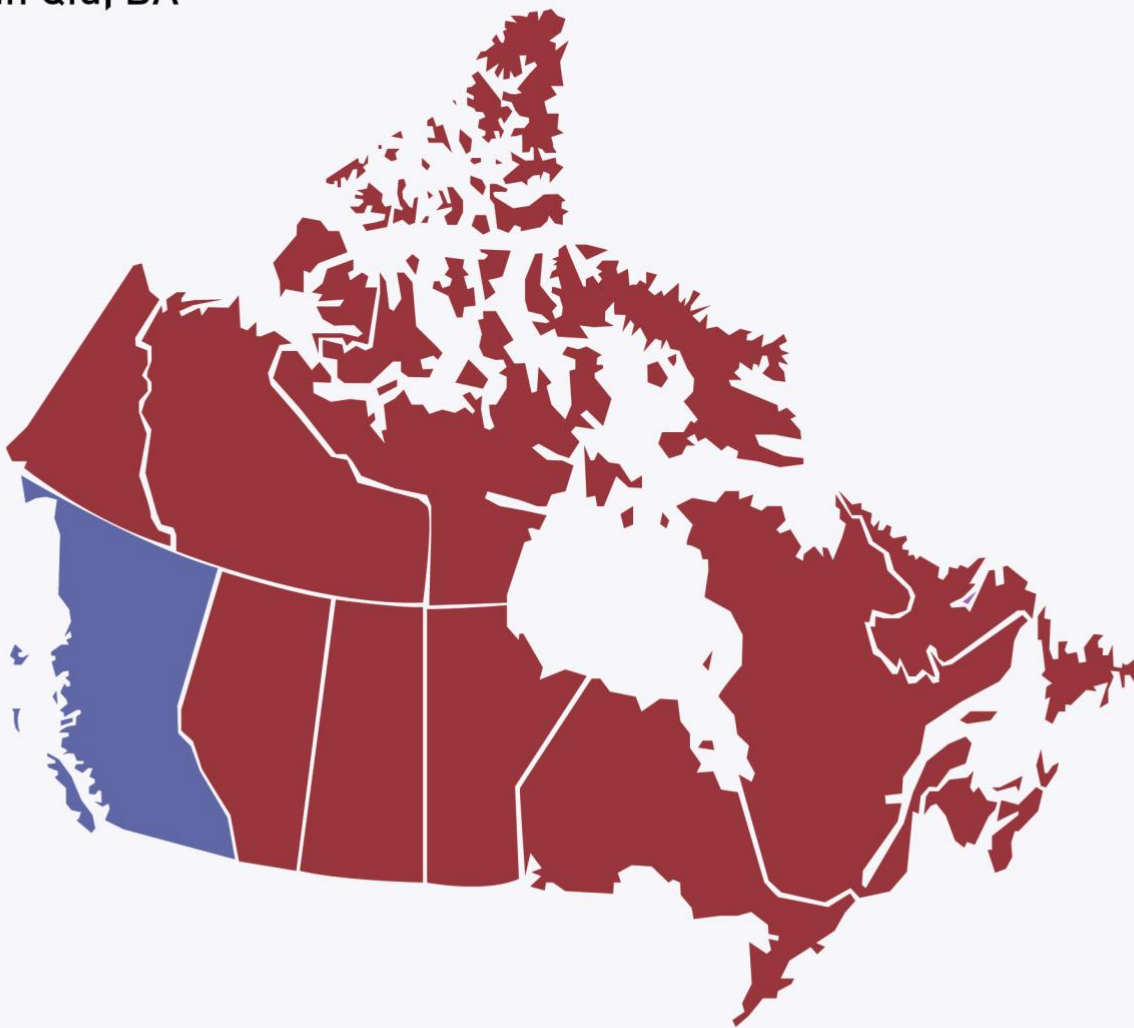


# FACT BOOK ON AGING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA

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## Foreword

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

Much of the information in the original Fact Book was drawn from the 1981 Census of Canada. The second to sixth editions updated and expanded that material using current census data, as well as selected supplementary data sources. The seventh and current eighth edition of the Fact Book are based on the 2016 and 2021 Censuses respectfully, and also supplemented with data from national health surveys, such as the Canadian Community Health Surveys, and other targeted surveys conducted in B.C. A milestone has been reached in that over thirty-five years of data have been covered in the eight editions. It should be noted that some tables are based on the National Household Survey (NHS), which is a subset of the Canadian population. The estimates based on the NHS will be highly accurate for the data presented in the Fact Book due to the design and size of the survey, but will vary slightly when compare to the census. Like the first seven editions, this edition references all source documents and presents data primarily in numeric tabular form, highlighting selected trends in charts, figures and graphs. We have deliberately chosen a presentation format that maximizes the potential usefulness of the data for its audience. This decision reflects the frustration of researchers when working only with graphs, charts and tables containing summary information, since it is extremely difficult to reconstruct or recombine these types of data in ways necessary to suit information and/or research needs. We have made some selected comparisons of key patterns across the different editions of the Fact Book in order to highlight major trends over time; however, a full set of comparisons requires a separate report. It should also be noted that, at the time of publication of this monograph, some data were not available in 2021 to update material from the seventh edition deemed important. In some instances, we have replicated the 2016 data for the reader.

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

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

place of previously used terms used by Statistics Canada. It is hoped that this monograph contributes to gerontological knowledge, practice and policy in efforts to promote well-being over the life course.

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# 1. Size of the Elderly Population

## 1.1 PAST TRENDS AND FUTURE GROWTH

### 65+ POPULATION

The size of the older population of British Columbia has grown consistently since the beginning of the 20th century from slightly more than 4,000 (4,017) persons aged 65 and over in 1901 to 1,016,360 in 2021 (see Table 1.1a). This increment reflects a rate of growth that is more than nine times greater than the rate for the total population of the province, which increased from 178,657 to 5,000,880 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.

Thus, in 2021, 20.3% of British Columbians were aged 65 and over. Projections for the years, 2026, 2031, 2036 and 2041 are 21.7%, 23.5%, 29.2% and 24.9% respectively. The rate for Canada in 2021 was 19%.

**Table 1.1a: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901–2041**

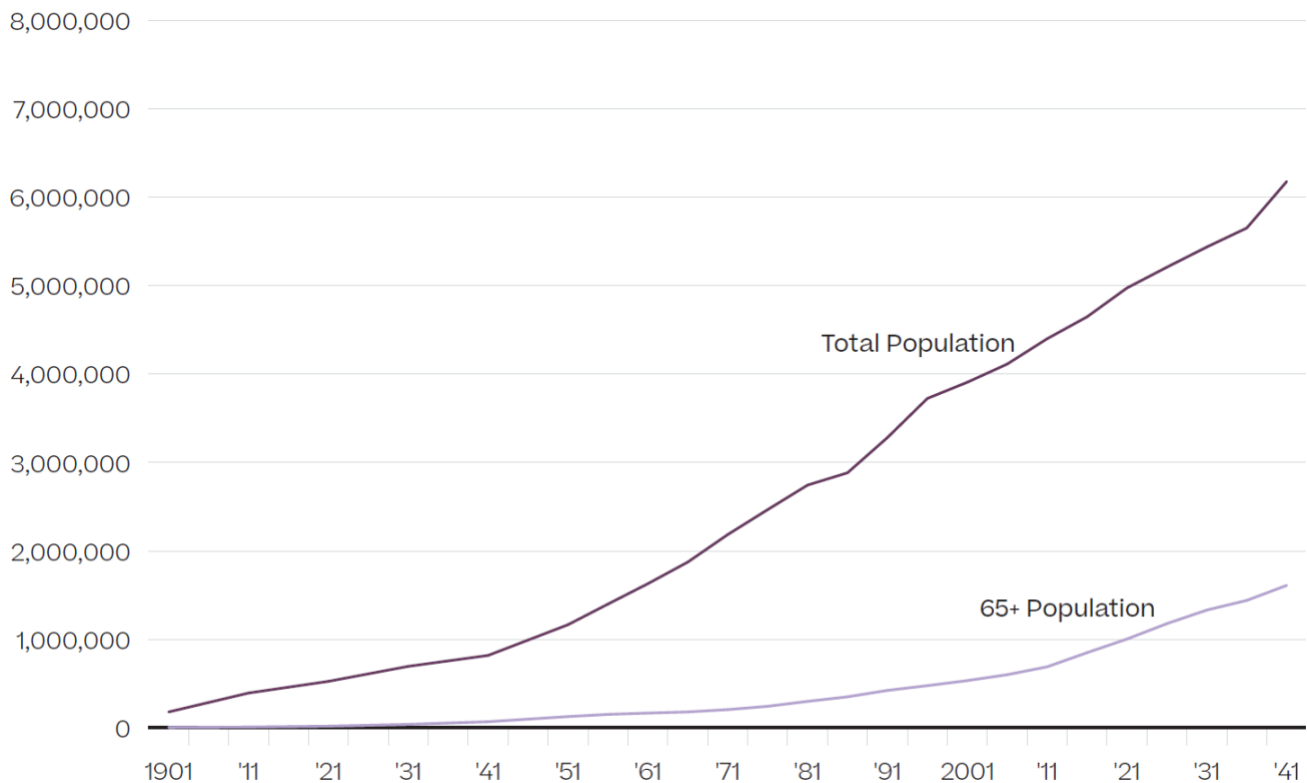
Census Year	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total Population	Population 65+	% of Total Population Aged 65+	Total Population	Population 65+	% of B.C. Population Aged 65+
1901	5,371,315	269,388	5.0%	178,657	4,017	2.2%
1911	7,206,643	333,763	4.6%	392,480	8,617	2.2%
1921	8,787,949	420,244	4.8%	524,582	18,395	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%

## 2 1. Size of the Elderly Population

	Canada			British Columbia		
Census Year	Total Population	Population 65+	% of Total Population Aged 65+	Total Population	Population 65+	% of B.C. Population Aged 65+
1971	21,568,310	1,744,410	8.1%	2,184,620	205,010	9.4%
1976	22,992,600	2,002,350	8.7%	2,466,605	242,050	9.8%
1981	24,343,180	2,360,975	9.7%	2,744,470	298,175	10.9%
1986	25,309,330	2,697,580	10.7%	2,883,370	349,480	12.1%
1991	27,296,855	3,169,970	11.6%	3,282,065	422,010	12.9%
1996	28,846,760	3,527,840	12.2%	3,724,500	475,845	12.8%
2001*	30,007,095	3,888,550	13.0%	3,907,735	533,085	13.6%
2006	31,612,895	4,335,245	13.7%	4,113,485	599,815	14.6%
2011	33,476,690	4,945,055	14.8%	4,400,060	688,710	15.7%
2016	35,151,728	5,935,630	16.9%	4,648,055	848,985	18.3%
2021	36,991,980	7,021,430	19.0%	5,000,880	1,016,360	20.3%
2026§	40,965,900	8,400,900	20.5%	5,657,800	1,225,000	21.7%
2031§	43,280,000	9,616,700	22.2%	5,982,400	1,404,800	23.5%
2036§	45,288,700	10,362,800	22.9%	5,231,400	1,527,600	29.2%
2041§	47,079,500	10,869,200	23.1%	6,440,700	1,601,000	24.9%

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

§ Based on projection M2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

**Figure 1.1a: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: British Columbia, 1901–2036****Source:**

- For 1901–1911: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1946. “Volume III. Ages of the population classified by sex, conjugal condition, racial origin, religious denomination, birthplace, etc. – Table 1.” Eighth Census, 1941. Ottawa.
- For 1921–1996: Statistics Canada. 1998. Nation Series: Complete Edition: 96 Census. [CD-ROM] Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.
- For 2001: Statistics Canada. “Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for Population, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2001 Censuses – 100% Data” (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed July 16, 2002).
- For 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. “Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2006 Censuses – 100% Data” (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census of Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006005. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=97-551-XCB2006005&lang=eng> (accessed June 26, 2008).
- For 2011: Statistics Canada. 2012. “Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2011 Censuses” (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2011 Census of Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-311-XCB2011017. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=98-311-X2011017&lang=eng> (accessed June 11, 2013).
- For 2016: Statistics Canada. 2017. British Columbia [Province] and Canada [Country] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.de1=01&Geo2=&Code2=&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begin&Search-PR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).



## 4 1. Size of the Elderly Population

For 2021: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0020-01 Age (in single years), average age and median age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts, <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810002001-eng> (accessed August 15th, 2022).

For 2026-2041: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1 (x 1,000). <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710005701-eng> (accessed August 15th, 2022).

### 85+ POPULATION

Reflecting national trends, the growth of the B.C. population aged 85 and over has been even more pronounced than that of the population aged 65 and over (see Table 1.1b). In 1901, only 98 British Columbians were aged 85 and over; by 2021, there were 122,465 in this age group. In fact, the increase in the population aged 85 and over was over four times greater than the increase in the population aged 65 and over.

**Table 1.1b: Total Population and Population Aged 85+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901–2041**

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%

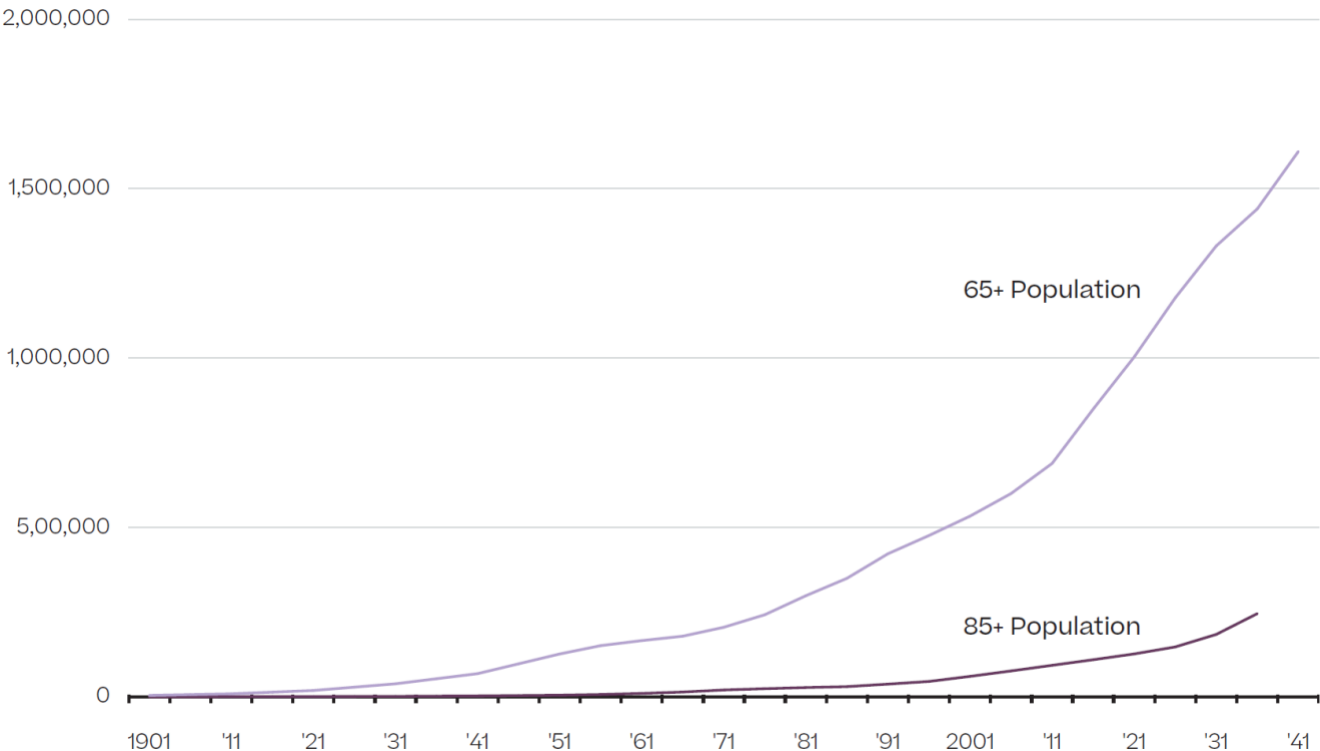
	Canada			British Columbia		
Census Year	Total Population	Population 85+	% of Total Population Aged 85+	Total Population	Population 85+	% of B.C. Population Aged 85+
1991	27,296,855	283,335	1.0%	3,282,065	37,175	1.1%
1996	28,846,760	337,070	1.2%	3,724,500	45,035	1.2%
2001*	30,007,095	415,905	1.4%	3,907,735	60,035	1.5%
2006	31,612,895	520,605	1.6%	4,113,485	76,050	1.8%
2011	33,476,690	645,510	1.9%	4,400,060	92,670	2.1%
2016	35,151,728	770,780	2.2%	4,648,055	109,190	2.3%
2021	36,991,980	861,395	2.3%	5,000,880	122,465	2.4%
2026§	40,964,800	999,600	2.4%	5,751,800	145,700	2.5%
2031§	43,276,100	1,248,700	2.9%	6,178,400	187,200	3.0%
2036§	45,280,200	1,651,600	2.6%	6,536,600	258,000	3.9%
2041§	47,063,800	2,062,100	4.4%	6,861,200	327,500*	4.8*

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

§Based on projection M5, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

# 6 1. Size of the Elderly Population

Figure 1.1b: Population Aged 65+ and 85+: British Columbia, 1901–2036



**Source:**

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

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

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

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

For 2011: Statistics Canada. 2012. “Age Groups (13) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1921 to 2011 Censuses” (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2011 Census of Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-311-XCB2011017. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=98-311-X2011017&lang=eng> (accessed June 11, 2013).

For 2016: Statistics Canada. 2017. British Columbia [Province] and Canada [Country] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recense-ment/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=&Code2=&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&-SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).

For 2021: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0020-01 Age (in single years), average age and median age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts, <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810002001-eng> (accessed August 15th, 2022).

For 2026-2041: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1 (x 1,000). <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710005701-eng> (accessed August 15th, 2022).

## 1.2 POPULATION AGING WITHIN THE OLDER POPULATION

Within the 65 and over age group, the proportion of people aged 85 and over has been growing over recent decades and is expected to continue to rise in the near future. In 2021, people aged 85 and over in B.C. numbered 122,465 and represented 12.0% of the 65 and over population of B.C. This can be contrasted with data presented in the first Fact Book on Aging (1986) where in 1981 persons aged 85 and over numbered only 27,100 in B.C. and represented a mere 9.1% of the population aged 65 and over.

The proportion of elderly aged 85+ will continue to increase primarily due to increases in life expectancy, but will rise more sharply after 2031 at which time the front end of the baby boomer generation (born between 1946–1965) will turn 85 and over (see Table 1.1b).

Table 1.2 shows that the growth in the 85 and over population is taking place among both males and females. In 2021 there were 48,900 males aged 85+ and by 2036 it is expected that there will be 104,600 males 85+. Over the same period, the female population of B.C. aged 85+ will increase from 73,245 to 140,700.

Within the 85 and over population, centenarians are growing at a rapid rate due to steady increases in life expectancy. There were 1,515 centenarians in B.C. in 2021 and a total of 9,535 centenarians in Canada, which reflects a growth of 16.0% per cent since 2011 (centenarians not shown in the table).

A second distinctive growth pattern within the 65 and over age group is that those aged 70 to 74 are on the rise due to the front cohorts of the baby boomers moving into this age category between 2016 and 2021. For instance, in B.C. there were 201,785 older persons aged 70 to 74 in 2016 (23.8% of all older adults), whereas in 2021 this number rose to 272,360 (26.8% of the senior population). Further increases will be observed over the next few censuses.

**Table 1.2: Age Structure of the Population Aged 65+, by Sex: British Columbia, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021, 2036**

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
2006						
65–69	169,770	28.3%	83,050	30.6%	86,715	26.4%
70–74	143,625	23.9%	70,200	25.9%	73,430	22.4%
75–79	120,435	20.1%	55,640	20.5%	64,800	19.7%
80–84	89,930	15.0%	36,895	13.6%	53,035	16.2%
85–89	50,060	8.3%	17,965	6.6%	32,095	9.8%

## 8 1. Size of the Elderly Population

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
90+	25,990	4.3%	7,720	2.8%	18,270	5.6%
Total	599,810	100%	271,470	100%	328,345	100%
2011						
65–69	210,905	30.6%	103,790	32.8%	107,110	28.8%
70–74	160,715	23.3%	77,350	24.4%	83,360	22.4%
75–79	127,480	18.5%	60,715	19.2%	66,760	17.9%
80–84	96,950	14.1%	42,745	13.5%	54,205	14.6%
85–89	60,315	8.8%	22,585	7.1%	37,730	10.1%
90+	32,355	4.7%	9,570	3.0%	22,790	6.1%
Total	688,720	100.0%	316,755	100.0%	371,955	100.0%
2016						
65–69	287,520	33.9%	139,490	35.2%	148,035	32.6%
70–74	201,785	23.8%	97,675	24.7%	104,110	23.0%
75–79	145,225	17.1%	68,715	17.4%	76,510	16.9%
80–84	105,255	12.4%	48,645	12.3%	56,610	12.5%
85–89	67,510	8.0%	27,930	7.1%	39,575	8.7%
90+	41,685	4.9%	13,105	3.3%	28,585	6.3%
Total	848,985	100%	395,560	100.0%	453,425	100.0%
2021						
65–69	319,405	31.4%	152,705	32.2%	166,700	30.7%
70–74	272,360	26.8%	130,365	27.5%	141,995	26.2%
75–79	181,075	17.8%	86,060	18.2%	95,015	17.5%

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
80-84	121,060	11.9%	55,280	11.7%	65,775	12.1%
85-89	74,320	7.3%	32,310	6.8%	42,005	7.7%
90+	48,145	4.7%	16,590	3.5%	31,240	5.8%
Total	1,016,365	100%	473,310	100.0%	542,730	100.0%
2036§						
65-69	357,600	22.8%	168,700	23.4%	189,000	22.2%
70-74	368,600	23.5%	174,400	24.2%	194,200	22.8%
75-79	332,200	21.1%	154,800	21.5%	177,400	20.9%
80-84	254,300	16.2%	114,900	16.0%	139,400	16.4%
85-89	165,900	10.6%	71,600	9.9%	94,300	11.1%
90+	92,000	5.9%	35,700	5.0%	56,300	6.6%
Total	1,570,600	100.0%	720,100	100.0%	850,600	100.0%

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

§ Based on projection M5, which assumes medium growth and medium migration and rounded to the nearest 100.

