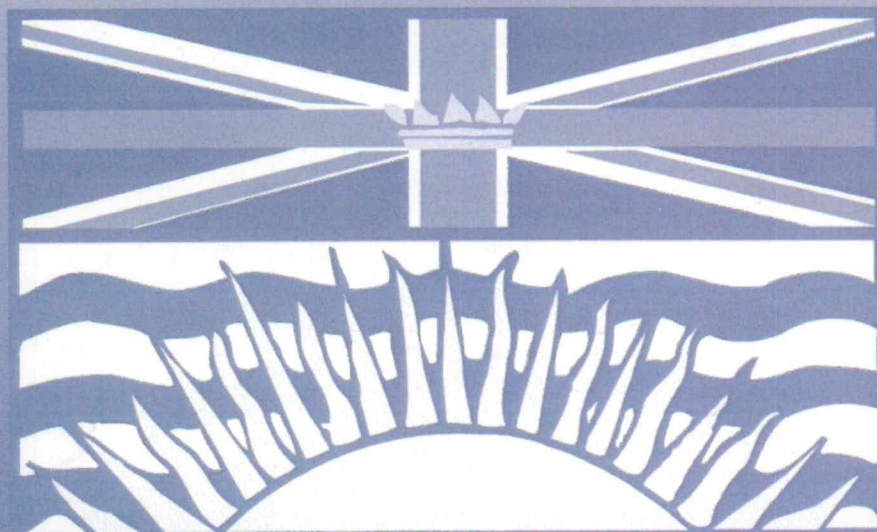


Fact Book on  
**AGING**  
**IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Third Edition



Gloria M. Gutman, Ph.D. • Andrew V. Wister, Ph.D.  
Yves Carrière, Ph.D. • Susannah Tredwell, M.L.I.S.

The Gerontology Research Centre  
**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**



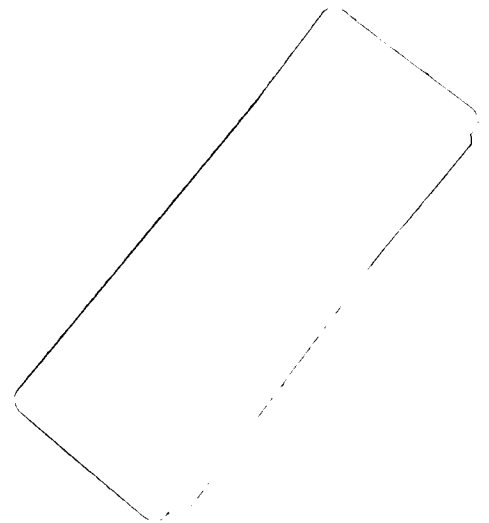
SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY  
AT HARBOUR CENTRE



**Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia**  
Third Edition

Gloria M. Gutman, Ph.D. • Andrew Wister, Ph.D.  
Yves Carrière, Ph.D. • Susannah Tredwell, M.L.I.S.

Gerontology Research Centre  
Simon Fraser University  
2000



© Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University, 2000

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

Main entry under title:

Fact book on aging in British Columbia. Third edition.

ISBN 0-86491-216-1

1. Aged — British Columbia — Statistics. I. Gutman, Gloria M. II. Simon Fraser University. Gerontology Research Centre

HQ1064.C2 F327 2000 305.26

Cover designed by Monique Cloutier



# Table of Contents

---

Foreword.....	1
<b>1. Size of the Elderly Population.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Past Trends and Future Growth .....	3
1.2 Population Aging Within the Older Population Itself .....	7
1.3 Median Age of the Population .....	9
<b>2. Sex Ratios.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3. Mortality .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Trends in Life Expectancy .....	11
3.2 Deaths and Mortality Rates .....	14
3.3 Causes of Death.....	16
3.4 Cancer.....	17
<b>4. Marital Status.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>5. Geographic Distribution and Mobility.....</b>	<b>22</b>
5.1 The Older Population of B.C. in Relation to Other Provinces.....	22
5.2 Rural-Urban Distribution.....	23
5.3 Geographic Distribution Within British Columbia .....	25
5.3.1 Geographic Distribution Within the Greater Vancouver Regional District .....	27
5.3.2 Geographic Distribution Within the Capital Regional District.....	29
5.4 Mobility .....	30
5.4.1 Total Population and Population Aged 65+ .....	30
5.4.2 Distance Moved.....	31
<b>6. Ethnic Composition .....</b>	<b>33</b>
6.1 Predominant Groups.....	33
6.2 Proportion of Ethnic Origin Groups Aged 65+ .....	34
6.3 Visible Minorities .....	37
6.4 Mother Tongue.....	38
6.5 Immigrants.....	40
6.6 Aboriginal Peoples.....	41
<b>7. Living Arrangements.....</b>	<b>42</b>
7.1 Persons by Type .....	42
7.2 Types of Household.....	44
<b>8. Housing.....</b>	<b>45</b>
8.1 Home Ownership.....	45
8.2 Housing Costs .....	46
8.3 Preferred Structural Type .....	47
<b>9. Education .....</b>	<b>48</b>
9.1 Educational Attainment.....	48
9.2 Educational Attendance.....	49

<b>10.</b>	<b>Labour Force .....</b>	<b>50</b>
10.1	Labour Force Participation Trends .....	50
10.2	Full and Part-time Employment .....	51
<b>11.</b>	<b>Unpaid Activities.....</b>	<b>52</b>
11.1	Unpaid Housework .....	52
11.2	Unpaid Caregiving to Seniors .....	53
11.3	Unpaid Childcare.....	54
<b>12.</b>	<b>Income .....</b>	<b>55</b>
12.1	Median Income of Individuals .....	55
12.2	Poverty Rate.....	57
12.3	Incidence of Low Income Among Economic Families .....	58
<b>13.</b>	<b>Disabilities.....</b>	<b>59</b>
13.1	Disability Rates.....	59
13.2	Seniors with Disabilities in Private Households and Institutions .....	60
13.3	Nature of Disabilities .....	61
13.4	Severity of Disabilities.....	62
<b>14.</b>	<b>Health Service Utilization .....</b>	<b>64</b>
14.1	Hospitals .....	64
14.2	Continuing Care.....	66
<b>14.3</b>	<b>Health Service Expenditures .....</b>	<b>71</b>

## Foreword

---

In 1986, the Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) at Simon Fraser University compiled the first *Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia*. The many requests the GRC received each year for information about the Province's older population provided the impetus for its production. These requests came 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 covered 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 edition updated and expanded that material using 1991 census data. This third edition of the Fact Book on Aging updates the data collected for the previous editions and adds several new tables available from the 1996 census as well as other sources. Like the first two editions of the *Fact Book*, the Third Edition references all source documents and presents data primarily in numeric rather than graphic form. While more numbers are presented than may suite everyone's taste, we have deliberately chosen a presentation format that maximizes the potential usefulness of the data for its audience. This decision reflects our frustration in working with graphs, charts and tables containing only summary information, the original of which is extremely difficult or, in the case of unpublished source material, impossible to reconstruct or recombine in ways necessary to suit our readership's information needs.

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 "the aged", "the elderly", etc. refer to persons aged 65 and over. This reflects conventional usage of these terms and the way data are usually aggregated. It should not be taken to imply lack of recognition of the heterogeneity of the older population.

Topics covered in this document are listed in the Table of Contents and include: 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; and health service utilization. Several other important topics have been omitted, either because provincial information was unavailable or the sample was too small to be considered reliable. These topics include: sources of income; diet and physical activity; self-reported health status; source of family support; criminal victimization rates; and leisure activities.

# 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 turn of the 20th century from slightly more than 4,000 (4,017) persons aged 65 and over in 1901 to 475,845 in 1996 (see Table 1.1a). This increment reflects a rate of growth that is more than five times greater than the rate for the total population of the province, which increased from 178,657 to 3,724,500 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, which experienced a rate of growth among persons aged 65 and over that was only 2.75 times as large as that for the total population, between 1901 and 1996.

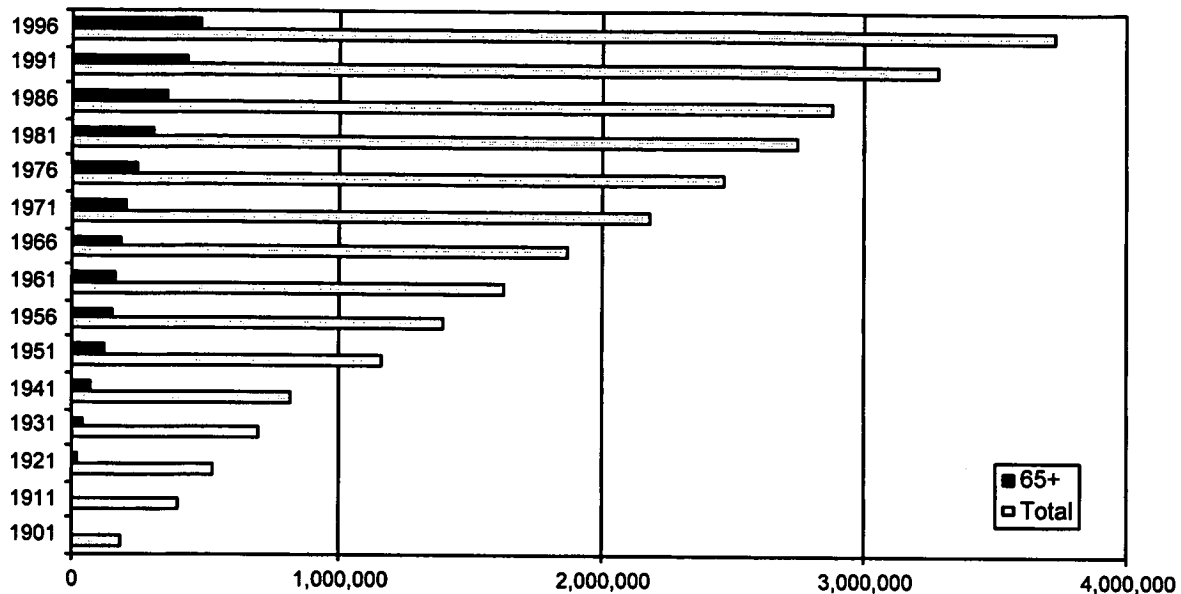
In 1996, 12.8% of British Columbians were aged 65 and over. Projections for the year 2001 and 2011 are 13.3% and 14.4% respectively.

**Table 1.1a:**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901-2011**

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*	31,877,300	4,030,700	12.6%	4,187,500	555,400	13.3%
2011*	35,420,300	4,981,200	14.1%	4,855,400	699,400	14.4%

\* 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, 1901-1996**



**Sources:**

For 1901-1911: Statistics Canada. (1946). Eighth Census of Canada: 1941: Ages of the Population. Vol. 3. Table 1.

For 1921-1996: Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

For 2001 and 2011: Statistics Canada. (1994). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016 (Catalogue 91-520). Table A3, Projection 2.



## 85+ Population

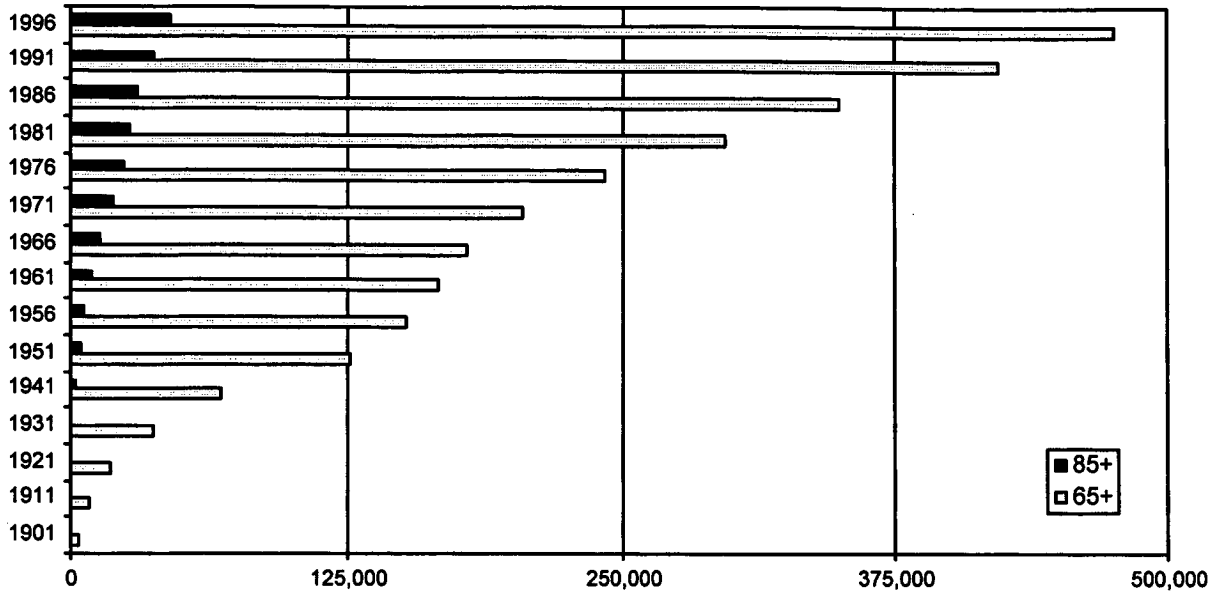
Reflecting national trends, the growth of the B.C. population aged 85 and over has been even more dramatic than that of the population aged 65 and over (see Table 1.1b). In 1901, only 98 British Columbians were aged 85 and over; by 1996, there were 45,035 in this age group. In fact, the increase in the population aged 85 and over was almost four times the increase in the population aged 65 and over.

**Table 1.1b:**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 85+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901-2011**

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*	31,877,300	475,900	1.5%	4,187,500	70,100	1.7%
2011*	35,420,300	703,100	2.0%	4,855,400	107,000	2.2%

\* 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, 1901-1996**



**Sources:**

For 1901-1911: Statistics Canada. (1946). Eighth Census of Canada: 1941: Ages of the Population Vol. 3. Table 1.

For 1921-1996: Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

For 2001 and 2011: Statistics Canada. (1994). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016 (Catalogue 91-520). Table A3, Projection 2.

## 1.2 Population Aging Within the Older Population Itself

The older population is itself aging. Within the 65 and over age group, the proportion aged 85 and over is growing and it is expected to continue to rise sharply in the near future, in 1996 people aged 85 and over numbered 45,035 and represented 9.5% of the seniors population of B.C. In ten years time, i.e. by 2006, their numbers are expected to about double (88,300) and they will comprise 14.4% of the 65+ population. While in 2016 the proportion aged 85+ will remain the same as in 2006 because of the influx of baby boomers in the 65-74 age group, the number aged 85+ will increase to an estimated 121,000.

Table 1.2 shows that the growth in the 85 and over population is taking place among both males and females. In 1996, males aged 85+ comprised 7.2% of all males aged 65 and over. By 2006, they are expected to comprise 10%. Over the same 10 year period (1996-2006) the female population aged 85+ will increase from 11.3% to 17.9% of the 65+ population.

