

FACTS & STATS

Our Community by the Numbers

Last revised: November 2011

Family & Household Structure

Introduction

“Family and Household Structure in West Vancouver” is one in a series of Facts and Stats reports on demographics and trends. The primary data source for this report is the **2011 Census**, but data is also drawn from previous Census’ for historical comparisons.

Data is provided on family structure, marital status, number of children at home, family and household size and family versus non-family persons. In some cases, comparisons to the region are also provided.

As illustrated in Chart #1, couple families (this includes legally married and common-law) comprise 88% of all families in West Vancouver and lone parent families comprise 12%.

Chart #2 shows that of lone-parent families in West Vancouver, 79% are female lone-parent families and 21% are male-lone parent families. Since the 2001 Census, the proportion of male lone-parent families has increased from 18% to 21%.

Some differentiation exists when comparing families in West Vancouver to the region. As shown in Chart #1, the percentage of lone-parent families in West Vancouver is lower than in the region (12% compared to 16%); however, in West Vancouver a higher proportion of lone-parent families are male compared to the region (21% vs. 20%).

Chart #1—Family Structure, West Vancouver, 2011

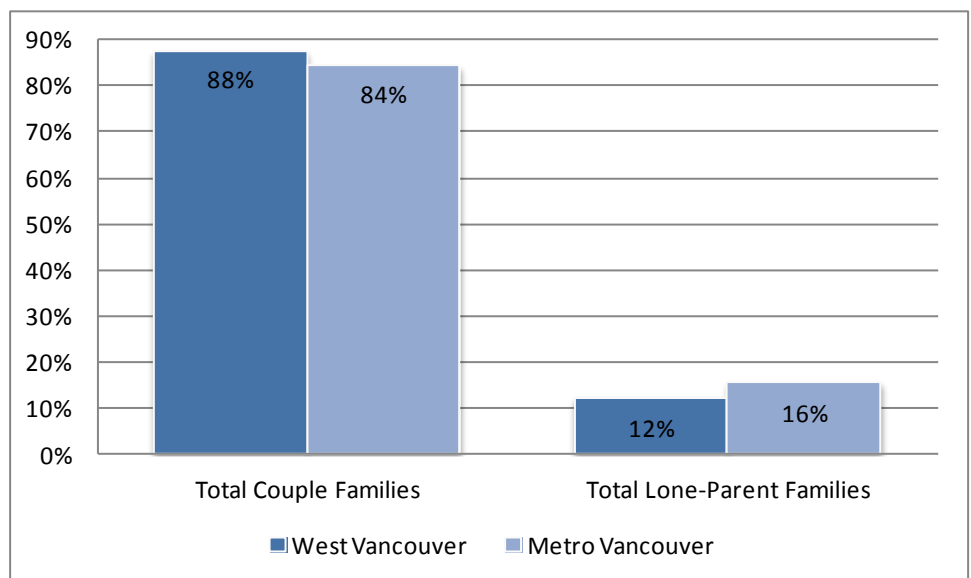
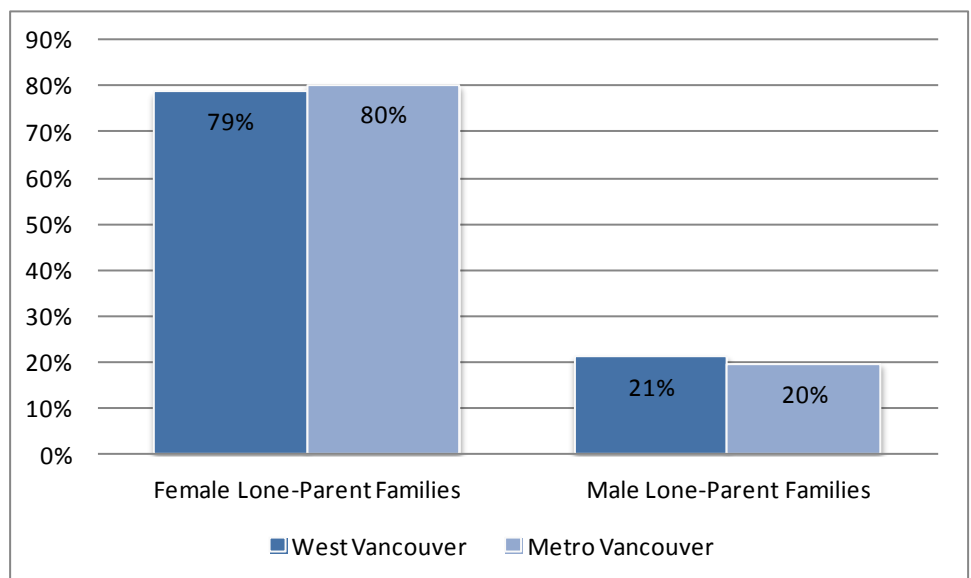


