



Counting Us In

A Statistical Profile of Yukon Women

April, 1999



A Women's Directorate publication

Acknowledgements

A number of groups and individuals were consulted in the preparation of this document and are listed on page 105. The principal targets for consultations were government departments, policy analysts and women's organizations. Various representatives identified variables that they felt would assist in doing gender-based analysis. The areas highlighted in this document reflect the priorities expressed during the consultation process.

We would like to thank all of these people for helping us to define what is lacking or necessary when developing public policy that affects the lives of women. In particular, we wish to acknowledge the generous support of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics; in particular, Robin Mercer, in providing access to data as well as valuable advice and assistance.

Finally, we would especially like to express our appreciation to Shari Buchan of the Northern Research Institute who prepared the first draft of this report.

Foreword

The idea for this document originated from the Government of Yukon Women's Directorate, in response to the growing need for sex-desegregated data. It provides a baseline of information that will be updated on a regular basis to give policy and program analysts the most current and relevant information.

This report provides an overview of the lives of women in the Yukon, using selected statistical data. The objectives of the report are:

- to increase awareness and understanding of a variety of issues facing Yukon women today;
- to assist policy analysts, communications officers, and program developers in planning and evaluating policies and programs in a gender-sensitive manner;
- to assist in identifying areas where inequities exist and persist;
- to provide baseline data which can be updated on a regular basis in order to provide the most comprehensive and current information; and
- to provide a comparison between the lives of Yukon women and men, and between Yukon women and Canadian women.

This document serves as a complement to *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices*, a study published by the Women's Directorate and Bureau of Statistics in 1993. *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* provided a statistical overview of Yukon women and identified the concerns and priorities of women in the territory.

Recently, there has been growing recognition of the need to incorporate women's perspectives into all areas of policy and program development. In 1995, the federal government adopted a policy that requires the application of gender-based analysis to public policy. This requires federal departments and agencies to analyze policies and legislation in ways that recognize their differing impact on women and men. This is one step on the road to gender equity.

The Government of the Yukon is equally committed to working toward gender equity, and the Women's Directorate is dedicated to facilitating this process. One step in the process is assisting various government departments to engage in gender-based analysis of territorial public policy, programs and legislation.

Gender-based analysis is grounded in the recognition that gender has an impact on all aspects of life and that policies and programs may affect men and women differently. This, in turn, is predicated on the recognition that the realities facing women and men are quite different. Thus gender is a significant variable that must be considered when developing and assessing public policy.

According to *Gender Based Analysis: A Quick Guide for Policy Makers* (Status of Women Canada, 1996): "Gender-based analysis is a process that assesses the differential impact of proposed and/or existing policies, programs and legislation on women and men. It makes it possible for policy to be undertaken with an appreciation of gender differences, of the nature of relationships between women and men and of their different social realities, life expectations and economic circumstances".

It should be noted that there are no single definitive indicators that can be used to denote or assess the equality of women and men. Rather, the varieties of policy and program areas necessitate a wide range of data to use as indicators. A number of selected areas including paid and unpaid work, income, educational attainment and the impact of crime and violence on women's lives have been included. The document will highlight areas where inequities appear to exist and where policy may need to be focused or altered. Thus the document will assist in strengthening policy priorities and in identifying current problems and issues.

In addition, it is not possible to describe all areas of life that have an impact on women in the Yukon. Nor can statistical information answer the question of why certain patterns exist or persist or what specific meaning these have for women's lives. Thus, in addition to facilitating gender-based analysis and program development, this profile is likely to identify areas for further research, discussion and policy/program focus.

As well, it is important to recognize that the realities facing different segments of the female population may be different as well. Where possible, efforts have been made to examine how factors such as age, ethnicity and marital status impact on the lives of Yukon women.

This document provides background data pertaining to the well-being and quality of life of Yukon women, and it is the hope of the Women's Directorate that it will assist in the development of gender-equitable policies and practices that ultimately improve the quality of life for Yukon women and men.

Methodology and Methodological Limitations

The statistical data utilized in this document was collected from a number of sources, particularly from the most recent Census of Canada (1996). Additional sources of published information included the *Yukon Health Promotion Survey* (1994) and the *Yukon Health Status Report* (1995). Data was limited to that which was already available (data collection did not include primary research). Some data are more current than others. Where possible and where appropriate, data from earlier time periods has been incorporated to assess changes over time.

This document provides information to be combined with knowledge of public policy framework, current trends and theoretical explanations of the variety of issues that have an impact on women's lives. It paints a picture of the current situation facing women in the Yukon but does not assess or explain the more qualitative aspects. For example, identifying participation rates in particular occupations or educational spheres does not tell us about the experiences of women in those particular areas. Nor does identifying the number of women in decision-making positions tell us whether or not the interests of women are being placed on the political agenda. Thus, while shedding light on some key aspects of women's lives, the document may also suggest areas where further research is required.

The data is only as reliable and comprehensive as that which has been collected in official statistics and other reports. Because of the small population of the Yukon, caution must be exercised in using some of the data. Small differences in actual numbers may seem to show large proportional or percentage fluctuations. For example, depending on the size of the total population under consideration, the addition or deletion of one or two cases may result in fluctuations of 50% or more. It becomes difficult to draw conclusions based upon limited numbers.

Note on Terminology

The terms, "gender" and "sex" are technically distinct, with "sex" referring to biological differences between males and females, and "gender" referring to socially and culturally defined distinctions (i.e. between what is considered "masculine" and what is considered "feminine"). In keeping with this distinction, the term sex will be used when referring to distinctions between males and females (e.g. level of education by sex).

Average vs. Median

Median income represents the middle point at which half the incomes are above and half below. For the purposes of this document, the average of each indicator has been used throughout since much of the data compiled was defined in this way. The next release will include median measurements.

Highlights

Population Characteristics

- Men outnumber women in the Yukon, except in the age group between 25 and 34 and in the oldest age bracket (75 and older). See page 2.
- In the Yukon First Nations population, which is about one-fifth of the population of the Yukon, women outnumber men by 4%. See page 5.
- The population of the Yukon is aging. This means that there are increasing proportions of people in the oldest age categories and increasingly fewer in the younger age categories. This trend of population aging is more pronounced for females, suggesting that they may soon outnumber males in the oldest age groups. See page 4.

Women and their Families

- The percentage of common-law and lone-parent families is higher in the Yukon than in the rest of Canada. In the Yukon, 16.5% of families are lone-parent families as compared to 14.5% in the rest of Canada. See page 9.
- About one in three babies born in the Yukon is born to single women. It is important to note, however, that Vital Statistics, the unit keeping track of births, counts a woman in a common-law relationship as a single woman. See page 10.
- The average Yukon family is the same size as the average Canadian family: 3.1 persons. Almost two-thirds of Yukon families have children living at home. See page 11.

Women and Education

- Yukon First Nations women have lower levels of educational attainment than their non-aboriginal counterparts. While 15% of non-aboriginal women in the Yukon report a university degree as their highest level of education, only 5.2% of aboriginal women do so. See page 17.
- Over twice as many females as males held degrees in educational, recreational and counselling services. Males outnumbered females in commerce, management and business administration; in the agricultural and biological sciences; and in engineering and applied sciences. Females outnumbered males in the health professions. See page 18.

Women and Paid Employment

- In 1996, 78.5% of Yukon women participated in the labour force, slightly below the participation rate of Yukon men at 84%. See page 24.
- Less than half the labour force in the Yukon works full-time, full-year. Of those, women comprise just under half of full-time workers (46%). An increasing number of women are self-employed. Between 1991 and 1996, women comprised 32% of self-employed workers and men comprised 68%. See page 30.
- Women are still concentrated in occupations relating to health, education and service industries. Men are over-represented in science-related occupations as well as trades and transport industries. There are more women than men in the Yukon public service, but women tend to be concentrated at the lowest occupational levels. See page 32.

Women and Income

- The average income of Yukon workers is higher than the national average. As well, the gap between male and female wages is smaller. Nonetheless, women working full-time, full-year in the Yukon make an average of 80 cents for every dollar a man earns. See page 42.
- Women in the Yukon are more likely than men to earn less than \$20,000 and men are more likely than women to earn \$60,000 or more annually. See page 42.
- A greater proportion of aboriginal persons of both sexes earn less than \$20,000 annually, and a smaller proportion are found in the highest income ranges. See page 43.
- Family income is highest for husband-wife families where both partners work. On average, working wives contribute one third of family earnings. Family income is lowest for lone parent families headed by women. See page 49.
- Women in the Yukon are more likely than their counterparts in the rest of Canada to contribute to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs). In 1996, Yukon women contributed the second-highest median amount to their RRSPs. See page 53.

Unpaid Work

- More Yukon women than men do unpaid housework, home maintenance and provide child care. Men reported 36% of their time as providing some care to children and women reported 48%. Women reported providing 14% of their time caring for seniors and men reported 9% of their time. See page 55.

Women and Health

- Women in the Yukon rate their health and quality of life positively; however, they make up the majority of Mental Health Services clientele as compared to men. The reasons for this are many, including differences in help-seeking behaviour, differences in detection and diagnosis, as well as differences in economic and social status. See page 64.
- Women have a longer life expectancy than do men. As well, there are different patterns in the cause of death. The leading cause of death for women is cardiovascular disease, while the leading cause for men (particularly young men) is accidents and poisoning. See page 65.

Women And Lifestyle

- Teenage abortion rates and rates of sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia appear to be higher in the Yukon than in the rest of the country. See page 72.
- Incidence and mortality rates for breast cancer appear to be lower in the Yukon than the rest of Canada. However, caution must be exercised in interpreting the data because of the small numbers involved. See page 74.
- Women in the Yukon are less likely than men to be current drinkers. However, women in the territory are more likely to consume alcohol than women in the nation as a whole. Yukon women are less likely than Yukon men to smoke. They are also less likely to be sexually active and to engage in sexual activity with multiple partners. See page 77.
- Women are less likely than their male counterparts to engage in organized sports. Similarly, they are less likely to be funded elite athletes. See page 81.

Women and the Criminal Justice System

- In the Yukon in 1996, 232 females were charged with criminal offences as compared to 1,354 males charged. See page 84.
- Violence continues to be a key issue for women in the territory. Violence in its various forms can have serious long-term and short-term effects on women's health and well-being. See page 87.

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Editing, revision and design and layout: Patricia Halladay

ISBN 1-55018-852-6

Additional copies are available through:

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Honourable
Lois Moorcoft
Minister Responsible for the
Women's Directorate

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present *Counting Us In: A Statistical Profile of Yukon Women*, which provides valuable insights into the differences between Yukon women's and men's lives. This document represents a significant step toward achieving a fair and inclusive society in the Yukon.

Good public policy relies, first and foremost, on good analysis. The process of gender-based analysis (GBA) provides a way to measure the impact of existing and proposed policies, programs and legislation on women and men. GBA helps policy-makers understand the relationship between government policy and the different social and economic realities of women and men.

The goal of the Yukon government is nothing less than full equality for men and women in the work place, the classroom, the home and the community at large. Gender-based analysis can be an indispensable tool in designing the social and economic policy framework to achieve that goal.

This goal is consistent with our government's commitments, through its Economy 2000 initiatives, to develop a strong, diversified economy that benefits all Yukon people. It is equally consistent with our ongoing efforts to promote gender equality within government and throughout Yukon society.

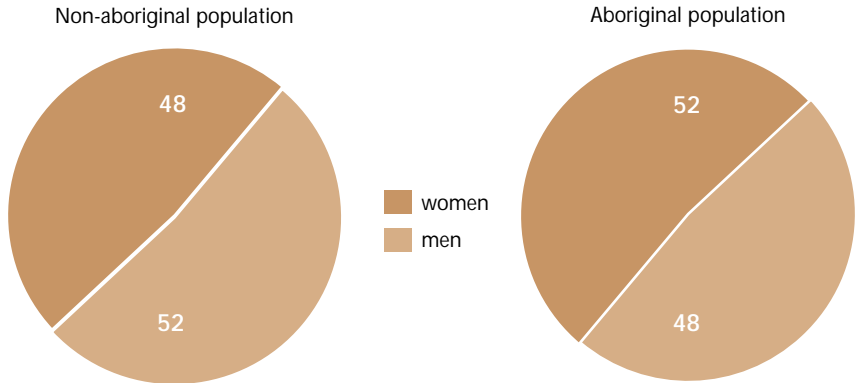
I trust the information in this document will prove useful to ensure gender considerations are an integral part of Yukon government policies, programs and legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois Moorcoft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Section 1. Population Characteristics

According to the 1996 Census, the population of the Yukon was 30,765. Women and girls composed 48.4% of that population. This figure constitutes a somewhat different distribution than is found in Canada as a whole, where women make up a slight majority (50.8%) of the population. There has been little change in the relative proportion of women and men in the Yukon population over the last ten years.

Figure 1. Proportion of population by sex
Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #C96-07

Approximately one fifth (20.14%) of the Yukon population is composed of persons of aboriginal ancestry. This compares to a total of 2.8% for Canada as a whole. In the Yukon in 1996, the sex distribution for the First Nation population was somewhat different than for the territory as a whole, with a slightly larger proportion of aboriginal females (52%) than aboriginal males (see Figure 1).

In 1996, the majority of the First Nation population lived in communities outside Whitehorse (55% of the aboriginal population lived in rural communities outside the Yukon capital as compared to 25.7% of the non-aboriginal population).

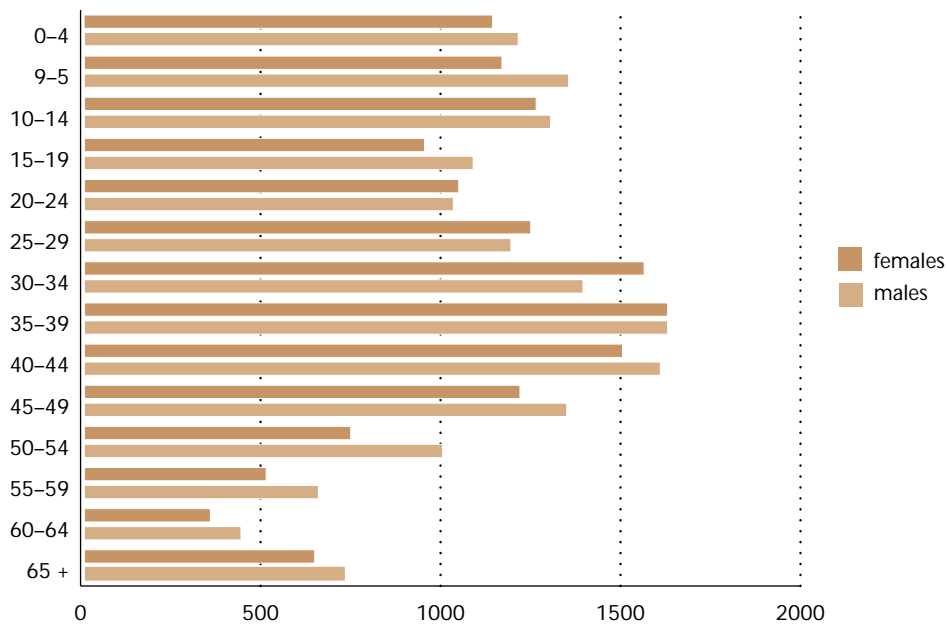
According to the 1996 Census of Canada, 3,195 persons or 10.4% of the population were immigrants to the territory. This compares to 17.4% for Canada. Of the 3,195 immigrants to the Yukon, there were slightly fewer females than males. Females constituted 47% of the immigrant population, a figure which approximates the representation of females in the Yukon population overall. In 1996, the largest proportion of the immigrant population was born in the United States or the United Kingdom. This holds true for both females and males.

In 1996, 3.8% of Yukon residents reported French as their mother tongue. Mother tongue refers to the first language learned and still understood. An additional 0.3% identified both French and English as their mother tongue. Of those reporting French as their sole mother tongue, half were aged 25–44 and relatively few (13%) were under the age of 15. The proportion of males and females in the Francophone population is unreported.

Sex and Age

Males outnumbered females in all age categories except between the ages of 20 and 34 and over 75. Unlike the pattern evident in the nation as a whole, males made up a slight majority of the population over the age of 65 in the Yukon. As of 1996, there were 725 males aged 65 and older (2.4% of the total population) and 640 females aged 65 or older (2.1% of the total population). Nonetheless, females outnumbered males in the oldest age category (75 and older). In 1996 56% of Yukon residents age 75 or older were female. This is more reflective of the pattern found in the rest of Canada. It is primarily attributable to the fact that women tend to live longer than men and thus comprise larger shares of the older population.

Figure 2. Population by age group and sex
Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #C96-02

For the First Nations population, sex distribution by age is somewhat different. Females outnumbered males in all age categories except ages 5–14 and 25–29. There were equal numbers of females and males between the ages of 65–69, but

similar to the pattern found in the population overall, females outnumbered males in the oldest age groups (age 70 and older). In 1996, over 60% of First Nation people age 70 or older were women.

Aging Population

Both the male and female populations of the Yukon are “aging”, meaning that there are proportionately more Yukon residents in the older age groups (35 and older) than there were ten years ago, and proportionately fewer in the younger age groups (under 35). However, there are proportionately fewer Yukon residents in the older age groups than in the rest of Canada. In 1996, 12.2% of Canada’s population was aged 65 or older, as compared to 4.4% for the Yukon.

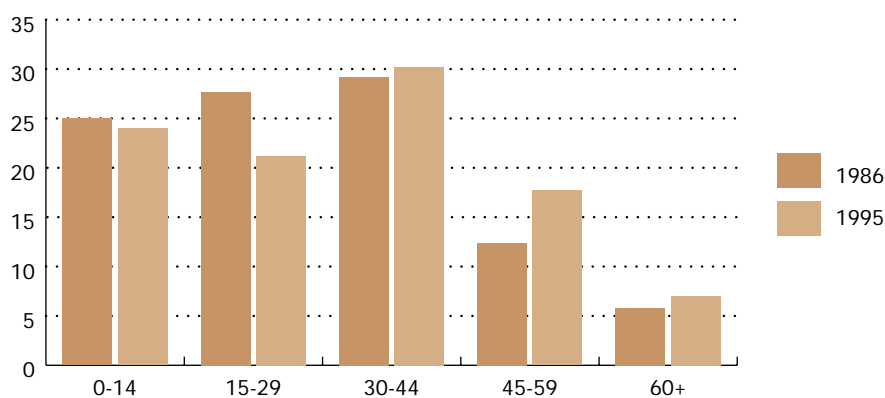
The following figures show the proportion of persons in various age groups in both 1986 and 1995. What is evident is a decline in the relative proportion of younger persons (those under the age of 35), and an increase in the relative proportion of those in the older age groups (those over the age of 35).

Table 1. Age groups as a proportion of the population
Yukon, 1986 and 1995

Age group	0–14	15–29	30–44	45–59	60+
1986	25	27.7	29.2	12.4	5.8
1995	24	21.2	30.2	17.7	7.0

Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Vital Statistics Report, 1997

Figure 3. Age groups as a proportion of the population
Yukon, 1986 and 1995



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Vital Statistics Report, 1997

According to the *Yukon Vital Statistics Report (1997)*, the aging pattern is more predominant for Yukon females than for males, although the trend is similar for both males and females. The extent of population aging for women is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Proportion of the female population by age groups

Age group	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-59	60+
1986	25.6	29.0	29.0	10.7	5.5
1995	23.9	21.7	31.4	16.6	6.6

Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, *Vital Statistics Report, 1997*

The aging of the population is not a situation that is unique to the Yukon or to Canada. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, most industrialized countries are undergoing similar shifts in population distribution. Declining fertility rates, increased longevity and shifting migration patterns have all contributed to the aging of populations.¹ This will provide a number of challenges for regions and countries, including financial support, health care, housing and other services for an increasingly older population; in most cases, an increasingly older female population.

The aging of a population will have an impact on a number of areas of social life including recreation, health care and special care institutions. According to the Canadian Council on Social Development, approximately 8% of Canadians aged 65 and over were residents of institutions such as extended care hospitals, seniors' residences and psychiatric facilities. An even higher proportion of those aged 80 and older live in such institutions, with women outnumbering men.²

There are three main special care institutions in the Yukon, two in Whitehorse (McCaulay Lodge and Thompson Centre) and one in Dawson City (McDonald Lodge). In 1996, the majority (87%) of permanent residents in these facilities were aged 65 or over. There were only slightly more females than males (51% and 49%).³ This may reflect the sex distribution of the older population, which is somewhat different than that observed in other parts of the nation.

1. P. Gauthier, "Canada's Seniors," *Canadian Social Trends*, volume 2 (Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, 1994), 18.

2. *Ibid.*, 18.

3. Government of Yukon, Department of Finance, *Operation and Maintenance Estimates 1997-98*, (March 1997), 8-29.

Population Distribution by Community

Population distribution by sex varies from one Yukon community to the next. With the exception of Burwash Landing where there were slightly more females than males in 1996 (25 females to 30 males), males outnumber females in all Yukon communities.

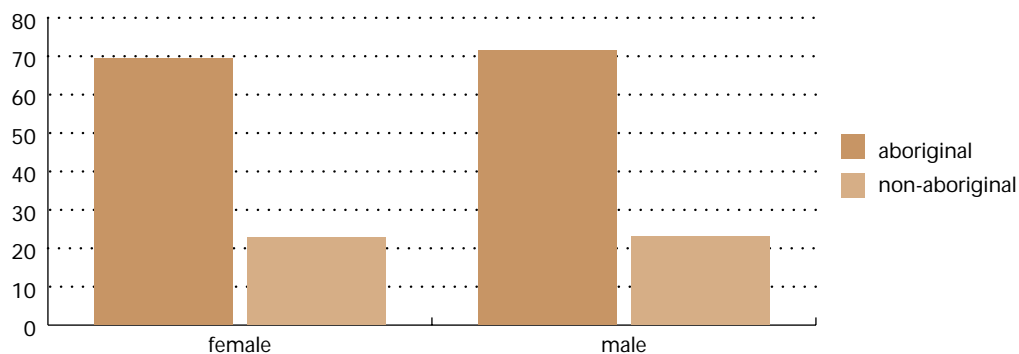
In 1996, the greatest variation was found in the mining community of Faro where males composed 56% of the population. In addition, 82% of the 1,180 persons working in the mining industry in 1996 were male (see page 34). This is not particularly surprising, given that mining and related occupations have traditionally been performed by males.

Place of Birth

One of the recognized characteristics of the Yukon is the relatively transient population, particularly the non-aboriginal population. According to data collected in 1996, only one in three Yukon residents was born in the territory. Proportions were similar for both females and males.

However, a significant difference was found between the First Nation and the non-aboriginal population of the territory: 69.4% of aboriginal females were born in the territory, as were 71.4% of aboriginal males. In contrast, 22.9% of non-aboriginal females and 23.1% of non-aboriginal males were born in the Yukon.

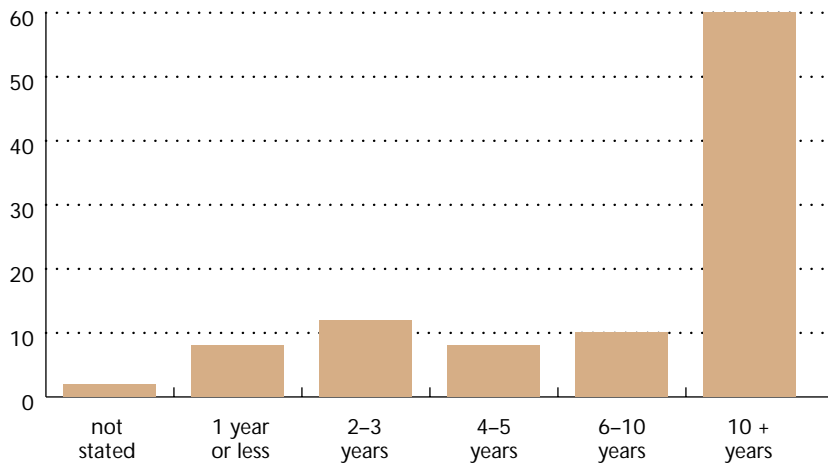
Figure 4. Proportion of population born in the territory by sex and ethnicity Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, Special Run

However, place of birth does not provide information about the length of time spent in the territory. Many people who were not born in the Yukon have nonetheless spent a considerable length of time in the region. According to the findings of the *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* report (1993), 60% of women have spent more than ten years in the Yukon. This figure includes those born in the Yukon as well as those who were born elsewhere but have resided in the territory for an extended period.⁴

Figure 5. Women’s length of residence in the Yukon as a percentage of total



Source: Government of Yukon, Women’s Directorate, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices*, 1993

4. Government of Yukon, Women’s Directorate and Bureau of Statistics, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices: A Survey of Yukon Women*, (Reprinted 1994), 10.

Summary: Population Characteristics

In the Yukon, there are slightly more males than females. This pattern is opposite to that observed in the rest of Canada. Only in the Yukon aboriginal population do women outnumber men.

Men outnumber women in most age categories, except between the ages of 20 and 34 and over 75. Unlike the pattern seen in the rest of Canada, there are more males in the group age 65 and older.

Like the population of Canada and the rest of the industrialized world, the population of the Yukon is "aging". This means that there are increasing proportions of people in the oldest age categories, and increasingly fewer in the younger age categories. This trend of population aging is more pronounced for females, suggesting that females may soon outnumber males in the oldest age groups. Should this occur, this would be more reflective of the pattern observed in the rest of Canada.

The aging population and the sex composition of that population will have implications for policies and programs. Greater focus will be required to meet the financial, health and social service needs of an increasingly older population.

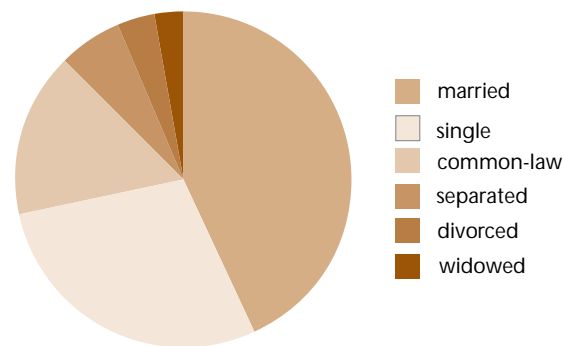
One in three Yukon residents reports that the territory is their place of birth. This proportion is similar for both females and males. However, there is a significant difference between the First Nation and non-aboriginal population in terms of place of birth. Close to three quarters of the aboriginal population (both female and male) were born in the territory, while less than one quarter of the non-aboriginal population (both female and male) report that the Yukon is their place of birth. Nonetheless, a considerable number of women living in the Yukon have resided in the territory for ten years or longer.

Section 2. Women and Their Families

Marital Status

According to the 1996 Census, the majority (59%) of Yukon residents age 15 and over were living in husband and wife families, meaning that they were either legally married or living common-law. In this age group 28.7% of Yukon residents were single (never married), 3.6% were separated, 6% were divorced, and 2.7% were widowed. Of those who were widowed, the majority were women.

Figure 6. Proportion of population by marital status (age 15 and over) Yukon, 1996



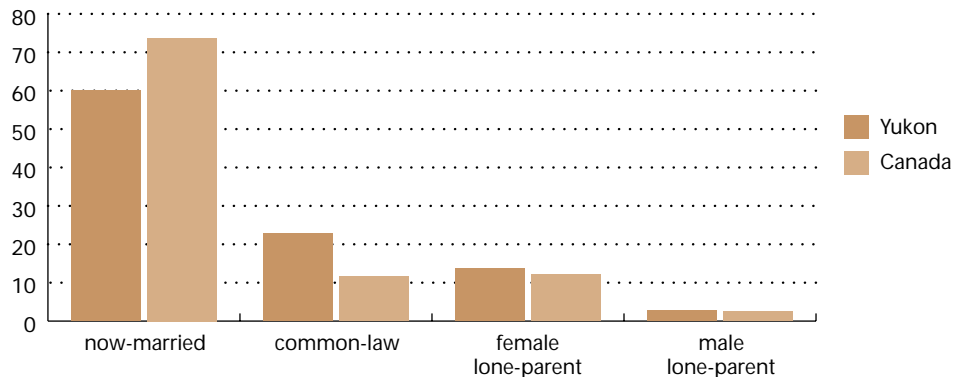
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Family Structure

According to the 1996 Census, the majority of Canadian families were families of couples who were legally married. Married couple families constituted 73.7% of families in Canada; 11.7% were families of common-law couples and 14.5% were lone-parent families. Of lone-parent families, the majority were headed by a female parent (12.1% as compared to 2.5% male-headed families).

The distribution was somewhat different for the Yukon, with a smaller percentage of married couple families and a greater proportion of both common-law families and lone-parent families. In 1996, 60.7% of Yukon families were now-married couple families, while 22.7% were families of common-law couples, almost double the proportion in the national population. As well, lone-parent families constituted a greater proportion of families in the Yukon, making up 16.5% of families. At 2.8%, the percentage of male-headed lone-parent families was close to the proportion found in the national population, while the percentage of female headed lone-parent families was higher in the Yukon at 13.7%.

