

An aerial photograph of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The image shows the city's dense urban core, including the downtown skyline with numerous skyscrapers, and the surrounding residential areas. The city is situated along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, with the Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River visible. In the background, the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Range are visible under a clear blue sky. A solid blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Vancouver

City Social Indicators Profile 2020

Social Indicators and Trends: City of Vancouver Profile 2020

City of Vancouver: Highlights	1	Places of Birth.....	39
Introduction	2	Demographics of Immigrant Populations	40
Place and Context.....	2	Immigrant Admission and Citizenship.....	41
Purpose: Toward Social Sustainability	2	Generations in Canada	42
Scope: City of Neighbourhoods.....	3	Activity Limitations and Disabilities	43
Methods and Data Sources	4	Demographics of Activity Limitations.....	44
Understanding Census Data.....	4	Spirituality and Religion.....	45
Gaps and Limitations	4	Economy and Equity.....	46
Census Coverage.....	5	Income Poverty	48
Other Data Sources	5	Equity and Poverty	49
Locating the City of Vancouver	6	Income Inequity.....	50
Growth and Change.....	8	Equity and Income Distribution	51
Population Trends.....	10	Individual Income	52
Age Profile	11	Equity and Individual Income.....	53
Age Groups.....	12	Family Income.....	54
Short-Term Population Growth	13	Household Income	55
Mobility.....	14	Housing Costs.....	56
Housing Types.....	15	Labour Force.....	57
Housing Size.....	16	Equity and Labour Force Outcomes.....	58
Housing Tenure.....	17	Employment Security.....	59
New Housing.....	18	Journey to Work.....	60
Marital Status	19	Mode of Transportation to Work.....	61
Household Types.....	20	Equity and Transportation	62
Household Size.....	21	Industries and Occupations	63
Senior Households	22	Industry Trends	64
Family Types.....	23	Equity and Industries	65
Family Size and Children at Home.....	24	Gender and the Workforce	66
Lone Parent-Led Families	25	Formal Education	67
Identity and Diversity	26	Equity and Formal Education	68
Cultural Origin and Identity.....	28	Fields and Locations of Study	69
Indigenous Identity.....	29	Community Health.....	70
Demographics of Indigenous Populations.....	30	Early Childhood Development.....	72
Racial Identity	31	Middle-Years Development	73
Trends in Racialized Populations	32	Health Conditions and Overall Perceptions.....	74
Demographics of Racialized Populations	33	Preventive Care and Healthy Behaviours	75
Language Summary	34	Connections, Resilience and Built Environments	76
Language Knowledge.....	35	Access to Services	77
Mother Tongue.....	36	Life Expectancy.....	78
Home Language.....	37	Summary and Further Research.....	79
Immigration	38	Get Involved	79
		Endnotes.....	80

About This Profile

The information presented in this publication has been assembled by staff in the Social Policy and Projects Division, Arts, Culture and Community Services at the City of Vancouver, in consultation with staff in other City departments and community partners. Our thanks to all who have provided feedback in the development of this series. Questions, comments and suggestions may be directed to:

Social Policy and Projects, City of Vancouver
501-111 West Hastings Street Vancouver BC V6B 1H4

Email: socialpolicyresearch@vancouver.ca

Statistical information in this document is derived from a number of sources noted in the text. These data providers are not responsible for the use or presentation of information in this document or any errors arising from its use. Data from the 2016 Census of Population and previous iterations of the national census program, including custom data accessed by the City of Vancouver, is provided by Statistics Canada under license terms viewable online at: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/reference/licence>.

This document contains a number of charts and maps that are not accessible to readers using screen reading technology. Please contact the Social Policy and Projects Division if you require assistance accessing information presented in this document.

CITY OF VANCOUVER: HIGHLIGHTS



The City of Vancouver is situated on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations.



A denser housing stock than neighbouring municipalities, with more diversity of tenure and built form.



An aging population.



A decline in families and children, likely in response to affordability pressures.



An important urban Indigenous population growing faster than the non-Indigenous population.



A culturally and linguistically diverse population, but with this diversity lessening over time.



High poverty rates but rapidly increasing median incomes, suggesting increased polarization and a risk of displacement.



High housing costs continuing to exceed affordability benchmarks.



High rates of use of sustainable transportation modes.



A workforce concentrated in growing creative and financial sectors, as well as service industries.



A highly educated city with a growing rate of post-secondary credentials.



Gaps and vulnerabilities in early childhood development.



Inequities in health, well-being, belonging and social connections.

INTRODUCTION

Place and Context

The City of Vancouver occupies the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) nations. Its vision as a City of Reconciliation is to:

- Form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community, including key agencies;
- Incorporate a First Nations and Urban Indigenous perspective into our work and decisions; and
- Provide services that benefit members of the First Nations and Urban Indigenous community.

This framework challenges the city to critically engage with its own identity and understanding of jurisdiction, and to recognize that the boundaries and political institutions of the city are not the only way of understanding this place or shaping its future.

Within the paradigm of Vancouver's administrative boundaries, the City of Vancouver also has an unusual status among large cities in Canada, in that it is just one of the 21 municipalities in Metro Vancouver. The formal jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver only extends to four percent of the land area and a quarter of the population in this continuous urban region. The City of Vancouver must therefore engage with neighbouring municipalities and the regional government, Metro Vancouver, to address regional challenges.

The data presented in these profiles uses the City of Vancouver's boundaries as a basis for comparison, but that is not the only way of knowing. Readers are encouraged to access regional trends, to consider alternative comparisons, and to critically interrogate how understanding the city and its neighbourhoods can better reflect their location on the unceded homelands of nations whose presence long predates current local governing institutions.

Purpose: Toward Social Sustainability

The City of Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy is its policy framework for a socially sustainable city. It includes a vision of A Healthy City for All, and principles, goals, targets and actions to work toward this vision. The City's definition of sustainability includes community participation, and its definition of social sustainability includes recognizing and uplifting individual and community capacity for learning and self-development.

This series of neighbourhood profiles is intended to build knowledge that helps people and communities work collaboratively toward equity, social sustainability, health and well-being. They may be used to assist with collaborative planning, grant writing, facilitating dialogue and more.

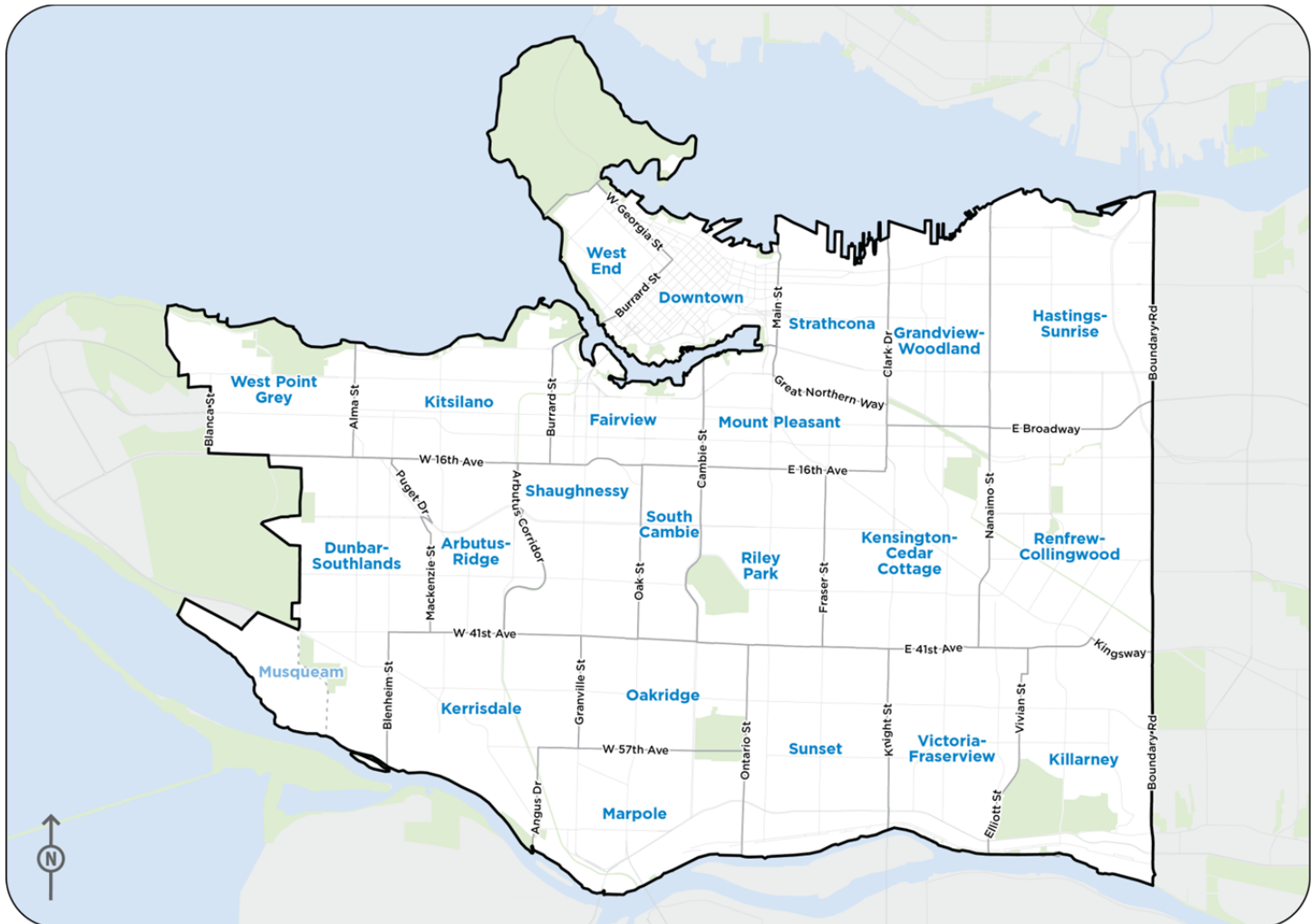
Our city is changing, and facing important local and global challenges for social sustainability. Vancouver is renowned worldwide for its beautiful natural setting; its integrated approach to planning that creates livable, amenity-rich spaces; and its leadership in reducing its ecological footprint. Vancouver is a global urban destination; its diversity and physical environment are models for other cities.

But these successes are tempered by persistent inequities and a precarious future for many people living here. The cost of living, particularly housing, leaves many people questioning their ability to stay in the city. The city's diversity is challenged as Vancouver becomes less accessible and inclusive for many people. Systems of colonization and other forms of oppression persist. Loneliness and disengagement are pressing concerns in the city. Too many people experience poverty and stigma. Crises such as the current epidemic of drug overdoses in the city are just the visible parts of more profound social policy issues.

While many aspects of Vancouver create a healthy city for those who are able to participate in it, it is not yet a healthy city for all. The social determinants of health set out in the goals of the Healthy City Strategy profoundly shape the health and well-being of Vancouver's people, communities and environments.



Scope: City of Neighbourhoods



The map above shows the 22 local planning areas used by the City of Vancouver. These areas, identified in the 1960s, are the closest concept Vancouver has to “official” neighbourhoods, and there is a wealth of current and historical population and infrastructure data available for these areas. However, it is important to be aware of other neighbourhood definitions and boundaries.

Some people in Vancouver may prefer to identify their neighbourhood with reference to a major street, even if it is also used as a boundary between two local areas. Examples of this include Fraser Street, which may be a stronger source of identity than Riley Park or Kensington-Cedar Cottage.

The Downtown Eastside (DTES) warrants particular attention: the neighbourhoods in the DTES extend through portions of the Downtown and Strathcona local areas but do not line up with their boundaries. Both the DTES as a whole and the neighbourhoods within it—including Chinatown, Gastown, Victory Square, Oppenheimer and Strathcona—are important areas to study to understand social trends in the city. Ongoing planning programs within the DTES will access more specific and focused census data, but unfortunately this is not available for the entire scope of these profiles.

As well, the local areas established in the 1960s exclude newer neighbourhoods, such as Coal Harbour, Yaletown, Southeast False Creek, East Fraserlands and others. There are also important areas where city planning has resulted in redevelopment in portions of local areas or overlapping corridors between them.

Finally, the Musqueam community in the southwest corner of the city is included within the boundaries of the City of Vancouver, but is administratively self-governing. Statistical data for Musqueam is included in the Dunbar-Southlands local area, but it is not included in recent census information published for the City of Vancouver census subdivision. This census profile generally adds data from Musqueam to the numbers presented for the City of Vancouver, except when comparing the city across Canada.

Readers are encouraged to consider how more nuanced data and other definitions of neighbourhood and city boundaries can add to the information presented here.

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

Our understanding of the social landscape of Vancouver and its neighbourhoods is informed by data. This series of profiles provides information on demographic trends in each of City of Vancouver's 22 local planning areas, based on Statistics Canada's census program and other surveys that provide neighbourhood-level estimates. This includes a wide range of topics on individuals, households and families, including demographic trends, social identities, economic indicators and community health indicators. Where possible, these profiles provide information on trends to illustrate change over time.

Understanding Census Data

Statistics Canada administers the census program every five years; this profile uses data from the 2016 Census of Population as its present day. More local knowledge of change since 2016 can help triangulate trends and identify more recent change: in particular, the knowledge held by non-profit neighbourhood organizations and service providers can provide valuable information.

Census information is collected using two different types of questionnaire. First, there is a short form, administered to 100% of the population, asking basic demographic questions such as age, gender, marital status, household composition and linguistic identity. The numbers from this form are the best available statistical data, with almost the entire population directly covered.

Second, more in-depth data on topics such as Indigenous identity, cultural origin, immigration, housing, employment and education are derived from a long-form questionnaire administered to a sample of the population. In 2016, one in four private households received the long form. Information from the long form therefore consists of estimates created by extrapolating from the sample.

Readers should be aware that the approach to asking the long-form questions has changed over time. Specifically:

- In 2006 and prior censuses the long form was mandatory to complete and administered to 20% of the population (one in five households).
- In 2011 the mandatory long-form census was cancelled by the federal government, so Statistics Canada administered a voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) to 33% of the population (one in three private households).
- In 2016 the federal government restored the mandatory long-form census. The long form was administered to 25% of the population (one in four private households).

Readers should be particularly cautious using voluntary survey data from the 2011 NHS; in cases where 2011 NHS data shows a different trend than 2006 and 2016 census data it may be a result of non-response bias rather than true change in the neighbourhood. The chart at right shows non-response rates in the 2011 NHS and 2016 census.

Over time, Statistics Canada is making greater use of administrative data rather than questionnaires. In particular, effective with the 2016 Census of Population, income data is collected solely by linking census questionnaires to administrative data from income tax returns. This makes the data collected in 2016 more valid and reliable than ever before, but it also means that it may not be directly comparable with previous years.

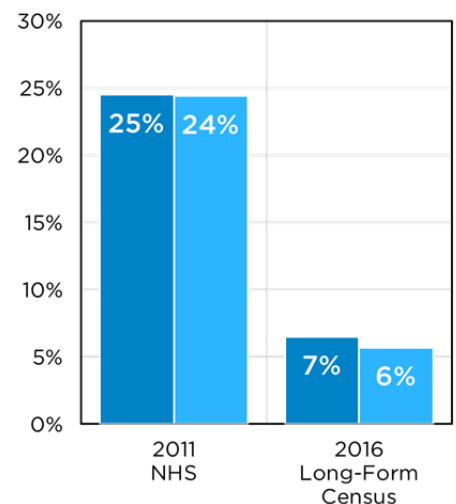
Gaps and Limitations

Quantitative data sources are important tools for building knowledge and understanding. However, they also leave a lot of information out. Particular considerations in using quantitative data include:

- People's identities are multi-dimensional, intersectional and subjective, but any method of quantifying identities at a population level must impose categories. Creating these categories is neither neutral nor value-free, and risk being reductive, essentializing, stigmatizing and exclusionary. For example, the census questionnaire only asks about sex, not gender, and it only provides the options of "male" or "female".

Global Non-Response Rate, 2011-2016

■ City of Vancouver ■ Metro Vancouver



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and 2016 Census of Population

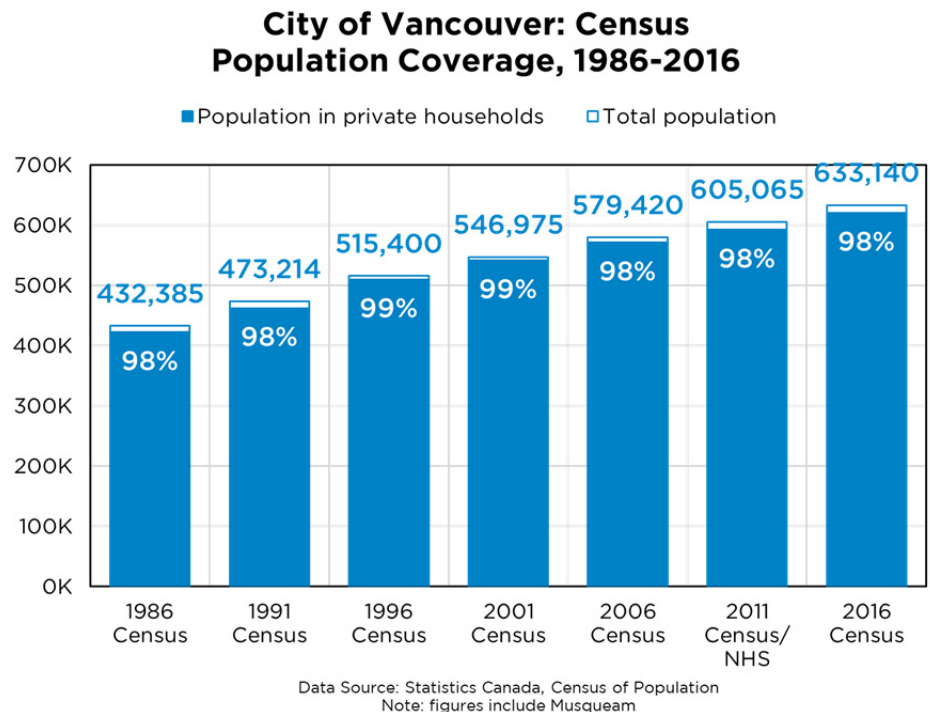
- There are a number of important topics not included in the census, such as ability, sexual orientation, cost of living, wealth, health or perceived well-being. While other surveys fill some of these gaps, they do not offer data as robust as the census and few offer local area-specific data.
- Ensuring cultural appropriateness and safety in surveys is a work in progress. Although Statistics Canada ensures confidentiality of responses, the census still represents an agency of the federal government asking people detailed questions about their identities, housing arrangements, employment and more. In addition, census and survey topics and concepts often arise from colonial systems and do not reflect Indigenous conceptions of identity, family, well-being and community.

Readers are encouraged to supplement the census with other data sources, and to value the knowledge of people whose identities and lived experiences can offer a more complete picture than a statistical understanding of the city.

Census Coverage

Although the census is the most comprehensive dataset for understanding Canada's population, not everyone is included. People experiencing homelessness are, in many cases, not covered. The changing classification of some dwellings, notably single-room occupancy (SRO) units, means that they are not counted as private households and therefore not included in any of the long-form estimates. Enumeration of secondary suites in some housing types is a perennial challenge for Statistics Canada and many residents report either not receiving the census at all or having their landlord complete it unknowingly on their behalf.

In the City of Vancouver and Musqueam, the 2016 census counted 633,140 residents, 98% of which were housed in private households.



Other Data Sources

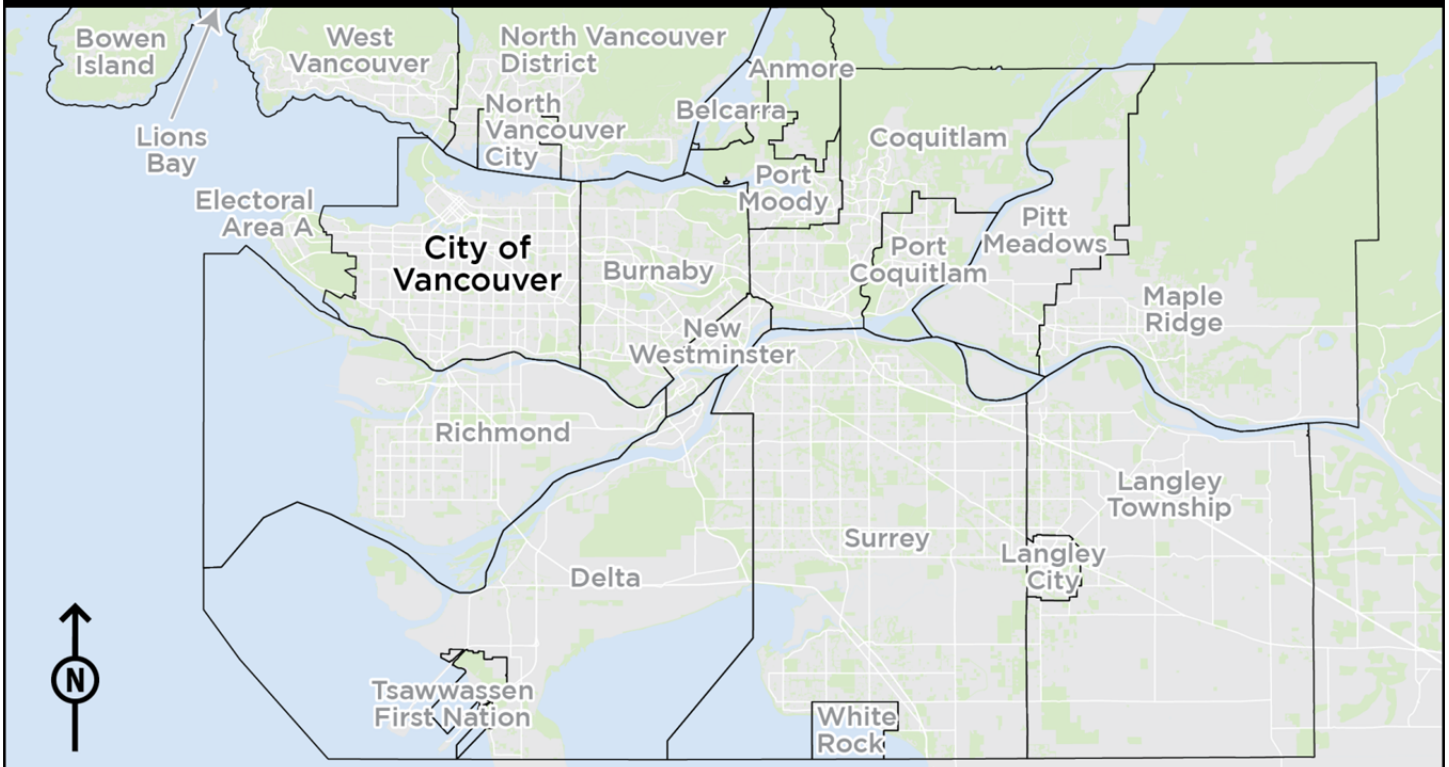
The City of Vancouver is a member of the Community Data Program, a Canada-wide network that provides access to custom city- and neighbourhood-level tabulations from the census and other national data sources. Many of the disaggregated indicators for equity-seeking groups are provided using datasets accessed through this program. More information is available online at: <http://communitydata.ca>.

The Community Health chapter also uses data from other sources that provide neighbourhood-level data:

- The UBC Human Early Learning Partnership conducts research into the vulnerability and assets of children and youth across British Columbia, including the Early Development Instrument, which is a survey completed by kindergarten teachers; and the Middle-Years Development Instrument, which is a self-assessment completed by children and youth in grade 4 and grade 7. More information is available online at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca>.
- The My Health My Community Survey, conducted by Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities, includes many indicators relating to perceived health and well-being, social connections and more topics. This voluntary survey was conducted in 2013-2014 and will be repeated in the near future. More information is available online at: <http://myhealthmycommunity.org>.
- The City of Vancouver procured a survey in 2017 to understand perceptions of access to community, social and health services across the city.
- The BC Vital Statistics Agency provides key indicators on population and life expectancy estimates.

LOCATING THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

Municipalities in the Metro Vancouver Region



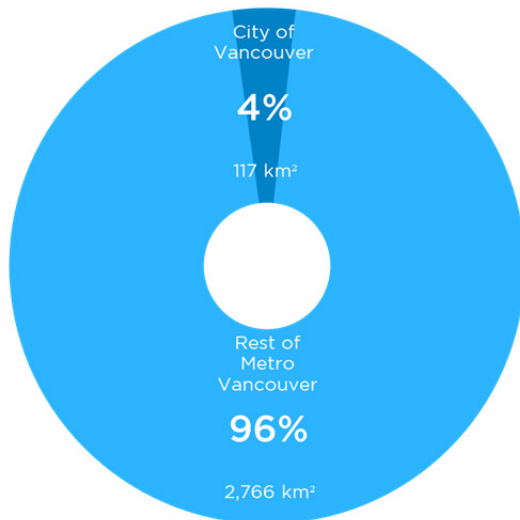
Twenty Largest Municipalities in Canada by Population, 2016



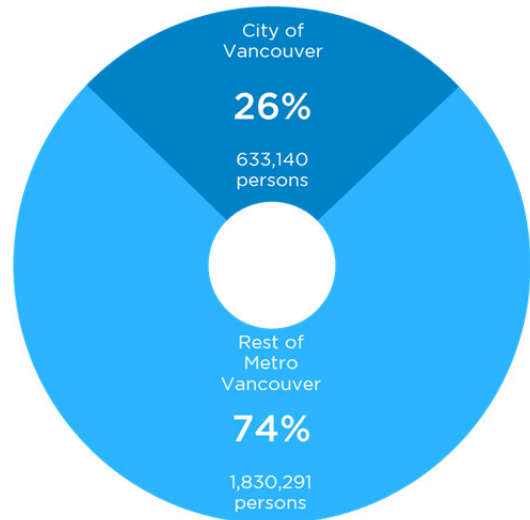
SHARE OF THE REGION

The City of Vancouver occupies 4% of Metro Vancouver's land area, though the region contains large areas of protected agricultural, conservation and watershed lands that support Vancouver's population and infrastructure. The City of Vancouver, including the Musqueam community, houses 26% of the region's population of 2.5 million people. The city has a larger share of the region's housing stock, with 30% of the private households counted in Metro Vancouver in the City of Vancouver. Vancouver plays a particularly important role in providing diverse housing types, with 43% of the region's apartment stock, and 43% of rental housing each located in the city. And the city has disproportionate importance in the region's economy, with 34% of Metro Vancouver's jobs (with a usual workplace indicated) located in the core city.

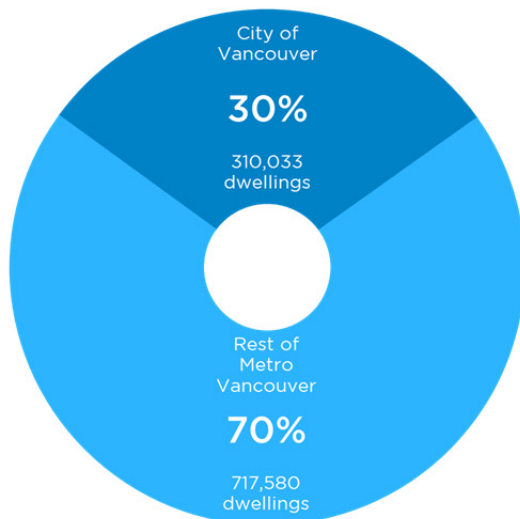
Land Area



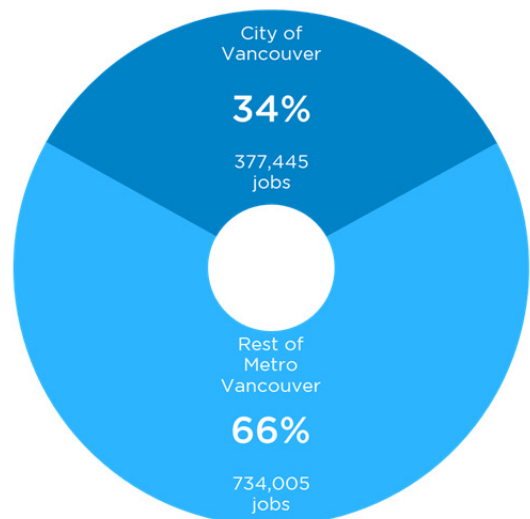
Population



Housing Units

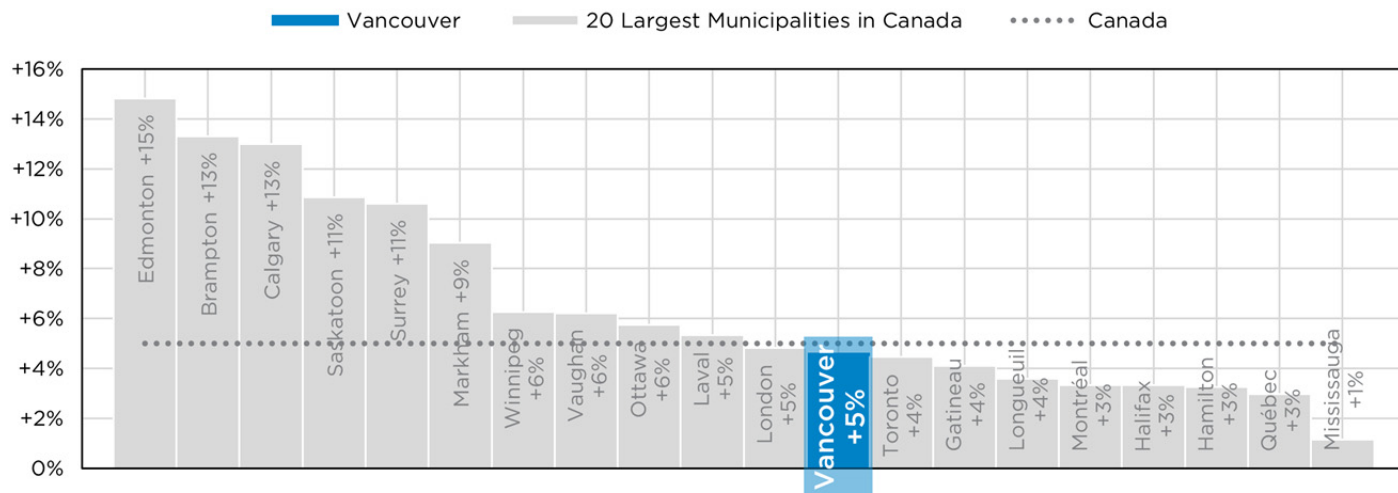


Jobs in Area

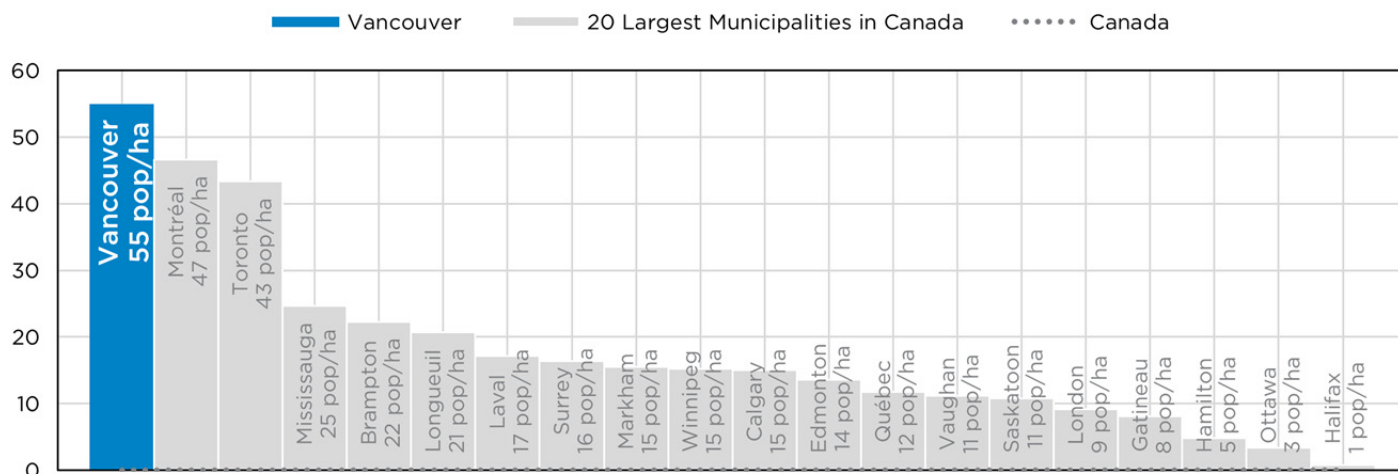


GROWTH AND CHANGE

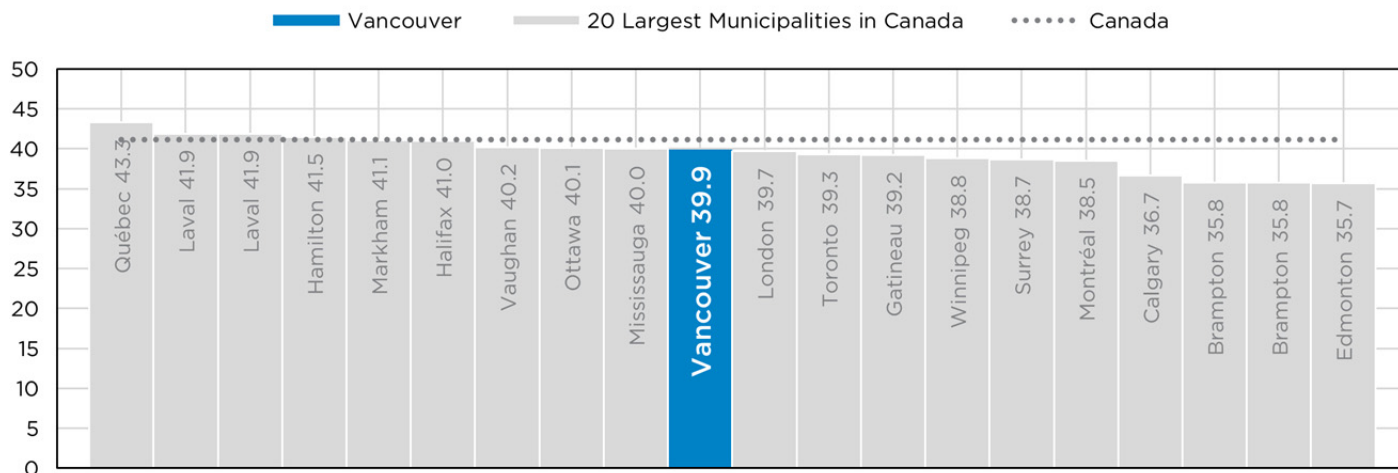
Population Change, 2011-2016



Population Density, 2016

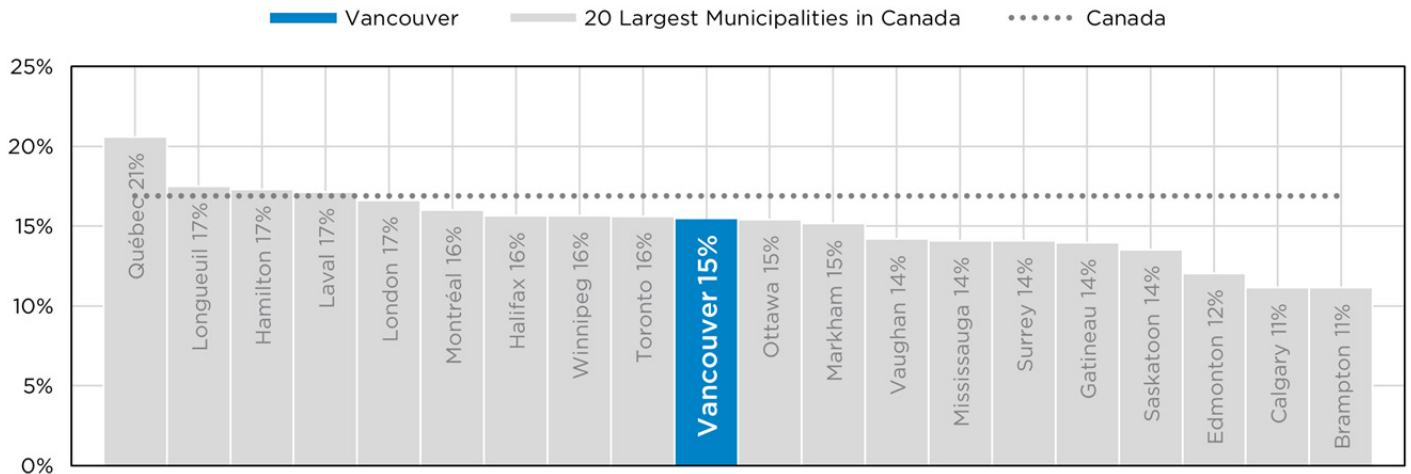


Median Age, 2016

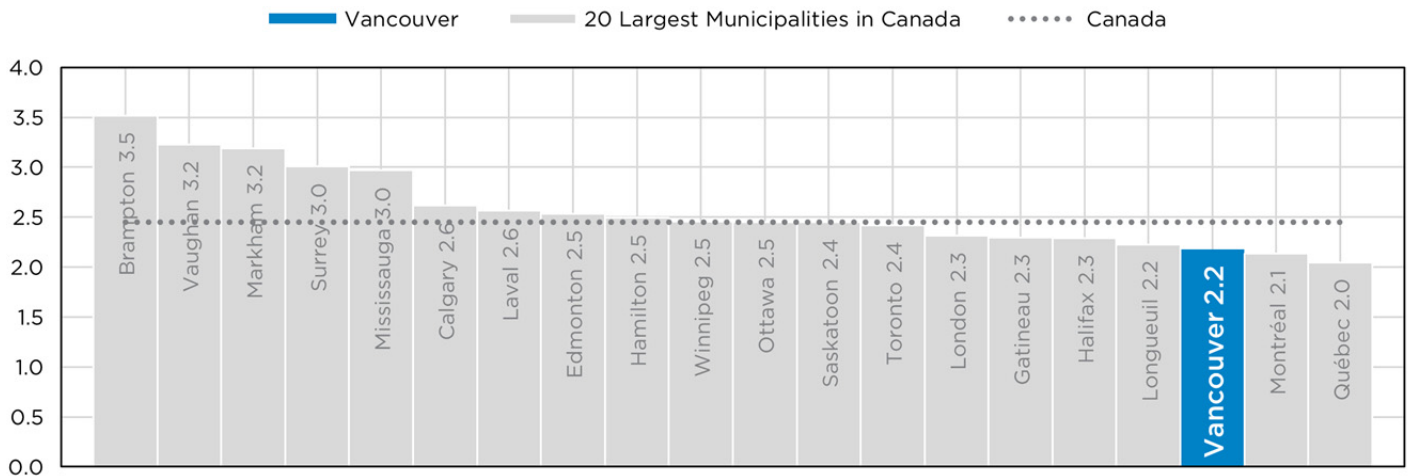


NATIONAL COMPARISONS

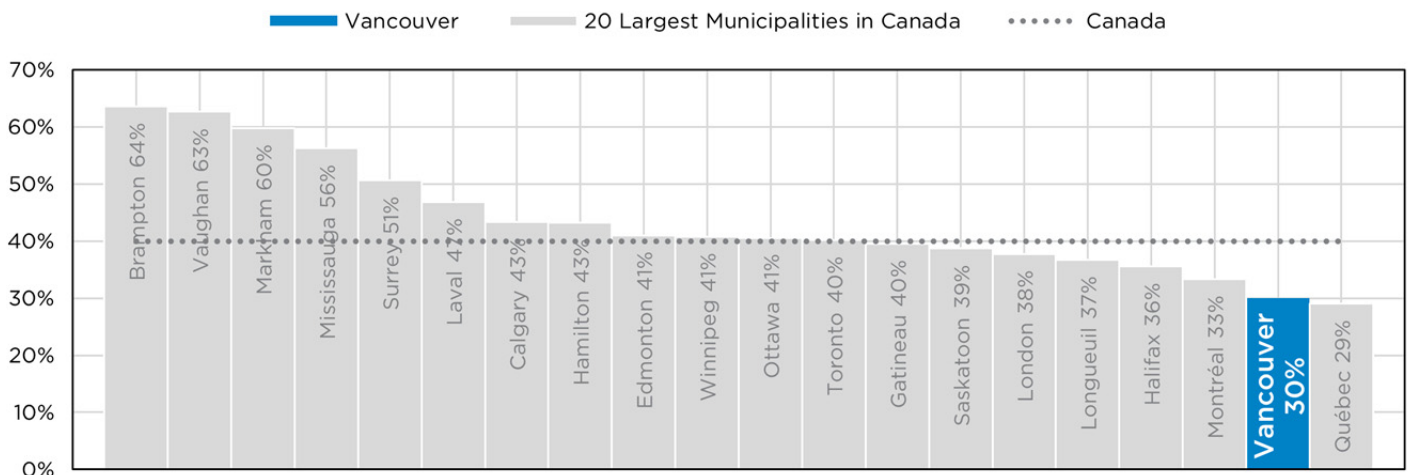
Population Age 65 or Older, 2016



Average Household Size, 2016



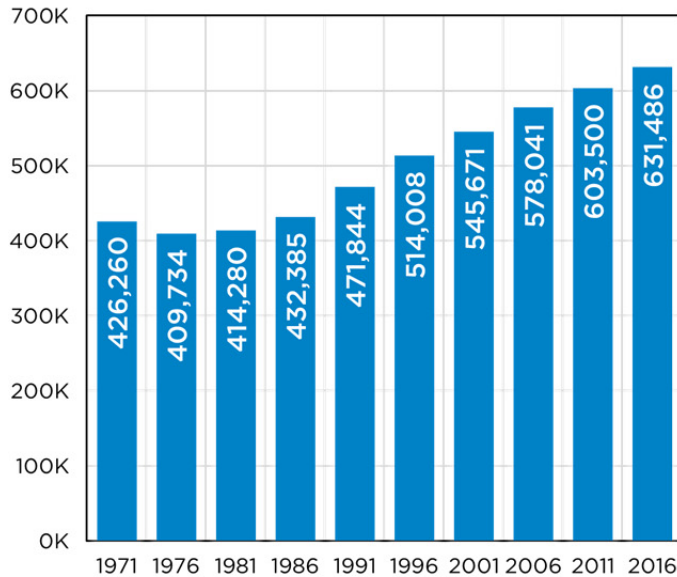
Estimated Households with Children at Home, 2016



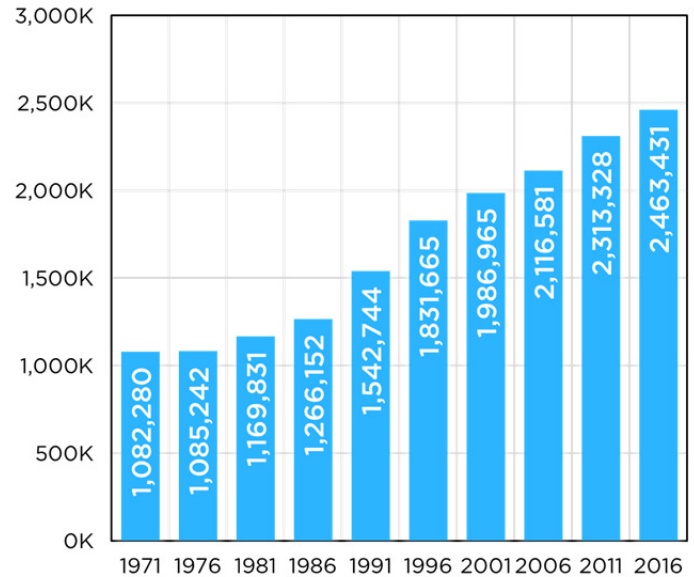
Population Trends

The 2016 census counted 631,486 persons in the City of Vancouver census subdivision; another 1,654 live at Musqueam. The City of Vancouver has grown steadily, though not as quickly as the overall Metro Vancouver region.

**City of Vancouver:
Total Population, 1971-2016**

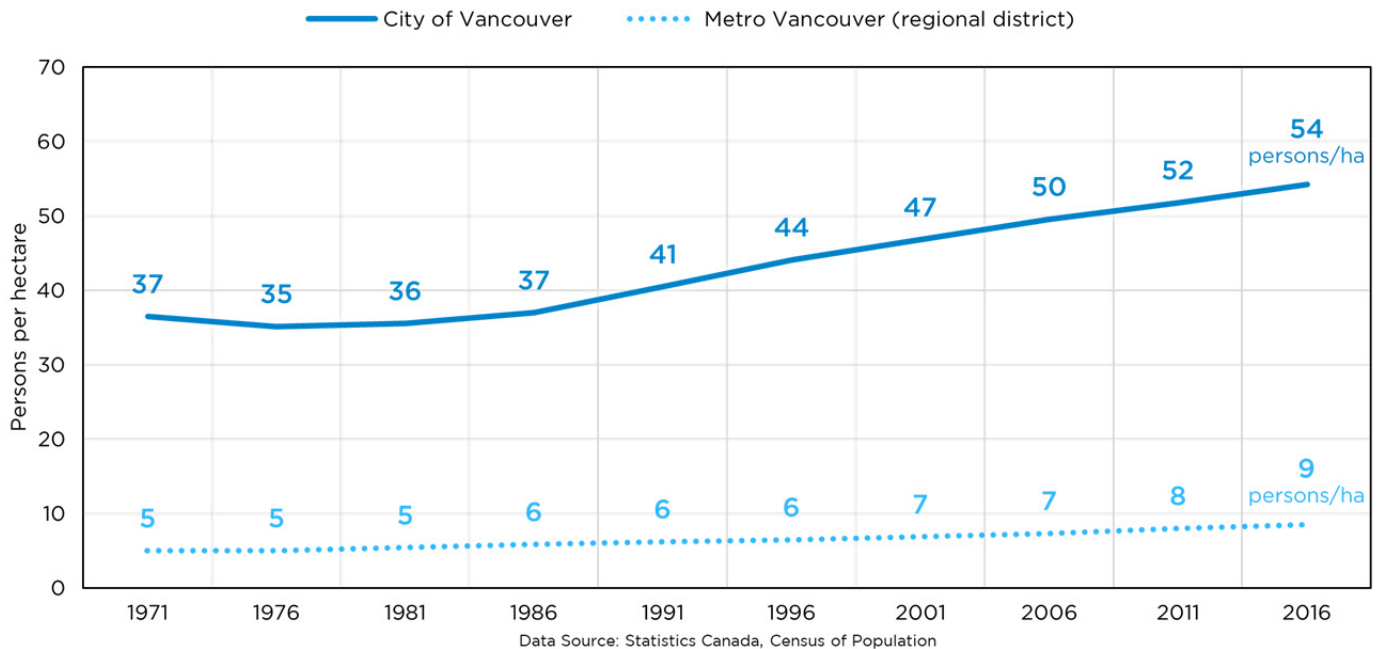


**Metro Vancouver:
Total Population, 1971-2016**



As of 2016, the City of Vancouver's population density was 54 persons per hectare, six times the density of the entire region. As noted earlier, though, the region includes large areas used for conservation, agriculture or other unpopulated uses. Based on administrative boundaries, Vancouver is the densest city in Metro Vancouver, followed by the cities of New Westminster, North Vancouver and White Rock.

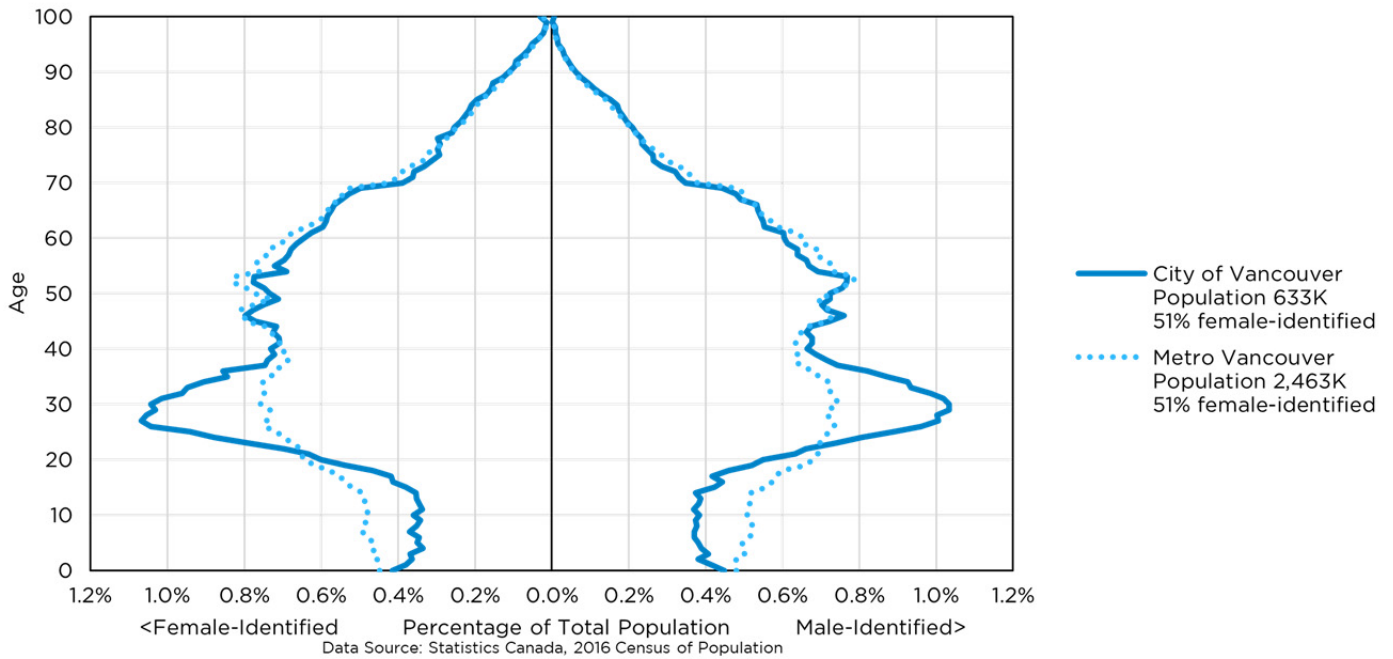
Population Density, 1971-2016



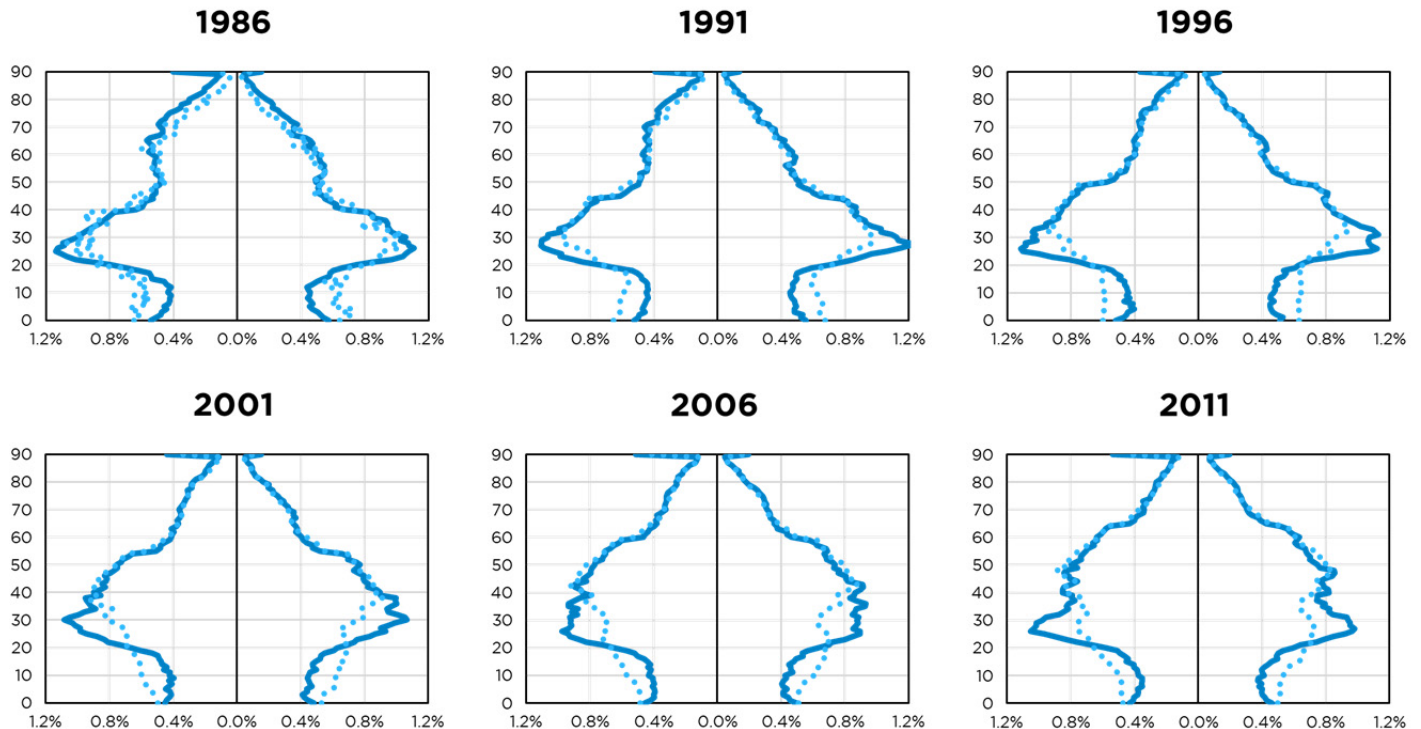
Age Profile

The City of Vancouver's age profile is distinct for its relatively small population of children and youth: compared to the region the City of Vancouver has proportionally fewer people under 20 and more people between age 20 and 40. In both the city and the region, 51% of the area's population is female-identified.¹

Population Distribution by Age and Sex, 2016



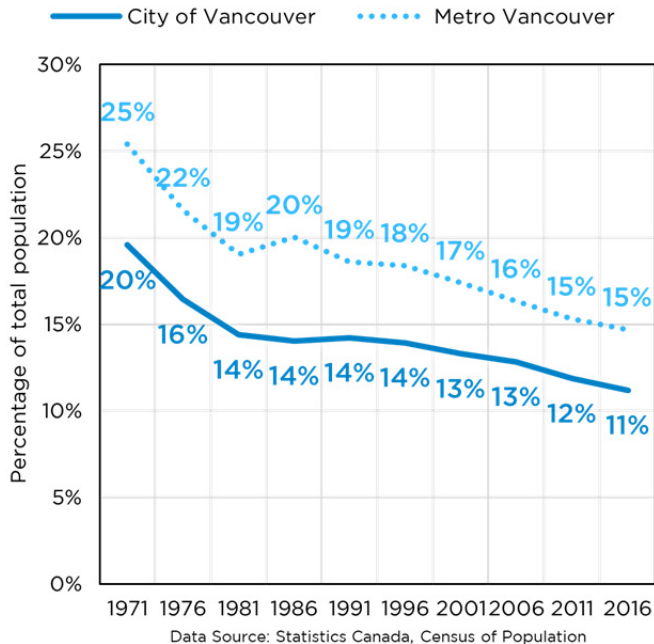
The city's age distribution has been fairly consistent over time. The biggest visible change in the graph below is an aging population, as the baby boom generation crosses into retirement age. Children are making up a smaller share of the city's population over time.



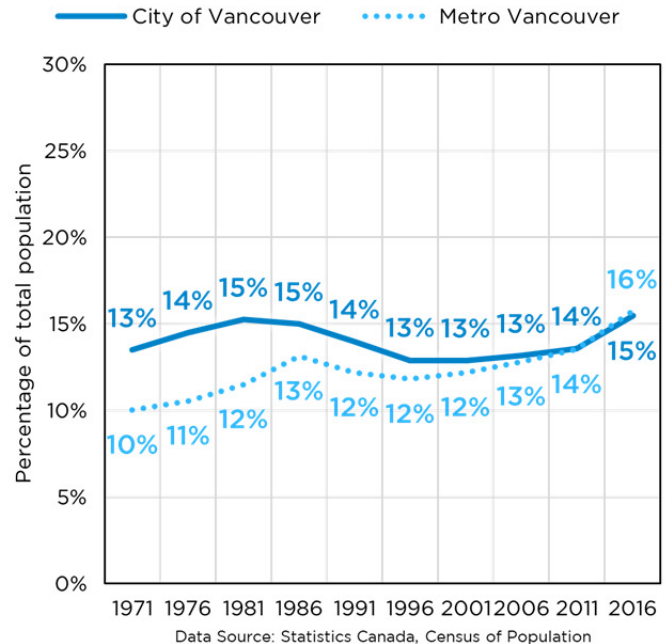
Age Groups

As of 2016, both the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver have more seniors (age 65 and over) than children (age to 14). From 1996 to 2016 the absolute number of seniors in the city increased by 46%, double the rate of growth in the overall population. The absolute number of children in the City of Vancouver declined by 2% over this period.

Share of Pop. 0-14, 1971-2016

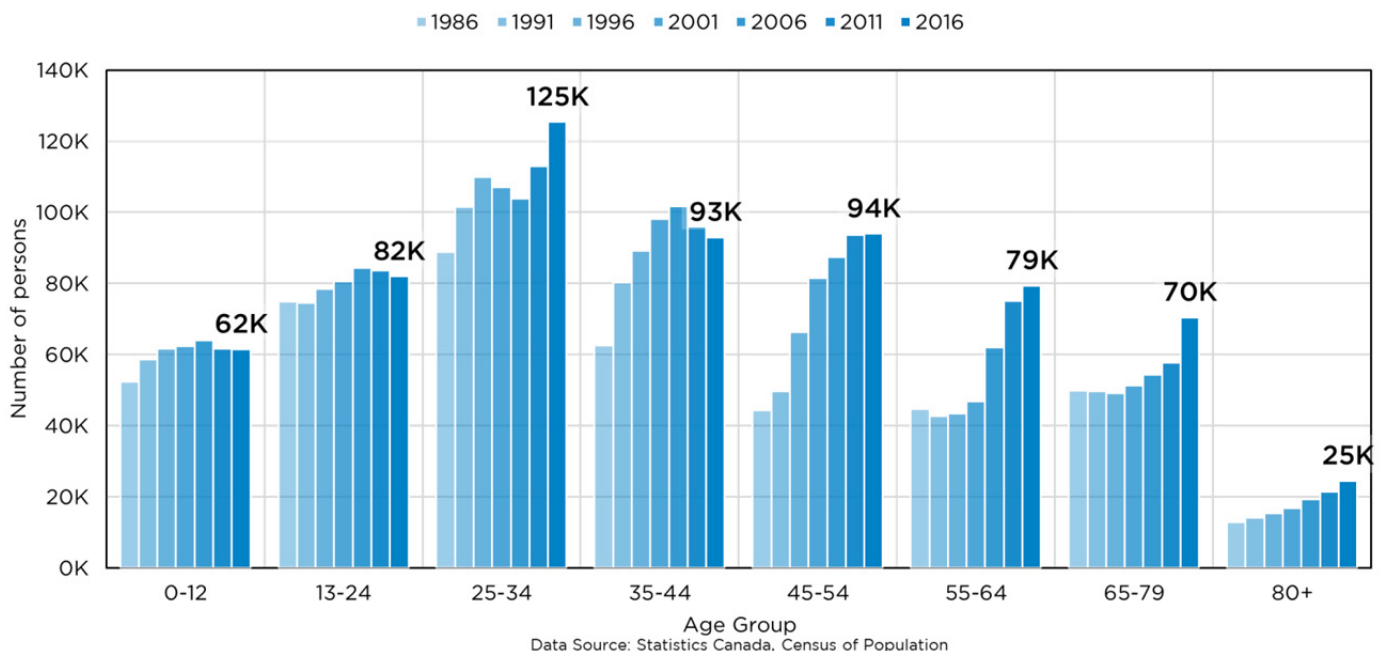


Share of Pop. 65+, 1971-2016



The graph below provides population counts by age group over a 30 year time period. The City of Vancouver is gaining young adults (age 25-34) and older adults and seniors (55 and over) while losing children, youth and adults from age 35 to 44.

