

# Child Profile

## FRASER REGION DEMOGRAPHICS



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# Table of Contents

Key Findings: Fraser Region Demographics.....	2
FRASER REGION DEMOGRAPHICS .....	3
Location and Organization.....	3
Reciprocal Table (Health Regions/School Districts) .....	3
Population growth .....	4
Population Characteristics .....	5
Children under 6 years of age .....	5
Family Structure.....	6
Immigration.....	7
Mobility .....	13
Poverty.....	14
Children (under 19) on Income Assistance.....	16
Other Trends .....	18
Unemployment.....	18
Mothers in the Labour Force.....	19
Education .....	20
Education of Population Aged 25–54.....	20
Test Scores, Grade 4 Reading, Writing and Math.....	21
Juvenile Crime .....	22
REFERENCES.....	23



## INTRODUCTION

The “Moving Towards an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategic Plan in the Fraser Region” project was initiated in September 2005 by the Fraser Health Authority (FH) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) – Fraser Region, in British Columbia, Canada. They recognized that inter-sectoral collaborative planning and action is required to create the child-friendly climate, services, supports and strategies known to strengthen families and enhance the healthy development of children.

The focus of the project is on all children prenatal to their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday and their families/guardians in the Fraser Region, including aboriginal children and families. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) continuum examined includes promotion and prevention to early intervention.

Phase I of this project produced an ECD Framework. Built on broad community consensus the ECD Framework provides a common vision, guiding principles and key components for Early Childhood Development across the Fraser Region. The development of the Framework is documented in the final report “Making A Commitment To Early Childhood Development: the Fraser Region Strategic Framework.” Research and background documents used to support the planning include:

- Summary of Community and Regional Early Childhood Development Plans
- Child Profile: Fraser Region Demographics
- Child Health Profile

This document, *Child Profile: Fraser Region Demographics*, is one of the background documents.

In Phase II, MCFD and Fraser Health Authority will identify priorities that will assist in future planning for young children and their families. The Framework is available for all planners and funders in the Fraser Region to collaborate and help achieve this common vision.

## KEY FINDINGS: FRASER REGION DEMOGRAPHICS

The Fraser Region encompasses the area from Delta and Burnaby in the west, to Hope and the lower Fraser Canyon in the east. In 2001 there were almost 1.4 million people living in this region with the largest populations residing in Surrey, Burnaby and Coquitlam.

In addition to continuing population growth, the region is becoming increasingly diverse, both ethno-culturally and socio-economically.

- Almost 40% of all children under 6 in BC live in the Fraser Region; one third of those live in Surrey.
- 34% of the 41,000 kindergarten children in BC are in the Fraser Region.
- 45% of the 6,860 ESL kindergarten students in the province are in this region.
- Amongst those families who have children at home, almost one in four families in the Region are single parents.
- In Fraser North and South, almost half of all immigrants to those areas arrived between 1991 and 2001.
- As a whole, just over one in four people in the Fraser Region belong to a visible minority.
- The Chinese are the predominant visible minority group in Fraser North, the South Asians in South Fraser.
- Over 70% of Government Assisted Refugees arriving in BC during the period January 2003 to February 2005 settled in the Fraser Region — primarily in Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam and New Westminster.
- The highest incidence of families living in poverty in the region in 2001 was in Burnaby (22.6%) followed by Surrey (15.6%).
- The general education of the population varies across the region with lower education attainment most evident in the eastern areas.
- Abbotsford and Chilliwack have the highest percentage of people on Employment Insurance in the Fraser Region.

## FRASER REGION DEMOGRAPHICS

### *Location and Organization*

In BC, the Fraser Health Authority and the Ministry of Children and Family Development share the common boundaries of the Fraser Region. The Fraser Region consists of the eastern and southern suburbs of Greater Vancouver, as well as the largely rural Fraser Canyon. It stretches from Delta and Burnaby in the west, to Hope and the lower Fraser Canyon in the east.

The Fraser Region consists of three health service delivery areas and 13 Local Health Areas (LHA). Note, most of the data in this report originates from the 2001 census; therefore only 12 local health areas are reported. (In 2003, the Surrey LHA was split into 201 Surrey and 202 South Surrey/White Rock.)

