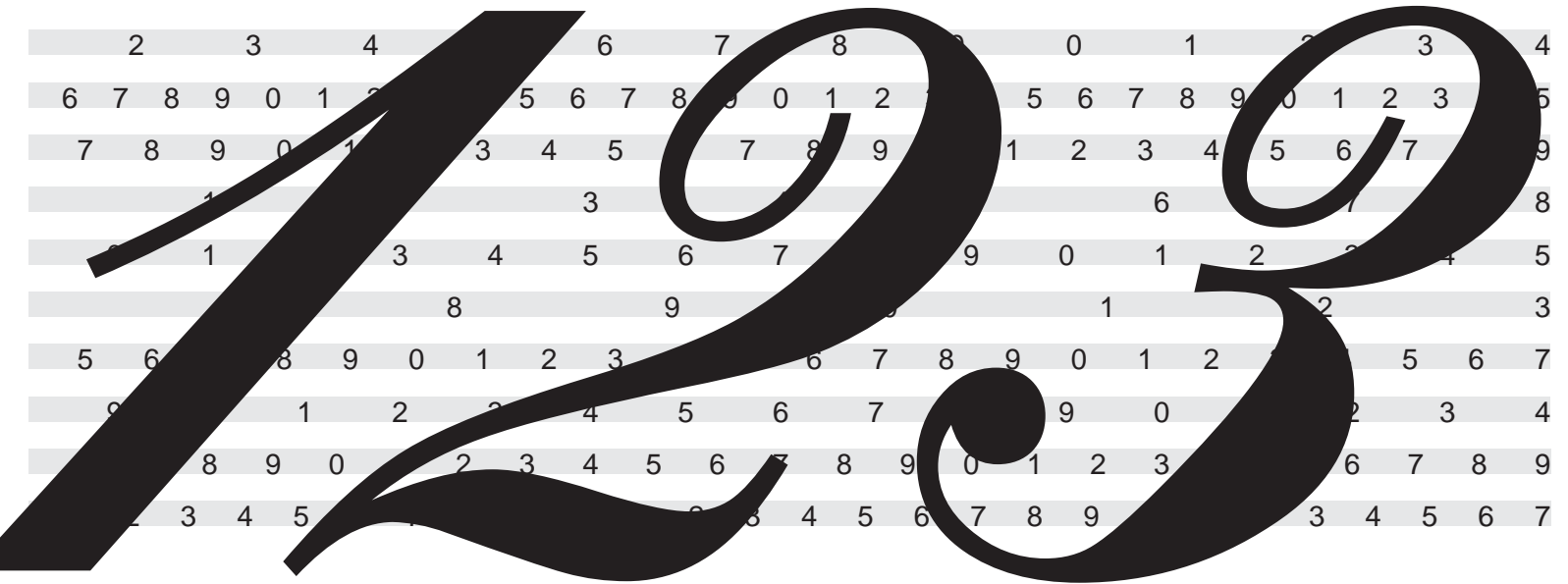


Trends in Vital Events



VITAL STATISTICS INFORMATION BOX

ON A TYPICAL DAY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2004

110 LIVE BIRTHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE TO B.C. RESIDENTS:

- 57 males and 53 females were born
- 4 were born to teenage mothers
- 24 were born to mothers aged 35 years old or more
- 3 were multiple births
- 33 were cesarean deliveries
- 6 were low birth weight babies
- 8 were pre-term
- 57 live births involved maternal complications
- 38 babies had perinatal complications
- 8 stillbirths every 10 days

81 DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE TO B.C. RESIDENTS:

- 41 males and 40 females died
- 63 deaths were seniors aged 65 years old or more including
 - 39 deaths aged 80 years old or more
- 7 deaths every 10 days were children less than 15 years old including
 - 5 infant deaths every 10 days
- 27 deaths were due to diseases of the circulatory system including
 - 18 from cardiovascular disease
 - 6 from cerebrovascular disease
- 23 deaths were due to malignant neoplasms (cancer) including
 - 6 from malignant neoplasm of trachea and lung
 - 2 from malignant neoplasm of colon and rectum
 - 2 from malignant neoplasm of female breast
- 8 deaths were due to diseases of the respiratory system including
 - 3 from pneumonia and influenza
 - 3 from chronic pulmonary disease
- 3 deaths every 10 days were due to HIV disease
- 4 deaths were from external causes including
 - 1 suicide
 - 1 motor vehicle accident
 - 1 accidental fall
- 5 deaths were alcohol-related:
 - 1 was directly due to alcohol and 4 were indirectly due to alcohol
- 1 death was drug-induced
- 16 deaths were attributed to smoking

60 MARRIAGES WERE SOLEMNIZED IN B.C.:

- 36 were civil ceremonies and 24 were performed by religious representatives
- 38 marriages were to couples where both parties were marrying for the first time
- 2 marriages every 10 days were to couples where both parties were teenagers

2004 in Context

Historical information on the vital statistics of the British Columbia population is presented in this section. This allows readers to examine the changes in annual live birth, stillbirth, death, and marriage rates and to put current year statistics in the larger context. In addition the section highlights certain features of this report that are of special interest.

Since 1950, as the population of British Columbia has almost quadrupled, demographic and social changes have had substantial impacts on vital events. Provincial rates for live births, stillbirths, and marriages in 2004 have fallen to about half the rates seen in 1950, while mortality rates declined by nearly a third. Infant mortality rates in B.C. have fallen dramatically to one fifth of the rates seen in 1965.

- In 2004, there were 40,318 live births in the province to B.C. residents. The number of live births increased by 31 births from 40,287 in 2003. The 2004 birth rate was 9.61 live births per 1,000 population, slightly lower than the 2003 rate of 9.70. The live births rate in 2004 is the lowest to date.
- There were 29,652 deaths of British Columbia residents in the province in 2004, up 514 from the previous year (29,138). The crude death rate was 7.07 deaths per 1,000 population in 2004 and 7.02 in 2003.
- A total of 22,073 marriages were solemnized in the province in 2004, an increase from 21,978 marriages in 2003. The marriage rate decreased slightly in 2004 to 5.26 per 1,000 population, down from 5.29 in 2003. Marriage rates showed a downward trend from 1988 to 1999 but have since rebounded slightly.
- There were 280 stillbirths to B.C. residents in 2004, a decrease from 306 in 2003. The stillbirth rate was 6.90 per 1,000 total births (live births and stillbirths) in 2004. Stillbirth rates have fluctuated between 6.31 and 7.71 in the last decade.
- In 2004, the 40,318 live births and 29,652 deaths in the province produced a rate of natural population growth of 2.5 per 1,000 population, down slightly from 2.7 in 2003. The 2004 rate of natural population growth for B.C. was the lowest since 1950.
- The Total Fertility Rate for B.C. was 1,384 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years of age) in 2004, almost unchanged from 1,386 in 2003.
- In 2004, there were 168 infant deaths (age at death less than one year) in the province, for an infant mortality rate of 4.17 per 1,000 live births. In 2003, there were 166 infant deaths and an infant mortality rate of 4.12 per 1,000 live births. The smallest numbers and lowest rates of infant mortality occurred in 1999 and 2000.
- The average age of people getting married has climbed steadily since 1977. The average age of males who got married in B.C. in 2004 was 35.7 years old while females getting married averaged 33.2 years old.

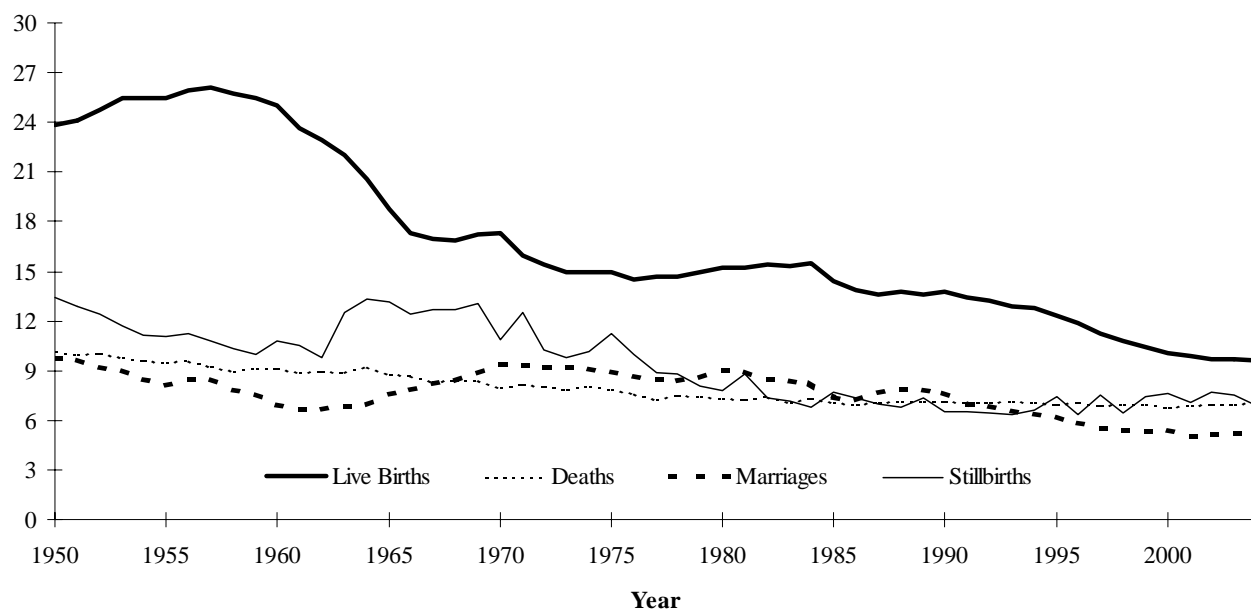
TABLE 1
LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1950–2004

