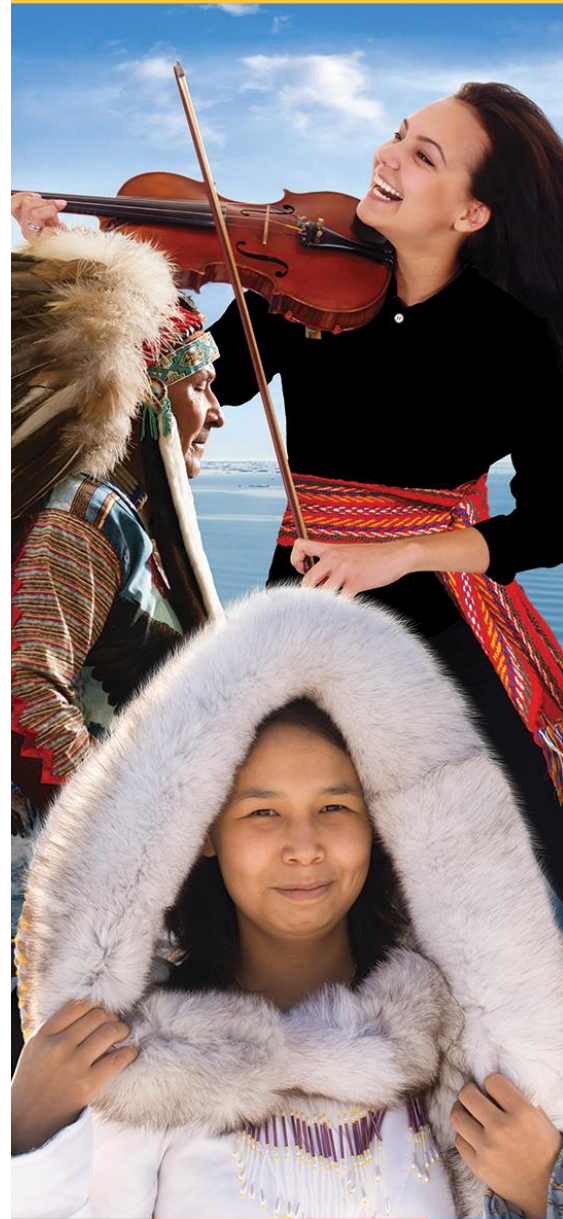




First Nations and Inuit Community Well-Being: Update based on the 2011 National Household Survey

Strategic Research Directorate
Planning, Research and Statistics Branch



INAC·AANC





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What is the CWB?

- A research tool designed to:
 - be a valid and reliable measure of well-being for individual communities in Canada;
 - compare well-being in First Nations, Inuit and non-Indigenous communities;
 - track well-being trends over time
- Can range from 0 - 100 and is based on 4 components:



Education (high school plus; university)



Income (total per capita)



Labour Force (participation; employment)



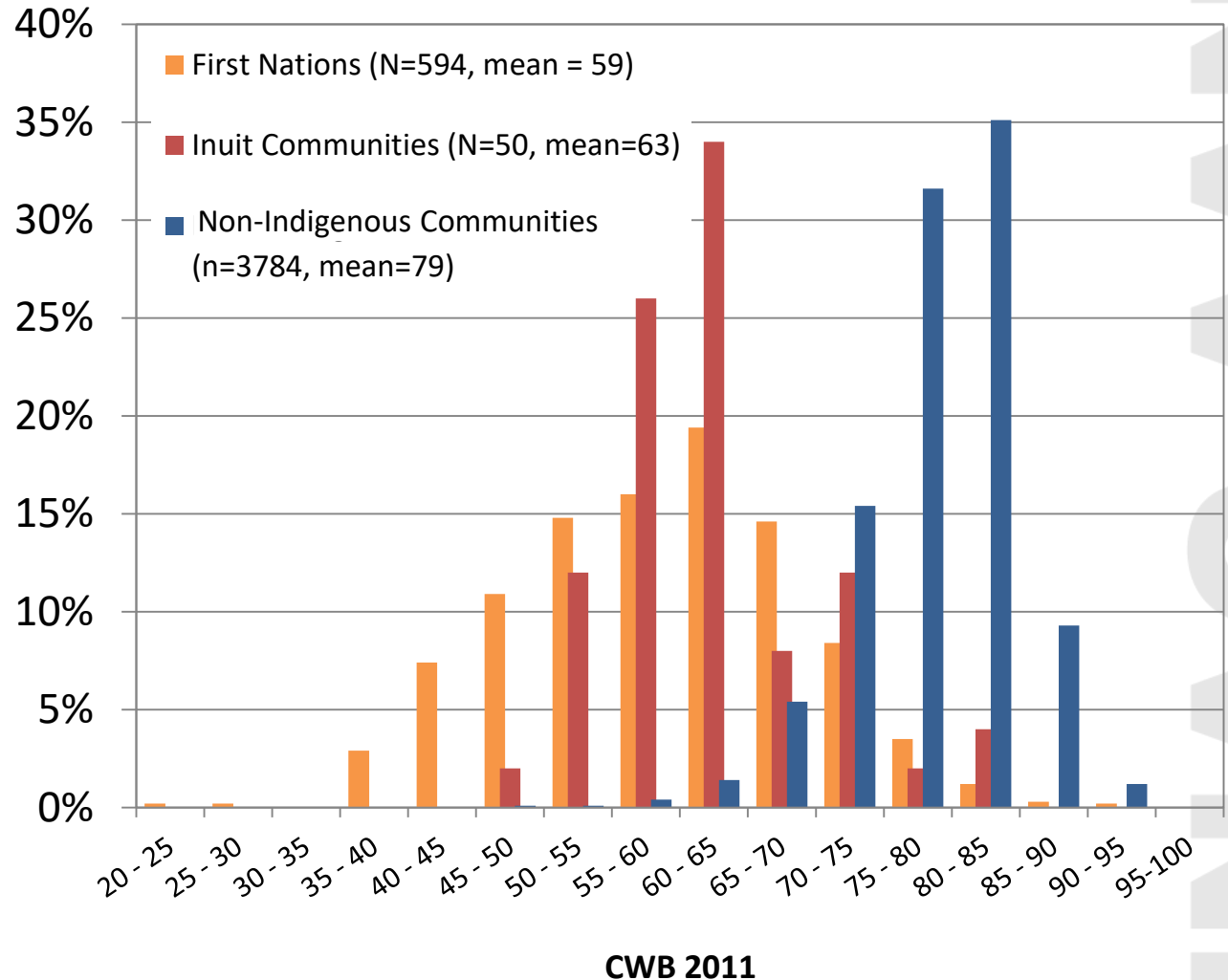
Housing (quantity; quality)



