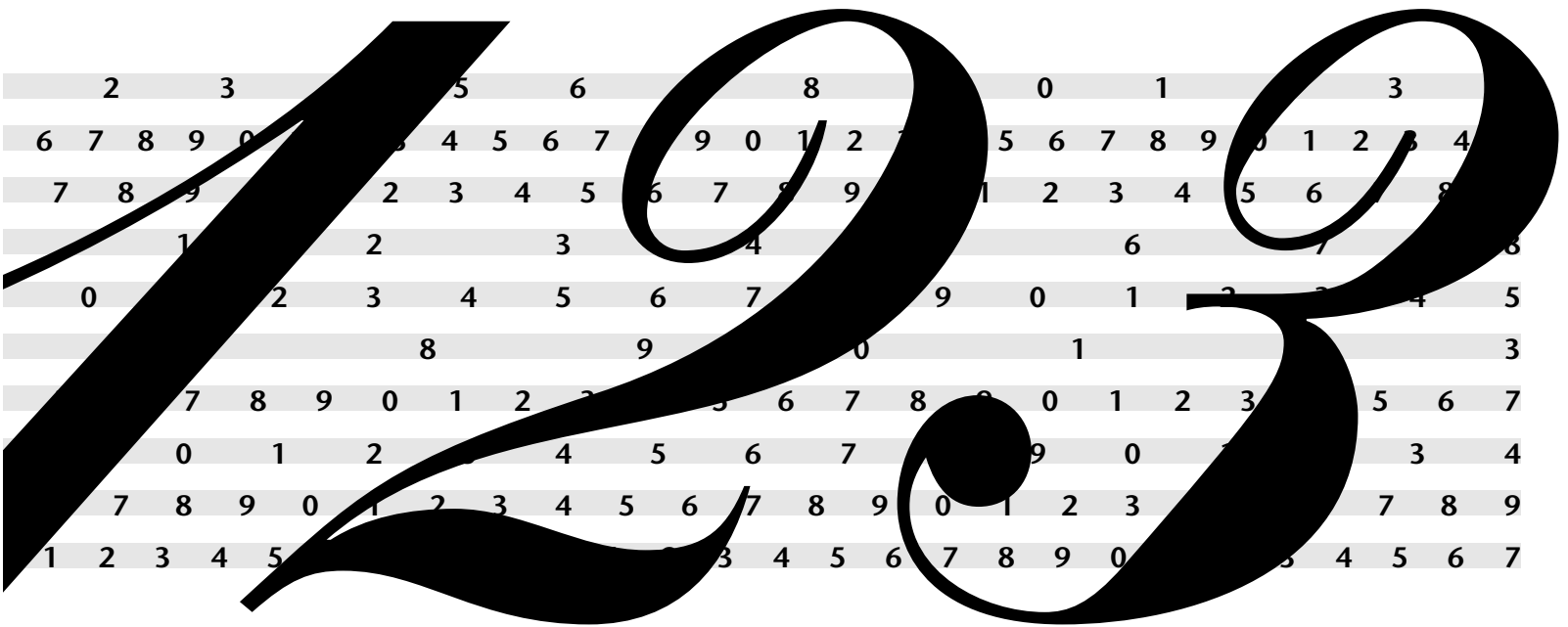


Marriage-related Statistics



Summary

Statistics arising from marriages are presented in this section. Unlike the birth and death statistics, which are based on usual residence, the marriage information is based on all marriages that occurred in British Columbia and includes non-residents. The tables in this section contain information about marriages by previous marital status, age of bride and groom, and type of ceremony.

Summary statistics for marriages in 2000 are presented below:

- A total of 22,074 marriages were solemnized, a slight increase from the 21,623 marriages in 1999. The marriage rate has shown a downward trend in the last two decades, from 9.0 marriages per 1,000 population in 1980 to 5.4 in 1998, 1999 and 2000 (see Table 1).
- In 2000, 60.3% of couples were marrying for the first time. In 21.0% of the marriages in 2000 it was the first marriage for only one of the parties and 18.7% of marriages involved couples where both partners were previously divorced or widowed.
- Approximately one quarter of all brides and one quarter of all grooms who were married in 2000 had previously been divorced.
- Marriages where either the bride or groom was under 20 years of age accounted for approximately one out of every 37 marriages, and there were only 70 marriages where both the bride and groom were teenagers.
- Out of every 100 marriages in 2000, approximately:
 - 43 were performed by religious representatives
 - 57 were civil ceremonies.

TABLE 47
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE AND GROOM
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2000

Marital Status of Bride	Marital Status of Groom			Total
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	
Single	13,320	103	2,250	15,673
Widowed	115	270	304	689
Divorced	2,158	317	3,236	5,711
TOTAL	15,593	690	5,790	22,074

Note: Total includes one case where marital status of bride was not stated.

