



HOUSEHOLD PROSPERITY + QUALITY OF
LIFE IN COLWOOD



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Land Acknowledgement

The City of Colwood sits on the ancestral lands of Teechamista and the Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. This land is defined by the 1850 Douglas Treaty with the Teechamitsa people.

We are honoured to have the opportunity to build strong working relationships with local Nations based on learning, openness, humility and respect. We endeavor to walk softly on these ancestral lands of the Xwsepsum and Lekwungen families.

17.66

square km

52

parks featuring
old growth forest

7.6

km of pristine
ocean waterfront

3

National Historic Sites:
Hatley Castle,
Fisgard Lighthouse,
Fort Rodd Hill

1

National Migratory
Bird Sanctuary



Photo:
Full moon over
Fisgard Lighthouse by
Maya Gabrovska

What is Household Prosperity?

Household prosperity refers to the capacity of individuals and families to meet their basic needs, maintain their health, enjoy a high quality of life, invest in their future, and reach their full potential as citizens.



Household prosperity is foundational to community health and wellbeing, and to broader social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Capacity is an umbrella term that includes knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and behaviours, as well as time, opportunities, tools, and social and structural support. Household prosperity seeks to acknowledge gender, race and other identity factors, socioeconomic status, and lived experience on both the capacity of individuals and families to achieve prosperous lives and their access to capacity building efforts.

The City of Colwood is committed to creating a policy, regulatory, service, and investment environment that promotes and sustains household prosperity for all residents. To do this, the City will actively seek out impactful and collaborative partnerships with a diverse range of government, business, and community stakeholders.

The purpose of this Household Prosperity Report is to establish a baseline of household prosperity in the City of Colwood to support our economy and, more

broadly, to guide strategic decision making and service planning.

The report presents a snapshot in time of household prosperity based on available data for a specific set of indicators. As a baseline, it is a starting point for monitoring changes over time.

The report is a source of contextual information for Council, staff, businesses and stakeholders to refer to in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of efforts to improve household prosperity.

The report will be updated every four years, ideally within the first two years of each Council's term of office. It will be augmented with a community needs assessment survey, conducted every two years, to deepen understanding of the lived experience in Colwood.

This inaugural report includes a definition of household prosperity, a demographic profile of Colwood, and over 50 household prosperity indicators and data organized into 7 domains, or categories. The domains are highly integrated and interdependent, consequently, the data is most impactful when viewed together.



The data is step one...

Music in the park at Colwood City Hall, summer 2021

1

Understanding our community through data

This Household Prosperity Report presents data gathered from various sources about Colwood and the people who live here.

2

Inviting residents to weigh in

Some data, while verified against the source for accuracy, may feel less representative of people’s actual experience of Colwood. The City will encourage residents to provide feedback about these indicators through a Community Needs Survey.

The report also identifies some gaps in the data, which the City will strive to find or create sources for.

3

Identifying ways to improve quality of life in Colwood

Between the data presented here and the subsequent survey that will be undertaken, it is expected that areas will be highlighted where there may be an opportunity to recommend improvements that will positively impact the lives of people who live here. These recommendations will be presented to Council for consideration.



Methodology and data sources



A Community Social Assessment often combines the use of quantitative data - statistics and numbers along with qualitative input – opinions, ideas and priorities from local residents around what’s working and what could be better. These two different types of data help build a more robust picture of what is happening in a community that can help to inform planning and policy.

The data in this report is step one of the process, to be followed by community engagement and input gathering (see the steps on page 5).

The indicators selected for this report use a strengths-based approach that draws from asset-based community development with a focus on areas where the community is strong and areas where there is a challenge that can become an opportunity to build more strength. This differs, for example from a needs assessment that focuses on deficits.

Data

This report draws from various data sources including Statistics Canada Census data from 2011 to 2022, CMHC, and BC Community Health Data. Unless specified, data from the Statistics Canada Census year 2021 is used by default. The data methods used in this report aim to provide useful information to researchers, policymakers,

and the community regarding the size and structure of the city population and the processes that govern changes.

Regional comparison data is also included in this report, with Langford, the Capital Regional District (CRD, and British Columbia (BC) serving as reference points. The comparison data aims to provide a broader context for the city’s population trends and demographic characteristics.

The City of Langford is inland and shares a long border with the western limit of Colwood. Langford is connected to Colwood by several primary transportation routes and residents frequently travel between communities to share nearby parks, waterfront, commercial areas, and employment areas. Langford has a population estimate of 46,000 and has undergone significant growth and development in the recent decades including the development of several new parks, playgrounds, the Westhills Stadium, and the YMCA Westhills pool and recreation centre.

Acknowledgements:

Colwood would like to acknowledge the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria for research and data visualization and Thom Klos Creative for design and layout.



Who lives in Colwood?

Understanding Colwood's population

Demographic information can give insight into a community's current state, history, and future direction. It can be a valuable resource for monitoring changes over time, and identifying a community's needs or assets to aid in planning, policy creation, or decision making.

Colwood's population has been growing, aging, and becoming increasingly diverse.



Home to
18,961
Residents

7,425
Households*

Median Household
Total Income
in 2020
\$102,000

10.6%
VISIBLE MINORITY
GROUP
The proportion of visible
minority groups in the
population increased from
7.4% in 2016 to 10.6% in 2020.

0 to 14 years old
17%

15 to 64 years old
64%

65 years +
19%

Average age
42.4

* Households refer to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad. The dwelling may be either a collective dwelling or a private dwelling [Stats Canada]



5.1%
Unemployment rate

**Population change (%):
2016 - 2021**
12.5%
Population growth

12.7%
IMMIGRANTS
Immigrant includes persons who are, or who have ever been, landed immigrants or permanent residents admitted to Canada on or prior to May 11, 2021.

**Hello.
Bonjour.**

The majority of Colwood's population speak English and/or French.

Language Proficiency of Colwood Residents in 2020		
English only	17,275	91.3%
French only	15	0.1%
English and French	1,570	8.3%
Neither English nor French	65	0.3%



Colwood’s Indigenous population

We endeavor to walk softly on these ancestral lands of the Xwsepsum and Lekwungen families and continue the important work of reconciliation, engaging with the local Nations.

How is Colwood working to advance truth and reconciliation?

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada created 94 Calls to Action. Colwood is working to advance the Five Calls to Action for Municipal Government. For more detail on these calls to action visit: <https://www.colwood.ca/discover-colwood/first-nations->

What do Colwood kids learn about Indigenous history and culture?

All School District 62 schools include Indigenous Education as part of the curriculum. Also, the Na’tsa’maht Indigenous Education Program at Royal Bay Secondary School offers experiences that deepen understanding of Indigenous history, experience and culture, guided by Indigenous teachers and Elders. Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/abedrbss/home>

Indigenous culture visible in Colwood

Cedar Harvesting is a vital cultural practice on these territories. When harvested in a good way, the Cedar trees will continue to grow and thrive, however they will always retain the cultural markings. These are referred to as Culturally Modified Trees. Latoria Creek Park and Havenwood Park are sometimes used by local Elders for the traditional protocol of Cedar Harvesting. The Elders will use this bark throughout the school district to teach students about the many important items that can be created using woven cedar, including mats, headbands, bracelets, and baskets as well as medicine. As visitors might notice these marked trees which serve as a visual reminder of the connection and kinship Indigenous peoples have with this land and the gratitude we feel for the gifts the trees give us.

Recently, local elders Jo-Ina Young (Metis Nation), Jackie Planes (T-Sou-ke), Henry Chipps (Scianew), and Rick Peter (Cowichan) spent the day with teachers from across the region sharing their knowledge of this cultural practice. Guided by the Elders, teachers harvested and prepared two pulls of bark.

Hych'ka to the Elders from local nations for sharing their vital teachings and knowledge.



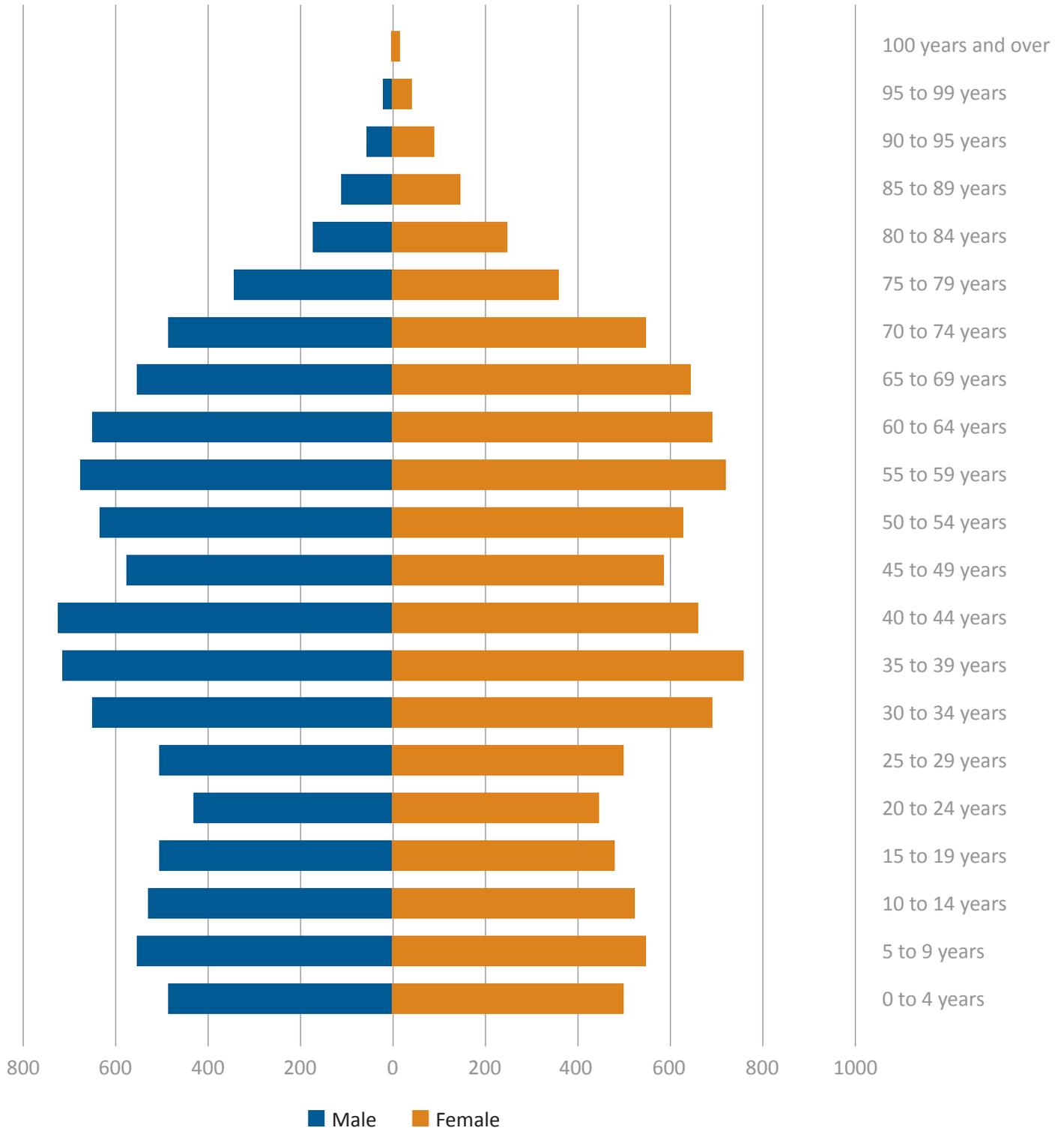
- Indigenous identity
- Métis
- Multiple indigenous responses
- First Nations (North American Indian)
- Inuk (Inuit)
- Other indigenous

Colwood has a slightly lower Indigenous population than the provincial average.

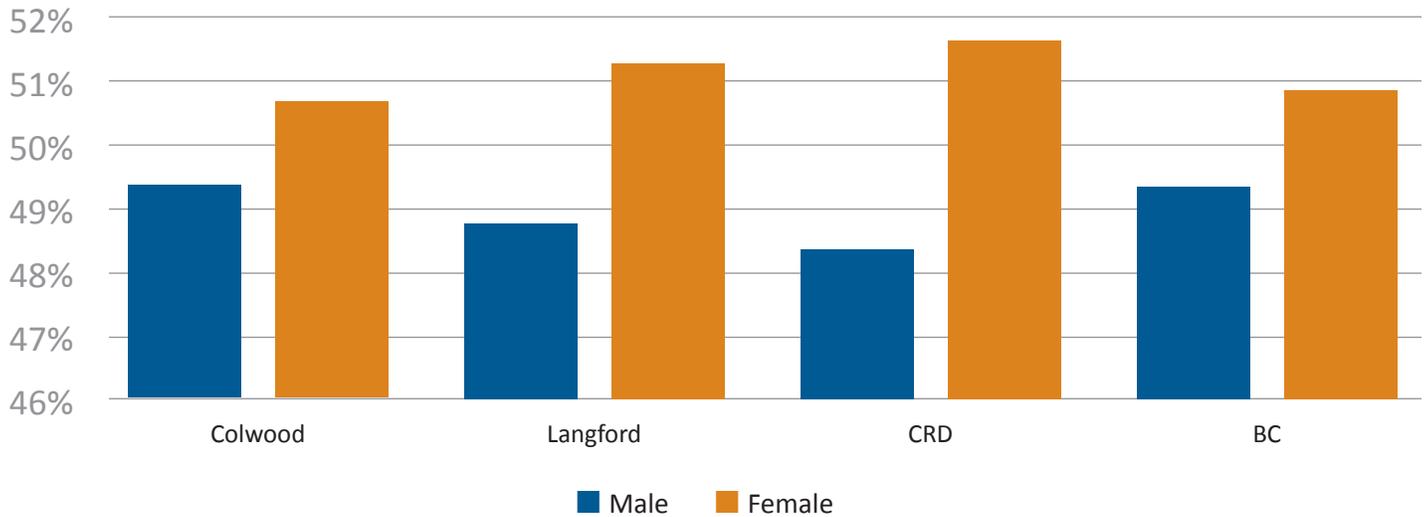


Gender and Age Profile

The distribution of gender in Colwood is typical, with roughly equal numbers of men and women and in line with the province. As people age, the gender distribution shifts and there are relatively more women in the older population. This likely explains the slightly higher gap in the CRD, which has an older population than Colwood.