CWB Variability within Community Types

Well-being varies tremendously among Indigenous communities – more so than among non-Indigenous communities.

Although most of the lowest-scoring communities are First Nations, some Indigenous communities score higher than the non-Indigenous average.



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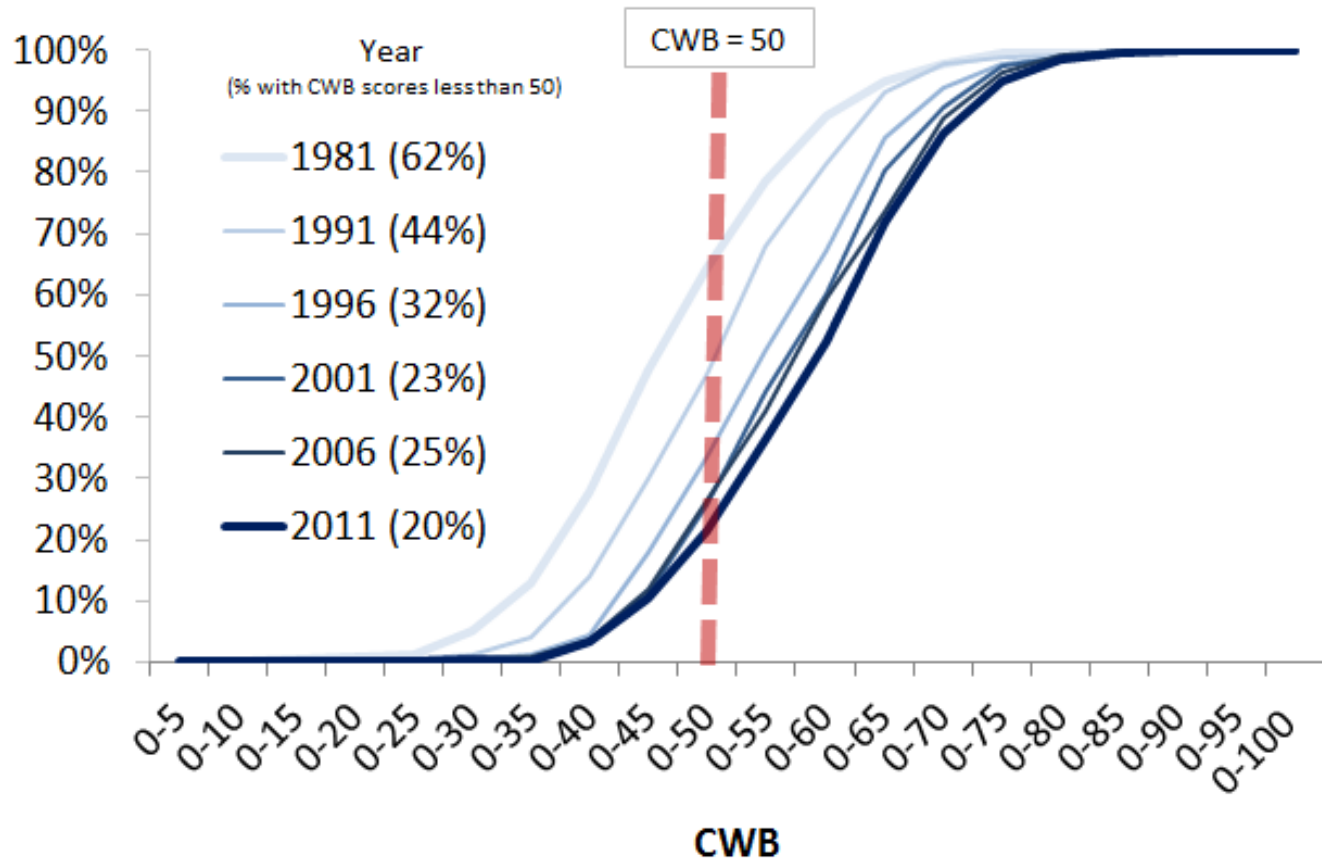
Progress for Low-Scoring Communities

