Downtown

Neighbourhood Social Indicators Profile 2020

CITY OF VANCOUVER | Social Policy and Projects

Social Indicators and Trends: Neighbourhood Profiles 2020

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:

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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.

DOWNTOWN: HIGHLIGHTS

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

Decades of rapid growth producing high-density communities that now house one in ten Vancouver residents.

A population concentrated in young adults, but growing across the age continuum.

A growing number of children and families, slowing in the most recent periods.

A population growing in cultural and linguistic diversity.

A high degree of income polarization, with high earners but also higher rates of income poverty than the city overall.

High housing costs relative to incomes, with both growing rapidly.

A large workforce increasingly concentrated in creative, technical and financial sectors.

Healthy built environments and use of active transportation, but gaps in access to some services.

INTRODUCTION

Place and Context

The City of Vancouver occupies the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (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
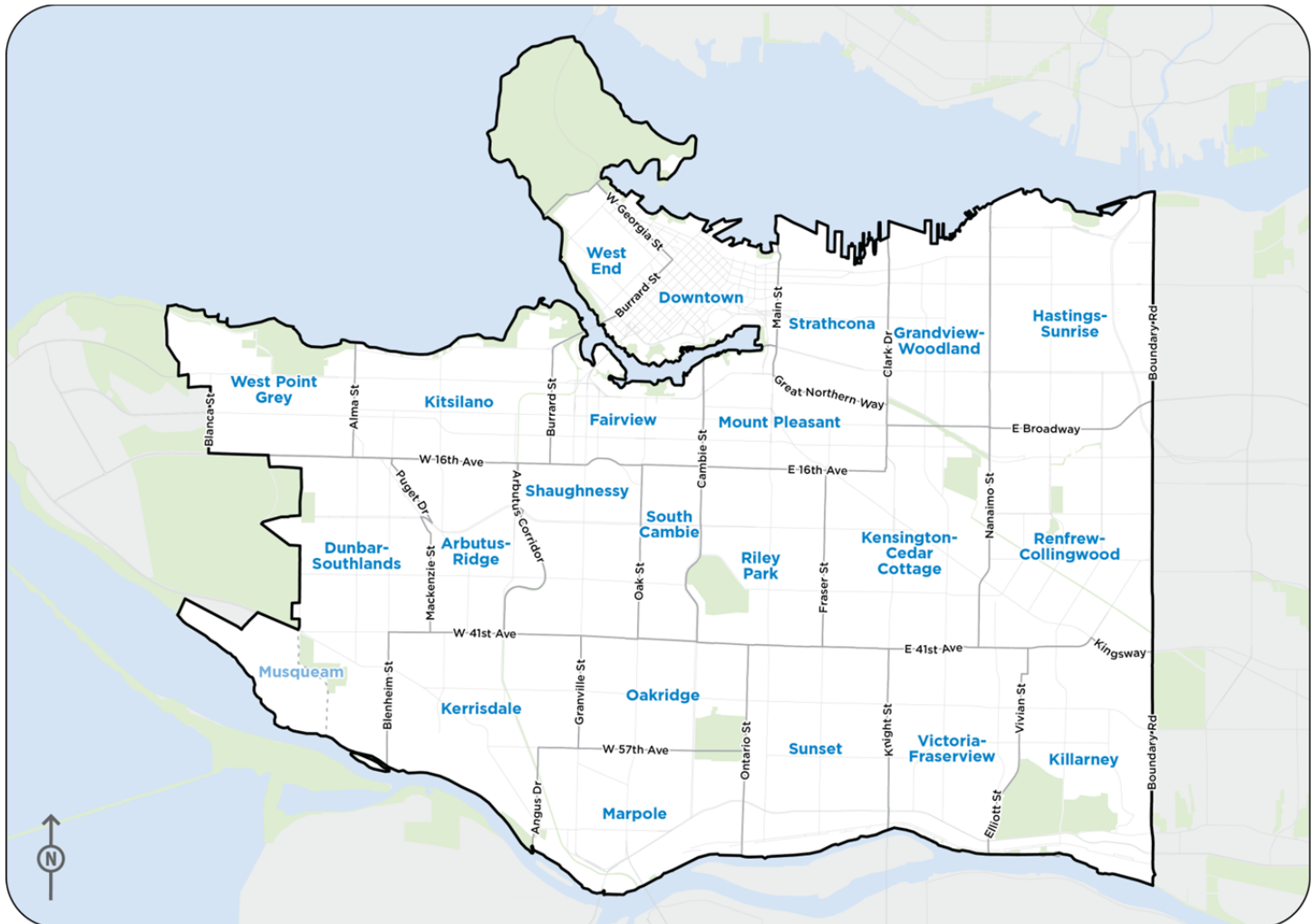
The map above shows the 22 local planning areas used by the City of Vancouver. These areas, identified in the 1960s, are the closest concept Vancouver has to "official" neighbourhoods, and there is a wealth of current and historical population and infrastructure data available for these areas. However, 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.

Global Non-Response Rate, 2011-2016

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

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

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".

- 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 Downtown, the 2016 census counted 62,030 residents, 95% of which were housed in private households.

Downtown: Census Population Coverage, 1986-2016

■ Population in private households   □ Total population

Census	Total population	% in private households
1986 Census	5,910	71%
1991 Census	8,880	79%
1996 Census	17,405	98%
2001 Census	27,990	99%
2006 Census	43,415	97%
2011 Census/NHS	54,690	94%
2016 Census	62,030	95%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
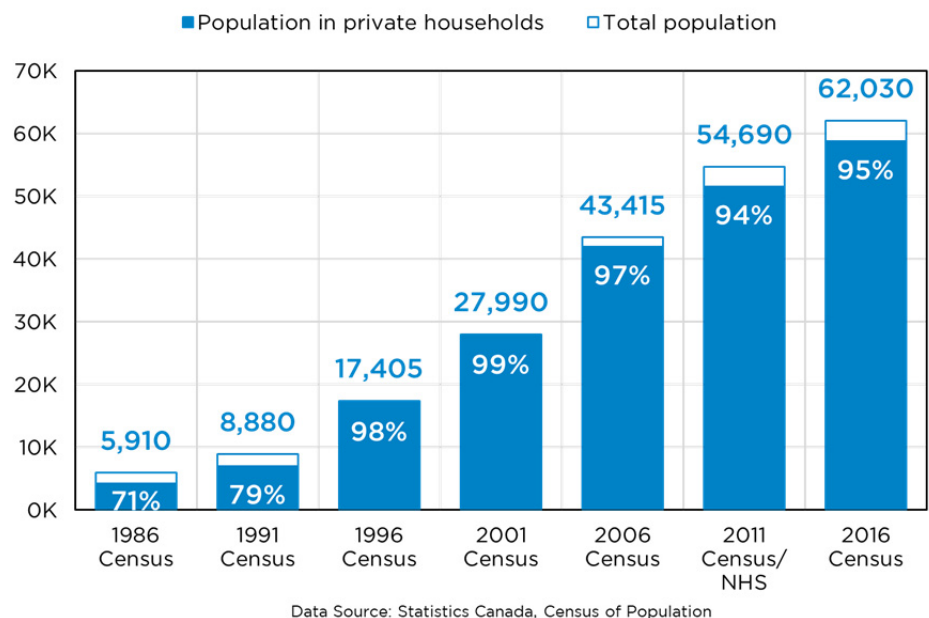
Other Data Sources

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 DOWNTOWN

Neighbourhood Map

The Downtown local area covers an area of 3.8 square kilometres. It extends west from Main Street covering the entire peninsula of land except for the West End (west of Burrard Street and south of Georgia Street) and Stanley Park. It includes the central business district and neighbourhoods such as Yaletown, Northeast False Creek, Coal Harbour; and portions of the Downtown Eastside like Gastown and Victory Square.

In total, the Downtown local area occupies 3% of the City of Vancouver's land area and houses 10% of its population in 13% of the city's private households. Downtown is central to the economy of the city and the region: 36% of jobs recorded with a usual place of work within Vancouver are located Downtown.

Land Area

Downtown

3%

3.8 km²

Rest of Vancouver

97%

113.0 km²

Population

Downtown

10%

62,030 persons

Rest of Vancouver

90%

571,110 persons

Housing Units

Downtown

13%

39,972 dwellings

Rest of Vancouver

87%

270,061 dwellings

Jobs in Area

Downtown

36%

136,625 jobs

Rest of Vancouver

64%

240,820 jobs
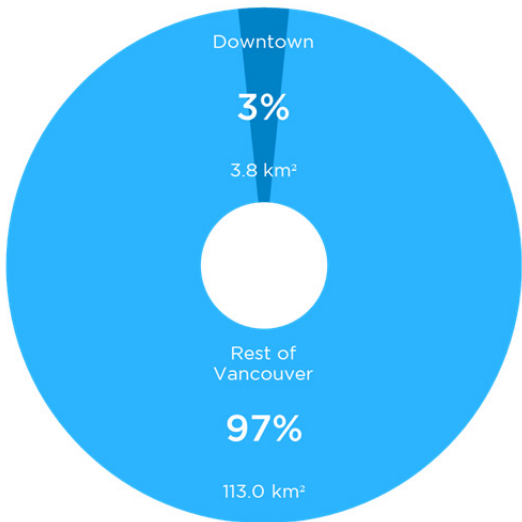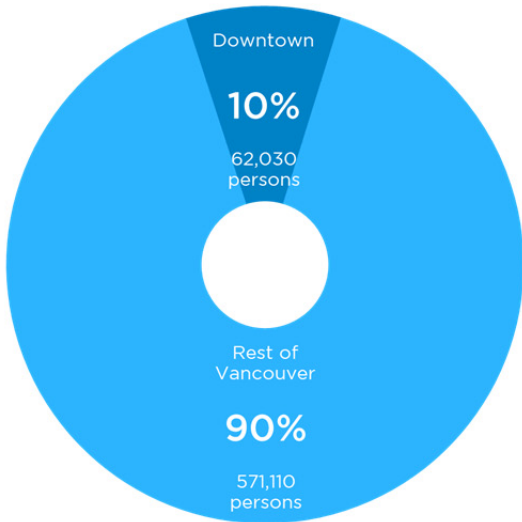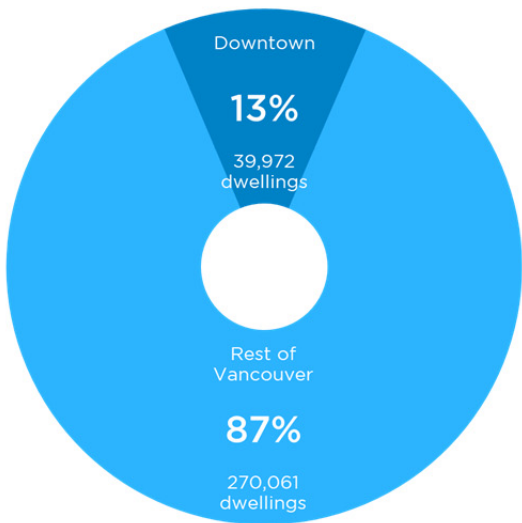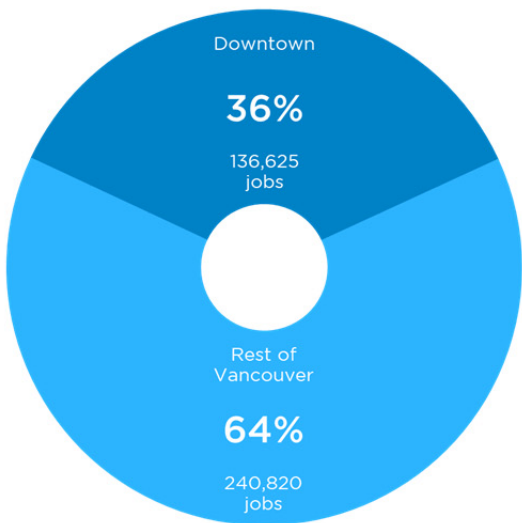
GROWTH AND CHANGE

Population Change, 2011-2016

Legend: ▬ Downtown ▬ Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

Mount Pleasant +25%

Downtown +13%

Kerrisdale -5%

Population Density, 2016

Legend: ▬ Downtown ▬ Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

West End 231 persons/ha

Downtown 162 persons/ha

Shaughnessy 19 persons/ha

Median Age, 2016

Legend: ▬ Downtown ▬ Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

Strathcona 46.1

Downtown 36.5

Mount Pleasant 35.2
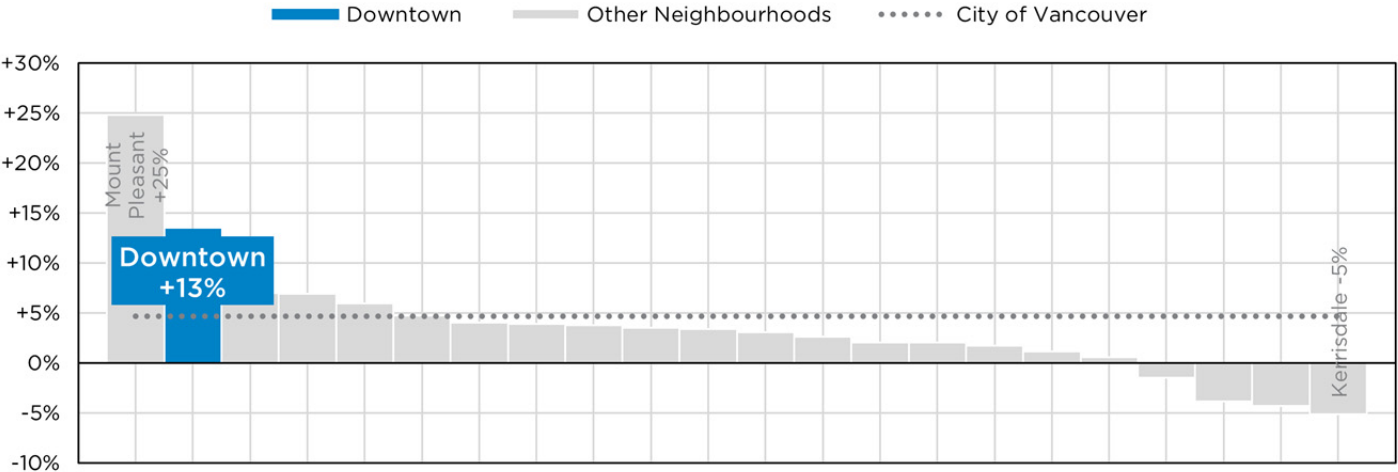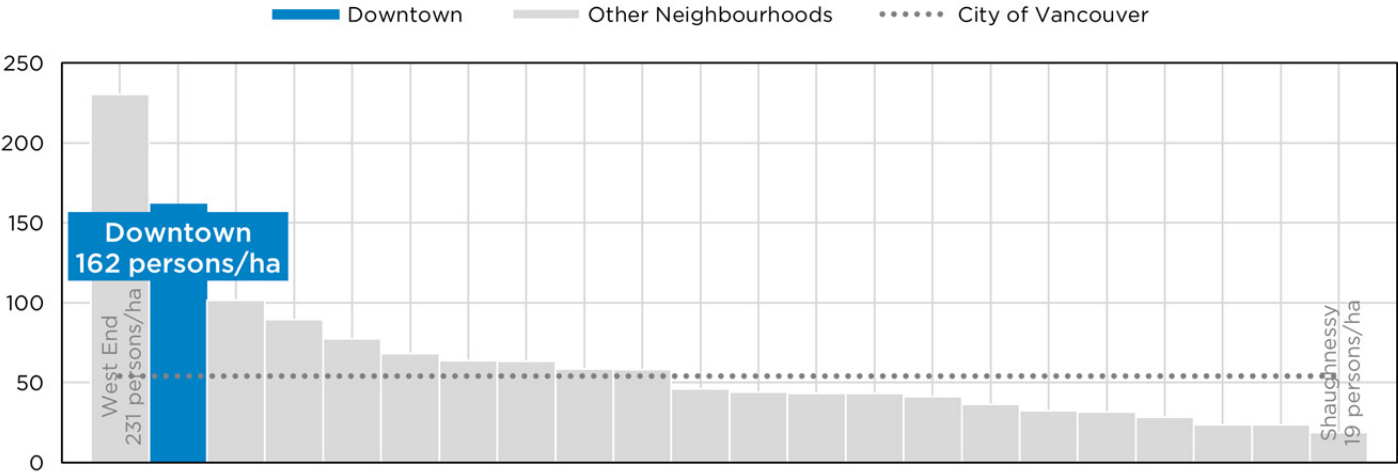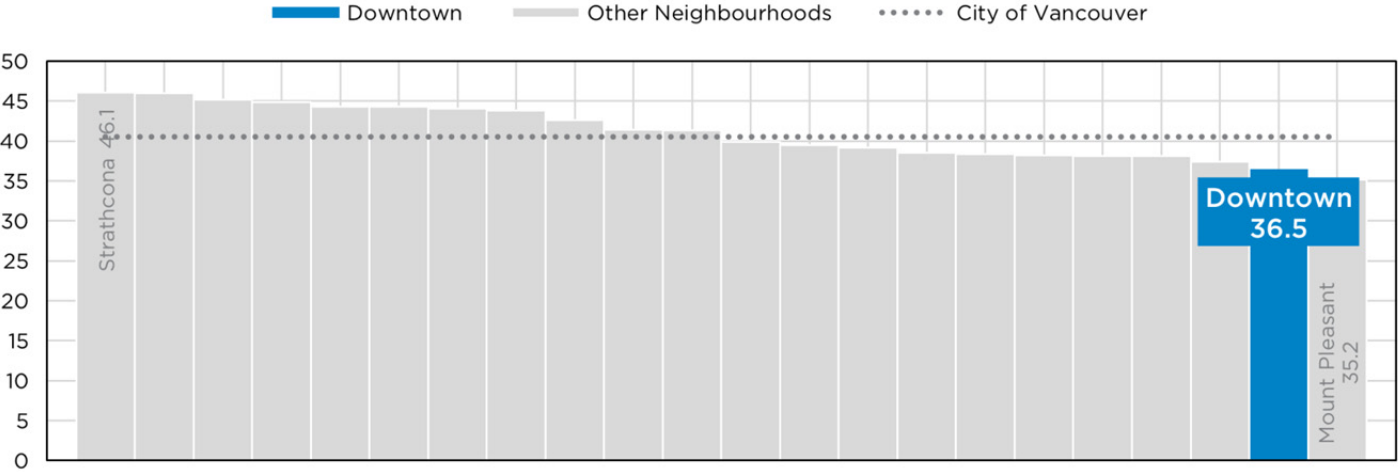
Population Age 65 or Older, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods — ••••• City of Vancouver

Arbutus-Ridge 23%

Mount Pleasant 9%

Downtown 11%

Average Household Size, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods — ••••• City of Vancouver

Sunset 3.1

West End 1.5
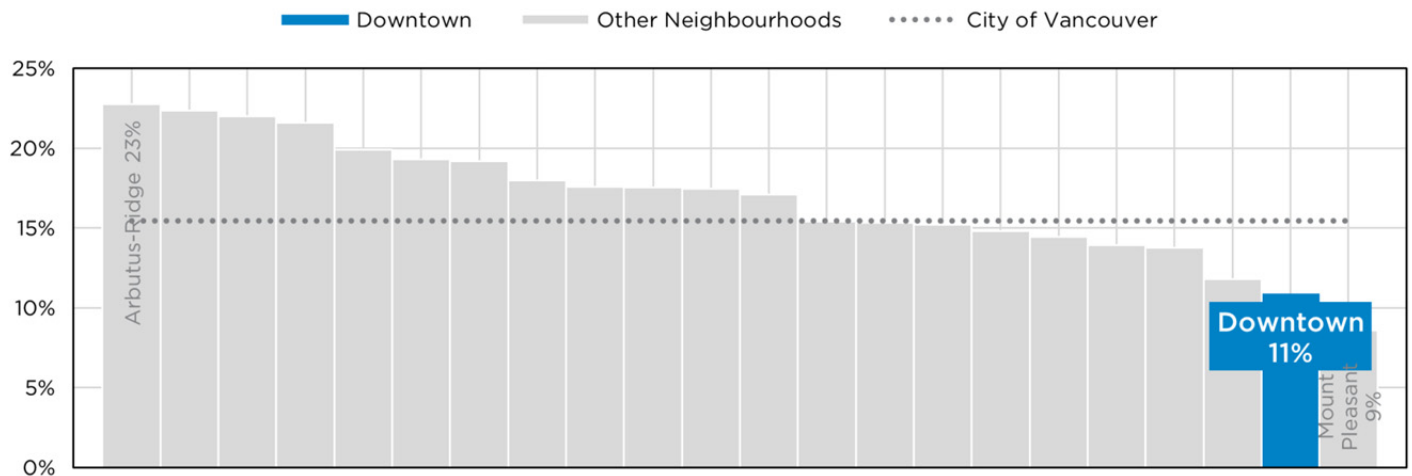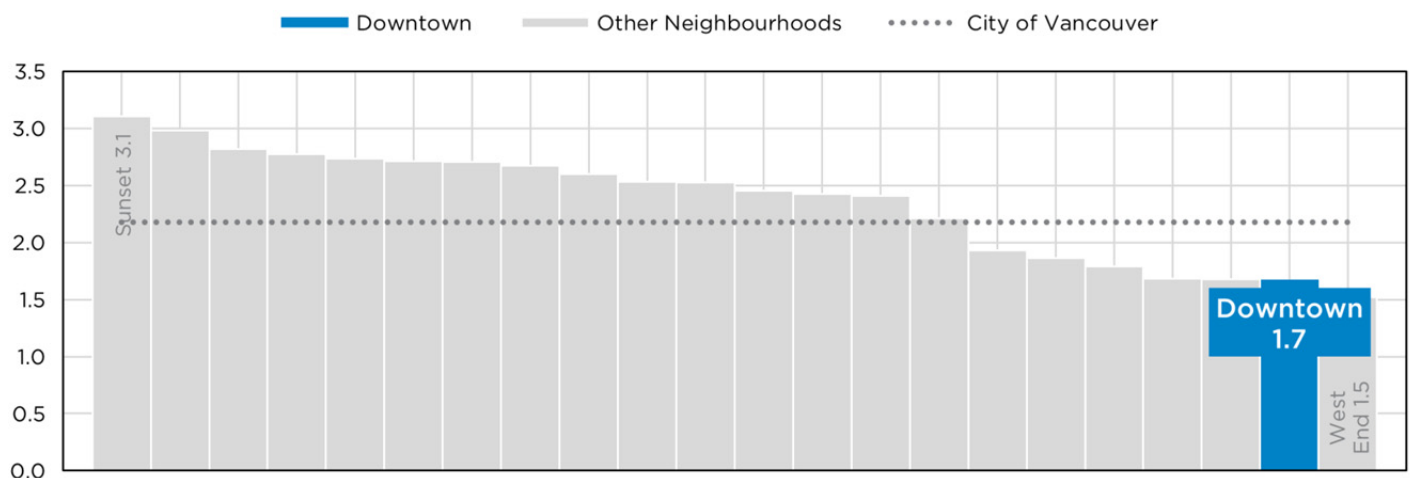
Downtown 1.7

Estimated Households with Children at Home, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods — ••••• City of Vancouver

Dunbar-Southlands 53%

West End 8%
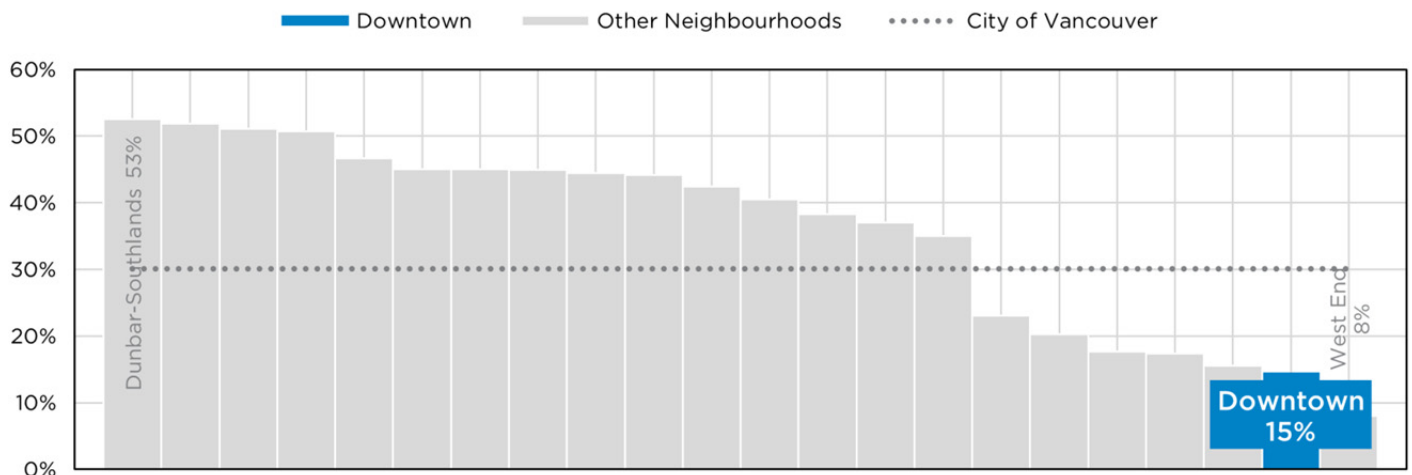
Downtown 15%

Population Trends

The 2016 census counted 62,030 persons on Downtown's 3.8 square kilometres, over seven thousand more than were counted in 2011. The intensification of residential development in Vancouver's downtown is a defining feature of the city, and more than a quarter of the city's growth in population over the past five years was housed in this area.

**Downtown:
Total Population, 1971-2016**

Year	Population
1971	6,585
1976	5,935
1981	6,256
1986	5,910
1991	8,880
1996	17,408
2001	27,988
2006	43,417
2011	54,690
2016	62,030

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
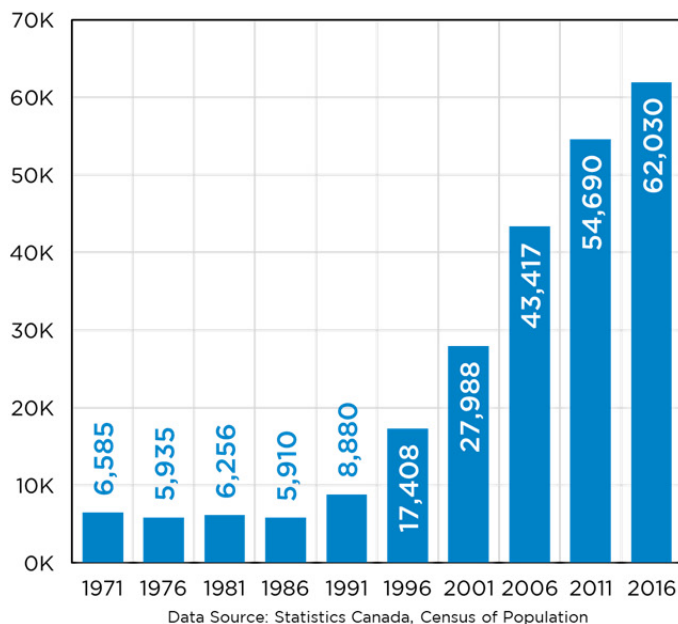
**City of Vancouver:
Total Population, 1971-2016**

Year	Population
1971	426,260
1976	409,734
1981	414,280
1986	432,385
1991	471,844
1996	514,008
2001	545,671
2006	578,041
2011	603,500
2016	631,486

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
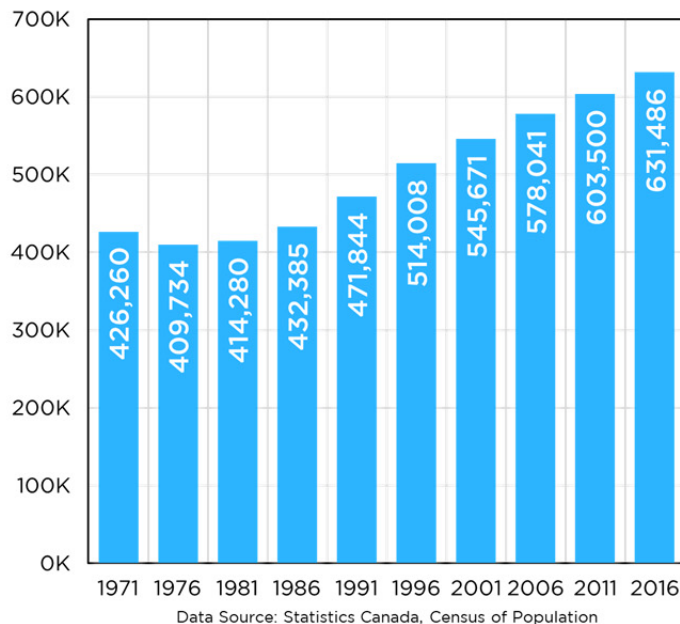
As of 2016, Downtown's population density was 162 persons per hectare, triple the density of the city overall. This figure accounts only for the residential population and excludes jobs and other use of downtown.

Population Density, 1971-2016

Downtown ·········· City of Vancouver

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1971	17	37
1976	15	35
1981	16	36
1986	15	37
1991	23	41
1996	45	44
2001	73	47
2006	113	50
2011	143	52
2016	162 persons/ha	54 persons/ha

Persons per hectare

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

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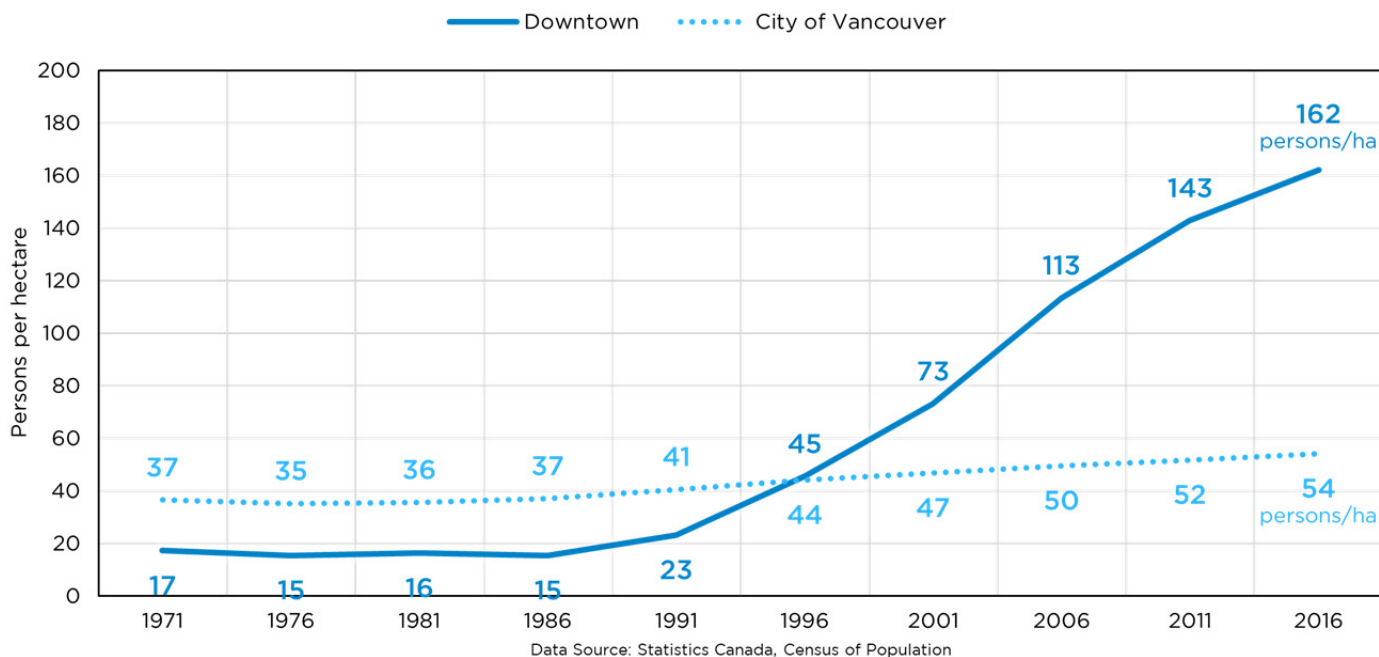
Age Profile

Measured as a proportion of its total population, Downtown has many people in their 20s and 30s, but relatively few school-age children. Only 47% of the area's population is female-identified,[1] with a population of older adults being most skewed toward male-identified residents.

Population Distribution by Age and Sex, 2016

Legend:
— Downtown Population 62K 47% female-identified
···· City of Vancouver Population 633K 51% female-identified

<Female-Identified   Percentage of Total Population   Male-Identified>
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
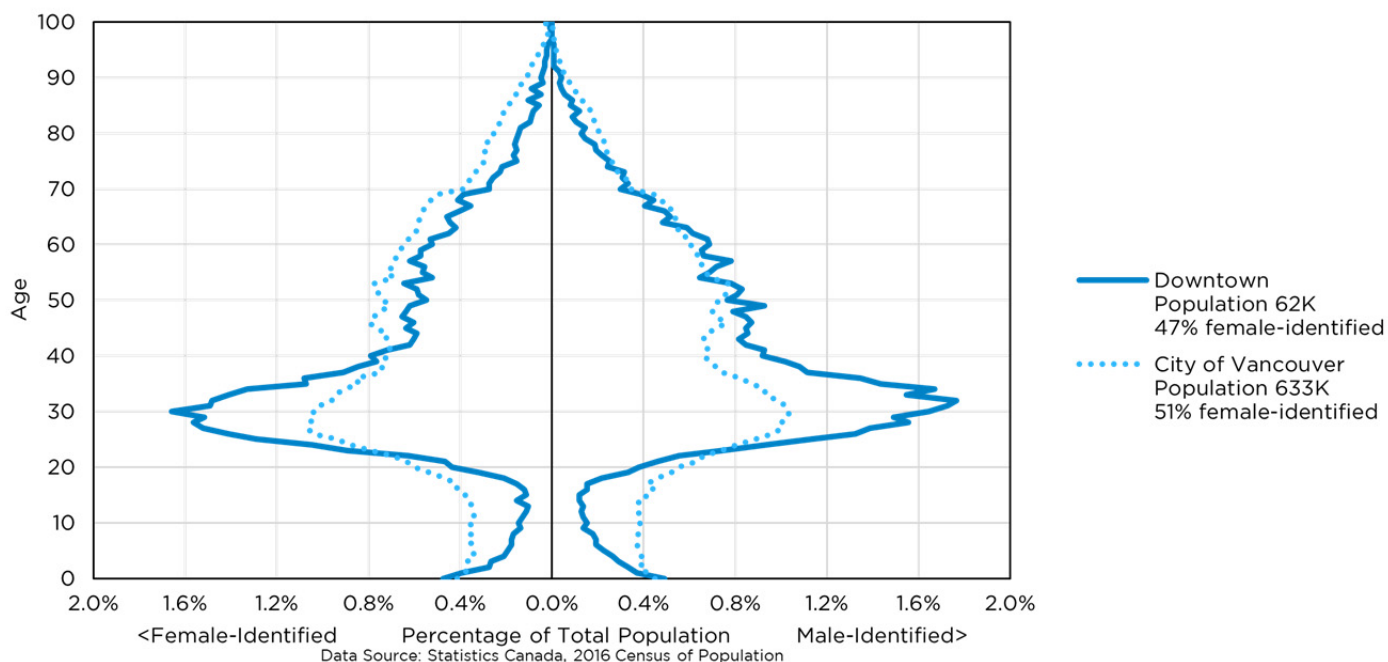
As Downtown's population has grown rapidly, its age profile has changed. In the 1980s and early 1990s older men made up a much larger proportion of population, and children made up an even smaller share.

1986

1991

1996

2001

2006

2011
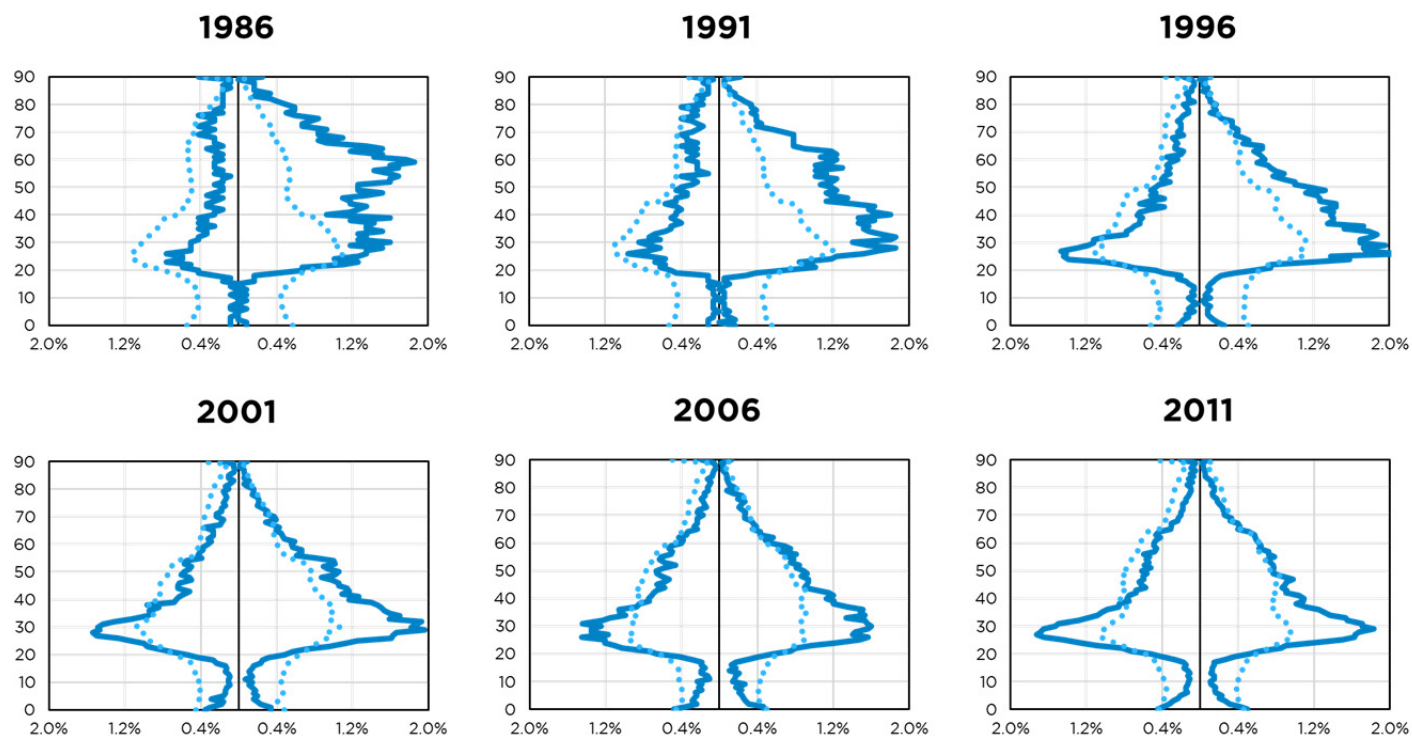
Age Groups

Downtown has 69% more seniors (age 65 and older) than children (age 0-14). Children grew as a share of population in the 1990s and early 2000s before declining more recently. From 1996 to 2016, Downtown's overall population grew by 256%; the number of children grew by 590%; and the number of seniors grew by 276%.

Share of Pop. 0-14, 1971-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Share of Pop. 65+, 1971-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
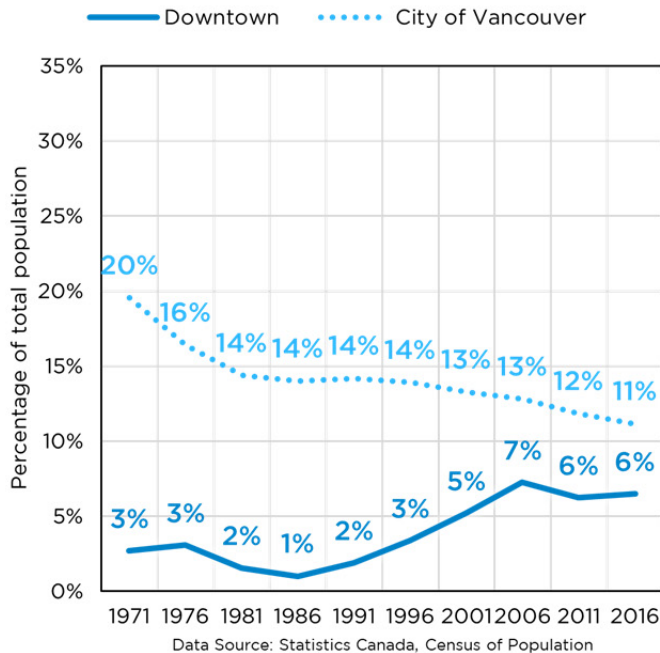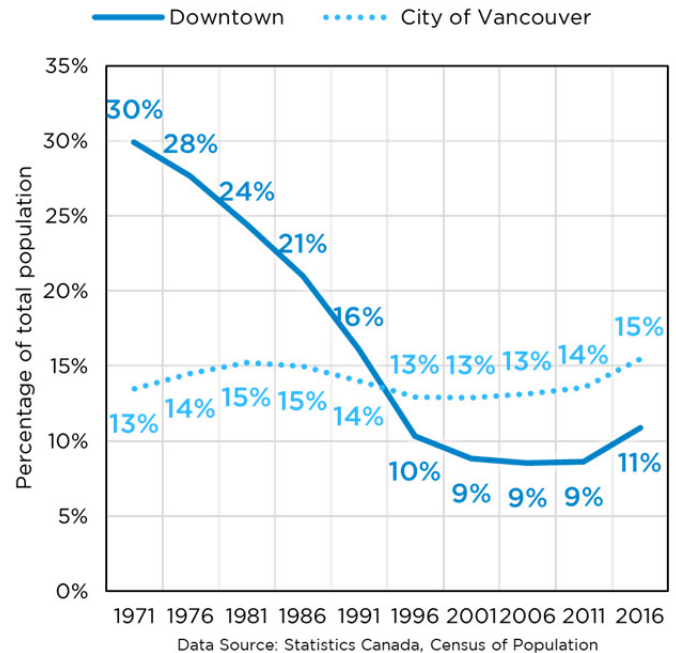
The graph below provides population counts by age group over 30 years. Downtown's rapid rate of growth means that almost all age groups grew in absolute numbers in every census period, except for a drop in the number of youth (age 13-24) from 2011 to 2016.

Downtown: Population by Age Groups 1986-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

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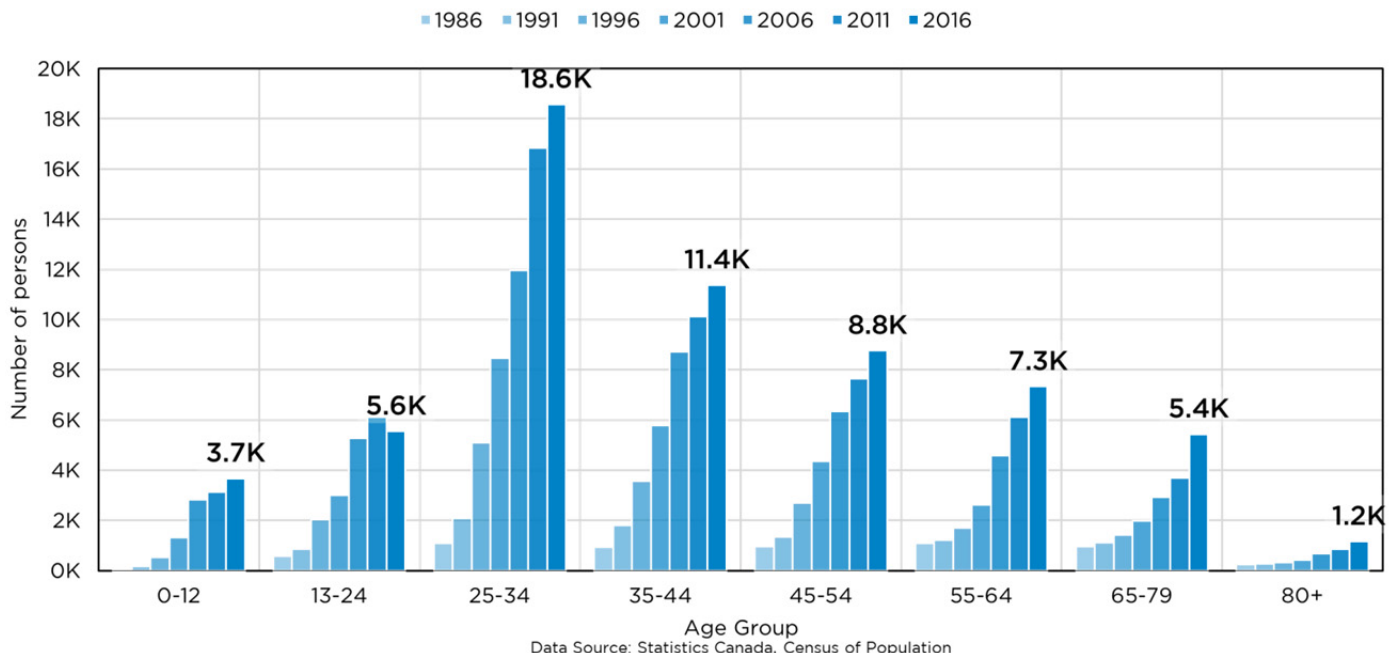
Short-Term Population Growth

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 Downtown: 2016 saw an increase in population in almost all ages, except for a net drop in people between age 18 and 27.

Downtown: Net Population Growth 2011-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census of Population
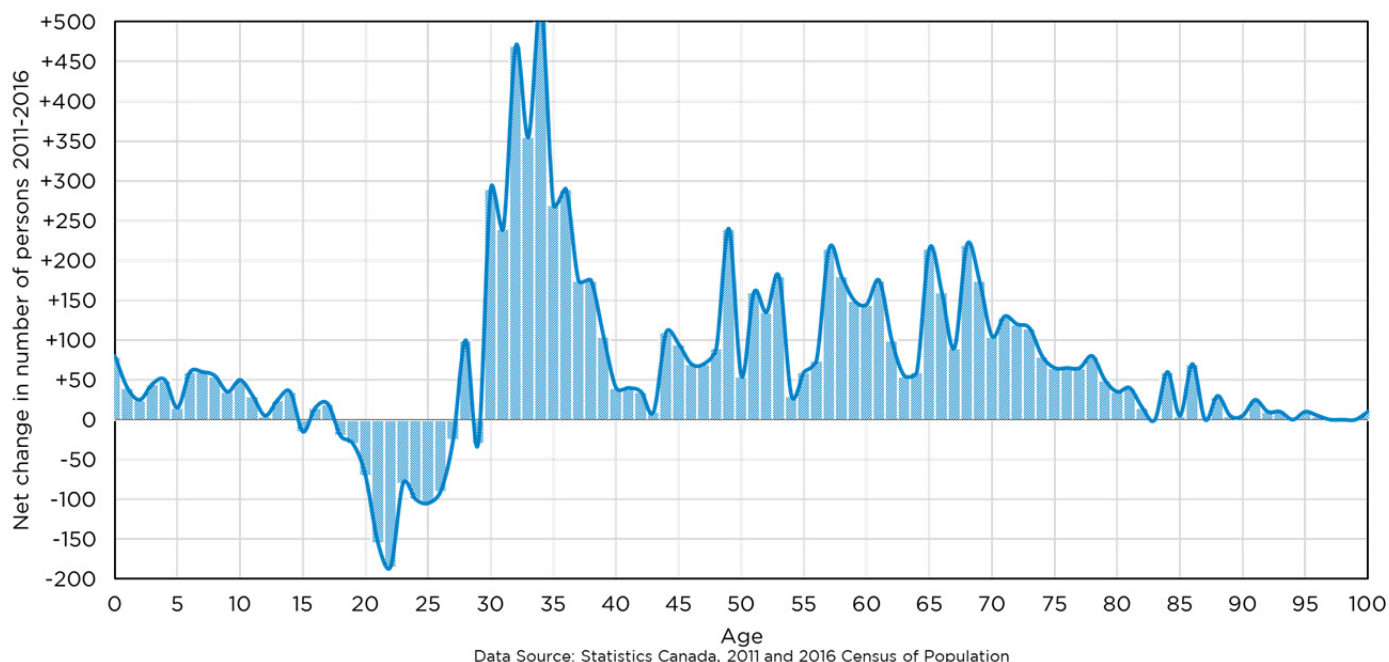
The graph below shows cohort dynamics: that is, the life stage at which people entered or departed the neighbourhood. From 2011 to 2016, this graph shows a large migration into Downtown as people move in their 20s, with a relatively large loss of population as people enter their late 30s and 40s. There was also a net loss of more than half of newborn children in 2011 by the time they turned five in 2016.

Rate of Change in Population Cohorts, 2011-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census of Population
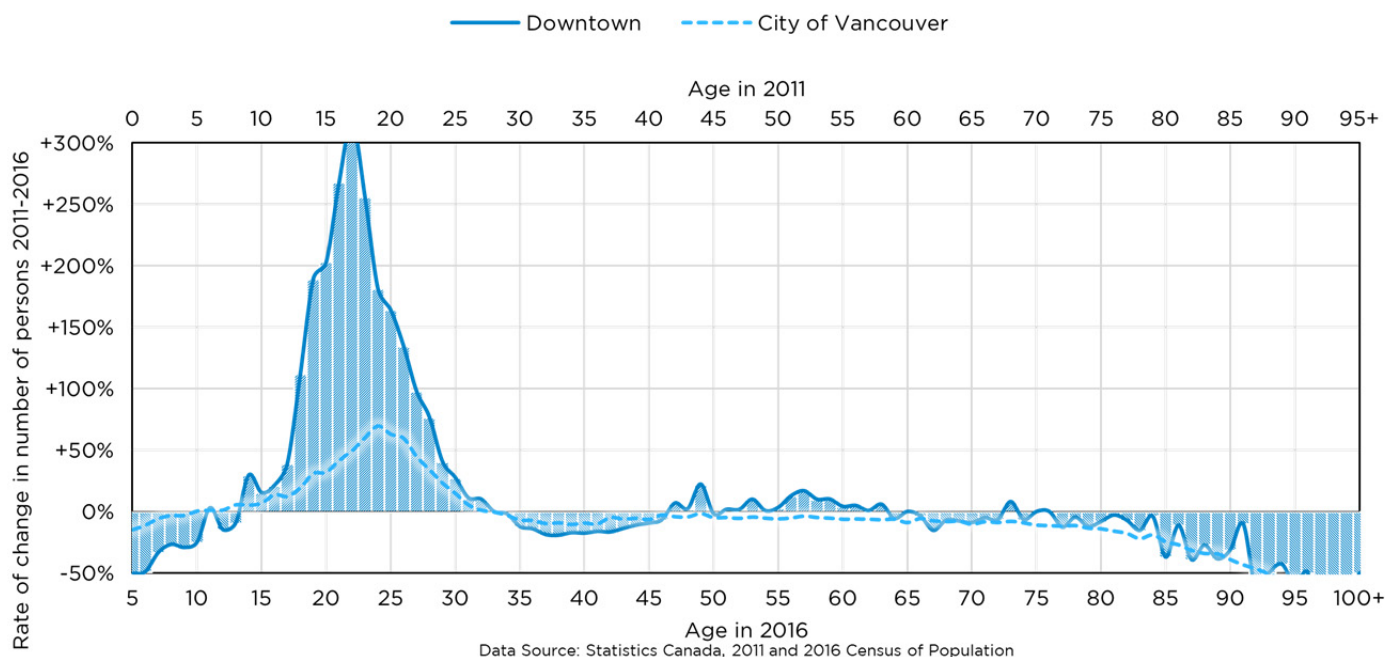
Mobility

In the year prior to the 2016 census, 25% of Downtown residents had moved, about half from within the City of Vancouver and half from elsewhere. Over five years, 64% of residents had moved. Both rates are much higher than the city overall.

Population by Mobility Status, 2016

Legend:
- Moved from international
- Moved from within Canada
- Moved from within BC
- Moved within city
- Did not move

Downtown
- Past year — Total pop: 58.3K: Did not move 75%, Moved within city 13%, Moved from within BC 4%, Moved from within Canada 3%, Moved from international 6%
- Past 5 years — Total pop: 56.9K: Did not move 36%, Moved within city 31%, Moved from within BC 11%, Moved from within Canada 7%, Moved from international 15%

City of Vancouver
- Past year — Total pop: 614.4K: Did not move 83%, Moved within city 11%, Moved from within BC 2%, Moved from within Canada 1%, Moved from international 3%
- Past 5 years — Total pop: 595.0K: Did not move 53%, Moved within city 26%, Moved from within BC 7%, Moved from within Canada 4%, Moved from international 10%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Downtown's population has become somewhat less mobile in recent periods, with a smaller share of the population being new to their residence. This reflects the very fast rate of growth in downtown housing through the 1990s and 2000s, but may also reflect rising costs of housing incentivizing people to remain in leases for longer periods.

