



COMMUNITY PROFILE:

100 Mile House/South Cariboo Region

Fall 2017

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Introduction

The South Cariboo region is economically dependent on the natural resource sector, which has traditionally been dominated by the forest industry, however other dominant industries include mining, agriculture, and tourism. The region's economy and its communities are facing a significant challenge due to many factors including increasing frequency of natural disturbances and the continued volatility in the global market for natural resources.

These factors have the ability to cause wide scale impacts to individuals and communities of the South Cariboo as they will impact jobs, businesses, and services in the community.

To support the community in working toward a long-term goal of building a more diverse economy and resilient community for the 100 Mile House and South Cariboo region, the Community Development Institute (CDI) at University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) partnered with the District of 100 Mile House and Cariboo Regional District (CRD) to deliver an economic development project that would engage the community to identify and build on community and regional assets and strengths to diversify the economy that would result in economic change and transformation.

To build an understanding of the assets, opportunities, and challenges in the community, the first step that needs to be taken is completing research to compile a community profile to provide useful insights on the residents and local economy, as well as on the opportunities and challenges for the community moving forward.

The data that has been collected for this Community Profile is the most recent that can be found for the region. However, due to schedules and methodologies for data collection, such as suppression of data sets due to low response, some of the data presented may appear outdated.

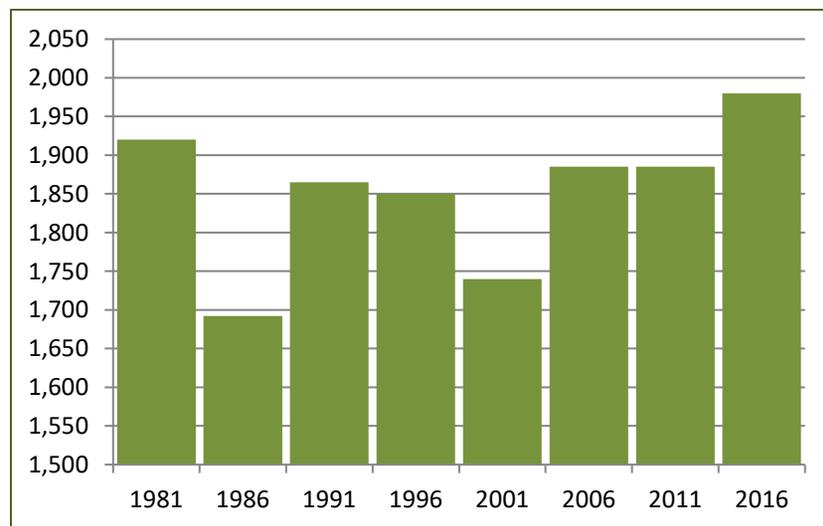
This Community Profile provides a snapshot of the community that can be used as a baseline and reference point for future planning and actions.

Population

Population data is included in this report because it provides information about the size of the community and its change over time. In combination with other data, population information shows how events and regional trends influence the community.

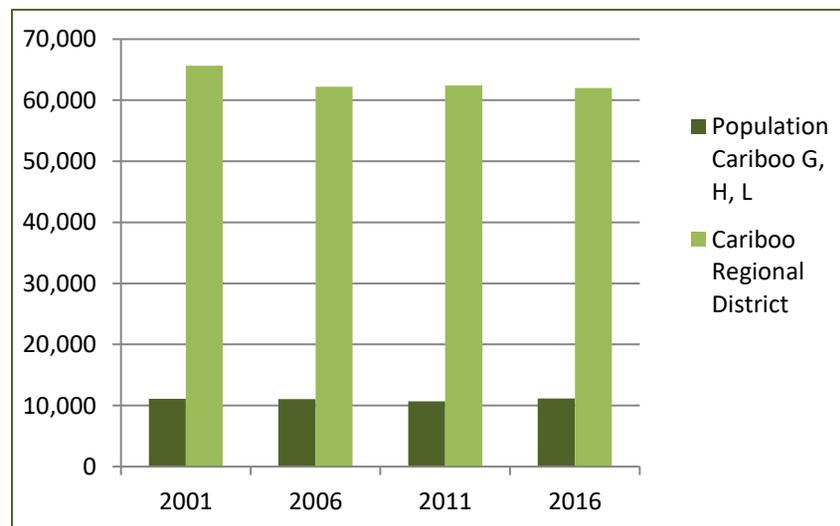
Between the years 1981 and 2001, 100 Mile House saw a slow but steady decrease in its population. Since 2001, the population has been growing (see Figure 1.1). In the years 2011 and 2016, 100 Mile House constituted an exception in the region as the only community to see population growth. In 2016, 100 Mile House had a population of 1,980, the largest population recorded for the community in the past 35 years. This represents an increase of 5% over 2011 and 14% over 2001. This growth is slightly below provincial growth rates for those time periods of 6% and 19% respectively. However, the Cariboo Regional District has experienced opposite developments, where it saw population growth before 2001 but a steady decline over the past 15 years. The Electoral Areas surrounding 100 Mile House, Cariboo G, Cariboo H, and Cariboo L, have mostly steady population numbers since 2001 (Figure 1.2). 100 Mile House and the surrounding electoral areas combined have a population of 13,124 in 2016.ⁱ

Figure 1.1 Population: 100 Mile House, 1981-2016



Source: Statistics Canada. 1981-2016. Census Program.

Figure 1.2 Population: Electoral Areas and Regional District, 2001-2016



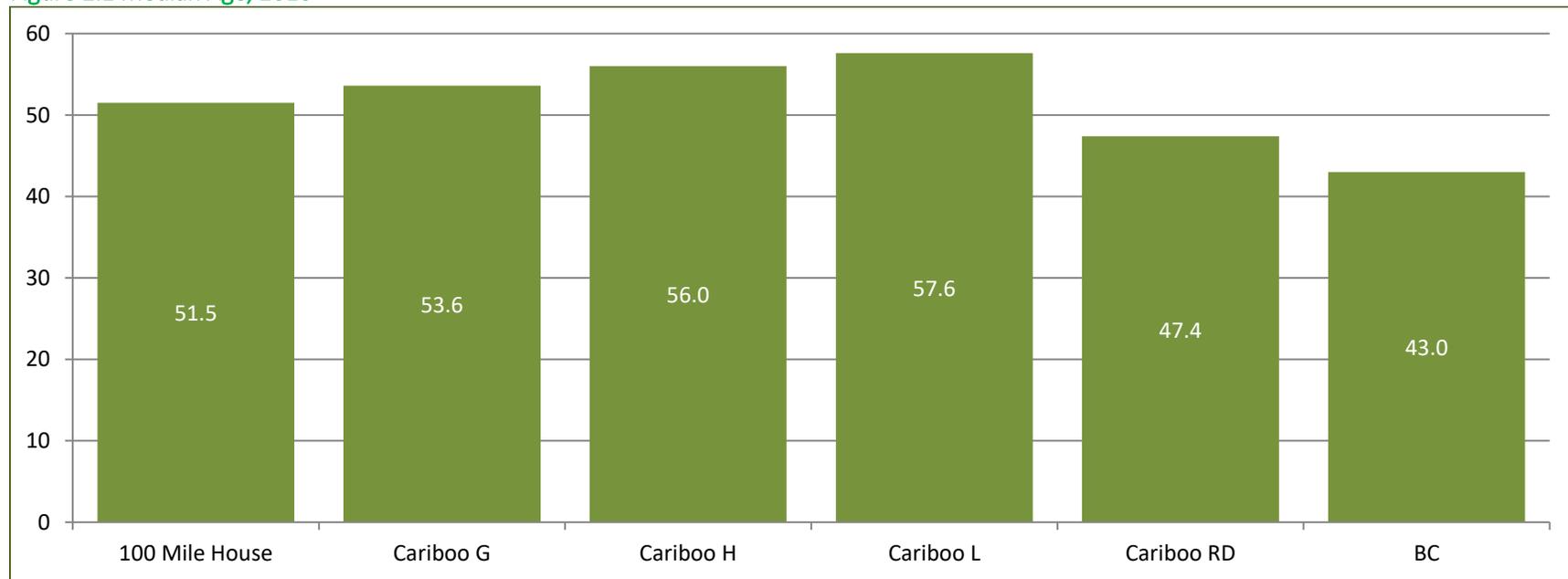
Source: Statistics Canada. 2001-2016. Census Program.

Age Profile

The age profile of the community provides information about the age composition of the population and how it has changed over time. This information can be used, for example, to learn about community structure and determine service needs.

Median age is defined as the exact age where half the population is older and half is younger. As of 2016, the median age in 100 Mile House was 52 years of age, which was older than the provincial median age of 43 (figure 2.1). Median age in 100 Mile House has seen an increase since 2011, when it was at 46 years. The fact that close to one-third of the 2016 population is aged 65 years and older further underlines that 100 Mile House has seen population aging over the past decades.

