

# Language

## Why Is This Important?

Language barriers can be an issue for those not fluent in English and can have a negative impact on initial access to services. Language is a significant component of culturally competent, appropriate and acceptable service provision. Service providers have a responsibility to ensure that their clients understand and are able to make informed decisions about the services they are receiving.

## Examples of Action Being Taken

Saskatoon Health Region's [Interpretation and Translation Services Policy](#).

Saskatoon Health Region [First Nation and Métis Health Service](#)

## What More Can Be Done?

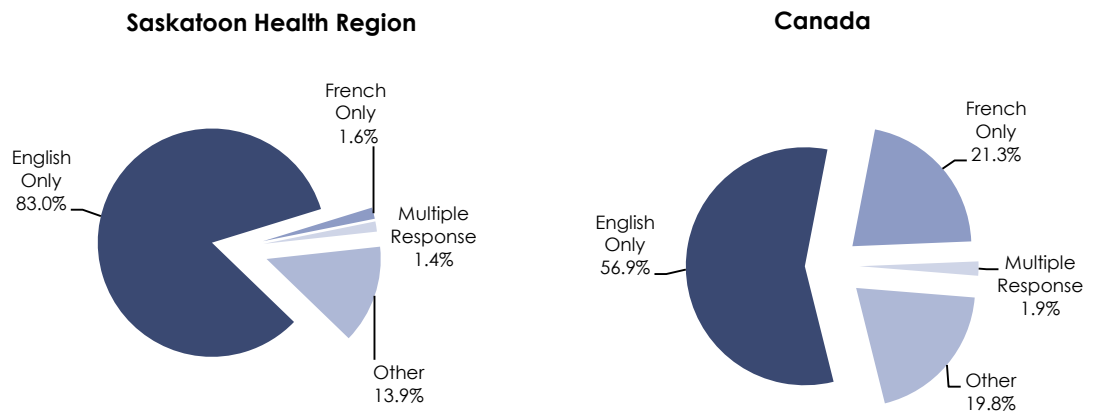
See the Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

### A diverse set of languages is spoken by Saskatoon Health Region's population.

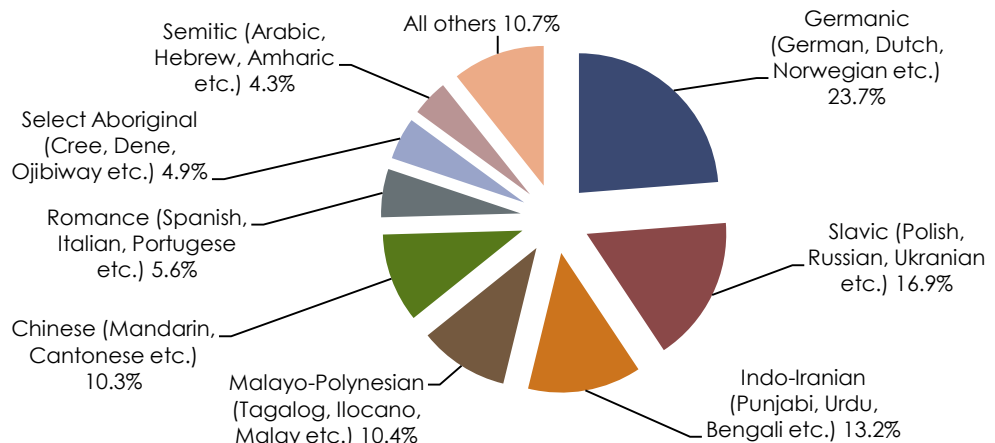
- A much higher percentage of people in Saskatoon Health Region (83.0%) listed English only as their mother tongue compared to Canada (56.9%) (Figure 1).
- Of the almost 14% of Health Region residents whose mother tongue was a non-official language, most were of European origin, with Germanic (23.7%) and Slavic (16.9%) being the most common. The next highest percentages were languages from Asia (Indo-Iranian at 13.2%, Malayo-Polynesian at 10.4% and Chinese at 10.3%) (Figure 2).

**Figure 1: Proportion of Population Speaking Official Languages, Saskatoon Health Region and Canada, 2011**



Source: [Statistics Canada - National Household Survey](#).

**Figure 2: Proportion of Population Speaking Other, Non-official Language, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011**



Source: [Statistics Canada - National Household Survey](#)