

STATE OF THE FAMILY REPORT

Socio-Economic Conditions & Resources in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region



Teck



COLUMBIA BASIN
RDI
RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



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STATE OF THE FAMILY REPORT 2016

The purpose of this research project was to update family-relevant socio-economic indicators and resource inventories that were presented in the 2009 “Understanding the Early Years” report. This research was compiled as part of the Teck Serv summer student research internship which was undertaken in partnership with the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-Operative with funding from Teck Trail Operations.

USING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE WELL-BEING

Every day, Basin-Boundary communities make decisions that influence our region’s well-being and rural development path. Evidence indicates that the first six years of a person’s life is the most important, setting the stage for their health and well-being for the rest of their lives. This report was developed in cooperation with the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-op with the objective of understanding socio-economic conditions and regional services and resources to inform planning to help children and families in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region. This report is not exhaustive, but offers insight into the factors and conditions that contribute to healthy child development.

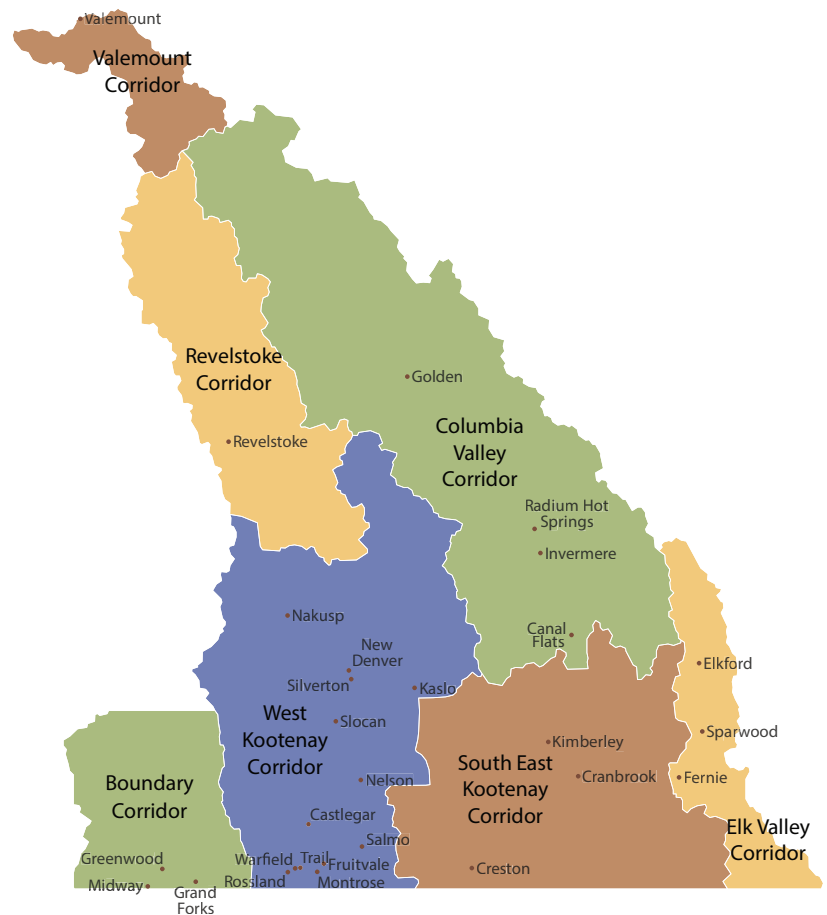
DATA SOURCES

With an aim of expanding and updating information presented in Understanding the Early Years Community Mapping Study, West Kootenay, 2007 – 2009, the most up to date available data was compiled and is presented in this report. Data sources include: Census of Canada 2006/2011, National Household Survey 2010/2011, BC Assessment 2006/2011/2015, Labour Force Survey 2011-2015, Canada Revenue Agency 2010/2012, BC Stats 2001-2015, Human Early Learning Partnership 2014,

and primary research conducted by the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute.

THE BASIN-BOUNDARY REGION

The Basin-Boundary region encompasses more than 8.6 million hectares of land in southeastern British Columbia. It includes the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay, and East Kootenay, as well as the Village of Valemount, and a portion of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Three development regions are included in whole or in part.





LEARN MORE

The digital version of this report includes links to in-depth data and analysis on the RDI website. Click on the page headings or individual facts to go online.



PART 1

THE FAMILY LANDSCAPE - SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



TOTAL POPULATION & POPULATION CHANGE

Population figures indicate the size of a community and often imply the types of services that are likely available. Changes in population over time signal potential shifts in community needs and resources.

The Columbia Basin-Boundary population increased by 2.4% from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, there were 164,248 people living in the region and in 2014, there were 164,272 residents (only 24 more).

Despite the regional population remaining relatively constant, individual areas see greater variability.

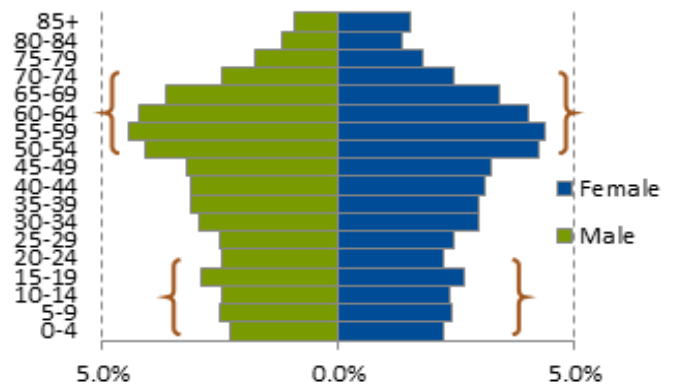
The region's population pyramid shows a bulge in the 'boomer' population (ages 50-70). Demographers compare the youth cohort (0-25 years) to the senior cohort (65+ years) to understand the relative size of the components of the population that are considered to be dependent on the working population. Our 2014 population pyramid shows 19.8% of the population being under 25, and 20.5% of the population being over 65. This represents a reversal from 2011, when the youth component was larger than the senior component (21.0% and 17.9%, respectively).

OVER THE PERIOD 2011-2014:

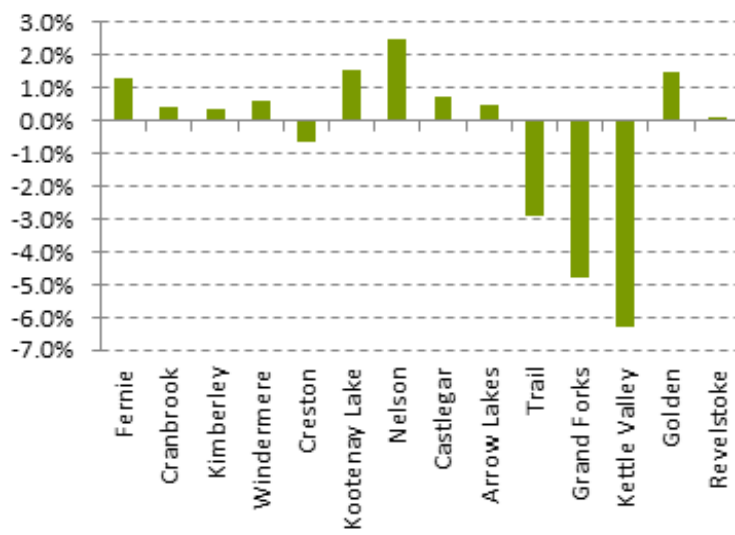
- a population increase for ten of 14 Local Health Areas, with Nelson leading at 2.5%

- a population decrease for four Local Health Areas, with Kettle Valley showing biggest decrease at -6.3%

REGIONAL POPULATION BY 5-YEAR AGE COHORT 2014



% CHANGE 2011 TO 2014 POPULATION



As the boomer cohort ages and birthrates decline, the North American population as a whole is aging. The issue is particularly relevant to our region, where the senior population is projected to grow by 45% from 2015 to 2035. Over that same period, the working population is projected to decline by 6%, resulting in a projected population structure that suggests only 1.6 workers for every senior by the year 2035.

Though our region is generally aging, population structure varies by community. For example, at the time of the 2011 Census, there was an over 20 year difference in median age between the population in Golden (38.1 years) and Midway (58.3 years).

