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An Update on Gender and Sexual Orientation in Canada's Statistical System

Canada Health Infoway | Inforoute
Santé du Canada

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Outline

- 1. Measure of sex at birth and gender**
- 2. Updating Statistics Canada's gender standard**
- 3. Results of the 2021 Census on gender diversity**
- 4. Sexual orientation standard**



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Measure of sex at birth and gender





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Concepts of sex at Birth and gender

Sex at birth

Assigned at birth

Based on biological characteristics

- Chromosomes
- Sex hormones
- Genital and reproductive organs

Male, female, intersex

[Gender and sex at birth variables](#)

Gender

Refers to an individual's personal and social identity

Man, woman, non-binary person

Gender identity and gender expression

Transgender person: man or woman whose gender does not correspond to their sex assigned at birth

Non-binary person: person who is not exclusively a man or a woman.



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Questions of sex at birth and gender

Sex assigned at birth

“What was your sex at birth?”

Sex refers to sex assigned at birth.

- Male
- Female

Gender

“What is your gender?”

Gender refers to current gender which may be different from sex assigned at birth and may be different from what is indicated on legal documents.

- Male
- Female
- Or please specify _____

[Sex at birth and gender: Technical report on changes for the 2021 Census](#)



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Classifications of sex at birth and gender

Sex at birth	Classification of cisgender, transgender and non-binary (Gender diversity status)	Gender
Male	Cisgender man	Man
	Transgender man	
Female	Cisgender woman	Woman
	Transgender woman	
	Non-binary person	Non-binary person



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Updating the gender standard





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Refining Statistics Canada's gender standard

- Updated the standard on gender for the 2021 Census.
- Consultation plan:
 - Focus groups on sexual orientation: certain gender terms tested;
 - [Public consultation](#) in Winter, 2021 (over 200 submissions);
 - Targeted expert consultations;
 - UNECE task team on gender identity;
 - Publication of new standard in October, 2021.





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Gender definition (old)

- **Gender** refers to the **gender that a person internally feels** ('gender identity' along the gender spectrum) and/or the **gender a person publicly expresses** ('gender expression') in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. A person's current gender may differ from the sex a person was assigned at birth (male or female) and may differ from what is indicated on their current legal documents. A person's gender may change over time.



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Gender definition (new)

- **Gender** refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman).
- **Gender** includes the following concepts:
 - **gender identity**, which refers to the gender that a person feels internally and individually;
 - **gender expression**, which refers to the way a person presents their gender, regardless of their gender identity, through body language, aesthetic choices or accessories (e.g., clothes, hairstyle and makeup), which may have traditionally been associated with a specific gender.
- A person's gender may differ from their sex at birth, and from what is indicated on their current identification or legal documents such as their birth certificate, passport or driver's licence. A person's gender may change over time.

Some people may not identify with a specific gender.



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Classification of gender (old)

- **Gender diverse** This category includes persons whose current gender was not reported exclusively as male or female. It includes persons who were reported as being unsure of their gender, persons who were reported as both male and female, or neither male nor female.

Classification of gender (new)

- **Non-binary person** This category includes persons whose reported gender is not exclusively male or female.

It includes persons whose reported gender is, for example, agender, pangender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or gender-nonconforming. It also includes persons whose reported gender is Two-Spirit, a term specific to some Indigenous peoples of North America.

It includes persons whose reported gender is both male and female, neither male nor female, or either male or female in addition to another gender. It may also include those who reported or were reported by proxy as questioning or in the process of deciding.



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Classification of gender (old)/ Classification of gender (new)

Gender (old)
M- Male gender
F- Female gender
D- Gender diverse

Gender (new)
1- Man
2- Woman
3- Non-binary person

Classification of gender

Classification of gender	Usage
Usage	



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Classification of cisgender and transgender (old)

- **Transgender** This category includes persons whose sex assigned at birth was reported as female and whose current gender was reported as other than female; or persons whose sex assigned at birth was reported as male and whose current gender was reported as other than male. It also includes persons who were reported as being unsure of their gender or persons who were reported as both male and female, bi-gender, or neither male nor female.

Classification of cisgender and transgender
C- Cisgender person
CM Cisgender man
CF Cisgender woman
T- Transgender person
TM Transgender man
TF Transgender woman
TG Transgender person, n.e.c.



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Classification of cisgender, transgender and non-binary (new)

- **Transgender person** This category includes persons whose reported gender does not correspond to their reported sex at birth. It includes transgender (trans) men and women. Non-binary persons are excluded.