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

Downtown — City of Vancouver

	1981 Census	1986 Census	1991 Census	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	70%	73%	80%	85%	81%	74%	70%	64%
City of Vancouver	52%	51%	58%	58%	52%	50%	46%	47%

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

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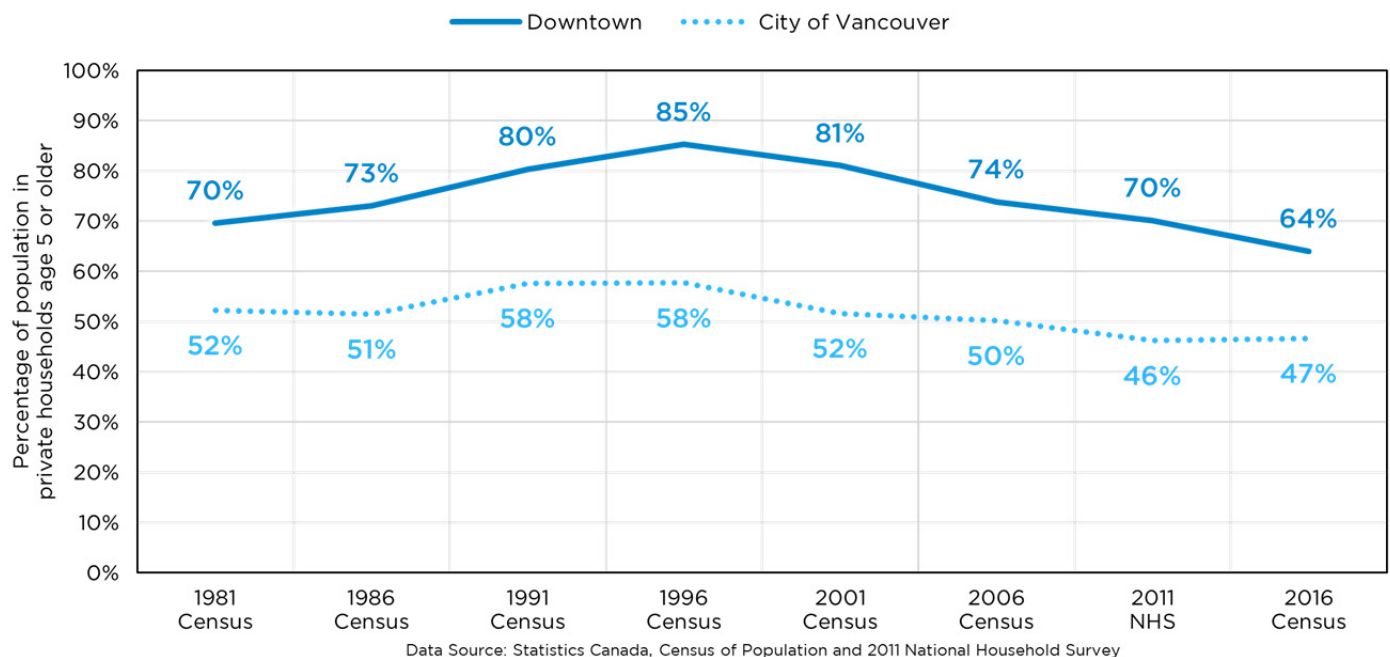
Housing Types

Downtown is dominated by apartments, particularly in buildings five or more storeys. There is very little ground-oriented housing in Downtown.[2]

Dwellings by Structural Type, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
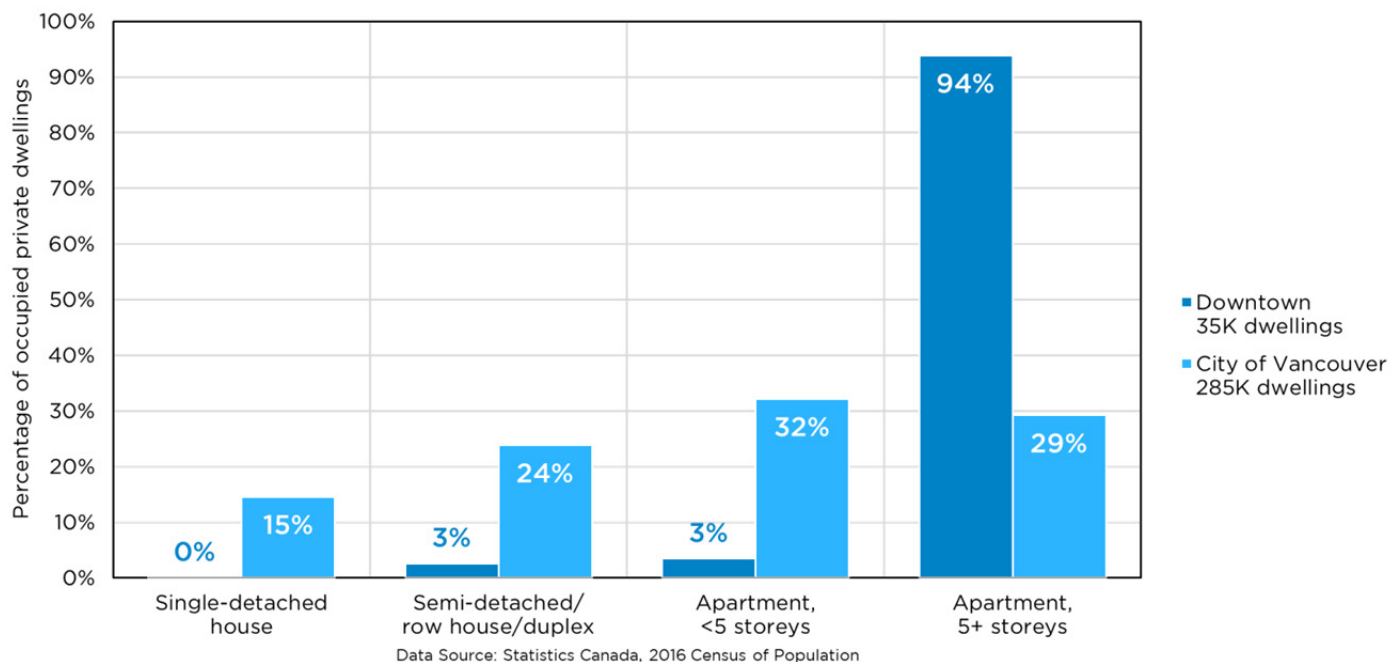
About 97% of occupied dwellings in Downtown are in apartments. This figure has been quite consistent since the late 1980s. Apartments in the city overall have grown to make up 61% of dwellings.[3]

Apartments as Share of Total Dwellings, 1981-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
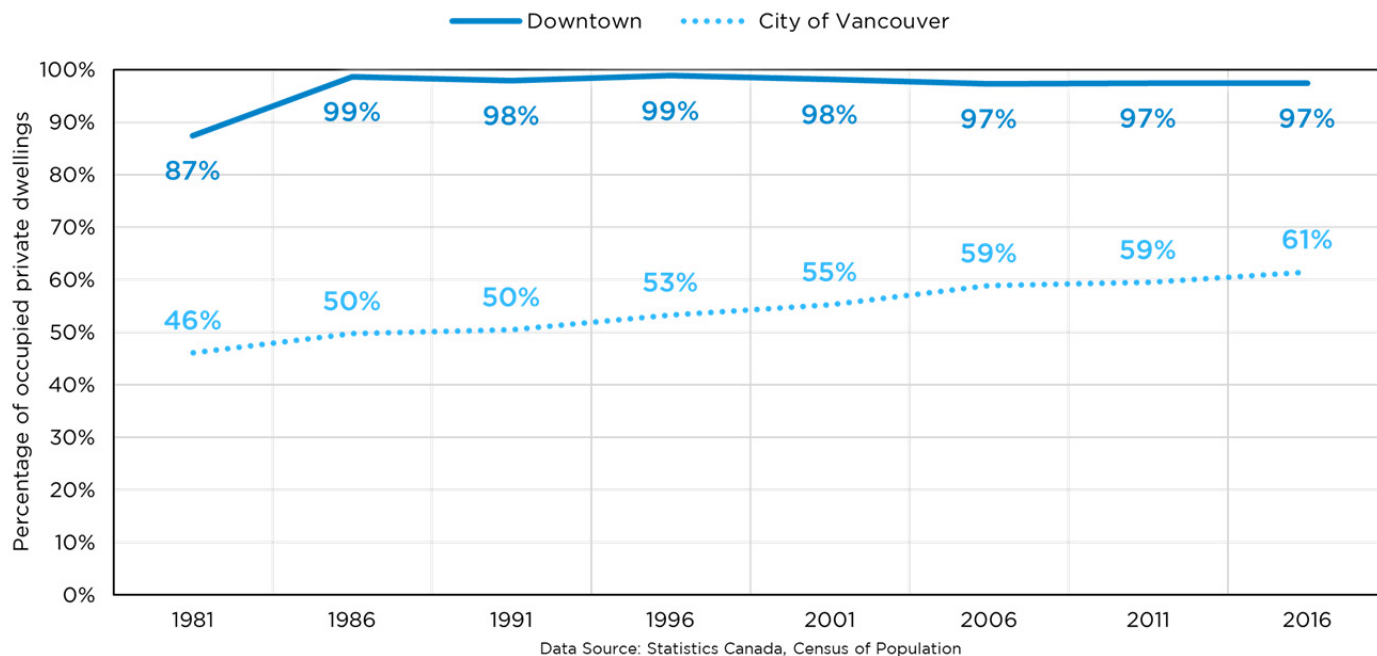
Housing Size

Housing units in Downtown tend to be smaller than the city overall: a majority have one or fewer bedrooms. There are very few units in Downtown with three or more bedrooms.

Occupied Private Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
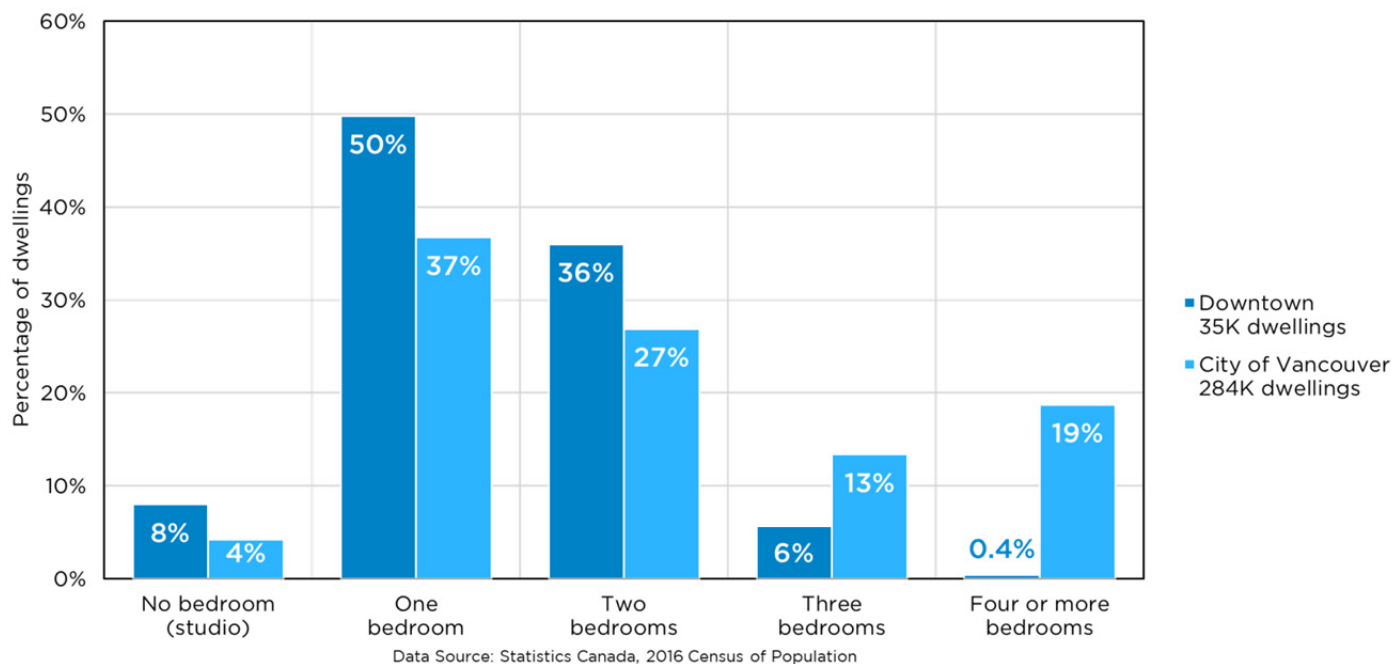
In recent periods, new rental construction Downtown has been dominated by one-bedroom units. Among owned units in Downtown, the number of two-bedroom units has grown fastest in the most recent census period.

Downtown: Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 1996-2016

Household tenure and number of bedrooms
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
and 2011 National Household Survey
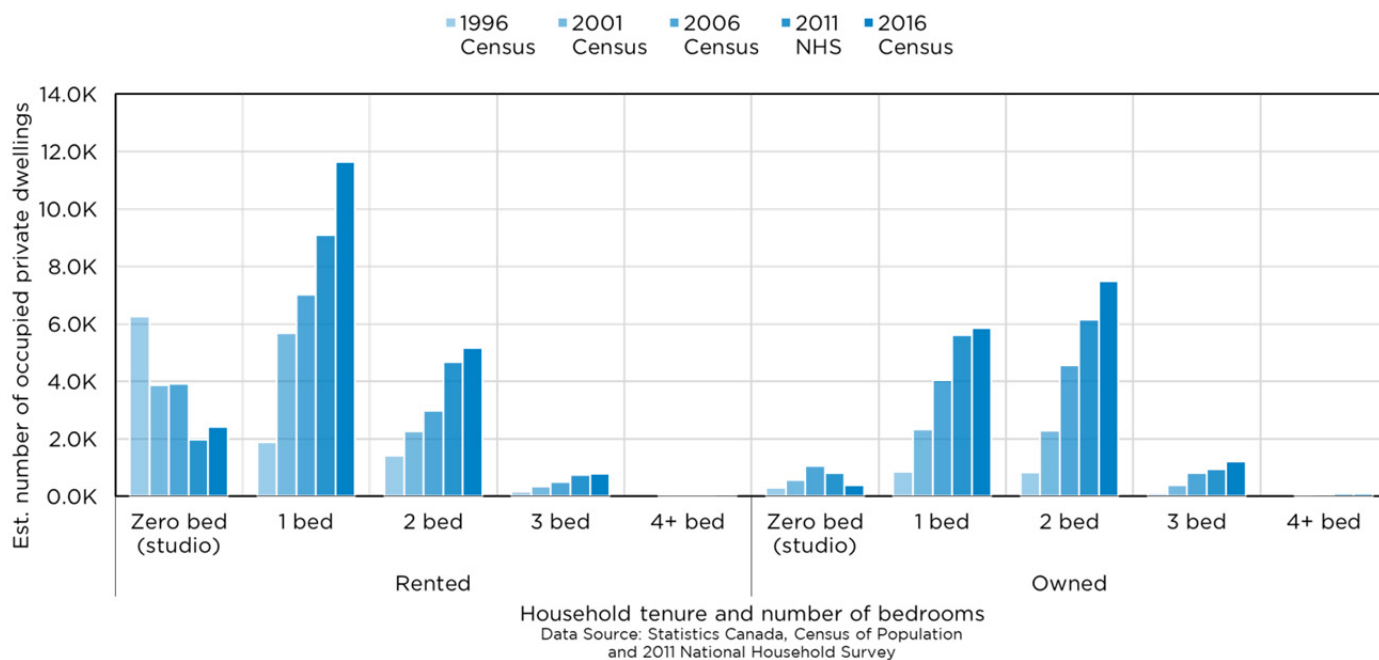
Housing Tenure

In Downtown, 57% of households are rented, compared to 53% of households across the City of Vancouver.[4] About 19% of rented housing Downtown is subsidized housing compared to 14% across the city overall. Among owned households Downtown, about two-thirds have a mortgage, a higher rate than the city.

Occupied Private Households by Housing Tenure, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
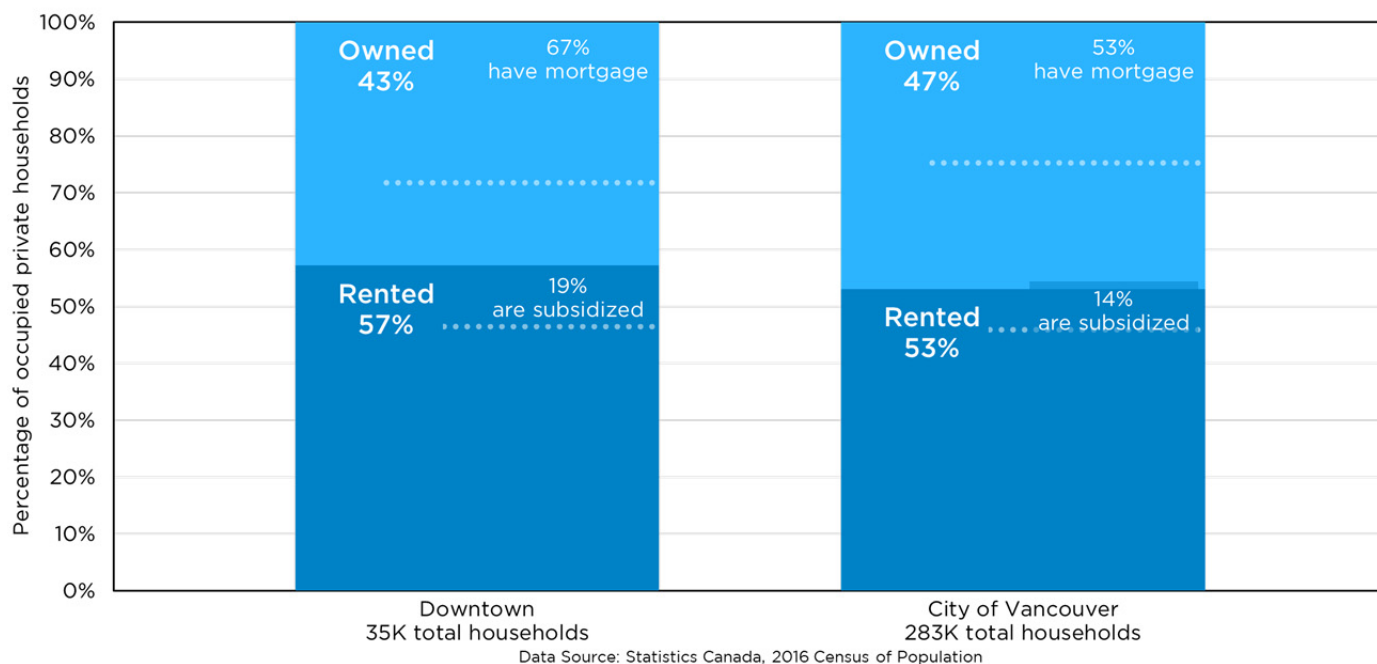
Over time, the proportion of rented households in the Downtown declined until increasing again in the most recent census period. Condominium construction was dominant Downtown in the 1990s and early 2000s, but recent incentives to build rental housing have likely resulted in a growth in rented households.

Rented Households as Share of Total, 1981-2016

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

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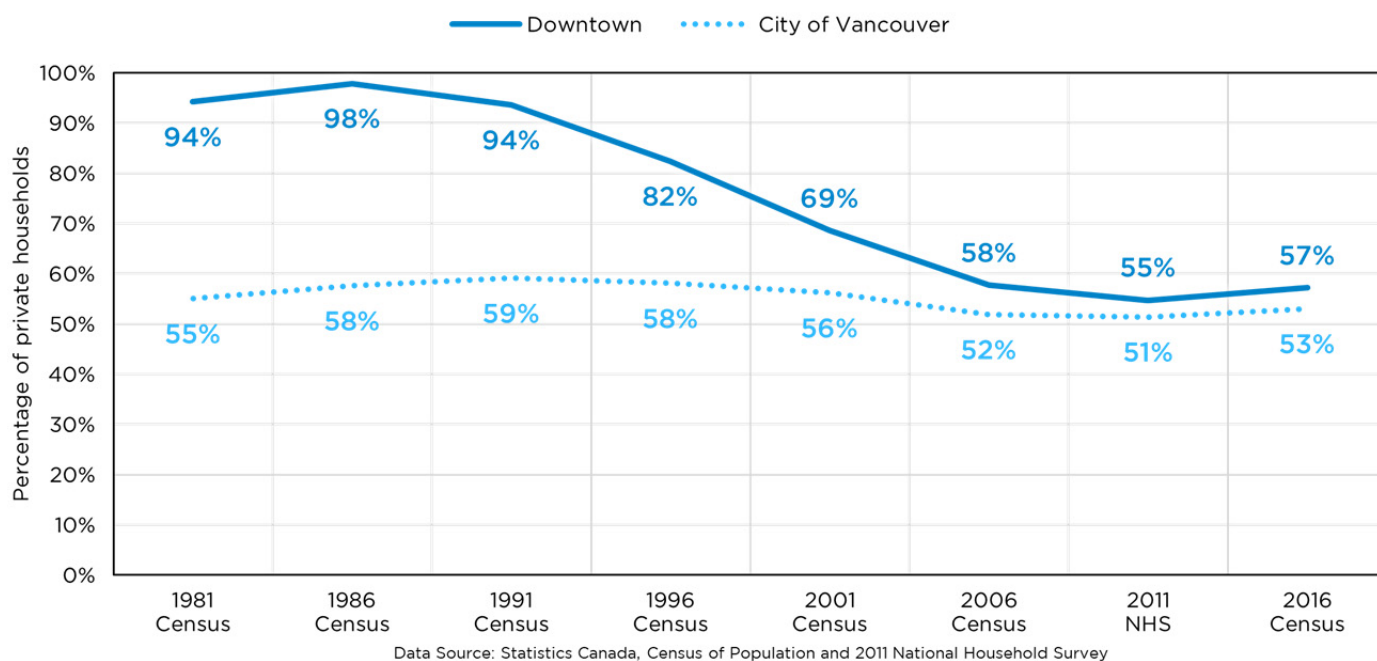
New Housing

A shift back toward building rental housing is evident across the city. In Downtown, 72% of net new households counted in the 2016 census compared to the 2011 NHS are rented households. 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.

Downtown: Net New Households by Tenure, 1981-2016

□ Owned dwellings ■ Rented dwellings

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
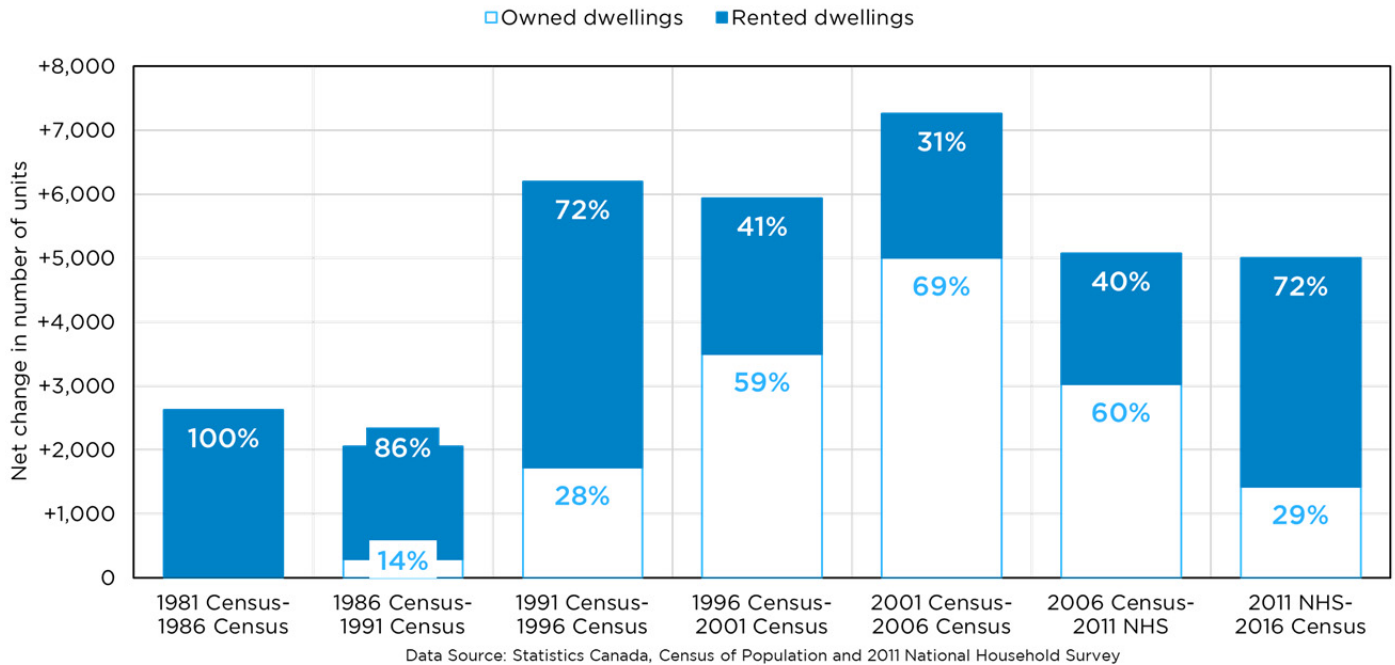
Ensuring affordability in new housing remains a challenge across the city. Downtown's newest housing stock, however, is more likely to contain households with very low incomes.

Downtown: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016

— New dwellings built 2011-2016 (n=3,685)
--- Dwellings built before 2011 (n=31,420)

Total household income in 2015
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
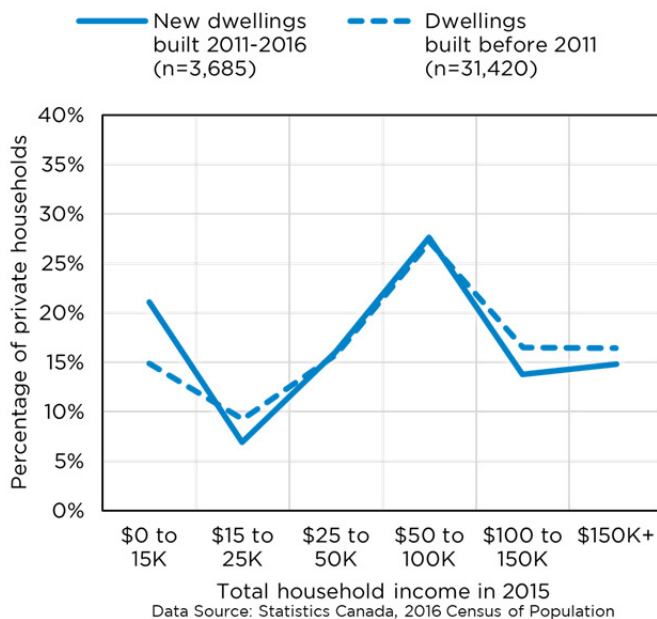
City of Vancouver: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016

— New dwellings built 2011-2016 (n=21,655)
--- Dwellings built before 2011 (n=262,245)

Total household income in 2015
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Marital Status

Downtown residents are less likely to be married than residents of the City of Vancouver overall. As of 2016, 33% of Downtown residents age 15 and older are married, with another 14% living common-law. In Downtown, 10% of residents are separated or divorced; 3% are widowed; and 41% have never been married and are not living common-law.

Population by Marital Status, 2016

■ Married ■ Common law ■ Separated/divorced ■ Widowed ■ Never married

	Married	Common law	Separated/divorced	Widowed	Never married
Downtown Pop. 15+: 58K	33%	14%	10%	3%	41%
City of Vancouver Pop. 15+: 562K	40%	10%	9%	4%	36%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
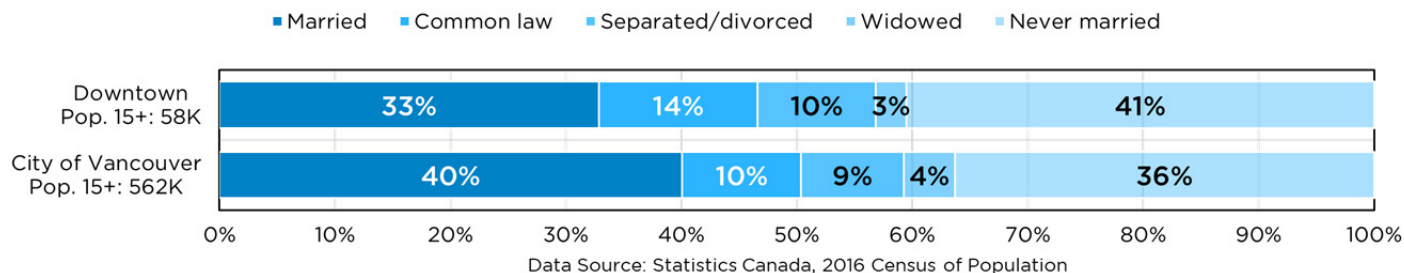
The rate of persons married in Downtown grew substantially until 2006 and has stabilized at about a third of the area's population; similar trends are seen for people reporting common-law status. While the rate is lower than for the city overall, the gap has reduced substantially over time.

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

—— Legally married   ‑ ‑ ‑ Married or common-law

Percentage of persons age 15 or older

- Legally married: 13% (1991), 21% (1996), 28% (2001), 33% (2006), 32% (2011), 33% (2016)
- Married or common-law: 39% (2001), 45% (2006), 45% (2011), 47% (2016)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
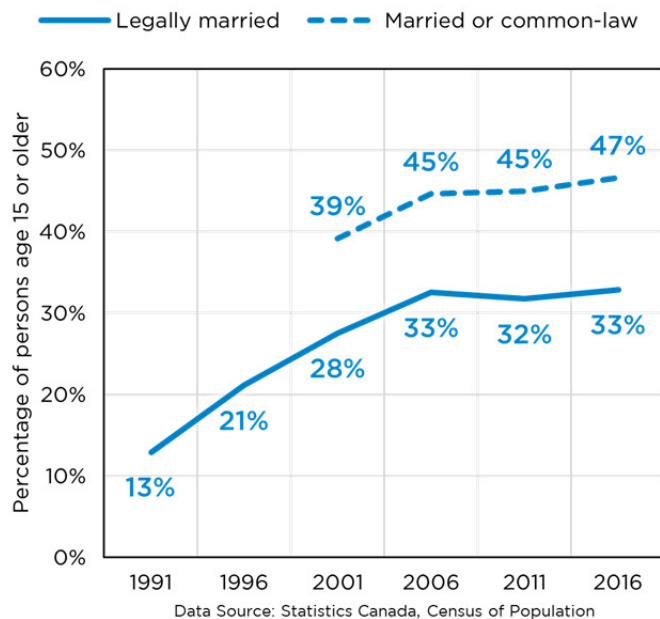
City of Vancouver: Pop. 15+ by Marital Status, 1991-2016

—— Legally married   ‑ ‑ ‑ Married or common-law

Percentage of persons age 15 or older

- Legally married: 42% (1991), 40% (1996), 41% (2001), 42% (2006), 41% (2011), 40% (2016)
- Married or common-law: 49% (2001), 50% (2006), 50% (2011), 50% (2016)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
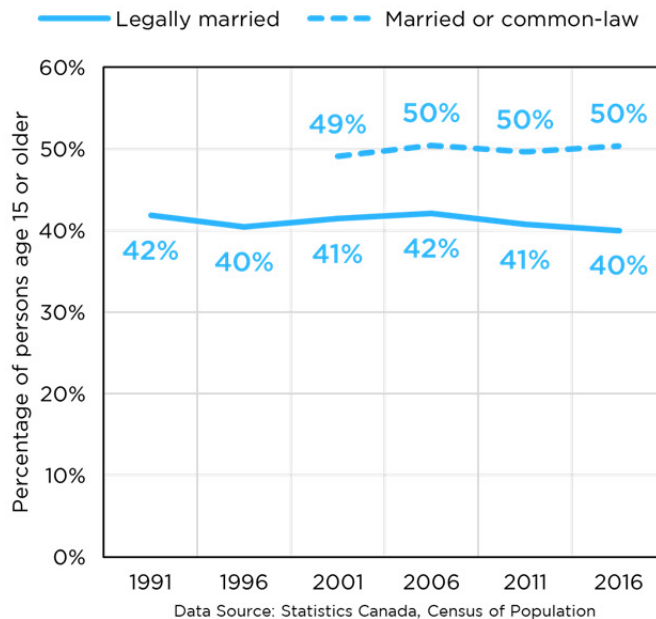
Household Types

Compared to the city overall, Downtown households are less likely to have families with children living in them. The neighbourhood has proportionally more non-family households than the city overall, with more than half of households having a single person in them.

Private Households by Type of Household, 2016

Downtown
35K total households

City of Vancouver
284K total households

	One family with children	One family without children	Multiple Families	Roommates	One Person
Downtown	14%	27%	0%	7%	52%
City of Vancouver	29%	23%	3%	7%	39%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
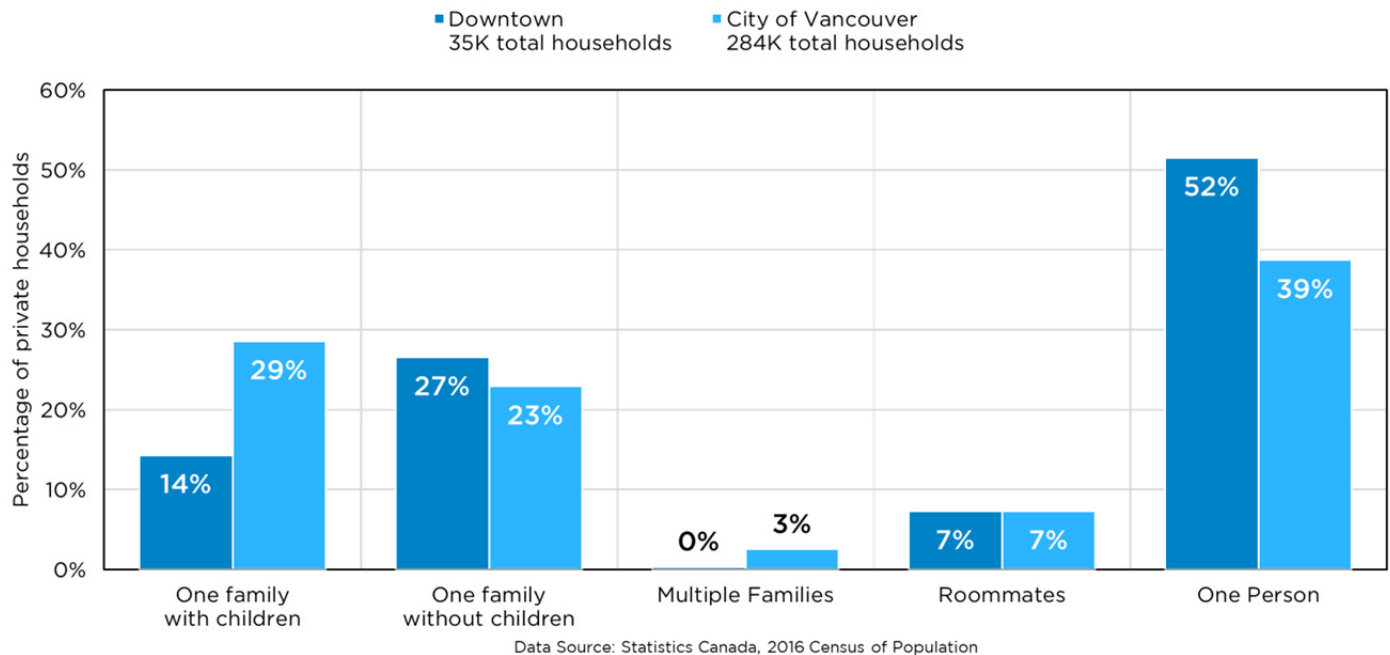
The graph below estimates the percentage of households that have children—of any age, including adult children—at home.[5] The rate of households with children increased substantially Downtown as it developed in the 1990s and 2000s, but has been stable since 2006.

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

Downtown   City of Vancouver

	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Downtown	5%	1%	2%	7%	11%	15%	15%	15%
City of Vancouver	32%	31%	31%	32%	33%	33%	32%	30%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

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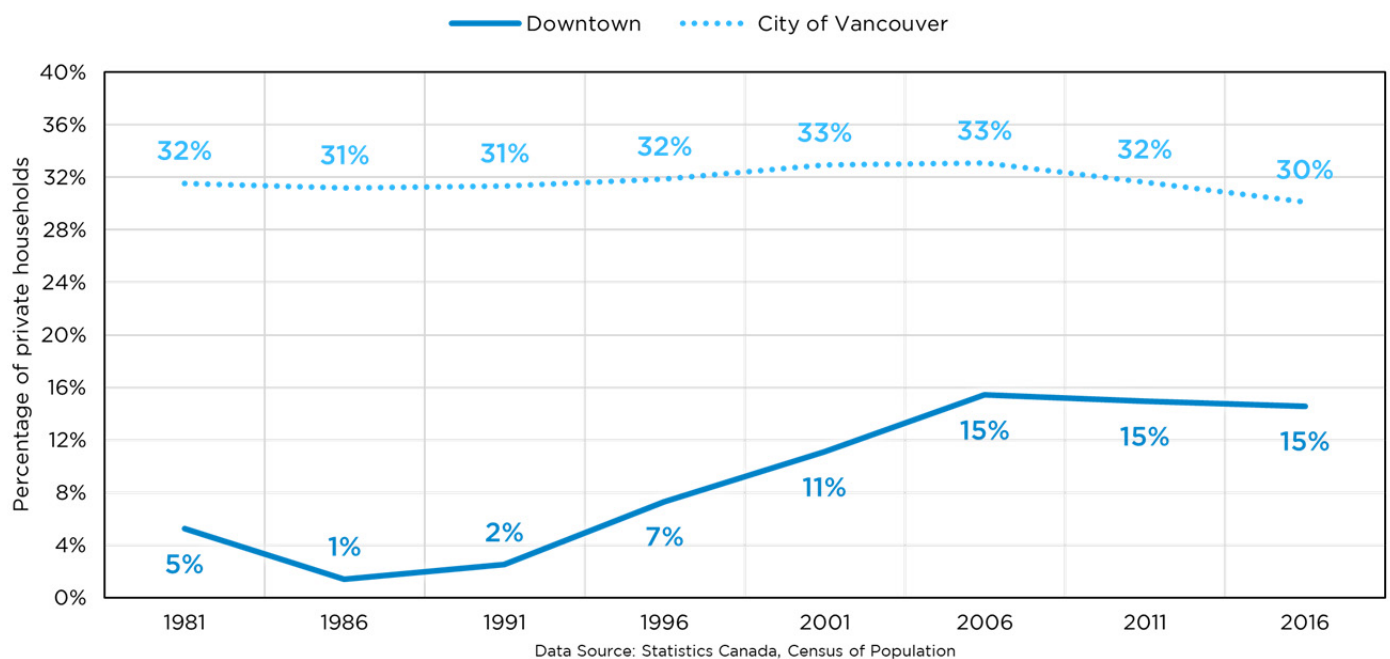
Household Size

Downtown has relatively small household sizes, with 1.7 people in the average private household in 2016, compared to 2.2 across the city.

Average Private Household Size, 1981-2016

Downtown ——— City of Vancouver ·····

Average number of persons

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1981	1.4	2.3
1986	1.6	2.3
1991	1.2	2.3
1996	1.4	2.3
2001	1.5	2.3
2006	1.7	2.2
2011	1.7	2.2
2016	1.7	2.2

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
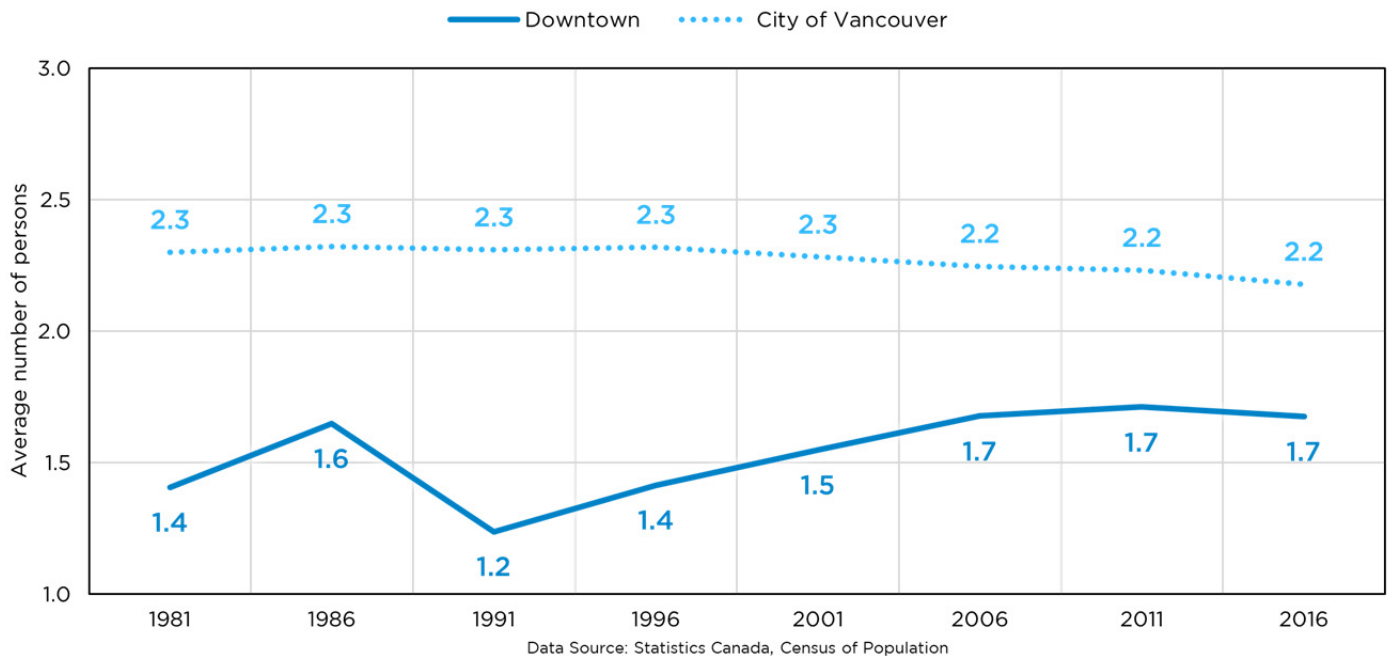
Downtown has more one-person households than the city overall. It also has a larger proportion of people who are living alone, but this figure has declined from historic rates. In 2016, 31% of the population was living alone, compared to 18% of people across the city.

Percentage of Population Living Alone, 1981-2016

Downtown ——— City of Vancouver ·····

Percentage of population in private households

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1981	49%	17%
1986	74%	17%
1991	65%	17%
1996	49%	16%
2001	39%	17%
2006	32%	17%
2011	29%	17%
2016	31%	18%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

21
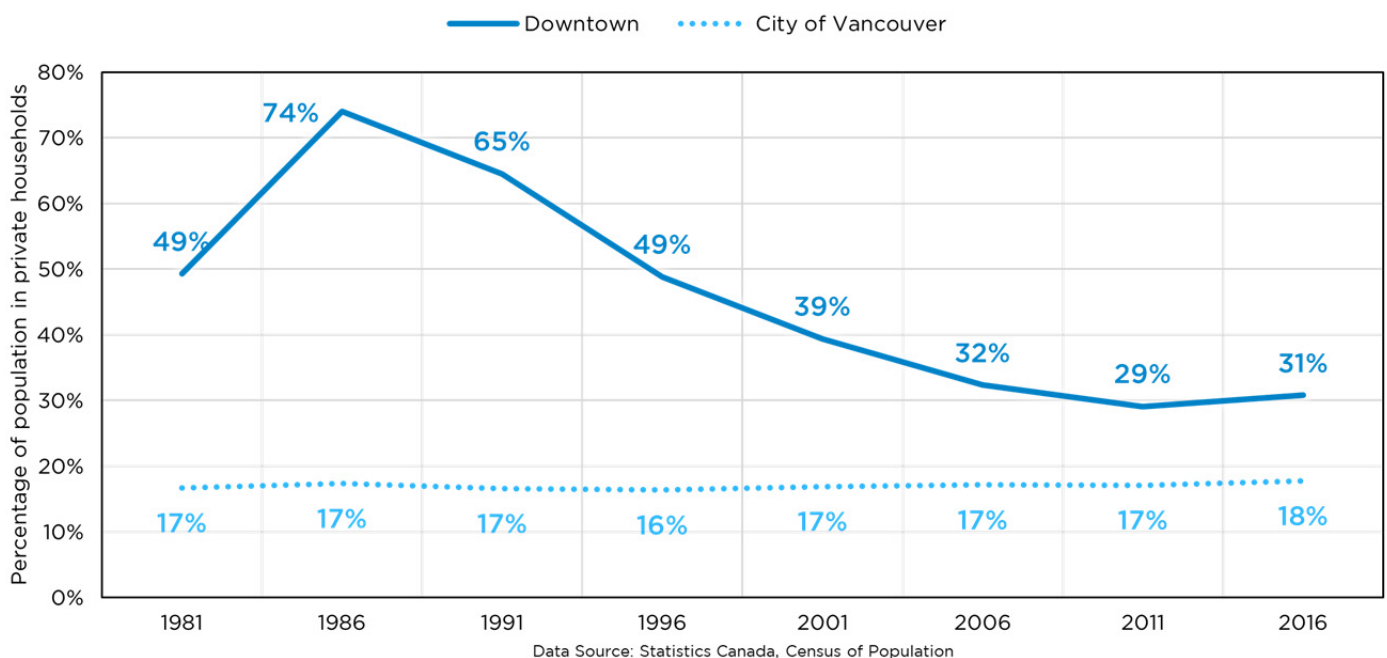
Senior Households

The experience of aging relates to a number of factors, including housing type, social connections, income and more. Downtown's senior population is more likely to live alone than the senior population across the city, with 37% of Downtown seniors living alone in 2016.

Percentage of Seniors 65+ Living Alone, 1981-2016

Legend: —— Downtown ······ City of Vancouver

Downtown values: 79% (1986), 76% (1991), 62% (1996), 53% (2001), 39% (2006), 38% (2011), 37% (2016)

City of Vancouver values: 36% (1986), 35% (1991), 34% (1996), 30% (2001), 29% (2006), 29% (2011), 29% (2016)

Y-axis: Percentage of seniors in private households

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
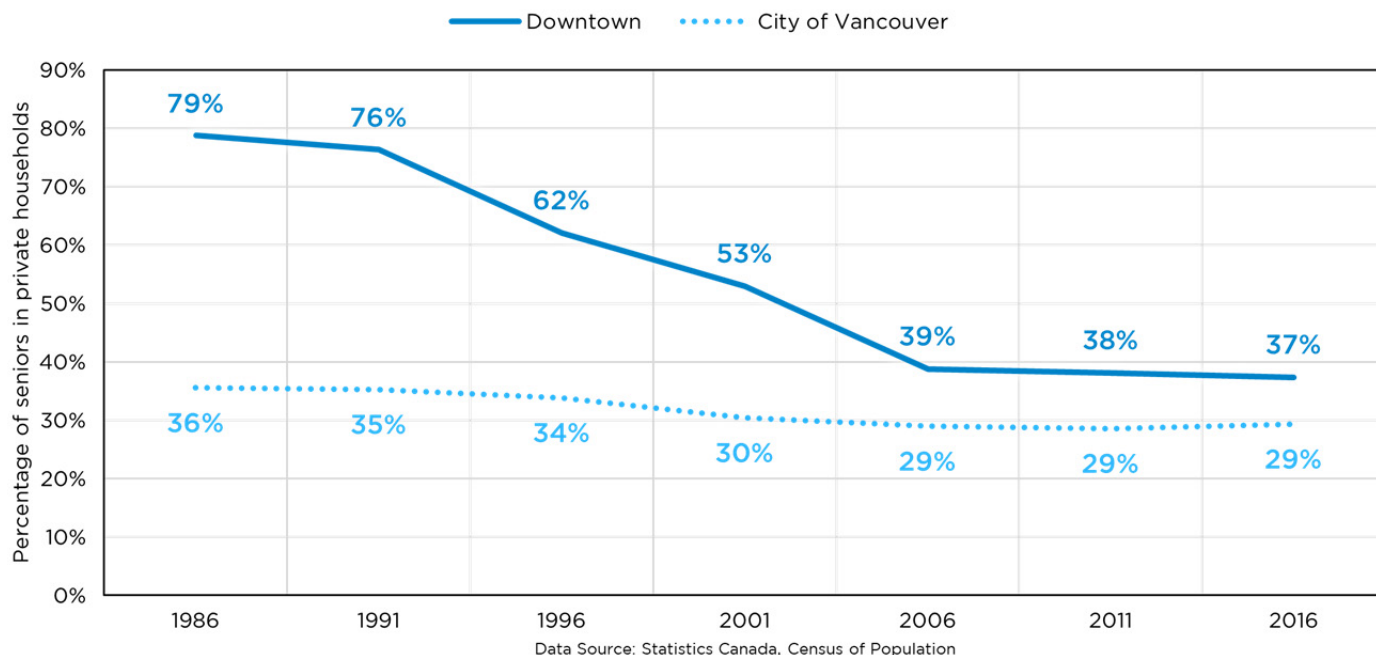
Compared to other age groups in the neighbourhood, Downtown seniors are more likely to own their homes: in 2016, 38% of senior-led households in Downtown were rented. Senior-led households tend to be smaller in terms of number of people, but the average number of bedrooms is relatively consistent across the age spectrum in Downtown.[6]

Downtown: Household Type and Tenure by Age, 2016

Legend: —— Percentage of Households Rented ······ Percentage of Households in Apartments

Y-axis: Percentage of private households
X-axis: Age of Primary Household Maintainer (15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
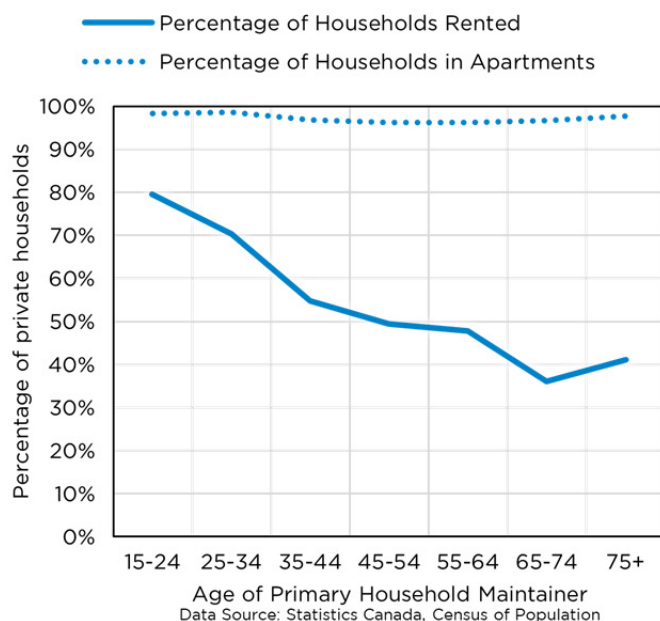
Downtown: Average Household Size by Age, 2016

Legend: —— Average Persons Per Household ······ Est. Average Number of Bedrooms

Y-axis: Average number
X-axis: Age of Primary Household Maintainer (15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
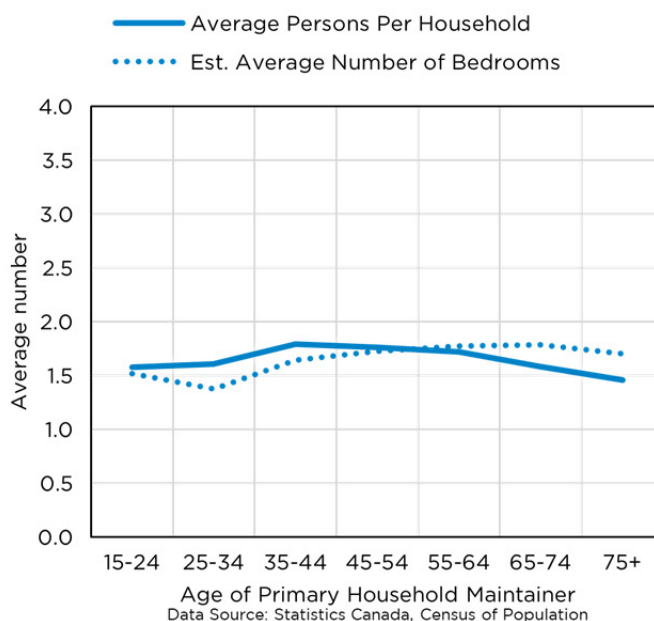
Family Types

Downtown has seen large growth in the absolute number of families[7] of all types over time. In absolute numbers, there are nearly twice as many families without children (i.e. childless couples) Downtown as there are families with children. The number of families with children grew at a faster rate in the 1990s, but more recent census periods have seen slower growth relative to families without children.

Downtown: Families by Type 1986-2016

■1986 ■1991 ■1996 ■2001 ■2006 ■2011 ■2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
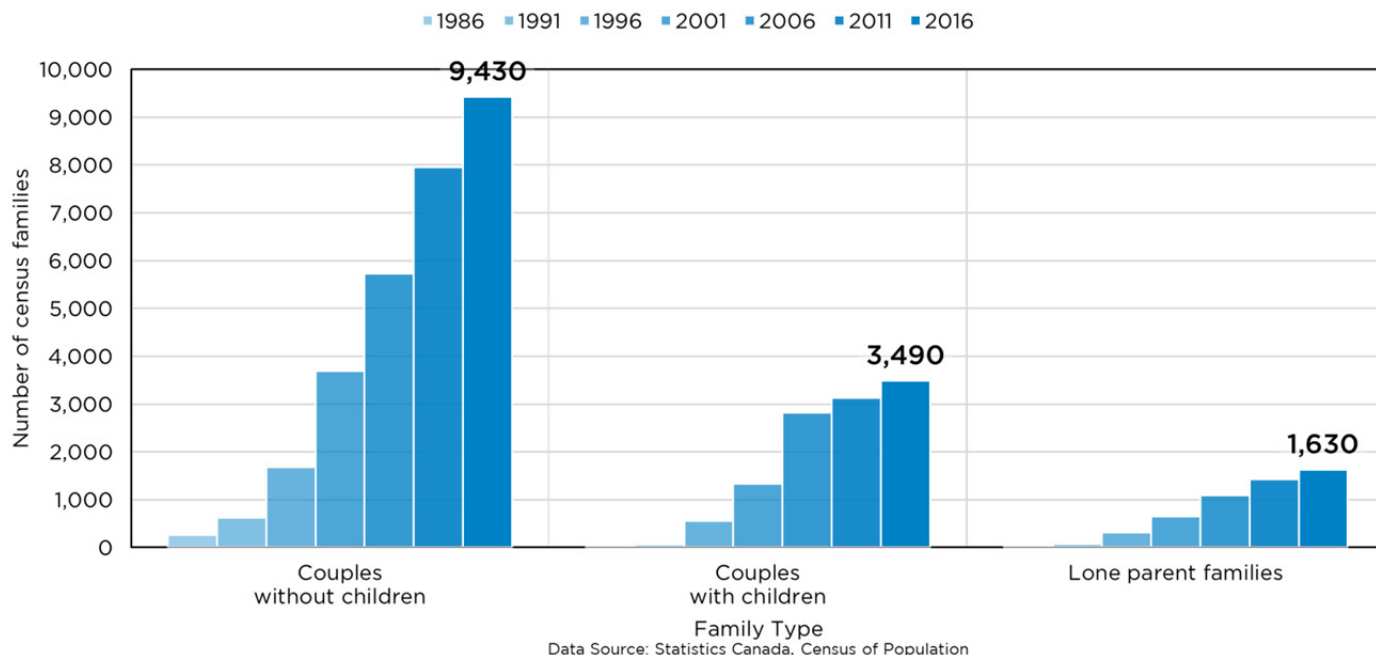
The graph below shows the number of families by number of children at home. Differential rates of growth are evident, with slower growth in more recent census periods as family sizes increase. Downtown has very few families with three or more children.