Figure 2.1 Median Age, 2016

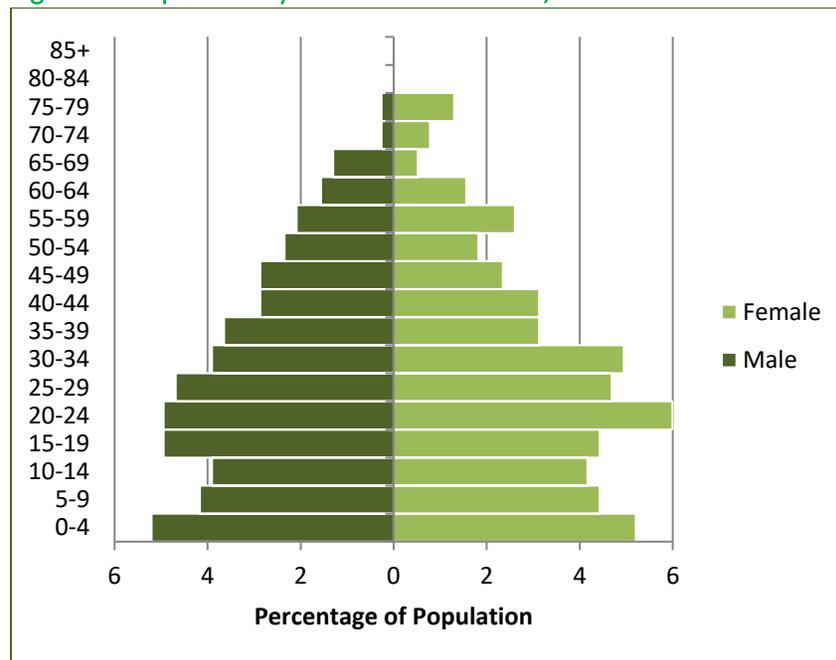


Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

The population pyramid for 1981 (Figure 2.2) shows that men and women aged 20 to 24 made up the largest age group. Significant numbers of infants and children further indicate the strong representation of young families in the community. As presented in Figure 2.3, by 2016, the population pyramid shows that 100 Mile House has undergone change. Children under the age of 5 now represent the smallest age group, while people in their 50s form the largest age segment. The percentage of the population in the family formation years of 20-44 has fallen from almost half of the population in the 1980s to less than one-quarter in 2016.

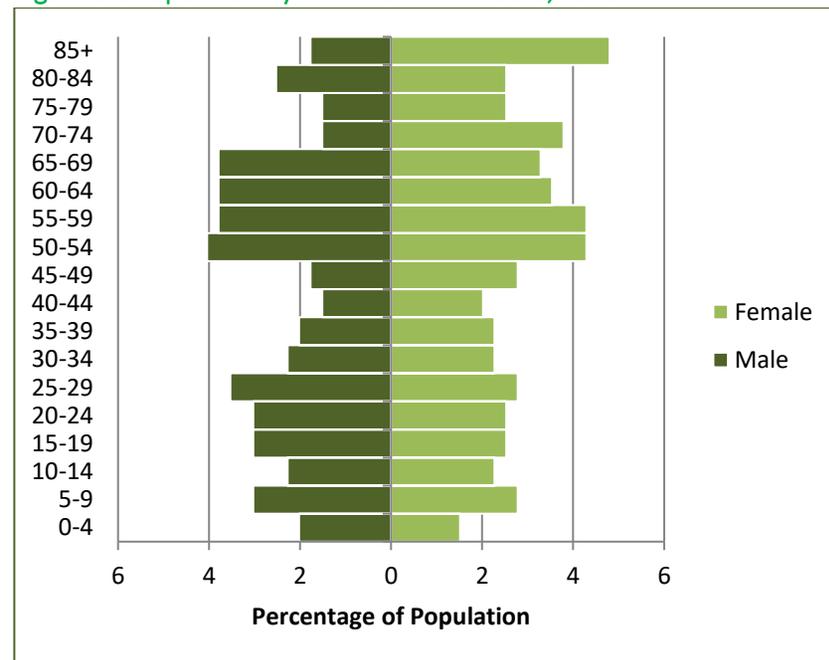
The 2016 population pyramid of the Province of British Columbia (Figure 2.4) paints a similar picture of an aging population where the largest age groups are in their 50s. However, in comparison, the share of seniors aged 65 and over in the province-wide population is around 18%, which is lower than in 100 Mile House. The electoral areas surrounding 100 Mile House show an even larger population group aged 50 to 70 years, as shown in Figure 2.5, while older seniors in their eighties and above are less than in 100 Mile House.ⁱⁱ

Figure 2.2 Population Pyramid 100 Mile House, 1981



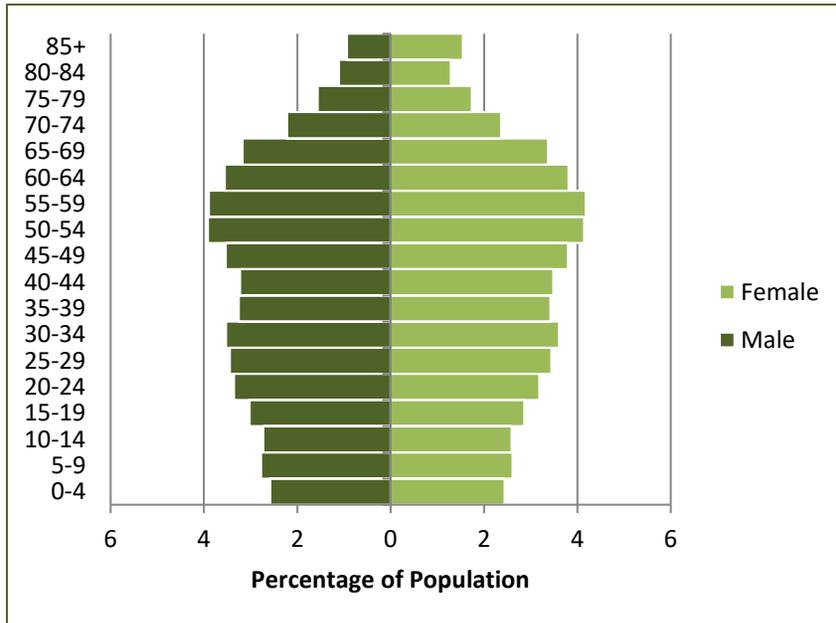
Source: Statistics Canada. 1981. Census Program.

Figure 2.3 Population Pyramid 100 Mile House, 2016



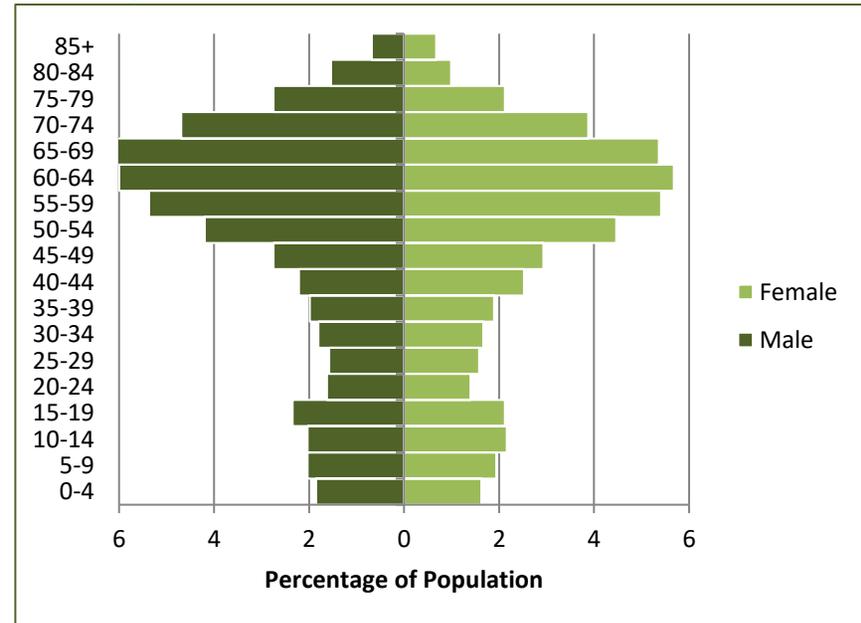
Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

Figure 2.4 Population Pyramid British Columbia, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

Figure 2.5 Population Pyramid Electoral Areas Cariboo G, H, and L Combined, 2016



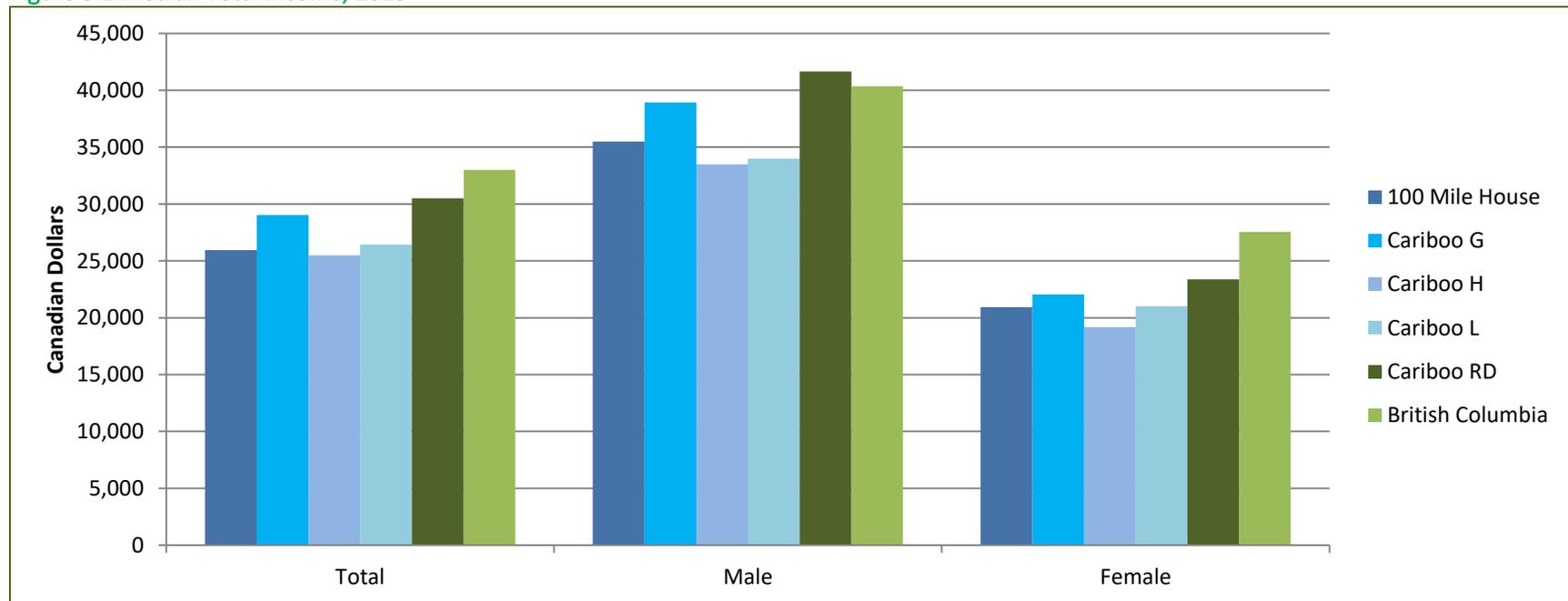
Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program

Income

Income data serves to inform not only about wealth in a community but also about the availability of high paying jobs, service needs for certain income groups, and possibly spending habits. Exactly half of the reported incomes are below and the other half above the median income. This measure is used because it is less likely than average income to be skewed by extremes.

