



Family Structure and Marital Status of Victorians

This information looks at the size of Victoria's families and family structure by marital status, compares them with past census figures and, in some cases, Greater Victoria and the province.

From the 2006 Census information, Statistics Canada provides us with valuable information to better understand our community. Objective statistical information provides a solid foundation for informed decisions by elected representatives, businesses, unions and non-profit organizations, as well as individual residents.

What is a census family?

A census family refers to a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Children in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present.

Victoria has 18,320 census families out of a total of 41,705 households. There is an average of 2.5 persons per census family. Seventy-nine percent of Victoria's families include either married or common-law couples. Sixty-six percent of couples have children at home while 34% are without

children at home. Twenty-one percent of census families are headed by a lone parent. Lone-parent females account for 82% of lone-parent families. The average number of children at home per census family is 0.7.

Number and Structure of Families by Neighbourhood 2006

Neighbourhood	Number of Families	Number of Couple Families	Number of Lone Parent Families	Average number of children at home	Average number persons per census family
Burnside Gorge	1,155	77%	23%	0.7	2.5
Downtown	195	79%	21%	0.4	2.2
Fairfield	2,610	86%	14%	0.6	2.5
Fernwood	2,295	73%	27%	0.8	2.8
Gonzales	1,085	83%	17%	0.9	2.7
Harris Green	280	96%	4%	0.4	2.4
Hillside Quadra	1,850	75%	25%	0.9	2.6
James Bay	2,645	78%	22%	0.6	2.3
North Jubilee	720	78%	22%	0.6	2.4
North Park	670	73%	27%	0.7	2.5
Oaklands	1,640	75%	25%	1.0	2.8
Rockland	970	90%	10%	0.5	2.4
South Jubilee	535	75%	25%	0.6	2.4
Victoria West	1,655	80%	20%	1.2	2.4
TOTAL City of Victoria	18,320	79%	21%	0.7	2.5

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS, 2006

What is a census family? CONTINUED

Within our neighbourhoods, Harris Green (96%), Rockland (90%) and Fairfield (86%) have the highest number of couple families. Fernwood and North Park have the highest number of lone parent families (27%). Fernwood and Oaklands have the highest average number of persons per census family (2.8); Victoria West has the highest average of children at home (1.2).

Census Family Structure Regional and Provincial Comparison 2006

Number of Census Families	Victoria	CRD	BC
Married	56%	70%	73%
Common-law	23%	14%	12%
Single-parent	16%	16%	15%

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS, 2006

Victorians have a lower rate of marriage (56%) compared to the region (70%) and the province (73%) and a higher number of people in common-law relationships (23%). There is a similar rate of single-parent families in these same areas.

Family Size

Size of Family within Victoria 1996 – 2006

Family Size	1996	2001	2006
2 person	67%	68%	68%
3 person	18%	18%	18%
4 person	12%	11%	11%
5+ person	3%	3%	3%

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS, 2006

Families in Victoria have remained the same size between the previous two census periods and have shrunk slightly since 1996.

Size of Family by Neighbourhood 2006

Neighbourhood	Total	2 Person Family	3 Person Family	4 Person Family	5 or More Person Family
Burnside Gorge	1,155	71%	18%	8%	3%
Downtown	195	87%	5%	10%	0%
Fairfield	2,610	70%	14%	13%	3%
Fernwood	2,295	65%	20%	12%	3%
Gonzales	1,085	54%	24%	19%	4%
Harris Green	280	73%	18%	9%	0%
Hillside Quadra	1,850	58%	26%	11%	4%
James Bay	2,645	77%	15%	7%	1%
North Jubilee	725	72%	17%	9%	3%
North Park	670	63%	28%	7%	1%
Oaklands	1,645	54%	23%	17%	6%
Rockland	970	73%	15%	10%	1%
South Jubilee	535	73%	18%	9%	0%
Victoria West	1,655	74%	14%	8%	5%
TOTAL City of Victoria	18,325	68%	18%	11%	3%

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS, 2006

The Downtown neighbourhood has the highest percentage of two person families (87%), followed by James Bay (77%) and Victoria West (74%). The biggest families (4 persons or more) live in Oaklands and Gonzales (23% in each).

Family Size Victoria and CRD 2006

Family Size	Victoria	CRD
2 person	68%	57%
3 person	18%	20%
4 person	11%	17%
5+ person	3%	6%

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS, 2006

Victorians have smaller families than the CRD. Sixty-eight per cent of Victorian families are two person compared to 57% in the CRD. Conversely, 43% of the families in the CRD are three persons or larger, compared to 32% in Victoria.

Marital Status

In 1991 36% of Victoria's population over the age of 15 was single. Fifteen years later, 44% of the population was single. The rate of marriage has declined in the same time period from 37% in 1991 to 31% in 2006. Divorce rates have increased by 3% since 1991 and the number of people widowed has dropped by 5%.

- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated, but still legally married
- Legally married (and not separated)
- Never legally married (single)

