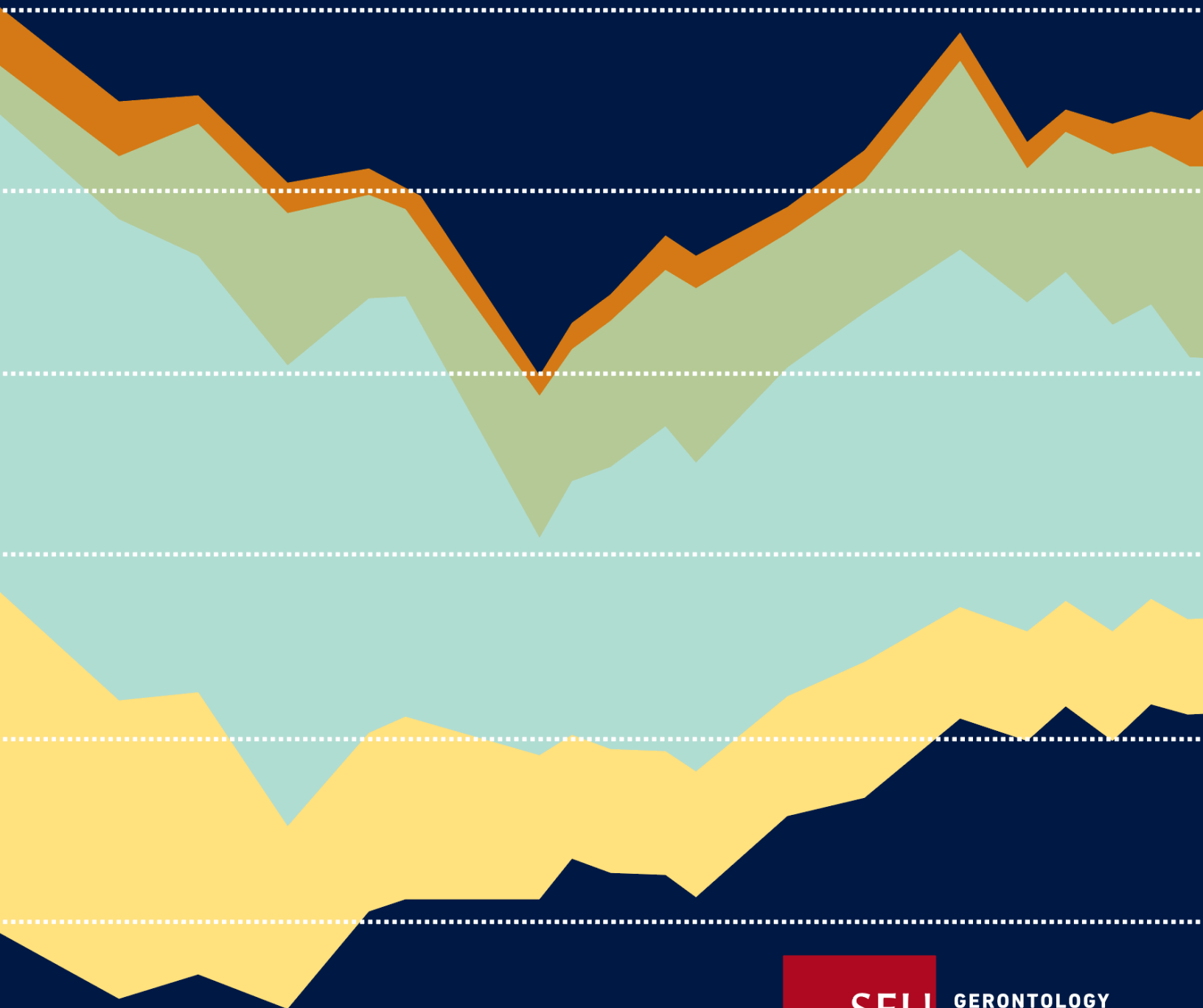


# Fact Book on Aging in B.C. and Canada

SEVENTH EDITION

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GERONTOLOGY  
RESEARCH CENTRE



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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 seventh 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 current seventh edition of the Fact Book is based on the 2016 Census, 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 years of data have been covered in the seven 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 six 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 2016 to update material from the sixth edition deemed important. In some instances, we have replicated the 2011 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. 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 over time. 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. Although census terms are used to denote categories of Indigenous elders, the terms “Aboriginal” and “First Nations” are equated to the more recently adopted term “Indigenous Peoples of Canada.” It is hoped

that this monograph contributes to gerontological knowledge, practice and policy in efforts to promote well-being over the life course.

# 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 848,985 in 2016 (see Table 1.1a). This increment reflects a rate of growth that is more than seven times greater than the rate for the total population of the province, which increased from 178,657 to 4,648,055 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 2016, 18.3% of British Columbians were aged 65 and over. Projections for the years 2021, 2026, 2031 and 2036 are 20.6%, 22.6%, 24.5% and 25.5% respectively.

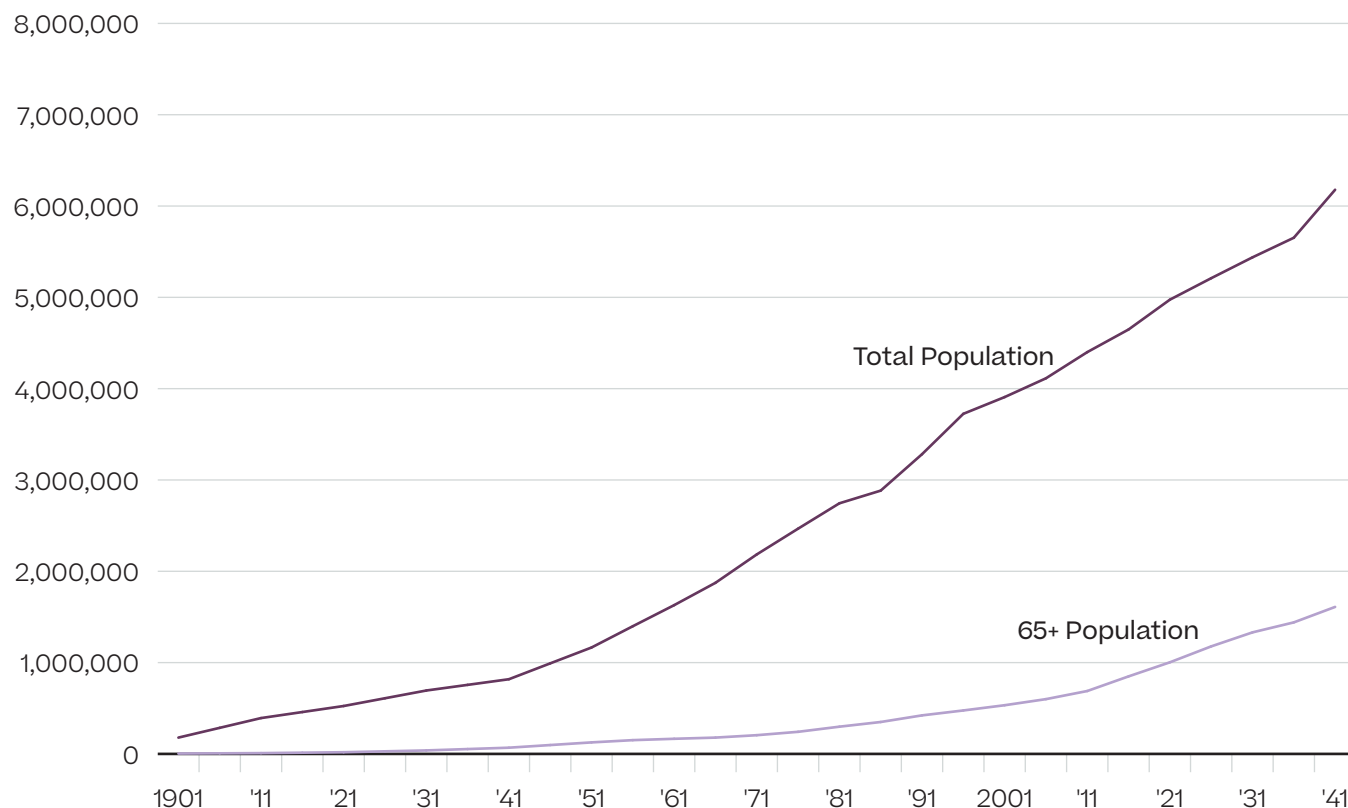
**Table 1.1a: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 1901–2041**

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%
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%

Census Year	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total Population	Population 65+	% of Total Population Aged 65+	Total Population	Population 65+	% of B.C. Population Aged 65+
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§	37,996,900	7,097,300	18.7%	4,974,500	1,003,100	20.6%
2026§	39,724,300	8,379,700	21.1%	5,209,600	1,177,500	22.6%
2031§	41,365,500	9,537,900	23.1%	5,438,100	1,331,000	24.5%
2036§	42,890,400	10,247,300	23.9%	5,652,600	1,440,300	25.5%
2041§	44,332,800	10,734,100	24.2%	6,178,300	1,609,700	26.1%

\*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=8&Code2=8&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begin&Search-PR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).



For 2021–2036: Statistics Canada. “Table 17-10-0057-01 (formerly CANSIM 052-0005) Projected Population, by Age Group and Sex, Medium Growth, 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 Trends, Scenario (M5), July 1st – Canada, 2021–2041 (table), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710005701> (accessed September 12, 2018)

For BC (2041): Table 3 British Columbia Population by Selected Age Groups Estimated (1971–2017) and Projected (2018–2041). [https://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Files/1129fe33-668a-4bab-a8ef-32562eef7e79\\_39119/BritishColumbiaPopulationProjections2016-2041.pdf](https://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Files/1129fe33-668a-4bab-a8ef-32562eef7e79_39119/BritishColumbiaPopulationProjections2016-2041.pdf) (accessed December 5th, 2018)

## 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 2016, there were 109,190 in this age group. In fact, the increase in the population aged 85 and over was over five times the increase in the population aged 65 and over.

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

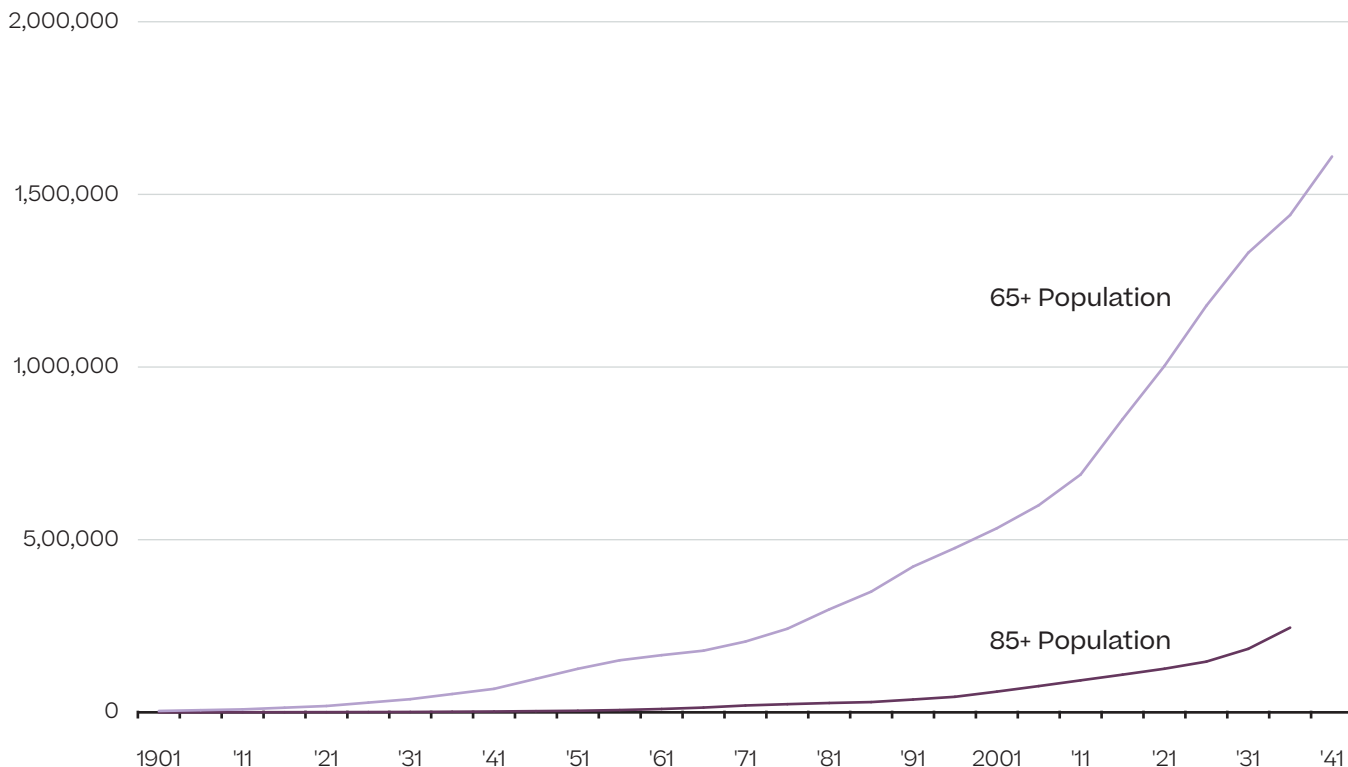
Census Year	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total Population	Population 85+	% of Total Population Aged 85+	Total Population	Population 85+	% of B.C. Population Aged 85+
1901	5,371,315	13,709	0.3%	178,657	98	0.1%
1911	7,206,643	17,613	0.2%	392,480	334	0.1%
1921	8,787,949	20,774	0.2%	524,582	584	0.1%
1931	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%

Census Year	Canada			British Columbia		
	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§	37,996,900	882,600	2.3%	4,974,500	126,300	2.5%
2026§	39,724,300	1,010,800	2.5%	5,209,600	146,900	2.8%
2031§	41,365,500	1,256,800	3.0%	5,438,100	183,900	3.4%
2036§	42,890,400	1,650,100	3.8%	5,652,600	245,300	4.3%
2041§	44,332,800	2,033,200	4.6%	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**

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

\*\*2041 Projections not available

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

**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-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=&Code2=&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).
- For 2021–2041: Statistics Canada. “Table 17-10-0057-01 (formerly CANSIM 052-0005) Projected Population, by Age Group and Sex, Medium Growth, 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 Trends, Scenario (M5), July 1st – Canada, 2021–2041 (table), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710005701> (accessed September 12, 2018)

## 1.2 POPULATION AGING WITHIN THE OLDER POPULATION

The older population is itself aging. Within the 65 and over age group, the proportion aged 85 and over has been growing over recent decades and is expected to continue to rise in the near future. In 2016 people aged 85 and over numbered 109,195 and represented 12.9% of the seniors' population of B.C. This can be contrasted with data presented in the first *Fact Book on Aging* (1986) where in 1981 persons aged 85 and over numbered only 27,100 in B.C. and represented only 9.1% of the population of seniors.

By 2026, their numbers are expected to increase to 146,900 (12.5% of the 65+ population) and by 2036 they are anticipated to reach 245,300 (17.0% of the 65+ population). The proportion of elderly aged 85+ will not increase appreciably, until after 2031 at which time the front end of the baby boomer generation (born between 1946–1965) will turn 85 and over.

Table 1.2 shows that the growth in the 85 and over population is taking place among both males and females. In 2016 there were 41,035 males aged 85+ and by 2026 it is expected that there will be 59,800 males 85+. Over the same period, the female population of B.C. aged 85+ will increase from 68,160 to 87,000.

Within the 85 and over population, centenarians are growing at a rapid rate due to steady increases in life expectancy. There were 875 centenarians in B.C. in 2016 and a total of 8,230 centenarians in Canada, an increase of 70.8% 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 65 to 69 are on the rise due to the front cohorts of the baby boomers moving into this age category between 2011 and 2016. For instance, in B.C. there were 210,905 older persons aged 65 to 69 in 2011 (30.6% of all seniors), whereas in 2016 this number rose to 287,520 (33.9% of the senior population).

**Table 1.2: Age Structure of the Population Aged 65+, by Sex: British Columbia, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2026, 2036**

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
<b>2006</b>						
65–69	169,770	28.3%	83,050	30.6%	86,715	26.4%
70–74	143,625	23.9%	70,200	25.9%	73,430	22.4%
75–79	120,435	20.1%	55,640	20.5%	64,800	19.7%
80–84	89,930	15.0%	36,895	13.6%	53,035	16.2%
85–89	50,060	8.3%	17,965	6.6%	32,095	9.8%
90+	25,990	4.3%	7,720	2.8%	18,270	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>599,810</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>271,470</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>328,345</b>	<b>100%</b>

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
<b>2011</b>						
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%
<b>2016</b>						
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%
<b>2026§</b>						
65–69	338,400	28.7%	164,300	29.5%	174,200	28.1%
70–74	293,700	24.9%	143,300	25.7%	150,400	24.3%
75–79	242,700	20.6%	117,200	21.0%	125,400	20.2%
80–84	155,800	13.2%	72,800	13.1%	82,900	13.4%
85–89	90,800	7.7%	39,400	7.1%	51,400	8.3%
90+	56,100	4.8%	20,400	3.7%	35,600	5.7%

Age	Total	% of Population Aged 65+	Males	% of Males Aged 65+	Females	% of Females Aged 65+
Total	1,177,500	100%	557,400	100.0%	619,900	100.0%
<b>2036§</b>						
65–69	324,200	22.5%	157,700	23.2%	166,500	21.9%
70–74	329,800	22.9%	159,200	23.4%	170,600	22.4%
75–79	303,900	21.1%	145,500	21.4%	158,400	20.8%
80–84	237,100	16.5%	112,100	16.5%	125,000	16.4%
85–89	159,700	11.1%	71,900	10.6%	87,800	11.5%
90+	85,600	5.9%	32,700	4.8%	52,900	6.9%
Total	1,440,300	100.0%	679,100	100.0%	761,200	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=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018).