| Year | Mid-year Population | Live Births | | Deaths | | Marriages | | Stillbirths | |
|------|---------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|------|-------------|-------|
| | | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| 1950 | 1,137,000 | 27,116 | 23.85 | 11,581 | 10.19 | 11,110 | 9.77 | 369 | 13.43 |
| 1951 | 1,165,210 | 28,077 | 24.10 | 11,638 | 9.99 | 11,272 | 9.67 | 365 | 12.83 |
| 1952 | 1,205,000 | 29,827 | 24.75 | 12,080 | 10.02 | 11,081 | 9.20 | 375 | 12.42 |
| 1953 | 1,248,000 | 31,746 | 25.44 | 12,218 | 9.79 | 11,298 | 9.05 | 375 | 11.67 |
| 1954 | 1,295,000 | 32,946 | 25.44 | 12,414 | 9.59 | 10,991 | 8.49 | 373 | 11.19 |
| 1955 | 1,342,000 | 34,138 | 25.44 | 12,816 | 9.55 | 11,011 | 8.20 | 381 | 11.04 |
| 1956 | 1,398,464 | 36,241 | 25.91 | 13,415 | 9.59 | 11,950 | 8.55 | 413 | 11.27 |
| 1957 | 1,482,000 | 38,744 | 26.14 | 13,711 | 9.25 | 12,620 | 8.52 | 422 | 10.77 |
| 1958 | 1,538,000 | 39,577 | 25.73 | 13,741 | 8.93 | 12,094 | 7.86 | 414 | 10.35 |
| 1959 | 1,567,000 | 39,971 | 25.51 | 14,336 | 9.15 | 11,910 | 7.60 | 404 | 10.01 |
| 1960 | 1,602,000 | 40,116 | 25.04 | 14,696 | 9.17 | 11,203 | 6.99 | 437 | 10.78 |
| 1961 | 1,629,100 | 38,591 | 23.69 | 14,403 | 8.84 | 10,935 | 6.71 | 410 | 10.51 |
| 1962 | 1,660,000 | 38,128 | 22.97 | 14,912 | 8.98 | 11,196 | 6.74 | 377 | 9.79 |
| 1963 | 1,699,000 | 37,478 | 22.06 | 15,029 | 8.85 | 11,677 | 6.87 | 476 | 12.54 |
| 1964 | 1,745,000 | 35,897 | 20.57 | 16,051 | 9.20 | 12,158 | 6.97 | 485 | 13.33 |
| 1965 | 1,797,000 | 33,669 | 18.74 | 15,784 | 8.78 | 13,639 | 7.59 | 447 | 13.10 |
| 1966 | 1,873,674 | 32,502 | 17.35 | 16,290 | 8.69 | 14,682 | 7.84 | 409 | 12.43 |
| 1967 | 1,945,000 | 32,899 | 16.91 | 16,170 | 8.31 | 16,026 | 8.24 | 422 | 12.66 |
| 1968 | 2,003,000 | 33,687 | 16.82 | 16,828 | 8.40 | 16,914 | 8.44 | 433 | 12.69 |
| 1969 | 2,060,000 | 35,383 | 17.18 | 17,377 | 8.44 | 18,284 | 8.88 | 468 | 13.05 |
| 1970 | 2,128,000 | 36,861 | 17.32 | 17,020 | 8.00 | 20,020 | 9.41 | 407 | 10.92 |
| 1971 | 2,184,620 | 34,852 | 15.95 | 17,783 | 8.14 | 20,389 | 9.33 | 442 | 12.52 |
| 1972 | 2,241,400 | 34,563 | 15.42 | 18,021 | 8.04 | 20,659 | 9.22 | 356 | 10.20 |
| 1973 | 2,302,400 | 34,352 | 14.92 | 18,095 | 7.86 | 21,303 | 9.25 | 339 | 9.77 |
| 1974 | 2,375,700 | 35,450 | 14.92 | 19,177 | 8.07 | 21,734 | 9.15 | 364 | 10.16 |
| 1975 | 2,433,200 | 36,281 | 14.91 | 19,151 | 7.87 | 21,824 | 8.97 | 414 | 11.28 |
| 1976 | 2,466,610 | 35,848 | 14.53 | 18,788 | 7.62 | 21,536 | 8.73 | 361 | 9.97 |
| 1977 | 2,493,800 | 36,691 | 14.71 | 18,021 | 7.23 | 21,156 | 8.48 | 330 | 8.91 |
| 1978 | 2,530,100 | 37,231 | 14.72 | 19,057 | 7.53 | 21,388 | 8.45 | 331 | 8.81 |
| 1979 | 2,571,200 | 38,432 | 14.95 | 19,204 | 7.47 | 22,087 | 8.59 | 313 | 8.08 |
| 1980 | 2,640,100 | 40,104 | 15.19 | 19,371 | 7.34 | 23,830 | 9.03 | 316 | 7.82 |
| 1981 | 2,744,470 | 41,679 | 15.19 | 19,857 | 7.24 | 24,694 | 9.00 | 371 | 8.82 |
| 1982 | 2,787,700 | 42,942 | 15.40 | 20,704 | 7.43 | 23,831 | 8.55 | 317 | 7.33 |
| 1983 | 2,813,800 | 43,047 | 15.30 | 19,895 | 7.07 | 23,692 | 8.42 | 310 | 7.15 |
| 1984 | 2,847,700 | 44,040 | 15.47 | 20,781 | 7.30 | 23,394 | 8.22 | 303 | 6.83 |
| 1985 | 2,990,000 | 42,989 | 14.38 | 21,131 | 7.07 | 22,270 | 7.45 | 333 | 7.69 |
| 1986 | 3,003,601 | 41,713 | 13.89 | 21,007 | 6.99 | 21,843 | 7.27 | 308 | 7.33 |
| 1987 | 3,049,618 | 41,609 | 13.64 | 21,619 | 7.09 | 23,417 | 7.68 | 291 | 6.95 |
| 1988 | 3,114,765 | 42,852 | 13.76 | 22,357 | 7.18 | 24,514 | 7.87 | 295 | 6.84 |
| 1989 | 3,197,222 | 43,589 | 13.63 | 22,786 | 7.13 | 25,177 | 7.87 | 324 | 7.38 |
| 1990 | 3,290,814 | 45,341 | 13.78 | 23,415 | 7.12 | 25,226 | 7.67 | 298 | 6.53 |
| 1991 | 3,373,464 | 45,339 | 13.44 | 23,819 | 7.06 | 23,665 | 7.02 | 298 | 6.53 |
| 1992 | 3,468,445 | 46,023 | 13.27 | 24,463 | 7.05 | 23,762 | 6.85 | 297 | 6.41 |
| 1993 | 3,567,406 | 45,953 | 12.88 | 25,602 | 7.18 | 23,478 | 6.58 | 292 | 6.31 |
| 1994 | 3,675,699 | 46,828 | 12.74 | 25,830 | 7.03 | 23,772 | 6.47 | 311 | 6.60 |
| 1995 | 3,777,004 | 46,690 | 12.36 | 26,224 | 6.94 | 23,632 | 6.26 | 350 | 7.44 |
| 1996 | 3,874,276 | 45,952 | 11.86 | 27,390 | 7.07 | 22,882 | 5.91 | 292 | 6.31 |
| 1997 | 3,948,544 | 44,393 | 11.24 | 27,258 | 6.90 | 21,883 | 5.54 | 335 | 7.49 |
| 1998 | 3,983,077 | 42,862 | 10.76 | 27,806 | 6.98 | 21,778 | 5.47 | 278 | 6.44 |
| 1999 | 4,011,342 | 41,746 | 10.41 | 27,864 | 6.95 | 21,628 | 5.39 | 312 | 7.42 |
| 2000 | 4,039,198 | 40,483 | 10.02 | 27,314 | 6.76 | 22,099 | 5.47 | 309 | 7.58 |
| 2001 | 4,078,447 | 40,391 | 9.90 | 28,232 | 6.92 | 20,571 | 5.04 | 286 | 7.03 |
| 2002 | 4,115,413 | 39,897 | 9.69 | 28,709 | 6.98 | 21,261 | 5.17 | 310 | 7.71 |
| 2003 | 4,152,289 | 40,287 | 9.70 | 29,138 | 7.02 | 21,978 | 5.29 | 306 | 7.54 |
| 2004 | 4,196,383 | 40,318 | 9.61 | 29,652 | 7.07 | 22,073 | 5.26 | 280 | 6.90 |

Note: Rates shown for live births, deaths and marriages are crude rates per 1,000 population. Stillbirth rate is per 1,000 total births (live births plus stillbirths). The definition of a stillbirth was revised in 1963 and 1986 (see Glossary). Population information from BC STATS, Ministry of Management Services. Above information includes late registrations and amendments. Gender unknown included. Non-residents are excluded from all data except marriages.

FIGURE 3
**CRUDE RATES OF LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS,
 MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1950–2004

Rate Per 1,000 Population



Note: Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 1/FIGURE 3

Since 1950, as the population of British Columbia has almost quadrupled, demographic and social changes have had substantial impacts on vital events. Provincial rates for live births, stillbirths, and marriages in 2004 have fallen to about half the rates seen in 1950, while mortality rates declined by nearly a third.

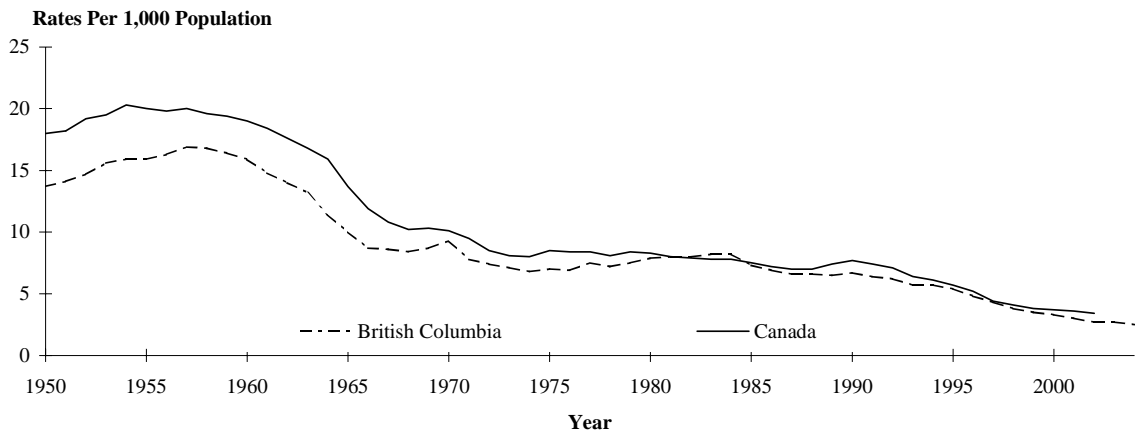
- In 2004, there were 40,318 live births in the province to B.C. residents. The number of live births increased by 31 births from 40,287 in 2003. The 2004 birth rate was 9.61 live births per 1,000 population, slightly lower than the 2003 rate of 9.70. The live birth rate in 2004 is the lowest to date.
- There were 29,652 deaths of British Columbia residents in the province in 2004, up 514 from the previous year (29,138). The crude death rate was 7.07 deaths per 1,000 population in 2004 and 7.02 in 2003.
- A total of 22,073 marriages were solemnized in the province in 2004, an increase from 21,978 marriages in 2003. The marriage rate decreased slightly in 2004 to 5.26 per 1,000 population, down from 5.29 in 2003. Marriage rates showed a downward trend from 1988 to 1999 but have since rebounded slightly.
- There were 280 stillbirths to B.C. residents in 2004, a decrease from 306 in 2003. The stillbirth rate was 6.90 per 1,000 total births (live births and stillbirths) in 2004. Stillbirth rates have fluctuated between 6.31 and 7.58 in the last decade.

TABLE 2
NATURAL POPULATION INCREASES
 BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950–2004

| Year | Rate | | Year | Rate | |
|------|------|--------|------|------|--------|
| | B.C. | Canada | | B.C. | Canada |
| 1950 | 13.7 | 18.0 | 1977 | 7.5 | 8.4 |
| 1951 | 14.1 | 18.2 | 1978 | 7.2 | 8.1 |
| 1952 | 14.7 | 19.2 | 1979 | 7.5 | 8.4 |
| 1953 | 15.6 | 19.5 | 1980 | 7.9 | 8.3 |
| 1954 | 15.9 | 20.3 | 1981 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| 1955 | 15.9 | 20.0 | 1982 | 8.0 | 7.9 |
| 1956 | 16.3 | 19.8 | 1983 | 8.2 | 7.8 |
| 1957 | 16.9 | 20.0 | 1984 | 8.2 | 7.8 |
| 1958 | 16.8 | 19.6 | 1985 | 7.3 | 7.5 |
| 1959 | 16.4 | 19.4 | 1986 | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| 1960 | 15.9 | 19.0 | 1987 | 6.6 | 7.0 |
| 1961 | 14.8 | 18.4 | 1988 | 6.6 | 7.0 |
| 1962 | 14.0 | 17.6 | 1989 | 6.5 | 7.4 |
| 1963 | 13.2 | 16.8 | 1990 | 6.7 | 7.7 |
| 1964 | 11.4 | 15.9 | 1991 | 6.4 | 7.4 |
| 1965 | 10.0 | 13.7 | 1992 | 6.2 | 7.1 |
| 1966 | 8.7 | 11.9 | 1993 | 5.7 | 6.4 |
| 1967 | 8.6 | 10.8 | 1994 | 5.7 | 6.1 |
| 1968 | 8.4 | 10.2 | 1995 | 5.4 | 5.7 |
| 1969 | 8.7 | 10.3 | 1996 | 4.8 | 5.2 |
| 1970 | 9.3 | 10.1 | 1997 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| 1971 | 7.8 | 9.5 | 1998 | 3.8 | 4.1 |
| 1972 | 7.4 | 8.5 | 1999 | 3.5 | 3.8 |
| 1973 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 2000 | 3.3 | 3.7 |
| 1974 | 6.8 | 8.0 | 2001 | 3.0 | 3.6 |
| 1975 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 2002 | 2.7 | 3.4 |
| 1976 | 6.9 | 8.4 | 2003 | 2.7 | * |
| | | | 2004 | 2.5 | * |

Note: Rates shown are rates of natural population increase per 1,000 population. Canadian rates from Statistics Canada. *Rates for Canada were not available. Non-residents are excluded.

