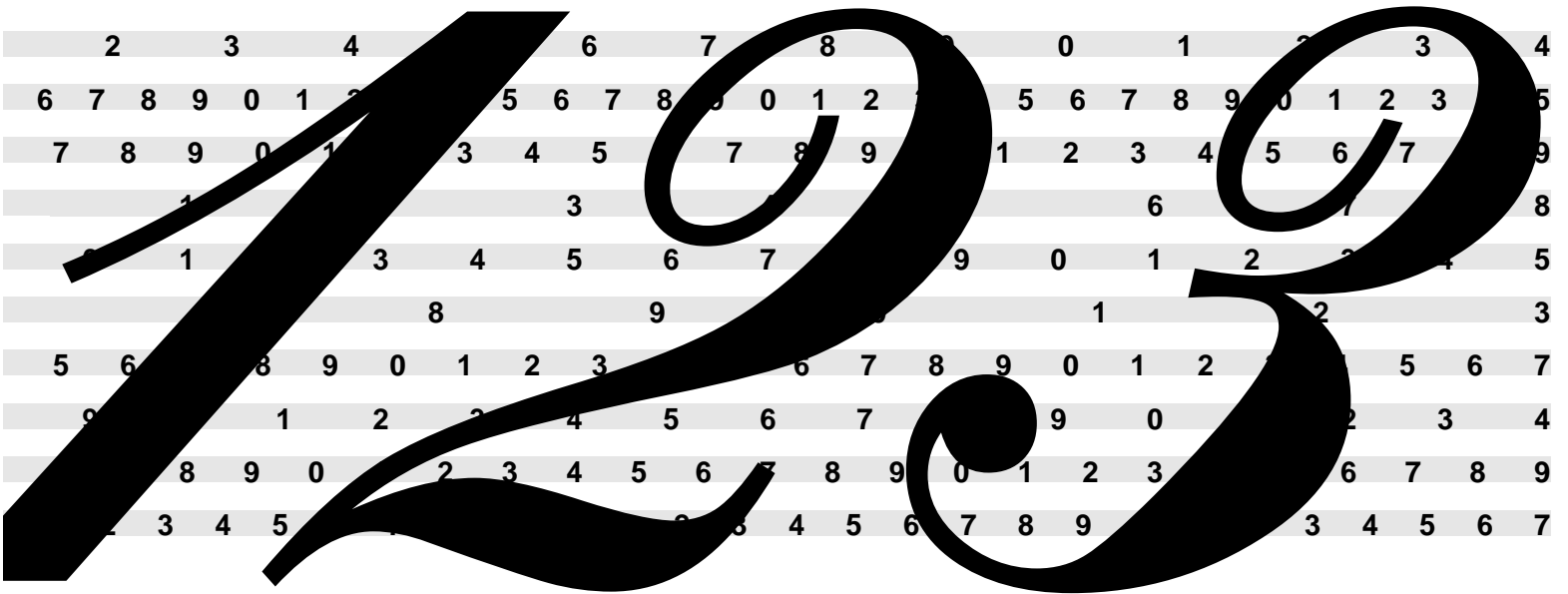


# *Marriage-related Statistics*



### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### WHO GETS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA?

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING BY USUAL RESIDENCE

	Year		
	2001	2002	2003
British Columbia Residents	89.5%	89.4%	87.6%
Other Canadians	5.4%	5.7%	5.8%
American Residents	3.4%	3.4%	5.1%
Others	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%

## *Summary*

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Statistics arising from marriages are presented in this section. Unlike the birth and death statistics, which are based on usual residence, the marriage information is based on all marriages that occurred in British Columbia and includes non-residents. The tables in this section contain information about marriages by previous marital status, age of persons getting married, and type of ceremony.

Summary statistics for marriages in 2003 are presented below:

- A total of 21,975 marriages were solemnized in the province in 2003.
- In 2003, 61.6% of couples were marrying for the first time (13,547). In 20.5% of the marriages it was the first marriage for only one of the parties (4,512), and 17.8% involved couples where both partners were previously divorced or widowed (3,916).
- In 2003 there were 487 marriages where at least one party was under 20 years of age. These teen marriages accounted for one out of 50 marriages (2.2%). There were only 60 marriages (0.3%) where both parties were teenagers.
- There were 1,120 marriages in 2003 where at least one party was 60 years of age or older. These marriages accounted for one in 20 marriages (5.1%). There were 441 marriages (2.0%) where both parties were aged 60 or older.
- In 2003 approximately two fifths (41.0%) of the marriages were performed by religious representatives (9,006) and three fifths (59.0%) were civil ceremonies (12,969).
- In B.C. in 2003 there were 21,240 marriages involving parties of the opposite sex and 735 marriages involving parties of the same sex.

TABLE 47  
**MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2003

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.	Total
Single	13,547				13,547
Widowed	194	220			414
Divorced	4,318	600	3,096		8,014
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,059</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,975</b>

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

#### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 47

- A total of 21,975 marriages were solemnized in the province in 2003.
- In 2003, 61.6% of couples were marrying for the first time (13,547). In 20.5% of the marriages it was the first marriage for only one of the parties(4,512), and 17.8% involved couples where both partners were previously divorced or widowed (3,916).