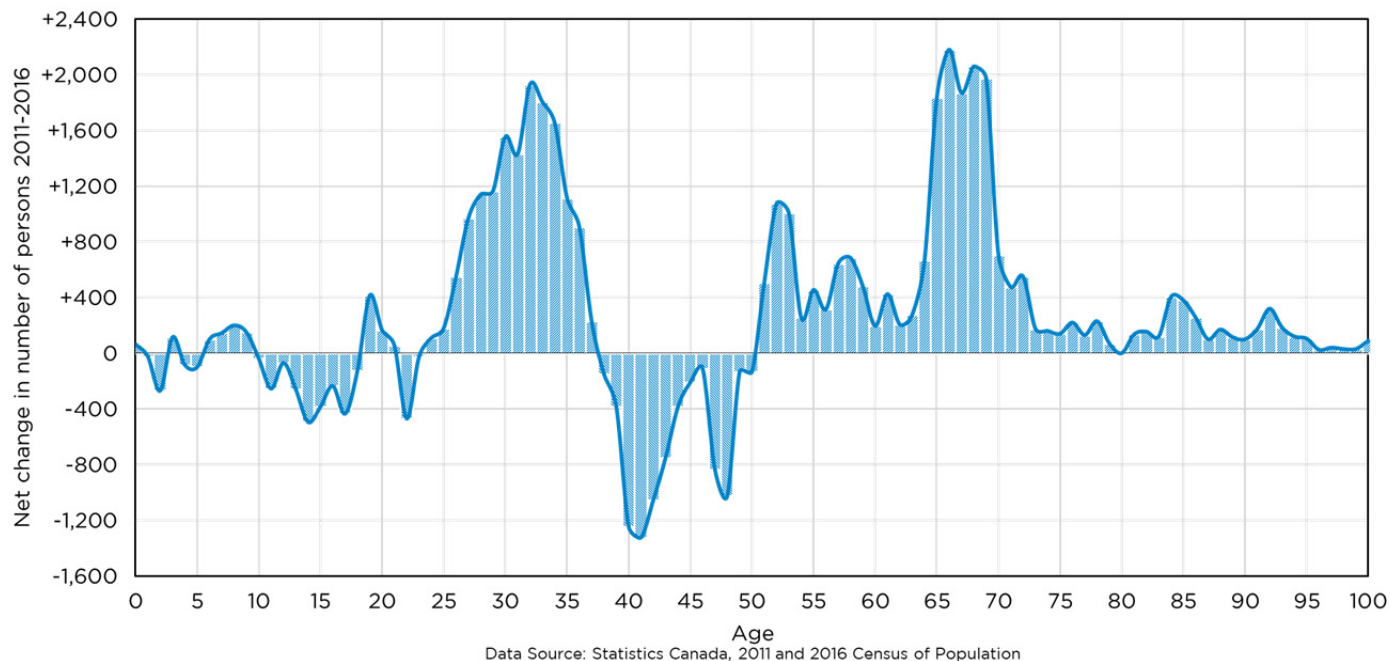
City of Vancouver: Population by Age Groups 1986-2016



Short-Term Population Growth

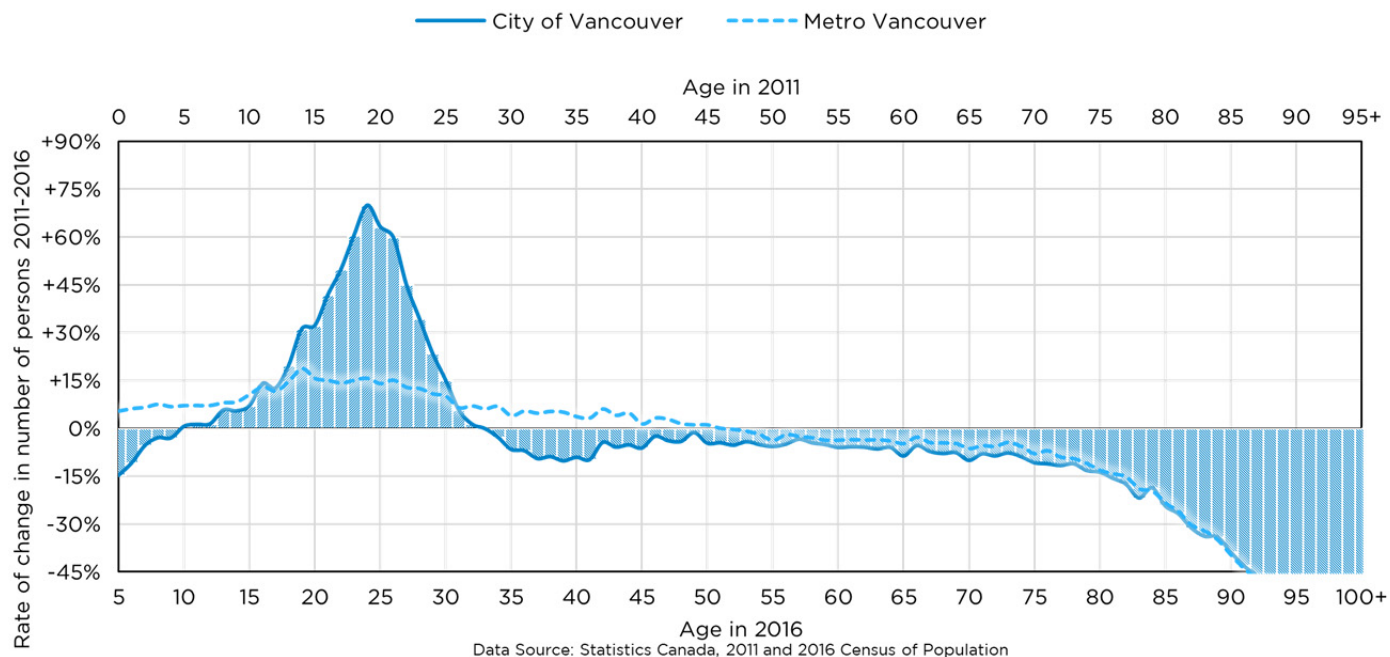
The graphs on this page provide a more detailed focus on population change from the 2011 to 2016 census. This first graph shows net population growth or loss by age in the City of Vancouver: 2016 saw the largest absolute growth in young adults (25-34) and seniors (particularly ages 65-70). There were about 1,200 fewer 40-year-olds in Vancouver in 2016 compared to 2011.

City of Vancouver: Net Population Growth 2011-2016



The graph below shows cohort dynamics: that is, the life stage at which people entered or departed the city. From 2011 to 2016, Vancouver gained people as they became age 13 to 32, and lost people in other age groups. There were about 15% fewer children age 5 in 2016 than there were newborns in 2011.

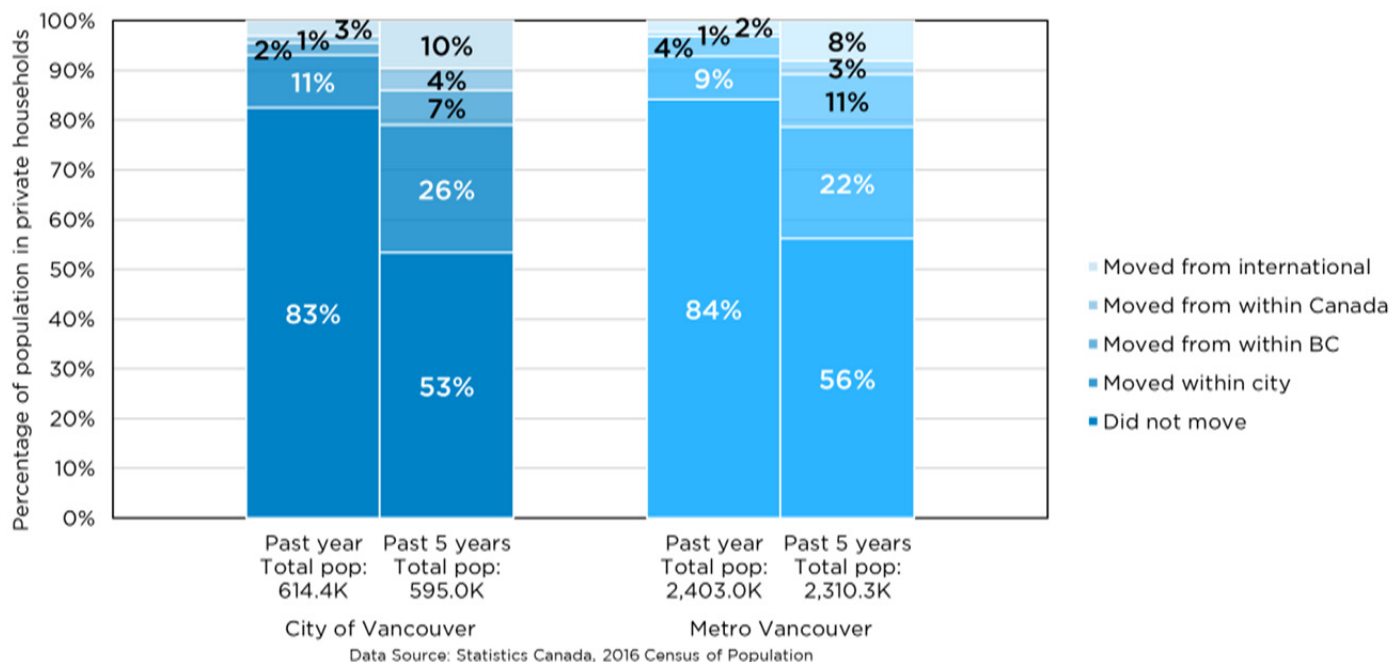
Rate of Change in Population Cohorts, 2011-2016



Mobility

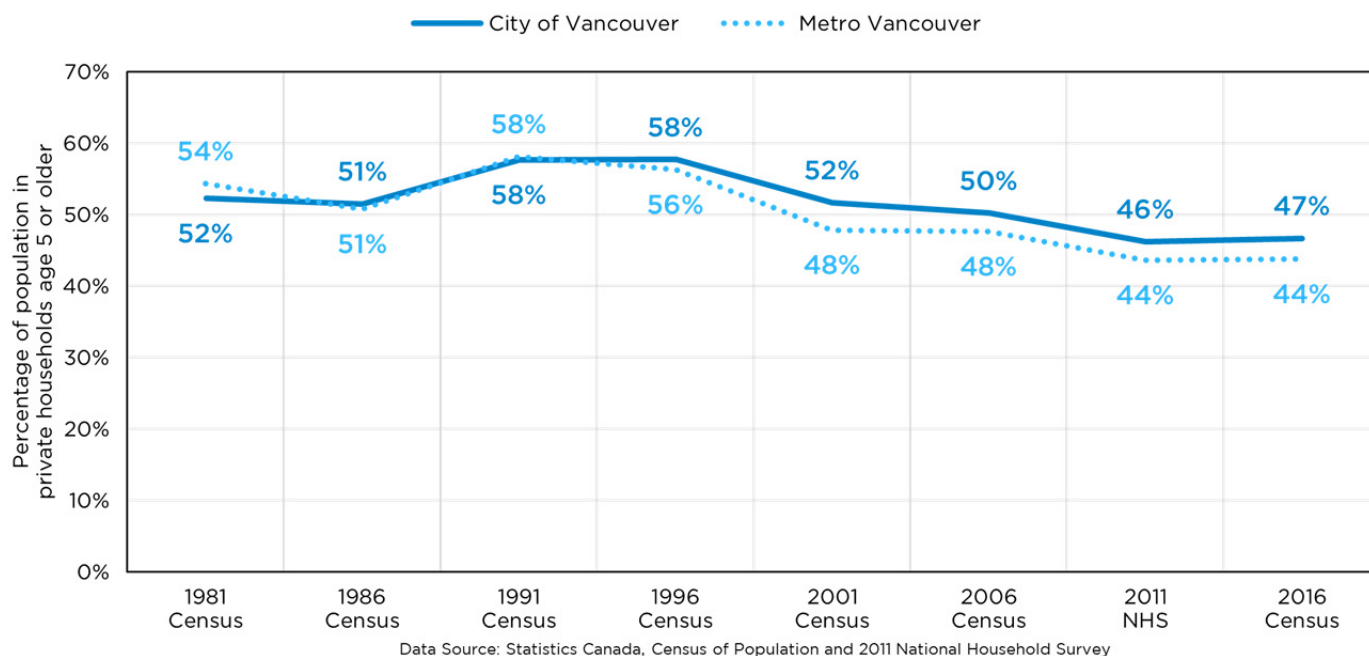
In the year prior to the 2016 census, 17% of City of Vancouver residents had moved, mostly within the city. Over five years, 47% of residents had moved. Both rates are slightly larger than for the region overall.

Population by Mobility Status, 2016



The rate of Vancouver residents who had moved to their current residence in the previous five years has been consistently higher than elsewhere in the region since 1996. The rate has fluctuated over time but generally decreased since 1996.

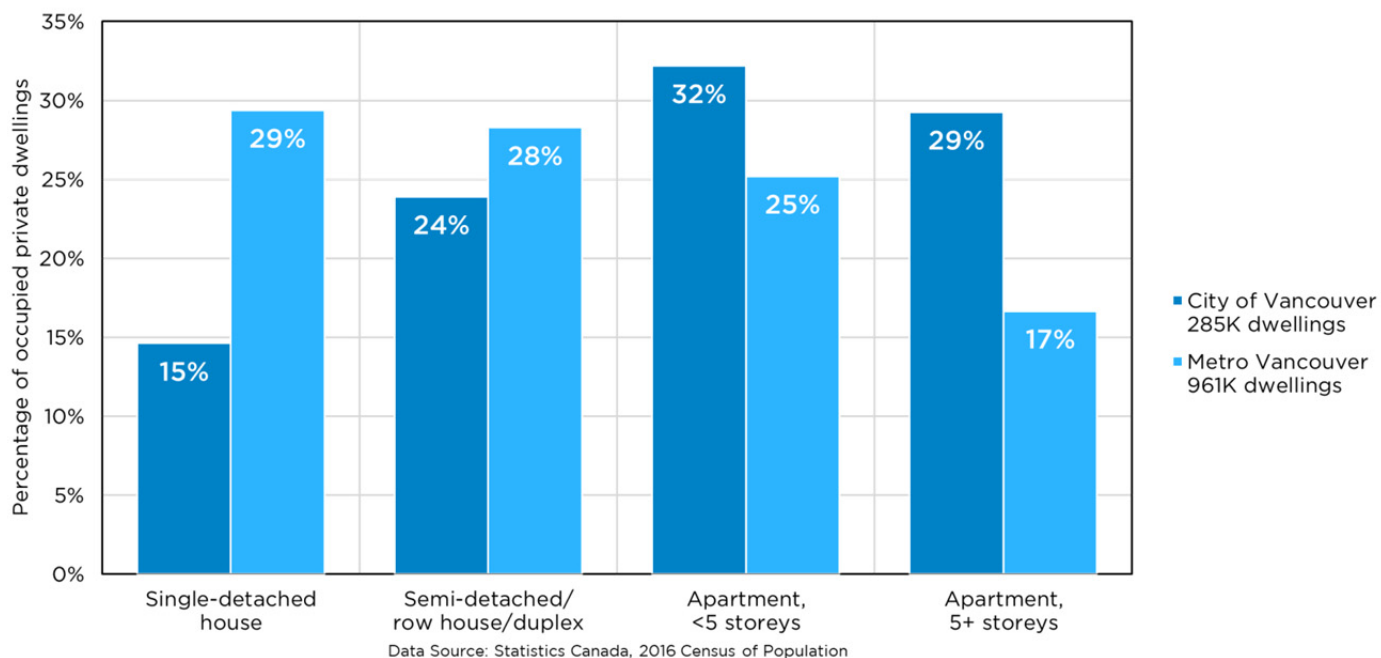
Percentage of Population that Moved in Prev. Five Years, 1981-2016



Housing Types

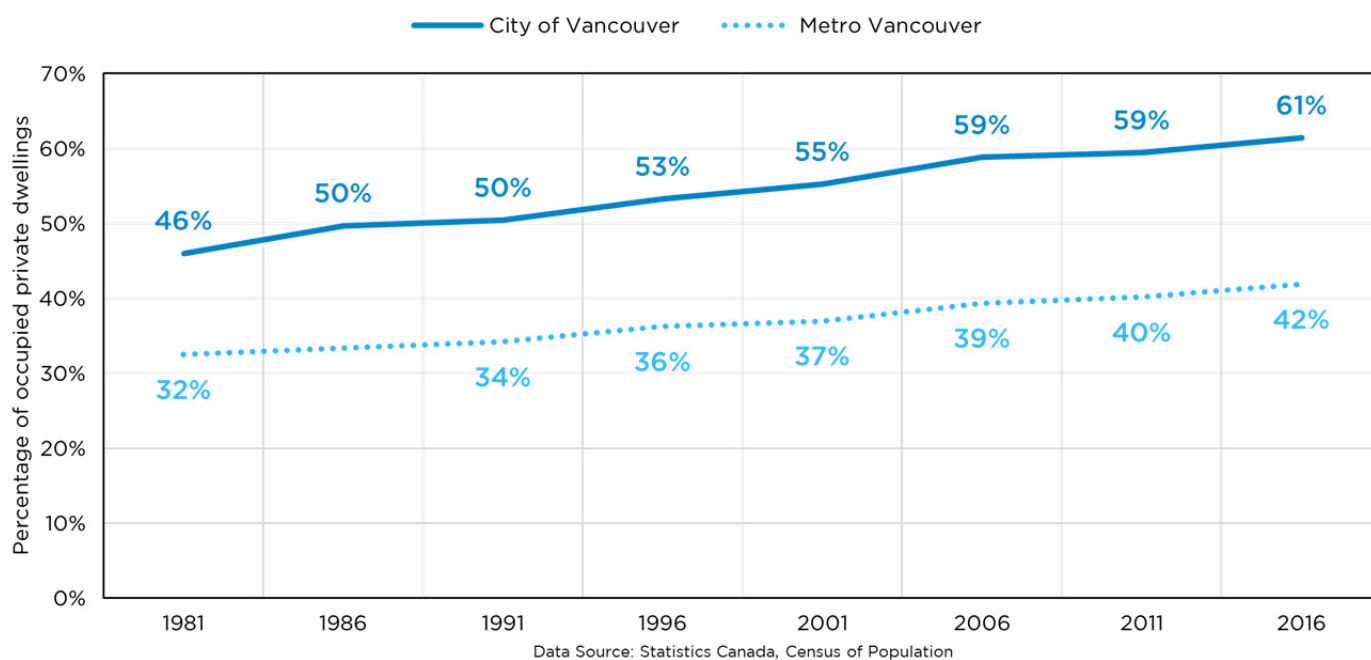
The City of Vancouver has a much larger proportion of housing in higher-density forms than the rest of the region, particularly apartments.² 15% of the city's households are in single-detached houses, with about a quarter in semi-detached or row house units and the balance in apartments.

Dwellings by Structural Type, 2016



Over 60% of occupied dwellings in the City of Vancouver are in apartments, compared to 42% across all of Metro Vancouver.³ This proportion has been growing in both the city and the region over time.

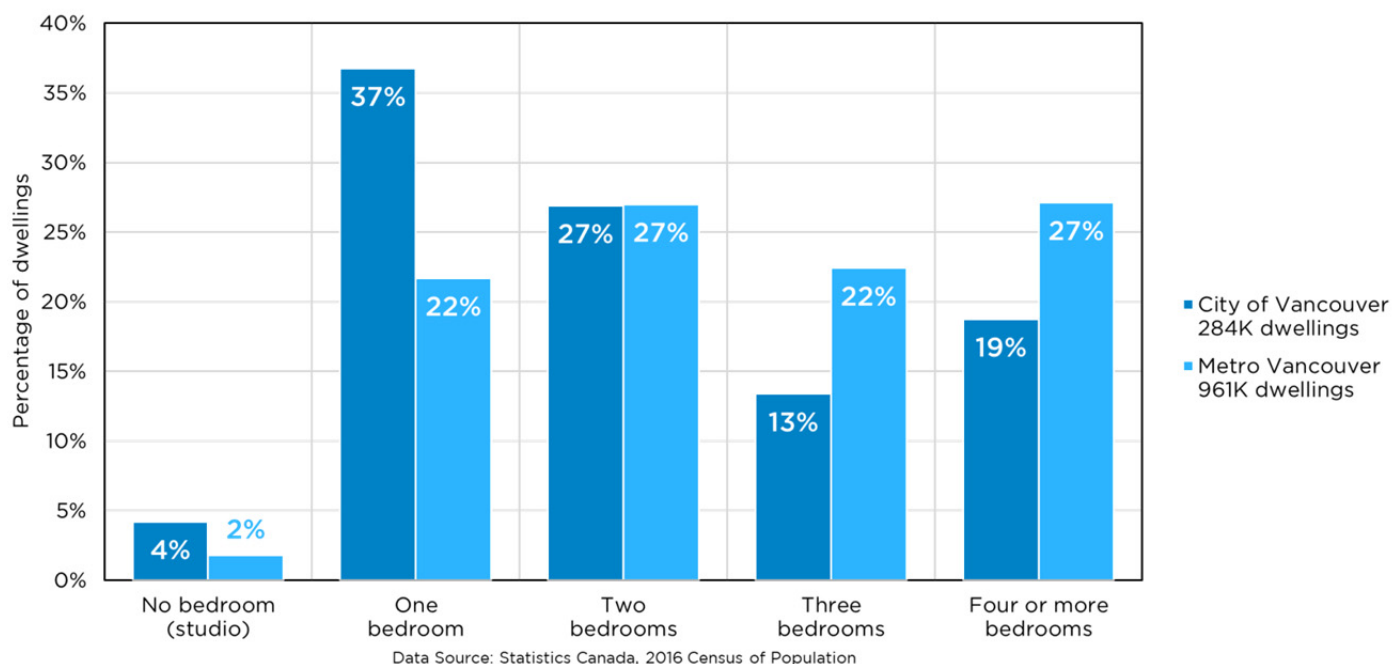
Apartments as Share of Total Dwellings, 1981-2016



Housing Size

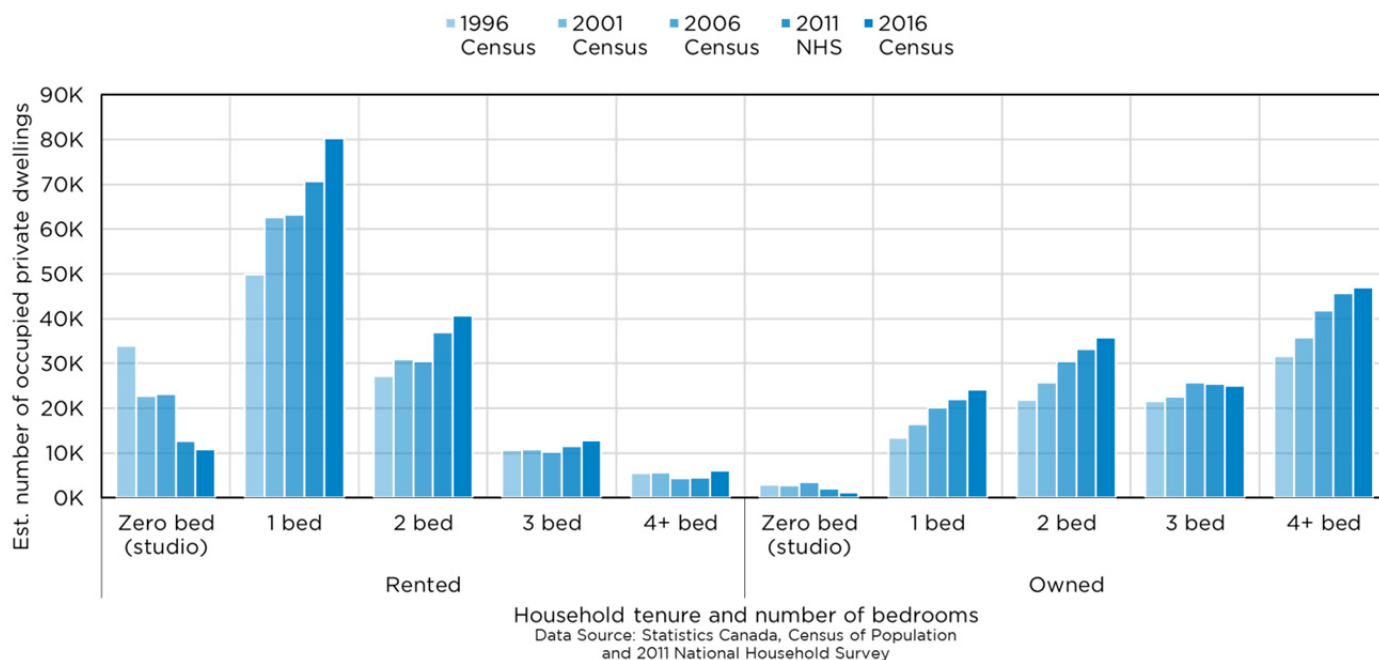
Housing units in the City of Vancouver tend to be smaller than the region overall, reflecting the city's large share of the region's apartment units.

Occupied Private Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 2016



In recent periods, new rental construction has been dominated by one- and two-bedroom units. Among owned units across the city, there is growth in one- and two-bedroom dwellings (likely condominium apartments) and in four-or-more-bedroom dwellings, but a decline in three-bedroom units.

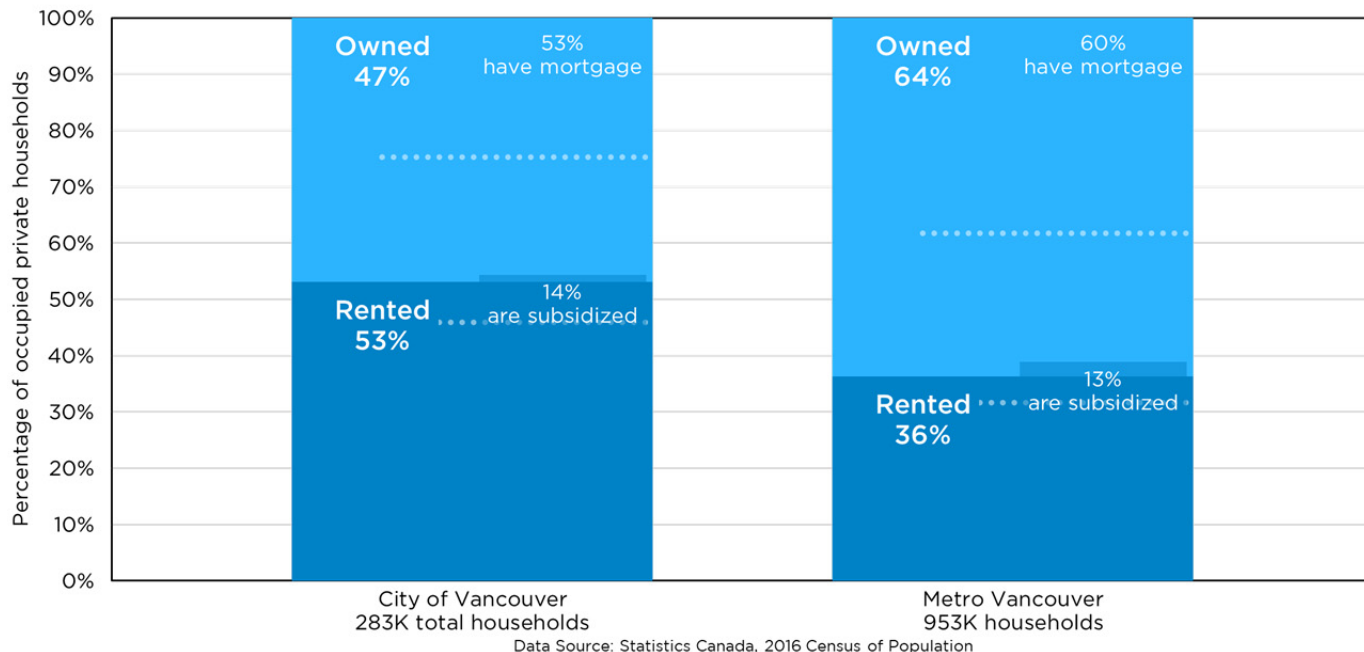
City of Vancouver: Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 1996-2016



Housing Tenure

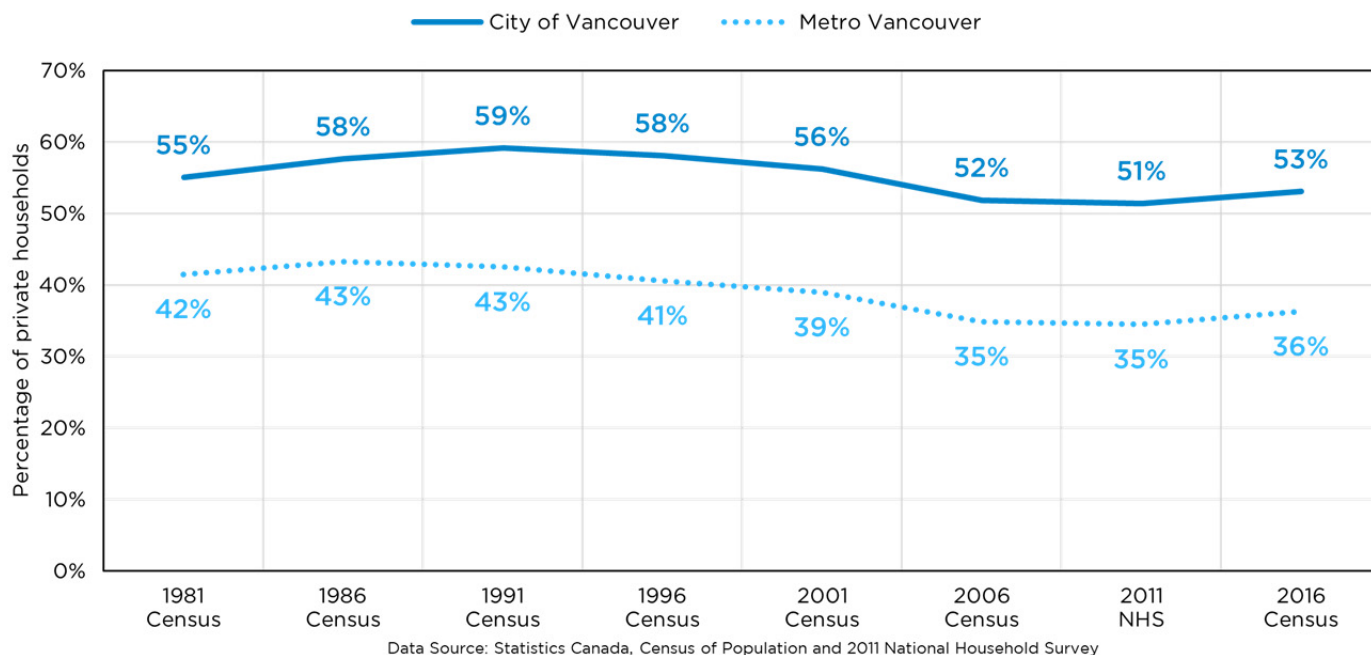
In the City of Vancouver, 53% of households rent, compared to 36% of households across the Metro Vancouver region.⁴ Self-reported subsidized housing makes up about 14% of rented households, or 7% of the total housing stock in the city, a higher share than the region. A smaller share of owned households in Vancouver have a mortgage compared with the region overall.

Occupied Private Households by Housing Tenure, 2016



The proportion of rented households in the city declined in favour of condominium construction through the 1990s and 2000s, but there has been a more recent policy shift back toward building rental housing, which may be reflected in the increased proportion of rented housing in 2016.

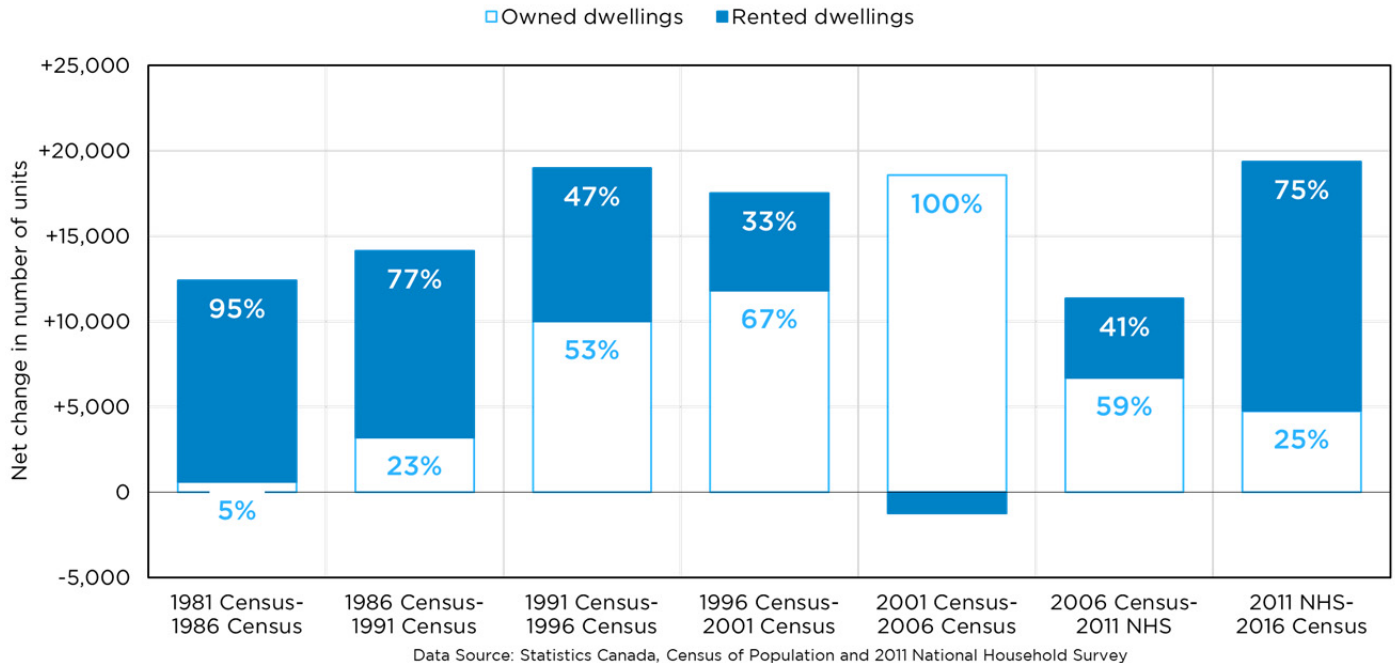
Rented Households as Share of Total, 1981-2016



New Housing

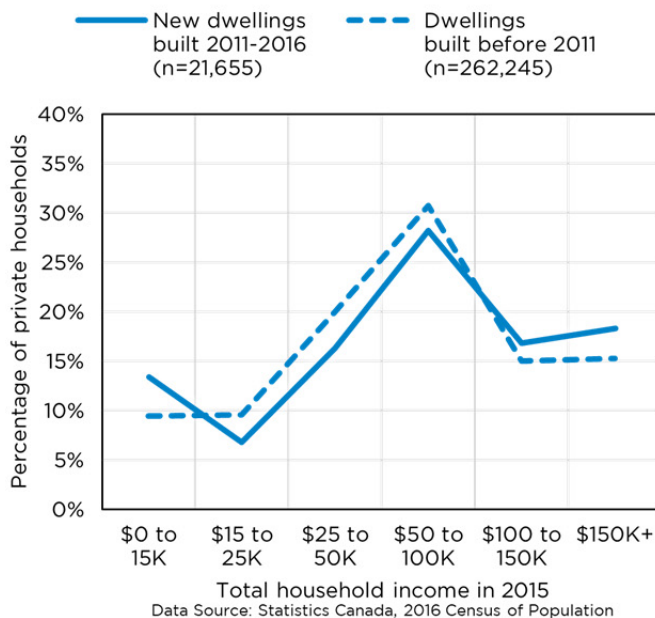
A shift back toward building rental housing is evident across the city, with 75% of net new units from 2011 to 2016 being rented. This may include new construction; new households in formerly unoccupied dwellings; new suites in existing buildings; or households that were not counted in previous census programs.

City of Vancouver: Net New Households by Tenure, 1981-2016

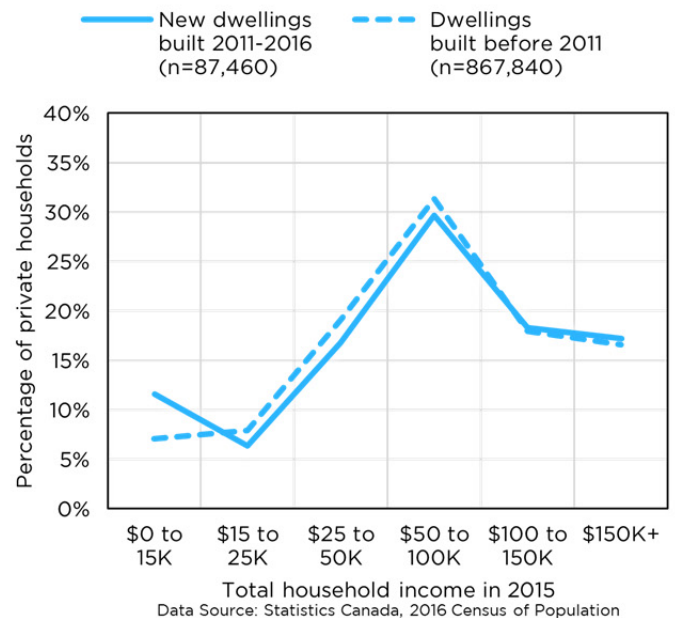


Ensuring affordability in new housing remains a challenge across the city. Households in newly constructed units in the City of Vancouver are more likely to be in higher income categories.

City of Vancouver: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016



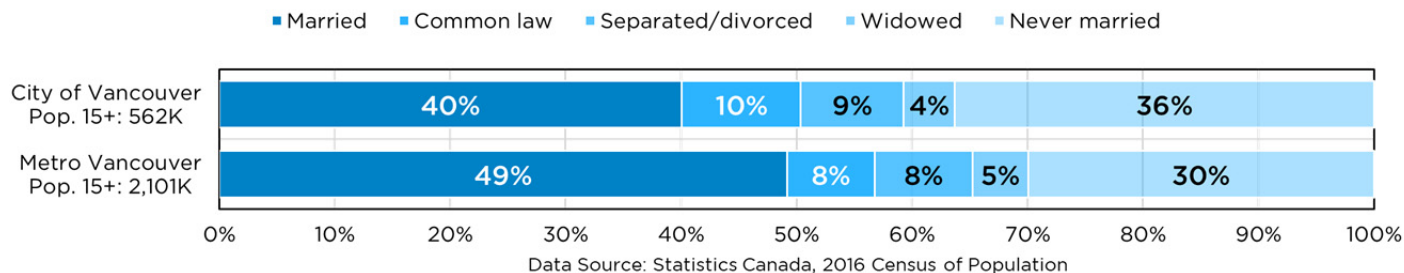
Metro Vancouver: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016



Marital Status

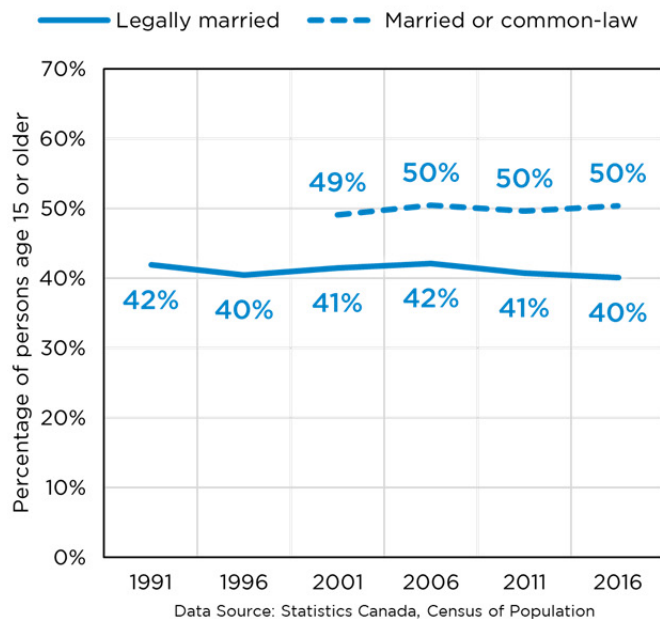
City of Vancouver residents are less likely to be married than residents of the Metro Vancouver region overall. As of 2016, 40% of Vancouver residents age 15 and older are married, with another 10% living common-law. In the City of Vancouver, 9% of residents are separated or divorced; 4% are widowed; and 36% have never been married and are not living common-law.

Population by Marital Status, 2016

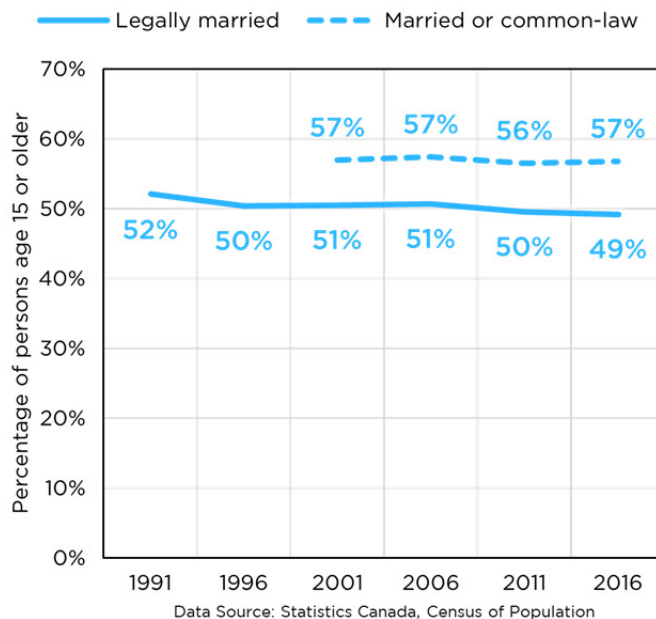


Over time, the rate of persons married has been steady in both the city and the broader region, with City of Vancouver residents consistently being less likely to be married or living common-law than people elsewhere in Metro Vancouver.

City of Vancouver: Pop. 15+ by Marital Status, 1991-2016



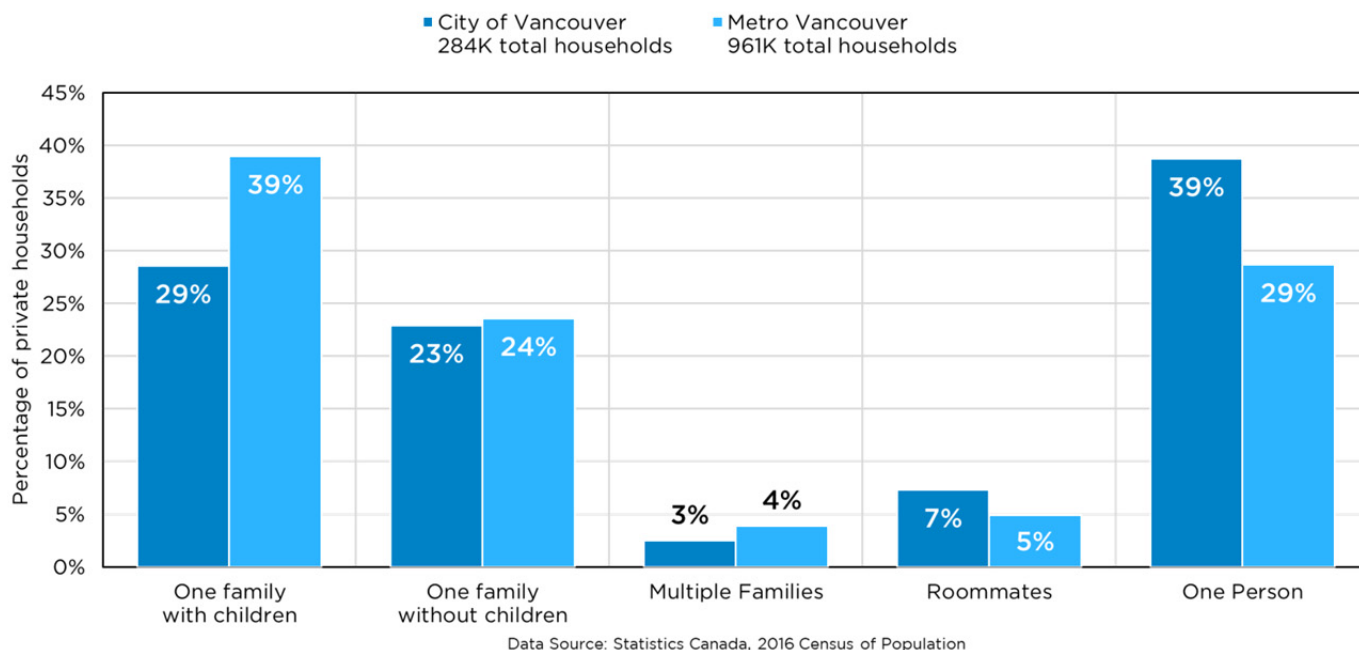
Metro Vancouver: Pop. 15+ by Marital Status, 1991-2016



Household Types

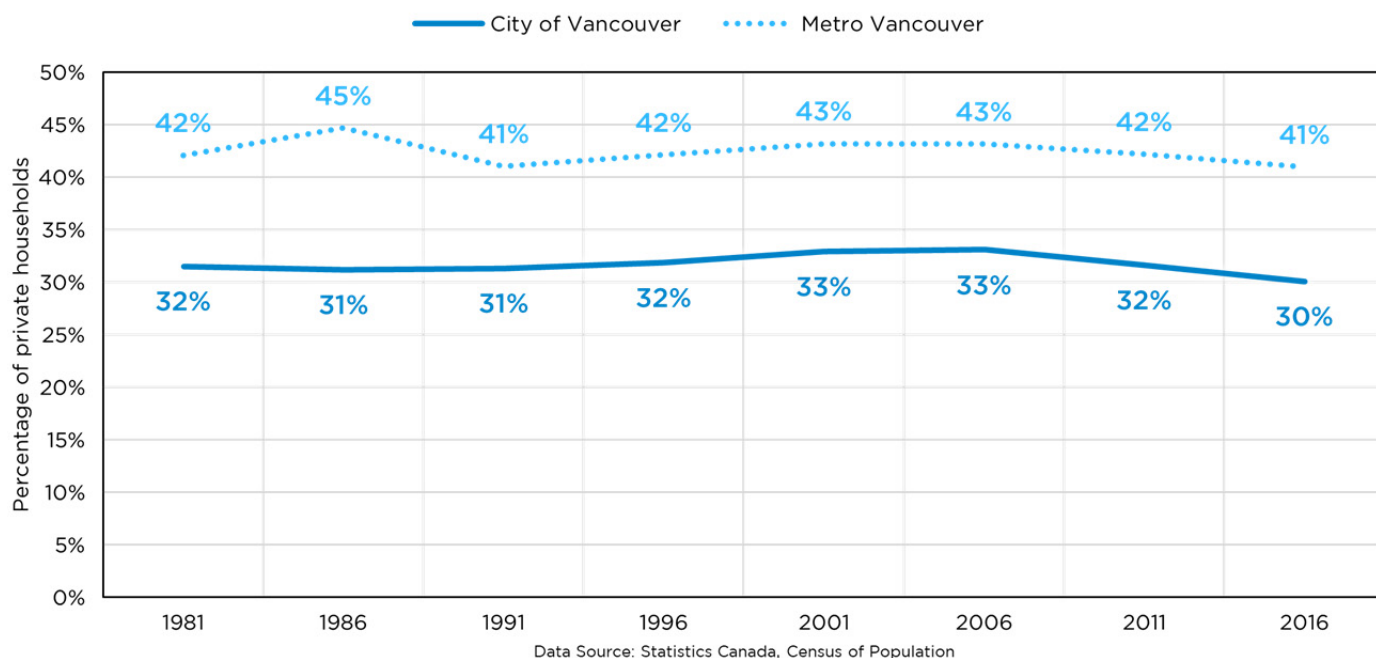
Compared to the region overall, households in the City of Vancouver are more likely to contain single persons or unrelated persons living together, and less likely to contain families with children.

Private Households by Type of Household, 2016



The graph below estimates the percentage of households that have children—of any age, including adult children—at home.⁵ The rate in the City of Vancouver has been fairly consistent, with a slight increase through the 1990s and early 2000s but a decrease since 2006. The regional rate has been consistently higher but trended in the same direction as the city.

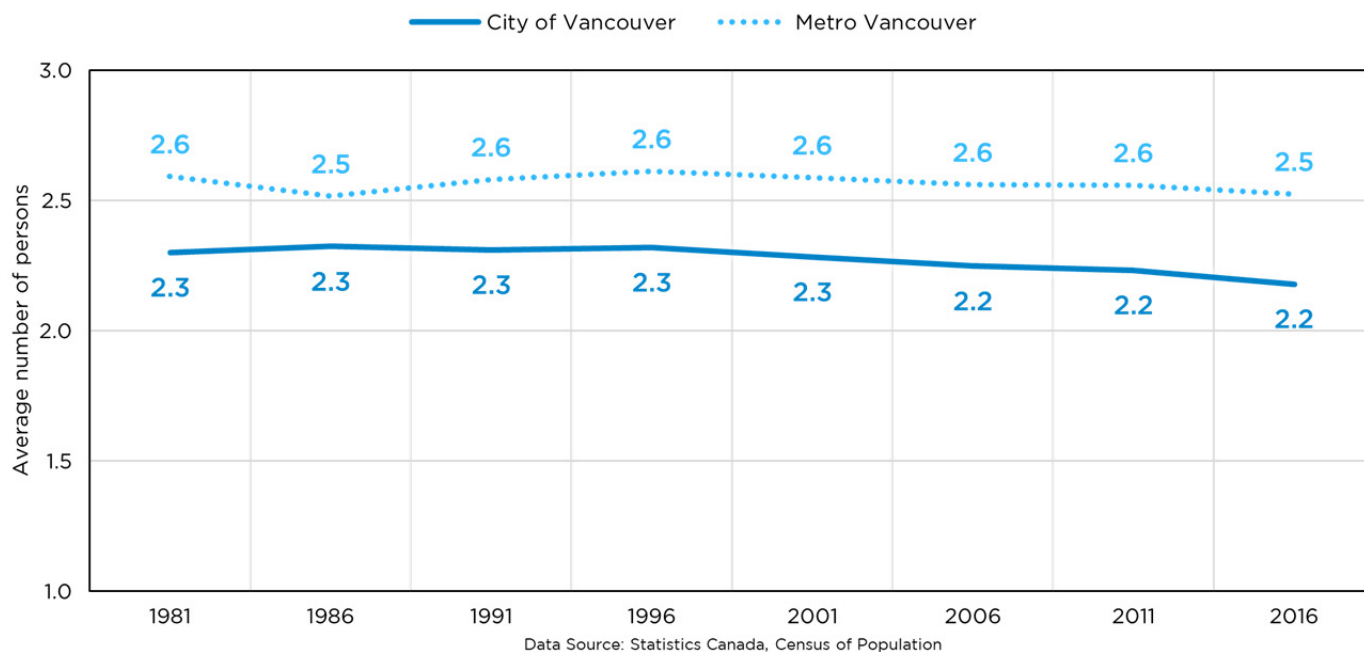
Est. Percentage of Households with Children at Home, 1981-2016



Household Size

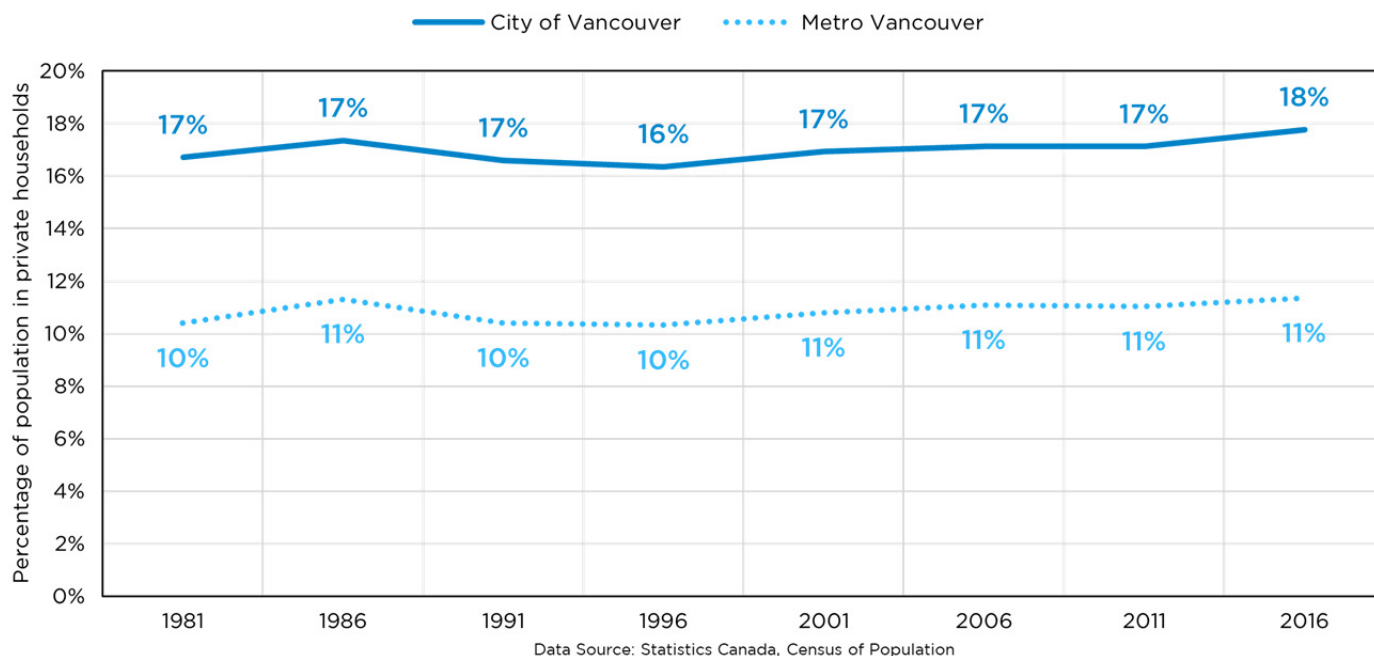
The average household size in the City of Vancouver has decreased over time. In 2016, there was an average of 2.2 people in each household in the city, compared to 2.5 in the broader region.

Average Private Household Size, 1981-2016



About 18% of the City of Vancouver's population lives alone, and this rate appears to be climbing over time. In the Metro Vancouver region overall, just 11% of the population lives alone.

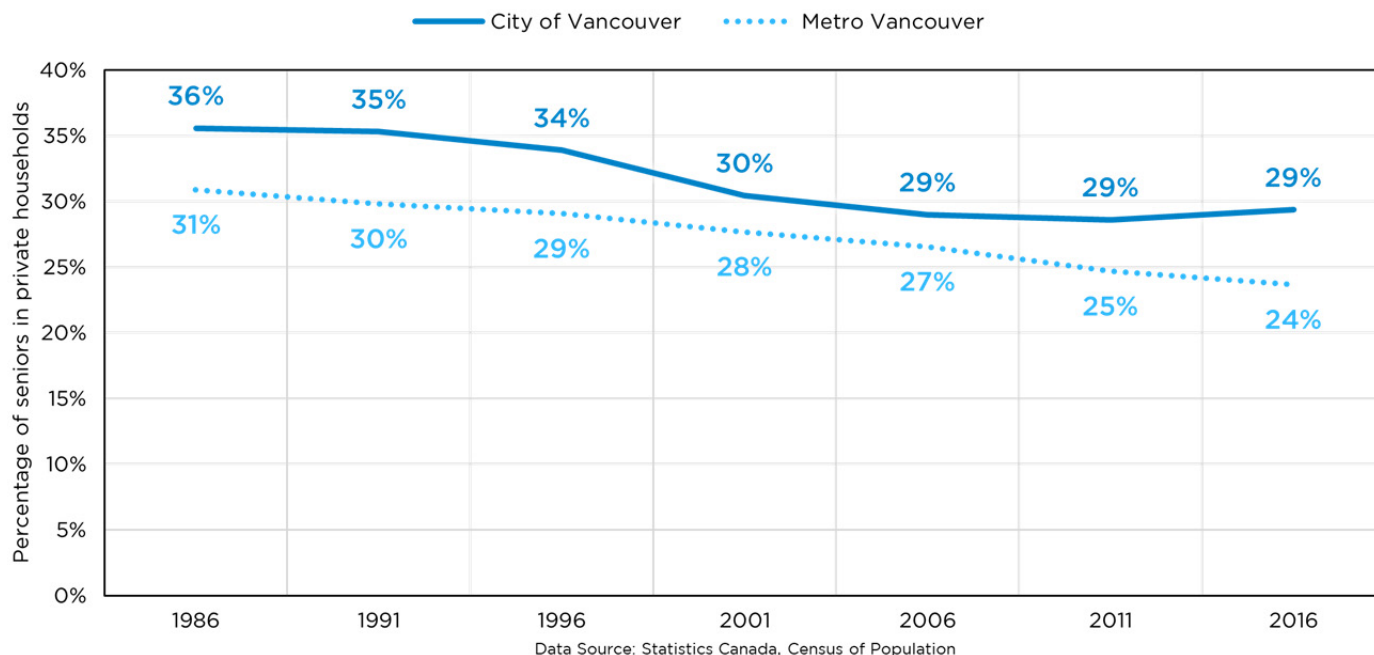
Percentage of Population Living Alone, 1981-2016



Senior Households

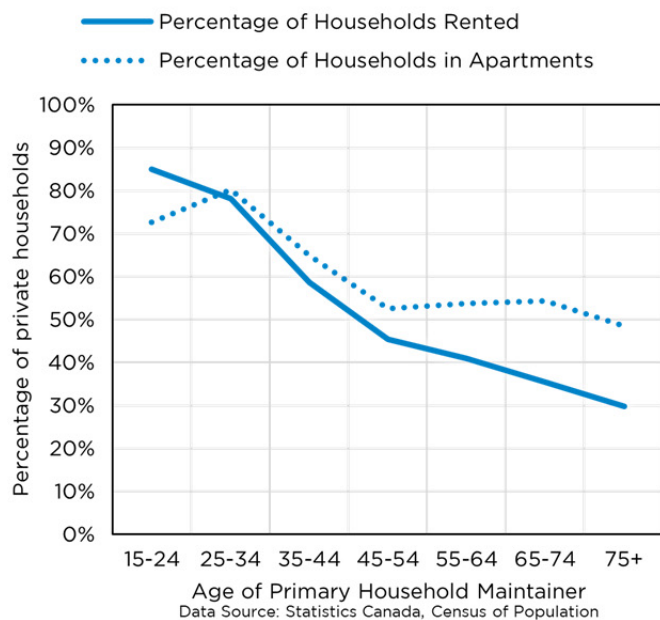
The experience of aging relates to a number of factors, including housing type, social connections, income and more. Seniors in the City of Vancouver are more likely to live alone compared to seniors in the overall region, with the rate increasing slightly from 2011 to 2016 while declining across Metro Vancouver.

