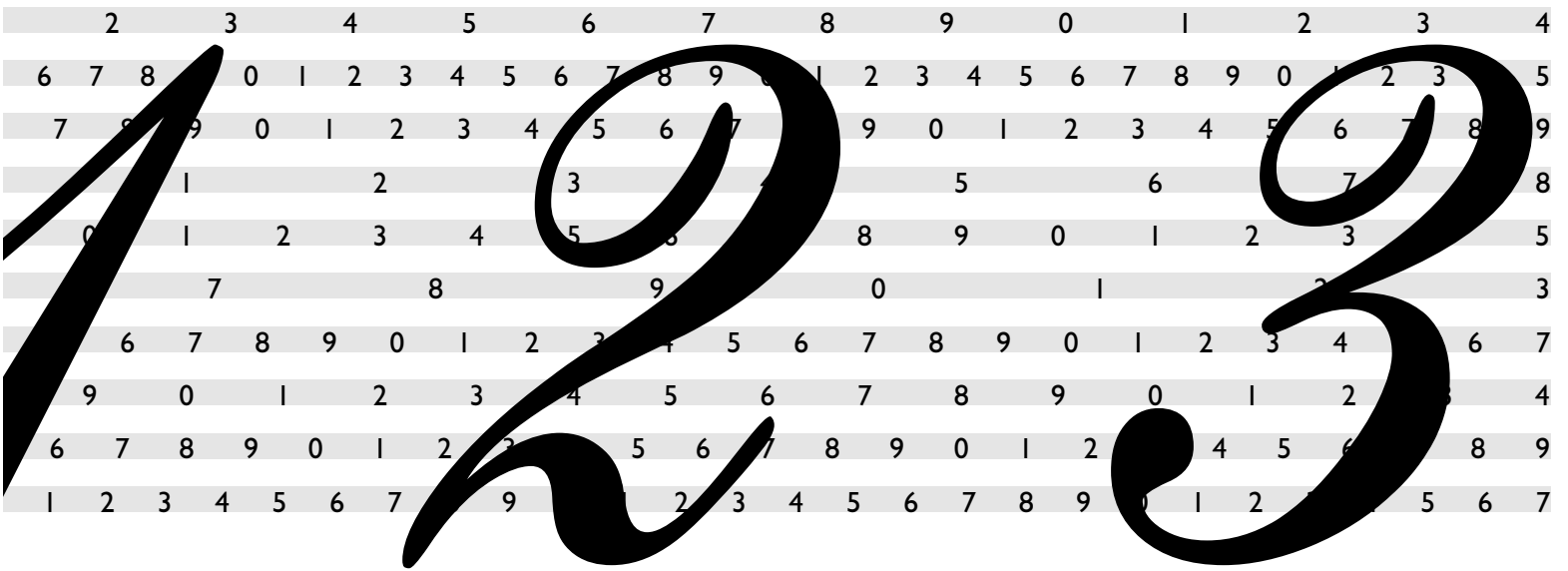


# *Vital Events-related Statistics*





## *Summary*

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The sources of data for the Division of Vital Statistics originate with the registration of births, deaths, and marriages. These are based on information provided to the Division by parents, physicians, coroners, funeral directors, religious representatives and marriage commissioners. This information is used by the Division to register vital events, issue certificates of birth, death and marriage and to produce statistical reports. This information is of particular interest to health-service providers, managers, and service providers and assists in the analysis of trends and the development of service plans for the future.

Considerable social and economic changes have occurred in Canada and British Columbia in the last forty years. Since 1950, the population of the province tripled, live birth and stillbirth rates decreased more than 45%, the marriage rate declined 36%, and there was a 31% decrease in deaths rates.

Statistics on vital events for 1995 are summarized below:

