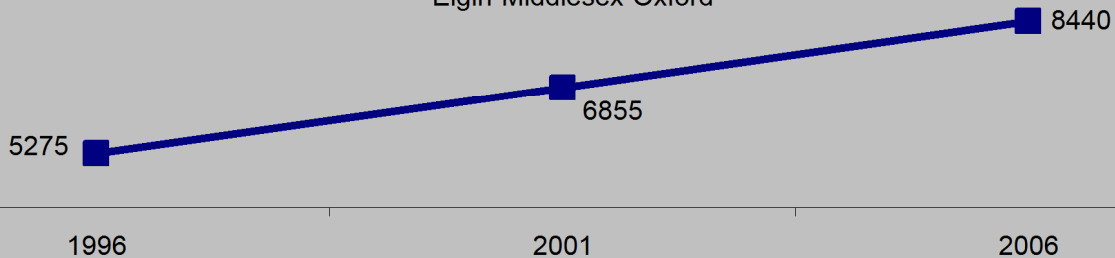


Workforce Focus

From the Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Local Training Board.

Aboriginal Population Growth

Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford

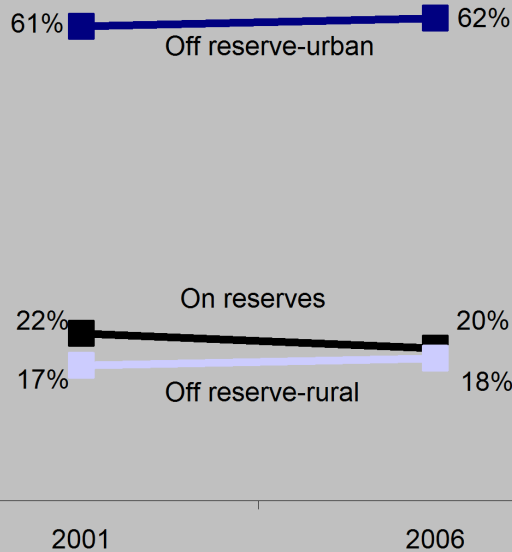


A Steady Increase

The number of people who identified themselves as an Aboriginal person has increased steadily in this region. Most of this growth can be attributed to a high birth rate. There are also more individuals identifying themselves as an Aboriginal person, and there has been a reduction in the number of incompletely enumerated Indian reserves since 1996.

Location Patterns

Aboriginals by place of residence
Ontario, 2001-2006



Urbanization

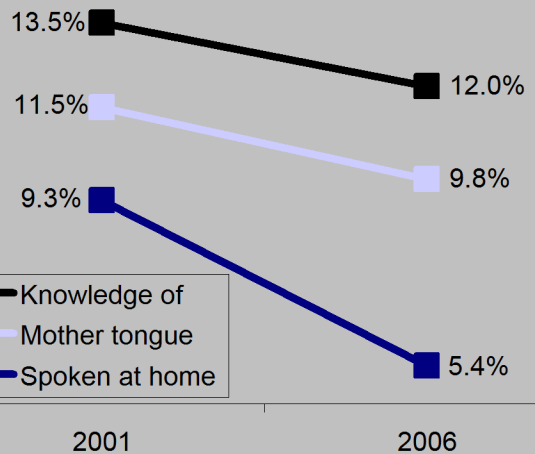
The Aboriginal population is increasingly urbanized. In 2006, 62% lived in an urban centre, a slight increase from 2001. Urban areas include large cities, or census metropolitan areas, and smaller urban centres. The share of aboriginal people living on reserves has decreased to 20% in 2006, while the share living in rural areas has increased slightly.

