

Fact Book on
AGING
in **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Second Edition



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Heather Campbell, B.A. • Jessica Duguid, B.A.

The Gerontology Research Centre
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

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**2nd Edition
March, 1995**

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Foreword

In 1986, the Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) at Simon Fraser University compiled the first Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia. The many requests the GRC received each year for information about the Province's older population provided the impetus for its production. These requests came from a variety of sources including: students, faculty, government agencies, community groups and organizations, the media, business and industry, senior citizens and their organizations and the general public. They covered a broad variety of topics including questions about geographic distribution, life expectancy, housing, living arrangements and health service utilization.

Much of the information in the original Fact Book was drawn from the 1981 Census of Canada. This second edition updates and expands that material using 1991 census data. Like the original Fact Book, the Second Edition meticulously references all source documents and presents data primarily in numeric rather than graphic form. While more numbers are presented than may suite everyone's taste, we have deliberately chosen a presentation format that maximizes the potential usefulness of the data for its audience. This decision reflects our frustration in working with graphs, charts and tables containing only summary information, the original of which is extremely difficult or, in the case of unpublished source material, impossible to reconstruct or recombine in ways necessary to suite our information needs.

This does not mean that we have done away with useful summary statistics such as percentages. To the contrary, these are almost always presented -- but generally in tabular rather than in graphic form. With respect to percentages, it should be noted that some tables total to 99% or 101% due to rounding. Rounding also accounts for small discrepancies (5-20 persons) in numbers reported for total populations vs. the sum of component parts or, between data in different tables.

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

Topics covered in this document are listed in the Table of Contents and include: the size and historical rate of growth of the elderly population of British Columbia; trends in life expectancy, mortality rates and causes of death; the marital status of the elderly population; its geographic distribution and residential mobility; ethnic composition; a description of living arrangements and housing; education, employment, and economic status; disabilities; and health service utilization. Several other important topics have been omitted, either because provincial information was unavailable or the sample was too small to be considered reliable. These topics include: sources of income; diet and physical activity; self-reported health status; source of family support; criminal victimization rates; and leisure activities.

The Canadian Government Report on Aging (1982) stated that "the development of good policies and programs reflects upon good research. This is in turn dependent upon a reliable data base" (p. 150). As more data become available and with succeeding censuses, plans are to up-date this document so that it can continue to serve the needs of the growing number of individuals and groups requiring information concerning the senior segment of B.C.'s population.

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1. Size of the Elderly Population

1.1 Past Trends and Future Growth

The size of the older population of British Columbia has grown consistently since the turn of the century from slightly more than 4,000 (4,045) persons aged 65 and over in 1901 to 422,010 in 1991 (see Table 1.1). This increment reflects a rate of growth that is more than five times greater than the rate for the total population of the province, which increased from 178,657 to 3,282,065 over the same time period. The increase in the size of the population aged 65 and over was substantially greater in B.C. than for Canada as a whole, which experienced a rate of growth among persons aged 65 and over that was only twice as large as that for the total population, between 1901 and 1991.

Reflecting national trends, the growth of the B.C. population aged 80 and over during this century has been even more dramatic than that of the population aged 65 and over (not reported in tabular form). In 1901, only 368 British Columbians were aged 80 and over; by 1991, there were 87,065 in this age group. In other words, the increase in the population aged 80 and over was more than double the increase in the population aged 65 and over.

In 1991, 12.9% of British Columbians were aged 65 and over; 2.7% were aged 80 and over. Projections for the year 2001 are 13.3% and 3.4% respectively. By the year 2011, 14.4% are expected to be aged 65 and over and 3.8% aged 80 and over.

Table 1.1

**Total Population and Population Aged 65+:
Canada and British Columbia, 1901 to 2011**

Canada

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Population</u> (in thousands)	<u>Population Aged 65+</u> (in thousands)	<u>% of Total Population Aged 65+</u>
1901	5,371.3	271.8	5.0
1911	7,206.6	335.6	4.7
1921	8,787.9	420.2	4.8
1931	10,376.8	576.1	5.6
1941	11,506.7	767.8	6.7
1951	14,009.4	1,086.3	7.8
1961	18,238.2	1,391.1	7.6
1971	21,568.3	1,744.4	8.1
1981	24,343.2	2,360.9	9.7
1991	27,296.9	3,170.0	11.6
2001*	31,877.3	4,030.7	12.6
2011*	35,420.3	4,981.2	14.1

British Columbia

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Population</u> (in thousands)	<u>Population Aged 65+</u> (in thousands)	<u>% of Total Population Aged 65+</u>
1901	178.7	4.0	2.3
1911	392.5	9.5	2.4
1921	524.6	18.4	3.5
1931	694.3	38.0	4.5
1941	817.9	68.1	8.3
1951	1,165.2	126.1	10.8
1961	1,629.1	165.6	10.2
1971	2,184.6	205.0	9.4
1981	2,744.5	298.2	10.9
1991	3,282.1	422.0	12.9
2001*	4,187.5	555.4	13.3
2011*	4,855.4	699.4	14.4

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

Sources:

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

For 1921-1991: Statistics Canada. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 93-310, July, 1992.

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

1.2 Population Aging Within the Older Population Itself

The older population is itself aging. Within the 65 and over age group, the proportion aged 80 and over is growing and it is expected to continue to rise sharply in the near future. As shown in Table 1.2, in 1991, people aged 80 and over represented 20.6% of B.C.'s population aged 65 and over; by 2001, they are expected to comprise 26.8%, and by 2011, 29.3% of the elderly population residing in B.C. In other words, by the end of the century, the population aged 65 and over is expected to have increased over 1991 levels by 31.6%, while the population aged 80 and over is expected to have increased by 70.7%. By 2011, the increase since 1991 will be 65.7% for the 65 and over population and 135.1% for the 80 and over population.

Table 1.2

**Age Structure of the Population Aged 65+:
British Columbia, 1991, 2001, and 2011**

<u>Age</u>	<u>1991</u>		<u>2001*</u>		<u>2011*</u>	
	<u>Number</u> (in thousands)	<u>% of Pop.</u> <u>Aged 65+</u>	<u>Number</u> (in thousands)	<u>% of Pop.</u> <u>Aged 65+</u>	<u>Number</u> (in thousands)	<u>% of Pop.</u> <u>Aged 65+</u>
65-69	138.8	32.9	153.0	27.5	210.6	30.1
70-74	111.3	26.4	138.8	25.0	158.0	22.6
75-79	84.8	20.1	114.9	20.7	126.0	18.0
80-84	49.9	11.8	78.6	14.1	97.8	14.0
85-89	24.7	5.8	45.9	8.3	64.1	9.2
90+	12.5	3.0	24.2	4.4	42.9	6.1
Total	422.0	100.0	555.4	100.0	699.4	100.0

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

Sources:

For 1991: Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 93-310, July 1992.

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

1.3 Median Age of the Population

Another way of measuring population aging is to examine the median age. The median is a statistical figure that describes the age at which a population is split into two equal groups. As may be seen in Table 1.3, the median age in British Columbia has been steadily increasing since 1901. It was 29.1 years in 1981, and in 1991 it was 34.7 years. The median age is projected to continue to increase, to 37.4 in 2001, to 39.9 in 2011, and to 40.7 in 2016, based on the medium growth scenario for fertility, mortality and migration.

Table 1.3

**Median Age of Population: Canada and
British Columbia, 1901 - 1991**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>
1901	22.6	28.0
1911	23.8	28.0
1921	24.0	29.8
1931	24.8	30.6
1941	26.8	32.1
1951	27.7	32.0
1961	26.3	29.8
1971	26.2	27.9
1981	29.6	29.1
1991	33.5	34.7
2001*	37.0	37.4
2011*	39.5	39.9
2016*	40.4	40.7

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

Sources:

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

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

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

For 1991: Statistics Canada. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 93-310, July, 1992.

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

2. Sex Ratios

The sex ratio is the number of men per 100 women in a given population. As shown in Table 2.1, the B.C. population aged 65 and over has become increasingly comprised of women since 1941. In 1941, there were more men than women at all older ages except for the age group 90 and over; the overall sex ratio was 133, a figure considerably higher than the national sex ratio of 104. The very high sex ratio in B.C. was largely a function of high rates of male immigration to the province in the latter part of the 19th Century and the early decades of the 20th Century.

However, by 1951, women outnumbered men at all ages over 65, and increasingly so with advancing years. In 1991, the sex ratio for ages 65 and over was 76 males per 100 females. For ages 80 and over, there were only 59 men for every 100 women. B.C. continues to have a higher sex ratio than the national average, although the gap has narrowed considerably since 1941.

Table 2.1**Males and Females Aged 65+ and Sex Ratios:
British Columbia, 1941 and 1991****1941**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sex Ratio**</u>
65-69	17,266	12,327	140
70-74	11,223	8,196	137
75-79	6,385	4,876	131
80-84	2,801	2,543	110
85-89	970	926	105
90+	239	320	75
<hr/>			
Total: B.C.	38,884	29,188	133
<hr/>			
Total: Canada*	390,900	376,900	104

1991

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sex Ratio**</u>
65-69	64,720	74,085	87
70-74	49,280	62,000	79
75-79	36,190	48,675	74
80-84	19,720	30,175	65
85-89	8,895	15,800	56
90+	3,550	8,930	40
<hr/>			
Total: B.C.	182,355	239,665	76
<hr/>			
Total: Canada	1,330,425	1,839,540	72

* Excludes Newfoundland.

** Number of males per 100 females.

Sources:

For 1941: Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1941 Census. Vol. 2, Table 3, 1944.

For 1991: Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 93-310, July, 1992, Table 1

3. Mortality

3.1 Trends in Life Expectancy

Major gains in life expectancy of British Columbians were achieved between 1931 and 1990 (see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 Part A, Part B and Part C). In terms of life expectancy at birth, females gained 15.6 years and males gained 12.5 years during that 59 year period. While females outlived males throughout the entire period, gains in life expectancy have been greater for females than for males at all ages, until recently. The male-female gap in life expectancy at birth increased from 3.1 years in 1931 to 7 years in 1980-82, but is currently 6.2 years.

