

6.7 TERRITORIES

One per cent of the 8,124 survey respondents (n=96) reside in the Territories (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon). Compared to the national results, respondents in the Territories differ by age (being younger than the national average) and to a certain extent by types of dance, as two of the top five categories of dance mentioned by people in the Territories (urban/street and health, wellness, sport) do not appear among the top five dances nationally. The element of community is also apparently strong amongst this group of respondents, as involvement in community dance organizations and learning through recreational groups is higher when compared to the national results.

a) Demographic Snapshot

Over eight in ten survey respondents in the Territories sample are female (84 per cent). The average age of respondents in Territories is 39.5, lower compared to the average of 43 years in the Canada-wide sample due to no respondents in the Territories being over the age of 65.

Table 6.7.1: Age and Gender of Respondents – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Gender		
Men	21%	15%
Women	77%	84%
Age		
16-17 years	3%	5%
18-24 years	15%	10%
25-34 years	20%	23%
35-54 years	23%	35%
55-64 years	16%	21%
65 years or older	15%	0%
Mean Age	43.0	39.5

The educational profile in the Territories is similar to the national average, reflecting a highly educated respondent base.

Table 6.7.2: Respondents' Highest Level of Education Completed – National and Territories

Employment	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Some high school	4%	6%
High school	15%	13%
College, trade/apprenticeship	20%	14%
University (Undergraduate)	32%	38%
University (Graduate)	27%	28%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%

Nearly six in ten respondents in the Territories (59 per cent) are employed 30 hours or more per week annually, compared to 34 per cent nationally, while far fewer in the Territories sample are retired (due to no respondents over age 65). The household income is higher in the Territories; one-third (33 per cent) have household incomes greater than \$80,000, compared to 22 per cent in the national sample.

Table 6.7.3: Employment Status and Income of Respondents – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Employment		
Employed 30 hours or more per week year round	34%	59%
Employed less than 30 hours per week year round	8%	8%
Seasonally employed	2%	2%
Self-employed	15%	9%
Unemployed and looking for work	2%	3%
Full-time student	15%	7%
Retired	18%	7%
Other	4%	2%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%
Gross Household Income for 2012		
Under \$19,999	12%	3%
\$20,000 to \$39,999	15%	13%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	13%	8%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	12%	18%
\$80,000 to \$99,999	8%	8%
\$100,000 or more	14%	25%
Don't know / Prefer not to say	27%	25%

b) Dance forms

Survey respondents were asked to name up to six forms of dance they participate in, listing the most important ones first. Respondents were provided with a drop down list of 190 dance genres and also given the opportunity to type in their response, if preferred. The 190 dance forms in which respondents told us they participate were subsequently grouped with similar dance forms into 16 categories or styles of dance for ease of discussion.³⁵ As is the case nationally, contemporary and modern dance forms are predominant in the Territories and are danced by 43 per cent of respondents. Urban/street dance is much more common among respondents from the Territories (24 per cent) than elsewhere, as are dance forms classified under health, wellness, and sport (19 per cent versus 10 per cent nationally). Ballroom and social dances (19 per cent) and ballet (17 per cent) are also popular in the Territories.

Table 6.7.4: Top Dance Types in Territories, Compared to National

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Contemporary and modern	34%	43%
Urban/street dance	10%	24%
Ballroom and social	26%	19%
Health, wellness and sport	10%	19%
Ballet	19%	17%

c) Intensity of Involvement in Dance

Half of respondents in the Territories (50 per cent) participate in four or more dance forms. They are involved in dance for 6.9 hours per week, less than the national average (9.5). Despite their younger average age, respondents in the Territories have been dancing an average of 21.3 years.

Table 6.7.5: Intensity of Dance Involvement – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Number of Dance Forms		
One	20%	15%
Two	15%	8%
Three	25%	27%
Four or more	40%	50%
Average hours danced per week	9.5	6.9
Average number of years in dance	18.8	21.3

³⁵ Categories and the list of known dance forms were developed by the study management team. Throughout the survey collection, previously unlisted dance forms were added and categorized.

d) Type of Involvement in Dance

Similar to the national average, the Territories have a smaller proportion of survey respondents who described themselves as dance professionals (28 per cent) than those who can be classified as leisure dance participants who do not receive any income from dance (65 per cent). There is a small portion who, while they do not call themselves dance professionals, report that they receive some money for their involvement in dance, often from cash prizes or awards (seven per cent).

Table 6.7.6: Dance Professionals and Leisure Dance Participants – National and Territories

Status	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Dance professional	27%	28%
Not professional, but receive some income from dance	6%	7%
Not professional and receive no dance income	67%	65%

As found nationally, dance professionals in the Territories are more likely than leisure dance participants to pursue contemporary and modern dance forms and ballet. Among leisure dance participants in Territories, ballroom and social and health, wellness, and sport forms of dance are considerably more popular than they are among dance professionals.

