

## Life expectancy for First Nations in Alberta

### Life expectancy at birth by country and First Nations status (Alberta, Canada), 2013

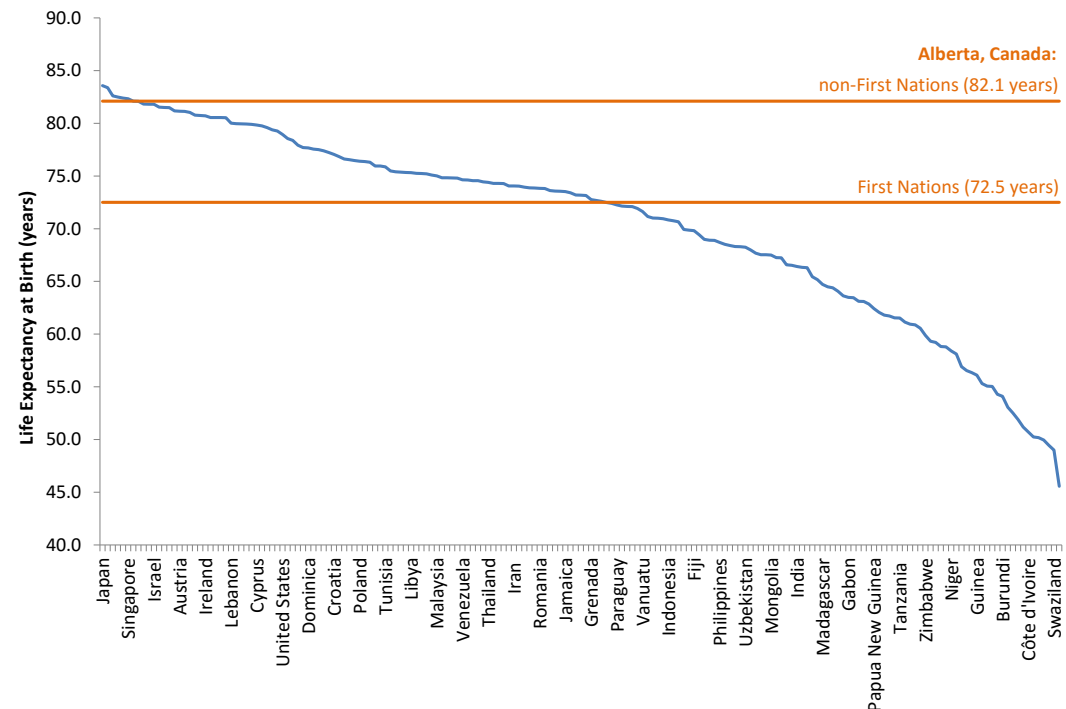
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn baby is expected to live if current death trends apply. In this first edition of *First Nations – Health Trends Alberta*,<sup>1</sup> life expectancy at birth is presented for 187 countries (not all labeled in figure) and for non-First Nations and First Nations in Alberta separately.

Country-specific life expectancies were reported by the United Nations Development Programme.<sup>2</sup> In 2013, life expectancies ranged from 83.6 in Japan to 45.6 in Sierra Leone. For almost all countries, life expectancies were higher for females than males (average 5 year difference).

Amongst the 187 countries, Canada was ranked 9th in 2013 with a life expectancy of 81.5 years (79.3 for males and 83.6 for females). This is a substantial improvement from life expectancies reported by Statistics Canada a century ago: in 1920-1922, Canadian males were expected to live to 59 year of age (61 years for females).<sup>3</sup>

### Life expectancy for First Nations in Alberta is 10 years shorter than non-First Nations

In Alberta, life expectancy at birth for non-First Nations in 2013 was 82.1 years (80.0 in males and 84.1 in females). This life expectancy was comparable to countries such as Australia, Singapore, and Sweden which all had life expectancies around 80 years of age. For First Nations in the province, however, life expectancy was 10 years shorter: 72.5 years. This was true for both males and females with life expectancies of 70.5 and 74.8 years, respectively. Countries with life expectancies similar to First Nations in Alberta included Guatemala, Paraguay, and Cambodia.



1 This is the first in a series of First Nations-specific Health Trends compiled in collaboration by Alberta Health and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC). To suggest future topics, please contact the AFNIGC ([communications@afnigc.ca](mailto:communications@afnigc.ca); 403-539-5775).

2 United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report, 2014. Accessed online October 2015 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>).

3 Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 102-0512. Accessed online October 2015 (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/health26-eng.htm>).