Chart #2—Family Structure and Gender, West Vancouver, 2011



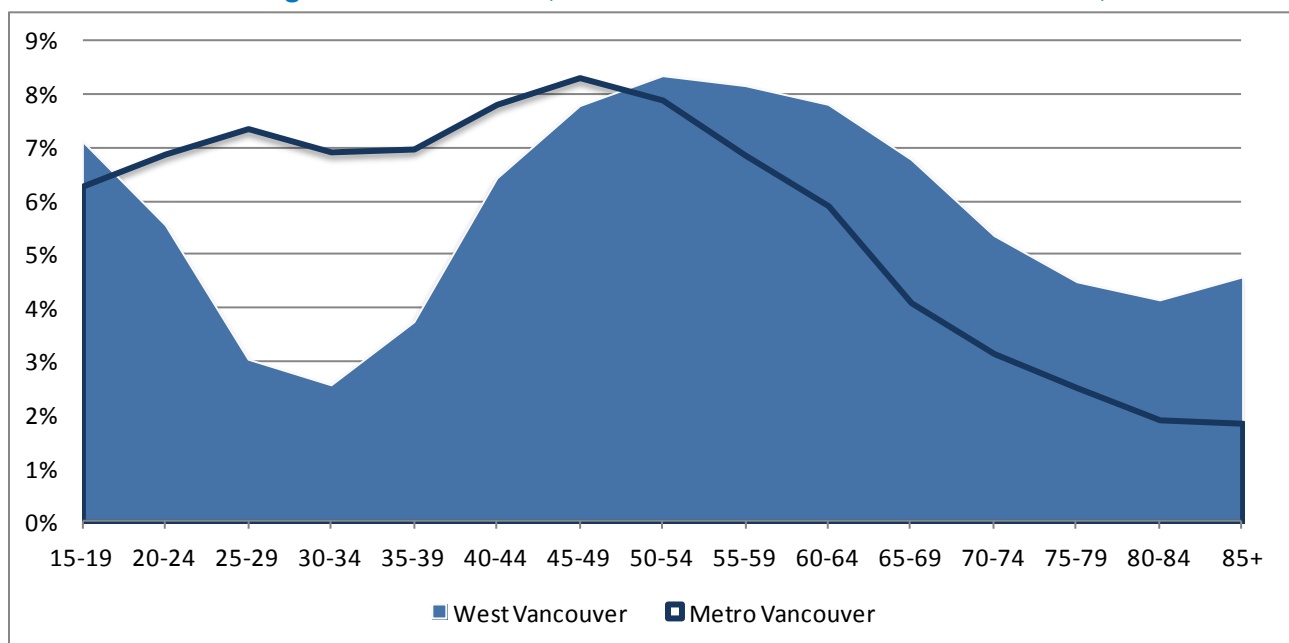
Legal Marital Status

As illustrated in Table #1, compared to the region, West Vancouver has a smaller single population (25% vs. 35%) and a larger married population (56% vs. 50%). These differences are related to West Vancouver's population age distribution. As illustrated in the Facts and Stats report on Age and Gender, West Vancouver has fewer young people in their 20's and 30's (who are less likely to be married) and more middle aged people (who are more likely to be married) compared to the region.