Life expectancy at age 65 increased 5 years for women and 2.5 years for men between 1931 and 1985-87. Sixty-five year old females could expect (in 1985-87) to live a further 19.6 years, whereas their male counterparts could expect to live an additional 15.9 years. This difference across the sexes (3.7 years) is substantially greater than the 1.2 year difference in 1931, but again, the sex differential has shown some signs of decreasing over recent years.

A similar trend occurs for life expectancy at age 80. Women aged 80 in 1985-87 could expect to live 9.1 more years, compared to 7.4 more years for males of that age. This 1.7 year sex difference exceeds the 0.7 year difference experienced in 1931.

A substantial proportion of the gains in life expectancy occurred during the 1970s. The figures for the 1980s suggest that this trend is slowing. For men, the gain in life expectancy at birth was 2.1 years between 1980-82 and 1990. For women, it was only 1.3 years.

Table 3.1

**Life Expectancy at Birth, Age 65, and Age 80,
by Sex: British Columbia, 1931 to 1990**

Average Years of Life Remaining At:

	<u>Birth</u>		<u>Age 65</u>		<u>Age 80</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1931	62.2	65.3	13.4	14.6	5.7	6.4
1941	63.7	69.0	13.0	14.8	5.5	6.6
1951	66.7	72.4	13.5	15.9	5.8	7.1
1960-62	68.9	75.4	14.0	16.9	6.7	7.4
1970-72	69.9	76.7	14.5	18.0	6.8	7.9
1980-82	72.6	79.6	15.5	19.6	7.3	9.3
1985-87	74.0	80.3	15.9	19.6	7.4	9.1
1989*	74.4	80.7				
1990*	74.7	80.9				
Increase from 1931 to 1985-87 (in years)	11.8	15.0	2.5	5.0	1.7	2.7

* data available from birth only

Sources:

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

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

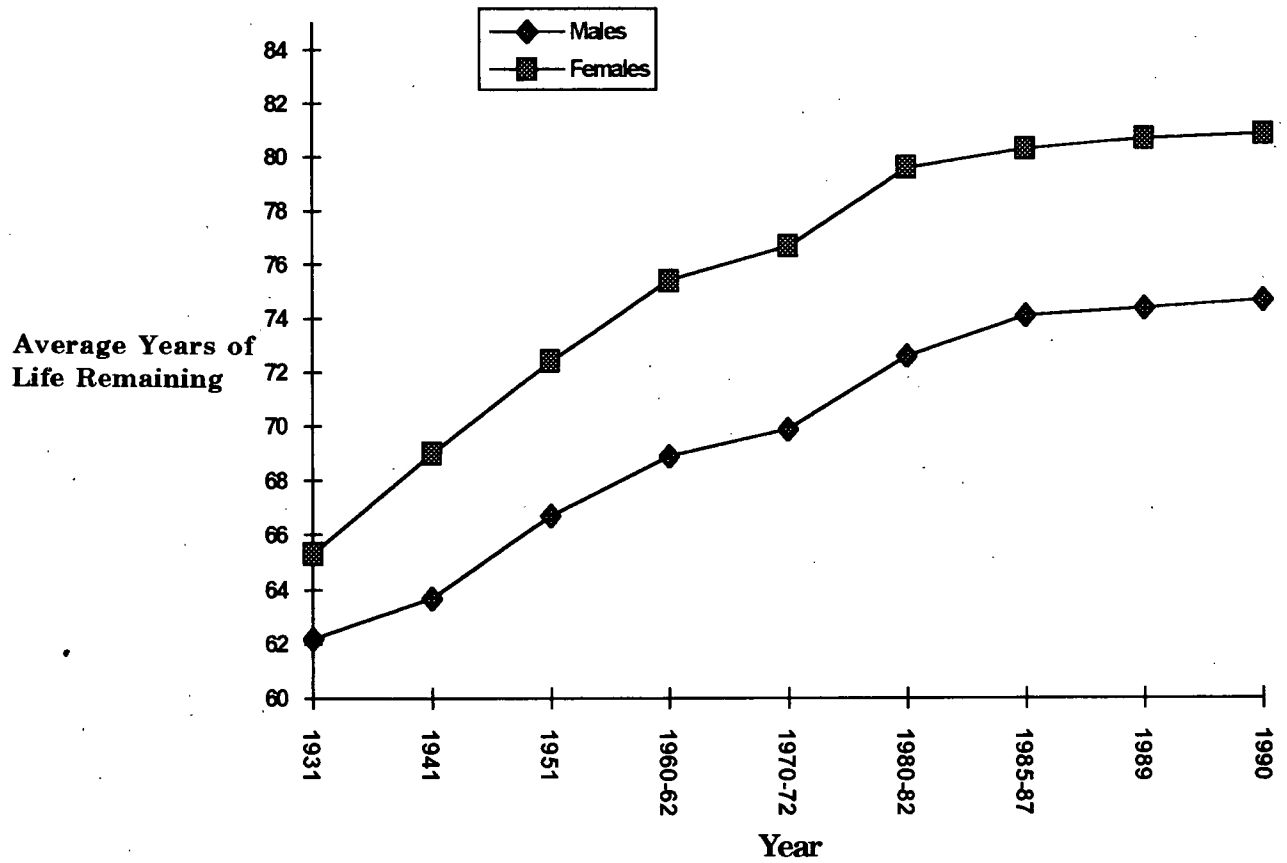
For 1960-62: Provincial and Regional Life Tables, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue 84-517, October, 1964.

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

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

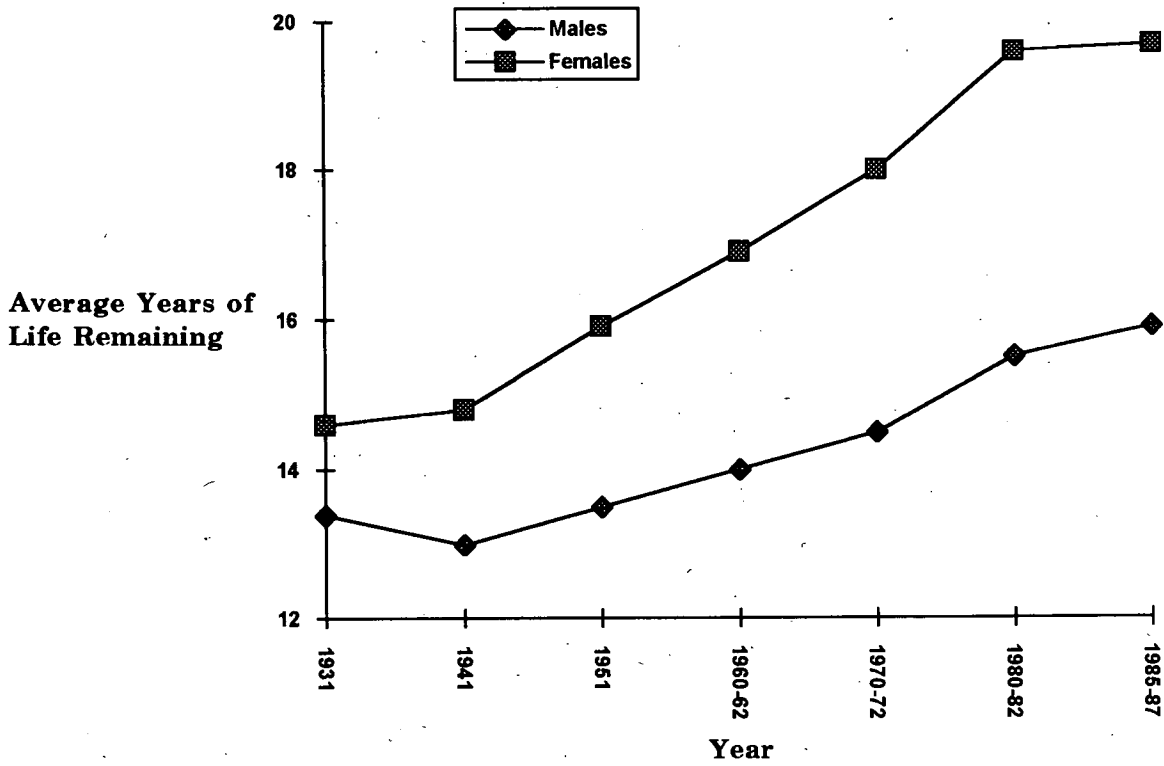
For 1989 and 1990: Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada 1992 - Age Structure in Transition: Two Centuries of Demographic Change, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-209E Annual, November, 1992.

Figure 3.1, Part A
Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex:
British Columbia, 1931 - 1990



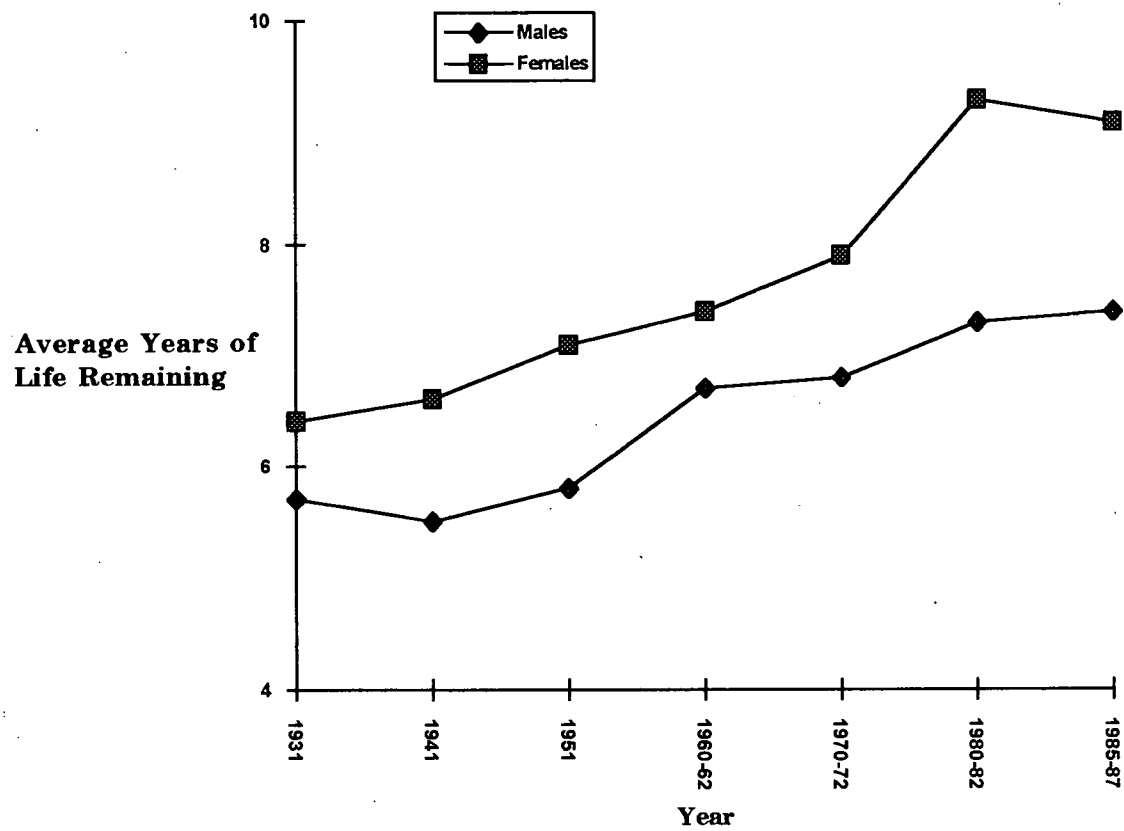
Source:
Table 3.1

Figure 3.1, Part B
Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex:
British Columbia, 1931 - 1987



