

OUR HEALTH COUNTS TORONTO

2016 INDIGENOUS POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR THE CITY OF TORONTO

Toronto's Indigenous population is approximately **2-4x** larger than estimates reported by Statistics Canada.

2016
Our Health Counts Toronto*
Estimate

Indigenous Population:
65,832 (95% CI 54,000-87,000)

Why the difference?

Many people move frequently or are homeless. Our Health Counts Toronto did not require a fixed address (unlike National Household Survey that uses mailing addresses from a voting registrar).

2016
Canadian Census
Estimate

Indigenous Population:
23,065

2011
Our Health Counts Toronto*
Estimate

Indigenous Population:
55,000 (95% CI 45,000-73,000)

The calculations

The 2016 Indigenous population estimate was based on Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) and 2011 Census completion data from Our Health Counts Toronto: with updated Indigenous enumeration from the 2016 Census.

2011
Canadian Census
Estimate

Indigenous Population:
19,270

What is the study about?

Understanding the health and health service needs of Indigenous peoples in the City of Toronto by recruiting a sample that includes everyone, NOT just those who use programs and services.

To provide evidence of census undercounts of the Indigenous population living in Toronto, Canada, and using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) to more accurately estimate the size of the Indigenous population in the City of Toronto.

Research done by Indigenous people FOR Indigenous people... "nothing about us without us".

What's unique about this study?

- Indigenous community organizations own and control all of the data.
- It is one of the largest Respondent Driven Sampling studies ever done.
- It is the largest urban Indigenous population health study in Canada.

Who is involved?

Project Leads: Dr. Janet Smylie (Well Living House) and midwives Sara Wolfe and Cherylee Bourgeois (Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto). They are supported by an Indigenous and allied health research team and 20+ health and social services organizations.

Who funded this study?

This study is funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) operating grant.

Why is this study so successful?

Strong social networks and kinship relations within Toronto's Indigenous community. Indigenous community staff and leading organizations are experts and have skills necessary for respectful and relevant Indigenous community engagement.