#### Source:

For 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age (123) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses – 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006009. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=88984&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed June 26, 2008).

For 2016: Statistics Canada. 2017. British Columbia [Province] and Canada [Country] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=&Code2=&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).

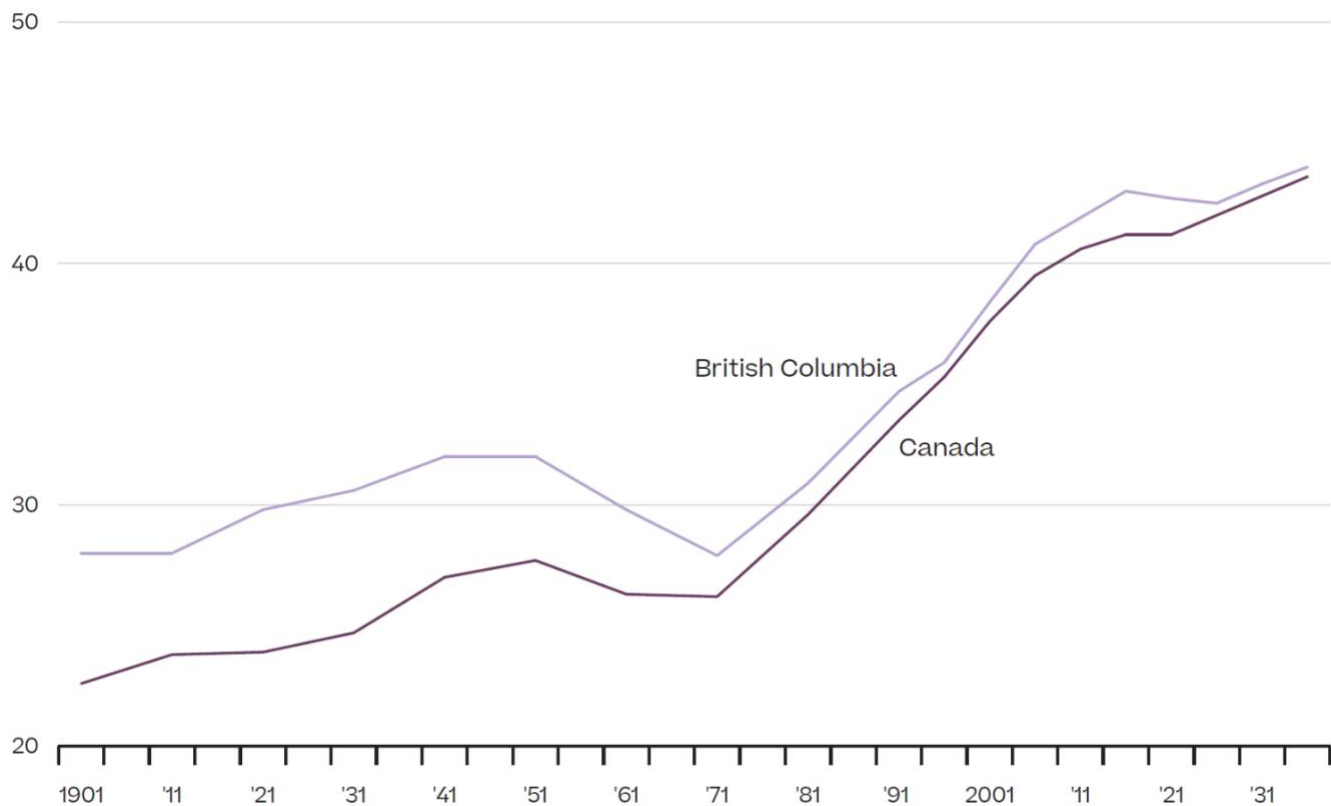
For 2021: Statistics Canada. 2022. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released December 15, 2022. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed October 29th, 2022).

For 2036: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1 (x 1,000), <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710005701-eng> (accessed October 29th, 2022).

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 Figure 1.3 and Table 1.3, the median age in British Columbia has been steadily increasing since 1901. It was 35.9 years in 1996, and in 2016 it was 43.0 years. The median age of B.C. was 42.8 years in 2021, compared to 41.6 for all of Canada. The slight dip observed between 2016 and 2021 reflects the effects higher rates of immigration that increases the numbers in the middle-aged population, coupled with the greater effects of COVID-19 on the mortality of older population than other age groups.

Figure 1.3: Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 – 2036



**Table 1.3: Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 – 2036**

Year	Median Age (in years)	
	Canada	British Columbia
1901	22.6	28.0
1911	23.8	28.0
1921	23.9	29.8
1931	24.7	30.6
1941	27.0	32.0
1951	27.7	32.0
1961	26.3	29.8
1971	26.2	27.9
1981	29.6	30.9
1991	33.5	34.7
1996	35.3	35.9
2001	37.6	38.4
2006	39.5	40.8
2011	40.6	41.9
2016	41.2	43.0
2021	41.6	42.8
2026§	42.0	42.5
2031§	42.8	43.3
2036§	43.6	44.0

§ Based on projection M2, which assumes medium growth and medium migration.



## 12 1. Size of the Elderly Population

### Source:

- For 1901 and 1911: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1946. "Volume III. Ages of the population classified by sex, conjugal condition, racial origin, religious denomination, birthplace, etc. – Table 1." Eighth Census, 1941. Ottawa.
- For 1921–2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. "Age (123) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 2006 Censuses – 100% Data" (table). 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97-551-XCB2006009. Ottawa. Released July 17, 2007.  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=88984&GID=838062&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed June 26, 2008).
- For 2016: Statistics Canada. 2017. British Columbia [Province] and Canada [Country] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=&Code2=&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).
- For 2021: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0026-01 Age (in single years), average age and median age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories and economic regions, <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810002601-eng> (accessed November 18, 2022) For 2026–2036 (Canada): Statistics Canada. 2010. "Table 12-1 Population by Age Group and Sex, Medium-Growth – 2006 to 2008 Trends Scenario (M2), July 1st — Canada, 2010 to 2036" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2009–2036. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-X, Ottawa. p. 181. For 2026–2036: Statistics Canada. 2010. "Table 12-11 Population by Age Group and Sex, Medium-Growth – 2006 to 2008 Trends, Scenario (M2), July 1st — British Columbia, 2010 to 2036" (table). Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: 2009–2036. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-520-X, Ottawa. p. 191.2. Sex Ratios.

## 2. Sex Ratio

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

The very high sex ratio in B.C. was largely a function of high rates of male in-migration to the province in the latter part of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century to work in primary industry. However, by 1966, women in British Columbia outnumbered men at all ages over 64, and increasingly so with advancing years. The higher proportion of women within the older population is due to the longer life expectancy of females (See Section 3). In 2021, the sex ratio for age 65 and over was 87 males per 100 females. For age 90 and over, there were only 54 men for every 100 women. Since 2006, the sex ratio difference has narrowed slightly due to a convergence of the life expectancies for men and women. For instance, in 2006, the sex ratio for the 65 and over age group was 83 males per 100 females.

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

**Table 2.1: Males and Females Aged 65+ and Sex Ratios: British Columbia, 1956 and 2021**

	1956			2021		
Age	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*
65–69	29,077	25,001	116	152,705	166,700	92
70–74	26,187	21,773	120	130,365	141,995	92
75–79	15,514	13,042	119	86,060	95,015	91
80–84	7,044	6,506	108	55,280	65,775	84
85–89	2,520	2,555	99	32,310	42,005	77
90+	676	884	76	16,915	31,240	54
Total 65+ (B.C.)	81,018	69,761	116	473,640	542,720	87
Total 65+ (Canada)	622,210	621,728	100	3,224,680	3,796,745	85

## 14 2. Sex Ratio

*\*Number of males per 100 females.*

### **Source:**

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

For 2021: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1 (x 1,000), <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710005701-eng> (accessed November 18th, 2022).

# 3. Mortality

## 3.1 TRENDS IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

Major gains in life expectancy of British Columbians were achieved between 1931 and 2018–2020 (see Table 3.1 and Figures 3.1a and 3.1b). In terms of life expectancy at birth, females gained 19.7 years and males gained 17.7 years during that 78-year period. While females outlived males throughout the entire period, gains in life expectancy have been greater for females than for males at all ages, at least until recently. The male-female gap in life expectancy at birth increased from 3.1 years in 1931 to 7.0 years in 1980–1982, but was only 4.8 years for the 1998–2001 period and 4.3 years for 2007–2009. 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. For instance, the gain in life expectancy at birth for men was 5.8 years between 1985–1987 and 2018–2020, compared to only 4.7 years for women.

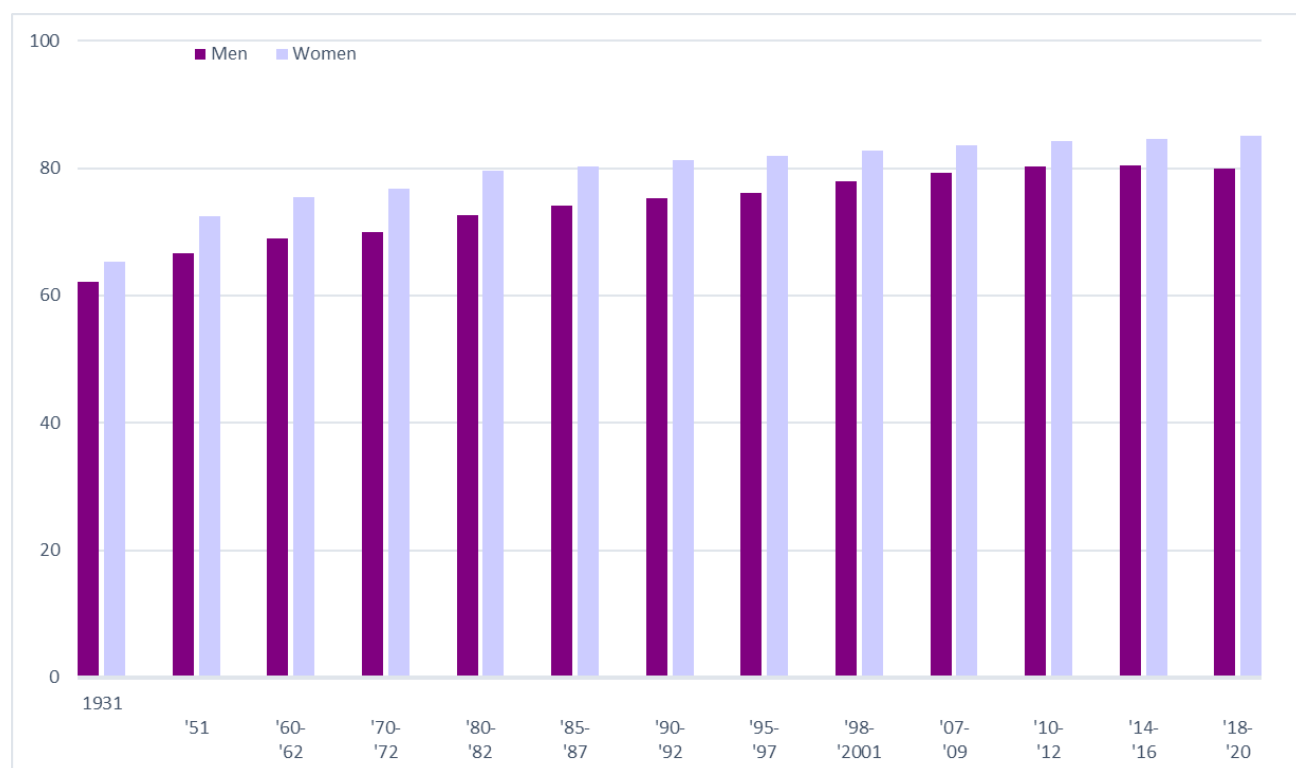
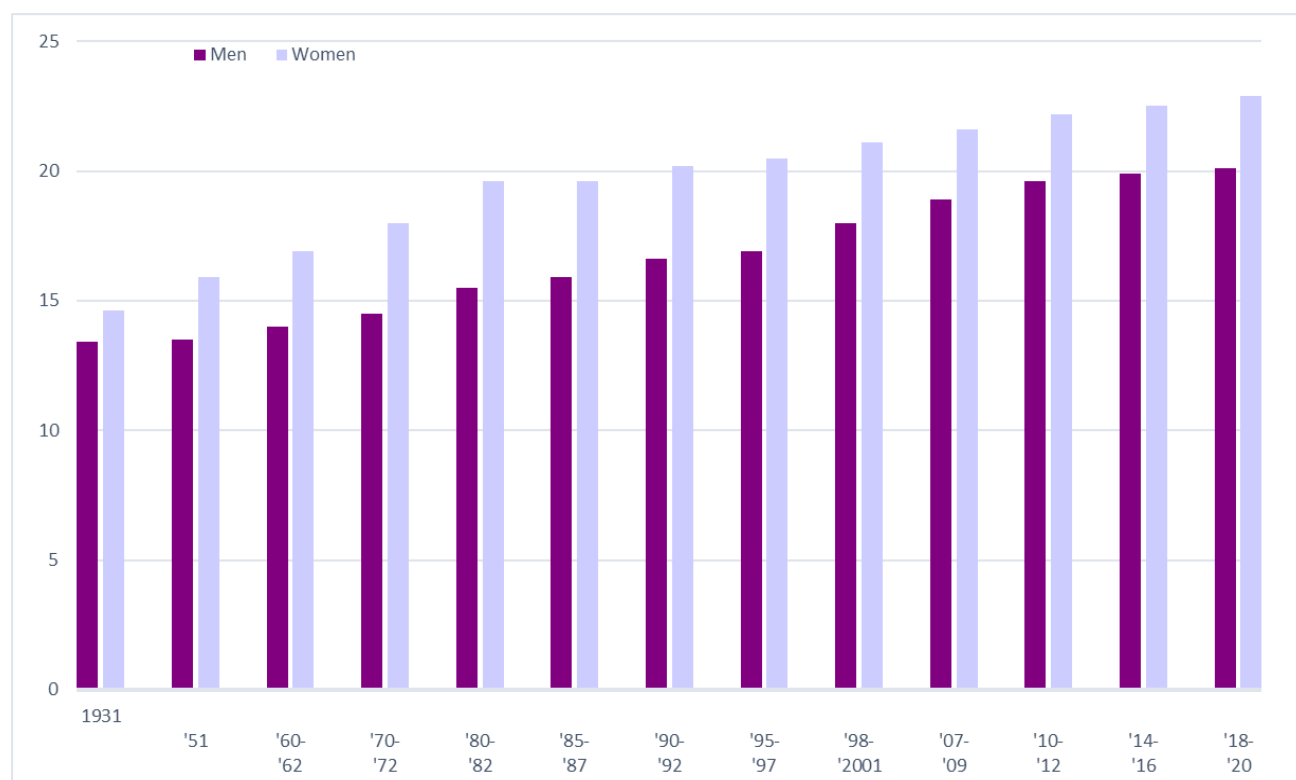
Another measure of life expectancy is the number of expected years of life remaining after age 65. Life expectancy at age 65 increased 8.3 years for women and 6.7 years for men between 1931 and 2018–2020. Using the period of 2018–2020, 65-year-old females could expect to live an additional 22.9 years, whereas their male counterparts could expect to live another 20.1 years. This difference between the sexes (2.8 years) is greater than the 1.2 year difference in 1931, but again, the sex differential has shown some signs of decreasing over recent years. Since 1980–82, life expectancy at age 80 has been increasing steadily, but appears to have dropped recently, possibly due to the high rate of COVID-19 deaths among the very old.

**Table 3.1: Life Expectancy at Birth, Age 65 and Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2018–2020**

Data Years	Average Years of Life Remaining					
	At Birth		At Age 65		At 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
1960–1962	68.9	75.4	14.0	16.9	6.7	7.4
1970–1972	69.9	76.7	14.5	18.0	6.8	7.9
1980–1982	72.6	79.6	15.5	19.6	7.3	9.3
1985–1987	74.1	80.3	15.9	19.6	7.4	9.1
1990–1992	75.2	81.3	16.6	20.2	7.5	9.4

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Data Years	Average Years of Life Remaining					
	At Birth		At Age 65		At Age 80	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1995–1997	76.1	81.9	16.9	20.5	7.6	9.7
1998–2001	78.0	82.8	18.0	21.1	8.2	10.0
2007–2009	79.2	83.5	18.9	21.6	8.6	10.2
2010–2012	80.3	84.2	19.6	22.2	9.0	10.6
2014–2016	80.4	84.6	19.9	22.5	9.32	10.94
2016–2018	79.8	84.6	19.9	22.6	9.3	11.0
2018–2020	79.9	85.0	20.1	22.9	9.5	11.1
Increase from 1931 to 2018–2020 (in years)	17.7	19.7	6.7	8.3	3.8	4.7

**Figure 3.1a: Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2018–2020****Figure 3.1b: Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2018–2020**

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### Source:

- For 1931 and 1941: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1947. Life tables for Canada and regions, 1941 and 1931. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-515. Ottawa.
- For 1951: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1960. Provincial and regional life tables, 1950–1952 — 1955–1957. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-512. Ottawa.
- For 1960–62: Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1964. Provincial and regional life tables, 1960–1962. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-517. Ottawa.
- For 1970–72: Statistics Canada. 1974. Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1970/72. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-532. Ottawa.
- For 1985–87: Statistics Canada. 1990. “Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1985–1987.” Health Reports, Supplement No. 13, Volume 2, No. 4, 1990. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003S. Ottawa.
- For 1990–92: Statistics Canada. 1995. Life tables, Canada and provinces, 1990/92. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-537. Ottawa.
- For 1995–1997: Statistics Canada. 2002. Life tables, Canada, provinces and territories: 1995–1997. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 84-537-XIE. Ottawa.
- For 1998–2001: Statistics Canada. Table 102-0218 Life Expectancy abridged life table, by age group and sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups, occasional. CANSIM (database) (accessed 2006). [http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII&Array\\_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020218](http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?Lang=E&RootDir=CII/&ResultTemplate=CII/CII&Array_Pick=1&ArrayId=1020218).
- For 2007–2009: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0063-01 – Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310006301>. Accessed November 20th 2018.
- For 2007–2012: Statistics Canada. Table 39-10-0007-01-Life expectancy and other elements of the life table, Canada and provinces. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3910000701#timeframe>. Accessed November 20th 2018.
- For 2010–2016: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0063-01 – Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310006301>. Accessed November 20th 2018.
- For 2016–2020: Statistics Canada 2022. Life Expectancy and Other Elements of the Abridged Life Table, Three-year estimates, Prince Edward Island and the Territories. Table 13-10-0140-01. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310014001-eng>, (Accessed January 5th, 2023).

## 3.2 DEATHS AND MORTALITY RATES

Not unexpectedly, as observed in Tables 3.2a, 3.2b and 3.2c, women have lower mortality rates than men for all ages. Table 3.2a shows trends in age-specific mortality rates by sex for B.C. between 2001 and 2020, while Table 3.2b shows percentage changes in those trends. Table 3.2c presents age-specific mortality rates by sex for 2014, 2016, and 2020 for B.C. and Canada. Table 3.2d shows the absolute number of deaths by age group and sex in B.C. for 2016 and 2020. Note that age-specific rates account for changes in the number of persons in an age group, whereas absolute numbers are affected by shifts in the number of people at particular ages due to population aging.

Overall, the decline in mortality rates has not been uniform over time or across age and sex groups. Specifically, the pattern of reduction differs for men and women, and across time periods. Between 2016 and 2020, for men in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 65-69 age group, a decrease of 6.5% (Table 3.2b). For women in B.C., the largest reduction also occurred in the 65-69 age group, with a decrease of 11.3%. It also appears that women’s mortality rates are improving relative to men.

Table 3.2c. It is also noteworthy that for men in 2020, the mortality rate at age 90 and over was more than 16 times the rate at ages 65–69, and for women, more than 25 times the rate, as observed in the same table for B.C. older adults. Note that the absolute number of deaths shown in Table 3.2d has increased between 2016 and 2020 due to the expansion of persons at the upper ages of the age structure. Some of this increase is also due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, B.C. older adults aged 65+ had slightly lower mortality rates than Canadians of that age group as shown below.