The number of Indigenous communities with scores at the very low end of the CWB spectrum has decreased dramatically.

First Nations with scores less than 50 dropped from 62% in 1981 to 20% in 2011.

Inuit communities with scores less than 50 dropped from 61% in 1981 to 2% in 2011.

Cumulative Distribution of First Nations' CWB Scores, 1981-2011



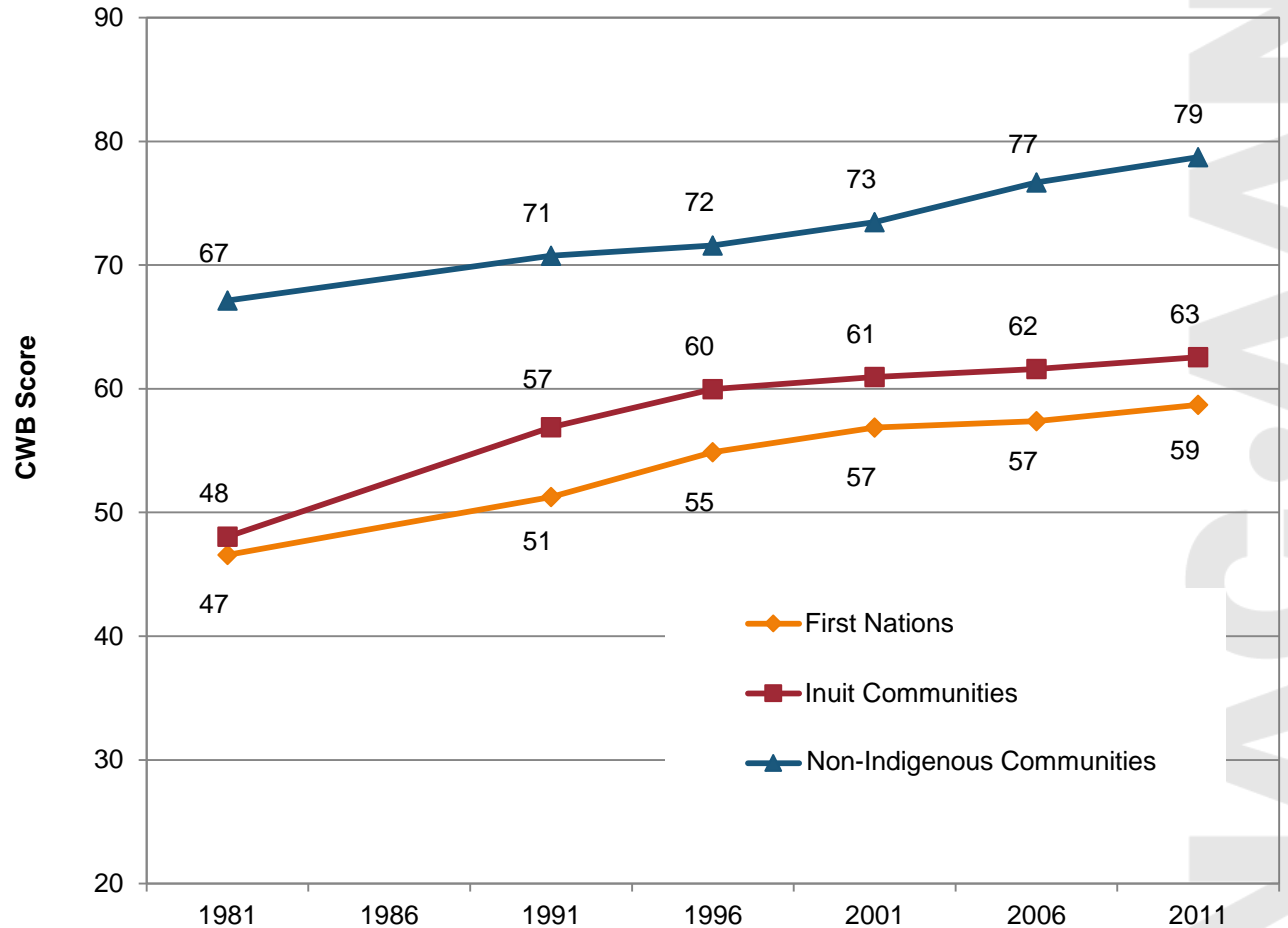


CWB Trends

Average CWB scores for First Nations and Inuit communities have been increasing steadily since 1981.

