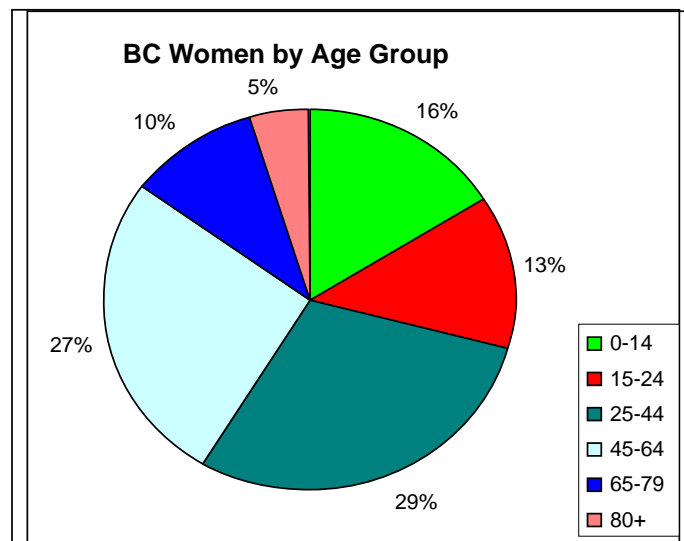


Quick Facts on British Columbia Women

1. Women constitute half of British Columbia's population of 4.2 million, and 55% of persons who are 65 and older. British Columbian women have the longest average life expectancy in Canada, at 83 years of age.¹

2. In 2001, about 41% of BC women were single; 41% were married; 8% widowed; 7% divorced; and 3% were separated. This has not significantly changed from 1996.²

3. About 82% of single-parent-with-child(ren) families were headed by women in 2001. This has been the trend for approximately 20 years.³



4. Women account for 56% of university enrolment in BC and 55% of graduate students.⁴

5. Women account for almost half the BC labour force; approximately 85% of women workers are in the services sector.⁵

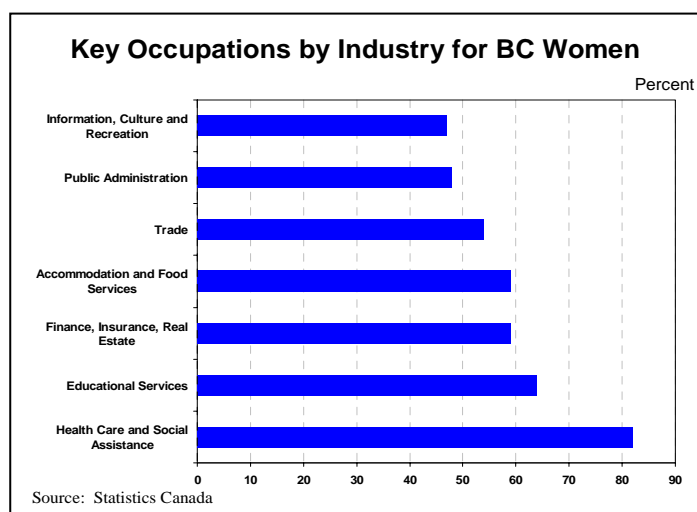
6. Two-thirds of **working** women are in full-time jobs, one third are in part-time employment.⁶

7. The average weekly wage for women in 2004 was \$568.21, up from \$462.04 in 1997.⁷ The average hourly wage rose from \$14.88 in 1997 to \$17.44 in 2004.⁸

8. British Columbian women owned and operated just over a third of the province's small businesses in 2003, the highest rate of ownership by women in the country.⁹

9. Close to two-thirds (61%) of women with children under the age of six work outside the home, and close to three-quarters (71%) of couples with young children both work outside the home.¹⁰

10. In 2001, over one half of women aged 25-44 and nearly 60% of women aged 45-64 provided unpaid care to seniors.¹¹



Notes:

- ¹ BC Stats, October 2004.
- ² *Census 1996, Census 2001*. Statistics Canada
- ³ *Census 2001, Census 1996, Census 1991, Census 1986, Census 1981*. Statistics Canada
- ⁴ Ministry of Advanced Education, *Post-Secondary Central Data Warehouse Standards Reports*, November 2004 Data Submission.
- ⁵ *Labour Force Historical Review, 2004*. Statistics Canada. 2005
- ⁶ Ministry of Skills Development and Labour, *Women and the Labour Force*, March 17, 2005
- ⁷ *Labour Force Historical Review, 2004*. Statistics Canada. 2005
- ⁸ Ministry of Skills Development and Labour, *Women and the Labour Force*, March 17, 2005
- ⁹ *Small Business Profile, 2004 – A Profile of Small Businesses in British Columbia*. A partnership of Western Economic Diversification Canada, Small Business BC, Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development and BC Stats. 2004
- ¹⁰ BC Government News Release May 6, 2003.
- ¹¹ *Census 2001*. Statistics Canada