**Table 3.2a: Age-Specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2014, 2016, and 2020**

Age	Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Population (Males)						Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Population (Females)					
	2001	2005	2009	2014	2016	2020	2001	2005	2009	2014	2016	2020
65–69	16.0	15.2	14.1	12.1	13.9	13.0	10.3	9.6	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.1
70–74	28.4	24.5	20.1	21.1	19.0	19.4	16.6	15.6	14.0	12.8	13.0	12.0
75–79	47.4	40.6	36.3	32.3	32.4	31.7	27.4	27.6	23.9	21.8	22.0	21.4
80–84	78.1	69.4	62.6	55.0	56.1	58.4	50.9	49.1	45.0	40.9	38.9	39.1
85–89	127.6	116.7	112.4	102.6	97.3	101.2	93.9	86.3	81.8	76.7	74.7	73.9
90+	214.0	216.9	203.2	201.1	213.8	212.9	177.5	178.1	175.8	175.6	177.0	177.8

**Table 3.2b: Per Cent Change of Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2014, 2016, and 2020**

Age Range	Males % Change					Females % Change				
	2001–2005	2005–2009	2009–2014	2014–2016	2016–2020	2001–2005	2005–2009	2009–2014	2014–2016	2016–2020
65–69	-5.0	-7.2	-14.2	14.9	-6.5	-6.9	-13.5	0.0	-3.6	-11.3
70–74	-13.7	-18.0	5.0	-10.0	2.1	-6.0	-10.3	-8.6	1.6	-7.7
75–79	-14.3	-10.6	-11.0	0.3	-2.2	0.7	-13.4	-8.8	0.9	-2.7
80–84	-11.1	-9.8	-12.1	2.0	4.1	-3.5	-8.4	-9.1	-4.9	0.5
85–89	-8.5	-3.7	-8.7	-5.2	4.0	-8.1	-5.2	-6.2	-2.6	-1.1
90+	1.4	-6.3	-1.0	6.3	-0.4	0.3	-1.3	-0.1	+0.8	0.5



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**Table 3.2c: Age-Specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 2014,2016, and 2020**

	Canada						British Columbia					
	Males			Females			Males			Females		
Age	2014	2016	2020	2014	2016	2020	2014	2016	2020	2014	2016	2020
65–69	13.9	13.9	14.0	13.9	13.9	8.6	13.9	13.9	13.0	13.9	13.9	7.1
70–74	22.5	21.3	21.3	22.5	21.3	13.9	22.5	21.3	19.4	22.5	21.3	12.0
75–79	36.6	35.0	35.0	36.6	35.0	23.8	36.6	35.0	31.7	36.6	35.0	21.4
80–84	63.8	60.4	61.0	63.8	60.4	42.8	63.8	60.4	58.4	63.8	60.4	39.1
85–89	111.3	106.6	110.7	111.3	106.6	80.6	111.3	106.6	101.2	111.3	106.6	73.9
90+	216.6	210.0	218.7	216.6	210.0	187.4	216.6	210.0	212.9	216.6	210.0	177.8

\* Rate per 1,000 population

**Table 3.2d: Deaths of Persons 65+ by Age Group and Sex: British Columbia, 2016 and 2020**

Age Range	2016			2020		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
65–69	3,085	1,939	1,146	3,126	1,969	1,157
70–74	3,232	1,891	1,341	4,079	2,440	1,639
75–79	3,955	2,256	1,699	4,598	2,640	1,958
80–84	5,008	2,763	2,245	5,529	3,102	2,427
85–89	5,857	2,812	3,045	6,291	3,213	3,078
90+	7,928	2,857	5,071	9,116	3,488	5,628
Total 65+	29,065	14,518	14,547	32,739	15,852	15,887

**Source:**

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

For 2005; 2009: Statistics Canada. No date. “Table 102-0504” (table). Deaths and mortality rates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (table). CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=1020504&pattern=&csid=> (accessed July 4, 2013).

For 2014–2016: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0710-01 Deaths and mortality rates, by age group. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310071001>. Accessed: November 20th, 2018.

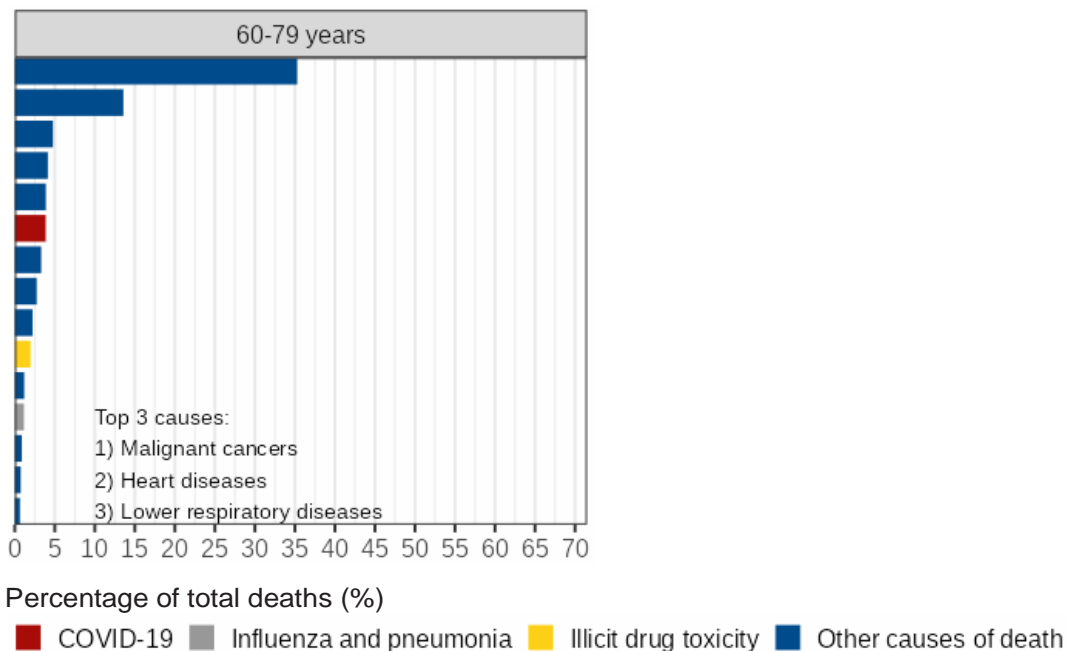
For 2020: Statistics Canada. “Table 13-10-0709-01” (table). Deaths, by Age Group and Sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310070901&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.11&pickMembers%5B1%5D=3.2&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2016&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2020&referencePeriods=20160101%2C20200101> (accessed January 10th, 2023).

**3.3 CAUSES OF DEATH**

In 2022, the three leading causes of death aged 60–79 were malignant cancer, heart disease, lower respiratory disease (Figure 3.3a).

When looking at the 80 and over age group, the leading causes of death are slightly different than those for the younger elderly population. Cancer shifts from being the leading cause of death to the second. The leading cause of death for the 80 and over group is heart disease, accounting for 20%. The third leading cause of death among this age group is Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. COVID-19 appears as the fifth largest cause of death for persons in the 80 and over age group.

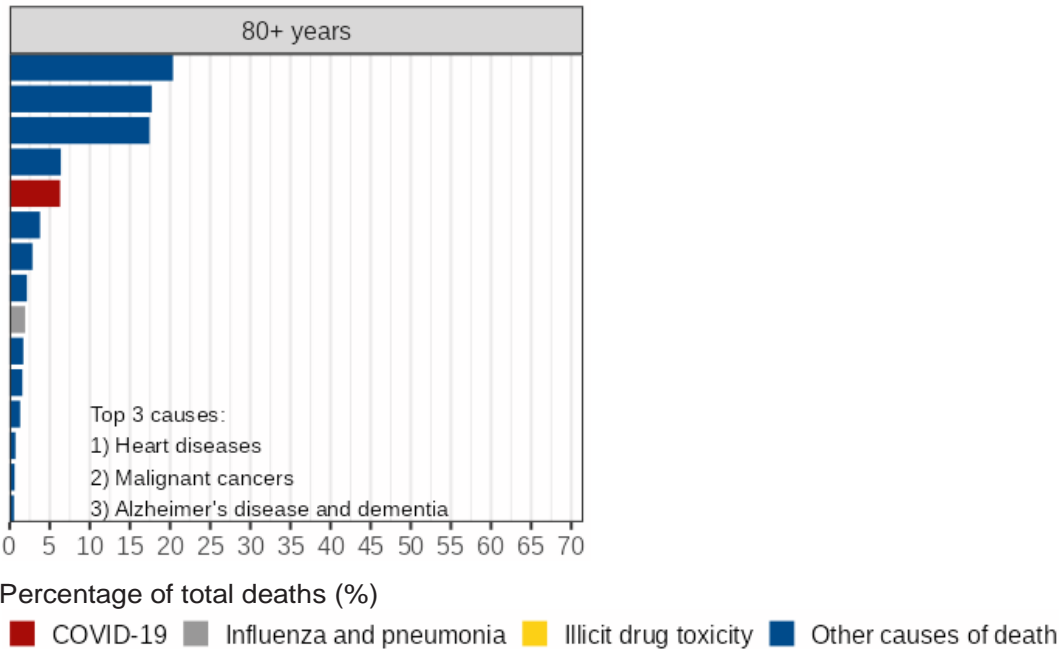
**Figure 3.3a: Leading Causes of Death for 60-79 Age Group: British Columbia, 2022**



\* Cause unknown or pending in Vital Statistics data: 8%.

\* Data Source: BC Vital Statistics; 2) Data on deaths due to illicit drug toxicity, accidents and suicides provided to BCCDC by BC Coroners Service.

Figure 3.3b: Leading Causes of Death for 80+ Age Group: British Columbia, 2022



\* Cause unknown or pending in Vital Statistics data: 8%.  
\* Data Source: BC Vital Statistics; 2) Data on deaths due to illicit drug toxicity, accidents and suicides provided to BCCDC by BC Coroners Service

Source:

BC Centre for Disease Control. 2022. Top 15 causes of death by age group in BC for 2022.  
[https://bccdc.shinyapps.io/Mortality\\_Context\\_ShinyApp/](https://bccdc.shinyapps.io/Mortality_Context_ShinyApp/)(accessed March 30th, 2023).

3.4 CANCER

In 2019, the highest number of new cancer diagnoses in British Columbians aged 60+ was prostate cancer for men (3,160 new diagnoses) and breast cancer for women (2,620 new diagnoses). The second highest for both sexes was lung cancer, with 3,425 new cases diagnosed. Generally, those 80 and over were more likely to be diagnosed with a specific cancer than those aged 60 and over.

Table 3.4a: New Cancer Diagnoses Aged 60+, by Sex at Diagnosis: British Columbia, 2019

	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis		
	60+		
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Lung	1,670	1,755	3,425

**Table 3.4a: New Cancer Diagnoses Aged 60+, by Sex at Diagnosis: British Columbia, 2019**

	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis		
	60+		
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Prostate	3,160	0	3,160
Breast	20	2,620	2,640
Rectum	480	255	735
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	535	395	930
All Other & Unspecified Sites	585	455	1,040
Skin (Melanoma)	585	365	950
Pancreas	440	365	805
Bladder (In-situ)	1,085	340	1,425
Kidney	395	235	630
Leukemia	365	240	605
Body of Uterus	0	580	580
Liver	370	100	470
Stomach	220	130	350
Multiple Myeloma	220	155	375
Digestive Other & Unspecified	190	200	390
Esophagus	245	80	325
Ovary	0	190	190

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	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis		
	60+		
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Brain	160	85	245
Genital Other & Unspecified	35	165	200
Thyroid	70	100	170
Tongue	165	65	230
Mesothelioma	70	20	90
Small Intestine	60	50	110
Larynx	100	20	120
Mouth	70	50	120
Soft Tissue (incl.Heart)	60	50	110
Anus	25	70	95
Other Urinary	55	30	85
Gallbladder	30	55	85
Cervix	0	65	65
Eye	25	20	45
Respiratory Other & Unspecified	5	5	10
Hodgkin Lymphoma	30	20	50
Salivary Gland	35	20	55
Nasopharynx	20	5	25

New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			
60+			
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Oropharynx	25	5	30
Bone	15	10	25
Other Endocrine Glands	15	15	30
Lip	20	15	35
Testis	5	0	5
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	20	20
Total	11,660	9,420	21,080

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

Some categories (i.e., large intestine, oral other & unspecified) were not included due to data availability

#### Source:

BC Cancer Agency. New Cancer Diagnoses, British Columbia, by Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Sex.

<https://bccandataanalytics.shinyapps.io/IncidenceCounts/> (accessed January 15th, 2023).

BC Cancer Agency. Age-standardized Cancer Incidence Rates (ASIR) per 100,000 and Average Annual Percent Change (AAPC). British Columbia, by Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Sex. <https://bccandataanalytics.shinyapps.io/IncidenceAgeAdjRates/> (accessed January 15th, 2023).

The greatest number of cancer deaths in British Columbians at age 60+ were caused by cancer of the lung (including trachea and bronchus), totaling 2,170 deaths in 2019. The second leading cancer cause of death was pancreas cancer, with 690 deaths. Prostate cancer for men was the third leading cause of death, with 680 deaths, followed by breast cancer for women, with 510 (plus 10 deaths for men).

**Table 3.4b: Cancer Deaths: British Columbia, 2019**

	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis		
	60+		
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Lung	1,085	1,085	2,170
Pancreas	360	330	690
Prostate	680	0	680
Breast	10	510	520
All Other & Unspecified Sites	245	200	445
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	205	140	345
Bladder	215	80	295
Digestive Other Unspecified	160	145	305
Leukemia	165	120	285
Esophagus	215	75	290
Rectum	180	115	295
Ovary	0	220	220
Brain and CNS	145	90	235
Kidney	140	75	215
Stomach	110	80	190
Liver	155	50	205
Multiple Myeloma	120	80	200

Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			
60+			
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Skin (Melanoma)	90	45	135
Mesothelioma	70	10	80
Body of Uterus	0	95	95
Soft Tissue (incl. Heart)	30	25	55
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	30	30
Tongue	40	15	55
Larynx	35	10	45
Genital Other & Unspecified	15	55	70
Gallbladder	15	35	50
Small Intestine	25	15	40
Mouth	25	15	40
Thyroid	15	20	35
Other Urinary	35	20	55
Bone	10	10	20
Cervix	0	40	40
Nasopharynx	10	10	20
Anus	15	15	30
Oropharynx	20	10	30



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Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			
60+			
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total
Other Endocrine Glands	10	10	20
Salivary Gland	20	15	35
Eye	10	15	25
Hodgkin Lymphoma	10	10	20
Respiratory Other Unspecified	5	10	15
Testis	0	0	0
Total	4,695	3,930	8,625

ICD categories ordered by number of deaths aged 60+.

Some categories (i.e., large intestine, oral other & unspecified) were not included due to data availability

### Source:

BC Cancer Agency. Cancer Deaths\* in British Columbia, 2019 By Cancer Type, Age at Death and Sex.

<https://bccandataanalytics.shinyapps.io/MortalityCounts/>. (accessed January 27th, 2023).

BC Cancer Agency. Age-standardized Cancer Mortality Rates (ASMR) per 100,000 and Average Annual Percent Change (AAPC). British Columbia, by Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Sex. <https://bccandataanalytics.shinyapps.io/IncidenceAgeAdjRates/> (accessed January 15th, 2023). BC Cancer Agency. Cancer Deaths\* (per 100,000) in British Columbia, 2019 By Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Sex. <https://bccandataanalytics.shinyapps.io/MortalityAgeStdRates/>. Accessed: January 27, 2023.

## 3.5 SUICIDE

A total of 658 suicides were reported in 2020 (Table 3.5a) among persons aged 65 and over in Canada, of which approximately four-fifths involved men (80%). In 2020 for B.C., the total was 157, of which 76 for age group 60-69, 44 for age group 70-79, and 37 for age group 80+. However, these numbers should be treated with caution due to reporting problems with this cause of death. It is likely that suicide is significantly underreported among the elderly.

**Table 3.5a: Suicide Deaths of Persons 65+, by Age Group and Sex: Canada (2020)**

	Canada (2020)		
Age	Total	Males	Females
65–69	198	161	37
70–74	159	116	43
75–79	120	93	27
80–84	78	59	19
85–89	65	51	14
90+	38	32	6
Total	658	512	146

**Table 3.5b: Suicide Deaths of Persons 65+, by Age Group and Sex: British Columbia (2020)**

	British Columbia (2020)
Age	Total
60–69	76
70–79	44
80+	37
Total	157

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

**Source:**

For Canada: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0392-01 Deaths and age-specific mortality rates, by selected grouped causes.

<https://doi.org/10.25318/1310039201-eng> (accessed February 3rd, 2023).

For British Columbia: British Columbia. Coroners Service, Suicide Knowledge Update to December 2021. [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/suicide\\_knowledge\\_update.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/suicide_knowledge_update.pdf) (accessed February 3rd, 2023).

# 4. Marital Status

Patterns of marital status vary significantly by sex of the older adult. According to the 2021 Census, more than two-thirds (68.0%) of male British Columbians aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1a), whereas under half (48.7%) of all women in B.C. aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1b). In contrast, 27.4% of older women were widowed, compared to only 8.6% of older men. Of those in the 65–69 age group, 3.1% of men and 10.8% of women were widowed. However, nearly one-third (28.4%) of women in the age group 75–79 were widowed, compared to only 8.2% of men. Even at ages 85 and over, only 29.3% of men were widowed, compared to 67.8% 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 older male and older female population shown in Tables 4.1a and 4.1b. Although not shown here, it is expected that we will observe an increase in the divorce rate over the next several years due to higher divorce rates among the aging baby boomer cohorts.

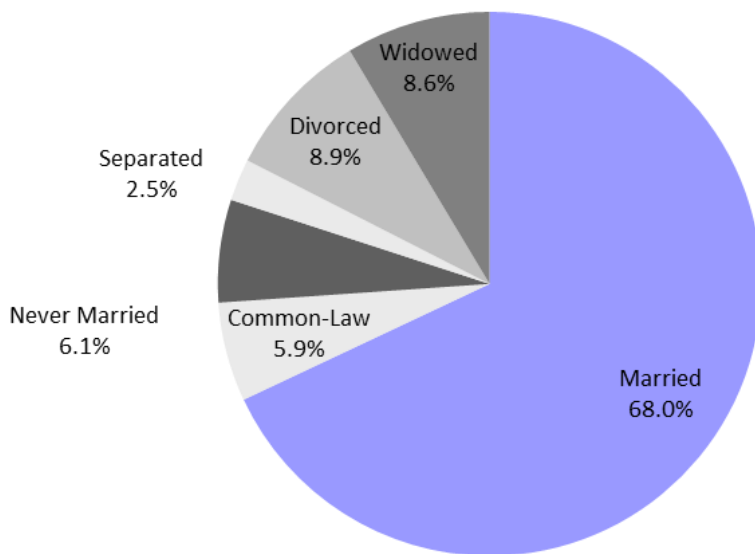
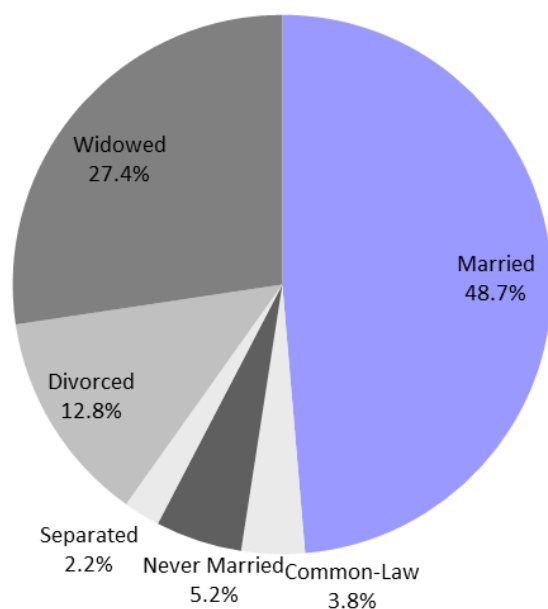
**Table 4.1a: Male Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2021**

Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
65–69	102,620	67.2%	11,560	7.6%	13,600	8.9%	4,370	2.9%	15,815	10.4%	4,745	3.1%	152,710
70–74	90,940	69.8%	8,485	6.5%	8,025	6.2%	3,420	2.6%	12,870	9.9%	6,625	5.1%	130,365
75–79	61,295	71.2%	4,485	5.2%	3,840	4.5%	1,860	2.2%	7,485	8.7%	7,085	8.2%	86,050
80–84	38,640	69.9%	2,055	3.7%	1,910	3.5%	1,195	2.2%	3,805	6.9%	7,670	13.9%	55,275
85+	29,055	59.0%	1,180	2.4%	1,480	3.0%	870	1.8%	2,245	4.6%	14,400	29.3%	49,230
Total 65+	322,550	68.0%	27,765	5.9%	28,855	6.1%	11,715	2.5%	42,220	8.9%	40,525	8.6%	473,630

**Table 4.1b: Female Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2021**

Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
65–69	98,080	58.8%	9,685	5.8%	11,630	7.0%	5,140	3.1%	24,095	14.5%	18,065	10.8%	166,695
70–74	79,090	55.7%	6,295	4.4%	7,575	5.3%	3,455	2.4%	20,680	14.6%	24,895	17.5%	141,990
75–79	46,945	49.4%	2,835	3.0%	3,700	3.9%	1,835	1.9%	12,695	13.4%	27,010	28.4%	95,020

Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
80–84	25,610	38.9%	1,095	1.7%	2,435	3.7%	935	1.4%	6,795	10.3%	28,905	43.9%	65,775
85+	14,335	19.6%	475	0.6%	2,875	3.9%	755	1.0%	5,140	7.0%	49,655	67.8%	73,235
Total 65+	264,060	48.7%	20,385	3.8%	28,215	5.2%	12,120	2.2%	69,405	12.8%	148,530	27.4%	542,715

**Figure 4.1a: Marital Status of Men Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2021****Figure 4.1b: Marital Status of Women Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2021**

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### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0125-01 Marital status, age group and gender: Canada, provinces and territories and census metropolitan areas. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=9810012501&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.45&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.3&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3.1> (accessed February 9th, 2023).

# 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 older population tends to be concentrated in the three provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia (see Table 5.1). In 2021, the largest number of the aged resided in Ontario (2,637,710), Quebec (1,753,530) and British Columbia (1,016,365).

The relative proportion of persons aged 65 and over within each of the provinces displays a different pattern. In 2021, New Brunswick (22.84%), Newfoundland (23.62%), and Nova Scotia (22.21%) had the largest proportions of older persons (65+) in their population. Prince Edward Island was fourth (21.19%) followed by Quebec (20.63%). Alberta only had 14.76% of its population age 65 and over, and the territories had extremely young populations due to high mortality and fertility among their residents.