FIGURE 4
NATURAL POPULATION INCREASES
 BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1950–2004



Note: Rates for Canada for 2002 and 2003 were not available.

HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 2/FIGURE 4

- In 2004, the 40,318 live births and 29,652 deaths in the province produced a rate of natural population growth of 2.5 per 1,000 population, down slightly from 2.7 in 2003. Immigration and emigration are not included in natural population growth rates.
- The pattern of natural population growth rates follows the trends seen in the live birth rates. After high rates in the 1950s, natural population growth rates decreased rapidly in the 1960s as birth and death rates both declined. Since the mid 1980s, the small but steady decline in the natural population growth rate resulted from declining birth rates and relatively stable death rates. The 2004 rate of natural population growth for B.C. was the lowest since 1950.
- Except for four years from 1981 to 1984, the B.C. rate of natural population growth has been consistently below the Canadian rate each year.

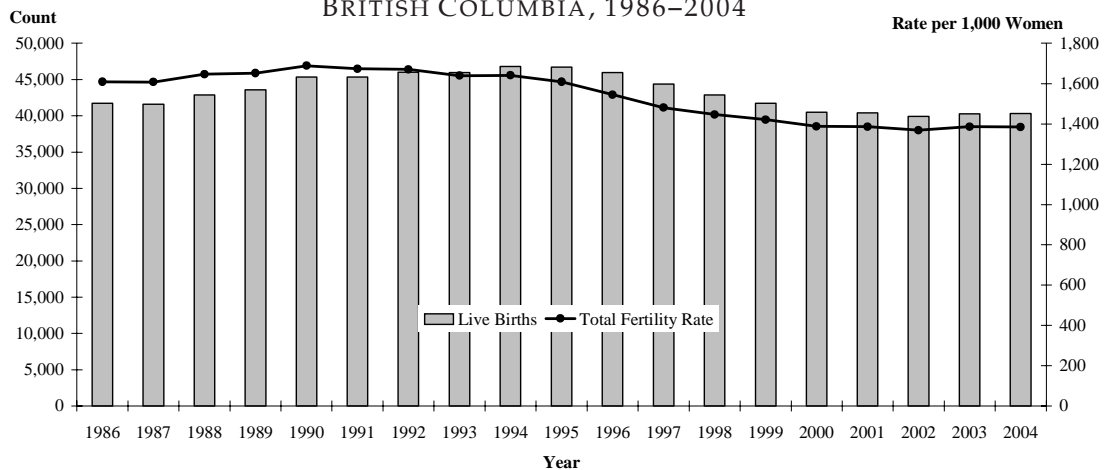
TABLE 3
TOTAL FERTILITY RATES
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1950–2004

| Year | Total Fertility | | Year | Total Fertility | |
|------|-----------------|-------------|------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Rate | Live Births | | Rate | Live Births |
| 1950 | 3,074 | 27,116 | 1978 | 1,620 | 37,231 |
| 1951 | 3,201 | 28,077 | 1979 | 1,721 | 38,432 |
| 1952 | 3,327 | 29,827 | 1980 | 1,716 | 40,104 |
| 1953 | 3,542 | 31,746 | 1981 | 1,718 | 41,679 |
| 1954 | 3,656 | 32,946 | 1982 | 1,749 | 42,942 |
| 1955 | 3,748 | 34,138 | 1983 | 1,751 | 43,047 |
| 1956 | 3,875 | 36,241 | 1984 | 1,781 | 44,040 |
| 1957 | 3,921 | 38,744 | 1985 | 1,642 | 42,989 |
| 1958 | 3,900 | 39,577 | 1986 | 1,608 | 41,713 |
| 1959 | 3,958 | 39,971 | 1987 | 1,608 | 41,609 |
| 1960 | 3,949 | 40,116 | 1988 | 1,646 | 42,852 |
| 1961 | 3,785 | 38,591 | 1989 | 1,651 | 43,589 |
| 1962 | 3,709 | 38,128 | 1990 | 1,689 | 45,341 |
| 1963 | 3,564 | 37,478 | 1991 | 1,673 | 45,339 |
| 1964 | 3,284 | 35,897 | 1992 | 1,670 | 46,023 |
| 1965 | 2,710 | 33,669 | 1993 | 1,639 | 45,953 |
| 1966 | 2,442 | 32,502 | 1994 | 1,641 | 46,828 |
| 1967 | 2,307 | 32,899 | 1995 | 1,608 | 46,690 |
| 1968 | 2,228 | 33,687 | 1996 | 1,544 | 45,952 |
| 1969 | 2,223 | 35,383 | 1997 | 1,480 | 44,393 |
| 1970 | 2,185 | 36,861 | 1998 | 1,446 | 42,862 |
| 1971 | 1,994 | 34,852 | 1999 | 1,421 | 41,746 |
| 1972 | 1,890 | 34,563 | 2000 | 1,388 | 40,483 |
| 1973 | 1,751 | 34,352 | 2001 | 1,386 | 40,391 |
| 1974 | 1,735 | 35,450 | 2002 | 1,369 | 39,897 |
| 1975 | 1,682 | 36,281 | 2003 | 1,386 | 40,287 |
| 1976 | 1,618 | 35,848 | 2004 | 1,384 | 40,318 |
| 1977 | 1,636 | 36,691 | | | |

Note: Total Fertility Rate – Sum of age-specific fertility rates multiplied by the number of years in each age group (see Glossary for definition). Rates per 1,000 women age 15 to 44. Non-residents are excluded.

FIGURE 5

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES AND NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004

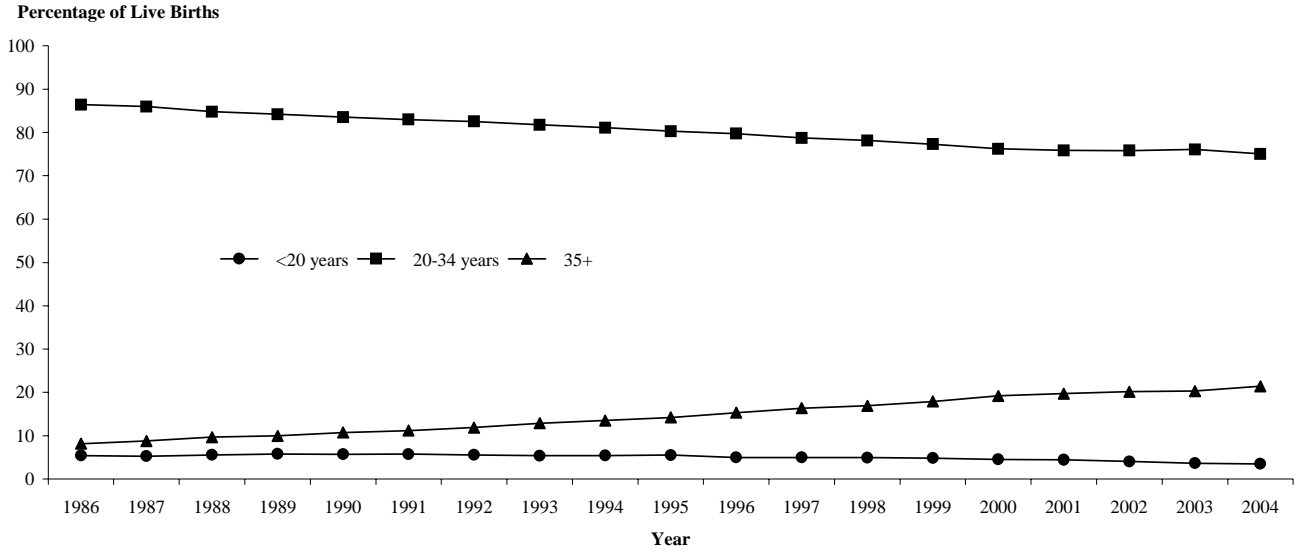


HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 3/FIGURE 5

The total fertility rate (TFR) is the number of births 1,000 women can expect over their childbearing years, based on current age specific fertility.

- The Total Fertility Rate for B.C. was 1,384 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years of age) in 2004, almost unchanged from 1,386 in 2003. Based on the TFR, the average woman in 2004 would have 1.4 live births in her lifetime.
- The total fertility rate is on a long term downward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level).

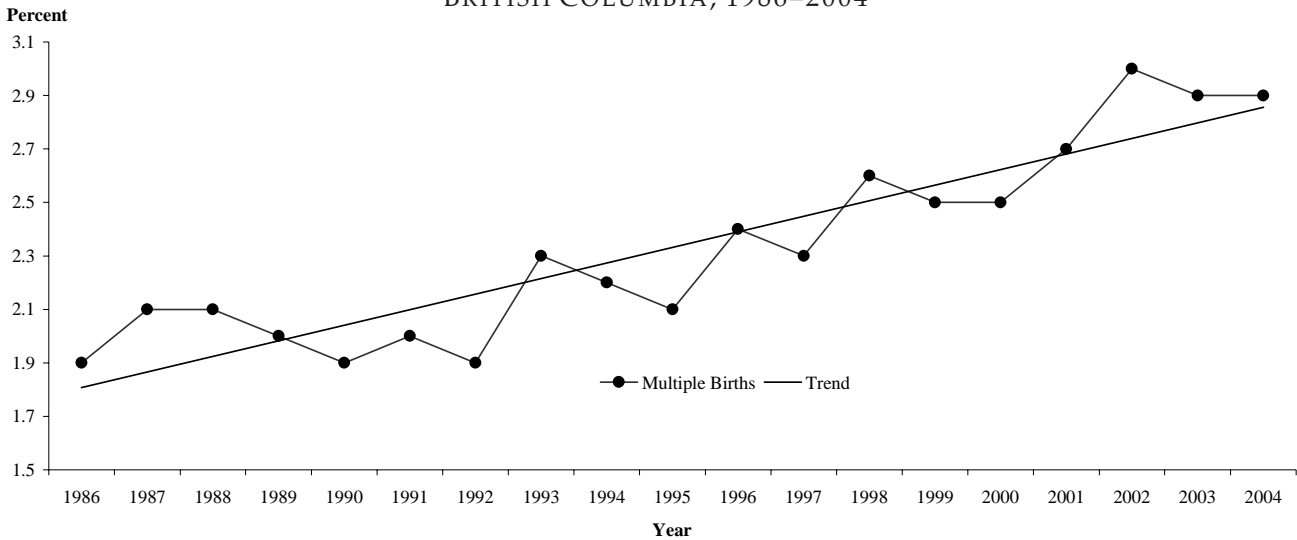
FIGURE 6
LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE OF MOTHER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 6

- Mothers in B.C. are getting older. Mothers 35 and older (elderly gravida) comprised 21.4% of all mothers in 2004, the highest percentage ever for this group. In contrast teen mothers made up 3.5 per cent of all mothers, the lowest percentage ever for this group.
- The long term trend is for a higher percentage of elderly gravida and a lower percentage for teen mothers. Both trends are statistically significant at the 95% level.

