

Health Status Report



2010 - 2015

Population profile



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Chapter 2

Population profile

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Key Findings

- In 2015, a total of 55,677 First Nations individuals were registered to bands in NITHA partnership with 34,889 (63%) residing on-reserve and 20,788 (37%) residing off-reserve.
- NITHA's on-reserve population has steadily increased since 2010 when the population was 31,530 people. Over the 5-year span (2010-2015) NITHA's population experienced a growth rate of approximately 10.7%, averaging a 2.1% increase each year.
- From 2010 to 2015, NITHA First Nations population residing off-reserve grew approximately twice as fast as First Nations population residing on-reserve (17.3% vs 10.7%).
- In 2015 more than 50% of NITHA's population were under the age of 24 years while about 4% were 65 years old and over. For First Nations living within NITHA jurisdictions, the largest population segment is the 5-9 years-old group.
- In 2015, Prince Albert Grand Council and Meadow Lake Tribal Council accounted for 40% and 22% of the NITHA on-reserve population respectively, while Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Lac La Ronge Indian Band made up 19% each.
- The NITHA on-reserve population density is approximately 17 people per square kilometer in 2015.
- Under the medium growth scenario, NITHA on-reserve population is projected to increase by 37%, from 35,525 in 2016 to 48,675 in 2034.
- NITHA's dependency ratio is 85 dependents per 100 workers. Saskatchewan's on-reserve First Nations population has a similar dependency ratio at 82.8 dependents per 100 workers.

Population profile

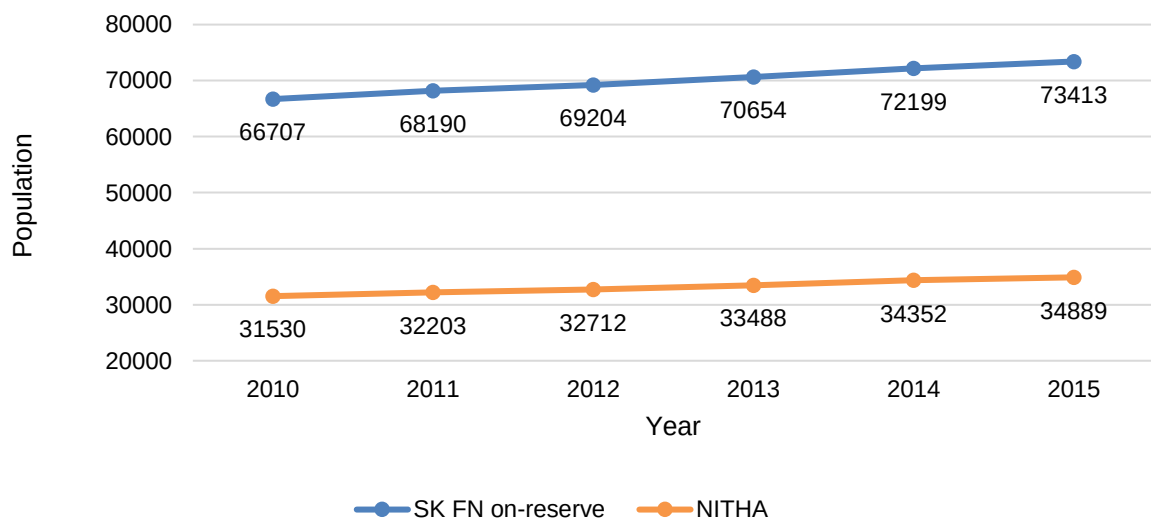
Demographic data gives an overview of the composition and size of a certain population. Evaluating population distribution and composition allows a better understanding of the social environment, and provides a framework for evaluating the health status of the population¹. The understanding of population composition can be used for more efficient planning of health services, programming and policies.

It can be difficult to obtain accurate population data for First Nations population as different sources use different methodologies. For example, community head counts often give reliable information on how many people are currently living in a certain community—however this does not necessarily account for permanent home or Registered Indian status. This chapter will utilize data from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for population characteristics of First Nations population living on-reserve. It should be noted that the data from INAC is not necessarily a Census but a Registry, hence is not an accurate representation of people living on-reserve. The data was separated based on place of residence to allow for comparison between NITHA communities and all Saskatchewan First Nations living on-reserve.

Population Growth

In 2015, NITHA served a total population of 34,889 that accounted for 47.5% of the First Nations population living on-reserve in Saskatchewan. This represented 23% of Saskatchewan’s First Nations population and 3% of Saskatchewan’s total population in 2015. NITHA’s population has steadily increased from 2010 when the population was 31,530. Over the 5-year span (2010-2015) NITHA’s population saw a population growth rate of approximately 10.7%, averaging a 2.1% increase each year (see Figure 1). During the same period, Saskatchewan’s on-reserve First Nations population grew at a similar but slightly lower rate with a total increase of 9.5%, averaging a 1.9% increase each year.

Figure 1: Population growth by year, NITHA and Saskatchewan’s on-reserve First Nations population, 2010 – 2015

