



West End

Neighbourhood Social Indicators Profile 2020



Social Policy
and Projects

Social Indicators and Trends: Neighbourhood Profiles 2020

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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.

WEST END: HIGHLIGHTS



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



The densest local area in the city.



An established apartment housing stock facing increasing development and growth pressure.



A growing population of seniors, with a very significant proportion of older persons living alone.



The smallest share of families of any Vancouver local area, but growth in absolute numbers.



A less culturally diverse population than the city overall on many measures, but a large population of new immigrants and non-permanent residents.



A neighbourhood with many lower-income residents and households.



A substantial share of Vancouver's rental stock and increasing affordability pressures on renters.



A large working population filling jobs in many sectors.



Strong perceptions of a healthy built environment and use of active transportation.

INTRODUCTION

Place and Context

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose: Toward Social Sustainability

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

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

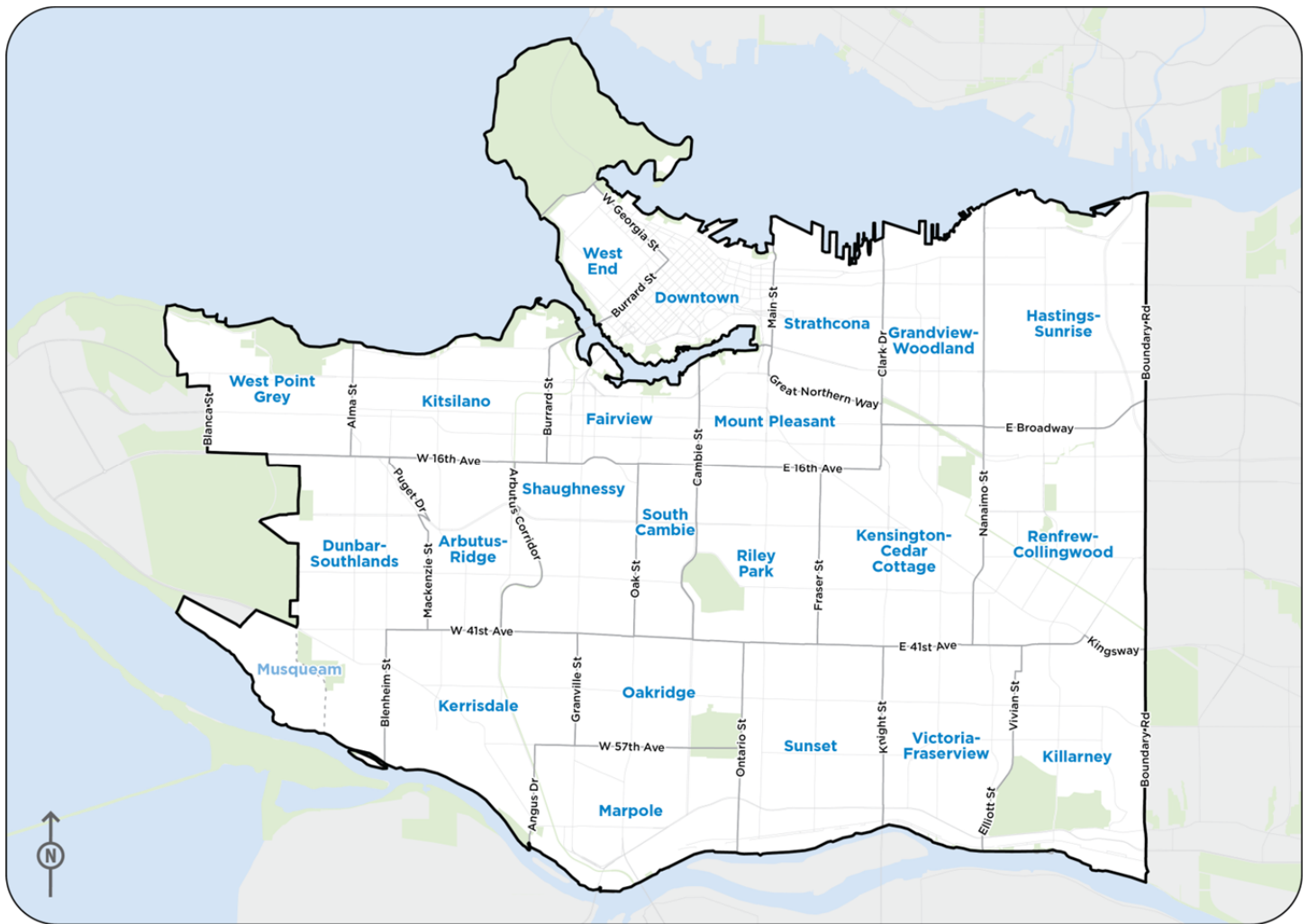
Our city is changing, and facing important local and global challenges for social sustainability. Vancouver is renowned worldwide for its beautiful natural setting; its integrated approach to planning that creates livable, amenity-rich spaces; and its leadership in reducing its ecological footprint.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

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

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



Scope: City of Neighbourhoods



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

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

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

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

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

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

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

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

Understanding Census Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

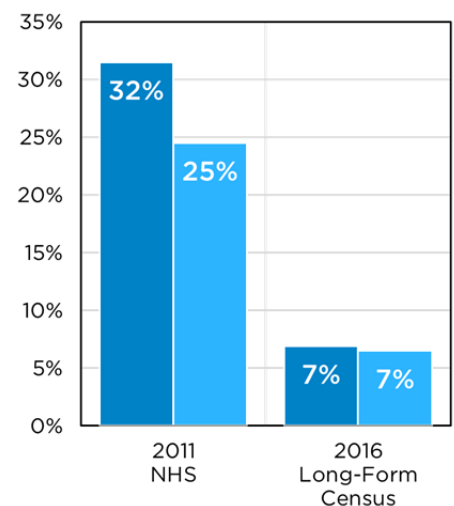
Gaps and Limitations

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

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

Global Non-Response Rate, 2011-2016

■ West End ■ City of Vancouver



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

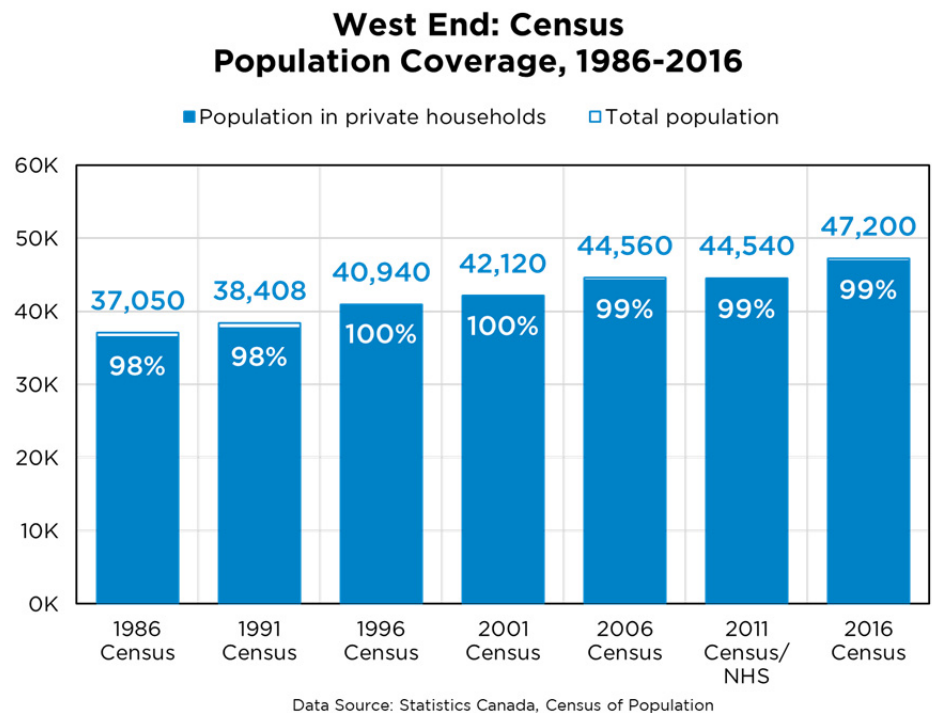
- Ensuring cultural appropriateness and safety in surveys is a work in progress. Although Statistics Canada ensures confidentiality of responses, the census still represents an agency of the federal government asking people detailed questions about their identities, housing arrangements, employment and more. In addition, census and survey topics and concepts often arise from colonial systems and do not reflect Indigenous conceptions of identity, family, well-being and community.

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

Census Coverage

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

In the West End, the 2016 census counted 47,200 residents, 99% of which were housed in private households.



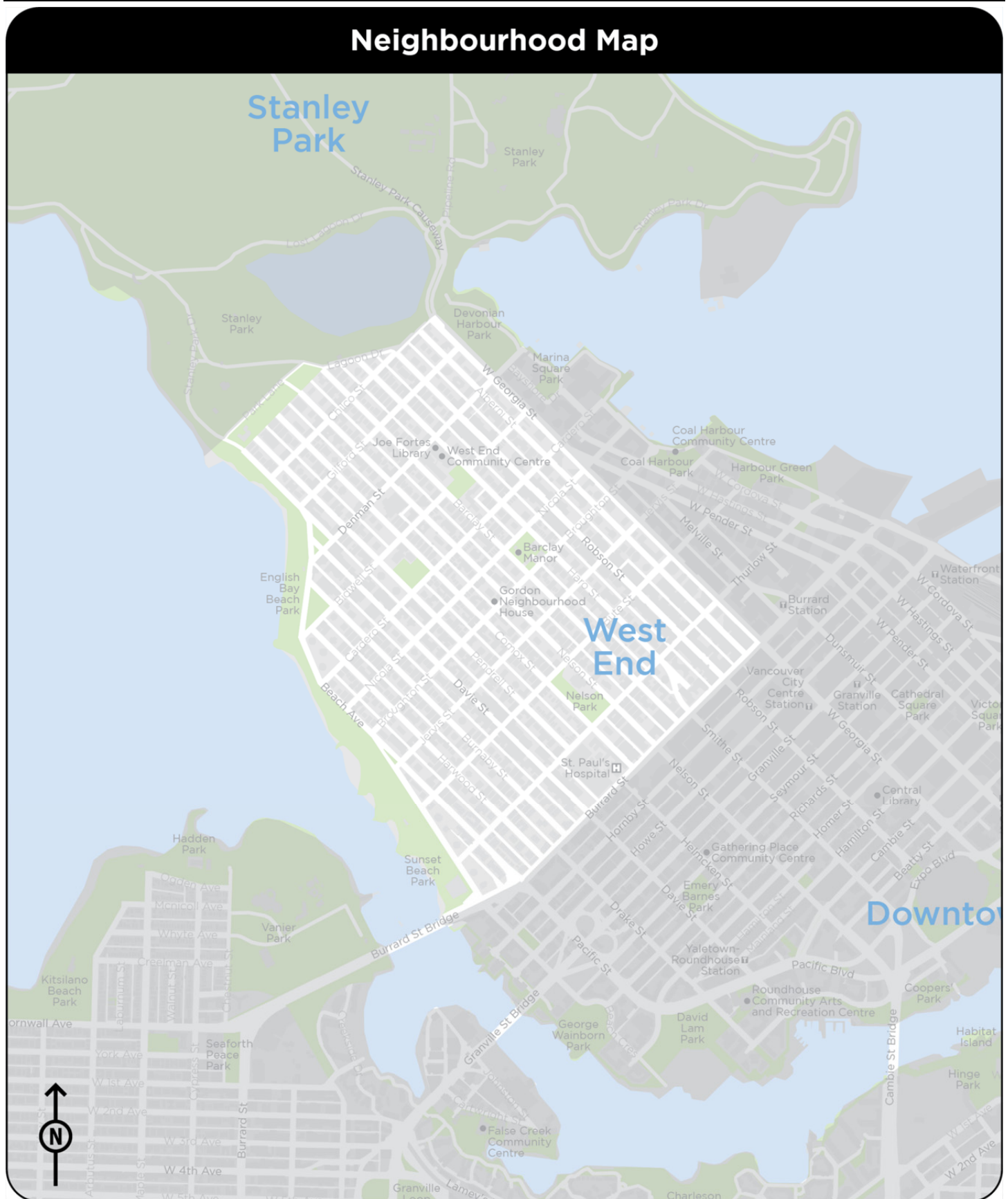
Other Data Sources

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

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

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

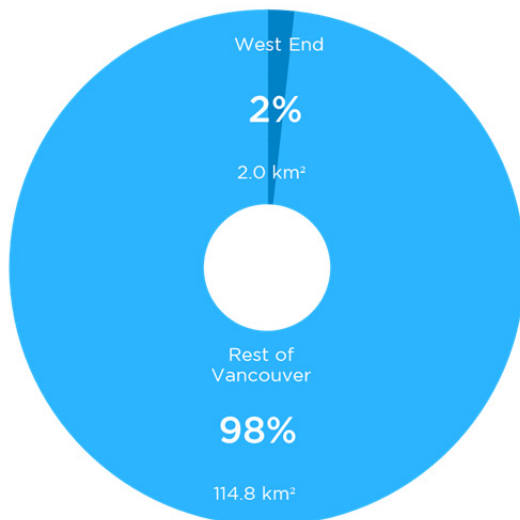
LOCATING THE WEST END



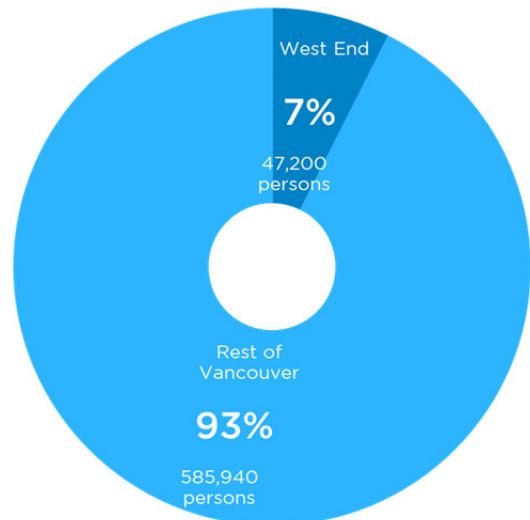
SHARE OF THE CITY

The West End local area is defined as the portion of the Downtown peninsula between Georgia Street and False Creek/English Bay, and between Burrard Street and Stanley Park. The West End occupies just 2% of the City of Vancouver's land area, but houses 7% of its population. The area contains 11% of the private households counted in the 2016 census. Of the jobs reported with a usual place of work, 6% of those within the City of Vancouver were located in the West End.

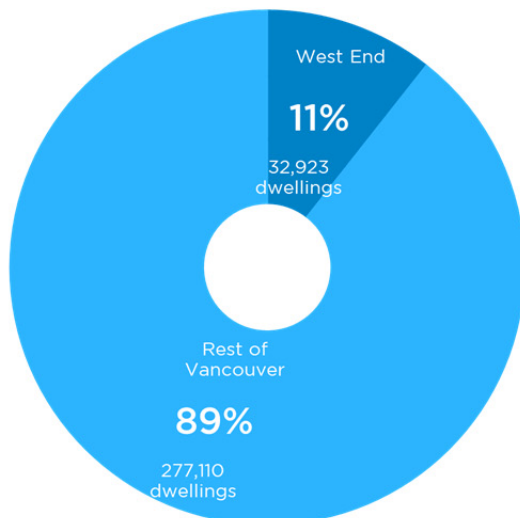
Land Area



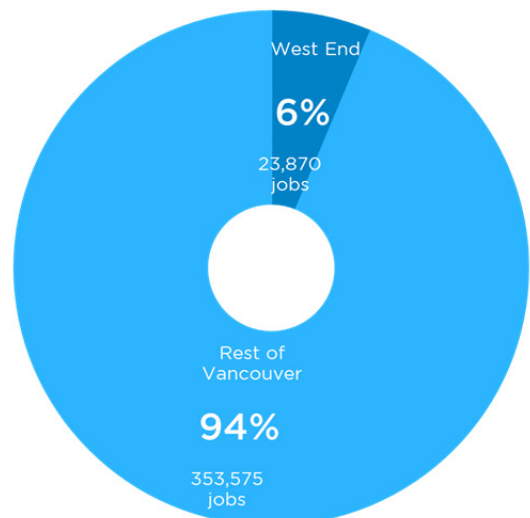
Population



Housing Units

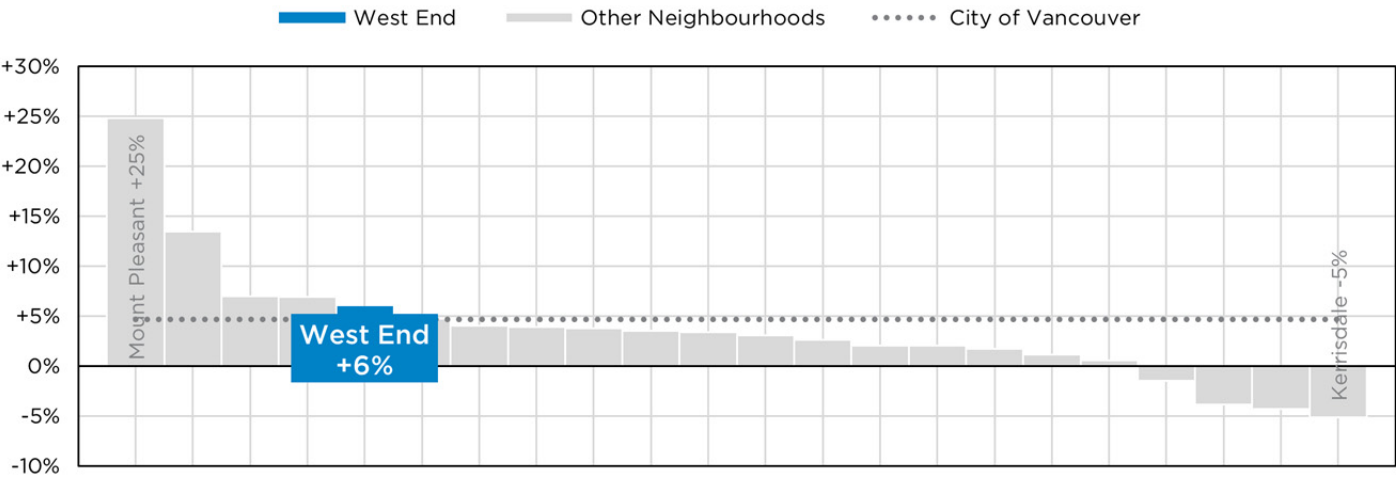


Jobs in Area

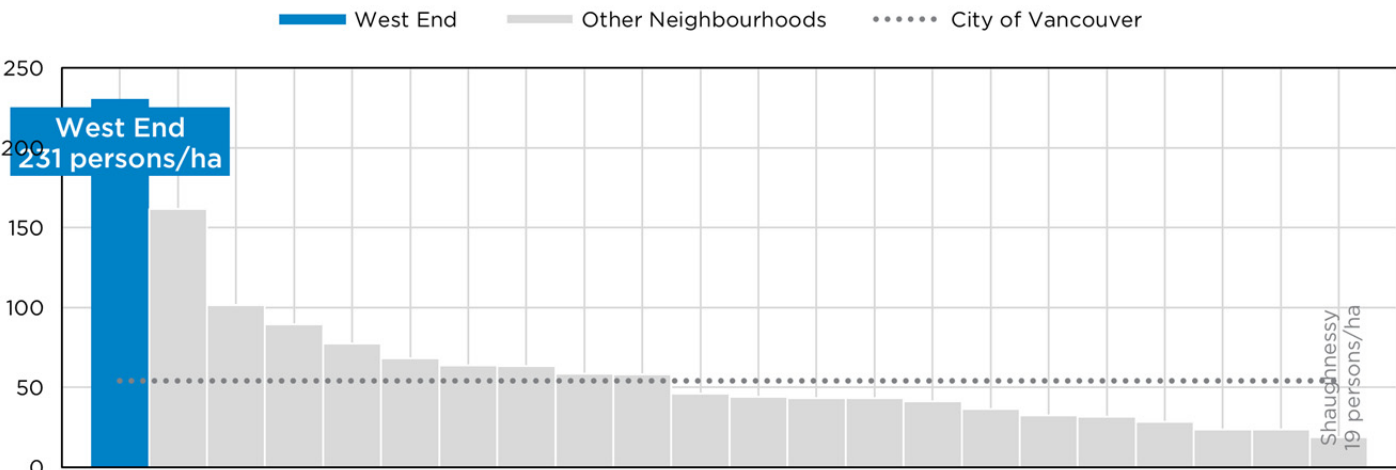


GROWTH AND CHANGE

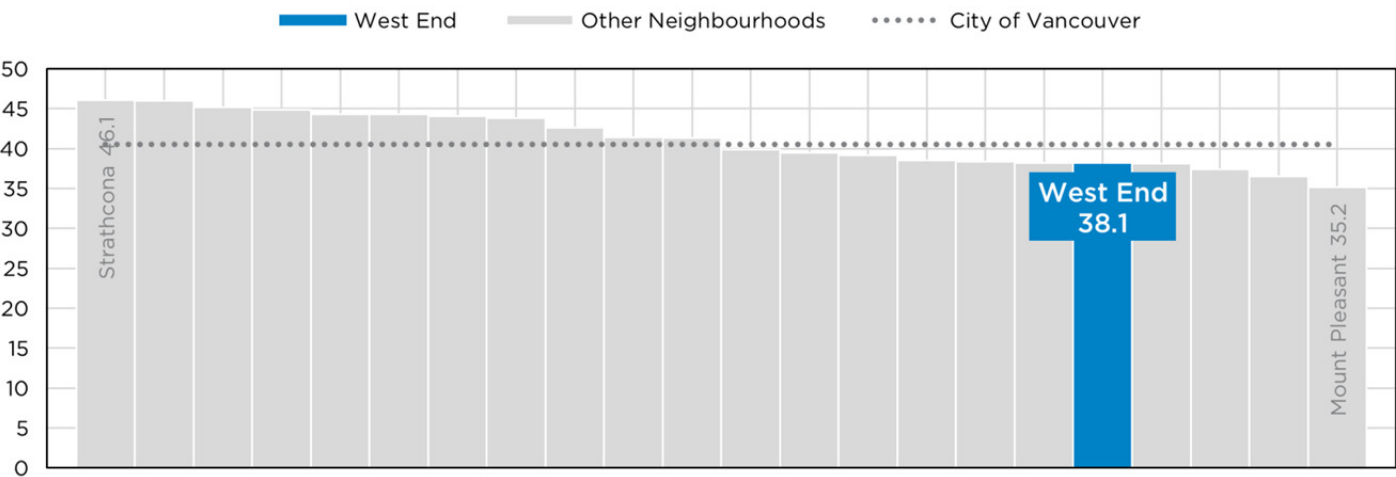
Population Change, 2011-2016



Population Density, 2016

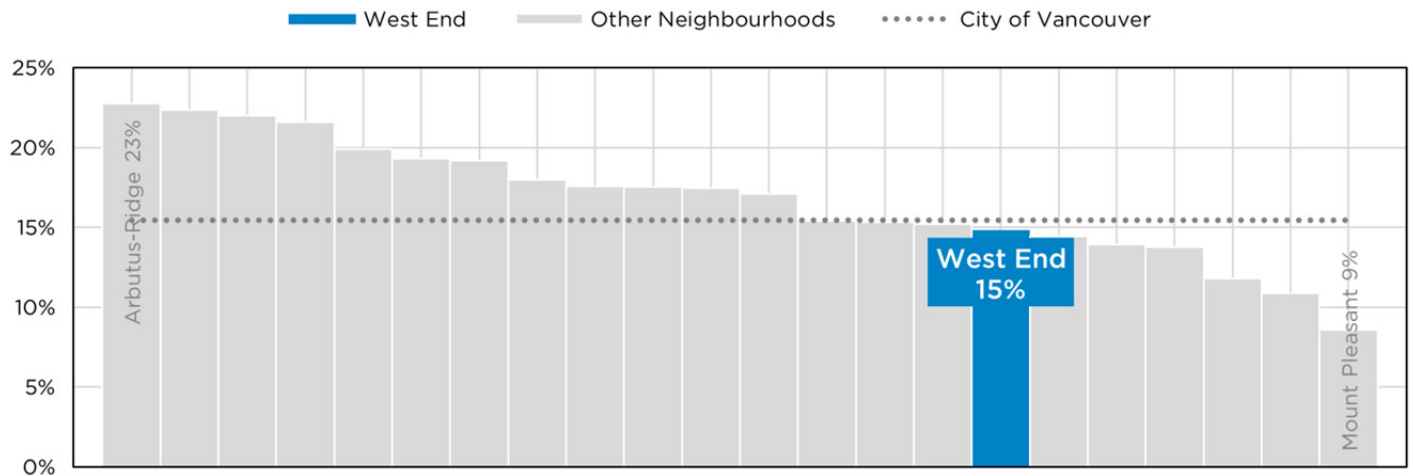


Median Age, 2016

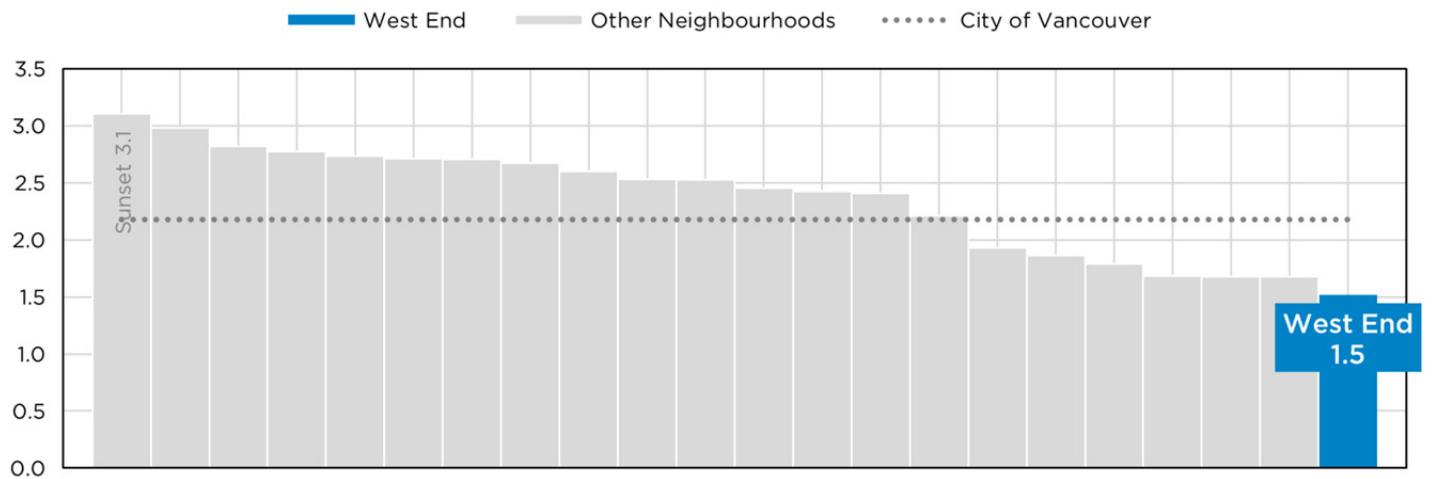


NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPARISONS

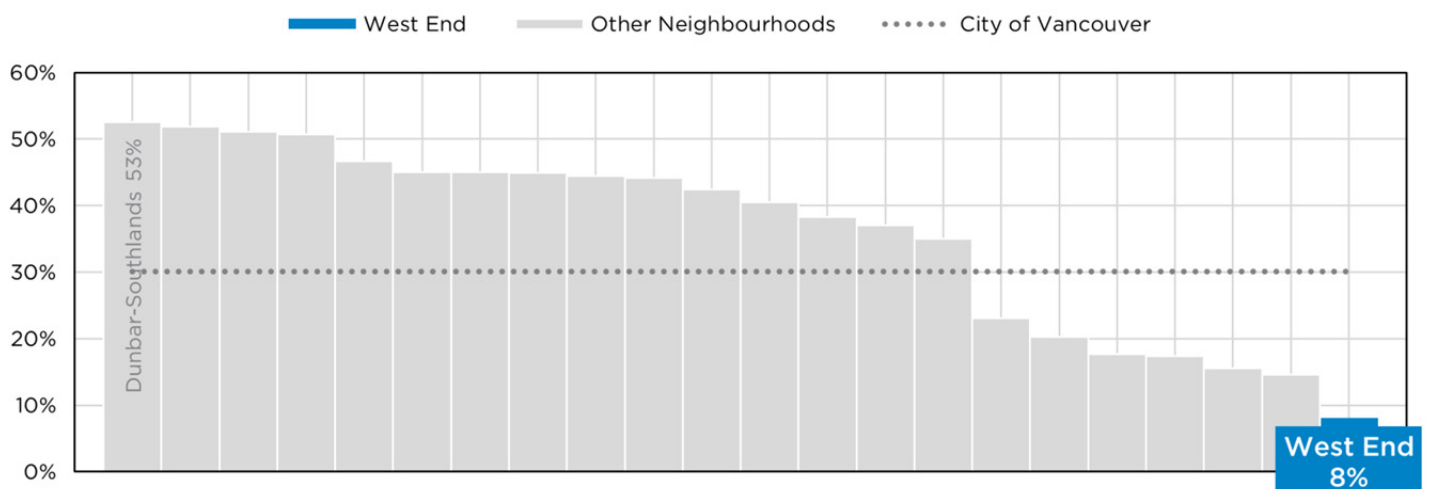
Population Age 65 or Older, 2016



Average Household Size, 2016



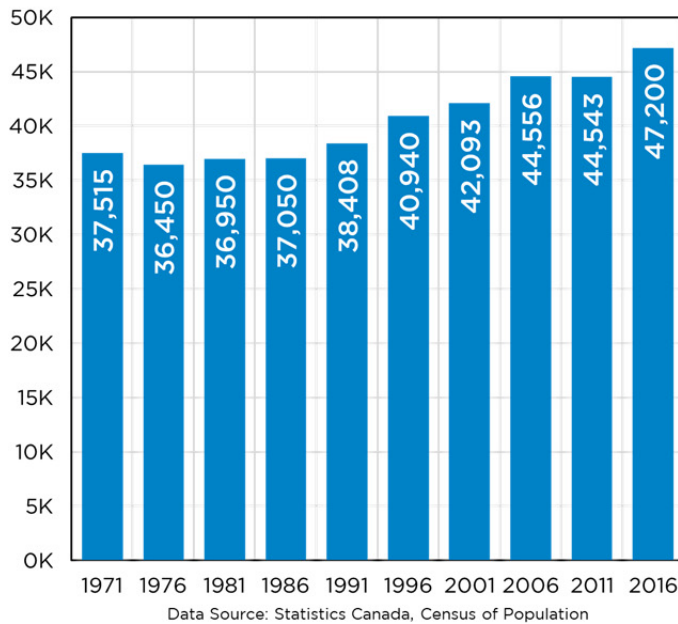
Estimated Households with Children at Home, 2016



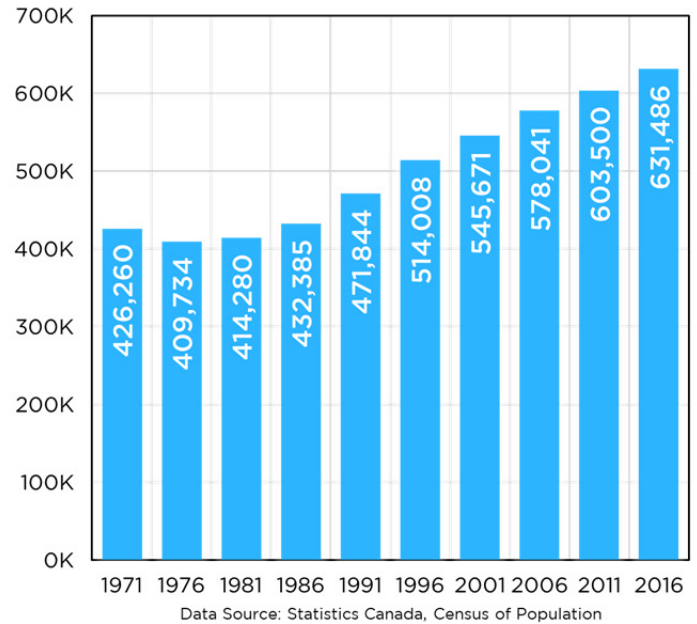
Population Trends

The 2016 census counted 47,200 persons within the West End's two square kilometres, more than 2,600 more than were counted in 2011. The graph below shows that the population of the West End has steady grown over time, despite relatively little change in its stock of older, higher-density apartment buildings.

**West End:
Total Population, 1971-2016**

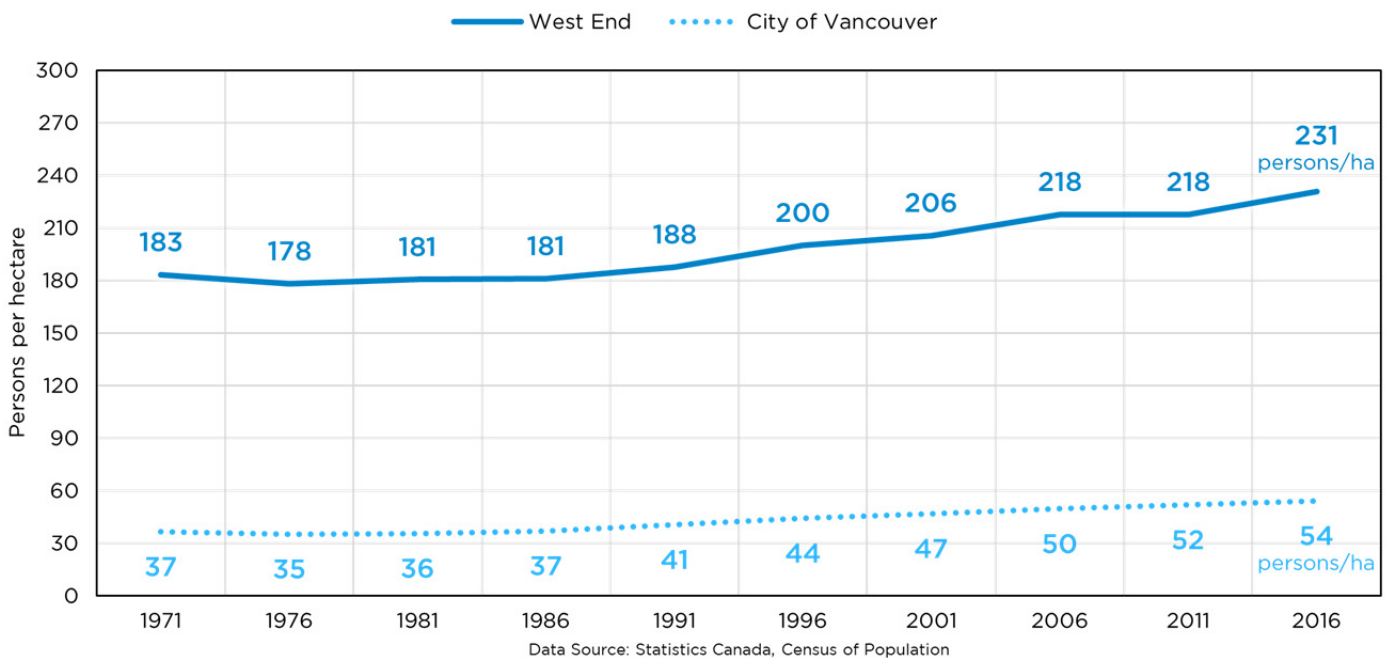


**City of Vancouver:
Total Population, 1971-2016**



As of 2016, the West End's population density was 231 persons per hectare. This was the densest local area in the city—though some portions of Downtown are denser—and more than four times the density of the City of Vancouver overall.

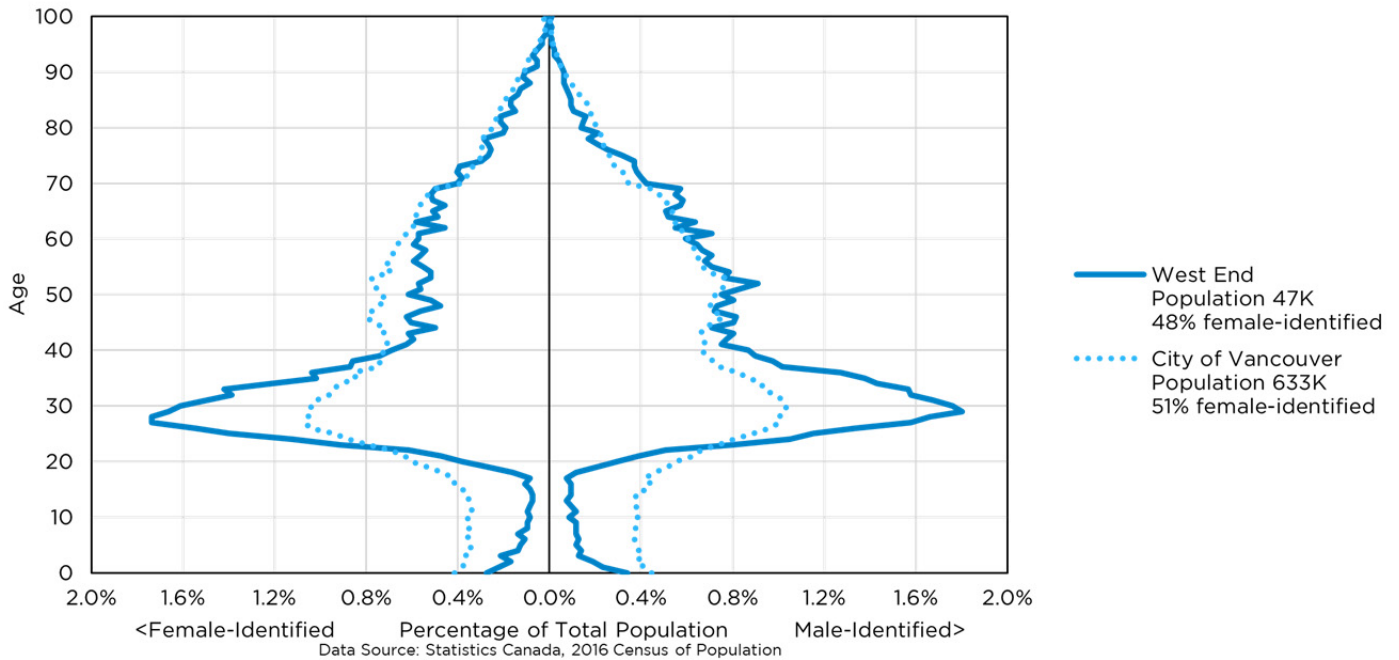
Population Density, 1971-2016



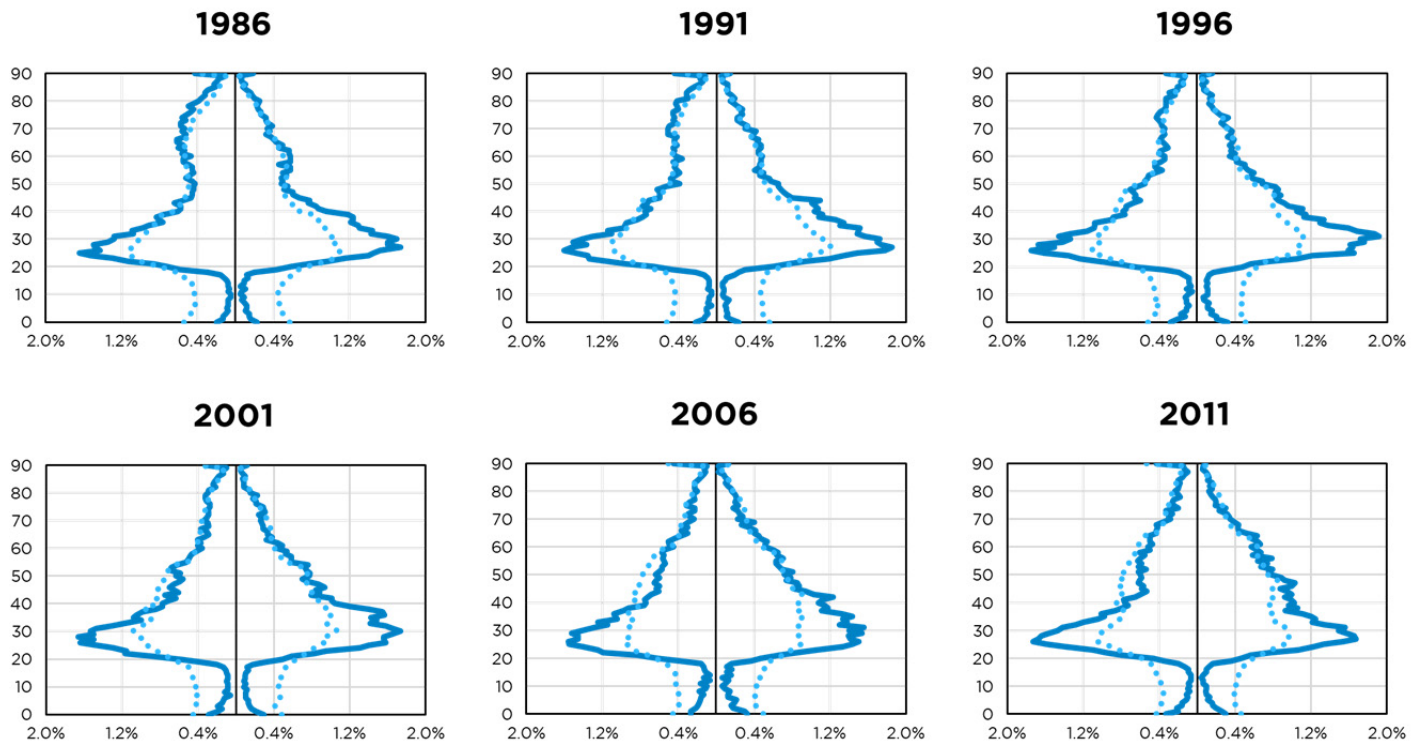
Age Profile

Proportionally, the West End has a very large population of people in their 20s and early 30s. Only 48% of the area's population is female-identified,¹ with the population in their 40s and 50s being most skewed toward male-identified residents.

Population Distribution by Age and Sex, 2016



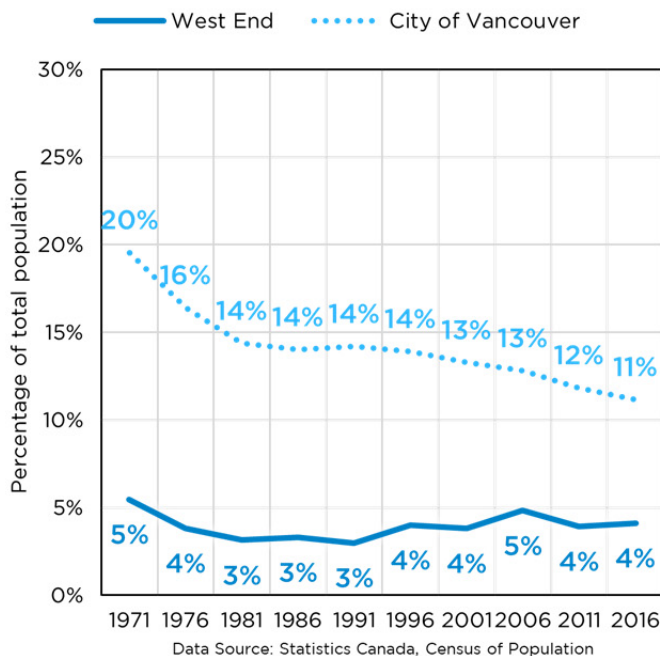
The general distribution of the West End's population has been quite consistent over time. In recent census periods the concentration of younger adults has become greater.



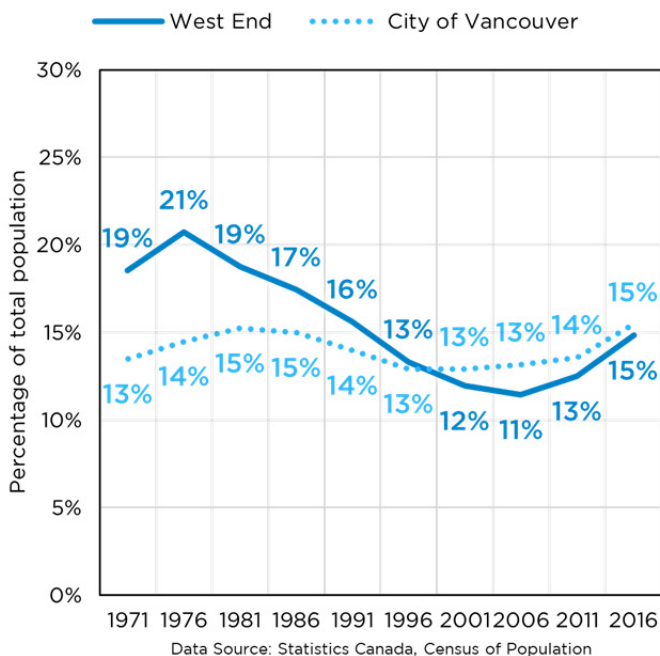
Age Groups

The West End has more than three times as many seniors as children, with the smallest percentage of population under 15 of any local area in the city. Consistent with citywide trends, seniors are expected to make up a greater share of the population into the future.

Share of Pop. 0-14, 1971-2016

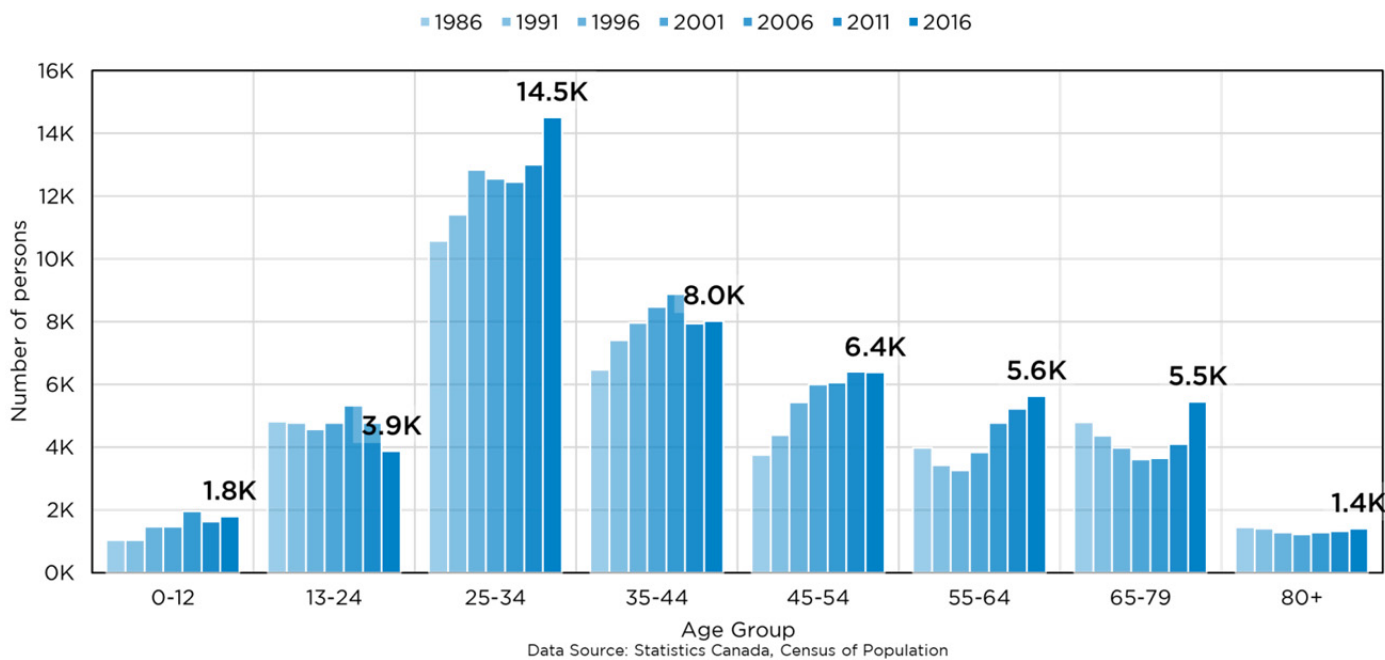


Share of Pop. 65+, 1971-2016



The graph below provides population counts by age group over 30 years. The West End is generally seeing growth in younger and older adults, with the population between 35 and 54 years of age, as well as youth, plateauing or declining.

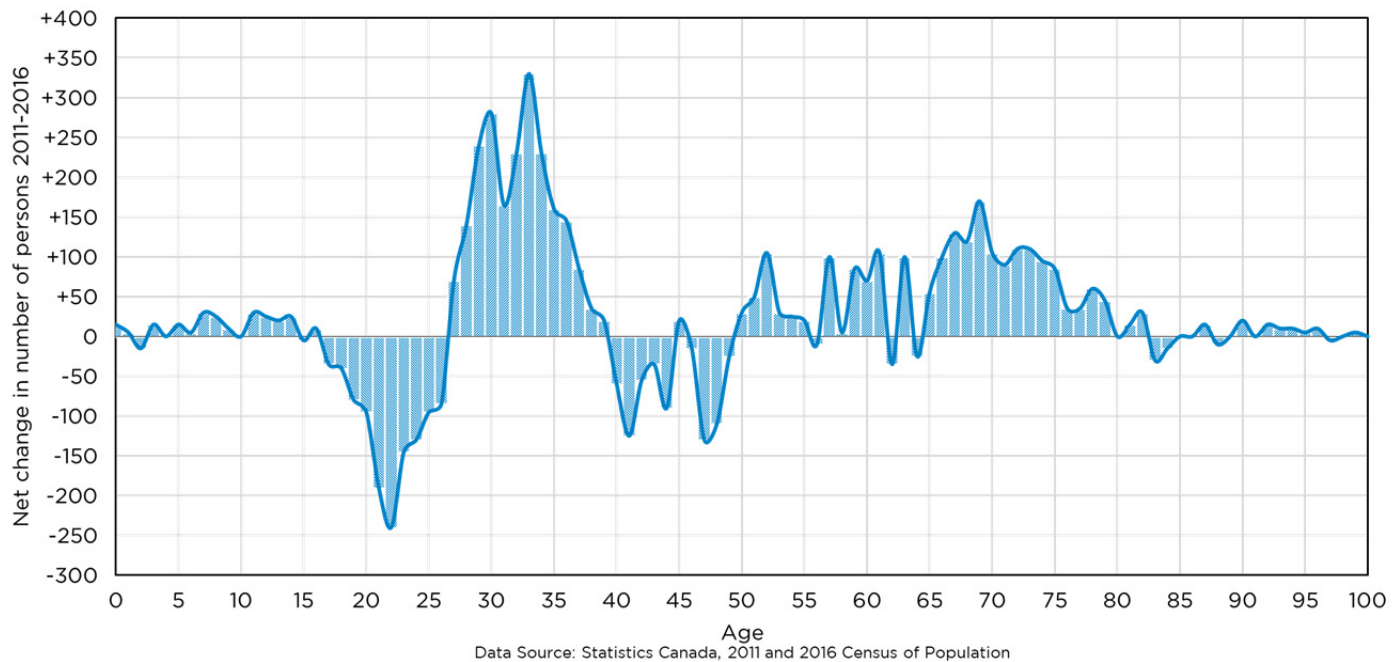
West End: Population by Age Groups 1986-2016



Short-Term Population Growth

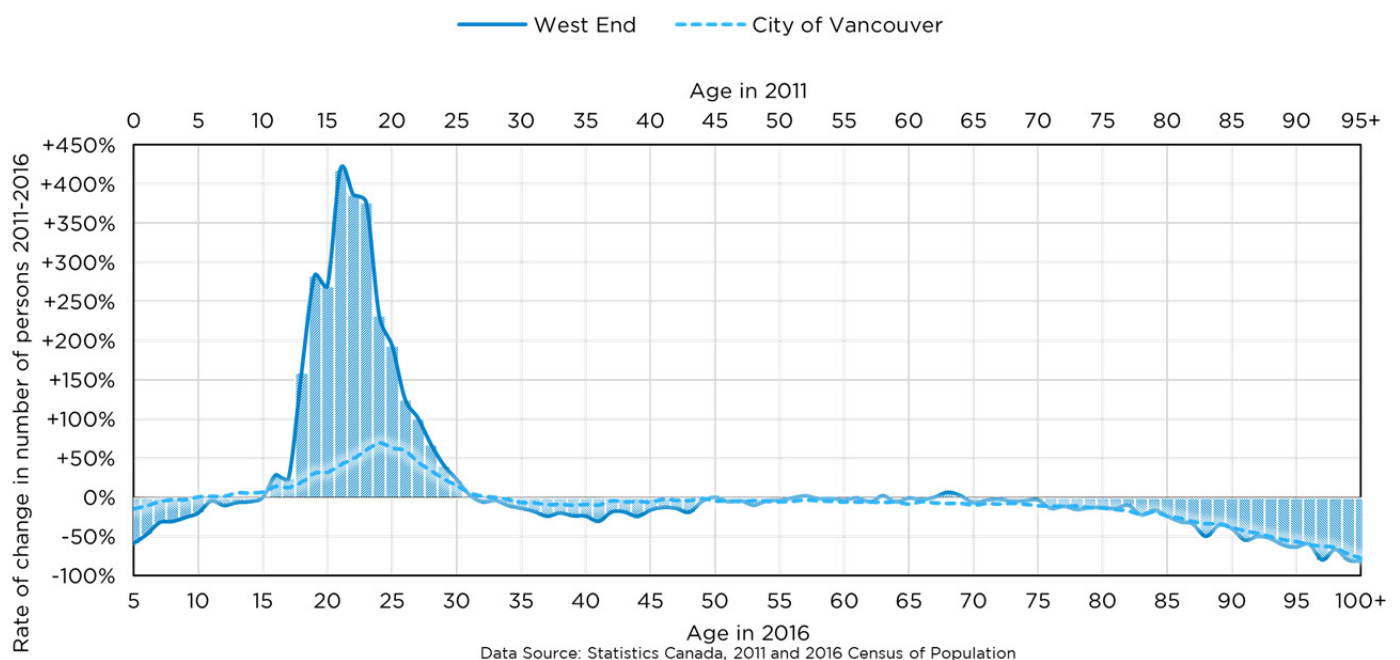
The graphs on this page provide a more detailed focus on population change from the 2011 to 2016 census. This first graph shows net population growth or loss by age in the West End: 2016 saw a smaller youth population, and a decline in people in their 40s, offset by growth in young adults and seniors.

West End: Net Population Growth 2011-2016



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 the West End as people move in their 20s, with a relatively large loss of population as people enter their late 30s and 40s. There was a net loss of 50% of newborn children in 2011 by the time they turned five in 2016.