For 2026–2036: For 2021–2041: Statistics Canada. "Table 17-10-0057-01 (formerly CANSIM 052-0005) Projected Population, by Age Group and Sex, Medium Growth, 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 Trends, Scenario (M5), July 1st – Canada, 2021–2041 (table), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710005701> (accessed September 12, 2018)

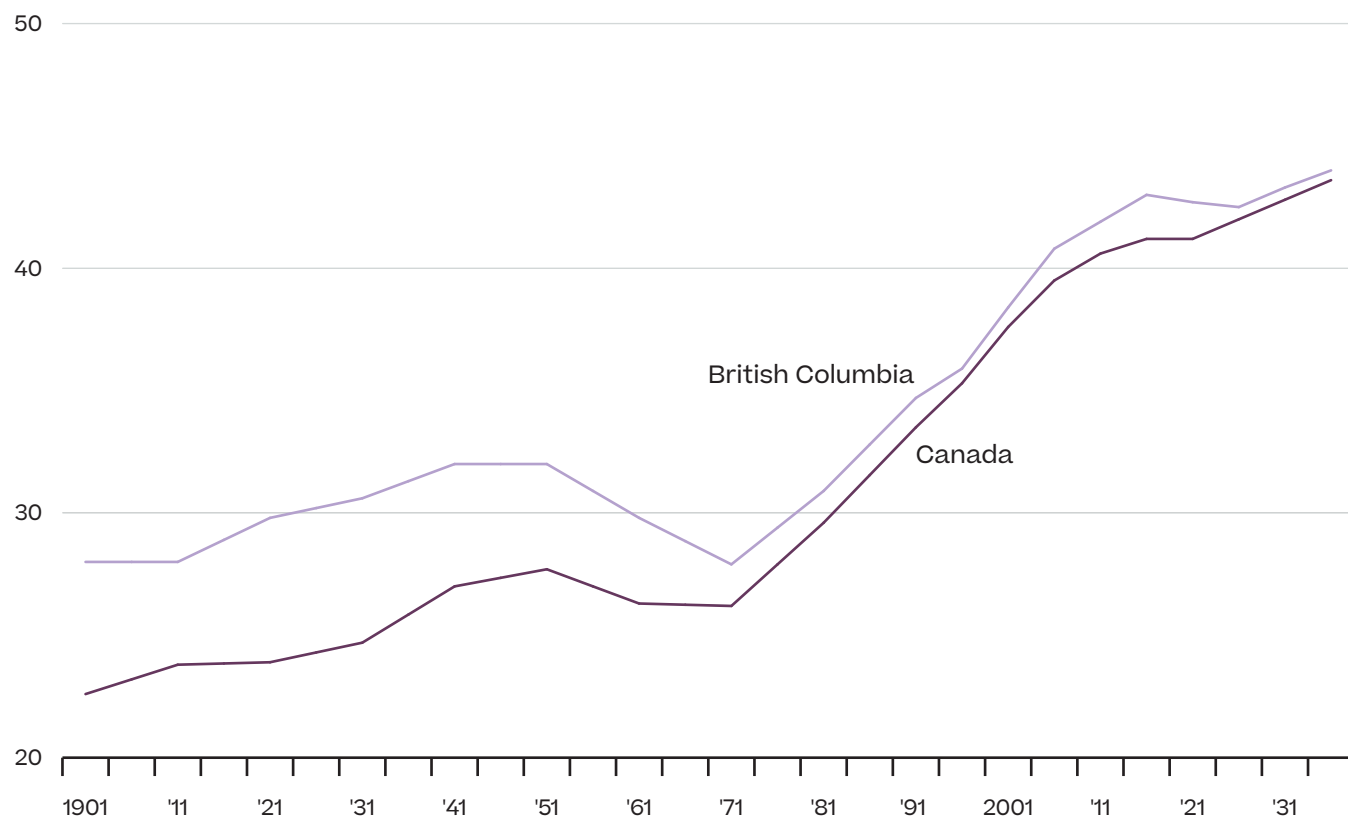
### 1.3 MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION

Another way of measuring population aging is to examine the median age. The median is a statistical figure that describes the age at which a population is split into two equal groups. As may be seen in Table 1.3 and Figure 1.3, the median age in British Columbia has been steadily increasing since 1901. It was 35.9 years in 1996, and in 2016 it was 43.0 years. The median age of B.C. was also 43.0 in 2016, which means current population aging is outpacing the population projections made by Statistics Canada (projected median ages for B.C. of 41.3 in 2016, 41.7 in 2021, 42.5 in 2026, 43.3 in 2031, and to 44.0 in 2036, based on the medium growth scenario for fertility, mortality and migration).

**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§	41.2	42.7
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.

**Figure 1.3: Median Age of Population: Canada and British Columbia, 1901 – 2036****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 2016–2036 (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 2016–2036: 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 2016, the sex ratio for age 65 and over was 87 males per 100 females. For age 90 and over, there were only 46 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 2016**

Age	1956			2016		
	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*	Males	Females	Sex Ratio*
65–69	29,077	25,001	116	139,490	148,035	94
70–74	26,187	21,773	120	97,675	104,110	94
75–79	15,514	13,042	119	68,715	76,510	90
80–84	7,044	6,506	108	48,645	56,610	86
85–89	2,520	2,555	99	27,930	39,575	71
90+	676	884	76	13,105	28,585	46
Total 65+ (B.C.)	81,018	69,761	116	395,560	453,425	87
Total 65+ (Canada)	622,210	621,728	100	2,695,150	3,240,485	83

\*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 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=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1> (accessed September 11, 2018)

# 3. Mortality

## 3.1 TRENDS IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

Major gains in life expectancy of British Columbians were achieved between 1931 and 2014–2016 (see Table 3.1 and Figures 3.1a and 3.1b). In terms of life expectancy at birth, females gained 19.3 years and males gained 18.2 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 years in 1980–1982, but was only 4.8 years for the 1998–2001 period and 4.4 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. The gain in life expectancy at birth for men was 6.3 years between 1985–1987 and 2014–2016, compared to only 4.3 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 7.9 years for women and 6.5 years for men between 1931 and 2014–2016. Using the period of 2014–2016, 65-year-old females could expect to live an additional 22.5 years, whereas their male counterparts could expect to live another 19.9 years. This difference between the sexes (2.6 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. Between 1980 and 2012 it increased by 1.7 years for men and 2.7 years for women.

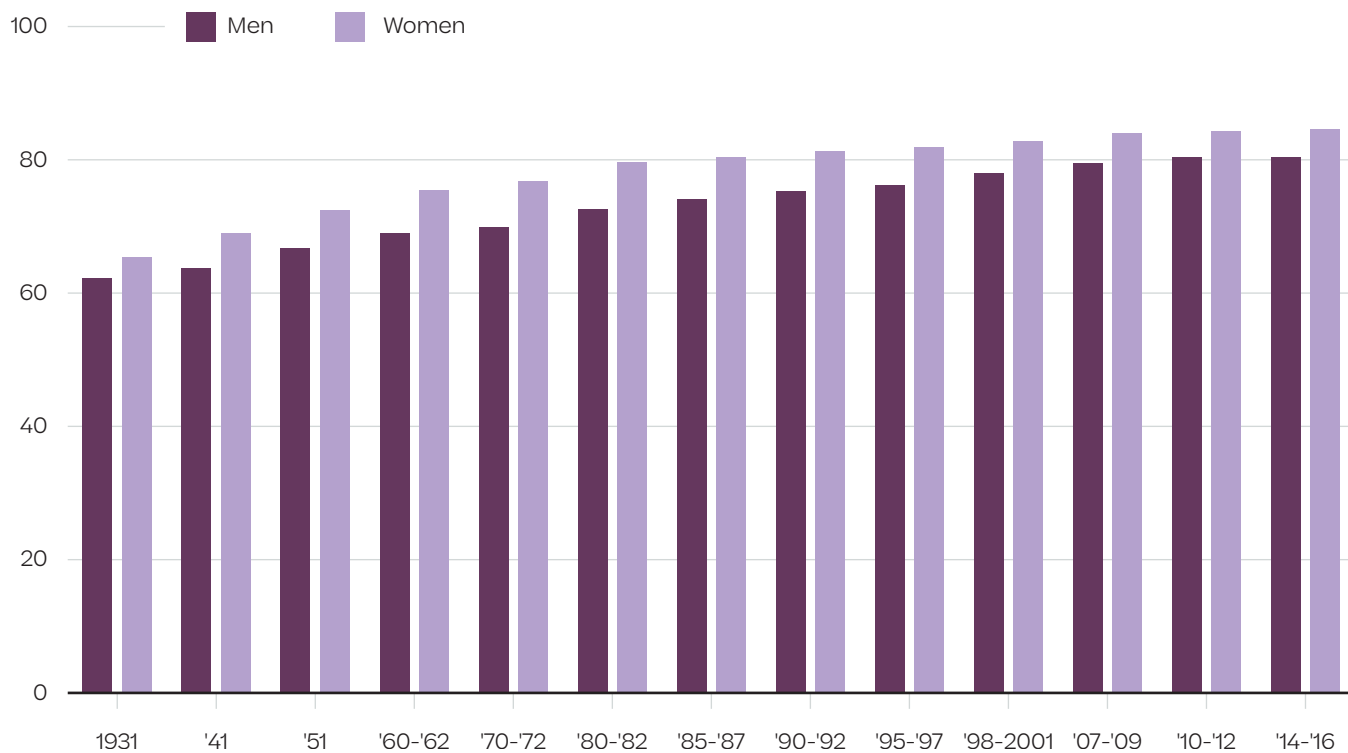
**Table 3.1: Life Expectancy at Birth, Age 65 and Age 80, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2014–2016**

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

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		
Increase from 1931 to 2014–2016 (in years)	18.2	19.3	6.5	7.9		

\*Life expectancy at age 80 has not been updated for 2014–2016.

**Figure 3.1a: Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2007–2009**



**Figure 3.1b: Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 2007–2009****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.

### 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 1996 and 2016, while Table 3.2b shows percentage changes in those trends. Table 3.2c presents age-specific mortality rates by sex for 2009, 2014, and 2016 for B.C. and Canada. Table 3.2d shows the absolute number of deaths by age group and sex in B.C. for 2009 and 2016. Overall, the decline in mortality rates has not been uniform over time or across age and sex groups. Significant reductions in mortality have occurred since the 1990s. In 1996, the mortality rate for a man aged 65–69 in B.C. was 19.9; for a woman, it was 11.6. However, the pattern of reduction differs for men and women, and across time periods. Between 1996 and 2016, for men in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 70–74 age group, a decrease of 40.4%. For women in B.C., the largest reduction occurred in the 65–69 age group, with a decrease of 31.0%. It also appears that men’s mortality rates are improving relative to women; men had greater decreases in mortality rates than women for all age groups over the period 1996–2016 (with the exception of the age group 65–69 and 90+). Thus, while older women continue to enjoy lower mortality rates than older men at all ages, the gap appears to be shrinking. This is likely due to complex age-period-cohort patterns in mortality.

Overall, B.C. seniors had lower mortality rates than Canadian seniors as shown in Table 3.2c. It is also noteworthy that for men in 2016, the mortality rate at age 90 and over was more than 15 times the rate at ages 65–69, and for women, more than 22 times the rate, as observed in the same table for B.C. seniors. Note that the absolute number of deaths shown in Table 3.2d has increased between 2009 and 2016 due to the expansion of persons at the upper ages of the age structure.

**Table 3.2a: Age-Specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 1996, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2016**

Age	Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Population (Males)						Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Population (Females)					
	1996	2001	2005	2009	2014	2016	1996	2001	2005	2009	2014	2016
65–69	19.9	16.0	15.2	14.1	12.1	13.9	11.6	10.3	9.6	8.3	8.3	8.0
70–74	31.9	28.4	24.5	20.1	21.1	19.0	18.0	16.6	15.6	14.0	12.8	13.0
75–79	51.8	47.4	40.6	36.3	32.3	32.4	31.9	27.4	27.6	23.9	21.8	22.0
80–84	86.2	78.1	69.4	62.6	55.0	56.1	55.6	50.9	49.1	45.0	40.9	38.9
85–89	146.7	127.6	116.7	112.4	102.6	97.3	99.4	93.9	86.3	81.8	76.7	74.7
90+	239.8	214.0	216.9	203.2	201.1	213.8	205.7	177.5	178.1	175.8	175.6	177.0

**Table 3.2b: Per Cent Change of Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: British Columbia, 1996, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2016**

Age Range	Males % Change					Females % Change				
	1996–2001	2001–2005	2005–2009	2009–2014	2014–2016	1996–2001	2001–2005	2005–2009	2009–2014	2014–2016
65–69	-19.6	-5.0	-7.2	-14.2	14.9	-11.2	-6.9	-13.5	0.0	-3.6
70–74	-11.0	-13.7	-18.0	5.0	-10.0	-7.8	-6.0	-10.3	-8.6	1.6
75–79	-8.5	-14.3	-10.6	-11.0	0.3	-14.1	0.7	-13.4	-8.8	0.9
80–84	-9.4	-11.1	-9.8	-12.1	2.0	-8.5	-3.5	-8.4	-9.1	-4.9
85–89	-13.0	-8.5	-3.7	-8.7	-5.2	-5.5	-8.1	-5.2	-6.2	-2.6
90+	-10.8	1.4	-6.3	-1.0	6.3	-13.7	0.3	-1.3	-0.1	+0.8

**Table 3.2c: Age-Specific Mortality Rates, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 2009, 2014 and 2016**

Age	Canada						British Columbia					
	Males			Females			Males			Females		
	2009	2014	2016	2009	2014	2016	2009	2014	2016	2009	2014	2016
65–69	15.7	13.9	13.9	9.4	8.7	8.9	14.1	12.1	13.9	8.3	8.3	8.0
70–74	24.5	22.5	21.3	15.8	14.5	14.4	20.1	21.1	19.0	14.0	12.8	13.0
75–79	41.6	36.6	35.0	26.3	23.8	23.7	36.3	32.3	32.4	23.9	21.8	22.0
80–84	70.0	63.8	60.4	47.4	43.6	41.8	62.6	55.0	56.1	45.0	40.9	38.9
85–89	117.0	111.3	106.6	84.9	80.8	76.0	112.4	102.6	97.3	81.8	76.7	74.7
90+	211.9	216.6	210.0	178.6	179.6	172.1	203.2	201.1	213.8	175.8	175.6	177.0

\*Rate per 1,000 population

**Table 3.2d: Deaths of Persons 65+ by Age Group and Sex: British Columbia, 2009 and 2016**

Age Range	2009			2016		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
65–69	2,185	1,356	829	3,085	1,939	1,146
70–74	2,552	1,468	1,084	3,232	1,891	1,341
75–79	3,740	2,159	1,581	3,955	2,256	1,699
80–84	4,950	2,531	2,419	5,008	2,763	2,245
85–89	5,601	2,532	3,069	5,857	2,812	3,045
90+	5,527	1,814	3,713	7,928	2,857	5,071
<b>Total 65+</b>	<b>24,555</b>	<b>11,860</b>	<b>12,695</b>	<b>29,065</b>	<b>14,518</b>	<b>14,547</b>

**Source:**

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

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

For 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&cid=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.

**3.3 CAUSES OF DEATH**

In 2016, the five leading causes of death among both males and females aged 65–84 were cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, cerebrovascular disease and diabetes mellitus (Table 3.3). These five causes of death accounted for 71.0% of all deaths for males and females. The two leading causes of death — cancers and cardiovascular disease — accounted for 54.0% and 52.7% of deaths for men and women respectively. When looking at the 85 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 for both males and females. The leading cause of death for the 85 and over group is cardiovascular disease, accounting for 24.5% for men, and 25.1% for women of all deaths at that age. The fourth leading cause of death also changes for the 85 and over group, with influenza and pneumonia accounting for 6.3% (5.9% for men, 6.5% for women) of all deaths in the older age group. This is a change from 2011, at which time the fourth leading cause of death for this age group was attributed to vascular/senile dementia.



**Table 3.3a: Leading Causes of Death by Sex for 65–84 Age Group: British Columbia, 2016**

Cause of Death	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cancer Malignant Neoplasm	5,501	37.5	2,991	36.2	2,510	39.2
Diabetes Mellitus	2,254	15.4	1,389	16.8	865	13.5
Chronic Pulmonary Disease	896	6.1	572	6.9	324	5.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	896	6.1	479	5.8	417	6.5
Cerebrovascular Disease	859	5.9	429	5.2	430	6.7
Other Causes*	4,260	29.0	2,399	29.0	1,861	29.0
All Causes	14,666	100.0	8,259	100.0	6,407	100.0

**Table 3.3b: Leading Causes of Death by Sex for 85+ Age Group: British Columbia, 2016**

Disease	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cardiovascular Disease	3,353	24.8	1,351	24.5	2,002	25.1
Cancer Malignant Neoplasms	2,049	15.2	1,023	18.5	1,026	12.8
Cerebrovascular Disease	1,241	9.2	443	8.0	798	10.0
Influenza and Pneumonia	847	6.3	324	5.9	523	6.5
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	703	5.2	344	6.2	359	4.5
Other causes*	5,314	39.3	2,036	36.9	3,278	41.0
All causes	13,507	100.0	5,521	100.0	7,986	100.0

*“Chronic pulmonary disease” includes: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.*

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

*\*Other causes include undetermined and pending. Total percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Non-residents are excluded. The output from ICD-10 mortality coding and underlying cause of death selection was modified in British Columbia to reflect the intent of certifiers in*

*this jurisdiction and to provide greater continuity over time. Data using the standard ICD-10 rules for such categories as pneumonia/influenza, diabetes, or cancer should not be compared to the numbers shown above.*

**Source:**

British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. 2015. "Table 17: Leading causes of death by age and sex, British Columbia, 2015." Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2015. [Victoria]: B.C., Division of Vital Statistics, p.37. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/statistics-reports/annual-reports/2015/pdf/annual-report-2015.pdf> (Accessed December 5th 2018)

### 3.4 CANCER

In 2015, the highest number of new cancer diagnoses in British Columbians aged 60+ was prostate cancer for men (2,310 new diagnoses) and breast cancer for women (2,120 new diagnoses). The second highest for both sexes was lung cancer, with 2,940 new cases diagnosed. Generally, those 80 and over were more likely to be diagnosed with a specific cancer than those aged 60 and over. Incidence rates by age group can be seen in Table 3.4a.

**Table 3.4a: New Cancer Diagnoses and Incidence Rates, by Sex and Age at Diagnosis: British Columbia, 2015\***

Cancer Type	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Lung	1,440	1,500	2,940	227.3	229.4	485	350.2
Prostate	2,310	0	2,310	406.6	0	557.7	0
Breast	15	2,120	2,135	2.9	361	5.7	352.6
Large Intestine	975	835	1,810	157.5	119.1	306.7	226.2
Rectum	540	300	840	93.5	45.8	134	72.5
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	440	360	800	71.6	55.3	139.7	82.9
All Other & Unspecified Sites	370	320	690	48.8	35.5	172.6	123.2
Skin (Melanoma)	405	285	690	65.4	47.1	122.7	57.2
Bladder (Invasive)	485	115	600	61.3	14.2	237.4	39.5
Pancreas	290	285	575	45.9	38.1	94.3	91.8

Cancer Type	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	Males	Females	Total	60-79		80+	
Bladder (In-situ)	445	125	570	69.8	18.5	151.1	33.8
Kidney	355	185	540	63.3	29.2	81.8	40.3
Leukemia	345	190	535	52.4	27.3	123.8	47.5
Body of Uterus	0	505	505	0	94.4	0	53.1
Liver	265	90	355	50.2	14.6	46.6	19.3
Stomach	225	100	325	34.4	12	79.5	35.4
Multiple Myeloma	165	125	290	26.1	18.9	54.5	32.2
Digestive Other & Unspecified	140	150	290	22.3	21.3	47.7	40.3
Esophagus	175	75	250	30.1	9.7	47.7	24.2
Ovary	0	205	205	0	33.1	0	42.7
Brain and CNS	120	85	205	21.2	13.1	29.5	13.7
Genital Other & Unspecified	25	130	155	4.7	20.6	5.7	27.4
Thyroid	40	100	140	7.8	17	5.7	16.9
Tongue	85	35	120	17.6	5.4	10.2	8.1
Mesothelioma	75	20	95	11.2	2.6	27.3	4.8
Small Intestine	60	35	95	9.4	4.9	14.8	7.2
Oral Other & Unspecified	75	20	95	14.7	3.2	8	3.2
Larynx	80	10	90	13.2	2.6	20.4	1.6
Mouth	45	45	90	8.7	6.2	13.6	15.3

Cancer Type	New Cancer Diagnoses by Sex and Age at Diagnosis			Incidence Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Soft Tissue (incl. Heart)	45	25	70	7.4	3.9	17	9.7
Anus	20	45	65	3.3	7.7	5.7	4.8
Other Urinary	45	15	60	5.1	2.1	19.3	4.8
Gallbladder	15	30	45	2.7	5.4	5.7	4
Cervix	0	45	45	0	7.7	0	10.5
Eye	20	10	30	2.9	1.5	4.5	3.2
Respiratory Other & Unspecified	20	10	30	3.1	2.1	6.8	3.2
Hodgkin Lymphoma	20	10	30	3.1	2.6	3.4	3.2
Salivary Gland	15	10	25	2	1.9	10.2	6.4
Nasopharynx	15	10	25	3.3	1.5	1.1	1.6
Oropharynx	25	0	25	5.8	0.6	2.3	0
Bone	10	10	20	1.6	1.7	0	3.2
Other Endocrine Glands	5	10	15	1.8	1.5	0	0
Lip	10	0	10	1.3	0.4	6.8	3.2
Testis	10	0	10	2.2	0	0	0
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	10	10	0	1.3	0	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>8,590</b>	<b>18,855</b>	<b>1,683.50</b>	<b>1,342.00</b>	<b>3,106.50</b>	<b>1,924.10</b>

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

Excludes non-melanoma skin cancer.