The new 2011 data once again show increases.

The gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities were effectively stable from 2006 - 2011.



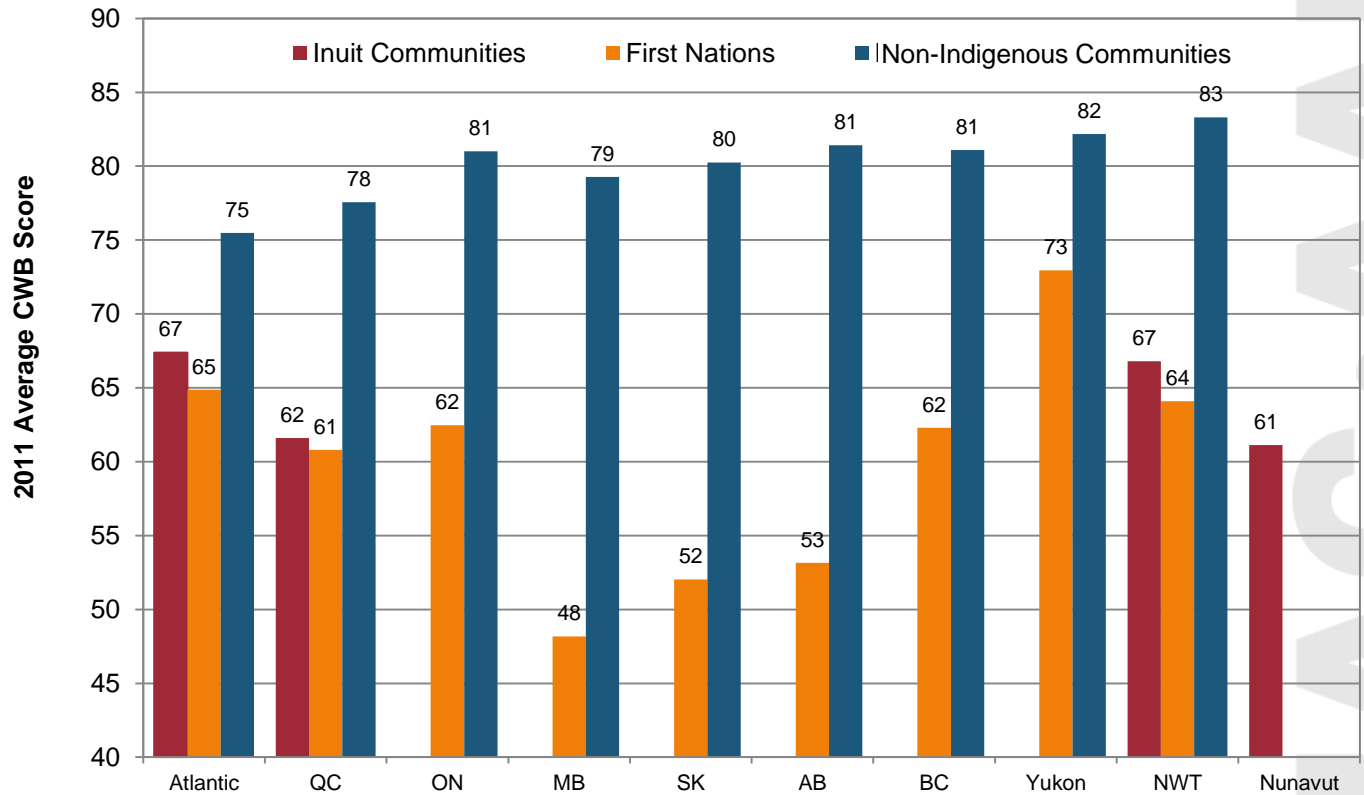


Regional CWB Variations

First Nations in Alberta and Saskatchewan improved more than First Nations in any other region between 2006 and 2011.

Nevertheless, First Nations in the Prairies continue to have lower average CWB scores than First Nations in other regions.

