

Our Health Counts Toronto

An inclusive community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in Toronto

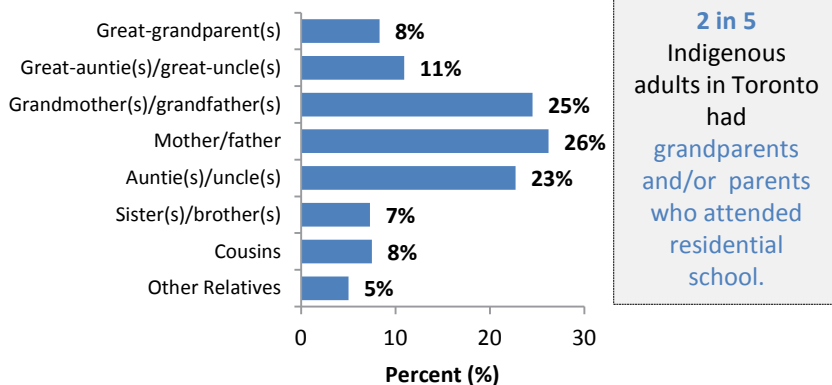
Residential School

Federal residential and industrial schools are examples of colonial policies which aimed to assimilate Indigenous peoples within Canadian society.^{1,2,3} The impacts of these institutions, including intergenerational impacts continue to shape educational attainment and health outcomes, interrupt parenting techniques, and language transmission among Indigenous peoples.^{2,4} These generational effects have disrupted Indigenous families in urban, rural, and remote communities.⁵ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action list key first steps for reparation and a blueprint for a new, respectful, nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

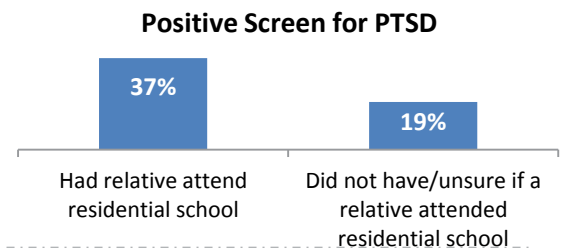
11% of the Indigenous adults in Toronto were students at a federal residential school or federal industrial school.

46% of survivors in Toronto said their overall health and wellbeing was negatively impacted by their attendance at residential schools.

At least **59%** of Indigenous adults in Toronto had at least one family member attend residential school. This is higher than the rate of **40%** among First Nations adults in Hamilton.⁵



Of adults who had a family member attend residential school, **37%** screened positive for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)*.



Over half of Indigenous adults believed their overall health and wellbeing is negatively affected by a member of their family attending residential school.

Residential School

Policy Implications

Implement TRC Call to Action:

All levels of government implement all of the TRC Calls to Action with the Indigenous community.

Additional Recommendations:

City of Toronto, provincial and federal policy makers work in partnership with urban Indigenous peoples and organizations to:

- Develop and implement funding opportunities for longitudinal research to better understand and unpack intergenerational, childhood, and adult trauma, including individual and community level causes, individual and collective impacts, protective factors and risk factors.
- Provide sustainable funding for existing and new community-tailored Indigenous health and wellbeing programs and services.

Definitions

Indigenous adults: persons self-identifying as Indigenous such as First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or other Nation aged 15 years and older living or using services in the City of Toronto; Residential school: federal residential school or federal industrial school.

Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling (see Methods and Design Factsheet for more details)

Sources

1. Allan & Smylie (2015); 2. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015); 3. Daschuk (2013); 4. Simpson (2011); 5. Smylie et al. (2011)

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For the full OHC Toronto report visit:
www.welllivinghouse.com

Our Health Counts Toronto

An inclusive community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in Toronto

Residential School Reference

Our Health Counts Toronto is an inclusive community-based health survey for Indigenous peoples of Toronto and is part of the largest Indigenous population health study in Canada. Participants were selected using respondent-driven sampling, a statistical method which uses social networks in the community to recruit Indigenous people living in the city.

Survey Question

RDS Prevalence Estimate
(95% Confidence Interval)

Were you ever a student at a federal residential school, Indian day school, or a federal industrial school?

Yes	10.8% (4.5, 17.0)
No	89.2% (83.0, 95.5)

Do you believe that your overall health and wellbeing has been affected by your attendance at residential school?

Yes, negatively impacted	45.6% (15.8, 75.4)*
Yes, positively impacted	22.0% (0.0, 56.9)*
No impact	32.4% (0.0, 65.8)*

Did you have any family members attend residential school?

At least one family member	58.7% (51.0, 66.4)
No family members	27.4% (20.4, 34.4)
	13.8% (8.4, 19.3)

Were any of the following members of your family ever a student at a residential school?

Great-grandmother(s)/great-grandfather(s)	8.3% (4.4, 12.1)
Great-auntie(s)/great-uncle(s)	10.9% (5.9, 15.9)
Grandmother(s)/grandfather(s)	24.5% (18.3, 30.6)
Mother/father	26.2% (19.2, 33.2)
Auntie(s)/uncle(s)	22.7% (15.8, 29.6)
Sister(s)/brother(s)	7.3% (4.8, 9.9)
Cousins	7.5% (4.8, 10.1)
Other	5.0% (0.5, 9.5)

Do you believe that your overall health and wellbeing has been affected by a member of your family attending residential school?

Yes, negatively impacted	55.6% (45.3, 65.9)
Yes, positively impacted	7.2% (0.0, 14.8)
No impact	37.2% (27.6, 46.8)

Of those who had family member attend residential school...

3 or 4 PTSD Symptoms (Screened positive for PTSD)	36.5% (26.3, 46.6)
1 or 2 PTSD Symptoms	30.5% (20.9, 40.1)
No PTSD Symptoms (Screened negative for PTSD)	33.0% (24.2, 41.9)

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