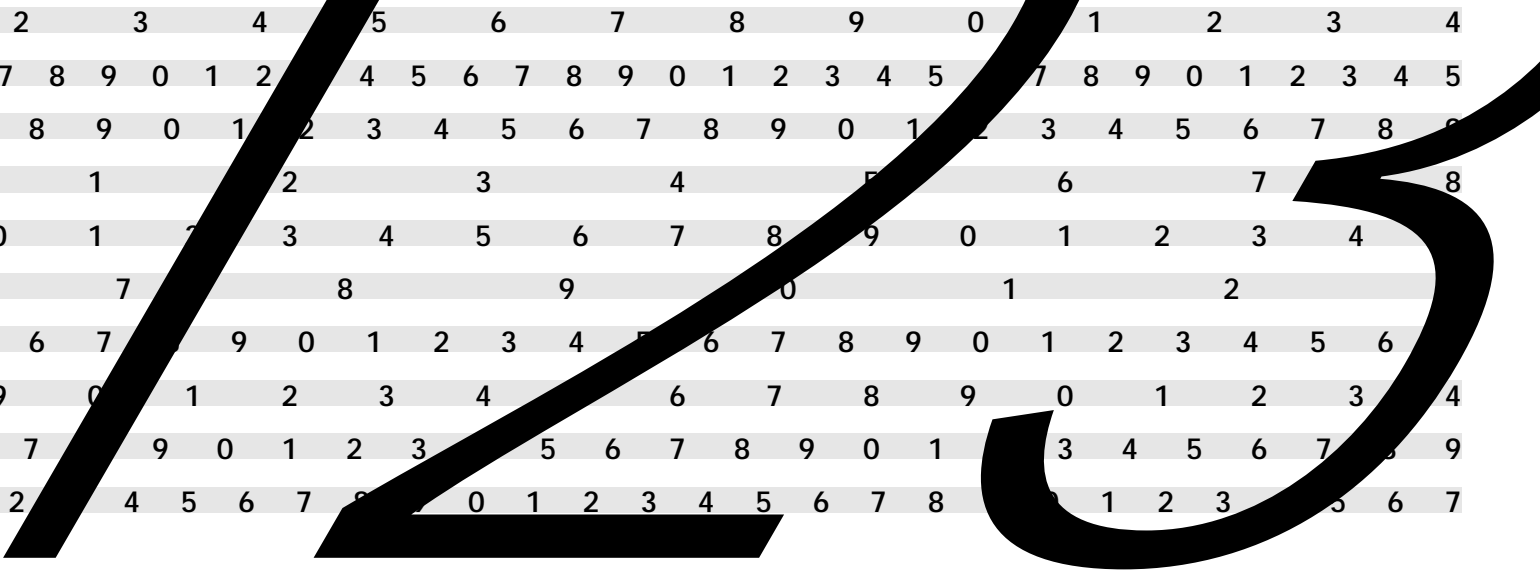


Marriage-related Statistics

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The background features a repeating pattern of horizontal grey bars. Each bar contains a sequence of numbers from 0 to 9. The bars are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some numbers appearing to be cut off by the edges of the bars. Overlaid on this pattern are three large, bold, black numbers: '1', '2', and '3'. The '1' is on the left, the '2' is in the middle, and the '3' is on the right. The numbers are stylized and have a slight shadow effect.

Summary

Marriage statistics presented in this section summarize all marriages which took place in British Columbia, and include non-residents who were married in the province. Included are tables containing information about marriages by previous marital status, age of bride and groom, and type of ceremony.

Summary statistics for marriages in 1999 are presented below:

- There were 21,616 marriages in British Columbia. The 1999 marriage rate, 5.4 marriages per 1,000 population, was the lowest rate since 1950 which was 9.8 per 1,000 population (Table 1).
- In 1999, 60.6% of couples were marrying for the first time (13,097), 18.7% of marriages involved both partners previously divorced or widowed (4,032), and 20.8% where it was the first marriage for only one of the parties (4,487).
- Approximately one quarter (25.7%) of all brides (5,547) and one quarter (26.0%) of all grooms (5,626) who were married in 1999 had previously been divorced.
- The average age of brides and grooms, for first and later marriages combined, has been climbing steadily over the last two decades. In 1999, grooms were 34.7 years old on average, while brides were 31.8 years old (Table 5).
- Out of every 100 marriages in 1999:
 - 43 were performed by religious representatives
 - 57 were civil ceremonies

TABLE 47
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE AND GROOM
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1999

