

Preface

Statistics Canada conducts its *Census of Population* every five years with the most recent census having occurred in 2006. The Census provides information on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population on Census day (May 16 in 2006).

While the Census aims to enumerate all permanent residents of Canada, it will miss some residents while counting others more than once. In acknowledgement of this Statistics Canada publishes a net undercount that is used to adjust the population count. Based on these adjustments BC Stats produces quarterly and annual population estimates.

The City of Surrey's Planning Department also maintains building permit statistics. The number of existing buildings (updated with new constructions and demolitions) provides an accurate estimate of occupied dwellings. The dwelling count is combined with Statistics Canada Census variables to produce the City of Surrey's demographic profiles.

Where possible a comparison is made between the current and previous censuses. A regional comparison is also provided between Surrey and key municipal neighbours. Finally, for the purpose of this and other fact sheets, Surrey is divided into six communities: Cloverdale, Fleetwood, Guildford, Newton, South Surrey, and Whalley. City Centre is also identified as a sub-community planning area within Whalley. Unless otherwise indicated, statistical information provided at the community and sub-community level is based on a twenty percent sample of the Census enumeration.

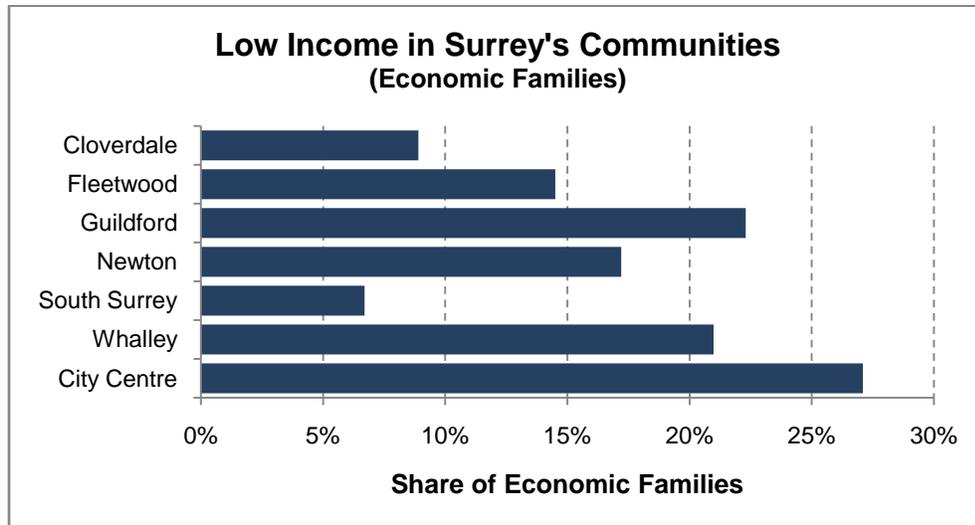
Low Income

The Census publishes figures on the prevalence of low income among certain groups including economic families, persons 15 years and over that are not part of an economic family, households, young children, and seniors. The prevalence of low income is expressed as the proportion of the subject population earning less than the low income cut-off. The low income cut-off is the income at which a family or individual spends 20% more of their income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family or individual. The low income cut-off is set at varying levels differentiated by family size and size of community. In this fact sheet before tax incomes and cut-offs are used to ensure comparability with previous Censuses.

The prevalence of low income among economic families in Surrey declined from 16.1% in 2000 to 15.6% in 2005. Meanwhile the prevalence of low income among economic families remained constant at 17.1% in Metro Vancouver. Economic families refer to any group of two or more persons, sharing a dwelling, who are related by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