Source:
Table 3.1

Figure 3.1, Part C
Life Expectancy at Age 80, by Sex:
British Columbia, 1931 - 1987



Source:
 Table 3.1

3.2 Mortality Rates

It is not unexpected that mortality rates increase with advancing age. For both men and women in 1992, the mortality rate at ages 90 and over was more than 10 times the rate at ages 65-69, as observed in Table 3.2.

As already noted, major reductions in mortality have occurred since the early 1970s. However, the pattern of reduction differs for men and women, and across time periods. Between 1971 and 1984, for men, larger reductions occurred among the population aged 70 to 74 than for those aged 65 to 69. For women, the largest reductions occurred at ages 80 and over. Significant decreases continued for men aged 65-69 between 1984 and 1992. However, during this period, it was women aged 70-74 who exhibited the greatest reduction in mortality rates. Interestingly, it appears as if women aged 80 and over may have reached a threshold regarding mortality decline. Between 1984 and 1992, for ages 85-89 and 90+, female mortality rates actually increased slightly (2.9% and 3.2%, respectively). It should be noted, however, that these are crude mortality rates, and that age-sex-specific rates by cause of death are needed to further elaborate this trend.

Table 3.2

**Age-specific Mortality Rates, by Sex:
British Columbia, 1971, 1984 and 1992**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Mortality Rates</u> (per 1,000 population)						<u>Percent Change</u>			
	<u>Males</u>			<u>Females</u>			<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	1971	1984	1992	1971	1984	1992	1971- 1984	1984- 1992	1971- 1984	1984- 1992
65-69	30.6	24.3	19.8	16.0	13.3	12.0	-20.6	-18.5	-16.9	-09.8
70-74	49.4	37.8	34.0	24.6	20.9	17.7	-23.5	-10.0	-15.0	-15.3
75-79	74.0	61.4	56.5	42.2	34.4	31.7	-17.0	-08.8	-18.5	-07.8
80-84	109.9	99.0	87.7	77.1	58.4	57.0	-09.9	-11.4	-24.3	-02.4
85-89	167.3	155.3	145.2	127.9	101.4	104.4	-07.2	-06.5	-20.7	+02.9
90+	244.0	259.0	228.4	234.9	195.3	201.5	+06.1	-11.8	-16.9	+03.2

Sources:

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

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

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

3.3 Causes of Death

The three leading causes of death - heart disease, malignant neoplasms, and cerebrovascular disease - account for more than two-thirds of all deaths in British Columbia. This pattern is in keeping with a population in which life expectancy is high and mortality is concentrated at the older ages.

The small differences between males and females (accidents comprise a larger portion of deaths for males and cerebrovascular disease comprises a larger portion of deaths for females) are, in part, a function of the age compositional differences between the sexes, i.e., the male population is "younger" than the female one. They are also due to gender differences in mortality.

Table 3.3**Leading Causes of Death, by Sex, Total Population:
British Columbia, 1989***

	Male	Female
Heart disease	3,565	2,826
Malignant neoplasms	3,336	2,867
Cerebrovascular disease	799	1,005
Respiratory disease	1,170	978
Accidents	1,239	532
Other	2,467	2,213
<hr/>		
Total Deaths	12,576	10,421

* These data refer to all ages combined as published Statistics Canada information is not cross-classified by age and province.

"Heart disease" includes ischaemic heart disease.

"Malignant neoplasms" include: intestine, lung, and breast.

"Respiratory diseases" include: pneumonia, influenza, bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.

"Accidents" include: motor vehicle and other accidents, suicide, and homicide.

"Other" includes: chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, still births, arteriosclerosis, and diabetes mellitus.

Source:

Statistics Canada, Mortality - Summary List of Causes 1989, Catalogue 82 003S12, Supplement 12, 1991, Volume 3, No. 1.

4. Marital Status

According to the 1991 Census, approximately three-quarters of male British Columbians aged 65 and over were married; however, nearly half of women aged 65 and over were widowed. Of those in the 65-69 age group, 5.5% of men and 24.2% of women were widowed. More than half (51.0%) of women in the age group 75-79 were widowed, compared to only 13.8% of men. Even at ages 90 and over, only 45.3% of men were widowed, compared to 85.7% of women. The gap in life expectancy between the sexes, the tendency for men to marry younger women, and men's higher rate of re-marriage have all contributed to the substantial difference in the marital status composition of the elderly male and elderly female population shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1

Number and Percent of Population Aged 65+ in Marital Status Groups, by Age and Sex: British Columbia, 1991

Males

	Single*		Married**		Widowed		Divorced		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
65-69	3,535	5.5	54,395	84.0	3,565	5.5	3,225	5.0	64,720	100.0
70-74	2,405	4.0	40,650	82.0	4,365	8.9	1,860	3.8	49,280	100.0
75-79	1,715	4.7	28,325	78.3	5,000	13.8	1,150	3.2	36,190	100.0
80-84	1,065	5.4	13,885	70.4	4,260	21.6	510	2.6	19,720	100.0
85-89	585	6.6	5,295	59.5	2,840	31.9	170	1.9	8,895	100.0
90+	305	8.6	1,570	46.9	1,610	45.3	60	1.7	3,550	100.0
Total 65+	9,610	5.3	144,120	79.0	21,640	11.9	6,975	3.8	182,355	100.0

Females

	Single*		Married**		Widowed		Divorced		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
65-69	2,725	3.7	48,265	65.1	17,960	24.2	5,135	6.9	74,085	100.0
70-74	2,585	4.2	33,755	54.4	22,360	36.1	3,305	5.3	62,000	100.0
75-79	2,340	4.8	19,635	40.3	24,835	51.0	1,865	3.8	48,675	100.0
80-84	1,740	5.8	7,965	26.4	19,645	65.1	825	2.7	30,175	100.0
85-89	990	6.3	2,215	14.0	12,350	78.2	245	1.5	15,800	100.0
90+	600	6.7	585	6.5	7,650	85.7	95	1.1	8,930	100.0
Total 65+	10,980	4.6	112,420	46.9	104,800	43.7	11,470	4.8	239,665	100.0

* Refers to the never married.

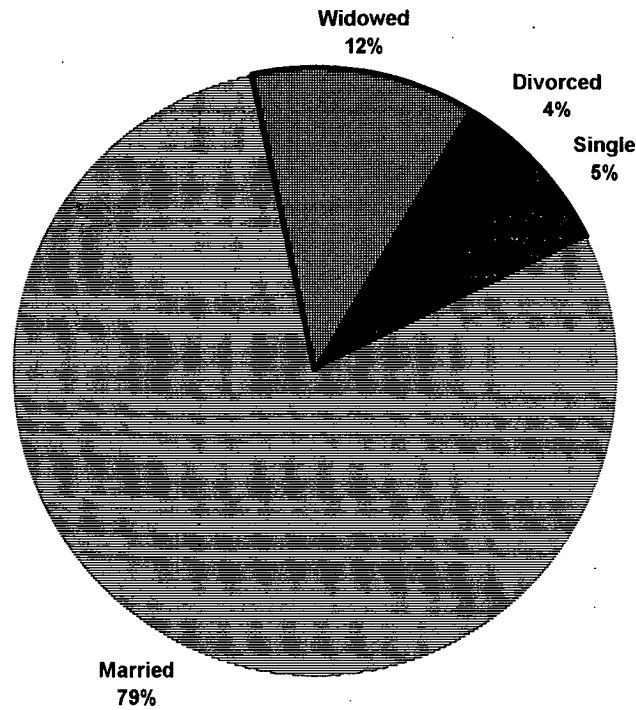
** Married column includes those categorized as "separated". Percentages, by age and sex, of separated people in B.C. are:

	Males		Females	
65-69		2.5%	65-69	2.3%
70-74		2.2%	70-74	2.1%
75-79		2.0%	75-79	1.6%
80-84		1.9%	80-84	1.0%
85-89		2.0%	85-89	0.6%
90+		1.4%	90+	0.4%
Total 65+		2.2%	Total 65+	1.7%

Source:

Statistics Canada. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogue 93-310, July, 1992, Table 3.

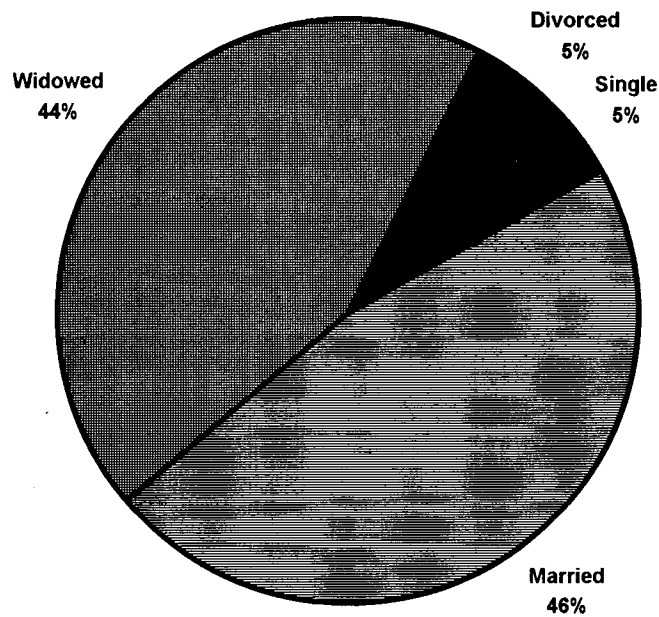
Figure 4.1, Part A
Marital Status Composition of Men Aged 65+:
British Columbia, 1991



MALES

Source:
Table 4.1

Figure 4.1, Part B
Marital Status Composition of Women Aged 65+:
British Columbia, 1991



FEMALES

Source:
Table 4.1

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 1991, the largest number of the aged resided in Ontario (1,183,475), Quebec (770,920) and British Columbia (422,010).

