

largest group, comprising just over 21% and 22% of all ethnic origins in these provinces. The next largest group, German single response, was 9% and 13% respectively.

The Northwest Territories was the only area of the country where neither British nor French was the largest group. Aboriginal peoples were in the majority and 52% of the population of the Northwest Territories reported a single aboriginal response.

The 1981 Census was the first to accept more than one ethnic origin response per individual, but the 1986 Census was the first to ask Canadians to provide as many origins as apply. In 1986, 28% of Canadians gave more than one ethnic origin as compared to over 11% in 1981.

In 1986, 72% of Canadians or 18,035,665 gave one ethnic origin, 17% or 4,276,520 reported two origins, 7% or 1,721,955 gave three origins, and 4% or 987,875 provided four or more origins.

There were considerable regional variations in the percentage distributions of single and multiple ethnic origin responses. In 1986, for example, 7% of respondents in Quebec gave a multiple response as compared to Yukon and Alberta where 45% and 41% of the population, respectively, provided more than one ethnic origin.

The level of multiple response for many ethnic groups was substantial. For example, 81% of all Irish responses and 78% of all Scottish responses were multiple. This pattern was also evident for many of the northern, central and eastern European groups. For these groups, the proportion of the multiple response was often greater than 50%. For example, 56% of Ukrainian, 60% of Dutch and 64% of German responses were multiple.

Understandably, ethnic groups which have experienced high levels of immigration since the last Census were more likely to report a single ethnic origin. Vietnamese, Cambodian (Kampuchian), Iranian, Korean and Filipino origins had a lower incidence of multiple response. For example, only 7% or 2,020 Koreans, 12% or 1,425 Cambodians (Kampuchians), 13% or 13,780 Filipinos, 15% or 2,420 Iranians, and 16% or 9,980 Vietnamese gave multiple responses.

In 1986, 25% of all Canadians reported ethnic origins other than British or French. This included those who gave a single ethnic origin other than British or French as well as those who gave a multiple response that did not include British or French.

Of all Canadians who reported having neither British nor French origins, 63% were of European background, 10% Asian, 6% South or West

Asian (Middle Eastern), 6% Aboriginal, 3% Black, 2% Other, and 10% gave a multiple response that did not include British or French.

Again, there was considerable regional variation in the non-British and non-French population. For example, the Northwest Territories had the highest level (64%) due largely to its substantial aboriginal population, while Newfoundland (2%) showed the lowest. Both Manitoba and Saskatchewan had levels of non-British and non-French origins which were higher than 40%.

There were also regional differences in the distribution of various groups. Asians were more likely to live in Ontario and British Columbia, than in the Maritime provinces or Newfoundland. Eighty-five percent of Blacks lived in Ontario and Quebec, and those of European ethnic background were predominant in all provinces.

2.7.4 Aboriginal origins

In 1986, 711,725 persons (representing 3% of the total population of Canada) reported at least one aboriginal origin. Although the 1981 data are not directly comparable to 1986 data for aboriginal peoples, the total number of people reporting aboriginal origins in 1981 was 491,460 or about 2% of the total population of Canada. In 1986, 286,230 gave a single North American Indian origin, 59,745 a single Métis origin and 27,290 reported a single Inuit origin.

Approximately 332,500 or 47% of respondents reported both aboriginal and non-aboriginal origins (for example, North American Indian and French). Another 5,960 or 1% of respondents gave a multiple response that included only aboriginal origins (for example, Métis and North American Indian).

Most of Canada's aboriginal population lived in the Northwest Territories and in the western provinces. For example, 59% or 30,530 of the Northwest Territories respondents said they were of aboriginal origin. In the Yukon, 21% or 4,990 gave aboriginal origins and 8% of the total population of Manitoba (85,235) and Saskatchewan (77,645) reported at least one aboriginal origin. By contrast, just 1% or 1,290 persons from Prince Edward Island indicated aboriginal origins.

2.7.5 Religious denominations

Information on religious denominations was not requested in the 1986 Census. The following statistics are from the previous Census.

In 1981, the 11.4 million Catholics formed 47.3% of the population and 9.9 million Protestants, 41.2%. The remaining population was divided as follows: those with no religious