

Finding Statistics From the Canadian Census

Accessing the Census

In this video we'll look at how to find statistical information from the Canadian Census. Census resources are available to anyone for free online. You can access them from the Statistics Canada website by clicking on the Census button in the top menu bar.

Choose Census of Population from the dropdown menu.

Searching for Census Data

From the Census, we can get a socio-economic snapshot of a place in Canada, for example a province, region, city or even a postal code. There is high level data on key indicators on the main Census page, which you can customize by province and topic using dropdown menus.

But many topics are more specifically focused, so searching is the best option. For example, I am looking for information on Indigenous peoples in Brantford. I'll type Brantford into the search box.

I get a few results showing different geographic definitions of Brantford, for example as a city, a Census Metropolitan area, or an electoral district. I'm interested in the City of Brantford, so I'll choose that option.

Here I see a summary of information on the city of Brantford. I want more detail than this. To get it, click on the View a Profile Table button.

Census Data Tables

A Profile Table is a view of a place like a city or province, including information about the people, including their age groups, education levels, incomes, occupations, home ownership, and ethnicities. There is a whole lot here to look at. We only want information about Indigenous peoples, so we need to narrow down what we see. To do this, click on Add or Remove Data.

Here I see that there are many data facets. I need to choose the ones I want. First I'm going to uncheck Select All Topics so we don't see everything.

Then I am going to choose which data I do want to see. I can either scroll or do a keyword search using the CTRL-F keys on my keyboard. Here I can see Indigenous Peoples so I'll click on that.

Then I'll check the box next to Select All: Indigenous Peoples.

Then click Apply.

You'll see a chart with information about Brantford's Indigenous peoples. One thing you'll need to note is that the top row in the chart and in every row that begins with the word Total is the total population for all of Brantford, not just for Indigenous peoples. Underneath the total is the data for Indigenous peoples, with counts on the left of the chart and percentages on the right.

There are footnotes in the chart for different data points. Click on the footnote number to see more information about the definitions or the data used.

You can download the table by clicking on the Download button above the table. Normally you would use the first download option, to download the data table as you have just displayed it.

Below the table you will find information about how to cite it, in the How to Cite area.

Questions & Help

If you have any questions about how to locate Census data or what something means, ask us at library.wlu.ca/help/askus.