### *Reciprocal Table (Health Regions/School Districts)*

The following chart outlines the relationship between Health and School District boundaries. MCFD and School District boundaries are also contiguous. The majority of the data presented is by Local Health Areas. A map showing the Fraser Region is available at <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/About/Map/Default.htm>

<b>Local Health Areas</b>	<b>School Districts</b>
<b>Fraser North HSDA</b>	
LHA 40 New Westminster	SD 40 New Westminster
LHA 41 Burnaby	SD 41 Burnaby
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	SD 42 Maple Ridge
LHA 43 Coquitlam	SD 43 Coquitlam
<b>Fraser South HSDA</b>	
LHA 35 Langley	SD 35 Langley
LHA 36 Surrey	SD 36 Surrey
LHA 37 Delta	SD 37 Delta
<b>Fraser East HSDA</b>	
LHA 32 Hope	SD 78 Fraser Cascade
LHA 33 Chilliwack	SD 33 Chilliwack
LHA 34 Abbotsford	SD 34 Abbotsford
LHA 75 Mission	SD 75 Mission
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	SD 78 Fraser Cascade

There is a clear relationship between socio-economic status and a wide range of social outcomes, beginning at birth and persisting throughout the life cycle. Children whose parents have low incomes and low levels of education or are unemployed or working in low-prestige occupations, are more likely to exhibit behavior problems and have poor cognitive development during the early years than children growing up in families with high socioeconomic status.

## Population growth

Fraser has the largest population of the five health authorities, but is the smallest geographically. The nearly 1.4 million people who make their home in Fraser live in less than 2% (16,000 sq km) of BC's land mass. It is also the most urbanized of the health authorities; in all but two local health areas, two thirds or more of the population reside in urban centres. The population of the Fraser Region grew by 9% or 125,822 residents between 1996 and 2001. This growth was particularly evident in the large urban areas of Surrey (12.4%), and in Maple Ridge (11%) and Coquitlam (10.3%). 'Fraser Health is the largest and fastest growing health authority in the province.'<sup>1</sup>

<b>Population of Fraser Region, 1996 and 2001</b>			
	<b>1996 population</b>	<b>2001 population</b>	<b>% change 1996–2001</b>
<b>Fraser North HSDA</b>	<b>488,651</b>	<b>539,261</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
LHA 40 New Westminster	51,488	57,044	9.7%
LHA 41 Burnaby	186,712	202,419	7.8%
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	72,502	81,482	11.0%
LHA 43 Coquitlam	177,949	198,316	10.3%
<b>Fraser South HSDA</b>	<b>541,622</b>	<b>599,916</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
LHA 35 Langley	107,178	115,888	7.5%
LHA 36 Surrey*	334,871	382,350	12.4%
LHA 37 Delta	99,573	101,678	2.1%
<b>Fraser East HSDA</b>	<b>222,380</b>	<b>239,298</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
LHA 32 Hope	8,502	8,535	0.4%
LHA 33 Chilliwack	68,745	72,819	5.6%
LHA 34 Abbotsford	110,117	121,162	9.1%
LHA 75 Mission	36,104	37,293	3.2%
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	7,414	8,024	7.6%
<b>FRASER REGION</b>	<b>1,252,653</b>	<b>1,378,475</b>	<b>9.1%</b>

Source: BC Stats, Population Estimates by Local Health Areas, 1996 and 2001

<sup>1</sup> The Fraser Health Strategic Plan, p3, [www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### *Children under 6 years of age*

Children Under 6 (aged 0–5 yrs) by Local Health Areas, 2002				
	Total Pop	0–5	% 0–5	% of 0–5 in BC
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>552,574</b>	<b>35,051</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>
LHA 40 New Westminster	57,603	3,497	6.1%	1.4%
LHA 41 Burnaby	205,955	11,830	5.7%	4.7%
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	84,533	6,010	7.1%	2.4%
LHA 43 Coquitlam	204,483	13,714	6.7%	5.4%
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>614,382</b>	<b>44,810</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
LHA 35 Langley	116,212	7,986	6.9%	3.1%
LHA 36 Surrey	396,440	30,085	7.6%	11.8%
LHA 37 Delta	101,730	6,739	6.6%	2.7%
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>254,260</b>	<b>19,125</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
LHA 32 Hope	8,716	496	5.7%	0.2%
LHA 33 Chilliwack	74,424	5,457	7.3%	2.1%
LHA 34 Abbotsford	124,894	9,923	7.9%	3.9%
LHA 75 Mission	37,878	2,703	7.1%	1.1%
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	8,348	546	6.5%	0.2%
<b>FRASER REGION</b>	<b>1,421,216</b>	<b>98,986</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>4,141,272</b>	<b>254,187</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2002

- Almost 40% of all BC children under 6 live in the Fraser Region (N=99,000), with the highest concentration in the south (17.6%) followed by Fraser North at 13.8% and Eastern Fraser making up 7.5%.
- One third of all children under 6 in the Fraser Region live in Surrey (N=30,085).
- Abbotsford has the youngest population with 7.9% of children under 6.
- As population trends change, services and supports need to keep pace with the needs of families and children.