Fading Languages

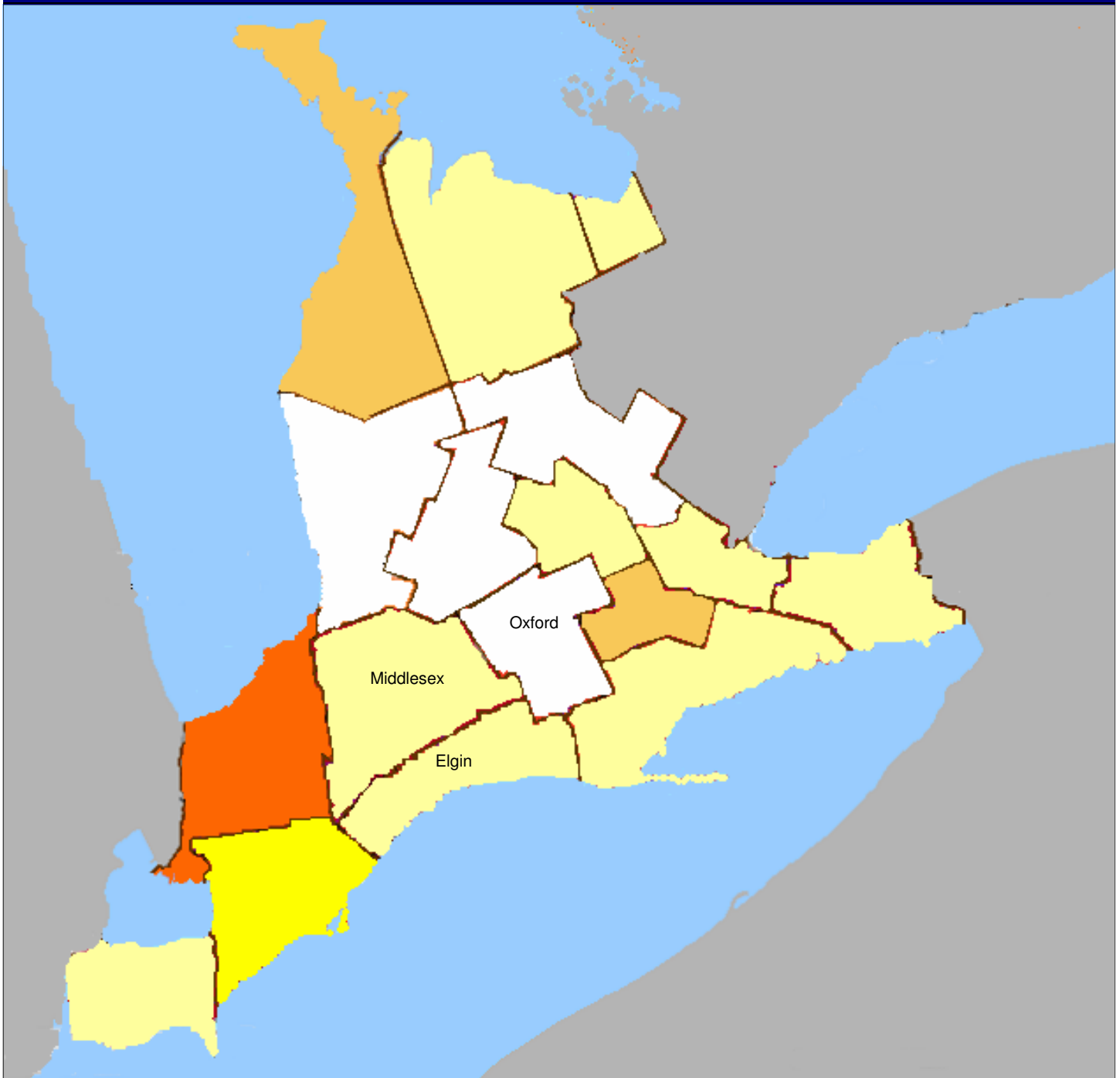
There has been substantial erosion in the use of Aboriginal languages in recent decades. In Ontario, the share of Aboriginals who most commonly speak an Aboriginal language at home and the share whose mother tongue is Aboriginal, both dropped between 2001 and 2006. However, more people had a knowledge of an Aboriginal language than had an Aboriginal mother tongue. This suggests that some speakers must have learned their Aboriginal language as a second language. It is thought that the process itself of learning an Aboriginal language may contribute to increased self-esteem and community well-being, as well as cultural continuity.