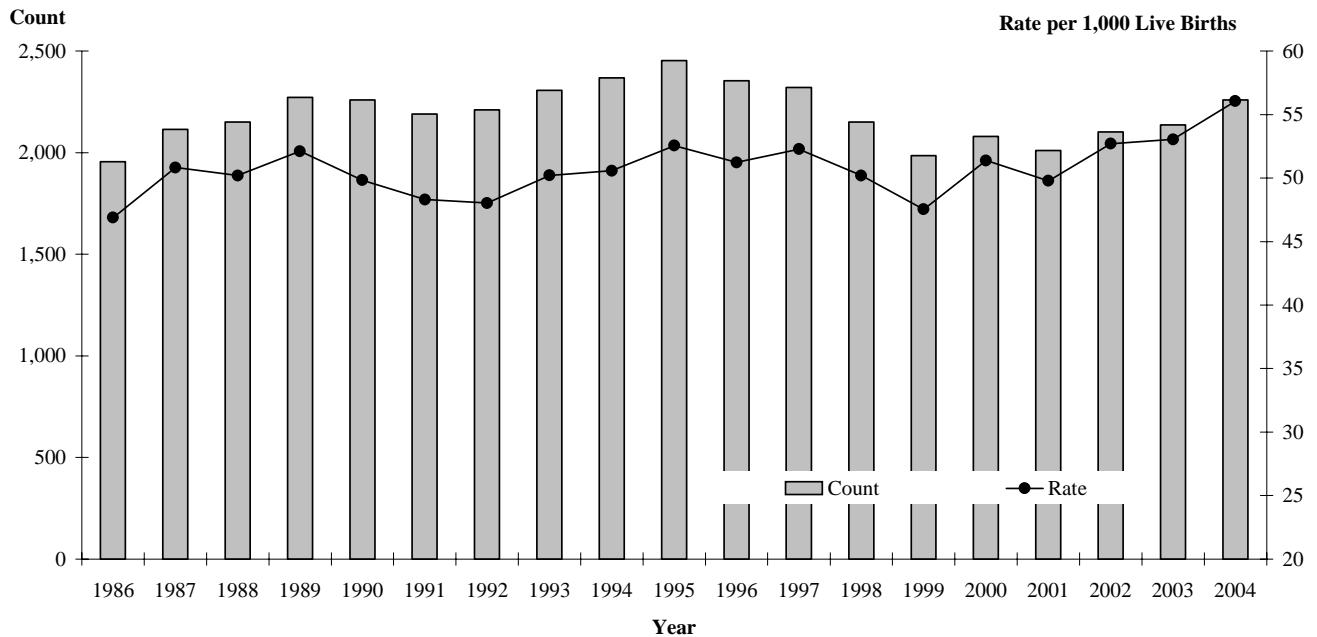
FIGURE 7
MULTIPLE BIRTHS AS A PERCENTAGE OF LIVE BIRTHS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 7

- Multiple births as a percentage of total live births have increased from 1.9% in 1986 to 2.9% in 2004. The upward trend is statistically significant at the 95% level.

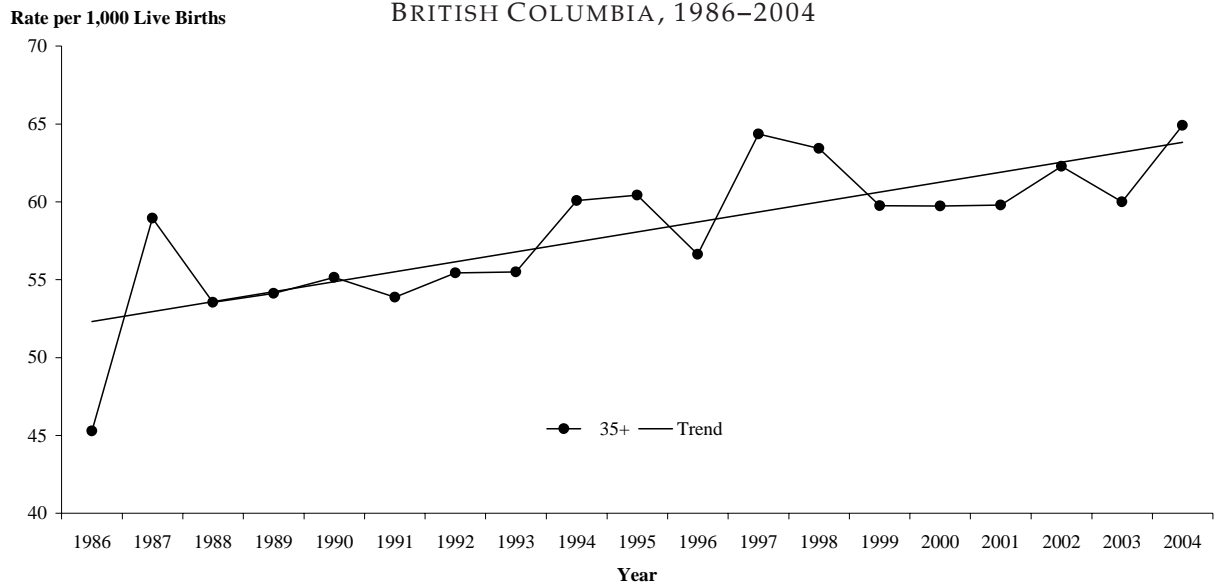
FIGURE 8
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT LIVE BIRTHS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 8

- There were 2,260 babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams in 2004 compared to 2,137 in 2003. The rate increased to 56.05 per 1,000 live births in 2004 from 53.04 per 1,000 live births in 2003.
- There is a statistically significant increasing trend in the rate of low birth weight babies over the period 1986–2004.

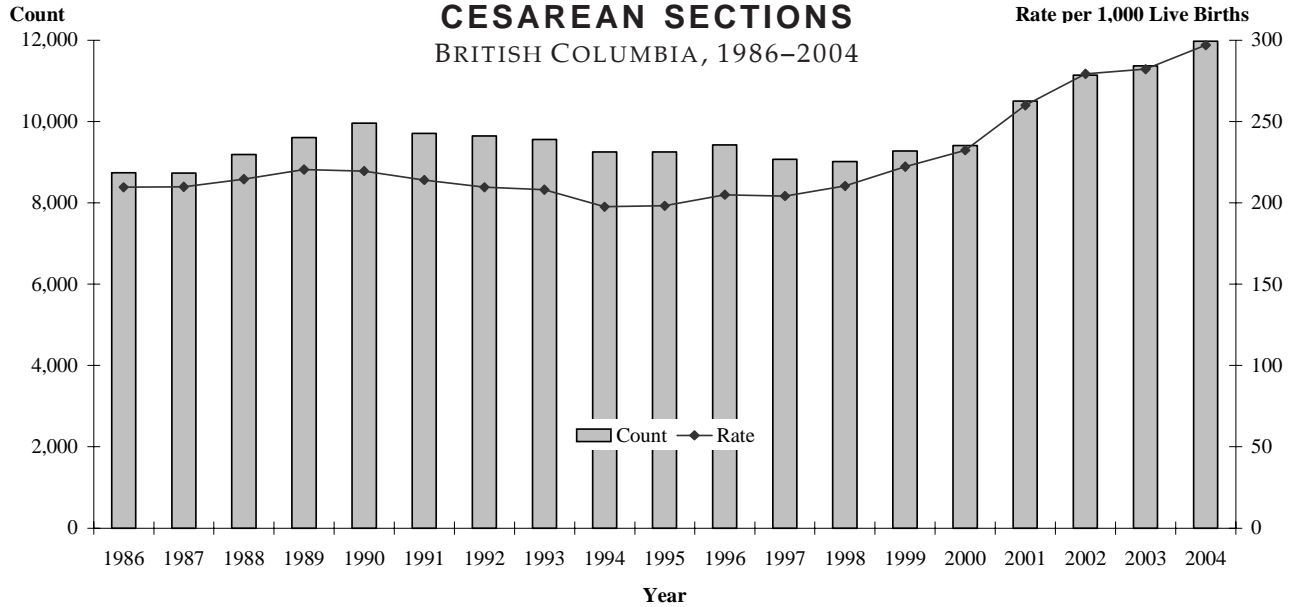
FIGURE 9
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT LIVE BIRTHS FOR MOTHERS AGED 35+
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 9

- In 2004 there were 64.89 low birth weight babies born for every 1,000 live births by an older mother, up from 59.99 in 2003.
- There is an upward trend in the percentage of low birth weight babies born to older mothers (statistically significant at the 95% level).

FIGURE 10
CESAREAN SECTIONS
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 10

- There were 11,973 live births delivered by cesarean section in 2004, up from 11,368 in 2003. The rate of c-sections increased from 282.18 per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 296.96 per 1,000 live births in 2004.
- The upward trend in the rate of c-sections since 1986 is statistically significant (at the 95% level) and the trend appears to be accelerating in recent years.

FIGURE 11
CESAREAN SECTIONS BY HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AREA
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 11

- The rate of c-section deliveries varies considerably across the province, ranging from a low of 23.6 per cent of live births in B.C. for mothers whose usual residence is HSDA 12 Kootenay Boundary to a high of 33.8 per cent of live births for mothers whose usual residence is in 41 South Vancouver Island. B.C. residents, especially those living in Kootenay Boundary, East Kootenay, and the Northeast HSDAs, may give birth in Alberta hospitals, resulting in an undercount of live births and c-section rates for these HSDAs.

FIGURE 12
CESAREAN SECTIONS BY AGE OF MOTHER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 12

- Province wide, the rate of c-section births is much higher for mothers aged 35 or older (380.57 per 1,000 live births in 2004) than for other age groups (194.43 per 1,000 and 277.61 per 1,000 live births for the <20 and 20-34 year old mothers respectively). The rate for teen mothers is the lowest of the three categories considered.
- The trend is statistically significant (at the 95% level) for all mothers ages, that is, all ages show evidence that c-section rates are accelerating in recent years.

TABLE 4
INFANT MORTALITY
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA, 1965–2004

| Year | British Columbia Age at Death (in Days) | | | | | | | | Canada | |
|------|--|-------|-----------|-------|-------------|------|------|--------|--------|------|
| | 0–6 Days | | 0–27 Days | | 28–364 Days | | N.S. | Total | | Rate |
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | | Number | Rate | |
| 1965 | 415 | 12.33 | 453 | 13.45 | 227 | 6.74 | 3 | 683 | 20.29 | 24.0 |
| 1966 | 435 | 13.38 | 494 | 15.20 | 263 | 8.09 | 4 | 761 | 23.41 | 23.1 |
| 1967 | 429 | 13.04 | 470 | 14.29 | 218 | 6.63 | 1 | 689 | 20.94 | 22.0 |
| 1968 | 375 | 11.13 | 438 | 13.00 | 214 | 6.35 | 4 | 656 | 19.47 | 21.0 |
| 1969 | 329 | 9.30 | 374 | 10.57 | 199 | 5.62 | - | 573 | 16.19 | 19.0 |
| 1970 | 369 | 10.01 | 416 | 11.29 | 193 | 5.24 | 2 | 611 | 16.58 | 19.0 |
| 1971 | 409 | 11.74 | 450 | 12.91 | 185 | 5.31 | - | 635 | 18.22 | 17.5 |
| 1972 | 322 | 9.32 | 373 | 10.79 | 195 | 5.64 | 1 | 569 | 16.46 | 17.0 |
| 1973 | 317 | 9.23 | 363 | 10.57 | 185 | 5.39 | 3 | 551 | 16.04 | 16.0 |
| 1974 | 310 | 8.74 | 348 | 9.82 | 196 | 5.53 | 2 | 546 | 15.40 | 15.0 |
| 1975 | 278 | 7.66 | 321 | 8.85 | 169 | 4.66 | 1 | 491 | 13.53 | 14.3 |
| 1976 | 292 | 8.15 | 324 | 9.04 | 152 | 4.24 | 2 | 478 | 13.33 | 13.5 |
| 1977 | 246 | 6.70 | 276 | 7.52 | 200 | 5.45 | - | 476 | 12.97 | 12.4 |
| 1978 | 245 | 6.58 | 286 | 7.68 | 178 | 4.78 | - | 464 | 12.46 | 12.0 |
| 1979 | 196 | 5.10 | 239 | 6.22 | 167 | 4.35 | - | 406 | 10.56 | 10.9 |
| 1980 | 188 | 4.69 | 235 | 5.86 | 186 | 4.64 | - | 421 | 10.50 | 10.4 |
| 1981 | 232 | 5.57 | 259 | 6.21 | 140 | 3.36 | 3 | 402 | 9.65 | 9.6 |
| 1982 | 217 | 5.05 | 251 | 5.85 | 150 | 3.49 | - | 401 | 9.34 | 9.1 |
| 1983 | 193 | 4.48 | 212 | 4.92 | 145 | 3.37 | 2 | 359 | 8.34 | 8.5 |
| 1984 | 184 | 4.18 | 205 | 4.65 | 150 | 3.41 | 1 | 356 | 8.08 | 8.1 |
| 1985 | 180 | 4.19 | 198 | 4.61 | 133 | 3.09 | - | 331 | 7.70 | 8.0 |
| 1986 | 164 | 3.93 | 195 | 4.67 | 147 | 3.52 | - | 342 | 8.20 | 7.9 |
| 1987 | 159 | 3.82 | 195 | 4.69 | 160 | 3.85 | - | 355 | 8.53 | 7.3 |
| 1988 | 191 | 4.46 | 220 | 5.13 | 136 | 3.17 | - | 356 | 8.31 | 7.2 |
| 1989 | 186 | 4.27 | 215 | 4.93 | 138 | 3.17 | - | 353 | 8.10 | 7.3 |
| 1990 | 183 | 4.04 | 221 | 4.87 | 112 | 2.47 | - | 333 | 7.34 | 6.8 |
| 1991 | 140 | 3.09 | 164 | 3.62 | 126 | 2.78 | - | 290 | 6.40 | 6.4 |
| 1992 | 153 | 3.32 | 173 | 3.76 | 104 | 2.26 | - | 277 | 6.02 | 6.1 |
| 1993 | 121 | 2.63 | 139 | 3.02 | 110 | 2.39 | - | 249 | 5.42 | 6.3 |
| 1994 | 175 | 3.74 | 198 | 4.23 | 90 | 1.92 | - | 288 | 6.15 | 6.3 |
| 1995 | 158 | 3.38 | 181 | 3.88 | 94 | 2.01 | - | 275 | 5.89 | 6.1 |
| 1996 | 133 | 2.89 | 160 | 3.48 | 68 | 1.48 | - | 228 | 4.96 | 5.6 |
| 1997 | 125 | 2.82 | 146 | 3.29 | 56 | 1.26 | - | 202 | 4.55 | 5.5 |
| 1998 | 94 | 2.19 | 114 | 2.66 | 60 | 1.40 | - | 174 | 4.06 | 5.3 |
| 1999 | 87 | 2.08 | 108 | 2.59 | 51 | 1.22 | - | 159 | 3.81 | 5.3 |
| 2000 | 84 | 2.07 | 105 | 2.59 | 45 | 1.11 | - | 150 | 3.71 | 5.3 |
| 2001 | 103 | 2.55 | 126 | 3.12 | 36 | 0.89 | - | 162 | 4.01 | 5.2 |
| 2002 | 98 | 2.46 | 125 | 3.13 | 54 | 1.35 | - | 179 | 4.49 | 5.4 |
| 2003 | 103 | 2.56 | 119 | 2.95 | 47 | 1.17 | - | 166 | 4.12 | * |
| 2004 | 108 | 2.68 | 122 | 3.03 | 46 | 1.14 | - | 168 | 4.17 | * |