Figure 7. Proportion of families by family structure
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Common-law Families

Since the early 1980s, the number of persons living common-law has nearly tripled. By 1995, two million people (nearly one in seven Canadian couples) were living common-law, compared with 700,000 (less than one in 16 couples) in 1981. Not only has the prevalence of common-law unions increased rapidly, but their rate of increase has also accelerated. Turcotte and Bélanger suggest: *“The proliferation of common-law unions is thought to be associated with many recent social changes that have influenced trends in family behaviours and attitudes. Several factors appear to underlie these changes, including the massive entry of women into the labour market (with the resulting increase in women’s autonomy); the dissociation between sexuality and marriage and between fertility and marriage; the decline in religious practice; and the redefinition of the roles and expectations of spouses”*.⁵

Although statistics on marriage and common-law relationships are collected regularly, other relationships, such as those involving same-sex couples, are not recorded. Therefore, no information is currently available on the number of same-sex couples in the Yukon.

Lone-Parent Families

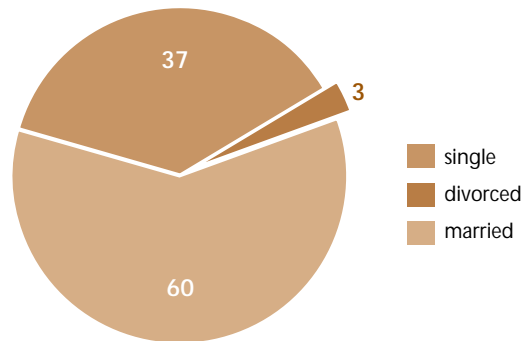
Lone-parent families make up a larger proportion of all families in the Yukon than in the rest of Canada. As mentioned above, 16.5% of families in the Yukon are lone-parent families, as compared to 14.5% for Canada. This difference is largely attributable to the greater proportion of lone-parent families headed by women in the Yukon.

5. P. Turcotte and A. Bélanger, “Moving In Together: The Formation of First Common-law Unions,” *Canadian Social Trends* 47 (Winter 1997): 9-10.

According to Oderkirk and Lochhead, lone-parenting today is largely a result of marital dissolution — after which custody of children is awarded to the mother — or from births to single women. They also note that males are more likely than females to become lone-parents as a result of divorce or death of a spouse. A relatively large proportion of women who are lone-parents have never been married.⁶ This is supported in the Yukon, where approximately one in three births is to a single woman.

According to the *Vital Statistics* report (1997), of the 4,845 births recorded between 1986 and 1995, the majority were to married women. However, over that period of time, a significant proportion (36.7%) of mothers reported their marital status as “single”. This includes women in common-law relationships.

Figure 8. Proportion of births by marital status of mother
Yukon, 1986 to 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, *Vital Statistics* report, 1997

A significant proportion of the births in the Yukon over the past decade have been to single mothers. The number of never-married mothers contributes to the growing trend of single-parent families, particularly those headed by women. The increasing number of lone-parents, particularly lone-parent mothers, raises a number of policy and program issues. Both lone mothers and lone fathers carry substantial and often sole responsibility for the physical, emotional and financial well-being of themselves and their children. As well, many young lone-parents sacrifice education and career mobility in order to care for their children. Consequently, they often have low or lower-than average family incomes.⁷ According to Oderkirk and Lochhead: “the incidence of low incomes is much higher among lone mothers than lone fathers, regardless of the ages of their children”.⁸

6. J. Oderkirk and C. Lochhead, “Lone Parenthood: Gender Differences,” *Canadian Social Trends*, volume 2 (Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, 1994), 189-190.

7. *Ibid.*, 189.

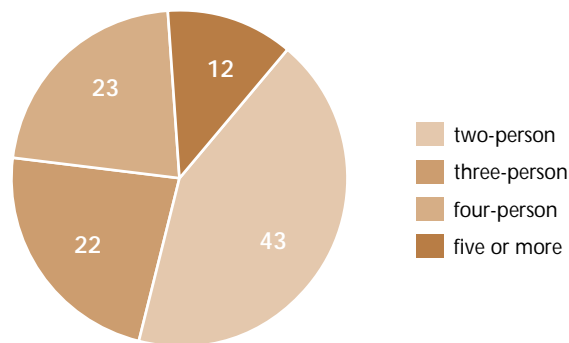
8. *Ibid.*, 190.

Family Size

Average family size in the Yukon was the same as for the nation as a whole. In 1996, the average family size for Canada and for the Yukon was 3.1 persons. There has been no change in average family size for either Canada or the Yukon since 1991. In Canada, however, the number of children per family has decreased over the past few decades. More specifically, the number of families with one or two children has increased, while the number with three or more children has declined. There are also increasing proportions of families with no children at home.⁹

This trend is also evident in the Yukon. In the territory, the majority of families are two-person families (43.3%) with a significant proportion of three-person (22.1%) and four-person families (22.8%). Only 11.9% of families have five persons or more. This shows a considerable decline in the 20-year period since 1976 when 22.1% of Yukon families had five or more persons.

Figure 9. Proportion of total families by family size
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

A similar distribution is found for Canada as a whole. In 1996, 43.4% of Canadian families were two-person families, 22.6% were three-person families and 23.0% were four-person families. The proportion of Canadian families with five or more persons decreased from 21.1% in 1976 to 11.0%.

In part, smaller family size reflects a decline in the number of births. In the Yukon, as in the nation overall, there has been a decline in the number of annual births. The number of births reported in the Yukon in 1996 was 432. This constitutes a drop in the number of births since the previous year, and one of the lowest number of recorded births in the last ten years (for further discussion of birth rates, see page 13).

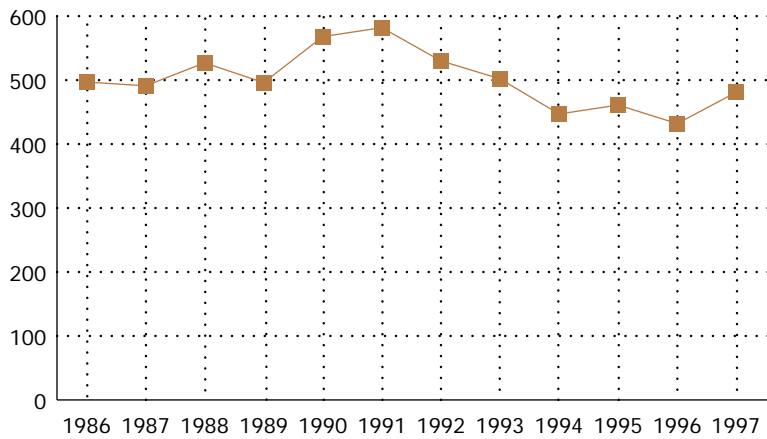
9. M. S. Devereaux, "Decline in the Number of Children," *Canadian Social Trends*, volume 2 (Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, 1994), 201.

Table 3. Number of annual births 1986-1997

Year	Births	Year	Births
1986	497	1992	530
1987	491	1993	502
1988	527	1994	447
1989	496	1995	461
1990	568	1996	432
1991	582	1997	481

Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Review, 1996, 1997

Figure 10. Number of annual births 1986-1997
Yukon



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Review, 1996, 1997

Children at Home

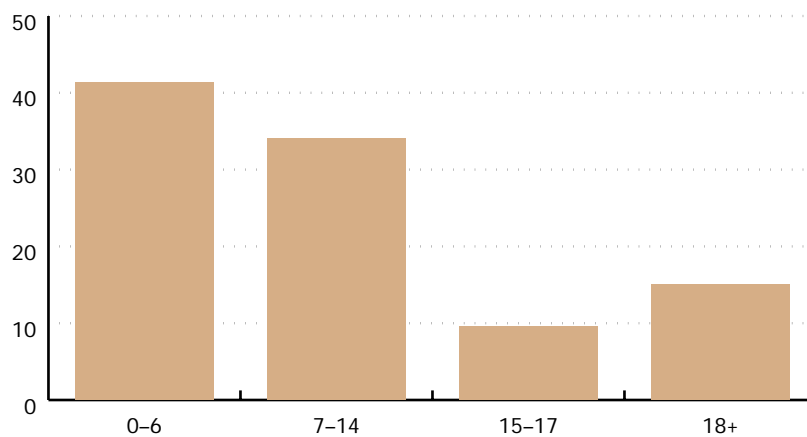
According to the Census Canada definition, a “family” includes couples who are married or living common-law, who do or do not have never-married children living at home. It also includes lone-parent families of either sex with never-married children living at home.

In 1996, the majority of families in the Yukon (66.1%) had one or more never-married children at home. This included 63.4% of married couple families and 49% of common-law families. By definition, all lone-parent families have children at home.

Of those with children at home, the majority of children were aged 24 or under, although almost 5% of never-married children living at home were aged 25 or older. This is half the national rate of 10%. Of those Yukon families with children over the age of 24 living at home, almost half (40.8%) were lone-parent families. This was similar for Canada as a whole.

For 41.3% of families with children at home, the youngest child was under the age of six. A significant proportion (34.1%) had the youngest child between the ages of seven and 14.

Figure 11. Proportion of families with children at home
By age of youngest child, Yukon, 1996



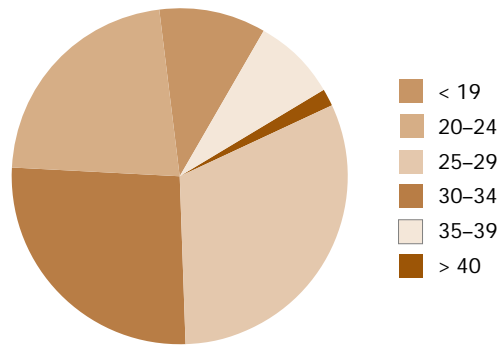
Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #C96-05

Births by Age of Mother

Families reporting “no children at home” include those couples who have chosen to remain childless, those whose children have grown and left the home, as well as those who are planning to but have not yet had children. One trend that is evident in the Yukon is an increasing trend of women having children later in life.

Between 1986 and 1995, there were 4,845 births in the Yukon. The majority of these births (31.5%) were to mothers between the ages of 25–29. Births to teenage mothers accounted for 8.3% of births during this time period, and births to mothers aged 35 or older accounted for 11.5% of births. The number of births to mothers aged 35 and older has shown a gradual increase since 1986.

Figure 12. Proportion of births by age of mother
Yukon, 1986-1995



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Vital Statistics Report, 1997

This postponement of childbearing contributes to the number of families reporting no children at home, as well as the likelihood of smaller families. A woman who begins childbearing later in life is likely to have fewer children in her lifetime.

Summary: Women and Their Families

Most families in the Yukon are husband-wife families (legally married), but an increasing proportion are common-law and lone-parent families. The proportion of common-law and lone-parent families, particularly those headed by women, is higher in the Yukon than in the rest of Canada.

The increase in common-law families has been attributed to a number of changes in Canadian society, including greater autonomy of women (as reflected in the participation of women in the paid labour force) and different attitudes toward sexuality, fertility and marriage.

The increase in lone-parent families in the Yukon and in Canada is attributable to both the dissolution of marriages and to never-married women raising children on their own. A significant number (one in three) of babies born in the Yukon are born to single mothers.

Average family size in the Yukon is similar to that found in the rest of Canada. However, average family size in the Yukon and the nation has declined over the past few decades. This is reflected in increasing proportions of families with one, two or no children living at home, and a decline in the proportion with three or more children.

Approximately two-thirds of Yukon families do have children at home, and the majority of these children are aged 14 and under. Those who do not have children at home include those who have chosen not to have children, those who have reached the "empty nest" stage where children have left home, and those who have not yet had children. Over the past decade, there has been an increase in women bearing children at age 35 or older. This postponement of childbearing contributes to the smaller family size.

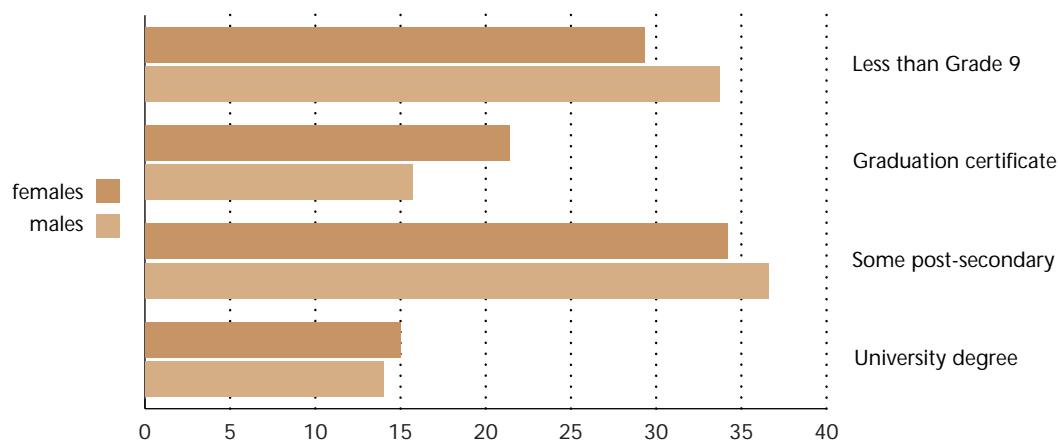
Section 3. Women and Education

Highest Level of Education by Sex

According to Statistics Canada (1996), Canadians have experienced a continued growth in educational attainment over the past few decades. In 1996, the percentage of Canadian females reporting a university degree as their highest level of education was 15%, up from 8.2% in 1981. The percentage of males reporting similar educational attainment was 16.2%, up from 11.4% in 1981.

In the Yukon in 1996, 15% of females reported a university degree as their highest level of educational attainment. This is consistent with the figures for the nation. A total of 14% of Yukon males reported a similar level of education (slightly less than for Canada overall).

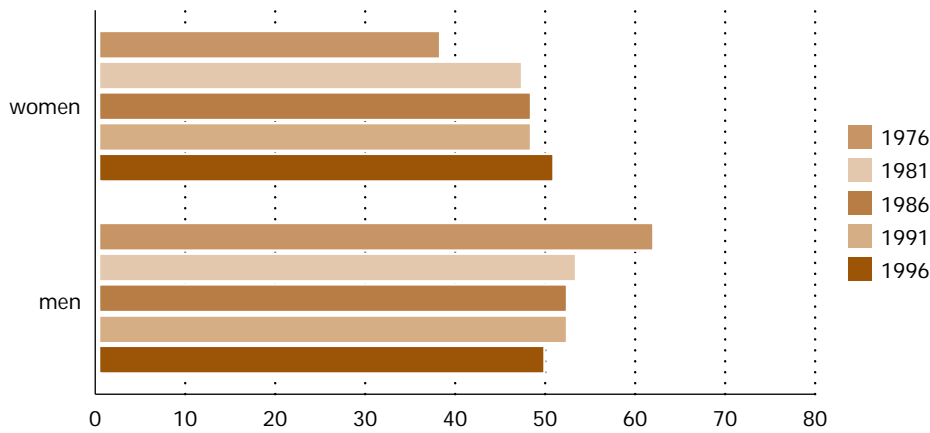
Figure 13. Proportion of males and females over 15 by level of education
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

When charted over time, it is clear that the number and proportion of university degrees held by women in the Yukon has increased significantly. In 1976, 990 Yukon residents reported a university degree as their highest level of education, and 375 (37.9%) were held by women. In 1996, 20 years later, 1,710 or just slightly over half (50.8%) of the 3,365 university degrees held by Yukon residents were held by women. For those aged 25–34, women held the majority (56%) of university degrees.

Figure 14. Proportion of university degrees by sex
Yukon, 1976 to 1996

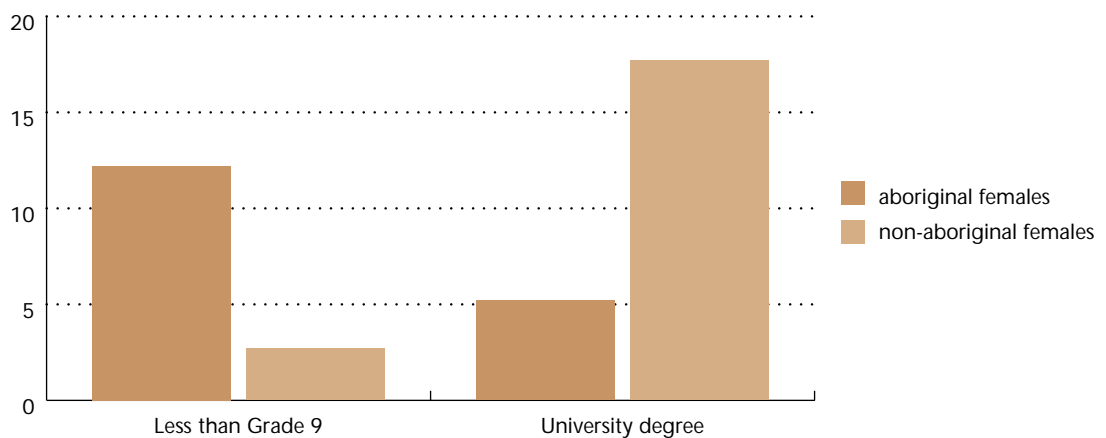


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

However, there are significant differences in educational attainment between First Nation and non-aboriginal Yukoners of both sexes. In 1996, 12.2% of the First Nation female population reported less than grade nine as their highest level of educational attainment. Only 5.2% of aboriginal females reported a university degree as their highest level of education.

The pattern is reversed for non-aboriginal females. Only 2.7% of the non-aboriginal population of the Yukon reported less than a grade nine education as their highest level of educational attainment, while 17.7% reported holding a university degree.

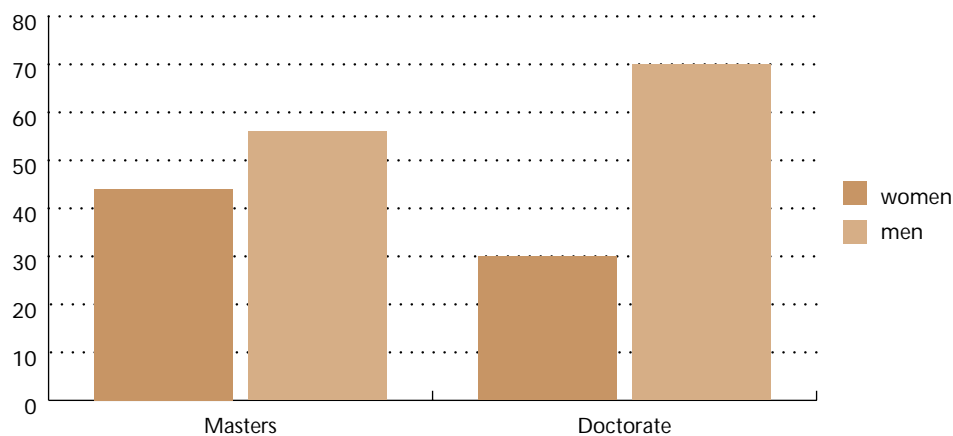
Figure 15. Proportion of females by level of education
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

While females (particularly non-aboriginal females) in the Yukon have made considerable gains in educational attainment over the past few decades, males still hold a slightly greater proportion of graduate degrees at the Masters and Doctorate levels. Of those reporting a Masters degree as their highest level of education, 56% were males. A relatively small number (50) of Yukon residents held doctoral degrees in 1996; 35 or 70% were held by men. Thus, while Yukon women have made significant advancements in terms of Bachelor's degrees and first professional degrees, they remain under-represented in terms of degrees at the graduate level.

Figure 16. Proportion of graduate degrees by sex
Yukon, 1996



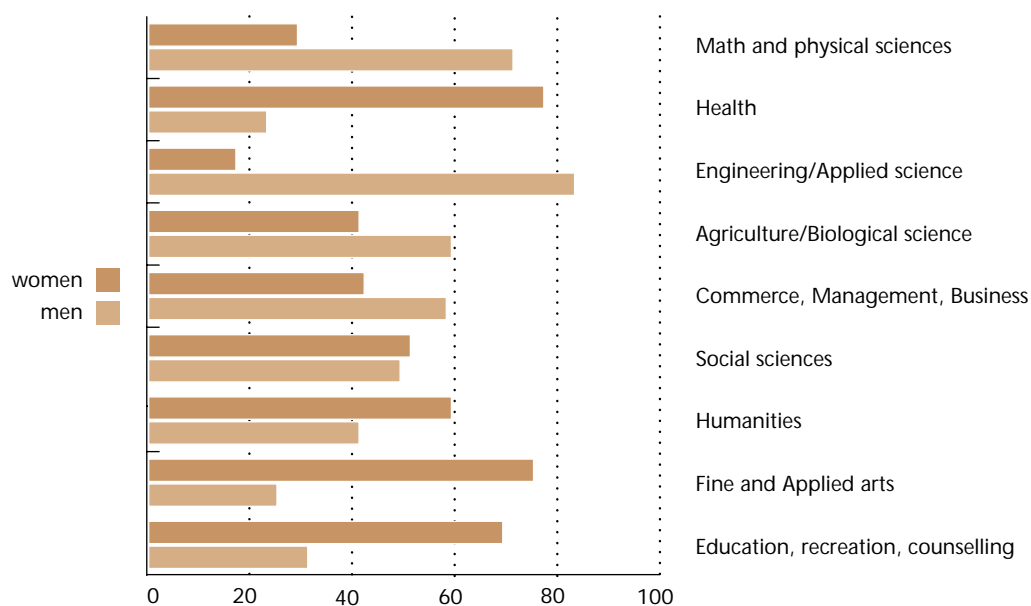
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Field of Study

There are notable differences in the fields of study chosen by females and males. For those with university degrees, the majority of degrees were reported in the areas of educational, recreational and counselling services and in social sciences and related fields (both sexes in 1996). Over twice as many females as males held degrees in educational, recreational and counselling services, while there were almost equal numbers of females and males holding degrees in the social sciences and related fields. Females outnumbered males in the health professions.

Males outnumbered females in commerce, management and business administration; in the agricultural and biological sciences; engineering and applied sciences and in mathematics and physical sciences. Similar patterns were noted for those with trades or non-university certificates.

Figure 17. Proportion of population with university degree by field of study
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

School Attendance

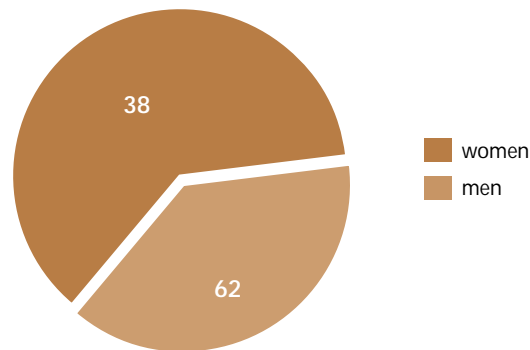
For the Yukon population aged 15–24, males and females were almost equally likely to be attending school. In 1996, 57% of males and 56% of females in this age group reported that they were attending school. Females were only slightly more likely than males to be attending school on a part-time basis (12% of the females who were attending school as compared to 10.7% of males attending school).

For females in the Yukon, there is no notable difference between the aboriginal and the non-aboriginal populations in terms of school attendance: 56% of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal females report school attendance. There was, however, a difference for males. In 1996, 50% of Yukon aboriginal males and 59% of non-aboriginal males reported attending school. Thus, while aboriginal and non-aboriginal females age 15–24 were equally likely to be attending school, First Nation males were less likely than non-aboriginal males and less likely than their female counterparts to be attending school.

Yukon College

There is only one post-secondary educational institution in the Yukon, this being Yukon College. The majority of students attending the college for the fall of 1998/99 were female. Of the 1540 students attending the college whose sex is known, 961 or 62.4% were female. This data is consistent with Canadian data which reports that more women than men tend to enrol in community college.¹⁰

Figure 18. Proportion of women and men attending Yukon College
Fall, 1998/99



Source: Yukon College, Northern Research Institute, 1998

Females outnumbered males in all program areas except trades, where they made up only a small proportion of the student population (8.9%). Females particularly outnumbered males in the human services, where they comprised 97% of the student population in this area (data includes only those whose sex is known) and in the field of education (Yukon Native Teacher Education Program, YNTEP). Females comprised 82% of those enrolled in the YNTEP program. These patterns are similar to other institutions and jurisdictions (see Figure 17).

Funding For Education

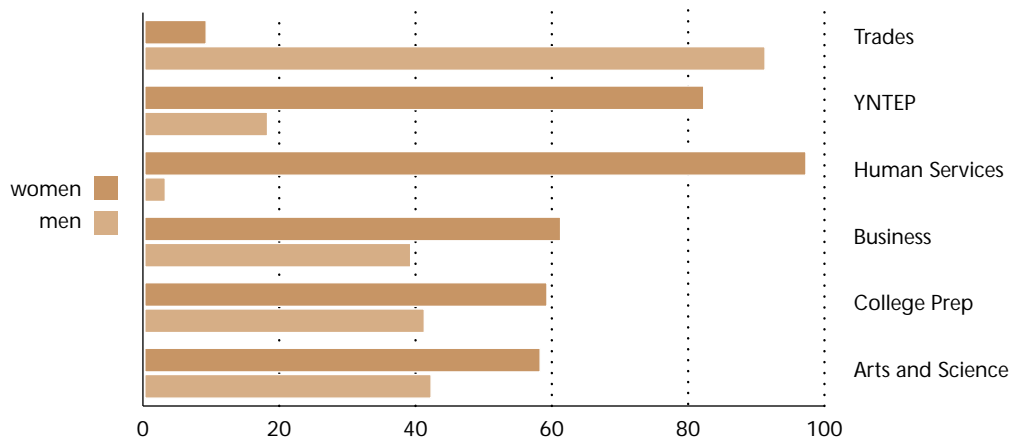
Many students must access funds from various sources in order to finance their post-secondary education. In the Yukon, public financial aid comes from three main sources: the Yukon Grant, the Student Training Allowance, and Canada Student Loans. The intent of the Yukon Grant is to provide assistance to post-secondary students, while the intent of the Yukon Training Allowance is to develop and improve occupational skills.¹¹ These grants do not have to be repaid. Student Loans are also used to finance post-secondary education but must

10. N. Guppy and B. Arai, "Who Benefits from Higher Education? Differences by Sex, Social Class and Ethnic Background," In J. Curtis, E. Grabb and N. Guppy, eds., *Social Inequality in Canada*, (Scarborough, ON: Prentice Hall, 1993) 218.

11. Government of Yukon, Department of Education, *Student Financial Assistance Review: Discussion Paper*, (May 1992) 3.

be repaid. An additional source of funding for First Nation students is available through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). This funding is available only to students of aboriginal ancestry, and, like the Grant and Training Allowance, does not have to be repaid.

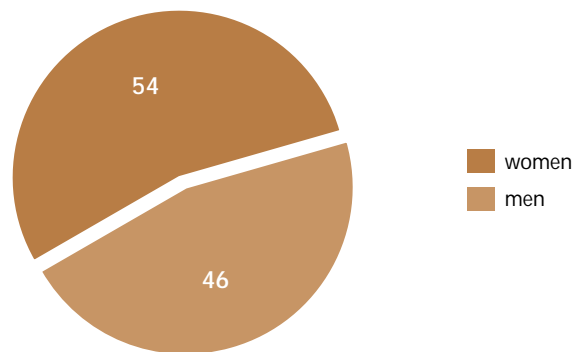
Figure 19. Proportion of females and males in selected program areas
Yukon College, Fall 1998/99



Source: Yukon College, Northern Research Institute, 1998

In 1997/98, females were somewhat more likely than males to access funding for post-secondary education (data excludes DIAND funding). Of the 1,038 recipients of financial assistance in 1997/98, 54% were women. This is not surprising given the fact that more females than males are enrolled at Yukon College. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the College is only one of many post-secondary institutions that Yukon students attend.

Figure 20. Proportion of students with funding for post-secondary education (Yukon Grant, Training Allowance, student loan)
Yukon, 1997/98



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Education, 1998

Data obtained for the most recent year did not reveal the proportion of males and females accessing the various sources of funding. However, some general trends can be observed from previous years. Data from 1991-92 revealed that almost equal numbers of males and females made use of the Yukon Training Allowance. In 1991/92, 50.6% of the Training Allowance recipients were males. This was the only program where male participation surpassed female participation, and this “may be due to the specific purpose of the program”.¹²

For the three other financial assistance programs (Yukon Grant, Training Allowance, DIAND), females outnumbered males in 1991/92. The largest difference was noted for DIAND funding, where 66.8% of the recipients were female. This clearly indicates that First Nation females were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to pursue post-secondary education in 1991/92. Current data pertaining to school attendance (see page 19) suggests that this may still be the case.

For the Yukon Grant, 55.9% of recipients were female, and for student loans 53.3% of recipients were female in 1991/92.

Information concerning student loans is particularly significant, given that these sources of funding must be repaid. Data for Canada overall reveals that, within two years of graduation, one in 20 graduates defaulted on his or her loan. While there were no significant differences noted between male and female college graduates in repaying their loans, Statistics Canada noted that female graduates with bachelor’s degrees are more likely than their male counterparts to have difficulty in repaying student loans. Graduates from university programs tended to borrow more, and females borrowed, on average, \$1,000 more than their male counterparts. The average income of females is also lower than that of males, which may add to the difficulty as well.¹³

12. Ibid., 30.

13. Ibid., 3.

Summary: Women and Education

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the educational attainment of women. This holds true for the Yukon and for Canada as a whole. A university degree was reported as the highest level of educational attainment by 15% of Yukon women and 14% of Yukon men.

In particular, young women between the ages of 25 and 34 have increased their level of educational attainment. Yukon women in this age group hold more university degrees than do their male peers in the same age cohort. However, women in the Yukon are still under-represented in terms of graduate degrees.