Marital Status of Bride	Marital Status of Groom			Total
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	
Single	13,097	83	2,209	15,389
Widowed	117	271	292	680
Divorced	2,078	344	3,125	5,547
TOTAL	15,292	698	5,626	21,616

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 47

- In 1999, there were 21,616 marriages in British Columbia, almost identical to the 21,764 marriages in 1998. The 1999 marriage rate, 5.4 marriages per 1,000 population, was the lowest rate since 1950, and was unchanged from 1998. Further information is presented in Table 1 and Figure 3.
- Out of approximately every 100 marriages in 1999:
 - 61 involved single brides and grooms (13,097)
 - 11 involved single brides and divorced or widowed grooms (2,292)
 - 10 involved single grooms and divorced or widowed brides (2,195)
 - 19 involved brides and grooms who were both divorced or widowed (4,032)
- Approximately one quarter (25.7%) of all brides (5,547) and one quarter (26.0%) of all grooms (5,626) who were married in 1999 had previously been divorced.

TABLE 48
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND GROOM
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1999

Age of Bride (in Years)	Age of Groom (in Years)											Total	
	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.	Number	Percent
<15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	-	93	302	121	22	6	5	1	1	-	-	551	2.5
20-24	-	47	1,881	1,929	466	142	48	8	10	-	-	4,531	21.0
25-29	-	4	436	3,023	1,890	639	172	44	31	3	-	6,242	28.9
30-34	-	2	72	668	1,496	1,017	429	150	74	5	-	3,913	18.1
35-39	-	-	26	144	478	773	519	273	160	14	-	2,387	11.0
40-44	-	-	1	32	86	272	399	381	275	47	-	1,493	6.9
45-49	-	-	1	9	20	49	162	289	390	107	-	1,027	4.8
50-59	-	-	-	5	10	28	58	131	444	293	-	969	4.5
60+	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	6	53	440	-	503	2.3
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	146	2,719	5,931	4,469	2,927	1,794	1,283	1,438	909	-	21,616	
Percent	-	0.7	12.6	27.4	20.7	13.5	8.3	5.9	6.7	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 one out of every thirty-six marriages (604) in 1999. Among these marriages, there were only 93 where both the bride and groom were teenagers.
- Out of every 100 brides:
 - 3 were aged 15-19 (551)
 - 50 were aged 20-29 (10,773)
 - 29 were aged 30-39 (6,300)
 - 12 were aged 40-49 (2,520)
 - 4 were aged 50-59 (969)
 - 2 were aged 60 or older (503)
- Out of every 100 grooms:
 - 1 was aged 15-19 (146)
 - 40 were aged 20-29 (8,650)
 - 34 were aged 30-39 (7,396)
 - 14 were aged 40-49 (3,077)
 - 7 were aged 50-59 (1,438)
 - 4 were aged 60 or older (909)
- Out of every 100 marriages in 1999 (comparing age groups of the bride and groom):
 - 46 marriages involved grooms that were older than their brides (9,974)
 - 41 marriages involved brides and grooms in the same age group (8,838)
 - 13 marriages involved brides that were older than their grooms (2,804)
- The average ages of brides and grooms, for first and later marriages combined, have been climbing steadily over the last two decades. In 1999, grooms were 34.7 years old, on average, while brides were 31.8 years old. Further information is presented in Table 5/ Figure 7.

TABLE 49
RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1999

Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	522	235	736
Baptist	651	306	761
Eastern Orthodox	40	15	86
Jewish	28	18	52
Lutheran	267	124	391
Mennonite/Hutterite	426	194	410
Pentecostal	720	314	733
Presbyterian	178	89	216
Catholic	524	272	1,350
Salvation Army	166	43	68
Jehovahs Witness	101	66	146
United Church	571	332	1,655
Other Christian Religions	2,046	842	1,921
Other Non Christian Religions	371	134	822
Unknown/Not Stated	9	8	20
TOTAL	6,620	2,992	9,367

Note: Religious categories shown above 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, 1999

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner	370*	370	12,248
Public Servant	9	1	1
TOTAL	379	371	12,249

Note: Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.
 * Includes 85 temporary appointments.

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 49/TABLE 50

- In British Columbia, marriage ceremonies can be performed by Religious Representatives or Marriage Commissioners. In 1999, there were 6,620 Religious Representatives and 379 Marriage Commissioners with the authority to solemnize marriages in the province.
- Out of every 100 marriages in 1999:
 - 43 were performed by religious representatives (9,367 marriages)
 - 57 were civil ceremonies (12,249)