

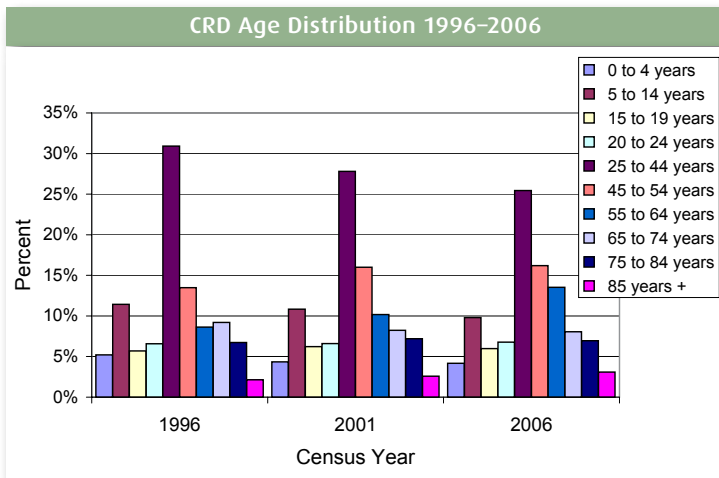
Age Profile

Capital Region Age Distribution

The Capital Regional District tracks changes in population and age distribution to inform service providers, developers and planners about potential needs. Age profile information has implications for school enrolments and subsequent school closings; the provision of daycare and supportive housing; planning for recreational needs, health care facilities, transit etc.

As in the rest of British Columbia, the population in the Capital Region is ageing. The median age* of the population in 2006 was 44 years and is projected to climb to 51 by 2036. The graph below shows the changes in age distribution from 1996–2006. Notice the decreases in the 0–14 and 25–44 age groups and the increases in the 45–64 and 85+ age groups.

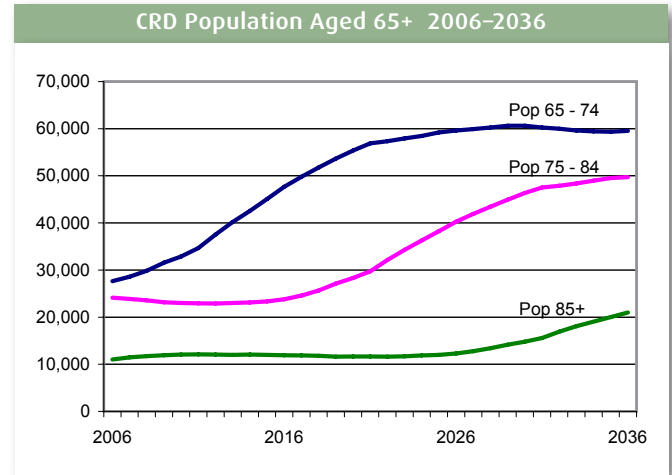
**The age at which exactly one half of the population is older and the other half is younger*



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Censuses

The next graph shows projected population increases to 2036 for the older age groups:

- 65–74 age group from 8% to 14% (27,648 to 59,531)
- 75–84 age group from 7% to 12% (24,148 to 49,722)
- 85+ age group from 3% to 5% (11,026 to 21,011)



Source: BC Stats PE.O.P.L.E. 32 Population Projection

Sub-Regional Age Distribution

For the purposes of statistical analysis, the Capital Regional District is typically subdivided into four sub-regions:

- Core**—Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, View Royal
- Peninsula**—Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney
- West Shore**—Colwood, Highlands, Juan de Fuca EA, Langford, Metchosin, Sooke
- Gulf Islands**—Salt Spring Island EA, Southern Gulf Islands EA

The differences in age distribution across these sub-regions have significance in regards to transit, housing, labour availability and service delivery. The following table shows the diverse demographic make-up across the region.

In the West Shore 19% of the population are children under 14 compared to the CRD average of 14%—due in part to the availability of lower cost family housing. In the Core, where the UVIC and Camosun College campuses are located, there is approximately twice the percentage of university age young people 20–24 compared to the other sub-regions.

There are more people of working age 25–44 in the Core (27%) and the West Shore (29%)—sub-regions with the highest concentration of workplaces—than in the Peninsula (18%) and the Gulf Islands (17%). There is a high proportion of seniors 65+ in the Peninsula (25%) and in the Gulf Islands (25%) reflecting the desirability of these sub-regions as retirement communities. More modest proportions of seniors are found in the Core (18%) and in the West Shore (11%).

Age Distribution for Selected Age Groups CAPITAL REGION AND SUB-REGIONS (%)							
	0–14	<20	20–24	25–44	45–64	65+	80+
Capital Region	14.0	19.9	6.8	25.4	29.7	18.1	6.4
Core	12.9	18.6	7.9	26.5	28.7	18.3	6.9
Peninsula	13.6	19.9	4.4	18.0	33.0	24.6	9.0
West Shore	18.7	25.9	5.0	28.6	29.5	11.0	2.7
Gulf Islands	11.5	16.4	3.1	16.6	39.5	24.5	6.5

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Comparison to BC and Other Regions

Although the age distribution in the Capital Region is similar to BC as a whole, the region's median age of 44 is older than the provincial average of 41. The under 20 age group is notably smaller than in the rest of BC while the over 65 population is larger, as seen in the table below.

Age Distribution for Selected Age Groups BC AND SELECTED REGIONAL DISTRICTS (%)							
	0–14	<20	20–24	25–44	45–64	65+	80+
BC	16.5	23.2	6.5	27.4	28.4	14.6	4.0
Capital Region	14.0	19.9	6.8	25.4	29.7	18.1	6.4
Central Okanagan	15.7	22.4	6.2	24.1	28.3	19.0	5.2
Greater Vancouver	16.3	22.8	7.0	30.1	27.2	12.8	3.6
Nanaimo	14.3	20.7	5.6	21.2	31.7	20.9	5.6

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

This table shows similarities and differences among specific age groups in the Capital Region and three regions it is often compared to: Central Okanagan, Greater Vancouver and Nanaimo.

The Capital Region has the smallest share of population under 20. In the 20–24 age group the region is about average while Nanaimo has a small share at 6%. Similarly the region is about average in the 25–44 age group while Greater Vancouver has the largest share at 30%. The region's 18% share of seniors over 65 is higher than the BC average of 15%, significantly higher than Greater Vancouver's 13%, but less than Nanaimo's 21%. In the oldest age group 80+ the Capital Region has the largest share at 6% compared to the BC and Greater Vancouver average of 4%.



Implications

There are several implications arising from the Capital Region's age distributions, relatively high median age and growing elderly population.

As the senior and elderly populations increase, so will the demand for services tailored to them, especially the provision of health care and residential care facilities. The Elderly Dependency Ratio (population 65+ relative to population aged 18–64) is higher than the provincial average and is projected to continue growing from the current 2006 ratio of 29% to 53% by 2036*.

On the other end of the age spectrum are declining numbers of children and youth under 14. The Child Dependency Ratio (children relative to the working age population 18–64) is below the BC average and will continue decreasing from the current 0.26 to 0.24 by 2036. Declining numbers of children affect the provision of services geared towards them, including schools and daycare facilities. However, this phenomenon is not being experienced region-wide due to the West Shore's larger share of this age group.

The age group in the middle, 25–44—the bulk of the workforce—is experiencing the most noticeable decline in numbers.

As the workforce ages and retires without adequate numbers of replacements there is the possibility of the regional economy experiencing shortages of skilled labour in certain occupations including construction, services, health care, etc.

*The BC Stats P.E.O.P.L.E. 32 Population Projection