**CHW3M Historical Perspectives on Democracy**

**Athenian Population Breakdown**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Group*** | ***Total Number******of people*** | ***Percentage of******the population*** | ***Ability to vote*** |
| **Citizen men** | 29,900 | 12% | Yes |
| **Citizen women** | 29,900 | 12% | No |
| **Children of****citizens** | 74,750 | 31% | No |
| **Metics\*** | 25,775 | 11% | No |
| **Slaves** | 80,000 | 34% | No |
| Total Population: **240,325** | Percentage of TotalPopulation Able to Vote: **12%** |

**\**Metics*** *were foreigners or Greeks from other city-states that settled in*

*Athens, normally for purposes of trade. They became a key part of the city state’s economy, industry, and education system.*

***Source:*** Josiah Ober*, The Rise and Fall of Classical Greece, 2016. From Stanford History Education Group, Reading Like a Historian.*

**Canada – Federal Election Voter Turnout**

2011: 58.5% voted\*

2015: 66.1% voted\*

\*The numbers presented are based on the population of **eligible voters**, as opposed to the population of registered voters.

**Source**: Elections Canada. Voter Turnout by Age Group. June 17, 2016. <http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rec/eval/pes2015/vtsa&document=table1&lang=e>

**Canada: Voter Turnout and Age**

In May 2011, approximately 14.8 million of the 24.3 million citizens on the electoral (voter) list cast a ballot, for a turnout rate of 61%. Provinces with higher-than-average voting rates included Prince Edward Island (73%), New Brunswick (66%), Saskatchewan (63%) and Quebec (63%). Those with lower rates included Newfoundland and Labrador (53%), Alberta (56%) and Manitoba (59%). Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia had turnout rates close to the national average.

Age has been found to matter a great deal when it comes to voting participation. In 2011, the turnout rate was about 50% among people age 18 to 24, and was only a few percentage points higher among 25- to 34-year-olds. People age 35 to 44 had participation rates just below the national average. In contrast, older people were more likely to vote, with turnout rates increasing from 70% among 45- to 54-year-olds to a peak of 82% among those age 65 to 74.

The voting rates were 51% for recent immigrants, 66% for more established immigrants and 67% for the Canadian-born.

Employed individuals were significantly more likely to vote than the unemployed (66% versus 57%) but differed little from those not in the labour force (69%). However, the vast majority of the inactive population is made up of retirees, who are more likely to vote. Among the employed, those working less than 40 hours per week were more likely to vote (69%) compared with those putting in 40 hours of work or more (63%).

**Source***:* Statistics Canada. Perspectives on Labour and Income: Factors Associated with Voting. Nov. 27, 2015.<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2012001/article/11629-eng.htm>

In the 2015 federal election, the overall voter turnout rate for the 18–24 age group increased to 57.1%, a rise of 18 percentage points from 2011 (see Figure 2). Turnout also went up among those aged 25–34, increasing from 45.1% in 2011 to 57.4% in 2015. While turnout rates increased for all age groups in 2015, the largest upswings were recorded by the 18–24 and 25–34 age groups. However, despite this surge in turnout in 2015, youth voter participation remained below the national average of 66.1% for this election.

**Source***:* Library of Parliament Research Publications. Youth Voter Turnout in Canada. October 13, 2016.[*https://lop.parl.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/2016-104-e.html?cat=government*](https://lop.parl.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/2016-104-e.html?cat=government)

**Canada Voter Turnout By Age and Gender, 2015 General Election**

* 1st time
	+ Males, 54.9 percent
	+ Females 61.9 percent
* Not 1st time
	+ Males, 52.0 percent
	+ Females 58.3 percent
* 25–34
	+ Males, 54.3 percent
	+ Females, 60.6 percent
* 35–44
	+ Males, 58.7 percent
	+ Females, 65.1 percent
* 45–54
	+ Males, 63.6 percent
	+ Females, 69.6 percent
* 55–64
	+ Males, 71.4 percent
	+ Females, 76.0 percent
* 65–74
	+ Males, 79.0 percent
	+ Females, 78.6 percent
* 75+
	+ Males, 74.1 percent
	+ Females, 62.8 percent

The data shows how turnout by age group and gender has changed between 2011 and 2015. Overall, turnout increased by 6.8 percentage points for men and 8.4 percentage points for women. The same general pattern was observed in both elections, but the differences between men and women were not so pronounced in 2011.

# Source: Elections Canada. Estimation of Voter Turnout by Age Group and Gender at the 2015 General Election. February 13, 2017. [*http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rec/part/estim/42ge&document=p1&lang=e*](http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rec/part/estim/42ge&document=p1&lang=e)

**Canada: Overall Population**

Women make up 50.4% of Canada’s population

**35,151,728 people make up Canada’s population as of 2016**

320,932 immigrants came to Canada in 2015/16

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| --- |
| **Table 3Age composition of the Canadian populationTable summaryThis table displays the results of Age composition of the Canadian population 1996, 2006 and 2016, calculated using % of the population and median age units of measure (appearing as column headers).** |
|   | **1996** | **2006** | **2016** |
| % of the population |
| 0 to 17 years | 24.3 | 21.5 | 19.3 |
| 18 to 24 years | 9.4 | 9.6 | 9.2 |
| 25 to 44 years | 32.8 | 28.8 | 27.1 |
| 45 to 64 years | 21.3 | 26.9 | 27.8 |
| 65 years and older | 12.1 | 13.2 | 16.5 |
| 90 years and older | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
|     | median age |
| **Total population** | **35.2** | **38.9** | **40.6** |

**Source**: Statistics Canada. Canada at a Glance, 2017: Population. March 31, 2017. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/12-581-x/2017000/pop-eng.htm>

**Possible Criteria for Democracy**

* Many government positions are elected.
* Elected representatives make laws on behalf of those who elected them.
* There is a constitution (written law).
* The rule of law applies to everyone, including leaders – no one is above the law.
* All people have rights and freedoms:
	+ including basic human rights.
	+ including the right to vote with few restrictions other than age and citizenship.
* Officials are accountable to the people.
* Ordinary people can have input on bills before they become laws.
* Elections are free and fair, open to various individuals and political parties, and use a secret ballot.
* Both majority and minority rights are considered and protected.
* Other:
* Other:
* Other: