

Introduction

Families, Marital Status and Households is the third set of data release from the Census of Canada taken on May 16, 2006. The following briefing provides some highlights for Alberta.

Marital Status and Same-Sex Unions

In the 2006 Census, the total population of Alberta was 3,290,350, with 2,658,800 over the age of 15. Table 1 presents the marital status of people aged 15 and older in Alberta. In 2006, for the first time in history Canada recorded more unmarried people (aged 15+) than legally married people, but this was not the case in Alberta. Table 1 shows that 55% of Albertans were legally married, 31% never married, 6% divorced, 5% widowed, and 3% separated.

The 2006 Census was the first time to enumerate the same-sex unions, after the legalization of same-sex marriages in Canada in July 2005. According to Statistics Canada, Alberta shared 6.7% (or 3,055 couples) of the total 45,350 same-sex partnerships counted in Canada. Similar to the national average, less than 17% of the same-sex partners in Alberta were married couples.

**Table 1 Marital Status in Alberta
Marital Status, 15 Years & Over, Alberta 2006**

	Total	Male	Female
Never married (single)	746,095	418,845	327,250
Legally married	1,347,075	674,745	672,330
Separated, still married	62,180	27,520	34,655
Divorced	151,705	64,595	87,115
Widowed	123,200	23,200	100,005
Total	2,430,255	1,208,900	1,221,355

Traditional Family still Majority

In 2006, there were over 904,800 census families in Alberta, up 11.5% from 2001 and nearly doubled the national increase of 6.3%.

As revealed in Figure 1, in 2006 the majority of Alberta families were headed by married couples (73% versus 69% in Canada), followed by a lone-parent (14%) and common-law unions (13%). Most lone-parent households were led by a lone-mother. Although traditional families ruled in Alberta, the Province also had the highest growth rate for common-law-couple families (+23.4%) between 2001 and 2006.

Figure 1 Family Structure in Alberta

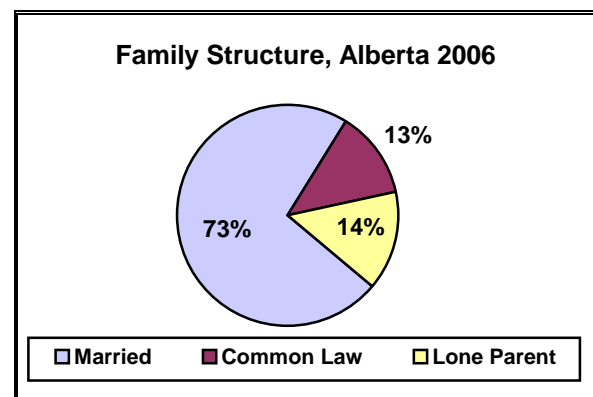


Table 2 highlights the living arrangements of children aged 0 to 14 in Canada. Alberta had a higher proportion of children living with married parents, and a lower percentage with common-law parents or a lone-parent than the national average. For children living with a lone-parent, Alberta had the lowest proportion among provinces.

TABLE 2 LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN (0-14 YEARS), PROVINCES AND CANADA, 2006 CENSUS

Arrangement	NFLD.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	QUE.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	Canada
Living with married parents	68.4%	71.1%	65.7%	65.3%	46.7%	73.0%	68.5%	66.1%	72.7%	71.1%	66.9%
Living with common-Law parents	8.6%	6.4%	8.7%	10.3%	29.7%	6.1%	7.7%	9.0%	7.5%	7.1%	11.0%
Living with a lone parent	23.0%	22.5%	25.6%	24.4%	23.6%	20.9%	23.8%	24.9%	19.8%	21.8%	22.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada