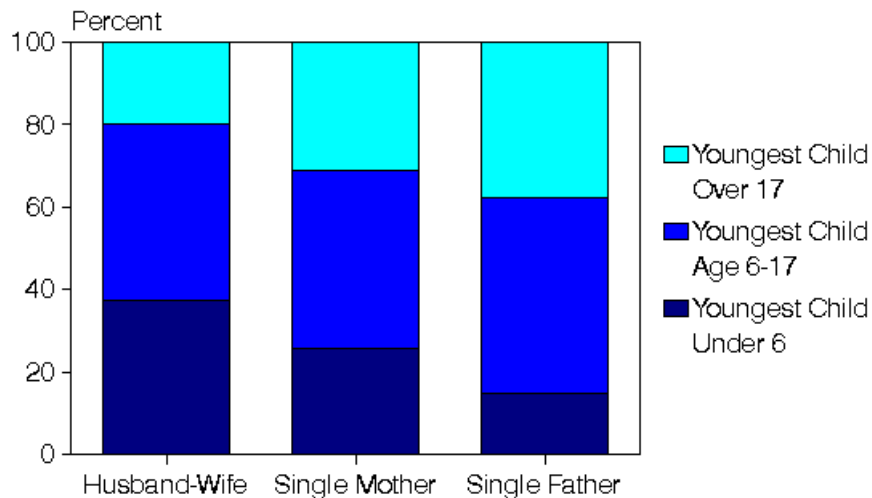


## Issue 2: Age of Children in Families

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- Six out of ten families in British Columbia have children (never-married sons and daughters) living at home.
- In 22 per cent of families with children living at home, all of the children are aged 18 or over.

### Husband-Wife Families Have Younger Children Than Single Parent Families



Source: 1991 Census of Canada

- Single parents are more likely than two-parent families to have only older children (aged 18 or more) living at home. In 1991, 38 per cent of single fathers and 31 per cent of single mothers fit into this category, compared to only 20 per cent of husband-wife families.
- Husband-wife families typically have younger children than lone parents. In 38 per cent of all two-parent families, the youngest child is less than six years old. For single mothers and fathers, the comparable statistics are 26 and 15 per cent, respectively.
- A possible explanation of the variation in the ages of children living in different types of families is that couples may be less likely to separate or divorce when their children are very young.
- The relative number of single fathers with young children is growing. In 1991, 15 per cent of single fathers had a child less than six years old, up from 13.5 per cent in 1986.

## Age of Children in Families by Family Structure British Columbia

	Number		% Age Distribution	
	1986	1991	1986	1991
<b>Total Families</b>	775,875	887,660		
With Children at Home	481,100	529,595	100.0	100.0
- Youngest Child Over 17	100,375	118,220	20.9	22.3
- Youngest Child Age 6-17	212,745	227,230	44.2	42.9
- Youngest Child Under 6	167,970	184,145	34.9	34.8
<b>Husband-Wife Families</b>	679,230	780,285		
With Children at Home	384,450	422,215	100.0	100.0
- Youngest Child Over 17	71,025	83,645	18.5	19.8
- Youngest Child Age 6-17	168,290	180,200	43.8	42.7
- Youngest Child Under 6	145,135	158,375	37.8	37.5
<b>Female Single Parent Families</b>	79,145	88,245		
With Children at Home	79,145	88,245	100.0	100.0
- Youngest Child Over 17	22,880	27,390	28.9	31.0
- Youngest Child Age 6-17	35,790	37,970	45.2	43.0
- Youngest Child Under 6	20,470	22,890	25.9	25.9
<b>Male Single Parent Families</b>	17,505	19,130		
With Children at Home	17,505	19,130	100.0	100.0
- Youngest Child Over 17	6,470	7,185	37.0	37.6
- Youngest Child Age 6-17	8,665	9,060	49.5	47.4
- Youngest Child Under 6	2,355	2,880	13.5	15.1

Source: 1991 Census of Canada