



GERONTOLOGY
RESEARCH CENTRE

FACT BOOK ON
Aging in British Columbia

FIFTH EDITION



Andrew V. Wister, Ph.D. | Andrew Sixsmith, Ph.D. | Raymond G. Adams, M.L.I.S. | Danielle Sinden, M.A.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

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Foreword

The present edition of the *Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia* is the fifth since the Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) at Simon Fraser University compiled the first *Fact Book* in 1986 under the authorship of the past Director Gloria Gutman. The many requests that the GRC receives each year for information about the Province's older population provides the impetus for its continued production. These requests come from a variety of sources including: students, faculty, government agencies, community groups and organizations, the media, business and industry, senior citizens and their organizations and the general public. They cover a broad variety of topics, including questions about geographic distribution, life expectancy, housing, living arrangements and health service utilization.

Much of the information in the original *Fact Book* was drawn from the 1981 Census of Canada. The second, third and fourth editions updated and expanded that material using current census data, as well as selected supplementary data sources. The current fifth edition of the *Fact Book* is based on the 2006 census and also supplements these data with those from national health surveys, such as the Canadian Community Health Surveys, and other targeted surveys conducted in B.C. A milestone has been reached in that twenty-five years of data have been covered in the five editions.

Like the first four editions, this edition references all source documents and presents data primarily in numeric tabular form, highlighting selected trends in charts, figures and graphs. We have deliberately chosen a presentation format that maximizes the potential usefulness of the data for its audience. This decision reflects the frustration of researchers when working only with graphs, charts and tables containing summary information, since it is extremely difficult to reconstruct or recombine these types of data in ways necessary to suit information and/or research needs. We have made some selected comparisons of key patterns across the different editions of the *Fact Book* in order to highlight major trends over time; however, a full set of comparisons requires a separate report.

With respect to percentages, it should be noted that some tables total to 99% or 101% due to rounding. Rounding also accounts for small discrepancies (5-20 persons) in numbers reported for total populations vs. the sum of component parts or, between data in different tables. It should also be noted that throughout the document terms such as "older adults," "seniors" and "the elderly" refer to persons aged 65 and over. This reflects conventional usage of these terms in the gerontological literature. Users of the *Fact Book* should read the footnotes and sources carefully, since some data are based on the 20% census, while other data stem from the full census. Additionally, some data originate from other sources, such as the Canadian Community Health Surveys.

The main comparisons of demographic data include: geographic comparisons between British Columbia and Canada, as well as other provinces in certain tables; gender differences; and those related to age differences, such as comparisons between middle-aged and older persons or among senior age groups, as well as differences over time. It should be noted that presentation of trend data may mask important age-period-cohort patterns, requiring more complex analytic approaches. Topics highlighted in this document are listed in the Table of Contents and cover a wide range of areas including: the size and historical rate of growth of the elderly population of British Columbia; trends in life expectancy, mortality rates and causes of death; the marital status of the elderly population; its geographic distribution and residential mobility; ethnic composition; a description of living arrangements and housing; education, employment, and economic status; disabilities; diet and physical activity; and health service utilization.

1. Size of the Elderly Population

1.1 Past Trends and Future Growth

65+ Population

The size of the older population of British Columbia has grown consistently since the beginning of the 20th century from slightly more than 4,000 (4,017) persons aged 65 and over in 1901 to 599,815 in 2006 (see Table 1.1a). This increment reflects a rate of growth that is more than six times greater than the rate for the total population of the province, which increased from 178,657 to 4,113,485 over the same time period. The increase in the size of the population aged 65 and over was substantially greater in B.C. than for Canada as a whole.

In 2006, 14.6% of British Columbians were aged 65 and over. Projections for the year 2011, 2016, 2021, 2026 and 2031 are 15.3%, 17.8%, 20.4%, 23.2%, and 25.4% respectively.

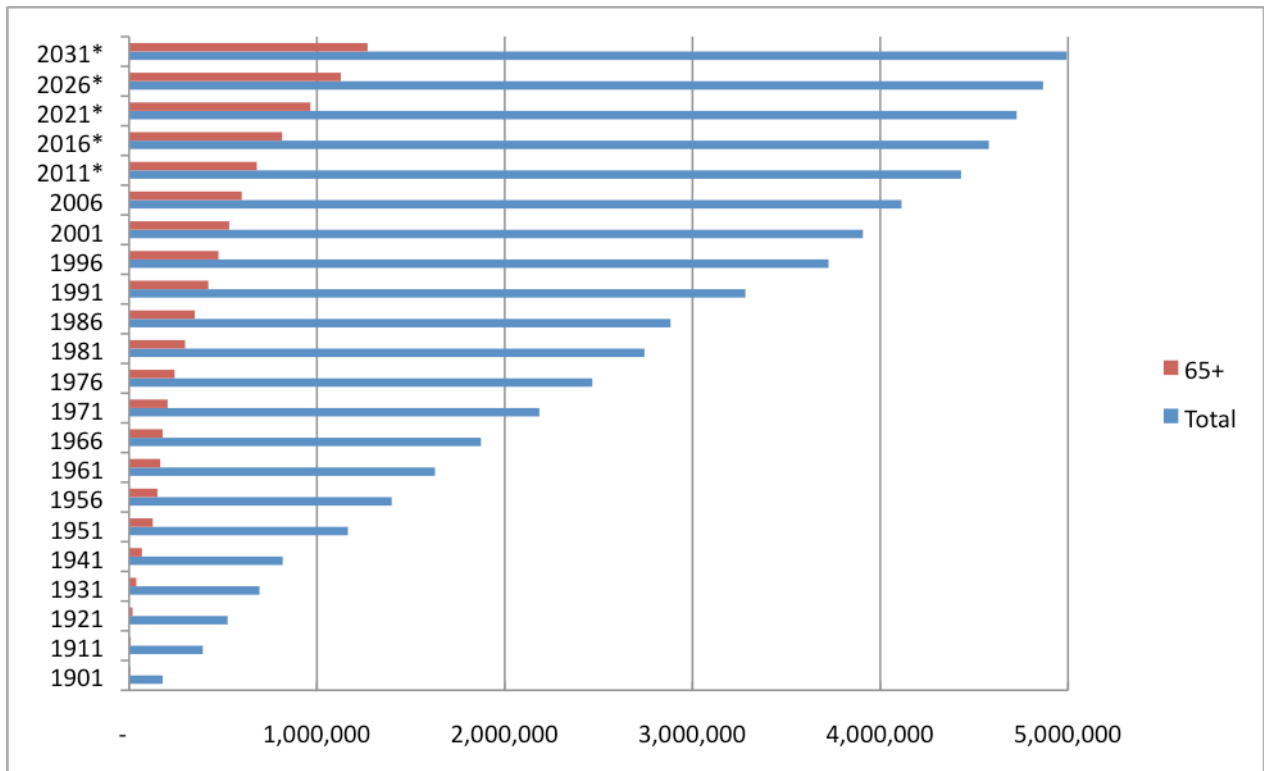
Table 1.1a:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901-2031

Census Year	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total Population	Population 65+	% of Total Population Aged 65+	Total Population	Population 65+	% of B.C. Population Aged 65+
1901	5,371,315	269,388	5.0%	178,657	4,017	2.2%
1911	7,206,643	333,763	4.6%	392,480	8,617	2.2%
1921	8,787,949	420,244	4.8%	524,582	18,395	3.5%
1931	10,376,786	576,076	5.6%	694,263	38,103	5.5%
1941	11,506,655	767,815	6.7%	817,861	68,072	8.3%
1951	14,009,429	1,086,273	7.8%	1,165,210	126,137	10.8%
1956	16,080,791	1,243,938	7.7%	1,398,464	150,779	10.8%
1961	18,238,247	1,391,154	7.6%	1,629,082	165,616	10.2%
1966	20,014,880	1,539,548	7.7%	1,873,674	178,666	9.5%
1971	21,568,310	1,744,410	8.1%	2,184,620	205,010	9.4%
1976	22,992,600	2,002,350	8.7%	2,466,605	242,050	9.8%
1981	24,343,180	2,360,975	9.7%	2,744,470	298,175	10.9%
1986	25,309,330	2,697,580	10.7%	2,883,370	349,480	12.1%
1991	27,296,855	3,169,970	11.6%	3,282,065	422,010	12.9%
1996	28,846,760	3,527,840	12.2%	3,724,500	475,845	12.8%
2001*	30,007,095	3,888,550	13.0%	3,907,735	533,085	13.6%
2006	31,612,895	4,335,245	13.7%	4,113,485	599,815	14.6%
2011§	33,910,700	4,882,800	14.4%	4,430,400	679,900	15.3%
2016§	35,270,200	5,799,300	16.4%	4,578,500	814,700	17.8%
2021§	36,615,300	6,846,500	18.7%	4,726,500	965,300	20.4%
2026§	37,893,500	8,045,400	21.2%	4,867,200	1,127,300	23.2%
2031§	39,045,300	9,134,800	23.4%	4,993,000	1,269,800	25.4%

*BC STATS figure does not match those from the Census because of adjustment for net under-enumeration.

§ Based on projection 2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

Figure 1.1a:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+: British Columbia, 1901-2031



* Based on projection 2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

- For 1901-1911: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1946. "Volume III. Ages of the population classified by sex, conjugal condition, racial origin, religious denomination, birthplace, etc. – Table 1." Eighth Census, 1941. Ottawa.
- For 1921-1996: Statistics Canada. 1998. Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.
- For 2001: Statistics Canada. "Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for Population, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2001 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed July 16, 2002).
- For 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census of Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006005. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. v <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=97-551-XCB2006005&lang=eng> (accessed June 26, 2008).
- For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-1 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — Canada" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE, Ottawa. p. 135.
- For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-11 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — British Columbia" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE, Ottawa. p. 145.

85+ Population

Reflecting national trends, the growth of the B.C. population aged 85 and over has been even more pronounced than that of the population aged 65 and over (see Table 1.1b). In 1901, only 98 British Columbians were aged 85 and over; by 2006, there were 76,050 in this age group. In fact, the increase in the population aged 85 and over was over five times the increase in the population aged 65 and over.

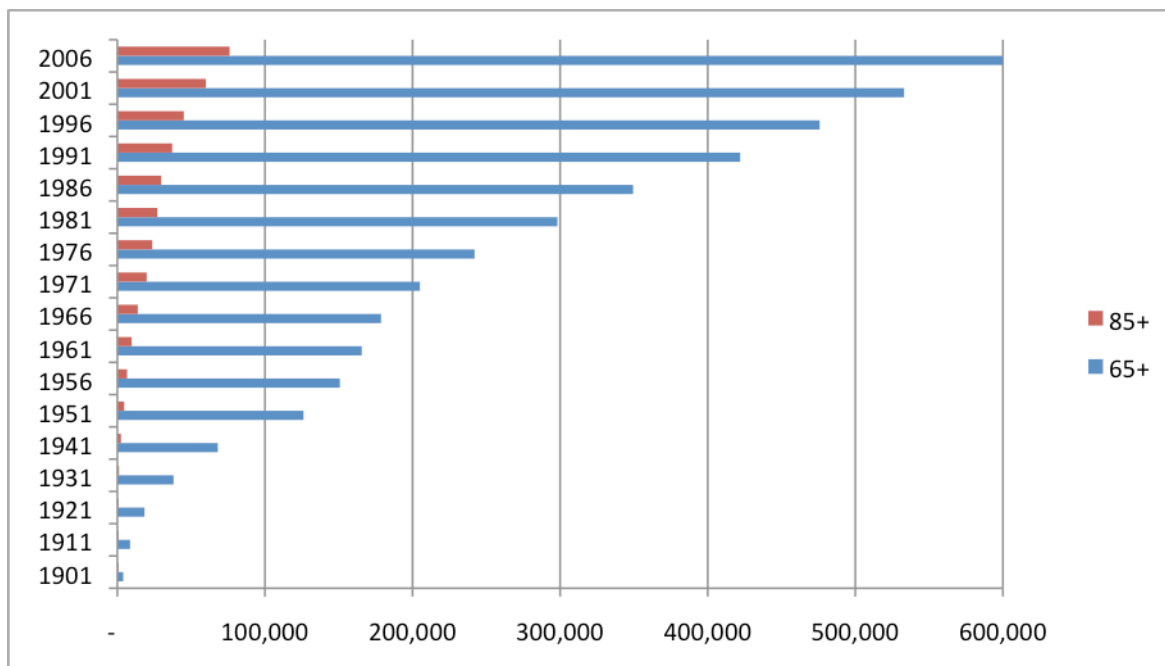
Table 1.1b:
Total Population and Population Aged 85+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901-2031

Census year	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total Population	Population 85+	% of Total Population Aged 85+	Total Population	Population 85+	% of B.C. Population Aged 85+
1901	5,371,315	13,709	0.3%	178,657	98	0.1%
1911	7,206,643	17,613	0.2%	392,480	334	0.1%
1921	8,787,949	20,774	0.2%	524,582	584	0.1%
1931	10,376,786	25,308	0.2%	694,263	1,139	0.2%
1941	11,506,655	35,781	0.3%	817,861	2,455	0.3%
1951	14,009,429	52,522	0.4%	1,165,210	4,599	0.4%
1956	16,080,791	64,523	0.4%	1,398,464	6,635	0.5%
1961	18,238,247	80,823	0.4%	1,629,082	9,718	0.6%
1966	20,014,880	102,948	0.5%	1,873,674	13,856	0.7%
1971	21,568,310	137,390	0.6%	2,184,620	19,895	0.9%
1976	22,992,600	164,540	0.7%	2,466,605	23,665	1.0%
1981	24,343,180	193,785	0.8%	2,744,470	27,075	1.0%
1986	25,309,330	227,760	0.9%	2,883,370	29,755	1.0%
1991	27,296,855	283,335	1.0%	3,282,065	37,175	1.1%
1996	28,846,760	337,070	1.2%	3,724,500	45,035	1.2%
2001*	30,007,095	415,905	1.4%	3,907,735	60,035	1.5%
2006	31,612,895	520,605	1.6%	4,113,485	76,050	1.8%
2011§	33,910,700	639,100	1.9%	4,430,400	96,200	2.2%
2016§	35,270,200	738,200	2.1%	4,578,500	110,400	2.4%
2021§	36,615,300	810,100	2.2%	4,726,500	121,100	2.6%
2026§	37,893,500	908,300	2.4%	4,867,200	135,600	2.8%
2031§	39,045,300	1,120,500	2.9%	4,993,000	166,100	3.3%

* BC STATS figure does not match those from the Census because of adjustment for net under-enumeration.

§ Based on projection 2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

Figure 1.1b:
Population Aged 65+ and 85+: British Columbia, 1901-2006



Source:

For 1901-1911: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1946. "Volume III. Ages of the population classified by sex, conjugal condition, racial origin, religious denomination, birthplace, etc. – Table 1." Eighth Census, 1941. Ottawa.

For 1921-1996: Statistics Canada. 1998. Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.

For 2001: Statistics Canada. "Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for Population, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2001 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2001 Census: Statistics Canada Catalogue no.97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed July 16, 2002).

For 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006005. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=97-551-XCB2006005&lang=eng> (accessed June 26, 2008).

For 2006-2026: Statistics Canada. 2001. "Table A3 Projected Population by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces and Territories, July 1, 2006 – Projection 2" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2000-2026. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIB. Ottawa. p. 158.

For 2006-2026: Statistics Canada. 2001. "Table A3 Projected Population by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces and Territories, July 1, 2026 – Projection 2" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2000-2026. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIB. Ottawa. p. 162.

For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-1 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — Canada" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE. Ottawa. p. 135.

For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-11 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — British Columbia" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE. Ottawa. p. 145.

1.2 Population Aging Within the Older Population

The older population is itself aging. Within the 65 and over age group, the proportion aged 85 and over has been growing over recent decades and it is expected to continue to rise in the near future. In 2006 people aged 85 and over numbered 76,050 and represented 12.7% of the seniors' population of B.C. This can be contrasted with data presented in the first Fact Book on Aging (1986) where in 1981 persons aged 85 and over numbered only 27,100 in B.C. and represented only 9.1% of the population of seniors.

By 2021, their numbers are expected to increase to 121,100 (12.5% of the 65+ population) and by 2031 they are anticipated to reach 166,100 (13.1% of the 65+ population). The proportion of elderly aged 85+ will not increase appreciably, until after 2031 at which time the front end of the baby boomer generation (born between 1946-1965) will turn 85 and over.

Table 1.2 shows that the growth in the 85 and over population is taking place among both males and females. In 2001, there were 19,800 males aged 85+ in B.C.; in 2006, there were 25,685 males aged 85+; and by 2021 it is expected that there will be 46,300 males 85+. Over the same period, the female population of B.C. aged 85+ will increase from 50,365 to 74,700.

Table 1.2:
Age Structure of the Population Aged 65+, by Sex: British Columbia, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2021, 2031

2001*						
Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	150,800	28.3%	74,900	31.6%	75,900	25.6%
70-74	135,900	25.5%	64,700	27.3%	71,200	24.0%
75-79	112,200	21.0%	48,500	20.5%	63,700	21.5%
80-84	74,100	13.9%	28,800	12.2%	45,300	15.3%
85-89	41,400	7.8%	14,600	6.2%	26,800	9.0%
90+	18,600	3.5%	5,200	2.2%	13,400	4.5%
Total	533,100	100.0%	236,700	100.0%	296,400	100.0%
2006						
Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	169,770	28.3%	83,050	30.6%	86,715	26.4%
70-74	143,625	23.9%	70,200	25.9%	73,430	22.4%
75-79	120,435	20.1%	55,640	20.5%	64,800	19.7%
80-84	89,930	15.0%	36,895	13.6%	53,035	16.2%
85-89	50,060	8.3%	17,965	6.6%	32,095	9.8%
90+	25,990	4.3%	7,720	2.8%	18,270	5.6%
Total	599,810	100%	271,470	100%	328,345	100%
2011§						
Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	205,400	30.2%	100,500	32.3%	104,900	28.5%
70-74	155,100	22.8%	74,900	24.0%	80,200	21.8%
75-79	126,000	18.5%	59,900	19.2%	66,100	17.9%
80-84	97,200	14.3%	43,000	13.8%	54,200	14.7%
85-89	60,800	8.9%	23,000	7.4%	37,800	10.3%
90+	35,400	5.2%	10,200	3.3%	25,200	6.8%
Total	679,900	100.0%	311,500	100.0%	368,400	100.0%

Table 1.2 Continued:

2021§						
Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	304,400	31.5%	148,000	33.0%	156,500	30.3%
70-74	254,800	26.4%	122,800	27.4%	132,100	25.6%
75-79	171,600	17.8%	80,500	17.9%	91,100	17.6%
80-84	113,400	11.7%	51,000	11.4%	62,400	12.1%
85-89	71,100	7.4%	30,100	6.7%	41,000	7.9%
90+	50,000	5.2%	16,200	3.6%	33,700	6.5%
Total	965,300	100.0%	448,600	100.0%	516,800	100.0%
2031§						
Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	336,500	26.5%	163,900	27.8%	172,600	25.4%
70-74	315,100	24.8%	151,200	25.7%	163,900	24.1%
75-79	259,900	20.5%	121,800	20.7%	138,100	20.3%
80-84	192,200	15.1%	87,000	14.8%	105,200	15.5%
85-89	102,800	8.1%	43,500	7.4%	59,300	8.7%
90+	63,300	5.0%	21,900	3.7%	41,500	6.1%
Total	1,269,800	100%	589,300	100%	680,600	100%

* BC STATS figure does not match those from the Census because of adjustment for net under-enumeration.

§ Based on projection 2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration.

Source:

For 2001: Statistics Canada. "Age (122) and Sex (3) for Population, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2001 Census - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 95F0300XCB01006. (accessed July 16, 2002).

For 2006: Statistics Canada. (2007). "Age (123) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006009. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=88984&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed June 26, 2008).

For 2006-2021: Statistics Canada. 2001. "Table A3 Projected Population by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces and Territories, July 1, 2011 – Projection 2" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2000-2026. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIB. Ottawa. p. 159.

For 2006-2021: Statistics Canada. 2001. "Table A3 Projected Population by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces and Territories, July 1, 2021 – Projection 2" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2000-2026. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIB. Ottawa. p. 161.

For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-11 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — British Columbia" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE. Ottawa. p. 145.

1.3 Median Age of the Population

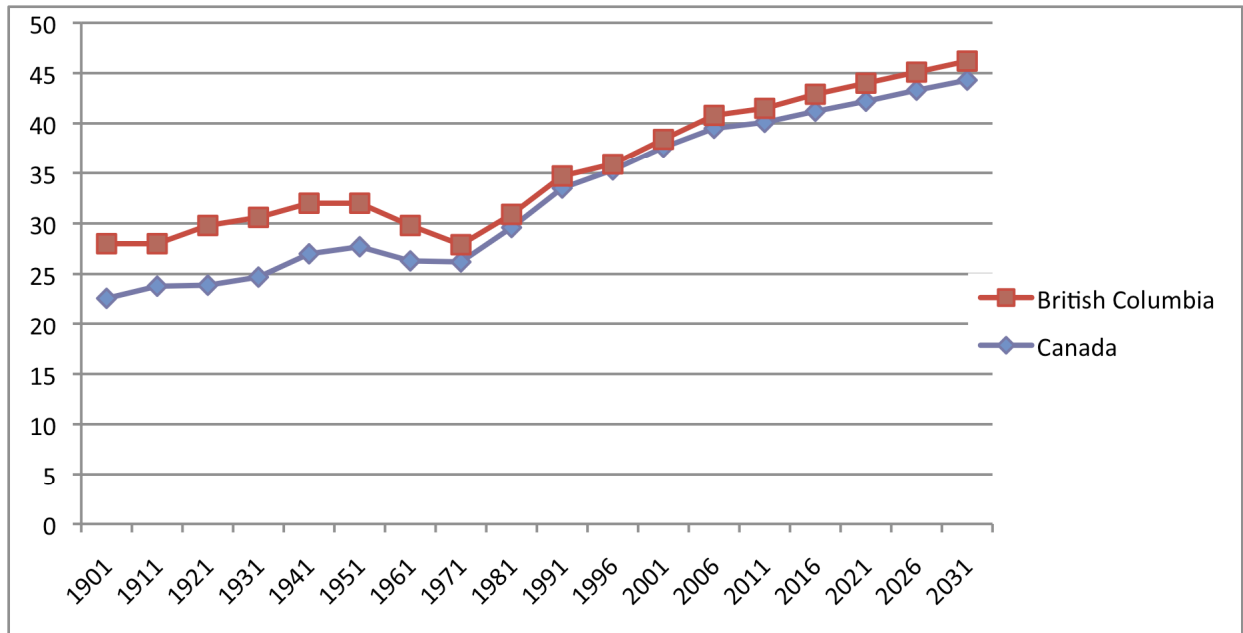
Another way of measuring population aging is to examine the median age. The median is a statistical figure that describes the age at which a population is split into two equal groups. As may be seen in Table 1.3 and Figure 1.3, the median age in British Columbia has been steadily increasing since 1901. It was 35.9 years in 1996, and in 2001 it was 38.4 years (37.8 for males and 39.0 for females). The median age of B.C. is projected to continue to increase, to 40.8 in 2006, 41.5 in 2011, 42.9 in 2016, 44.0 in 2021, 45.1 in 2026, and to 46.2 in 2031, based on the medium growth scenario for fertility, mortality and migration.

Table 1.3:
Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 - 2031

Year	Median Age (in years)	
	Canada	British Columbia
1901	22.6	28.0
1911	23.8	28.0
1921	23.9	29.8
1931	24.7	30.6
1941	27.0	32.0
1951	27.7	32.0
1961	26.3	29.8
1971	26.2	27.9
1981	29.6	30.9
1991	33.5	34.7
1996	35.3	35.9
2001	37.6	38.4
2006§	39.5	40.8
2011§	40.1	41.5
2016§	41.2	42.9
2021§	42.2	44.0
2026§	43.3	45.1
2031§	44.3	46.2

§ Based on projection 2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration.

Figure 1.3:
Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 - 2031



Source:

For 1901 and 1911: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1946. "Volume III. Ages of the population classified by sex, conjugal condition, racial origin, religious denomination, birthplace, etc. – Table 1." Eighth Census, 1941. Ottawa.

For 1921-2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age (123) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006009. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=88984&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed June 26, 2008).

For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-1 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — Canada" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE. Ottawa. p. 135.

For 2011-2031: Statistics Canada. 2005. "Table 9-11 Population by Age Group and Sex (2006 to 2031), Scenario 2, July 1st — British Columbia" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2005-2031. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-XIE. Ottawa. p. 145.

2. Sex Ratios

The sex ratio is the number of men per 100 women in a given population. As shown in Table 2.1, the B.C. population aged 65 and over has become increasingly comprised of women. In 1956, there were more men than women at all older ages except for the age group 85 and over; the overall sex ratio was 116, a figure considerably higher than the national sex ratio of 100 at that time.