**Table 1.2**  
**Age Structure of the Population Aged 65+ by Sex: British Columbia, 1996, 2001, and 2011**

1996						
Age	Total (000)	% of Population Aged 65+	Males (000)	% of Males Aged 65+	Females (000)	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	144.4	30.3%	70.5	33.9%	73.9	27.6%
70-74	127.9	26.9%	57.8	27.8%	70.2	26.2%
75-79	94.5	19.9%	39.7	19.1%	54.8	20.5%
80-84	64.0	13.4%	25.1	12.1%	38.9	14.5%
85-89	30.9	6.5%	10.8	5.2%	20.1	7.5%
90+	14.2	3.0%	4.1	2.0%	10.1	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>475.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>207.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>268.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
2006*						
Age	Total (000)	% of Population Aged 65+	Males (000)	% of Males Aged 65+	Females (000)	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	168.5	27.5%	83.1	30.7%	85.4	24.9%
70-74	143.2	23.3%	69.4	25.6%	73.8	21.5%
75-79	121.6	19.8%	55.1	20.4%	66.5	19.4%
80-84	91.9	15.0%	36.2	13.4%	55.7	16.3%
85-89	54.5	8.9%	18.3	6.8%	36.1	10.5%
90+	33.8	5.5%	8.6	3.2%	25.2	7.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>613.5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>270.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>342.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
2016*						
Age	Total (000)	% of Population Aged 65+	Males (000)	% of Males Aged 65+	Females (000)	% of Females Aged 65+
65-69	280.9	33.4%	138.4	36.3%	142.5	31.0%
70-74	197.5	23.5%	95.3	25.0%	102.2	22.2%
75-79	139.9	16.6%	64.3	16.9%	75.6	16.4%
80-84	102.2	12.1%	44	11.5%	58.2	12.7%
85-89	68.9	8.2%	25.9	6.8%	43	9.4%
90+	52.1	6.2%	13.7	3.6%	38.3	8.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>841.5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>381.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>459.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

**Source:**

For 1996: Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

For 2006 and 2016: Statistics Canada. (1991). Population Projection 1990 - 2011 Based on Recent Changes in Fertility Levels and Revised Immigration Targets.

### 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, the median age in British Columbia has been steadily increasing since 1901. It was 34.7 years in 1991, and in 1996 it was 35.9 years (35.3 for males and 36.5 for females). The median age is projected to continue to increase, to 37.4 in 2001, to 38.7 in 2006, to 39.9 in 2011, and to 40.7 in 2016, based on the medium growth scenario for fertility, mortality and migration.

**Table 1.3**  
**Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 - 2016**

Median Age (in years)		
Year	Canada	British Columbia
1901	22.6	28.0
1911	23.8	28.0
1921	24.0	29.8
1931	24.8	30.6
1941	26.8	32.1
1951	27.7	32.0
1961	26.3	29.8
1971	26.2	27.9
1981	29.6	29.1
1991	33.5	34.7
1996	35.3	35.9
2001*	37.0	37.4
2006*	38.4	38.7
2011*	39.5	39.9
2016*	40.4	40.7

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

#### Sources:

For 1901 and 1911: Statistics Canada. 1941 Census. Ages of the Population. Eighth Census of Canada, Vol. 3, King's Printer, 1946

For 1921-1971: Statistics Canada. Population Age Groups, Catalogue 92-751, Vol. 1-Part 2, April, 1973

For 1981: Statistics Canada. Population - Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 92-901, Vol. 1 - National Series, September, 1982

For 1991: Statistics Canada. Age, Sex and Marital Status. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1992. 1991 Census of Canada. Catalogue number 93-310.

For 1996: Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

For 2001-2016: Statistics Canada. (1994). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016 (Catalogue 91-520). Table A3, Projection 2.

## 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. 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. However, by 1966, women in British Columbia outnumbered men at all ages over 65, and increasingly so with advancing years.

In 1996, the sex ratio for age 65 and over was 78 males per 100 females. For age 85 and over, there were only 49 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.

**Table 2.1**  
**Males and Females Aged 65+ and Sex Ratios: British Columbia, 1956 and 1996**

Age	1956			1996		
	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*
65-69	29,077	25,001	116	70,515	73,905	95
70-74	26,187	21,773	120	57,760	70,170	82
75-79	15,514	13,042	119	39,670	54,820	72
80-84	7,044	6,506	108	25,105	38,865	65
85-89	2,520	2,555	99	10,750	20,135	53
90+	676	884	76	4,095	10,055	41
<b>Total 65+ (BC)</b>	<b>81,018</b>	<b>69,761</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>207,895</b>	<b>267,950</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Total 65+ (Canada)</b>	<b>622,210</b>	<b>621,728</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,487,830</b>	<b>2,040,025</b>	<b>73</b>

\* Number of males per 100 females.

### Sources:

For 1956: Statistics Canada. (1957). Census of Canada 1956. Volume I: Population. Table 21.

For 1996: Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

### 3. Mortality

#### 3.1 Trends in Life Expectancy

Major gains in life expectancy of British Columbians were achieved between 1931 and 1996 (see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 Part a, Part b and Part c). In terms of life expectancy at birth, females gained 16.5 years and males gained 14.0 years during that 65 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, 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 is currently 5.6 years.

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 3.6 years between 1980-82 and 1996, compared to only 2.2 for women.

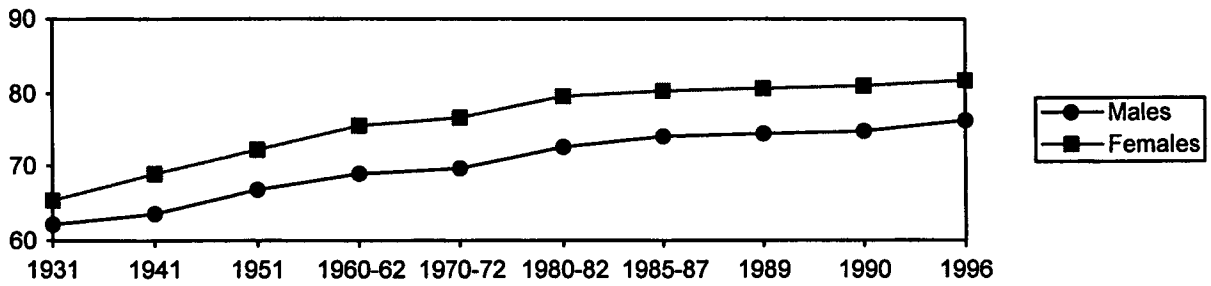
Life expectancy at age 65 increased 5.9 years for women and 3.6 years for men between 1931 and 1996. Sixty-five year old females could expect (in 1996) to live a further 20.5 years, whereas their male counterparts could expect to live an additional 17 years. This difference across the sexes (3.5 years) 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.

A similar trend occurs for life expectancy at age 80. Women aged 80 in 1996 could expect to live 9.6 more years, compared to 7.7 more years for males of that age. This 1.9 year sex difference exceeds the 0.7 year difference experienced in 1931. Since 1980-82, life expectancy at age 80 has been relatively stable. Between 1981 and 1996, it has increased by only 0.4 year for men and 0.3 year for women. Improvements have been considerably less impressive than in the 1970s.

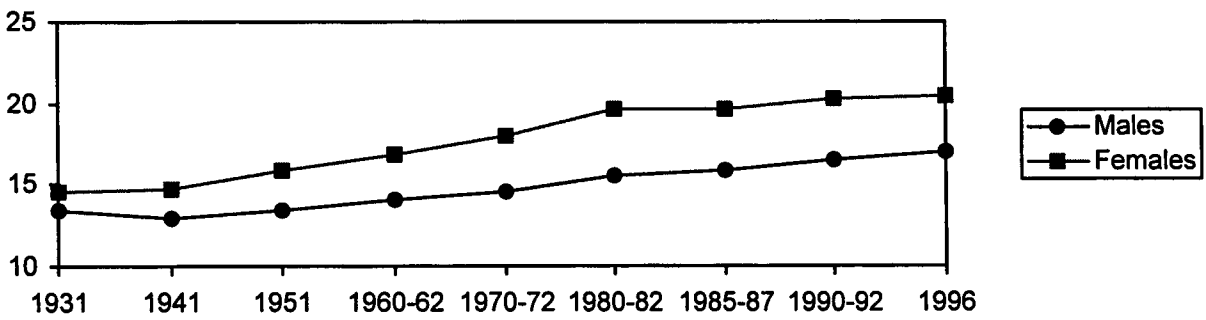
**Table 3.1**  
Life Expectancy at Birth, Age 65, and Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 1996

	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
1996	76.2	81.8	17.0	20.5	7.7	9.6
Increase from 1931 to 1996 (in years)	14.0	16.5	3.6	5.9	2.0	3.2

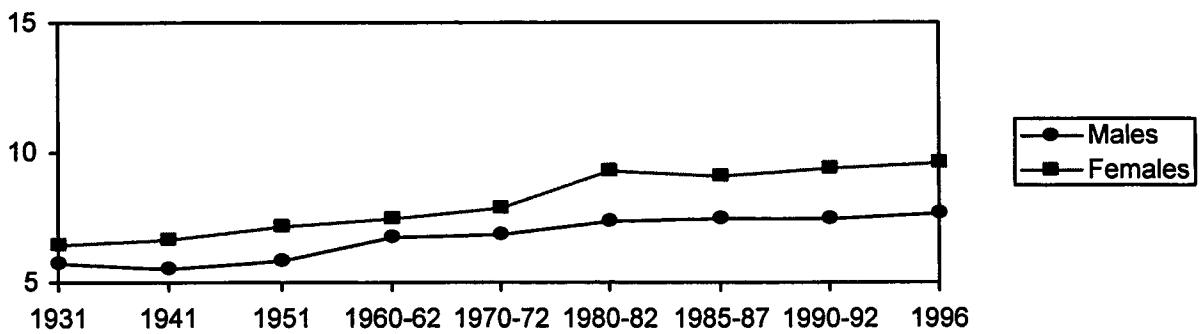
**Figure 3.1a**  
**Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-1996**



**Figure 3.1b**  
**Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-1996**



**Figure 3.1c**  
**Life Expectancy at Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931-1996**





**Sources:**

For 1931 and 1941 - Life Tables for Canada and Regions, Dominion Bureau of Statistics Catalogue 48-515, 1947.

For 1951 - Provincial and Regional Life Tables, Dominion Bureau of Statistics Catalogue 84-512, August, 1960.

For 1960-62 - Provincial and Regional Life Tables, Dominion Bureau of Statistics Catalogue 84-517, October, 1964.

For 1970-72 and 1980-82 - Life Tables, Canada and Provinces, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-532, October, 1974 and May, 1984.

For 1985-87 - Life Tables, Canada and Provinces, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-003S Quarterly, Supplement No. 13, 1990 Volume 2 No. 4, 1990.

For 1990-92 - Life Tables, Canada and Provinces, Statistics Canada Catalogue 84-537.

For 1996: Statistics Canada (1998). Unpublished data.

### 3.2 Deaths and Mortality Rates

For both men and women in 1996, the mortality rate at age 90 and over was more than 12 times the rate at ages 65-69, as observed in Table 3.2b. Not unexpectedly, women have lower mortality rates than men for all ages. B.C. seniors had lower mortality rates than Canadian seniors as a whole.

As already noted, major 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 1996, for men in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 70 to 74 age group, a decrease of 35.4%. For women in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 80-84 age group, with a decrease of 27.8%. It also appears that men's mortality rates are catching up with women's for the 65-69, 70-74 and 75-79 age groups; men had greater decreases in mortality rates than women did for all three of these age groups over the period 1971-1996. In fact, during the 1984-1996 period, mortality rates have decline faster for men than for women in all age groups over the age of 65.

It should be noted, however, that these are crude mortality rates, and that age-sex-specific rates by cause of death are needed to further elaborate this trend.

Table 3.2a

Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 1971, 1984 and 1996

Age	Mortality Rates (per 1,000 population)						Percent Change			
	Males			Females			Males		Females	
	1971	1984	1996	1971	1984	1996	1971-1984	1984-1996	1971-1984	1984-1996
65-69	30.6	24.3	19.9	16.0	13.3	11.6	-20.6	-18.1	-16.9	-12.9
70-74	49.4	37.8	31.9	24.6	20.9	18.0	-23.5	-15.6	-15.0	-13.9
75-79	74.0	61.4	51.8	42.2	34.4	31.9	-17.0	-15.6	-18.5	-7.3
80-84	109.9	99.0	86.2	77.1	58.4	55.6	-09.9	-12.9	-24.3	-4.8
85-89	167.3	155.3	146.7	127.9	101.4	99.4	-07.2	-5.5	-20.7	-2.0
90+	244.0	259.0	239.8	234.9	195.3	205.7	+06.1	-7.4	-16.9	+5.3

**Sources:**

For 1971: Statistics Canada. 1971 Vital Statistics, Vol. III: Deaths, Catalogue 84-206, February, 1974, Tables 3 and 12.

For 1984: Statistics Canada. 1984 Vital Statistics, Vol. I: Births and Deaths, Catalogue 84-204, March, 1986, Table 18; Statistics Canada. Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex, and Components of Growth for Canada, Provinces and Territories, Vol. 2, 2nd issue, Catalogue 91-210, May, 1985, Table 2.

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.

**Table 3.2b**  
**Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 1994 and 1996\***

Age	Canada				B.C.			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	1994	1996	1994	1996	1994	1996	1994	1996
65-69	23.7	22.9	12.8	12.6	20.3	19.9	12.0	11.6
70-74	37.2	36.8	20.5	20.1	30.9	31.9	18.4	18.0
75-79	60.0	59.1	34.4	34.1	52.9	51.8	33.1	31.9
80-84	96.4	96.2	59.3	59.8	85.1	86.2	54.6	55.6
85-89	149.2	152.8	103.4	104.8	138.4	146.7	101.1	99.4
90+	229.9	254.1	199.1	207.6	229.7	239.8	199.6	205.7

\* Rate per 1,000 population

Source:

Source: Statistics Canada. (1998). Unpublished data.

**Table 3.2c:**  
**Deaths of persons 65+ by Age Group and Sex, British Columbia, 1996.**

Age	Total	Males	Females
65-69	2,355	1,456	899
70-74	3,192	1,908	1,284
75-79	3,951	2,118	1,833
80-84	4,495	2,253	2,242
85-89	3,736	1,627	2,109
90+	3,258	1,068	2,190
<b>Total 65+</b>	<b>20,987</b>	<b>10,430</b>	<b>10,557</b>

Source:

Source: Statistics Canada. (1998). Unpublished data.

### 3.3 Causes of Death

In 1998, the five leading causes of death among both males and females 65-84 years of age were cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, cerebrovascular disease and digestive system disease (Table 3.3). These five causes of death accounted for 80% of all deaths for this age group. The two leading causes of death - cancers and cardiovascular disease - accounted for 60% and 56% 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 goes from being the leading cause of death for men to the third most important, while it is the fourth most important for women 85 years and over. For both men and women the leading cause of death at that age is cardiovascular disease, accounting for a third of all deaths. Alzheimer's disease and presenile dementias are the fifth leading cause of death for the oldest old accounting for 5.8% of all deaths in this age group.

**Table 3.3**  
**Leading Causes of Death by Age and Sex, British Columbia, 1998**

65-84 age group	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cancer	2,411	31.4	1,946	30.9
Cardiovascular disease	2,181	28.4	1,565	24.9
Respiratory disease	876	11.4	698	11.1
Cerebrovascular disease	566	7.4	609	9.7
Digestive system disease	248	3.2	254	4.0
Other causes	1,392	18.1	1,216	19.3
All causes	7674	100.0	6288	100.0

85 and over	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cardiovascular disease	916	32.6	1598	33.8
Respiratory disease	504	18.0	653	13.8
Cancer	443	15.8	519	11.0
Cerebrovascular disease	283	10.1	663	14.0
Alzheimer's disease & presenile dementias	99	3.5	334	7.1
Other causes	561	20.0	957	20.3
All causes	2806	100.0	4724	100.0

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

Source:

British Columbia. Vital Statistics Agency. (1999). Annual Report 1998.

### 3.4 Cancer

In 1996, the most prevalent form of cancer diagnosed in British Columbians aged 60+ was leukemia, with 3,667 new cases being diagnosed. The second most prevalent (and most prevalent in men) was prostate cancer, with 2,088 new cases being diagnosed. The second most common cancer diagnosed in women (leukemia was the most common) was breast cancer, with 1,244 new diagnoses.

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.

The greatest number of cancer deaths in British Columbians at age 60+ were caused by cancers of the trachea, bronchus, or lung, with 1609 deaths; this was the leading cancer cause of death for both men and women. The second leading cancer cause of death for men was prostate cancer, with 474 deaths, whereas for women it was breast cancer, with 401 deaths. Mortality rates by age group can be seen in Table 3.4b.