Nonetheless, notable differences in educational attainment are evident when the aboriginal and non-aboriginal populations of the Yukon are compared. For both sexes, persons of First Nation ancestry are more likely to report “less than grade nine” as their highest level of educational attainment, while the non-aboriginal population is considerably more likely to hold a university degree as their highest level of education.

There is also a clear difference between the sexes in the choice of educational pursuits, with women concentrated in areas such as health, education and social services. This is evident by the university degrees held by women and men and in enrolments at Yukon College. Men are over-represented in areas such as math, physical sciences and engineering.

Females and males between the ages of 15 and 24 are equally likely to report that they are attending school. First Nation males are less likely than their non-aboriginal counterparts to be attending school but no corresponding difference is seen for females.

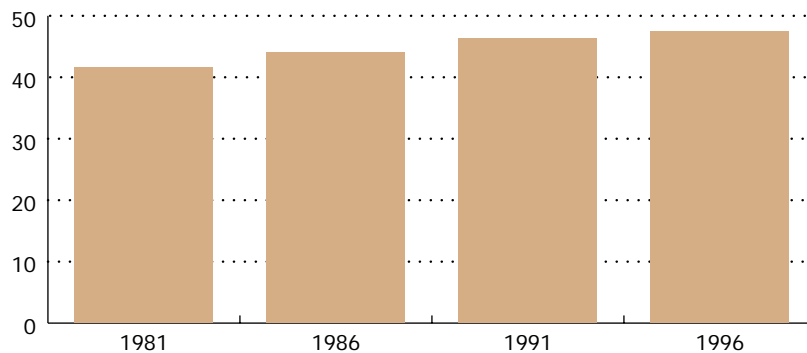
In 1997/98, females were slightly more likely than males to access funding for post-secondary education. This pattern was also seen in 1991/92, when females were more likely to access Yukon Grants, student loans and DIAND funding for aboriginal students. In that year, males were slightly more likely to access funds through the Training Allowance.

Section 4. Women and Paid Employment

Since 1991, the number of workers in the paid labour force (including paid workers and self-employed individuals) has risen. Although overall numbers have remained small, the number of unpaid family workers has risen as well.

Women in the Yukon make up an increasingly large proportion of the paid labour force. There were 4,990 female workers in 1981, making up 41.6% of the population of workers. This number rose to 6,970 (46.3% of the working population) in 1991, and to 8,010 (47.5% of the working population) in 1996.

Figure 21. Women as a percentage of employed workers
Yukon, 1981 to 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

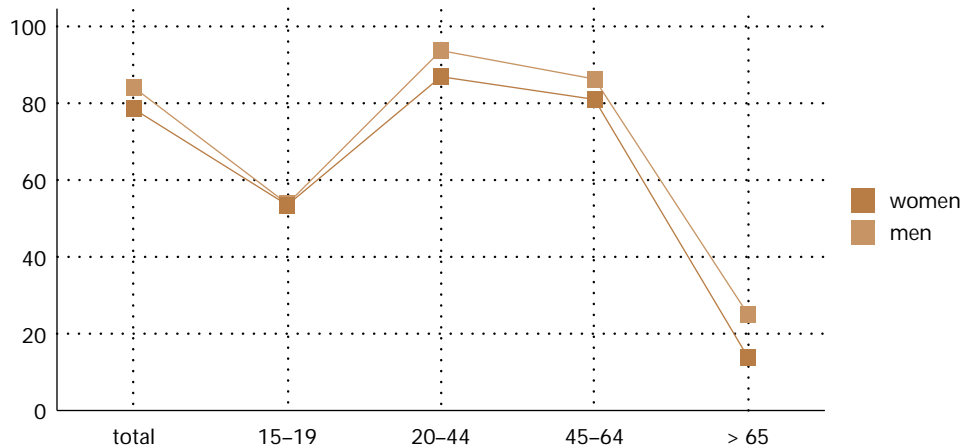
Thus, since 1981 women have gained in representation in the work force, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of all workers. This gain is evident in employees and self-employed, although in 1996 men made up the majority (70.6%) of self-employed (incorporated) and the majority (66.6%) of self-employed (unincorporated) workers. Although the number is small, females are more likely than males to be unpaid family workers (45 of the 65 unpaid family workers in 1996). Unpaid family workers are those who work without pay in family farms or businesses.

In 1996, the labour force participation rate for females was 78.5%. This was up slightly from 1991 when the participation rate of females in the Yukon was 77.4%. The participation rate for Yukon males (aged 15 years of age and older) was higher than that of females at 84.1%. This is down slightly from 1991 when the participation rate for Yukon males was 85.5%.

Labour Force Participation by Age

As might be expected, participation in the labour force varies by age. Those in the oldest and youngest age groups show the lowest participation rate, with those age 20 to 44 showing the highest labour force participation rate. This pattern holds true for both females and males.

Figure 22. Labour force participation rate by sex and age
Yukon, 1996



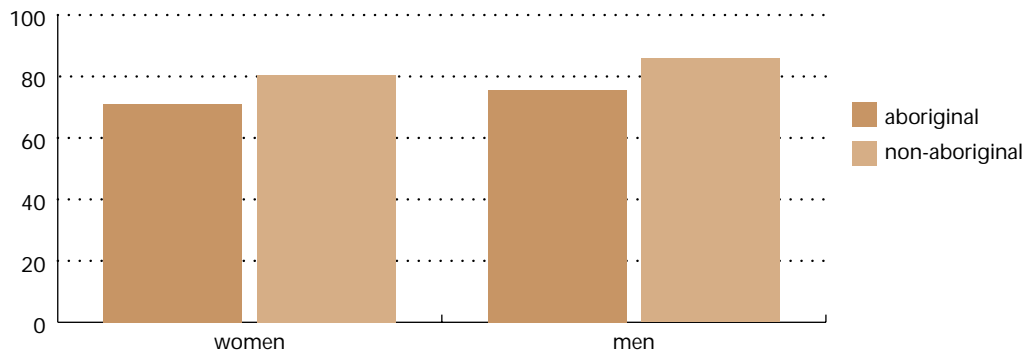
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

While the labour force participation rate for males and females between the ages of 15 and 19 is almost equal, the participation rate of males is higher in all other age categories. The gap is largest for those aged 65 and older.

Labour Force Participation by Ethnicity

Differences in labour force participation are also evident when aboriginal and non-aboriginal residents of the Yukon are compared. For both females and males, the participation rates of non-aboriginal Yukon residents in 1996 were higher than for those of First Nation ancestry. While the participation rate for aboriginal females was 71.1%, the participation rate for non-aboriginal females was 80.5%. Similarly, the participation rate for First Nation males was 75.5%, while for non-aboriginal males it was 85.9%.

Figure 23. Labour force participation rate by sex and ethnicity
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

This pattern holds true for youth (those between age 15 and 24) and for adults (age 25 and older). It is interesting to note, however, that while the participation rate for young non-aboriginal males is higher than that of their female counterparts (84.3% as compared to 71.7%), the opposite holds true for the aboriginal population. In 1996 the participation rate for aboriginal First Nations females age 15–24 was 55.6% (for non-First Nations aboriginal women it was 84.2%). The participation rate for aboriginal First Nations males age 15–24 was 54.1% (for non-First Nations aboriginal men it was 72.2%).

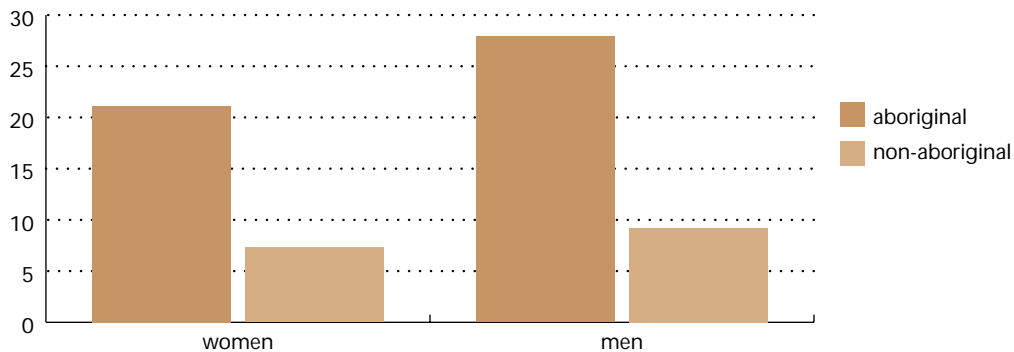
Employment and Unemployment

It should be noted that labour force participation rate includes both those who are currently employed and those who are looking for work. Thus, while labour force participation rates reveal the proportion of the population who are in the labour force, they do not tell us what proportion of that group are currently employed and what proportion are unemployed.

The data reveal that while females are less likely than males to participate in the labour force, those who do are less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed persons in a population by the number of persons in that population who are in the labour force. The unemployment rate for Yukon females in 1996 was 9.8% as compared to an unemployment rate of 12.1% for males.

This pattern holds true for both the aboriginal and the non-aboriginal populations. The unemployment rate for non-aboriginal females in 1996 was 7.3% as compared to a rate of 9.2% for non-aboriginal males. For First Nation females, the unemployment rate was 21.1% as compared to 28% for aboriginal males. What is also clear from this data is that the unemployment rate for Yukon aboriginal people of both sexes was considerably higher than for non-aboriginal residents of the territory.

Figure 24. Unemployment rate by sex and ethnicity
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Full-time and Part-time Work

People undertake paid employment for differing amounts of time. Some work primarily full-time, while others work part-time. Some work most of the year, while some work for only portions of the year. As in the rest of Canada, women in the Yukon are more likely than men to work part-time.

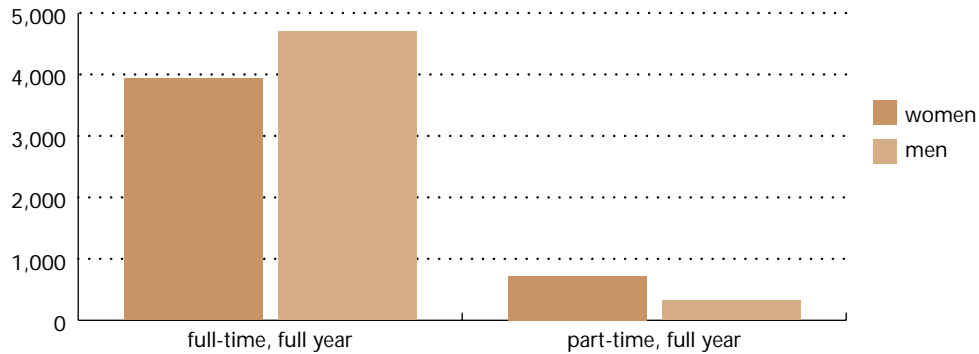
The majority (81%) of workers in the Yukon reported working on a full-time basis in 1995, the last complete year before the Census was taken. Males were more likely than females to report full-time work, with 86% of males in the work force and 75% of the female work force reporting full-time work. It should be noted that "full-time" includes those who worked on a full-time basis from anywhere between one and 52 weeks of the year. Of those who reported working mostly full-time during 1995, the average number of weeks worked was slightly higher for females than males. Females who worked mostly full-time reported an average 41.4 weeks worked while males reported an average of 40.3 weeks worked. A similar pattern was evident for those who worked mostly part-time. Females working part-time in 1995 reported an average of 31.7 weeks worked as compared to their male counterparts, who reported an average of 27.7 weeks worked.

According to the 1996 Census, less than half of Yukon residents aged 15 and older worked during 1995 on a full-time, full-year basis. Of the 19,535 persons who worked during the reference year (1995) 8,640 or 44% worked 49 or more weeks. This is lower than for Canada as a whole, where 50% of the population reported working full-time, full-year.

Of those who worked full-year, full-time in the Yukon, the majority were men. Females comprised slightly under half (46%) of full-time, full-year workers. This represents a larger proportion than for Canada overall, where 40% of full-time, full-year workers are women.

Women comprise a greater proportion of those who worked for the full-year on a part-time basis in the Yukon. Women comprised 69% of those working part-time on a full-year basis. Of those who worked for the full-year, 93.6% of males reported doing so on a full-time basis as compared to 84.5% of females who worked for a full-year.

Figure 25. Number of part-time and full-time workers by sex
Yukon, 1996

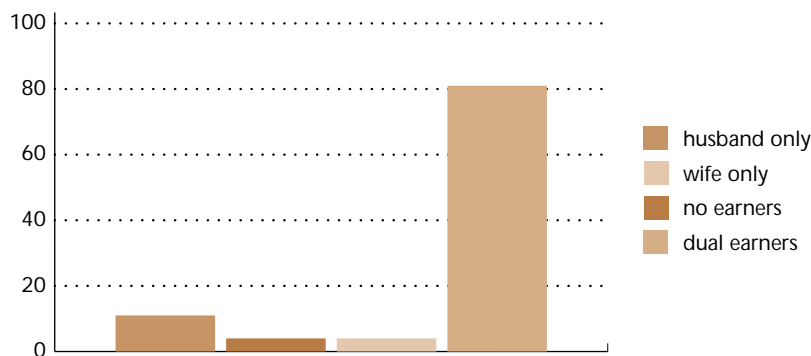


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Work and Family

The majority of families are made up of dual earners. Only a small proportion of husband-wife families fit the “traditional” pattern of wife at home and husband as the sole breadwinner. In 1996, 11.1% of families reported that only the husband was employed. An even smaller number reported only the wife employed (4.3%). An additional 4% reported no employment income.

Figure 26. Types of earners as a proportion of two-parent families
Yukon, 1996



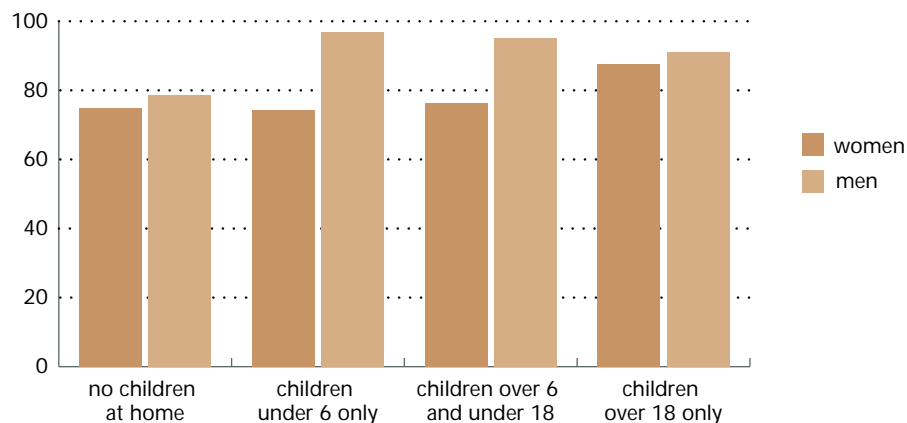
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Even when there are children at home, a significant proportion of women participate in the paid labour force. In 1996, the labour force participation rate for Yukon women with children at home was 82.6% (as compared to a participation rate of 93.0% for men with children at home).

The age of children appears to have some impact on whether or not a woman participates in the paid labour force, with labour force participation increasing as the age of children at home increases. Women with children all over the age of six were more likely than women with children under the age of six to participate in the paid labour force. The participation rate for those with children only over the age of six was 87.7%; the participation rate for those with children under six was 74.7%.

Nonetheless, three-quarters of women aged 15 and over with children under the age of six participated in the paid labour force in 1996. The British Columbia Ministry of Women's Equality accounts for a similar proportion in that province by noting such trends as an increasing need for two incomes, a growing number of single mothers who need paid employment to support their families and changing attitudes toward women in the workplace.¹⁴ These findings also reflect the concerns expressed by Yukon women in *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* (1993). When asked to identify concerns as members of the Yukon work force, almost one quarter of respondents (24%) expressed concerns about balancing work and family responsibilities.¹⁵

Figure 27. Labour force participation rate by sex and children at home
Population 15 and older, Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

14. British Columbia Ministry of Women's Equality, "The Planning Context," in Business Plan 1997-98 [on-line], available from <http://www.weq.gov.bc.ca/about/business/planning.htm>, 4.

15. Government of Yukon, Women's Directorate and Bureau of Statistics, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices: A Survey of Yukon Women*, (Reprinted 1994), 12.

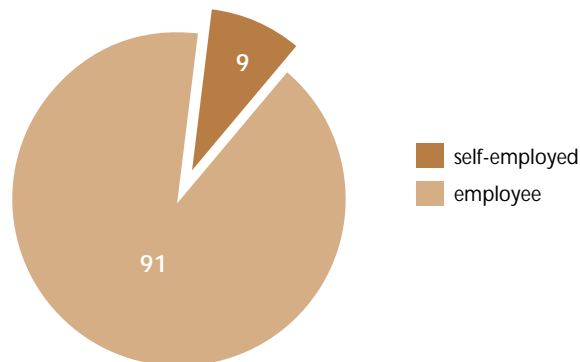
The lower overall participation rate for those of both sexes without children at home is likely attributable, at least in part, to the fact that this population would include young persons still attending school as well as those who had reached retirement age.

Self-employment

According to Statistics Canada, there was substantial growth in the number of self-employed Canadians between 1991 and 1996, with growth seen in all provinces and territories. In 1996, self-employed Canadians comprised almost 13% of the labour force, up from 10% in 1991. It was also noted that the trend in self-employment was particularly noticeable among female workers.¹⁶

In the Yukon in 1996, self-employed workers comprised nearly 13% of the experienced labour force, a figure similar to that for the nation. Most of those who were self-employed were males (68% of self-employed workers). The number of self-employed females in the Yukon increased from 575 individuals in 1991 to 760 individuals in 1996. Nonetheless, in both years women comprised 32% of self-employed workers. The self-employed accounted for nearly 9% of the female labour force at the time of the 1996 Census.¹⁷ Males were somewhat more likely to be self-employed, with self-employed workers comprising nearly 16% of the male work force.

Figure 28. Self-employed women as proportion of female labour force
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada, 1996*

Self-employed workers can be further divided into two groups — the “employers” who have their own paid help and “own account” workers who work by

16. Statistics Canada, “Yukon Part-time Work and Self-employment on the Rise,” *The Daily*, (March 17, 1998), 1.

17. *Ibid.*, 4.

and for themselves. Women are somewhat more likely than men to be “own account” workers. Of women who were self-employed, 61% worked by and for themselves, as compared to 57% of men.

Data collected for the Yukon did not indicate the type of self-employment engaged in by men and women. However, data for Canada (1991) indicates that among the self-employed, occupational patterns differ for women and men. For those who employed others, self-employment among men includes occupations such as construction foremen, physicians, lawyers and carpenters. While women shared some of the same occupations as self-employed men (e.g. physicians, sales supervisors and general managers), their jobs included more “traditionally female” occupations such as hairdressers, bookkeepers, stenographers and food and beverage supervisors.¹⁸

Among the independently self-employed, differing occupational patterns were also evident. The most common occupations for women were in child care, sales and hairdressing. For men, the most common occupations were sales, carpenters and truck drivers.¹⁹

The growing number of women as self-employed entrepreneurs raises a number of issues. These include how to juggle business and family responsibilities, “ghettoization” in low financial return sectors such as retail or service, and lack of access to capital. Another issue is obtaining continuing operational support from husbands, unlike male-business owners whose wives traditionally contribute unpaid operational support.²⁰ The fact that the majority of unpaid family workers in the Yukon are women suggests that women are indeed more likely to provide unpaid work to business enterprises than are men (see page 55).

Place of Work

Women are only slightly more likely than their male counterparts to work at home. In 1996, 7% of Yukon females and 6.6% of Yukon males reported that their home is their usual place of work. Males were more likely than females to report “no fixed work address”. This response was provided by 14.3% of males and 3.8% of females. This reflects the work that males and females do, with males more likely to engage in occupations — such as construction work, transport and landscaping — which have no fixed work address (see Occupational Segregation).

18. A. Gardner, “Their Own Boss: The Self-Employed in Canada,” *Canadian Social Trends* 37 (Summer 1995): 28.

19. *Ibid.*, 28.

20. Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, *Women in Business*, issue summary (November 1993), 2.

Occupational Segregation

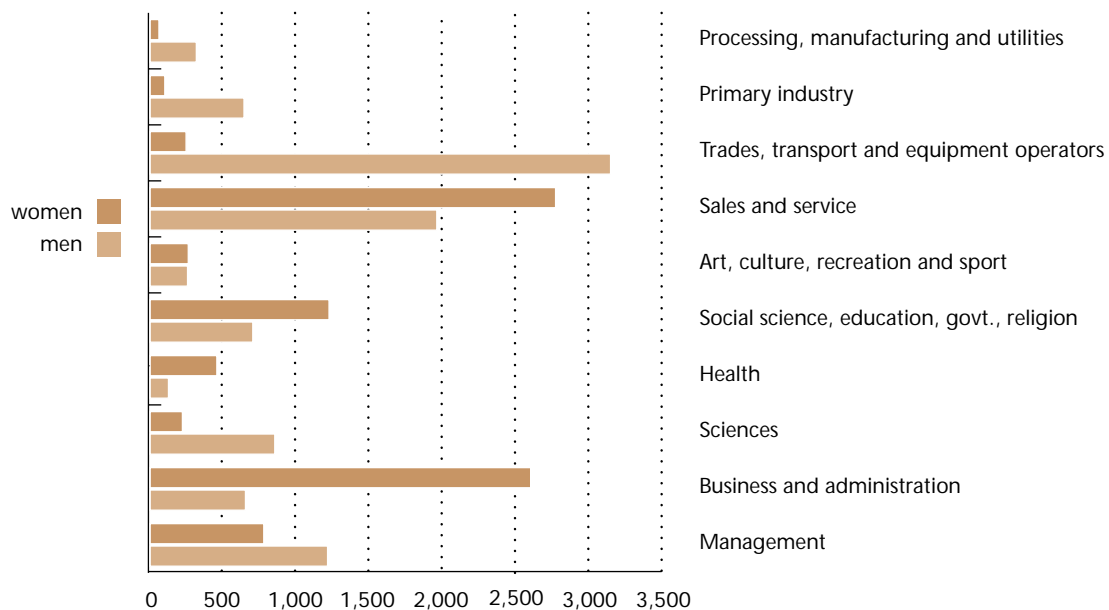
In comparing the proportion of men and women in broad occupational categories, some patterns emerge. Broad occupational categories refer to the general kind of work that persons do.

When looking at the various occupational groupings, we see that females in the Yukon outnumber males in “Business and administration” (primarily clerical), as well as in “Health” (primarily nursing), “Social Science/education” (teachers, social workers, government workers and the clergy) and “Sales and service” (including retail sales, food and beverage services and child care/home support workers). In 1996, 80.9% of the female labour force was found in these occupational fields.

Males outnumber women in “Management”, “Natural and applied sciences”, “Trades, transport and equipment operators” and primary industries. The majority of male workers are found in trades and transport occupations, particularly in the construction trades and heavy equipment operators.

These data reflect trends seen elsewhere in Canada and are also reflective of the educational choices that women and men make. Just as there is clear evidence of gender differences in choosing educational fields, there are also clear gender distinctions in the types of occupations pursued by women and by men.

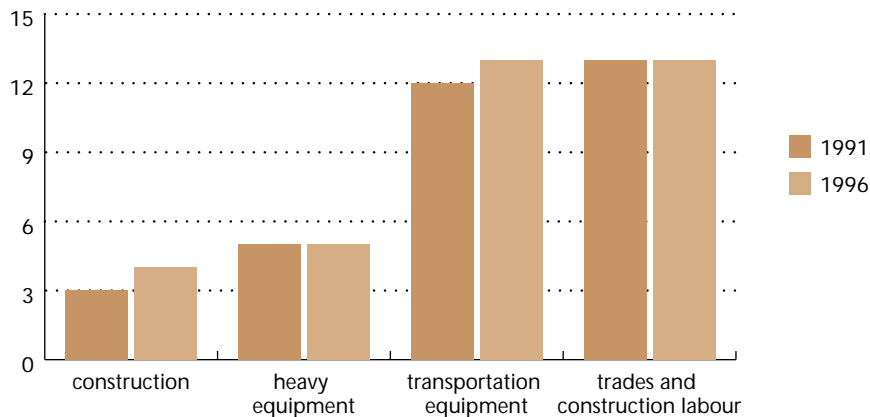
Figure 29. Occupational category by sex
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Women make up a very small proportion of those in “Trades, transport and equipment operation”. There have been some changes since 1991, but these have been slight (generally an increase in five or ten workers).

Figure 30. Proportion of women in selected occupations
Yukon, 1991 and 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, Special Run

Labour Force By Industrial Division

If we examine the labour force by industrial division, we see that for both the female and male labour force, workers are more likely to be found in the service-producing industries than the goods producing industries. Goods producing industries include such things as agriculture, mining and construction while service industries include wholesale and retail trade, government services as well as educational and social services. The increasing proportion of workers in service industries reflects a trend existing in Canada for more than four decades.²¹

Nearly 80% of workers are in the service producing industries. However, females are more likely than males to work in service industries and conversely, males are more likely than females to work in the goods producing sectors. Only 9.5% of female workers, but 30% of male workers are found in goods-producing industries. Thus, 90.5% of female workers and 70% of male workers are found in service industries.

Since 1991, there has been a decline in the proportion of both females and males in the goods-producing industries. In 1991, 10.9% of the female labour force and 34% of the male labour force worked in goods-producing sectors.

21. Statistics Canada, “Labour Force Activity, Occupation and Industry, Place of Work, Mode of Transportation to Work, Unpaid Work,” *The Daily* (March 17, 1998).

Within the goods-producing industries, males significantly outnumber females in logging and forestry, mining and construction. Females comprise only 15% of those in logging, 18% of those in mining and 9% of those in construction industries.

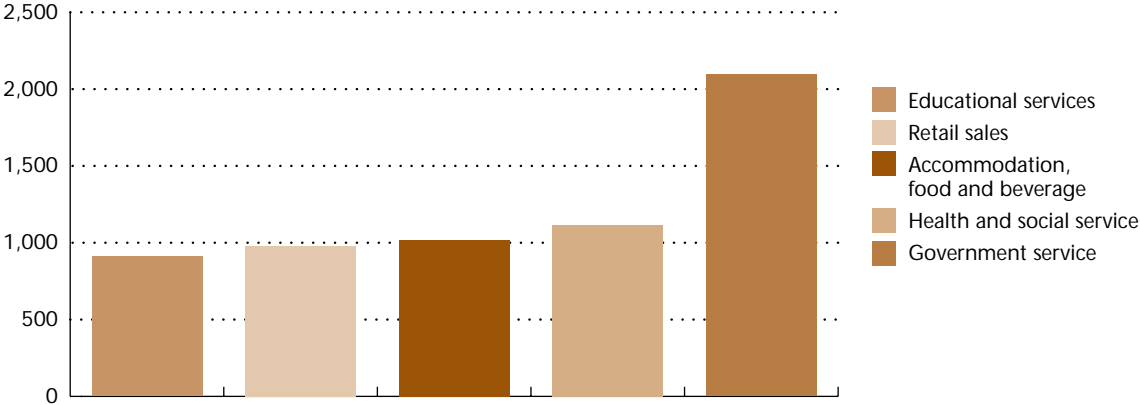
In service-producing sectors, there are almost equal numbers of females and males in retail industries. Women are most likely to be found in retail trade, government services, health and social services, food and beverage service and educational service occupations. These five occupational categories include 70% of female workers (as compared to 43% of the male labour force). Males are most likely to be employed in government service and construction, followed by retail trade and mining industries.

Table 4. Number employed in labour force by industry division and sex Yukon, 1996

Industry	No. Females	No. Males
Agricultural industries	50	60
Fishing and trapping	15	30
Logging and forestry	35	195
Mining	215	965
Manufacturing	95	210
Construction industries	140	1,345
Transportation and storage	205	820
Communication and other utility	280	405
Wholesale trade industries	115	360
Retail trade	980	1,000
Finance and insurance	240	75
Real estate operator and insurance agent industries	115	85
Business service industries	420	420
Government service industries	2,095	1,840
Educational service industries	910	375
Health and social service industries	1,115	265
Accommodation, food and beverage service industries	1,020	775
Other service industries	640	610

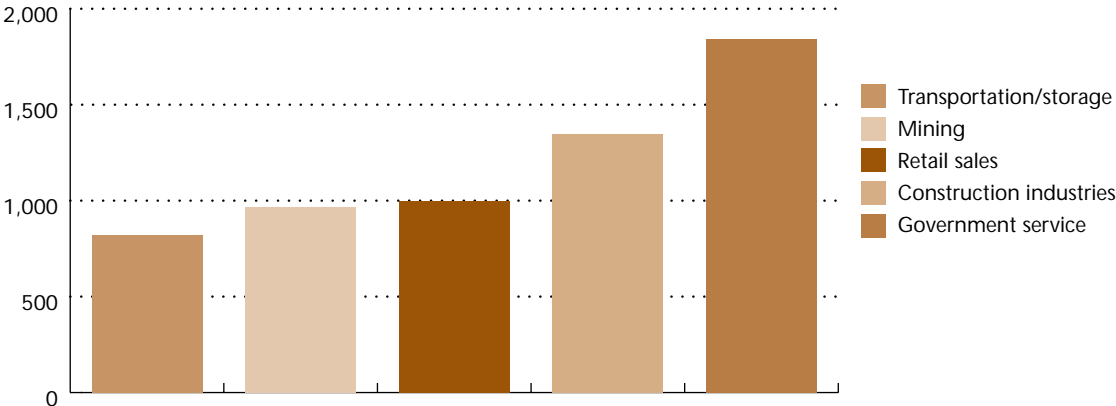
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Figure 31. Five most frequent industrial categories for women
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Figure 32. Five most frequent industrial categories for men
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Consequences of Occupational Segregation

Occupational segregation is of concern because the occupations and industries where women are most often employed tend to be of lower status, and often they provide limited opportunities for advancement. They are often lower paying as well. Occupational segregation explains part of the wage gap between men and women (see page 45).