Percentage of Seniors 65+ Living Alone, 1981-2016

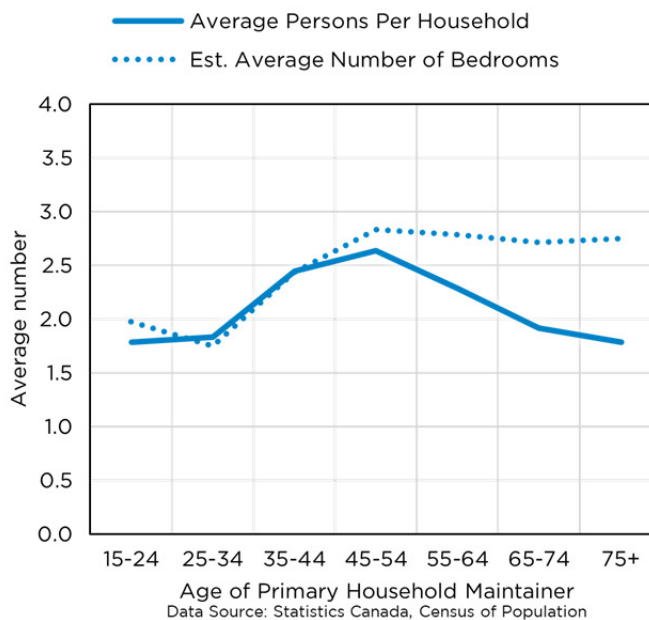


As of 2016, about a third of senior-led households in the City of Vancouver are rented, and just over half are in apartments. Senior-led households are smaller than other age groups, but the number of bedrooms in a dwelling does not necessarily decrease at the same rate.⁶

City of Vancouver: Household Type and Tenure by Age, 2016



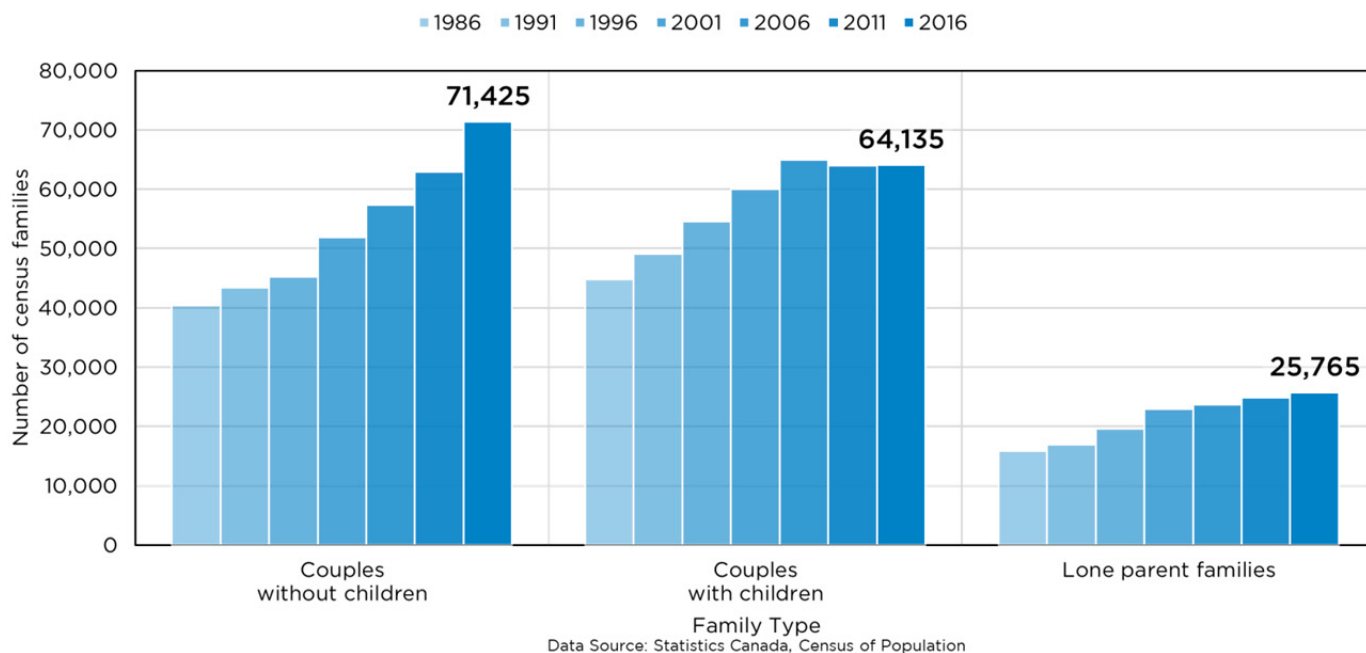
City of Vancouver: Average Household Size by Age, 2016



Family Types

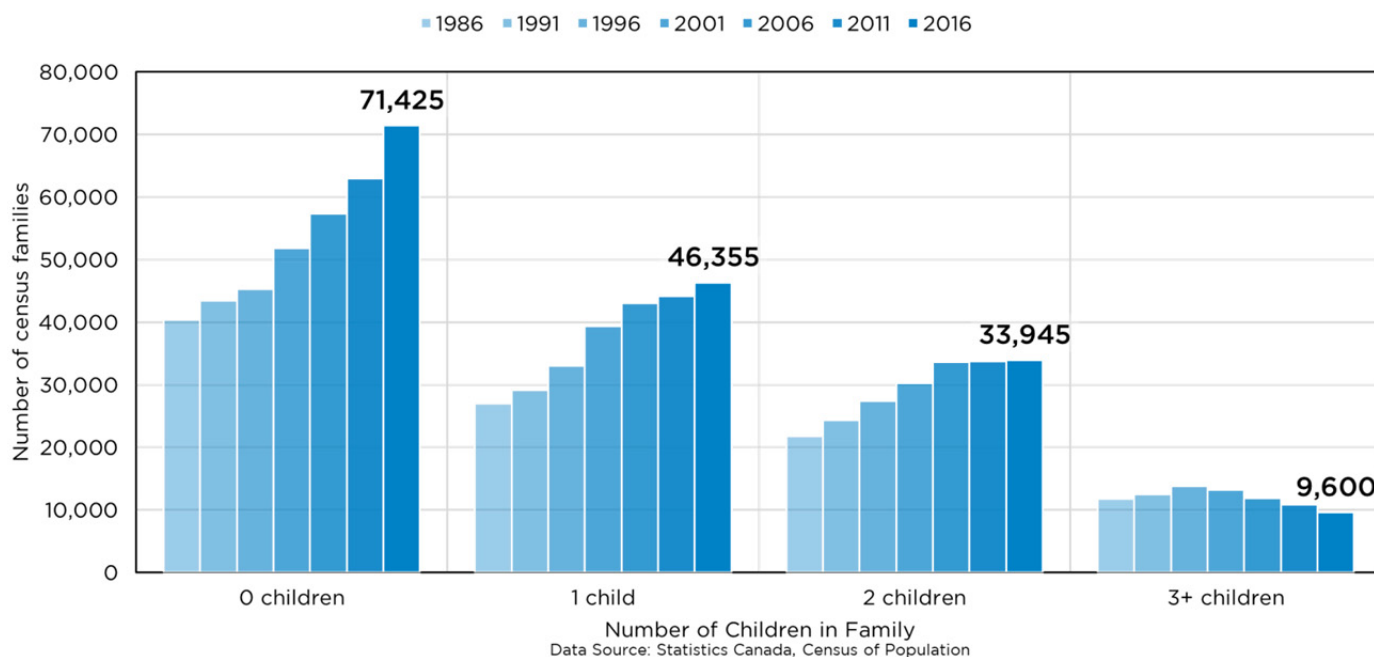
Although the City of Vancouver has for a long time had a smaller rate of families⁷ with children, the absolute number of families grew through the 1990s and early 2000s. Since 2006, however, the city has seen a plateauing of the number of two-parent families and slow growth in the number of lone parent-led families.

City of Vancouver: Families by Type 1986-2016



Families generally have fewer children at home over time. Across the City of Vancouver, the most recent census periods have seen a decline in the number of three-or-more-child families; a plateauing of the number of two-child families; and slower growth in the number of one-child families. There continues to be large growth in families without children (i.e. couples) in the city.

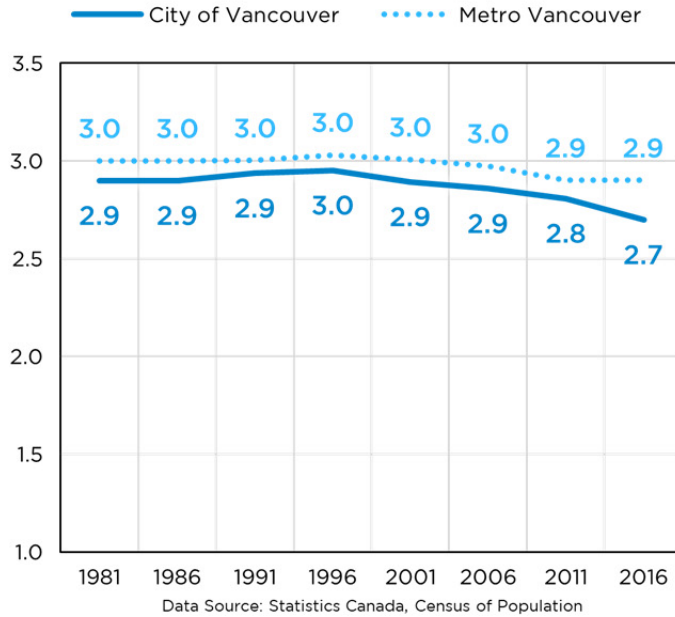
City of Vancouver: Families by Number of Children 1986-2016



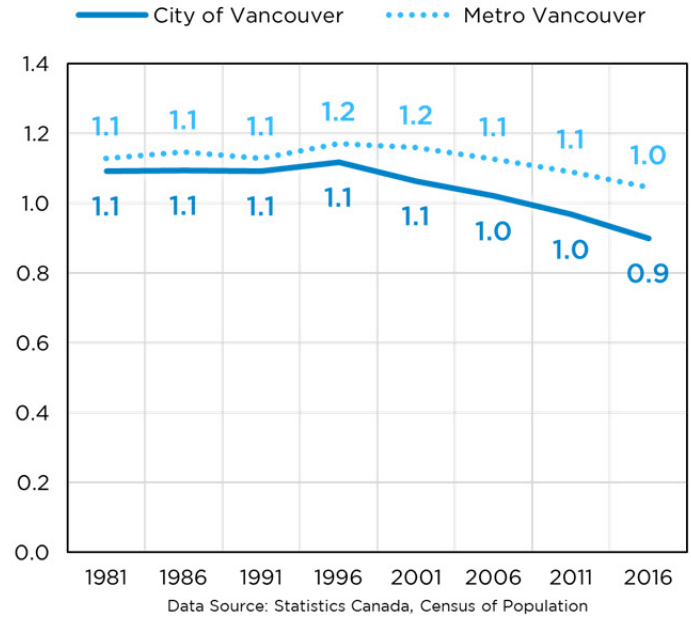
Family Size and Children at Home

The average family in the City of Vancouver contains 2.7 persons and has 0.9 children at home.⁸ Both are lower than the region-wide average and declining over time.

Average Census Family Size, 1981-2016

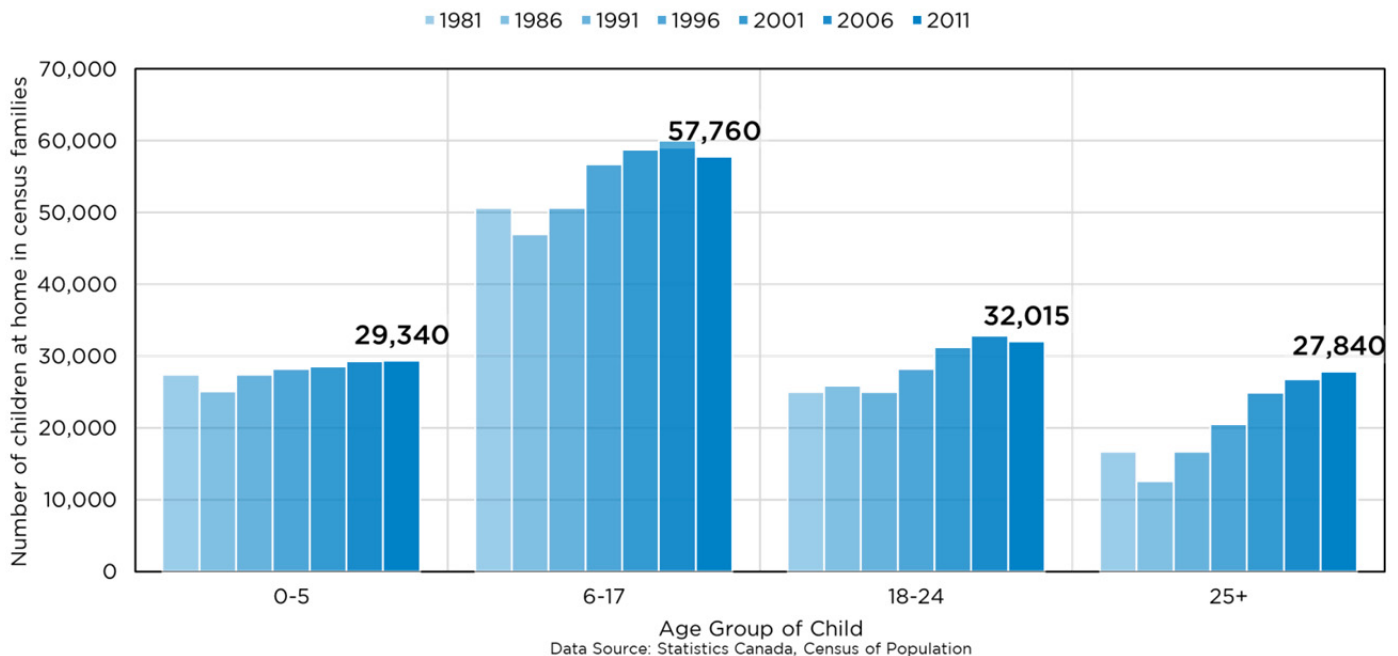


Average Children at Home Per Census Family, 1981-2016



A broad social trend over time is that people move out of their parents' homes later in life. Across the city, steady growth in the number of "children" 25 and over living at home continues through the most recent data available. The number of school-age children has declined since 2006.

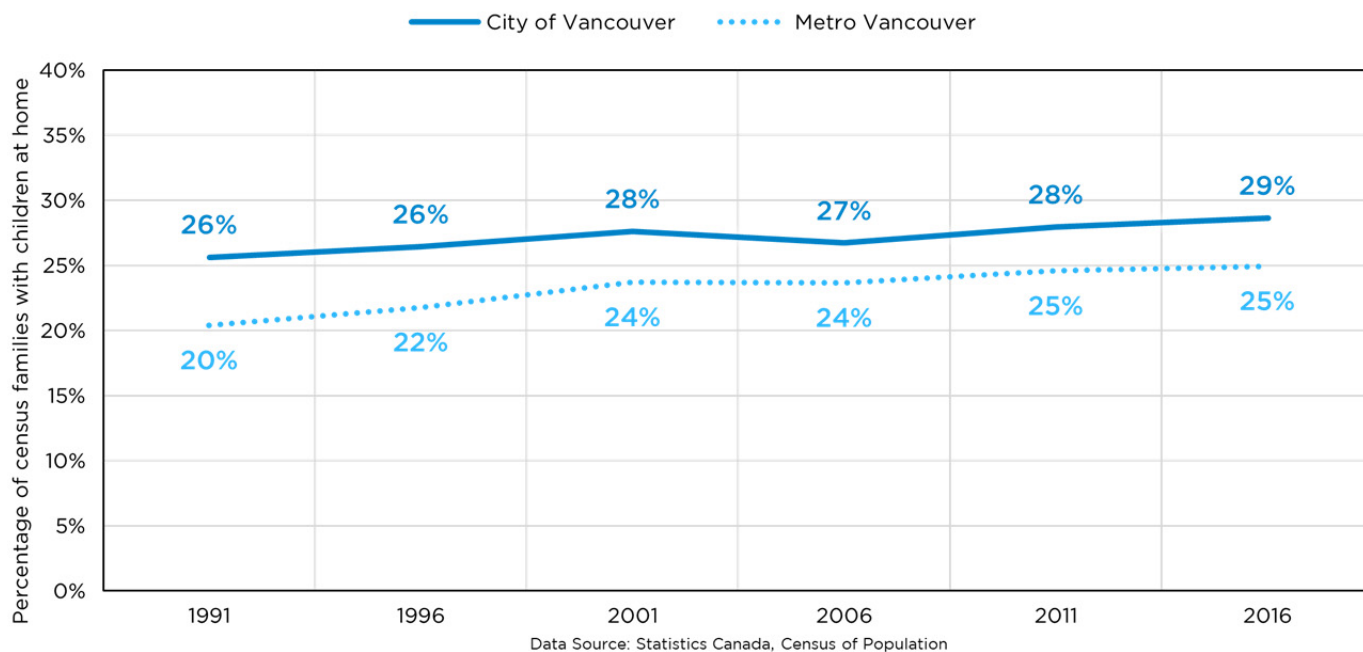
City of Vancouver: Children in Families by Age Group, 1981-2011



Lone Parent-Led Families

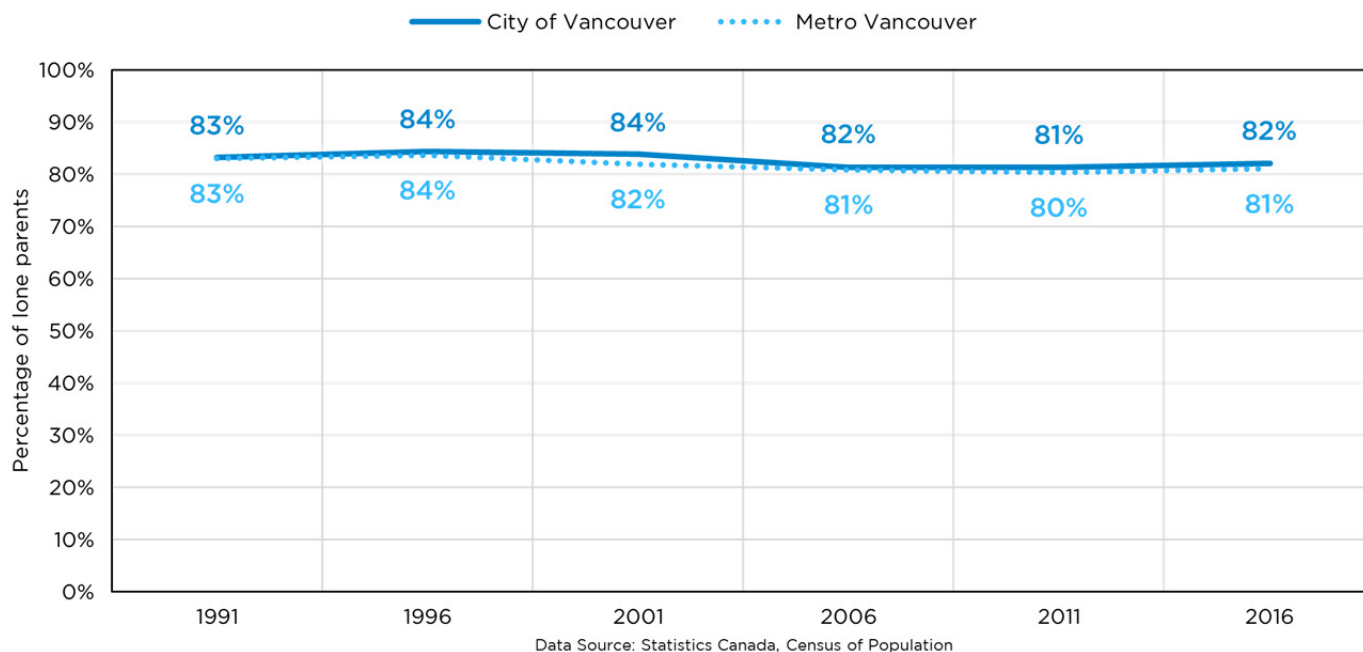
Measured as a proportion of all families with children at home, lone parent-led families now make up 29% of families with children in the City of Vancouver, a consistently larger proportion than in the region overall.

Percentage of Families with Children Led by a Lone Parent, 1991-2016



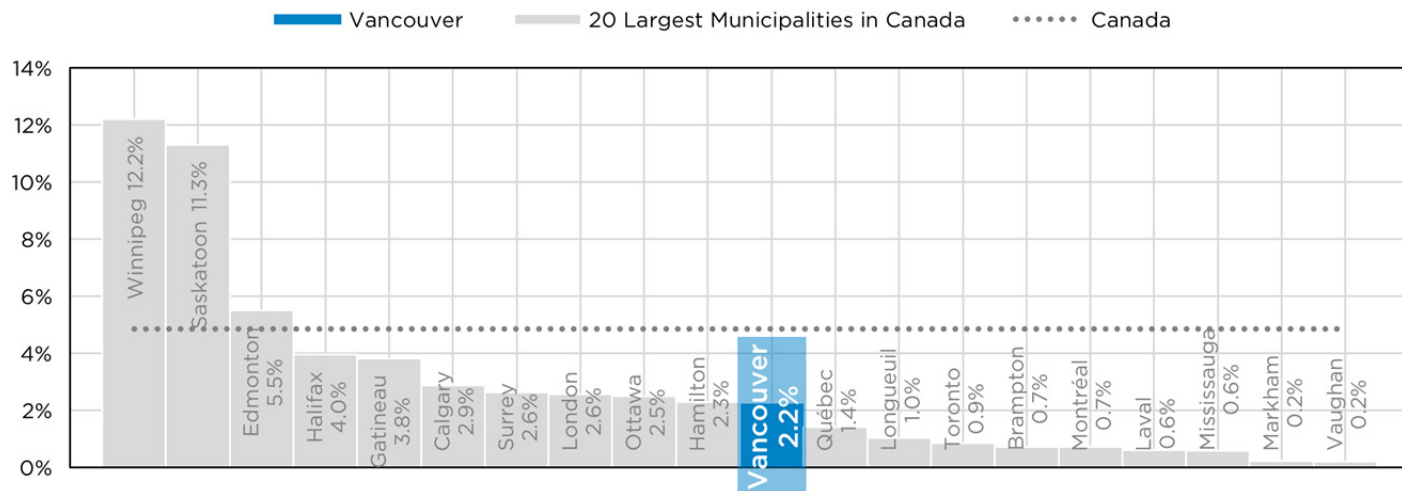
Across the city, lone parents are overwhelmingly likely to be female-identified: 82% of lone parents are female-identified. Lone mothers are more likely to face significant social and economic challenges.

Percentage of Lone Parents Identified as Female, 1991-2016

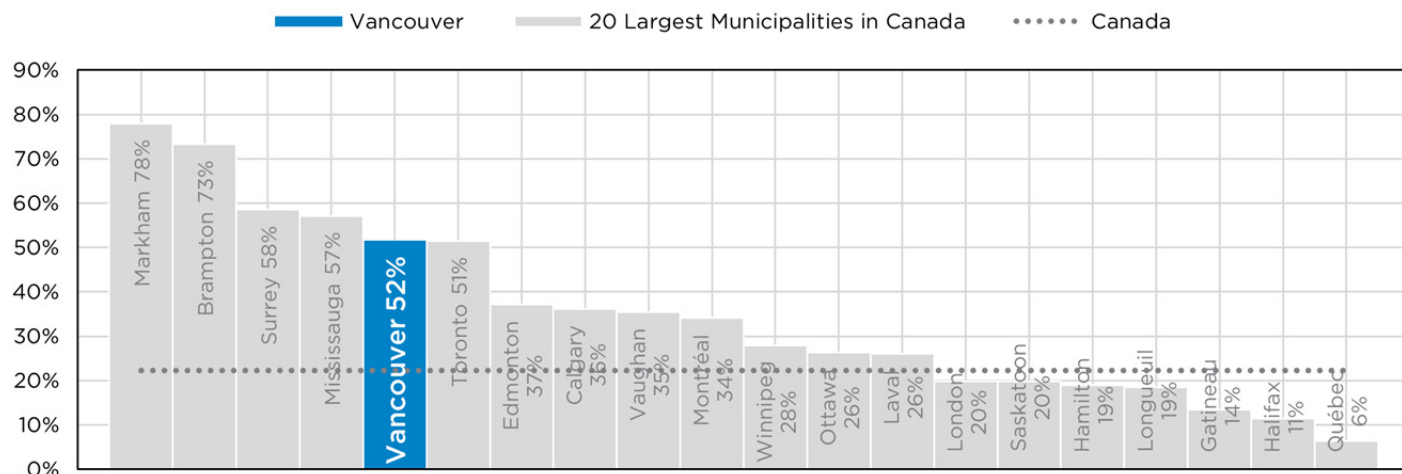


IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

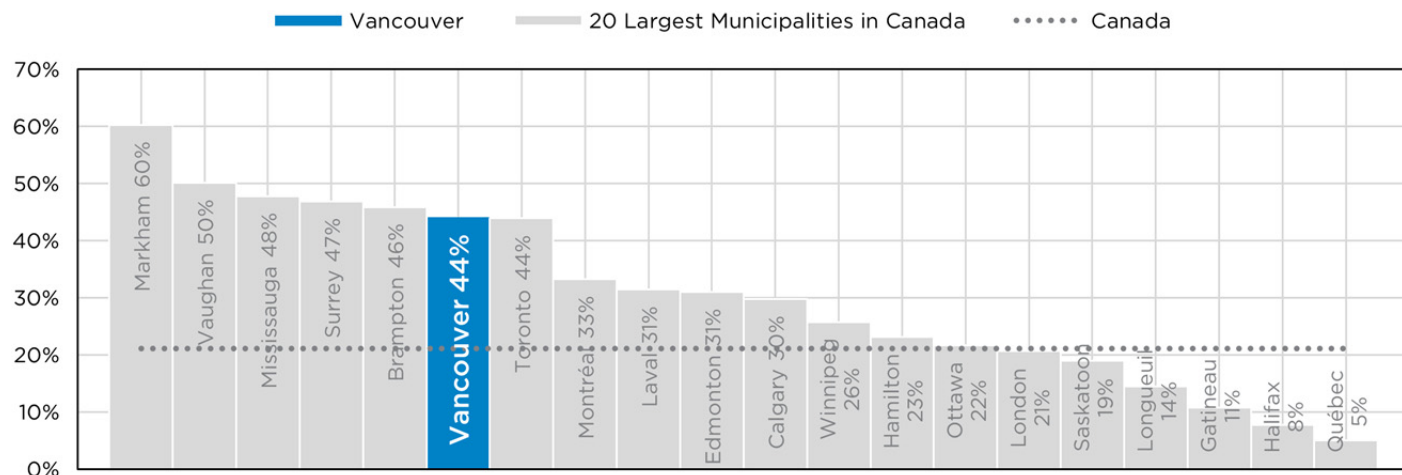
Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016



Population in a Visible Minority Group, 2016

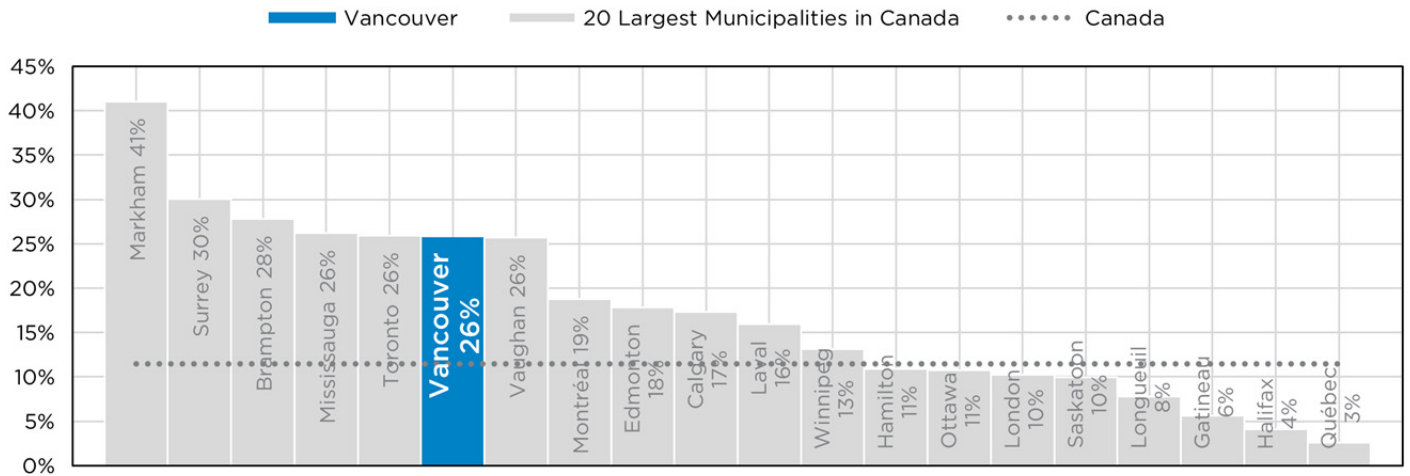


Population with Non-Official Mother Tongue, 2016

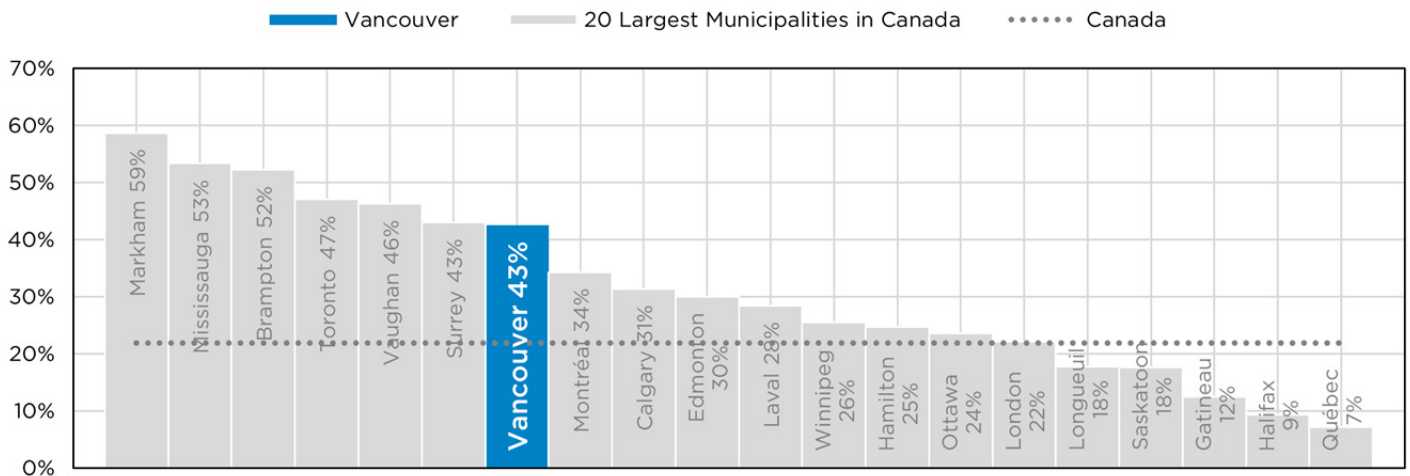


NATIONAL COMPARISONS

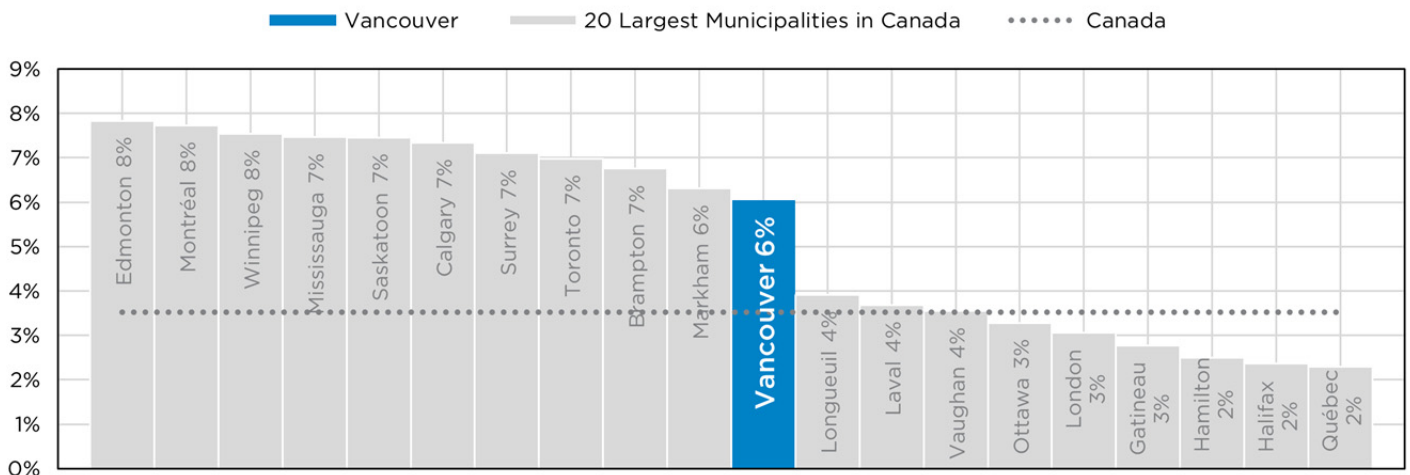
Population with Non-Official Home Language, 2016



Immigrant Population, 2016



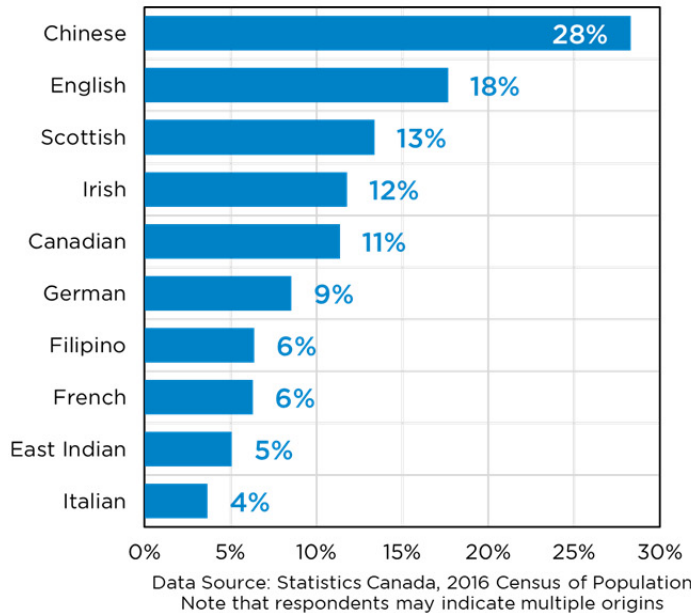
Recent Immigrant Population, 2016



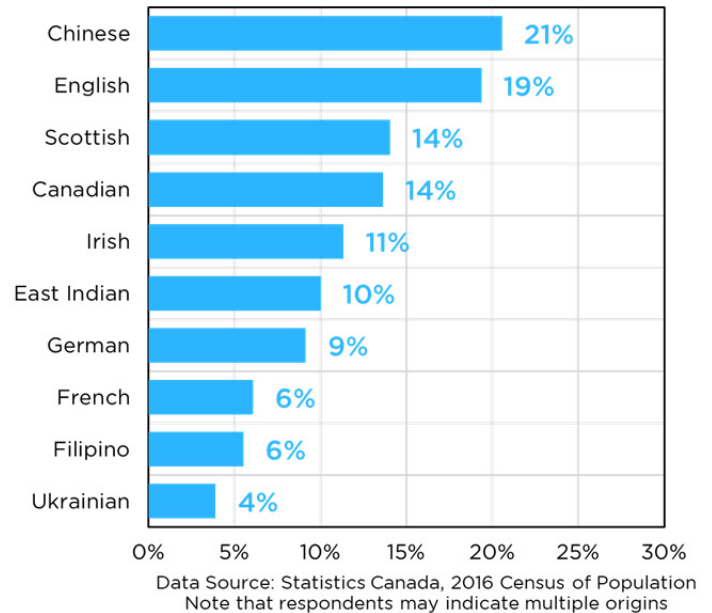
Cultural Origin and Identity

A number of census variables help understand the diverse and complex cultural identities of people in Vancouver. The graphs below provide the top ten cultural origins reported by residents.⁹

City of Vancouver: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016

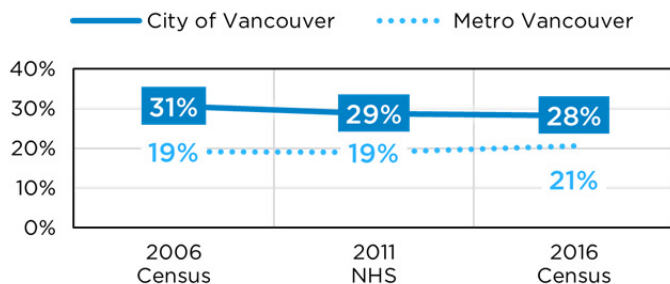


Metro Vancouver: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016

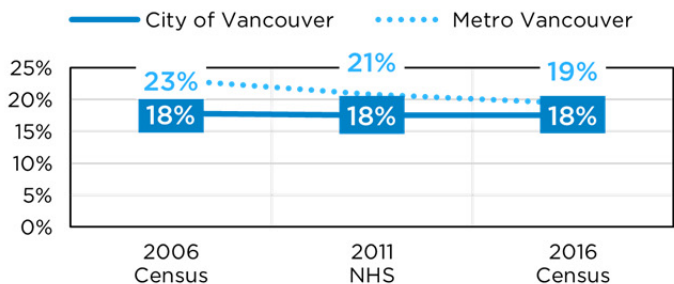


The graphs below show ten-year trends in the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver for the city's four most commonly reported ethnic origins: Chinese, English, Scottish and Irish. Over time, there is a decrease in the rate of city residents reporting Chinese origins and a steady or slightly increasing rate in people identifying the other three categories.

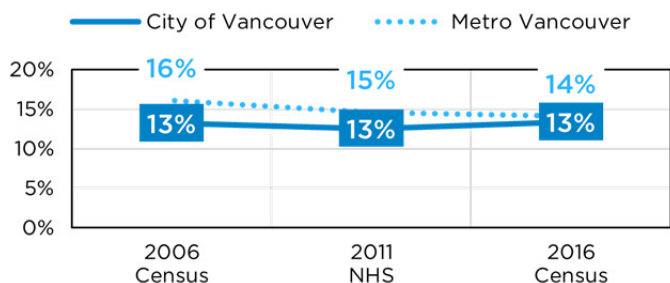
Chinese Origins, 2006-2016



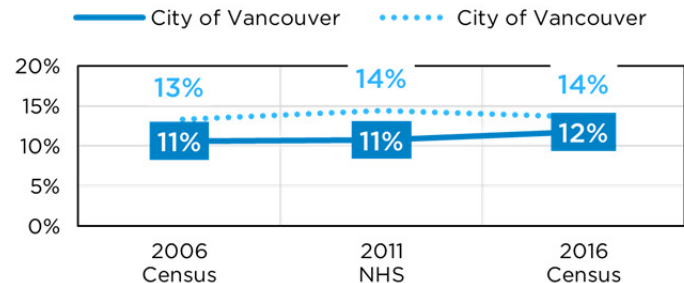
English Origins, 2006-2016



Scottish Origins, 2006-2016



Irish Origins, 2006-2016



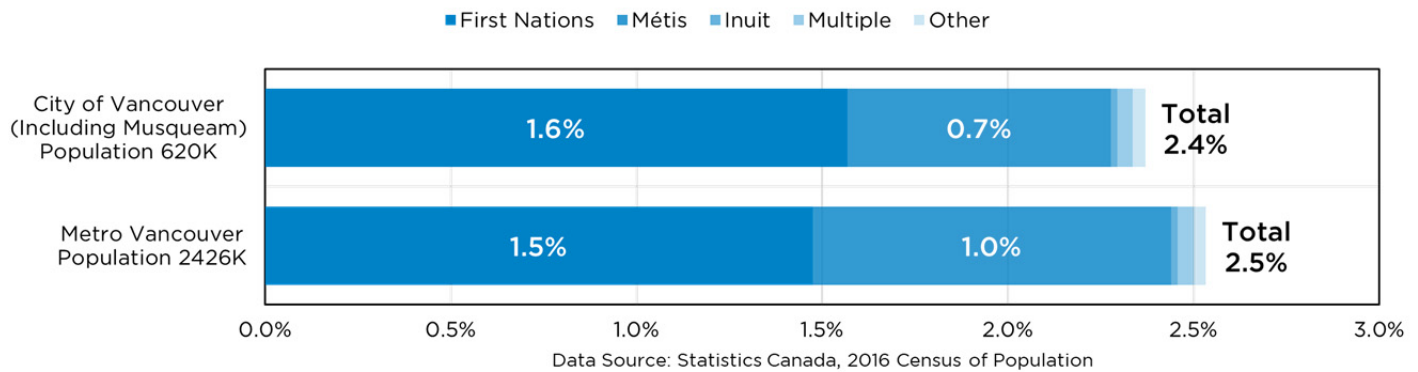
Indigenous Identity

Vancouver occupies the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. It is also home to a substantial and diverse urban Indigenous populations who identify with Indigenous communities across North America and beyond.

The federal census has many limitations in its validity, reliability and relevance to Indigenous communities. The census and other governmental data sources should be supplemented with other sources of knowledge within Indigenous communities to fully understand population demographics and trends.

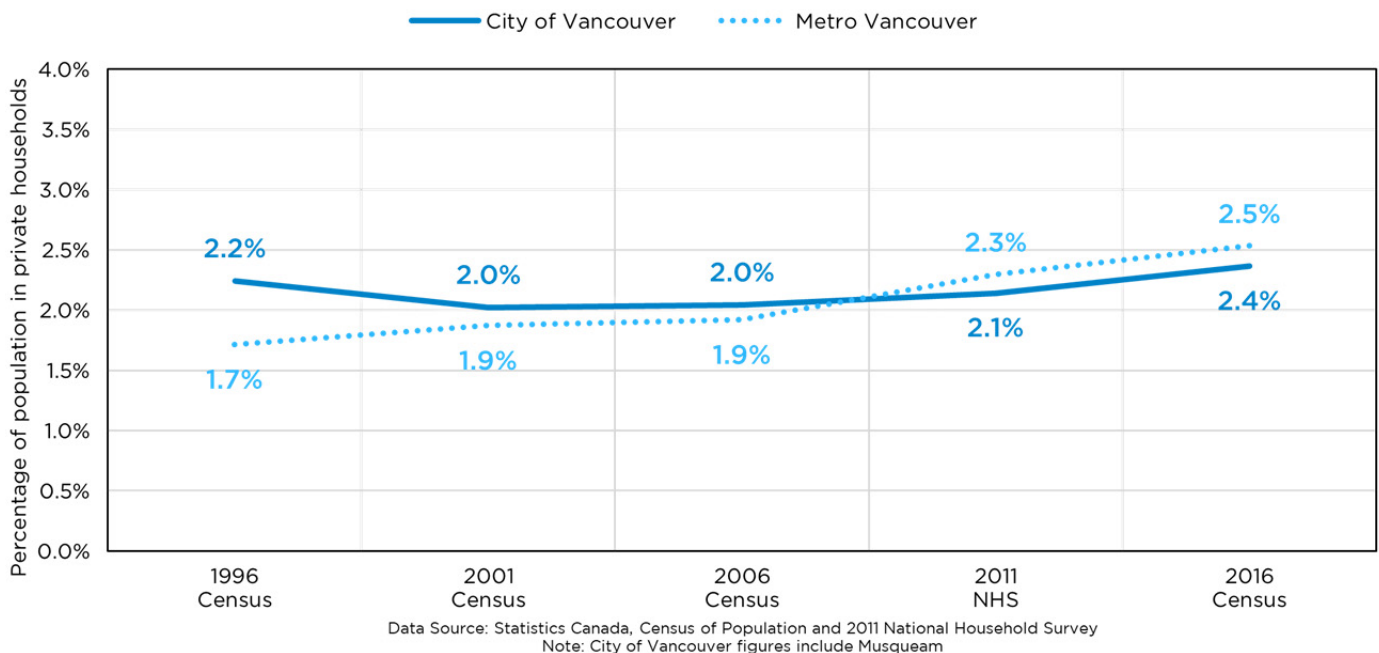
Based on the 2016 census, about 15 thousand people—2.4% of the population living in the City of Vancouver and Musqueam—are Indigenous, a slightly smaller rate than the region overall.¹⁰

Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016



The urban Indigenous population in the City of Vancouver decreased in absolute numbers from 1996 to 2001 but has grown in the most recent census periods. From 1996 to 2016 the absolute number of Vancouver residents with Indigenous identity had a net growth of 28% compared to 22% for the population with non-Indigenous identity. Across Metro Vancouver the Indigenous population grew by 97% compared to 33% for the non-Indigenous population.

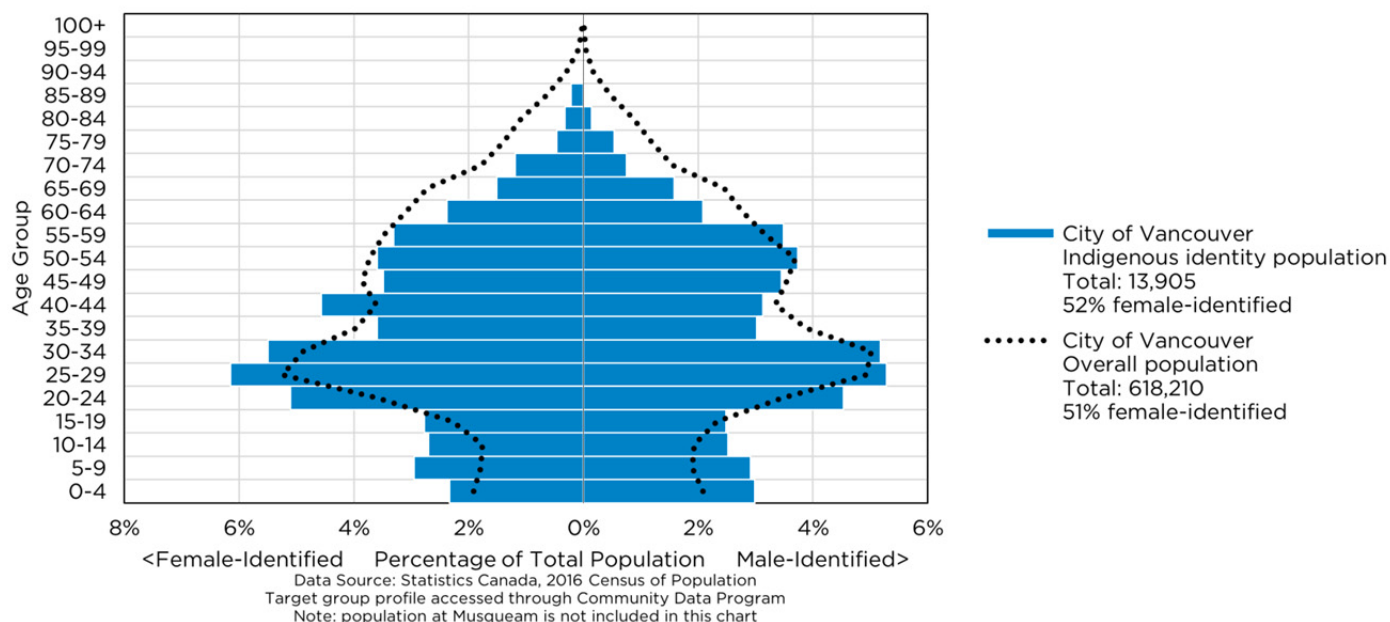
Population with Indigenous Identity, 1996-2016



Demographics of Indigenous Populations

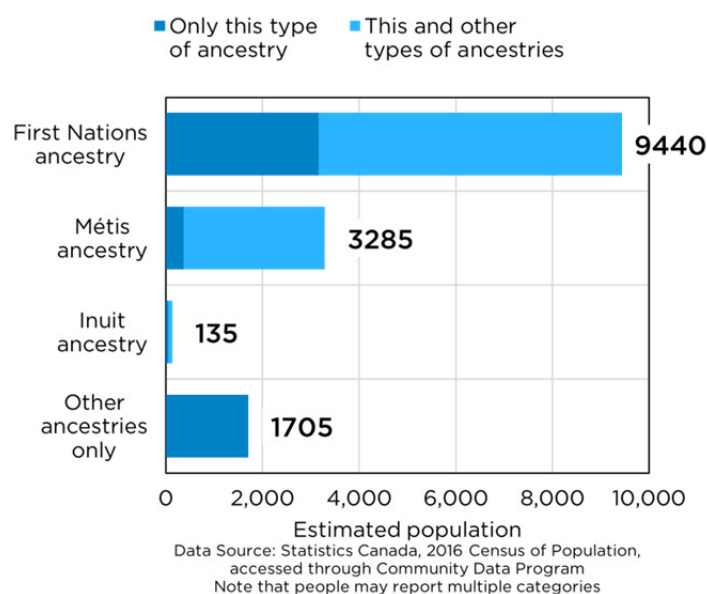
The Indigenous population living in Vancouver is younger than the city's overall population. Children and youth make up a greater share of the Indigenous population than the non-Indigenous population, and older adults make up a smaller share.

**City of Vancouver:
Indigenous Identity Population by Age and Sex, 2016**

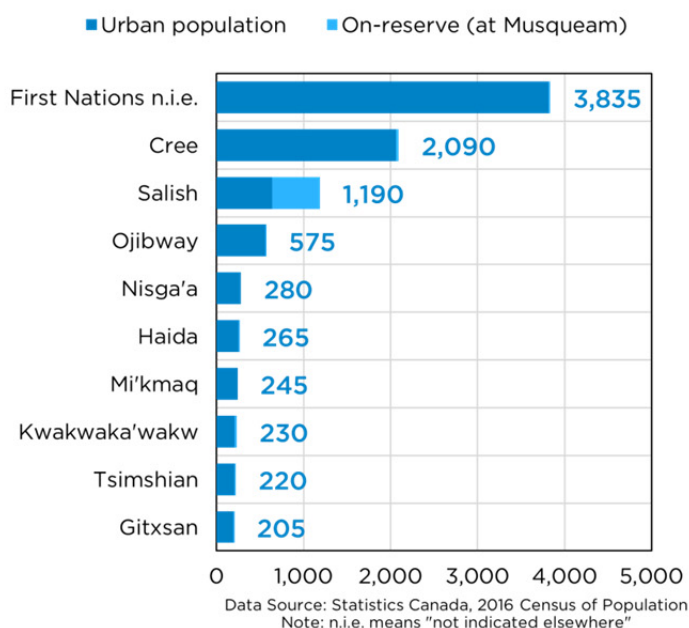


The Indigenous population in Vancouver is diverse, with a majority of people with First Nations, Métis or Inuit ancestry also reporting other Indigenous and non-Indigenous ancestries. The chart below right shows the most commonly reported specific First Nations ancestries reported in Vancouver.

**City of Vancouver:
Reported Ancestry of Population
with Indigenous Identity, 2016**



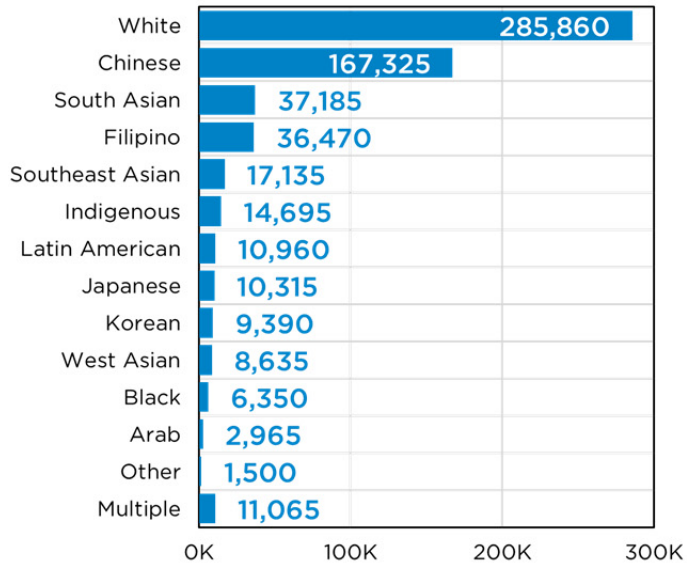
**City of Vancouver: Top Reported
First Nations Ancestries, 2016**



Racial Identity

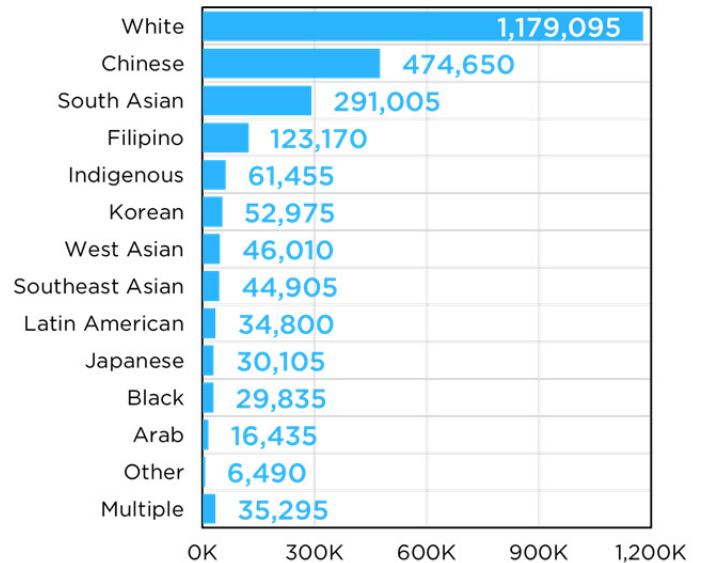
About 46% of the City of Vancouver's population are identified as white. The city houses about 167 thousand Chinese residents, 37 thousand South Asian residents and 36 thousand Filipino residents.

**City of Vancouver:
Population Groups, 2016**



Data Source: Statistics Canada,
2016 Census of Population

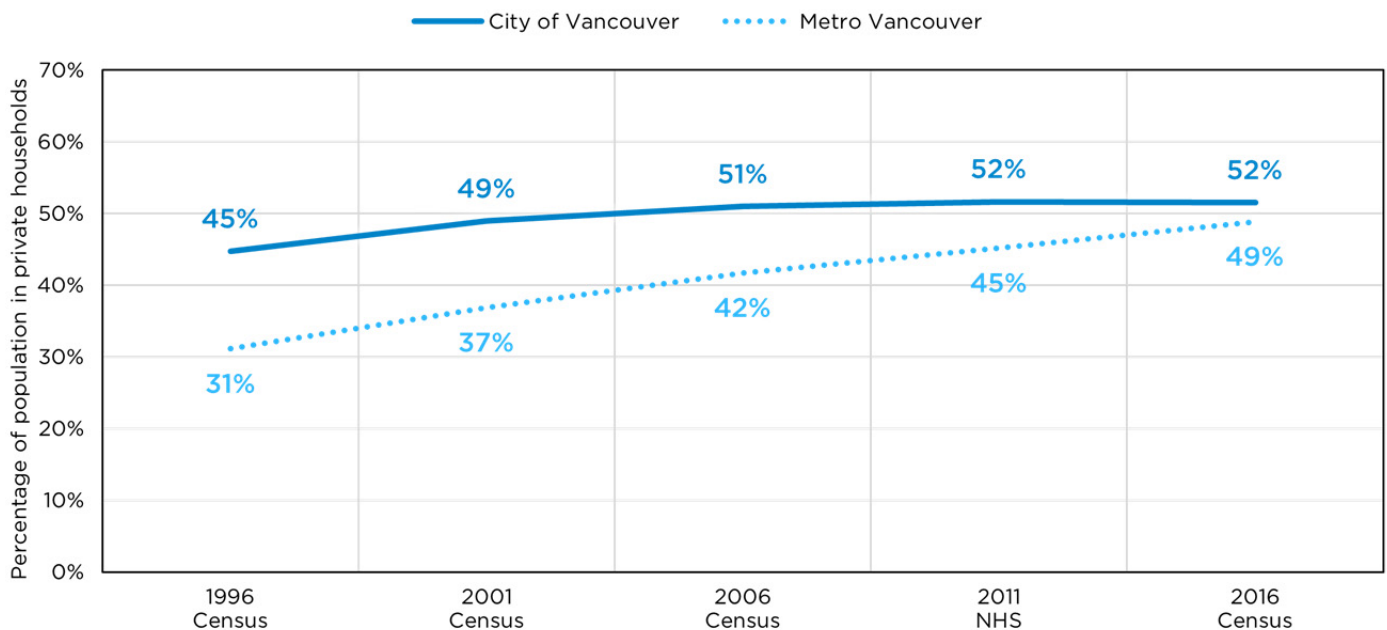
**Metro Vancouver:
Population Groups, 2016**



Data Source: Statistics Canada,
2016 Census of Population

Statistics Canada defines members of a “visible minority” group as those who are neither Indigenous nor white. Although limited, this indicator is used to understand trends in racialized populations. About 52% of Vancouver's population are members of a visible minority group, a steady rate since 2006 while the rate in the rest of the region has continued to increase. From 1996 to 2016 the absolute number of residents in a visible minority group grew by 40% in the City of Vancouver and 110% across all of Metro Vancouver.

