

Census '96 Data Summary - Age/Sex and Marital and Family Status

Prepared for the Northern Labour Market
Information Clearinghouse

December, 1997



Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

Census '96 Data Summary - Age/Sex and Marital and Family Status

Introduction

Demography, the study of human populations, is the most powerful - and most underutilized - tool we have to understand the past and foretell the future. (David K. Foot).

With the above statement in mind, the Clearinghouse continues our series of summaries of 1996 Census data, focussing on northern Alberta and the regions served by the Clearinghouse partners. This report, the second in the series, looks at data on age and sex as well as on family and marital status. This will help partner institutions to gauge future potential student populations as well as the likely needs of current and future students.

Future reports in this series will include:

- Immigration, languages and ethnic origin (February, 1998)
- Labour activities, education and sources of income (May, 1998).

Methodology

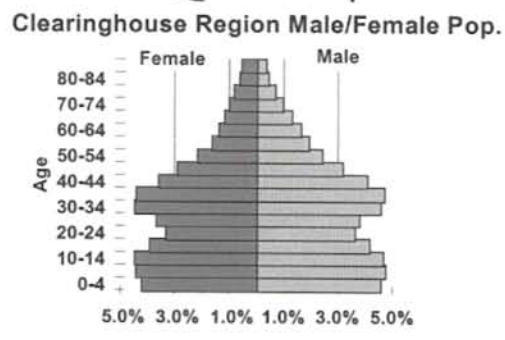
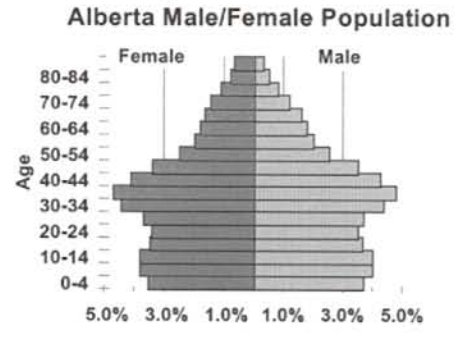
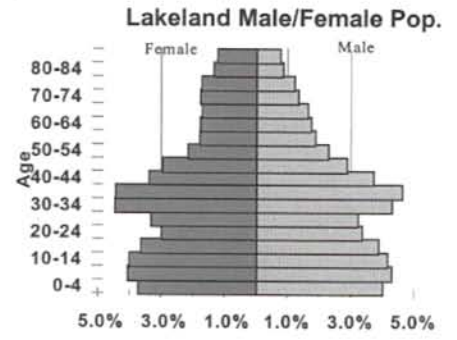
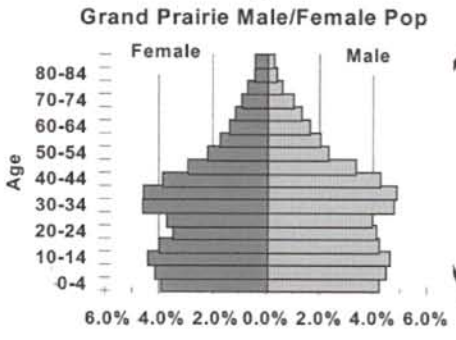
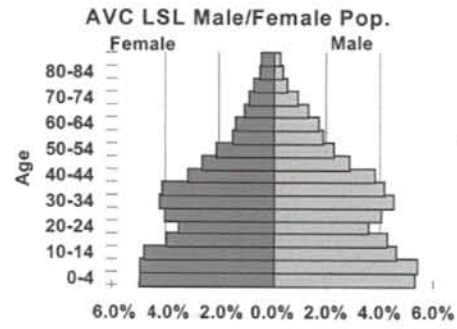
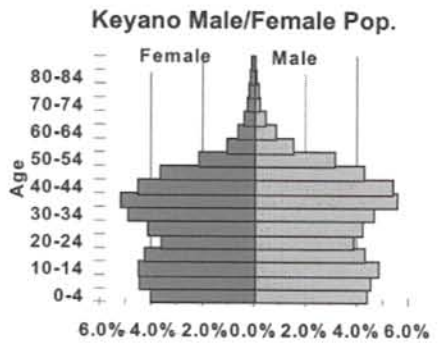
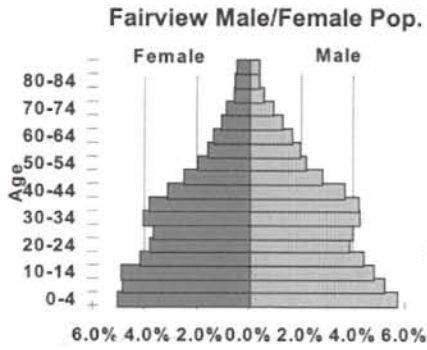
As with the earlier report on population and dwellings, Statistics Canada data was broken down into those Census Subdivisions (CSDs) that make up the Clearinghouse region and the areas primarily served by each of the partner institutions. Those areas were determined based on information provided by the institutions (see map appended). Some jurisdictions do not line up directly with institutional boundaries. Where the vast majority of a jurisdiction falls within a college boundary, it is counted in that college's area. Where a college boundary cuts a county or municipal district (MD) roughly in half, those towns within the college's service area are counted but the county or MD is not; for example, the town of Wainwright is counted in Lakeland College's service area but MD 61 is not.

