

# StatsUpdate

**Topic:** Mother tongue and Language spoken most often at home  
2006 Census of Population  
Released by Statistics Canada, December 4, 2007

**Background:** In 2006, Inuktitut was the most predominant mother tongue in Nunavut, with **20,185** persons declaring it as their only mother tongue, followed by English, with **7,770** persons. About **295** people had Inuinnaqtun as their only mother tongue.

The proportion of persons in Nunavut whose only mother tongue was Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun was **70%** in 2006, the same percentage observed in 2001. However, the proportion of Nunavummiut speaking Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun the most often at home declined slightly during that five year period, from **57%** in 2001 to **54%** in 2006.

Although English was the only mother tongue of about **26%** of Nunavut residents in 2006, it was the language spoken most often at home for **44%** of the population.

## Detail

**Population by mother tongue and language spoken most often at home, for Nunavut , 2001 and 2006 Censuses**

	Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home	
	2006	2001	2006	2001
Total population	29,325	26,665	29,325	26,665
Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun only	20,480	18,605	15,695	15,250
Inuktitut only	20,185	NA	15,645	NA
Inuinnaqtun only	295	NA	50	NA
English only	7,770	6,945	12,955	10,975
French only	370	395	205	220
Other language only	405	270	115	45
English and non-official language	260	430	315	170
Other multiple responses	40	30	35	10

NA: not applicable. In the 2001 Census, Inuinnaqtun language was included in the Inuktitut language category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Population, Catalogues #95F0494XCB01001 and #94-577-XCB2006001.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals due to random rounding.

**Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

**Language spoken most often at home** refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.

## StatsUpdate

**Background:** In 2006, Inuktitut was the mother tongue of almost 7 people out of 10 in Nunavut. This proportion was the highest amongst Nunavummiut aged 65 years and over. About **86%** of persons in this age group declared having Inuktitut as their only mother tongue. Youths aged 15 to 24 years had the second highest proportion of Inuktitut as mother tongue at **73%**. On the other hand, the adults aged 40 to 54 years had the lowest proportion (**63%**) of all age groups to have Inuktitut as their only mother tongue.

### Detail

#### Population by selected mother tongues and by age groups, Nunavut, 2006 Census

	Total population	Inuktitut only	Inuinnaqtun only	English only	French only
<b>Total age groups</b>	29,325	20,185	295	7,765	370
<b>0 to 4 years</b>	3,425	2,400	0	930	10
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	3,310	2,315	10	925	15
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	3,250	2,305	10	865	15
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	5,590	4,075	25	1,365	40
<b>25 to 39 years</b>	6,740	4,480	60	1,905	105
<b>40 to 54 years</b>	4,590	2,900	135	1,260	120
<b>55 to 64 years</b>	1,620	1,030	35	450	40
<b>65 years and over</b>	785	675	20	65	20

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Catalogue #97-555-XCB2006015

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