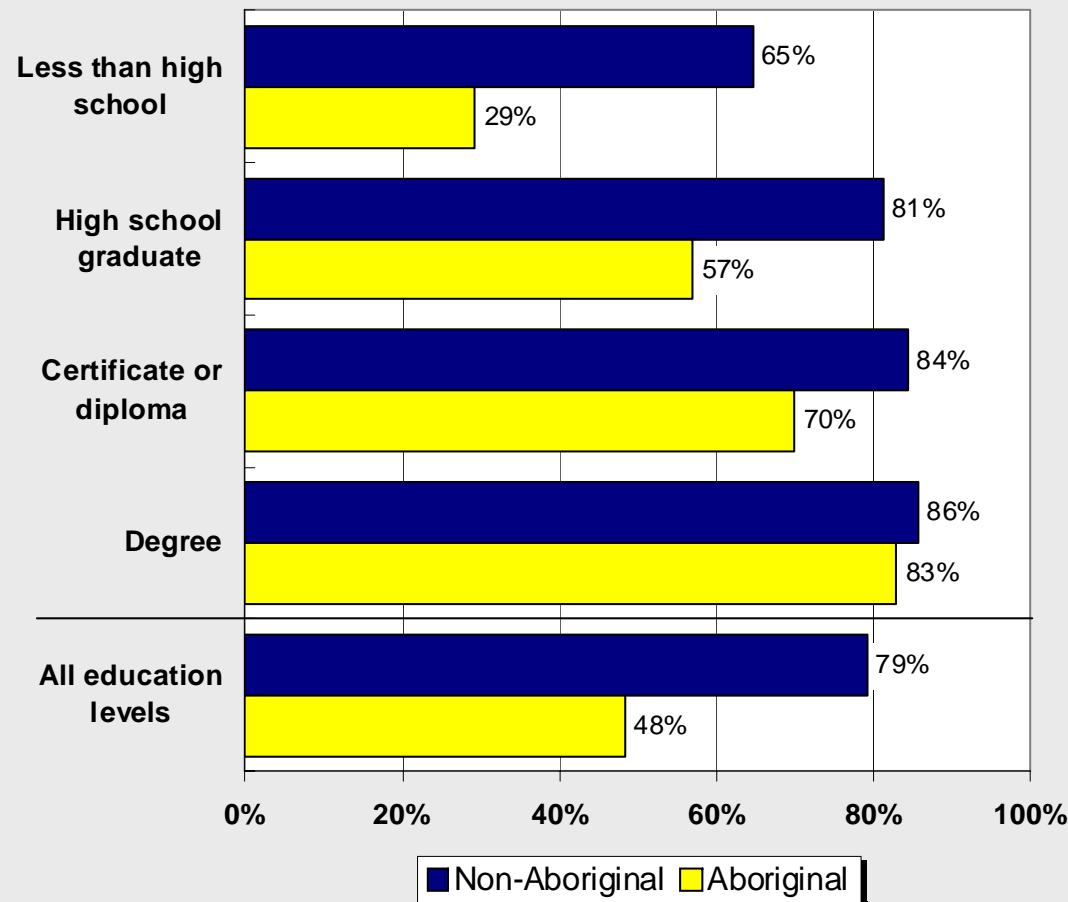
Employment Rates, Aboriginal Population, 15 & Older, 2006



- Employment rates tend to be higher in urban areas where relatively few Aboriginal people live – Estevan and Swift Current, for example.
- Rates are noticeably lower in the larger centres – Regina and Saskatoon – and in Yorkton.