Classification of cisgender, transgender and non-binary

1- Cisgender person

11 Cisgender man

12 Cisgender woman

2- Transgender person

21 Transgender man

22 Transgender woman

3- Non-binary person





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Update opposite/same-sex family variables

- **Opposite/same-sex married spouse or common-law partner** refers to whether a **person** who has a spouse or partner is the opposite sex as that spouse or partner or is the same sex.
- **Opposite/same-sex status** refers to whether the spouses or partners in a **couple family** are of the opposite sex or the same sex.



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2021 Census will feature new information on the [gender diversity status of couples](#)

	Cisgender person	Transgender person	Non-binary person	
LEGEND	 Cisgender man	 Cisgender woman		
Different-gender couple (cisgender)				
Same-gender couple (cisgender)	 or 			
Transgender couple	 or  or 			
Non-binary couple	 or  or  or 			

[Families, Households and Marital Status Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#)



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Results of the 2021 Census on gender diversity



Statistique
Canada

Statistics
Canada



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2021 Census on gender diversity – April 27, 2022

- **Daily article:**
- [Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people](#)
- **Reference products:**
- [Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide](#)
- [2021 Census: Sex at birth and gender – the whole picture \(video\)](#)
- [Balancing the Protection of Confidentiality with the Needs for Disaggregated Census Data](#)
- [Filling the gaps: Information on gender in the 2021 Census](#)
- **Data tables:**
- [Broad age groups and gender: Canada, provinces and territories](#)
- [Broad age groups and gender: Canada and census metropolitan areas](#)



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One in 300 people in Canada aged 15 and older are transgender or non-binary



60,000 transgender people



40,000 non-binary people

Source(s): Census of Population, 2021 (3901).

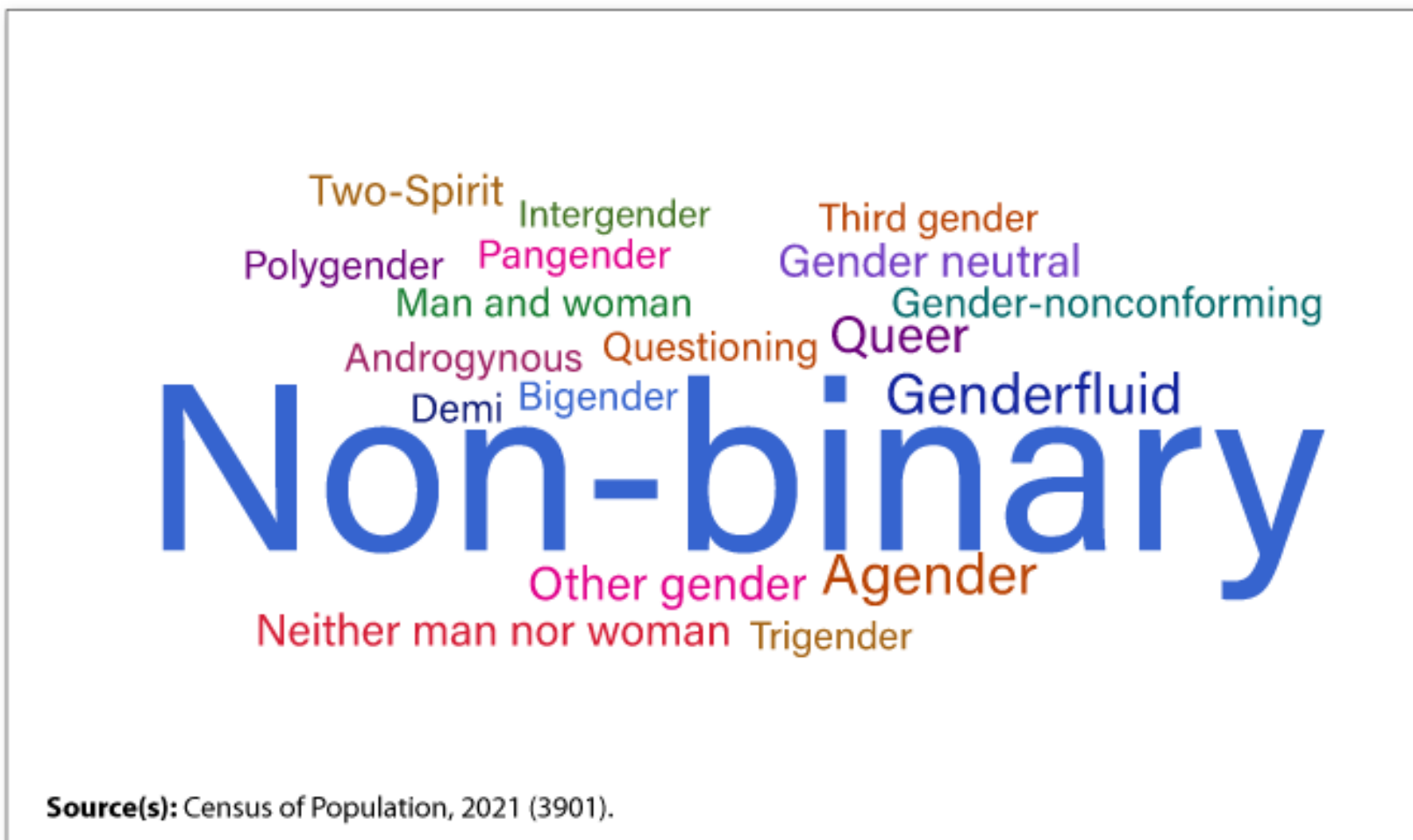
[Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people](#)





