

Foreword

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency is pleased to present the 2005 Annual Report, the one hundred and thirty-fourth published since the establishment of the Division of Vital Statistics in 1872. The tables, figures, and maps in this publication are based on information collected from registrations of live births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages, changes of name, and adoption as registered by the Agency for events occurring in the 2005 calendar year.

This publication contains approximately 100 tables, figures, and maps that summarize selected information about the vital events of British Columbians. Although some tables and information relate to events occurring in the province, the majority are specific to residents of British Columbia. The information relating only to residents is important for evaluating the health status of the province's population. Throughout the report, key indicators are presented for the province's Health Authorities (HAs) and Local Health Areas (LHAs). The report includes a detailed Glossary, defining the terms used in the body of the publication; as well as a Methodology section, explaining the statistical computations in the main body. A set of Information Boxes supplement the standard tables with information on a wide range of subjects, from a profile of a typical day in British Columbia to place of birth for midwife assisted births and usual residence of people married in 2005.

Beginning with the 2000 Annual Report the Agency has presented data using the tenth revision of the World Health Organization's *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems* (ICD-10) coding scheme. Where possible, this report follows a format consistent with previous annual reports that presented statistics from the current year along with comparative statistics from the preceding five years. However, some tables and figures present statistics prior to 2000 when an earlier version of the coding scheme (ICD-9) was in effect. Many changes in the codes and in the rules for selection of the underlying cause of death preclude direct comparison of ICD-9 and ICD-10 data. Extensive manual reviews using translation tables in conjunction with recoding of data from ICD-9 to ICD-10 enabled the production of trend data. This approach is unique to publications of this Agency.

The Vital Statistics Agency would like to acknowledge the many groups and individuals who ensure complete and accurate recording of vital events. Their contributions have resulted in continual improvement in the quality of vital event data and the quality of this report.



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Table of Contents

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION	3
REGISTRATIONS	3
FIGURE 1 Local Health Area Map, British Columbia (map)	6
FIGURE 2 Health Authority and Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia (map).....	7

II. TRENDS IN VITAL EVENTS

TRENDS INTRODUCTION	11
OVERVIEW	11
TABLE 1 Live Births, Deaths, Marriages and Stillbirths, British Columbia, 1950–2005	12
FIGURE 3 Crude Rates of Live Births, Deaths, Marriages and Stillbirths, British Columbia, 1950–2005.....	13
TABLE 2 Natural Population Increases, British Columbia and Canada, 1950–2005	14
FIGURE 4 Natural Population Increases, British Columbia and Canada, 1950–2005	14
TABLE 3 Live Births, Deaths Marriages and Stillbirths by Month, British Columbia, 2005	15
FIGURE 5 Live Births, Deaths Marriages and Stillbirths by Month, British Columbia, 2005	15
FERTILITY AND LIVE BIRTH TRENDS	16
TABLE 4 Total Fertility Rates, British Columbia, 1950–2005	17
FIGURE 6 Total Fertility Rates and Number of Live Births, British Columbia, 1986–2005	17
FIGURE 7 Live Births by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 1986–2005	18
FIGURE 8 Multiple Births as a Percentage of Live Births, British Columbia, 1986–2005	18
FIGURE 9 Low Birth Weight Live Births, British Columbia, 1986–2005	19
FIGURE 10 Low Birth Weight Live Births for Mother Aged 35+, British Columbia, 1986–2005	19
FIGURE 11 Cesarean Sections, British Columbia, 1986–2005	20
FIGURE 12 Cesarean Sections by Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia, 2005	20
FIGURE 13 Cesarean Sections by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 1986–2005	21
INFANT MORTALITY TRENDS	22
FIGURE 14 Infant Mortality, British Columbia, 1986–2005	22
TABLE 5 Infant Mortality, British Columbia and Canada, 1965–2005	23
FIGURE 15 Infant Mortality by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 1986–2005	24
FIGURE 16 Percentage of Infant Mortality by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2005	24
DEATH TRENDS	25
FIGURE 17 Deaths and Death Rates, All Causes of Death, British Columbia, 1986–2005	26
FIGURE 18 Average Age at Death, British Columbia, 1986–2005	27
FIGURE 19 Deaths and Death Rates, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer), British Columbia, 1986–2005	27
FIGURE 20 Deaths and Death Rates, Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, British Columbia, 1986–2005	28
FIGURE 21 Death Rates by Gender, Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, British Columbia, 1986–2005	28
FIGURE 22 Deaths and Death Rates, Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases, British Columbia, 1986–2005	29