Language Trends

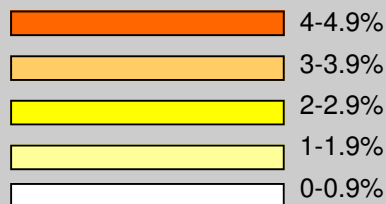
Aboriginal peoples relation to Aboriginal language
Ontario, 2001-2006



Aboriginal Concentrations

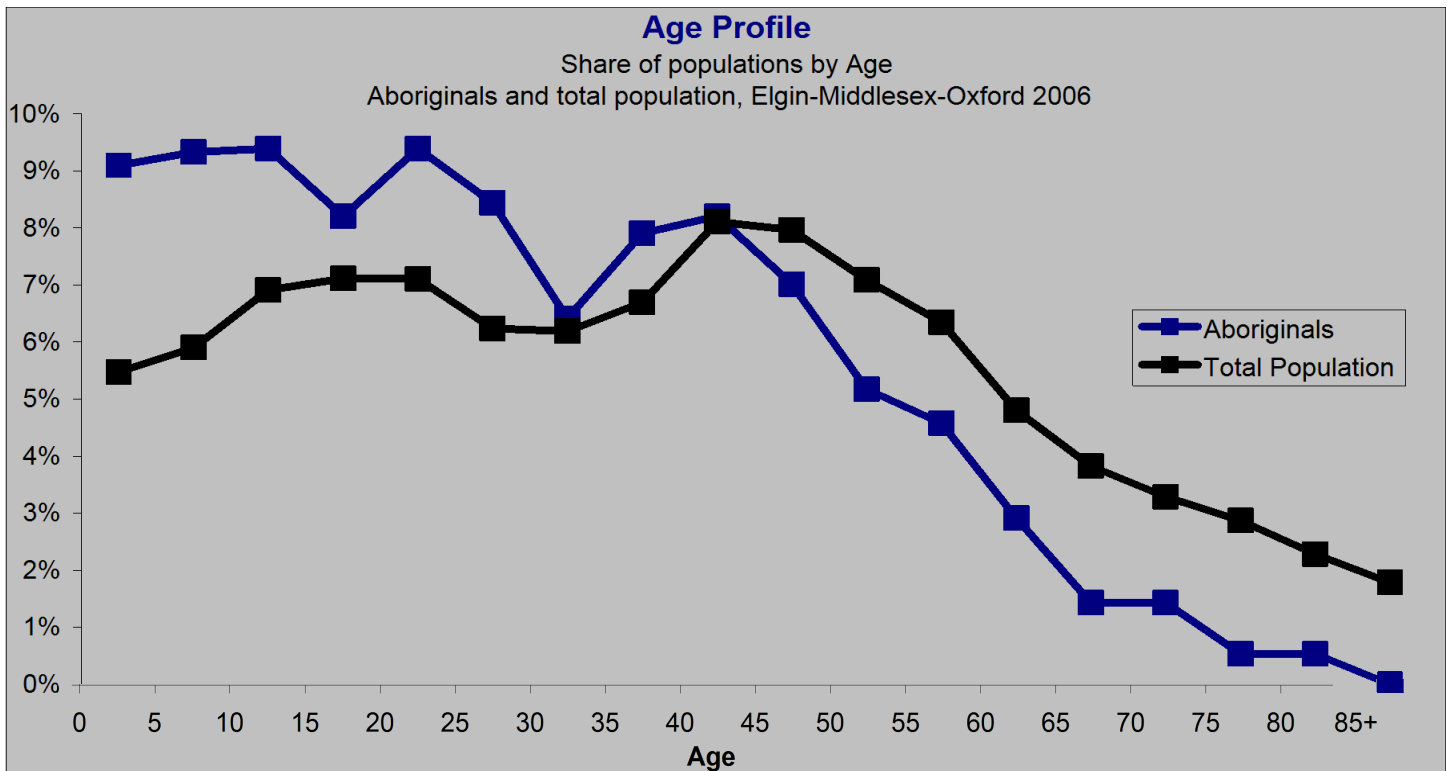


Self-identified Aboriginals as share of the total population: South-Western Ontario census divisions, 2006