## Family Structure

Being the child of a single mother (Lone Parent) does not make a child more vulnerable, but if a single mother has a low income, lives in substandard housing and is isolated and depressed, her child is more likely to be at risk (Davidson, 2005).

<b>Families with Children at Home by Family Type, Local Health Areas, 2001 Census</b>			
	<b>Couples</b>	<b>Lone Parents</b>	
		<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>71,415</b>	<b>21,895</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
LHA 40 New Westminster	5,350	2,355	30.6%
LHA 41 Burnaby	26,035	8,290	24.2%
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	11,150	3,415	23.4%
LHA 43 Coquitlam	28,880	7,835	21.3%
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>82,020</b>	<b>23,715</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
LHA 35 Langley	15,280	4,435	22.5%
LHA 36 Surrey	51,735	15,860	23.5%
LHA 37 Delta	15,005	3,420	18.6%
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>30,450</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
LHA 32 Hope	840	440	34.4%
LHA 33 Chilliwack	8,410	3,325	28.3%
LHA 34 Abbotsford	15,560	4,485	22.4%
LHA 75 Mission	4,825	1,795	27.1%
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	815	355	30.3%
<b>FRASER HEALTH REGION</b>	<b>183,885</b>	<b>56,010</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>488,130</b>	<b>168,420</b>	<b>25.7%</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- Taking into consideration only those families with children at home, almost one in four such families in the Fraser Region are headed by single parents. This ranges from a low of 18.6% in Delta to 34.4% in Hope.
- The largest number of single parents (15,860) live in Surrey.

## Immigration

Immigration creates a rich cultural environment, increases available skills, resources and investments and improves trade and other linkages between BC and other areas. However, being immigrants presents challenges to many families. They may be more isolated, may live in deeper poverty and may find it more difficult to access community resources and support.

### i) Period of Immigration

Immigrant Population, Period of Immigration, 2001 Census					
	Total Immigrant Population	Immigrated before 1991		Immigrated 1991–2001	
		No.	%	No.	%
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>180,630</b>	<b>94,470</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>86,165</b>	<b>48</b>
Burnaby	90,690	44,275	49	46,410	51
New Westminster	15,285	9,150	60	6,135	40
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	13,215	10,010	76	3,205	24
Tri Cities	61,430	31,040	50	30,415	50
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>161,605</b>	<b>101,765</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>59,835</b>	<b>37</b>
Langley (City & Twp)	16,960	12,985	77	3,975	23
Surrey/WR	118,710	71,015	60	47,700	40
Delta	25,820	17,670	68	8,160	32
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>43,945</b>	<b>31,505</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12,440</b>	<b>28</b>
Hope (Municipal)	900	720	80	190	20
Chilliwack	9,580	7,950	83	1,630	17
Abbotsford (CMA)	31,660	21,405	68	10,250	32
Mission (Municipal)	4,575	3,750	82	830	18
Kent (Municipal)	720	605	84	115	16
<b>FRASER HEALTH REGION</b>	<b>386,180</b>	<b>227,740</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>158,440</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,009,815</b>	<b>639,200</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>370,615</b>	<b>37</b>

Source: Statistics Canada Census of Canada 2001 and Selected Community Profiles 2001

- Of the total number of immigrants in the region, Surrey has over 30% and Burnaby 23%.
- Relative to the other regions, Fraser East has seen low rates of immigration over the 1991–2001 period. Almost half of the immigrant populations of Fraser North and South arrived during that same decade with particularly high proportions in Burnaby (51%), TriCities (50%), New Westminster and Surrey (both 40%).
- In the period January 1, 2003 to February 28, 2005, 1580 Government Assisted Refugees arrived in British Columbia. 35% settled in Burnaby, 18% in Surrey, 11% in Coquitlam and 6% in New Westminster. 3% settled elsewhere in the Fraser Region (Source: Immigrant Services Society).

