

Description

This indicator is the proportion of a population who belong to a visible minority. People who are racialized based on their appearance as a visible minority experience a whole range of adverse living circumstances that threaten not only their health but also the overall health and well-being of Canadian society.¹

Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".²

Specific Indicators

- Visible minority

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) establish requirements for the fundamental public health programs and services carried out by boards of health, which include assessment and surveillance, health promotion and policy development, disease and injury prevention, and health protection. The OPHS consist of one Foundational Standard and 13 Program Standards that articulate broad societal goals that result from the activities undertaken by boards of health and many others, including community partners, non-governmental organizations, and governmental bodies. These results have been expressed in terms of two levels of outcomes: societal outcomes and board of health outcomes. Societal outcomes entail changes in health status, organizations, systems, norms, policies, environments, and practices and result from the work of many sectors of society, including boards of health, for the improvement of the overall health of the population. Board of health outcomes are the results of endeavours by boards of health and often focus on changes in awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills, practices, environments, and policies. Boards of health are accountable for these outcomes. The standards also outline the requirements that boards of health must implement to achieve the stated results.

Outcomes Related to this Indicator

- Societal Outcome (Foundational Standard): Population health needs are anticipated, identified, addressed, and evaluated.

Assessment and/or Surveillance Requirements Related to this Indicator

- The board of health shall assess current health status, health behaviours, preventive health practices, health care utilization relevant to public health, and demographic indicators in accordance with the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008 (or as current).

Protocol Requirements Related to this Indicator

- The board of health shall analyze population health data and interpret the information to describe the distribution of health outcomes, preventive health practices, risk factors, determinants of health, and other relevant information to assess the overall health of its population (Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol 2.b.).
- The board of health shall collect or access the following types of population health data and information:
 - i) Socio-demographics including population counts by age, sex, education, income, housing, language, immigration, culture, ability/disability, and cost of a nutritious food basket;

<http://www.ontario.ca/publichealthstandards>

Corresponding Health Indicator from Statistics Canada and CIHI

Visible minority population

- Find the product page for *Health Indicators (82-221-X)* from a search window or by navigating from Statistics Canada's website from Browse topics and select *Health Indicators* in the *Featured products* navigation bar on the left of the screen.
- Select the most recent release
- Select *Subjects A to Z* from the *Browse by Topic* navigation bar on the bottom left of the screen
- Navigate down to *Visible minority population*
- Select the *CANSIM table option after clicking on Visible minority population to get to Table 109-0300.*
- Click *Add Remove data*
- Select the *Geography* of interest
- Select the *Census Profile* measure *Visible minority population (number)* and/or *Visible minority population, proportion of total population (percent)* as desired

Corresponding Indicators from Other Sources

2011 National Household Survey Profile

- Select National Household Survey
- Select *NHS Profile*
- Search the *Place Name* for the area of interest or select from the list.
- In Select a View, select Visible Minority
- Cross tabulations for visible minorities at the geographies of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations are available in Tables 99-010-X2011029 (Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration); 99-010-X2011030(Generation Status); [99-010-X2011038](#) (Selected demographics) and 99-012-X2011038 (Labour force status). Search for these table numbers or, from the National Household Survey product page, select *NHS Data tables*, select *Browse by Topic*, then select *V* and then *Visible minority*.

Data Sources (see Resources: Data Sources)

Numerator & Denominator: National Household Survey (2011);

Original source: Statistics Canada

Distributed by: Statistics Canada

Suggested citation (see Data Citation Notes): [year] Census, Statistics Canada

[year] National Household Survey, Statistics Canada

Survey Questions

Survey & Question #	Question	Response Options	Accompanying Instructions to the Interviewer
Question 19 in 2006 Census/2011 NHS	Is this person:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · White · South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) · Chinese · Black · Filipino · Latin American · Arab · Southeast Asian 	Mark more than one or specify, if applicable. This information is collected in accordance with the Employment Equity Act and its Regulations and Guidelines to support programs that

		(e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.) · Korean · Japanese · Other — Specify 	promote equal opportunity for everyone to share in the social, cultural, and economic life of Canada
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Alternative Data Sources

- None

Analysis Checklist

- Data is available for visible minorities overall or for the specific subsets as well as multiple visible minorities or visible minority “not included elsewhere” (n.i.e.)
- Where the full detailed classification cannot be used due to small numbers in particular categories, either the collapsed classification can be used or the detailed classification can be modified by collapsing those categories that are too small to report separately into the category “other visible minority”. In the latter case, all remaining categories should be used in the manner in which they are listed in the detailed classification, with no other collapsing, in order for data to be comparable to other sources.³

Method of Calculation

Visible minority:

$$\frac{\text{Population that identifies as visible minority}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$$

Basic Categories

- Total visible minority
- Visible minority by available option
- Geographic areas: Available geographies depend on the data source (Census/NHS). For the NHS, data is available at Canada, provinces, territories, census divisions, census metropolitan areas (CMA), census agglomerations (NHS data tables), census subdivisions (NHS profile) and census tract (NHS data tables from Ministry of Finance)