FIGURE 23	Deaths and Death Rates, Diabetes Mellitus, British Columbia, 1986–2005	29
FIGURE 24	Deaths and Death Rates, Nervous System Diseases, British Columbia, 1986–2005	30
FIGURE 25	Deaths and Death Rates, Cardiovascular Disease, British Columbia, 1986–2005	30
FIGURE 26	Deaths and Death Rates, Cerebrovascular Diseases, British Columbia, 1986–2005	31
FIGURE 27	Deaths and Death Rates, Motor Vehicle Accidents, British Columbia, 1986–2004	31
MARRIAGE TRENDS.....		32
TABLE 6	Age of First and All Marriages, British Columbia, 1977–2005	32
FIGURE 28	Age of First and All Marriages, British Columbia, 1977–2005	32

III. BIRTH-RELATED STATISTICS

BIRTH INTRODUCTION		35
BIRTHS-GENERAL INDICATORS		35
TABLE 7	Births by Age of Mother and Live Births by Birth Order, British Columbia, 2005	38
TABLE 8	Total Live Births by Age of Father, Age of Mother and Out-of-Wedlock, British Columbia, 2005	39
TABLE 9	Live Births by Age of Mother and Kind of Birth, British Columbia, 2005	39
TABLE 10	Live Birth Fertility Rates by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	40
FIGURE 29	Live Birth Teenage Fertility Rates by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	41
TABLE 11	Live Births by Mode of Delivery and Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2005	42
TABLE 12	Live Births by Local Health Area and Mode of Delivery, British Columbia, 2005	44
FIGURE 30	Cesarean Deliveries of Live Born Infants by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2005 (map)	45
BIRTHS - BIRTH WEIGHT		46
TABLE 13	Live Births by Birth Weight, Gender, and Gestational Age, British Columbia, 2005	47
TABLE 14	Live Births by Birth Weight and Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2005	48
TABLE 15	Low Birth Weight Live Births by Age of Mother and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	49
FIGURE 31	Low Birth Weight Live Births by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2005	49
TABLE 16	Low Birth Weight Live Births by Local Health Area and Gestational Age, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	50
FIGURE 32	Low Birth Weight Live Births by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	51
BIRTHS - MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS AND PERINATAL COMPLICATIONS		52
TABLE 17	Maternal Complications of Pregnancy and Delivery in Live Births by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	54
TABLE 18	Maternal Complications of Pregnancy and Delivery in Live Births by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	56
FIGURE 33	Maternal Complications of Pregnancy and Delivery in Live Births by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	57
TABLE 19	Perinatal Complications in Live Births by Age of Mother, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	58
TABLE 20	Perinatal Complications in Live Births by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	60
FIGURE 34	Perinatal Complications in Live Births by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	61

IV. DEATH-RELATED STATISTICS

DEATH INTRODUCTION	65
DEATHS - GENERAL INDICATORS	65
TABLE 21 Causes of Death by Gender and Age, British Columbia, 2005	66
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH	67
TABLE 22 Twelve Leading Causes of Death, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	68
FIGURE 35 Twelve Leading Causes of Death, British Columbia, 2005	69
TABLE 23 Leading Causes of Death by Age and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	70
INFANT MORTALITY	72
TABLE 24 Infant Mortality by Age of Mother and Birth Weight, British Columbia, 2005	73
TABLE 25 Infant Mortality by Gestational Age and Birth Weight, British Columbia, 2005	73
TABLE 26 Infant Mortality by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	74
FIGURE 36 Infant Mortality by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	75
TABLE 27 Selected Causes of Infant Deaths and Stillbirths, British Columbia, 2005	76
DEATHS DUE TO HIV	76
FIGURE 37 Deaths Due to HIV Disease by Age Group, British Columbia, 2000–2005	77
TABLE 28 Deaths Due to HIV Disease by Gender and Age Group, British Columbia, 1990–2005	78
TABLE 29 Deaths Due to HIV Disease by Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia, 1990–2005	79
EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH.....	79
TABLE 30 External Causes of Death by Gender, British Columbia, 2005	80
TABLE 31 External Causes of Death by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2005	81
TABLE 32 Suicide Deaths by Month and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	85
GEOGRAPHIC MORTALITY	85
TABLE 33 Standardized Mortality Ratio – All Causes of Death by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	86
FIGURE 38 All Causes of Death by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	87
POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST	88
TABLE 34 Potential Years of Life Lost and Age Standardized Mortality Rates by Selected Causes of Death, British Columbia, 2005	90
FIGURE 39 Potential Years of Life Lost and Age Standardized Mortality Rates by Selected Causes of Death, British Columbia, 2005	91
TABLE 35 Potential Years of Life Lost by Age Group and Major Causes of Death (Age Under 75 Years), British Columbia, 2005	92
FIGURE 40 Potential Years of Life Lost Standardized Rates by Age Group and Gender, Major Causes of Death (Age Under 75 Years), British Columbia, 2005	93
TABLE 36 Potential Years of Life Lost by Local Health Area, External Causes of Death (Age Under 75 Years), British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	94
FIGURE 41 External Causes of Death by Local Health Area (Age Under 75 Years), British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	95
MEDICALLY TREATABLE DISEASES	96
TABLE 37 Deaths Due to Medically Treatable Diseases by Selected Causes and Gender, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	97
TABLE 38 Standardized Mortality Ratio by Local Health Area, Deaths Due to Medically Treatable Diseases, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	98
FIGURE 42 Deaths Due to Medically Treatable Diseases by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	99

ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS	100
TABLE 39 Alcohol-Related Deaths by Cause, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	101
FIGURE 43 Alcohol-Related Deaths by Cause, British Columbia, 2005	102
TABLE 40 Alcohol-Related Deaths by Age and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	103
TABLE 41 Standardized Mortality Ratio by Local Health Area, Alcohol-Related Deaths, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	104
FIGURE 44 Alcohol-Related Deaths by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	105
SMOKING-ATTRIBUTABLE DEATHS	106
FIGURE 45 Smoking-Attributable Mortality by Selected Causes and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	106
TABLE 42 Smoking-Attributable Mortality, British Columbia, 2005	107
DRUG-INDUCED DEATHS	108
TABLE 43 Drug-Induced Deaths by Age and Gender, British Columbia, 2005	108
TABLE 44 Drug-Induced Deaths by Cause, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	109
FIGURE 46 Drug-Induced Deaths by Cause, British Columbia, 2005	109
TABLE 45 Standardized Mortality Ratio by Local Health Area, Drug-Induced Deaths, British Columbia, 2000–2004 and 2005	110
FIGURE 47 Drug-Induced Deaths by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2000–2004 (map)	111
DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS	112
Table 46 Unintentional Illicit/Illegal Overdose Deaths by Type of Drug, British Columbia, 2000-2005	113
Figure 48 Unintentional Illicit/Illegal Overdose Deaths by Cause, British Columbia, 2000-2005	113
Table 47 ASMR For Unintentional Illicit/Illegal Overdose Deaths by Health Authority, British Columbia, 2000-2005	114
Table 48 ASMR For Unintentional Illicit/Illegal Overdose Deaths by Gender, British Columbia, 2000-2005	114
Figure 49 ASMR For Unintentional Illicit/Illegal Overdose Deaths by Gender, British Columbia, 2000-2005	115
BURIAL AND CREMATIONS.....	116
TABLE 49 Method of Disposition of Decedent, British Columbia, 1986–2005	116
V. MARRIAGE-RELATED STATISTICS	
MARRIAGE INTRODUCTION	121
TABLE 50 Marriages by Marital Status, British Columbia, 2005	122
TABLE 51 Marriages by Age, British Columbia, 2005	122
TABLE 52 Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination, British Columbia, 2005	123
TABLE 53 Marriage Commissioners on Register by Type and Marriages Performed, British Columbia, 2005	123
VI. INFORMATION BOXES	
On a Typical Day in British Columbia in 2005	10
Place of Birth for Midwife Assisted Births, British Columbia, 1999-2005	43
Top 25 Baby Names in 2005	55
Births by Mother's Country of Birth and Deaths by Decedent's Country of Birth, British Columbia, 2005	59
Deaths Aged 65+ by Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia, 2005	64
Age at Death of the Oldest Male and Female, British Columbia, 1986-2005	64
Updated External Causes of Death	82
Method of Disposition by Decedent's Local Health Area of Residence, British Columbia, 2005	117

Place of Death for Deaths from Natural Causes, British Columbia, 2001-2005	118
Marriages by Other Non Christian Denominations, British Columbia, 2005	120
Usual Residence of Persons Married in British Columbia in 2005, Opposite Sex Marriages	124
Usual Residence of Persons Married in British Columbia in 2005, Same Sex Marriages	125
GLOSSARY	127
METHODOLOGY	141
APPENDIX 1: STATISTICAL SUMMARIES BY HEALTH AUTHORITY, HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AREA, LOCAL HEALTH AREA, AND COMMUNITY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2005	151
APPENDIX 2: DETAILED CAUSE OF DEATH BY GENDER AND AGE	171
APPENDIX 3: SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS BY LOCAL HEALTH AREA, HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AREA, AND HEALTH AUTHORITY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2001-2005	185
TABLE A Summary Statistics by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2001-2005	187
TABLE B Mortality Statistics by Local Health Area, British Columbia, 2001-2005	189
TABLE C Summary Statistics by Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia, 2001-2005	194
TABLE D Mortality Statistics by Health Service Delivery Area, British Columbia, 2001-2005	195
TABLE E Summary Statistics by Health Authority, British Columbia, 2001-2005	197
TABLE F Mortality Statistics by Health Authority, British Columbia, 2001-2005	198