CHILD POPULATION

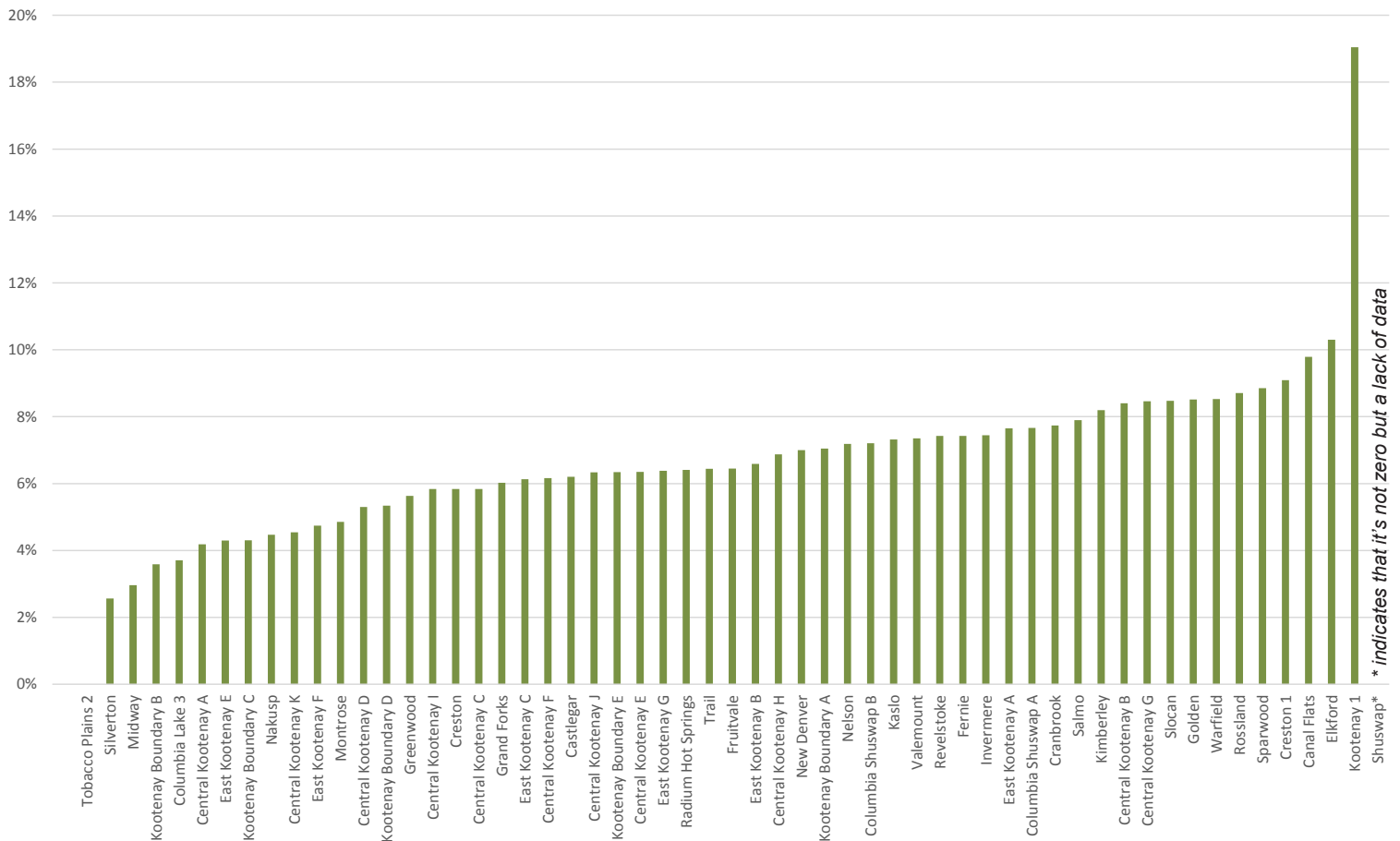
Child population is a measure of the number of children aged zero to six. A change in the child population is an indicator of shifts in a community and a potential need for an adjustment in services. The child population in our region increased at a much higher rate than the population as a whole.

In 2006 there were 10,345 children in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region.

In 2011 there were 11,165 children.
Change of + 7.9%.

The communities of Kootenay 1 (Indian reserve), Elkford and Canal Flats have the highest percentages of children, while Tobacco Plains 2 (Indian reserve), Silvertown and Midway have the lowest.

% OF TOTAL POPULATION AGED 0-6 YEARS 2011



POPULATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN 2011

	Kootenay Boundary	Central Kootenay	East Kootenay	Columbia Shuswap	Fraser Fort-George
0-4 Years	160	290	200	275	985
5-9 Years	180	275	285	265	960
Total	340	565	485	540	1945

'Aboriginal identity' includes persons who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status, that is registered under the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported membership in a First Nation or Indian band.

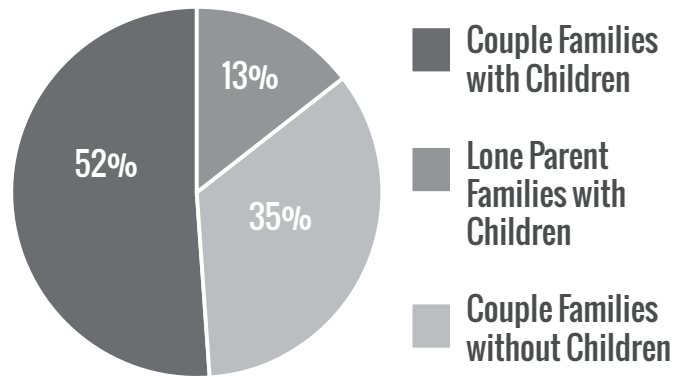
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 2011

The number of families with children in our region increased from 2006 to 2011, with 65% of families having children.

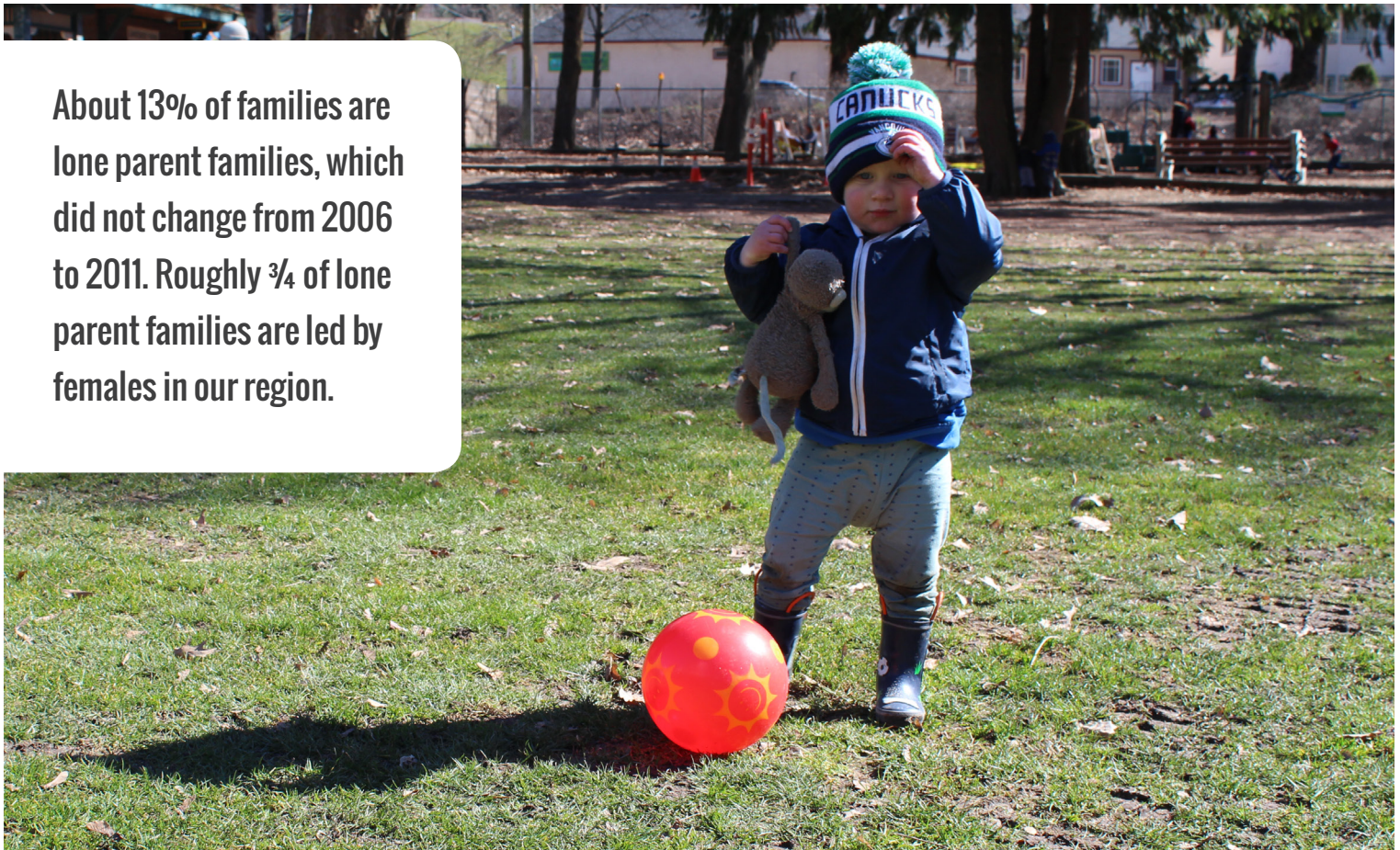
Year	Families (#)	Families with Children (#)	Families with Children (%)
2006	46,710	29,500	63%
2011	48,090	31,363	65%

