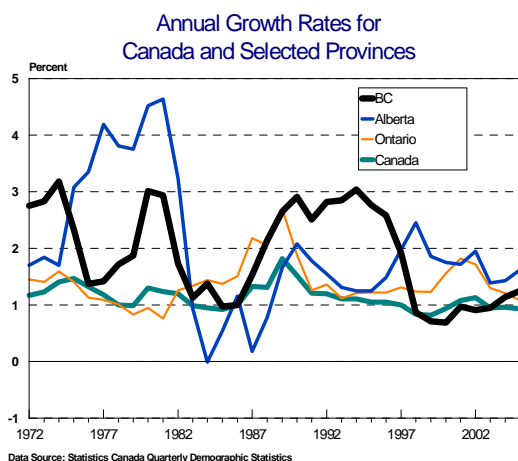


Health Authorities: P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31

The most recent sub-provincial population projection is P.E.O.P.L.E. 31, prepared in May, 2006. All projections are affected by population trends at a provincial level, since the provincial components of mortality, fertility and migration act as control totals for the sub-provincial regions. Therefore, the first part of this paper will focus on the details of the provincial level projection (Proj 05/12) before turning to the projections for individual health authorities.



After peaking in 1994 at 3.04%, British Columbia's annual rate of population growth slowed considerably. The province's growth rate reached its lowest point in 2000 at 0.69%, a level lower than the national average for that year. Despite increases since 2000, annual population growth for British Columbia remained below the national average until 2004. Statistics Canada estimates that British Columbia's population grew by 1.25% in the year preceding July 1, 2005. In comparison, the population of Canada grew by an estimated 0.9% over the same period. The above chart demonstrates that British Columbia's annual growth rate has been lower than Alberta's since 1997 and was lower than Ontario's from 1998 to 2004 inclusive.

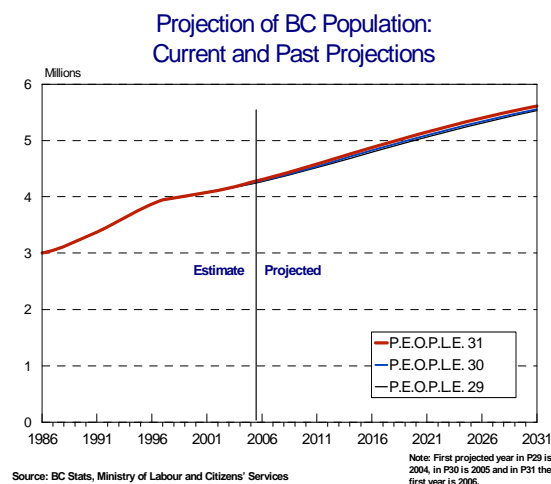
P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 Projects Larger Population

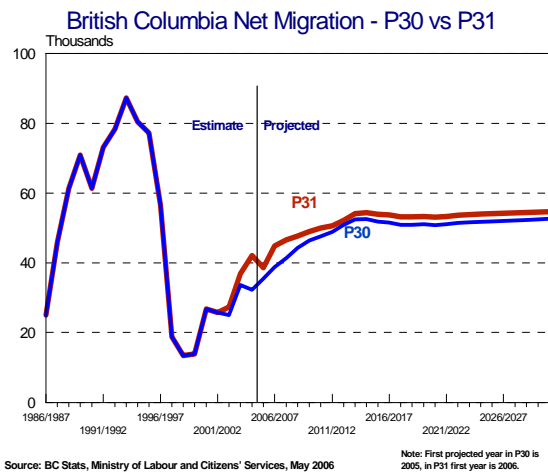
P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects a slightly larger population than both P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 29.

The estimated provincial population in 2005 was 0.7% larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 29 and 0.4% larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. These differences are, in part, due to revisions in Statistics Canada's base year estimates. The small difference in 2005 between the current run and P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 is amplified throughout the projection and by 2031 the difference increases to about 1%, or almost 60,000 people.

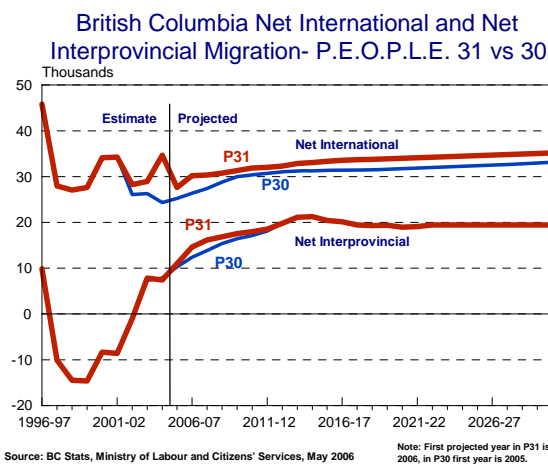
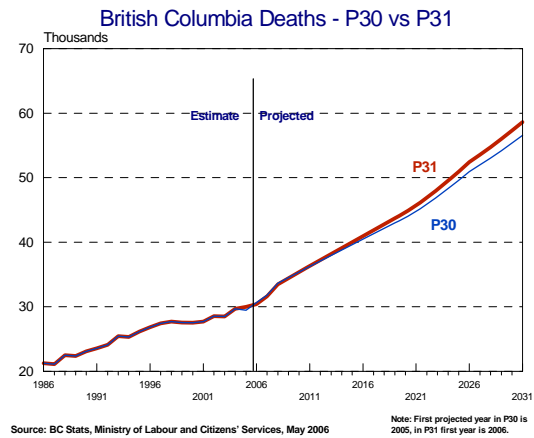
Differences in Components of Growth

Much of the difference between P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 is due to an increase in expected net migration. The larger projected net migration is largely a result of higher net international migration throughout the projection period. Net interprovincial migration is also expected to be slightly higher than in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, particularly in the short run.



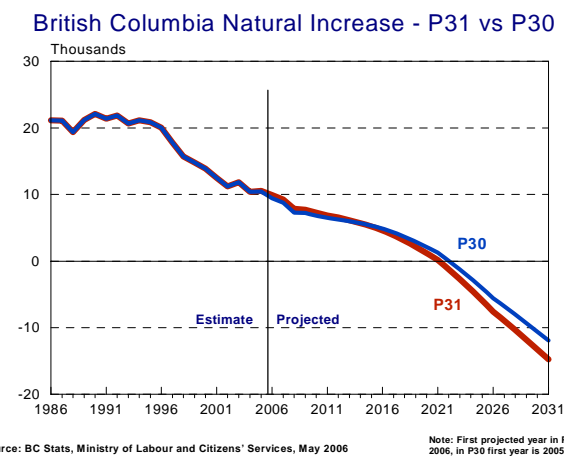
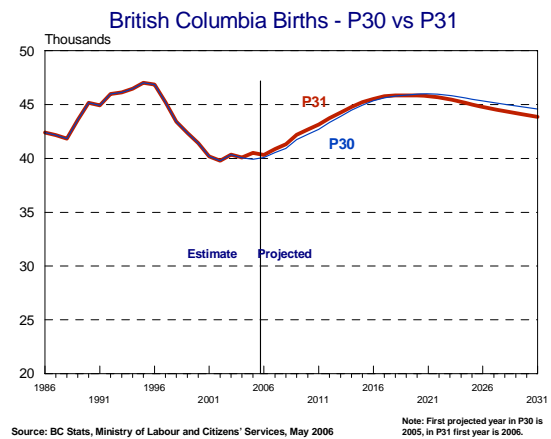


First, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, mortality rates are slightly lower in the early part of the current projection resulting in slightly fewer deaths.



As well, the current projection anticipates more births in the early part of the projection, largely due to a higher anticipated number of females in childbearing ages.

Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates slightly higher natural increase in the short-term and lower natural increase after 2014. This is likely due to a combination of factors.



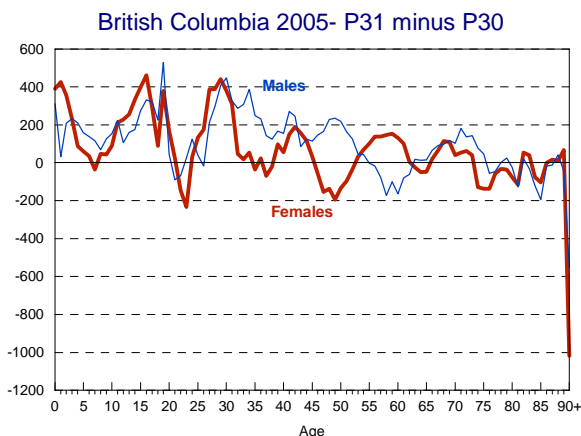
In the latter half of the projection this situation reverses. Although fertility rates remain essentially unchanged from P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, smaller numbers of females in childbearing ages and a more rapidly ageing population than previously expected will likely lead to fewer births and more deaths than P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, resulting in lower natural increase figures.

An Older Population for British Columbia

The base provincial population used in the P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projection is the July 1, 2005 population estimate for British Columbia prepared by Statistics Canada. The source for this estimate is the 2001 Census with an adjustment by age and sex for net census undercount. This estimate indicated a larger provincial population than previous estimates and also resulted in a revision to the estimated age structure of the population.