Median total income in 100 Mile House in 2015, as shown in Figure 3.1, was \$25,941. Female median income was less than 60% of male median income. Most of the surrounding Electoral Areas show slightly higher median income. Compared to the Cariboo Regional District and the Province of British Columbia, income in 100 Mile House and surrounding electoral areas was lower; median income in the regional district is around 18% higher and in the province it is over 27% higher than 100 Mile House.

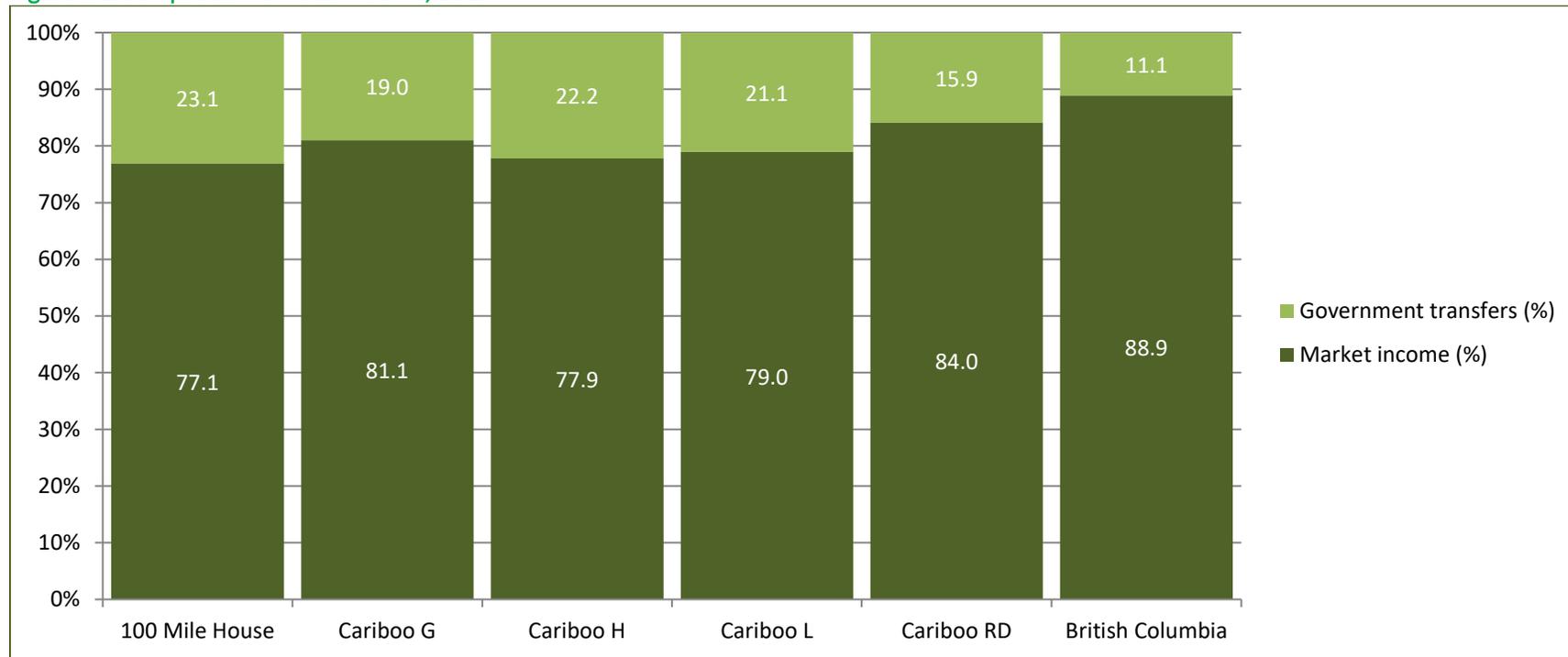
Figure 3.1 Median Total Income, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

The income data also reveals a higher dependency on government transfers in 100 Mile House (see Figure 3.2). While province-wide 11% of income consists of government transfers, 16% rely on it in the Cariboo Regional District and 23% in 100 Mile House. One reason government transfer dependence is higher in 100 Mile House is that the community has a high percentage of seniors, many of whom will be receiving a pension.

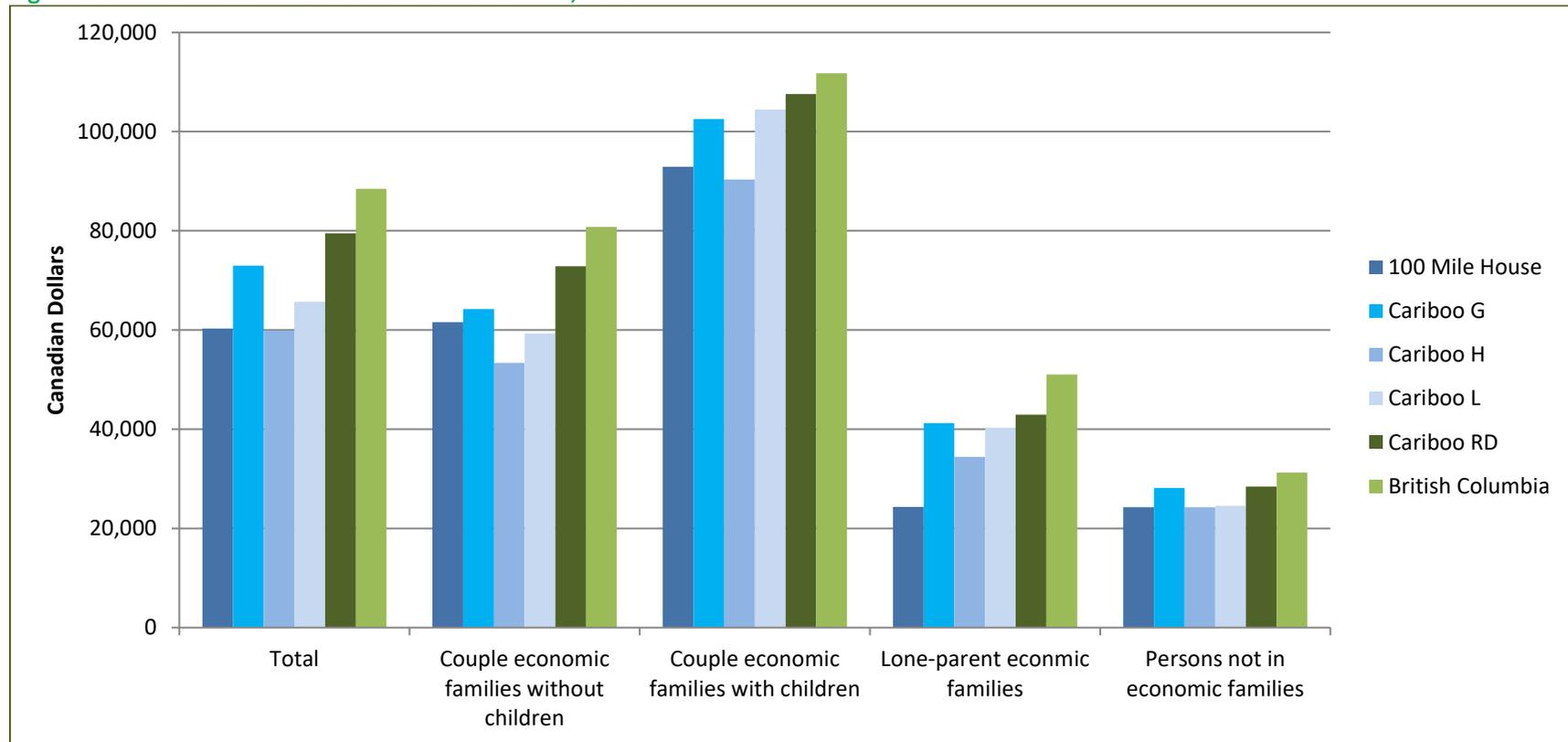
Figure 3.2 Composition of Total Income, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

An economic family, according to Statistics Canada, “refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption, or a foster relationship.”ⁱⁱⁱ A look at economic family income confirms a pattern where 100 Mile House lags behind the region and the province. It should be noted that the gap is particularly significant for lone-parent families. Figure 3.3 also shows differences for 100 Mile House and its surrounding electoral areas; 100 Mile House and Cariboo H tend to register lower incomes, while Cariboo G and L are closer to regional and provincial income levels.

