

Research Insight

October 2016

Housing Indicators and Analytics

Housing Suitability for Aboriginal Households in First Nations Communities by Degree of Community Accessibility

INTRODUCTION

This Research Insight examines the extent of crowding among Aboriginal households in First Nations communities by degree of community accessibility. It is based on data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), and First Nations communities geography from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). A crowded household (one below the suitability standard) occurs when its housing has fewer bedrooms than the household requires according to the National Occupancy Standard.

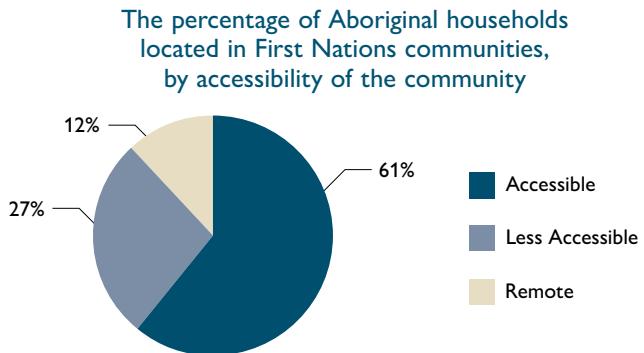
First Nations communities are classified into three zones for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) based on their level of accessibility. “Accessible” communities are in the southern areas of Canada with easier road access. These 338 communities contain 58,065 Aboriginal households. “Less Accessible” communities lie further north in most provinces and are less accessible by road. These 121 communities contain 26,105 Aboriginal households. “Remote” communities are inaccessible and are generally found in the territories and Northern Ontario. These 72 communities contain 11,230 Aboriginal households. For more information, please see: http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/ab/hoprfias/hoprfias_007.cfm

Overall, there was more than three times the incidence of crowding in Aboriginal households in First Nations communities (at 21%) than in all households in Canada (at 6%).

FINDINGS

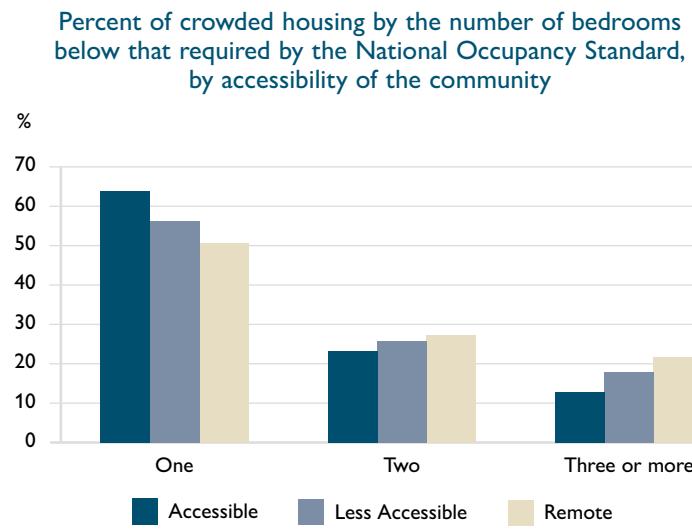
- The incidences of crowding were 16% for Aboriginal households in accessible communities, 25% in less accessible communities, and 33% in remote communities.
- Of the 19,800 crowded Aboriginal households in First Nations communities, 48% were located in accessible communities, 33% in less accessible communities, and 19% in remote communities.
- Less accessible and remote communities had higher incidences of crowding (at 28%) in housing built between 1981 and 2005; the incidences of crowding were lower in housing built before (at 21%) or after (at 23%) these years in these communities. Accessible communities had little difference in crowding based on the age of housing.
- Moveable dwellings and single detached housing had high incidences of crowding in less accessible and remote communities (at 27% and 28%, respectively). In accessible communities, single detached housing had the highest incidence of crowding (at 16%).