Low Income in Surrey's Communities

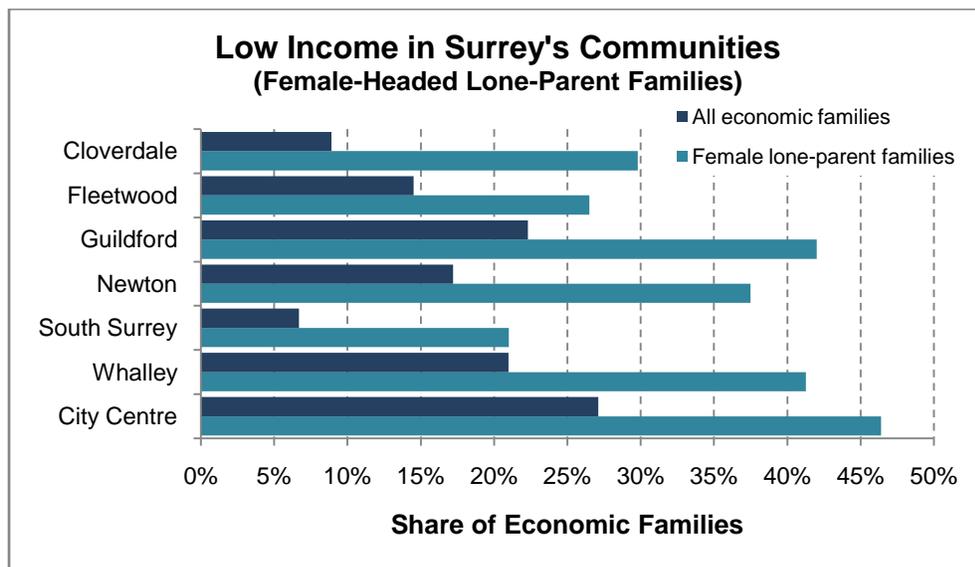
The prevalence of low income among economic families in Surrey's communities varied greatly, from 6.7% in South Surrey to 22.3% in Guildford. The City Centre area of Whalley experienced a prevalence of low income of 27.1%.



Among economic families low income was particularly prevalent for female-headed lone-parent families. In each community this subset had a drastically higher rate of low income than the whole, sometimes as much as three times higher. Low income among female lone-parent families ranged from 21.0% in South Surrey to 42.0% in Guildford. A rate of 46.4% was recorded in the City Centre.

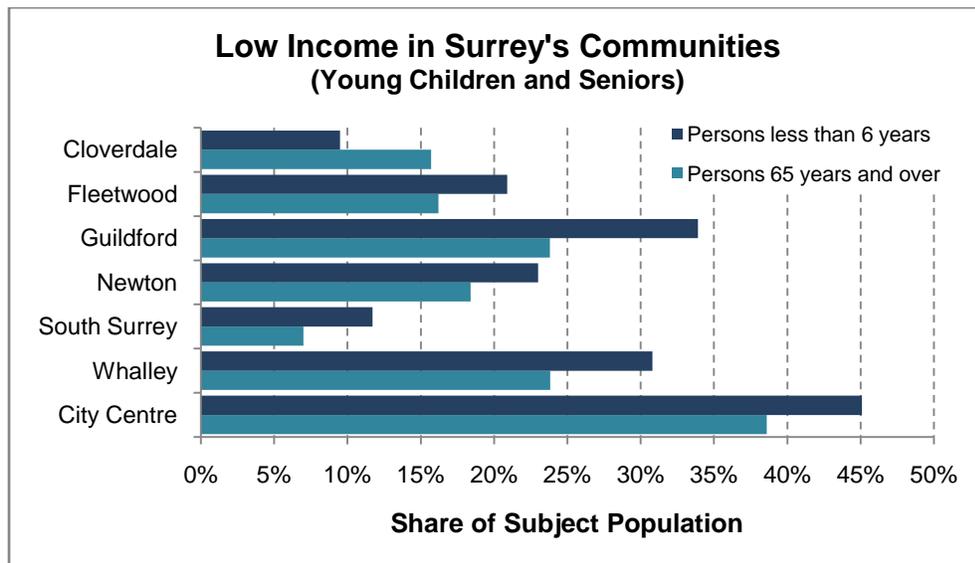
While male-headed lone-parent families also exhibited elevated rates of low income, it was much less prevalent than for their female counterparts. Additionally, there are significantly fewer male

lone-parent families than female lone-parent families in Surrey's communities. City-wide there are 2,505 male lone-parent families and 11,300 female.



Young children (persons under six years) and seniors (persons 65 years and over) may be particularly susceptible to falling below the low income cut-off. The income status of a child under six years is derived from that of the economic family to which he or she belongs. The income status of a senior is derived in a similar manner if he or she belongs to an economic family. Otherwise, the senior is classified as a person 15 years and over not belonging to an economic family and his or her income status is determined accordingly.