## ii) Visible Minorities

Visible minorities are persons (other than Aboriginal persons) who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.

Visible Minorities in Local Health Areas, 2001 Census					
	Total Pop	Visible Minorities		Single Ethnic Origins	
		No.	%	% Chinese	% S. Asian
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>510,495</b>	<b>167,625</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
LHA 40 New Westminster	53,810	13,415	24.9%	4.9%	7.8%
LHA 41 Burnaby	191,385	93,065	48.6%	26.2%	7.8%
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	77,280	6,605	8.5%	1.9%	2.8%
LHA 43 Coquitlam	188,020	54,540	29%	14.1%	3.3%
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>570,375</b>	<b>158,765</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
LHA 35 Langley	110,135	8,120	7.4%	1.7%	1.5%
LHA 36 Surrey	363,385	128,140	35.3%	4.6%	20.9%
LHA 37 Delta	96,855	22,505	23.2%	5.7%	12.4%
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>233,770</b>	<b>29,300</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
LHA 32 Hope	8,080	375	4.6%	1.3%	0.6%
LHA 33 Chilliwack	69,130	2,810	4.1%	0.8%	0.7%
LHA 34 Abbotsford	114,400	23,200	20.3%	1.2%	14.9%
LHA 75 Mission	35,075	2,670	7.6%	0.7%	5.0%
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	7,085	245	3.5%	0.4%	0.5%
<b>FRASER HEALTH REGION</b>	<b>1,314,640</b>	<b>355,690</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>3,868,875</b>	<b>836,440</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- In the Fraser Region as a whole 27.1% of the population belongs to a visible minority; in Fraser North, the proportion is as high as almost one in two in Burnaby (48.6%). In the south, Surrey (35.3%) is the most visibly diverse as is Abbotsford (20.3%) in the east.
- The Chinese are the predominant group in Fraser North; the South Asians in South Fraser.

### iii) ESL Students in Kindergarten

Diversity presents a challenge to reaching out to serve all segments of the population — to help immigrants integrate as quickly as possible, make services accessible to all populations and promote a sense of community continuity in which everyone can participate (Wachtel, 1998).

The following table shows those students in kindergarten for whom English is not their mother tongue. Note that these students may or may not be in ESL (English as a Second Language) programs in school.

- 34% of the 41,000 kindergarten children in BC are in the Fraser Region.
- 45% of the 6,860 ESL kindergarten students in the province are in this region.

<b>Number and Percent of ESL Students in Kindergarten, 2004/05</b>			
<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>Total Kind</b>	<b>ESL Students</b>	<b>% ESL of Kind</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>4,758</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>14.7</b>
New Westminster	412	79	19.2
Burnaby	1,489	491	33.0
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	934	27	3.0
Coquitlam	1,923	102	5.3
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>6,506</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>30.5</b>
Langley	1,240	72	5.8
Surrey	4,234	1,702	40.2
Delta	1,032	213	20.6
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Mission	492	41	8.3
Fraser-Cascade	114	3	2.6
Chilliwack	770	26	3.4
Abbotsford	1,360	337	24.7
<b>FRASER REGION</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>22.1</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>41,084</b>	<b>6,860</b>	<b>16.7</b>

Source: Ministry of Education (Personal Communication)

- Of the 14,000 kindergarten students in the Fraser region, 22% are designated “ESL.”
- There is great variation by school district. In Fraser North, one third of Burnaby kindergarten students are in ESL programs and in Fraser South, in Surrey the proportion is as high as 40%.
- While there are fewer ESL kindergarten students in Fraser East, almost one in four, or 25%, in Abbotsford do not have English as their first language.

#### iv) Home Language

Accurate descriptions of place of birth and ethnic origins of the population are obtained through the Canadian Census, which although scheduled to take place in May 2006, will not yield results at the regional level until 2008. An alternative method of studying the Fraser Region's ethnic diversity is through analysis of language spoken at home which provides information on the extent to which cultural heritage and customs have been maintained.

In order to reflect the current ethnic diversity of the individual health areas, the following table presents data from the Ministry of Education, in which the 2004/05 kindergarten aged population is captured according to the top three primary languages spoken at home.