**Source:**

BC Cancer Agency. New Cancer Diagnoses\*, British Columbia, 2015 By Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Gender. [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Incident\\_Cancer\\_Report\\_2015\\_20180410.pdf](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Incident_Cancer_Report_2015_20180410.pdf) Accessed: November 22nd, 2018.

BC Cancer Agency. Cancer Incidence\* Rates (per 100,000 population), British Columbia, 2015 By Cancer Type, Age at Diagnosis and Gender. [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Crude\\_Incidence\\_Rates\\_Report\\_2015\\_20180427.pdf](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Crude_Incidence_Rates_Report_2015_20180427.pdf). Accessed: November 23rd, 2018.

Mortality rates by age group can be observed in Table 3.4b. The greatest number of cancer deaths in British Columbians at age 60+ were caused by cancer of the lung (including trachea and bronchus), totaling 2,185 deaths in 2015. The second leading cancer cause of death was prostate cancer for men, with 545 deaths, and breast cancer for women, with 520 deaths. Cancer of the large intestine was the third leading cause of death for both men and women, with 400 and 390 deaths in 2015, respectively. The above patterns have not changed appreciably since the 1990s based on comparisons with earlier *Fact Books*.

**Table 3.4b: Cancer Deaths and Mortality Rates: British Columbia, 2015**

	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
			60+	60-79		80+	
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Lung	1,090	1,095	2,185	165.3	151.6	398.7	316.4
Large Intestine	400	390	790	52.2	38.5	195.4	167.5
Pancreas	295	270	565	45.5	33.3	104.5	94.2
Prostate	545	0	545	50	0	372.5	0
Breast	5	520	525	1.1	74	3.4	141.7
All Other & Unspecified Sites	165	170	335	17.2	16.8	104.5	73.3
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	210	125	335	23.9	12.7	111.3	58.8
Bladder (Invasive)	225	75	300	23.4	6	134	33
Digestive Other Unspecified	155	145	300	23.6	18.7	59.1	48.3
Leukemia	180	115	295	21.2	10.5	92	49.9

Cancer Type	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Esophagus	190	65	255	29.9	8.2	63.6	20.9
Rectum	120	90	210	16.1	9.5	56.8	36.2
Ovary	0	210	210	0	31.4	0	54.7
Brain and CNS	120	75	195	19.9	12.7	30.7	16.1
Kidney	115	70	185	18.3	7.7	38.6	29
Stomach	115	60	175	14.9	5.6	52.2	25.8
Liver	130	35	165	22.3	4.9	31.8	10.5
Multiple Myeloma	85	75	160	10	9.5	47.7	27.4
Skin (Melanoma)	70	30	100	8	3.2	32.9	12.9
Mesothelioma	60	15	75	8.7	1.9	20.4	4.8
Body of Uterus	0	75	75	0	12.5	0	19.3
Soft Tissue (incl. Heart)	20	20	40	4	3	10.2	4.8
Uterus, Part Unspecified	0	40	40	0	5.2	0	11.3
Tongue	20	20	40	3.6	1.9	5.7	5.6
Larynx	35	0	35	3.8	0.6	13.6	2.4
Genital Other & Unspecified	5	30	35	0.4	3.4	1.1	12.1
Gallbladder	10	20	30	1.1	2.6	4.5	4
Small Intestine	15	15	30	2	1.5	8	4
Oral Other & Unspecified	20	10	30	3.6	1.5	4.5	1.6

	Cancer Deaths by Age and Sex at Diagnosis			Mortality Rates by Sex and Age at Diagnosis (per 100,000)			
	60+			60-79		80+	
Cancer Type	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Mouth	15	15	30	2.7	1.9	6.8	8.1
Thyroid	10	15	25	1.8	1.9	3.4	5.6
Other Urinary	20	5	25	1.8	0.6	13.6	1.6
Bone	10	15	25	2	0.4	1.1	8.1
Cervix	0	20	20	0	3.4	0	7.2
Nasopharynx	10	5	15	1.6	0.6	2.3	0.8
Anus	5	5	10	0	0.6	2.3	3.2
Oropharynx	10	0	10	2	0.4	4.5	1.6
Other Endocrine Glands	10	0	10	1.6	0.4	0	1.6
Salivary Gland	5	5	10	1.8	0.9	4.5	1.6
Eye	5	5	10	0.4	0.4	2.3	1.6
Hodgkin Lymphoma	0	5	5	0.4	0.4	2.3	0
Respiratory Other Unspecified	0	0	0	0.4	0.4	3.4	2.4
Testis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>8,455</b>	<b>230.3</b>	<b>163.8</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>429.7</b>

ICD categories ordered by number of deaths aged 60+.

Excludes in-situ bladder cancer.

**Source:**

BC Cancer Agency. Cancer Deaths\* in British Columbia, 2015 By Cancer Type, Age at Death and Gender. [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Mortality\\_Cancer\\_Report\\_2015\\_20180403.pdf](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Mortality_Cancer_Report_2015_20180403.pdf). Accessed: November 23rd, 2018.

BC Cancer Agency. Cancer Deaths\* (per 100,000) in British Columbia, 2015 By Cancer Type, Age at Death and Gender. [http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Crude\\_Mortality\\_Rates\\_Report\\_2015\\_20180403.pdf](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/statistics-and-reports-site/Documents/Crude_Mortality_Rates_Report_2015_20180403.pdf) Accessed: November 23rd, 2018

### 3.5 SUICIDE

A total of 635 suicides were reported in 2016 (Table 3.5) among persons aged 65 and over in Canada, of which approximately four-fifths involved men. In 2015 for B.C., the total was 87 of which 73 were men (84%). The number of suicides in B.C. has remained approximately the same as in 2011 (80 total, of which 64 were men based on comparisons with Table 3.5, *Fact Book, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*, p. 22). 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.

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

**Table 3.5: Suicide Deaths of Persons 65+, by Age Group and Sex: Canada (2016) and British Columbia (2015)**

Age	Canada (2016)			British Columbia (2015)		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
65–69	229	177	52			
70–74	120	82	38	58	47	11
75–79	123	93	30			
80–84	83	70	13			
85–89	51	39	12	29	26	3
90+	29	21	8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>14</b>

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

#### Source:

For Canada: Statistics Canada. No date. “Table 13-10-0392-01 (formerly CANSIM 102-0551). Deaths and age-specific mortality rates, by selected groups causes, age group and sex, Canada, annual (number) (table). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1310039201> (Accessed: November 23rd, 2018)

For British Columbia: British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. 2015. “Appendix 2: Detailed cause of death by gender and age.” Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2015. [Victoria]: BC, Division of Vital Statistics, p.101-126. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/statistics-reports/annual-reports/2015/pdf/annual-report-2015.pdf> (Accessed: November 23rd, 2018)



## 4. Marital Status

Patterns of marital status vary significantly by sex of the older adult. According to the 2016 Census, almost three-quarters (70.1%) of male British Columbians aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1a), whereas under half (48.2%) of all women in B.C. aged 65 and over were married (see Table 4.1b). In contrast, 30.9% of older women were widowed, compared to only 9.4% of older men. Of those in the 65–69 age group, 3.4% of men and 12.1% of women were widowed. Nearly one-third (32.3%) of women in the age group 75–79 were widowed, compared to only 9.0% of men. Even at ages 85 and over, only 31.9% of men were widowed, compared to 72.2% of women.

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

**Table 4.1a: Male Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2016**

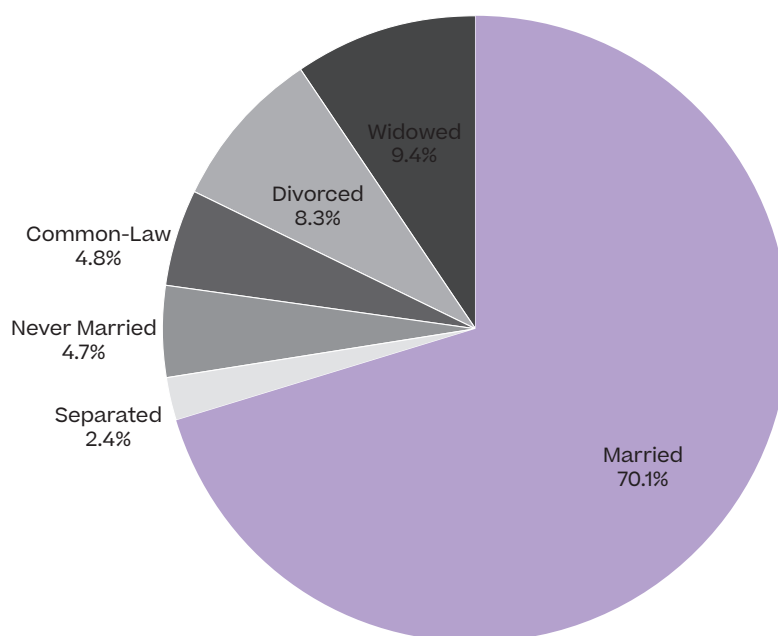
Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
65–69	98,050	70.3%	9,545	6.4%	9,050	6.5%	3,835	2.7%	14,340	10.3%	4,675	3.4%	139,495
70–74	71,080	72.8%	5,420	5.3%	4,610	4.7%	2,350	2.4%	8,900	9.1%	5,320	5.4%	97,680
75–79	50,555	73.6%	2,780	3.9%	2,350	3.4%	1,595	2.3%	5,225	7.6%	6,200	9.0%	68,705
80–84	34,200	70.3%	1,435	2.9%	1,430	2.9%	1,050	2.2%	2,810	5.8%	7,710	15.8%	48,635
85+	23,595	57.5%	805	1.9%	1,110	2.7%	785	1.9%	1,655	4.0%	13,080	31.9%	41,030
Total 65+	277,480	70.1%	19,985	4.8%	18,550	4.7%	9,615	2.4%	32,930	8.3%	36,985	9.4%	395,545

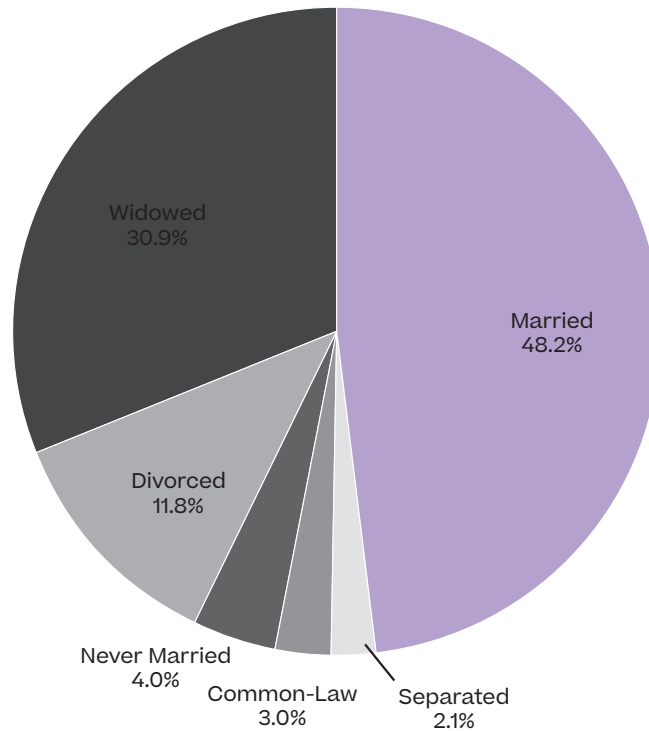
**Table 4.1b: Female Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age: British Columbia, 2016**

Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
65–69	88,875	60.0%	7,250	4.9%	8,065	5.4%	4,165	2.8%	21,730	14.7%	17,950	12.1%	148,035
70–74	58,860	56.5%	3,600	0.3%	4,060	3.9%	2,320	2.2%	14,305	13.7%	20,970	20.1%	104,115
75–79	37,732	49.3%	1,630	2.1%	2,405	3.1%	1,440	1.9%	8,590	11.2%	24,710	32.3%	76,507

Age	Married		Common-Law		Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
80–84	21,140	37.3%	645	1.1%	1,540	2.7%	850	1.5%	5,005	8.8%	27,430	48.5%	56,610
85+	12,215	17.9%	345	0.5%	1,880	2.8%	570	0.84%	3,935	5.8%	49,205	72.2%	68,150
Total 65+	218,825	48.2%	13,470	3.0%	17,950	4.0%	9,345	2.1%	53,565	11.8%	140,265	30.9%	453,417

Figure 4.1a: Marital Status of Men Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2016



**Figure 4.1b: Marital Status of Women Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2016****Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2017. "Marital Status (13), Age (16) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 and 2011 Censuses – 100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016032. Ottawa. Released August 17th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=01&GL=-1&GID=1235625&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=109651&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2016&THEME=117&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0>

# 5. Geographic Distribution and Mobility

## 5.1 THE OLDER POPULATION OF B.C. IN RELATION TO OTHER PROVINCES

The geographic distribution of the elderly population in Canada parallels that of the total population. Like the general population, the aged population tends to be concentrated in the three provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia (see Table 5.1). In 2018, the largest number of the aged resided in Ontario (2,424,818), Quebec (1,579,277) and British Columbia (912,725).

The proportion of persons aged 65 and over within the provinces displays a different pattern. In 2018, New Brunswick (20.8%), Newfoundland (20.5%), and Nova Scotia (20.4%) had the largest proportions of older persons (65+) in their population. Prince Edward Island was fourth (19.6%) followed by Quebec (18.8%). Alberta only had 12.8% 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, 2018**

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 65–74	Population Aged 75–84	Population Aged 85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% of Population Aged 65+ in B. C.
New Brunswick	770,633	160,031	95,414	45,868	18,749	2.50%	20.80%
Newfoundland	525,355	107,925	68,124	29,863	9,938	1.70%	20.50%
Nova Scotia	959,942	195,505	115,834	57,060	22,611	3.10%	20.40%
Prince Edward Island	153,244	29,990	18,059	8,536	3,395	0.50%	19.60%
Québec	8,390,499	1,579,277	909,702	467,954	201,621	24.80%	18.80%
British Columbia	4,991,687	912,725	531,959	265,222	115,544	14.40%	18.30%
Ontario	14,322,757	2,424,818	1,371,721	728,818	324,279	38.10%	16.90%
Manitoba	1,352,154	207,817	118,246	60,267	29,304	3.30%	15.40%
Saskatchewan	1,162,062	178,675	98,427	52,844	27,404	2.80%	15.40%

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 65–74	Population Aged 75–84	Population Aged 85+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% of Population Aged 65+ in B. C.
Alberta	4,307,110	551,682	326,564	157,101	68,017	8.70%	12.80%
Yukon Territory	40,476	4,787	3,363	1,101	323	0.10%	11.80%
Northwest Territories	44,541	3,508	2,503	768	237	0.10%	7.90%
Nunavut	38,396	1,480	1,094	318	68	0.00%	3.90%
Total	37,058,856	6,358,220	3,661,010	1,875,720	821,490	100.0%	17.2%

\*2018 was the most recent available data for this table

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2018. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Table: 17-10-0005-01 (formerly CANSIM 051-0001). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501#timeframe> (Accessed: April 29th, 2019).

## 5.2 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 2016, a total of 387,405 (45.6%) of B.C.'s seniors lived in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Greater Vancouver). The Capital Regional District (see Table 5.2a, Capital) was the next most popular region of the province among seniors, occupied by 83,095 (10.0%) of the elderly population. The Fraser Valley ranked third with 53,295 (6.3%). Together, the three regional districts of Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan and North Okanagan were home to 88,145 (10.4%) of B.C. seniors. However, when Regional Districts are rank ordered in terms of the percentage of their population aged 65 and over, a different picture emerges. The Regional District with the highest proportion of its population aged 65+ was Okanagan-Similkameen (31.3%), followed by Sunshine Coast (30.0%), Nanaimo (27.0%), Comox Valley (25.6%), Kootenay Boundary (25.4%) and North Okanagan (24.3%).

**Table 5.2a: Total Population and Population Aged 65+, by Regional District: British Columbia, 2016**

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Alberni-Clayoquot	30,980	6,765	3,345	3,420	0.8%	21.8%
Bulkley-Nechako	37,900	5,635	2,835	2,800	0.7%	14.9%

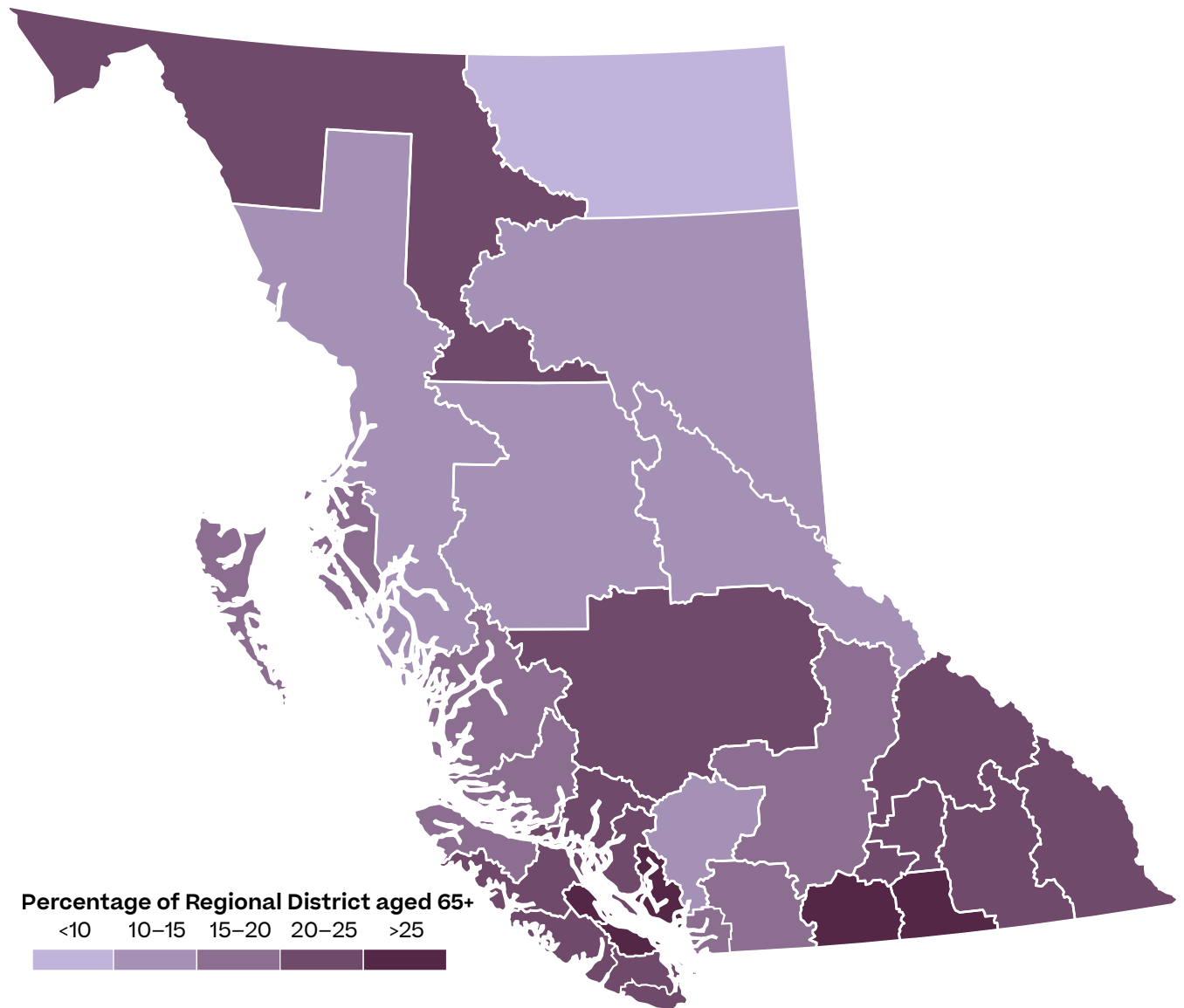
Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Capital	383,360	83,095	37,435	45,660	10.0%	21.7%
Cariboo	61,990	12,920	6,640	6,280	1.5%	21.0%
Central Coast	3,320	500	265	235	0.1%	15.1%
Central Kootenay	59,520	14,015	6,840	7,175	1.7%	23.5%
Central Okanagan	194,880	41,675	19,305	22,370	5.0%	21.4%
Columbia-Shuswap	51,370	12,550	6,095	6,455	1.5%	24.4%
Comox Valley	66,530	17,055	8,130	8,925	2.0%	25.6%
Cowichan Valley	83,735	20,060	9,820	10,240	2.4%	24.0%
East Kootenay	60,440	11,835	5,770	6,065	1.4%	20.0%
Fraser Valley	295,935	53,295	24,755	28,540	6.3%	18.0%
Fraser-Fort George	94,510	13,535	6,645	6,890	1.6%	14.3%
Greater Vancouver	2,463,430	387,405	176,535	210,870	45.6%	15.7%
Kitimat-Stikine	37,365	5,570	2,780	2,790	0.7%	14.9%
Kootenay Boundary	31,445	7,990	3,875	4,115	0.9%	25.4%
Mount Waddington	11,035	1,780	970	810	0.2%	16.1%
Nanaimo	155,700	42,085	19,915	22,170	5.0%	27.0%
North Okanagan	84,355	20,510	9,700	10,810	2.4%	24.3%
Northern Rockies	5,395	375	205	170	0.0%	7.0%
Okanagan-Similkameen	83,025	25,960	12,310	13,650	3.1%	31.3%
Peace River	62,940	6,470	3,160	3,310	0.8%	10.3%
Powell River	20,070	5,555	2,765	2,790	0.7%	27.7%

