

Our Health Counts Thunder Bay

An inclusive community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples of Thunder Bay

Housing and Mobility

Housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing.¹ Unstable housing has been associated with poorer overall health,¹ unmet health care needs, and higher emergency department use.² High levels of mobility often coincide with unstable, crowded housing and can impact participation in the labour force and education system. Indigenous people living in urban areas experience higher levels of mobility and precarious housing conditions than non-Indigenous people.³ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission highlights the connection between loss of traditional territories, unemployment, and attendance at residential schools to the high levels of unstable housing among Indigenous people in Canada.⁴

Homelessness



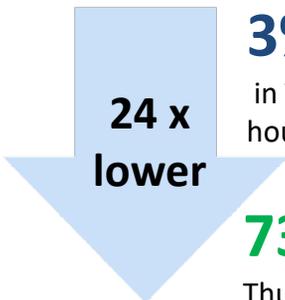
1 in 4
(25%)

Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay were precariously housed or experiencing homelessness at the time of the survey.

1 in 25 (4%) of Canadian adults have experienced homelessness or insecure housing in the past 5 years.⁵

41% of stably housed Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay reported living in social housing.

Rent vs. Ownership

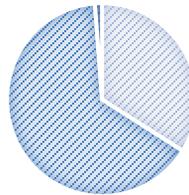


3% of Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay who were stably housed owned their dwelling.

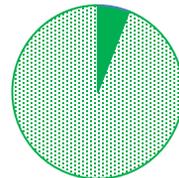
vs.

73% of all households in Thunder Bay were owned.⁶

Repairs and Crowding



34% of Indigenous adults in Thunder Bay lived in a dwelling that needed major repairs (i.e., defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs).



In comparison, **7%** of all private dwellings in Ontario were in need of major repairs.⁷

Housing Costs

Over **2/5** of Indigenous adults gave up key needs (e.g., groceries, transportation) to meet shelter /housing-related costs at least once a month.

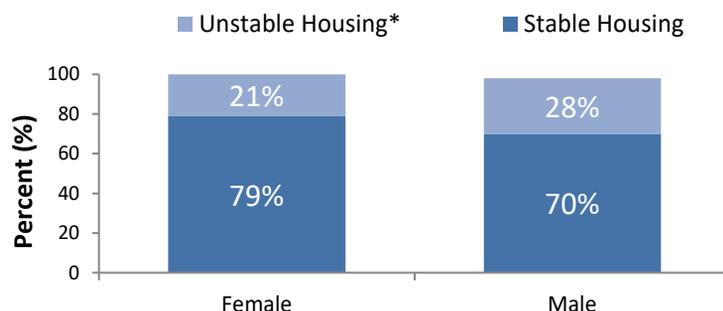
18% of Indigenous adults lived in crowded dwellings.

4% of non-Indigenous adults in Canada lived in crowded dwellings.⁸

Needs

Over **1 in 4** Indigenous men in Thunder Bay indicated living in precarious housing or experiencing homelessness.

*Unstable housing includes those living precariously housed or experiencing homelessness



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Mobility

56% of Indigenous adults

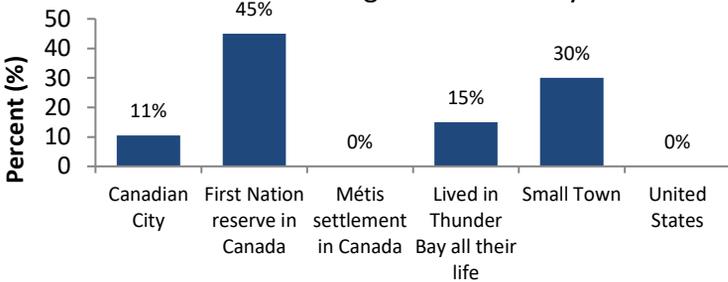
living in Thunder Bay have moved at least once in the past year.

Of those who moved in the past year **17%** moved three or more times.

Over half of Indigenous adults that moved at least once in the past year said that all of their moves were within the city of Thunder Bay.

Almost
1 in 2

Indigenous adults living in Thunder Bay lived on a First Nations reserve in Canada before moving to Thunder Bay.



The most common reasons for Indigenous adults to move to Thunder Bay was to be closer to family and friends.

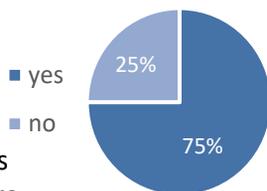
Reasons for moving to Thunder Bay included:

Family/Friends/Social Networks	25%
Employment	7%
Education	20%
Healthcare	14%
Safety	6%
Housing	7%

1 in 4 of Indigenous adults said Thunder Bay was not their preferred place to live.