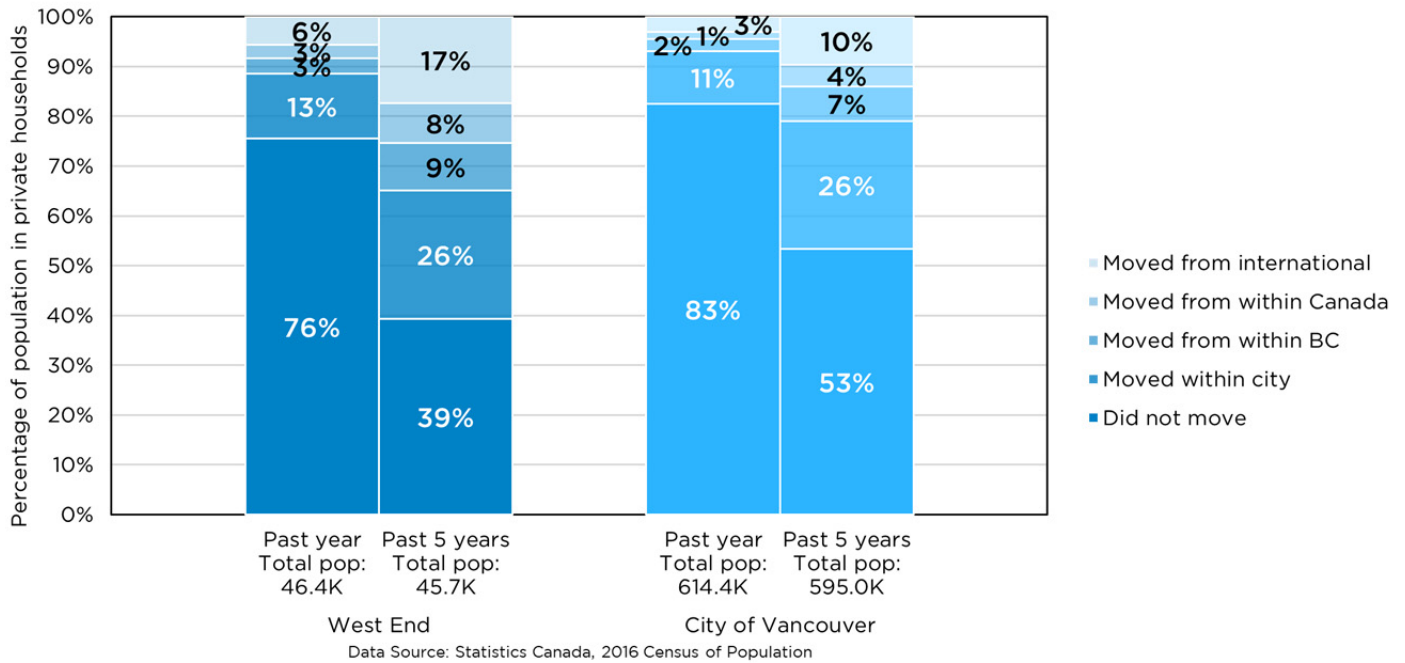
Rate of Change in Population Cohorts, 2011-2016



Mobility

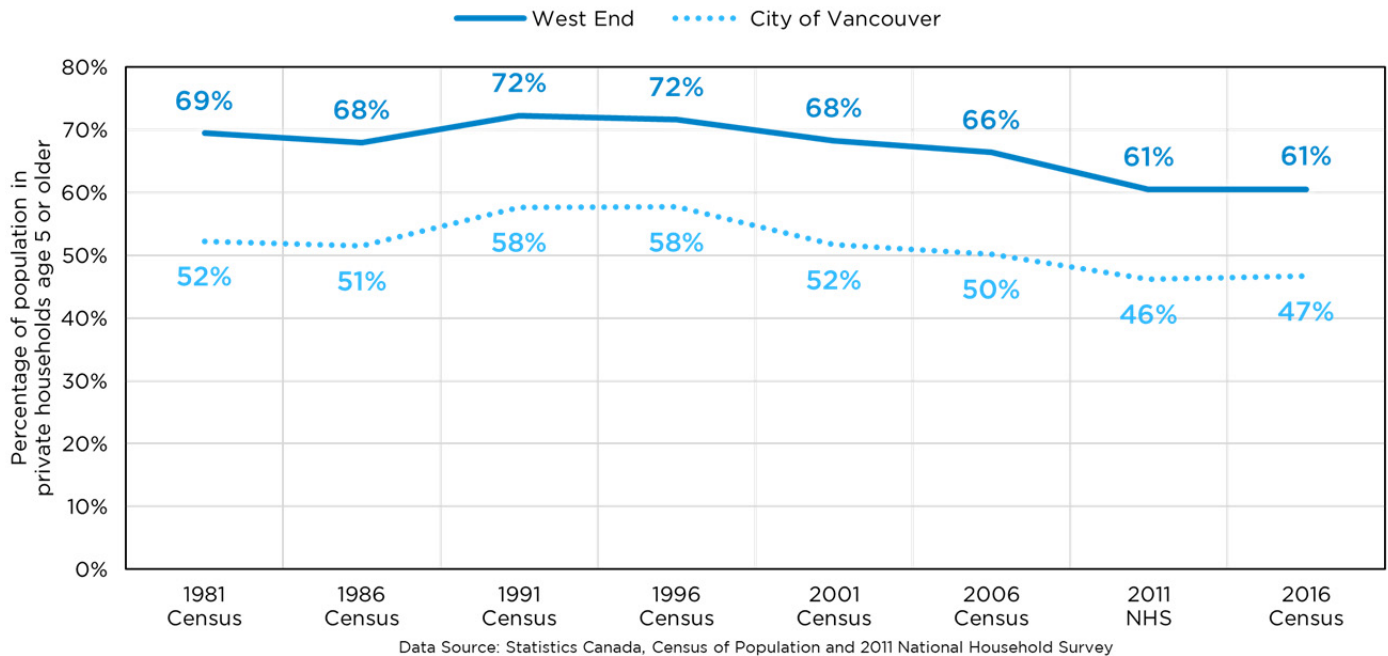
In the year prior to the 2016 census, 24% of West End residents had moved, mostly within the City of Vancouver. Over five years, 64% of residents had moved. Both rates are higher than the city overall.

Population by Mobility Status, 2016



The West End's population has become less mobile in recent periods, though people are more likely to have moved recently than in the city overall. Rising costs of housing likely incentivize people to remain in leases for longer periods.

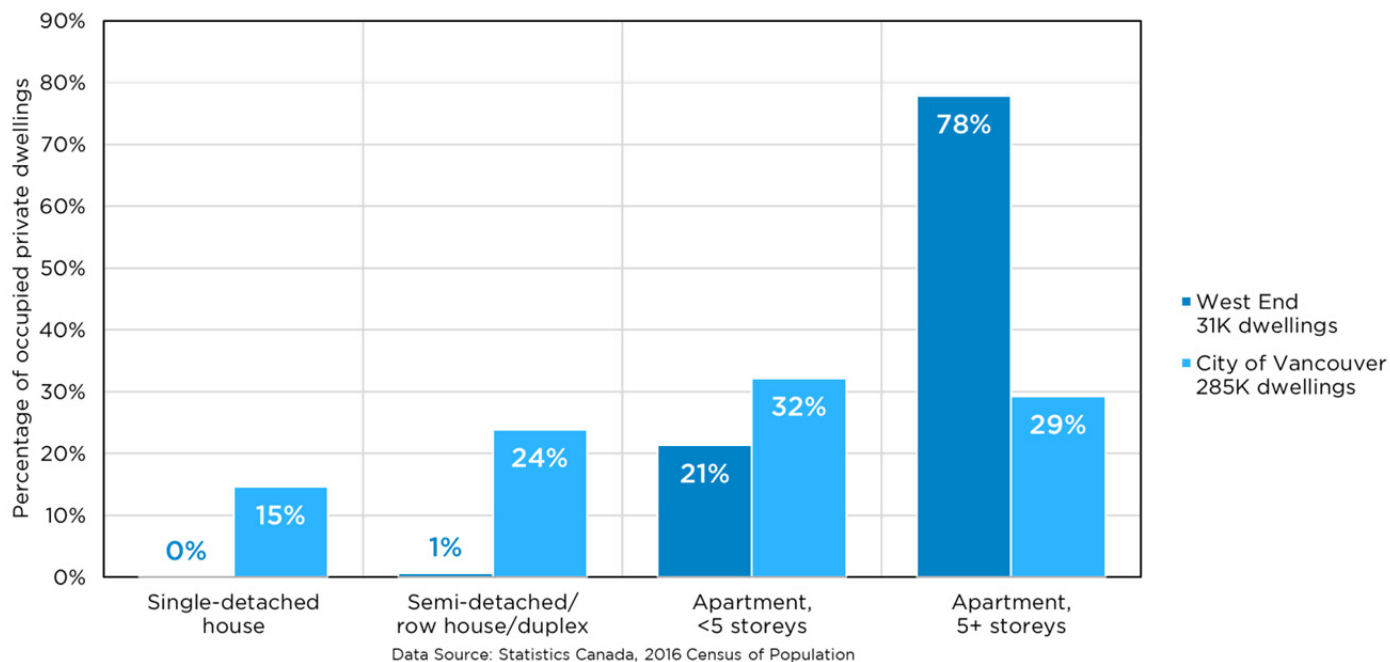
Percentage of Population that Moved in Prev. Five Years, 1981-2016



Housing Types

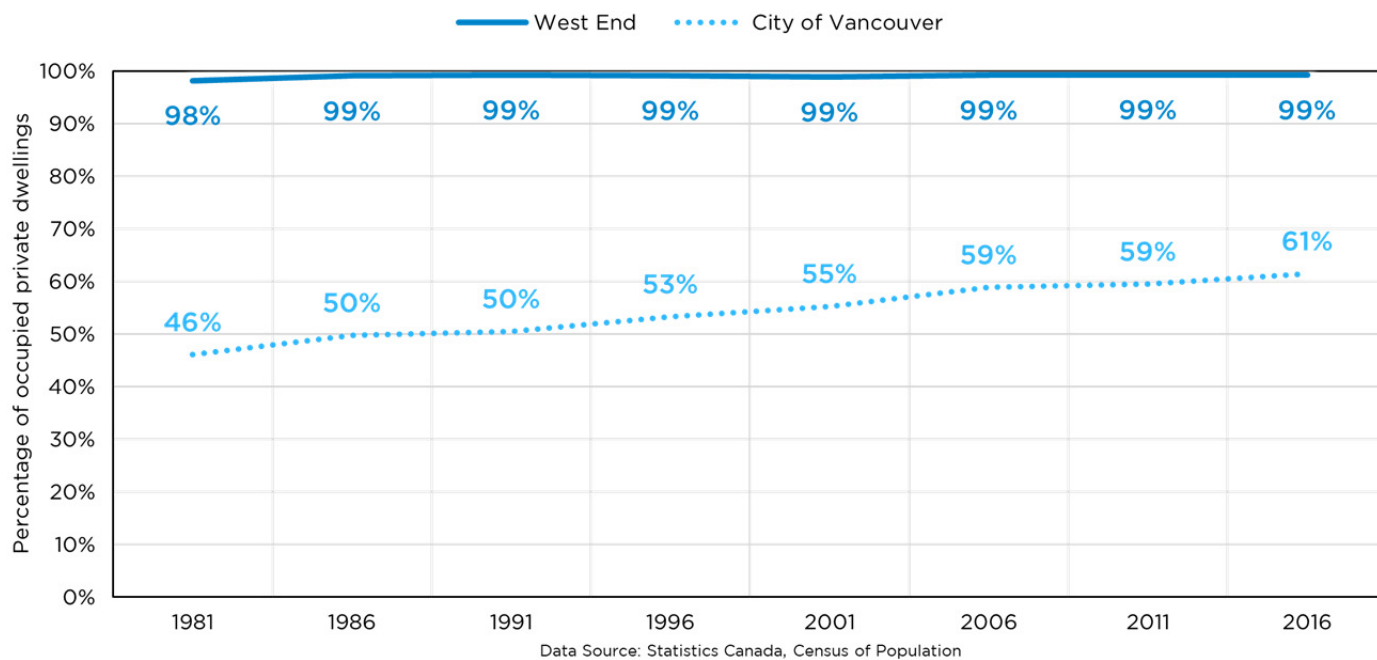
The West End is dominated by apartments, particularly in buildings five or more storeys. There is virtually no ground-oriented housing in the West End.²

Dwellings by Structural Type, 2016



With most apartment buildings in the West End dating back to the 1950s and 1960s, the area has been steadily apartment-dominated for decades. About 99% of occupied dwellings in the West End are in apartments, a consistent figure since the 1980s, while apartments in the city overall have grown to make up 61% of dwellings.³

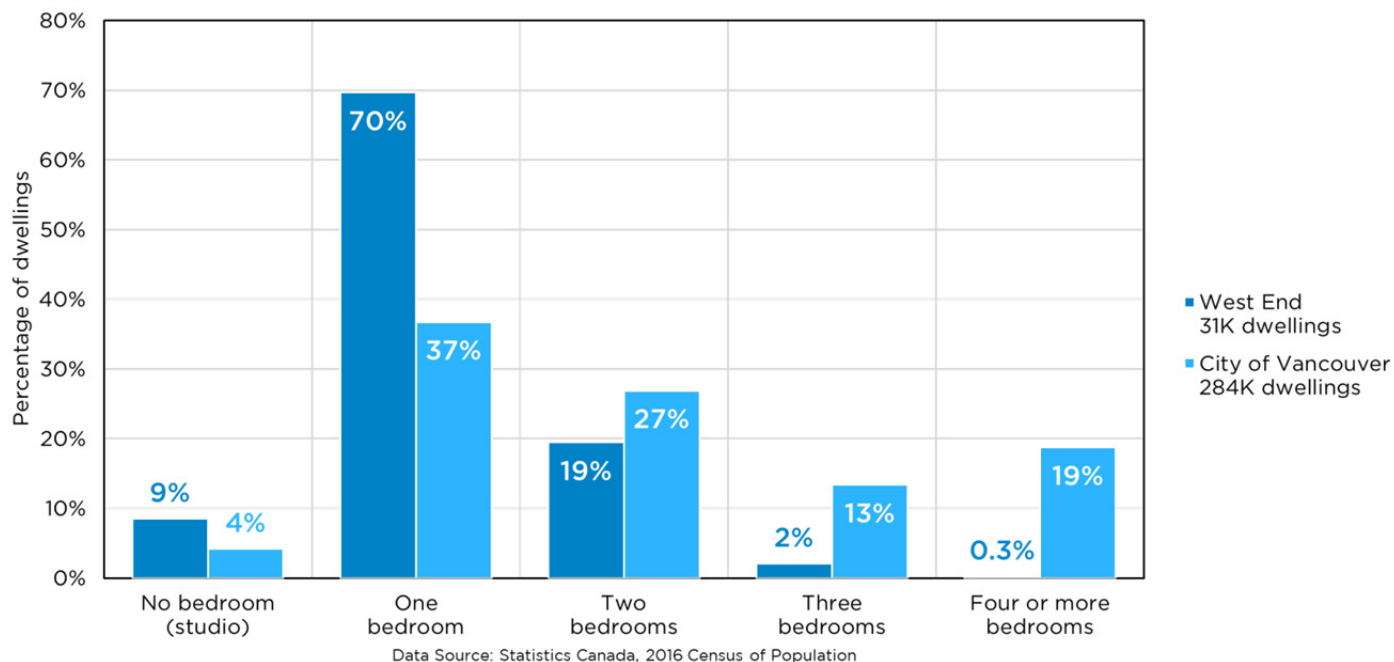
Apartments as Share of Total Dwellings, 1981-2016



Housing Size

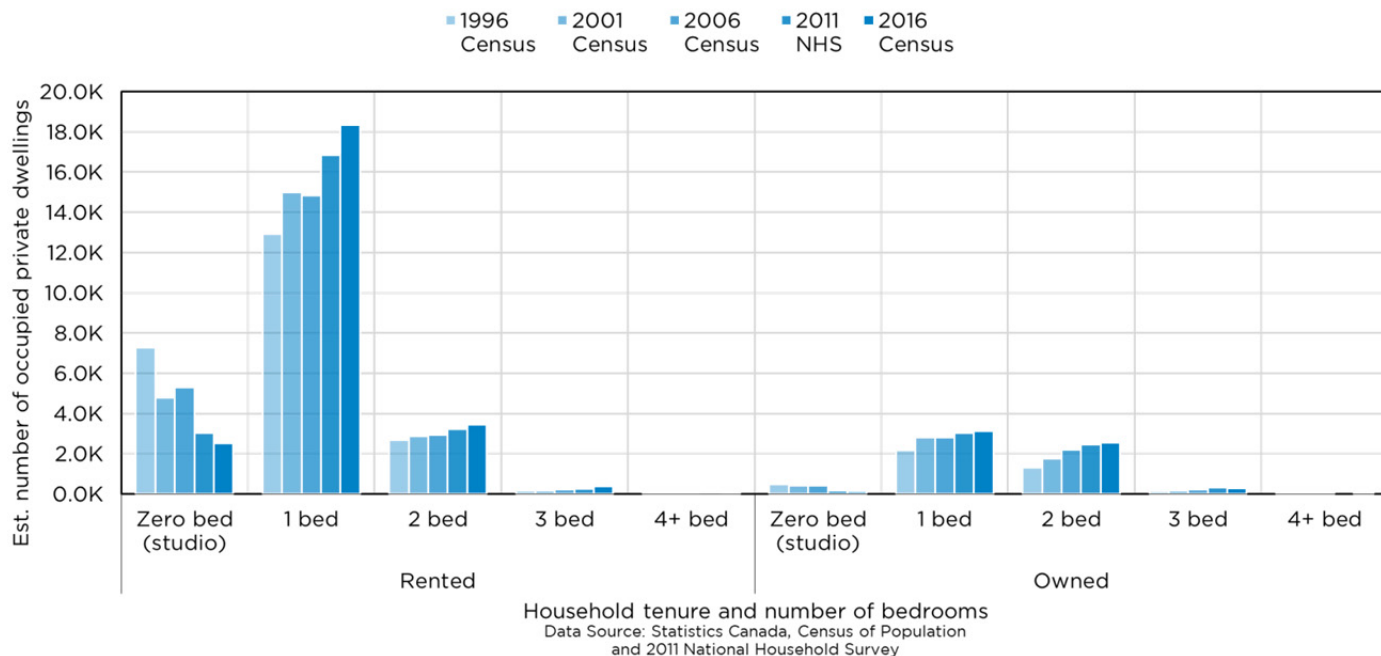
Housing units in the West End tend to be smaller than the city overall: almost four in five units have one or fewer bedrooms. There are very few units in the West End with three or more bedrooms.

Occupied Private Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 2016



In recent periods, new rental construction has continued to be dominated by one-bedroom units, though there has also been growth in the number of two-bedroom units. Among owned units in the West End, the number of one-bedroom units has been fairly flat while the number of two-bedroom units has grown.

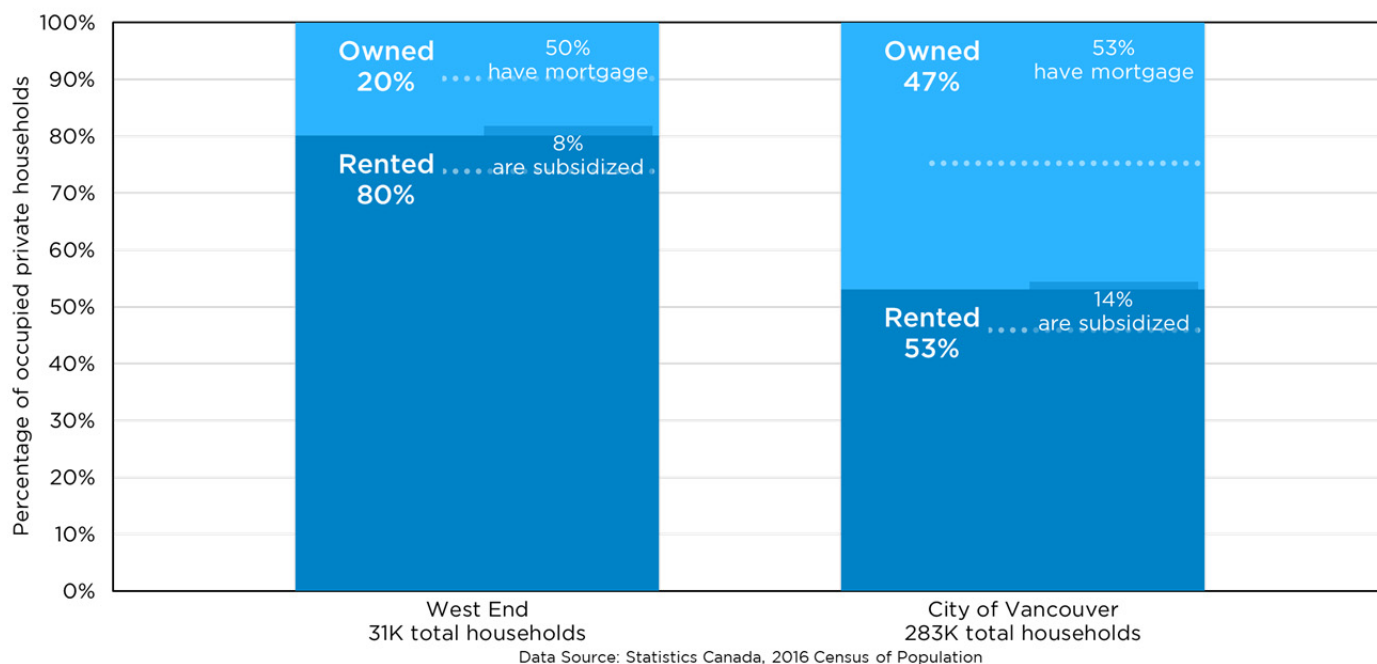
West End: Dwellings by Number of Bedrooms, 1996-2016



Housing Tenure

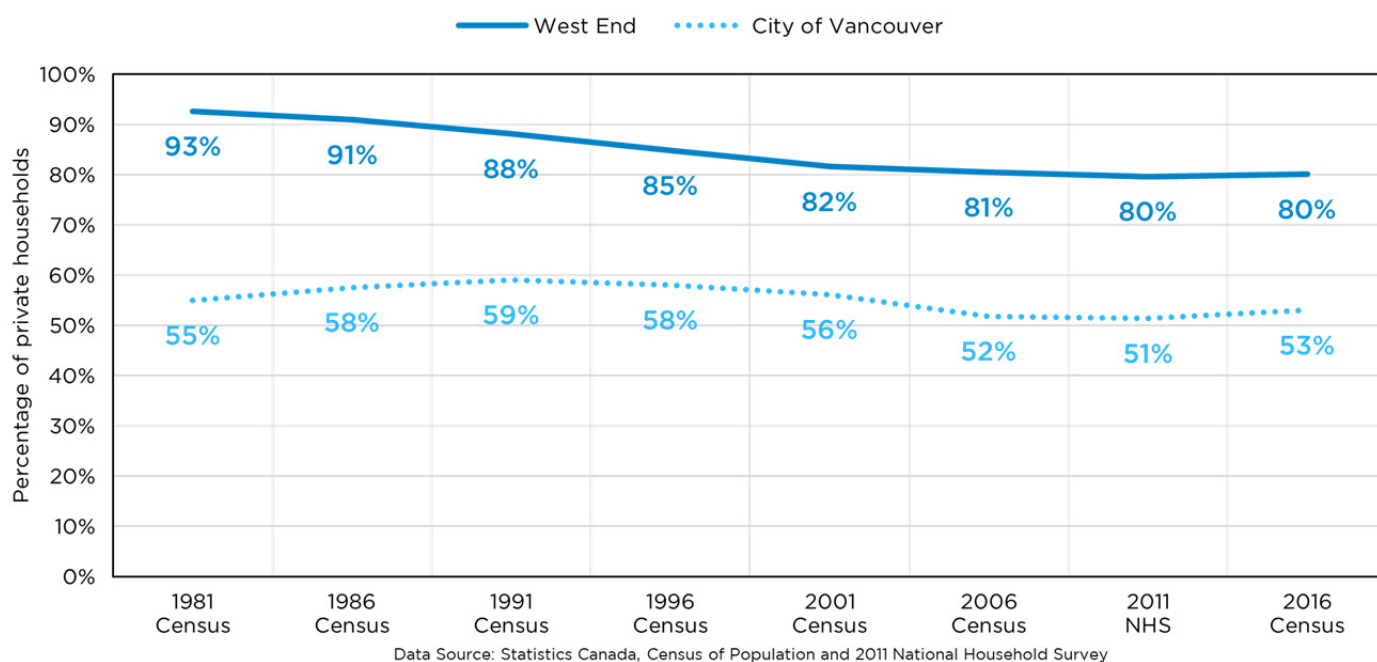
In the West End, 80% of households are rented, compared to 53% of households across the City of Vancouver.⁴ Subsidized housing makes up a smaller share of rented housing in the West End compared to the city overall, but this should be understood in the context of the West End's very large rental stock. Among owned households in the West End, about half have a mortgage.

Occupied Private Households by Housing Tenure, 2016



Over time, the proportion of rented households in the West End has declined until stabilizing in the 2000s. This reflects citywide trends: condominium construction was dominant in the early 2000s, but recent incentives to build rental housing have resulted in a growth in rented households.

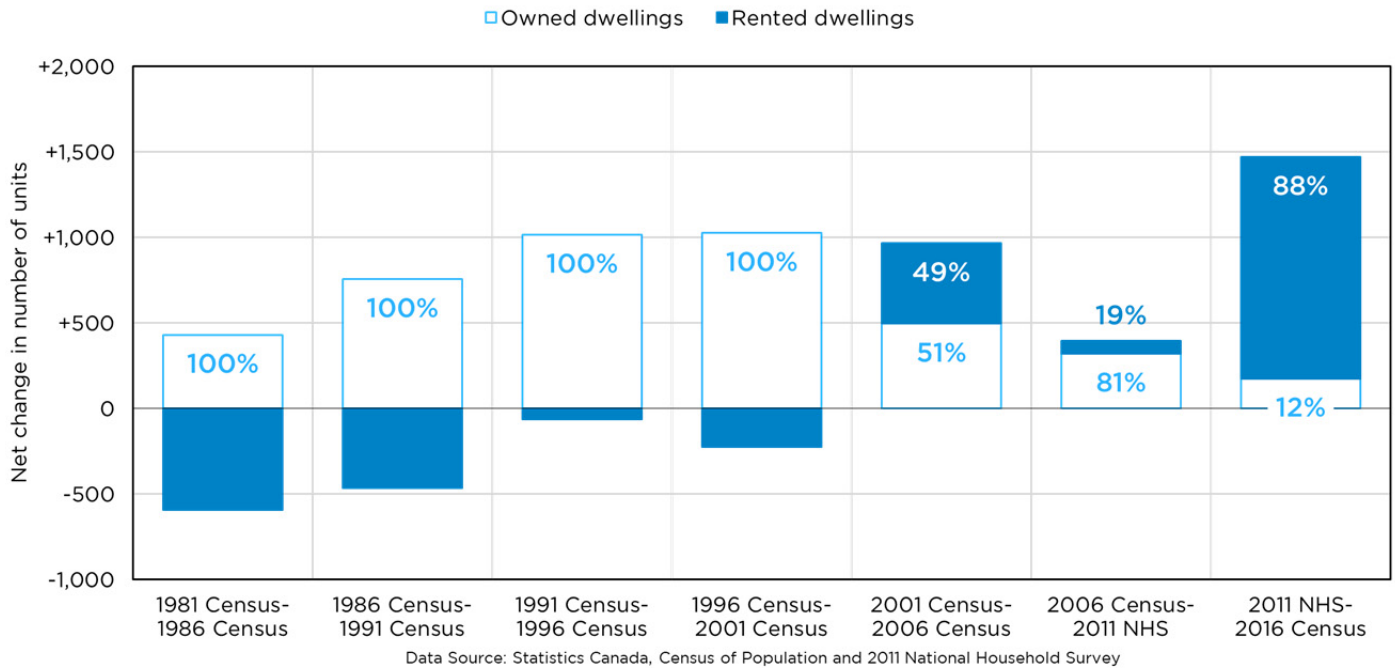
Rented Households as Share of Total, 1981-2016



New Housing

A shift back toward building rental housing is evident across the city. In the West End, 88% 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.

West End: Net New Households by Tenure, 1981-2016



Ensuring affordability in new housing remains a challenge across the city. Households in newly constructed units in the West End are more likely to have higher incomes.

West End: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016



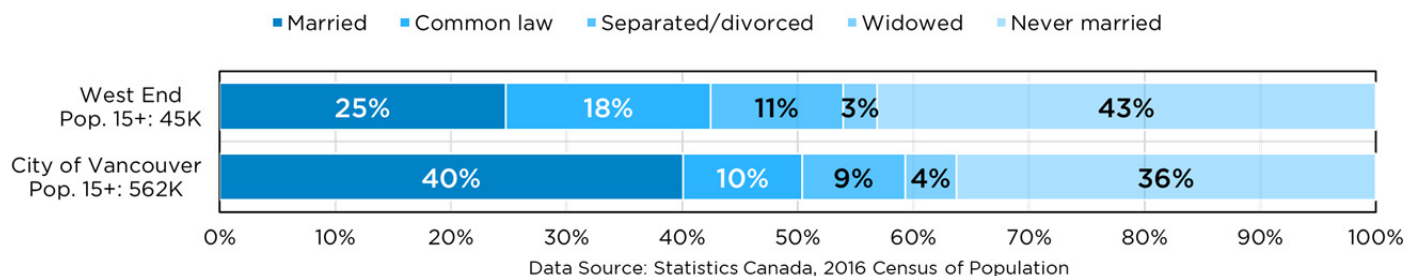
City of Vancouver: New Housing by Income Groups, 2016



Marital Status

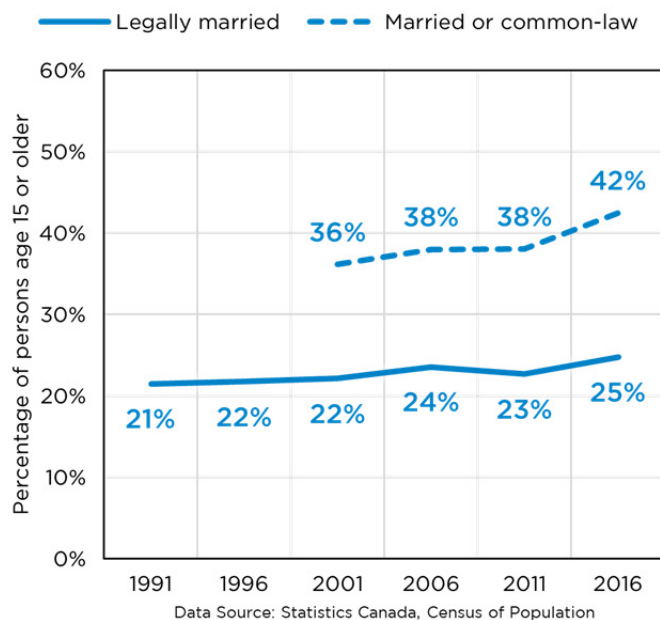
West End residents are less likely to be married than residents of the City of Vancouver overall. As of 2016, 25% of West End residents age 15 and older are married, with another 18% living common-law. In the West End, 11% of residents are separated or divorced; 3% are widowed; and 43% have never been married and are not living common-law.

Population by Marital Status, 2016

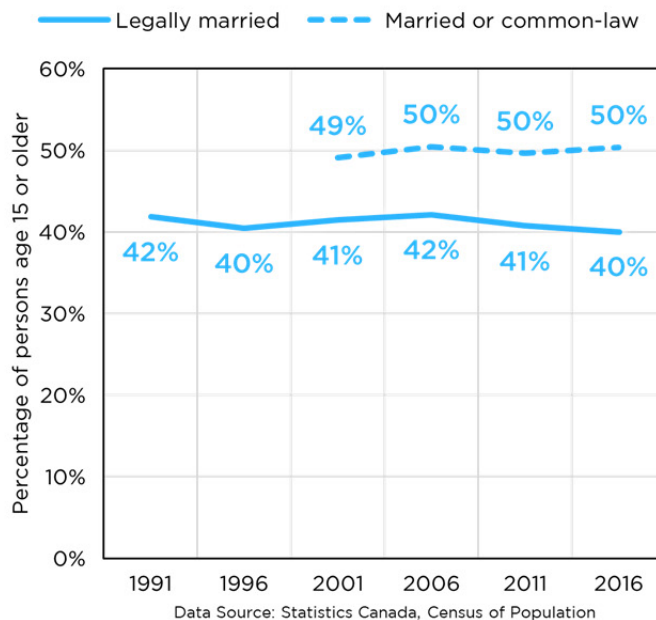


Over time, the rate of persons married in the West End has climbed slowly since the 2000s. The rate of people living common-law has increased more quickly in the most recent census period.

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



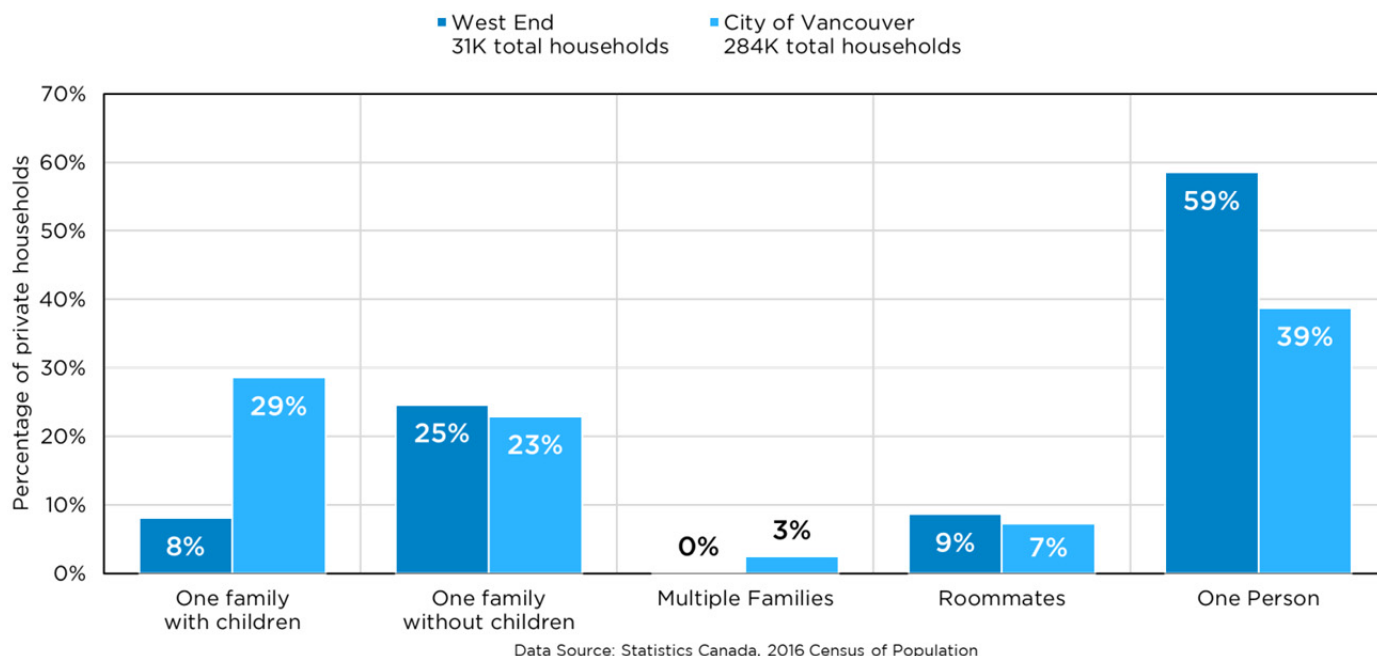
City of Vancouver: Pop. 15+ by Marital Status, 1991-2016



Household Types

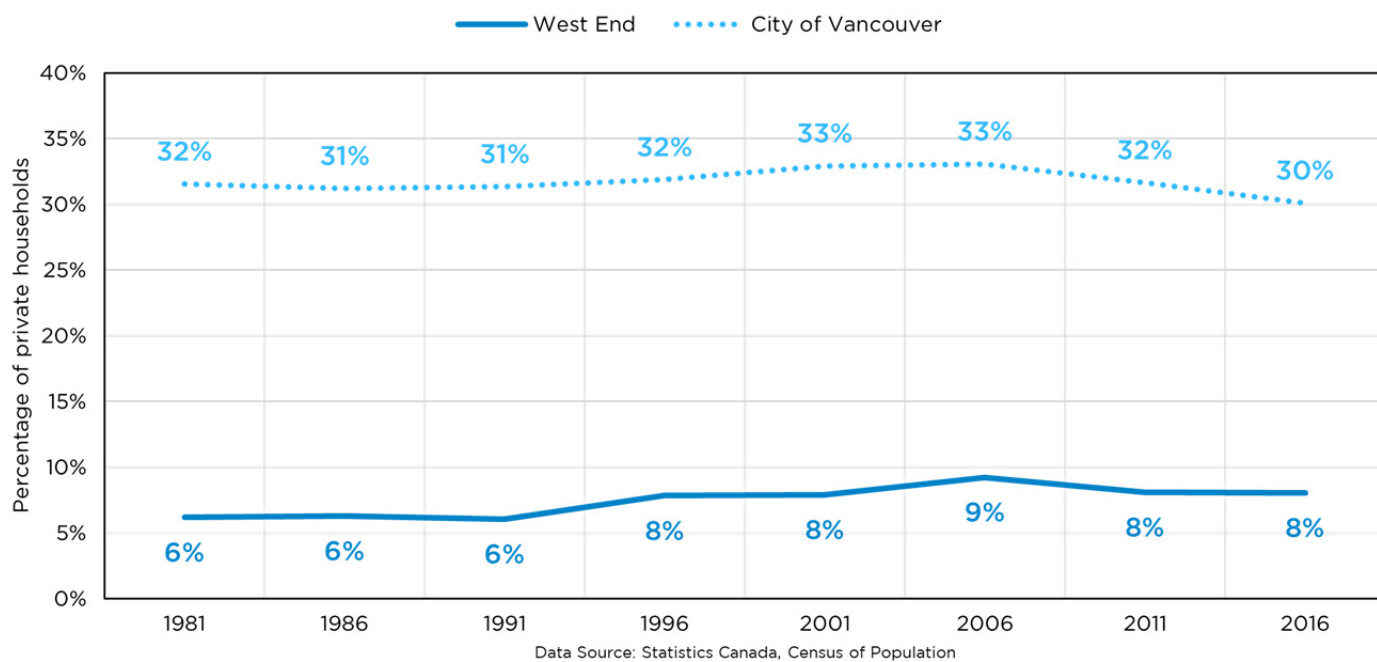
Compared to the city overall, West End households are much less likely to have families with children living in them. The neighbourhood has proportionally more non-family households than the city overall.

Private Households by Type of Household, 2016



The graph below estimates the percentage of households that have children—of any age, including adult children—at home.⁵ The rate of households with children has been generally steady in both the West End and the city overall, but with a slight increase in the West End since the 1990s and, interestingly, the rate remaining steady in the West End even as the rate in the city has declined somewhat.

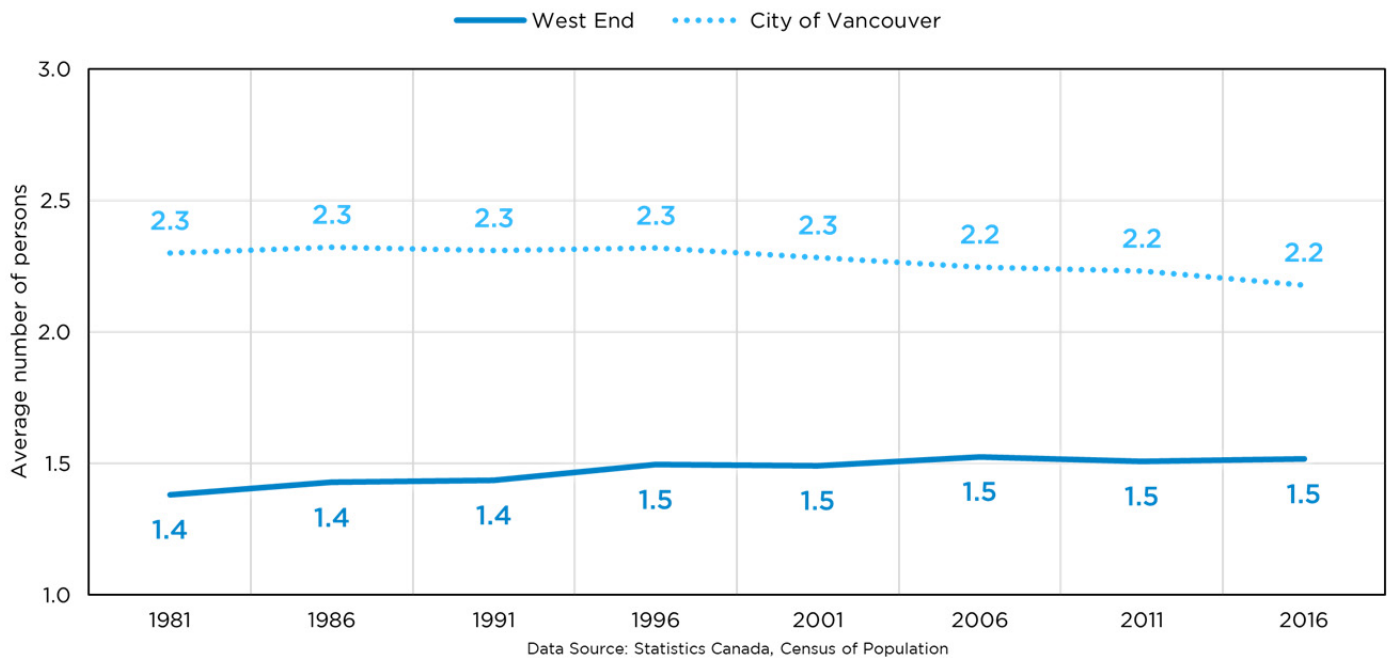
Est. Percentage of Households with Children at Home, 1981-2016



Household Size

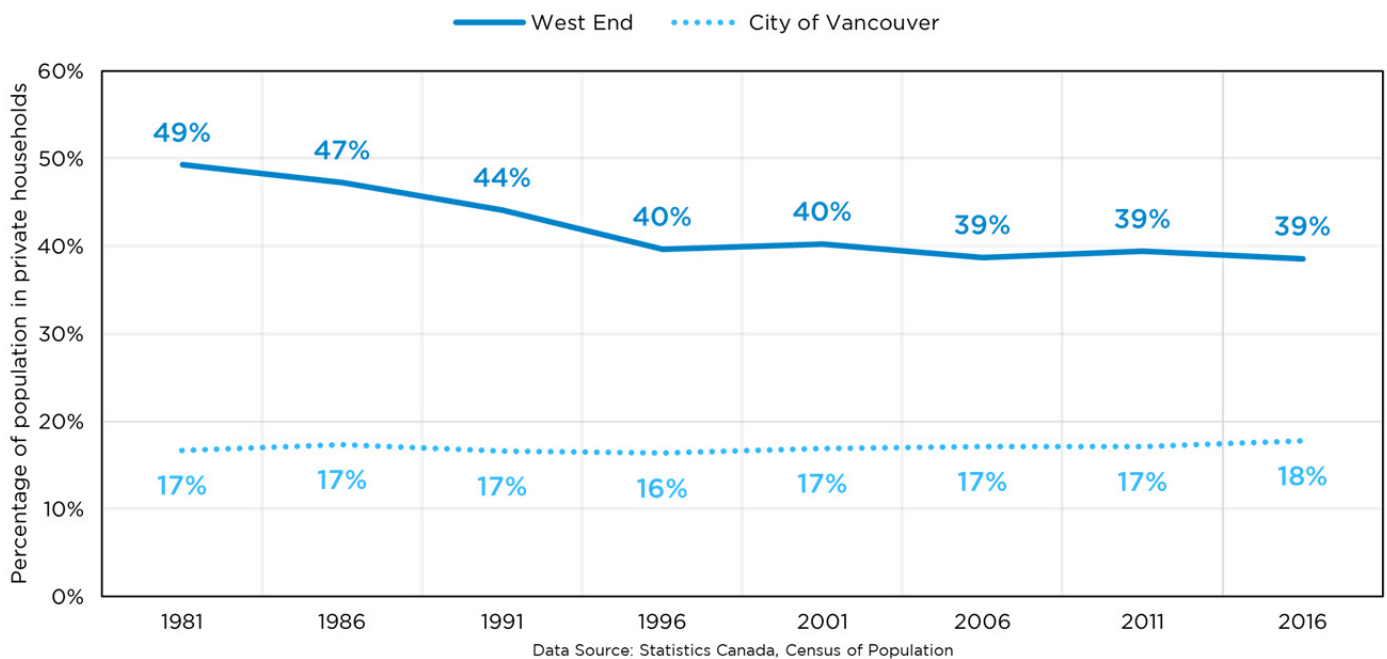
The West End has the smallest average household size of any local area in the city, with 1.5 people in the average private household in 2016, compared to 2.2 across the city.

Average Private Household Size, 1981-2016



As noted previously, the West End has more one-person households than the city overall. It also has a larger proportion of people who are living alone: in 2016, 39% of the population was living alone, compared to 18% of people across the city.

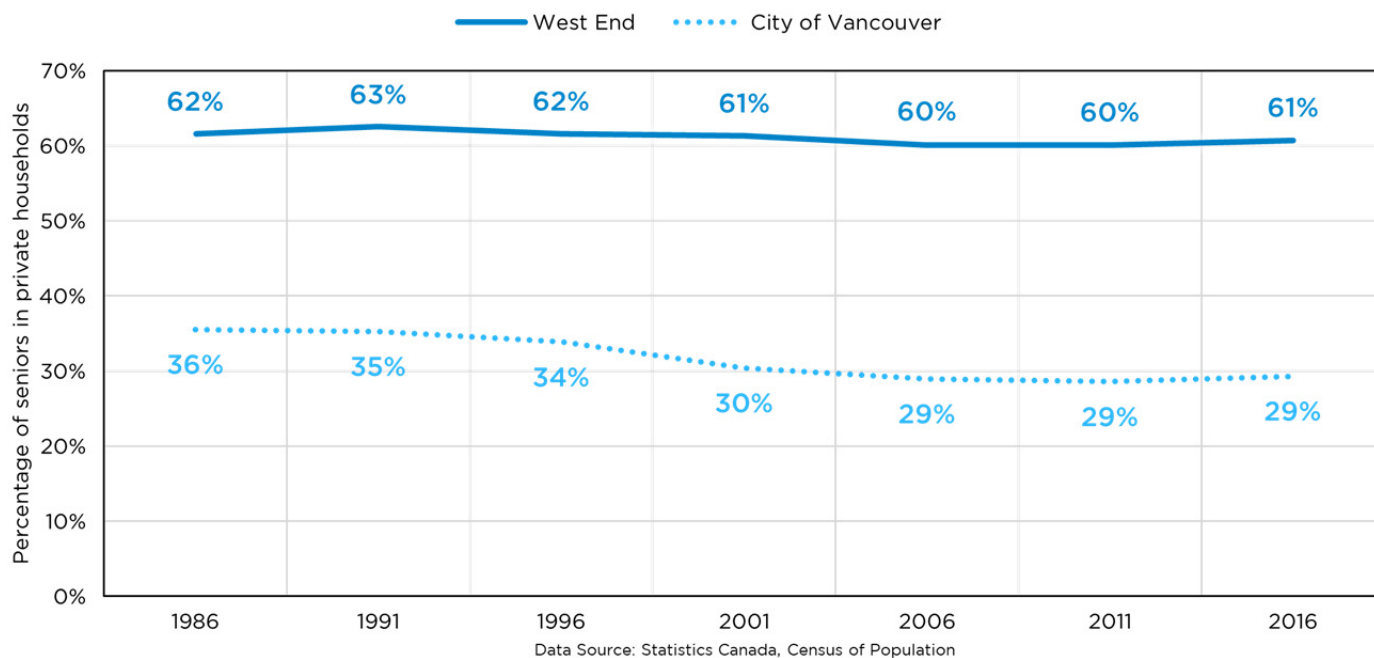
Percentage of Population Living Alone, 1981-2016



Senior Households

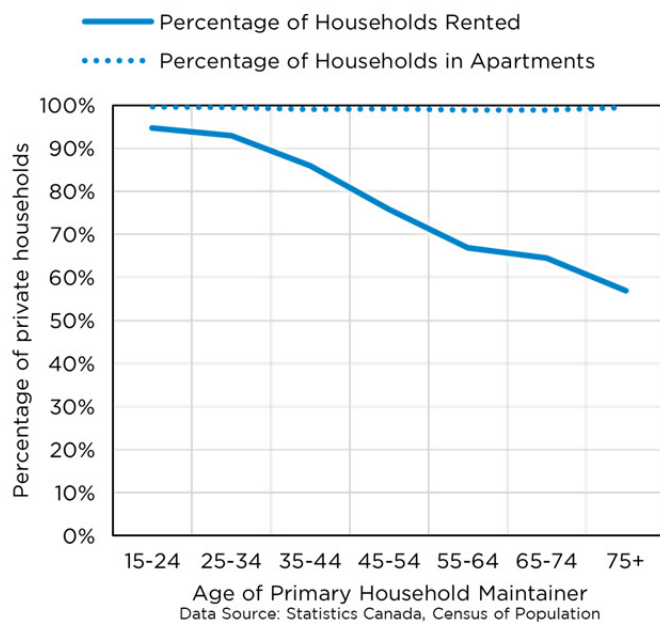
The experience of aging relates to a number of factors, including housing type, social connections, income and more. The West End's senior population is notable not for its size—the West End's senior population is proportionally the same as the city overall—but for the large number of seniors living alone.

Percentage of Seniors 65+ Living Alone, 1981-2016

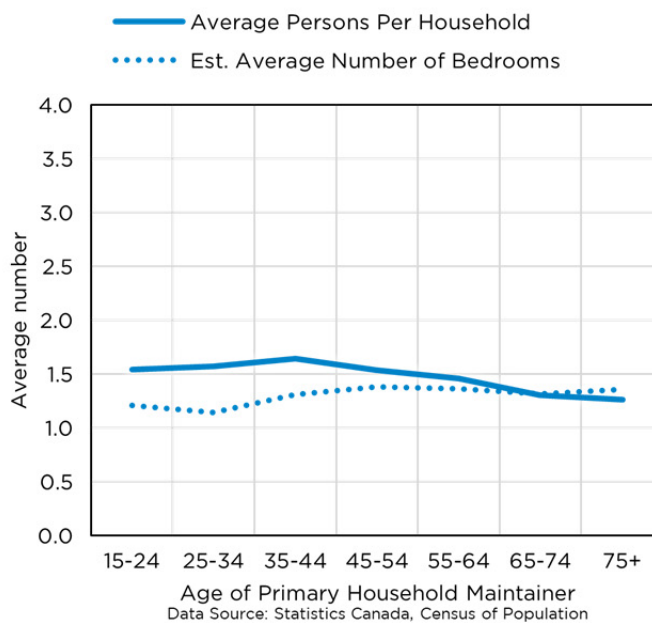


Compared to other age groups in the neighbourhood, West End seniors are somewhat more likely to own their homes: in 2016, 62% of senior-led households in the West End were rented. In the West End, there is a slight shift toward smaller households and units with more bedrooms across the age spectrum.⁶

West End: Household Type and Tenure by Age, 2016



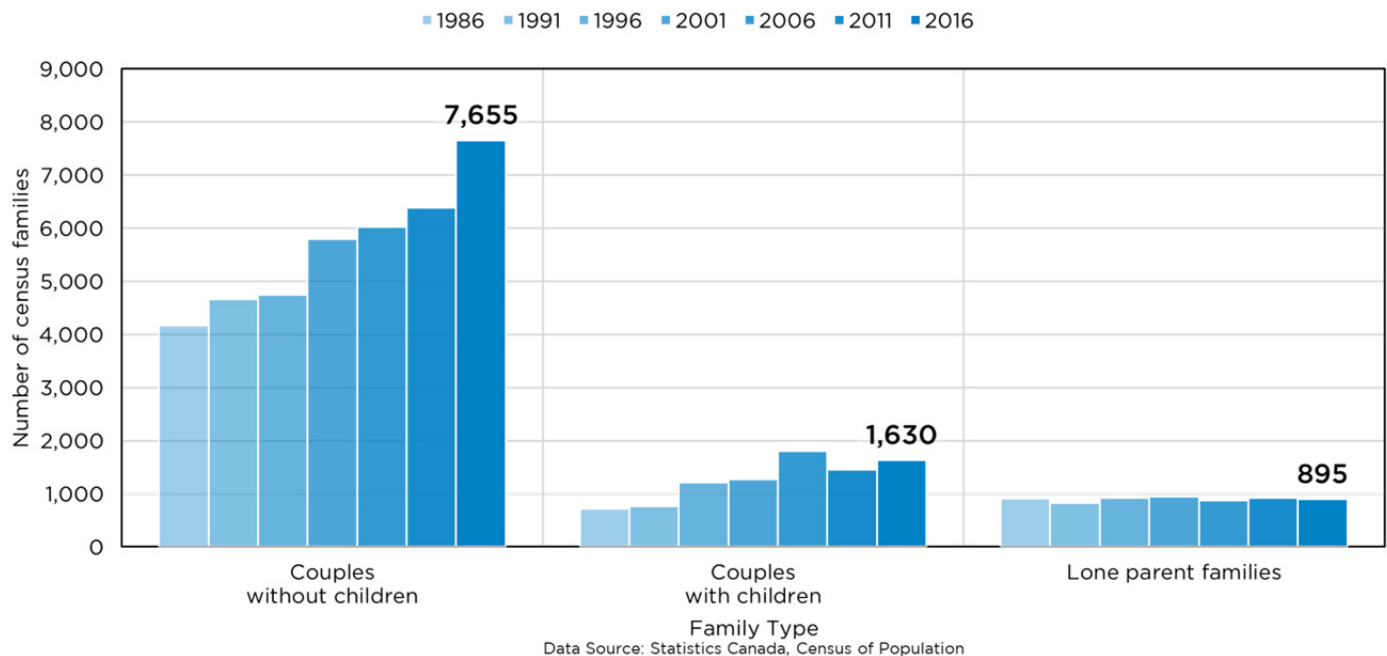
West End: Average Household Size by Age, 2016



Family Types

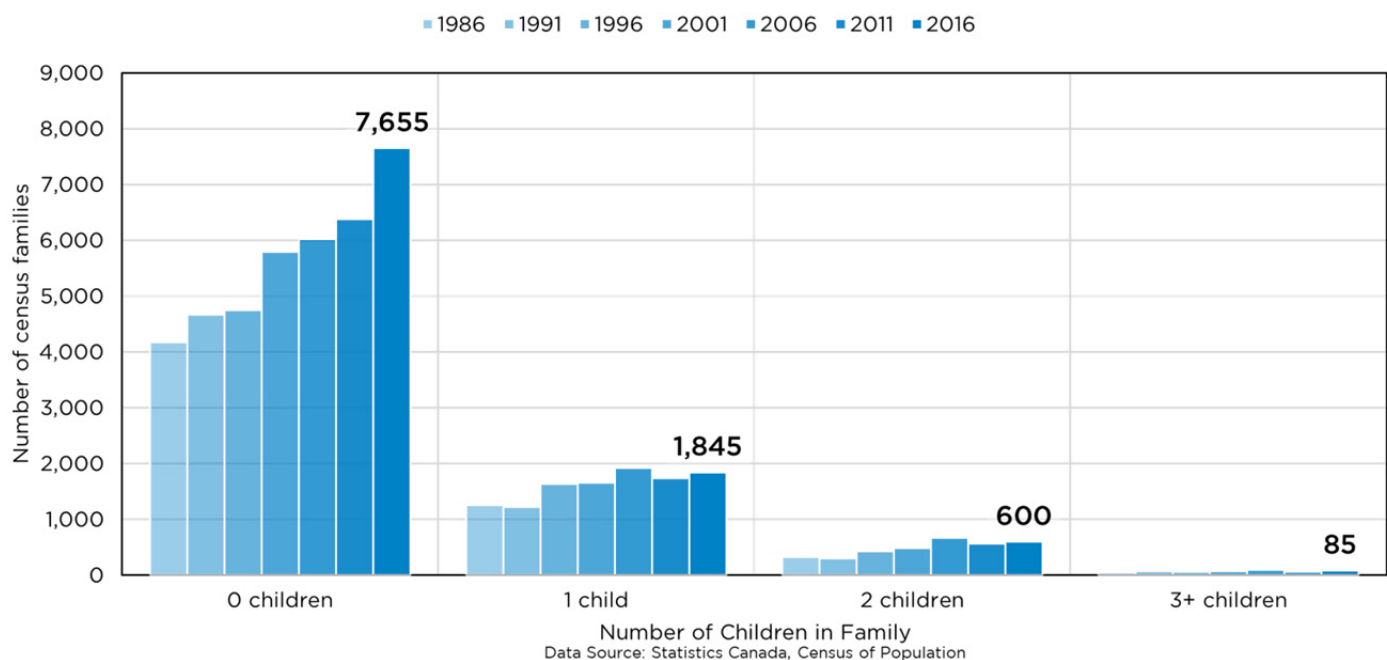
The West End has seen large growth in the absolute number of families⁷ without children over time. Although the share of households with children has remained steadily low in the West End, there has been an increase in the absolute number of families with children.

