

Marriage-related Statistics



Vital Statistics Information Box

MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2011

***T*able 52, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination, uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2011, a total of 1,344 marriages in British Columbia were solemnized by representatives of other non-Christian religions. The table below provides additional details about these marriages.**

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Baha'i	91	25	35
Buddhist	27	10	31
Hindu	30	17	47
Muslim	53	32	153
Sangam	11	4	12
Sikh	120	52	611
Spiritualist	106	58	432
Wiccan	12	8	20
Other*	37	3	3
Total	487	209	1,344

Note: *Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2011: Unknown, Konko-Kyo, and Zoroastrian.

Marriage Introduction

The Agency records all marriages that occur in BC. Unlike the birth and death statistics, which are based on usual residence, marriage information includes all marriages performed in the province whether the parties were residents or non-residents. The Agency does not record divorce decrees. The tables in this section contain information about marriages by previous marital status, ages of the parties involved, and type of ceremony.

In Table 51, the 21,831 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2011, in 67.7 percent of marriages (14,783), both partners were marrying for the first time, and in 17.8 percent (3,886), one of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 2,510 marriages (11.5 percent) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 52 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2011. There were 6,791 marriages (31.0 percent) where both parties were in their 20s and 4,231 marriages (19.4 percent) where both parties were in their 30s. There were also 289 marriages (1.3 percent) where at least one of the parties was in their teens and 1,198 marriages (5.5 percent) where at least one of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 53 indicates that there were 7,384 registered religious representatives in BC but less than half of them (3,054) solemnized marriages in 2011. Of all marriages in 2011, religious representatives solemnized 37.6 percent (8,201).

Table 54 shows the number of marriages performed by marriage commissioners, both private and public servants, and the number of each type of commissioner with appointments in 2011. The table indicates that 62.4 percent (13,630) of all 21,831 marriages were civil ceremonies performed by commissioners. Since 1988, when commissioners performed 42.5 percent of marriages, the share of civil marriages has risen steadily.

TABLE 50
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2011

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	14,783			
Widowed	169	159		
Divorced	3,717	493	2,510	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51
MARRIAGES BY AGE
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2011

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	42									
20-24	183	1,427								
25-29	53	1,763	3,601							
30-34	7	402	3,033	2,030						
35-39	3	107	710	1,482	719					
40-44	1	23	208	486	681	406				
45-49	-	11	49	143	269	501	336			
50-59	-	6	26	68	136	309	652	731		
60+	-	-	8	7	24	54	103	482	520	
N.S.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28

Note: N.S. - Not stated.



TABLE 52
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2011

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	443	183	389
Baptist	797	346	632
Eastern Orthodox	46	16	55
Jewish	38	15	44
Lutheran	245	108	193
Mennonite / Hutterite	430	210	405
Pentecostal	798	296	782
Presbyterian	212	75	109
Catholic	460	224	835
Salvation Army	184	28	49
Jehovah's Witnesses	84	50	97
United Church	437	249	647
Other Christian Religions	2,544	985	2,549
Other Non Christian Religions	487	209	1,344
Unknown / Not Stated	179	60	71
Total	7,384	3,054	8,201

Note: Religious categories shown above are from Statistics Canada. Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.

TABLE 53
**MARRIAGE COMMISSIONERS ON REGISTER
 BY TYPE AND MARRIAGES PERFORMED**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2011

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	522	485	13,626
Public Servant	10	3	4
Total	532	488	13,630

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

* Includes 158 temporary appointments.

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2011

OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	20,513	20,567
	British Columbia	18,854	18,978
	Alberta	1,206	1,153
	Ontario	253	240
	Saskatchewan	86	85
	Manitoba	41	41
	Quebec	24	25
	Nova Scotia	20	18
	Northwest Territories	11	10
	Yukon	9	8
	New Brunswick	4	4
Newfoundland & Labrador	3	3	
Nunavut	2	2	
United States	Total	428	363
	Washington	152	114
	California	66	60
	Oregon	24	19
	New York	23	23
	Texas	15	20
	Arizona	12	11
	Minnesota	8	7
	Illinois	8	6
	Pennsylvania	7	5
	Florida	6	9
	Michigan	6	7
	Massachusetts	6	6
	Idaho	6	3
	Colorado	5	7
	North Carolina	5	5
	Missouri	5	5
	Other	74	56
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	5	11
	Bermuda	2	1
	Mexico	0	3
	Other	3	7
Europe	Total	159	146
	United Kingdom	104	80
	Germany	23	26
	Switzerland	6	9
	Scandinavian Countries	5	6
	Netherlands	6	5
	Republic of Ireland	4	4
	Other	11	16
Asia & Middle East	Total	27	52
	China	10	10
	Hong Kong	8	8
	Japan	1	12
	Other	8	22
Africa	Total	1	0
Oceania	Total	48	42
	Australia	39	35
	New Zealand	9	7
TOTAL		21,181	21,181

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2011 SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	409	473
	British Columbia	402	440
	Alberta	2	12
	Ontario	4	5
	Saskatchewan	1	8
	New Brunswick	-	6
	Nova Scotia	-	1
	Quebec	-	1
United States	Total	135	169
	Washington	20	45
	California	36	23
	Texas	16	17
	Arizona	13	9
	Colorado	8	11
	Oregon	5	12
	Florida	10	2
	Utah	2	6
	Idaho	2	5
	Illinois	2	4
	New York	2	3
	Missouri	-	5
	Other	19	27
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	4	-
Europe	Total	11	11
	United Kingdom	8	4
	Other	3	7
Asia & Middle East	Total	23	25
	China	12	8
	Hong Kong	6	10
	Israel	4	-
	Philippines	1	2
	Other	-	5
Africa	Total	-	-
Oceania	Total	12	28
	Australia	12	26
	New Zealand	-	2
Unknown	Total	-	-
TOTAL		594	706