Table 6.7.7: Dance Professionals and Leisure Dance Participants in the Territories Across Most Common Types of Dance

Dance Category	Leisure Dance Participant	Dance Professional
Contemporary and modern	34%	63%
Urban/street dance	19%	30%
Ballroom and social	26%	4%
Health, wellness and sport	24%	11%
Ballet	10%	30%

Survey respondents were asked to provide details about their involvement in their top three dance forms. Each individual may therefore have provided information on how they are involved, and how they were educated in one, two or three dance forms. Survey responses are treated independently (i.e., considering up to three responses per respondent answering the survey) where results are reported by dance form. In all other instances, results are reported per respondent. Whether an individual indicated they

are taking classes in one, two or three dance forms the response of “taking classes” is counted only once, unless results are described for specific dance forms.

Survey respondents were first asked to describe how they are involved in their dance form(s). Half of respondents from the Territories (52 per cent) indicate that they perform for an audience or compete in one or more of their dance forms. These people most frequently perform at community events (85 per cent), at festivals and special events (80 per cent), and at performing arts facilities (71 per cent). Schools are cited as avenues for performing by three in ten (32 per cent), followed by televised performances (25 per cent). One in five (19 per cent) participates in competitions and the same proportion performs at restaurants, theme parks, or similar places.

Table 6.7.8: Proportion who Perform/Compete and Where they Perform – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
% who perform/compete	58%	52%
Opportunities for Performing/Competing (of those who perform)		
Festivals or special events	79%	80%
Community events	71%	85%
Performing arts hall or facility	66%	71%
Schools	36%	32%
Competitions	32%	19%
Performances recorded for television	21%	25%
Restaurants, theme parks, cruise ships, etc	17%	19%

In addition to performing or competing, seven in ten respondents in the Territories (75 per cent) say they dance with a group. Half choreograph, create, or devise dance (52 per cent) and half teach dance (49 per cent).

Table 6.7.9: Non-performance Ways Respondents are Involved in Dance – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Dance with a group	78%	75%
Choreograph, create, or devise dance	46%	52%
Teach dance	44%	49%

The next table isolates respondents in the Territories who are involved in the most common dance forms, indicating for each the proportion who teach, dance with a group, and choreograph, devise, or create dance. For example, of those pursuing a dance form under the category of contemporary and

modern, 49 per cent say they teach dance, 78 per cent dance with a group, and 68 per cent say they are involved in choreography. More than six in ten respondents in the Territories who participate in some form of ballet are involved in these three ways and more than half involved in urban/street dance participate in these three ways. Those who participate in dance forms categorized as ballroom and social, as well as those dancing for health, wellness and sport are likely to say they dance with a group, and are less likely to say they teach or choreograph.

Table 6.7.10: Non-performance Ways Respondents are Involved in Dance in the Territories Across Most Common Types of Dance

Dance Category	Teach	Dance with a Group	Choreograph, Create, Devise
Contemporary and modern	49%	78%	68%
Urban/street dance	57%	74%	70%
Ballroom and social	33%	56%	17%
Health, wellness and sport	28%	61%	39%
Ballet	63%	88%	75%

Survey respondents were asked to indicate whether they participate with a performing company, troupe or crew³⁶, a dance school or studio, a community group, dance club or association, or some other group, in one of their dance forms. Eight in ten respondents in the Territories participate in dance through a community group, dance club, or association (81 per cent), which is a greater incidence than among respondents nationally (65 per cent). Half in the Territories participate through a school or studio (51 per cent). One-third (33 per cent) participates with a performing troupe, crew or company.

Table 6.7.11: How Respondents Participate – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Community group, dance club or association	65%	81%
Dance school or studio	57%	51%
Performing company, troupe or crew	33%	33%

The next table isolates segments of the Territories sample involved in the most common dance categories, showing for each one the proportions that perform with performing companies, with dance schools, and/or with community groups. Among respondents in the Territories involved in contemporary and modern dance, urban/street dance, and/or ballet, participation with a school or studio is quite common (seven in ten or more). Four in ten to almost six in ten participants in these dance forms are involved with a

³⁶ Crew is a term used for a group of street dance or hip hop dancers who usually compete ('battle') and perform together.

performing company, troupe, or crew. Involvement with a community group, dance club, or association is also high across the board in all five of the most common categories of dance in the Territories (a participation rate of over three in four).