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Almost one-third of non-binary people describe their gender using terms other than 'non-binary'

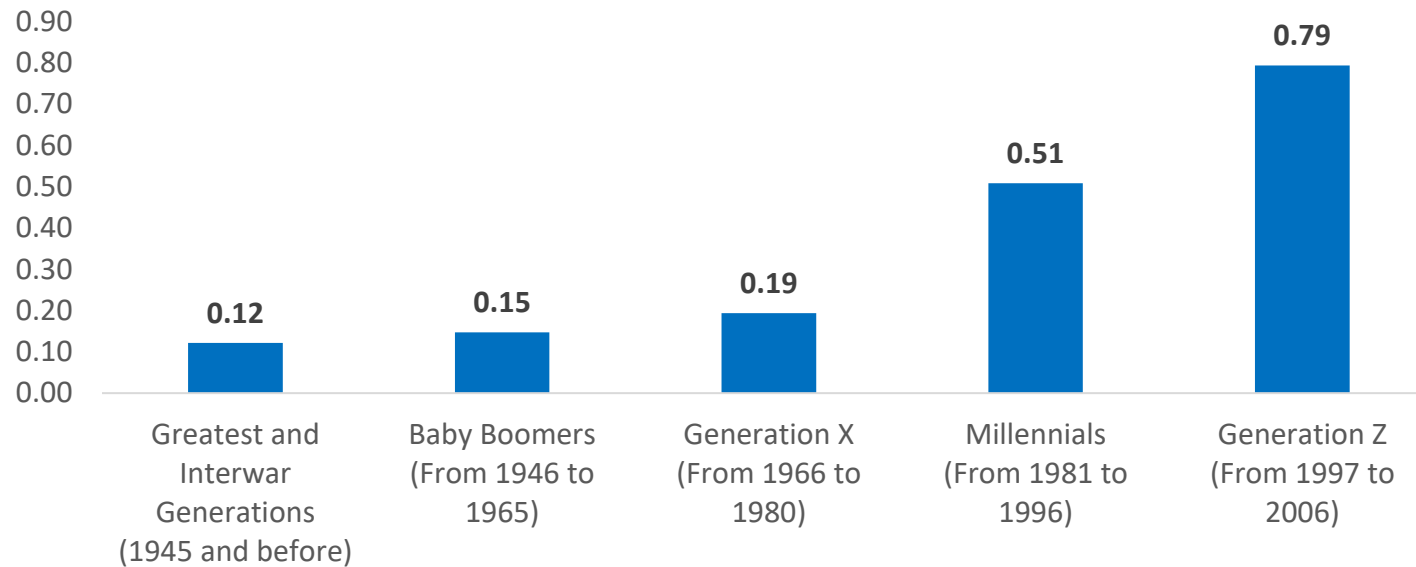




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The transgender and non-binary generation gap

Proportions of transgender and non-binary persons

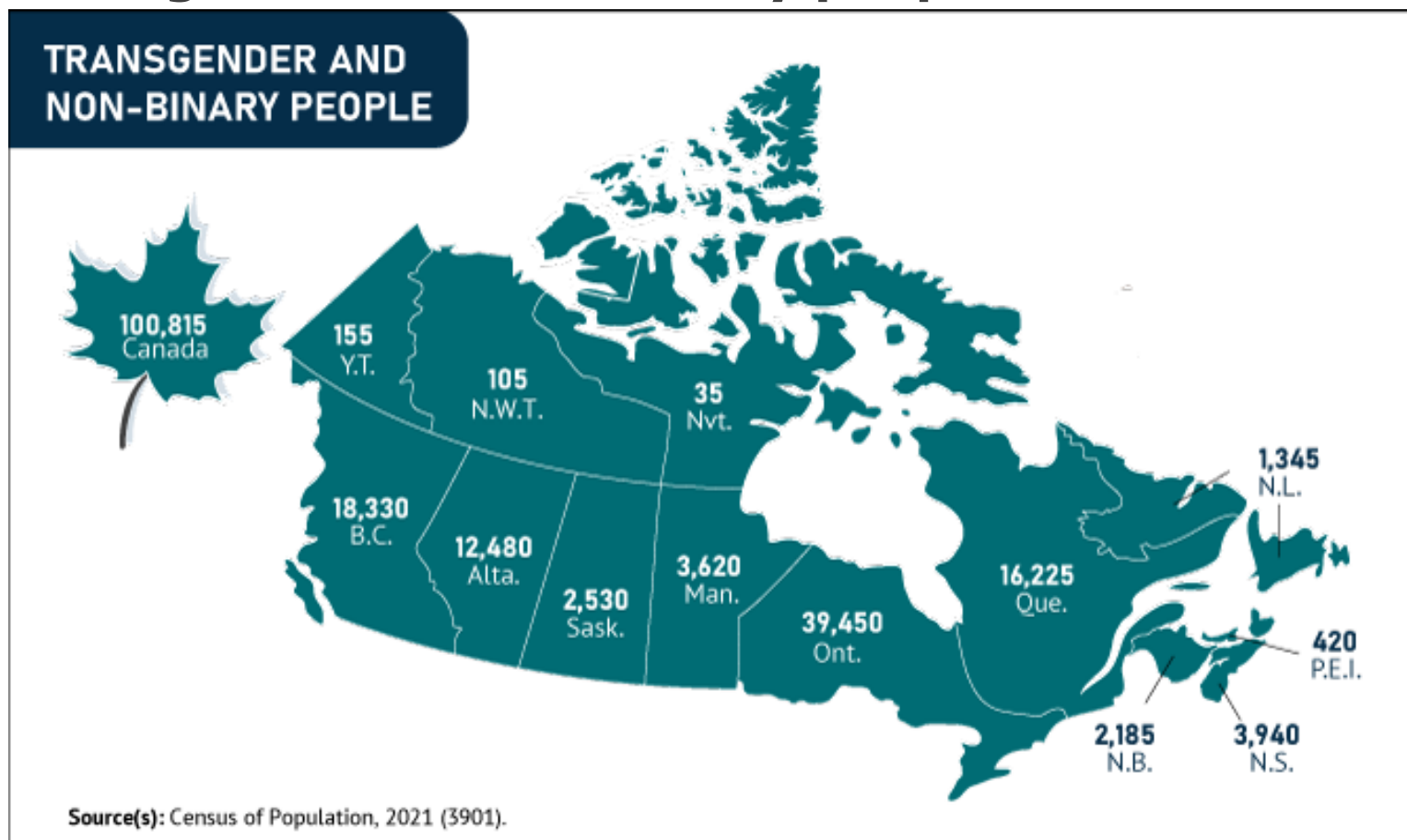


Source(s): Census of Population, 2021 (3901).



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Canada's most populous province, Ontario, is home to the highest number of transgender and non-binary people