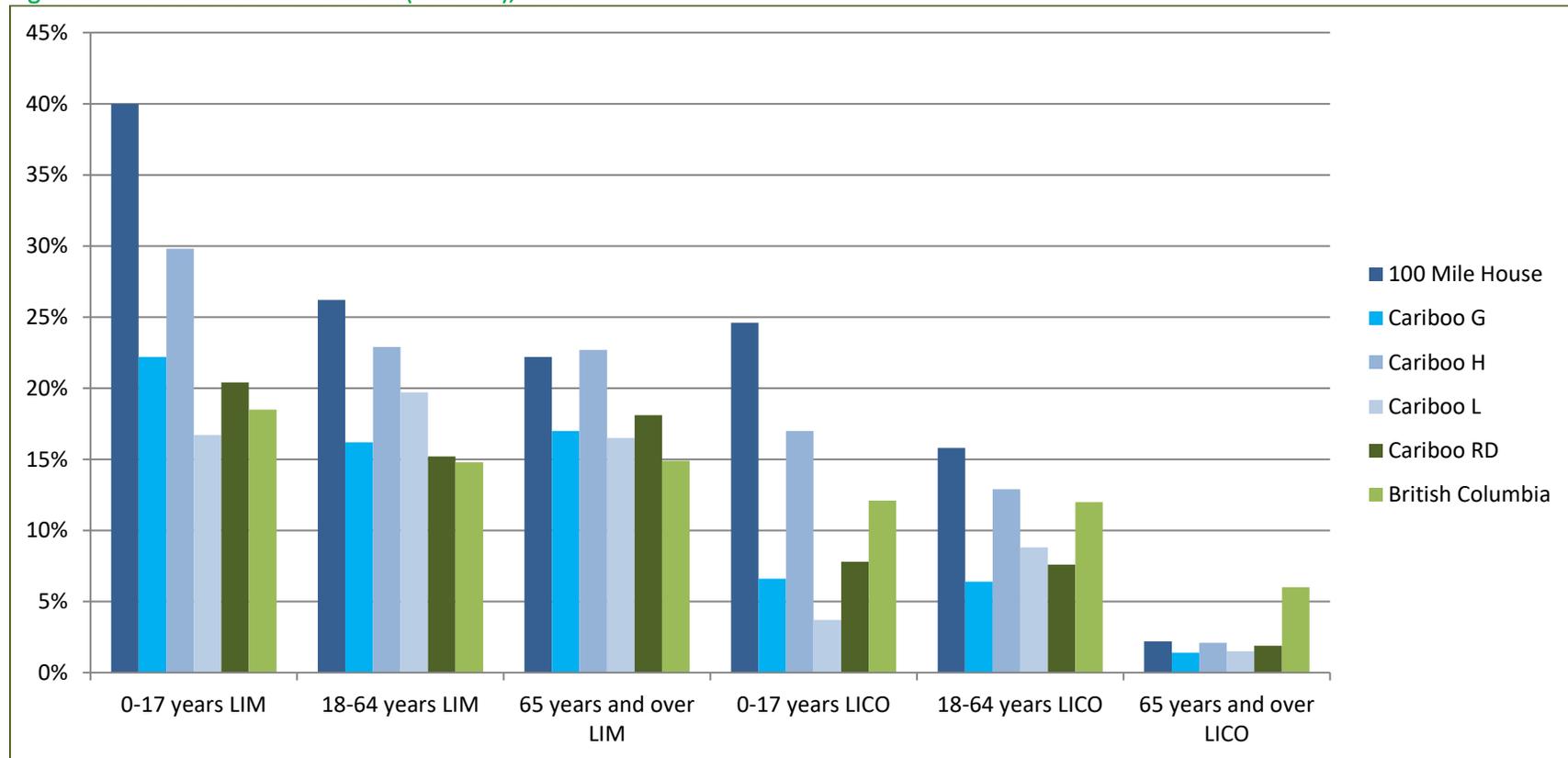
Figure 3.3 Median Total Income of Economic Families, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

Consequently, 100 Mile House also registers a high prevalence of low income. Statistics Canada has adopted several definitions of low income, including the low income measure (LIM) and low income cut-offs (LICO). The LIM constitutes 50% of the median household income after adjustments to household needs. The LICOs are thresholds below which a family spends at least 20% percent more of their income on necessities than the average family. Data in this profile refers to after tax income. As Figure 3.4 demonstrates, both measures indicate that youth ages 0 to 17 years are the most vulnerable group in 100 Mile House, while seniors are least likely to be affected.^{iv}

Figure 3.4 Prevalence of Low Income (after tax), 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

Educational Attainment

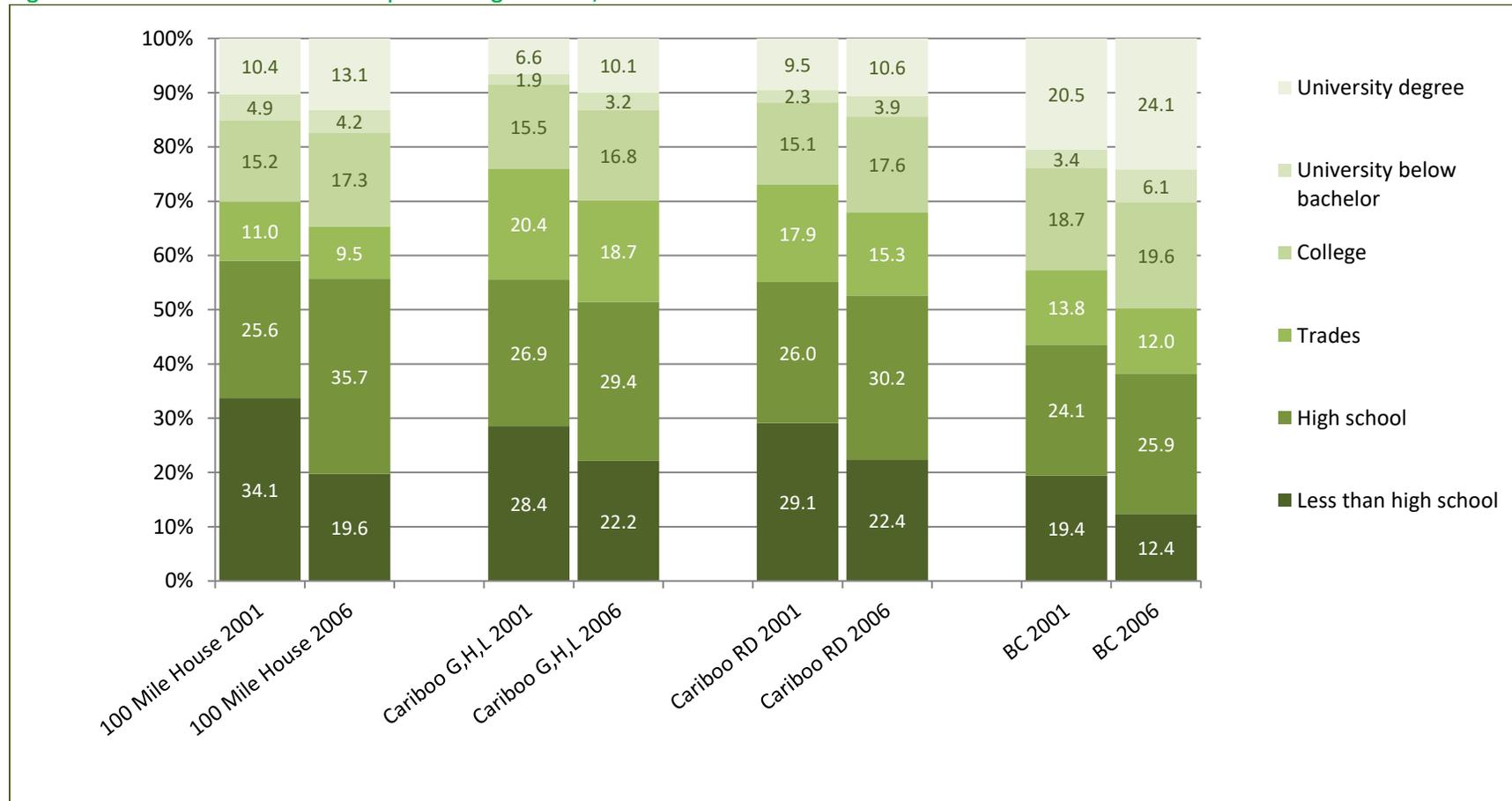
Education is linked to many aspects of a community's well-being, including employment, community capacity, income, and health.^v Therefore, education data provides insight not only into the level of education present in the community but also informs about possible root causes of challenges in other areas of community well-being.

In order to present the state of education in 100 Mile House and track its change over time, this profile includes data on the highest level of education among the population aged 25 to 64 years. This represents the working age population, for whom level of education is most relevant, without including the younger population who are most likely to still be in the process of completing their education.

Educational attainment data for 2001 and 2006 shows that close to two-thirds of the 100 Mile House population either have not graduated from high school or have a high school certificate as their highest educational attainment (Figure 4.1). Between 2001 and 2006, high school graduates increased from 26% to 36% of the population, while the population with no high school graduation decreased from 34% to 20%. When comparing the rate of those individuals with no high school graduation to the surrounding regions and the province, 100 Mile House had the highest numbers in 2001 but, by 2006, improved enough to move ahead of the surrounding electoral areas and the Cariboo Regional District.^{vi}

Other developments in 100 Mile House were more subtle and included a slight decrease in trades and an increase in individuals with a college education or university degree. This pattern was mirrored in the surrounding electoral areas.

