Introduction

A common approach to investigate prehistoric demography has been to examine changes in the frequency of large numbers of "cultural" radiocarbon dates (e.g., made on charcoal from hearths or culturally-modified bones) 1,2. Such an approach assumes that if large numbers of radiocarbon dates are used, and if these dates come from a large enough area, then changes in their frequency will be indicative of population fluctuations, so long as changes in archaeological interest, preservation, etc., can be accounted for 3.

In North America, such investigations have the potential to contribute to our understanding of prehistoric cultural change and the role that Native Americans had in influencing flora and fauna 4.

The purpose of this poster is to assess the potential of using radiocarbon data from the Canadian Archaeological Radiocarbon Database (CARD) to study prehistoric demography in North America from the Paleoindian to the historic period.