West End: Families by Type 1986-2016



The graph below shows the number of families by number of children at home. Steady growth in the number of childless families is certainly evident, while the number of families with children has generally plateaued in recent census periods. The West End is home to very few families with three or more children.

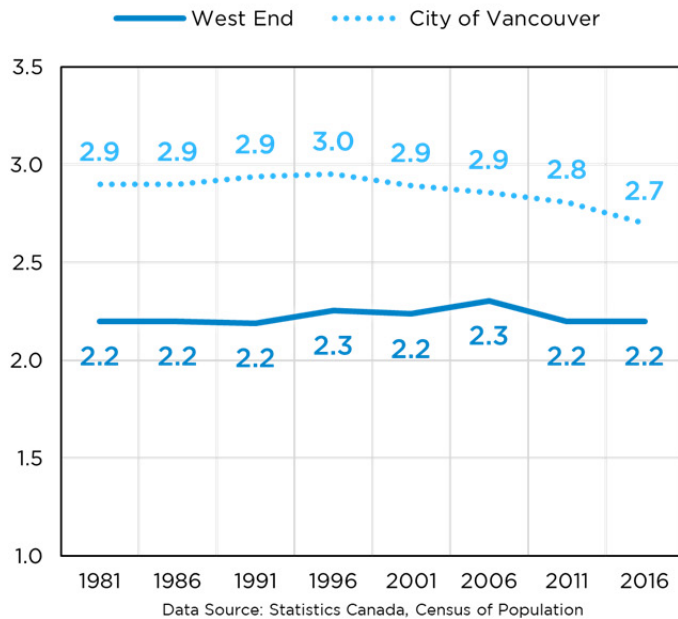
West End: Families by Number of Children 1986-2016



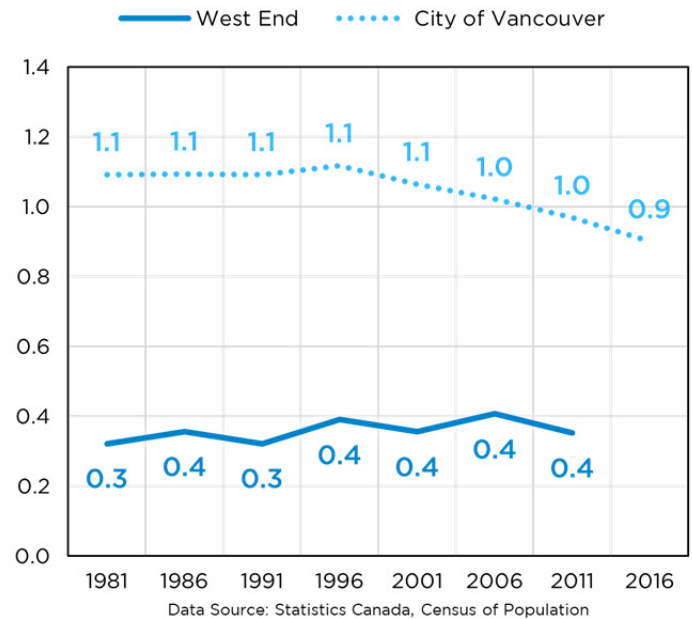
Family Size and Children at Home

On average, families in the West End contain 2.2 persons, including 0.4 children at home.⁸ Both numbers are lower than the city-wide average. Average family size across the city has been declining since the 1990s, but the average in the West End has been quite steady.

Average Census Family Size, 1981-2016

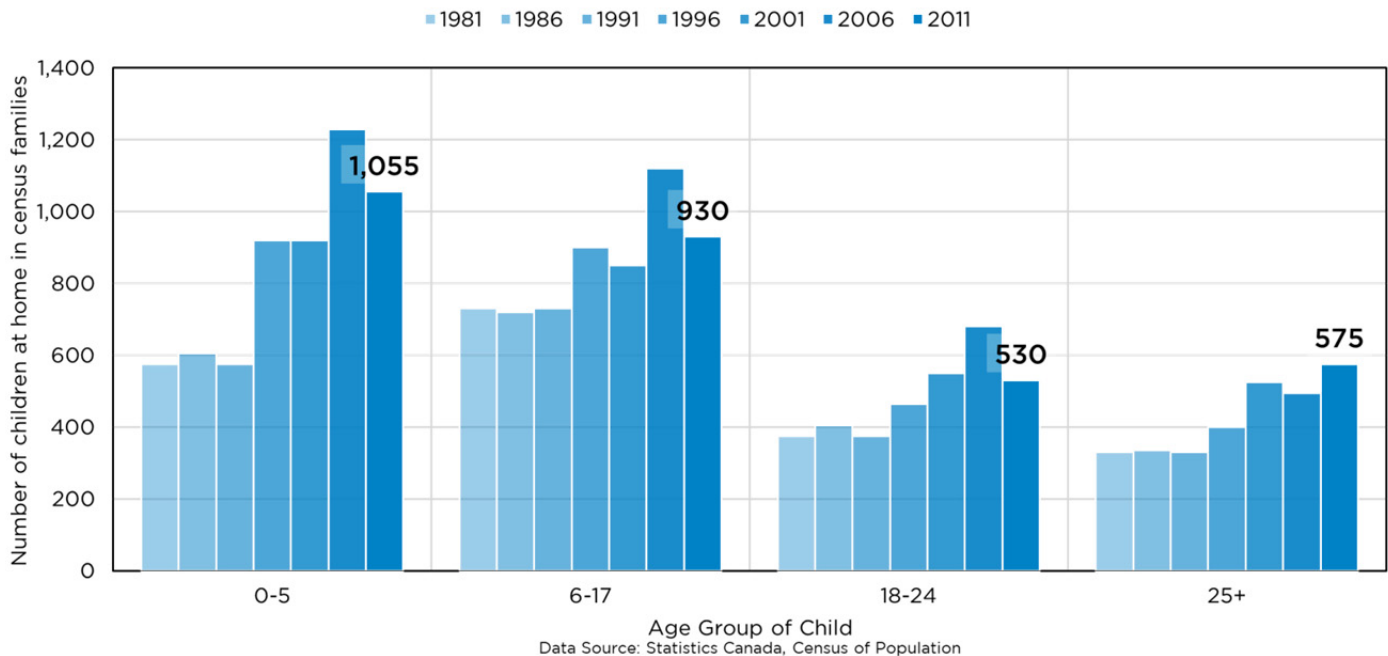


Average Children at Home Per Census Family, 1981-2016



A broad social trend over time is that people move out of their parents' homes later in life. In the West End there are more "children" age 18 and over living with parents than there are school-age children age 6 to 17.

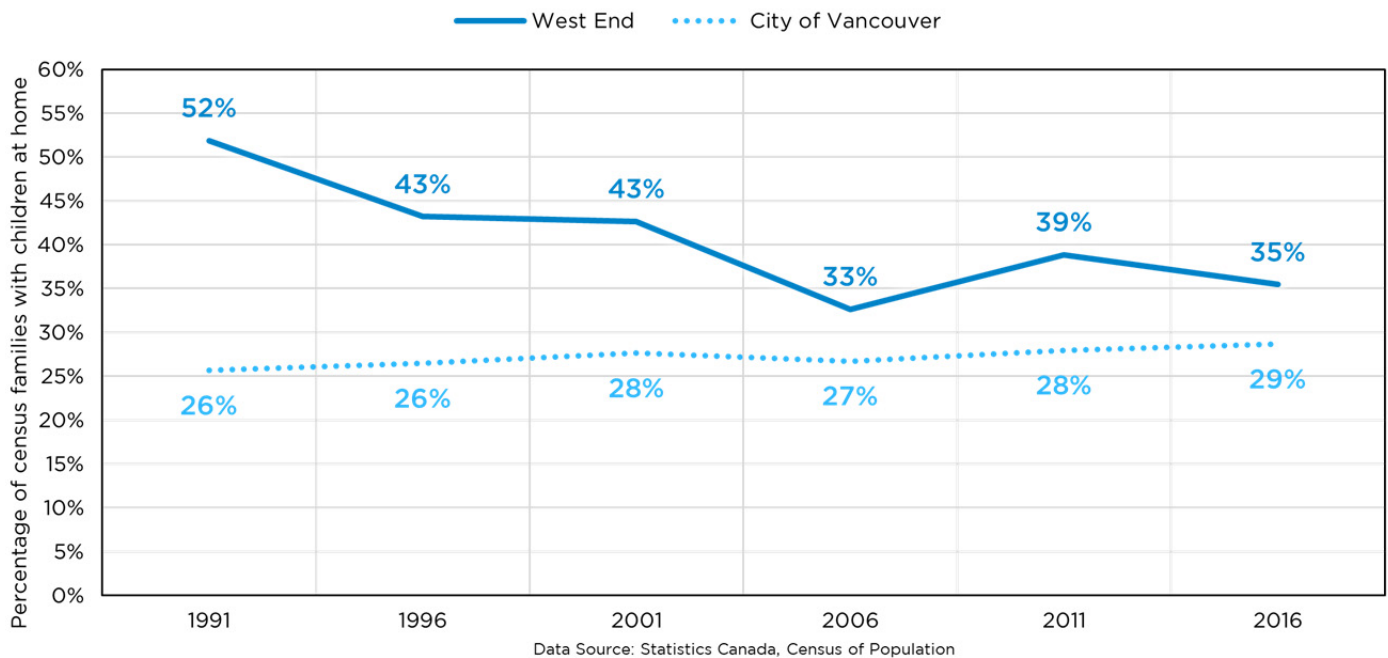
West End: Children in Families by Age Group, 1981-2011



Lone Parent-Led Families

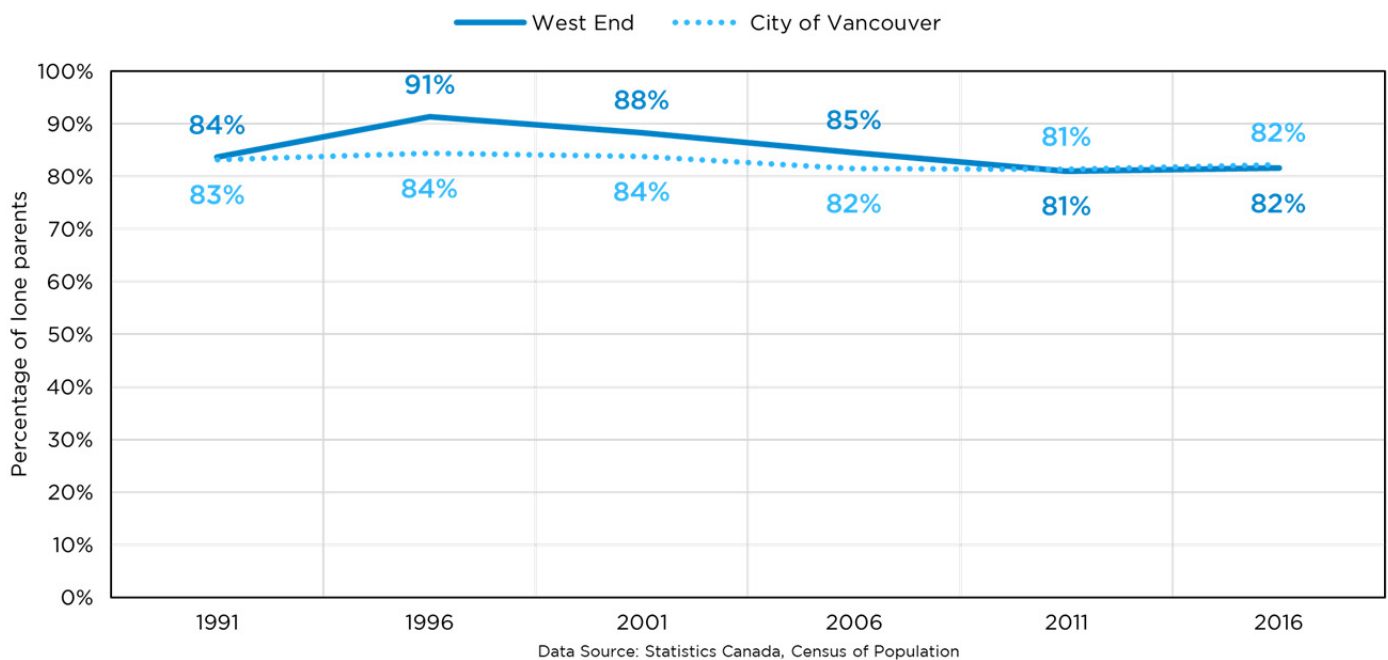
Measured as a proportion of all families with children at home, lone parent-led families now make up 35% of families with children in the West End. While this remains a higher proportion than the city overall, it is a decrease over time.

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



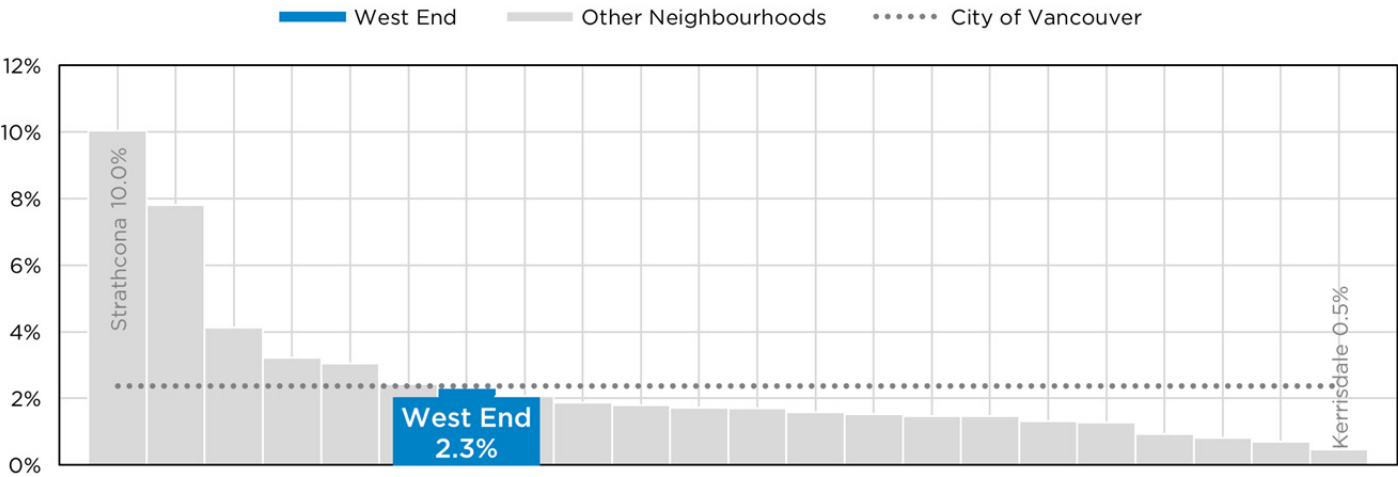
Across the city, lone parents are overwhelmingly likely to be female-identified. In the West End, 82% of lone parents are female-identified, the same rate as the city overall. Lone mothers are more likely to face significant social and economic challenges.

Percentage of Lone Parents Identified as Female, 1991-2016

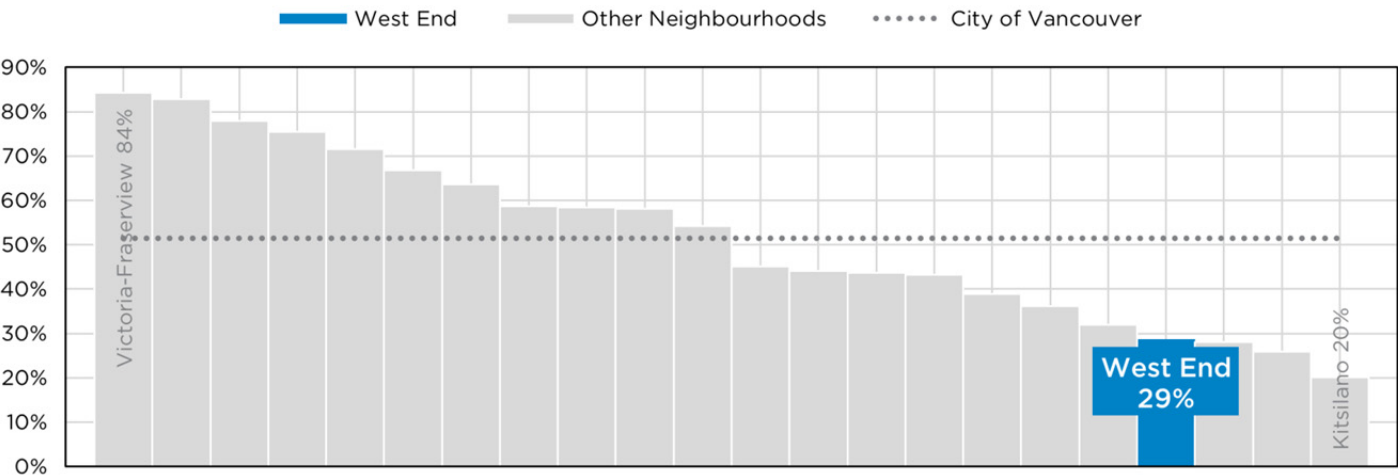


IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

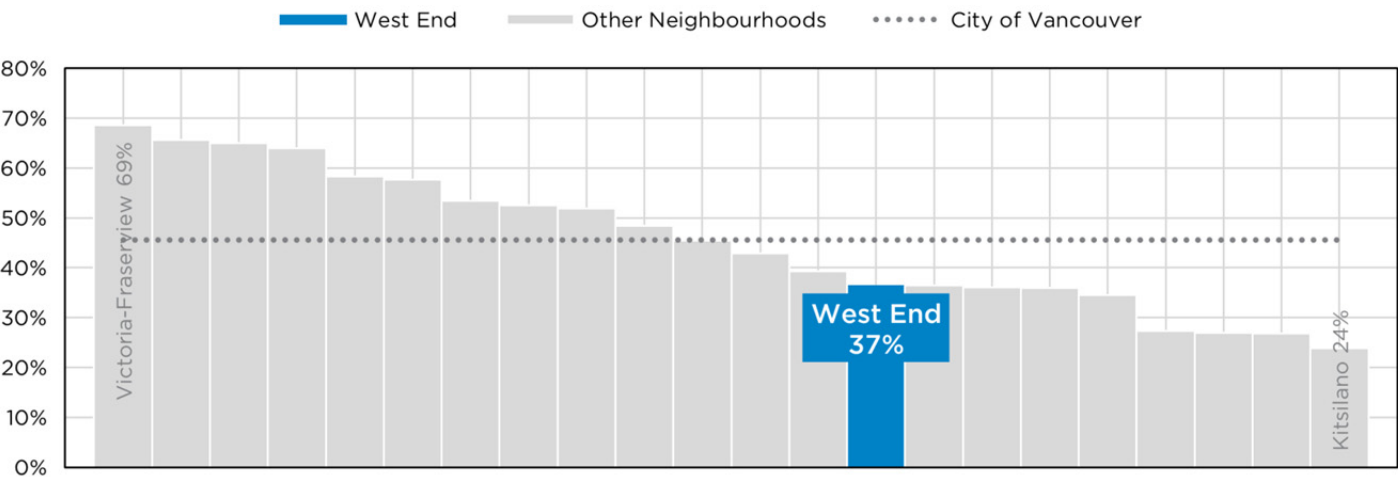
Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016



Population in a Visible Minority Group, 2016

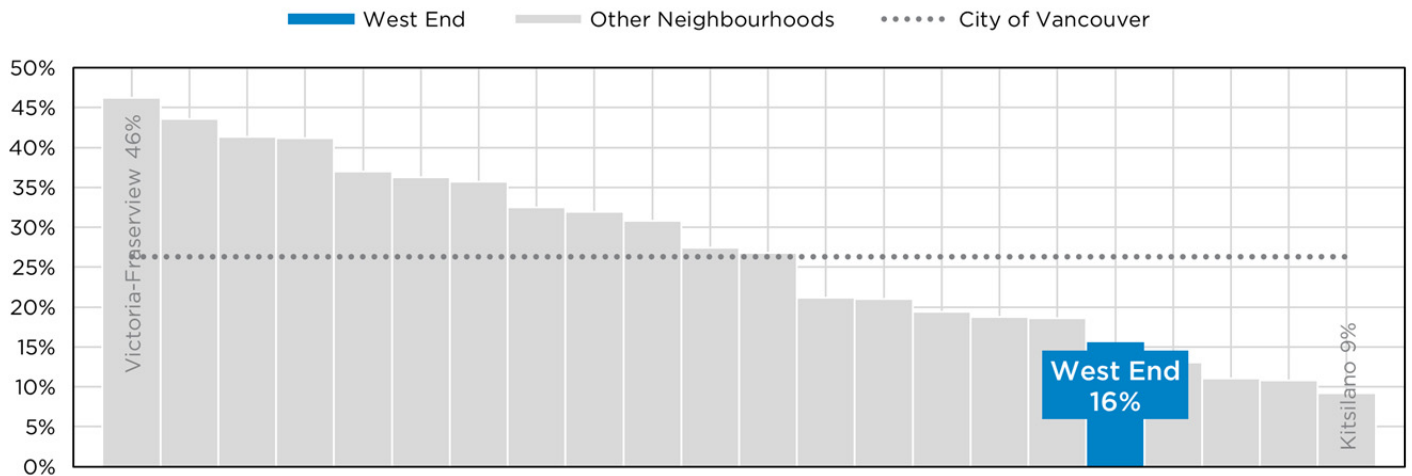


Population with Non-English Mother Tongue, 2016

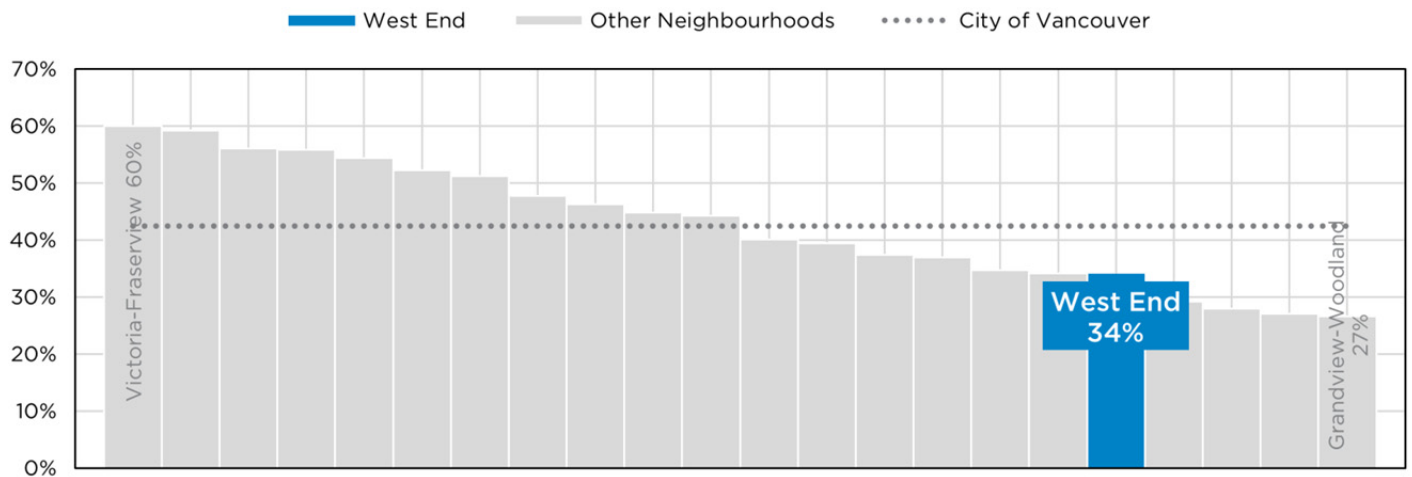


NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPARISONS

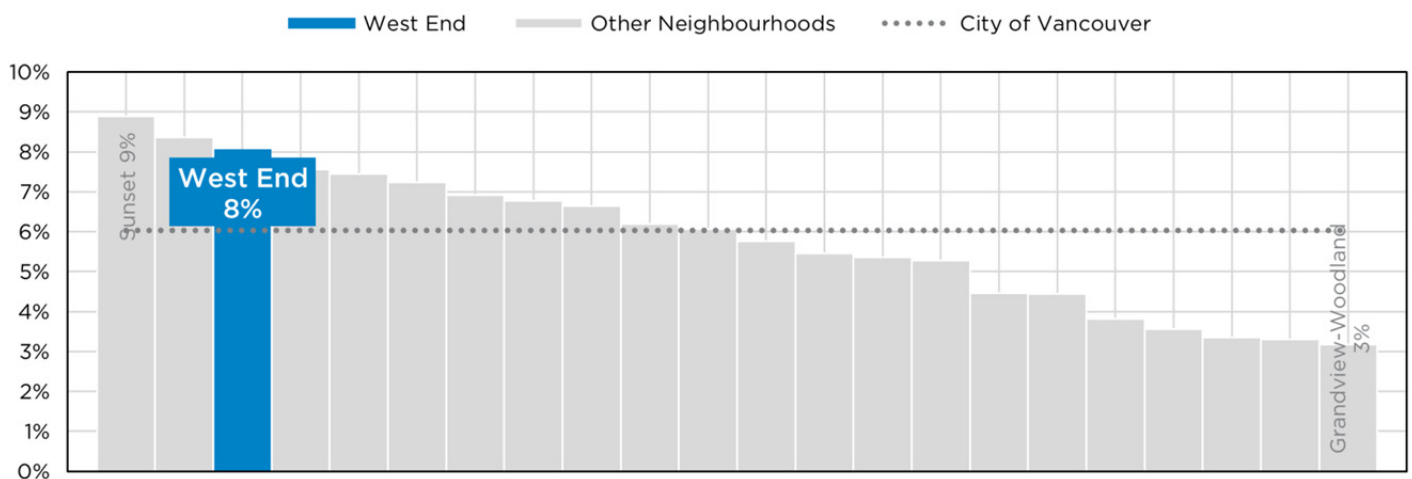
Population with Non-English Home Language, 2016



Immigrant Population, 2016



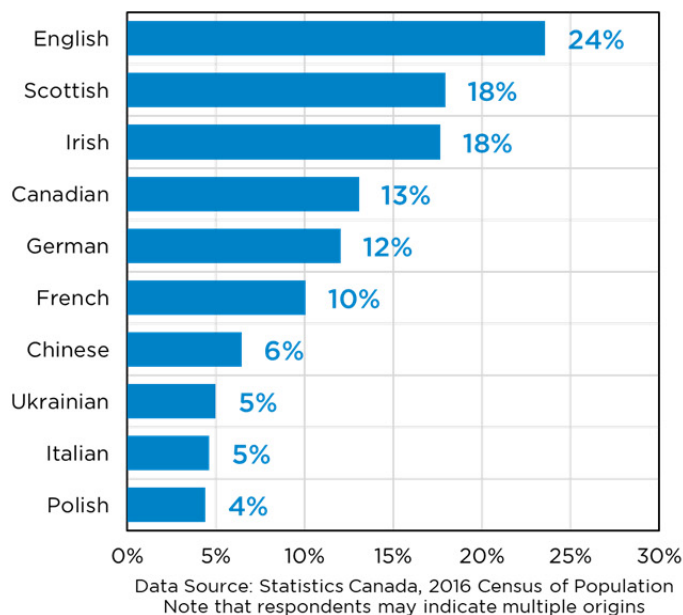
Recent Immigrant Population, 2016



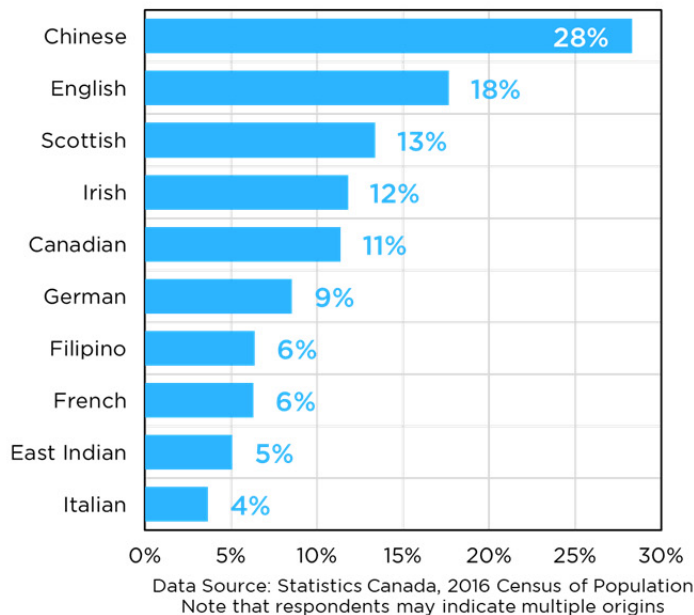
Cultural Origin and Identity

A number of census variables help understand the diverse and complex cultural identities of people in Vancouver. The graphs below provide the top ten cultural origins reported by residents:⁹ in the West End, nearly one in four residents reported English origins.

West End: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016

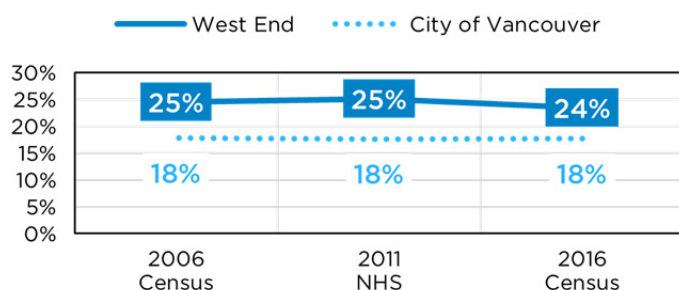


City of Vancouver: Top Ten Reported Ethnic Origins, 2016

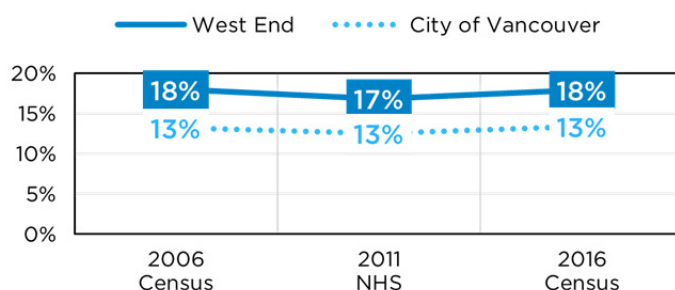


The graphs below show ten-year trends in the West End and across the city for the four most commonly reported ethnic origins in the neighbourhood: English, Scottish, Irish and Canadian. Over ten years, most of these are fairly steady, with a growth in the West End population reporting Irish origins.

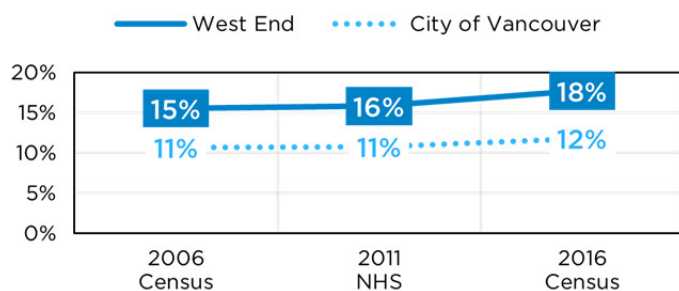
English Origins, 2006-2016



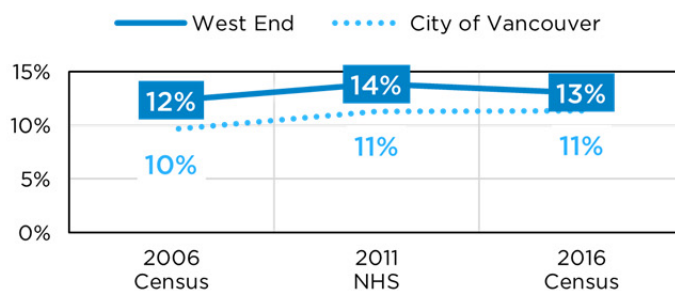
Scottish Origins, 2006-2016



Irish Origins, 2006-2016



Canadian Origins, 2006-2016



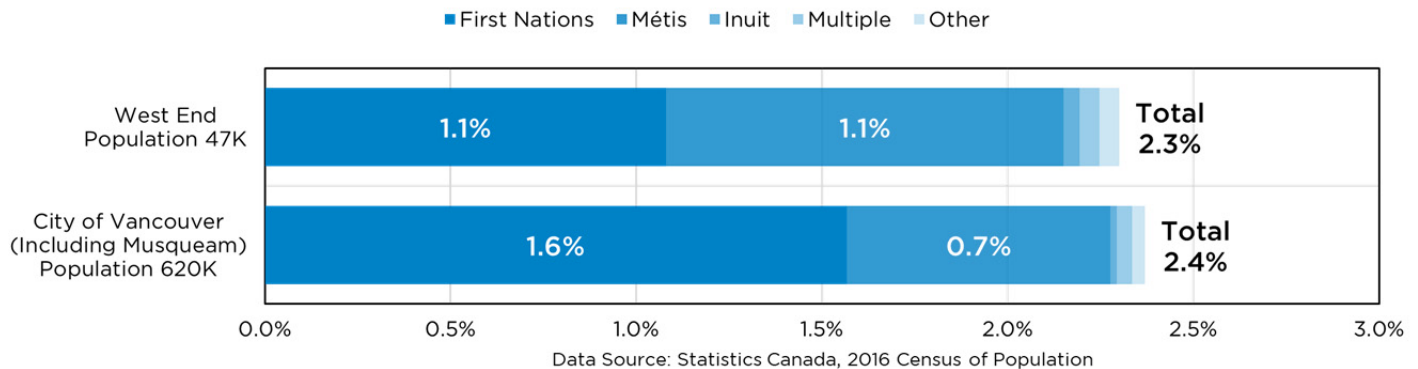
Indigenous Identity

Vancouver occupies the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. It is also home to a substantial and diverse urban Indigenous 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.

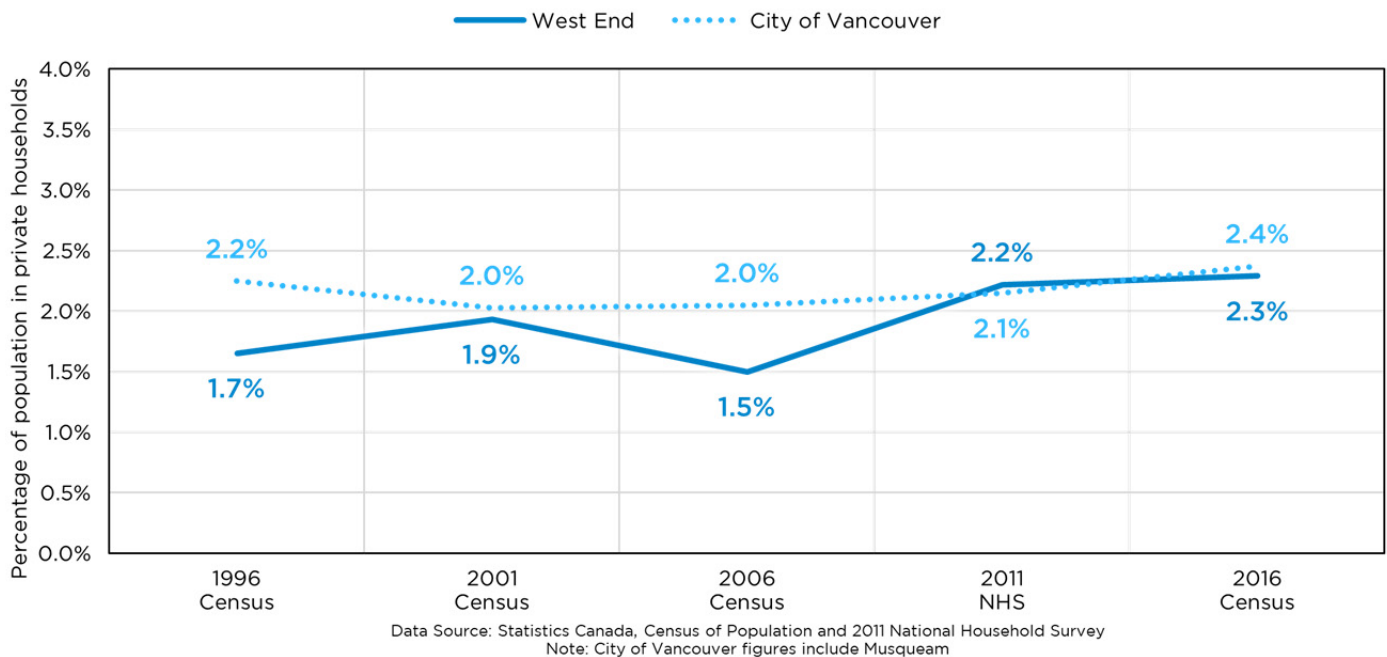
Based on the 2016 census, 1,070 people—2.3% of the West End’s population—are Indigenous, compared to 2.4% of the City of Vancouver.¹⁰ In the West End, about 500 residents identified themselves with First Nations, another 500 identified as Métis.

Population with Indigenous Identity, 2016



The Indigenous population in the West End has generally grown over time. In absolute numbers, the Indigenous population in the neighbourhood grew by 59% from 1996 to 2016 compared to 14% for the non-Indigenous population.

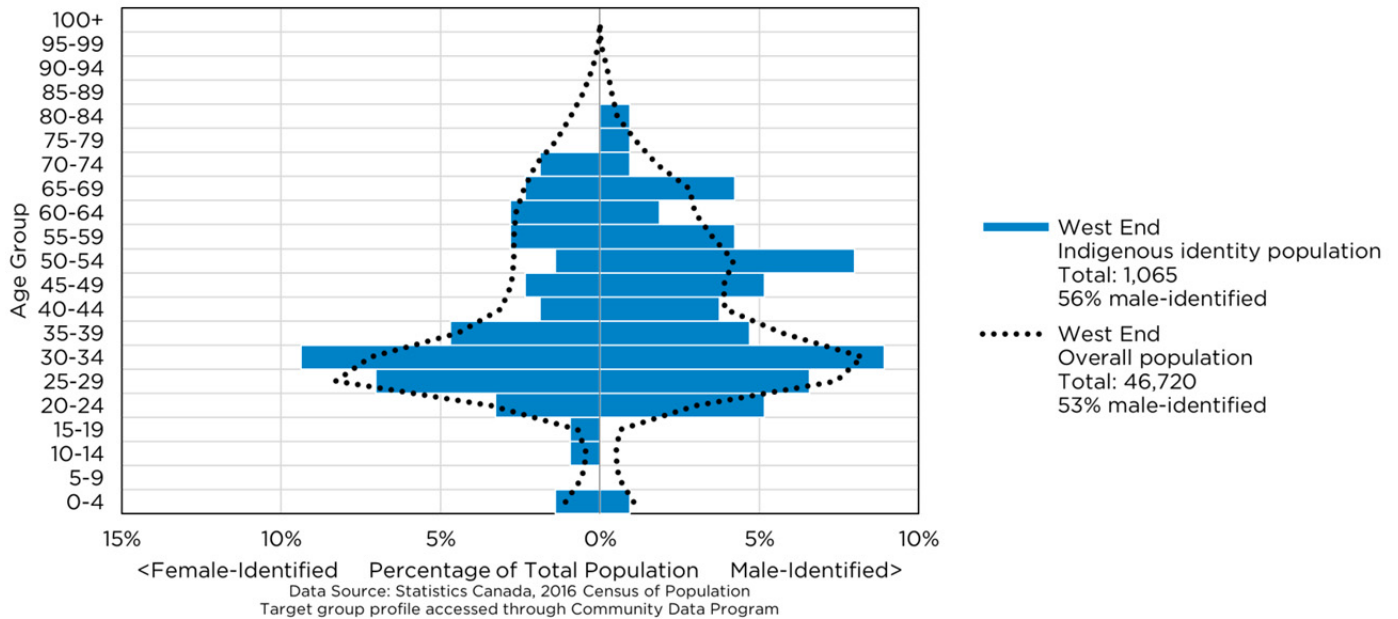
Population with Indigenous Identity, 1996-2016



Demographics of Indigenous Populations

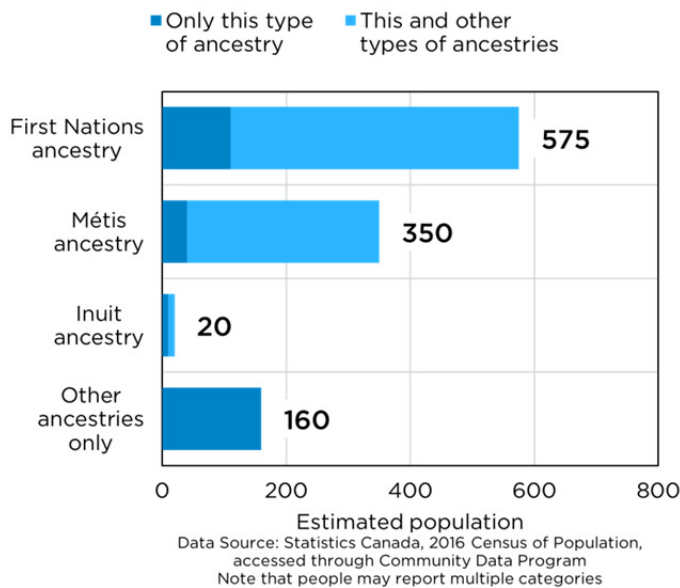
In general, the Indigenous population living in Vancouver is younger than the city's overall population. In the West End, however, the Indigenous population has a similar age profile to the overall population except in the oldest age groups.

**West End:
Indigenous Identity Population by Age and Sex, 2016**

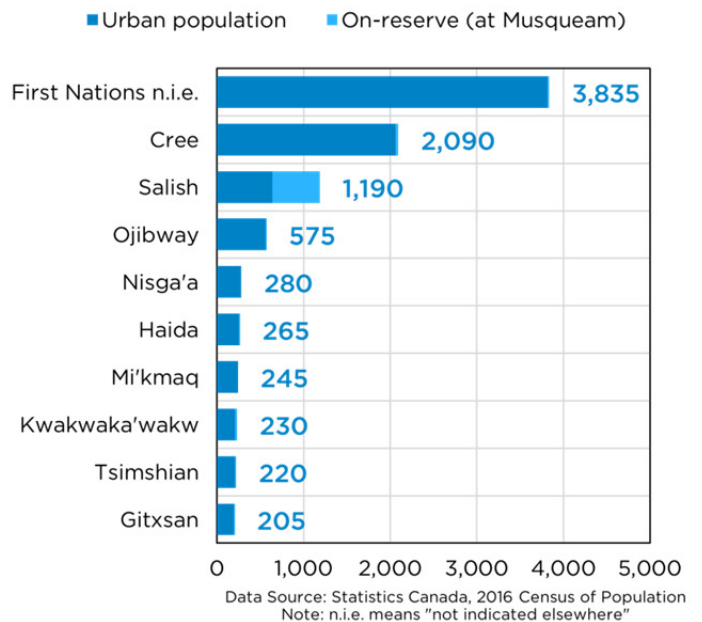


The Indigenous population in Vancouver is diverse, with a majority of people with First Nations, Métis or Inuit ancestry in West End also reporting other Indigenous and non-Indigenous ancestries. While neighbourhood-specific data are not available, the chart below right shows the most commonly reported specific First Nations ancestries in Vancouver overall.

**West End:
Reported Ancestry of Population
with Indigenous Identity, 2016**

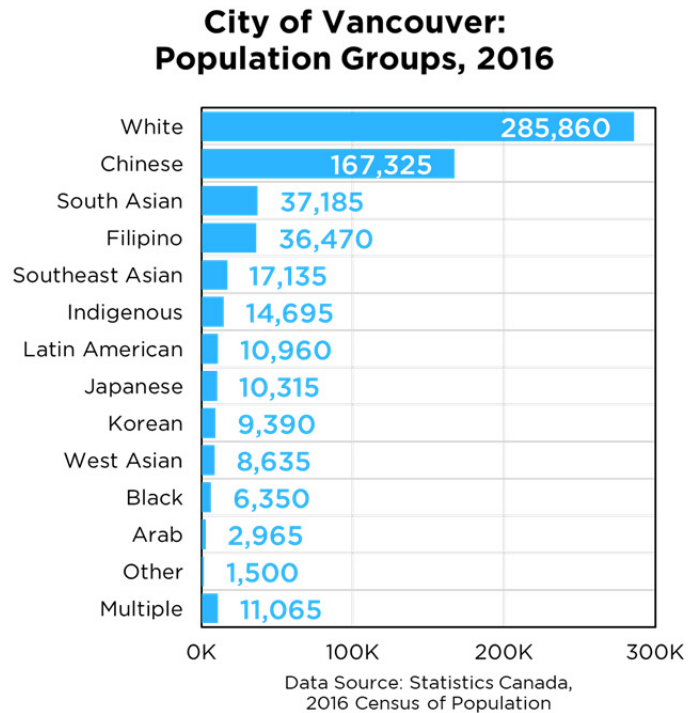
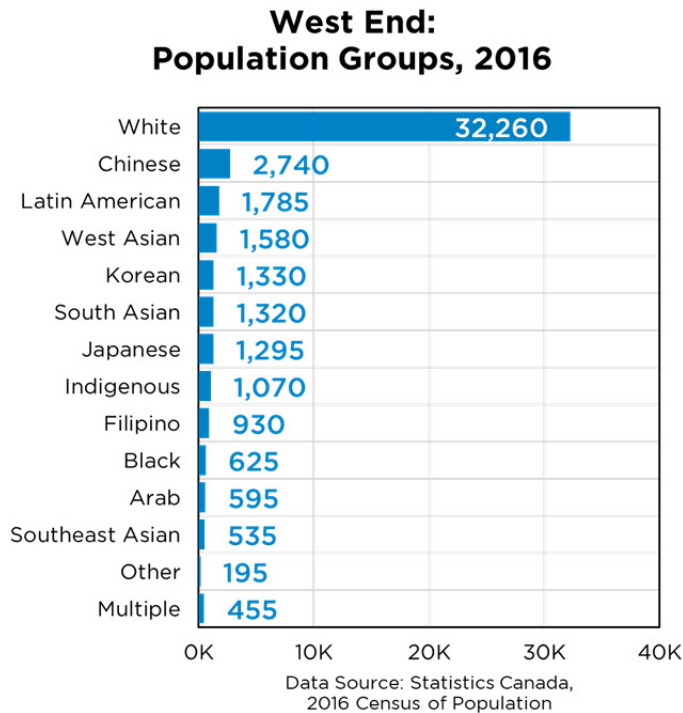


**City of Vancouver: Top Reported
First Nations Ancestries, 2016**



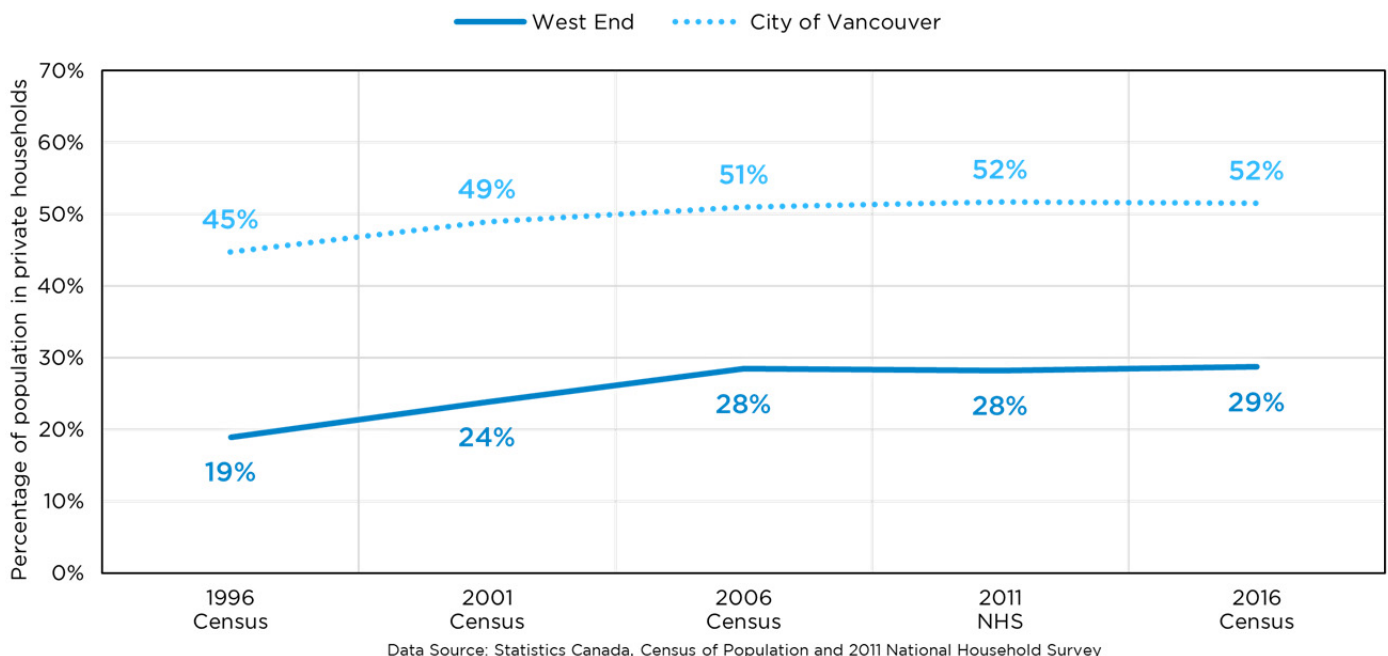
Racial Identity

In the West End, more than 32 thousand residents are identified as white, and about 2,700 are identified as Chinese. Other groups with more than a thousand residents include Latin American, West Asian, Korean, South Asian, Japanese and Indigenous residents.



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 trends in racialized populations. Almost 30% of the population of the West End are members of a visible minority group. Although the rate grew from 1996 to 2006, it has consistently been much lower than the city overall.

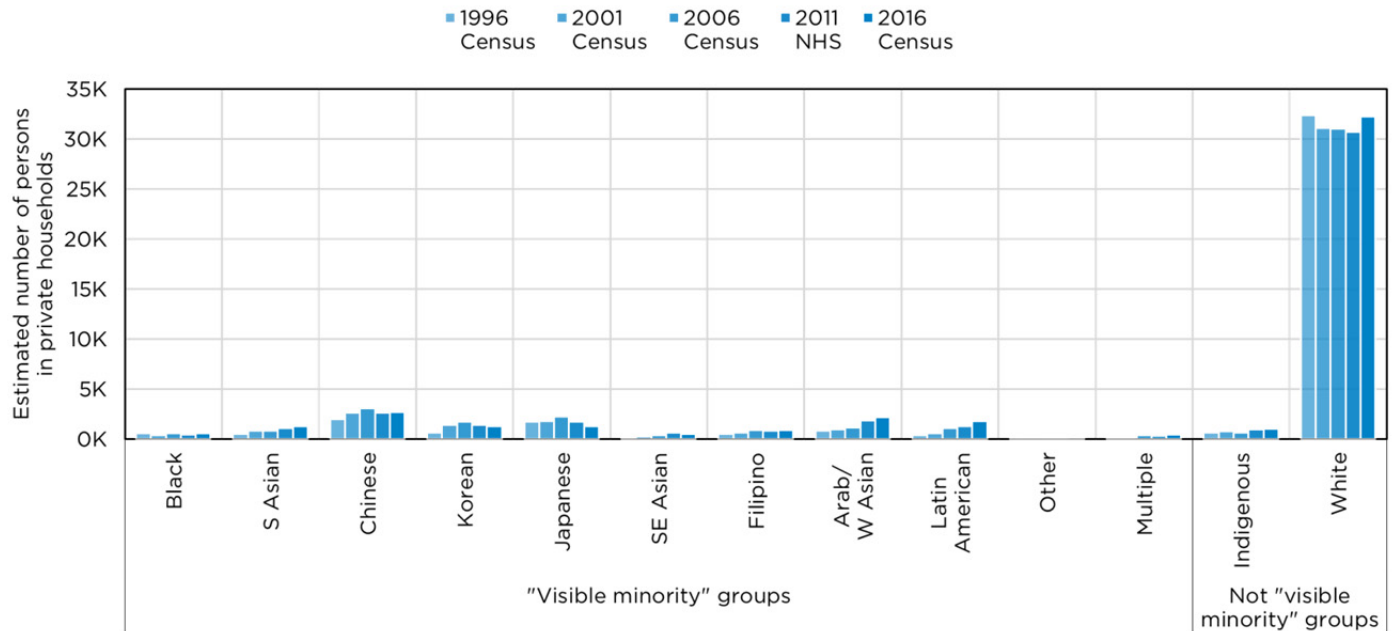
Population in a Visible Minority Group, 1996-2016



Trends in Racialized Populations

The chart below shows population estimates by population group in the West End over time.

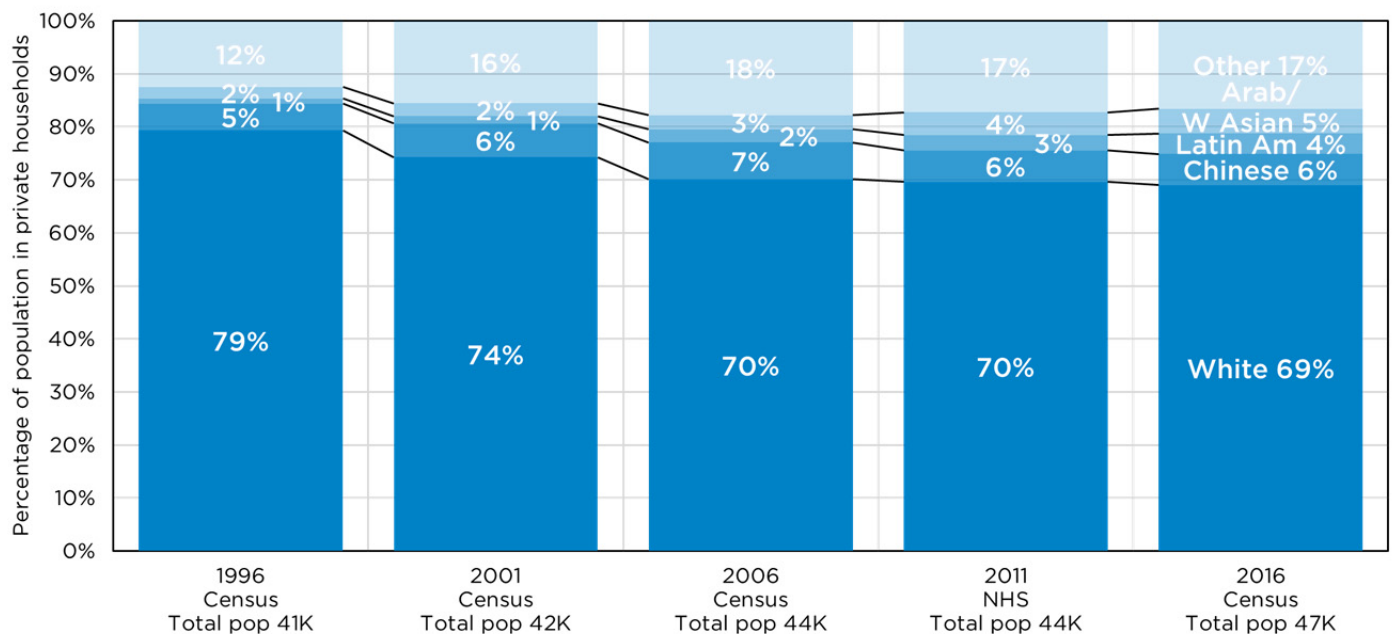
West End: Population Groups 1996-2016



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

The chart below shows the distribution of the West End's population by racial identity. Although still much higher than the city overall, the rate of residents identified as white has decreased over time.

