

Shape Your Future Victoria

Demographics Today



More information on demographics is available in the Community Profiles series on the City of Victoria website for the *Official Community Plan* review at:

www.ShapeYourFutureVictoria.ca

Definition and Description

Demography is the study of human populations, its composition and changes.

Demographics are the characteristics of a population, such as births, deaths and migrations, in the present and over time, as well as the causes and consequences of change, especially aging.

Why Is This Topic Important?

Sustainable community planning involves land use management that is responsive to the present and future needs of a population, including housing and work. Population demands are influenced by existing and projected changes in demographics, such as births, deaths, lifecycle stages, movements within a municipality and migration from elsewhere in a regional district, province, Canada and the world.

Did You Know?

Victoria's population grew from 71,000 in 1991 to 82,000 in 2009, a **15 per cent** increase, with an average density of 39.6 people per hectare.

The median age of Victoria was 41.6 in 2006. Since 1991, the proportion of children (below age 15) has decreased from 12 to 10 per cent. Those aged 65 or older has declined from **24 to 17 per cent**.

In 2006, the average size of households in Victoria was 1.8 people, smaller than the CRD average of 2.2. **21 per cent** of the city's households have children which is the lowest level in the region.

People classified as visible minorities comprised 12.1 per cent of Victoria's population in 2006. Aboriginal or First Nations people represented 3.8 per cent of total residents. 4.4 per cent of Victorians were recent immigrants.

In 2008, Victoria had 30,000 apartments¹ and 14,500 units of ground oriented housing². This is **59 per cent** and 12 per cent of the total stock in the CRD respectively.

The city's top categories of employment in 2008 were in management, business, finance and administration (32 per cent), and sales and services (29 per cent).

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1. 'Apartment' housing does not directly access the street or a yard and has an entrance that opens on to a common corridor.
2. Family housing is assumed to be dwellings that open directly on to a yard and individual units do not share a common entrance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Issues and Trends

Changes in the population:

- Despite the image of Victoria as a city of retirees, the proportion of people aged 65 and older has recently declined. At the same time, the proportion of people between the working ages of 20 and 64, which includes the entire post Second World War baby boom generation, is growing.
- In 2006, visible minorities and Aboriginal persons comprised 12.1 per cent of Victoria’s population, representing an increase of 40 per cent from 1996.
- Between 1991 and 2006, the population of Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods increased dramatically by 53 per cent and 61 per cent respectively, while Fairfield, Gonzales, James Bay and Rockland experienced a slight decrease between 2 to 3 per cent.

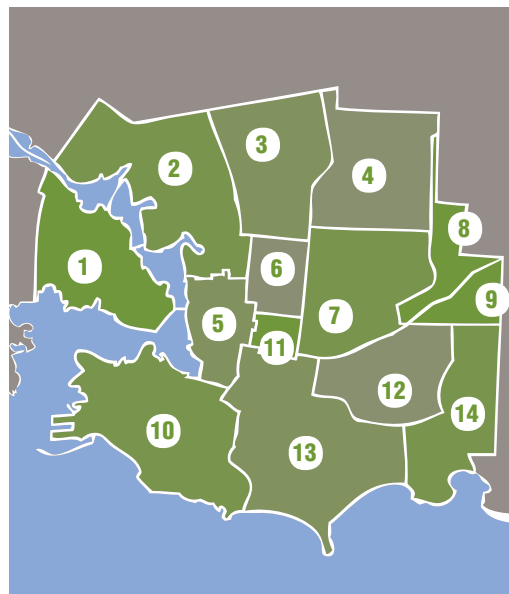
Income and employment:

- In 2006 the federal census reported 18,590 low-income households in Victoria of the total, 3,025 were female single-parent families.
- Victoria had the lowest median household income in the CRD in the 2006 Census at \$38,885. However, this represented a total increase of 13 per cent for Victoria in comparison to 2001.
- The median household incomes in neighbourhoods in 2006 ranged from the highest level in Gonzales at \$60,542 to the lowest in North Park at \$25,176.

Households and housing:

- There were more than 3,800 single-parent families; women headed 3,100 or 81.5 per cent of the total single parent households.
- 72 per cent of Downtown residents moved from one household to another between 2001 and 2006 in comparison to 58 per cent for the city as a whole.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POPULATION DENSITY: CITY OF VICTORIA 2006



Neighbourhood	People/Hectare
1 Victoria West.....	37.9
2 Burnside	21.9
3 Hillside/Quadra.....	43.9
4 Oaklands	36.5
5 Downtown	19.4
6 North Park.....	61.2
7 Fernwood.....	54.6
8 North Jubilee	47.2
9 South Jubilee	59.1
10 James Bay	45.1
11 Harris Green	69.9
12 Rockland.....	27.8
13 Fairfield.....	40.9
14 Gonzales.....	28.1

North and South Jubilee are one neighbourhood for the purpose of community planning.

- Victoria has the lowest number of households with children in the CRD. Trends in the CRD indicate that people between the ages of 18 and 25 and aged 75 or older are most likely to live in apartments, but those over age 25 tend to leave Victoria for municipalities with more non-apartment housing.

**The City in Action:
What We Do Now**

The City of Victoria guides and responds to population growth and change within its boundaries through land use plans, policies and zoning regulations as well as municipal services. Planning goals include a wide diversity of housing tenures and types and community amenities and services for all age groups.

Share your thoughts and ideas:

The new Official Community Plan can guide Victoria to a future that is different from today through policies that respond to population demands, such as incentives to create more family housing and the retention of existing office spaces in the downtown core.

- Do the facts about population match your impression of Victoria? Why or why not?
- What would you change in the current trends, and how?
- How can the City support the needs of today’s population?

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Additional topic sheets are available online at www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca/research-facts