

## 2006 Census Bulletin #3 Population by Age

### Median Age in Increasing

According to the 2006 Census population by age and gender released by Statistics Canada, the median age of Metro Vancouver's (Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area) population reached 39.1 in 2006, an increase from 37.4 in 2001. This median age was slightly below British Columbia (40.8) and Canada (39.5) and was the 16<sup>th</sup> highest among all 33 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) across the country. Overall, twelve CMAs had a higher median age than the national average. This is a significant change from previous Census periods when most CMA's recorded lower median ages than the national average, a sign that the country's metropolitan areas are aging just as rapidly as the country as whole.

**Table 1: Median Age and 2006 Population by Age Group for Metro Vancouver Municipalities**

Municipality	Median Age 2001	Median Age 2006	Total Population	Under 20 Years		20 to 64 Years		65 Years and Over	
				Population	% of Municipal Population	Population	% of Municipal Population	Population	% of Municipal Population
Anmore	36.1	36.9	1,785	590	33%	1,090	61%	105	6%
Belcarra	43.6	47.0	670	140	21%	455	68%	75	11%
Bowen Island	41.4	44.8	3,360	820	24%	2,130	63%	410	12%
Burnaby	37.5	39.1	202,790	42,635	21%	132,025	65%	28,130	14%
Coquitlam	37.0	39.0	114,570	28,900	25%	73,165	64%	12,505	11%
Delta	38.3	41.0	96,740	25,400	26%	58,645	61%	12,695	13%
Electoral Area 'A'	32.7	n/a	11,050	2,690	24%	7,435	67%	925	8%
Langley City	36.5	39.4	23,610	5,325	23%	14,355	61%	3,930	17%
Langley Township	37.3	39.1	93,730	25,565	27%	56,800	61%	11,365	12%
Lions Bay	43.2	47.0	1,340	265	20%	905	68%	170	13%
Maple Ridge	36.7	38.8	68,940	19,215	28%	41,820	61%	7,905	11%
New Westminster	38.8	40.6	58,545	11,230	19%	39,365	67%	7,950	14%
North Vancouver City	38.2	40.1	45,160	8,580	19%	30,505	68%	6,075	13%
North Vancouver District	39.6	41.7	82,570	21,655	26%	49,750	60%	11,165	14%
Pitt Meadows	36.3	38.3	15,635	4,075	26%	9,805	63%	1,755	11%
Port Coquitlam	35.1	37.5	52,670	14,400	27%	33,825	64%	4,445	8%
Port Moody	36.2	37.3	27,510	7,425	27%	17,915	65%	2,170	8%
Richmond	38.5	40.7	174,475	39,045	22%	113,165	65%	22,265	13%
Surrey	35.6	37.0	394,975	107,795	27%	241,805	61%	45,375	11%
Vancouver	37.2	38.6	578,020	103,405	18%	398,635	69%	75,980	13%
West Vancouver	47.0	48.5	42,120	9,355	22%	23,075	55%	9,690	23%
White Rock	50.9	51.3	18,750	2,690	14%	10,855	58%	5,205	28%
First Nations	n/a	n/a	7,455	1,660	22%	4,650	62%	1,145	15%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>2,116,470</b>	<b>482,860</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1,362,175</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>271,435</b>	<b>13%</b>
British Columbia	38.4	40.8	4,113,485	953,175	23%	2,560,515	62%	599,810	15%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census



Issue Date: August 2007

The highest median age levels were recorded in White Rock (51.3) and West Vancouver (48.5). The largest median age increases over the 2001 Census occurred in Lions Bay (43.2 to 47.0), Bowen Island (41.4 to 44.8) and Belcarra (43.6 to 47.0).

In terms of population share 65 years and over, White Rock had the highest share within this age group (28%) followed by West Vancouver (23%), and the City of Langley (17%). These shares were well above the regional average of 13%. Municipalities with significantly lower proportions of seniors (65+) were Anmore (6%), and Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Electoral Area "A" (8%).

The municipality with the largest share of residents under the age of 20 was Anmore (33%). Other municipalities with a high proportion of under 20 residents relative to Metro Vancouver's overall share of 23% include: Maple Ridge (28%), the Township of Langley, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Surrey (27%), and Pitt Meadows, District of North Vancouver, and Delta (26%).

### Population Growth Distribution Among Age Groups

According to the 2006 Census, the 45 and over age groups experienced the largest increases in population growth between 1996 and 2006. Between 2001 and 2006, the 55-59 age group and the 90+ age groups had the most significant increases in population. One in four seniors is now 80 years and older, and 65% of the 80 and over group are women.

While dramatic increases in growth are occurring in the older age groups, significant declines are taking place in the pre-school and school age groups. Between 1996 and 2006, the 0-9 age groups declined by 3% in overall population. During this same time period, the 25-34 age group, which typically represents the predominant child-bearing years, also declined significantly (-10%).

Between 2001 and 2006, there was a slight decline in population for the 35-44 age group (-0.2%), in addition to the 25-34 age group (-3%), and 5-9 age group (-5.1%).

