

TRENDS ANALYSIS: POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the total number of people in the region in five-year age groups, or 'cohorts', reported by gender. Data for this indicator were gathered from the [2011 Census](#).

As we age, our needs change. Young people need family care, schooling and recreation services, while working people are concerned about employment opportunities and childcare. In addition, some retirees need community supports to maintain health and live independently at home. By tracking changes in the structure of our population, decision-makers are able to plan for demographic pressures and be prepared for the required adjustments to local service priorities.

What are the trends & current conditions?

As of 2011, there were approximately 161,400 people living in the Basin-Boundary region. The population pyramid (figure 1) shows fewer children under 10 years old than in the 10 to 20 year old age group. This may explain the declining enrollment trend in school districts in the region (see the Student Enrollment indicator for more information). The relatively small size of the young adult cohort aged 20-24 suggests a youth 'out-migration' trend possibly explained by young adults seeking employment or educational experiences outside of the region. From 25-49 years the cohort sizes rebound incrementally. The relatively large number of 'boomers' aged 50 to 65 who have retired or will be retiring over the next 10-15 years is shown, followed by much smaller, older cohorts. A relatively even number of men and women are shown across most age cohorts, with a higher number of women aged 80 and older.

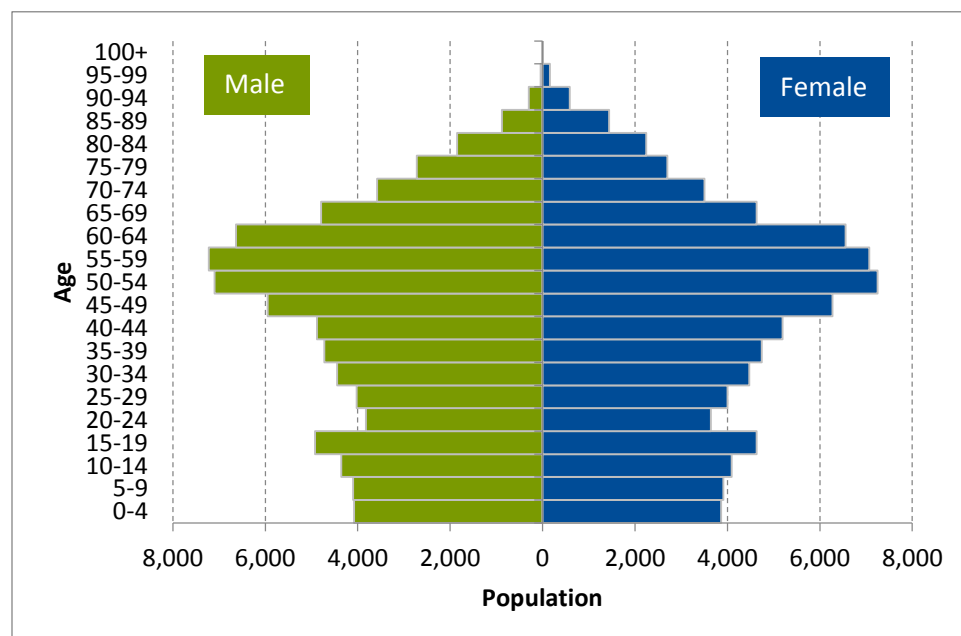


Figure 1: Basin-Boundary Population by Age Cohort, 2011
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011

Our region is a relatively old one, and getting older. In 2013, BC Stats reported that four of five Basin-Boundary regional districts have a higher percentage of seniors (+60) in their population than the BC average (figure 2). Across all Basin-Boundary regional districts, an average of 27% of the population is now over 60—up from 18% in the year 2000. However, population structure varies depending on

community. For example, there is an over 20 year difference in median age between the population in Golden (38.1) and Midway (58.3). Full, community-specific population data are available on the [Digital Basin](#).

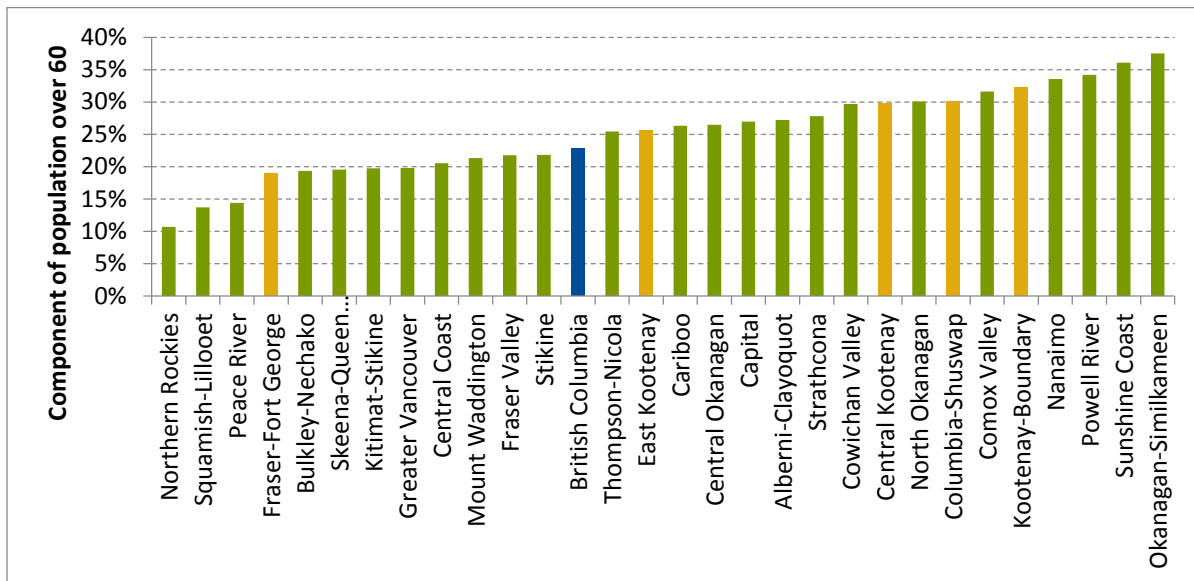


Figure 2: Component of population older than age 60, BC regional districts, 2013
 Source: BC Stats, 2013



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

References

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