Research suggests that a higher proportion of children with cognitive, behavioural, and educational challenges come from a lone parent family. Lone parent families generally have higher rates of poverty, and the effects of poverty on children can be serious. Children who grow up in poverty suffer more persistent, frequent, and severe health problems, and have a higher rate of accidents than do other children. Children who experience poverty during their preschool and early school years have lower rates of school completion than children and adolescents who experience poverty only in later years.

FAMILY STRUCTURE 2011



About 13% of families are lone parent families, which did not change from 2006 to 2011. Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of lone parent families are led by females in our region.



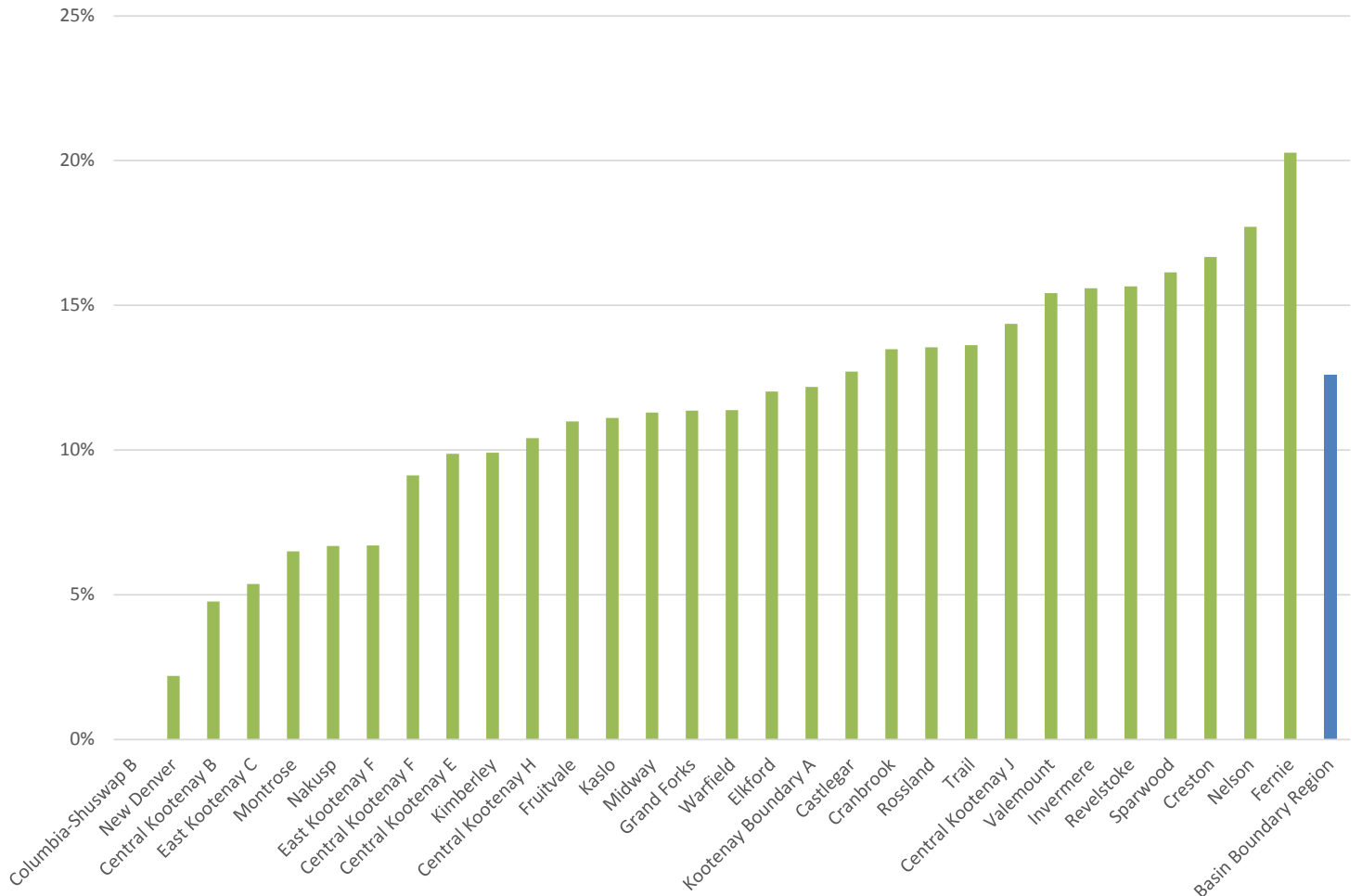
RESIDENTIAL STABILITY

Residential stability refers to the status of a person with regard to their place of residence in relation to the place of residence on the same date one year earlier. People who have not moved are referred to as non-movers and people who have moved from one residence to another are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants and migrants. Non-migrants are people who did move, but remained in the same city, town, township, village or Indian reserve. Migrants include internal migrants who moved to a different city, town, township, village or Indian reserve within Canada. External migrants include people who lived outside Canada at the earlier reference date.

Fernie, Nelson and Creston saw the highest percent of movers in 2011 while Columbia-Shuswap B, New Denver and Central Kootenay B saw the lowest percentage of movers.



% OF POPULATION THAT MOVED, 2011



HOME OWNERSHIP & VALUE

Due to generally lower house prices in rural areas, rural residents are more likely to be home owners compared to more expensive metropolitan areas. Though home ownership in our region has historically been more affordable than in other parts of BC, local governments and social service organizations recognize the need to ensure that housing prices remain within the means of a diverse cross-section of residents.