The very high sex ratio in B.C. was largely a function of high rates of male in-migration to the province in the latter part of the 19th Century and the early decades of the 20th Century to work in primary industry. However, by 1966, women in British Columbia outnumbered men at all ages over 64, and increasingly so with advancing years. The higher proportion of women within the older population is due to the longer life expectancy of females (See Section 3). In 2006, the sex ratio for age 65 and over was 83 males per 100 females. For age 85 and over, there were only 51 men for every 100 women.

B.C. continues to have a higher sex ratio than the national average, although the gap has narrowed considerably since 1956. Other comparisons across years can be found in the other editions of the Fact Book.

Table 2.1:
Males and Females Aged 65+ and Sex Ratios: British Columbia, 1956 and 2006

Age	1956			2006		
	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*
65-69	29,077	25,001	116	83,050	86,715	96
70-74	26,187	21,773	120	70,200	73,430	96
75-79	15,514	13,042	119	55,640	64,800	86
80-84	7,044	6,506	108	36,895	53,035	70
85-89	2,520	2,555	99	17,965	32,095	56
90+	676	884	76	7,720	18,270	42
Total 65+ (BC)	81,018	69,761	116	271,470	328,345	83
Total 65+ (Canada)	622,210	621,728	100	1,887,105	2,448,150	77

* Number of males per 100 females.

Source:

For 1956: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1957. "Volume 1. Population – Table 21" (table). Census, 1956. Ottawa.

For 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age (123) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006009. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=88984&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed June 26, 2008).

3. Mortality

3.1 Trends in Life Expectancy

Major gains in life expectancy of British Columbians were achieved between 1931 and 2006 (see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 Part a and Part b). In terms of life expectancy at birth, females gained 18.2 years and males gained 16.6 years during that 75 year period. While females outlived males throughout the entire period, gains in life expectancy have been greater for females than for males at all ages, at least until recently. The male-female gap in life expectancy at birth increased from 3.1 years in 1931 to 7 years in 1980-82, but was only 4.8 years for the 1998-2001 period and 4.7 years in 2006. A substantial proportion of the gains in life expectancy occurred during the 1970s. The figures for the 1980s and 1990s suggest that this trend is slowing, mainly for women. The gain in life expectancy at birth for men was 4.7 years between 1985-87 and 2006, compared to only 3.2 for women.

Another measure of life expectancy is the number of expected years of life remaining after age 65. Life expectancy at age 65 increased 7.1 years for women and 5.4 years for men between 1931 and 2006. Using the year 2006, sixty-five year old females could expect to live an additional 21.7 years, whereas their male counterparts could expect to live another 18.8 years. This difference between the sexes (2.9 years) is substantially greater than the 1.2 year difference in 1931, but again, the sex differential has shown some signs of decreasing over recent years.

At age 80, women in the 1998-2001 period could expect to live 10 more years, compared to 8.2 more years for males of that age (the life expectancy numbers for 2006 were not available). While not as dramatic as the gains of the 1980s, this 1.8 year sex difference exceeds the 0.7 year difference experienced in 1931. Since 1980-82, life expectancy at age 80 has been increasing steadily. Between 1980 and 2001 it increased by 0.9 years for men and 0.7 years for women.

Table 3.1:
Life Expectancy at Birth, Age 65, and Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2006

	Average Years of Life Remaining at:					
	Birth		Age 65		Age 80	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1931	62.2	65.3	13.4	14.6	5.7	6.4
1941	63.7	69.0	13.0	14.8	5.5	6.6
1951	66.7	72.4	13.5	15.9	5.8	7.1
1960-62	68.9	75.4	14.0	16.9	6.7	7.4
1970-72	69.9	76.7	14.5	18.0	6.8	7.9
1980-82	72.6	79.6	15.5	19.6	7.3	9.3
1985-87	74.1	80.3	15.9	19.6	7.4	9.1
1990-92	75.2	81.3	16.6	20.2	7.5	9.4
1995-1997	76.1	81.9	16.9	20.5	7.6	9.7
1998-2001	78.0	82.8	18.0	21.1	8.2	10.0
2006*	78.8	83.5	18.8	21.7	---	---
Increase from 1931 to 2006 (in years)	16.6	18.2	5.4	7.1	---	---

*Life Expectancy at age 80 has not been updated for 2006.

Figure 3.1a:
Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-2006

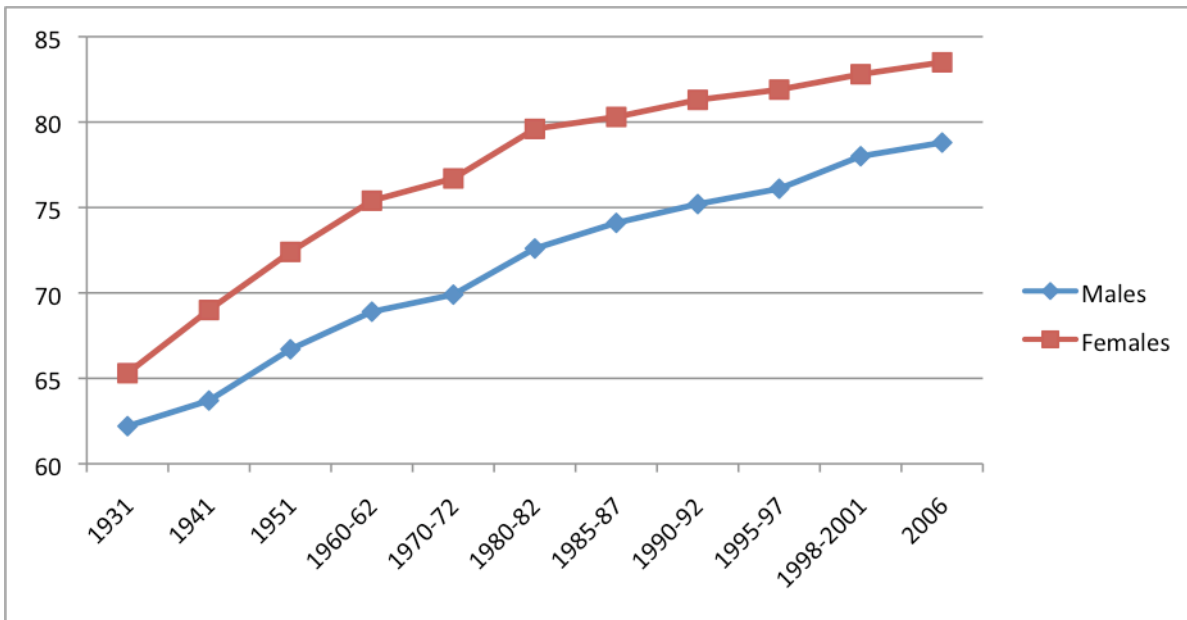


Figure 3.1b:
Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-2006

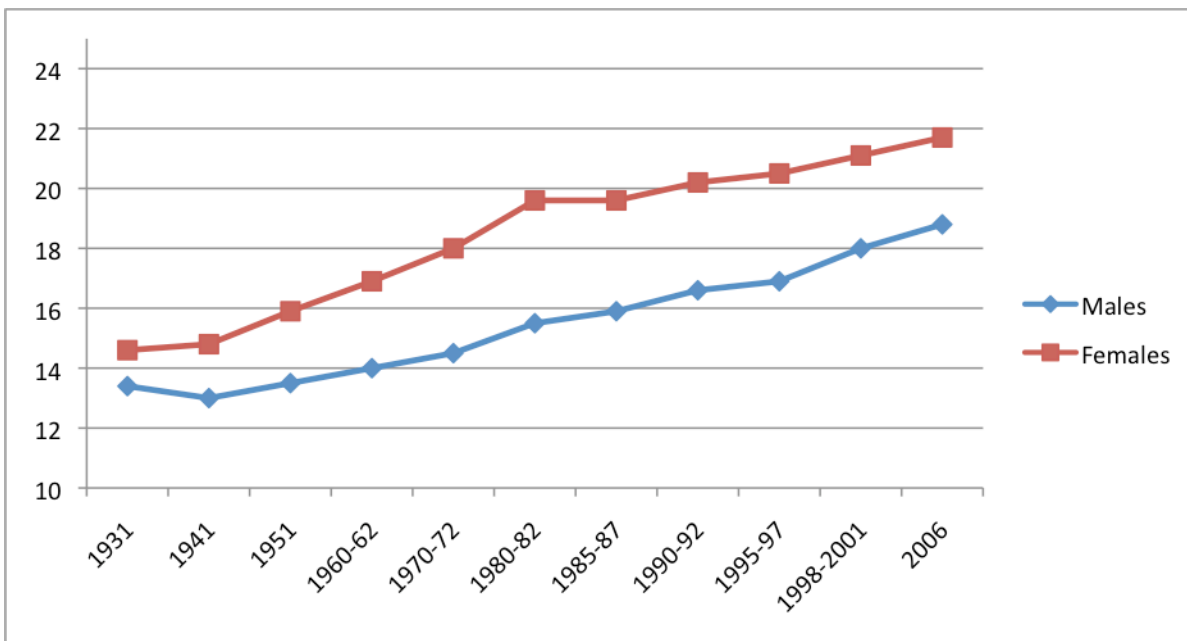
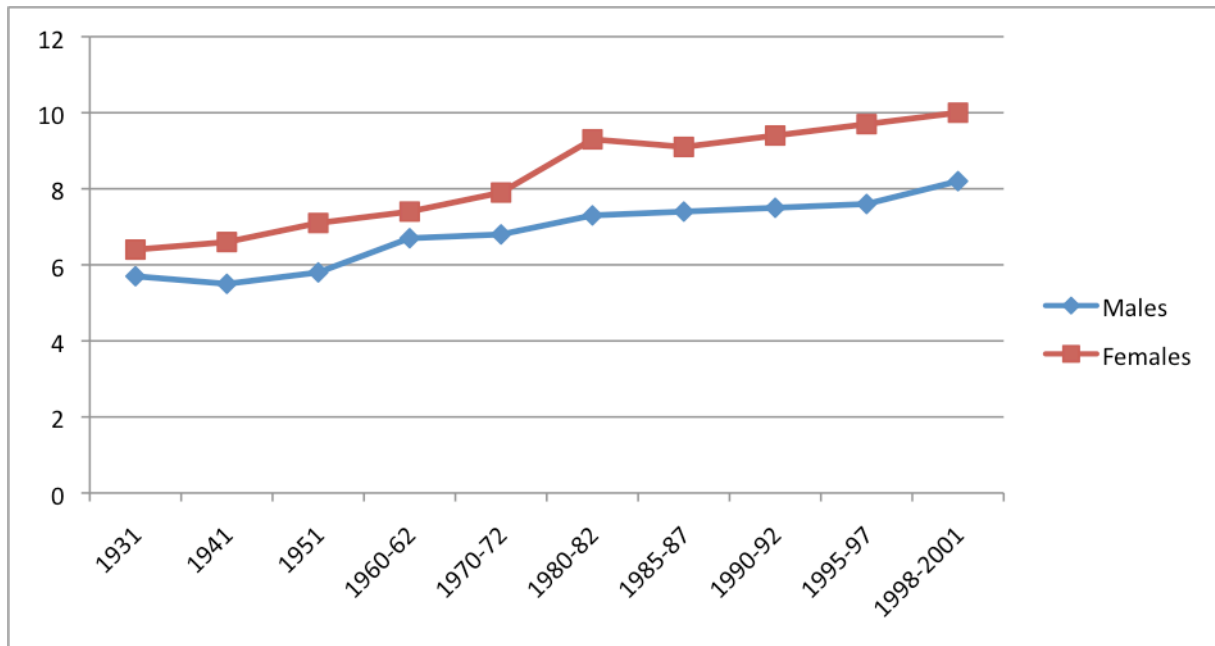


Figure 3.1c:
Life Expectancy at Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-2001*



Source:

For 1931 and 1941: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1947. Life tables for Canada and regions, 1941 and 1931. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-515. Ottawa.

For 1951: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1960. Provincial and regional life tables, 1950-1952--1955-1957. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-512. Ottawa.

For 1960-62: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1964. Provincial and regional life tables, 1960-1962. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-517. Ottawa.

For 1970-72: Statistics Canada. 1974. Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1970/72. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-532. Ottawa.

For 1985-87: Statistics Canada. 1990. "Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1985-1987." Health Reports, Supplement No. 13, Volume 2, No. 4, 1990. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003S. Ottawa.

For 1990-92: Statistics Canada. 1995. Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1990/92. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-537. Ottawa.

For 1995-1997: Statistics Canada. 2002. Life tables, Canada, provinces and territories: 1995-1997. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-537-XIE. Ottawa.

For 1998-2001: Statistics Canada. Table 102-0218 Life Expectancy abridged life table, by age group and sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups, occasional. CANSIM (database) (accessed 2006). http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020218.

For 2006: Statistics Canada. No date. Table 102-0511 Life expectancy, abridged life table, at birth and at age 65, by sex, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (years), CANSIM (database). Last updated 28 April, 2009. http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020511 (accessed: October 29, 2008).

3.2 Deaths and Mortality Rates

Not unexpectedly, as observed in Tables 3.2a, 3.2b and 3.2c, women have lower mortality rates than men for all ages. Table 3.2a shows trends in age-specific mortality rates by sex for B.C. between 1971 and 2006, while Table 3.2b shows percentage changes in those trends. Table 3.2c presents age-specific mortality rates by sex for 1996, 2001 and 2006 for B.C. and Canada. Table 3.2d shows the absolute number of deaths by age group and sex in B.C. for 2001 and 2006. Overall, the decline in mortality rates has not been uniform over time or across age and sex groups. Significant reductions in mortality have occurred since the early 1970s. In 1971, the mortality rate for a man aged 65-69 in B.C. was 30.6; for a woman, it was 16.0. However, the pattern of reduction differs for men and women, and across time periods. Between 1971 and 2006, for men in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 70 to 74 age group, a decrease of 50.4%. For women in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 65-69 age group, with a decrease of 40%. It also appears that men's mortality rates are improving relative to women; men had greater decreases in mortality rates than women for all age groups over the period 1971-2006 (with the exception of the age group 85-89 and 90+). Thus, while older women continue to enjoy lower mortality rates than older men at all ages, the gap appears to be shrinking. This is likely due to complex age-period-cohort patterns in mortality. Overall, B.C. seniors had lower mortality rates than Canadian seniors as shown in Table 3.2c. It is also noteworthy that for both men and women in 2006, the mortality rate at age 90 and over was more than 14 times the rate at ages 65-69, as observed in the same table for B.C. seniors. Note that the absolute number of deaths shown in Table 3.2d has increased between 2001 and 2006 due to the expansion of persons at the upper ages of the age structure.

Table 3.2a:
Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 1971, 1984, 1996, 2001 and 2006

Age	Mortality Rates (per 1,000 population)									
	Males					Females				
	1971	1984	1996	2001	2006	1971	1984	1996	2001	2006
65-69	30.6	24.3	19.9	16.0	15.2	16.0	13.3	11.6	10.3	9.6
70-74	49.4	37.8	31.9	28.4	24.5	24.6	20.9	18.0	16.6	15.6
75-79	74.0	61.4	51.8	47.4	40.6	42.2	34.4	31.9	27.4	27.6
80-84	109.9	99.0	86.2	78.1	69.4	77.1	58.4	55.6	50.9	49.1
85-89	167.3	155.3	146.7	127.6	116.7	127.9	101.4	99.4	93.9	86.3
90+	244.0	259.0	239.8	214.0	216.9	234.9	195.3	205.7	177.5	178.1

Table 3.2b:
Percent Change of Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 1971, 1984, 1996, 2001 and 2006

Age	Percent Change							
	Males %				Females %			
	1971-1984	1984-1996	1996-2001	2001-2006	1971-1984	1984-1996	1996-2001	2001-2006
65-69	-20.6	-18.1	-19.6	-5.0	-16.9	-12.8	-11.2	-6.9
70-74	-23.5	-15.6	-11.0	-13.7	-15.0	-13.9	-7.8	-6.0
75-79	-17.0	-15.6	-8.5	-14.3	-18.5	-7.3	-14.1	0.7
80-84	-9.9	-12.9	-9.4	-11.1	-24.3	-4.8	-8.5	-3.5
85-89	-7.2	-5.5	-13.0	-8.5	-20.7	-2.0	-5.5	-8.1
90+	6.1	-7.4	-10.8	1.4	-16.9	5.3	-13.7	0.3

Table 3.2c:
Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 1996, 2001 and 2006*

Age	Canada						British Columbia					
	Males			Females			Males			Females		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
65-69	22.9	19.3	17.3	12.6	11.6	10.4	19.9	16.0	15.2	11.6	10.3	9.6
70-74	36.8	31.7	28.1	20.1	18.6	17.4	31.9	28.4	24.5	18.0	16.6	15.6
75-79	59.1	52.0	46.0	34.1	30.7	29.4	51.8	47.4	40.6	31.9	27.4	27.6
80-84	96.2	85.6	77.3	59.8	54.2	51.4	86.2	78.1	69.4	55.6	50.9	49.1
85-89	152.8	138.3	131.3	104.8	98.3	93.6	146.7	127.6	116.7	99.4	93.9	86.3
90+	254.1	229.8	226.2	207.6	197.2	191.6	239.8	214.0	216.9	205.7	177.5	178.1

* Rate per 1,000 population

Table 3.2d:
Deaths of Persons 65+ by Age Group and Sex: British Columbia, 2001 and 2006

Age	2001			2006		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
65-69	1,989	1,204	785	2,003	1,216	787
70-74	3,040	1,852	1,188	2,841	1,713	1,128
75-79	4,083	2,320	1,763	3,987	2,213	1,774
80-84	4,692	2,335	2,357	5,122	2,518	2,604
85-89	4,533	1,903	2,630	4,658	1,985	2,673
90+	3,859	1,280	2,579	4,824	1,625	3,199
Total 65+	22,196	10,894	11,302	23,435	11,270	12,165

Source:

For 1971: Statistics Canada. 1974. "Tables 3 and 12" (tables). Mortality, summary list of causes, vital statistics, volume III, February. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-206. Ottawa.

For 1984: Statistics Canada. 1986. "Tables 18" (table). Births and deaths, vital statistics, volume I, March. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-204. Ottawa.

For 1984: Statistics Canada. 1985. "Table 2" (table). Postcensal annual estimates of population by marital status, age, sex, and components of growth for Canada, provinces, and territories, Vol. 2, (2nd issue) May. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-210. Ottawa.

For 1992: B.C. Ministry of Health. Population of British Columbia Calendar: 1985 - 1992 by Local Area. Health Planning Data Base, Vital Statistics, Preliminary Tables. [Victoria.]

For 1996: Statistics Canada. "Table 102-0504" (table). Deaths, by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces, and Territories, Annual. Data sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth and Death Databases, and Demography Division. Unpublished data.

For 2001: Statistics Canada. "Table 102-0504" (table). Deaths, by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces, and Territories, Annual. Data sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth and Death Databases, and Demography Division. Ottawa.

For 2006: Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 102-0504" (table). Deaths, by Age Group and Sex, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (table). CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020504 (accessed: October 29, 2008).

3.3 Causes of Death

In 2006, the five leading causes of death among both males and females 65-84 years of age were cancer, cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease and diabetes mellitus (Table 3.3). These five causes of death accounted for 72.1% of all deaths for males and 71.5% for females. The two leading causes of death - cancers and cardiovascular disease - accounted for 55.8% and 54.0% of deaths for men and women respectively.

When looking at the '85 and over' group, the leading causes of death are slightly different than those for the younger elderly population. Cancer shifts from being the leading cause of death to the second for both males and females. The leading cause of death for the 85 and over group is cardiovascular disease, accounting for 28.9% for men, and 31.3% for women of all deaths at that age. The fifth leading cause of death also changes for the '85 and over group,' compared to the younger group, with vascular/senile dementia accounting for 5.5% (4.1% for men, 6.4% for women) of all deaths in the older age group.

Table 3.3:
Leading Causes of Death by Age and Sex: British Columbia, 2006

65-84 age group	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cancer malignant neoplasm	2,517	33.3	2,171	35.0
Cardiovascular disease	1,701	22.5	1,180	19.0
Cerebrovascular disease	507	6.7	516	8.3
Chronic pulmonary disease	409	5.4	351	5.7
Diabetes mellitus	319	4.2	215	3.5
Other causes*	2,107	27.9	1,770	28.5
All causes	7,560	100	6,203	100

85 and over	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cardiovascular disease	1,108	28.9	1,971	31.3
Cancer malignant neoplasms	676	17.6	781	12.4
Cerebrovascular disease	365	9.5	687	10.9
Pneumonia/Influenza	300	7.8	507	8.1
Vascular/senile dementia	158	4.1	404	6.4
Other causes*	1,225	32.0	1,947	30.9
All causes	3,832	100	6,297	100

"Chronic pulmonary disease" includes: pneumonia, influenza, bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.

Note: Order of leading causes based on total deaths in the specified age group.

**Other causes includes undetermined and pending. Total percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Non-residents are excluded. The output from ICD-10 mortality coding and underlying cause of death selection was modified in British Columbia to reflect the intent of certifiers in this jurisdiction and to provide greater continuity over time. Data using the standard ICD-10 rules for such categories as pneumonia/influenza, diabetes, or cancer should not be compared to the numbers shown above.*

Source:

British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. (2006). "Table 23: Leading causes of death by age and gender, British Columbia, 2006." Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2006. [Victoria]: BC, Division of Vital Statistics, p.72.

3.4 Cancer

In 2005, the highest number of new cancer diagnoses in British Columbians aged 60+ was prostate cancer for men (2,212 new diagnoses) and breast cancer for women (1,454 new diagnoses).

The second highest for both sexes was lung cancer, with 2,057 new cases diagnosed. Generally, those 80 and over were more likely to be diagnosed with a specific cancer than those aged 60 and over. Incidence rates by age group can be seen in Table 3.4a.

Table 3.4a:
New Cancer Diagnoses and Incidence Rates, by Sex and Age at Diagnosis: British Columbia, 2005*

	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Prostate	2,212	0	2,212	591.7	0	652.5	0
Lung	1,087	970	2,057	277.5	224.5	386.0	237.3
Breast	10	1,454	1,464	1.6	343.2	8.1	335.2
Large Intestine	700	631	1,331	164.9	120.8	316.6	233.5
Rectum	377	265	642	97.8	52.7	126.0	92.0
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	324	257	581	82.5	57.3	116.3	69.7
All Other & Unspecified Sites	349	320	669	71.0	61.6	213.2	117.2
Bladder	279	81	260	56.9	14.9	169.6	32.0
Pancreas	165	188	353	39.6	33.4	71.1	77.5
Skin (Melanoma)	205	137	342	56.0	29.7	54.9	39.7
Stomach	181	92	273	40.3	18.6	93.7	31.0
Leukemia	163	127	290	38.9	25.1	71.1	44.6
Kidney, Other Urinary	164	96	260	43.2	22.0	51.7	24.2
Body of Uterus	0	316	316	0.0	83.3	0.0	45.5
Liver and Biliary Passages	91	37	128	25.5	7.1	21.0	13.6
Esophagus	102	99	201	26.2	11.1	35.5	32.0
Ovary	0	171	171	0.0	38.1	0.0	46.5
Multiple Myeloma	104	69	173	21.9	14.9	59.8	20.3
Brain and CNS	79	57	136	21.3	13.3	22.6	13.6
Larynx	60	9	69	15.7	2.2	19.4	1.9
Gallbladder	16	35	51	2.9	5.6	11.3	16.5
Respiratory Other & Unspecified	17	8	25	4.3	1.9	6.5	1.9
Pharynx (Oro and Naso)	24	6	30	6.6	1.5	6.5	1.0
Tongue	44	23	67	13.1	5.3	6.5	5.8
Genital Other & Unspecified	18	44	62	4.9	9.3	4.8	13.6
Thyroid	26	39	65	7.5	9.9	4.8	6.8
Oral Other & Unspecified	38	12	50	10.8	3.4	8.1	1.0
Digestive Other & Unspecified	61	68	129	13.1	12.4	33.9	27.1
Cervix	0	31	31	0.0	7.4	0.0	6.8
Soft Tissue (incl. Heart)	38	28	66	9.5	5.0	14.5	11.6
Small Intestine	23	23	46	4.6	5.9	14.5	3.9
Lip	9	4	13	2.0	0.9	4.8	1.0
Hodgkins Disease	14	12	26	3.9	3.4	3.2	1.0
Salivary Gland	14	11	25	3.6	2.2	4.8	3.9
Mouth	30	37	67	7.2	7.4	12.9	12.6

Table 3.4a Continued:

	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Eye	11	6	17	2.6	1.5	4.8	1.0
Bone	3	4	7	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Other Endocrine Glands	4	4	8	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.0
Testis	5	0	5	1.3	0.0	1.6	0.0
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	7	7	0.0	0.6	0.0	4.8
Total	7,047	5,778	12,725	1772.4	1259.5	2634.2	1628.6

ICD categories ordered by number of new diagnoses aged 60+.