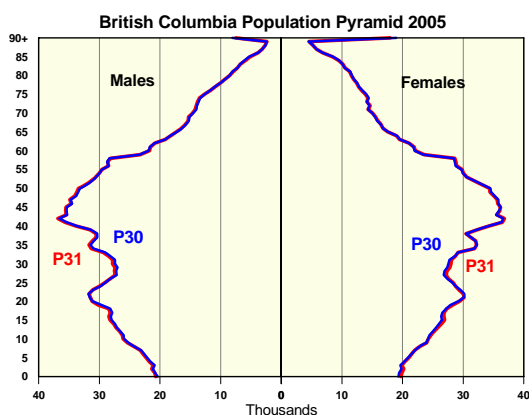
As can be seen in the population pyramid for 2005, the base population for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 is very similar in structure to the 2005 population projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. However, there are slightly more people at almost every age, except for those aged 75 and older. The new estimate is larger than projected by over 15,000 people but, spread over much of the age spectrum, this difference has a minimal impact on any particular age cohort.

The following chart shows the difference between P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 for males and females by age. In combination with the differences in net migration and natural increase, these differences in age structure will have repercussions throughout the projection period.

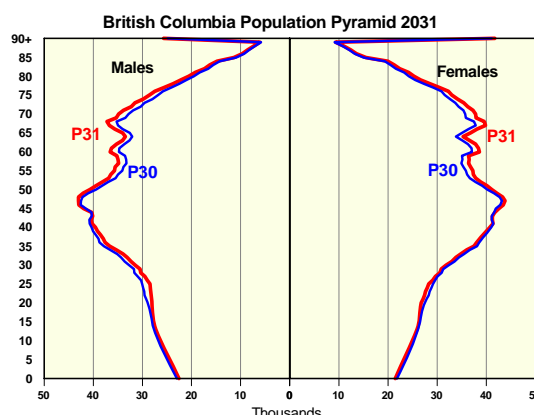


Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects an older population than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. By 2031 the projected median age for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 is 46.2 years, a full year older than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. The current projection run anticipates smaller numbers of people aged 45 years and younger, and larger numbers of those older than 45 years.



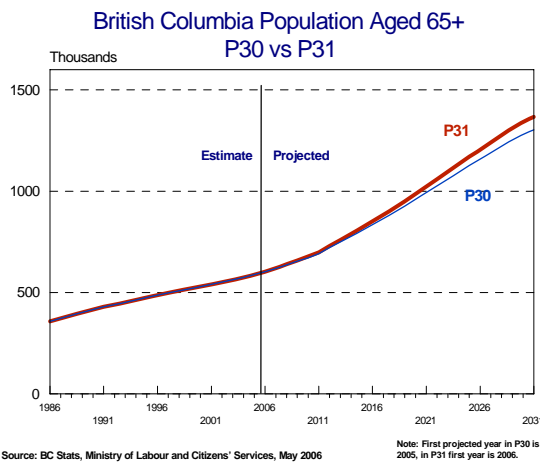
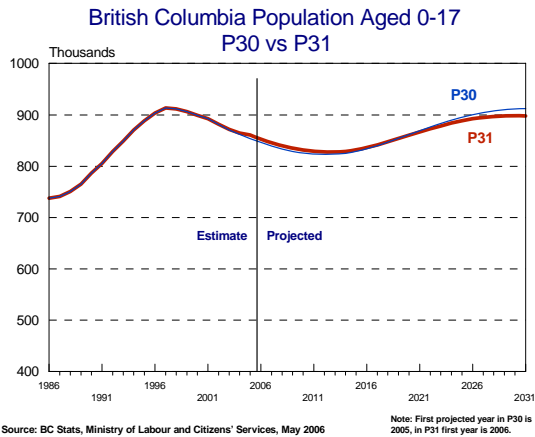
Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006



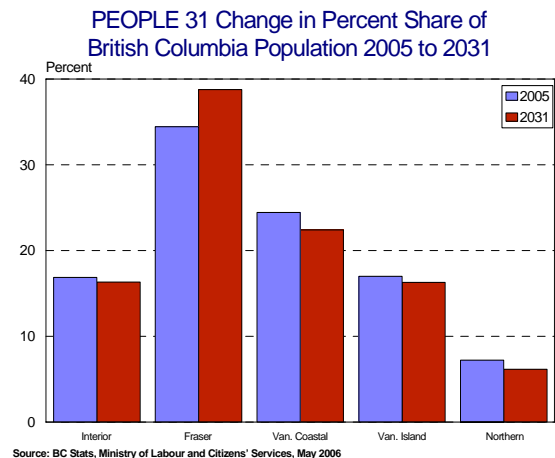
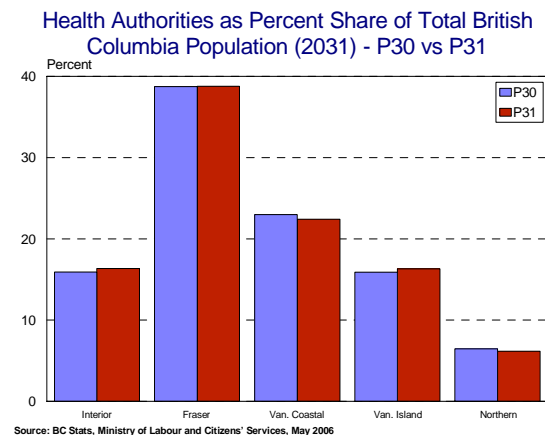
Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

The greater (and more rapid) ageing of British Columbia's population projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 can be seen in the fewer children under the age of 18 years in the latter part of the projection, as well as the greater number of seniors aged 65 and older.

There are only small differences between P.E.O.P.L.E. 30's projection and the estimates that form the base population (2005) of P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 with regard to the proportion each health authority contributes to the total population of British Columbia. The following chart demonstrates that P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 also does not deviate very much from the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for 2031. The Lower Mainland will likely have the largest concentration of population in the province. Fraser Health Authority's population is expected to be the largest share of the total British Columbia population at almost 40%, followed by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority with about 22%.

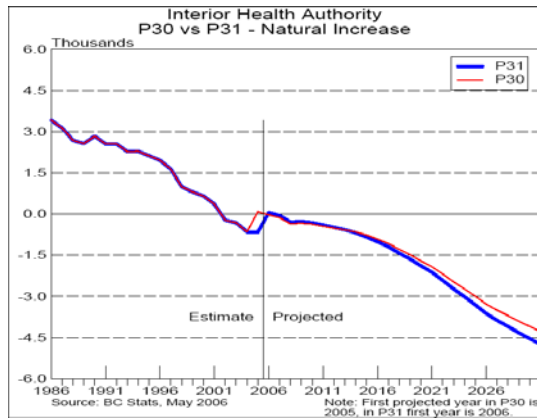


By 2031, the Fraser Health Authority is the only region expected to increase its share of the total British Columbia population. It is expected to increase by over four percentage points between 2005 and 2031, while all other health authorities will likely see a drop in their shares.



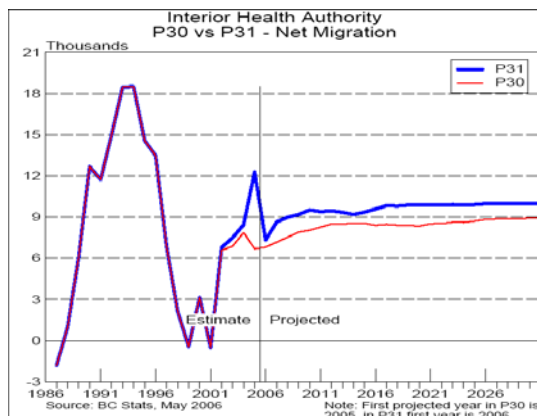
INTERIOR HEALTH AUTHORITY

Natural increase has been negative since the late 1990s and is expected to continue its downward trend. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates lower natural increase after 2015, largely a result of the older projected age structure in the region.

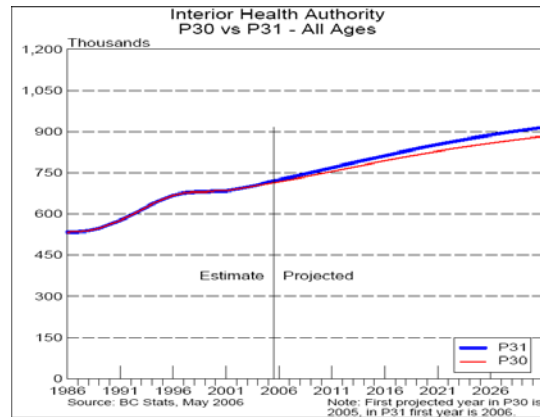


Net migration values have been higher than previously estimated since 2002, and the current projection anticipates higher values throughout the projection period.