Note: Rates per 1,000 live births in the specified year.

N.S. – Not stated.

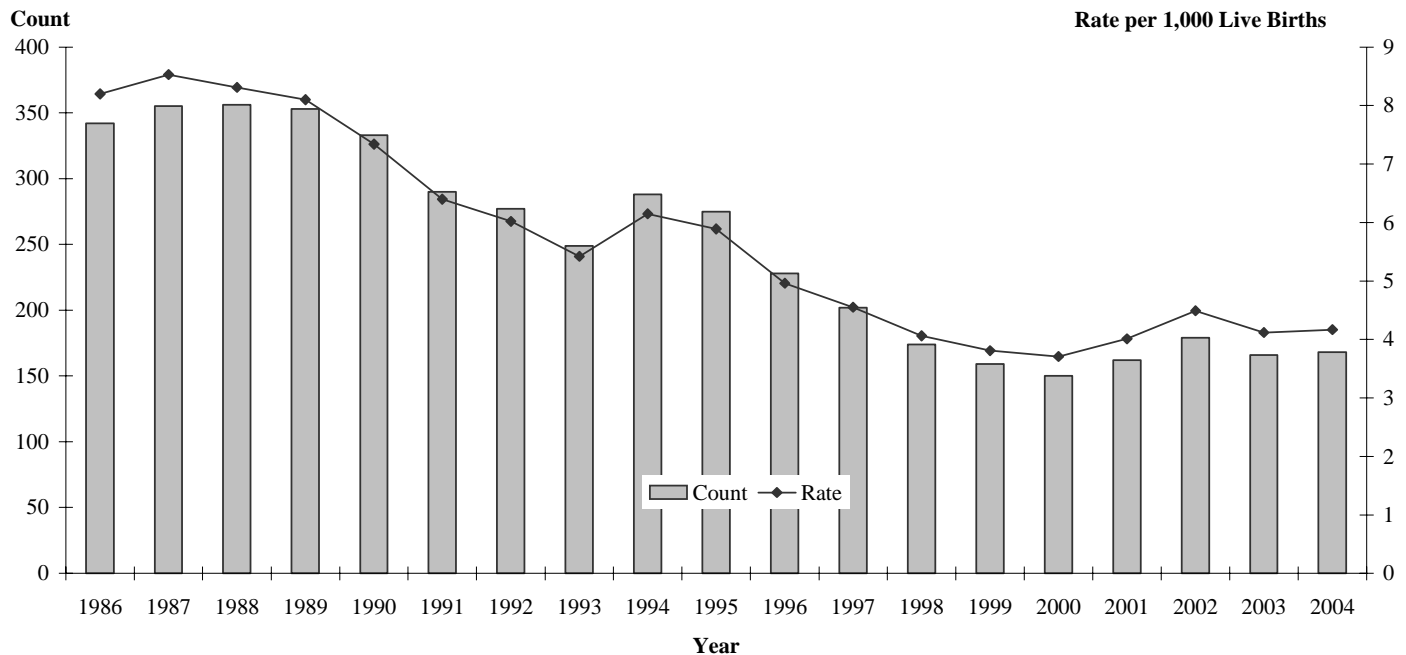
Above information includes late registrations and amendments.

Canadian rates from Statistics Canada.

*Rates were not available.

Non-residents are excluded.

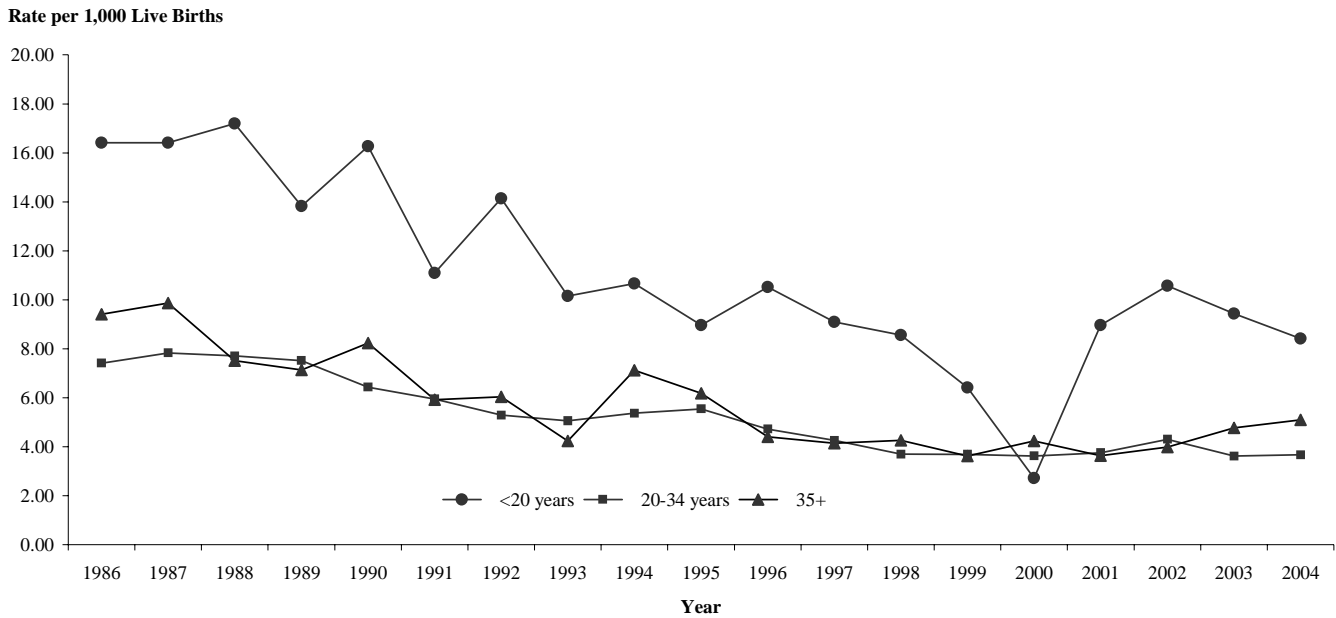
FIGURE 13
INFANT MORTALITY
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 4/FIGURE 13

- In 2004, there were 168 infant deaths (age at death less than one year) in the province, for an infant mortality rate of 4.17 per 1,000 live births. In 2003, there were 166 infant deaths and an infant mortality rate of 4.12 per 1,000 live births. The smallest numbers and lowest rates of infant mortality occurred in 1999 and 2000.
- The rate of infant deaths in the province has been on a downward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level).
- Infant mortality rates in B.C. have fallen dramatically to one fifth of the rates seen in 1965. Decreases in early neonatal mortality (age at death less than seven days) and neonatal mortality (age at death less than 28 days) have been major contributors to the overall decline in infant mortality rates over this time period. In Canada infant mortality rates have also fallen to approximately one fifth of the rates seen in 1965.
- Since 1992, the B.C. infant mortality rate has been consistently below the Canadian rate.

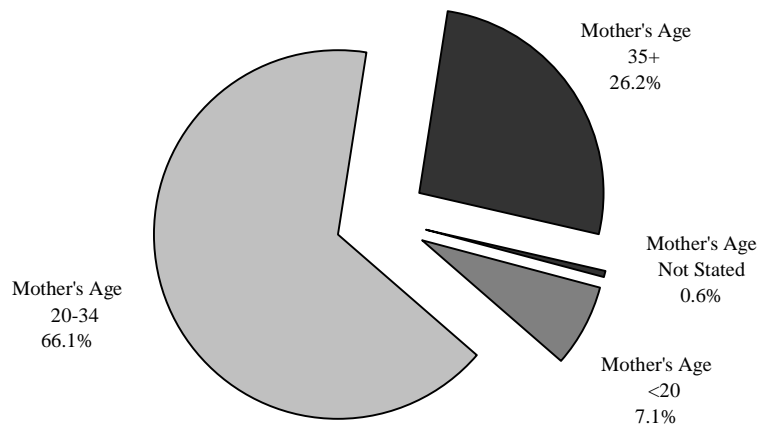
FIGURE 14
INFANT MORTALITY BY AGE OF MOTHER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 14

- Teen mothers had the highest rate of infant deaths in 2004 and every year since 1986 except for 2000.
- All three age groups (<20, 20-34 and 35+) are experiencing a downward trend in infant deaths (statistically significant at the 95% level).

