

This population bulletin is part of the Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project undertaken by the Peace River Regional District and the Community Development Institute at UNBC. This bulletin is a summary of the "Population Background and Trends Report". By looking at population trends, potential growth in the local seniors' population can be estimated. Understanding local population structure and potential changes assists in the preparation of housing and service needs for future populations.

The population of Hudson's Hope has generally declined since 1971 (Table 1). In 1971, the population was 1,740, and by 2006 the population was 1,012.

Table 1: Population Counts, 1971-2006

Year	Hudson's Hope	Peace River Regional District
1971	1,740	43,996*
1976	1,330	44,842*
1981	1,365	55,463*
1986	1,158	57,278*
1991	985	53,317
1996	1,120	56,477
2001	1,039	55,080
2006	1,012	58,264

Source: Statistics Canada.

* Peace River-Liard Regional District at the time.

The largest population decline was between 1971 and 1976 (Table 2). The community experienced its largest increase from 1991 to 1996.

Table 2: Percent Population Change, 1971-2006

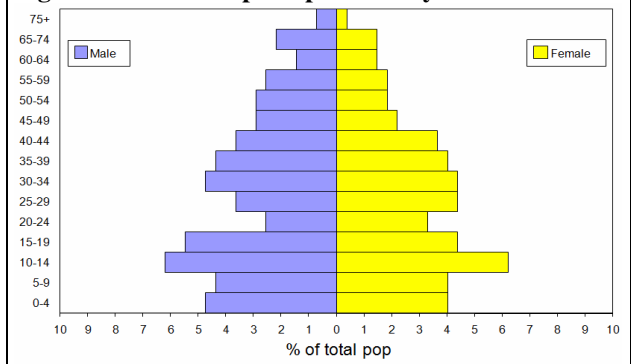
Year	Hudson's Hope	Peace River Regional District
1971-1976	-23.6	1.9
1976-1981	2.6	23.7
1981-1986	-15.2	3.3
1986-1991	-14.9	-6.9
1991-1996	13.7	5.9
1996-2001	-7.1	-2.5
2001-2006	-2.7	5.8

Source: Statistics Canada.

Population pyramids provide a 'picture' of the age structure of the local population. Broken down by males and females, the pyramids identify the proportion of the population within particular age groups. As such, pyramids can show how population structure changes over time.

One caution with using pyramids for small populations concerns the Census procedure of 'rounding' numbers to either '5' or '0'. Once the total is divided by gender, and into the 15 age groups, the numbers are small. As a result, figures can look distorted.

Fig. 1: Hudson's Hope Population Pyramid - 1981



Over time, Hudson's Hope's population pyramids demonstrate an aging population. In 1981, there was an older workforce (large shares of the population in the 45 to 59 year age groups) (Fig. 1).

By 2006, the share of the population over the age of 40 has increased and there was an out-migration of those aged 20 to 34 years (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2: Hudson's Hope Population Pyramid - 2006

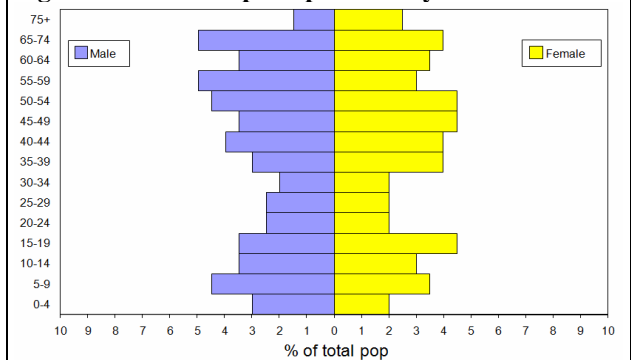


Table 3: Percent of Population 65 Years and Older, 1971-2006

Year	Hudson's Hope	Peace River Regional District
1971	2.0	4.0
1976	3.0	4.5
1981	4.8	4.3
1986	6.5	4.9
1991	8.1	6.2
1996	8.4	6.6
2001	11.6	7.9
2006	12.9	8.8

Source: Statistics Canada.

The number of seniors in Hudson's Hope has increased considerably since 1971 (Table 3). In 1971, only 2% of the population were seniors, but nearly 13% of the population were seniors by 2006.

Table 4: Percent of Workforce Aged 45 – 65 of age, 1971-2006

Year	Hudson's Hope	Peace River Regional District
1971	22.6	23.3
1976	24.4	23.3
1981	26.1	20.6
1986	30.6	22.8
1991	36.2	25.1
1996	40.5	27.0
2001	43.8	31.3
2006	47.1	35.6

Source: Statistics Canada.

The percent of the 'older' workforce has increased in Hudson's Hope (Table 4). In 2006, over 47% of the workforce in the community was over the age of 45. The community has had a greater proportion of an 'older' workforce than the Regional District since 1976. This 'nearing retirement' population will be important because of the different housing and service needs as older residents.

Old age dependency ratios compare those who are retired against the workforce who would be supporting them. By calculating this ratio over time, changes in age relationships are tracked.

Table 5: Old Age Dependency Ratio, 1971-2006 (%)

Year	Hudson's Hope	Peace River Regional District
1971	3.4	6.9
1976	4.8	7.2
1981	7.2	6.5
1986	9.6	7.3
1991	12.3	9.2
1996	12.8	9.9
2001	17.5	11.6
2006	19.1	12.7

Source: Statistics Canada.

The old age dependency ratio in Hudson's Hope has increased since 1971 (Table 5).

Retention rates were calculated using local historical data to estimate the potential increase of retirement populations by 2011. However, because the community has a small population, estimates are less reliable. The estimates suggest that Hudson's Hope could retain between 70 and 120 people by 2011 who will be aged 65 to 74 years.

In summary, the population of Hudson's Hope has been declining over time, and those remaining in the community are aging. Presently, the community has a larger share of seniors than the Regional District. The current number of seniors in Hudson's Hope may not be numerically large (130 in 2006), but 47% of the local workforce was over the age of 45 in 2006. Given historical trends, the community can expect to have an additional 70 to 120 seniors by 2011. Such trends reinforce the need to consider how to deal with the housing and service needs of an aging population. By starting now, the community has time to prepare for the needs of an older local population.