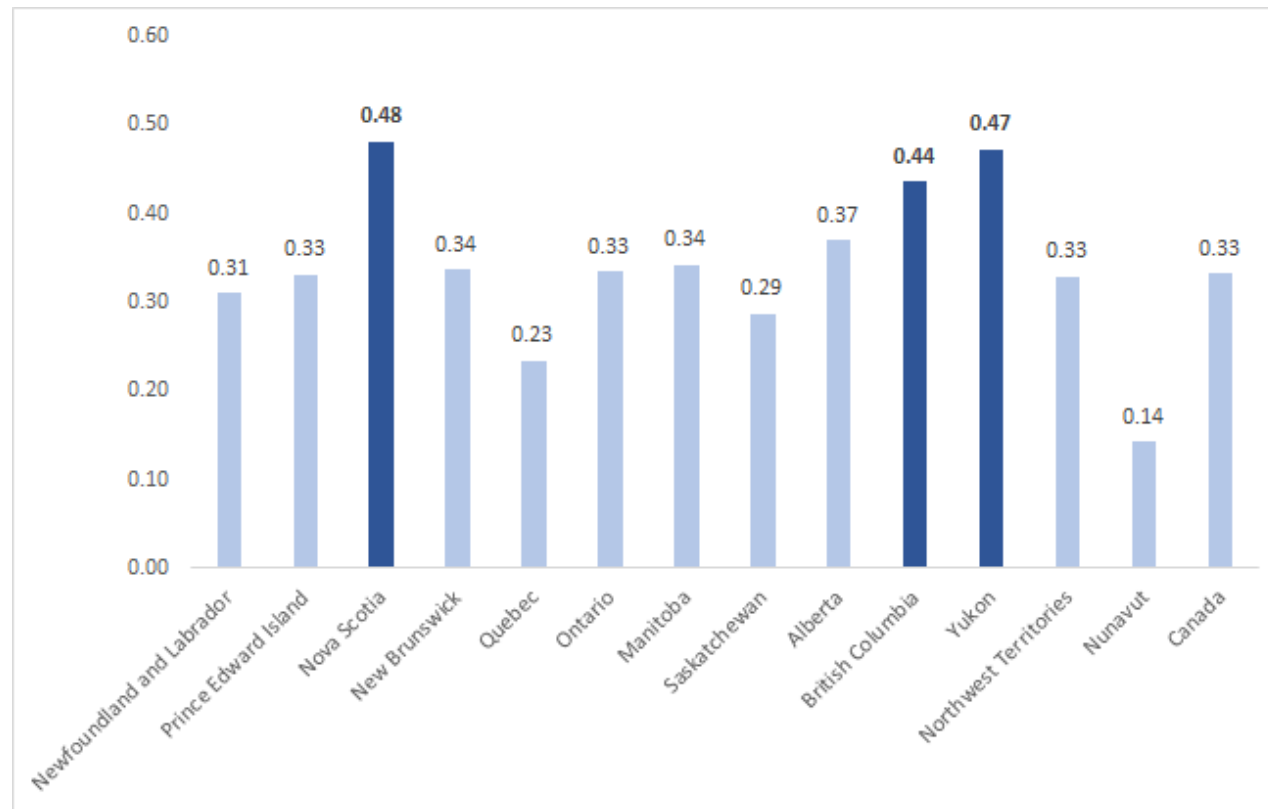




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But the highest proportions are found in Nova Scotia, Yukon and British Columbia