The proportion of persons aged 65 and over within the provinces displays a different pattern. In 1991, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island in that order, had the largest proportions of older persons in their total populations. B.C. was in fourth place, closely followed by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Table 5.1**Total Population and Population Aged 65+:
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991**

Province	Total Population	Population Aged 65+	% of Population Aged 65+ in Canada	% of Provincial Population Aged 65+
Nfld.	568,475	55,160	1.7	9.7
P.E.I.	129,765	17,080	0.5	13.2
N.S.	899,945	113,405	3.6	12.6
N.B.	723,900	88,140	2.8	12.2
Quebec	6,895,960	770,920	24.3	11.2
Ontario	10,084,885	1,183,475	37.3	11.7
Manitoba	1,091,940	146,605	4.6	13.4
Saskatchewan	988,930	139,925	4.4	14.1
Alberta	2,545,550	230,550	7.3	9.1
B.C.	3,282,065	422,010	13.3	12.9
N.W.T.	57,650	1,605	0.05	2.8
Yukon	27,795	1,100	0.03	4.0
Total	27,296,859	3,169,970	100.0	11.6

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Age, Sex and Marital Status, Catalogues 93-310, July, 1992, Table 1.

5.2 Rural-Urban Distribution

Table 5.2 shows that in 1991, like the total population, a majority (83.5%) of B.C.'s older adults lived in urban centres. More than half of the older population (56.5%) resided in urban centres of 100,000 or more population. In all urban areas, except those with a population of less than 2,500, the percentage of older people exceeded the provincial average of 12.9 percent. Urban centres in the size range 2,500 - 4,999 had the highest proportion of their population aged 65 and over (15.0%). This contrasts with B.C. in 1981, at which point the communities with the highest proportion of persons 65 years of age and older were urban centres with 100,000 - 499,999 population (17.4%).

The distribution of persons 75 and over is fairly even across the urban size groupings (ranging between 5.5% and 6.2%), except for communities of less than 2,500, which had a lower proportion of older seniors (4.2%).

The percentage of B.C. seniors living in rural non-farm areas in 1991 was 15.5%, and in farm areas, it was only 1%. Within rural non-farm areas, seniors constituted 11.1% of the population. In farm areas, they accounted for 8.1% of the population.

Table 5.2

**Number and Percent of Total Population Aged 65+ and
Aged 75+ for Urban and Rural Areas:
British Columbia, 1991**

<u>Areas</u>		<u>Total Population</u>		<u>Population Aged 65+</u>		<u>Population Aged 75+</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Urban Areas:</u>							
100,000+		1,793,355		238,510	13.3	103,130	5.8
10,000-99,999		657,970		87,650	13.3	36,000	5.5
5,000-9,999		81,595		11,850	14.5	5,075	6.2
2,500-4,999		70,920		10,630	15.0	4,365	6.2
less than 2,500		36,300		3,880	10.7	1,520	4.2
<hr/>							
Total	n	2,640,140		352,520	13.4	150,090	5.7
	%	80.4		83.5		87.3	
<hr/>							
<u>Rural Areas:</u>							
Non-farm		591,570		65,405	11.1	20,765	3.5
Farm		50,355		4,100	8.1	1,075	2.1
<hr/>							
Total	n	641,925		69,505	10.8	21,840	3.4
	%	19.6		16.5		12.7	
<hr/>							
B.C.		3,282,060		422,005	12.9	171,925	5.2

Source:

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

5.3 Geographic Distribution Within British Columbia

In 1991, a total of 189,670 (44.9%) of B.C.'s seniors lived in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, 66,160 (15.7%) of them in the City of Vancouver (see Table 5.3). The Capital Regional District was the next most popular region of the province among seniors, occupied by 56,265 (13.3%) of the elderly population. The Okanagan ranked third. Together, the three regional districts of Okanagan Similkameen, Central Okanagan, and North Okanagan were home to 44,800 (10.6%) 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 (22.9%), followed by the Capital Region (18.8%), Central Okanagan (17.6%), and the Sunshine Coast (17.2%).

Table 5.3

**Total Population and Population Aged 65+, by Regional District:
British Columbia, 1991**

<u>Regional District</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Population Aged 65+</u>			<u>% Dist. of Pop 65+ in B.C.</u>	<u>% Aged 65+ in Dist- rict</u>
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>		
East Kootenay	52,365	5,325	2,405	2,920	1.3	10.2
Central Kootenay	51,075	7,945	3,705	4,240	1.9	15.6
Kootenay Boundary	31,195	5,125	2,330	2,795	1.2	16.4
Okanagan Similkameen	66,700	15,285	7,010	8,275	3.6	22.9
Fraser Cheam	68,680	10,395	4,715	5,680	2.5	15.1
Central Fraser Valley	87,360	12,710	5,660	7,050	3.0	14.5
Dewdney Alouette	89,970	8,970	4,030	4,440	2.1	10.0
Greater Vancouver	1,542,745	189,670	78,010	111,660	44.9	12.3
Capital	299,550	56,265	23,020	33,245	13.3	18.8
Cowichan Valley	60,560	8,815	4,140	4,675	2.1	14.6
Nanaimo	101,735	17,165	7,850	9,315	4.1	16.9
Alberni-Clayquot	31,225	3,230	1,460	1,770	0.8	10.3
Comox-Strathcona	82,730	8,970	4,090	4,880	2.1	10.8
Powell River	18,480	2,490	1,115	1,375	0.6	13.5
Sunshine Coast	20,785	3,575	1,670	1,905	0.8	17.2
Squamish-Lillooet	23,420	1,495	730	765	0.3	6.4
Thompson-Nicola	104,385	10,275	4,825	5,450	2.4	9.8
Central Okanagan	111,845	19,690	8,915	10,775	4.7	17.6
North Okanagan	61,740	9,825	4,500	5,325	2.3	15.9
Columbia Shuswap	41,665	5,915	2,855	3,060	1.4	14.2
Cariboo	61,055	4,690	2,350	2,340	1.1	7.7
Mount Waddington	13,895	475	235	240	0.1	3.4
Central Coast	3,480	210	110	100	<0.1	6.0
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	23,770	1,390	645	745	0.3	5.8
Kitimat-Stikine	42,055	1,950	965	985	0.5	4.6
Bulkley-Nechako	38,345	2,290	1,155	1,135	0.5	6.0
Fraser-Fort George	90,735	4,410	2,140	2,270	1.0	4.9
Peace River*	53,320	3,285	1,605	1,680	0.8	6.2
Stikine	2,155	60	30	30	<0.1	2.8
Fort Nelson, Liard*	5,040	110	65	45	<0.1	2.2
Total	3,282,060	422,005	182,335	239,670	100.0	12.9

*Combined in 1981 as Peace River-Liard

Source:

Statistics Canada, 1991 Census. Profile of Census Divisions and Subdivisions in British Columbia - Part A, Catalogue 95-384, Table 1, November 1992.

5.3.1 Geographic Distribution Within the Greater Vancouver Regional District

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) consists of an area of just over 1,000 square miles (2,603 square kilometers), including 18 communities, 2 electoral areas, and Indian reserves, with populations ranging in size from 590 to 473,215.

Table 5.3.1 shows that one third (33.1%) of the seniors in the GVRD live in the City of Vancouver. A further 18.3% live in Surrey, while 11.1% live in the District Municipality of Burnaby.

In several communities within the GVRD, the proportion of seniors in the population substantially exceeded the 1991 provincial average of 12.9%. These communities included: White Rock, where more than one-third (34.5%) of the population was aged 65 and over in 1991, West Vancouver (20.2%), New Westminister (15.6%), Langley City (14.7%), Vancouver (14.0%), North Vancouver (14.0%), and Burnaby (14.0%).

Table 5.3.1

**Total Population and Population Aged 65+:
Greater Vancouver Regional District, 1991**

<u>Communities/ Electoral Areas*</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Population Aged 65+</u>			<u>% Distribution of Pop. 65+ in GVRD</u>	<u>% of Pop. 65+</u>
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>		
Anmore	740	40	25	15	0.02	5.4
Belcarra	590	30	15	15	0.01	5.1
Burnaby	158,860	22,210	9,070	13,140	11.1	14.0
Coquitlam	84,025	7,115	2,945	4,170	3.6	8.5
Delta	89,430	7,890	3,410	4,480	3.9	8.8
Langley City	19,765	2,915	1,095	1,820	1.5	14.7
Langley District	66,040	6,205	2,905	3,300	3.1	9.4
Lions Bay	1,325	55	30	25	0.03	4.1
New Westminster	43,585	6,815	2,795	4,020	3.4	15.6
North Vancouver City	38,720	5,405	2,000	3,405	2.7	14.0
North Vancouver Dist.	77,225	7,705	3,245	4,460	3.8	10.0
Port Coquitlam	36,770	2,280	960	1,320	1.1	6.2
Port Moody	17,710	985	435	550	0.5	5.6
Richmond	126,625	13,010	5,425	7,585	6.5	10.3
Surrey	245,390	36,595	25,325	11,270	18.3	10.3
Vancouver	473,215	66,160	26,490	39,670	33.1	14.0
West Vancouver	38,785	7,835	3,210	4,625	3.9	20.0
White Rock	16,315	5,630	2,120	3,510	2.8	34.5
Electoral Areas (Univ.)	6,990	895	390	505	0.4	12.7
Indian Reserves**	580	330	180	150	0.2	56.9
Total	1,542,685	200,105	92,070	108,035	100.0	3.0

* See Appendix 1 for a listing of census divisions and subdivisions included in each GVRD community and electoral area.