**Table 3.4a:**  
**New Cancer Diagnoses and Incidence Rates, By Sex and Age at Diagnosis, British Columbia, 1996**

	New Cancer Diagnoses By Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates By Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	M	F	All	M	F	M	F
Leukemia - All Types	1,270	2,397	3,667	-	-	-	-
Prostate	2,088	-	2,088	694.5	0	987.4	0
Trachea, Bronchus, Lung	1,074	775	1,849	350.1	219.8	551.6	250.4
Breast	15	1,244	1,259	5.7	353.6	2.5	398.8
Colon	499	513	1,012	160.5	115.2	269.5	286.8
Rectum	326	226	552	107.7	62.3	158.7	80.1
Unknown & Ill-Defined Sites	218	231	449	64.7	53.6	151.1	122.3
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	212	183	395	68.8	51	110.8	62.6
Bladder	260	105	365	77.8	25.9	176.3	49.5
Pancreas	148	151	299	47.9	38.3	78.1	67
Stomach	175	110	285	52	25.2	120.9	59.7
Kidney	173	103	276	59.4	29.9	70.5	30.6
Uterus	-	266	266	0	77.3	0	78.6
Melanoma-Skin	151	92	243	49.1	24.1	78.1	37.8
Ovary	-	174	174	0	50.7	0	50.9
Esophagus	99	37	136	31.1	8.4	57.9	20.4
Other Primary Sites	68	68	136	27.8	15.3	42.8	39.3
Liver	82	49	131	29.9	8.4	22.7	37.8
Multiple Myeloma	68	62	130	21.3	14.2	40.3	33.5
Brain	68	42	110	25.4	12	15.1	13.1
Gallbladder	45	59	104	13.1	15.3	32.7	24.7
Mouth	43	39	82	14.3	10.9	20.2	13.1
Larynx	58	21	79	19.7	6.6	25.2	4.4
Pharynx	46	29	75	16.4	9.5	15.1	4.4
Bone, Connective Tissue	26	28	54	8.6	6.2	12.6	16
Thyroid	15	35	50	5.7	10.2	2.5	10.2
Cervix	-	42	42	0	12.4	0	11.6
Tongue	17	17	34	7	5.5	7.6	0
Other Female Genital Organs	-	33	33	0	6.9	0	20.4
Lip	26	6	32	6.6	1.1	25.2	4.4
Small Intestine	14	14	28	4.5	4	7.6	4.4
Hodgkin's Disease	8	8	16	2	1.8	7.6	4.4
Testis	4	-	4	0.8	0	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,296</b>	<b>7,159</b>	<b>14,455</b>	<b>2013.1</b>	<b>1294.6</b>	<b>3188.9</b>	<b>1877.7</b>

Source:

BC Cancer Agency. (1999). *BC Cancer Registry Statistics*. [[http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer\\_stats/06.html](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer_stats/06.html) and [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer\\_stats/07.html](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer_stats/07.html)]

**Table 3.4b**  
**Cancer Deaths and Mortality Rates, British Columbia, 1996**

	Cancer Deaths By Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates By Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	M	F	All	M	F	M	F
Trachea, Bronchus, Lung	960	649	1609	299.8	175.7	574.3	243.1
Prostate	474	0	474	102.4	0	564.2	0
Breast	3	401	404	0.8	97.3	2.5	195.1
Colon	210	182	392	55.3	39.7	188.9	106.3
Unknown & Ill-Defined Sites	197	176	373	59.8	36.5	128.5	110.6
Pancreas	161	175	336	52	41.6	85.6	88.8
Other Primary Sites	120	107	227	35.2	21.5	85.6	69.9
Stomach	116	94	210	30.7	17.1	103.3	68.4
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	110	100	210	31.5	20.1	83.1	65.5
Leukemia	119	75	194	—	—	—	—
Bladder	102	55	157	25	8.7	103.3	45.1
Esophagus	97	45	142	29.5	10.6	63	23.3
Ovary	0	142	142	0	41.2	0	42.2
Liver	86	55	141	27.8	10.6	45.3	37.8
Kidney	71	54	125	24.2	12.8	30.2	27.7
Rectum	64	55	119	18.4	12	47.9	32
Multiple Myeloma	64	44	108	20.5	12.4	35.3	14.6
Brain	64	40	104	22.5	10.6	22.7	16
Gallbladder	26	34	60	7	8	22.7	17.5
Uterus	0	57	57	0	10.9	0	39.3
Melanoma-Skin	20	22	42	7	5.1	7.6	11.6
Larynx	32	5	37	9.8	0.7	20.2	4.4
Pharynx	23	13	36	8.2	4	7.6	2.9
Bone, Connective Tissue	13	20	33	2.9	5.5	15.1	7.3
Tongue	16	10	26	5.7	2.2	5	5.8
Mouth	12	12	24	3.7	1.8	7.6	10.2
Cervix	0	19	19	0	6.6	0	1.5
Other Female Genital Organs	0	16	16	0	2.6	0	13.1
Small Intestine	8	4	12	2.9	0.7	2.5	2.9
Thyroid	3	7	10	1.2	0.7	0	7.3
Hodgkin's Disease	3	5	8	0.8	1.1	2.5	2.9
Lip	2	0	2	0.4	0	2.5	0
Testis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3176</b>	<b>2673</b>	<b>5849</b>	<b>916.9</b>	<b>633.6</b>	<b>2360.2</b>	<b>1361</b>

Source:

BC Cancer Agency. (1999). BC Cancer Registry Statistics. [[http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer\\_stats/08.html](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer_stats/08.html) and [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer\\_stats/09.html](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cancer_stats/09.html)]

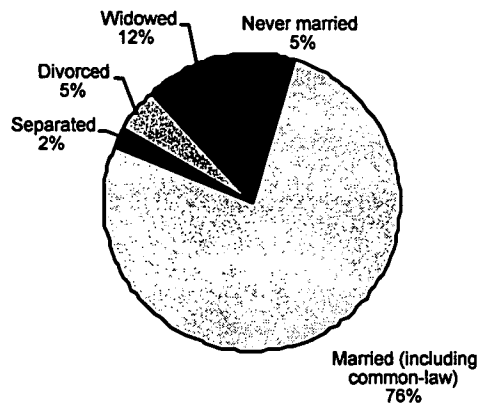
## 4. Marital Status

According to the 1996 Census, approximately three-quarters of male British Columbians aged 65 and over were married; however, nearly half of women aged 65 and over were widowed. Of those in the 65-69 age group, 5.2% of men and 22.4% of women were widowed. Almost half (48.2%) of women in the age group 75-79 were widowed, compared to only 13.5% of men. Even at ages 90 and over, only 46.2% of men were widowed, compared to 85.8% 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.

**Table 4.1a**  
Male Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 1996

	Never married		Married (including common-law)		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
65-69	3,785	5.4%	56,785	80.5%	1,775	2.5%	4,480	6.4%	3,680	5.2%	70,515	100%
70-74	2,785	4.8%	45,730	79.2%	1,370	2.4%	2,945	5.1%	4,930	8.5%	57,760	100%
75-79	1,675	4.2%	30,275	76.3%	840	2.1%	1,510	3.8%	5,375	13.5%	39,670	100%
80-84	1,055	4.2%	17,450	69.5%	505	2.0%	785	3.1%	5,310	21.2%	25,105	100%
85-89	495	4.6%	6,345	59.0%	225	2.1%	270	2.5%	3,420	31.8%	10,750	100%
90+	270	6.6%	1,780	43.5%	65	1.6%	85	2.1%	1,890	46.2%	4,095	100%
<b>Total 65+</b>	<b>10,065</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>158,365</b>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>10,075</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>24,605</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>207,895</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4.1a**  
Marital Status of Men Aged 65+, British Columbia, 1996

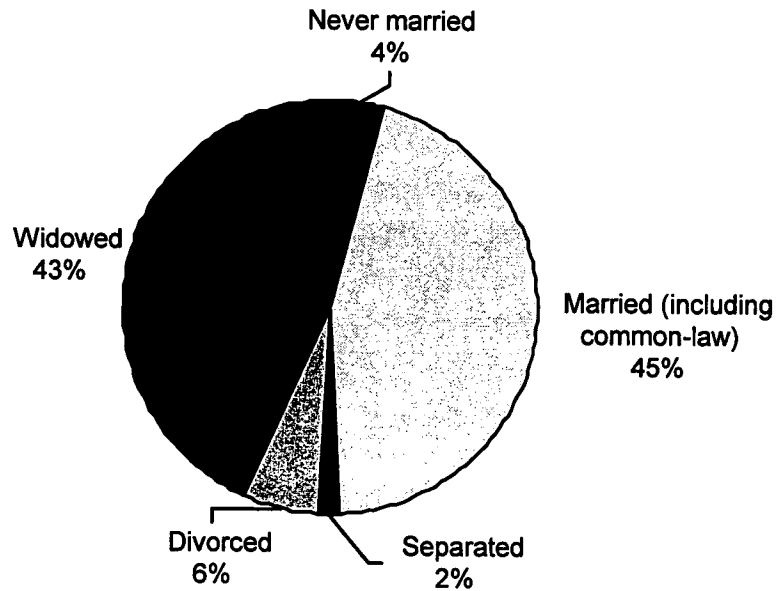




**Table 4.1b**  
**Female Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 1996**

	Never married		Married (including common-law)		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
65-69	2,595	3.5%	46,685	63.2%	1,720	2.3%	6,380	8.6%	16,525	22.4%	73,905	100%
70-74	2,560	3.6%	37,500	53.4%	1,405	2.0%	4,690	6.7%	24,015	34.2%	70,170	100%
75-79	2,210	4.0%	22,435	40.9%	885	1.6%	2,835	5.2%	26,450	48.2%	54,820	100%
80-84	1,900	4.9%	10,340	26.6%	495	1.3%	1,345	3.5%	24,780	63.8%	38,865	100%
85-89	1,090	5.4%	3,100	15.4%	160	0.8%	470	2.3%	15,310	76.0%	20,135	100%
90+	665	6.6%	570	5.7%	50	0.5%	140	1.4%	8,630	85.8%	10,055	100%
<b>Total 65+</b>	<b>11,020</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>120,630</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>4,715</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>15,860</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>115,710</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>267,950</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4.1b**  
**Marital Status of Women Aged 65+, British Columbia, 1996**



**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 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 1996, the largest number of the aged resided in Ontario (1,334,100), Quebec (860,700) and British Columbia (475,845).

The proportion of persons aged 65 and over within the provinces displays a different pattern. In 1996, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia, in that order, had the largest proportions of older persons in their total population. B.C. was in fifth place, following Prince Edward Island.

**Table 5.1**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1996**

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	65-74	75-84	85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% of Provincial Population Aged 65+
Newfoundland	551,795	59,470	34,200	20,110	5,160	1.7%	10.8%
Prince Edward Island	134,560	17,460	9,185	6,145	2,130	0.5%	13.0%
Nova Scotia	909,285	119,120	64,780	41,680	12,660	3.4%	13.1%
New Brunswick	738,130	93,175	51,675	31,720	9,780	2.6%	12.6%
Québec	7,138,795	860,700	519,680	264,870	76,150	24.4%	12.1%
Ontario	10,753,575	1,334,100	793,465	415,725	124,910	37.8%	12.4%
Manitoba	1,113,895	152,165	81,875	52,785	17,505	4.3%	13.7%
Saskatchewan	990,240	145,605	75,975	51,950	17,680	4.1%	14.7%
Alberta	2,696,830	266,905	156,550	84,530	25,825	7.6%	9.9%
British Columbia	3,724,500	475,845	272,350	158,460	45,035	13.5%	12.8%
Yukon Territory	30,765	1,360	935	340	85	0.0%	4.4%
Northwest Territories	64,405	1,940	1,265	510	165	0.1%	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,846,760</b>	<b>3,527,845</b>	<b>2,061,935</b>	<b>1,128,835</b>	<b>337,070</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 5.2 Rural-Urban Distribution

Table 5.2 shows that in 1991, like the total population, a majority (83.5%) of B.C.'s older adults lived in urban centres. More than half of the older population (56.5%) resided in urban centres of 100,000 or more population. The percentage of B.C. seniors living in rural non-farm areas in 1991 was 15.5%, and in farm areas, it was only 1%.

In all urban areas, except those with a population of less than 2,500, the percentage of older people exceeded the provincial average of 12.9 percent. Urban centres in the size range 2,500 - 4,999 had the highest proportion of their population aged 65 and over (15.0%) followed by communities of 5,000 - 9,999 (14.5%). Communities of 10,000 - 99,999 and 100,000+ each had 13.3% of their population aged 65+.. This contrasts with B.C. in 1981, when the highest proportion of persons 65+ was urban centres with 100,000 - 499,999 population (17.4%). The distribution of persons 75 and over is fairly even across the urban size groupings (ranging between 5.5% and 6.2%), except for communities of less than 2,500, which had a lower proportion of older seniors (4.2%).

Within rural non-farm areas, seniors constituted 11.1% of the population. In farm areas, they accounted for 8.1% of the population.

**Table 5.2**  
**Number and Percent of Total Population Aged 65+ and Aged 75+ for Urban and Rural Areas,**

**British Columbia, 1991**

Urban Areas						
	Population Aged 65+			Population Aged 75+		
	Number	% Distrib. of Pop. 65+ in B.C.	% aged 65+ in area	Number	% Distrib. of Pop. 75+ in B.C.	% aged 75+ in area
100,000+	238,510	56.5%	13.3%	103,130	60.0%	5.8%
10,000-99,999	87,650	20.8%	13.3%	36,000	20.9%	5.5%
5,000-9,999	11,850	2.8%	14.5%	5,075	3.0%	6.2%
2,500-4,999	10,630	2.5%	15.0%	4,365	2.5%	6.2%
less than 2,500	3,880	0.9%	10.7%	1,520	0.9%	4.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>352,520</b>	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>150,090</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
Rural Areas						
	Population Aged 65+			Population Aged 75+		
	Number	% Distrib. of Pop. 65+ in B.C.	% aged 65+ in area	Number	% Distrib. of Pop. 75+ in B.C.	% aged 75+ in area
Non-farm	65,405	15.5%	11.1%	20,765	12.1%	3.5%
Farm	4,100	1.0%	8.1%	1,075	0.6%	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,505</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>21,840</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>B.C.</b>	<b>422,005</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>171,925</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

**Source:**

Statistics Canada: 1991 Census. Profile of Urban and Rural Areas - Part A, Canada, Provinces and Territories,  
Catalogue 93-339, April, 1993, Table 1.

### 5.3 Geographic Distribution Within British Columbia

In 1996, a total of 216,415 (45.5%) of B.C.'s seniors lived in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (see Table 5.3b). The Capital Regional District was the next most popular region of the province among seniors, occupied by 57,470 (12.1%) of the elderly population. The Fraser Valley ranked third with 30,420 (6.4%). Together, the three regional districts of Okanagan Similkameen, Central Okanagan, and North Okanagan were home to 52,955 (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 (23.8%), followed by the Capital Region (18.1%), the Sunshine Coast (17.3%) and Nanaimo (17.2%).