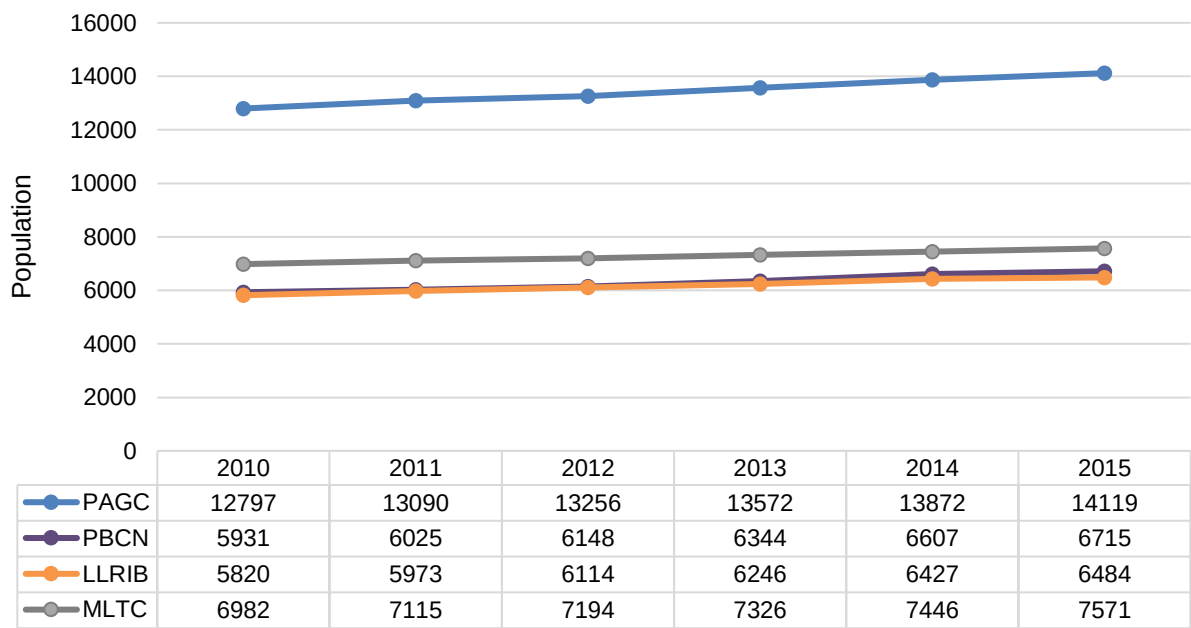


¹ Statistics Canada (2015). Population composition. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-229-x/2009001/demo/poc-eng.htm>

In 2015, Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) had the largest population out of the four partners at 14,119 population, followed by Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) with a population of 7,571, then Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) with a population of 6,715, and finally Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) with a population of 6,484 (see Figure 2) (Appendix B). All four partners have experienced continual population growth since 2010.

While all partner organizations experienced an increase in population, certain partners had higher growth rates than others. From 2010-2015 PBCN had the highest grown rate at 12.7%, followed by LLRIB with a growth rate of 11.4%. PAGC’s growth rate was below NITHA’s overall average at 10.3%, and MLTC experienced the lowest growth rate at 8.4% over the five-year period.

Figure 2: Total population by NITHA partner organizations, 2010-2015



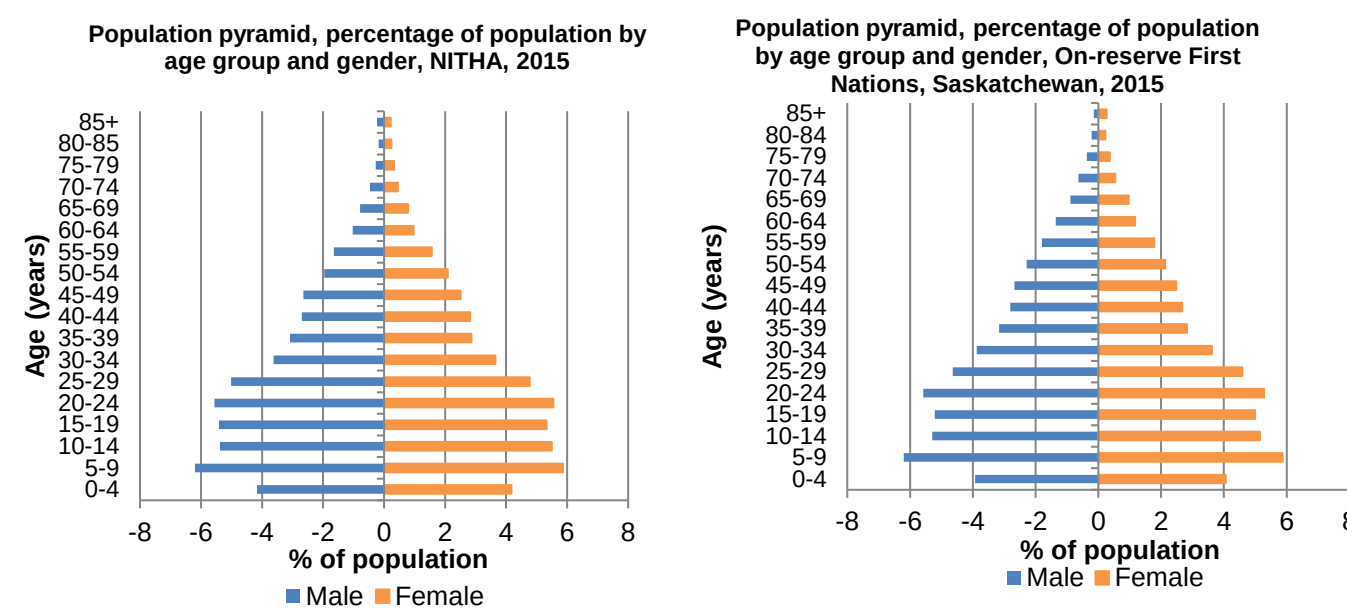
Population Distribution

Population pyramids create a visual representation of the distribution of a given population by age and sex. In Canada, the 2015 population pyramids have a large proportion of the population between the ages of 45 and 64 years². In contrast to this, NITHA’s population has a much larger proportion of the population in the younger age groups (see Figure 3). In 2015 more than 50% of NITHA’s population was 24 years of age or younger while about 4% were 65 years old and over. In terms of age group, the 5-9 years-old group constitute the largest population segment at 12%. This gives NITHA’s population pyramid a wider base, tapering as age increases. NITHA’s population distribution suggests the need for health programming that puts into consideration the large group of young children between the ages of 5 and 9 years old.

