

Marriage-related Statistics



Vital Statistics Information Box

MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2006

Table 49, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination, uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2006, a total of 1,113 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	106	30	50
Buddhist	24	9	17
Hindu	42	22	90
Muslim	55	23	166
Sikh	133	48	496
Spiritualist	75	39	281
Wiccan	10	6	8
Other*	40	4	5
Total Other Non Christian Religions	485	181	1,113

Note: *Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2006: Eckankar, Konko-Kyo, Scientology, and Zoroastrian.

Marriage Introduction

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency records all marriages that occurred in British Columbia. 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. To avoid double counting, the cells in tables 50 and 51 provide information for each combination of marital status or age.

In Table 50 the 23,507 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2006, 64 percent (15,048) of couples were marrying for the first time and in 19 percent (4,463) one of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 3,164 marriages (13 percent) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 51 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2006. There were 7,277 marriages (31 percent) where both parties were in their twenties and 4,311 marriages (18 percent) where both parties were in their thirties. Of the 23,507 marriages occurring in B.C. in 2006, there were 463 marriages (2 percent) where at least one party was in their teens (see Table 51). There were 1,020 marriages (4 percent) where at least one of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 52 indicates that there were 7,388 registered religious representatives in B.C. but less than half of them (3,125) solemnized marriages in 2006. In 2006, 38 percent of marriages (8,873) were solemnized by religious representatives.

Table 53 shows the number of marriages performed by marriage commissioners, both private and public servant, and the number of each type of commissioner with appointments in 2006.

Reviewing Tables 52 and 53, in 2006, 62 percent of marriages were of the civil type, performed by commissioners. The other 38 percent were religious ceremonies performed by representatives of religious denominations. Since 1988, when 42.5 percent of marriages were performed by commissioners, the percentage of marriages that were of the civil type has risen quite steadily.

TABLE 50
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2006

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	15,048			
Widowed	161	230		
Divorced	4,302	602	3,164	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51
MARRIAGES BY AGE
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2006

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	66									
20-24	312	1,923								
25-29	68	2,069	3,285							
30-34	12	522	2,674	1,882						
35-39	5	140	723	1,563	866					
40-44	-	43	199	508	930	507				
45-49	-	17	51	170	370	677	400			
50-59	-	10	26	70	182	401	769	816		
60+	-	3	5	9	30	54	130	498	522	
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

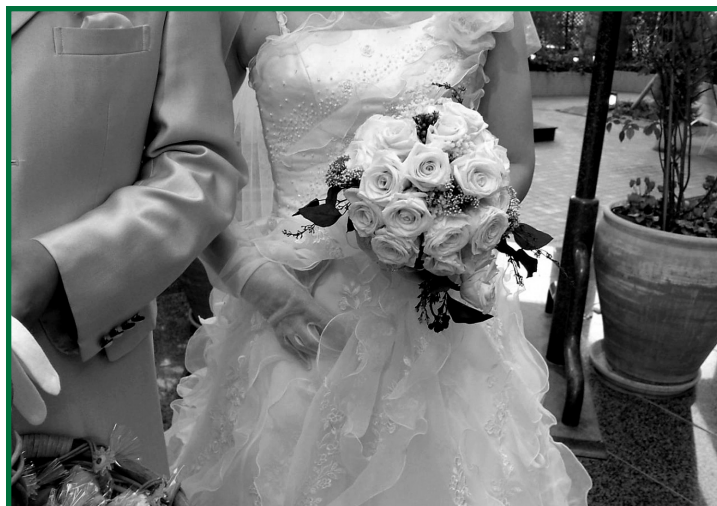


TABLE 52
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2006

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	578	239	628
Baptist	799	360	792
Eastern Orthodox	58	22	80
Jewish	32	15	31
Lutheran	239	110	266
Mennonite / Hutterite	424	228	472
Pentecostal	855	332	872
Presbyterian	197	89	192
Catholic	520	239	1,086
Salvation Army	189	35	82
Jehovahs Witness	86	63	149
United Church	493	276	997
Other Christian Religions	2,424	933	2,086
Other Non Christian Religions	485	181	1,113
Unknown / Not Stated	9	3	27
Total	7,388	3,125	8,873

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, 2006

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	622	458	14,632
Public Servant	13	1	1
Total	635	459	14,633

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

* Includes 127 temporary appointments.

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2006

OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	21,453	21,247
	British Columbia	19,886	19,703
	Alberta	1,105	1,071
	Ontario	270	281
	Saskatchewan	66	64
	Manitoba	39	41
	Quebec	29	34
	Northwest Territories	21	19
	Yukon	14	14
	Nova Scotia	13	12
	New Brunswick	8	6
	Newfoundland	1	1
	Prince Edward Island	1	1
United States	Total	537	634
	Washington	174	203
	California	109	139
	Oregon	38	41
	New York	24	25
	Texas	20	20
	Illinois	14	16
	Florida	10	12
	Idaho	10	9
	Nevada	8	11
	Michigan	8	10
	Wisconsin	8	8
	Arizona	8	7
	Colorado	7	8
	Minnesota	7	8
	Virginia	6	8
	Massachusetts	6	7
	New Jersey	5	7
	Pennsylvania	5	7
	Ohio	6	5
	Oklahoma	5	5
	Other	59	78
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	7	17
	Mexico	2	4
	Cayman Islands	2	4
	Other	3	9
Europe	Total	201	248
	United Kingdom	131	149
	Germany	37	45
	France	8	8
	Switzerland	7	7
	Netherlands	4	8
	Other	14	31
Asia & Middle East	Total	47	89
	Japan	14	26
	Hong Kong	16	22
	China	5	9
	Other	12	32
Africa	Total	1	1
Oceania	Total	34	44
	Australia	28	37
	New Zealand	5	7
	Other	1	-
Unknown		-	-
TOTAL		22,280	22,280

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2006

SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	281	291
	British Columbia	270	281
	Alberta	6	6
	Ontario	4	3
	Manitoba	1	-
	Nova Scotia	-	1
United States	Total	240	363
	California	58	63
	Washington	41	71
	Oregon	8	42
	Texas	19	23
	Arizona	12	13
	Florida	14	11
	Georgia	11	9
	Colorado	7	11
	New York	8	9
	Minnesota	6	6
	Utah	5	7
	Virginia	6	6
	Illinois	5	6
	New Mexico	2	9
	Hawaii	5	5
	Other States	33	72
Mexico, Central & Total South America		2	1
Europe	Total	10	15
	England	7	10
	Other	3	5
Asia & Middle East	Total	6	4
	Taiwan	1	2
	China	-	2
	Hong Kong	2	-
	Japan	2	-
	Other	1	-
Africa	Total	-	1
Oceania	Total	6	6
	Australia	6	6
Unknown		-	-
TOTAL		545	681