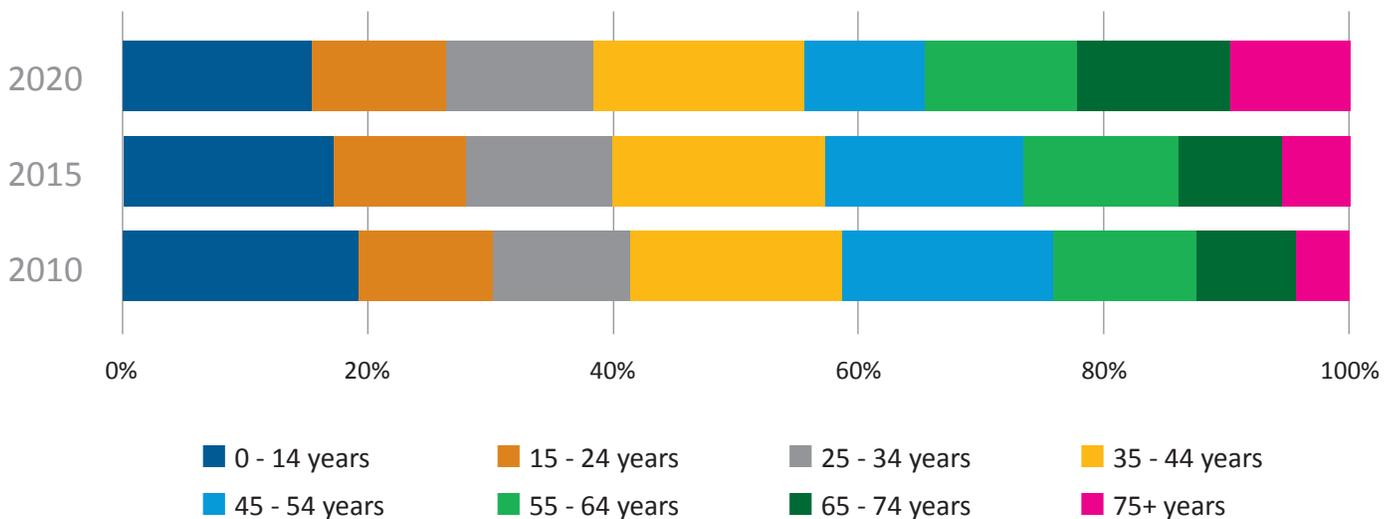
Gender distribution by region in 2020



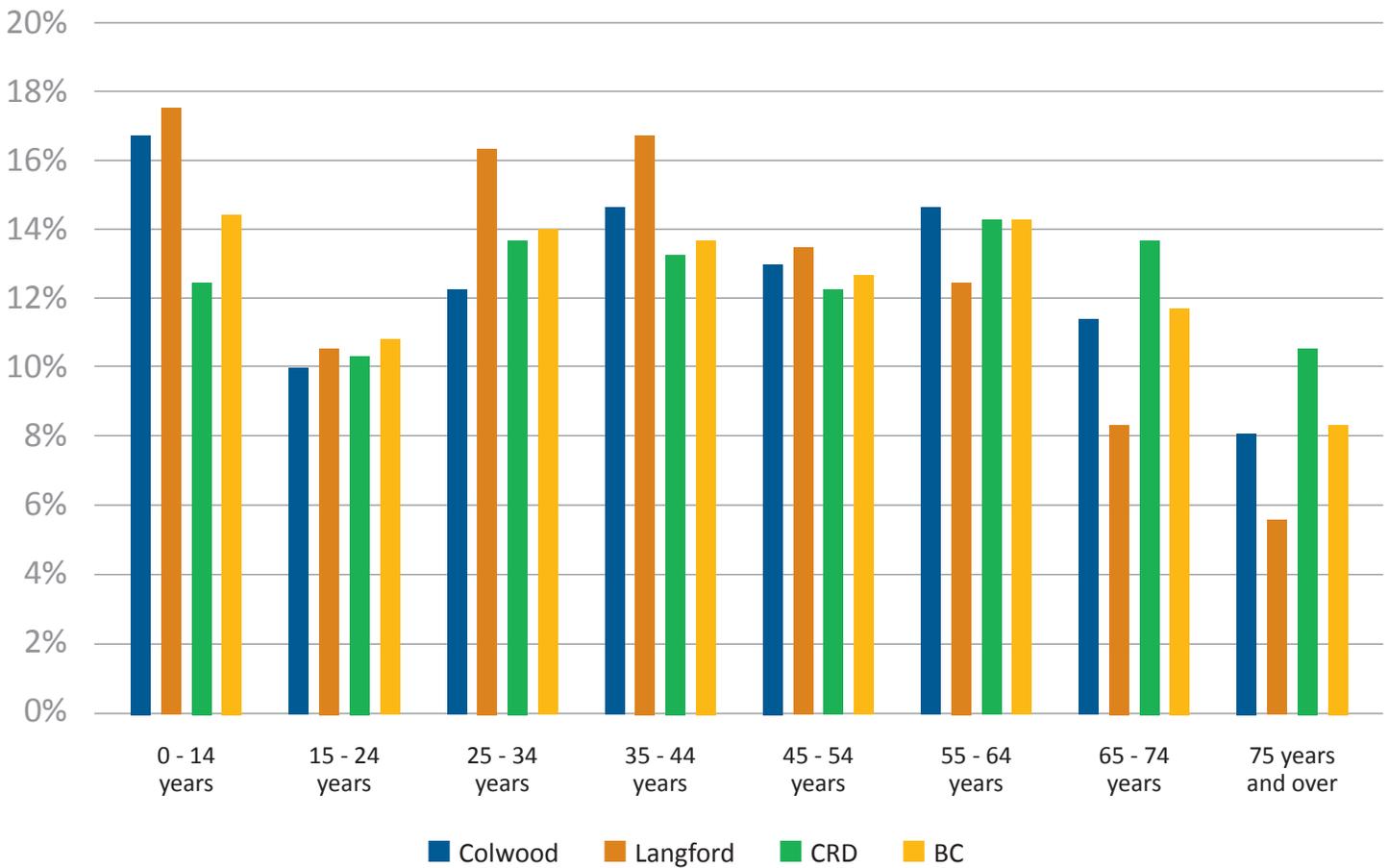
Age dynamics

The median age in Colwood was slightly lower than CRD but on par with the province. However, Colwood is aging more than neighboring Langford, CRD, and the province. This could be due to combinations of factors including immigration/ out migration of young people, retirees, low birth rates, and an aging population that is not replaced by younger individuals. This could have implications for planning the economy, workforce, and social services in the city.

Age distribution trends in Colwood

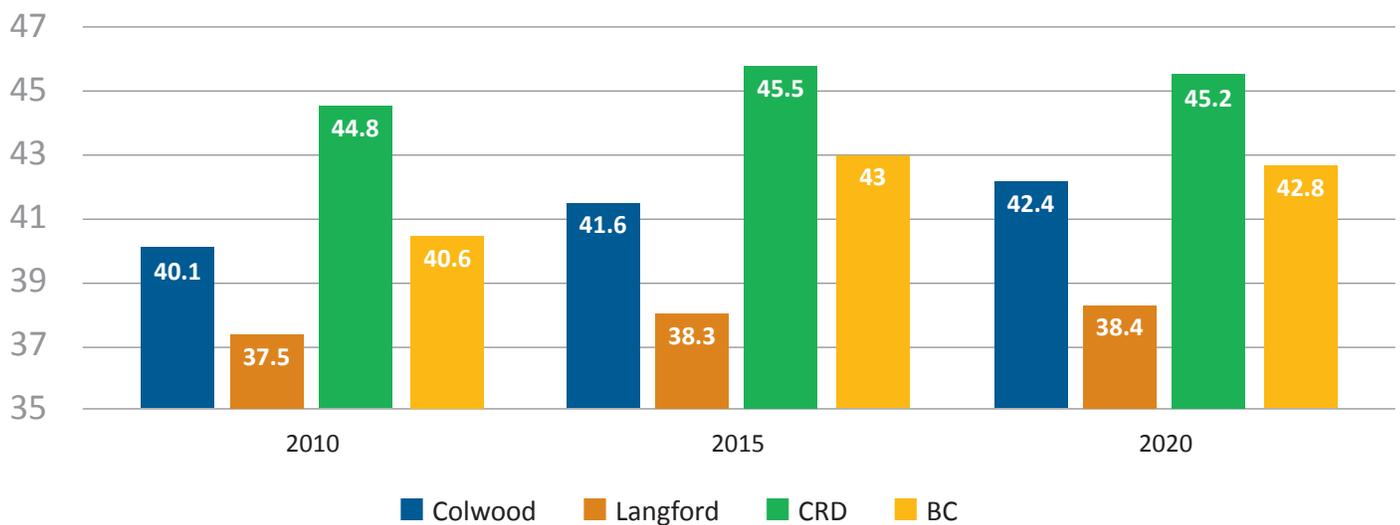


Age distribution by region in 2020



Median age trend over time

AGE

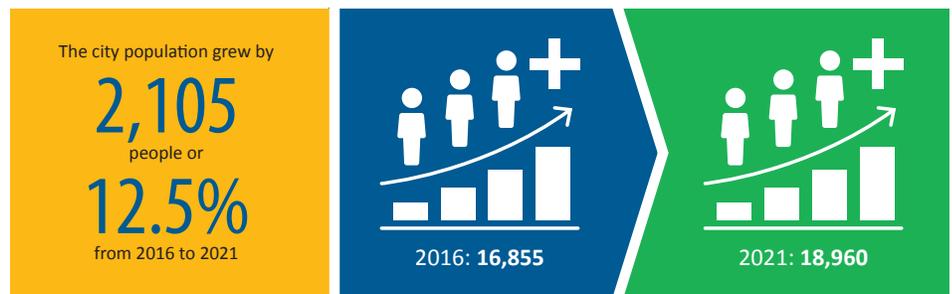


Colwood is growing

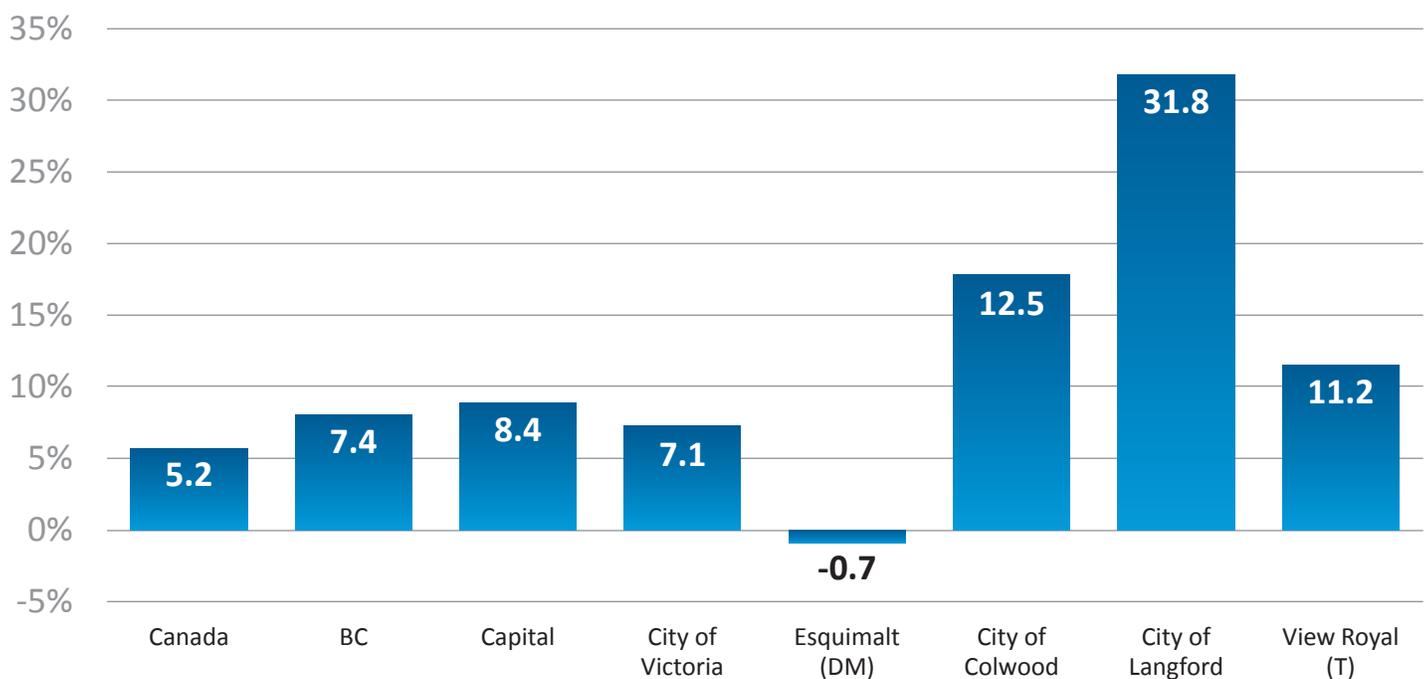


According to the recent Colliers Report for Colwood (2022, Colwood population is projected to reach 30,168 by 2041 under the medium level growth projection. This significant increase in population is largely due to relatively high residential development in the area. The report also shows that over the past 25 years, the proportion of people in the 45-64 age group has increased by 10.3% and the proportion of people in the 65+ age group has increased by 12.7%. Meanwhile, the proportion of the population in the 24 or below age group continues to decline. This means that by 2031, it is likely that 43.8% of the population will be over 45 years of age.

According to the Statistics Canada 2021 census data, the population in the City of Colwood has seen a significant increase over the past five years. Colwood has one of the highest growth rates in the region, second only to the City of Langford.



Population change by region



Who is coming to Colwood?

Those new to Colwood include migrants from elsewhere in the province and country and immigrants from other countries.

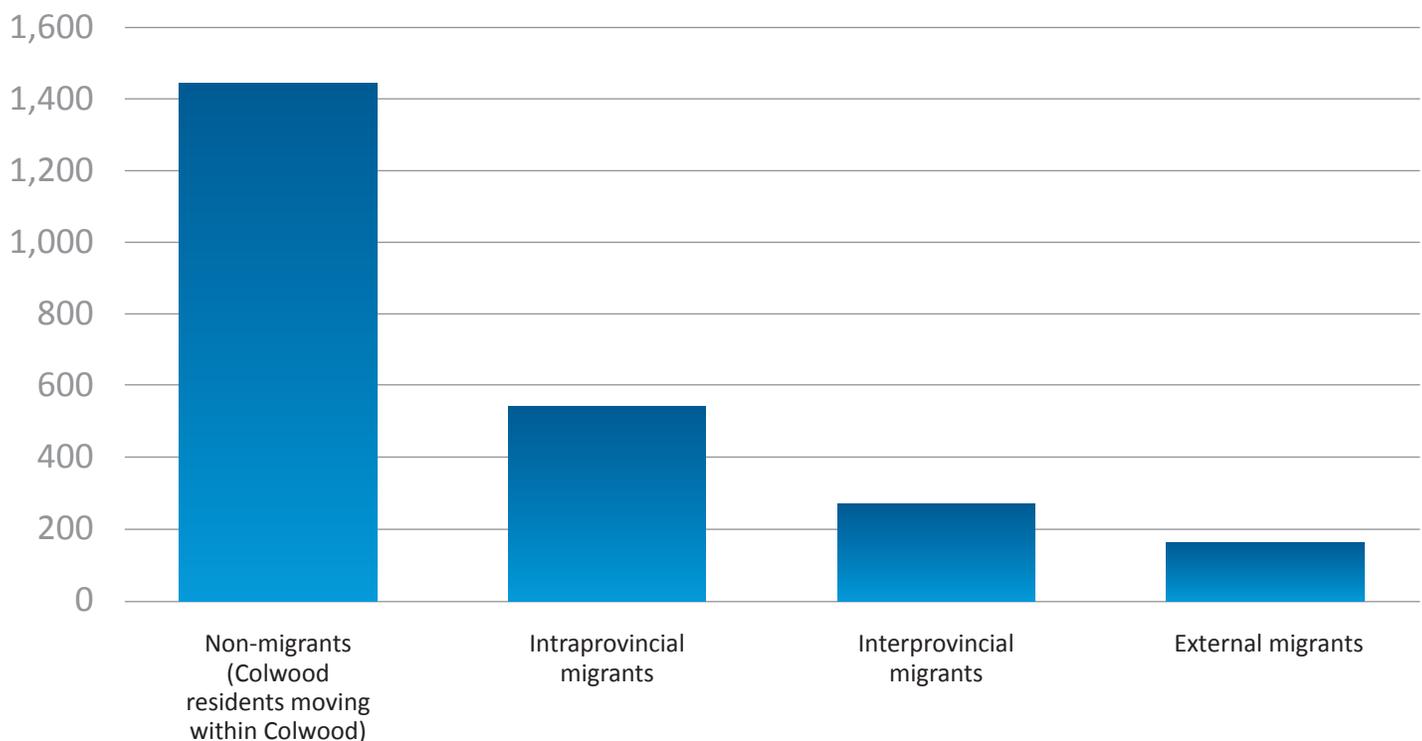
Who has moved within or into Colwood?

The table shows those who have moved within Colwood (Colwood Residents) and those who have moved into Colwood from within the province (intraprovince), outside the province (Interprovincial) and outside the country (external migrants). The data shows higher mobility within Colwood with more moves within Colwood by Colwood resident in the prior year (2019 -2020) than in the previous five years (2015 - 2020). Also notable is that the highest portion of migrants are from within the province of BC. It is worth noting that housing costs and availability will affect migration patterns, but COVID will have impacted those figures as well, making it more difficult to draw conclusions from changes in trends.

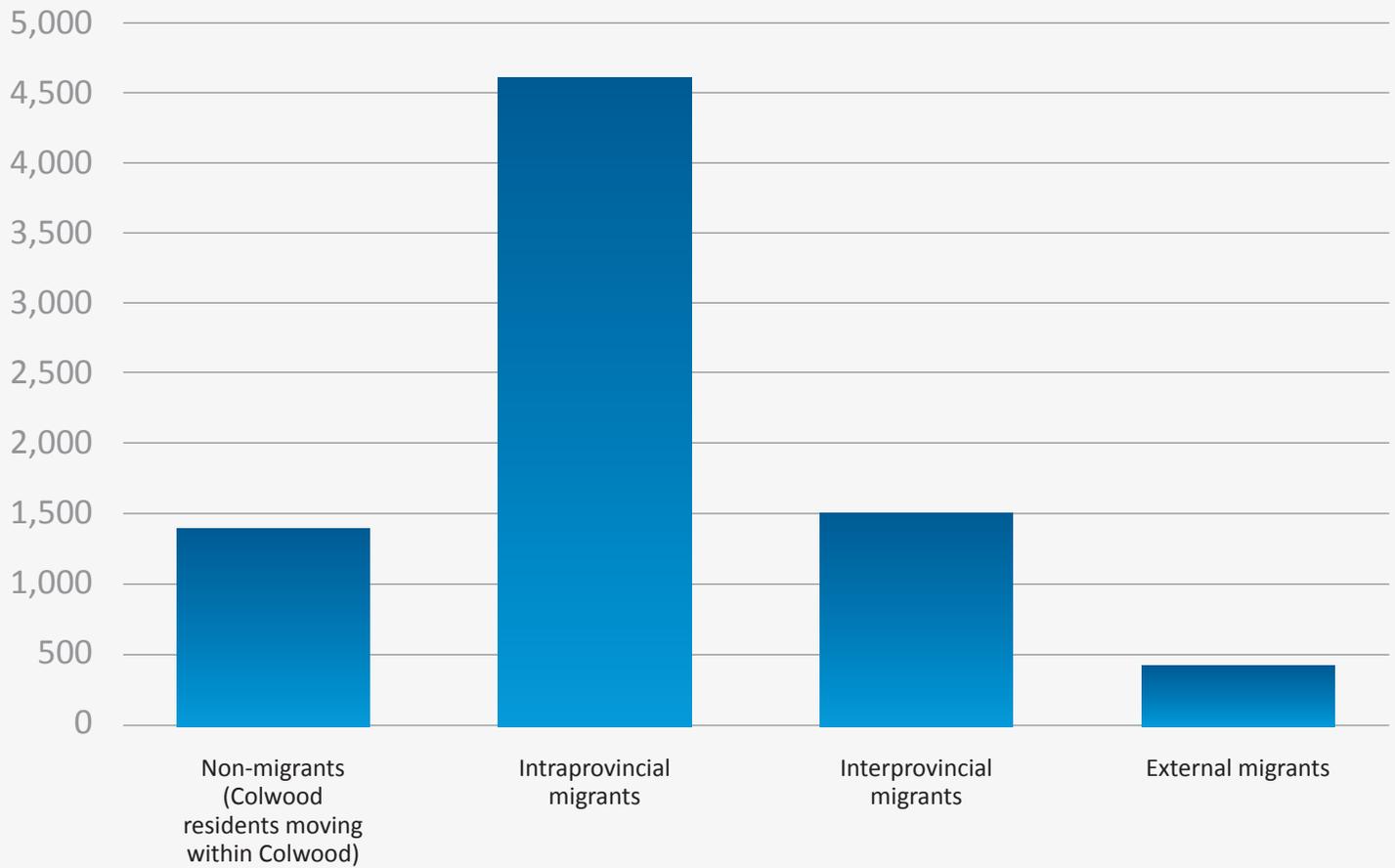


In 2020, 12.8% (2,380) of Colwood population had changed residence from the previous year (2019-2020), 7.6% (1,420) of them were non-migrants. 3.0% of the population moved from outside Colwood, 1.5% moved from outside BC, and 0.9% moved from outside Canada.