** Includes reserves that are not combined with other categories: Matsqui, McMillon Is., and Seymour Creek. The interpretation of these numbers should be made with care because of the small sizes of these reserves and the potential for significant proportions of non-responses.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Profile of Census Divisions and Subdivisions in British Columbia - Part A, Catalogue 95-384, November, 1992, Table 1.

5.3.2 Geographic Distribution Within the Capital Regional District

The Capital Regional District (CRD), located on Southern Vancouver Island, encompasses a total land area of 937 square miles (2,427 square kilometers). Within its boundaries are 7 communities and 7 electoral areas.

Almost one-third (30.3%) of the seniors in the CRD live in the City of Victoria as observed in Table 5.3.2. More than one-quarter (27.6%) live in the Municipality of Saanich.

In terms of the proportion of their population aged 65+, three communities equal or exceed 20%. These are Sidney (31.6%), Oak Bay (30.1%), and Victoria (23.9%).

Table 5.3.2

**Total Population and Population Aged 65+:
Capital Regional District, 1991**

<u>Communities/ Electoral Areas*</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Population Aged 65+</u>			<u>Distribution</u>	<u>% of</u>
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>of Pop. 65+ in CRD</u>	<u>Pop. 65+</u>
Victoria	71,230	17,030	5,850	11,180	30.3	23.9
Central Saanich	13,685	2,345	1,090	1,255	4.2	17.1
Esquimalt	16,195	2,660	1,060	1,600	4.7	16.4
North Saanich	9,645	1,775	875	900	3.2	18.4
Oak Bay	17,815	5,365	2,040	3,325	9.5	30.1
Saanich	95,575	15,545	6,815	8,730	27.6	16.3
Sidney	10,085	3,190	1,350	1,840	5.7	31.6
Electoral Areas	65,320	8,355	3,940	4,415	14.8	12.8
Total	299,550	56,265	23,020	33,245	100.0	18.8

* See Appendix 2 for a listing of census divisions and subdivisions included in each CRD community and electoral area.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Profile of Census Divisions and Subdivisions in British Columbia - Part A, Catalogue 95-384, November, 1992, Table 1.

5.4 Mobility

5.4.1 Total Population and Population Aged 65+

Canadians are a relatively mobile people. In each of the census years, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1991, approximately one half (ranging between 46.7% and 54.2%) of the population five years of age and over, and approximately one-quarter of the population 65 years of age and over (ranging between 22.2% and 31.5%) were living in a different dwelling than five years earlier. Since 1971, there has been a steady decline in the mobility rate for Canadians aged 65 and over.

In each of these census periods, a higher proportion of older British Columbians (ranging between 32.3% and 40.3%) changed residence than was the case for the country as a whole (see Table 5.4.1). In 1991, senior British Columbians had a mobility rate that was 10% higher than the national average, although they too have experienced a decline since 1971.

Table 5.4.1

**Percent of the Population Aged 65+ who Changed Residence in the
5 Years Preceding the Census of 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1991:
Canada and British Columbia***

Percent of Population Aged 65+ Changing Residence

<u>Period</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>
1956-1961	27.4	34.7
1966-1971	31.5	40.3
1971-1976	30.9	39.0
1976-1981	26.2	32.6
1986-1991	22.2	32.3

*Based on 20% sample data.

Sources:

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

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

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

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

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

5.4.2 Distance Moved

Moves by the older age group are mainly of a short distance. For example, of the 126,670 elderly British Columbians who changed residence between 1986 and 1991, 45.3% (57,435) remained in the same census subdivision; 36.8% (46,665) moved elsewhere within the province; 11.8% (15,005) moved to B.C. from a different province; while 6.0% (7,565) immigrated from a different country (see Table 5.4.2).

In comparison to Canada as a whole, a relatively larger proportion of B.C.'s older residents in 1991 lived outside the province in 1986. In Canada, 2.8% of the elderly population in 1991 had lived in a different province or in a different country in 1986; in B.C., the comparable figure was 5.7%.

Table 5.4.2

Mobility Status of Population Aged 65+: Canada, British Columbia and Selected Areas Within B.C., 1986-1991*

<u>Mobility Status</u>	<u>Canada</u>		<u>B.C.</u>		<u>CMA Vancouver</u>		<u>CMA Victoria</u>		<u>Rest of B.C.</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Non-mover	2,254,900	77.8	266,055	67.7	122,075	67.8	34,270	68.5	109,710	67.5
Non-migrant mover**	334,360	11.5	57,435	14.6	28,030	15.6	7,890	15.8	21,515	13.2
Moved within same province	230,870	8.0	46,665	11.9	20,450	11.4	4,190	8.4	22,025	13.6
Moved from other province	42,450	1.5	15,005	3.8	4,395	2.4	2,970	5.9	7,640	4.7
Moved from outside Canada	37,510	1.3	7,565	1.9	5,175	2.9	750	1.5	1,640	1.0
Total	2,900,090	100.0	392,725	100.0	180,120	100.0	50,065	100.0	162,535	100.0

*Based on 20% sample data. Includes only persons living in private households.

**Non-migrants are movers who, on Census Day, were living within the same census subdivision (CSD) they resided in five years earlier.

CMA is an abbreviation for Central Metropolitan Area.

Source:

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

6. Ethnic Composition

6.1 Predominant Groups

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

Table 6.1.1 shows that in 1991, the English were the predominant ethnic group (as a single or multiple selection) among British Columbians, both for the total population (43.3%) and for those 65 and over (40.1%). Among persons of all ages in B.C., those of Scottish origin constituted the second largest group (22.8%), followed by the Irish (16.8%). Turning to ethnic elders, the four largest groups were the English (40.1%), Scottish (18.3%), Irish (11.8%) and German (9.1%).

Table 6.1.1

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

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

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.

* Based on 20% sample data.

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

Source:

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

6.2 Proportion of Ethnic Origin Groups Aged 65+

Among persons selecting English as a single or multiple ethnic origin, 12.0% were elderly. As shown in Table 6.1.2, there were several other ethnic groups in which the proportion aged 65+ exceeded 10%. These groups included the Americans, Austrians, Belgians, Estonians, Guyanese, Jewish, Latvians, Scottish, Serbians and Slovaks. It should be noted that the percentages of ethnic groups aged 65+ were lower in 1991 than in 1981. This is because individuals could select as many ethnic origins as they felt were applicable, and multiple origin ethnic groups were more common among younger age groups.

Table 6.1.2

**Population Aged 65+, by Selected Ethnic Origin Groups:
British Columbia, 1991***

<u>Ethnic Origin Group</u>	<u>Number 65+</u>			<u>% Dist. Single & Multiple Origins 65+** (492,245)</u>	<u>Percentage of Ethnic Group Aged 65+**</u>
	<u>Single</u>	<u>Multiple</u>	<u>Total**</u>		
Acadian	20	10	30	<0.1	8.6
African	55	65	120	<0.1	3.4
American	565	845	1,410	0.3	13.9
Arab	20	10	30	<0.1	1.4
Armenian	125	10	135	<0.1	9.3
Austrian	1,980	865	2,845	0.6	11.6
Belgian	610	385	995	0.2	10.2
Black	330	160	490	0.1	3.4
Cambodian	25	10	35	<0.1	2.6
Canadian	4,240	1,600	5,840	1.2	6.8
Chilean	35	20	55	<0.1	3.0
Chinese	16,105	310	16,415	3.3	8.3
Croatian	560	45	605	0.1	7.5
Czech	645	210	855	0.2	8.2
Czechoslovakian	755	175	930	0.2	9.1
Danish	2,595	945	3,540	0.7	8.9
Dutch(Netherlands)	9,295	5,100	14,395	2.9	7.8
East Indian	4,950	365	5,315	1.1	5.4
Egyptian	40	-	40	<0.1	5.6
English	117,945	51,175	169,120	34.4	12.0
Estonian	620	70	690	0.1	18.9
Filipino	1,810	90	1,900	0.4	5.8
Finnish	1,830	410	2,240	0.5	9.5
French	9,570	11,030	20,600	4.2	6.1
German	26,665	11,860	38,525	7.8	7.8
Greek	630	200	830	0.2	5.8
Guyanese	15	10	35	<0.1	11.3
Hungarian(Magyar)	2,595	420	3,015	0.6	9.2
Icelandic	835	355	1,190	0.2	7.4
Inuit	-	40	40	<0.1	2.0
Iranian	455	10	465	<0.1	6.0
Irish	17,025	32,770	49,795	10.1	9.1
Italian	7,050	1,110	8,160	1.7	7.3
Jamaican	-	35	35	<0.1	2.6
Japanese	2,570	60	2,630	0.5	9.7
Jewish	2,425	715	3,140	0.6	10.1

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

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

* Based on 20% sample data.

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

Source:

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

6.3 Aboriginal Peoples

Using the 1991 20% census sample data, it is estimated that 470,610 Canadians selected a single ethnic origin including North American Indian, Metis and Inuit. A further 575,275 Canadians claimed one of these ethnic groups as a multiple origin. More than one-half of these persons lived in three provinces: Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. B.C. alone had 16.6% (173,855) of the total number of people reporting single and multiple Aboriginal* ethnic origins.

While Native Peoples of single or multiple origin constituted 5.3% of the total population of the province in 1991, they were under-represented in the 65 and over population, constituting only 1.2% of all elderly. It should be noted, however, that the proportion of Native Peoples aged 65 and over in Canada rose from approximately 3.5% in 1981 to 4.5% in 1991, and is estimated to rise to about 7% by the turn of the century. This pattern suggests considerable population aging among First Nations people in Canada.

*Aboriginal ethnic group includes North American Indians, Metis and Inuit.

7. Living Arrangements

7.1 Persons by Type

Similar to the rest of Canada, the vast majority (92.8%) of elderly in British Columbia live in private households. In 1991, only about 6.5% of the population 65 and over were residents of "collective dwellings," defined by Statistics Canada as including nursing, chronic care and old age homes; hospitals; religious institutions; and hotels, motels, tourist homes, YM/YWCA's, etc.

