

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

INTRODUCTION

This Research Insight examines the adequacy of Aboriginal housing 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). Adequate housing requires only regular maintenance or minor repairs. Inadequate housing is in need of major repairs, e.g. to correct defective plumbing or electrical wiring or structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings.

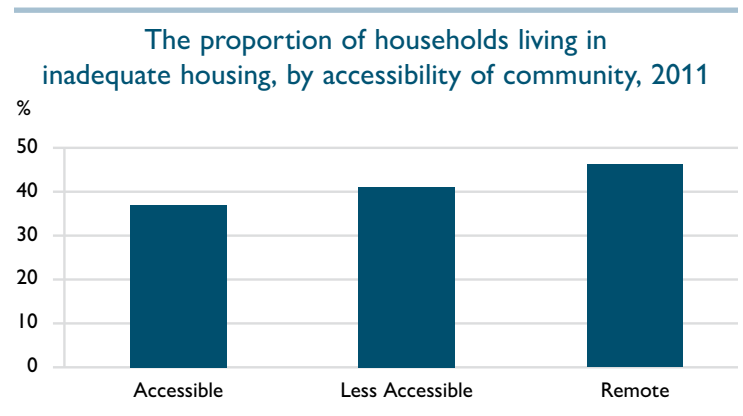
First Nations communities are classified into three zones for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) based on their level of accessibility. “Accessible” communities are in the southern areas of Canada with easier road access. These 338 communities contained 58,065 Aboriginal households in 2011. “Less Accessible” communities lie further north in most provinces and are less accessible by road. These 121 communities contained 26,105 Aboriginal households. “Remote” communities are inaccessible and are generally found in the territories and Northern Ontario. These 72 communities contained 11,230 Aboriginal households.

In all, there were 95,400 Aboriginal households living in 531 First Nation communities. Accessible First Nations communities made up about 64% of the total, less accessible communities 23%, and remote communities 14%. For more information, please see: http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/ab/hoprfras/hoprfras_007.cfm

FINDINGS

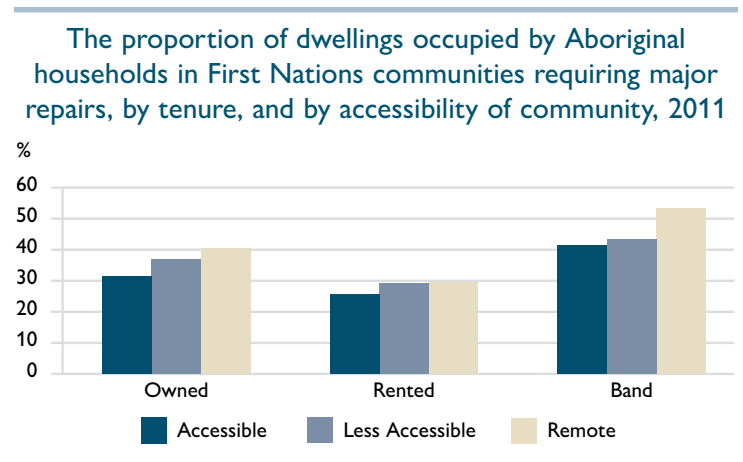
- The overall incidence of inadequate housing in Aboriginal households in First Nations communities (at 39%) was more than five times that in all Canadian households (at 7%). This is despite dwellings in First Nations communities being relatively newer; 37% of dwellings in First Nations communities were built in or since 1996, compared to 22% of all Canadian dwellings.
- The proportion of Aboriginal households in First Nations communities in inadequate housing increased with degree of remoteness (see Figure 1), and, for each degree of remoteness, was higher for those in Band housing than for those who own or rent their accommodation (see Figure 2).

