

# DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION / DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Total **population** is estimated annually as of July 1 each year.

**Dependency rate (%) for child** is population age 0 to 17/population age 18 to 64.

**Dependency rate (%) for elderly** is population age 65+/population age 18 to 64.

**A senior is a person 65 years of age or older. Data is for July 1.**

**Annual population growth rates** are based on population estimates compared with the previous year and with the population 5 years earlier.

Source: BC Stats Population Estimates

**Visible Minority**, as defined by the Federal Employment Equity Act refers to visible minorities as persons (other than Aboriginal persons), who identify themselves as non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. Data is for 2006.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Aboriginal** population refers to persons who identify themselves as an Aboriginal person, or are a member of an Indian Band or are a "registered Indian". Data is for 2006.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Families** include husband/wife and same-sex couples whether married or living common-law, without or with children living at home or lone parents with children at home. Data is for 2006. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Unattached individual** is a person living alone or living with persons to whom they are not related. Economic families are two or more persons sharing a dwelling unit and related by blood, marriage or adoption. Data is for 2006. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

A **lone parent family** includes a parent of any marital status, with at least one son or daughter (without a spouse or children) living in the same dwelling. Total families include lone parent families and two-parent families (parents legally married or common-law) with child(ren) (without spouses or children) living at home. Data is for 2006.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Income Dependency** is the percentage of basic after-tax income that is attributable to each sector of the economy. Overall average Income Dependency is calculated as an average across all sub-regions. Data is based on the 2006 Census using income for 2005.

Source: "BC Local Area Economic Dependencies: 2006"  
- Publication prepared by BC Stats

## HUMAN ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

**Income assistance** includes adults and children aged 0 to 64 receiving income support under the BC Employment & Assistance program. The Profiles cover those on temporary assistance as well as persons with disabilities and persons with persistent multiple barriers. IA measures in the Indices exclude these two categories. Both series exclude children in the home of a relative. Data does not include Aboriginal people living on reserve. Data is for September.

Sources: Ministry of Housing and Social Development and BC Stats

**Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** is payable to Old Age Security(OAS) pensioners with no income or only a limited amount of income apart from OAS. This data refer to those persons receiving a full GIS as of June of the reference year.

Source: Human Resources and Social Development Canada

**Employment Insurance (EI) Beneficiaries** are unemployed persons who are receiving benefits from the EI program. Not all unemployed people receive benefits. Some are not covered by the system, are ineligible for benefits, do not make a claim, or have exhausted their benefit entitlement. Rates are calculated as a percent of the same age population. Data ia the average of the most recent September and the previous June, March and December. In Profiles, included on the Labour Market Issues page.

Sources: Human Resources and Social Development Canada and BC Stats

**Per capita income** is based on total income reported on personal income tax returns divided by the population. (RD tables only) Data is for calendar year, usually lagging about 3 years. Used in Indices only.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency and BC Stats

**2005 average household income** is the average total income of person(s) sharing a dwelling unit in the 2005 calendar year as collected in the 2006 Census of Canada. Used in Indices for LHAs only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Average family income 2005 and income distribution among families** provides income data for families from the 2006 Census. The family is defined as a husband/wife or same-sex couple without or with children at home or a lone parent with children at home. Used in the Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Incidence of low income** is the ratio of economic families in low income as defined by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO) to total economic families. Data is for 2005. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Income Inequality Measure** is the proportion of each region's household income that accrues to households earning less than the median income. In a situation of perfect equality, the bottom half households would receive 50% of total income. Data is based on the 2006 Census using income for the 2005 calendar year.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Composition of total income 2005** provides the share of income for residents of an area by source - employment (employee or self-employed), government transfers and other sources. Used in Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Per capita net taxes paid** is the total of federal and provincial income tax paid less the amount received in transfer payments such as employment insurance, CPP, Old Age Security, other pensions, non-taxable income and provincial tax credits divided by the population. Data is the calendar year usually lagging about 3 years. Used in Indices only, RD tables.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency and BC Stats

**Housing costs - percent renting**, excludes households on reserves. **Gross rent or major monthly payments** include expenses of occupants for water, heat & other utilities. For owners, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees if applicable are also included. Households on reserve are excluded. **% paying 30% or greater on shelter** costs compares annualized monthly payments to income reported for the previous year. Again, households on reserves are excluded. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

