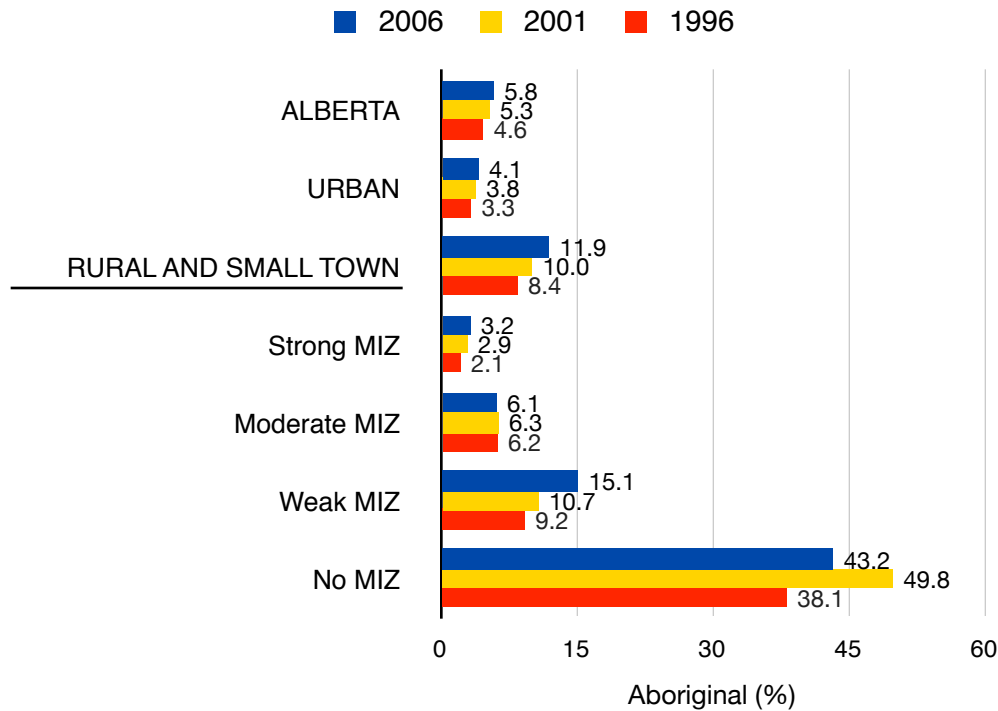


Rural and Small Town Alberta¹: Aboriginal Identity Population



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006, 2001 and 1996

- The Aboriginal Identity population refers to persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.
- Though rural and small town Alberta had a smaller number of Aboriginal people than did urban Alberta (80,260 compared to 104,690), the proportion of the population that is Aboriginal was higher in rural communities (11.9% rural compared to 4.1% urban).
- The lower the level of rural integration with urban economies, the higher the proportional Aboriginal population: 3.2% in Strong MIZ, 6.1% in Moderate MIZ, 15.1% in Weak MIZ, and 43.2% in No MIZ.
- Between 1996 and 2006, the proportion of Aboriginal individuals in rural and small town Alberta increased by 3.5 percentage points (from 8.4% to 11.9%), with increases occurring in all but Moderate MIZ.

¹ **Rural and Small Town:** Includes rural communities that have a population of less than 10,000 and where less than 50% of employed individuals commute to a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration.

MIZ stands for "Metropolitan Influence Zone" and denotes the level of integration of rural communities with urban economies, as measured by work commuting flows. The larger the proportion of the working population commuting to an urban centre, the stronger the level of integration with the urban economy. The level of commuting defining each MIZ is as follows:

Strong MIZ: 30% to 49%; **Moderate MIZ:** 5% to 29%; **Weak MIZ:** 1% to 4%; **No MIZ:** 0%