Population Proportions

Although Ontario leads all provinces with 21% of Canada's aboriginal population, the aboriginal share of Ontario's total population is quite low at 2%. Each of these regions' counties has an Aboriginal concentration below the provincial average. Middlesex has the highest of the three with Aboriginal people comprising 1.6% of the county's population.

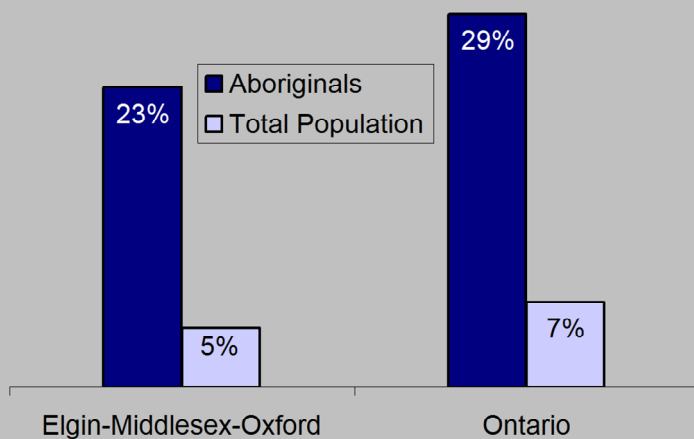


A Youthful Population

The Aboriginal population is much younger than the general population. Children and youth of this region aged 24 and under made up 45% of all Aboriginal people, compared with 32% of the general population. Nevertheless, like the total population, the Aboriginal population is slowly getting older. The number of Aboriginal seniors, while relatively small, doubled between 2001 and 2006. This aging of the Aboriginal population is due to declining fertility rates and gradual improvements in life expectancy. However, fertility rates remain higher than average and life expectancy still lags behind that of the total population.

Growth Rates

Aboriginals and total population 2001-2006
Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford and Ontario



High Growth

The Aboriginal population has grown faster than the non-Aboriginal population. Between 2001 and 2006, it increased 23% in this region, over four times faster than the 5% rate of growth for the general population over the same period. Collectively, Ontario experienced a similar trend.

Median Ages

Local counties and Ontario, 2006

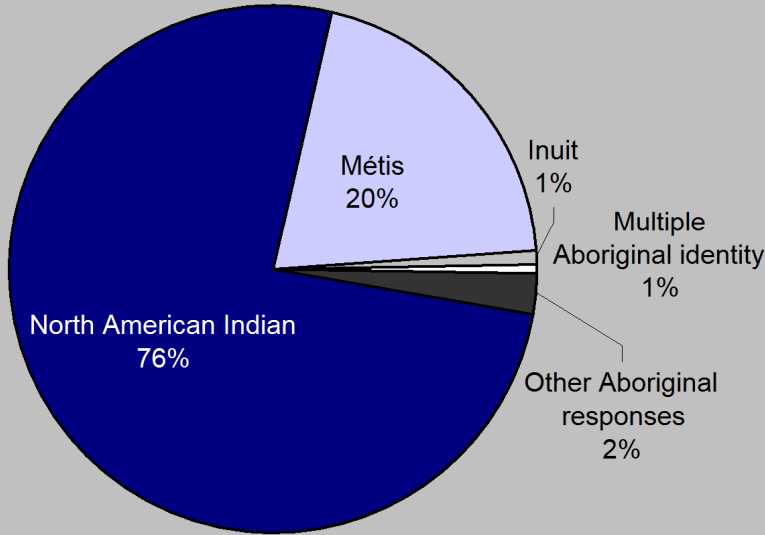
	Aboriginals	Total Population
Elgin	32	45
Middlesex	27	44
Oxford	34	42
Ontario	30	39

A Low Median Age

The median age is the point where one-half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. In 2006, the median age for each of the local counties' Aboriginal populations was significantly lower than that of the general population. This contrast of median age is also found provincially.