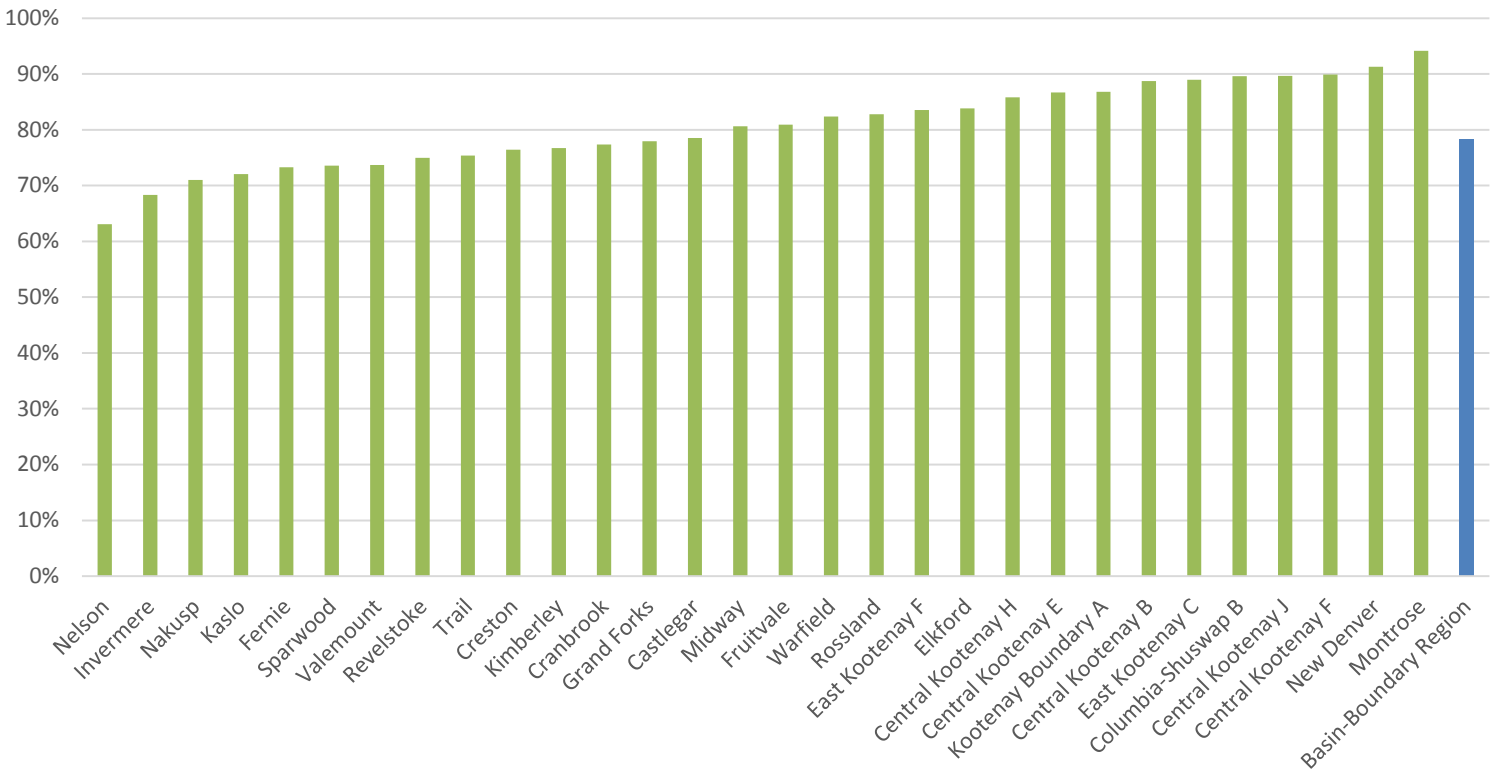
The majority of private households across our region are owner-occupied (78%), with Nelson showing the lowest at 63% and Montrose showing the highest at 94%.

Housing costs affect, and are affected by, many socio-economic factors. Housing costs can indicate the desirability of an area, condition of the housing stock and, importantly, the cost of living in a community.

Median assessed value (including land and improvements) of single family dwellings is a general indicator of housing prices.

As of 2015, the median value of all single family residences in our region is \$260,100. Current values are highest in the rural areas surrounding Invermere and Fernie (\$433,000 and \$411,000 respectively). Values are lowest in the City of Greenwood and Village of Valemount (\$118,000 and \$149,350 respectively). The majority of properties are valued at between \$150,000 and \$300,000, with \$200,000 to \$250,000 being the most common range.

% OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE OWNER OCCUPIED 2011



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Education is a significant social determinant of health. Education increases overall literacy and understanding of how

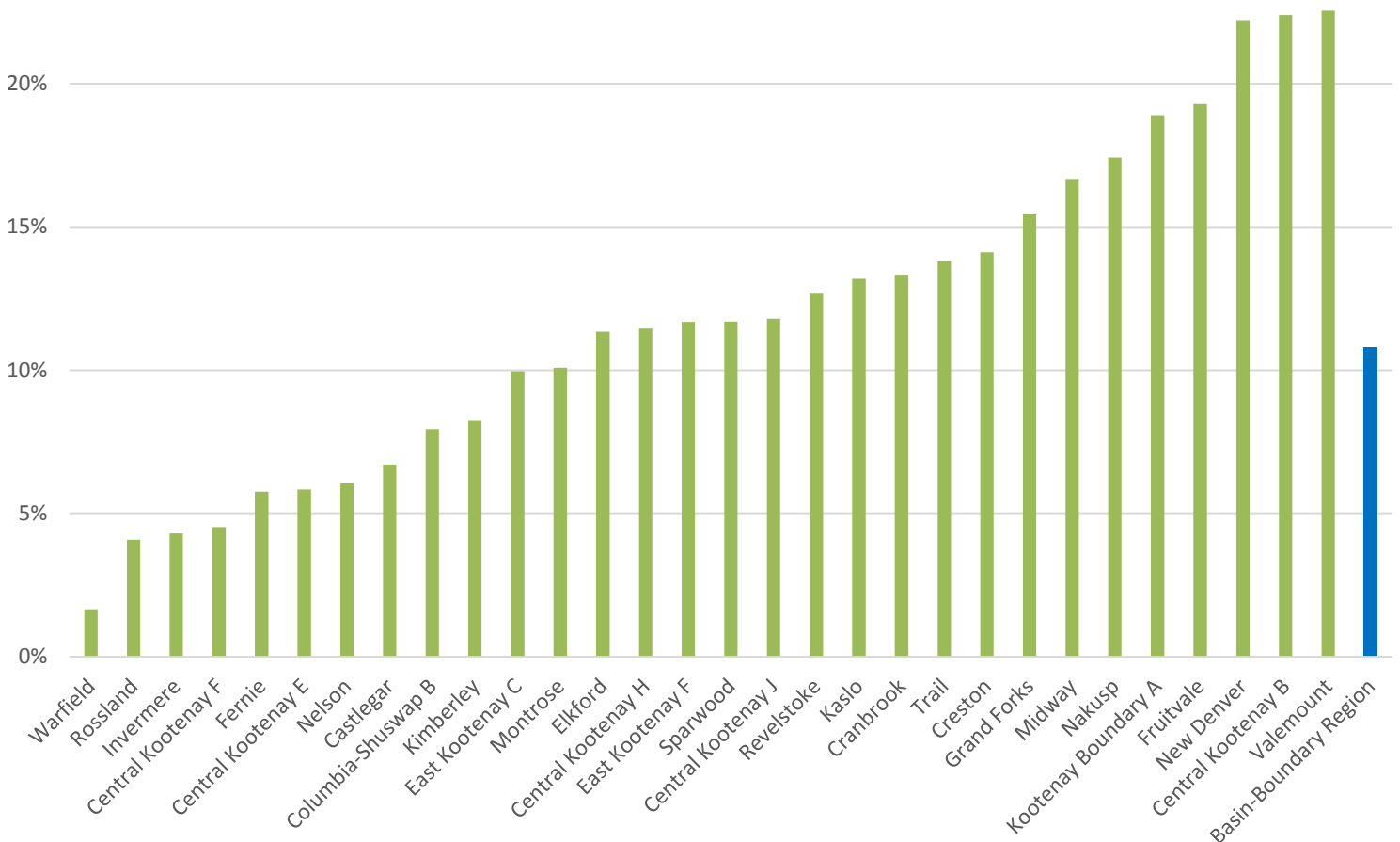
one can promote one's own health and well-being, and provides the knowledge and skills needed to actively participate and contribute to society. Research shows that lower education levels lead to lower levels of general health, resulting in higher incidences of hospitalization and mortality from a number of conditions and diseases. Level of education is highly correlated with other social determinants of health such as level of income, working conditions, and employment security.

Overall, 54.2% of residents aged 15 and older in our region have some post-secondary education. Only 5.1% have a certificate, diploma or degree above a university bachelor's degree and 9.9% have a university bachelor's degree. 15.2% have an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, and 20.5% have a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma. The percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent is high at 27.1%.

18.6% of the population have NO certificate, diploma or degree.

The percentage of adults (aged 25 to 64) without a high school diploma is lowest in Warfield, Rossland and Invermere, while there is a higher percentage of adults without a high school diploma in Valemount, Central Kootenay Area B and New Denver.