## **LABOUR MARKET ISSUES**

**Labour force 2006 industrial structure** and **occupational structure** group the experienced labour force (those employed Census week, or if unemployed, those classified by the job of longest duration since January 2005) in broad categories using the North American Industry Classification System 1997 (NAICS) and the National Occupational System - Statistical 2001 (NOC-S). Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**% of population with post-secondary qualification** - with post-secondary certificate or diploma includes those with trades certificate or diploma, college and other non-university certificates or diplomas and university undergraduate certificates. University degrees includes those with bachelor and higher degrees including professional degrees. Population 20 years of age and older. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**% Distribution by Field of Study** refers to the predominant discipline or area of learning or training of a person's highest postsecondary degree, certificate or diploma using the Major Field of Study classification. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Labour force 2006 participation rate** is the ratio of the labour force (employed and unemployed) as a percent of the non-institutional population. **% full-time, full-year** is a percent of the labour force as is the **self-employed. Average employment income** is based on those reporting employment income and includes the self-employed as well as employees. Income is for 2005. Profiles only.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

## **CRIME**

Qualifier by Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General: "Since the Crime data is based on resident population and does not take into consideration non-resident or transient populations such as tourists or seasonal workers, and because of large demographic and geographic differences between regions, the Crime data is not, and cannot be used as an indicators of the relative safety of one region over another. It is the Ministry's view that all regions of BC are safe places in which to live and work."

**The Crime Rate** is the number of offences (charges for juveniles) per 1,000 population (per 1,000 population 12-17 for juvenile crime rates). Data are 3 year averages.

**Serious violent crime rate** is based on reporting within the crime categories of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault resulting in bodily harm, as well as robbery and abduction. Data are 3-year averages.

Breaking & Entering is the only property crime included in the "**Serious Property**" crime rate. Serious Property Crimes exclude Motor Vehicle Theft (shown separately) and minor crimes such as bicycle theft and pickpocketing. Data are 3 year averages.

**Total Serious Crime** rate is the total of the serious violent crime rate and the serious property crime rates. Data are 3 year averages.

The **Number of Serious Crime Offences per Police Officer** is the total number of serious offences defined above divided by the police strength. Data are 3 year averages.

**Change in Crime** rate is the % change in the serious crime rate average for the latest 3 years over the serious crime rate for the previous 3 years. Data are changes in 3 year averages.

Since a high percent of **Motor Vehicle Thefts** remain unsolved, generalizing about the characteristics of offenders is difficult. Data are 3 year averages.

**Drug offence rates** include possession and trafficking/importing/cultivation of illegal drugs excluding cannabis. Variations in the rates between regions may reflect differing police enforcement of drug possession between jurisdictions as well as differing levels on non-cannabis drug use. Total rates are based on number of offences (charges for juveniles) and are reported per 100,000 population. Data are 3 year averages.

Source: Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

**Illicit Drug Deaths** are placed in the region by where the 'injury' happened and may not reflect where the person lived. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population 19-64 years of age. Data is calendar year.

Source: Coroner's Office, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

**Juvenile crime** rates. See crime rate definitions above. Note that juvenile rates are based on charges as it is only when a charge is laid that the age of the suspect is determined.

Source: Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

## HEALTH PROBLEMS

**Life Expectancy at Birth** represents the average number of years of life remaining to an individual at birth. The calculation is based on the present mortality structure across all ages for the present population. Data are 5 year averages.

Source: BC Stats

**Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) Rates** due to **Natural Causes**, **Accidental Causes** and **Suicide/Homicide** are calculated by applying age standardization to a mortality structure ( e.g. Natural Causes). It is shown as a Rate per 1,000 standard population from an established life expectancy of 75 years. Data are 5 year averages.

Sources: Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health and BC Stats

**Infant Mortality** is the number of deaths of persons under one year old per 1,000 births. Data are five-year averages, based on years July1 to June 30.

Source: BC Stats

**Teen Pregnancies** is the sum of live births, stillbirths and hospital or clinic abortive outcomes per 1,000 women 15-17 years of age. Data are 3 year averages, averaging the pregnancies and population over the 3 years and calculating the rate.

Sources: Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health and BC Stats

**Alcohol sales** per capita as reported by all liquor sales outlets, i.e. public and private stores, restaurants, bars and clubs coded by the postal code of the vendor to the geographic region, and divided by the population 19 years and older. Data are based on the calendar year. Previous years were based on sales reported in the Annual Report of the Liquor Distribution Branch by store location, for the fiscal year. Profiles only.