Proportions of transgender and non-binary people

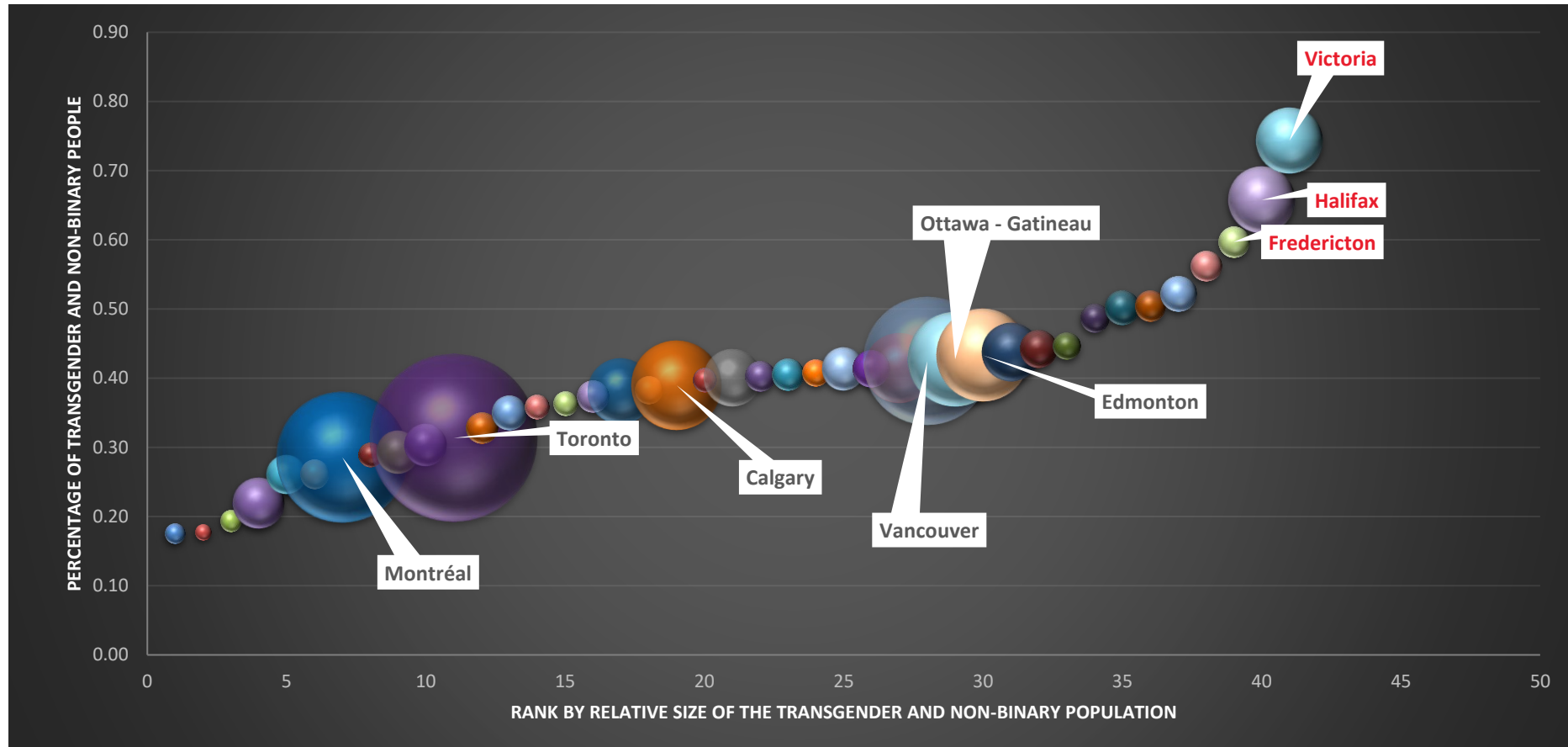


Source(s) : Recensement de la population, 2021 (3901).



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The largest proportions of transgender and non-binary people in large urban centres are observed in Victoria, Halifax and Fredericton