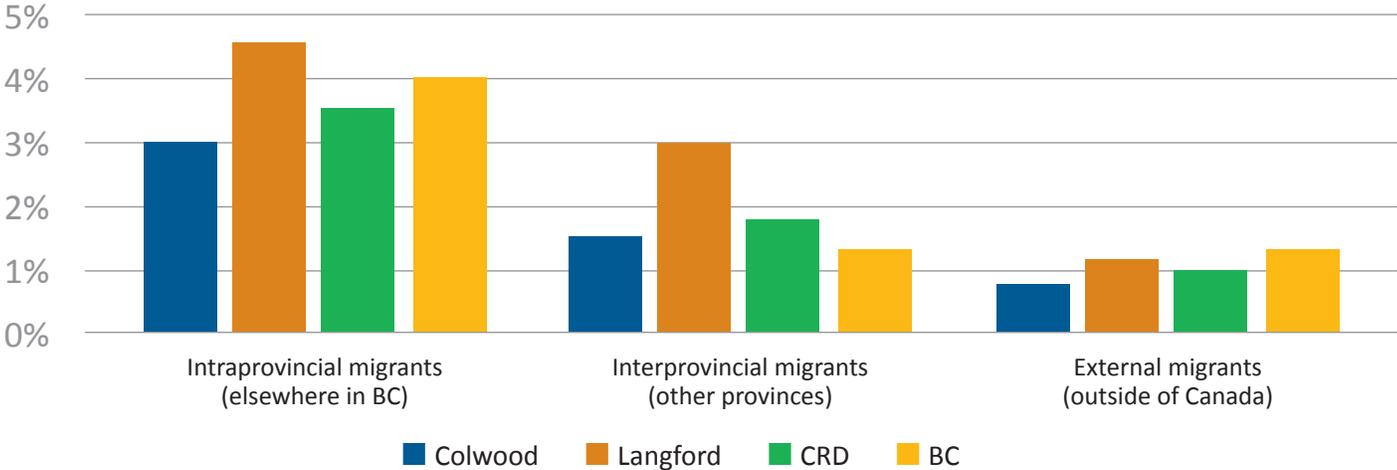
Who was moving into or within Colwood in 2020?



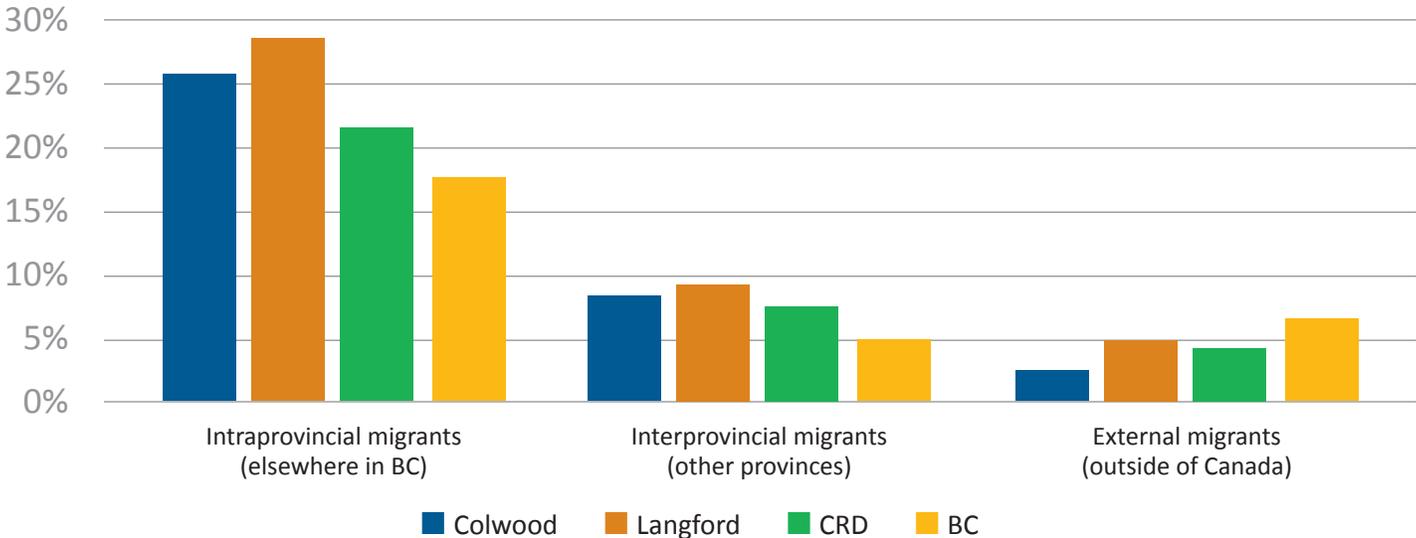
Who was moving into or within Colwood (from 2015 to 2020)



Incoming migration by region in 2020



Incoming migration by region (2015-2020)



YOUR THOUGHTS:

Considering Colwood's population is growing...

What do you like most about living in Colwood and would like to see preserved as we grow?

What would you change to make life better in Colwood?





Households

Household Size

Colwood is a unique jurisdiction in terms of household size and composition. Colwood also has a relatively high overall number of 3+ person households. This is a trend that sets Colwood apart from other areas, where household size has been decreasing in recent years. However, even in Colwood, the number of 3+ person households has slightly decreased from 2015 to 2020.

Household type

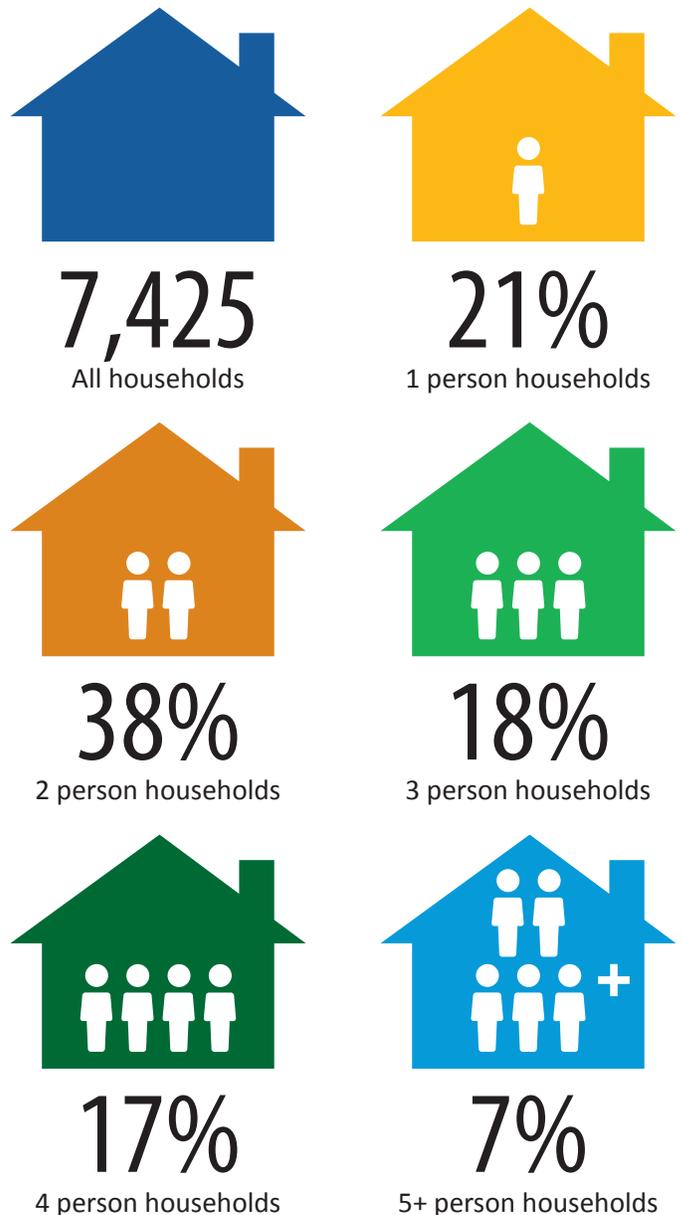
Family household refers to a household that contains at least one census family, that is, a married couple with or without children, a couple living common-law with or without children, or a lone parent living with one or more children (lone-parent family).

One-family household refers to a single census family (with or without other persons) that occupies a private dwelling.

Multiple-family household refers to a household in which two or more census families (with or without additional persons) occupy the same private dwelling.

Non-family household refers to either one person living alone in a private dwelling (One-Person Households) or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling (Two-Or-More-Person Household), but who do not constitute a census family.

Colwood has a higher portion of 3+ person households than the region or province though this has begun to decline



Colwood household size in 2020

Total - Private households by household size - 100% data

7,425

Number of persons in private households

18,790

Average household size (persons)

2.5



1 person
1,620



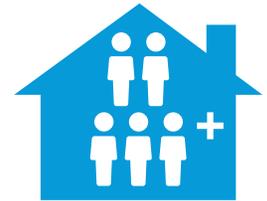
2 persons
2,790



3 persons
1,310



4 persons
1,155



5+ persons
560

Household size over time

	2015	2020
1- and 2-person households	3,875	4,410
Percent (%)	58.8	59.3
3+ person households	2,710	3,025
Percent (%)	41.2	40.7

Household size by region in 2020

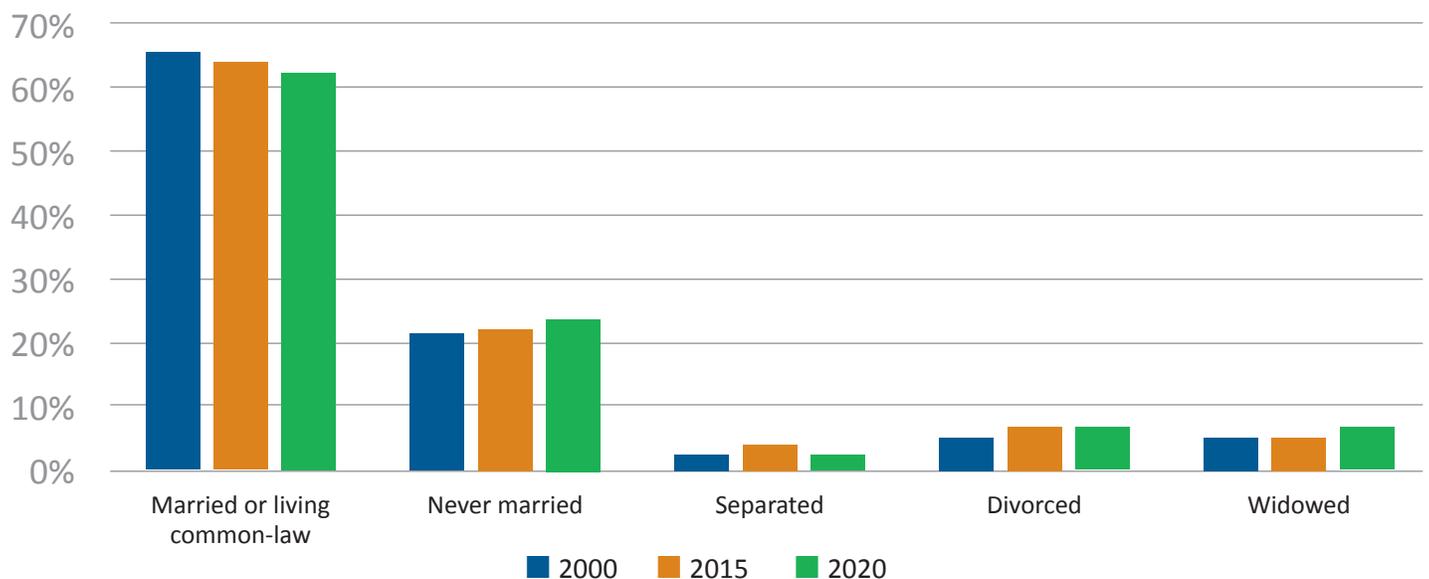
	COLWOOD	LANGFORD	CRD	BC
1- and 2-person households	4,410	11,920	120,920	1,205,680
Percent (%)	59.3	62.6	71.1	64.1
3+ person households	3,025	7,130	49,240	676,285
Percent (%)	40.7	37.4	28.9	35.9

Marital Status Trends

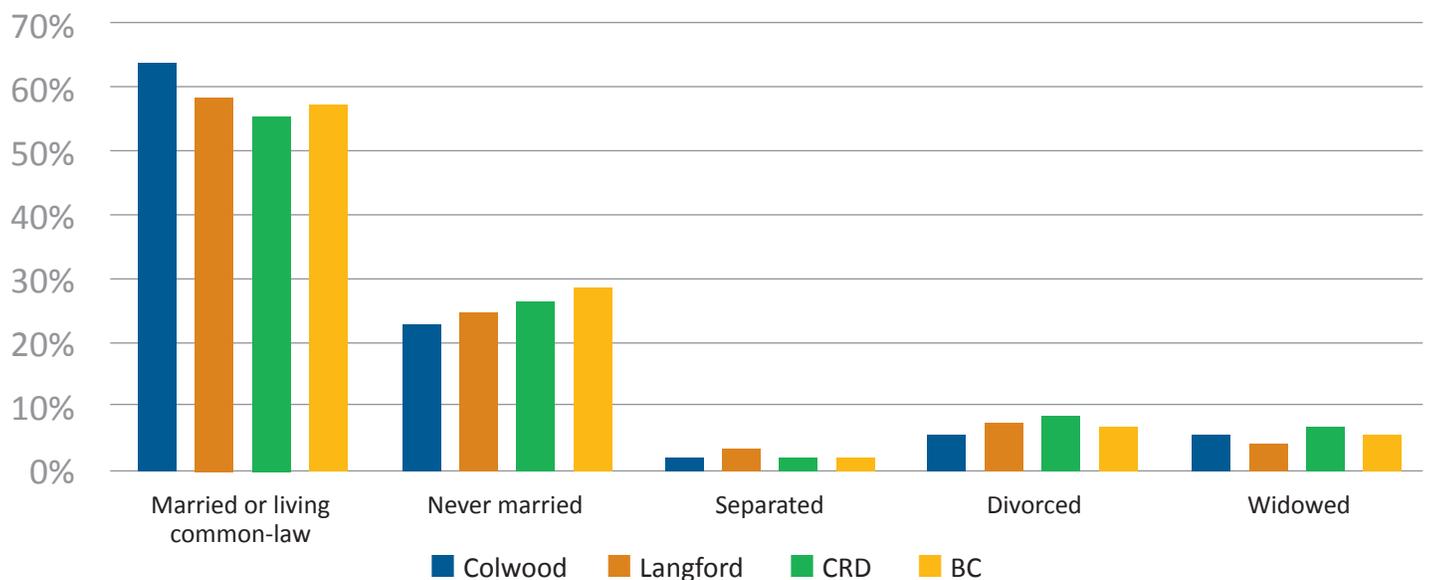
Marital status is an important factor in understanding the family structure and dynamics of a population. Colwood has a higher proportion of married or living common-law couples compared to other regions. However, this trend is changing slowly over time, with a decreasing number of married or living common-law couples. Instead, we are observing an increase in the number of never-married persons, as well as a slight increase in the number of divorced and widowed individuals.

Understanding the changes in marital status can have implications for various social policies, such as family law, tax policies, and social welfare programs. Therefore, it is important to monitor and analyze the trends in marital status over time to better understand the changing dynamics of families and households in our society.

Colwood marital status



Marital status by region in 2020



Family Structure in 2020

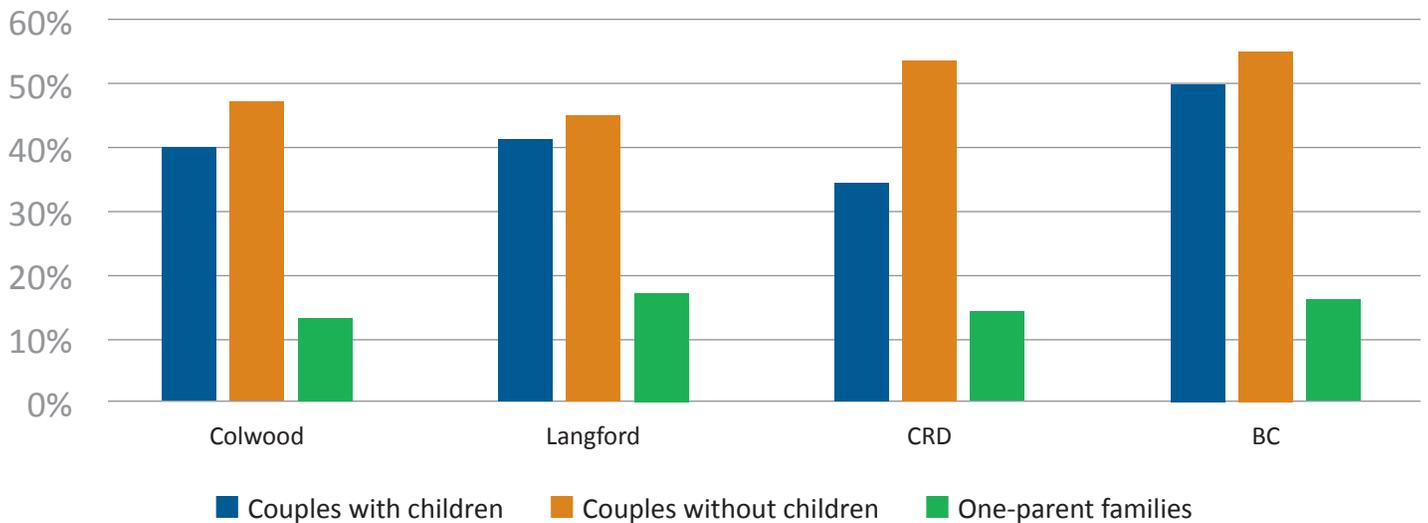
In Colwood, the majority of families are composed of couples (married and common-law) without children, which is consistent with the provincial family structure. One-parent families make up a lower proportion of families in Colwood compared to other regions.