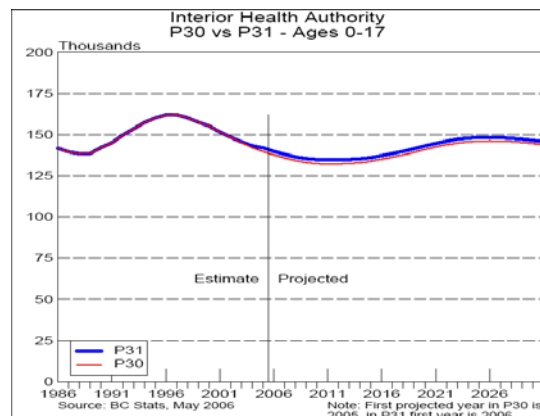
In 2005 the estimated population of this region was slightly larger (0.9%) than that previously projected. By 2017, the total population is expected to continue to be larger (2.4%) than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, a figure that represents almost twenty thousand people. Compared with the earlier projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31



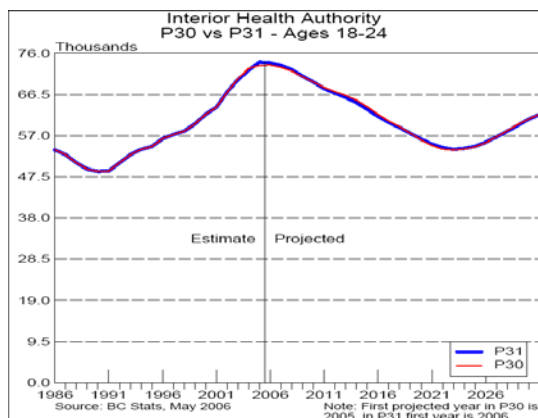
projects a population larger by almost 33,000 people in 2031. Overall, natural increase is lower in the current projection, so the faster growth in this region is mainly due to larger net inflows of migrants. The overall increase in expected population over the projection period is not distributed equally among all age groups.



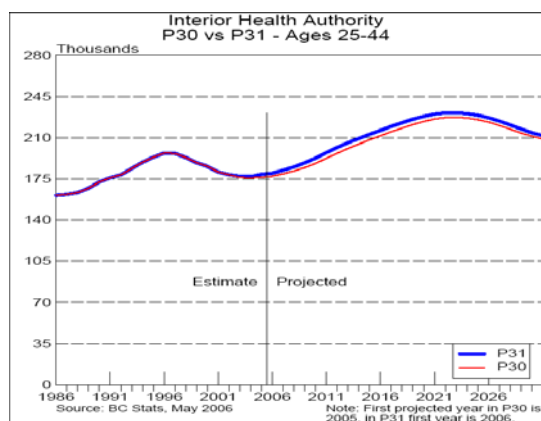
The population of children is expected to continue to decline until 2011, when the number is expected to begin a slow increase until 2026. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates a slightly larger population of individuals in this age group in the Interior Health Authority throughout the projection period.



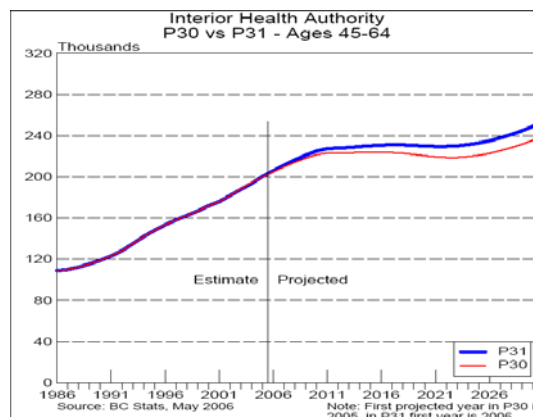
The population of post secondary school age (18 to 24 years) was larger by almost 800 than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. There are only minimal differences between the projections with regard to this age group. Both projections anticipate that the population in this age group will show an overall decline over the projection period.



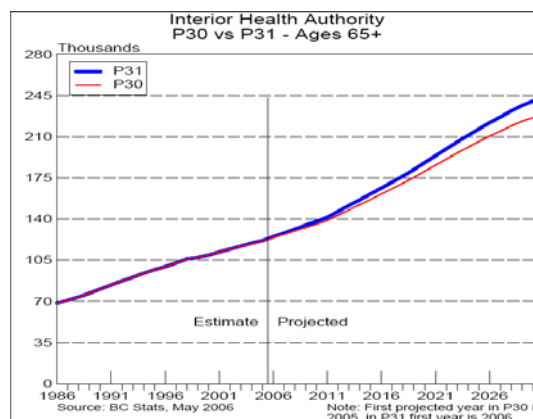
The population aged 25 to 44 years is generally associated with first-time household formation, as well as the youngest of the baby boom cohort, now aged 41 to 44 years. The population in this age group is expected to increase over the projection period, despite lower numbers in the initial few years. The adjusted estimates for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 show a slightly larger base population in this age group in 2005 than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. Table 1-3 shows that the 2005 base population is 1.4% larger than projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, a difference amounting to almost 2500 people.



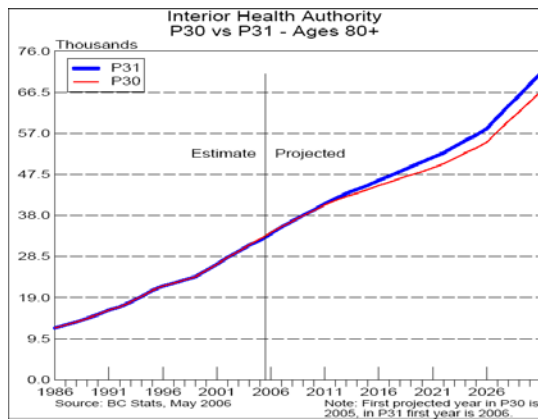
The age group of 45 to 64 years includes those considered to be in the 'mature labour force'. This age group also includes the bulk of the baby boom cohort, those from 45 to 58 years old in 2005. This age group will continue to include some baby boomers until 2029, when those individuals born in 1964 turn 65. Relative to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates more people in this age group throughout the projection.



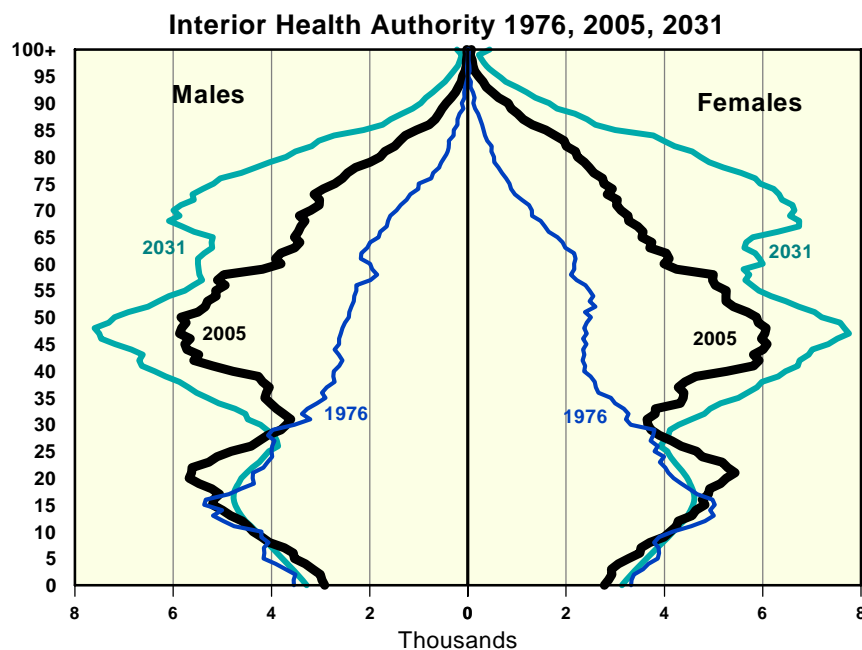
According to both projections, the senior age group, or those aged 65 and older, is expected to become much larger. However, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates more rapid growth in this group.



The very senior population, those aged 80 and older, will also increase significantly. The current projection indicates faster growth than previously expected, particularly in the latter half of the projection period.



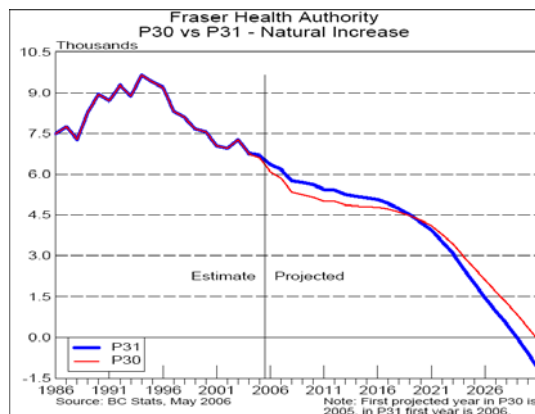
The following population pyramid demonstrates the changes in the age distribution of the population in this region that occurred between 1976 and 2005, as well as the changes in the age distribution expected to occur between 2005 and 2031 (P.E.O.P.L.E. 31). Immediately apparent is the process of population ageing in this region, as evidenced by the bulk of the population shifting progressively upward into older age groups, while young people (represented by the base of the pyramid) become a progressively smaller proportion of the total population. In 1976 about one in three people in this region were under the age of 18. By 2005, this figure had dropped to one in five and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that this figure will fall even farther by 2031, to less than one in six. At the same time, the proportion of seniors aged 65 and older has been on the rise. Representing about nine percent of the total population in 1976, by 2005 seniors made up about 17% of the population and by 2031 over one in four people will likely be in this age group. As a subgroup of the senior population (65+), the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, are expected to make up almost 8% of the total population by 2031, up from 4.5% in 2005.



Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

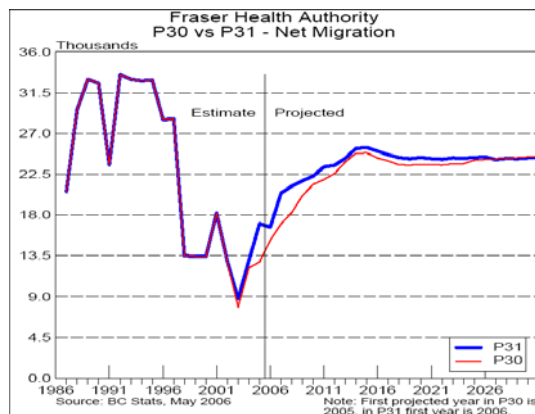
Fraser Health Authority

Natural increase remains positive in this region, despite showing a downward trend since the mid 1990s. This trend is expected to continue and, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates higher natural increase values in the first half of the projection and lower values thereafter. In the latter half of the projection, lower levels of natural increase are consistent with fewer projected young people and more seniors. However, the number of deaths is not expected to overtake the number of births until very late in the projection period.

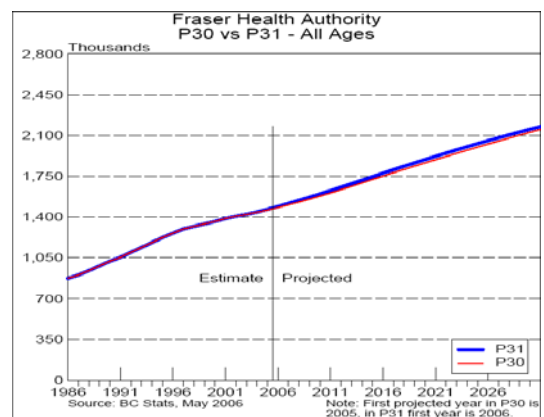


Net migration was higher than previously projected in 2005 and is expected to remain at significantly higher levels throughout most of the projection period.

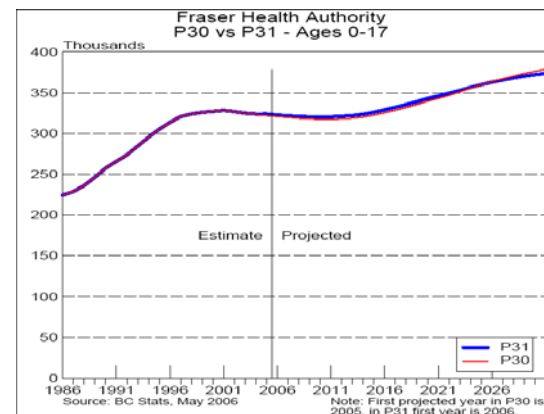
In 2005, the estimated population of this region was slightly higher (+6,000) than that projected



by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. By 2017, the total population in this region is expected to be 1.5% higher than the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection, a figure that represents almost 26,000 people. Compared with the earlier projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 expects that the population in this region will be larger by over 24,000 people. This projected increase in population is not distributed equally among all age groups, so it is important to examine the differences in the projected population of selected age groups.

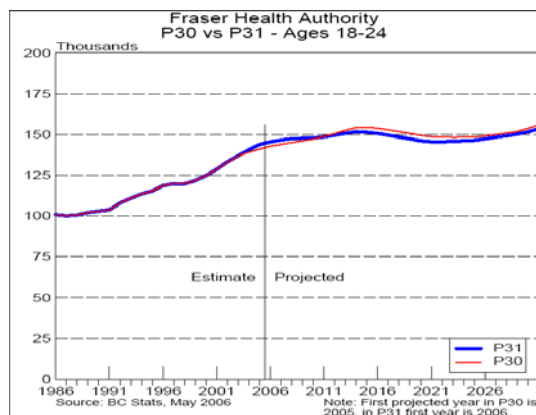


The age group 0 to 17 years has been relatively stable in the Fraser Health Authority since 1997, and is expected to remain so until around 2016, when the growth rate is expected to begin increasing. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the most recent projection anticipates a 2031 population in this age group smaller by almost 5,000 people, largely a result of slower growth in the lat-



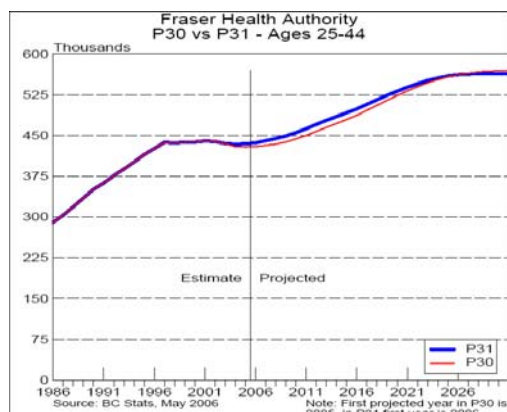
ter half of the projected period.

The population of post-secondary age (18 to 24 years) has generally been slightly larger than previously estimated. The 2005 population in this age group was almost 2% higher than previously projected. Despite this larger base population, slower projected growth in the short term is expected to result in a 2031 population smaller by over 2,000 people.



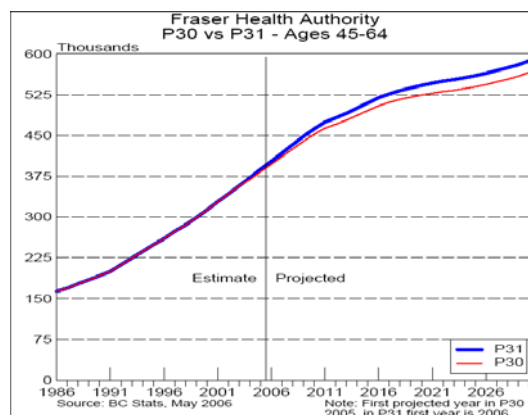
The age group of 25 to 44 years is generally associated with first-time household formation. The youngest of the baby boom cohort is also included in the top end of this age group. Revised estimates for 2003 and 2004 resulted in larger populations for this age group in these years. In 2005, estimates indicate a population larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 by almost 6,000.

Both projections anticipate that the population in this age group will increase substantially over the projection, but P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects slower growth over

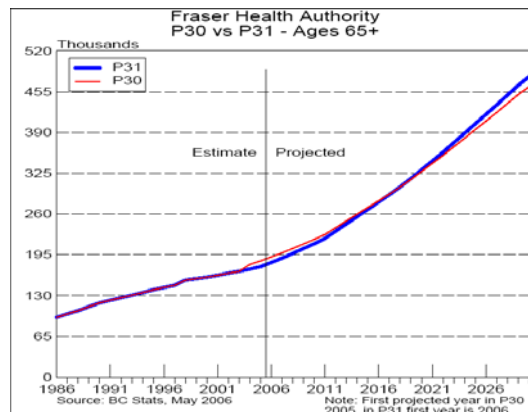


most of the period. Therefore, despite the higher base population, the current projection anticipates over 6,500 fewer people in this age group than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

The most recent projection anticipates that the mature labour force (45 to 64 years) will be larger than previously expected. Estimates indicate a 2005 population that was 1.2% larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. Compared to the previous projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slightly faster growth through most of the projected period. This, in combination with the larger base population, means that the most recent projection expects over 21,000 more people in this age group by 2031 compared with the previous projection.



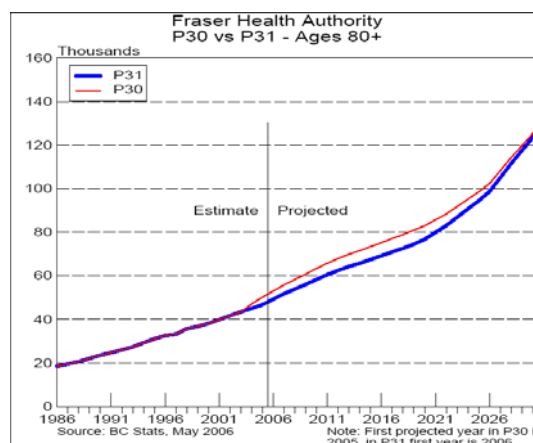
The senior age group, including all those aged 65 and older, is expected to increase dramatically over the projection period. Estimates indicate a 2005 population in this age group that was smaller (-9,000) than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. Adjustments to 2004 estimates



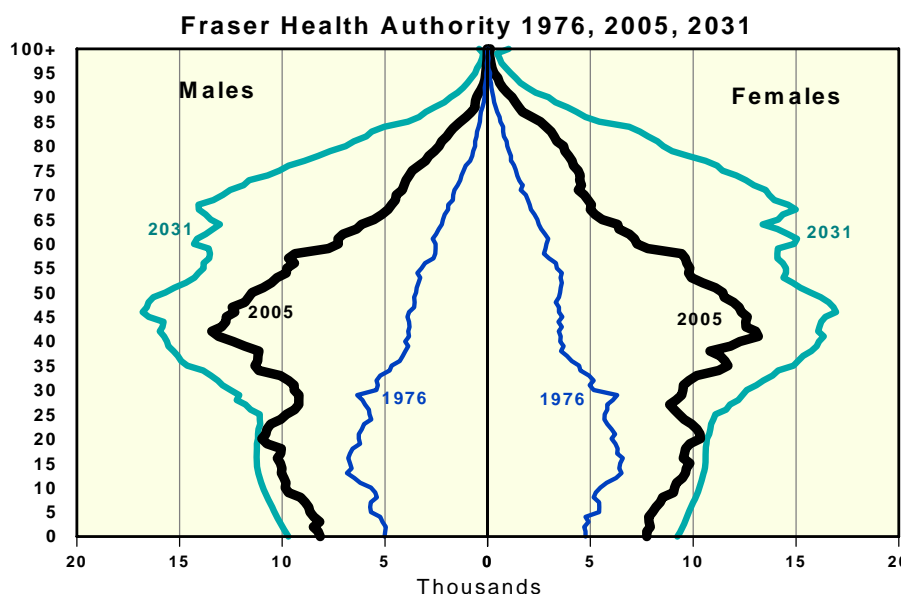
of those 65+ also resulted in a downward adjustment by about 7,500 individuals. The smaller base population leads to a smaller projected population in this age group for the first half of the projection period. However, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates slightly higher growth rates which should result in a 2031 population in this age group larger by almost 7,000 people.