In Table 7.1 we observe that the majority (138,995 or 76.2%) of older men resided in families with a spouse and/or never-married children. Even among men aged 75 and over, over two-thirds (46,710 or 68.3%) lived in such family settings. Among elderly women, the proportion living in family arrangements decreases dramatically with age (87,535 or 64.3% in the 65-74 age group; 35,950 or 34.7% among those aged 75+). There is a concomitant increase in the proportion living in non-family households, either alone in private households (39,390 or 28.9% of women aged 65-74; 44,040 or 42.5% of women aged 75+) or as residents of "collective dwellings."

The large proportion of older women living alone is a relatively new phenomenon. Between 1961 and 1991 in B.C., the proportion of women aged 65 and over living alone increased from 21.2% to 34.8%.

Table 7.1

**Population Aged 65+, by Living Arrangements and Sex:
British Columbia, 1991**

	Total Population Aged 65+		Ages 65-74		Ages 75+	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	182,355 (100%)	239,665 (100%)	114,000 (100%)	136,085 (100%)	68,355 (100%)	103,580 (100%)
Persons in Private Households	172,965 (94.9%)	218,865 (91.3%)	111,030 (97.4%)	132,500 (97.4%)	61,935 (90.6%)	86,365 (83.4%)
a) Family Households	138,995	124,485	92,285	87,535	46,710	35,950
b) Non-family Households	33,970	94,375	18,745	44,965	15,225	49,410
- with relatives	1,930	7,105	930	3,230	1,000	3,87
- non-relatives	3,965	3,840	2,605	2,345	1,360	1,495
- alone	28,080	83,430	15,210	39,390	12,870	44,040
Persons in Collective Dwellings*	8,275 (4.5%)	19,160 (8.0%)	2,270 (2.0%)	2,585 (1.9%)	6,005 (8.8%)	16,575 (16.0%)
a) Special Care Homes (elderly & chronically ill)	6,565	17,050	1,375	1,975	5,190	15,075
b) Hospitals	945	1,605	360	345	585	1,260
c) Religious Institutions	50	120	30	55	20	65
d) Hotels, Motels, Tourist Homes	650	350	465	200	185	150
e) All other**	65	35	40	10	25	25
Households outside Canada	1,115 (0.6%)	1,640 (0.7%)	700 (0.6%)	1,000 (0.7%)	415 (0.6%)	640 (0.6%)

* Includes residents and staff

** Includes all other collective households, such as jails, military camps, work camps, etc.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Families: Number, Type and Structure, Catalogue 93-312, July, 1992, Table 8.

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Dwellings and Households, Catalogue 93-311, July, 1992, Table 2.

7.2 Private Households - Present and Future

The 1991 Census indicated that there were 151,110 private households in British Columbia maintained by persons 65-74 years of age and 105,090 headed by persons 75 or older. As shown in Table 7.2, these two groups total 256,200 households, which represent 20.6% of all households in the province.

Table 7.2

Households by Age of Primary Maintainer:
British Columbia, 1981, 1991, and 2001

<u>Age of Primary Household Maintainer</u>	<u>1981</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>2001</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
<25	83,350	8.4	59,880	4.8	89,300	6.4
25-34	245,395	24.6	256,320	20.6	250,100	18.0
35-44	187,585	18.8	296,565	23.8	320,000	23.1
45-54	156,345	15.7	206,135	16.6	272,000	19.6
55-64	143,550	14.4	168,795	13.6	184,400	13.3
65+	180,415	18.1	256,200	20.6	270,800	19.5
Total	996,640	100.0	1,243,890	100.0	1,386,700	100.0

Source:

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

8. Housing

8.1 Home Ownership

Data from the 1991 census in Table 8.1.1 show that household heads aged 55-64 and 65-74 were more likely than either younger or older groups to be homeowners; slightly more than three-quarters (78.9% and 77.0%, respectively) in each of these two age groups owned their homes in 1991. The percentage of household heads reporting home ownership drops as age increases past 75 years. Even in the 75-and-over age group, however, approximately two-thirds (65.9%) own their own home.

As shown in Table 8.1.2, males are more likely to be homeowners than females in all age groups. However, between the 1981 and 1991 censuses, the proportion of elderly female homeowners increased (in the 65-74 age group, from 56.1% to 66%; in the 75+ age group, from 44.6% to 55.1%).

Table 8.1.1

**Number and Percentage Distribution of Private Households,
by Tenure, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads:
British Columbia, 1991**

<u>Tenure</u>	<u>25-54</u>		<u>55-64</u>		<u>65-74</u>		<u>75+</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Owners	465,210	61.4	133,245	78.9	117,130	77.0	69,845	65.9
Renters	289,810	38.3	35,275	20.9	34,825	22.9	35,985	34.0
Band Housing	2,130	0.3	350	0.2	220	0.1	105	0.1
Total	757,150	100.0	168,870	100.0	152,175	100.0	105,935	100.0

Source:

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

Table 8.1.2

**Percentage Distribution of Private Households, by
Tenure and by Sex, for Selected Age Groups of Household Heads:
British Columbia, 1991**

	<u>AGE</u>							
	<u>25-54</u>		<u>55-64</u>		<u>65-74</u>		<u>75+</u>	
	Males	Females	Males	Female	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total Number	552,895	204,265	127,480	41,390	98,320	53,855	53,605	52,330
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Owners	67.0	46.3	82.7	67.2	83.0	66.0	76.5	55.1
Renters	32.7	53.4	17.1	32.5	16.9	33.8	23.4	44.8
Band Housing	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1

Source:

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

8.2 Preferred Structural Type

In 1991, the single family detached dwelling was the housing form occupied by the majority (54.9%) of British Columbia households headed by persons aged 65 and over. As shown in Table 8.2.1, another 31.4% lived in dwellings that fall into a category that includes low-rise apartments (less than 5 stories), semi-detached houses, and apartments in duplexes. A further 9.4% lived in high-rise apartments. A small proportion of the elderly population (4.3%) resided in movable dwellings.

Table 8.2.2 shows that in both the 65-74 and 75+ age groups, males were much more likely than females to live in single detached dwellings.

Table 8.2.1

Number and Percentage Distribution of Elderly Households, by Structural Type and Age of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 1991*

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

* 20 % Sample Data

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

Source:

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

Table 8.2.2

Number and Percentage Distribution of Elderly Households, by Structural Type, and Age and Sex of Primary Maintainer: British Columbia, 1991*

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

* 20 % Sample Data

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

Source:

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

8.3 Housing Costs

1991 Census data indicate that housing costs for elderly homeowners were relatively modest because most have built up equity in their homes over the years. As shown in Table 8.4, renters spend a substantially larger portion of their income on housing. For those 75 years of age and older, renters' housing costs as a percentage of income were double those of owners (21.8% and 11.0%, respectively).

Table 8.4

**Average Monthly Housing Costs of the Population Aged 65+:
British Columbia, 1991**

Age	Average Owner's Major Payments*	Average Gross Rent	Average Household Income (Monthly)	Owner's Major Payment as a Percentage of Income	Average Renter's Payment as a Percentage of Income
65 - 74	\$308	\$502	\$3,030	10.2%	16.6%
75 +	\$260	\$517	\$2,369	11.0%	21.8%

* Owners' major payments include those for heat and light, water and other municipal services, monthly mortgage payments, and property taxes.

Source:

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

9. Education

9.1 Educational Attainment

The elderly in British Columbia tend to be better educated than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. In 1991, in Canada as a whole, 60.4% of seniors reported 9 or more years of schooling. Among British Columbians aged 65 and over, the comparable figure was 74.1%. 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, 6.6% of seniors reported a university degree, compared with 14.1% of adults aged 25-64.

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

Table 9.1

**Highest Level of Schooling of the Population
Aged 25-64 and 65+: British Columbia, 1991***

<u>Highest Level of Schooling</u>	<u>Age 25-64</u>		<u>Population Aged 65+</u>					
	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Less than Grade 9	113,070	6.4	45,445	26.0	56,575	25.8	102,020	25.9
Some high school	354,525	20.2	46,695	26.8	70,890	32.3	117,580	29.8
High school graduation	243,555	13.9	13,745	7.9	25,025	11.4	38,770	9.8
Trades certificate or diploma	69,480	3.9	11,930	6.8	4,490	2.0	16,425	4.2
Other non- university education	517,805	29.5	28,960	16.6	39,140	17.8	68,095	17.3
Some University	208,785	11.9	10,880	6.2	14,345	6.5	25,230	6.4
University degree	247,945	14.1	16,835	9.6	9,075	4.1	25,910	6.6
Total	1,755,170	100.0	174,490	100.0	219,540	100.0	394,035	100.0

* Based on 20% sample data.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Educational Attainment and School Attendance. Catalogue 93-328, May 1993, Table 2.

10. Labour Force

10.1 Labour Force Participation Trends

Since 1961, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of men aged 55+ participating in the labour force (see Table 10.1). This trend can be observed for both Canada and British Columbia, although rates of labour force participation are lower in British Columbia than in Canada as a whole for the 65+ age group. In 1991 in Canada, 18.0% of men aged 65+ were in the labour force; the comparable figure for British Columbia was 15.5%.

The trend for women is markedly different. In all age groups, including women aged 60-64 and 65+, there has been an increase in labour force participation rates since 1961. In 1961 in B.C., 19.1% of women aged 60-64 were in the labour force. The rate had increased to 34.4% by 1991. In 1961 in British Columbia, 5.1% of women aged 65+ were part of the labour force, whereas this percentage was 6.9% in 1991.

Table 10.1

**Labour Force Participation Rates, by Age and Sex:
Canada and British Columbia, 1961 - 1991***

Percent in Labour Force

	<u>Males</u>						<u>Females</u>					
	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 59	60- 64	65+	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 59	60- 64	65+
<u>Canada</u>												
1961	94.1	94.3	91.9	86.7	75.8	28.5	29.6	31.0	33.4	27.9	20.3	6.7
1971	92.6	92.8	90.3	84.9	74.1	23.6	44.5	43.9	44.4	38.7	29.1	8.3
1981	95.3	95.2	92.3	84.4	68.3	17.3	65.8	64.3	55.9	41.9	28.3	6.0
1991	93.7	94.0	91.7	81.3	60.7	18.0	80.6	80.6	73.8	53.9	33.1	7.3
<u>British Columbia</u>												
1961	94.5	93.8	90.7	83.4	68.7	19.6	28.4	33.0	36.8	29.1	19.1	5.1
1971	94.5	95.3	92.3	86.9	72.8	19.0	44.6	46.2	46.9	40.5	29.9	6.6
1981	95.6	96.1	92.8	83.4	64.7	13.8	66.4	66.9	59.1	42.6	27.8	5.4
1991	94.6	94.7	92.7	81.6	59.6	15.5	81.0	81.2	76.4	55.5	34.4	6.9

*Trends should be interpreted with caution, due to census changes in definition of labour force.