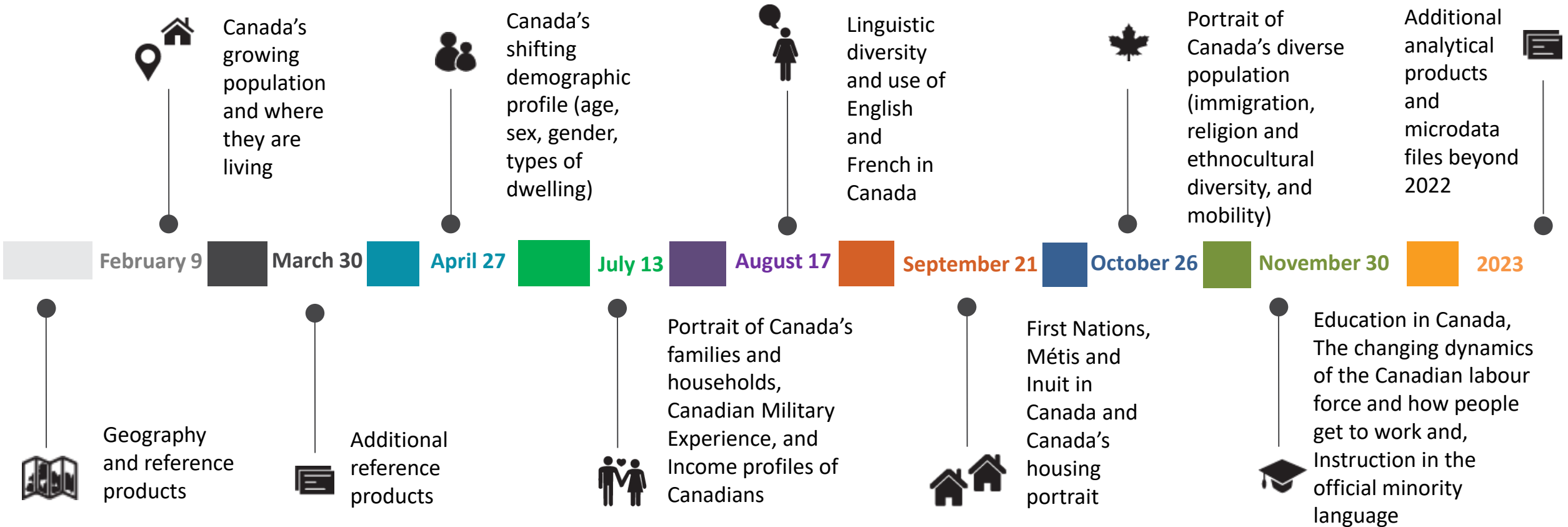


Source(s): Census of Population, 2021 (3901).



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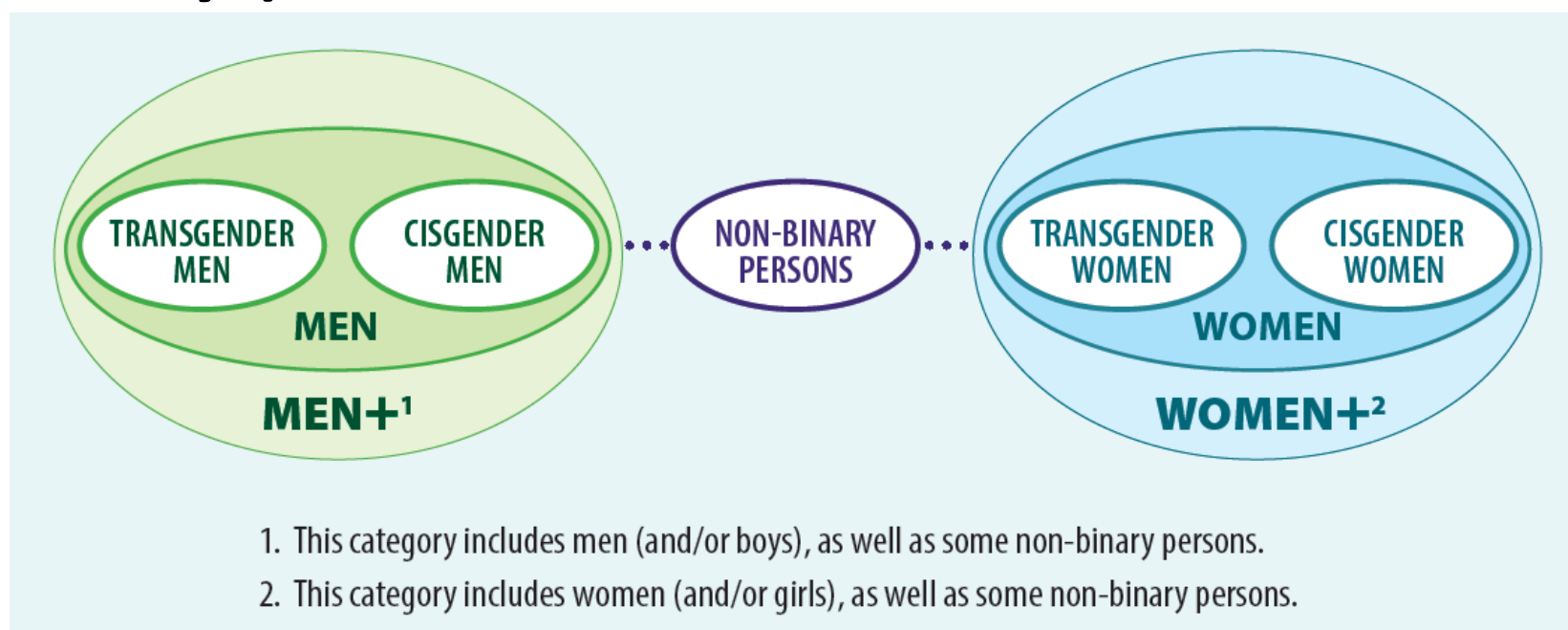
2021 Census of Population releases





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Disseminating gender for data and analytical products (2021 Census and surveys)



- [Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide](#)
- [2021 Census: Sex at birth and gender – the whole picture \(video\)](#)
- [Balancing the Protection of Confidentiality with the Needs for Disaggregated Census Data](#)
- [Filling the gaps: Information on gender in the 2021 Census](#)



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Contact Information

Statistics Canada

Thank you!

For references, resources and other questions, please contact us at Statistics Canada.

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