**Table 5.3a**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 65+, by Regional District: British Columbia, 1996**

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distrib. of Pop. 65+ in B.C.	% Aged 65+ in District
		Total	Males	Females		
Alberni-Clayoquot	31,652	3,700	1,695	2,005	0.78%	11.7%
Bulkley-Nechako	41,642	2,910	1,480	1,430	0.61%	7.0%
Capital	317,989	57,470	23,480	33,990	12.08%	18.1%
Cariboo	66,475	5,650	2,855	2,795	1.19%	8.5%
Central Coast	3,921	245	120	125	0.05%	6.2%
Central Kootenay	58,099	8,570	3,950	4,620	1.80%	14.8%
Central Okanagan	136,541	23,355	10,380	12,975	4.91%	17.1%
Columbia-Shuswap	48,116	7,150	3,430	3,720	1.50%	14.9%
Comox-Strathcona	97,666	10,760	5,045	5,715	2.26%	11.0%
Cowichan Valley	70,978	10,685	4,995	5,690	2.25%	15.1%
East Kootenay	56,366	6,315	2,885	3,430	1.33%	11.2%
Fort Nelson-Liard	5,856	140	70	70	0.03%	2.4%
Fraser Valley	222,397	30,420	13,575	16,845	6.39%	13.7%
Fraser-Fort George	98,974	5,645	2,725	2,920	1.19%	5.7%
Greater Vancouver	1,831,665	216,415	91,165	125,250	45.48%	11.8%
Kitimat-Stikine	43,618	2,550	1,290	1,260	0.54%	5.8%
Kootenay Boundary	32,906	5,560	2,495	3,065	1.17%	16.9%
Mount Waddington	14,601	590	310	280	0.12%	4.0%
Nanaimo	121,783	20,925	9,605	11,320	4.40%	17.2%
North Okanagan	71,607	11,560	5,260	6,300	2.43%	16.1%
Okanagan-Similkameen	75,933	18,040	8,295	9,745	3.79%	23.8%
Peace River	56,477	3,750	1,810	1,940	0.79%	6.6%
Powell River	19,936	2,940	1,355	1,585	0.62%	14.7%
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	24,795	1,505	700	805	0.32%	6.1%
Squamish-Lillooet	29,401	1,740	845	895	0.37%	5.9%
Stikine Region	1,391	75	40	35	0.02%	5.4%
Sunshine Coast	24,914	4,305	2,020	2,285	0.90%	17.3%
Thompson-Nicola	118,801	12,845	6,020	6,825	2.70%	10.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,724,500</b>	<b>475,815</b>	<b>207,895</b>	<b>267,920</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>

Source:

Statistics Canada. *ESTAT: 1996 Census of Population (Provinces, Census Divisions, Municipalities)*.

### 5.3.1 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 18 communities, 2 electoral areas, and Indian reserves, with populations ranging in size from 4 to 514,008.

Table 5.3b shows that 66,425 or almost one third (30.7%) of the seniors in the GVRD live in the City of Vancouver. A further 31,255 (14.4%) live in Surrey, while 23,885 (11.0%) live in Burnaby.

In several communities within the GVRD, the proportion of seniors in the population exceeded the 1996 provincial average of 12.8%. These communities included: White Rock, where almost one-third (31.1%) of the population was aged 65 and over in 1996, West Vancouver (20.9%), Langley City (15.4%), New Westminster (15.2%), Burnaby (13.3%), North Vancouver (13.0%), and Vancouver (12.9%).

**Table 5.3b**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Greater Vancouver Regional District, 1996**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Pop. 65+ in GVRD	% of Pop. 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Anmore [VL]	961	50	35	560	0.02%	5.2%
Belcarra [VL]	665	40	20	380	0.02%	6.0%
Burnaby [C]	179,209	23,885	10,040	115,910	11.03%	13.3%
Coquitlam [C]	101,820	8,910	3,720	60,820	4.12%	8.8%
Delta [DM]	95,411	9,370	4,085	58,590	4.33%	9.8%
GVRD Subdivision A [SRD]	3,066	345	165	2,000	0.16%	11.3%
Langley [C]	22,523	3,460	1,310	14,655	1.60%	15.4%
Langley [DM]	80,179	7,995	3,700	49,885	3.69%	10.0%
Lions Bay [VL]	1,347	95	55	770	0.04%	7.1%
Maple Ridge [DM]	56,173	5,755	2,495	35,045	2.66%	10.2%
New Westminster [C]	49,350	7,485	2,845	32,875	3.46%	15.2%
North Vancouver [C]	41,475	5,375	2,035	26,060	2.48%	13.0%
North Vancouver [DM]	80,418	8,505	3,765	49,810	3.93%	10.6%
Pitt Meadows [DM]	13,436	1,265	560	8,220	0.58%	9.4%
Port Coquitlam [C]	46,682	2,945	1,255	26,820	1.36%	6.3%
Port Moody [C]	20,847	1,285	585	11,935	0.59%	6.2%
Richmond [C]	148,867	16,250	6,810	92,325	7.51%	10.9%
Surrey [C]	304,477	31,255	13,875	190,420	14.44%	10.3%
University Endowment Area [SRD]	6,833	640	285	3,960	0.30%	9.4%
Vancouver [C]	514,008	66,425	27,545	331,475	30.69%	12.9%
West Vancouver [DM]	40,882	8,530	3,520	29,060	3.94%	20.9%
White Rock [C]	17,210	5,360	1,945	13,445	2.48%	31.1%
Indian Reserves*	5,841	1,235	535	700	0.57%	21.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,831,680</b>	<b>216,460</b>	<b>91,185</b>	<b>1,155,720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

\* These include Barnston Island, Capilano, Coquitlam, Katzie, Langley, Matsqui, McMillan Island, Mission, Musqueam, Semiahoo, Seymour Creek, Tsawwassen and Whonnock. 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)  
SRD - Subdivision of Regional District  
VL - Village

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. *ESTAT: 1996 Census of Population (Provinces, Census Divisions, Municipalities)*.



### 5.3.2 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 7 communities and 7 electoral areas.

As shown in Table 5.3c, over half of the seniors live in two communities; 15,745 (27.4%) in the City of Victoria and 16,925 (29.5%) in the Municipality of Saanich.

In terms of the proportion of their population aged 65+, four communities equal or exceed 20%. These are Sidney (32.5%), Oak Bay (27.9%), Victoria (21.4%), and Capital, Subdivision A (22.6%).

**Table 5.3c**  
**Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Capital Regional District, 1996**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of population 65+ in CRD	% of population 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Capital, Subd. A [SRD]	13,405	3,030	1,445	1,585	5.27%	22.6%
Capital, Subd. B [SRD]	603	70	40	30	0.12%	11.6%
Capital, Subd. C [SRD]	11,432	1,290	625	665	2.25%	11.3%
Capital, Subd. D [SRD]	207	30	25	5	0.05%	14.5%
Central Saanich [DM]	14,611	2,610	1,200	1,410	4.54%	17.9%
Colwood [C]	13,848	1,220	545	675	2.12%	8.8%
Esquimalt [DM]	16,151	2,610	1,030	1,580	4.54%	16.2%
Highlands [DM]	1,423	70	40	30	0.12%	4.9%
Langford [DM]	17,484	1,590	675	915	2.77%	9.1%
Metchosin [DM]	4,709	420	220	200	0.73%	8.9%
North Saanich [DM]	10,411	1,880	940	940	3.27%	18.1%
Oak Bay [DM]	17,865	4,985	1,880	3,105	8.68%	27.9%
Saanich [DM]	101,388	16,925	7,265	9,660	29.46%	16.7%
Sidney [T]	10,701	3,480	1,415	2,065	6.06%	32.5%
Victoria [C]	73,504	15,745	5,445	10,300	27.40%	21.4%
View Royal [T]	6,441	725	320	405	1.26%	11.3%
Indian Reserves*	4,501	775	360	415	1.35%	17.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,684</b>	<b>57,455</b>	<b>23,470</b>	<b>33,985</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>

\* These include Becher Bay, East Saanich, Esquimalt, Galiano Island, Gordon River, New Songhees, Sooke, South Saanich 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)  
SRD - Subdivision of Regional District  
T - Town

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. *ESTAT: 1996 Census of Population (Provinces, Census Divisions, Municipalities)*.

## 5.4 Mobility

### 5.4.1 Total Population and Population Aged 65+

Canadians are a relatively mobile people. In each of the census years, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996, approximately one half (ranging between 43.3% and 54.2%) of the population five years of age and over, and approximately one-quarter of the population 65 years of age and over (ranging between 20.2% and 31.5%) were living in a different dwelling than five years earlier. Since 1971, there has been a steady decline in the mobility rate for Canadians aged 65 and over.

In each of these census periods, a higher proportion of older British Columbians (ranging between 29.2% and 40.3%) changed residence than was the case for the country as a whole (see Table 5.4a). In 1996, senior British Columbians had a mobility rate that was 9% higher than the national average, although they too have experienced a decline since 1971.

**Table 5.4a**  
**Percent of the Population Aged 65+ who Changed Residence in the Five Years Preceding the Census of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996, 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%

\* 20% sample

#### Sources:

Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1961 Census. Population Sample. General Characteristics of Migrant and Non-migrant Population, Catalogue 98-509, Vol. 4, July, 1965, Table 11.

Statistics Canada. 1971 Census. Population: Internal Migration, Catalogue 92-719, Vol. 1, Part 2, November, 1974, Table 31.

Statistics Canada. 1976 Census. Population: Demographic Characteristics - Mobility Status, Catalogue 92-828, December, 1978, Table 35.

Statistics Canada. 1981 Census. Mobility Status Canada, Provinces, Census Divisions, Census Metropolitan Areas, Catalogue 92-907, October, 1983, Table 1.

Statistics Canada. 1986 Census. Mobility Status and Interprovincial Migration, Catalogue 93-108, June, 1989, Table 1.

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Mobility and Migration: The Nation, Catalogue 93-322, June, 1993, Table 1A.

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 5.4.2 Distance Moved

Moves by the older age group are mainly of a short distance. For example, of the 131,145 elderly British Columbians who changed residence between 1991 and 1996, 47.0% (61,585) remained in the same census subdivision; 34.2% (44,865) moved elsewhere within the province; 9.7% (12,780) moved to B.C. from a different province; while 9.1% (11,905) immigrated from a different country (see Table 5.4b).

In comparison to Canada as a whole, a relatively larger proportion of B.C.'s older residents in 1996 lived outside the province in 1991. In 1996, 2.7% of the elderly population in Canada had moved from a different province or a different country over the preceding five years; in B.C., the comparable figure was 5.5%.

**Table 5.4b**  
**Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+, Canada and British Columbia, 1991-1996**

Mobility Status	Canada				British Columbia			
	65+	65-69	70-74	75+	65+	65-69	70-74	75+
<b>Non-mover</b>	2,616,865	854,285	746,395	1,016,185	318,095	95,135	85,590	133,370
<b>Non-migrant mover</b>	361,245	121,980	100,530	138,735	61,585	19,920	17,245	24,420
<b>Migrant</b>	301,615	118,240	82,720	100,655	69,565	27,790	19,190	22,585
<b>Internal migrants</b>	254,760	96,470	69,410	88,880	57,650	22,095	16,075	19,480
<b>Intraprovincial Migrant</b>	213,495	80,635	58,780	74,080	44,865	16,750	12,735	15,380
<b>Interprovincial Migrant</b>	41,265	15,835	10,625	14,805	12,780	5,340	3,340	4,100
<b>External Migrants</b>	46,850	21,770	13,310	11,770	11,905	5,695	3,105	3,105
<b>Total Movers</b>	662,865	240,220	183,250	239,395	131,145	47,710	36,430	47,005
<b>Total</b>	3,279,730	1,094,505	929,645	1,255,580	449,240	142,845	126,020	180,380

\* 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. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

Vancouver was clearly the destination of choice for external migrants in the period 1991-96. Of the 11,905 seniors who moved to B.C. from another country, 10,160 or 85.32% located in Vancouver, 420 (3.5%) in Victoria, while 1,325 (11.1%) settled elsewhere in the province.

As show in table 5.4c, external and other in-migrants to Vancouver included persons in the three age groups 65-69 (42.7%), 70-74 (27.0%), and 75+ (30.3%). Victoria also received in-migrants from all three age groups.

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

**Table 5.4c**  
**Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+, Vancouver and Victoria, 1991-1996\***

	Vancouver			Victoria		
	65-69	70-74	75+	65-69	70-74	75+
<b>Total in-migrants</b>	7,420	4,695	5,270	1,470	1,095	1,640
<b>Intraprovincial migrants</b>	1,120	885	1,270	620	490	760
<b>Interprovincial migrants</b>	1,325	1,155	1,455	665	525	715
<b>External migrants</b>	4,975	2,650	2,535	180	75	165
<b>Total out-migrants</b>	4,700	3,140	3,510	955	820	1,325
<b>Intraprovincial migrants</b>	4,020	2,630	2,750	765	625	905
<b>Interprovincial migrants</b>	685	515	760	190	195	420

\* 20% sample

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 6. Ethnic Composition

### 6.1 Predominant Groups

The 1991 Census provides information on ethnic origin both as a single selection and as a multiple selection. The following data are based on responses to these two types of ethnic origin. It should be noted that an individual can be included in more than one ethnic category.

Table 6.1 shows that in 1991, the English were the predominant ethnic group (as a single or multiple selection) among British Columbians, both for the total population (43.3%) and for those 65 and over (40.1%). Among persons of all ages in B.C., those of Scottish origin constituted the second largest group (22.8%), followed by the Irish (16.8%). Turning to ethnic elders, the four largest groups were the English (40.1%), Scottish (18.3%), Irish (11.8%) and German (9.1%).

**Table 6.1**  
Ten Leading Ethnic Origin Groups, Total Population and Population Aged 65+, British Columbia, 1991\*

Ethnic Origin Group	Total Population of B.C. (3,247,505)			% of Total Pop. **	Population Aged 65+ (422,010)			% of Pop. Aged 65+**
	Single	Multiple	Total**		Single	Multiple	Total**	
English	581,185	824,300	1,405,485	43.3	117,945	51,175	169,120	40.1
Scottish	144,705	594,970	739,675	22.8	37,655	39,430	77,085	18.3
Irish	78,640	467,520	546,160	16.8	17,025	32,770	49,795	11.8
German	156,635	337,225	493,860	15.2	26,665	11,860	38,525	9.1
French	68,665	271,510	340,175	10.5	9,570	11,030	20,600	4.9
Chinese	181,185	15,540	196,725	6.1	16,105	310	16,415	3.9
Dutch	66,525	117,895	184,420	5.7	9,295	5,100	14,395	3.4
Ukrainian	52,760	125,155	177,915	5.5	11,290	2,090	13,380	3.2
N.A. Indian	69,065	80,510	149,575	4.6	5,865	2,365	8,230	2.0
Italian	49,260	62,725	111,985	3.4	7,050	1,110	8,160	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,448,625</b>	<b>2,897,350</b>	<b>4,345,975</b>	<b>133.9</b>	<b>258,465</b>	<b>157,240</b>	<b>415,705</b>	<b>98.6</b>

**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.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1993). 1991 Census. Ethnic Origin: The Nation (Catalogue 93-315). Table 3.

## 6.2 Proportion of Ethnic Origin Groups Aged 65+

Among persons selecting English as a single or multiple ethnic origin, 12.0% were elderly. As shown in Table 6.2, there were several other ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10%. These groups included the Americans, Austrians, Belgians, Estonians, Guyanese, Jewish, Latvians, Scottish, Serbians and Slovaks. It should be noted that the percentages of ethnic groups aged 65+ were lower in 1991 than in 1981. This is because 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, 1991.