**Table 5.1: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2021**

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 65–74	Population Aged 75–84	Population Aged 85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% in Province Aged 65+
New Brunswick	775,610	177,160	106,045	52,075	19,040	2.64%	22.84%
Newfoundland	510,550	120,610	74,855	35,605	10,155	1.80%	23.62%
Nova Scotia	969,380	215,325	127,830	64,455	23,035	3.21%	22.21%
Prince Edward Island	154,330	32,705	19,690	9,505	3,515	0.49%	21.19%
Québec	8,501,835	1,753,530	997,870	541,245	214,415	26.16%	20.63%
British Columbia	5,000,880	1,016,365	591,770	302,130	122,465	15.16%	20.32%
Ontario	14,223,945	2,637,710	1,504,495	794,595	338,620	39.35%	18.54%
Manitoba	1,342,150	229,050	133,015	66,775	29,255	3.42%	17.07%
Saskatchewan	1,132,505	197,980	113,715	56,505	27,765	2.95%	17.48%

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Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 65–74	Population Aged 75–84	Population Aged 85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% in Province Aged 65+
Alberta	4,262,635	629,220	381,160	175,680	72,375	9.39%	14.76%
Yukon Territory	40,230	6,050	4,135	1,530	385	0.09%	15.04%
Northwest Territories	41,070	4,110	2,765	1,040	290	0.06%	10.01%
Nunavut	36,855	1,605	1,185	325	80	0.02%	4.35%
Total	37,001,975	7,021,420	4,058,530	2,101,465	861,395	100.0%	18.98%

### Source:

Statistics Canada. Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E&HPA=1>. (accessed February 15th, 2023).

## 5.2 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 2021, a total of 460,790 (45.3%) of B.C.'s older adults 65+ lived in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Greater Vancouver). The Capital Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Capital) was the next most popular region of the province among this age group, occupied by 99,645 (9.8%) of the elderly population. The Fraser Valley ranked third with 62,900 (6.2%). Together, the three regional districts of Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan and North Okanagan were home to 104,890 (10.3%) 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 Sunshine Coast (33.2%), followed by Okanagan-Similkameen (32.9%), Nanaimo (29.9%), Comox Valley (28.4%), Kootenay Boundary (27.7%), and Cowichan Valley (27.6%).

**Table 5.2a: Total Population and Population Aged 65+, by Regional District: British Columbia, 2021**

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Alberni-Clayoquot	33,520	8,075	3,970	4,105	0.8%	24.1%

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Bulkley-Nechako	37,735	6,850	3,485	3,365	0.7%	18.2%
Capital	415,455	99,645	45,065	54,580	9.8%	24.0%
Cariboo	62,930	15,400	7,840	7,555	1.5%	24.5%
Central Coast	3,580	615	320	295	0.1%	17.2%
Central Kootenay	62,510	16,535	8,180	8,360	1.6%	26.5%
Central Okanagan	222,165	50,160	23,235	26,925	4.9%	22.6%
Columbia-Shuswap	57,025	15,145	7,460	7,685	1.5%	26.6%
Comox Valley	72,445	20,585	9,625	10,965	2.0%	28.4%
Cowichan Valley	89,015	24,610	11,900	12,705	2.4%	27.6%
East Kootenay	65,895	14,605	7,160	7,450	1.4%	22.2%
Fraser Valley	324,005	62,900	29,075	33,820	6.2%	19.4%
Fraser-Fort George	96,980	16,205	7,815	8,385	1.6%	16.7%
Greater Vancouver	2,642,825	460,790	211,065	249,725	45.3%	17.4%
Kitimat-Stikine	37,790	6,520	3,225	3,300	0.6%	17.3%
Kootenay Boundary	33,150	9,195	4,490	4,705	0.9%	27.7%
Mount Waddington	10,840	2,310	1,225	1,085	0.2%	21.3%
Nanaimo	170,365	51,015	23,820	27,190	5.0%	29.9%



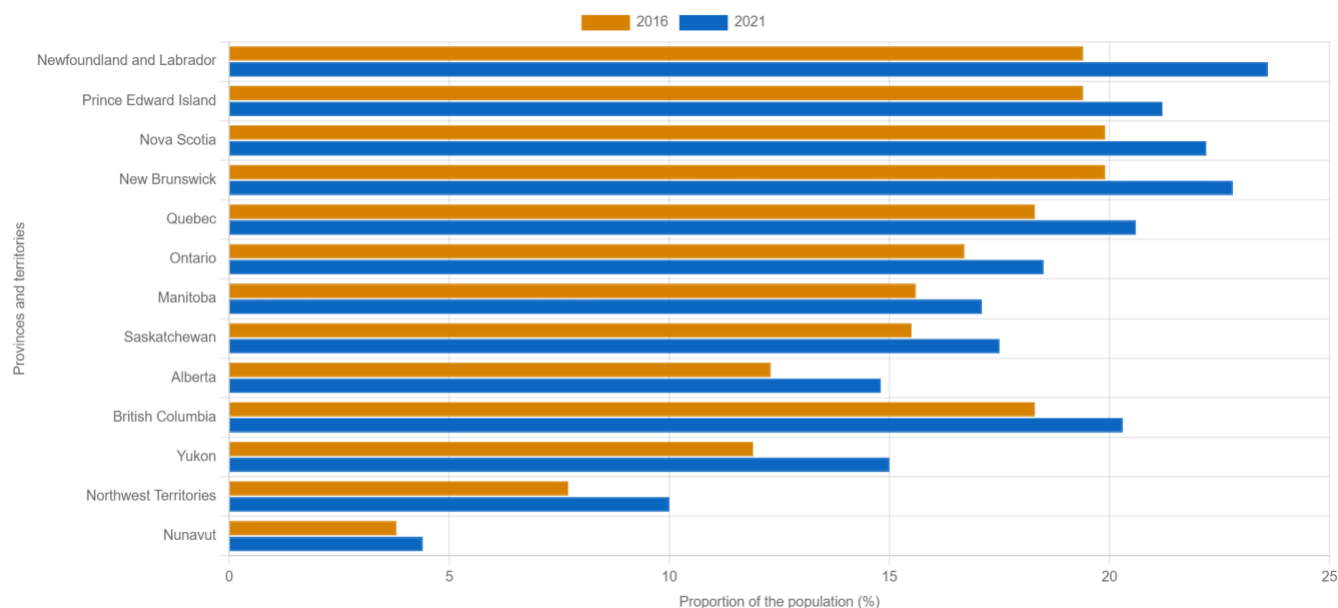
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Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
North Okanagan	91,610	24,940	11,635	13,305	2.5%	27.2%
Northern Rockies	4,475	580	320	260	0.1%	13.0%
Okanagan Similkameen	90,180	29,790	14,040	15,755	2.9%	32.9%
Peace River	61,530	7,545	3,675	3,875	0.7%	12.3%
Powell River	21,495	6,800	3,355	3,445	0.7%	31.6%
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	18,185	3,210	1,630	1,580	0.3%	17.7%
Squamish-Lillooet	50,495	6,115	3,085	3,035	0.6%	12.1%
Stikine	680	205	115	90	0.0%	30.1%
Strathcona	48,150	12,870	6,320	6,545	1.3%	26.7%
Sunshine Coast	32,170	10,695	5,095	5,595	1.1%	33.2%
Thompson-Nicola	143,680	32,460	15,415	17,045	3.2%	22.6%
Total	5,000,880	1,016,370	473,640	542,730	100.0%	20.3%

### Source:

Statistics Canada. Census profile, 2021 Census of population. Selected from a list of geographies, British Columbia.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/search-recherche/lst/results-resultats.cfm?Lang=E&GEOCODE=59>  
(accessed February 15th, 2023).

**Figure 5.2a: Percentage of Population Aged 65+, Canada, provinces and territories, 2016 and 2021**

Source(s): Statistics Canada. 2022. Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census.

### 5.2.1 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) consists of an area of just over 1,000 square miles (2,603 square kilometers), including 21 member municipalities, 1 electoral area, and Indian reserves. Table 5.2.1 shows that 112,720 or nearly one quarter (24.5%) of the 65 and over population in the GVRD live in the City of Vancouver. A further 87,180 (18.9%) live in Surrey, while 44,110 (9.6%) live in Burnaby.

In several communities within the GVRD, the proportion (%) of 65+ in the population exceeded the 2016 provincial average of 17.4% (see Table 5.2.1). These communities included: White Rock, where over one-third (37.3%) of the population was aged 65 and over in 2021, Belcarra (29.8%), West Vancouver (28.5%), Bowen Island (25.1%), Lions Bay (25.2%), Indian Reserves (21.0%), Delta (20.5%), Langley (20.1%), Richmond (20.0%), the District Municipality of North Vancouver (19.2%), Pitt Meadows (18.2%), Burnaby (17.7%), and the City of North Vancouver (17.5%).

**Table 5.2.1: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2021**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Anmore [VL]	2,355	310	160	150	0.07%	13.2%

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Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Belcarra [VL]	687	205	110	100	0.04%	29.8%
Bowen Island [IM]	4,255	1,070	520	550	0.2%	25.1%
Burnaby [C]	249,120	44,110	20,225	23,885	9.6%	17.7%
Coquitlam [C]	148,625	24,270	11,410	12,860	5.3%	16.3%
Delta [DM]	108,455	22,275	10,330	11,945	4.8%	20.5%
Greater Vancouver A [RDA]	18,610	2,145	1,015	1,130	0.5%	11.5%
Langley [C]	28,965	5,815	2,455	3,360	1.3%	20.1%
Langley [DM]	132,600	22,990	10,475	12,515	5.0%	17.3%
Lions Bay [VL]	1,390	350	175	170	0.1%	25.2%
Maple Ridge [DM]	90,990	14,615	6,545	8,070	3.2%	16.1%
New Westminster [C]	78,915	12,680	5,710	6,970	2.8%	16.1%
North Vancouver [C]	58,120	10,190	4,435	5,755	2.2%	17.5%
North Vancouver [DM]	88,168	16,925	7,885	9,045	3.7%	19.2%
Pitt Meadows [C]	19,145	3,490	1,560	1,930	0.8%	18.2%
Port Coquitlam [C]	61,500	9,660	4,425	5,235	2.1%	15.7%
Port Moody [C]	33,535	4,840	2,260	2,580	1.1%	14.4%
Richmond [C]	209,935	41,910	19,345	22,565	9.1%	20.0%
Surrey [C]	568,322	87,180	40,475	46,710	18.9%	15.3%
Vancouver [C]	662,250	112,720	51,555	61,160	24.5%	17.0%
West Vancouver [DM]	44,125	12,575	5,590	6,990	2.7%	28.5%

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
White Rock [C]	21,940	8,185	3,410	4,775	1.8%	37.3%
Indian Reserves*	10,895	2,290	1,015	1,265	0.5%	21.0%
Total	2,642,895	460,800	211,085	249,715	100.0%	17.4%

\* These include Burrard Inlet, Capilano, Coquitlam, Katzie, Matsqui, McMillan Island, Mission, Musqueam, Semiahmoo, Seymour Creek, Tsawwassen. Some reserves included in the previous edition (Whonock & Langley) are not included in this version, as Statistics Canada did not report number for 2021. These numbers should be interpreted with care because of the small sizes of these reserves and the rounding process used by Statistics Canada.

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

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. Census profile, 2021 Census of population. Select from a list of geographies, British Columbia.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/search-recherche/lst/resultsresultats.cfm?Lang=E&GEOCODE=59>  
(accessed February 18th, 2023).

## 5.2.2 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Capital Regional District (CRD), located on Southern Vancouver Island, encompasses a total land area of 937 square miles (2,427 square kilometers). Within its boundaries are 13 member municipalities, four electoral areas and Indian Reserves. As shown in Table 5.2.2, over half (50.2%) of the 65+ population live in two communities; 21,350 (22.50%) in the City of Victoria and 27,165 (28.63%) in the Municipality of Saanich.

In terms of the proportion of their population aged 65+, fifteen communities equal or exceed 20%, which includes Sidney (45.0%), Southern Gulf Islands (42.4%), Salt Spring Island (34.7%), North Saanich (34.7%), Oak Bay (34.2%), Indian Reserves (30.3%), Central Saanich (27.2%), and Metchosin (26.0%).

**Table 5.2.2: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Capital Regional District, 2021**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of Population 65+ in CRD	% of Municipality 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Central Saanich [DM]	17,385	4,725	2,205	2,520	4.98%	27.2%

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Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of Population 65+ in CRD	% of Municipality 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Colwood [C]	18,960	3,655	1,685	1,975	3.85%	19.3%
Esquimalt [DM]	17,530	3,625	1,635	1,990	3.82%	20.7%
Highlands [DM]	2,480	450	225	225	0.47%	18.1%
Juan de Fuca Part 1 [RDA]	5,135	1,235	645	595	1.30%	24.1%
Juan de Fuca Part 2 [RDA]	400	80	50	30	0.08%	20.0%
Langford [C]	46,585	6,405	2,820	3,585	6.75%	13.7%
Metchosin [DM]	5,070	1,320	665	655	1.39%	26.0%
North Saanich [DM]	12,235	4,240	2,125	2,115	4.47%	34.7%
Oak Bay [DM]	17,990	6,150	2,760	3,390	6.48%	34.2%
Saanich [DM]	117,735	27,165	12,385	14,775	28.63%	23.1%
Salt Spring Island [RDA]	11,635	4,050	1,915	2,135	4.27%	34.8%
Sidney [T]	12,320	5,545	2,290	3,255	5.84%	45.0%
Sooke [DM]	15,085	3,055	1,435	1,620	3.22%	20.3%
Southern Gulf Islands [RDA]	6,100	2,585	1,335	1,250	2.72%	42.4%
Victoria [C]	91,870	21,350	9,065	12,285	22.50%	23.2%
View Royal [T]	11,575	2,415	1,110	1,305	2.55%	20.9%
Indian Reserves*	5,140	1,555	695	865	1.64%	30.3%
Total	415,230	94,880	42,840	52,050	100.0%	222.9%

*\* These include Becher Bay, Cole Bay, East Saanich, Esquimalt, Gordon River, New Songhees, 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.*

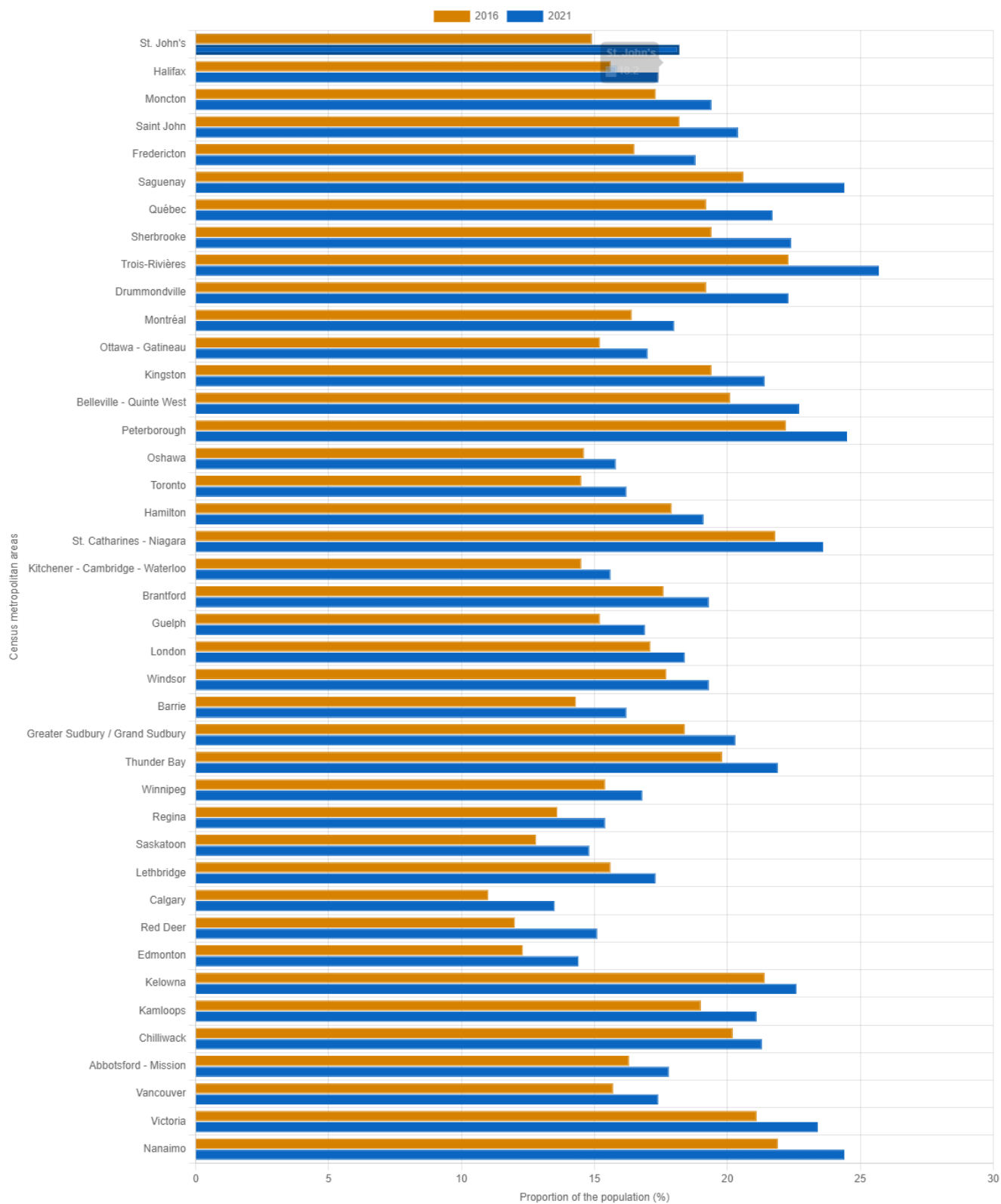
*Key to abbreviations: C – City; DM – District (Municipality); RDA – Regional District Electoral Area; T – Town*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Census profile, 2021 Census of population. Select from a list of geographies, British Columbia.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/search-recherche/lst/results-resultats.cfm?Lang=E&GEOCODE=59>  
(accessed February 18th, 2023).

**Figure 5.2.1: Percentage of Population Aged 65+, by census metropolitan areas, 2016 and 2021**



## 5.3 MOBILITY

### 5.3.1 TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION AGED 65+

Canadians are relatively mobile people. In each of the census years of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 between one-quarter and one-fifth of the population 65 years of age and over (ranging between 17.7% and 31.5%) were living in a different dwelling than five years earlier. From 1971, there has been a steady decline in the mobility rate for Canadians aged 65 and over, with some variation depending on the period. It reached its lowest levels (17.7%) between 2006 and 2011.

In each of these census periods, a higher proportion of older British Columbians (ranging between 20.8% and 40.3%) changed residence than was the case for the country as a whole (see Table 5.3.1). In 2021, senior British Columbians had a mobility rate that was 3.5% higher than the national average although they too have experienced a decline since 1971.

**Table 5.3.1: Per Cent of the Population Aged 65+ Who Changed Residence in the Five Years Preceding the Census of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021: Canada and British Columbia**

Period	Canada	British Columbia
1956–1961	27.4%	34.7%
1966–1971	31.5%	40.3%
1971–1976	30.9%	39.0%
1976–1981	26.2%	32.6%
1981–1986	21.6%	26.3%
1986–1991	22.2%	32.3%
1991–1996	20.2%	29.2%
1996–2001*	19.2%	23.0%
2001–2006*	20.1%	25.8%
2006–2011**	17.7%	20.8%
2011–2016**	18.0%	22.1%
2016–2021**	18.5%	22.0%

\* 20% sample

\*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample



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### Source:

- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1965. "Volume IV: Population sample, income, migration, fertility: General characteristics of migrant and non-migrant population, Table 11" (table). 1961 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-509. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1974. "Volume 1 (part 2), Population: General characteristics. Internal migration, Table 31" (table). 1971 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-719. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1978. "Volume 2, Population: Demographic characteristics. Mobility status, Table 35" (table). 1976 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-828. Ottawa.
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- Statistics Canada. 1989. "Nation [series]. Population and dwelling characteristics: Mobility status and interprovincial migration, Table 1" (table). 1986 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-108. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1993. "Nation [series]. Mobility and migration, Table 1A" (table). 1991 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-322. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1998. 1996 Census. Nation series, complete edition [CD-ROM]. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data" (table). 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed December 10, 2002).
- Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census – 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97556XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released December 4, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?A-LEVEL=3&APATH=3&CATNO=97-556-XCB2006007&DETAIL=0&DIM=&DS=99&FL=0&FREE=0&GAL=0&G-C=99&GK=NA&GRP=1&IPS=97-556-XCB2006007&METH=0&ORDER=1&PID=89177&PTYPE=88971&RL=0&S=1&-ShowAll=No&StartRow=1&SUB=712&Temporal=2006&Theme=71&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed October 6, 2008).
- Statistics Canada. 2013. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Mother Tongue (8), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 5 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2011 National Household Survey" (table). 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 99-013-X2011026. Ottawa. Released June 26, 2013 <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?ObjId=99-013-X2011026&ObjType=46&lang=en&limit=0> (accessed August 19, 2013).
- Statistics Canada. 2016. Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Mother Tongue (8), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 5 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census, 25% Sample Data. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016311. Ottawa. Released November 27th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&G-K=0&GRP=1&PID=110702&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=127&V-ID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed January 19th, 2019).
- Statistics Canada. 2021. Table 98-10-0377-01 Mobility status 5 years ago by mother tongue, marital status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810037701-eng> (accessed April 7th, 2023).

### 5.3.2 DISTANCE MOVED

Moves by individuals in older age groups are mainly of a short distance. For example, of the 223,690 elderly British Columbians who changed residence between 2016 and 2021 (see Table 5.3.2a), 48.6% (108,815) moved elsewhere within the province (intraprovincial migrants); 36.5% (81,720) remained in the same census subdivision (non-migrant movers); 10.0% (22,365) moved to B.C. from a different province (interprovincial migrants); while 4.8% (10,790) immigrated from a different country (external migrants).

In comparison to Canada as a whole, a relatively larger proportion of B.C.'s older residents in 2021 lived outside the province than in 2016. During 2016 to 2021, 145,530 or 1.6% of the elderly population in Canada had moved from a different province or a different country (Interprovincial and External Migrants) over the preceding five years; in B.C., the comparable number was 33,155 or 2.3% (Table 5.3.2a).