Downtown: Families by Number of Children 1986-2016

■1986 ■1991 ■1996 ■2001 ■2006 ■2011 ■2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
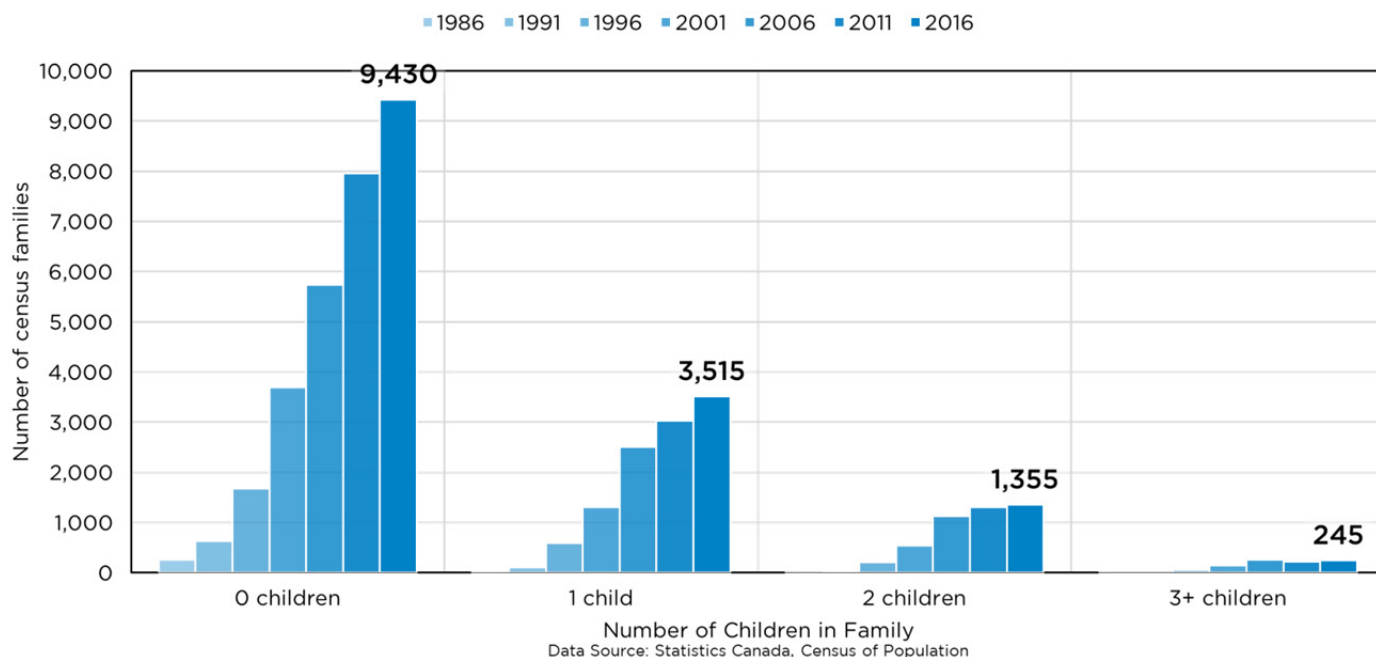
Family Size and Children at Home

The average family in Downtown contains 2.4 persons and has 0.5 children at home,[8] both lower than the city-wide average. Average family size across the city has been declining since the 1990s, but Downtown saw considerable growth through the 1990s before decreasing more recently.

Average Census Family Size, 1981-2016

—— Downtown   ······ City of Vancouver

City of Vancouver: 2.9, 2.9, 2.9, 3.0, 2.9, 2.9, 2.8, 2.7
Downtown: 2.2, 2.2, 2.1, 2.4, 2.4, 2.5, 2.4, 2.4

1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
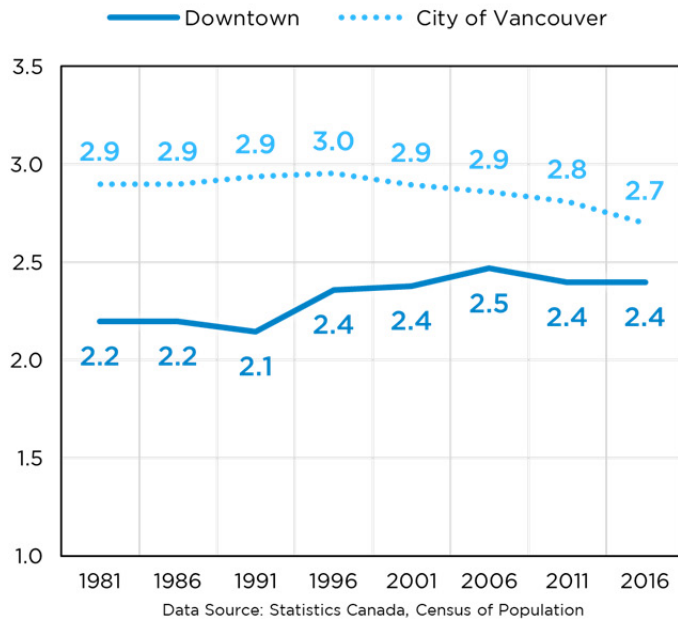
Average Children at Home Per Census Family, 1981-2016

—— Downtown   ······ City of Vancouver

City of Vancouver: 1.1, 1.1, 1.1, 1.1, 1.1, 1.0, 1.0, 0.9
Downtown: 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.5, 0.6, 0.5

1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
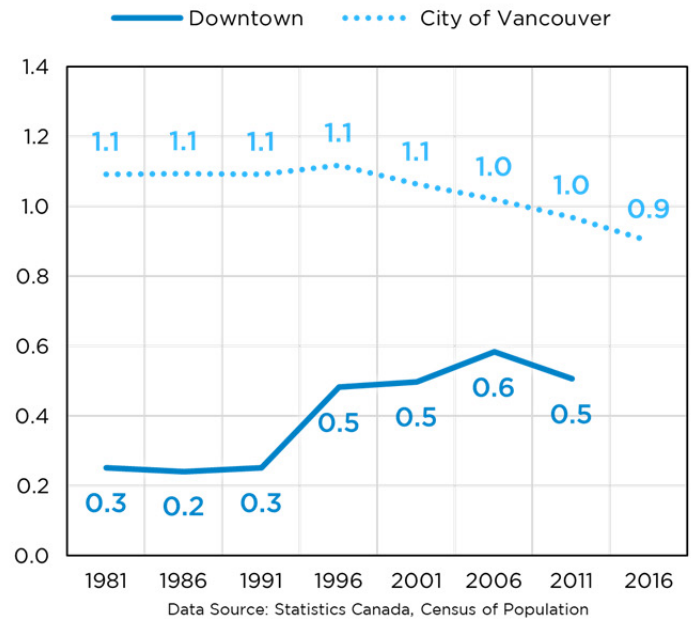
A broad social trend over time is that people move out of their parents' homes later in life. In Downtown there continued to be growth in "children" over 25 in 2011 even as the number of children and youth age 6 to 24 plateaued. Notably, though, the largest age group for children Downtown is now children under 6.

Downtown: Children in Families by Age Group, 1981-2011

■1981 ■1986 ■1991 ■1996 ■2001 ■2006 ■2011

Number of children at home in census families

0-5: 2,075
6-17: 1,735
18-24: 1,305
25+: 1,200

Age Group of Child

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

24
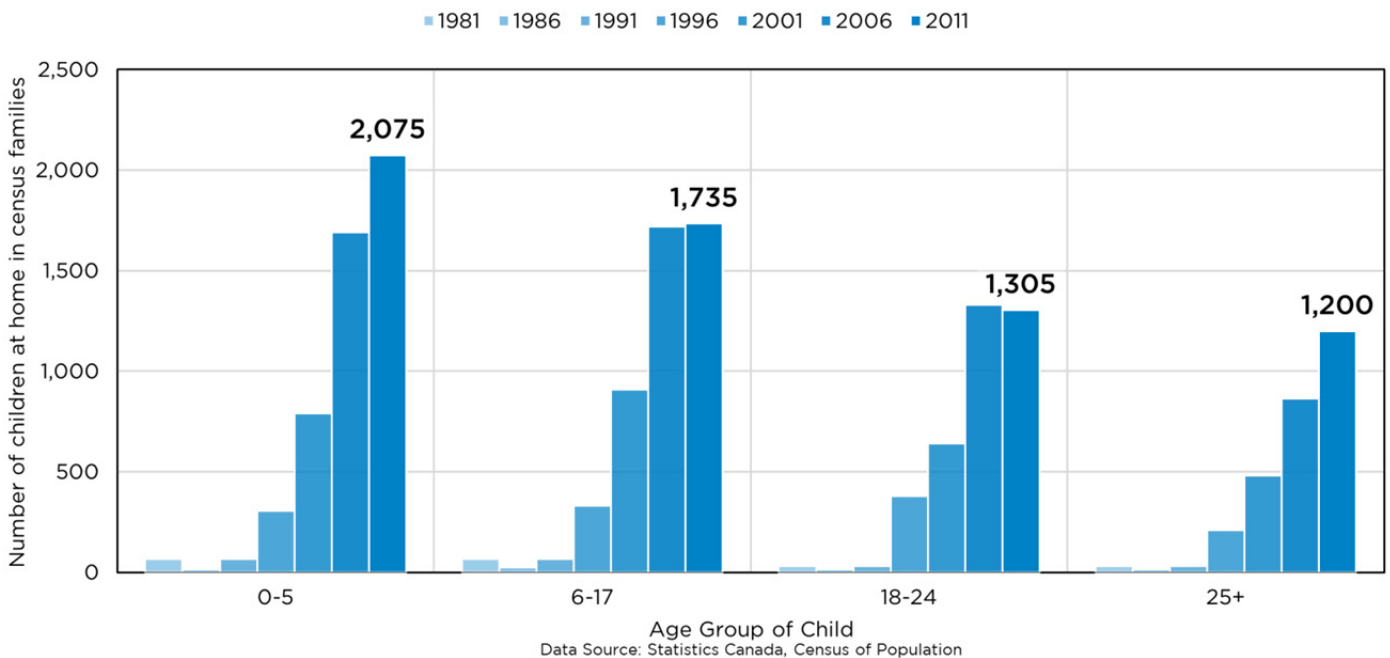
Lone Parent-Led Families

Measured as a proportion of all families with children at home, lone parent-led families make up 32% of families with children Downtown. This is a slightly higher proportion than the city overall, and a decrease from the rate in the 1990s.

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

Legend: ——— Downtown ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver

Y-axis: Percentage of census families with children at home

Downtown values: 54% (1991), 36% (1996), 33% (2001), 28% (2006), 31% (2011), 32% (2016)

City of Vancouver values: 26% (1991), 26% (1996), 28% (2001), 27% (2006), 28% (2011), 29% (2016)

X-axis: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
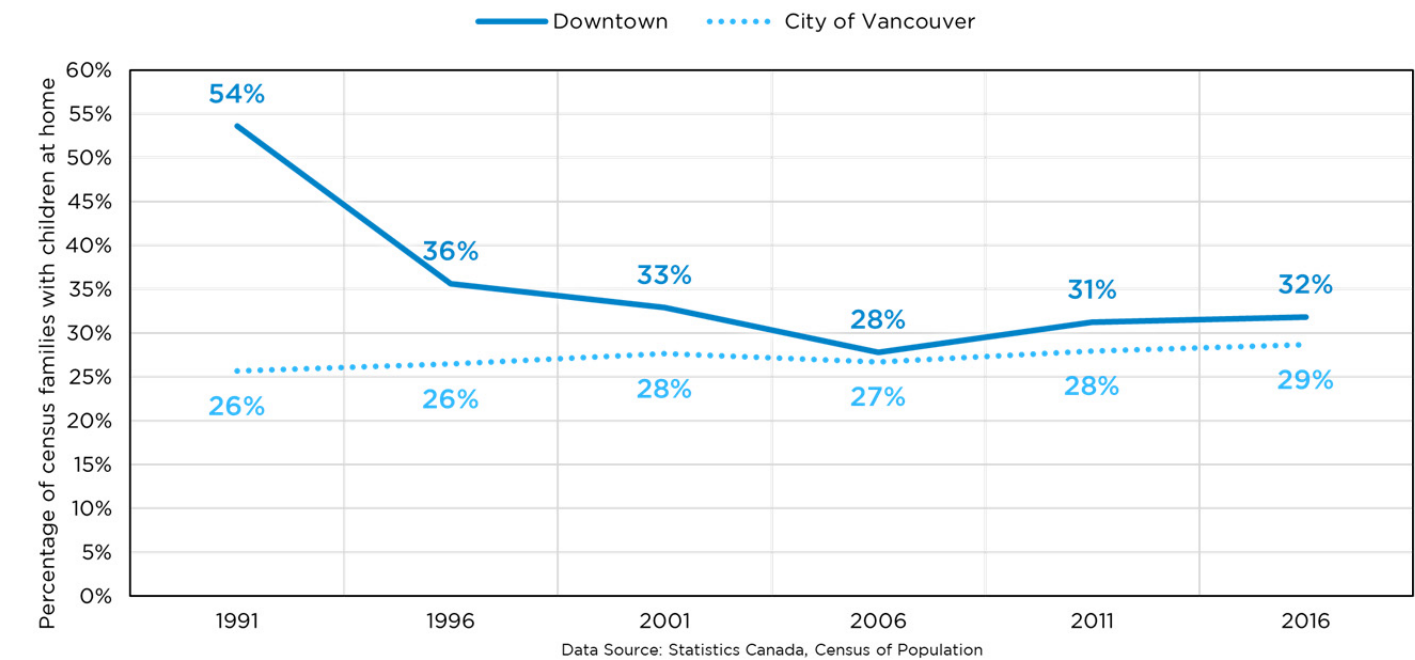
Across the city, lone parents are overwhelming likely to be female-identified. In Downtown, 83% of lone parents are female-identified, the same rate as the city overall. Lone mothers are more likely to face significant social and economic challenges.

Percentage of Lone Parents Identified as Female, 1991-2016

Legend: ——— Downtown ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver

Y-axis: Percentage of lone parents

Downtown values: 73% (1991), 81% (1996), 84% (2001), 82% (2006), 81% (2011), 82% (2016)

City of Vancouver values: 83% (1991), 84% (1996), 85% (2001), 83% (2006), 83% (2011), 83% (2016)

X-axis: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
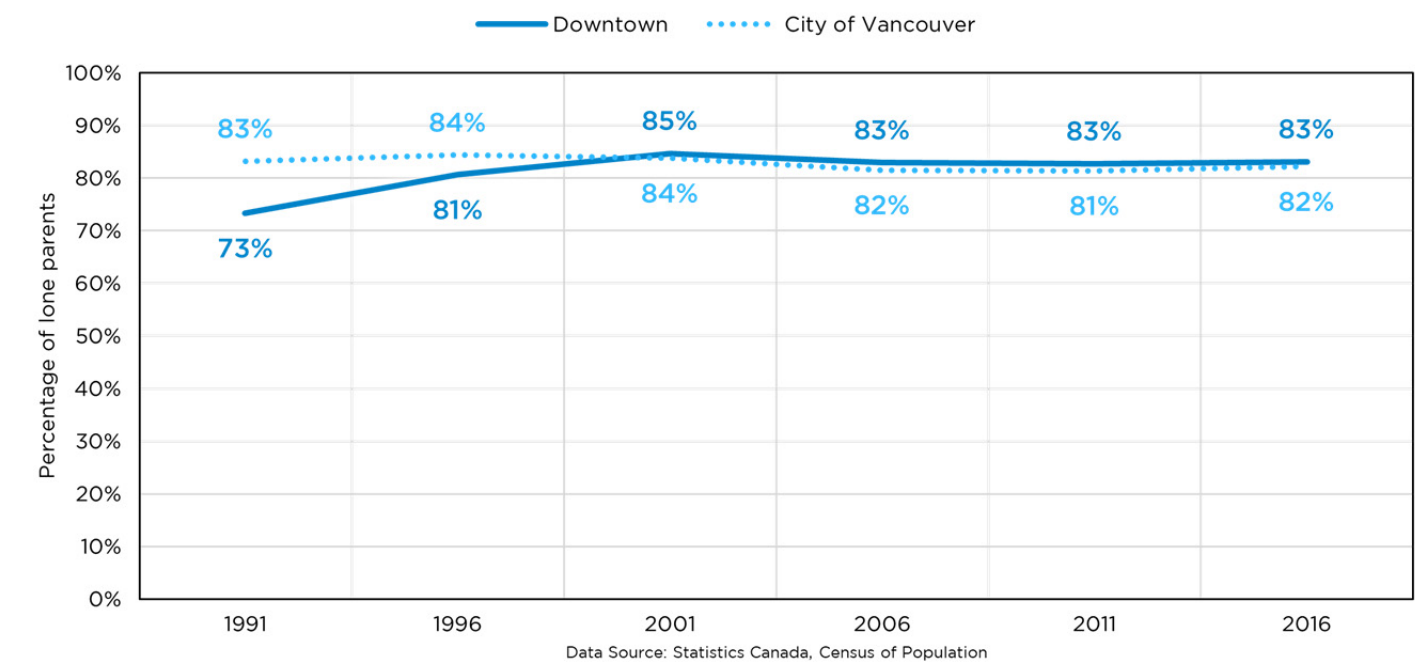
IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016

Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | ...... City of Vancouver

Strathcona 10.0%

Downtown 2.4%

Kerrisdale 0.5%

Population in a Visible Minority Group, 2016

Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | ...... City of Vancouver

Victoria-Fraserview 84%

Downtown 44%

Kitsilano 20%
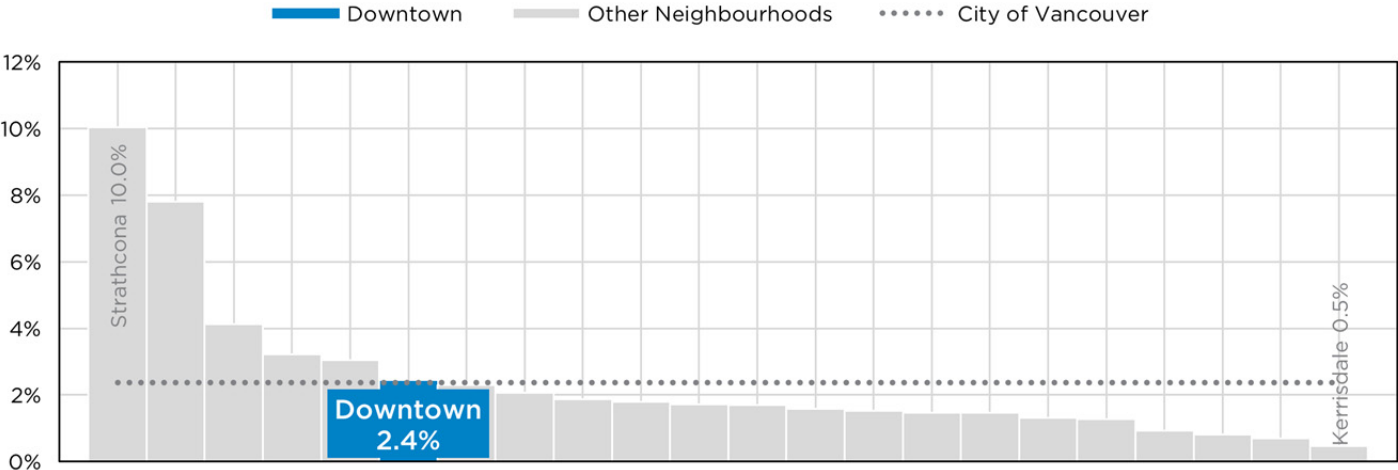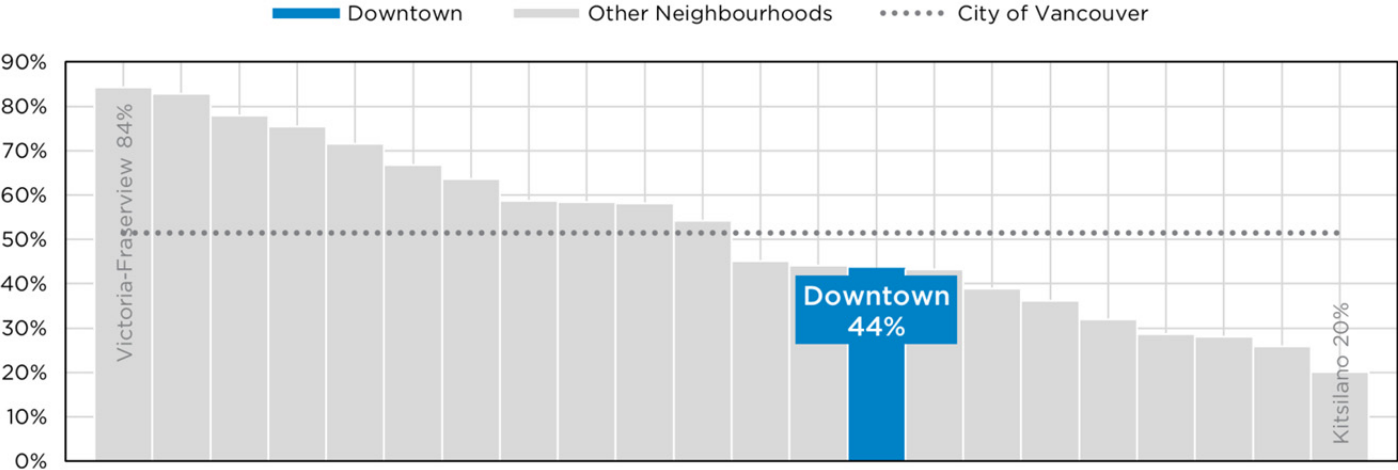
Population with Non-English Mother Tongue, 2016

Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | ...... City of Vancouver

Victoria-Fraserview 69%

Downtown 43%

Kitsilano 24%
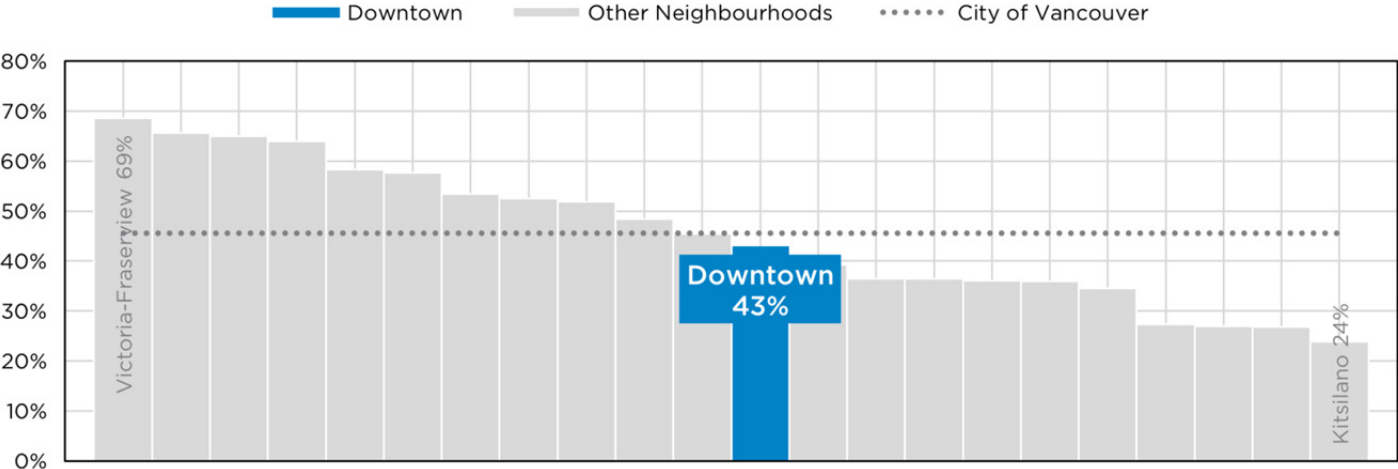
NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPARISONS

Population with Non-English Home Language, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

Victoria-Fraserview 46%

Downtown 21%

Kitsilano 9%

Immigrant Population, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

Victoria-Fraserview 60%

Downtown 40%

Grandview-Woodland 27%
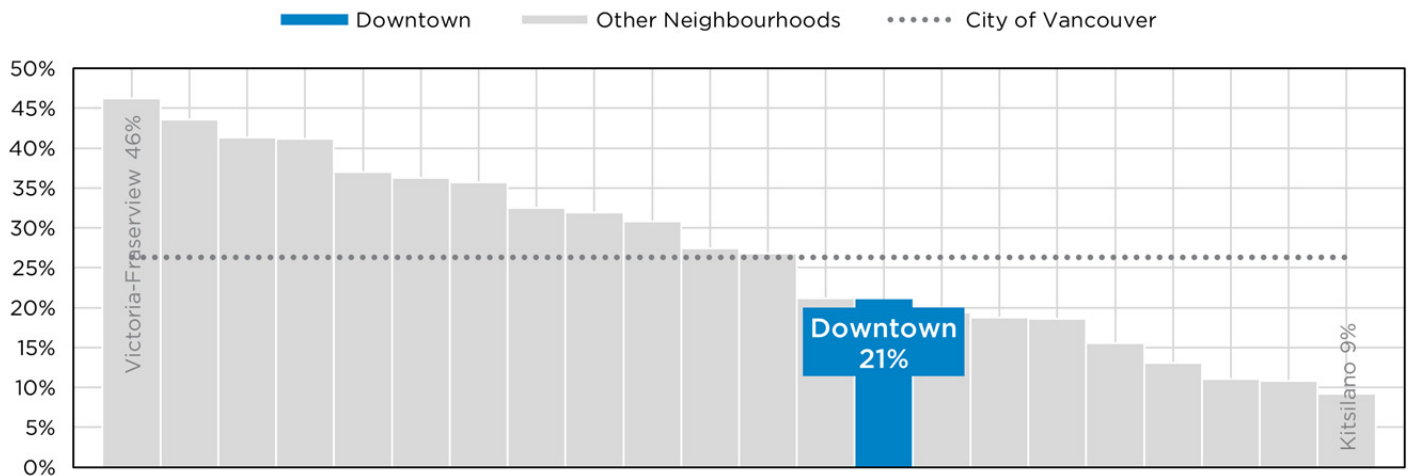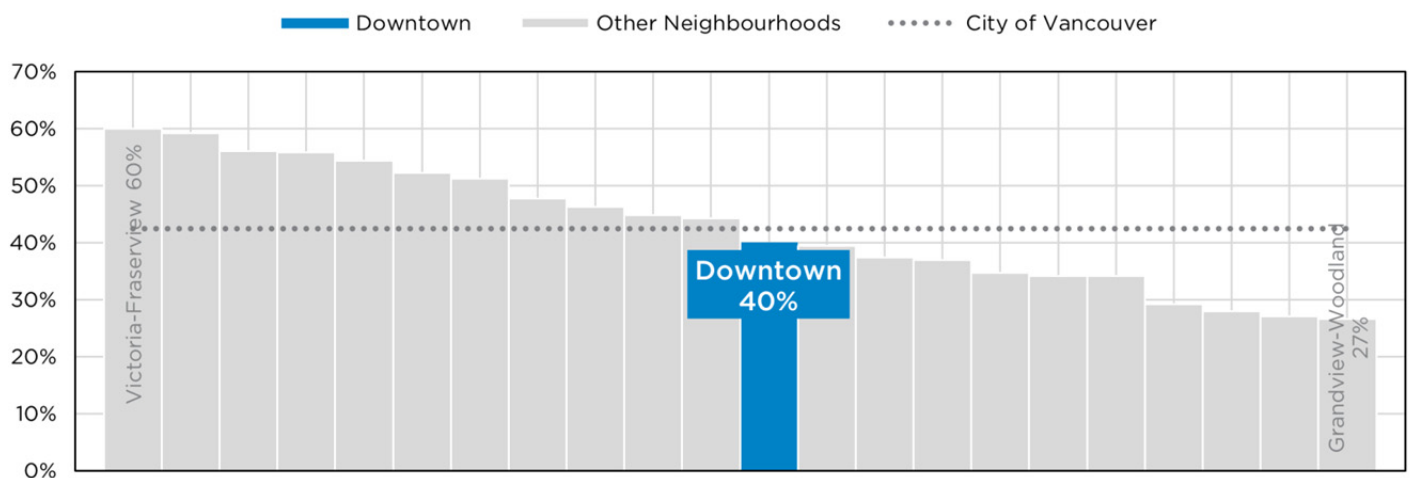
Recent Immigrant Population, 2016

Downtown — Other Neighbourhoods ······ City of Vancouver

Sunset 9%

Downtown 8%

Grandview-Woodland 3%
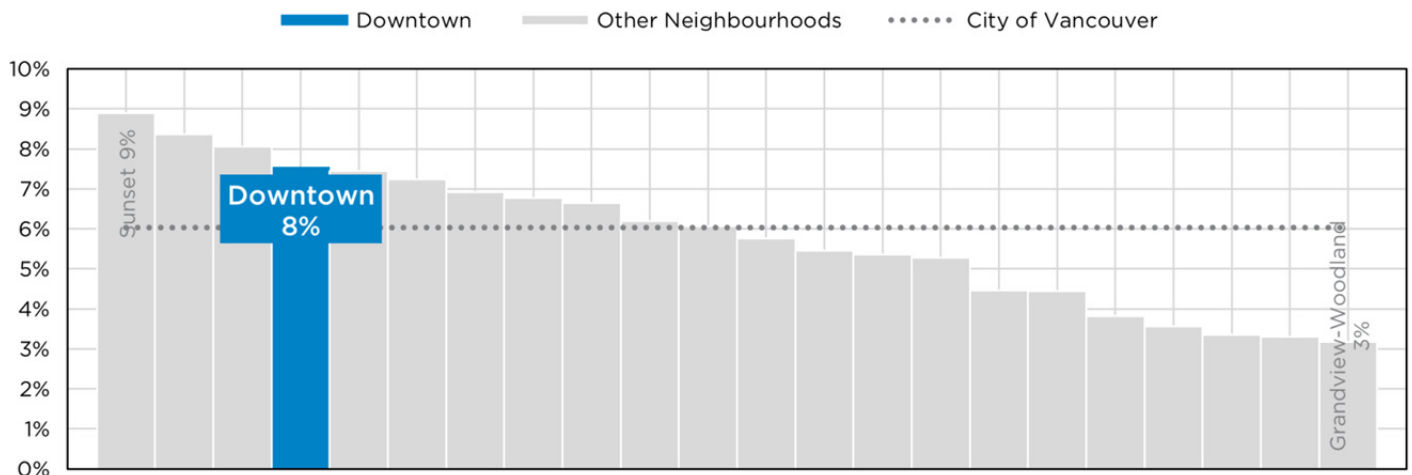
Cultural Origin and Identity

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] in Downtown, the most commonly reported origins are English, Chinese, Scottish, Irish, Canadian and German.

Downtown: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016
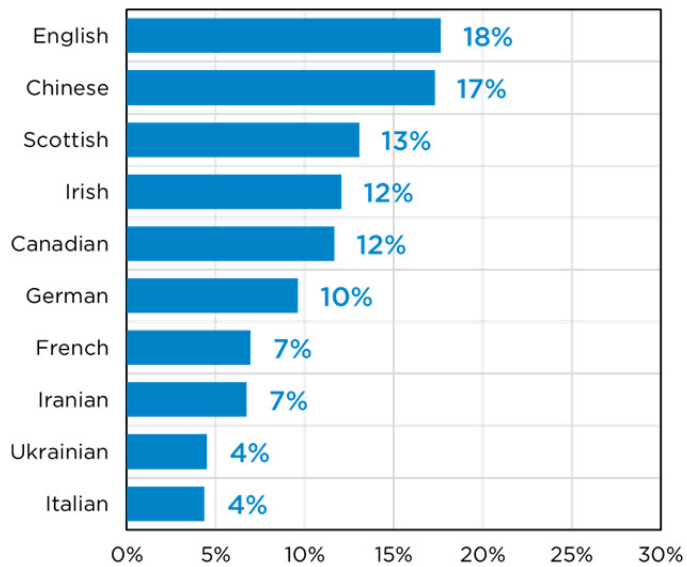
Origin	Percent
English	18%
Chinese	17%
Scottish	13%
Irish	12%
Canadian	12%
German	10%
French	7%
Iranian	7%
Ukrainian	4%
Italian	4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Note that respondents may indicate multiple origins

City of Vancouver: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016
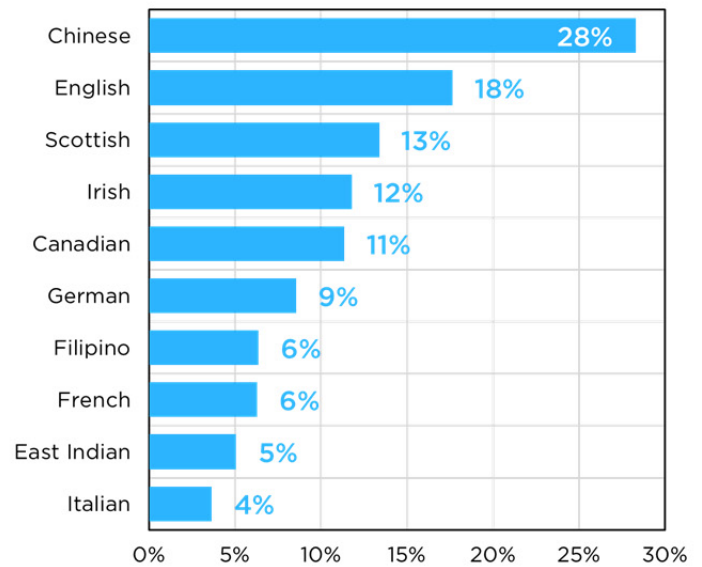
Origin	Percent
Chinese	28%
English	18%
Scottish	13%
Irish	12%
Canadian	11%
German	9%
Filipino	6%
French	6%
East Indian	5%
Italian	4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Note that respondents may indicate multiple origins

The graphs below show ten-year trends in Downtown and across the city for the four most commonly reported ethnic origins noted above. Over time, most of these are fairly stable.

English Origins, 2006-2016

Downtown — City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	19%	19%	18%
City of Vancouver	18%	18%	18%
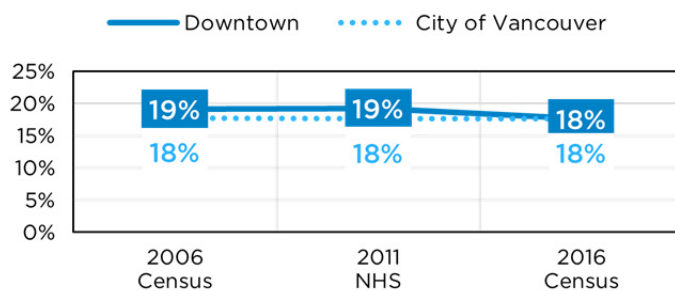
Chinese Origins, 2006-2016

Downtown — City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
City of Vancouver	31%	29%	28%
Downtown	19%	16%	17%

Scottish Origins, 2006-2016

Downtown — City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	14%	13%	13%
City of Vancouver	13%	13%	13%

Irish Origins, 2006-2016

Downtown — City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	11%	12%	12%
City of Vancouver	11%	11%	12%

28
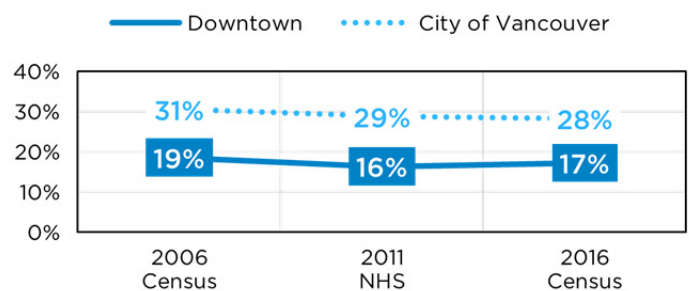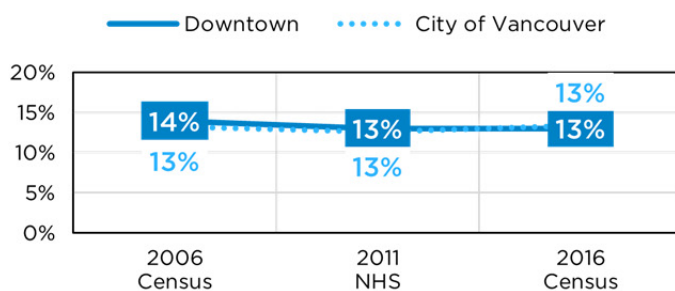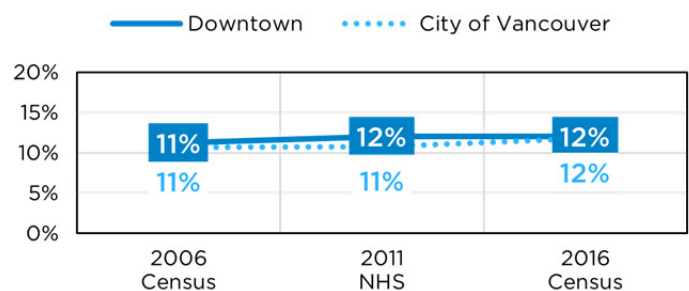
Indigenous Identity

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 population 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, over 1,400 people—2.4% of Downtown's population—are Indigenous, the same rate as for the City of Vancouver.[10]

Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016

Legend: ■ First Nations ■ Métis ■ Inuk ■ Multiple ▫ Other

	First Nations	Métis / Other	Total
Downtown Population 59K	1.4%	1.0%	Total 2.4%
City of Vancouver (Including Musqueam) Population 620K	1.6%	0.7%	Total 2.4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
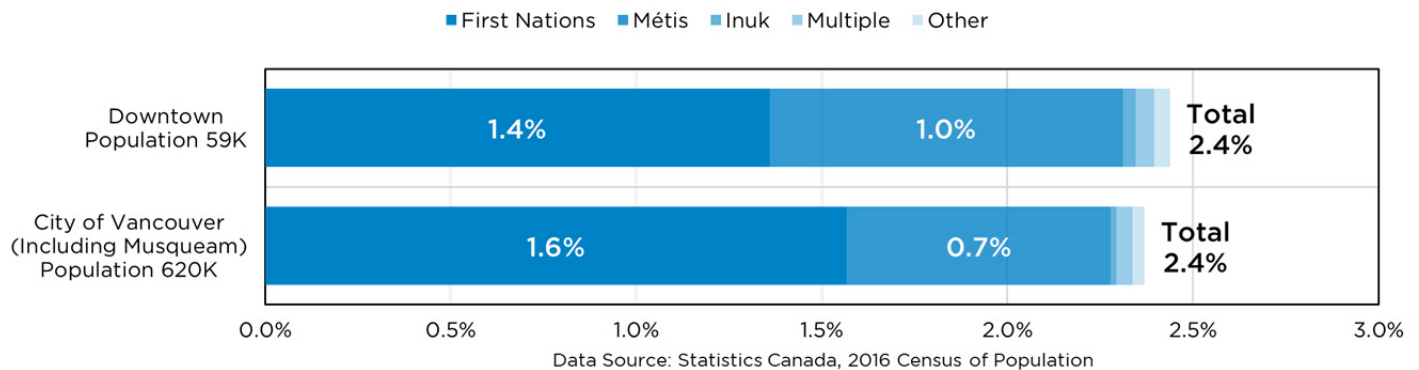
The Indigenous population in Downtown estimated in the census has grown in absolute numbers but fallen as a percentage of the total population. From 1996 to 2016 the Indigenous population Downtown grew by 49% while the non-Indigenous population grew by 257%.

Population with Indigenous Identity, 1996-2016

Legend: —— Downtown ······ City of Vancouver

Downtown: 1996 Census 5.6%, 2001 Census 4.1%, 2006 Census 3.2%, 2011 NHS 1.8%, 2016 Census 2.4%

City of Vancouver: 1996 Census 2.2%, 2001 Census 2.0%, 2006 Census 2.0%, 2011 NHS 2.1%, 2016 Census 2.4%

Y-axis: Percentage of population in private households

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Note: City of Vancouver figures include Musqueam

Demographics of Indigenous Populations

In general, the Indigenous population living in Vancouver is younger than the city's overall population. In Downtown, however, Indigenous residents are more likely to be adults in their 50s, especially males.

Downtown:
Indigenous Identity Population by Age and Sex, 2016

Downtown
Indigenous identity population
Total: 1,430
52% male-identified

Downtown
Overall population
Total: 58,855
52% male-identified

<Female-Identified   Percentage of Total Population   Male-Identified>
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
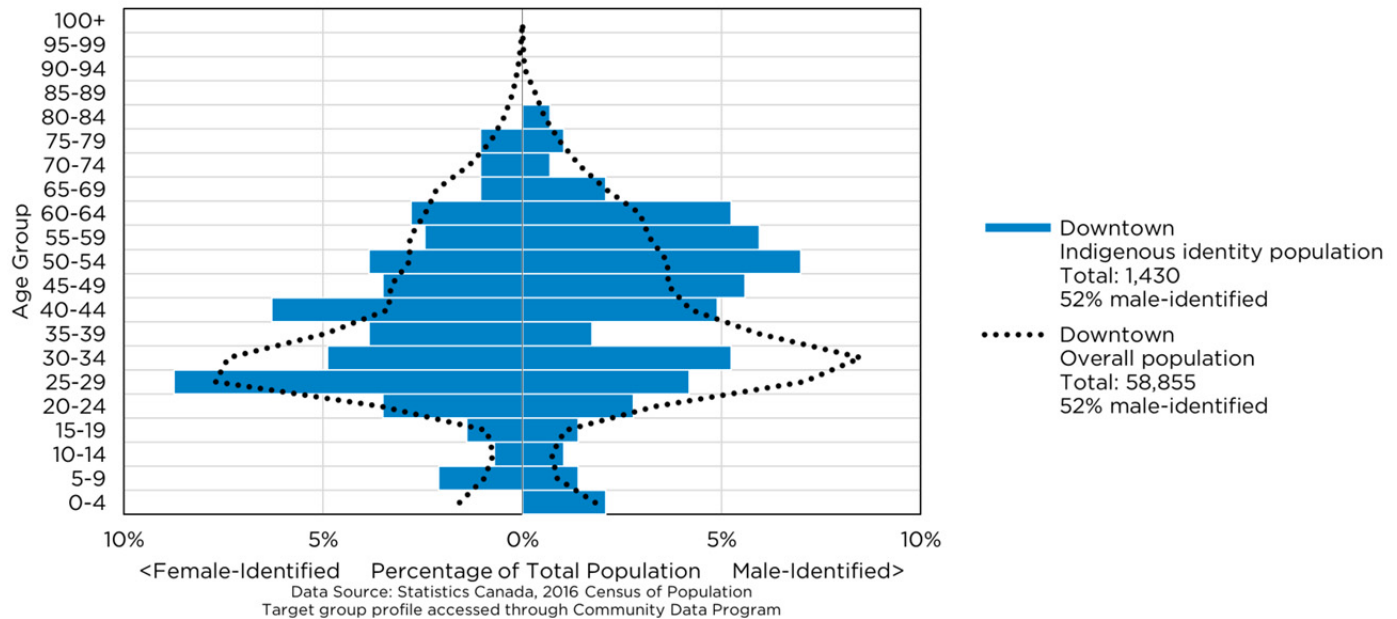
The Indigenous population in Vancouver is diverse, with a majority of people with First Nations, Métis and Inuit ancestry in Downtown also reporting other Indigenous and non-Indigenous ancestries. While neighbourhood-specific data are not available, the chart below right shows the most commonly reported specific First Nations ancestries reported in Vancouver overall.

Downtown:
Reported Ancestry of Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016

■ Only this type of ancestry   ■ This and other types of ancestries

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, accessed through Community Data Program
Note that people may report multiple categories
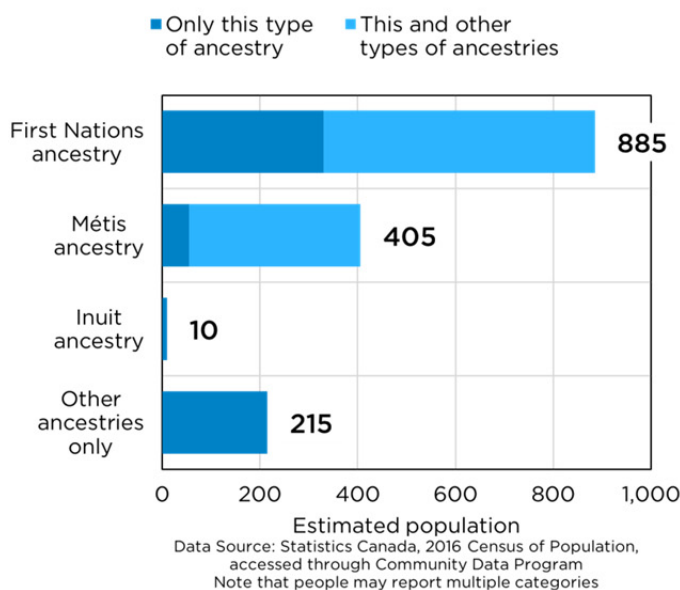
City of Vancouver: Top Reported
First Nations Ancestries, 2016

■ Urban population   ■ On-reserve (at Musqueam)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Note: n.i.e. means "not indicated elsewhere"
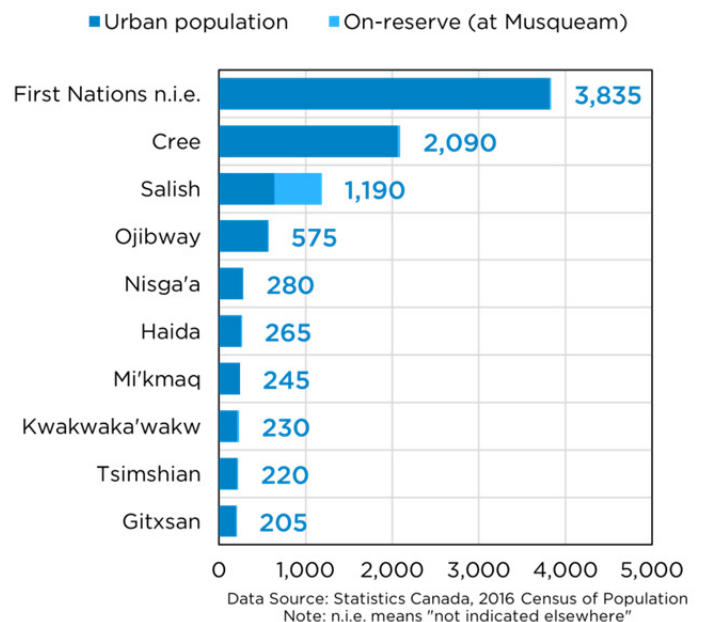
Racial Identity

In Downtown, nearly 32 thousand residents are identified as white, and about 9,500 residents are identified as Chinese. Other relatively large populations include West Asian, South Asian, and Korean residents.

Downtown: Population Groups, 2016
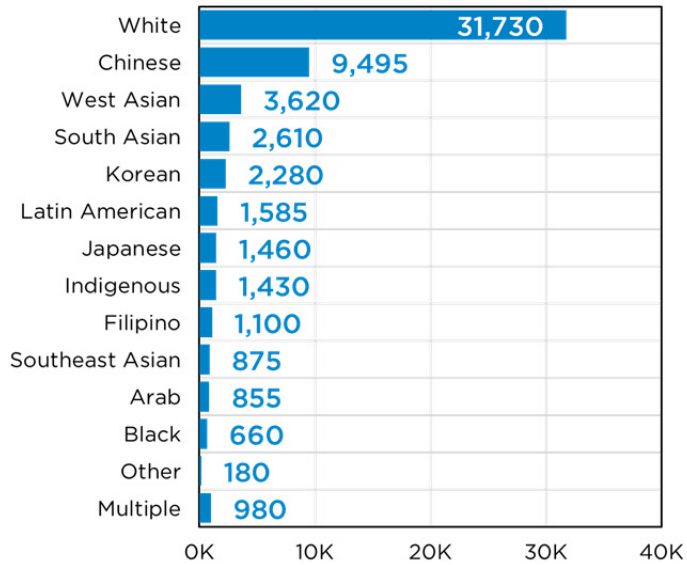
Group	Population
White	31,730
Chinese	9,495
West Asian	3,620
South Asian	2,610
Korean	2,280
Latin American	1,585
Japanese	1,460
Indigenous	1,430
Filipino	1,100
Southeast Asian	875
Arab	855
Black	660
Other	180
Multiple	980

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

City of Vancouver: Population Groups, 2016

Group	Population
White	285,860
Chinese	167,325
South Asian	37,185
Filipino	36,470
Southeast Asian	17,135
Indigenous	14,695
Latin American	10,960
Japanese	10,315
Korean	9,390
West Asian	8,635
Black	6,350
Arab	2,965
Other	1,500
Multiple	11,065
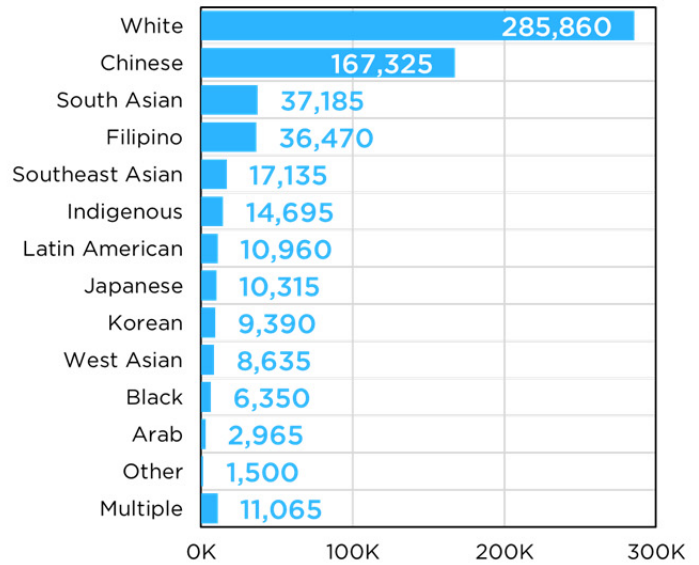
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Statistics Canada defines members of a "visible minority" group as those who are neither Indigenous nor white. Although limited, this indicator is useful for understanding racialized populations in the city. About 44% of the population of Downtown are members of a visible minority group. This rate grew from 1996 to 2016, narrowing the difference in rate between Downtown and the city overall.

Population in a Visible Minority Group, 1996-2016
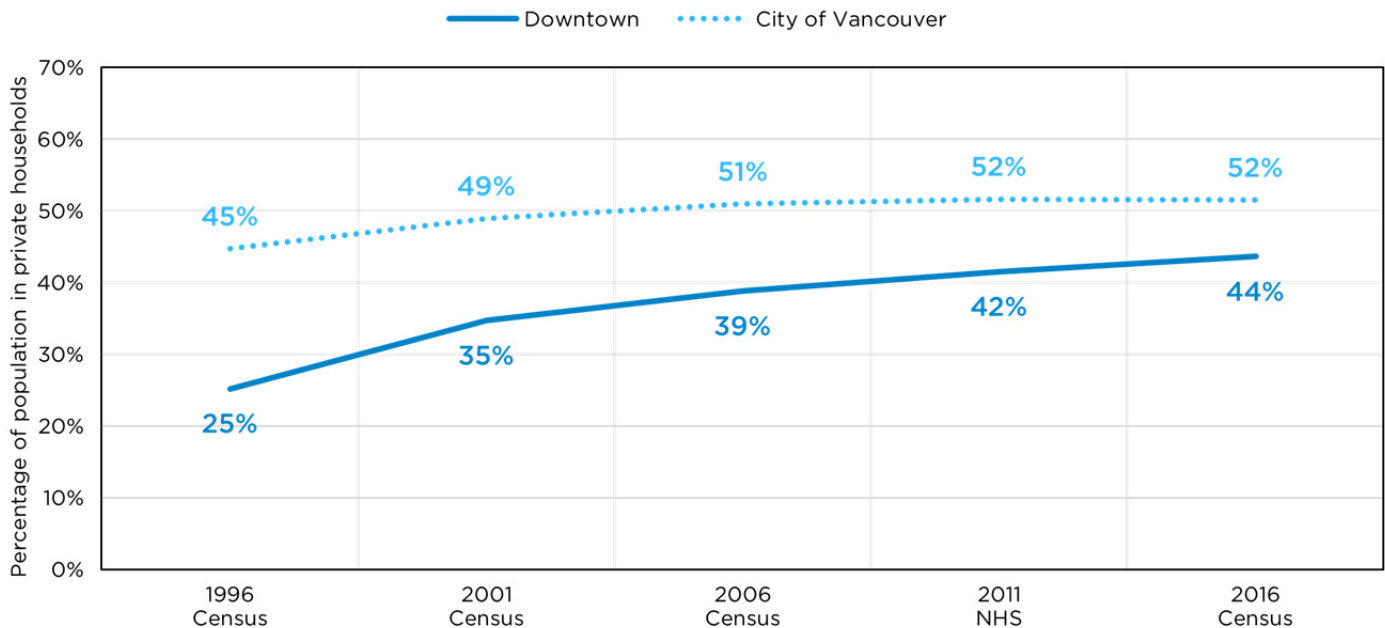
Legend: —— Downtown ······ City of Vancouver

Census	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1996 Census	25%	45%
2001 Census	35%	49%
2006 Census	39%	51%
2011 NHS	42%	52%
2016 Census	44%	52%

(Y-axis: Percentage of population in private households)

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

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Trends in Racialized Populations

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

Downtown: Population Groups 1996-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
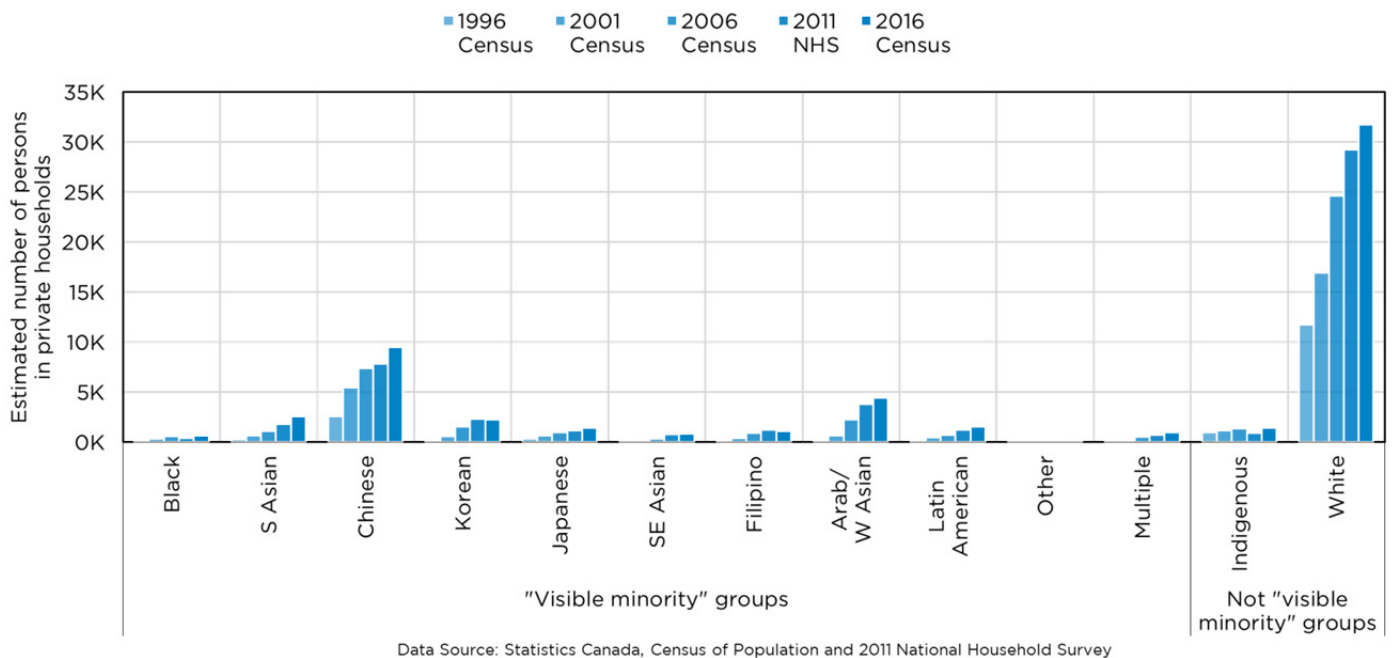
The charts below provide twenty-year neighbourhood and city-wide trends for the four largest racial groups in Downtown, as a percentage of total population.

