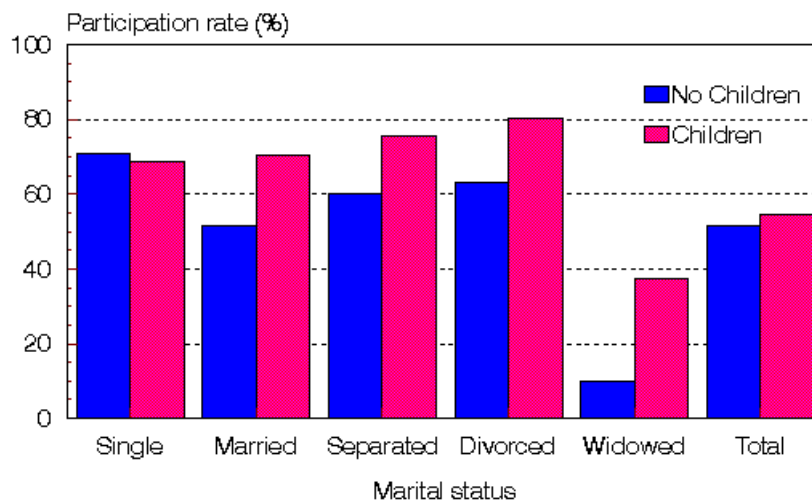


Issue 18: Family Status of Working Women

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- In 1991, four out of every six married (including women in a common law relationship) or separated women in British Columbia were either employed or looking for work, up from one in six thirty years ago.
- Participation rates were highest for single (never married) women at 71%, and divorced women at 70%.
- The overall participation rate for widows, most of whom are in the 45 and over age group, was much lower, with only one in seven either working or looking for work.

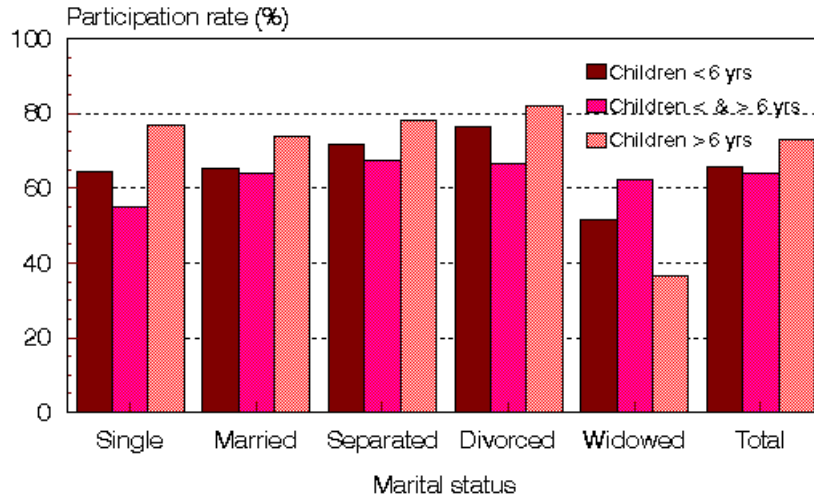
Women with children living at home are more likely to be in the work force than those with no children



- As the above graph illustrates, women with children living at home are more likely to be in the work force than those who have no children. In 1991, 70 per cent of all mothers (with children living at home) participated in the labour force, compared to 54 per cent of women who had no children living at home.
- The participation rate for women with children living at home increased by fifteen percentage points during the last decade. In contrast, the labour force activity of women who do not have children at home rose only slightly between 1981 and 1991.
- Labour force participation rates for mothers with young children have also risen significantly during the last ten years. In 1991, 66 per cent of women whose children were all less than six years old were either working or looking for work, up from 45 per cent in 1981.

- While 65 per cent of all married and single mothers whose children are all under the age of six are in the work force, the shares for divorced and separated women are significantly higher, at 76 and 72 per cent respectively. 52 per cent of widowed women with young children were in the labour force in 1991.
- Three out of every four women with older children (all aged six or more) were in the work force in 1991.

Two out of three women whose children are all less than six years old are in the work force



Participation Rates of Women by Family Status

	Marital Status					Total
	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	
	Per cent of population (aged 15 & over) in the labour force					
1981						
Women aged 15 and over	67.4	50.7	63.7	71.0	17.7	52.7
no children at home	67.6	47.4	61.0	66.8	13.3	51.4
children at home	56.8	53.1	66.5	75.9	41.6	54.5
under 6 years only	53.0	43.0	60.0	67.9	61.0	44.7
under 6 as well	32.2	44.0	52.1	46.2	39.7	44.4
as 6 years & over						
6 years & over only	68.8	58.9	71.5	79.6	41.2	60.0
1986						
Women aged 15 and over	68.6	55.2	64.1	68.9	15.2	55.5
no children at home	68.8	47.5	59.2	63.0	10.7	51.2
children at home	63.9	61.1	69.0	76.7	39.8	61.7
under 6 years only	61.6	58.0	64.5	68.9	64.8	58.8
under 6 as well	38.6	52.5	51.3	53.3	50.7	52.2
as 6 years & over						
6 years & over only	74.1	64.4	74.3	79.4	39.1	64.9
1991						
Women aged 15 and over	70.5	61.6	67.7	69.9	13.9	60.0
no children at home	70.6	51.5	60.1	63.1	10.0	53.5
children at home	68.0	70.2	75.5	80.4	37.5	70.0
under 6 years only	64.4	65.2	71.5	76.2	51.7	65.6
under 6 as well	54.8	63.8	67.5	66.7	62.1	63.8
as 6 years & over						
6 years & over only	76.9	73.6	78.3	82.0	36.6	72.8

Source: 1981, 1986, 1991 Census of Canada