**Table 5.3.2a: Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2016-2021**

	Canada*				British Columbia*			
Mobility Status	65+	65–69	70–74	75+	65+	65–69	70–74	75+
Non-Movers	5,289,005	1,701,605	1,449,745	2,137,655	740,960	230,090	204,595	306,275
Non-Migrant Movers	549,040	189,920	148,900	210,220	81,720	28,805	22,865	30,050
Migrants	748,560	289,240	211,720	247,600	141,960	56,210	39,980	45,770
Internal Migrants	691,910	265,335	194,845	231,730	131,185	51,495	36,830	42,860
Intraprovincial Migrants	603,025	228,095	169,175	205,755	108,815	41,550	30,610	36,655
Interprovincial Migrants	88,880	37,235	25,670	25,975	22,365	9,945	6,220	6,200
External Migrants	56,650	23,905	16,875	15,870	10,790	4,720	3,150	2,920
Total Movers	1,297,600	479,160	360,620	457,820	223,690	85,015	62,845	75,830
Total	6,586,605	2,180,765	1,810,365	2,595,475	964,650	315,105	267,440	382,105

*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.*

*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample*

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### Source:

Statistics Canada. Mobility status 5 years ago by mother tongue, marital status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. Table 98-10-0377-01 Mobility status 5 years ago by mother tongue, marital status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810037701-eng> (accessed March 4th, 2023).

Vancouver was clearly the destination of choice for external migrants in the period 2016–2021. Of the 10,790 older adults 65+ who moved to B.C. from another country (Table 5.3.2a, External Migrants), 7,915 or 73.4% located in Vancouver, 715 (6.6%) in Victoria and the remaining 2,158 (20.0%) settled elsewhere in the province (Table 5.3.2b).

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

**Table 5.3.2b: Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Vancouver and Victoria, 2016-2021**

	CMA Vancouver§*				CMA Victoria§*			
Mobility Status	65+	65–69	70–74	75+	65+	65–69	70–74	75+
Non-Movers	349,480	109,200	94,440	145,840	66,460	19,775	18,595	28,090
Non-Migrant Movers	41,075	14,915	11,425	14,735	5,425	1,995	1,555	1,875
Migrants	48,200	18,605	13,060	16,535	15,120	5,475	4,450	5,195
Internal Migrants	40,270	15,135	10,825	14,310	14,405	5,180	4,185	5,040
Intraprovincial Migrants	35,140	13,070	9,465	12,605	11,180	3,850	3,200	4,130
Interprovincial Migrants	5,135	2,060	1,360	1,715	3,225	1,330	980	915
External Migrants	7,915	3,470	2,235	2,210	715	300	265	150
Total Movers	89,265	33,515	24,485	31,265	20,535	7,470	6,000	7,065
Total	616,480	209,970	167,295	239,215	137,065	45,375	39,230	52,460

§ CMA – Census Metropolitan Areas

\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Mobility status 5 years ago by mother tongue, marital status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. Table 98-10-0377-01 Mobility status 5 years ago by mother tongue, marital status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810037701-eng> (accessed March 4th, 2023).

# 6. Predominant Groups

## 6.1 ETHNIC ORIGIN GROUPS

The 2021 Census provides information on ethnic origin both as a single selection and as a multiple selection. Individuals were asked in the survey to state ancestral origin of household members and themselves. The survey states, “This question collects information on the ancestral origins of the population and provides information about the composition of Canada’s diverse population.” The question is then asked: “What were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person’s ancestors?” It should be noted that an individual can be included in more than one ethnic category. Also note that ethnic origin reporting is influenced by many factor and significant shifts can occur over time. Thus, these data should be used with caution.

Table 6.1 shows that in 2021, the English were the predominant ethnic group (as a single or multiple selection) among British Columbians, both for the total population (20.7%) and for those 65+ (26.5%). Among persons of all ages in B.C., those of Scottish origin constituted the second largest group (15.8%), followed by Irish (12.8%). Viewing ethnic elderly, the largest groups after the English included: Scottish (17.7%), Irish (13.5%) and German (10.4%).

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

**Table 6.1: Ten Leading Ethnic Origin Groups, Total Population and Population Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2021**

	Total Population of B.C. (4,915,940)*				Population Aged 65+ (964,650)*			
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% of Total Pop. \$	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% of Pop. Aged 65+\$
English	194,780	824,465	1,019,245	20.7%	77,740	177,610	255,350	26.5%
Canadian	256,545	202,780	459,325	9.3%	33,925	26,390	60,315	6.3%
Scottish	82,725	691,730	774,455	15.8%	30,965	139,530	170,495	17.7%
Irish	58,915	569,005	627,920	12.8%	18,120	112,295	130,415	13.5%
German	89,985	449,160	539,145	11.0%	33,445	66,805	100,250	10.4%
Chinese	424,540	93,260	517,800	10.5%	80,625	7,035	87,660	9.1%

	Total Population of B.C. (4,915,940)*				Population Aged 65+ (964,650)*			
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Total Pop. §	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Pop. Aged 65+§
French	36,215	277,605	313,820	6.4%	11,950	45,325	57,275	5.9%
Indian	209,395	66,575	275,970	5.6%	27,020	6,995	34,015	3.5%
Ukrainian	34,350	175,750	210,100	4.3%	13,235	21,975	35,210	3.7%
Dutch	50,115	139,875	189,990	3.9%	14,135	17,090	31,225	3.2%
Total ‡	1,437,565	3,490,205	4,927,770	N/A	341,160	621,050	962,210	N/A

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

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

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

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

*\*Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample*

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. 2021. "Ethnic or cultural origin by generation status: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. 2021 Census, 25% Sample Data" Table 98-10-0338-01 Ethnic or cultural origin by generation status: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810033801-eng> (accessed March 11st, 2023).

## 6.2 PROPORTION OF ETHNIC ORIGIN GROUPS AGED 65+

Among all persons selecting English as a single or multiple ethnic origin, 25.1% were elderly. As shown in Table 6.2, there were several other ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10%. The number of ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10% almost doubled between 2001 and 2006, from 25 to 47, and continued to increase to 56 in 2016 (See Table 6.2). However, in 2021, this number decreased to 46. It should be noted that individuals could select as many ethnic origins as they felt were applicable, and multiple origin ethnic groups were more common among younger age groups.

**Table 6.2: Population Aged 65+, by Selected Ethnic Origin Groups: British Columbia, 2021**

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Acadian	320	855	1,175	0.1%	16.7%
Afghan	450	110	560	<0.1%	5.8%
Other African, N.I.E.	20	80	100	<0.1%	9.5%
Albanian	135	70	205	<0.1%	8.4%
Algerian	25	35	60	<0.1%	6.6%
American (USA)	3,120	16,460	19,580	2.0%	27.4%
Arab, N.O.S.	435	260	695	0.1%	5.5%
Armenian	395	255	650	<0.1%	16.1%
Australian	390	1,315	1705	0.1%	9.2%
Austrian	2,410	8,185	10,595	1.1%	23.4%
Bangladeshi	115	20	135	<0.1%	3.6%
Barbadian	140	150	290	<0.1%	14.9%
Belgian	805	3490	4,295	<0.1%	22.0%
Black, N.O.S.	150	315	465	<0.1%	10.3%
Bosnian	235	165	400	<0.1%	10.6%
Bulgarian	225	180	405	<0.1%	10.9%

	Number 65+				
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
Cambodian (Khmer)	190	135	325	<0.1%	9.7%
Canadian	33,925	26,390	60,315	6.3%	13.1%
Caribbean, N.I.E.	0	10	10	<0.1%	11.1%
Chilean	265	225	490	0.1%	7.9%
Chinese	80,625	7,040	87,665	9.1%	16.9%
Colombian	260	205	465	<0.1%	6.3%
Croatian	2,870	1,255	4,125	0.4%	17.4%
Czech	1,900	2,030	3,930	0.4%	17.5%
Czechoslovakian, N.O.S.	380	1,190	1,570	0.2%	24.0%
Danish	3,585	7,340	10,925	1.1%	19.9%
Dutch (Netherlands)	14,140	17,090	31,230	3.2%	16.4%
Indian (India)	27,015	6,990	34,005	3.5%	12.3%
Egyptian	340	180	520	0.1%	9.0%
English	77,745	177,605	255,350	26.5%	25.1%
Estonian	405	545	950	0.1%	20.2%
Ethiopian	55	10	65	<0.1%	2.4%
Other European, N.I.E.	65	165	230	0.2%	29.7%



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	Number 65+				
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+\$ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+\$
Fijian	1,050	835	1,885	0.2%	11.7%
Filipino	13,385	2,305	15,690	1.6%	9.1%
Finnish	2,455	3,895	6,350	0.6%	18.9%
Flemish	65	350	415	<0.1%	26.9%
French	11,950	45,330	57,280	5.9%	18.3%
German	33,445	66,810	100,255	10.4%	18.6%
Ghanaian	50	35	85	<0.1%	5.1%
Greek	2,440	1,200	3,640	0.4%	15.6%
Guyanese	175	120	295	<0.1%	12.2%
Haitian	45	0	35	<0.1%	2.9%
Hungarian	3,970	4,860	8,830	0.9%	17.0%
Icelandic	915	3,910	4,825	0.5%	18.6%
Inuit	30	130	155	<0.1%	5.9%
Iranian	5,220	955	6,175	0.6%	12.5%
Iraqi	180	80	260	<0.1%	5.7%
Irish	18,115	112,295	130,410	13.5%	20.8%
Italian	12,895	10,525	23,420	2.4%	14.4%

	Number 65+				
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
Jamaican	325	365	690	0.1%	7.0%
Japanese	6,545	785	7,330	0.8%	13.4%
Jewish	2,935	3,860	6,795	0.7%	19.8%
Korean	6,580	135	6,715	0.7%	9.3%
Laotian	150	95	245	<0.1%	9.9%
Indigenous origins from Latin/Central/South American, N.I.E.	90	420	515	<0.1%	7.3%
Latvian	400	585	985	0.1%	20.2%
Lebanese	375	505	880	0.1%	10.4%
Lithuanian	420	1,010	1,430	0.1%	19.5%
Macedonian	60	80	140	<0.1%	11.3%
Maltese	180	200	380	<0.1%	13.8%
Métis	1,715	6,060	7,770	0.8%	7.9%
Mexican	600	515	1,115	0.1%	3.9%
Moroccan	35	65	100	<0.1%	5.0%
Newfoundlander	220	505	725	<0.1%	16.0%
North American Indian	9,215	12,570	21,785	2.3%	8.2%

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	Number 65+				
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
Norwegian	4,990	22,075	27,065	2.8%	19.7%
Other Northern European, N.I.E.	210	410	620	<0.1%	22.2%
Pakistani	920	485	1,405	0.1%	7.4%
Palestinian	115	70	185	<0.1%	6.7%
Peruvian	180	190	365	<0.1%	8.6%
Polish	7,905	18,725	26,630	2.8%	19.8%
Portuguese	4,460	1,495	5,955	0.6%	15.0%
Punjabi	7,705	4,470	12,175	1.3%	13.0%
Québécois	245	730	975	0.1%	15.6%
Romanian	1,485	3,605	5,090	0.5%	16.9%
Russian	6,345	15,010	21,355	2.2%	17.5%
Salvadorean	435	130	565	0.1%	8.6%
Scottish	30,970	139,535	170,505	17.7%	22.0%
Serbian	1,115	530	1645	0.2%	13.0%
Slovak	920	1,190	2,110	0.2%	18.2%
Slovenian	590	290	880	0.1%	16.5%

	Number 65+				
Ethnic Origin Group	Single	Multiple	Total\$	% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
Somali	55	0	55	<0.1%	2.1%
South African	495	885	1,380	0.1%	9.9%
South Asian, <b>N.I.E.</b>	55	90	145	0.1%	12.0%
Spanish	1,565	5,420	6,985	0.7%	12.8%
Sri Lankan	400	165	565	0.1%	8.8%
Swedish	2,985	19,165	22,150	2.3%	21.4%
Swiss	1,835	4,010	5,845	0.6%	20.5%
Syrian	110	215	325	<0.1%	5.0%
Taiwanese	4,425	850	5,275	0.5%	14.1%
Tamil	210	190	400	<0.1%	11.8%
Trinidadian/To- bagonian	165	205	370	<0.1%	9.0%
Turk	280	300	580	0.1%	7.8%
Ukrainian	13,240	21,975	35,215	3.7%	16.8%
Vietnamese	3,435	785	4,220	0.4%	8.1%
Welsh	2,895	21,600	24,495	2.5%	23.5%
West Indian, <b>N.O.S.</b>	140	125	265	<0.1%	14.3%

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Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (964,650)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total‡		
Yugoslav, <b>N.O.S.</b>	335	730	1,065	0.1%	19.2%
<b>Total ‡</b>	497,040	852,150	1,354,170	100.0%	

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

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

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

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

*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2021. Table 98-10-0355-01 Ethnic or cultural origin by gender and age: Canada, provinces and territories. Released October 26th, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810035501-eng> (accessed May 5th, 2023).

### 6.3 VISIBLE MINORITIES

This category refers to the visible minority group to which the respondent belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.” According to the 2021 Census, visible minorities made up 22.3% of the population aged 65 and over in British Columbia. The most prevalent visible minority was Chinese elderly, who made up 10.0% of the older population in British Columbia. The next most prevalent group was South Asian, comprising 6.1% of the B.C. senior population. It is anticipated that these rates of visible minority elders will rise significantly over the next several decades due to the aging of the larger middle-aged cohorts coupled with increasing immigration.

**Table 6.3: Visible Minorities Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2021**

Minority	Total		Males		Females	
Chinese	96,065	10.0%	44,000	9.7%	52,065	10.2%

Minority	Total		Males		Females	
South Asian	58,550	6.1%	27,750	6.1%	30,800	6.0%
Filipino	16,670	1.7%	5,650	1.2%	11,020	2.2%
Japanese	7,070	0.7%	3,010	0.7%	4,060	0.8%
West and Central Asian and Middle Eastern origins	7,820	0.8%	4,070	0.9%	3,750	0.7%
Korean	7,005	0.7%	3,435	0.8%	3,570	0.7%
East or Southeast Asian	6,210	0.6%	2,720	0.6%	3,490	0.7%
Latin, Central and South American origins	4,730	0.5%	1,995	0.40%	2,735	0.5%
Black	3,540	0.4%	1,850	0.40%	1,690	0.30%
Multiple visible minority	4,130	0.4%	1,810	0.4%	2,320	0.5%
Arab	1,650	0.20%	950	0.20%	700	0.10%
Other visible minority	2,090	0.2%	875	0.2%	1,215	0.2%
Total visible minority population	215,530	22.3%	98,115	21.7%	117,415	22.9%
All Others§	749,115	77.7%	354,815	78.3%	394,305	77.1%
All Population*	964,645	100.0%	452,930	100.0%	511,720	100.0%

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

\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample

## Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0355-01 Ethnic or cultural origin by gender and age: Canada, provinces and territories.  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/9810035501-eng> (accessed June 12nd, 2023).

## 6.4 MOTHER TONGUE

In 2021, 69.1% of seniors in British Columbia had English as their mother tongue (single response), compared to 53.9% of those 65+ in the whole of Canada. These percentages are generated by dividing the number found for each group by the single responses total. A higher percentage of B.C. seniors (29.2%) have a non-official language (i.e., neither English nor French) as their mother tongue compared to the rest of Canada (22.0%). After English, the most common single mother tongues spoken by B.C. older adults 65+ is are Sino-Tibetan languages, spoken by 88,610 seniors (9.2%) including Chinese speaking seniors (88,400). While 1,597,575 (24.1%) persons aged 65 and over in Canada had French as their mother tongue, only 16,455 (1.7%) of B.C. older adults aged 65+ had French as a mother tongue.

**Table 6.4: Mother Tongue of Those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2021**

	Canada*			British Columbia*		
Mother Tongue	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Single responses	6,630,720	3,078,740	3,551,980	963,670	452,820	510,850
English	3,573,670	1,669,105	1,904,565	666,070	316,085	349,985
French	1,597,575	737,310	860,265	16,455	7,590	8,865
Non-official languages	1,459,470	672,320	787,150	281,160	129,160	152,000
Aboriginal languages	21,470	9,550	11,920	2,255	1,035	1,220
Italian	161,000	76,445	84,555	10,020	4,985	5,035
Portuguese	56,055	25,210	30,845	4,505	2,025	2,480
Romanian	12,705	5,550	7,155	1,170	535	635

	Canada*			British Columbia*		
Mother Tongue	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Spanish	59,555	25,980	33,575	6,315	2,630	3,685
Flemish	2,010	870	1,140	160	75	85
German	110,635	49,970	60,665	26,860	12,485	14,375
Dutch	49,545	23,405	26,140	10,845	5,055	5,790
Frisian	1,095	550	545	150	75	75
Yiddish	3,510	1,660	1,850	185	95	90
Danish	6,750	3,200	3,550	2,580	1,220	1,360
Icelandic	390	165	225	85	35	50
Norwegian	2,110	980	1,130	1,015	485	530
Swedish	2,170	905	1,265	920	400	520
Celtic languages	1,235	690	545	210	95	115
Slavic languages — Total	175,160	76,415	98,745	21,355	9,610	11,745
Croatian	16,880	7,955	8,925	2,795	1,350	1,445
Czech	8,155	3,950	4,205	2,260	1,110	1,150
Polish	52,410	22,625	29,785	5,005	2,240	2,765
Russian	27,280	10,845	16,435	4,310	1,755	2,555
Ukrainian	37,955	15,860	22,095	3,635	1,535	2,100
Baltic languages	4,715	1,905	2,810	390	175	215



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	Canada*			British Columbia*		
Mother Tongue	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Estonia	2,555	1,085	1,470	335	135	200
Finnish	6,830	2,715	4,115	1,695	655	1,040
Hungarian	21,245	9,960	11,285	3,355	1,665	1,690
Greek	39,175	18,830	20,345	2,320	1,240	1,080
Armenian	8,470	3,860	4,610	340	150	190
Turkic languages	4,365	2,365	2,000	535	300	235
Afro-Asiatic languages	63,315	33,555	29,760	2,730	1,510	1,220
Semitic languages	59,545	31,575	27,970	2,650	1,470	1,180
Indo-Aryan languages – Total	168,965	82,620	86,345	50,065	23,335	26,730
Punjabi Only	94,530	44,950	49,580	40,085	18,695	21,390
Iranian languages	31,310	16,260	15,050	7,950	4,165	3,785
Dravidian languages	25,590	12,205	13,385	955	460	495
Japanese	7,850	3,120	4,730	4,255	1,680	2,575
Korean	21,305	10,215	11,090	7,035	3,465	3,570
Sino-Tibetan languages Total	251,275	115,360	135,915	88,610	40,655	47,955
Chinese Only languages	249,635	114,585	135,050	88,400	40,535	47,865
Tai-Kadai languages	3,075	1,410	1,665	465	170	295

	Canada*			British Columbia*		
Mother Tongue	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Austro-Asiatic languages	28,665	13,130	15,535	4,245	1,975	2,270
Austronesian languages Total	65,640	23,650	41,990	14,125	5,025	9,100
Tagalog (e.g., Filipino) Only	54,110	19,300	34,810	11,305	3,980	7,325
Niger-Congo languages	6,720	3,630	3,090	335	150	185
Creole languages	13,660	5,615	8,045	120	65	55
Multiple responses	131,490	61,155	70,335	19,325	8,785	10,540
Total	6,762,210	3,139,895	3,622,315	982,995	461,605	521,390

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

*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample*

*N.I.E – Not included elsewhere.*

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0181-01 Mother tongue by single and multiple mother tongue responses: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810018101-eng> (accessed April 10th, 2023).

## 6.5 IMMIGRANTS

There were 796,235 older people aged 65 and older in British Columbia whose immigration status was foreign born in 2021 (see Table 6.5, Total – Immigrants 65+). This represents 78.3% of the 2021 total 65+ population (1,016,365) in the province and an increase over the 795,415 (41.9% of total seniors) reported in the *Fact Book 7th Edition*, based on 2016 census data. Most of the immigrants in B.C. aged 65 and over were born in Asia (189,435 or 23.8%), however this group is closely rivalled by immigrants born in Europe (149,620 or 18.8%). An additional 22,615 (2.8%) were born in the United States.

The birth place of immigrant elders differs noticeably for Vancouver and Victoria; in Vancouver, 12.7% of immigrants were born in Europe, lower than the provincial average, whereas in Victoria, 28.2% of immigrants were born there, with 16.6% of all immigrants being born in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, over a quarter (167,420, or 32.1%) of immigrants living in Vancouver were born in Asia and the Middle East, whereas only 5,535 (9.3%) of those living in Victoria were born there. Victoria has a lower elderly American born population than the provincial average; 5.0% of immigrants living in Victoria were born in the United States, compared to 11.9% of those in Vancouver.

**Table 6.5: Place of Birth of Immigrants Aged 65+: British Columbia, Vancouver and Victoria, 2021**

	British Columbia**			Vancouver\$ **	Victoria**
Place of Birth	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
United States	22,615	10,025	12,590	7,075	3,005
Central America	3,255	1,345	1,915	2,125	180
South America	5,310	2,225	3,085	3,375	395
Caribbean and Bermuda	3,555	1,600	1,955	2,400	350
Europe (total)	149,620	71,165	78,455	66,445	16,810
Northern Europe*	71,625	33,750	37,875	27,790	10,625
United Kingdom	62,150	29,345	32,805	23,710	9,625
Western Europe	36,680	17,560	19,120	13,295	3,180
Eastern Europe	18,405	8,520	9,885	10,615	1,465
Southern Europe	22,905	11,340	11,565	14,745	1,540
Africa	11,425	5,665	5,760	8,470	760
Asia (total)	189,435	86,385	103,050	167,420	5,535
West Central Asia and the Middle East	12,045	6,265	5,780	10,885	390

	British Columbia**			Vancouver§ **	Victoria**
Place of Birth	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
Eastern Asia	94,555	43,515	51,040	89,155	2,605
South East Asia	33,235	12,970	20,265	29,155	1,165
Southern Asia	49,605	23,630	25,975	38,230	1,375
Oceania	9,810	4,400	5,410	7,155	550
Total - Immigrants 65+	395,025	182,810	212,215	264,465	27,585

§ Vancouver = Greater Vancouver

\* The Northern Europe total includes the United Kingdom.