Downtown: Population Groups Distribution, 1996-2016

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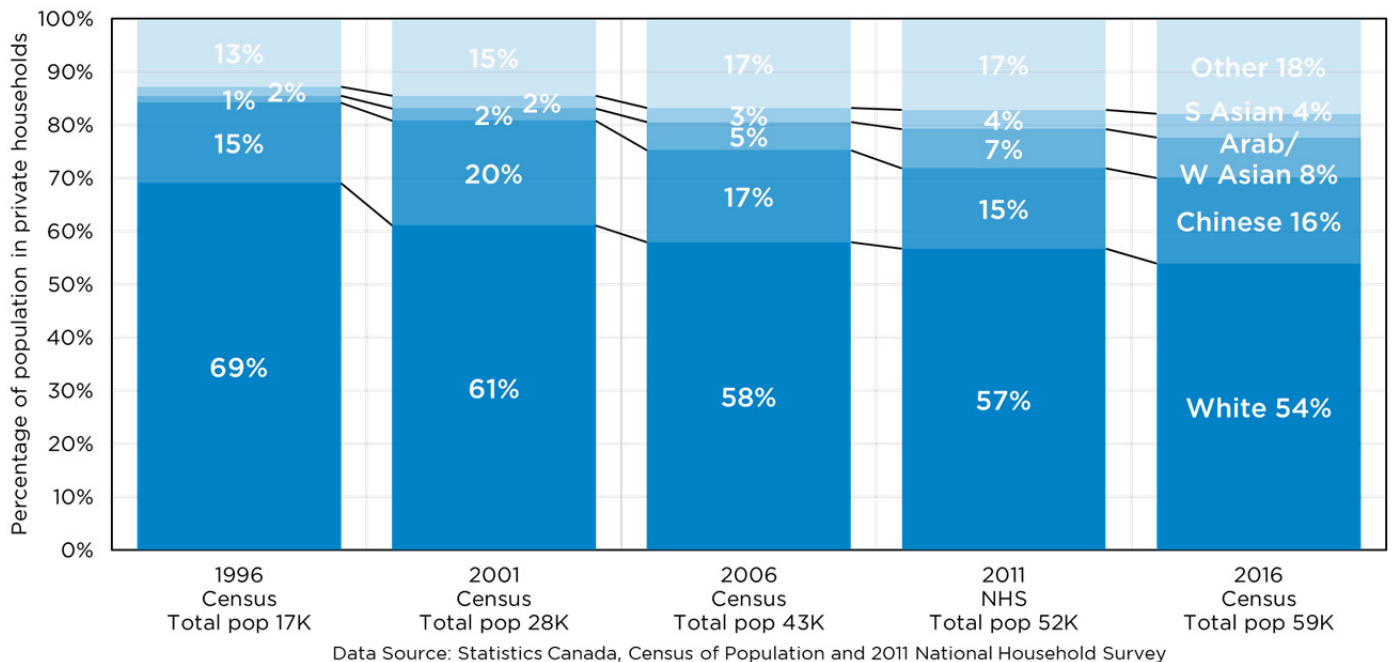
Demographics of Racialized Populations

The overall "visible minority" population in Downtown generally has a similar age makeup to the overall population, except that older male-identified adults are less likely to be in a visible minority group.

Downtown:
Visible Minority Population by Age and Sex, 2016

Downtown
Visible minority population
Total: 25,695
53% female-identified

Downtown
Overall population
Total: 58,855
52% male-identified

<Female-Identified   Percentage of Total Population   Male-Identified>
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
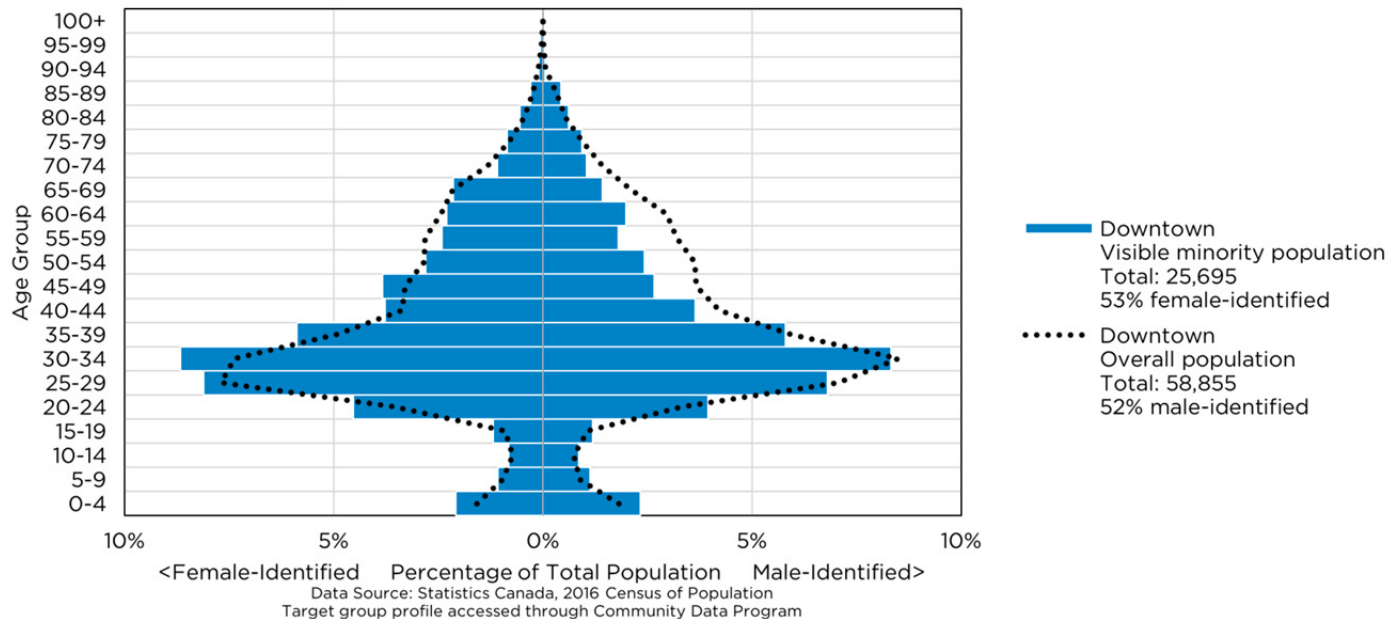
There are important differences between population groups. Median age in Downtown is highest for the population with Indigenous identity and lowest for people identified as Arab or multiple visible minorities.

Median Age by Population Group, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
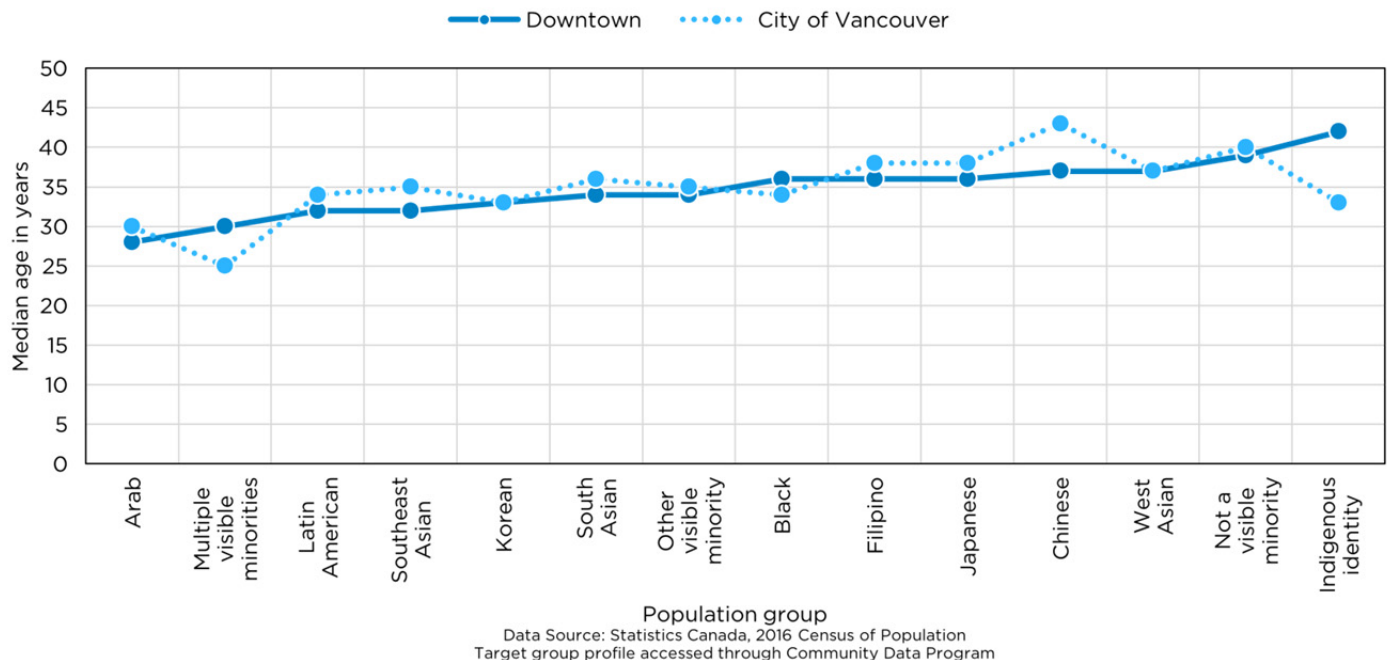
Language Summary

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

Population by English and Other Language Knowledge and Use, 2016

■ English Only   ■ English and Other Languages   □ Other Languages Only

Downtown Population 60K
- Language Knowledge: 97% | 3%
- Mother Tongue: 54% | 3% | 43%
- Language Used at Home: 73% | 6% | 21%

City of Vancouver Population 624K
- Language Knowledge: 93% | 7%
- Mother Tongue: 51% | 3% | 46%
- Language Used at Home: 66% | 7% | 26%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
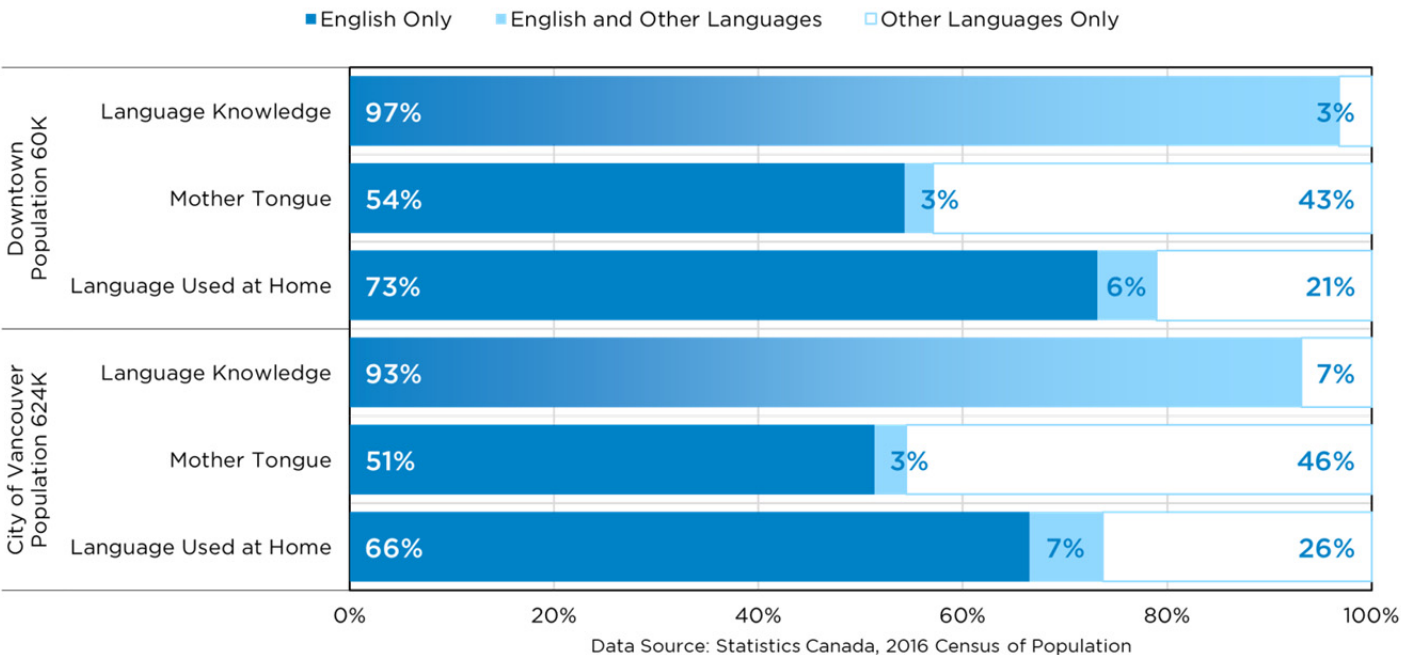
Looking at knowledge of official and non-official languages, Downtown has a larger share of its population with knowledge of English and French, and a smaller proportion with non-official language knowledge.

Population by Language Knowledge, 2016

■ Downtown   ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of population able to hold a conversation

- English: Downtown 97%, City of Vancouver 93%
- French: Downtown 11%, City of Vancouver 10%
- An Indigenous language: Downtown 0.1%, City of Vancouver 0.1%
- Another non-official language: Downtown 51%, City of Vancouver 54%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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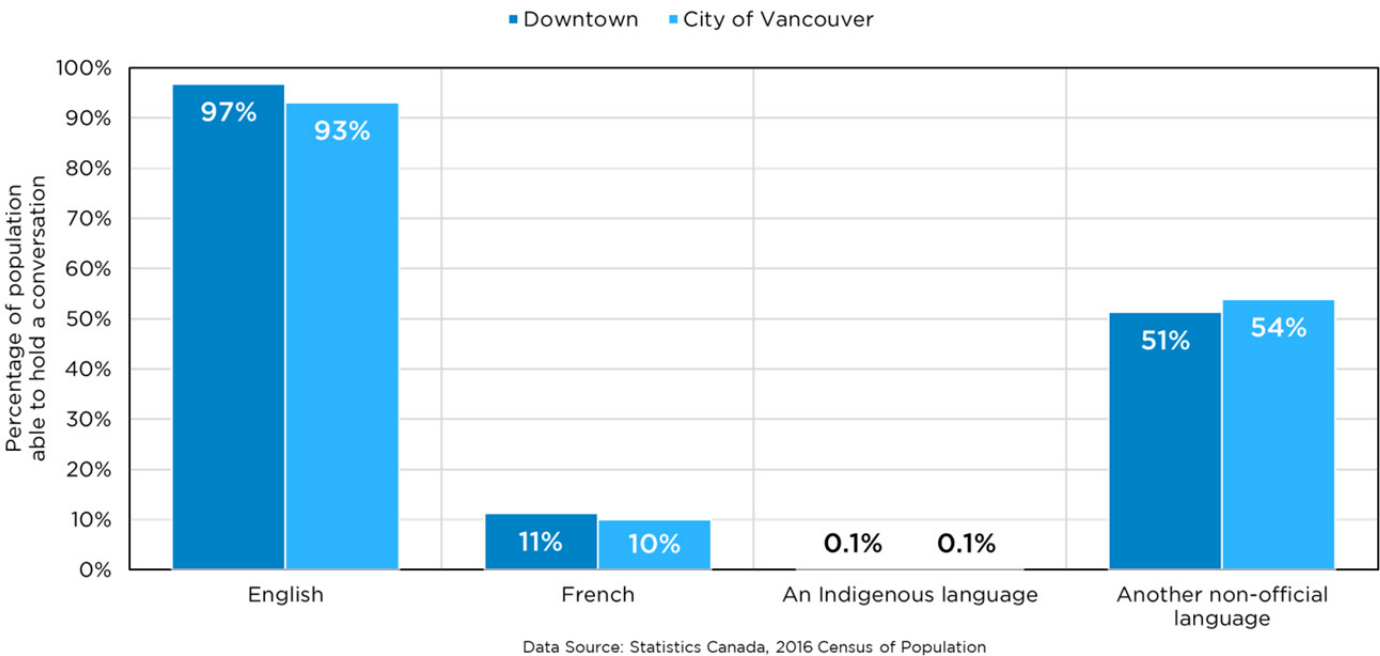
Language Knowledge

A more detailed breakdown of language knowledge shows that 11% of Downtown residents are able to speak French, 9% are able to speak Mandarin and 7% are able to speak Persian (Farsi).

Downtown: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016

Language	Percentage
English	97%
French	11%
Mandarin	9%
Persian	7%
Cantonese	6%
Spanish	6%
Korean	4%
Japanese	3%
German	2%
Russian	2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
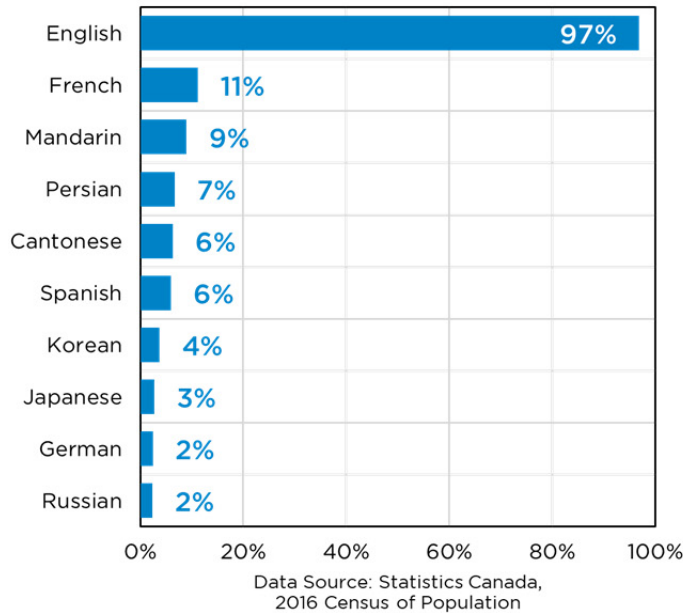
City of Vancouver: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016

Language	Percentage
English	93%
Cantonese	16%
Mandarin	11%
French	10%
Tagalog	5%
Spanish	4%
Punjabi	3%
Vietnamese	2%
German	2%
Japanese	2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
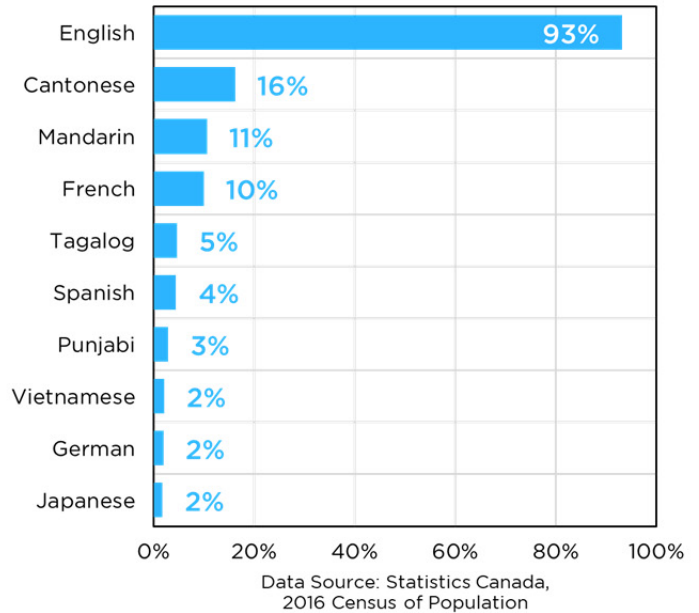
Over time, Downtown has an increasing share of residents with knowledge of English and a slightly declining share of residents who can speak French. There is growth in the share of population able to speak Persian (Farsi) over time. The next census will likely clarify whether the apparent increase in Mandarin speakers in 2016 is a genuine trend or more precise reporting of Chinese dialects in the census.[11]

English Knowledge, 2001-2016

Downtown —— City of Vancouver ······

	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	96%	96%	97%	97%
City of Vancouver	92%	92%	92%	93%

French Knowledge, 2001-2016

Downtown —— City of Vancouver ······

	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	13%	13%	12%	11%
City of Vancouver	10%	10%	10%	10%
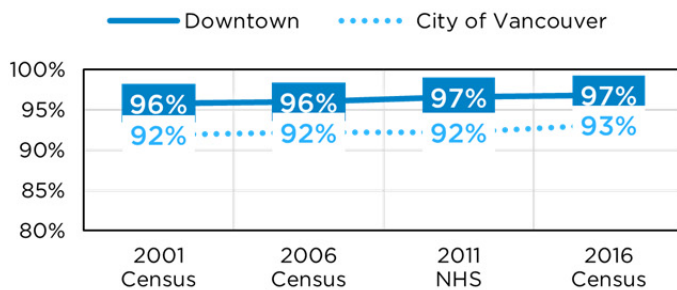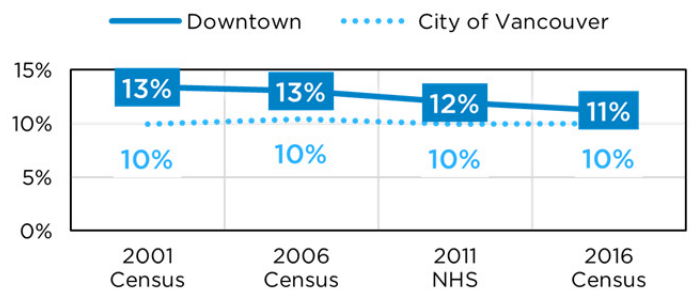
Mandarin Knowledge, 2001-2016

Downtown —— City of Vancouver ······

	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	5%	5%	5%	9%
City of Vancouver	7%	7%	7%	11%
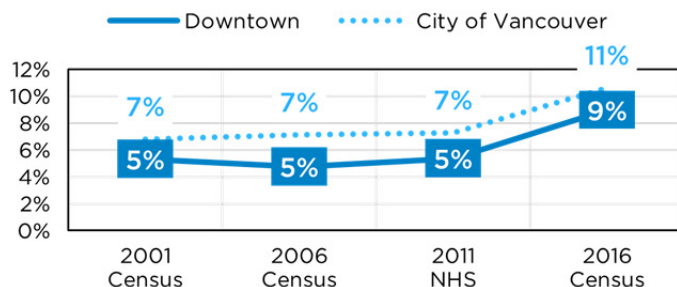
Persian Knowledge, 2001-2016

Downtown —— City of Vancouver ······

	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown		5%	6%	7%
City of Vancouver		1%	1%	1%
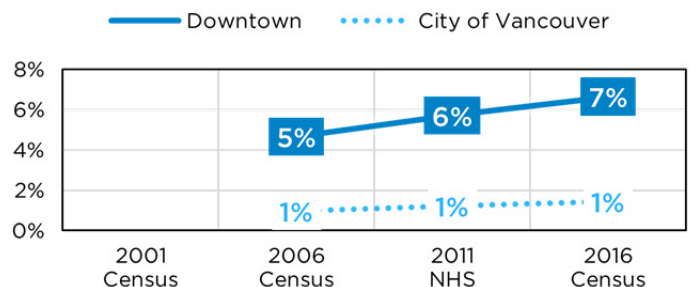
Mother Tongue

More than four in ten Downtown residents have a non-English first language. This proportion has climbed since the 1990s to be close to the citywide rate.

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

Legend: —— Downtown ‧‧‧‧‧ City of Vancouver

Year	City of Vancouver	Downtown
1981	34%	32%
1986	32%	28%
1991	40%	28%
1996	47%	34%
2001	50%	39%
2006	50%	42%
2011	47%	42%
2016	46%	43%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
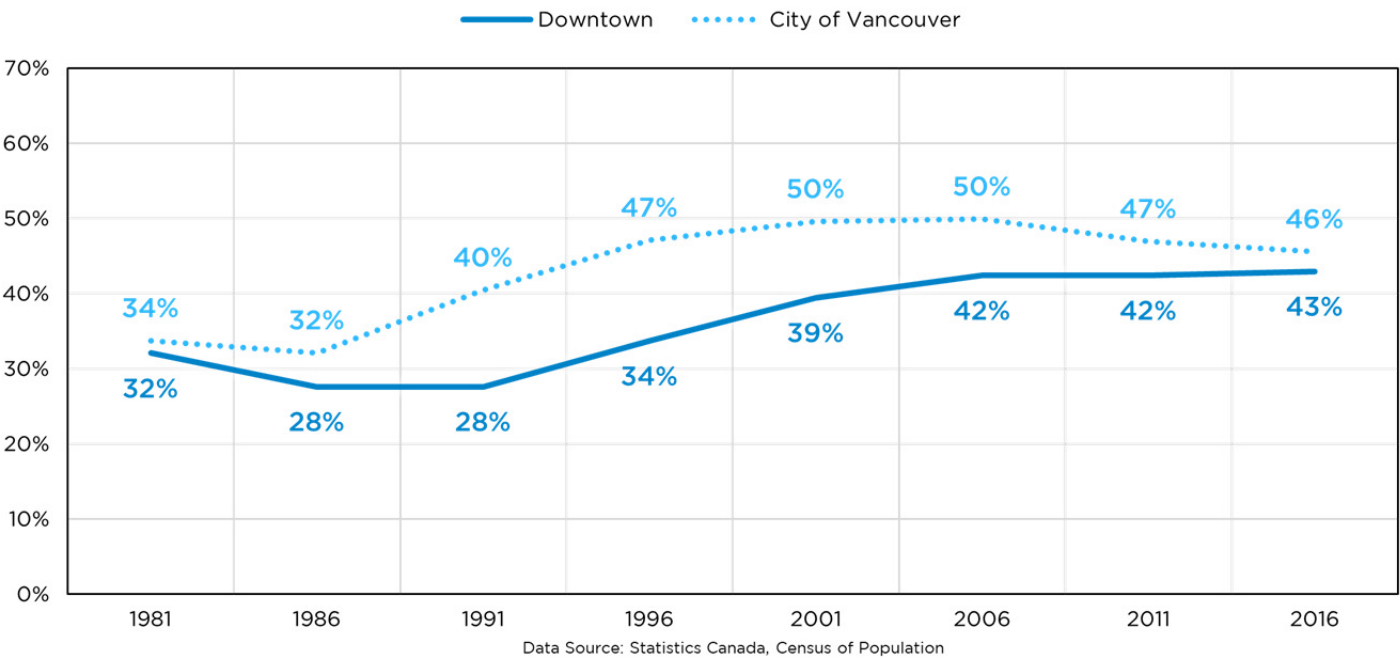
Consistent with language knowledge, Mandarin, Persian (Farsi) and Cantonese are the most commonly reported non-English mother tongues in Downtown.

Downtown: Top Non-English Mother Tongues, 2016

Language	Count
Mandarin	3,675
Persian	3,445
Cantonese	2,905
Korean	1,960
Spanish	1,680
French	1,280
Russian	1,090
Japanese	970
Arabic	740
Serbian	670

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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

Language	Count
Cantonese	85,070
Mandarin	40,175
Tagalog	19,435
Punjabi	13,380
Spanish	12,020
Vietnamese	10,615
French	9,495
Korean	7,830
Persian	7,670
Japanese	7,015

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
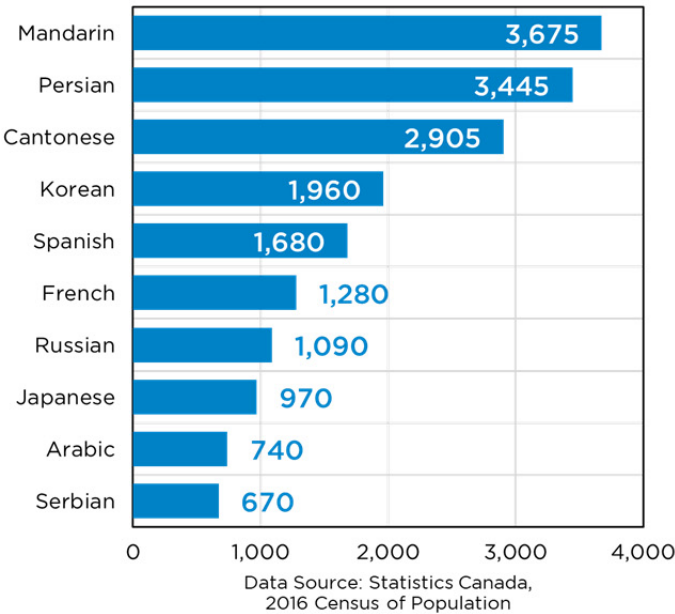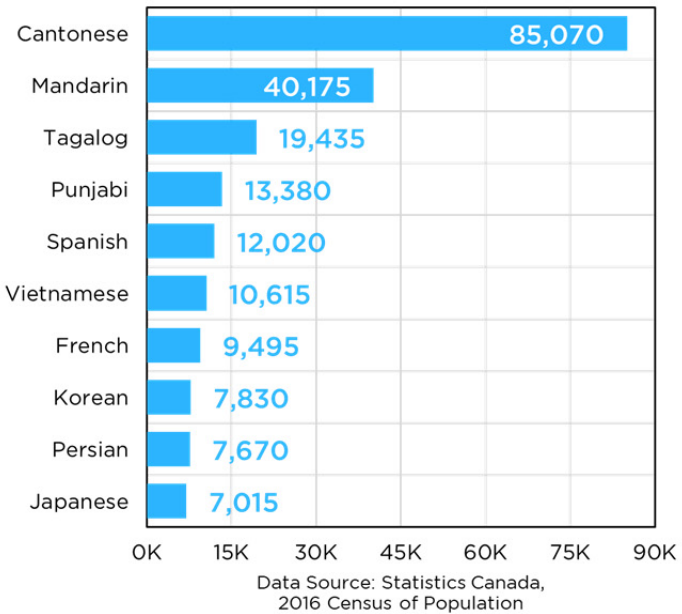
Home Language

About one in five Downtown residents usually use a language other than English at home. Like people with a non-English mother tongue, this proportion increased in the 1990s and early 2000s.[12] While the rate has declined since 2006, it has done so at a slower rate than for the city overall.

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

— Downtown ····· City of Vancouver

City of Vancouver values: 22%, 21%, 27%, 32%, 22%, 33%, 29%, 26%

Downtown values: 14%, 12%, 12%, 18%, 14%, 24%, 23%, 21%

Years: 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
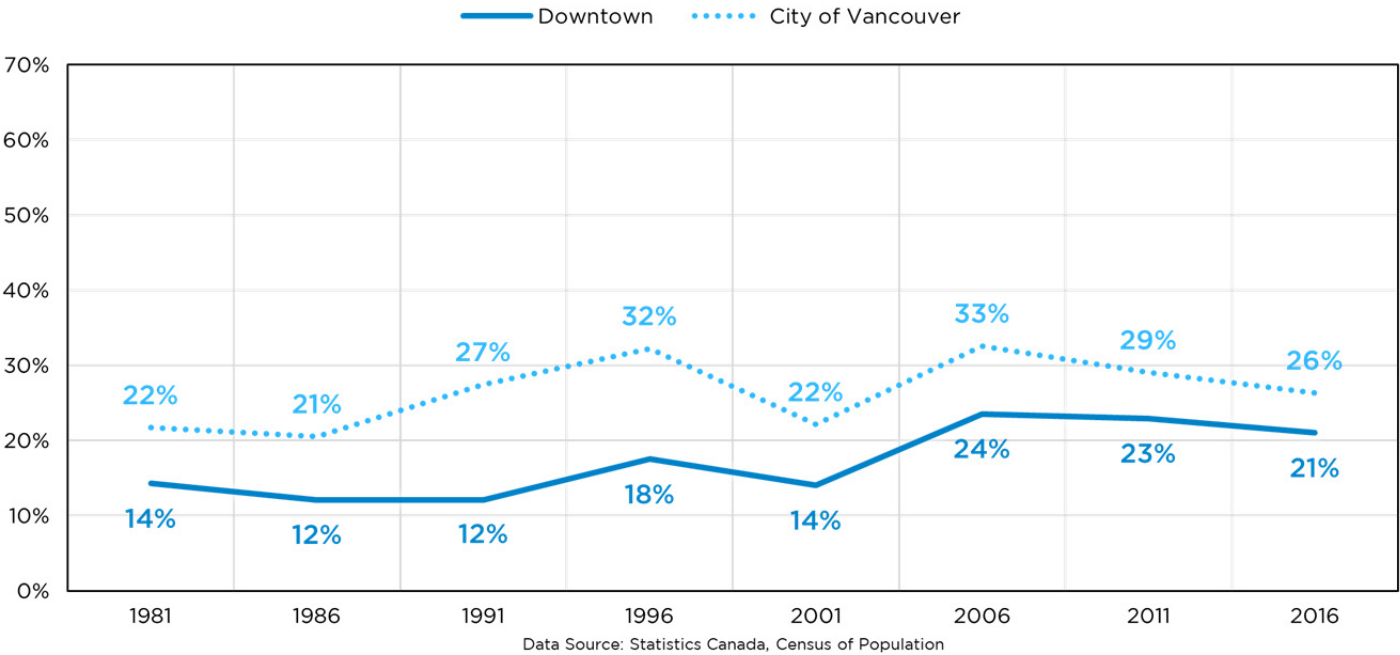
Mandarin, Persian (Farsi) and Cantonese are the most commonly used home language other than English in Downtown, followed by Korean and Spanish.

Downtown: Top Non-English Home Languages, 2016

Language	Value
Mandarin	2,475
Persian	2,110
Cantonese	1,515
Korean	1,255
Spanish	775
Russian	535
Japanese	515
French	480
Arabic	400
Serbian	370

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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

Language	Value
Cantonese	60,410
Mandarin	30,120
Tagalog	9,565
Punjabi	8,125
Vietnamese	6,950
Spanish	5,460
Korean	4,700
Persian	4,435
French	3,850
Japanese	3,545

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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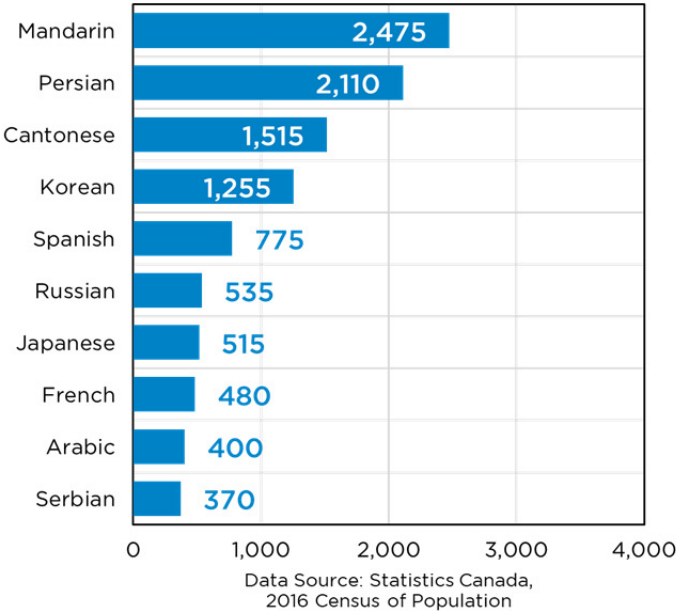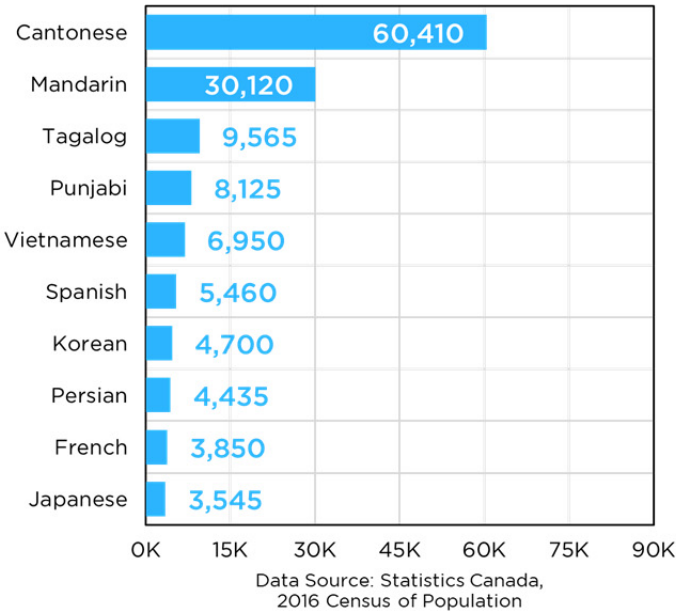
Immigration

About 40% of Downtown's population are immigrants, both Canadian citizens and permanent residents. This is a slightly smaller rate than the city overall. However, Downtown's large share of non-permanent residents—such as foreign students, temporary workers or refugee claimants—means that overall half of Downtown's population was born outside of Canada.

Population by Immigration Status, 2016

■ Born in Canada ■ Immigrated Pre 2011 ■ Immigrated 2011-2016 ■ Non-Permanent Resident

	Born in Canada	Immigrated Pre 2011	Immigrated 2011-2016	Non-Permanent Resident
Downtown Population: 59K	50%	33%	8%	9%
City of Vancouver Population: 618K	53%	36%	6%	5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
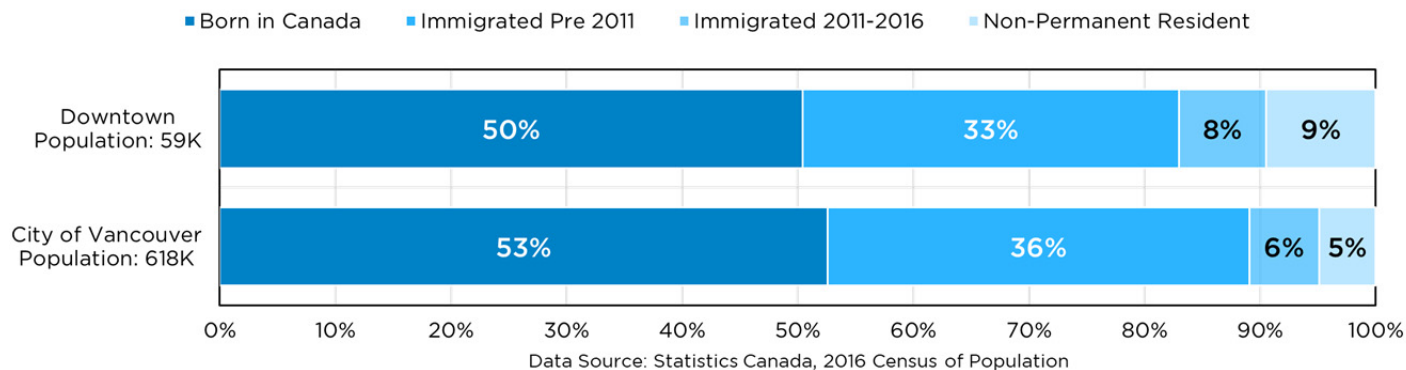
In recent census periods immigrants have increased as a percentage of Downtown's population.

Immigrants as Percentage of Population, 1981-2016

—— Downtown   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver

Percentage of population in private households

	1981 Census	1986 Census	1991 Census	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	32%	28%	25%	32%	38%	39%	38%	40%
City of Vancouver	39%	39%	42%	45%	46%	46%	44%	42%

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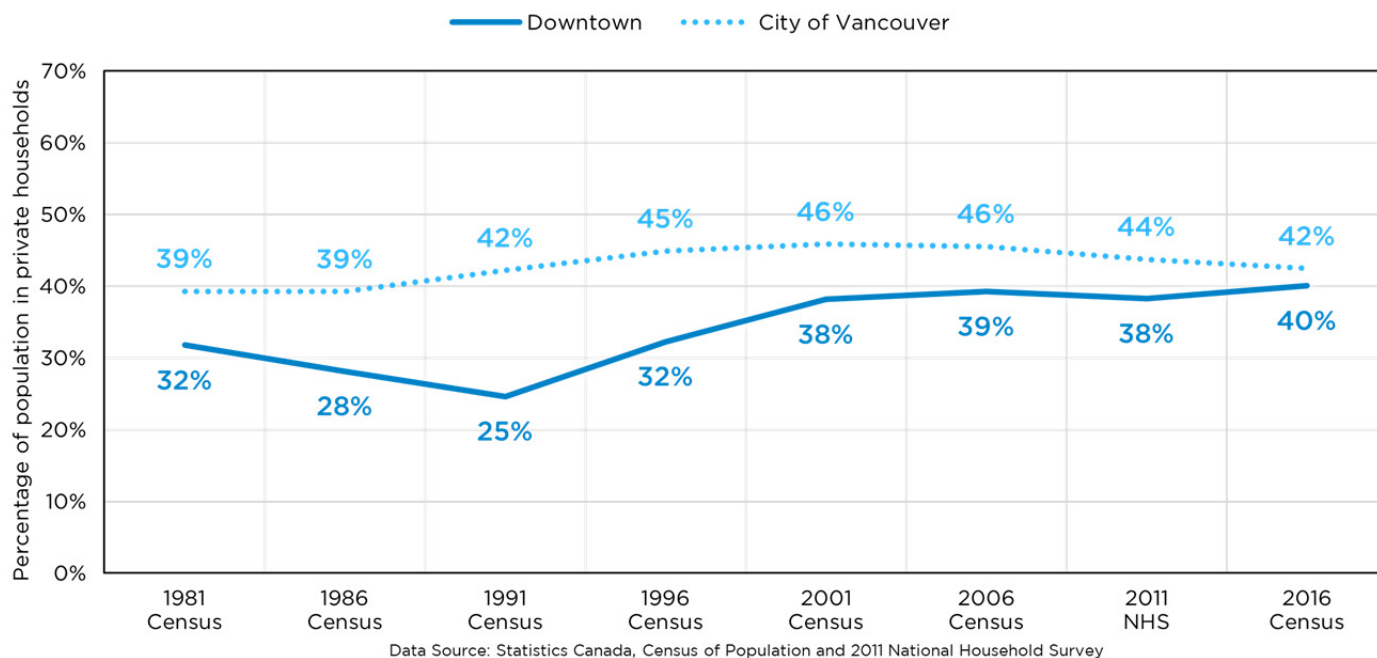
Places of Birth

About half of the Downtown population was born in Canada. The top reported places of birth outside Canada are China, Iran, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

Downtown: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

Place	Value
Canada	29,125
China	3,940
Iran	3,545
Korea, South	1,920
United Kingdom	1,765
United States	1,740
Hong Kong	1,530
Taiwan	1,045
Japan	975
Philippines	855

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Custom table accessed through Community Data Program
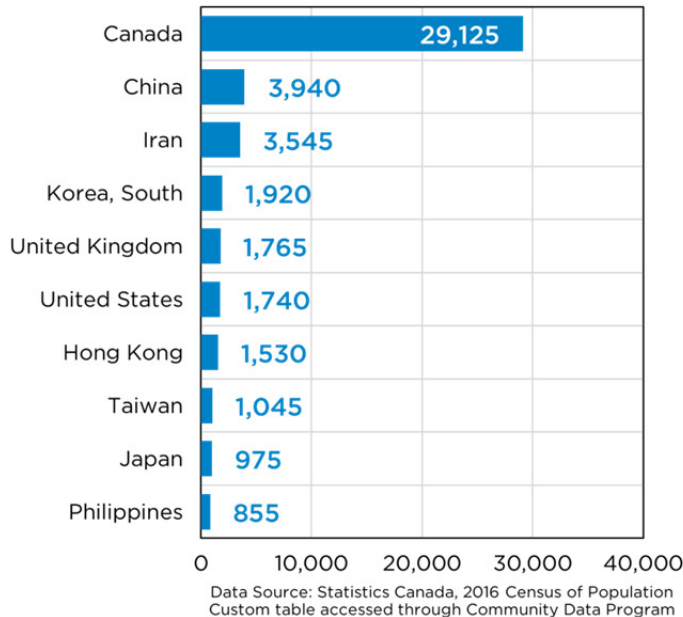
City of Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

Place	Value
Canada	319,015
China	71,910
Philippines	29,705
Hong Kong	25,435
United Kingdom	14,965
India	14,820
United States	14,060
Viet Nam	12,515
Taiwan	9,645
Korea, South	7,730

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Custom table accessed through Community Data Program
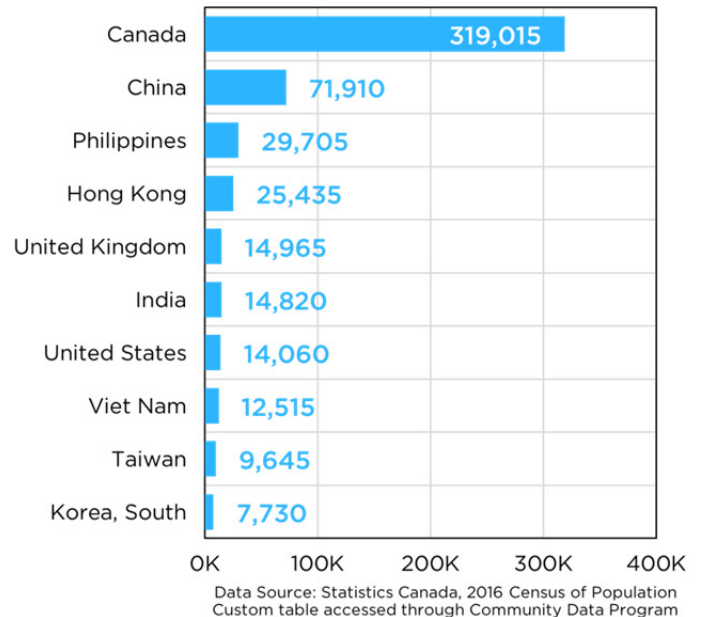
There are changing patterns of migration and immigration in Vancouver. In Downtown, Iran and China make up the most common places of birth among established immigrants and new immigrants. However, China is the place of birth for many more non-permanent residents than Iran.

Downtown: Top Places of Birth for Established Immigrant Population, 2016

■ Immigrated before 2011

Place	Value
Iran	2,700
China	2,600
Hong Kong	1,415
Korea, South	1,190
United Kingdom	1,150
United States	865
Taiwan	840
Philippines	725
Russian Federation	445
Japan	430

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Custom table accessed through Community Data Program
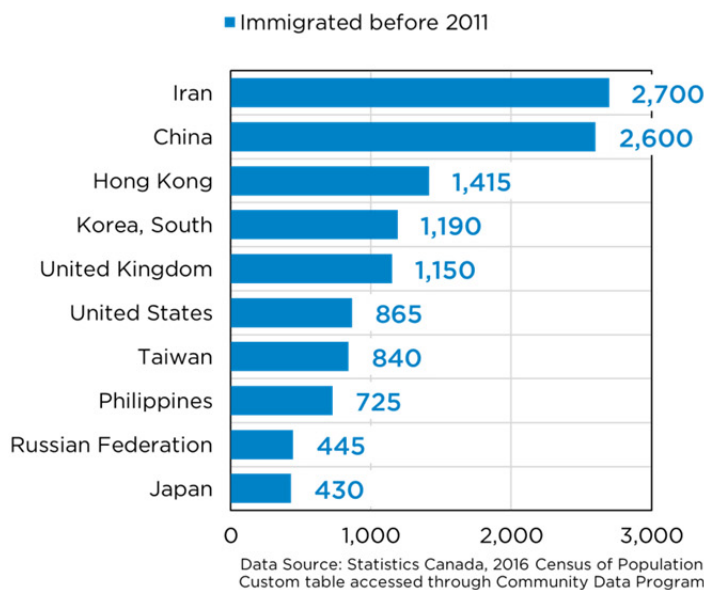
Downtown: Top Places of Birth for Newcomer Population, 2016

■ Immigrated 2011-2016   ■ Non-permanent residents

Place	Value
China	1,335
Iran	825
United States	735
Korea, South	720
United Kingdom	580
Japan	510
Brazil	490
Mexico	410
Saudi Arabia	395
India	330

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Custom table accessed through Community Data Program
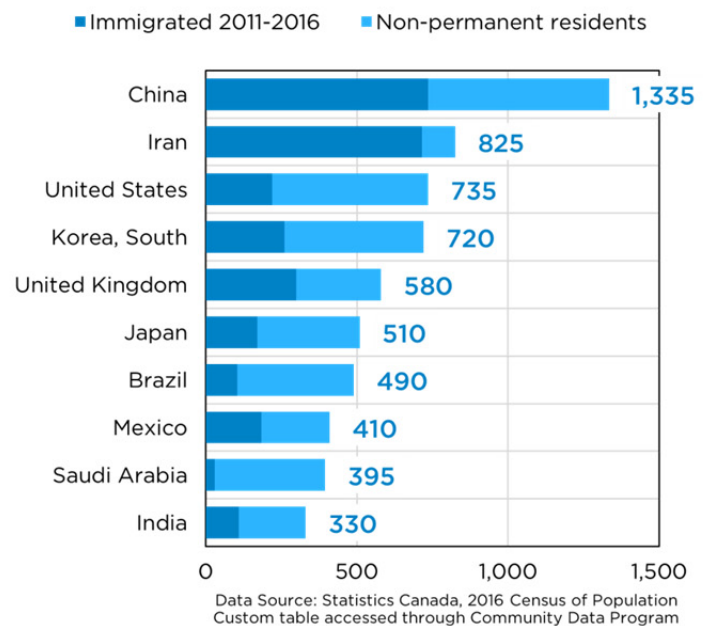
Demographics of Immigrant Populations

Overall, the immigrant population in Downtown skews older than the overall population, with age groups over 45, especially female-identified residents, having greater representation among immigrants than in the general population.

Downtown:
Immigrant Population by Age and Sex, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
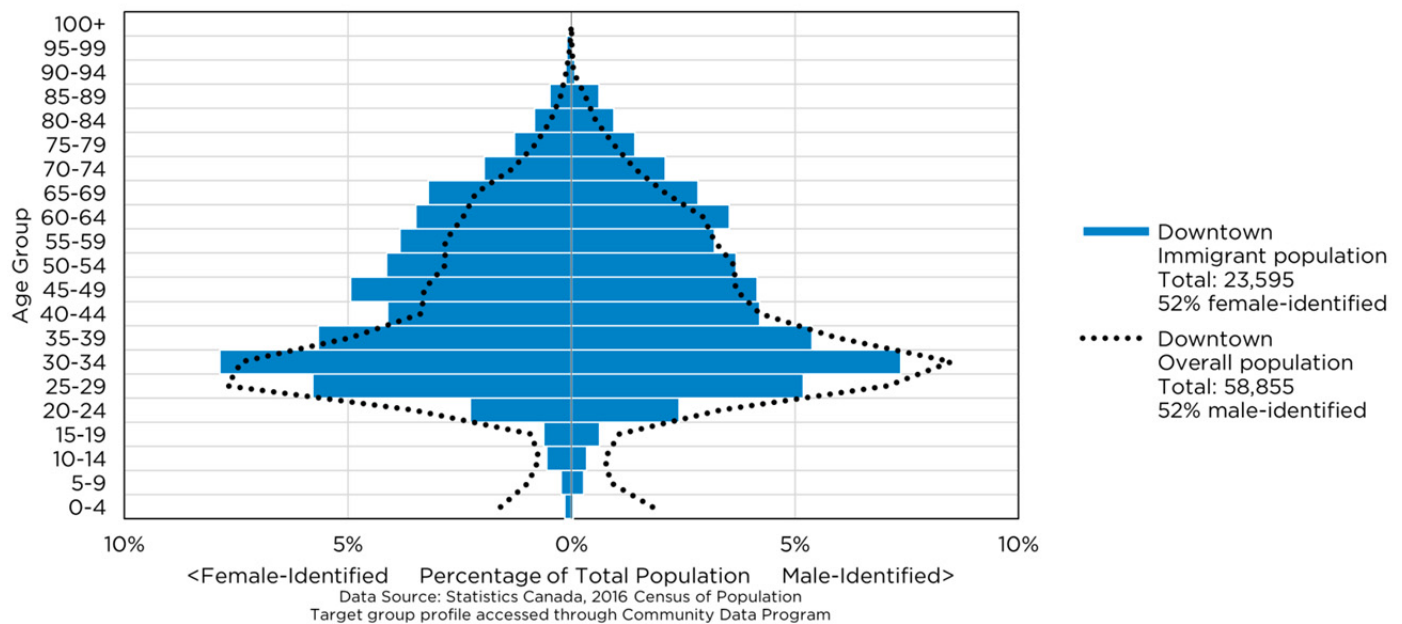
The area's newcomer population—including both recent immigrants and non-permanent residents—is concentrated in young adults in their 20s and 30s.

