

## 2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #4 – FAMILY STATUS

### Family Status in the Greater Vancouver Regional District

The number of families is growing faster than the population growth rate in Greater Vancouver. While the region experienced a population growth of 8.5% between 1996 and 2001, the growth in the number of census families was 12%. Statistics Canada defines a family as "...a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple living common-law may be of opposite or same sex. "Children" in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present."

According to the 2001 Census, there are 535,255 census families in the GVRD; 263,480 with children and 189,910 without children. Municipalities that experienced the highest percentage increases in the number of families (as compared to 1996 census figures) include Surrey, Port Moody, Maple Ridge, and the Village of Anmore. Vancouver and Surrey experienced the highest absolute increase with 15,270 and 13,795 new families respectively. Municipalities that experienced relatively low increases in the number of families include Delta, District of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and Lions Bay.

*Table 1. 2001 Number of Census Families for GVRD Municipalities*

Municipality	Number of Census Families 1996	Number of Census Families 2001	Absolute Growth 1996-2001	Percent Growth 1996-2001
Anmore	265	365	100	37.7%
Belcarra	210	220	10	4.8%
Bowen Island *		905		
Burnaby	46,225	52,155	5,930	12.8%
Coquitlam	27,745	31,385	3,640	13.1%
Delta	26,660	27,570	910	3.4%
Electoral Area 'A' *		1,875		
Langley City	6,050	6,315	265	4.4%
Langley Township	22,575	24,680	2,105	9.3%
Lions Bay	430	430	0	0.0%
Maple Ridge	15,390	17,795	2,405	15.6%
New Westminster	12,190	13,920	1,730	14.2%
North Vancouver City	10,495	11,720	1,225	11.7%
North Vancouver District	22,780	23,550	770	3.4%
Pitt Meadows	3,775	4,195	420	11.1%
Port Coquitlam	12,975	14,415	1,440	11.1%
Port Moody	5,945	6,905	960	16.1%
Richmond	40,570	46,015	5,445	13.4%
Surrey	84,080	97,875	13,795	16.4%
Vancouver	119,110	134,380	15,270	12.8%
West Vancouver	11,585	11,865	280	2.4%
White Rock	4,675	4,865	190	4.1%
Indian Reserves	1,485	1,730	245	16.5%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>477,875</b>	<b>535,255</b>	<b>57,380</b>	<b>12.0%</b>

Electoral Area A has a different geographic area in the 2001 Census. Bowen Island incorporated in 1999.

