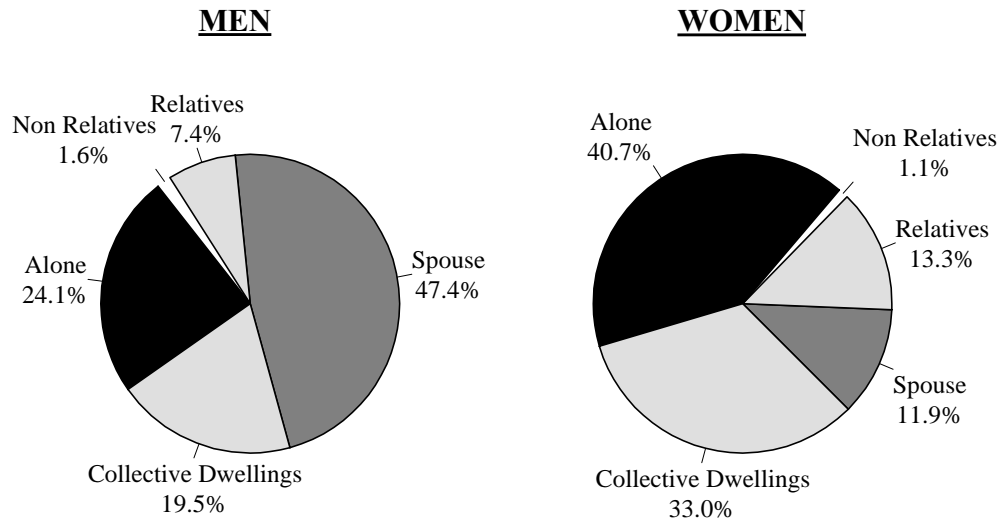

Focus on BC Households: Where do Seniors Live?

Living Arrangements: Older Women (85+) are More Likely Than Men to be Living Alone or in Collective Dwellings



BC STATS

- Thirteen per cent of all people living in British Columbia are seniors aged 65 years and over.
- The number of seniors living in the province increased by 60 per cent between 1981 and 1996 compared to a growth rate of 36 per cent in the total population.
- Two thirds of the seniors population 65 years and over live with a spouse or with relatives.
- Living arrangements of the elderly change considerably as they age. Eighty-three per cent of men and 68 per cent of women aged 65 to 74 live with a spouse or a relative. By the time they reach eighty years of age those living with a spouse or relative drops to 71 per cent for men and 39 per cent for women.
- Older women are much more likely than men to be widowed, reflecting both the greater life expectancy of women relative to men, and the fact that more men than women have a younger spouse. Among those aged 85 and over, the per cent of females who are widowed is more than double that of men (79 per cent of women compared to 36 per cent of men).



- The result of more older women being widowed can be seen in the proportion of women over 84 years of age that live alone compared to that of men that still live with a spouse. Forty one per cent of women are living alone while only 24 per cent of men are in that situation.
- Between 1981 and 1996, the living arrangements of seniors has been shifting, with a larger proportion of seniors still living with a spouse or living alone. In 1996, 45 per cent of all seniors aged 75 and over still lived with a spouse compared to 39 per cent in 1981. This is most likely due to a number of factors, including a decrease in the life expectancy gap between men and women and a greater awareness in the nineties of healthier lifestyles and its relation to longevity.
- The proportion of elderly 75 years and over living in collective dwellings¹ has decreased notably over the past fifteen years, with the ratio of men decreasing from 14 per cent in 1981 to 8 per cent in 1996, and women from 20 per cent to 14 per cent. One of the reasons for this decline could be due to the new type of 'independent living' dwellings that have become more prevalent in the province and which provide the freedom of independent apartment living with common dining rooms. These are not considered collective dwellings.

¹ Collective dwellings include hospitals, old age care facilities, correctional institutions, hotels, motels, tourist homes, lodging and rooming houses, work camps, military camps, and religious camps.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Canada

Prepared by: BC STATS.

