

Statistics Canada's Terms and Definitions

Aboriginal identity refers to those persons who reported identifying themselves with at least one Aboriginal group – i.e., North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) – and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Divorce rate refers to the proportion of marriages that are expected to end in divorce by the 30th wedding anniversary.

Family structure: Statistics Canada classifies families as: married couples, with or without children of either or both spouses; common-law couples, with or without children of either or both partners; and, lone-parent families by gender of the parent.

- A couple living common-law may be of the same sex or opposite sexes.
- Children in a Census family may include grandchildren living with a grandparent(s) but with no parent(s) present.

Fertility:

Fertility rates are a measure of the average number of children that women will bear in their lifetime.

Total fertility rates are an estimate of the average number of children that women aged 15 to 49 will have in their lifetime.

Age-specific fertility is a ratio of the number of births occurring in a given age group, in relation to the number of females of a given age per 1,000.

Life expectancy is the number of years a person would be expected to live, starting at birth (for life expectancy at birth), or from age 65 (for life expectancy at age 65).

Visible Minorities:

The 2001 Census provides information on the characteristics of people in Canada who are members of a visible minority, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.”

Under this definition, regulations specify the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs, West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and other visible minority groups, such as Pacific Islanders.

Visible minority not included elsewhere: This category includes respondents who reported a single write-in response indicating a Pacific Islander group (e.g., Fijian or Polynesian) or another single write-in response likely to be a visible minority group (e.g., Guyanese, West Indian).

Multiple visible minorities: This category includes respondents who reported belonging to more than one visible minority group.