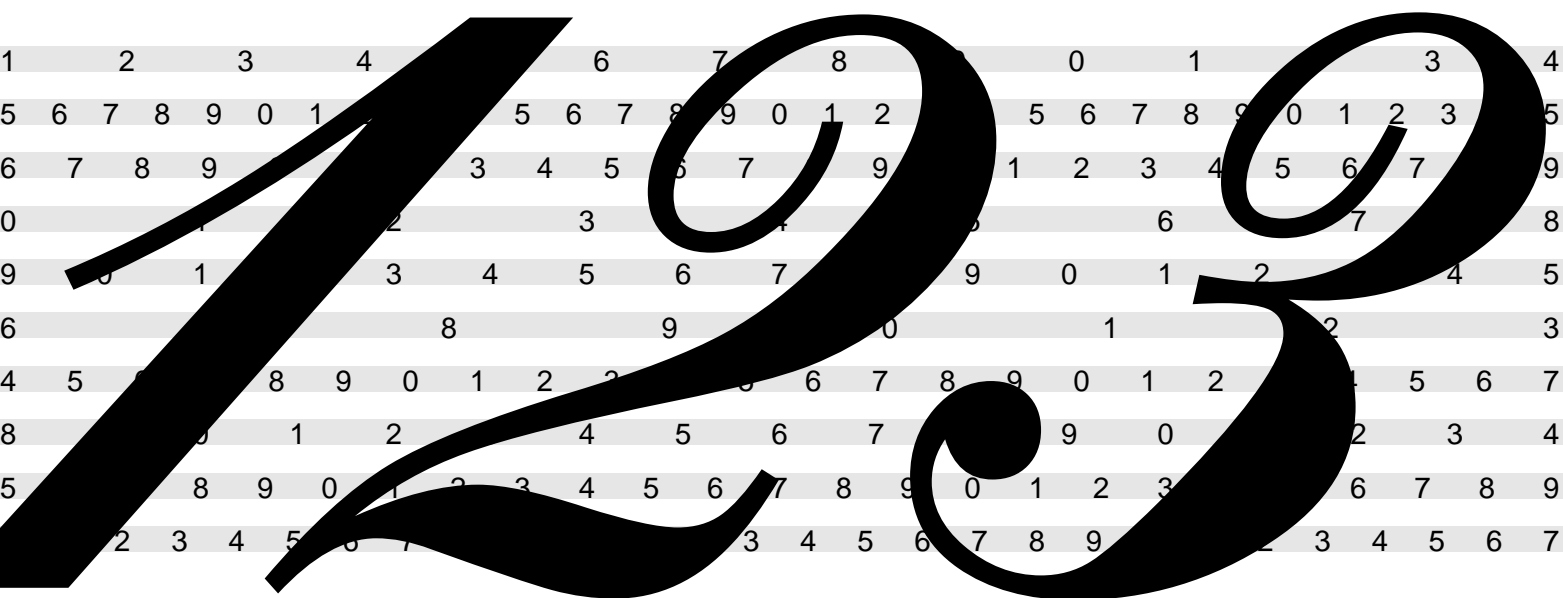


# SELECTED VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND

*Annual Report 2003*

BRITISH COLUMBIA VITAL STATISTICS AGENCY



**Vital**  
*Statistics*

British Columbia  
Vital Statistics Agency

## Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:  
Selected vital statistics and health status indicators  
... annual report. -- 119th (1990) --

Annual.

Continues: Vital statistics of the Province of  
British Columbia, ISSN 0702-9446

Report year ends Dec. 31.

ISSN 1188-3642 = Selected vital statistics and  
health status indicators ... annual report.

1. British Columbia -- Statistics, Vital. I.  
British Columbia. Division of Vital Statistics.

HA747.B7S44 304.6'09711'021 C92-092045-4

## *Foreword*

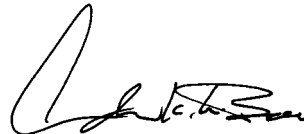
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The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency is pleased to present the 2003 Annual Report, the one hundred and thirty-second published since the establishment of the Division of Vital Statistics in 1872. The tables, figures, and maps in this publication are based on information collected from registrations of live births, stillbirths, deaths, and marriages, and update provisional statistics released throughout the year in the Agency's Quarterly Digest.

This publication contains tables, figures, and maps that summarize selected information about the health of British Columbians. The report includes a detailed glossary, defining the terms and statistical methods used in the body of the publication, a list of the Agency's recent publications, and a set of Information Boxes to supplement the standard tables.

Beginning with the 2000 Annual Report the Agency has presented data using the tenth revision of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) coding scheme. Where possible, this report follows a format consistent with previous annual reports that present statistics from the current year along with comparative statistics from the preceding five years. Many changes in the codes and in the rules for selection of the underlying cause of death preclude direct comparison of data in ICD-10 with data from prior to 2000. Extensive manual reviews using translation tables in conjunction with recoding of data from ICD-9 to ICD-10 enabled the production of trend data. This approach is unique to publications of this Agency.

Vital Statistics would like to acknowledge the many groups and individuals who ensure complete and accurate recording of vital events. Their contributions have resulted in continual improvement in the quality of vital event data.



Andrew K. McBride  
Chief Executive Officer  
British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency



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