Excludes non-melanoma skin cancer.

Source:

BC Cancer Agency. B.C. Cancer Statistics: Facts and Figures. Retrieved October 29, 2008 from <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/CancerStatistics/FF/default.htm>.

Mortality rates by age group can be observed in Table 3.4b. The greatest number of cancer deaths in British Columbians at age 60+ were caused by cancer of the lung (including trachea and bronchus), totaling 1,837 deaths in 2005. The second leading cancer cause of death was prostate cancer for men, with 495 deaths, and cancer of the large intestine for women, with 393 deaths, followed by breast cancer (382 deaths). Cancer of the large intestine was the third leading cause of death for men, with 358 deaths in 2005. The above patterns have not changed appreciably since the 1990s based on comparisons with earlier Fact Books.

**Table 3.4b:
Cancer Deaths and Mortality Rates: British Columbia, 2005**

	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Lung	1,011	826	1,837	239.2	176.2	452.2	249.0
Prostate	495	0	495	74.9	0.0	429.6	0.0
Large Intestine	358	393	751	78.2	56.7	192.2	203.4
Breast	6	382	388	2.0	70.6	0.0	149.2
Pancreas	181	199	380	41.6	36.2	87.2	79.4
All Other & Unspecified Sites	191	194	385	37.0	31.9	126.0	88.2
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	154	107	261	31.4	14.9	93.7	57.2
Liver	91	45	136	22.3	5.3	37.1	27.1
Leukemia	124	100	224	22.3	15.8	90.4	47.5
Stomach	102	56	158	20.0	9.6	66.2	24.2
Esophagus	146	53	199	33.4	8.4	71.1	25.2
Bladder	148	57	205	24.9	8.1	116.3	30.0
Ovary	0	154	154	0.0	31.0	0.0	52.3

Table 3.4b continued

	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Kidney, Other Urinary	97	43	140	23.6	7.7	40.4	17.4
Brain and CNS	79	59	138	21.6	13.3	21.0	15.5
Rectum	101	67	168	20.6	11.5	61.4	29.1
Multiple Myeloma	85	67	152	15.1	13.3	63.0	23.2
Skin (Melanoma)	51	27	78	9.8	5.0	33.9	10.7
Larynx	30	10	40	8.5	2.2	6.5	2.9
Digestive Other Unspecified	40	53	93	8.2	9.6	24.2	21.3
Soft Tissue (incl. Heart)	16	14	30	2.6	2.2	12.9	6.8
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	32	32	0.0	5.3	0.0	14.5
Pharynx (Oro and Naso)	11	8	19	2.9	2.1	3.2	1.0
Body of Uterus	0	35	35	0.0	6.5	0.0	13.6
Oral Other & Unspecified	20	6	26	4.9	1.2	8.1	1.9
Tongue	19	12	31	4.6	2.5	8.1	3.9
Cervix	0	23	23	0.0	4.6	0.0	7.7
Genital Other & Unspecified	3	18	21	0.7	2.2	1.6	10.7
Small Intestine	8	8	16	2.0	1.5	3.2	2.9
Bone	9	2	11	2.3	0.6	3.2	0.0
Thyroid	7	10	17	2.0	1.5	1.6	4.8
Respiratory Other Unspecified	4	5	9	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.0
Other Endocrine Glands	0	9	9	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.9
Salivary Gland	6	2	8	1.6	0.0	1.6	1.9
Hodgkins Disease	8	0	8	2.0	0.0	3.2	0.0
Lip	2	0	2	0.3	0.0	1.6	0.0
Mouth	22	10	32	5.2	2.2	9.7	2.9
Eye	0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Testis	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	3,625	3,087	6,712	763.8	563.1	2,072	1,229.3

Excludes bladder cancer.

Source:

BC Cancer Agency. B.C. Cancer Statistics: Facts and Figures. Retrieved October 29, 2008 from <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/CancerStatistics/FF/default.htm>.

3.5 Suicide

A total of 427 suicides were reported in 2004 (Table 3.5) among persons aged 65 and over in Canada, of which approximately three quarters involved men. In 2006 for B.C., the total was 81 of which 60 were men (74%). The number of suicides in B.C. appears to have risen since 2002 (67 total, of which 54 were men based on comparisons with Table 3.5, *Fact Book, 4th ed.*, p.21). However, these numbers should be treated with caution due to reporting problems with this cause of death. It is likely that suicide is underreported among the elderly.

Note that mortality due to falls appears in Section 14: Falls and Injury.

Table 3.5:
Suicide Deaths of Persons 65+, by Age Group and Sex: Canada (2004) and British Columbia (2006)

Age	Canada (2004)			British Columbia (2006)		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
65-69	121	82	39	58	42	16
70-74	108	83	25			
75-79	88	71	17			
80-84	63	48	15	23	18	5
85-89	36	27	9			
90+	11	8	3			
Total	427	319	108	81	60	21

**The output from ICD-10 mortality coding and underlying cause of death selection was modified in British Columbia to reflect the intent of certifiers in this jurisdiction and to provide greater continuity over time. Data using the standard ICD-10 rules for such categories as pneumonia/influenza, diabetes, or cancer should not be compared to the numbers shown above.*

Source:

For Canada: Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 102-0540" (table). Deaths, by cause, Chapter XX: External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 to Y89), age group and sex, Canada, annual (number) (table). CANSIM (database).

http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020540 (accessed:

November 10, 2008).

For British Columbia: British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. (2006). "Appendix 2: Detailed cause of death by gender and age." Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2006. [Victoria]: BC, Division of Vital Statistics, p.173.

4. Marital Status

Patterns of marital status vary significantly by sex of the older adult. According to the 2006 Census, approximately three-quarters of male British Columbians aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1a), whereas under half of all women in B.C. aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1b). In contrast, 39.9% of older women were widowed, compared to only 12.0% of older men. Of those in the 65-69 age group, 4.5% of men and 17.4% of women were widowed. Slightly less than half (41.5%) of women in the age group 75-79 were widowed, compared to only 12.8% of men. Even at ages 90 and over, only 45.9% of men were widowed, compared to 83.7% of women.

The gap in life expectancy between the sexes, the tendency for men to marry younger women, and men’s higher rate of re-marriage have all contributed to the substantial difference in the marital status composition of the elderly male and elderly female population shown in Tables 4.1a and 4.1b. Although not shown here, it is expected that we will observe an increase in the divorce rate over the next several years due to higher divorce rates among the aging baby boomer cohorts.

Table 4.1a:
Male Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2006

	Never married (Single)		Married (and not separated)		Separated (but still legally married)		Divorced		Widowed		Total	
65-69	4,770	5.7%	62,985	75.8%	2,430	2.9%	9,140	11.0%	3,725	4.5%	83,050	100%
70-74	3,480	5.0%	53,565	76.3%	1,920	2.7%	6,020	8.6%	5,225	7.4%	70,200	100%
75-79	2,755	5.0%	40,770	73.3%	1,280	2.3%	3,725	6.7%	7,115	12.8%	55,640	100%
80-84	1,600	4.3%	25,175	68.2%	815	2.2%	1,820	4.9%	7,485	20.3%	36,890	100%
85-89	695	3.9%	10,850	60.4%	365	2.0%	620	3.5%	5,435	30.3%	17,965	100%
90+	350	4.5%	3,525	45.7%	135	1.7%	170	2.2%	3,540	45.9%	7,725	100%
Total 65+	13,650	5.0%	196,870	72.5%	6,945	2.6%	21,495	7.9%	32,525	12.0%	271,470	100%

Figure 4.1a:
Marital Status of Men Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2006

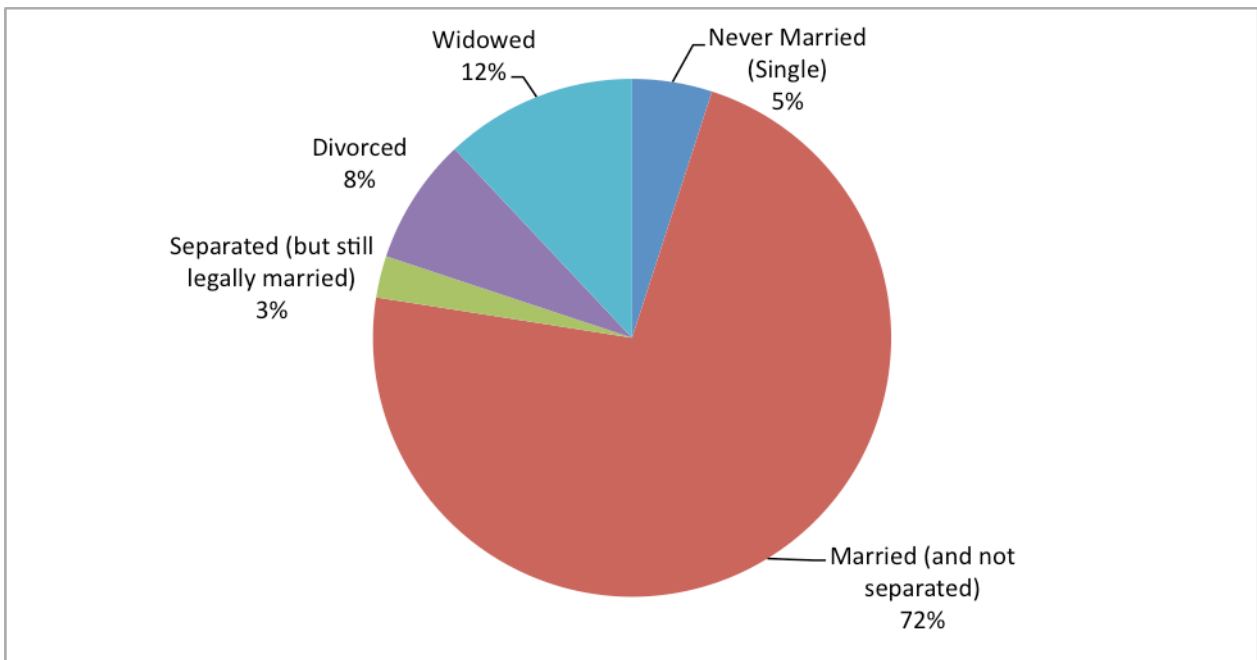
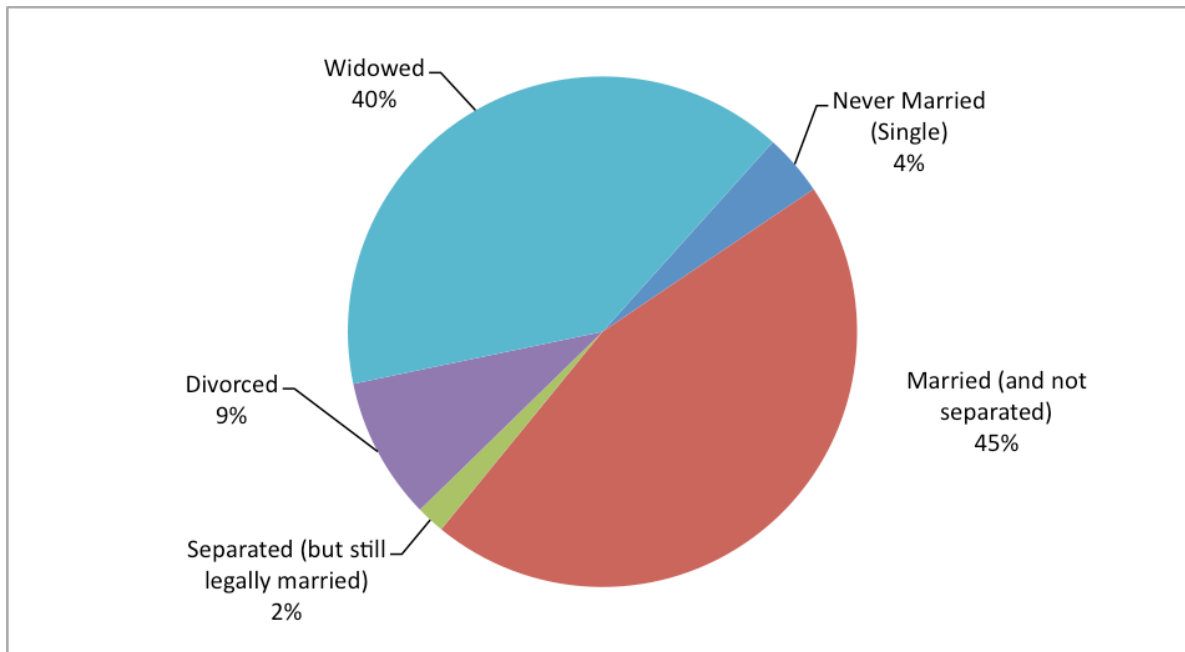


Table 4.1b:
Female Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2006

	Never married (Single)		Married (and not separated)		Separated (but still legally married)		Divorced		Widowed		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
65-69	3,550	4.1%	54,395	62.7%	2,240	2.6%	11,440	13.2%	15,090	17.4%	86,720	100.0%
70-74	2,580	3.5%	41,145	56%	1,585	2.2%	7,705	10.5%	20,410	27.8%	73,430	100.0%
75-79	2,410	3.7%	29,080	44.9%	1,135	1.8%	5,315	8.2%	26,865	41.5%	64,795	100.0%
80-84	2,110	4.0%	16,705	31.5%	680	1.3%	3,170	6.0%	30,370	57.3%	53,035	100.0%
85-89	1,360	4.2%	5,985	18.6%	250	0.8%	1,355	4.2%	23,145	72.1%	32,095	100.0%
90+	940	5.1%	1,505	8.2%	75	0.4%	460	2.5%	15,290	83.7%	18,270	100.0%
Total 65+	12,950	3.9%	148,815	45.3%	5,965	1.8%	29,445	9.0%	131,170	39.9%	328,345	100.0%

Figure 4.1b:
Marital Status of Women Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2006



Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (17) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses- 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-552-XWE2006007. Ottawa. Released September 12, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?ALEVEL=3&APATH=3&CATNO=97-552-XCB2006007&DETAIL=0&DIM=&DS=99&FL=0&FREE=0&GAL=&GC=99&GK=NA&GRP=0&IPS=97-552-XCB2006007&METH=0&ORDER=&PID=88997&PTYPE=88971&RL=0&S=1&ShowAll=&StartRow=&SUB=&Temporal=2006&Theme=67&VID=&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

5. Geographic Distribution and Mobility

5.1 The Older Population of B.C. in Relation to Other Provinces

The geographic distribution of the elderly population in Canada parallels that of the total population. Like the general population, the aged population tends to be concentrated in the three provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia (see Table 5.1). In 2006, the largest number of the aged resided in Ontario (1,649,180), Quebec (1,080,295) and British Columbia (599,815).

The proportion of persons aged 65 and over within the provinces displays a different pattern. In 2006, Saskatchewan (15.4%), Nova Scotia (15.1%), and Prince Edward Island (14.9%) had the largest proportions of older persons (65+) in their population. New Brunswick was fourth (14.7%) followed closely by B.C. (14.6%). Alberta only had 10.7% of its population age 65 and over, and the territories had extremely young populations due to high mortality and fertility among their residents.

Table 5.1:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2006

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	65-74	75-84	85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% in Province Aged 65+
Newfoundland	505,465	70,260	39,685	22,930	7,645	1.6%	13.9%
Prince Edward Island	135,850	20,185	10,810	6,685	2,690	0.5%	14.9%
Nova Scotia	913,460	138,220	73,300	46,310	18,610	3.2%	15.1%
New Brunswick	729,995	107,635	56,845	36,685	14,105	2.5%	14.7%
Québec	7,546,130	1,080,295	583,710	377,300	119,285	24.9%	14.3%
Ontario	12,160,285	1,649,180	868,190	589,180	191,810	38.0%	13.6%
Manitoba	1,148,400	161,885	78,930	59,045	23,910	3.7%	14.1%
Saskatchewan	968,155	149,300	70,885	54,595	23,820	3.4%	15.4%
Alberta	3,290,350	353,420	189,330	121,795	42,295	8.2%	10.7%
British Columbia	4,113,485	599,815	313,400	210,365	76,050	13.8%	14.6%
Yukon Territory	30,370	2,290	1,475	635	180	0.0%	7.5%
Northwest Territories	41,460	1,980	1,235	580	165	0.0%	4.8%
Nunavut	29,475	805	580	180	45	0.0%	2.7%
Total	31,612,895	4,335,245	2,288,360	1,526,280	520,605	100.0%	13.7%

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2006 Censuses - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006005. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=97-551-XCB2006005&lang=eng> (accessed August 11, 2008).

5.2 Geographic Distribution within British Columbia

In 2006, a total of 271,460 (45.3%) of B.C.'s seniors lived in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Greater Vancouver). The Capital Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Capital) was the next most popular region of the province among seniors, occupied by 62,485 (10.4%) of the elderly population. The Fraser Valley ranked third with 37,510 (6.3%). Together, the three regional districts of Okanagan- Similkameen, Central Okanagan, and North Okanagan were home to 66,565 (11.1%) of B.C. seniors.

However, when Regional Districts are rank ordered in terms of the percentage of their population aged 65 and over, a different picture emerges. The Regional District with the highest proportion of its population aged 65+ was Okanagan Similkameen (26.3%), followed by Nanaimo (20.9%), the Sunshine Coast (20.6%), Kootenay Boundary (20.3%), Powell River (19.6%) and North Okanagan (19.2%).

**Table 5.2a:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+, by Regional District: British Columbia, 2006**

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Alberni-Clayoquot	30,660	4,810	2,295	2,510	0.80%	15.7%
Bulkley-Nechako	38,245	3,970	2,025	1,945	0.66%	10.4%
Capital	345,165	62,485	26,565	35,920	10.42%	18.1%
Cariboo	62,190	8,385	4,240	4,140	1.40%	13.5%
Central Coast	3,190	335	165	165	0.06%	10.5%
Central Kootenay	55,885	9,955	4,715	5,240	1.66%	17.8%
Central Okanagan	162,275	30,840	14,040	16,800	5.14%	19.0%
Columbia-Shuswap	50,145	9,370	4,530	4,835	1.56%	18.7%
Comox-Strathcona	101,595	16,280	7,795	8,485	2.71%	16.0%
Cowichan Valley	76,930	13,670	6,505	7,160	2.28%	17.8%
East Kootenay	55,485	8,280	3,980	4,300	1.38%	14.9%
Fraser Valley	257,030	37,510	16,945	20,565	6.25%	14.6%
Fraser-Fort George	92,265	8,650	4,270	4,380	1.44%	9.4%
Greater Vancouver	2,116,580	271,460	119,285	152,180	45.26%	12.8%
Kitimat-Stikine	37,995	3,860	1,980	1,875	0.64%	10.2%
Kootenay Boundary	30,740	6,225	2,865	3,350	1.04%	20.3%
Mount Waddington	11,655	1,000	515	480	0.17%	8.6%
Nanaimo	138,630	28,945	13,665	15,280	4.83%	20.9%
North Okanagan	77,300	14,855	6,875	7,975	2.48%	19.2%
Northern Rockies	6,150	215	125	90	0.04%	3.5%
Okanagan-Similkameen	79,475	20,870	9,830	11,040	3.48%	26.3%
Peace River	58,260	5,125	2,535	2,595	0.85%	8.8%
Powell River	19,600	3,845	1,800	2,050	0.64%	19.6%
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	19,660	1,940	940	1,000	0.32%	9.9%
Squamish-Lillooet	35,225	2,630	1,300	1,330	0.44%	7.5%
Stikine Region	1,110	115	60	50	0.02%	10.4%
Sunshine Coast	27,760	5,710	2,730	2,985	0.95%	20.6%
Thompson-Nicola	122,285	18,490	8,895	9,590	3.10%	15.1%
Total	4,113,485	599,810	271,475	328,335	100.00%	14.6%

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age and Sex, 2006 counts for both sexes, for Canada, provinces and territories, and census divisions - 100% data" (table). 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XWE2006002. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/highlights/agesex/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 11, 2008).

5.2.1 Geographic Distribution within the Greater Vancouver Regional District

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) consists of an area of just over 1,000 square miles (2,603 square kilometers), including 21 member municipalities, 1 electoral area, and Indian reserves, with populations ranging in size from 4 to 578,040. Table 5.2b shows that 75,990 or almost one third (28.0%) of the seniors in the GVRD live in the City of Vancouver. A further 45,390 (16.7%) live in Surrey, while 28,140 (10.4%) live in Burnaby.

In several communities within the GVRD, the proportion of seniors in the population exceeded the 2006 provincial average of 14.6% (see Table 5.2b). These communities included: White Rock, where almost one-third (27.8%) of the population was aged 65 and over in 2006, West Vancouver (23.0%) and Langley City (16.6%).

Table 5.2b:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2006

Communities/Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Anmore [VL]	1,785	105	45	50	0.04%	5.9%
Belcarra [VL]	680	75	50	35	0.03%	11.0%
Bowen Island [IM]	3,360	410	195	205	0.15%	12.2%
Burnaby [C]	202,800	28,140	12,450	15,690	10.40%	13.9%
Coquitlam [C]	114,565	12,500	5,485	7,020	4.61%	10.9%
Delta [DM]	96,725	12,685	5,780	6,915	4.70%	13.1%
Greater Vancouver A [RDA]	11,050	920	430	500	0.34%	8.3%
Langley [C]	23,610	3,930	1,490	2,440	1.45%	16.6%
Langley [DM]	93,725	11,360	5,135	6,230	4.20%	12.1%
Lions Bay [VL]	1,330	160	100	70	0.06%	12.0%
Maple Ridge [DM]	68,950	7,905	3,425	4,475	2.91%	11.5%
New Westminster [C]	58,550	7,955	3,205	4,735	2.93%	13.6%
North Vancouver [C]	45,165	6,075	2,405	3,665	2.24%	13.5%
North Vancouver [DM]	82,560	11,165	4,960	6,205	4.12%	13.5%
Pitt Meadows [DM]	15,625	1,735	780	975	0.64%	11.1%
Port Coquitlam [C]	52,690	4,445	1,955	2,490	1.64%	8.4%
Port Moody [C]	27,515	2,160	1,030	1,135	0.80%	7.9%
Richmond [C]	174,460	22,250	9,775	12,485	8.20%	12.8%
Surrey [C]	394,980	45,390	20,490	24,895	16.73%	11.5%
Vancouver [C]	578,040	75,990	33,380	42,600	28.01%	13.1%
West Vancouver [DM]	42,130	9,690	4,195	5,495	3.57%	23.0%
White Rock [C]	18,755	5,210	2,015	3,190	1.92%	27.8%
Indian Reserves*	7,550	1,155	520	605	0.43%	15.3%
Total	2,116,600	271,305	119,295	152,105	100.00%	12.8%

* These include Barnston Island, Burrard Inlet, Capilano, Coquitlam, Katzie, Langley, Matsqui, McMillan Island, Mission, Musqueam, Semiahoo, Seymour Creek, Tsawwassen and Whomock. These numbers should be interpreted with care because of the small sizes of these reserves and the rounding process used by Statistics Canada.

Key to Abbreviations: C - City; DM - District Municipality; IM - Island Municipality; RDA - Regional District Electoral Area; T - Town; VL - Village

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "2006 Community Profiles: British Columbia." (table). 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 12, 2008).

5.2.2 Geographic Distribution within the Capital Regional District

The Capital Regional District (CRD), located on Southern Vancouver Island, encompasses a total land area of 937 square miles (2,427 square kilometers). Within its boundaries are 13 member municipalities and 4 electoral areas. As shown in Table 5.3c, over half (55.2%) of the seniors live in two communities; 14,625 (23.9%) in the City of Victoria and 19,145 (31.3%) in the Municipality of Saanich.

In terms of the proportion of their population aged 65+, five communities equal or exceed 20%. These are Sidney (35.4%), Capital G (28.4%), Oak Bay (25.2%), Capital F (22.2%) and North Saanich (21.8%).