Downtown:
Newcomer Population by Age and Sex, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
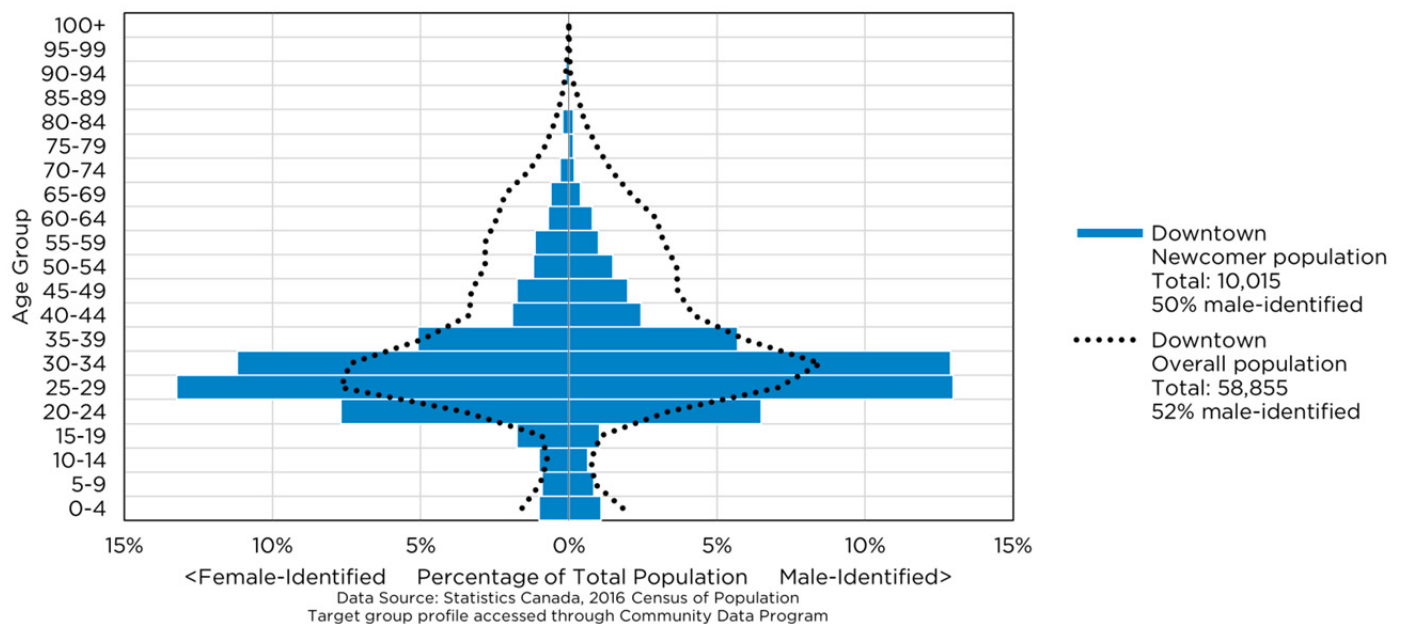
Immigrant Admission and Citizenship

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. Downtown has relatively more immigrants who were admitted in economic categories, including worker, business and provincial nominee programs; it also has fewer immigrants who were admitted through family programs. About 8% of Downtown immigrants were admitted as refugees and have since become permanent residents.

Population that Immigrated After 1980 by Admission Category, 2016

- Economic Immigrants
- Family Class Immigrants
- Refugees Became PRs
- Other

	Economic Immigrants	Family Class Immigrants	Refugees Became PRs	Other
Downtown Population: 20K	70%	20%	8%	1%
City of Vancouver Population: 204K	58%	31%	9%	2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
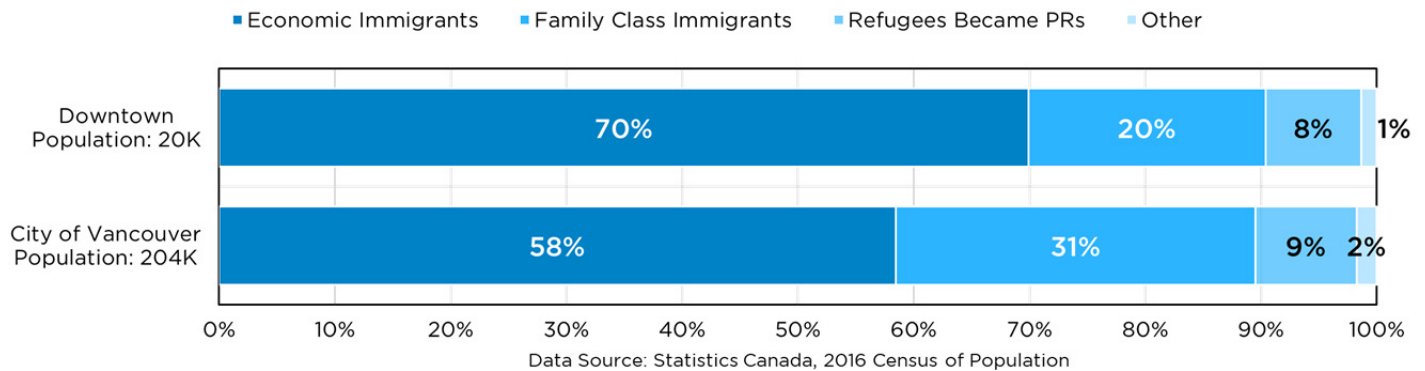
In Downtown, 87% of established immigrants and 7% of new immigrants have become Canadian citizens, similar rates to the city overall. The balance of the immigrant population are permanent residents but not Canadian citizens, meaning that they do not have access to voting rights or other privileges that citizenship brings. 9% of Downtown's population are non-permanent residents who live in Vancouver under the conditions of their work or study permit or refugee claim.

Downtown: Population by Immigration and Citizenship Status, 2016

- Canadian citizens
- Not Canadian citizens

	Canadian citizens	Not Canadian citizens
Non-permanent residents		5,570
Recent immigrants	305	4,135
Established immigrants	16,730	2,420
Non-immigrants	29,690	

Estimated population in private households
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, accessed through Community Data Program

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

- Canadian citizens
- Not Canadian citizens

	Canadian citizens	Not Canadian citizens
Non-permanent residents		30,270
Recent immigrants	2,600	34,740
Established immigrants	198,035	27,395
Non-immigrants	325,175	

Estimated population in private households
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, accessed through Community Data Program

Generations in Canada

Vancouver is home to diverse immigrant populations, and a particular area of note is a growing population of people whose parents[13] were born outside Canada. Downtown, however, is slightly more likely than the City overall to be home to first- or third-or-more generation residents, with relatively fewer second-generation residents.

Population by Generation in Canada, 2016

- First generation (Born outside Canada)
- Second generation (Parent(s) born outside Canada)
- Third or more generation (Parents born in Canada)

	First generation	Second generation	Third or more generation
Downtown Total pop: 59K	51%	22%	28%
City of Vancouver Total pop: 620K	48%	26%	26%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
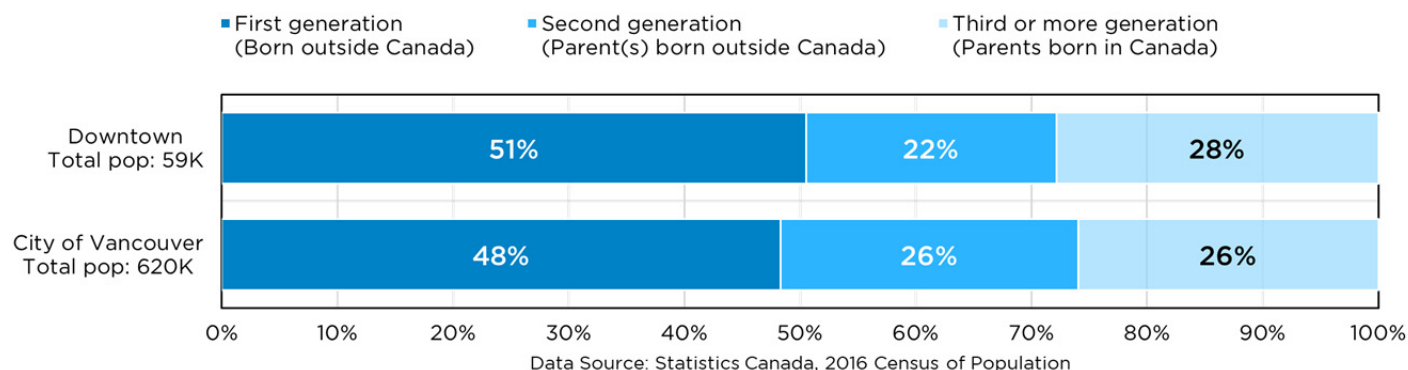
Except for Indigenous residents, people of all racial identities are in Vancouver because of immigration, whether in current or previous generations. In Downtown, 55% of white residents are first- or second-generation Canadians. A majority of people who identify with multiple "visible minority" groups, as well as nearly half of Black and South Asian residents, were born in Canada.

Downtown: Pop. Groups by Generations in Canada, 2016

- First generation (Born outside Canada)
- Second generation (Parent(s) born outside Canada)
- Third or more generation (Parents born in Canada)

Latin American, West Asian, Arab, Korean, Chinese, Southeast Asian, Filipino, Other visible minority, Japanese, South Asian, Black, Multiple visible minorities, White, Indigenous identity

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

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 Downtown, 29% of people experience a limitation on their daily activities on at least an occasional basis, a somewhat lower rate than for Metro Vancouver overall.

Population with Limitations on Daily Activities, 2016

■ Always ■ Often ■ Sometimes

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Total
Downtown Total pop: 59K	10%	4%	15%	Total 29%
City of Vancouver Total pop: 618K	10%	4%	17%	Total 31%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
Data on this topic are not verified or certified by Statistics Canada and should be used with caution
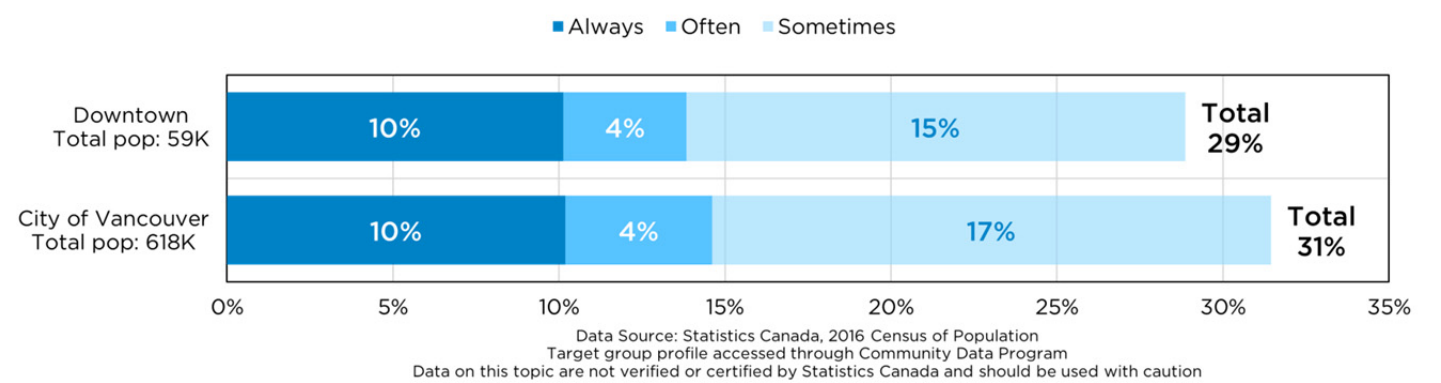
Indicators from the Canadian Survey on Disability are available at a city-wide level. Based on that survey, 20% of people age 15 and older in Vancouver have a disability. Slightly fewer than half of people with a disability have a mild disability, while slightly more than half have a moderate, severe 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

- Mild 49K 9%
- Moderate 17K 3%
- Severe 20K 4%
- Very severe 21K 4%
- Without disabilities 415K 80%
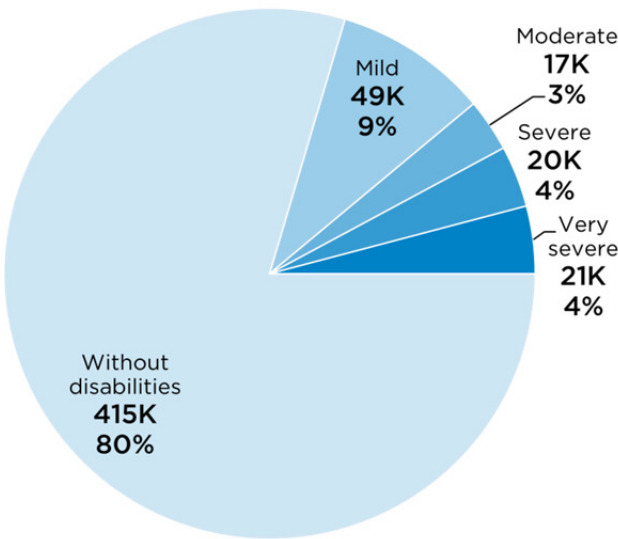
City of Vancouver: Est. Pop. with Indicated Type of Disability, 2017

Type	Value
Pain-related	62K
Mobility	42K
Flexibility	42K
Seeing	37K
Mental health-related	37K
Memory	22K
Hearing	20K
Dexterity	17K
Learning	15K
Developmental	4K

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, accessed through Community Data Program. Note that individuals may report multiple disabilities.
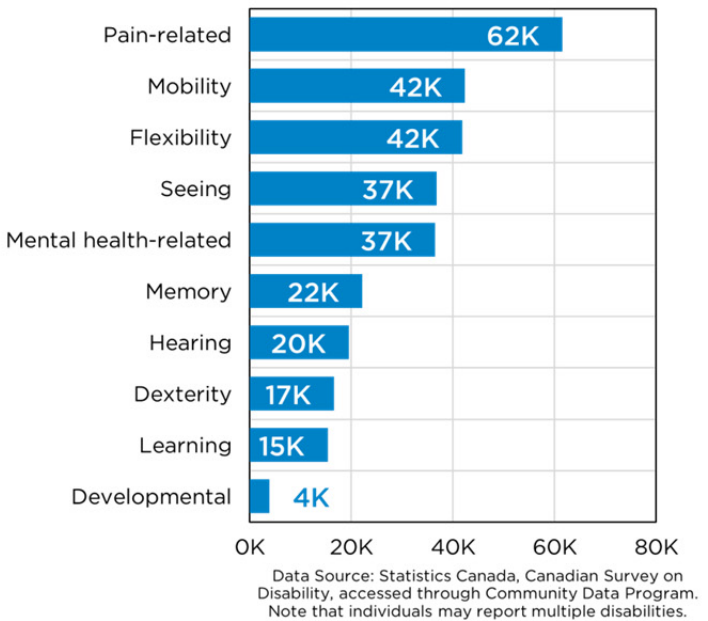
Demographics of Activity Limitations

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

Downtown:
Activity Limitations Population by Age and Sex, 2016

Downtown
Activity limitations population
Total: 16,985
53% male-identified

Downtown
Overall population
Total: 58,855
52% male-identified

<Female-Identified   Percentage of Total Population   Male-Identified>

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
Data on this topic are not verified or certified.
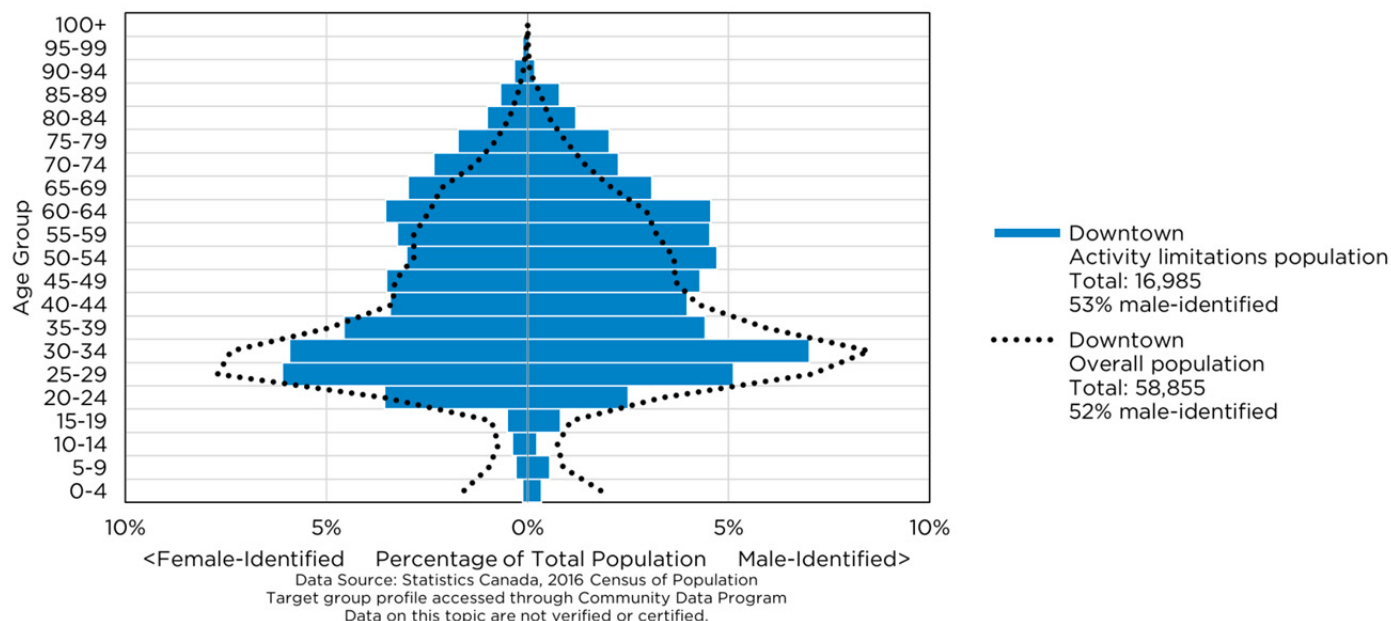
The charts below compare the rate that people report activity limitations among different demographic groups. In Downtown, older adults and seniors are more likely to report activity limitations, as are people with Indigenous identity. There are also correlations between activity limitations and lower levels of formal education and income.

Downtown: Rate of Activity Limits by Demographic, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
Data on this topic are not verified or certified by Statistics Canada and should be used with caution

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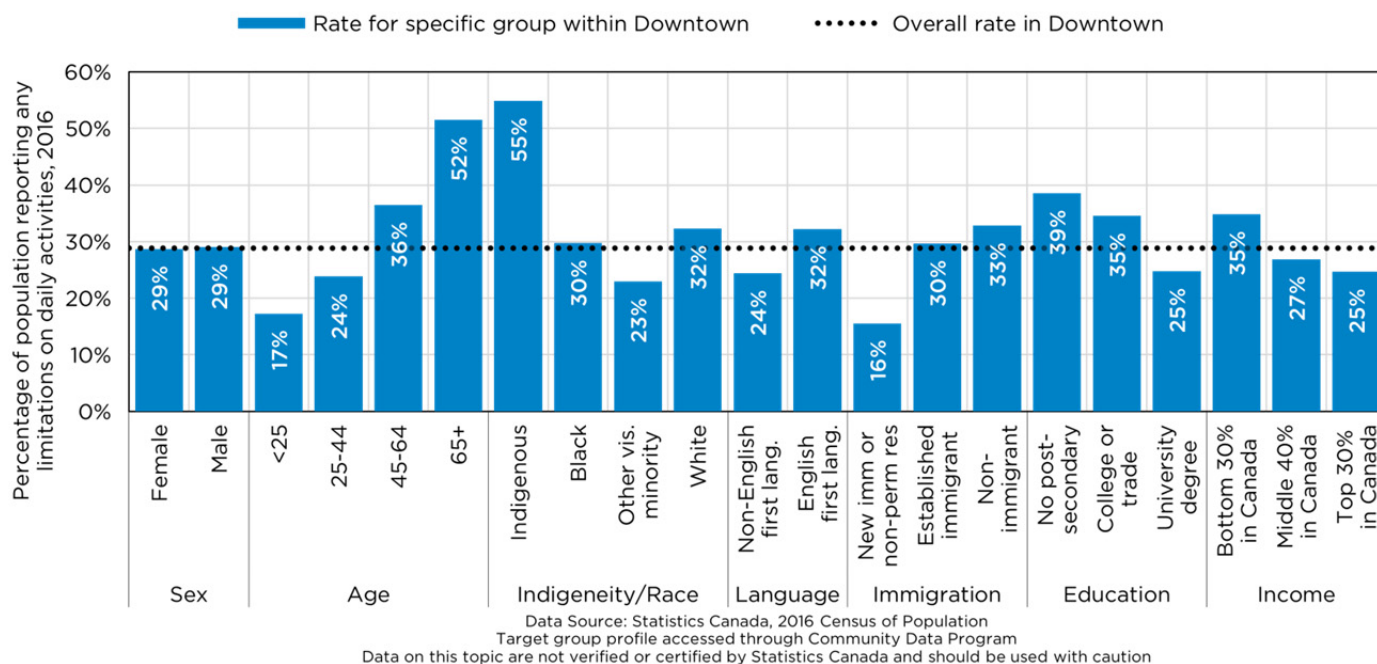
Spirituality and Religion

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, about half of the population in both Downtown and Vancouver were estimated to have a religious affiliation, and the rate is declining over time.

Percentage of Population with Religious Affiliation, 1981-2011

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
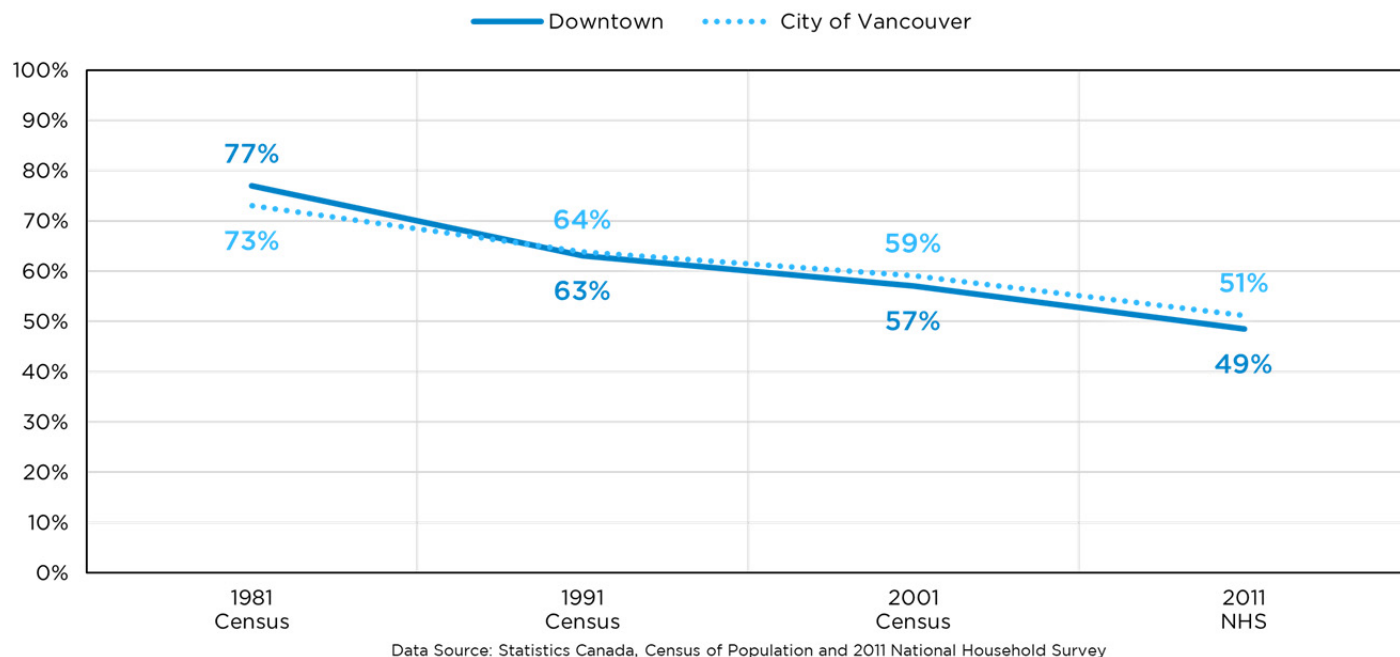
The graphs below show categories of religious affiliation reported in Downtown and the City of Vancouver in 2011. Downtown residents were relatively more likely to identify as Muslim or Jewish than residents of the city overall, and less likely to identify as Christian, Buddhist, Hindu or Sikh.

Population by Religious Affiliation, 2011

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey
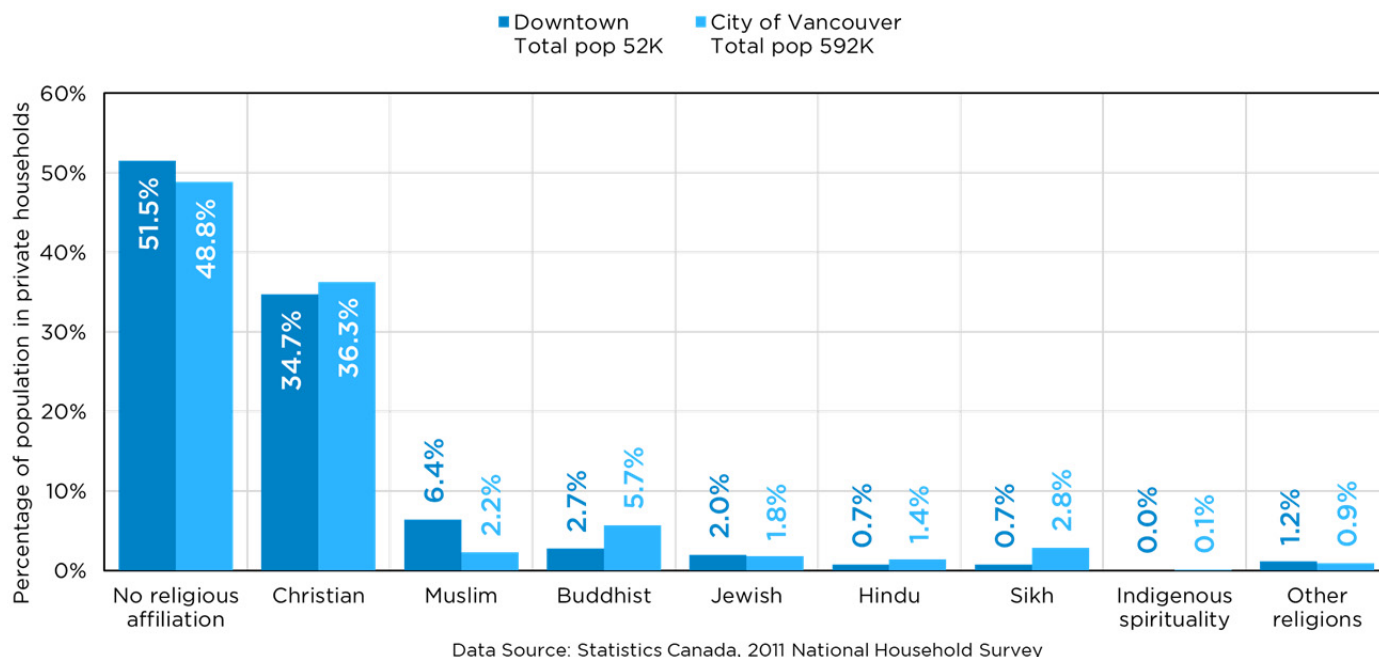
ECONOMY AND EQUITY

Population Below National Poverty Line, 2016

■ Downtown   ▬ Other Neighbourhoods   ••••• City of Vancouver

Strathcona 52%

Downtown
25%

Riley Park 13%

Median Household Income, 2016

■ Downtown   ▬ Other Neighbourhoods   ••••• City of Vancouver

Shaughnessy $112K

Downtown
$67K

Strathcona $22K
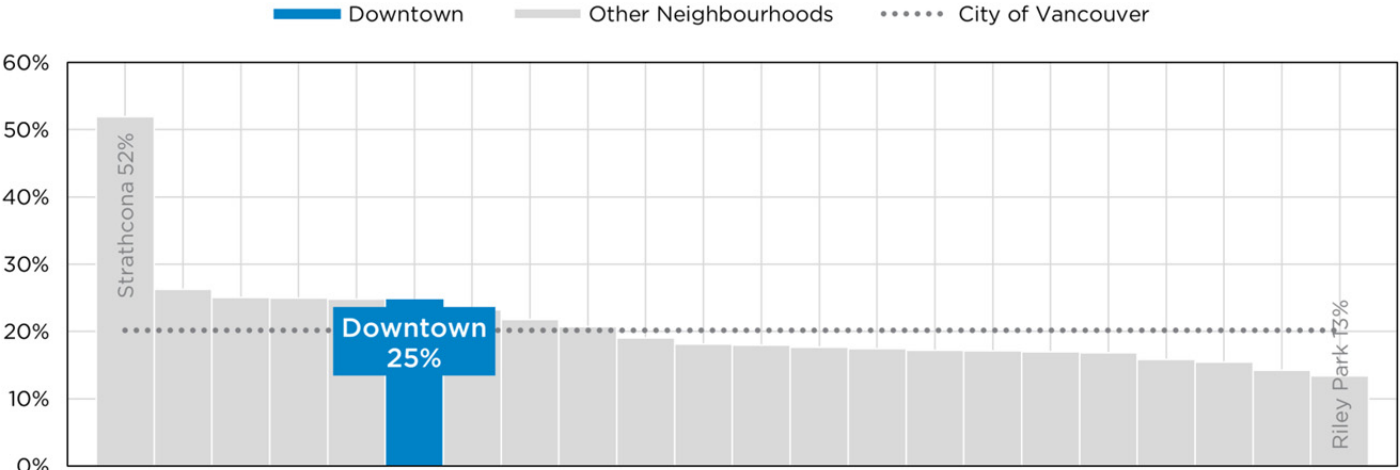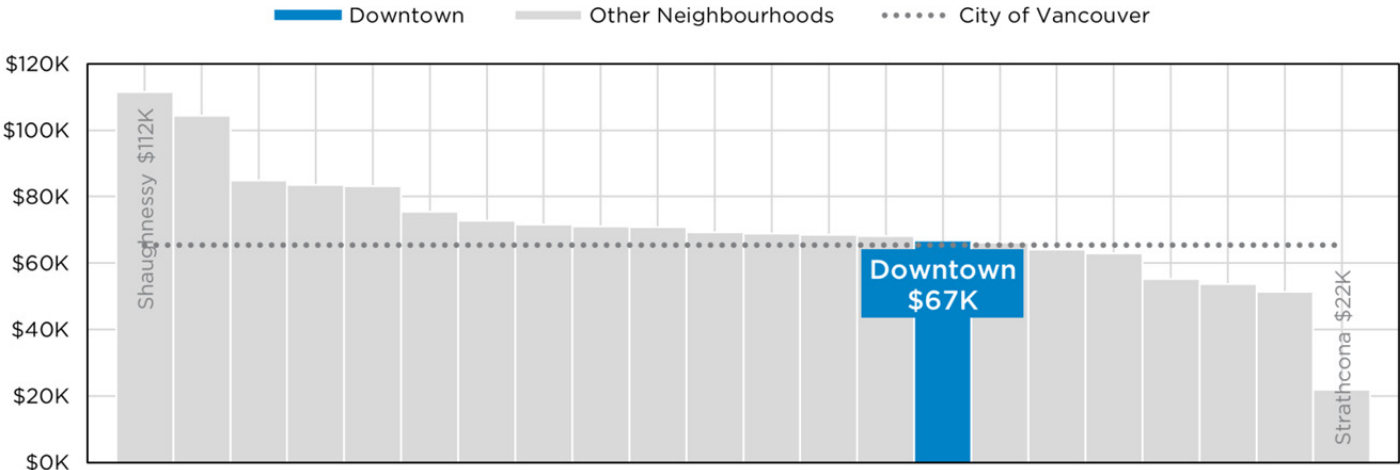
Households Spending Over 30% of Total Income on Housing, 2016

■ Downtown   ▬ Other Neighbourhoods   ••••• City of Vancouver

Strathcona 48%

Downtown
44%

Killarney 27%

46
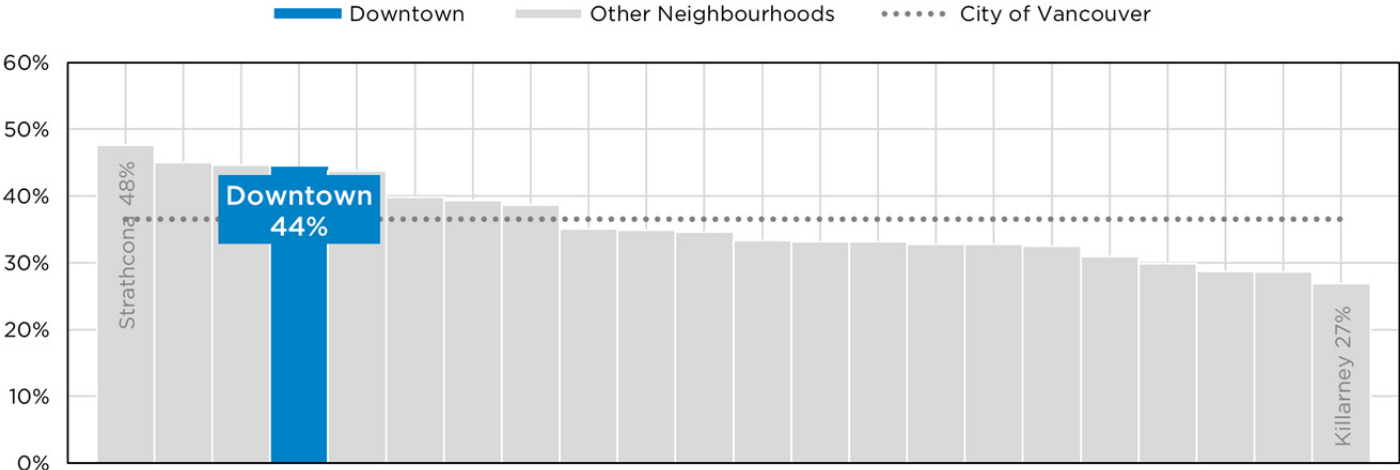
Unemployment Rate for Residents in Labour Force, 2016

— Downtown   — Other Neighbourhoods   ······ City of Vancouver

Strathcona 8.5%

Downtown 5.6%

Fairview 4.6%
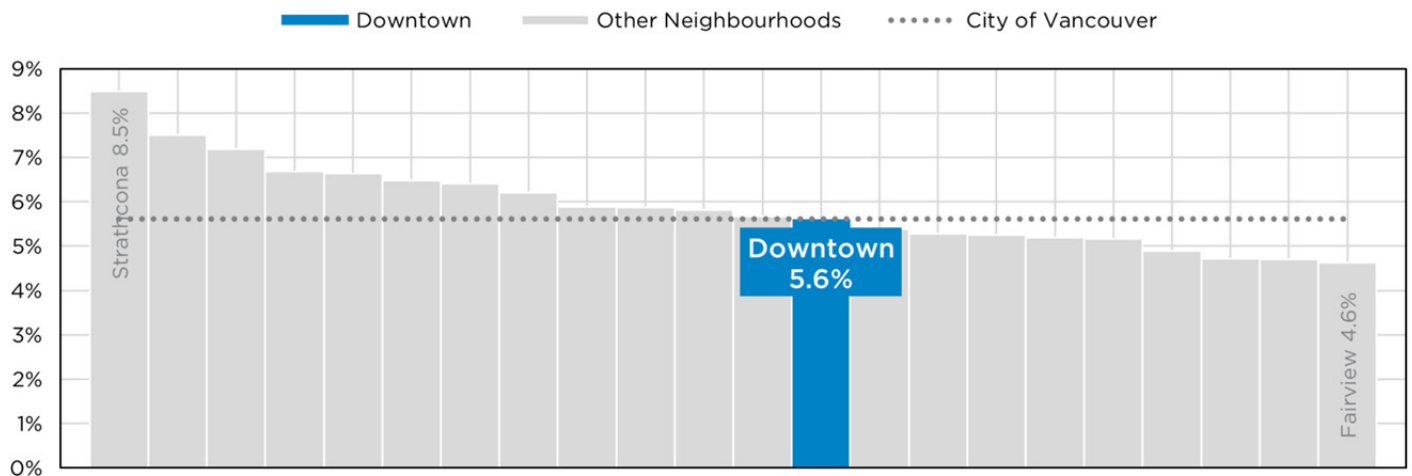
Employed Population Walking, Cycling or Transit to Work, 2016

— Downtown   — Other Neighbourhoods   ······ City of Vancouver

West End 71%

Downtown 66%

Kerrisdale 29%
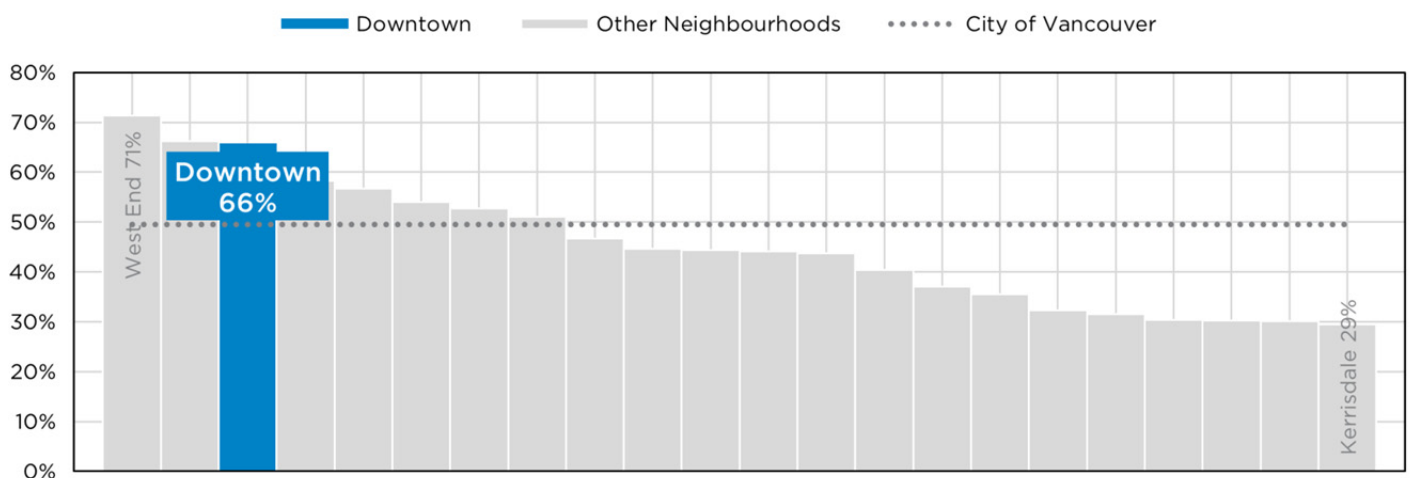
Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary Certificate, 2016

— Downtown   — Other Neighbourhoods   ······ City of Vancouver

Fairview 85%

Downtown 82%

Victoria-Fraserview 55%
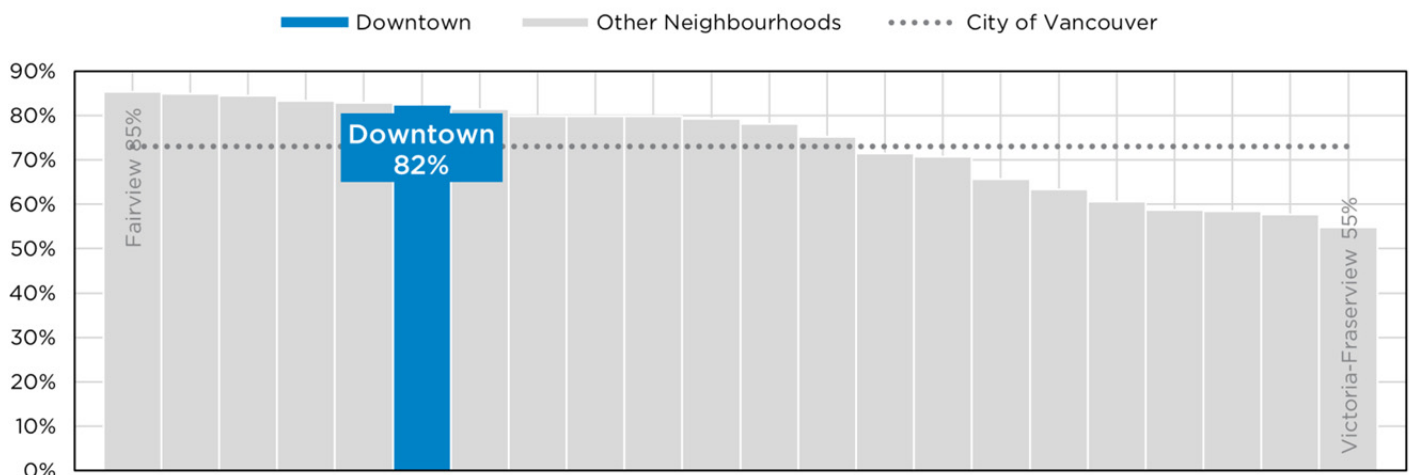
Income Poverty

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. 25% of the population living Downtown have incomes below this measure. While assessing trends over time is challenging given changing measures, the poverty rate appears to have decreased substantially over time Downtown.

Downtown: Low Income Rates, 1996-2016

Market basket measure (MBM)
Canada's official poverty line

······ Other low income lines

LICO before tax
LICO after tax
LIM after tax
25% **25%**

| 1996 Census | 2001 Census | 2006 Census | 2011 NHS | 2016 Census |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey, accessed through Community Data Program. Note that income statistics in the census program are for the previous year.

City of Vancouver: Low Income Rates, 1996-2016

Market basket measure (MBM)
Canada's official poverty line

······ Other low income lines

LICO before tax
LIM after tax
LICO after tax
22% **20%**

| 1996 Census | 2001 Census | 2006 Census | 2011 NHS | 2016 Census |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey, accessed through Community Data Program. Note that income statistics in the census program are for the previous year.

Poverty is experienced by people of all ages, but there are differences visible by age. Children, youth, older adults and seniors are more likely to experience poverty Downtown than in the city overall.

Poverty Rate by Age Group, 2016

Downtown ······ City of Vancouver

Percentage of population below Market Basket Measure, based on family disposable income in 2015

Age group

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, data accessed through Community Data Program

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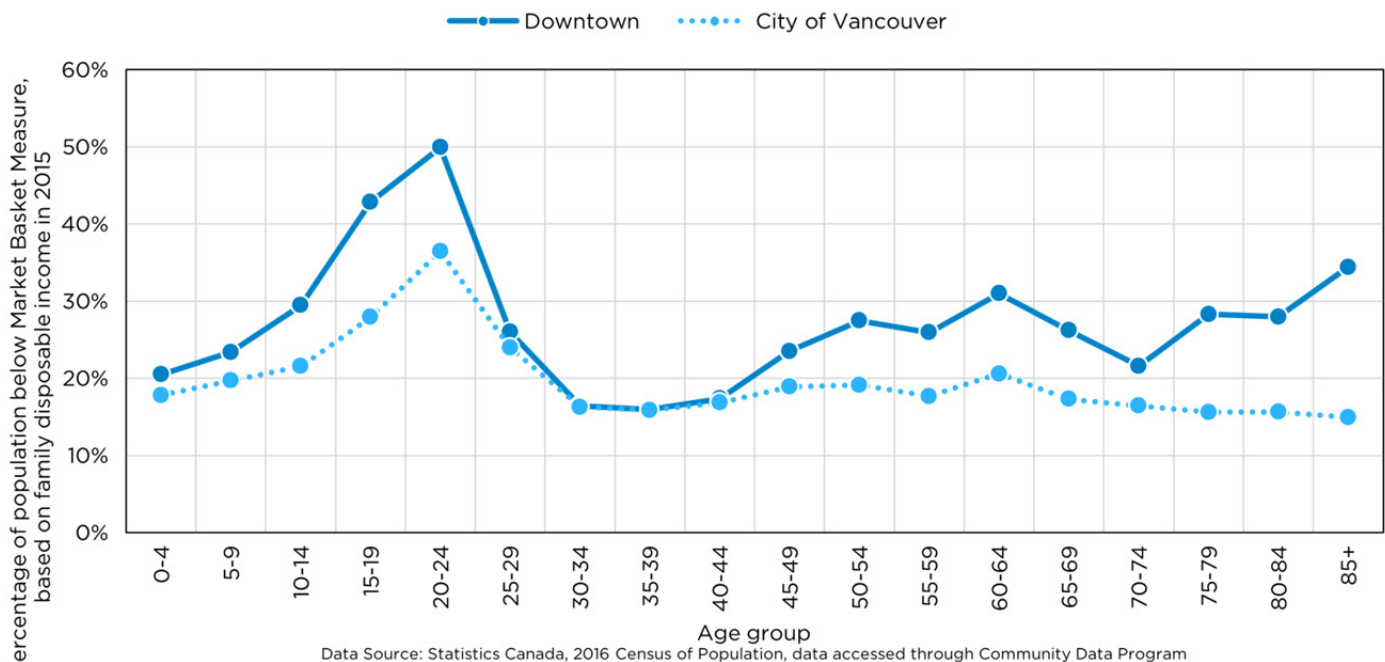
Equity and Poverty

Poverty does not strike randomly: inadequate income to meet basic needs correlates with other systems of oppression and inequity. Among Downtown residents, in addition to differences by age, people in Indigenous and racialized groups, non-English speakers, new immigrants and people with lower levels of formal education are all more likely to experience income poverty.

Downtown: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016

Legend:
- Rate for specific group within Downtown
- ⋯⋯ Overall rate in Downtown

Y-axis: Percentage below poverty line (MBM) based on family disposable income in 2015

Category	Group	Rate
Sex	Female	25%
Sex	Male	24%
Age	<25	38%
Age	25-44	19%
Age	45-64	27%
Age	65+	26%
Indigeneity/Race	Indigenous	50%
Indigeneity/Race	Black	35%
Indigeneity/Race	Other vis. minority	29%
Indigeneity/Race	White	20%
Language	Non-English first lang.	31%
Language	English first lang.	20%
Immigration	New imm or non-perm res	41%
Immigration	Established immigrant	24%
Immigration	Non-immigrant	20%
Education	No post-secondary	39%
Education	College or trade	26%
Education	University degree	18%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

Across the city, there is evidence that poverty disproportionately impacts people in Indigenous and racialized groups and newcomers, among other inequities.

City of Vancouver: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016

Legend:
- Rate for specific group within City of Vancouver
- ⋯⋯ Overall rate in City of Vancouver

Y-axis: Percentage below poverty line (MBM) based on family disposable income in 2015

Category	Group	Rate
Sex	Female	20%
Sex	Male	20%
Age	<25	26%
Age	25-44	19%
Age	45-64	19%
Age	65+	16%
Indigeneity/Race	Indigenous	41%
Indigeneity/Race	Black	29%
Indigeneity/Race	Other vis. minority	22%
Indigeneity/Race	White	17%
Language	Non-English first lang.	24%
Language	English first lang.	17%
Immigration	New imm or non-perm res	40%
Immigration	Established immigrant	19%
Immigration	Non-immigrant	17%
Education	No post-secondary	26%
Education	College or trade	20%
Education	University degree	16%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

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%. Downtown is more polarized than the city overall: about one in five Downtown residents are in the top 10%, and another one in five are in the bottom 10%.

Downtown: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

Decile	Percentage
Top 10% of Canada incomes	19%
Second 10%	12%
Third 10%	9%
Fourth 10%	7%
Fifth 10%	6%
Sixth 10%	6%
Seventh 10%	6%
Eighth 10%	7%
Nineth 10%	8%
Bottom 10% of Canada incomes	20%

12%   8%   4%   0%   4%   8%   12%
<Female   Percentage of Total Pop.   Male>
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, based on adjusted after-tax family income in 2015.

City of Vancouver: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

Decile	Percentage
Top 10% of Canada incomes	14%
Second 10%	10%
Third 10%	9%
Fourth 10%	8%
Fifth 10%	8%
Sixth 10%	8%
Seventh 10%	8%
Eighth 10%	9%
Nineth 10%	10%
Bottom 10% of Canada incomes	15%

12%   8%   4%   0%   4%   8%   12%
<Female   Percentage of Total Pop.   Male>
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, based on adjusted after-tax family income in 2015.

The graph below estimates a Gini coefficient using total personal and household income categories.[14] Downtown can be seen to have a slightly less equitable distribution of income than the city overall, but a more equitable distribution than was present in the 1990s. It is important to interpret these graphs in the context of Downtown's rapid growth throughout this period.

Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Personal Income Distribution

Downtown —— · · · · · · City of Vancouver

0.53
0.52

<Less equitable>   <More equitable>

1981 Census 1986 Census 1991 Census 1996 Census 2001 Census 2006 Census 2011 NHS 2016 Census

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey. Note that income statistics in the census program are for the previous year
Methodology based on Jens Von Bergmann, censusmapper.ca
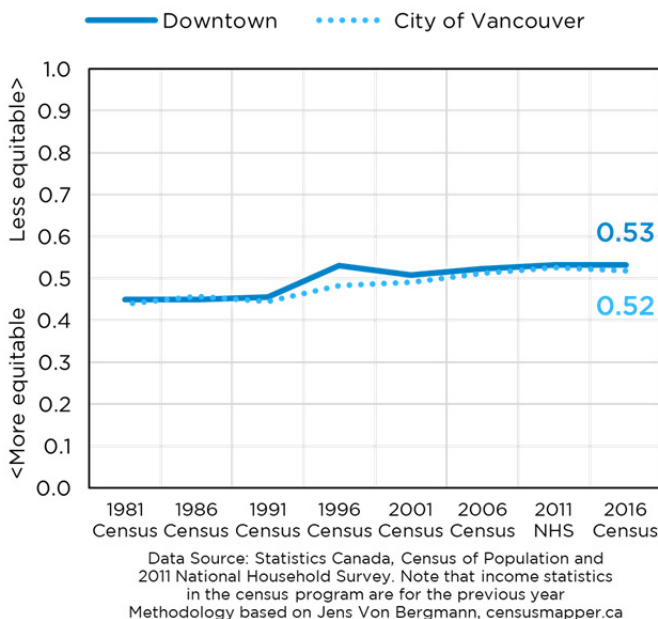
Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Household Income Distribution

Downtown —— · · · · · · City of Vancouver

0.52
0.48

<Less equitable>   <More equitable>

1981 Census 1986 Census 1991 Census 1996 Census 2001 Census 2006 Census 2011 NHS 2016 Census

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey. Note that income statistics in the census program are for the previous year
Methodology based on Jens Von Bergmann, censusmapper.ca
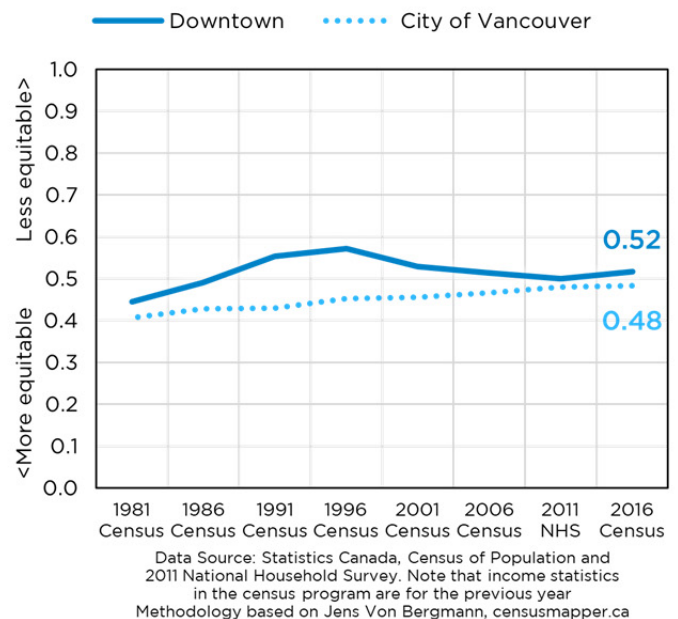
Equity and Income Distribution

Comparing 2011 to 2016 population estimates shows that Downtown has disproportionately gained people in the lower end of the national income distribution, as well as some higher-income earners, but fewer people in the middle.

Downtown: Population Estimates by National Income Decile, 2011-2016

■ 2011 NHS   ■ 2016 Census   ✛ Increasing at faster rate than overall population growth

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Deciles are based on adjusted after-tax family income in previous year
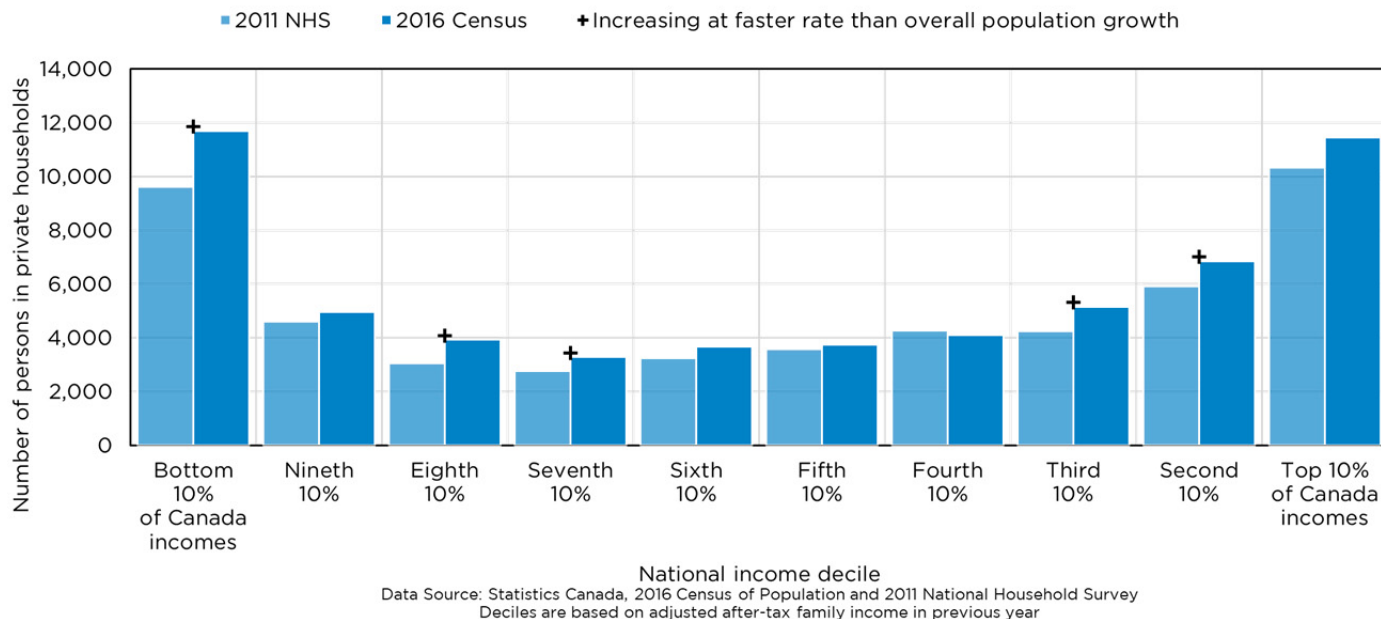
Income inequity and polarization again intersect with other forms of inequity experienced by different groups in the city. In Downtown, younger people are much more likely to be in the bottom of the income distribution, and there are also divisions by Indigeneity, race and immigration status.