West End: Population Groups Distribution, 1996-2016

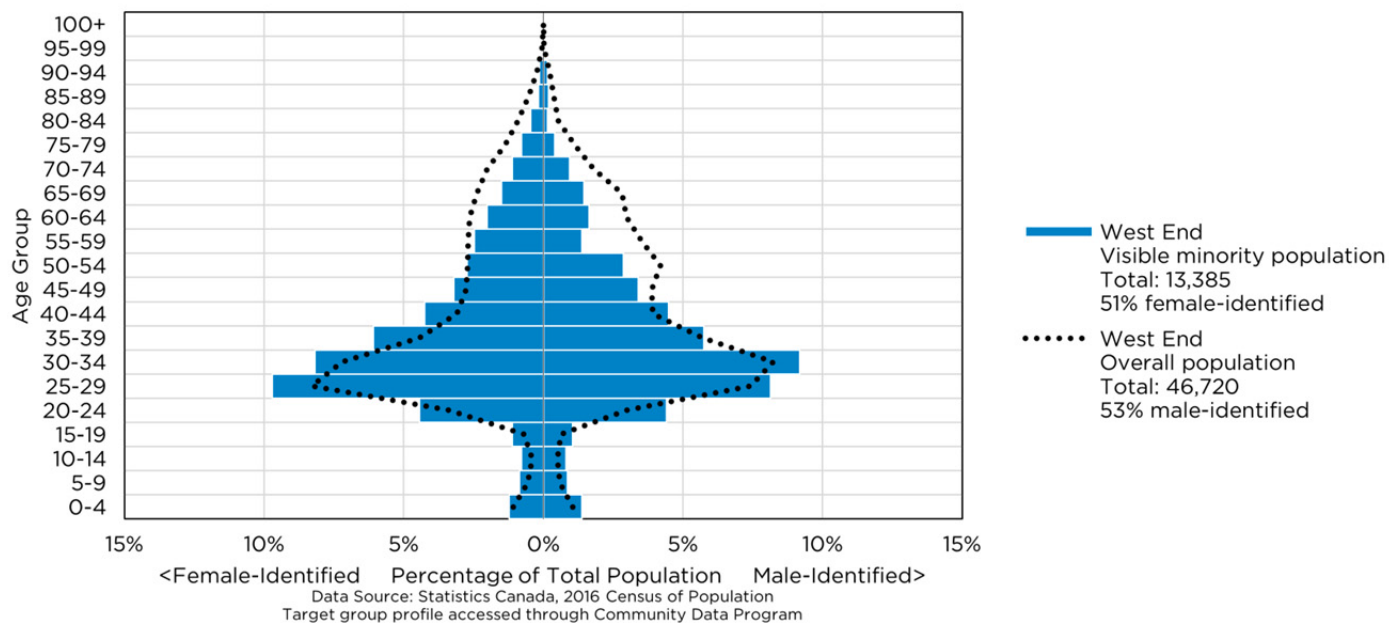


Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey

Demographics of Racialized Populations

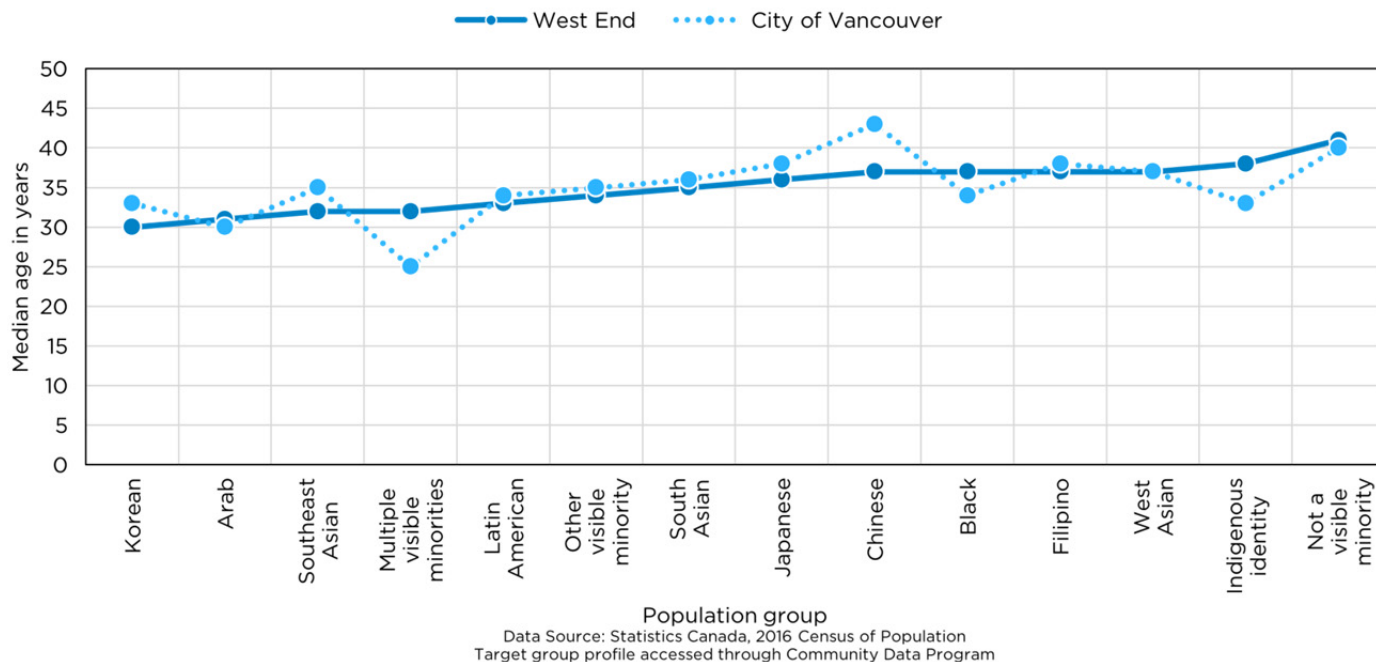
In aggregate, the “visible minority” population in the West End is younger than the overall population. The age profile below shows that age groups 50 and above make up a smaller share of the visible minority population than the overall population in the neighbourhood.

**West End:
Visible Minority Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



However, there are important differences between population groups. Median age in the West End is highest for people who are not in visible minority groups and lowest for Korean residents.

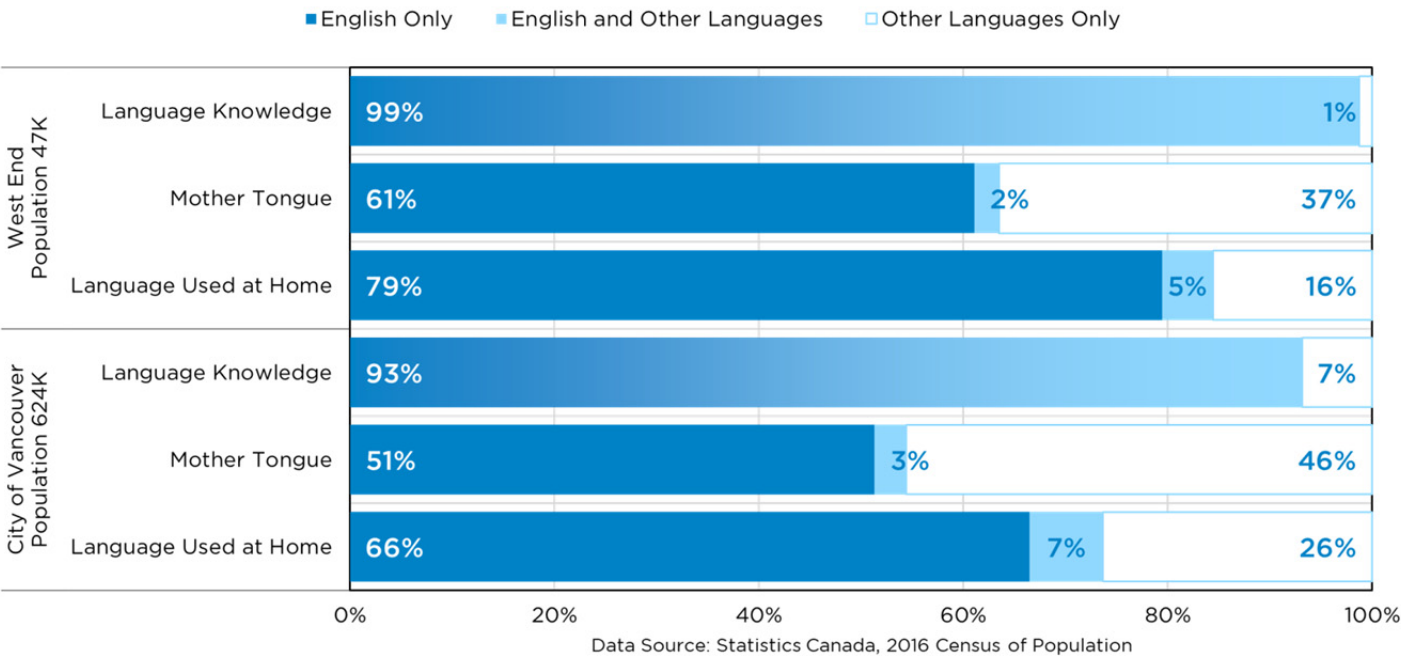
Median Age by Population Group, 2016



Language Summary

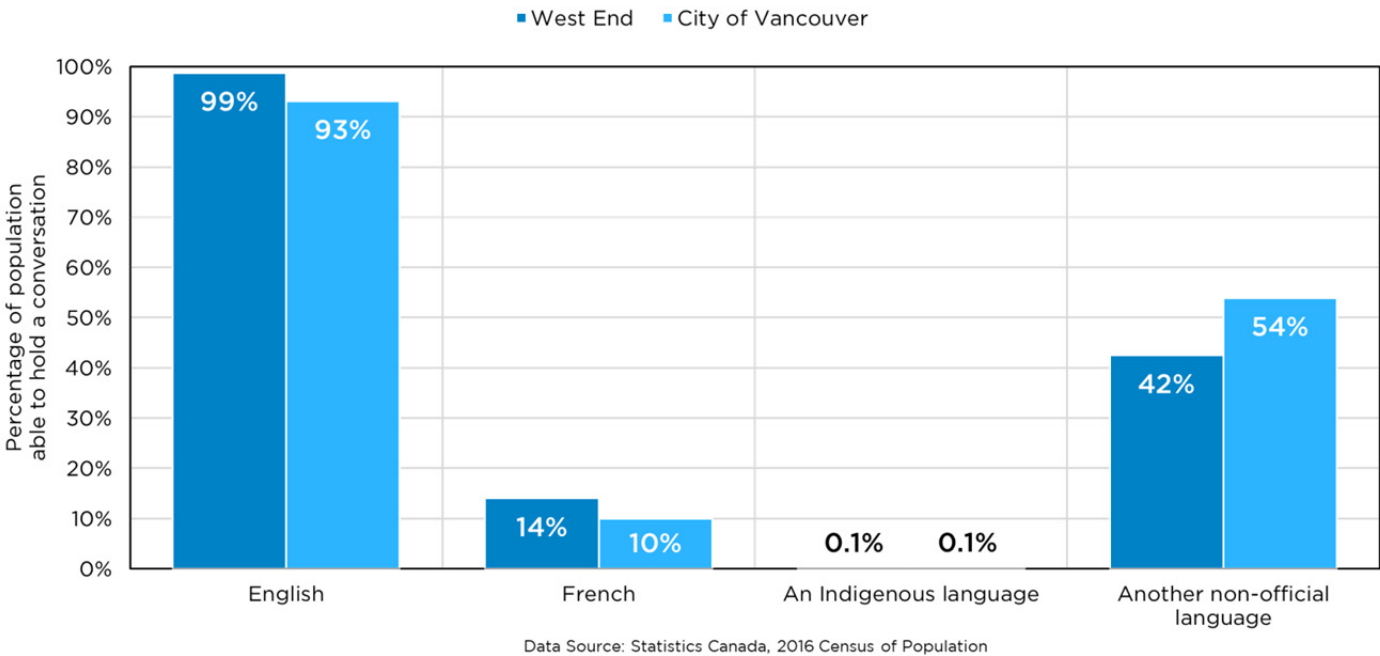
The bar chart below shows key language indicators—language knowledge, mother tongue and home language—broken down by English and non-English languages. The West End has a notably lower proportion of residents with non-English languages than the city overall across all three indicators.

Population by English and Other Language Knowledge and Use, 2016



Looking at knowledge of official and non-official languages, the West End has a larger share of its population with knowledge of English and French, and a smaller proportion with non-official language knowledge.

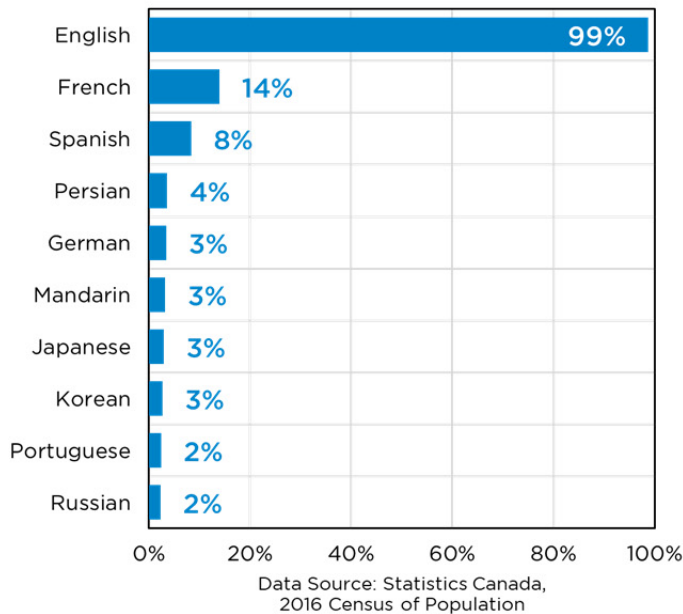
Population by Language Knowledge, 2016



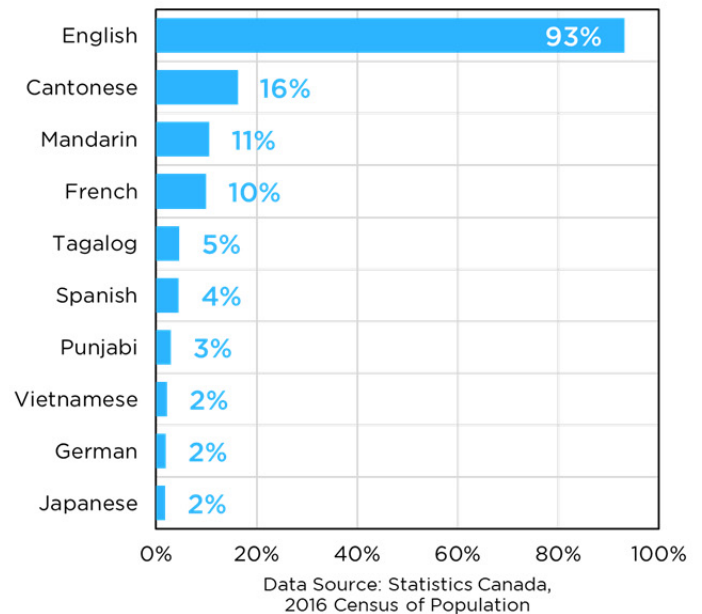
Language Knowledge

A more detailed breakdown of language knowledge shows that 14% of West End residents are able to speak French, and 8% are able to speak Spanish.

West End: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016

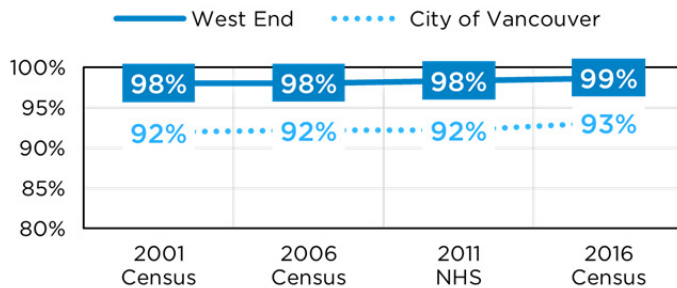


City of Vancouver: Top Ten Languages Known, 2016

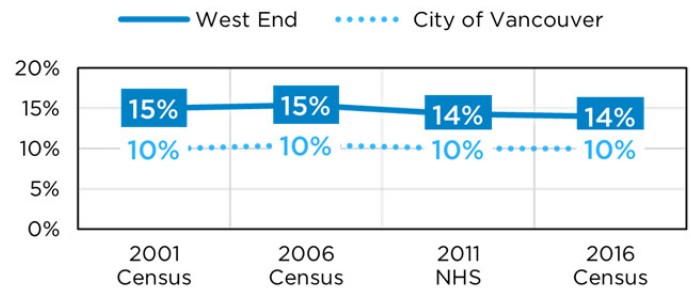


Over time, the West End has a steady share of residents with knowledge of official languages. There is growth in the share of population able to speak Spanish and Persian (Farsi) over 15 years from 2001 to 2016.¹¹

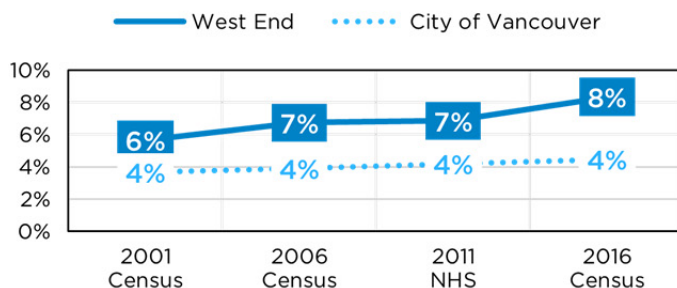
English Knowledge, 2001-2016



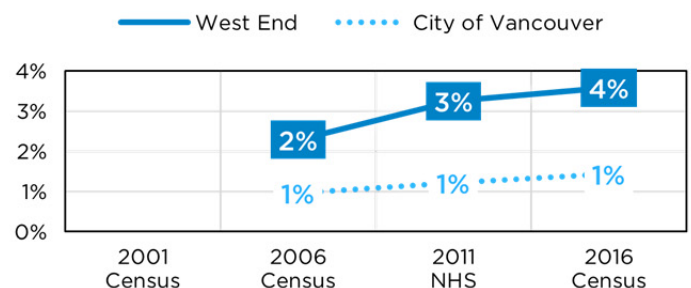
French Knowledge, 2001-2016



Spanish Knowledge, 2001-2016



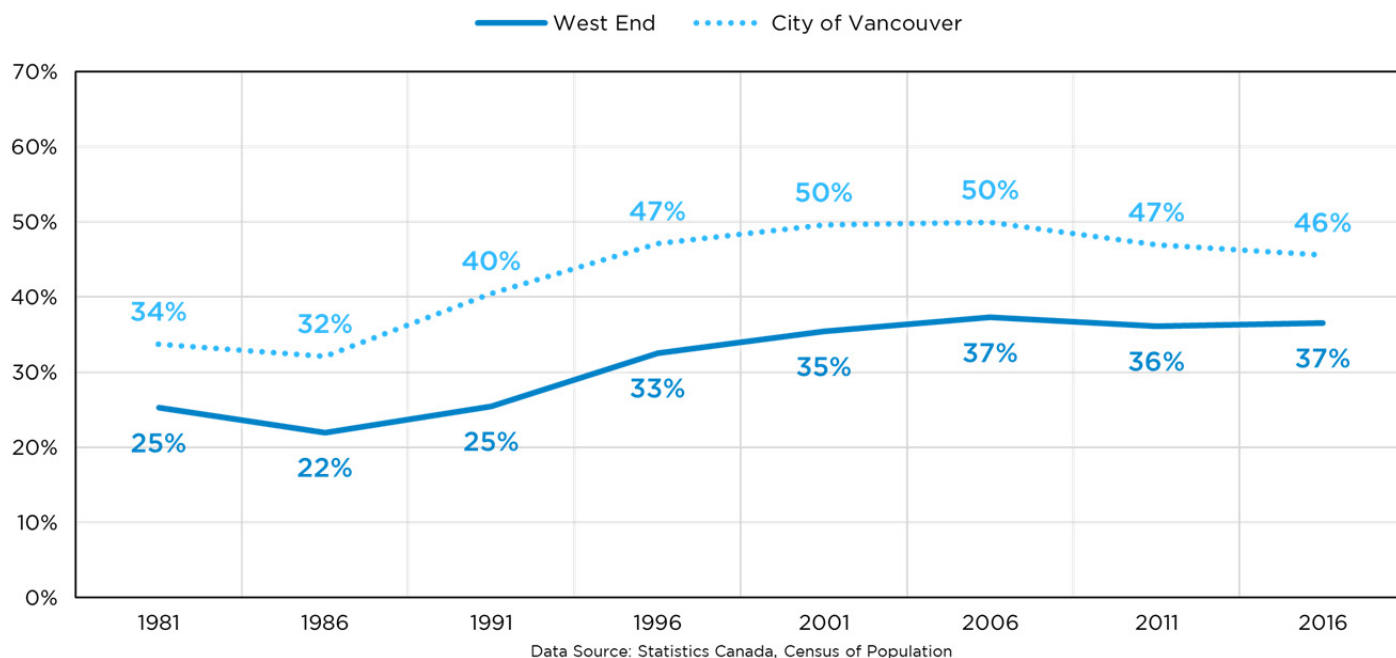
Persian Knowledge, 2001-2016



Mother Tongue

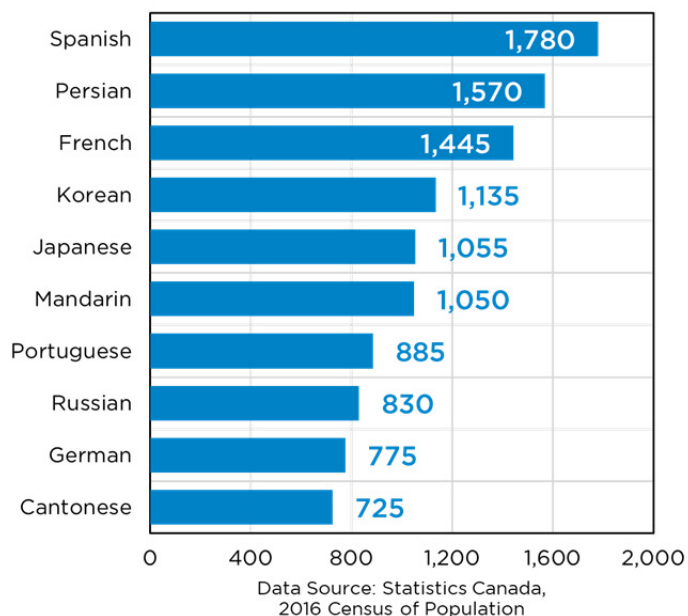
More than a third of West End residents have a non-English first language. This proportion has been consistently lower than the city overall, but steady since the 2000s.

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

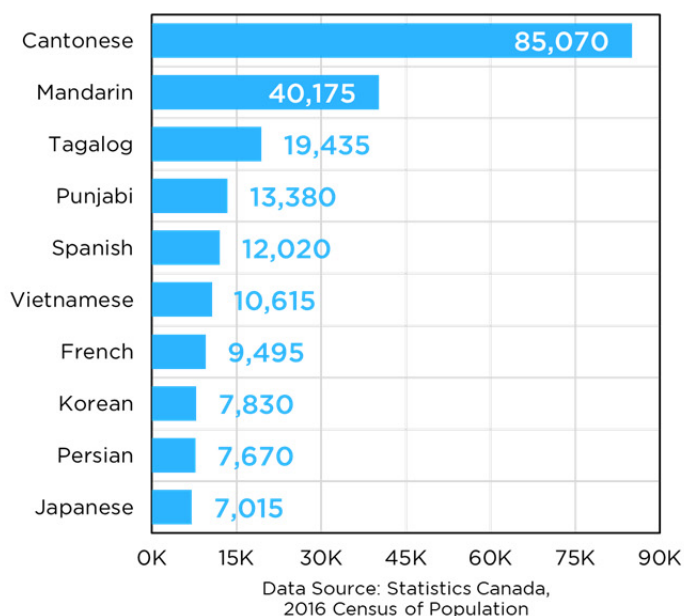


Consistent with language knowledge, Spanish and Persian (Farsi) are the most commonly reported non-English mother tongues in the West End.

West End: Top Non-English Mother Tongues, 2016



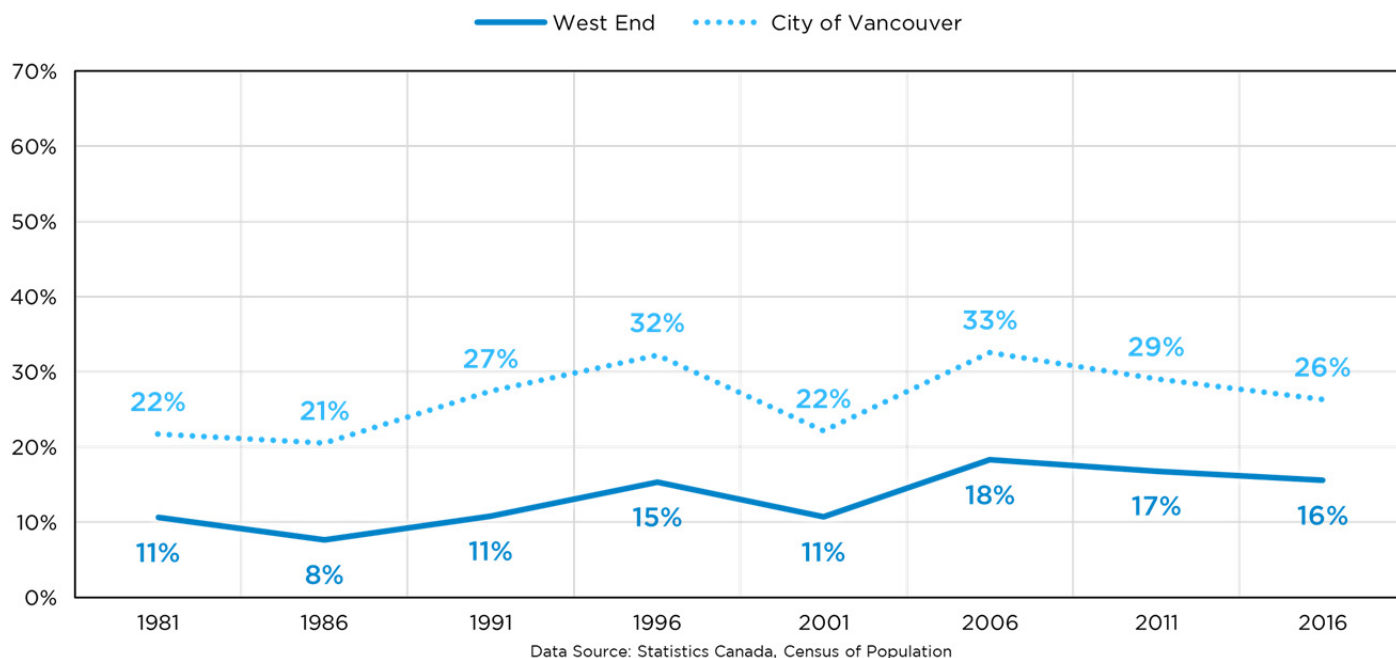
City of Vancouver: Top Non-English Mother Tongues, 2016



Home Language

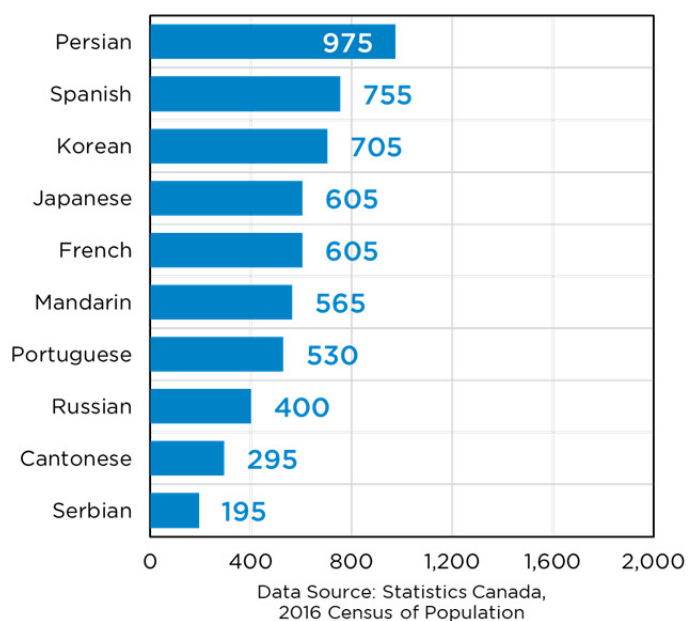
About one in six West End residents usually use a language other than English at home. Like people with a non-English mother tongue, this proportion has been consistently lower than the city overall, but held steady since the 2000s.¹²

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

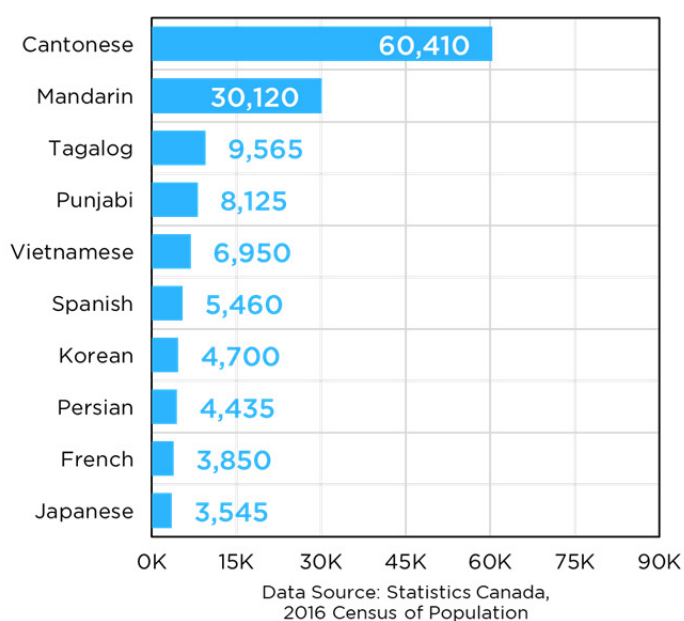


Persian (Farsi) is the most commonly used home language other than English in the West End, followed by Spanish, Korean, Japanese, French and Mandarin.

West End: Top Non-English Home Languages, 2016



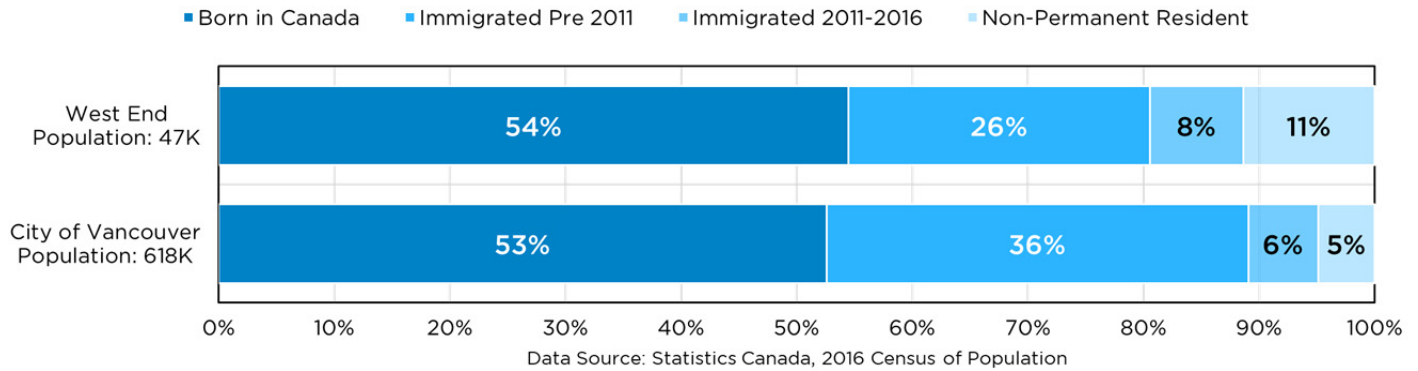
City of Vancouver: Top Non-English Home Languages, 2016



Immigration

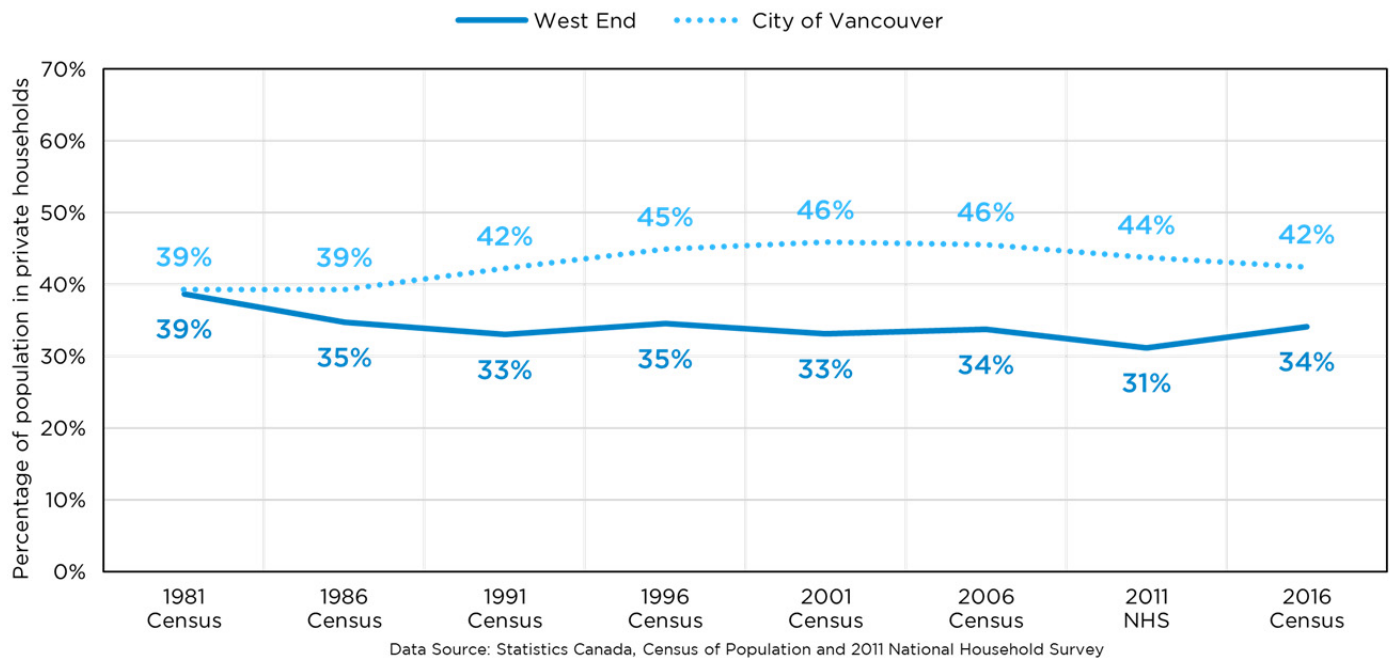
The West End has a smaller share of immigrants—Canadian citizens or permanent residents—than the city overall, but its large share of non-permanent residents means that the overall rate of people born outside of Canada is similar. As of 2016, 34% of the population are immigrants, and another 11% are non-permanent residents such as foreign students, temporary workers or refugee claimants.

Population by Immigration Status, 2016



About a third of West End residents have been immigrants consistently since the 1990s.

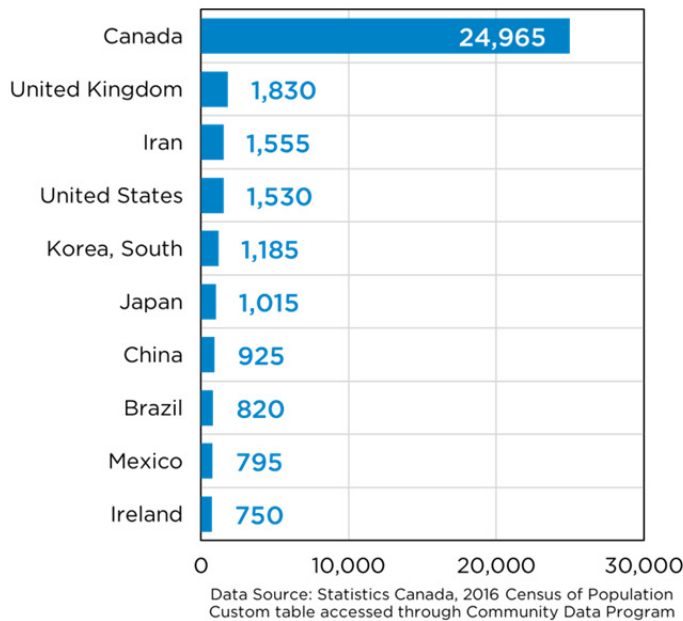
Immigrants as Percentage of Population, 1981-2016



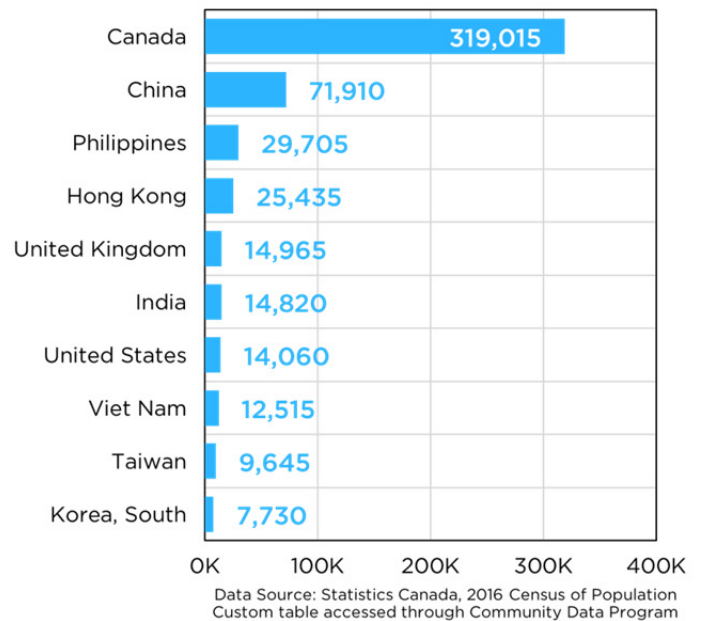
Places of Birth

A slight majority of people in the West End were born in Canada. Outside Canada, the most commonly reported places of birth are the United Kingdom, Iran and the United States.

West End: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

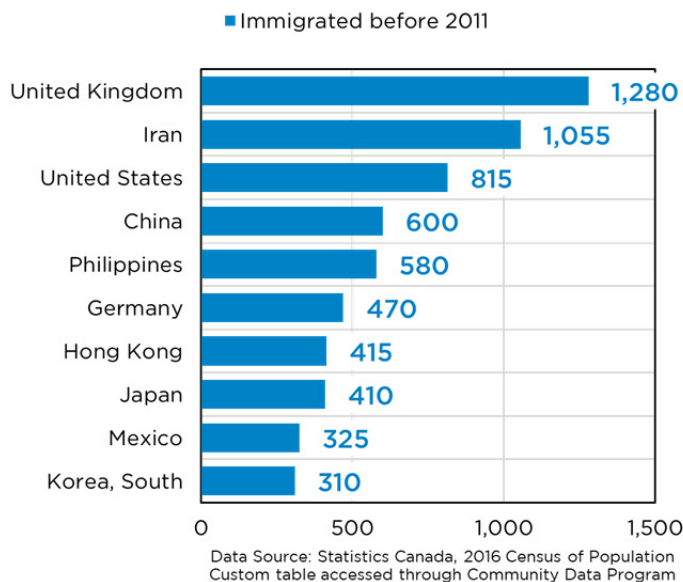


City of Vancouver: Top Places of Birth for Overall Population, 2016

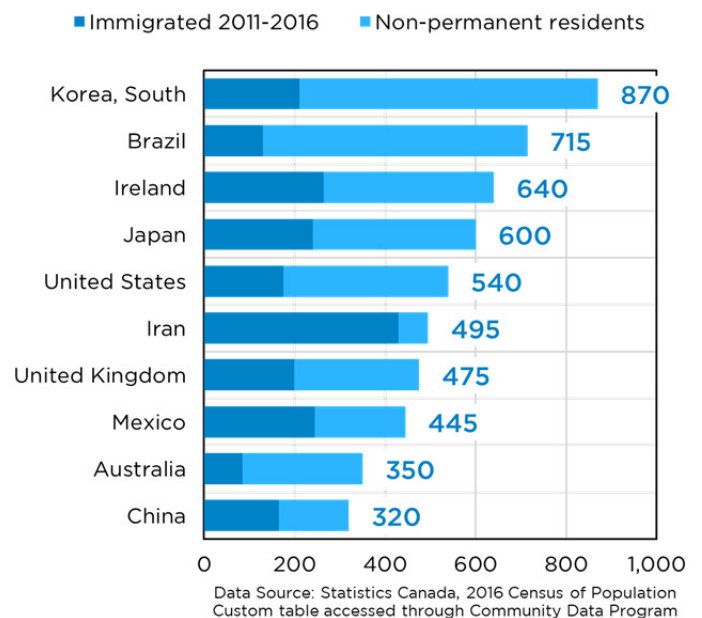


There are changing patterns of migration and immigration in Vancouver. In the West End there are notable differences in the top countries of birth between established immigrants and newcomers, with many non-permanent residents in particular living in the West End.

West End: Top Places of Birth for Established Immigrant Population, 2016



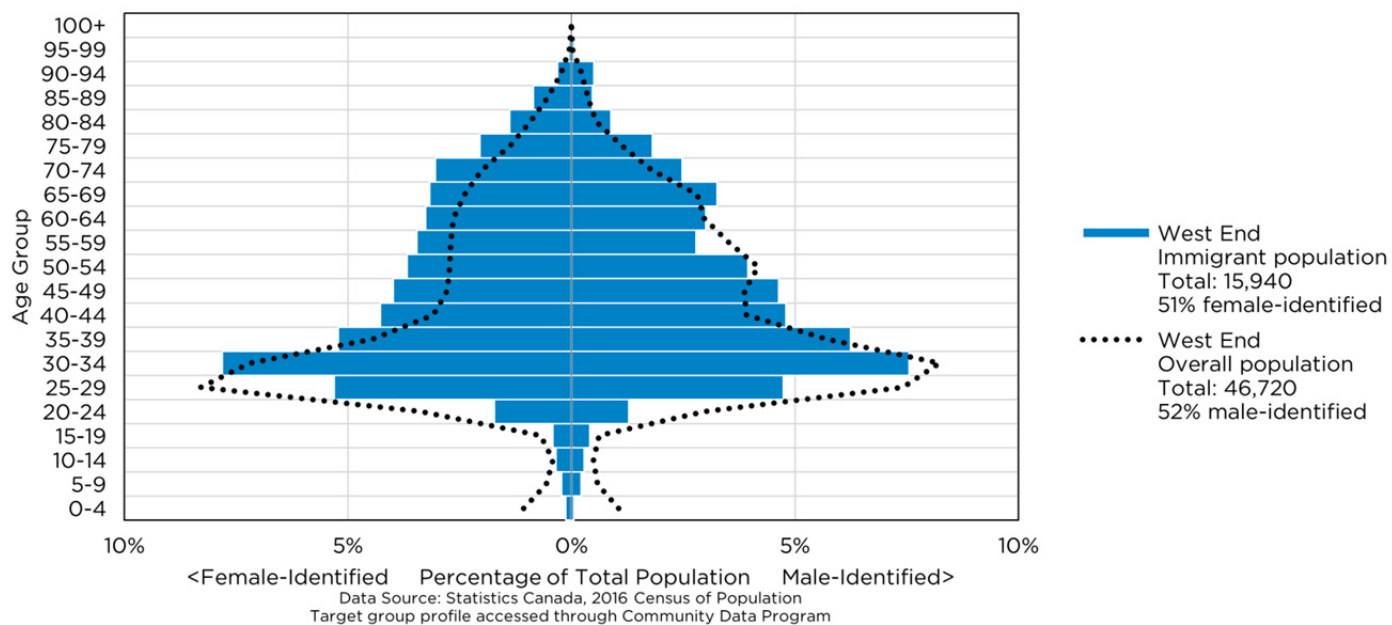
West End: Top Places of Birth for Newcomer Population, 2016



Demographics of Immigrant Populations

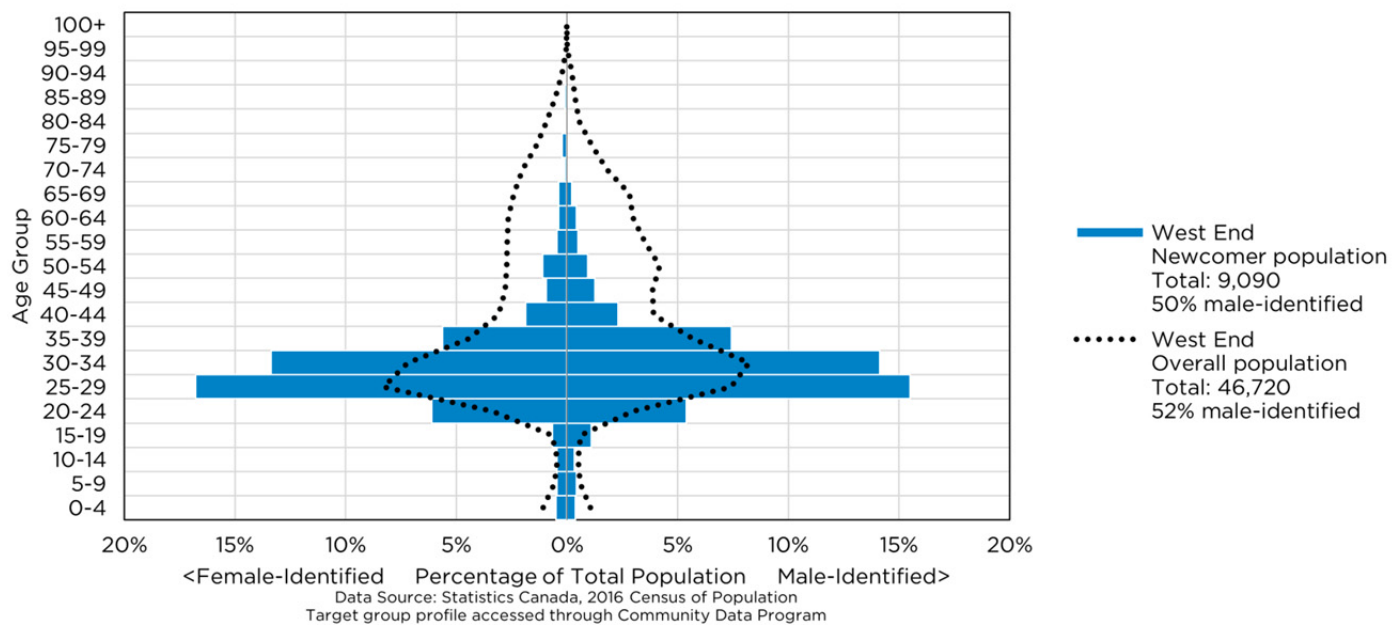
The age profile of the immigrant population in the West End is a bit older than the profile of the total population, but the overall distribution is similar, with large numbers of young adults.

**West End:
Immigrant Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



The area's newcomer population—including both recent immigrants and non-permanent residents—is concentrated in young adults, with other age groups including children and youth also represented.

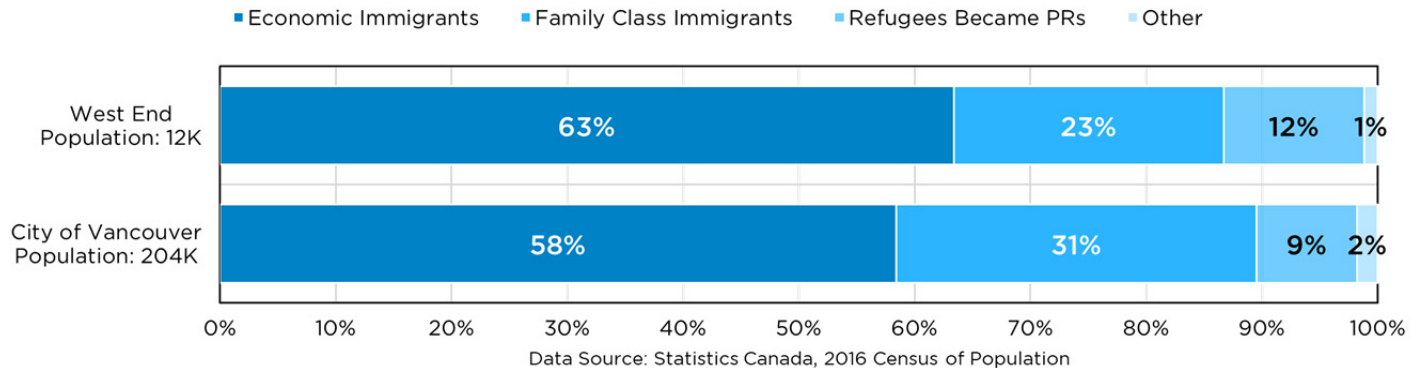
**West End:
Newcomer Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



Immigrant Admission and Citizenship

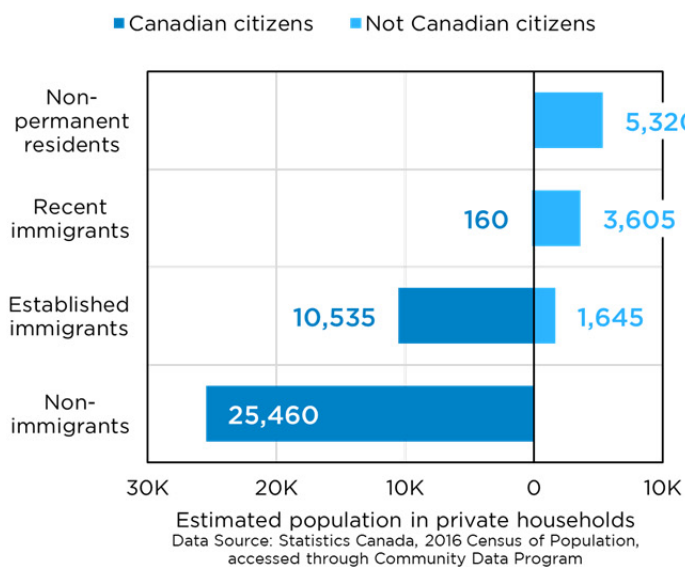
By linking census data to admissions data, Statistics Canada is able to report people's category of admission to Canada for people who immigrated after 1980. The West End has relatively more immigrants who were admitted in economic categories, including worker, business and provincial nominee programs; it also has a proportionally larger population of people who were admitted as refugees and have since become permanent residents.

Population that Immigrated After 1980 by Admission Category, 2016

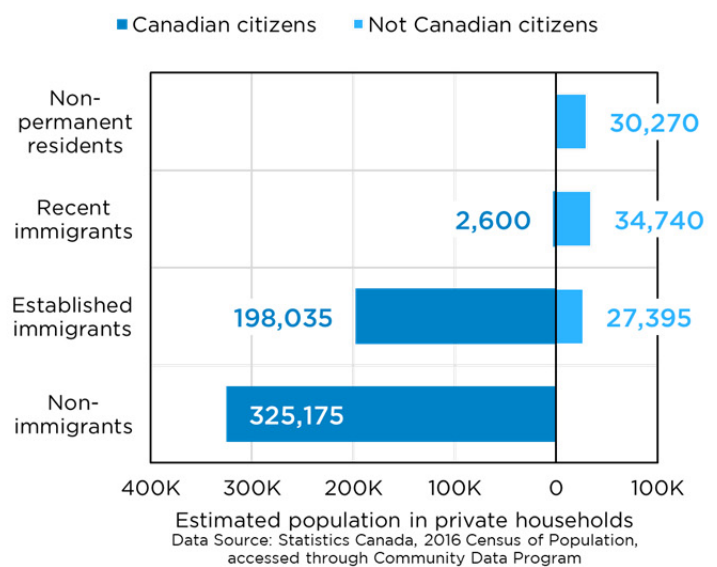


In the West End, 87% of established immigrants and 4% of new immigrants have become Canadian citizens, lower rates than the city overall. The balance of the immigrant population are permanent residents but not Canadian citizens, meaning that they do not have access to voting rights or other privileges that citizenship brings. 11% of the West End's population are non-permanent residents who live in Vancouver under the conditions of their work or study permit or refugee claim.

West End: Population by Immigration and Citizenship Status, 2016



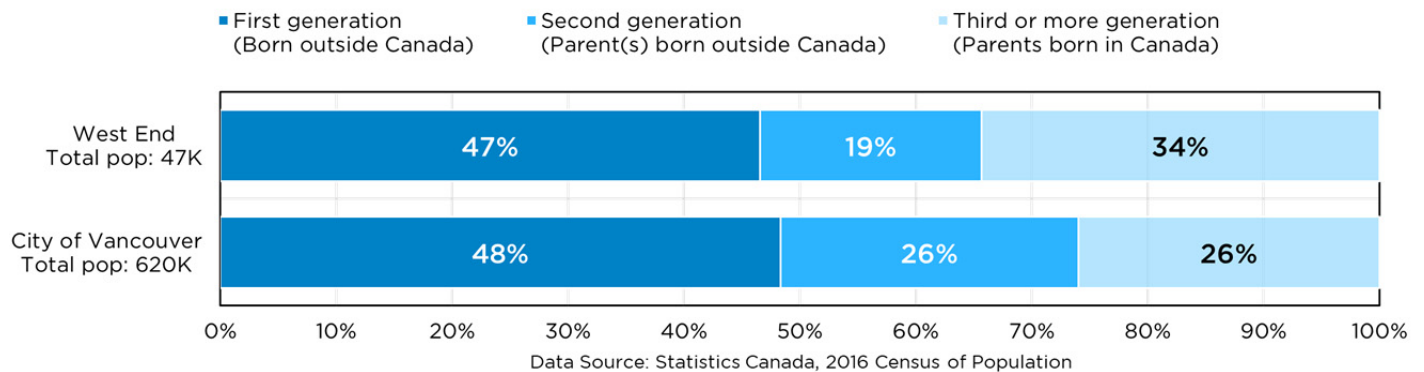
City of Vancouver: Population by Immigration and Citizenship Status, 2016



Generations in Canada

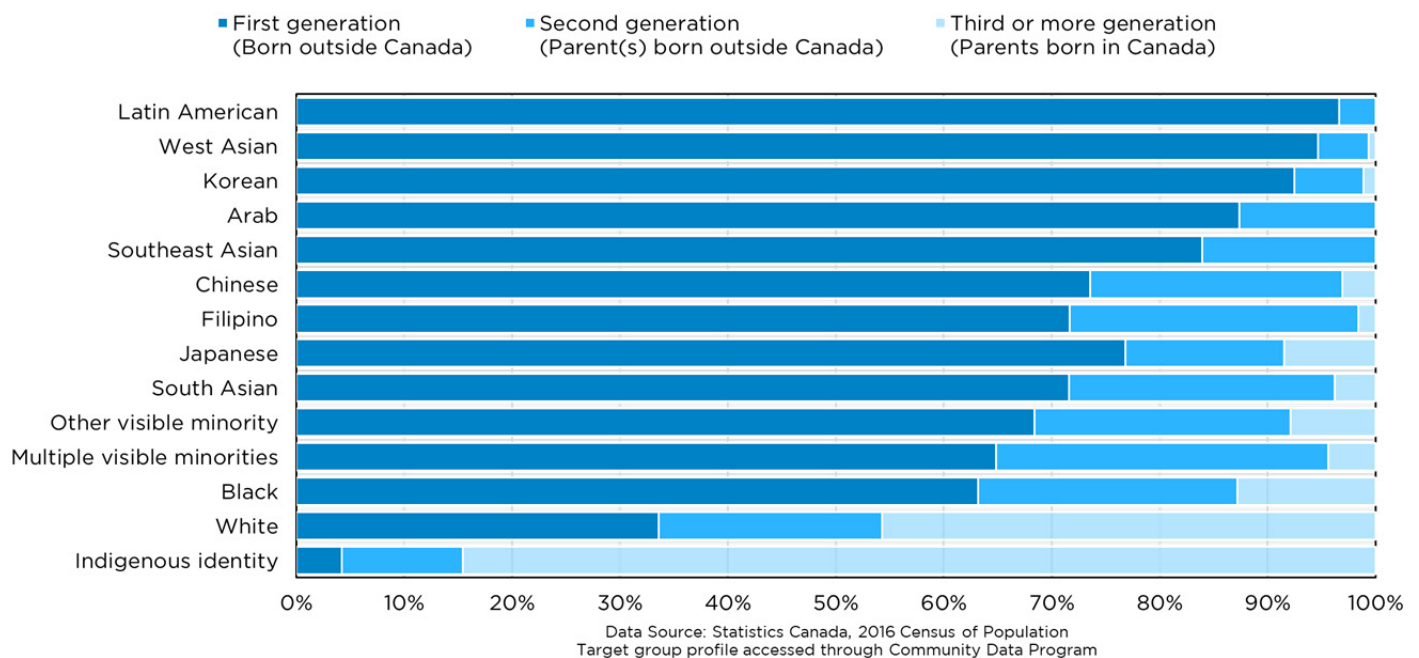
Vancouver is home to diverse immigrant populations, and a particular area of note is a growing second-generation population of people whose parents¹³ were born outside Canada. The West End, however, is more likely to be home to first- or third-or-more generation residents, with relatively fewer second-generation residents.