The participation rate of women in the highest and lowest paying occupations in Canada can help to illustrate the consequences of occupational segregation.

While no comparable data is available for the Yukon, data for Canada overall indicates that female workers are under-represented in the highest paying occupations and over-represented in the lowest paying occupations.

In 1995, approximately 5% of employed Canadians worked in the 25 highest paying occupations. These occupations included judges, physicians, dentists and lawyers, and had an average employment income of \$80,206. This compares to an overall average income of \$37,556 (for all full-time workers).

Women accounted for 22% of earners in the 25 highest paying occupations. However, the average earnings of women within these occupations was considerably lower than that of their male counterparts. The average earnings for women within the 15 highest paying occupations was \$58,943 as compared to \$86,139 for their male counterparts.²²

Approximately 7.6% of Canadian workers are employed in the 25 lowest paying occupations. Women were over-represented in these occupations. Females comprised 68% of those in the lowest paying occupations, which included such jobs as early childhood educators, cashiers, food service personnel and child care workers. The lowest paid workers were babysitters and nannies, who averaged \$12,662 annually. And within the lowest paying occupations, the average wage for women was lower than that of men. The average income for women was \$16,564 as compared to \$20,238 for their male counterparts.²³

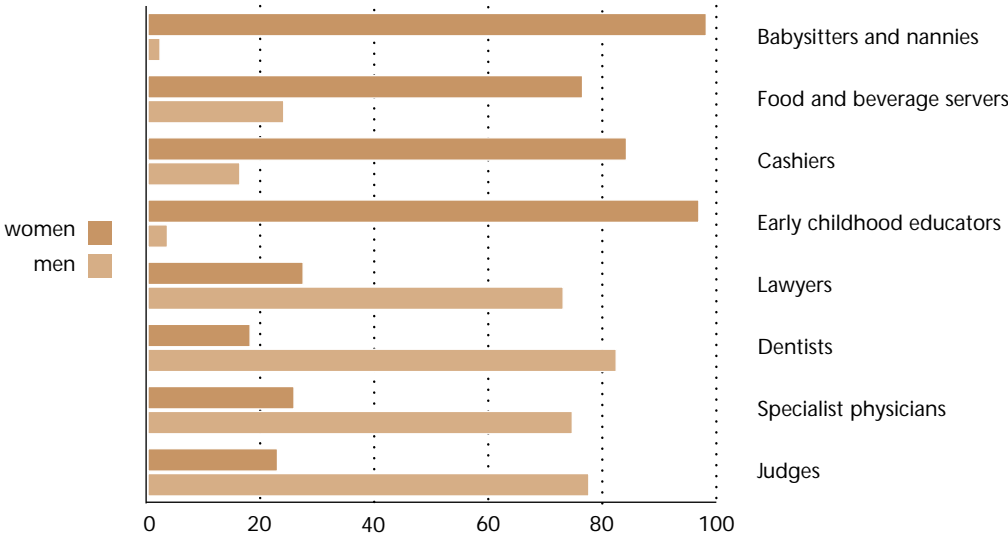
It is interesting to note that women often feel overqualified for the jobs they perform. This is particularly true for those with higher levels of education. Reporting on findings applying to the Canadian work force overall, Kelly, Howatson-Leo and Clark reported: "in 1994, one in four women with a university or community college education felt overqualified for their jobs, compared with one in five male graduates... One possible explanation is that more women than men may accept jobs with lower level requirements in order to balance family demands and earning an income; for example, taking a retail job because it allows them to work part-time".²⁴

22. Statistics Canada, "1996 Census: Sources of Income, Earnings and Total Income and Family Income," *The Daily* (May 12, 1998): 11-14.

23. *Ibid.*, 11-14.

24. K. Kelly, L. Howatson-Leo and W. Clark, "I feel overqualified for my job...", *Canadian Social Trends* 47 (Winter 1997): 12.

Figure 33. Proportion of work force in selected occupations by sex
Canada, 1996

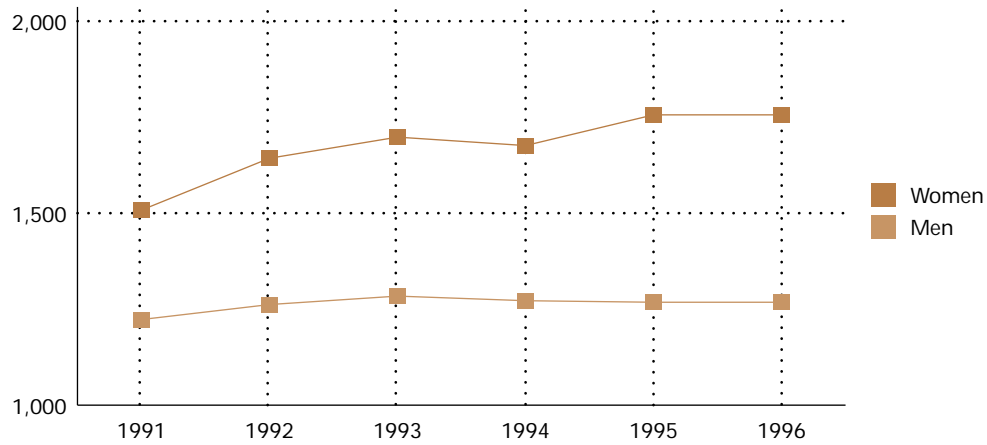


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Government Work Force

A significant proportion of the population of the Yukon is employed by the government. For example, in 1994 a total of 4,650 persons or 35% of the total employed work force were employed by either the federal, territorial or municipal governments. The majority of these were employed by the territorial government. Therefore, it makes sense to look to the public service concerning the representation of women and men at various levels. The data reveal that there are more women than men in the public service.

Figure 34. Proportion of workers in the Yukon public service by sex 1991 to 1996

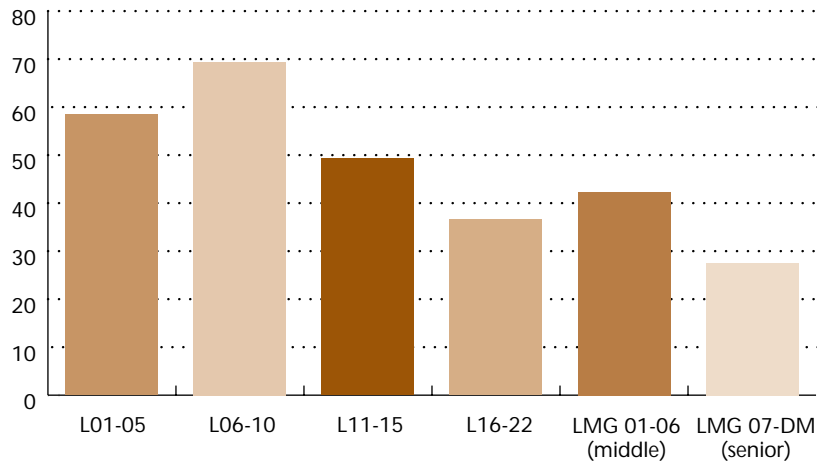


Source: Government of Yukon, Public Service Commission, 1997

Over the six-year period between 1991 and 1996, there have consistently been more women than men in the public service. There are also more aboriginal women than aboriginal men in the public service, although aboriginal people overall remain under-represented, particularly at the upper levels. In 1996, 65% of the aboriginal people employed in the public service were women.

While the data reveals the number of women in the public service overall, they do not tell us anything about the occupational category or level at which men and women are found. Further analysis of the data shows that women make up the majority of workers at the two lowest occupational levels in the Yukon Public Service. Women and men are represented almost equally at the middle level, and women are under-represented at the upper levels, particularly senior management. In comparing the years 1991 and 1996, the pattern is similar.

Figure 35. Percentage of women in the public service by occupational level
Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Public Service Commission, 1997

The majority of women working for the territorial government (54.8%) are in 06-10 and 11-15 level positions. The majority of government employees (53.4%) are also in 06-10 and 11-15 level positions. Women are represented where the majority of the positions exist. Only 9.3% of all women in YTG are in 01-05 level positions (same percentage as the government as a whole). The percentage (9.3%) is the same for male employees. Women are under-represented in 16-22 level positions.

The data on occupational level indicates that in 16-22 level positions the representation of women has steadily increased from 28% (57 women) in 1991 to 36.6% (100 women) in 1996. This is a significant increase and should not be excluded from the analysis in the report. The salary levels and responsibilities assigned to positions in 16-22 level positions are substantial and for certain positions carry more authority than lower level management positions. (Note: some management level positions are confidential exclusions, particularly in the Departments of Public Service Commission, Executive Council Office and the Legislative Assembly. Confidential exclusions often include support positions that do not carry any supervising functions).

The number of women in scientific/technical (ST) positions has increased from 31.8% or 77 women in 1991 to 38.4% or 119 women in 1996. This is important, as these positions include areas traditionally dominated by men, such as engineering and computer technology. (This increase was before the transfer of nurses from Health Canada in 1997; nurses are classified in ST positions).²⁵

25. Government of Yukon, Public Service Commission, *Employment Equity Report 1990-1996*, (1997), 75.

Summary: Women and Paid Employment

Women make up an increasing proportion of the paid labour force. In 1996, 78.5% of women age 15 years of age and older participated in the paid labour force. This rate is slightly less than the participation rate for males.

The participation rate for both females and males varied by age and ethnicity. For both sexes, those age 15–19 and those age 65 and older were least likely to participate in the paid labour force. The largest gap between males and females was for those in the oldest age group.

For both sexes, non-aboriginal persons reported a higher rate of labour force participation than did Yukon residents of First Nation ancestry. Aboriginal Yukoners of both sexes also experienced higher rates of unemployment than did non-aboriginal Yukoners. Although women have a lower labour force participation rate, those who are in the labour force are less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed.

Less than half of Yukon workers report working full-time, full-year. Of those who worked on a full-time basis for the full-year, 46% were women. Women were more likely to work on a part-time basis, and 69% of those who reported working part-time for a full-year were women.

In 1996, most families in the Yukon were dual-earners, with only a small proportion (11.1%) fitting the so-called “traditional” pattern of male breadwinner. A significant proportion (82.6%) of women with children at home participate in the paid labour force, although participation rate increases as children get older. The participation rate of women with children over the age of six is higher than for those whose children are under the age of six.

There has been a growth in the number of women who are self-employed, but males continue to comprise the majority of self-employed workers. Women who are self-employed are somewhat more likely to be “own account” workers (working by and for themselves), rather than employers of others. A small proportion of workers report working at home, and women are only slightly more likely than men to report their home as their usual place of work. Men are more likely than women to report “no fixed work address”, reflecting differences in the types of work done by women and men.

Just as there are gender differences in education, there is also clear occupational distinction. Women are more likely than men to be found in service-producing industries than in goods-producing industries. Females in the Yukon outnumber males in “Business, finance and administrative occupations” (primarily clerical), as well as in “Health” (primarily nursing), “Social science/education” (teachers and social

workers) and "Sales and service" (including retail sales, food and beverage services and child care/home support workers). In 1996, 80.9% of the female labour force was found in these occupational fields.

Men outnumber women in "Management", "Natural and applied sciences", "Trades, transport and equipment operators" and primary industries. The majority of male workers are found in trades and transport occupations, particularly in the construction trades and heavy equipment operators.

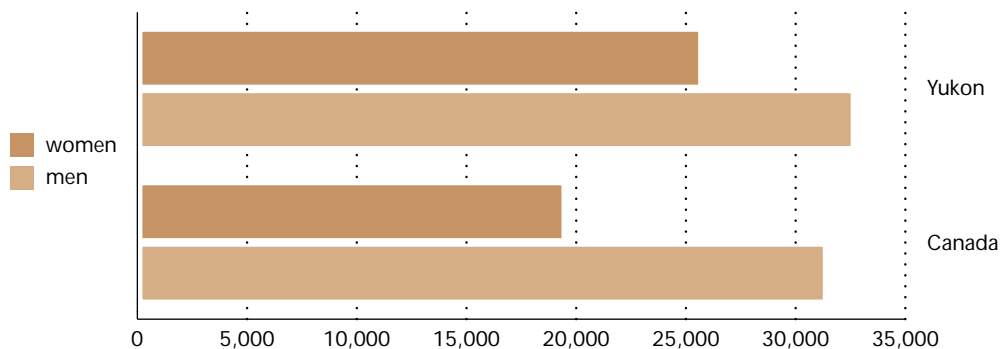
There are more women than men in the public service, but women tend to be concentrated at the lowest occupational levels. They remain under-represented in senior management.

Section 5. Women and Income

There is a gap between the average income of men and the average income of women. This gap exists in the Yukon and in Canada as a whole, although it varies by age group. In Canada, the average income for women was \$19,208 and the average income for men was \$31,117. This means that a woman makes, on average, 62 cents for every dollar a man makes. It is interesting to note that the average income for both men and women has declined since 1990, but the income gap (which was 58 cents per dollar in 1990) has closed slightly.

In the Yukon, the average income for both men and women is higher than in Canada as a whole. In 1990 women's income in the territory was 70% of men's (70 cents for every dollar). In 1995, the average income of Yukon men was \$32,387 while the average for Yukon women was \$25,430. As well, the gap between women's and men's income is slightly smaller in the Yukon than it is in Canada as a whole. In the Yukon in 1995, women made 79 cents for every dollar a man made. As in Canada overall, the average income of Yukon men has declined since 1990, but the average income for women has risen slightly over the same period.

Figure 36. Average income by sex
Yukon and Canada, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

As would be expected, average income is higher for both men and women when only employment income is taken into account and only those who work full-time, full-year are considered. For full-time, full-year workers, the average income for Canadian men is \$42,488 and the average for women is \$30,130. This translates to 71 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Similarly, in the Yukon, the average full-time, full-year income is \$47,050 for male workers and \$37,715 for females. The wage gap is smaller than for the nation as a whole. Women working full-time, full-year earn an average of 80 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn.

Income and Ethnicity

Average income varies not only by sex but by ethnicity. As well, within the First Nation population, differences are evident between those who report First Nation membership and those who do not.

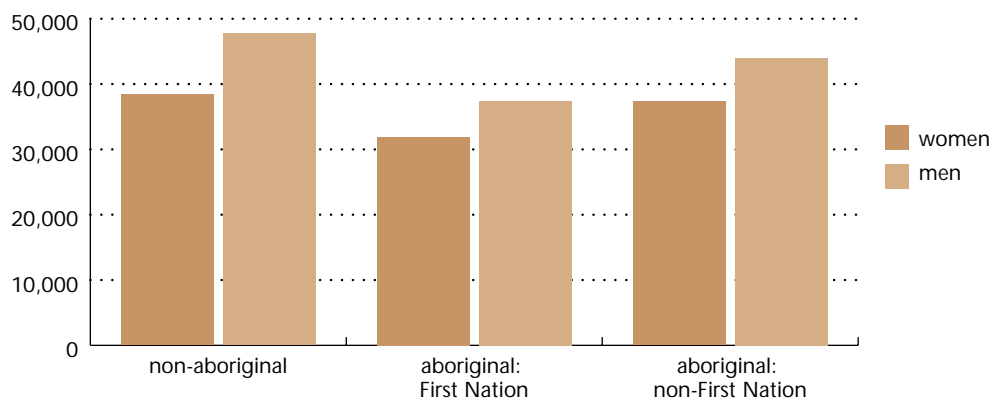
In the Yukon in 1996, the average employment income for non-aboriginal females was \$26,703. This compares to an average employment income of \$17,569 for Yukon aboriginal women reporting First Nation membership. For aboriginal women not reporting First Nation membership the average income was slightly higher, at \$22,551.

A similar pattern was evident for males, with non-aboriginal males reporting an average employment income of \$34,050 in 1996. The average employment income for First Nation members was \$18,794 and \$27,591 for aboriginal males not reporting First Nation membership.

Discrepancies are evident when only the employment income of those working full-time, full-year is considered. Non-aboriginal women working full-time, full-year earned an average of \$38,398 as compared to \$31,917 for female aboriginal First Nation members. The average income of aboriginal women who did not report First Nation membership was closer to the income for non-aboriginal women at \$37,322.

Males working full-time, full-year reported average incomes higher than those of their female counterparts. In 1996, non-aboriginal males working full-time had an average income of \$47,726; First Nation members had an income of \$37,432, and aboriginal men who were not First Nation members had an average employment income of \$44,011.

Figure 37. Average employment income (\$) by sex and ethnicity
Full-time, full-year workers, Yukon, 1996



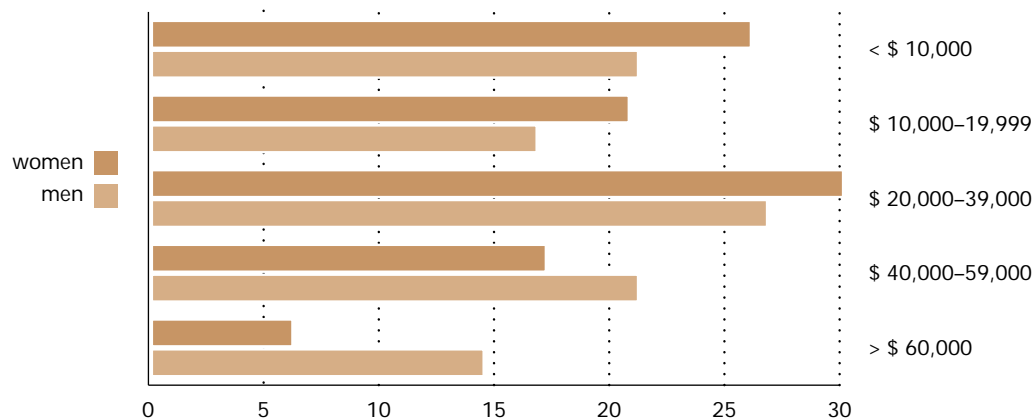
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, Special Run

Note: Aboriginal First Nations income was not subject to income tax at time of writing.

Income distribution

In the Yukon in 1995, 46.8% of females aged 15 and over who reported income had an income of less than \$20,000 annually. This compares with 37.8% for men. Conversely, 14.4% of males with income reported an income of \$60,000 or more, as compared to 6.1% of females.

Figure 38. Proportion of employment income groups by sex
Yukon, 1996



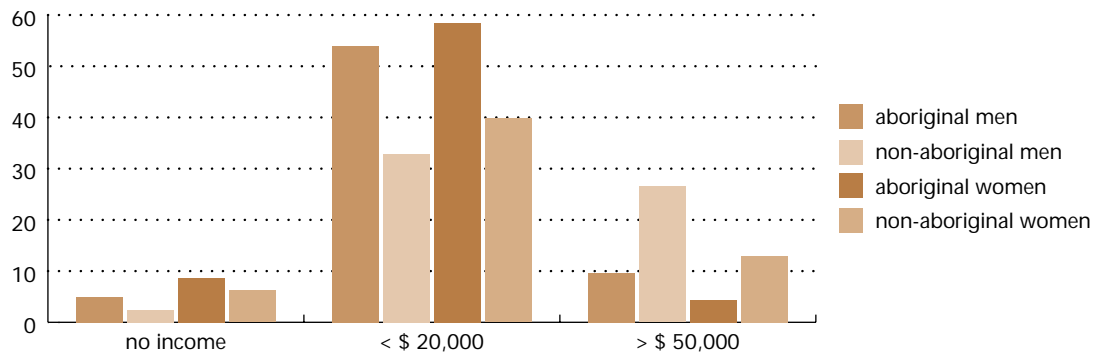
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Thus, a greater proportion of females with an income report average income at the lowest ranges, while a greater proportion of males report incomes at the highest levels. A greater proportion of females than males also report “no income” — 6.7% of females age 15 and older, as compared with 2.9% of males in the same age group.

Differences were also evident on the basis of ethnicity. While 42.5% of the non-aboriginal female population reported incomes of less than \$20,000 in 1996, 64% of aboriginal females reported the same. Similarly, 33.7% of non-aboriginal males had incomes less than \$20,000 as compared to 57.1% of aboriginal males.

At the higher levels of income, 13.9% of non-aboriginal females had incomes of \$50,000 or more, as compared to 4.8% of aboriginal females. Over one-quarter (27.1%) of non-aboriginal males had incomes in this range, as compared to 10% of aboriginal males. Aboriginal males and females were also more likely to report “no income” than were their non-aboriginal counterparts.

Figure 39. Selected income categories by sex and ethnicity
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Explaining the Wage Gap

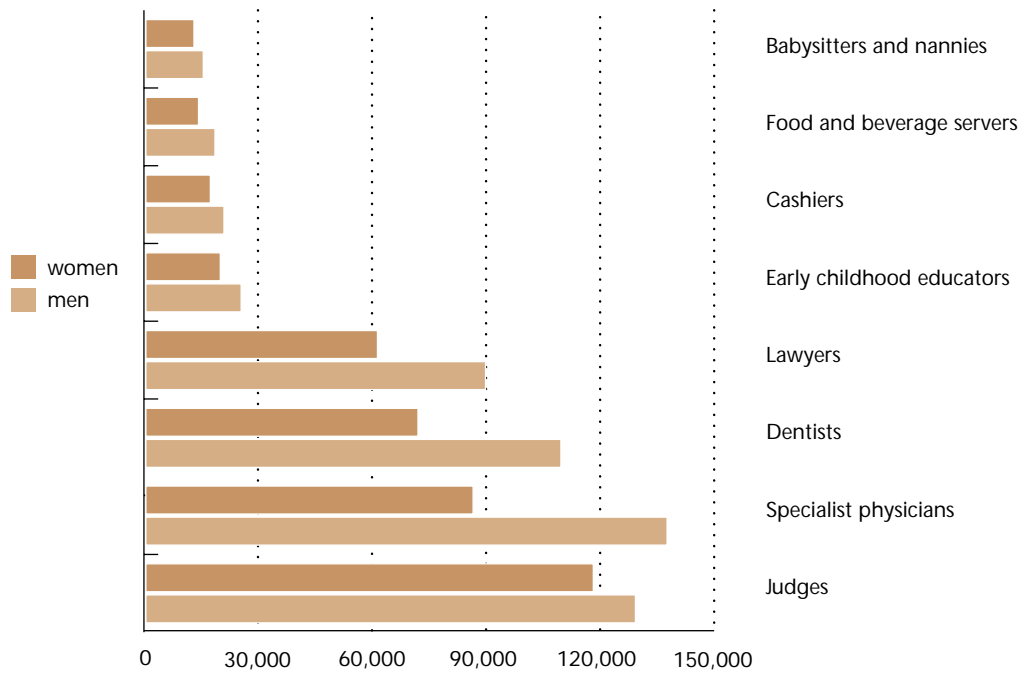
There are a number of factors that contribute to the gap between the average incomes of women and men. Part of the reason is that women are more likely than men to work part-time (see page 27), and consequently their earnings would be lower. Another factor contributing to the lower average wage of women is occupational segregation (see page 35). Women tend to be concentrated in particular segments of the occupational structure, and these segments tend to be lower paying.

However, even within occupational categories, women on average receive lower wages than do men. Although data for the Yukon is not available, data for the nation as a whole reveals that women and men receive different levels of income within the same occupational category. For example, the average earnings for female judges is \$117,707 as compared to \$128,791 for males (91%). The average income for female dentists is \$71,587 as compared to \$109,187 for male dentists (66%).

Even within “traditionally female” occupations, where women make up the largest proportion of workers, a wage gap exists. The average income for females working as early childhood educators is \$19,586 as compared to \$25,074 for males in the same occupational category (78%). Female babysitters and nannies average \$12,662 as compared to \$15,106 for their male counterparts (84%).²⁶

26. Statistics Canada, “1996 Census: Sources of Income, Earnings and Total Income, and Family Income,” *The Daily* (May 12, 1998): 12.

Figure 40. Proportion of average income groups in selected occupations by sex
Full-time/full-year workers, Canada, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Factors that must be taken into consideration in explaining the wage gap within occupational categories include level of education, length of time in the work force, hours of work per week and weeks per year, and possible discriminatory practices.

Income and Age

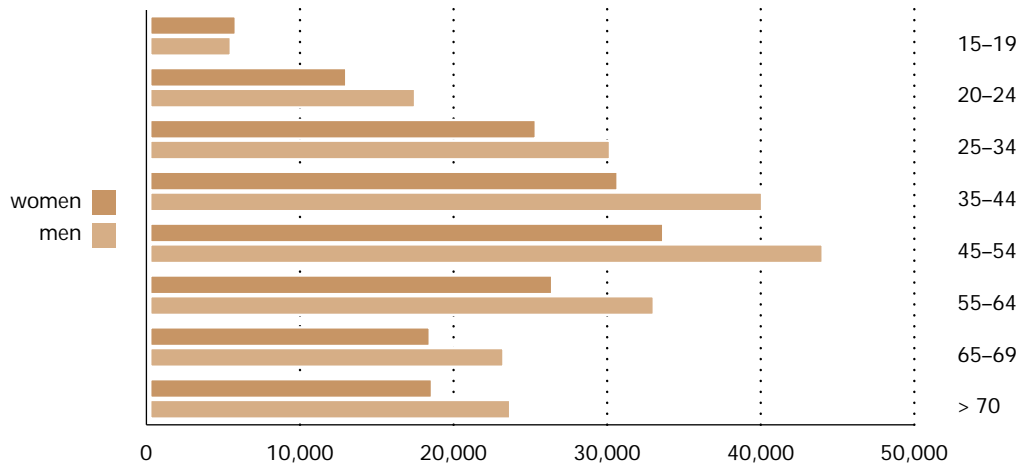
Of those reporting incomes in the lowest range, a significant proportion were young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and a significant proportion were those over the age of 65. At the youngest age groups, there was little difference by sex. At the oldest age groups, however, men were somewhat less likely than women to report incomes under \$20,000 annually.

Of women aged 15–24 reporting income, 85% reported earning incomes less than \$20,000 annually. This compares to 78% of males in this age range. Of women aged 65 or older, 72% reported incomes less than \$20,000, as compared to 59% of males in the same age group.

In both the Yukon and Canada, income increases with age until late middle age (45-54 years of age), and then declines. This pattern holds true for both women and men, and reflects patterns of labour force participation. Nonetheless, the average income of males surpasses that of females at every age group with the exception of those aged 15–19. In this age group, women’s average income is

slightly higher than that of men (\$5,568 as compared to \$5,243). The largest gap occurs in the 45–54 age range, where women make an average of 55% of men's income.

Figure 41. Proportion of average income by age group and sex
Yukon, 1995



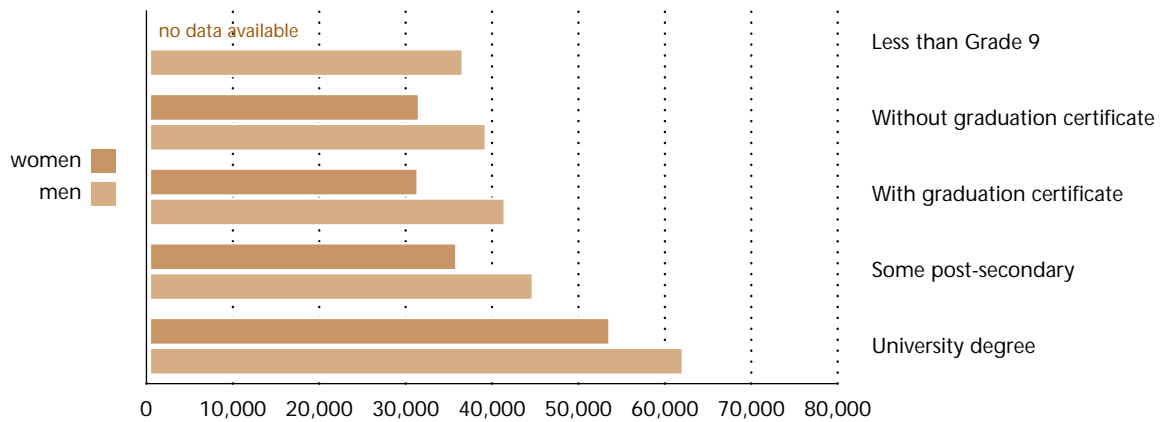
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Income and Education

For Canada and the Yukon, income is closely tied to education. The average income for both females and males increases with the level of education. For example, a Yukon female with high school education, working full-time, makes approximately \$31,000 on average, while a female with a university degree makes \$53,189 on average. A male with high school education makes approximately \$40,000 per year, while a male with a university education makes an average of close to \$62,000 annually.

Regardless of women's educational qualifications, their earnings are consistently lower than men's. It is interesting to note that females with some post-secondary education earn less, on average, than males with less than grade nine education. This can be explained in part by occupational segregation, with some of the "traditionally male" occupations providing higher income returns for less education.