² Statistics Canada (2015). Historical age pyramid. Retrieved from: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/pyramid-pyramide/his/index-eng.cfm>

NITHA’s population likely has a large proportion of young people due to high fertility rates and lower life expectancy³. Figure 3 also demonstrates a gap in those aged 0-4 years. This is likely due to the fact that many First Nations children are not registered in the Indian Registry until 1 to 5 years of age. Appendix C show population numbers for each partner by age group.

Figure 3: Population pyramid, NITHA vs Saskatchewan On-Reserve Registered First Nations, 2015



NITHA’s population pyramid is approximately of the same shape as the pyramid for Saskatchewan’s on-reserve First Nations population, showing a similar population distribution based and age and gender (see Figure 3).

The population pyramids for NITHA’s four partners look similar to NITHA’s overall population, with slight variations. PBCN’s population pyramid has a slightly wider base than the other partners. Over the last five years PBCN had the highest growth rate—this in addition to the large proportion of young people suggests a high fertility rate for PBCN communities (Appendix A).

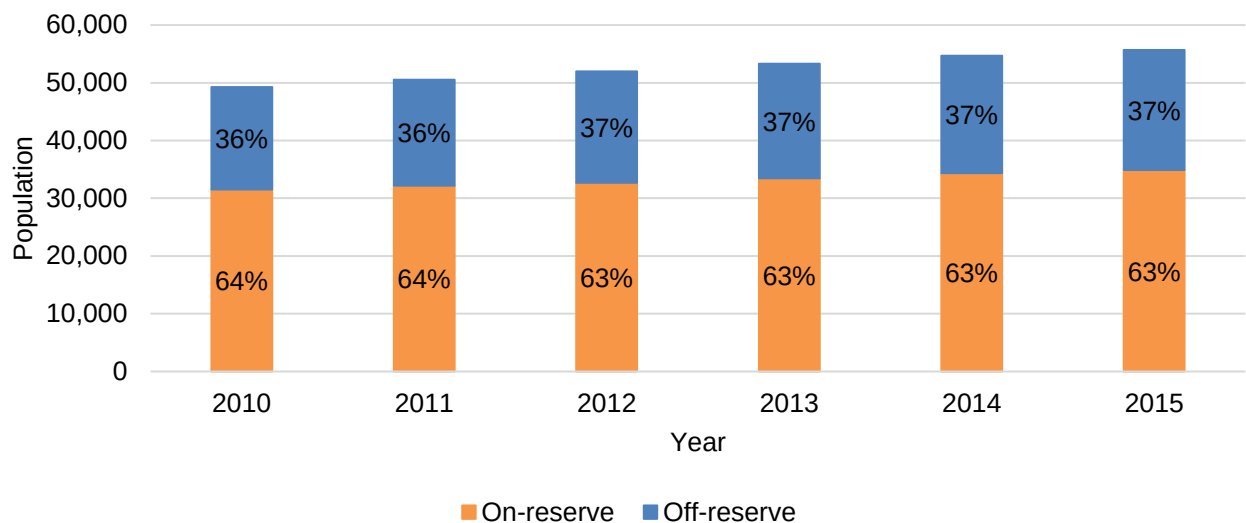
In 2015, Prince Albert Grand Council and Meadow Lake Tribal Council accounted for 40% and 22% of the NITHA on-reserve population respectively, while Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Lac La Ronge Indian Band made up 19% each. NITHA communities occupy a total area of 2,026 square kilometers scattered across six Regional Health Authorities (Athabasca Health Authority, Keewatin Yatthe, Mamawetan Churchill River, Prairie North, Prince Albert Parkland and Kelsey Trail). The population density is approximately 17 people per square kilometer.

³ Statistics Canada (2013). Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit. Available from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-011-x/99-011-x2011001-eng.pdf>

NITHA Off-reserve population

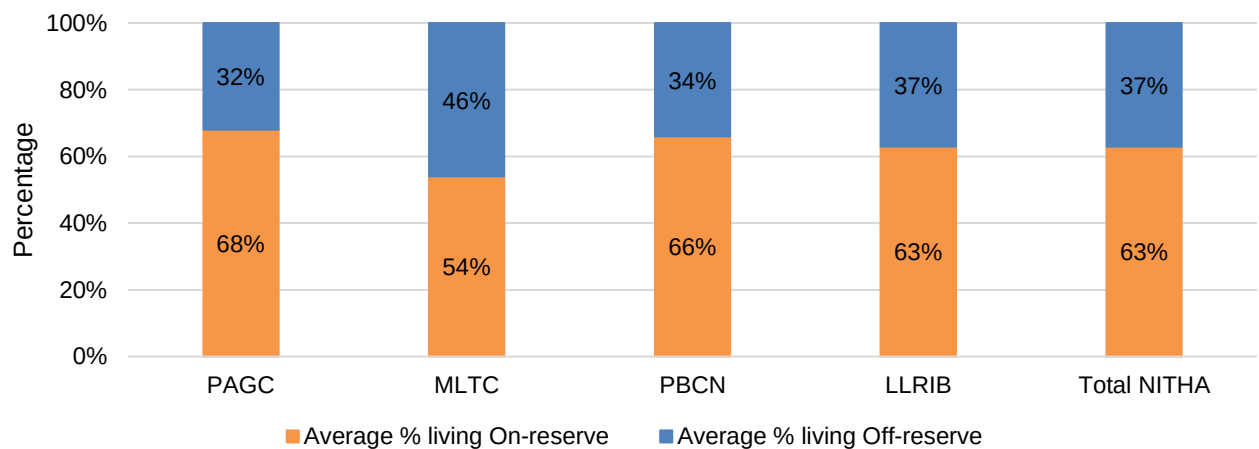
The First Nations population registered to bands within NITHA and who live off-reserve has increased over time (see Figure 4). From 2010 to 2015, NITHA First Nations population residing off-reserve grew approximately twice as fast as First Nations population residing on-reserve (17.3% vs 10.7%). In 2015, a total of 55,677 First Nations individuals were registered to bands in NITHA partnership with 34,889 (63%) residing on-reserve and 20,788 (37%) residing off-reserve. Of the four NITHA partners, MLTC had the highest proportion of band members residing off-reserve (46%) (see Figure 5).