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+** (492,245)	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+**
	Single	Multiple	Total**		
Acadian	20	10	30	<0.1	8.6
African	55	65	120	<0.1	3.4
American	565	845	1,410	0.3	13.9
Arab	20	10	30	<0.1	1.4
Armenian	125	10	135	<0.1	9.3
Austrian	1,980	865	2,845	0.6	11.6
Belgian	610	385	995	0.2	10.2
Black	330	160	490	0.1	3.4
Cambodian	25	10	35	<0.1	2.6
Canadian	4,240	1,600	5,840	1.2	6.8
Chilean	35	20	55	<0.1	3.0
Chinese	16,105	310	16,415	3.3	8.3
Croatian	560	45	605	0.1	7.5
Czech	645	210	855	0.2	8.2
Czechoslovakian	755	175	930	0.2	9.1
Danish	2,595	945	3,540	0.7	8.9
Dutch(Netherlands)	9,295	5,100	14,395	2.9	7.8
East Indian	4,950	365	5,315	1.1	5.4
Egyptian	40	-	40	<0.1	5.6
English	117,945	51,175	169,120	34.4	12.0
Estonian	620	70	690	0.1	18.9
Filipino	1,810	90	1,900	0.4	5.8
Finnish	1,830	410	2,240	0.5	9.5
French	9,570	11,030	20,600	4.2	6.1
German	26,665	11,860	38,525	7.8	7.8
Greek	630	200	830	0.2	5.8
Guyanese	15	10	35	<0.1	11.3
Hungarian(Magyar)	2,595	420	3,015	0.6	9.2

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+** (492,245)	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+**
	Single	Multiple	Total**		
Icelandic	835	355	1,190	0.2	7.4
Inuit	-	40	40	<0.1	2.0
Iranian	455	10	465	<0.1	6.0
Irish	17,025	32,770	49,795	10.1	9.1
Italian	7,050	1,110	8,160	1.7	7.3
Jamaican	-	35	35	<0.1	2.6
Japanese	2,570	60	2,630	0.5	9.7
Jewish	2,425	715	3,140	0.6	10.1
Korean	350	10	360	<0.1	3.7
Laotian	25	-	25	<0.1	2.3
Latvian	380	75	455	<0.1	18.2
Lebanese	130	25	155	<0.1	4.8
Lithuanian	190	50	240	<0.1	8.0
Macedonian	10	-	10	<0.1	4.3
Maltese	45	45	90	<0.1	8.5
Métis	205	315	520	0.1	2.3
N. A. Indian	2,985	1,740	4,725	1.0	3.2
Norwegian	5,865	2,365	8,230	1.7	9.1
Pakistan	155	50	205	<0.1	5.3
Polish	5,210	2,410	7,620	1.5	7.8
Portuguese	925	195	1,120	0.2	4.8
Punjabi	525	180	705	0.1	5.4
Romanian	635	190	825	0.2	7.3
Russian	3,105	835	3,940	0.8	8.0
Salvadorean	-	15	15	<0.1	1.0
Scandinavian	830	230	1,060	0.2	7.7
Scottish	37,655	39,430	77,085	15.6	10.4
Serbian	105	30	135	<0.1	11.9
Slovak	255	45	300	<0.1	10.3
Spanish	390	675	1,065	0.2	4.7
Sri Lankan	30	15	45	<0.1	4.2
Swiss	720	700	1,420	0.3	8.7
Ukrainian	11,290	2,090	13,380	2.7	7.5
Vietnamese	190	-	190	<0.1	1.5
Welsh	1,770	2,540	4,310	0.9	8.6
West Indian	25	10	35	<0.1	2.4
Yugoslav	1,035	190	1,225	0.2	7.5
Total	-	-	492,245	99.3	-

**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.

\* 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.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1993). 1991 Census. Ethnic Origin: The Nation (Catalogue 93-315). Table 3.



### 6.3 Visible Minorities

In 1996, visible minorities made up 10.5% of the population aged 65 and over in British Columbia, compared to 5.8% in Canada. The most prevalent visible minority was the Chinese, whom made up 6.0% of the older population in British Columbia. The next most prevalent group was the South Asian group, comprising 2.3% of the B.C. senior population.

**Table 6.3:  
Visible Minorities Aged 65+: British Columbia, 1996\***

	Total		Males		Females	
<b>Black</b>	895	0.2%	395	0.2%	495	0.2%
<b>South Asian</b>	10,110	2.3%	4,730	2.3%	5,385	2.2%
<b>Chinese</b>	27,090	6.0%	12,560	6.2%	14,540	5.9%
<b>Korean</b>	565	0.1%	210	0.1%	355	0.1%
<b>Japanese</b>	3,115	0.7%	1,460	0.7%	1,650	0.7%
<b>Southeast Asian</b>	775	0.2%	340	0.2%	430	0.2%
<b>Filipino</b>	2,605	0.6%	985	0.5%	1,625	0.7%
<b>Arab/West Asian</b>	1,050	0.2%	545	0.3%	505	0.2%
<b>Latin American</b>	420	0.1%	145	0.1%	270	0.1%
<b>Other visible minority</b>	315	0.1%	150	0.1%	160	0.1%
<b>Multiple visible minority</b>	340	0.1%	140	0.1%	195	0.1%
<b>Total visible minority population</b>	<b>47,290</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>21,665</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>25,625</b>	<b>10.3%</b>
<b>All others</b>	401,955	89.5%	179,725	89.2%	222,230	89.7%
<b>All Population</b>	<b>449,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>201,390</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>247,855</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 20% sample

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 6.4 Mother Tongue

In 1996, 69.9% of seniors in British Columbia had English as their mother tongue, compared to 54.2% of seniors in the whole of Canada. A higher percentage of B.C. seniors (26.9%) have a non-official language (i.e. neither English nor French) as their mother tongue than in the rest of Canada (21.7%). After English, the most common single mother tongues spoken by B.C. seniors are German, spoken by 27,470 seniors (6.1%) and Chinese, spoken by 25,620 seniors (5.7%). While 743,350 (22.7%) persons aged 65 and over in Canada had French as their mother tongue, only 8,355 (1.9%) of B.C. seniors had French as a mother tongue.

A total of 6,035 (1.3%) B.C. seniors had more than one language as their mother tongue. Of these seniors, the majority (4,810 or 79.7%) spoke English and a non-official language.

**Table 6.4**  
**Mother Tongue of Those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1996**

	Canada			BC		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>Single responses</b>	3,233,445	1,397,275	1,836,175	443,215	198,745	244,470
<b>English</b>	1,778,895	760,930	1,017,965	314,005	138,370	175,640
<b>French</b>	743,350	309,535	433,815	8,355	3,740	4,615
<b>Non-official languages</b>	711,195	326,805	384,395	120,855	56,640	64,215
<b>Aboriginal languages</b>	13,110	6,205	6,910	2,130	945	1,185
<b>Salish languages</b>	605	250	355	605	250	355
<b>Romance languages</b>	126,320	62,195	64,125	9,260	4,815	4,445
<b>Italian</b>	94,325	48,430	45,895	6,445	3,405	3,045
<b>Portuguese</b>	17,990	8,325	9,660	1,575	860	710
<b>Germanic languages</b>	202,375	92,515	109,860	43,110	20,375	22,735
<b>German</b>	128,290	57,315	70,980	27,470	12,665	14,805
<b>Netherlandic languages</b>	42,805	20,265	22,540	8,405	4,100	4,305
<b>Scandinavian languages</b>	18,610	9,180	9,430	6,685	3,335	3,345
<b>Celtic languages (e.g. Welsh)</b>	1,865	795	1,070	390	175	215
<b>Slavic languages</b>	158,050	71,125	86,930	16,970	7,815	9,155
<b>Croatian</b>	6,385	3,035	3,350	1,135	585	550
<b>Czech</b>	4,680	2,545	2,135	795	435	360
<b>Polish</b>	42,335	19,595	22,735	3,380	1,650	1,730
<b>Russian</b>	10,520	3,940	6,580	2,820	1,120	1,695
<b>Ukrainian</b>	75,845	33,235	42,605	7,340	3,160	4,180
<b>Baltic languages (e.g. Latvian)</b>	9,165	4,325	4,840	515	305	210
<b>Finno-Ugric languages</b>	35,815	16,270	19,545	5,050	2,420	2,630
<b>Finnish</b>	7,775	2,940	4,835	1,655	715	940
<b>Hungarian</b>	22,890	11,105	11,780	2,795	1,390	1,405
<b>Greek</b>	14,800	7,420	7,380	725	395	325
<b>Armenian</b>	4,000	1,620	2,380	90	35	55
<b>Turkic languages</b>	815	425	390	70	20	55
<b>Semitic languages (e.g. Arabic)</b>	10,850	5,220	5,630	350	160	190

<b>Indo-Iranian languages</b>	28,290	13,505	14,785	10,315	4,840	5,470
<b>Punjabi</b>	14,780	7,110	7,675	7,380	3,410	3,970
<b>Dravidian languages</b>	3,355	1,600	1,755	145	80	65
<b>Japanese</b>	5,720	2,545	3,175	2,435	1,040	1,390
<b>Korean</b>	3,090	1,160	1,925	565	195	365
<b>Sino-Tibetan languages</b>	71,815	31,995	39,825	25,765	11,895	13,865
<b>Chinese</b>	71,295	31,745	39,545	25,620	11,840	13,780
<b>Tai languages (e.g. Thai)</b>	465	180	280	25	-	25
<b>Austro-Asiatic languages</b>	5,405	2,150	3,260	595	240	355
<b>Malayo-Polynesian languages</b>	11,660	4,190	7,475	2,240	845	1,405
<b>Tagalog (Pilipino)</b>	10,070	3,565	6,505	1,870	675	1,200
<b>Asiatic languages, n.i.e.</b>	20	10	10	-	-	-
<b>Niger-Congo languages</b>	245	105	135	40	20	20
<b>African languages, n.i.e.</b>	25	15	15	-	-	-
<b>Creoles</b>	3,320	920	2,400	-	-	-
<b>Other languages</b>	610	315	295	50	10	40
<b>Multiple responses</b>	46,325	20,130	26,190	6,035	2,645	3,385
<b>English and French</b>	14,900	6,090	8,810	955	400	555
<b>English and non-official language</b>	27,230	12,205	15,020	4,810	2,145	2,665
<b>French and non-official language</b>	3,345	1,430	1,910	210	90	120
<b>English, French and non-official language</b>	845	405	445	55	15	45
<b>Total *</b>	<b>3,279,770</b>	<b>1,417,405</b>	<b>1,862,365</b>	<b>449,250</b>	<b>201,395</b>	<b>247,855</b>

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 6.5 Immigrants

In 1996, the majority of immigrants in British Columbia aged 65 and over were born in Europe (111,435 or 65.7%). Another 40,905 (24.1%) were born in Asia and 10,925 (6.4%) were born in the United States.

The birth place of immigrant elders differs noticeably for Vancouver and Victoria; in Vancouver, 52.9% of immigrants were born in Europe, lower than the provincial average, whereas in Victoria, 79.8% of immigrants were born there, with over half (53.2%) of all immigrants being born in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, 35,995 (38.6%) of immigrants living in Vancouver were born in Asia, whereas only 1,485 (8.4%) of those living in Victoria were born there. Victoria also has a higher elderly American born population than the provincial average; 8.0% of immigrants living in Victoria were born in the United States, compared to 3.7% of those in Vancouver.

**Table 6.5:**  
**Place of Birth of Immigrants Aged 65+: British Columbia, Vancouver and Victoria, 1996**

Place of Birth	British Columbia			Vancouver	Victoria
	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
United States	10,925	4,380	6,550	3,415	1,415
Central and South America	1,095	420	665	725	125
Caribbean and Bermuda	760	350	415	470	115
Europe	111,435	51,585	59,840	49,230	14,090
United Kingdom	50,530	21,155	29,365	21,450	9,400
Other Northern and Western Europe	31,515	15,395	16,120	12,940	2,980
Eastern Europe	18,405	8,990	9,415	8,260	1,200
Southern Europe	10,990	6,045	4,935	6,580	510
Africa	2,200	1,025	1,165	1,725	190
Asia	40,905	18,630	22,265	35,995	1,485
West Central Asia and the Middle East	1,235	600	630	995	100
Eastern Asia	25,480	11,605	13,880	23,810	840
South East Asia	5,140	2,125	3,010	4,535	170
Southern Asia	9,045	4,295	4,750	6,655	370
Oceania and Other	2,375	1,070	1,305	1,565	230
<b>Total - Immigrants 65+</b>	<b>169,695</b>	<b>77,475</b>	<b>92,210</b>	<b>93,135</b>	<b>17,655</b>

Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 6.6 Aboriginal Peoples

Using the 1996 20% census sample data, it is estimated that 773,375 Canadians selected a single ethnic origin that included North American Indian, Métis and Inuit. A further 6,415 Canadians claimed one of these ethnic groups as a multiple origin. An additional 19,215 people named another aboriginal group. Almost one-half of these persons lived in three provinces: Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. B.C. alone had 17.5% (139,655) of the total number of people reporting single and multiple Aboriginal ethnic origins in Canada.

While Native Peoples of single or multiple origin constituted 3.8% of the total population of the province in 1996, they were under-represented in the 65 and over population, constituting only 1.13% of all elderly. Although only 3.6% of the Aboriginal population of B.C. was aged 65 and over in 1996, there is considerable population aging built into the age structure of Native Peoples.

**Table 6.3:**  
Aboriginal Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1996

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 response	529,035	18,415	0.56%	107,370	3,800	0.85%
Métis single response	204,115	7,755	0.24%	25,575	1,035	0.23%
Inuit single response	40,225	1,010	0.03%	745	-	0.00%
Multiple Aboriginal responses	6,415	245	0.01%	1,200	55	0.01%
Other Aboriginal response	19,215	880	0.03%	4,765	180	0.04%
<b>Total Aboriginal Population</b>	<b>799,010</b>	<b>28,315</b>	<b>0.86%</b>	<b>139,655</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>1.13%</b>
<b>Total Non-Aboriginal Population</b>	<b>27,729,115</b>	<b>3,251,455</b>	<b>99.14%</b>	<b>3,550,100</b>	<b>444,170</b>	<b>98.87%</b>
<b>Total (Aboriginal Groups and Non-Aboriginal Population)</b>	<b>28,528,125</b>	<b>3,279,770</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,689,755</b>	<b>449,255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 7. Living Arrangements

---

### 7.1 Persons by Type

Similar to the rest of Canada, the vast majority (448,205 or 94.4%) of elderly in British Columbia live in private households. In 1996, only about 5.6% 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.

In Table 7.1 we observe that the majority (161,345 or 77.3%) of older men resided in families with a spouse and/or never-married children. Even among men aged 75 and over, over two-thirds (55,945 or 70.6%) lived in such family settings. Among elderly women, the proportion living in family arrangements decreases dramatically with age (95,050 or 66.5% in the 65-74 age group; 47,110 or 38.3% among those aged 75+). There is a concomitant increase in the proportion living in non-family households, either in private households (45,685 or 32.0% of women aged 65-74; 59,575 or 48.4% of women aged 75+) or as residents of "collective dwellings".

Older women are far more likely than older men to live alone. In 1996, 33.5% women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with 16.3% of men in this age group.

The proportion of older persons living alone is rising. In 1961, only 21.2% of B.C. women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with 34.8% in 1991 and 35.3% in 1996.

**Table 7.1**  
**The Elderly Population, by Living Arrangements and Sex: British Columbia, 1996 \***

	65+			65-74			75+		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>Persons in Private Households</b>	<b>448,205</b>	<b>200,785</b>	<b>247,425</b>	<b>268,160</b>	<b>127,430</b>	<b>140,735</b>	<b>180,040</b>	<b>73,350</b>	<b>106,690</b>
Family Households	303,510	161,345	142,165	200,450	105,400	95,050	103,055	55,945	47,110
Non-family Households	144,695	39,435	105,260	67,710	22,030	45,685	76,985	17,410	59,575
with relatives	9,395	1,915	7,480	4,130	985	3,145	5,265	930	4,330
non-relatives	7,335	3,490	3,845	4,700	2,415	2,285	2,635	1,080	1,560
alone	127,965	34,030	93,935	58,885	18,630	40,250	69,080	15,400	53,680
<b>Persons in Collective Dwellings</b>	<b>26,585</b>	<b>8,040</b>	<b>18,555</b>	<b>4,295</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>22,290</b>	<b>5,930</b>	<b>16,365</b>
Hospitals and other related institutions (not including special care homes)	2,080	795	1,350	670	320	355	1,410	415	995
Special care homes (elderly and chronically ill)	23,510	6,675	16,835	2,915	1,300	1,615	20,595	5,375	15,220
Religious institutions	140	45	95	80	30	50	60	15	45
Service collective dwellings §	795	525	275	585	410	175	210	115	100
Other †	50	55	15	40	45	5	10	10	10
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>474,790</b>	<b>208,825</b>	<b>265,980</b>	<b>272,455</b>	<b>129,540</b>	<b>142,925</b>	<b>202,330</b>	<b>79,280</b>	<b>123,055</b>

\* 20% sample.

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

† Includes all other collective households such as penal institutions, work camps, etc.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 7.2 Types of Household

The 1996 Census indicated that there were 294,600 private households in British Columbia maintained by persons aged 65 or over, which represents 20.8% of all households in the province.