**Table 5.2c:
Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Capital Regional District, 2006**

Communities/Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of Population 65+ in CRD	% of Municipality 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Capital F [RDA]	9,640	2,140	975	1,180	3.5%	22.2%
Capital G [RDA]	5,100	1,450	745	705	2.4%	28.4%
Capital H Part 1 [RDA]	4,250	525	275	250	0.9%	12.4%
Capital H Part 2 [RDA]	235	30	15	15	0.05%	12.8%
Central Saanich [DM]	15,745	2,945	1,345	1,605	4.8%	18.7%
Colwood [C]	14,685	1,590	720	870	2.6%	10.8%
Esquimalt [DM]	16,840	2,590	1,035	1,555	4.2%	15.4%
Highlands [DM]	1,900	145	65	75	0.2%	7.6%
Langford [DM]	22,460	2,305	990	1,320	3.8%	10.3%
Metchosin [DM]	4,795	580	310	280	0.95%	12.1%
North Saanich [DM]	10,825	2,365	1,120	1,245	3.9%	21.8%
Oak Bay [DM]	17,910	4,510	1,845	2,680	7.4%	25.2%
Saanich [DM]	108,265	19,145	8,430	10,710	31.3%	17.7%
Sidney [T]	11,315	4,000	1,530	2,460	6.5%	35.4%
Sooke [DM]	9,705	1,205	570	640	2.0%	12.4%
Victoria [C]	78,055	14,625	5,430	9,200	23.9%	18.7%
Indian Reserves*	4,000	995	455	540	1.6%	24.9%
Total	335,725	61,145	25,855	35,330	100.0%	18.1%

* These include Becher Bay, Cole Bay, East Saanich, Esquimalt, Galiano Island, Gordon River, Mayne Island, New Songhees, Pacheena, South Saanich, T'Sou-ke (Sooke) and Union Bay. These numbers should be interpreted with care because of the small sizes of these reserves and the rounding process used by Statistics Canada.

Key to Abbreviations: C - City; DM - District (Municipality); RDA - Regional District Electoral Area; T - Town

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "2006 Community Profiles: British Columbia – Capital F." (table). 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 12, 2008).

5.3 Mobility

5.3.1 Total Population and Population Aged 65+

Canadians are a relatively mobile people. In each of the census years, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006, approximately one-quarter of the population 65 years of age and over (ranging between 19.2% and 31.5%) were living in a different dwelling than five years earlier. From 1971-2001, there was a steady decline in the mobility rate for Canadians aged 65 and over, however between 2001 and 2006, the mobility rate increased almost 1%.

In each of these census periods, a higher proportion of older British Columbians (ranging between 23.0% and 40.3%) changed residence than was the case for the country as a whole (see Table 5.4a). In 2006, senior British Columbians had a mobility rate that was 5.7% higher than the national average (a 2.8% increase from 2001) although they too have experienced a decline since 1971.

Table 5.3a:
Percent of the Population Aged 65+ Who Changed Residence in the Five Years Preceding the Census of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006: Canada and British Columbia*

Period	Canada	British Columbia
1956-1961	27.4%	34.7%
1966-1971	31.5%	40.3%
1971-1976	30.9%	39.0%
1976-1981	26.2%	32.6%
1981-1986	21.6%	26.3%
1986-1991	22.2%	32.3%
1991-1996	20.2%	29.2%
1996-2001	19.2%	23.0%
2001-2006	20.1%	25.8%

* 20% sample

Sources:

- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1965. "Volume IV: Population sample, income, migration, fertility: General characteristics of migrant and non-migrant population, Table 11" (table). 1961 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-509. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1974. "Volume 1 (part 2), Population: General characteristics. Internal migration, Table 31" (table). 1971 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-719. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1978. "Volume 2, Population: Demographic characteristics. Mobility status, Table 35" (table). 1976 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-828. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1984. "Volume 1, National series. Population: Mobility status, Table 1" (table). 1981 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-907. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1989. "Nation [series]. Population and dwelling characteristics: Mobility status and interprovincial migration, Table 1" (table). 1986 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-108. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1993. "Nation [series]. Mobility and migration, Table 1A" (table). 1991 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-322. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1998. 1996 Census. Nation series, complete edition [CD-ROM]. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed December 10, 2002).

Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census- 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97556XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released December 4, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?ALEVEL=3&APATH=3&CATNO=97-556-XCB2006007&DETAIL=0&DIM=&DS=99&FL=0&FREE=0&GAL=0&GC=99&GK=NA&GRP=1&IPS=97-556-XCB2006007&METH=0&ORDER=1&PID=89177&PTYPE=88971&RL=0&S=1&ShowAll=No&StartRow=1&SUB=712&Temporal=2006&Theme=71&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>. (accessed October 6, 2008).

5.3.2 Distance Moved

Moves by the older age group are mainly of a short distance. For example, of the 147,410 elderly British Columbians who changed residence between 2001 and 2006 (see Table 5.4b), 48.7% (71,725) remained in the same census subdivision (Non-migrant Movers); 35.9% (52,940) moved elsewhere within the province (Intraprovincial Migrants); 10.2% (15,050) moved to B.C. from a different province (Interprovincial Migrants); while 5.2% (7,685) immigrated from a different country (External Migrants).

In comparison to Canada as a whole, a relatively larger proportion of B.C.'s older residents in 2006 lived outside the province in 2001. In 2006, 88,585 or 2.2% of the elderly population in Canada had moved from a different province or a different country (Interprovincial and External Migrants) over the preceding five years; in B.C., the comparable number was 22,735 or 4.0%.

Table 5.3b:
Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2001-2006*

Mobility Status	Canada				British Columbia			
	65+	65-69	70-74	75+	65+	65-69	70-74	75+
Non-movers	3,253,995	952,370	836,750	1,464,875	425,020	119,245	105,505	200,270
Non-migrant Movers	459,445	137,330	109,255	212,860	71,725	22,335	16,765	32,625
Migrants	360,810	130,650	89,250	140,910	75,685	27,415	19,185	29,085
Internal Migrants	322,630	113,495	78,930	130,205	67,995	23,910	17,025	27,060
Intraprovincial Migrants	272,215	94,900	67,030	110,285	52,940	18,375	13,185	21,380
Interprovincial Migrants	50,410	18,595	11,895	19,920	15,050	5,530	3,835	5,685
External Migrants	38,175	17,150	10,320	10,705	7,685	3,505	2,155	2,025
Total Movers	820,255	267,975	198,510	353,770	147,410	49,750	35,950	61,710
Total	4,074,245	1,220,350	1,035,255	1,818,640	572,425	168,995	141,450	261,980

* 20% Sample

Non-migrant movers are those movers who, on Census Day, were living within the same census subdivision (CSD) that they resided in five years earlier. Internal migrants are those movers who were living in a different CSD in Canada five years previously. External migrants are those movers who were living outside Canada five years previously.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census- 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97556XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released December 4, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?ALEVEL=3&APATH=3&CATNO=97-556-XCB2006007&DETAIL=0&DIM=&DS=99&FL=0&FREE=0&GAL=0&GC=99&GK=NA&GRP=1&IPS=97-556-XCB2006007&METH=0&ORDER=1&PID=89177&PTYPE=88971&RL=0&S=1&ShowAll=No&StartRow=1&SUB=712&Temporal=2006&Theme=71&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed October 6, 2008).

Vancouver was clearly the destination of choice for external migrants in the period 2001-2006 (see Table 5.3c). Of the 7,685 seniors who moved to B.C. from another country (Table 5.2b, External Migrants), 5,425 or 70.59% located in Vancouver, 570 (7.42%) in Victoria, while the remaining 1,690 (22.0%) settled elsewhere in the province (Table 5.3c).

Out-migration from Vancouver and Victoria was mainly to another location within the province and again involved persons in all three age groups.

Table 5.3c:
Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Vancouver and Victoria, 2001-2006*

	CMA Vancouver§				CMA Victoria§			
	65-69	70-74	75+	Total 65+	65-69	70-74	75+	Total 65+
Total In-migrants	4,940	3,580	5,350	13,870	1,465	1,225	2,085	4,775
Intraprovincial In-Migrants	1,345	920	2,180	4,445	650	570	1,000	2,220
Interprovincial In-Migrants	1,180	1,035	1,775	3,990	570	500	905	1,975
External Migrants	2,405	1,630	1,390	5,425	235	160	175	570
Total Out-migrants	4,450	2,445	3,530	10,425	1,005	710	1,420	3,135
Intraprovincial Out-Migrants	3,535	1,840	2,540	7,915	780	515	975	2,270
Interprovincial Out-Migrants	915	605	985	2,505	220	195	450	865

* 20% sample

§ CMA – Census Metropolitan Areas

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Components of Migration (In- and Out-) (7), Mother Tongue (8), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Migrants Aged 5 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-556-XCB2006017. Ottawa. Released July 23, 2008.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=94606&GID=843983&D1=0&D2=15&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 13, 2008).

6. Ethnic Composition

6.1 Predominant Groups

The 2006 Census provides information on ethnic origin both as a single selection and as a multiple selection. Individuals were asked in the census to state ancestral origin of household members and themselves. The Census states, "While most people in Canada view themselves as Canadians information on their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to capture the changing composition of Canada's diverse population." The question is then asked: "To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestral group belong?" It should be noted that an individual can be included in more than one ethnic category.

Table 6.1 shows that in 2006, the English were the predominant ethnic group (as a single or multiple selection) among British Columbians, both for the total population (29.6%) and for those 65 and over (32.1%). Among persons of all ages in B.C., those of Scottish origin constituted the second largest group (19.8%), followed by Canadians (16.0%). Turning to ethnic seniors, the largest groups after the English included: Scottish (18.0%), Irish (13.0%), and German (12.6%).

Although not shown in these tables, the ethnic composition of Canadians and British Columbians varies considerably by community, where higher proportions of non-English and non-British ethnic groups are observed in major metropolitan areas.

Table 6.1:
Ten Leading Ethnic Origin Groups, Total Population and Population Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2006*

Ethnic Origin Group	Total Population of B.C. (3,394,910)			% of Total Pop. §	Population Aged 65+ (572,425)			% of Pop. Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		Single	Multiple	Total§	
English	228,285	776,575	1,004,865	29.6%	78,925	104,920	183,850	32.1%
Scottish	83,160	590,875	674,035	19.8%	27,130	75,915	103,040	18.0%
Canadian	198,740	345,455	544,195	16.0%	23,600	33,860	57,460	10.0%
Irish	43,935	459,220	503,155	14.8%	12,250	62,225	74,475	13.0%
German	108,130	339,130	442,265	13.2%	38,005	33,800	71,810	12.6%
Chinese	323,755	36,272	360,025	10.6%	47,060	1,830	48,890	8.5%
French	33,160	251,845	285,005	8.3%	8,080	24,805	32,885	5.7%
Dutch	51,490	100,505	151,995	4.5%	13,295	10,480	23,780	4.2%
East Indian	160,070	20,115	180,190	5.3%	20,350	1,660	21,970	3.8%
Ukrainian	36,250	118,590	154,835	4.6%	12,595	7,070	19,655	3.4%
Total ‡	1,266,975	3,038,585	4,305,565	N.A.	281,255	356,565	637,815	N.A.

Definitions: Prior to 1981, only one ethnic origin group was asked per respondent. In 1986 and 1991, respondents specified as many origins as applicable. A single response occurs when a respondent provides only one ethnic origin. A multiple response occurs when a respondent provides two or more ethnic origins.

* 20% sample.

§ Includes single and multiple ethnic origin. Therefore, an individual can be included in more than one ethnic category.

‡ Sum of specific ethnic groups is not equal to total population aged 65+ due to multiple counts. The total also differs from the total population aged 65 because not all ethnic origins are shown in this table.

N.A. Not applicable since totals add to more than 100% due to multiple origins.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-562-XCB2006012. Ottawa. Released April 02, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92339&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 12, 2009)..

6.2 Proportion of Ethnic Origin Groups Aged 65+

Among all persons selecting English as a single or multiple ethnic origin, 18.3% were elderly. As shown in Table 6.2, there were several other ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10%. In fact, the number of ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10% almost doubled between 2001 and 2006, from 25 to 47 (See Table 6.2). It should be noted that individuals could select as many ethnic origins as they felt were applicable, and multiple origin ethnic groups were more common among younger age groups.

Table 6.2:
Population Aged 65+, by Selected Ethnic Origin Groups: British Columbia, 2006.

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (833,010)	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Acadian	40	190	230	<0.1%	9.2%
Afghan	115	50	165	<0.1%	4.9%
African (Black), n.i.e.	120	390	510	<0.1%	7.5%
Albanian	15	10	25	<0.1%	3.2%
Algerian	0	0	0	<0.1%	0.0%
American (USA)	1,625	7,120	8,745	1.0%	16.3%
Arab, n.i.e.	80	60	140	<0.1%	4.9%
Armenian	225	110	335	<0.1%	16.1%
Australian	85	510	600	0.1%	7.2%
Austrian	3,040	4,095	7,135	0.9%	18.4%
Bangladeshi	15	10	25	<0.1%	4.1%
Barbadian	25	40	65	<0.1%	6.6%
Belgian	750	1,605	2,355	0.3%	16.6%
Black	75	165	240	<0.1%	6.9%
Bosnian	45	20	65	<0.1%	3.0%
British, n.i.e.	3,455	2,440	5,895	0.7%	10.0%
Bulgarian	90	45	135	<0.1%	6.0%
Cambodian	35	0	35	<0.1%	2.0%
Canadian	23,600	33,860	57,460	6.9%	10.6%
Caribbean, n.i.e.	0	25	25	<0.1%	4.0%
Chilean	135	95	230	<0.1%	7.0%
Chinese	47,060	1,830	48,890	5.9%	13.6%
Colombian	20	30	50	<0.1%	2.3%
Croatian	2,045	450	2,495	0.3%	16.9%
Czech	965	1,025	1,990	0.2%	11.7%
Czechoslovakian	360	585	945	0.1%	15.2%
Danish	3,645	3,715	7,360	0.9%	16.7%
Dutch (Netherlands)	13,295	10,480	23,775	2.8%	15.6%
East Indian	20,315	1,660	21,975	2.6%	12.2%
Egyptian	80	70	150	<0.1%	8.1%
English	78,925	104,920	183,845	22.1%	18.3%
Estonian	515	195	710	0.1%	19.2%
Ethiopian	0	0	0	<0.1%	0%
European, n.i.e.	325	235	560	0.1%	8.7%

Table 6.2 continued:

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (833,010)	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Fijian	300	170	470	<0.1%	6.6%
Filipino	3,890	1,245	5,140	0.6%	7.1%
Finnish	2,155	1,485	3,640	0.4%	15.1%
Flemish	90	210	300	<0.1%	16.6%
French	8,080	24,805	32,885	3.9%	11.5%
German	38,005	33,800	71,805	8.6%	16.0%
Ghanaian	0	25	25	<0.1%	2.7%
Greek	2,050	590	2,640	0.3%	15.7%
Guyanese	10	20	30	<0.1%	3.4%
Haitian	0	0	0	<0.1%	0.0%
Hungarian (Magyar)	4,390	2,105	6,495	0.8%	16.5%
Icelandic	835	1,325	2,160	0.3%	12.5%
Inuit	20	65	85	<0.1%	5.5%
Iranian	1,930	195	2,125	0.2%	8.8%
Iraqi	20	25	45	<0.1%	3.0%
Irish	12,250	62,225	74,475	8.9%	14.8%
Italian	12,410	3,660	16,070	1.9%	14.7%
Jamaican	205	185	390	<0.1%	8.2%
Japanese	4,500	225	4,725	0.6%	14.6%
Jewish	1,485	1,905	3,390	0.4%	13.7%
Korean	2,275	35	2310	0.3%	5.6%
Laotian	60	10	70	<0.1%	5.7%
Latin/Central/South American, n.i.e.	25	55	80	<0.1%	5.9%
Latvian	295	280	575	0.1%	17.0%
Lebanese	250	185	435	<0.1%	10.2%
Lithuanian	330	415	745	0.1%	15.0%
Macedonian	30	10	40	<0.1%	6.0%
Maltese	130	85	215	<0.1%	12.5%
Métis	460	2,000	2,460	0.3%	5.5%
Mexican	145	175	320	<0.1%	3.7%
Moroccan	10	10	20	<0.1%	3.6%
Newfoundlander	10	105	115	<0.1%	11.1%
North American Indian	4,790	5,190	9,980	1.0%	7.2%
Norwegian	5,600	8,740	14,340	1.7%	14.0%
Pakistani	270	235	505	0.1%	9.0%
Palestinian	55	25	80	<0.1%	8.3%
Peruvian	40	30	70	<0.1%	3.8%
Polish	5,420	7,940	13,360	1.6%	12.9%
Portuguese	3,210	710	3,920	0.5%	14.7%
Punjabi	1,175	565	1,740	0.2%	12.5%
Québécois	45	60	105	<0.1%	13.6%
Romanian	895	1,275	2,170	0.3%	10.6%
Russian	5,215	5,655	10,870	1.3%	12.0%

Table 6.2 continued:

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (833,010)	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Salvadorean	105	75	180	<0.1%	3.5%
Scandinavian, n.i.e.	340	630	970	0.2%	12.0%
Scottish	27,130	75,915	103,045	12.4%	15.3%
Serbian	570	200	770	0.1%	10.3%
Slovak	800	350	1150	0.1%	15.2%
Slovenian	545	185	730	0.1%	20.2%
Somali	35	0	35	<0.1%	4.8%
South African	125	270	395	<0.1%	7.5%
South Asian, n.i.e.	440	50	490	<0.1%	8.7%
Spanish	750	3,065	3,815	0.5%	9.2%
Sri Lankan	140	80	220	<0.1%	7.3%
Swedish	3,405	8,615	12,020	1.4%	14.4%
Swiss	1,300	2,205	3,505	0.4%	15.6%
Syrian	55	65	120	<0.1%	11.6%
Taiwanese	335	125	460	0.1%	5.0%
Tamil	40	20	60	<0.1%	9.1%
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	55	70	125	<0.1%	5.7%
Turk	120	110	230	<0.1%	6.7%
Ukrainian	12,595	7,070	19,665	2.4%	12.7%
Vietnamese	1,270	215	1,485	0.2%	6.5%
Welsh	2,105	11,580	13,685	1.6%	15.8%
West Indian	40	55	95	<0.1%	7.0%
Yugoslav, n.i.e.	800	435	1,235	0.1%	14.4%
Total ‡	377,585	455,480	833,010	100.0%	

Definitions: Prior to 1981, only one ethnic origin was asked per respondent. In 1986 and 1991, respondents specified as many origins as applicable. A single response occurs when a respondent provides only one ethnic origin. A multiple response occurs when a respondent provides two or more ethnic origins.

The category 'Total-Single and multiple ethnic origin responses' indicates the number of respondents who reported each ethnic origin, either as their only response or in addition to one or more other ethnic origins. Total responses represent the sum of single responses and multiple responses received in the census. n.i.e. refers to an ethnic group not referred elsewhere.

* Based on 20% sample data.

§ Includes single and multiple ethnic origin. Therefore, an individual can be included in more than one ethnic category. This is more common among younger persons, resulting in lower percentages of an ethnic group 65+ than if only single ethnic origins were used.

‡ Sum of specific ethnic groups is not equal to total population aged 65+ due to multiple counts.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-562-XCB2006012. Ottawa. Released April 02, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92339&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 12, 2009).

6.3 Visible Minorities

This refers to the visible minority group to which the respondent belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as 'persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour'. According to the 2006 Census, visible minorities made up 16.1% of the population aged 65 and over in British Columbia. The most prevalent visible minority was the Chinese, who made up 8.4% of the older population in British Columbia. The next most prevalent group was the South Asian group, comprising 4.2% of the B.C. senior population. It is anticipated that these rates of visible minority elders will rise significantly over the next several decades due to the aging of the larger middle-aged proportions.

Table 6.3:
Visible Minorities Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2006*

	Total		Males		Females	
Chinese	47,830	8.4%	22,345	8.5%	25,490	8.3%
South Asian	24,130	4.2%	11,605	4.3%	12,525	4.0%
Black	1,395	0.2%	725	0.3%	665	0.2%
Filipino	5,170	0.9%	1,690	0.6%	3,480	1.1%
Latin American	1,090	0.2%	375	0.1%	715	0.2%
Southeast Asian	2,190	0.4%	985	0.4%	1,205	0.4%
Arab	460	0.1%	200	0.1%	260	0.1%
West Asian	2,010	0.4%	1,115	0.4%	890	0.3%
Korean	2,290	0.4%	1,145	0.4%	1,145	0.4%
Japanese	4,580	0.8%	2,120	0.8%	2,460	0.8%
Other visible minority	195	0.1%	110	0.0%	80	0.0%
Multiple visible minority	1,095	0.2%	555	0.2%	510	0.2%
Total visible minority population	92,405	16.1%	42,980	16.3%	49,430	16.0%
All others§	480,020	83.9%	220,935	83.7%	259,090	84.0%
All Population	572,430	100.0%	263,915	100.0%	308,515	100.0%

* 20% sample

§ Includes respondents who reported 'Yes' to Question 18 (Aboriginal self-reporting) as well as respondents who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Visible Minority Groups (15), Generation Status (4), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-562-XCB2006010. Ottawa. Released April 02, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92337&GID=838062&D1=7&D2=2&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 12, 2009).

6.4 Mother Tongue

In 2006, 64.1% of seniors in British Columbia had English as their mother tongue (single or multiple response), compared to 51.0% of seniors in the whole of Canada. These percentages are generated by dividing the number found for each group by the column total. A higher percentage of B.C. seniors (33.0%) have a non-official language (i.e., neither English nor French) as their mother tongue compared to the rest of Canada (25.1%). After English, the most common single mother tongues spoken by B.C. seniors are Chinese, spoken by 45,600 seniors (8.0%), and German, spoken by 38,300 seniors (6.7%). Note that some language groups are found in more than one category. While 943,605 (23.2%) persons aged 65 and over in Canada had French as their mother tongue, only 10,785 (1.9%) of B.C. seniors had French as a mother tongue.

Furthermore, 5,815 (1.0%) B.C. seniors reported more than one language as their mother tongue. Of these seniors, the majority (4,480 or 77.0%) spoke English and a non-official language.

Table 6.4:
Mother Tongue of Those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2006

	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Single responses	4,033,495	1,794,915	2,238,575	566,615	261,180	305,440
English	2,068,955	915,075	1,153,865	366,985	166,950	200,035
French	943,605	404,770	538,825	10,785	4,905	5,885
Non-official languages	1,020,935	475,060	545,865	188,845	89,325	99,525
Aboriginal languages	17,905	8,030	9,880	2,775	1,220	1,550
Salish languages	825	355	475	820	345	470
Italian	150,180	74,955	75,230	10,495	5,325	5,175
Portuguese	34,935	16,495	18,450	3,210	1,520	1,690
Romanian	7,050	2,960	4,090	565	205	360
Spanish	21,245	8,635	12,610	2,040	765	1,275
Flemish	249,215	116,545	132,665	56,665	27,410	29,250
German	165,725	76,150	89,585	38,300	18,330	19,965
Dutch	53,535	27,555	25,985	10,825	5,280	5,545
Frisian	1,405	805	600	330	170	160
Yiddish	7,435	3,285	4,150	180	110	70
Danish	9,025	4,950	4,075	3,230	1,765	1,465
Icelandic	1,210	485	725	210	65	145
Norwegian	4,065	1,890	2,175	1,890	950	940
Swedish	2,990	1,410	1,580	1,165	500	665
Celtic languages	1,725	755	970	375	165	205
Slavic languages - Total	167,050	73,375	93,665	20,075	9,450	10,620
Selected Slavic languages						
Croatian	12,945	6,685	6,161	2,200	1,240	965
Czech	5,650	2,880	2,770	1,025	590	420
Polish	39,170	16,170	22,995	3,260	1,510	1,745
Russian	15,370	5,870	9,500	3,630	1,465	2,165
Ukrainian	66,915	28,100	38,625	7,220	3,120	4,105
Baltic languages (e.g., Latvian)	6,820	2,815	4,005	485	205	275
Estonia	3,580	1,415	2,165	495	215	295
Finnish	8,240	3,190	5,055	1,730	740	980
Hungarian	28,080	14,430	13,645	4,165	2,260	1,905

Table 6.4 continued:

	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Greek	29,890	15,620	14,265	1,970	1,080	895
Armenian	5,945	2,645	3,295	220	115	100
Turkic languages	1,915	1,020	890	165	80	90
Afro-Asiatic languages	22,520	11,490	11,030	735	340	395
Semitic languages	21,315	11,005	10,310	700	325	375
Indo-Aryan languages - Total	64,050	32,410	31,640	22,190	10,585	11,605
Punjabi Only	36,475	17,755	18,725	17,500	8,410	9,080
Iranian languages	7,840	4,065	3,775	2,180	1,255	925
Dravidian languages	10,330	4,815	5,505	365	150	205
Japanese	7,250	3,010	4,230	3,245	1,335	1,900
Korean	4,955	4,015	4,175	2,180	1,080	1,095
Sino-Tibetan languages Total	123,985	56,680	67,255	45,665	21,335	24,330
Chinese Only	123,655	56,530	67,115	45,600	21,295	24,300
Tai languages (e.g., Thai)	1,095	420	665	140	60	80
Austro-Asiatic languages	11,015	4,499	6,525	1,505	600	910
Malayo-Polynesian languages Total	23,185	8,315	14,865	4,790	1,590	3,190
Tagalog (e.g., Filipino) Only	18,985	6,700	12,280	3,715	1,155	2,555
Niger-Congo languages	620	655	670	100	60	35
African languages, n.i.e.	85	45	40	30	30	10
Creoles	5,535	2,055	3,485	30	0	20
Other languages	1,180	610	565	55	30	25
Multiple responses	40,805	18,800	22,010	5,815	2,740	3,070
English and French	12,305	5,365	6,940	905	405	495
English and non-official language	23,290	10,875	12,420	4,480	2,095	2,375
French and non-official language	4,135	2,005	2,130	310	165	140
English, French and non-official language	1,055	560	500	125	60	50
Total *	4,074,295	1,813,715	2,260,580	572,425	263,915	308,520

Notes:

Due to the large number of languages, we have included totals and selected languages for some language groups (under Total language counts).