Living Arrangements of Seniors in British Columbia - 1996

| | <u>Total Population 65 Years and Over</u> | <u>% Living with Spouse or as Lone Parent</u> | <u>% Living with Relatives</u> | <u>% Living with Non Relatives</u> | <u>% Living Alone</u> | <u>% Living in Collective Dwellings*</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Total 65 years & over</i> | 475,835 | 59.2 | 6.3 | 1.8 | 26.9 | 5.8 |
| <i>Males</i> | 207,890 | 75.3 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 16.4 | 3.4 |
| <i>Females</i> | 267,940 | 46.7 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 35.1 | 7.7 |
| | | | | | | |
| <i>65-74 years</i> | 272,355 | 70.1 | 4.7 | 2.0 | 21.6 | 1.5 |
| <i>Males</i> | 128,280 | 80.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 14.5 | 0.7 |
| <i>Females</i> | 144,070 | 60.9 | 7.1 | 1.8 | 27.9 | 2.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| <i>75-79 years</i> | 94,490 | 55.8 | 6.9 | 1.7 | 30.7 | 4.8 |
| <i>Males</i> | 39,670 | 74.8 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 16.3 | 4.4 |
| <i>Females</i> | 54,820 | 42.2 | 9.8 | 1.8 | 41.1 | 5.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| <i>80-84 years</i> | 63,965 | 42.6 | 8.7 | 1.4 | 37.9 | 9.4 |
| <i>Males</i> | 25,105 | 66.3 | 4.4 | 1.5 | 21.4 | 6.5 |
| <i>Females</i> | 38,860 | 27.2 | 11.5 | 1.4 | 48.6 | 11.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| <i>85 and over</i> | 45,025 | 23.6 | 11.4 | 1.3 | 35.2 | 28.6 |
| <i>Males</i> | 14,835 | 47.4 | 7.4 | 1.6 | 24.1 | 19.5 |
| <i>Females</i> | 30,190 | 11.9 | 13.3 | 1.1 | 40.7 | 33.0 |

* Collective Dwellings include Hospitals, Correctional institutions, Hotels, Motels, Tourist homes, Lodging & Rooming Houses, Work camps, Military camps etc.

Source: 1996 Census of Canada

Prepared by: **BC STATS**

Ministry of Finance & Corporate Relations

October-97

Living Arrangements of Seniors in British Columbia

| | <i>Total Population 65 Years & Over</i> | | | <i>% Living with Spouse or as Lone Parent</i> | | | <i>% Living with Relatives</i> | | | <i>% Living with Non Relatives</i> | | | <i>% Living Alone</i> | | | <i>% Living in Collective Dwellings*</i> | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> |
| <i>Total 65 years & over</i> | 349,480 | 422,010 | 475,840 | 57.4 | 58.2 | 59.2 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 26.7 | 26.4 | 26.9 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 5.8 |
| <i>Males</i> | 150,985 | 182,345 | 207,895 | 74.0 | 74.0 | 75.3 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 15.1 | 15.4 | 16.4 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 3.4 |
| <i>Females</i> | 198,500 | 239,655 | 267,935 | 44.7 | 46.2 | 46.7 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 35.5 | 34.8 | 35.1 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 7.7 |
| <i>65-74 years</i> | 215,460 | 250,085 | 272,350 | 67.7 | 68.7 | 70.1 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 23.0 | 21.8 | 21.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.5 |
| <i>Males</i> | 97,420 | 113,995 | 128,275 | 79.9 | 79.3 | 80.5 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 13.1 | 13.3 | 14.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 0.7 |
| <i>Females</i> | 118,035 | 136,080 | 144,070 | 57.6 | 59.8 | 60.9 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 31.1 | 28.9 | 27.9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.3 |
| <i>75 Years & Over</i> | 134,020 | 171,925 | 203,490 | 40.7 | 42.9 | 44.5 | 9.0 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 32.7 | 33.1 | 33.9 | 15.8 | 13.7 | 11.5 |
| <i>Males</i> | 53,565 | 68,350 | 79,620 | 63.3 | 65.3 | 67.0 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 18.8 | 18.8 | 19.3 | 11.2 | 9.4 | 7.9 |
| <i>Females</i> | 80,465 | 103,575 | 123,865 | 25.7 | 28.2 | 30.1 | 11.7 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 41.9 | 42.5 | 43.3 | 18.9 | 16.6 | 13.9 |

* Collective Dwellings include Hospitals, Correctional institutions, Hotels, Motels, Tourist homes, Lodging & Rooming Houses, Work camps, Military camps etc.

Source: Census of Canada

Prepared by: **BC STATS**

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