As shown in table 7.2, in 1996, 53.1% of households in B.C. with a maintainer aged 65+ were 'family households', generally consisting of a couple without additional family members. Of the 46.9% of non-family households, most consisted of 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, 1996\***

Household Type	Canada		British Columbia	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>Family households</b>	1,151,030	53.0%	156,370	53.1%
<b>One-family households</b>	1,128,975	52.0%	152,675	51.8%
<b>All couples</b>	1,012,830	46.7%	142,195	48.3%
Without never-married sons and/or daughters	868,465	40.0%	126,585	43.0%
Without additional persons	826,810	38.1%	121,075	41.1%
With never-married sons and/or daughters	144,355	6.7%	15,605	5.3%
Without additional persons	125,070	5.8%	13,210	4.5%
Youngest child under 6 years	665	0.0%	115	0.0%
Youngest child 6-14 years	2,505	0.1%	455	0.2%
Youngest child 15 years and over	121,910	5.6%	12,635	4.3%
<b>Lone-parent family households</b>	116,145	5.4%	10,475	3.6%
Without additional persons	96,530	4.4%	8,505	2.9%
<b>Multiple-family households</b>	22,055	1.0%	3,690	1.3%
<b>Non-family households</b>	1,019,080	47.0%	138,230	46.9%
<b>One person only</b>	933,675	43.0%	127,970	43.4%
<b>Two or more persons</b>	85,410	3.9%	10,265	3.5%
Some related	58,495	2.7%	6,095	2.1%
All unrelated	26,915	1.2%	4,170	1.4%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>2,170,115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>294,600</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

\* 20% sample.

### Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).



## 8. Housing

---

### 8.1 Home Ownership

Data from the 1996 census in Table 8.1 show that household maintainers aged 65+ are only slightly less likely than those aged 45-64 to be homeowners. In both of these age groups, approximately three quarters (75.6% and 77.1%, respectively) owned their homes.

**Table 8.1**  
**Private Households, by Tenure, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads: British Columbia, 1991**

Tenure	< 25		25-44		45-64		65+	
Owners	9,700	168%	328,225	555%	345,140	77.1%	217,310	75.6%
Renters	48,100	832%	262,830	445%	102,415	228%	70,005	244%
Total	75,800	100.0	591,055	100.0	447,555	100.0	287,315	100.0
Average Gross Rent	\$682		\$738		\$712		\$583	

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Dwellings and Households. Catalogue 93-311, January 1992, Table 13.

The 1991 Census (see Fact Book on Aging in B.C., 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) indicated that males are more likely to be homeowners than females in all age groups. However, between the 1981 and 1991 censuses, the proportion of elderly female homeowners increased (in the 65-74 age group, from 56.1% to 66%; in the 75+ age group, from 44.6% to 55.1%).

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Dwellings and Households. Catalogue 93-311, January 1992, Table 13.

Statistics Canada (1998). Dimensions Series: Ethnocultural and Social Characteristics of the Canadian Population: 1996 Census [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 94F0009XDB96034)

## 8.2 Housing Costs

The 1996 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, over two thirds (68.7%) 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 9.3% 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 1996, 55.8% of elderly renters in B.C. spent 30% or more of their income on housing, 20.6% spent 50% or more, compared to only 9.9% and 3.4% 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, 1996\***

		Less than 15%	15-19%	20-24%	25-29%	30-34%	35-39%	40-49%	50%+	Total
<b>Owners with mortgages §</b>	65-74	3,220	2,725	2,685	2,525	1,925	1,445	1,930	3,795	20,250
	75+	990	935	860	820	655	585	995	1,920	7,760
	65+	4,210	3,660	3,545	3,345	2,580	2,030	2,925	5,715	28,010
<b>Owners without mortgages §</b>	65-74	87,140	10,785	5,015	2,455	1,245	685	520	1,175	109,020
	75+	57,980	10,875	5,650	2,990	1,185	575	545	465	80,265
	65+	145,120	21,660	10,665	5,445	2,430	1,260	1,065	1,640	189,285
<b>Total Owners §</b>	65-74	90,365	13,510	7,695	4,980	3,170	2,135	2,450	4,965	129,270
	75+	58,965	11,815	6,510	3,810	1,835	1,165	1,545	2,380	88,025
	65+	149,330	25,325	14,205	8,790	5,005	3,300	3,995	7,345	217,295
<b>Renters §</b>	65-74	3,755	2,930	4,355	5,020	4,480	2,880	4,090	5,865	33,375
	75+	2,725	2,545	4,370	5,215	5,010	3,240	4,935	8,580	36,620
	65+	6,480	5,475	8,725	10,235	9,490	6,120	9,025	14,445	69,995
<b>Total</b>	65+	155,810	30,800	22,930	19,025	14,495	9,420	13,020	21,790	287,290

\* 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.

### Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

### 8.3 Preferred Structural Type

In 1991, the single family detached dwelling was the housing form occupied by the majority (54.9%) of British Columbia households headed by persons aged 65 and over. As shown in Table 8.2a, another 31.4% lived in dwellings that fall into a category that includes low-rise apartments (less than 5 stories), semi-detached houses, and apartments in duplexes. A further 9.4% lived in high-rise apartments. A small proportion of the elderly population (4.3%) resided in movable dwellings.

**Table 8.3a**  
Elderly Households, by Structural Type and Age of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 1991\*

Dwelling **	Age of Primary Maintainer					
	Total 65+		65-74		75+	
Single Detached	140,590	54.9%	90,660	60.0%	49,930	47.5%
Apartment (5 + stories)	24,080	9.4%	11,085	7.3%	12,995	12.4%
Movable Dwelling	10,955	4.3%	6,955	4.6%	4,000	3.8%
Other	80,575	31.4%	42,410	28.1%	38,165	36.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>151,110</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>101,490</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 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".

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, 1991\*

Type of Dwelling	Total 65+				65-74				75+			
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females	
Single Detached	97,520	64.4%	43,070	41.1%	66,305	64.4%	24,355	45.6%	31,215	58.1%	18,715	36.4%
Apartment 5 + Stories	10,075	6.7%	14,005	13.4%	5,290	6.7%	5,795	10.8%	4,785	8.9%	8,210	16.0%
Movable Dwelling	7,125	4.7%	3,820	3.6%	4,615	4.7%	2,335	4.4%	2,510	4.7%	1,485	2.9%
Other Dwelling**	36,660	24.2%	43,915	41.9%	21,430	24.2%	20,980	39.2%	15,230	28.3%	22,935	44.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,380</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>104,810</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>97,640</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>53,465</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>53,740</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>51,345</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 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. 1991 Census. Housing Costs and Other Characteristics of Canadian Households Catalogue 93-330, May, 1993, Table 2.

## 9. Education

### 9.1 Educational Attainment

The elderly in British Columbia tend to be better educated than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. In 1996, in Canada as a whole, 63.2% of seniors reported 9 or more years of schooling. Among British Columbians aged 65 and over, the comparable figure was 76.3%. Those aged 65+ in B.C. reported a median of 11.7 years of schooling, compared to 10.3 years for Canadian seniors as a whole.

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, 7.6% of seniors reported a university degree, compared with 17.1% of adults aged 25-64.

These findings reflect the progressive improvement of the educational status of the population over time. Another way of showing this trend is to document the decrease over time in the proportion of elderly in B.C. with less than grade 9 education: 49.9% in 1971, 45.2% in 1976, 38.6% in 1981, 25.9% in 1991 and 23.7% in 1996.

**Table 9.1**  
Highest Level of Schooling of the Population Aged 25+ and 65+: British Columbia, 1996\*

Highest Level	Age 25-64		Age 65+					
	Total		Total		Males		Females	
Less than Grade 9	103,445	5.1%	106,635	23.7%	47,250	23.5%	59,385	24.0%
Some high school	358,980	17.8%	132,180	29.4%	52,355	26.0%	79,830	32.2%
Secondary (high) school graduation	264,430	13.1%	44,355	9.9%	15,685	7.8%	28,670	11.6%
Trades certificate or diploma	76,850	3.8%	21,865	4.9%	15,680	7.8%	6,190	2.5%
Other non-university education	630,200	31.2%	81,020	18.0%	35,290	17.5%	45,730	18.5%
Some University	242,860	12.0%	29,145	6.5%	13,045	6.5%	16,095	6.5%
University degree	345,610	17.1%	34,050	7.6%	22,090	11.0%	11,955	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,022,375</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>449,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>201,395</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>247,855</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*20% sample

Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 9.2 Educational Attendance

Table 9.2 shows educational attendance 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 during the eight months preceding May 14, 1996. In 1996, only a small percentage (0.60% in Canada and 0.63% in British Columbia) of the population aged 65+ attended an educational institution, and the majority of those attendees did so part-time. Educational attendance declined from 1981 to 1996.

**Table 9.2:**  
**School Attendance by persons 65+: British Columbia, 1981-1996**

British Columbia									
	Total			Males			Females		
	1981	1991	1996	1981	1991	1996	1981	1991	1996
Attending school full time	415	685	555	185	335	260	260	345	295
	0.15%	0.17%	0.12%	0.15%	0.19%	0.13%	0.16%	0.16%	0.12%
Attending school part time	2,250	2,035	2,300	950	850	1,035	1,305	1,185	1,265
	0.81%	0.52%	0.51%	0.76%	0.49%	0.51%	0.86%	0.54%	0.51%
Not attending school	273,550	391,315	446,395	123,600	173,300	200,095	149,945	218,010	246,295
Total Population	276,225	394,030	449,255	124,730	174,490	201,395	151,495	219,540	247,860

\* 20% sample

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 10. Labour Force

### 10.1 Labour Force Participation Trends

There has been 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 had dropped to 17.3% by 1981 and to 13.0% by 1996. This trend can be observed for both Canada and British Columbia, although rates of labour force participation are lower in British Columbia than in Canada as a whole for the 65+ age group. In 1996 in British Columbia, 12.0% of men aged 65+ were in the labour force.

As shown in table 10.1, the trend for women is markedly different. While participation by women aged 65+ has changed very little over time, in almost all other age groups, there has been a noticeable increase in labour force participation rates. For example, in 1981 in B.C., 35.6% of women aged 55-64 were in the labour force, compared to 43.1% in 1996.

**Table 10.1:**  
**Labour Force Participation Rates, by Sex, Canada and British Columbia, 1981-1996\***

		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%
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%

\* 20% sample

#### Sources:

Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (1963). Class of Worker - Western Provinces (Catalogue 94-526). 1961 Census. Table 9.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (1967). General Review. The Canadian Labour Force (Catalogue 99-522). 1961 Census. Table XIV.

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 10.2 Full and Part-time Employment

Table 10.2 shows that in 1996, B.C. seniors in the labour force were more likely to have part time jobs (51.4%) than Canadian seniors in general (45.2%). Women were more likely to work part-time than men. In British Columbia, almost two thirds (62.4%) of the female labour force aged 65+ was employed on a part-time basis compared with 46.1% of males.

**Table 10.2**  
**Percent of Labour Force Aged 65+ Employed Full-time and Part-time, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 1986 and 1996\***

		Canada			British Columbia		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1986	No hours worked	26,115	18,125	7,985	2,505	1,835	670
	Persons with hours worked	186,360	132,565	53,785	19,480	13,395	6,085
	Part time*	71,765	44,060	27,705	8,930	5,505	3,425
	Full time*	114,590	88,510	26,080	10,555	7,890	2,660
	Total	212,470	150,695	61,775	21,985	15,230	6,755
	Average hours worked	34	37	28	30	32	26
1996	No hours worked	28,000	19,230	8,770	3,590	2,355	1,230
	Persons with hours worked	227,205	155,465	71,735	30,275	20,375	9,895
	Part time*	102,810	60,870	41,945	15,575	9,395	6,180
	Full time*	124,390	94,600	29,785	14,695	10,985	3,715
	Total	255,205	174,700	80,505	33,860	22,730	11,135
	Average hours worked	31	33	25	28	30	24

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

20% Sample

Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 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. As might be expected, men do less housework than women (19.5% of B.C. men aged 65+ do none, compared to 16.3% of B.C. women aged 65+).

**Table 11.1**  
Unpaid Housework by those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1996\*

	Hours of Housework	Caregivers Aged 65 years and Over					
		Total		Male		Female	
Canada	No hours of housework	585,845	17.9%	295,930	20.9%	289,915	15.6%
	Less than 5 hours	474,450	14.5%	254,585	18.0%	219,870	11.8%
	5 to 14 hours	843,635	25.7%	389,810	27.5%	453,825	24.4%
	15 to 29 hours	691,660	21.1%	265,985	18.8%	425,680	22.9%
	30 to 59 hours	533,835	16.3%	166,380	11.7%	367,450	19.7%
	60 or more hours	150,340	4.6%	44,715	3.2%	105,625	5.7%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,279,770</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,417,405</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,862,365</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
British Columbia	No hours of housework	79,775	17.8%	39,340	19.5%	40,430	16.3%
	Less than 5 hours	63,880	14.2%	34,690	17.2%	29,185	11.8%
	5 to 14 hours	116,540	25.9%	57,165	28.4%	59,375	24.0%
	15 to 29 hours	94,030	20.9%	38,295	19.0%	55,740	22.5%
	30 to 59 hours	73,750	16.4%	25,015	12.4%	48,735	19.7%
	60 or more hours	21,275	4.7%	6,885	3.4%	14,390	5.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>449,255</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>201,395</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>247,860</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 20% data

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). *Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census*. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).



## 11.2 Unpaid Caregiving to Seniors

Table 11.2 shows the number of hours per week of unpaid caregiving to one or more seniors carried out by persons aged 65 and over. Those aged 65+ in B.C. are more likely to be an unpaid caregiver than all Canadians 65+. A higher percentage of women aged 65+ (16.6% in Canada, 17.1% in B.C.) than men (13.6% in Canada, 13.8% in B.C.) are unpaid caregivers.

**Table 11.2**  
Unpaid Caregivers of Seniors: Canada and British Columbia, 1996\*

Caregivers Aged 65 years and Over							
		Total		Male		Female	
Canada	No hours of care to seniors	2,777,540	84.7%	1,225,105	86.4%	1,552,430	83.4%
	Less than 5 hours of care to seniors	273,405	8.3%	110,350	7.8%	163,050	8.8%
	5 to 9 hours of care to seniors	114,905	3.5%	40,680	2.9%	74,220	4.0%
	10+ hours of care to seniors	113,925	3.5%	41,270	2.9%	72,655	3.9%
	Total	3,279,770	100.0%	1,417,405	100.0%	1,862,365	100.0%
British Columbia	No hours of care to seniors	379,025	84.4%	173,520	86.2%	205,505	82.9%
	Less than 5 hours of care to seniors	37,685	8.4%	15,740	7.8%	21,950	8.9%
	5 to 9 hours of care to seniors	15,655	3.5%	5,670	2.8%	9,985	4.0%
	10+ hours of care to seniors	16,875	3.8%	6,460	3.2%	10,420	4.2%
	Total	449,250	100.0%	201,390	100.0%	247,860	100.0%

\* 20% data

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

### 11.3 Unpaid Childcare

In 1996, 12.6% of all British Columbians aged 65 and over provided some form of unpaid childcare. Women were more likely to provide childcare, but only slightly so (13.4% of women versus 11.2% of men in B.C.). Just over half of these unpaid childcare providers worked more than 5 hours per week.