Figure 4.1 Educational Attainment Population Aged 25-64, 2001 and 2006

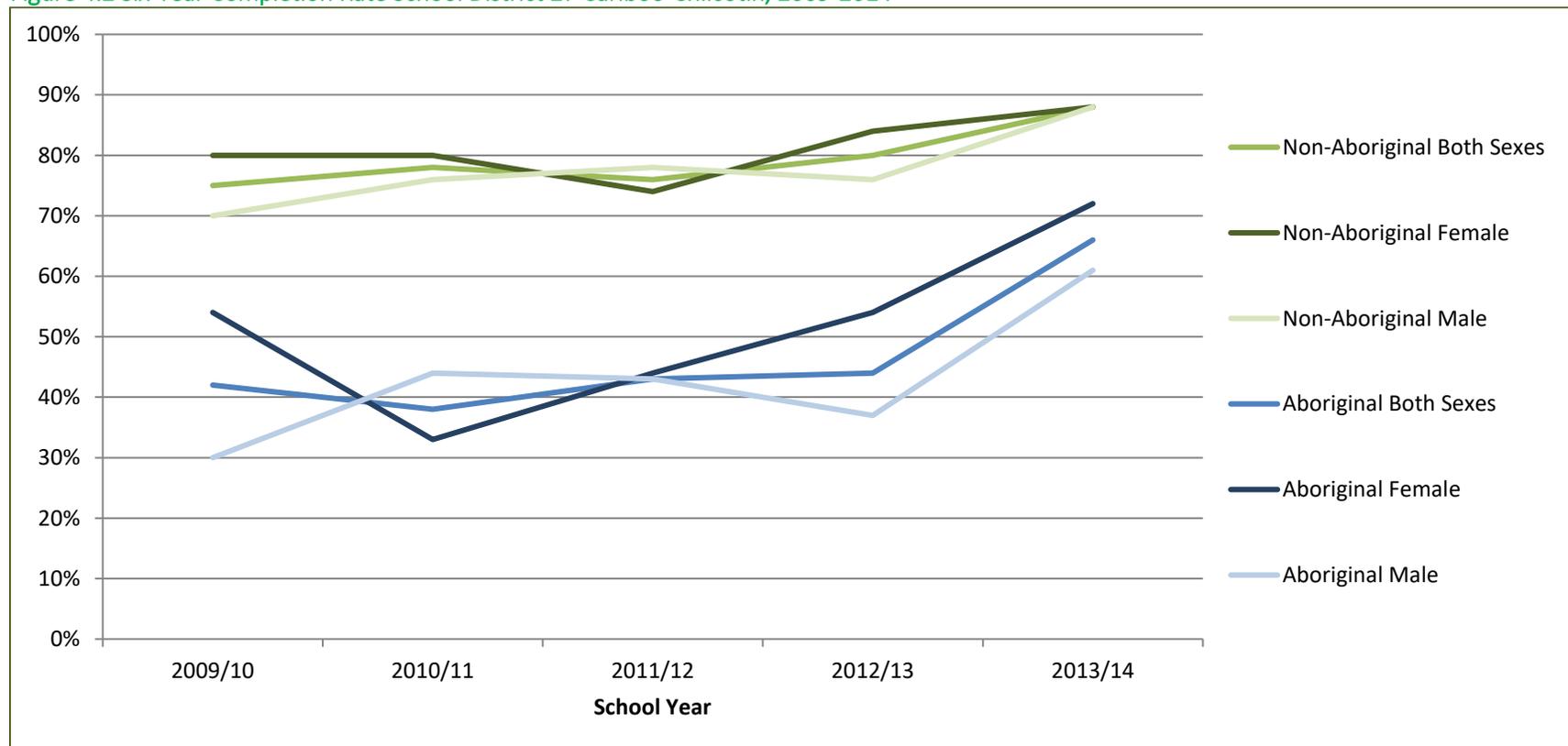


Source: Statistics Canada. 2001-2006. Census Program.

Notes: For comparability, 2001 data for 'high school' combines 'high school' and 'some secondary'.

The six-year completion rate, a benchmark measure for student success, has increased over time in School District 27, which includes 100 Mile House. According to the BC Ministry of Education, “[the] Six-Year Completion Rate is the proportion of students who graduate with a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (‘Dogwood’) or B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma (‘Adult Dogwood’) within six years from the first time they enroll in Grade 8.”^{vii} Between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014 the rate of Aboriginal students graduating within six years of entering grade eight went up by 57%; the non-Aboriginal rate increased by 17%. While there is still a gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, as well as a gender gap among Aboriginal students, the overall trend has been a decrease in gaps.^{viii}

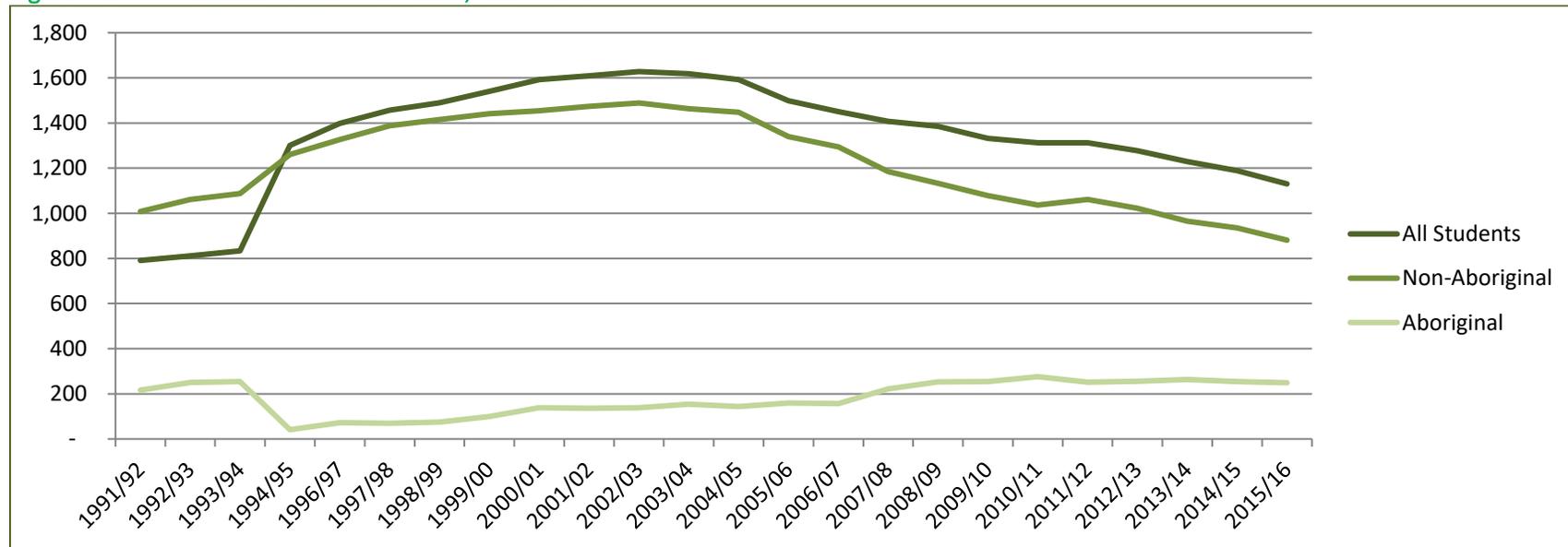
Figure 4.2 Six-Year Completion Rate School District 27 Cariboo-Chilcotin, 2009-2014



Source: BC Ministry of Education. 2014.

As the population pyramids indicate (see Figures 2.1 and 2.2), 100 Mile House has a proportionately decreasing child and youth population. It is, therefore, not unexpected that the K-12 headcount has undergone fluctuations and has seen a decrease in recent years; numbers have decreased from a high of 1,628 students in 2002/2003 to 1,130 students in 2015/2016. It should be noted that Aboriginal student numbers show somewhat opposite trends and have been stable over the last several years, as shown in Figure 4.3. Considering the decrease in overall K-12 headcount, and the declining children and youth population, this indicates a comparatively young Aboriginal population for 100 Mile House.^{ix}

Figure 4.3 K-12 Headcount 100 Mile House, 1991-2016



Source: BC Ministry of Education. 2014-2016. Student Headcounts by Grade.

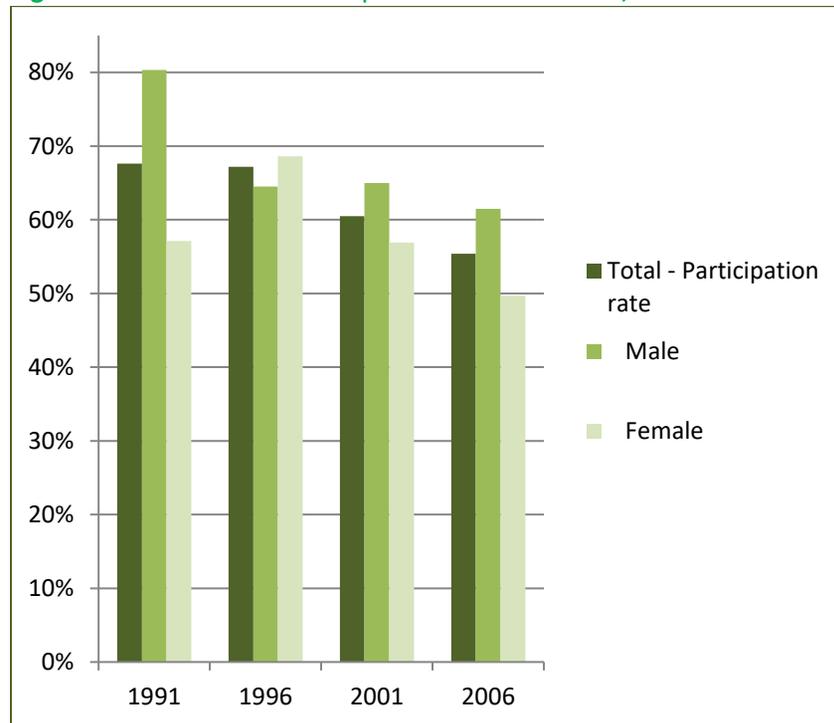
The Early Development Instrument is a questionnaire that is completed by Kindergarten teachers and measures children’s individual developmental progress in five areas, including physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. As such, it is a tool to assess the students’ vulnerability in areas that are known to affect their adult lives.^x In terms of early childhood development, the Cariboo Regional District falls into the most vulnerable one-quarter of all regions in the province.

Employment and Labour Force

The employment situation in a community can be expressed through a number of indicators; including measures of employment opportunities, community members’ participation in the labour force, and diversification.