Population in a Visible Minority Group, 1996-2016

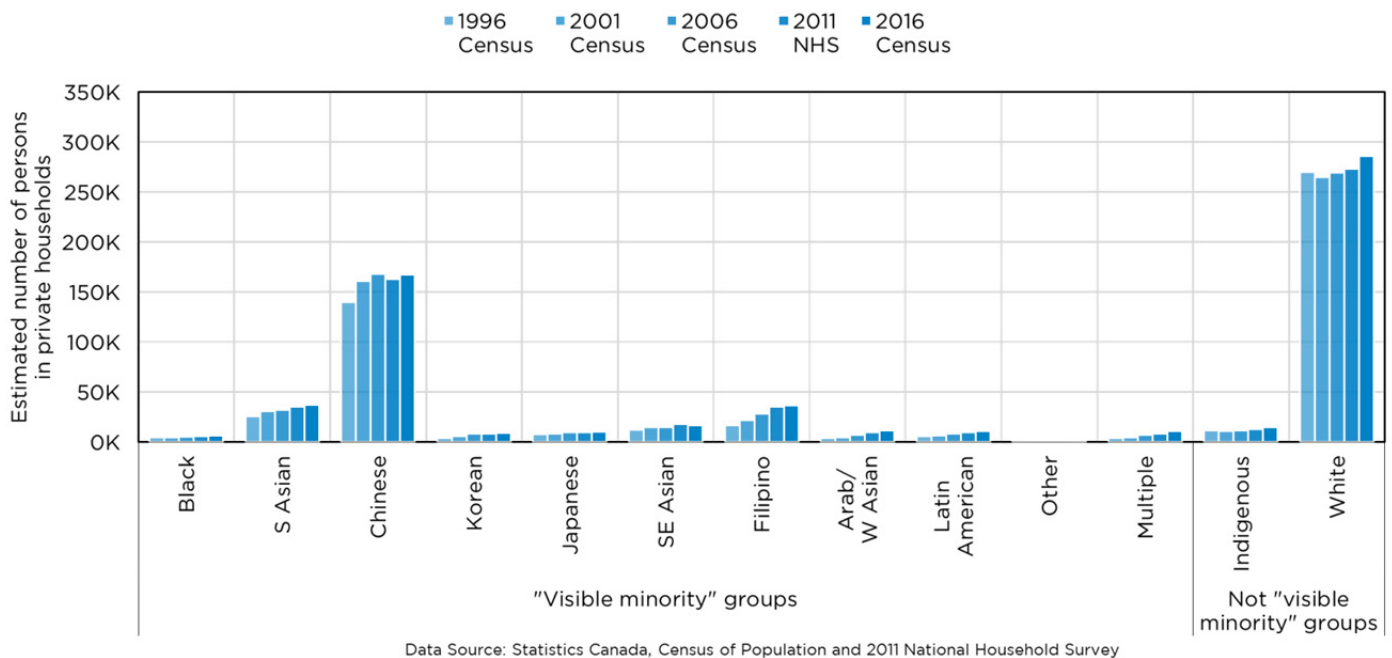


Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey

Trends in Racialized Populations

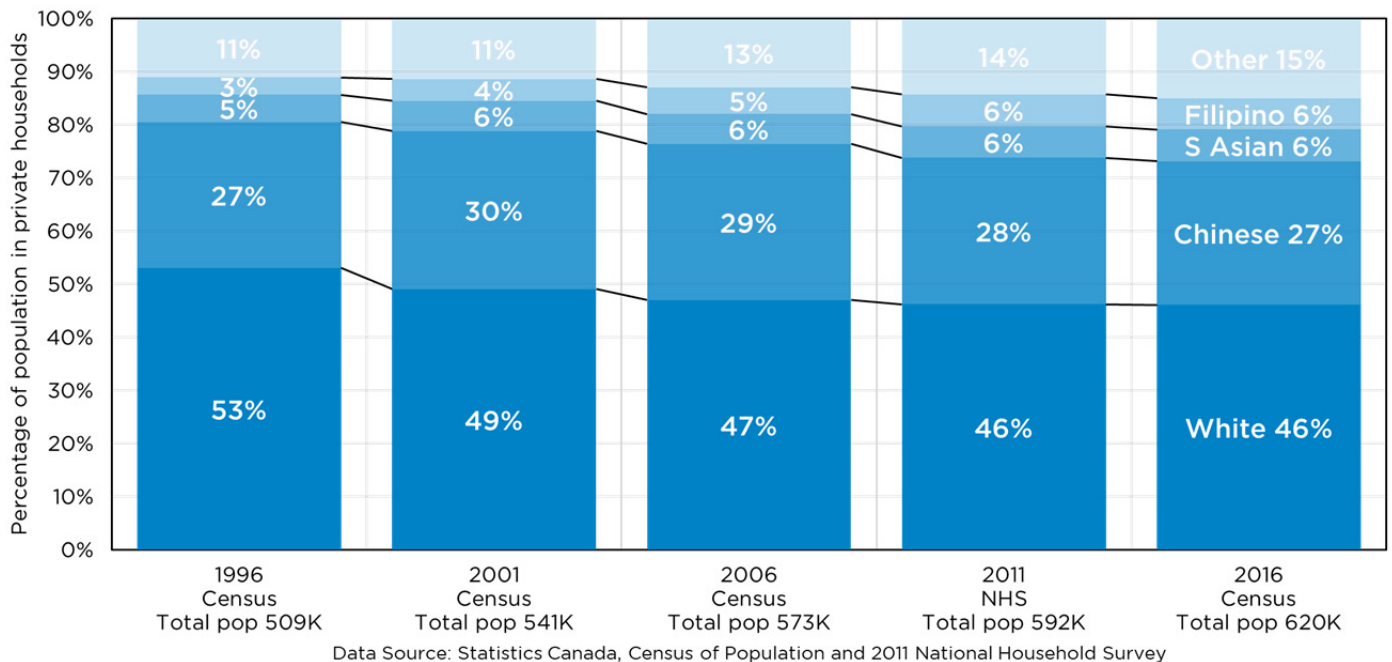
The chart below shows population estimates by visible minority group in the City of Vancouver over time, as well as those identified in non-visible minority categories.

City of Vancouver: Population Groups 1996-2016



The charts below provide twenty-year neighbourhood and city-wide trends for the four largest population groups in the city, as a percentage of the total population.

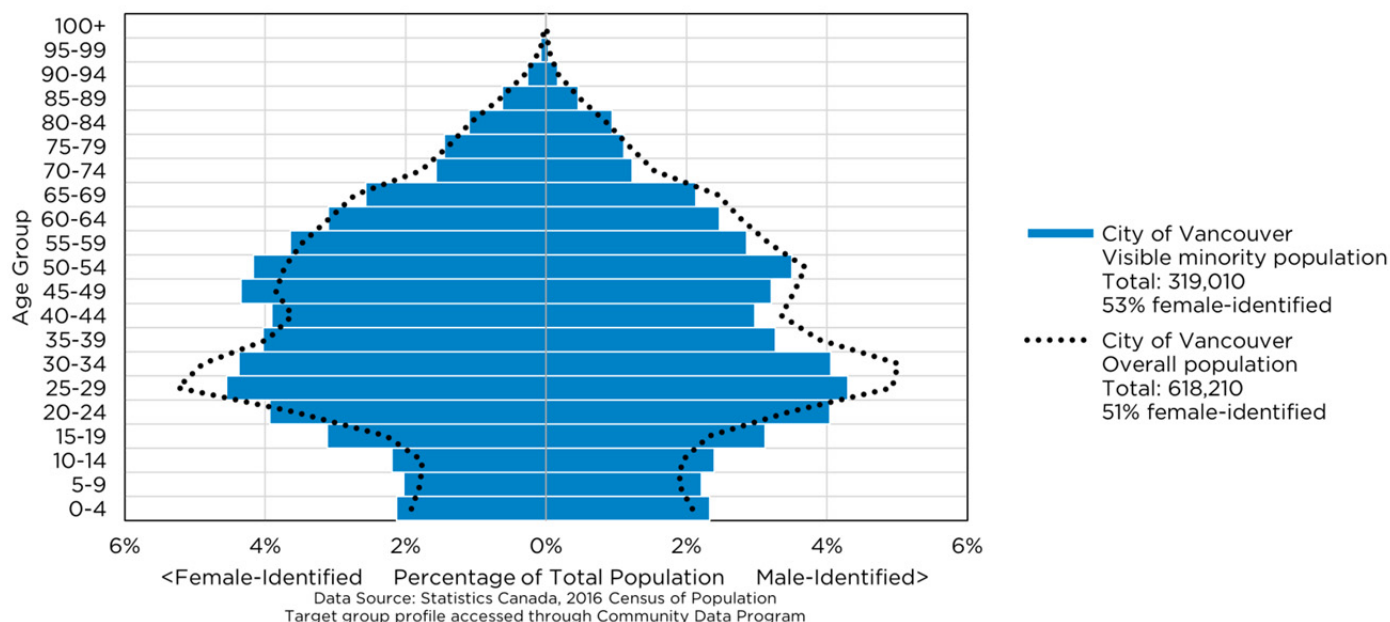
City of Vancouver: Population Groups Distribution, 1996-2016



Demographics of Racialized Populations

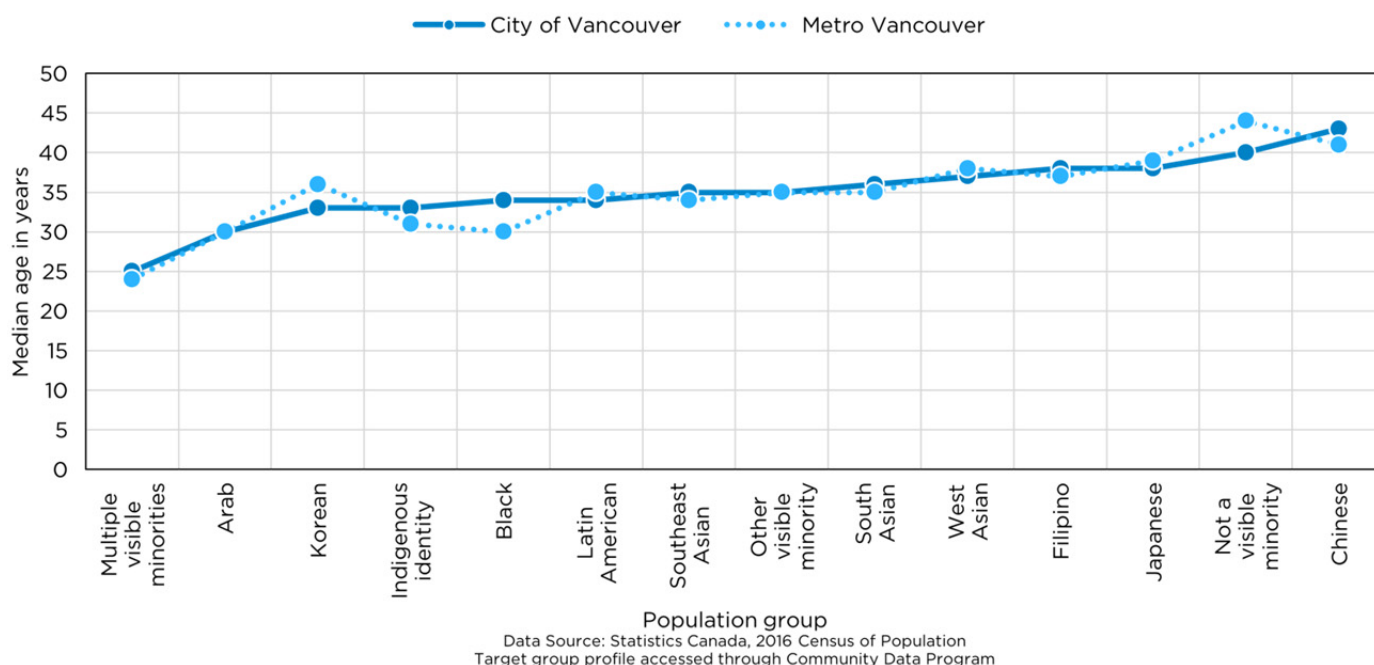
In aggregate, Vancouver's "visible minority" population has a similar age profile to the overall population, except that children and youth make up a larger share and young adults make up a smaller share. Among people in their 40s, 50s and 60s, people in visible minority groups are also more likely to be female.

**City of Vancouver:
Visible Minority Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



However, there are important differences between population groups. Median age is highest for people identified as Chinese visible minority and lowest for those identified with multiple visible minority groups.

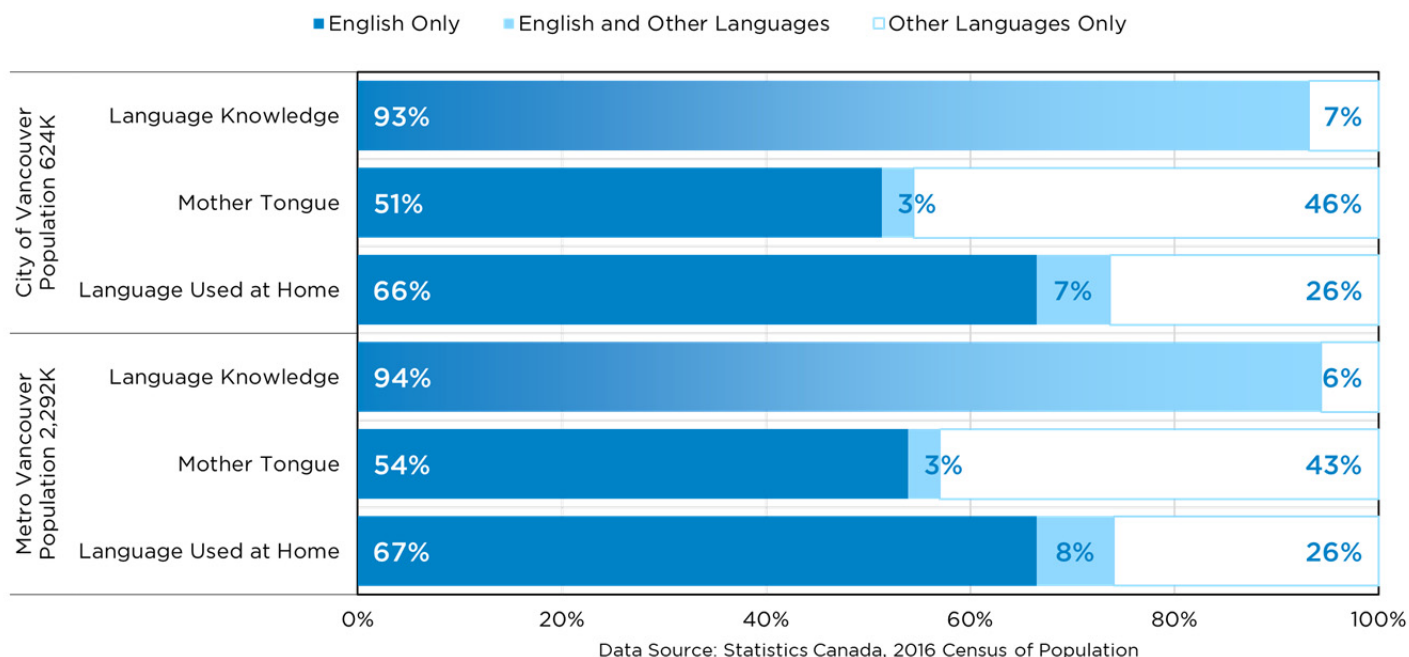
Median Age by Population Group, 2016



Language Summary

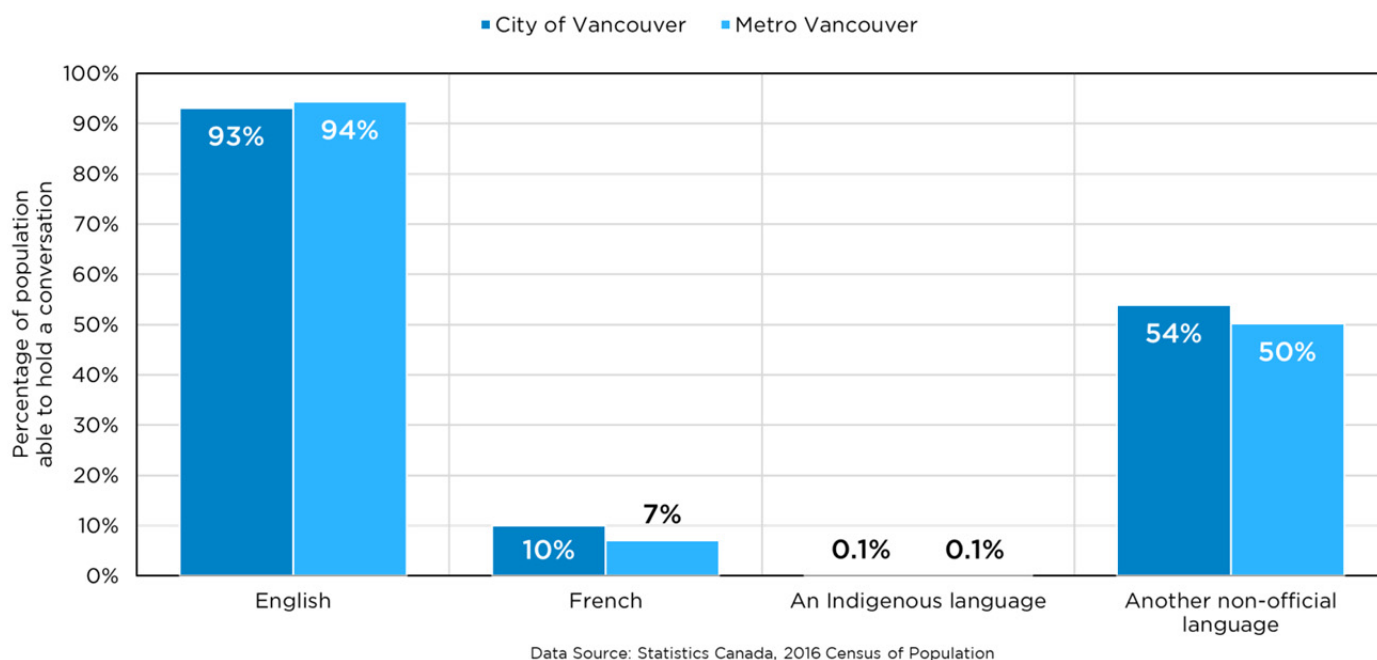
The bar chart below shows key language indicators—language knowledge, mother tongue and home language—broken down by English and non-English languages. The City of Vancouver has a larger proportion of residents with non-English languages than the region overall across all three indicators.

Population by English and Other Language Knowledge and Use, 2016



Looking at knowledge of official and non-official languages, the City of Vancouver has a slightly larger share of population able to speak French and at least one non-official language than the region overall.

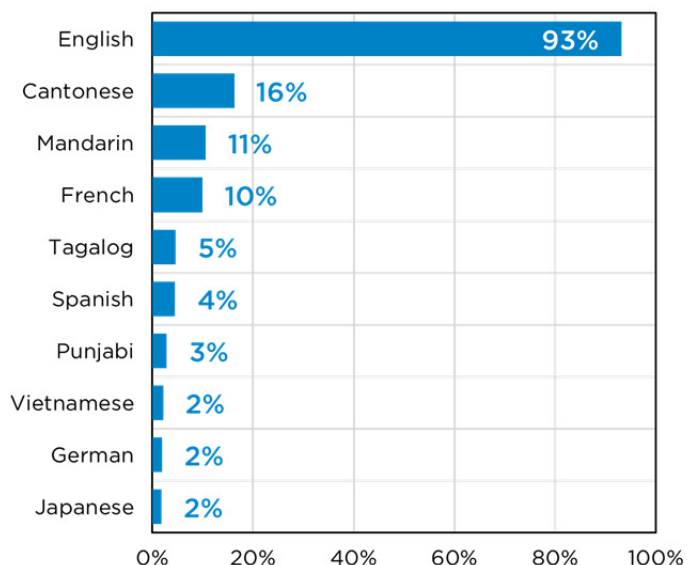
Population by Language Knowledge, 2016



Language Knowledge

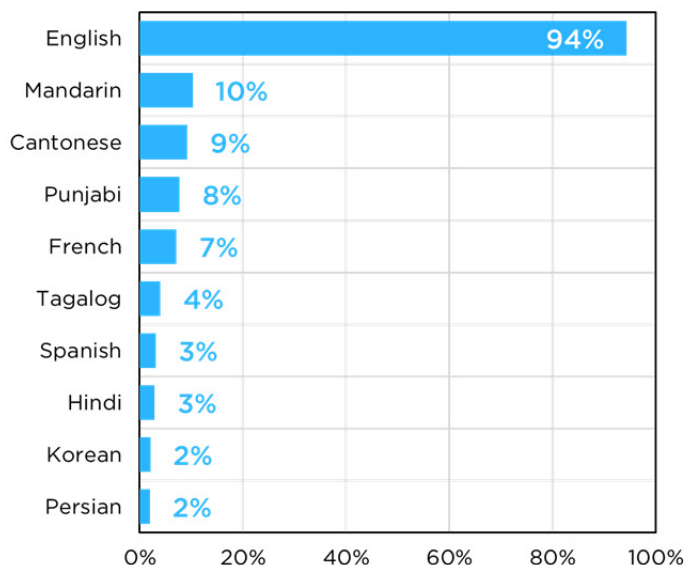
A more detailed breakdown of language knowledge shows that about 16% of Vancouver residents can speak Cantonese, 11% can speak Mandarin and 10% can speak French. Metro Vancouver has a larger share of population with knowledge of Punjabi.

City of Vancouver: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016



Data Source: Statistics Canada,
2016 Census of Population

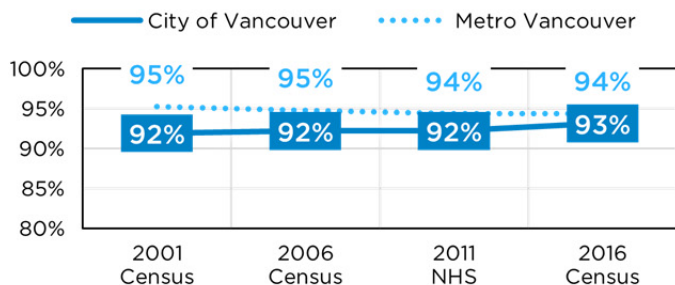
Metro Vancouver: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016



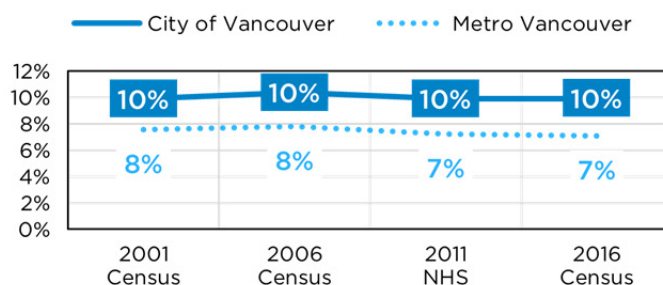
Data Source: Statistics Canada,
2016 Census of Population

Over time, Vancouver residents are somewhat more likely to speak official languages while the rate in the region is decreasing slightly. Trends in Chinese language knowledge are difficult to analyze because of the shift from reporting languages as “Chinese” to more specific dialects, but future censuses will show clearer trends.¹¹

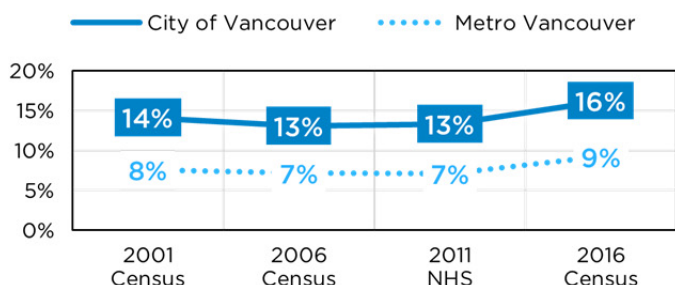
English Knowledge, 2001-2016



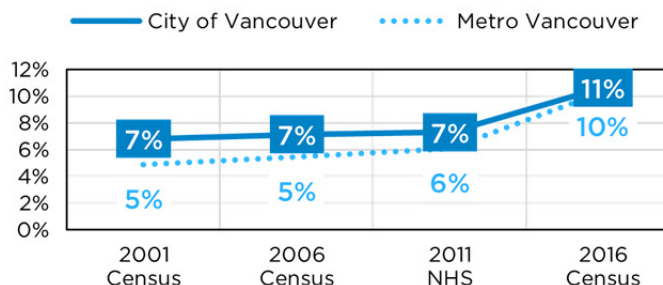
French Knowledge, 2001-2016



Cantonese Knowledge, 2001-2016



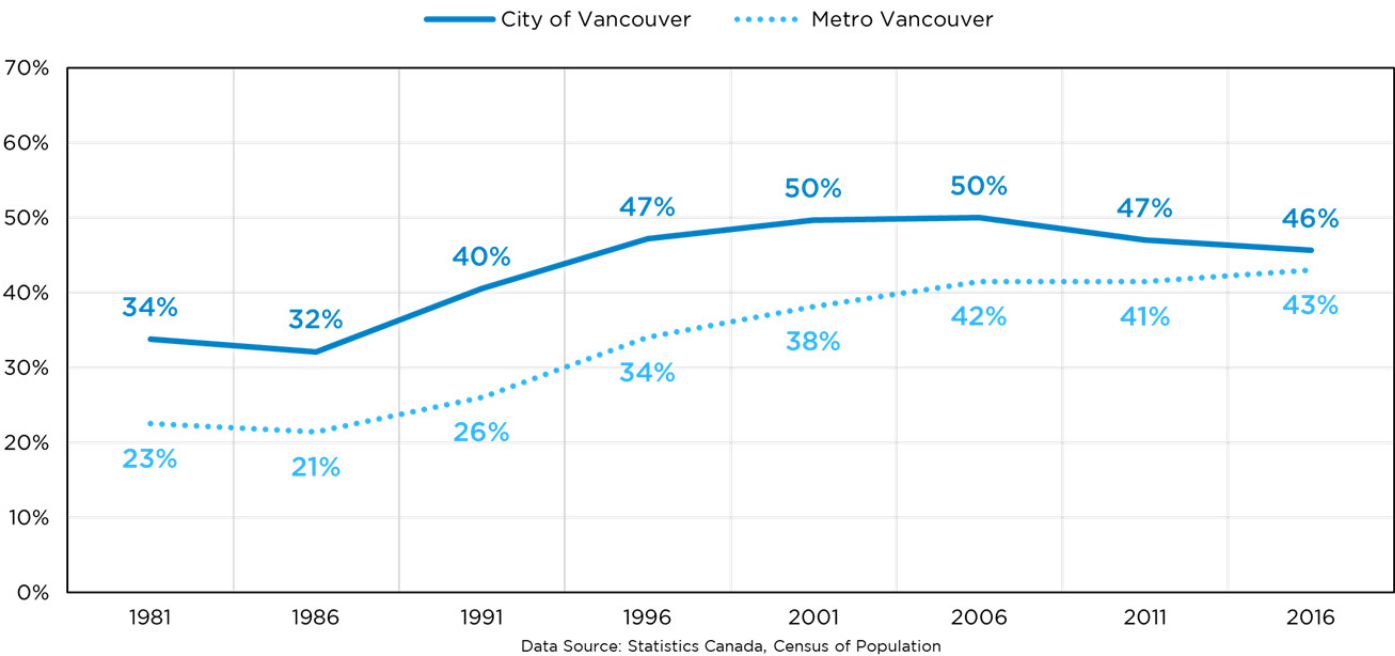
Mandarin Knowledge, 2001-2016



Mother Tongue

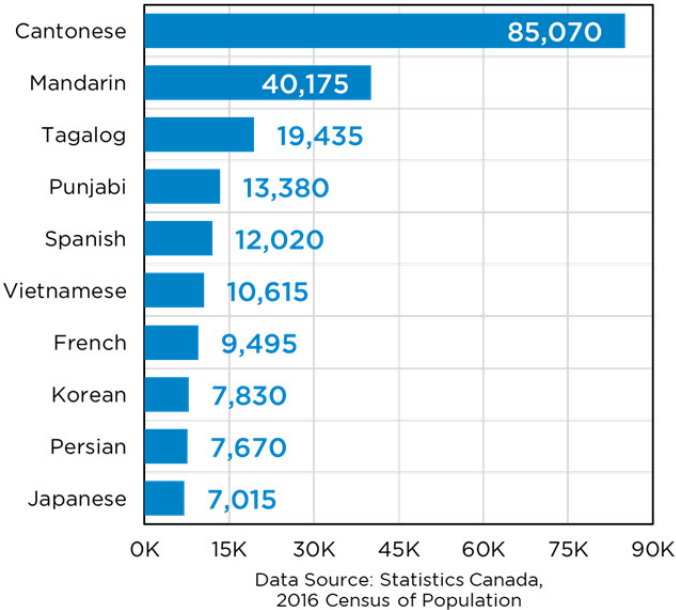
About 46% of Vancouver residents have a non-English first language. This proportion is higher than for the region overall, but has declined since 2006.

Population With a Non-English Mother Tongue, 1981-2016

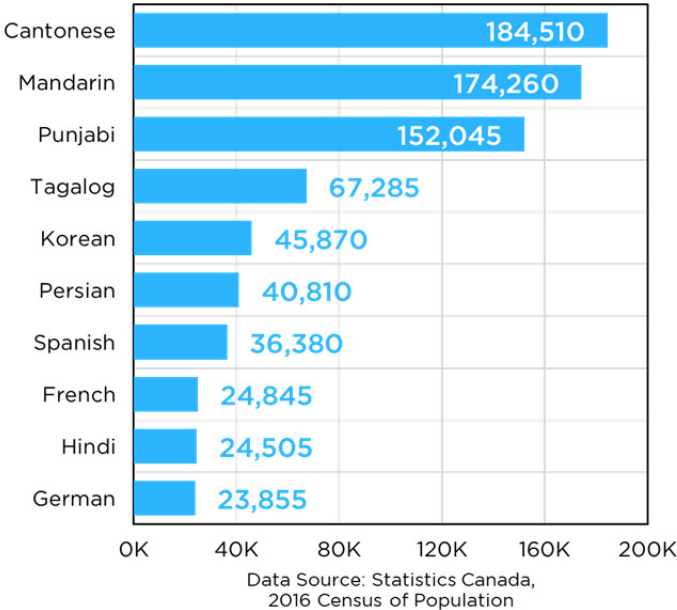


Cantonese, Mandarin and Tagalog are the most commonly reported non-English mother tongues in the City of Vancouver, with a number of other languages represented by a smaller number of speakers.

City of Vancouver: Top Non-English Mother Tongues, 2016



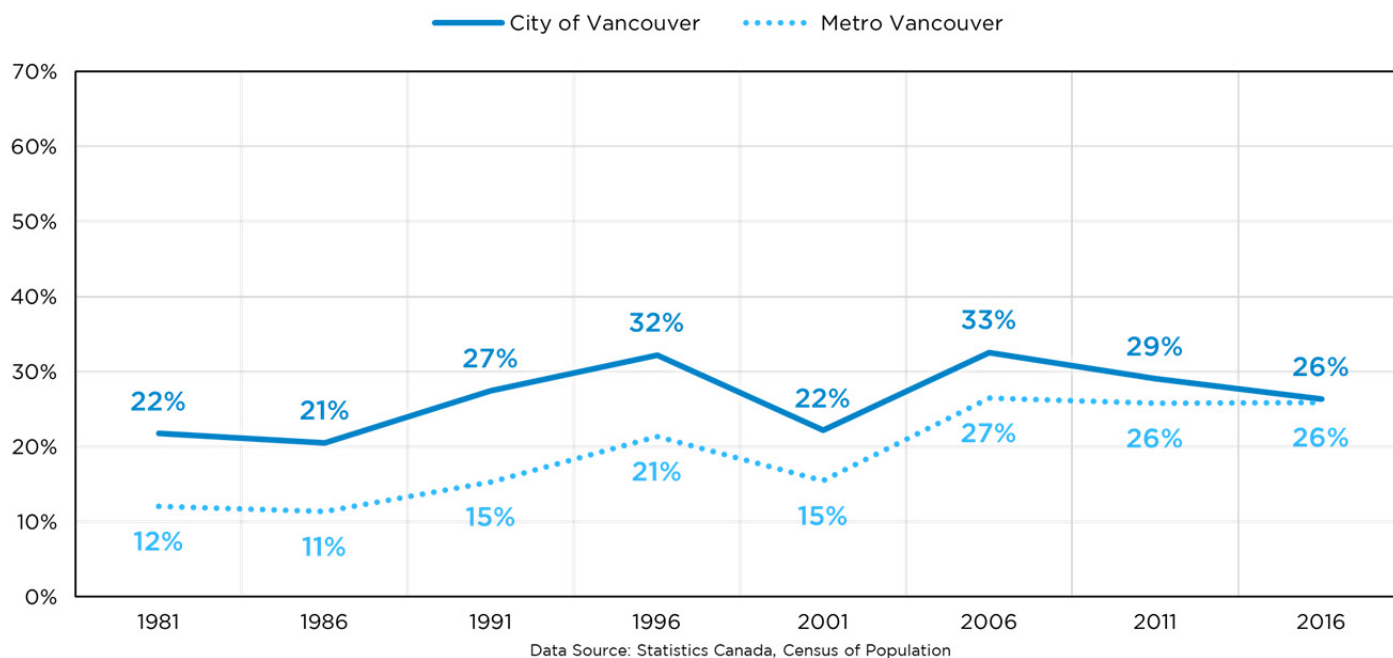
Metro Vancouver: Top Non-English Mother Tongues, 2016



Home Language

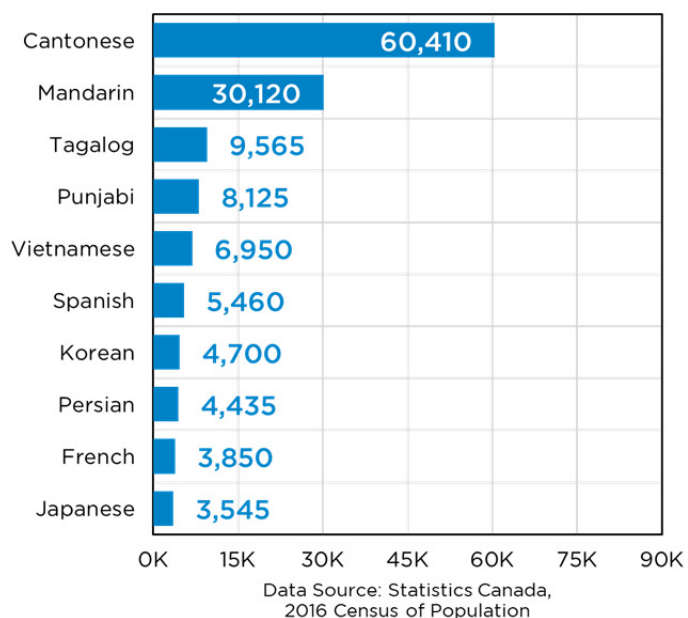
About 26% of Vancouver residents usually use a language other than English at home. This proportion has also declined since 2006 and is now the same as for the Metro Vancouver region overall.¹²

Population Usually Using Non-English Language at Home, 1981-2016

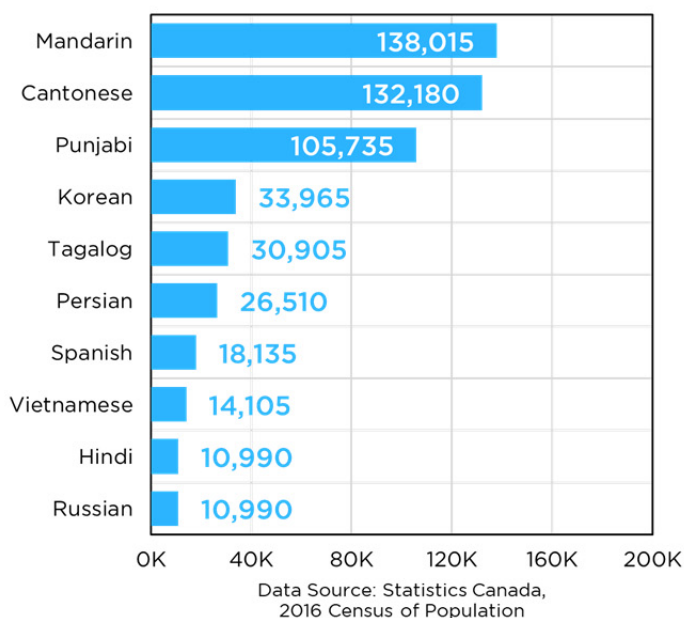


Cantonese is the most commonly used home language other than English in the City of Vancouver, followed by Mandarin, Tagalog and Punjabi. Across the region Mandarin is the most common non-English language used at home.

City of Vancouver: Top Non-English Home Languages, 2016



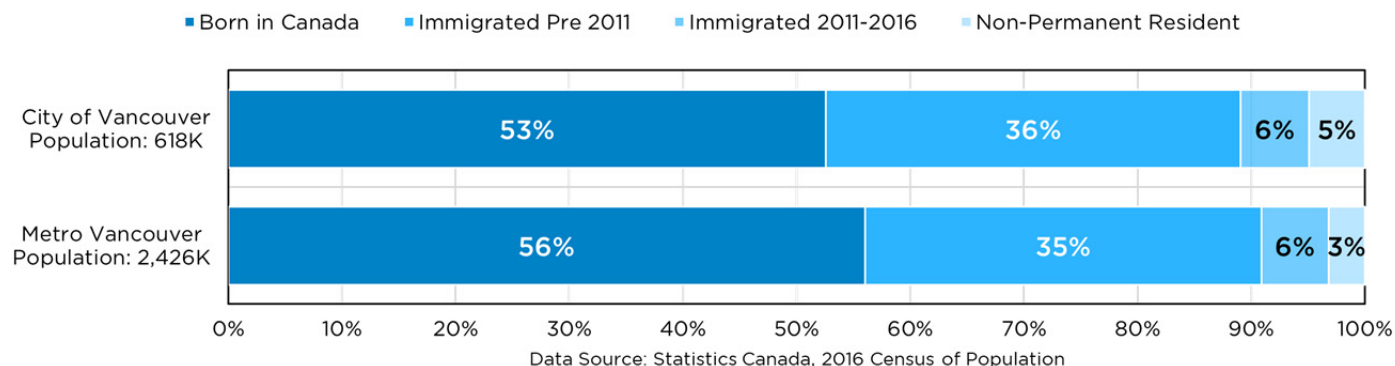
Metro Vancouver: Top Non-English Home Languages, 2016



Immigration

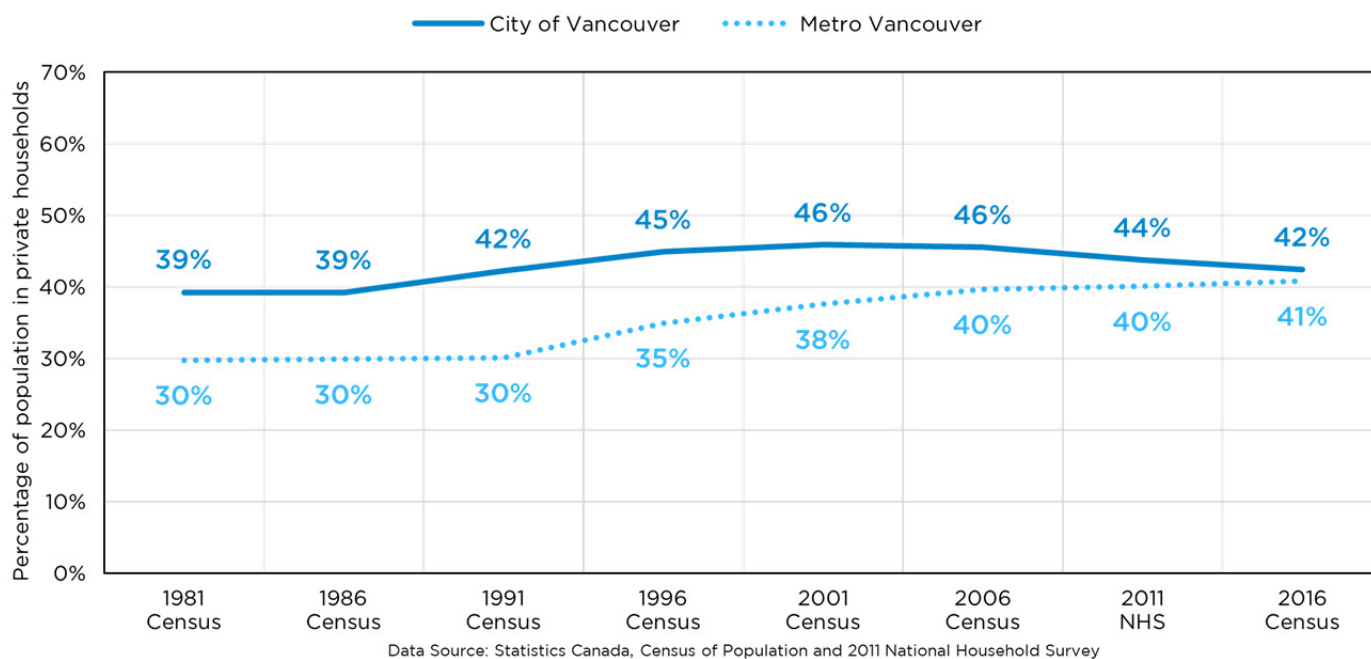
The City of Vancouver has a large population of immigrants but may be receiving fewer newcomers over time. As of 2016, 42% of the population are immigrants—including both Canadian citizens and permanent residents—and another 5% are non-permanent residents, including foreign students, temporary workers or refugee claimants.

Population by Immigration Status, 2016



Since 2001, the percentage of the city's population that are immigrants has steadily decreased. There is still growth in absolute numbers—the City of Vancouver has 15% more immigrants in 2016 than in 1996—but a slower rate of growth than for the non-immigrant population. Across Metro Vancouver, the absolute number of immigrants has increased by 56% from 1996 to 2016.

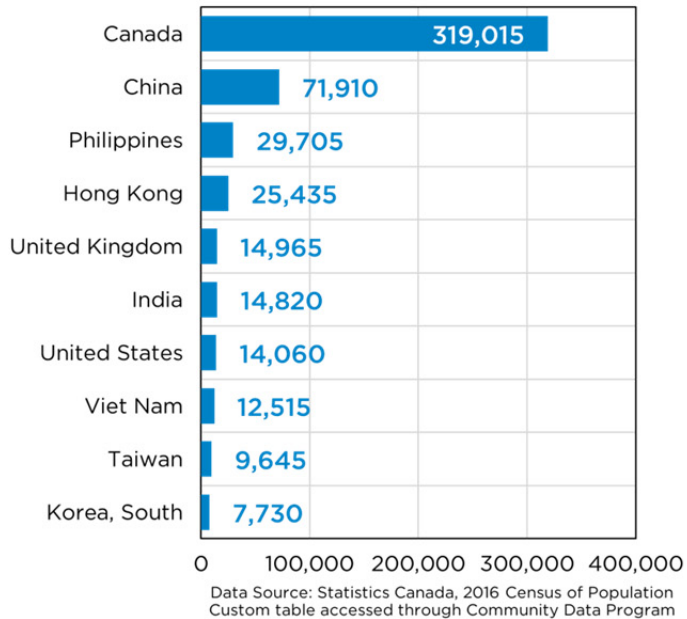
Immigrants as Percentage of Population, 1981-2016



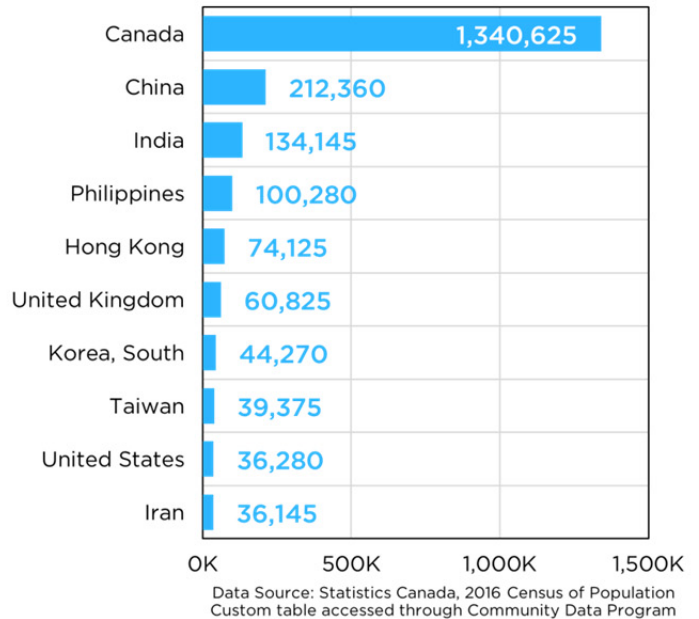
Places of Birth

A slight majority of the city's population was born in Canada. The most commonly reported places of birth for those not born in Canada are China, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

City of Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

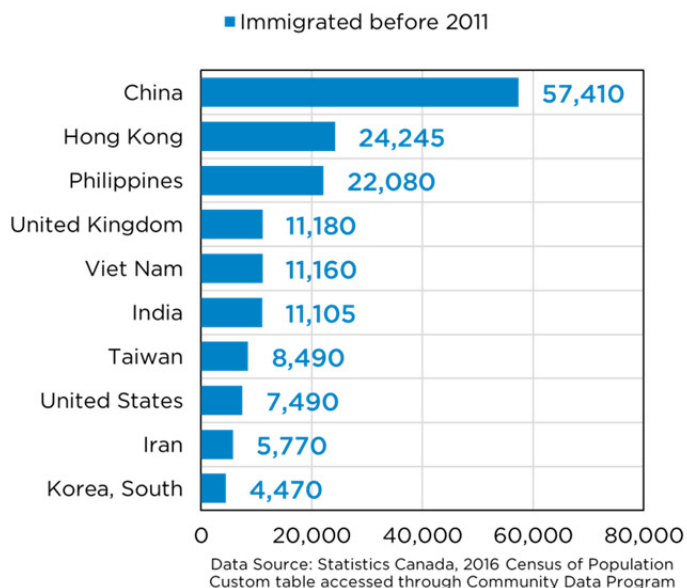


Metro Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

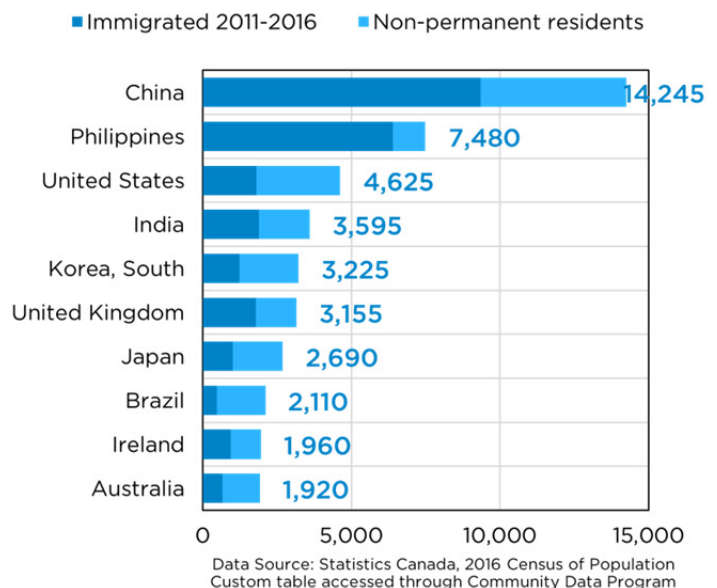


There are changing patterns of migration and immigration in Vancouver. Among established immigrants who had arrived at least five years before the census, Hong Kong is the second most common place of birth. Among newcomers, the Philippines, United States, India and Korea stand out as significant places of birth, with each country having a different distribution of new immigrants and non-permanent residents.

City of Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Established Immigrant Population, 2016



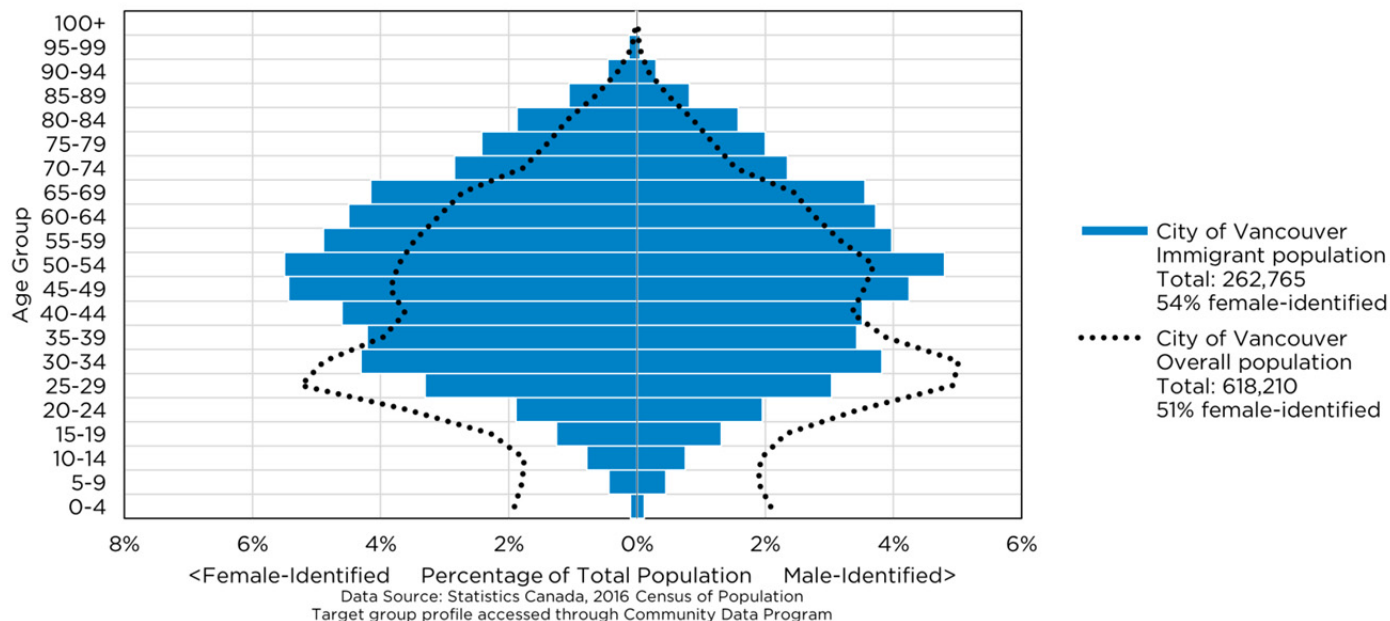
City of Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Newcomer Population, 2016



Demographics of Immigrant Populations

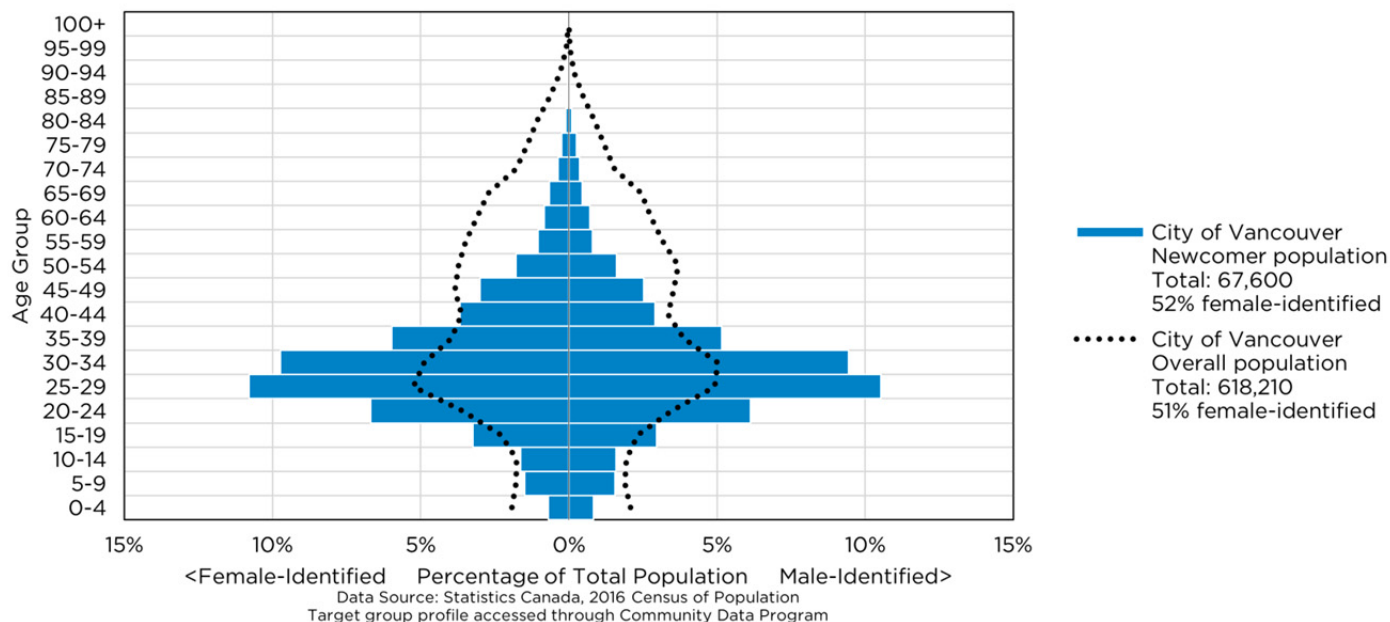
Vancouver's population of immigrants skews older than the overall population, with age groups over 40 making up a larger scale of immigrant populations in the city.

**City of Vancouver:
Immigrant Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



However, the city's newcomer population—including both recent immigrants and non-permanent residents—is concentrated in young adults. People moving for economic reasons are particularly likely to move in their 20s and 30s.

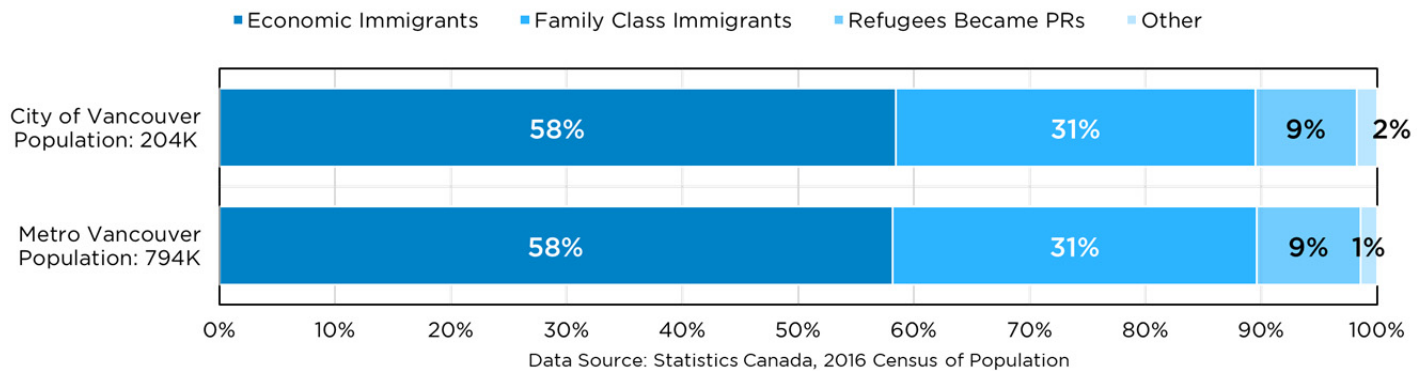
**City of Vancouver:
Newcomer Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



Immigrant Admission and Citizenship

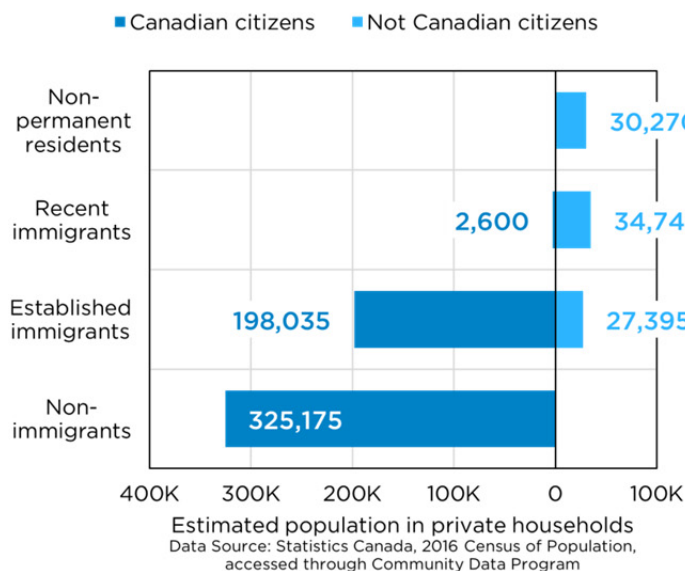
By linking census data to admissions data, Statistics Canada is able to generate summary data on people's category of admission to Canada for people who immigrated after 1980. In the City of Vancouver, 58% of immigrants were admitted in economic categories, including worker, business and provincial nominee programs; 31% were admitted through family programs; and 9% became permanent residents after being admitted as refugees. These rates are similar to the region overall.