Figure 4: First Nations population registered to Bands within NITHA partnership, 2010-2015



Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Indian Registry System as of December 31st of appropriate year

Figure 5: Average proportion of the population living on and off-reserve by NITHA partnership, 2010-2015



Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) – Indian Registry System as of December 31st, 2015

Population projection 2016-2034

Population projections are an important tool used by government, communities and other organizations in planning for a wide range of services such as community health plan, health care needs, education services, family services, infrastructure requirements, and a variety of other community services.

Three projections scenarios were developed and reflect slow, medium and rapid growth possibilities of future demographic trends. In this report, the majority of the results presented are according to the medium growth scenario, which is most consistent with recent trends and is based on the following assumptions:

1. Moderate decline in female and male fertility rates;
2. Moderate improvement in life expectancy at birth;
3. Moderate decline in the volume of net migration to reserves;
4. Declining rate of status reinstatements and number of newly entitled registrations under the 1985 and 2010 Indian Act amendments (Bill C-31 and Bill C-3); and
5. Constant rate of exogamous parenting.

These projections cover the period 2016 to 2034 and are based on 2009 Indian Register data and the underlying assumptions are based on information available at the time of development⁴.

Growth of the Registered First Nation Population, NITHA, 2016-2034

Under the medium growth scenario, the Registered Indian population could increase by 27%, from 57,069 in 2016 to 72,644 in 2034 (Figure 6). Depending on the projection scenario, the Registered Indian population growth could be as slow as 19% or as high as 27% by 2034.

Higher growth is estimated to occur on-reserve than off-reserve. The on-reserve and off-reserve Registered Indian population could grow by 37% and 15 % respectively under medium growth scenario (Figure 6).

Similar growth rate was projected for on-reserve Registered Indian populating by gender (Figure 7).

Under medium growth scenario, the on-reserve Registered Indian population could grow by 34% for all four NITHA partners (Figure 8).

⁴ Source: Registered Indian Population, Household and Family Projections 2009-2034, AANDC, 2012.
Source: Strategic Analysis Directorate, AANDC

Figure 6: Projected Registered First Nations population (in thousand) by residency, NITHA, SK, 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)

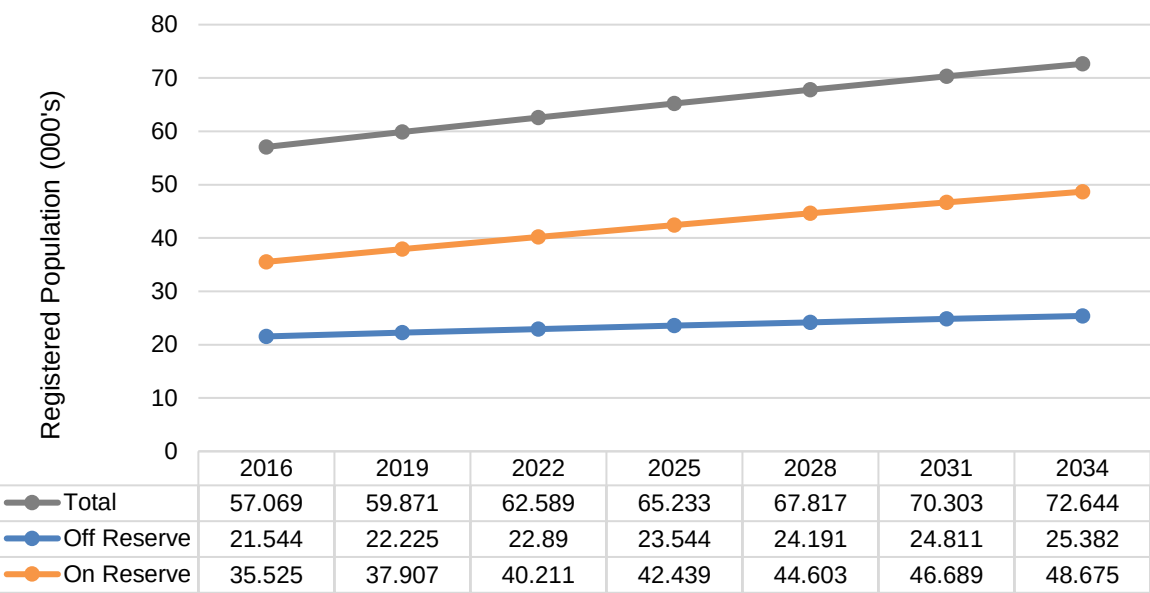


Figure 7: Projected Registered on-reserve First Nations population (in thousand) by gender, NITHA, SK, 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)