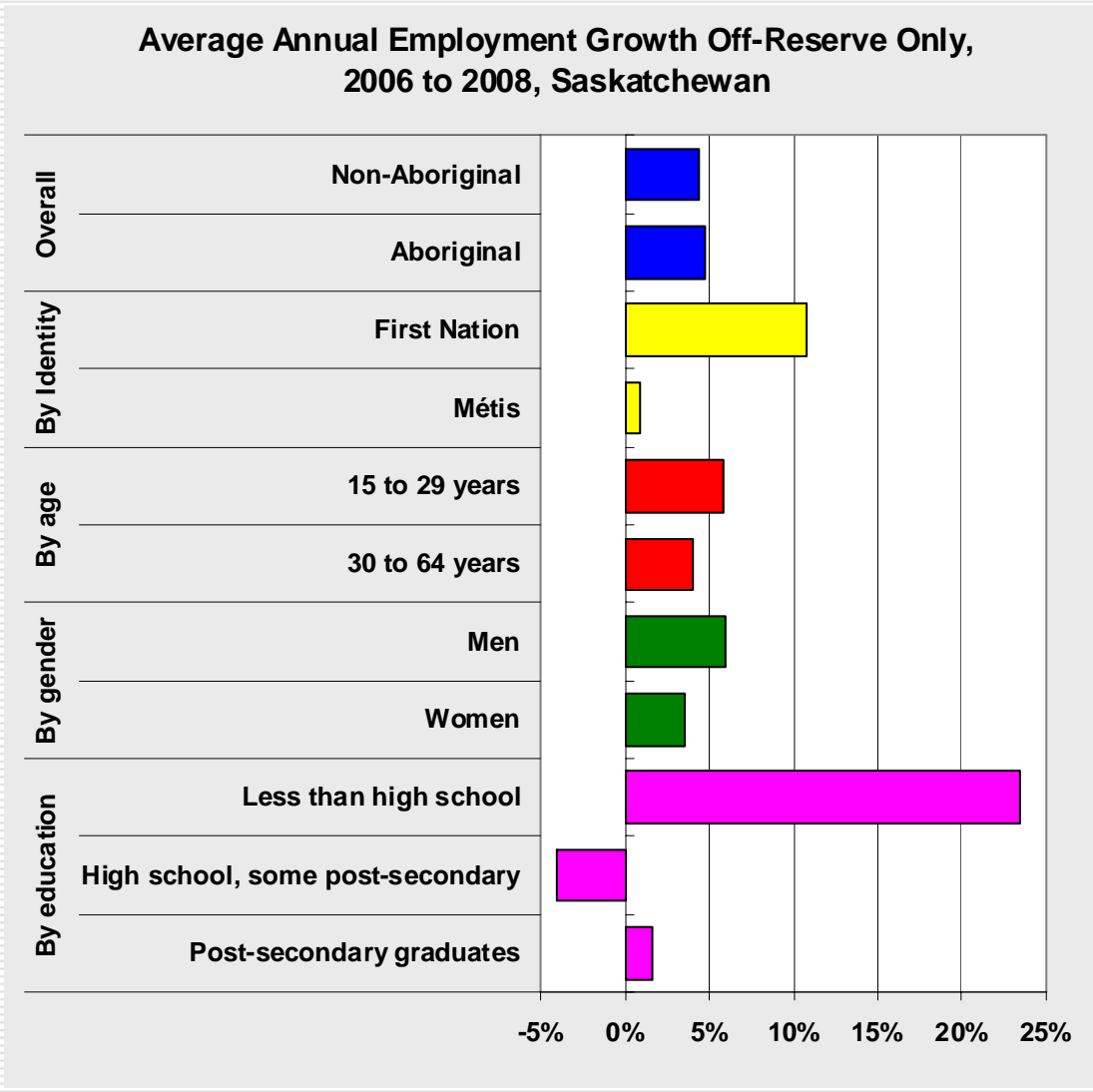
Employment Rates by Level of Completed Education, 2006

Employment Rates in 2006, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations 15 to 64 Years



- The employment rate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults 15 to 64 years of age is significantly affected by education levels.
- In fact, the gap almost disappears among those who have a university degree and in the primary labour market age group.
- The gap among those with less than a university degree shows that education is not the only factor affecting employment rates.

Employment Growth Since 2006



- For the past three years, Statistics Canada’s monthly Labour Force Survey has collected Aboriginal identity data as a regular part of the survey.
- Employment off-Reserve (the survey still excludes the on-Reserve population) grew by 4% from 2006 to 2007 and was stable from 2007 to 2008.
- From 2006 to 2008, the highest rates of growth were among men, those with a First Nation identity, in the youngest ages, and with the lowest levels of education.

....Questions?

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