% OF ADULTS (25 - 64) WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA 2011

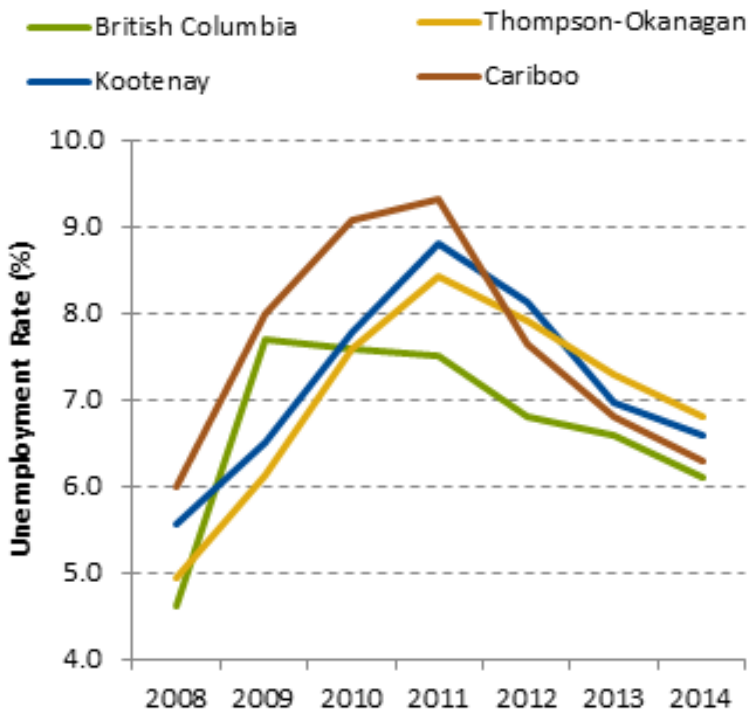


UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of the labour force (those over 15 and legally allowed to work) that is not able to find work, and is a strong indicator of economic health. Three Development Regions (DRs) are contained in whole or in part by the Columbia Basin-Boundary region. The Kootenay DR includes the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay, and East Kootenay. In our region, the Thompson-Okanagan DR is represented by the areas surrounding Golden and Revelstoke, and the Cariboo DR is represented by the Village of Valemount.

The impact of the Great Recession is clearly seen in the unemployment graph. Unemployment remains higher than pre-recession levels in all three Basin-Boundary DRs; however, all Basin-Boundary DRs have seen unemployment rates generally fall since 2010.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR BASIN BOUNDARY DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



The youth (15 to 24 years) unemployment rate in our Development Regions is consistently much higher than the total unemployment rate; however, while still high, youth unemployment has been falling since 2011 across the entire region.

The table shows the 2011 unemployment rate for communities across the region. Highest unemployment rates are found in Revelstoke, Kaslo and Midway.

Area	Unemployment Rate
Columbia-Shuswap B	0.0%
Fernie	3.7%
Elkford	4.2%
Sparwood	5.6%
Warfield	6.1%
Fruitvale	6.1%
East Kootenay F	6.2%
Central Kootenay F	6.9%
East Kootenay C	7.1%
Cranbrook	7.2%
Valemount	8.5%
Trail	8.5%
Nelson	8.6%
Grand Forks	8.6%
Rossland	8.7%
Central Kootenay B	8.9%
Castlegar	9.0%
Central Kootenay A	9.1%
Kimberly	9.2%
Montrose	9.9%
Invermere	11.7%
Nakusp	12.1%
Central Kootenay E	12.2%
Central Kootenay J	13.2%
Creston	13.7%
Central Kootenay H	14.2%
Midway	14.3%
Kaslo	15.9%
Revelstoke	16.1%

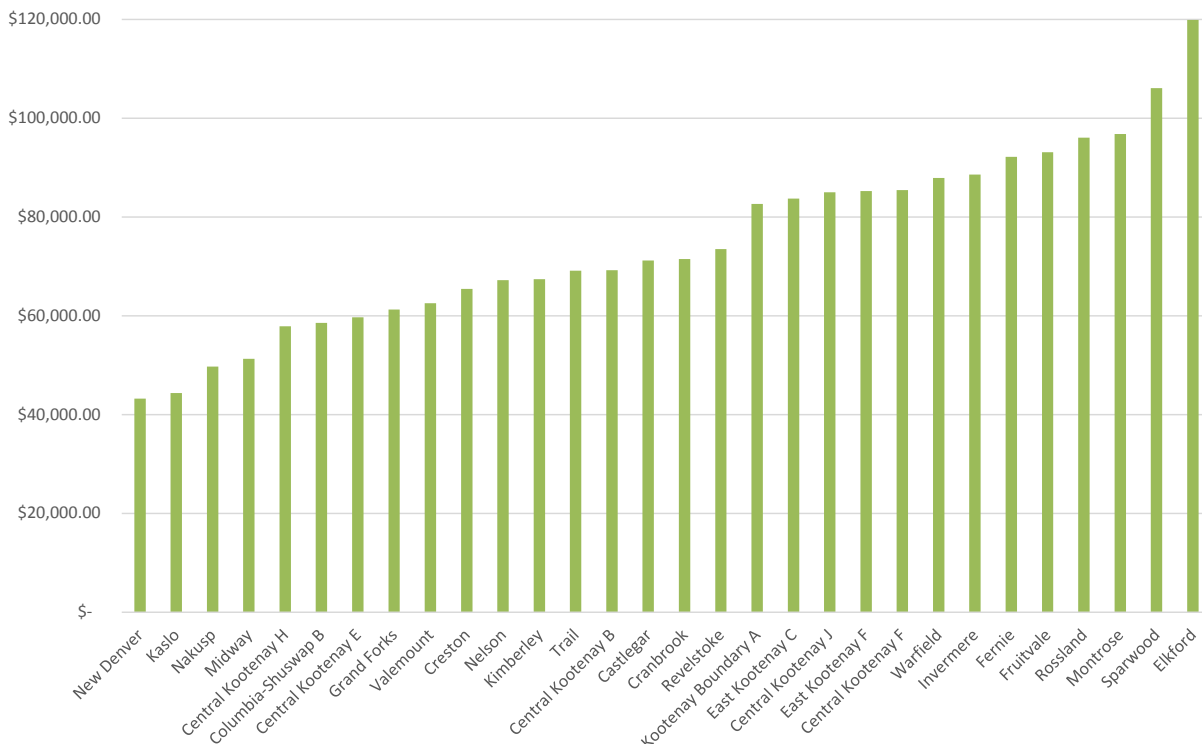
FAMILY INCOME

The total income of an economic family is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that family. An 'economic family' refers to a group of two or more people who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption or a foster relationship. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.

Income levels reflect relative opportunities in a local economy and income is a significant determinant of social well-being. Hundreds of studies have documented the association between family income and children's health.

Median income values differ from average income values in that they represent the mid-point in an income distribution, meaning half of the population has incomes above that point and half below. The highest median income of economic families are found in Elkford, Sparwood, Montrose and Rossland, while the lowest are found in New Denver, Kaslo, and Nakusp.

MEDIAN INCOME OF ECONOMIC FAMILIES, 2010



PERSONAL INCOME

Average personal income in 2010 was \$39,415 in BC, roughly \$1,200 less than the national average of \$40,650. The average income in the Kootenay Development Region was \$36,633, indicating that people in the Kootenay region have less earning potential than the average Canadian and average BC resident.

