

New Brunswick's Population Continues to Age

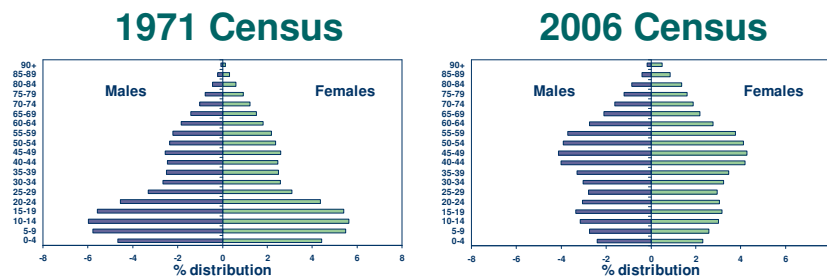
- According to the census held on May 16, 2006, the proportion of people aged 65 and over increased in every province and territory during the preceding five years, while the percentage of people under 15 years continued to shrink.
- Population aging can be attributed to two main factors: declining fertility rates and increased life expectancy.
- The aging trend is expected to accelerate when the first baby-boomers turn 65 years of age in 2011.
- New Brunswick was ranked third oldest among the Atlantic provinces in 2006, with seniors aged 65 and over comprising 14.7% of the provincial population. Only Newfoundland and Labrador was younger with its proportion of seniors at 13.9%. Nova Scotia was the oldest province in Eastern Canada (with 15.1% of its residents aged 65 or over), and the second-oldest in the country behind Saskatchewan (15.4%).

Two indicators of the population age structure are used for 2006 Census analysis:

(1) the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over; and (2) the proportion of children aged less than 15. A population will be considered as older than another one when its proportion of senior citizens is higher. A population will be considered as younger if its proportion of children is higher.

The use of these two indicators may lead to different results than those which would be obtained using other indicators of the population age structure such as the median age.

N.B. Age Distribution



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.