**Table 2: 1996 and 2006 Population by Age Groups for Metro Vancouver**

Age Group	1996		2001		2006		Percent Change	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	1996-2006	2001-2006
0-4	111,785	6.1%	104,810	5.3%	105,285	5.0%	-6.2%	0.5%
5-9	111,555	6.1%	117,970	5.9%	112,275	5.3%	0.6%	-5.1%
10-14	113,705	6.2%	122,610	6.2%	128,185	6.1%	11.3%	4.3%
15-19	114,420	6.2%	131,180	6.6%	137,190	6.5%	16.6%	4.4%
20-24	127,970	7.0%	135,795	6.8%	148,510	7.0%	13.8%	8.6%
25-34	319,070	17.4%	298,330	15.0%	289,705	13.7%	-10.1%	-3.0%
35-44	319,245	17.4%	348,605	17.5%	347,790	16.4%	8.2%	-0.2%
45-54	245,525	13.4%	304,775	15.3%	338,385	16.0%	27.4%	9.9%
55-64	151,965	8.3%	180,405	9.1%	237,795	11.2%	36.1%	24.1%
65+	216,425	11.8%	242,495	12.2%	271,465	12.8%	20.3%	10.7%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>1,831,665</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,986,975</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,116,585</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census.

Fig 1: Percentage of Population Age of 65 + by Metro Vancouver Neighbourhoods (Census Tracts) 2006 Census

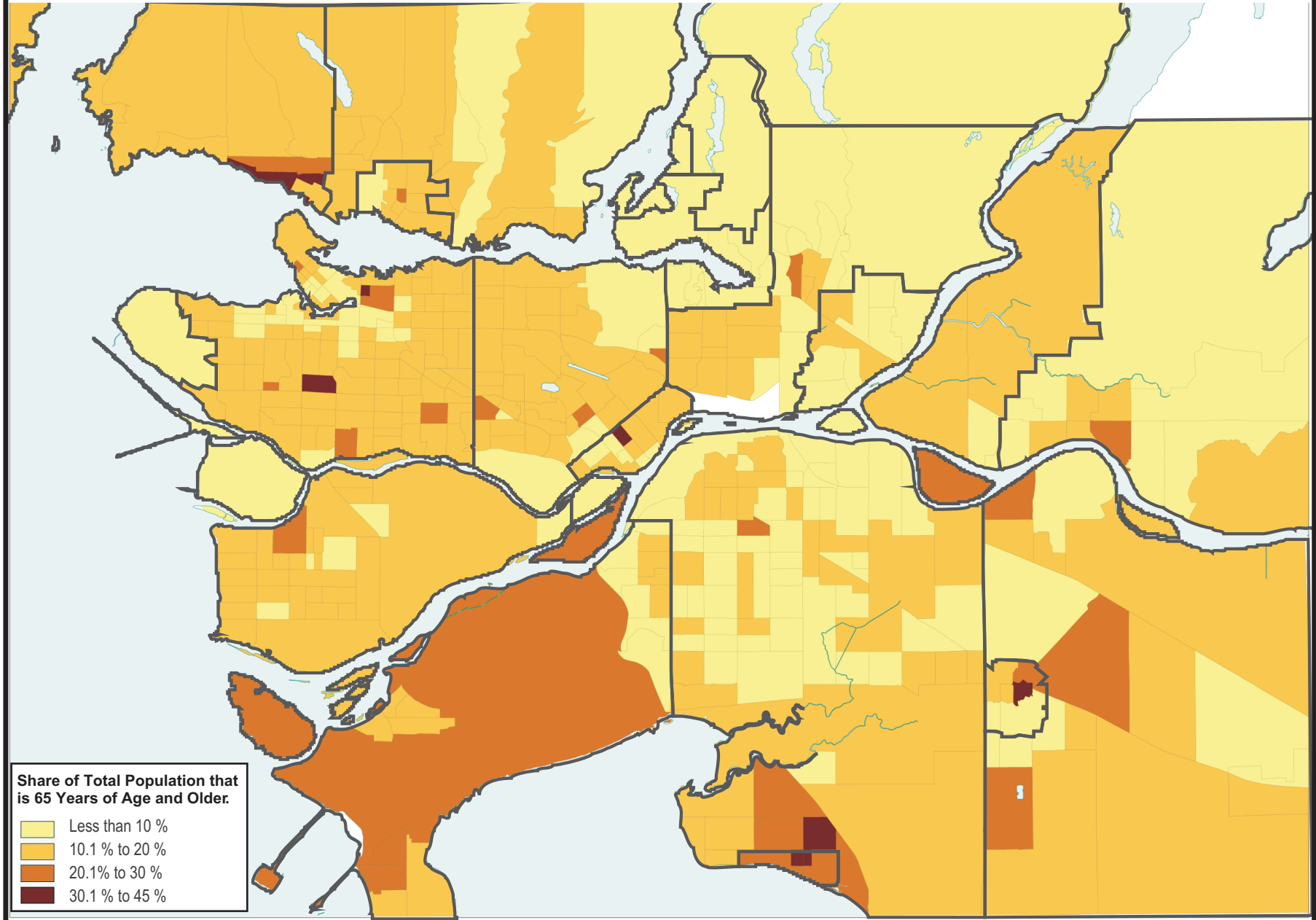


Fig 2: Percentage of Population Under Age of 20 by Metro Vancouver Neighbourhoods (Census Tracts) 2006 Census