Population by Generation in Canada, 2016



Except for Indigenous residents, people of all racial identities are in Vancouver because of immigration, whether in current or previous generations. In the West End, a majority of white residents are first- or second-generation Canadians. Many racialized population groups, such as Black and Japanese residents, include large numbers of people whose families have been in Canada for multiple generations.

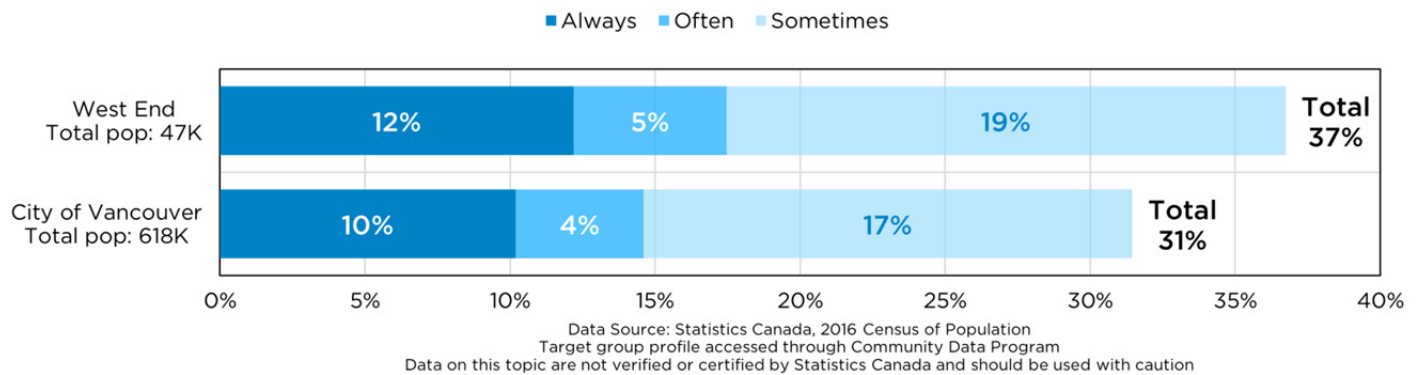
West End: Pop. Groups by Generations in Canada, 2016



Activity Limitations and Disabilities

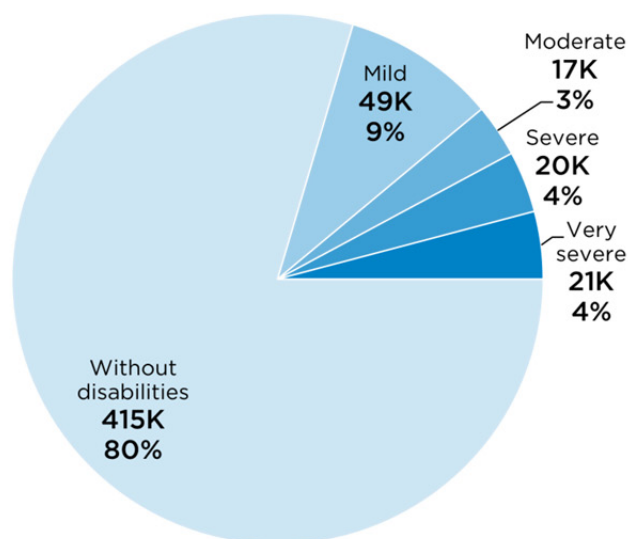
The census does not include a specific question on ability and disability, but does ask respondents to identify whether they have specific limitations on their daily activities. These questions are intended to be a sampling frame for the follow-up Canadian Survey on Disability rather than used directly, but they can provide a broad picture of ability across the population that can be tabulated by neighbourhood or across population groups. In the West End, 37% of people experience a limitation on their daily activities on at least an occasional basis, a higher rate than for the city overall.

Population with Limitations on Daily Activities, 2016

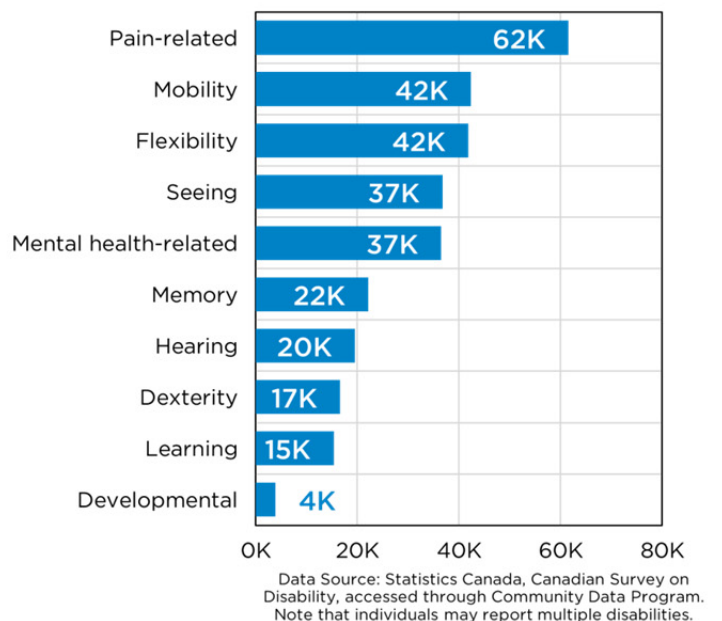


Indicators from the Canadian Survey on Disability are available at a city-wide level. Based on that survey, 20% of people age 15 and older in Vancouver have a disability. Slightly fewer than half of people with a disability have a mild disability, while slightly more than half have a moderate, severe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

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



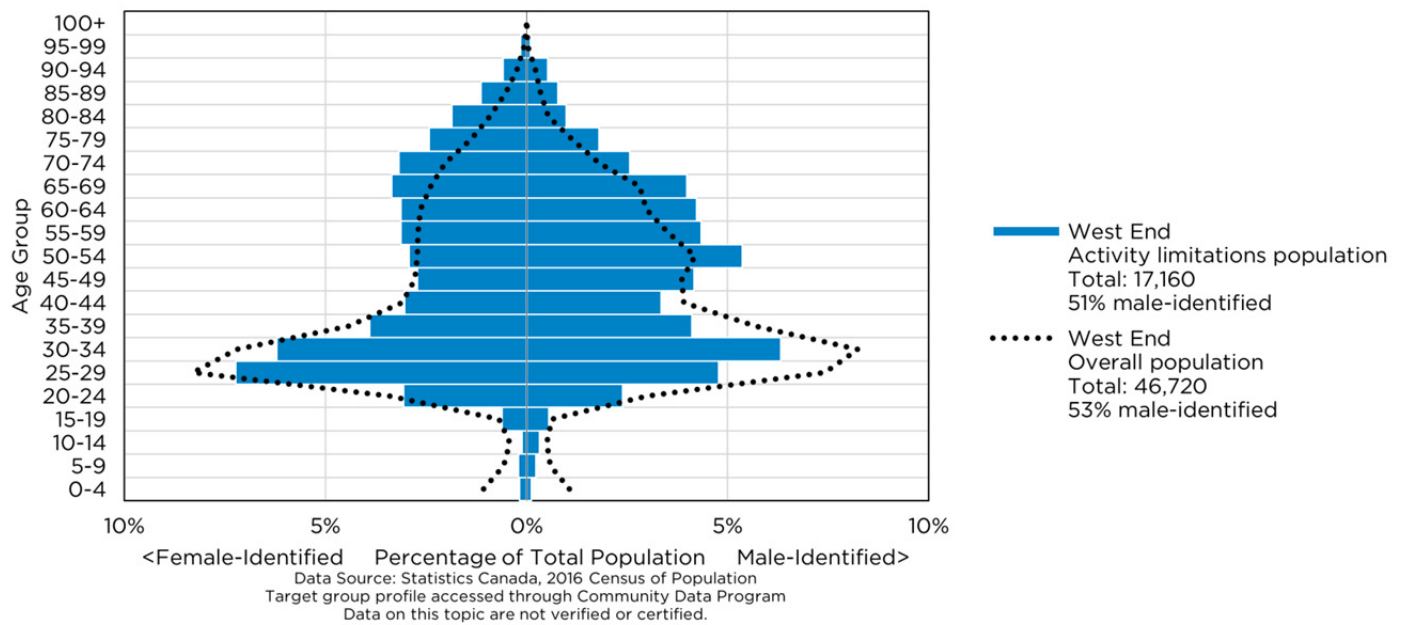
City of Vancouver: Est. Pop. with Indicated Type of Disability, 2017



Demographics of Activity Limitations

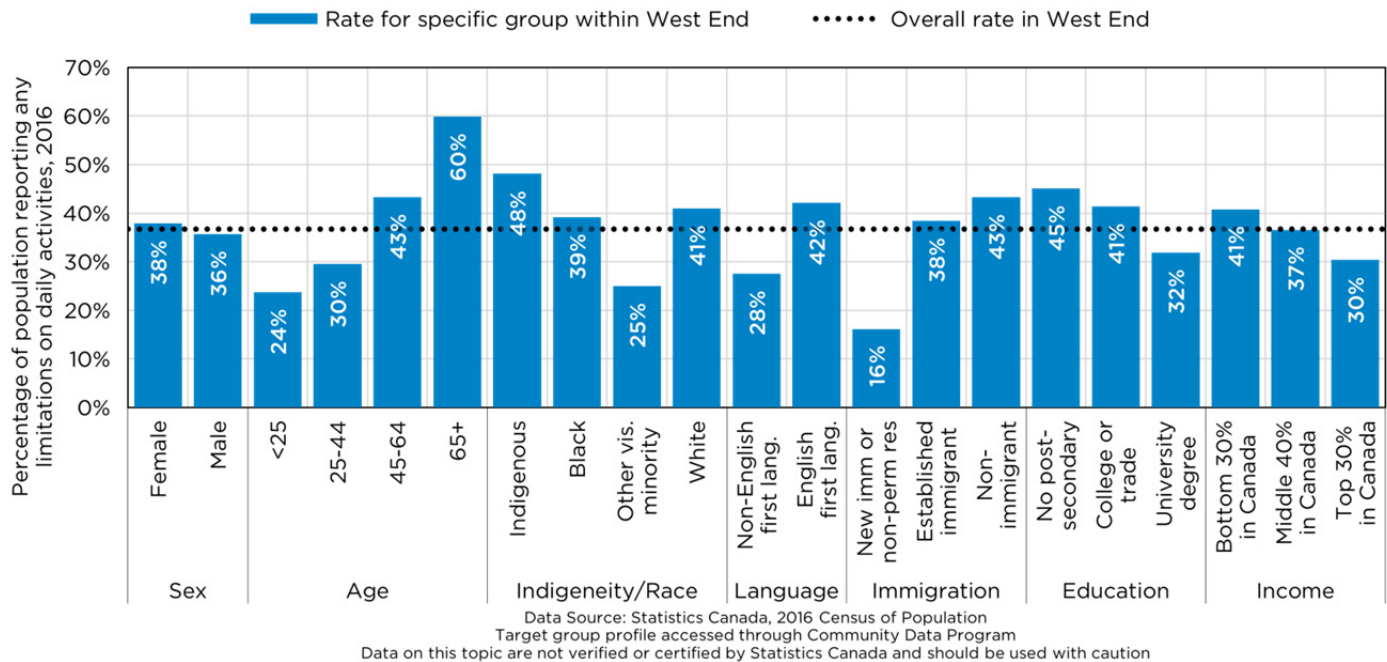
The age profile of people with limits on daily activities skews toward older adults and seniors. However, it is important to note that people of all ages may report limitations on daily activities.

**West End:
Activity Limitations Population by Age and Sex, 2016**



The charts below compare the rate that people report activity limitations among different demographic groups. In The West End, people over 65 are most likely to report limitations, but relatively high rates are also seen among adults age 45-64, Indigenous residents and people without post-secondary certificates.

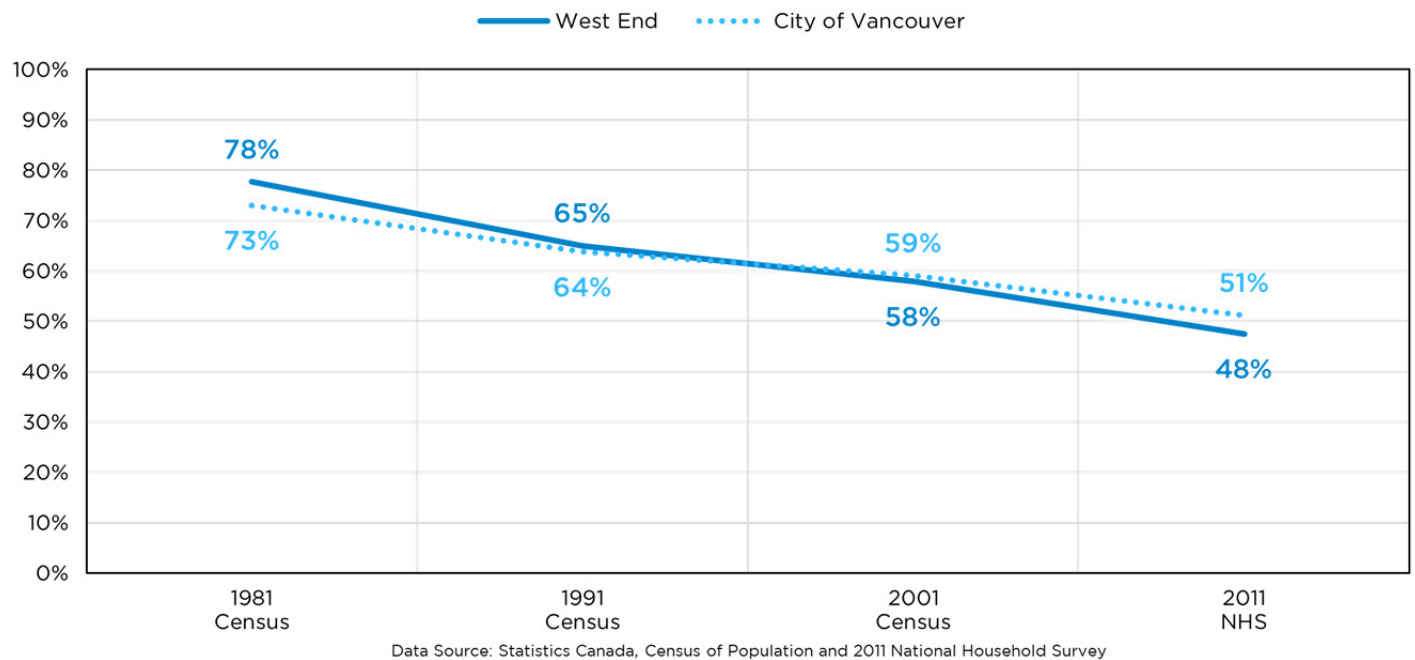
West End: Rate of Activity Limits by Demographic, 2016



Spirituality and Religion

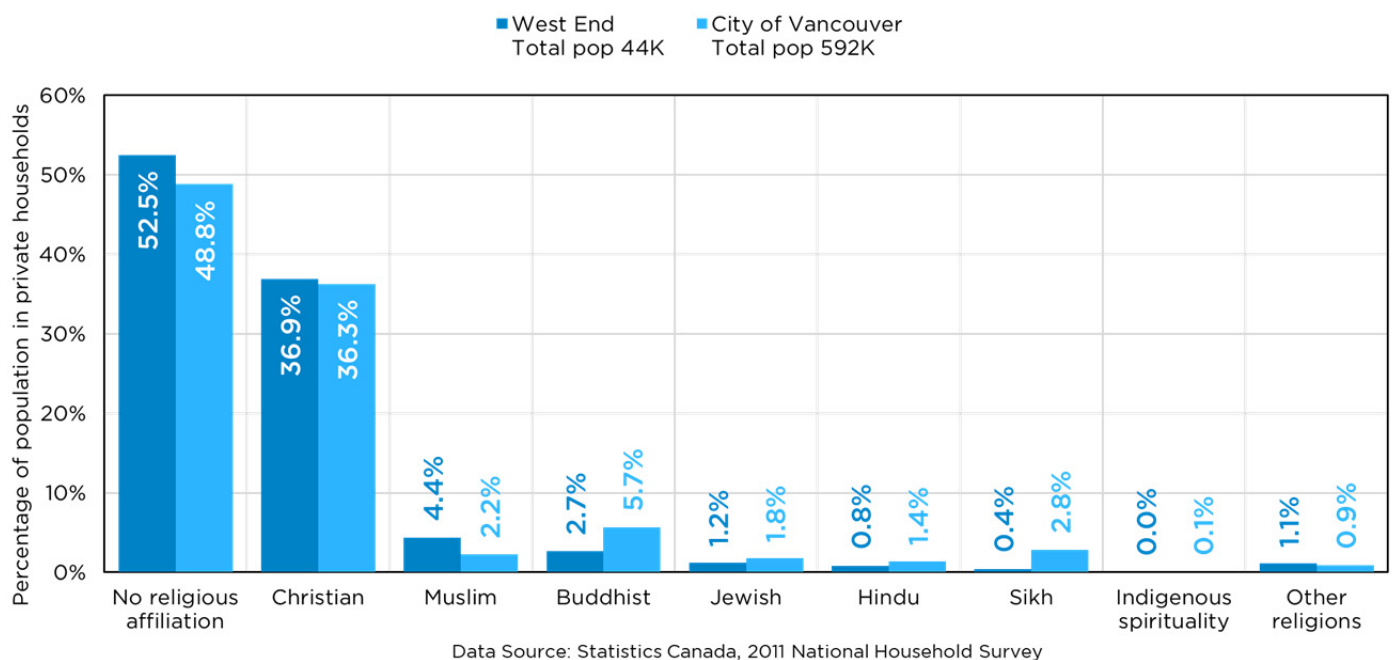
Information on people's religious identity is collected through the census program every ten years, so the most recent data available is from the voluntary National Household Survey in 2011. In 2011, a little less than half of the population in the West End was estimated to have a religious affiliation, compared to a little more than half across the city.

Percentage of Population with Religious Affiliation, 1981-2011



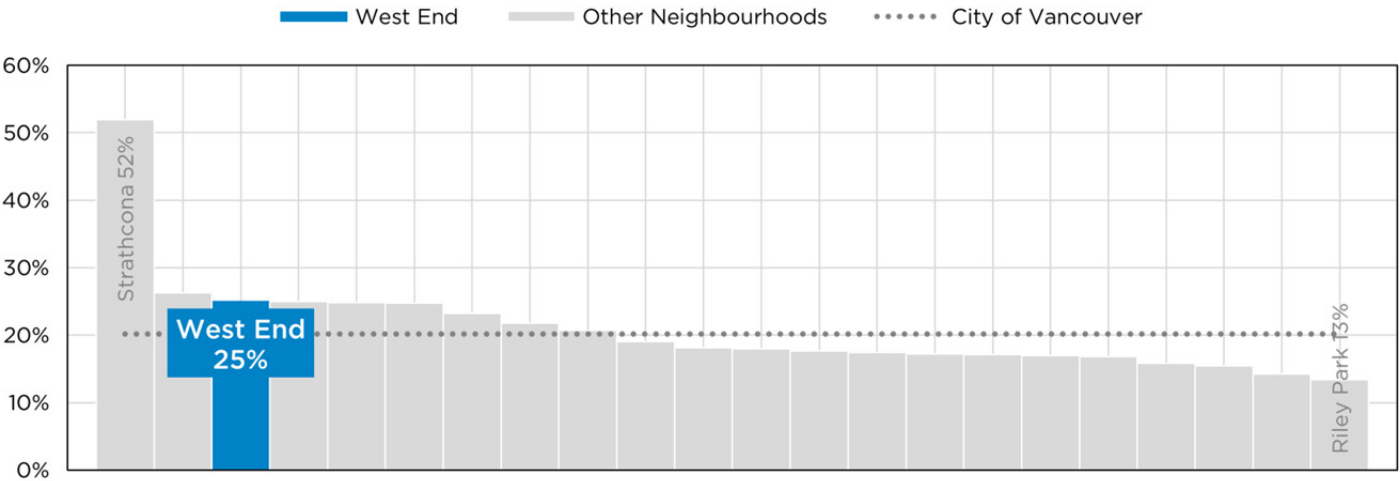
The graphs below show the broad categories of religious affiliation reported in the West End and the City of Vancouver.

Population by Religious Affiliation, 2011

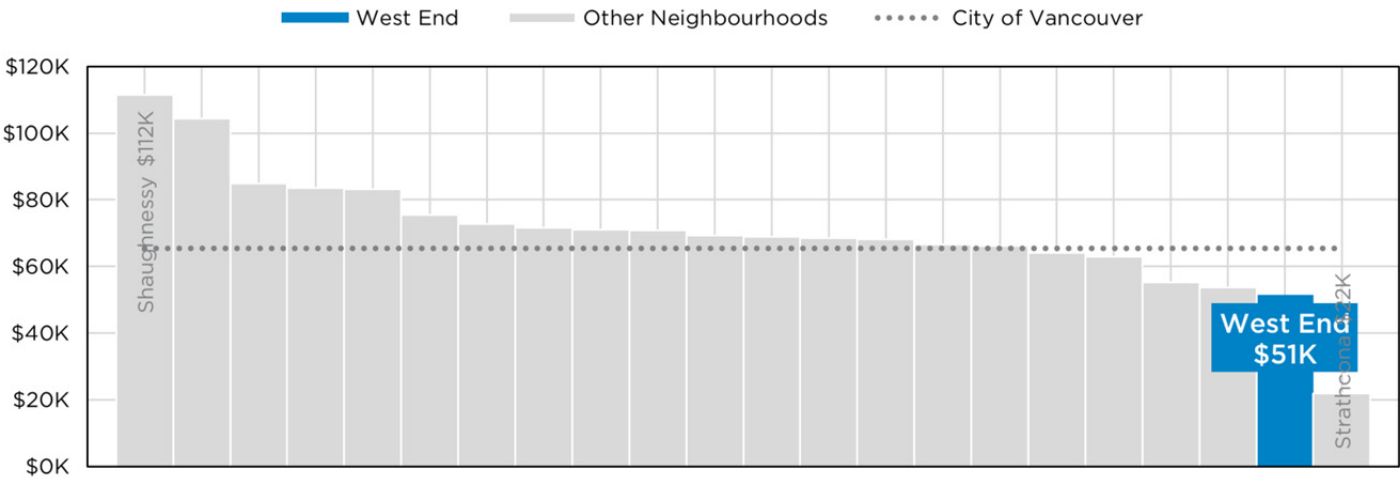


ECONOMY AND EQUITY

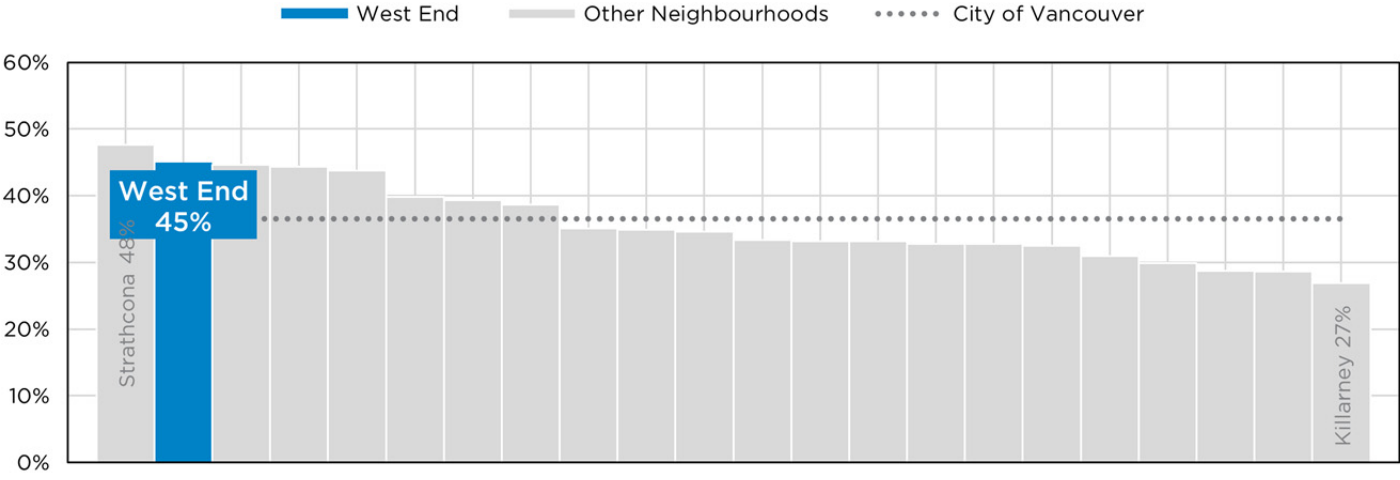
Population Below National Poverty Line, 2016



Median Household Income, 2016

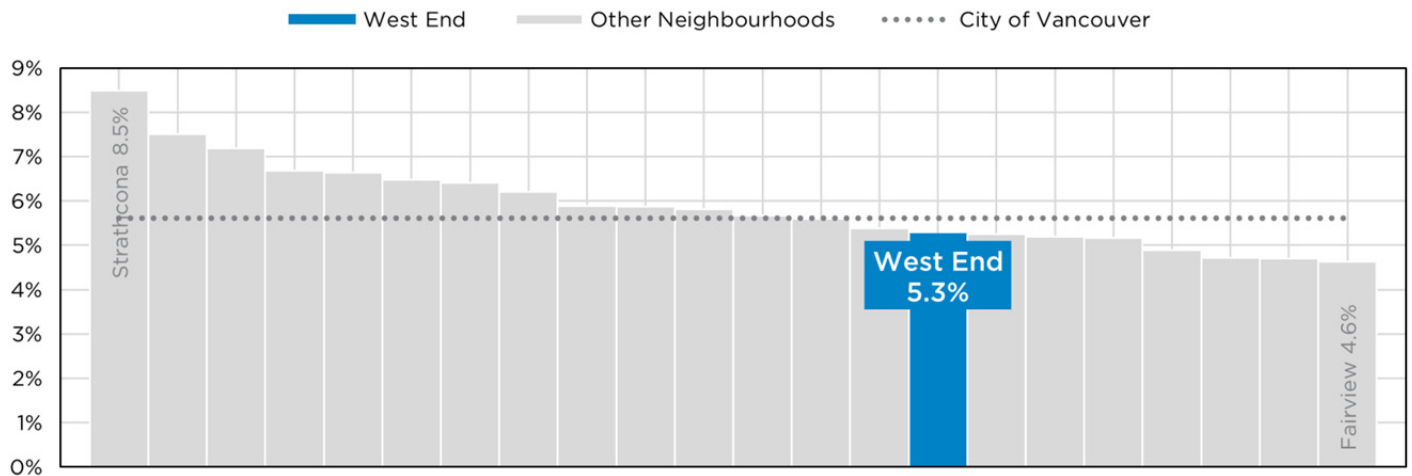


Households Spending Over 30% of Total Income on Housing, 2016

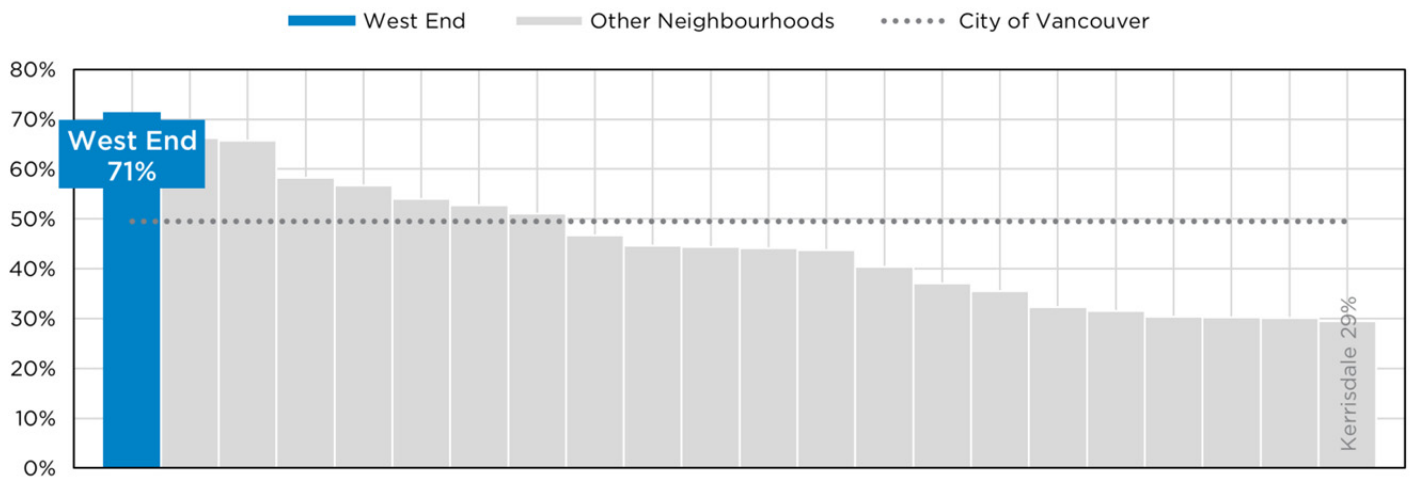


NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPARISONS

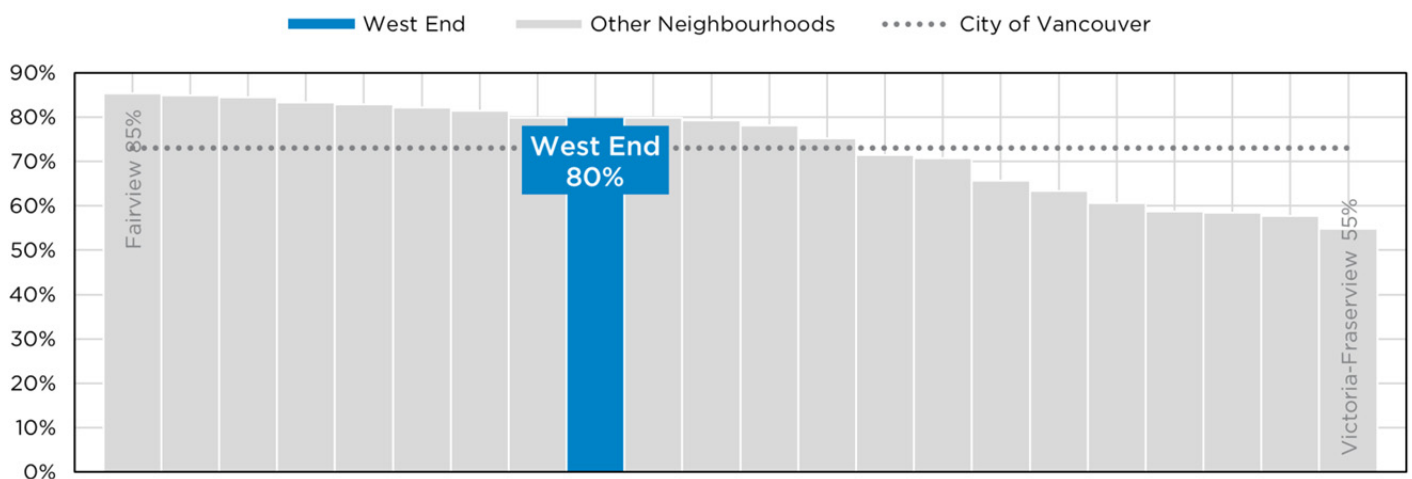
Unemployment Rate for Residents in Labour Force, 2016



Employed Population Walking, Cycling or Transit to Work, 2016



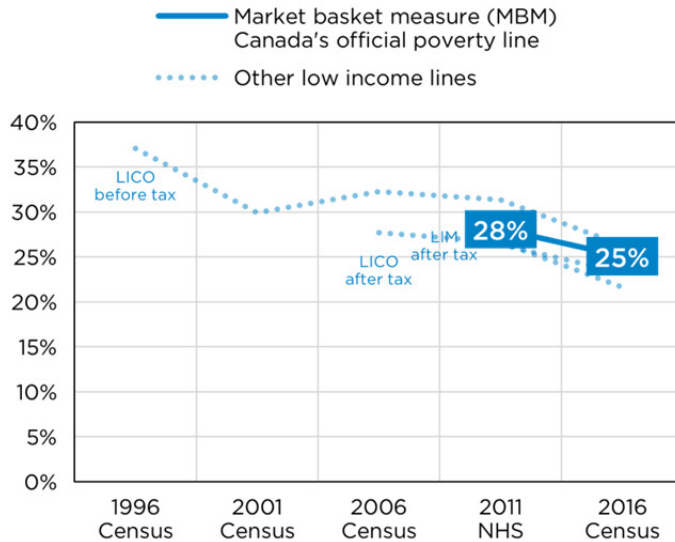
Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary Certificate, 2016



Income Poverty

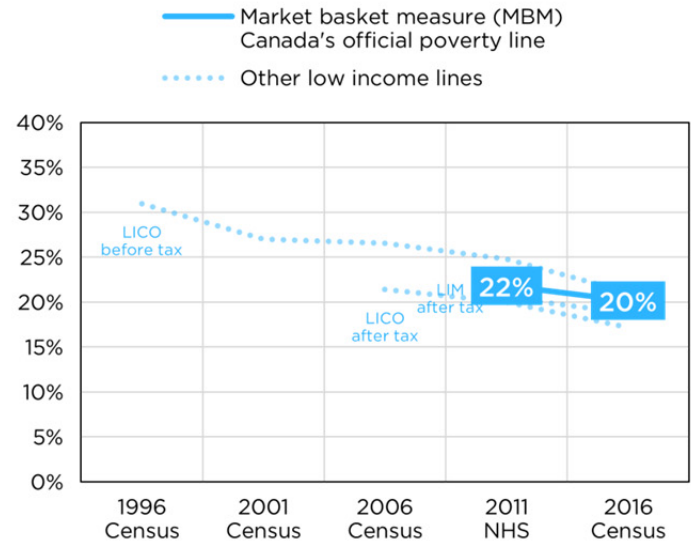
Canada has only recently defined a national poverty line: the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which compares family disposable income to the cost of basic needs in a community. 25% of the population in the West End have incomes below this line. While assessing trends over time is challenging given changing measures, the poverty rate appears to be consistently higher than the city overall.

West End: Low Income Rates, 1996-2016



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.

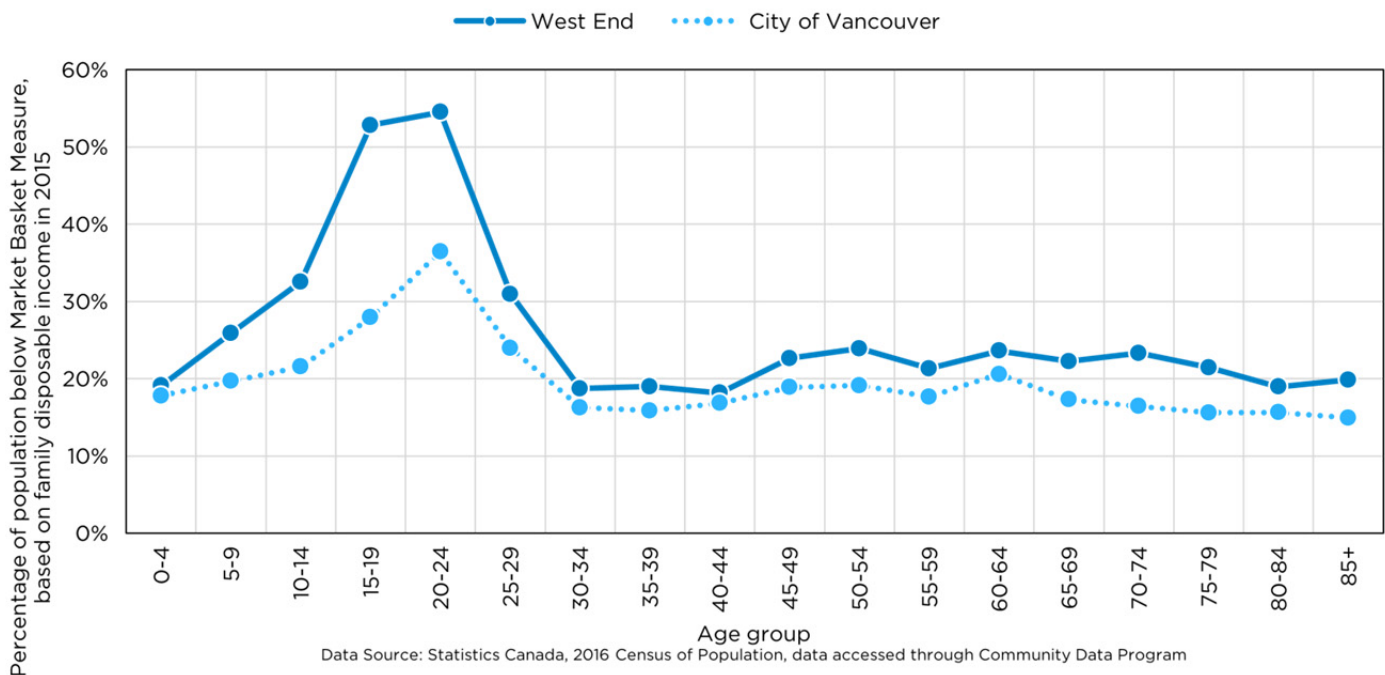
City of Vancouver: Low Income Rates, 1996-2016



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.

The poverty rate is higher in the West End than the city overall across all age groups, with the rate among youth and young adults especially high.

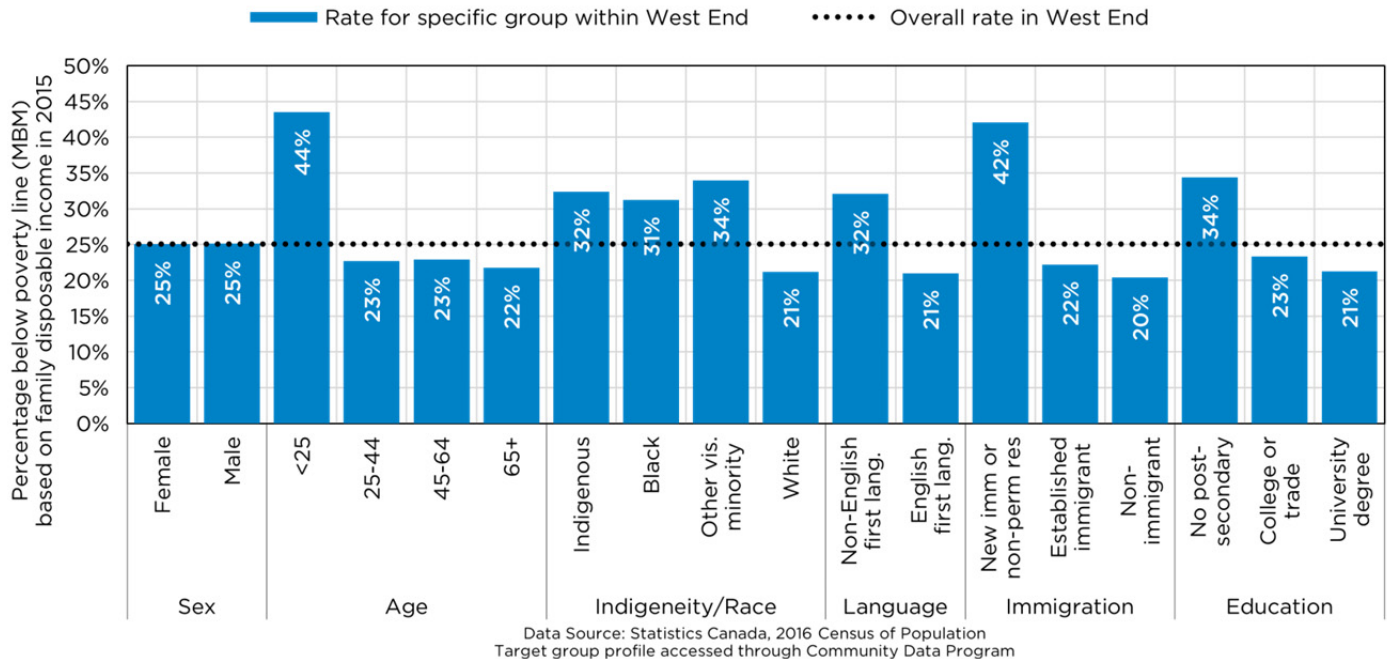
Poverty Rate by Age Group, 2016



Equity and Poverty

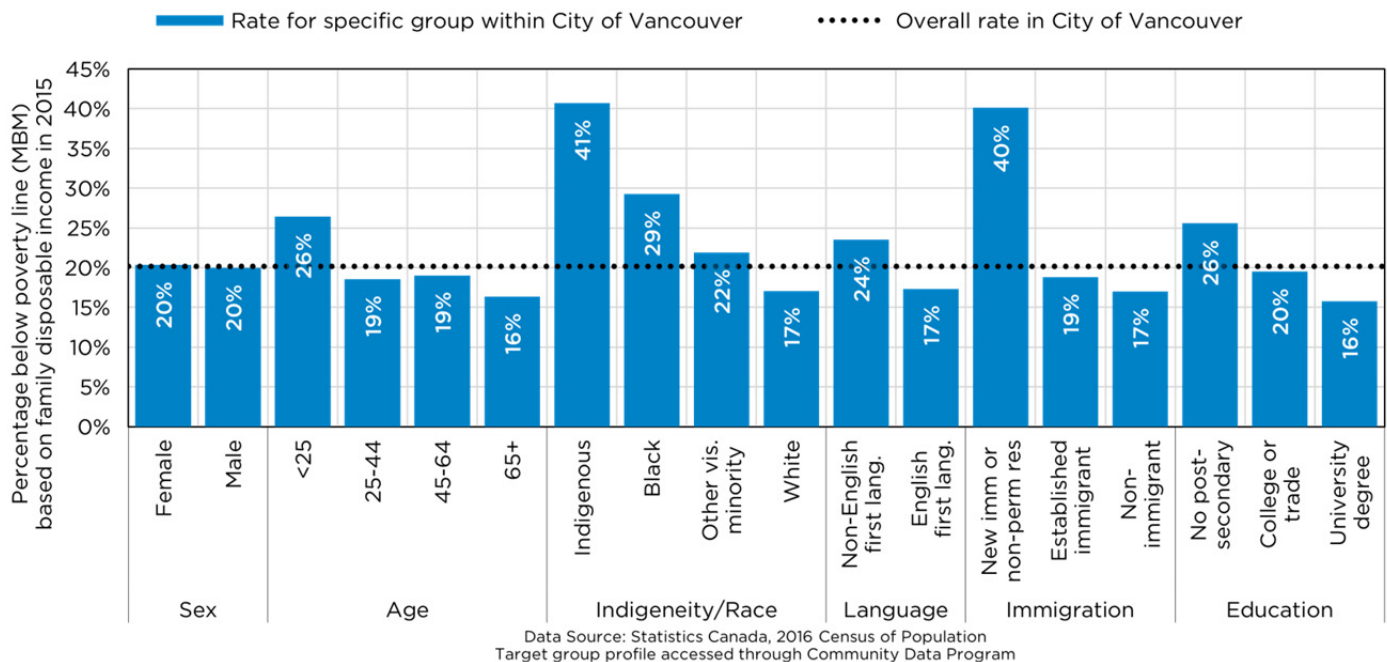
Poverty does not strike randomly: inadequate income to meet basic needs correlates with other systems of oppression and inequity. In the West End, younger residents, newcomers, Indigenous and racialized residents, non-English speakers and people without post-secondary certificates are all disproportionately impacted by income poverty.

West End: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016



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

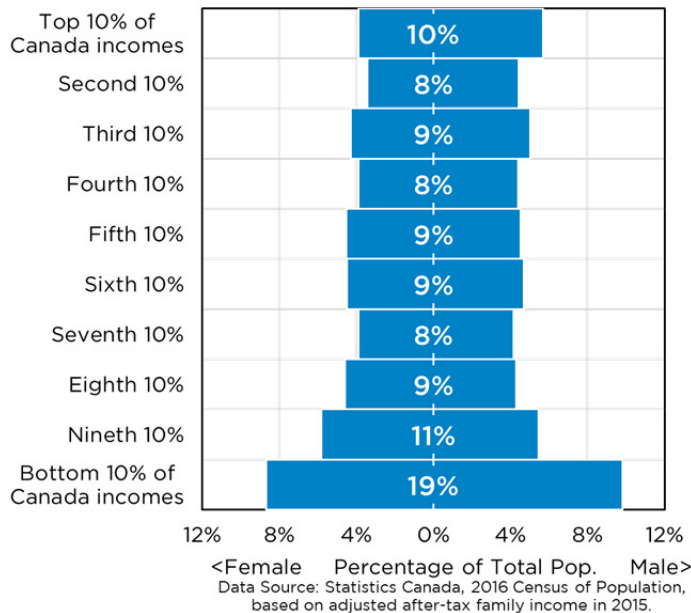
City of Vancouver: Poverty Rate by Selected Demographics, 2016



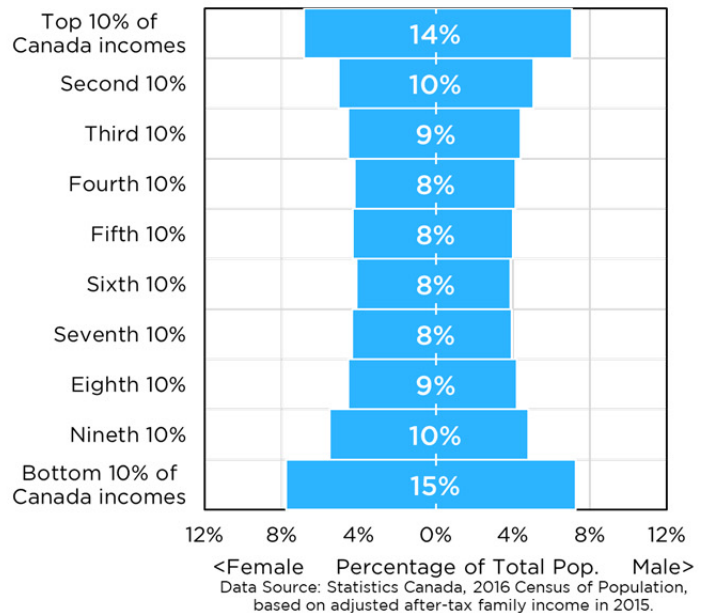
Income Inequity

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%. The West End skews toward the lower end of the distribution: almost 20% of West End residents are in the bottom 10% of earners in the country.

West End: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

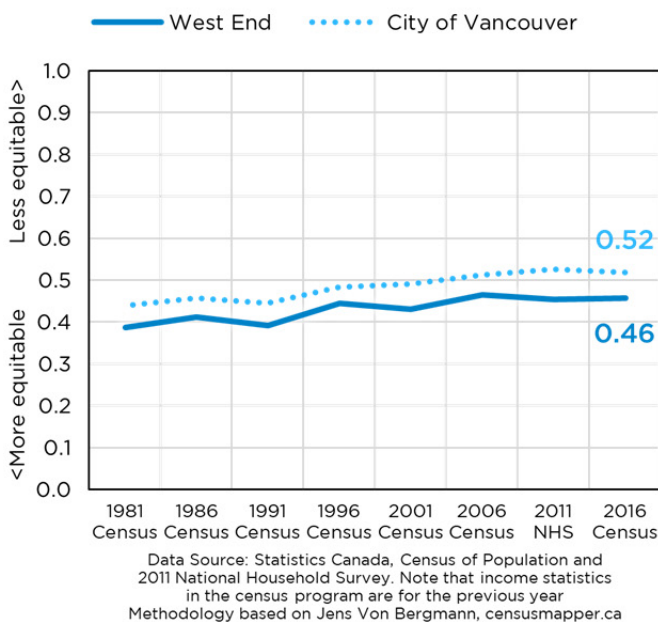


City of Vancouver: Population by National Income Deciles, 2016

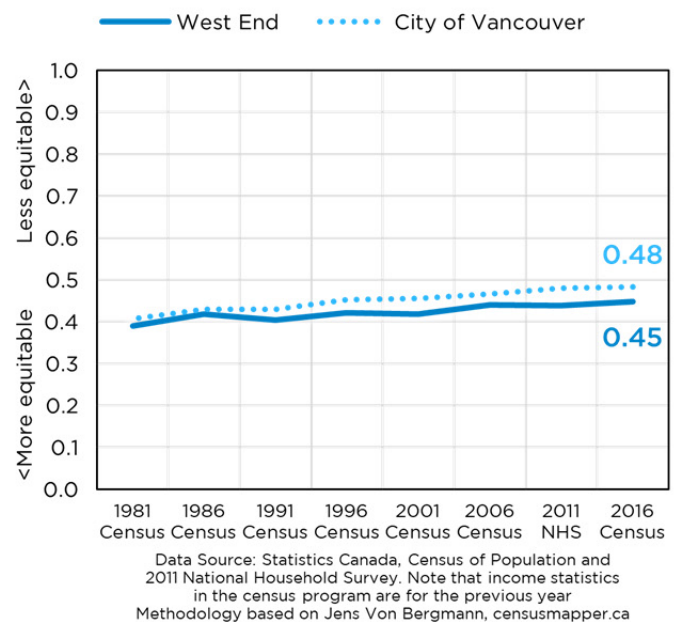


The graph below estimates a Gini coefficient using total personal and household income categories.¹⁴ The West End can be seen to have a slightly more equitable distribution of income than the city overall, though this may reflect the different composition of the neighbourhood compared to most other parts of the city.

Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Personal Income Distribution



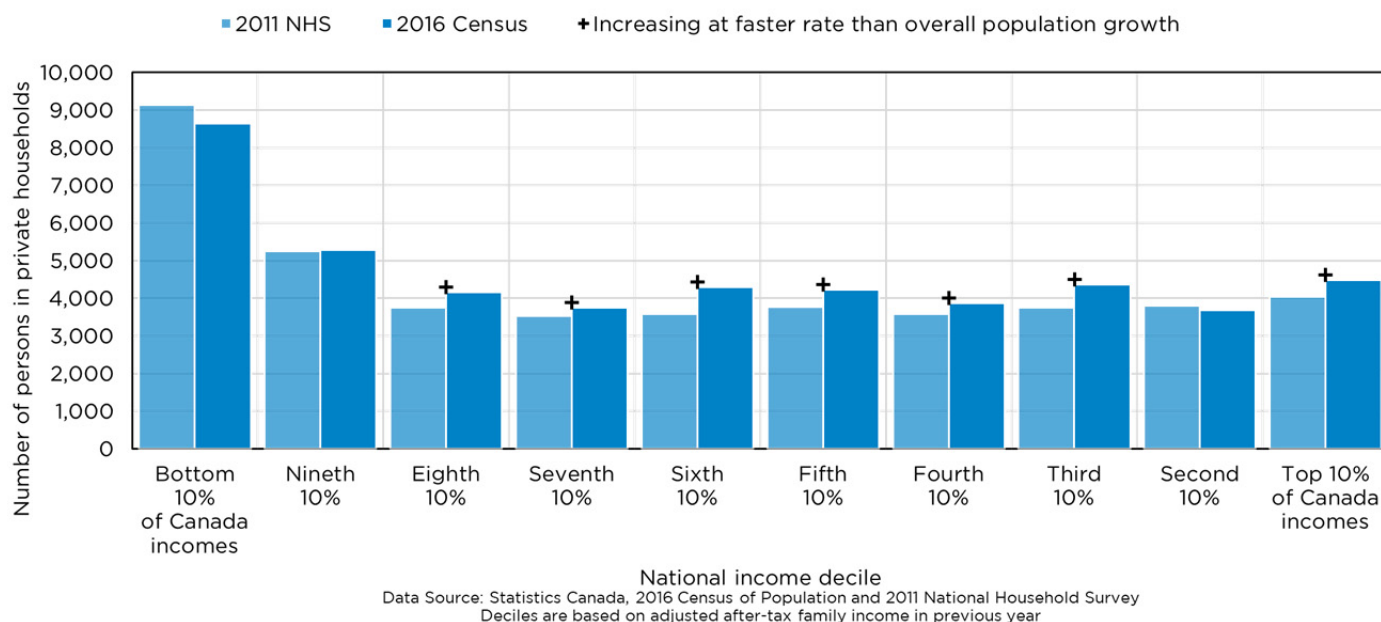
Estimated Gini Index for Pre-Tax Household Income Distribution



Equity and Income Distribution

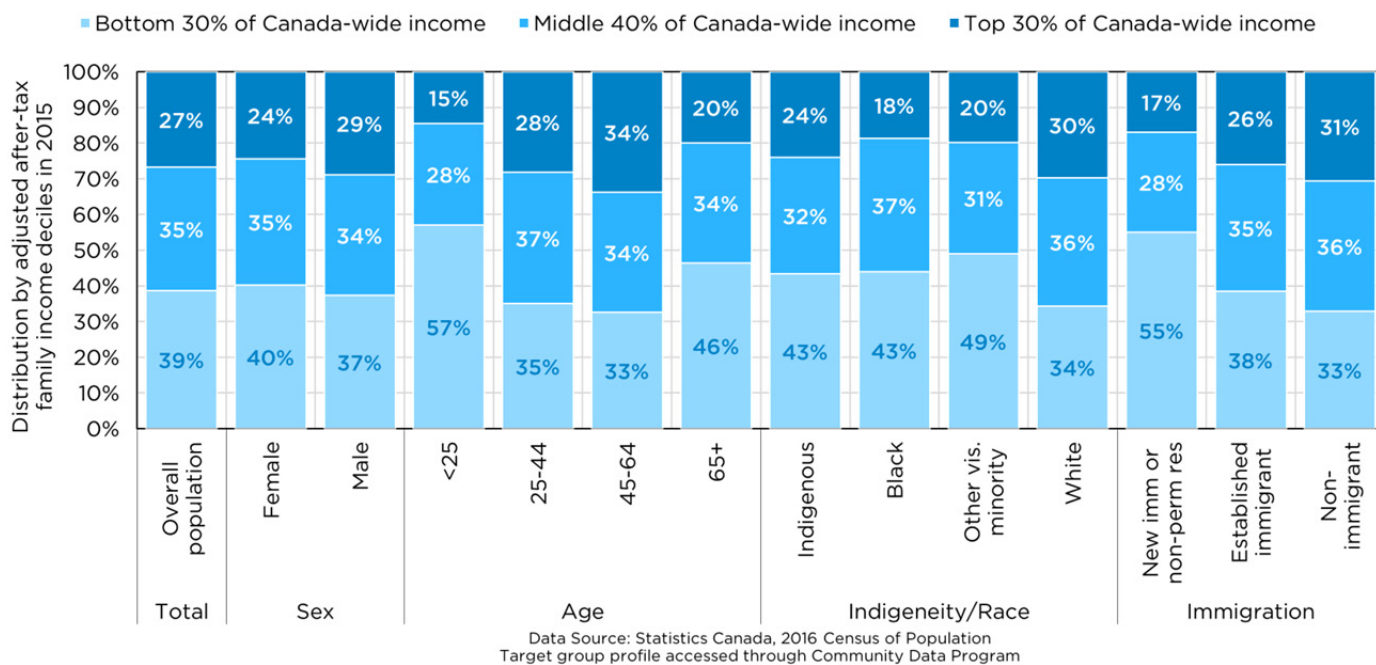
Comparing 2011 to 2016 population estimates shows that most growth in the West End is occurring in middle-income earners, but there has also been growth among people in the top 10% Canada-wide.