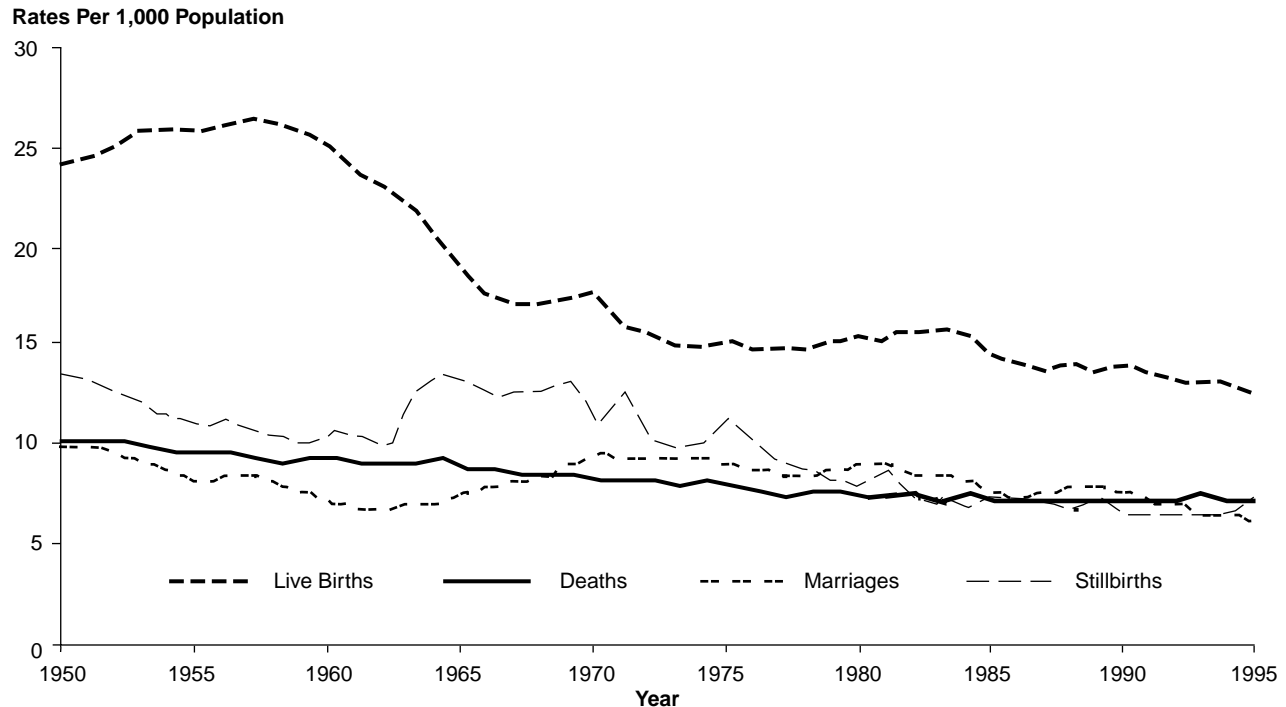
- There were 46,762 live births to B.C. residents in the province. A slight decrease in the number of births from 46,798 in 1994, and a 2.6% increase in the provincial population, resulted in a 1995 crude birth rate of 12.4 live births per 1,000 population. This was the lowest birth rate in the post-war period, and half of the birth rate of the 1950s.
- The province's 1995 Total Fertility Rate, 1,590 births per 1,000 women of child bearing age (15 to 44 years of age), was also the lowest rate since 1950. Forty years ago, fertility rates in British Columbia and Canada were more than twice as high as they are today.
- There were 347 stillbirths in the province in 1995. The crude stillbirth rate was 7.4 stillbirths per 1,000 total births in 1995, and has been consistently under 7.5 for the last decade.
- There were 26,191 deaths in British Columbia in 1995, a slight increase from 25,821 in the previous year. The crude death rate was 7.0 deaths per 1,000 population in both 1994 and 1995. The average death rate dropped each decade from the 1950s to the 1970s and has been consistently under 7.5 per 1,000 population since 1979.
- Three quarters of all deaths in 1995 were seniors (age 65 or older), and the oldest age group (80 years of age or more) accounted for four out of every 10 deaths. There were 192 deaths to B.C. residents aged 100 or more. The oldest deaths were one male and one female aged 108 years old.
- The rate of natural increase, 5.5 per 1,000 population in B.C. in 1995, was the lowest in the post war period.
- In 1995 there were 276 infant deaths (age at death less than one year) in the province, for an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000 live births. Both these statistics show a small decrease from 1994. Infant mortality rates in B.C. and Canada have fallen dramatically to approximately one quarter of the rates seen thirty years ago.
- There were 23,597 marriages solemnized in the province. The 1995 crude marriage rate, 6.3 marriages per 1,000 population, was the lowest rate in the post war period. In recent decades, there has been a trend towards delaying first marriages. The average age of first marriage brides was 26.9 years old, while first-marriage grooms were, on average, 28.9 years old. The average age of brides and grooms, for first and later marriages combined, has also increased steadily since 1977.