The family structure in Colwood may continue to evolve over time and should be monitored to ensure that services and infrastructure continue to meet the needs of families in the region. Understanding the family structure of a

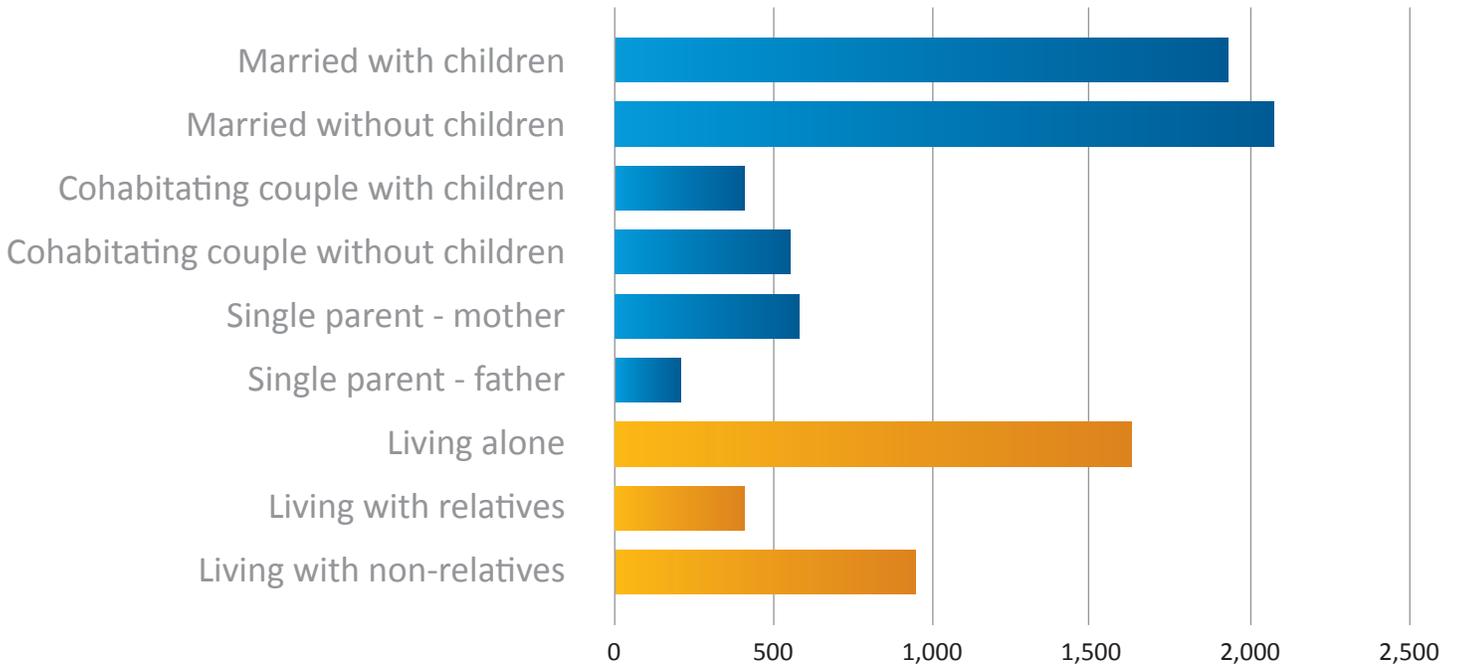
city may help policymakers and planners make informed decisions about the provision of public services such as schools, parks, and other facilities that cater to families. It also provides insights into the social and economic well-being of families within the city, such as income distribution and poverty rates. Additionally, it can help businesses and marketers tailor their products and services to better suit the needs of the local population.



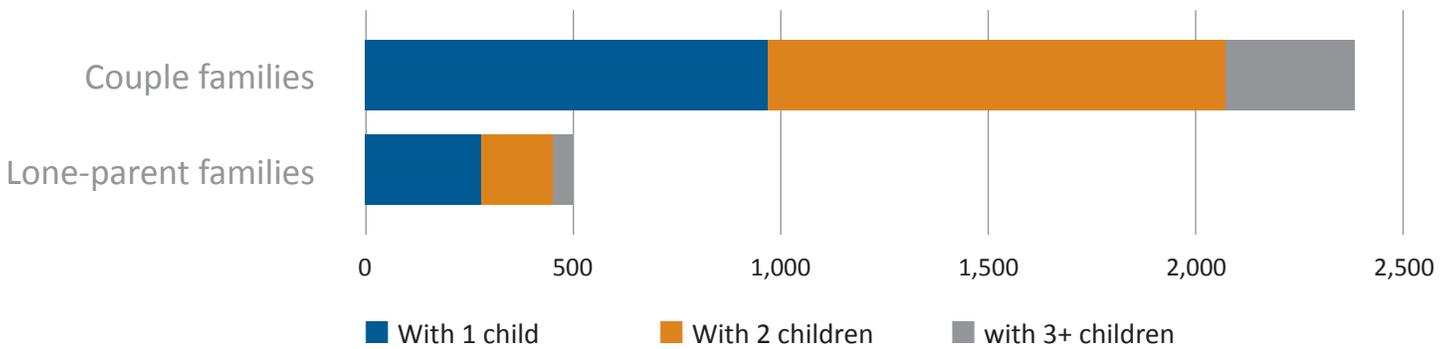
Family structure across the region in 2020



Family structure in 2020



Colwood families with children in 2020



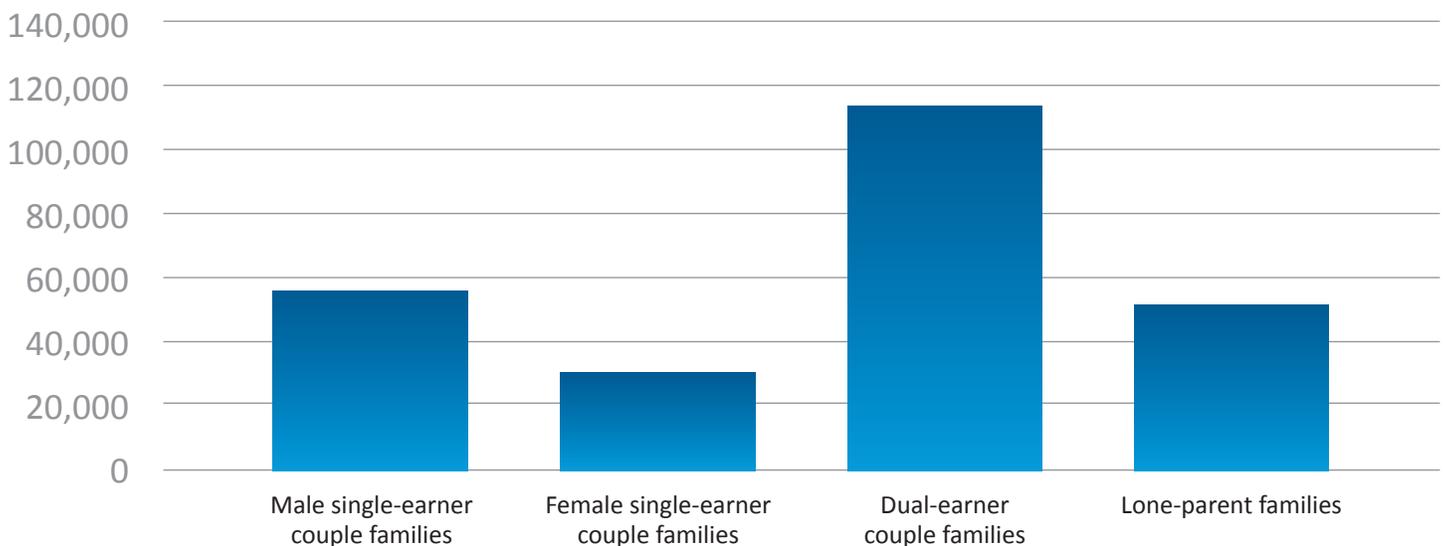
How are families doing financially?

Employment income is the earnings an individual receives from their main job or occupation. In contrast, household income comprises different income sources, including employment income as well as non-employment income, such as child tax benefits.

The earnings gap, which refers to the income disparity between men and women, is a crucial factor to consider when analyzing the gender income gap. For instance, when looking at single earner couples, there is a significant gender gap in income, with families headed by female earners earning less than male earners or even lone-parent families.



Colwood median employment income for families



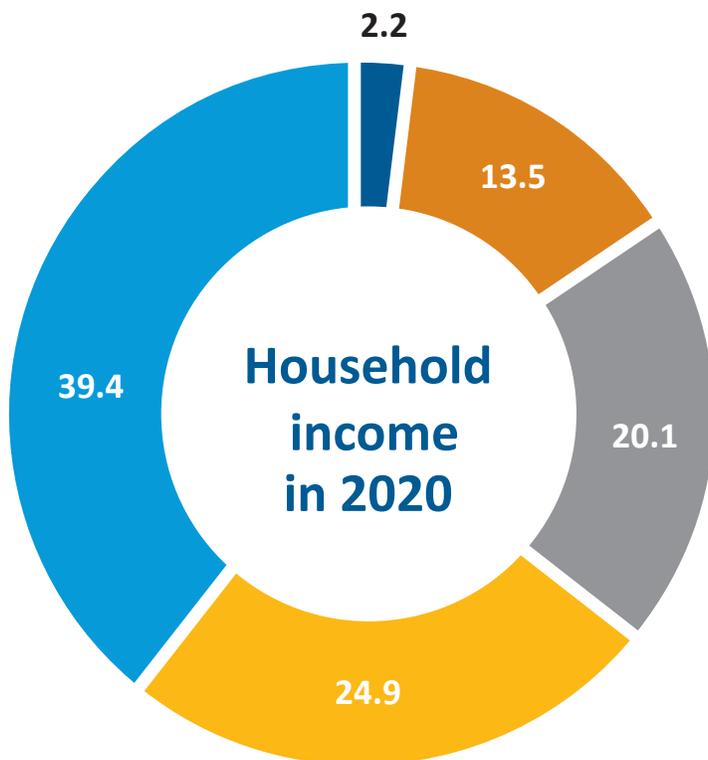
Family finances in 2020



	With 0 children	With 1 Child	With 2 Children	With 3+ Children	Total
Couple families	2,650	990	1,070	280	4,990
Male single-earner couple families	370	120	140	60	190
Median employment income of husband (including male common-law)	\$29,390	\$64,750	\$80,760	\$77,500	\$57,220
Female single-earner Couple families	270	80	40	20	410
Median employment income of wife (includes common-law)	\$23,000	\$35,890	\$53,000	\$55,050	\$28,940
Dual-earner Couple families	1,210	720	870	190	3,000
Median combined employment income of spouses	\$104,310	\$112,650	\$126,020	\$118,020	\$115,300
Lone-Parent Families	N/A	290	160	50	4900
Median employment income of lone parent	N/A	\$48,260	\$51,140	\$38,910	\$48,780

Household income

Colwood (City), Household Total Median Income	Income Brackets	Calculation	Annual Income range	Affordable Rent	Proportion of Households
\$102,000	Very low	<20% of median income	Under \$20,000	<\$500	2.22%
	Low	20 - 49% of median income	\$20,000 to \$49,999	\$500 to <\$1,297.98	13.47%
	Average	50 - 79% of median income	\$50,000 to \$79,999	\$1,250 to <\$1,999.98	20.07%
	Moderate	80 - 119% of median income	\$80,000 to \$119,999	\$2,000 to <\$2,999.98	24.88%
	Higher	120% + of median income	\$120,00 and over	\$3,000<	39.37%

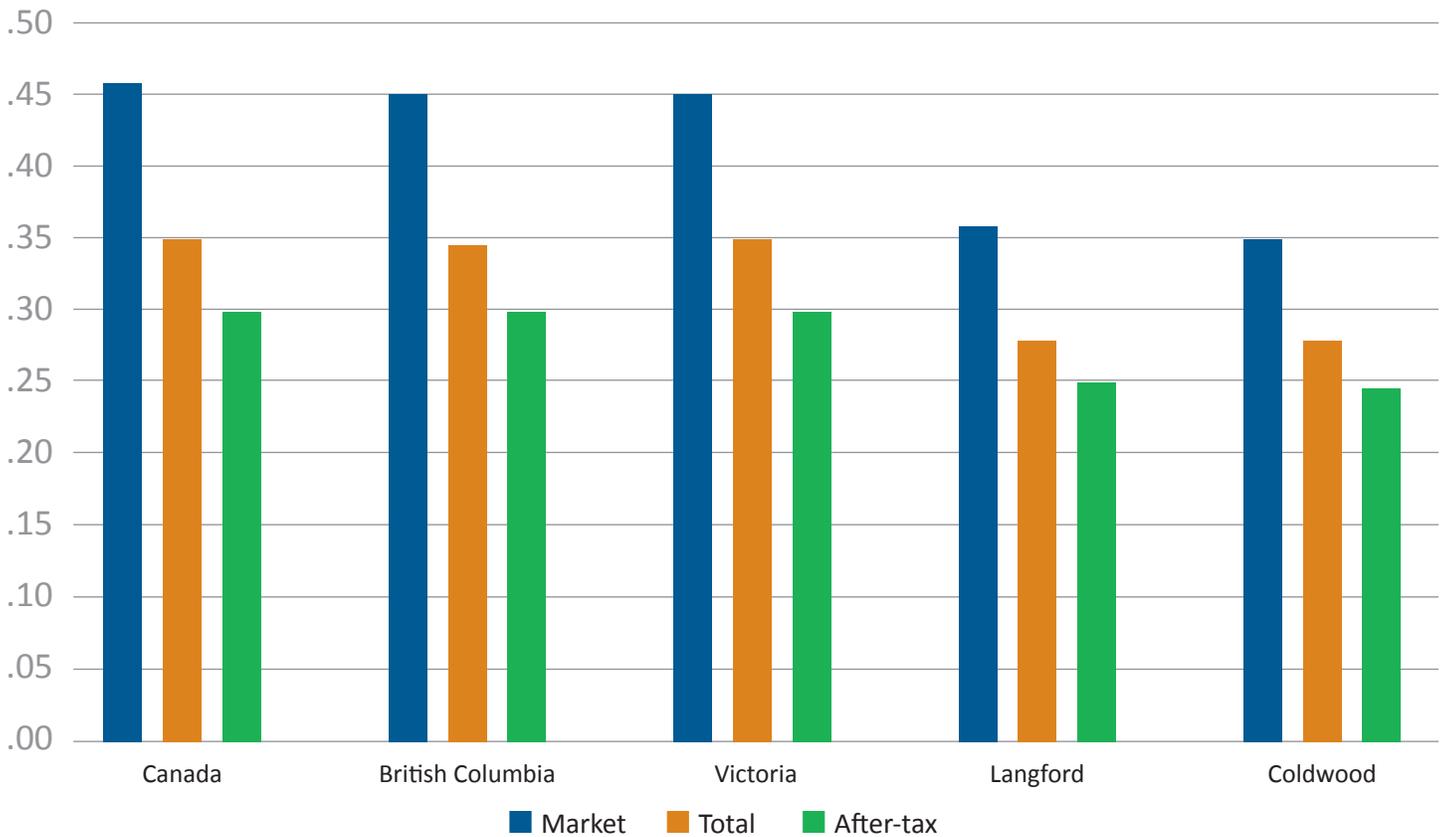


The majority of the households in Colwood are in the higher income bracket but over 1 in 6 are in low or very low income.

- Very Low
- Low
- Average
- Moderate
- Higher

Income inequality (adjusted household income in 2020)

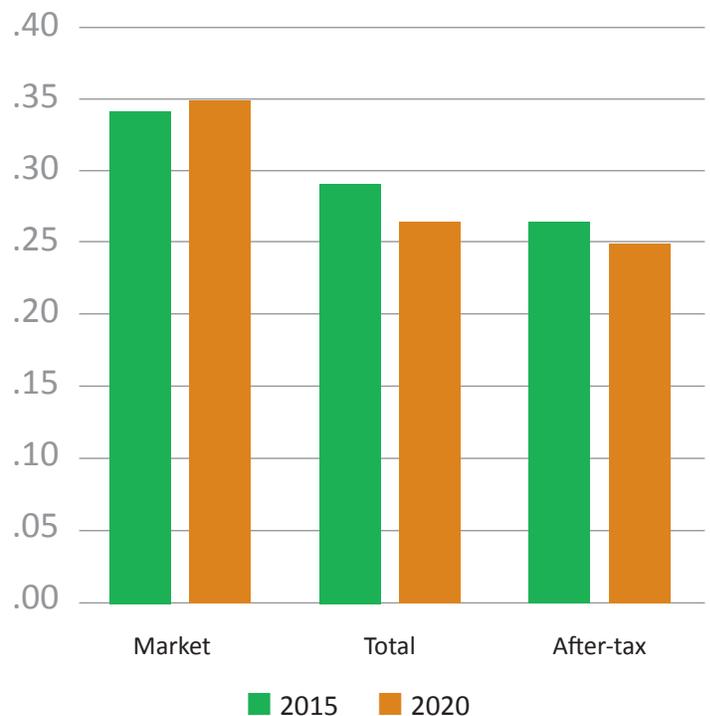
The Gini Index is a measure of income inequality that summarizes the distribution of income among a population.