Both projections expect that the population of the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, will increase dramatically. The estimated base population (2005) for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 was smaller than previously projected by almost 3,500. Adjustments to 2004 estimates of this age group also resulted in a downward adjustment (-2,000). Compared with the earlier projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slower growth in the first half of the projection period, and slightly faster growth in the latter half. However, the impact of the smaller base population in this age group will continue throughout the projection. As a result, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a 2031 population smaller by over 1,300.

The pyramid below demonstrates changes in the age distribution in this region according to P.E.O.P.L.E. 31. The process of population ageing is immediately apparent, as evidenced by



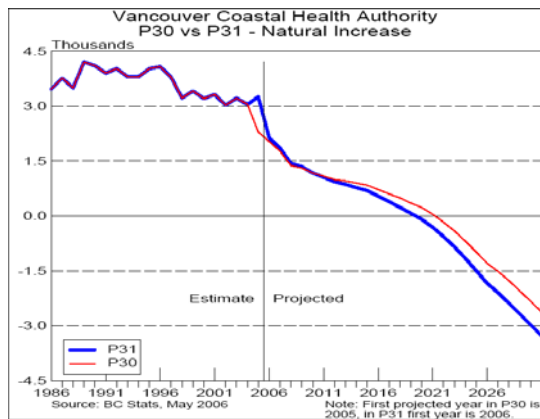
the bulk of the population moving progressively into older age groups, while young people become an increasingly smaller proportion of the total population. In 1976 about 31% of the population was under the age of 18. By 2005, this figure had dropped to about 22%, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that this figure will fall even further by 2031, to about 17%. At the same time, the proportion of seniors aged 65 and older has been on the rise. Representing about 9% of the total population in 1976, by 2005 seniors made up 12% of the population, and by 2031 almost one in four people will likely be in this age group. As a subgroup of the senior population (65+), the oldest seniors, those age 80 and older, are expected to make up almost 6% of the total population by 2031, up from about 3% in 2005.



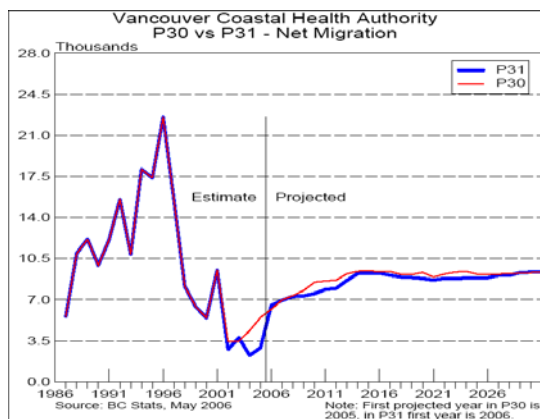
Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

The estimated 2005 natural increase was higher than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. Although the general trend of a decline in natural increase is consistent with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates lower values, particularly after 2012. This is consistent with higher projected numbers of seniors and fewer youngsters.

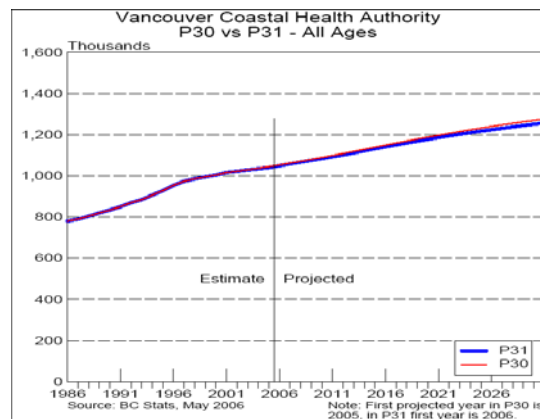


In 2005, net migration values were lower than previously projected, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates lower net migration throughout most of the projection period than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

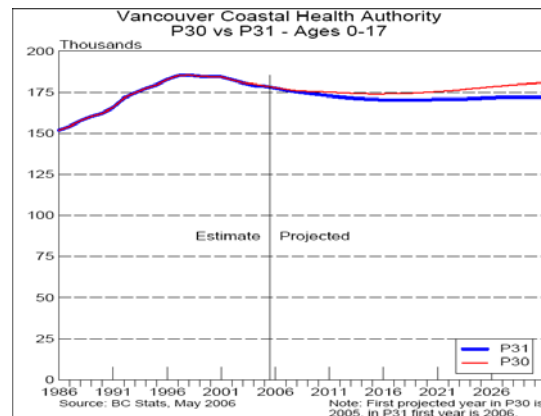


In 2005 the estimated population of this region was only slightly smaller (0.4%) than projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. Nonetheless, this figure represents just over 4,000 people. Adjustments to the estimates also resulted in

smaller population figures for 2002, 2003 and 2004. By 2017, the total population in this area is expected to be about 0.8% lower than the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for the same year, a figure that represents over 8,500 people. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the most recent projection anticipates that the population will be smaller by almost 20,000 people in 2031. However, this expected decrease in projected population is not distributed equally among all age groups.

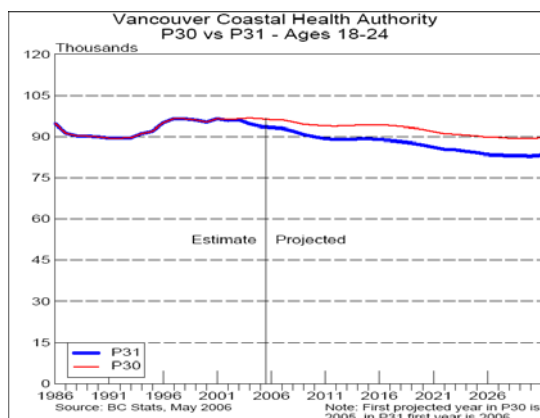


In 2003 and 2004, the adjusted population in the 0 to 17 year age group, which includes the school-aged population as well as young children, was slightly smaller than previously estimated. The 2005 estimate was smaller than previously projected by about 200. Compared with the previous projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slightly slower growth throughout the pro-

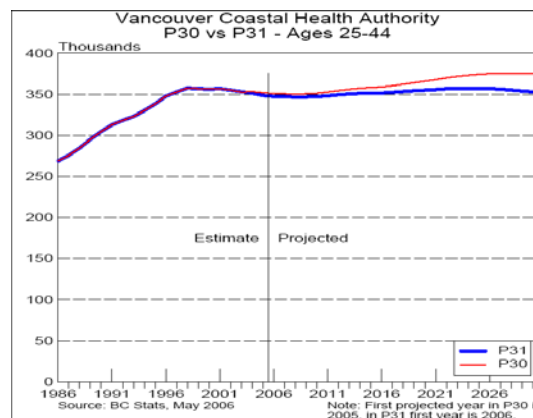


jection period. In combination with the smaller base, this slower growth means that the current projection expects over 8,500 fewer individuals in this age group by 2031 than previously projected.

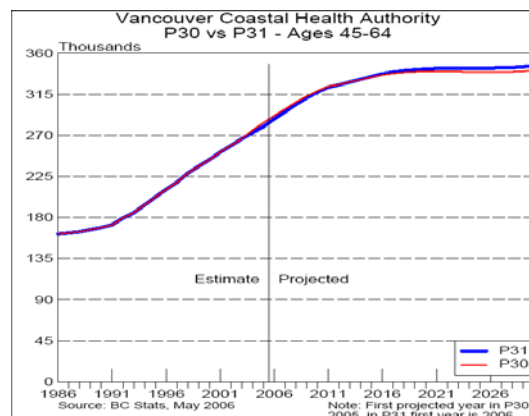
The population of post-secondary age (18 to 24 years) was smaller than previously estimated in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The estimated 2005 population was about 3% smaller than the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for the same year, a figure representing almost 3,000 individuals. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the most recent projection anticipates a smaller population in this age group, due both to the smaller base population and slower growth throughout the projection period.



The most recent projection anticipates a significantly smaller population in this age group (25 to 44 years) compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, particularly in the latter part of the projection period. This age group is usually associated with first-time household formation, and includes those who represent the 'young' labour force. Adjustments to the estimates decreased the population in 2004 by over 2,000. Growth rates for P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 are lower than for P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 and this, in combination with a lower 2005 base population (-3,300), is expected to result in a 2031 population smaller by about 23,000 people.