Regional CWB Averages, 2011



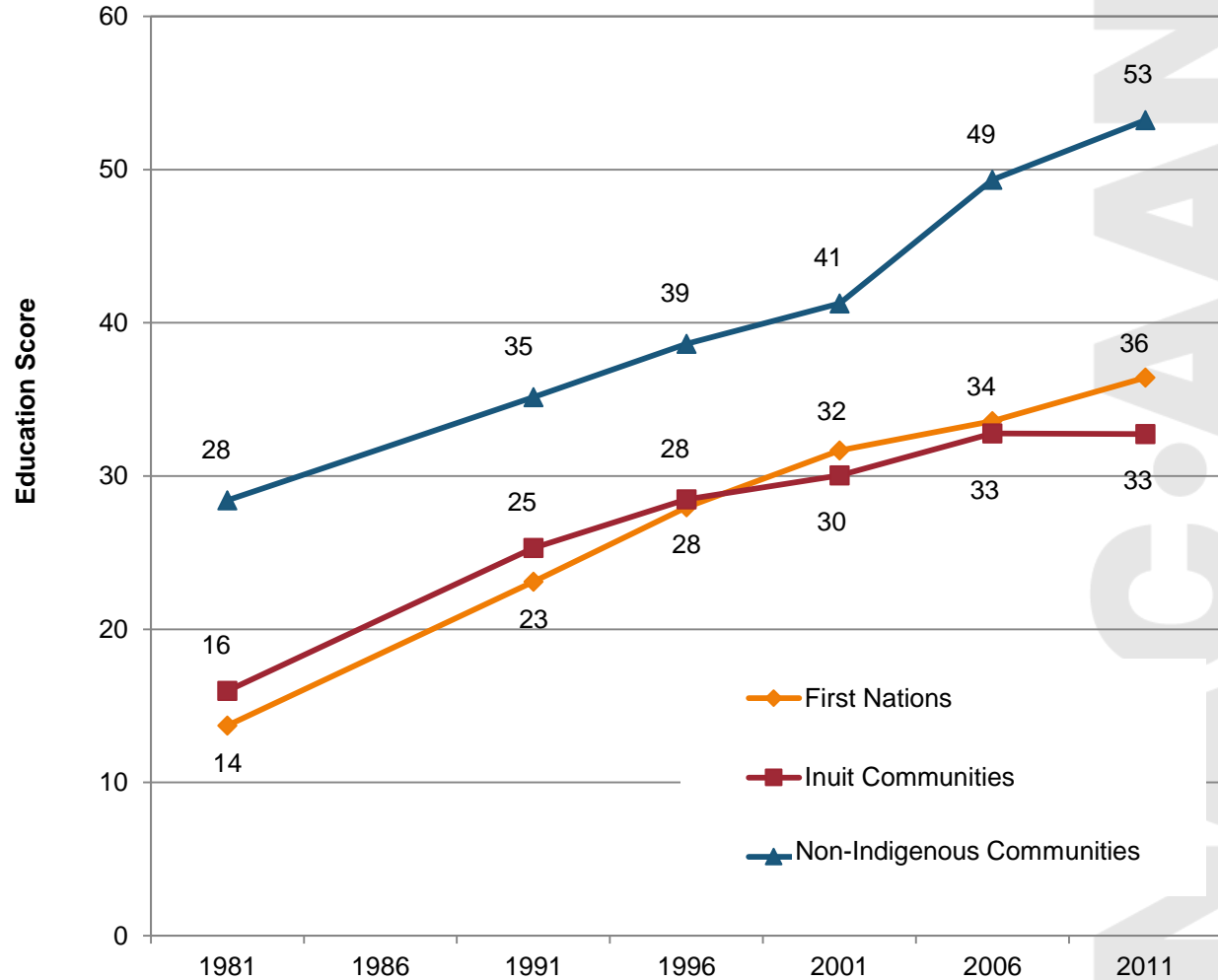


Education Trends

Since 1981, First Nations and Inuit communities have seen large improvements in education.

Inuit communities' average education score doubled and First Nations' average score more than doubled.

But since non-Indigenous communities' average education score increased even faster, the education gaps relative to Indigenous communities grew between 1981 and 2011.