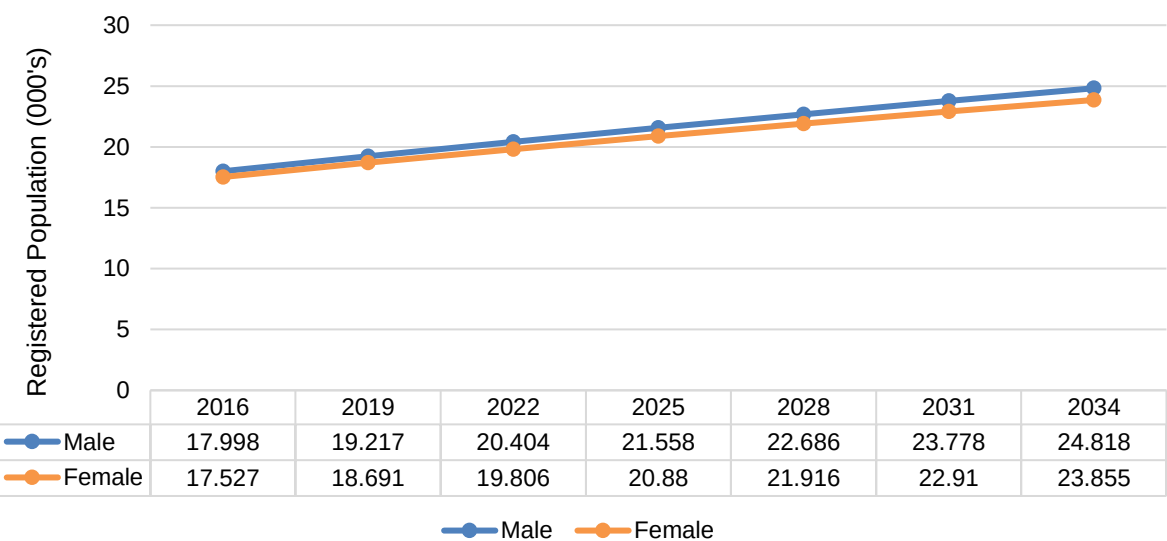
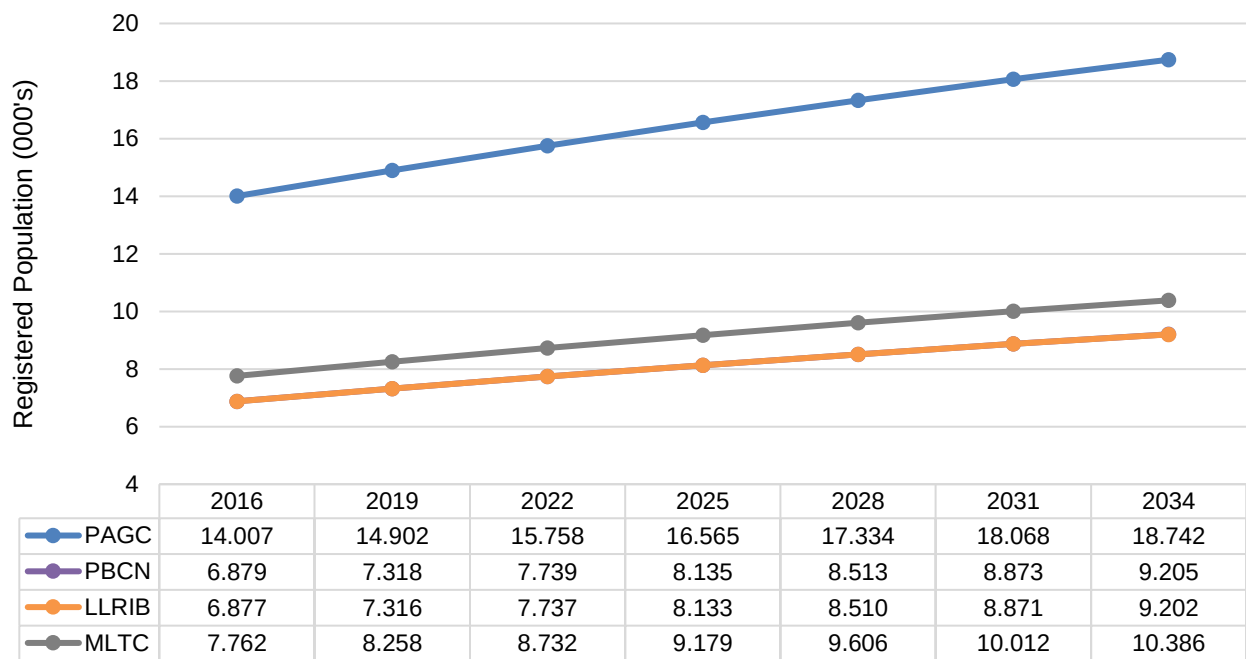


Figure 8: Projected Registered on-reserve First Nations population (in thousand) by NITHA partnerships (PAGC, PBCN, LLRIB, MLTC), 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)

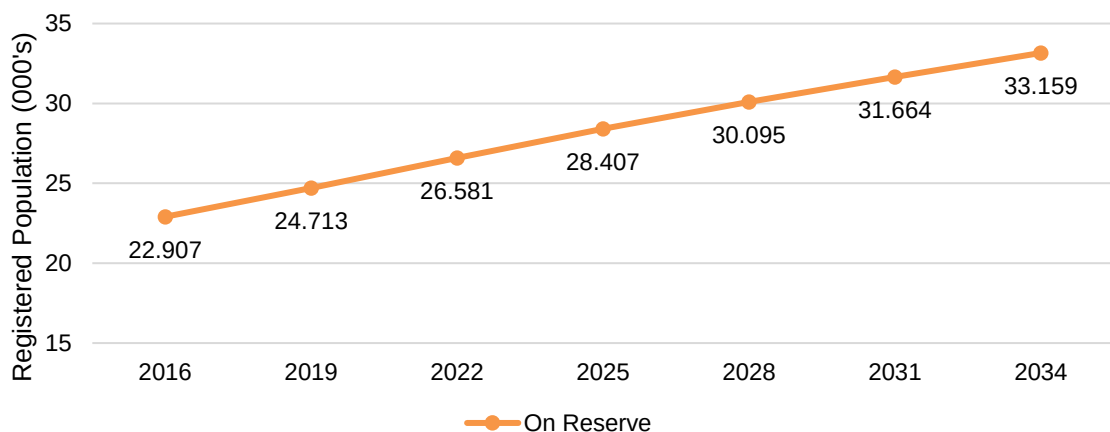


Age Structure of the Registered First Nations Population

The Working Age Population on-Reserve at NITHA

Based on the medium growth scenario, it is estimated that the size of Registered First Nations population working age (15 – 64 years) will increase by 45% from 22,907 in 2016 to 33,159 in 2034 (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Projected Registered on-reserve First Nations population working age (in thousand), NITHA, SK, 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)



The 5 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years age groups

Based on the medium growth scenario, it is estimated that the size of Registered First Nations population for 5 to 9 years age group will decrease by 3% (from 824 in 2016 to 814 in 2034) (Figure 10) and for 10 to 14 years age group, population could increase by 8% (from 706 in 2016 to 763 in 2034) (Figure 11).