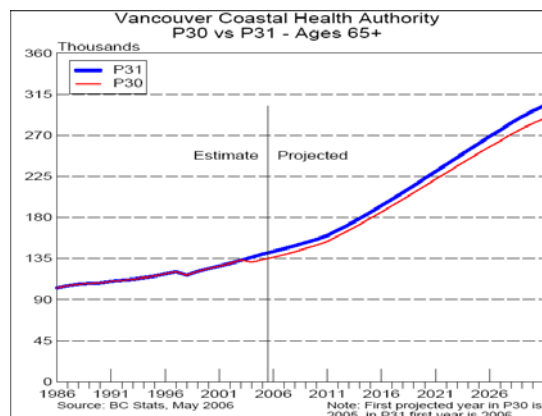


The most recent projection anticipates that the mature labour force (aged 45 to 64 years) will be slightly smaller in the first few years of the projection and somewhat larger thereafter. Adjustments to the estimates resulted in smaller populations in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The base population (2005) was 1.5% smaller than previously projected, and this smaller base is responsible for the smaller projected population in this age group until about 2014. Compared with the earlier projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slightly faster growth throughout the projection period and, by 2031, expects almost 5,000 more people in this age group.



The senior age group, including all those age 65 and older, is expected to increase dramatically over the projection period. Adjustments to the estimates resulted in larger populations, especially in 2004 (+4.2%). The 2005 population estimate was 4.8% higher than projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, a figure that represents almost 6,400 people. Despite

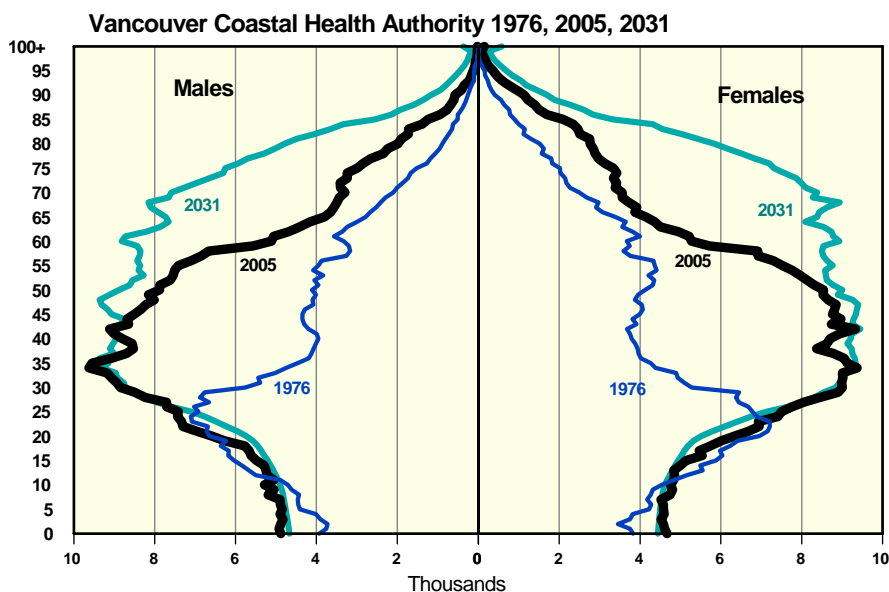
slower growth rates in the first half of the projection period, the larger base population ensures that P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates more people in this age group than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. The current projection expects over 7,000 more seniors by 2017 and over 14,000 more seniors by 2031.



Both projections anticipate that the population of the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, will increase significantly, particularly in the latter half of the projection period. Revisions to the 2004 estimate increased the population of this age group by over 1,000 people, and the 2005 estimate was larger than previously projected by almost 1,500. The current projection anticipates slightly faster

growth than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 until about 2020. As a result of this faster growth and the larger base population, the current projection expects that both the 2017 and the 2031 populations of this age group will be about 5,000 larger than previously projected.

The pyramid below (P.E.O.P.L.E. 31) demonstrates changes in the age distribution in this region. The process of population ageing is apparent as the bulk of the population moves progressively into an older age group, while young people become an increasingly smaller proportion of the total population. In 1976, almost one in four people in this region were under the age of 18. By 2005, this figure had dropped to 17%, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that this figure will fall even further by 2031, to about 14%. At the same time, the proportion of seniors aged 65 and older has been on the rise. Representing about 12% of the total population in 1976, by 2005 seniors made up almost 14% of the population, and by 2031 almost one in four people will likely be in this age group. As a subgroup of the senior population, the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, are expected to make up almost 7% of the total population by 2031, up from about 4% in 2005.

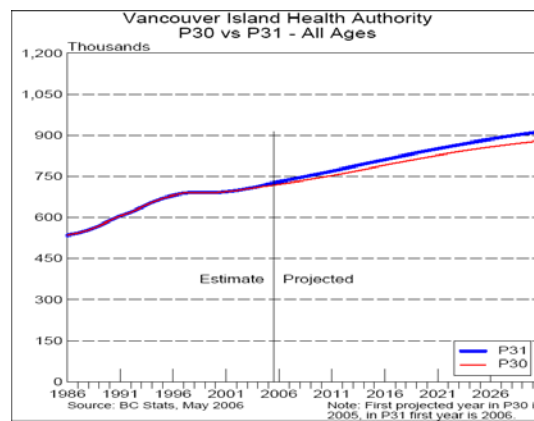


Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

Vancouver Island Health Authority

Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates lower natural increase values in the latter part of the projection. This pattern is consistent with changes in the projected age structure. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates more young people in general, but also expects a more rapid increase in seniors in the latter part of the projection. Natural increase has been negative since 2001, and is expected to continue to decline as deaths outnumber births by an increasing margin.

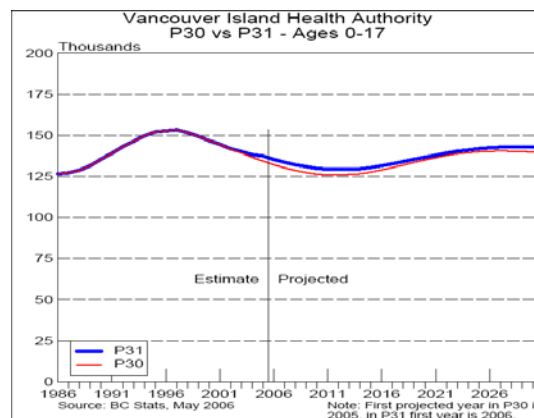
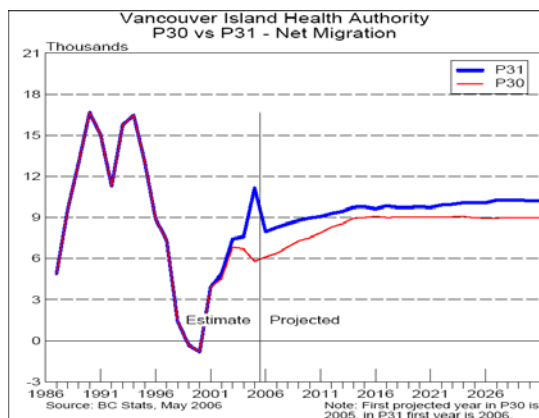
estimated population of this region was larger by over 7,000 than previously projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. As a result of this larger base population in combination with faster growth, by 2017, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a population larger by over 21,000 people. By 2031, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 expects over 33,000 more people than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 for the same year. The projected increase in population is not distributed equally among all age groups, so it is useful to examine the projections for selected age groups.



Net migration has been higher than previously estimated since 2002, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates higher net migration levels than those projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

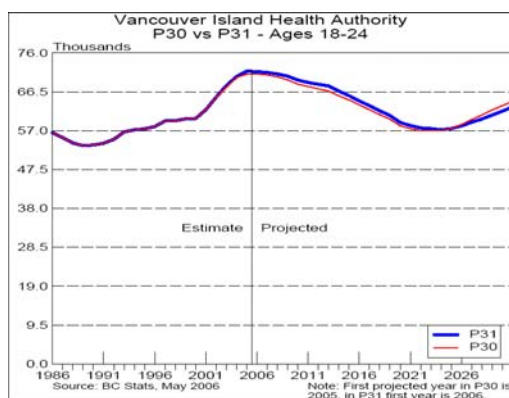
The age group (0 to 17 years) has been decreasing since the late 1990s, and this trend is expected to continue until around 2013. Revisions to the estimates of children in this area resulted in larger populations for 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 2005 population was also larger than previously projected (+3,000). Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30,

Adjustments to the estimates for 2002, 2003 and 2004 resulted in larger populations in this region than previously estimated. In 2005, the



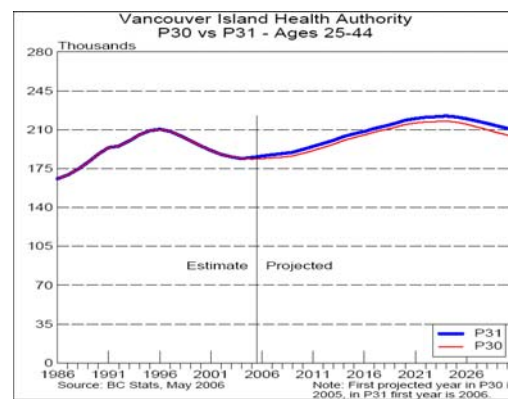
the current projection anticipates slightly slower growth from 2010 through 2022, but faster growth in other years. As a result, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a larger population in 2017 (1.8%) and in 2031 (2.2%).

The population of post-secondary age (18 to 24 years) has been slightly larger than expected since 2002. In 2005, the estimate was higher than the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for that year by about 750 people. In keeping with both the larger base population and faster projected growth in the first few years of the projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a larger 2017 population in this age group (+1.6%) but a smaller population in 2031 (-2.2%).