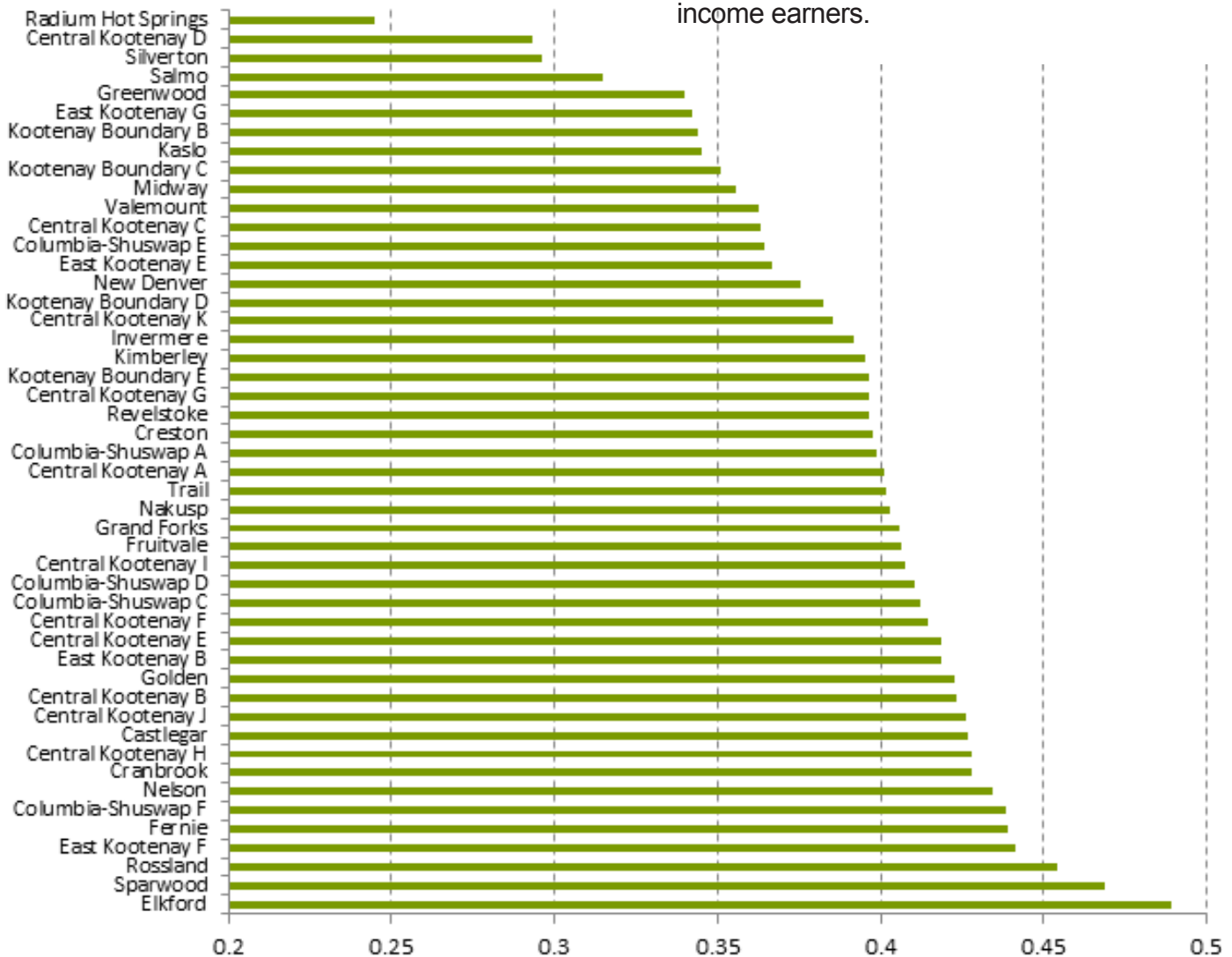
Median income in 2010 was \$28,765 in BC, compared to the national average of \$29,878. This difference is similar to that shown for average income. However, some stark differences are reported across our region. Median incomes are very high in some East Kootenay communities, with many of the more rural communities displaying significantly lower median income levels. Gender differences can also be seen in income profiles. In 2009, for example, female incomes were lower than the provincial average in all Basin-Boundary jurisdictions.

Average individual incomes have increased by ~1% per year since 2010

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Income distribution tracks the distribution of personal incomes, by census subdivision, using the Gini Index. The Gini Index is a measure of inequality. This analysis calculates Gini coefficients for pre-tax incomes (and therefore does not consider the effect of taxes and social spending on income inequality). Information on the distribution of incomes shows how well our communities are doing at providing earning opportunities. Income inequality is an important indicator of equity in an economy, and has implications for an array of social considerations.

PRE-TAX GINI COEFFICIENTS FOR BASIN BOUNDARY CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS, 2012



Higher Gini Index values indicate higher inequality. Perfect equality (where every member of a population has the same income) would be represented by a score of 0. Communities at the bottom of the graph (Elkford, Sparwood, Rossland) have larger disparities between high income earners and low income earners. Communities at the top of the graph (Radium Hot Springs, Central Kootenay Area D, Silverton) have more even income distributions. The Elk Valley communities have access to high paying jobs in the mining sector and related support industries. Rossland and Nelson have a concentration of professional service industries that offer high paying jobs. These earning opportunities are accompanied by a high number of lower paying service jobs and part-time jobs. This situation creates a wide gap between high income earners and low income earners. Often, municipalities with more even income distributions are home to a larger proportion of retirees and fixed income earners.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX

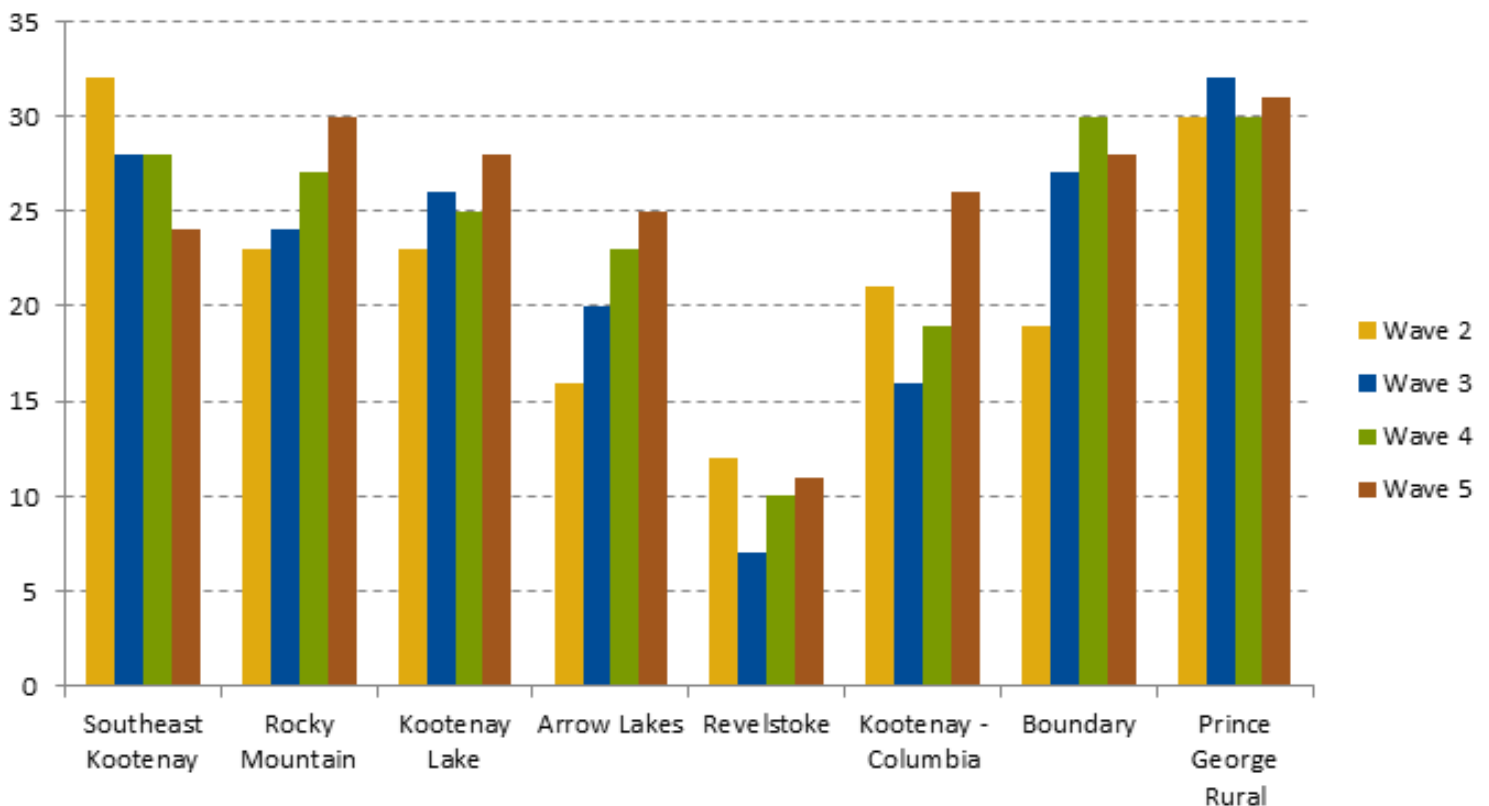
The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is administered by kindergarten teachers, and assesses the developmental readiness of a group of children. Children are considered vulnerable when some aspect of their development (physical, social/emotional or intellectual) is delayed at kindergarten entry. Examining EDI results over time allows us to assess trends in the percentage of kindergarten children in the region's school districts who are vulnerable.