Downtown: Income Distribution by Demographics, 2016

■ Bottom 30% of Canada-wide income   ■ Middle 40% of Canada-wide income   ■ Top 30% of Canada-wide income

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

51
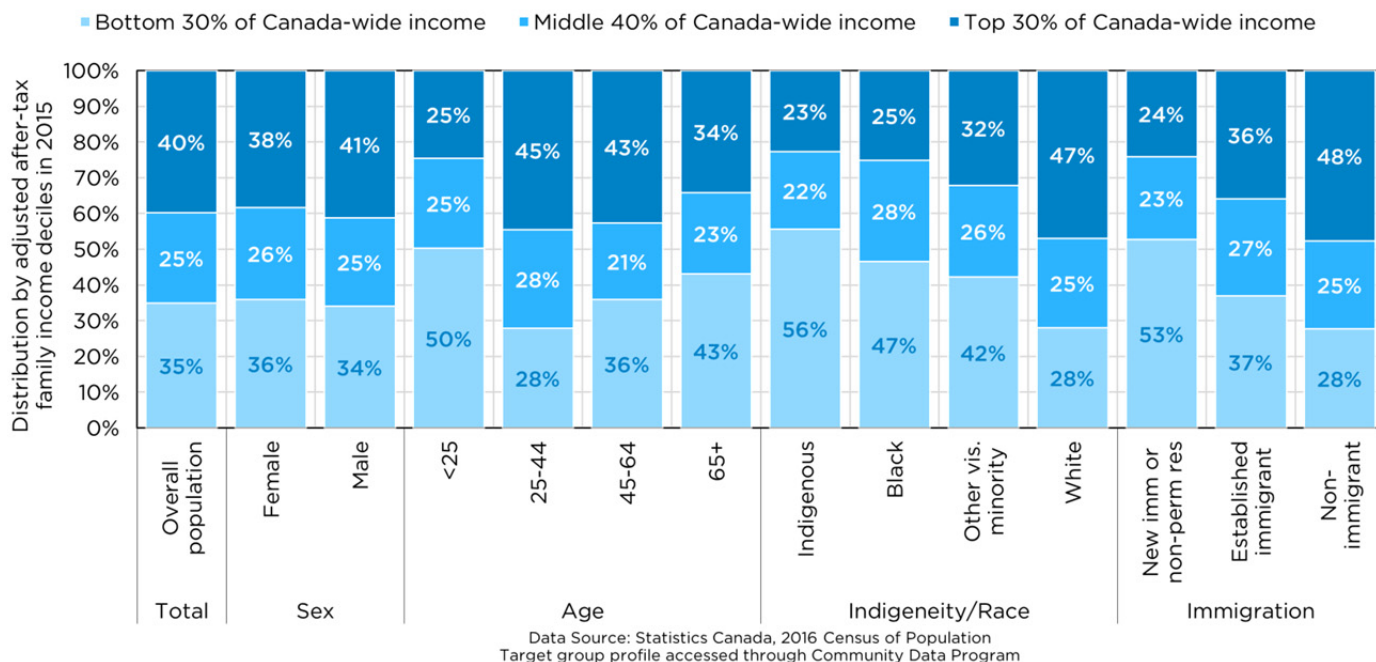
Individual Income

Among people 15 years of age and older, 98% of Downtown residents reported having income in the year prior to the 2016 census.[15] Three quarters of Downtown residents reported employment income and 58% reported income from government transfers.

Persons Reporting Different Sources of Income, 2016

Downtown
55K persons 15+

City of Vancouver
549K persons 15+

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
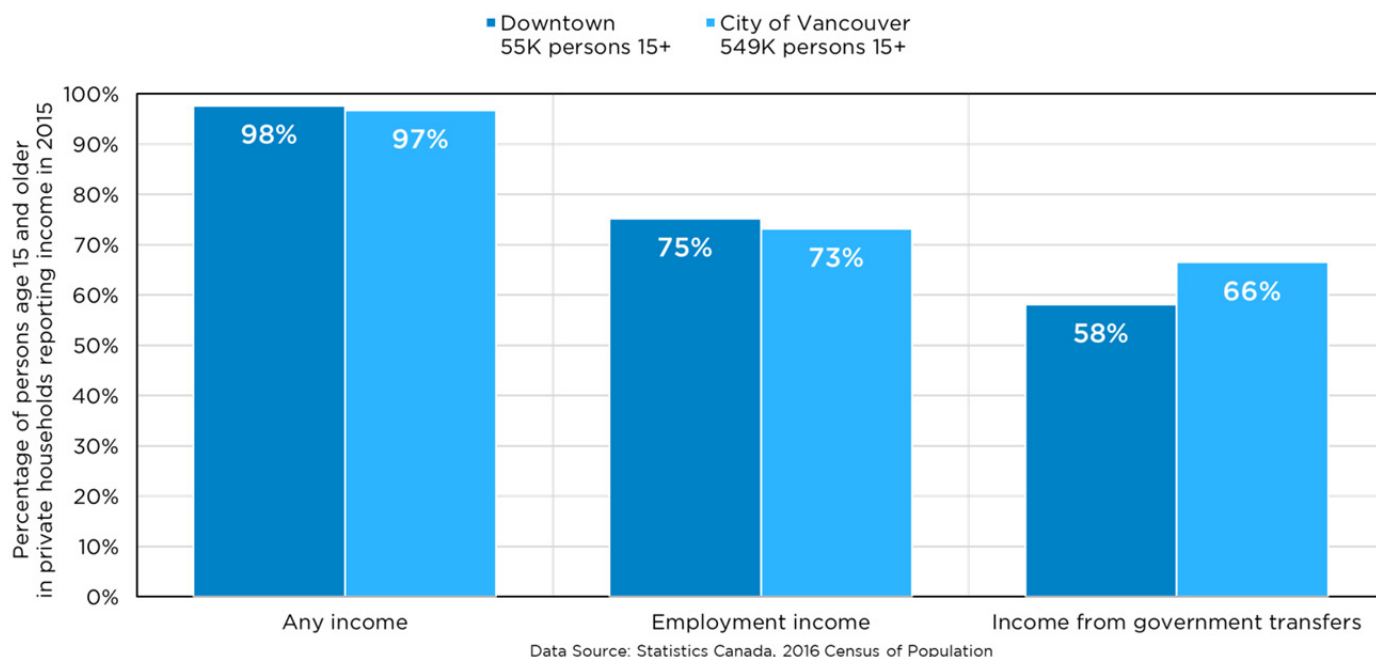
The overall distribution of personal income Downtown skews toward higher income brackets than the city as a whole.

Distribution of Total Personal Income, 2016

Downtown
Total 15+ with income: 54K

City of Vancouver
Total 15+ with income: 530K

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
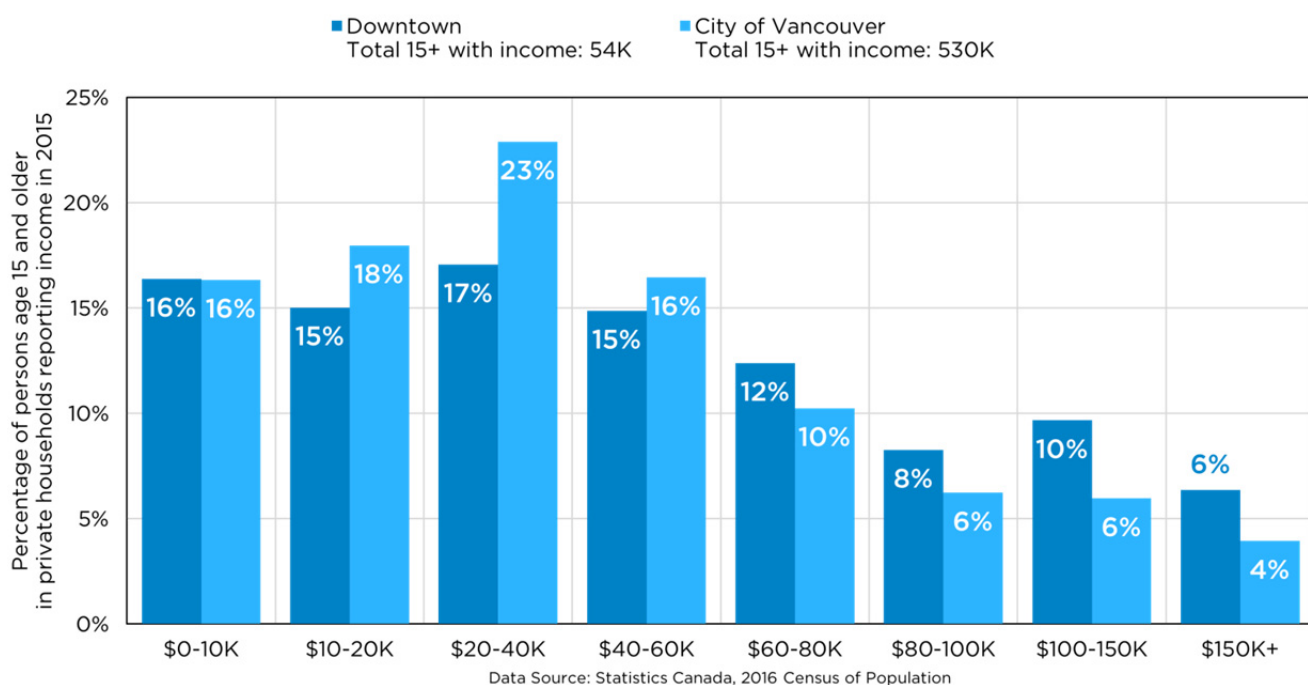
Equity and Individual Income

Adjusted for inflation,[16] median personal income Downtown increased throughout the 1990s and 2000s and is now higher than the median for city residents overall. There is a larger gender gap among median income for Downtown residents than there is across the city overall.

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

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Note: income statistics in the census program are for the previous year
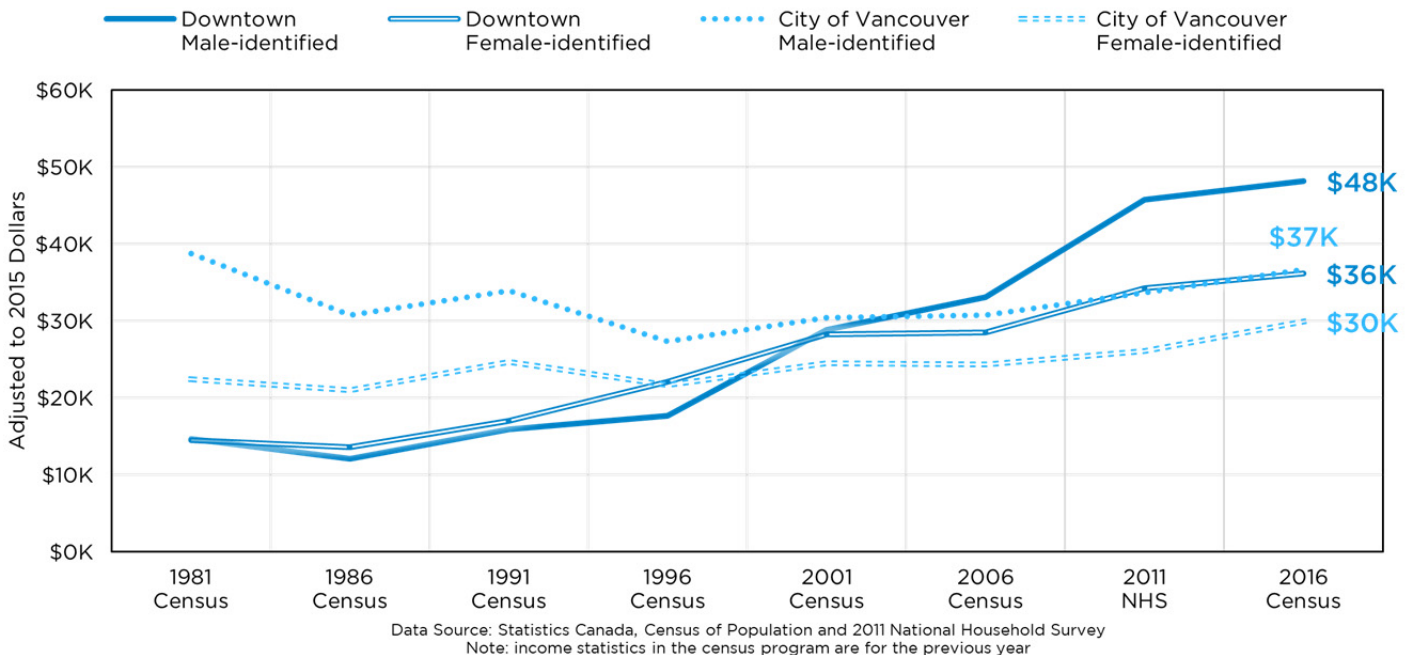
There are also important inequities in median income based on people's Indigenous and racial identities. Among the Downtown population, Indigenous, West Asian and Arab populations have the lowest median income while South Asian populations and populations that are not visible minorities have the highest.

Median Personal Income by Population Group, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
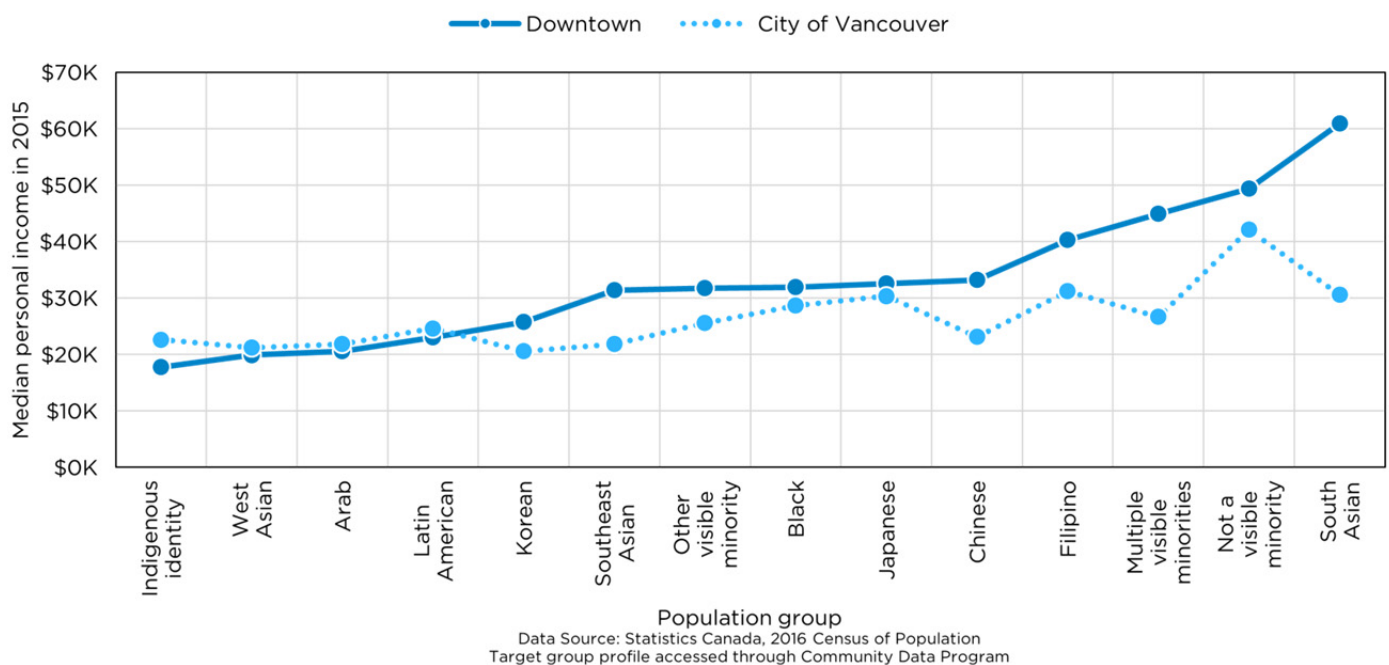
Family Income

Median family income is higher Downtown for families without children, and slightly lower for families with children.

Median Total Family Income by Family Type, 2016

■ Downtown   ■ City of Vancouver

Median income reported in 2015 by census families in private households

- Couples without children: Downtown $112K, City of Vancouver $90K
- Couples with children: Downtown $108K, City of Vancouver $112K
- Lone parent-led families: Downtown $50K, City of Vancouver $53K

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
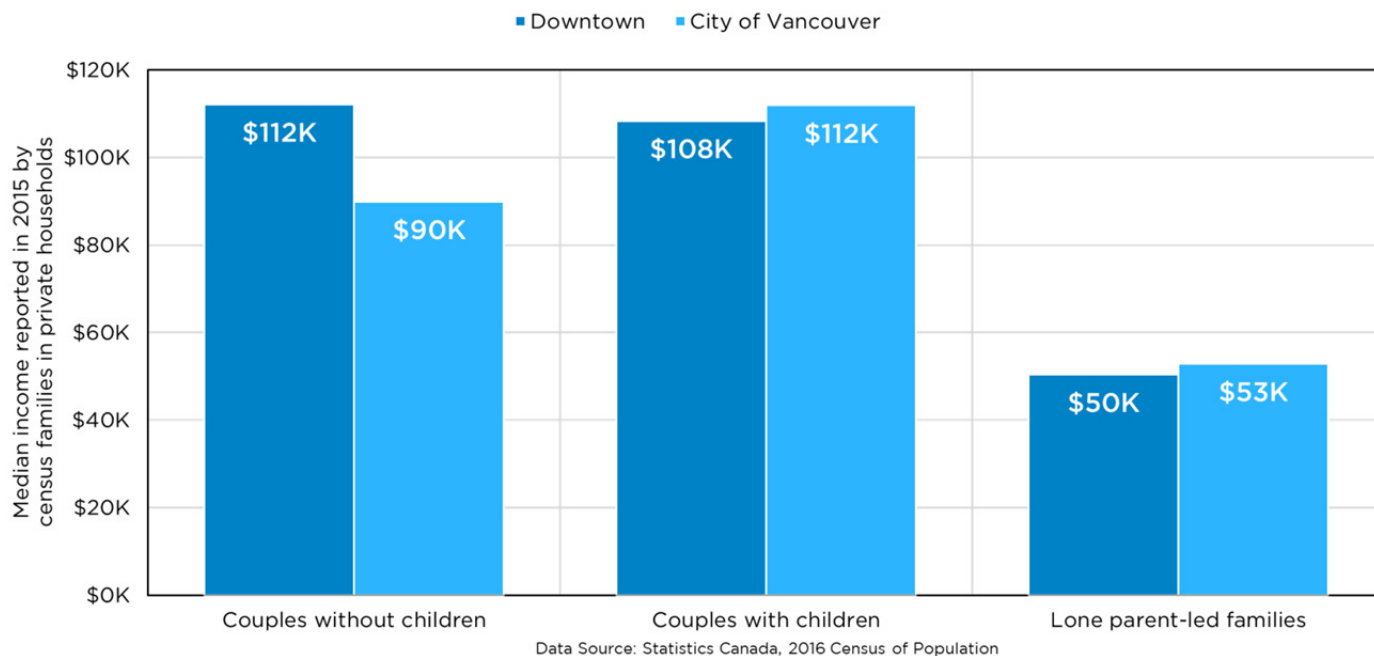
Median income for overall Downtown families has consistently grown faster than inflation, with particular growth in the 1990s causing the median for Downtown families to exceed the citywide median. As of the 2016 census median family income is over $100 thousand.

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

—— Downtown   ····· City of Vancouver

Adjusted to 2015 Dollars

- 1981 Census: Downtown $40K, City of Vancouver $70K
- 1986 Census: City of Vancouver $62K
- 1991 Census: Downtown $49K, City of Vancouver $68K
- 1996 Census: Downtown $65K, City of Vancouver $59K
- 2001 Census: Downtown $83K, City of Vancouver $72K
- 2006 Census: Downtown $84K, City of Vancouver $74K
- 2011 NHS: Downtown $91K, City of Vancouver $82K
- 2016 Census: Downtown $101K, City of Vancouver $91K

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Note: income statistics in the census program are for the previous year

Household Income

Compared to households across the city, Downtown has a higher share in the lowest income bracket, with 16% of households having total income under $15 thousand. However, the area has relatively more households than the city in brackets over $100 thousand.

Distribution of Total Household Income, 2016

■ Downtown
35K households

■ City of Vancouver
284K households

Income Bracket	Downtown	City of Vancouver
$0-15K	16%	10%
$15-30K	12%	13%
$30-50K	13%	16%
$50-70K	12%	14%
$70-100K	16%	16%
$100-150K	16%	15%
$150K-200K	7%	7%
$200K+	9%	8%

Y-axis: Percentage of private households reporting total income in 2015

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
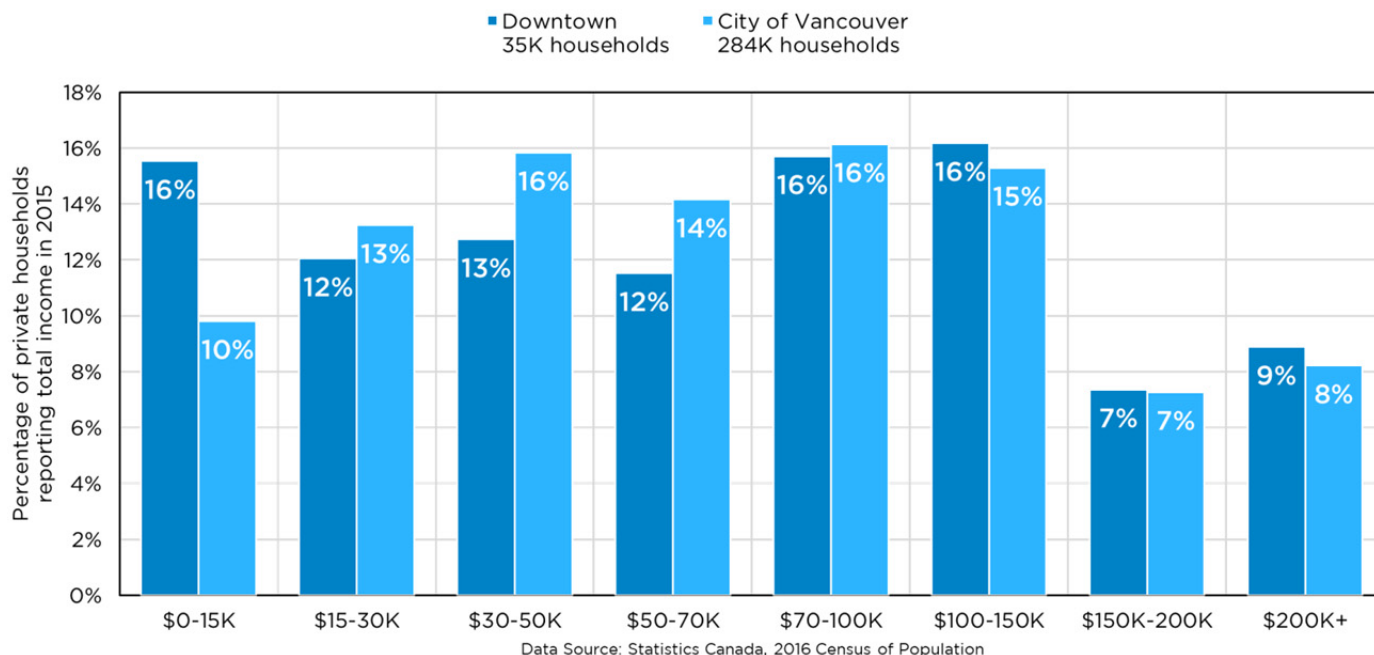
As of the 2016 census, Downtown has median household income very close to the citywide median. This is a substantial change from historical trends: again, the 1990s and early 2000s saw Downtown households' median income grow far in excess of inflation.

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

—— Downtown   ····· City of Vancouver

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1981 Census	$29K	$54K
1986 Census	$14K	$47K
1991 Census	$17K	$54K
1996 Census	$22K	$48K
2001 Census	$40K	$53K
2006 Census	$51K	$54K
2011 NHS	$64K	$60K
2016 Census	$67K	$65K

Y-axis: Adjusted to 2015 Dollars

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Note: income statistics in the census program are for the previous year

Housing Costs

Average rent has increased by more than 39% above inflation over ten years in Downtown, compared to 25% across the city overall. The average reported value of an owned dwelling Downtown is $0.9 million, a 213% increase above inflation since 2006.[17]

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

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
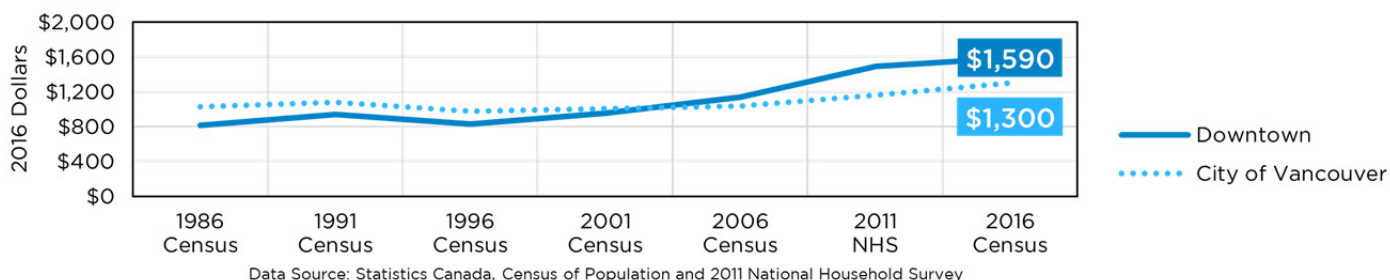
Average Reported Dwelling Value, 1996-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
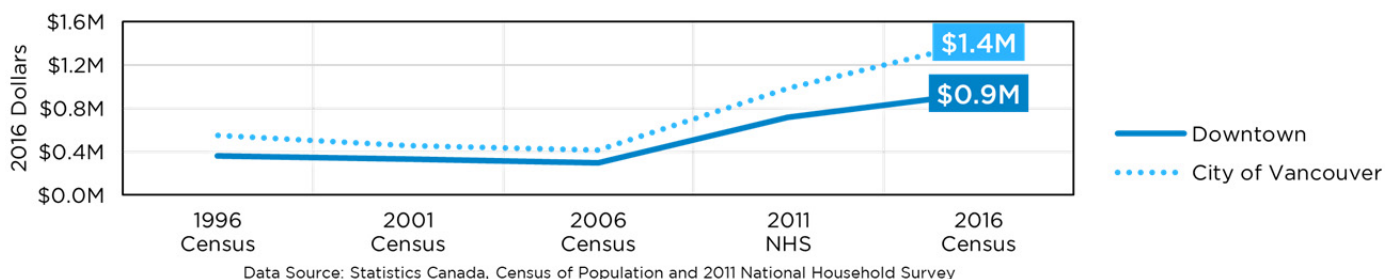
About 50% of renters and 37% of owners Downtown are spending more than 30% of their total income on housing costs, a higher rate than for households in the city overall.[18]

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

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Note: calculation includes households whose shelter costs are greater than total income
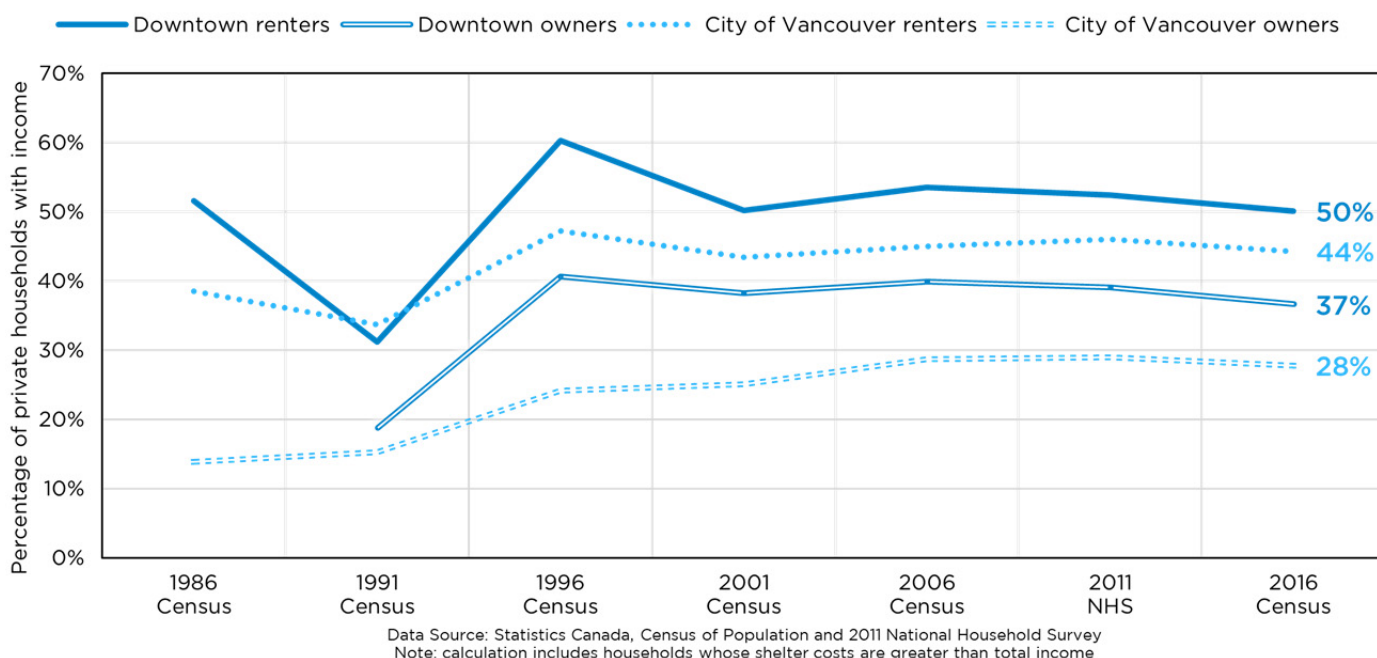
Labour Force

The labour force participation rate among has consistently increased among the Downtown population. As of 2016, nearly three-quarters of Downtown residents age 15 or older are in the labour force.

Labour Force Participation Rate, 1981-2016

Downtown ⎯⎯⎯ City of Vancouver ┈┈┈┈

Percentage of persons age 15+ in private households

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1981 Census	53%	66%
1986 Census	51%	67%
1991 Census	56%	68%
1996 Census	65%	65%
2001 Census	67%	65%
2006 Census	69%	66%
2011 NHS	73%	67%
2016 Census	73%	68%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
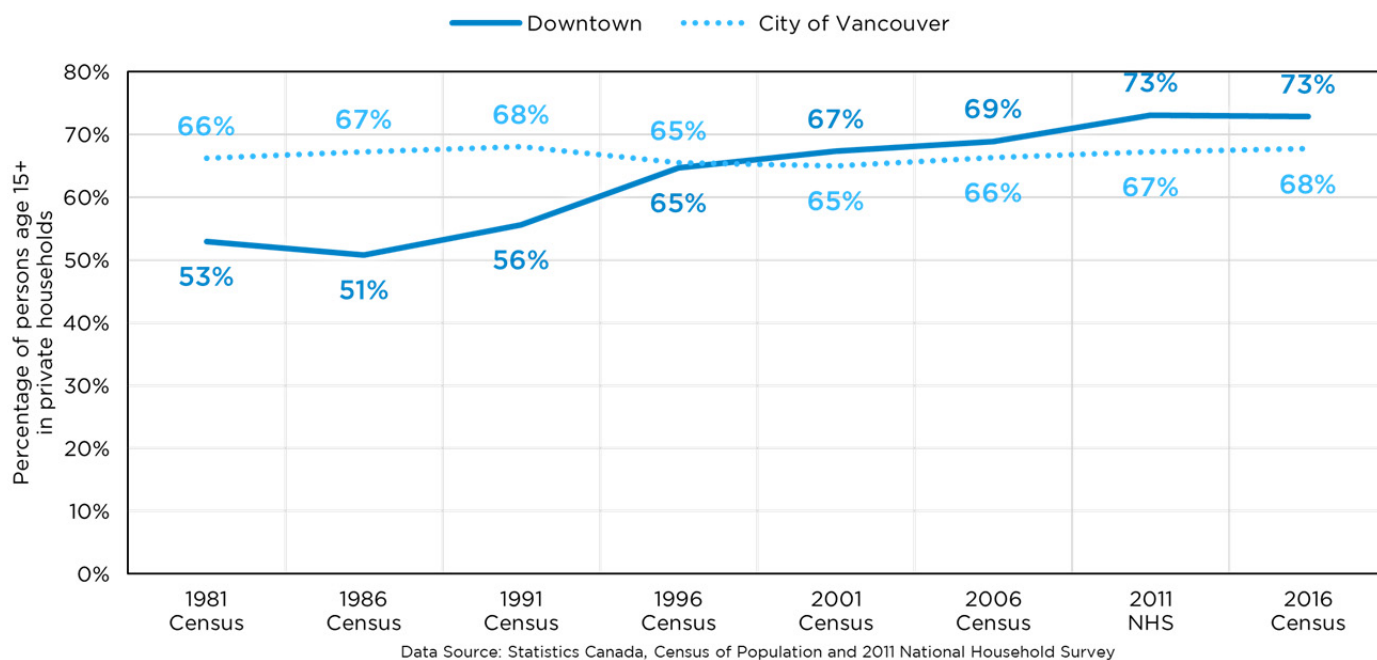
The unemployment rate for Downtown is now very similar to the city overall.[19] In 2016 6% of Downtown residents were in the labour force looking for work but unable to access it.

Unemployment Rate, 1981-2016

Downtown ⎯⎯⎯ City of Vancouver ┈┈┈┈

Percentage of persons in private households who are in the labour force

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
1981 Census	19%	6%
1986 Census	38%	13%
1991 Census	28%	11%
1996 Census	16%	10%
2001 Census	11%	8%
2006 Census	6%	6%
2011 NHS	7%	7%
2016 Census	6%	6%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
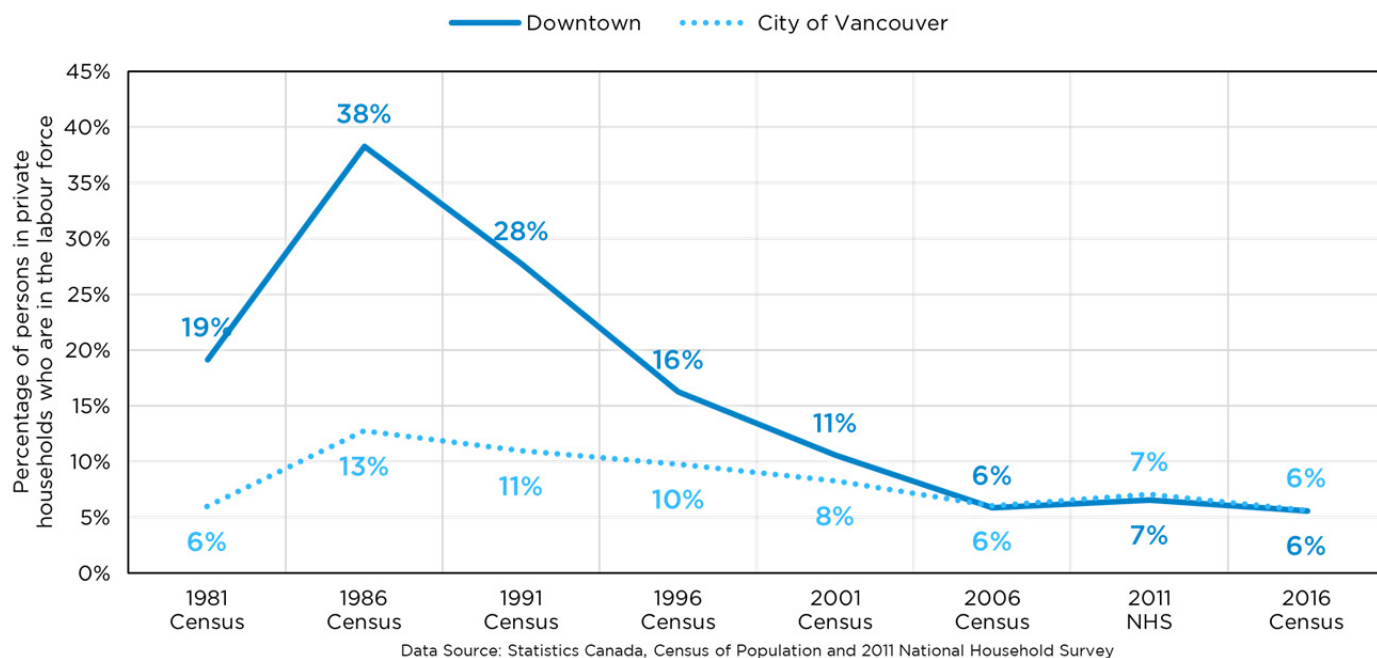
Equity and Labour Force Outcomes

Differential rates of participation in the labour force may arise for a number of reasons. As shown below, female residents, people with less formal education and people in lower income groups are less likely to participate in the workforce.

Downtown: Labour Force Participation by Demographic, 2016

Rate for specific group within Downtown ······ Overall rate in Downtown

Percentage of total pop. 15+ in the labour force

Category	Value
Female	69%
Male	76%
<25	57%
25-44	88%
45-64	70%
65+	21%
Indigenous	59%
Black	76%
Other vis. minority	68%
White	77%
Non-English first lang.	67%
English first lang.	78%
New imm or non-perm res	70%
Established immigrant	67%
Non-immigrant	78%
No post-secondary	54%
College or trade	72%
University degree	82%
Bottom 30% in Canada	55%
Middle 40% in Canada	80%
Top 30% in Canada	85%

Sex | Age | Indigeneity/Race | Language | Immigration | Education | Income

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

Unemployment among Downtown residents is disproportionately experienced by Indigenous and Black residents, with other inequities visible by age, language, immigration, formal education and income as well.

Downtown: Unemployment Rate by Demographic, 2016

Rate for specific group within Downtown ······ Overall rate in Downtown

Percentage of labour force population unemployed

Category	Value
Female	6%
Male	5%
<25	10%
25-44	5%
45-64	6%
65+	3%
Indigenous	14%
Black	15%
Other vis. minority	6%
White	5%
Non-English first lang.	6%
English first lang.	5%
New imm or non-perm res	8%
Established immigrant	5%
Non-immigrant	5%
No post-secondary	8%
College or trade	6%
University degree	5%
Bottom 30% in Canada	12%
Middle 40% in Canada	4%
Top 30% in Canada	3%

Sex | Age | Indigeneity/Race | Language | Immigration | Education | Income

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

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Employment Security

More precarious employment is a current public policy concern. Downtown residents, however, are more likely than residents of the city overall to be in full-year, full-time employment, with more than half of residents in this category in 2016.

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

—— Downtown   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
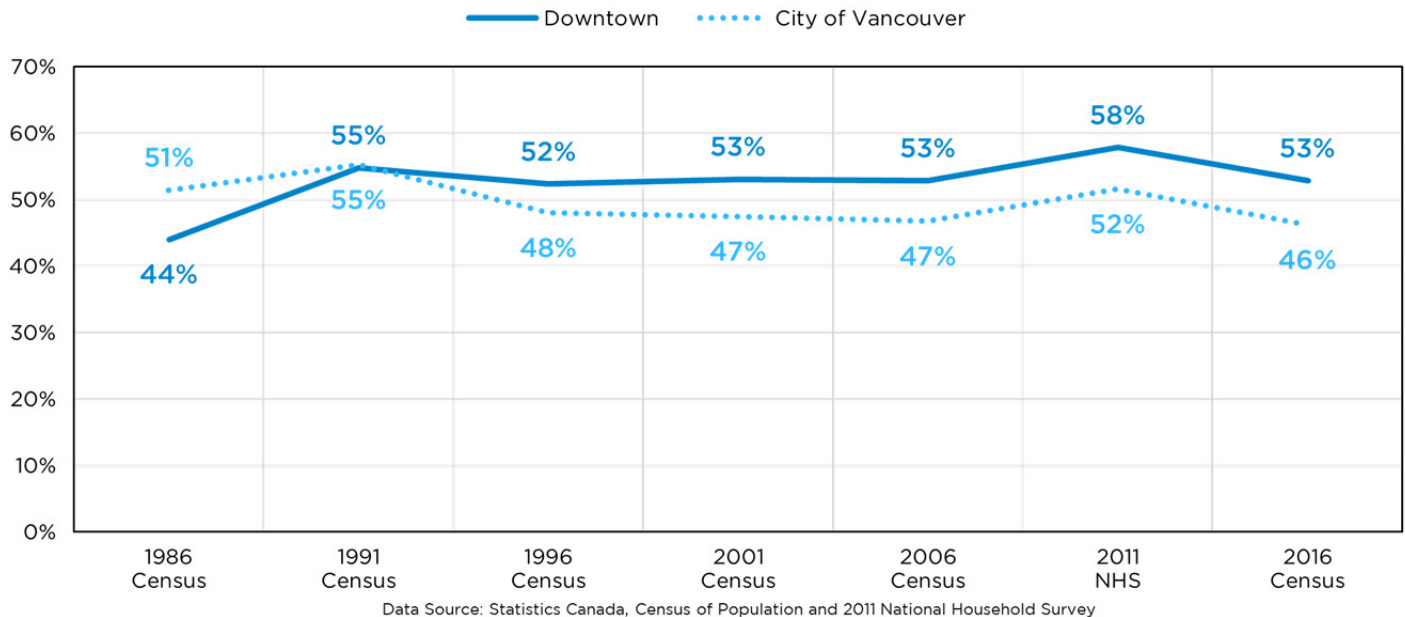
Access to full-time work is not equitably distributed across the population, with some populations more likely to experience precarious employment. People living Downtown are less likely to be in full-time work if they are female, younger, older, Indigenous, racialized, new immigrants, less educated or lower-income.

Downtown: Rate of Full-Time Work by Demographic, 2016

▇ Rate for specific group within Downtown   ⋯⋯ Overall rate in Downtown

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
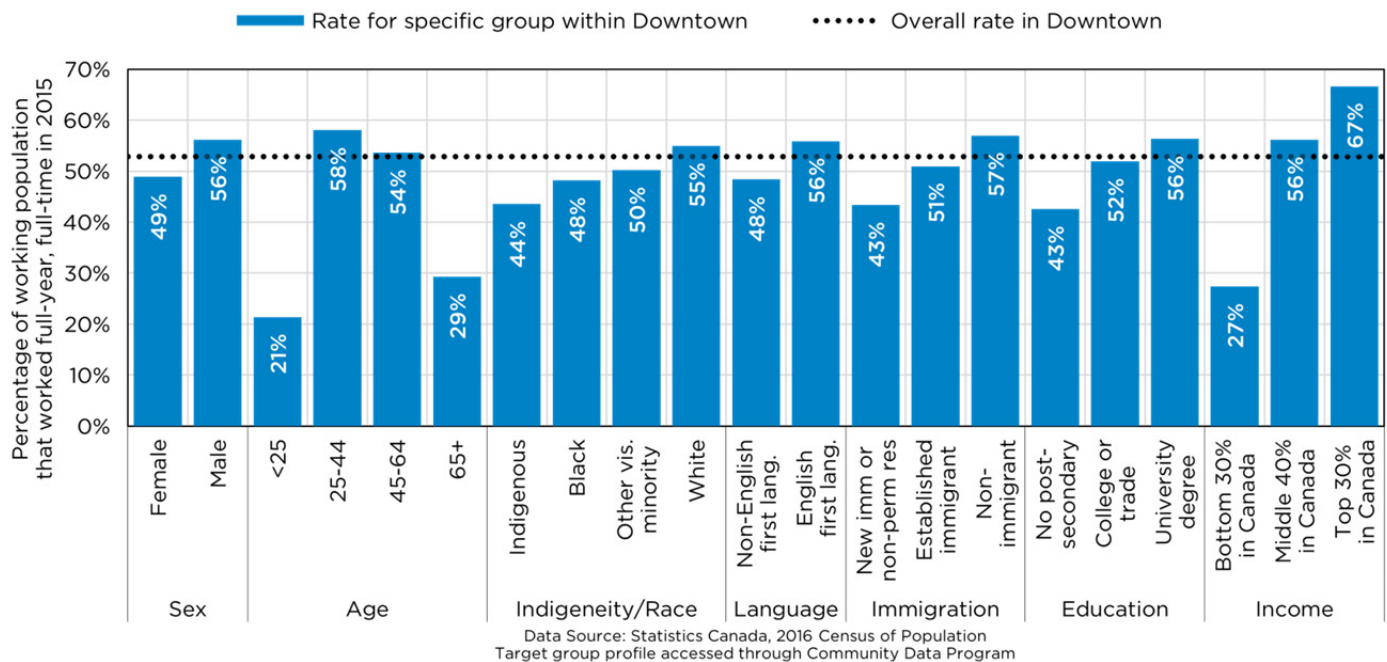
Journey to Work

The nature of work is changing over time as industries, technologies and the regional distribution of jobs change. About three quarters of Downtown residents work inside the city, a consistently higher rate than residents of other neighbourhoods.

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

Legend: —— Downtown ······ City of Vancouver

Downtown values: 74% (1991), 76% (1996), 74% (2001), 72% (2006), 72% (2011), 75% (2016)

City of Vancouver values: 71% (1991), 68% (1996), 67% (2001), 66% (2006), 68% (2011), 68% (2016)

Y-axis: Percentage of working population that has a usual place of work

X-axis: 1991 Census, 1996 Census, 2001 Census, 2006 Census, 2011 NHS, 2016 Census

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

Downtown residents have shorter commutes than the city overall, with more than two-thirds of workers taking under half an hour to get to work. Downtown residents are more likely to leave for work between 8 am and noon and less likely to leave during early morning or night periods.

Length of Work Commute, 2016

Legend: ■ Downtown 33K commuters ■ City of Vancouver 316K commuters

Y-axis: Cumulative Percentage of Employed Commuters

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Under 15 min	28%	17%
Under 30 min	69%	56%
Under 45 min	89%	84%
Under 1 hour	96%	94%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
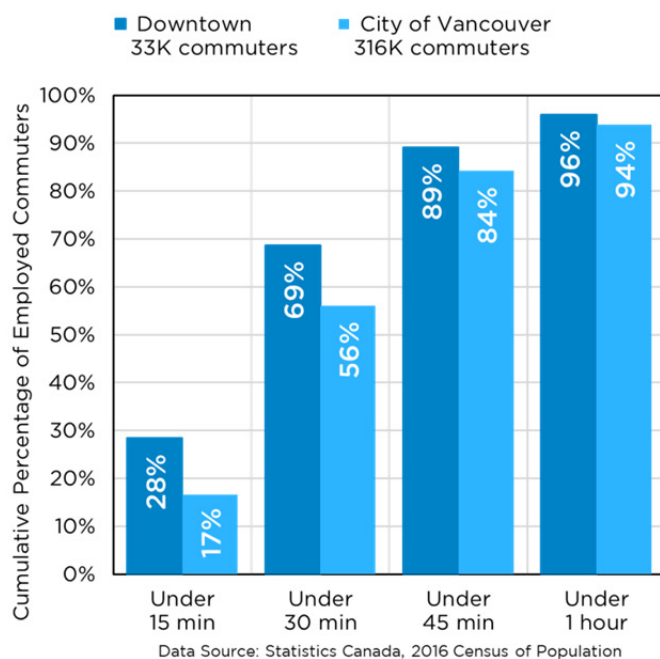
Time Leaving for Work, 2016

Legend: ■ Downtown 33K commuters ■ City of Vancouver 316K commuters

Y-axis: Percentage of Employed Commuters

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
5 to 6 am	3%	4%
6 to 7 am	9%	12%
7 to 8 am	23%	23%
8 to 9 am	34%	28%
9 am to noon	21%	19%
noon to 5 am	11%	14%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
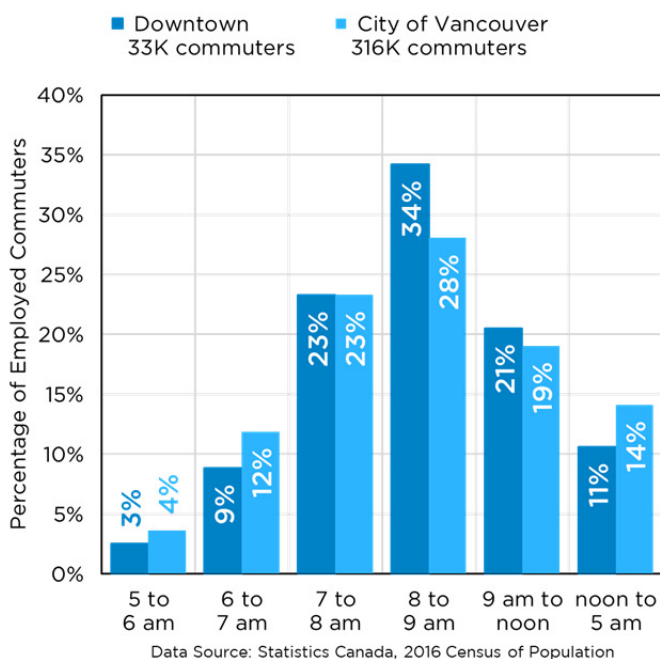
Mode of Transportation to Work

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 Downtown are more than three times more likely as residents of the city overall to walk to work.

Employed Population by Main Mode of Travel to Work, 2016

■ Walking ■ Cycling ■ Transit ■ Car passenger ■ Car driver ■ Other

	Walking	Cycling	Transit	Car passenger	Car driver	Other
Downtown 33K commuters	41%	3%	21%	2%	30%	2%
City of Vancouver 315K commuters	14%	6%	30%	4%	45%	1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
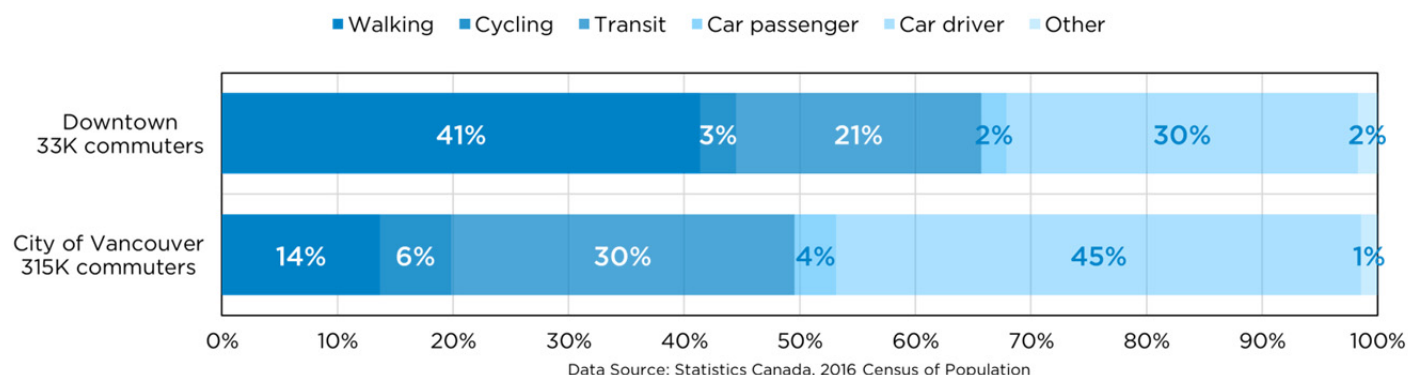
Most commuters who live Downtown use sustainable transportation modes to get to work. In 2016, two-thirds of people living in the neighbourhood and commuting to a usual workplace used non-automobile modes to get to work.