TABLE 48  
**MARRIAGES BY AGE**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2003

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.	Total	
											Number	Percent
15-19	60										60	0.3
20-24	320	1,754									2,074	9.4
25-29	81	2,080	2,939								5,100	23.2
30-34	15	520	2,500	1,784							4,819	21.9
35-39	7	131	669	1,494	744						3,045	13.9
40-44	3	40	194	514	853	539					2,143	9.8
45-49	1	10	56	179	369	599	356				1,570	7.1
50-59	-	7	23	83	162	384	664	721			2,044	9.3
60+	-	2	6	16	19	61	128	447	441		1,120	5.1
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>4,544</b>	<b>6,387</b>	<b>4,070</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,975</b>	
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>100.0</b>

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

Total percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

#### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 48

To find the number of marriages by age, use the column for the younger age group and the row for the older age group. For example, there were 56 marriages where one party was aged 25-29 and one was 45-49.

- In 2003 there were 487 marriages where at least one party was under 20 years of age. These teen marriages accounted for one out of 50 marriages (2.2%). There were only 60 marriages (0.3%) where both parties were teenagers.
- There were 12,964 marriages where at least one party was aged 25-39 years old. These marriages accounted for three out of five (59.0%) of all marriages in 2003.
- There were 1,120 marriages in 2003 where at least one party was 60 years of age or older. These marriages accounted for one in 20 marriages (5.1%). There were 441 marriages (2.0%) where both parties were aged 60 or older.

TABLE 49  
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND  
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2003

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	551	245	664
Baptist	736	331	799
Eastern Orthodox	49	15	69
Jewish	27	14	46
Lutheran	257	129	322
Mennonite / Hutterite	444	215	419
Pentecostal	783	298	786
Presbyterian	178	82	170
Catholic	531	263	1,252
Salvation Army	197	45	84
Jehovahs Witness	89	56	129
United Church	585	316	1,320
Other Christian Religions	2,269	886	1,918
Other Non Christian Religions	427	150	999
Unknown / Not Stated	12	3	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,135</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>9,006</b>

Note: Religious Denomination categories are from Statistics Canada.

TABLE 50  
**MARRIAGE COMMISSIONERS ON REGISTER  
 BY TYPE AND MARRIAGES PERFORMED**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2003

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	488	455	12,962
Public Servant	10	4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>12,969</b>

Note: Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.

\* Includes 117 temporary appointments.

#### HIGHLIGHTS TO TABLE 49/TABLE 50

- In British Columbia, Religious Representatives or Marriage Commissioners perform marriage ceremonies. There were 3,048 Religious Representatives and 498 Marriage Commissioners who solemnized marriages in the province in 2003.
- In 2003 approximately two fifths (41.0%) of the marriages were performed by religious representatives (9,006) and three fifths (59.0%) were civil ceremonies (12,969).
- Vital Statistics management staff (public servants) have the authority to solemnize marriages as a back up to private marriage commissioners, and perform marriages under special circumstances.

### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2003

##### OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,168</b>	<b>20,248</b>
	British Columbia	18,878	19,040
	Alberta	837	798
	Ontario	245	215
	Saskatchewan	61	55
	Manitoba	49	42
	Quebec	30	29
	Northwest Territories	23	19
	Yukon	18	18
	Nova Scotia	12	16
	New Brunswick	12	11
Newfoundland	3	5	
<b>United States</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>660</b>
	Washington	242	209
	California	141	124
	Oregon	54	48
	Texas	41	32
	New York	22	19
	Florida	22	13
	Illinois	17	15
	Alaska	15	11
	Georgia	11	13
	Arizona	12	11
	Colorado	11	12
	Idaho	11	12
	Wisconsin	10	11
	New Jersey	12	7
	Nevada	11	7
	Minnesota	9	6
	Virginia	9	5
	Hawaii	8	5
	Connecticut	5	6
	New Mexico	6	4
Other States	102	90	
<b>Mexico, Cent. &amp; South America</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>193</b>
	England	74	66
	Other United Kingdom	56	46
	Germany	30	34
	Netherlands	12	10
	Switzerland	7	9
	Sweden	6	6
	Other	14	22
<b>Asia &amp; Middle East</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>83</b>
	Japan	22	33
	Hong Kong	15	25
	Other	14	25
<b>Africa</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>21,240</b>	<b>21,240</b>

### Vital Statistics Information Box

#### USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2003

##### SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>376</b>
	British Columbia	242	333
	Alberta	18	37
	Saskatchewan	-	4
	Yukon	4	-
	Manitoba	-	2
	Nova Scotia	2	-
	Quebec	1	-
<b>United States</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>412</b>
	Washington	98	139
	California	124	92
	Oregon	60	70
	Texas	15	22
	Alaska	6	12
	Florida	16	2
	Arizona	8	6
	Hawaii	10	2
	Illinois	8	4
	Minnesota	6	2
	New Mexico	4	4
	Virginia	4	4
	Nevada	7	-
	Connecticut	2	4
	Delaware	2	4
	Georgia	4	2
	Idaho	-	6
	New York	2	4
	Pennsylvania	4	4
Other States	10	29	
<b>Europe</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
	Switzerland	2	2
	Ireland	2	2
	England	-	2
	Other United Kingdom	2	-
France	-	2	
<b>Asia &amp; Middle East</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
	Japan	2	-
	Hong Kong	-	2
Other	1	-	
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>670</b>	<b>800</b>