Sources:

For 1961: Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 1961 Census. General Review. The Canadian Labour Force, Catalogue 99-522, September, 1967, Table XIV; and Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Class of Worker - Western Provinces, Catalogue 94-526, September, 1963, Table 9.

For 1971: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Activity. Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Sex and by Marital Status and Sex, 1971 and 1976, Catalogue 94-804, September, 1978, Table 9.

For 1981: Statistics Canada. 1981 Census. Population. Labour Force Activity - Canada, Provinces, Urban Size Groups, Rural Non-Farm and Rural Farm, Catalogue 92-915, February, 1984, Table 1.

For 1991: Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Labour Force Activity, Catalogue 93-324, March, 1993, Table 2.

10.2 Full and Part-time Employment

Table 10.2 shows that in 1991, part-time employment was performed by 25% of the labour force aged 55+, a figure which was slightly higher than for the total labour force (22.1%). Women were more likely to work part-time than men. In British Columbia, more than one-third (38.4%) of the female labour force aged 55+ was employed on a part-time basis.

The proportion working part-time increased between 1983 and 1991 for both males and females.

Table 10.2**Percent of Labour Force Aged 55+ Employed Full-time and Part-time, by Sex: British Columbia, 1983 and 1991**

	<u>1983</u>		
	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>% Total</u>
Males	88.3	11.7	100.0
Females	65.9	34.1	100.0
Total (55+)	82.2	17.8	100.0
Total (All Ages)	90.9	9.1	100.0
	<u>1991</u>		
	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>% Total</u>
Males	83.3	16.7	100.0
Females	61.6	38.4	100.0
Total (55+)	75.0	25.0	100.0
Total (All Ages)	77.9	22.1	100.0

Sources:

For 1983: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey Division. Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975-1983, Catalogue 71-529, Table 29, February, 1984.

For 1991: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Activity, Catalogue 93-324, Table 2, pp. 74-75, March 1993.

11. Income

11.1 Median Income of Individuals

The median income (in constant 1990 dollars) for males aged 65-69 rose from \$19,532 in 1985 to \$21,518 in 1990 (see Table 11.1). For males aged 70+, the median income increased from \$14,019 to \$16,633. However, for women aged 65-69, median income rose from only \$10,123 to \$11,410 between 1985 and 1990. The median incomes for women 70+ were \$10,497 and \$11,594 for the same period. Thus, the female/male income ratio for the 65-69 age group was similar to the ratio for all ages -- about .53. However, it was .70 for the 70+ age group. In fact, at all ages, women's incomes continue to be considerably lower than men's incomes.

Table 11.1

**Median Income of Individuals by Age and Sex:
British Columbia, 1985 and 1990***

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u> (<u>\$</u>)		<u>Females</u> (<u>\$</u>)	
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>
15-19	2,325	3,204	2,120	2,872
20-24	11,603	13,673	8,896	10,620
25-34	28,898	28,938	15,491	16,664
35-44	38,210	37,421	16,813	19,424
45-54	37,303	39,162	15,955	19,774
55-64	29,943	30,261	11,025	12,885
65-69	19,532	21,518	10,123	11,410
70+	14,019	16,633	10,497	11,594
Total	25,223	26,854	11,952	13,807

*In constant 1990 dollars. Based on 20% sample data.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 1991 Census. Selected Income Statistics: The Nation, Catalogue 93-331, April 1993, Table 2.

11.2 Poverty Rate

Table 11.2 shows poverty rates for the population aged 65+ for Canada and the provinces for 1980, 1992 and 1993. As in the rest of the country, rates have dropped more sharply for men than for women over the 13 year period. The 1993 rate for male British Columbians aged 65 and over was 12.7% compared with 29.6% in 1980; for females the 1993 poverty rate was 23.6% compared with 32.7% in 1980.

While poverty rates for seniors have fallen sharply in recent decades, comparison of the 1992 and 1993 data suggests that the trend may be reversing in British Columbia, at least for women. It should also be noted that poverty rates are much lower for married couples than for unattached seniors. Unpublished 1993 data from the National Council of Welfare place the poverty rate for unattached British Columbians aged 65+ at 35.9% compared with only 9.2% for married couples 65+.

Provincial data are not available comparing poverty rates among unattached older people by gender. National rates indicate, however, that unattached women aged 65+ (as with younger women) are more disadvantaged than their male age peers. In 1993, the national poverty rate for unattached men aged 65+ was 32.1% compared with 47.3% for unattached women aged 65+.

Table 11.2**Poverty Rates for the Population Aged 65+, by Sex and Province, 1980, 1992 and 1993.**

	<u>Males</u>			<u>Females</u>		
	1980	1992	1993	1980	1992	1993
Newfoundland	27.6	18.1	13.1	36.9	23.1	17.6
Prince Edward Is.	33.7	6.4	5.8	52.7	11.9	12.6
Nova Scotia	22.8	7.6	8.4	31.5	25.1	21.1
New Brunswick	22.1	5.4	8.3	34.2	16.5	22.0
Quebec	33.7	19.4	21.4	46.2	32.3	34.2
Ontario	24.0	7.6	12.9	34.3	18.9	22.3
Manitoba	23.8	16.3	12.6	41.2	24.4	24.9
Saskatchewan	28.1	5.4	8.1	49.0	13.4	15.7
Alberta	25.2	15.8	13.7	38.8	26.0	22.6
British Columbia	29.6	14.8	12.7	32.7	21.7	23.6
Canada	27.3	12.4	14.4	38.4	23.3	25.1

Source: National Council of Welfare (1995). Poverty Profile 1993.

12. Disabilities

12.1 Disability Rates

In 1991, 181,930 British Columbians aged 65 and over - 44.0% according to Statistics Canada calculations - reported some degree of disability. As seen in Table 12.1, this rate is only slightly different from the rate reported for 1986 (43.4%).

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

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

Table 12.1

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

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

Sources:

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

B.C. Health and Activity Limitations Survey, 1991 - Revised Back-up Tables Provinces and Territories, October 29, 1992, Table 1.

12.2 Seniors with Disabilities in Private Households and Institutions

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

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

Although males and females aged 65 and over have about the same disability rate, females are more likely to live in institutions than males. As shown in Table 12.2, among disabled persons aged 65 and over in B.C. in 1991, 17.1% of females lived in institutions compared with only 8.8% of males.

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

Table 12.2

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

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

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

Source:

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

12.3 Nature of Disabilities

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

Except for hearing, reporting of all types of disability was substantially higher among seniors with disabilities living in institutions. The largest difference was in the category "other", defined in the HALS as including limitations due to "a learning disability, a mental health condition, a mental handicap, or because of labelling by others." As shown in Table 12.3, 63.7% of seniors residing in institutions reported disabilities in the category of "other" compared with 23.9% of seniors living in private households. The next largest differences were in agility (91.8% of disabled persons living in institutions compared with 60.6% living in households) and mobility (89.6% in institutions vs. 64.1% in households).

Table 12.3

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

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

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

Source:

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

12.4 Severity of Disabilities

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

Table 12.4 shows that of British Columbians aged 65 and over reporting a disability in 1991, 39.1% were classified as mildly disabled, 22.8% as moderately disabled and 38.1% as severely disabled. Overall, 32.6% of seniors with disabilities living in private households had severe disabilities. The proportion with severe disabilities among those living in institutions was 73.4%.

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

Table 12.4

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

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

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

Source:

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

13. Health Service Utilization

13.1 Hospitals

The number of separations from acute care hospitals and hospital days used increase dramatically with increasing age (see Table 13.1). In 1985/86, the number of acute care separations per thousand persons aged 65-74 was 114.2% higher than for the age group 15-64. Among persons 75 to 84, the separation rate was 233.2% higher than for the age group 15-64 and among those 85+, it was 292.9% higher.

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

Over the same time period, use of extended care hospital beds increased. This trend is reflected in separation rates (2.4% of all separations were from extended care beds in 1985/86 compared with 0.9% in 1969). It is shown even more dramatically in days used. As can be seen in Table 13.2, in 1985/86, 43.7% of all hospital days used were in extended care beds compared with only 11.0% in 1969. Increased use of extended care hospitals is especially noticeable among persons aged 85+, reflecting both the increased availability of beds at this care level and the growth of the 85+ population.

Table 13.1

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

<u>1969</u>					
<u>Age</u>	<u>Separations per 1000</u>		<u>% of all Separations</u>		
	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	
0-14	181.0	0.5	27.2	0.1	
15-64	177.1	1.2	56.7	0.4	
65-74	264.3	5.6	7.5	0.2	
75-84	357.9	12.5	5.8	0.2	
85+	412.2	23.6	1.8	0.1	
All Ages	190.7	1.8	99.1	+ 0.9	=100%
<u>1985/86</u>					
<u>Age</u>	<u>Separations per 1000</u>		<u>% of all Separations</u>		
	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	
0-14	145.0	1.1	18.0	0.1	
15-64	133.9	1.3	54.3	0.5	
65-74	286.8	9.6	12.7	0.4	
75-84	446.1	33.3	9.4	0.7	
85+	524.8	98.5	3.2	0.6	
All ages	162.4	4.0	97.6	+ 2.4	=100%

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

Source:

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

Table 13.2

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

<u>1969</u>				
<u>Age</u>	<u>Days per 1000</u>		<u>% of all Days</u>	
	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>
0-14	1186.7	41.4	17.5	0.6
15-64	1479.4	74.8	46.4	2.3
65-74	4078.4	817.5	11.3	2.3
75-84	6421.8	2430.2	10.3	3.9
85+	8416.2	4332.8	3.6	1.9
All ages	1750.4	215.6	89.0	+ 11.0 =100%
<u>1985/86</u>				
<u>Age</u>	<u>Days per 1000</u>		<u>% of all Days</u>	
	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Extended</u>
0-14	657.7	92.4	6.6	0.9
15-64	809.0	201.6	26.4	6.6
65-74	2819.6	1635.5	10.0	5.8
75-84	5402.9	8278.9	9.2	14.1
85+	7041.9	33049.4	4.1	16.3
All ages	1164.1	904.2	56.3	+ 43.7 =100%

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

Source:

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

13.2 Continuing Care

During 1991/92, 90,791 persons aged 65 and over received one or more continuing care services. As shown in Table 13.3, 29,154 received residential care in community care facilities and/or hospital-based extended care units. A total of 52,114 older persons were clients of community long term care (LTC) programs (i.e. received homemakers service, attended an adult day care, or were residents of a group home). A total of 30,664 received clinical services at home (community home care nursing and/or community rehabilitation).