Includes single and multiple mother tongue groupings. Therefore the total is slightly larger than the total population shown under "single responses".

n.i.e – Not included elsewhere.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Detailed Mother Tongue (186), Knowledge of Official Languages (5), Age Groups (17A) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-555-XCB2006015. Ottawa. Released December 04, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89201&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=14&D3=1&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 7, 2009).

6.5 Immigrants

There were 235,965 seniors in British Columbia whose immigration status was foreign born in 2006 (see Table 6.5, Total – Immigrants 65+). This represents 39.3% of the 2006 total seniors population (599,815) in the province and an increase over the 169,695 (31.8% of total seniors) reported in the Fact Book 4th edition. The majority of immigrants in B.C. aged 65 and over were born in Europe (131,585 or 55.8%). Another 79,835 (33.8%) were born in Asia and the Middle East and 11,110 (4.7%) were born in the United States.

The birth place of immigrant elders differs noticeably for Vancouver and Victoria; in Vancouver, 41.0% of immigrants were born in Europe, lower than the provincial average, whereas in Victoria, 70.0% of immigrants were born there, with 43.6% of all immigrants being born in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, half (70,330) of immigrants living in Vancouver were born in Asia and the Middle East, whereas only 815 (16.2%) of those living in Victoria were born there. Victoria also has a higher elderly American born population than the provincial average; 7.6% of immigrants living in Victoria were born in the United States, compared to 2.5% of those in Vancouver.

Table 6.5:
Place of Birth of Immigrants Aged 65+: British Columbia, Vancouver and Victoria, 2006

Place of Birth	British Columbia			Vancouver§	Victoria§
	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
United States	11,110	4,920	6,190	3,605	385
Central and South America	2,500	1,030	1,470	1,530	20
Caribbean and Bermuda	1,575	770	810	1,035	20
Europe	131,585	62,990	68,600	57,985	3,520
United Kingdom	51,095	22,735	28,360	20,220	2,195
Western Europe	34,085	16,840	7,245	12,465	660
Eastern Europe	18,545	9,120	9,425	8,875	285
Southern Europe	19,750	10,310	9,440	12,645	155
Africa	4,940	2,310	2,635	3,825	100
Asia and the Middle East	79,835	37,025	42,810	70,330	815
West Central Asia and the Middle East	3,100	1,685	1,405	2,735	35
Eastern Asia	45,160	21,165	24,000	46,445	495
South East Asia	11,295	4,495	6,800	9,865	140
Southern Asia	20,280	9,670	10,600	15,275	145
Oceania and Other	4,410	2,055	2,355	3,155	110
Total - Immigrants 65+	235,965	111,095	124,875	141,475	5,040

* 20% sample

§ Vancouver = Greater Vancouver

In new version of the table (2006) 'Western Europe' is separated from 'Other Northern Europe'

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Immigrant Status and Place of Birth (38), Sex (3) and Age Groups (10) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-557-XCB2006015. Ottawa. Released December 04, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89443&GID=775983&D1=8&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 11, 2009).

6.6 Aboriginal Peoples (Origin)*

Using the 2006 20% census sample data, it is estimated that 1,165,050 Canadians selected a single ethnic origin that included North American Indian (698,025), Métis (389,785), Inuit (50,480) and Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere (includes those who reported themselves as Registered Indians and/or band members without reporting Aboriginal identity) (26,760) (see Table 6.6). A further 7,740 Canadians claimed to have multiple aboriginal identities. B.C. had 16.7% (196,075) of the total number of people reporting single and multiple Aboriginal ethnic origins in Canada.

While Native Peoples of single or multiple origins constituted 4.8% of the total population of the province in 2006, they were under-represented in the 65 and over population, forming only 1.7% of all elderly. Although only 5.1% of the Aboriginal population of B.C. was aged 65 and over in 2006, there is considerable population aging built into the age structure of Native Peoples. Based on the 4th Edition of the Fact Book, approximately 4% of Native Peoples in B.C. were 65 and over in 2001.

Table 6.6:
Aboriginal Population (Origin) Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2006

Aboriginal Groups	Canada			British Columbia		
	All Age Groups	65+	% of Canadians 65+	All Age Groups	65+	% of B.C. Population 65+
North American Indian single origin	698,025	31,975	0.78%	129,575	6,440	1.13%
Métis single origin	389,785	19,970	0.49%	59,445	3,015	0.52%
Inuit single origin	50,480	1,845	0.04%	795	25	0.00%
Aboriginal Responses, n.i.e.*	26,760	2,205	0.05%	4,605	340	0.05%
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses**	7,740	470	0.01%	1,655	110	0.02%
Total Aboriginal origins population	1,172,790	56,465	1.38%	196,075	9,935	1.74%
Total non-Aboriginal population	30,068,240	4,017,830	98.61%	3,878,310	562,495	98.26%
Total - Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal population	31,241,030	4,074,295	100.00%	4,074,385	572,430	100.00%

*In the 2006 census 'Other Aboriginal multiple origin' is replaced with 'Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere (n.i.e.)'. Also, the categories of 'North American Indian and non-aboriginal origin'; 'Metis and non-Aboriginal origin'; and 'Inuit and non-Aboriginal population' were removed. Instead, 'Multiple Aboriginal identity responses' was added.

**Refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal origin (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit) to the ethnic origin question. Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong. Additional information on ethnic origin can be obtained from the 2001 Census Dictionary.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. Aboriginal Identity (8), Sex (3) and Age Groups (12) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census of Population.

Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-558-XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released January 15, 2008.

7. Living Arrangements

7.1 Persons by Type

Similar to the rest of Canada, the vast majority (566,135 or 94.3%) of elderly in British Columbia live in private households (see Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1a). In 2006, only 34,480 or 5.7% of the population aged 65 and over were residents of “collective dwellings,” defined by Statistics Canada as including nursing, chronic care and old age homes; hospitals; religious institutions; and hotels, motels, tourist homes, YM/YWCA’s, etc. Approximately 86% of seniors in collective dwellings (26,680) live in special care homes for the elderly (data not shown in table).

In Table 7.1 we observe that the majority (210,945 or 77.5%) of older men resided in families with a spouse and/or never-married children (termed family households by Census Canada). This can be compared with 188,790 or 57.5% of elderly women living in family households. Even among men aged 75 and over, over two-thirds (85,005 or 71.3%) lived in such family settings. Among elderly women, the proportion living in family arrangements decreases dramatically with age (114,035 or 71.1% in the 65-74 age group; and 74,755 or 44.5% among those aged 75+). There is a significant proportion of older women living in non-family households, either in private households (43,930 or 27.4% of women aged 65-74; and 71,960 or 42.8% of women aged 75+) or as residents of “collective dwellings” (2,325 or 1.5% and 21,360 or 12.7% for those same age groups). Older women are far more likely than older men to live alone (see Figures 7.1b and 7.1c). In 2006, 109,230 or 33.3% women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with only 45,520 or 16.7% of men in this age group.

The proportion of senior women living alone appears to have reached an upper threshold. In 1961, 21.2% of B.C. women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with 34.8% in 1991, 35.3% in 1996, 34.9% in 2001, and as seen above, 33.3% in 2006.

Table 7.1:
The Elderly Population, by Living Arrangements and Sex: British Columbia, 2006*

	65+			65-74			75+		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Persons in Private Households	566,135	261,450	304,685	308,575	150,605	157,970	257,555	110,840	146,715
Family Households	399,735	210,945	188,790	239,975	125,940	114,035	159,760	85,005	74,755
Non-family Households	166,395	50,500	115,895	68,595	24,665	43,930	97,795	25,835	71,960
with relatives	2,990	880	2,110	1,405	500	905	1,590	380	1,210
non-relatives	8,650	4,100	4,550	4,970	2,425	2,545	3,680	1,675	2,005
alone	154,750	45,520	109,230	62,230	21,740	40,490	92,525	23,780	68,745
Persons in Collective Dwellings§	34,480	10,795	23,685	4,800	2,475	2,325	29,680	8,320	21,360
Total Persons	600,615	272,245	328,370	313,375	153,080	160,295	287,235	119,160	168,075

* 20% sample.

§ Includes hotels, motels, tourist homes, lodging houses.

Figure 7.1a:
Living Arrangements, Population 65+: British Columbia, 2006

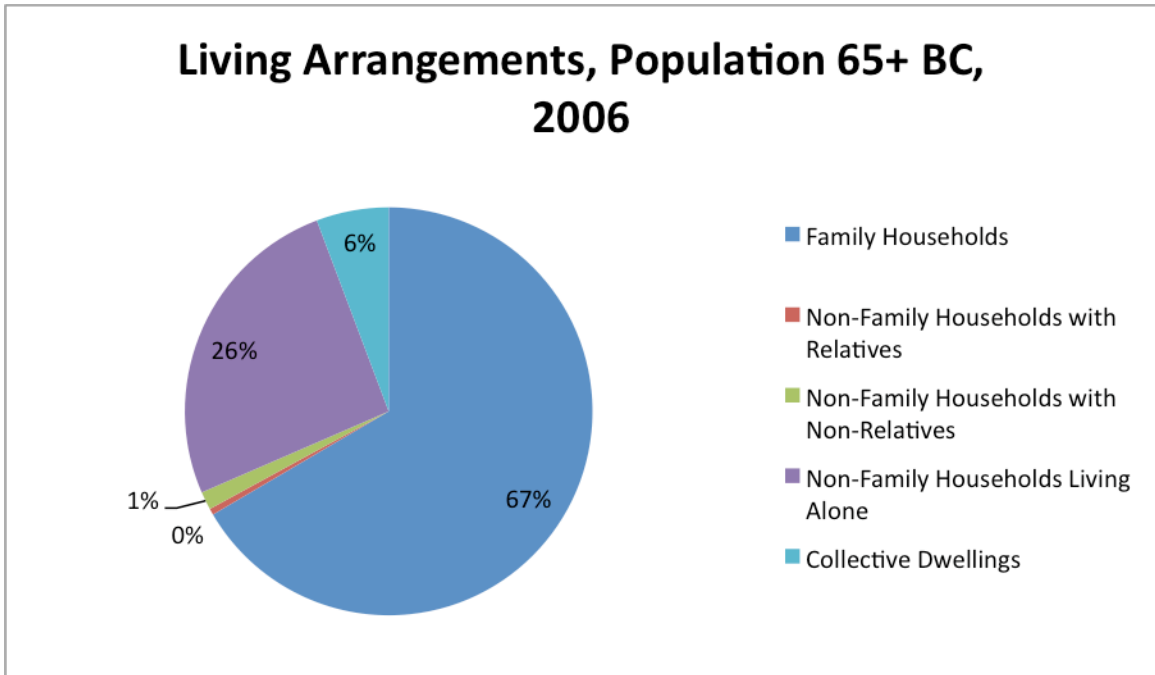


Figure 7.1b:
Living Arrangements, Females 65+: British Columbia, 2006

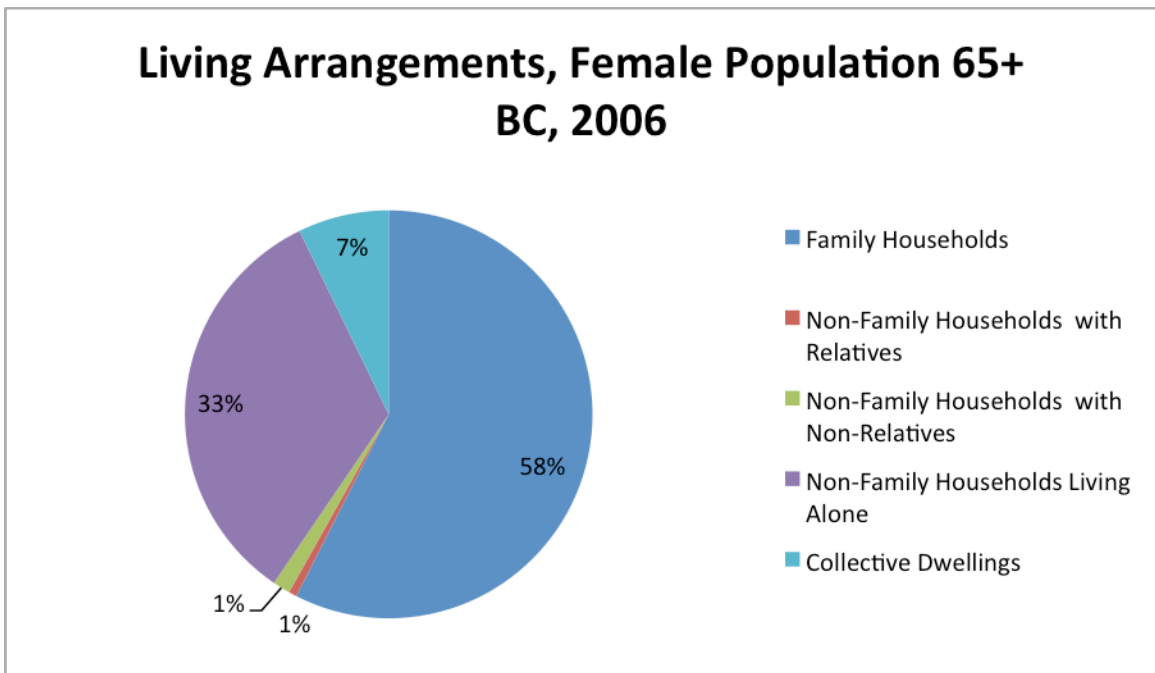
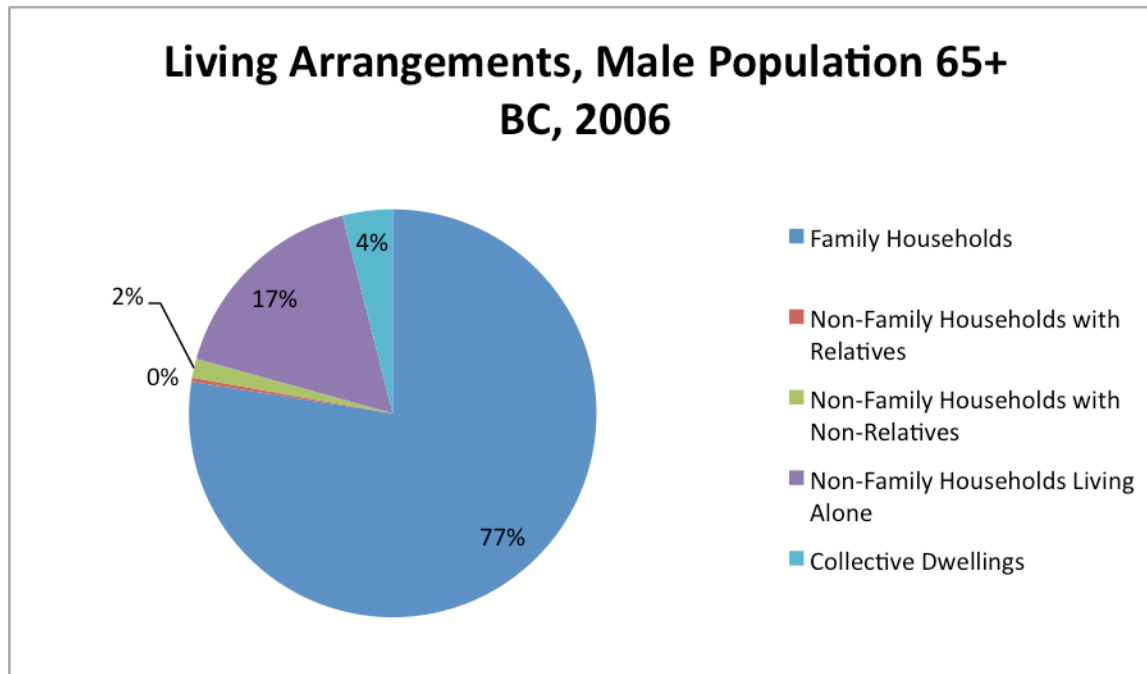


Figure 7.1c:
Living Arrangements, Males 65+: British Columbia, 2006



Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Household Living Arrangements (11), Age Groups (20) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-553-XCB2006018. Ottawa. Released September 12, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89028&GID=838062&D1=2&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed October 9, 2008).

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Selected Collective Dwelling and Population Characteristics (25) and Type of Collective Dwelling (17) for the Population in Collective Dwellings of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2006 Census - 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006054. Ottawa. Released February 19, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=93192&GID=614145&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 21, 2008).

7.2 Types of Household

The 2006 Census indicates that there were 365,560 private households in British Columbia maintained by persons aged 65 or over, which represents 22.2% of all households in the province.

As shown in Table 7.2, in 2006, 55.9% of households in B.C. with a maintainer aged 65+ were 'family households,' most consisting of a couple without additional family members. Of the 44.1% 'non-family households,' most have only one person. These figures are similar to those for all Canadian adults 65+.

Table 7.2:
Types of Household with Primary Maintainer Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2006*

Household Type	Canada		British Columbia	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Family households	1,466,310	55.4%	204,290	55.9%
One-family only households	1,374,195	51.9%	188,925	51.7%
Couples with children	163,235	6.2%	20,165	5.5%
Couples without children	1,052,135	39.8%	150,405	41.1%
Lone parents	158,825	6.0%	18,365	5.0%
Other Family Households	92,115	3.5%	15,360	4.2%
Non-family households	1,179,775	44.6%	161,270	44.1%
One person only	1,128,670	42.7%	154,745	42.3%
Two or more persons	51,110	1.9%	6,515	1.8%
Total - Household Type	2,646,090	100.0%	365,560	100.0%

Note: A Household Maintainer is defined as the person who pays the rent, or mortgage, or taxes, etc. for the dwelling.

Family household refers to a household that contains at least one census family, that is, a married couple with or without children, or a couple living common-law with or without children, or a lone parent living with one or more children (lone-parent family).

Other family households refers to one-census family households with additional persons and to multiple-census family households, with or without additional persons.

Non-family household refers to either one person living alone in a private dwelling or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling, but who do not constitute a census family.

* 20% sample.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Household Type (11) and Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census.

Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released September 12, 2007.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89040&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 21, 2008).

8. Housing

8.1 Home Ownership

Data from the 2006 Census in Table 8.1 show that there are 290,820 homeowners aged 65 and over living in British Columbia, compared to 74,200 renters. In addition, household maintainers aged 65+ are only slightly more likely than those aged 45-64 to be homeowners. In both of these age groups, approximately three quarters (79.6% and 77.2%, respectively) owned their homes. Homeownership is considerably lower among the 25-44 age group (58.8%), and the under 25 group (23.7%), as one would expect.

Table 8.1:
Private Households, by Tenure, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads: British Columbia, 2006

Tenure	< 25		25-44		45-64		65+	
Owners	13,695	23.7%	323,275	58.8%	516,660	77.2%	290,820	79.6%
Renters	43,970	76.0%	224,660	40.9%	151,175	22.6%	74,200	20.3%
Band Housing	220	0.4%	1,760	0.3%	1,570	0.2%	535	0.1%
Total	57,885	100.0	549,695	100.0	669,405	100.0	365,555	100.0

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8), Number of Household Maintainers (4) and Housing Tenure (4) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006020. Ottawa. Released September 12, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89059&GID=775983&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 21, 2008).

8.2 Housing Costs

The 2006 Census indicated that housing costs for elderly homeowners were relatively modest because most had built up equity in their homes over the years. As shown in Table 8.2, 60.3% (170,355/282,700) of homeowners age 65+ spent less than 15% of their total household income on housing costs.

Renters spent a substantially larger portion of their income on housing. Only 11.7% of renters aged 65+ spent less than 15% of their total household income on housing costs. The allocation of 30% or more of a household's income to housing expenses is often used as a threshold for assessing housing affordability. In 2006, 54.0% of elderly renters in B.C. spent 30% or more of their income on housing, 20.8% spent 50% or more, compared to only 14.3% and 5.6% of homeowners, respectively, who spent more than 30% or 50% of their income on housing.

Table 8.2:
Percentage of Total Household Income Spent on Housing Costs: British Columbia, 2006*

		Less than 15%	15-19%	20-24%	25-29%	30-34%	35-39%	40-49%	50%+	Total
Owners with mortgages §	65-74	6,220	6,145	6,065	4,505	3,645	2,995	3,850	7,580	41,005
	75+	2,460	2,510	2,400	2,210	2,075	1,540	2,295	5,955	21,445
	65+	8,680	8,655	8,465	6,715	5,720	5,535	6,145	13,535	63,450
Owners without mortgages §	65-74	84,735	10,850	5,180	2,855	1,480	930	685	1,295	108,010
	75+	76,930	15,365	8,880	5,060	2,455	1,330	1,105	1,095	112,220
	65+	161,665	26,215	14,060	7,915	3,935	2,260	1,790	2,390	220,230
Total Owners §	65-74	90,960	16,995	11,245	7,360	5,130	3,930	4,535	8,875	149,030
	75+	79,395	17,880	11,275	7,270	4,525	2,875	3,400	7,050	133,670
	65+	170,355	34,875	22,520	14,630	9,655	6,805	7,935	15,925	282,700
Renters §	65-74	4,470	3,320	4,120	5,025	3,790	2,680	3,775	5,220	32,400
	75+	4,085	2,910	4,110	5,750	5,520	3,290	5,260	10,085	41,010
	65+	8,555	6,230	8,230	10,775	9,310	5,970	9,035	15,305	73,410
Total	65+	178,910	41,105	30,750	25,405	18,965	12,775	16,970	31,230	35,6110

* 20% sample

§ Does not apply to farm or reserve dwellings.

Total household income was defined as the total of the incomes of all household members.

Note: Percentage of a household's average total monthly income which is spent on shelter-related expenses. Those expenses include the monthly rent (for tenants) or the mortgage payment (for owners) and the costs of electricity, heat, municipal services, etc.

Source:

For Owner: Statistics Canada. 2008. "Owner's Major Payments as a Percentage of 2005 Household Income (10), Household Type (11), Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8) and Presence of Mortgage (3) for the Private Households with Household Income Greater than Zero, in Owner-occupied Private Non-farm, Non-reserve Dwellings of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006050. Ottawa. Released May 01, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=93654&GID=837928&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 21, 2008).

For Renter: Statistics Canada. 2008. "Gross Rent as a Percentage of 2005 Household Income (10), Household Type (11) and Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8) for the Private Households with Household Income Greater than Zero, in Tenant-occupied Private Non-farm, Non-reserve Dwellings of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006051. Ottawa. Released May 01, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=93655&GID=837928&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 21, 2008).

8.3 Preferred Structural Type

In 2006, the single family detached dwelling was the housing form occupied by the majority (50.8%) of British Columbia households headed by persons aged 65 and over. As shown in Table 8.3a, another 37.2% lived in dwellings that fall into a category that includes low-rise apartments (less than 5 stories), semi-detached houses, apartments in duplexes, row houses and other single-detached houses. A further 8.3% lived in high-rise apartments. A small proportion of the elderly population (3.6%) resided in movable dwellings.

Table 8.3a:
Elderly Households, by Structural Type and Age of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 2006*

Dwelling **	Age of Primary Maintainer					
	Total 65+		65-74		75+	
Single Detached	185,810	50.8	103,645	55.3	82,165	46.1
Apartment (5+ stories)	30,395	8.3	12,455	6.7	17,940	10.0
Movable Dwelling	13,205	3.6	7,385	3.9	5,820	3.3
Other	136,145	37.2	63,670	34.0	72,475	40.6
Total	365,555	100.0%	187,155	100.0%	178,400	100.0%

* 20% sample

** Includes: "Semi-detached house", "Row house", "Other single-attached house", "Apartment or flat in a duplex", and "Apartment in a building that has fewer than 5 stories".

Table 8.3b shows that in both the 65-74 and 75+ age groups, males were much more likely than females to live in single detached dwellings.