Colwood has the least unequal income in the region and is significantly less unequal than the province. Over the past five years (2015-2020), the distribution of market income in Colwood has become slightly less equal. However, after taking into account income supplements (Total) and taxes (After-tax), the distribution of income became more equal in 2020. This could be attributed to the government’s COVID-19 support programs, which impacted total and after-tax income.

The GINI Index supports the data on the more equal distribution of income within the city after income supplements and taxes are implemented. The Gini Index is a measure of income inequality that summarizes the distribution of income among a population. It ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 representing perfect equality (i.e., everyone has the same income) and 1 representing perfect inequality (i.e., one person has all the income and everyone else has none). A higher Gini Index suggests greater inequality in the distribution of income, while a lower Gini Index indicates a more equal distribution of income.

Colwood: Comparison of the Gini Index 2015 - 2020



Housing profile

In 2021, Colwood had a population of 18,961 living in 7,688 private dwellings, the majority of which were single detached homes.

18,961
Population in 2021

Overall number of households

Housing stock in Colwood is slightly newer and less diverse in terms of structural type than the CRD average. While recent buildings permits suggest a trend towards more multi-family forms, the single-family home remains the dominant dwellings type in Colwood and is most commonly occupied by owners.

All dwellings

7,688

All private which are permanent residences

7,430

Single-detached house

3,655

Semi-detached house

846

Row house

670

Apartment or flat in duplex

1,375

Apartment: building with less than 5 storeys

680

Apartment: building with more than 5 storeys

185

Other

10





Homeownership in 2020

Colwood has a high homeownership rate, higher compared to Langford, the CRD and BC. However, renters still make up a significant and growing portion of the community. The ratio of owners to renter households increased 5% between 2011 and 2016.

	2011 Census		2016 Census		2021 Census	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total households	6,095		6,590		7,425	
Owner occupied dwellings	4,780	78.4	4,850	73.6	5,455	73.4
Tenant occupied dwellings	1,315	21.6	1,735	26.3	1,980	26.6

Average value of owned dwelling - Colwood

The data in this table was downloaded from CMHC.

2001 Census		2006 Census		20011 Census		2016 Census		2021 Census	
\$	Change	\$	Change	\$	Change	\$	Change	\$	Change
213,042	–	415,643	95.1%	520,875	25.3%	531,943	2.1%	823,000	54.7%

Based on these prices, the average single-detached home is unaffordable for median incomes of most household types, and on the threshold of affordability for other census families. Despite this, single-detached dwellings remain the common type of home in the city. A household would require an annual income of approximately \$144,000 for their shelter costs to be affordable (e.g., spending less than 30% of before tax household income). Despite the increasing house price, the average cost of buying a house in Colwood was still lower compared to CRD and BC, with Langford having a lower average cost. In comparison to the Capital Regional District, British Columbia, the average cost of purchasing a house in Colwood remained lower, despite the rise in housing prices. Langford had an even lower average cost.

Average monthly rental

The data in this table was downloaded from CMHC.

	Oct 2018 \$	Oct 2019 \$	Oct 2020 \$	Oct 2021 \$
Bachelor	836	–	–	–
1 Bedroom	948	1,052	1,088	1,270
2 Bedroom	1,257	1,388	1,360	1,503
3 Bedroom+	–	–	–	–
Total	1,127	1,243	1,247	1,381

Rental households relying on a single income likely struggle to find affordable and suitable housing in Colwood. Renter household led by lone parents, seniors, or non-permanent residents (although a smaller number) are the households more likely to be in Core Housing Need in the City (i.e. living in housing that is inadequate, unsuitable, and/or currently unaffordable, and unable to afford the mean rent of alternative local housing).

Housing completions by dwelling type (units)

	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Single detached	82	80
Semi-detached	18	2
Row House	39	42
Apartment	1	226
Total	140	350

In 2021, Colwood led the region in new home completions with 350 new units, two thirds of which meet the definition of affordable housing. Colwood’s affordable Housing Reserve is a fund that developers contribute to when they build in Colwood. The City may then allocate funds from the reserve to support new affordable housing opportunities for people with a wide range of needs.

In 2017 alone, the City approved \$886,000 from the Affordable Housing Reserve and waived amenity contributes for non-profit housing developers to offer new affordable housing options through the Greater Victoria Housing Society and Pacifica Housing. The reserve was also used to support new affordable housing at 330 Goldstream Avenue and Indigenous Housing at 342 Wale Road.



Comparison of housing profiles across region in 2020

Comparing the CMHC housing profile across region, Colwood stands out in terms of homeownership and housing type. In 2020, Colwood had a higher percentage of homeowners compared Landford, CRD, and BC. The majority of housing types in Colwood are single-family houses, with a relatively low proportion of condominiums. Renters in Colwood face high housing needs, although the situation is better than in other regions.

	COLWOOD		LANGFORD		CRD		BC	
Tenure	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Owner	5,455	73.5	12,335	64.8	116,530	62.9	1,363,190	66.8
Renter	1,980	26.7	6,715	35.2	68,425	37.0	669,450	32.8
Dwelling provided by local government, First Nation or Indian band	0	0	0	0	255	0.1	9,190	0.5
Condominium status	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Condominium	845	11.2	4,285	22.5	36,055	19.5	482,755	23.6
Not condominium	6,580	88.7	14,760	77.5	149,150	80.5	1,559,075	76.4
Core housing needs	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total households	7,270		18,550		176,580		1,915,755	
In Core Housing Need	550	7.6	1,985	10.7	22,330	12.6	257,090	13.4
Owner households		4		5.4		6		8
Tenant households		17.2		20.7		24.2		24.7
Median Household Income (\$)								
2020	102,000		93,000		84,000		85,000	
Average cost of a house								
2020	823,000		752,000		939,000		983,000	
Average monthly cost of rental								
2020	1,514		1,644		1,444		1,494	

Assessment of core housing need in Colwood in 2016

Tenure Type	Overall Number of households	Core Housing Need	Percentage in Core Housing Need
All applicable households	7,430*	1,395	18.8 (7.6 in 2020)
Owners	5,450	815	15.0 (4.0 in 2020)
Renters (excluding subsidized)	1,665	485	29.1 (17.2 in 2020)
Households in Subsidized Housing	310	90	29.0

* 15 households not applicable and excluded – due to living with zero income or on family run agricultural operation.

Housing profile for households with children - Colwood

Tenure Type	Overall Number of households	Core Housing Need	Percentage in Core Housing Need
All households with children	2,025	215	10.6
Owners with children	1,570	180	11.5
Renters (excluding subsidized) with children	380	35	9.2
Households in Subsidized Housing with children	80	0	0





Employment

This indicator reports the proportion of working age people living in Colwood who are currently working for pay, whether for an employer or as someone who is self-employed.

Employment is associated with the financial stability of Canadians and their families. As well, employment usually contributes to better self-esteem, more social interaction, and a shared sense of purpose. Employment is related to higher levels of mental health and wellbeing, and the financial means that allow access to better quality food and shelter, in addition to numerous leisure and educational opportunities.

Consequently, higher employment rates indicate greater population wellbeing.

A comparison of Colwood with the regions shows that it has a higher participation rate in the labor force, exceeding both CRD and provincial rates. Although Langford had a higher participation rate, Colwood had the lowest unemployment rate among the regions. These findings suggest that Colwood has a relatively stronger labor market, with a relatively high share of people participating in the workforce and fewer people out of work compared to other regions.

Lowest unemployment rate compared to the region

	COLWOOD	LANGFORD	CRD	BC
Total: Population aged 15 years & over by Labour force status - 25% sample data	15,650	38,200	353,785	4,200,425
In the labour force	10,205	27,645	223,285	2,657,275
Employed	9,685	25,925	208,015	2,443,600
Unemployed	520	1,715	15,265	223,675
Not in the labour force	5,445	10,555	130,500	1,543,145
Participation rate	65.2	72.4	63.1	63.3
Employment rate	61.9	67.9	58.8	57.9
Unemployment rate	5.1	6.2	6.8	8.4



According to the standard definition used by Statistics Canada, the employed are persons having a job or business, whereas the unemployed are without work, are available for work, and are actively seeking work. Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the reference week, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply labour services under conditions existing in their labour markets (this includes persons who were full-time students currently attending school).

Employment rate is the proportion of working-age population who are employed.

While unemployment rates for women have typically been lower than those for men, women’s earnings from employment continue to be significantly lower than those of men.

The participation rate is the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment. Colwood has a higher participation rate compared to CRD and BC, indicating a larger proportion of the population is either working or looking for work. Participation rates have experienced a marginal decline in comparison to 2015.

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed. All regions had a similar unemployment rate, indicating a similar proportion of the population is unemployed. Despite the potential for an increase in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as seen across Langford, the CRD and BC, Colwood managed to maintain relatively low unemployment.



Gender in the labour force

The labour force indicators show that men had a higher participation rate, employment rate, and lower unemployment rate than women. This suggests that men are more likely to be actively participating in the labour force and more likely to be employed than women.

Labour force in 2020

	COLWOOD		LANGFORD		CRD		BC	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Participation rate	69.5	61.2	75.7	69.2	66.6	59.9	67.3	59.4
Employment rate	66.3	57.6	71.4	64.6	62.0	55.8	61.7	54.3
Unemployment rate	4.6	5.6	5.8	6.6	6.9	6.8	8.2	8.6

Pay Gap: Women earn between 39 and 57 cents per dollar earned by men with the largest gap for visible minority and culturally diverse women.

Colwood residents on average worked

The average number of weeks worked by individuals in Colwood, Langford, CRD, and BC decreased in 2020 compared to 2015. Colwood had the smallest decrease in the average number of weeks worked. Despite the overall decrease in the average number of weeks worked, Colwood A still had the highest average number of weeks worked among the cities studied in 2020. Men worked more weeks on average than women, and this trend was consistent across all the cities studied.

Average weeks worked in 2020

	COLWOOD	LANGFORD	CRD	BC
Both genders	43.1	43.0	41.6	40.9
Male	44.3	44.0	42.3	41.8
Female	41.8	42.0	40.8	39.9

Duration of work: An important aspect of work-life balance is the amount of time a person spends at work. Evidence suggests that long work hours may impair personal health, jeopardise safety and increase stress, and mean less time spends with family. Residents of Colwood spend significantly more time working than the provincial average.

Type of employment in 2020

	COLWOOD		LANGFORD		CRD		BC	
All occupations	10,070	%	27,285	%	219,940	%	2,603,110	%
Legislative and senior management occupations	95	0.9	255	0.9	3,250	1.5	32,255	1.2
Business, finance and administration occupations	1,705	16.9	5,010	18.4	38,290	17.4	446,160	17.1
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	845	8.4	1,990	7.3	19,765	9.0	209,185	8.0
Health occupations	755	7.5	2,445	9.0	19,765	9.0	199,185	7.7
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	1,750	17.4	3,665	13.4	33,565	15.3	309,360	11.9
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	315	3.1	680	2.5	9,535	4.3	110,585	4.2
Sales and service occupations	2,515	25.0	7,605	27.9	55,035	25.0	666,705	25.6
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	1,750	17.4	4,830	17.7	32,245	14.7	469,450	18.0
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	180	1.8	395	1.4	4,825	2.2	72,075	2.8
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	170	1.7	400	1.5	3,665	1.7	88,155	3.4



Education

Education is a core personal resource and a reflection of our ability to function and adapt in society. It is an important predictor of health, living standards, democratic participation, and education for future generations. The Education domain focuses on school-based learning and education rather than informal learning. Since societies that thrive encourage a thirst for knowledge at every age and stage, the framework of the Education domain includes both traditional indicators of educational achievement along with some less conventional indicators of education across the life span. Colwood has a lower portion of the population with

University degrees. However, as an anomaly, income in Colwood is higher compared to Langford, the CRD, and BC.

Quality post-secondary education facilities: Royal Roads University sits in the centre of Colwood at one of the City's national historic sites, Hatley Castle. The University draws professionals from around the globe for its high quality, innovative, applied post-secondary education designed for working professionals and career-focused students. Colwood also has strong partnerships with the University of Victoria.

“

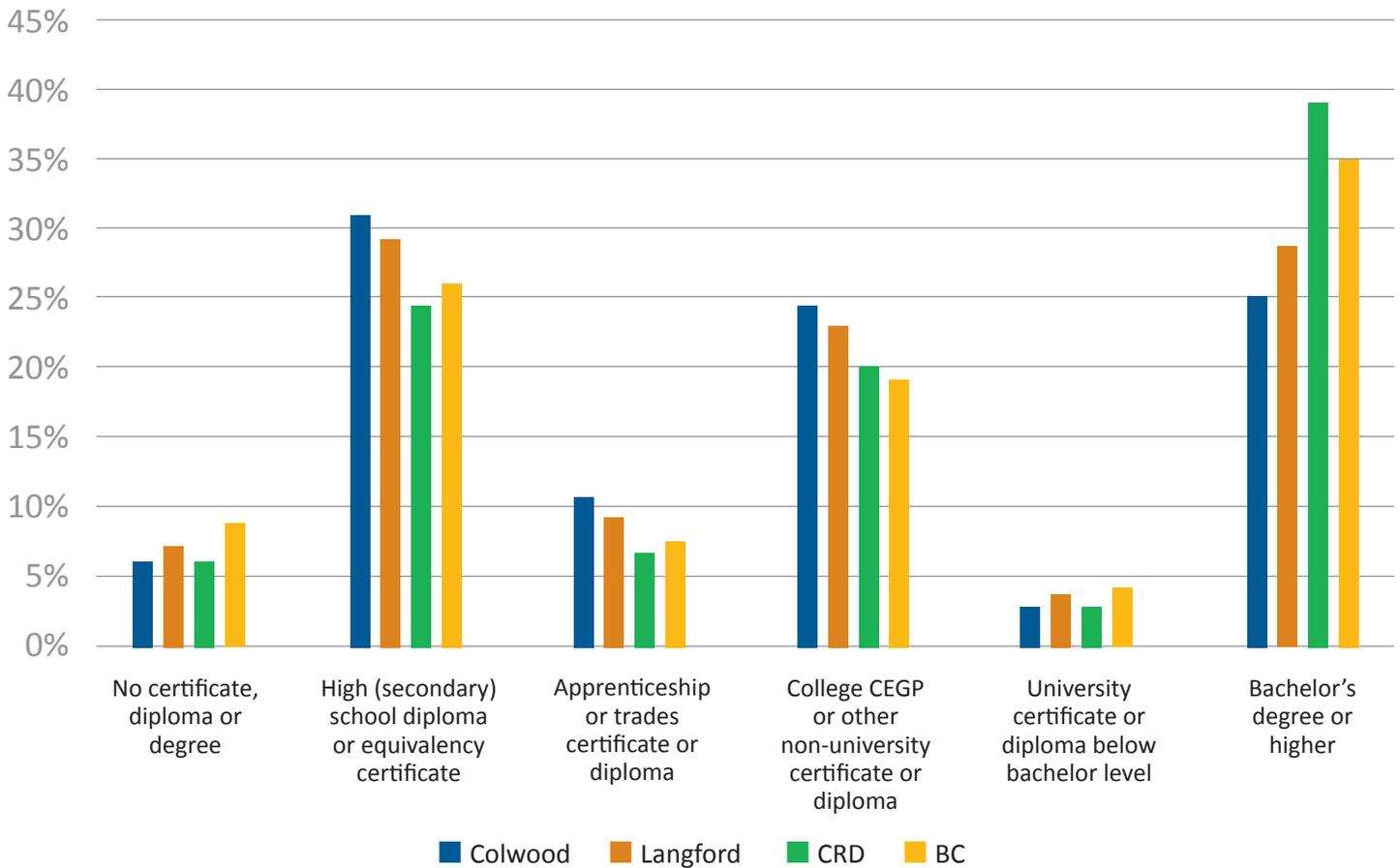
An investment in
knowledge pays
the best interest.

- Benjamin Franklin



Education of population age 25 and above in 2020

(Highest level of education)



Age 25 and above highest education

	COLWOOD	LANGFORD	CRD	BC
No certificate, diploma or degree	635	1,935	13,360	213,660
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	3,190	7,850	52,065	694,785
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	1,055	2,420	16,755	217,350
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	2,480	6,315	43,280	507,405
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	320	1,010	7,225	113,915
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,540	7,630	84,555	941,735



Parks & Recreation

The following parks and recreation data are sourced from BC Community Health Data (2019).

“Active people lead healthier lives and are more connected to their communities. A strong case exists that investment in recreation infrastructure is a preventative, cost-effective approach to health, social, environmental, and economic well-being. Investment in recreation infrastructure is a positive action to developing healthy, happy communities and has the potential to offset reactive spending on infrastructure such as hospitals, social services, and prisons.”

Physical environment

Physical environment can promote healthy behaviours by increasing access to healthy food outlets, affordable housing, walking or biking paths, and smoke-free environments. How communities are planned and built can make healthy options, like active transportation, more available, affordable, and accessible for everyone.

By keeping health and physical activity accessibility in mind when planning policy and designing physical spaces, communities can help create healthier environments for citizens.



Parks lands in Colwood

Colwood’s Parks & Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2021 to guide park improvements and acquisition over the next 10 years. The City of Colwood is home to several parks and green spaces that provide opportunities for recreation and leisure for residents and visitors alike. Colwood has a good overall municipal parkland area to population ratio of 5.30 ha per 1,000 residents.