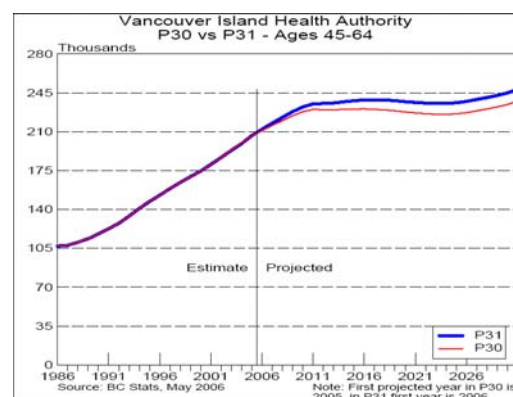
The population aged 25 to 44 years is generally associated with first-time household formation as well as the youngest of the baby boom cohort, now aged 41 to 44 years. Although the population in this age group has been on the decline since the mid 1990s, it is expected to increase over the long term. The estimated 2005 population was 0.9% larger than projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, a figure representing over 1,500 people. Although the current projection anticipates slower growth between 2012 and 2017, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects a larger population in this age group than does P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 throughout the projection period.

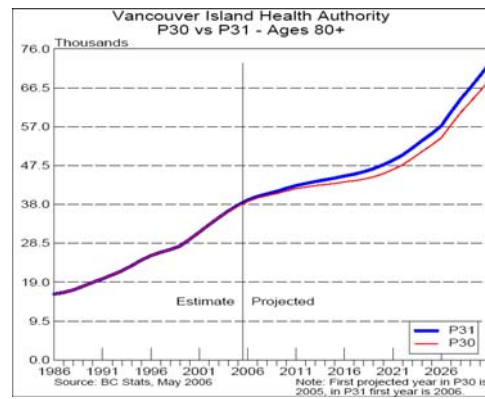
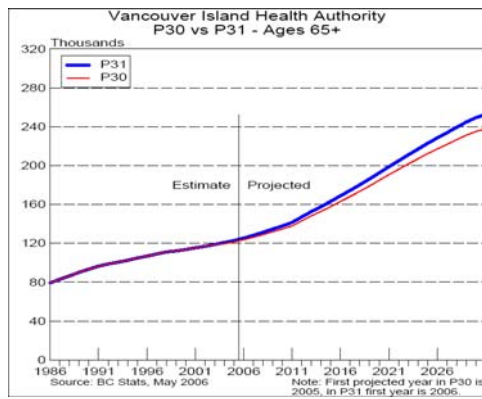
The age group of 45 to 64 years is usually considered the 'mature labour force'. This age group also contains the bulk of the baby boom cohort, those from 45 to 58 years in



2005. Relative to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a larger number of people in this age group throughout the projection. The estimated population in 2005 was slightly (0.2%) higher than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, amounting to just over 400 people. Along with this larger base, the current projection anticipates higher growth rates over most of the projection period. As a result, by 2031, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects over 10,000 more people in this age group than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 for the same year.

Both projections expect the senior age group to increase dramatically over the projection period. The estimated 2005 population of seniors was larger than previously projected by just over 1,300 people. This larger base population, in combination with slightly higher growth rates throughout the projection, means that P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a substantially larger population in this age group. By 2031, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 projects a senior population that is 6.3% larger than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 for the same year.



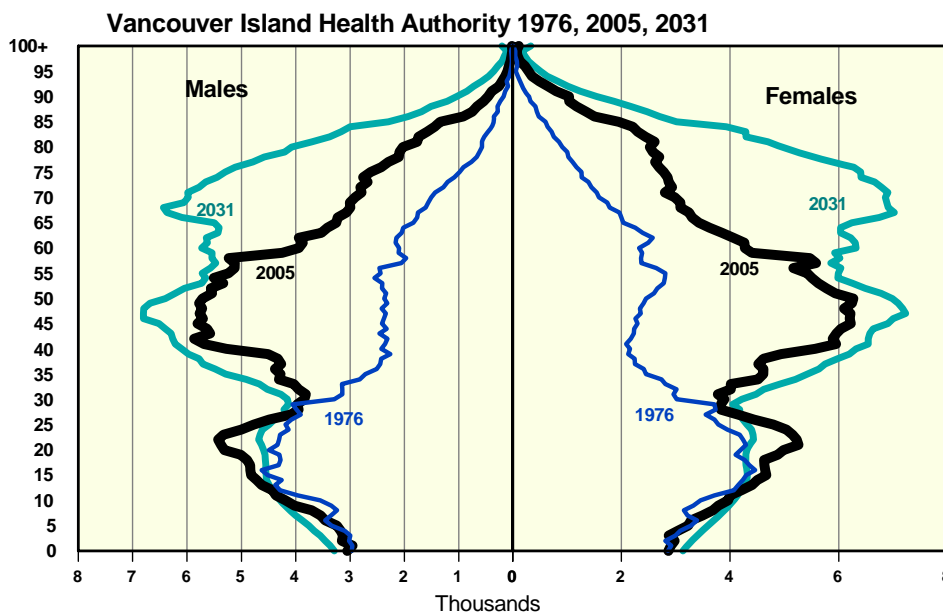


Both projections anticipate that the very senior population, those aged 80 and older, will also increase significantly over the projection period. Very slight adjustments were made to the 2002, 2003 and 2004 estimates for this age group, and the 2005 estimate was only slightly higher than P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projections for that year. However, compared with the earlier projection, the current projection anticipates higher growth rates for this age group.

Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection expects almost 4,000 more of the oldest seniors in this area by 2031.

The pyramid below (P.E.O.P.L.E. 31) demonstrates changes in the age distribution in this region. The population is ageing, as indicated

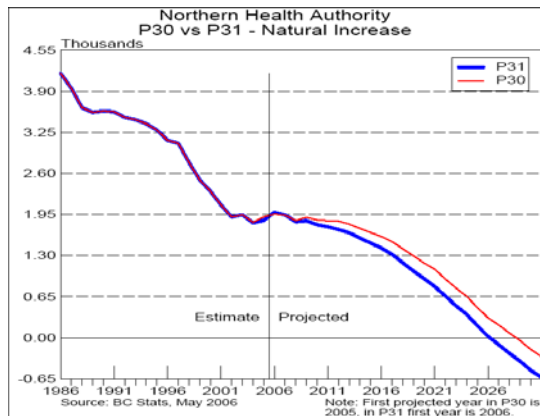
by the movement of the bulk of the population into progressively older age groups, while young people become a progressively smaller proportion of the total population. In 1976, about 29% of the population was under the age of 18. By 2005, this figure had dropped to about 19%, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that this figure will fall even further by 2031, to about 16%. At the same time, the proportion of seniors aged 65 and older has been on the rise. Representing about 12% of the total population in 1976, by 2005 seniors made up 17% of the population, and by 2031 over one in four people (28%) will likely be in this age group. As a subgroup of the senior population, the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, are expected to make up almost 8% of the total population by 2031, up from about 5% in 2005.



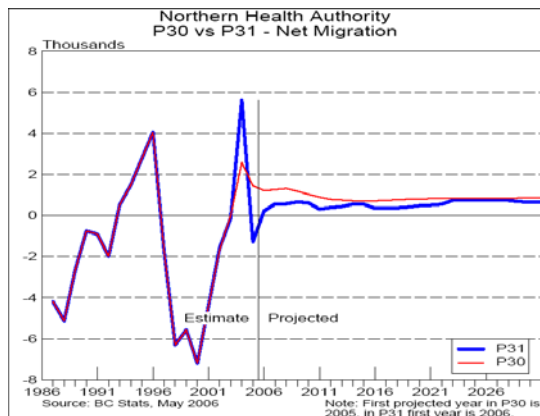
Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006

Northern Health Authority

Natural increase has been on the decline, but has levelled out slightly in the last few years. In contrast to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates slightly lower levels of natural increase over the projection period. This is consistent with the larger numbers of seniors anticipated in the current projection, relative to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

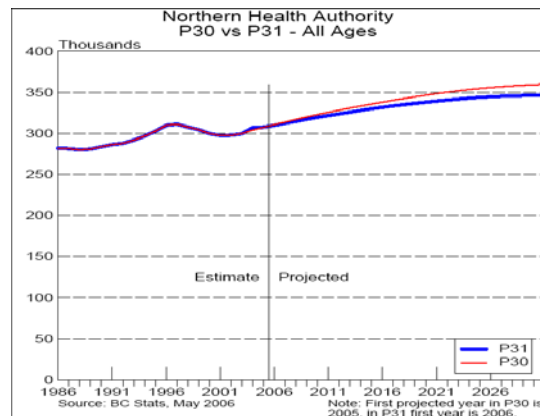


Net migration has been quite variable in the last few years, and the 2005 figure was significantly lower than projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. The current projection anticipates lower net migration levels throughout the projection period.

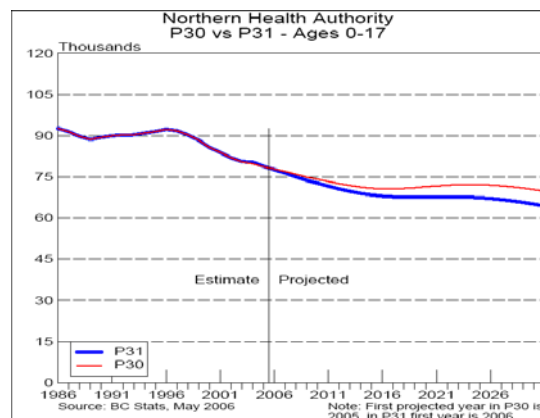


The population of this region was larger than previously estimated in 2002 and 2004. In 2005, the estimated population was also slightly larger than that projected by

P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. By 2017, the total population in this area is expected to be smaller (-6,700) than the P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 projection for the same year. Compared with the earlier projection, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that the population will be smaller by over 13,000 people by 2031. P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slower growth throughout the projection period due to lower natural increase and lower levels of net migration. However, this decrease in the projected population relative to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 is not distributed equally among all age groups.