Figure 1: The proportion of Aboriginal households in First Nations communities in inadequate housing increased with degree of remoteness



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

Figure 2: A higher proportion of Aboriginal households in First Nations communities required major repairs for those living in Band housing than for those who owned or rented their dwelling, for each degree of remoteness



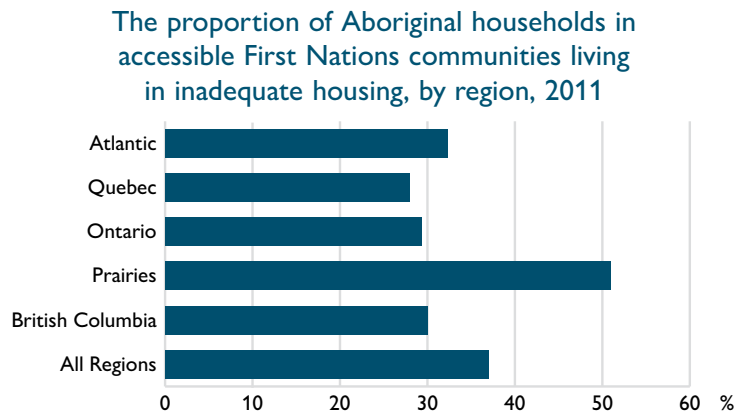
Source: CMHC (NHS-based housing indicators and data), INAC (First Nations' geography)

- The newest housing (built between 2006 and 2011) in First Nations communities exhibited the smallest proportion of inadequacy, but these proportions were higher in remote communities (17%) than in accessible communities (10%).
- About half of Aboriginal households in accessible First Nations communities in the Prairie Provinces were in inadequate housing, compared to about 30% in other regions (see Figure 3).
- Of the 531 First Nation communities, there were 114 (or 21%) in which at least half of the Aboriginal households were living in inadequate dwellings. This included 60 accessible communities, 31 less accessible communities, and 23 remote communities.
- The proportion of First Nations communities in which at least half of Aboriginal households were in inadequate housing increased with degree of remoteness (see Figure 4).

WHAT WE DO

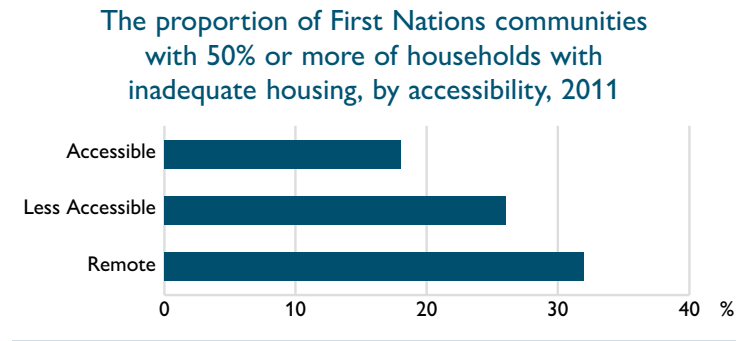
Our role in housing includes providing federal funding for the construction, purchase and rehabilitation of suitable, adequate and affordable rental housing on reserve and improving the capacity of Aboriginal peoples in managing and maintaining their housing.

Figure 3: About half of Aboriginal households in accessible First Nations communities in the Prairie Provinces were in inadequate housing



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

Figure 4: The proportion of First Nations communities in which at least half of Aboriginal households were in inadequate housing increased with degree of remoteness



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>

CMHC Project Manager: Joseph Dunlavy



ALTERNATIVE TEXT AND DATA FOR FIGURES

Figure 1: The proportion of households living in inadequate housing, by accessibility of community, 2011

Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
37.0	41.1	46.2

Figure 2: The proportion of dwellings occupied by Aboriginal households in First Nations communities requiring major repairs, by tenure, and by accessibility of community, 2011

	Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
Owned	31.5	37.0	40.3
Rented	25.6	29.0	29.4
Band	41.5	43.2	53.2

Figure 3: The proportion of Aboriginal households in accessible First Nations communities living in inadequate housing, by region, 2011

Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	All Regions
32.3	28.0	29.3	50.9	30.0	37.0

Figure 4: The proportion of First Nations communities with 50% or more of households with inadequate housing, by accessibility, 2011

Accessible	Less Accessible	Remote
17.8	25.6	31.9