Parkland supply by classification

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	AREA (HA)
Community Parks	5	19.9
Waterfront Parks	4	9.3
Neighbourhood Parks	11	5.4
Nature Parks	7	41.7
Linear Parks	6	2.2
Green Spaces	6	6.3
Undeveloped Parks	6	6.3
Total City Parklands	58	89.6

Recreation facilities

As of 2021, the City of Colwood has two informal outdoor sport court areas in municipal parks (one basketball court in Ocean View Park, and a small hardcourt area with multi-hoops in Herm Williams Park), and all other recreation facilities are currently provided through the West Shore Parks & Recreation partnership.

BC's municipalities supply a range of recreation facilities and the types and numbers of facilities are highly variable.

- The combined population of Colwood, View Royal, Highlands, and Metchosin (~35,000 people) that rely exclusively on the WSPR Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre for recreation facilities. Langford is also a member of the WSPRS, and the largest of the partnership with a population of ~35,000, but is excluded from the population consideration here since it has some of its own recreation facilities in addition to the WSPR shared facilities (the total population of the five West Shore Communities that contribute to the WSPRS is ~70,000).

The municipal role in the provision of recreation programs is recognized as an important contributor to quality of life for a community. The City of Colwood does not provide programs independently, but through the West Shore Parks & Recreation Society (WSPRS) municipal partnership. The programming offered by WSPRS in

Colwood provides programs for a wide audience at reasonable cost (due in part to subsidies). Additional partnerships with not-for profit and private sector organizations, round out the programs available in Colwood.

The City of Colwood recently partnered with West Shore Parks & Recreation on a scheduling and fee system to host community building health and wellness activities in four local parks. This includes activities such as weddings, boot camps, and picnic rentals.

Current programs offered in Colwood include:

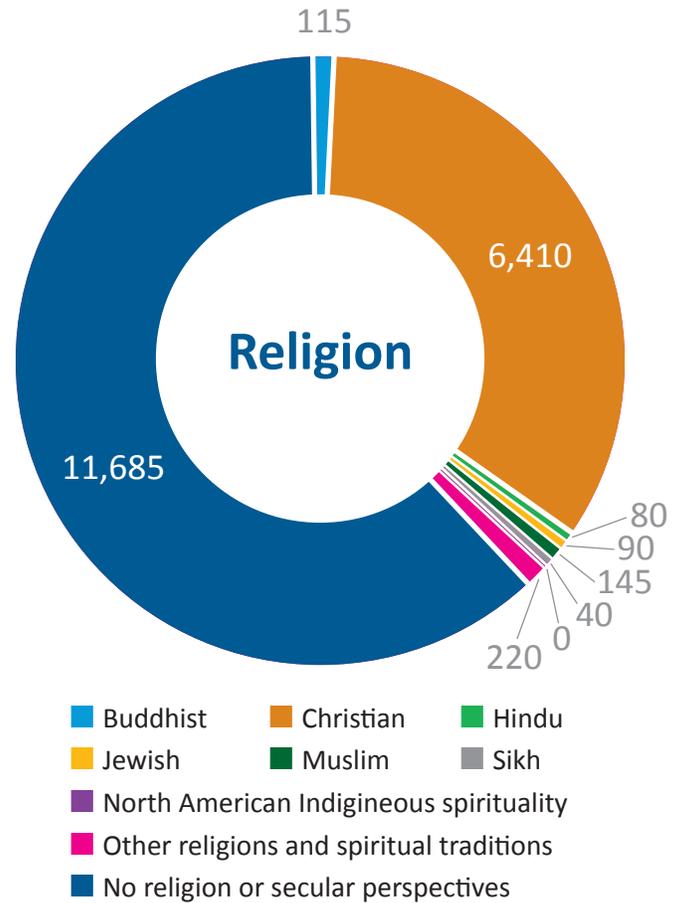
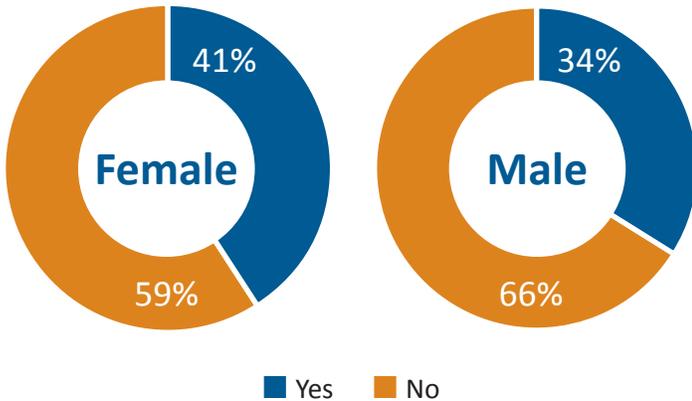
- Aquatics
- Skating
- Health & Fitness
- Arts & Culture
- Life Skills
- General Interest (e.g. cooking, language)
- Social Programs
- Special Events
- Field sports
- Golf
- Court sports
- Skatepark



Religion

Women in Colwood are more likely to be affiliated with a religion though the majority don't identify as religious.

Religion affiliation



Religion in 2020

	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN
Total - Religion for the population in private households - 25% sample data	18,790	9,280	9,510
Buddhist	115	45	70
Christian	6,410	2,865	3,550
Hindu	80	45	35
Jewish	90	55	30
Muslim	145	70	70
Sikh	40	25	15
North American Indigenous spirituality	0	0	0
Other religions and spiritual traditions	220	85	135
No religion and secular perspectives	11,685	6,085	5,600

YOUR THOUGHTS:

Knowing Colwood residents lead busy lives with families, work and commuting, what can Colwood focus on to support recreation, leisure, and wellness?

What do you or your family do in your free time when not at work or school?

If you are not currently involved in any activities, gatherings or hobbies, what are the challenges to getting or staying involved?





Health & Community Safety

Health

Colwood is currently on the lower end of the Canadian Active Living Environment and is working to improve walkability and livability through active transportation and parks plans.

Physical environment

Physical environment can promote healthy behaviours by increasing access to healthy food outlets, affordable housing, walking or biking paths, and smoke-free environments. How communities are planned and built can make healthy options, like active transportation, more available, affordable, and accessible for everyone.

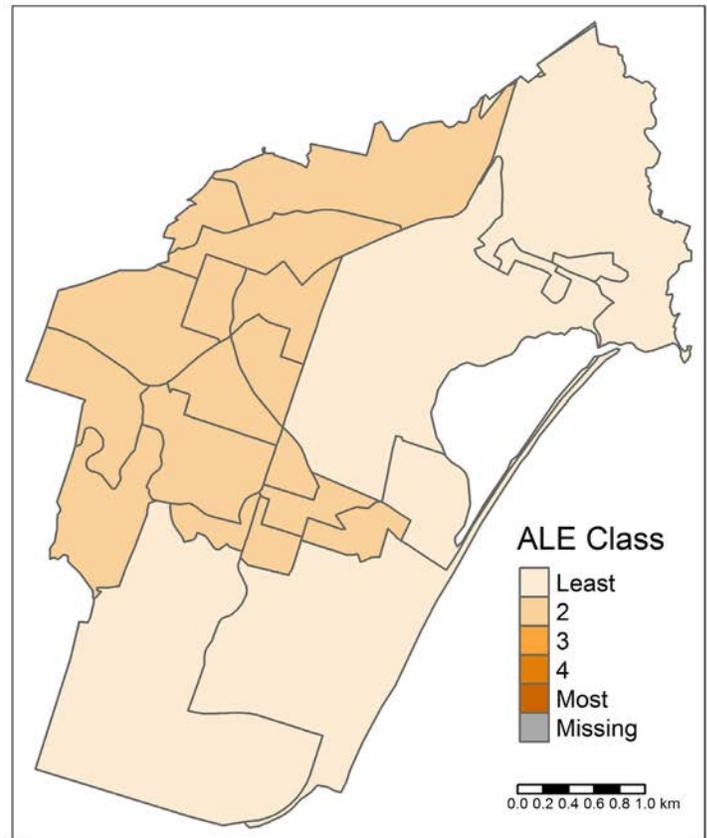
By keeping health and physical activity accessibility in mind when planning policy and designing physical spaces, communities can help create healthier environments for citizens.

Active living environment

Physical environments can promote healthy behaviours and there is an increasing interest in the promotion of built environments that facilitate more active living in daily life. The Canadian Active Living Environments (CanALE) database is a geographically-based set of measures that represents the active livingness, or “walkability”, of communities. In the map shown, **“least” indicates the area that is least favourable to active living and “most” indicates that the area is most favourable to active living in the province-wide scores of ALE classes.**

Canadian Active Living Environments Class
McGill University (2019)

Colwood



Caution for Analysis of Certain DAs in Rural Areas: Although Can-ALE measures are valid for most rural areas, there are certain DAs with uncommon built or economic environments that may affect statistical analysis (e.g. isolated resort areas, remote communities not connected by road).

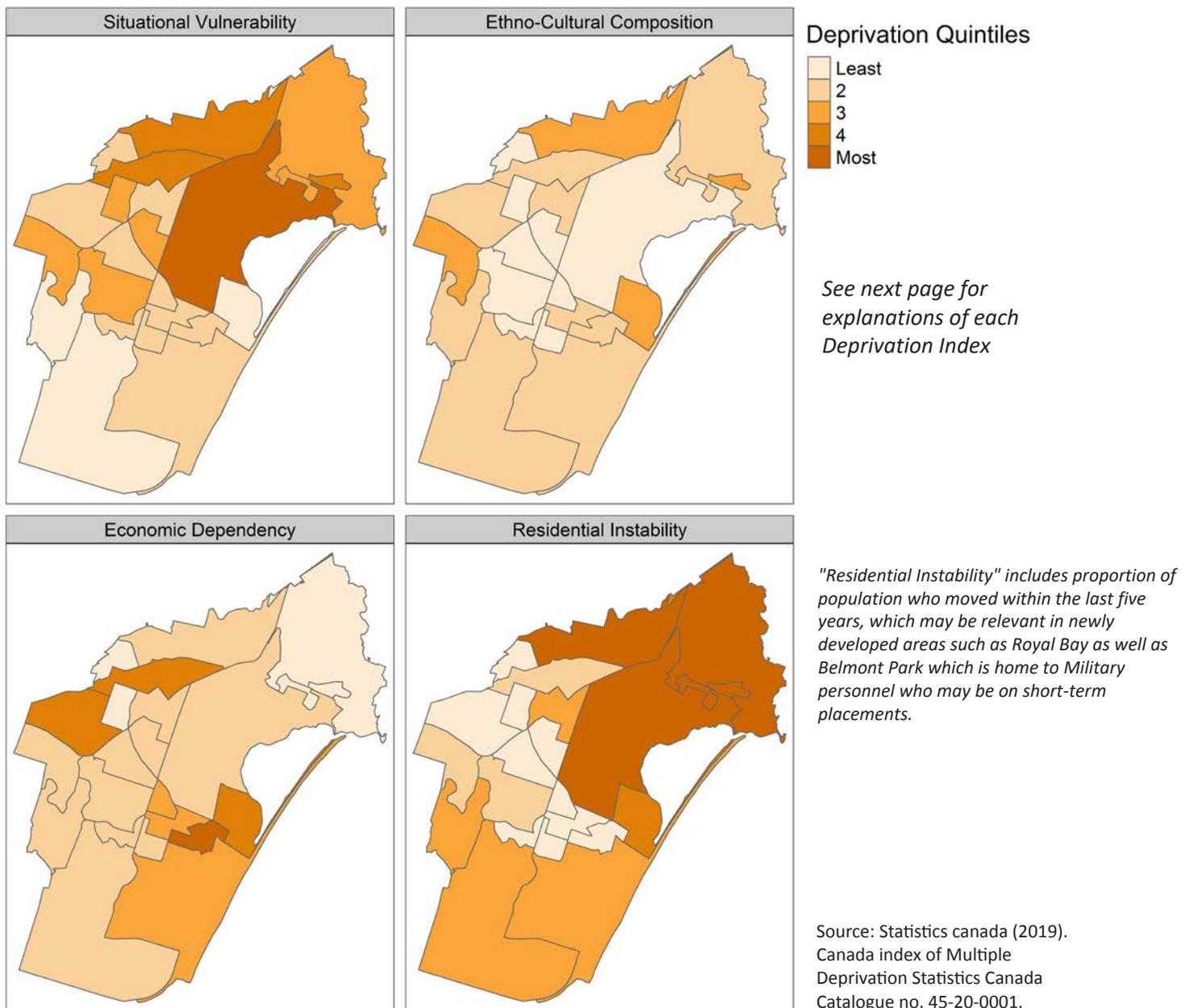
Inequality and vulnerability

The conditions in which people live, work and play can vary greatly. These variations can contribute to what is known as deprivation, resulting in certain populations facing health inequalities and marginalization. For Colwood, unique factors include federal land owned by Parks Canada and the Department of National Defense, lands included in Te’muxw Treaty negotiations and large areas of post-industrial land being developed as master planned communities in Royal Bay and Royal Beach.

Colwood

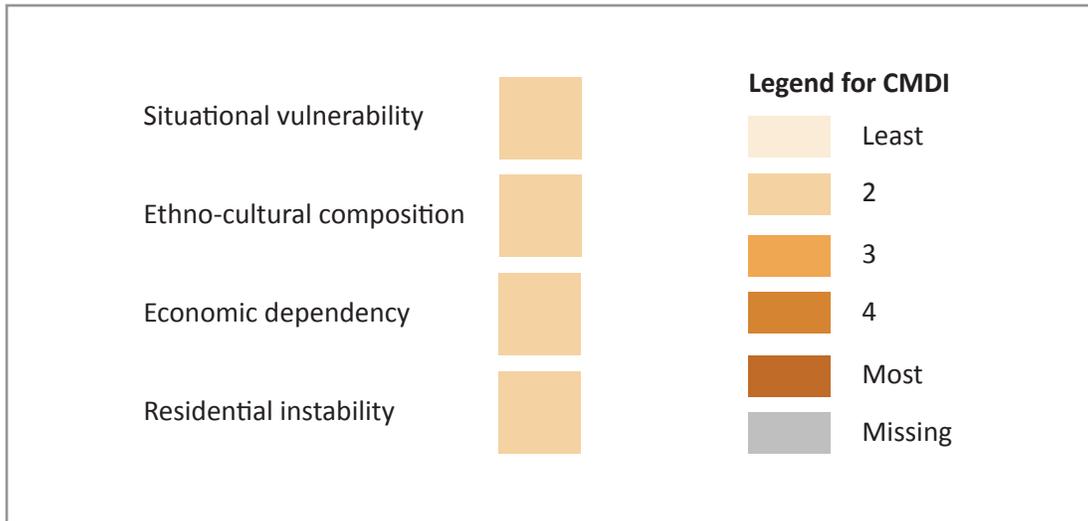
The Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD) is an area-based index of deprivation and marginalization that can provide a cross-sectional measure of social-wellbeing. [9] The CIMD presents an understanding of inequalities based on four dimensions of deprivation including: situational vulnerability, economic dependency, ethno-cultural composition and residential instability (see text at the end of this section).

Each dimension is divided into score quintile rankings. In the map shown below, “least” indicates the dissemination area as least deprived for that dimension and “most” indicates the area as most deprived in the province-wide scores of deprivation.



CHSA Multiple Deprivation Index (CMDI)

2019



Source: CMDI is a composite index of deprivation for CHSA derived from Statistics Canada (2019). Canadian index of Multiple Deprivation. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 45-20-0001.

Situational vulnerability refers to differences in socio-demographic conditions in factors such as housing, education and other characteristics. Indicators contributing to this dimension include: the proportion of population that identifies as Aboriginal, the proportion of population aged 25-64 without a high school diploma, the proportion of dwellings needing major repairs, the proportion of population that is low-income, and the proportion of single parent families.

Ethno-cultural composition refers to the make-up of immigrant populations within the community. Indicators contributing to this dimension include: the proportion of population who self-identify as a visible minority, the proportion of population that is foreign-born, the proportion of population who are recent immigrants, and the proportion of population who are linguistically isolated (have no knowledge of either official languages).

Economic dependency refers to the dependency on the workforce or on other sources of income. Indicators contributing to this dimension include: the proportion of population participating in labour force, the proportion of population aged 65 and older, the ratio of employment

to population, and the dependency ratio, which is the population aged 0-14 and aged 65 and older divided by the population aged 15-64.

Residential instability refers to the tendency of neighbourhood inhabitants to change over time, while taking into consideration characteristics such as housing and family. Indicators contributing to this dimension include: the proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings, the proportion of people living alone, the proportion of dwellings that are owned, and the proportion of population who moved within the last five years.

Attachment to a General Practitioner or Group Practice

One important social determinant of health and a key strategy to reducing health inequities is access to primary healthcare. However, this access has been found to vary based on factors such as income, education, social support and area of residence. Attachment to a regular general practitioner improves access to primary care, as general practitioners often act as the first point of contact for individuals to the healthcare system.

Attachment is also an indicator of continued care as individuals who are attached to a general practitioner or family practice are provided with long-term, consistent care by health professionals who understand their health needs. This often reduces the need for duplicate testing and provides a more comprehensive and integrated care experience for the patient.

Data is currently only available at the provincial level.



65%

Percentage of BC population who are attached to a general practitioner



75%

Percentage of BC population who are attached to a group practice with GPs and Nurse Practitioner

B.C. Ministry of Health (2019). Attachement to GP Data, 2018/19.

For a detailed health profile for Colwood visit communityhealth.phsa.ca



Safety and wellbeing is about belonging, diversity, inclusion, poverty, safe and active transportation and city spaces, more than it is about policing and crime statistics. Crime prevention means looking at drivers of wellbeing such as social connectedness, which is especially important for youth and seniors.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

What makes a community feel safe for you?