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

——— Downtown   ····· City of Vancouver

Percentage of working population that has a usual place of work

Downtown: 59% (1996), 56% (2006), 62% (2011), 66% (2016)

City of Vancouver: 38% (1996), 41% (2006), 47% (2011), 49% (2016)

1996 Census | 2001 Census (Excluded due to transit strike) | 2006 Census | 2011 NHS | 2016 Census

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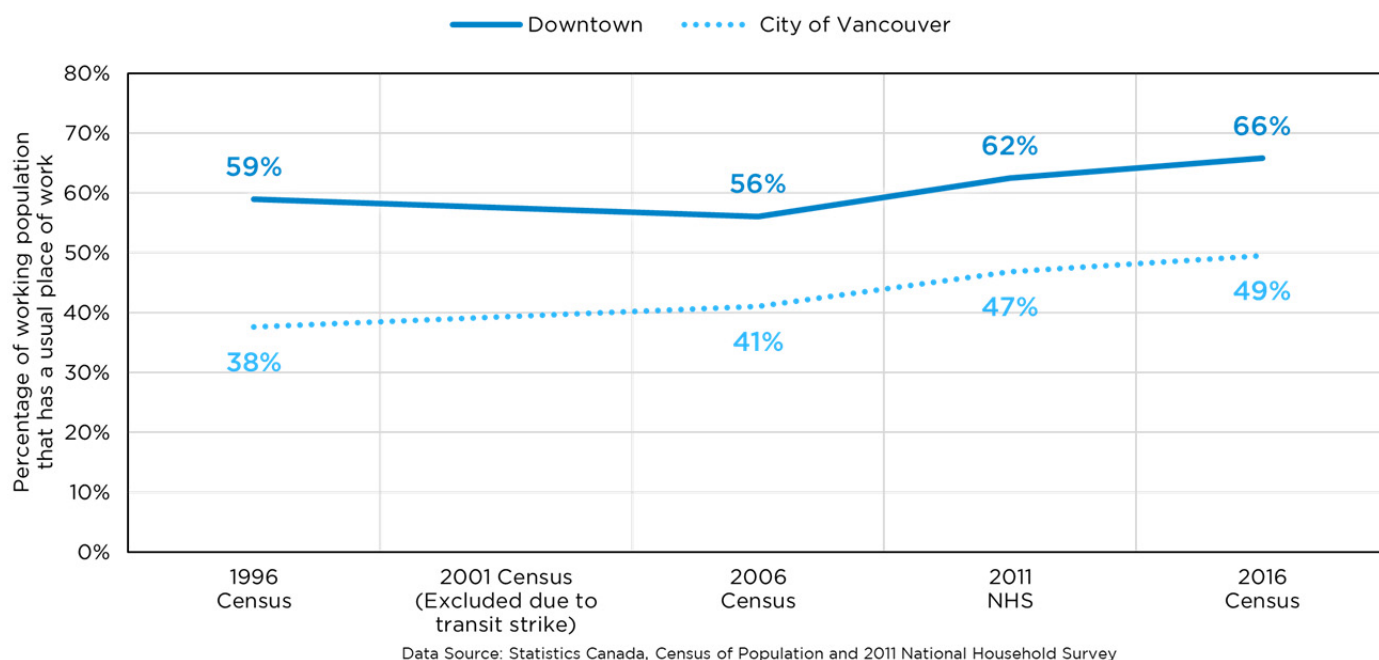
Equity and Transportation

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 some groups may indicate disparities in length of commute, workplace facilities, safe infrastructure and other factors.

Downtown: Active Commuters by Demographic, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
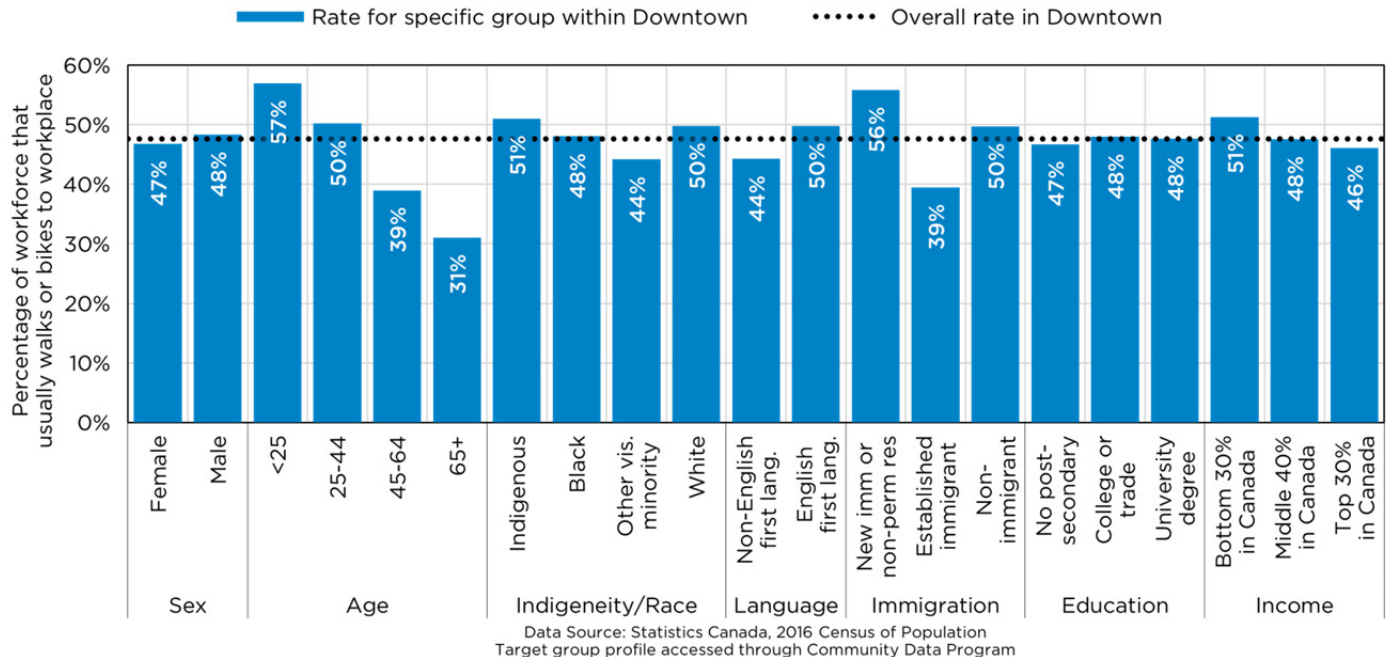
Meanwhile, public transit is disproportionately used as the main mode of travel by people in a number of equity-seeking groups, including female, Black, new immigrant and lower-income workers.

Downtown: Transit Commuters by Demographic, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

62
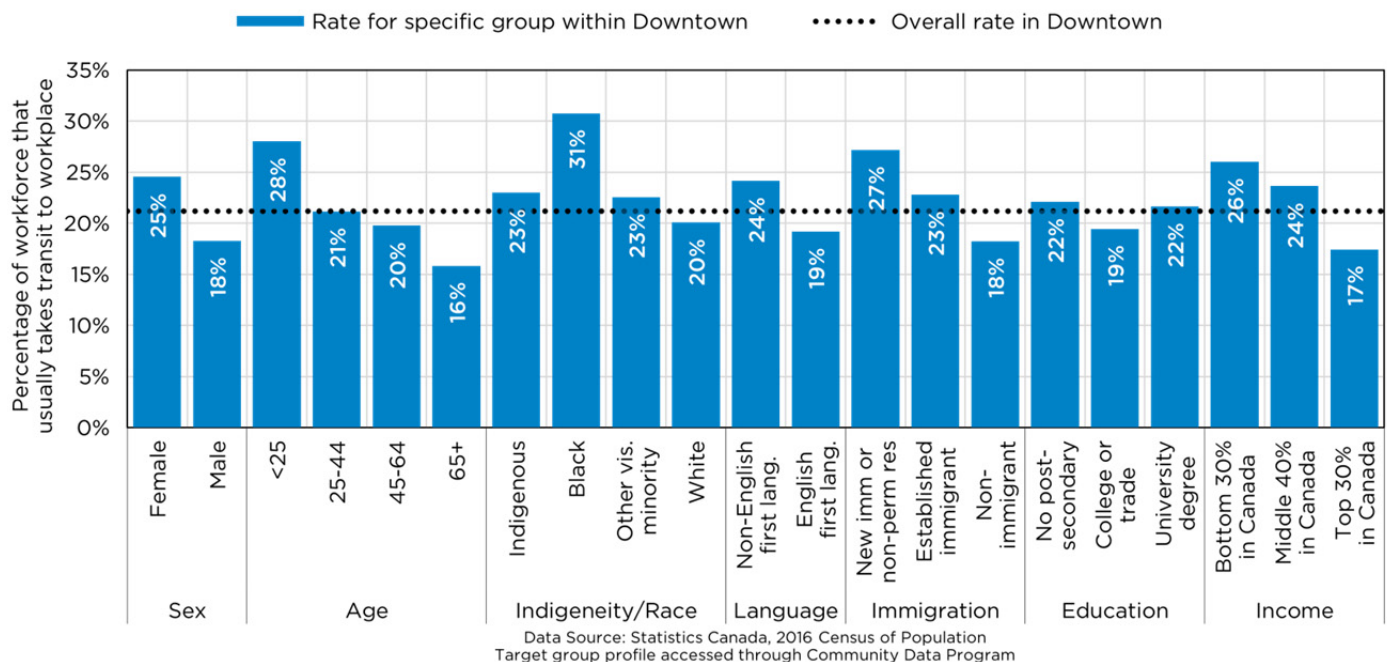
Industries and Occupations

As of 2016, the top three industries[20] employing Downtown residents are: professional, scientific and technical services; accommodation and food services; and retail trade. Downtown residents stand out for the concentration of employment in professional, scientific and technical industries.

Industry Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016

■ Downtown
Pop. 15+ with industry: 39K

■ City of Vancouver
Pop. 15+ with industry: 365K

Industry	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Professional, scientific, tech	21%	13%
Accommodation, food service	9%	10%
Retail	9%	10%
Health, social assistance	8%	11%
Information, culture	8%	6%
Finance, insurance	8%	5%
Education	6%	9%
Real estate, rental	4%	3%
Wholesale trade	4%	3%
Construction	3%	5%
Public admin	3%	3%
Admin, support, waste mgmt	3%	4%
Other service	3%	5%
Manufacturing	3%	5%
Transport, warehousing	3%	4%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	3%	3%
Mining, oil and gas	0.8%	0.4%
Utilities	0.6%	0.4%
Management	0.5%	0.3%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	0.4%	0.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Top occupations for Downtown residents are: business, finance and administration; sales and service; and management,[21] quite different from the city overall.

Occupation Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016

■ Downtown
Pop. 15+ with occupation: 39K

■ City of Vancouver
Pop. 15+ with occupation: 365K

Occupation	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Business, finance, administration	20%	16%
Sales, service	19%	25%
Management	18%	12%
Sciences	13%	9%
Education, law, public services	11%	13%
Art, culture, recreation	9%	8%
Health	6%	7%
Trades, transport	3%	7%
Manufacturing, utilities	1%	2%
Natural resources, agriculture	0.3%	1%
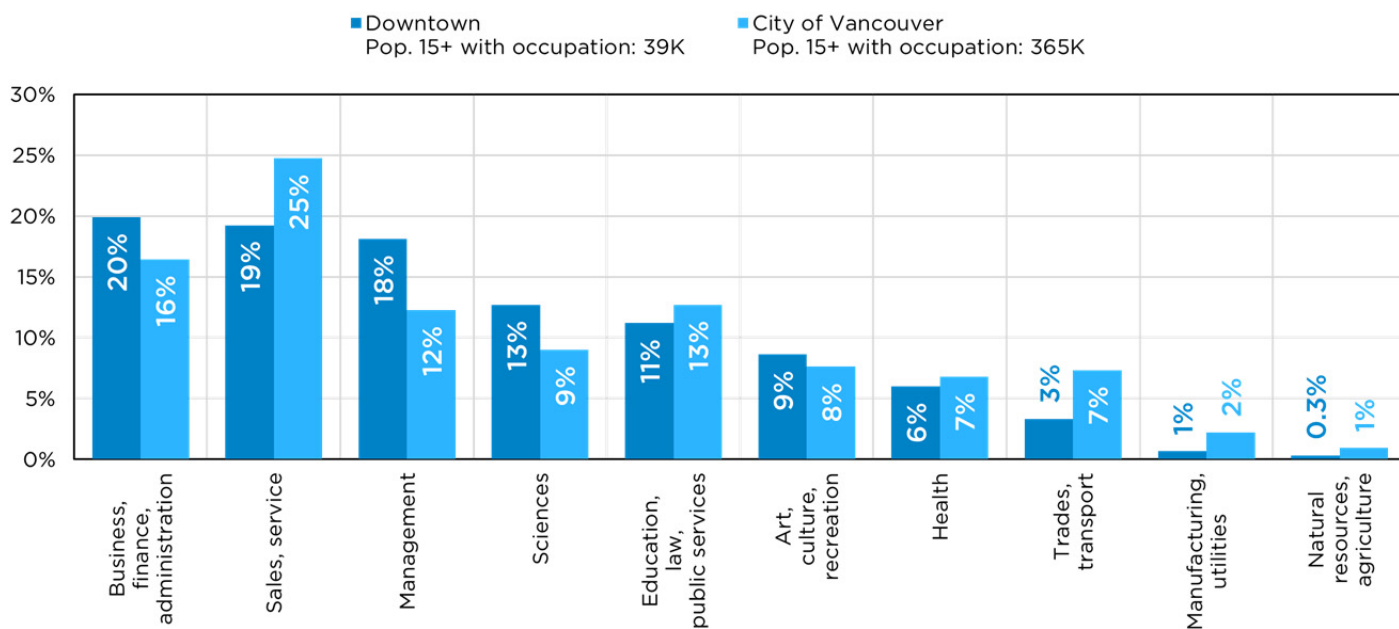
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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. Downtown's workforce is increasingly concentrated in creative and financial industries.

Downtown: Labour Force by Broad Industries 2001-2016

■ 2001 Census ■ 2006 Census ■ 2011 NHS ■ 2016 Census

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Industry classification varies between census periods so categories may not be consistent
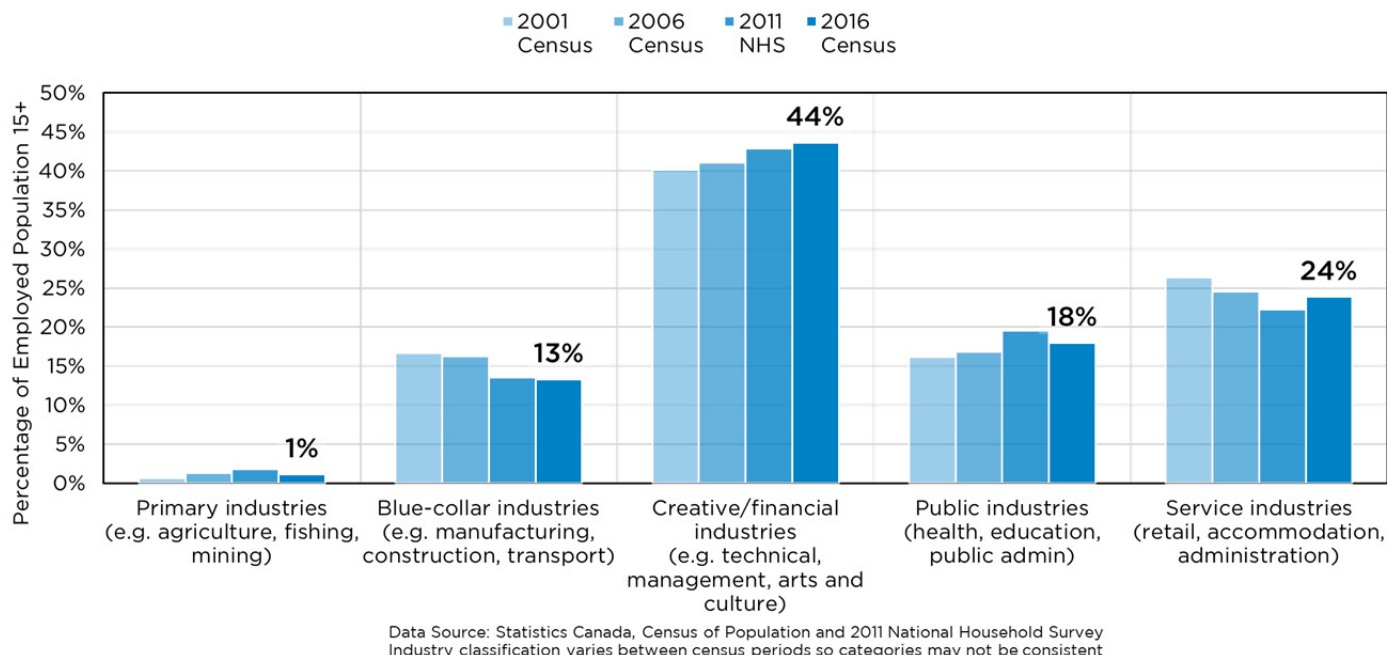
Trends Downtown are similar to those in the City of Vancouver overall, but with a different magnitude. Across the city the workforce is less likely to work in blue-collar industries and more likely to work in creative and financial industries over time.

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

■ 2001 Census ■ 2006 Census ■ 2011 NHS ■ 2016 Census

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
Industry classification varies between census periods so categories may not be consistent

64
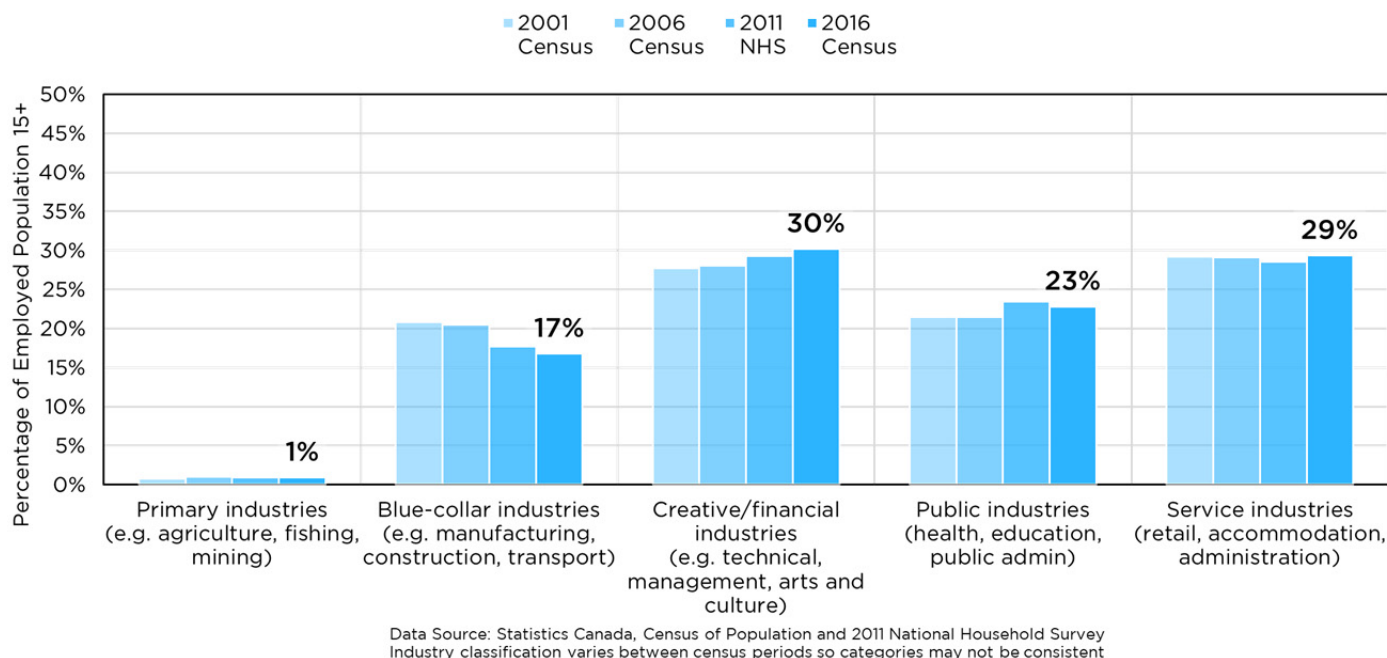
Equity and Industries

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 in Downtown. While Downtown's population overall is more likely to work in creative and financial sectors, some groups are less likely to work in these sectors and more likely to work in service industries.

Downtown: Industry of Work by Demographic Group, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program
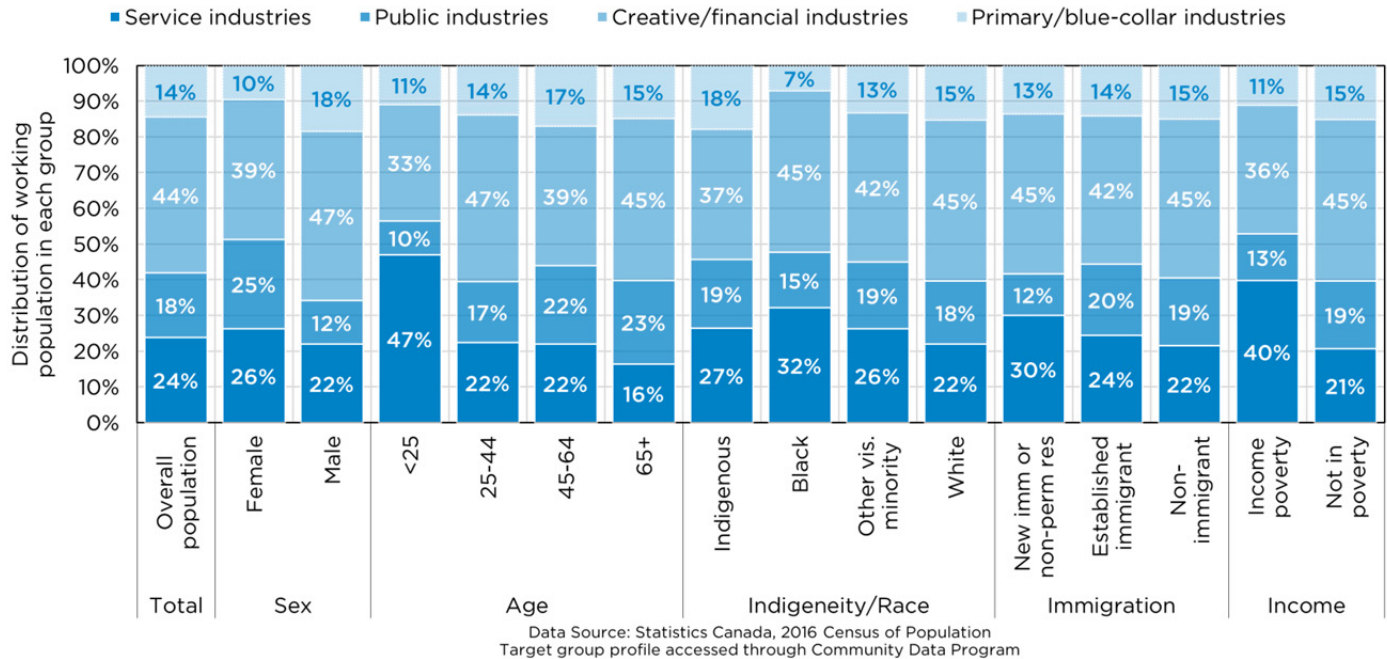
Across the city as a whole, a majority of young workers are in service industries, as are a majority of people in poverty who are working, but there is also evidence of sex-, race- and immigration-based inequities in access to different sectors.

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

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

65
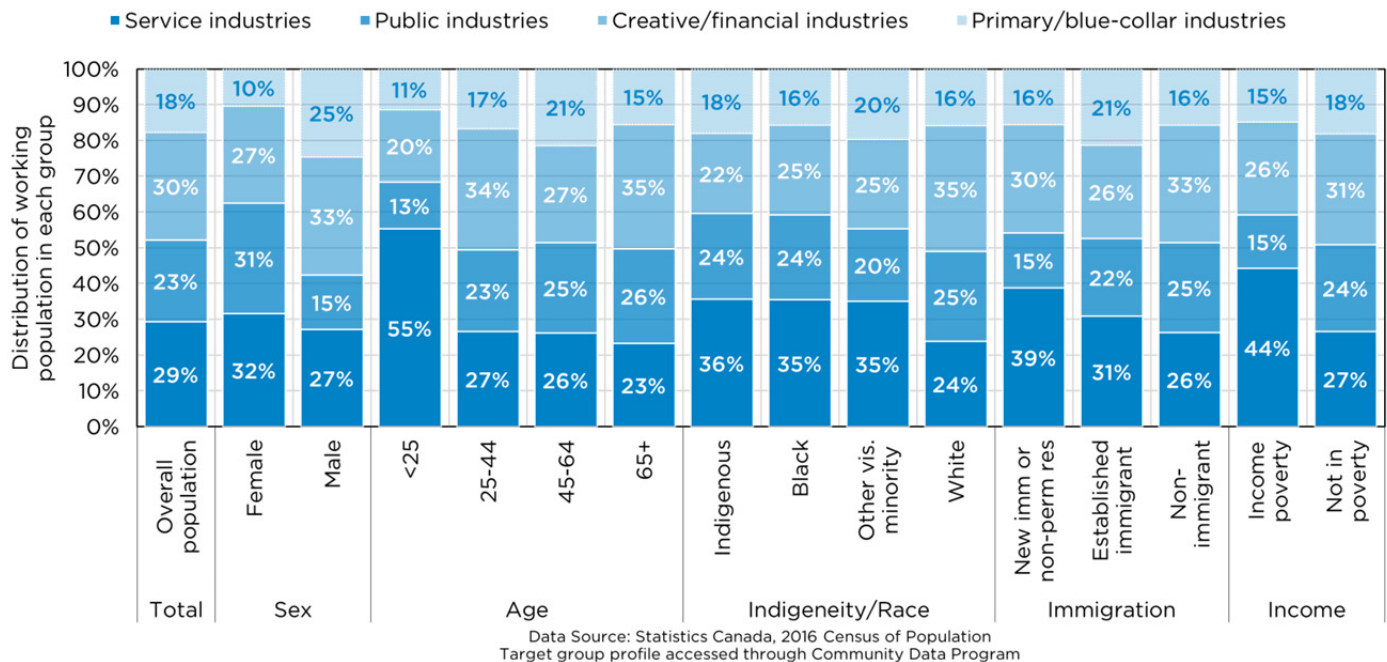
Gender and the Workforce

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 Downtown, labour force participation has grown for both women and men and is higher than the city overall, but the gap persists.

Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender, 1981-2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
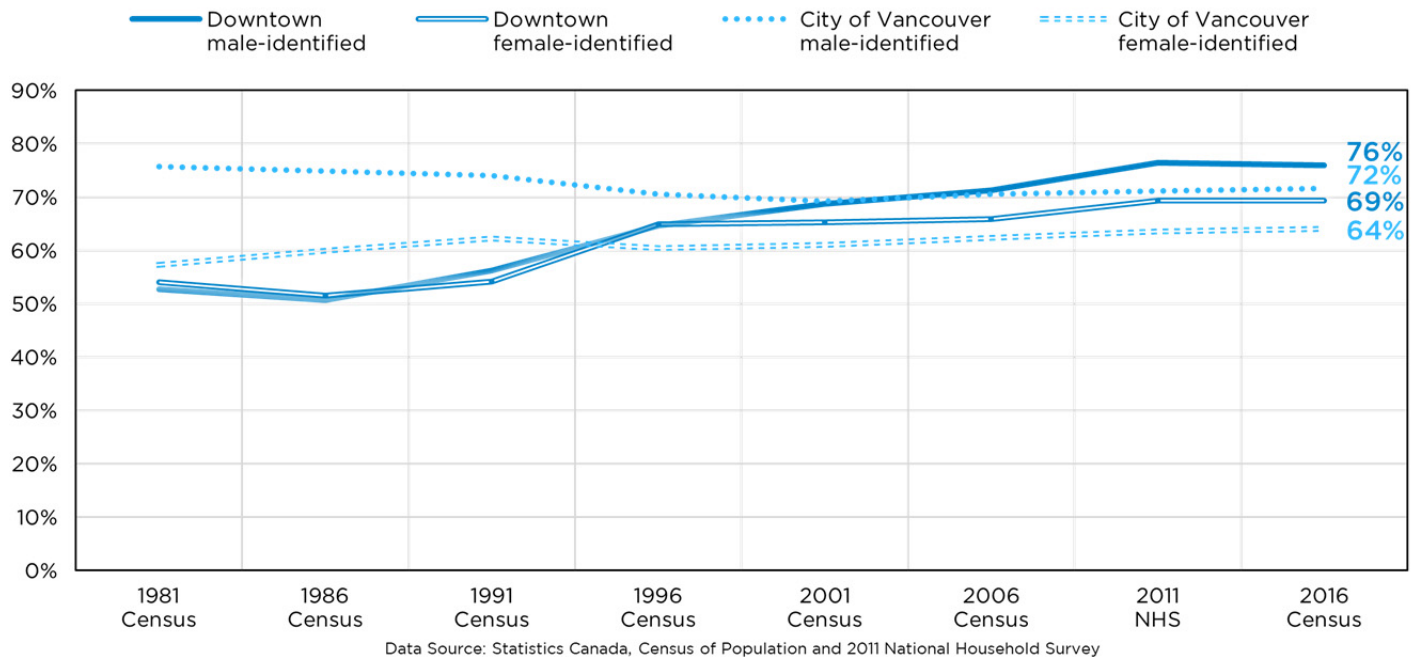
A breakdown of occupations in Downtown shows that men are most over-represented in management and science occupations, as well as the small portion of Downtown residents employed in trades and transportation. Women are most over-represented in categories such as business, finance and administration; education, law and public services; and health care.

Downtown: Labour Force by Occupation and Gender, 2016

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
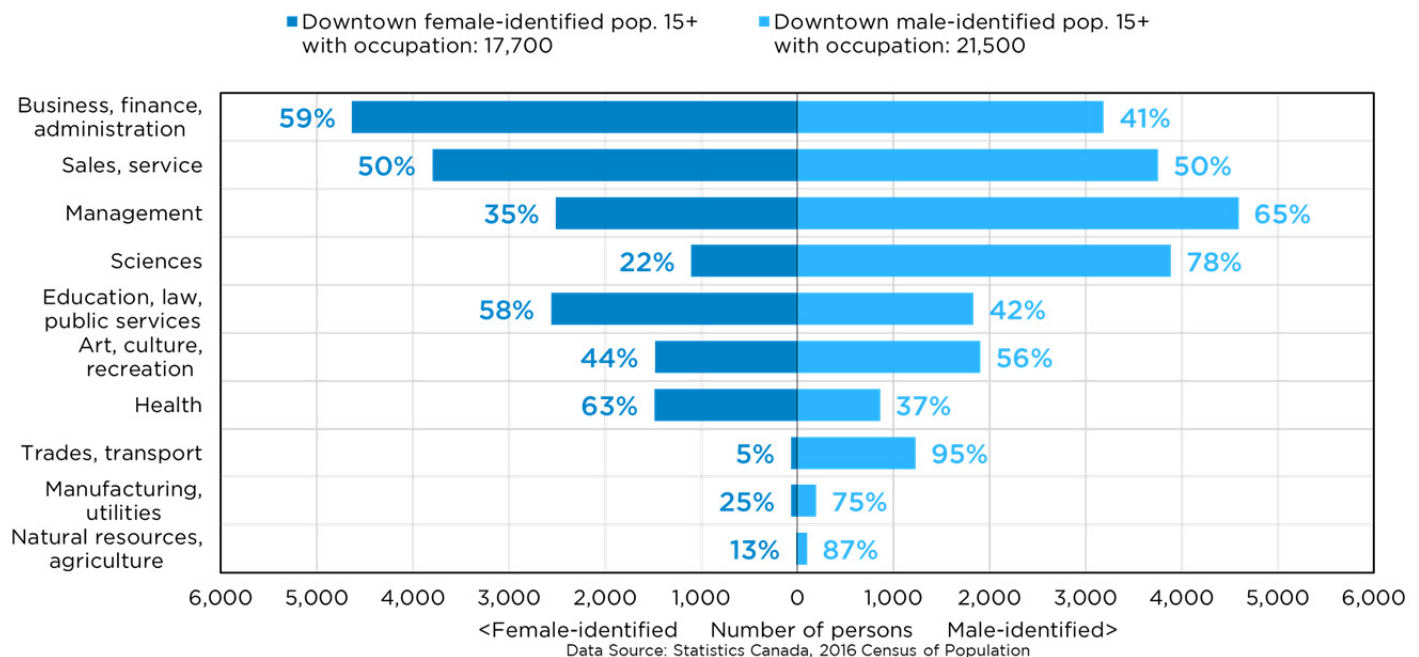
Formal Education

Compared to the city overall, Downtown residents are more likely to have higher levels of education, particularly university degrees.

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

■ Downtown
Population 25-64: 43K

■ City of Vancouver
Population 25-64: 385K

	No certificate	High school diploma	Apprenticeship/ trade	College or university diploma	Bachelor's degree	Post-graduate degree
Downtown	3%	15%	4%	21%	36%	21%
City of Vancouver	7%	20%	5%	21%	30%	17%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
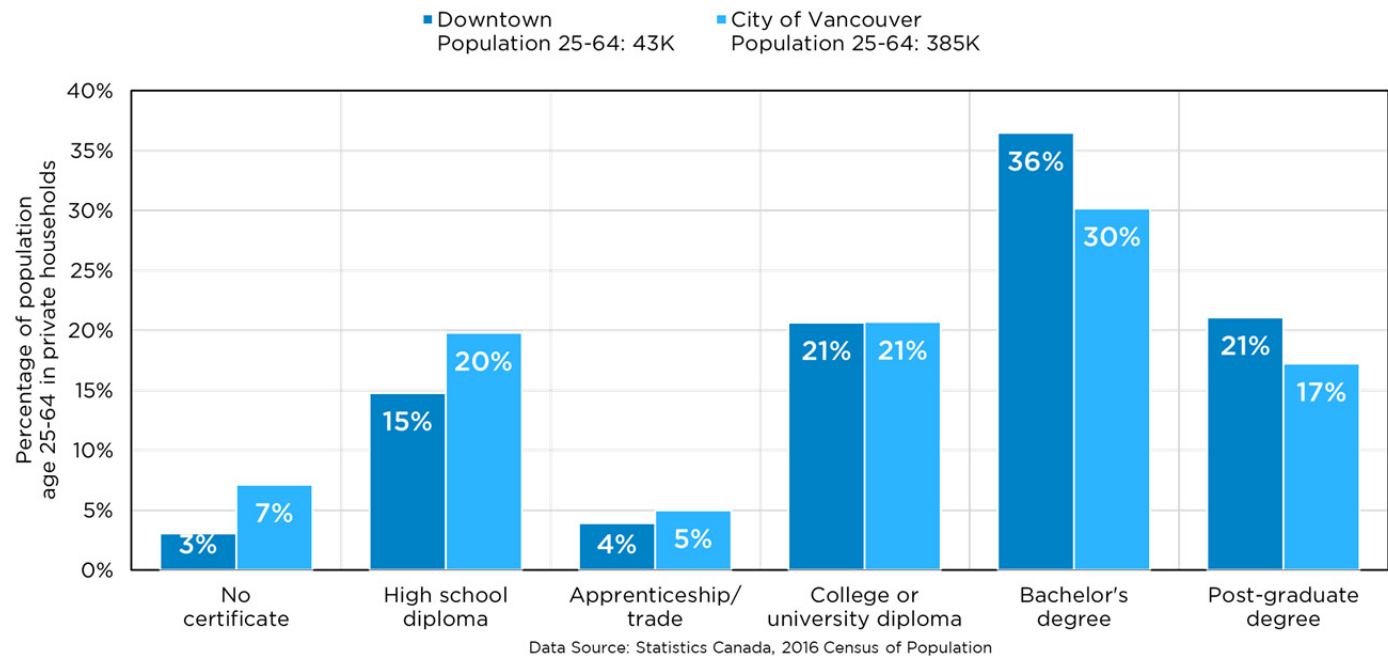
Over time, the overall rate of post-secondary credentials among Downtown residents has increased. There is a shift at both the neighbourhood and city level toward university degrees and a corresponding decline in other post-secondary credentials.

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

—— Downtown   ······ City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	74%	82%	82%
City of Vancouver	70%	73%	73%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey
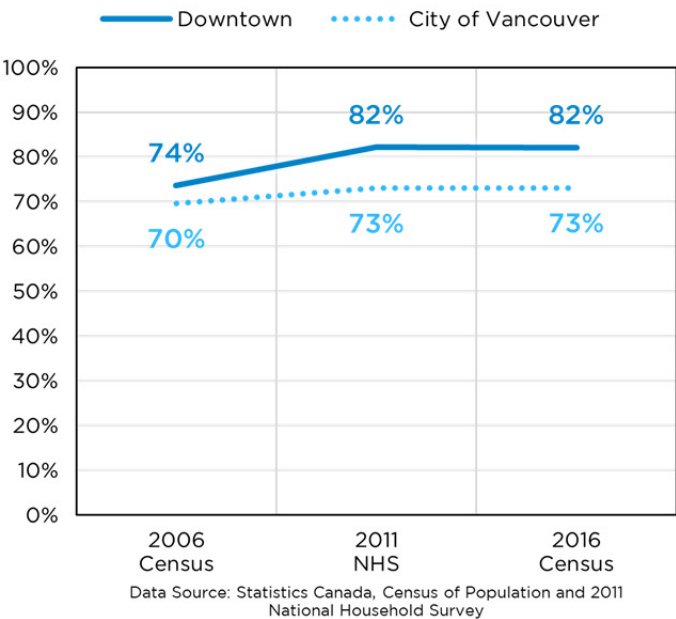
Population 25-64 with University Degree, 2006-2016

—— Downtown   ······ City of Vancouver

	2006 Census	2011 NHS	2016 Census
Downtown	45%	55%	58%
City of Vancouver	40%	44%	47%

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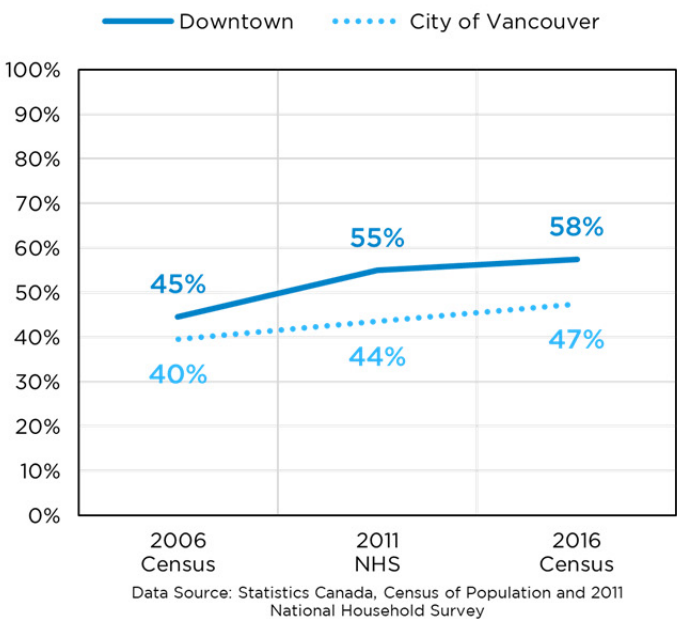
Equity and Formal Education

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. In Downtown, other differences are visible by Indigenous and racial identity, by immigration status and by income.

Downtown: Level of Formal Education by Demographic, 2016

Legend: No certificate · High school · Post-secondary · University degree

Y-axis: Distribution of highest level among population 25-64 in each group

Category	No certificate	High school	Post-secondary	University degree
Overall population (Total)	15%	25%		58%
Female (Sex)	13%	25%		60%
Male (Sex)	16%	25%		55%
25-44 (Age)	12%	22%		63%
45-64 (Age)	5%	19%	29%	47%
Indigenous (Indigeneity/Race)	22%	23%	37%	19%
Black (Indigeneity/Race)	6%	20%	34%	41%
Other vis. minority (Indigeneity/Race)	12%	21%		65%
White (Indigeneity/Race)	16%	27%		54%
New imm or non-perm res (Immigration)	10%	18%		72%
Established immigrant (Immigration)	13%	23%		62%
Non-immigrant (Immigration)	18%	28%		50%
Income poverty (Income)	8%	21%	27%	44%
Not in poverty (Income)	13%	24%		61%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

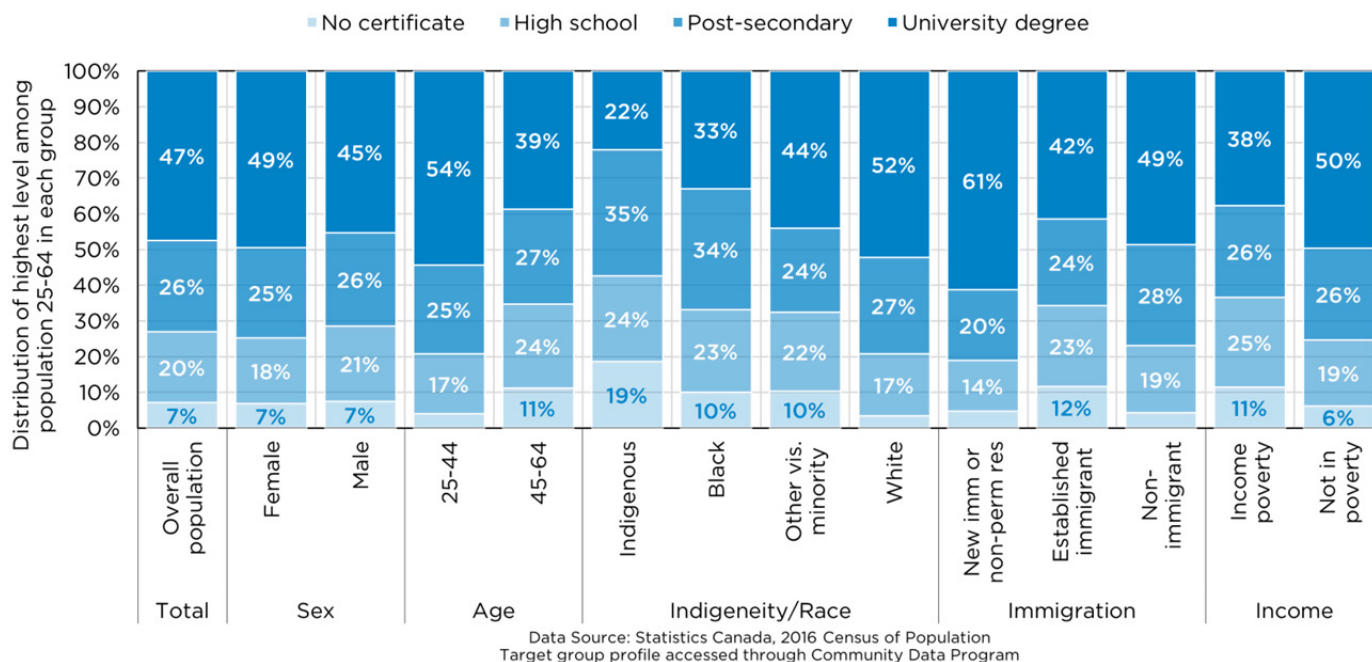Across the city overall, people in Indigenous and racialized communities are less likely to have post-secondary credentials. Most new immigrants and temporary residents have university degrees.

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

Legend: No certificate · High school · Post-secondary · University degree

Y-axis: Distribution of highest level among population 25-64 in each group

Category	No certificate	High school	Post-secondary	University degree
Overall population (Total)	7%	20%	26%	47%
Female (Sex)	7%	18%	25%	49%
Male (Sex)	7%	21%	26%	45%
25-44 (Age)		17%	25%	54%
45-64 (Age)	11%	24%	27%	39%
Indigenous (Indigeneity/Race)	19%		35%	22%
Black (Indigeneity/Race)	10%	23%	34%	33%
Other vis. minority (Indigeneity/Race)	10%	22%	24%	44%
White (Indigeneity/Race)		17%	27%	52%
New imm or non-perm res (Immigration)		14%	20%	61%
Established immigrant (Immigration)	12%	23%	24%	42%
Non-immigrant (Immigration)		19%	28%	49%
Income poverty (Income)	11%	25%	26%	38%
Not in poverty (Income)	6%	19%	26%	50%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
Target group profile accessed through Community Data Program

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Fields and Locations of Study

Top post-secondary fields of study among Downtown residents are: business, management and public administration; social sciences and law; and architecture and engineering. Downtown has proportionally fewer people who studied health and education than the city overall.
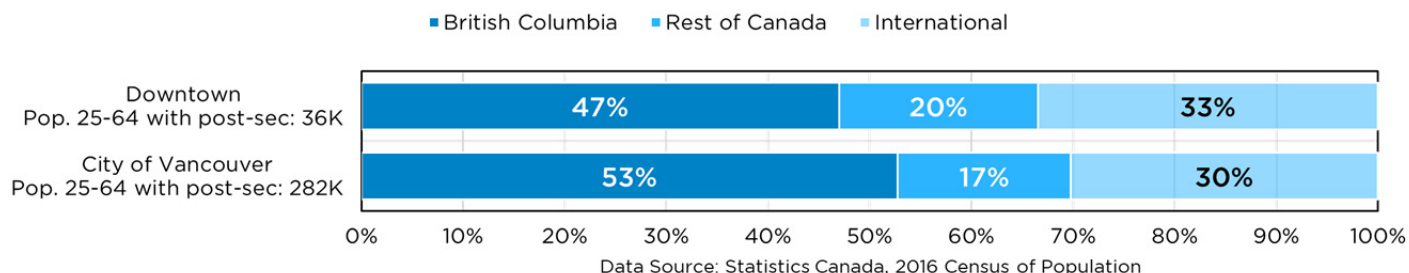
Population 15+ by Post-Secondary Field of Study, 2016

■ Downtown
Pop 15+ with post-sec: 42K

■ City of Vancouver
Pop 15+ with post-sec: 347K

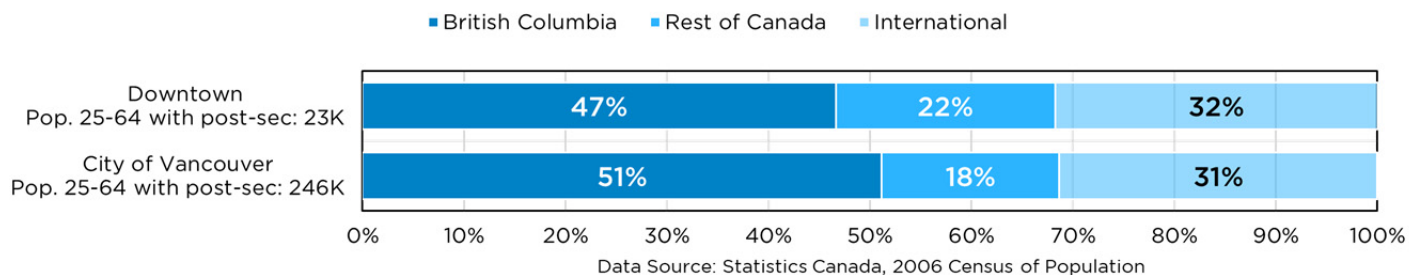| Field	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Business, management, public admin	26%	21%
Social sciences, law	17%	16%
Architecture, engineering	13%	14%
Health	10%	13%
Communications, fine arts	9%	9%
Mathematics	6%	5%
Humanities	6%	8%
Science and technology	5%	6%
Personal, protective services	3%	4%
Education	3%	5%
Agriculture, natural resources	1%	1%
Other	0.1%	0.0%
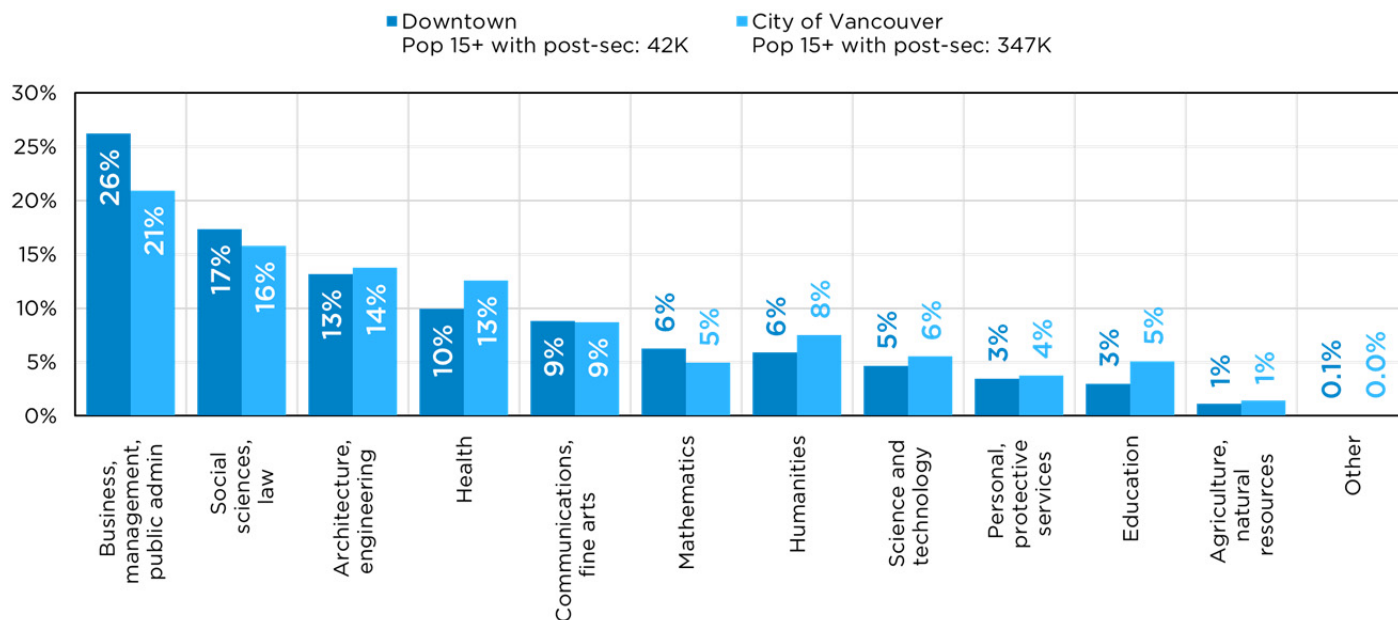
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Downtown residents are somewhat more likely than residents of the City of Vancouver to have a post-secondary credential from outside Canada, and this number is increasing. In 2016, 33% of Downtown residents received their credential from an international institution, compared to 32% in 2006.