Figure 10: Projected Registered on-reserve First Nations population (in thousand) by gender, 5-9 years age group, NITHA, 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)

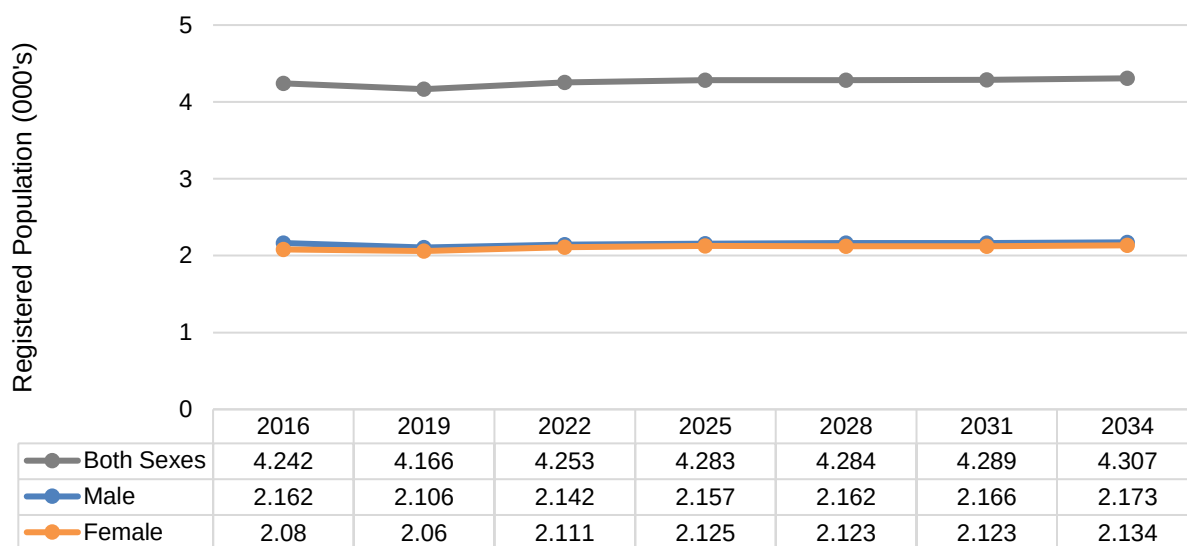
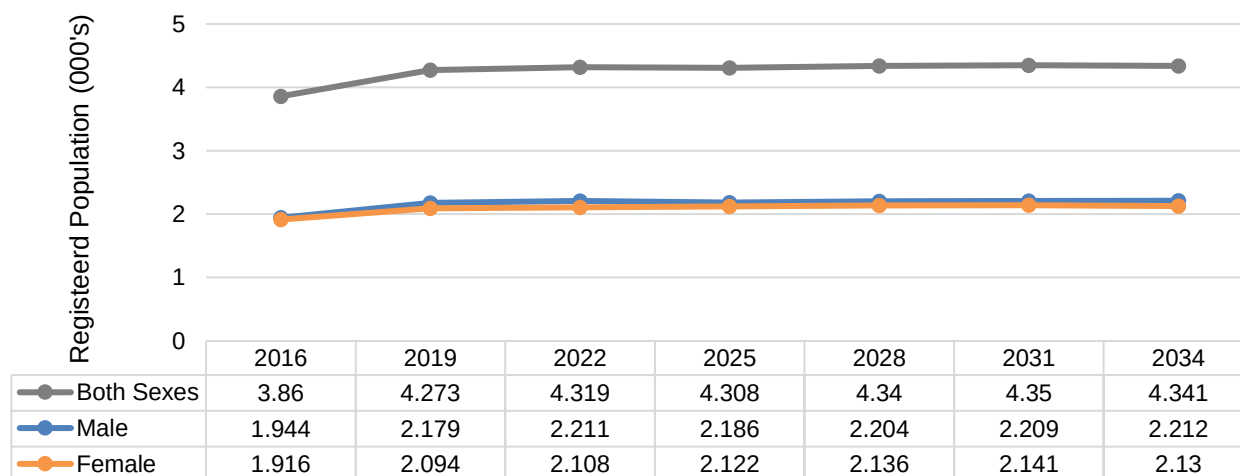


Figure 11: Projected Registered on-reserve First Nations population (in thousand) by gender, 10-14 years age group, NITHA, 2016-2034 (medium growth scenario)