Or detracts from safety?



Community Safety

Good Neighbour Program: Colwood’s residents come together to support each other, connect and build resilient neighborhoods in projects under the Good Neighbour Program. Activities range from street cleaning to traffic calming. For more information visit Colwood.ca.

West Shore RCMP provide outstanding police service to Colwood, as well as the surrounding municipalities and First Nations on the West Shore. They work in partnership with the Colwood Fire Department and BC Ambulance Service to provide coordinated emergency services to the region.

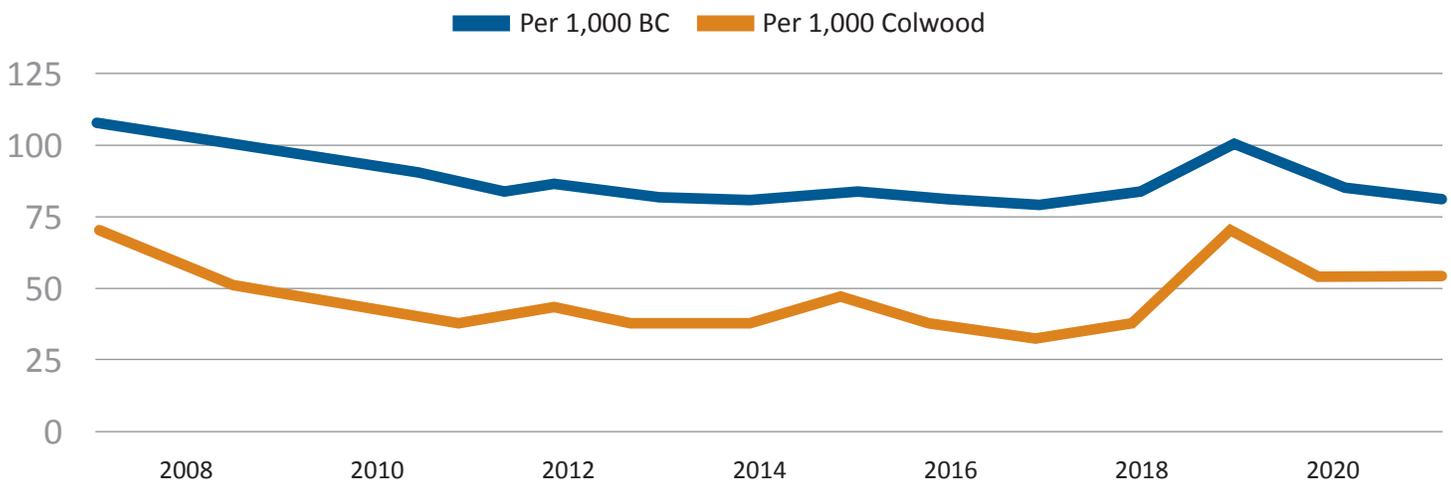
Colwood Fire Department responded to over 1,000 emergency calls in 2022, a number that has increased steadily each year (668 in 2020, 864 in 2021). Despite the growing number of calls, the department has worked to maintain a response time of 10 minutes or less 100% of the time in 2022.

The Colwood Bylaw Services team also works to protect the safety and quality of life in Colwood by helping residents and businesses understand and align with the City’s bylaws, directing people to other supportive services, and by being a watchful and positive presence in the community. Bylaw Services addressed over 300 complaints in 2022.



The frequency of violations per 100,000 individuals has risen since 2017, with a slight decline in 2020.

Crimerate statistics





Transportation

Transportation can facilitate access to social interaction/connection to friends, family, and facilities (hospitals/schools/community centres/libraries).

Public transportation – provide a means of travel for people who cannot afford a car/able to drive a car.

Effective transportation routes provide people with an alternative mode of transportation that led to less reliance on personal cars that could reduce greenhouse carbon emissions produced. The transportation sector is responsible for 27% of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada. Light-duty vehicles – the cars, vans and light-duty trucks we drive – are responsible for almost half of that total.

Proximity to public transportation

99.1%

Almost everyone (99.1%) in Colwood lives near a public transit stop (within 500 meters).

85.1%

Majority of the commuters in Colwood took private cars to work.

28.3

Residents of Colwood spend on average 28.3 minutes commuting to work, higher compared to the provincial (BC, 25.7 minutes) and regional average (Victoria CMA, 22.1 minutes).



Positioned as a regional transportation hub

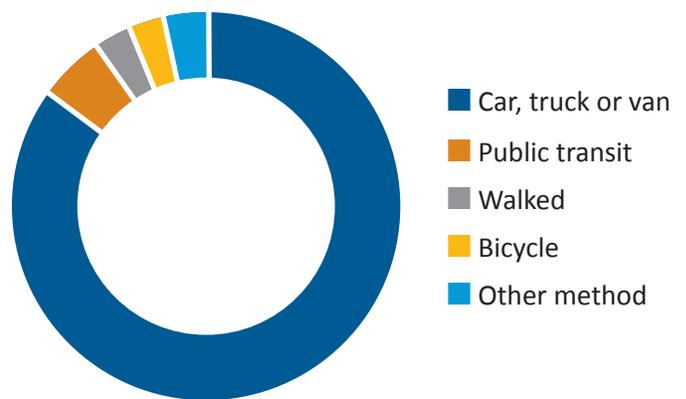
Colwood is just 10 kilometers up the road from the heart of Victoria and less than 40 km from the International Airport and BC Ferries Terminal. The City has a network of transit, bike/walk routes and trails, which in turn connect to a regional network of roads, parks and trails, making for an easy and enjoyable commuting option. BC Transit provides a regional public transit system, and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail runs through the City. The BC Transit Futures Plan identifies the Island Highway in Colwood as an exclusive corridor for a rapid transit network running from Victoria’s Inner Harbour to the heart of Colwood. This makes the City an excellent choice for innovative and forward-thinking businesses and individuals looking for a connected place to live, work and play.

Transportation in Colwood 2020

In 2020, the number of commuters in the city decreased by 620 (7.5%), despite a 12.5% increase in population. This can be attributed to the impact of the pandemic on mobility. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected transportation patterns, making it challenging to identify trends for planning.

Many people took advantage of the opportunity to work from home, which reduced the need for daily commutes. Additionally, an increase in the use of private cars was seen. However, the percentage of commuters using bicycles decreased. Data also shows that majority of cyclists in the city are men, with women making up less than a quarter of the cyclist commuters. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on mobility patterns and transportation habits in the city. As the city’s population continues to grow, it will be important to closely monitor and analyze these trends in order to identify opportunities for improvement and ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of all residents.

Main mode of transportation



Main mode of commuting to work

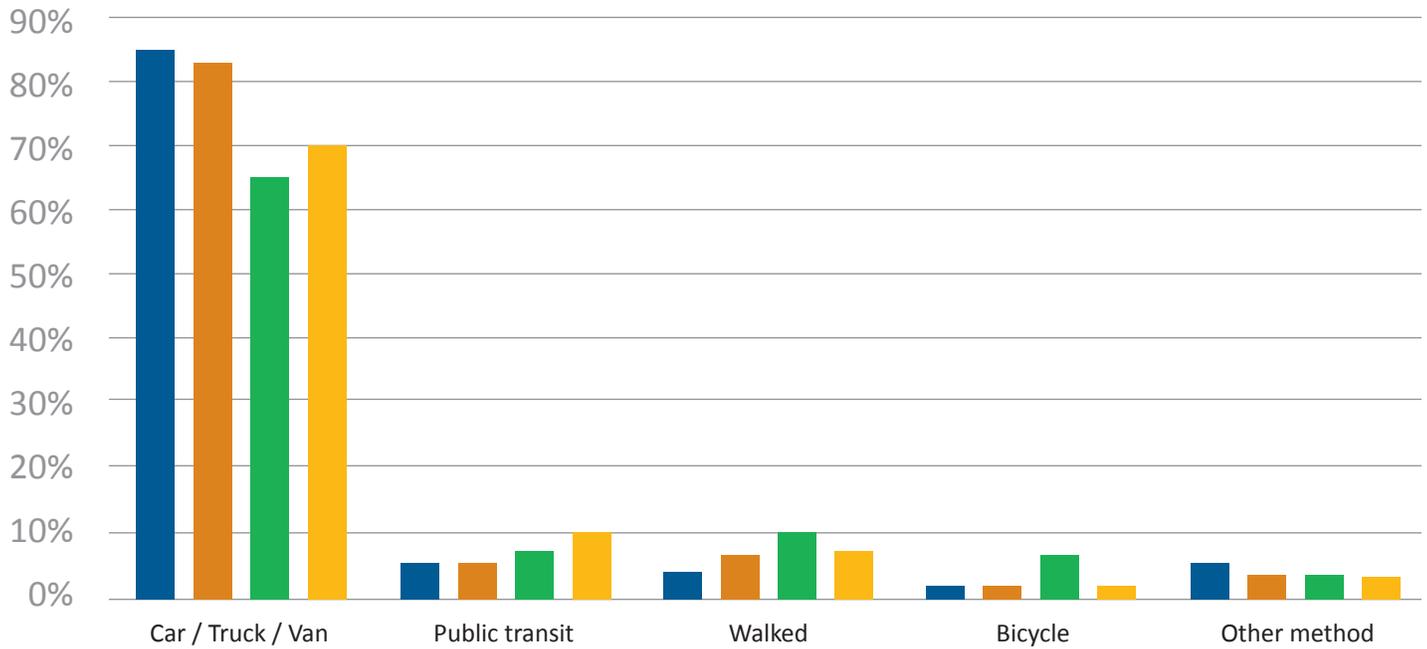
	2015		2020	
TOTAL	8,315	100%	7,695	100%
Car/Truck/Van	6,975	83.9%	6,550	85.1%
Public Transit	640	7.7%	400	5.2%
Walked	250	2.9%	275	3.6%
Bicycle	340	3.6%	185	2.4%
Other method	160	1.9%	285	3.7%

	ALL		MEN		WOMEN	
Bicycle	185	100%	145	78.4%	45	24.3%

Colwood still has the highest percentage of commuters who choose to take their private cars as their mode of transportation.

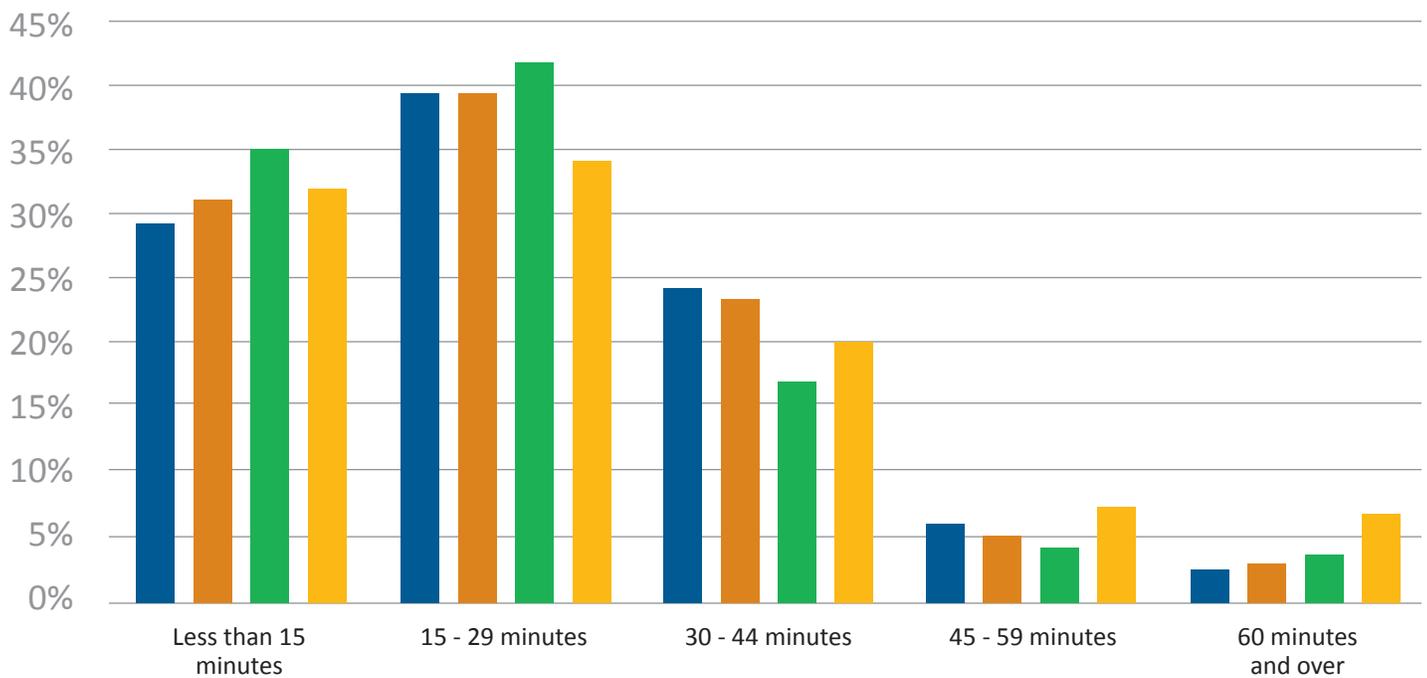
Main mode of commuting in 2020

■ Colwood ■ Langford ■ CRD ■ BC



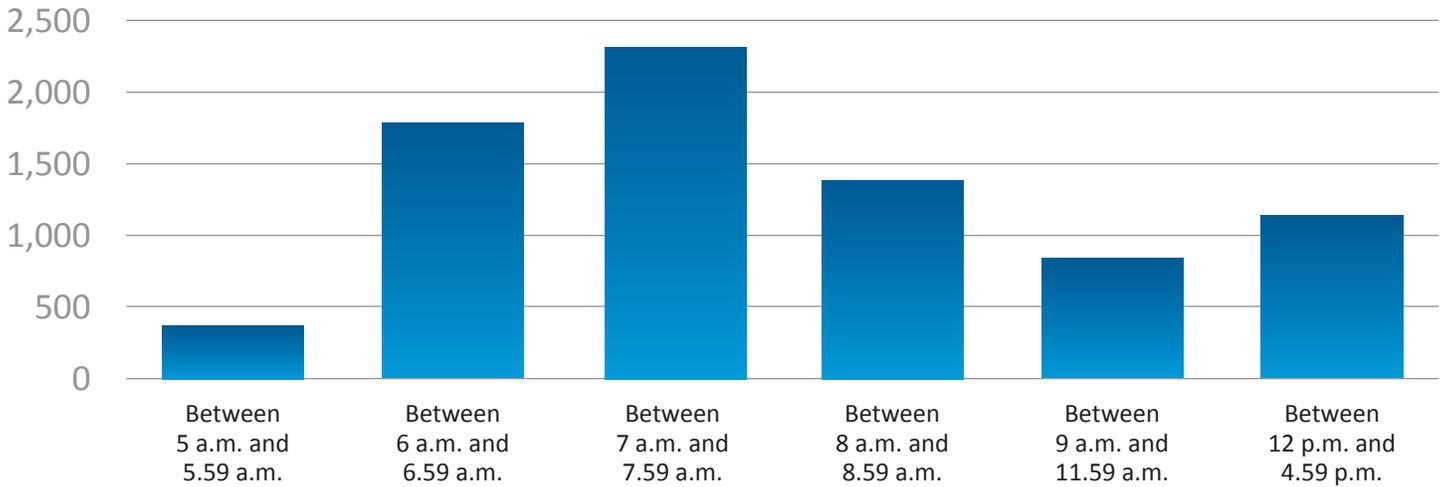
Commuting duration in 2020

■ Colwood ■ Langford ■ CRD ■ BC

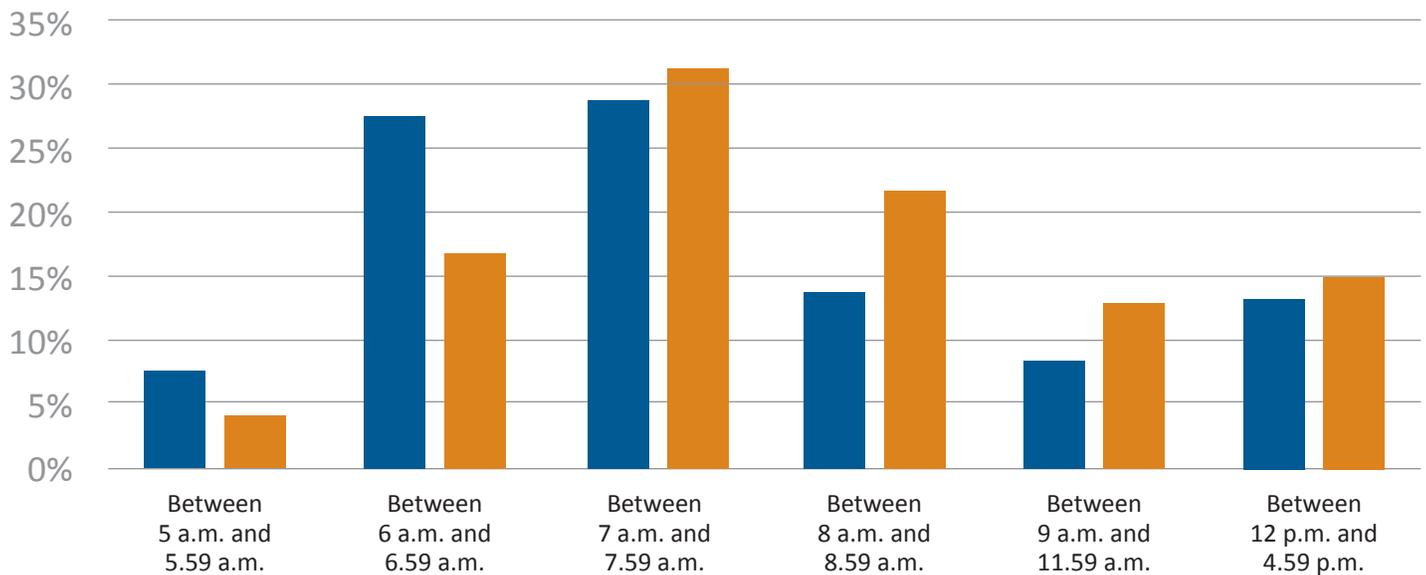


The busiest time on the road is typically between 6 to 8 am, when many people are commuting to work or school. Additionally, the data shows that women tend to leave for work later than men.