**TABLE 1**  
**LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1950-1995

| Year | Mid-Year Population | Live Births |      | Deaths |      | Marriages |      | Stillbirths |      |
|------|---------------------|-------------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|
|      |                     | Number      | Rate | Number | Rate | Number    | Rate | Number      | Rate |
| 1950 | 1,137,000           | 27,116      | 23.8 | 11,581 | 10.2 | 11,110    | 9.8  | 369         | 13.4 |
| 1951 | 1,165,210           | 28,077      | 24.1 | 11,638 | 10.0 | 11,272    | 9.7  | 365         | 12.8 |
| 1952 | 1,205,000           | 29,827      | 24.8 | 12,080 | 10.0 | 11,081    | 9.2  | 375         | 12.4 |
| 1953 | 1,248,000           | 31,746      | 25.4 | 12,218 | 9.8  | 11,298    | 9.1  | 375         | 11.7 |
| 1954 | 1,295,000           | 32,946      | 25.4 | 12,414 | 9.6  | 10,991    | 8.5  | 373         | 11.2 |
| 1955 | 1,342,000           | 34,138      | 25.4 | 12,816 | 9.5  | 11,011    | 8.2  | 381         | 11.0 |
| 1956 | 1,398,464           | 36,241      | 25.9 | 13,415 | 9.6  | 11,950    | 8.5  | 413         | 11.3 |
| 1957 | 1,482,000           | 38,744      | 26.1 | 13,711 | 9.3  | 12,620    | 8.5  | 422         | 10.8 |
| 1958 | 1,538,000           | 39,577      | 25.7 | 13,741 | 8.9  | 12,094    | 7.9  | 414         | 10.4 |
| 1959 | 1,567,000           | 39,971      | 25.5 | 14,336 | 9.1  | 11,910    | 7.6  | 404         | 10.0 |
| 1960 | 1,602,000           | 40,116      | 25.0 | 14,696 | 9.2  | 11,203    | 7.0  | 437         | 10.8 |
| 1961 | 1,629,100           | 38,591      | 23.7 | 14,403 | 8.8  | 10,935    | 6.7  | 410         | 10.5 |
| 1962 | 1,660,000           | 38,128      | 23.0 | 14,912 | 9.0  | 11,196    | 6.7  | 377         | 9.8  |
| 1963 | 1,699,000           | 37,478      | 22.1 | 15,029 | 8.8  | 11,677    | 6.9  | 476         | 12.5 |
| 1964 | 1,745,000           | 35,897      | 20.6 | 16,051 | 9.2  | 12,158    | 7.0  | 485         | 13.3 |
| 1965 | 1,797,000           | 33,669      | 18.7 | 15,784 | 8.8  | 13,639    | 7.6  | 447         | 13.1 |
| 1966 | 1,873,674           | 32,502      | 17.3 | 16,290 | 8.7  | 14,682    | 7.8  | 409         | 12.4 |
| 1967 | 1,945,000           | 32,899      | 16.9 | 16,170 | 8.3  | 16,026    | 8.2  | 422         | 12.7 |
| 1968 | 2,003,000           | 33,687      | 16.8 | 16,828 | 8.4  | 16,914    | 8.4  | 433         | 12.7 |
| 1969 | 2,060,000           | 35,383      | 17.2 | 17,377 | 8.4  | 18,284    | 8.9  | 468         | 13.1 |
| 1970 | 2,128,000           | 36,861      | 17.3 | 17,020 | 8.0  | 20,020    | 9.4  | 407         | 10.9 |
| 1971 | 2,184,620           | 34,852      | 16.0 | 17,783 | 8.1  | 20,389    | 9.3  | 442         | 12.5 |
| 1972 | 2,241,400           | 34,563      | 15.4 | 18,021 | 8.0  | 20,659    | 9.2  | 356         | 10.2 |
| 1973 | 2,302,400           | 34,352      | 14.9 | 18,095 | 7.9  | 21,303    | 9.3  | 339         | 9.8  |
| 1974 | 2,375,700           | 35,450      | 14.9 | 19,177 | 8.1  | 21,734    | 9.1  | 364         | 10.2 |
| 1975 | 2,433,200           | 36,281      | 14.9 | 19,151 | 7.9  | 21,824    | 9.0  | 414         | 11.3 |
| 1976 | 2,466,610           | 35,848      | 14.5 | 18,788 | 7.6  | 21,536    | 8.7  | 361         | 10.0 |
| 1977 | 2,493,800           | 36,691      | 14.7 | 18,021 | 7.2  | 21,156    | 8.5  | 330         | 8.9  |
| 1978 | 2,530,100           | 37,231      | 14.7 | 19,057 | 7.5  | 21,388    | 8.5  | 331         | 8.8  |
| 1979 | 2,571,200           | 38,432      | 14.9 | 19,204 | 7.5  | 22,087    | 8.6  | 313         | 8.1  |
| 1980 | 2,640,100           | 40,104      | 15.2 | 19,371 | 7.3  | 23,830    | 9.0  | 316         | 7.8  |
| 1981 | 2,744,470           | 41,679      | 15.2 | 19,857 | 7.2  | 24,694    | 9.0  | 371         | 8.8  |
| 1982 | 2,787,700           | 42,942      | 15.4 | 20,704 | 7.4  | 23,831    | 8.5  | 317         | 7.3  |
| 1983 | 2,813,800           | 43,047      | 15.3 | 19,895 | 7.1  | 23,692    | 8.4  | 310         | 7.1  |
| 1984 | 2,847,700           | 44,040      | 15.5 | 20,781 | 7.3  | 23,394    | 8.2  | 303         | 6.8  |
| 1985 | 2,990,000           | 42,989      | 14.4 | 21,131 | 7.1  | 22,270    | 7.4  | 333         | 7.7  |
| 1986 | 3,020,400           | 41,845      | 13.9 | 21,006 | 7.0  | 21,819    | 7.2  | 309         | 7.3  |
| 1987 | 3,064,600           | 41,655      | 13.6 | 21,619 | 7.1  | 23,377    | 7.6  | 297         | 7.1  |
| 1988 | 3,128,200           | 42,913      | 13.7 | 22,361 | 7.1  | 24,469    | 7.8  | 292         | 6.8  |
| 1989 | 3,209,200           | 43,585      | 13.6 | 22,780 | 7.1  | 25,154    | 7.8  | 319         | 7.3  |
| 1990 | 3,300,100           | 45,333      | 13.7 | 23,398 | 7.1  | 25,185    | 7.6  | 292         | 6.4  |
| 1991 | 3,379,800           | 45,312      | 13.4 | 23,794 | 7.0  | 23,648    | 7.0  | 297         | 6.5  |
| 1992 | 3,479,100           | 45,712      | 13.1 | 24,411 | 7.0  | 23,733    | 6.9  | 295         | 6.4  |
| 1993 | 3,574,014           | 45,922      | 12.9 | 25,593 | 7.2  | 23,471    | 6.6  | 293         | 6.3  |
| 1994 | 3,667,861           | 46,798      | 12.8 | 25,821 | 7.0  | 23,761    | 6.5  | 312         | 6.6  |
| 1995 | 3,764,153           | 46,762      | 12.4 | 26,191 | 7.0  | 23,597    | 6.3  | 347         | 7.4  |

Note: Rates shown are crude rates per 1,000 population.  
 Stillbirth rates per 1,000 total births.  
 The definition of a stillbirth was revised in 1963 and 1986 (see glossary).  
 Population information from Statistics Canada.  
 Above information includes late registrations and amendments.  
 Gender unknown included.

**FIGURE 3**  
**CRUDE RATES OF LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS,**  
**MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1950-1995



### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 1/FIGURE 3

- Considerable social and economic changes have occurred in Canada and British Columbia in the last forty years. Since 1950, the population of the province more than tripled, live birth and stillbirth rates decreased more than 45%, the marriage rate declined 36%, and there was a 31% decrease in deaths rates.
- There were 46,762 live births to B.C. residents in the province, 24,182 males, 22,578 females and 2 gender unknown, in 1995. Although the number of live births decreased only marginally from 46,798 in 1994, the crude birth rate decreased by 3.1% from 1994 as a result of a 2.6% increase in the B.C. population. This was the lowest birth rate in the post-war period, and half of the birth rate of the 1950s.
- In 1995, there were 26,191 deaths in British Columbia, a slight increase from 25,821 in the previous year. There were 7.0 deaths per 1,000 population in 1995, the same crude rate as in 1994. In the last decade, the average crude death rate has been consistently 7.1 per 1,000 population or lower.
- In 1995, 23,597 marriages were solemnized in the province. The annual total number of marriages has remained almost unchanged for five years. The 1995 crude marriage rate was the lowest rate in over forty years, 6.3 marriages per 1,000 population.
- There were 347 stillbirths in the province in 1995, an increase from 312 in 1994. The crude stillbirth rate, 7.4 per 1,000 total births in 1995, was the highest rate since 1985.