Figure 42. Proportion of average income groups by level of education and sex
 Population 15 years and older, working full-time, full-year; Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Income and Family Status

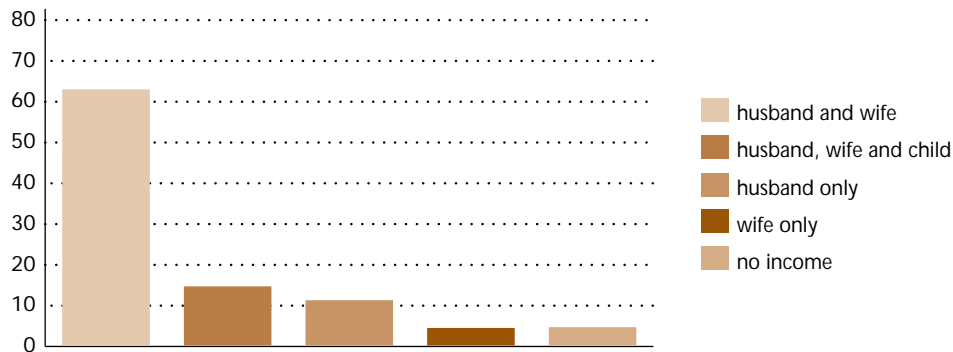
Another way of looking at the issue of income is to examine average family income. Average family income varies across the country, with the average family income in Canada reported to be \$56,629 in 1996.²⁷ The average family income in the Yukon for the same year was slightly higher at \$61,807, reflecting the higher individual incomes in the Yukon.

As might be expected, average family income varies by family structure. Husband-wife families have a higher average income than do lone-parent families, particularly if both partners in husband-wife families earn income.

In the Yukon in 1995, the majority of husband-wife families reported both husband and wife with employment income (or husband, wife and children with income). Husband and wife, or husband, wife and children with employment income was reported by 77.3% of families. In addition, 11.1% of families reported that only the husband had employment earnings, and an even smaller proportion (4.3%) reported that the wife was the only one with employment earnings. Thus, dual-earner families are the majority in the Yukon (see page 28).

27. Canadian Council on Social Development — *Fact Sheet* [on-line], available from <http://www.ccsd.factsheets/fsavin96.htm>.

Figure 43. Proportion of husband-wife families by earner
Yukon, 1995



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

In 1996, the average family income for husband-wife families was \$66,869. However, there was considerable variation depending on whether the female partner in the relationship had earnings. In husband-wife families where both the husband and wife had earnings, the average family income was \$69,038 as compared to \$46,181 where the wife was without earnings. Thus, when wives are employed, they contribute significantly to the family earnings.

In husband and wife families where only the wife reported earnings, the average family income was \$43,303. This was about 94% of the average family earnings with only the husband working. However, it was higher than the average family income for female headed lone-parent families which was \$34,291. No data was available for male lone-parent families, reflecting the small numbers of such families in the Yukon.

Table 5. Average family income by family structure
Yukon, 1996

Family structure	Average family income (\$)
Husband-wife families	66,869
Husband and wife with earnings	69,038
Husband only	46,181
Wife only	43,303
Female lone-parent families	34,291
Male lone-parent families	no data

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Low Income Families

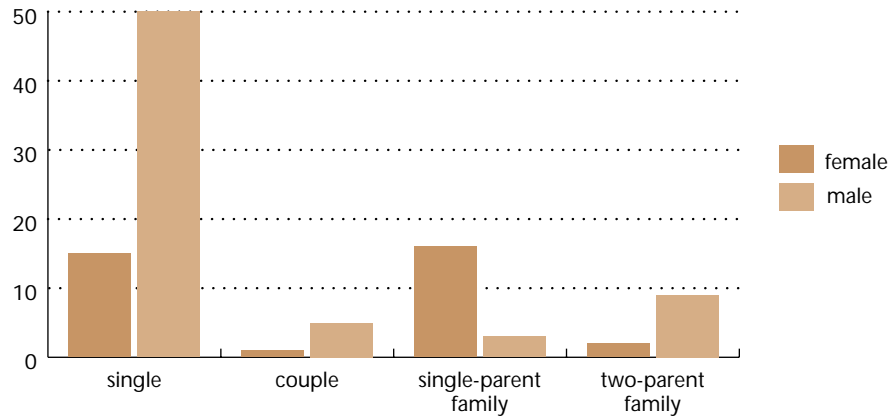
In Canada overall in 1995, 16.3% of families had low incomes. (According to Statistics Canada, families spending more than a prescribed percentage of their income on basic necessities are considered to have low income.) This was up from 13.1% in 1990. Incidence of low income varied by family status, with 11.7% of husband-wife families experiencing low income, whereas 48% of female-headed lone-parent families and 23.9% of male-headed lone-parent families. The incidence of low income was also high among unattached individuals, with 38.7% of single males and 45.3% of single females experiencing low income.

While no comparable data concerning low incomes was available for the Yukon, one would expect that patterns would be similar. We do know that nearly 30% of female lone-parent families in the Yukon have incomes of less than \$20,000 annually, with 23.9% of these families reporting incomes of less than \$15,000. Only 8.8% of husband-wife families reported incomes less than \$20,000 and 4.6% reported incomes of \$15,000 or less. No data was available for male one-parent families in the Yukon. Canadian data suggests that the average income for male lone-parent families is approximately one third higher than average income for female lone-parent families. In Canada in 1996, the average income for male lone-parent families was \$40,974, compared to \$27,721 for female-headed lone-parent families.

Social Assistance

Single men are by far the largest user group on social assistance, making up 50% of the total caseload. Single women make up 15% of the total caseload (the total caseload of single people is 65%). This is a dramatic change from several years ago when two-thirds of social assistance caseloads were single parents. This decrease could be reflective of new government incentives such as the National Child Benefit and the Drug and Optical Program. Social assistance recipients who use these two programs must have them deducted from their assistance benefits, in which case they may be less inclined to use social assistance.

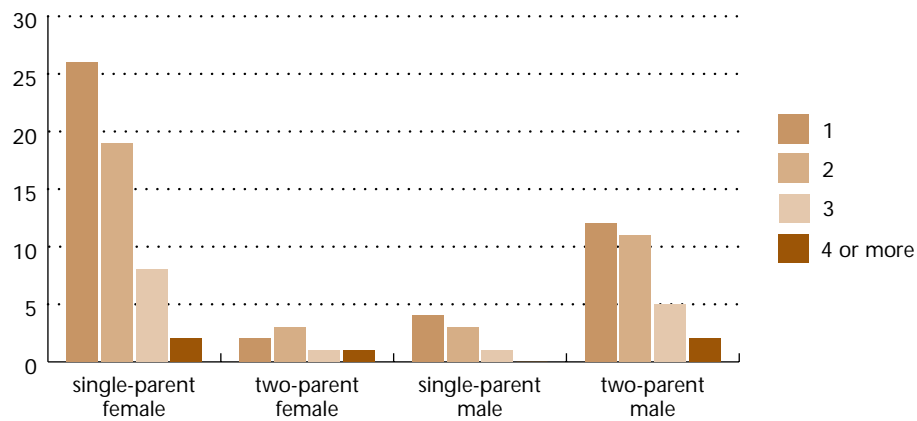
Figure 44. Family type by gender of head of household



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, 1998

The term “head of household” is used to describe the primary income earner and/or last person employed in the family. An average of 16% of the total caseload is single-parent families headed by females. Single parent families headed by males comprise only 3%; 34% of the total caseload are households headed up by females.

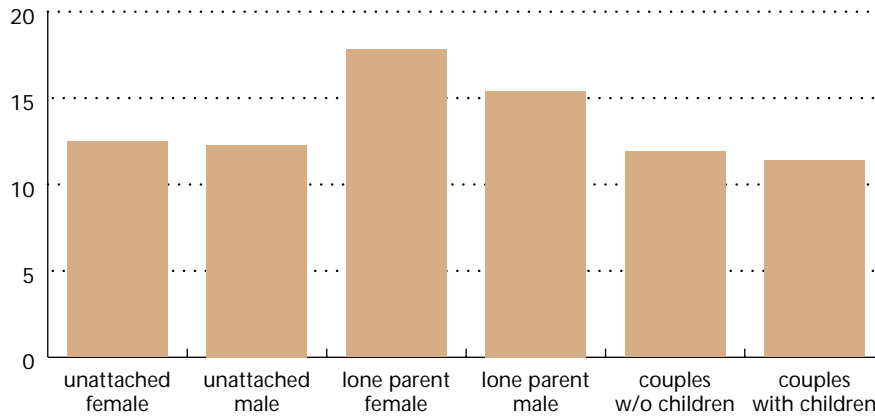
Figure 45. Number of children by family type and gender of head of household



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, 1998

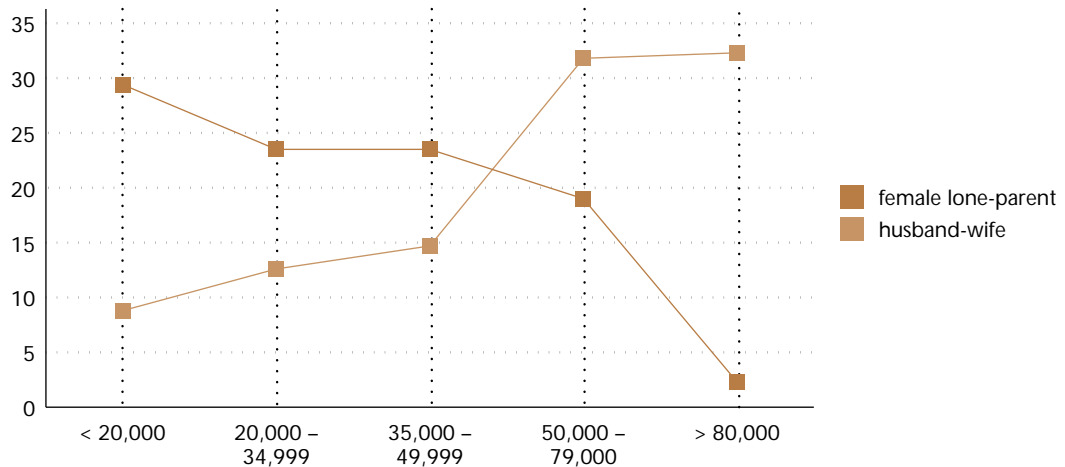
Single mothers receive social assistance for longer periods of time than other beneficiaries. In 1997, for example, single mothers averaged 6.7 months on social assistance, compared to single fathers, who averaged 6.1 months. This is longer than the time spent by unattached females and males and couples. In 1997, single females averaged 4.9 months on assistance, compared to single males, who averaged 4.7 months.

Figure 46. Average number of months on Social Assistance by family type



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, 1998

Figure 47. Proportion of average income by family structure Yukon, 1995



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

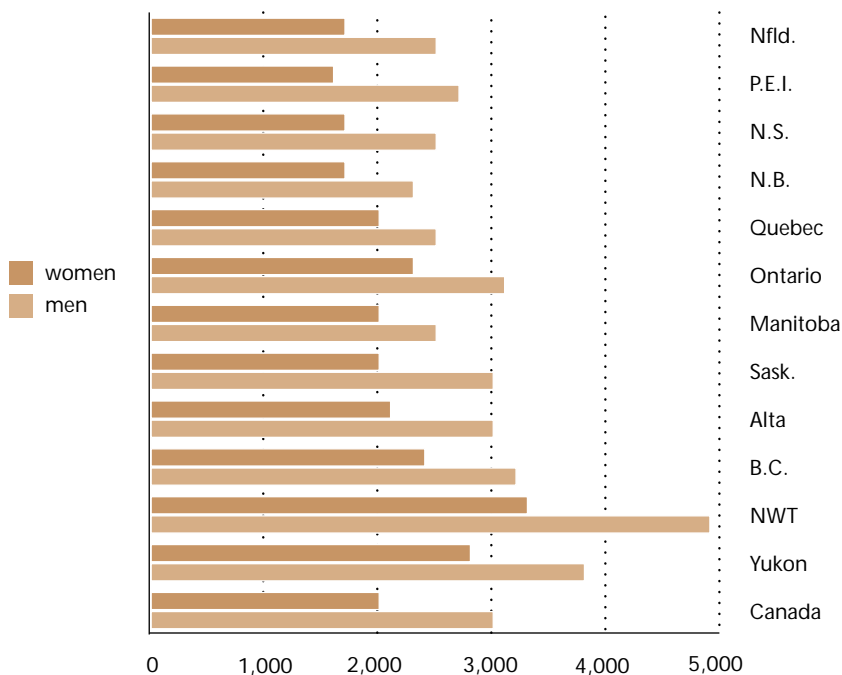
Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) Contributions

With the aging of the population in the Yukon and in Canada as a whole (see page 3), provision of economic support for retirement years has become an ever-increasing concern. One way of assessing financial preparation for the future is through the examination of contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs).

In 1996, Canadians contributed 26 billion dollars to RRSPs. Compared to their male counterparts, women throughout Canada are less likely to contribute to RRSPs and their median contribution is smaller (“median” refers to the middle point at which half of the contributions are higher and half are lower).

While women in Canada as a whole accounted for 44% of RRSP contributors, the highest proportion of contributing women were found in the Yukon (49%). In terms of the median amount contributed, Yukon women contributed the second-largest amount, next to women in the Northwest Territories. Their median contribution exceeded the median contribution for males in Manitoba, Quebec and the Maritime provinces. Yukon residents also had the second-highest median employment income (second to the NWT once again).

Figure 48. Median RRSP contributions by sex
Canada, the provinces and territories, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #71-97.12

Note: There were only 6,150 contributors in the Yukon in 1996; therefore, caution must be exercised in interpreting the statistics.

Summary: Women and Income

In the Yukon, as in the rest of Canada, there is a gap between the wages of men and women. Even when only those who work full-time, full-year are considered, this wage gap is still evident. There is also a gap between the average income of aboriginal and non-aboriginal Yukoners of both sexes. While the average income of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal males is higher than the average wage of aboriginal and non-aboriginal females, non-aboriginal males and females earn more than their aboriginal counterparts. The gap is widest between non-aboriginal persons of both sexes and First Nation persons who claim First Nation membership.

The average income of Yukon workers of both sexes is higher than for the nation as a whole. As well, the gap between male and female wages is smaller. Nonetheless, female employees working full-time, full-year make an average of 80 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Females in the Yukon are more likely than males to earn less than \$20,000 and, conversely, males are more likely than females to earn \$60,000 or more annually. A greater proportion of aboriginal persons of both sexes earn less than \$20,000, and a smaller proportion are found in the highest income ranges.

The wage gap is evident regardless of level of education. Although the average income for both males and females increases as the level of education increases (although there is a very slight decrease in income level between women without a secondary certificate and those with one), the wage gap still remains. A woman with high school graduation and some post-secondary education makes, on average, the same amount as a man with eight years of education or less.

Family income is influenced by family structure. As would be expected, family income is highest for husband-wife families where both partners work. Family income is lowest for lone-parent families headed by women. The average income for female headed lone-parent families is lower than that for husband-wife families where only the wife has earnings. Consequently lone-parent families, particularly those headed by women, are more likely than other families to experience low incomes.

Women in the Yukon are more likely than their counterparts in the rest of Canada to contribute to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs). While women in Canada as a whole accounted for 44% of RRSP contributors, the highest proportion of contributing women were found in the Yukon (49%). Yukon women also contributed the second-highest median amount to their RRSPs. This may reflect, at least in part, the higher labour force participation rate of Yukon women and the higher average income as compared to women in Canada overall.

Section 6. Unpaid Work

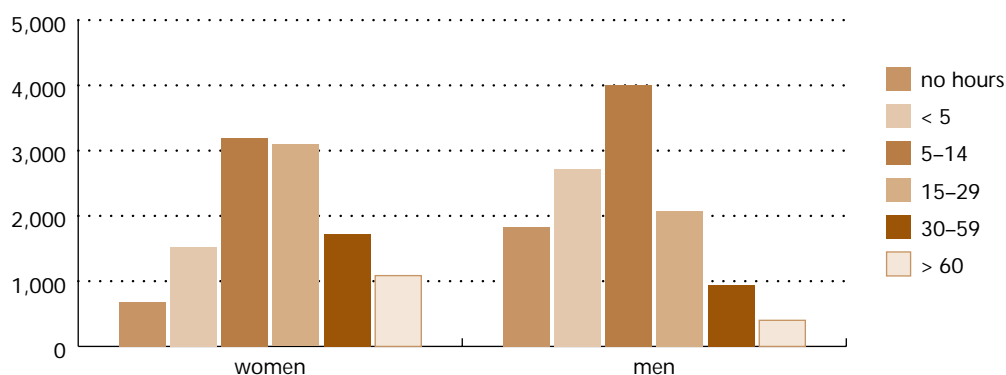
In 1996, the Census of Canada contained information on unpaid work for the first time. According to the data collected, Yukon residents participate in a considerable amount of unpaid work. This includes housework and home maintenance, child care and care to seniors. Women performed more hours of unpaid work in all three categories of activity on which information was collected.

Housework

Nearly 90% (89.2%) of Yukon residents age 15 and older reported performing some unpaid housework in the week prior to the Census. This is similar to Canada as a whole. Some unpaid housework or home maintenance was reported by 94% of Yukon females and 85% of Yukon males.

As noted above, Yukon men are almost three times more likely than Yukon women to report engaging in “no hours of housework”. Conversely, women are almost three times more likely than men to report engaging in 60 or more hours of housework. The majority (66%) of men who engage in unpaid housework engage in 14 hours or less of housework per week. The majority (56%) of women report engaging in 15 hours or more of unpaid housework per week. Compared to 3% of men, 10% of women engaged in 60 hours or more.

Figure 49. Number of individuals engaging in unpaid housework by sex Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

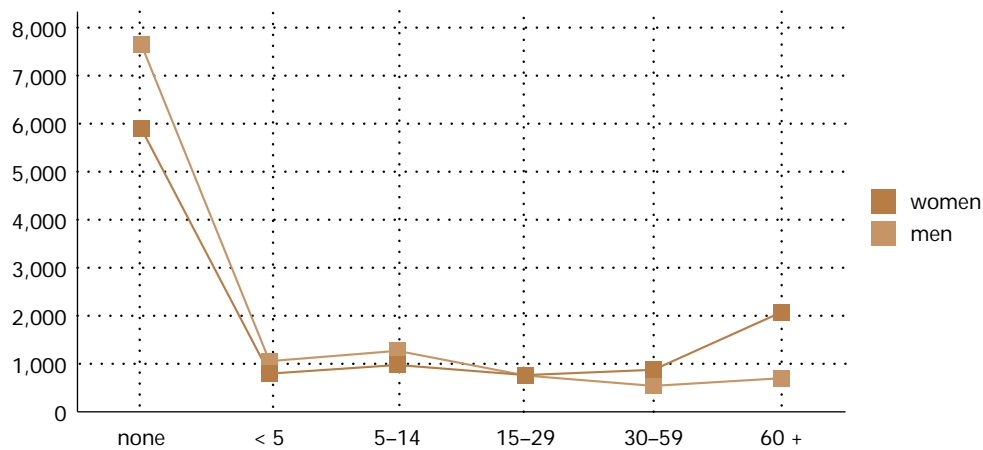
Child Care

Taking care of children was reported by 42% of Yukon residents. This is slightly above the Canadian figure of 38%. As with housework, sex differences are evident in the provision of child care. Men are more likely than women to report “no hours of child care”. Of those reporting “no child care”, 64% were men and 52% were women.

Providing some care to children was reported by 48% of women and 36% of men. For both females and males, these figures are slightly higher than for Canada, where 42% of women and 34% of men engaged in child care.

Women also report more hours of child care. Men and women were almost equally likely to report engaging in 15–29 hours of child care. Men were more likely than women to report fewer hours than this, and women were more likely than men to report more hours. Women are far more likely than men to report engaging in 60 or more hours of child care. Of those reporting 60 or more hours of child care per week, almost three-quarters (74%) were women.

Figure 50. Number of hours of unpaid child care by sex and age group
Population 15 years of age and over, Yukon, 1996

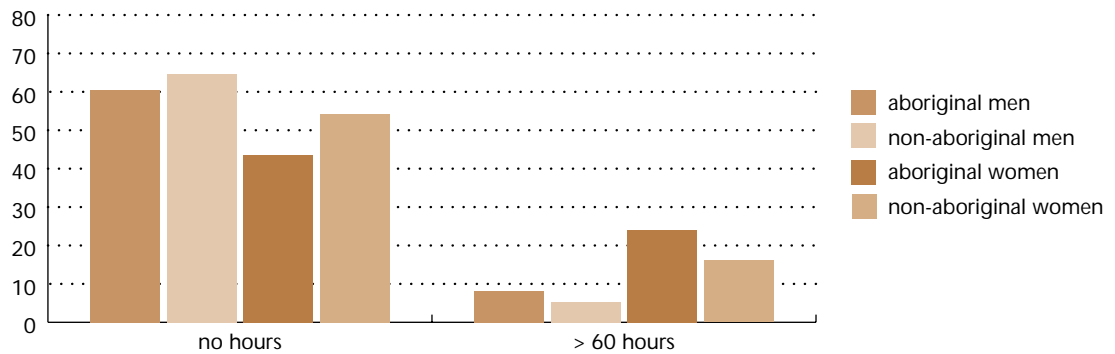


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Some differences between the aboriginal and non-aboriginal populations were observed. For both populations, males were more likely than females to report “no hours of child care”. However, non-aboriginal persons of both sexes were somewhat more likely than their aboriginal counterparts to report that they did not engage in child care. This was particularly true for females. No child care was reported by 54.3% of non-aboriginal females and 43.5% of aboriginal females, while 64.7% of non-aboriginal males and 60.4% of aboriginal males reported that they did not engage in child care activities.

In addition, First Nation men and women were more likely than their non-aboriginal counterparts to report engaging in 60 hours or more of child care. Almost one in four (24.1%) aboriginal females engaged in 60 hours or more of child care as compared to one in six (16.1%) non-aboriginal females. Conversely, 8.2% of aboriginal males and 5.3% of non-aboriginal males engaged in 60 hours or more of unpaid child care.

Figure 51. Percentage of hours of unpaid child care by sex and ethnicity
Yukon, 1996



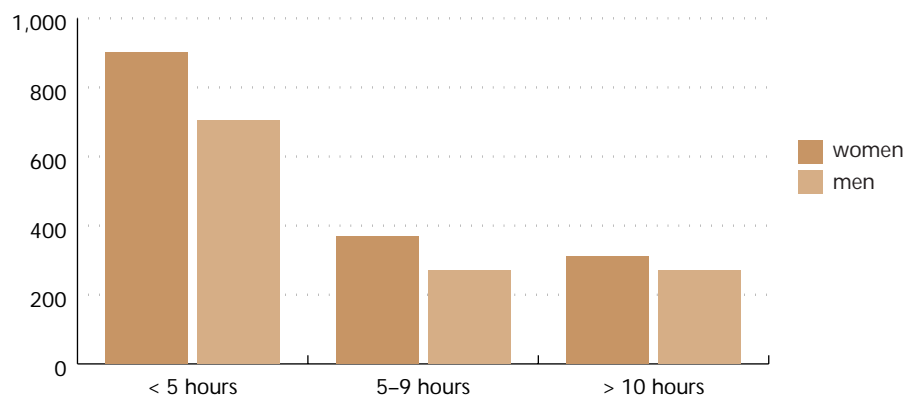
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Care to Seniors

Of the population aged 15 and over, 12% reported that they provided unpaid care to seniors. This is somewhat less than is reported in the nation overall, where 17% of Canadians reported caring for seniors. This is not particularly surprising, given the smaller proportion of seniors in the Yukon population (see page 2).

Providing care to seniors was reported by 14% of Yukon women and 10% of Yukon men. These figures compare to 19% of Canadian women and 14% of Canadian men. In the Yukon, men were slightly more likely than women to report "no hours of care". Of those providing care to seniors, both men and women were likely to report that they provided five hours or less, with women providing more care for seniors overall.

Figure 52. Number of individuals providing care to seniors by sex
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Aboriginal people of both sexes were more likely to report providing care to seniors than were non-aboriginal people. Of First Nation females, 7.2% reported providing ten or more hours of care to seniors. This compares to 1.7% of the non-aboriginal female population. Similarly, 7.7% of aboriginal males provided ten or more hours of care to seniors, as compared with 1.1% of non-aboriginal males.

In light of the aging population in the Yukon and in Canada as a whole, provision of care to seniors is likely to become an increasingly important issue. *“The number of seniors has more than doubled in the past 25 years, and most of them are living longer; for example, women born in 1941 can expect to live four years longer than those born in 1921. This growing population of older Canadians with greater life expectancy has increased the caregiving responsibilities of families, especially offspring... These new demands occur at a time when the majority of women — traditionally the primary caregivers — now participate in the labour force.”*²⁸

Findings from the 1996 General Social Survey (Yukon not included) indicate that “having paid work outside the home did not prevent people from providing support when the need was there, as 15% of employed women and 10% of employed men were caregivers”.²⁹

Care given to seniors was more frequently provided by Yukon residents aged 65 or older than in any other group. Approximately 16% of those age 65 or older reported providing care to seniors. This compares to between 8% and 13% of persons in other age categories. It is interesting to note that a greater proportion of males age 65 and older reported providing care to seniors than did females of the same age category. Statistics do not tell us to whom this care is provided (i.e. to spouse, parents or friends).

Unpaid Work and Family Status

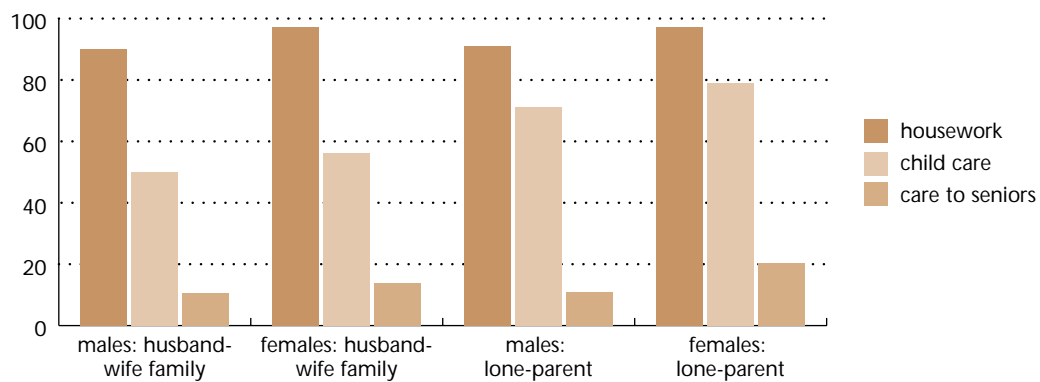
Family status had little influence on whether or not unpaid housework or care to seniors was provided. In husband-wife families 9.1% of males and 2.8% of females reported “no hours of housework”. In husband-wife families 89.3% of males and 86.1% of females reported “no hours of care for seniors”. This compares to 8.9% of males and 3.2% of females in lone-parent families reporting “no hours of housework” and 80.9% of males and 79.6% of females in lone-parent families reporting “no hours of care for seniors”.

28. K. Cranswick, “Canada’s Caregivers,” *Canadian Social Trends* 47 (Winter 1997): 2.

29. *Ibid.*, 3.

The greatest difference in unpaid care provided by husband-wife families as opposed to lone-parent families was in child care. In lone-parent families, respondents of both sexes were more likely to report engaging in unpaid child care than was the case for husband-wife families. In lone-parent families 71.1% of male lone-parents and 78.9% of female lone-parents reported participating in unpaid child care as compared with 50% of males and 56.2% of females in husband-wife families. In interpreting these numbers, however, it is important to remember that, by definition, lone-parent families have children at home while husband-wife families may not.

Figure 53. Proportion of unpaid work by family status
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996

Summary: Women and Unpaid Work

Residents of the Yukon perform a considerable amount of unpaid work. This includes housework and home maintenance, child care and care to seniors. Women are more likely than men to report unpaid work in all three categories.

Women also report more hours of unpaid work. For instance, women are almost three times more likely than men to report engaging in 60 hours or more of housework on a weekly basis.

When compared to Canadians overall, a slightly smaller proportion of Yukon residents report providing care to seniors. This likely reflects the smaller proportion of seniors in the Yukon population. Most care to seniors is provided by seniors themselves, and men age 65 or older are somewhat more likely than their female counterparts to report providing such care.

Some differences on the basis of ethnicity are evident, particularly with regard to child care and care to seniors. In both cases, First Nation people of both sexes are more likely than their non-aboriginal counterparts to report engaging in unpaid child care or unpaid care to seniors.

Section 7. Women and Health

In *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* (1993), Yukon women identified health and well-being of the family as well as personal health and well being as important issues.³⁰ Issues of health both reflect and are reflective of other aspects of women's lives. As noted by the British Columbia Ministry of Women's Equality, "poverty, unemployment and under-employment, poor housing and lack of social supports have serious consequences for women's lives. As well, difficulties in balancing paid work and the demands of family care-giving may also have negative impacts on women's lives".³¹

There are numerous ways to assess health and well-being. Some measures focus on general and self-assessed notions of health and wellness (subjective indicators), while others examine the incidence and prevalence of certain diseases and ailments and/or use of health care services (objective indicators). Both subjective and objective measures can be used to examine the health of Yukon women.