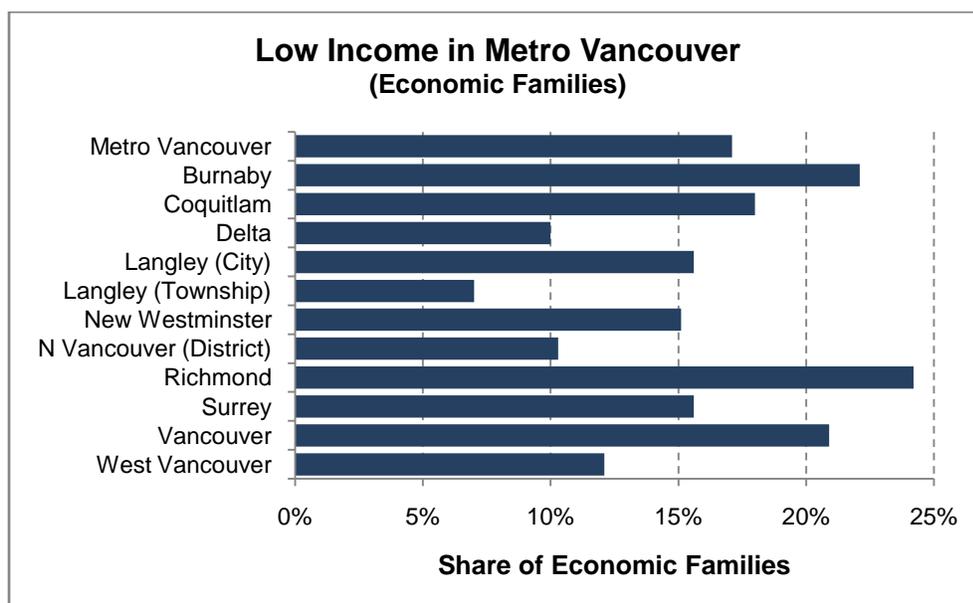
The prevalence of low income among both groups varies considerably. Cloverdale, among Surrey's communities, has the lowest prevalence of low income among young children (11.7%) while Guildford has the highest (33.9%). Few seniors (7.0%) in South Surrey fell below the low income cut-off while 23.8% of seniors in both Guildford and Whalley were in that category. City Centre had a high prevalence of low income for both young children (45.1%) and seniors (38.6%).



	Cloverdale	Fleetwood	Guildford	Newton	South Surrey	Whalley	City Centre	City Total
Low income - all economic families	8.9%	14.5%	22.3%	17.2%	6.7%	21.0%	27.1%	15.6%
Low income - male lone-parent families	17.0%	18.5%	23.2%	26.9%	7.1%	24.7%	21.4%	21.3%
Low income - female lone-parent families	29.8%	26.5%	42.0%	37.5%	21.0%	41.3%	46.4%	35.1%
Low income - persons less than 6 years	9.5%	20.9%	33.9%	23.0%	11.7%	30.8%	45.1%	23.2%
Low income - persons 65 years and over	15.7%	16.2%	23.8%	18.4%	7.0%	23.8%	38.6%	16.4%

Regional Comparison of Low Income

The prevalence of low income among economic families throughout the region varied considerably. With a 15.6% prevalence of low income among families Surrey was below the Metro Vancouver average of 17.1%.



Female-headed lone-parent families were more likely to fall below the low income cut-off throughout Metro Vancouver. Prevalence of low income among female-headed lone-parent families was as much as three times higher than the prevalence of low income among all economic families. In Surrey female lone-parent families had a prevalence of low income of 35.1%, below the City of Vancouver at 37.5%, and just above the Metro Vancouver average of 35.0%. At the same time male lone-parent families had a prevalence of low income of 21.3% while the value was 15.6% for all economic families.



Low income among young children (under 6 years) is slightly more prevalent in Surrey (23.2%) than it is in Metro Vancouver (21.5%). Meanwhile Surrey (16.4%) is well below Metro Vancouver (20.8%) in the prevalence of low income among seniors.