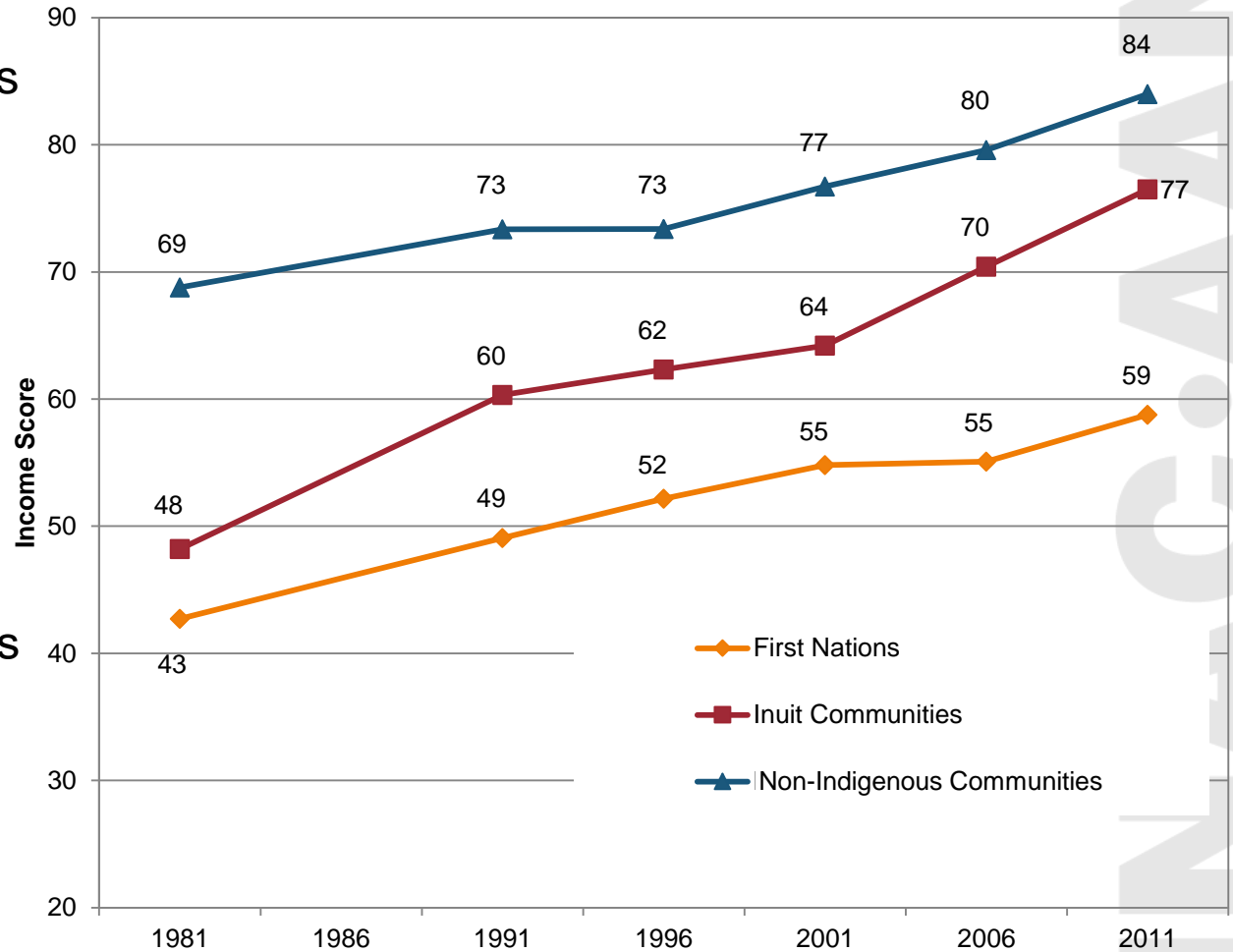


Income Trends

Since 1981, First Nations and Inuit communities have seen large increases in income.

Inuit communities' average income score increased 60% and the gap relative to non-Indigenous communities decreased by two thirds.

First Nations' communities average income score increased 37% but the gap relative to non-Indigenous communities has changed little since 1981.