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 47

- A total of 22,074 marriages were solemnized in the province in 2000. This number represents a slight increase from the 21,623 marriages in 1999. The marriage rate has shown a downward trend in the last two decades, from 9.0 marriages per 1,000 population in 1980 to 5.4 in 1998, 1999 and 2000 (see Table 1).
- In 2000, 60.3% of couples were marrying for the first time (13,320). In 21.0% of the marriages in 2000 it was the first marriage for only one of the parties (4,626), and 18.7% of marriages involved couples where both partners were previously divorced or widowed (4,127).
- Out of every 100 marriages in 2000, approximately:
 - 60 involved single brides and grooms (13,320)
 - 11 involved single brides and divorced or widowed grooms (2,353)
 - 10 involved single grooms and divorced or widowed brides (2,273)
 - 19 involved brides and grooms who were both divorced or widowed (4,127).
- Approximately one quarter (25.9%) of all brides (5,711) and one quarter (26.2%) of all grooms (5,790) who were married in 2000 had previously been divorced.

TABLE 48
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND GROOM
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2000

Age of Bride (in Years)	Age of Groom (in Years)										Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.	Number	Percent
15-19	70	348	86	28	8	4	2	1	-	-	547	2.5
20-24	45	1,852	1,770	510	124	30	13	5	1	-	4,350	19.7
25-29	9	451	3,099	1,993	617	166	46	35	3	-	6,419	29.1
30-34	2	63	707	1,635	988	411	140	61	12	-	4,019	18.2
35-39	-	23	135	449	851	542	308	182	18	-	2,508	11.4
40-44	-	8	32	108	278	458	386	297	43	-	1,610	7.3
45-49	-	1	4	28	64	173	280	415	77	-	1,042	4.7
50-59	-	-	2	7	24	55	150	513	317	-	1,068	4.8
60+	-	-	-	1	-	3	7	53	447	-	511	2.3
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	126	2,746	5,835	4,759	2,954	1,842	1,332	1,562	918	-	22,074	
Percent	0.6	12.4	26.4	21.6	13.4	8.3	6.0	7.1	4.2	-		100.0

Note: N.S. - Not Stated.

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 48

- Marriages where either the bride or groom was under 20 years of age accounted for approximately one out of every 37 marriages (603) in 2000. Among these marriages, there were only 70 where both the bride and groom were teenagers.
- Out of every 100 brides, approximately:
 - 3 were aged 15-19 (547)
 - 49 were aged 20-29 (10,769)
 - 30 were aged 30-39 (6,527)
 - 12 were aged 40-49 (2,652)
 - 5 were aged 50-59 (1,068)
 - 2 were aged 60 or older (511).
- Out of every 100 grooms, approximately:
 - 1 was aged 15-19 (126)
 - 39 were aged 20-29 (8,581)
 - 35 were aged 30-39 (7,713)
 - 14 were aged 40-49 (3,174)
 - 7 were aged 50-59 (1,562)
 - 4 were aged 60 or older (918).
- Comparing the age groups of the bride and groom, out of every 100 marriages in 2000, approximately:
 - 45 marriages involved grooms who were older than their brides (9,987)
 - 42 marriages involved brides and grooms in the same age group (9,205)
 - 13 marriages involved brides who were older than their grooms (2,882).
- The average ages of brides and grooms, for first and later marriages combined, have climbed steadily since 1977. In 2000, the average age of all brides was 32.1 years old, while grooms were 34.8 years old (see Table 5).

TABLE 49
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2000

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	552	241	782
Baptist	670	305	780
Eastern Orthodox	42	13	82
Jewish	29	14	42
Lutheran	258	135	377
Mennonite/Hutterite	457	189	370
Pentecostal	761	333	813
Presbyterian	185	91	204
Catholic	539	280	1,402
Salvation Army	189	48	74
Jehovahs Witness	99	65	131
United Church	596	331	1,604
Other Christian Religions	2,154	835	1,967
Other Non Christian Religions	376	136	921
Unknown/Not Stated	9	5	25
Total	6,916	3,021	9,574

Note: Religious Denomination categories are from Statistics Canada.
 Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.

TABLE 50
**MARRIAGE COMMISSIONERS ON REGISTER
 BY TYPE AND MARRIAGES PERFORMED**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2000

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner	402	385	12,495
Public Servant	7	2	5
TOTAL	409	387	12,500

Note: Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 49/TABLE 50

- In British Columbia, marriage ceremonies can be performed by Religious Representatives or Marriage Commissioners. There were 3,021 Religious Representatives and 387 Marriage Commissioners who solemnized marriages in the province in 2000.
- Out of every 100 marriages in 2000, approximately:
 - 43 were performed by religious representatives (9,574 marriages)
 - 57 were civil ceremonies (12,500).