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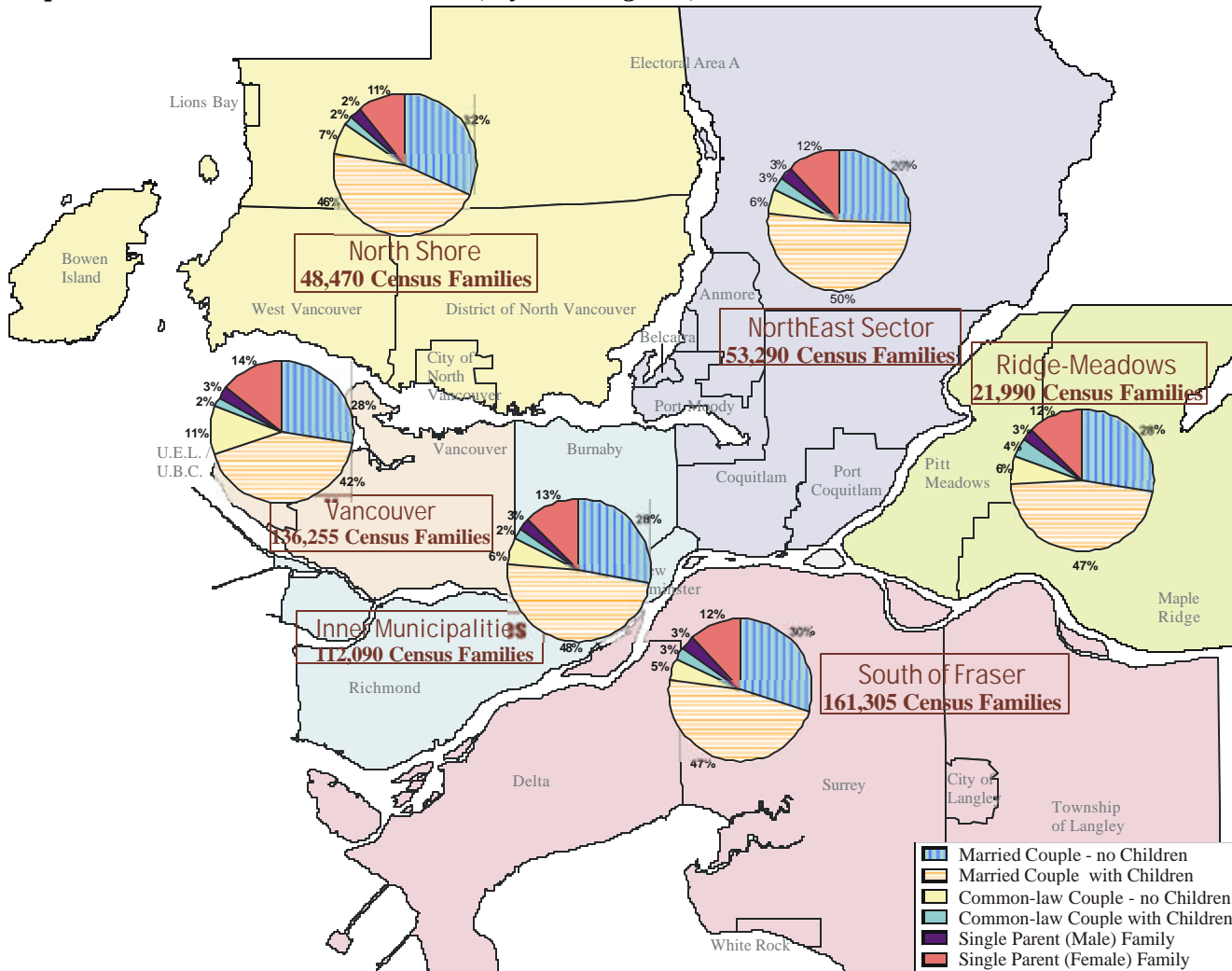
## Family Status in the Greater Vancouver Regional District

A couple may be married (401,385 married couples) or may be common-law (52,005 common-law couples). In this region, married couples are twice as likely to have children than common-law couples (62 percent of married couples have children, as compared to 28 percent of common-law couples).

There are more single parent families (81,860) in the region in 2001, representing 15.3 percent of all census families. In 1996 single parent families accounted for 13 percent of all census families, while 1991 also saw 13 percent single family parents. There is an uneven distribution between the genders, with 82 percent of single parent families headed by a female parent compared to 18 percent headed by a male parent. This gender bias in single parent families has not changed much since the 1991 Census (Table 4).

Distribution across the region of the various family types is quite similar in all sub-regions. This pattern of distribution has remained fairly constant for the past decade (Table 3 and Table 4). The similar distribution of family types in all sub-regions indicates an independence from unique population growth patterns and social and economic factors that make the sub-regions different from one another. Full distribution of the family types by sub-region is shown in map 1.

**Map 1. Census Families in the GVRD, by Sub-Regions, 2001**



## 2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #4 – FAMILY STATUS

### Family Status – 10 Years of Families in the Region

There has been a lot of press coverage over the past decade about the decline of the **traditional family** (married couple, with children), however statistical evidence shows no change over the past 10 years. In 2001, the traditional family represented 46 percent of census families. A decade ago, the 1991 census reported the exact same percentage of traditional families.

The number of **single parent families** has been rising at a faster rate than the overall population in the region, from 51,040 in 1991 to 81,860 in 2001. This is an increase of over sixty percent for a 10 year period. For comparison purposes, the population of the GVRD rose from 1,602,590 in 1991 to 1, 986,965 in 2001, an increase of twenty-four percent for that ten year period.

Another family type to discuss is *the family without children*. The total number of **families without children** increased from 154,280 in 1991 to 189,910 families in 2001. While the total number of families without children increased, the percentage of total census families that this particular family type represents declined. The percentage of families that do not have children was 38 percent in 1991, and has now dropped to 35 percent in 2001. The inner municipalities (Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster) experienced the greatest decline in percentage of census families that are without children, from 34 percent in 1991 to 28 percent in 2001.

The **average family size** in the Greater Vancouver region is 2.9 persons per family. The Provincial average family size is 3.0 persons. White Rock has the smallest average family size in the region at 2.5 persons per family; Anmore has the largest average family size at 3.3 persons. Ten years ago the average family size in Greater Vancouver was 2.6 persons per family, which was also the provincial average family size. The overall trend for the region over the past 10 years is an increase in the number of families, and an increase in the size of families.