Time leaving for work



Time leaving for work

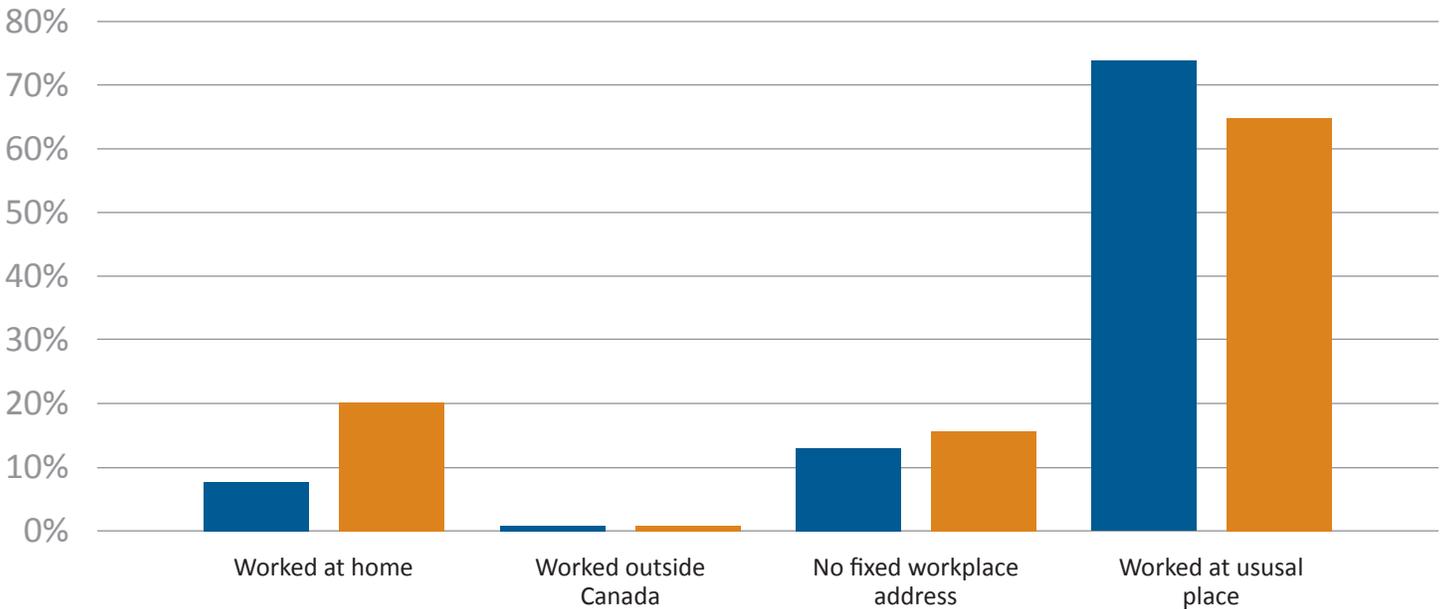


TIME LEAVING FOR WORK	TOTAL		MEN		WOMEN	
Total	7,695		4,215		3,480	
Between 5 a.m. and 5:59 a.m.	435	5.7%	320	7.6%	115	5,418.17
Between 6 a.m. and 6:59 a.m.	1,745	22.7%	1,150	27.3%	595	0.77
Between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m.	2,285	29.7%	1,215	28.8%	1,065	5,418.17
Between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m.	1,350	17.5%	600	14.2%	750	0.77
Between 9 a.m. and 11:59 a.m.	830	10.8%	390	9.3%	440	5,418.17
Between 12 p.m. and 4:59 p.m.	1,060	13.8%	540	12.8%	515	0.77

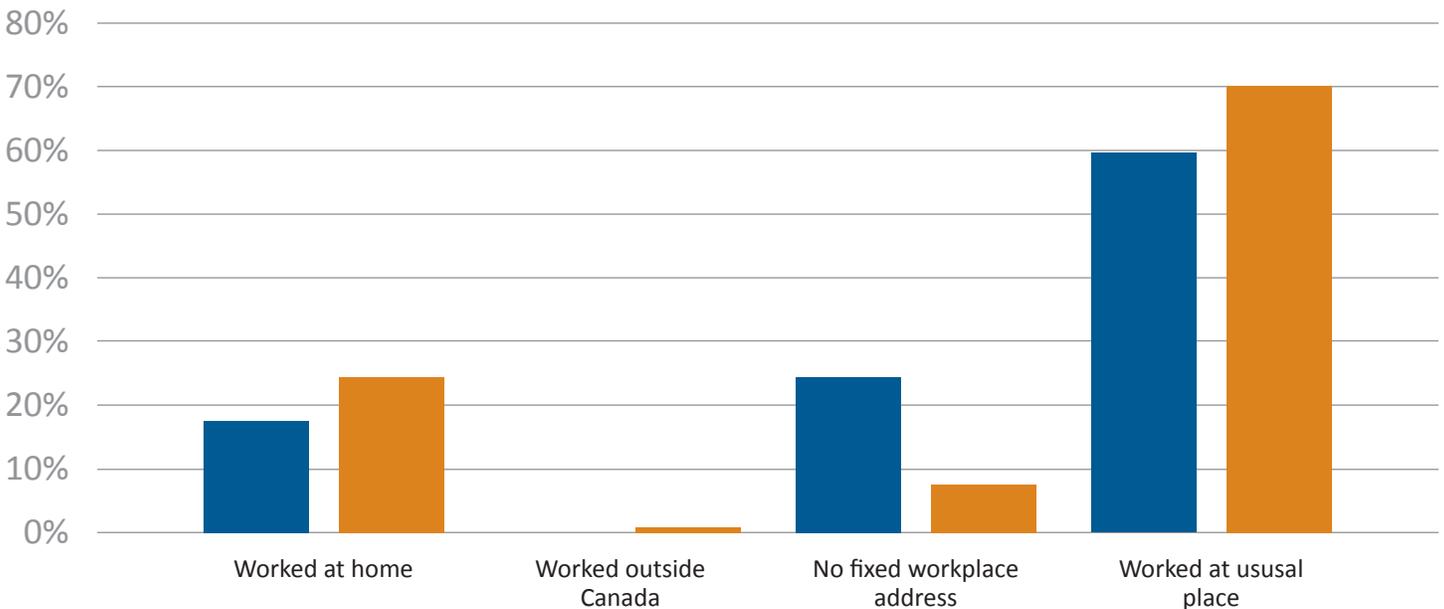
Place of Work

COVID-19 pandemic had led to a significant increase in the number of people working from home in 2020. There was a higher percentage of women were working from home compared to men, and a majority of them had a usual place of work. Despite the overall trend of increased remote work, the percentage of people working from home in Colwood is lower compared to Langford, CRD, and BC.

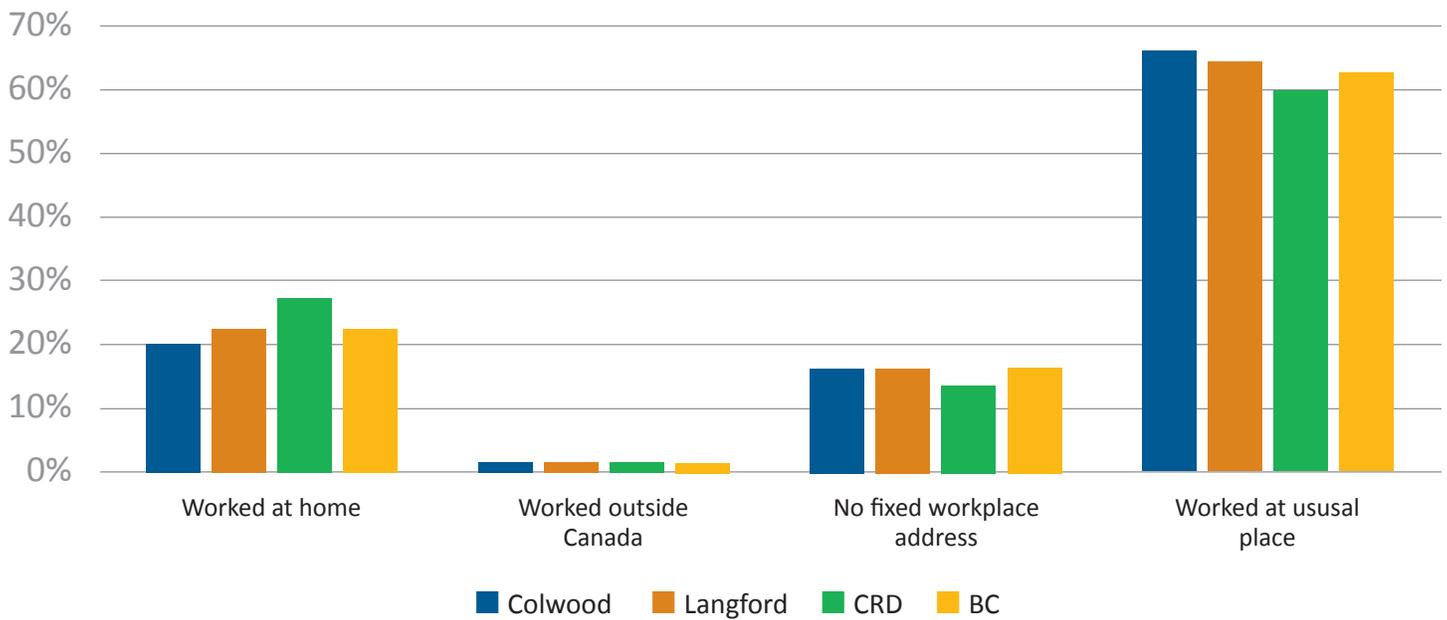
Place of work ■ 2015 ■ 2020



Place of work in 2020 ■ Men ■ Women



Place of work by region in 2020



Place of work

	2015		2020	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
TOTAL	8,905		9,680	
Worked at home	555	5.66%	1,975	20.4%
Worked outside Canada	35	0.36%	15	0.2%
No fixed workplace address	1,250	12.75%	1,455	15.0%
Usual place of work	7,070	72.11%	6,245	64.5%



Vehicle Census - How many cars in Colwood

One of the four goals of Colwood Council’s Strategic Plan is to increase mobility within our community. This includes targets for increasing the convenience of mass transit, improving walkability, making cycling easier and increasing the occupancy of motor vehicles.

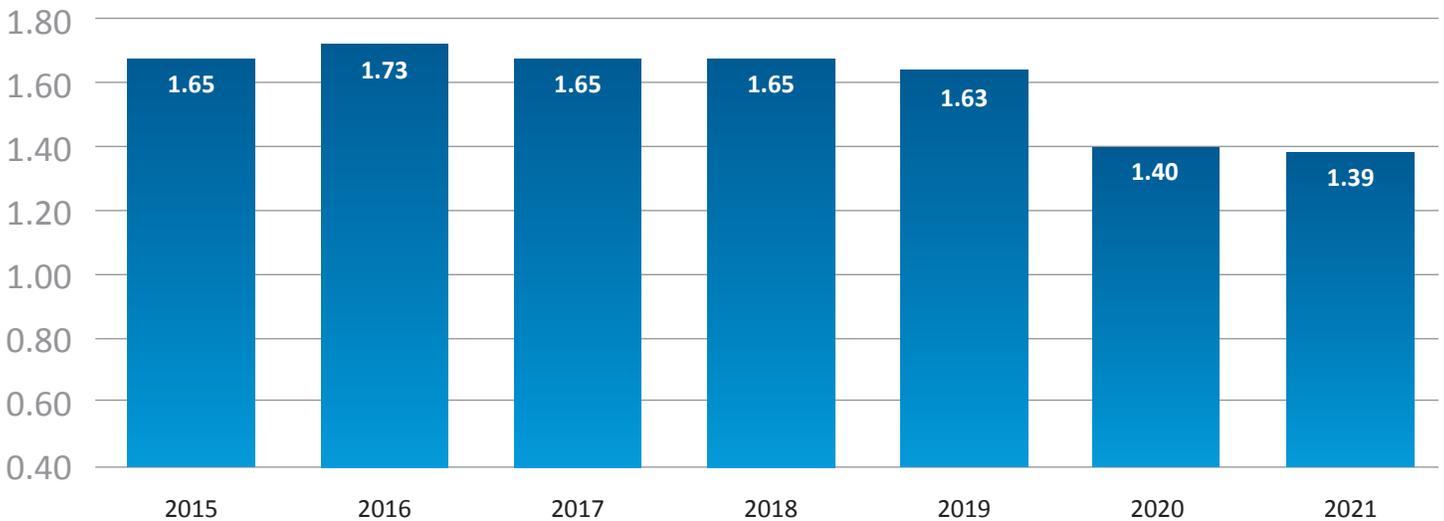
Tracking how many vehicles are registered to Colwood residents and whether that number is increasing or decreasing is one measure that will help us understand mobility habits and achieve our goals.

Understanding vehicle data helps the City to:

- develop transportation plans
- plan road improvements
- evaluate parking requirements
- plan for people with mobility challenges, bicycle commuters, transit users, carpool and ride-sharers, and many other groups
- understand travel habits
- evaluate air pollution and climate impacts



Colwood annual vehicle census - Registered vehicles per dwelling



Number of vehicles

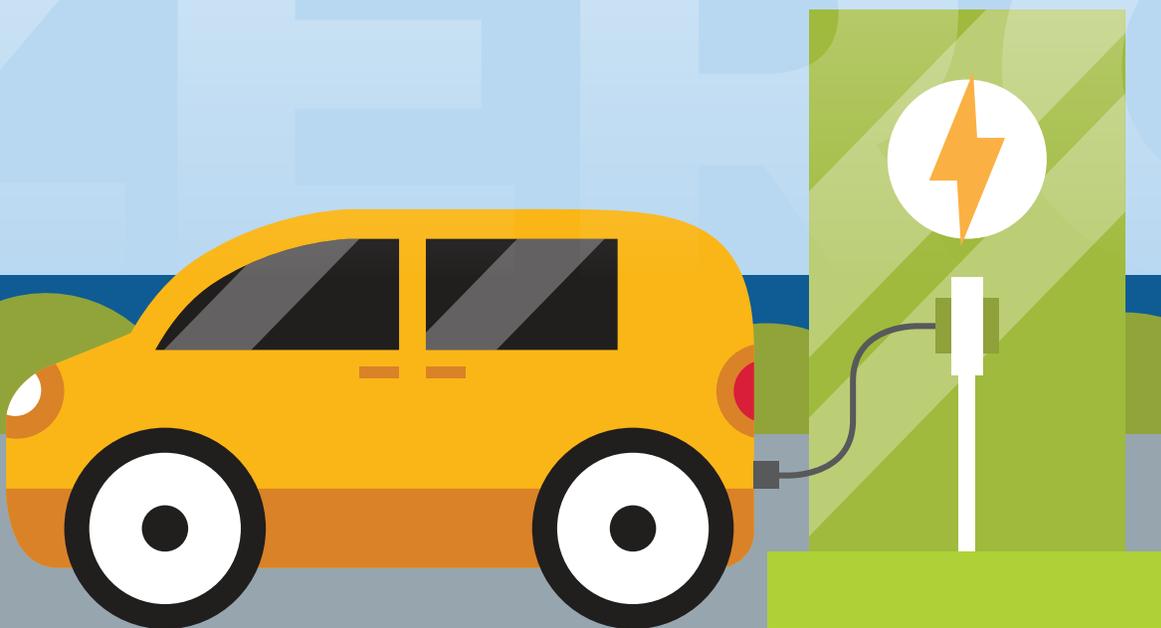
Year	Number of Vehicles	Year to Year Change	Vehicles per Capita	Vehicles per Dwelling
2015	9,145		0.53	1.65
2016	9,748	603	0.55	1.73
2017	9,559	-189	0.53	1.65
2018	9,736	177	0.54	1.65
2019	9,877	141	0.52	1.63
2020	9,615	-262	0.50	1.40
2021	10,683	1,068	0.54	1.39

Electric vehicles

Year	Electric Vehicles	Electric Vehicles per Capita	Electric Vehicles per Dwelling
2015	34	0.002	0.006
2016	45	0.003	0.008
2017	74	0.004	0.013
2018	95	0.005	0.016
2019	167	0.009	0.028
2020	179	0.009	0.026
2021	208	0.011	0.027



New Zero-emission vehicle registrations in Colwood



YOUR THOUGHTS:

How Connected Is the Community?

Where and how do you meet people?

What gives you a sense of belonging in Colwood?



Data source



BC Community Health Data. (2019). Colwood Community Health Service Area Health Profile. Retrieved from <http://communityhealth.phsa.ca/CHSAHealthProfiles/CHSAHealthReport/Colwood>

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Statistics Canada. 2022. Census Profile. 2021 Census.

Statistics Canada. 2017. Census Profile. 2016 Census.

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Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia](#)

Statistics Canada. [Table 98-10-0257-01 Value \(owner-estimated\) of dwelling by structural type of dwelling : Canada, provinces and territories and census subdivisions with a population 5,000 or more](#)



City of Colwood
3300 Wishart Road
Victoria, BC, V9C 1R1
T: 250 478 5999
F: 250 478 7516
www.colwood.ca