The early years are crucial in influencing a range of health and social outcomes throughout one's life. Research shows that many challenges in adult society – mental health problems, obesity, heart disease, criminality, competence in literacy and numeracy – have their roots in early childhood. Understanding where the most vulnerable young children live allows us to allocate our resources and adjust policies to most effectively support all children in their early years.

Currently, all seven school districts in the region have a lower percentage of vulnerable kindergarten students than the provincial average (32.5%), including: Revelstoke (11%), Arrow Lakes (25%), Kootenay Lake (28%), Rocky Mountain (30%), Southeast Kootenay (24%), Boundary (28%), and Prince George Rural (31%).

Between 2003 and 2013 the number of kindergarten students who were vulnerable on at least one aspect of their development decreased in 2 of the 7 school districts in the region (Revelstoke and Southeast Kootenay). These two school districts countered the provincial upward trend in vulnerability.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX (% of children vulnerable in one or more domain)



CRIME INDEX

Crime rates are a common indicator of public safety. They can help measure the effectiveness of law enforcement and community engagement initiatives, and inform decision-making about law enforcement policies and practices. Crime rates also contribute to perceptions of safety. Research suggests that residents of rural areas report higher levels of trust and perceived safety than those in urban areas.

The Composite Index of Crime provides a numeric value for each Local Health Area (LHA) in the province. Positive numbers mean that a particular LHA is worse than the median area; negative numbers mean the LHA is better than the median. The index value is used to rank the 78 LHAs across the province as a way to compare crime and public safety across areas.

The Index is the weighted averages of three indicators: serious violent crime rate (weight of 0.35), serious property crime rate (weight of 0.50), and

number of serious crimes per police officer (weight of 0.15). Rates are based on the number of reported offences for every 1,000 people.

According to BC Stats (2012), five of the LHAs in our region have crime indices that are among the 10 lowest in BC. Eleven rank among the lowest 20. Most LHAs in our region therefore have comparatively low incidences of crime. Grand Forks and Windermere however have a considerably higher index of crime. The table shows the Composite Index of Crime and the three sub-indices, as well as the provincial ranking of LHAs for the Columbia Basin-Boundary region.

- Serious violent crime rates are well below the BC average for all LHAs in our region, with Golden showing the lowest crime rate.
- Serious property crime rates are well below the BC average for all areas, except Windermere and Grand Forks. The Kootenay Lake and Nelson LHAs have the lowest serious property crime rates in our region.
- The number of serious crimes per police officer is above the BC average for Windermere and Grand Forks.
- The lowest number of serious crimes per police officer is in Fernie.

INDICATORS OF CRIME BY LOCAL HEALTH AREA, OFFENCES PER 1,000, POPULATION, AVERAGES FROM 2009 - 2011

Local Health Area	Composite Index of Crime	Serious Violent Crime Rate	Serious Property Crime Rate	Number of Serious Crimes per Police Officer	Ranking in BC (out of 78 LHAs: the higher the number the better ranking)
Fernie (LHA 1)	-0.54	1.5	5.0	2.7	63
Cranbrook (LHA 2)	-0.45	1.9	4.6	5.6	61
Kimberley (LHA 3)	-0.80	0.9	3.7	3.9	72
Windermere (LHA 4)	0.56	1.6	10.6	12.0	19
Creston (LHA 5)	-0.59	1.2	4.3	5.9	65
Kootenay Lake (LHA 6)	-0.88	1.0	3.0	3.7	76
Nelson (LHA 7)	-0.78	1.5	3.0	4.1	71
Castlegar (LHA 9)	-0.60	1.4	4.3	4.9	66
Arrow Lakes (LHA 10)	-0.40	1.3	5.5	5.6	58
Trail (LHA 11)	-0.74	1.5	3.4	4.3	70
Grand Forks (LHA 12)	0.40	1.5	9.4	9.7	25
Golden (LHA 18)	-0.83	0.8	3.8	3.1	73
Revelstoke (LHA 19)	-0.61	1.5	4.5	3.5	67
British Columbia		3.3	7.8	7.7	

PART 2

REGIONAL RESOURCES - SERVING CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Columbia Basin-Boundary is fortunate to have an array of social service agencies working to support children and families. The availability, accessibility and affordability of community resources and services are an essential aspect of health and well-being and positive child development. The regional resources included in this report are classified according to categories shown to be important for children and their families.



BASIC NEEDS

For some families, meeting the basic needs is a challenge. Food, clothing, emergency shelter, transportation, and employment and financial services are some of the basic needs resources offered in our communities.

Please visit www.cbrdi.ca/digital-basin-layers/ and click the Social Service Organizations link to view the following inventories.

- Food banks
- Shelter and emergency housing
- Income and employment assistance
- Transportation
- Thrift stores

There are over 20 food banks serving our region. For an in-depth look into this essential community service in our region, see the Food Banks of the Columbia Basin 2012 report.

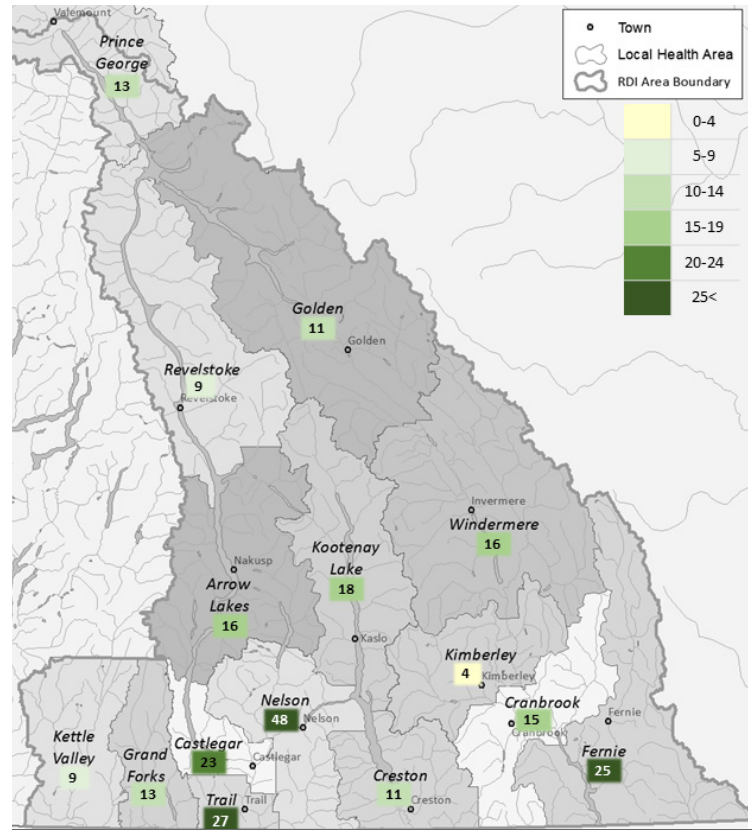
For a comprehensive report on hunger and food bank use in Canada, and recommendations for change, see Hunger Count 2015 produced by Food Banks Canada. This report is available on the RDI's Resource Repository (www.cbrdi.ca/resources/).

CHILD HEALTH & SAFETY

The availability of services to support child and family health is an essential feature of a healthy community. These services include medical clinics, hospitals, ambulance, public health services, pre-natal services, and pregnancy outreach programs. Also included are police and fire services. In most cases, one or more agencies exist in each major community to provide a diverse range of services and programs to residents within that community and the surrounding rural area. Please visit www.cbrdi.ca/digital-basin-layers/ to view the following inventories.

- Hospitals
- Health Centres
- Fire Stations
- RCMP and Police Stations

CHILD HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICES



LITERACY & PARENT SUPPORT

Positive parenting and literacy supports lead to better child development outcomes. Resources in this category include services for parent support, and literacy supports such as libraries and child and adult literacy programs.

Please visit cbrdi.ca/digital-basin-layers/ to view the following inventories.

- Strong Start and Outreach
- Libraries
- Colleges

Schools are one of the most important resources in a community for children and families. They are often a hub in our small communities – offering not only a formal educational facility, but a public space for a variety of programming. There are 123 public schools serving our region.