\*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0302-01 Immigrant status and period of immigration by place of birth and citizenship: Canada, provinces and territories and census metropolitan areas with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810030201-eng> (accessed April, 10th, 2023).

## 6.6 ABORIGINAL PEOPLES (INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA)

It is estimated that 1,778,395 Canadians selected a single ethnic origin that included North American Indian (1,048,405), Métis (624,220), Inuit (70,545) and Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere (includes those who reported themselves as Registered Indians and/or band members without reporting Aboriginal identity) (35,225) (see Table 6.6). A further 28,860 Canadians claimed to have multiple aboriginal identities. B.C. had 16.1% (290,210) of the total number of people reporting single and multiple Aboriginal ethnic origins in Canada. Although census terms are used here, it is understood that “Aboriginal” and “First Nations” are equated to the more recently adopted term “Indigenous Peoples of Canada.”

While Native Peoples of single or multiple origins constituted 5.9% of the total population of the province in 2021, they were under-represented in the 65 and over population, forming only 3.0% of all elderly. Although only 7.7% of the Aboriginal population of B.C. was aged 65 and over in 2016, there is considerable population aging built into the age structure of Native Peoples. Based on the 8th Edition of the *Fact Book*, approximately 9.9% of Indigenous Peoples of B.C. were 65 and over in 2021, which is expected to climb substantially in the coming years due to increasing life expectancy and declining birth rates.

**Table 6.6: Aboriginal Population (Origin) Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2021\***

Aboriginal Groups	Canada			British Columbia		
	All Age Groups	65+	% of Canadians 65+	All Age Groups	65+	% of B.C. Population 65+
North American Indian single Origin	1,048,405	90,435	1.29%	180,085	16,460	1.62%
Métis single Origin	624,220	68,995	0.98%	97,865	11,025	1.08%
Inuit single Origin	70,545	4,135	0.06%	1,725	130	0.01%
Aboriginal Responses, n.i.e.**	35,225	6,485	0.09%	4,565	860	0.08%
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses***	28,860	2,305	0.03%	5,975	385	0.04%
Total Aboriginal origins population	1,807,250	172,360	2.45%	290,210	28,865	2.84%
Total non-Aboriginal population	34,521,225	6,414,240	91.35%	4,625,730	935,785	92.07%
Total - Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal population****	36,328,475	6,586,600	100.0%	4,915,940	964,650	100.0%

*\* Estimates of associated variables in this table are more affected than most by incomplete enumeration (enumeration was incomplete for a total of 36 Indian reserves and settlements)*

*\*\* 'Aboriginal identities not included elsewhere' includes persons who did not report being First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) but who did report Registered or Treaty Indian status and/or membership in a First Nation or Indian band*

*\*\*\* 'Multiple Aboriginal identities' includes persons who reported being any two or all three of the following: First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit).*

*\*\*\*\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0266-01 Indigenous identity by Registered or Treaty Indian status: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810026601-eng> (accessed April 18th, 2023).

# 7. Living Arrangements

## 7.1 PERSONS BY TYPE

In Table 7.1, we present living arrangements for older adults living in households (institutional arrangements are excluded). It can be observed that the majority (337,540 or 74.2%) of older men resided in living arrangements with a spouse or common-law partner. This can be compared with 272,055 or 53.3% of older women. Even among men aged 75 and over, almost two-thirds (128,425 or 62.5%) lived in such living arrangements. Among older women, the proportion living with married or common-law partners decreases dramatically with age (83,735 or 40.7% among those aged 75+). Older women are far more likely than older men to live alone (see Figures 7.1b and 7.1c). In 2021, 154,790 or 30.3% of women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with only 80,635 or 17.7% of men in this age group.

**Table 7.1: The Elderly Population, by Living Arrangements and Sex: British Columbia, 2021**

	65+			65–74			75+		
Living Arrangements	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Persons in census families	654,565	348,605	305,960	420,215	215,470	204,745	234,350	133,135	101,215
Married spouses and common-law partners	609,595	337,540	272,055	397,435	209,115	188,320	212,160	128,425	83,735
Parents in one-parent families	42,400	9,990	32,410	20,280	5,295	14,985	22,120	4,695	17,425
Children in census families*	2,575	1,085	1,490	2,500	1,065	1,435	75	20	55
Persons not in census families§	310,145	105,990	204,155	162,175	62,310	99,865	147,970	43,680	104,290
Persons living with relatives	49,500	12,380	37,120	22,830	6,175	16,655	26,670	6,205	20,465

Living Arrangements	65+			65–74			75+		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Persons living with non-relatives	25,235	12,970	12,265	17,625	9,205	8,420	7,610	3,765	3,845
Persons living alone	235,425	80,635	154,790	121,725	46,925	74,800	113,700	33,710	79,990
Total Persons	964,730	454,600	510,130	582,390	277,780	304,610	382,320	176,815	205,505

¥ includes “married spouse and common-law partners”, “parents in one-parent families”, “children in census families”

§ includes “persons living with other relatives”, “persons living with non-relatives only”, “persons living alone”

\* There is no age restriction on children. It includes children living with a grandparent or grandparents without a parent present.

Not shown in these tables, the percentage of persons aged 65 and over living in institutions is about 4% for men and 7.4% for women.

Inclusion of institutional living older adults would change the proportions in these tables, which include only non-institutional households.

**Figure 7.1a: Living Arrangements, Population 65+: British Columbia, 2021**

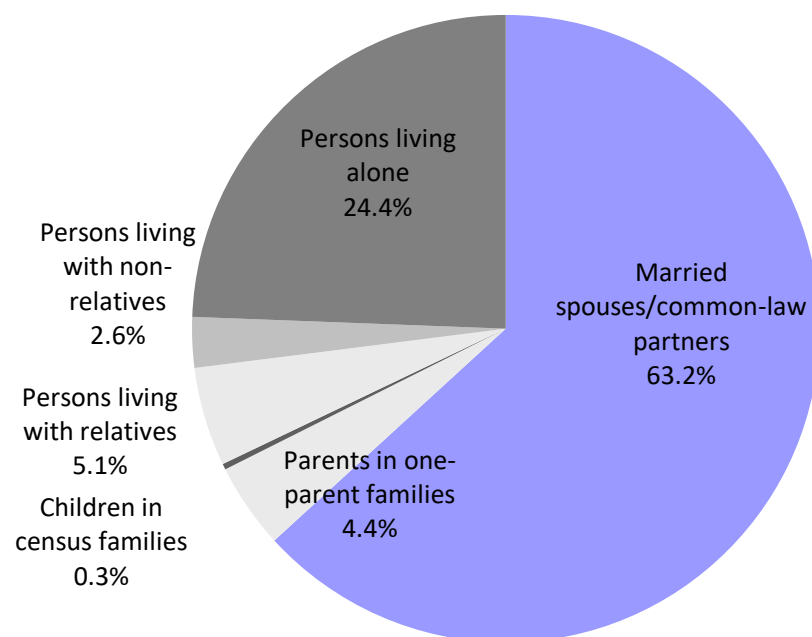




Figure 7.1b: Living Arrangements, Females 65+: British Columbia, 2021

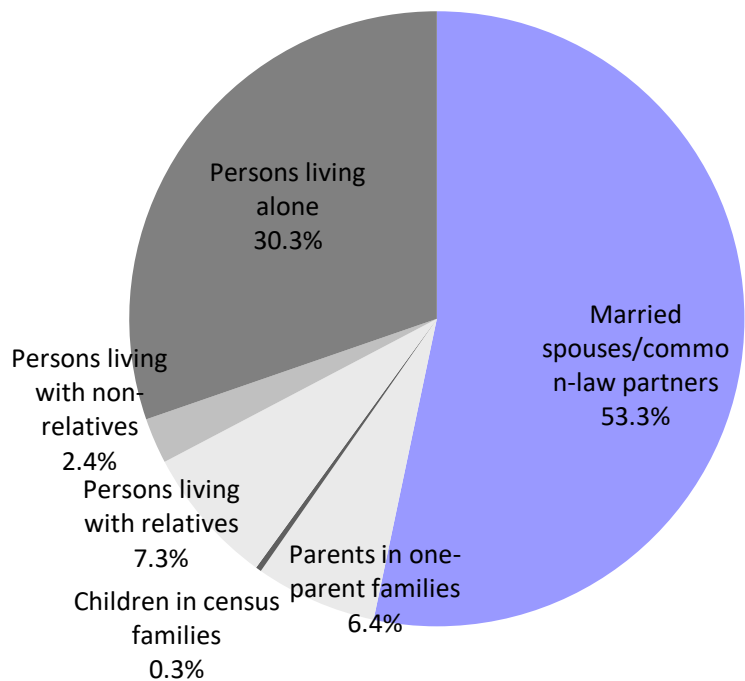
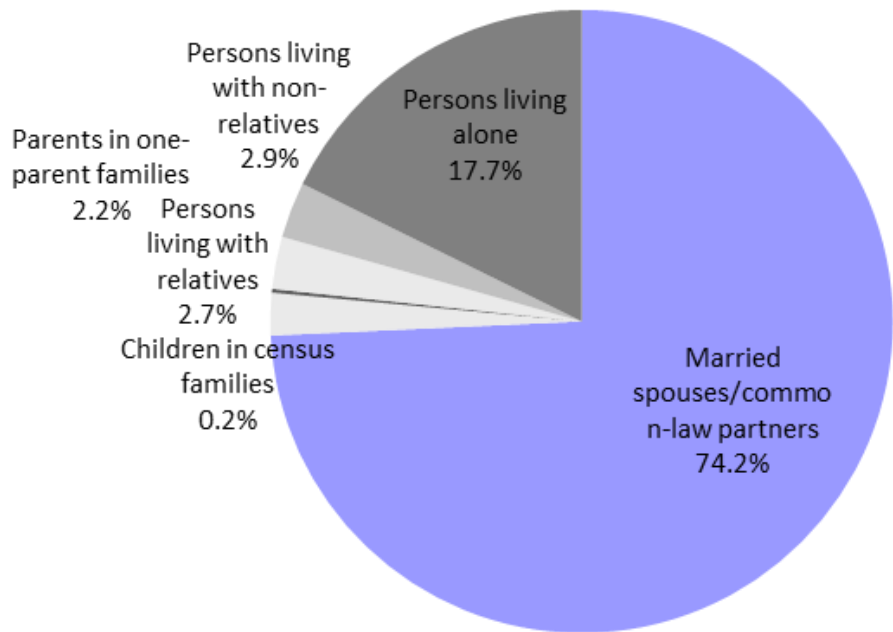


Figure 7.1c: Living Arrangements, Males 65+: British Columbia, 2021



**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0134-01 Census family status and household living arrangements, household type of person, age group and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/9810013401-eng> (accessed May 2nd, 2023)

**7.2 TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS**

As shown in Table 7.2, in 2021, 68.5% of households in B.C. with a maintainer aged 65+ were ‘family households,’ most consisting of a couple without additional family members. Of the 27.7% ‘non-family households,’ most have only one person. These figures are similar to those for all Canadian adults 65+.

**Table 7.2: Types of Households with Primary Maintainer Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2021**

Household Type	Canada		British Columbia	
Census-family households	2,378,345	56.9%	345,320	54.7%
One-census-family households without additional person	2,197,565	52.5%	310,605	49.2%
Couples with children	265,675	6.4%	38,150	6.0%
Couples without children	1,699,130	40.6%	241,400	38.3%
Lone parents	232,765	5.6%	31,045	4.9%
Other Family Households	180,775	4.3%	34,720	5.5%
Non-family households	1,804,495	43.1%	250,900	39.8%
One person only	1,703,610	40.7%	235,955	37.4%
Two or more persons	100,885	2.4%	14,945	2.4%
Total - Household Type	4,182,840	100.0%	630,940	100.0%

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

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

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

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

### **Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0231-01 Age of primary household maintainer by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810023101-eng> (accessed May 2nd, 2023).

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0232-01 Age of primary household maintainer by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810023201-eng> (accessed May 2nd, 2023).

## 8. Housing

### 8.1 HOME OWNERSHIP

Data from the 2021 Census in Table 8.1 show that there are 475,550 (79.8%) homeowners aged 65 and over living in British Columbia, compared to 118,310 (19.8%) renters. In addition, household maintainers aged 65+ are only slightly more likely than those aged 45–64 to be homeowners. In both age groups, approximately three quarters (79.8% and 73.1%, respectively) owned their homes. Home ownership is considerably lower among the 25–44 age group (51.1%), and the under 25 group (18.6%), as one would expect.

**Table 8.1: Private Households, by Tenure, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads: British Columbia, 2021**

Tenure	< 25		25–44		45–64		65+	
Owners	10,805	18.6%	319,550	51.1%	557,275	73.1%	475,550	79.8%
Renters	46,925	80.9%	303,445	48.5%	200,785	26.3%	118,310	19.8%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	250	0.4%	2,580	0.4%	4,010	0.5%	2,350	0.4%
Total	57,980	100.0%	625,575	100.0%	762,070	100.0%	596,210	100.0%

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0232-01 Age of primary household maintainer by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810023201-eng> (accessed May 10th, 2023).

### 8.2 PREFERRED STRUCTURAL TYPE

In 2021, the single-family detached dwelling was the housing form occupied by the majority (48.7%) of British Columbia households headed by persons aged 65 and over. As shown in Table 8.2, another 38.6% lived in dwellings that fall into a category that includes low-rise apartments (less than five stories), semi-detached houses, apartments in duplexes, row houses and other single-detached houses. A further 9.1% lived in high-rise apartments. A small proportion of the elderly population (3.6%) resided in movable dwellings. These patterns were very similar to trends in the 2019 Fact Book.

**Table 8.2: Elderly Households, by Structural Type and Age of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 2021**

	Age of Primary Maintainer					
Dwelling	Total 65+		65–74		75+	
Single Detached	290,540	48.7%	175,905	50.6%	114,635	46.1%
Apartment (5+ stories)	54,015	9.1%	28,290	8.1%	25,725	10.3%
Movable Dwelling	21,350	3.6%	12,285	3.5%	9,065	3.6%
Other Dwelling*	230,305	38.6%	130,855	37.7%	99,450	40.0%
Total	596,210	100.0%	347,335	100.0%	248,875	100.0%

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0232-01 Age of primary household maintainer by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810023201-eng> (accessed May 10th, 2023).

# 9 . Education

## 9.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The elderly in British Columbia tends to be better educated than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. In 2021, in Canada as a whole, 75.8% of seniors reported having a certificate, diploma or degree (not shown in table). Among British Columbians aged 65 and over, the comparable figure was 79.9% (see Table 9.1).

Table 9.1 compares the 65+ population of B.C. with persons aged 25–64. The proportions of elderly in the category of high school certificate or equivalent, and apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma were higher than among younger adults. At the high end of the educational scale, 21.4% of older adults 65 and over reported a university certificate or degree, compared with 35.0% of adults aged 25–64.

**Table 9.1: Highest Level of Schooling of the Population Aged 25–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2021**

	Age 25–64*		Age 65+*					
Highest Level	Total		Total		Males		Females	
No certificate, diploma or degree	216,660	8.0%	183,710	19.0%	80,730	17.8%	102,980	20.1%
High school certificate or equivalent	694,790	25.8%	285,265	29.6%	114,415	25.3%	170,850	33.4%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	217,350	8.1%	90,705	9.4%	67,885	15.0%	22,820	4.5%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	507,405	18.8%	166,070	17.2%	66,075	14.6%	99,995	19.5%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	113,920	4.2%	32,255	3.3%	12,185	2.7%	20,070	3.9%

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	Age 25–64*		Age 65+*					
Highest Level	Total		Total		Males		Females	
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	941,740	35.0%	206,635	21.4%	111,645	24.6%	94,990	18.6%
Total	2,691,865	100.0%	964,640	100.0%	452,935	100.0%	511,705	100.0%

\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample

### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0386-01 Highest level of education by geography: Canada, provinces and territories.  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/9810038601-eng> (accessed June 12nd, 2023).

# 10. Labour Force

## 10.1 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Up until 2001, there was a steady decline in the percentages of men aged 55–64 and 65+ participating in the labour force. In 1986, 14.6% of Canadian men aged 65+ were in the labour force; the participation rate dropped to 14.4% by 1991 and to 13.0% by 1996, however in 2001 this rate increased to 13.6%, in 2006 to 16.2%, in 2011 to 18.5%, in 2016 to 19.8%, and in 2021 to 20.4%. In British Columbia, this upswing also began to take place in 2001, where the participation rate increased from 12% to 12.7% between 1996 and 2001, and then to 15.5% in 2006, 18.0% in 2011, 19.9% in 2016, and 20.8% in 2021. Currently, rates of labour force participation are approximately equal for males in British Columbia and in Canada as a whole, with British Columbia having a slightly higher rate (20.8% vs. 20.4%).

Also shown in Table 10.1, the trend for women is markedly different. There has been a noticeable increase in labour force participation rates for women 25–64. For example, in 1986 in B.C., 36.3% of women aged 55–64 were in the labour force, compared to 60.9% in 2021. Comparable labour force participation rates for B.C. females aged 45–54 are 65.7% and 80.7%. While labour force participation by women aged 65+ has changed very little over time, rates observed in 2021 were higher than they had been in recent decades, in both British Columbia (13.0%) and Canada as a whole (11.7%). These data are consistent with a similar pattern of lengthening work life histories and a delaying of retirement.

**Table 10.1: Labour Force Participation Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 1986–2021**

	Males						Females				
	Year	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
Canada*	1986	94.8%	95.0%	91.7%	71.2%	14.6%	73.7%	72.2%	62.7%	36.2%	4.7%
	1991	94.0%	94.5%	91.5%	66.5%	14.4%	78.5%	79.6%	71.9%	39.2%	5.6%
	1996	91.1%	91.8%	89.0%	62.0%	13.0%	77.8%	79.0%	74.1%	39.4%	4.7%
	2001	91.2%	92.1%	89.3%	64.3%	13.6%	79.8%	81.1%	77.1%	44.0%	5.1%
	2006	91.0%	91.7%	89.4%	68.4%	16.2%	80.6%	81.9%	80.1%	51.4%	6.6%
	2011	90.1%	91.7%	89.2%	69.2%	18.5%	80.9%	82.2%	81.5%	56.0%	9.3%
	2016	89.7%	91.6%	88.9%	71.2%	19.8%	81.4%	82.6%	81.9%	59.1%	10.8%
	2021	88.3%	90.6%	88.5%	71.6%	20.4%	82.0%	82.4%	82.2%	60.9%	11.7%
British Columbia*	1986	95.2%	95.4%	92.3%	69.1%	11.2%	73.1%	73.5%	65.7%	36.3%	4.1%



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	Males						Females				
	Year	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
<b>British Columbia*</b>	1991	94.6%	94.9%	92.5%	65.2%	11.4%	78.9%	80.3%	74.0%	39.8%	4.8%
	1996	91.5%	92.2%	89.6%	64.6%	12.0%	78.4%	79.1%	76.4%	43.1%	4.9%
	2001	89.5%	91.0%	88.4%	66.9%	12.7%	78.7%	79.2%	77.3%	47.8%	5.5%
	2006	90.0%	91.3%	88.5%	70.0%	15.5%	79.7%	80.2%	79.1%	53.0%	7.1%
	2011	89.1%	91.5%	88.2%	69.5%	18.0%	80.3%	79.9%	80.1%	57.2%	9.8%
	2016	89.6%	91.7%	88.5%	71.6%	19.9%	81.1%	80.6%	79.7%	59.2%	11.6%
	2021	88.6%	91.0%	88.4%	72.2%	20.8%	82.7%	81.6%	80.7%	60.9%	13.0%

\* Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 25% sample

### Source:

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

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

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

Statistics Canada. 2008. “Labour Force Activity (8), Aboriginal Identity (8B), Age Groups (13A), Sex (3) and Area of Residence (6A) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001 and 2006 Censuses- 20% Sample Data” (table).

Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-559-XCB2006008. Ottawa. Released July 29, 2008. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Print.cfm?PID=92101&GID=614135&D1=0&D2=0&D3=1&D4=5&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed October 16, 2008).

Statistics Canada. 2013. “Labour Force Status (8), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (15), Aboriginal Identity (8), Age Groups (13B) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over, in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2011 National Household Survey” (table). 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 99-012-X2011039. Ottawa. Released June 26, 2013. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=99-012-X2011039&lang=eng>.

Statistics Canada. 2016. Labour Force Status (8), Highest Certificate, Diploma, or Degree (7), Major Field of Study-Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2016 (14), Age (9) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016284. Ottawa. Released March 28th, 2018. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recense-ment/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&G-C=59&GL=-1&GID=1261890&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=111848&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=124&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=8&D3=1&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (Accessed February 19th, 2019).

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0445-01 Labour force status by major field of study, highest level of education, location of study compared with location of residence, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810044501-eng> (accessed May 12nd, 2023).

## 10.2 FULL- AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Table 10.2 shows that in 2021, B.C. older people 65 and over in the labour force were more likely to have part-time jobs (59,900/143,000 or 41.9%) than Canadian seniors in general (378,300/973,600 or 38.9%). Women were also more likely to work part-time than men. In British Columbia, although the total number of men who worked was more than for women, over half (50.6%) of the female labour force aged 65+ was employed on a part-time basis compared with 36.7% of males.