Population that Immigrated After 1980 by Admission Category, 2016

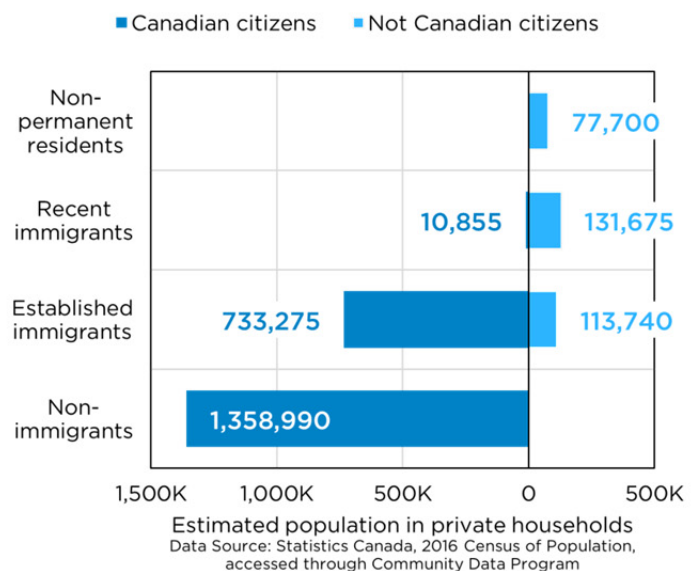


Across Vancouver, 88% of established immigrants and 7% of new immigrants have become Canadian citizens, similar rates to the region overall. About 27 thousand established immigrants and 35 thousand new immigrants remain permanent residents but not Canadian citizens, meaning that they do not have access to voting rights or other privileges that citizenship brings, and the city's 30 thousand non-permanent residents live in Vancouver with the conditions of their admission permits to Canada

City of Vancouver: Population by Immigration and Citizenship Status, 2016



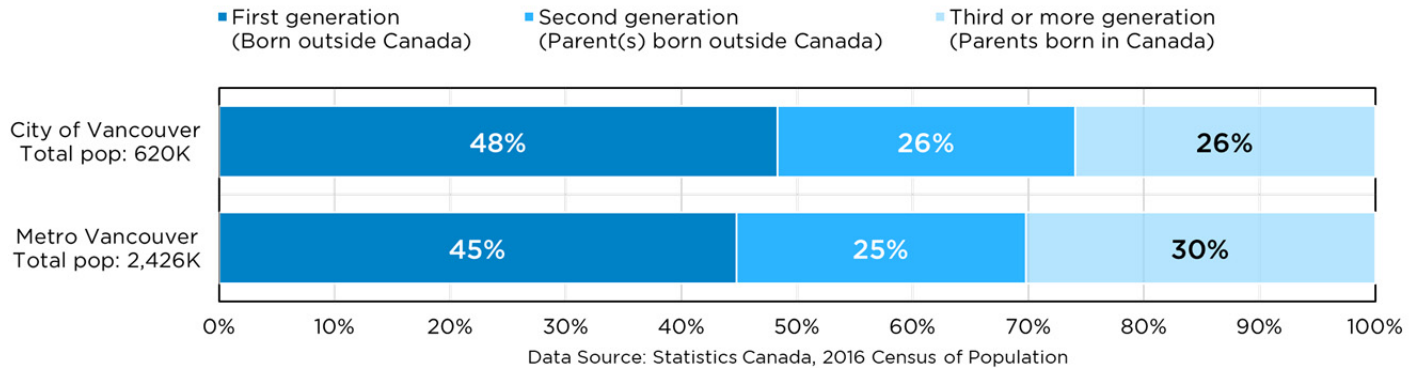
Metro Vancouver: Population by Immigration and Citizenship Status, 2016



Generations in Canada

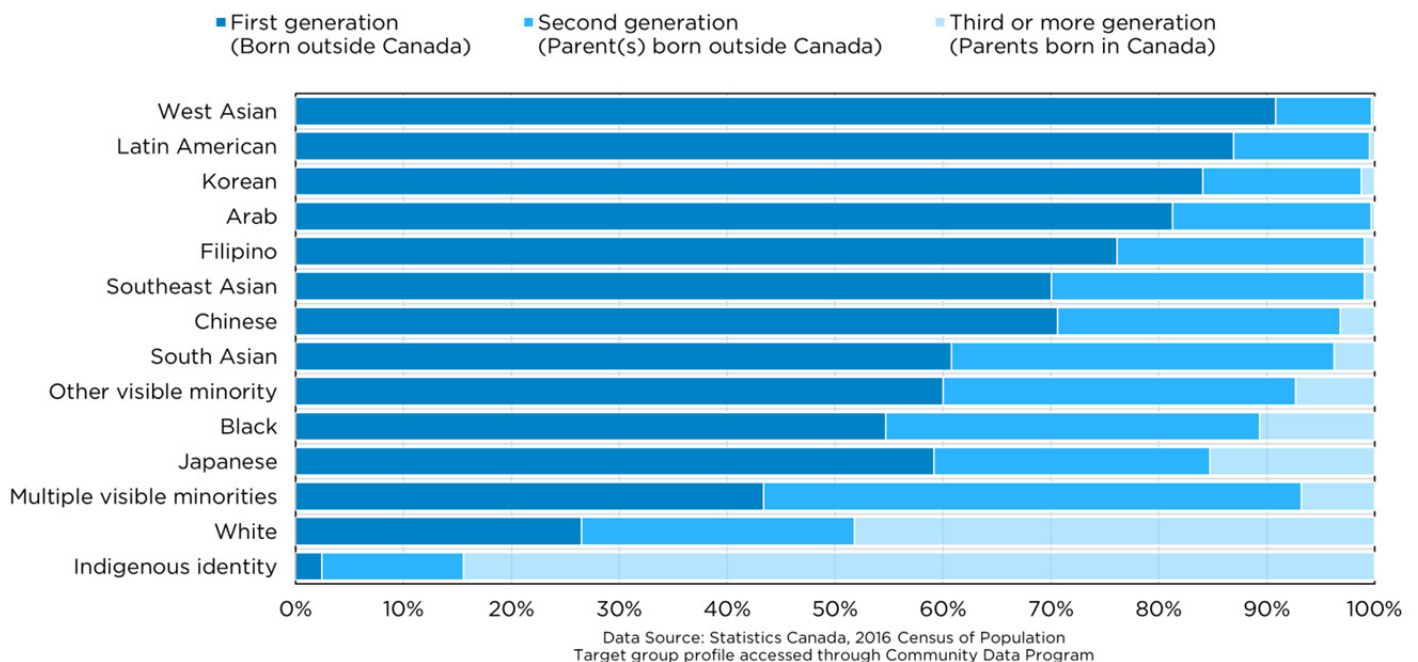
Vancouver is home to diverse immigrant populations, and a particular area of note is a growing second-generation population of people whose parents¹³ were born outside Canada. Across the city, 48% of the population are first generation, 26% are second generation and 26% are third-or-more generation in Canada. The rest of the region is more likely to house third-or-more generation residents.

Population by Generation in Canada, 2016



Except for Indigenous residents, people of all racial identities are in Vancouver because of immigration, whether in current or previous generations. A majority of white residents of Vancouver are first- or second-generation immigrants. A majority of people who identify with multiple “visible minority” groups were born in Canada. And many populations, such as Japanese and Black residents, include a substantial number of people who have been in Canada for multiple generations.

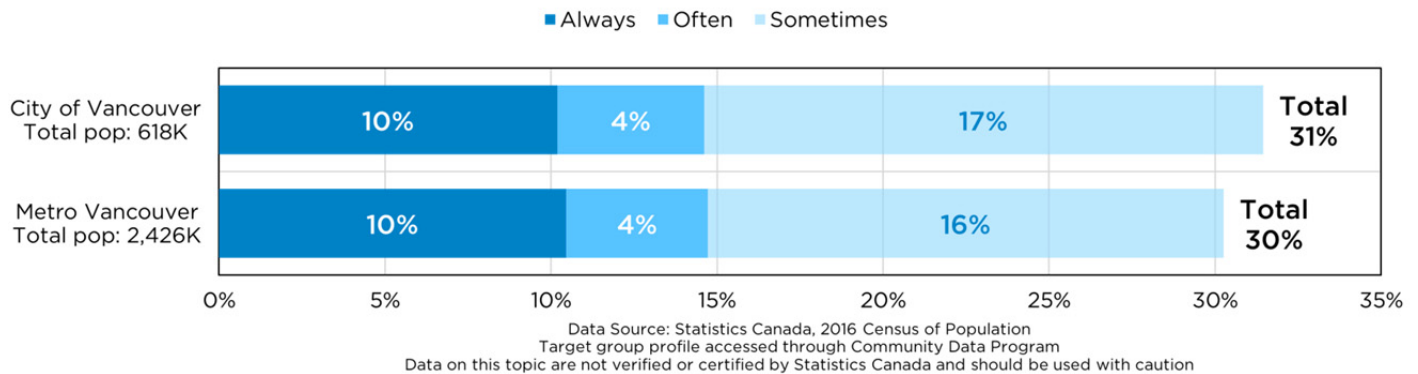
City of Vancouver: Pop. Groups by Generations in Canada, 2016



Activity Limitations and Disabilities

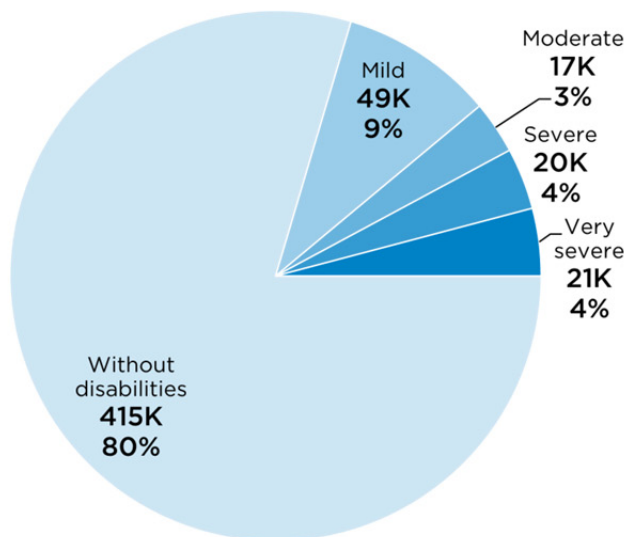
The census does not include a specific question on ability and disability, but does ask respondents to identify whether they have specific limitations on their daily activities. These questions are intended to be a sampling frame for the follow-up Canadian Survey on Disability rather than used directly, but they can provide a broad picture of ability across the population that can be tabulated by neighbourhood or across population groups. In Vancouver, 31% of people experience a limitation on their daily activities on at least an occasional basis, a slightly higher rate than for Metro Vancouver overall.

Population with Limitations on Daily Activities, 2016

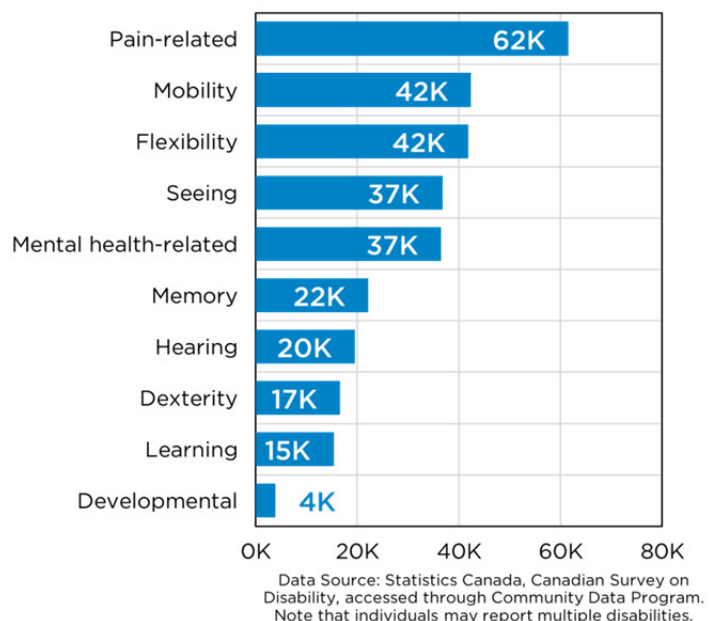


Indicators from the Canadian Survey on Disability are available at a city-wide level. Based on that survey, 20% of people age 15 and older in Vancouver have a disability. Slightly fewer than half of people with a disability have a mild disability, while slightly more than half have a moderate, severe or very severe disability. The most common types of disability are pain, mobility and flexibility.

City of Vancouver: Est. Pop. with Disabilities by Severity, 2017



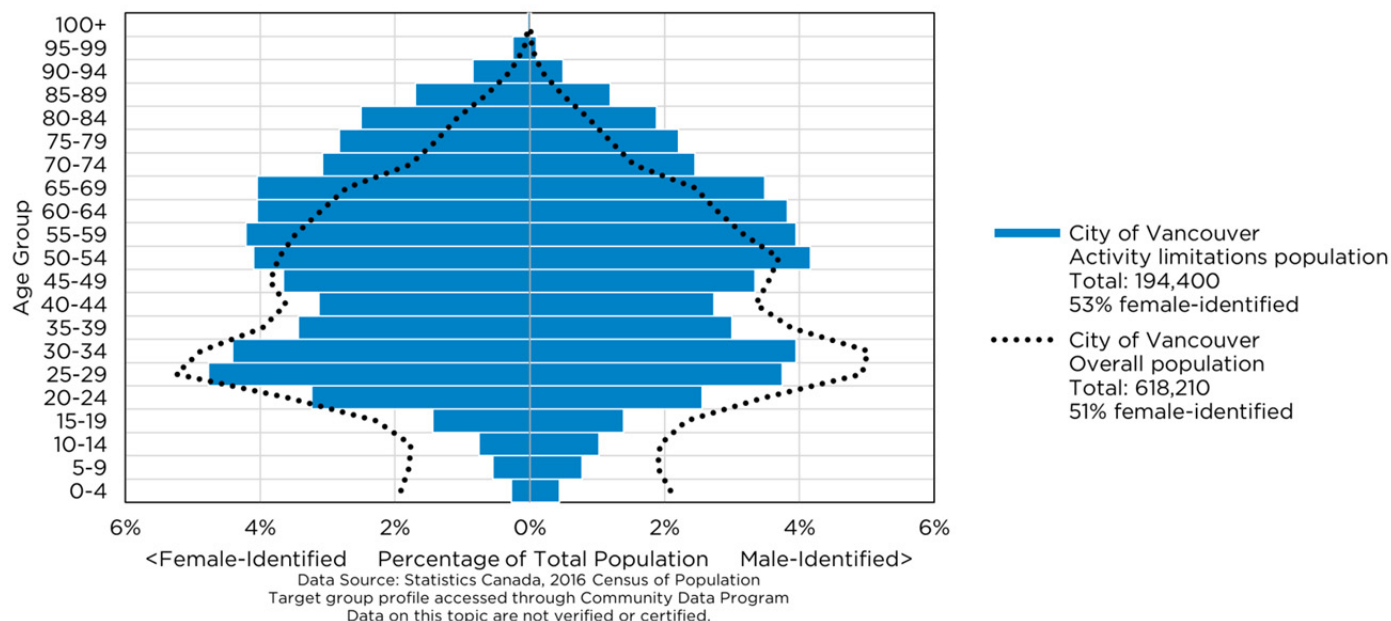
City of Vancouver: Est. Pop. with Indicated Type of Disability, 2017



Demographics of Activity Limitations

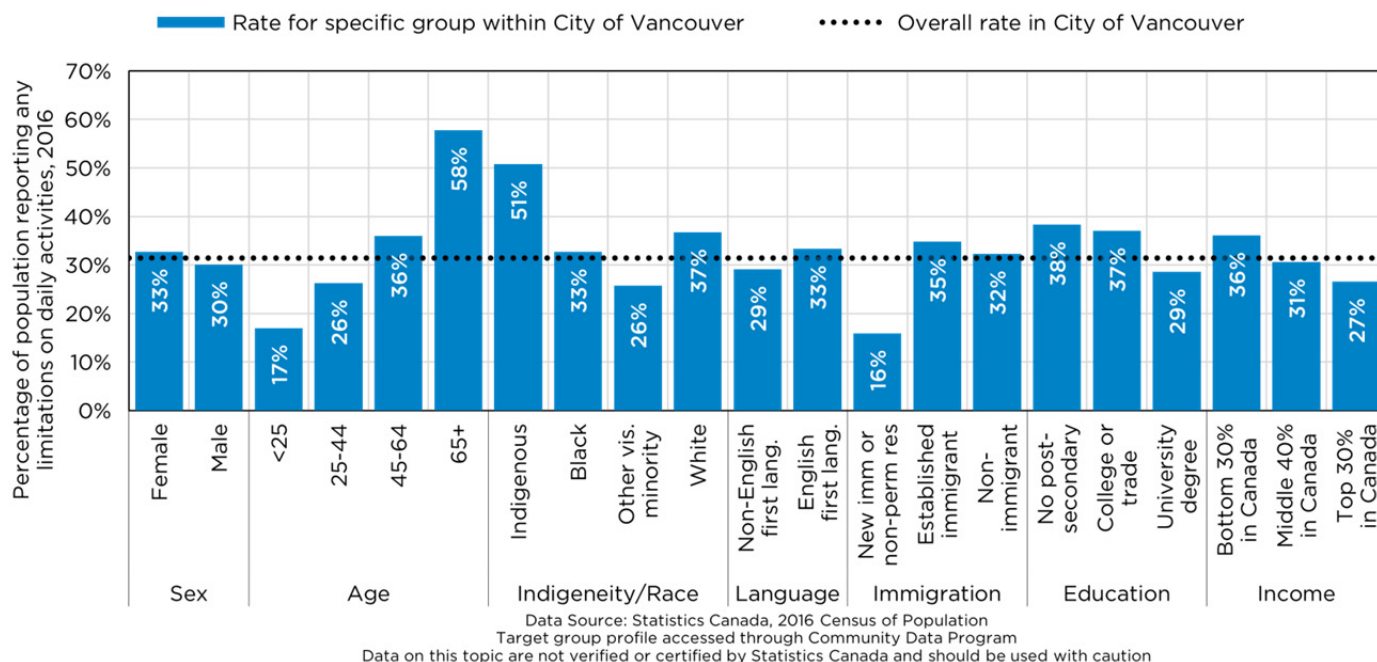
The age profile of people with limits on daily activities skews toward older adults and seniors. However, it is important to note that a large number of adults of all ages report limitations on daily activities.

City of Vancouver: Activity Limitations Population by Age and Sex, 2016



The charts below compare the rate that people report activity limitations among different demographic groups. There are differences visible by sex, age, Indigenous identity, race, education and income.

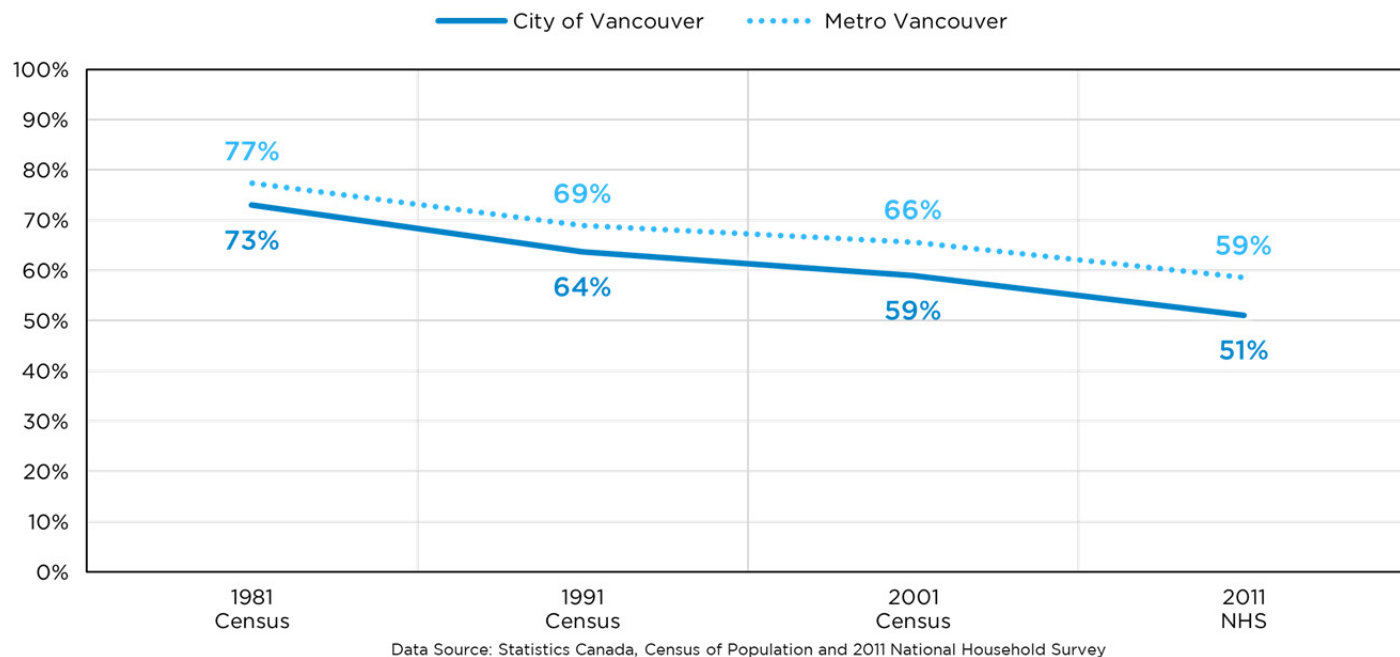
City of Vancouver: Rate of Activity Limits by Demographic, 2016



Spirituality and Religion

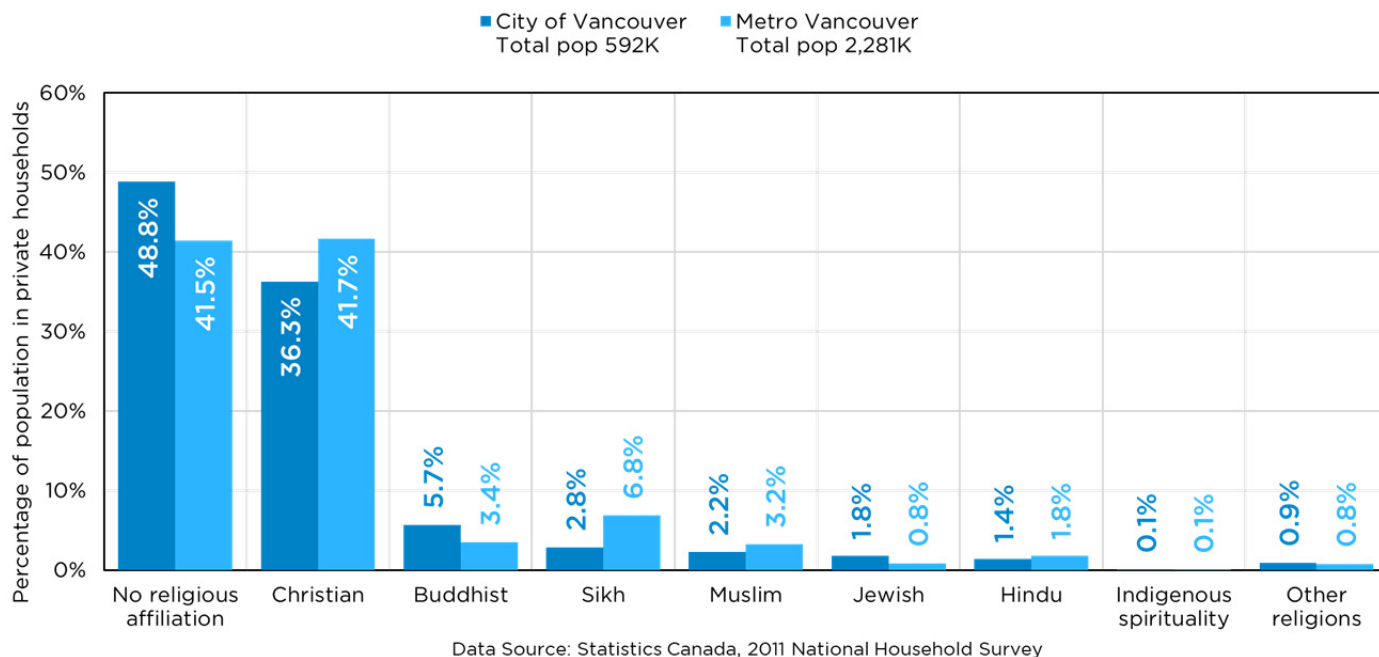
Information on people's religious identity is collected through the census program every ten years, so the most recent data available is from the voluntary National Household Survey in 2011. In 2011, 51% of the population in the City of Vancouver was estimated to have a religious affiliation, a smaller rate than the region overall.

Percentage of Population with Religious Affiliation, 1981-2011



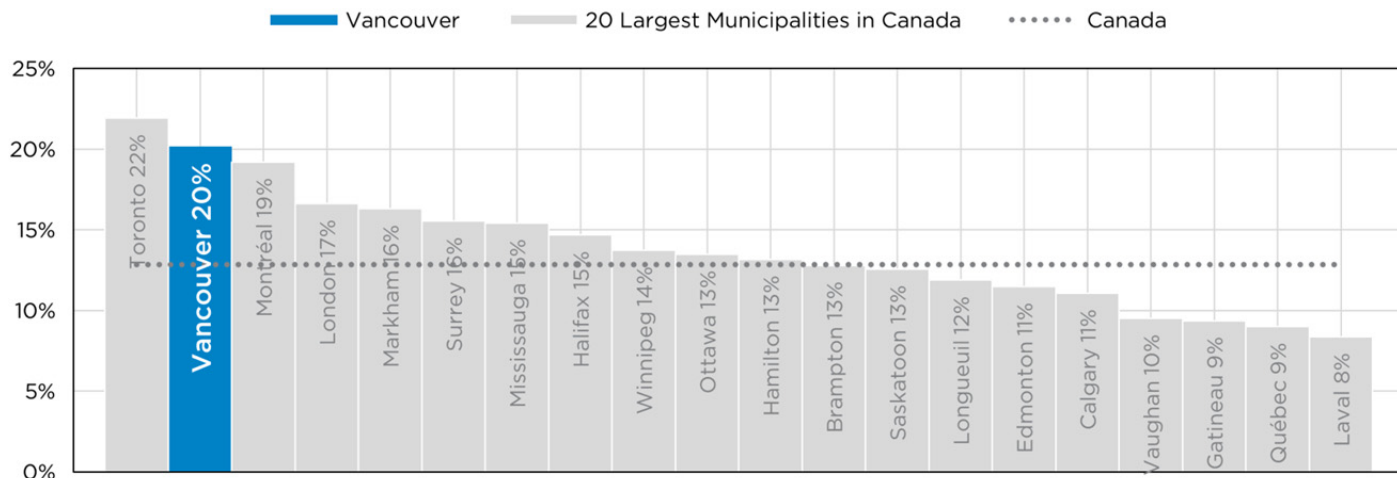
The graphs below show broad categories of religious affiliation reported in the City of Vancouver and across Metro Vancouver: Vancouver residents are less likely to identify themselves as Christian or Sikh and more likely to not have a religious affiliation than residents of the region overall.

Population by Religious Affiliation, 2011

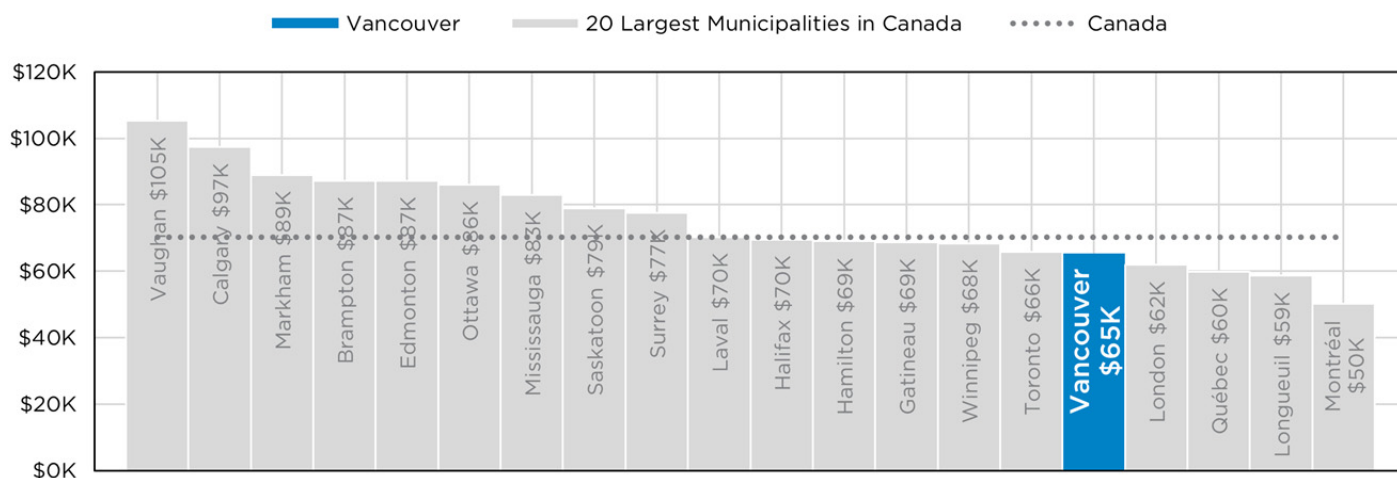


ECONOMY AND EQUITY

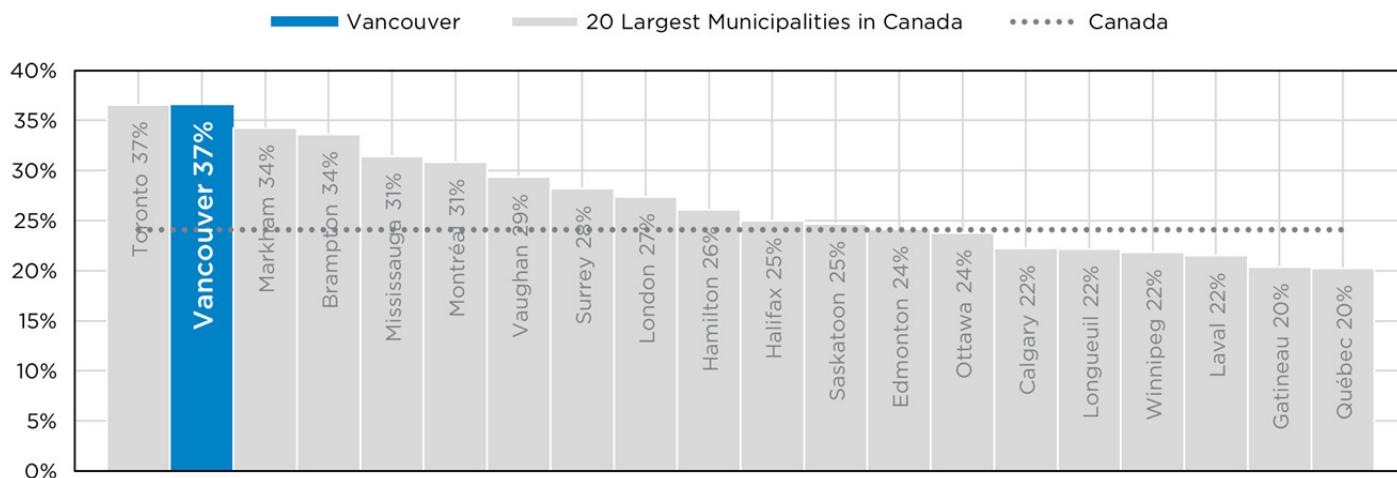
Population Below National Poverty Line, 2016



Median Household Income, 2016

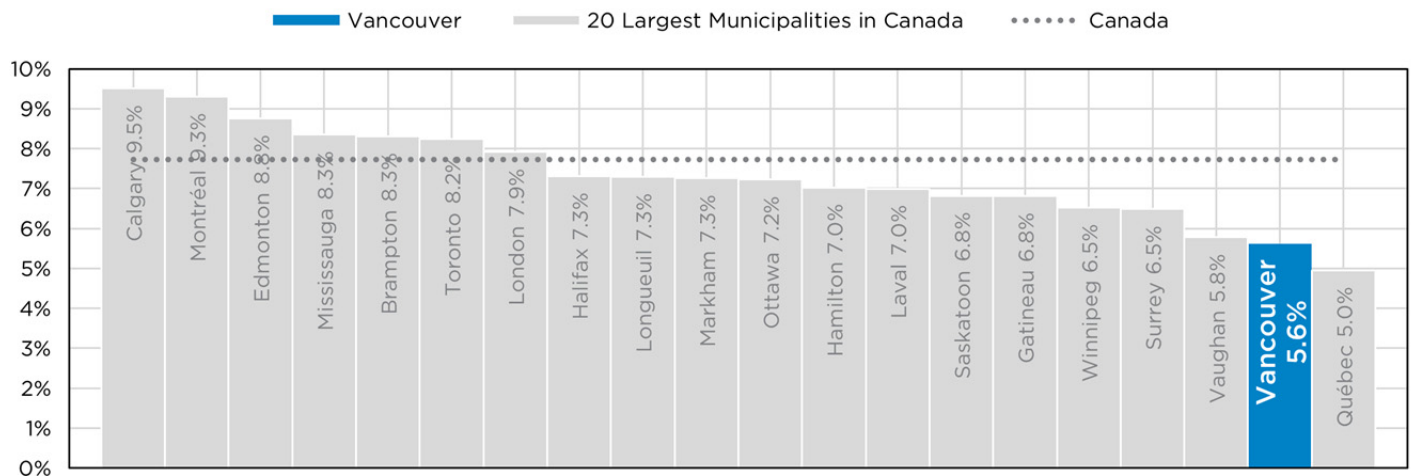


Households Spending Over 30% of Total Income on Housing, 2016

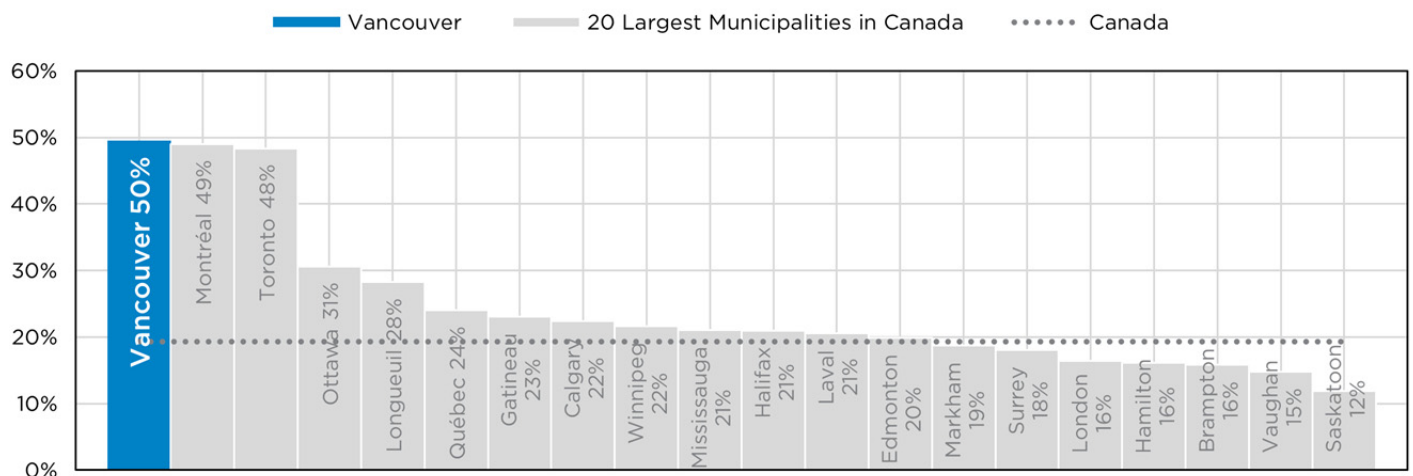


NATIONAL COMPARISONS

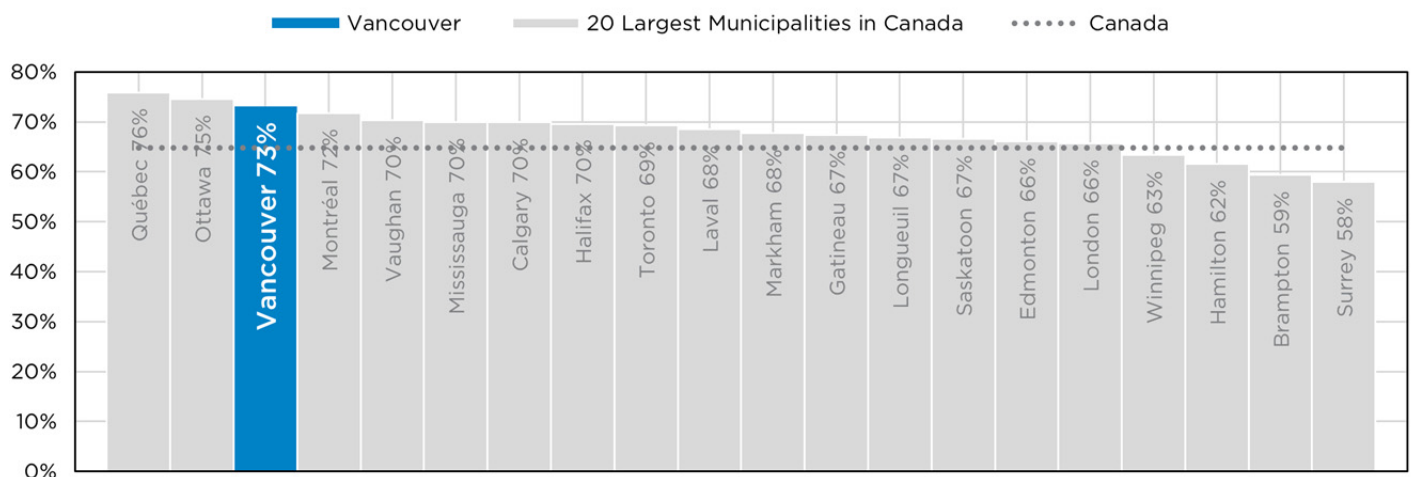
Unemployment Rate for Residents in Labour Force, 2016



Employed Population Walking, Cycling or Transit to Work, 2016



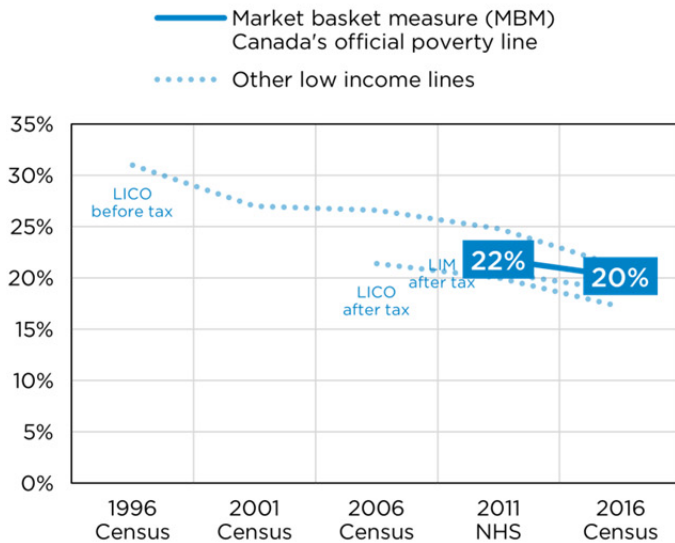
Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary Certificate, 2016



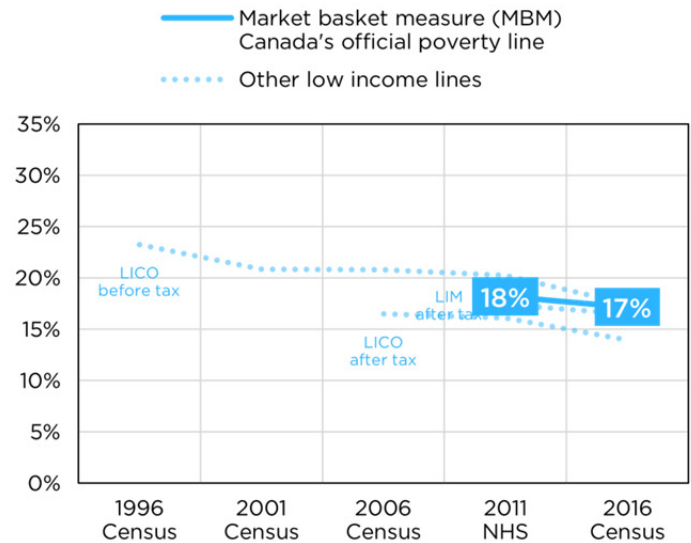
Income Poverty

Canada has only recently defined a national poverty line: the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which compares family disposable income to the cost of basic needs in a community. 20% of Vancouver's population have incomes below this line. While assessing trends over time is challenging given changing measures, the poverty rate appears to be decreasing over time but remains higher than the region overall.

**City of Vancouver:
Low Income Rates, 1996-2016**

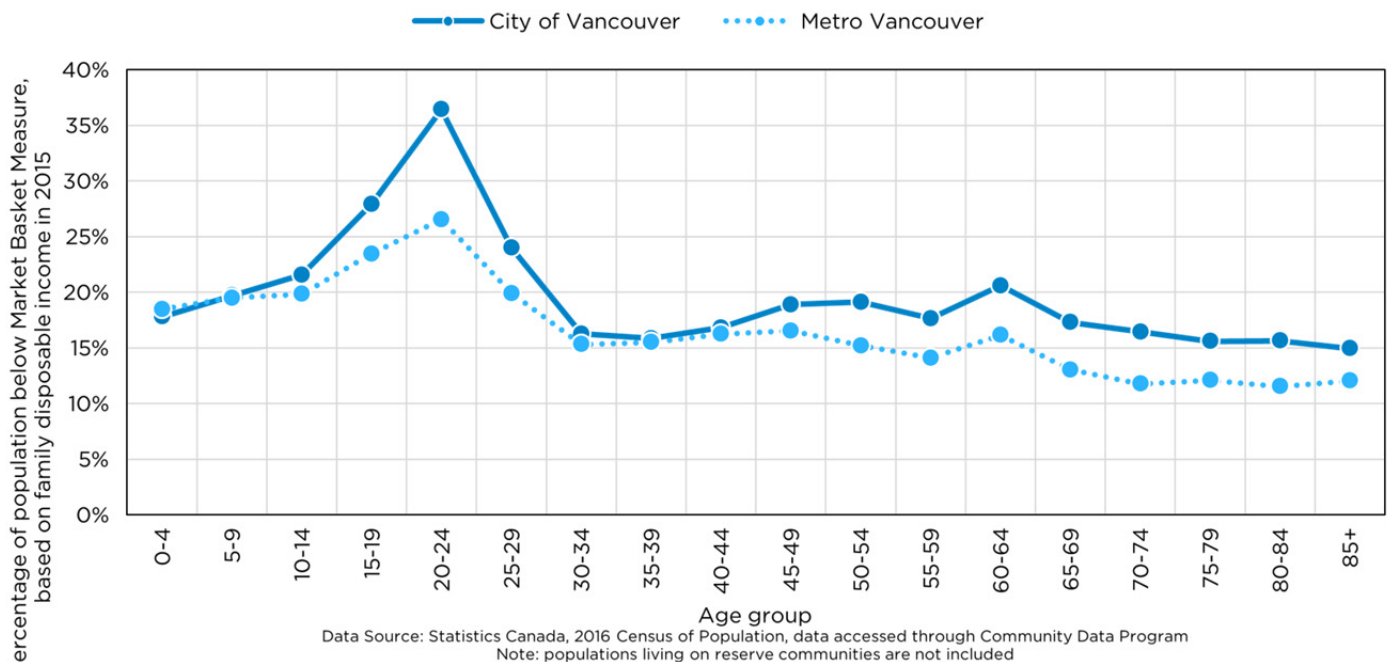


**Metro Vancouver:
Low Income Rates, 1996-2016**



Poverty is experienced by people of all ages, with the highest rates among young adults. Compared to Metro Vancouver overall, both younger and older adults have higher rates of poverty in Vancouver proper.

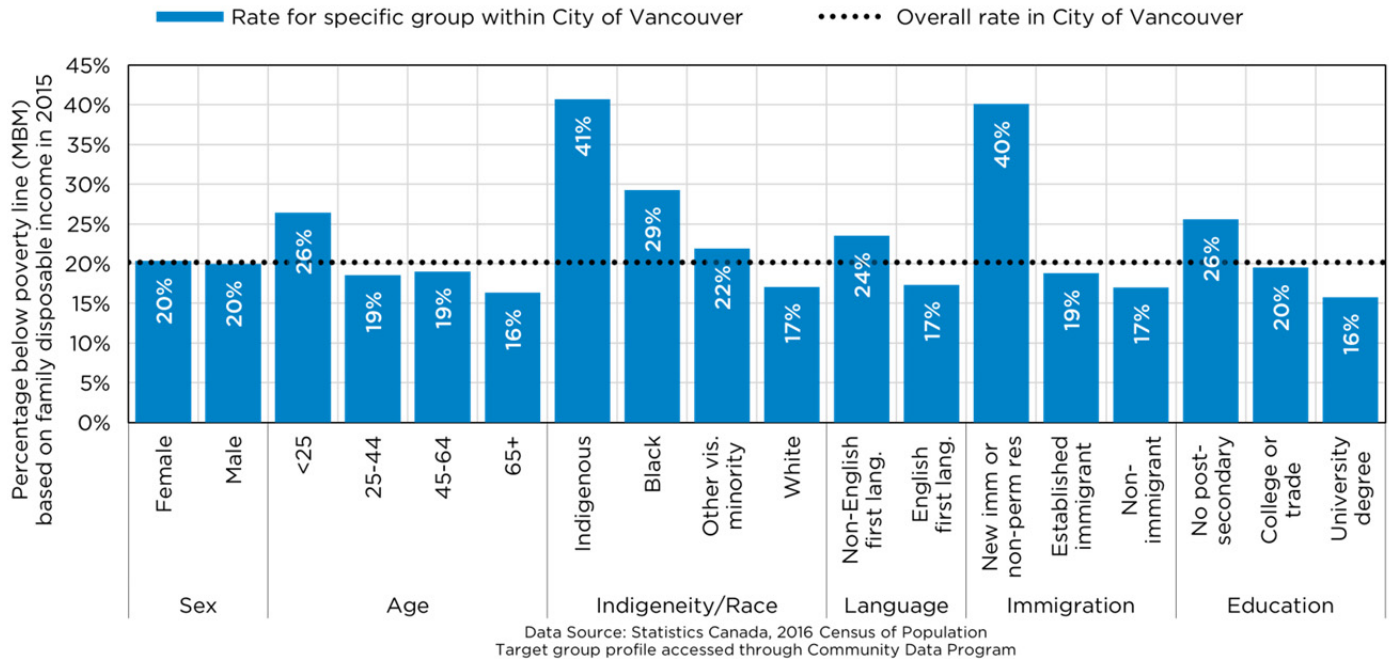
Poverty Rate by Age Group, 2016



Equity and Poverty

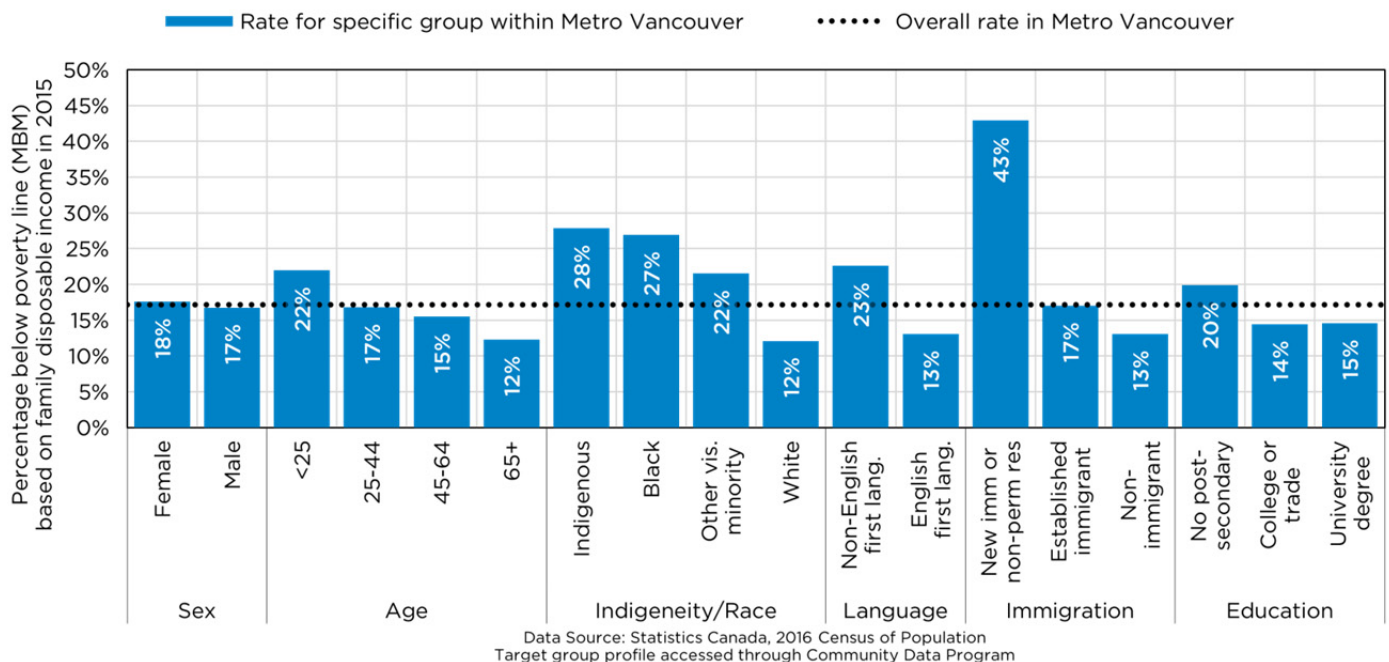
Poverty does not strike randomly: inadequate income to meet basic needs correlates with other systems of oppression and inequity. In Vancouver, Indigenous and Black residents are much more likely to experience poverty than other residents. Newcomers have higher poverty rates than established immigrants or Canadian-born residents.

City of Vancouver: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016



The same patterns are seen across the broader region, though some inequities are less pronounced across Metro Vancouver than they are in the city proper.

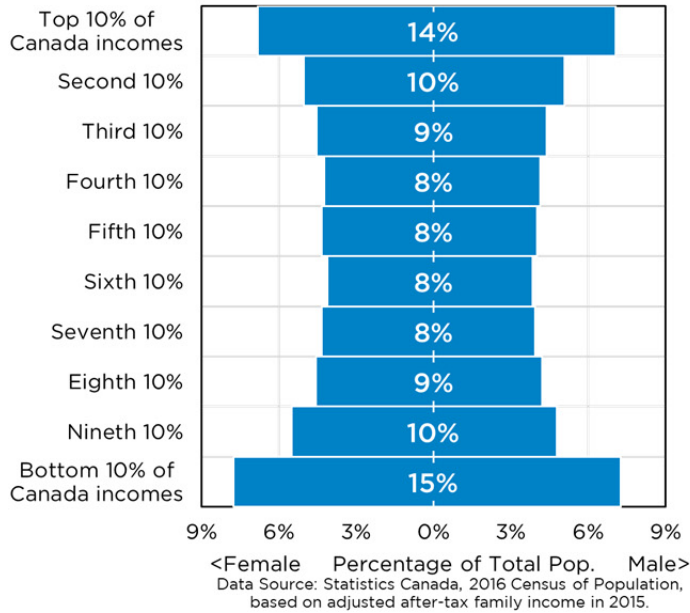
Metro Vancouver: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016



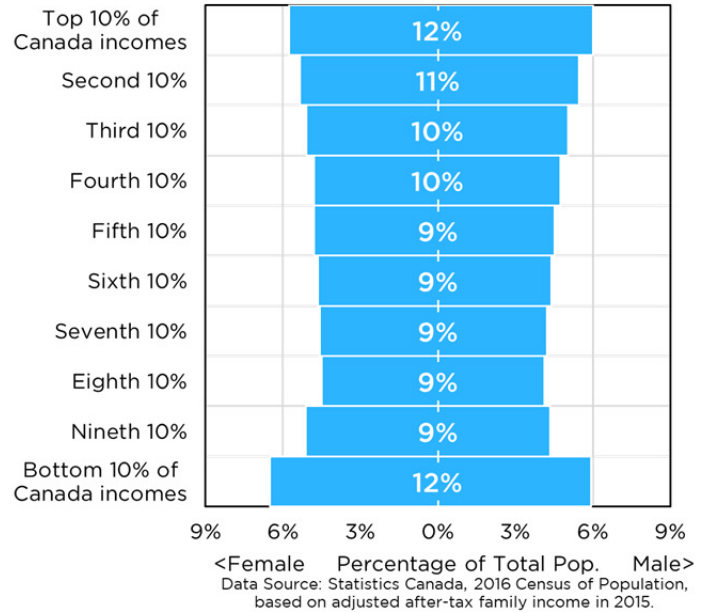
Income Inequity

The City of Vancouver is more polarized than Canada overall: 14% of Vancouverites are in the top 10% of Canadian earners, and 15% are in the bottom 10%. It is also more polarized than the overall region.

City of Vancouver: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

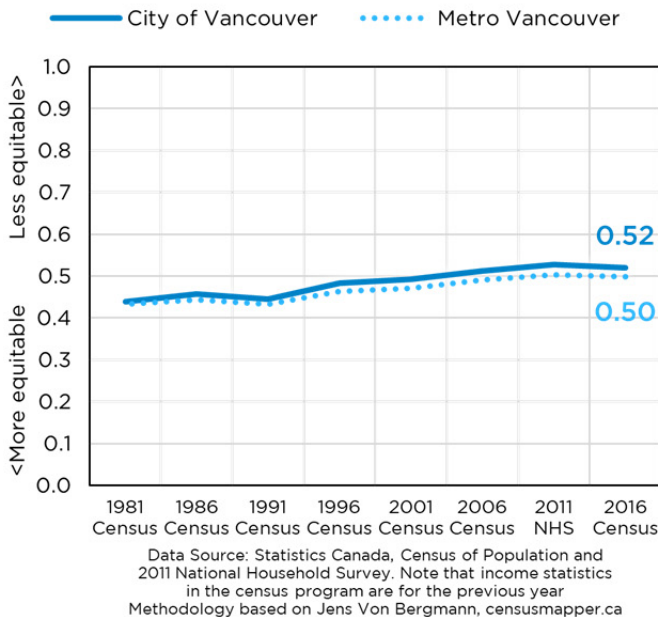


Metro Vancouver: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

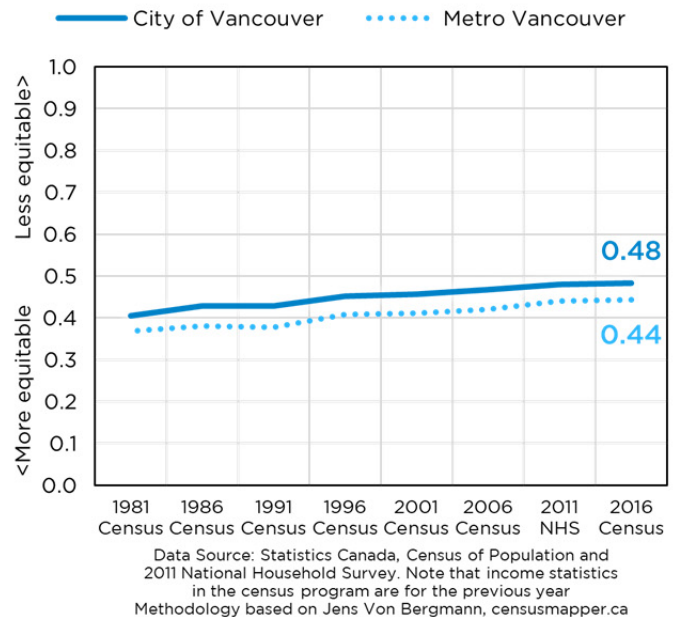


The graph below estimates a Gini coefficient using total personal and household income categories.¹⁴ Using this method, the City of Vancouver appears to have a relatively less equitable distribution of income than the region overall and a less equitable distribution over time.

Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Personal Income Distribution



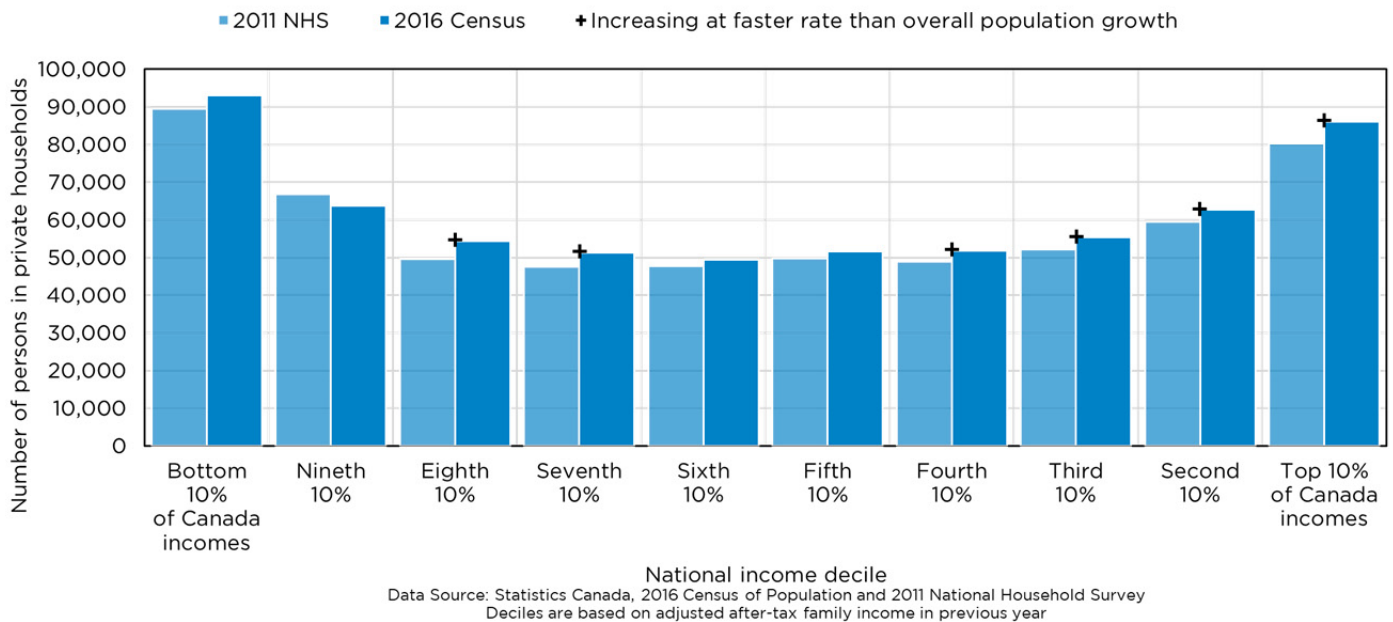
Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Household Income Distribution



Equity and Income Distribution

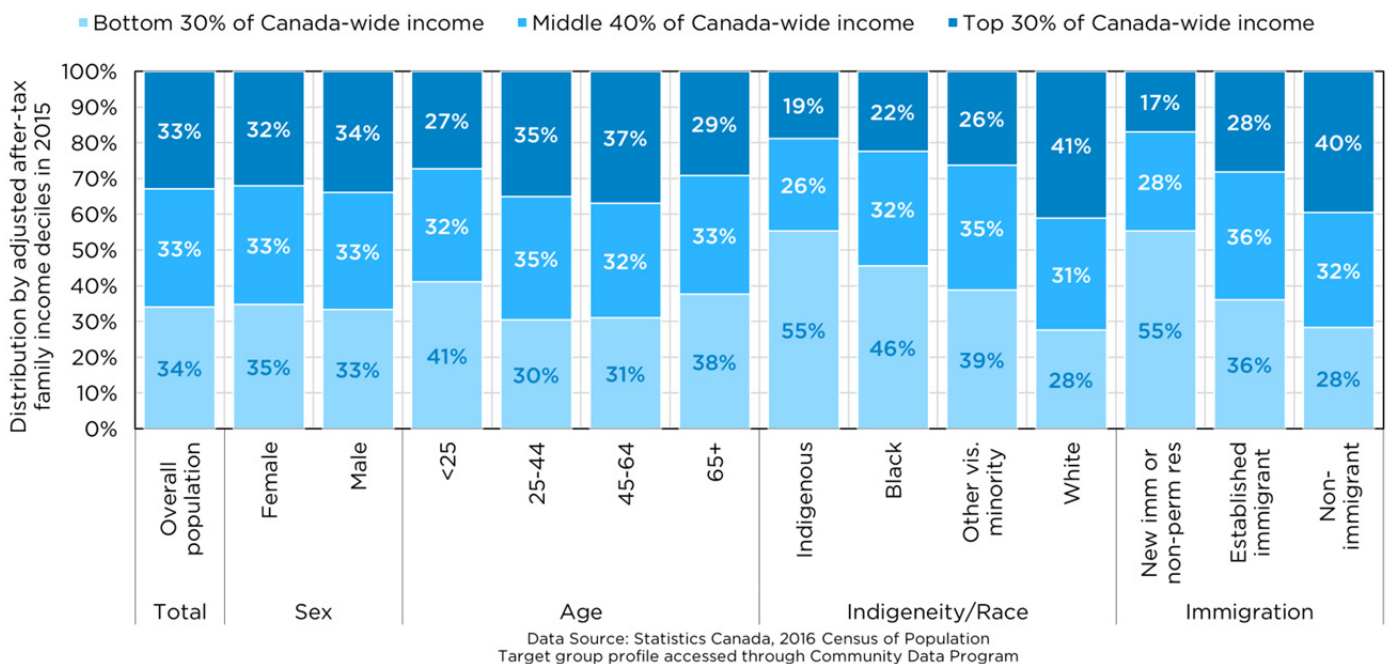
Comparing 2011 to 2016 population estimates shows that, while there has been some growth in people with relatively modest incomes, recent growth in Vancouver has skewed toward higher-income earners. The total population in the top four national income deciles has grown faster than the city's overall population.

City of Vancouver: Population Estimates by National Income Decile, 2011-2016



Income inequity and polarization again intersect with other forms of inequity experienced by different groups in the city. Stark differences are visible among Indigenous and racialized groups, immigration status and age groups.

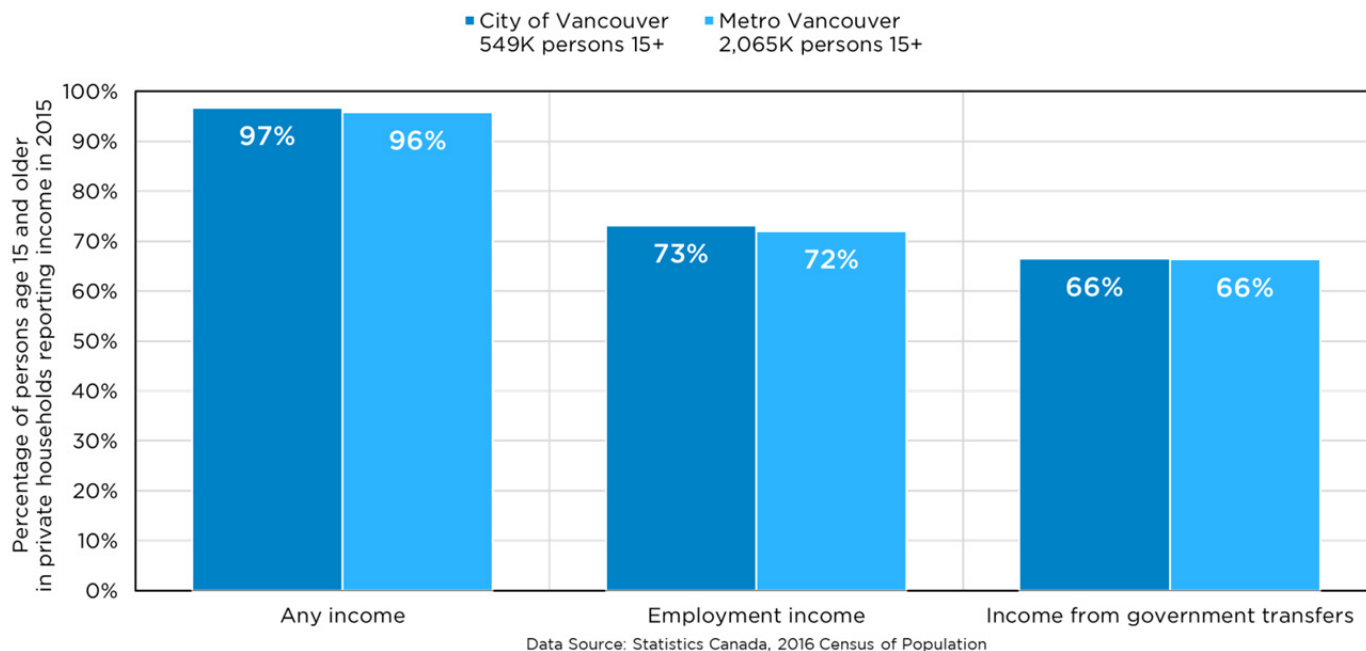
City of Vancouver: Income Distribution by Demographics, 2016



Individual Income

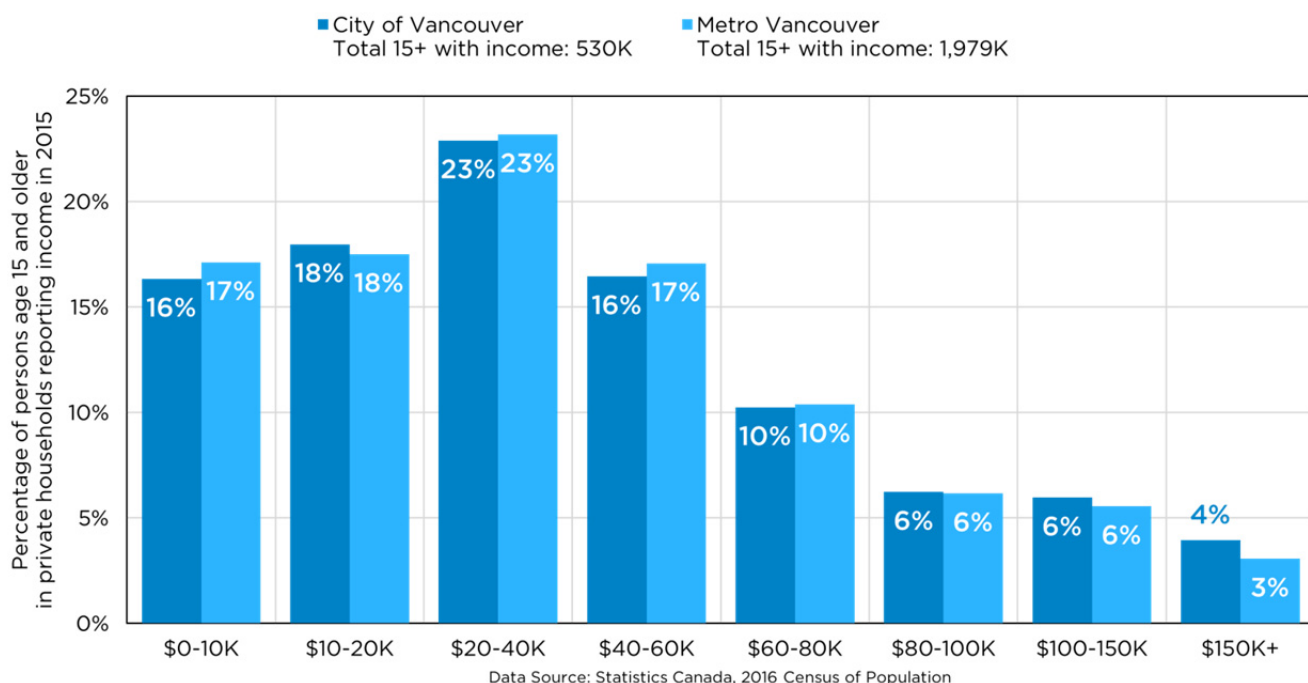
Among people 15 years of age and older, 97% of Vancouver residents reported having income in the year prior to the 2016 census.¹⁵ City of Vancouver residents report both employment income and income from government transfers at similar rates to residents of the overall region.

Persons Reporting Different Sources of Income, 2016



Vancouver has a similar distribution of income to the region overall, except for having a larger share of residents in the top-most income brackets.

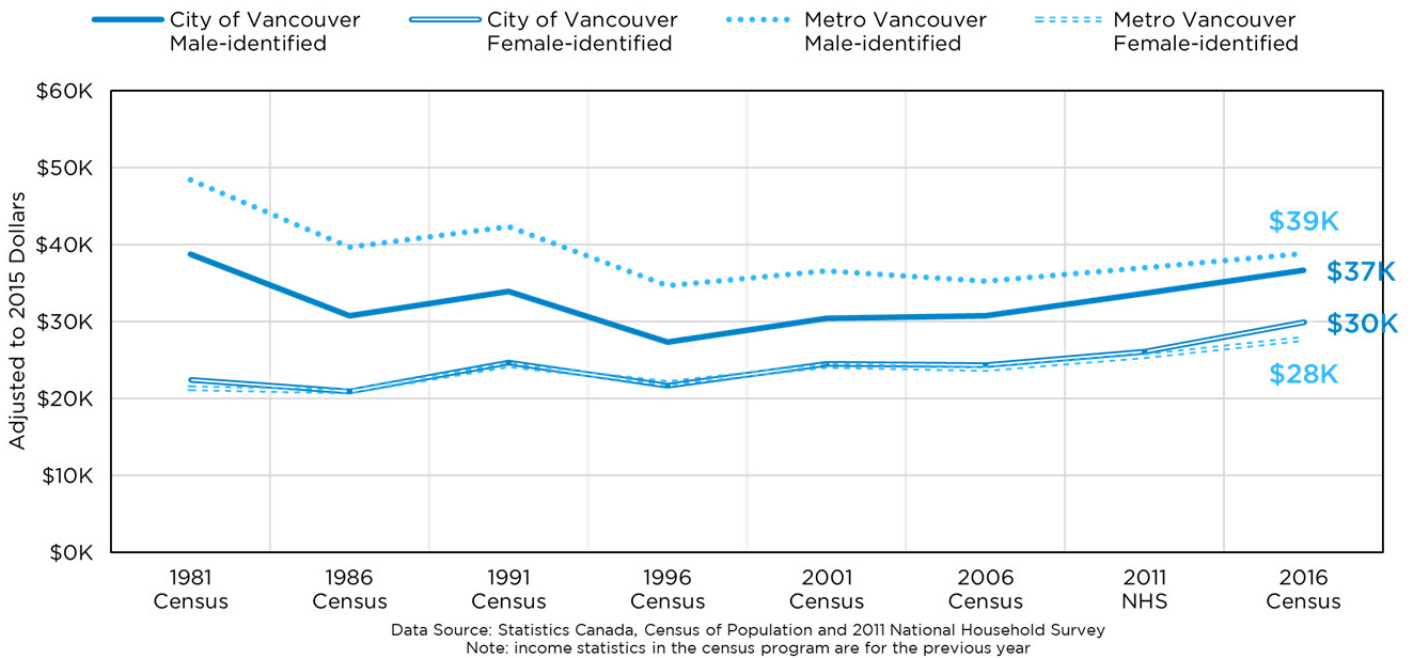
Distribution of Total Personal Income, 2016



Equity and Individual Income

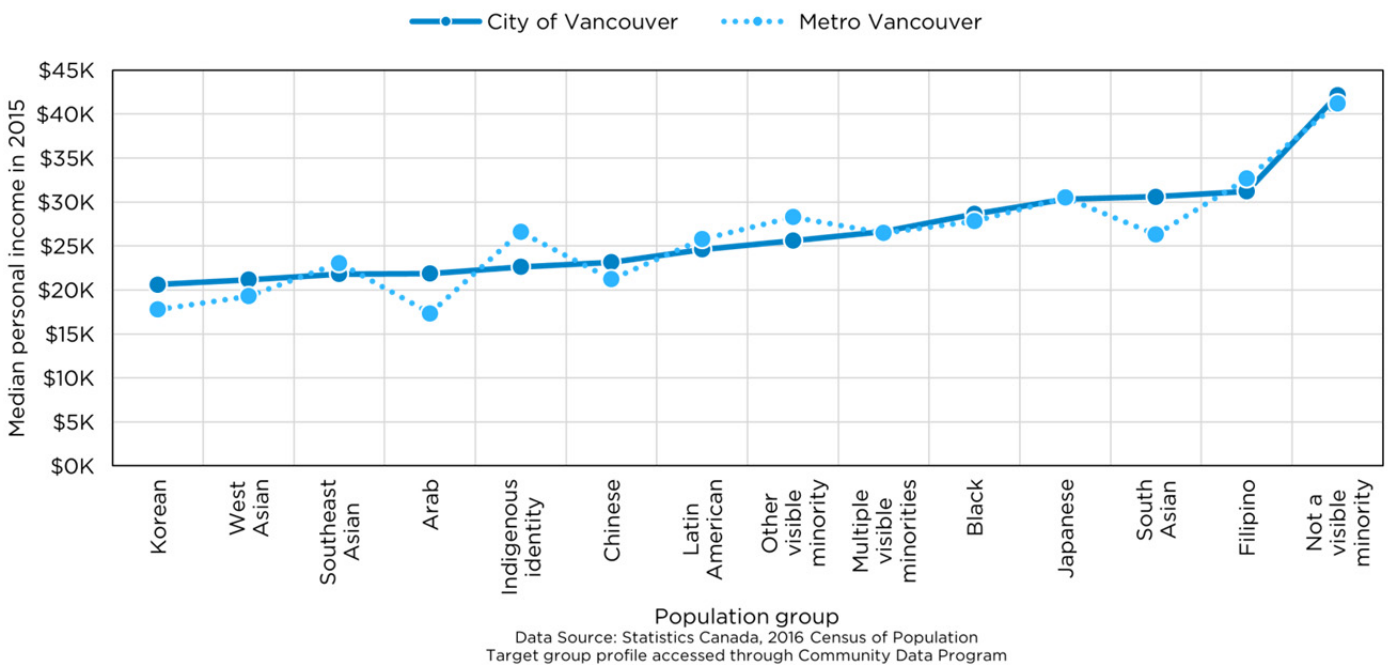
Adjusted for inflation,¹⁶ median personal income in the City of Vancouver has increased markedly since 2006, but there is a large and persistent gender gap in income.

Median Personal Income, 1981-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



There are also important inequities in median income based on people's Indigenous and racial identities. Populations not in visible minority groups in Vancouver have markedly higher incomes than Indigenous and racialized populations.

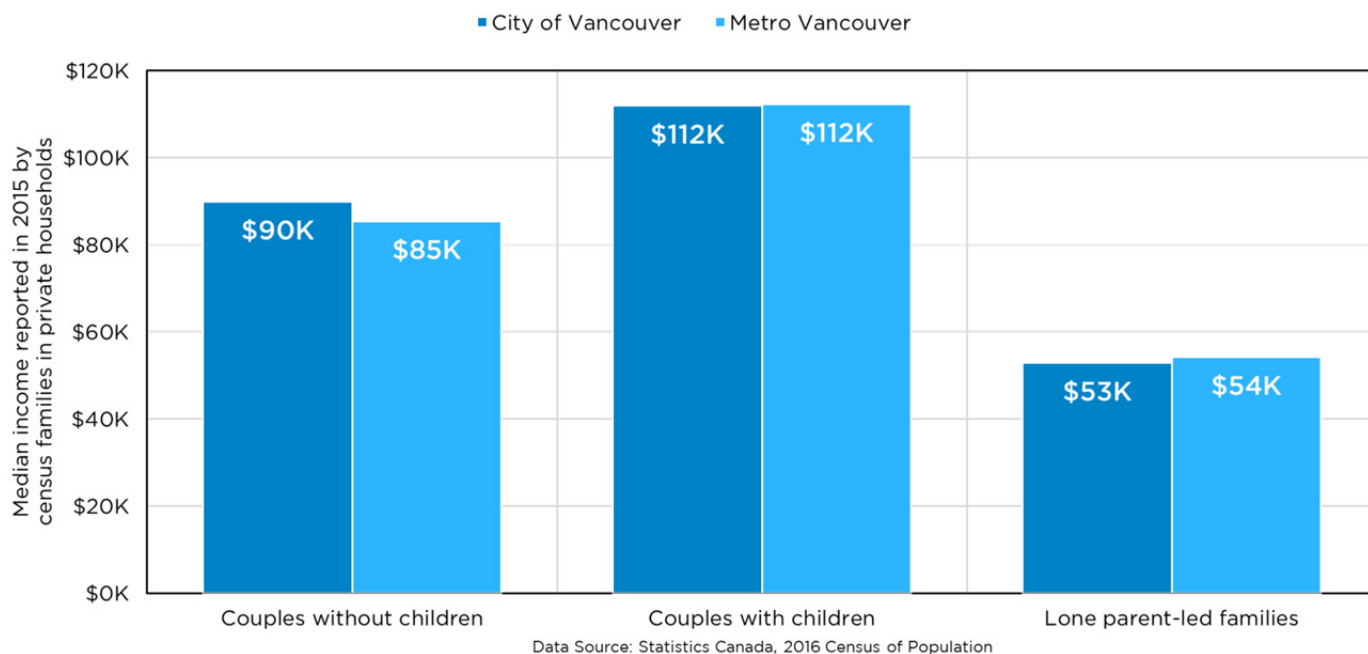
Median Personal Income by Population Group, 2016



Family Income

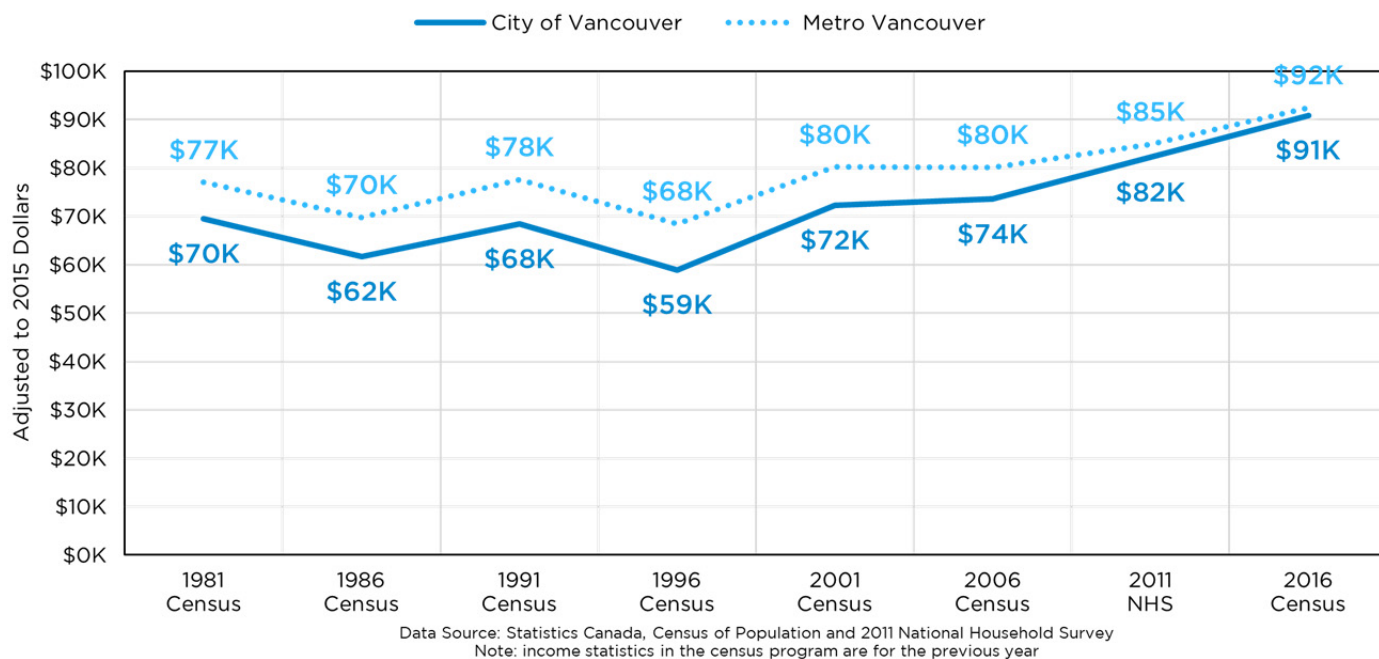
Median income for families in the City of Vancouver is generally similar to Metro Vancouver overall, with the median for couples without children a little bit higher in the city.

Median Total Family Income by Family Type, 2016



As with individual incomes, median family income in the City of Vancouver and region has increased substantially above inflation since 2006.

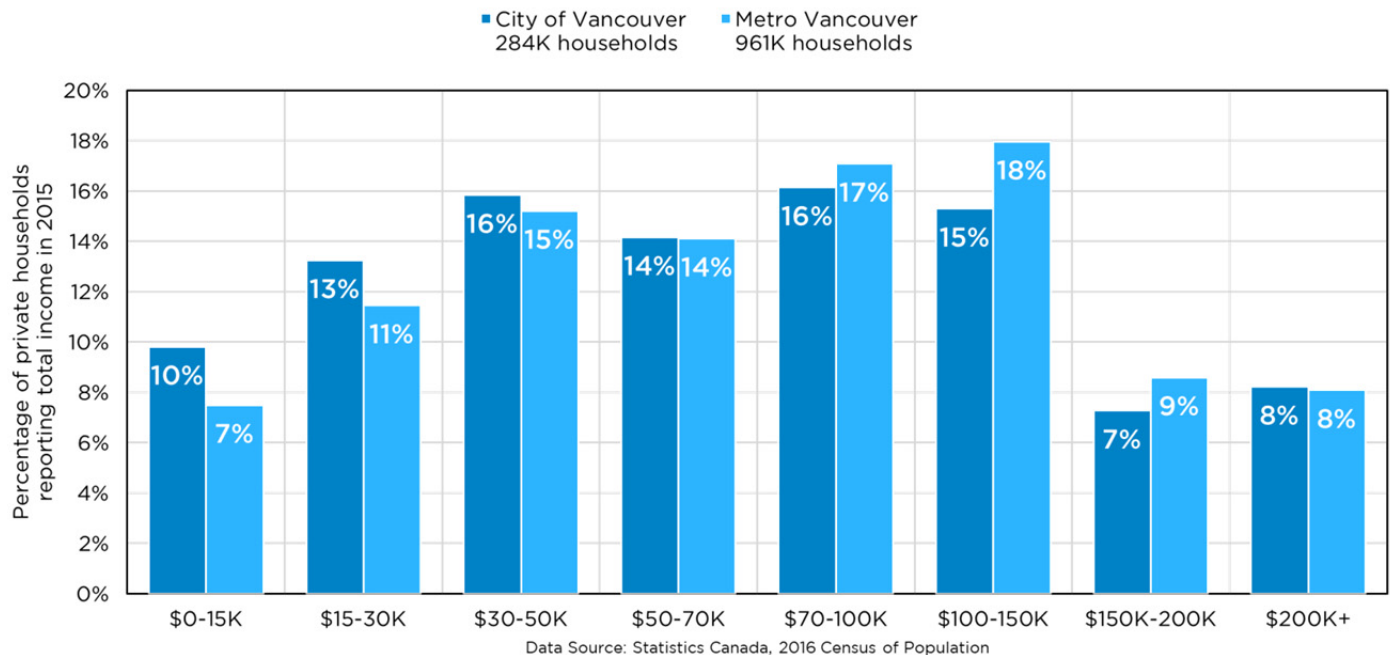
Median Family Income, 1981-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



Household Income

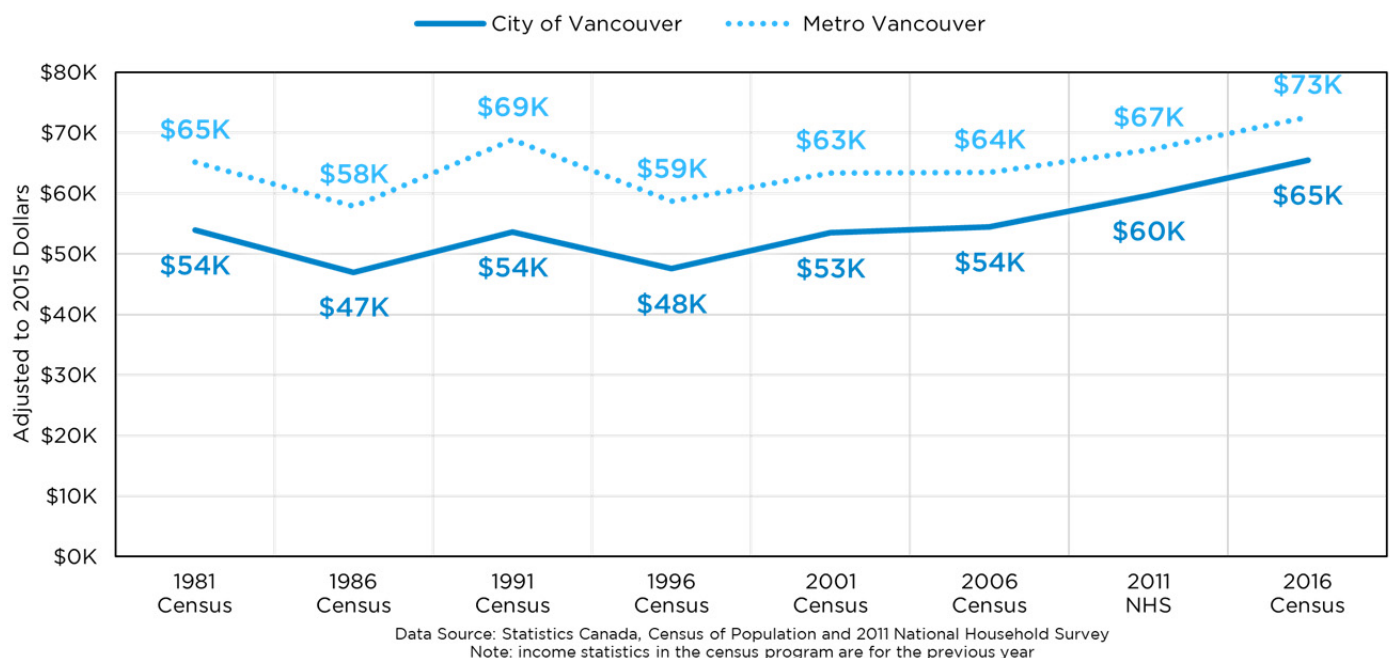
Across all households, the City of Vancouver has a larger share than the region in the bottom-most income categories, which partially reflects smaller household sizes in the city. About 30% of households in the City of Vancouver have incomes over \$100 thousand.

Distribution of Total Household Income, 2016



Adjusting for inflation, median household income has again grown in the city and the region in excess of inflation since 2006.

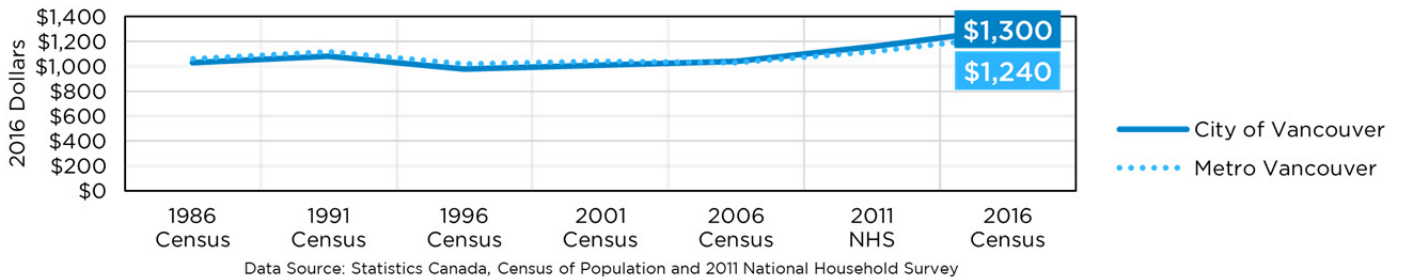
Median Household Income, 1981-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



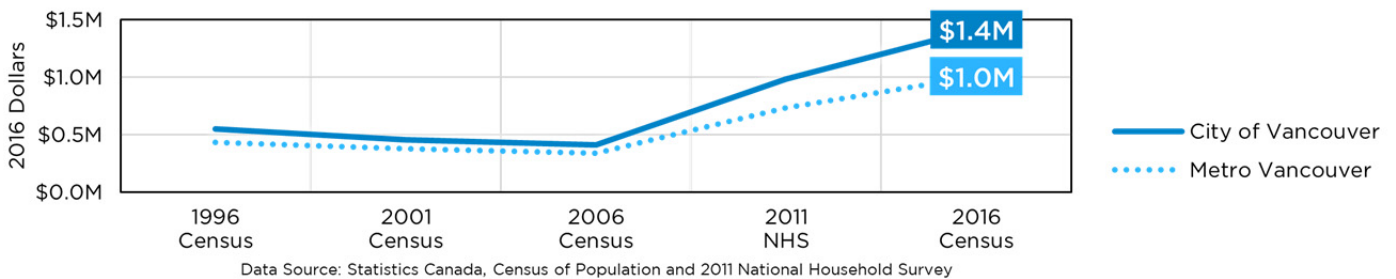
Housing Costs

Average rent reported in the City of Vancouver, across all rented households, has increased by about 25% above inflation over the ten years from 2006 to 2016. The average value of an owned dwelling in the city has increased by 242% above inflation since 2006.¹⁷ The rate of increase in the region is slightly less.

Average Reported Monthly Rent, 1986-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)

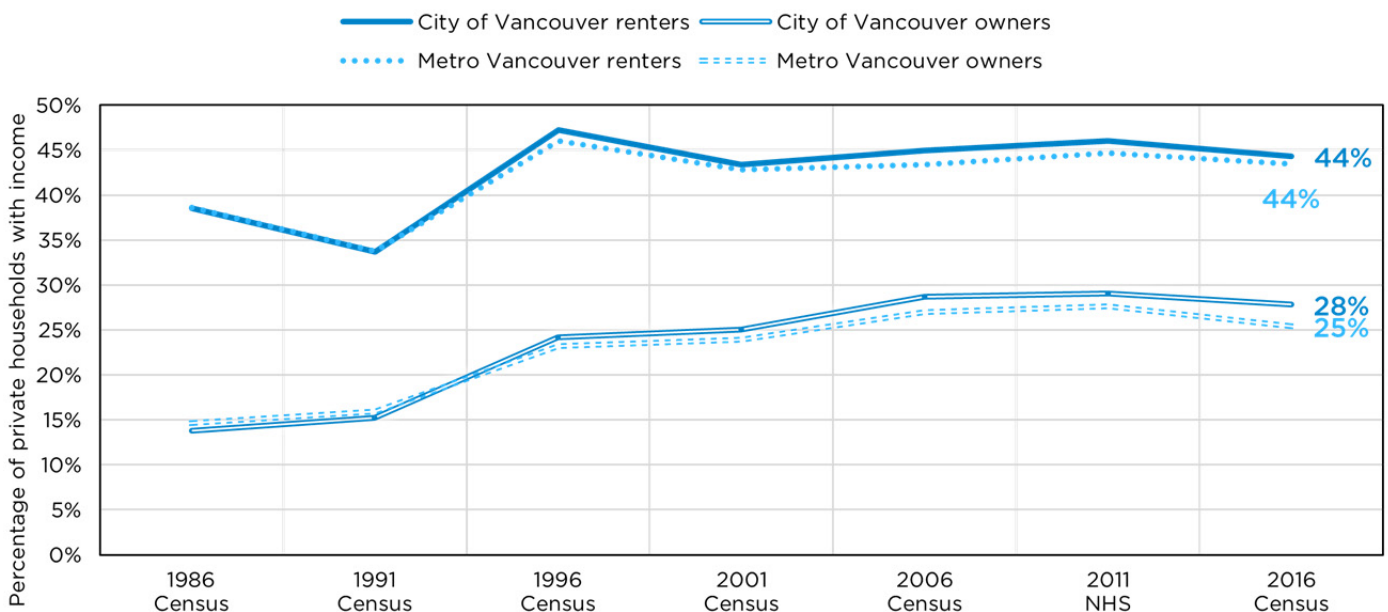


Average Value of Owned Dwellings, 1996-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



The proportion of rented households spending more than 30% of their total income on housing costs is higher in the City of Vancouver than Metro Vancouver overall. The rate for both renters and owners has been fairly consistent since the early 2000s.¹⁸

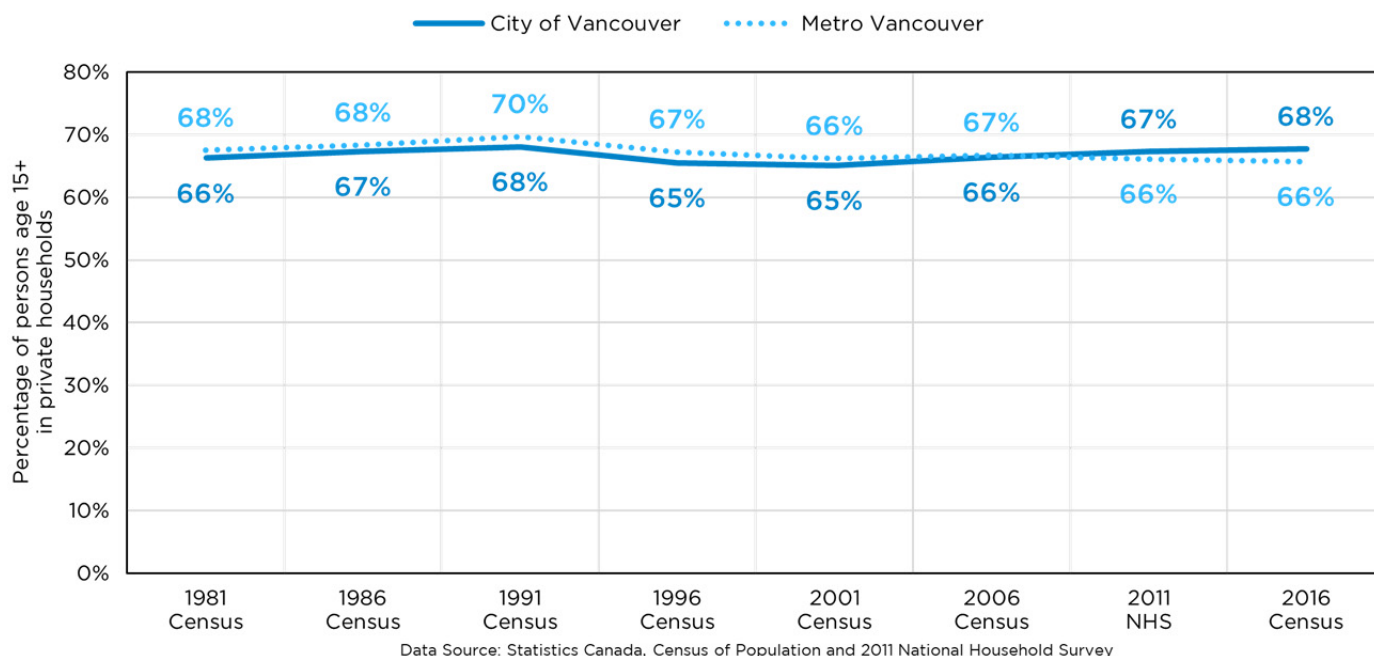
Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter, 1986-2016



Labour Force

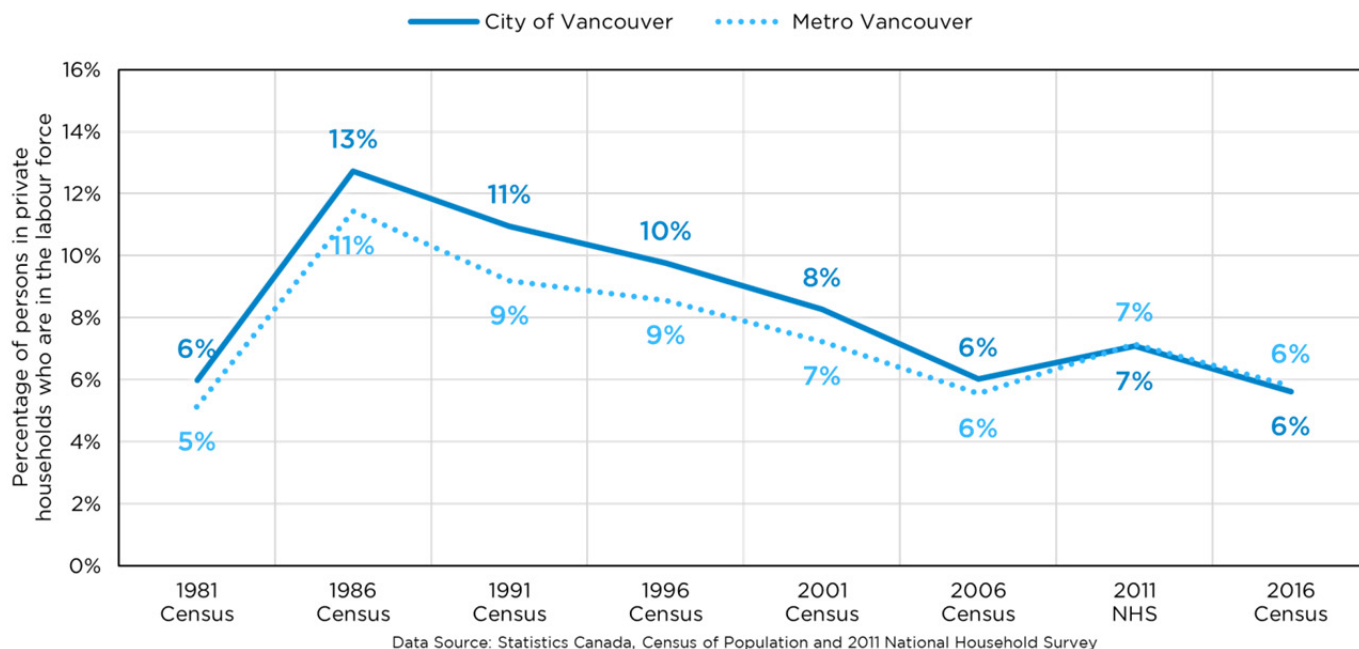
The labour force participation rate among persons age 15 and over is slightly higher in the City of Vancouver than Metro Vancouver overall, a slight shift from historical trends.

Labour Force Participation Rate, 1981-2016



The unemployment rate¹⁹ for City of Vancouver residents is now lower than for Metro Vancouver overall. As of 2016, about 6% of city residents are in the labour force looking for work but unable to access it.

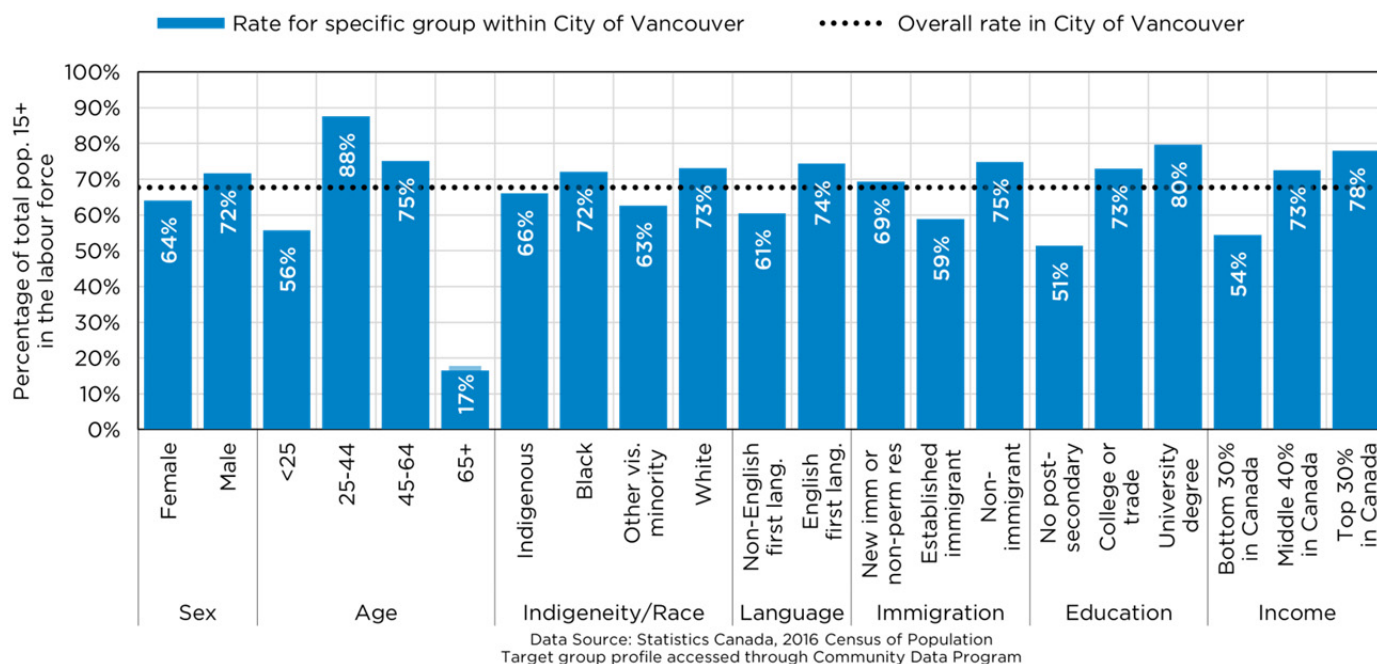
Unemployment Rate, 1981-2016



Equity and Labour Force Outcomes

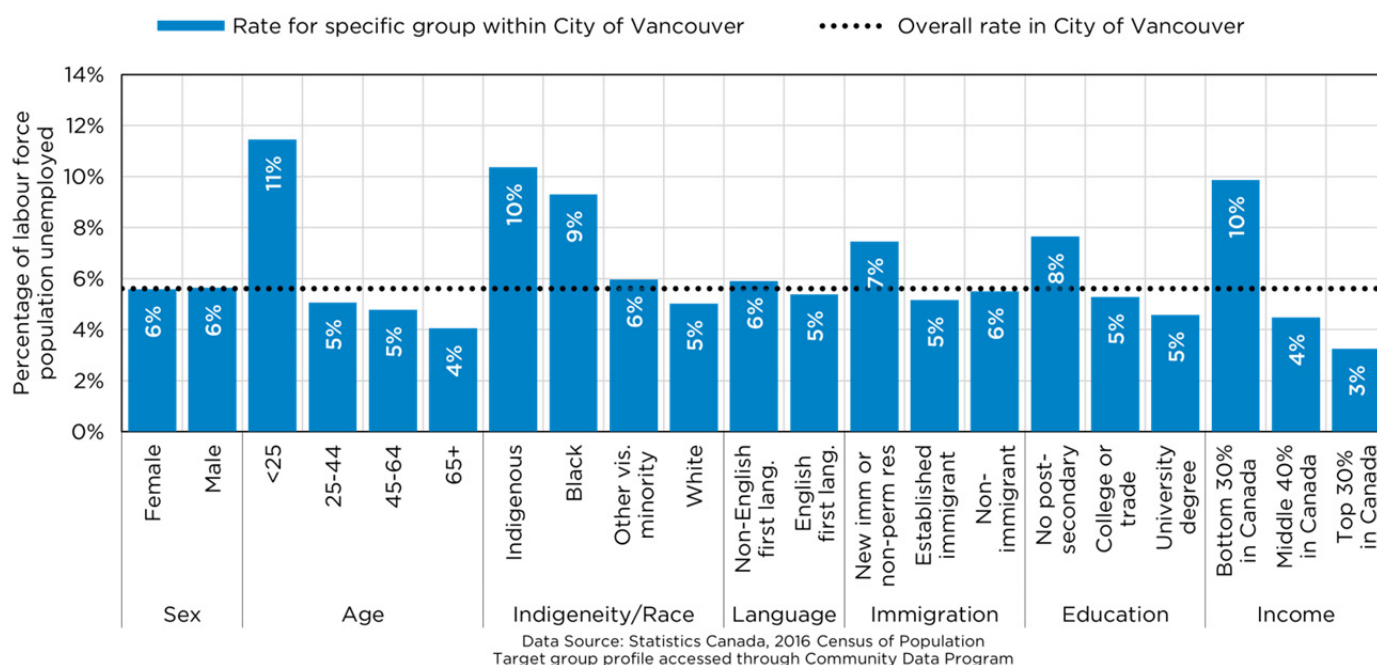
Differential rates of participation in the labour force arise from multiple factors. Female residents and people with lower levels of formal education and income groups have lower participation rates. Some differences, such as lower rates among established immigrants, partially reflect the age profile of these populations.

City of Vancouver: Labour Force Participation by Demographic, 2016



Labour force outcomes show a different pattern. Indigenous residents, Black residents and newcomers stand out as more likely to experience unemployment despite high rates of labour force participation.

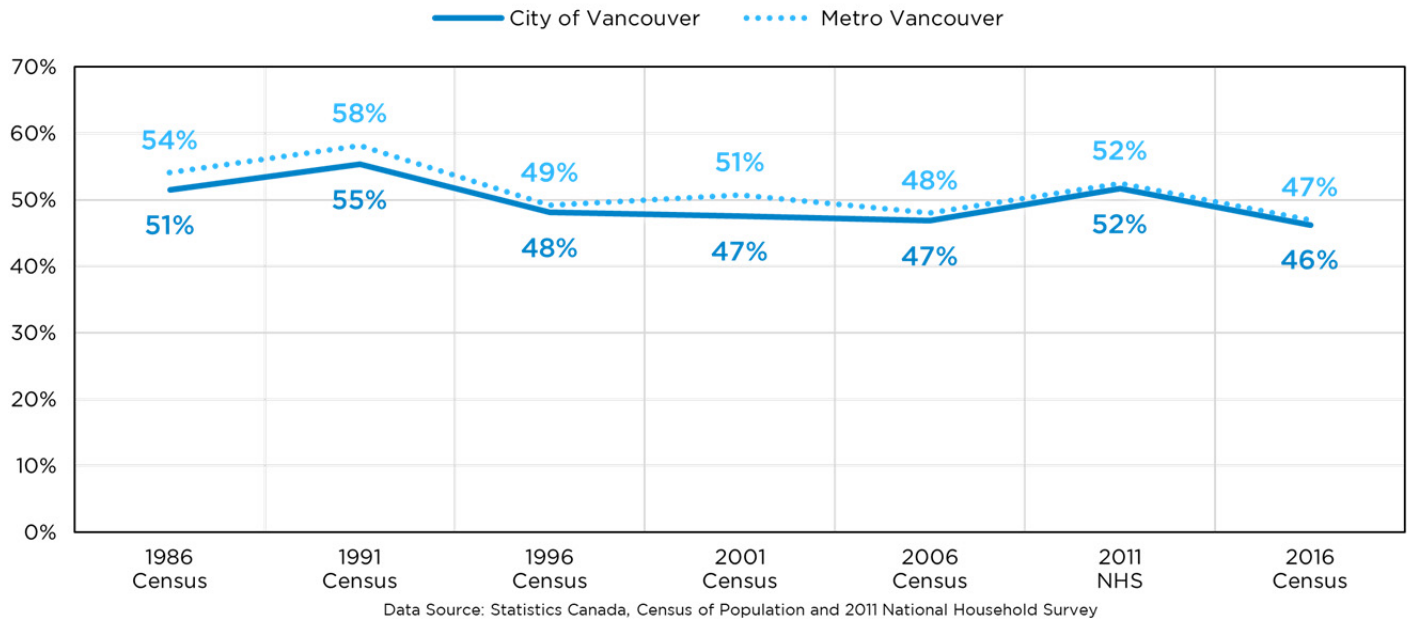
City of Vancouver: Unemployment Rate by Demographic, 2016



Employment Security

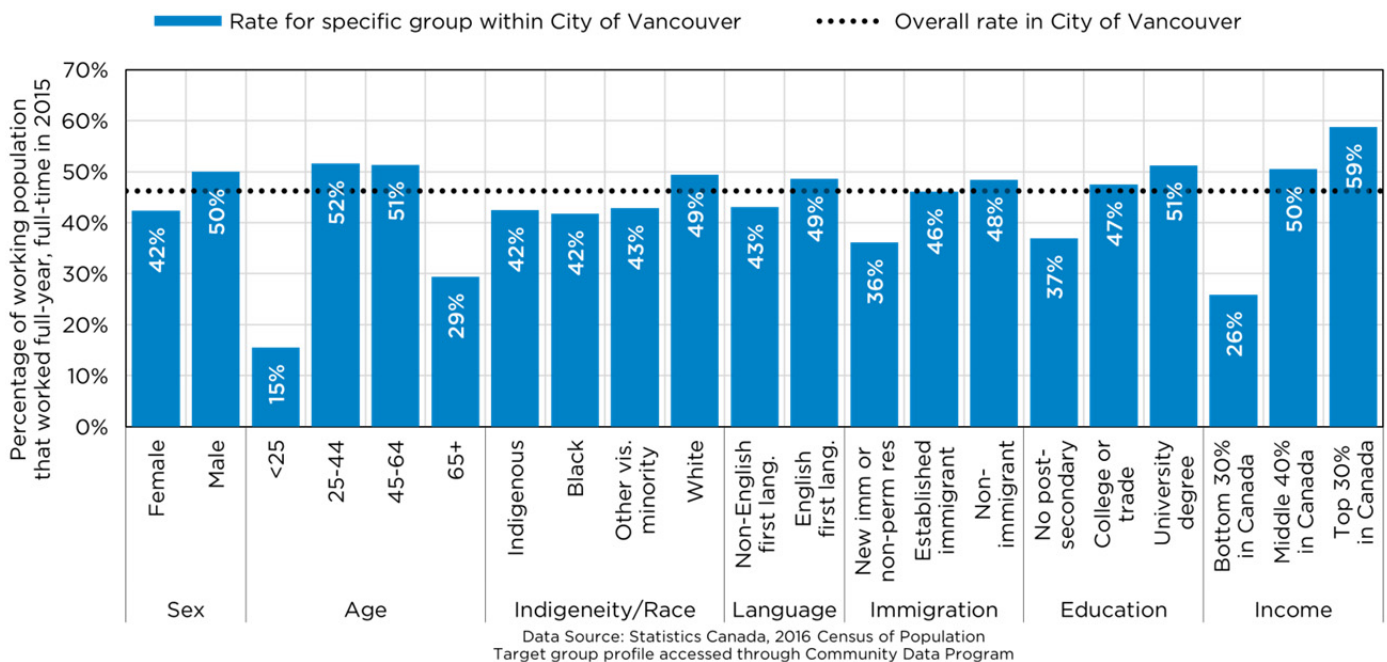
Across the city, excluding the 2011 NHS, there appears to be a long-term shift toward more shorter-term and part-time employment. In both the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver somewhat fewer than half of workers—including both employees and self-employed persons—have full-year, full-time employment.

Percentage of Working Population with Full-Year, Full-Time Employment, 1986-2016



Access to full-time work is not equitably distributed across the population, with some populations more likely to experience precarious employment. Female workers, Indigenous and racialized workers, newcomers and people with fewer educational credentials are all more likely to work part-time or part-year work.

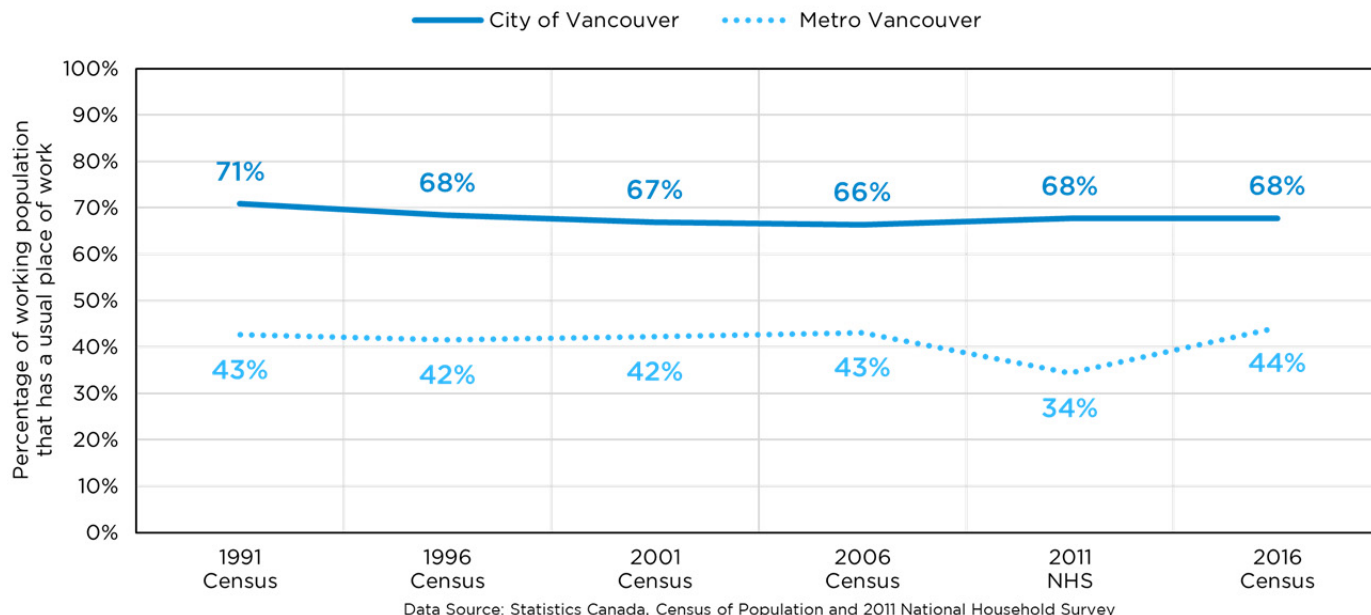
City of Vancouver: Rate of Full-Time Work by Demographic, 2016



Journey to Work

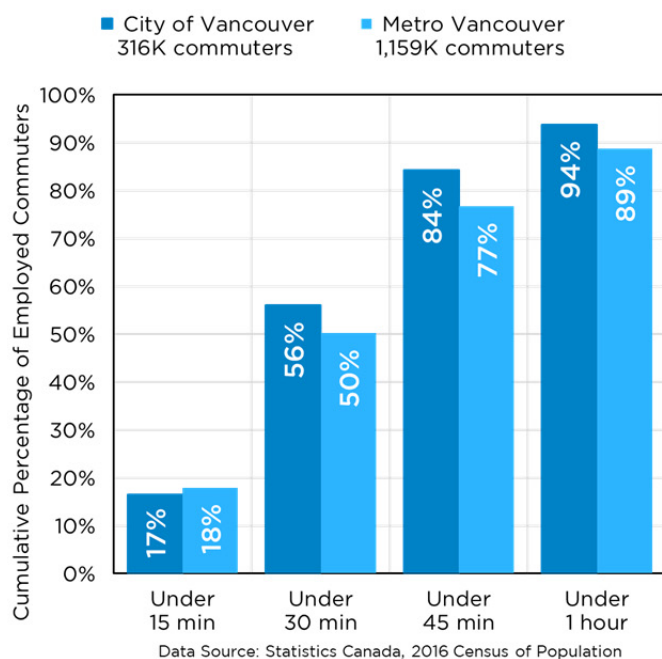
The nature of work is changing over time as industries, technologies and the regional distribution of jobs change. About 68% of City of Vancouver residents work inside the city, while 66% of Metro Vancouver residents commute to a different municipality for work.