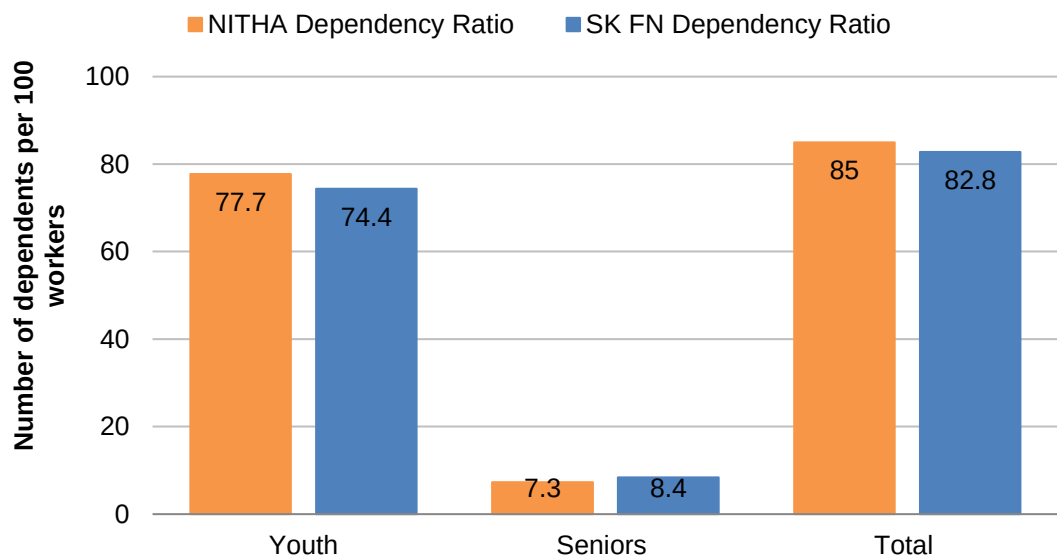


Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio is the ratio of those 0-19 year-old (youth) and 65 years or older (seniors), who are considered dependents, to those aged 20-64, who are considered the working population. While this indicator does not directly measure the number of people in the population who are actually working, a large proportion of dependents are likely to be economically and socially dependent on someone in the working age⁵. The dependency ratio is expressed as the number of dependents for every 100 workers.

NITHA's dependency ratio is 85 dependents per 100 workers. Saskatchewan's on-reserve First Nations population has a similar dependency ratio at 82.8 dependents per 100 workers (Figure 12). While in Canada's general population the senior dependents are projected to surpass youth dependents in the near future, youth dependents are much more significant in NITHA communities. When NITHA's dependency is broken down into youth and seniors as dependents, the youth dependency ratio is 77.7 per 100 workers, and the dependency ratio for seniors is 7.3 per 100 workers. A similar pattern is also seen among SK First Nations on-reserve population with higher youth dependency ratio.

Figure 12: Comparison of youth, seniors and total dependency ratios for NITHA and Saskatchewan's on-reserve First Nations population, 2015



⁵ Statistics Canada (2015). Dependency Ratio. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-229-x/2009001/demo/dep-eng.htm>

Methodology

Data Sources

The data from this chapter was obtained from the Registered Indian Population of Saskatchewan database hosted by INAC. The data was up to date as of December 31, 2015. This data is separated by age, gender and place of residence—data utilized for this chapter included both on-reserve and off-reserve population.

Data Limitations

1. An individual's information on the IRS is usually updated on the reporting of a life event to the First Nation's Indian Registry Administrator (IRA), although some bands may update the system more frequently. Nearly 70% of all births reported in any particular year actually occurred in a prior year.
2. IRS utilizes residency codes. Similar to life events, residency codes tend to be updated by the IRA when a life event is reported (although some bands may again update the system more frequently). This makes it possible for an individual to move back and forth between on and off reserve, and never has his/her information updated if a life event was not reported. Furthermore, the residency field is optional when the IRA updates the system.
3. IRS reflect residency codes for individuals affiliated with INAC recognized First Nations. As such, on reserve numbers for each First Nation should not be taken to represent the true population for the following reasons:
 - a. They contain no information on any Non-Registered individuals who may be living on reserve or crown lands,
 - b. They contain no information on any individuals registered to other bands who may be living on reserve or crown lands,

Other Saskatchewan First Nations on-reserve

Saskatchewan on-reserve First Nations population was used as a comparison population for this chapter. Data for this population was also extracted from INAC's Registered Indian Population of Saskatchewan database and included data from all persons living on-reserve except those living in communities served by NITHA.

Population Growth

Population growth rate was calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{population 2015} - \text{population 2010}}{\text{population 2010}} \times 100$$

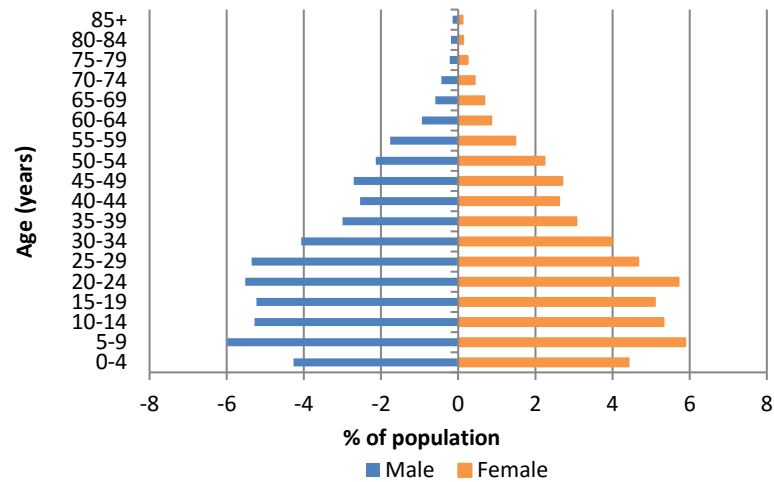
Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratio was calculated as follows:

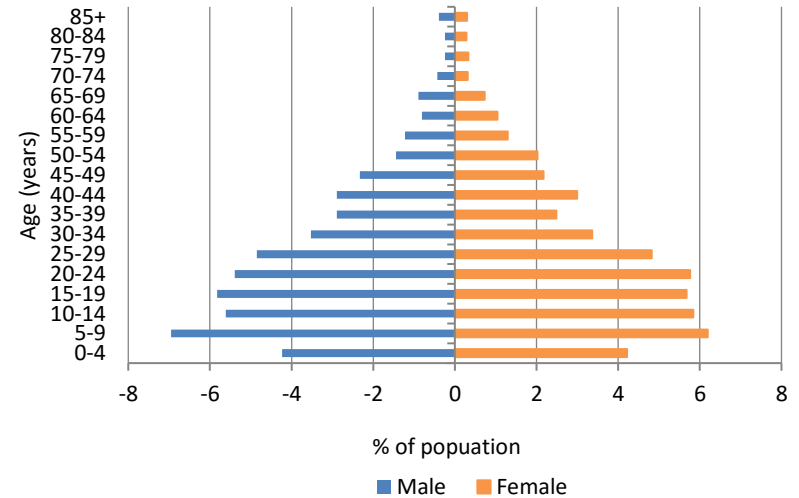
$$\frac{\text{number of people aged 0 – 19 (youth) and those aged 65 years and over (seniors)}}{\text{number of people aged 20 – 64 years (workers)}} \times 100$$