**Table 11.3:**  
Unpaid Childcare by persons aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1996\*

		Male		Female		Total	
Canada	No hours	1,258,560	88.8%	1,610,735	86.5%	2,869,295	87.5%
	Less than 5 hours	80,405	5.7%	106,370	5.7%	186,770	5.7%
	5 to 14 hours	47,810	3.4%	80,790	4.3%	128,600	3.9%
	15 to 29 hours	16,180	1.1%	32,975	1.8%	49,150	1.5%
	30 to 59 hours	8,570	0.6%	19,215	1.0%	27,795	0.8%
	60+ hours	5,875	0.4%	12,280	0.7%	18,160	0.6%
	Total hours of unpaid childcare	1,417,405	100.0%	1,862,365	100.0%	3,279,770	100.0%
British Columbia	No hours	178,750	88.8%	213,795	86.3%	392,545	87.4%
	Less than 5 hours	10,425	5.2%	13,390	5.4%	23,815	5.3%
	5 to 14 hours	7,340	3.6%	10,910	4.4%	18,255	4.1%
	15 to 29 hours	2,420	1.2%	4,835	2.0%	7,250	1.6%
	30 to 59 hours	1,470	0.7%	2,920	1.2%	4,390	1.0%
	60+ hours	990	0.5%	2,005	0.8%	2,995	0.7%
	Total hours of unpaid childcare	201,395	100.0%	247,860	100.0%	449,255	100.0%

\* 20% data

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 12. Income

### 12.1 Median Income of Individuals

The median income (in constant 1995 dollars) for males aged 65-69 dropped from \$23,967 in 1990 to \$21,988 in 1995 — a drop of 8.3% (see Table 12.1). For males aged 70+, the median income increased by 4.9% from \$18,548 to \$19,461. However, for women aged 65-69, median income only dropped slightly — from \$12,708 to \$12,661 between 1990 and 1995. The median incomes for women 70+ were \$12,911 and \$13,694 for the same period, the greatest increase. Thus, the female/male income ratio for the 65-69 age group was similar to the ratio for all ages — about .58. However, it was .70 for the 70+ age group. In fact, at all ages, women's incomes continue to be considerably lower than men's incomes.

**Table 12.1a**  
**Median Income of Individuals by Age and Sex: British Columbia, 1990 and 1995\***

Age	Total		Males		Females	
	1990	1995	1990	1995	1990	1995
15-19	\$ 3,345	\$ 2,883	\$ 3,354	\$ 2,910	\$ 3,024	\$ 2,849
20-24	\$ 13,391	\$ 10,308	\$ 15,077	\$ 11,616	\$ 11,600	\$ 9,742
25-34	\$ 24,578	\$ 22,222	\$ 32,269	\$ 27,568	\$ 18,451	\$ 18,018
35-44	\$ 30,769	\$ 28,664	\$ 41,764	\$ 37,271	\$ 21,529	\$ 21,068
45-54	\$ 31,500	\$ 30,326	\$ 43,660	\$ 40,171	\$ 22,037	\$ 23,144
55-64	\$ 22,827	\$ 20,951	\$ 33,429	\$ 30,294	\$ 14,303	\$ 13,762
65-69	\$ 16,836	\$ 16,115	\$ 23,967	\$ 21,988	\$ 12,708	\$ 12,661
70+	\$ 14,783	\$ 15,406	\$ 18,548	\$ 19,461	\$ 12,911	\$ 13,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,395</b>	<b>\$ 19,982</b>	<b>\$ 29,918</b>	<b>\$ 26,424</b>	<b>\$ 15,359</b>	<b>\$ 15,233</b>

\* In constant 1995 dollars. 20% sample

Source:

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

Table 12.1b shows the median household income of older owners and renters, compared with owners and renters under age 25, aged 25-44, and aged 45-64. In all age groups, average household income of owners is approximately double that of renters. Amongst owners, those 65+ have the lowest income. This trend also holds true for renters.

**Table 12.1b**  
**Median Household Income by Tenure and Age of Maintainer: British Columbia, 1996**

	< 25	25-44	45-64	65+
<b>Owner</b>	\$39,651	\$59,358	\$60,219	\$30,379
<b>Renter</b>	\$21,340	\$31,854	\$29,995	\$16,782

Source:

Statistics Canada (1998). Dimensions Series: Ethno-Cultural and Social Characteristics of the Canadian Population: 96 Census [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 94F0009XDB96034)



## 12.2 Poverty Rate

Table 12.2 shows poverty rates by sex for the population aged 65+ for Canada and the provinces for 1980 and 1996. As in the rest of the country, rates have dropped more sharply for men than for women over the 16 year period. The 1996 rate for male British Columbians aged 65 and over was 10.4% compared with 29.6% in 1980; for females the 1996 poverty rate was 21.4% compared with 32.7% in 1980.

Provincial data are not available comparing poverty rates among unattached older people by gender. National rates indicate, however, that unattached women aged 65+ (as with younger unattached women) are more disadvantaged than their male age peers. In 1996, the national poverty rate for unattached men aged 65+ was 29.3% compared with 45.4% for unattached women aged 65+.

**Table 12.2**  
**Poverty Rates for the Population Aged 65+, by Sex and Province, 1980 and 1996**

Province	Males		Females	
	1980	1996	1980	1996
Newfoundland	27.6	11.4	36.9	14.5
Prince Edward Island	33.7	8.0	52.7	15.1
Nova Scotia	22.8	8.2	31.5	21.3
New Brunswick	22.1	6.5	34.2	16.6
Quebec	33.7	20.2	46.2	37.4
Ontario	24.0	10.7	34.3	18.5
Manitoba	23.8	14.4	41.2	28.1
Saskatchewan	28.1	6.1	49.0	16.0
Alberta	25.2	7.2	38.8	17.7
British Columbia	29.6	10.4	32.7	21.4
Canada	27.3	12.4	38.4	23.9

Source:

National Council of Welfare (1998). Poverty Profile 1996.

### 12.3 Incidence of Low Income Among Economic Families

In 1995, 18.1% of economic families 65+ in British Columbia were considered to fall into the category of 'low income'. This was lower than the Canadian rate of 19.3%. Families in the 70+ age group were more likely to be defined as having a low income; in British Columbia 19.3% of those aged 70+ were defined as having a low income, compared to 15.5% of those aged 65-69. Similarly, 20.5% of Canadian economic families aged 70+ were defined as having a low income, compared to 16.9% of those aged 65-69.

**Table 12.3:**  
**Incidence of Low Income among Economic Families, 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1995 \***

	Canada			British Columbia		
	65+	65-69	70+	65+	65-69	70+
<b>Low income</b>	623,995	182,730	441,265	79,790	21,670	58,120
<b>Incidence of low income</b>	19.3%	16.9%	20.5%	18.1%	15.5%	19.3%
<b>Total Economic Families</b>	<b>3,234,160</b>	<b>1,081,430</b>	<b>2,152,730</b>	<b>440,950</b>	<b>139,825</b>	<b>301,125</b>

\* 20% data

An economic family was defined as two or more individuals sharing a common dwelling who are related by blood, marriage (including common-law relationships) or adoption.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. (1998). Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] (Catalogue 93F0022XDB96010).

## 13. Disabilities

---

### 13.1 Disability Rates

In 1991, 181,930 British Columbians aged 65 and over - 44.0% according to Statistics Canada calculations - reported some degree of disability. As seen in Table 13.1, this rate is only slightly different from the rate reported for 1986 (43.4%).

At both times of measurement, there were proportionately fewer seniors with disabilities in B.C. than among seniors in Canada as a whole.

Males and females aged 65 and over have about the same disability rate. In 1991, 79,015 (43.3%) of B.C.'s elderly men reported disabilities, compared with 102,910 (42.9%) women aged 65+.

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

	65+ Disability Rate (%)	
	1986	1991
Canada	45.5	46.3
B.C.	43.4	44.0

**Sources:**

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. The Daily, Catalogue 11-001E, October 13, 1992.

Statistics Canada Health and Activity Limitations Survey, 1991 - Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories, October 29, 1992, Table 1.

### 13.2 Seniors with Disabilities in Private Households and Institutions

Of the estimated 181,930 B.C. seniors with disabilities, the 1991 Health and Activities Limitations Survey (HALS) showed that 157,425 (86.5%) lived in private households and 24,505 (13.5%) resided in institutions.

The probability of disabled seniors living in an institution increases with age. Among persons with disabilities aged 65-74, 4.3% lived in an institution. The proportion increases to 13.4% among those aged 75-84 and to 40.8% among those aged 85+.

Although males and females aged 65 and over have about the same disability rate, females are more likely to live in institutions than males. As shown in Table 13.2, among disabled persons aged 65 and over in B.C. in 1991, 17.1% of females lived in institutions compared with only 8.8% of males.

Differences between the sexes increase noticeably with age. Among those 65-74, 4.8% of females and 3.7% of males lived in institutions. Proportions in the age group 75-84 are 15.7% and 9.9% respectively. At age 85+, 45.6% of B.C.'s females with disabilities were living in institutions. The high sampling variability for the 85+ male sub-sample restricted the calculation of comparable estimates.

**Table 13.2**  
**Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities Residing in Households and Health-Related Institutions, by Sex and Age Group: British Columbia, 1991**

	Seniors with Disabilities	Seniors with Disabilities Residing in:	
	Number	Households (%)	Institutions (%)
<b>Both Sexes</b>			
Total 65+	181,930	86.5	13.5
65-74 years	83,695	95.7	4.3
75-84 years	69,820	86.6	13.4
85+ years	28,415	59.2	40.8
<b>Males</b>			
Total 65+	79,015	91.2	8.8
65-74 years	42,160	96.3	3.7
75-84 years	28,230	90.1	9.9
85+ years	-	-	-
<b>Females</b>			
Total 65+	102,910	82.9	17.1
65-74 years	41,535	95.2	4.8
75-84 years	41,590	84.3	15.7
85+ years	19,795	54.4	45.6

\* Dashes indicate that the data have been withheld due to high sampling variability.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Health and Activity Limitation Survey, 1991 - Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories, October, 1992, Table 6.



### 13.3 Nature of Disabilities

Overall, among seniors in B.C., the most frequently reported disabilities were in mobility (67.5%), agility (64.8%) and hearing (50.1%).

Except for hearing, reporting of all types of disability was substantially higher among seniors with disabilities living in institutions. The largest difference was in the category "other", defined in the HALS as including limitations due to "a learning disability, a mental health condition, a mental handicap, or because of labelling by others." As shown in Table 13.3, 63.7% of seniors residing in institutions reported disabilities in the category of "other" compared with 23.9% of seniors living in private households. The next largest differences were in agility (91.8% of disabled persons living in institutions compared with 60.6% living in households) and mobility (89.6% in institutions vs. 64.1% in households).

**Table 13.3**  
**Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities Residing in Households and Health-Related Institutions, by Nature of Disability: British Columbia, 1991**

	Total		Seniors with Disabilities Residing in:			
	Number	%	Households		Institutions	
			Number	%	Number	%
<b>Mobility</b>	122,850	67.5	100,900	64.1	21,950	89.6
<b>Agility</b>	117,970	64.8	95,485	60.6	22,485	91.8
<b>Hearing</b>	91,085	50.1	80,940	51.4	10,145	41.4
<b>Seeing</b>	39,785	21.9	30,500	19.4	9,285	37.9
<b>Speaking</b>	19,025	10.5	12,270	7.8	6,755	27.6
<b>Other</b>	53,195	29.2	37,590	23.9	15,605	63.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,930</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>157,425</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,505</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Individuals may report more than one type of disability. Therefore, columns do not add to the totals.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Health and Activity Limitation Survey, 1991 - Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories, October, 1992, Table 2.

### 13.4 Severity of Disabilities

The HALS sub-divides respondents into those whose disabilities are mild, moderate and severe. Classification is on the basis of response to screening questions concerned with mobility, agility, vision, hearing, speaking and "other". One point is assigned for each partial loss of function and two points for each total loss of function. Persons whose score totals to under 5 are classified as having a mild disability. Scores of 5-10 are considered indicative of a moderate disability and 11, and over as indicative of a severe disability. The category "severe" is reported as a total for persons living in private households. It is further subdivided for persons in institutions into three groups: level 1 (11-17 points), level 2 (18-25 points) and level 3 (26-42 points).

Table 13.4 shows that of British Columbians aged 65 and over reporting a disability in 1991, 39.1% were classified as mildly disabled, 22.8% as moderately disabled and 38.1% as severely disabled. Overall, 32.6% of seniors with disabilities living in private households had severe disabilities. The proportion with severe disabilities among those living in institutions was 73.4%.

Among the institutional population with disabilities, 23.1% were classified as at level 1, 24.5% as at level 2, and 26.0% as at level 3. The distribution was similar in the 65-74, 75-84 and 85+ age groups.

**Table 13.4**  
**Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities Residing in Households and Health-Related Institutions, by**  
**Level of Severity and Age Group: British Columbia, 1991**

		Seniors with Disabilities		Seniors with Disabilities Residing in:			
				Households		Institutions	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
65+	Mild	71,135	39.1	68,795	43.7	2,230	9.1
	Moderate	41,480	22.8	37,310	23.7	4,240	17.3
	Total Severe*	69,315	38.1	51,320	32.6	18,035	73.4
	Severe level 1					5,660	23.1
	Severe level 2					6,005	24.5
	Severe level 3					6,370	26.0
	Total	181,930	100.0	157,425 (86.5%)	100.0	24,505 (13.5%)	100.0
65-74 years	Mild	45,280	54.1	44,870	56.0	-	-
	Moderate	17,155	20.5	16,665	20.8	510	14.2
	Total Severe*	21,260	25.4	18,585	23.2	2,690	75.2
	Severe level 1					815	22.8
	Severe level 2					800	22.3
	Severe level 3					1,075	30.1
	Total	83,695	100.0	80,120	100.0	3,575	100.0
75-84 years	Mild	23,110	33.1	21,840	36.1	1,225	13.1
	Moderate	-	-	-	-	2,200	23.6
	Total Severe*	29,465	42.2	23,595	39.0	5,900	63.3
	Severe level 1					1,900	20.4
	Severe level 2					1,660	17.8
	Severe level 3					2,340	25.1
	Total	69,820	100.0	60,495	100.0	9,325	100.0
85+ years	Mild	-	-	-	-	640	5.5
	Moderate	-	-	-	-	1,535	13.2
	Total Severe*	-	-	-	-	9,445	81.3
	Severe level 1					2,940	25.3
	Severe level 2					3,545	30.5
	Severe level 3					2,960	25.5
	Total	28,415	100.0	16,810	100.0	11,610	100.0

\* The category "severe" was reported as a total for seniors with disabilities residing in households and was subdivided into three (3) levels for seniors with disabilities living in health-related institutions.

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. *Health and Activity Limitation Survey, 1991 - Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories*, Table 7, October, 1992.

## 14. Health Service Utilization

### 14.1 Hospitals

The number of separations from acute care hospitals and hospital days used increase dramatically with increasing age (see Table 14.1a). In 1985/86, the number of acute care separations per thousand persons aged 65-74 was 114.2% higher than for the age group 15-64. Among persons 75 to 84, the separation rate was 233.2% higher than for the age group 15-64 and among those 85+, it was 292.9% higher.

While acute hospital use in B.C. fell between 1969 and 1985/86 as a result of concerted efforts to reduce hospital bed capacity, the rate of decline was lower among persons aged 75 and over. As shown in Table 13.2, patient days per 1000 population fell overall for acute hospitals by 33.5% in this 10 year period. While the decline for persons 65-74 (30.9%) approximated the overall rate, for those aged 75-84 and 85+ declines were, respectively, only 15.9% and 16.3%.

Over the same time period, use of extended care hospital beds increased. This trend is reflected in separation rates (2.4% of all separations were from extended care beds in 1985/86 compared with 0.9% in 1969). It is shown even more dramatically in days used. As can be seen in Table 14.1b, in 1985/86, 43.7% of all hospital days used were in extended care beds compared with only 11.0% in 1969. Increased use of extended care hospitals is especially noticeable among persons aged 85+, reflecting both the increased availability of beds at this care level and the growth of the 85+ population.

**Table 14.1a**  
Hospital Separations by Patient Age and Bed Type: British Columbia, 1969 and 1985/86

		Separations per 1000		% of all Separations	
		Acute	Extended	Acute	Extended
1969	0-14	181.0	0.5	27.2	0.1
	15-64	177.1	1.2	56.7	0.4
	65-74	264.3	5.6	7.5	0.2
	75-84	357.9	12.5	5.8	0.2
	85+	412.2	23.6	1.8	0.1
	All Ages	190.7	1.8	99.1	0.9
1985/86	0-14	145.0	1.1	18.0	0.1
	15-64	133.9	1.3	54.3	0.5
	65-74	286.8	9.6	12.7	0.4
	75-84	446.1	33.3	9.4	0.7
	85+	524.8	98.5	3.2	0.6
	All ages	162.4	4.0	97.6	2.4

\* Patients were classified as residing in one of four types of bed: acute care bed in acute care hospital; extended care bed in acute care hospital; rehabilitation care bed; or extended care bed in extended care hospital. Days in all but the first type are included in the "extended" category in this table.