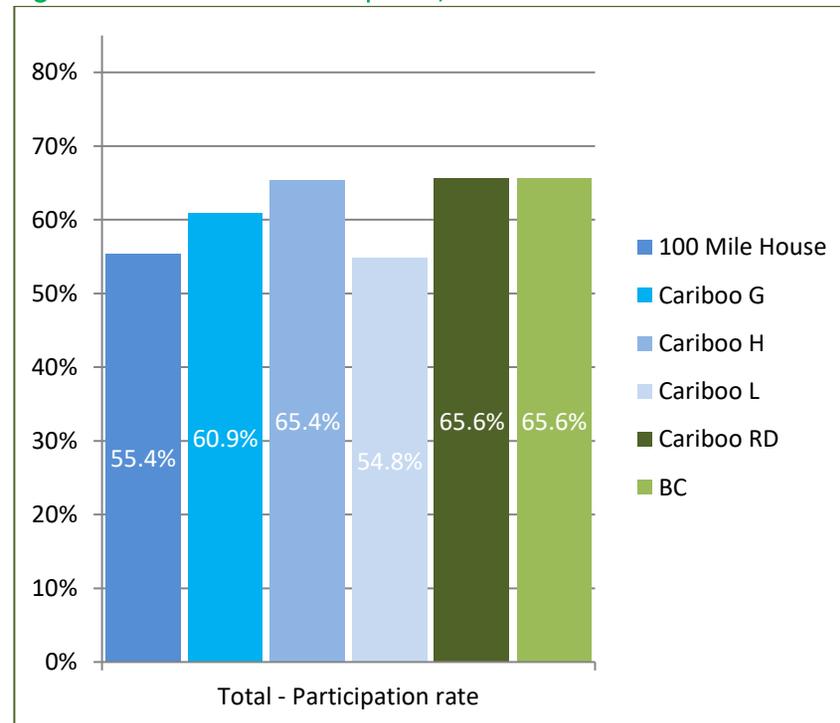
The labour force participation rate in 100 Mile House, which is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 years and older, has decreased steadily from 68% in 1991 to 55% in 2006 (Figure 5.1). It should be noted that it was well below British Columbia and Cariboo region participation rates of 66% in 2006 (Figure 5.2). The most significant decrease happened in the male population.

Figure 5.1 Labour Force Participation 100 Mile House, 1991-2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 1991-2006. Census Program.

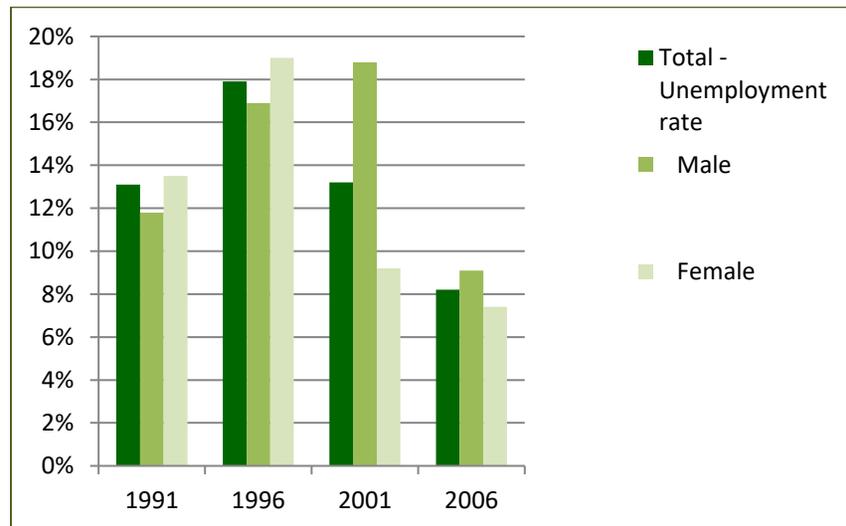
Figure 5.2 Labour Force Participation, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2006. Census Program.

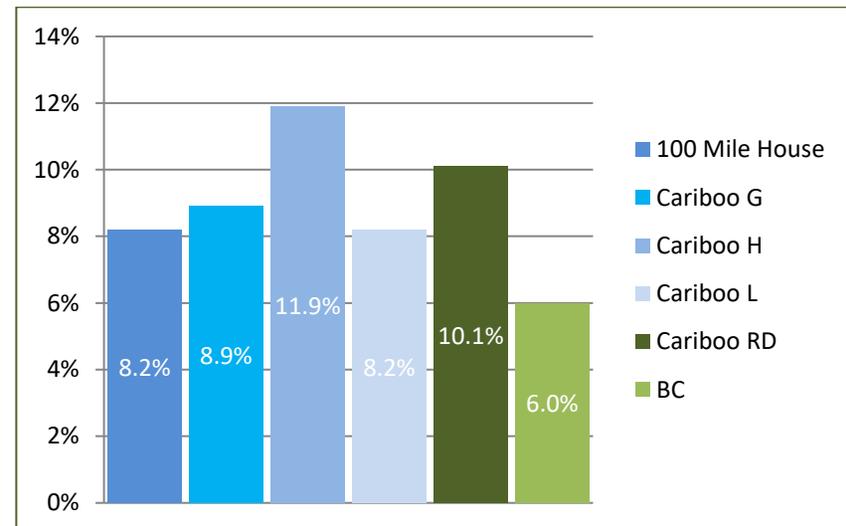
As depicted in Figure 5.3, unemployment has seen a decrease as well, where it peaked in 1996 at almost 18% but then fell to 8% in 2006. This was slightly above provincial unemployment but below unemployment numbers for the Cariboo Regional District (Figure 5.4). It is noteworthy that there have been, at times, considerable gaps between male and female unemployment rates; for example, in 2001, male unemployment was at 19% while the female rate was at 9%.^{xi}

Figure 5.3 Unemployment Rate 100 Mile House, 1991-2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 1991-2006. Census Program.

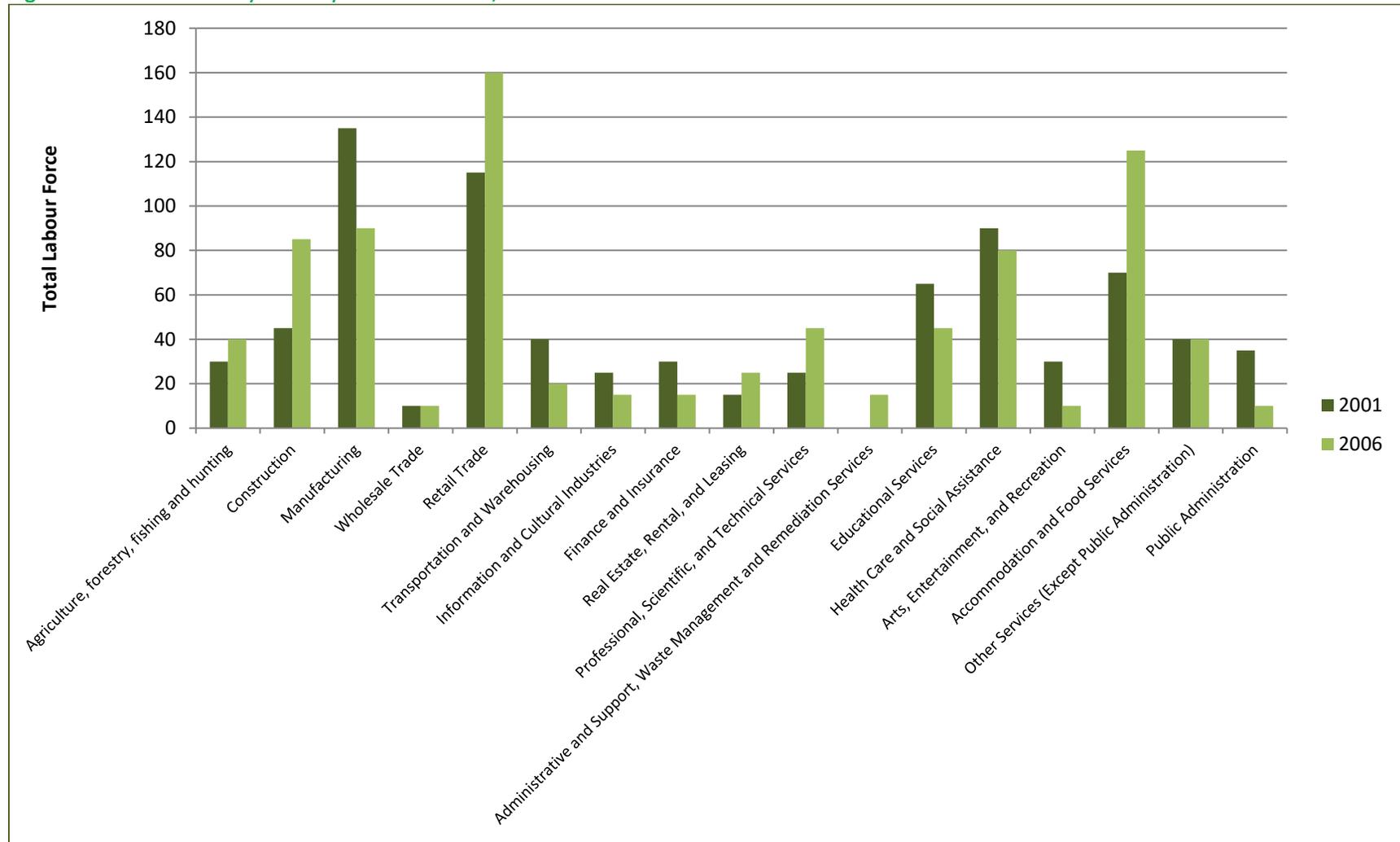
Figure 5.4 Unemployment Rate, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2006. Census Program.