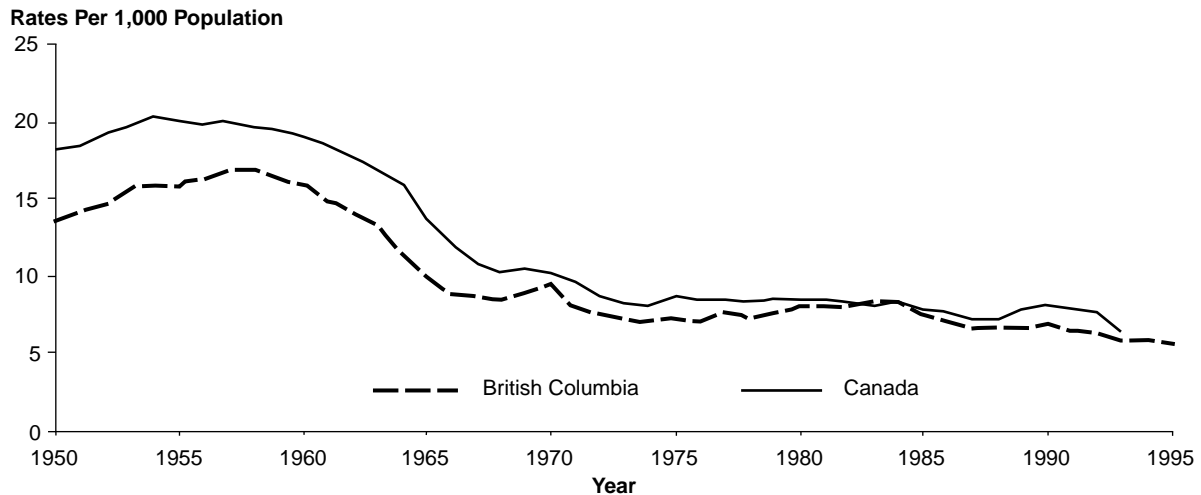
**TABLE 2**  
**TRENDS OF NATURAL POPULATION INCREASES**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950-1995

| Year | Rate |        | Year | Rate |        |
|------|------|--------|------|------|--------|
|      | B.C. | Canada |      | B.C. | Canada |
| 1950 | 13.7 | 18.0   | 1973 | 7.1  | 8.1    |
| 1951 | 14.1 | 18.2   | 1974 | 6.8  | 8.0    |
| 1952 | 14.7 | 19.2   | 1975 | 7.0  | 8.5    |
| 1953 | 15.6 | 19.5   | 1976 | 6.9  | 8.4    |
| 1954 | 15.9 | 20.3   | 1977 | 7.5  | 8.4    |
| 1955 | 15.9 | 20.0   | 1978 | 7.2  | 8.1    |
| 1956 | 16.3 | 19.8   | 1979 | 7.5  | 8.4    |
| 1957 | 16.9 | 20.0   | 1980 | 7.9  | 8.3    |
| 1958 | 16.8 | 19.6   | 1981 | 8.0  | 8.3    |
| 1959 | 16.4 | 19.4   | 1982 | 8.0  | 8.1    |
| 1960 | 15.9 | 19.0   | 1983 | 8.2  | 8.0    |
| 1961 | 14.8 | 18.4   | 1984 | 8.2  | 8.1    |
| 1962 | 14.0 | 17.6   | 1985 | 7.3  | 7.7    |
| 1963 | 13.2 | 16.8   | 1986 | 6.9  | 7.5    |
| 1964 | 11.4 | 15.9   | 1987 | 6.5  | 7.2    |
| 1965 | 10.0 | 13.7   | 1988 | 6.6  | 7.2    |
| 1966 | 8.7  | 11.9   | 1989 | 6.5  | 7.7    |
| 1967 | 8.6  | 10.8   | 1990 | 6.6  | 8.0    |
| 1968 | 8.4  | 10.2   | 1991 | 6.4  | 7.7    |
| 1969 | 8.7  | 10.3   | 1992 | 6.1  | 7.5    |
| 1970 | 9.3  | 10.1   | 1993 | 5.7  | 6.4    |
| 1971 | 7.8  | 9.5    | 1994 | 5.7  | *      |
| 1972 | 7.4  | 8.5    | 1995 | 5.5  | *      |

Note: Rates shown are crude rates per 1,000 population. Canadian rates from Statistics Canada. Above information includes late registrations and amendments.

\* 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.

**FIGURE 4**  
**TRENDS OF NATURAL POPULATION INCREASES**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950-1995



Note: 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.

#### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 2/FIGURE 4

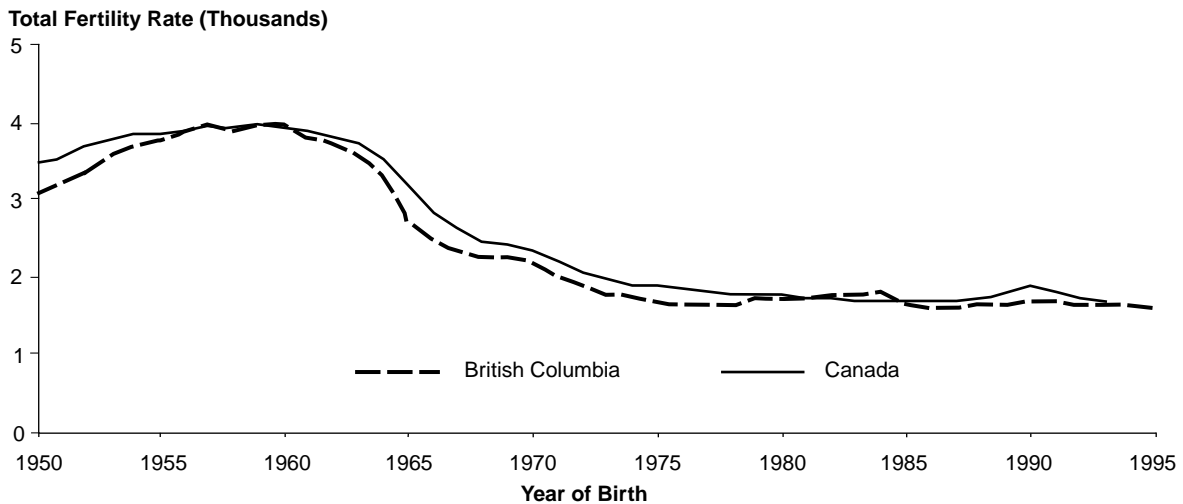
- The rate of natural population increase for B.C. was 5.5 per 1,000 population in 1995. These rates show that the provincial population has had a net increase, that is, there were more births than deaths annually. (Immigration and emigration are not included in the rate of natural population increase.)
- The pattern of natural population increase over the last forty years follows the trends set in the provincial crude birth rates. After high rates in the 1950s and early 1960s, both birth rates and natural population growth rates decreased rapidly and have shown a small but steady decline since the mid 1980s. The rate of natural population increase for B.C. in 1995 was the lowest in the post war period.

