

# Our Health Counts Thunder Bay 2021 Indigenous Population Estimates for the City of Thunder Bay

Our Health Counts studies have shown that the Canadian Census undercounts Indigenous peoples living in cities by 2 to 5 times<sup>1</sup>. Using this information, we can estimate how many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people actually live in the city of Thunder Bay.



Indigenous Population of  
Thunder Bay:

**42,359**

(95% CI: 31,858, 62,778)



2016 Canadian Census  
Estimate:

**13,490**

Less than **1 in 5** Indigenous adults in  
Thunder Bay reported completing the  
2016 Canadian Census



The Canadian Census  
undercounts Indigenous  
people living in Thunder Bay  
by a factor of **3.1\***

\*When using a non-conservative approach, we assume those who responded, “don’t know” to the “Did you complete the 2016 Census Canada Questionnaire”? question, did not complete the census.

**Why the difference?** Respondent-driven sampling was used to recruit First Nations, Inuit and Métis people into the study. These methods use social networks and kinship relations to ensure that everyone can be counted in, including individuals who do not access health or social services, those who do not have a fixed address, and those who do not complete the Canadian Census. **The survey tool was created by community, for community!**



## About OHC Thunder Bay

- [Well Living House](#) and [Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre](#) are the study co-leads.
- Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre are the OHC Thunder Bay data owners and custodians.
- This project was guided by a local Reference Group, comprised of local Indigenous and allied health and social service providers in Thunder Bay.
- This project produces previously unavailable population health data about First Nations, Inuit and Métis living in Thunder Bay.



**Recommended Citation:** McConkey, S., Brar, R., Blais G., Hardy, M., Smylie, J. (2022). Indigenous Population Estimates for the City of Thunder Bay.

**References:** Rotondi M et al Our Health Counts Toronto: using respondent-driven sampling to unmask census undercounts of an urban indigenous population in Toronto, Canada *BMJ Open* 2017;**7**:e018936. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2017-018936