**Table 10.2: Full-time and Part-time Employment for 65+, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 2021**

Labour Status	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Not in labour force	5,894,800	2,606,200	3,288,600	847,500	376,600	470,900
In labour force	973,600	601,600	372,000	143,000	89,200	53,700
Full-time employment	523,100	350,100	172,900	75,000	50,500	24,500
Part-time employment	378,300	202,400	175,800	59,900	32,700	27,200
Unemployment	72,300	49,100	23,300	8,100	6,100	2,000
Total	7,842,100	3,809,400	4,032,600	1,133,500	555,100	578,300

*Note: Labour force total includes full-time employment, part-time employment, and unemployment. Part-time is defined as less than 30 hours a week; full time is defined as 30 hours or more a week. Unemployment refers to persons who were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and were available for work*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0017-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality (x 1,000). <https://doi.org/10.25318/1410001701-eng> (accessed May 12nd, 2023).

# 11. Unpaid Activities

## 11.1 UNPAID CAREGIVING BY SENIORS

Tables 11.1a and 11.1b presents the percentage of providing unpaid caregiving by age and sex and number of hours per week of unpaid caregiving to any family member or friend with a long-term illness, disability, or aging needs carried out by persons aged 65 and over in British Columbia and Canada, respectively. Note that these data were retrieved based on General Social Survey (GSS) on Caregiving and Care Receiving 2018 (Cycle 32). In Table 11.1b, a higher percentage of men aged 65+ (62.47%) were providing unpaid caregiving less than 10 hours than women aged 65+ (57.60%), whereas a higher percentage of women aged 65+ (10.47%) were providing unpaid caregiving 50 hours or more compared to men aged 65+ (8.55%) in Canada. This pattern is replaced in British Columbia.

**Table 11.1a: Percentage of providing unpaid caregiving by age and sex: British Columbia, GSS 2018\***

	Age group	Total	Males	Females
British Columbia	15-24	3.78%	3.89%	4.70%
	25-34	7.41%	7.79%	9.94%
	35-44	12.00%	11.57%	14.43%
	45-54	19.01%	17.86%	16.27%
	55-64	28.27%	27.77%	22.45%
	65-74	19.94%	21.01%	18.18%
	75+	9.58%	10.11%	14.02%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Table 11.1b: Total Weekly Hours of Unpaid Caregiving by Seniors 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2018**

	Total Weekly Hours	Total	Males	Females
<b>Canada</b>	Less than 10 hours	59.64%	62.47%	57.60%
	10 to 19 hours	13.55%	12.35%	14.42%
	20 to 29 hours	9.62%	9.62%	9.61%
	30 to 39 hours	3.84%	4.16%	3.61%
	40 to 49 hours	3.69%	2.85%	4.29%
	50 hours or more	9.67%	8.55%	10.47%
<b>British Columbia</b>	Less than 10 hours	64.64%	66.96%	63.1%
	10 to 19 hours	11.07%	10.71%	11.31%
	20 to 29 hours	9.64%	8.04%	10.71%
	30 to 39 hours	3.57%	4.46%	2.98%
	40 to 49 hours	2.50%	3.57%	1.79%
	50 hours or more	8.57%	6.25%	10.12%

\* Calculated based on General Social Survey (Caregiving and Care Receiving) 2018

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. General Social Survey (Caregiving and Care Receiving), 2018.  
<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4502>.

# 12. Income

## 12.1 MEDIAN INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS

The median income for males aged 65+ increased from \$34,400 in 2015 to \$37,600 in 2020 — an increase of 9.3% (see Table 12.1). For women aged 65+, median income increased at a slightly higher but with significantly lower amounts rate — from \$24,600 to \$27,600 between 2015 and 2020 (an increase of 12.2%). At all ages, women’s incomes continue to be considerably lower than men’s incomes.

**Table 12.1: Median Income\* of Individuals by Age and Sex: British Columbia, 2015 and 2020\*\***

	Total		Males		Females	
Age	2015	2020	2015	2020	2015	2020
15–24	\$11,900	\$17,600	\$12,400	\$17,800	\$11,400	\$17,400
25–34	\$34,000	\$39,600	\$38,400	\$42,800	\$30,200	\$37,200
35–44	\$43,200	\$49,200	\$52,000	\$56,400	\$36,800	\$44,000
45–54	\$43,200	\$49,200	\$51,600	\$57,600	\$36,800	\$43,600
55–64	\$36,800	\$40,800	\$45,200	\$48,800	\$30,800	\$35,200
65+	\$28,400	\$32,000	\$34,400	\$37,600	\$24,600	\$27,600
Total	\$32,400	\$37,200	\$38,400	\$42,400	\$27,800	\$33,600

\* After-tax income

\*\* Excluding zeros

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0065-01 After-tax income groups by age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810006501-eng> (accessed May 31st, 2023).

## 12.2 POVERTY RATE

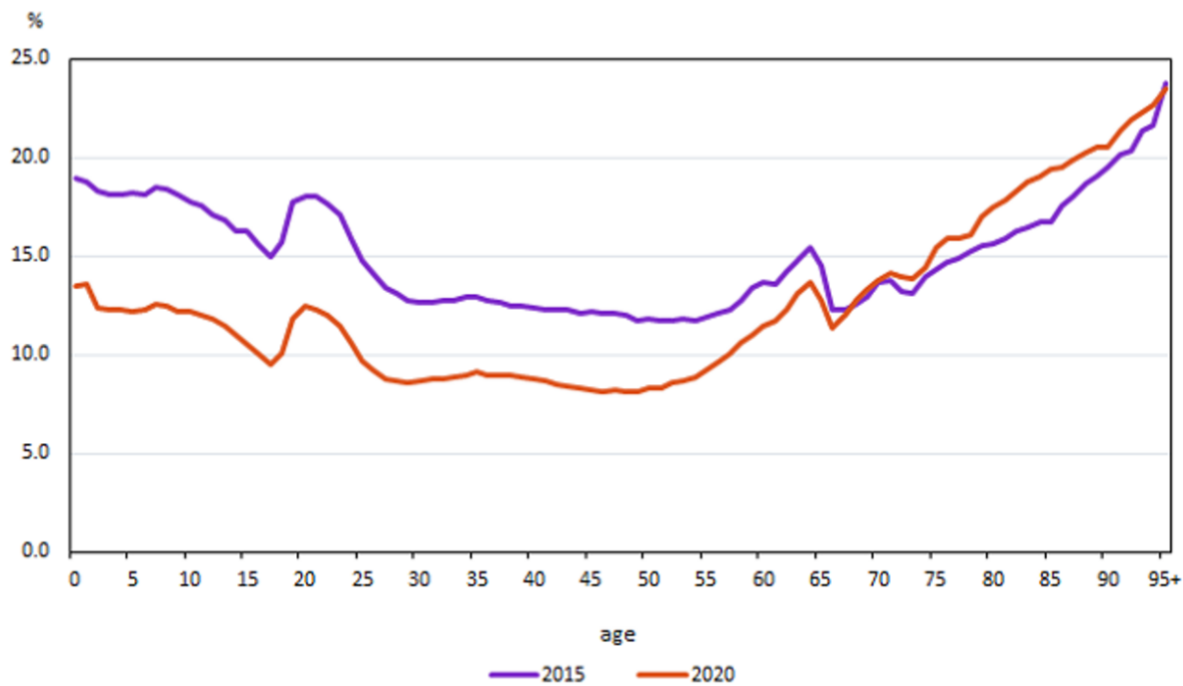
Table 12.2a shows poverty rates by age group and province in 2015 and 2021. For the age group 18-64, British Columbia has the highest poverty rate (20.8%) in 2015; however, it dropped significantly to 9.5% in 2021. For the age group 65+, Prince Edward Island has the highest poverty rate (13.2%) in 2015 but dropped sharply to 5.7% in 2021. In 2021, Nova Scotia has the highest poverty rate by 9.1% among age group 65+, followed by British Columbia (7.0%).

Figure 12.1a shows the low-income rate in Canada between 2015 and 2020. The rate falls for all ages from 2015 to 2021—except for older people aged 65+.

**Table 12.2a: Poverty Rates by Age Group and Province: 2015 and 2021**

Province	2015		2021	
	Age 18-64	Age 65+	Age 18-64	Age 65+
Newfoundland	13.7	8.8	8.9	4.7
Prince Edward Island	15.8	13.2	8.8	5.7
Nova Scotia	17.6	10.4	9.1	9.1
New Brunswick	16.6	11.2	7.0	5.6
Quebec	15.3	6.8	6.0	4.9
Ontario	16.4	6.1	8.7	5.1
Manitoba	14.2	5.9	9.5	5.8
Saskatchewan	12.0	6.1	10.4	5.5
Alberta	9.5	3.1	8.3	5.9
British Columbia	20.8	11.7	9.5	7.0
Canada	15.7	7.1	8.2	5.6

*Note: The poverty rate is based on the Market basket Measure (MBM). MBM is based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It includes the costs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other items for a reference family.*

**Figure 12.1a: The low-income rate in Canada: 2015 and 2020**

Source(s): Census of Population, 2016 and 2021.

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0135-01 Low-income statistics by age, sex and economic family type. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1110013501-eng> (accessed June 10th, 2023).

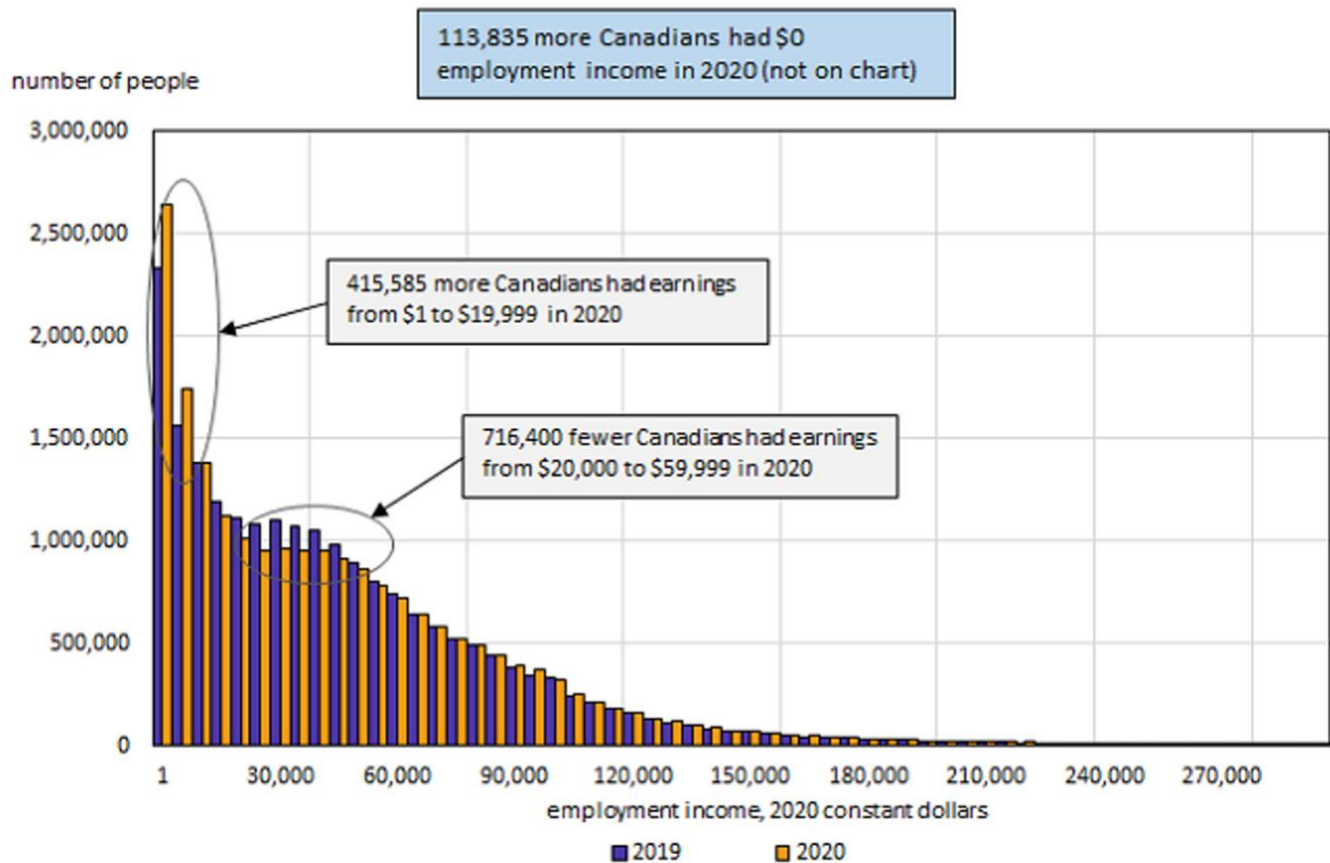
### 12.3 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED LOW INCOME GROUP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly and negatively affected the labour market and incomes of Canadians. This occurred mostly among workers with incomes below the median in the country (the median is the level of income where half the population had higher income and the other half had lower income).

According to Statistics Canada, an additional 113,835 Canadians fell into the category of not receiving employment income in 2020. Among those who received employment income, earnings dropped. For instance, 716,400 fewer Canadians had earnings ranging from \$20,000 to \$59,999 in 2020 than in 2019, while 415,585 more Canadians earned less than \$20,000 during the same period.

Overall, the median employment income was \$37,200 in 2020, down 2.1% from 2019.

**Figure 12.3: Disproportionate earnings distribution in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic**



Note(s): Earners with negative employment income (losses) are excluded.

Source(s): Census of Population, 2021.



# 13. Disabilities

## 13.1 DISABILITY RATES

The term “disability” should be used with caution, given its potentially negative connotation when applied to an individual. We present broad patterns using categories of disability used in population surveys and applied to aggregates or groups on individuals. In 2017, according to the Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), 311,480 (41.7%) British Columbians aged 65 and over reported some degree of disability. This prevalence rate is not comparable to rates reported between 1991 and 2006 for previous editions of the *Fact Book on Aging* due to the fact the CSD uses a stricter different definition of disability than the Participation and Activity Limitations Surveys (PALS) and the Health and Activity Limitations Surveys (HALS), which were the primary data sources for estimates of disability in Canada prior to 2011. The Canadian Survey on Disability is based on a social model of disability that identifies persons with disabilities using the Disability Screening Questions (DSQ). The DSQ measures both the degree to which difficulties are experienced across 10 domains of functioning, and how often daily activities are limited. The main difference between the CSD and earlier measurements of disability based on the PALS/HALS is that, in the CSD, if individuals indicate that they have some difficulty with certain tasks or have an impairment of some type but that this never interferes with their daily activities, then they are not considered to have a disability. We can compare B.C. to Canada using the same measures in a given year. Up until 1991, there were proportionately slightly fewer older people aged 65 and over with disabilities in B.C. than among people of that age bracket in Canada as a whole. The reverse was true for the 2001, 2006, 2012 and 2017 figures (see Table 13.1).

In addition, males and females aged 65 and over have about the same disability rate. In 2017, 142,240 (40.3%) of B.C.’s elderly men reported disabilities, compared with 169,240 (42.9%) women aged 65+. In terms of sheer numbers, among all older people aged 65 and over reporting disabilities in B.C., there were proportionately fewer males (47.2%) than females (52.8%), since there are more females than males aged 65 and over.

**Table 13.1: Disability Rates of the Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1991, 2001, 2006, 2012, and 2017\*\***

	65+ Disability Rate (%)				
	1991	2001	2006	2012	2017
Canada	46.3	40.5*	43.4*	33.2	37.8
British Columbia	44.0	43.2	45.7	34.5	41.7

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

\*\*2017 was the most recent available data for this table

Note: 2012/2017 data from the CSD, 2006/2001 data from PALS, and earlier data from HALS should not be compared with each other. For PALS and HALS there were significant differences in the 1991 and 2001 Census filter questions, the sampling plans that were used in HALS and PALS and the content of the questionnaires. For more information please consult: *A new approach to disability data: changes between the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) and the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS)*. For CSD and PALS the concepts and methods used

*to measure disability in the 2012 CSD represent a significant change from those used in the 2006 PALS. For more information please consult: The 2012/2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) and the 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). The Canadian Survey on Disability identifies persons with disabilities using the Disability Screening Questions (DSQ), which are based on the social model of disability. The DSQ first measure the degree to which difficulties are experienced across 10 domains of functioning, then ask how often daily activities are limited by these difficulties. Only persons who report a limitation in their day-to-day activities are identified as having a disability.*

#### **Source:**

- Statistics Canada. 1992. "1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey." The Daily, Tuesday, October 13, 1992. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 11-001-E. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1991. "Table 1: Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories." Health and Activity Limitations Survey, 1991 (HALS-91). Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-602 – 82-612. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 2002. A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, PALS 2001. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-577-XIE. Ottawa. p. 17, 27.
- Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.1-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, Canada, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 6.
- Statistics Canada. 2007. "Table 2.11-1 – Adults and children with and without disabilities by sex and age groups, British Columbia, 2006" (table). Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE. Ottawa. p. 26.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. "Table 1.11 Prevalence of disability for adults by sex and age group, British Columbia, 2012." Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released February 5, 2014. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pu-b/89-654-x/2013001/tbl/tbl1.11-eng.htm> (accessed February 16, 2014).
- Statistics Canada. 2012. "Table 1.1 Prevalence of disability for adults by sex and age group, Canada, 2012." Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released February 5, 2014. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pu-b/89-654-x/2013001/tbl/tbl1.1-eng.htm> (accessed February 16, 2014).
- Statistics Canada. 2017. Table 13-10-0374-01. Persons with and without disabilities aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories. Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released November 28th, 2018. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310037401> (Accessed February 19th, 2019).

### **13.2 SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES BY AGE**

In 2017, there were an estimated 311,480 B.C. older adults aged 65 and over with disabilities, representing 41.7% of the total population of seniors in B.C (see Table 13.2). Of those, 166,210 were aged 65–74 (35.9% disability rate) and 145,260 were aged 75+ (51.1% disability rate). Note that this rate includes many older people with a mild limitation that does not significantly affect the degree to which they can live independently.

For males, the disability rates by age are as follows: 40.3% for persons 65+; 35.2% for 65–74; and 49.2% for 75+. For females, the disability rates by age are as follows: 42.9% for persons 65+; 36.6% for 65–74; and 52.7% for 75+ (see Table 13.2).

**Table 13.2: Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities and Disability Rates, by Sex and Age Group: British Columbia, 2017\***

Seniors with Disabilities		
Age	Number	Rates
Both Sexes		
Total 65+	311,480	41.7%
65–74 years	166,210	35.9%
75+ years	145,260	51.1%
Males		
Total 65+	142,240	40.3%
65–74 years	78,340	35.2%
75+ years	63,900	49.2%
Females		
Total 65+	169,240	42.9%
65–74 years	87,880	36.6%
75+ years	81,360	52.7%

\*2017 was the most recent available data for this table

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2012. "Table 1.11 Prevalence of disability for adults by sex and age group, British Columbia, 2012." Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released February 5, 2014. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pu-b/89-654-x/2013001/tbl/tbl1.11-eng.htm> (accessed February 16, 2014).

Statistics Canada. 2017. Table 13-10-0374-01. Persons with and without disabilities aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories. Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released November 28th, 2018. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310037401> (Accessed February 19th, 2019).

### 13.3 NATURE OF DISABILITIES

Overall, among those aged 65 and over in B.C., the most frequently reported disabilities were pain (68.5%), mobility (57.2%), flexibility (56.1%), and hearing (37.9%) (see Table 13.3).

**Table 13.3: Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities by Nature of Disability: British Columbia, 2017\*\***

Nature of Disability	Total Number	%
Mobility	178,070	57.2
Flexibility	174,750	56.1
Dexterity	83,340	26.8
Pain	213,510	68.5
Hearing	118,090	37.9
Seeing	86,790	27.9
Memory	50,370	16.2
Mental/Psychological	48,690	15.6
Learning	33,250	10.7
Developmental	6,480*	2.1*
Unknown	6,260	2.0*
Total population with disabilities	311,480	100.0

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

*\*Use with caution*

*\*\*2017 was the most recent available data for this table*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2017. Table 13-10-0376-01. Type of Disability for persons with disabilities aged 15 and over, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories. Canadian Survey on Disabilities, 2017. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released November 28th, 2018. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310037601> (Accessed February 19th, 2019).

## 13.4 SEVERITY OF DISABILITIES

The CSD sub-divides respondents into those whose disabilities are mild, moderate, severe and very severe. Classification is based on responses to screening questions concerned with hearing, seeing, dexterity, mobility, flexibility, pain, learning, memory, development and mentality/psychology. An index measuring the severity of the disability was constructed based on the answers to the survey questions. Points were given according to the

intensity and the frequency of the activity limitations reported by the respondent. A global severity score is derived based on all disability types. A person's global severity score is calculated by taking the average of the scores for the 10 disability types. To make the severity score easier to use, severity classes were established.

Table 13.4 shows that of all British Columbians aged 65 and over reporting a disability in 2017, 31.9% were classified as mildly disabled, 21.1% as moderately disabled, 21.2% as severely disabled and 25.8% as very severely disabled. There are significant differences in disability type by age group. The proportions for persons aged 65–74 was: 35.3% mild, 21.1% moderate, 21.9% severe and 21.8% very severe. Among those aged 75+, they were 28.1% mild, 21.1% moderate, 20.4% severe and 30.3% very severe.

**Table 13.4: Population Aged 65+ with Disabilities Residing in Private Households, by Level of Severity and Age Group: British Columbia, 2017\***

		Seniors with Disabilities	
Age Range	Severity	Number	%
65+	Mild	99,440	31.9
	Moderate	65,760	21.1
	Severe	66,040	21.2
	Very Severe	80,230	25.8
	Total	311,480	100.0
65–74 years	Mild	58,600	35.3
	Moderate	35,060	21.1
	Severe	36,360	21.9
	Very Severe	36,190	21.8
	Total	166,210	100.0
75+ years	Mild	40,850	28.1
	Moderate	30,710	21.1
	Severe	29,680	20.4
	Very Severe	44,030	30.3
	Total	145,260	100.0

*\*2017 was the most recent available data for this table*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2017. "Table 13-10-0375-01. Severity of disability for persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, and territories 2017." Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-654-X. Ottawa. Released November 28th, 2018. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310037501> (Accessed February 19th, 2019).