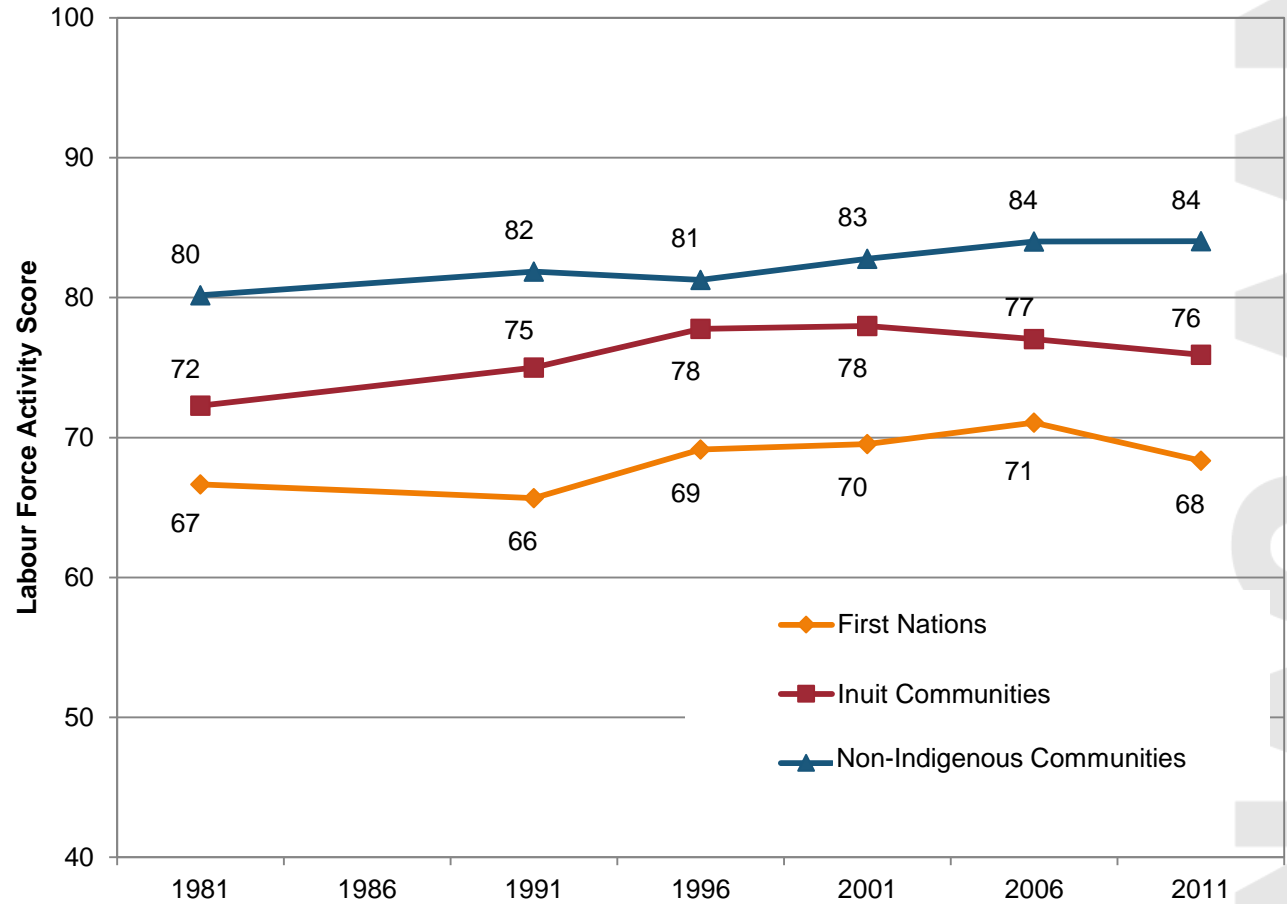




Labour Force Activity Trends

Since 1981, there have been no enduring upwards or downwards trends in labour force activity in either Indigenous or non-Indigenous communities.

The long term trend in labour force activity appears to be one of stability for all three community types.