Regional District	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in B.C.	% in District Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	18,135	2,690	1,340	1,350	0.3%	14.8%
Squamish-Lillooet	42,665	4,525	2,305	2,220	0.5%	10.6%
Stikine	740	155	100	55	0.0%	20.9%
Strathcona	44,675	9,735	4,885	4,850	1.1%	21.8%
Sunshine Coast	29,970	8,880	4,200	4,680	1.0%	30.0%
Thompson-Nicola	132,665	26,635	12,805	13,830	3.1%	20.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,648,080</b>	<b>849,255</b>	<b>395,730</b>	<b>453,525</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2017. Age and Sex Highlight Tables, 2016 Census. Population by broad age groups and sex, 2016 counts for both sexes, Canada, British Columbia, and census divisions, 2016 Census-100% data. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/hlt-fst/as/Table.cfm?Lang=E&T=13> (Accessed: January 9th, 2018)

**Figure 5.2a: Percentage of Population Aged 65+, by Regional District: British Columbia, 2016**



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

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) consists of an area of just over 1,000 square miles (2,603 square kilometers), including 21 member municipalities, 1 electoral area, and Indian reserves, with populations ranging in size from 5 to 631,485. Table 5.2b shows that 97,565 or one quarter (5.2%) of the seniors in the GVRD live in the City of Vancouver. A further 72,990 (18.8%) live in Surrey, while 36,860 (9.5%) live in Burnaby.

In several communities within the GVRD, the proportion (%) of seniors in the population exceeded the 2016 provincial average of 15.8% (see Table 5.2b). These communities included: White Rock, where over one-third (34.0%) of the population was aged 65 and over in 2016, West Vancouver (27.8%), Belcarra (24.2%), Lions Bay



(21.8%), Bowen Island (20.9%), Langley (19.2%), Delta (18.7%), The District Municipality of North Vancouver (17.5%), Richmond (17.0%), and the City of North Vancouver (16.1%).

**Table 5.2.1: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2016**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Anmore [VL]	2,210	195	105	90	0.05%	8.8%
Belcarra [VL]	640	155	80	75	0.04%	24.2%
Bowen Island [IM]	3,680	770	385	385	0.2%	20.9%
Burnaby [C]	232,755	36,860	16,870	19,990	9.5%	15.8%
Coquitlam [C]	139,285	19,380	8,885	10,495	5.0%	13.9%
Delta [DM]	102,235	19,160	8,945	10,215	4.9%	18.7%
Greater Vancouver A [RDA]	16,135	1,565	715	850	0.4%	9.7%
Langley [C]	25,885	4,960	2,090	2,870	1.3%	19.2%
Langley [DM]	117,285	18,560	8,520	10,040	4.8%	15.8%
Lions Bay [VL]	1,330	290	155	135	0.1%	21.8%
Maple Ridge [DM]	82,255	11,920	5,345	6,575	3.1%	14.5%
New Westminster [C]	71,000	10,820	4,725	6,095	2.8%	15.2%
North Vancouver [C]	52,895	8,520	3,615	4,905	2.2%	16.1%
North Vancouver [DM]	85,935	15,055	6,890	8,165	3.9%	17.5%
Pitt Meadows [C]	18,575	2,925	1,315	1,610	0.8%	15.7%
Port Coquitlam [C]	58,610	7,470	3,410	4,060	1.9%	12.7%
Port Moody [C]	33,550	4,080	1,925	2,155	1.1%	12.2%
Richmond [C]	198,310	33,650	15,490	18,160	8.7%	17.0%

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			% Distribution of Population 65+ in GVRD	% of Community Aged 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Surrey [C]	517,890	72,990	34,050	38,940	18.8%	14.1%
Vancouver [C]	631,485	97,565	44,180	53,385	25.2%	15.5%
West Vancouver [DM]	42,475	11,810	5,235	6,575	3.0%	27.8%
White Rock [C]	19,950	6,785	2,765	4,020	1.7%	34.0%
Indian Reserves*	9,095	1,825	830	995	0.5%	20.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,463,465</b>	<b>387,310</b>	<b>176,525</b>	<b>210,785</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

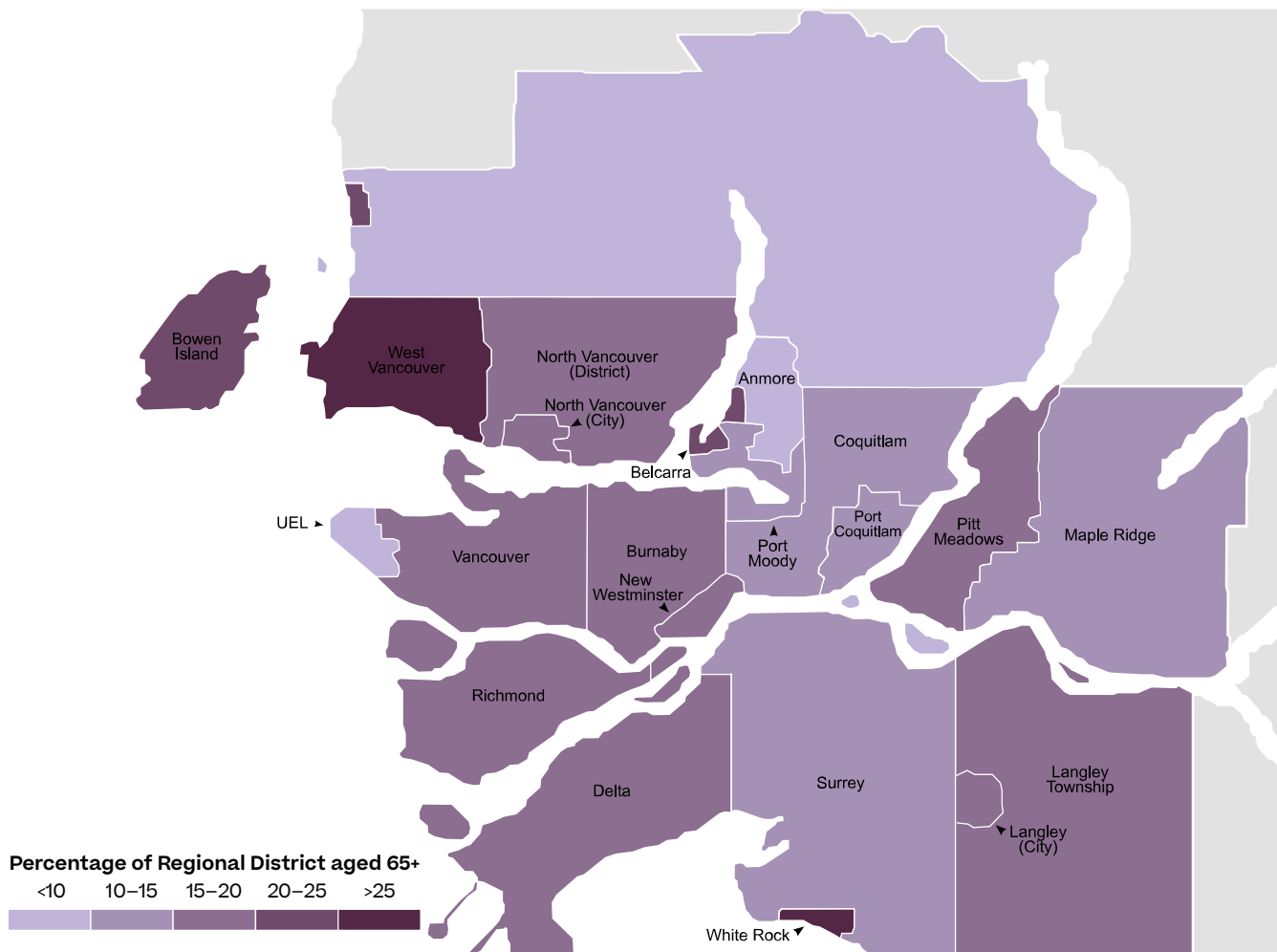
\*These include Burrard Inlet, Capilano, Coquitlam, Katzie, Matsqui, McMillan Island, Mission, Musqueam, Semiahmoo, Seymour Creek, Tsawwassen. Some reserves included in the previous edition (Whonock & Langley) are not included in this version, as Statistics Canada did not report number for 2016. These 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. 2016. Age and Sex Table Highlights, 2016 Census. Population by broad age groups and sex, 2016 counts for both sexes, Canada, and census subdivision (municipalities), 2016 Census (100% data). <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/hltfst/as/Table.cfm?Lang=E&T=14&type=1> (Accessed: January 9th, 2019).

**Figure 5.2.1: Percentage of Population Aged 65+: Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2016**



### 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 5.3c, over half (50.2%) of the seniors live in two communities; 18,050 (21.7%) in the City of Victoria and 23,715 (28.5%) in the Municipality of Saanich.

In terms of the proportion of their population aged 65+, nine communities equal or exceed 20%. These are the Southern Gulf Islands (43.2%), Sidney (40.9%), North Saanich (31.7%), Oak Bay (31.6%), Salt Spring Island (30.6%), Central Saanich (25.5%), Metchosin (21.8%), Victoria (21.0%) and Saanich (21.0%).

**Table 5.2.2: Total Population and Population Aged 65+: Capital Regional District, 2016**

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of Population 65+ in CRD	% of Municipality 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Central Saanich [DM]	16,815	4,290	1,965	2,320	5.20%	25.50%
Colwood [C]	16,860	2,720	1,295	1,425	3.30%	16.10%
Esquimalt [DM]	17,655	3,150	1,415	1,735	3.80%	17.80%
Highlands [DM]	2,225	300	155	145	0.40%	13.50%
Juan de Fuca Part 1 [RDA]	4,670	905	490	420	1.10%	19.40%
Juan de Fuca Part 2 [RDA]	190	30	20	15	0.04%	15.80%
Langford [C]	35,340	4,385	1,965	2,420	5.30%	12.40%
Metchosin [DM]	4,710	1,025	535	490	1.20%	21.80%
North Saanich [DM]	11,250	3,570	1,815	1,755	4.30%	31.70%
Oak Bay [DM]	18,095	5,715	2,535	3,180	6.90%	31.60%
Saanich [DM]	114,145	23,715	10,690	13,025	28.50%	21.00%
Salt Spring Island [RDA]	10,560	3,230	1,530	1,705	3.90%	30.60%
Sidney [T]	11,675	4,775	1,965	2,810	5.70%	40.90%
Sooke [DM]	13,000	2,150	1,000	1,150	2.60%	16.50%
Southern Gulf Islands [RDA]	4,730	2,045	1,040	1,005	2.50%	43.20%
Victoria [C]	85,795	18,050	7,645	10,400	21.70%	21.00%
View Royal [T]	10,410	1,840	840	1,000	2.20%	17.70%
Indian Reserves*	5,015	1,175	525	650	1.4%	23.4%

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Total Population	Population Aged 65+			Distribution of Population 65+ in CRD	% of Municipality 65+
		Total	Males	Females		
Total	383,140	83,070	37,425	45,220	100.0%	21.7%

\*These include Becher Bay, Cole Bay, East Saanich, Esquimalt, Galiano Island, 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. 2016. "Census Profile." 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 27th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed January 19, 2019).

## 5.3 MOBILITY

### 5.3.1 TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION AGED 65+

Canadians are a relatively mobile people. In each of the census years of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016, approximately one-quarter of the population 65 years of age and over (ranging between 18.0% and 31.5%) were living in a different dwelling than five years earlier. From 1971–2001, there was a steady decline in the mobility rate for Canadians aged 65 and over. However, between 2001 and 2006, the mobility rate increased almost 1%. Following this, 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 2016, senior British Columbians had a mobility rate that was 4.1% higher than the national average (a 1.3% increase from 2011) 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 and 2016: 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%

Period	Canada	British Columbia
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%

\* 20% sample

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

#### 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.
- Statistics Canada. 1984. "Volume 1, National series. Population: Mobility status, Table 1" (table). 1981 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-907. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1989. "Nation [series]. Population and dwelling characteristics: Mobility status and interprovincial migration, Table 1" (table). 1986 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-108. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1993. "Nation [series]. Mobility and migration, Table 1A" (table). 1991 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93-322. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. 1998. 1996 Census. Nation series, complete edition [CD-ROM]. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 93F0022XDB96010. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data" (table). 2001 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 97F0003XCB01002. Ottawa. (accessed December 10, 2002).
- Statistics Canada. No date. "Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (9), Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Population 5 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census – 20% Sample Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97556XCB2006007. Ottawa. Released December 4, 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?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&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110702&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=127&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed January 19th, 2019).

### 5.3.2 DISTANCE MOVED

Moves by individuals in older age groups are mainly of a short distance. For example, of the 175,645 elderly British Columbians who changed residence between 2011 and 2016 (see Table 5.3.2a), 49.5% (86,950) remained in the same census subdivision (non-migrant movers); 33.5% (58,780) moved elsewhere within the province (intraprovincial migrants); 10.5% (18,440) moved to B.C. from a different province (interprovincial migrants); while 6.5% (11,480) 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 2016 lived outside the province than in 2011. In 2016, 116,100 or 2.1% 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 29,920 or 3.8%.

**Table 5.3.2a: Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2011–2016**

Mobility Status	Canada*				British Columbia*			
	65+	65–69	70–74	75+	65+	65–69	70–74	75+
Non-Movers	4,494,550	1,551,805	1,134,425	1,808,320	619,765	210,085	154,280	255,400
Non-Migrant Movers	540,015	201,735	134,385	203,895	86,950	33,695	21,815	31,440
Migrants	445,330	189,870	115,035	140,425	88,695	38,805	22,615	27,275
Internal Migrants	389,105	165,540	99,380	124,185	77,220	33,770	19,500	23,950
Intraprovincial Migrants	329,225	137,775	84,395	107,055	58,780	24,905	14,765	19,110
Interprovincial Migrants	59,865	27,765	14,985	17,115	18,440	8,865	4,735	4,840
External Migrants	56,235	24,330	15,660	16,245	11,480	5,035	3,115	3,330

Mobility Status	Canada*				British Columbia*			
	65+	65–69	70–74	75+	65+	65–69	70–74	75+
Total Movers	985,345	391,605	249,420	344,320	175,645	72,500	44,430	58,715
Total	5,479,895	1,543,410	1,383,845	2,152,640	795,410	226,780	198,710	314,115

*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

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. 2016. “Components of Migration (In – and Out-): Mobility 5 Years Ago (9), Mother Tongue (8), Marital Status (9), Age (18) and Sex (3) for Migrants Aged 5 Years and Over in Private Households of Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census, 25% Sample Data” (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016311. Ottawa. Released November 29th, 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&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110702&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&-SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=127&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed January 21st, 2019).

Vancouver was clearly the destination of choice for external migrants in the period 2011–2016 (see Table 5.3.2b). Of the 11,480 seniors who moved to B.C. from another country (Table 5.3b, External Migrants), 8,780 or 76.5% located in Vancouver, 760 (6.6%) in Victoria and the remaining 1,940 (16.9%) 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, 2011–2016**

Migrant Group	CMA Vancouver§*				CMA Victoria§*			
	65–69	70–74	75+	Total 65+	65–69	70–74	75+	Total 65+
Total In-Migrants	7,240	4,695	5,830	17,765	2,550	1,585	1,790	5,925
Intraprovincial In-Migrants	1,680	1,155	1,810	4,645	1,145	650	920	2,715
Interprovincial In-Migrants	1,840	1,145	1,360	4,345	1,075	680	700	2,455
External Migrants	3,730	2,390	2,660	8,780	335	255	170	760



Migrant Group	CMA Vancouver§*				CMA Victoria§*			
	65–69	70–74	75+	Total 65+	65–69	70–74	75+	Total 65+
Total Out-Migrants	6,425	3,140	3,215	12,780	1,455	850	955	3,260
Intraprovincial Out-Migrants	5,090	2,430	2,340	9,860	1,105	655	615	2,375
Interprovincial Out-Migrants	1,335	715	875	2,925	350	190	235	775

§ CMA – Census Metropolitan Areas

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2016. “Components of Migration (In – and Out-): Mobility 5 Years Ago (7), Mother Tongue (8), Age Groups (16) and Sex (3) for Migrants Aged 5 Years and Over in Private Households of Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census, 25% Sample Data” (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016315. Ottawa. Released November 29th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DE-TAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=111348&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&-SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=127&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed January 21st, 2019).

## 6. Predominant Groups

The 2016 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.

Table 6.1 shows that in 2016, the English were the predominant ethnic group (as a single or multiple selection) among British Columbians, both for the total population (26.4%) and for those 65 and over (31.9%). Among persons of all ages in B.C., those of Canadian origin constituted the second largest group (19.0%), followed by Scottish (18.9%). Viewing ethnic seniors, the largest groups after the English included: Scottish (18.9%), Irish (14.2%) and Canadian (12.8%).