Table #1—Population 15+ by Legal Marital Status, West Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
Total population age 15+ by legal marital status	36,805	100%	1,958,880	100%
Single (never legally married)	9,355	25%	684,165	35%
Married (and not separated)	20,765	56%	970,585	50%
Separated, but still legally married	825	2%	55,010	3%
Divorced	2,925	8%	149,435	8%
Widowed	2,935	8%	99,690	5%

Chart #3—Age Distribution 15+, West Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2011





Children at Home

Table #2 illustrates that the number of children at home under 14 years of age has decreased from 2001 to 2011 in both West Vancouver and the region as a whole.

Table #2—Children at Home by Age Group, West Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2001—2011

	2001				2011			
	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver		West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total # of Children at Home	12,445	100%	620,755	100%	12,660	100%	690,760	100%
Under 6 years of age	1,820	15%	127,880	21%	1,650	13%	136,750	20%
6 to 14 years of age	4,475	36%	215,335	35%	4,215	33%	214,875	31%
15 to 17 years of age	1,730	14%	74,795	12%	1,820	14%	82,805	12%
18 to 25 years of age	3,065	25%	130,390	21%	3,330	26%	155,365	22%
25 years and over	1,350	11%	72,340	12%	1,645	13%	100,960	15%

Chart #4—Average # of Children at Home per Family, West Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 1971—2011

As illustrated in Chart #4, the average number of children per family in West Vancouver declined from 1971 to 1991 and then stabilized at an average of one child per family over the past three decades. We do not have data for Metro Vancouver before 1991 but can see that the region had an increase in 2001 to 1.2 children per family and then decreased within the last decade to 1.1.

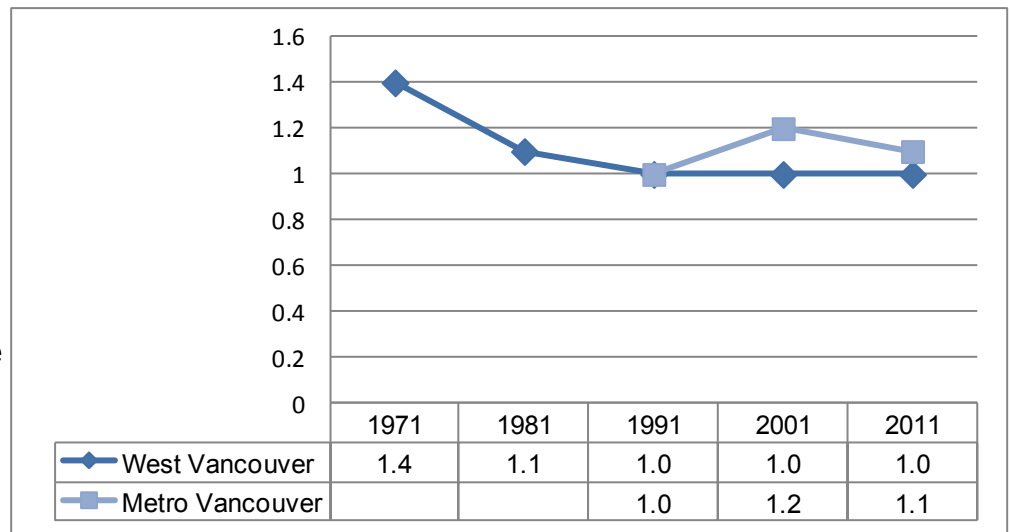
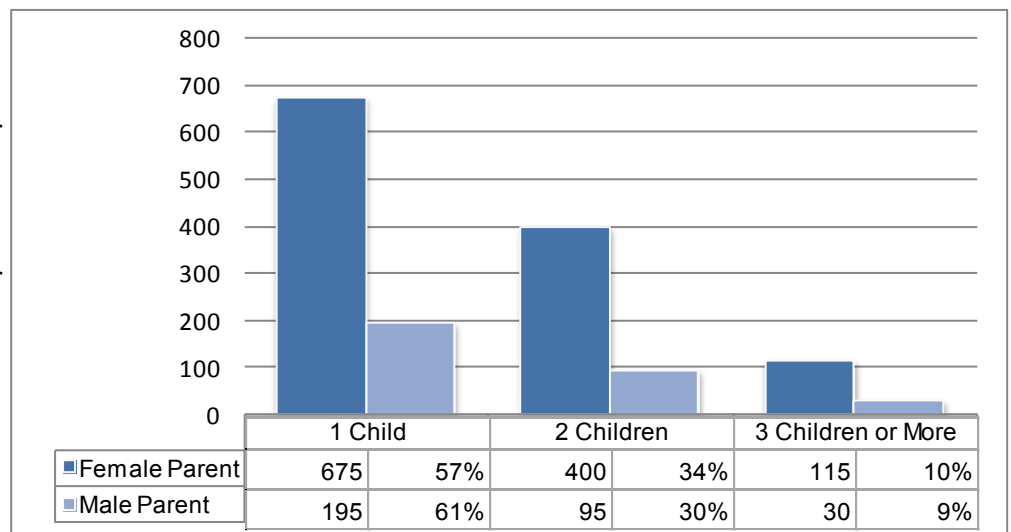


