

Marriage-related Statistics



Vital Statistics Information Box

MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2009

Table 52, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2009, a total of 1,228 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	102	30	50
Buddhist	27	11	34
Eckankar	16	-	-
Hindu	30	22	85
Muslim	69	39	163
Sangam	10	4	11
Scientology	9	2	2
Sikh	144	50	553
Spiritualist	104	54	315
Wiccan	13	6	10
Other*	9	4	4
Total	533	222	1,227

Note: *Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2009: Unknown, Konko-Kyo, and Zoroastrian.

Marriage Introduction

The Agency records all marriages that occurred 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 50, the 22,469 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2009, in 67.2 percent (15,104) of marriages, both partners were marrying for the first time, and in 17.8 percent of marriages (3,997), one of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 2,668 marriages (11.9 percent) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 51 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2009. There were 7,287 marriages (32.4 percent) where both parties were in their 20s and 4,190 marriages (18.6 percent) where both parties were in their 30s. There were also 345 marriages (1.5 percent) where at least one party was in their teens and 1,235 marriages (5.5 percent) where at least one of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 52 indicates that there were 7,746 registered religious representatives in BC but less than half of them (3,167) solemnized marriages in 2009. In total, 8,499 (37.8 percent) of all marriages in 2009 were solemnized by religious representatives.

Table 53 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 2009.

Table 53 shows that in 2009, 62.2 percent of marriages were civil marriages performed by commissioners. Since 1988, when 42.5 percent of marriages were performed by commissioners, the share of civil marriages has risen steadily.

TABLE 50
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2009

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	15,104			
Widowed	159	183		
Divorced	3,838	517	2,668	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51
MARRIAGES BY AGE
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2009

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	56									
20-24	212	1,615								
25-29	64	2,019	3,653							
30-34	9	478	2,838	1,887						
35-39	3	118	760	1,549	754					
40-44	1	47	194	452	750	418				
45-49	-	15	51	134	324	552	312			
50-59	-	6	24	60	155	342	642	740		
60+	-	-	7	9	29	49	114	484	543	
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.



TABLE 52
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2009

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	495	212	491
Baptist	833	341	686
Eastern Orthodox	59	16	59
Jewish	36	15	57
Lutheran	261	109	231
Mennonite/Hutterite	446	214	432
Pentecostal	853	313	853
Presbyterian	230	95	155
Catholic	537	239	997
Salvation Army	183	42	74
Jehovahs Witness	87	57	125
United Church	501	264	754
Other Christian Religions	2,681	1,023	2,329
Other Non Christian Religions	533	222	1,228
Unknown/Not Stated	11	5	28
Total	7,746	3,167	8,499

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, 2009

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	521	482	13,967
Public Servant	9	2	3
Total	530	484	13,970

Note: Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.
 * Includes 171 temporary appointments.

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USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2009

OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	21,091	21,193
	British Columbia	19,434	19,602
	Alberta	1,193	1,156
	Ontario	263	243
	Saskatchewan	75	73
	Manitoba	44	41
	Quebec	29	30
	Northwest Territories	14	14
	Yukon	13	10
	Nova Scotia	10	10
	New Brunswick	6	5
	Newfoundland & Labrador	5	5
Nunavut	5	4	
United States	Total	491	389
	Washington	160	112
	California	106	79
	Oregon	18	20
	New York	22	19
	Texas	19	17
	Florida	13	11
	Massachusetts	8	9
	Georgia	8	8
	Illinois	9	7
	Alaska	6	7
	Missouri	4	7
	Arizona	8	6
	Minnesota	6	6
	Hawaii	9	5
	Ohio	5	5
	Nevada	2	5
	Montana	2	5
	Other	86	61
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	9	16
	Mexico	4	8
	Other	5	8
Europe	Total	193	173
	United Kingdom	122	99
	Germany	27	32
	Scandinavian Countries	9	9
	Switzerland	11	10
	Republic of Ireland	7	4
	Italy	5	2
	Other	12	17
Asia & Middle East	Total	39	58
	Japan	10	16
	Hong Kong	11	14
	China	7	10
	Taiwan	3	5
	Other	8	13
Africa	Total	3	3
Oceania	Total	42	37
	Australia	32	29
	New Zealand	9	7
	Other	1	1
Unknown	Total	1	-
TOTAL		21,869	21,869

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2009

SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	360	416
	British Columbia	339	396
	Alberta	19	12
	Ontario	2	4
	Nova Scotia	-	2
	Saskatchewan	-	2
United States	Total	98	202
	Washington	18	39
	Texas	8	26
	Oregon	14	20
	Arizona	2	19
	California	24	16
	New York	4	10
	Georgia	6	6
	Virginia	2	6
	Utah	1	6
	New Mexico	1	5
	Hawaii	2	4
	Other	16	45
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	1	2
Europe	Total	14	16
	United Kingdom	1	10
	Other	13	6
Asia & Middle East	Total	21	36
	Hong Kong	8	12
	China	-	12
	Singapore	2	4
	Israel	5	2
	Other	6	6
Africa	Total	2	-
Oceania	Total	8	24
	Australia	6	24
	New Zealand	2	-
Unknown	Total	-	-
TOTAL		504	696