Aboriginal Composition

Population by Aboriginal Group
Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford, 2006



Changing Composition

Of the three Aboriginal groups, the fastest gain in population between 2001 and 2006 occurred among those who identified themselves as Métis. In this region, their numbers increased 49%, to an estimated 1,705. The North American Indian population also grew quickly at 19% from 2001 to 2006 and now totals 6,390.

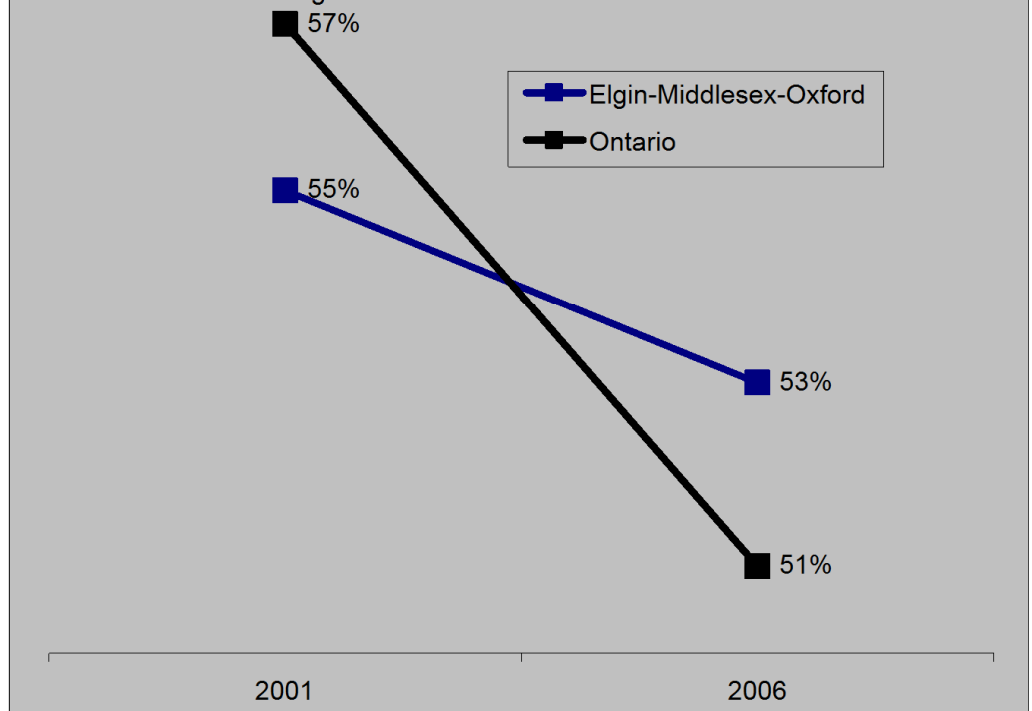
Consequently, the share of the Aboriginal population who identify as Métis has grown. In 2006, they accounted for 20% of Aboriginal people, up from 17% in 2001. First Nations people accounted for the majority (76%) of Aboriginal people in 2006, while Inuit represented 1%.

Registered / Treaty Status Declines

Registered Indian refers to those persons who reported they were registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who are registered under the Indian Act and can prove descent from a band that signed a treaty. There has been a significant decrease in the share of registered/treaty Indians amongst Aboriginals in this region and province wide, though the local drop has been more modest than the provincial wide trend. A majority of registered and treaty Indians in Canada reside in one of approximately 900 small First Nations communities.

Registered/Treaty Indian Status

Registered/Treaty Indians as share of all Aboriginals
Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford and Ontario



The source of all figures used in this issue is Statistics Canada Census Data

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