West End: Population Estimates by National Income Decile, 2011-2016



Income inequity and polarization again intersect with other forms of inequity experienced by different groups in the city. In The West End, female residents, younger residents, seniors, Indigenous and racialized residents and newcomers are all more likely to be in the bottom 30% of Canada's income distribution.

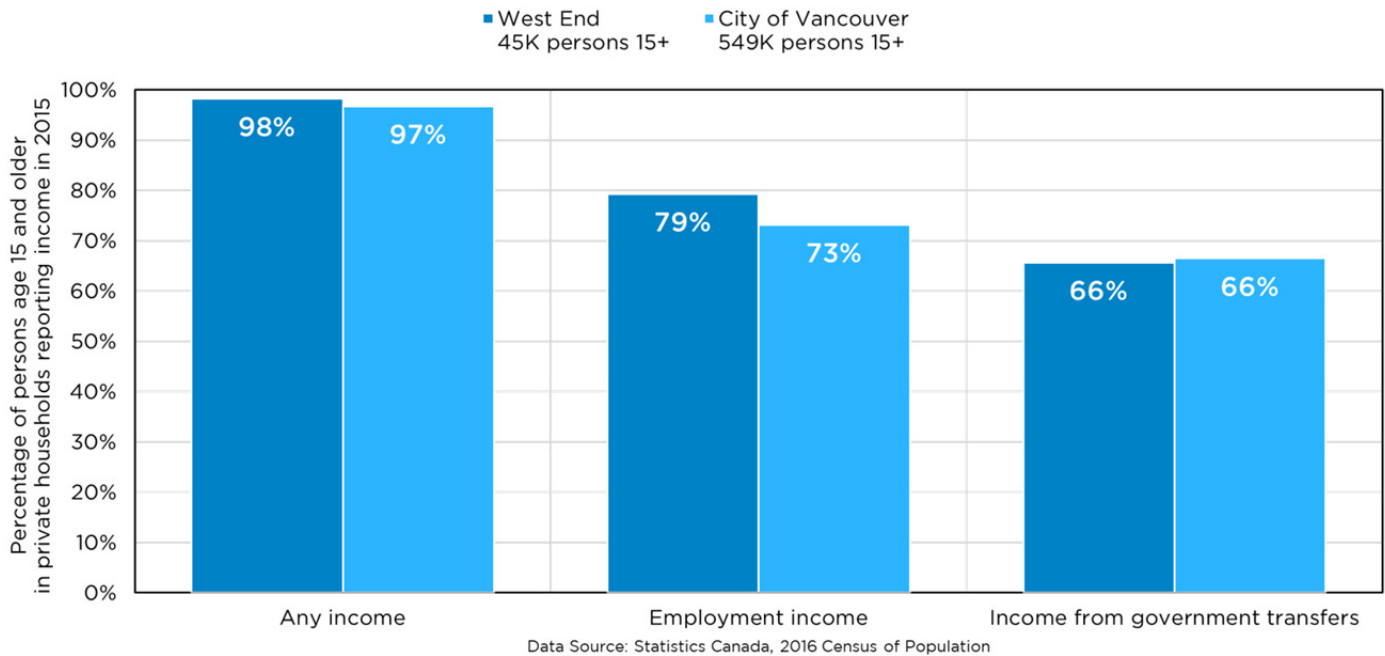
West End: Income Distribution by Demographics, 2016



Individual Income

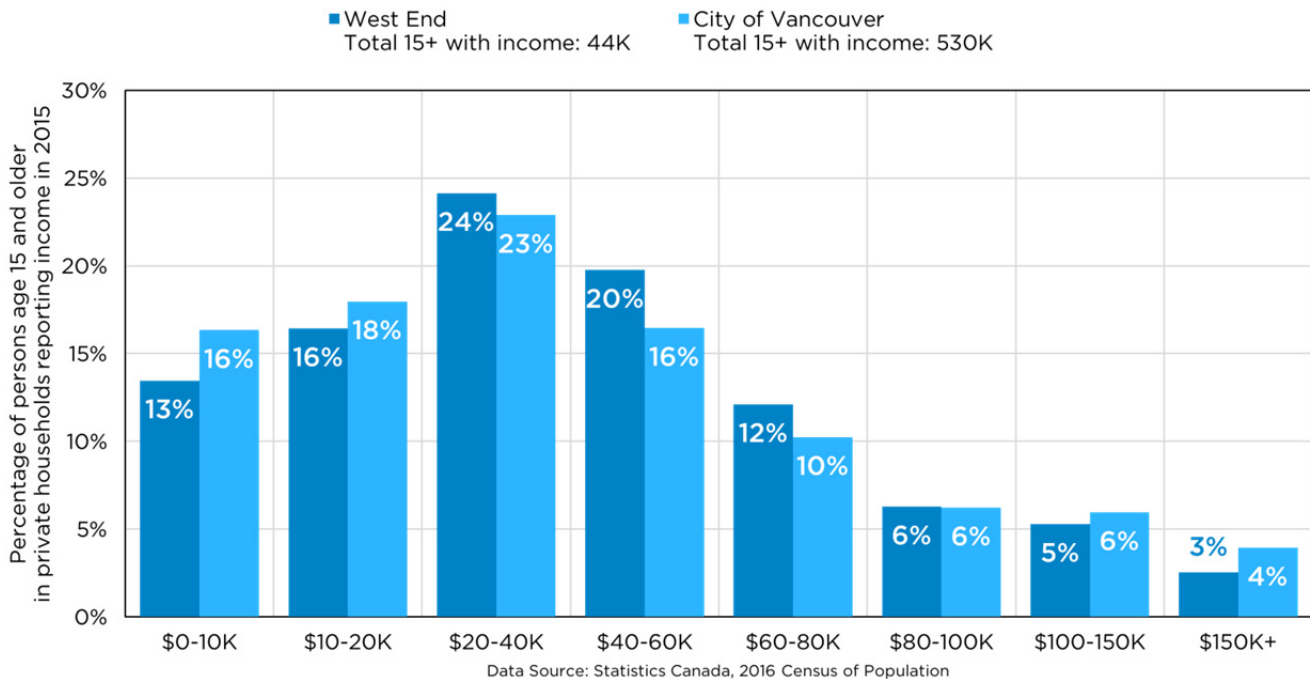
Among people 15 years of age and older, 98% of West End residents reported having income in the year prior to the 2016 census.¹⁵ The West End had a higher percentage of persons with employment income than the city overall, with nearly eight in ten residents reporting income from employment.

Persons Reporting Different Sources of Income, 2016



The distribution of personal income in West End is oriented toward low to moderate incomes, compared to the city overall.

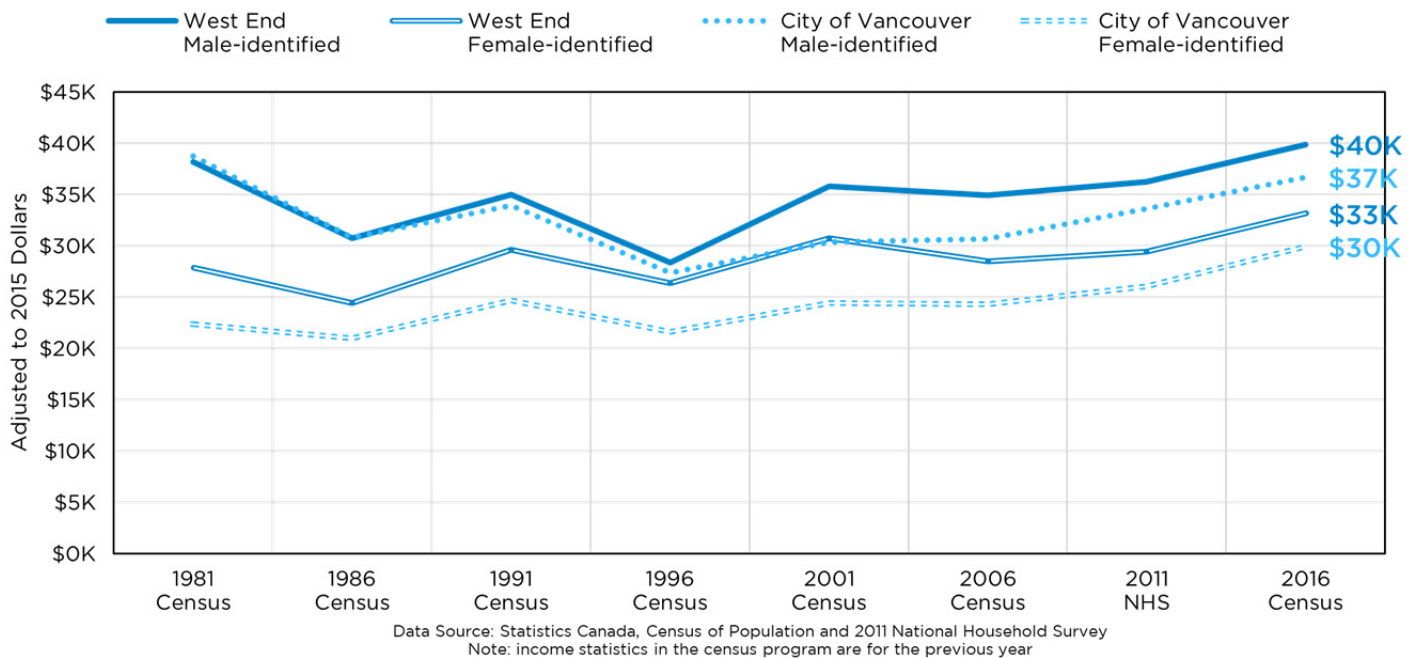
Distribution of Total Personal Income, 2016



Equity and Individual Income

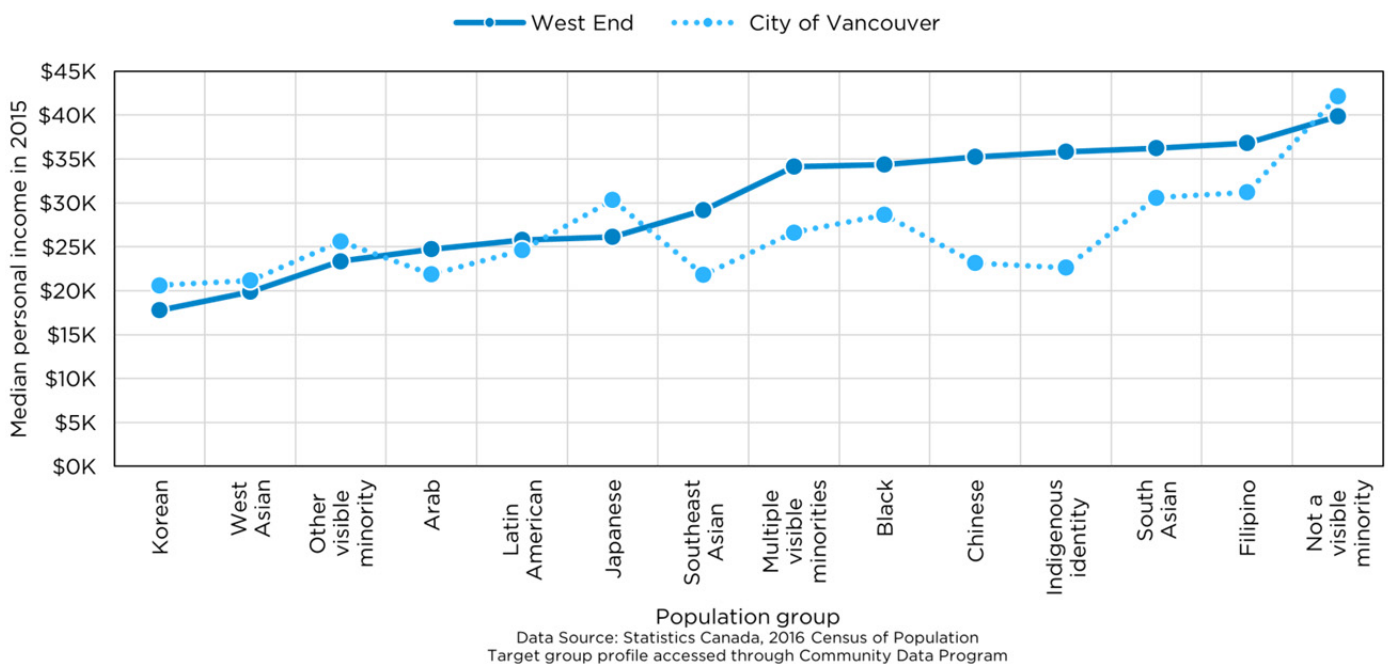
Adjusted for inflation,¹⁶ median personal income in the West End has increased over time and is ahead of the median for city residents overall. While there is a large gender gap in the West End, female-identified earners have consistently had a higher median income in the West End than in the city overall.

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



There are also important inequities in median income based on people's Indigenous and racial identities. People not in a visible minority group in the West End have higher median income than many racialized populations in the area.

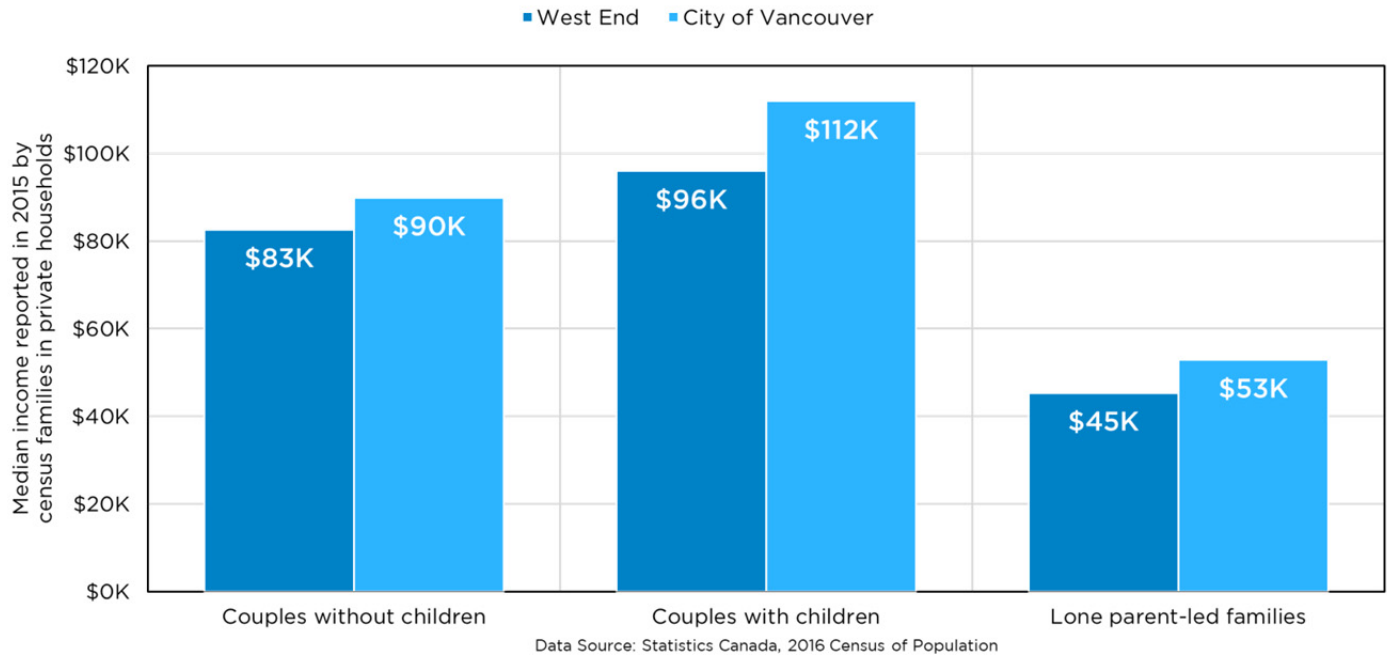
Median Personal Income by Population Group, 2016



Family Income

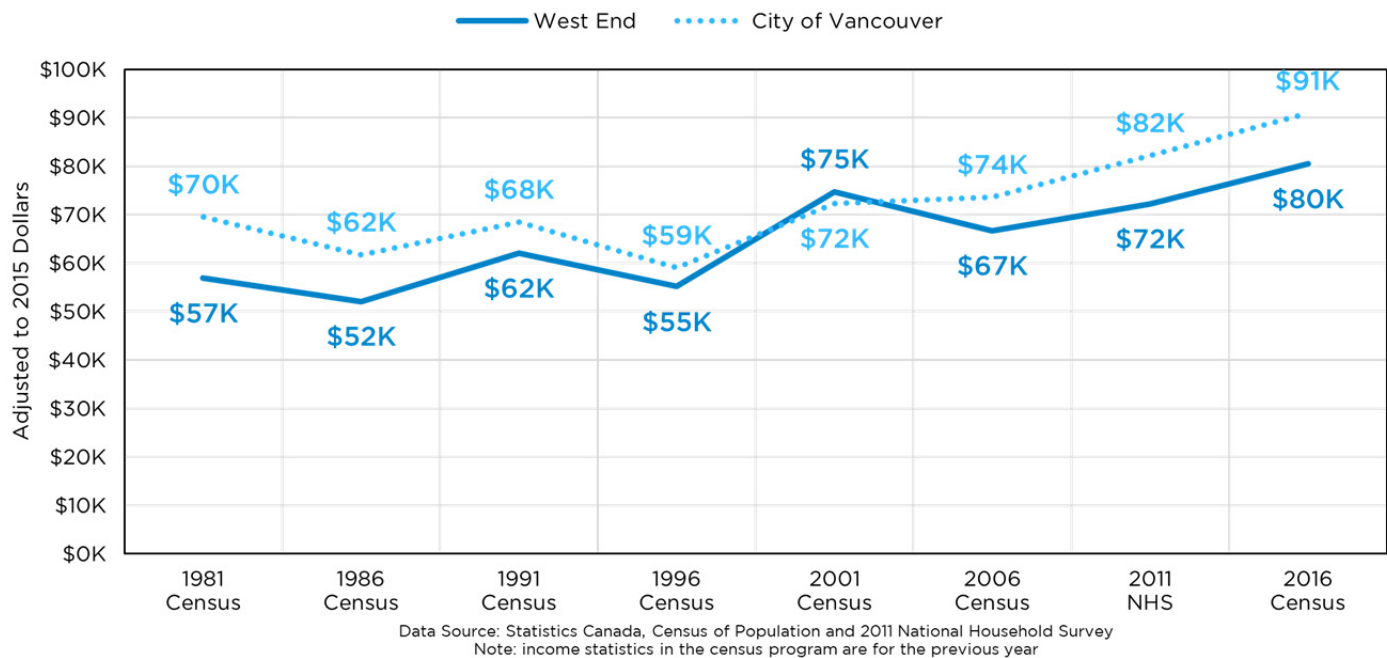
Median family income is lower in the West End than in the City of Vancouver overall, across all family types.

Median Total Family Income by Family Type, 2016



Again, after adjusting for inflation, median income overall for families has been lower in the West End than the city overall in all census periods except the 2001 census. Incomes have grown in excess of inflation in both the West End and the city since 2006.

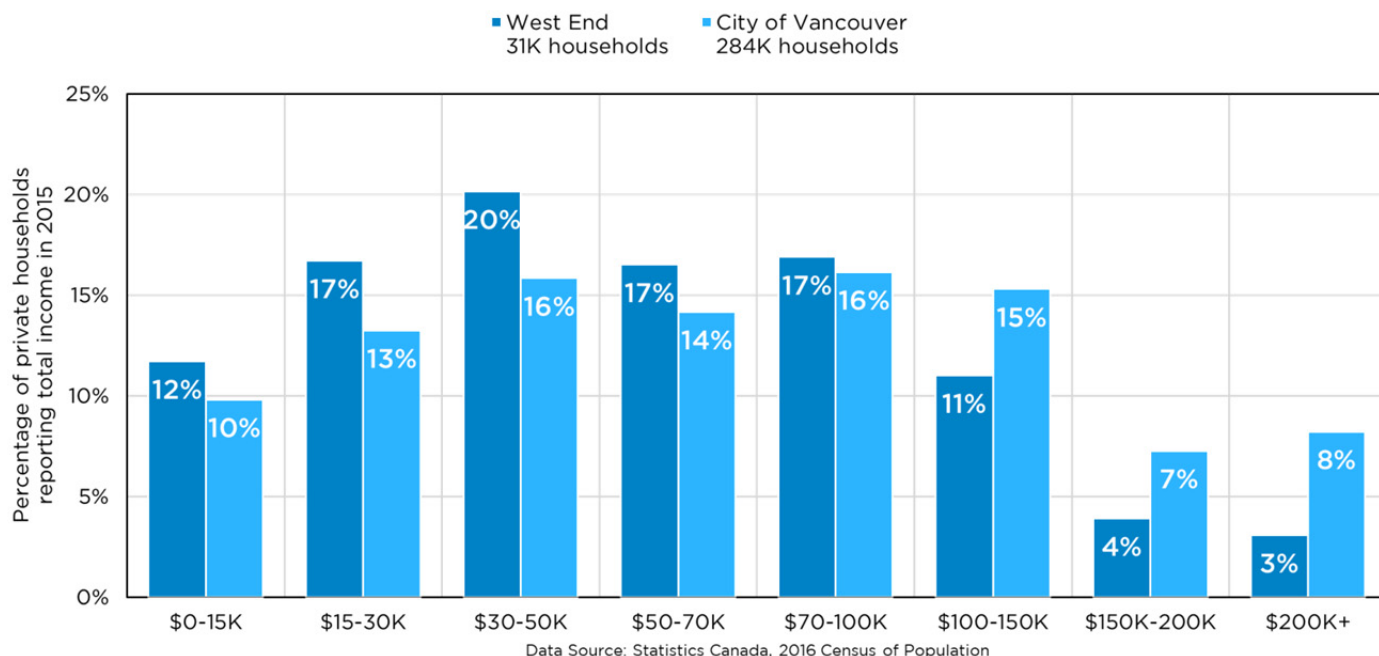
Median Family Income, 1981-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



Household Income

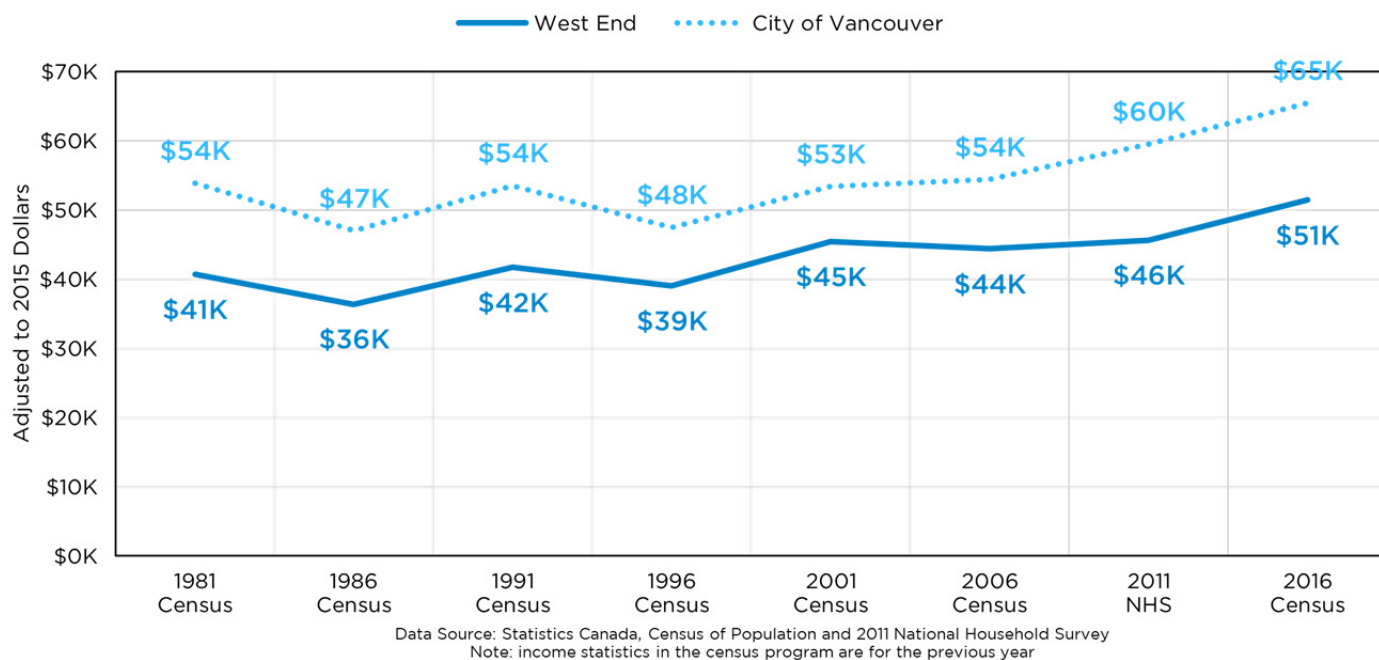
Across all households, the West End has a higher share in lower income brackets, with nearly half of households making less than \$50 thousand per year.

Distribution of Total Household Income, 2016



Adjusting for inflation, median household income for the West End has been relatively steady until 2011, after which it has increased in both the neighbourhood and the city overall.

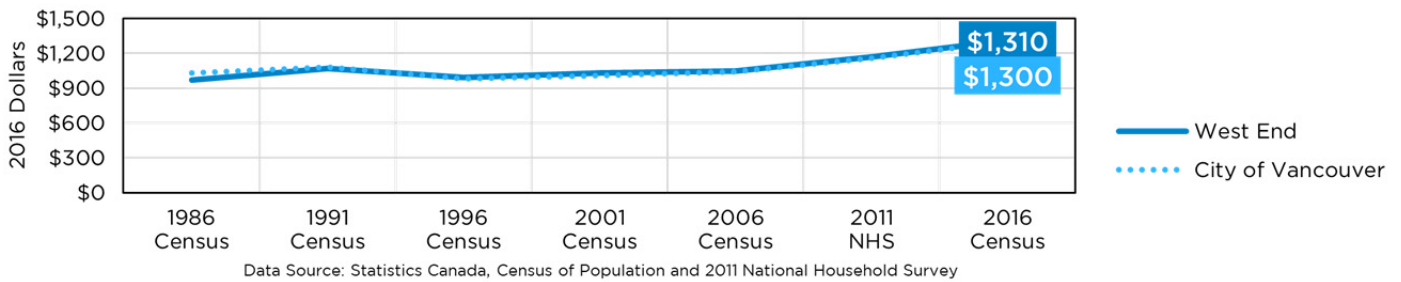
Median Household Income, 1981-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



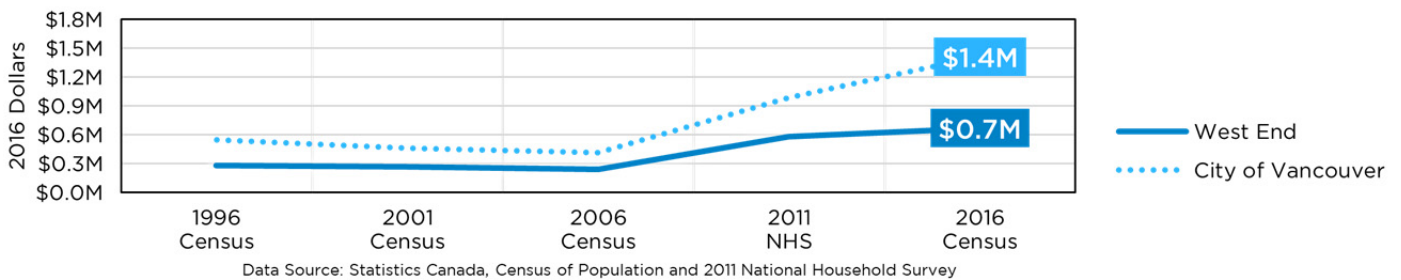
Housing Costs

Average rent has increased by more than 25% above inflation over ten years in both the West End and the city overall. The average reported value of an owned dwelling in the West End is \$0.7 million, a 174% increase, over and above inflation, since 2006.¹⁷

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

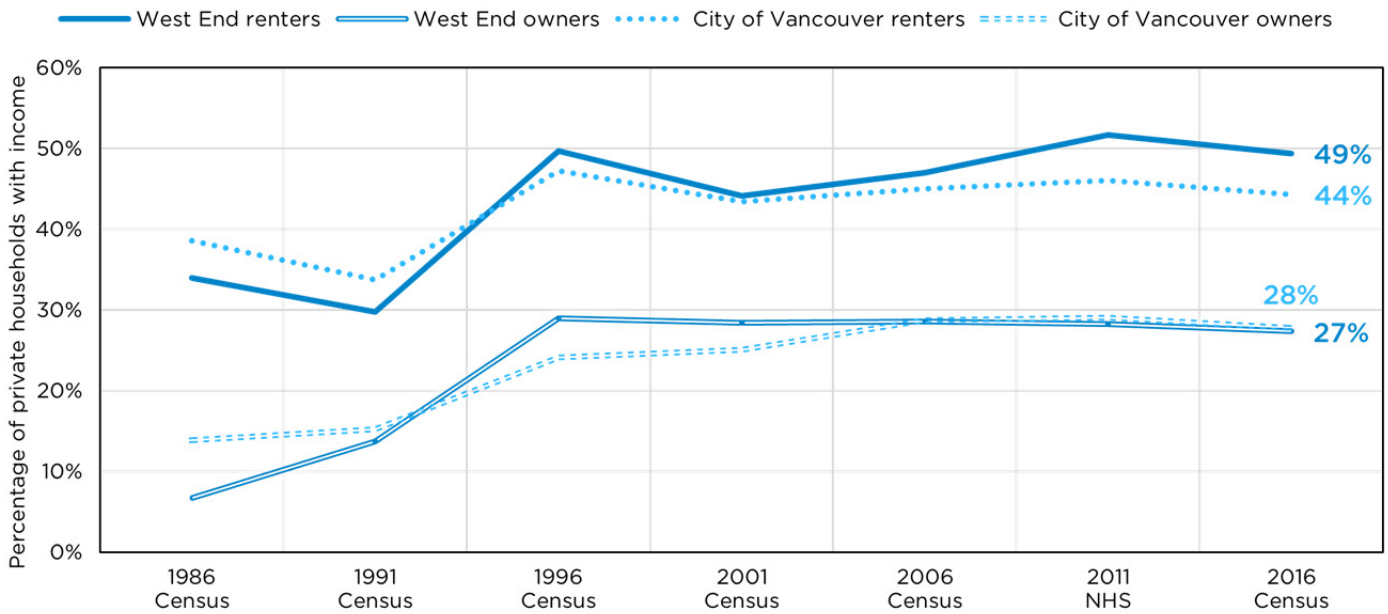


Average Reported Dwelling Value, 1996-2016 (Inflation-Adjusted)



Nearly half of renters in the West End are spending more than 30% of their total income on housing costs, a higher rate than for households in the city overall.¹⁸

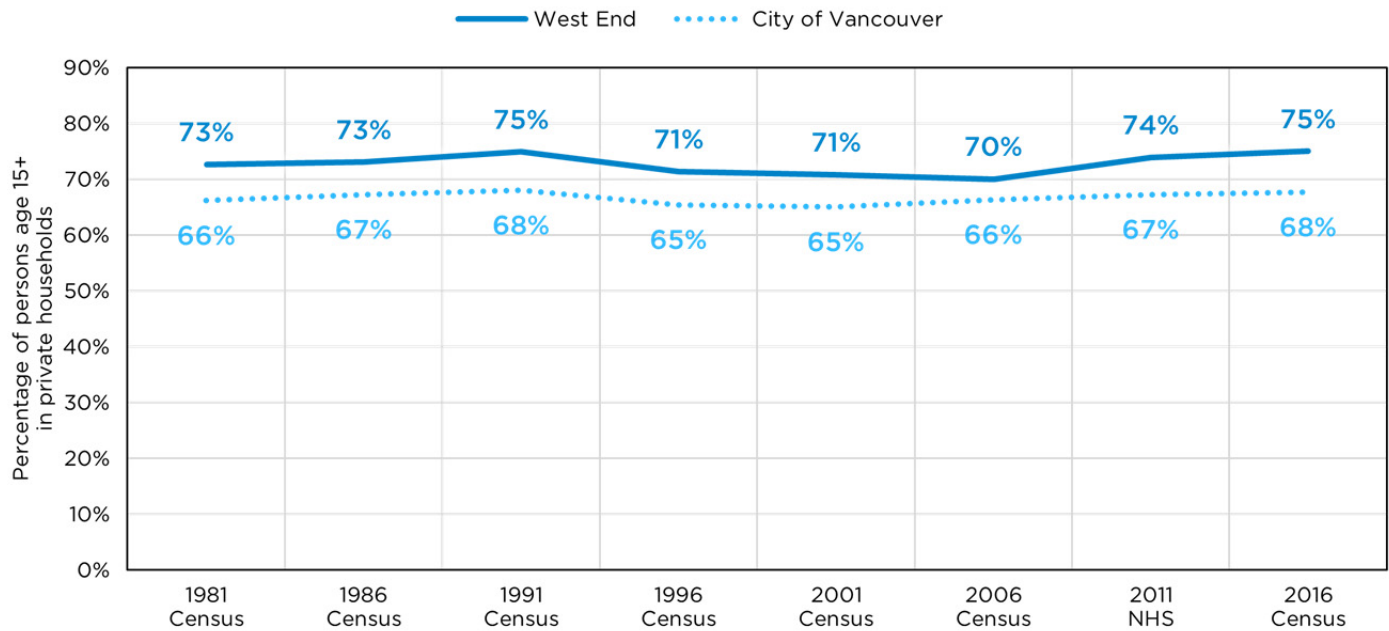
Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter, 1986-2016



Labour Force

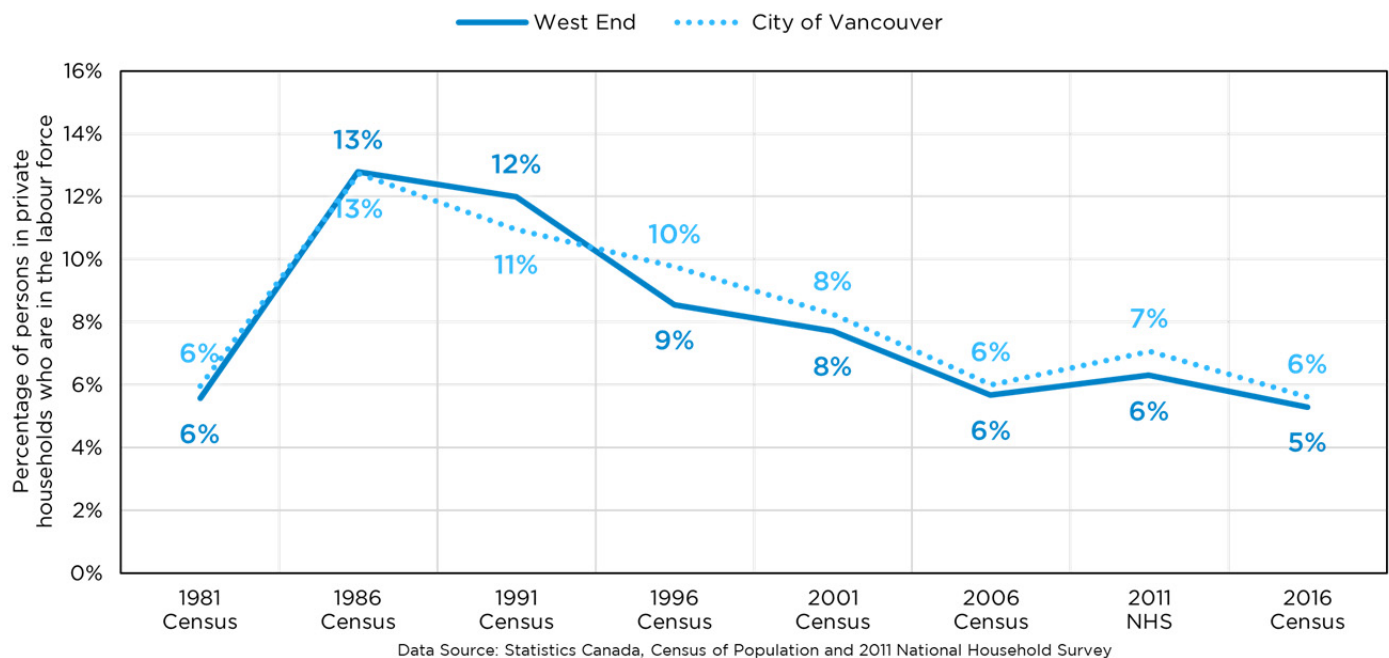
The labour force participation rate among persons age 15 and over has consistently been higher in the West End than the city overall.

Labour Force Participation Rate, 1981-2016



The unemployment rate for West End residents has generally been lower than for the city overall.¹⁹ In 2016 5% of West End residents were in the labour force looking for work but unable to access it.

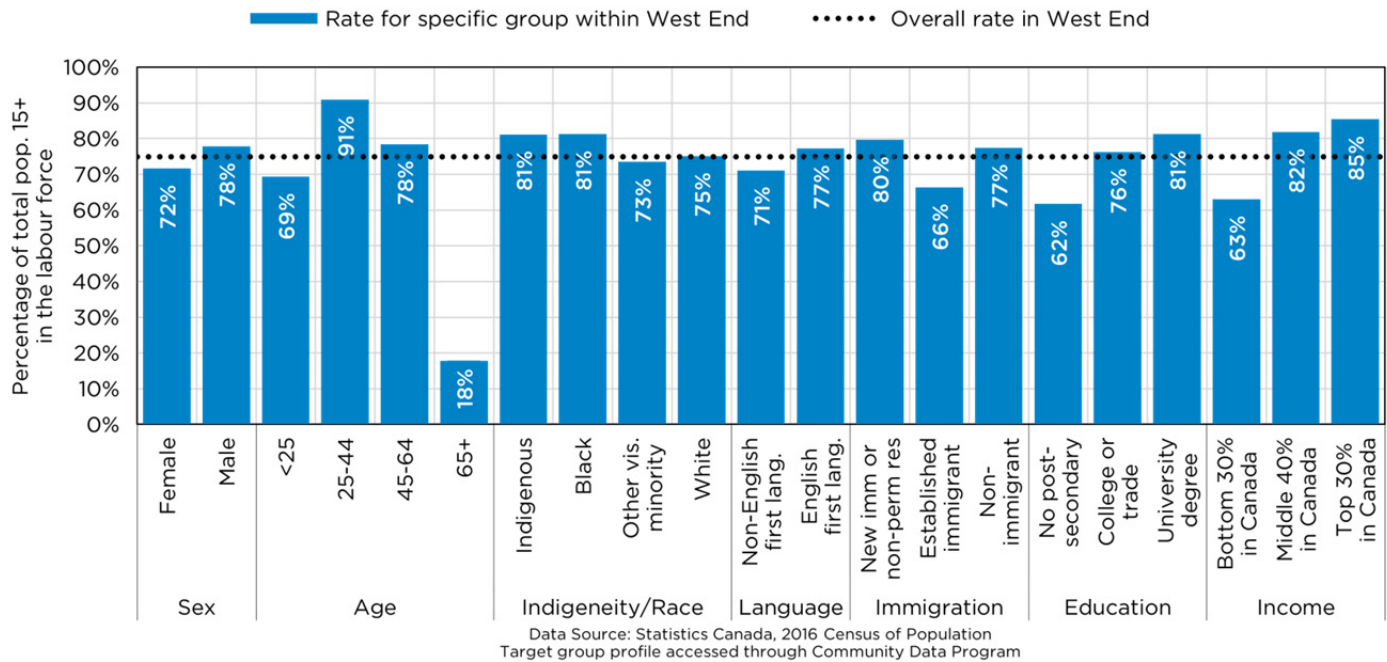
Unemployment Rate, 1981-2016



Equity and Labour Force Outcomes

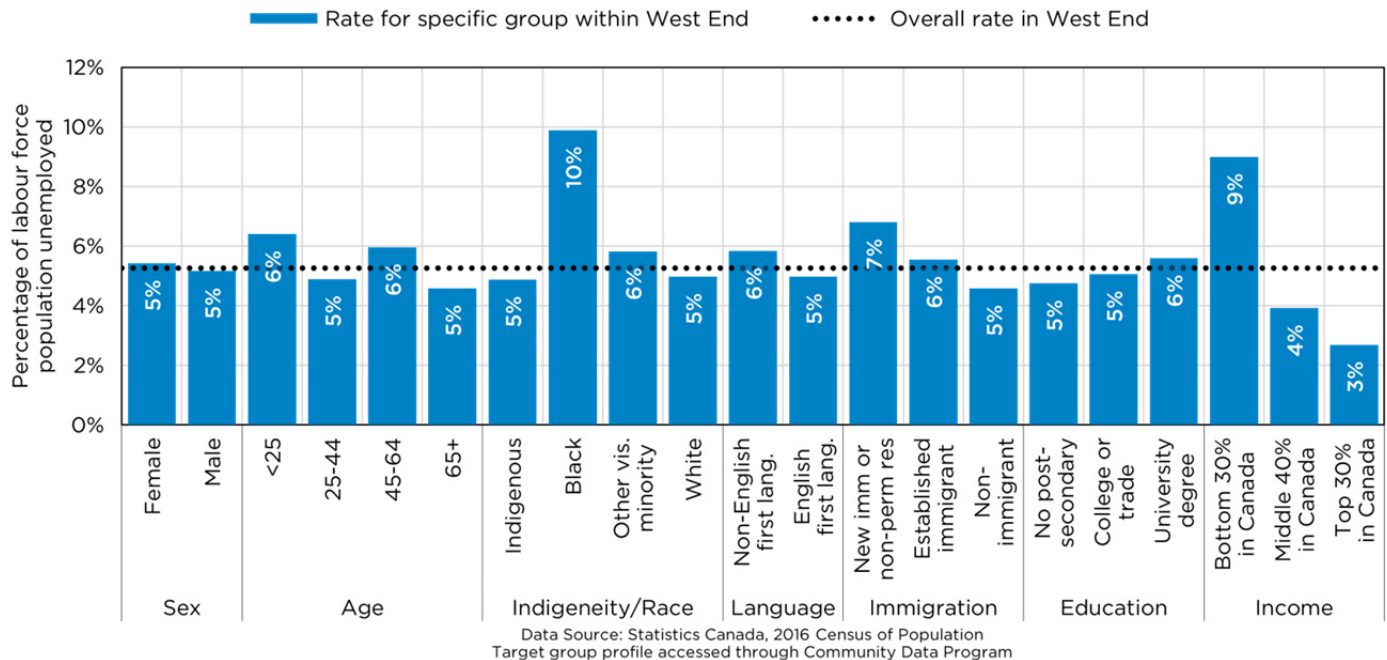
Differential rates of participation in the labour force may arise for a number of reasons. As shown below, female residents, people with less formal education and people in lower income groups are less likely to participate in the workforce.

West End: Labour Force Participation by Demographic, 2016



Unemployment in the West End is disproportionately experienced by Black residents, as well as those with relatively lower incomes.

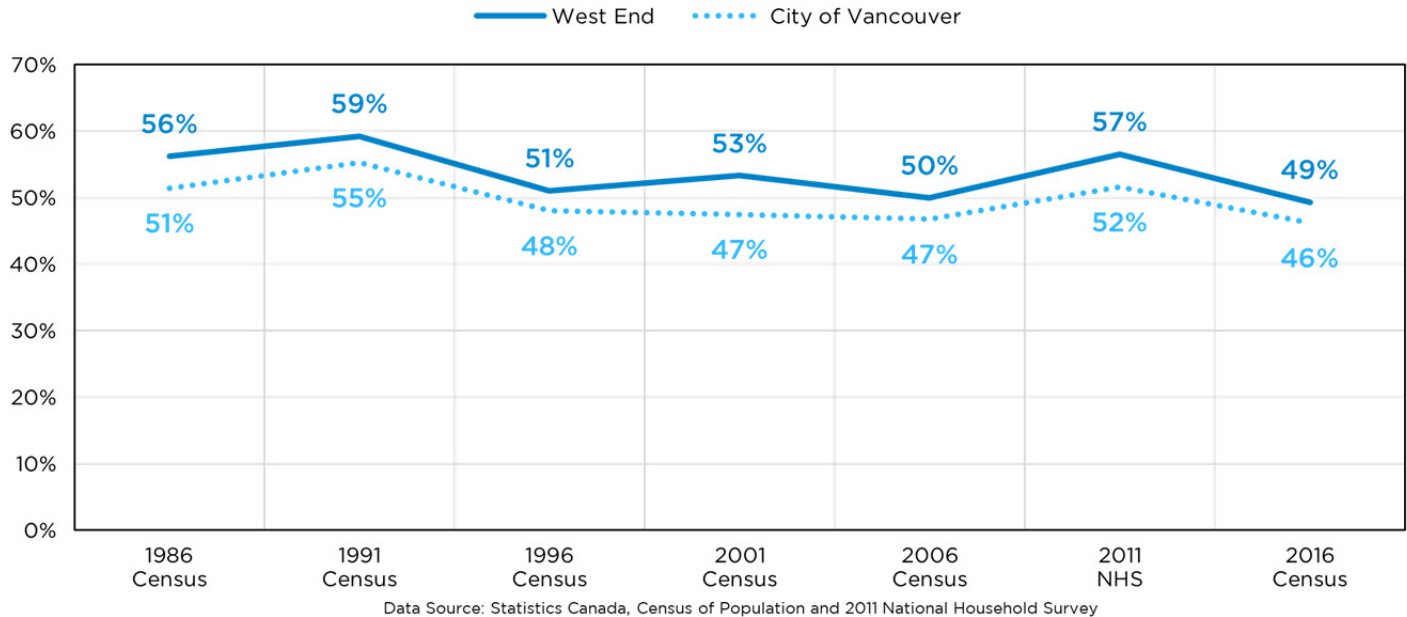
West End: Unemployment Rate by Demographic, 2016



Employment Security

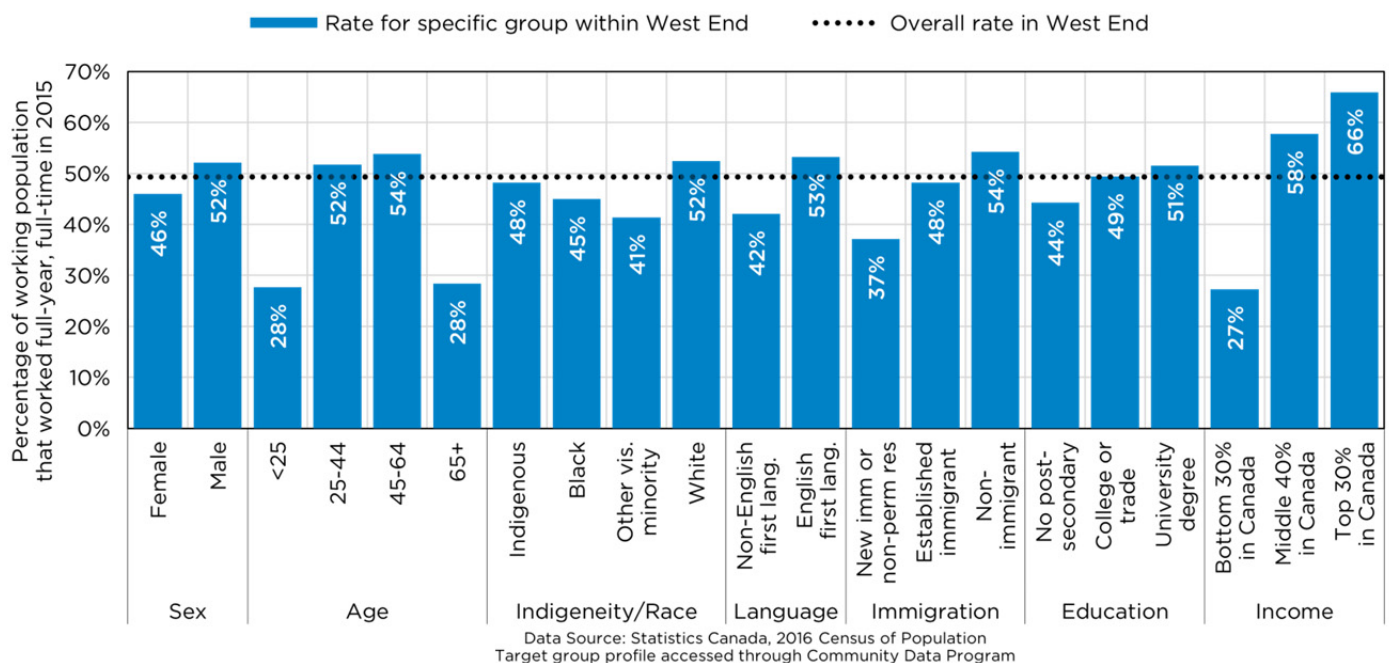
West End residents have, however, seen a decrease in full-year, full-time work. Excluding the 2011 NHS, which may be an artefact of the voluntary survey in place of a mandatory census, there appears to be a long-term shift toward more shorter-term and part-time employment.

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



Access to full-time work is not equitably distributed across the population, with some populations more likely to experience precarious employment. Among West End residents, people with lower incomes are less likely to have full-time work, as are newcomers, people in racialized groups and people with non-English first languages.

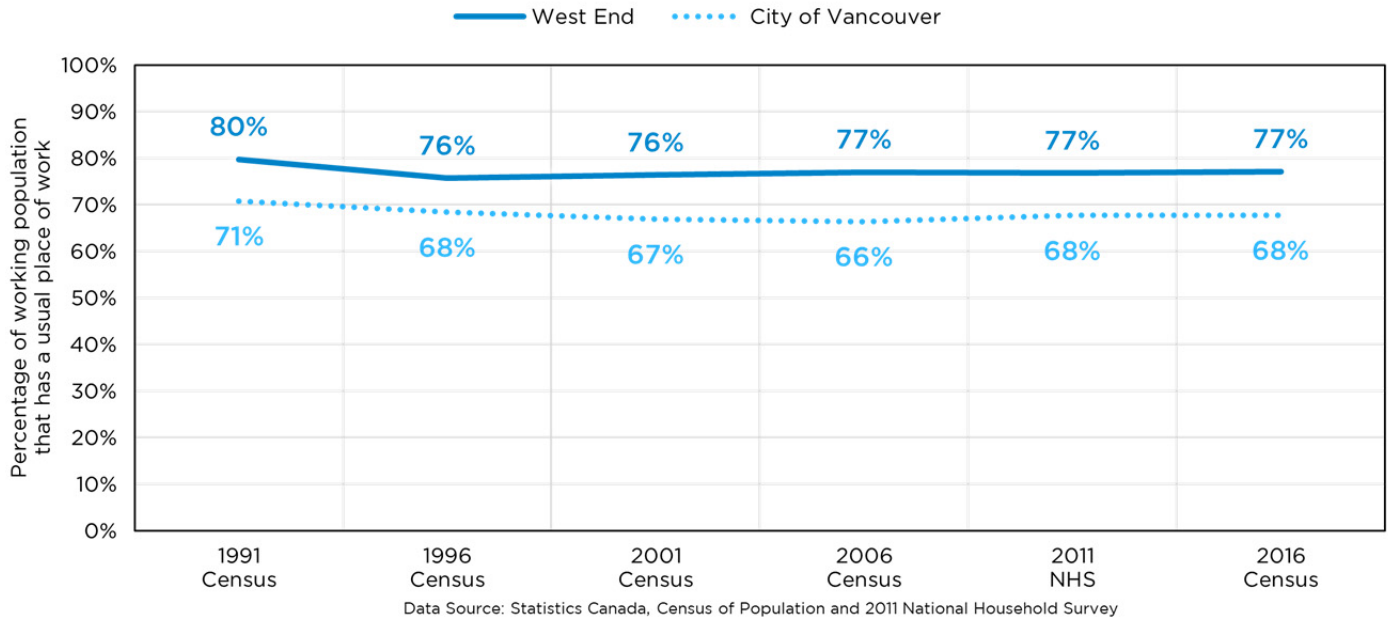
West End: Rate of Full-Time Work by Demographic, 2016



Journey to Work

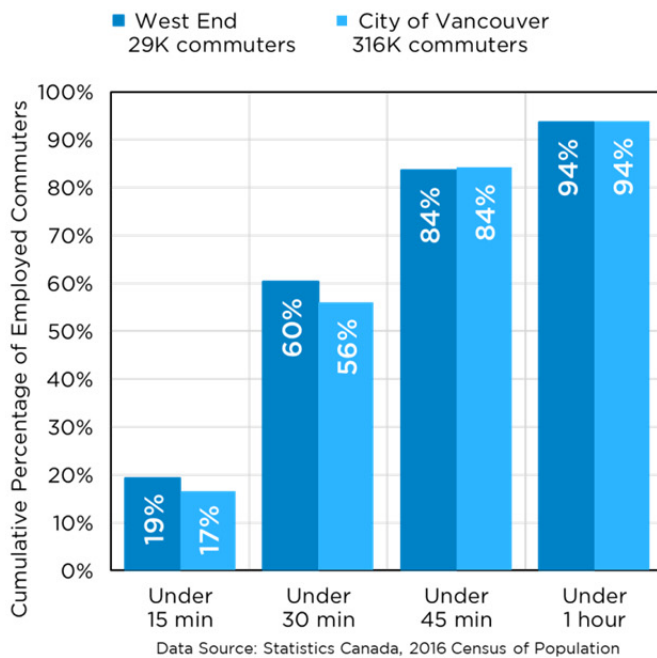
The nature of work is changing over time as industries, technologies and the regional distribution of jobs change. More than three quarters of West End residents work inside the city, a consistently higher rate than residents of other neighbourhoods.