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, 2016**

Ethnic Origin Group	Total Population of B.C. (4,560,240)*				Population Aged 65+ (795,415)*			
	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Total Pop. §	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Pop. Aged 65+§
English	202,495	1,001,050	1,203,545	26.40%	80,370	173,090	253,460	31.90%
Canadian	312,070	554,460	866,530	19.00%	38,130	63,495	101,625	12.80%
Scottish	71,060	789,715	860,775	18.90%	25,970	124,515	150,485	18.90%
Irish	44,355	630,775	675,130	14.50%	13,590	99,695	113,285	14.20%
German	99,320	503,945	603,265	13.00%	37,300	58,935	96,235	11.30%
Chinese	456,845	83,310	540,155	11.60%	68,700	4,470	73,175	8.60%
French	32,220	356,600	388,580	8.40%	9,705	44,000	53,700	6.30%
East Indian	261,550	47,765	309,315	6.70%	36,040	4,215	40,255	4.70%
Ukrainian	34,610	194,590	229,205	4.90%	13,525	17,145	30,675	3.60%

Ethnic Origin Group	Total Population of B.C. (4,560,240)*				Population Aged 65+ (795,415)*			
	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Total Pop. §	Single	Multiple	Total§	% of Pop. Aged 65+§
Dutch	52,040	161,630	213,670	4.60%	13,955	16,390	30,345	3.60%
Total ‡	1,566,565	4,323,840	5,890,170	N/A	337,285	605,950	943,240	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. 2016. "Ethnic Origin (279), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Generation Status (4), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census, 25% Sample Data" (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016187. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=01&GL=-1&GID=1341679&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110528&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 21st, 2019).

## 6.2 PROPORTION OF ETHNIC ORIGIN GROUPS AGED 65+

Among all persons selecting English as a single or multiple ethnic origin, 21.1% 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). 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, 2016**

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Acadian	60	240	300	<0.1%	7.6%
Afghan	390	50	440	<0.1%	5.6%
Other African, N.I.E.	255	1,195	1,450	0.2%	2.6%
Albanian	30	40	70	<0.1%	3.6%
Algerian	15	10	20	<0.1%	2.6%
American (USA)	1,545	12,740	14,275	1.8%	18.3%
Arab, N.O.S.	160	145	305	<0.1%	5.4%
Armenian	440	225	665	0.1%	17.9%
Australian	185	985	1,170	0.1%	7.2%
Austrian	2,440	6,630	9,065	1.1%	18.7%
Bangladeshi	35	10	45	<0.1%	2.4%
Barbadian	80	115	190	<0.1%	10.2%
Belgian	715	2,640	3,360	0.4%	16.8%
Black, N.O.S.	30	290	315	<0.1%	11.8%
Bosnian	205	105	315	<0.1%	9.6%
British, N.I.E.	7,650	9,090	16,735	2.1%	13.6%
Bulgarian	215	135	350	<0.1%	8.7%
Cambodian (Khmer)	125	85	215	<0.1%	6.6%
Canadian	38,130	63,495	101,625	12.8%	11.7%

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Totals		
Caribbean, <b>N.I.E.</b>	105	40	150	<0.1%	7.8%
Chilean	290	300	590	0.1%	10.4%
Chinese	68,700	4,470	73,175	9.2%	13.5%
Colombian	200	65	260	<0.1%	4.4%
Croatian	2,790	1,035	3,820	0.5%	16.0%
Czech	2,160	1,835	3,995	0.5%	17.1%
Czechoslovakian, <b>N.O.S.</b>	445	1,070	1,520	0.2%	19.1%
Danish	3,480	6,170	9,650	1.2%	16.6%
Dutch (Netherlands)	16,390	13,955	30,345	3.8%	14.2%
East Indian	36,040	4,215	40,255	5.1%	13.0%
Egyptian	200	95	295	<0.1%	6.5%
English	80,370	173,090	253,460	31.9%	21.1%
Estonian	410	360	770	0.1%	15.9%
Ethiopian	65	25	90	<0.1%	3.5%
Other European, <b>N.I.E.</b>	745	490	1,230	0.2%	8.4%
Fijian	765	665	1,430	0.2%	10.1%
Filipino	9,505	2,230	11,730	1.5%	7.4%
Finnish	2,345	2,700	5,050	0.6%	14.8%
Flemish	375	65	440	<0.1%	20.0%
French	9,705	44,000	53,700	6.8%	13.8%

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Totals		
German	37,300	58,935	96,235	12.1%	15.9%
Ghanaian	55	20	70	<0.1%	4.4%
Greek	2,460	1,000	3,455	0.4%	14.1%
Guyanese	40	60	95	<0.1%	4.9%
Haitian	15	20	35	<0.1%	3.1%
Hungarian	4,255	3,885	8,140	1.0%	14.4%
Icelandic	865	2,865	3,725	0.5%	14.1%
Inuit	30	130	155	<0.1%	5.9%
Iranian	4,505	350	4,860	0.6%	10.1%
Iraqi	290	60	350	<0.1%	6.3%
Irish	13,590	99,695	113,285	14.2%	16.8%
Italian	13,040	8,560	21,600	2.7%	13.0%
Jamaican	405	405	810	0.1%	7.7%
Japanese	6,560	505	7,070	0.9%	13.8%
Jewish	840	2,140	2,975	0.4%	16.9%
Korean	4,770	60	4,830	0.6%	7.6%
Laotian	50	50	100	<0.1%	4.0%
Latin/Central/ South American, <b>N.I.E.</b>	80	85	165	<0.1%	5.0%
Latvian	370	490	860	0.1%	17.4%
Lebanese	395	405	805	0.1%	10.1%
Lithuanian	310	885	1,190	0.1%	16.5%

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Macedonian	45	60	100	<0.1%	8.3%
Maltese	170	160	335	<0.1%	12.7%
Métis	1,080	6,075	7,155	0.9%	7.9%
Mexican	545	470	1,010	0.1%	4.4%
Moroccan	50	65	110	<0.1%	5.5%
Newfoundlander	35	225	255	<0.1%	13.6%
North American Indian	6,645	11,385	18,035	2.3%	8.2%
Norwegian	4,835	16,795	21,630	2.7%	15.6%
Other Northern European, <b>N.I.E.</b>	430	1,420	1,845	14.2%	12.2%
Pakistani	510	285	795	0.1%	6.3%
Palestinian	150	75	215	<0.1%	8.2%
Peruvian	125	150	275	<0.1%	7.0%
Polish	6,490	15,890	22,385	2.8%	15.0%
Portuguese	3,870	1,460	5,330	0.7%	12.8%
Punjabi	3,025	1,635	4,665	0.6%	12.0%
Québécois	105	130	230	<0.1%	12.6%
Romanian	1,265	2,780	4,045	0.5%	12.9%
Russian	5,600	11,445	17,045	2.1%	13.0%
Salvadorean	320	50	370	<0.1%	5.4%
Scottish	25,970	124,515	150,485	18.9%	18.0%
Serbian	905	415	1,320	0.2%	10.2%

Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Total§		
Slovak	855	780	1,640	0.2%	14.6%
Slovenian	650	350	995	0.1%	17.9%
Somali	35	0	40	<0.1%	1.7%
South African	195	600	795	0.1%	7.2%
South Asian, <b>N.I.E.</b>	675	265	940	0.1%	11.4%
Spanish	1,365	5,250	6,615	0.8%	10.3%
Sri Lankan	360	100	460	0.1%	8.1%
Swedish	3,360	15,100	18,465	2.3%	16.8%
Swiss	1,865	3,875	5,745	0.7%	18.3%
Syrian	120	165	285	<0.1%	7.2%
Taiwanese	1,320	515	1,840	0.2%	8.6%
Tamil	60	35	100	<0.1%	8.1%
Trinidadian/To-bagonian	225	175	395	<0.1%	9.5%
Turk	230	265	495	0.1%	7.8%
Ukrainian	13,525	17,145	30,675	3.9%	13.4%
Vietnamese	2,100	545	2,640	0.3%	6.4%
Welsh	1,845	18,245	20,085	2.5%	17.6%
West Indian, <b>N.O.S.</b>	135	150	280	<0.1%	13.2%
Yugoslav, <b>N.O.S.</b>	390	535	925	0.1%	13.1%



Ethnic Origin Group	Number 65+			% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+§ (795,415)*	Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+§
	Single	Multiple	Totals		
Total ‡	469,515	325,900	795,415	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. 2016. "Ethnic Origin (279), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Generation Status (4), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016187. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=5&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110528&PRID=10&P-TYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=28555&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=9&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed January 23rd, 2019)

### 6.3 VISIBLE MINORITIES

This refers to the visible minority group to which the respondent belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." According to the 2016 Census, visible minorities made up 20.0% of the population aged 65 and over in British Columbia. The most prevalent visible minority was Chinese, who made up 9.0% of the older population in British Columbia. The next most prevalent group was South Asian, comprising 5.8% of the B.C. senior population. It is anticipated that these rates of visible minority elders will rise significantly over the next several decades due to the aging of the larger middle-aged proportions.

**Table 6.3: Visible Minorities Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2016**

Minority	Total		Males		Females	
Chinese	71,270	9.00%	33,275	8.80%	38,000	9.10%
South Asian	45,880	5.80%	22,150	5.90%	23,730	5.70%
Filipino	11,335	1.40%	3,820	1.00%	7,510	1.80%
Japanese	6,900	0.90%	3,050	0.80%	3,855	0.90%
West Asian	4,560	0.60%	2,425	0.60%	2,135	0.50%
Korean	4,760	0.60%	2,415	0.60%	2,345	0.60%
Southeast Asian	3,760	0.50%	1,690	0.40%	2,075	0.50%
Latin American	3,075	0.40%	1,385	0.40%	1,690	0.40%
Black	2,645	0.30%	1,330	0.40%	1,315	0.30%
Multiple visible minority	2,325	0.30%	1,065	0.30%	1,260	0.30%
Arab	1,250	0.20%	695	0.20%	555	0.10%
Other visible minority	930	0.10%	375	0.10%	555	0.10%
Total visible minority population	158,700	20.0%	73,675	20.0%	85,025	20.3%
All Others§	636,715	80.0%	303,015	80.0%	333,705	79.7%
All Population*	795,415	100.0%	376,690	100.0%	418,730	100.0%

§ 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. 2016. "Visible Minority (15), Generation Status (4), Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data. Statistics Canada catalogue no.98-400-X2016190. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/>

census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=5&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110528&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=28555&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=9&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0 (accessed February 1st, 2019)

## 6.4 MOTHER TONGUE

In 2016, 67.3% of seniors in British Columbia had English as their mother tongue (single or multiple response), compared to 52.8% of seniors in the whole of Canada. These percentages are generated by dividing the number found for each group by the column total. A higher percentage of B.C. seniors (30.8%) have a non-official language (i.e., neither English nor French) as their mother tongue compared to the rest of Canada (23.5%). After English, the most common single mother tongues spoken by B.C. seniors are Chinese, spoken by 66,415 seniors (8.5%), and German, spoken by 33,335 seniors (4.2%). Note that some language groups are found in more than one category. While 1,285,160 (23.7%) persons aged 65 and over in Canada had French as their mother tongue, only 14,930 (1.9%) of B.C. seniors had French as a mother tongue.

Furthermore, 9,875 (1.3%) B.C. seniors reported more than one language as their mother tongue. Of these seniors, the majority (8,205 or 83.1%) spoke English and a non-official language.

**Table 6.4: Mother Tongue of Those Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2016**

Mother Tongue	Canada**			British Columbia**		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Single responses	5,412,800	2,520,270	2,892,530	785,540	372,270	413,270
English	2,857,595	1,335,875	1,521,725	528,665	252,045	276,625
French	1,285,160	593,665	691,495	14,930	6,905	8,025
Non-official languages	1,270,045	590,730	679,320	241,940	113,320	128,620
Aboriginal languages	22,745	10,210	12,530	3,090	1,355	1,735
Italian	162,775	79,175	83,605	10,440	5,205	5,230
Portuguese	48,830	22,310	26,515	3,825	1,830	2,000
Romanian	9,985	4,310	5,675	850	370	475
Spanish	41,795	18,370	23,430	4,800	2,090	2,710
Flemish	2,235	970	73,935	190	80	110
German	137,470	63,535	27,645	33,335	15,820	17,520
Dutch	53,110	25,465	27,645	11,290	5,450	5,835

Mother Tongue	Canada**			British Columbia**		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Frisian	1,230	620	615	195	70	125
Yiddish	4,795	2,210	2,590	235	125	110
Danish	7,250	3,625	3,625	2,875	1,445	1,435
Icelandic	635	245	395	115	40	75
Norwegian	2,685	1,345	1,340	1,200	635	565
Swedish	2,540	1,035	1,500	1,130	455	675
Celtic languages	1,335	590	745	290	190	170
Slavic languages — Total	165,105	72,060	90,050	20,855	9,785	11,075
Croatian	16,100	8,040	8,055	2,795	1,510	1,280
Czech	8,495	4,355	4,140	2,350	1,245	1,105
Polish	42,100	17,685	24,415	3,840	1,735	2,110
Russian	21,330	8,260	13,065	3,715	1,525	2,195
Ukrainian	46,310	19,035	27,275	4,955	2,150	2,805
Baltic languages	4,930	1,970	2,960	430	190	240
Estonia	2,660	1,125	1,530	350	155	200
Finnish	7,555	3,015	4,535	1,715	655	1,060
Hungarian	23,665	11,215	12,455	3,860	1,920	1,945
Greek	39,250	20,070	19,180	2,255	1,240	1,010
Armenian	7,750	3,520	4,240	410	200	210
Turkic languages	3,505	1,890	1,615	430	260	175
Afro-Asiatic languages	44,055	23,530	20,525	1,930	1,090	840
Semitic languages	42,075	22,600	19,475	1,885	1,080	805

Mother Tongue	Canada**			British Columbia**		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Indo-Aryan languages - Total	130,095	64,690	65,400	40,525	19,045	21,115
Punjabi Only	72,710	35,560	37,150	31,955	15,360	16,590
Iranian languages	19,715	10,190	9,520	4,860	2,600	2,260
Dravidian languages	18,740	8,765	9,970	640	305	335
Japanese	8,390	3,500	4,890	4,490	1,845	2,640
Korean	15,285	7,500	7,785	4,640	2,370	2,265
Sino-Tibetan languages Total	189,930	87,850	102,080	66,575	30,940	35,630
Chinese Only languages	188,995	101,595	87,400	66,415	30,875	35,540
Tai languages (e.g., Thai)	1,790	805	980	200	75	130
Austro-Asiatic languages	17,975	8,095	9,880	2,570	1,160	1,410
Austronesian languages Total	49,960	17,715	32,245	10,425	3,635	6,795
Tagalog (e.g., Filipino) Only	41,500	14,585	26,915	8,310	2,810	5,500
Niger-Congo languages	4,040	2,260	1,780	245	115	130
Creole languages	10,925	4,275	6,645	90	30	60
Other languages, n.i.e.	310	180	130	35	20	15
Multiple responses	67,110	31,210	35,895	9,875	4,420	5,455
English and French	16,615	7,475	9,135	1,165	540	625
English and non-official language	42,015	19,520	22,490	8,205	3,605	4,600
French and non-official language	6,805	3,325	3,485	350	190	160

Mother Tongue	Canada**			British Columbia**		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
English, French and non-official language	1,680	890	790	155	80	75
Total *	5,479,905	2,551,480	2,928,435	795,410	376,685	418,725

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

*\*Includes single and multiple mother tongue groupings (Total-Mother Tongue). Therefore the total is slightly larger than the total population shown under "single responses".*

*\*\* 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. 2016. "Mother Tongue (187), Generation Status (4), Number of Languages Known (11), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016195. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=2&LANG=E&APATH=3&-DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110556&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOW-ALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed January 30th, 2019)

## 6.5 IMMIGRANTS

There were 333,385 seniors in British Columbia whose immigration status was foreign born in 2016 (see Table 6.5, Total – Immigrants 65+). This represents 41.9% of the 2016 total seniors population (795,415) in the province and an increase over the 262,565 (40.7% of total seniors) reported in the *Fact Book 6th Edition*, based on 2011 census data. Most of the immigrants in B.C. aged 65 and over were born in Europe (150,935 or 45.3%), however this group is closely rivalled by immigrants born in Asia (138,680 or 41.6%). An additional 18,150 (5.4%) were born in the United States.

The birth place of immigrant elders differs noticeably for Vancouver and Victoria; in Vancouver, 31.8% of immigrants were born in Europe, lower than the provincial average, whereas in Victoria, 65.9% of immigrants were born there, with 38.5% of all immigrants being born in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, over half (121,990, or 56.7%) of immigrants living in Vancouver were born in Asia and the Middle East, whereas only 4,305 (17.5%) of those living in Victoria were born there. Victoria also has a higher elderly American born population than the provincial average; 9.8% of immigrants living in Victoria were born in the United States, compared to 2.8% of those in Vancouver.

**Table 6.5: Place of Birth of Immigrants Aged 65+: British Columbia, Vancouver and Victoria, 2016**

Place of Birth	British Columbia**			Vancouver§ **	Victoria**
	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
United States	18,150	8,385	9,770	6,020	2,405
Central America	2,175	885	1,290	1,450	125
South America	3,840	1,735	2,105	2,460	240
Caribbean and Bermuda	3,005	1,320	1,685	2,140	300
Europe (total)	150,935	73,085	77,850	68,450	16,160
Northern Europe*	71,650	33,870	37,780	28,900	10,360
United Kingdom	62,150	29,420	32,735	24,615	9,455
Western Europe	38,610	19,075	19,530	14,445	3,270
Eastern Europe	17,955	8,495	9,460	10,035	1,300
Southern Europe	22,725	11,645	11,075	15,070	1,235
Africa	8,760	4,185	4,575	6,700	575
Asia (total)	138,680	64,500	74,180	121,990	4,305
West Central Asia and the Middle East	7,610	4,130	3,480	6,850	265
Eastern Asia	70,520	33,035	37,485	66,300	2,115
South East Asia	22,475	8,865	13,610	19,665	730
Southern Asia	38,080	18,475	19,600	29,170	1,195
Oceania and Other	7,840	3,555	4,280	5,810	425

Place of Birth	British Columbia**			Vancouver§ **	Victoria**
	Total	Males	Females	Both Sexes	
Total - Immigrants 65+	333,385	157,650	175,735	215,020	24,535

§ 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. 2016. "Citizenship (5), Place of Birth (272), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (11), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data (table). 206 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016184 Ottawa. Released January 16th, 2018 <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=01&GL=-1&GID=1341679&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110525&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed February 7th, 2019).

## 6.6 ABORIGINAL PEOPLES (INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA)

It is estimated that 1,652,480 Canadians selected a single ethnic origin that included North American Indian (977,240), Métis (587,545), Inuit (65,025) and Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere (includes those who reported themselves as Registered Indians and/or band members without reporting Aboriginal identity) (22,670) (see Table 6.6). A further 21,310 Canadians claimed to have multiple aboriginal identities. B.C. had 16.2% (270,585) 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 5.8% of the total population of the province in 2016, they were under-represented in the 65 and over population, forming only 2.6% 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 6th Edition of the *Fact Book*, approximately 6% of Indigenous Peoples of B.C. were 65 and over in 2011.