Table 8.3b:
Elderly Households, by Structural Type, and Age and Sex of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 2006*

Type of Dwelling	Total 65+				65-74				75+			
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females	
Single Detached	126,420	58.7%	59,390	39.6%	75,520	59.8%	28,130	44.0%	50,900	55.2%	31,260	36.3
Apartment 5+ Stories	14,435	6.7%	15,955	10.6%	7,075	5.6%	5,375	8.4%	7,360	8.0%	10,580	12.3
Movable Dwelling	8,130	3.8%	5,075	3.4%	7,805	6.2%	2,580	4.0%	3,325	3.6%	2,495	2.9
Other Dwelling**	66,430	30.8%	69,715	46.4%	35,790	28.4%	27,880	43.6%	30,640	33.2%	41,835	48.5
Total	215,415	100.0%	150,135	100.0%	126,190	100.0%	63,965	100.0%	92,225	100.0%	86,170	100.0%

* 20% sample

** Includes: "Semi-detached house", "Row house", "Other single house attached", "Apartment or flat in a detached duplex", and "Apartment in a building that has fewer than 5 stories".

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8), Structural Type of Dwelling (10), Sex of Primary Household Maintainer (3) and Housing Tenure (4) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-554-XCB2006033. Ottawa. Released September 12, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=89073&GID=838062&D1=2&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed October 14, 2008).

9. Education

9.1 Educational Attainment

The elderly in British Columbia tend to be better educated than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. In 2006, in Canada as a whole, 57.4% of seniors reported having a certificate, diploma or degree (not shown in table). Among British Columbians aged 65 and over, the comparable figure was 66.4% (see Table 9.1).

Table 9.1 compares the 65+ population of B.C. with persons aged 25-64. The proportion of elderly in each of the higher categories of education was lower than among younger adults. At the high end of the educational scale, 17.0% of seniors reported a university certificate or degree, compared with 30.2% of adults aged 25-64.

Table 9.1:
Highest Level of Schooling of the Population Aged 25+ and 65+: British Columbia, 2006*

Highest Level	Age 25-64		Age 65+					
	Total		Total		Males		Females	
No certificate, diploma or degree	282,200	12.4%	192,245	33.6%	78,365	29.4%	113,880	36.9%
High school certificate or equivalent	591,270	25.9%	133,315	23.3%	48,075	18.0%	85,240	27.6%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	273,440	12.0%	74,165	13.0%	51,185	19.2%	22,980	7.5%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	447,005	19.6%	75,230	13.1%	34,745	13.0%	43,480	14.1%
University certificate or degree	690,535	30.2%	97,475	17.0%	54,550	20.4%	42,835	13.9%
Total	2,284,450	100.0%	572,430	100.0%	266,920	100.0%	308,415	100.0%

* 20% sample

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (14), Age Groups (10A) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006008. Ottawa. Released March 04, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=93610&GID=775983&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 26, 2008).

9.2 Educational Attendance

Table 9.2 shows educational attendance in 2006 by persons aged 65+ in British Columbia. Educational attendance is defined as either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at a school, college or university. In 2006, approximately 3% of persons aged 65 and older attended school. There was close to no difference in the proportion of males and females 65 and older that attended school in that year.

Table 9.2:
School Attendance by persons 65+: British Columbia, 2006

British Columbia						
	Total		Males		Females	
Attended school	17,335	3%	7,860	3%	9,475	3.1%
Did not attend school	555,095	97%	256,060	97%	299,035	96.9%
Total	572,430	100%	263,920	100%	308,510	100%

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Attendance at School (3), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (13), Age Groups (10A) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (tableTopic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006032. Ottawa. Released October 28, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=97682&GID=838062&D1=8&D2=2&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 26, 2008).

10. Labour Force

10.1 Labour Force Participation Trends

Up until 2006, there was a steady decline in the percentages of men aged 55-64 and 65+ participating in the labour force. In 1961, 28.5% of Canadian men aged 65+ were in the labour force; the participation rate dropped to 17.3% by 1981 and to 13.6 by 2001, however in 2006 this rate increased to 16.2. In British Columbia, this upswing started to take place in 2001, where the participation rate increased from 12 to 12.7 between 1996 and 2001, and then to 15.5 in 2006. Currently, rates of labour force participation are approximately equal for males in British Columbia and in Canada as a whole, with Canada having a slightly higher rate (16.2 vs. 15.5).

Also shown in Table 10.1, the trend for women is markedly different. There has been a noticeable increase in labour force participation rates for women 25-64. For example, in 1981 in B.C., 35.6% of women aged 55-64 were in the labour force, compared to 53.0% in 2006. Comparable labour force participation rates for B.C. females aged 45-54 are 59.1% and 79.1%. While labour force participation by women aged 65+ has changed very little over time, rates observed in 2006 were higher than they had been in recent decades, in both British Columbia (7.1%) and Canada as a whole (6.6%).

Table 10.1:
Labour Force Participation Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 1981-2006*

		Males					Females				
		25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Canada	1981	95.3%	95.2%	92.3%	77.4%	17.3%	65.8%	64.3%	55.9%	35.7%	6.0%
	1986	94.8%	95.0%	91.7%	71.2%	14.6%	73.7%	72.2%	62.7%	36.2%	4.7%
	1991	94.0%	94.5%	91.5%	66.5%	14.4%	78.5%	79.6%	71.9%	39.2%	5.6%
	1996	91.1%	91.8%	89.0%	62.0%	13.0%	77.8%	79.0%	74.1%	39.4%	4.7%
	2001	91.2%	92.1%	89.3%	64.3%	13.6%	79.8%	81.1%	77.1%	44.0%	5.1%
	2006	91.0%	91.7%	89.4%	68.4%	16.2	80.6%	81.9%	80.1%	51.4%	6.6%
British Columbia	1981	95.6%	96.1%	92.8%	74.8%	13.8%	66.4%	66.9%	59.1%	35.6%	5.4%
	1986	95.2%	95.4%	92.3%	69.1%	11.2%	73.1%	73.5%	65.7%	36.3%	4.1%
	1991	94.6%	94.9%	92.5%	65.2%	11.4%	78.9%	80.3%	74.0%	39.8%	4.8%
	1996	91.5%	92.2%	89.6%	64.6%	12.0%	78.4%	79.1%	76.4%	43.1%	4.9%
	2001	89.5%	91.0%	88.4%	66.9%	12.7%	78.7%	79.2%	77.3%	47.8%	5.5%
	2006	90.0%	91.3%	88.5%	70.0%	15.5%	79.7%	80.2%	79.1%	53.0%	7.1%

* 20% sample

Source:

Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1963. "Volume III, part 2, Labour force, industries: Industries by sex showing age, marital status and class of worker: Western provinces, Table 9" (table). 1961 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 94-526. Ottawa.

Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1967. "Volume 7, part 1, 2, General review: The Canadian labour force, Table XIV" (table). 1961 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-522. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. 1998. Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Labour Force Activity (8), Aboriginal Identity (8B), Age Groups (13A), Sex (3) and Area of Residence (6A) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001 and 2006 Censuses- 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006008. Ottawa. Released July 29, 2008.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92101&GID=614135&D1=0&D2=0&D3=1&D4=5&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed October 16, 2008).

10.2 Full- and Part-time Employment

Table 10.2 shows that in 2006, B.C. seniors in the labour force were more likely to have part-time jobs (40,120/80,745 or 49.7%) than Canadian seniors in general (251,815/546,550 or 46.1%). Women were more likely to work part-time than men. In British Columbia, although the total number of men who worked was more than the women, almost two thirds (59.8%) of the female labour force aged 65+ was employed on a part-time basis compared with 43.8% of males.

Table 10.2:
Full-time and Part-Time Employment for 65+, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 2006*

	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Persons that did not work	3,527,750	1,458,345	2,069,405	491,690	212,795	278,895
Persons that did work	546,550	355,370	191,180	80,745	51,125	29,620
Worked mostly full time	294,730	212,615	82,110	40,615	28,715	11,900
Worked mostly part time**	251,815	142,750	109,065	40,120	22,410	17,715
Total	4,074,300	1,813,715	2,260,585	572,435	263,920	308,515

* 20% Sample

** Part-time is defined as less than 30 hours; full time is defined as 30 hours or more.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1998. Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Work Activity in 2005 (23), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006022. Ottawa. Released March 04, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92115&GID=771240&D1=8&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 26, 2008).

11. Unpaid Activities

11.1 Unpaid Housework

Table 11.1 shows the number of hours per week of unpaid housework, yard work or home maintenance carried out by persons aged 65 and over in British Columbia and Canada. Men do less housework than women, but the difference is not large. This table shows that 16.2% of B.C. men aged 65+ do none, compared to 14.7% of B.C. senior women. Conversely, 24.6% of senior women do 30 or more hours of unpaid housework per week compared to 16.2% of senior men.

Table 11.1:
Unpaid Housework by those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2006*

	Hours of Housework	Caregivers Aged 65 years and Over					
		Total		Males		Females	
Canada	No hours	625,490	15.4%	300,055	16.5%	325,440	14.4%
	Less than 5 hours	638,655	15.7%	340,315	18.8%	298,340	13.2%
	5 to 14 hours	1,061,350	26.0%	511,135	28.2%	550,210	24.3%
	15 to 29 hours	922,370	22.6%	380,190	21.0%	542,175	24.0%
	30 to 59 hours	633,760	15.6%	218,715	12.1%	415,050	18.4%
	60 or more hours	192,660	4.7%	63,295	3.5%	129,365	5.7%
	Total	4,074,285	100.0%	1,813,705	100.0%	2,260,580	100.0%
British Columbia	No hours	88240	15.4%	42855	16.2%	45385	14.7%
	Less than 5 hours	86840	15.2%	47750	18.1%	39090	12.7%
	5 to 14 hours	149035	26.0%	74665	28.3%	74365	24.1%
	15 to 29 hours	129705	22.7%	55825	21.2%	73875	23.9%
	30 to 59 hours	89940	15.7%	32680	12.4%	57265	18.6%
	60 or more hours	28665	5.0%	10140	3.8%	18525	6.0%
	Total	572,425	100.0%	263,915	100.0%	308,505	100.0%

* 20% data

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Unpaid Work (20), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006015. Ottawa. Released March 04, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92108&GID=771240&D1=7&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 28, 2008).

11.2 Unpaid Caregiving to Seniors

Table 11.2 presents the number of hours per week of unpaid caregiving to one or more seniors carried out by persons aged 65 and over in British Columbia and Canada. Those aged 65+ in B.C. and Canada are similar in their rates of unpaid caregiver assistance. However, a higher percentage of women aged 65+ (17.7%) than men (14.9%) are unpaid caregivers in Canada. This pattern is replicated in British Columbia (17.9% for senior women and 14.5% for senior men).

Table 11.2:
Unpaid Caregivers of Seniors: Canada and British Columbia, 2006*

Caregivers Aged 65 years and Over							
		Total		Males		Females	
Canada	No hours of care to seniors	3,403,360	83.5%	1,542,970	85.1%	1,860,385	82.3%
	Less than 5 hours of care to seniors	348,185	8.5%	149,165	8.2%	199,015	8.8%
	5 to 9 hours of care to seniors	157,930	3.9%	60,330	3.3%	97,600	4.3%
	10+ hours of care to seniors	164,815	4.0%	61,235	3.4%	103,580	4.6%
	10 to 19 hours of care to seniors	66,745	1.6%	25,415	1.3%	41,325	1.8%
	20 hours or more of care to seniors	98,070	2.4%	35,820	2.0%	62,255	2.8%
	Total	4,074,290	100.0%	1,813,700	100.0%	2,260,580	100.0%
British Columbia	No hours of care to seniors	469,875	83.4%	225,735	85.5%	253,140	82.1%
	Less than 5 hours of care to seniors	47,050	8.4%	20,465	7.8%	26,585	8.6%
	5 to 9 hours of care to seniors	22,265	4.0%	8,510	3.2%	13,750	4.5%
	10+ hours of care to seniors	24,230	4.3%	9,205	3.5%	15,025	4.9%
	10 to 19 hours of care to seniors	9,045	1.6%	3,460	1.3%	5,585	1.8%
	20 hours or more of care to seniors	15,185	2.7%	5,745	2.2%	9,440	3.1%
	Total	563,420	100.0%	263,915	100.0%	308,500	100.0%

* 20% data

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Unpaid Work (20), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006015. Ottawa. Released March 04, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92108&GID=771240&D1=7&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 28, 2008).

11.3 Unpaid Childcare

In 2006, 15.4% of all British Columbians aged 65 and over provided some form of unpaid childcare (see Table 11.3). Women were more likely to provide childcare, but only slightly (16.4% of women versus 14.1% of men in B.C.). Just over half of unpaid childcare providers (i.e., those providing care) worked more than 5 hours per week.

Table 11.3:
Unpaid Childcare by those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2006*

		Males		Females		Total	
Canada	No hours	1,555,410	85.8%	1,906,045	84.3%	3,461,455	85.0%
	Less than 5 hours	129,065	7.1%	149,580	6.6%	278,645	6.8%
	5 to 14 hours	77,165	4.3%	114,385	5.1%	191,550	4.7%
	15 to 29 hours	28,575	1.6%	48,780	2.2%	77,355	1.9%
	30 to 59 hours	13,720	0.8%	25,120	1.1%	38,845	1.0%
	60+ hours	9,770	0.5%	16,670	0.7%	26,440	0.6%
	Total hours of unpaid childcare	1,813,705	100.0%	2,260,580	100.0%	4,074,290	100.0%
British Columbia	No hours	226,490	85.8%	258,215	83.7%	484,705	84.7%
	Less than 5 hours	17,010	6.4%	19,220	6.2%	36,225	6.3%
	5 to 14 hours	11,655	4.4%	15,645	5.1%	27,300	4.8%
	15 to 29 hours	4,645	1.8%	8,235	2.7%	12,880	2.3%
	30 to 59 hours	2,395	0.9%	4,255	1.4%	6,660	1.2%
	60+ hours	1,715	0.6%	2,950	1.0%	4,660	0.8%
	Total hours of unpaid childcare	263,910	100.0%	308,520	100.0%	572,430	100.0%

* 20% data

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Unpaid Work (20), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006015. Ottawa. Released March 04, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92108&GID=771240&D1=7&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed November 28, 2008).

12. Income

12.1 Median Income of Individuals

The median income (in constant 2005 dollars) for males aged 65+ increased from \$25,497 in 2000 to \$27,341 in 2005 — an increase of 7.2% (see Table 12.1). For women aged 65+, median income also increased slightly — from \$17,093 to \$17,908 between 2000 and 2005 (an increase of 4.8%). The female/male income ratio for the 65+ age group was similar to the ratio for all ages — about .65 and .61 respectively. At all ages, women’s incomes continue to be considerably lower than men’s incomes.

Table 12.1:
Median Income of Individuals by Age and Sex: British Columbia, 2000 and 2005*

Age	Total		Males		Females	
	2000	2005	2000	2005	2000	2005
15-24	\$7,609	\$8,654	\$7,876	\$9,159	\$7,086	\$8,276
25-34	\$28,004	\$26,068	\$33,692	\$31,428	\$23,029	\$21,890
35-44	\$33,883	\$33,248	\$43,723	\$42,467	\$26,780	\$26,362
45-54	\$36,778	\$35,538	\$46,432	\$45,188	\$29,180	\$28,918
55-64	\$28,741	\$30,029	\$39,418	\$39,081	\$20,007	\$21,975
65+	\$19,720	\$21,113	\$25,497	\$27,341	\$17,093	\$17,908
Total	\$24,781	\$24,867	\$32,535	\$31,598	\$19,679	\$19,997

* In constant 2005 dollars. 20% sample

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. “Total Income Groups (23) in Constant (2005) Dollars, Age Groups (7A), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (5) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2000 and 2005 - 20% Sample Data” (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-563-XCB2006005. Ottawa. Released May 01, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=94188&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed December 01, 2008).

12.2 Poverty Rate

Table 12.2a shows poverty rates by sex for the population aged 65+ for Canada and the provinces, 1980, 1999, 2001 and 2003. As in the rest of the country, rates have dropped more sharply for men than for women over the 23 year period. The 2003 rate for male British Columbians aged 65 and over was 15.4% compared with 29% in 1980; for females the 2003 poverty rate was 23.2% compared with 34.2% in 1980.

A full set of data are not available comparing pre- and post-tax poverty rates among unattached older people by province. Table 12.2b shows that, at the national level, unattached women aged 65+ (as with younger unattached women) are significantly more disadvantaged than their male age peers. In 2004, the national pre-tax poverty rate for unattached men aged 65+ was 29.1% compared with a striking 38.1% for unattached women aged 65+. The post-tax poverty rates were 11.6% and 17.0% respectively.

Table 12.2a:
Poverty Rates for the Population Aged 65+: By Sex and Province, 1980, 1999, 2001 and 2003

Province	Males				Females			
	1980*	1999*	2001	2003	1980*	1999*	2001	2003
Newfoundland	24.8	◇	9.6	11.4	38.4	22.4	23	15.8
Prince Edward Island	40.9	◇	◇	8.8	58.1	22.3	22.6	22.3
Nova Scotia	22.3	◇	8.1	10.5	33.3	21	19.8	16.8
New Brunswick	22.2	◇	7.7	9.6	37.1	22.3	21.3	18.8
Quebec	32.6	13.5	14.6	10.8	47.6	30.5	29.2	26.1
Ontario	22.3	7.9	9.8	8.6	35.3	16.3	16.4	14.9
Manitoba	24.2	13.6	16.7	11.5	41.8	27.3	27.2	23.9
Saskatchewan	26.8	7.3	6.8	8.1	51.1	19.7	19	14.3
Alberta	27	◇	6.6	7.0	38.2	12.1	13.6	11.7
British Columbia	29	12.5	12.5	15.4	34.2	24.7	23.2	23.2
Canada §	27.3	12.4	11.1	10.2	38.4	23.9	21.2	19.1

Note: Some of the provincial figures for male poverty rates are missing because the sample is too small to produce reliable estimates.

Poverty statistics in Poverty Profile 2001 differ slightly from previous years due to adjustments made in the sources of data as well as the addition of new information. The revisions have very little effect on rates or patterns of poverty, but they tend to add slightly to the number of people living in poverty. For more information, see Appendix A of the Poverty Profile 2001.

** 1980 and 1999 figures for Canada come from Poverty Profile 1999 instead of the 2001 edition.*

Table 12.2b:
Poverty Rates for Unattached Individuals by Age and Sex, 2004

	Number of Unattached Individuals Living in Poverty		Poverty Rate	
	Pre-Tax	Post-Tax	Pre-Tax	Post-Tax
All unattached individuals	1,677,000	1,320,000	37.6%	29.6%
Women	897,000	667,000	41.0%	30.5%
Men	780,000	653,000	34.3%	28.7%
Unattached individuals less than 65 years old	1,277,000	1,147,000	38.3%	34.3%
Women	588,000	530,000	42.7%	38.4%
Men	689,000	617,000	35.2%	31.5%
Unattached individuals 65 years and older	400,000	174,000	35.6%	15.5%
Women	308,000	137,000	38.1%	17.0%
Men	91,000	36,000	29.1%	11.6%

Source:

National Council of Welfare [Canada]. (2002). Poverty profile 1999: National Council of Welfare Reports, Volume #117. Catalogue no. H67-1/4-199E. Ottawa: The Council. p. 134-136.

National Council of Welfare [Canada]. (2004). Poverty profile: National Council of Welfare Reports, Volume #122. Catalogue no. SD25-1/2001E-PDF. Ottawa: The Council. p. 118, 120-124.

National Council of Welfare [Canada]. (2006). Poverty profile 2002-2003: National Council of Welfare Reports, Volume #124. Catalogue no. SD25-1/2003E-PDF. Ottawa: The Council. p. 122.

Statistics Canada. No date. "Tables 2020802 and 2020804" (tables). Income Trends in Canada 1980-2004. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. CS13F0022XCB. Ottawa.

12.3 Incidence of Low Income among Economic Families

An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. For 2006, foster children are included. In 2005, 14.7% of economic families 65+ in British Columbia were considered to fall into the category of 'low income' (Table 12.3). This was only slightly higher than the Canadian rate of 14.4%. This poverty rate has declined over the last decade; for instance, in 1995 it was 18.1% for B.C. and 19.3% for Canada (3rd Edition).

The incidence of low income for women far exceeds that of men, both in B.C. and nationally. In B.C., the incidence of low income for women was 17.9% compared to 10.9% for men in 2005. For Canada, these rates were similar; 18.3% for women and 9.4% for men. Again, poverty rates have declined over time using these measures. For example, in B.C. the 1993 rates were 23.6% for women and 12.7% for men (2nd Edition).

Table 12.3:
**Incidence of Low Income Before Tax among Economic Families (Private Household),
65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2005 ***

	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Low income	572,315	167,975	404,345	81,555	27,940	53,615
Incidence of low income	14.4%	9.4%	18.3%	14.7%	10.9%	17.9%
Total Economic Families	3,984,685	1,779,855	2,204,830	555,495	256,175	299,325

* 20% data

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2008. "Income Status Before Tax and Income Status After Tax (8) and Economic Family Status and Age Groups (80) for the Persons in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2005 - 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-563-XCB2006029. Ottawa. Released May 01, 2008.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=94206&GID=844033&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed December 03, 2008).

13. Disabilities

13.1 Disability Rates

In 2006, 256,690 British Columbians aged 65 and over – 45.7% according to Statistics Canada calculations - reported some degree of disability. As seen in Table 13.1, this rate has increased from the rates reported for 2001 (43.2%), 1991 (44.0%) and 1986 (43.4%).

Up until 1991, there were proportionately fewer seniors with disabilities in B.C. than among seniors in Canada as a whole. The reverse was true for the 2001 and 2006 figures.

Males and females aged 65 and over have about the same disability rate. In 2006, 113,640 (44.0%) of B.C.'s elderly men reported disabilities, compared with 143,050 (47.2%) women aged 65+. Thus, among all seniors reporting disabilities in B.C., 44.3% are males and 55.7% are females.

Table 13.1:
Disability Rates of the Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1986, 1991, 2001 and 2006

	65+ Disability Rate (%)			
	1986	1991	2001	2006
Canada*	45.5	46.3	40.5*	43.4
British Columbia	43.4	44.0	43.2	45.7

* The Canada total excludes the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: The population covered by the survey was persons residing in private and some collective households in the ten provinces. Persons living in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, persons living in institutions and on First Nations reserves were excluded from the survey.

Note: 2001 data from PALS should not be compared with earlier data from HALS because of significant differences in the 1991 and 2001 Census filter questions, the sampling plans that were used in HALS and PALS and the content of the questionnaires. For more information please consult: A new approach to disability data: changes between the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) and the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). (Catalogue 89-578-XIE).

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1992. "1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey." The Daily, Tuesday, October 13, 1992. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 11-001-E. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. 1991. "Table 1: Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories." Health and Activity Limitations Survey, 1991 (HALS-91). Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-602 – 82-612. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. 2002. A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, PALS 2001. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-577-XIE. Ottawa. p. 17, 27.

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.1-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, Canada, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 6.

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.11-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, British Columbia, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 26.

13.2 Seniors with Disabilities by Age

Disability rates have increased since 2001. In 2006, there were an estimated 256,690 B.C. seniors with disabilities, representing 45.7% of the total population of seniors in B.C. (compared to 43.2% in 2001) (see Table 13.2). Of those, 108,650 were aged 65-74 (35.8% disability rate) and 148,040 were aged 75+ (57.5% disability rate).

For males, the disability rates by age are as follows: 44.0% for persons 65+; 33.9% for 65-74; and 57.6% for 75+.

For females, the disability rates by age are as follows: 47.2% for persons 65+; 37.6% for 65-74; and 57.4% for 75+ (see Table 13.2).

Table 13.2:
Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities and Disability Rates, by Sex and Age Group: British Columbia, 2006

	Seniors with Disabilities	
	Number	Rates*
Both Sexes		
Total 65+	256,690	45.7%
65-74 years	108,650	35.8%
75+ years	148,040	57.5%
Males		
Total 65+	113,640	44.0%
65-74 years	50,270	33.9%
75+ years	63,370	57.6%
Females		
Total 65+	143,050	47.2%
65-74 years	58,380	37.6%
75+ years	84,670	57.4%

* The rates shown in this table use a different population estimate for B.C. than what is found in the census.

Note: The population covered by the survey was persons residing in private and some collective households in the ten provinces. Persons living in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, persons living in institutions and on First Nations reserves were excluded from the survey.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.1-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, Canada, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 6.

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.11-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, British Columbia, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 26.

13.3 Nature of Disabilities

Overall, among seniors in B.C., the most frequently reported disabilities were in mobility (73.7%), agility (70.1%), pain (63.4%), hearing (44.4%), and seeing (17.8%) (see Table 13.3).

Table 13.3:
Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities by Nature of Disability: British Columbia, 2001*

Nature of Disability	Total	
	Number	%
Mobility	189,150	73.7
Agility	179,980	70.1
Pain	162,750	63.4
Hearing	113,980	44.4
Seeing	45,760	17.8
Memory	31,690	12.3
Psychological	10,950	4.3
Speech	16,140	6.3
Learning	12,610	4.9
Developmental	X	X
Unknown	8,620	3.4

* Individuals may report more than one type of disability. Therefore, columns do not add to the totals and percentages do not total 100%.

X Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

Note: The population covered by the survey was persons residing in private and some collective households in the ten provinces. Persons living in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, persons living in institutions and on First Nations reserves were excluded from the survey.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table [6.1 – 6.13-1], Type of disability for adults and children with disabilities ... [2001, 2006]" (tables). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. pp. 93-118.

13.4 Severity of Disabilities

The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) sub-divides respondents into those whose disabilities are mild, moderate and severe and very severe. Classification is on the basis of response to screening questions concerned with hearing, seeing, speech, mobility, agility, pain, learning, memory, developmental, psychological and unknown. An index measuring the severity of the disability was constructed based on the answers to the survey questions. Points were given according to the intensity and the frequency of the activity limitations reported by the respondent. A single score was computed for each type of disability. Each score was then standardized in order to have a value between 0 and 1. The final score is the average of the scores for each type of disability. A different scale was constructed for adults (15+) and children, with each divided into different severity levels. The scale for adults was divided into four groups (i.e., mild, moderate, severe, and very severe). There are no natural cut-off points for the scale. The first cut-off is where the score curve accelerates. These two groups are then further subdivided into four groups. Persons whose score is under 1/18 are classified as having a mild disability. Scores between 1/18 and 1/9 are considered indicative of a moderate disability. Scores between 1/9 and 2/9 are classified as having a severe disability and 2/9 and over as indicative of a very severe disability. Table 13.4 shows that of all British Columbians aged 65 and over reporting a disability in 2006, 39.0% were classified as mildly disabled, 25.7% as moderately disabled, 22.6% as severely disabled, and 12.6% as very severely disabled. There are significant differences in disability type by age group. The proportions for persons aged 65-74 were: 39.9% mild, 28.5% moderate, 21.7% severe, and 9.9% very severe. Among those aged 75+, they were 38.4% mild, 23.7% moderate, 23.3% severe, and 14.7% very severe.

Table 13.4:
Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities Residing in Private and Collective Households,
by Level of Severity and Age Group: British Columbia, 2006

		Seniors with Disabilities	
		Number	%
65+	Mild	100,170	39.0
	Moderate	66,080	25.7
	Severe	57,980	22.6
	Very Severe	32,460	12.6
	Total	256,690	100.0
65-74 years	Mild	43,360	39.9
	Moderate	30,980	28.5
	Severe	23,550	21.7
	Very Severe	10,760	9.9
	Total	108,650	100.0
75+ years	Mild	56,800	38.4
	Moderate	35,100	23.7
	Severe	34,430	23.3
	Very Severe	21,700	14.7
	Total	148,040	100.0

Note: The population covered by the survey was persons residing in private and some collective households in the ten provinces. Persons living in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, persons living in institutions and on First Nations reserves were excluded from the survey.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 4.11-1, Severity of disability for adults and children with disabilities by sex and age groups, British Columbia, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 78.

14. Falls and Injury

14.1 Deaths and Injury from Falls

Unlike other external causes of death (e.g., traffic accidents), falls disproportionately injure or kill older people. In fact, in Canada, falls are the most common cause of unintentional injury for the very old (age 80+). In addition to falls, unintentional injuries include motor vehicle traffic crashes, poisonings, suffocation, drowning, injuries resulting from fire or flame and other unintentional injuries. In 2004, 1,393 or 47.3% of deaths caused by unintentional injuries were falls-related among persons aged 80 and over (but only 359 or 7.7% for 65+) (see Table 14.1a). Based on these patterns, it has been estimated that falls among older adults is a serious economic burden. B.C. data were not available.

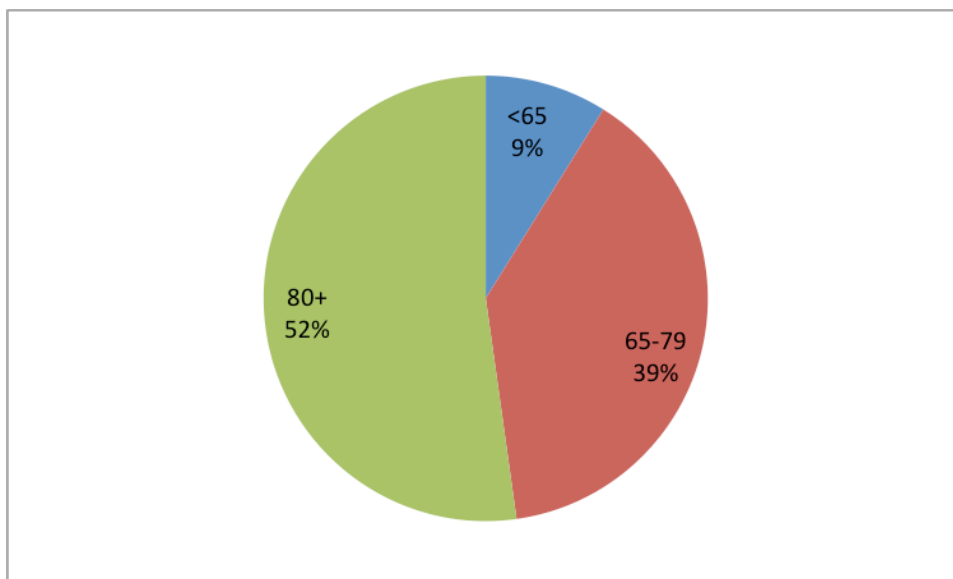
Table 14.1a:
Mortality by Injury in Canada-2004

	<65		65-79		80+	
Falls*	359	7.7%	476	34.7%	1,393	47.3%
All other unintentional injuries	4,312	92.3%	897	65.3%	1,549	52.7%
Total	4,671	100%	1,373	100%	2,942	100%

* Falls excluding fractures

Two trends are of note from Figure 14.1 when examining the rates of falls-related deaths over the last two decades. First, there is a positive relationship between age and falls-related mortality. In particular, seniors who are 85 or above have a significantly higher death rate from falling. The same trend is evident when data for gender are presented separately (see Table 14.1b). Second, falls-related death seems to have stabilized in the 1990s after a declining trend in the 1980s. In other words, there has been little or no improvements in falls-related mortality for older adults in British Columbia between 1980 and 1999 (no recent data were found).

Figure 14.1a
Percentage of Mortality from Falls by Selected Age Groups in Canada- 2004



Data for B.C. mortality from falls by province was not available for 2004.

Figure 14.1b:
Falls Related Deaths in British Columbia Between 1980-1999 for Both Genders (death rate per 100,000)

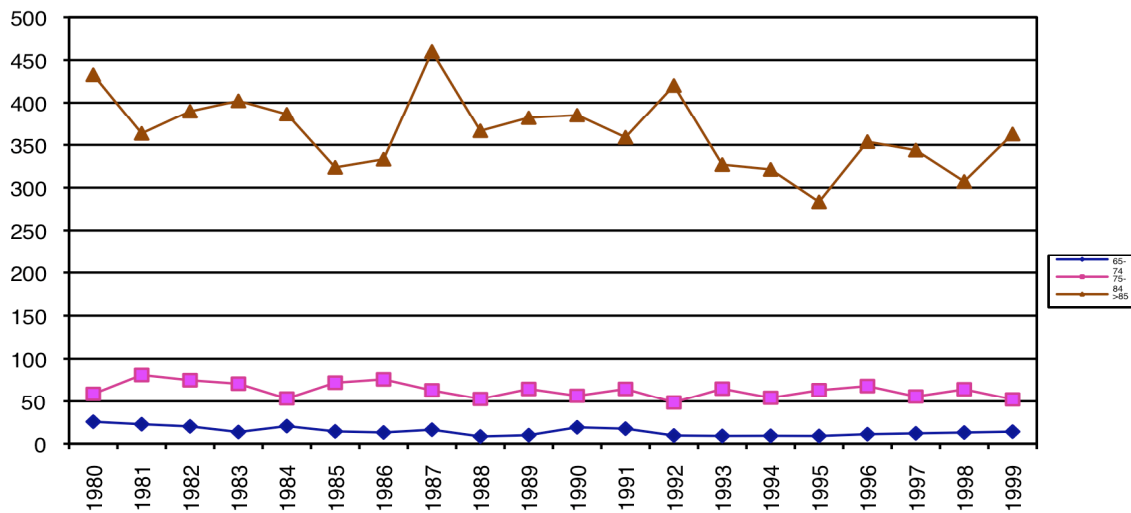


Table 14.1b:
Falls Related Deaths in British Columbia Between 1980-1999 (Standardized rates)*

Year	Males			Females		
	65-74	75-84	85+	65-74	75-84	85+
1980	34.9	63.5	415.2	16.6	54.4	450.6
1981	28.9	92.1	321.7	16.9	70.3	405.3
1982	22.5	78.1	435.7	18.2	72.0	343.9
1983	21.0	97.3	495.5	6.5	44.6	309.0
1984	26.2	69.8	488.1	15.2	37.2	284.7
1985	17.9	75.0	286.9	11.1	69.3	360.3
1986	15.2	94.4	350.0	11.2	57.8	316.4
1987	21.1	77.4	527.5	11.8	48.8	392.7
1988	13.2	72.4	431.5	†	33.4	301.5
1989	15.6	82.9	380.4	4.5	46.7	383.8
1990	26.0	72.9	393.1	12.5	40.4	377.3
1991	23.3	61.1	332.0	12.0	68.6	385.7
1992	14.3	51.0	454.9	5.0	46.5	385.6
1993	12.0	72.8	337.3	6.2	57.4	316.5
1994	10.0	70.4	308.7	8.5	38.1	333.7
1995	13.0	71.4	284.4	5.1	55.2	282.2
1996	15.1	70.5	403.3	7.3	65.9	304.4
1997	14.1	57.8	354.4	10.3	53.8	333.3
1998	16.8	70.9	276.4	9.5	57.9	337.9
1999	24.4	63.7	399.2	3.9	41.0	326.2

* Number of deaths per 100,000, † Suppressed due to small number of cases or value of zero

Note: Falls included fracture and other unspecified falls

Source:

Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division, Centre for Health Promotion. (No date). "Mortality over Time: Falls incl fracture cause unspecified, Both Sexes Combined, British Columbia: 1980 to 2000." Injury Surveillance On-Line. Retrieved December 3, 2008 from http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/is-sb/c_time_e.html.

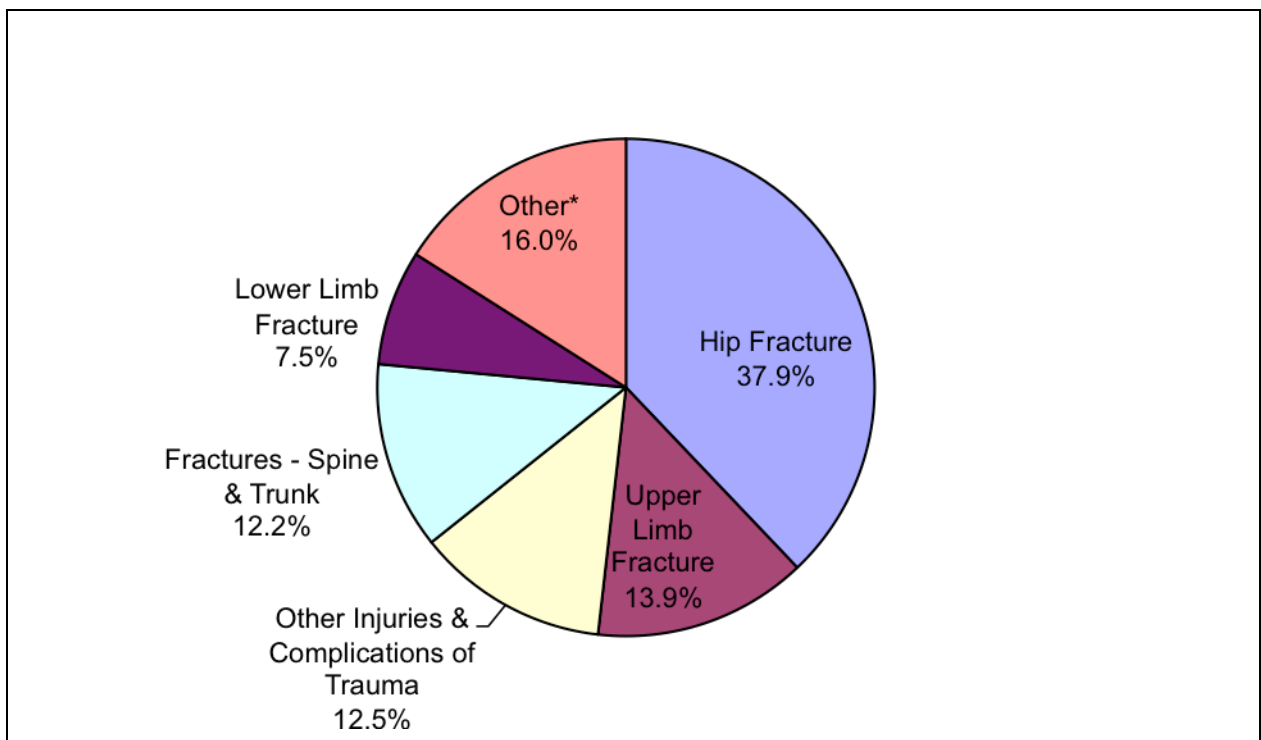
Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division, Centre for Health Promotion. (No date). "Leading causes of injury deaths in Canada, 2004." Injury Surveillance On-Line. Retrieved December 3, 2008 from http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/is-sb/c_mort_matrix_e.html.

14.2 Types of Injury and Falls

Fractures of the bones represent the most common types of injuries sustained by seniors who have fallen (77.1%) over the period of 1992/3 to 2000/1 (see Figure 14.2). Of those, hip fractures were the most prevalent, accounting for 37.9% of all falls-related hospital cases; followed by upper limb fractures (13.9%); fractures of the spine (12.2%) and lower limb fractures (7.5%). Other injuries and complications of trauma accounted for 12.5% of hospital cases associated with falls.

According to the 2006 annual report of the B.C. Vital Statistics Agency (2006), there were 338 accidental falls-related deaths in the year 2006. Older adults accounted for 78.7% of all falls-related deaths in that year. Most of those deaths were unspecified (184). Of those with a known detailed cause of death, falls on same level were most prevalent (19), followed by stairs and steps (13), and falls involving a bed (13).

Figure 14.2:
Percent of Hospital Cases Associated with Falls by Injury Type in British Columbia Between 1992/3 to 2000/1



* Other includes: open wounds & injuries, skull fractures, dislocation, sprains & strains, inter-vertebral disc disorders, and nerves & spinal cord injuries

Source:

British Columbia. Office of the Provincial Health Officer (2004). Prevention of falls and injuries among the elderly: A special report from the office of the Provincial Health Officer. Victoria, B.C.: Office of the Provincial Health Officer, B.C. Ministry of Health Planning.

British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. (2006). "Appendix 2: Detailed cause of death by gender and age." Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2006. [Victoria]: BC, Division of Vital Statistics, p.193-194.

15. Functional Status and Chronic Conditions

15.1 Functional Health Status

Functional health status is based on eight dimensions including vision, hearing, speech, mobility, dexterity, feelings, cognition and pain. As presented in Table 15.1, a larger proportion of seniors report 'very good or perfect' functional status compared to 'moderate or severe'; however, this varies by age. Among B.C. older adults aged 65 and over, 54.7% reported very good or perfect functional health, whereas 31.5% reported moderate or severe levels (13.9% not stated).

For younger seniors aged 65-74, the rates of very good or perfect functional health compared to moderate/severe are 66.4% and 23.8% respectively (9.8% not stated). For older seniors aged 75+, 40.1% reported very good or perfect functional health, and 41.0% stated moderate or severe levels (18.9% not stated). Older females are more likely to be in the lower functional health category than their male counterparts.

Table 15.1:
Functional Health Status by Selected Age Groups in British Columbia-2005

Functional Health Status	Both sexes				Males				Females			
	45-64	65 +	65-74	75 +	45-64	65 +	65-74	75 +	45-64	65 +	65-74	75 +
Moderate or severe	227,846	172,482	72,273	100,209	94,606	62,348	29,378	32,970	133,240	110,134	42,895	67,239
	20.2%	31.5%	23.8%	41.0%	16.9%	24.7%	21.5%	28.4%	23.3%	37.2%	25.7%	52.3%
Very good or perfect	855,684	299,746	201,630	98,116	438,323	148,425	93,418	55,007	417,361	151,321	108,211	43,109
	75.8%	54.7%	66.4%	40.1%	78.5%	58.8%	68.5%	47.5%	73.1%	51.2%	64.7%	33.5%
Not stated	45,855	75,929	29,690	46,239	24,481	41,593	13,666	27,927	20,373	34,337	16,024	18,312
	4.1%	13.9%	9.8%	18.9%	4.6%	16.5%	10.0%	24.1%	3.6%	11.6%	9.6%	14.2%
Total	1,129,385	548,157	303,593	244,564	557,410	252,366	136,462	115,904	570,974	295,792	167,130	128,660
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Functional status is based on 8 dimensions of functioning (vision, hearing, speech, mobility, dexterity, feelings, cognition and pain).

Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0213 - Functional health status, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 years and over, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 2.1 and 3.1), Canada, provinces and territories, every 2 years, CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050213 (accessed: December 10, 2008).

15.2 Chronic Conditions

A number of chronic health conditions are associated with aging. The most commonly reported conditions among older persons are arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes, and asthma, in that order. As shown in Figure 15.2, these four conditions rise among seniors compared to persons aged 45-64. For instance, the prevalence of self-reported arthritis is 20.1% among persons aged 45-64 compared to 40.2% among those aged 65+. Approximately 42.1% of seniors report having hypertension, 15.3% report diabetes, and 5.9% have asthma (see Table 15.2).

Absolute numbers and prevalence rates for these four most common chronic illnesses are also shown in Figures 15.2a (absolute numbers for males 45-64 and 65+); Figure 15.2b (rates for males 65+); Figures 15.2c (absolute numbers for females 45-64 and 65+); Figure 15.2d (rates for females 65+);

Table 15.2:
Common Chronic Conditions by Selected Age Groups in British Columbia-2007

	Both sexes		Males		Females	
	45-64	65+	45-64	65+	45-64	65+
Arthritis	241,182	232,554	96,531	82,078	144,651	1504,76
	20.1%	40.2%	16.2%	30.6%	23.8%	48.5%
Diabetes	74,483	88,309	44,941	47,729	29,542	40,580
	6.2%	15.3%	7.6%	17.8%	4.9%	13.1%
Asthma	70,602	34,010	32,031	14,350	38,571	19,660
	5.9%	5.9%	5.4%	5.4%	6.3%	6.3%
High Blood Pressure	224,169	243,386	112,186	106,505	111,983	136,881
	18.6%	42.1%	18.9%	39.7%	18.4%	44.1%

Figure 15.2a:
Common Chronic Conditions (Men), 45-64 & 65+ in British Columbia- 2007

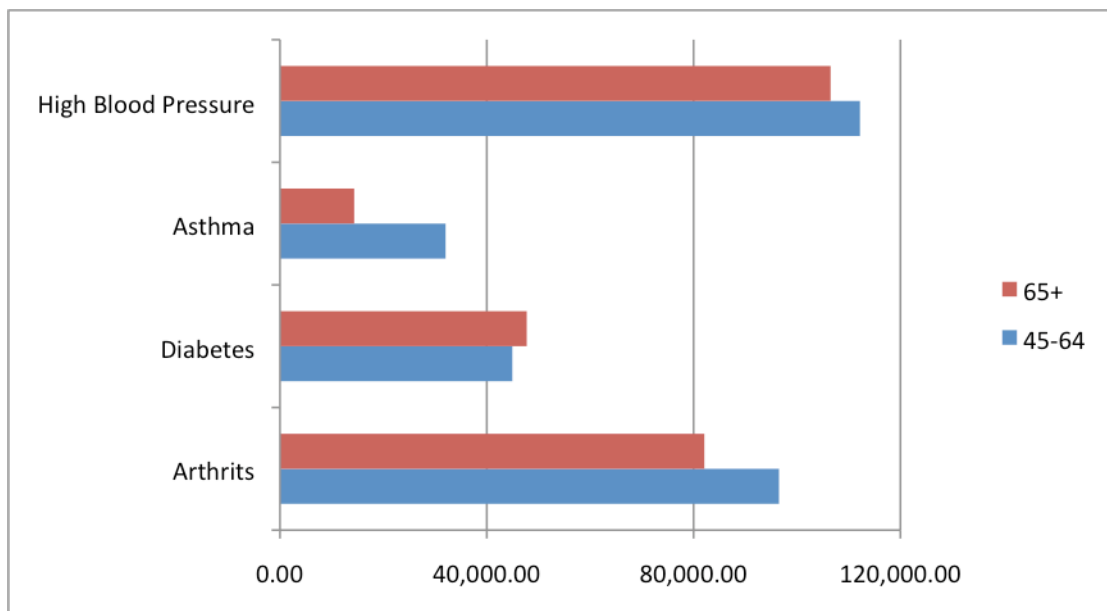


Figure 15.2b:
Percentage of Chronic Conditions (Men), 65+ in British Columbia- 2007

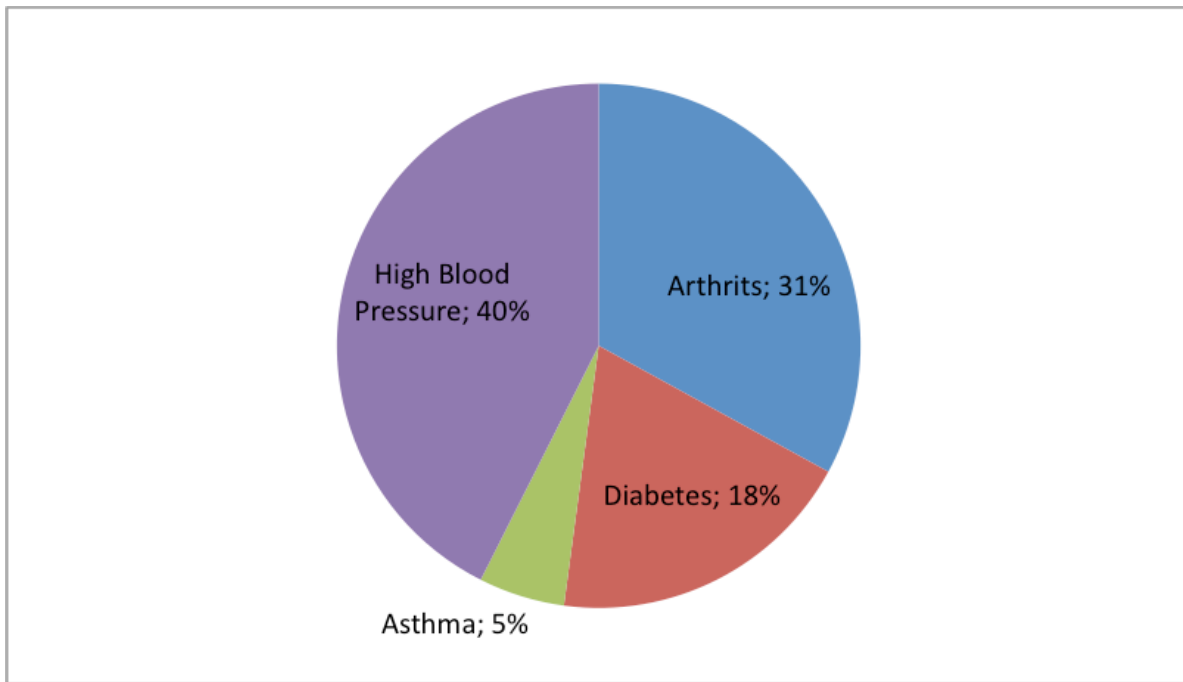


Figure 15.2c:
Common Chronic Conditions (Women), 45-64 & 65+ in British Columbia- 2007

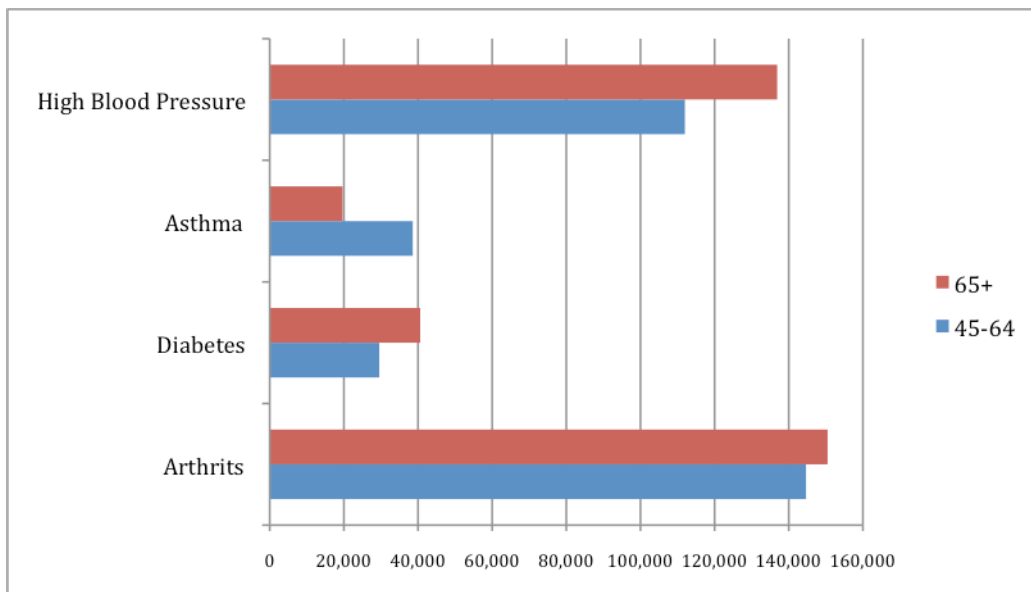
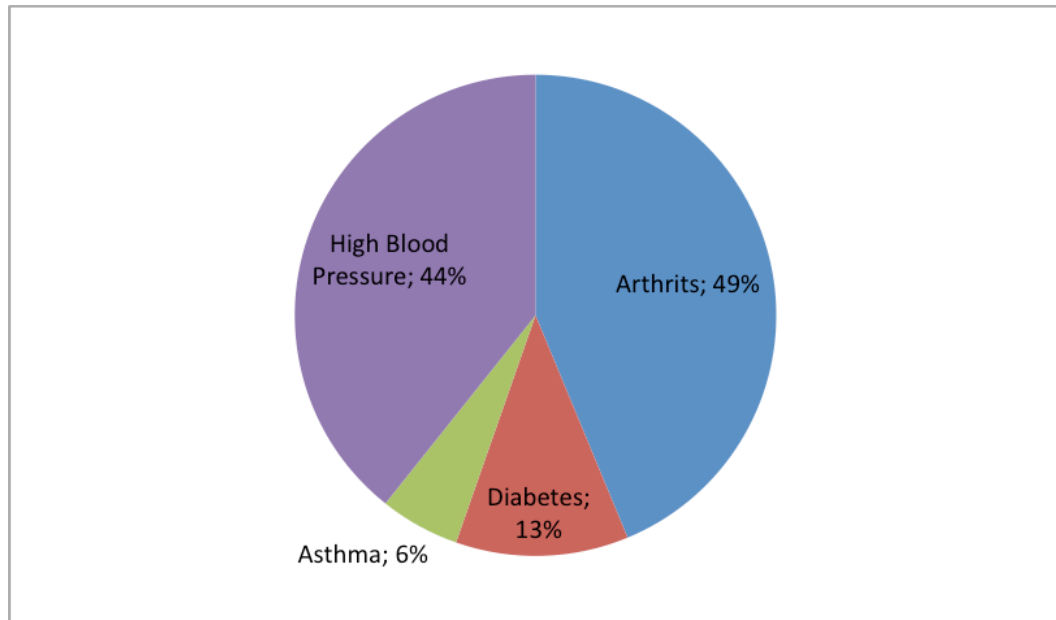


Figure 15.2d:
Percentage of Chronic Conditions (Women), 65+ in British Columbia- 2007



Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0501 - Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) indicator profile, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2007 boundaries) and peer groups, annual, CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050501 (accessed: December 10, 2008).