Self-rated Health and Quality of Life

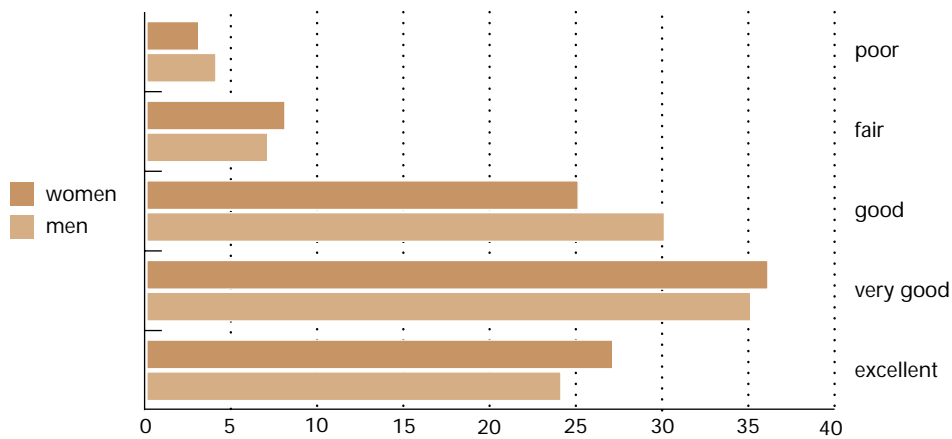
The Yukon Health Promotion Survey (1994) asked Yukon residents to rate their health and their quality of life. According to the report, self-rated health is "one of the most used and reliable indicators of health".³² Women were somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to rate their health as either "very good" or "excellent". Compared to 59% of men, 63% of women rated their own health in this way. Women were somewhat more likely to rate their own health as "excellent" (27% of women as compared to 24% of men).

30. Government of Yukon, Women's Directorate and Bureau of Statistics, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices: A Survey of Yukon Women*, (Reprinted 1994), 3.

31. British Columbia Ministry of Women's Equality, "The Planning Context," in *Business Plan 1997-98* [on-line], available from <http://www.weq.gov.bc.ca/about/business/planning.htm>, 5.

32. Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, *Yukon Health Promotion Survey Working Paper: What the Numbers Say*, (1994), 34.

Figure 54. Level of self-rated health by sex
Yukon, 1993

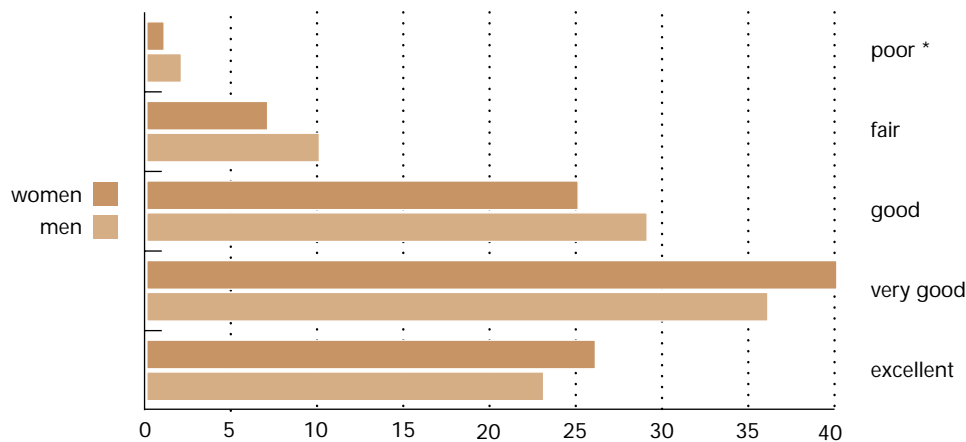


Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, Yukon Health Promotion Research Program, Part 4, 1994, p.35

Quality of Life

In the Yukon Health Promotion Survey (1994), Yukon residents were asked to rate their quality of life. Women were somewhat more likely to rate their quality of life as “excellent” or “very good” than were Yukon men. Quality of life was rated as “excellent” or “very good” by 66% of women, while 59% of men did the same.

Figure 55. Level of self-rated quality of life by sex
Yukon, 1993



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, Yukon Health Promotion Survey, 1994
** qualified sampling variation; use with caution*

Similarly, the *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* (1993) research asked women to assess their quality of life in relation to women in other parts of Canada. The majority of Yukon women felt that their quality of life was better than that experienced by women elsewhere in the nation, and reasons given for this more positive assessment included the perception of more freedom and opportunity, more job opportunities and financial rewards. There was some difference, however, between the views of First Nation women and non-aboriginal respondents. Quality of life was rated as either “good” or “very good” in relation to other Canadian women by 73% of non-aboriginal women, as compared to 56% of First Nation women.³³

Mental Health

According to the British Columbia Provincial Health Officer's annual *Report* (1995), a mental health problem results from the disruption of successful interactions between the individual and his/her environment. Such disruption may result from factors within the individual (e.g. physical causes) or may result from external factors such as harsh environment, unjust social structures, or tensions within interpersonal relationships.³⁴

It is difficult to accurately determine how many people experience mental health problems. Because of the stigma attached to mental health problems and mental illness, people may be reluctant to report a history or episode of mental illness or to seek treatment.³⁵ Thus, while statistics concerning those who access Mental Health Services are revealing, they do not provide the complete picture of mental health in the territory.

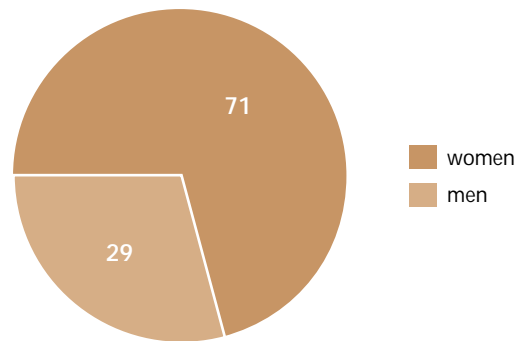
In the 1996 calendar year, females constituted 74% of Mental Health Services clientele. In 1997, women comprised 71% of the clientele. These figures are similar to those reported in the *1994 Health Status Report*, where 72% of the new cases opened by Mental Health Services in 1993 were female clients.

33. Government of Yukon, Women's Directorate and Bureau of Statistics, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices: A Survey of Yukon Women*, (Reprinted 1994), 3-4.

34. British Columbia Provincial Health Officer, *A Report on the Health of British Columbians*, (Victoria, B.C.: British Columbia Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, 1995), 110.

35. *Ibid.*, 111.

Figure 56. Proportion of clientele of mental health services by sex
Yukon, 1997



Source: Government of Yukon, Mental Health Services, 1998

These statistics should be used and interpreted cautiously. There are a number of possible explanations as to why women are disproportionately the consumers of mental health services. These include:

- differences in help-seeking behaviour of women and men;
- differences in referral patterns by physicians, social workers, etc;
- differences in how mental health problems are expressed (males may be more likely to receive diagnoses of substance abuse and antisocial tendencies which would then put them in contact with different services).
- violence against girls and women which may result in mental health problems; and
- sex bias within the mental health diagnostic scheme.³⁶

As stated by the British Columbia Ministry of Health: *“more work is needed to determine whether women are more likely to ask for help, whether women’s adaptation to biological or social problems are being re-defined as mental illness, or whether the social and economic conditions women live in make women more susceptible to certain types of mental illness”*.³⁷

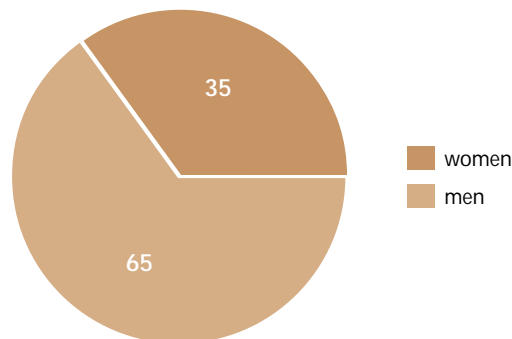
36. Government of Yukon, Mental Health Services, *Gender Analysis of MHS Clientele*, (1998), 1.

37. British Columbia Provincial Health Officer, *A Report on the Health of British Columbians*, (Victoria, B.C.: British Columbia Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, 1995), 112.

Mortality and Mortality Rates

Mortality or death rates are often used as an indicator of the health and/or wellness of a population. When examining the total number of deaths between 1986 and 1996, it is clear that males are disproportionately represented in the number of deaths. Of all the deaths recorded between 1986 and 1996, 35% were women and 65% were men.

Figure 57. Proportion of total deaths
Yukon, 1986-1996



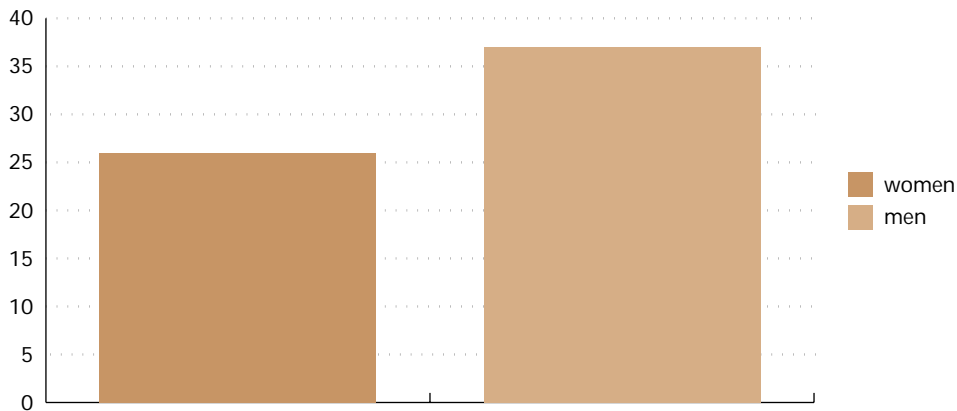
Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, *Vital Statistics Report, 1997*

This discrepancy might be explained by the nature of work performed by women and men. According to the Yukon Vital Statistics Report (1997): “one possible explanation would be that death by accident while at work may be more likely for men than for women in the Yukon”.³⁸ As previously noted, men are more likely than women to work in the goods-producing sectors of the economy. In the Yukon between 1980 and 1990, 37% of male deaths and 26% of female deaths resulted from injury, accident or poisoning. This compares to 12% of Canadian males and 6% of Canadian females.³⁹

38. Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, *Vital Statistics: A Look at Statistics on Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Yukon from 1986-1995* (October 1997), 20.

39. Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, *1994 Health Status Report*, (1995), 30.

Figure 58. Proportion of deaths by injury and poisoning
Yukon, 1980-1990



Source: Government of Yukon Health Status Report, 1994

According to data reported in 1996, a similar pattern is evident in the nation as a whole. The causes of death differ between the sexes, as do the ages at which death occur. Throughout the life span, the male rate of death surpasses the female rate, but this difference peaks in middle to early adulthood, primarily due to external factors such as accidental deaths and suicide. As might be expected, the highest death rates are for infants (first year of life) and for seniors (age 65 and older).⁴⁰ Data for the Yukon also reveal the highest rates of death in these age groups.

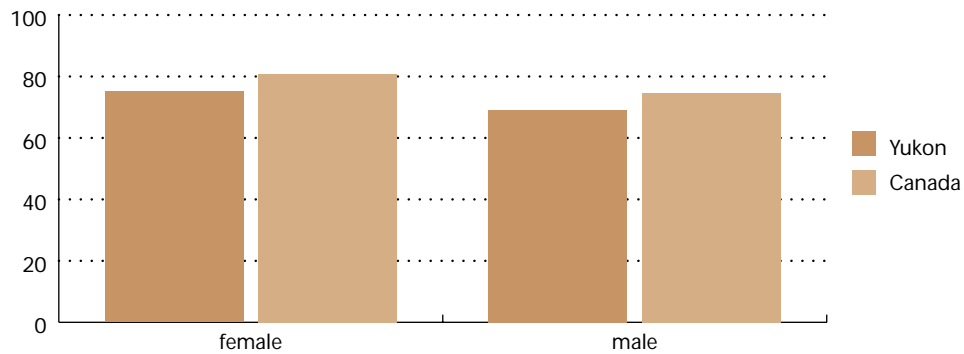
Life Expectancy

According to the Yukon Health Status Report (1994), "life expectancy is a measurement of the average age an individual can expect to live given the current probability of dying at each age".⁴¹ According to the Bureau of Statistics (1997), women in the Yukon and in Canada can expect to live longer, on average, than men. The life expectancy for women in the Yukon was 75.1 years as compared to 69.1 years for males.

40. K. Wilkins, "Causes of Death: How the Sexes Differ," *Canadian Social Trends* 41 (Summer 1996): 12.

41. Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, *1994 Health Status Report*, (1995), 17.

Figure 59. Life expectancy (years) by sex
Yukon, 1987-89



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #97-08

Males have a higher rate of death throughout their lives and their life expectancy is lower than that of females. In Canada, the life expectancy at birth for Canadian males was 74.6 years while for women it was 80.9 years.⁴² In most animal species, including humans, lower female mortality is evident at all ages. This is reinforced by social and behavioural factors; i.e. males have traditionally pursued more dangerous occupations, engaged in riskier activities (including drinking and smoking), and not consulted physicians as frequently as have women.⁴³

In recent years, the gap between the life expectancy of females and males in Canada has narrowed. However, the gap remains wider in the Yukon than in Canada overall.

Cause of Death

According to the Yukon Vital Statistics Report (1997), approximately one in four (26%) deaths that occurred in the Yukon between 1986 and 1995 were due to accident. Other significant causes of death during this time period were cancers (neoplasms), which constituted 22.2% of the deaths, and diseases of the circulatory system, which constituted 29.2% of deaths. Suicides accounted for 5.4% of all deaths and homicides accounted for 1.3%. "Other" causes included diseases of the digestive system, diseases of the respiratory system and mental disorders.

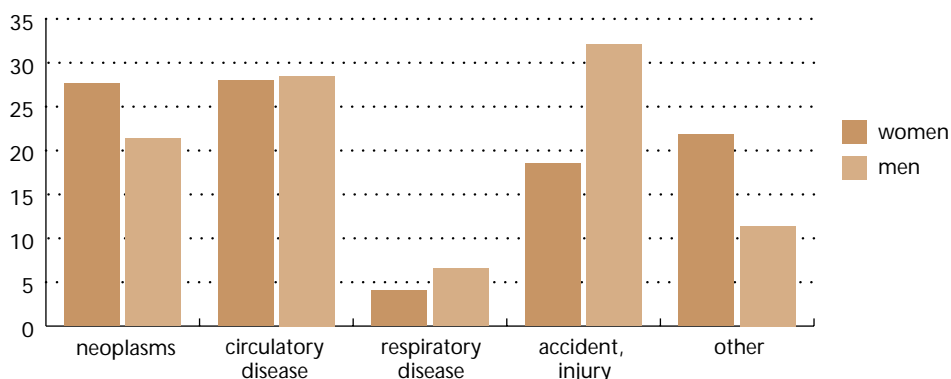
Current data reveals that the major cause of death for females in the Yukon from 1991–1995 was circulatory disease, resulting in 28% of female deaths. The leading cause of death for males was accident and injury and poisoning, which caused 32.1% of male deaths.

42. Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, *Life Expectancy in the Yukon*, Information Sheet #97.08, 3.

43. F. Nault, "Narrowing Mortality Gaps, 1978 to 1995," *Health Reports* 9, no. 1 (Summer 1997): 35.

For females, the second leading cause of death was neoplasms (27.6%) followed by accidents (18.5%) and respiratory disease (4.1%). The second leading case of death for males was circulatory disease, accounting for 28.5% of male deaths. This was followed by neoplasms (21.4%) and respiratory disease (6.6%).

Figure 60. Proportion of total deaths by major causes
Yukon, 1991–1995



Source: Government of Yukon Health Status Report, 1994

The *1994 Health Status Report* looked at cause of death by sex, with a focus on the four major causes of death: neoplasms (cancer), circulatory disease, respiratory disease, and accident and injury. The latter included motor vehicle accidents, suicides, homicides and other external causes of death.

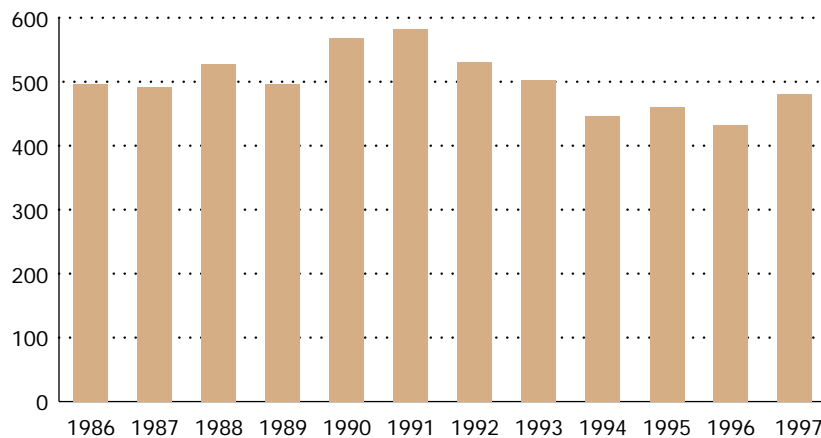
As might be expected, circulatory disease, cancers and respiratory disease become more prevalent causes of death as people get older. For example, in 1986–1990, 89% of deaths due to circulatory disease and 82% of deaths due to cancer occurred to those aged 50 and older. There were slight differences between the sexes, with 91% of female deaths and 88.5% of male deaths due to circulatory disease occurring to those age 50 and older. For those in the older age groups 79% of female deaths and 83% of male deaths occurred from cancer.

Quite a different pattern is seen for accidents, however. Only 25% of accidental deaths (24.7% of male deaths by accident and 26.8% of female deaths) occurred to those age 50 or older. More than half of accidental deaths occurred to those between the ages of 15 and 39, and almost one in five occurred to those between the ages of 15 and 24. A clear gender difference is evident; 23.9% of accidental deaths for males occurred in the 15–24 age groups, but only 12.2% of accidental deaths for females occurred in this age group.

Pregnancy, Birth and Therapeutic Abortion

Just as mortality rates provide some insight into the health of a population, so do numbers of births and fertility rates. Over the past decade, the number of births has fluctuated from year to year, showing a general pattern of decline in the number of births since the early 1990s. The following data reflects the number of births that occurred in the Yukon but does not include women who delivered babies outside the territory.

Figure 61. Number of annual births 1986-1997
Yukon, 1986 to 1997



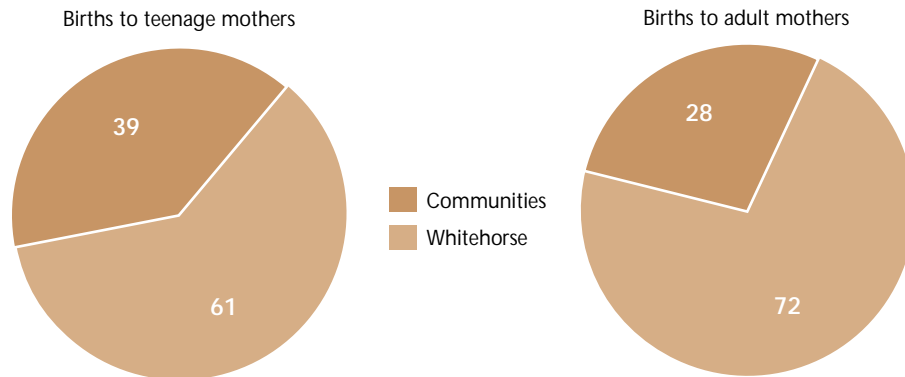
Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Annual Statistical Review, 1996, 1997

Birth rate or fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1,000 women between the ages 15 and 49. Over the last 12 years, the birth rate for Yukon women has ranged from a high of 62.3 births per 1,000 women in 1990, to a low of 42.5 births per 1,000 women in 1996. As the pattern of births would indicate, the birth rate in the Yukon has tended to decline since 1990.

As would be expected, most births that occurred in the 12-year period between 1986 and 1997 were to mothers whose place of residence was Whitehorse. Of the 5,710 births in this time period, 4,048 (71%) were to Whitehorse women. This generally reflects the population distribution in the territory.

However, when only births to teenage mothers are considered, there are fewer births to Whitehorse mothers than might be expected given the population distribution in the territory. Communities outside Whitehorse are somewhat over-represented in births to teenage mothers. Of births to teenage mothers, 61% are to Whitehorse women (as compared to 71% of births to adult women).

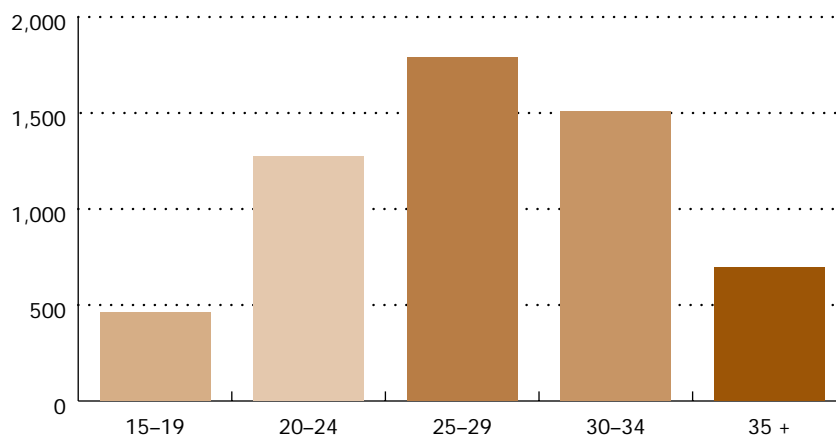
Figure 62. Percentage of births by age of mother and location
Yukon, 1986–1997



Source: Health and Social Services, Yukon Births, Therapeutic Abortions and Pregnancy Rates, 1986 to 1997

For the 12-year period between 1986 and 1997, the majority of births have been to mothers between the ages of 25 and 29. Approximately 8% of the births were to teenage mothers (those under the age of 20), and approximately 12% to mothers aged 35 and older. In 1995, the mean age of Yukon mothers was 28.6 years, a figure that closely approximates the figure for Canada overall, where the mean age of mothers was 28.8 in the same year. For both Canada and the Yukon, this constitutes an increase in the mean age of mothers from 1975, when the mean age was 25.4 for Yukon mothers and 26.0 for Canadian mothers overall.

Figure 63. Number of births by age of mother
Yukon, 1986 to 1996



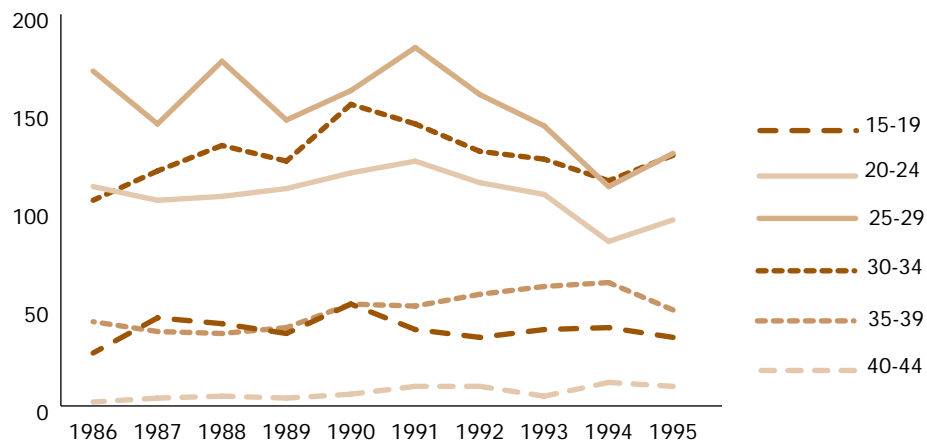
Source: Health and Social Services, Yukon Births, Therapeutic Abortions and Pregnancy Rates, 1986 to 1997

While numbers have fluctuated from year to year, the proportion of births to teenage mothers has remained relatively stable over the last decade. In 1986, for example, 5.9% of the total births were to teenage mothers, and in 1997 6.7% of all births were to mothers in this age group. Another way to examine the data is to look at teenage birth rates, or the number of live births per 1,000 women in a particular population (e.g. teenage mothers).

Like the birth rate overall, the teenage birth rate has shown a general decline since 1990, although caution must be exercised in interpreting the data because of the small numbers involved. The teenage birth rate in the Yukon has consistently been higher than the Canadian rate and remains so.

Another interesting trend is that the proportion of births to mothers age 35 and older has increased. Births to mothers 35 and older comprised just under 10% of total births in 1986, but constituted nearly 16% of the births in 1997. This pattern would contribute to the increasing mean age of mothers noted previously.

**Figure 64. Number of births by age of mother
1986 to 1997**

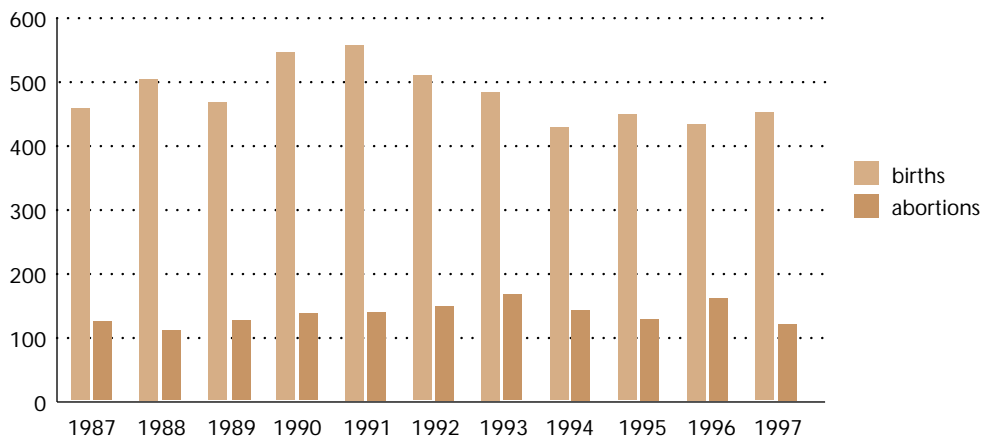


Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Vital Statistics Report, 1995

It is important to note that birth rates do not necessarily reflect pregnancy rates. In addition to stillbirths and miscarriages, numbers and rates of therapeutic abortions must also be considered. The following data are for abortions occurring in the Yukon and performed at the Whitehorse General Hospital. They do not include Yukon women who may have had an abortion outside the territory.

Between 1987 and 1997, a total of 1,491 therapeutic abortions were performed in the Yukon. This amounts to one abortion per every 28 live births during that time period. Numbers of abortions have fluctuated over the years, as shown in Figure 65.

Figure 65. Number of annual births and abortions
Yukon, 1987 to 1997

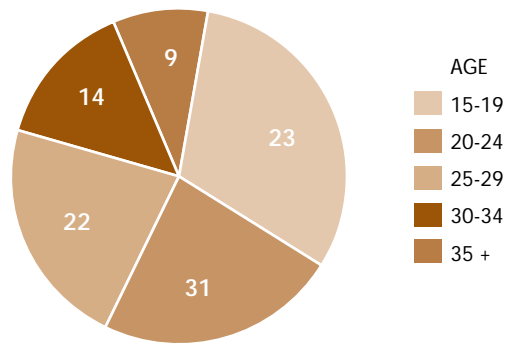


Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, Annual Statistical Review, 1996, 1997

Abortion rates are calculated by determining the number of therapeutic abortions per 1,000 females age 15–49 in a given population. Because of the small numbers involved, the abortion rate in the Yukon is quite volatile. It has fluctuated from a low of 12.7 in 1988 to a high of 17.1 per 1,000 population in 1993. Since the early 1970s, the therapeutic abortion rate has been consistently higher in the Yukon than in Canada overall. In 1995, the therapeutic abortion rate for the Yukon was 16.1 as compared to a rate of 10.3 for Canada overall. Once again, caution must be exercised because of the small numbers and the resulting volatility of Yukon data.

The majority of abortions were for women under the age of 25. Of the 1,491 abortions performed between 1987 and 1997, 815 or 55% were for women under the age of 25, with almost one in four (23%) for teenage women. Less than 10% were for women age 35 and older.

Figure 66. Percentage of abortions by age of mother
Yukon, 1987 to 1997



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services, *Annual Statistical Review, 1996, 1997*

The teenage therapeutic abortion rate has consistently been higher than that for the nation as a whole. In 1995, the teenage therapeutic abortion rate for the Yukon was 23.5%, as compared to 14.4% for Canada overall. Because of the small numbers involved, however, caution must be exercised in interpreting the data.