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

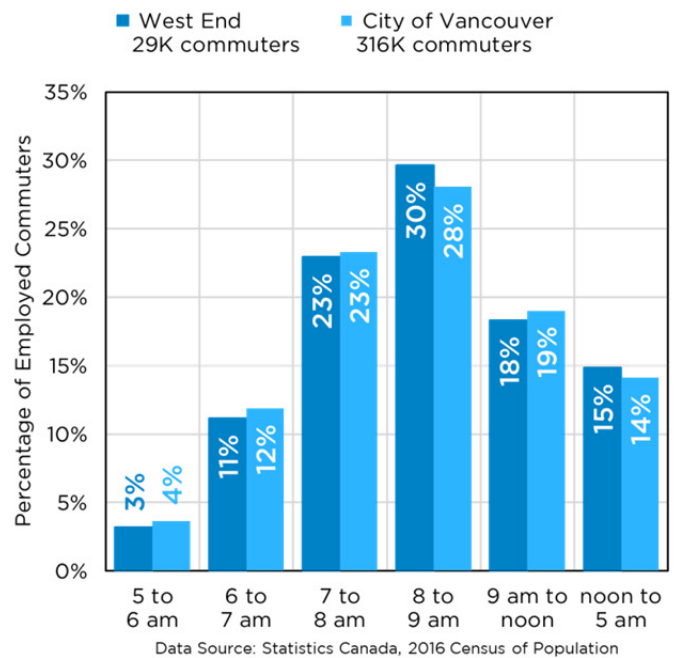


West End residents have only slightly shorter commutes than the city overall. In the West End, 60% of commuters take under half an hour to get to work and 94% take less than an hour. The West End has a similar distribution of starting times to the city overall.

Length of Work Commute, 2016



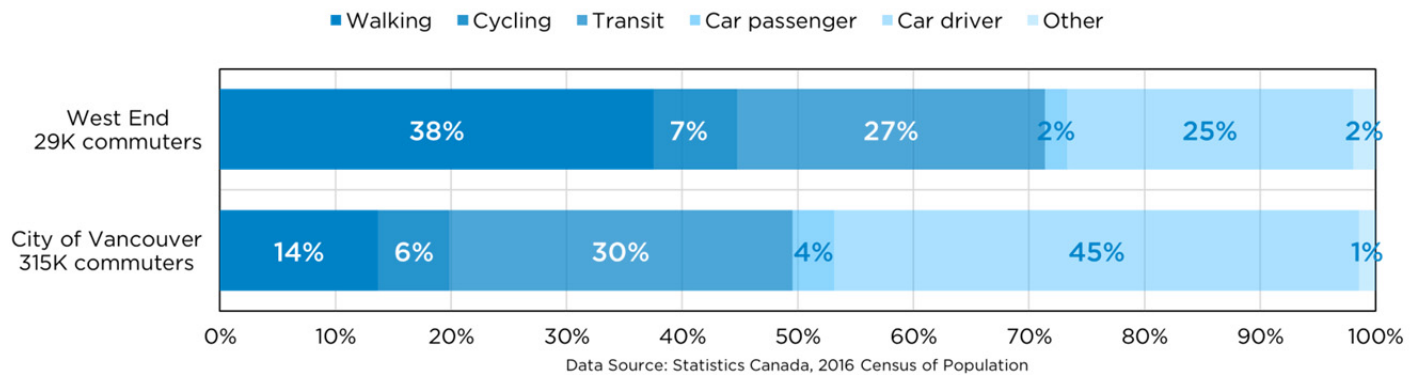
Time Leaving for Work, 2016



Mode of Transportation to Work

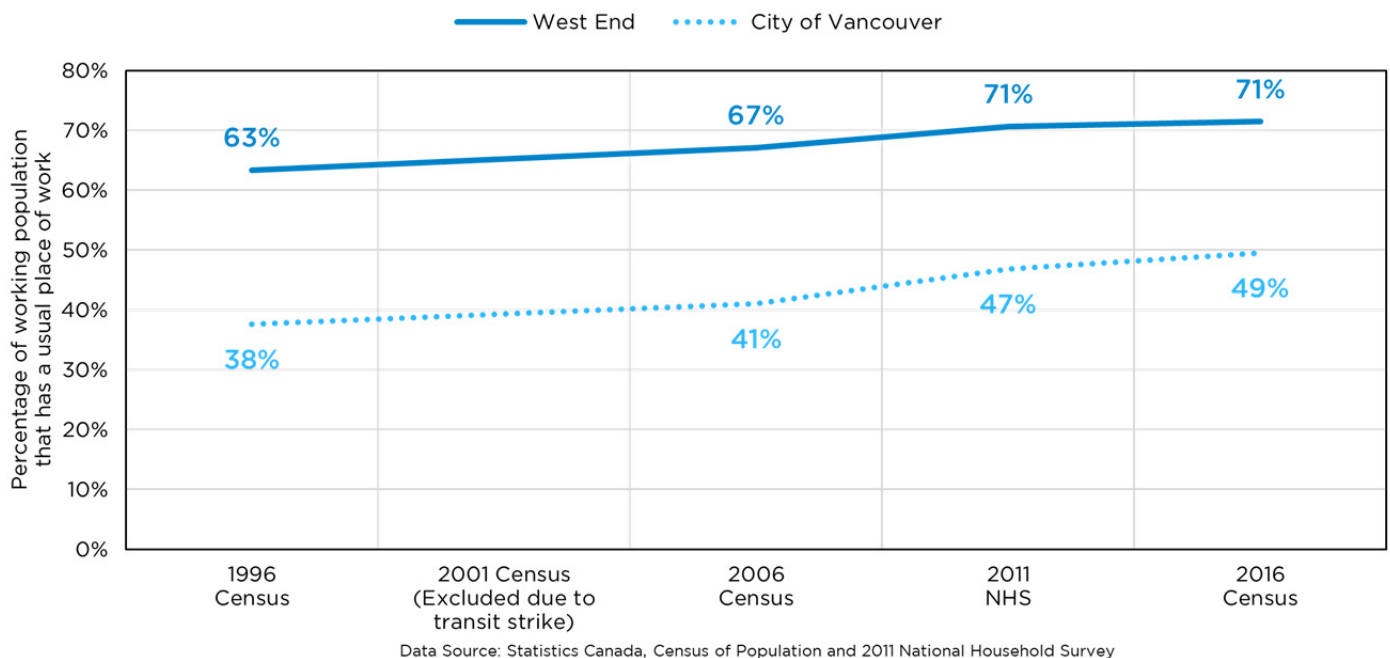
Movement is essential for accessing economic opportunity, social connections, important services and places for culture, expression and recreation, and the modes by which people travel through the city have important consequences for both environmental and social sustainability. Although the census only records usual mode of travel for work trips for people who commute to a regular workplace, this is a useful proxy for understanding broader mobility trends. Residents of the West End walk to work at much higher rates than the city overall.

Employed Population by Main Mode of Travel to Work, 2016



The proportion of commuters using sustainable transportation modes in the West End is the highest among local areas in the city. In 2016, more than 70% of people living in the neighbourhood and commuting to a usual workplace used non-automobile modes to get to work.

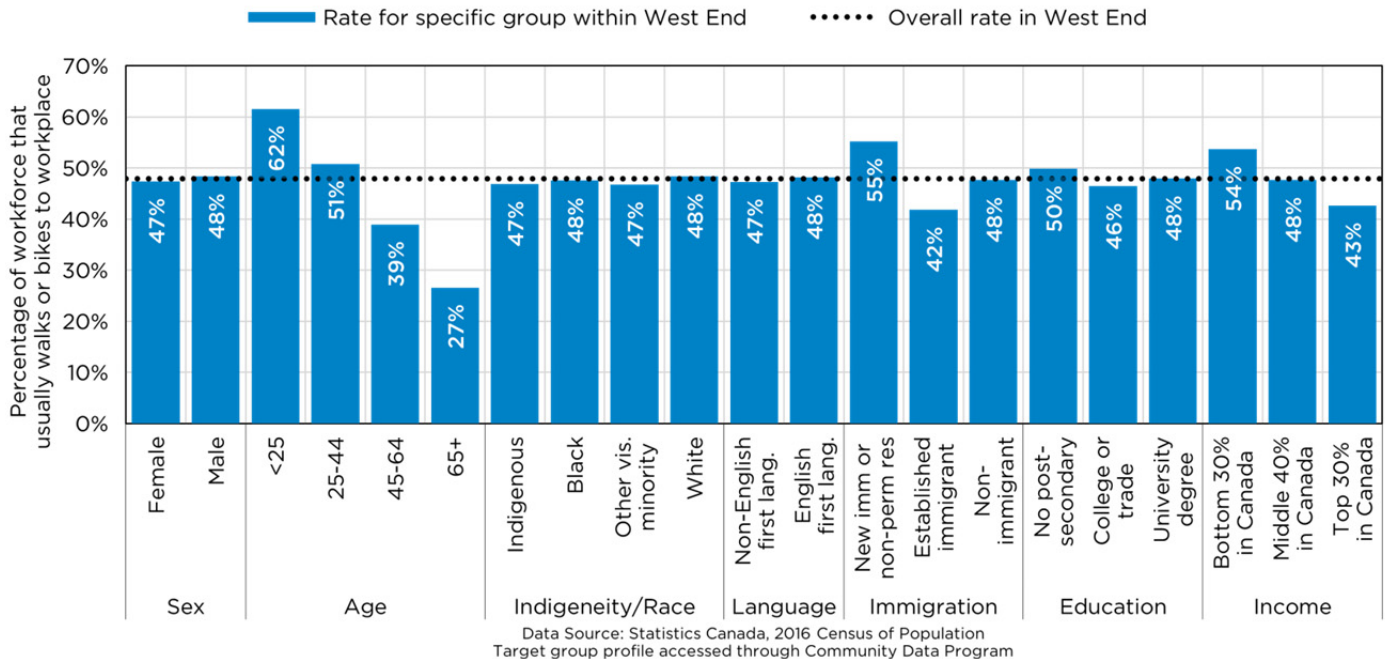
Commuters Walking, Cycling or Transit to Work, 1996-2016



Equity and Transportation

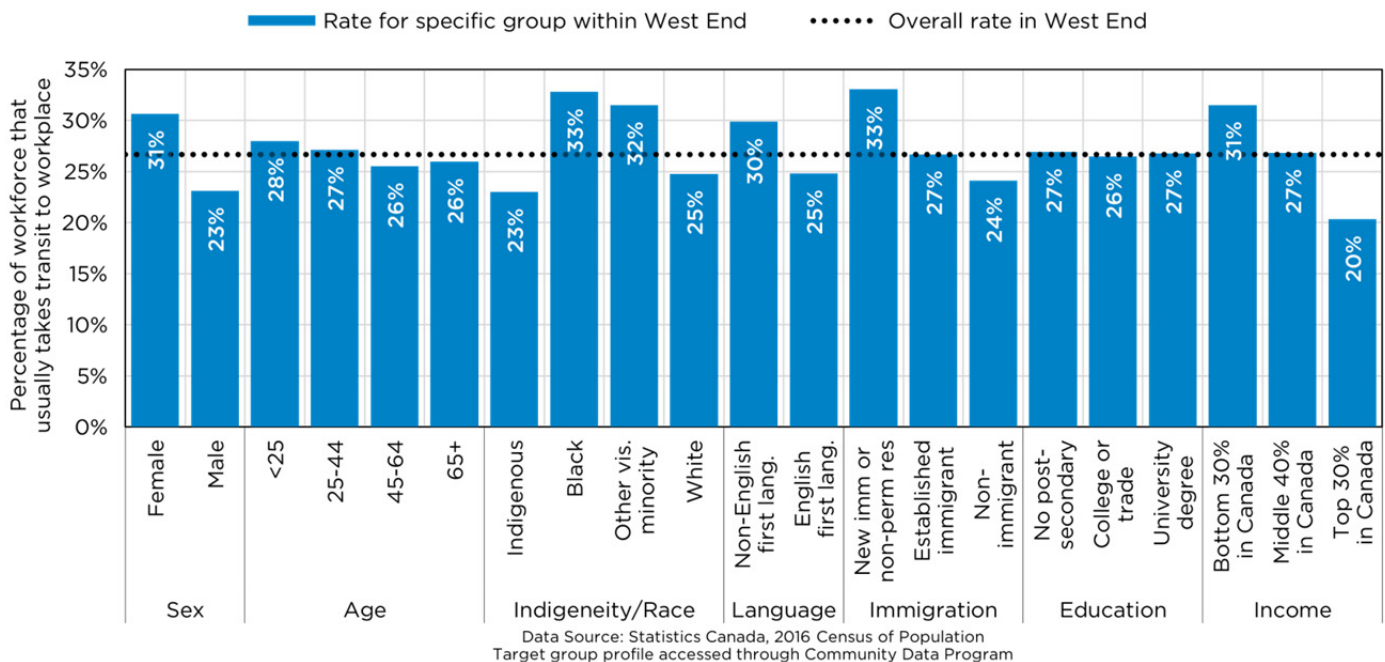
Transportation choices are not evenly distributed across the population; they are dependent on physical, economic and social geographies and inequities. The chart below shows the rate of commuting by active transportation (walking and cycling). Lower rates among people in some groups may indicate disparities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

West End: Active Commuters by Demographic, 2016



Public transit is disproportionately used as the main mode of travel by people in a number of equity-seeking groups, including female, racialized, non-English speaking, newcomer and lower-income workers.

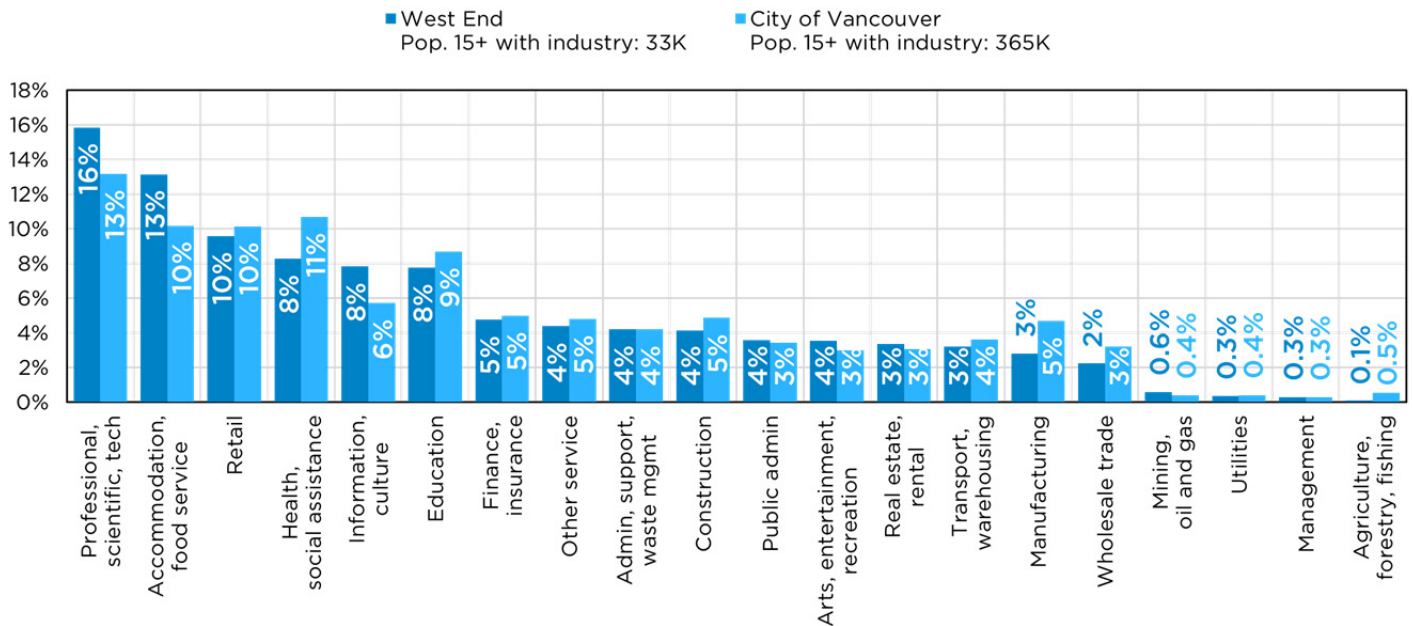
West End: Transit Commuters by Demographic, 2016



Industries and Occupations

In 2016, the top three industries²⁰ employing West End residents were: professional, scientific and technical services; accommodation and food services; and retail trade. Compared to the city overall, proportionally fewer West End residents were employed in health and social assistance industries.

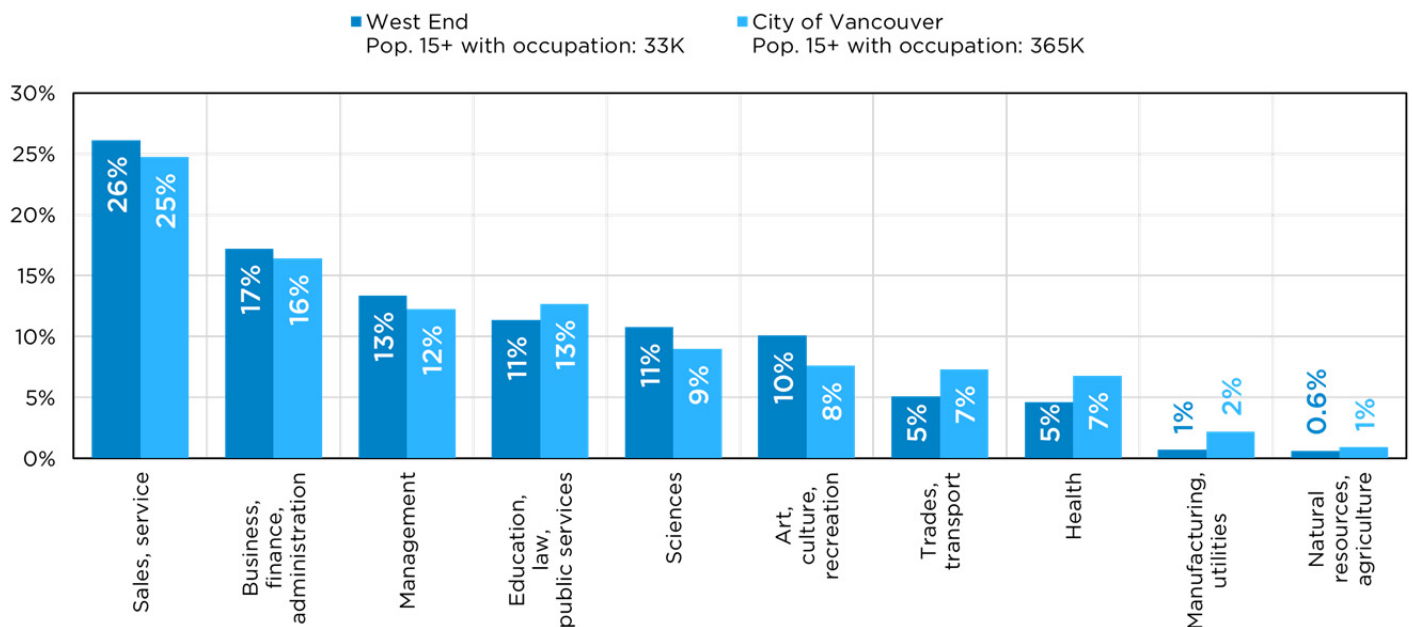
Industry Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

A quarter of West End residents work in sales and service occupations,²¹ a similar rate to the city overall. The West End houses people working in trades and transport and health occupations at a lower rate than the city overall.

Occupation Categories of Labour Force Living in Area, 2016

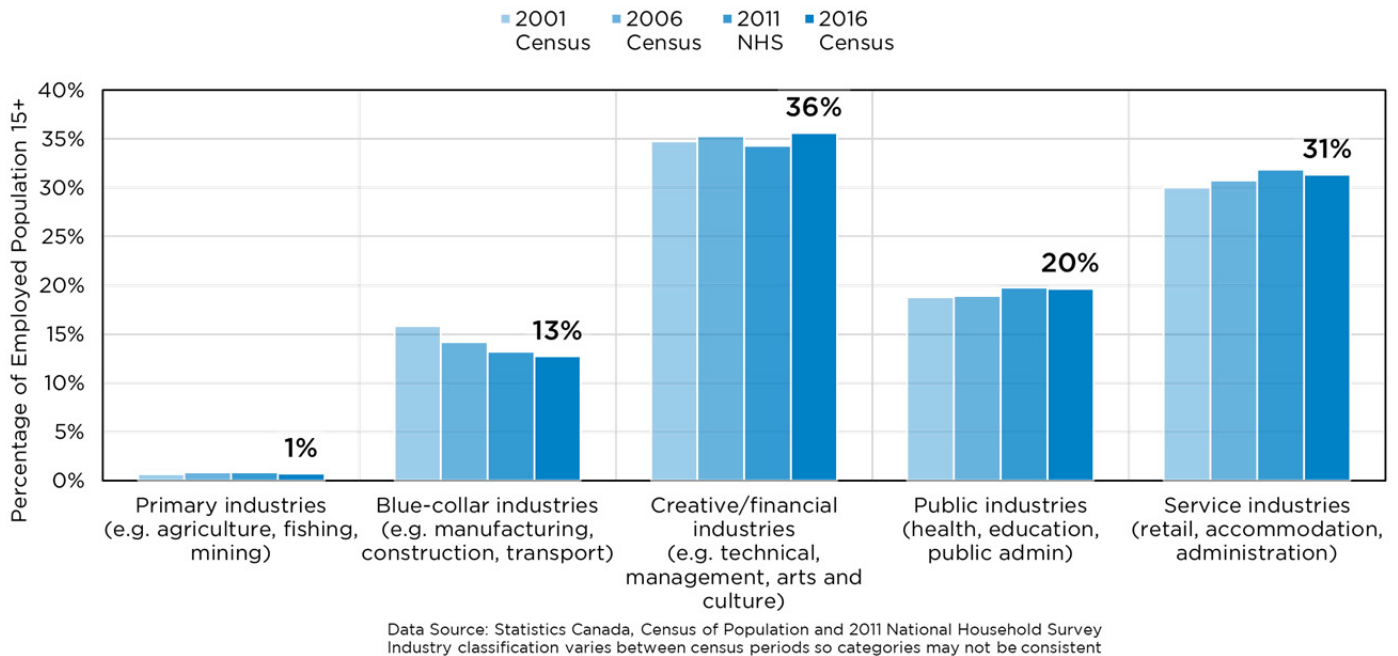


Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Industry Trends

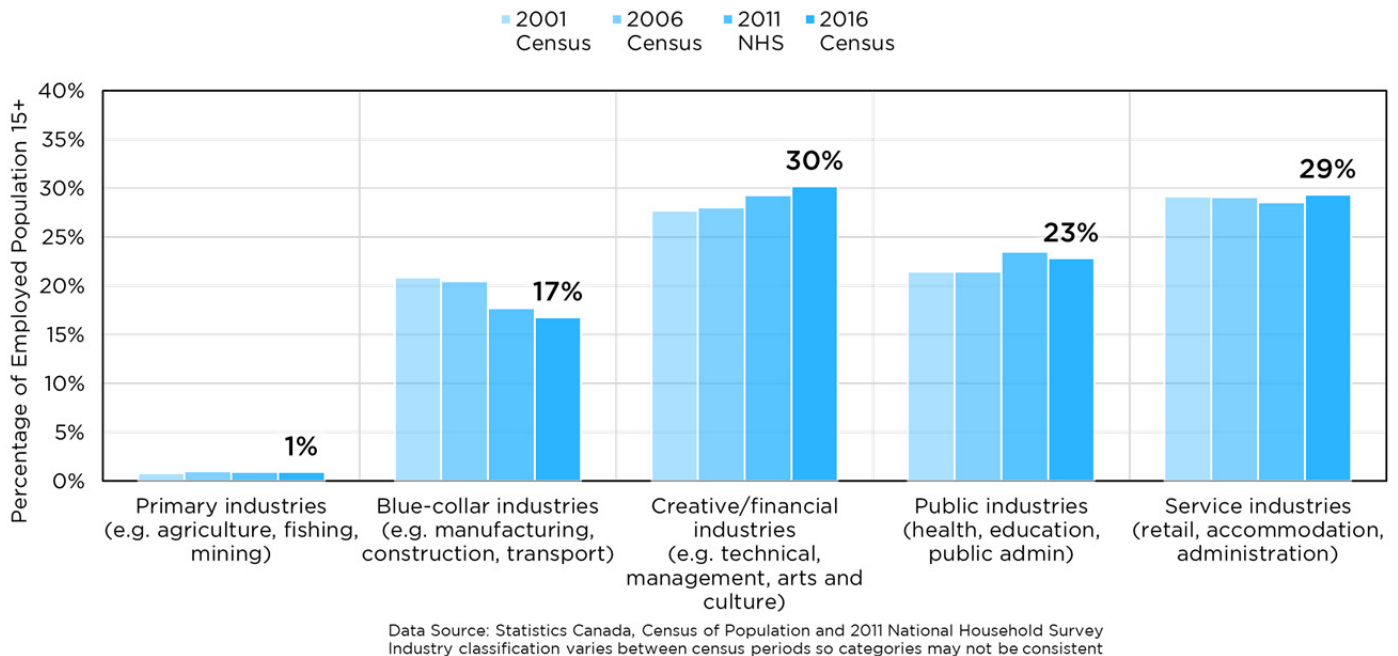
Changing classification systems make a precise analysis of labour force trends difficult; nonetheless, the graph below groups industry categories together into broad sectors to show trends over time. In the West End there is a shift away from traditional industries like manufacturing and construction over time.

West End: Labour Force by Broad Industries 2001-2016



For residents of the city overall, there is a shift from traditional industries like manufacturing to more creative and technical industries over time.

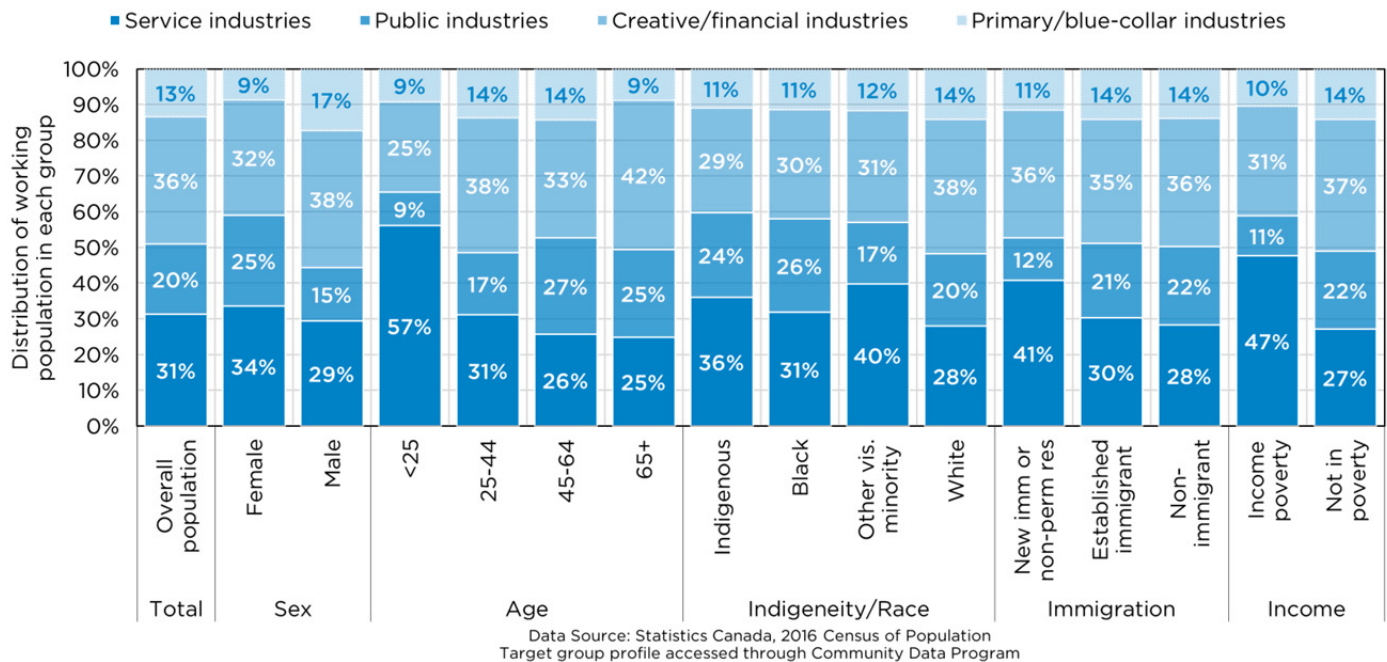
City of Vancouver: Labour Force by Broad Industries 2001-2016



Equity and Industries

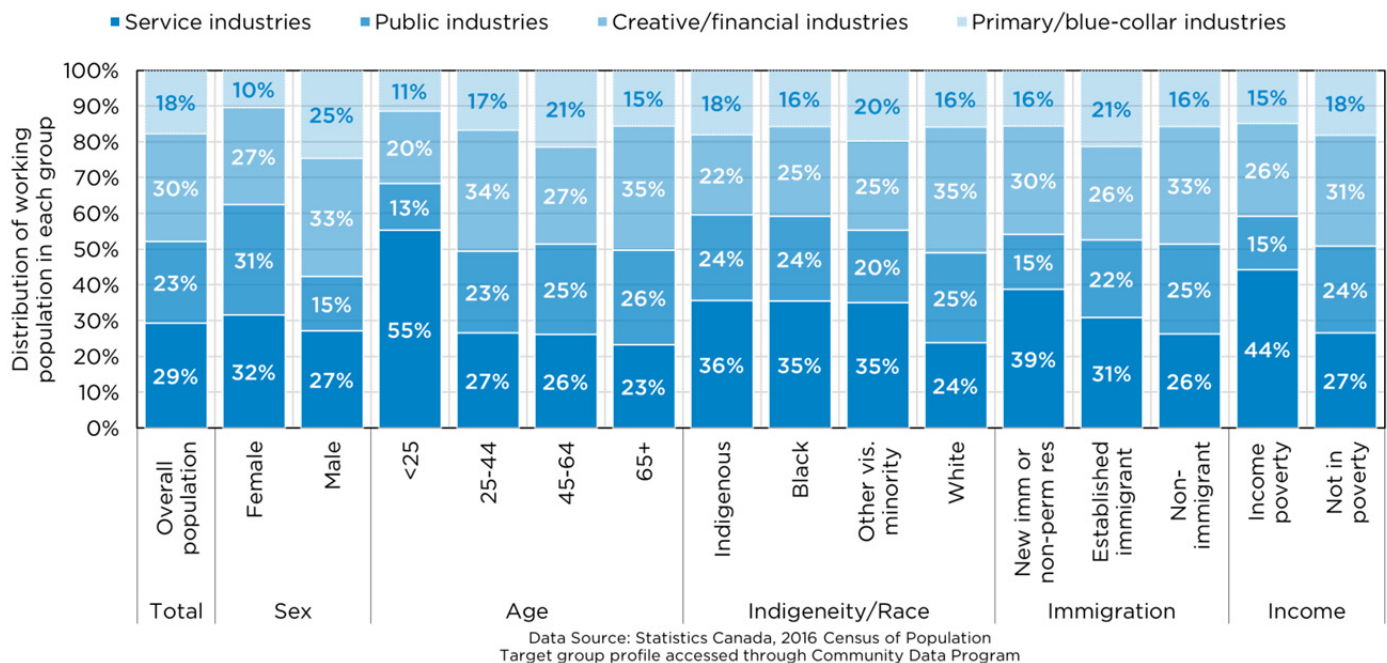
Different economic sectors in the city are not equitably accessible to all workers. The chart below shows a breakdown of broad industry categories across demographic groups in the West End. Young workers, people in racialized groups and newcomers are more likely to work in service industries.

West End: Industry of Work by Demographic Group, 2016



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.

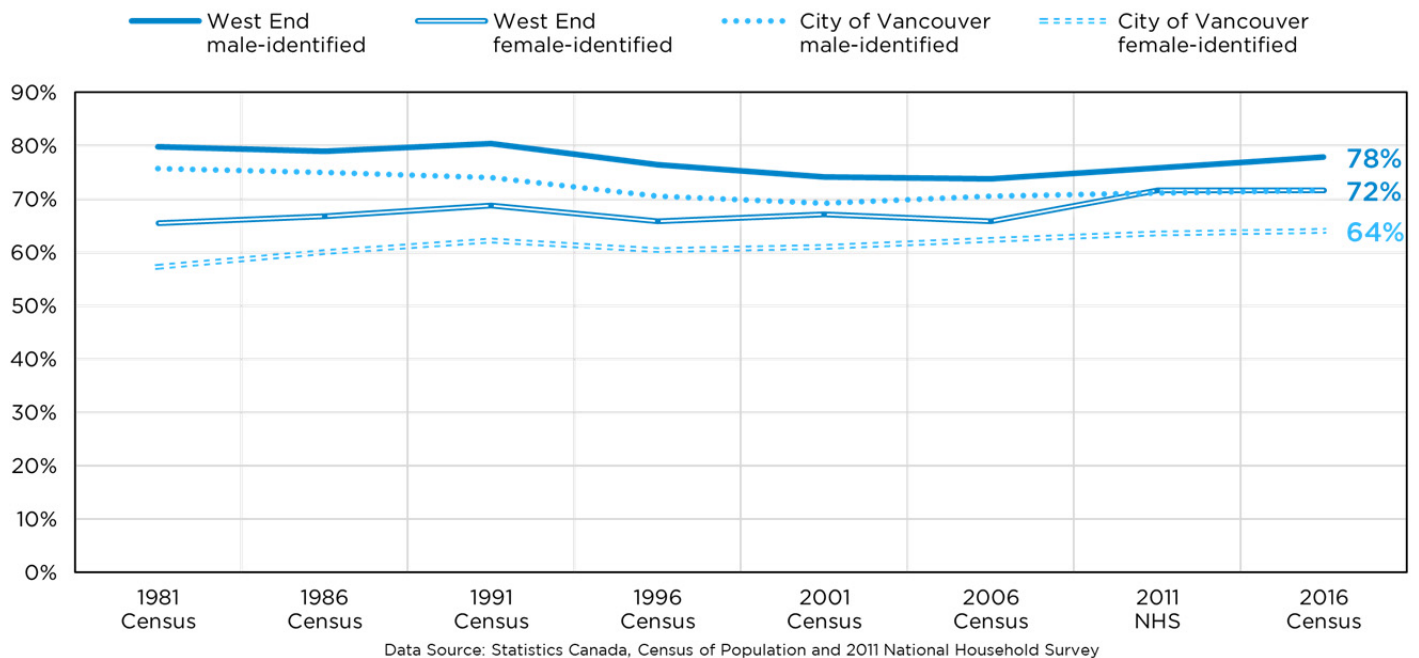
City of Vancouver: Industry of Work by Demographic Group, 2016



Gender and the Workforce

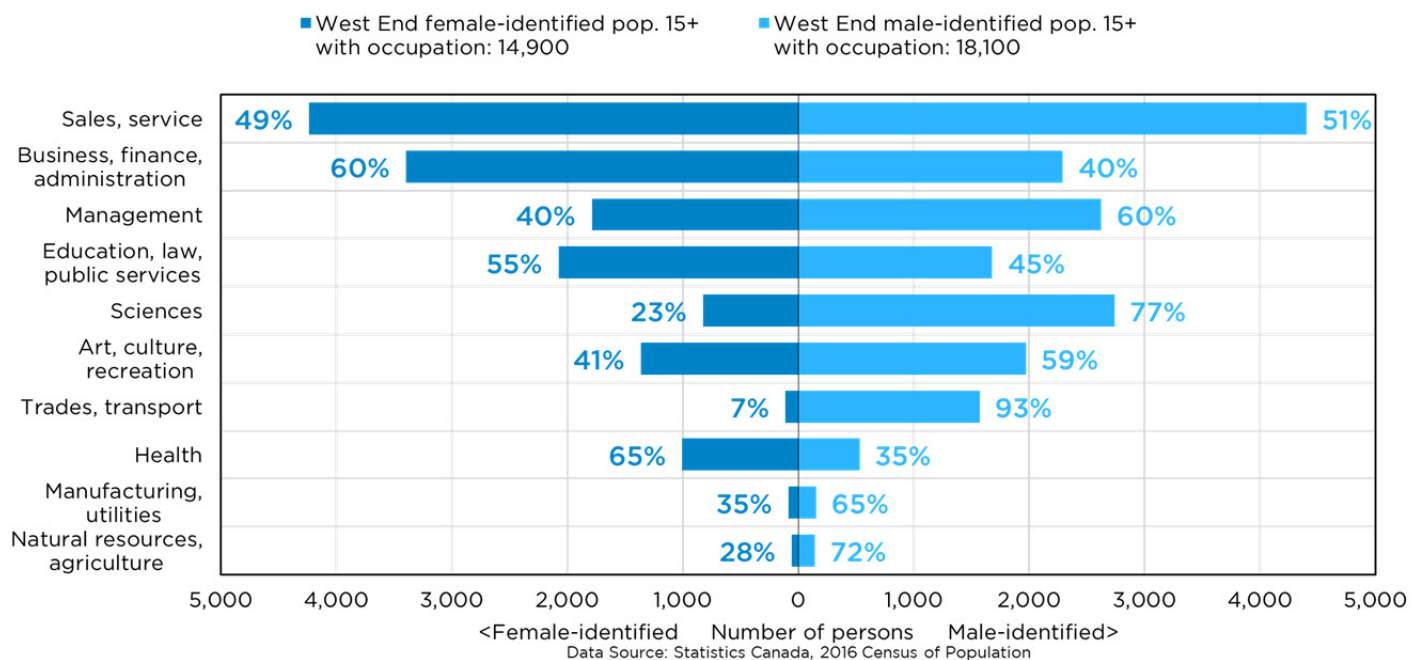
There are a number of systemic and structural barriers to women's participation in the workforce, and a persistent gap in rates between male- and female-identified persons. In the West End, the labour force participation rate is consistently higher than the city for both women and men, but the gap persists.

Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender, 1981-2016



A breakdown of occupations in the West End shows that men are over-represented in management, science and arts and culture occupations; meanwhile, women are over-represented in categories such as business, finance and administration; and education, law and public services.

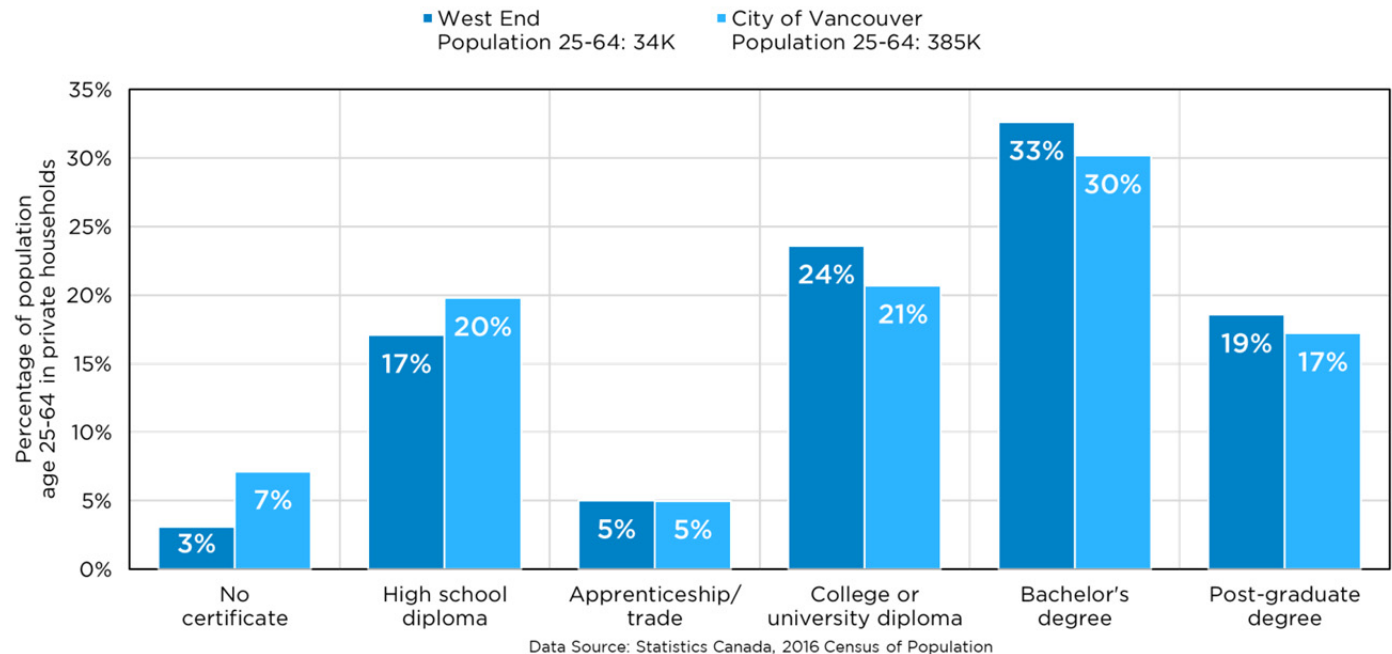
West End: Labour Force by Occupation and Gender, 2016



Formal Education

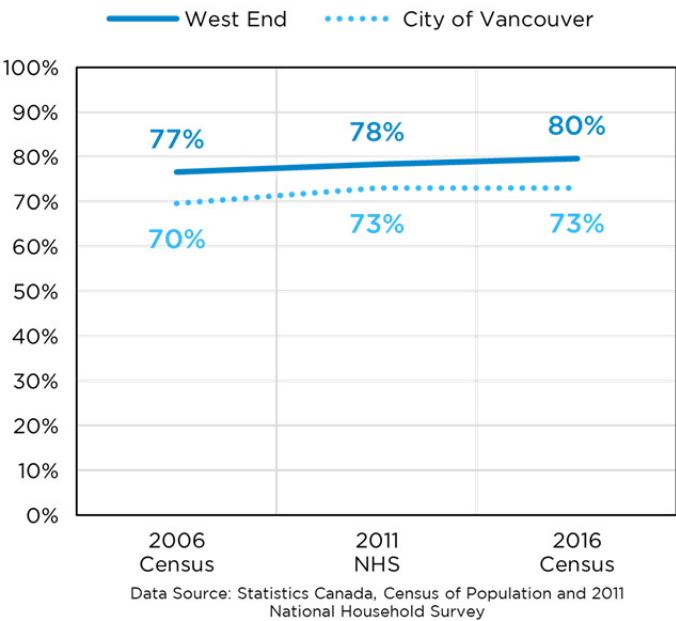
Compared to the city overall, West End residents are more likely to have higher levels of education, particularly university degrees. More than half of residents age 25-64 have a university degree.

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

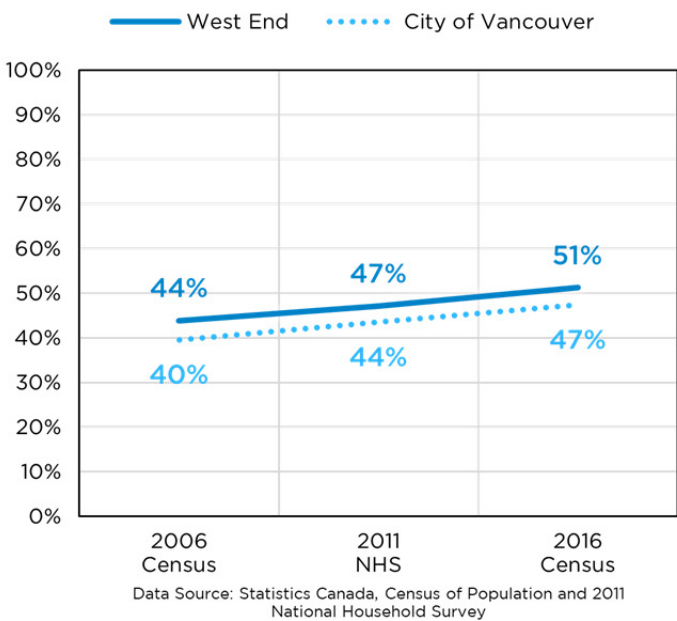


Over time, the overall rate of post-secondary credentials in the West End has increased. There is a shift at both the neighbourhood and city level toward university degrees and a corresponding decline in other post-secondary credentials.

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



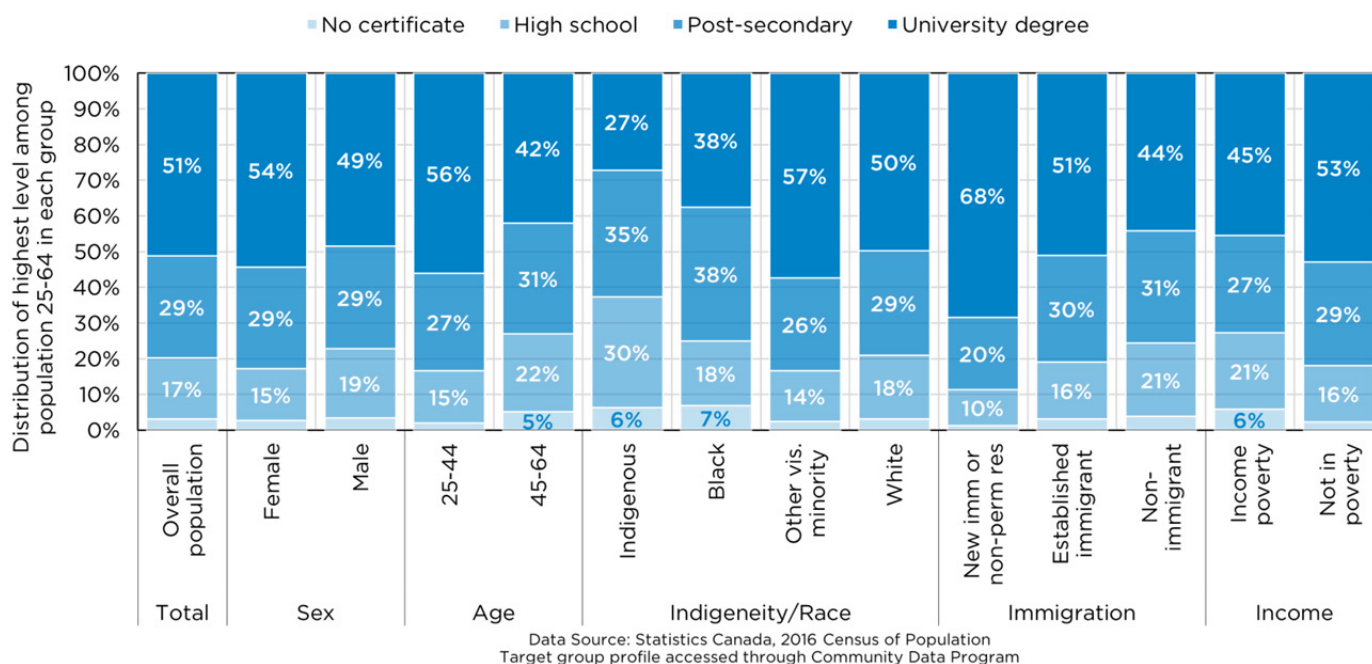
Population 25-64 with University Degree, 2006-2016



Equity and Formal Education

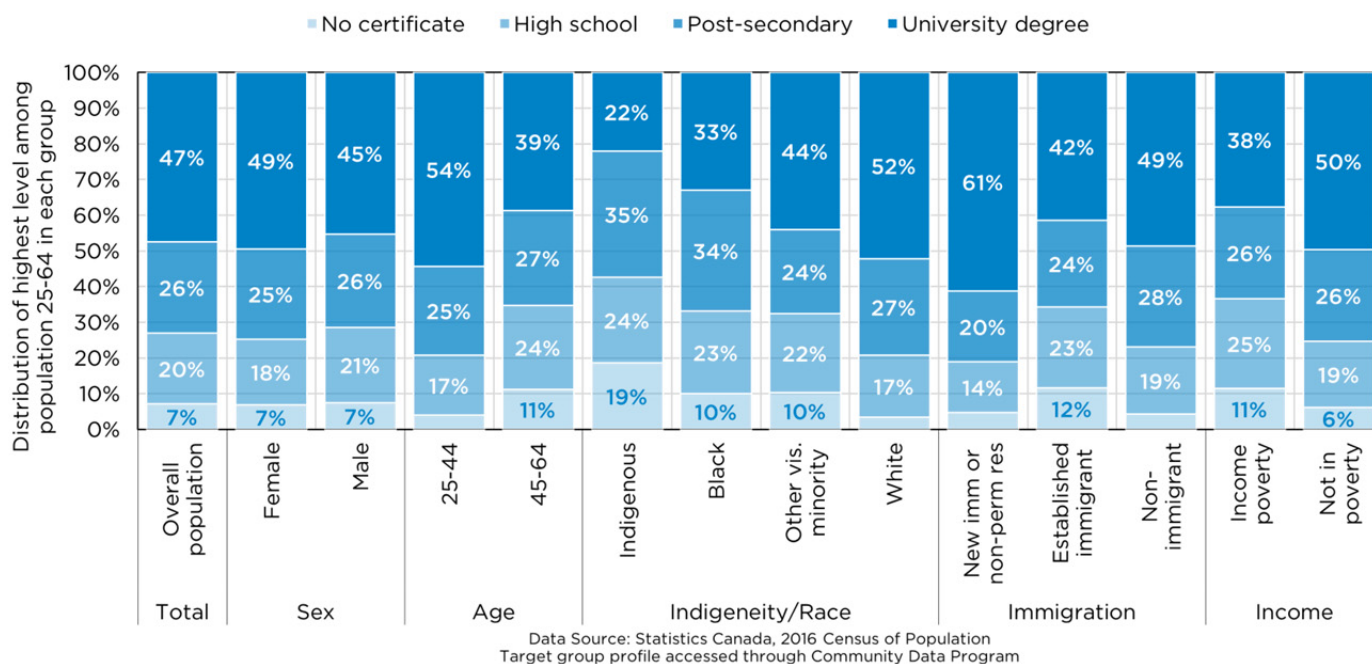
There is a broad shift toward higher levels of formal education; among Vancouver's population, older residents are generally less likely to have a university degree than younger residents. In the West End, nearly seven in ten new immigrants and non-permanent residents have a university degree.

West End: Level of Formal Education by Demographic, 2016



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.

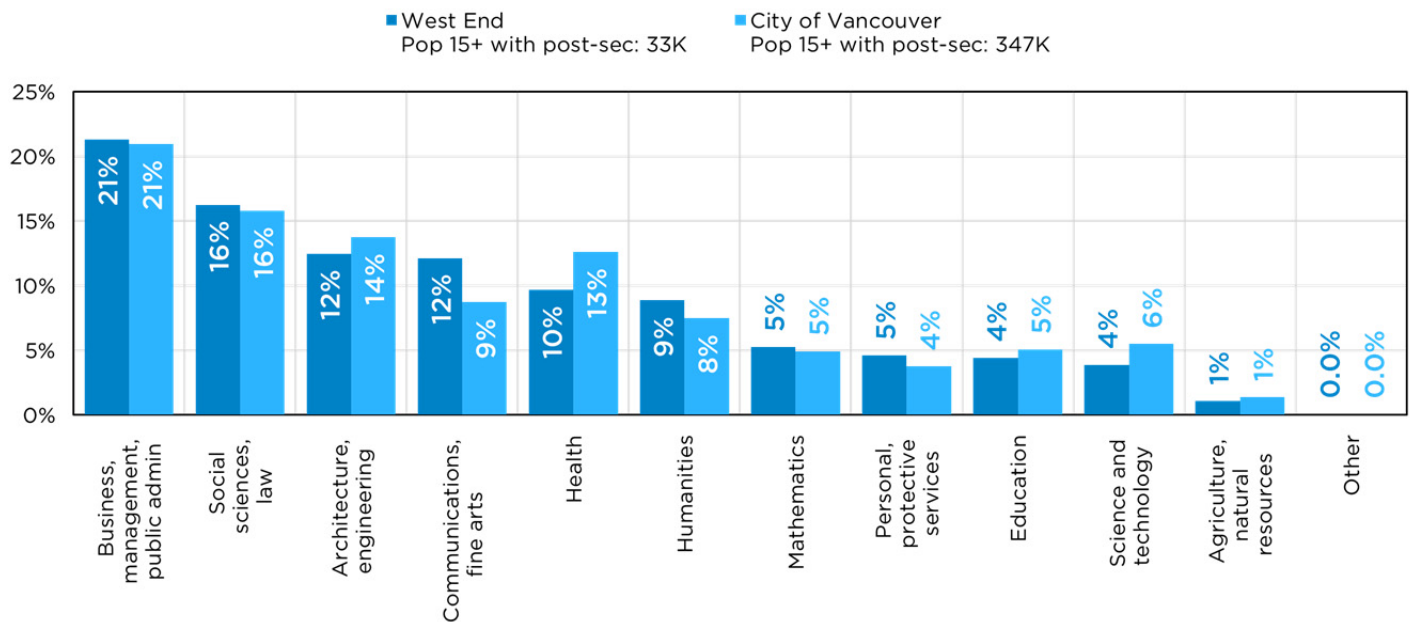
City of Vancouver: Level of Formal Education by Demographic, 2016



Fields and Locations of Study

Top fields of study for post-secondary education are similar in the West End and the City of Vancouver overall, except that the West End has relatively more people who studied communications and fine arts and relatively fewer who studied architecture, engineering or health professions.

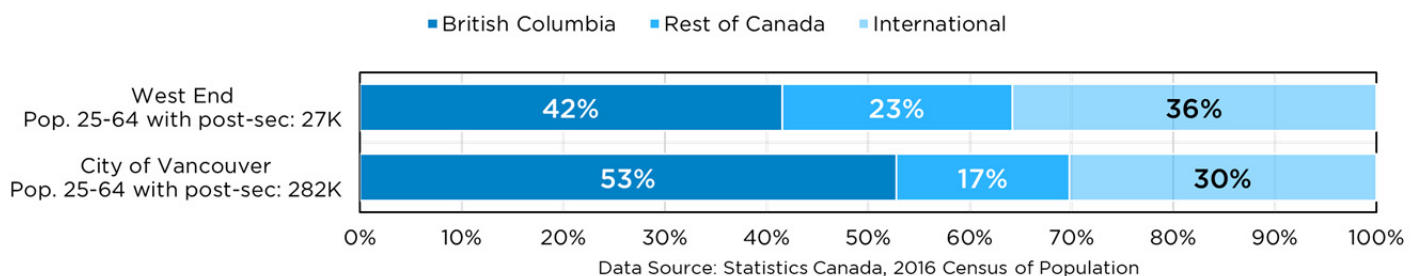
Population 15+ by Post-Secondary Field of Study, 2016



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

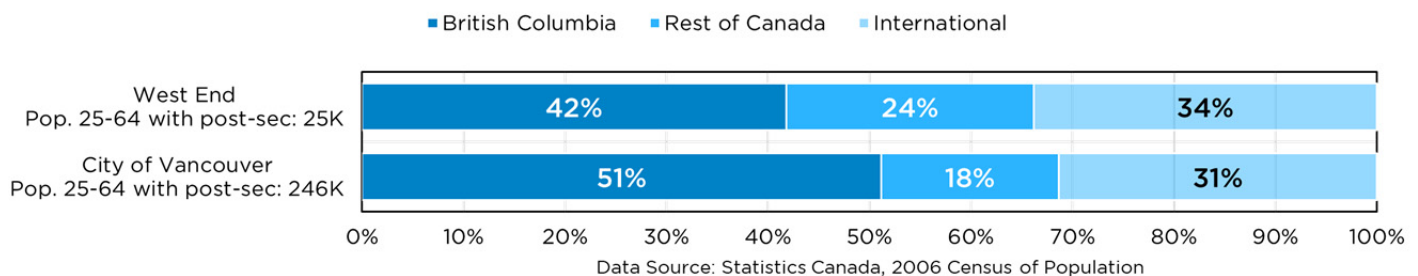
West End residents are more likely than residents of the City of Vancouver to have a post-secondary credential from outside Canada, and this number is increasing. In 2016, 36% of residents received their credential from an international institution.