16. Health Behaviours

16.1 Physical Activity

As seen in Table 16.1, the majority of older adults are physically active well into their elder years based on measures of leisure-time physical activity. In B.C., 50.2% of persons aged 65 and over report being 'active or moderately active,' compared to 59.0% among adults under the age of 65. The active/moderately active rate is higher among those aged 65-74 (57.0%) than those aged 75+ (42.0%). Conversely, inactivity levels are higher among those aged 75+ (48.1%) than those under age 65 (39.5%), and those aged 65-74 (39.9%). Inactivity among persons aged 65+ is 43.6%.

Table 16.1 also presents physical activity rates for males and females separately. There is a tendency for males to have slightly higher reports of physical activity than females. For example, among persons aged 65+, 54.1% of males state that they are active or moderately active, compared to 47.0% of females. It should be noted that these data are based on self-reported physical activity levels, which tend to be overestimates of actual behaviour.

Table 16.1:
Leisure-time Physical Activity by Selected Age Groups in British Columbia-2005

Sex	Physical activity	under 65		65 years and over		65-74 years		75 years and over	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Both	Active or moderately active	1,801,754	59.0%	275,384	50.2%	172,007	57.0%	103,376	42.0%
	Physically active	994,214	32.6%	122,614	22.4%	81,976	27.2%	40,638	16.5%
	Moderately active	807,539	26.4%	152,770	27.9%	90,032	29.8%	62,738	25.5%
	Physically inactive	1,204,745	39.5%	238,903	43.6%	120,397	39.9%	118,505	48.1%
	Physical activity, not stated	47,287	1.5%	33,871	6.2%	9,400*	3.1%*	24,471	9.9%
	Total	3,053,786	100.0%	548,158	100.0%	301,804	100.0%	246,352	100.0%
Males	Active or moderately active	900,416	59.1%	136,487	54.1%	83,020	59.2%	53,467	47.7%
	Physically active	513,113	33.7%	66,968	26.5%	44,054	31.4%	22,914	20.4%
	Moderately active	387,302	25.4%	69,520	27.5%	38,967	27.8%	30,553	27.3%
	Physically inactive	597,396	39.2%	95,308	37.8%	53,149	37.9%	42,159	37.6%
	Physical activity, not stated	24,924	1.6%	20,571	8.2%	4,105*	2.9%*	16,465*	14.7%
	Total	1,522,736	100.0%	252,366	100.0%	140,274	100.0%	112,091	100.0%
Females	Active or moderately active	901,339	58.9%	138,896	47.0%	88,987	55.1%	49,909	37.2%
	Physically active	481,102	31.4%	55,646	18.8%	37,922	23.5%	17,724	13.2%
	Moderately active	420,237	27.4%	83,250	28.1%	51,065	31.6%	32,185	24.0%
	Physically inactive	607,350	39.7%	143,595	48.5%	67,248	41.6%	76,347	56.9%
	Physical activity, not stated	22,363	1.5%	13,300*	4.5%*	5,295*	3.3%*	8,005*	6.0%*
	Total	1,531,052	100.0%	295,791	100.0%	161,530	100.0%	134,261	100.0%

* Use with caution (as suggested by Statistics Canada)

Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0433 - Leisure-time physical activity, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 and over, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (June 2005 boundaries) and peer groups, every 2 years, CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050433 (accessed: October 24, 2008).

16.2 Obesity and Eating Habits

Table 16.2a provides data on body mass index (weight/height squared) based on a Statistics Canada report from 2005. The definitions of weight categories are: Obese ($\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$); Overweight ($25.0\text{-}29.9\text{kg/m}^2$); Normal Weight ($18.5\text{-}24.9\text{kg/m}^2$); Underweight ($< 18.5\text{kg/m}^2$). It is well known that obesity rates have been on the rise for the last several decades. Obesity is associated with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, as well as other chronic illnesses. However, it should be noted that some studies show a protective mortality effect for persons aged 60 and over whose BMI places them in the overweight or obese category. Among B.C. residents aged 65-84, 13.0% were in the obese category; 36.6% were overweight; 45.4% were deemed to be normal weight; and 3.1% were underweight.

Obesity rates are higher for females aged 65 and older than males (14.3% vs. 11.5%). However a higher percentage of males are overweight (43.5%) compared to females (30.6%). Comparisons with the 4th Edition of the Fact Book suggest that patterns of obesity among older adults may have peaked, and perhaps show signs of declines. For instance, in 2001, the percentage of obese men aged 65-74 was 21.5%, and 18.7% for those aged 75-84 (and approximately 20% for 65+ men), which are higher rates than the total rate for men aged 65+ in 2006 (14.3%). In addition, in 2001, the percentage of obese women aged 65-74 was 21.6%, and 16.2% for those aged 75-84 (and an average of approximately 19% for 65+ women), which are also higher than the total rate for women aged 65+ in 2006 (11.5%) (Fact Book, 4th Edition, Table 16.2, p.79).

It should be noted that body mass index is a crude measure of obesity, especially among seniors.

Table 16.2a:
Percent distribution (%) of Body Mass Index (BMI) by Age and Sex Persons Aged 65+ in British Columbia- 2005

Body mass Index	18-64 years	65-84 years	65+ Male	65+ Female
Obese	13.4%	13.0%	11.5%	14.3%
Overweight	31.8%	36.6%	43.5%	30.6%
Normal Weight	49.9%	45.4%	43.4%	47.1%
Under weight	2.8%	3.1%**	F	4.9%**
Not stated	1.9%**	1.9%**	F	3.0%**

*Definition: Obese ($\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$); Overweight ($25.0\text{-}29.9\text{kg/m}^2$); Normal Weight ($18.5\text{-}24.9\text{kg/m}^2$); Underweight ($< 18.5\text{kg/m}^2$)

** Use with Caution (suggested by Statistics Canada)

F: Too unreliable to be published (suggested by Statistics Canada)

Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0309 - Body mass index (BMI) based on self-reported height and weight, by age group and sex, household population aged 18 and over excluding pregnant females, (CCHS 3.1, January to June 2005), Canada, provinces and health regions (June 2005 boundaries), every 2 years, CANSIM (database). . http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050309 (accessed: October 24, 2008).

There is considerable evidence base establishing that good eating habits help to reduce chronic disease and maintain function among older adults. Self-rated eating habits of older persons in Canada are presented in Table 16.2b. The vast majority of older Canadians report having good to excellent eating habits. Moreover, seniors report eating habits that are as good, if not slightly better, than persons aged 55-64. Approximately 86% of persons aged 55-64 report good to excellent eating habits, compared to 93% for persons 65 and over.

Table 16.2b:
Older Adults' Self-rated Eating Habits: Canada- 1998

Both Genders					
Age	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
55-64	8%	33%	45%	10%	4%
65-74	10%	37%	46%	6%	1%
75+	6%	50%	38%	7%	0%
Men					
55-64	9%	26%	47%	13%	6%
65-74	7%	29%	57%	6%	1%
75+	8%	38%	45%	10%	0%
Women					
55-64	7%	41%	42%	7%	3%
65-74	12%	44%	36%	6%	2%
75+	4%	57%	34%	5%	0%

While self-reported eating habits are generally high, detailed nutrition data from the 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey suggest that many older adults do not meet the recommended levels of servings of major food groups (Statistics Canada, 2006). For instance, the percentage of seniors aged 71 and older NOT meeting recommended serving levels were as follows: fruit and vegetables - 52% of males and 60% of females; milk products - 79% of males and 84% of females; grain products 43% of males and 66% of females. Also, 21% of older males and 17% of older females have too much fat in their diets.

Eating well requires financial support. In 2000-01, 7% of seniors were living in households affected by 'food insecurity' due to lack of money (Seniors in Canada, 2006: Report Card, p.12).

Source:

National Advisory Council on Aging (Canada). 2006. Seniors in Canada: 2006 report card. [Government of Canada Catalogue no. HP30-1/2006E.] Ottawa: National Advisory Council on Aging, p. 12.

National Institute of Nutrition. 1998. Enhancing seniors' nutrition: From awareness to action: Forum report 1998. Ottawa, ON: National Institute of Nutrition.

Statistics Canada. 2006. Overview of Canadians' eating habits. [Nutrition: Findings from the Canadian Community Health Survey]. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-620-MIE. Ottawa, p. 5, 8, 10.

17. Health Services Utilization

17.1 General Health Services Utilization by Seniors

Table 17.1a shows that in 2005, the majority of seniors had contact with their medical doctor in the previous 12 months (91.6%). Contact with medical doctors by seniors does not vary greatly by gender or between those aged 65-74 and 75+.

Table 17.1a:
Contact with Medical Doctors in the Past 12 Months Among Older Population, British Columbia, 2005

Age	Contact with MD in the past 12 months	No Contact with MD in the past 12 months	Not Stated
Both Genders			
65+	91.6%	6.7%	1.7%*
65-74	91.2%	7.8%	F
75+	92.0%	F	2.7%*
Men			
65+	91.0%	7.1%	1.4%*
65-74	90.2%	8.8%	F
75+	93.1%	F	1.9%*
Women			
65+	91.6%	6.3%	2.1%*
65-74	92.1%	6.9%	F
75+	91.0%	F	3.4%*

**Use with Caution (as suggested by Statistics Canada)*

F: Too unreliable to be published (as suggested by Statistics Canada)

Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0461 - Contact with medical doctors in the past 12 months, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 and over, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (June 2005 boundaries) and peer groups, every 2 years, CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050461 (accessed: October 24, 2008).

Table 17.1b shows that in B.C., 31.2% of physician expenditures are for senior patients. Additionally, almost half of all Pharmacare beneficiaries are seniors (48.0%) and senior patients account for almost half of all hospital (48.5%) and drug (49.1%) expenditures in the province.

Table 17.1b:
Health Services Utilization by Seniors in British Columbia for Selected Years

Type of Health Services		Percent
Doctor Services (2006)	Physicians expenditure for senior patients (\$8,772,000,00)*	31.2%*
Hospital services (2006)	Hospitals expenditure for senior patients (\$2,270,700,000)**	48.5%**
PharmaCare (2005)	Pharmacare beneficiaries who are seniors (392,351)***	48.0%***
Drug Expenditures (2006)	Drug expenditures for senior patients (\$424,900,00)†	49.1%†

Source:

* Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2008. "Table E.4.11: Provincial/Territorial Government Physicians Expenditure by Age and Sex, by Province/Territory and Canada, 2006 – Current Dollars." (table). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=download_form_e&cw_sku=6661&cw_ctt=1&cw_dform=N&cw_ord=2.

** Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2008. "Table E.2.11: Provincial/Territorial Government Hospital Expenditure by Age and Sex, by Province/Territory and Canada, 2006 – Current Dollars." (table). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=download_form_e&cw_sku=6661&cw_ctt=1&cw_dform=N&cw_ord=2.

***British Columbia. Ministry of Health. Pharmaceutical Services Division. 2005. BC PharmaCare Annual Performance Report: 2005. [Victoria]: B.C. Ministry of Health.

† Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2008. "Table E.6.11: Provincial/Territorial Government Drugs Expenditure by Age and Sex, by Province/Territory and Canada, 2006 – Current Dollars." (table). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=download_form_e&cw_sku=6661&cw_ctt=1&cw_dform=N&cw_ord=2.

17.2 Quality and Satisfaction with Health Care Services

In 2005, 88.3% of B.C. seniors who had used health services in the previous 12 months reported that the quality of health services received in B.C. was deemed to be "excellent or good," whereas the remaining 11.7% reported fair or poor quality (see Footnotes, Table 17.2). This pattern changes only slightly across age and sex groups of older adults as shown in Table 17.2. Similarly, 89.3% reported that they were very or somewhat satisfied with the health services received, compared to only 10.7% who were somewhat or very dissatisfied, or neutral. It has also been estimated that approximately 7% of older adults report having unmet health needs in B.C. (not shown in table). Overall, the vast majority of B.C. seniors reported having health care needs met by the current health care system.

Table 17.2:
Patient Satisfaction with Health Care Services for Persons 65+ in British Columbia, 2005

Quality of Health Care Services*	Both sexes			Males			Females		
	65 +	65-74	75 +	65 +	65-74	75 +	65 +	65-74	75 +
Excellent or Good	476,145	244,688	231,457	218,872	121,885	96,986	257,273	122,803	134,471
Percent	88.3%	85.4%	91.7%	88.0%	86.2%	90.4%	88.6%	84.7%	92.6%
Health Care Satisfaction**									
Very or Somewhat Satisfied	481,342	251,605	229,737	225,736	127,107	98,629	255,606	124,499	131,107
Percent	89.3%	87.8%	91.0%	90.8%	89.9%	91.9%	88.1%	85.8%	90.3%
Total Who Received Health Care in 12 Months***	538,982	286,462	252,520	248,741	141,429	107,312	290,241	145,033	145,208

*Based on question asked of persons using health services in past 12 months: "Overall how would you rate the quality of the health care you receive? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair or poor?"

**Based on the question: "Overall how satisfied were you with the way the health care services were provided? Were you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied? Based on question asked of persons using health services in past 12 months: "Overall how satisfied were you with the way health services were provided? Were you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?"

***Total number of persons who received health care services in the past 12 months

Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 105-0280 - Patient satisfaction with any health care services received in the past 12 months, by age group and sex, household population aged 15 and over, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1), Canada, provinces and territories, occasional, CANSIM (database). http://cansim2.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII___&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1050280 (accessed: October 28, 2008).

17.3 Health Service Expenditures

Provincial health care expenditures between 2001-2006 inclusive are shown by year for various age groupings of seniors, and by sex, in total amounts, as a proportion of the total amount spent, and per capita spending in Tables 17.3a-c. For comparative purposes, we have included the same tables for Canada (17.3d-f). In 2006, total health care expenditures on seniors in B.C. approached five and a half billion (\$5,450,800,000), and comprised approximately 41.8% of all provincial health expenditures (see Tables 17.3a-b).

In Canada, the amount spent on health for all persons aged 65+ was over \$43 billion (\$43,082,500,000), and comprised 44.4% of all health care expenditures in 2006 (see Tables 17.3d-e). As expected, per capita spending shows that the amounts spent per person aged 85+ was the highest. Table 17.3c shows that, in B.C., \$40,671.70 was spent per resident aged 85+ in 2006, compared to \$11,196.40 for those aged 65-74. In Canada, the comparable figures are \$44,010.71 and \$12,751.31, respectively (see Table 17.3f).

Table 17.3a:
Provincial Health Expenditures (\$ 000,000) on Persons 65+: British Columbia, 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	734.1	769.4	767.4	810.0	847.2	886.2
	75-84	742.8	799.3	824.3	837.2	904.8	958.3
	85+	350.5	384.5	398.8	417.4	442.8	475.4
	65+	1,827.4	1,953.2	1,990.5	2,064.6	2,194.8	2,319.9
Females	65-74	680.0	720.6	711.2	740.7	790.9	836.7
	75-84	1,030.7	1,101.0	1,113.4	1,117.0	1,168.0	1,200.9
	85+	930.4	993.5	1,022.9	1,003.6	1,051.2	1,093.0
	65+	2,641.1	2,815.1	2,847.5	2,861.3	3,010.1	3,130.6
Both sexes	65-74	1,414.1	1,490.0	1,478.6	1,550.7	1,638.1	1,722.9
	75-84	1,773.5	1,900.3	1,937.8	1,954.5	2,072.8	2,159.3
	85+	1,280.9	1,378.1	1,421.7	1,421.1	1,494.0	1,568.6
	65+	4,468.5	4,768.4	4,838.1	4,926.3	5,204.9	5,450.8

Table 17.3b:
Provincial Health Expenditures-% of Total BC Health Expenditure on Persons 65+: 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	16.5%	16.3%	15.9%	15.8%	15.2%	15.0%
	75-84	16.7%	17.0%	17.1%	16.4%	16.2%	16.2%
	85+	7.9%	8.2%	8.3%	8.2%	7.9%	8.1%
	65+	41.1%	41.5%	41.3%	40.4%	39.3%	39.3%
Females	65-74	12.0%	11.9%	11.4%	11.7%	11.6%	11.7%
	75-84	18.2%	18.2%	17.9%	17.7%	17.2%	16.8%
	85+	16.4%	16.4%	16.5%	15.9%	15.5%	15.3%
	65+	46.6%	46.5%	45.8%	45.3%	44.3%	43.9%
Both sexes	65-74	14.0%	13.8%	13.4%	13.6%	13.2%	13.2%
	75-84	17.5%	17.7%	17.6%	17.1%	16.7%	16.6%
	85+	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.4%	12.0%	12.0%
	65+	44.2%	44.3%	43.9%	43.1%	42.1%	41.8%

Table 17.3c:
Provincial Health Expenditures (\$ per capita) on Persons 65+: British Columbia, 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	10,435.4	10,787.6	10,631.5	11,036.8	11,369.5	11,708.9
	75-84	19,614.8	20,174.1	19,910.1	19,510.4	20,464.1	21,098.9
	85+	36,009.0	37,873.0	37,236.7	37,313.5	36,473.1	36,262.8
Females	65-74	9,222.1	9,708.2	9,483.2	9,770.4	10,318.3	10,701.4
	75-84	19,394.6	20,158.6	19,895.6	19,578.5	20,289.2	20,732.2
	85+	46,079.7	47,061.1	46,265.7	44,346.9	43,804.9	42,794.6
Both sexes	65-74	9,813.5	10,236.8	10,046.2	10,393.2	10,849.0	11,196.4
	75-84	19,505.5	20,187.8	19,925.6	19,572.6	20,393.2	20,911.7
	85+	42,884.6	44,126.6	43,354.7	42,094.2	41,442.3	40,671.7

Table 17.3d:
Health Expenditures (\$ 000,000) on Persons 65+: Canada, 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	5,464.5	5,860.8	6,187.0	6,503.8	6,825.8	7,292.4
	75-84	4,909.6	5,561.5	5,854.6	6,461.8	6,898.8	7,480.8
	85+	2,000.7	2,163.3	2,325.7	2,742.2	2,990.7	3,305.5
	65+	12,374.8	13,585.6	14,367.3	15,707.8	16,715.3	18,078.7
Females	65-74	5,282.1	5,455.2	5,979.1	6,305.1	6,620.6	7,035.5
	75-84	6,849.4	7,574.7	7,999.4	8,791.8	9,249	9,860.6
	85+	5,169.5	5,545.4	5,988.0	6,961.6	7,469.8	8,107.7
	65+	17,301.0	18,575.3	19,966.5	22,058.5	23,339.4	25,003.8
Both sexes	65-74	10,746.6	11,316.0	12,166.1	12,808.8	13,446.4	14,327.9
	75-84	11,759.0	13,136.2	13,854.1	15,253.6	16,147.9	17,341.4
	85+	7,170.2	7,708.7	8,313.7	9,703.7	10,460.5	11,413.2
	65+	29,675.8	32,160.9	34,333.9	37,766.1	40,054.8	43,082.5

Table 17.3e:
Health Expenditures-% of total Canada Health Expenditure on Persons 65+: Canada, 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	18.2%	18.1%	17.8%	17.3%	16.8%	16.8%
	75-84	16.4%	17.2%	16.8%	17.2%	17.0%	17.3%
	85+	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%
	65+	41.2%	42.0%	41.3%	41.9%	41.3%	41.7%
Females	65-74	13.9%	13.4%	13.7%	13.4%	13.1%	13.1%
	75-84	18.0%	18.6%	18.3%	18.7%	18.3%	18.3%
	85+	13.6%	13.7%	13.7%	14.8%	14.8%	15.1%
	65+	45.4%	45.7%	45.7%	46.8%	46.3%	46.5%
Both sexes	65-74	15.8%	15.5%	15.5%	15.1%	14.8%	14.8%
	75-84	17.3%	18.0%	17.6%	18.0%	17.8%	17.9%
	85+	10.5%	10.6%	10.6%	11.5%	11.5%	11.8%
	65+	43.6%	44.1%	43.7%	44.6%	44.0%	44.4%

Table 17.3f:
Health Expenditure (\$ per capita) on Persons 65+: Canada, 2001-2006

	Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males	65-74	10,856.9	11,526.7	12,030.2	12,483.68	12,974.31	13,655.05
	75-84	18,902.0	20,443.3	20,634.1	22,068.75	22,623.64	24,039.24
	85+	32,062.4	33,423.7	34,229.3	38,959.77	39,791.26	41,069.36
Females	65-74	9,304.4	9,567.7	10,436.3	10,908.16	11,373.86	11,933.59
	75-84	17,620.5	18,928.2	19,388.5	20,883.74	21,650.60	22,776.04
	85+	35,353.2	36,618.5	38,044.3	43,225.73	44,100.02	45,311.77
Both sexes	65-74	10,032.6	10,488.9	11,190.0	11,654.53	12,133.18	12,751.31
	75-84	18,140.0	19,555.8	19,908.3	21,384.07	22,153.93	23,317.50
	85+	34,374.8	35,658.8	36,890.2	41,947.38	42,803.01	44,010.71

Note: Health expenditure estimates differ from those reported by Health Canada (Health Canada presented the data on a fiscal year basis compared to calendar year basis by CIHI).

Note: Data are re-estimated in each new release of the National Health Expenditure Trend Report. For revision of each report, please consult the revision history section of the full report.

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2008. "Table E.1.4.-E.1.9: Provincial/Territorial Government Health Expenditures by Age and Sex, by Province/Territory and Canada, [2001-2006] – Current Dollars." (table). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables.

http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=download_form_e&cw_sku=6661&cw_ctt=1&cw_dform=N&cw_ord=2.