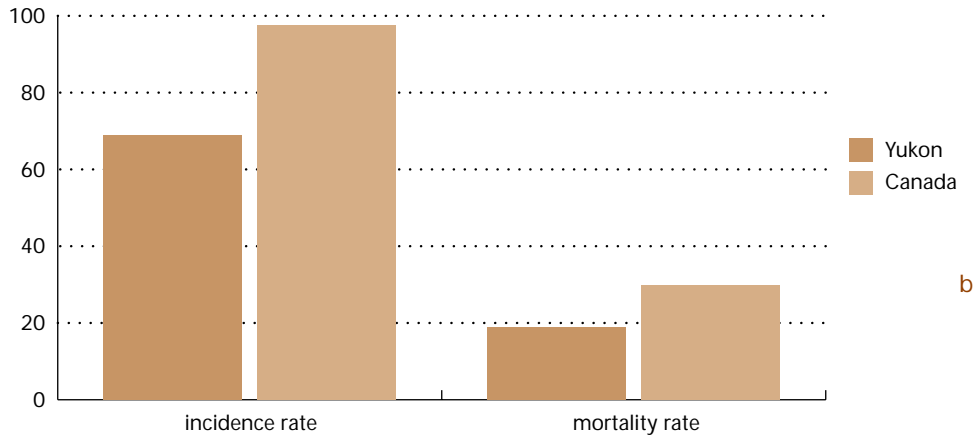
Selected Health Concerns

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the leading form of cancer diagnosed in Canadian women. "Approximately one woman in nine can expect to develop breast cancer in her lifetime, and about one in 25 will die of it".⁴⁴ According to Gaudette, Gentleman and Lee, the incidence rate for breast cancer (per 100,000 women) in Canada was 97.6% (1989-91) and the mortality rate was 29.9% (1991-1993). This compares to an incidence rate of 68.8% in the Yukon and a mortality rate of 18.8% for the same period. Although the figures appear to be considerably lower in the Yukon, the authors do not consider these to constitute a statistically significant difference from the national rate.

44. L. A. Gaudette, Jane F. Gentleman and Judy Lee, "Breast Cancer and Mammography," *Canadian Social Trends* 48 (Spring 1998): 19.

Figure 67. Breast cancer incidence rate (1989-91) and mortality rate (1991-93)
Rate per 100,000; Canada and the Yukon



Source: Statistic Canada. *Canadian Social Trends*, Spring 1998, p.23

Mammography is important to the ability to detect and treat breast cancer. On a national scale, there has been an increase in the number of mammograms performed to facilitate early detection of breast cancer. According to the 1995-96 National Population Health Survey (Yukon not included), 64% of women aged 40 and over had at least one mammogram in their lives, with the highest lifetime rates reported by women in their fifties (74%) and sixties (71%), the age group targeted by breast screening programs.⁴⁵

According to the *1994 Yukon Health Status Report*, 38% of women age 50 and older reported having a mammography exam in the year prior to the survey. At the time of the report, this compared favourably to the rate in Canada overall. It is not known whether rates of mammography have increased in the Yukon since 1994.

Sexually Transmitted Disease

Communicable diseases (including sexually transmitted diseases) are no longer a leading cause of death in Canada or other developed nations. However, they still constitute a health concern. According to the *1994 Health Status Report*, Yukon rates of gonorrhoea and chlamydia were higher than for Canada as a whole.

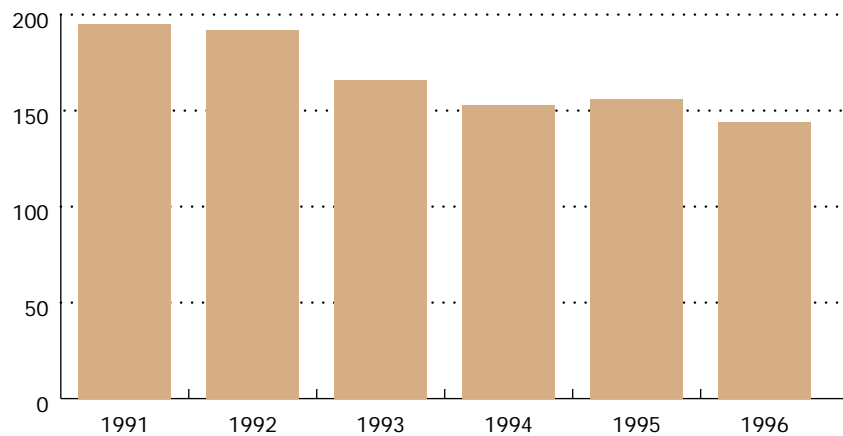
45. *Ibid.*, 22.

Chlamydia

The *1994 Yukon Health Status Report* states that chlamydia is the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease in Canada and is of particular concern to women because it contributes to infertility.⁴⁶ Delays in receiving treatment may lead to infertility or tubal pregnancy, and pregnant women with the disease may be at increased risk for spontaneous abortion and still-birth.⁴⁷

Between 1991 and 1996, there were 811 reported cases of genital chlamydia. However, the annual number of cases has shown a general decline over that time period. The rate of the disease (per 100,000 population) remains higher in the Yukon than for the rest of Canada. In 1996, the rate of chlamydia in the Yukon was 458.6 per 100,000 population as compared to a rate of 114.8 per 100,000 in Canada overall. However, the data must be used with caution because of the small numbers involved.

Figure 68. Number of reported cases of chlamydia
Yukon, 1991 to 1996



Source: Health Canada <http://cythera.ic.gc.ca/cgi.eas/ndistable.wss?disease>

It should be noted that this data includes both males and females diagnosed with chlamydia. Although the majority of cases are likely to be women, cases involving males are also included.

46. Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, *1994 Health Status Report*, (1995), 49.

47. British Columbia Provincial Health Officer, *A Report on the Health of British Columbians*, (Victoria, B.C.: British Columbia Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, 1995), 148.

Summary: Women and Health

Women in the Yukon tend to rate their own health and quality of life quite positively. However, some differences between the First Nation and non-aboriginal populations are evident, with non-aboriginal women somewhat more likely to rate their quality of life as “good” or “very good” in relation to other Canadian women.

Women in the territory make up the majority of Mental Health Services clientele, although the reasons for this tendency are not entirely clear. Contributing factors might include differences in help-seeking behaviour, differences in diagnosis, as well as the impact of environmental and social factors.

Women have a longer life expectancy than do men. As well, there are different patterns in the cause of death. The leading cause of death for women is cardiovascular disease, while the leading cause for men (particularly young men) is accidents and injury.

The number of births in the territory has declined in recent years. The majority of births are to mothers aged 24–29. As in the rest of Canada, the mean age of mothers has increased over the past two decades.

Teenage abortion rates and rates of sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia appear to be higher in the Yukon than in the rest of the country. Incidence and mortality rates from breast cancer appear to be lower. However, caution must be exercised in interpreting the data because of the small numbers involved.

Section 8. Women and Lifestyle

A number of lifestyle issues are directly related to the health and well-being of Yukon women. These include factors such as alcohol and tobacco use, sexual activity, as well as participation in sports and recreational activities.

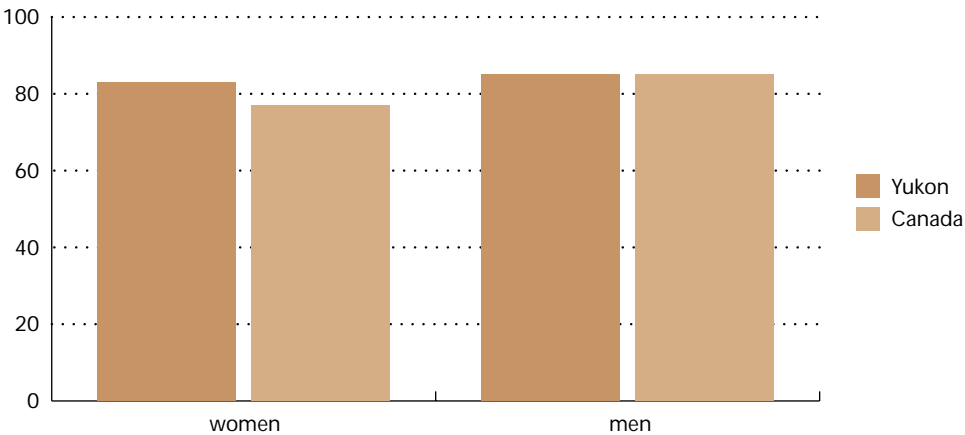
Alcohol and Drug Use

The use and abuse of alcohol and drugs have a direct impact on a person's health. As well, alcohol and drug use are linked to a wide range of social problems including accidents and violence.

According to the *Yukon Health Promotion Survey* (1994), 84% of Yukoners were current drinkers. This proportion was slightly greater than for Canada as a whole, where 81% of Canadians report being current drinkers. This difference is explained by the greater proportion of Yukon females who currently drink.

A slightly greater proportion of Yukon males than females reported being current drinkers. As compared to 83% of Yukon females, 85% of Yukon males were current drinkers. Yukon males and Canadian males are equally likely to be current consumers of alcohol. However, Yukon females are more likely than Canadian females to be current drinkers (83% in the Yukon as compared to 77% in Canada overall).

Figure 69. Proportion of current drinkers by sex
Yukon, 1993

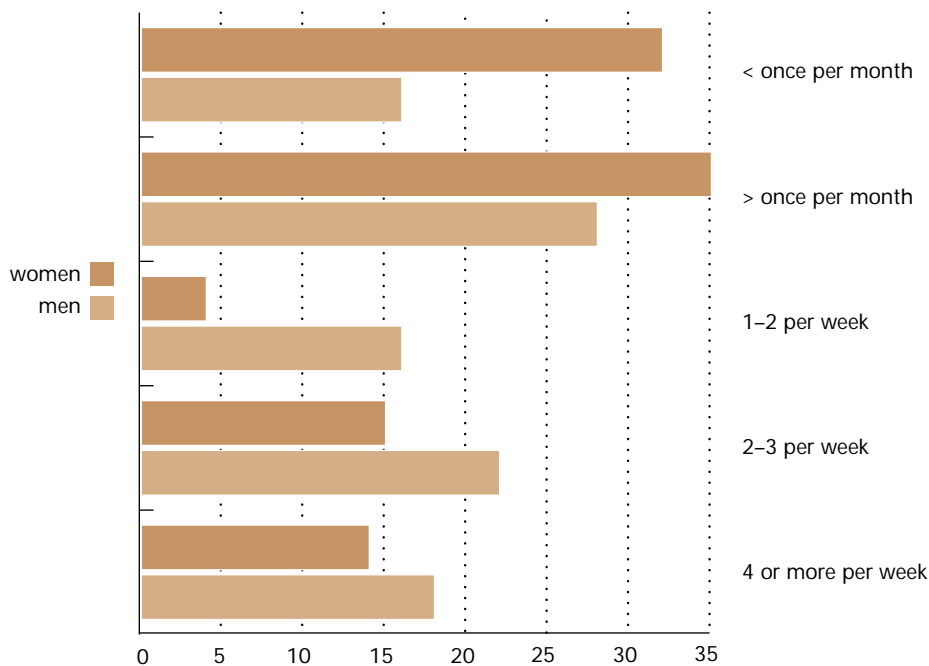


Source: Government of Yukon Health Promotion Survey, 1994

Drinking Patterns

Differences in the drinking patterns of females and males were evident. Nearly one in three females (32%) who were current drinkers reported drinking less than once per month. This compares to approximately one in six men (16%). A similar pattern was also evident for Canada. Yukon males were more likely than females to report drinking four or more times per week. Females who were current drinkers were twice as likely as males to report drinking less than once per month, while males were four times more likely than females to report drinking four or more times per week.

Figure 70. Frequency of alcohol consumption by sex
Yukon, 1993



Source: Government of Yukon Health Promotion Survey, 1994

Note: qualified sampling variation; use with caution

Of current drinkers, the largest proportion of females (47%) would be classified as “light infrequent” drinkers. The largest proportion of males would be classified as “light frequent” drinkers (34%). “Light infrequent” drinkers are those who drink less than four times per month and consume less than five drinks per occasion. Those classified as “light frequent” drinkers consume less than five drinks per occasion but do so more than four times per month.

Approximately 17% of drinkers in the Yukon would be classified as “heavy drinkers”. Males and females are equally likely to be “heavy infrequent” drinkers, while males are three times more likely than females to be “heavy frequent” drinkers. Heavy drinkers are those who consume five or more drinks per occasion. “Heavy infrequent” drinkers consume this amount of alcohol less than four times per month, while “heavy frequent” drinkers do so more than four times per month.⁴⁸

Drug Use (Marijuana/hashish)

According to the Yukon Health Promotion Survey, Yukoners are almost three times as likely to be current users of marijuana/hashish than are Canadians overall. Being current users of these drugs is reported by 14% of Yukon residents and 5% of Canadian residents. Males are more likely than females to report current use of marijuana/hashish, with 17% of Yukon males and 11% of Yukon females reporting the use of these drugs in 1993.

Smoking

In 1993, 33% of the population of the Yukon were regular smokers. An additional 4% smoked on occasion and were thus termed “irregular” smokers. These figures were slightly higher than for Canada overall, where 28% of the population are regular smokers and 1% are irregular smokers.

Males were somewhat more likely than females to be smokers, with 35% of males and 32% of females reporting regular smoking behaviour. Males also smoked more cigarettes than did women. While 29% of Yukon women and 18% of Yukon men reported smoking ten cigarettes or less per day, 65% of females and 73% of males smoked between 11 and 25 cigarettes on a daily basis.

A significant proportion of teens (those aged 15-19) are regular smokers. As compared to 19% of Canadian teens, 25% of Yukon teens smoke on a daily basis. As with adults, males are somewhat more likely than females to smoke.⁴⁹

48. L. Crawford, *Alcohol and Other Substances in the Yukon Territory*, Report produced for Health and Welfare Canada, (1993), 10.

49. Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, *Yukon Health Promotion Survey Working Paper: What the Numbers Say*, (1994), 149-151.

Sexual Activity

Information concerning sexual activity is related to such factors as sexually transmitted diseases and the risk of teenage pregnancy among the younger population. In 1993, the Yukon Health Promotion Survey asked questions about the sexual activity of Yukon residents. In the Yukon 81% of people reported being sexually active during the year prior to the survey.

Although a relatively small proportion of respondents (15%) reported having more than one sexual partner during the one year period covered by the survey, males were more likely than females to report multiple partners (18% of males versus 11% of females).⁵⁰

Sports and Recreation

Although participation in organized sports activities is only one indicator of women's involvement in leisure and recreational activities, it does provide some insight into the type of recreation women are likely to pursue. Women who are physically active are less likely to report chronic health problems and may be less susceptible to certain diseases such as osteoporosis.⁵¹

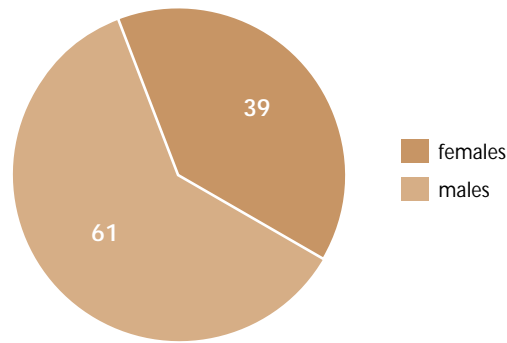
It is clear that women are less likely than men to participate in organized sports activities. This is true at both the adult and junior levels. In 1998/99, there were 10,185 participants in activities sponsored by Yukon sport governing bodies. There were 3,971 female participants (39%).

Slightly over half of the participants in sporting activities were junior athletes. Of all participants, 63% were junior athletes and 37% were adult athletes. In both cases, males outnumbered females. Females comprised 39% of both junior and adult athletes.

50. Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services, *1994 Health Status Report*, (1995), 110.

51. J. Normand, "Health," In *Women in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, 3rd ed. (Statistics Canada, 1995): 32.

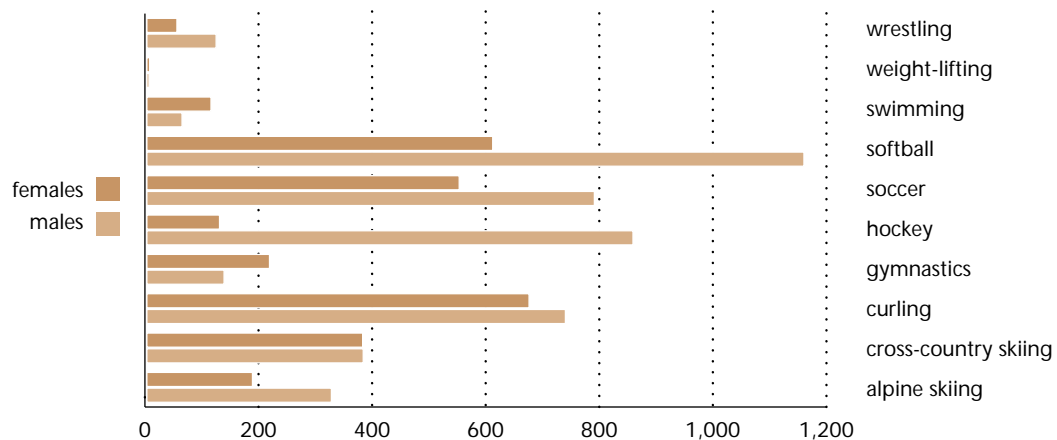
Figure 71. Proportion of participants in organized sports by sex
Yukon, 1998/99



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Community and Transportation Services, Sport and Recreation, 1998

There were also some differences in the types of sporting activities pursued by females and males. Males outnumbered females in all sporting activities except swimming, synchronized swimming and gymnastics. There were almost equal numbers of females and males in cross-country skiing, curling and weightlifting. Males significantly outnumbered females in softball, baseball and hockey.

Figure 72. Number of participants in selected sports by sex
Yukon, 1998/99

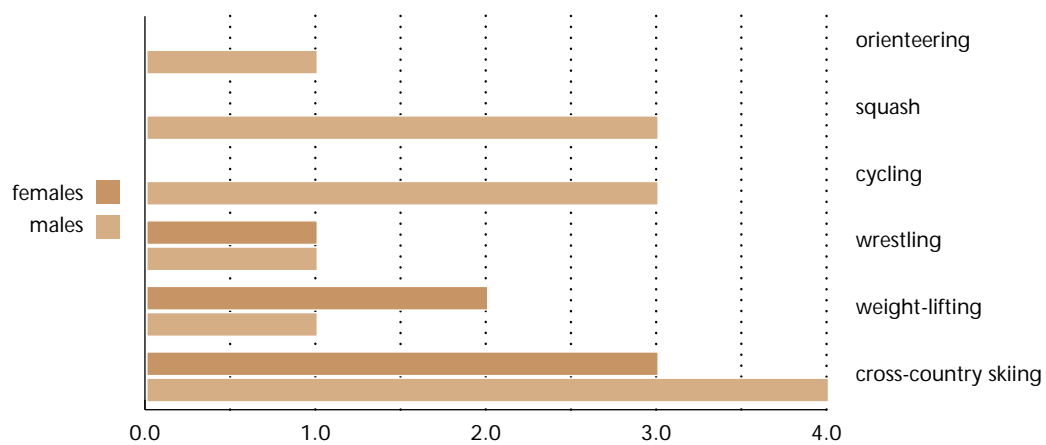


Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Community and Transportation Services, Sport and Recreation, 1998

Elite Athletes

Sex differences were also evident in the number of funded elite athletes in the territory. In 1998/99 there were a total of 19 funded junior athletes in the Yukon; six of them (31.2%) were female. This proportion is slightly less than the proportion of females participating in sporting activities overall. Females were funded in the sports of cross-country skiing (three), weightlifting (two) and wrestling (one). Male athletes were funded in cross-country skiing (four), cycling (three), squash (three), orienteering (one), weightlifting (one) and wrestling (one).

Figure 73. Number of funded junior athletes by sex
Yukon, 1998/99



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Community and Transportation Services, Sport and Recreation, 1998

Summary: Women and Lifestyle

Women engage in a number of lifestyle behaviours that may affect their health and well-being. These include such activities as smoking, alcohol consumption and sexual activity with multiple partners.

Women in the Yukon are somewhat less likely than males to be current drinkers. They are also likely to drink less often and in smaller quantities. However, women in the territory are more likely to consume alcohol than women in the nation as a whole.

Yukon women are somewhat less likely than Yukon men to smoke. They are also somewhat less likely to be sexually active and to engage in sexual activity with multiple partners.

Women are also less likely than their male counterparts to engage in organized sports. Similarly, they are less likely to be funded elite athletes.

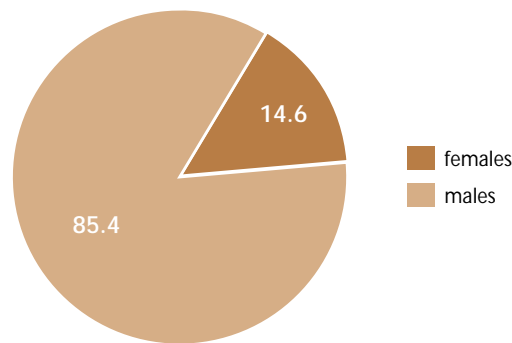
Section 9. Women and the Criminal Justice System

Involvement in Criminal Activity

In the Yukon, as in the rest of Canada, women are considerably less likely than men to be charged with criminal offences. This holds true for both adult women and youth.

In the Yukon in 1996, there were 232 females charged with criminal offences as compared to 1,354 males. Thus, females comprised 14.6% of those charged with criminal offences in the Yukon.

Figure 74. Proportion of those charged with Criminal Code offences including traffic violations; Yukon, 1996

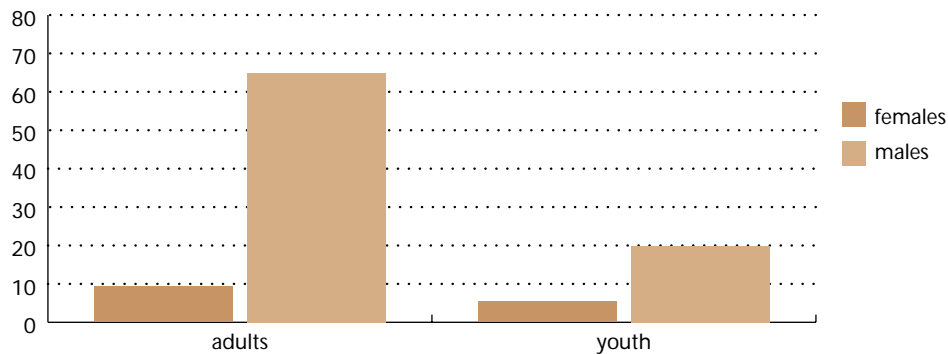


Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205XPE, 1996

For both sexes, more charges were laid against adults than against youth. Of all charges against females, 64% were against adult females. An even greater proportion of charges against males were against adults, with 76% of the charges against males being laid against adult males.

Females comprised 12.5% of the adults charged in the Yukon in 1996, but nearly 21% of the youth charged. Thus, females accounted for a relatively higher proportion of youth charges than adult charges. Data collected in 1996 for Canada overall showed a similar pattern. In 1996, females in Canada accounted for 28% of youth charges and 15.9% of adult charges.

Figure 75. Proportion of total Criminal Code charges by sex and age group
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205XPE, 1996. p.33

Crimes of Violence

Females in the Yukon comprise 15% of those charged with crimes of violence. These include such crimes as homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery with firearms. In the Yukon in 1996, 427 violent offence charges were laid and 65 of those were against women.

A difference between adults and youth is evident. Females comprise 11.9% of adults charged with violent offences, but make up 33% of the youth charged with similar offences. This pattern is also seen in Canada, where adult females comprised 12.5% of those charged with violent offences in 1996, as compared to 24% of youth charged with similar crimes.

For both adults and youth in the Yukon, females charged with violent offences were charged with non-sexual assault. The majority of violent offence charges against males were also non-sexual assault charges but also included attempted murder, sexual assault and robbery.

Property Offences

Females are somewhat more likely to be charged with property offences than with violent offences. Property offences include breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, theft and fraud. In the Yukon in 1996, females comprised 17.5% of those charged with property crime. Females made up nearly 20% of adults charged with property crimes, and 15.7% of youth charged with similar offences.

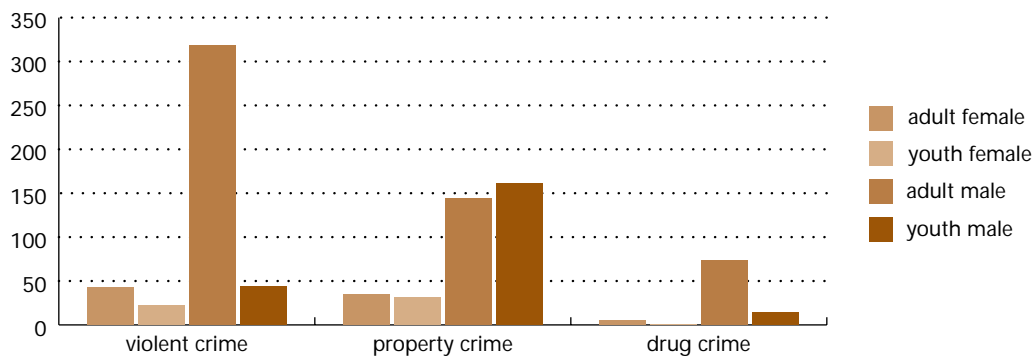
Of the females charged with property offences, 57% of the adults and 61% of the youths were charged with theft under \$5,000. This compares with 42% of adult males and 19.8% of males. Males were more likely than females to be charged with breaking and entering; this is particularly true for young males.

As compared to 6% of adult females and 22.5% of female youth who were charged with property crimes, 31% of adult males and 65% of male youth were charged with this offence.

Drug Related Crimes

Males are considerably more likely than females to be charged with drug-related offences. Of the 94 drug-related charges laid in the Yukon in 1996, 88 or 94% were against males (primarily adult males). All charges against females were for possession of marijuana, as were the majority (82%) of charges against males.

Figure 76. Number of Criminal Code charges by sex and age group Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205XPE, 1996

Victims of Violence

One of the key issues identified by the women who contributed to *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices* (1993) was the issue of violence and safety. Both First Nation and non-aboriginal women identified violence against women and children as important concerns.⁵² *“Violence against women takes many forms including incest involving young girls, sexual abuse and harassment of women, physical and psychological violence by partners, and abuse of seniors. All forms of violence have a significant impact, sometimes acute and sometimes long term, on a woman’s health.”*⁵³

52. Government of Yukon, Women’s Directorate and Bureau of Statistics, *Multiple Roles, Multiple Voices: A Survey of Yukon Women*, (Reprinted 1994), 3.

53. British Columbia Provincial Health Officer, *A Report on the Health of British Columbians*, (Victoria, B.C.: British Columbia Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, 1995), 94.

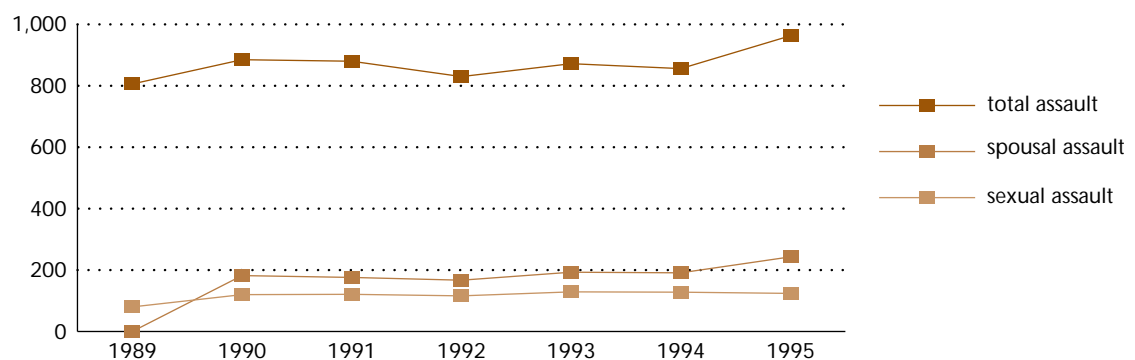
It is also important to note that it is difficult to determine the actual extent of violence against women, in part because women may be reluctant to report such abuse. However, research indicates that it is widespread. According to the Violence Against Women Survey (1993), 29% of women who had ever been married or lived in a common-law relationship had been physically or sexually assaulted by their partner at some point during the relationship.⁵⁴ The Yukon was not included in this survey so it is difficult to know whether these statistics accurately reflect the reality in the territory.

While it is not possible to completely determine the extent to which women and children are victims of violence, examination of reported assaults, as well as use of programs and services such as those provided by women's shelters and the Family Violence Prevention Unit shed some light on the issue.

Reported Assaults

In 1995, there were 124 reported cases of sexual assault, 243 cases of spousal assault and 963 total assaults (includes sexual, spousal and "other" assaults). The number of total assaults and spousal assaults have shown an increase over the period described, while the number of reported sexual assaults has remained relatively constant over the same period. It should be noted that the increases may reflect more actual assaults and/or more reporting of violence due to greater awareness and less tolerance.

Figure 77. Number of reported assaults by type
Yukon, 1989 to 1995



Source: Government of Yukon, *Creating Safer Communities*, 1996

54. K. Rodgers, "Wife Assault in Canada," *Canadian Social Trends* 34 (Autumn 1994): 3.

As noted above, the number assaults reported do not necessarily reflect actual incidents of assault, although, since the introduction of mandatory charging policies, they likely more closely capture the incidence than in the past. Nonetheless, the Violence Against Women Survey noted that only 26% of women in abusive relationships reported assault to the police.⁵⁵ Those who experience repeated assaults were more likely to report them.

Charges Laid

In 1996, 35 males were charged with sexual assault. An additional 226 males were charged with assault, but the data does not indicate whether the victim of the assault was female or male.

Family Violence Prevention Unit

In 1995/96, 186 female clients attended programs offered through the Family Violence Prevention Unit. The majority of those (nearly 75%) reported their principal reason as being a victim of wife assault. The remaining 25% identified reasons as sexual assault, being adult survivors of abuse, or “other”, which includes anger issues. In the majority of cases (55%), the criminal justice system was not involved with the individual’s case.