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

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

Using data from the fiscal year 1988/89, Table 13.4 shows that between the ages of 20-64, residential care utilization rates tend to be higher for males than for females. This holds true for group home beds as well. The trend reverses for persons aged 65 and over.

Table 13.5 shows the number of continuing care beds per 1,000 aged 65+ available and targeted for British Columbia in 1988/89 in comparison to rates reported for other jurisdictions. The targeted rate is similar to that reported for the United States and United Kingdom and is at the low end of the distribution.

Table 13.3

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

	Average Clients Per Day	Unique Clients Per Year	Sex		Age					
			Females	Males	0-19	20-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Continuing Care Facilities	<u>n</u> 16,466 %*	22,309	15,154 67.93	7,155 32.07	3 0.01	371 1.66	798 3.58	3,018 13.53	8,515 38.17	9,604 43.05
Extended Care Units	<u>n</u> 7,609 %	10,429	6,894 66.10	3,535 33.90	26 0.25	576 5.52	479 4.59	1,416 13.58	3,500 33.56	4,432 42.50
Total Residential**	<u>n</u> %	31,367	21,120 67.33	10,247 32.67	29 0.09	934 2.98	1,250 3.99	4,256 13.57	11,505 36.68	13,393 42.70
Homemakers	<u>n</u> 44,963 %	59,209	41,060 69.35	18,149 30.65	20 0.03	4,129 6.97	4,200 7.09	15,504 26.19	24,898 42.05	10,458 17.66
Adult Day Care	<u>n</u> 3,347 %	5,772	3,675 63.67	2,097 36.33	0 0.00	219 3.19	335 5.80	1,237 21.43	2,626 45.50	1,355 23.48
Group Homes	<u>n</u> 208 %	286	115 40.21	171 59.79	3 1.05	227 79.37	32 11.19	12 4.20	8 2.80	4 1.40
Total Community LTC**	<u>n</u> %	60,850	41,933 68.91	18,917 31.09	23 0.04	4,374 7.19	4,339 7.13	15,870 26.08	25,500 41.91	10,744 17.66
Total Residential and Community LTC**	<u>n</u> %	87,148	59,881 68.71	27,267 31.29	50 0.06	5,124 5.88	5,402 6.20	19,355 22.21	34,773 39.90	22,444 25.75

	Average Clients Per Day	Unique Clients Per Year	Sex		Age Group					
			Females	Males	0-19	20-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Community Home Care Nursing	$\frac{n}{\%}$ 9,202	39,263	21,751 55.40	17,512 44.60	1,385 3.53	7,987 20.34	4,988 12.70	9,802 24.96	10,912 27.79	4,189 10.67
Community Rehabilitation	$\frac{n}{\%}$ 2,694	12,684	8,020 63.23	4,664 36.77	407 3.21	1,561 12.31	1,179 9.30	3,052 24.06	4,431 34.93	2,054 16.19
Total Clinical Services**	$\frac{n}{\%}$	46,993	26,850 57.14	20,143 42.86	1,732 3.69	8,914 18.97	5,683 12.09	11,592 24.67	13,602 28.94	5,470 11.64
Total Community and Clinical Services LTC**	$\frac{n}{\%}$	89,785	56,778 63.24	33,007 36.76	1,749 1.95	11,857 13.21	8,671 9.66	23,035 25.66	31,757 35.37	12,716 14.16
Total Residential, Community LTC, and Clinical Services**	$\frac{n}{\%}$	114,854	73,900 64.34	40,954 35.66	1,773 1.54	12,604 10.97	9,686 8.43	26,311 22.91	40,532 35.29	23,948 20.85

Source:

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

* = row percentages

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

Table 13.4

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

Type of Service	Age Groups					
	0-19	20-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Population						
Female	386,242	598,342	295,161	127,065	67,636	21,804
Male	418,955	596,275	298,292	104,729	48,992	10,507
Continuing Care Beds/Clients						
Female	0.00	0.07	1.41	10.63	64.52	249.62
Male	0.00	0.12	1.62	9.39	39.34	157.39
Extended Care Beds/Clients						
Female	0.06	0.20	0.98	4.43	22.10	110.19
Male	0.05	0.25	0.96	3.99	16.28	64.09
Total Residential Beds/Clients						
Female	0.06	0.27	2.39	15.06	86.63	359.81
Male	0.05	0.37	2.58	13.38	55.62	221.48
Homemaker Hours per Month						
Female	0.15	15.54	114.14	703.40	1986.31	2487.23
Male	0.23	8.82	43.47	305.55	1051.58	2065.12
Homemaker Clients						
Female	0.01	1.26	9.30	57.29	161.78	202.55
Male	0.02	0.72	3.54	24.88	85.65	168.22
Adult Day Care Days per Month						
Female	0.00	0.29	2.02	10.87	42.25	66.04
Male	0.00	0.18	1.30	7.81	26.45	56.06
Adult Day Care Clients						
Female	0.00	0.08	0.54	2.90	11.28	17.61
Male	0.00	0.05	0.35	2.08	7.06	14.98
Group Home Beds/Clients						
Female	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.04
Male	0.00	0.16	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.00
LTC Community Clients						
Female	0.03	1.43	9.87	60.20	173.08	220.20
Male	0.02	0.92	3.97	26.97	92.70	183.19
Total LTC (Residential- & Community Clients)						
Female	0.08	1.70	12.26	75.26	259.71	580.01
Male	0.07	1.29	6.55	40.35	148.32	404.68

Type of Service	<u>Age Groups</u>					
	0-19	20-24	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
FTE Assessor Staff						
Female	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.26	0.90	2.02
Male	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.14	0.52	1.41
FTE Clinical Services Staff						
Female	0.02	0.04	0.18	0.66	1.45	2.16
Male	0.02	0.03	0.14	0.55	1.22	2.11
Clinical Services Clients						
Female	0.34	0.70	3.06	11.20	24.71	36.81
Male	0.35	0.52	2.34	9.48	20.86	35.77
Total Community Clients (LTC & Clinical Services)						
Female	0.37	2.13	12.93	71.40	197.79	257.01
Male	0.38	1.44	6.31	36.45	113.56	218.96
Total Residential and Community Clients						
Female	0.43	2.40	15.32	86.46	284.41	616.83
Male	0.42	1.81	8.90	49.83	169.18	440.44

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

Source:

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

Table 13.5

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

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

Source:

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

Appendix 1

Census Divisions and Subdivisions Included in Greater Vancouver Regional District Member Communities and Electoral Areas

Communities/ Electoral Areas	Census Divisions and Subdivisions, 1991
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Communities

Anmore	- Anmore, VL
Belcarra	- Belcarra, VL
Burnaby	- Burnaby, DM
Coquitlam	- Coquitlam, DM
Delta	- Delta, DM
	- Tsawassen, R
Langley City	- Langley, C
Langley District	- Langley, DM
Lions Bay	- Lions Bay, VL
New Westminster	- New Westminster, C
North Vancouver City	- North Vancouver, C
	- Mission 1, R
North Vancouver District	- North Vancouver, DM
	- Burrard Inlet 3, R
	- Capilano 5, R
Port Coquitlam	- Port Coquitlam, C
Port Moody	- Port Moody, C
Richmond	- Richmond, C
Surrey	- Surrey, DM
	- Semiahmoo, R
Vancouver	- Vancouver, C
	- Musqueam 2, R
West Vancouver	- West Vancouver, DM
White Rock	- White Rock, C

Electoral Areas

University Endowment Lands	- University Endowment Area, SRD
Greater Vancouver (subdivision)	- Greater Vancouver, Subd. A, SRD

Key to Abbreviations:

C	City
DM	District (Municipality)
R	Indian Reserve
SRD	Subdivision of Regional District
VL	Village

Appendix 2

Census Divisions and Subdivisions Included in Capital Regional District Member Communities and Electoral Areas

Communities/
Electoral Areas

Census Divisions and Subdivisions, 1991

Communities

Victoria	- Victoria, C
Central Saanich	- Central Saanich, DM
Esquimalt	- Esquimalt, DM
North Saanich	- North Saanich, DM
Oak Bay	- Oak Bay, DM
Saanich	- Saanich, DM
Sidney	- Sidney, T

Electoral Areas

Colwood	
Metchosin	- Becher Bay 1, R and 1, R
View Royal	- New Songhees 1A, R
Capital Subdivision Areas	- Capital Subd. A, SRD
	- Capital Subd. B, SRD
	- Capital Subd. C, SRD
	- Capital Subd. D, SRD

Key to Abbreviations:

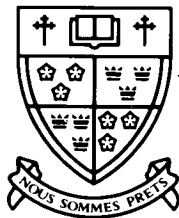
C	City
DM	District (Municipality)
R	Indian Reserve
SRD	Subdivision of Regional District
T	Town

Gerontology Research Centre

Since its establishment in June 1982, the Centre has served as a focal point for research on topics relating to aging and the aged, secondly as a centre of teaching and study, and thirdly as an information centre for both university scholars and community researchers and practitioners.

The Centre has earned international recognition for its applied research in the areas of: Aging and the Built Environment; Prevention of Victimization and Exploitation of Older Persons; Aging and Changing Lifestyles; and Health Promotion and Aging.

The Centre also provides consultation and technical assistance to academic, government, public and private organizations and is an active member of two inter-university research consortia. The first is the B.C. Consortium for Health Promotion Research which links the Centre with the Institute for Health Promotion Research at UBC and with researchers from the Faculty of Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria. The second is the B.C. Consortium for the Canadian Study of Health and Aging. Partners include the Department of Geriatric Medicine at UBC, the Faculty of Arts and the Centre on Aging at the University of Victoria and the Mental Health Division of the Ministry of Health.



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