Table 6.7.12: How Respondents in the Territories Participate Across Most Common Types of Dance

Dance Category	With a performing company, troupe, or crew	With a dance school or studio	With a community group, dance club or association
Contemporary and modern	41%	73%	83%
Urban/street dance	57%	74%	78%
Ballroom and social	22%	44%	83%
Health, wellness and sport	17%	44%	89%
Ballet	44%	88%	88%

One in three respondents in the Territories (35 per cent) receives money for their participation in dance. The majority of these people say they receive occasional honoraria or fees (71 per cent). Half receive professional fees or salaries (65 per cent) and more than half receive grants to individuals (56 per cent). To a lesser extent, some receive money through cash prizes or awards (15 per cent).

Table 6.7.13: Proportion who Receive Money from Dance and Type of Income – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
% receive money for dance	33%	35%
Type of income		
Professional fees or salaries	67%	65%
Occasional honoraria or fees	60%	71%
Grants to individuals	21%	56%
Cash prizes and awards	16%	15%

e) Background and Reasons for Dance

Seven in ten respondents in the Territories (70 per cent) have learned one or more of their dance forms through a recreational or community dance group/club, higher than the national proportion that has learned this way (58 per cent). More than half have learned through a dance school, studio, or academy (57 per cent) and self-teaching is also common (47 per cent), more so in the Territories than compared to the national average. Three in ten learned through one-on-one instruction (28 per cent) and one in five learned through post-secondary education (22 per cent). More than one in ten learned through primary or secondary education (15 per cent).

Table 6.7.14: Methods of Learning Dance – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Recreational or community dance group or dance club	58%	70%
Dance school, studio, or academy	60%	57%
Self-taught	30%	47%
One-on-one instruction	28%	28%
Post-secondary college or university	23%	22%
Elementary and/or secondary school curriculum	11%	15%

People dance for many reasons, often in combination. Survey respondents were asked to identify the main reasons (up to five) that they are involved in dance. The top reasons respondents in the Territories say they are involved in dance are the same as the top reasons reported by respondents nationally: enjoyment (78 per cent), exercise or fitness (72 per cent), social connection (58 per cent), artistic expression (50 per cent), and to share one's dance with an audience (44 per cent).

Table 6.15: Top Five Reasons for Dance Involvement – National and Territories

	National (n=8,124)	Territories (n=96)
Enjoyment	88%	78%
Exercise or fitness	74%	72%
Social connection	61%	58%
Artistic expression	52%	50%
Share my dance with an audience/perform	33%	44%

As another indication of their involvement in dance, survey respondents were asked about the average number of live dance performances they typically attend in a year. Respondents in the Territories see somewhat fewer live dance performances in a year, 4.7 compared to 7.9 performances reported by respondents nationally.

In an open ended question, survey respondents were invited to describe “why dance is important to you, or how dance has made a difference in your life”. Many survey respondents, leisure dance participants and dance professionals alike, said that dance provides them with the benefit of deeper social connections. Respondents say dance stimulates their mental and physical well-being and is a great source of joy, stress relief, and exercise. Many say that dance is a way to express themselves constructively and creatively. Many also feel that participating in dance has taught them life skills like discipline, cooperation, openness, drive, and perseverance.

“It is important to me because the dance, song and stories are very old and need to continue passing them on. I feel connected with my ancestors and culture when I dance and sing. I have become to know who I am and also happy to see my daughter continue the culture as well.”

–35 year old female leisure dance participant (Aboriginal, country-western, square)

“Dance is the main thing that took me out of a challenging child/teenage-hood and allowed me to feel part of a community, giving me an opportunity to pay it forward to others.”

–36 year old female dance professional (bboying/bgirling, Aboriginal, zumba)

f) Dance Professionals

As previously mentioned, 28 per cent of respondents in the Territories describe themselves as dance professionals or reported dance income in the form of professional fees or salaries. This is represented by 27 dance professionals responding to the survey from the territories. These 27 dance professionals in the survey provided information about their income and hours of dance, as well as some background on their years of earning dance income and whether or not they have formal dance training. Caution should be used, however, in the interpretation of these findings because of the relatively small number in the sample.

The most popular forms of dance represented by dance professionals in the Territories include contemporary and modern (63 per cent), interdisciplinary and circus (37 per cent), urban/street dance (30 per cent), and ballet (30 per cent). Dance professionals participate in ballroom and social and health, wellness and sport dances at a lower rate than leisure dance participants.

Among dance professionals in Territories, 67 per cent of those in the survey say that they have received training through a dance school or program prior to earning income. The average number of years of training is 9.2. Half (51 per cent) say that they have received individualized training as an apprentice or with a mentor, elder or guru, reporting an average of 5.9 years of training, which are figures almost identical to the national averages. Since receiving that training the average number of years of earning dance income is 10.8 years.