**TABLE 3**  
**TRENDS OF TOTAL FERTILITY RATES**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950-1995

| Year | Rate  |        | Year | Rate  |        |
|------|-------|--------|------|-------|--------|
|      | B.C.  | Canada |      | B.C.  | Canada |
| 1950 | 3,074 | 3,455  | 1973 | 1,751 | 1,939  |
| 1951 | 3,201 | 3,503  | 1974 | 1,735 | 1,887  |
| 1952 | 3,327 | 3,641  | 1975 | 1,682 | 1,871  |
| 1953 | 3,542 | 3,721  | 1976 | 1,618 | 1,820  |
| 1954 | 3,656 | 3,822  | 1977 | 1,636 | 1,801  |
| 1955 | 3,748 | 3,823  | 1978 | 1,620 | 1,751  |
| 1956 | 3,875 | 3,853  | 1979 | 1,721 | 1,757  |
| 1957 | 3,921 | 3,923  | 1980 | 1,716 | 1,738  |
| 1958 | 3,900 | 3,881  | 1981 | 1,718 | 1,699  |
| 1959 | 3,958 | 3,941  | 1982 | 1,749 | 1,687  |
| 1960 | 3,949 | 3,904  | 1983 | 1,751 | 1,675  |
| 1961 | 3,785 | 3,852  | 1984 | 1,781 | 1,684  |
| 1962 | 3,709 | 3,769  | 1985 | 1,642 | 1,673  |
| 1963 | 3,564 | 3,683  | 1986 | 1,602 | 1,662  |
| 1964 | 3,284 | 3,515  | 1987 | 1,598 | 1,647  |
| 1965 | 2,710 | 3,157  | 1988 | 1,636 | 1,692  |
| 1966 | 2,442 | 2,821  | 1989 | 1,638 | 1,768  |
| 1967 | 2,307 | 2,601  | 1990 | 1,673 | 1,863  |
| 1968 | 2,228 | 2,459  | 1991 | 1,655 | 1,799  |
| 1969 | 2,223 | 2,409  | 1992 | 1,629 | 1,710  |
| 1970 | 2,185 | 2,336  | 1993 | 1,606 | 1,660  |
| 1971 | 1,994 | 2,188  | 1994 | 1,619 | *      |
| 1972 | 1,890 | 2,025  | 1995 | 1,590 | *      |

Note: Total Fertility Rate – Sum of age-specific fertility rates multiplied by the number of years in each age group (see glossary for definition). Canadian rates from Statistics Canada. Above information includes late registrations and amendments.  
\* 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.  
Non-residents are excluded.

**FIGURE 5**  
**TRENDS OF TOTAL FERTILITY RATES**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950-1995



Note: 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.

**HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 3/FIGURE 5**

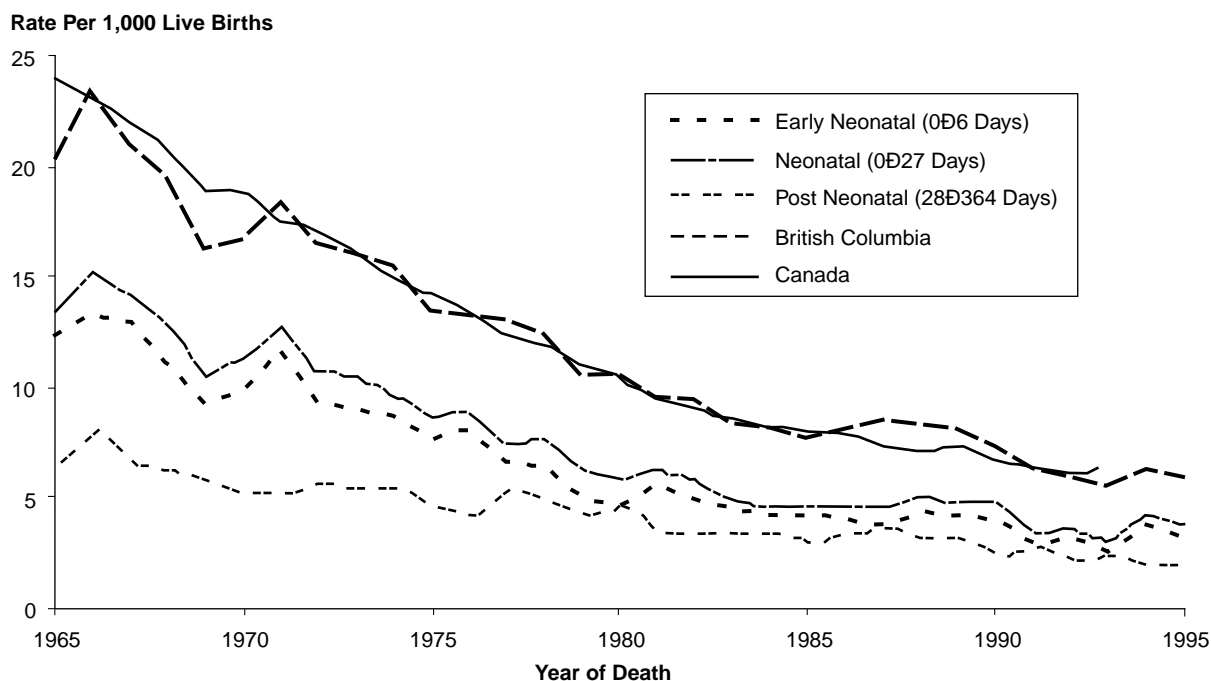
- In 1995, the province’s Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was 1,590 births per 1,000 women of child bearing age (15 to 44 years of age). The fertility rates shown have been calculated using the population estimates shown in Table 1. Since 1954, the provincial TFR has been below 1,600 only twice, in 1987 and 1995.
- Forty years ago, TFRs in British Columbia and Canada were more than twice as high as they are today. Except for the period 1981 to 1984, B.C. rates have been below Canadian TFRs for more than three decades. After peaking in 1959, TFRs fell considerably throughout the 1960s and 1970s. After a brief rise between 1979 and 1984, the provincial TFR has remained below 1,700.