Primary Languages Spoken at Home, Kindergarten Students, 2004/05				
SCHOOL DISTRICT	% English	Top 3 Other Home Languages		
<b>Fraser North</b>				
New Westminster	77%	Punjabi (6%)	Arabic (2%)	Spanish (2%)
Burnaby	53%	Chinese (20%)	Punjabi (3%)	Korean (3%)
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	97%	Punjabi (1%)	Korean (>1%)	Chinese (>1%)
Coquitlam	77%	Chinese (5%)	Korean (3%)	Persian (2%)
<b>Fraser South</b>				
Langley	92%	Vietnamese (2%)	Korean (1%)	Punjabi (1%)
Surrey	59%	Punjabi (23%)	Hindi (3%)	Vietnamese (3%)
Delta	81%	Punjabi (12%)	Hindi (1%)	Chinese (1%)
<b>Fraser East</b>				
Mission	92%	Punjabi (7%)	Spanish (>1%)	Chinese (>1%)
Fraser-Cascade	97%	Laotian (2%)	Japanese (1%)	---
Chilliwack	96%	Vietnamese(>1%)	German (>1%)	Spanish (>1%)
Abbotsford	71%	Punjabi (22%)	Vietnamese(2%)	Chinese (>1%)

Source: Ministry of Education (Personal Communication)

- English is still spoken at home by over 90% of young children in Fraser East with the exception of Abbotsford (71%). Another 22% report Punjabi as their primary home language.
- In Surrey School District, only 59% of the kindergarten students speak English at home and another 23% speak Punjabi.
- The ethnic mix of the Fraser North is different from the population to the South. In Burnaby, just over half of all students starting school speak English at home and another 20% speak Chinese.

Some language groups are growing in communities and others are declining. The following chart shows these patterns. While English, Punjabi and Chinese are predominant languages spoken at home by kindergarten students, smaller communities such as those who speak Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish and Tagalog appear to be growing in size.

**TOP FIVE PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS,  
2000/01 AND 2004/05**

<b>School District</b>		<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>				
New Westminster	ENGLISH	73.30%	77.20%	3.9%
	PUNJABI	8.50%	5.60%	-2.9%
	ARABIC	2.00%	2.20%	0.2%
	SPANISH	1.30%	1.90%	0.6%
	TAGALOG (PHILIPINO)	2.40%	1.50%	-0.9%
<hr/>				
Burnaby	ENGLISH	59.10%	53.30%	-5.8%
	CHINESE	15.70%	19.70%	4.0%
	PUNJABI	3.90%	3.50%	-0.4%
	KOREAN	2.10%	3.30%	1.2%
	SPANISH	2.40%	2.50%	0.1%
<hr/>				
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	ENGLISH	95.90%	96.70%	0.8%
	PUNJABI	0.80%	1.00%	0.2%
	KOREAN	0.10%	0.60%	0.5%
	CHINESE	1.00%	0.30%	-0.7%
	FRENCH	0.30%	0.20%	-0.1%
<hr/>				
Coquitlam	ENGLISH	79.10%	77.30%	-1.8%
	CHINESE	8.00%	7.20%	-0.8%
	KOREAN	2.50%	3.40%	0.9%
	PERSIAN	1.10%	2.10%	1.0%
	SPANISH	1.10%	1.00%	-0.1%
<hr/>				
<b>Fraser South</b>				
Langley	ENGLISH	94.00%	92.40%	-1.6%
	VIETNAMESE	1.70%	2.30%	0.6%
	CHINESE	1.30%	1.10%	-0.2%
	KOREAN	0.40%	1.10%	0.7%
	PUNJABI	1.00%	1.00%	

**TOP FIVE PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS,  
2000/01 AND 2004/05**

<b>School District</b>		<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>Change</b>
Surrey	ENGLISH	60.40%	58.50%	-1.9%
	PUNJABI	21.90%	22.70%	0.8%
	HINDI	3.30%	2.70%	-0.6%
	VIETNAMESE	2.20%	2.70%	0.5%
	URDU	0.90%	1.60%	0.7%
Delta	ENGLISH	87.90%	80.80%	-7.1%
	PUNJABI	7.20%	12.20%	5.0%
	HINDI	0.60%	1.30%	0.7%
	CHINESE	1.10%	1.20%	0.1%
	SPANISH	0.20%	0.70%	0.5%
<b>Fraser East</b>				
Mission	ENGLISH	91.90%	92.50%	0.6%
	PUNJABI	6.20%	6.70%	0.5%
	SPANISH	0.60%	0.40%	-0.2%
	CHINESE	0.00%	0.20%	0.2%
	TAGALOG (PHILIPINO)	0.00%	0.20%	0.2%
Fraser-Cascade	ENGLISH	98.70%	97.40%	-1.3%
	LAOTIAN	0.00%	1.80%	1.8%
	JAPANESE	0.00%	0.90%	0.9%
	GERMAN	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%
	PERSIAN	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%
Chilliwack	ENGLISH	99.00%	96.50%	-2.5%
	VIETNAMESE	0.20%	0.80%	0.6%
	GERMAN	0.10%	0.40%	0.3%
	SPANISH	0.00%	0.40%	0.4%
	ALBANIAN	0.20%	0.30%	0.1%
Abbotsford	ENGLISH	75.80%	71.30%	-4.5%
	PUNJABI	19.80%	21.60%	1.8%
	VIETNAMESE	0.90%	1.80%	0.9%
	CHINESE	0.80%	0.80%	0.0%
	KOREAN	0.30%	0.50%	0.2%

