

# Marriage-related Statistics



### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2005

**Table 49, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination, uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2005, a total of 1,109 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	104	30	47
Buddhist	22	10	15
Hindu	42	20	88
Muslim	54	32	149
Sikh	129	59	550
Spiritualist	55	19	243
Wiccan	7	3	8
Other*	39	9	9
<b>Total Other Non Christian Religions</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,109</b>

Note: \*Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2005: Eckankar, Konko-Kyo, Scientology, and Zoroastrian.

## *Marriage Introduction*

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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 22,631 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2005, 62.8% (14,214) of couples were marrying for the first time and in 19.7% (4,455) one of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 3,099 marriages (13.7%) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 51 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2005. There were 6,975 marriages (30.8%) where both parties were in their twenties and 4,032 marriages (17.8%) where both parties were in their thirties.

Of the 22,631 marriages occurring in B.C. in 2005, there were 409 marriages (1.8%) where at least one party was in their teens (see Table 51). There were 1,236 marriages (5.5%) where at least one of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 52 indicates that there were 7,186 registered religious representatives in B.C. but less than half of them (3,114) solemnized marriages in 2005. Almost 40% of marriages in 2005 (8,795) 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 2005.

Reviewing Tables 52 and 53, in 2005 61.1% of marriages were of the civil type, performed by commissioners. The other 38.9% were religious ceremonies performed by representatives of religious denominations. Since 1988, when 42.5% 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, 2005

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	14,214			
Widowed	204	229		
Divorced	4,251	634	3,099	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51  
**MARRIAGES BY AGE**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2005

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	52									
20-24	277	1,842								
25-29	61	2,049	3,084							
30-34	14	459	2,674	1,774						
35-39	3	139	741	1,493	765					
40-44	-	42	203	498	857	517				
45-49	1	12	52	156	338	650	387			
50-59	1	12	29	65	161	392	715	775		
60+	-	-	5	5	21	53	116	502	534	
N.S.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104

Note: N.S. - Not stated.



TABLE 52  
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND  
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2005

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	560	242	665
Baptist	756	325	761
Eastern Orthodox	56	21	86
Jewish	27	13	36
Lutheran	242	111	243
Mennonite / Hutterite	436	231	455
Pentecostal	816	313	785
Presbyterian	201	87	176
Catholic	515	262	1,126
Salvation Army	173	40	76
Jehovahs Witness	87	62	148
United Church	543	303	1,099
Other Christian Religions	2,311	919	2,016
Other Non Christian Religions	452	182	1,109
Unknown / Not Stated	11	3	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,186</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>8,795</b>

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, 2005

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	510	476	13,836
Public Servant	11	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>13,836</b>

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

\* Includes 147 temporary appointments.

### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2005 OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,680</b>	<b>20,769</b>
	British Columbia	19,197	19,364
	Alberta	1,006	974
	Ontario	276	247
	Saskatchewan	76	68
	Manitoba	44	37
	Quebec	36	30
	Northwest Territories	12	14
	Yukon	13	11
	Nova Scotia	11	11
	New Brunswick	4	6
	Newfoundland	4	6
	Prince Edward Island	1	1
United States	<b>Total</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>529</b>
	Washington	196	175
	California	113	91
	Oregon	44	42
	Florida	24	20
	Texas	26	18
	Arizona	20	19
	New York	21	15
	Illinois	13	14
	Massachusetts	12	8
	Pennsylvania	13	7
	Colorado	1	9
	Minnesota	11	8
	Idaho	8	9
	Virginia	9	8
	Michigan	1	5
	Missouri	8	6
	Nevada	8	6
	Hawaii	7	7
	Alaska	7	6
	New Jersey	9	4
	Other	71	52
<b>Mexico, Central &amp; South America</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
Europe	<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>188</b>
	England	66	55
	Scotland	22	18
	Other United Kingdom	57	47
	Germany	30	33
	Scandinavian Countries	3	2
	Other	30	33
Asia & Middle East	<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>83</b>
	Japan	18	25
	Hong Kong	9	25
	Other	16	33
<b>Africa</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Oceania</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Unknown</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>21,619</b>	<b>21,619</b>

### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2005

##### SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>503</b>
	British Columbia	377	426
	Alberta	32	63
	Ontario	2	4
	Manitoba	-	4
	Quebec	-	4
	Saskatchewan	2	-
	Yukon	-	2
<b>United States</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>597</b>
	California	111	127
	Washington	54	130
	Texas	54	59
	Oregon	29	60
	Colorado	6	30
	New York	18	13
	Florida	16	14
	Arizona	20	8
	Georgia	12	10
	Missouri	12	10
	Illinois	12	8
	Idaho	4	15
	Minnesota	7	10
	Nevada	12	2
	Ohio	6	7
	Other	56	94
<b>Mexico, Central &amp; South America</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>
	England	4	6
	Scotland	8	-
	Other United Kingdom	4	1
	Other	4	2
<b>Asia &amp; Middle East</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
	Hong Kong	4	-
	Japan	2	2
	Other	4	6
<b>Africa</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Oceania</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>886</b>	<b>1,138</b>