Some of the population figures in the more recent data sets do not match those of the straight population data released earlier this year. This is due to Statistics Canada's suppression of descriptive data for CSDs with a population of less than 40. In addition, the list of CSDs used to calculate Lakeland College's service area has been corrected to fit the stated methodology. This change reduces Lakeland's population from 66,387 as reported earlier, to 59,014. The population growth rate from 1991 to 1996 for the same area is corrected to 6.7% (from 5.9%).

Data

Age/sex Breakdowns

The following page shows an age and sex breakdown of the population in each college's service area as well as in the entire Clearinghouse region and the province of Alberta. Each age/sex 5-year cohort is expressed as a percentage of the total population.



Notes on age/sex breakdown.

- All parts of the Clearinghouse region have higher percentages of young people than Alberta as a whole. The Fairview College and AVC Lesser Slave Lake service areas have the largest portions of under-15s.
- The smallest age cohorts are generally in the 20-24 year-old age group, with significantly larger populations of younger people. This suggests that the pool of potential students for post-secondary education will grow over the next 15 years as the “Baby Boom Echo” generation matures.

Marital Status

Table 1: Marital Status: Expressed in Percentages of Population Aged 15 Years and Over

Status	Alberta	Clearing house	GPRC	Fairview	AVC-LSL	Lakeland	Keyano
Never Married	30.6	32.0	31.0	33.8	37.5	28.7	36.1
Legally Married	54.0	54.2	55.5	54.2	48.5	54.8	51.2
Separated	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.5	2.8	3.2
Divorced	7.4	6.1	6.5	4.8	5.9	5.9	7.6
Widowed	5.2	4.7	3.9	4.6	4.6	7.9	2.0

Family Status

Data in this category is presented in percentages of all census families. The term “census family” refers to:

...a now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling.

Table 2: Percentage of Census Families by Parental Situation

Status	Alberta	Clearing house	GPRC	Fairview	AVC - LSL	Lakeland	Keyano
Married	77.0	74.3	76.4	75.4	65.0	76.9	68.9
Common-Law	10.1	13.9	12.8	14.25	19.8	10.7	17.3
Lone Parent	12.9	11.8	10.7	10.3	15.2	12.2	13.8

Table 3: Single Parents by Gender (as percentage of all single-parent families)

Gender	Alberta	Clearing house	GPRC	Fairview	AVC - LSL	Lakeland	Keyano
Male	17.9	21.5	20.5	25.2	22.6	15.7	24.0
Female	82.1	78.1	78.5	74.3	78.6	84.2	76.0

Percentages do not necessarily add up to 100 due to rounding of raw numbers to the nearest 5 by Statistics Canada.

Family size

The figures on the average number of people per census family are available only at the CSD and Census Division (CD) level. Northern Alberta CDs tend to have larger families (about 3.35 people per census family) than those in the south (about 3.12 people per family). The largest families are recorded in CD #17, which includes most of both the Fairview College and AVC - Lesser Slave Lake service areas.

Notes on Marital/Family Data

- The Clearinghouse Region has a higher percentage of male single parents than does the province as a whole. The Fairview College service area has the highest percentage of single fathers at 25.2% of all lone parents. In all areas however, the vast majority of single parents are women.
- The Clearinghouse region has more parents living in Common-Law than does the province as a whole.
- AVC - LSL and Keyano College both have higher percentages of single parents in their service areas than is found in Alberta generally. This may result in a greater need for day-care and related support services at those institutions than at most others, particularly when the large average family size for the AVC area is taken into account.
- The Lakeland College service area has the highest percentage of seniors of any geography examined here; not surprisingly, this area also has the highest percentage of widows and widowers.

Sources

Statistics Canada, Census 1996

Foot, David K. with Daniel Stoffman, Boom, Bust and Echo; How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift, Macfarlane, Walter and Ross, Toronto, 1996.