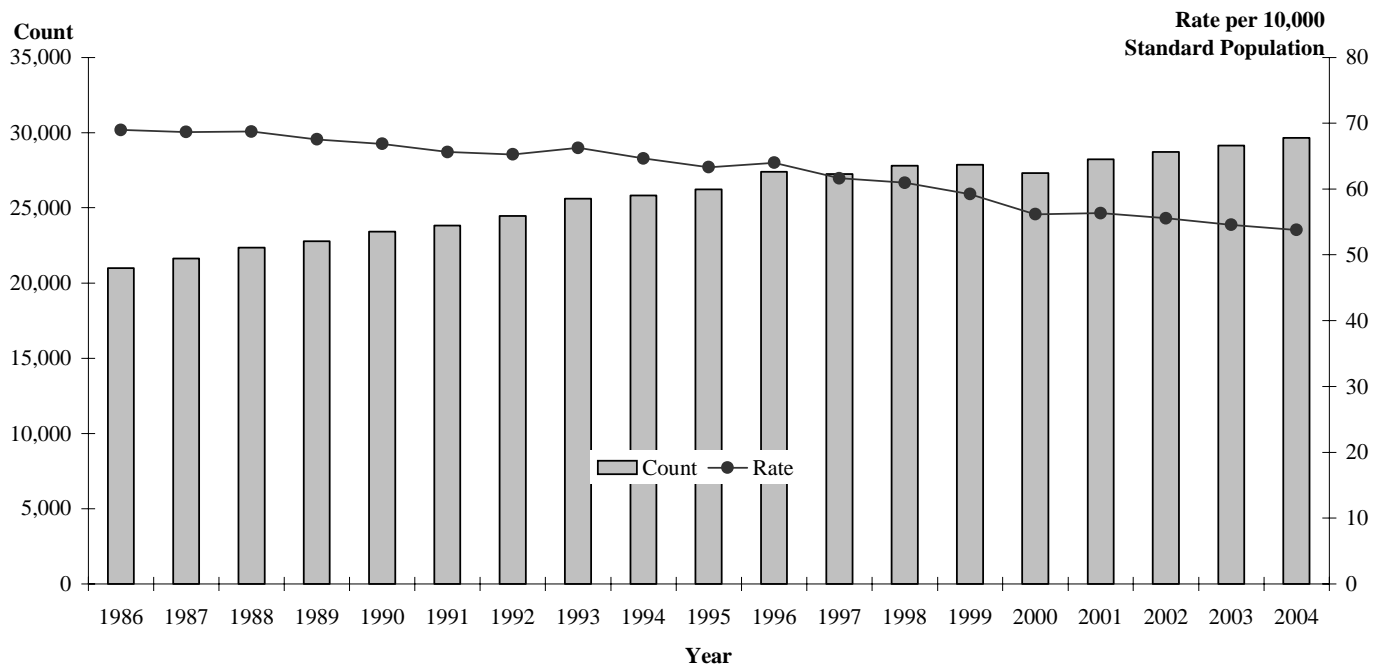
FIGURE 15
PERCENTAGE OF INFANT MORTALITY BY AGE OF MOTHER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 15

- Despite the relatively low rate of infant deaths among mothers aged 20-34, this group experienced two thirds (66.1%) of the infant deaths in 2004 because they are by far the largest age category of mother.
- Despite having the highest rate of infant death, teen mothers experienced only 7.1% of the infant deaths in the province because of the low number of teen mothers.

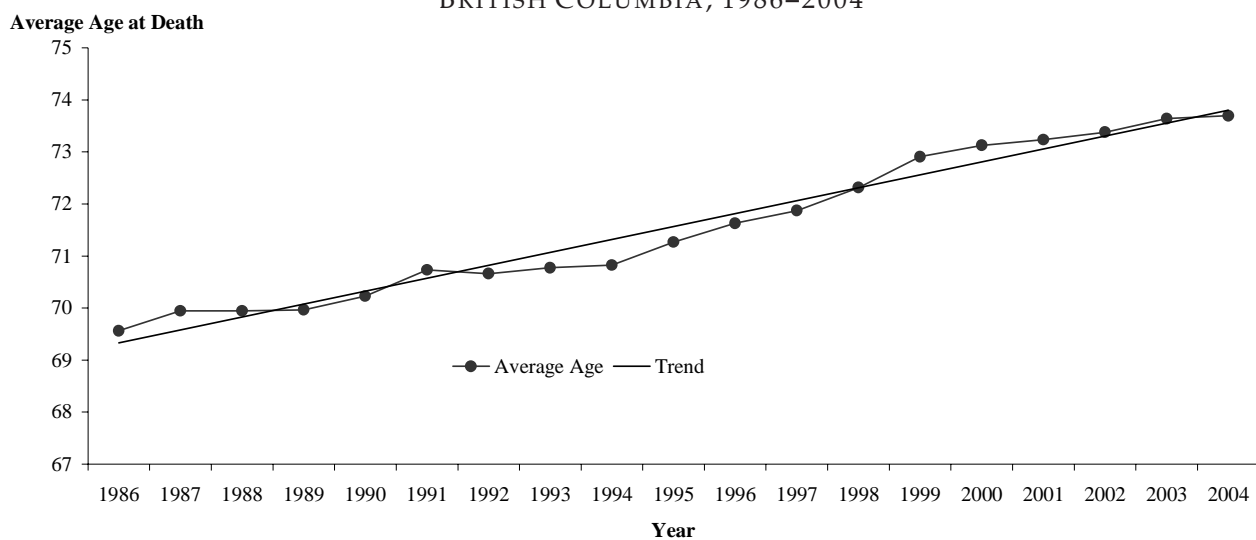
FIGURE 16
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, ALL CAUSES OF DEATH
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 16

- There were 29,652 deaths of British Columbia residents in the province in 2004, up from 29,138 in 2003. Despite the increase in the number of deaths, an aging population allowed the Age Standardized Mortality Rate (ASMR) for all deaths to fall from 54.19 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 to 53.42 in 2004.
- The provincial ASMR has been on a downward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level) since 1986 and is currently at an historic low.

FIGURE 17
AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2004

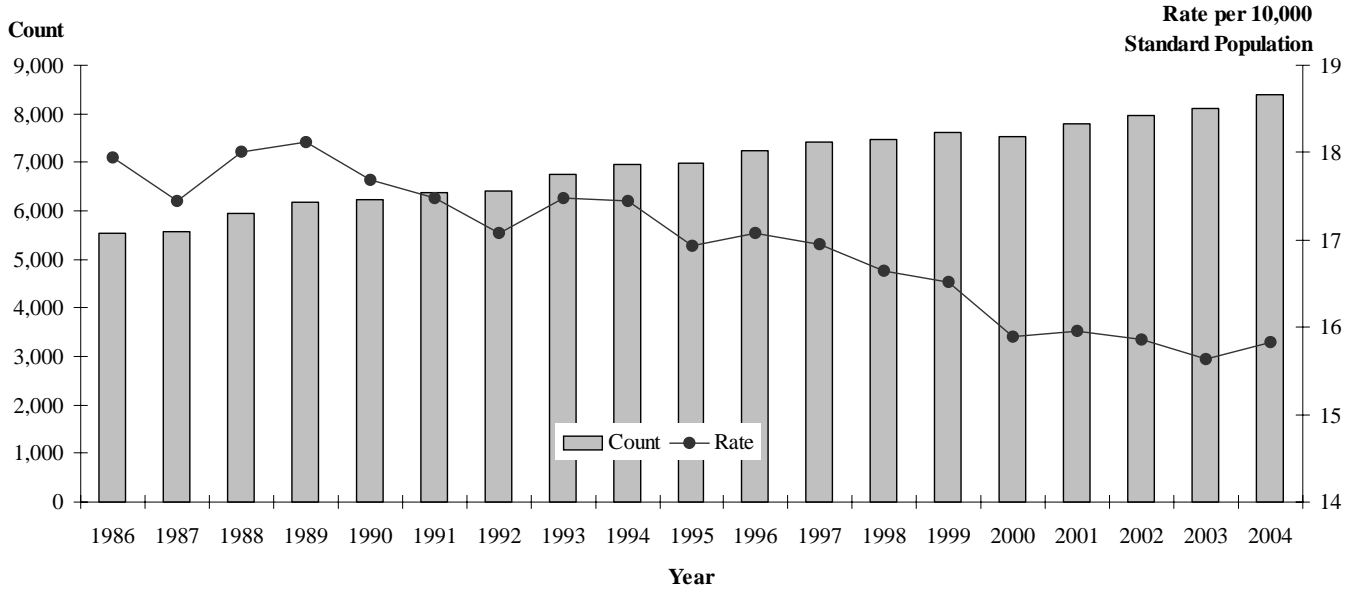


Based on 5 year age groups to 85+

HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 17

- The trend in average age at death (not life-expectancy) has seen the average age increase from 69.6 years in 1986 to 73.7 years in 2004 (statistically significant increasing trend at the 95% level).

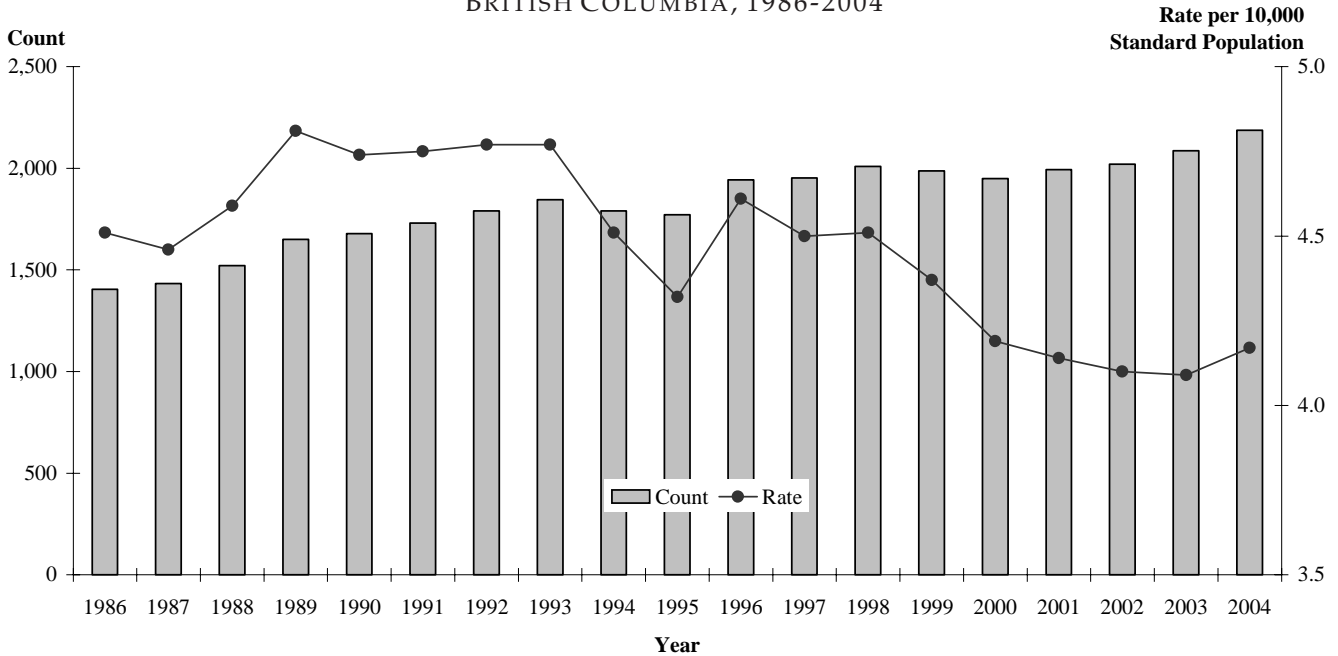
FIGURE 18
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS (CANCER)
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 18

- The number of B.C. residents who died from malignant neoplasms (cancer) rose to 8,401 in 2004 from 8,108 in 2003. The ASMR for malignant neoplasms rose from 15.58 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 to 15.77 in 2004.
- Despite the current increase, there is a downward trend in the ASMR for cancer deaths (statistically significant at the 95% level).

FIGURE 19
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF LUNG
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 19

- Deaths from malignant neoplasm of lung (lung cancer) in 2004 increased to 2,188, up 102 from the 2,086 deaths in 2003. The ASMR was 4.17 per 10,000 standard population in 2004, up slightly from the rate in 2003 (4.08).
- The ASMR for malignant neoplasm of lung is on a downward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level) after being level in the early 1990s.

FIGURE 20
DEATH RATES BY GENDER, MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF LUNG
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 20

- The ASMR for malignant neoplasm of trachea and lung (lung cancer) in males in 2004 (4.86 per 10,000 standard population) was down slightly compared to the rate in 2003 (4.97), and the lowest since at least 1986. The downward trend in the ASMR for malignant neoplasm of lung in males is statistically significant at the 95% level.
- The ASMR for malignant neoplasm of lung for females in 2004 (3.65 per 10,000 standard population) was up compared to the rate in 2003 (3.40). The increasing trend in the ASMR for malignant neoplasm of lung in females is statistically significant at the 95% level.