Appendix A: NITHA Partners' Population Pyramids, 2015

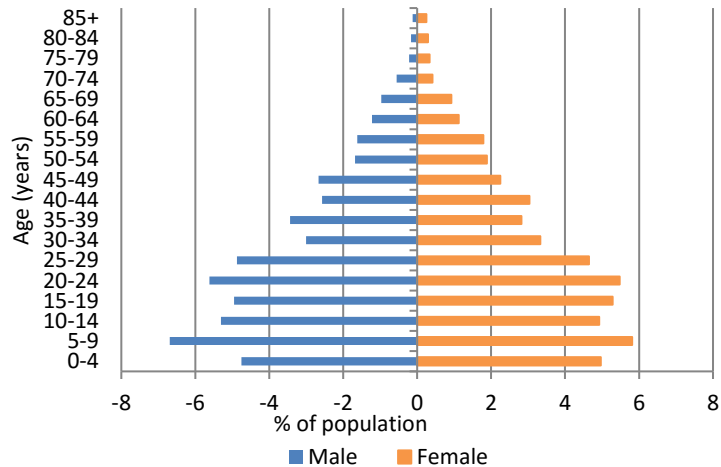
Prince Albert Grand Council population distribution by age group and gender, 2015



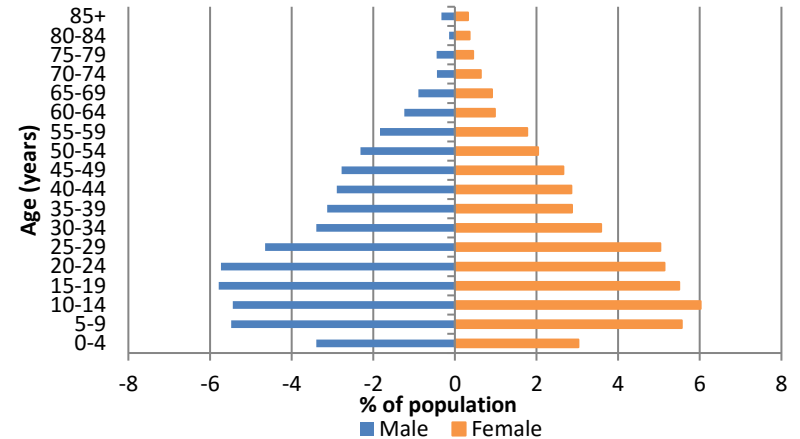
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation population distribution by age group and gender, 2015



Lac La Ronge Indian Band population distribution by age group and gender, 2015



Meadow Lake Tribal Council population distributions by age group and gender, 2015



Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) – Indian Registry System as of December

Appendix B: NITHA population living on and off-reserve, PAGC, MLTC, PBCN and LLRIB, 2010 - 2015

	2010			2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
Residence	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve	Total
PAGC	12,797	5,698	18,495	13,090	5,927	19,017	13,256	6,255	19,511	13,572	6,432	20,004	13,872	6,568	20,440	14,119	6,716	20,835
MLTC	6,982	5,648	12,630	7,115	5,811	12,926	7,194	6,184	13,378	7,326	6,372	13,698	7,446	6,503	13,949	7,571	6,654	14,225
PBCN	5,931	3,053	8,984	6,025	3,129	9,154	6,148	3,215	9,363	6,344	3,319	9,663	6,607	3,432	10,039	6,715	3,517	10,232
LLRIB	5,820	3,324	9,144	5,973	3,435	9,408	6,114	3,611	9,725	6,246	3,718	9,964	6,427	3,818	10,245	6,484	3,901	10,385
NITHA	31,530	17,723	49,253	32,203	18,302	50,505	32,712	19,265	51,977	33,488	19,841	53,329	34,352	20,321	54,673	34,889	20,788	55,677

Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Indian Registry System, as of December 31st of appropriate

Appendix C: Population (on-reserve) distribution by age group, PAGC, MLTC, PBCN and LLRIB, 2015

	PAGC			MLTC			PBCN			LLRIB		
Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Total	14119	7113	7006	7571	3810	3761	6715	3368	3347	6484	3270	3214
0-4	1227	603	624	486	257	229	567	284	283	630	308	322
5-9	1676	845	831	836	415	421	883	467	416	811	434	377
10-14	1496	745	751	868	412	456	769	377	392	663	344	319
15-19	1458	738	720	854	438	416	772	391	381	664	321	343
20-24	1585	779	806	823	434	389	749	362	387	719	364	355
25-29	1415	756	659	733	352	381	650	326	324	617	316	301
30-34	1137	575	562	528	257	271	463	237	226	411	195	216
35-39	856	423	433	454	237	217	361	194	167	406	223	183
40-44	728	359	369	435	219	216	395	194	201	364	167	197
45-49	763	382	381	411	210	201	302	156	146	319	173	146
50-54	618	302	316	329	175	154	233	97	136	231	109	122
55-59	458	249	209	273	139	134	169	82	87	221	105	116
60-64	254	133	121	168	94	74	124	54	70	152	79	73
65-69	179	84	95	137	68	69	109	60	49	123	63	60
70-74	122	62	60	81	33	48	50	29	21	63	36	27
75-79	66	31	35	68	34	34	38	16	22	36	14	22
80-84	44	26	18	38	11	27	35	16	19	30	11	19
>85	37	21	16	49	25	24	46	26	20	24	8	16

Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Indian Registry System, as of December 31st of 2015