

2011 Census Fast Facts: Toddlers and Teetotallers

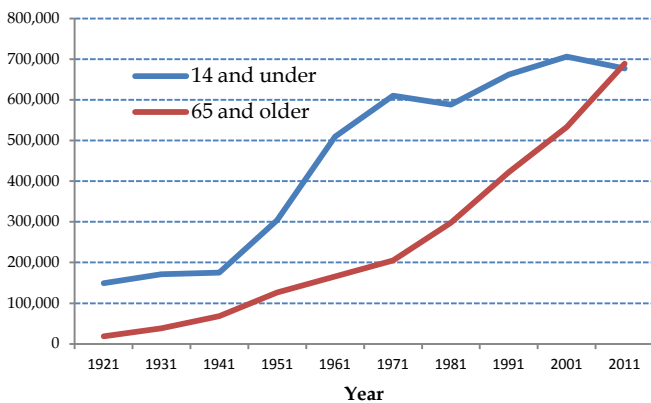
2011 Census: Highlights from the Age and Sex Release

On May 29th, 2012, Statistics Canada released the latest data from the 2011 Census. The release focused on the age and gender of the Canadian population. As expected, we continue to see an aging of the population but somewhat surprisingly, the number of toddlers (0 to 4 year-olds) also saw its largest increase since the 1956 to 1961 period.

BC Highlights

For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. The census counted 688,710 British Columbians who had crossed the milestone 65, slightly more than the 677,360 who have not yet made it to 15.

Figure 1: Number of Children 14 and Under and of people aged 65 and over, BC (1921 to 2011 Census)

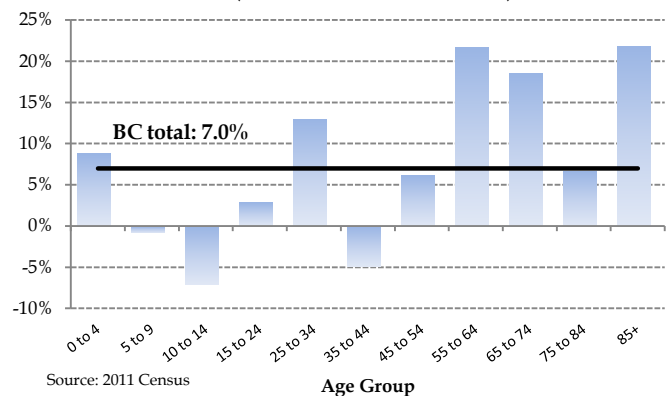


Source: 2011 Census

The number of centenarians across Canada was just shy of 6,000 (5,825 to be exact). In BC, the census counted 870 individuals who were 100 years or older, 200 of which were male and 670 were female or 70% of all BC centenarians.

At the other end of the spectrum, the census counted 17,790 or 8.8% more of 0 to 4 year-olds in 2011 than in 2006. The number of BC toddlers now stands at 219,670. The last time BC saw similar growth was in the 1976 to 1981 period when the number of 0 to 4 year-olds grew by 10.4%.

Figure 2: Population Growth (%) by Selected Age Groups for BC (2006 to 2011 Census Counts)



Source: 2011 Census

The working age (15 to 64) population totalled 3,033,990 in 2011, up 7.1% or nearly 200,000 persons from 2006. As a percentage of the total population, it was up slightly in 2011 (69.0%) when compared to 2006 (68.9%). At the national level, the proportion of working age population was lower than BC at 68.5%.

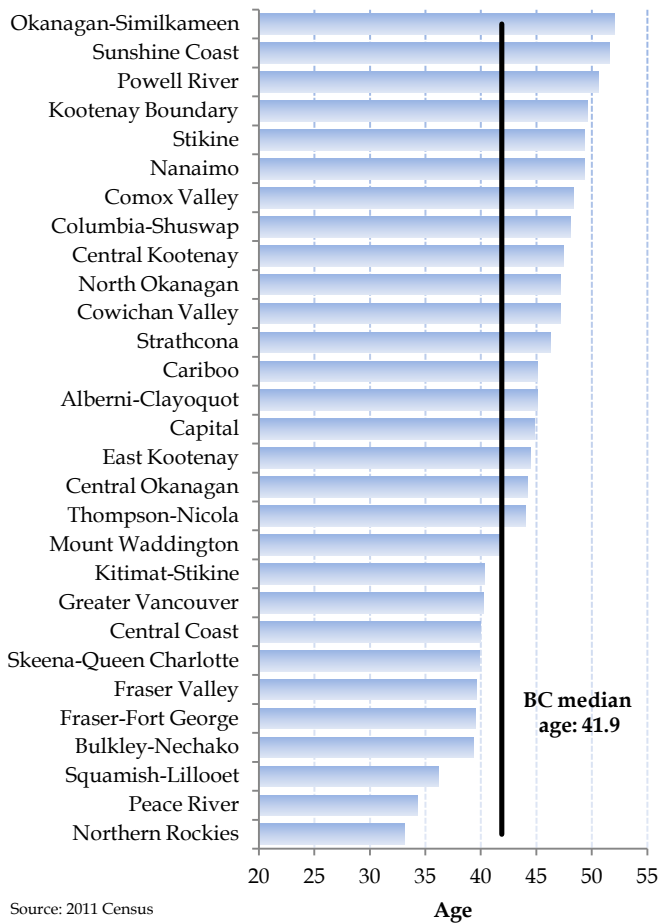
Similar to the rest of the country, the BC working age population is getting older. The greatest percentage increase was among 55 to 64 year-olds while 45 to 54 year-olds made up the largest share of the BC population. The latter cohort comprised 16.0% of the total BC count and nearly a quarter of the working age population.