Figure 1: A minority of the 95,400 Aboriginal households in First Nations communities are in less accessible and remote locations



Source: CMHC (NHS-based housing indicators and data), INAC (First Nations' geography)

Figure 2: The majority of crowded Aboriginal households in First Nations communities are short one bedroom; the percentage of those short two or more bedrooms increases with greater remoteness



Source: CMHC (NHS-based housing indicators and data), INAC (First Nations' geography)

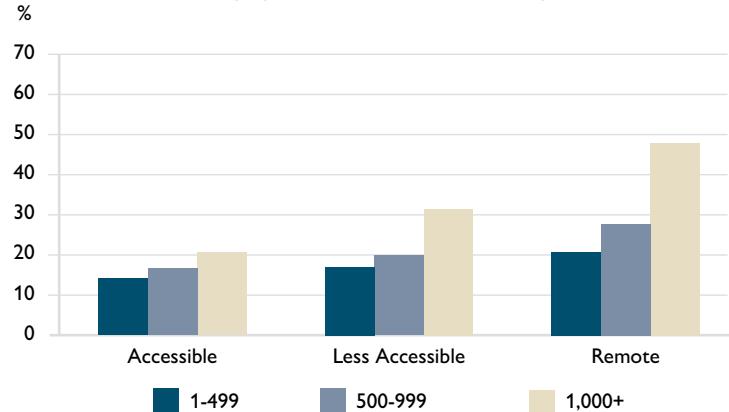
- Higher proportions of Aboriginal households in larger First Nations communities are crowded; this is independent of accessibility. More than a quarter (27%) of Aboriginal households in First Nations communities larger than 1,000 people are crowded, compared to 16% in communities with fewer than 500 people.
- There were 14 First Nations communities in which at least half of the Aboriginal households experienced crowding. Seven of these were remote communities.

WHAT WE DO

Our role in housing includes providing federal funding for the construction, purchase and rehabilitation of suitable, adequate and affordable rental housing on reserve and improving the capacity of Aboriginal peoples in managing and maintaining their housing.

Figure 3: The incidence of crowded Aboriginal households increases with both population and accessibility

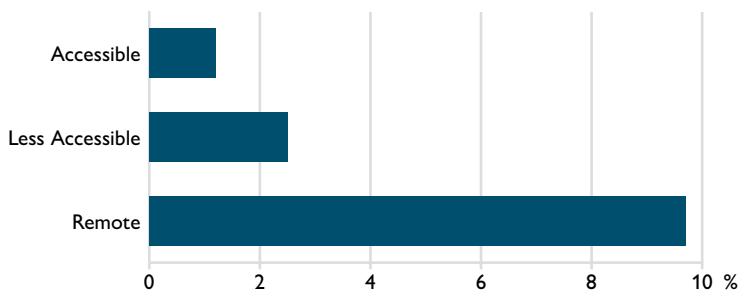
The proportion of crowded Aboriginal households in First Nations communities, by accessibility and population of the community



Source: CMHC (NHS-based housing indicators and data), INAC (First Nations' geography)

Figure 4: About 10% of remote First Nations communities had at least half of their Aboriginal households experiencing crowding

Percent of First Nations communities with at least half of their Aboriginal households experiencing crowding, by accessibility of the community



Source: CMHC (NHS-based housing indicators and data), INAC (First Nations' geography)

FURTHER READING:

RELATED REPORTS

[2011 Census/National Household Survey Housing Conditions Series: Issue 8 – Housing Conditions of On-Reserve Aboriginal Households](#)

About First Nations Housing:
<http://www.cmhc.ca/en/ab/abfinaho/index.cfm>

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ALTERNATIVE TEXT AND DATA FOR FIGURES

Figure 1: The percentage of Aboriginal households located in First Nations communities, by accessibility of the community

Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
61	27	12

Figure 2: Percent of crowded housing by the number of bedrooms below that required by the National Occupancy Standard, by accessibility of the community

	Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
One	63.8	56.3	50.7
Two	23.3	25.7	27.4
Three or more	12.8	18.0	21.8

Figure 3: The proportion of crowded Aboriginal households in First Nations communities, by accessibility and population of the community

	Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
1-499	14.1	17.0	20.7
500-999	16.7	19.9	27.7
1,000+	20.6	31.5	47.9

Figure 4: Percent of First Nations communities with at least half of their Aboriginal households experiencing crowding, by accessibility of the community

Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
1.2	2.5	9.7