**TABLE 4**  
**TRENDS OF INFANT MORTALITY**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1965-1995**

| Year | British Columbia<br>Age at Death (in Days) |      |           |      |             |      |      |        |      | Canada |
|------|--|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|------|--------|------|--------|
|      | 0-6 Days                                   |      | 0-27 Days |      | 28-364 Days |      | N.S. | Total  |      | Rate   |
|      | Number                                     | Rate | Number    | Rate | Number      | Rate |      | Number | Rate |        |
| 1965 | 415  | 12.3 | 453       | 13.5 | 227         | 6.7  | 3    | 683    | 20.3 | 24.0   |
| 1966 | 435  | 13.4 | 494       | 15.2 | 263         | 8.1  | 4    | 761    | 23.4 | 23.1   |
| 1967 | 429  | 13.0 | 470       | 14.3 | 218         | 6.6  | 1    | 689    | 20.9 | 22.0   |
| 1968 | 375  | 11.1 | 438       | 13.0 | 214         | 6.4  | 4    | 656    | 19.5 | 21.0   |
| 1969 | 329  | 9.3  | 374       | 10.6 | 199         | 5.6  | -    | 573    | 16.2 | 19.0   |
| 1970 | 369  | 10.0 | 416       | 11.3 | 193         | 5.2  | 2    | 611    | 16.6 | 19.0   |
| 1971 | 409  | 11.7 | 450       | 12.9 | 185         | 5.3  | -    | 635    | 18.2 | 17.5   |
| 1972 | 322  | 9.3  | 373       | 10.8 | 195         | 5.6  | 1    | 569    | 16.5 | 17.0   |
| 1973 | 317  | 9.2  | 363       | 10.6 | 185         | 5.4  | 3    | 551    | 16.0 | 16.0   |
| 1974 | 310  | 8.7  | 348       | 9.8  | 196         | 5.5  | 2    | 546    | 15.4 | 15.0   |
| 1975 | 278  | 7.7  | 321       | 8.8  | 169         | 4.7  | 1    | 491    | 13.5 | 14.3   |
| 1976 | 292  | 8.1  | 324       | 9.0  | 152         | 4.2  | 2    | 478    | 13.3 | 13.5   |
| 1977 | 246  | 6.7  | 276       | 7.5  | 200         | 5.5  | -    | 476    | 13.0 | 12.4   |
| 1978 | 245  | 6.6  | 286       | 7.7  | 178         | 4.8  | -    | 464    | 12.5 | 12.0   |
| 1979 | 196  | 5.1  | 239       | 6.2  | 167         | 4.3  | -    | 406    | 10.6 | 10.9   |
| 1980 | 188  | 4.7  | 235       | 5.9  | 186         | 4.6  | -    | 421    | 10.5 | 10.4   |
| 1981 | 232  | 5.6  | 259       | 6.2  | 140         | 3.4  | 3    | 402    | 9.6  | 9.6    |
| 1982 | 217  | 5.1  | 251       | 5.8  | 150         | 3.5  | -    | 401    | 9.3  | 9.1    |
| 1983 | 193  | 4.5  | 212       | 4.9  | 145         | 3.4  | 2    | 359    | 8.3  | 8.5    |
| 1984 | 184  | 4.2  | 205       | 4.6  | 150         | 3.4  | 1    | 356    | 8.1  | 8.1    |
| 1985 | 180  | 4.2  | 198       | 4.6  | 133         | 3.1  | -    | 331    | 7.7  | 8.0    |
| 1986 | 166  | 4.0  | 196       | 4.7  | 147         | 3.5  | -    | 343    | 8.2  | 7.9    |
| 1987 | 162  | 3.9  | 197       | 4.7  | 156         | 3.8  | -    | 353    | 8.5  | 7.3    |
| 1988 | 190  | 4.4  | 219       | 5.1  | 137         | 3.2  | -    | 356    | 8.3  | 7.2    |
| 1989 | 186  | 4.3  | 215       | 4.9  | 138         | 3.2  | -    | 353    | 8.1  | 7.3    |
| 1990 | 187  | 4.1  | 225       | 5.0  | 106         | 2.3  | -    | 331    | 7.3  | 6.8    |
| 1991 | 137  | 3.0  | 161       | 3.6  | 126         | 2.8  | -    | 287    | 6.3  | 6.4    |
| 1992 | 150  | 3.3  | 171       | 3.7  | 102         | 2.2  | -    | 273    | 6.0  | 6.1    |
| 1993 | 123  | 2.7  | 140       | 3.1  | 111         | 2.4  | -    | 251    | 5.5  | 6.3    |
| 1994 | 177  | 3.8  | 199       | 4.3  | 92          | 2.0  | -    | 291    | 6.2  | *      |
| 1995 | 155  | 3.3  | 179       | 3.8  | 97          | 2.1  | -    | 276    | 5.9  | *      |

Note: Rates per 1,000 live births in the specified year.  
 Non-residents are excluded. N.S. - Not stated.  
 Canada data from Statistics Canada.  
 Above information includes late registrations and amendments.  
 \* 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.