**Table 6.6: Aboriginal Population (Origin) Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2016\***

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	977,240	62,075	1.1%	172,520	12,015	1.5%
Métis single origin	587,545	51,115	0.9%	89,405	7,935	1.0%
Inuit single origin	65,025	3,065	0.1%	1,615	70	0.01%
Aboriginal Responses, n.i.e.**	22,670	3,415	0.1%	2,695	445	0.06%
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses***	21,310	2,000	0.04%	4,350	320	0.04%
Total Aboriginal origins population	1,673,780	121,665	2.2%	270,585	20,790	2.6%
Total non-Aboriginal population	32,786,280	5,358,240	97.8%	4,289,655	774,620	97.4%
Total - Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal population****	34,460,065	5,479,910	100.0%	4,560,235	795,415	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. 2016. "Aboriginal Identity (9), Age Groups (20), Registered or Treaty Indian Status (3) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data" (table). Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016156. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017 <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=2&LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=1261890&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110511&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=122&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (Accessed February 7th, 2019)

# 7. Housing and Living Arrangements

## 7.1 PERSONS BY TYPE

Similar to the rest of Canada, the vast majority (795,415 or 93.7%) of elderly in British Columbia live in private households (see Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1a). In 2016, only 53,570 or 6.3% of the population aged 65 and over were residents of “collective dwellings,” defined by Statistics Canada as including nursing, chronic care and old age homes; hospitals; religious institutions; and hotels, motels, tourist homes, YM/YWCA’s, etc. Approximately 92.5% of seniors in collective dwellings (49,565) live in special care homes for the elderly (data not shown in table).

In Table 7.1 we observe that the majority (294,140 or 74.4%) of older men resided in families with a spouse and/or never-married children (termed family households by Census Canada). This can be compared with 248,275 or 54.8% of elderly women living in family households. Even among men aged 75 and over, over two-thirds (109,140 or 68.9%) lived in such family settings. Among elderly women, the proportion living in family arrangements decreases dramatically with age (167,390 or 66.4% in the 65–74 age group; and 80,885 or 40.2% among those aged 75+). There is a significant proportion of older women living in non-family households, either in private households (81,010 or 32.1% of women aged 65–74; and 88,860 or 44.1% of women aged 75+) or as residents of “collective dwellings” (3,750 or 1.5% and 31,530 or 15.7% for those same age groups). Older women are far more likely than older men to live alone (see Figures 7.1b and 7.1c). In 2016, 130,995 or 28.9% of women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with only 64,810 or 16.4% of men in this age group.

The proportion of senior women living alone appears to have reached an upper threshold, and indeed, has declined over the last decade. In 1961, 21.2% of B.C. women aged 65+ lived alone, compared with 34.8% in 1991, 35.3% in 1996, dropping slightly to 34.9% in 2001, 33.3% in 2006, 30.7% in 2011 and to 28.9% in 2016.

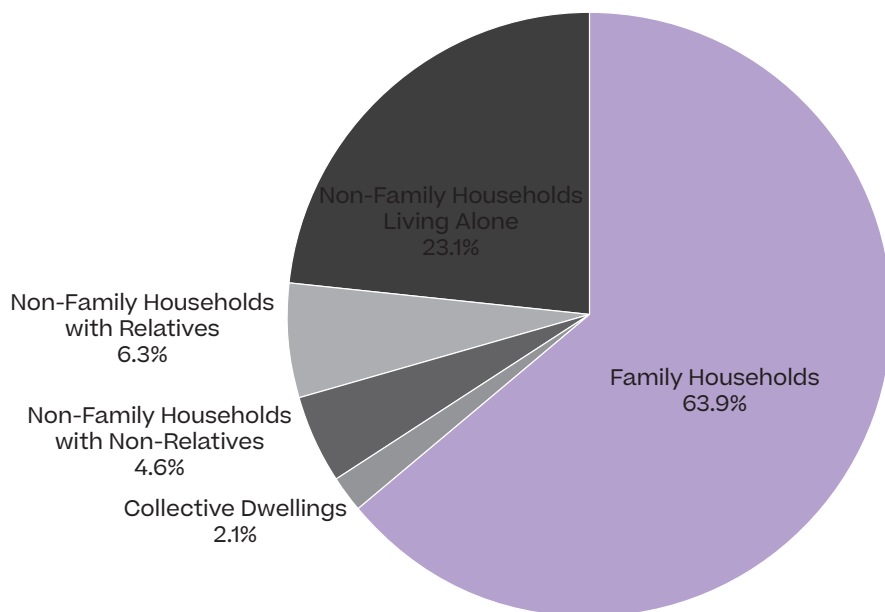
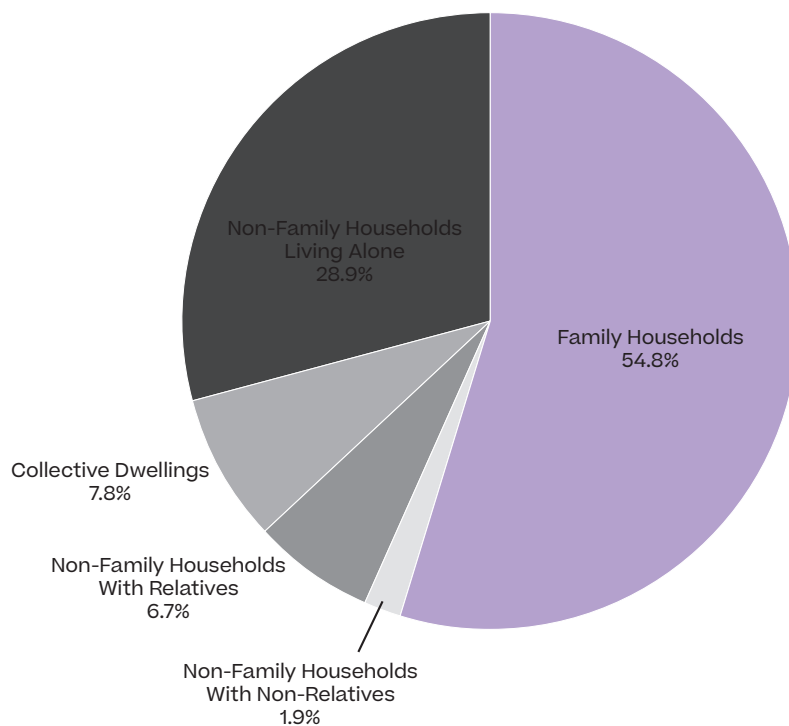
**Table 7.1: The Elderly Population, by Living Arrangements and Sex: British Columbia, 2016**

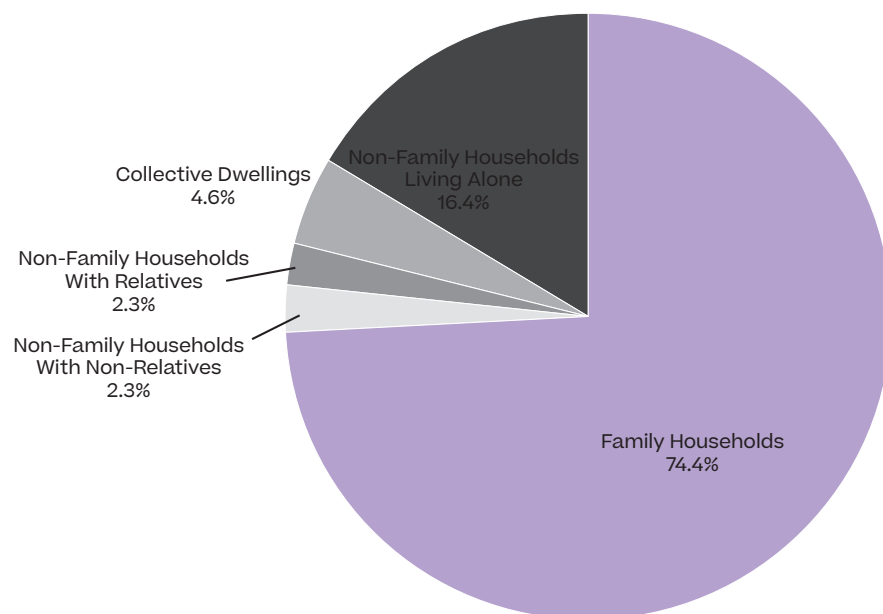
Living Arrangements	65+			65–74			75+		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Persons in Private Households	795,415	377,270	418,140	481,215	232,815	248,395	314,195	144,450	169,745
Family Households	542,410	294,140	248,275	352,385	184,995	167,390	190,025	109,140	80,885
Non-family Households	253,000	83,130	169,870	128,830	47,820	81,010	124,165	35,310	88,860

Living Arrangements	65+			65-74			75+		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
with relatives	39,290	9,115	30,175	17,315	4,200	13,115	21,975	4,910	17,055
non-relatives	17,905	9,210	8,700	12,350	6,515	5,835	5,555	2,695	2,860
alone	195,810	64,810	130,995	99,170	37,110	62,055	96,645	27,705	68,940
Persons in Collective Dwellings§	53,570	18,295	35,285	8,095	4,345	3,750	45,475	13,945	31,530
<b>Total Persons*</b>	<b>848,985</b>	<b>395,565</b>	<b>453,425</b>	<b>489,310</b>	<b>237,160</b>	<b>252,145</b>	<b>359,670</b>	<b>158,395</b>	<b>201,275</b>

§ Also includes hotels, motels, tourist homes, lodging houses.

\*Total persons is the sum of the number of people living in private households plus the number living in collective dwellings

**Figure 7.1a: Living Arrangements, Population 65+: British Columbia, 2016****Figure 7.1b: Living Arrangements, Females 65+: British Columbia, 2016**

**Figure 7.1c: Living Arrangements, Males 65+: British Columbia, 2016****Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Census Family Status and Household Living Arrangements (13), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 and 2011 Census-100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016390. Ottawa. Released June 21st, 2018. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1235635&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=113404&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2016&THEME=117&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=11&D3=2&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed February 21st, 2019).

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Type of Collective Dwelling (16), Age (20), and Sex (3) for the Population in Collective Dwellings of Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2016 Census-100% Data" (table). Topic-based tabulation. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016018. Ottawa. Released May 3rd, 2017. [https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=T&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1234502&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=109537&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2016&THEME=116&VID=0&VNAMEE=Type%20of%20collective%20dwelling%20\(16\)&VNAMEF=Type%20de%20logement%20collectif%20\(16\)&D1=2&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=T&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1234502&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=109537&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2016&THEME=116&VID=0&VNAMEE=Type%20of%20collective%20dwelling%20(16)&VNAMEF=Type%20de%20logement%20collectif%20(16)&D1=2&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0) (accessed February 21st, 2019).

**7.2 TYPES OF HOUSEHOLD**

The 2016 Census indicates that there were 496,480 private households in British Columbia maintained by persons aged 65 or over, which represents 26.3% of all households in the province. In Canada, there were 3,506,050 persons aged 65 and over living in private households.

As shown in Table 7.2, in 2016, 57.5% of households in B.C. with a maintainer aged 65+ were 'family households,' most consisting of a couple without additional family members. Of the 42.5% 'non-family households,' most have only one person. These figures are similar to those for all Canadian adults 65+.

**Table 7.2: Types of Household with Primary Maintainer Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2016**

Household Type	Canada		British Columbia	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Family households	2,017,195	57.6%	289,755	58.4%
One-family only households	1,866,830	53.2%	262,335	52.8%
Couples with children	213,870	6.1%	29,290	3.1%
Couples without children	1,463,875	41.8%	209,265	42.1%
Lone parents	189,100	5.4%	23,780	4.8%
Other Family Households	150,365	4.3%	27,410	5.5%
Non-family households	1,488,855	42.5%	206,725	41.6%
One person only	1,412,795	40.3%	195,855	39.4%
Two or more persons	76,070	2.2%	10,890	2.2%
Total - Household Type	3,506,050	100.0%	496,480	100.0%

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

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

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

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Age of Primary Household Maintainer (15), Tenure (4), Shelter-cost-to-income Ratio (5), Housing Suitability (3) Structural Type of Dwelling (10), Condominium Status (3) and Household Type including Census Family Structure (16) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data" (table).

Statistics Canada catalogue no. 99-400-X2016226. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. [https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110568&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Age%20of%20primary%20household%20maintainer%20\(15\)&VNAMEF=Âge%20du%20principal%20soutien%20du%20m%C3%A9nage%20\(15\)&D1=0&D2=0&D3=15&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110568&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Age%20of%20primary%20household%20maintainer%20(15)&VNAMEF=Âge%20du%20principal%20soutien%20du%20m%C3%A9nage%20(15)&D1=0&D2=0&D3=15&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0) (Accessed February 21st, 2019)

For Other Family Households: Statistics Canada. 2016. Age of Primary Household Maintainer (9), Tenure (4), Structural Type of Dwelling (10) and Household Type Including Census Family Structure (9) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census-25% Sample Data. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016227. Released October 25th, 2017. [https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1261890&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110570&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Age%20of%20primary%20household%20maintainer%20\(9\)&VNAMEF=Âge%20du%20principal%20soutien%20du%20m%C3%A9nage%20\(9\)&D1=0&D2=7&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1261890&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110570&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Age%20of%20primary%20household%20maintainer%20(9)&VNAMEF=Âge%20du%20principal%20soutien%20du%20m%C3%A9nage%20(9)&D1=0&D2=7&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0) (Accessed February 21st, 2019).



# 8. Housing

## 8.1 HOME OWNERSHIP

Data from the 2016 Census in Table 8.1 show that there are 400,030 (80.6%) homeowners aged 65 and over living in British Columbia, compared to 95,815 (19.3%) 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 (80.6% and 74.0%, respectively) owned their homes. Home ownership is considerably lower among the 25–44 age group (53.3%), and the under 25 group (20.6%), as one would expect.

**Table 8.1: Private Households, by Tenure, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads: British Columbia, 2016**

Tenure	< 25		25–44		45–64		65+	
Owners	12,090	20.6%	297,640	53.3%	569,265	74.1%	400,030	80.6%
Renters	46,400	79.2%	259,255	46.4%	197,880	25.7%	95,815	19.3%
Band Housing	125	0.2%	1,250	0.2%	1,575	0.2%	625	0.1%
Total	58,615	100.0%	558,145	100.0%	768,720	100.0%	496,470	100.0%

### Source:

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (15), Tenure (4), Structural Type of Dwelling (10), Condominium Status (3) and Household Type Including Census Family Structure (16) (for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census- 25% Sample Data" (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016226. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/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=01&GL=-1&GID=1341679&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110568&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed February 9th 2019)

## 8.2 PREFERRED STRUCTURAL TYPE

In 2016, the single-family detached dwelling was the housing form occupied by the majority (49.3%) of British Columbia households headed by persons aged 65 and over. As shown in Table 8.2, another 38.3% 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 8.6% lived in high-rise apartments. A small proportion of the elderly population (3.8%) resided in movable dwellings. These patterns were very similar to trends in the 2011 *Fact Book*.

Preferred structural type by age and sex are not available for 2011; therefore, we have reproduced the 2006 table below. Table 8.3b shows that (in 2006) males were much more likely than females to live in single detached dwellings in both the 65–74 and 75+ age groups.

**Table 8.2: Elderly Households, by Structural Type and Age of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 2016**

Dwelling	Age of Primary Maintainer					
	Total 65+		65–74		75+	
Single Detached	244,695	49.3%	147,685	51.3%	97,010	46.6%
Apartment (5+ stories)	42,850	8.6%	22,095	7.7%	20,755	10.0%
Movable Dwelling	18,975	3.8%	11,235	3.9%	7,740	3.7%
Other Dwelling*	189,955	38.3%	107,145	37.2%	82,810	39.8%
Total	496,475	100.0%	288,160	100.0%	208,315	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. 2016. “Age of Primary Household Maintainer (15), Tenure (4), and Structural Type of Dwelling (10), Condominium Status (3) and Household Type including Census Family Structure for Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census” (table). Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016226. Ottawa. Released October 25th, 2017 [https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&AP-ATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=H&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110568&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Household%20type%20including%20census%20family%20structure%20\(16\)&VNAMEF=Genre%20de%20ménage%20inquant%20la%20structure%20de%20la%20famille%20de%20recensement%20\(16\)&D1=7&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&AP-ATH=7&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=H&FREE=0&GC=59&GL=-1&GID=1341689&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110568&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=121&VID=0&VNAMEE=Household%20type%20including%20census%20family%20structure%20(16)&VNAMEF=Genre%20de%20ménage%20inquant%20la%20structure%20de%20la%20famille%20de%20recensement%20(16)&D1=7&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0) (accessed February 23rd, 2019).

# 9. Education

## 9.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The elderly in British Columbia tend to be better educated than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. In 2016, in Canada as a whole, 70.4% of seniors reported having a certificate, diploma or degree (not shown in table). Among British Columbians aged 65 and over, the comparable figure was 77.0% (see Table 9.1).

Table 9.1 compares the 65+ population of B.C. with persons aged 25–64. The proportion of elderly in each of the higher categories of education was lower than among younger adults. At the high end of the educational scale, 22.0% of seniors reported a university certificate or degree, compared with 33.9% of adults aged 25–64.

**Table 9.1: Highest Level of Schooling of the Population Aged 25–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2016**

Highest Level	Age 25–64*		Age 65+*					
	Total		Total		Males		Females	
No certificate, diploma or degree	244,000	9.6%	182,925	23.0%	78,070	20.7%	104,855	25.0%
High school certificate or equivalent	671,000	26.5%	214,295	26.9%	85,360	22.7%	128,935	30.8%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	231,445	9.1%	87,895	11.1%	64,280	17.1%	23,615	5.6%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	528,805	20.9%	133,455	16.8%	53,005	14.1%	80,450	19.2%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	99,695	3.9%	26,385	3.3%	10,075	2.7%	16,310	3.9%

Highest Level	Age 25–64*		Age 65+*					
	Total		Total		Males		Females	
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	758,015	30.0%	150,460	18.9%	85,890	22.8%	64,570	15.4%
Total	2,532,960	100.0%	795,410	100.0%	376,680	100.0%	418,735	100.0%

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

#### Source:

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (15), Major Field of Study - Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2016 (82) Age (9), and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over, in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census- 25% Sample Data (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016241. Ottawa. Released November 29th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/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=01&GL=-1&GID=1341679&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110633&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=123&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed February 19th, 2019).

## 9.2 EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE

Table 9.2 shows educational attendance in 2016 by persons aged 65+ in British Columbia. Educational attendance is defined as either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at a school, college or university. In 2016, approximately 1.9% of persons aged 65 and older attended school. This can be compared to an attendance rate of 1.8% among persons 65 and over in 2011 and a rate of 3.8% in 2006. The decline in school attendance among seniors may be partly due to increases in post-secondary education attendance/completion between 2006 and 2016 among these successive cohorts of older adults. It may also reflect the 2008 economic downturn and fewer educational opportunities.

There was close to no difference in the proportion of males and females 65 and older that attended school in 2016.

**Table 9.2: School Attendance by Persons Aged 65+: British Columbia, 2016**

School Attendance	British Columbia*					
	Total		Males		Females	
Attended school	15,490	1.9%	7,145	1.9%	8,340	2.0%

Did not attend school	779,925	98.1%	369,540	98.1%	410,385	98.0%
Total	795,415	100.0%	376,685	100.0%	418,725	100.0%

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

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. 2016. "Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (15), Major Field of Study - Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2016 (3), School Attendance (3), Age (13A) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over, in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census" (table). 2016 Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016242. Ottawa. Released November 29th, 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&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=110453&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=123&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> (accessed February 19th, 2019) SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=120&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF= (accessed January 30th, 2019)

# 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 1981, 17.3% of Canadian men aged 65+ were in the labour force; the participation rate dropped to 14.6% by 1986 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% and in 2016 to 19.8%. 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 and 19.9% in 2016. 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 (19.9% vs. 19.8%).