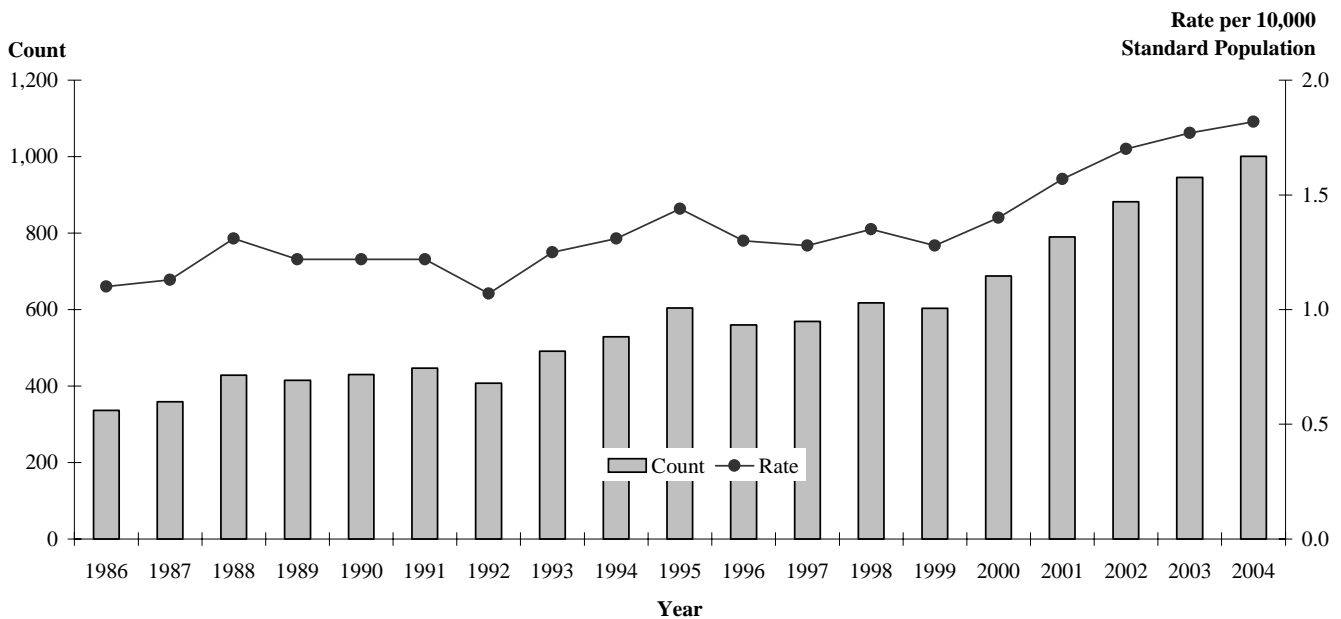
FIGURE 21
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISEASES
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 21

- There were 1,249 deaths from endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic disorders to B.C. residents in 2004. This was an increase of 50 from the 1,199 in 2003. The ASMR for endocrine, nutritional and metabolic disease was 2.23 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 and 2.26 in 2004.
- Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic disease death rates are on an upward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level).

FIGURE 22
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, DIABETES MELLITUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 22

- In 2004, 80.1 % of the endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic disease deaths were due to diabetes. There were 1,001 deaths from diabetes in 2004 up from 946 in 2003. The ASMR for diabetes increased as well, from 1.76 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 to 1.81 in 2004.
- The long term upward trend in the ASMR from diabetes is statistically significant at the 95% level.

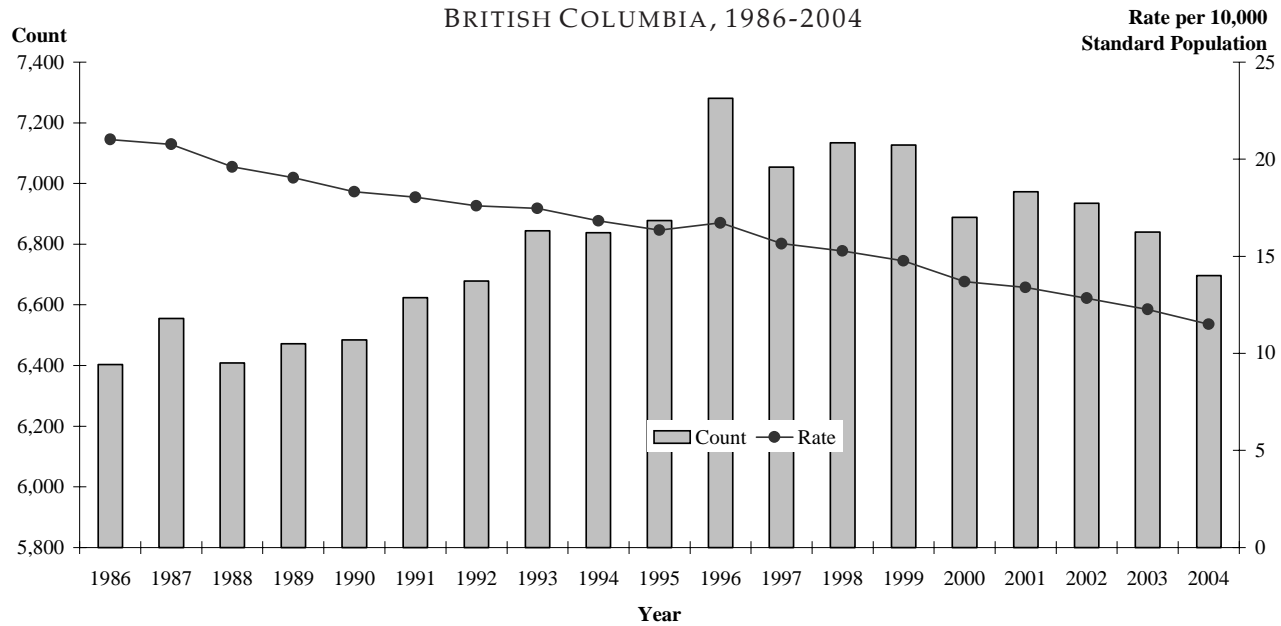
FIGURE 23
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASES
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 23

- The number of deaths from diseases of the nervous system decreased slightly to 1,148 deaths in 2004, from 1,157 in 2003. The ASMR decreased from 2.08 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 to 1.99 in 2004.
- Despite the current drop in the ASMR, there is an upward trend in the ASMR of diseases of the nervous system (statistically significant at the 95% level).

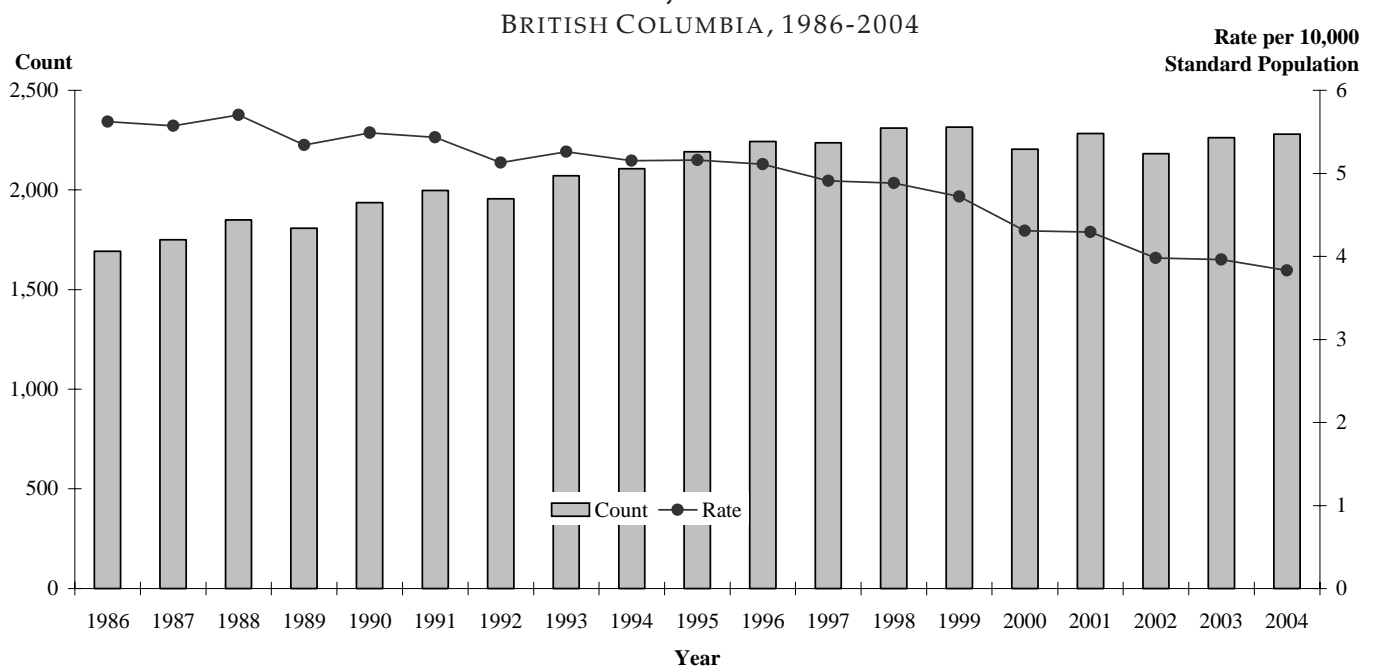
FIGURE 24 DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 24

- There were 6,697 deaths from cardiovascular diseases in 2004, down from 6,840 in 2003. The ASMR for cardiovascular diseases also dipped from 12.14 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 to 11.38.
- The rate of deaths from cardiovascular diseases continues a downward trend (statistically significant at the 95% level), which has seen the ASMR drop each year from 21.02 per 10,000 standard population in 1986 to 11.38.

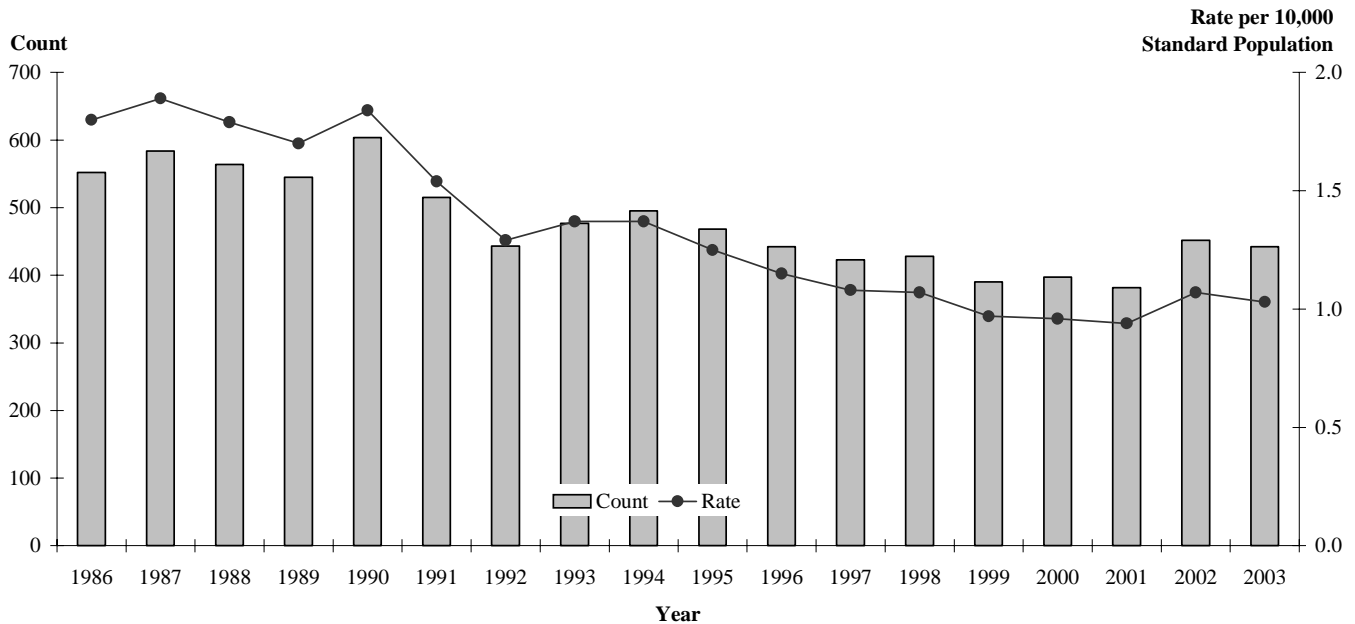
FIGURE 25 DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES



HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 25

- There were 2,280 deaths from cerebrovascular diseases in 2004, up from 2,262 in 2003. The ASMR for cerebrovascular diseases in 2004 (3.79 deaths per 10,000 standard population) was down slightly from 2003 (3.91).
- There is a downward trend in the ASMR for cerebrovascular diseases over the period 1986-2004 (statistically significant at the 95% level).