Monitoring the change in household types across the region provides background data to assist in providing a variety of housing types that will meet the demands of the various household types in the region. When the rate of change in census families exceeds the overall population growth, there is a subsequent lower rate of change in **non-family households**. Municipalities such as Burnaby and the City of North Vancouver did not have any growth in the number of non-family households between 1996 and 2001. Municipalities such as the Township of Langley, Coquitlam, Surrey, and Vancouver all had a substantial increase in the number of non-family households. Overall, the GVRD experienced a 6 percent increase in the number of non-family households between 1996 and 2001.

**Table 2: 2001 Non-family Households For GVRD Municipalities**

Municipality	Number of Non-family households		Absolute Growth 1996-2001	Percent Growth 1996-2001
	1996	2001		
Anmore	45	70	25	56%
Belcarra	25	45	20	80%
Bowen Island *		250		
Burnaby	24,530	24,520	-10	0%
Coquitlam	8,905	10,085	1,180	13%
Delta	5,910	6,445	535	9%
Electoral Area 'A' *	1,200	835		
Langley City	3,355	3,885	530	16%
Langley Township	4,640	5,675	1,035	22%
Lions Bay	65	95	30	46%
Maple Ridge	4,695	5,270	575	12%
New Westminster	11,745	12,590	845	7%
North Vancouver City	9,145	9,155	10	0%
North Vancouver District	5,620	6,130	510	9%
Pitt Meadows	1,040	1,175	135	13%
Port Coquitlam	3,350	3,820	470	14%
Port Moody	1,500	1,830	330	22%
Richmond	12,380	13,350	970	8%
Surrey	22,170	25,440	3,270	15%
Vancouver	106,545	109,840	3,295	3%
West Vancouver	4,530	4,700	170	4%
White Rock	4,120	4,255	135	3%
Indian Reserves	1,075	1,135	60	6%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>236,640</b>	<b>250,630</b>	<b>13,990</b>	<b>6%</b>

\* Electoral Area A has a different geographic area in 2001. Bowen Island incorporated in 1999.

## 2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #4 – FAMILY STATUS

*Table 3. 2001 Marital Status and Family Type, by Sub Region, for GVRD*

Municipality	Total Number of Census Families		Married Couples		Common-law couples		Single Parent	
	1996	2001	without children	with children	without children	with children	Male Parent	Female Parent
Anmore	265	365	100	215	25	0	0	20
Belcarra	210	220	110	70	20	10	0	10
Coquitlam	27,745	31,385	8,190	15,980	1,725	900	920	3,675
Port Coquitlam	12,975	14,415	3,350	7,390	820	655	405	1,800
Port Moody	5,945	6,905	1,845	3,420	390	245	170	830
<b>North-East Sector</b>	49,136	<b>53,290</b>	<b>13,595</b>	<b>27,075</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>6,335</b>
		<b>100%</b>	26%	51%	6%	3%	3%	12%
Electoral Area 'A' *	2,630	1,875	580	915	80	50	30	225
Vancouver	119,110	134,380	36,965	56,865	14,765	2,950	3,700	19,120
<b>Vancouver &amp; Electoral Area 'A'</b>	121,740	<b>136,255</b>	<b>37,545</b>	<b>57,780</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>19,345</b>
		<b>100%</b>	28%	42%	11%	2%	3%	14%
Maple Ridge	15,390	17,795	4,975	8,145	1,065	815	540	2,250
Pitt Meadows	3,775	4,195	1,150	2,025	280	130	120	485
<b>Ridge - Meadows</b>	19,165	<b>21,990</b>	<b>6,125</b>	<b>10,170</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>2,735</b>
		<b>100%</b>	28%	46%	6%	4%	3%	12%
Bowen Island *		905	285	385	100	55	20	50
West Vancouver	11,585	11,865	4,580	5,280	590	170	220	1,025
North Vancouver City	10,495	11,720	3,605	4,225	1,435	375	350	1,720
North Vancouver District	22,780	23,550	6,790	11,970	1,265	490	555	2,475
Lions Bay	430	430	210	150	10	10	25	20
<b>North Shore</b>	45,290	<b>48,470</b>	<b>15,470</b>	<b>22,010</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>5,290</b>
		<b>100%</b>	32%	45%	7%	2%	2%	11%
White Rock	4,675	4,865	2,280	1,305	480	160	75	565
Surrey	84,080	97,875	27,865	47,360	4,565	2,870	3,045	12,165
Langley Township	22,575	24,680	7,700	11,765	1,175	940	695	2,405
Langley City	6,050	6,315	1,935	2,255	485	305	190	1,140
Delta	26,660	27,570	8,050	14,195	1,205	725	685	2,710
<b>South of Fraser</b>	144,040	<b>161,305</b>	<b>47,830</b>	<b>76,880</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,690</b>	<b>18,985</b>
		<b>100%</b>	30%	48%	5%	3%	3%	12%
Burnaby	46,225	52,155	14,710	24,680	3,125	1,345	1,455	6,835
Richmond	40,570	46,015	12,070	24,865	1,905	785	1,050	5,345
New Westminster	12,190	13,920	4,555	4,840	1,665	510	455	1,895
<b>Inner Municipalities</b>	98,985	<b>112,090</b>	<b>31,335</b>	<b>54,385</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>14,075</b>
		<b>100%</b>	28%	49%	6%	2%	3%	13%
Indian Reserves	1485	1,730	625	505	170	110	95	245
		<b>100%</b>	36%	29%	10%	6%	5%	14%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>		<b>535,255</b>	<b>152,540</b>	<b>248,845</b>	<b>37,370</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>14,810</b>	<b>67,050</b>
		<b>100%</b>	28%	46%	7%	3%	3%	13%

