

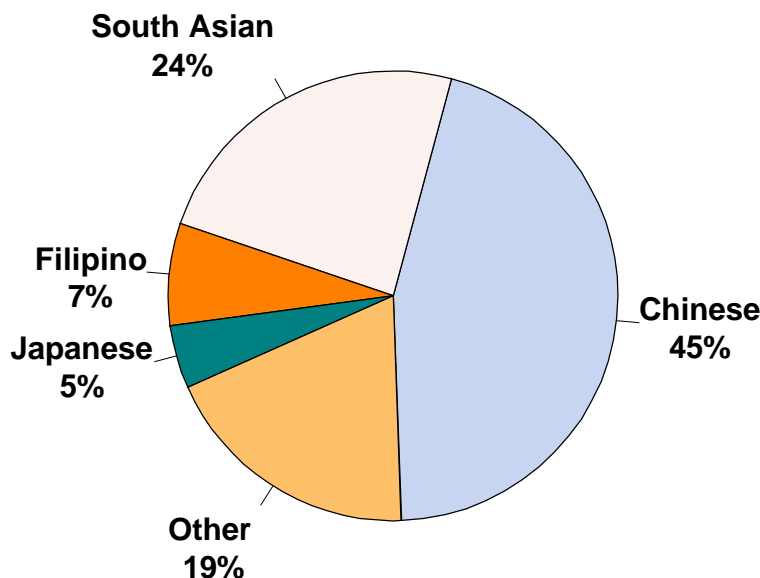
Focus on BC Visible Minorities: *Identity*

A New Question on Visible Minority Identity Was Added to the 1996 Census

Is this person:

- White
- Chinese
- South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)
- Black (e.g. African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali)
- Arab/West Asian (e.g., Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)
- Filipino
- South East Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese)
- Latin American
- Japanese
- Korean
- Other Please Specify _

In 1996, 660,540 Persons in BC Identified as a Visible Minority



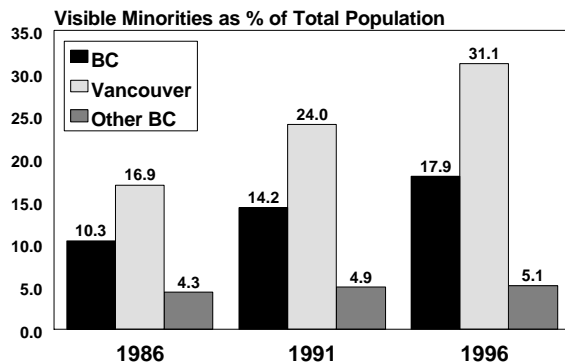
“Visible Minority” representation was 17.9 per cent of the total British Columbia population in 1996. Of those, three out of ten were born in Canada and the other 7 were immigrants. More than half of those were

new immigrants, that is they had arrived in Canada within the previous five years. This represents close to 5 per cent of the total BC population who were newly arrived visible minority immigrants.

In previous Censuses, the identification of Visible Minority persons was derived from a question on ancestry, namely, “*To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person’s ancestors belong?*” A person was considered a member of a visible minority if they responded with at least one ancestry that falls within the official “visible minority” definition.

Accordingly, in 1991 there were 462,465 visible minority persons in BC, a representation of 14.2 per cent of the total population. Although the method used to designate visible minorities differed considerably between 1986/1991 and 1996, the numbers indicate the two methods produce fairly consistent results¹.

The Dramatic Increase in the Visible Minority Population Over the Past 10 Years Occurred Primarily in Vancouver



The large increase in the Vancouver Visible Minority population has been documented frequently from other data sources such as immigration data by country of origin, the ESL requirements in the education system, etc., as well as anecdotal evidence. The 96 Census confirms this trend. Of the 230,000 net new Vancouver residents between 1991 and 1996, 4 of 5 were visible minorities. On the other hand, in the remainder of the province, the visible minority population

growth was not much above that of the non-visible minority population.

Among ethnic groups that comprise the visible minority population of BC, the Japanese and the Black recorded the lowest rates of recent immigration. Almost 60 per cent of Japanese Canadians were born in Canada and only 7 per cent arrived in BC between 1991 and 1996. This 7 per cent compares to recent arrival rates of over one-third (33 per cent) for those of Korean, Chinese and Arab/West Asian origins. Persons with South Asian origins (primarily from India and Pakistan) had relatively low numbers of recent immigrants (only 18 per cent of total South Asians in BC).

Of the visible minority population, there are 21,000 non-permanent residents. Non-permanent residents consist primarily of students and to a lesser extent, those with temporary work permits. Among the total visible minority population, a very small percentage (3.2 per cent) are non-permanent residents. The exceptions to this are a relatively large proportion of persons with Japanese and Korean identity, (17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively).

The BC Korean community stands out as the group that has undergone the most change in the last five years. Assuming that non-permanent residents are new arrivees to Canada, almost one-half of the Koreans in BC arrived within the last five years.

Data on the economic and social characteristics of the Visible Minority population are scheduled to be released in the late fall of 1998.

¹ 1. As an example, the sum of 176,560 newly arrived immigrants added to the 1991 count of 462,465, results in 639,025, only 3 per cent lower than the actual 660,540 who identified as visible minorities in 1996. Other factors affecting the change in counts since 1991 (i.e. births, deaths, emigration and inter-provincial migration of visible minorities as well as changes in the number of non-permanent residents) likely net-out to relatively small positive numbers.



Visible Minority Identity By Immigrant Status - 1996

<u>Visible Minority Identity</u>	<u>Total Population</u>		<u>Non-Immigrant Population</u>		<u>Immigrant Population</u>		<u>Recent Immigrants</u>			<u>Non-Permanent Residents</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Distribution</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>as % of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>as % of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>as % of Total</u>	<u>as % of Immigrants</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>as % of Total</u>
Total Population	3,689,760	100.0	2,756,530	74.7	903,195	24.5	216,615	5.9	24.0	30,030	0.8
Total visible minority population	660,540	17.9	185,565	28.1	454,115	68.7	176,560	26.7	38.9	20,860	3.2
Black	23,275	0.6	11,565	49.7	11,050	47.5	3,500	15.0	31.7	655	2.8
South Asian	158,430	4.3	56,130	35.4	100,775	63.6	29,090	18.4	28.9	1,530	1.0
Chinese	299,860	8.1	68,320	22.8	225,360	75.2	102,445	34.2	45.5	6,175	2.1
Korean	19,055	0.5	2,515	13.2	14,005	73.5	6,715	35.2	47.9	2,535	13.3
Japanese	29,810	0.8	17,435	58.5	7,455	25.0	2,110	7.1	28.3	4,925	16.5
Southeast Asian	25,360	0.7	5,955	23.5	18,790	74.1	5,185	20.4	27.6	610	2.4
Filipino	47,080	1.3	10,630	22.6	34,525	73.3	13,610	28.9	39.4	1,925	4.1
Arab/West Asian	20,090	0.5	2,780	13.8	16,165	80.5	6,775	33.7	41.9	1,145	5.7
Latin American	17,655	0.5	2,840	16.1	13,815	78.2	4,265	24.2	30.9	1,005	5.7
Visible minority, n.i.e.	8,075	0.2	2,705	33.5	5,300	65.6	1,160	14.4	21.9	65	0.8
Multiple visible minority	11,845	0.3	4,690	39.6	6,875	58.0	1,705	14.4	24.8	285	2.4
Non-Visible Minority Population	3,029,215	82.1	2,570,965	84.9	449,075	14.8	40,055	1.3	8.9	9,170	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census

Prepared by: BC STATS