FIGURE 26
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES, MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1986–2003*



Note: *Data for 2004 is not presented because of known delays in determining causes of death. This means that counts and rates for external causes of death calculated from current year data are known to be severe underestimates of the actual figures.

HIGHLIGHTS TO FIGURE 26

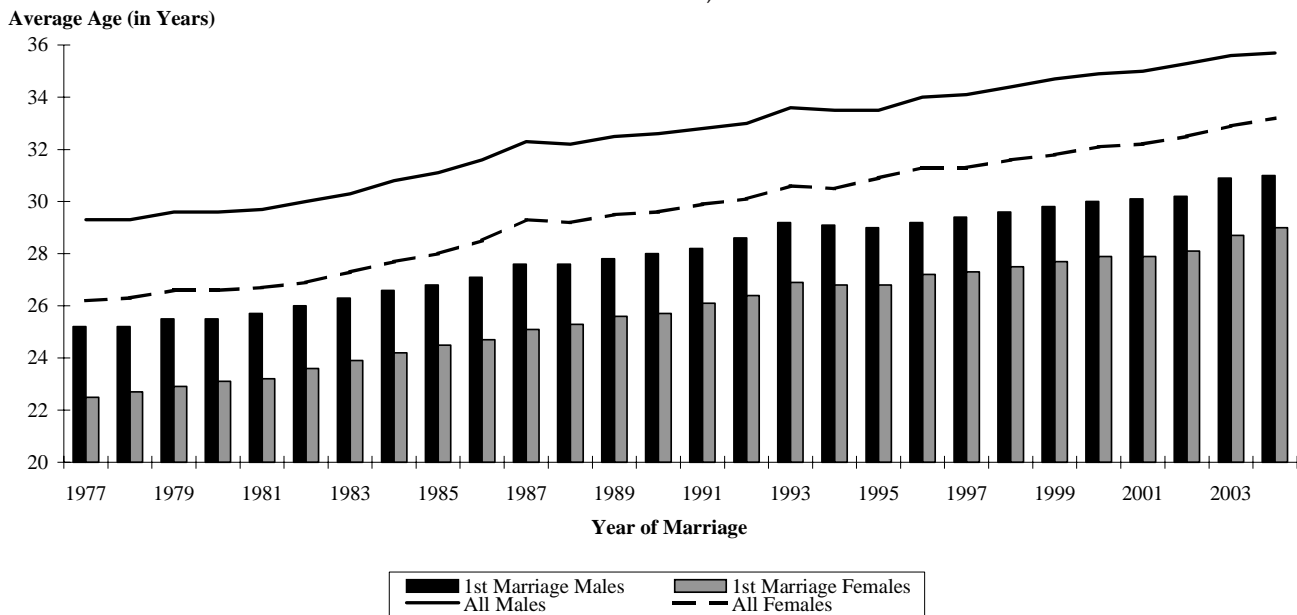
Data for 2004 are not presented because of known delays in determining causes of death. This means that counts and rates for external causes of death calculated from current year data are known to be severe underestimates of the actual figures.

- There were 442 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents (MVA) to B.C. residents in 2003, a decrease from 452 deaths in 2002. The ASMR for MVAs decreased to 1.03 per 10,000 standard population in 2003 from 1.07 in 2002.
- There is a long term downward trend in MVA death rates (statistically significant at the 95% level). The ASMR has dropped from 1.80 per 10,000 standard population in 1986 to 1.03 in 2003.

TABLE 5
AGE OF FIRST AND ALL MARRIAGES
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977-2004

| Year of Marriage | Average Age (in Years) | | | | Year of Marriage | Average Age (in Years) | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | First Marriage | | All Marriages | | | First Marriage | | All Marriages | |
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| 1977 | 25.2 | 22.5 | 29.3 | 26.2 | 1991 | 28.2 | 26.1 | 32.8 | 29.9 |
| 1978 | 25.2 | 22.7 | 29.3 | 26.3 | 1992 | 28.6 | 26.4 | 33.0 | 30.1 |
| 1979 | 25.5 | 22.9 | 29.6 | 26.6 | 1993 | 29.2 | 26.9 | 33.6 | 30.6 |
| 1980 | 25.5 | 23.1 | 29.6 | 26.6 | 1994 | 29.1 | 26.8 | 33.5 | 30.5 |
| 1981 | 25.7 | 23.2 | 29.7 | 26.7 | 1995 | 29.0 | 26.8 | 33.5 | 30.9 |
| 1982 | 26.0 | 23.6 | 30.0 | 26.9 | 1996 | 29.2 | 27.2 | 34.0 | 31.3 |
| 1983 | 26.3 | 23.9 | 30.3 | 27.3 | 1997 | 29.4 | 27.3 | 34.1 | 31.3 |
| 1984 | 26.6 | 24.2 | 30.8 | 27.7 | 1998 | 29.6 | 27.5 | 34.4 | 31.6 |
| 1985 | 26.8 | 24.5 | 31.1 | 28.0 | 1999 | 29.8 | 27.7 | 34.7 | 31.8 |
| 1986 | 27.1 | 24.7 | 31.6 | 28.5 | 2000 | 30.0 | 27.9 | 34.9 | 32.1 |
| 1987 | 27.6 | 25.1 | 32.3 | 29.3 | 2001 | 30.1 | 27.9 | 35.0 | 32.2 |
| 1988 | 27.6 | 25.3 | 32.2 | 29.2 | 2002 | 30.2 | 28.1 | 35.3 | 32.5 |
| 1989 | 27.8 | 25.6 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 2003 | 30.9 | 28.7 | 35.6 | 32.9 |
| 1990 | 28.0 | 25.7 | 32.6 | 29.6 | 2004 | 31.0 | 29.0 | 35.7 | 33.2 |

FIGURE 27
AGE OF FIRST AND ALL MARRIAGES
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977-2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 5/FIGURE 27

- The average age of people getting married has climbed steadily since 1977. The average age of males who got married in B.C. in 2004 was 35.7 years old while females getting married averaged 33.2 years old.
- In recent decades, there has been a steady increase in the average age of first marriages (statistically significant for both males and females at the 95% level). Males marrying for the first time in 2004 were 5.8 years older than males marrying for the first time in 1977, while females were 6.5 years older than females marrying for the first time in 1977.
- The average age of people getting married has climbed steadily since 1977 (a statistically significant trend for both males and females at the 95% level). The average age of males who got married in B.C. in 2004 was 35.7 years old while females getting married averaged 33.2 years old.

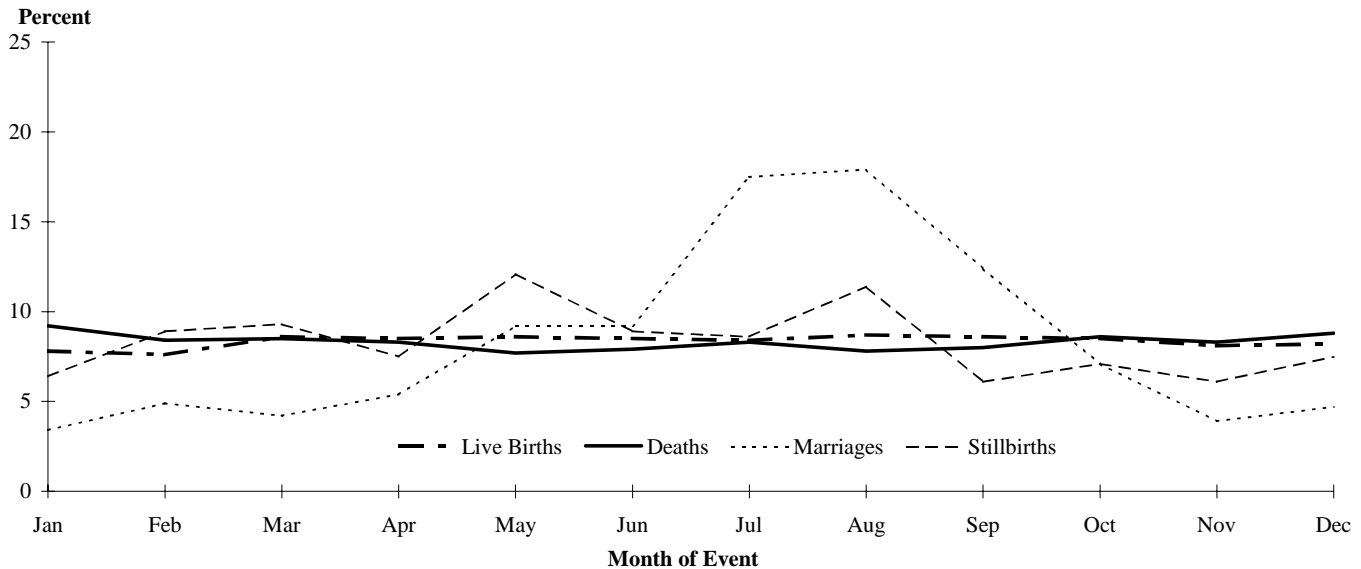
TABLE 6
LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS BY MONTH
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2004

| Month | Live Births | | Deaths | | Marriages | | Stillbirths | |
|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| January | 3,156 | 7.8 | 2,741 | 9.2 | 757 | 3.4 | 18 | 6.4 |
| February | 3,054 | 7.6 | 2,505 | 8.4 | 1,088 | 4.9 | 25 | 8.9 |
| March | 3,472 | 8.6 | 2,533 | 8.5 | 932 | 4.2 | 26 | 9.3 |
| April | 3,431 | 8.5 | 2,466 | 8.3 | 1,201 | 5.4 | 21 | 7.5 |
| May | 3,448 | 8.6 | 2,296 | 7.7 | 2,029 | 9.2 | 34 | 12.1 |
| June | 3,407 | 8.5 | 2,357 | 7.9 | 2,040 | 9.2 | 25 | 8.9 |
| July | 3,403 | 8.4 | 2,458 | 8.3 | 3,872 | 17.5 | 24 | 8.6 |
| August | 3,500 | 8.7 | 2,312 | 7.8 | 3,948 | 17.9 | 32 | 11.4 |
| September | 3,450 | 8.6 | 2,380 | 8.0 | 2,737 | 12.4 | 17 | 6.1 |
| October | 3,441 | 8.5 | 2,541 | 8.6 | 1,572 | 7.1 | 20 | 7.1 |
| November | 3,254 | 8.1 | 2,453 | 8.3 | 852 | 3.9 | 17 | 6.1 |
| December | 3,302 | 8.2 | 2,610 | 8.8 | 1,045 | 4.7 | 21 | 7.5 |
| Residents* | 40,318 | 100.0 | 29,652 | 100.0 | 22,073 | 100.0 | 280 | 100.0 |
| Non-residents | 190 | | 267 | | * | | 1 | |
| TOTAL | 40,508 | | 29,919 | | 22,073 | | 281 | |

Note: Total percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

*Marriage counts by month are based on event place and include non-residents.

FIGURE 28
LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS BY MONTH
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2004



HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 6/FIGURE 28

- Of vital events in the province, only marriages show a marked seasonal distribution. In 2004, the most popular month to marry was August, with 17.9% of the year's total marriages, followed by July, with 17.5% of the year's marriages. The majority of marriages (57.0%) occurred in the summer (June to September). January was the least popular month for marriages in 2004.
- Live births were fairly evenly distributed over the twelve months in 2004, although the winter months (November, December, January, and February) had the lowest numbers, and August had the highest numbers of live births.
- The highest number of deaths in 2004 occurred in January and the lowest number occurred in May.
- The largest number of stillbirths in 2004 occurred in May.