100 Mile House was already less dependent on one single industry than other Cariboo communities in 2001. Figure 5.5 shows that the three leading industries were manufacturing, which employed 17% of the labour force, retail trade providing employment to 14%, and health care and social assistance with 10% of the labour force. By 2006, we notice a shift in the local industries. Retail trade now employed over 19% of the labour force, and accommodation and food services now make up the second biggest share of workers with 15%. Construction has seen a significant increase, as have professional, scientific and technical services, while manufacturing and education have further decreased in importance as employers. Among the smaller industries, arts, entertainment, and recreation as well as public administration have seen decreases between 2001 and 2006.^{xii}

Figure 5.5 Labour Force by Industry 100 Mile House, 2001 and 2006



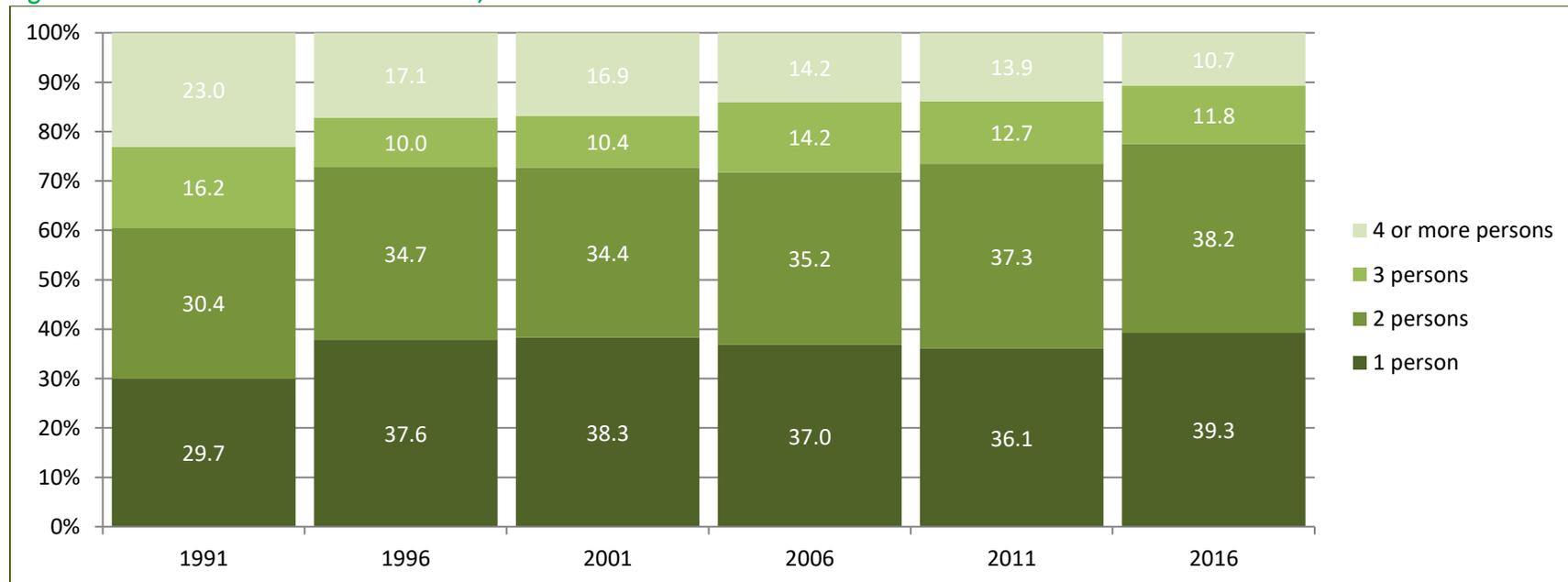
Source: Statistics Canada. 2001-2006. Census Program.

Housing

The housing profile for 100 Mile House includes information on housing stock and households. This allows conclusions about housing needs and whether the housing stock meets those needs. Not all data is available for the most recent Census periods since 100 Mile House data from the 2011 National Household Survey was suppressed and not all 2016 data has been published yet.^{xiii}

Population projections for the 100 Mile House Local Health Area suggest that the senior population will continue to see strong growth while especially the age groups of children and the middle-aged working population between 40 and 70 years of age will further decline.^{xiv} The implications for the housing stock include smaller households of young adults and seniors with increased accessibility needs. Data on household size and the trends since 1991, as depicted in Figure 6.1, show that one- and two-person households have been the dominant household size for at least 25 years, while larger households have become even less represented in the community.

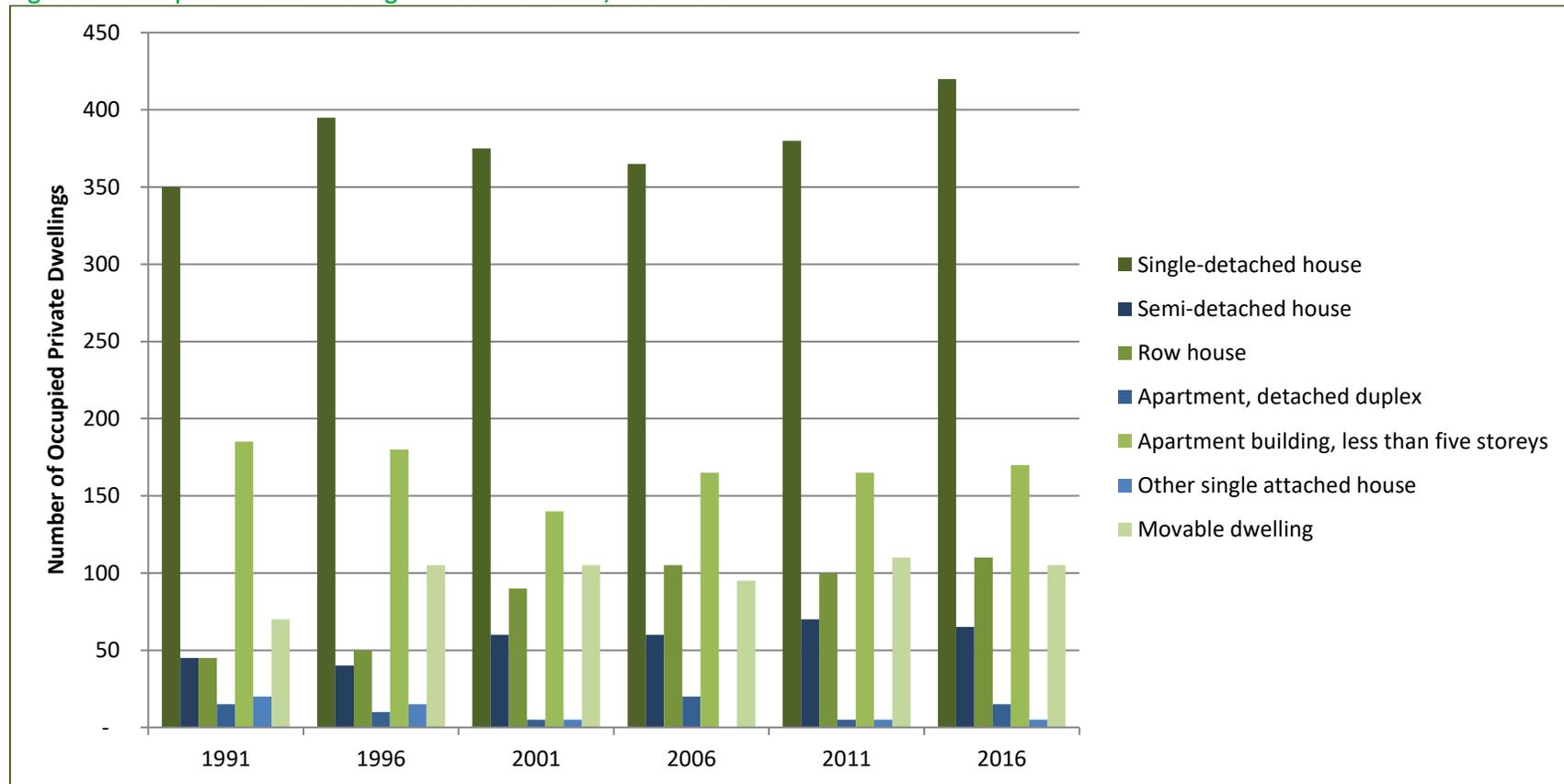
Figure 6.1 Household Size in 100 Mile House, 1991-2016



Source: Statistics Canada. 1991-2016. Census Program.

In combination with information about the predominant household size, information about the characteristics of the housing stock is an important tool in determining whether the housing needs are met. Constituting just below 50% of the housing stock, single detached houses have been the most common type of dwelling for several decades, followed by apartment buildings and movable dwellings (Figure 6.2). Data for the surrounding electoral areas indicates that, in the rural and farmland outside of 100 Mile House in 2016, more than 88% of dwellings are single detached dwellings and a further around 10% are movable dwellings.

Figure 6.2 Occupied Private Dwellings in 100 Mile House, 1991-2016



Source: Statistics Canada. 1991-2016. Census Program.

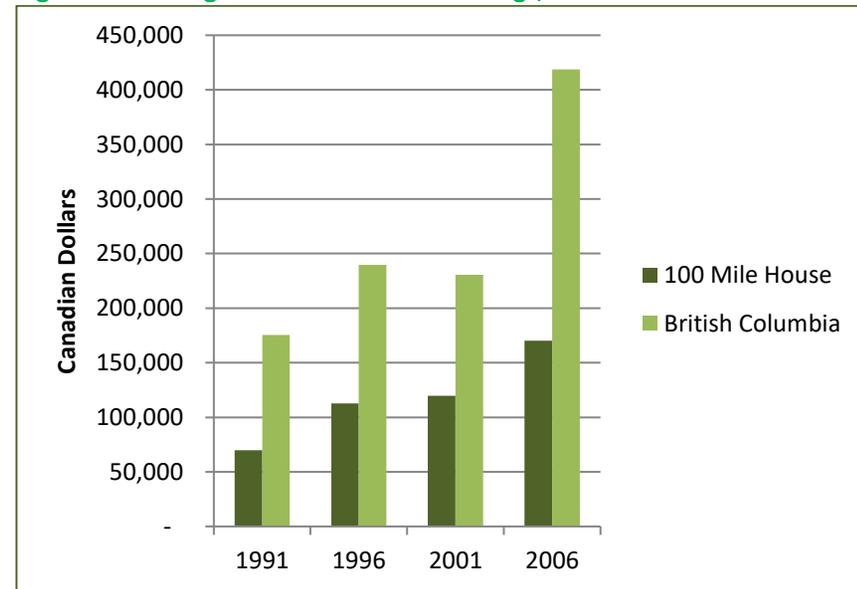
Figure 6.3 shows that two-thirds of dwellings in the Cariboo Regional District had at least three bedrooms in 2011. The average number of rooms per occupied private dwelling in the regional district in 2011 was 6.8 compared to 6.1 in 100 Mile House in 2006.