We are also fortunate to have the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) who promotes literacy and life-long learning throughout the Columbia Basin-Boundary. CBAL has 16 Community Literacy Coordinators who work with local advisory committees to develop and deliver resources and literacy programs in 77 communities.



EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

Research shows that investment in the early years, before children enter the formal school system, gives the greatest return. An adequate and affordable supply of quality child care is an integral factor to the economic and social well-being of families. The following table includes several categories of childcare resources and providers.

Community	License Not Re-quired		Licensed Family Daycare		Group		Pre-Schools		School-Age	
	# of facilities	# of spaces	# of facilities	# of spaces	# of facilities	# of spaces	# of facilities	# of spaces	# of facilities	# of spaces
Boundary Country (Grand Forks)	4	8	3	21	1	42	2	16	0	0
Castlegar & Area	2	4	1	7	5	101	3	70	2	52
Columbia Valley (Invermere, Canal Flats, Radium Hot Springs)			1	7	7	108	3	45	1	10
Cranbrook	6	12	8	56	10	120	4	80	4	76
Creston Valley			6	44	2	49				
Elk Valley (Fernie, Sparwood, Elkford)			4	31	6	107	5	94		
Golden	1	2	6	42	1	16	2	23	1	20
Kaslo					1	10	1	10		
Kimberly	4	8	6	44	2	28	1	16	2	36
Lower Columbia (Fruitvale, Montrose, Warfield)			1	7	1	8	2	38	1	20
Nakusp					1	16				
Nelson / North Shore	8	16	9	66	7	162	1	20	6	99
Revelstoke	4	8	13	92	3	65	3	60	1	24
Rossland			2	14	4	80			1	10
Salmo					1	16	1	12	1	10
Slocan Valley (New Denver, Silverton, Winlaw, Slocan)	2	4	2	14	4	68	1	12		
Trail	3	6	4	28	3	55	1	16	3	52
Valemount					1	24	1	20		

Source: Child Care Resource and Referral Services, 2016

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Culturally appropriate services are important for aboriginal identity and strengthening communities. There are several organizations serving aboriginal children and families in our region including...

Circle of Indigenous Nations Society -

www.coinations.net

Talking Little Feet Council -

www.talkinglittlefeet.com

Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services -

www.freedomquestonline.ca

Lower Columbia River All First Nations Council
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services

Society - www.ktunaxa.org

Aqanttanam Housing Society -

www.aqanttanam.ca/about/

Ktunaxa Nation Council -

www.ktunaxa.org/info-for-ktunaxa-citizens/

Lower Kootenay Band -

www.tobaccoplains.org/

Sinixt First Nation -

www.sinixtnation.org/

Kootenay Kids Society -

www.kootenaykids.ca

Aboriginal Services Liaison at Selkirk College -

www.selkirk.ca/aboriginal-services

Aboriginal Patient Navigator -

www.interiorhealth.ca/pages/default.aspx

Aboriginal Education Programs at School District
8, 10, and 20

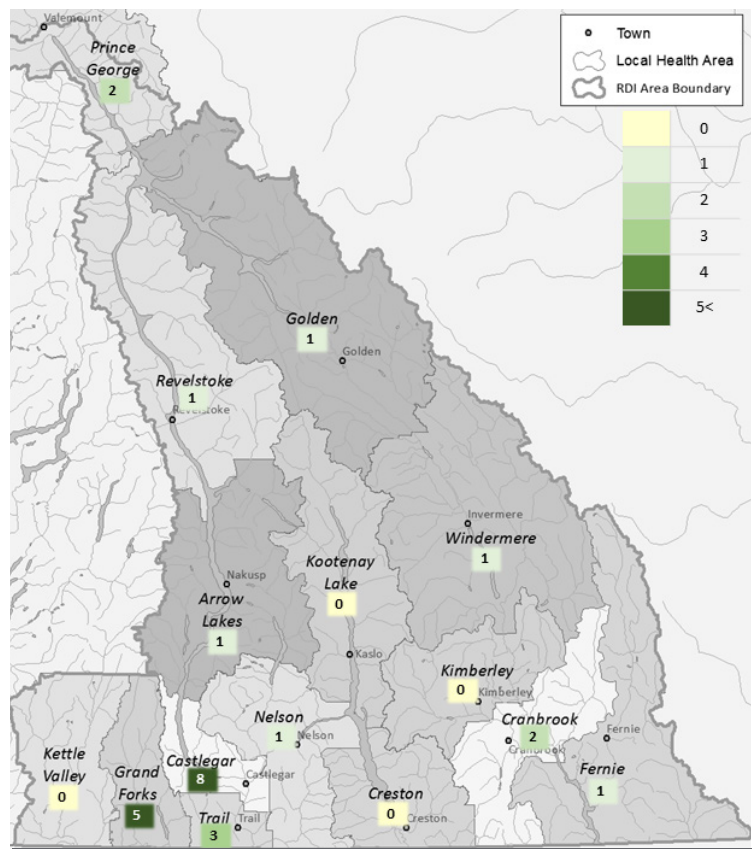
Please visit www.cbrdi.ca/digital-basin-layers/

and click Social Service Organizations to view agencies by location and service type.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Accessible and effective programs and services are essential to enhancing social environments and learning experiences for children with special needs. These services include specialized therapy programs and respite care, infant development programs, supported child development, physiotherapists, and regional outreach services.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



RECREATION, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

The opportunity to participate in recreation, arts and culture play an important role in success at school, good social skills, and high self-esteem. It is reported that children who participate in the arts are 30% less likely to experience impaired social relationships and emotional and behavioral disorders. There is a vast array of recreation, arts, heritage and cultural services across our region. Please visit cbrdi.ca/digital-basin-layers/ to view the following inventories.

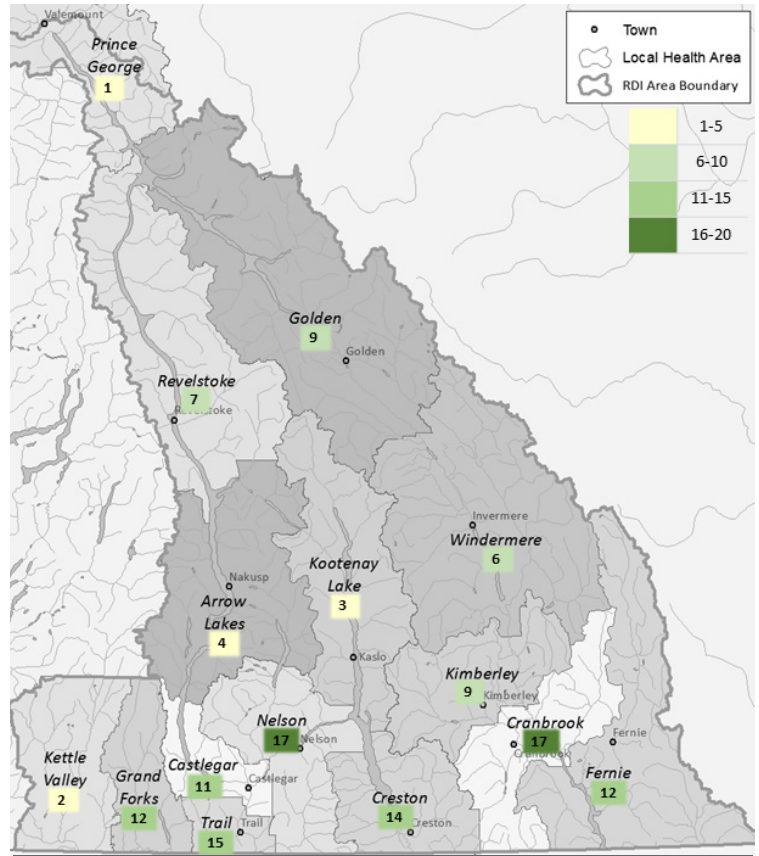
- arts councils
- galleries and centres festivals and special events
- museums and historical societies
- historic places
- recreational facilities

Also learn about local government spending on parks, recreation and culture by visiting www.cbrdi.ca/category/trends-analysis/.

FAITH BASED SERVICES

Faith based organizations provide spiritual and religious support to families. These locations often also house a variety of services for people in need, such as food banks and community meals.

FATH BASED SERVICES





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