FIGURE 6  
**TRENDS OF INFANT MORTALITY**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1965-1995



Note: 1994 and 1995 rates for Canada were not available.  
 Non-residents are excluded

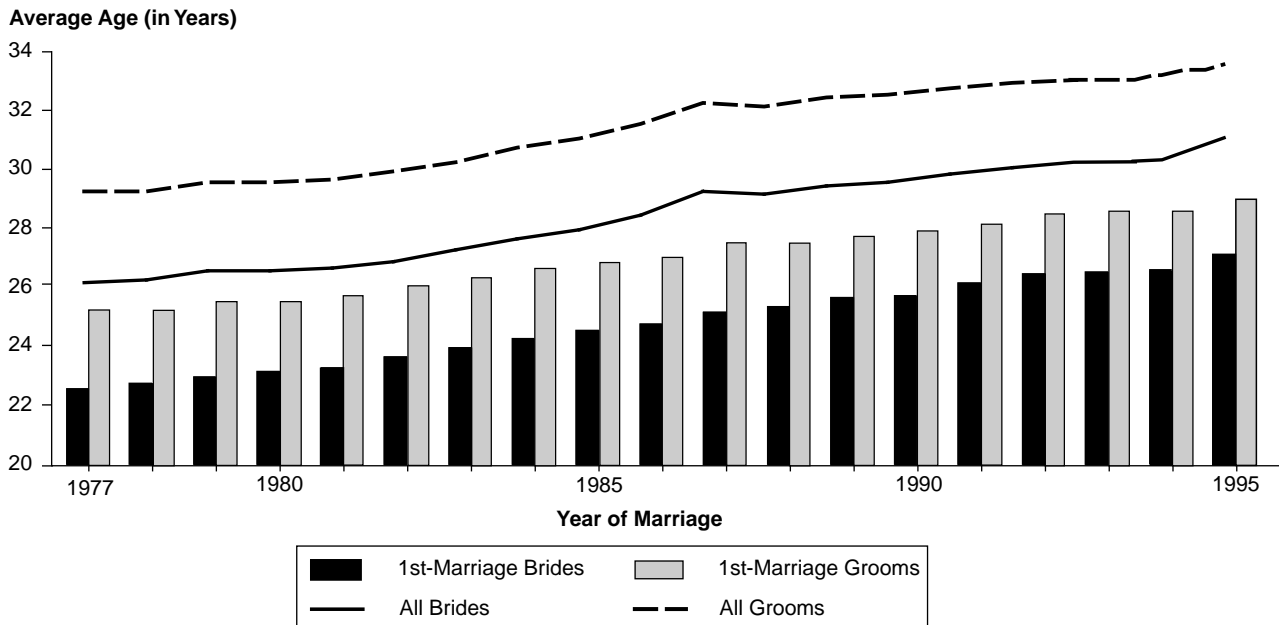
#### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 4/FIGURE 6

- In 1995, there were 276 infant deaths (age at death less than one year) in the province, for an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000 live births. This is a small decrease from 291 infant deaths and an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 1994. Since 1990, infant mortality rates have been consistently 6.3 or less.
- Out of every 10 infant deaths in 1995:
  - 5 were in the early neonatal period, age at death less than 7 days (155 deaths)
  - 1 died between 7 and 27 days after birth (24 deaths)
  - 4 were in the post-neonatal period, age at death 28–364 days (97 deaths)
- Infant mortality rates in B.C. and Canada have fallen dramatically to approximately one quarter of the rates seen thirty years ago. A decrease in early neonatal mortality was a major contributor to the overall decline in infant mortality rates over this time period.
- The number and rate of post neonatal deaths were marginally higher in 1995 than in the previous year (97 deaths and a rate of 2.1 per 1,000 live births in 1995 compared to 92 deaths and 2.0 per 1,000 live births in 1994). The post neonatal statistics for 1994 and 1995 were the lowest recorded in the last thirty years.

**TABLE 5**  
**TRENDS IN AGE OF BRIDE AND GROOM**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977-1995

| Year of Marriage | Average Age (in Years) |       |               |       |
|------------------|------------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
|                  | First Marriage         |       | All Marriages |       |
|                  | Bride                  | Groom | Bride         | Groom |
| 1977             | 22.5                   | 25.2  | 26.2          | 29.3  |
| 1978             | 22.7                   | 25.2  | 26.3          | 29.3  |
| 1979             | 22.9                   | 25.5  | 26.6          | 29.6  |
| 1980             | 23.1                   | 25.5  | 26.6          | 29.6  |
| 1981             | 23.2                   | 25.7  | 26.7          | 29.7  |
| 1982             | 23.6                   | 26.0  | 26.9          | 30.0  |
| 1983             | 23.9                   | 26.3  | 27.3          | 30.3  |
| 1984             | 24.2                   | 26.6  | 27.7          | 30.8  |
| 1985             | 24.5                   | 26.8  | 28.0          | 31.1  |
| 1986             | 24.7                   | 27.1  | 28.5          | 31.6  |
| 1987             | 25.1                   | 27.6  | 29.3          | 32.3  |
| 1988             | 25.3                   | 27.6  | 29.2          | 32.2  |
| 1989             | 25.6                   | 27.8  | 29.5          | 32.5  |
| 1990             | 25.7                   | 28.0  | 29.6          | 32.6  |
| 1991             | 26.1                   | 28.2  | 29.9          | 32.8  |
| 1992             | 26.4                   | 28.6  | 30.1          | 33.0  |
| 1993             | 26.5                   | 28.7  | 30.3          | 33.1  |
| 1994             | 26.6                   | 28.7  | 30.3          | 33.1  |
| 1995             | 26.9                   | 28.9  | 31.0          | 33.5  |