Source: Ministry of Education (Personal Communication)



## **Mobility**

“Children who change schools frequently have lower math scores, more grade failures and higher levels of behavioural problems than those children who do not move.” (Office of the Medical Health Officer, 2003.)

<b>Population Aged 1 year+, Living at Different Address From Previous Year, 2001</b>	
	<b>% Movers</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>	<b>16.0</b>
Burnaby	17.5
New Westminster	20.1
Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows	13.0
Tri Cities	14.4
<b>Fraser South</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Langley (City & Twp)	14.1
Surrey/ WR	15.7
Delta	11.0
<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Hope (Municipal)	15.8
Chilliwack (City)	15.7
Abbotsford (City)	17.2
Mission (Municipal)	14.2
Kent (Municipal)	14.7
<b>BC</b>	<b>16.4</b>

Source: Statistics Canada Census of Canada 2001 and Selected Community Profiles 2001

- Over 16% of people in BC moved within the year prior to the 2001 census.
- New Westminster (20%), Burnaby (17.5%) and the City of Abbotsford (17.5%) have mobility rates higher than the provincial average.
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows had the most stable population.

## POVERTY

Population health research shows that areas with high levels of poverty and income inequality have lower levels of health and well-being for all citizens. While it is obvious that the welfare of children is partly affected by family income, it is also the case that the income profile of the community as a whole has social implications for children.

One in four children in BC lives in low income situations (BC Campaign 2000).

### i) Low Income Families

<b>Incidence of Low Income in Economic Families by Local Health Areas, 2001</b>	
	<b>% Low Income Families</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>	
LHA 40 New Westminster	16.2
LHA 41 Burnaby	22.6
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	12.1
LHA 43 Coquitlam	16.3
<b>Fraser South</b>	
LHA 35 Langley	9.2
LHA 36 Surrey	15.6
LHA 37 Delta	8.7
<b>Fraser East</b>	
LHA 32 Hope	15.4
LHA 33 Chilliwack	12.6
LHA 34 Abbotsford	10.9
LHA 75 Mission	12.1
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	11.5
<b>BC</b>	<b>13.9</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- Burnaby has the largest proportion of families living in poverty at 22.6%; the comparative figure for the province is 13.9%.
- Next is New Westminster at 16.2%, Coquitlam at 16.3% and Surrey at 15.6%.

## ii) Income Assistance

<b>Percent of Population Receiving IA Benefits, September 2004</b>		
	<b>Children 0–18</b>	<b>% of IA Caseload that are Lone Parents</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>		
LHA 40 New Westminster	5.5	15.4
LHA 41 Burnaby	4.4	20.1
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	2.7	20.5
LHA 43 Coquitlam	2.3	21.6
<b>Fraser South</b>		
LHA 35 Langley	2.2	20.6
LHA 36 Surrey	4.1	23.6
LHA 37 Delta	1.7	18.9
<b>Fraser East</b>		
LHA 32 Hope	11.8	21.3
LHA 33 Chilliwack	5.7	23.8
LHA 34 Abbotsford	3.2	23.9
LHA 75 Mission	4.8	23.8
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	5.1	24.9
<b>BC</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>19.1</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- In all but Delta and New Westminister, the proportion of lone parents receiving income assistance was higher than the provincial average of 19.1%.
- Amongst the health areas, the most striking data for the proportion of children less than 19 years of age on income assistance was the local health area of Hope which showed a rate of 11.8% compared to 4.2% for the province as a whole.