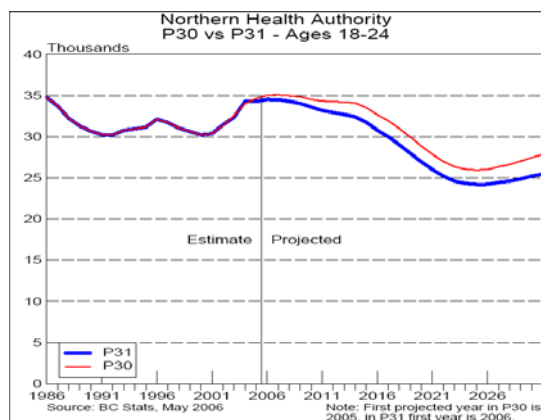


This age group, which includes school-aged children as well as the very young, has been on the decrease since 1998, and is expected to continue a slow decline throughout most of the projection period. In 2005, the estimated population in this age group was

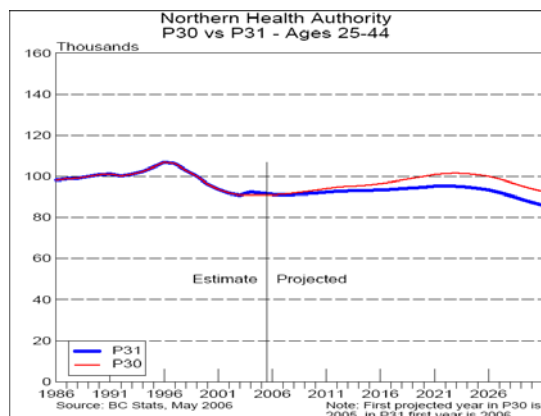


slightly larger than that projected in P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. However, compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the current projection anticipates slower growth. As a result, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 expects about almost 3,000 fewer people in 2017 and 5,400 fewer people in 2031 than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

The population of post-secondary age (18 to 24 years) was smaller (1.0%) than previously projected in 2005, a figure that represents about 300 people. Growth rates are projected to be slower throughout most of the projection period. As a result, by 2031, the current projection anticipates almost 2,400 fewer people in this age group than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30.

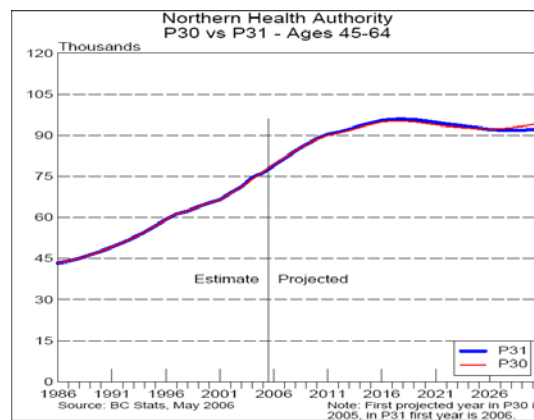


The current projection expects the population of 25 to 44 year olds to be relatively stable until around 2026, when the numbers begin to decline. The 2004 and 2005 population figures for this age group were higher than expected. Despite the larger base, slower growth over the projection period

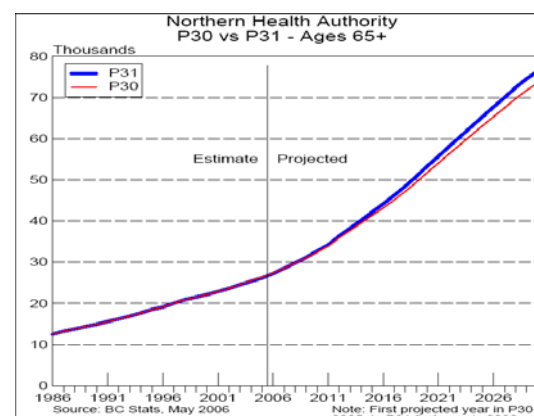


means that in 2017, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates about 3,600 fewer people than did P.E.O.P.L.E. 30. By 2031, this difference increases to over 6,500.

The most recent projection anticipates that the mature labour force (45 to 64 years) will be smaller in the first and last few years of the projection period, and slightly larger from about 2009 to 2025. The estimated 2005 population of this age group was smaller than that projected by P.E.O.P.L.E. 30 by about 300. However, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates slightly higher growth rates. By 2017, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 expects a population larger by almost 700. Due to slower growth after 2020, by 2031 the current projection expects a population smaller by 2,000 than that previously projected.



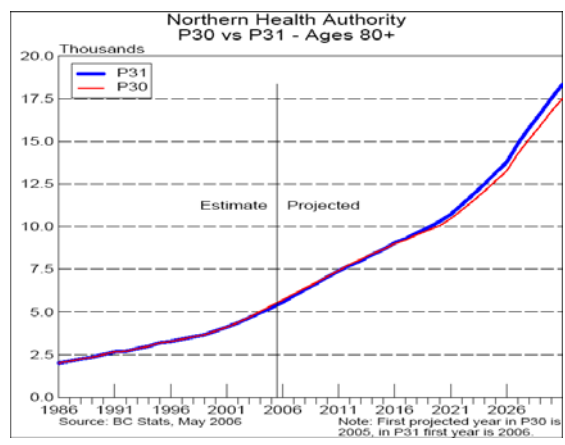
The senior age group (aged 65 and older) is expected to increase dramatically over the projection period. Adjustments to the estimates resulted in a smaller than expected population from 2002 to 2005. However, higher projected growth rates for this age



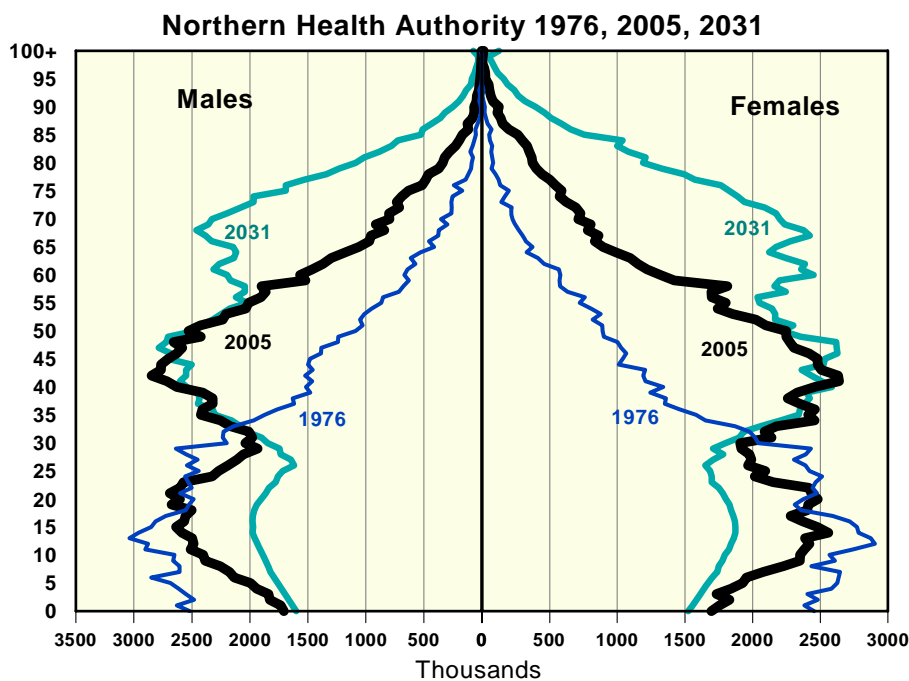
group means that, in 2017, P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates a population larger by just over a thousand people. In 2031, the current projection expects almost 3,000 more people in this age group than previously projected.

The oldest of the seniors, those aged 80 and older, are expected to become much more numerous over the projection period. According to P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, the population in this age group is expected to increase by 326% between 2001 and 2031, while the most recent projection anticipates growth of 346% over the same time period. Compared with P.E.O.P.L.E. 30, growth rates in the most recent projection are generally higher and result in a 2017 projected population that is larger by about 70 people and a 2031 projection larger by over 800.

The pyramid below (P.E.O.P.L.E. 31) demonstrates changes in the age distribution in this region. The population is ageing, as indicated by the movement of the bulk of the population into progressively older age groups, while young people become an increasingly smaller proportion of the total population. In 1976, over one in three people in this area were under the age of 18. By 2005 this figure



had dropped to about one in four, and P.E.O.P.L.E. 31 anticipates that this figure will fall even further by 2031, to less than one in five. At the same time, the proportion of seniors aged 65 and older has been on the rise. Representing about 3% of the total population in 1976, by 2005 seniors made up about 8% of the population, and by 2031, over one in five people (22%) will likely be in this age group. As a subgroup of the senior population, the oldest seniors, those aged 80 and older, are expected to make up over 5% of the total population by 2031, up from about 1.7% in 2005 and less than one percent in 1976.



Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, May 2006