# 14. Falls and Injury

## 14.1 DEATHS AND INJURY FROM FALLS

Unlike other external causes of death (e.g., traffic accidents), falls disproportionately injure or kill older people. In Canada, falls are the most common cause among ‘other external causes of accidental injury.’ (See Table 14.1a) In addition to falls, external causes include intentional self-harm, assault, event of undetermined intent, legal intervention and operations of war, complications of medical and surgical care, and sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality. In 2020, 92.6% of morbidity/mortality among older adults aged 80+ were due to other external causes of accidental injury, where falls comprise the largest proportion. Based on these patterns, it has been estimated that falls among older adults are a serious economic burden. B.C. data were not available.

**Table 14.1a: External causes of morbidity and mortality: Canada, 2020**

Injury	<65		65–79		80+	
Transport accidents	1,281	11.9%	267	9.1%	117	1.8%
Other external causes of accidental injury*	5,635	52.2%	1,998	68.0%	5,970	92.6%
Intentional self-harm	3,180	29.5%	477	16.2%	181	2.8%
Assault	364	3.4%	24	0.8%	6	0.1%
Event of undetermined intent	200	1.9%	27	0.9%	17	0.3%
Legal intervention and operations of war	14	0.1%	1	0.03%	0	0
Complications of medical and surgical care	33	0.3%	58	2.0%	59	0.9%
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality	80	0.7%	87	3.0%	99	1.5%

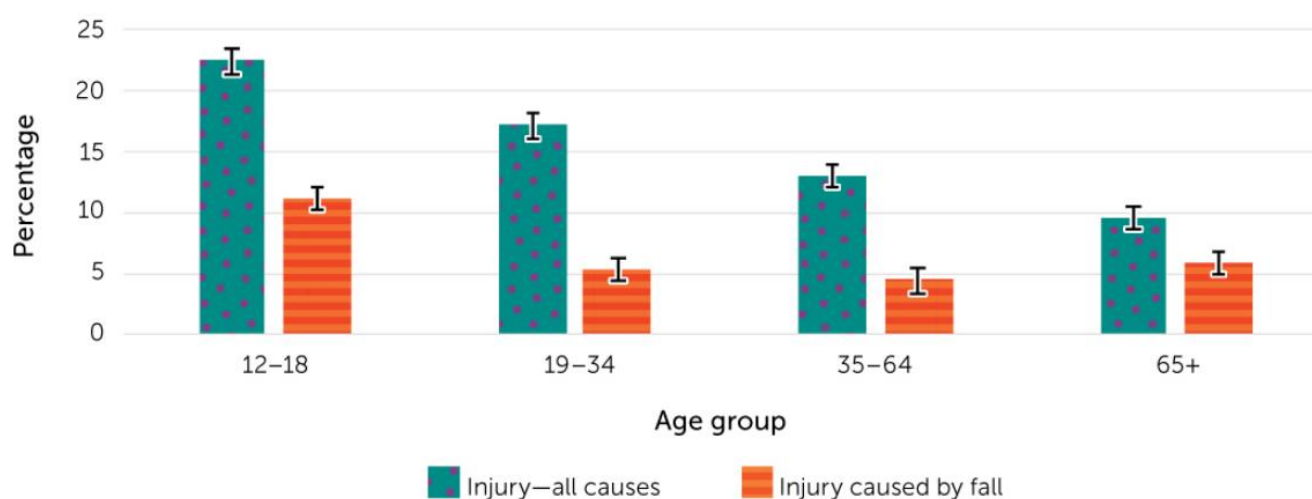
Injury	<65		65–79		80+	
Total	10,787	100.0%	2,939	100.0%	6,449	100.0%

*\*Includes falls which comprises the largest proportion*

Figure 14.1a shows the prevalence of self-reported injuries due to any cause with injuries due to a fall, by age group. Among adults aged 19 or older, the prevalence of injuries consistently declined at older ages; however, the proportion of fall-related injuries increased. In the age 65+ group, 9.5% reported an injury, 61% of which were resulted from a fall. At ages 19 to 64 group, the percentages reporting injuries were in the 13% to 17% range, and about a third of those injuries were due to fall.

Accidents (unintentional injuries) where falls comprise the largest proportion was the third most common cause of death among Canadians following malignant neoplasms and disease of heart (see Table 14.1b).

**Figure 14.1a: Prevalence of self-reported injuries (all cause versus fall-related) by age: Canada, 2017-2018**



Source(s): Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) for 2017-2018

**Table 14.1b: Mortality rate for Accidents (Falls) compared to other leading causes of death and sex (Standardized rates\*): Canada, 2020**

Cause of death	Both sexes	Males	Females
Malignant neoplasms	182.6	214.8	158.7
Diseases of heart	118.3	153.5	88.9



## 92 14. Falls and Injury

Cause of death	Both sexes	Males	Females
Accidents (unintentional injuries) **	37.3	49.8	25.4
Cerebrovascular diseases	30.2	32.1	28.3
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	25.8	30.4	22.5
Diabetes mellitus	17.1	21.8	13.1
Influenza and pneumonia	12.9	15.9	10.8
Alzheimer's disease	12.3	10.8	13.2
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	10.1	13.5	6.9
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	10.1	15.3	5.1
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	8.9	10.9	7.4
Assault (homicide)	1.1	1.7	0.4

\* Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 population

\*\* Includes falls which comprise the largest proportion. Unintentional ("accidental") injuries include injuries due to causes such as motor vehicle collisions, falls, drowning, burns, and poisoning, but not medical misadventures/complications (ICD-10 V01 to X59, Y85 to Y86).

### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0156-01 Deaths, by cause, Chapter XX: External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 to Y89).  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/1310015601-eng> (accessed June 26th, 2023).

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0800-02 Age-standardized mortality rate by leading cause of death and sex.  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/1310080001-eng> (accessed July 3rd, 2023).

Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey: Combined data, 2017 and 2018. Ottawa (ON): Statistics Canada; 2019. Available from: [www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/191022/dq191022d-eng.htm](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/191022/dq191022d-eng.htm) (accessed July 3rd, 2023).

# 15. Functional Status and Chronic Conditions

## 15.1 PERCEIVED HEALTH

Perceived health refers to the perception of a person's health in general, either by the person himself or herself, or, in the case of proxy response, by the person responding. Health means not only the absence of disease or injury but also physical, mental and social well-being. As presented in Table 15.1a, approximately half of people aged 65 and over in both Canada and B.C. perceive their health to be “very good to excellent”: Canada (49.9%), B.C. (51.8%). These numbers are lower than those of younger age groups. For example, in 2021, 54.9% of the 50–64-year-old age group in B.C., 59.5% of the 35–49-year-old age group, and 66.1% of the 18–34-year-old age group perceived their health as being very good or excellent. Very similar rates were found for these age groups in Canada. Rates did not vary greatly between male and female respondents.

**Table 15.1a: Perceived Health, Very Good to Excellent by Selected Age Groups: Canada\* and British Columbia, 2021**

Canada						
Age	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
18–34	5,578,100	66.1	2,881,300	66.6	2,696,700	65.6
35–49	4,507,600	61.3	2,255,200	62.0	2,252,400	60.7
50–64	4,233,000	56.0	2,092,400	56.1	2,140,600	55.9
65+	3,369,700	49.9	1,525,300	48.4	1,844,500	51.2
British Columbia						
18–34	774,900	66.1	419,500	70.0	355,500	62.0
35–49	591,100	59.5	275,600	56.9	315,500	62.0
50–64	581,300	54.9	301,300	58.7	280,000	51.4
65+	504,900	51.8	222,800	48.6	282,000	54.7

\* Excluding territories

**Source:**

Functional health status: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0451-01 – Archived- Health indicators, annual estimates, 2003–2014. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310045101> (accessed April 22nd, 2019).

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-02 Perceived health, by age group. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310009601-eng> (accessed July 3rd, 2023).

**15.2 CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

Several chronic health conditions are associated with aging. The most commonly reported conditions among older persons are arthritis, high blood pressure and diabetes, in that order. As shown in Figures 15.2a and 15.2b, these three conditions rise among older people (65+) compared to persons aged 50–64. For instance, the prevalence of self-reported high blood pressure is 23.8% among persons aged 50–64 compared to 40.1% among those aged 65+. Approximately 41.3% of older adults aged 65 and over report having arthritis, and 13.7% report having diabetes (see Table 15.2).

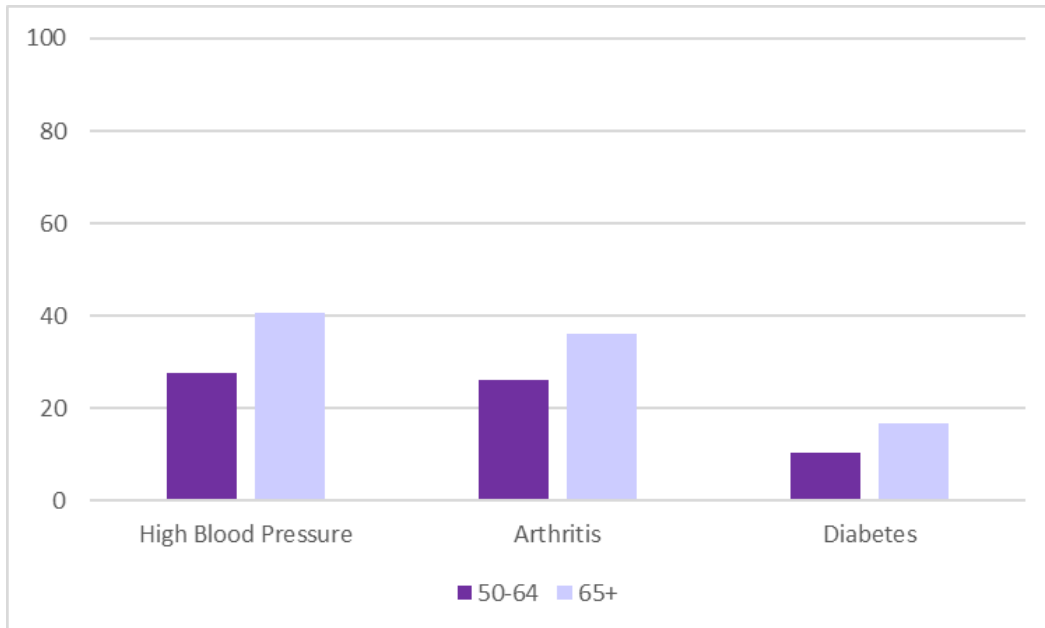
Prevalence rates for these three most common chronic illnesses are also shown in Figure 15.2a (rates for males 50–64 and 65+) and Figure 15.2b (rates for females 50–64 and 65+).

**Table 15.2: Common Chronic Conditions by Selected Age Groups: British Columbia, 2021**

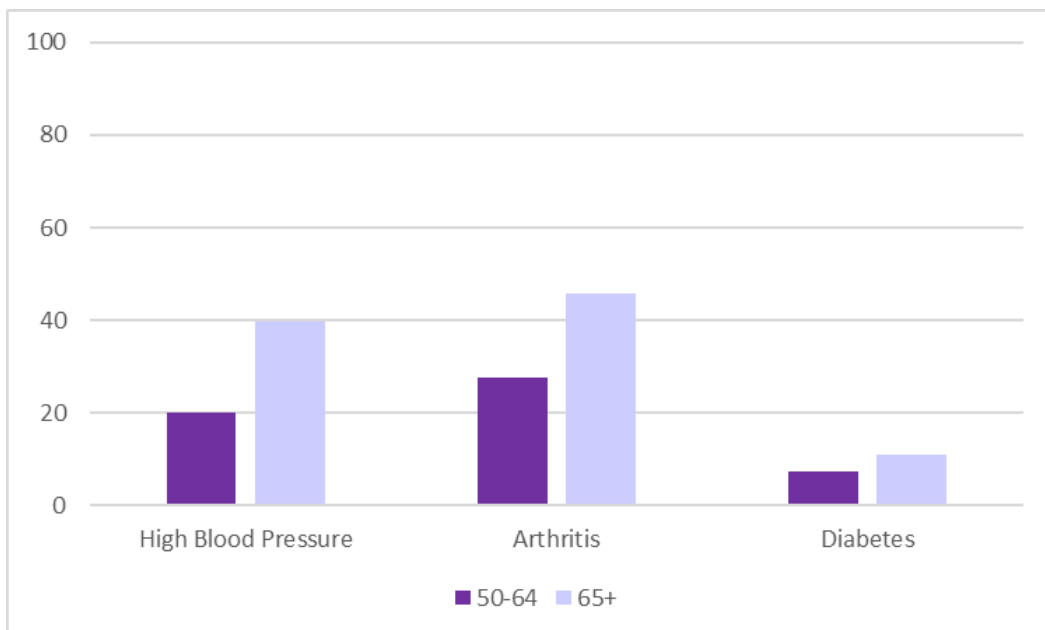
		Both sexes		Males		Females	
		50–64	65+	50–64	65+	50–64	65+
High Blood Pressure	Number	247,700	407,900	139,600	192,900	108,100	215,000
	%	23.8	40.1	27.8	40.7	20.0	39.6
Arthritis	Number	280,500	420,000	130,500	171,600	150,100	248,400
	%	27.0	41.3	26.0	36.2	27.8	45.8
Diabetes	Number	92,100	139,700	52,100*	80,200	40,000*	59,600
	%	8.9	13.7	10.4	16.9	7.4*	11.0

*\*Use data with caution*

**Figure 15.2a: Prevalence of Common Chronic Conditions (Men), 50–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2021**



**Figure 15.2b: Prevalence of Common Chronic Conditions (Women), 50–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2021**



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### Source:

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-01 Health characteristics, annual estimates. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310009601-eng> (accessed July 4th, 2023).

Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 5th, 2023).

# 16. Health Behaviours

## 16.1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Table 16.1a presents 2021 data on self-reported rates of physical activity for older people aged 65 and over in Canada and B.C. This measure is based on the number of minutes of physical activity reported in the last 7 days and indicates whether adults (18 and over) are physically active, meaning that they participate in at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity per week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more. This is the recommended level based on government guidelines. Moderate exercise is defined as an activity that causes a person to breathe harder and sweat at least a little. As seen in this table, about half of older adults in B.C. (50.7%) self-report 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Older males in B.C. were found to have slightly higher rates than females, with 53.4% of males reporting 150 minutes of physical activity per week compared to 48.3% of females. Rates for both populations were found to be significantly higher (about 10 percentage points) in B.C. than for Canada as a whole. It should be noted that these data are based on self-reported physical activity levels, which tend to be overestimates of actual behaviour.

**Table 16.1a: Self-Reported Physical Activity of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2021**

		Canada			British Columbia		
		Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
Self-reported physical activity, 150 minutes per week*	Number	2,684,000	1,370,400	1,313,500	487,000	241,900	245,100
	%	40.4	44.1	37.1	50.7	53.4	48.3

*\*This table is based on newly released Statistics Canada data (Health characteristics, annual estimates, as opposed to Health indicators, annual estimates). It does not include active/inactive physical activity, only self-reported physical activity, 150 minutes per week, by age group*

### Source:

Table 16a: Statistics Canada. 2014. Archived- Health Indicators, annual estimates, 2003–2014. Table 13-10-0451-01. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310045101#timeframe>. Accessed April 23rd, 2019.

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-13 Physical activity, self-reported, adult, by age group. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310009601-eng> (accessed July 6th, 2023).

## 16.2 OBESITY AND EATING HABITS

Table 16.2 provides data on body mass index (weight/height squared). The definitions of weight categories are: obese ( $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ ), overweight ( $25.0\text{--}29.9\text{kg/m}^2$ ), normal weight ( $18.5\text{--}24.9\text{kg/m}^2$ ) and underweight ( $< 18.5\text{kg/m}^2$ ). For self-reported body mass index, only figures for overweight or obese individuals were available.

It is well known that obesity rates have been on the rise for the last several decades. Obesity is associated with diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses. However, it should be noted that some studies show a protective mortality effect for persons aged 60 and over whose BMI places them in the overweight or obese category.

In 2021, among B.C. residents aged 65 and older, a total of 56.1% are overweight or obese; this is slightly lower than the proportion for Canada as a whole (60.5%). A larger proportion of B.C. residents are overweight (34.2%) than obese (21.9%). Obesity rates in B.C. are slightly higher for males aged 65+ than females (22.8% vs. 21.1%). Also, a higher percentage of males are overweight (34.8%) compared to females (33.6%). Comparisons with earlier editions of the *Fact Book* suggest that patterns of obesity among older adults had been rising, but slightly decreased recently. For instance, the total rate of obesity for B.C. men aged 65+ in 2006 was 14.3%, and in 2012 was 14.9%. In addition, the total obesity rate for B.C. women aged 65+ in 2006 was 11.5%, in 2012 it was 15.6%, and in 2017 rates of 25.8% and 23.8%, respectively for older men and women were observed. However, it decreased slightly to 22.8% and 21.1%, for older men and women in 2021.

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

**Table 16.2: Self-Reported Body Mass Index (BMI), Persons Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2021**

	Total		Males		Females	
Body Mass Index	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada						
Overweight	2,433,300	34.7	1,272,200	39.5	1,161,100	30.6
Obese	1,810,100	25.8	818,600	25.4	991,500	26.1
Total Overweight and Obese	4,243,400	60.5	2,090,800	64.9	2,152,600	56.7
British Columbia						
Overweight	347,300	34.2	165,000	34.8	182,300	33.6
Obese	222,600	21.9	108,200	22.8	114,400	21.1
Total Overweight and Obese	569,900	56.1	273,200	57.6	225,200	54.7

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-20 Body mass index, overweight or obese, self-reported, adult, age groups (18 years and older)  
<https://doi.org/10.25318/1310009601-eng> (accessed July 6th, 2023).



# 17. Health Services Utilization

## 17.1 PHYSICIAN HEALTH SERVICE EXPENDITURES

Table 17.1 shows that in B.C. in 2016, the majority of persons aged 65 and over had contact with their medical doctor in the previous 12 months (88.8%). Contact rates for seniors were higher than those for younger age groups (18–34, 64.2%; 35–49 74.2%; 50–64, 80.8%). Females consistently have higher rates of contact with medical doctors across the life course.

**Table 17.1: Contact with Medical Doctors in the Past 12 Months: British Columbia, 2016\***

Age	Both Sexes	Males	Females
18–34	64.2%	52.2%	76.1%
35–49	74.2%	70.4%	77.9%
50–64	80.8%	74.6%	86.8%
65+	88.8%	87.7%	89.9%

\*2016 was the most recent available data for this table

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2017. Health Characteristics, annual estimates. Table 13-10-0096-01 (formerly CANSIM 105-0508). Canadian Community Health Survey-Annual Component. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310009601>. Accessed February 20th, 2019.

## 17.2 HEALTH SERVICE EXPENDITURES

Table 17.2 shows the health services expenditures by age and sex in British Columbia. Older adults aged 70-74 spent the highest amount of money on health services compared to other age groups, followed by age group 65-69. The health services expenditure actually decreased among those older than 75 years. This may be due to a decline in major surgeries for persons of extreme ages. Health expenditures for female adults 65 and over were higher than their male counterparts after aged 80, whereas males spent more money on health services before age 80.

**Table 17.2: Health services expenditures by age and sex: British Columbia, 2020\***

Age	Both Sexes	Males	Females
65-69	2,078.6	1,112.2	966.4
70-74	2,156.4	1,140.6	1,015.8
75-79	1,872.6	952.5	920.1

Age	Both Sexes	Males	Females
80-84	1,680.1	788.1	892.0
85-89	1,664.9	699.0	965.9
90+	1,351.5	429.7	921.8
Total	25,621.8	12,449.2	13,172.6

**Source:**

National Health Expenditure Database, 2022, Canadian Institute for Health Information. Table E.1.23.1 Estimate of total provincial/territorial government health expenditures by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2020 (accessed July 9th, 2023).

\* *Million dollars*

## **Simon Fraser University Gerontology Research Centre**

### **History**

The Simon Fraser University Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) was established in 1982 under the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Population Aging Strategic Initiative. The Gerontology Programs followed in 1983 and the two units create strong research, training and knowledge translation synergies.

The vision of the GRC is to enhance the well-being of older adults through research, training and outreach in the policy and practice arenas, including government, NGOs, the private sector, and other service organizations. The GRC promotes and conducts innovative interdisciplinary research on topics relating to individual and population aging and provides research and consultation services to the academic community, government, NGOs, public and private organizations.

The GRC supports several post-doctoral and researchers in residence; a Communication Officer; has a highly active publications program (including our two newsletters, "GRC News" and "Seniors' Housing Update"); hosts workshops and conferences (John K. Friesen Conference in Gerontology, Ellen M. Gee Memorial Lecture); and provides Free Public Lectures. The GRC also houses two SFU Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging data collection sites that will continue to bring in substantial funding to SFU and the GRC over the course of this 20-year longitudinal study of over 51,000 Canadians aged 45-85 at baseline (2012), and supports researchers in mining this research resource.

The GRC is committed to strengthening research capacity in aging by fostering strong mutually supportive relationships with faculty and research hubs across SFU and beyond, including future provincial, national and international network development. The GRC maintains an exceptional national and international reputation as a top-tier research centre, and supports strong community linkages to further enhance the well-being of older adults.

### **Research Interests**

The GRC's research is organized into six main challenge areas that together address many of the core tenants of gerontology.

**Aging and the Built Environment:** Research on planning, design, development and evaluation of housing, care facilities, and community environments.

**Changing Demography and Lifestyles:** Examination of the impact of changes in the timing of life events and in retirement, pension and income support, policy and programs.

**Culture and Aging:** Examination of ethno-cultural dynamics of aging, including access to services, diaspora, family relationships, and resilience.

**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 facilitate access to rights and services.

**Technology and Aging:** Development and evaluation of technologies to support independent living and enhance quality of life.

**Population Health and Aging:** Examination of determinants and consequences of healthy aging, development and evaluation of programs that foster social connectedness, positive mental and physical health, resilience, coping with chronic illness, and prevention of disability.