Chart #5—Children at Home by Gender of Lone Parent, West Vancouver, 2011

Chart #5 shows that of the 1,190 female lone parent families, 57% have one child at home and 44% have two or more children at home. Of the 320 male lone parent families, 61% have one child at home and 39% have two or more children at home.





Family & Household Size

Average family size in West Vancouver has declined from 3.4 in 1971 to 2.9 in 1991 and has remained stable at 2.9 until 2011. “Census family” refers to a married or common-law couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.

Average household size in West Vancouver declined from 3.0 in 1971 to 2.5 in 1991 and stabilized at 2.5 until 2011. Metro Vancouver has seen a similar decline between the 1970s and 1990s, but saw an increase to 2.6 average household size in 2001 to 2011.

The decline in family and household size is related to an aging population and declining birth rates (following the baby boom) - a trend that has been offset in recent decades by immigration. These patterns are consistent with regional and national trends.

Chart #6—Average Family Size, West Vancouver, 1971—2011

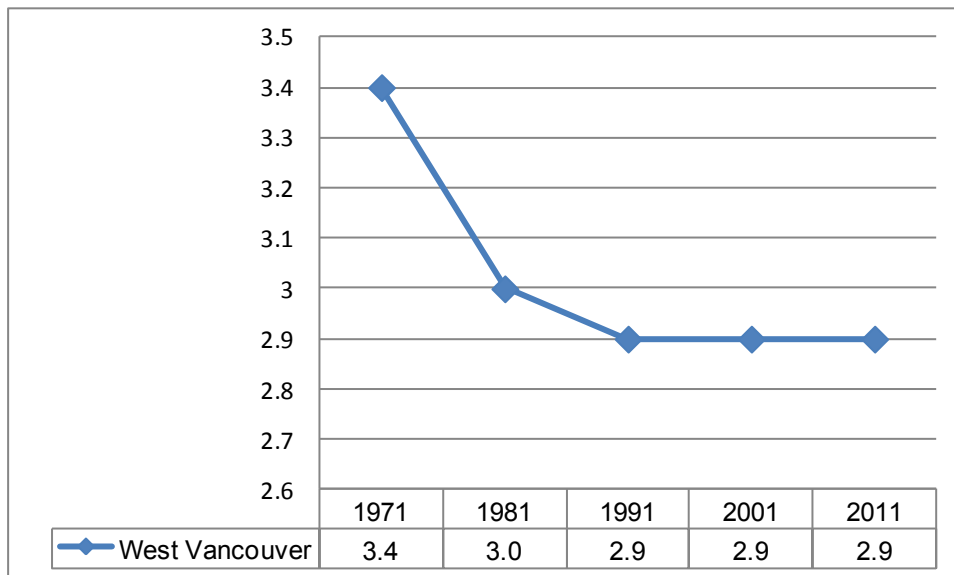
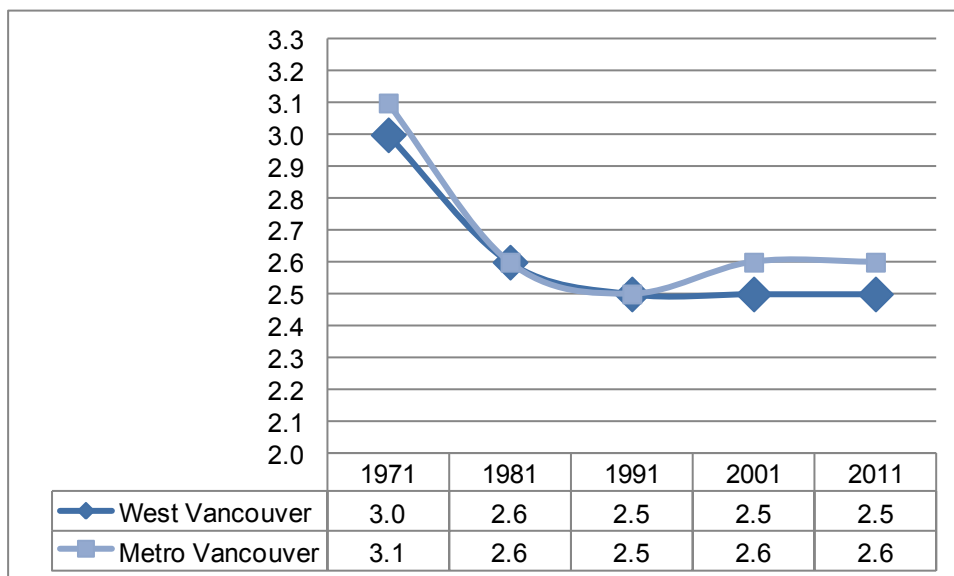