Indicator Comments

- Small areas are suppressed if the global non-response rate is 50% or greater.⁴
- *Visible minority* refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. The classification of visible minority³ is defined as:

- a. Visible minority: This category includes persons who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour and who do not report being Aboriginal.
- b. Chinese: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Chinese" only or "Chinese" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and, persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as Chinese. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "Chinese" include Chinese and Taiwanese.
- c. South Asian: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "South Asian" only or "South Asian" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and, persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as South Asian. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "South Asian" include Bangladeshi, Punjabi, and Sri Lankan.
- d. Black: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Black" only or "Black" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and, persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as Black. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "Black" include African, Nigerian, and Somali.
- e. Filipino: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Filipino" only or "Filipino and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and, persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response of Filipino.
- f. Latin American: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Latin American" only; persons who gave a mark-in response of "Latin American" only with a non-European write-in that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e. (e.g. Afghan, Cambodian, Nigerian); and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as Latin American. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "Latin American" include Chilean, Costa Rican, and Mexican.
- g. Southeast Asian: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Southeast Asian" only or "Southeast Asian" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and, persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as Southeast Asian. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "Southeast Asian" include Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian and Laotian.
- h. Arab: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Arab" only; persons who gave a mark-in response of "Arab" only with a non-European write-in that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e. (e.g. Afghan, Cambodian, Nigerian); and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as Arab. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "Arab" include Egyptian, Kuwaiti, and Libyan.
- i. West Asian: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "West Asian" only; persons who gave a mark-in response of "West Asian" only with a non-European write-in that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e. (e.g. Cambodian, Chilean, Nigerian); and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as West Asian. Some examples of write-in responses classified as "West Asian" include Afghan, Assyrian, and Iranian.

- j. Korean: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Korean" only or "Korean" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response of "Korean".
 - k. Japanese: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "Japanese" only or "Japanese" and "White"; persons with such a mark-in or mark-ins who also gave a write-in response that is not classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response of "Japanese".
 - l. Visible minority, n.i.e (not included elsewhere): This category includes persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is classified as visible minority, n.i.e., and persons with a "White" mark-in only who gave a write-in response that is classified as visible minority, n.i.e. Write-in responses classified as visible minority, n.i.e. are those which cannot be classified as belonging to a specific visible minority group - for example, responses of "Pacific Islander", "Polynesian", "Guyanese" and "West Indian".
 - m. Multiple visible minorities: This category includes persons who gave more than one visible minority mark-in response (e.g. mark-in responses of Black and South Asian), and persons who gave only one visible minority mark-in response, but who also gave a write-in response classified as visible minority, n.i.e.
 - n. Not a visible minority: This category includes: persons who gave a mark-in response of "White" only; persons who reported being Aboriginal; persons who gave mark-in responses of "White and Latin American", "White and Arab" or "White and West Asian" only with no write-in response classified as visible minority, n.i.e.; persons who gave a mark-in response of Latin American, Arab, or West Asian only, along with a European write-in response (e.g. French, German, Norwegian); and persons with no mark-in response who gave a write-in response that is not classified as a visible minority.
2. Visible minority status can contribute to racialization of an individual (the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life)⁵
 3. Visible minorities were more likely than other Canadians to report having been discriminated against or treated unfairly in Canada in the past five years because of their ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion.⁶
 4. Visible minorities and immigrants who experienced discrimination or unfair treatment are more likely to experience a decline in self-reported health status.⁷
 5. Racism directly impacts on health, primarily through the body's physiological stress response and indirectly impacts on health through differential exposures and opportunities related to other determinants of health. As well, lack of access to opportunities, marginalization, and exclusion among visible minority groups suggest that their perceived racial membership plays a significant role in shaping their collective experience – that is, they are racialized, rather than “merely” racial, groups. Unlike the term "visible minorities," which Canada's Employment Equity Act defines as “non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour,” “racialized groups” makes clear that race is not an objective biological fact, but rather a social and cultural construct that potentially exposes individuals to racism.⁸ Rather than factors inherent in race being responsible for racial inequities in health, there is a shift to consider the “problem of racism” be seen as a primary factor in inequitable health outcomes in racialized populations.⁹
 6. The construct of visible minority may aggregate individuals who have very different experiences in Canada historically and/or in terms of placement in Canada's social and

economic system.⁷ Subgroups within the visible minorities will differ in terms of their language, cultural history, language and recency of immigration.

7. Despite the term, "visible minority" which is defined by the Employment Equity Act, the percentage of visible minority for certain areas may exceed 50 per cent. For example, the visible minority population represents the majority of the population in some areas of the Greater Toronto Area such as Markham, Richmond Hill, Mississauga and Brampton due to recent immigration patterns.

Cross-References to Other Sections

None

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Lead Author(s)
Cam McDermaid
Contributing Author(s)

Virginia McFarland, Sylvia Thompson-Nicholson, Bill Kou, Dinna Lozano, Sarah Edwards
Core Indicator Reviewers
External Reviewers

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