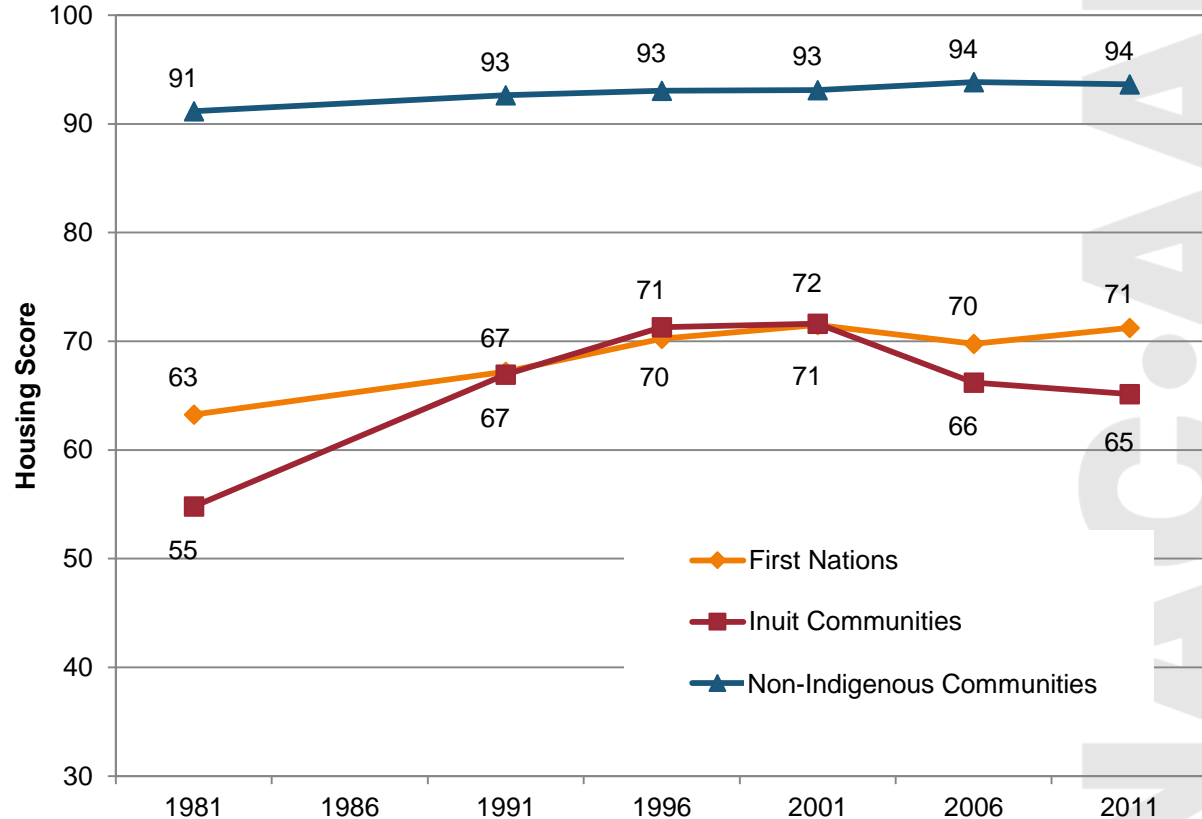


Housing Trends

First Nations and Inuit communities saw moderate improvements in housing between 1981 and 2011.

Inuit communities' average housing score increased by 18% and the gap relative to non-Indigenous communities narrowed by 19%.

First Nations communities' average housing score increased by 13% and the gap relative to non-Indigenous communities narrowed by 18%.





Summary of CWB Changes, 1981-2011

First Nations and Inuit communities saw improvements on all four components of the CWB between 1981 and 2011.

These increases did not always translate into narrower gaps relative to non-Indigenous communities, since the latter were typically improving at a similar rate or sometimes even faster.

	CWB Components	2011 Gap*	Score Changes	Gap* Changes
			1981-2011	1981-2011
First Nations Communities	CWB	20	Increasing +12	No change
	Income	25	Increasing +16	Narrowing -1
	Education	17	Increasing +22	Widening +3
	Housing	23	Increasing +8	Narrowing -5
	Labour Force	16	Increasing +1	Widening +3
Inuit Communities	CWB	16	Increasing +15	Narrowing -3
	Income	7	Increasing +29	Narrowing -14
	Education	20	Increasing +17	Widening +8
	Housing	29	Increasing +10	Narrowing -7
	Labour Force	8	Increasing +4	No change





Conclusion

- Average CWB scores for First Nations and Inuit communities have been increasing steadily since 1981.
 - Growth was particularly strong in the areas of income and education.
 - The number of Indigenous communities at the very low end of the CWB spectrum has decreased dramatically.
- Well-being gaps relative to non-Indigenous communities persist.
 - The CWB is naturally a slow-moving indicator. Socioeconomic change often begins with the educational attainment of the young, who slowly replace older populations.
 - Indigenous communities have kept pace with improvements in non- Indigenous communities. The challenge is that, to close the gap, Indigenous communities must improve *faster* than non- Indigenous communities.





For more information

- For 1981-2011 analyses of the CWB index, visit the Strategic Research and Statistics Directorate's webpage at <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100016570/1100100016574>
- For CWB datasets from 1981-2011, contact us at INSTAT@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
- Technical questions about the CWB index may be directed to research-recherche@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

THANK YOU!

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Annex: Methodological Considerations

- CWB scores are not available for communities with fewer than 65 residents or First Nations that did not participate in the census/NHS.
 - Residents of excluded communities represent a small fraction of First Nations, Inuit and Non-Indigenous communities' populations (1% or less in 2011).
 - The number of First Nations communities who did not participate varied from cycle to cycle: 8 in 1981, 78 in 1991, 77 in 1996, 30 in 2001, 22 in 2006 and 31 in 2011 (14 in 2016).
- CWB scores include all residents of a given community, so First Nations and Inuit communities' scores include non-Indigenous residents.
 - Research on 2006 data showed non-Indigenous residents elevated a few communities' scores, but had little impact on broad patterns and no impact on the overall "story".
 - An update of this research is planned in case economic development in the north increased non-Indigenous residents' impact on Inuit communities' scores in 2011.
- The income component is adjusted to account for inflation but not to account for cost of living.
 - No good methodological option for adjusting for cost of living.





Annex: Methodological Considerations

- The 2011 CWB was derived from the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS replaced the mandatory long-form census upon which 1981 - 2006 CWB scores were based.
- While the 2006 long-form census had a response rate of 94%, the 2011 NHS had a response rate of 69%. This lower response rate raised concerns over the quality of NHS data.
- The 2011 response rate for Indigenous communities is much higher than average (82%). Moreover, all households in First Nations and Inuit communities received the NHS, so there is no risk of a biased sample.
- Statistics Canada analyzed the 2011 CWB data and found no evidence of a reduction in quality compared to 2006.
- Lower response rates do not necessarily mean biased data – they simply mean the data are at greater risk for bias. High-level 2011 CWB patterns are stable whether they are based on all communities, communities with moderate non-response (<50%), or communities with relatively low non-response (<25%).
 - Combined with the general stability of CWB patterns since 1981, this provides evidence that the 2011 CWB patterns are unbiased. However, caution is still advised when looking at individual communities with small populations and/or non-response rates greater than 50%.