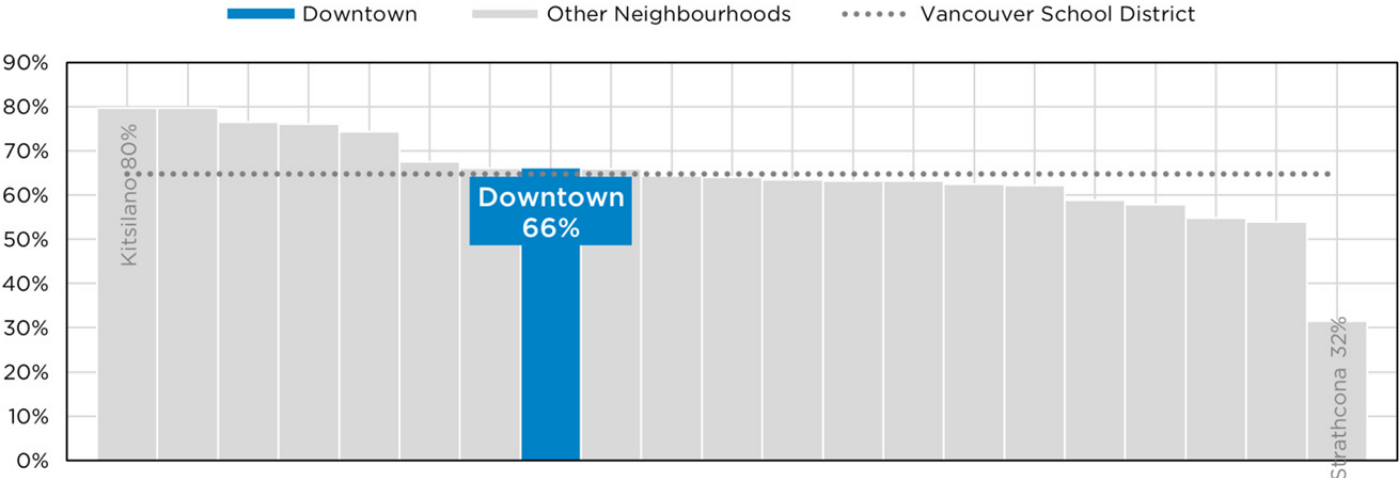## Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary by Location of Study, 2016

■ British Columbia   ■ Rest of Canada   ■ International

	British Columbia	Rest of Canada	International
Downtown — Pop. 25-64 with post-sec: 36K	47%	20%	33%
City of Vancouver — Pop. 25-64 with post-sec: 282K	53%	17%	30%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

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

■ British Columbia   ■ Rest of Canada   ■ International

	British Columbia	Rest of Canada	International
Downtown — Pop. 25-64 with post-sec: 23K	47%	22%	32%
City of Vancouver — Pop. 25-64 with post-sec: 246K	51%	18%	31%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population

COMMUNITY HEALTH

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

Legend: Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | Vancouver School District

Kitsilano 80%
Downtown 66%
Strathcona 32%

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

Legend: Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | Vancouver School District

Strathcona 56%
Downtown 44%
Kensington-Cedar Cottage 24%
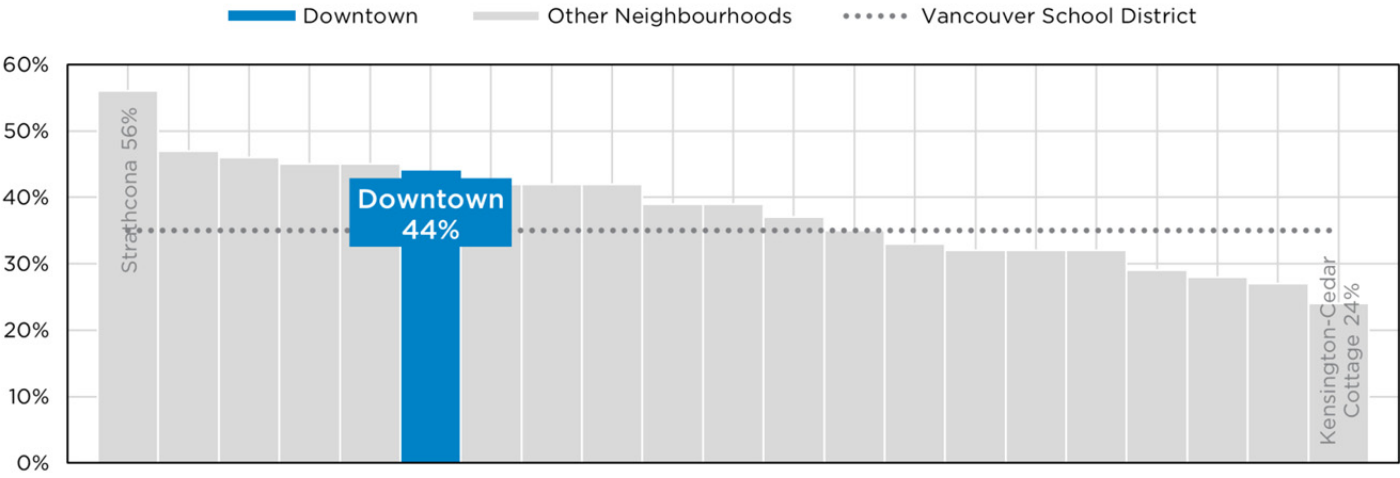
Very Good or Excellent General Health, 2013/2014

Legend: Downtown | Other Neighbourhoods | City of Vancouver

Dunbar-Southlands 68%
Downtown 60%
Strathcona 35%
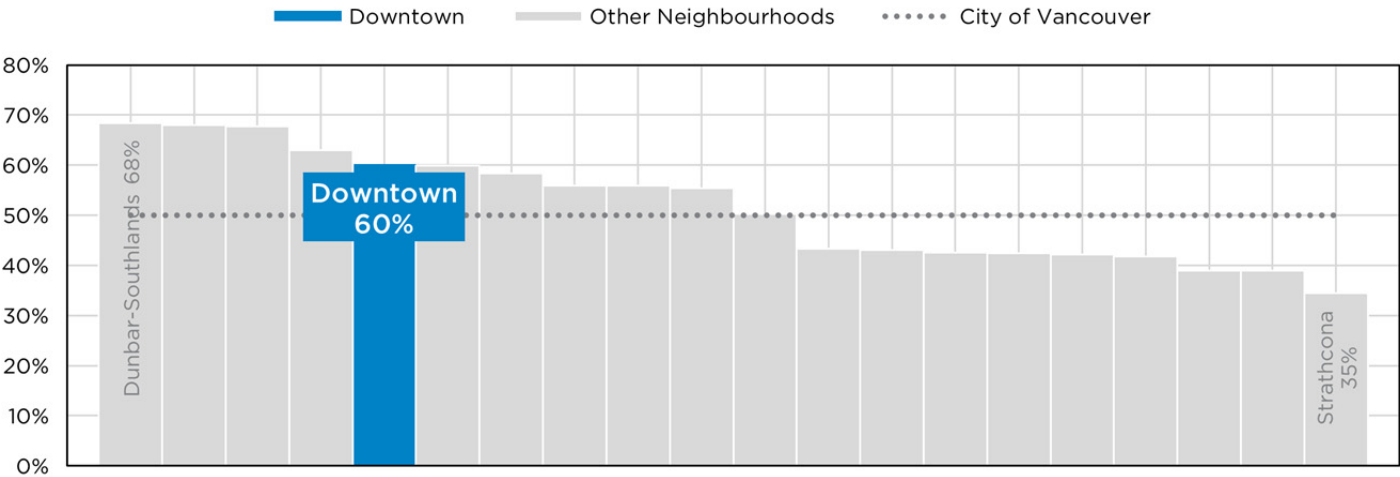
Very Good or Excellent Mental Health, 2013/2014

Downtown   Other Neighbourhoods   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver
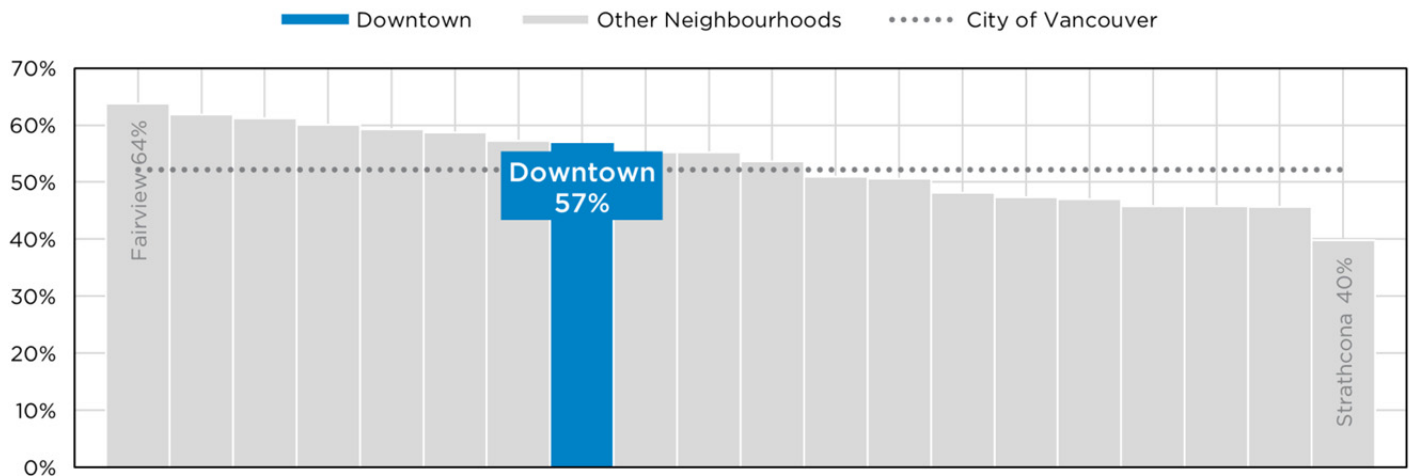
Strong Sense of Belonging, 2013/2014

Downtown   Other Neighbourhoods   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver
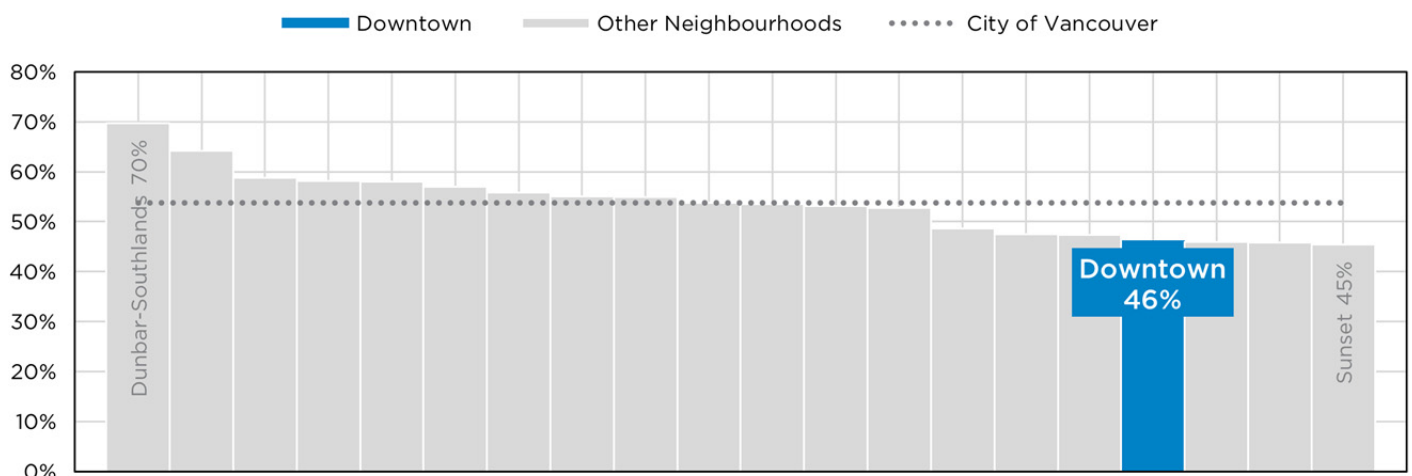
Four or More People in Support Network, 2013/2014

Downtown   Other Neighbourhoods   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver
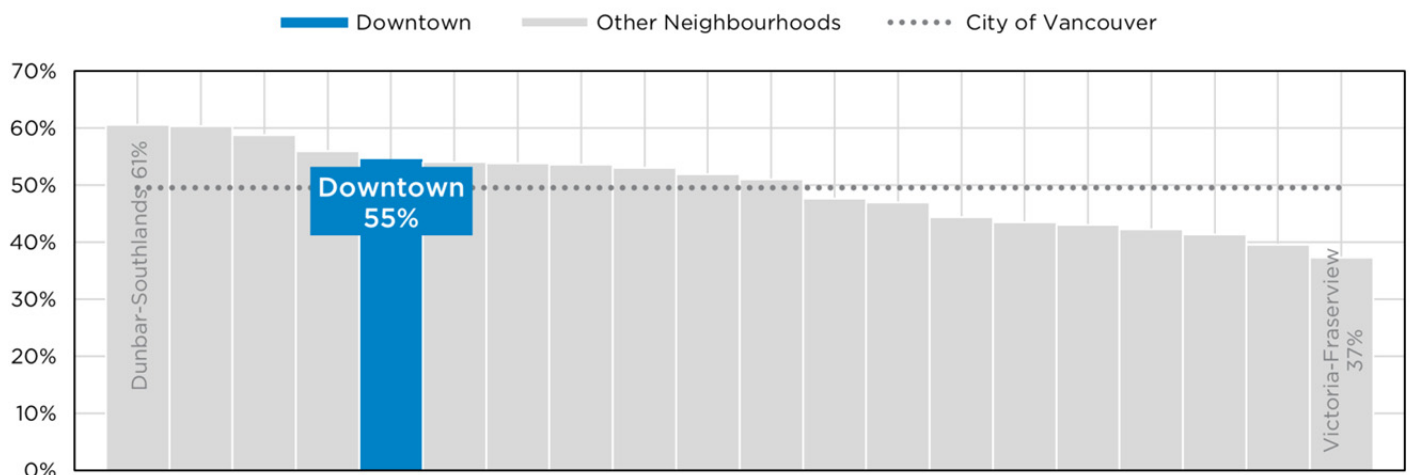
Early Childhood Development

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is used to benchmark kindergarten children on five developmental scales, identifying vulnerabilities that can impact school readiness. About a third of children in Downtown are considered "vulnerable" on one or more of these scales, a similar rate to the city overall. The most recent EDI surveys waves have seen the vulnerability rate among Downtown children be similar to the city overall.
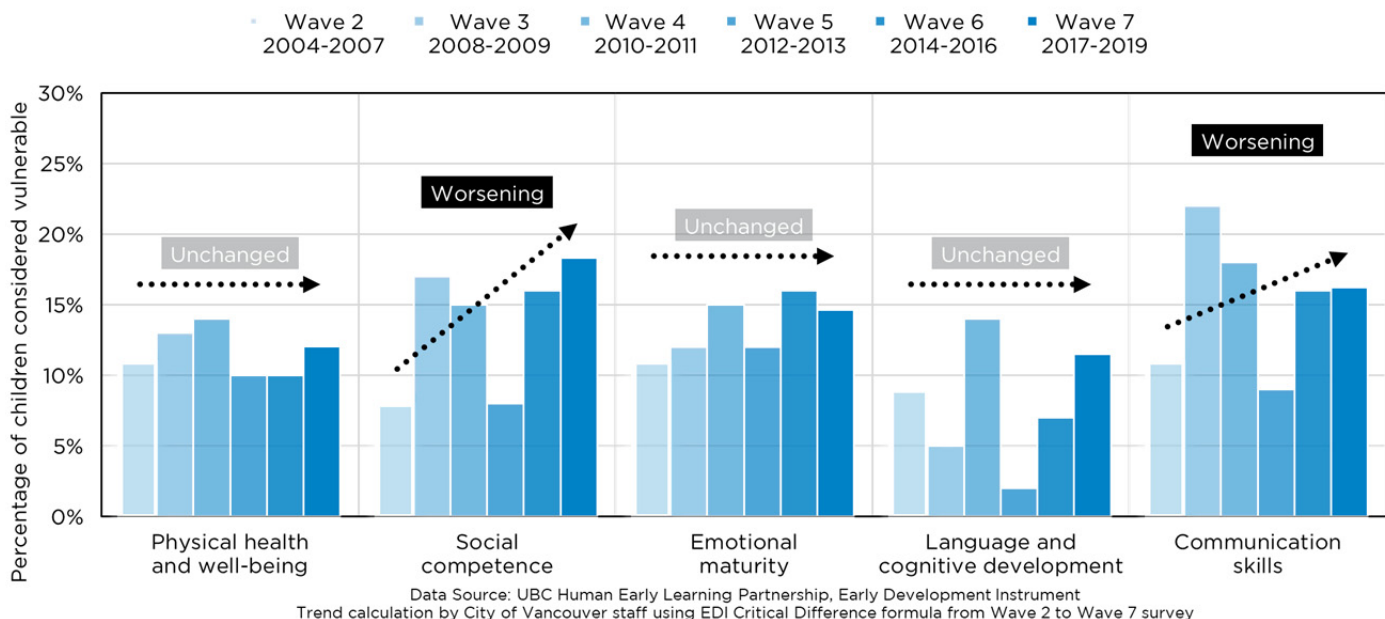
Kindergarten Children Ready for School (Not Vulnerable on Any EDI Scales), 2004-2019

Downtown ——— Vancouver School District ......

Percentage of children not considered vulnerable

	Wave 2 2004-2007	Wave 3 2008-2009	Wave 4 2010-2011	Wave 5 2012-2013	Wave 6 2014-2016	Wave 7 2017-2019
Downtown	74%	59%	63%	77%	67%	66%
Vancouver School District	63%	59%	60%	65%	64%	65%

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, Early Development Instrument
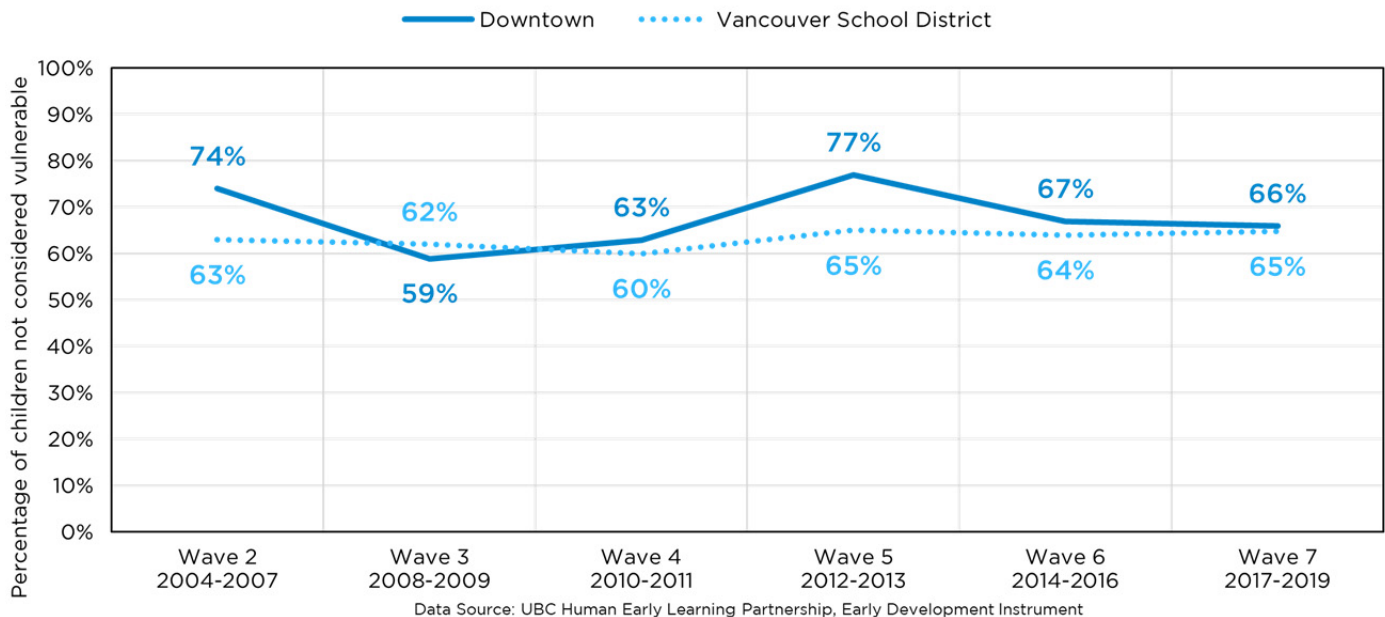
Over time, children in Downtown are more likely to be considered vulnerable on the EDI's social competence—respect, curiosity, cooperation and self-confidence—and communication skills scales.

Downtown: Child Vulnerability Trends by EDI Domain, 2004-2019

Wave 2 2004-2007 Wave 3 2008-2009 Wave 4 2010-2011 Wave 5 2012-2013 Wave 6 2014-2016 Wave 7 2017-2019

Percentage of children considered vulnerable

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, Early Development Instrument
Trend calculation by City of Vancouver staff using EDI Critical Difference formula from Wave 2 to Wave 7 survey
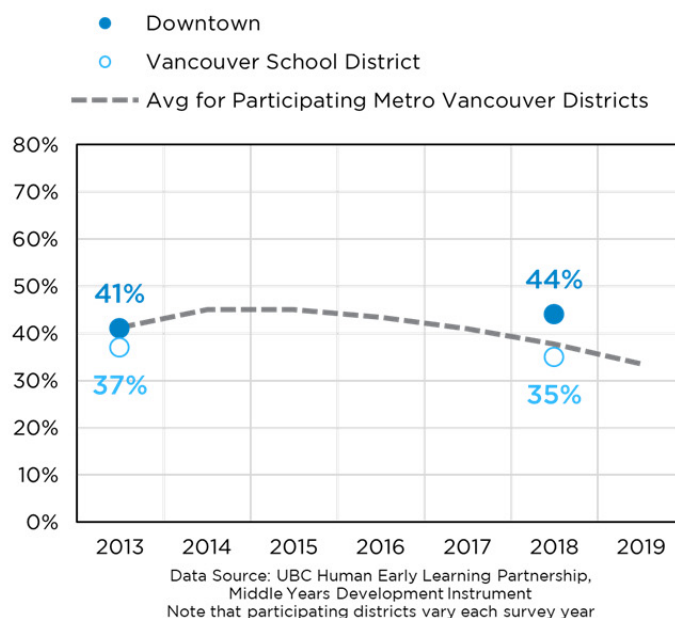
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Middle-Years Development

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 Downtown have typically had higher overall well-being score than the City of Vancouver overall and the average across participating Metro Vancouver school districts.[22]

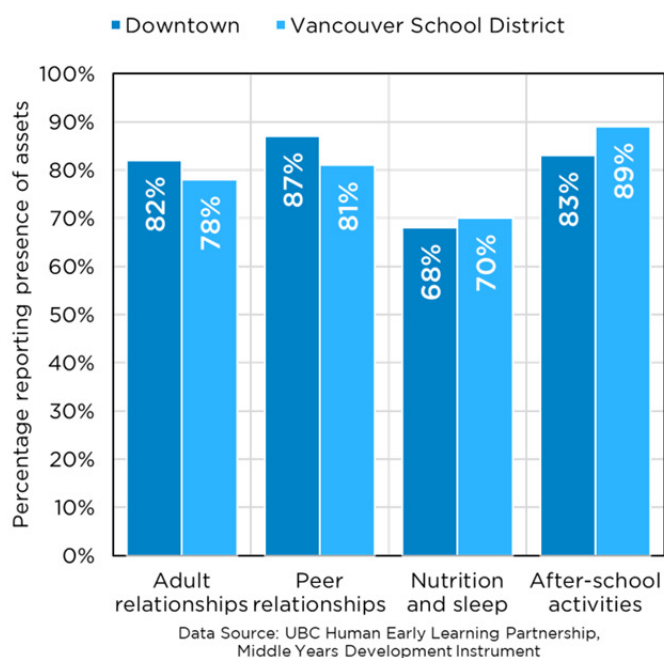## Grade 4 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2019

- ● Downtown
- ○ Vancouver School District
- - - Avg for Participating Metro Vancouver Districts

64%
45%
41%
36%

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership,
Middle Years Development Instrument
Note that participating districts vary each survey year

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

- ● Downtown
- ○ Vancouver School District
- - - Avg for Participating Metro Vancouver Districts

41%
37%
44%
35%

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership,
Middle Years Development Instrument
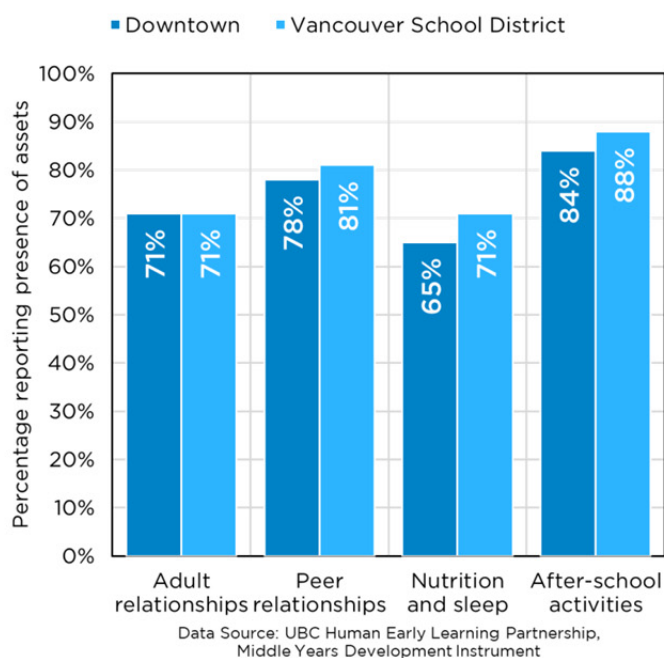Note that participating districts vary each survey year

The charts below show the rate at which children report the presence of supportive assets, including adult and peer relationships, nutrition and sleep.

Grade 4 Children's Assets, 2019

■ Downtown ■ Vancouver School District

Percentage reporting presence of assets

	Downtown	VSD
Adult relationships	82%	78%
Peer relationships	87%	81%
Nutrition and sleep	68%	70%
After-school activities	83%	89%

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership,
Middle Years Development Instrument

Grade 7 Children's Assets, 2018

■ Downtown ■ Vancouver School District

Percentage reporting presence of assets

	Downtown	VSD
Adult relationships	71%	71%
Peer relationships	78%	81%
Nutrition and sleep	65%	71%
After-school activities	84%	88%

Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership,
Middle Years Development Instrument
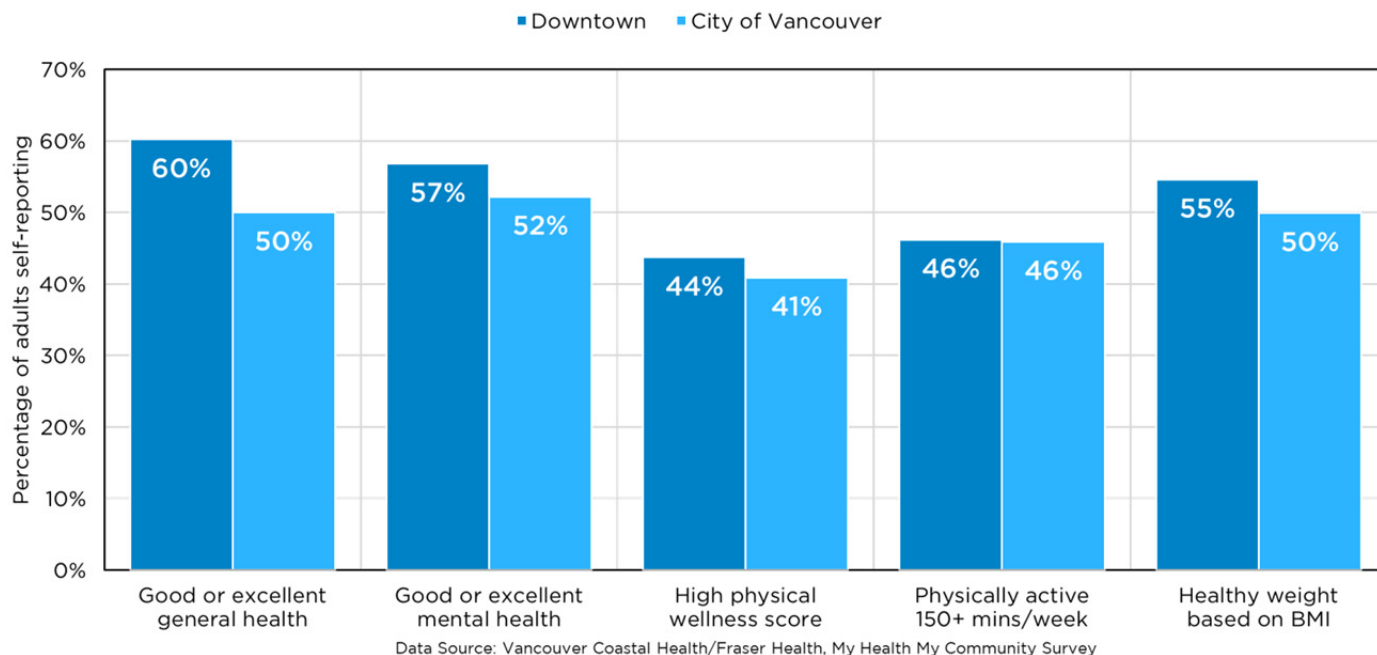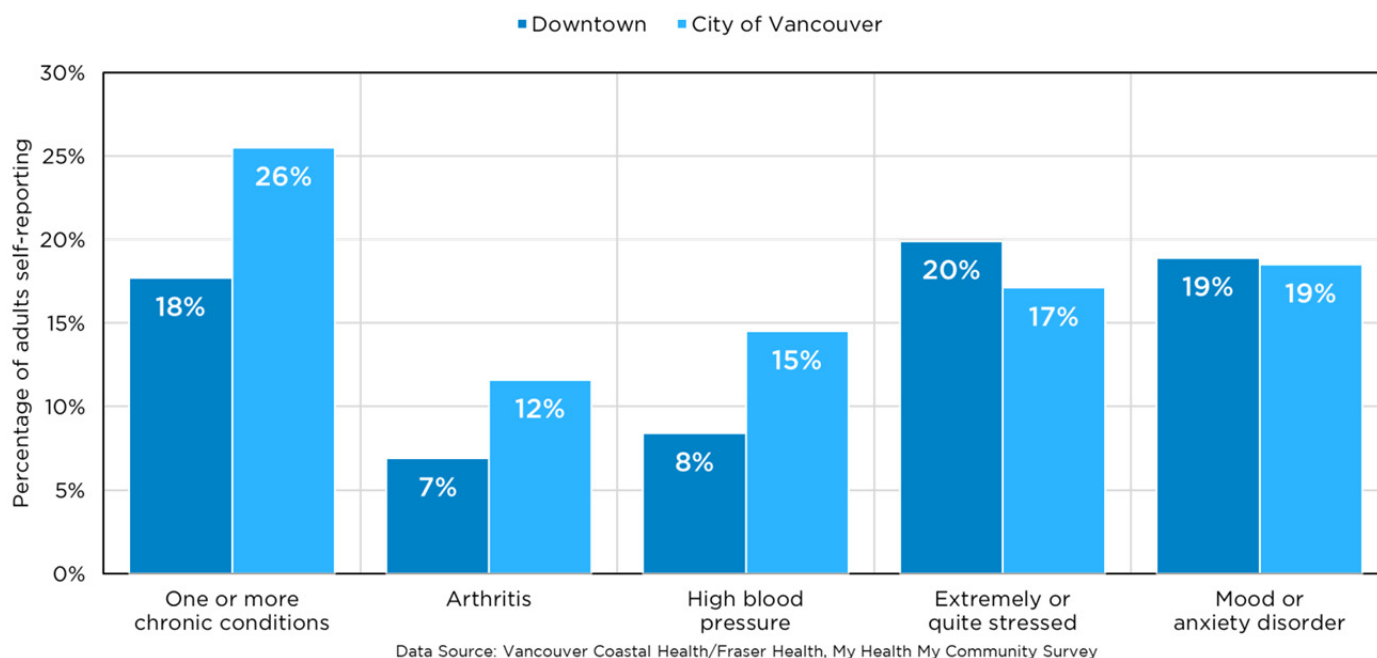
Health Conditions and Overall Perceptions

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. Downtown residents are more likely than residents of the city overall to assess their own physical and mental health as good or excellent, and to have a body mass index score considered healthy.

Overall Health Status and Perceptions, 2013-2014

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Good or excellent general health	60%	50%
Good or excellent mental health	57%	52%
High physical wellness score	44%	41%
Physically active 150+ mins/week	46%	46%
Healthy weight based on BMI	55%	50%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey

Downtown residents report chronic conditions, arthritis and high blood pressure at a lower rate than residents of the city overall. However, they are more likely to report high rates of stress.
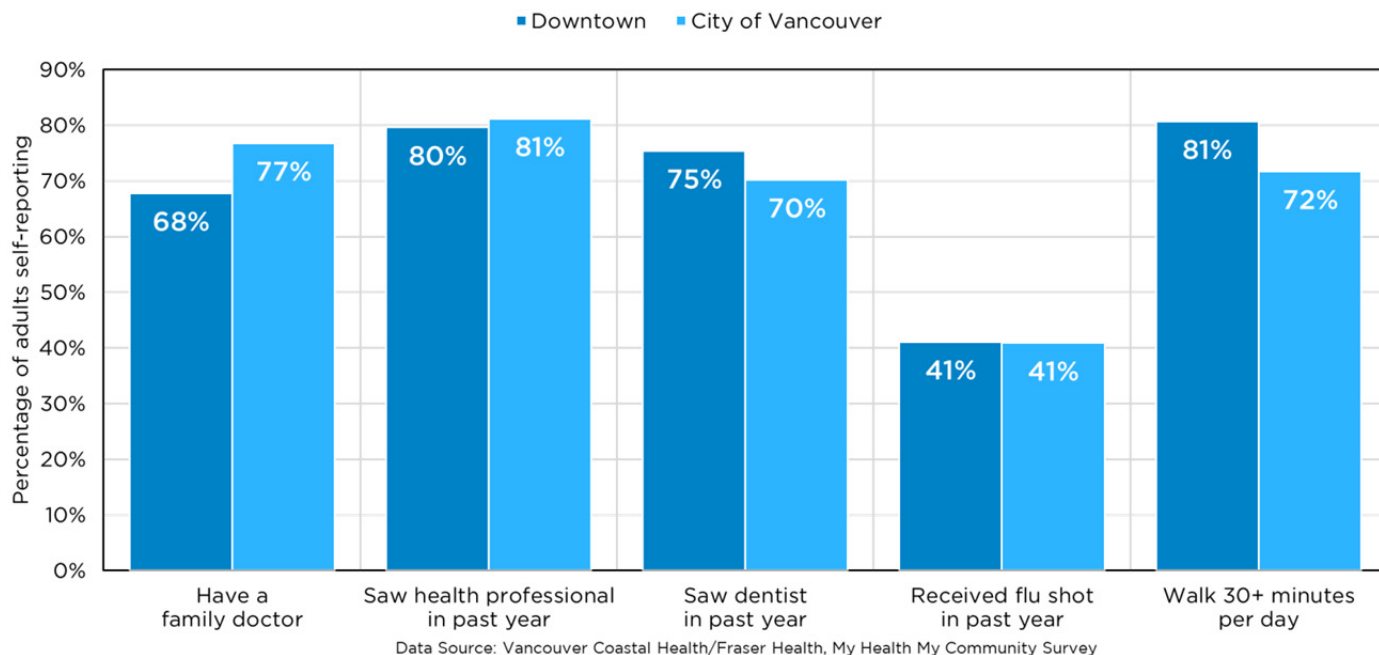
Reported Health Conditions, 2013-2014

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
One or more chronic conditions	18%	26%
Arthritis	7%	12%
High blood pressure	8%	15%
Extremely or quite stressed	20%	17%
Mood or anxiety disorder	19%	19%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey
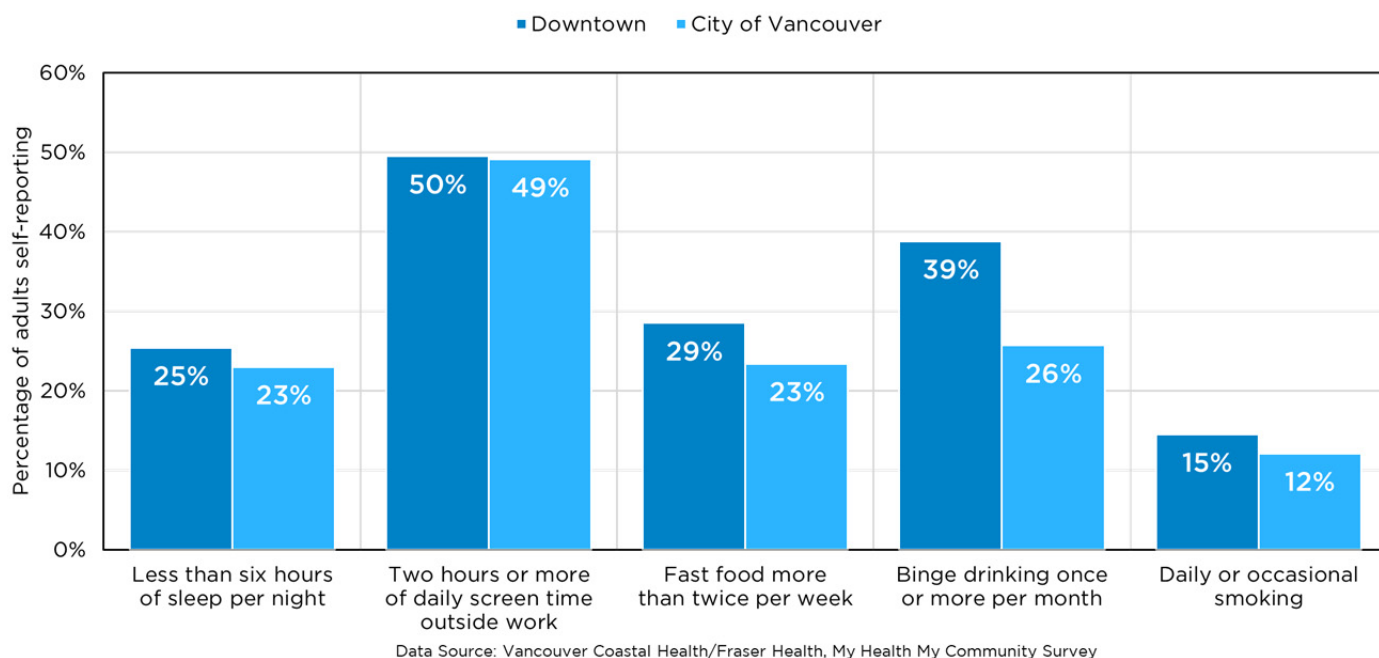
Preventive Care and Healthy Behaviours

Compared to the City of Vancouver overall, Downtown residents are less likely to have a family doctor, though they are more likely to have seen a dentist. More than eight in ten Downtown residents report walking for at least half an hour each day.

Preventive Health Care, 2013-2014

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Have a family doctor	68%	77%
Saw health professional in past year	80%	81%
Saw dentist in past year	75%	70%
Received flu shot in past year	41%	41%
Walk 30+ minutes per day	81%	72%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey

Downtown residents have higher rates of many health-impacting behaviours, including fast food, binge drinking and smoking.

Health-Impacting Behaviours, 2013-2014
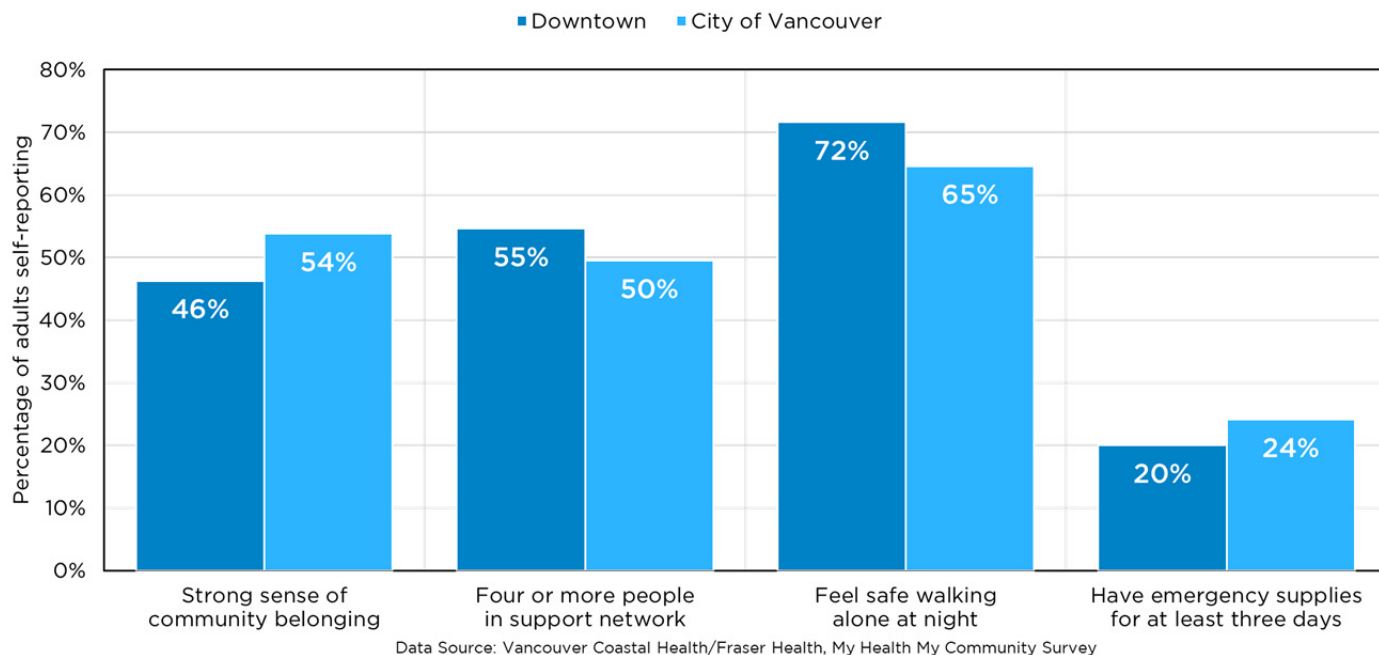
■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Less than six hours of sleep per night	25%	23%
Two hours or more of daily screen time outside work	50%	49%
Fast food more than twice per week	29%	23%
Binge drinking once or more per month	39%	26%
Daily or occasional smoking	15%	12%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey

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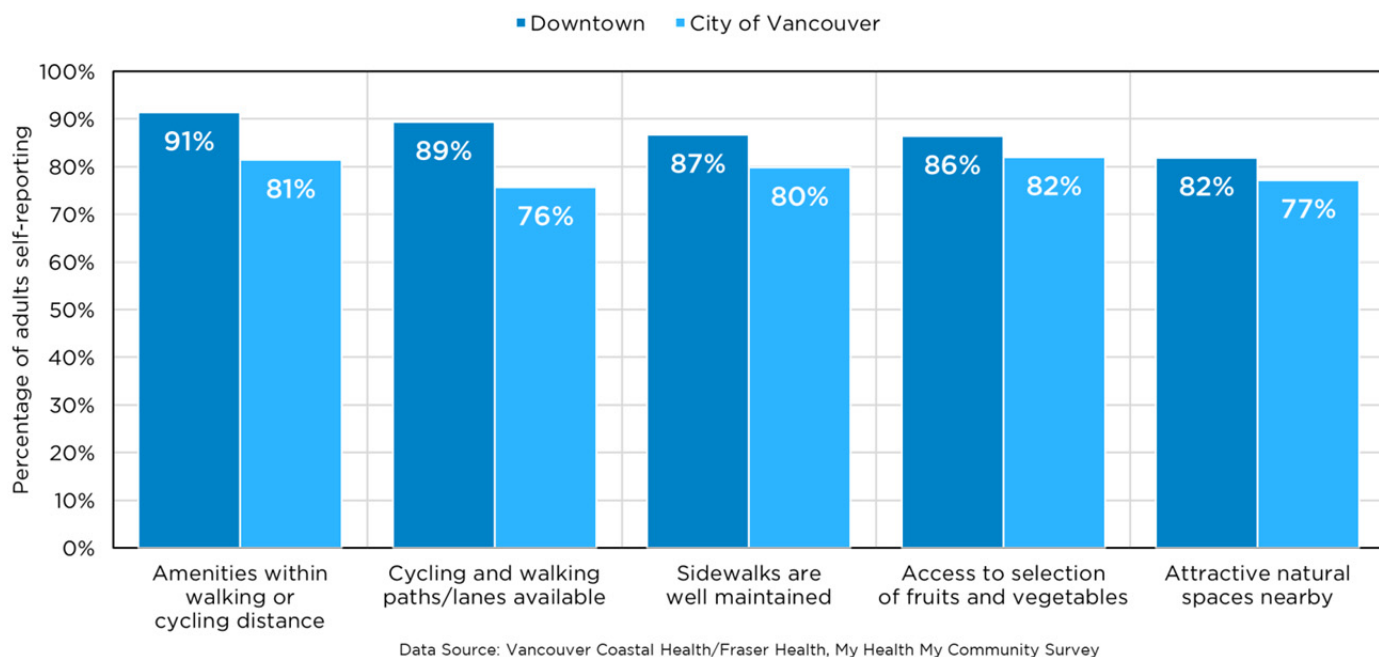# Connections, Resilience and Built Environments

Downtown residents are less likely to report a strong sense of belonging than residents of the city overall. However, Downtown residents are more likely to have four or more people in their support networks and to feel safe walking at night. Consistent with the city overall, relatively few residents have emergency supplies set aside.

Neighbourhood Social Connections and Resilience, 2013-2014

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

	Strong sense of community belonging	Four or more people in support network	Feel safe walking alone at night	Have emergency supplies for at least three days
Downtown	46%	55%	72%	20%
City of Vancouver	54%	50%	65%	24%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey

Downtown residents have positive perceptions of the built environment: the neighbourhood shows higher rates of amenities, active transportation facilities, well-maintained sidewalks, access to healthy food and natural spaces than the city overall.
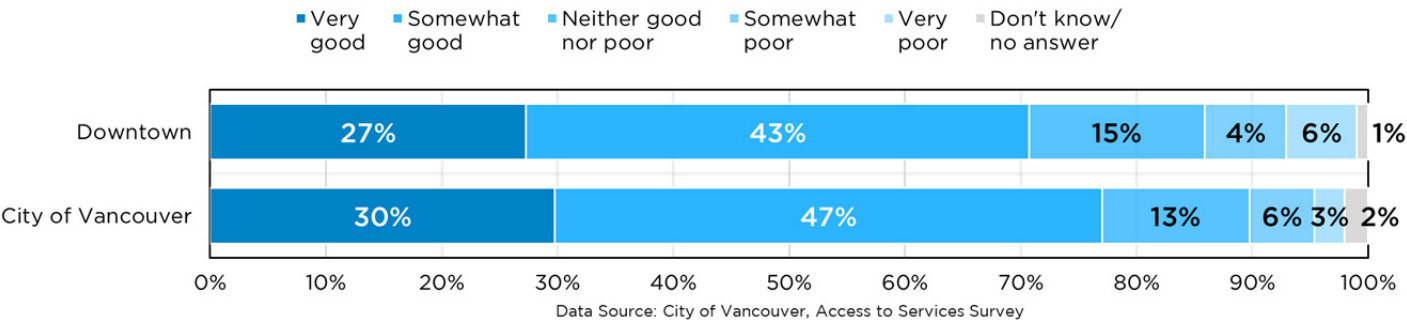
Perceptions of Built Environments, 2013-2014

■ Downtown ■ City of Vancouver

Percentage of adults self-reporting

	Amenities within walking or cycling distance	Cycling and walking paths/lanes available	Sidewalks are well maintained	Access to selection of fruits and vegetables	Attractive natural spaces nearby
Downtown	91%	89%	87%	86%	82%
City of Vancouver	81%	76%	80%	82%	77%

Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey
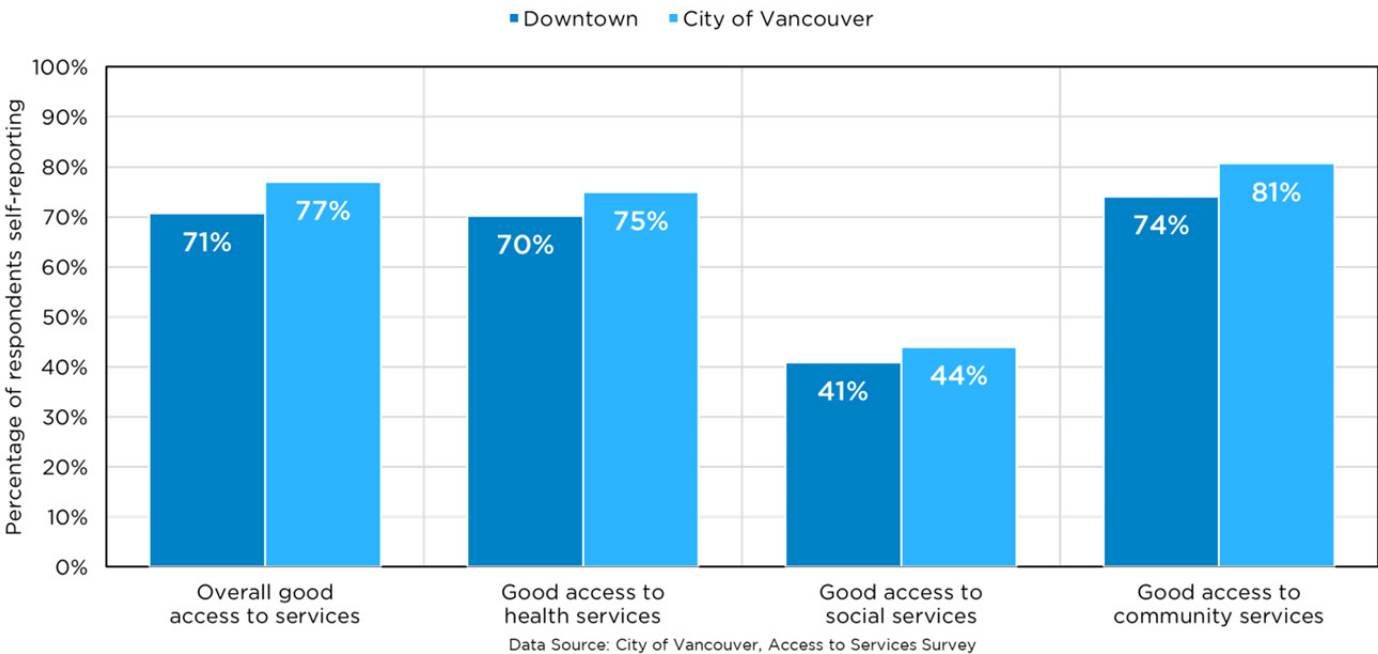
Access to Services

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 seven in ten respondents in Downtown indicated very good or somewhat good access to services, a lower rate than the city overall.

Overall Rating of Quality of Access to Services, 2017

Legend: Very good · Somewhat good · Neither good nor poor · Somewhat poor · Very poor · Don't know/no answer

Region	Very good	Somewhat good	Neither good nor poor	Somewhat poor	Very poor	Don't know/no answer
Downtown	27%	43%	15%	4%	6%	1%
City of Vancouver	30%	47%	13%	6%	3%	2%

Data Source: City of Vancouver, Access to Services Survey

Importantly, however, there were discrepancies in the ratings given to different types of services. Respondents across the city 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. Downtown respondents reflected this pattern, but with lower ratings for all three types of services.
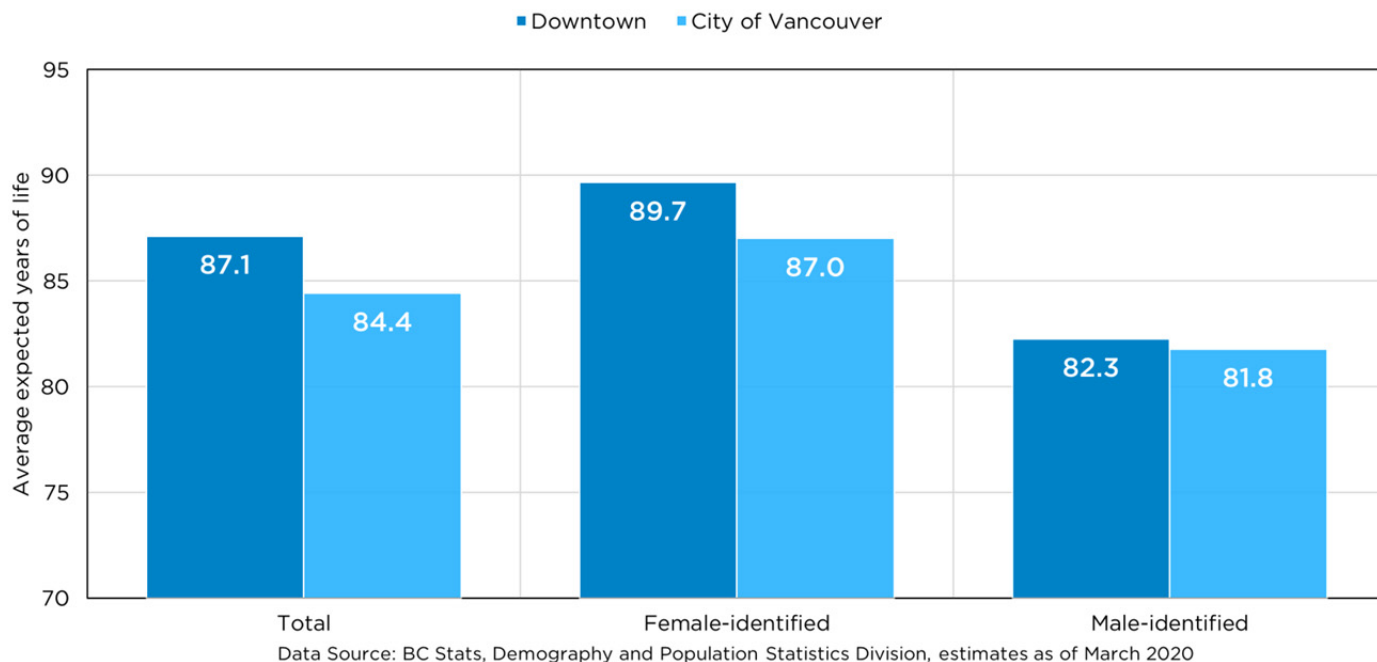
Quality of Access to Health, Community and Social Services, 2017

Legend: Downtown · City of Vancouver

Percentage of respondents self-reporting

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Overall good access to services	71%	77%
Good access to health services	70%	75%
Good access to social services	41%	44%
Good access to community services	74%	81%

Data Source: City of Vancouver, Access to Services Survey
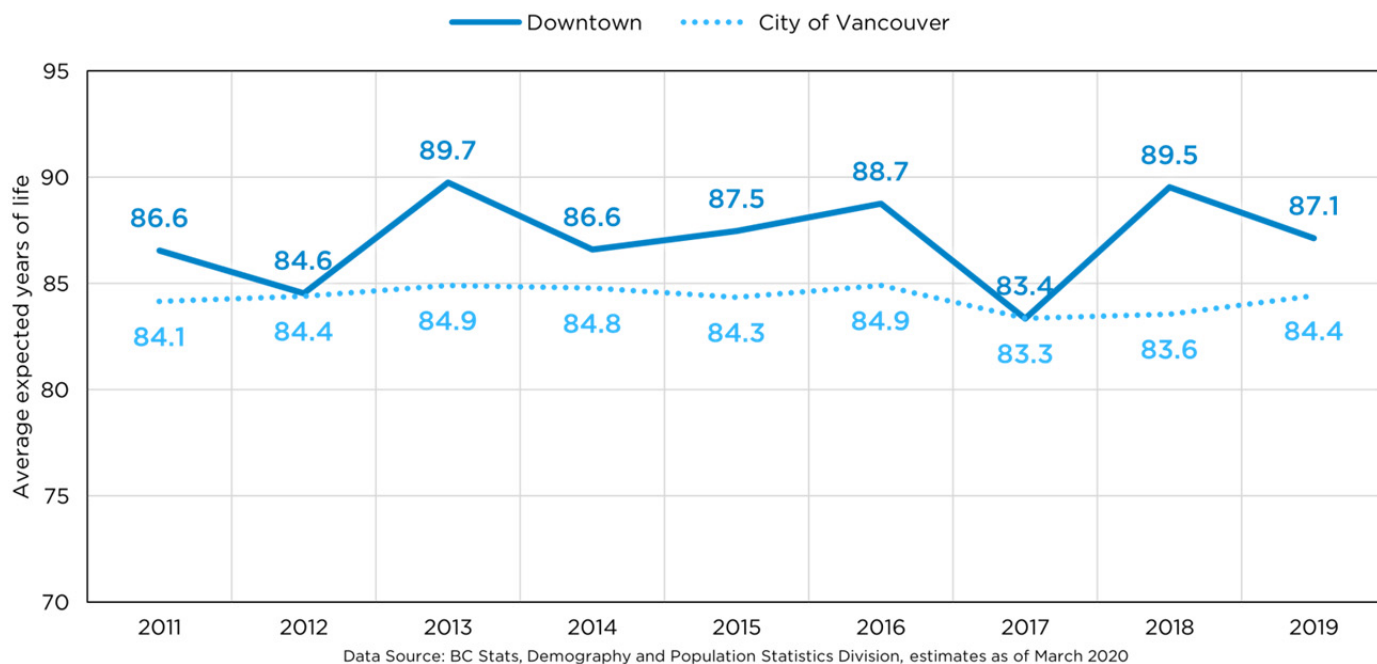
Life Expectancy

Finally, life expectancy is an overall indicator of health and well-being. For people born in 2019 in the Community Health Service Areas that cover Downtown, BC Stats estimates a life expectancy of 87.1 years, higher than for the city overall.

Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth, 2019

■ Downtown   ■ City of Vancouver

Category	Downtown	City of Vancouver
Total	87.1	84.4
Female-identified	89.7	87.0
Male-identified	82.3	81.8

Data Source: BC Stats, Demography and Population Statistics Division, estimates as of March 2020

Across the city, the decline in life expectancy since 2016 reflects the direct impact of the ongoing public health emergency of high numbers of drug overdose deaths. 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

Downtown   ⋯⋯ City of Vancouver

Year	Downtown	City of Vancouver
2011	86.6	84.1
2012	84.6	84.4
2013	89.7	84.9
2014	86.6	84.8
2015	87.5	84.3
2016	88.7	84.9
2017	83.4	83.3
2018	89.5	83.6
2019	87.1	84.4

Data Source: BC Stats, Demography and Population Statistics Division, estimates as of March 2020

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 Downtown to help inform community knowledge and action to respond to and shape change.

Downtown exemplifies Vancouver's reputation as a dense, diverse and ecologically sustainable model of urban living. It is still the economic centre of the city and the region, but it is also a place where a substantial number of Vancouver's residents live. The residents of Vancouver's Downtown neighbourhoods speak many different languages, come from many different countries and work in many different sectors. But it is also an expensive place to live, and the residents of downtown are more likely to have very high or very low incomes, with relatively fewer people in the middle. As Vancouver's core continues to grow, work will be needed to ensure that the area remains accessible—and socially sustainable—for diverse populations into the future.

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 this area	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.