The median age in BC was 41.9 in 2011, up from 40.8 in 2006 and above the national level of 40.6. On a gender basis, BC females were older with a median age of 42.7 versus 41.1 for BC males.

BC Regional Highlights

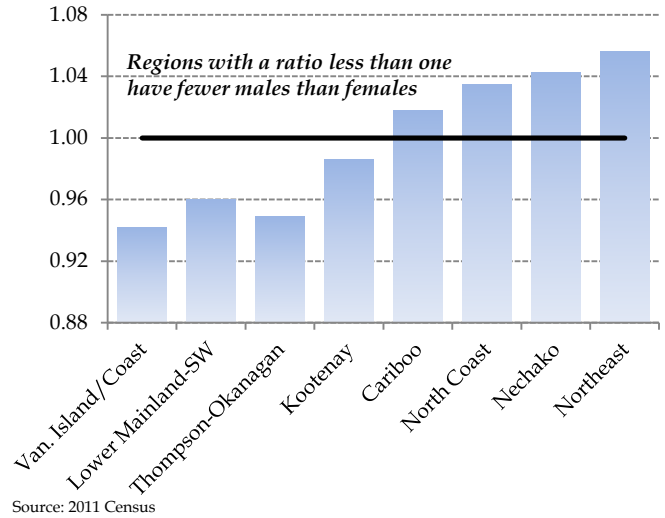
On a regional level, the census showed that the age and sex distribution varies considerably across BC. For example the median age ranges from a low of 33.1 in the Northern Rockies to a high of 52.0 in the Okanagan-Similkameen.

Figure 3: Median Age by BC Regional District (2011 Census)



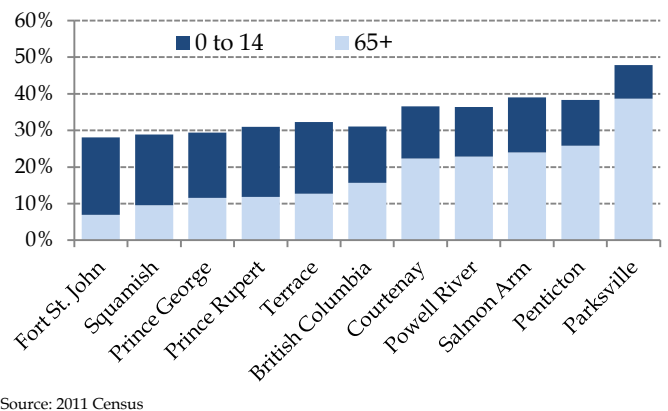
Similarly, the distribution of males and females is not the same throughout the province. BC can be quite easily divided into two geographic regions when it comes to gender distribution. The census counted more males than females in the north (consisting of Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako, and Northeast) and the opposite in the southern regions.

Figure 4: Ratio of Males to Females in BC Development Regions (2011 Census)



As noted at the beginning of this article, the census counted more persons 65 and older than those 14 and under for the first time in BC. However, and as one would expect, this was not the case in all communities in BC and in fact, the percentage of seniors varied considerably from one community to another. For example, the proportion of seniors (65+) totalled 38.6% in Parksville but only 6.9% in Fort St. John.

Figure 5: Proportion of children 14 and under and of people aged 65 and over by selected BC Communities (2011 Census)



Next Census Release

The next 2011 Census release is scheduled for September 19, 2012. It will focus on families, households and marital status; structural type of dwelling and

collectives.

For more information on the 2011 Census, please visit the BC Stats website at [Census of Canada](#) or the Statistics Canada [2011 Census](#) website.