### **Children (under 19) on Income Assistance**

Persistent low income or dependency on income support represent a general risk to children’s well-being that tends to intensify other risks and challenges.

Some people are dependent upon income assistance for long periods of time, while others cycle on and off the program. A large proportion of individuals suffering from poverty are dependent children.

<b>Percent of Children (&lt;19yrs) Receiving IA Benefits, September 2004</b>		
	<b>&gt; 1 year</b>	<b>&lt; 1 year</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>		
LHA 40 New Westminster	3.4	2.2
LHA 41 Burnaby	3.2	1.4
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	1.7	1.1
LHA 43 Coquitlam	1.5	0.9
<b>Fraser South</b>		
LHA 35 Langley	1.3	1.0
LHA 36 Surrey*	2.9	1.5
LHA 37 Delta	1.2	0.6
<b>Fraser East</b>		
LHA 32 Hope	7.1	4.8
LHA 33 Chilliwack	3.5	2.6
LHA 34 Abbotsford	2.3	1.0
LHA 75 Mission	3.0	2.1
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	3.3	2.3
<b>BC</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- Hope shows more than twice the provincial rate of the number of children under 19 who remain on income assistance for more than one year (7.1% compared to 2.8%).

### iii) Housing Costs

Housing affordability is a problem for 28.6% of BC households according to the 2001 census. Households are considered to have affordability problems if more than 30% of their income is spent on housing — resulting in the possibility that not enough money is left over for other necessities.

Renters are more than twice as likely as homeowners to experience problems with housing affordability.

<b>Percent of Households Paying more than 30% of Income on Housing</b>		
	<b>Renters</b>	<b>Owners</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>		
LHA 40 New Westminster	39.4	23.9
LHA 41 Burnaby	43.6	23.4
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	44.2	23.2
LHA 43 Coquitlam	41.3	23.4
<b>Fraser South</b>		
LHA 35 Langley	43.5	22.3
LHA 36 Surrey	44.1	25.4
LHA 37 Delta	36.5	19.4
<b>Fraser East</b>		
LHA 32 Hope	54.5	17.9
LHA 33 Chilliwack	53.2	19.5
LHA 34 Abbotsford	40.6	22.9
LHA 75 Mission	47.0	26.4
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	51.2	21.7
<b>BC</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>20.7</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- In most easterly areas of Fraser East, 50% or more of renter households are spending more than one third of their income on housing.

## OTHER TRENDS

### *Unemployment*

Unemployment in the family affects children in many ways — including increasing the risk of family violence, parental illness and depression.

<b>EI (Employment Insurance) Beneficiaries as % of Total Population 19–64 yrs, September 2004</b>	
	<b>%</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>	
LHA 40 New Westminster	2.9
LHA 41 Burnaby	2.5
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	2.7
LHA 43 Coquitlam	2.3
<b>Fraser South</b>	
LHA 35 Langley	2.5
LHA 36 Surrey*	3.2
LHA 37 Delta	2.5
<b>Fraser East</b>	
LHA 32 Hope	3.1
LHA 33 Chilliwack	3.4
LHA 34 Abbotsford	3.8
LHA 75 Mission	3.1
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	2.8
<b>BC</b>	<b>2.9</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- The proportion of the working aged population, aged 19–64, receiving Employment Insurance was 2.9% for the province as a whole in September 2004. In Fraser South, Surrey at 3.2% was higher than the provincial average as were almost all areas in Fraser East, the highest being 3.8% in Abbotsford.

## ***Mothers in the Labour Force***

Two-thirds of women with young children are active participants in the BC labour force. This is the case not only in families where children are older but also in families where at least one child is a pre-schooler or just entering school.

<b>Labour Force Participation of Mothers by Age of Children, 2001</b>		
	<b>Mothers with Children under 6 only</b>	<b>Mothers with Children under 6 and over 6 yrs</b>
<b>Fraser North HSDA</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Burnaby	63.4	63.2
New Westminster	64.4	60.7
Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows	70.6	69.3
Tri Cities	70.5	67.3
<b>Fraser South HSDA</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>69.4</b>
Langley (City & Twp)	71.4	75.6
Surrey/ WR	68.3	66.4
Delta	75.5	74.2
<b>Fraser East HSDA</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Hope (Municipal)	77.3	54.2
Chilliwack (City)	69.1	59.4
Abbotsford (City)	66.7	66.7
Mission (Municipal)	64.2	57.0
Kent (Municipal)	57.1	73.9
<b>BC</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>66.3</b>

Source: Statistics Canada Census of Canada 2001 and Selected Community Profiles 2001

- Labour force participation rates for mothers of young children are particularly high in the North and South Fraser and slightly lower in some areas of Fraser East.