Also shown in Table 10.1, the trend for women is markedly different. There has been a noticeable increase in labour force participation rates for women 25–64. For example, in 1981 in B.C., 35.6% of women aged 55–64 were in the labour force, compared to 59.2% in 2016. Comparable labour force participation rates for B.C. females aged 45–54 are 59.1% and 79.7%. While labour force participation by women aged 65+ has changed very little over time, rates observed in 2016 were higher than they had been in recent decades, in both British Columbia (11.6%) and Canada as a whole (10.8%). 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, 1981–2016**

	Year	Males					Females				
		25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
<b>Canada*</b>	1981	95.3%	95.2%	92.3%	77.4%	17.3%	65.8%	64.3%	55.9%	35.7%	6.0%
	1986	94.8%	95.0%	91.7%	71.2%	14.6%	73.7%	72.2%	62.7%	36.2%	4.7%
	1991	94.0%	94.5%	91.5%	66.5%	14.4%	78.5%	79.6%	71.9%	39.2%	5.6%
	1996	91.1%	91.8%	89.0%	62.0%	13.0%	77.8%	79.0%	74.1%	39.4%	4.7%
	2001	91.2%	92.1%	89.3%	64.3%	13.6%	79.8%	81.1%	77.1%	44.0%	5.1%
	2006	91.0%	91.7%	89.4%	68.4%	16.2%	80.6%	81.9%	80.1%	51.4%	6.6%
	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%
<b>British Columbia*</b>	1981	95.6%	96.1%	92.8%	74.8%	13.8%	66.4%	66.9%	59.1%	35.6%	5.4%

Year	Males					Females				
	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
1986	95.2%	95.4%	92.3%	69.1%	11.2%	73.1%	73.5%	65.7%	36.3%	4.1%
1991	94.6%	94.9%	92.5%	65.2%	11.4%	78.9%	80.3%	74.0%	39.8%	4.8%
1996	91.5%	92.2%	89.6%	64.6%	12.0%	78.4%	79.1%	76.4%	43.1%	4.9%
2001	89.5%	91.0%	88.4%	66.9%	12.7%	78.7%	79.2%	77.3%	47.8%	5.5%
2006	90.0%	91.3%	88.5%	70.0%	15.5%	79.7%	80.2%	79.1%	53.0%	7.1%
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%

\* 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-recensement/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).

## 10.2 FULL- AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Table 10.2 shows that in 2018, B.C. seniors in the labour force were more likely to have part-time jobs (56,700/130,300 or 43.5%) than Canadian seniors in general (343,700/858,700 or 40.0%). 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 (55.0%) of the female labour force aged 65+ was employed on a part-time basis compared with 34.9% of males.

**Table 10.2: Full-time and Part-time Employment for 65+, by Sex: Canada and British Columbia, 2018\***

Labour Status	Canada			British Columbia		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Not in labour force	5,265,600	2,324,100	2,941,600	738,100	339,900	398,200
In labour force	858,700	514,600	344,000	130,300	74,300	56,000
Full-time employment	478,600	319,400	159,200	69,200	45,600	23,600
Part-time employment	343,700	171,300	172,400	56,700	25,900	30,800
Unemployment	36,400	23,900	12,500	4,400	2,800	1,700
Total	6,124,300	2,838,700	3,285,600	868,400	414,200	454,200

\*2018 was the most recent available data for this table

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. No date. "Table 282-0002 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and detailed age group, annual (persons unless otherwise noted)," Table: 14-10-0018-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0002) <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?lang=eng&cid=2820002&pattern=2820002&searchTypeByValue=1&p2=35> (accessed February 19th, 2019).



# 11. Unpaid Activities

## 11.1 UNPAID CAREGIVING BY SENIORS

Table 11.1b presents the 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. Note that these data differ from those presented in the *Fact Book 5th Edition*, since the 2012 tables include caregiving to family or friends of any age, rather than only to those aged 65 and over. No new data are available at this time beyond 2012; however, overall caregiving rates appear to be on the rise according to recent studies. Those aged 65+ in B.C. and Canada are similar in their rates of unpaid caregiver assistance. However, a higher percentage of women aged 65+ (12.1%) than men (11.8%) are unpaid caregivers in Canada. This pattern is replicated in British Columbia (14.9% for senior women and 13.8% for senior men).

**Table 11.1a: Seniors Providing Unpaid Caregiving: Canada and British Columbia, 2012**

	Canada		British Columbia	
Total	966,000	11.9%	151,000	14.4%
Males	439,000	11.8%	70,000	13.8%
Females	527,000	12.1%	81,000	14.9%

**Table 11.1b: Total Weekly Hours of Unpaid Caregiving by Seniors: Canada and British Columbia, 2012**

	Total Weekly Hours	Total		Males		Females	
Canada	1 hour or less	188,000	19.5%	104,000	23.7%	83,000	15.7%
	2 to 9 hours	391,000	40.5%	183,000	41.7%	208,000	39.5%
	10 hours or more	299,000	31.0%	119,000	27.1%	180,000	34.2%
	Don't know/Not stated	89,000	9.2%	32,000	7.3%	56,000	10.6%
	Total	966,000	100.0%	439,000	100.0%	527,000	100.0%
British Columbia	1 hour or less	32,000	21.2%	19,000*	27.1%*	13,000*	16.0%*
	2 to 9 hours	62,000	41.1%	31,000	44.3%	31,000	38.3%
	10 hours or more	42,000	27.8%	17,000	24.3%	24,000	29.6%

	Total Weekly Hours	Total		Males		Females	
<b>B. C. Cont.</b>	Don't know/Not stated	16,000*	10.6%*	**	**	12,000*	14.8%*
	Total	151,000	100.0%	70,000	100.0%	81,000	100.0%

*\*Use data with caution*

*\*\* Data suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 114-0001 - Population providing care to a family member or friend with a long-term illness, disability or aging needs, by sex and age group, occasional,," CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&cid=1140001&tabMode=dataTable&srchLan=-1&p1=-1&p2=9> (accessed May 20, 2014)

Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 114-0006 - Time spent providing care to a family member or friend with a long-term illness, disability or aging needs, by sex and age group, occasional,," CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&cid=1140006&tabMode=dataTable&srchLan=-1&p1=-1&p2=9> (accessed May 20, 2014)

# 12. Income

## 12.1 MEDIAN INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS

The median income for males aged 65+ increased from \$30,421 in 2010 to \$31,762 in 2015 — an increase of 4.4% (see Table 12.1). For women aged 65+, median income increased at a higher rate — from \$20,182 to \$22,737 between 2005 and 2010 (an increase of 12.7%). The female/male income ratio for the 65+ age group was the same as the ratio for all ages — about .66 and .66 respectively, until 2015, when it reached 0.72. 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\*, 2010 and 2015**

Age	Total		Males		Females	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
15–24	\$8,971	\$11,038	\$9,322	\$11,436	\$8,624	\$10,525
25–34	\$30,746	\$31,254	\$36,311	\$35,390	\$26,453	\$27,970
35–44	\$38,983	\$39,938	\$49,730	\$48,107	\$31,352	\$33,942
45–54	\$40,106	\$39,772	\$49,304	\$47,732	\$33,754	\$34,151
55–64	\$34,931	\$34,175	\$43,224	\$41,703	\$28,068	\$28,436
65+	\$23,792	\$26,256	\$30,421	\$31,762	\$20,182	\$22,737
Total	\$28,765	\$29,783	\$35,627	\$35,384	\$23,624	\$25,659

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

### Source:

Statistics Canada. 2013. "Income in 2010 (34), Age Groups (10B), Sex (3) and Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (11) 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 99-014-X2011040. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=99-014-X2011040&lang=eng> (accessed February 13, 2014).

Statistics Canada. 2016. After-tax Income Groups (22) in Constant (2015) Dollars, Age (11), Sex (3), and Year (2) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census-20% Sample Data and 2016 Census-100% Data. 2016. Census. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016111. Released September 13th, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=01&GL=-1&GID=1235625&G-K=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=110243&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=999&Temporal=2016&THEME=119&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0> (accessed February 19th, 2019).

## 12.2 POVERTY RATE

Table 12.2a shows poverty rates by sex for the population aged 65+ for Canada and the provinces for years 1999, 2001, 2003, 2011 and 2016. Rates have dropped more sharply for women than men over the 17-year period, but remain at a higher level. The 2011 rate for male British Columbians aged 65 and over was 7.3% compared with 12.5% in 1999; for females the 2016 poverty rate was 13.5% compared with 24.7% in 1999.

A full set of data was not available comparing pre- and post-tax poverty rates among unattached older people by province. Table 12.2b shows that, at the national level, unattached women aged 65+ (as with younger unattached women) are more disadvantaged than their male peers. In 2016, the national pre-tax poverty rate for unattached men aged 65+ was 25.6% compared with a striking 30.7% for unattached women aged 65+. The post-tax poverty rates were 10.8% and 12.6% respectively.

**Table 12.2a: Poverty Rates for the Population Aged 65+: By Sex and Province, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2011, and 2016**

Province	Males					Females				
	1999	2001	2003	2011	2016	1999	2001	2003	2011	2016
Newfoundland	◇	9.6	11.4	4.0*	◇	22.4	23	15.8	7.9*	4.4*
Prince Edward Island	◇	◇	8.8	4.3*	◇	22.3	22.6	22.3	15.2*	11.7*
Nova Scotia	◇	8.1	10.5	5.7*	4.2*	21	19.8	16.8	14.4	7.1*
New Brunswick	◇	7.7	9.6	5.6*	5.5*	22.3	21.3	18.8	6.7*	10.3
Quebec	13.5	14.6	10.8	12.1	11.2	30.5	29.2	26.1	22.9	17.1
Ontario	7.9	9.8	8.6	7.1	7.3	16.3	16.4	14.9	10.0	12.2
Manitoba	13.6	16.7	11.5	7.9*	6.5*	27.3	27.2	23.9	12.8	9.6
Saskatchewan	7.3	6.8	8.1	5.8*	4.3*	19.7	19	14.3	10.5*	8.0*
Alberta	◇	6.6	7.0	5.6*	7.8*	12.1	13.6	11.7	10.5*	8.5*
British Columbia	12.5	12.5	15.4	9.4*	7.3*	24.7	23.2	23.2	13.0	13.5
Canada	12.4	11.1	10.2	8.4	8.0	23.9	21.2	19.1	13.9	12.8

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

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

Low income was measured using the low-income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base

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

2011 & 2016 figures come from the CANSIM database and not a Poverty Profile.

\*Use data with caution

◇ Data too unreliable to be published

**Table 12.2b: Poverty Rates for Unattached Individuals by Age and Sex: Canada, 2017\*\*\***

Demographic of Individual	Number of Unattached Individuals Living in Poverty		Poverty Rate	
	Pre-Tax**	Post-Tax**	Pre-Tax**	Post-Tax**
All Unattached Individuals	1,877,000	1,378,000*	33.1%	24.3%
Women	1,005,000	682,000	35.1%	23.8%
Men	872,000	695,000	31.1%	24.8%
Unattached Individuals Less than 65 Years Old	1,390,000	1,176,000	34.9%	29.5%
Women	660,000	540,000	38.0%	31.1%
Men	730,000	636,000	32.5%	28.3%
Unattached Individuals 65 Years and Older	487,000	202,000	29.0%	12.0%
Women	346,000	142,000	30.7%	12.6%
Men	142,000	60,000*	25.6%	10.8%

\* Use data with caution

\*\* 1992 base

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

**Source:**

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

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

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

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

Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 202-0802 - Persons in low income families, annual." CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?lang=eng&id=2020802> (accessed February 13, 2014)

Statistics Canada. No date. Table 11-10-0135-01. Low income statistics by age, sex, and economic family type. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110013501#timeframe> (Accessed April 16th, 2019)

### **12.3 INCIDENCE OF LOW INCOME AMONG PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS**

In British Columbia, among all individuals 65+ living in private households 11.5% were considered to fall into the category of 'low income' (Table 12.3). This was higher than the Canadian rate of 10.4%. The poverty rate in Canada has declined over time; for instance, in 1995 it was 18.1% for B.C. and 19.3% for Canada (3rd Edition), in 2005 14.7% for B.C. and 14.4% for Canada (5th Edition). However, it was 11.4% in 2011, close to the 2016 figure.

The incidence of low income for women far exceeds that of men, both in B.C. and nationally. In B.C., the incidence of low income for women was 13.7% compared to 9.1% for men in 2017. For Canada, these rates were similar; 12.8% for women and 7.6% for men. Again, poverty rates have declined over time using these measures. For example, in B.C. the 1993 rates were 23.6% for women and 12.7% for men (2nd Edition).

Unattached individuals 65+ have much higher poverty rates than those living in economic families. In B.C. the incidence of low income for unattached individuals was 29.6% in 2017. Unattached women (32.2%) had higher rates than men (24.8%). On the other hand, older adults living in economic families have much lower poverty rates. An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Foster children are included. In 2017, only 5.1% of economic families 65+ in British Columbia were low income.

**Table 12.3: Incidence of Low Income Before Tax among Private Households of Persons Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2017**

Household Type	Low Income Status	Canada			British Columbia		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Economic families	Low income	139,000	71,000	68,000	32,000*	◇	◇
	Incidence of low income	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	5.1%*	5.1*	5.0*
Unattached	Low income	487,000	142,000	346,000	66,000	20,000	46,000
	Incidence of low income	29.0%	25.6%	30.7%	29.6%	24.8%	32.2%
Total Persons 65 and over	Low income	627,000	213,000	414,000	98,000	37,000	61,000
	Incidence of low income	10.4%	7.6%	12.8%	11.5%	9.1%	13.7%

*Note: Low income was measured using the low income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base*

*◇ Data too unreliable to be published*

*\*Use data with caution*

**Source:**

Statistics Canada. No date. Table 11-10-0135-01. Low income statistics by age, sex, and economic family type. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110013501#timeframe> (Accessed April 16th, 2019)

# 13. Disabilities

## 13.1 DISABILITY RATES

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 more strict 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 fewer seniors with disabilities in B.C. than among seniors 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 seniors 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/pub/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/pub/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. seniors 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).

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\***

Age	Seniors with Disabilities	
	Number	Rates
<b>Both Sexes</b>		
Total 65+	311,480	41.7%

Seniors with Disabilities		
Age	Number	Rates
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/pub/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).

### 12.3 NATURE OF DISABILITIES

Overall, among seniors 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 were: 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

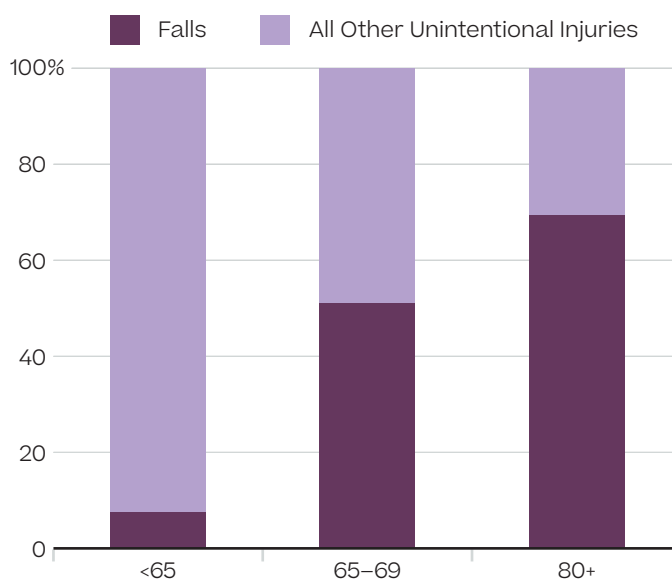
Unlike other external causes of death (e.g., traffic accidents), falls disproportionately injure or kill older people. In Canada, falls are the most common cause of unintentional injury for the very old (age 80+). In addition to falls, other unintentional injuries (See Table 14.1) include motor vehicle traffic crashes, poisonings, suffocation, drowning, injuries resulting from fire or flame and other unintentional injuries. In 2016, 3,332 or 69.3% of deaths caused by unintentional injuries were fall-related among persons aged 80 and over (but only 429 or 7.5% for <65) (see Table 14.1a). 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: Mortality by Injury: Canada, 2016**

Injury	<65		65–79		80+	
Falls	429	7.5%	920	51.0%	3,332	69.3%
All other unintentional injuries*	5,257	92.5%	885	49.0%	1,475	30.7%
Total	5,686	100.0%	1,805	100.0%	4,807	100.0%

\*Categories include transport accidents and other external causes of accidental injury

Two trends are of note from Figure 14.1 when examining the rates of falls-related deaths over the last decade. Firstly, there is a positive relationship between age and fall-related mortality. Seniors who are 80 and over have a significantly higher death rate from falling. The same trend is evident when data for gender are presented separately (see Table 14.1b). Secondly, fall-related death seems to have stabilized for younger seniors, but have been on the rise for older seniors (80–84, 85–89 and 90+) in recent years. This may be due to older people remaining in the community longer, or changes in reporting practices over time. These data should be used with caution.

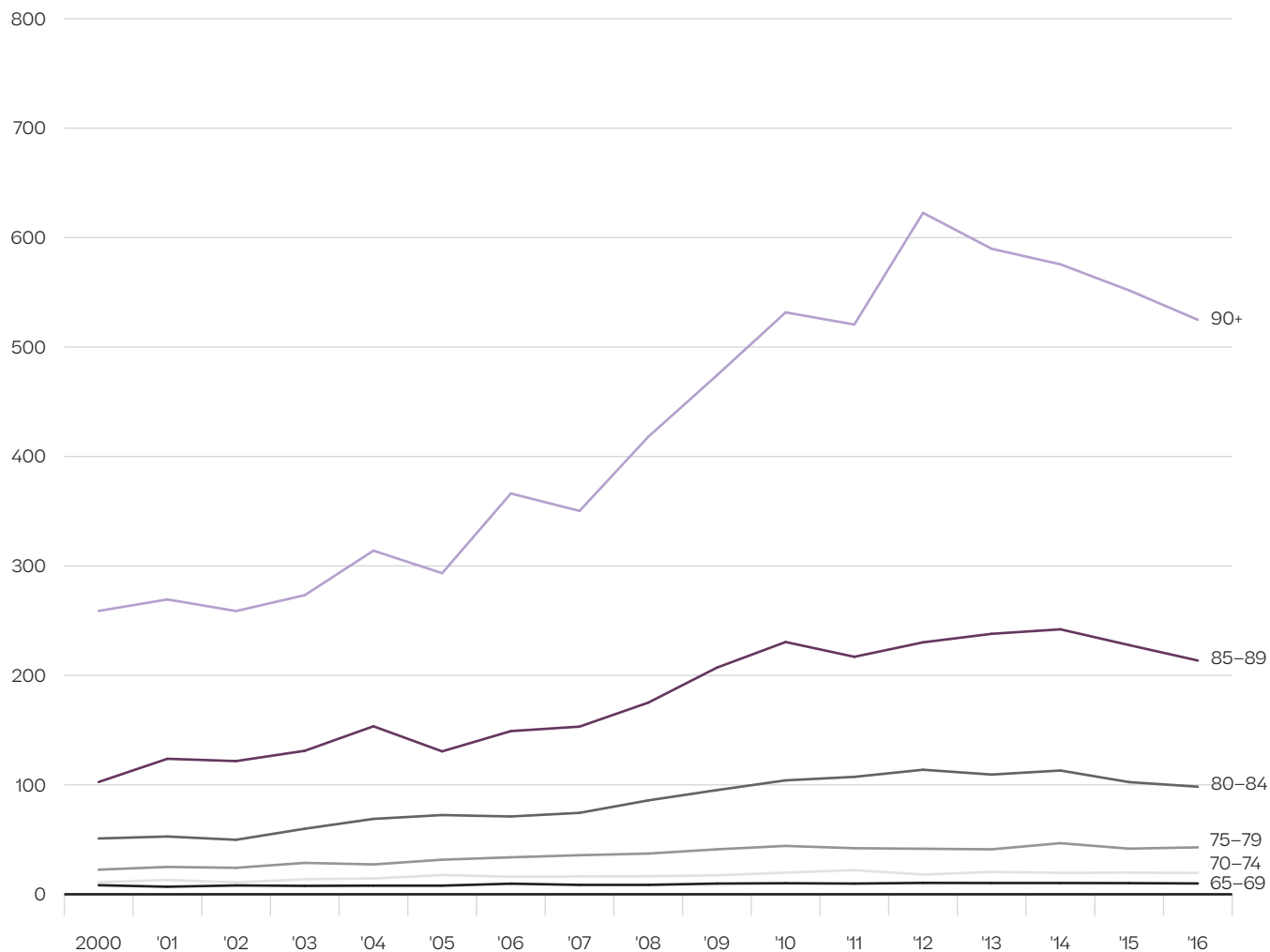
**Figure 14.1a: Percentage of Mortality from Falls by Selected Age Groups: Canada, 2016****Table 14.1b: Falls Related Deaths (Standardized rates\*): Canada, 2000–2016**