**FIGURE 7**  
**TRENDS IN AGE OF BRIDE AND GROOM**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977-1995



**HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 5/FIGURE 7**

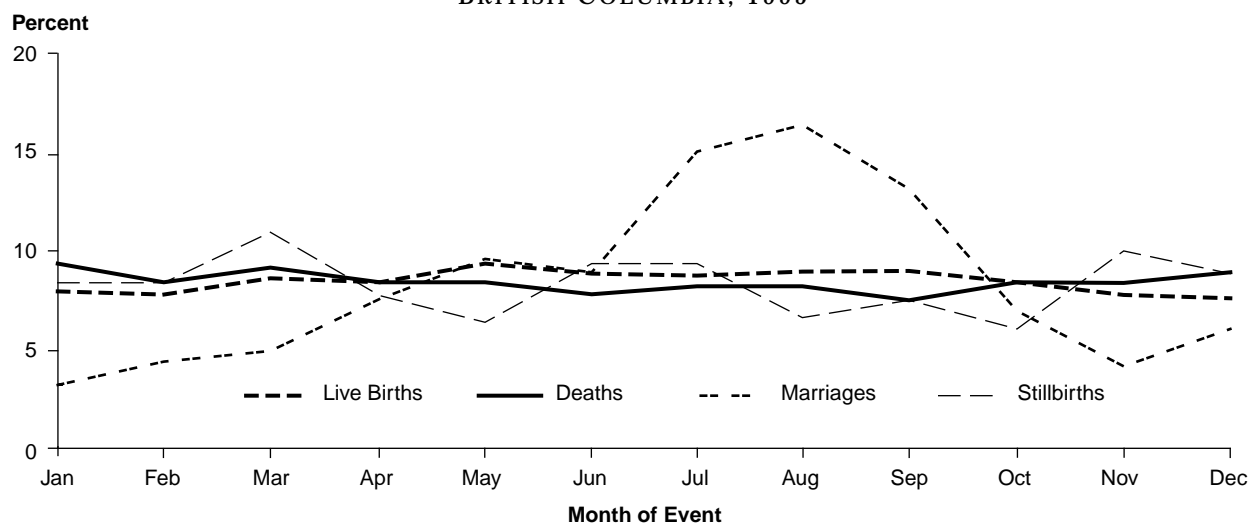
- In 1995, the average age of first marriage brides was 26.9 years old, while first-marriage grooms were, on average, 28.9 years old.
- In recent decades, there has been a trend towards delaying first marriages. First marriage brides in 1995 were 4.4 years older than first marriage brides in 1977, first marriage grooms were 3.7 years older than first marriage grooms in 1977.
- The average age of brides and grooms, for first and later marriages combined, has climbed steadily since 1977. In 1995, brides were 31.0 years old, on average, while grooms were 33.5 years old.

**TABLE 6**  
**LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS BY MONTH**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1995**

| Month           | Live Births |         | Deaths |         | Marriages |         | Stillbirths |         |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|
|                 | Number      | Percent | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent | Number      | Percent |
| January         | 3,673       | 7.9     | 2,411  | 9.2     | 743       | 3.2     | 29          | 8.4     |
| February        | 3,603       | 7.7     | 2,160  | 8.3     | 1,031     | 4.4     | 29          | 8.4     |
| March           | 3,951       | 8.5     | 2,354  | 9.0     | 1,166     | 4.9     | 38          | 11.0    |
| April           | 3,858       | 8.3     | 2,186  | 8.4     | 1,760     | 7.5     | 27          | 7.8     |
| May             | 4,298       | 9.2     | 2,197  | 8.4     | 2,268     | 9.6     | 22          | 6.3     |
| June            | 4,046       | 8.7     | 2,004  | 7.7     | 2,110     | 8.9     | 33          | 9.5     |
| July            | 4,078       | 8.7     | 2,116  | 8.1     | 3,542     | 15.0    | 33          | 9.5     |
| August          | 4,144       | 8.9     | 2,138  | 8.2     | 3,882     | 16.5    | 23          | 6.6     |
| September       | 4,148       | 8.9     | 1,916  | 7.3     | 3,116     | 13.2    | 26          | 7.5     |
| October         | 3,846       | 8.2     | 2,176  | 8.3     | 1,592     | 6.8     | 21          | 6.1     |
| November        | 3,591       | 7.7     | 2,191  | 8.4     | 969       | 4.1     | 35          | 10.1    |
| December        | 3,526       | 7.5     | 2,342  | 8.9     | 1,418     | 6.0     | 31          | 8.9     |
| Total residents | 46,762      | 100.0   | 26,191 | 100.0   |           |         | 347         | 100.0   |
| Non-residents   | 269         |         | 351    |         |           |         | 4           |         |
| TOTAL           | 47,031      |         | 26,542 |         | 23,597    | 100.0   | 351         |         |

Note: Based on usual residence, except marriages which are based on event place.  
 Total percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**FIGURE 8**  
**LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS BY MONTH**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1995**



### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 6/FIGURE 8

- The distribution of marriages by month is almost constant from year to year. In 1995, the most popular month to marry was August, with almost one sixth of the year's marriages. The summer months, from May to September, were chosen by more than three fifths of 1995 brides and grooms. January ranked last in popularity for marriages in 1995.
- Live births were distributed almost evenly over the twelve months in 1995. May had the largest number of live births, while December had the fewest. The period from May to September had more than 4,000 live births per month.
- The highest number of deaths in 1995 occurred in January and the smallest number occurred in September.
- In 1995, March had the largest number of stillbirths while October had the smallest number.

### VITAL STATISTICS INFORMATION BOX

## ON A TYPICAL DAY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1995

### 128 LIVE BIRTHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE TO B.C. RESIDENTS:

- 66 males and 62 females were born
- 59 live births involved maternal complications
- 44 babies had perinatal complications
- 25 were cesarean deliveries
- 8 were pre-term
- 7 were low birth weight babies
- 7 were born to teenage mothers
- 3 were multiple births
- 19 stillbirths occurred every 20 days
- 1 was a home birth

### 72 DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE TO B.C. RESIDENTS:

- 39 males and 33 females died
- 26 deaths were due to diseases of the circulatory system including:
  - 19 deaths from heart disease
  - 6 deaths from cerebrovascular diseases
- 19 deaths were due to cancer including:
  - 5 lung cancer
  - 2 colorectal cancer
  - 3 breast cancer every 2 days
- 15 deaths were attributable to tobacco smoking
- 7 deaths were due to diseases of the respiratory system including:
  - 3 deaths from pneumonia/influenza
  - 3 deaths from chronic lung disease
- 5 deaths resulted from accidents and violence including:
  - 1 motor vehicle accident fatality
  - 1 suicide
  - 1 death every 5 days from murder
- 4 deaths were alcohol-related, 1 directly and 3 indirectly due to alcohol
- 5 deaths every 3 days were due to diabetes
- 4 deaths every 5 days were from AIDS/HIV infections
- 4 deaths every 5 days were due to Alzheimer's disease
- 4 deaths every 5 days were drug-induced
- 2 infant deaths occurred every 7 days

### 65 MARRIAGES WERE SOLEMNIZED IN B.C.:

- 35 were civil ceremonies and 30 were performed by religious representatives
- 40 marriages were to couples where both parties were marrying for the first time
- 1 marriage every 4 days was to a couple where both parties were teenagers