Chart #7—Average Household Size, West Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 1971—2011



Family / Non-Family Status

A higher percentage of persons 65 years and over live in non-family environments (33%) compared to the population as a whole (15%). Non-family persons 65 years and over are more likely to live alone (87%) compared to the non-family population as a whole (77%).

Chart #8—Family Status in West Vancouver, All Ages, 2011

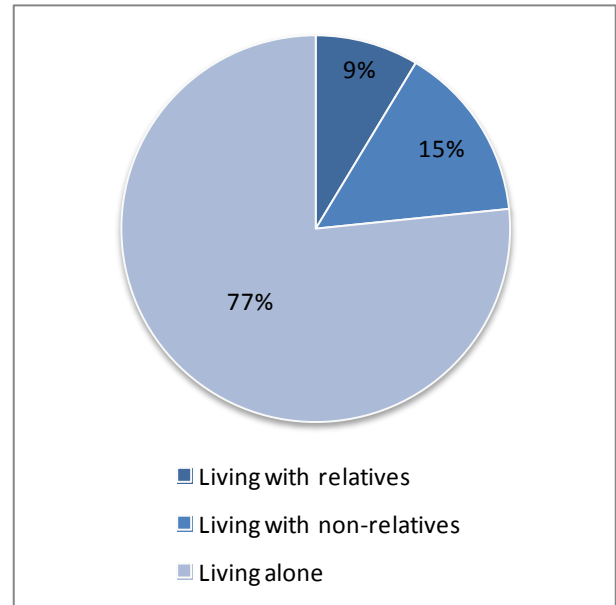
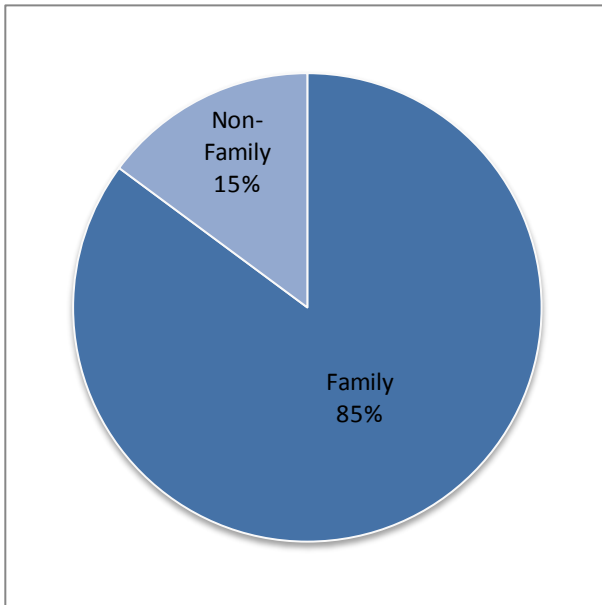


Chart #9—Family Status in West Vancouver, Age 65+, 2011