Percentage of Working Population with Usual Place of Work in City of Residence, 1991-2016

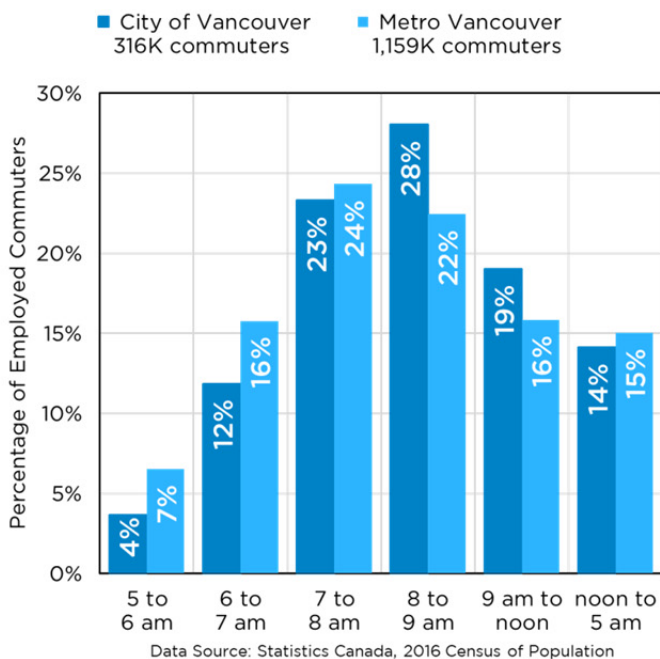


City of Vancouver residents' commute lengths are relatively short, with 56% of city residents taking less than half an hour, versus 50% of region residents. The City of Vancouver has proportionally more workers leaving for work between 8 am and noon and fewer leaving before 7am compared to the region overall.

Length of Work Commute, 2016



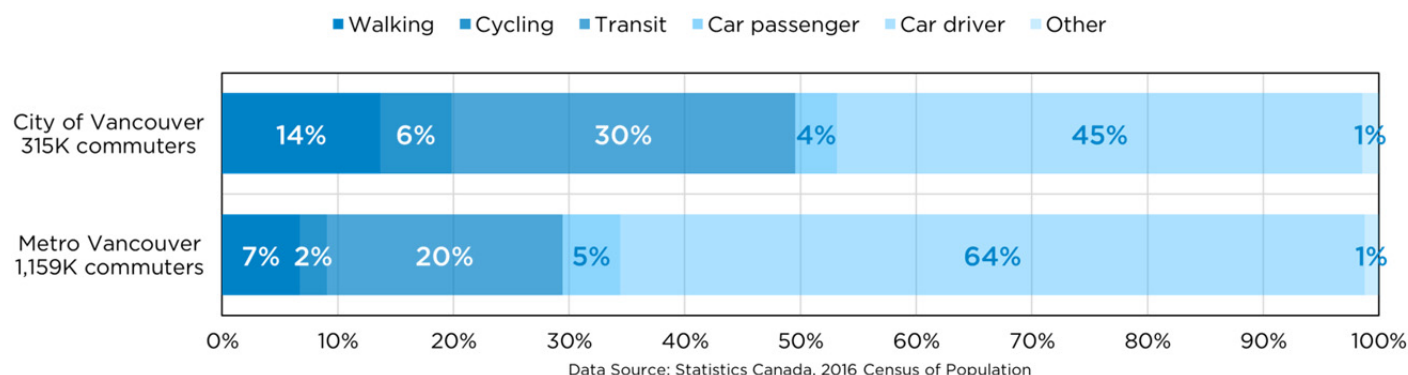
Time Leaving for Work, 2016



Mode of Transportation to Work

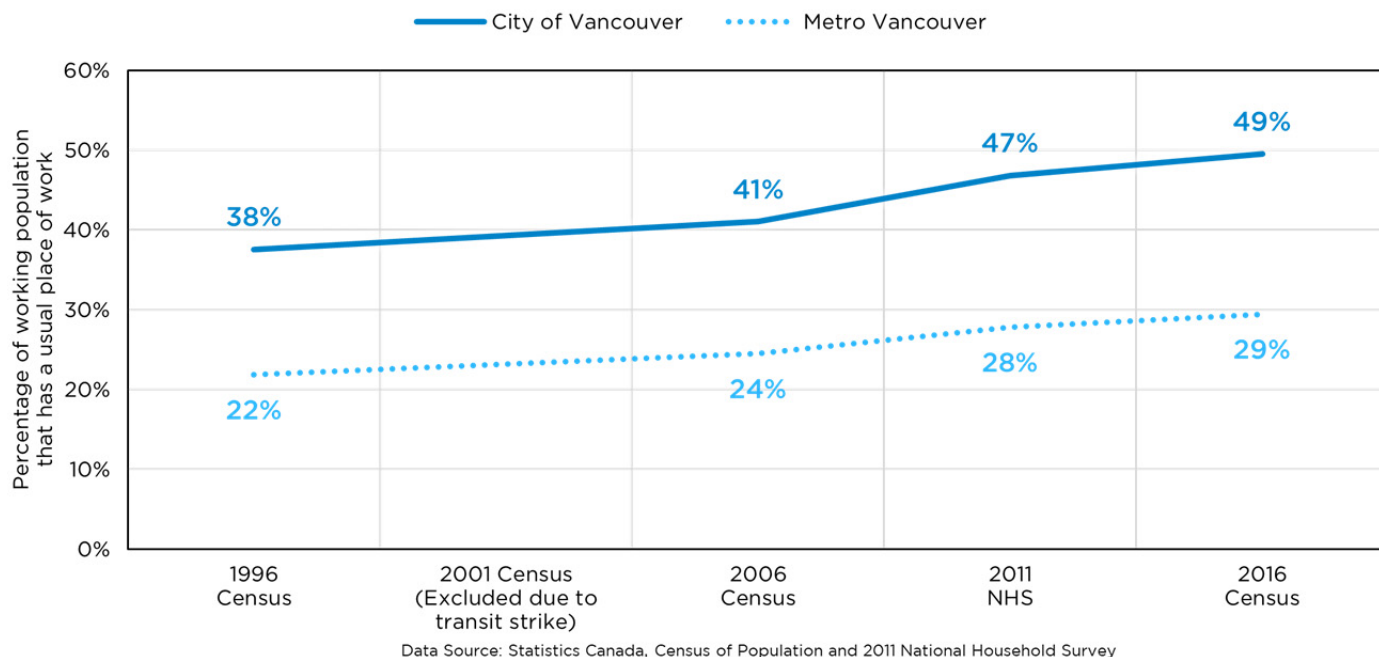
Movement is essential for accessing economic opportunity, social connections, important services and places for culture, expression and recreation, and the modes by which people travel through the city have important consequences for both environmental and social sustainability. Although the census only records usual mode of travel for work trips for people who commute to a regular workplace, this is a useful proxy for understanding broader mobility trends. Residents of Vancouver are much more likely than residents of the region overall to use walking, cycling or transit as their main mode of travel to work, and less likely to be in a private vehicle.

Employed Population by Main Mode of Travel to Work, 2016



The proportion of commuters using sustainable transportation modes has grown in both the city and the region overall. As of 2016, 49% of people living in the City of Vancouver and commuting to a usual workplace use non-automobile modes to get to work.

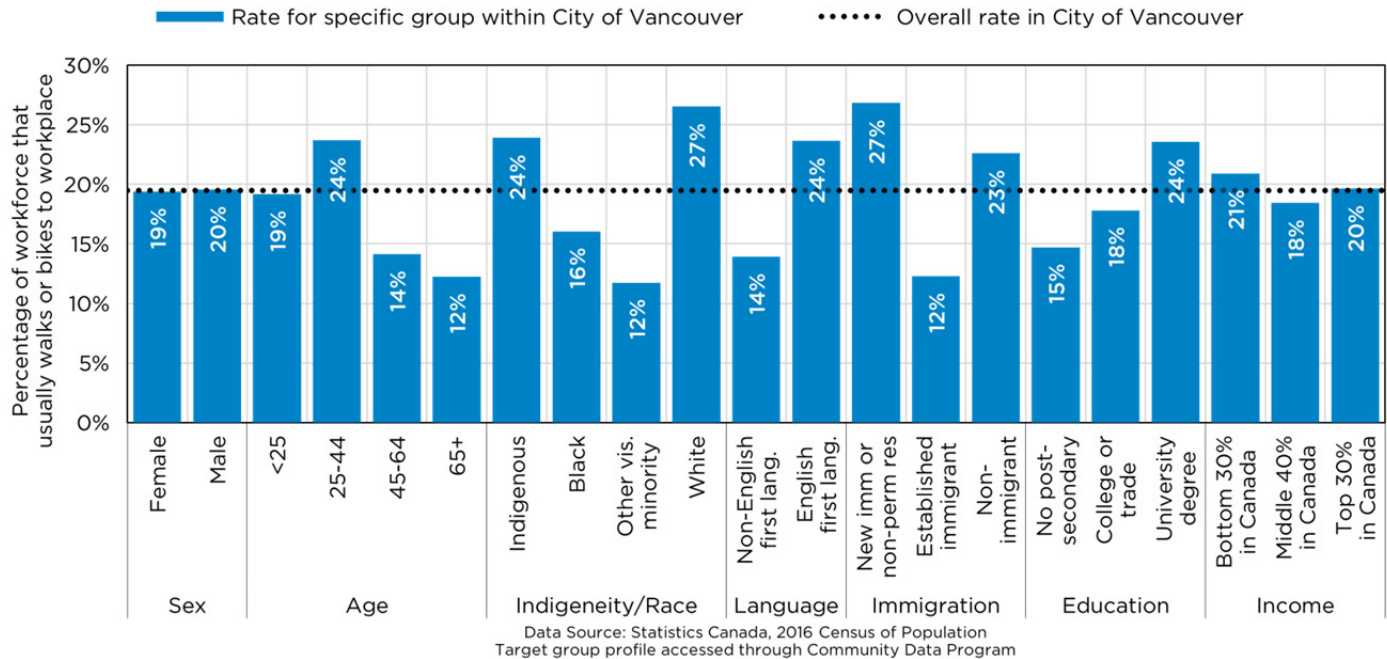
Commuters Walking, Cycling or Transit to Work, 1996-2016



Equity and Transportation

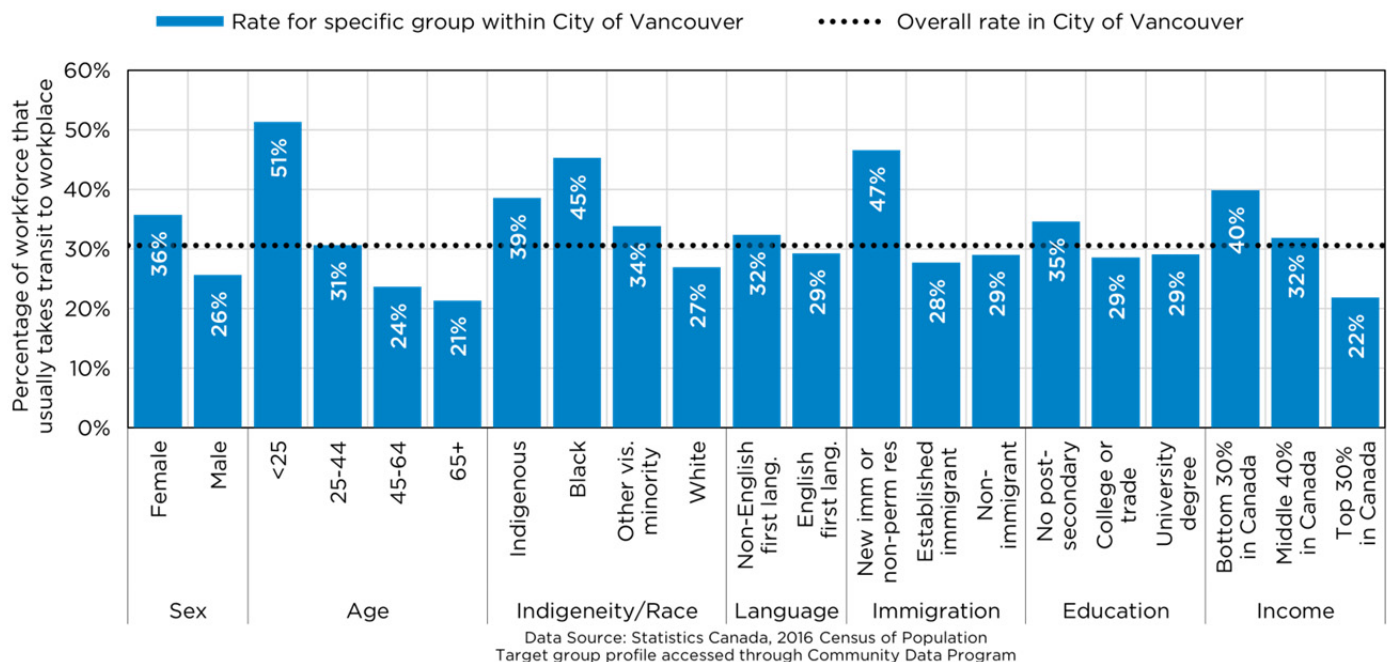
Transportation choices are not evenly distributed across the population; they are dependent on physical, economic and social geographies and inequities. The chart below shows the rate of commuting by active transportation (walking and cycling). Lower rates among people in racialized and immigrant groups may indicate disparities in length of commute, workplace facilities, safe infrastructure and other factors.

City of Vancouver: Active Commuters by Demographic, 2016



Meanwhile, public transit is disproportionately used as the main mode of travel by people in a number of equity-seeking groups, including female, Indigenous, racialized, new immigrant and lower-income workers.

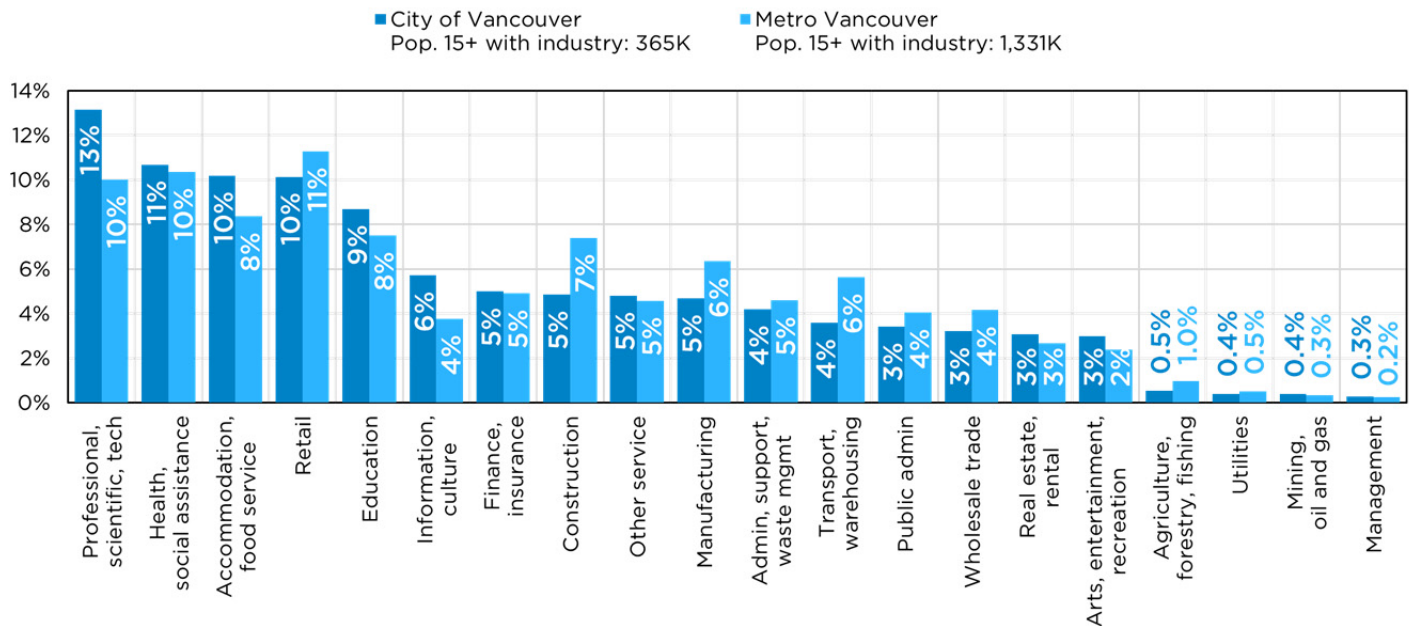
City of Vancouver: Transit Commuters by Demographic, 2016



Industries and Occupations

The top three industries²⁰ employing City of Vancouver residents are: professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance; and accommodation and food service. Retail is the largest industry employing Metro Vancouver residents but places fourth for the City of Vancouver.

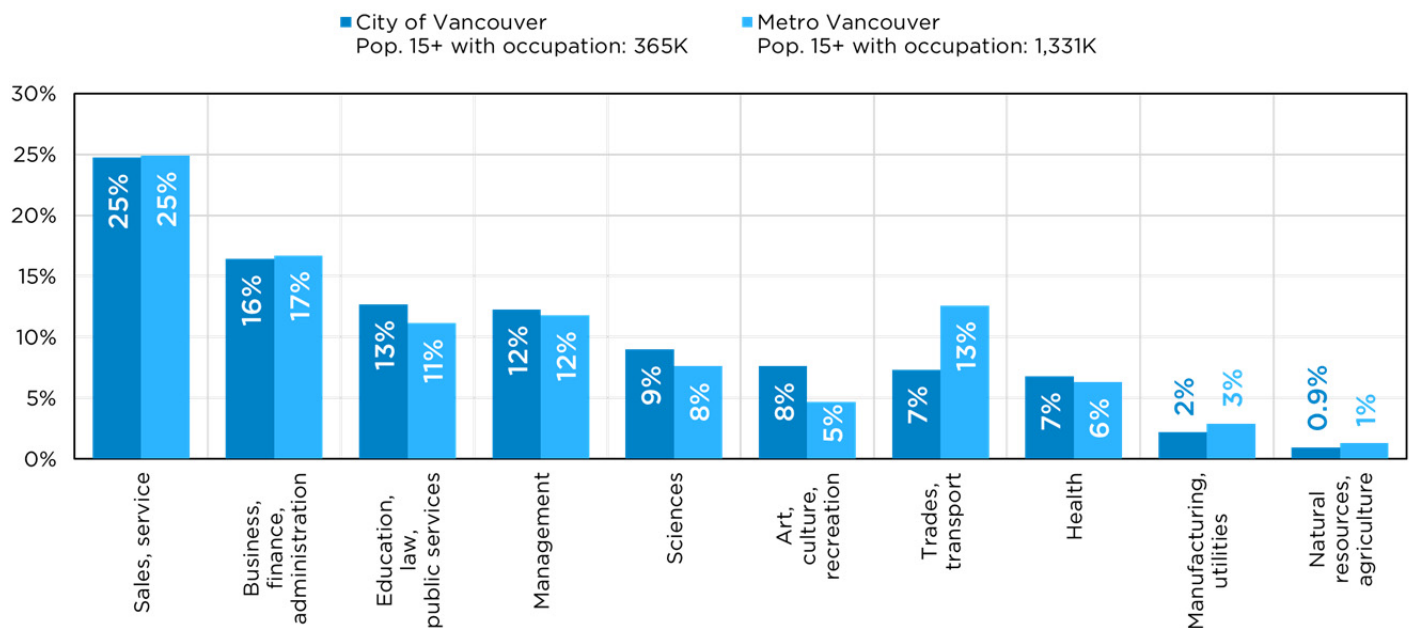
Industry Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Looking at occupation categories,²¹ sales and service jobs are the largest group in Vancouver, followed by business, finance and administration; education, law and public services; and management occupations. Arts and culture occupations are overrepresented and trades and transport occupations are underrepresented in the City of Vancouver compared to the Metro region.

Occupation Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016

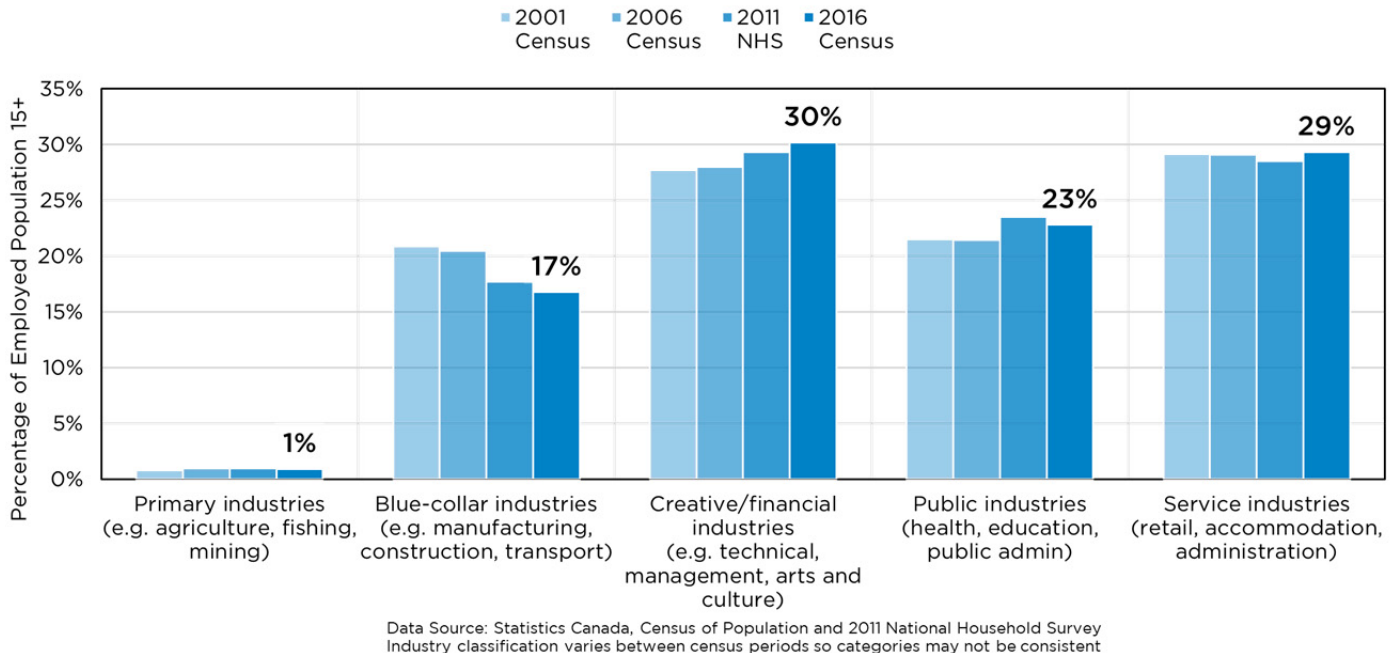


Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Industry Trends

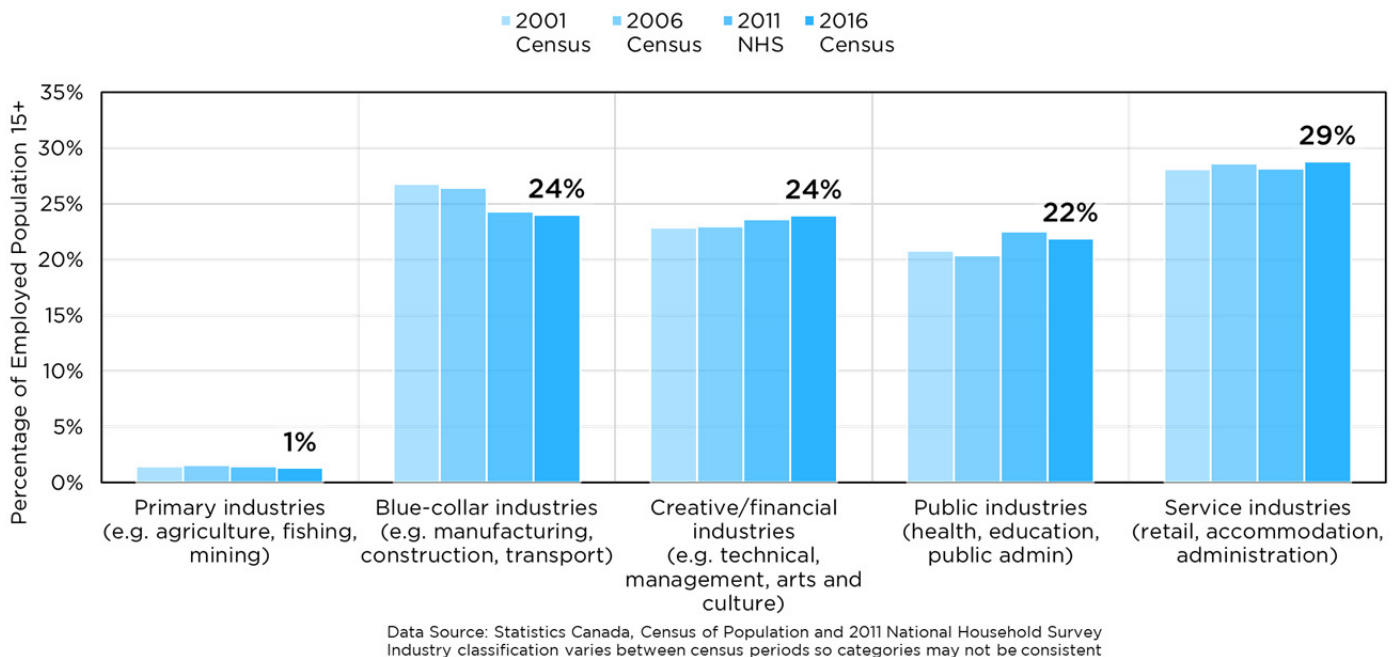
Changing classification systems make a precise analysis of labour force trends difficult; nonetheless, the graph below groups industry categories together into broad sectors to show trends over time. In the City of Vancouver, there is a growing rate of workers in creative/financial industries and a decline in workers in blue-collar industries.

City of Vancouver: Labour Force by Broad Industries 2001-2016



These trends are also visible across Metro Vancouver, but at a different rate. Compared to the City of Vancouver labour force, Metro Vancouver has proportionally larger workforce in blue-collar industries like manufacturing, construction and transportation.

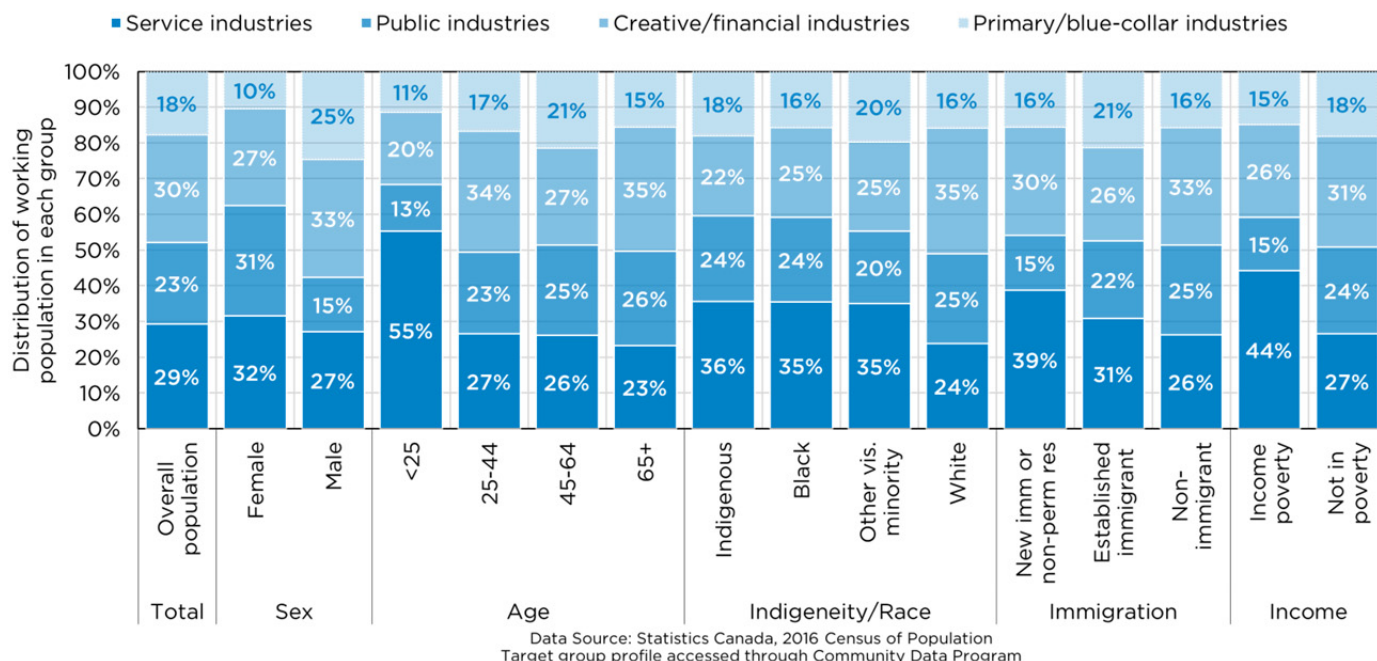
Metro Vancouver: Labour Force by Broad Industries 2001-2016



Equity and Industries

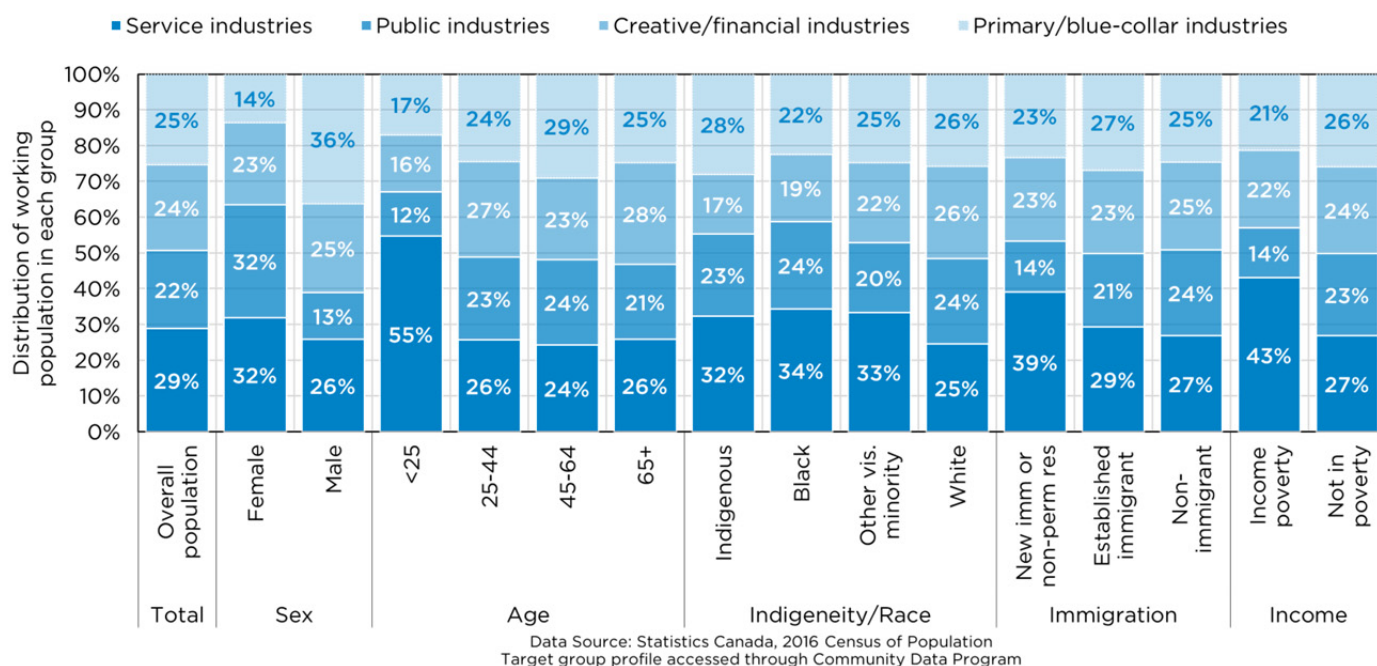
Different economic sectors in the city are not equitably accessible to all workers. The chart below shows a breakdown of broad industry categories across demographic groups. A majority of young workers are in service industries, as are a majority of people in poverty who are working, but there is also evidence of sex-, race- and immigration-based inequities in access to different sectors.

City of Vancouver: Industry of Work by Demographic Group, 2016



Similar trends are seen across Metro Vancouver, but some inequities appear to be more acute in the City of Vancouver than the region as a whole.

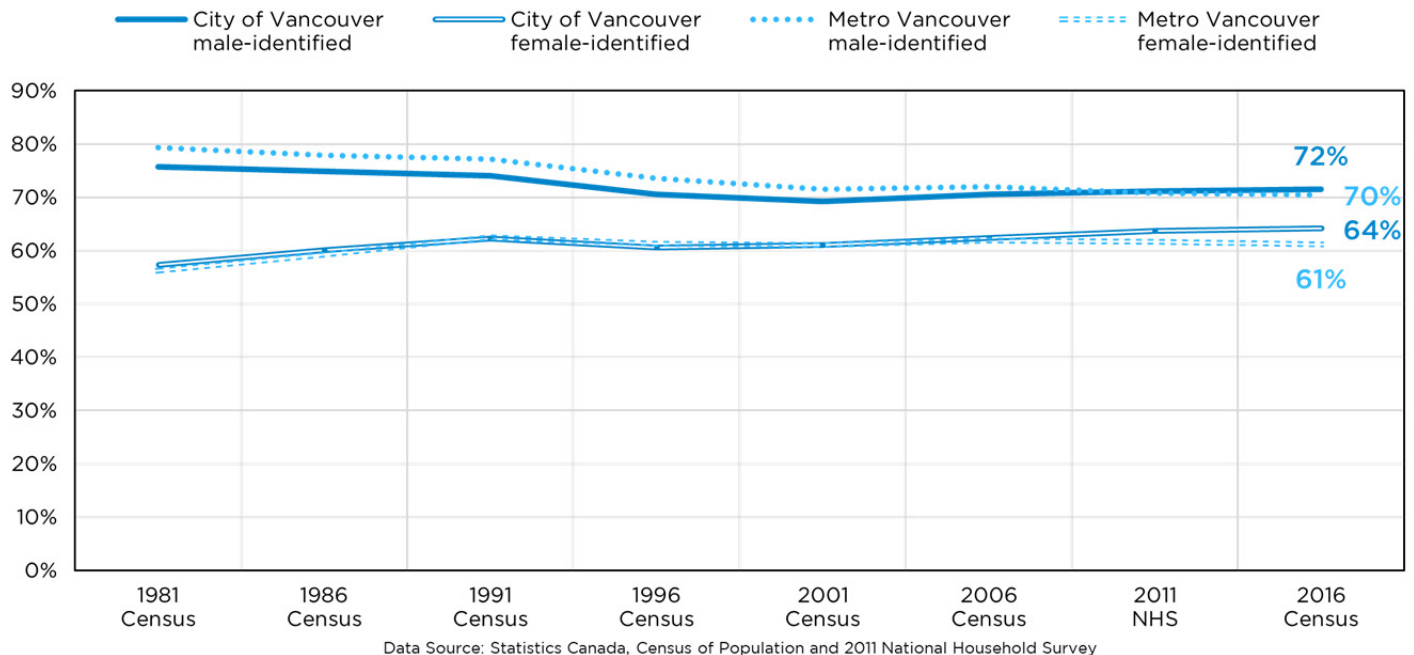
Metro Vancouver: Industry of Work by Demographic Group, 2016



Gender and the Workforce

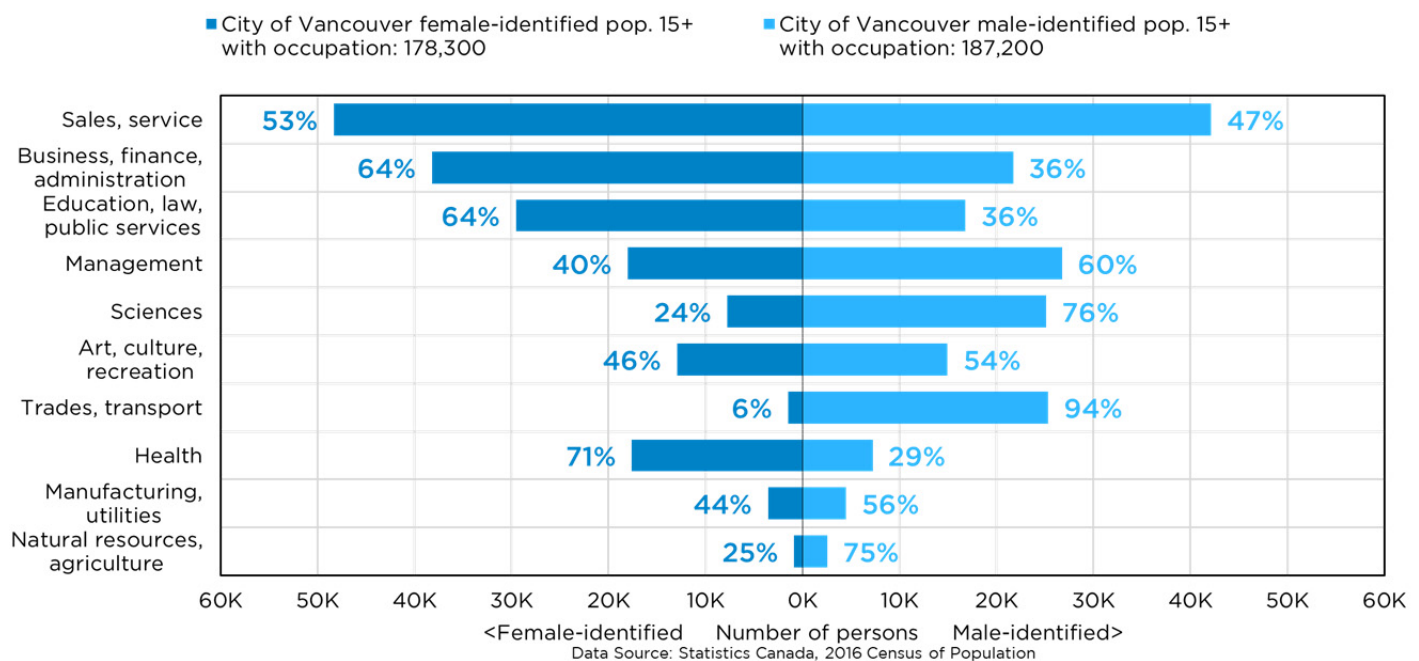
There are a number of systemic and structural barriers to women's participation in the workforce, and a persistent gap in rates between male- and female-identified persons. In the City of Vancouver 72% of male-identified residents and 64% of female-identified residents are in the labour force.

Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender, 1981-2016



A breakdown of occupations in the city shows that men are over-represented in management, science and trades and transport occupations while women are over-represented in categories such as business, finance and administration; education, law and public services; and health care occupations.

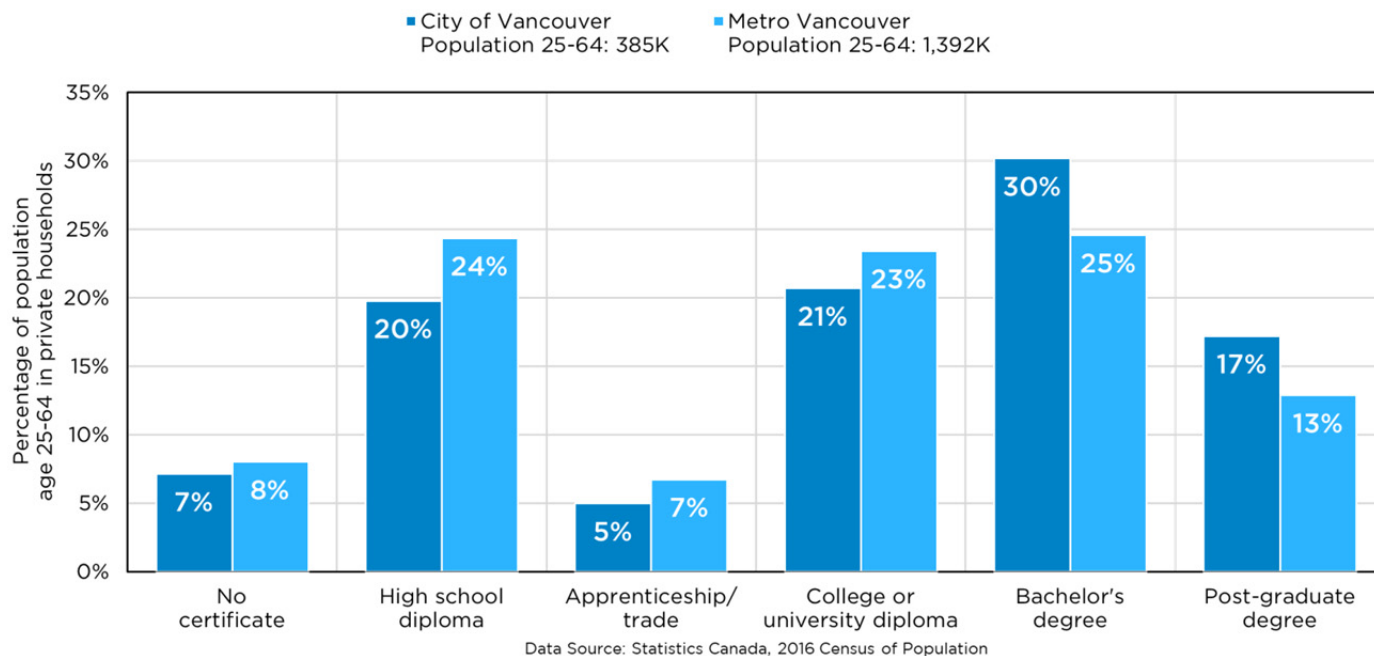
City of Vancouver: Labour Force by Occupation and Gender, 2016



Formal Education

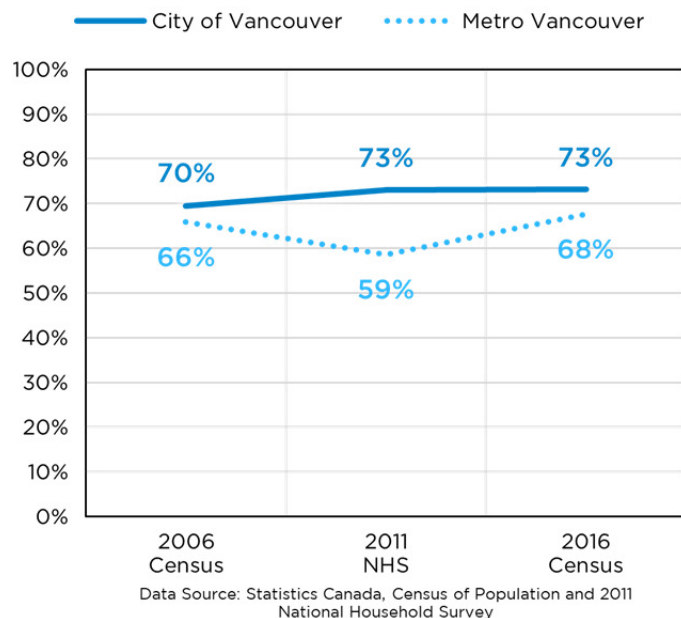
City of Vancouver residents are more likely to have higher education credentials compared to residents of the region overall.

Population Age 25-64 by Highest Level of Education, 2016

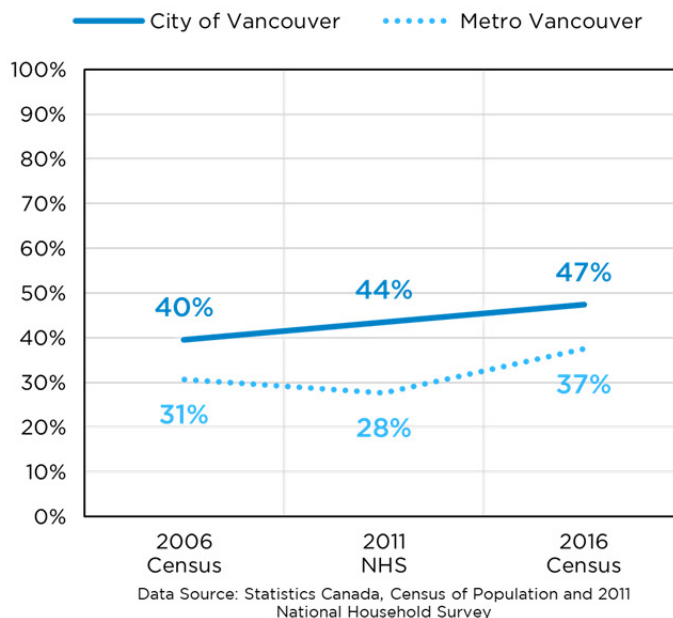


Over time, the rate of post-secondary credentials in both the city and the region is increasing; it is not clear whether the regional data showing a decline in rates in 2011 represents a true trend or is an artefact of the voluntary survey methodology.

Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary Credential, 2006-2016



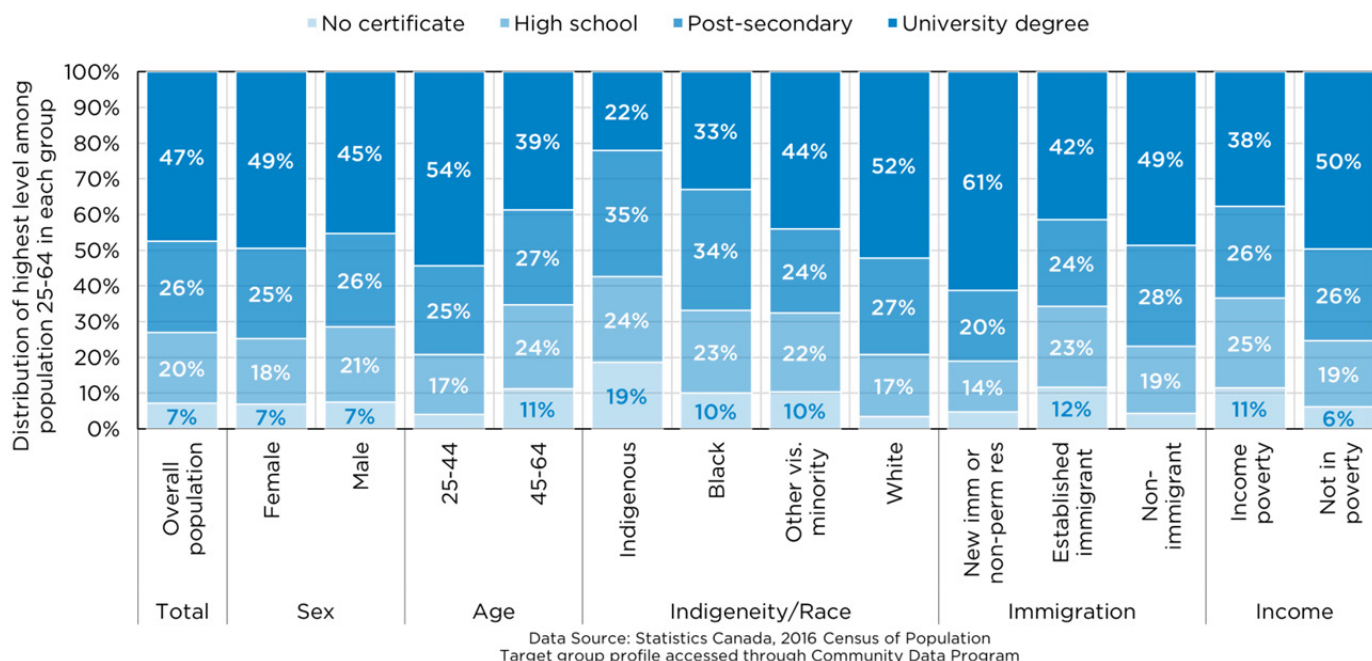
Population 25-64 with University Degree, 2006-2016



Equity and Formal Education

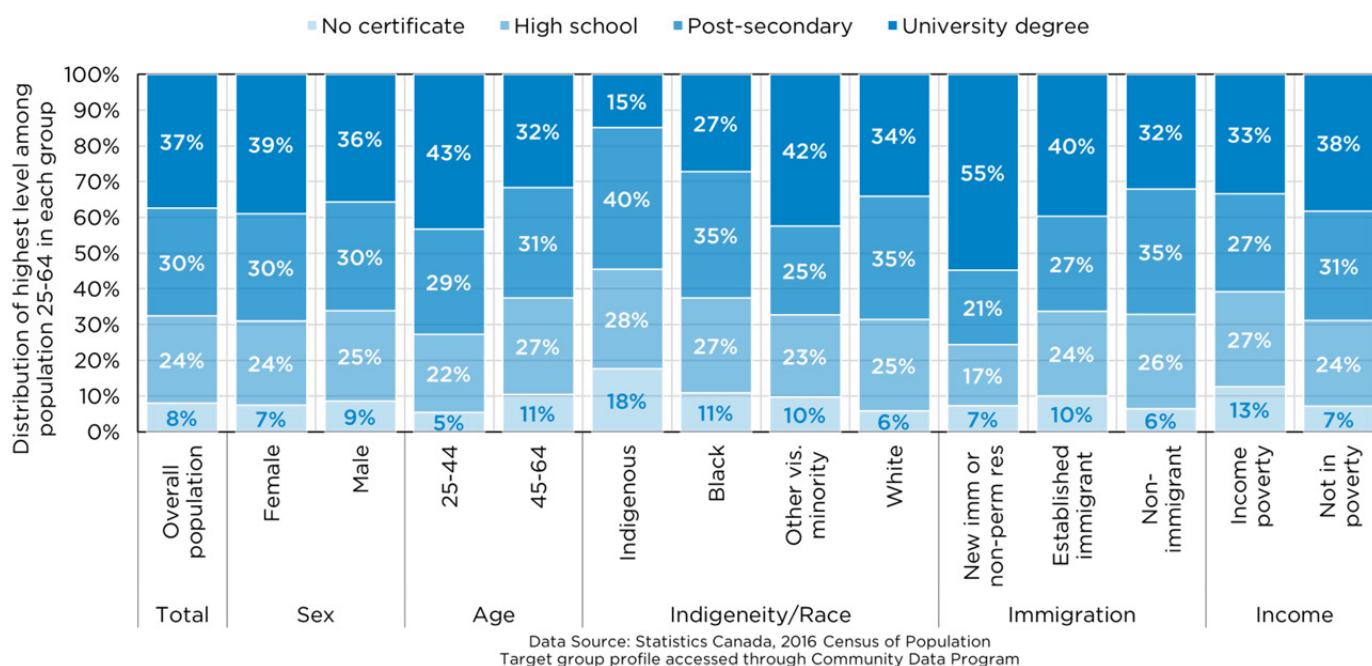
There is a broad shift toward higher levels of formal education; among Vancouver's population, older residents are much less likely to have a university degree than younger residents. But there are also other inequities in access to education. People in Indigenous and racialized communities are less likely to have post-secondary credentials. Most new immigrants and temporary residents have university degrees.

City of Vancouver: Level of Formal Education by Demographic, 2016



Even though City of Vancouver residents in most demographic groups are overall more likely to have post-secondary credentials, a similar pattern of systemic inequities is visible at the regional level as well.

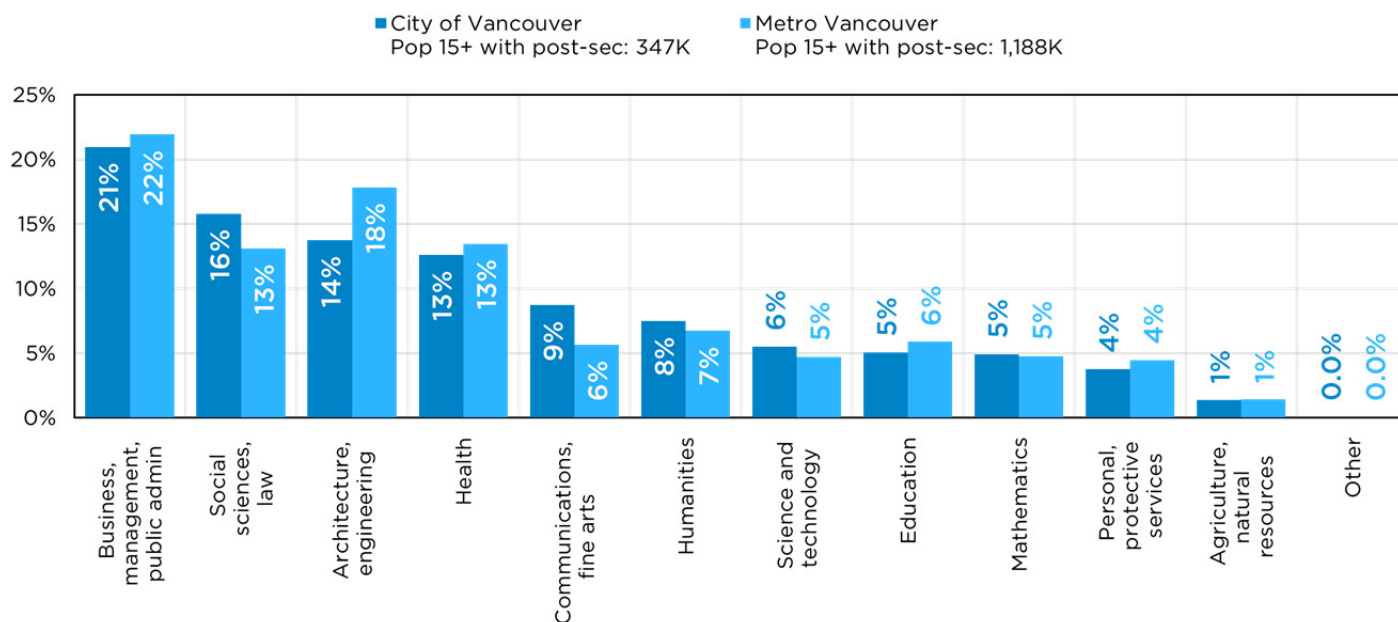
Metro Vancouver: Level of Formal Education by Demographic, 2016



Fields and Locations of Study

The graphs below show broad categories for top fields of study for post-secondary education. Vancouver residents' top three fields of study are: business, management and public administration; social sciences; and architecture and engineering.

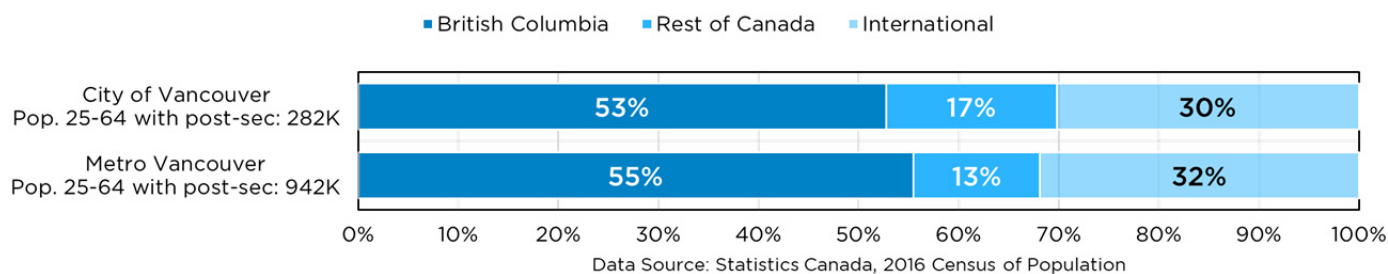
Population 15+ by Post-Secondary Field of Study, 2016



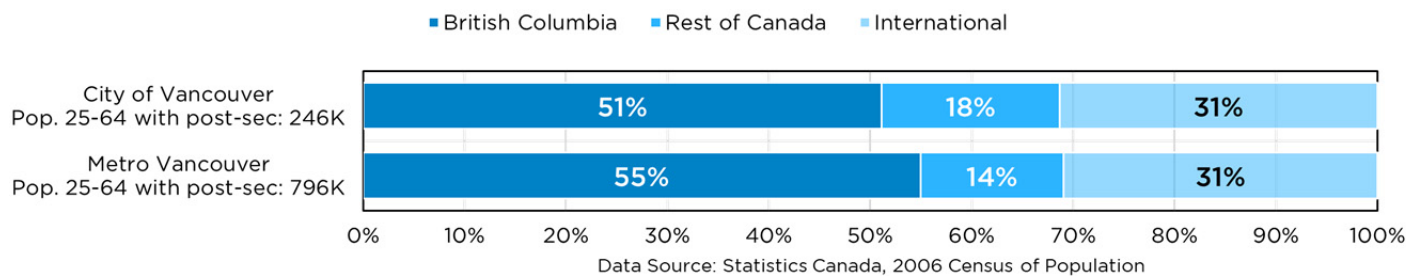
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

About 30% of Vancouver residents with post-secondary credentials received them from outside Canada, a slightly smaller rate than for the region overall.

Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary by Location of Study, 2016

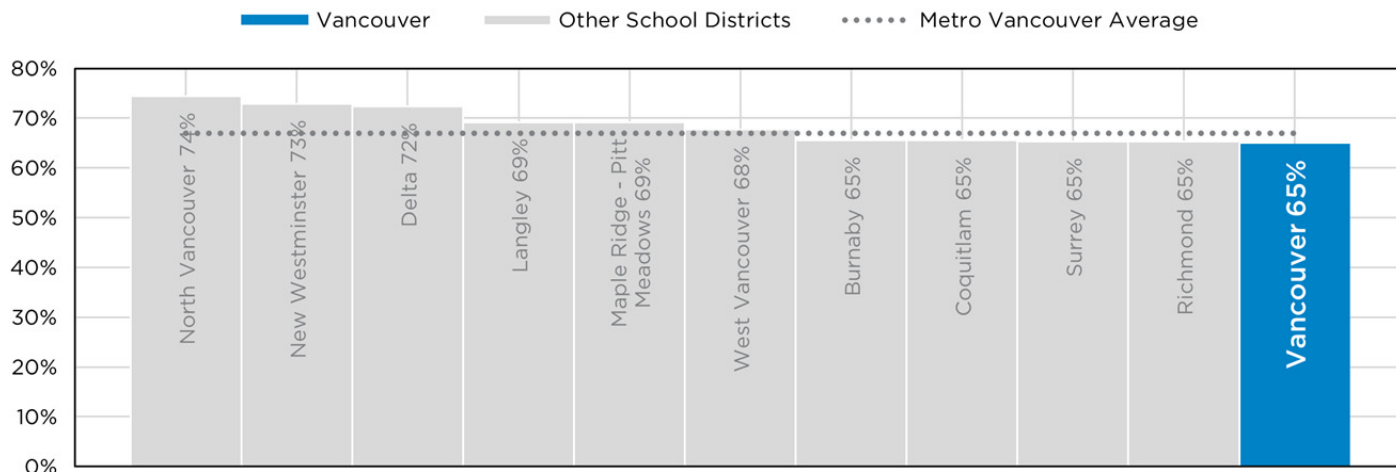


Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary by Location of Study, 2006

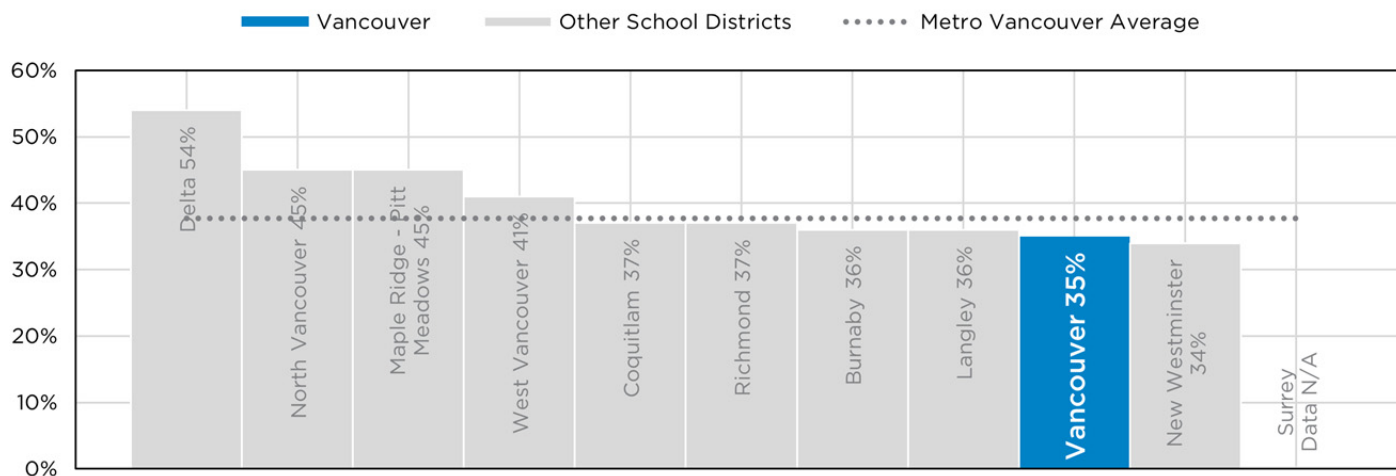


COMMUNITY HEALTH

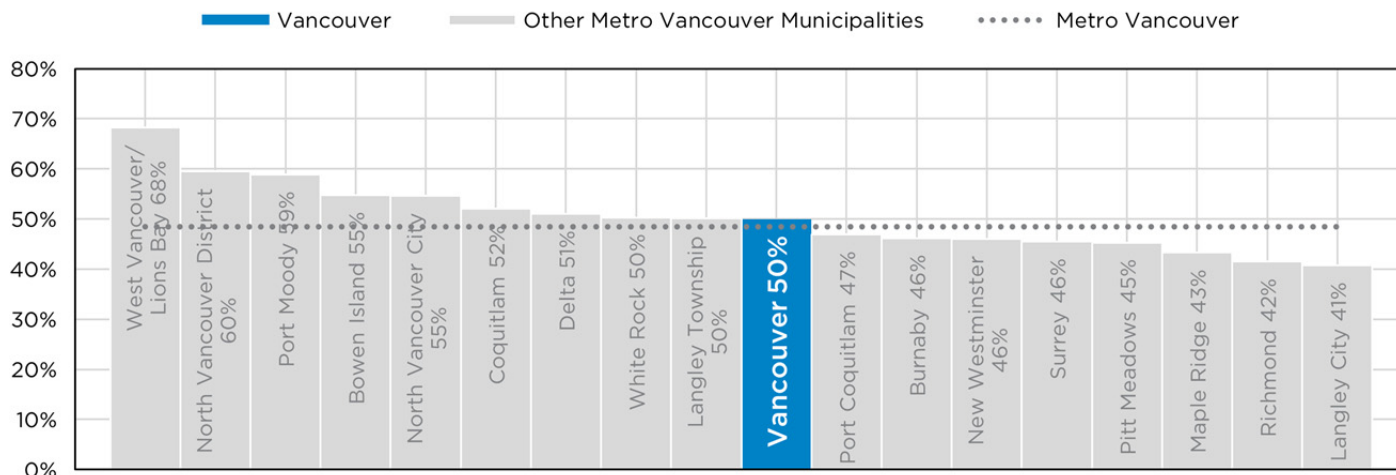
Children Ready for School (Not Vulnerable on EDI Scales), 2017-19



Grade 7 Children Thriving on MDI Well-Being Index, 2018

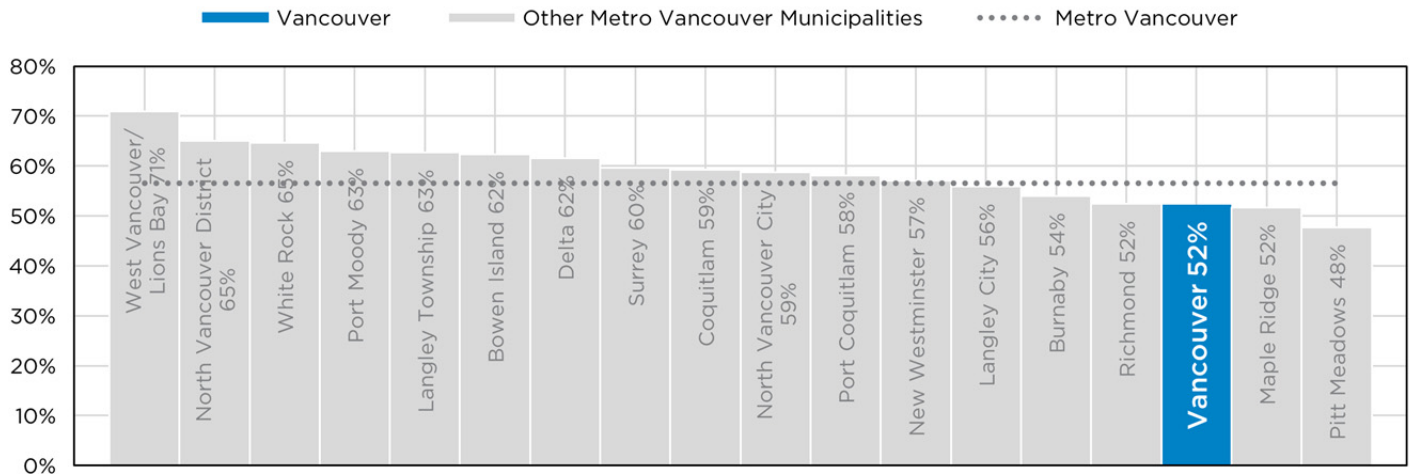


Very Good or Excellent General Health, 2013/2014

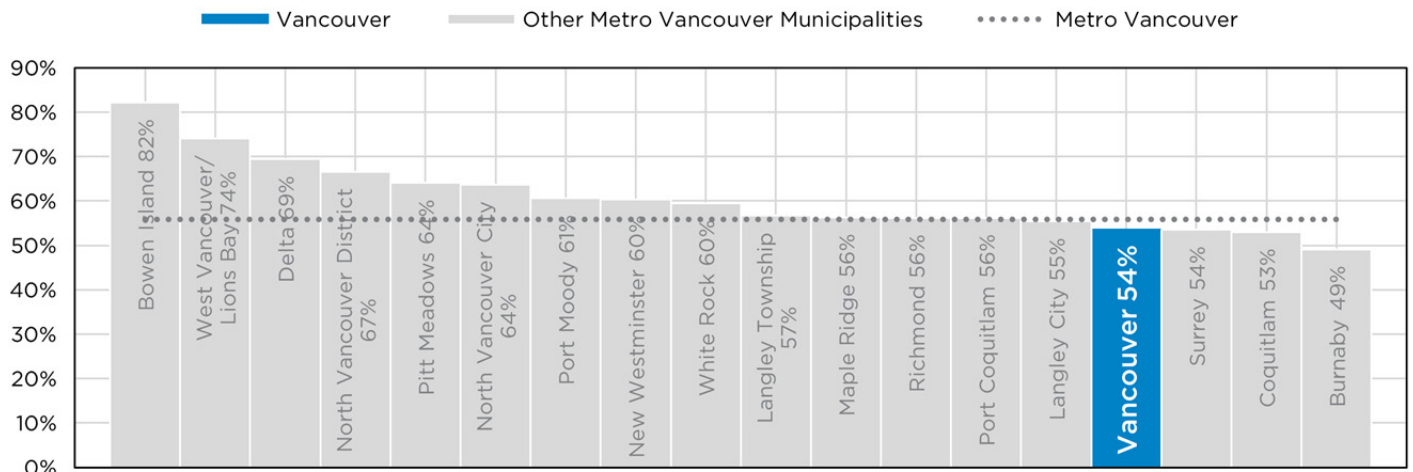


REGIONAL COMPARISONS

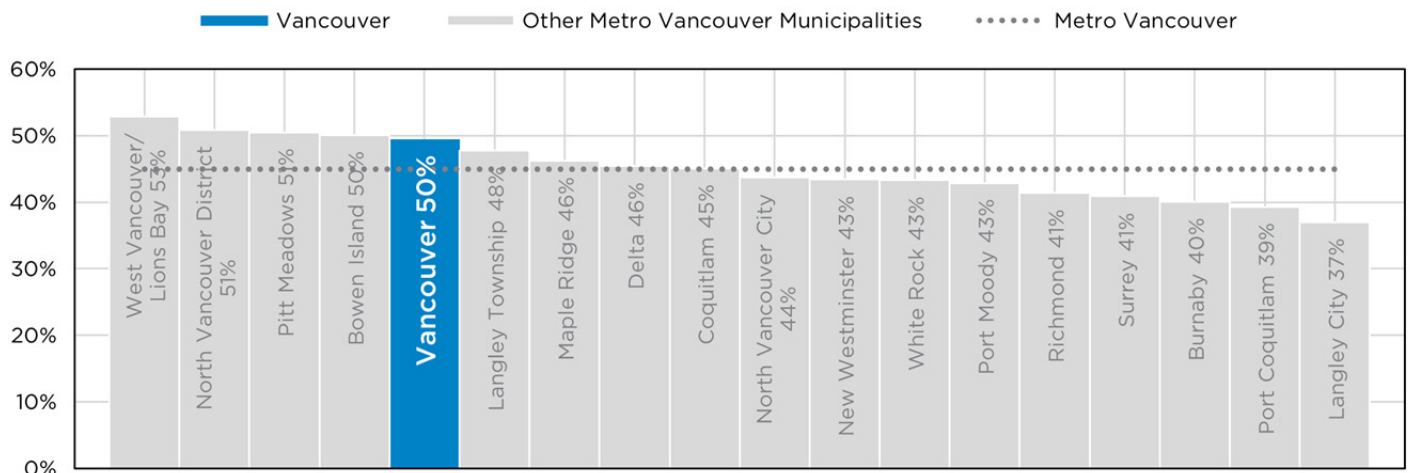
Very Good or Excellent Mental Health, 2013/2014



Strong Sense of Belonging, 2013/2014



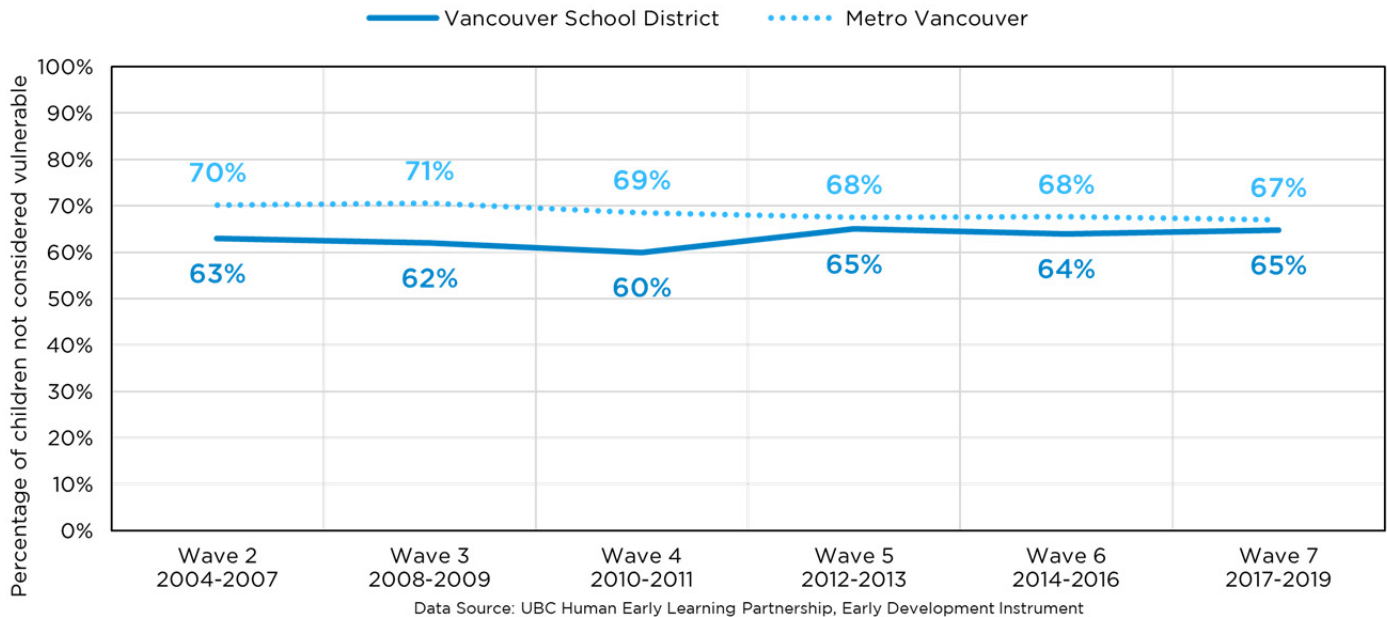
Four or More People in Support Network, 2013/2014



Early Childhood Development

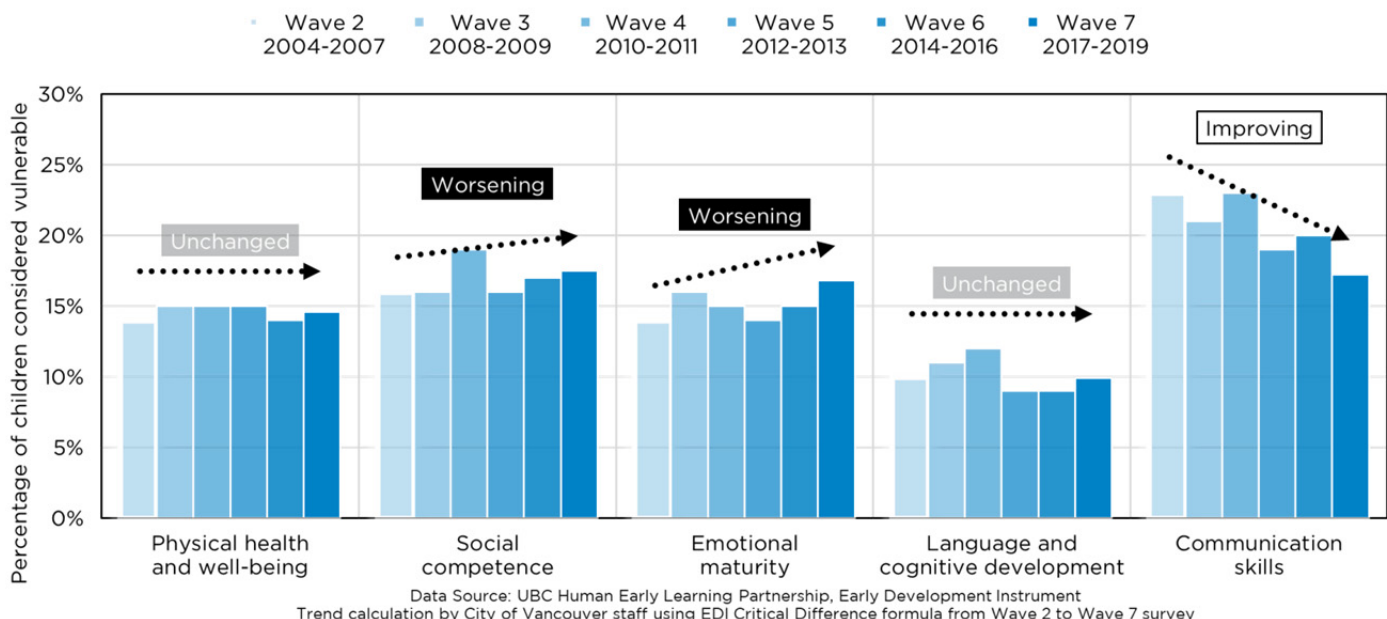
The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is used to benchmark kindergarten children on five developmental scales, identifying vulnerabilities that can impact school readiness. More than a third of Vancouver children are considered “vulnerable” on one or more of these scales, a significantly higher rate than the regional average, meaning fewer than two-thirds are developmentally ready for school.

Kindergarten Children Ready for School (Not Vulnerable on Any EDI Scales), 2004-2019



Over time, vulnerabilities in the EDI’s communications scale have been reduced, in part due to targeted investment in language learning. But vulnerabilities are increasing in the social and emotional domains of the EDI, which may reflect increased stress and anxiety experienced by families throughout the city.

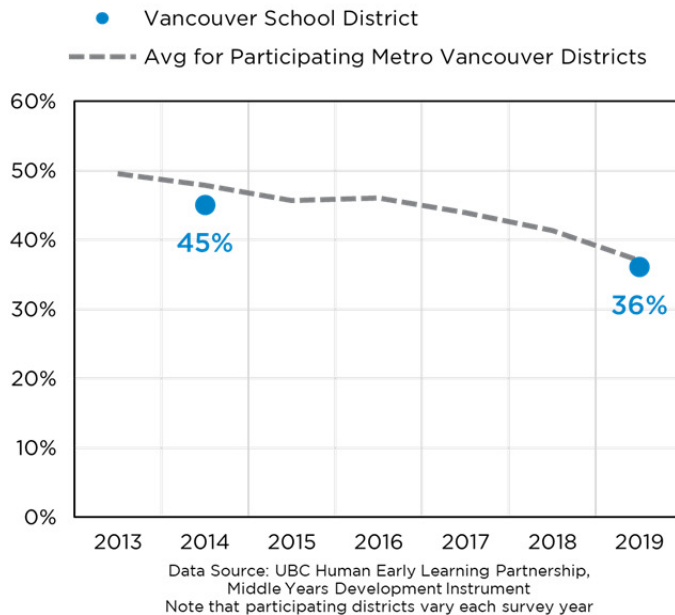
City of Vancouver: Child Vulnerability Trends by EDI Domain, 2004-2019



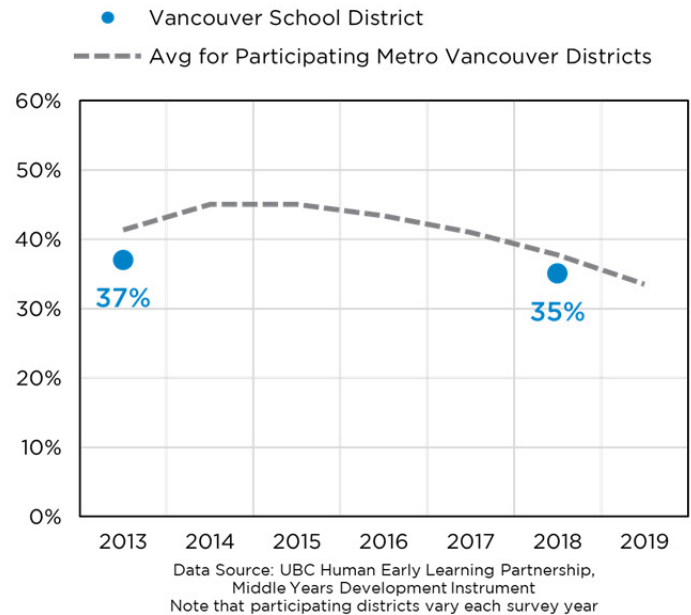
Middle-Years Development

The Middle-Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a questionnaire completed by children in grade 4 and 7 to self-assess their development in relation to well-being, health and school achievement. Children in the City of Vancouver have tended to have a relatively lower well-being score than the average among participating Metro Vancouver school districts.²²

Grade 4 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2019

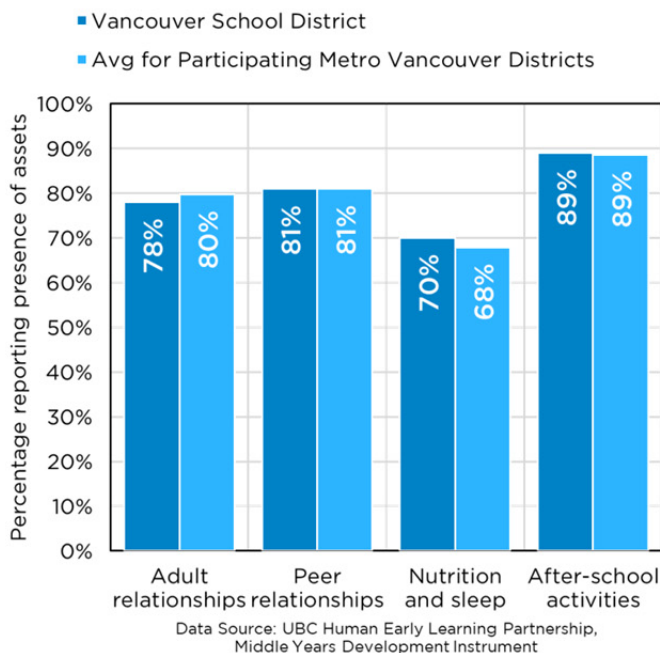


Grade 7 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2019

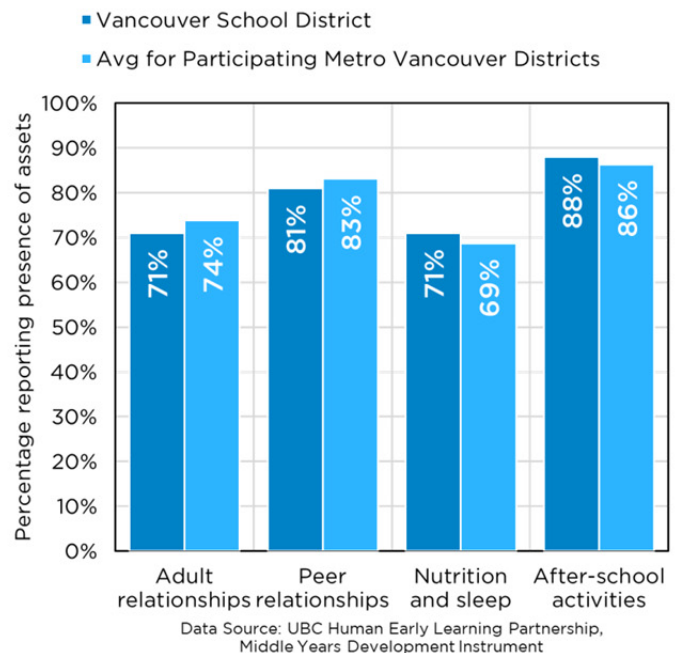


Vancouver children report are relatively likely to report good peer relationships and after-school activities, with fewer children reporting adequate sleep, food and good general health; and, in the most recent surveys, fewer children reporting strong adult relationships.

Grade 4 Children's Assets, 2019



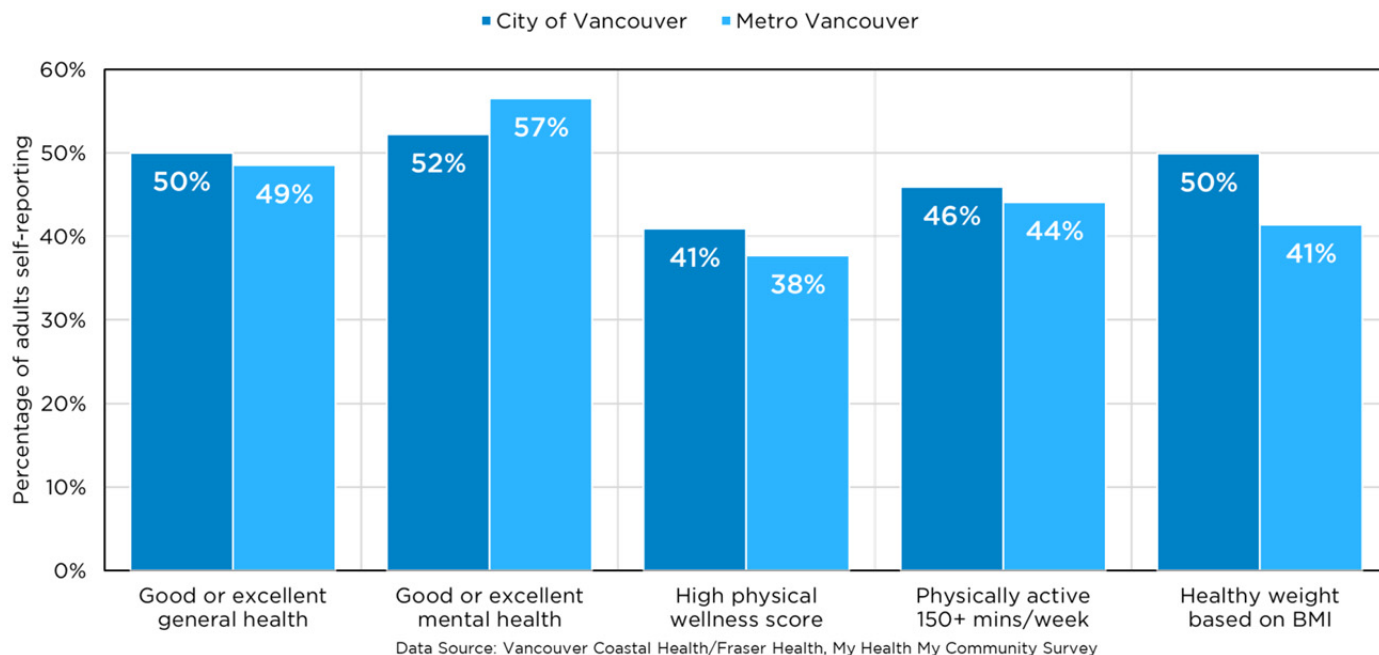
Grade 7 Children's Assets, 2018



Health Conditions and Overall Perceptions

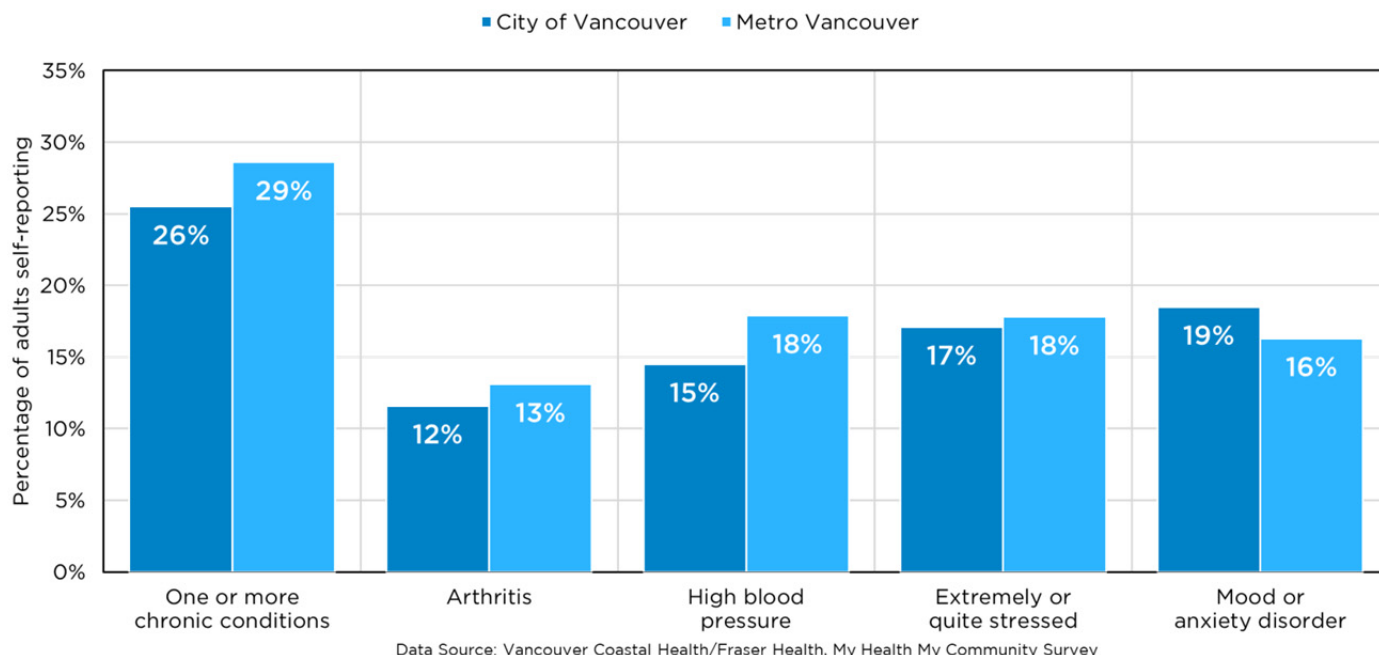
The My Health My Community survey, conducted in 2013 and 2014, surveyed adults across the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions on a number of topics. People in the City of Vancouver are more likely than residents of the broader region to report good physical health, wellness and physical activity, but less likely to report good or excellent mental health.

Overall Health Status and Perceptions, 2013-2014



Compared to the Metro Vancouver region overall, residents of the City of Vancouver are less likely to report chronic conditions or high blood pressure; similar to the region for reported rates of arthritis and stress; but more likely to report having a mood or anxiety condition.

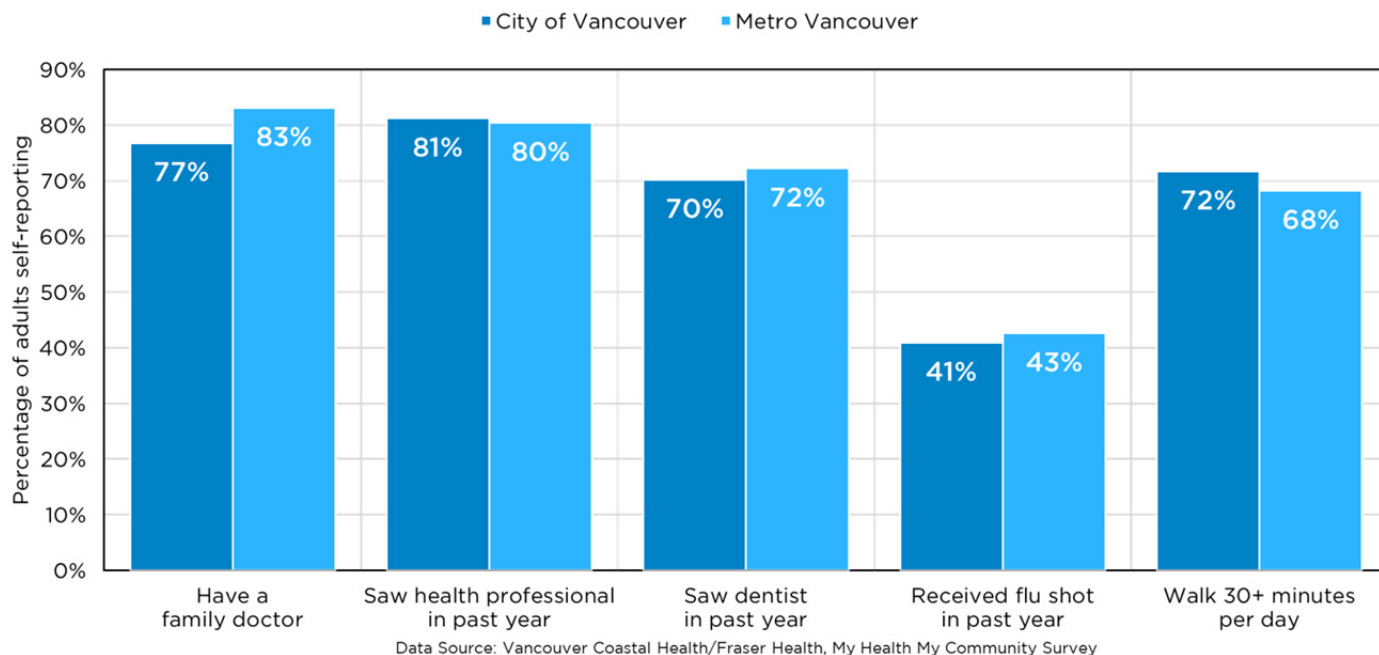
Reported Health Conditions, 2013-2014



Preventive Care and Healthy Behaviours

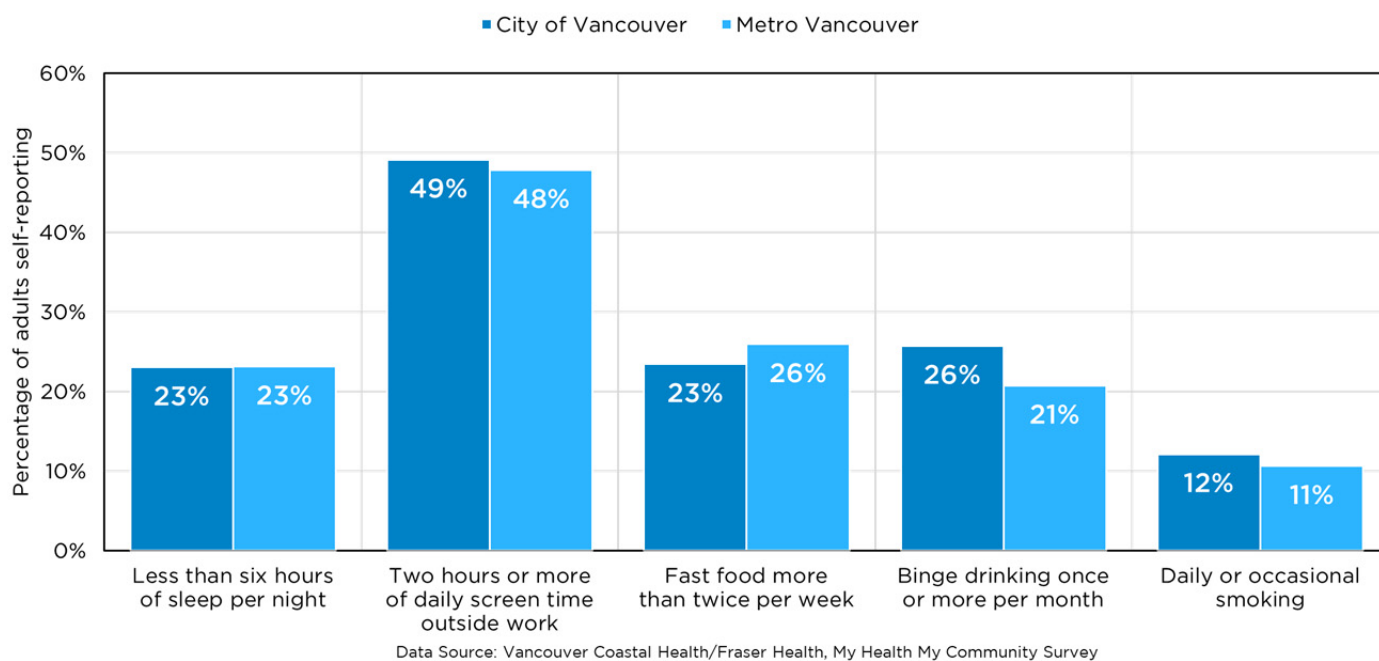
Compared to Metro Vancouver overall, City of Vancouver residents are less likely to have a family doctor and a little less likely to have seen a dentist or received a flu shot. However, Vancouverites are more likely to walk for 30 minutes each day.

Preventive Health Care, 2013-2014



City of Vancouver residents report some health-impacting behaviours—including inadequate sleep, excessive screen time and smoking—at a similar rate to residents of the broader region. Differences are seen in food and drink consumption: Vancouverites are less likely to eat fast food but more likely to binge drink.

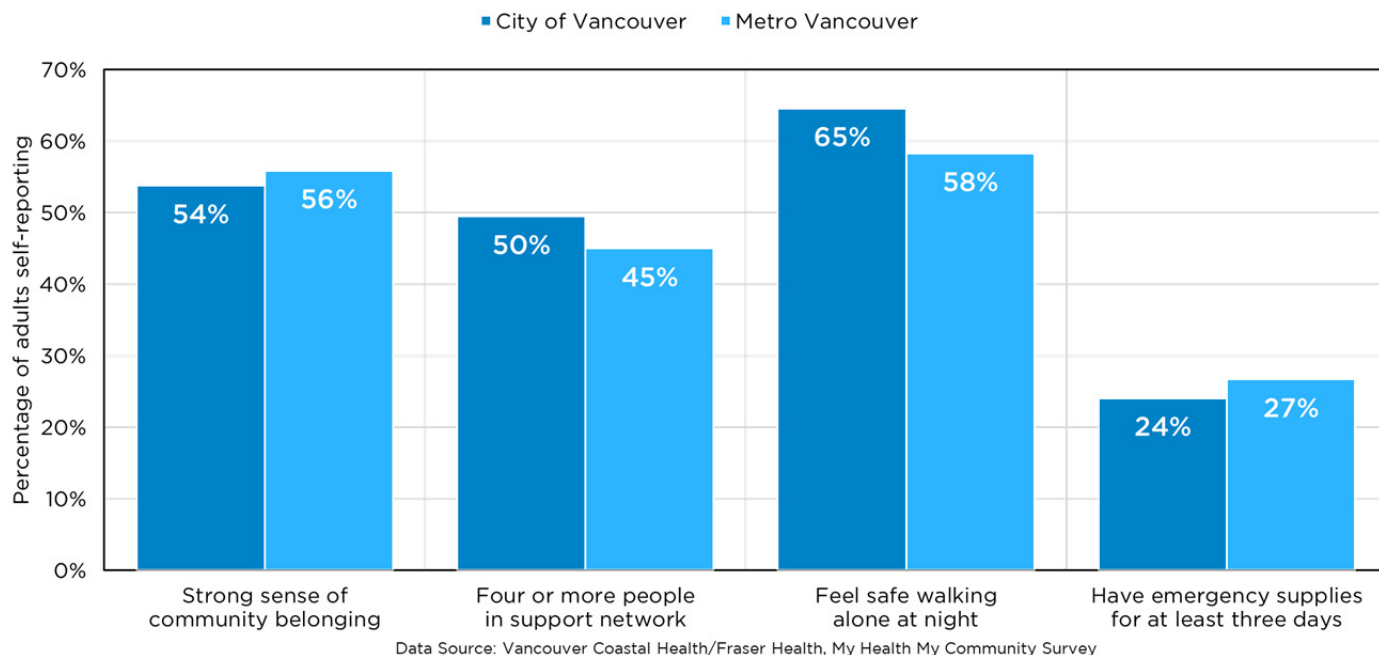
Health-Impacting Behaviours, 2013-2014



Connections, Resilience and Built Environments

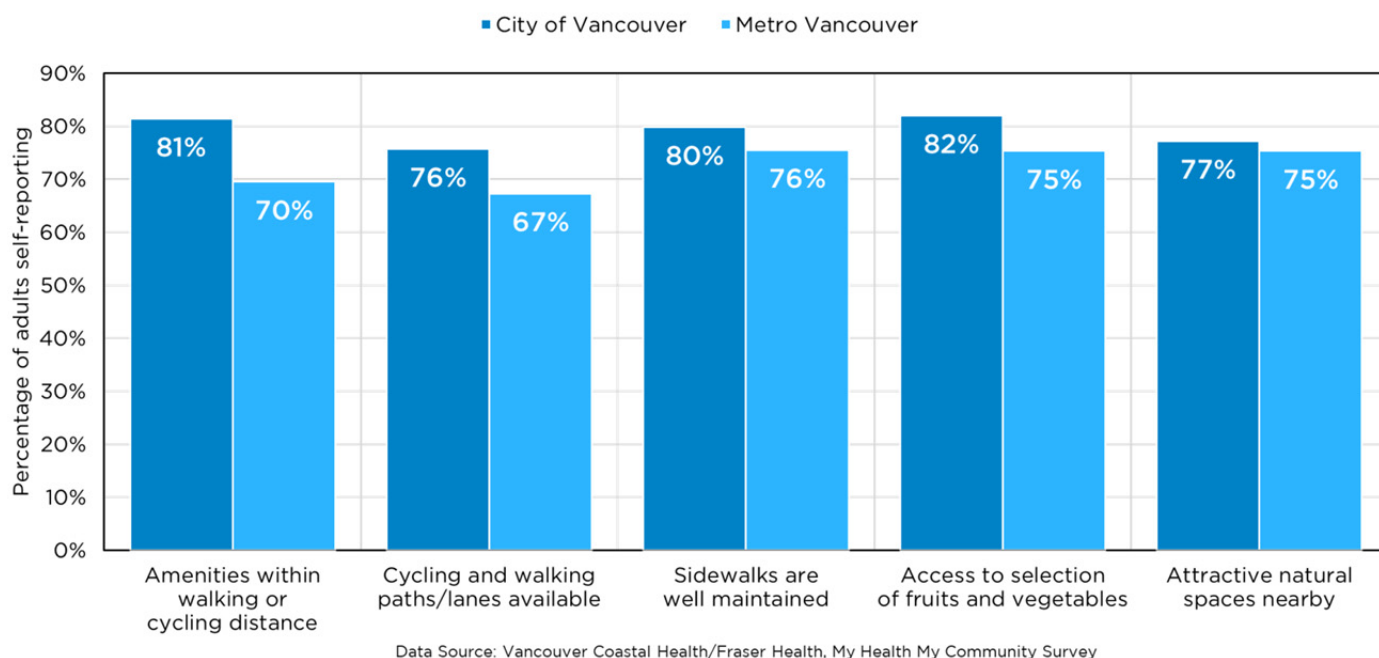
Residents of the City of Vancouver are more likely than their regional neighbours to have four or more people in their support network and to feel safe walking at night, but they are less likely to report a strong sense of community belonging and to have emergency supplies prepared.

Neighbourhood Social Connections and Resilience, 2013-2014



The City of Vancouver is perceived by its residents to have a generally healthy built environment, with stronger access to amenities, walking and cycling paths, well-maintained sidewalks, access to fresh food and natural spaces are scoring higher in the city than in the broader region.

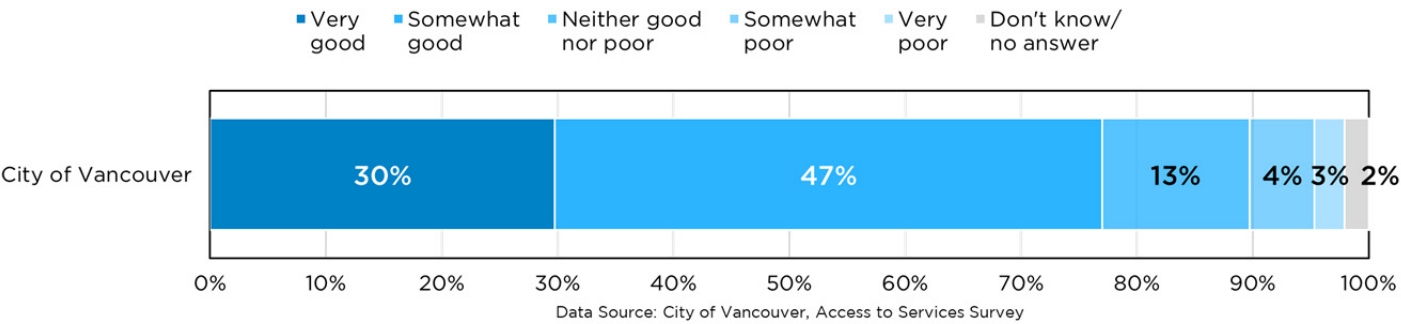
Perceptions of Built Environments, 2013-2014



Access to Services

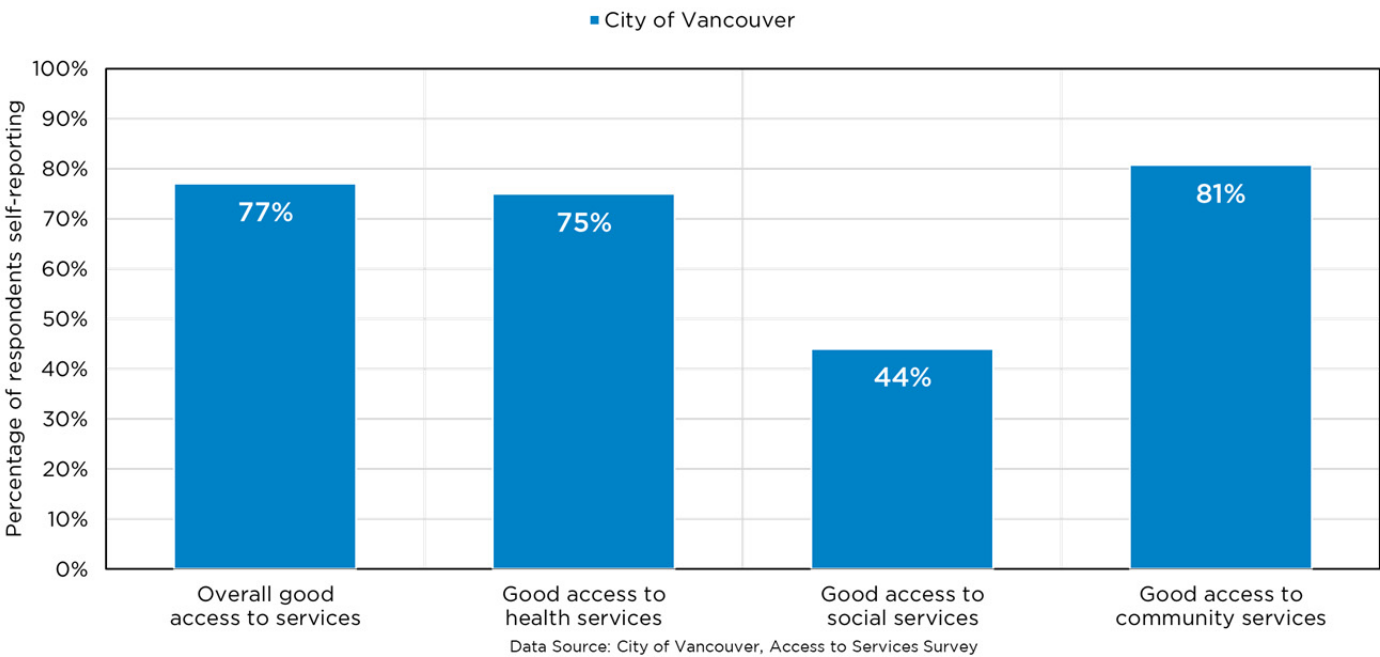
An important social determinant of health is the degree to which social, community and health services are physically, socially and culturally accessible to people who need them. In 2017, the City of Vancouver procured a survey of Vancouver residents' assessment of their access to services. Based on that survey, about three quarters of respondents rated their access as very good or somewhat good.

Overall Rating of Quality of Access to Services, 2017



Importantly, however, there were discrepancies in the ratings given to different types of services. Respondents were most likely to rate access to community services, such as community centres, libraries and neighbourhood houses as good; and least likely to rate access to social services as good.

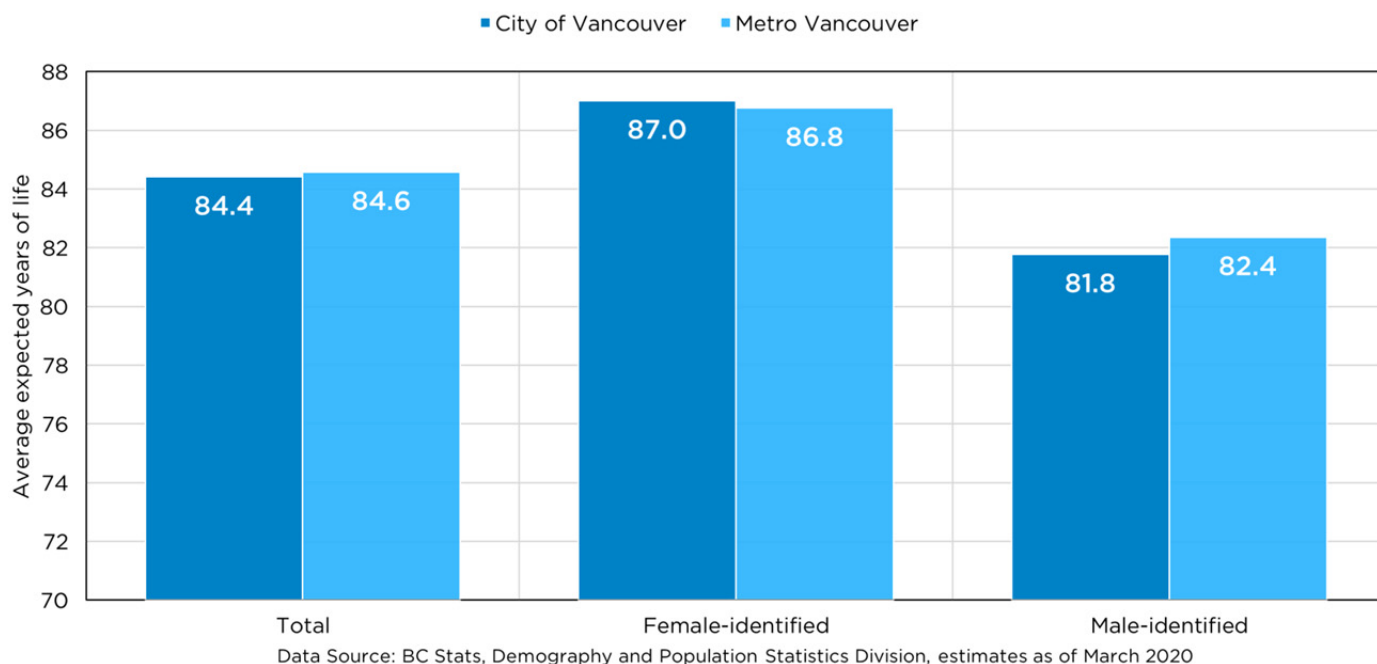
Quality of Access to Health, Community and Social Services, 2017



Life Expectancy

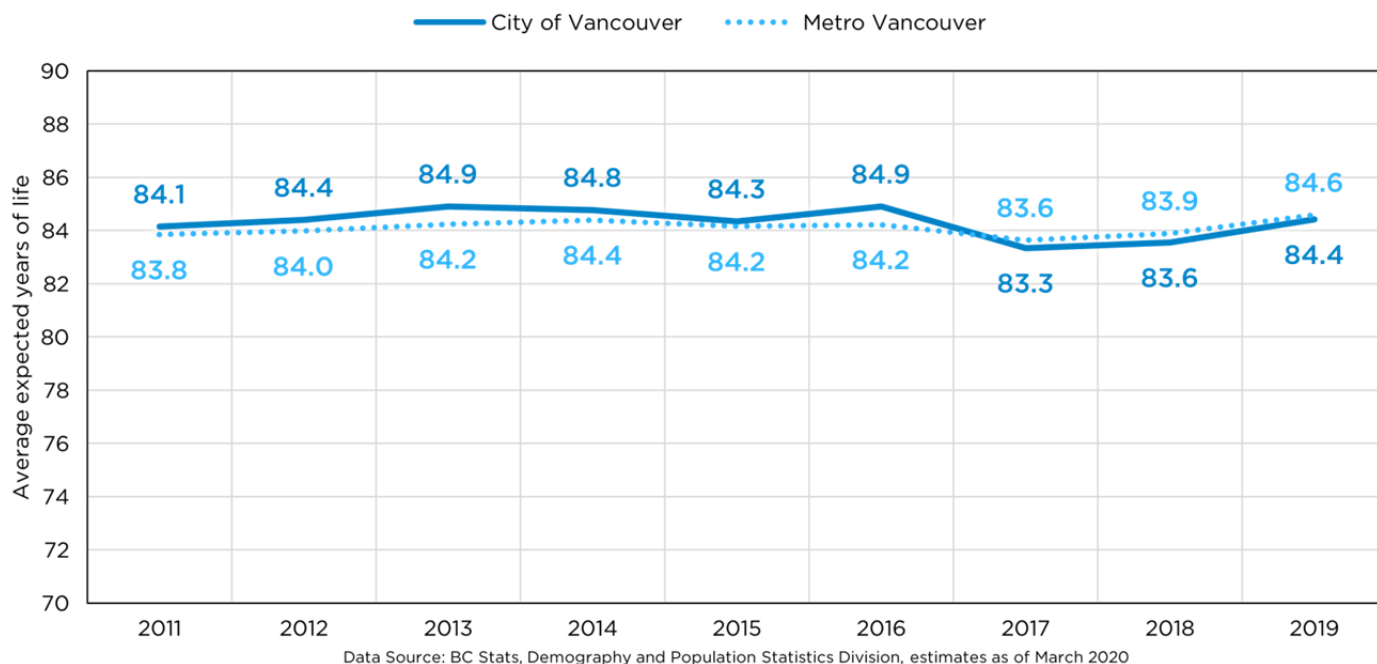
Finally, life expectancy is an overall indicator of health and well-being. For people born in 2019 in Vancouver, BC Stats estimates a life expectancy of 84.4 years, lower than for Metro Vancouver overall.

Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth, 2019



Until 2016, though, Vancouver tended to have a higher life expectancy than the region as whole. The sharp change since 2016 reflects the direct impact of the ongoing public health emergency of high numbers of drug overdose deaths. This crisis impacts communities across the city, but health emergencies are also the result of longer-term health inequities. Addressing the root causes requires attention to many of the trends described in this report and ongoing work toward systemic change.

Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth, 2011-2019



SUMMARY AND FURTHER RESEARCH

Working toward a healthy city for all means understanding how people’s health and well-being is shaped by the social, economic and demographic context they live in. This profile has outlined some key indicators and trends in the City of Vancouver to help inform community knowledge and action to respond to and shape change.

The City of Vancouver is renowned for its diversity, sustainability and livability, but these features are not equitably accessible to everyone that lives here—or would like to live here. The data presented here suggest a number of challenging trends, including that the risk of displacement is high as the cost of living in the city continues to increase. The city still has an important and unique role in the broader region, but it cannot take its identity for granted, nor celebrate its successes without also considering the changing social context of the city.



Get Involved

The data presented here is the beginning of a conversation about social sustainability, trends and change in our city. The table below offers some starting prompts to engage with the data in this profile:

Something I already knew about the city	Something that surprises me
Something that local organizations are addressing	Something that indicates an unmet need
Something that more data is needed to understand	Something important that data can’t answer

You are invited to share your thoughts, reflections and feedback with the City of Vancouver:
Social Policy and Projects
501-111 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1H4
socialpolicyresearch@vancouver.ca

Endnotes

- ¹ The 2016 Census questionnaire only gave respondents the option to choose “male” or “female”. Statistics Canada has recently redefined its standards for variables coding sex and gender, and a more inclusive question will likely be included in 2021 and subsequent censuses.
- ² Note that a Statistics Canada defines a duplex as two dwellings stacked vertically; an archetypal “Vancouver special” will therefore be counted as a duplex, as will a single-detached house with a basement suite, provided the suite was enumerated.
- ³ This graph counts private households classified as “apartment, under five storeys” and “apartment, five or more storeys”.
- ⁴ Housing tenure is self-reported on the census, so rented households include both purpose-built and secondary rental households.
- ⁵ Note that this indicator is not directly available in all census years, as Statistics Canada reports some household variables and family variables separately. The rate of households with children is estimated by multiplying the total number of one- and multiple-family households by the rate of children in families, with the assumption that one-family households and multiple-family households are equally likely to contain children.
- ⁶ Data on the number of bedrooms are available in five categories: zero, one, two, three or four-or-more. An average is calculated by assuming four-or-more bedroom dwellings have exactly four bedrooms, so the true average is likely higher in many neighbourhoods.
- ⁷ Note that the census limits “family” to mean nuclear or lone-parent arrangements and does not include all family types.
- ⁸ The 2016 census standard profiles did not include a number of variables previously reported on age of children in census families, so neighbourhood data are not available in 2016 for number of children at home.
- ⁹ Note that the census form allows for multiple responses, so the categories are not exclusive.
- ¹⁰ Figures for the City of Vancouver include the Musqueam community in the southwest of the city; this area is also included in the Dunbar-Southlands local area. Statistics Canada reports Musqueam separately from the City of Vancouver in its standard releases of census data; without Musqueam, 2.2% of the City of Vancouver’s population is Indigenous.
- ¹¹ Comparing rates of knowledge and use of Chinese languages over time is challenging, as the 2011 and prior censuses included a large category of “Chinese, not otherwise specified” which included speakers of Mandarin, Cantonese and/or other dialects. Over time this category has reduced, likely due to improved enumeration and online completion of census forms, and more people are identified with specific dialects and fewer generically as “Chinese”. Unfortunately it is not possible to assess the magnitude of this change.
- ¹² It is not clear why the 2001 Census of Population stands out as an outlier, but it appears to underreport non-English home languages and over-report multiple home languages.
- ¹³ The generation variable on the census is derived from questions asking respondents to identify the place of birth of their father and their mother. This question as written does not include same-gender parents, gender-diverse parents, adoptive parents or non-nuclear family arrangements, and more inclusive questions will need to be developed to ensure more valid and reliable data in future.
- ¹⁴ The Gini coefficient is calculated by dividing the area between a Lorenz curve of income distribution and a hypothetical equitable distribution by the total area under the equality curve. The analysis presented here is a coarse approximation using available census data. This graph is created by assigning all individuals or households within a given income category as the middle of that category (for example, income between \$50 and \$60 thousand would be coded as earning \$55 thousand), and then assigning the highest income category a value calculated based on the residual average income reported.
- ¹⁵ Note that all census income indicators represent the previous year’s income; that is, the 2016 Census reports on people’s income in 2015. To avoid confusion, this chapter labels income in relation to the census year.
- ¹⁶ Inflation is calculated using Statistics Canada’s all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Metro Vancouver.
- ¹⁷ Both rent and dwelling value are self-reported on the census form. As well, comparisons between different areas should account for differences in housing types and sizes.
- ¹⁸ This calculation includes households reporting shelter costs in excess of their income; although other sources of housing data often exclude these households from the calculation, historical disaggregated data are not available for all census years.
- ¹⁹ Note that the changing nature of work makes the validity of the unemployment rate questionable over time; readers are encouraged to supplement this information with other sources of knowledge.
- ²⁰ Based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 2012.
- ²¹ Based on the National Occupational Classification, 2016.
- ²² Note that school districts participating in the MDI vary each year, so readers should be cautious in drawing trends.