Transition Homes

It is likely that the data from transition homes and other social services seriously under-counts the extent of violence. According to the Violence Against Women Survey, less than one quarter (24%) of women abused by a partner used social services. Only 6% either contacted or stayed at a shelter.⁵⁶ From January 1 to December 31, 1998, for example, 170 women and 126 children were residents of the Yukon Women’s Transition Home. Of these 19% were from Yukon communities, 9% were from other provinces, 1% were from the United States and 71% were from Whitehorse. During this period the home received 965 crisis calls and 549 drop-ins. See Table 6.

Table 6. Number of people using Transition Home by community of origin

Community	Women	Children	Total	Percentage
Whitehorse	116	95	211	71
Yukon communities	33	24	57	19
Provinces	19	7	26	9
United States	2	—	—	1
Total	170	126	296	100

55. Ibid., 7.

56. Ibid., 7.

Summary: Women and the Criminal Justice System

In the Yukon and the rest of Canada, women are less likely than men to be charged with criminal offences. Females involved in criminal activity are more likely to be involved with property crimes than with crimes of violence. As well, females account for proportionately more charges against youth than those against adults.

Violence continues to be a key issue for women in the territory. Violence takes on a number of forms and can have serious long-term and short-term effects on women's health and well-being.

It is difficult to determine the full extent of violence against women. However, it is clear that many women are victims of sexual assault and physical assault. The number of spousal assault charges has increased over the past few years. This finding is also reflected in the fact that the majority of female clients accessing the services of the Family Violence Prevention Unit did so in response to spousal assault.

Section 10. Women as Decision-Makers

One way of assessing women’s influence in society is to examine the extent to which they are participants in the decision-making process at various levels. This includes participation as elected officials, members of the government bureaucracy, as representatives on boards and in decision-making positions.

There are a number of Yukon women who hold positions of influence. In 1998, these included the Member of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, mayors, the Commissioner of the Yukon and the Grand Chief of the Council for Yukon First Nations (CYFN). Nonetheless, in Canada and the Yukon, women remain under-represented in many areas of influence.

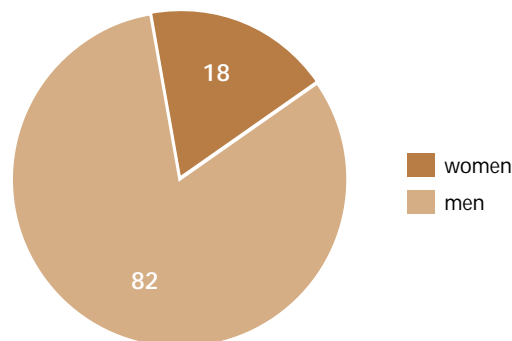
Member of Parliament

The Yukon elects one representative to the federal legislature. As of 1998 and for a number of years previous, this position was held by a woman. However, of the 301 representatives elected to the House of Commons, the Yukon’s female representative is one of only 60 women. As of 1998, women hold just under 20% of seats in the federal Parliament.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

The Yukon Legislative Assembly functions in much the same way as any provincial legislature. There are 17 elected representatives; in 1998, three positions were held by women. Thus, women comprise 17.6% of the seats in the territorial legislature. This compares to 27% (20 of 75 members) in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Figure 78. Proportion of female representation in territorial government Yukon, 1998

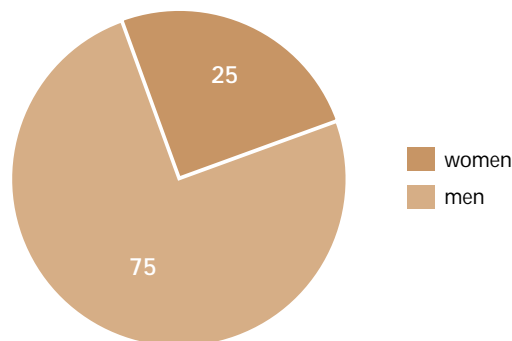


Source: Government of Yukon, Public Service Commission

Municipal Governments

Within the Yukon there are eight municipalities with elected mayors/councillors. These include Carmacks, Dawson, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Of the eight mayors of the various municipalities, two (25%) are women. Women make up almost half of elected councillors, comprising 15 of 33.

Figure 79. Proportion of female representation in municipal government Yukon, 1998

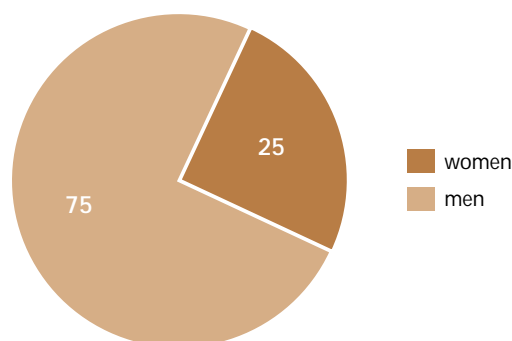


Source: Government of Yukon, Community and Transportation Services, Yukon Community Directory, November 1998

First Nations Governments

Women are also under-represented as elected Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs among Yukon First Nations and Councils. Including the Grand Chief of the Council for Yukon First Nations, women comprise six of the 24 Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs in the Yukon. This is a proportion that parallels the representation of Yukon women in municipal governments.

Figure 80. Proportion of female representation in First Nations governments Yukon, 1998

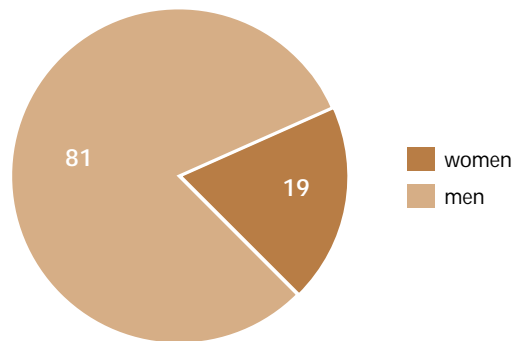


Source: Government of Yukon, Community and Transportation Services, Yukon Community Directory, November 1998

Senior Government Officials

As of 1998, females occupied three Deputy Minister positions in the Government of the Yukon. This constitutes 18.7% of the Deputy Minister positions. Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of female Deputy Ministers — between two and five positions — the total has not altered significantly since 1991.

Figure 81. Proportion of female Deputy Ministers
Government of the Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Public Service Commission, Employment Equity Report, 1997

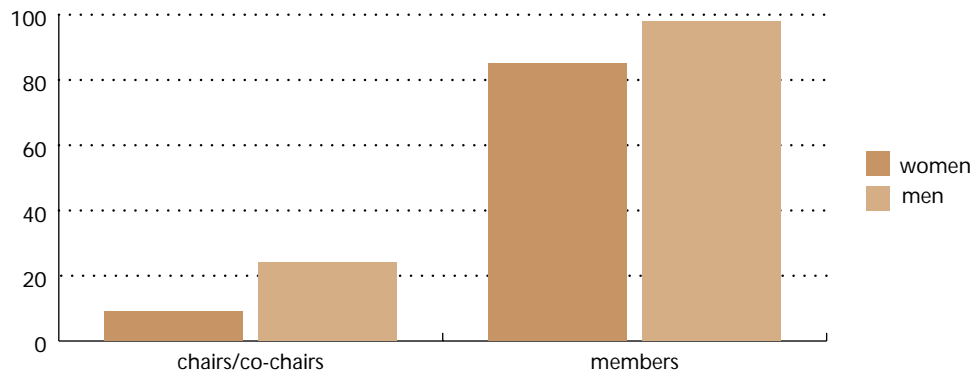
Government Appointed Boards

There are numerous government appointed boards and committees in the territory. These boards and committees are established by statute and are comprised of members appointed by Cabinet or a Cabinet Minister. The boards serve advisory, regulatory or adjudicative functions. Honoraria is paid to members of some boards/committees but not all.

Of the 68 boards/committees where a Chair and/or Vice Chair was identified, women comprised 32 or 47% of the Chairs/Co-Chair positions. The proportion of female membership on various boards and committees varies from one committee to another. In some cases, women comprised all or most of the representatives; for example, Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (9/9); Nursing Assistants Advisory Committee (5/6); and Health and Social Services Advisory Council (11/14). On others, women were in the minority; for example, Electrical Safety Standards Board (0/7); Apprenticeship Advisory Board (2/7) and various Renewable Resource Councils.

Members of "Category D" boards and committees receive the highest level of honoraria for their services (\$200/day). Of those Category D boards and committees where Chairs/Vice Chairs were identified, women comprise 9 of 33 Chair/Co-Chair positions (27%). Women comprise 85 of 183 board members (46.4%).

Figure 82. Number of representatives on Category D boards by sex
Yukon, 1998



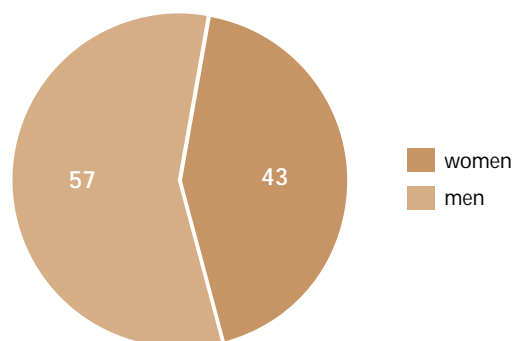
Source: Government of Yukon, Executive Council Office. Government Boards and Committees Directory, 1997

School Administrators

There are 28 schools in the Yukon, the majority (16) of which are elementary schools, in most cases covering kindergarten to grade seven. There are four secondary schools (grades 7/8 to 12) as well as eight schools that provide education from kindergarten to grades 10 or 12.

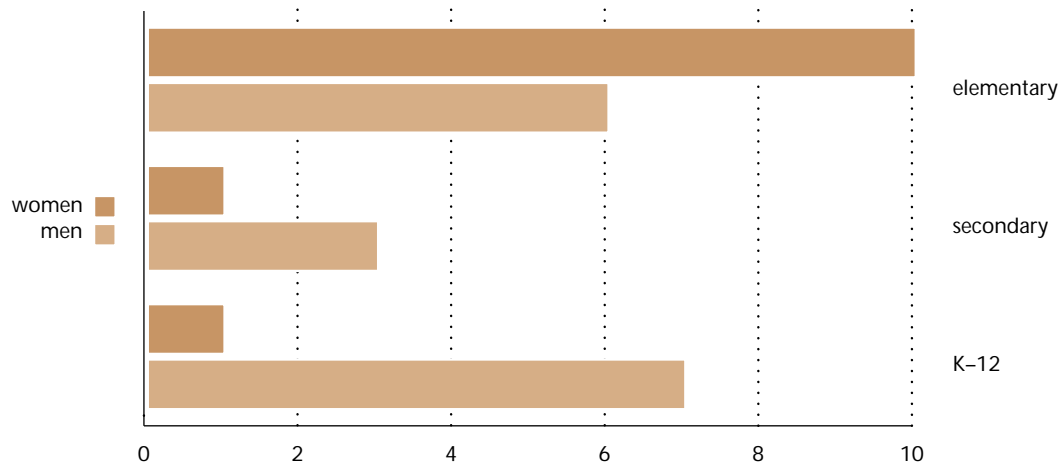
Of the 28 school principals, 12 are women. This constitutes approximately 43% of the school principals. Of the female principals, most are principals of elementary schools. There is one female high school principal and one female principal in a school covering grades K-12. The remaining ten are administrators of elementary schools.

Figure 83. Proportion of school administrators by sex
Yukon, 1998



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Education, 1998

Figure 84. Number of school principals by sex and type of school
Yukon, 1998



Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Education, 1998

Summary: Women as Decision-Makers

There are a number of Yukon women who hold prominent positions of influence. In 1998, these included the Member of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, mayors, the Commissioner of the Yukon and the Grand Chief of the Council for Yukon First Nations. Nonetheless, in Canada and the Yukon, women remain under-represented in many areas of influence.

Women comprise one-quarter or less of the representatives in federal Parliament, the Government of the Yukon and the Yukon municipal governments. They also comprise 25% or less of First Nations governments and Deputy Ministers in the public service.

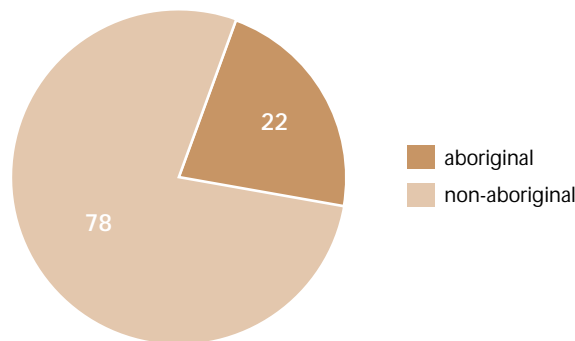
Women are more equally represented on government appointed boards and committees, and as school administrators. In 1998, women comprised 47% of board Chairs/Co-Chairs and 43% of school principals. Most of the female school principals are administrators of elementary schools.

Section 11. Focus on First Nations Women

First Nations people comprise approximately 20% of the population of the Yukon. This compares to 2.8% of the population for Canada overall.

Females make up slightly more than half (52%) of the First Nations population in the Yukon. This is opposite the ratio in the Yukon population overall, where females comprise slightly less than half (48%) of the total population. Nearly 22% of the female population in the Yukon is comprised of women of aboriginal ancestry.

Figure 85. First Nations women as a proportion of total female population Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #C96-07

The majority (55%) of First Nations people in the Yukon live in communities outside Whitehorse. This compares with 25.7% of the non-aboriginal population. As well, the majority of First Nations people in the Yukon were born in the territory. Just over 70% of aboriginal females were born in the Yukon, as compared with 23% of non-aboriginal females.

Education

Yukon First Nations women have lower levels of educational attainment than their non-aboriginal counterparts. While 15% of non-aboriginal women in the Yukon report a university degree as their highest level of educational attainment, only 5.2% of aboriginal females do so. As well, First Nations women are more likely than non-aboriginal women to report “less than grade nine” as their highest level of education. This pattern is also found in the rest of Canada. According to Statistics Canada, 4.5% of aboriginal people (males and females combined) were university graduates in 1996 as compared with 16% of the non-aboriginal population. With reference to First Nations Canadians, Statistics Canada states:

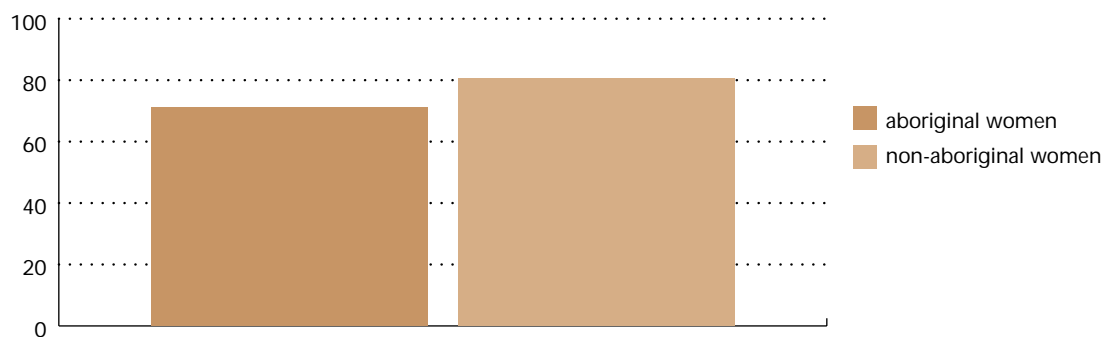
“Aboriginal people are making gains in educational attainment, but are experiencing little, if any, improvement relative to the non-aboriginal population”.⁵⁷

However, Yukon aboriginal women between the ages of 15 and 24 are as likely as their non-aboriginal counterparts to be attending school. As well, data from 1991–92 suggest that First Nations women are more likely than First Nations men to access funding for post-secondary education.

Employment and Income

First Nations women are somewhat less likely than their non-aboriginal counterparts to participate in the paid labour force. This holds true for both youth and adults. In 1996, the labour force participation rate for aboriginal women was 71.1% as compared to a participation rate of 80.5% for non-aboriginal females.

Figure 86. Labour force participation rate for females by ethnicity
Yukon, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, Special Run

First Nations women who are in the paid labour force are less likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts. However, they are significantly more likely to be unemployed than non-aboriginal females.

As well, the average employment income for aboriginal females is less than that of non-aboriginal females. This is particularly true for those women who identify themselves as band members. First Nations women who do not identify themselves as band members have incomes more closely approximating those of non-aboriginal women.

Unpaid Work

Aboriginal women are more likely than non-aboriginal women to report that they perform unpaid childcare and care to seniors.

57. Statistics Canada, “1996 Census: Education, Mobility and Migration,” *The Daily* (April 14, 1998): 6.

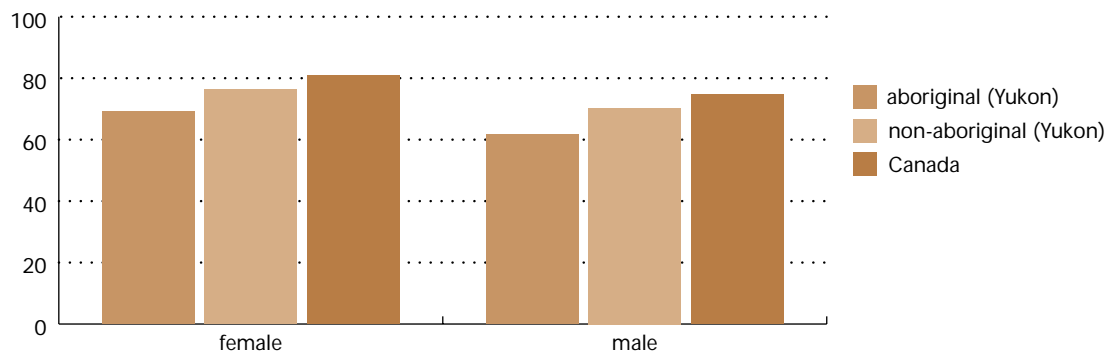
Life Expectancy

For both females and males, the life expectancy of a newborn aboriginal Yukon resident is significantly less than that of a newborn non-aboriginal Yukoner. The life expectancy of a newborn aboriginal female is 69.2 years, as compared to 76.3 years for a non-aboriginal female. The life expectancy for a female in the rest of Canada is 80.9 years.

The life expectancy of a newborn aboriginal male in the Yukon is even shorter, at 61.7 years. This compares to 70.3 years for a non-aboriginal Yukon male, and to 74.6 years for a Canadian male.

Figure 87. Life expectancy (years) at birth

Yukon and Canada, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon. Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet 97.08

According to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, the difference in life expectancy between newborns of either sex may be attributable to proportionately more infant deaths among aboriginal Yukoners and proportionately more accidental deaths among aboriginal Yukoners (particularly young males).⁵⁸

Positions of Influence

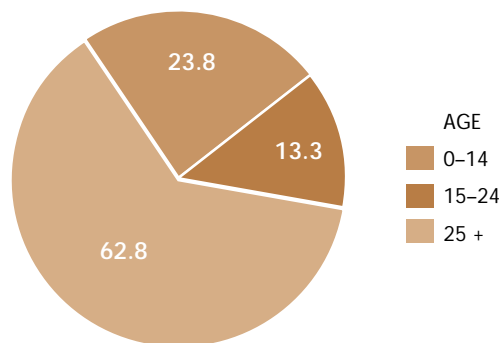
There are a number of prominent First Nation women in the Yukon. In 1998, these included the Yukon Commissioner and the Grand Chief of CYFN. As in the population overall, however, First Nation women are underrepresented in political office. In 1998, women comprised 25% of representatives in First Nations government. This proportion parallels the representation of women in municipal politics in the territory.

58. Government of Yukon, Bureau of Statistics, *Life Expectancy in the Yukon: Statistical Estimates of How Long Yukoners are Likely to Live*, Information Sheet #97.08, 3.

Section 12. Focus on Young Women

Nearly 40% (37.3%) of the population of the Yukon is under the age of 25. This ratio is almost identical for females and males, with 37.1% of the female population under age 25 (as compared to 37.5% for males), and 13.3% of both sexes between the ages 15 and 24.

Figure 88. Proportion of young female population according to age group
Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon. Bureau of Statistics, Information Sheet C96.02

As is found in the Yukon population overall, there are slightly more males than females in the younger age groups (0-24). However, there are slightly more females than males in the 20-24 age group.

Marital Status

The vast majority of young women between the ages of 15 and 24 report their marital status as "single". It should be noted that women in common-law relationships are considered to be "single". Of the 1,996 women in this age group, 1,515 or 76.3% are single, 23.2% are married, and a very small proportion (0.8%) are separated or divorced. This shows a slight change from 1991, when 72.9% of women in this age group reported their marital status as "single".

Education

For the Yukon population aged 15-25, males and females were almost equally likely to be attending school. In 1996, 56% of females and 57% of males in this age group reported that they were attending school. In 1996, 72% of females age 15-19 and 40% of females age 20-24 were attending school. This compares with 75% of males in the younger age group and 39% of males in the older age group. While males in the younger age group were more likely than their female counterparts to be attending on a part-time basis, the opposite was true for the older age group.

A relatively small proportion of young people aged 15–24 report a bachelor's degree as their highest level of education. However, this is not surprising given that a significant proportion of those in this age category are not yet of university age. In this age group, 3.6% of youth hold a university degree (43% of those are women). A significantly larger proportion (18%) of those aged 25–34 years hold a university degree; the majority of degrees (57%) are held by women. Education will be increasingly important for young people. According to Statistics Canada: "the transition from school to the labour force is becoming more difficult for people who did not complete high school".⁵⁹

Work and Income

Labour force participation varies by age, with those in the youngest age groups less likely than their older counterparts to participate in the labour force. This is not surprising given the school attendance noted above. In 1995, the labour force participation rate for females and males age 15–19 was almost identical: 53.5 for females and 53.8 for males.

Of those participating in the labour force, a relatively small proportion of those age 15–24 worked full-time, full-year. In 1995, 14% of females and 12.2% of males in this age group worked full-time, full-year. The average income for female full-time, full-year workers was \$19,800 as compared to \$27,625 for males. Thus, even at the younger age groups, a wage gap existed.

Teenage Pregnancies

Teenage pregnancies raise a number of concerns, both in terms of health and in terms of social and economic consequences. According to Wadera and Miller (1997), pregnancy before age 20 increases the risk of low birth-weight infants and preterm babies. Teenage pregnancies may also result in loss of economic and educational opportunities for the mother.⁶⁰

The data show that in Canada and the Yukon, there has been a decline in the rate of teenage pregnancies (pregnancies per 100,000 women age 15-19) and births to teenage mothers since 1974. However, the rate of teenage births in the Yukon is higher than every other jurisdiction except the Northwest Territories. Nonetheless, caution must be exercised in interpreting the data because of the small size of the Yukon population.

59. Statistics Canada, "1996 Census: Education, Mobility and Migration," *The Daily* (April 14, 1998): 5.

60. Wadera, S. and W. Miller, "Teenage Pregnancies, 1974 to 1994," *Health Reports* 9, no. 3 (Winter 1997): 9-10.

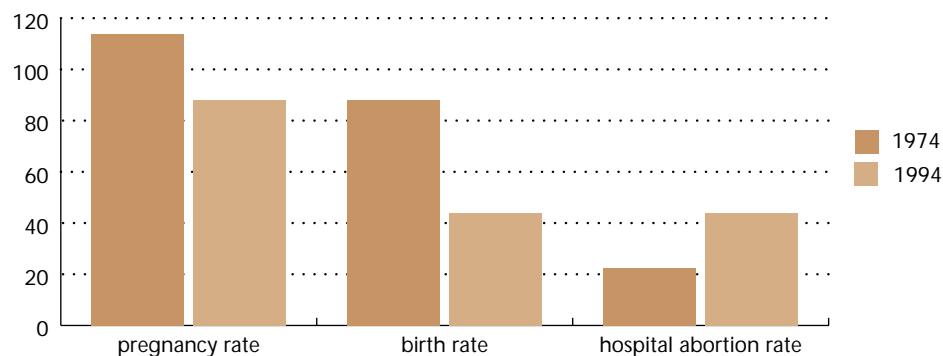
In Canada and in the Yukon, there has also been an increase in the rate of abortions (hospital abortions per 100,000 women age 15–19) since 1974. The hospital abortion rate for the Yukon has doubled since 1974.

Table 7. Teenage pregnancy rate, birth rate and and abortion rate (per 100,000) Yukon, 1974 and 1994

	Pregnancy rate	Birth rate	Hospital abortion rate
1974	113.7	88.0	22.5
1994	88.0	44.0	44.0

Source: Wadera and Miller, 1997

Figure 89. Teenage pregnancy rate, birth rate and abortion rate (per 100,000) Women age 15–19, Yukon, 1974 and 1994



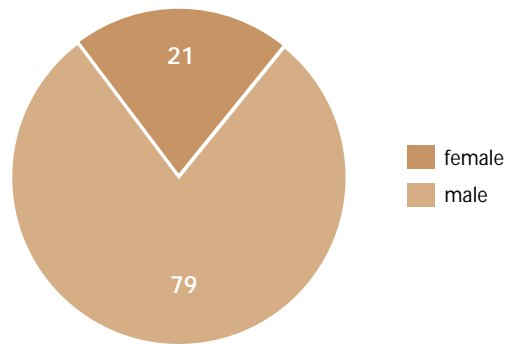
Source: Wadera and Miller, 1997

Young Women and Crime

In the period 1993 to 1996, there was an increase in the number of youth charged with criminal offences in the Yukon. In 1993/94 there was a total of 205 youth charged as compared to 246 in 1995/96. During that period of time, there was also an increase in the proportion of charges against youth from communities outside Whitehorse. For example, there were 38 youth charged in the communities in 1993/94, as compared to 68 in 1995/96.

Females constitute a relatively small proportion of youth offenders (20.8% of young offenders in Whitehorse in 1995/96). However, they constitute a larger proportion of youth charged than of adults charged with criminal offences. While the proportion of female offenders in Whitehorse has remained relatively stable over time, it has shown an increase in the communities. In the communities outside Whitehorse, young females constituted 5.3% of young offenders in 1993/94 but 19.1% in 1995/96.

Figure 90. Females as a proportion of those charged with youth offences
Yukon, 1995/96



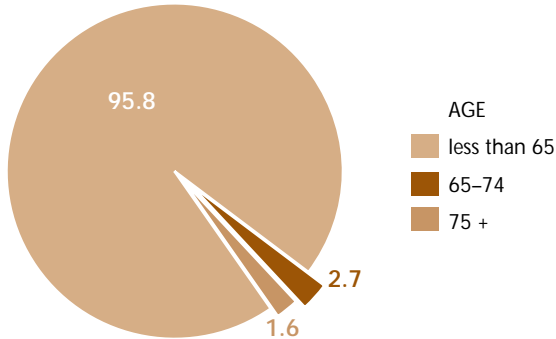
Source: RCMP. Occurrence Report Analysis, 1995-98. Preliminary Data, 1998

Section 13. Focus on Older Women

The population of the Yukon and Canada is aging. This means that there are proportionately more people in the older age groups and proportionately fewer in the younger age groups. This aging is attributable to declining fertility and mortality rates, as well as an out-migration of the younger population.

Compared to the rest of Canada, the proportion of the population aged 65 and older is relatively low. In 1996, 4.4% of the population of the Yukon was aged 65 or older, as compared to 12.2% for Canada as a whole. Of the Yukon's female population, 4.3% was 65 or older in 1996, as compared to 4.6% of the male population.

Figure 91. Percentage of female population age 65 and older by age group Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon. Bureau of Statistics, Information Sheet C96-02

In the Yukon, males outnumber females in the population age 65 and older. This pattern is opposite that found in the rest of Canada. However, Yukon females do outnumber males at the oldest age groups (age 75 and older).

Marital Status

A significant proportion of those aged 65 and older are married (including common-law); however, males are more likely than females to be married. In this age group, 40.6% of females and 60.7% of males report that they are married. Considerably more women than men are widowed, with 46% of women and only 12.4% of men in this age category being widowed. This likely reflects the longer life expectancy of women as well as the tendency for men to marry women somewhat younger than themselves. Males in this age group are also more likely than females to be single (never-married). Only 4% of women and 14% of males are never-married.

Figure 92. Proportion of males and females by marital status
Population age 65 and older, Yukon, 1996



Source: Government of Yukon. Bureau of Statistics Information Sheet #C96-03

Education

A significant proportion of older Yukon residents — 30.1% of women and 36.8% of males — report less than grade nine as their highest level of education. This compares to 1.6% of females and 3.5% of males aged 25–34.

Among those age 65 and older, 3.3% of females and 8.8% of males have a university degree. This compares to 19.8% of females and 15.7% of males aged 25–34.

Work and Income

As might be expected, the labour force participation of persons age 65 and older is less than that of the younger population. The participation rate for women is 13.8% while the rate for men is 25.0%. Thus, significantly more older males than females remain involved in the paid labour force past the age of 65. However, relatively few work full-time, full-year.

In 1995, the average total income for Yukon women age 65–69 was \$18,198. This was slightly above the average income for Canadian women in this age group (\$16,157). However, it is lower than the average income for Yukon males and Canadian males in the same age category. The average income for Yukon males age 65–69 was \$22,998 and for Canadian males it was \$28,540. Thus, while Yukon women fared better than their Canadian counterparts, older Yukon males fared worse.

Contributors

Many individuals and groups contributed to this statistical profile through the consultation process and through the collection and compilation of data. The assistance and support of all contributors is gratefully acknowledged.

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