Sources: Liquor Distribution Branch and BC Stats

## EDUCATION CONCERNS

The % of population aged 25-54 **without completed high school** and **without completed post-secondary education** are taken from the 2006 Census of Canada. Without completed high school means without high school graduation; without completed post secondary includes as well those who have not achieved a certificate, diploma or degree from a trade school, college or university. Data are for 2006.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**Attended School** refers to the % of the population aged 15-24 that attended during the nine-month period between September 2005 and May 16, 2006, either full time or part time. Attendance at school was not counted for training received from an employer unless it could be used as credit towards a certificate, diploma or degree from a recognized educational institution. Statistics Canada recommends users of the attendance at school variable interpret these results with caution.

Source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

**The % of 18 Year Olds Who did not Graduate** is calculated as the population 18 years old minus the number of high school graduates as a % of 18 year olds. It is used as an indicator of the high school drop out rate. Data was for 3 school year averages, but now have only 2007/08.

Sources: Ministry of Education and BC Stats

Grade 12 **Provincial Exam Non-Completion Rate** for **Mathematics, Chemistry, and English** is the percent of students enrolled in Grade 12 who did not take or did not pass the provincial examination. Data are 3 school year averages.

Source: Ministry of Education

**Assessment results** from the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) program provide a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills. Tests in **reading, writing** and **math** skills are taken by students in Grades 4 and 7 in both public and private schools. Results are presented as the % of students taking the exams who scored below standard. Data was for 3 school year averages, but now have only 2007/08.

Source: Ministry of Education

Grade 10 **Provincial Exam Non-Completion Rate** for **English, Principals of Mathematics and Science** is the percent of students enrolled in Grade 10 who did not take or did not pass the provincial examination. Data are three-year averages.

Source: Ministry of Education

## **CHILDREN AT RISK**

**Income assistance** includes children aged 0 to 18 receiving income support under the BC Employment & Assistance program and covers those on temporary assistance as well as persons with disabilities. Data does not include Aboriginal people living on reserve. Data is for September. For Indices, cases with Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers are excluded. Children in the Home of a Relative are excluded from both series.

Sources: Ministry of Housing and Social Development and BC Stats

**Children in Care** is the number of children taken into care by the provincial child care authorities as a percent of the population 0 to 18 years old. Includes all children in care - Ministry cases, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies cases and Community Living BC cases.

Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development and BC Stats

**Infant Mortality** - see definition under Health Problems.

**% of Students Below Standard** - see definition under Education Concerns.

**Juvenile Serious Crime** rate - see definitions under Crime.

**Hospitalization Rates** are based on data for Acute, Rehabilitation and Surgical day care levels and does not include newborns. Rates are standardized per 1,000 population age 0-14 for Respiratory Diseases and Injury and Poisoning. Data are for the most recent fiscal year.

Source: Hospitalization Rates - Ministry of Health

**Teen pregnancies** - see definition under Health Problems.

**Child abuse** rates per 1,000 population 0 to 18 years are based on numbers from the Ministry of Children and Family Development of children in need of protection.

Ministry of Children and Family Development and BC Stats

## **YOUTH AT RISK**

**Income assistance** includes youth aged 19 to 24 receiving income support under the BC Employment & Assistance program and covers those on temporary assistance as well as persons with disabilities. Data does not include aboriginal people living on reserve. Data is for September.

Sources: Ministry of Housing and Social Development and BC Stats

**The % of 18 Year Olds Who did not Graduate** - see definitions under Education Concerns.

Grade 10 **Provincial Exam Non-Completion Rate for English, Principals of Mathematics and Science** - see definition under Education Concerns.

**Serious Crime** rates - see definitions under Crime.

**Non-cannabis drug offences** - see definitions under Crime.

**Employment Insurance** - see definitions under Human Economic Hardship.

**Net migration** (RD level only) is an estimate of the percent of persons 18 to 24 years who have changed addresses (moved from one regional district to another or have moved interprovincially) - the net number of in-movements less out-movements - over the population 18 to 24 years of age. Data is average of 3 years July 1 to June 30. Used in the RD version of the indices only.

Source: Statistics Canada

**Hospitalization Rates from Motor Vehicle Accidents** - number of hospitalizations of at least one overnight of persons 15 - 24 years of age expressed as a rate per 1,000 population aged 15 - 24. Data are for the most recent fiscal year.

Source: Ministry of Health