## EDUCATION

### *Education of Population Aged 25–54*

Education levels have an effect on both family income and the health and well-being of children.

The education level of the primary caregiver, usually the mother, is of particular significance to a child's readiness for school. The father's education level is more significant once the child is in school (Davidson, 2005).

<b>General Education of Population Aged 25–54, 2001</b>		
	<b>Without High School Completion (%)</b>	<b>Without Post Secondary Completion (%)</b>
<b>Fraser North</b>		
LHA 40 New Westminster	15.7	39.5
LHA 41 Burnaby	12.9	37.0
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	17.2	44.6
LHA 43 Coquitlam	12.7	39.0
<b>Fraser South</b>		
LHA 35 Langley	16.5	45.4
LHA 36 Surrey*	20.5	47.4
LHA 37 Delta	14.1	41.6
<b>Fraser East</b>		
LHA 32 Hope	31.4	52.6
LHA 33 Chilliwack	21.4	50.7
LHA 34 Abbotsford	23.5	50.9
LHA 75 Mission	24.6	52.0
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	23.7	50.9
<b>BC</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>42.3</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- There is wide variation across the region in the general education of the population. Lower education attainment is evident in Fraser East both in high school and post-secondary non-completion rates.



### Test Scores, Grade 4 Reading, Writing and Math

A child’s readiness to learn when they start school has an effect on their continued academic success. Provincial testing of students at the grade 4 level indicates whether or not they have grasped the fundamental skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

Percent of Students Below Standard in Grade 4 Reading, Writing and Math Average 2002–2004			
	Reading	Writing	Math
<b>Fraser North</b>			
LHA 40 New Westminster	18.9	7.1	10.6
LHA 41 Burnaby	20.2	5.7	11.8
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	20.6	6.6	12.0
LHA 43 Coquitlam	17.1	5.5	9.1
<b>Fraser South</b>			
LHA 35 Langley	18.1	5.8	11.4
LHA 36 Surrey*	24.5	6.3	16.7
LHA 37 Delta	15.0	4.0	8.2
<b>Fraser East</b>			
LHA 32 Hope	21.9	9.5	11.8
LHA 33 Chilliwack	24.3	9.1	15.8
LHA 34 Abbotsford	18.9	6.4	10.9
LHA 75 Mission	24.8	11.4	15.3
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	29.6	17.6	24.6
<b>BC</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>13.1</b>

Source: BC Stats, 2004

- In comparison to the provincial averages, Surrey, Hope, Chilliwack, Mission and Agassiz-Harrison have higher percentages of Grade 4 students falling below provincial standards in Reading and Math.
- A significant percentage of students in Chilliwack, Mission and Agassiz-Harrison are struggling in all three areas.

## JUVENILE CRIME

Recent evidence indicates that one of the most effective ways to reduce juvenile crime is to invest in early childhood development programs.

<b>Juvenile Crime Rate** (age 12–17) — Average 2001–2003</b>			
	<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>Total Serious Crimes</b>
LHA 40 New Westminster	5.6	1.5	7.1
LHA 41 Burnaby	4.5	1.4	5.9
LHA 42 Maple Ridge	2.7	1.6	4.2
LHA 43 Coquitlam	3.2	1.8	5.0
LHA 35 Langley	2.3	1.2	3.5
LHA 36 Surrey	2.8	1.1	3.9
LHA 37 Delta	1.6	1.7	3.3
LHA 32 Hope	1.3	4.8	6.1
LHA 33 Chilliwack	3.3	5.0	8.4
LHA 34 Abbotsford	2.0	1.6	3.5
LHA 75 Mission	2.7	3.8	6.5
LHA 76 Agassiz-Harrison	1.1	5.5	6.6
<b>BC</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>

\*\* Crime Rate refers to the number of juvenile offences/charges per 1,000 population  
Source: BC Stats, 2004

- The highest rate of violent juvenile crime appears in New Westminster. At 5.6%, it is almost twice as high as the rate for BC.
- Hope, Chilliwack and Agassiz-Harrison have the highest property crime rates in the Fraser Region.
- Chilliwack and New Westminster report the highest rate of serious crimes overall at 8.4% and 7.1%, respectively.

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