**Source:**

Adapted from Barer, M. L., Evens, R. G. and Hertzman, C. (1994). Avalanche or glacier: Health care and the demographic rhetoric. Vancouver: University of B. C. Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (HPRU 94:3D).

**Table 14.1b**  
**Hospital Days by Patient Age and Bed Type: British Columbia, 1969 and 1985/86**

		Days per 1000		% of all Days	
		Acute	Extended	Acute	Extended
1969	0-14	1186.7	41.4	17.5	0.6
	15-64	1479.4	74.8	46.4	2.3
	65-74	4078.4	817.5	11.3	2.3
	75-84	6421.8	2430.2	10.3	3.9
	85+	8416.2	4332.8	3.6	1.9
	All ages	1750.4	215.6	89.0	+ 11.0
1985/86	0-14	657.7	92.4	6.6	0.9
	15-64	809.0	201.6	26.4	6.6
	65-74	2819.6	1635.5	10.0	5.8
	75-84	5402.9	8278.9	9.2	14.1
	85+	7041.9	33049.4	4.1	16.3
	All ages	1164.1	904.2	56.3	+ 43.7

\* Patients were classified as residing in one of four types of bed: acute care bed in acute care hospital; extended care bed in acute care hospital; rehabilitation care bed; or extended care bed in extended care hospital. All but the first type are included in the "extended" category in this table.

**Source:**

Adapted from Barer, M. L., Evans, R. G. and Hertzman, C. (1994). Avalanche or glacier: Health care and the demographic rhetoric. Vancouver: University of B. C. Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (HPRU 94:3D).

## 14.2 Continuing Care

During 1991/92, 90,791 persons aged 65 and over received one or more continuing care services. As shown in Table 14.2a, 29,154 received residential care in community care facilities and/or hospital-based extended care units. A total of 52,114 older persons were clients of community long term care (LTC) programs (i.e. received homemakers service, attended an adult day care, or were residents of a group home). A total of 30,664 received clinical services at home (community home care nursing and/or community rehabilitation).

While level of care cannot be predicted by age alone, the probability that some care will be required increases markedly with increasing age. In 1991, just under two-thirds (64.4%) of persons 85+ were receiving residential or LTC community and/or clinical services compared with 27.5% of persons aged 75-84 and 9.3% aged 65-74.

Not all of the very old are incapacitated, but persons 85+ constitute the greatest proportion of the residential care population (42.7% in 1991). Persons aged 75-84 are also highly represented (36.7%) in institutions while those 65-74 account for only 13.6% of the residential care population. The 85+ group, on the other hand, consume a lower proportion of LTC community and clinical services (14.1%) than persons aged 75-84 (35.4%) or 65-74 (25.7%).

Using data from the fiscal year 1988/89, Table 14.2b shows that between the ages of 20-64, residential care utilization rates tend to be higher for males than for females. This holds true for group home beds as well. The trend reverses for persons aged 65 and over.

Table 14.2c shows the number of continuing care beds per 1,000 aged 65+ available and targeted for British Columbia in 1988/89 in comparison to rates reported for other jurisdictions. The targeted rate is similar to that reported for the United States and United Kingdom and is at the low end of the distribution.

Table 14.2a: Unique Continuing Care Clients by Age and Sex: British Columbia, Fiscal Year 1991/92

	Average Clients Per Day	Unique Clients Per Year	Sex		Age Group					
			Females	Males	0-19	20-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
<b>Continuing Care Facilities</b>										
n	16,466	22,309	15,154	7,155	3	371	798	3,018	8,515	9,604
%*	—	—	67.93	32.07	0.01	1.66	3.58	13.53	38.17	43.05
<b>Extended Care Units</b>										
n	7,609	10,429	6,894	3,535	26	576	479	1,416	3,500	4,432
%	—	—	66.10	33.90	0.25	5.52	4.59	13.58	33.56	42.50
<b>Total Residential**</b>										
n	—	31,367	21,120	10,247	29	934	1,250	4,256	11,505	13,393
%	—	—	67.33	32.67	0.09	2.98	3.99	13.57	36.68	42.70
<b>Homemakers</b>										
n	44,963	59,209	41,060	18,149	20	4,129	4,200	15,504	24,898	10,458
%	—	—	69.35	30.65	0.03	6.97	7.09	26.19	42.05	17.66
<b>Adult Day Care</b>										
n	3,347	5,772	3,675	2,097	0	219	335	1,237	2,626	1,355
%	—	—	63.67	36.33	0.00	3.19	5.80	21.43	45.50	23.48
<b>Group Homes</b>										
n	208	286	115	171	3	227	32	12	8	4
%	—	—	40.21	59.79	1.05	79.37	11.19	4.20	2.80	1.40
<b>Total Community LTC**</b>										
n	—	60,850	41,933	18,917	23	4,374	4,339	15,870	25,500	10,744
%	—	—	68.91	31.09	0.04	7.19	7.13	26.08	41.91	17.66
<b>Total Residential and Community LTC**</b>										
n	—	87,148	59,881	27,267	50	5,124	5,402	19,355	34,773	22,444
%	—	—	68.71	31.29	0.06	5.88	6.20	22.21	39.90	25.75
<b>Community Home Care Nursing</b>										
n	9,202	39,263	21,751	17,512	1,385	7,987	4,988	9,802	10,912	4,189
%	—	—	55.40	44.60	3.53	20.34	12.70	24.96	27.79	10.67
<b>Community Rehabilitation</b>										
n	2,694	12,684	8,020	4,664	407	1,561	1,179	3,052	4,431	2,054
%	—	—	63.23	36.77	3.21	12.31	9.30	24.06	34.93	16.19
<b>Total Clinical Services**</b>										
n	—	46,993	26,850	20,143	1,732	8,914	5,683	11,592	13,602	5,470
%	—	—	57.14	42.86	3.69	18.97	12.09	24.67	28.94	11.64
<b>Total Community and Clinical Services LTC**</b>										
n	—	89,785	56,778	33,007	1,749	11,857	8,671	23,035	31,757	12,716
%	—	—	63.24	36.76	1.95	13.21	9.66	25.66	35.37	14.16
<b>Total Residential, Community LTC, and Clinical Services**</b>										
n	—	114,854	73,900	40,954	1,773	12,604	9,686	26,311	40,532	23,948
%	—	—	64.34	35.66	1.54	10.97	8.43	22.91	35.29	20.85

\* row percentages

\*\* total is not the sum of the component services as some clients received more than one service.

**Source:**

Hollander, M.J. and Pallan, P. (1995). The British Columbia Continuing Care System: Service Delivery and Resource Planning. Aging: Clinical and Experimental Research, 7 (2).



**Table 14.2b**  
**Continuing Care Utilization Rates per 1,000 Population by Type of Service, Age and Sex: British Columbia, Fiscal Year 1988/89**

Type of Service	Sex	Age Groups					
		0-19	20-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Population	Female	386,242	598,342	295,161	127,065	67,636	21,804
	Male	418,955	596,275	298,292	104,729	48,992	10,507
Continuing Care Beds/Clients	Female	0.00	0.07	1.41	10.63	64.52	249.62
	Male	0.00	0.12	1.62	9.39	39.34	157.39
Extended Care Beds/Clients	Female	0.06	0.20	0.98	4.43	22.10	110.19
	Male	0.05	0.25	0.96	3.99	16.28	64.09
Total Residential Beds/Clients	Female	0.06	0.27	2.39	15.06	86.63	359.81
	Male	0.05	0.37	2.58	13.38	55.62	221.48
Homemaker Hours per Month	Female	0.15	15.54	114.14	703.40	1986.31	2487.23
	Male	0.23	8.82	43.47	305.55	1051.58	2065.12
Homemaker Clients	Female	0.01	1.26	9.30	57.29	161.78	202.55
	Male	0.02	0.72	3.54	24.88	85.65	168.22
Adult Day Care Days per Month	Female	0.00	0.29	2.02	10.87	42.25	66.04
	Male	0.00	0.18	1.30	7.81	26.45	56.06
Adult Day Care Clients	Female	0.00	0.08	0.54	2.90	11.28	17.61
	Male	0.00	0.05	0.35	2.08	7.06	14.98
Group Home Beds/Clients	Female	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.04
	Male	0.00	0.16	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.00
LTC Community Clients	Female	0.03	1.43	9.87	60.20	173.08	220.20
	Male	0.02	0.92	3.97	26.97	92.70	183.19
Total LTC (Residential & Community Clients)	Female	0.08	1.70	12.26	75.26	259.71	580.01
	Male	0.07	1.29	6.55	40.35	148.32	404.68
FTE Assessor Staff	Female	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.26	0.90	2.02
	Male	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.14	0.52	1.41
FTE Clinical Services Staff	Female	0.02	0.04	0.18	0.66	1.45	2.16
	Male	0.02	0.03	0.14	0.55	1.22	2.11
Clinical Services Clients	Female	0.34	0.70	3.06	11.20	24.71	36.81
	Male	0.35	0.52	2.34	9.48	20.86	35.77
Total Community Clients (LTC & Clinical Services)	Female	0.37	2.13	12.93	71.40	197.79	257.01
	Male	0.38	1.44	6.31	36.45	113.56	218.96
Total Residential and Community Clients	Female	0.43	2.40	15.32	86.46	284.41	616.83
	Male	0.42	1.81	8.90	49.83	169.18	440.44

Note: Ratios are based on the number of active clients, on an average day, unless otherwise specified.

**Source:**

Hollander, M.J. and Pallan, P. (1995) *The British Columbia Continuing Care System: Service Delivery and Resource Planning. Aging: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 7 (2).

**Table 14.2c**  
**Continuing Care Beds per 1,000 Population Aged 65+: British Columbia and Other Jurisdictions**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Beds/1,000, 65+</b>
<b>British Columbia (1988/89)</b>	
Personal Care (PC), Intermediate Care (IC) and Extended Care (EC)	63.0
Target (1988/89 Base)	55.0
<b>Other Provinces (1986)</b>	
Alberta	69.0
Saskatchewan	74.0
Ontario	70.1
Quebec	72.2
<b>United States (1989)</b>	
1989	53.6
<b>Europe (1980s)</b>	
Belgium	65
Denmark	69
France	63 - 80
Netherlands	100 - 110
Norway Nursing Homes (EC and high IC)	45
Sheltered Housing (Includes PC and low IC)	24
Total	69
Sweden Nursing Homes (EC and High IC)	33 - 37
Sheltered Housing (Includes PC and low IC)	42
Total	75 - 79
United Kingdom	53.5
<b>Australia (1980s)</b>	
	64 - 70

**Source:**

Hollander, M.J. and Pallan, P. (1995) *The British Columbia Continuing Care System: Service Delivery and Resource Planning. Aging: Clinical and Experimental Research* 7 (2).

### 14.3 Health Service Expenditures

Table 14.3 shows provincial health expenditures on B.C. residents aged 65 and over. As can be seen, in 1994 seniors accounted for 54.1% of total expenditures up from 46.3% in 1980. In all years, per capita expenditures are greater for females than males, presumably reflecting differences in age and marital status (i.e. more widows, less informal support).

**Table 14.3**  
**Provincial Health Expenditures on persons 65+, British Columbia, 1980-1994**

	Expenditure (000,000)			% of total BC health expenditure			\$ per capita		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1980	\$341	\$554	\$895	17.6%	28.7%	46.3%	\$2,644	\$3,450	\$3,091
1981	\$404	\$669	\$1,073	17.0%	28.1%	45.1%	\$3,034	\$3,973	\$3,558
1982	\$477	\$783	\$1,260	17.5%	28.7%	46.3%	\$3,495	\$4,474	\$4,044
1983	\$502	\$862	\$1,364	17.1%	29.4%	46.5%	\$3,593	\$4,766	\$4,254
1984	\$559	\$913	\$1,472	18.2%	29.7%	47.8%	\$3,900	\$4,864	\$4,446
1985	\$575	\$975	\$1,550	17.9%	30.4%	48.4%	\$3,862	\$4,974	\$4,494
1986	\$635	\$1,048	\$1,683	18.4%	30.4%	48.8%	\$4,108	\$5,114	\$4,681
1987	\$689	\$1,171	\$1,860	18.8%	31.9%	50.7%	\$4,281	\$5,491	\$4,971
1988	\$764	\$1,239	\$2,002	19.3%	31.2%	50.5%	\$4,584	\$5,614	\$5,171
1989	\$860	\$1,414	\$2,274	19.5%	32.1%	51.7%	\$4,972	\$6,191	\$5,666
1990	\$958	\$1,608	\$2,544	19.3%	32.4%	51.7%	\$5,351	\$6,823	\$6,188
1991	\$1,086	\$1,828	\$2,913	19.6%	33.1%	52.7%	\$5,876	\$7,541	\$6,821
1992	\$1,190	\$2,058	\$3,248	19.7%	34.1%	53.8%	\$6,238	\$8,233	\$7,370
1993	\$1,278	\$2,203	\$3,418	19.8%	34.1%	53.9%	\$6,498	\$8,601	\$7,687
1994	\$1,323	\$2,280	\$3,602	19.9%	34.1%	54.1%	\$6,508	\$8,661	\$7,723

Source:

Health Canada. National Health Care Expenditures in Canada, 1975-1996. Table 93. [<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/datapcb/datahesa/agesex/agesex.pdf>]

## Simon Fraser Gerontology Research Centre

### Introduction

The Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) was established in 1982. The associated Program in Gerontology, which offers a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma, Minor and Masters Degree, was established in 1983. Together, the GRC and Program serve as a focal point for research, education and information on individual and population aging.

### Research Interests

The Gerontology Research Centre has earned international recognition for its applied research in the areas of:

- Aging and the Built Environment — research on planning, design, development and evaluation of housing, care facilities, community environments and enabling technology.
- Prevention of Victimization and Exploitation of Older Persons — research and development of programs to prevent financial, psychological, physical and sexual abuse of older people, and to facilitate access to rights and services.
- Health Promotion and Aging — examination of determinants and consequences of population health, and to assist seniors in improving their mental and physical health, cope with chronic illness, and prevent disability.
- Changing Demography and Lifestyles — impact of changes in the timing of life events such as marriage, birth of first and last child, youth transitions, retirement, pensions and income support issues.
- Older Adult Education — research and strategies supporting leadership, mental fitness, lifelong learning, volunteerism.

The Centre provides consultation and technical assistance to academic, government, public and private organizations and is an active member of two inter-university research consortia. The first is the Canadian Consortium for Health Promotion Research which links the Centre with 14 other universities from across Canada. The second is the Canadian Study of Health and Aging which links 18 universities.

### Teaching Programs

SFU offers a minor, a post-baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) and a Masters degree (M.A.) in Gerontology. The PBD program, established in 1983, is one of the oldest and most respected in Canada. The M.A. Program commenced in Fall 1996. The minor was added in 1999. Opportunities also exist for doctoral study (Ph.D.) under special arrangements.

### Information Services

The Centre houses the Imperial Oil Gerontology Research Collection, a specialized collection of gerontology materials, and serves as a clearing house for information. A full range of reference services are provided to faculty, students, researchers, service providers and the general public. These include computerized literature searches, current awareness profiles and selected bibliographies.

The Centre maintains an active publications program to promote utilization of existing knowledge. Centre publications include books, technical reports, a biannual fact sheet, *Perspectives on Aging*, which addresses policy issues, and two regular newsletters: the *GRC News*, which reports on the Centre's current research and education activities, and the *Senior's Housing Update*, which highlights new developments in senior's housing.

### Conferences and Workshops

The Centre sponsors conferences and workshops including the annual John K. Friesen Lecture Series and an biennial Housing Conference.