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



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

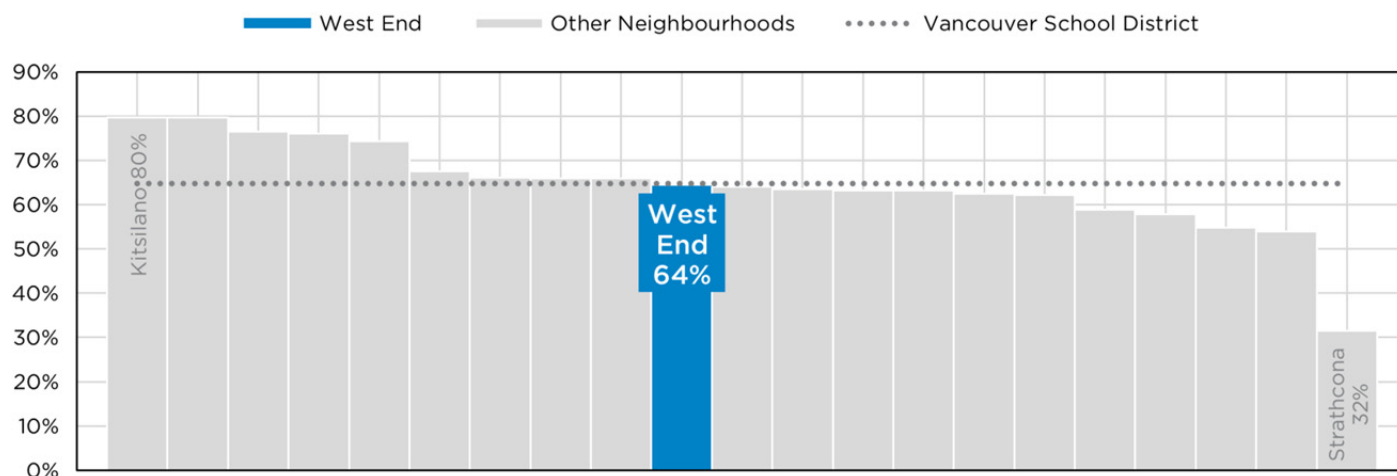
Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary by Location of Study, 2006



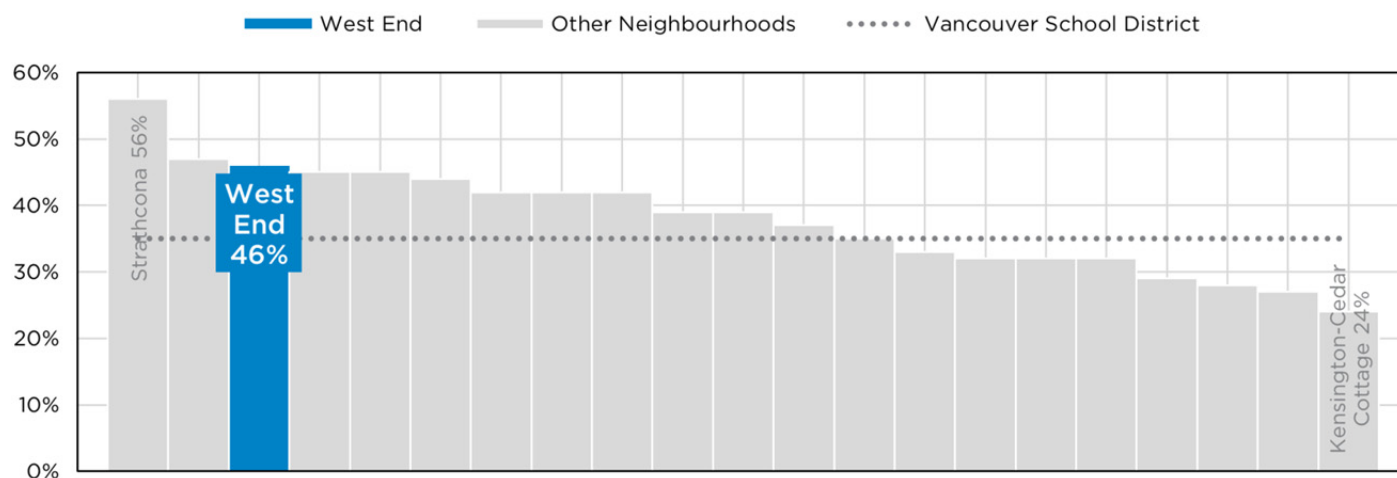
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population

COMMUNITY HEALTH

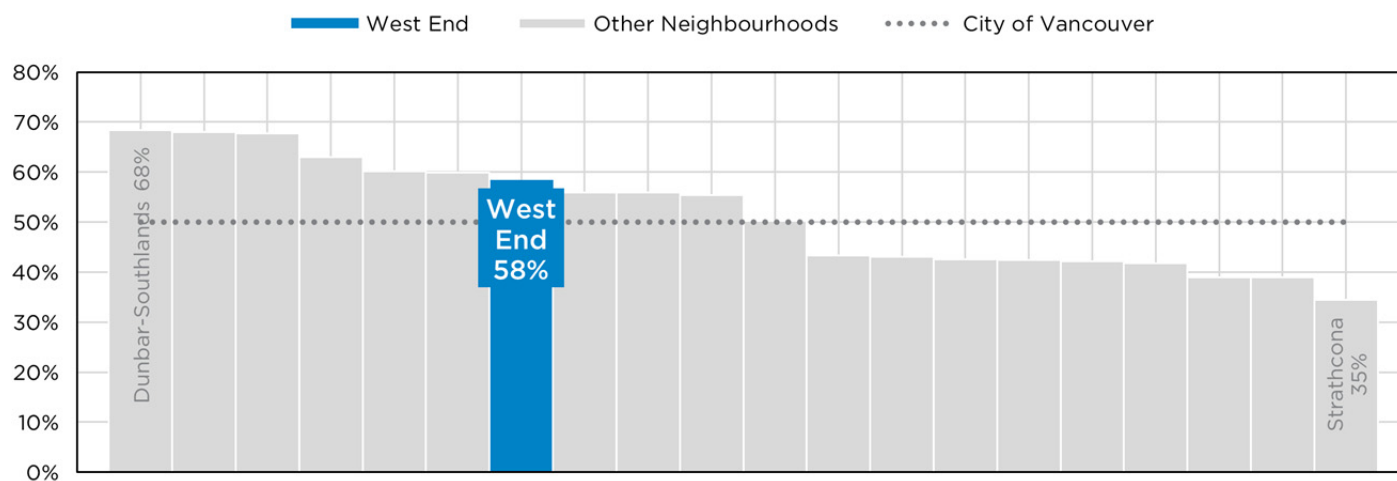
Children Ready for School (Not Vulnerable on EDI Scales), 2017-19



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

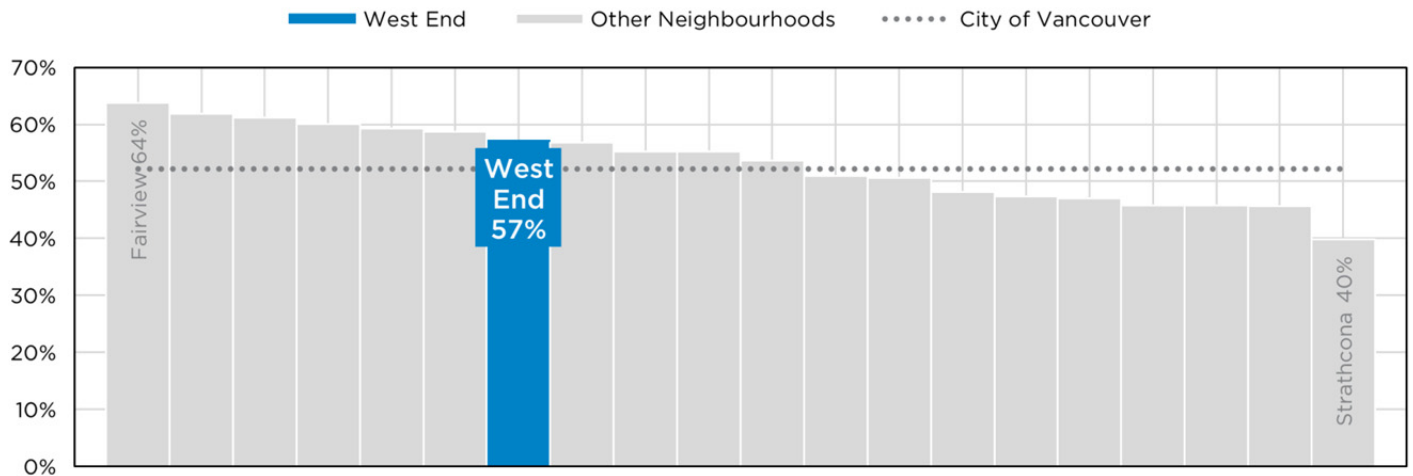


Very Good or Excellent General Health, 2013/2014

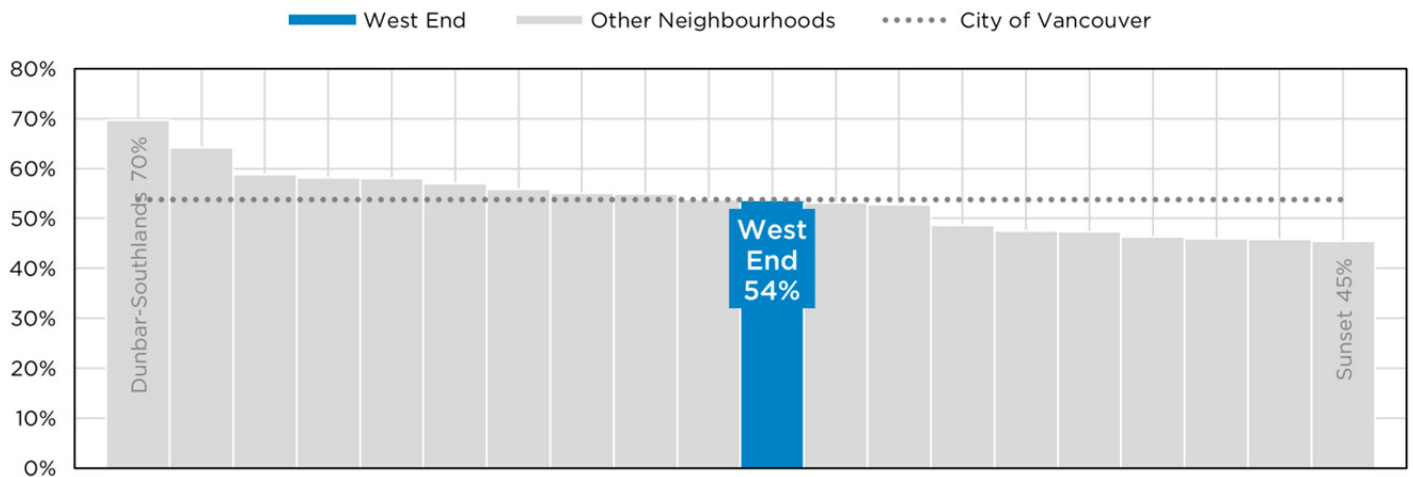


NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPARISONS

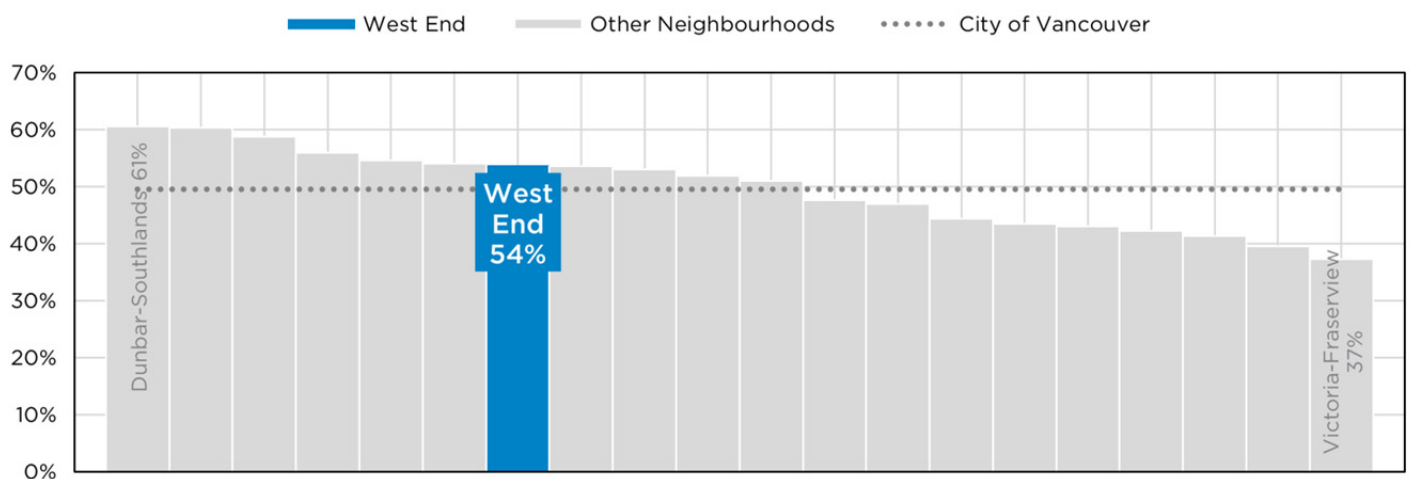
Very Good or Excellent Mental Health, 2013/2014



Strong Sense of Belonging, 2013/2014



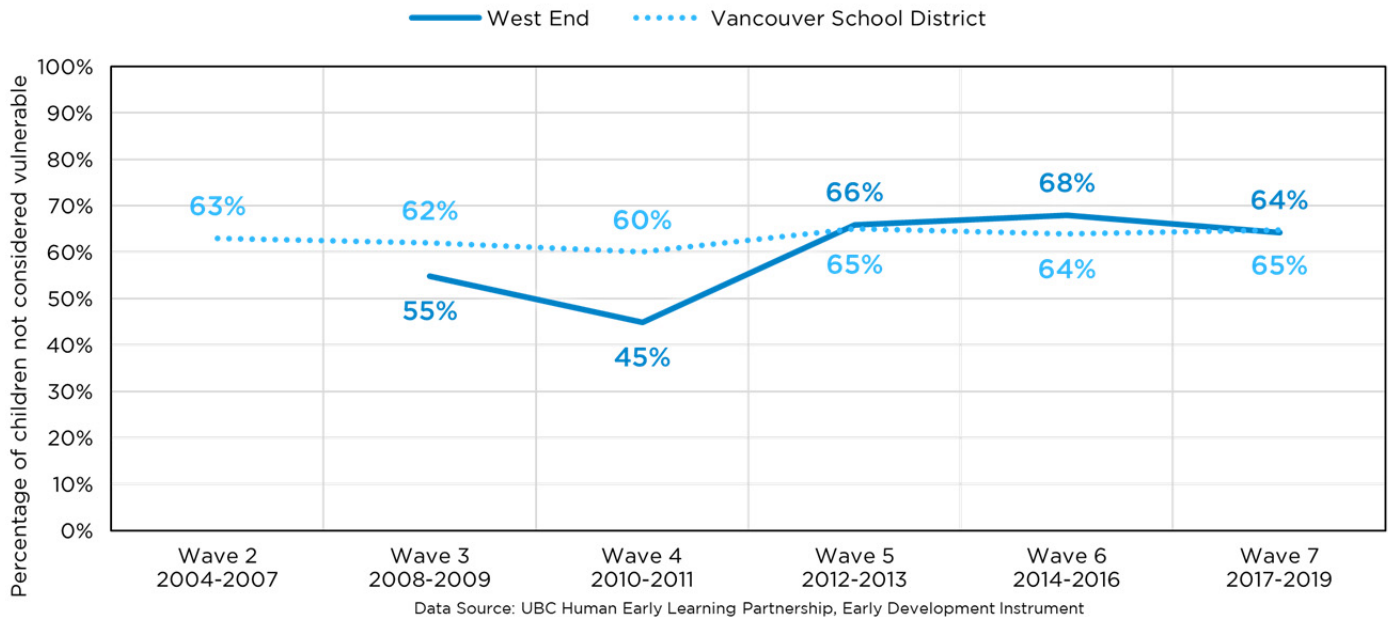
Four or More People in Support Network, 2013/2014



Early Childhood Development

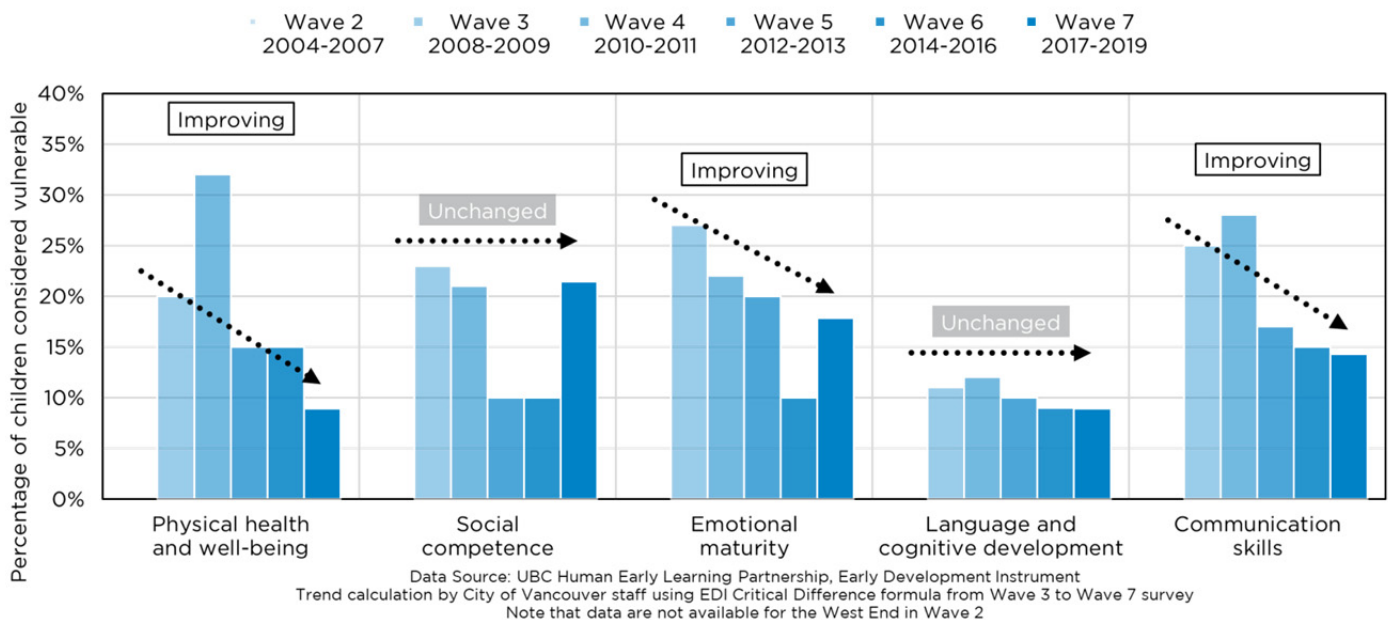
The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is used to benchmark kindergarten children on five developmental scales, identifying vulnerabilities that can impact school readiness. Just over a third of children in the West End are considered “vulnerable” on one or more of these scales, a similar rate to the city overall.

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



Over time, children in the West End are less likely to be considered vulnerable on the EDI’s physical health, emotional maturity and communication skills scales of development.

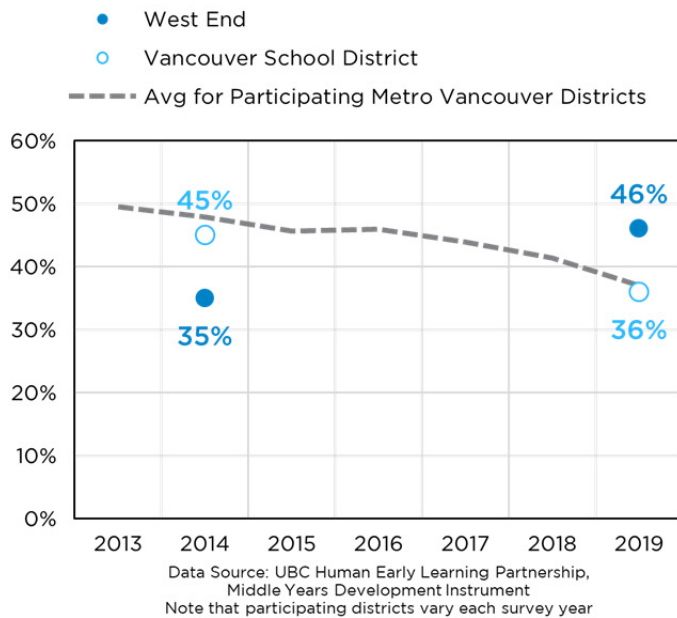
West End: Child Vulnerability Trends by EDI Domain, 2004-2019



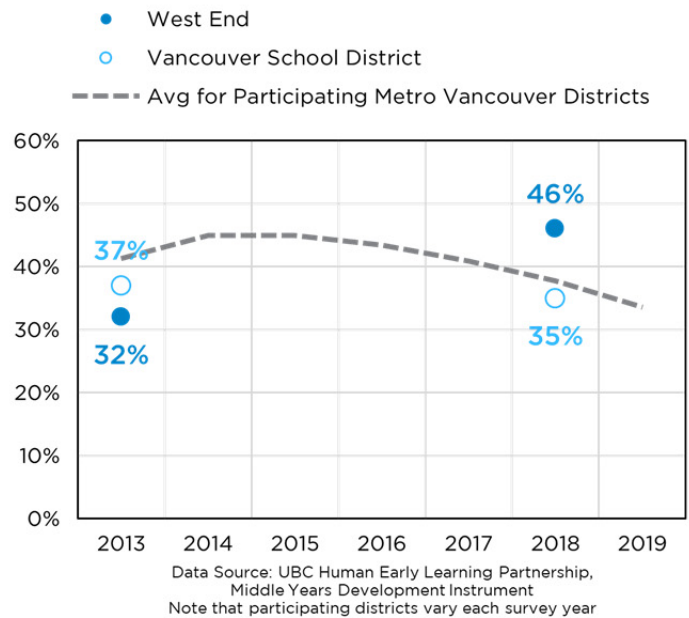
Middle-Years Development

The Middle-Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a questionnaire completed by children in grade 4 and 7 to self-assess their development in relation to well-being, health and school achievement. Children in the West End historically had lower overall well-being score than the City of Vancouver overall and the average across participating Metro Vancouver school districts.²² However, the most recent surveys of both grade 4 and grade 7 children in the West End showed relatively high rates of well-being.

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

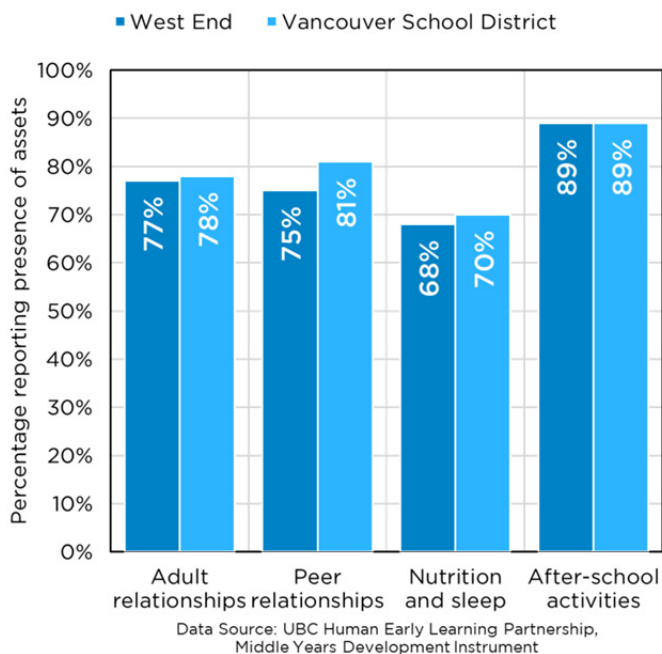


Grade 7 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2019

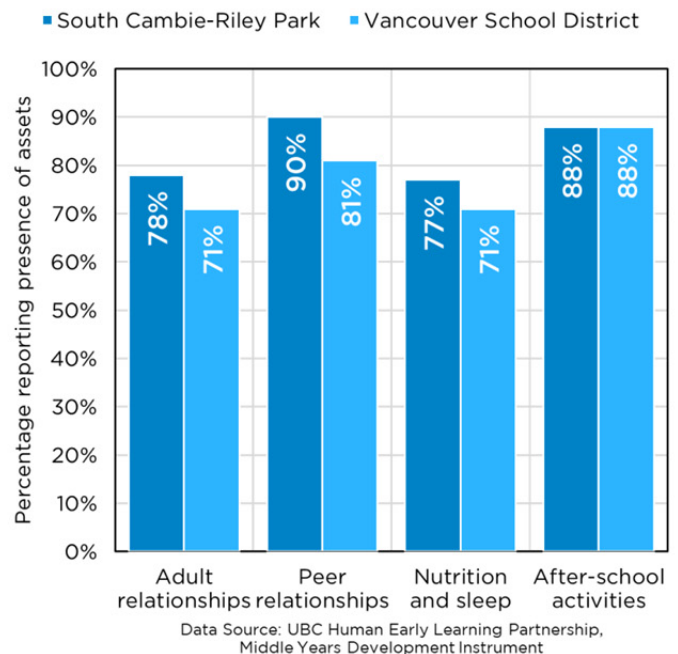


Compared to the city overall, children in the West End are a little less likely than those across the city to report the presence of some supportive assets in grade 4, but more likely in grade 7.

Grade 4 Children's Assets, 2019



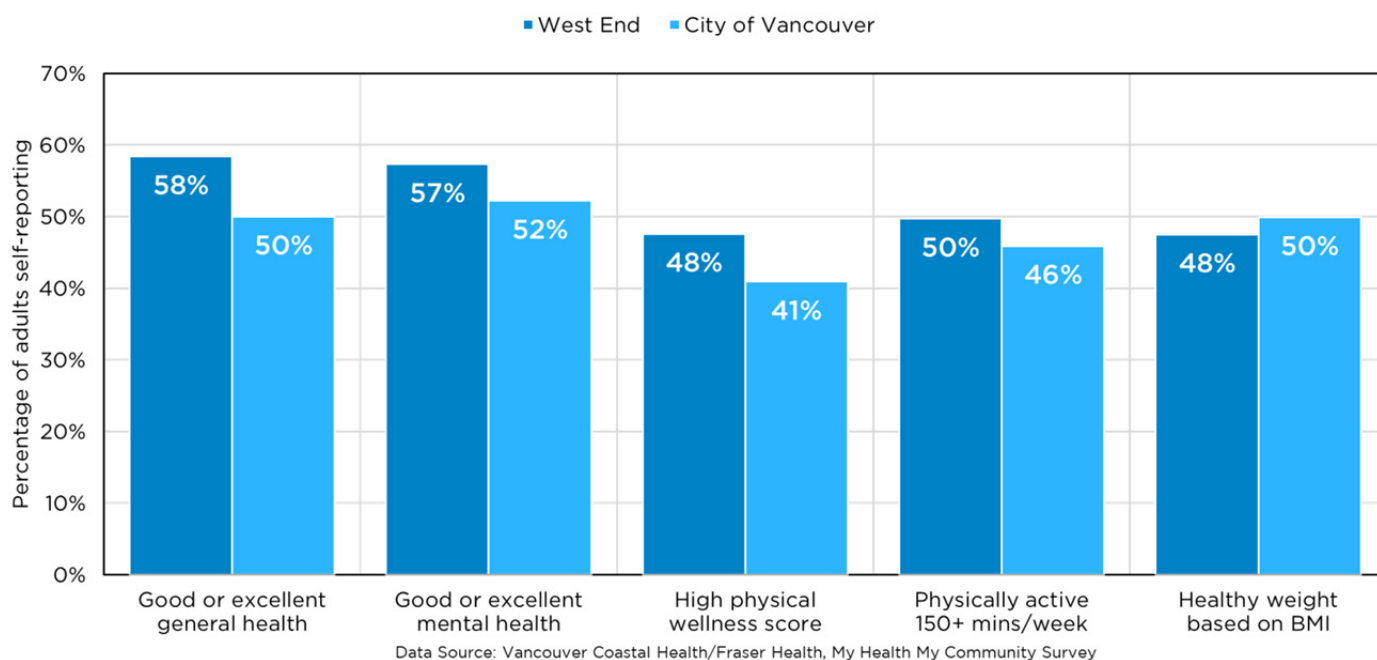
Grade 7 Children's Assets, 2018



Health Conditions and Overall Perceptions

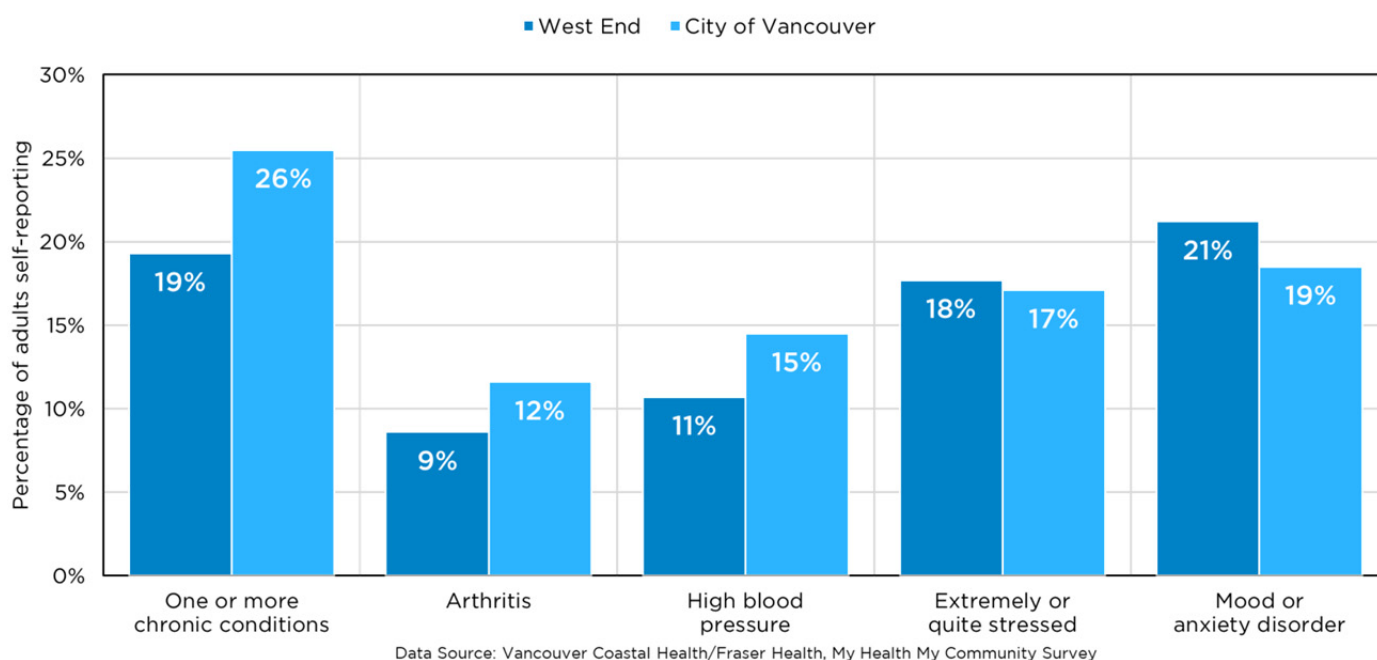
The My Health My Community survey, conducted in 2013 and 2014, surveyed adults across the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions on a number of topics. West End residents are more likely than residents of the city overall to assess their own physical and mental health as good or excellent, and to be physically active. However, West End residents are slightly less likely to have a healthy body weight.

Overall Health Status and Perceptions, 2013-2014



West End residents report chronic conditions, arthritis and high blood pressure at a lower rate than residents of the city as a whole. However, West End residents are more likely to report the presence of a mood or anxiety disorder.

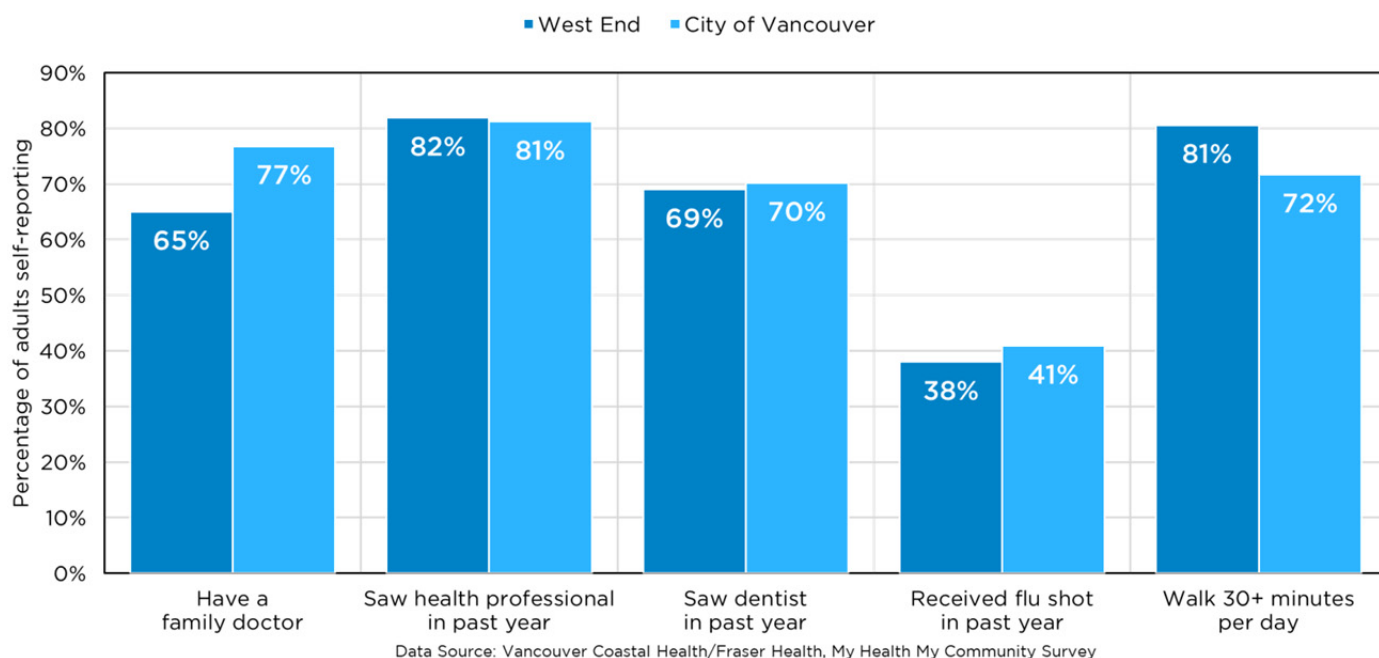
Reported Health Conditions, 2013-2014



Preventive Care and Healthy Behaviours

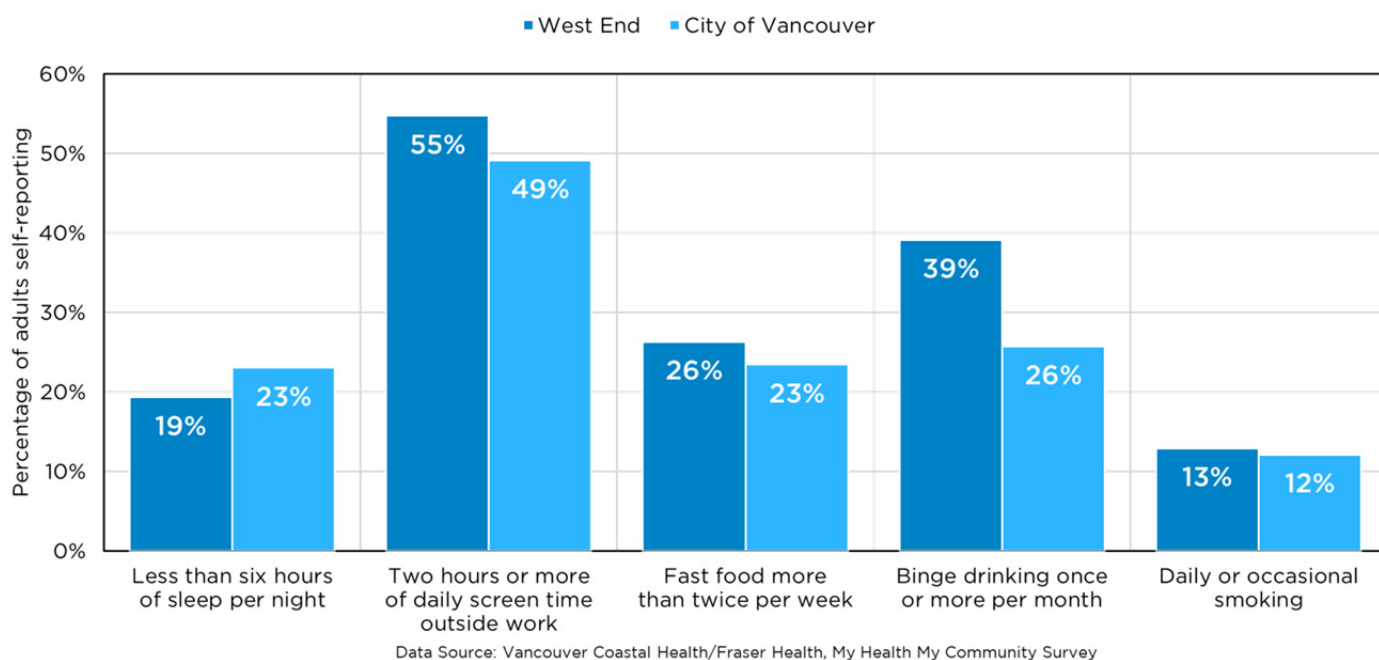
Compared to the City of Vancouver overall, West End residents are much less likely to have a family doctor, though they accessed the health care system at similar rates to citywide residents. West End residents were a little less likely to receive a flu shot, but more likely to walk at least half an hour each day.

Preventive Health Care, 2013-2014



Except for inadequate sleep, West End residents are more likely than residents of the city overall to indicate behaviours that negatively impact health, such as screen time, fast food or binge drinking. West End residents smoke at a similar rate to the city overall.

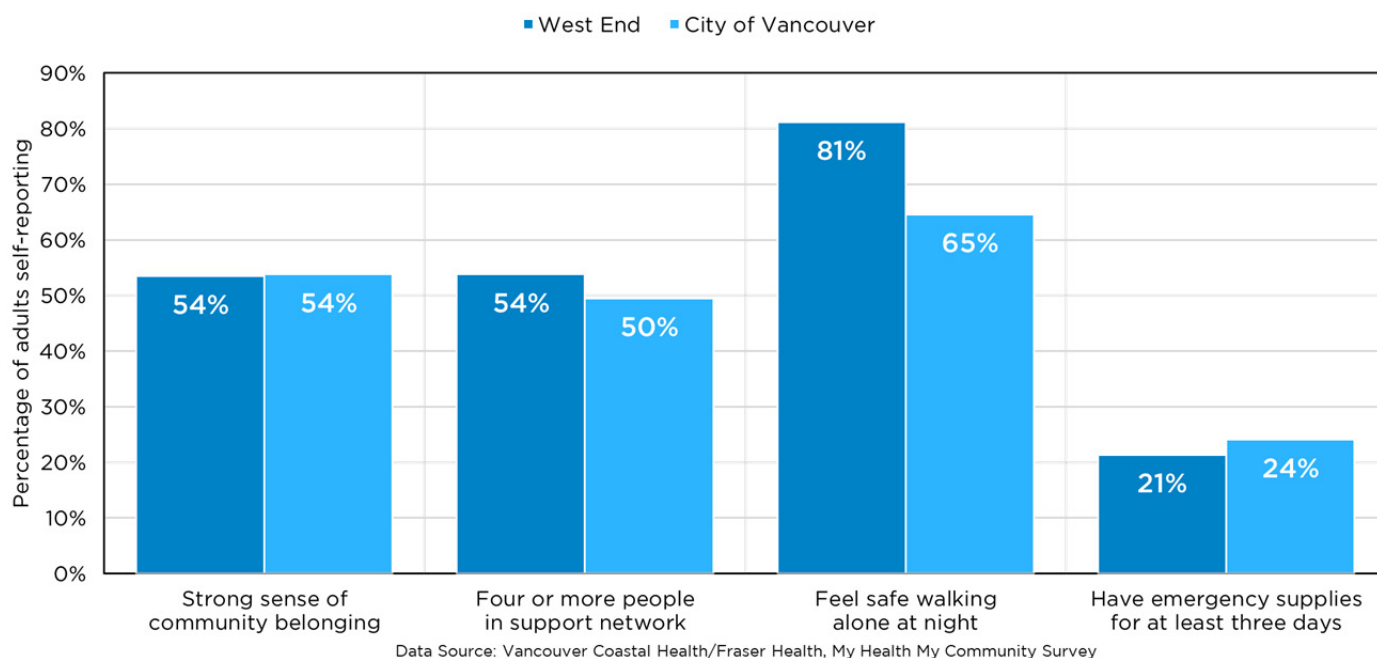
Health-Impacting Behaviours, 2013-2014



Connections, Resilience and Built Environments

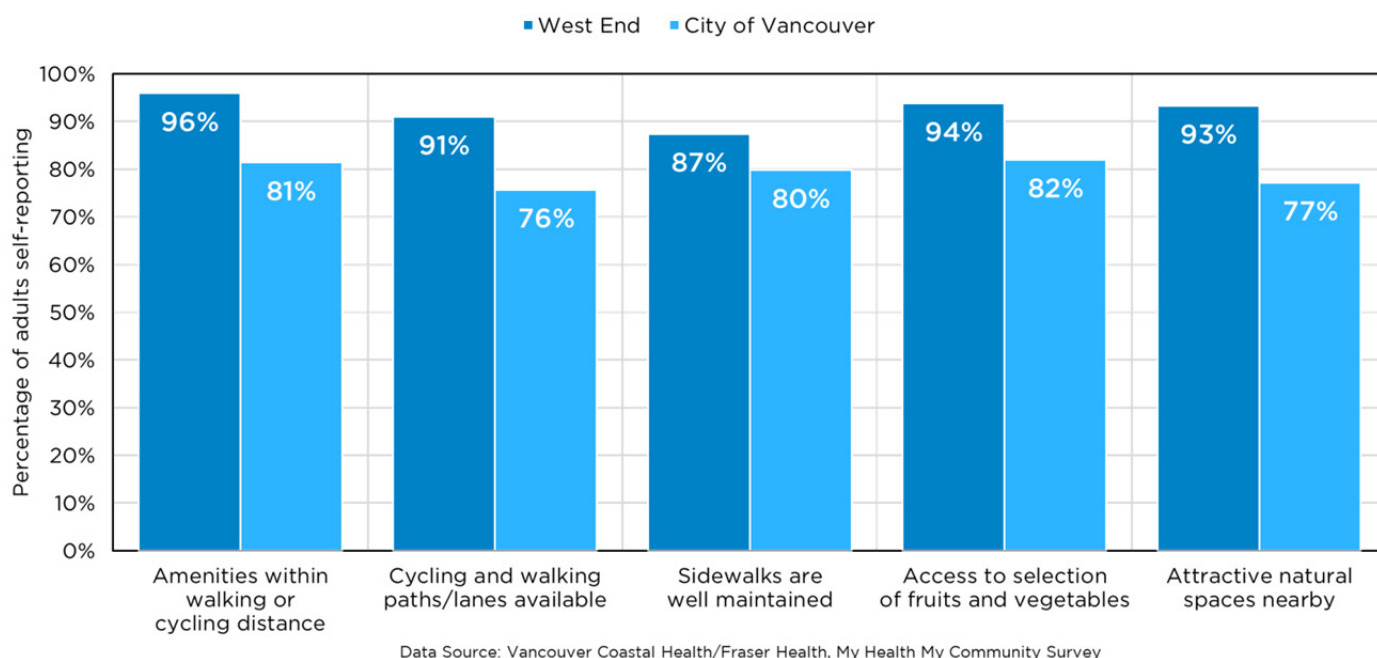
West End residents are much more likely than people across the city to feel safe walking in their neighbourhood after dark. However, their overall sense of belonging is on par with the city, and they are only a little bit more likely to have social support networks with at least four people to turn to for help. Only one in five West End residents has emergency supplies set aside.

Neighbourhood Social Connections and Resilience, 2013-2014



West End 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.

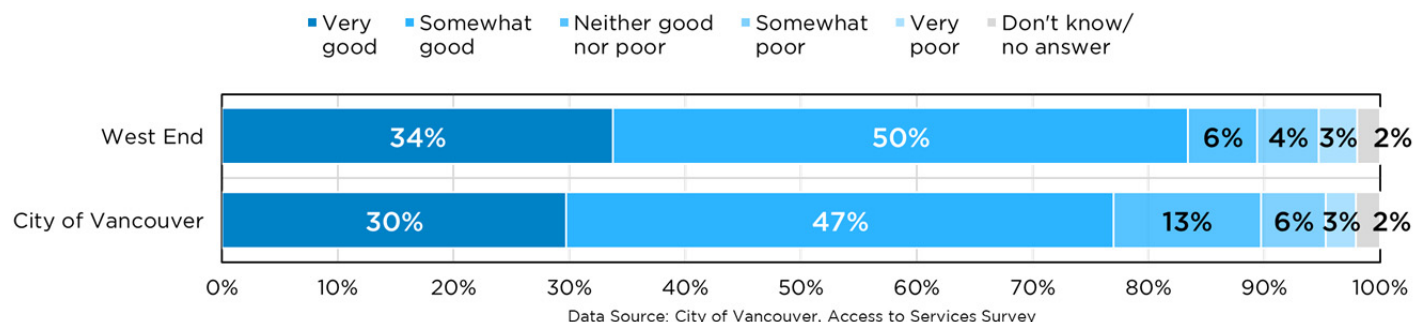
Perceptions of Built Environments, 2013-2014



Access to Services

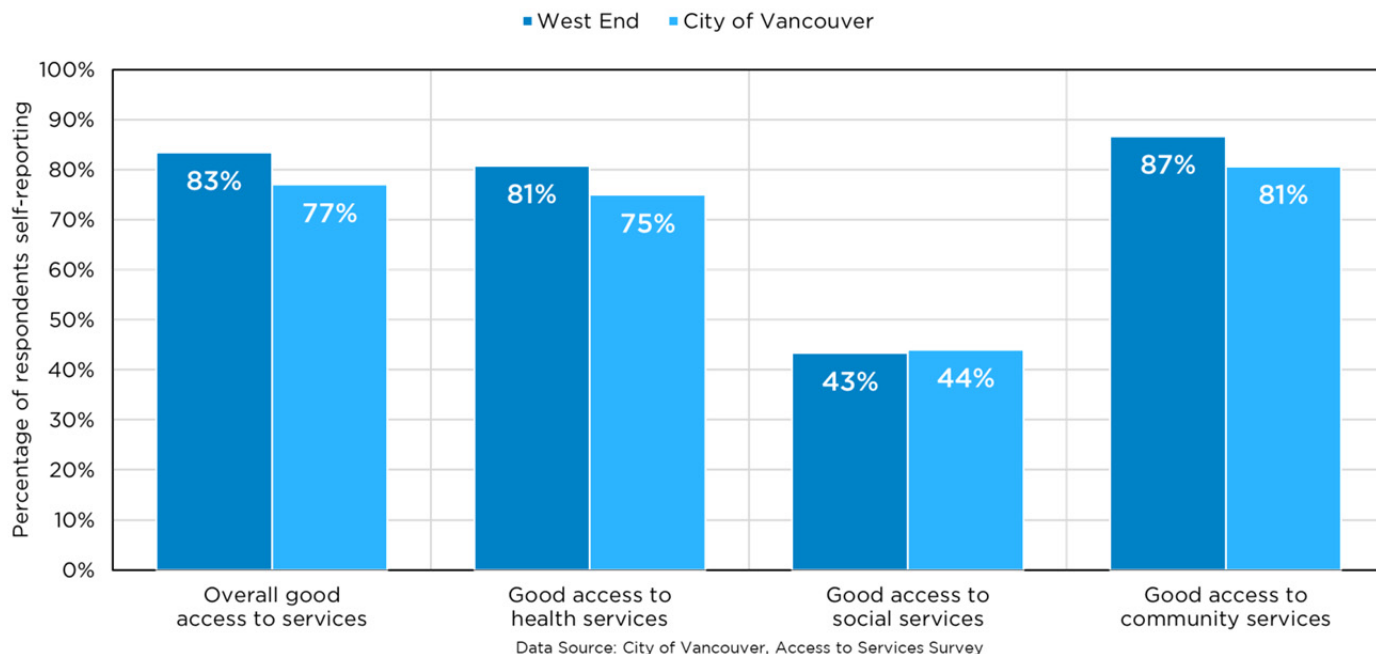
An important social determinant of health is the degree to which social, community and health services are physically, socially and culturally accessible to people who need them. In 2017, the City of Vancouver procured a survey of Vancouver residents' assessment of their access to services. Based on that survey, more than eight in ten respondents in the West End indicated very good or somewhat good access to services.

Overall Rating of Quality of Access to Services, 2017



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. In the West End, respondents were more likely to rate access to health and community services as good, but took a similar view of the quality of access to social services as residents of the city overall.

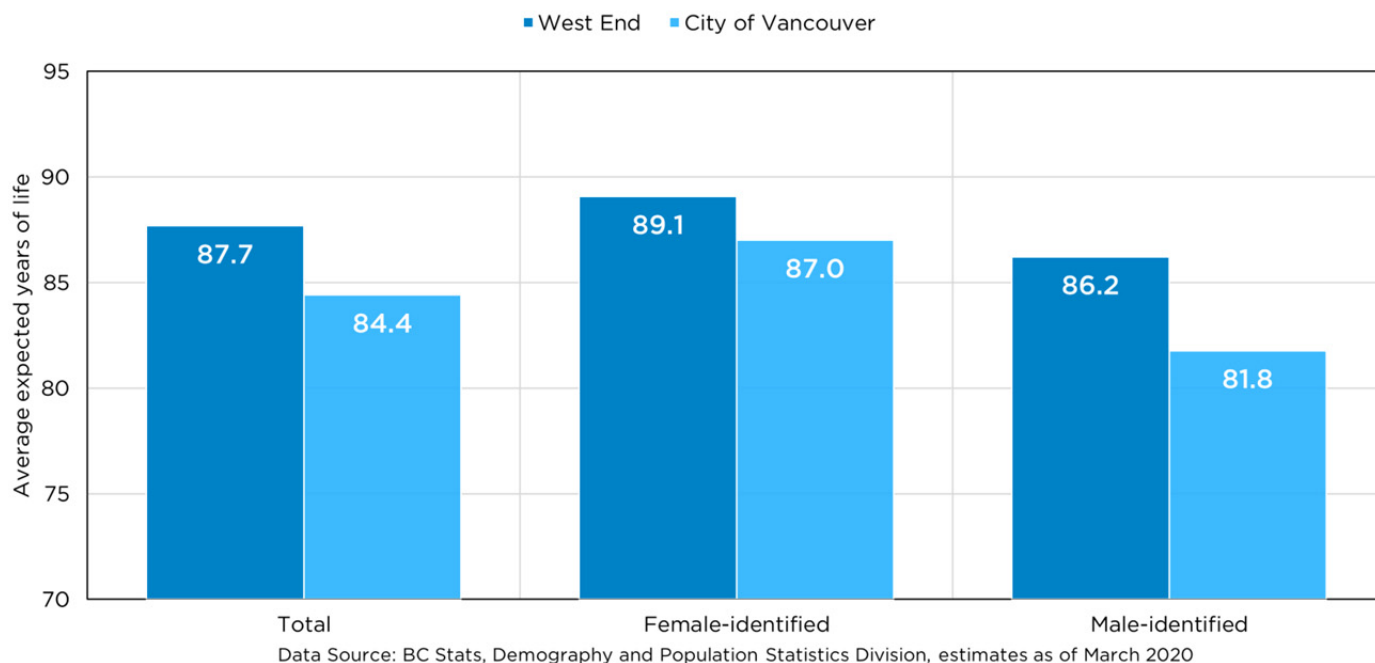
Quality of Access to Health, Community and Social Services, 2017



Life Expectancy

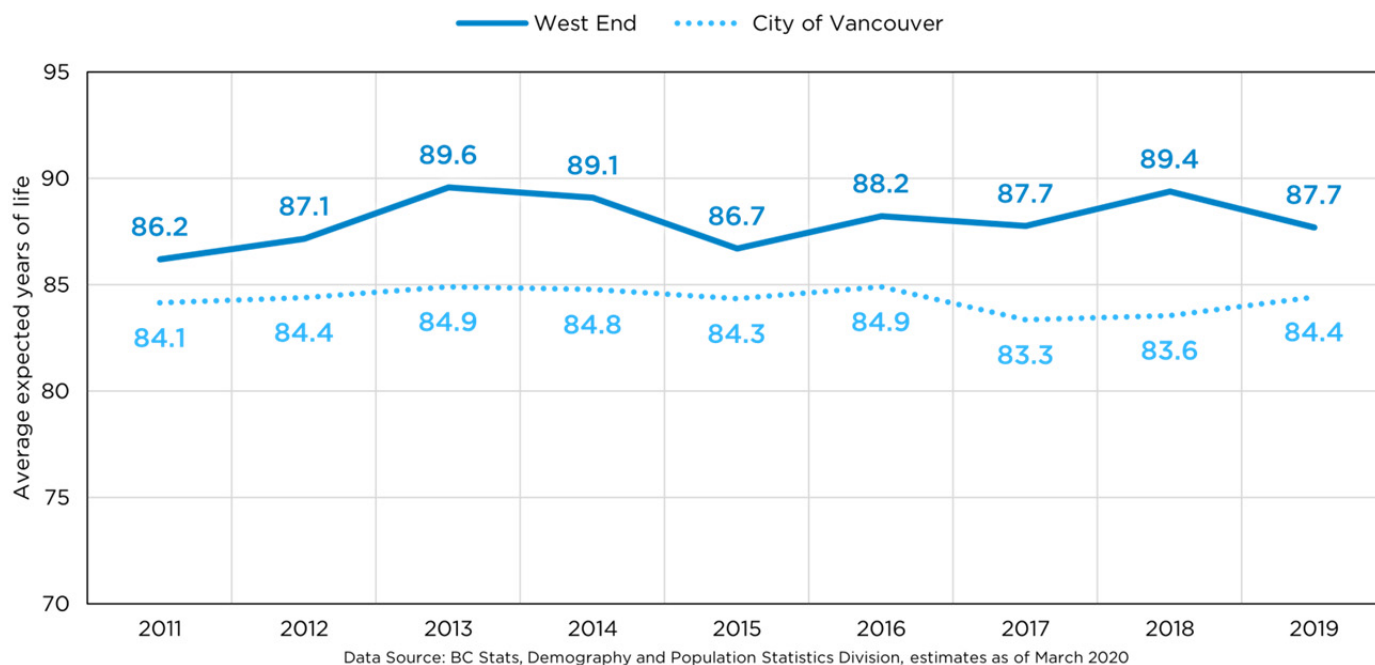
Finally, life expectancy is an overall indicator of health and well-being. For people born in 2019 in the West End, BC Stats estimates a life expectancy of 87.7 years, higher than for the city overall.

Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth, 2019



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



SUMMARY AND FURTHER RESEARCH

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

The West End is a unique neighbourhood in Vancouver. It is a model of environmentally sustainable, high-density living and its social makeup depends on its large stock of relatively affordable rental housing. The neighbourhood provides important urban services and social connections to its population, including independence and mobility to seniors living alone, but families face challenges accessing the neighbourhood. The aging housing stock and increasing development may put pressure on the affordability of the West End, altering its social makeup.



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.