

Our Health Counts Kenora

An inclusive, community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in Kenora and related homelands

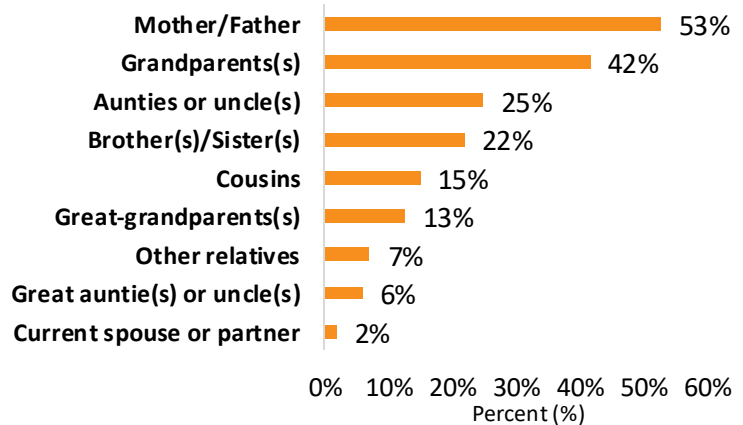
Residential School

Federal residential and industrial schools are examples of colonial policies which aimed to assimilate Indigenous peoples within Canadian society.^{1,2} The ongoing impacts of these institutions, including intergenerational impacts continue to shape educational attainment and health outcomes, interrupt parenting techniques, and impact language transmission among Indigenous peoples.^{2,4} These generational effects have disrupted Indigenous families living in urban, rural, and remote communities.³ 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.⁵

27% of Indigenous adults in Kenora and related homelands attended a federal residential school, Indian day school, or a federal industrial school.

77% of survivors said **their overall health and wellbeing was negatively impacted by their attendance at residential schools.**

8 in 10 Indigenous adults in Kenora and related homelands had at least one family member attend residential school.



Policy Implications

We call on the City of Kenora, provincial, and federal governments to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples living in urban and related homelands and urban-based Indigenous organizations to:

- Mandate anti-racism and Indigenous Cultural Safety training in all service delivery, including health care, education, and social services.⁶
- Provide trauma-informed practice at all levels of service delivery within education settings, social and community services, and healthcare organizations.
- Integrate Indigenous healing approaches within existing services and actively support and improve access to cultural programming for children, individuals, and families.
- Provide education and subsequent support around intergenerational trauma and the related impacts on child and family health.^{2,4}

TRC Call to Action 62⁵: We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.

Definitions	Indigenous adults: persons 15 years or older self-identifying as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit), living or using services in the City of Kenora
Sources	1. Allan, B. & Smylie, J. (2015); 2. Kim (2019); 3. Wilk et al. (2017); 4. Bombay et al. (2020); 5. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015); 6. Canadian Mental Health Association (2022)
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Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling

Our Health Counts Kenora: Community Health Assessment by the People, for the People



Our Health Counts Kenora

Residential School Reference

Our Health Counts Kenora is a comprehensive and inclusive health survey developed by community, for community, and is part of the largest Indigenous population health study in Canada.

Participants were selected using respondent-driven sampling, a statistical method which builds on the existing strengths of social networks and kin systems 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	27.3% (18.4, 36.1)
No	72.2% (63.4, 81.1)
Do you believe that your overall health and wellbeing has been affected by your attendance at residential school?	
Yes, negatively impacted	76.7% (53.3, 100.0)
Yes, positively impacted	0.4% (0.0, 1.8)
No impact	19.1% (0.0, 43.4)
Don't know	3.7% (0.0, 12.3)
Were any of the following members of your family ever a student at a residential school?	
Great-grandparent(s)	12.7% (7.2, 18.1)
Grandparent(s)	41.7% (32.5, 51.0)
Parents	52.9% (43.3, 62.5)
Current spouse/partner	2.0% (0.0, 5.4)
Brother(s)/Sister(s)	22.1% (14.8, 29.4)
Great auntie(s)/Uncle(s)	5.7% (2.2, 9.1)
Auntie(s)/Uncle(s)	25.2% (17.0, 33.5)
Cousins	14.5% (8.1, 20.9)
Other relatives	6.5% (2.3, 10.7)
Unsure/No	19.5% (10.6, 28.3)
Do you believe that your overall health and wellbeing has been affected by a member of your family attending residential school?	
Yes, negatively impacted	49.4% (39.7, 59.2)
Yes, positively impacted	2.1% (0.0, 4.5)
No impact	31.2% (21.2, 41.3)
Unsure	13.1% (5.0, 21.5)
Don't know	2.3% (0.0, 4.6)
Declined	1.9% (0.0, 5.6)