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*Table 4. 1991 Marital Status and Family Type, by Sub Region, for GVRD*

Municipality	Total Number of Census Families 1991	Married Couples		Common-law couples		Single Parent	
		without children	with children	without children	with children	Male Parent	Female Parent
Anmore	220	80	95	15	10	5	15
Belcarra	175	70	85	10	5	5	10
Coquitlam	23,110	6,680	11,700	1,345	660	495	2,230
Port Coquitlam	10,285	2,560	5,660	505	355	200	1,000
Port Moody	5,040	1,380	2,560	275	150	100	575
<b>North-East Sector</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>10,770</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>3,830</b>
	100%	28%	52%	6%	3%	2%	10%
UEL/UBC	1,085	365	510	25	25	30	135
Vancouver	109,125	34,290	46,545	9,020	2,370	2,830	14,065
<b>Vancouver &amp; UEL</b>	<b>110,210</b>	<b>34,655</b>	<b>47,055</b>	<b>9,045</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,860</b>	<b>14,200</b>
	100%	31%	43%	8%	2%	3%	13%
Maple Ridge	13,420	4,060	6,720	720	485	245	1,185
Pitt Meadows	3,160	895	1,665	135	115	60	295
<b>Ridge - Meadows</b>	<b>16,580</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>8,385</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>1,480</b>
	100%	30%	51%	5%	4%	2%	9%
Bowen Island							
West Vancouver	10,990	4,650	4,855	405	155	165	755
North Vancouver City	9,960	3,595	3,195	1,230	330	240	1,370
North Vancouver District	21,340	6,620	11,095	910	470	375	1,880
Lions Bay	410	155	205	20	10	5	15
<b>North Shore</b>	<b>42,700</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>19,350</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>4,020</b>
	100%	35%	45%	6%	2%	2%	9%
White Rock	4,500	2,480	1,065	375	85	85	405
Surrey	68,260	21,000	33,640	3,275	2,275	1,385	6,680
Langley Township	18,465	5,690	9,835	765	610	315	1,250
Langley City	5,255	1,665	2,250	330	220	120	675
Delta	24,900	7,055	14,050	870	610	425	1,890
<b>South of Fraser</b>	<b>121,380</b>	<b>37,890</b>	<b>60,840</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>10,900</b>
	100%	31%	50%	5%	3%	2%	9%
Burnaby	41,635	14,365	17,735	3,170	1,045	870	4,455
Richmond	34,810	10,555	17,645	1,725	750	725	3,405
New Westminster	10,900	4,385	3,295	1,300	310	255	1,365
<b>Inner Municipalities</b>	<b>87,345</b>	<b>29,305</b>	<b>38,675</b>	<b>6,195</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>9,225</b>
	100%	34%	44%	7%	2%	2%	11%
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>402,540</b>	<b>128,565</b>	<b>186,715</b>	<b>25,715</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>42,345</b>
	100%	32%	46%	6%	3%	2%	11%