Year	65–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85–89	90+
2000	8.3	11.0	22.5	51.0	102.6	258.9
2001	6.9	13.1	25.0	52.8	123.8	269.4
2002	8.1	10.9	24.2	49.8	121.7	258.8
2003	7.7	13.8	28.7	59.9	131.1	273.3
2004	7.9	14.5	27.3	68.9	153.5	314.0
2005	7.9	17.6	31.6	72.4	130.6	293.4
2006	9.7	16.0	33.8	71.1	149.1	366.2
2007	8.6	16.3	35.7	74.4	153.2	350.3
2008	8.6	16.5	37.2	85.8	175.1	418.0
2009	9.8	17.3	41.1	95.2	207.1	474.2
2010	10.1	19.8	44.2	104.1	230.5	531.7
2011	9.8	22.1	42.1	107.3	217.0	520.6
2012	10.4	18.0	41.6	113.8	230.2	622.6

Year	65–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85–89	90+
2013	10.3	20.4	41.1	109.4	238.0	589.8
2014	10.3	19.6	46.7	113.1	242.1	575.6
2015	10.2	19.8	41.7	102.5	227.7	551.8
2016	9.9	19.5	42.9	98.3	213.6	524.9

*\*Deaths per 100,000*



**Figure 14.1b: Falls Related Deaths (death rate per 100,000): Canada, 2000–2016****Source:**

14.1a: Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 102-0540 - Deaths, by cause, Chapter XX: External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 to Y89), age group and sex, Canada, annual." CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retr-Lang=eng&id=1020540&paSer=&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=38&tabMode=dataTable&csid=> (accessed April 22nd, 2019)

14.1b: Statistics Canada. No date. "Table 102-0551 - Death and mortality rate, by selected group causes, age group and sex, Canada, annual." CANSIM (database). <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/pick-choisir?lang=eng&p2=33&id=1020551> (accessed April 22nd, 2019)

**14.2 FALLS**

According to the 2015 annual report of the B.C. Vital Statistics Agency (2015), there were 513 accidental fall-related deaths in 2015. This is a significant reduction from the year 2011, in which there were 610 accidental fall-related deaths. Older adults accounted for 91.4% (469) of all fall-related deaths in that year. Most of these deaths were unspecified (365). Of those with a known detailed cause of death, falls on same level were most prevalent (40), followed by stairs and steps (28), and falls involving a bed (22).

**Source:**

British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics. 2015. "Appendix 2: Detailed cause of death by sex and age." Selected vital statistics and health status indicators... annual report 2015. [Victoria]: BC, Division of Vital Statistics, p.103–126. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/statistics-reports/annual-reports/2015/pdf/annual-report-2015.pdf>

# 15. Functional Status and Chronic Conditions

## 15.1 FUNCTIONAL HEALTH STATUS AND PERCEIVED HEALTH.

Functional health status is based on eight dimensions including vision, hearing, speech, mobility, dexterity, feelings, cognition and pain. Functional health scores range from 0–1, with a score of 0.8 to 1.0 considered good to full functional health, and a score below 0.8 considered moderate to poor functional health. Unlike in editions of the Fact Book prior to 2011, currently figures are only available on the number of individuals reporting good to full functional health (more detailed information on functional status can be found in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Fact Book* from 2005). As presented in Table 15.1a, a large proportion of seniors report ‘good or full’ functional status; however, these rates are lower than those of younger age groups. For example, in 2014 among B.C. adults aged 65 and over, 66.3% reported good or full functional health, whereas 73.4% of 45–64-year-olds and 82.7% of 35–44-year-olds reported good or full functional health. The proportion of older adults in B.C. reporting their functional health status as good or full was similar to the proportion of the Canadian older adult population as a whole (66.7%). Data on functional health are currently not available after 2014.

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 15.1b, approximately half of seniors in both Canada and B.C. perceive their health to be “very good to excellent” (46.8%). Like functional health status, these numbers are lower than those of younger age groups. For example, in 2017, 52.5% of the 50–64-year-old age group in B.C., 63.3% of the 35–49-year-old age group, and 70.3% 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: Functional Health Status Good to Full by Selected Age Groups: Canada and British Columbia\*, 2014\*\***

Age	Canada					
	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
20–34	5,853,984	84.0%	2,978,136	84.5%	2,875,848	83.4%
35–44	3,988,847	83.8%	1,980,773	85.0%	2,008,074	82.7%
45–64	7,341,760	76.7%	3,714,128	77.9%	3,627,632	75.5%
65+	3,422,675	68.6%	1,632,468	71.2%	1,790,207	66.4%

	British Columbia					
20–34	699,061	79.8%	354,900	79.7%	344,161	79.9%
35–44	515,209	82.7%	255,531	85.0%	259,679	80.6%
45–64	925,857	73.4%	469,660	76.2%	456,197	70.7%
65+	461,886	66.3%	219,309	65.7%	242,577	66.8%

**Table 15.1b: Perceived Health, Very Good to Excellent by Selected Age Groups: Canada\* and British Columbia, 2017\*\*\***

	Canada					
	Total		Males		Females	
Age	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
18–34	5,794,800	70.9	2,972,200	72.2%	2,822,600	69.6%
35–49	4,555,900	64.1%	2,226,400	63.1%	2,329,600	65.2%
50–64	4,089,700	54.2%	1,998,200	53.2%	2,091,500	55.2%
65+	2,755,500	46.8%	1,246,900	45.8%	1,508,600	47.6%
	British Columbia					
18–34	748,200	70.3%	374,500	69.9%	373,700	70.7%
35–49	588,000	63.3%	268,100	58.7%	319,900	67.7%
50–64	522,900	52.5%	256,300	52.6%	266,600	52.4%
65+	389,200	46.8%	186,400	47.2%	202,800	46.4%

\* Excluding territories

\*\*2014 was the most recent available data for this table

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

**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)

Perceived health status: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-01. Health characteristics, annual estimates. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb11/en/cv.action?pid=1310009601> (accessed April 22nd, 2019)

## 15.2 CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Several chronic health conditions are associated with aging. The most commonly reported conditions among older persons are high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes and asthma, in that order. As shown in Figure 15.2, these four conditions rise among seniors compared to persons aged 50–64. For instance, the prevalence of self-reported high blood pressure is 23.4% among persons aged 50–64 compared to 42.9% among those aged 65+. Approximately 43.0% of seniors report having arthritis, 15.1% report having diabetes, and 6.9% report having asthma (see Table 15.2).

Prevalence rates for these four most common chronic illnesses are also shown in Figure 15.2a (rates for males 45–64 and 65+) and Figure 15.2b (rates for females 45–64 and 65+).

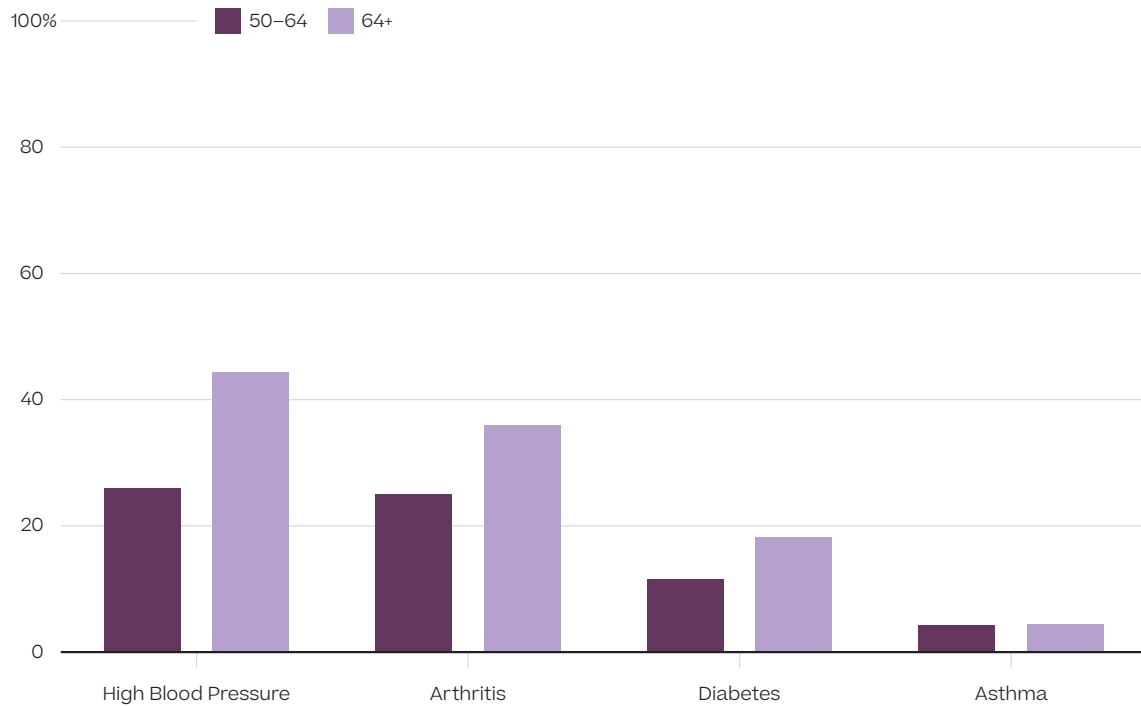
**Table 15.2: Common Chronic Conditions by Selected Age Groups: British Columbia, 2017\*\***

		Both sexes		Males		Females	
		50–64	65+	50–64	65+	50–64	65+
High Blood Pressure	Number	231,900	358,300	125,800	176,400	106,100	181,900
	%	23.4	42.9	25.9	44.3	21.0	41.5
Arthritis	Number	269,500	354,500	122,100	142,900	147,500	211,600
	%	27.1	43.0	25.0	36.0	29.1	49.4
Diabetes	Number	85,600	126,300	55,900	72,600	29,700*	53,700
	%	8.6	15.1	11.5	18.2	5.8*	12.2
Asthma	Number	67,600	57,700	20,600*	17,600*	47,000*	40,100
	%	6.8	6.9	4.2	4.4*	9.2	9.2

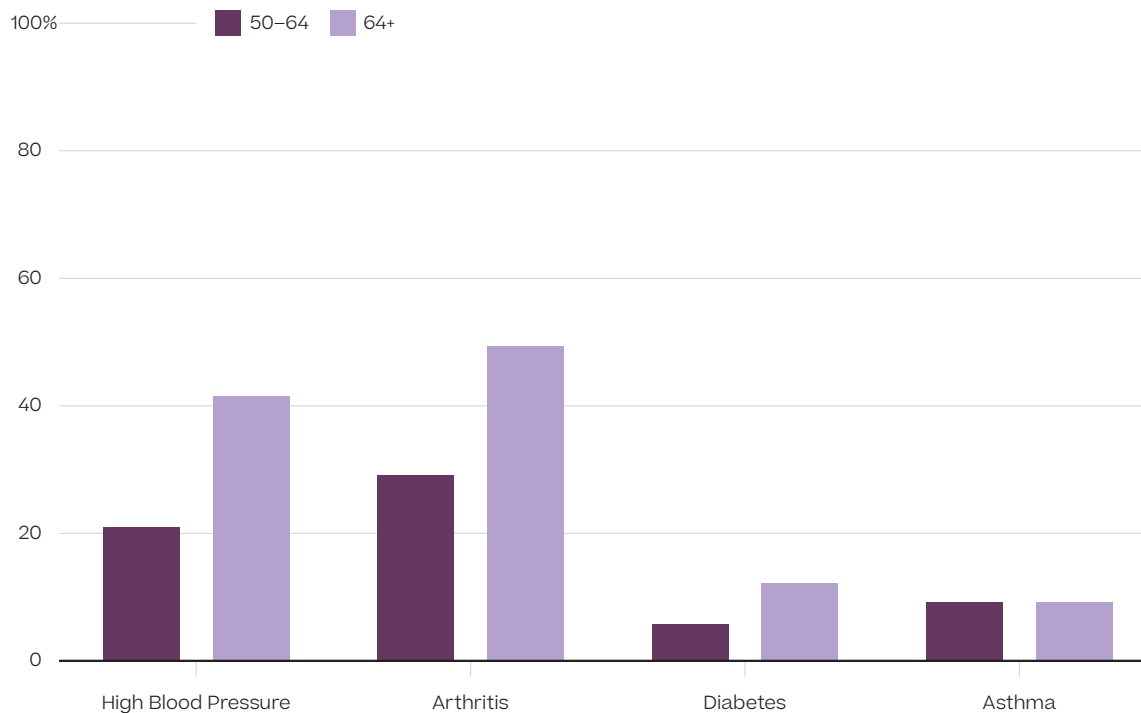
*\*Use data with caution*

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

**Figure 15.2a: Prevalence of Common Chronic Conditions (Men), 45–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2012**



**Figure 15.2b: Prevalence of Common Chronic Conditions (Women), 45–64 and 65+: British Columbia, 2017**



**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.

# 16. Health Behaviours

## 16.1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

As seen in Table 16.1a, the majority of older adults in B.C. are physically active well into their elder years based on measures of leisure-time physical activity. In B.C., 60.8% of older adults are physically active in comparison to only 47.7% across Canada. The B.C. rate is higher than reported in the last *Fact Book* based on 2012 data (57.3% in 2012), but lower for Canada (51.6% in 2012).

Table 16.1a presents physical activity rates for males and females separately. There is a tendency for males to have slightly higher reports of physical activity than females. For example, among persons aged 65+ in B.C., 64.3% of males state that they are active or moderately active, compared to 57.6% of females. It should be noted that these data are based on self-reported physical activity levels, which tend to be overestimates of actual behaviour. Data for leisure-time physical activity was not available after 2014.

Table 16.1b presents new 2017 data on self-reported rates of physical activity for seniors 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. 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, the majority of older adults in B.C. (53.5%) self-report 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Older males in B.C. were found to have higher rates than females, with 56.8% of males reporting 150 minutes of physical activity per week compared to 50.5% of females. Rates for both populations were found to be higher in B.C. than to 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: Leisure-time Physical Activity of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2014\***

		Canada			British Columbia		
		Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
<b>Moderately Active or Active</b>	Number	2,379,672	1,203,664	1,176,008	422,592	208,662	213,931
	%	47.7%	53.4%	43.0%	60.8%	64.3%	57.6%
<b>Inactive</b>	Number	2,610,786	1,050,854	1,559,932	273,020	115,658	157,362
	%	52.3%	46.6%	57.0%	39.2%	35.7%	42.4%



**Table 16.1b: Self-Reported Physical Activity of Population Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2017\*\***

		Canada			British Columbia		
		Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
<b>Self-reported physical activity, 150 minutes per week***</b>	Number	2,332,000	1,202,800	1,129,200	435,000	221,600	213,400
	%	40.6	45.2	36.6	53.5	56.8	50.5

\*\*2014 was the most recent available data for this table

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

\*\*\*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.

Table 16b: 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.

## 16.2 OBESITY AND EATING HABITS

Table 16.2 provides data on body mass index (weight/height squared) based on Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data. The definitions of weight categories are: obese ( $\geq 30\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ), overweight ( $25.0\text{--}29.9\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ), normal weight ( $18.5\text{--}24.9\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) and underweight ( $< 18.5\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ). For self-reported body mass index in the CCHS, 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 2017, among B.C. residents aged 65 and older, a total of 63.4% are overweight or obese; this is slightly lower than the proportion for Canada as a whole (68.5%). A larger proportion of B.C. residents are overweight (38.6%) than obese (24.8%). Obesity rates in B.C. are slightly higher for males aged 65+ than females (25.8% vs. 23.8%). Also, a higher percentage of males are overweight (43.0%) compared to females (34.6%). Comparisons with earlier editions of the *Fact Book* suggest that patterns of obesity among older adults are still rising, and at a faster rate. 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%, and in 2012 was 15.6%. These can be compared to the 2017 rates of 25.8% and 23.8%, respectively for older men and women.

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

**Table 16.2: Self-Reported Body Mass Index (BMI), Persons Aged 65+: Canada and British Columbia, 2017\*\***

Body Mass Index	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Canada</b>						
Overweight	2,119,700	40.3	1,053,600	43.1	1,066,000	37.9
Obese	1,475,200	28.0	693,000	28.4	782,200	27.8
Total Overweight and Obese	3,594,900	68.3	1,746,600	71.5	1,848,200	65.7
<b>British Columbia</b>						
Overweight	283,400	38.6	150,000	43.0	133,400	34.6
Obese	181,900	24.8	90,100	25.8	91,800	23.8
Total Overweight and Obese	465,300	63.4	240,100	68.8	225,200	58.4

\*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 ( $<18.5\text{kg/m}^2$ )

\*\*2017 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. Health Services Utilization

## 17.1 PHYSICIAN HEALTH SERVICE EXPENDITURES

Table 17.1 shows that in B.C. in 2016, the majority of seniors 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%

**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 that in B.C., 38.9% of physician expenditures are for senior patients. Additionally, almost half of all drug expenditures are for seniors (35.6%) and senior patients account for over half of all hospital (52.8%) expenditures in the province. Senior patients account for 78.7% of the expenditures in institutions, as would be expected. Comparisons with 2011 data indicate that costs in all categories have risen except for “Other Institutions” and “Drugs.” The latter decrease is likely due to generic prescription policies.

**Table 17.2: Health Services Expenditures for Seniors: British Columbia, 2016**

Type of Health Services	Total Expenditures for Seniors	Percent
Physicians	\$1,670,000,000	38.9%
Other Professionals	\$29,400,000	14.9%
Hospital	\$4,559,400,000	52.8%
Other Institutions	\$745,800,000	78.7%

Type of Health Services	Total Expenditures for Seniors	Percent
Drugs	\$363,400,000	35.6%

*Note: Other professionals refers to professionals including dentists, denturists, chiropractors, optometrists, massage therapists, osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, private duty nurses and naturopaths.*

*Other institutions refers to residential care facilities, including nursing homes.*

**Source:**

For physicians: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2018. "Table E.4.21.1 Provincial/territorial government physicians expenditure by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2016." (complete data tables). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-spending/2018/national-health-expenditure-trends>

For other professionals: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2018. "Table E.5.21.1 Provincial/territorial government other professionals expenditure by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2016." (complete data tables). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-spending/2018/national-health-expenditure-trends>

For hospital: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2018. "Table E.2.21.1 Provincial/territorial government hospital expenditure by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2016." (complete data tables). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-spending/2018/national-health-expenditure-trends>

For other institutions: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2018. "Table E.3.21.1 Provincial/territorial government other institutions expenditure by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2016." (complete data tables). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-spending/2018/national-health-expenditure-trends>

For drugs: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2018. "Table E.6.21.1 Provincial/territorial government drugs expenditure by age and sex in millions of current dollars, by province/territory and Canada, 2016." (complete data tables). National Health Expenditure Trends Data Tables. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-spending/2018/national-health-expenditure-trends>