The main reasons included:

- Safety concerns
- Too much racism against Indigenous peoples
- Family/friends/social networks are elsewhere



Of the **75%** of Indigenous adults who said Thunder Bay was their preferred place to live, the main reasons included:

- Family/friends/social networks
- Housing
- Education

Policy Implications

City of Thunder Bay, provincial, and federal governments work with urban Indigenous peoples and organizations to:

- Develop, implement, and evaluate an Indigenous Affordable Housing Strategy for the city of Thunder Bay
- Address barriers facing Indigenous peoples in accessing existing housing services and programs
- Develop and fund programs to support housing transitions, including between, within, and into urban areas

MMIWG Calls for Justice⁹ 4.7: We call upon all governments to support the establishment and long-term sustainable funding of Indigenous-led low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second-stage housing, and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people who are homeless, near homeless, dealing with food insecurity, or in poverty, and who are fleeing violence or have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation.

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 Thunder Bay; Precariously housed: Indigenous adults living in rooming/boarding/group homes, motel/hotel, or recovery/second stage house; Institution: living in a nursing home, medical/psychiatric hospital, or drug/alcohol/addiction treatment facility; Homeless: living at a friend/family/partner's house and not paying rent, in a homeless shelter, or on the streets; Crowded dwellings: more than 1 persons per room

Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling

Sources

1. Webster (2015); 2. Jaworsky et al. (2016); 3. Smylie et al. (2011); 4. Truth and Reconciliation Canada (2015); 5. Gaetz et al. (2013); 6. Statistics Canada (2017); 7. Statistics Canada (2019). 8. Statistics Canada (2015). 9. MMIWG Calls for Justice (2019).

Citation

Brar, R., Shields, T., Muir, N. M., McConkey, S., Hardy, M., & Smylie, J. (2020). Our Health Counts Thunder Bay: Housing and mobility [Fact sheet].

Our Health Counts: Community health assessment by the people, for the people



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ANISHNAWBE
MUSHKIKI
COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS



Ontario
Ministry of
HEALTH AND
LONG-TERM CARE

Our Health Counts Thunder Bay

Housing and Mobility Reference

Our Health Counts Thunder Bay is an inclusive community-based health survey for Indigenous peoples of Thunder Bay 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)
Which of the following best describes the type of residence you currently live in?	
Unstable housing (Precariously housed or homeless)	24.7% (18.9, 30.5)
Stable housing (includes stable housing or institution)	74.1% (68.2, 80.0)
Don't know	1.2% (0.0, 2.7)
If you are stably housed, do you live in social housing?	
Yes	40.7% (33.0, 48.4)
No	59.3% (51.6, 67.0)
Is your home:	
Owned (with or without a mortgage)	2.8% (1.0, 4.6)
Rented	97.2% (95.4, 99.0)
How often do you have to give up important things (i.e., buying groceries, transportation, etc.) in order to meet shelter related costs?	
At least once a month	43.7% (36.0, 51.3)
A few times a year	15.8% (9.9, 21.7)
Never	40.3% (33.0, 47.7)
Is your dwelling in need of any major repairs? (i.e., defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.)	
Yes	33.9% (26.9, 40.9)
No	64.9% (57.9, 71.9)
Crowded dwelling	
One person or less person per room	82.2% (77.1, 87.3)
More than one person per room	17.8% (12.7, 22.9)
Housing type by gender	
Female – Stable housing	78.6% (70.8, 86.3)
Female – Unstable housing	20.9% (13.2, 28.6)
Male - Stable housing	70.0% (61.0, 79.0)
Male - Unstable housing	28.2% (19.3, 37.0)
Have you moved at least once in the past year?	
Yes	55.9% (48.6, 63.3)
No	44.1% (36.7, 51.4)



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Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
If yes, how many times have you moved in the past year?	
1 to 2 moves	82.8% (74.7, 90.9)
3 or more moves	17.2% (9.1, 25.3)
If yes, were all of these moves within the city?	
All	58.7% (50.4, 67.0)
Some	30.0% (22.1, 37.8)
None	11.4% (6.2, 16.5)
Where did you live before you moved to Toronto	
Canadian city	10.5% (7.0, 14.0)
First Nations reserve	44.8% (38.2, 51.3)
Métis settlement in Canada	0.0% (0.0, 0.1)
I have lived in Thunder Bay all my life	14.5% (9.9, 19.2)
Small town or rural area in Canada	29.9% (23.7, 36.1)
United States	0.2% (0.0, 1.0)
What were your reasons for moving to Toronto?	
Family/friends/social networks	25.4% (19.9, 30.8)
Employment	6.8% (3.5, 10.2)
Education	19.7% (14.6, 24.8)
Housing	7.4% (4.4, 10.4)
Healthcare	14.5% (10.7, 18.3)
Safety	5.7% (2.0, 9.3)
Other	18.2% (13.0, 23.4)
Is Thunder Bay your preferred place to live?	
Yes	74.8% (69.1, 80.5)
No	24.8% (19.1, 30.5)



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