Figure 6.3 Number of Bedrooms, Cariboo Regional District, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. 2011. NHS.

Figure 6.4 Average Value of Owned Dwellings, 1991-2006

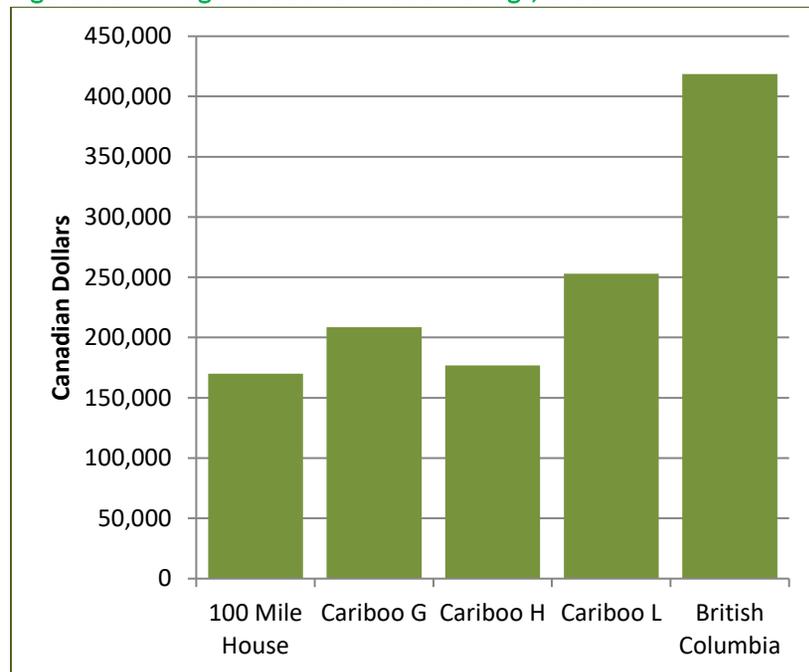


Source: Statistics Canada. 1991-2006. Census Program.

Roughly three-quarters of the housing stock in the Cariboo Regional District in 2011 consisted of dwellings that were at least 20 years old. One-quarter were built in the last 20 years. In terms of the condition of the housing stock, 89% only needed minor repairs or regular maintenance, while 11% required major repairs. The housing stock in 100 Mile House mirrors the condition of the housing stock in the regional district. Over 78% of the housing stock in 100 Mile House in 2006 was at least 20 years old, 87% required only minor repairs and maintenance, and 13% of occupied private dwellings were in need of major repairs. Besides expected repair and maintenance needs, the age of a dwelling may hold information about accessibility; older housing stock is less likely to meet present day accessibility standards, which is of particular interest to seniors.

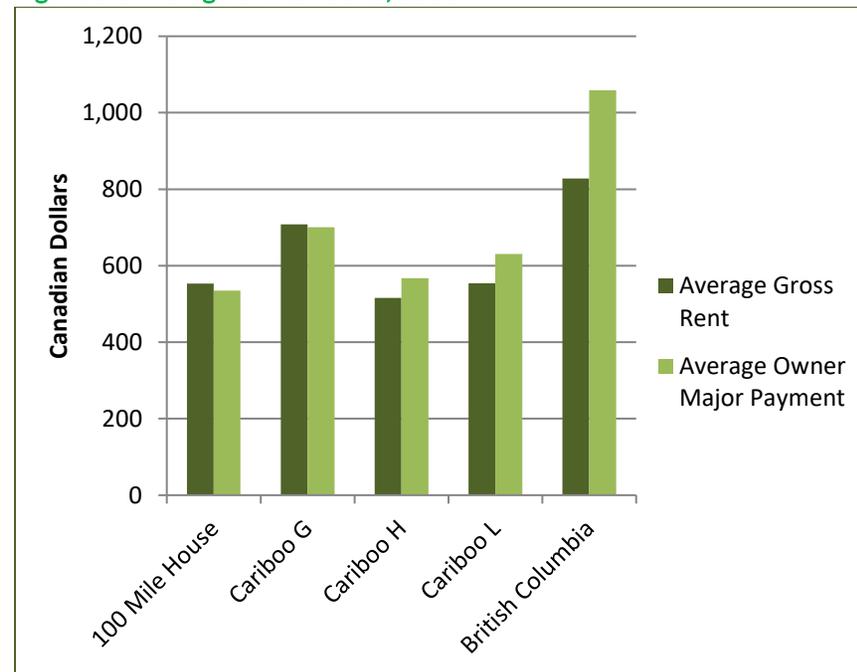
The average value of owned dwellings has seen steady increases in 100 Mile House and in 2006, the last currently available number; it was \$170,110, which constituted 41% of the average house value for all of British Columbia. Figure 6.4 depicts a slower growth for 100 Mile House compared to real estate prices province-wide. As Figure 6.5 demonstrates, real estate values in 100 Mile House are also lower than in the surrounding electoral areas.

Figure 6.5 Average Value of Owned Dwellings, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2006. Census Program.

Figure 6.6 Average Shelter Costs, 2006

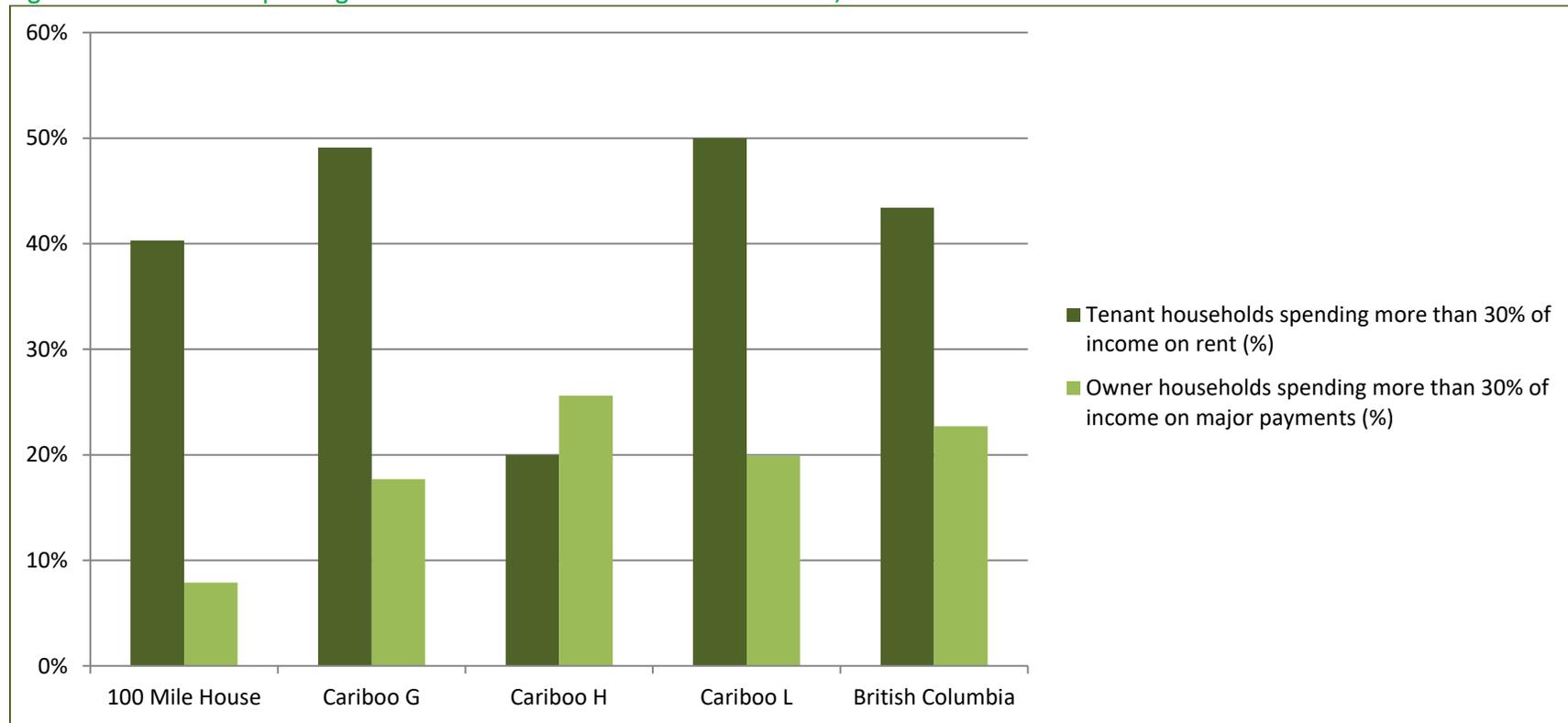


Source: Statistics Canada. 2006. Census Program.

In 2006, 55% of respondents reported owning their accommodation, while 45% reported that they rented their accommodation in 100 Mile House. This ratio has been fairly steady over the past decades. Unlike most of the surrounding areas and the province, Figure 6.6 shows that average gross rent in 100 Mile House in 2006, which is defined as monthly rent and the costs of electricity, heat, and municipal services, is above major payments for home owners, which include all shelter payments like mortgage payment and the costs of electricity, heat, and municipal services. Both expenses are lower than in most of the surrounding electoral areas and lower than the provincial averages.

Tenant households are more likely to spend a larger share of their income on housing than home owners. In 2006, over one-third of tenants spent 30% or more of their income on rent, while only 8% of home owners spent 30% or more of their income on their major payments. Figure 6.7 shows not only that the gap between tenant and owner vulnerability in 100 Mile House is larger than in other areas, it also demonstrates that owner households are less vulnerable than in any of the surrounding electoral areas and in British Columbia. As already indicated by lower real estate prices, this confirms that homeownership in 100 Mile House is more affordable than in the rest of the province on average.

Figure 6.7 Households Spending 30% or more of their Income on Shelter Costs, 2006



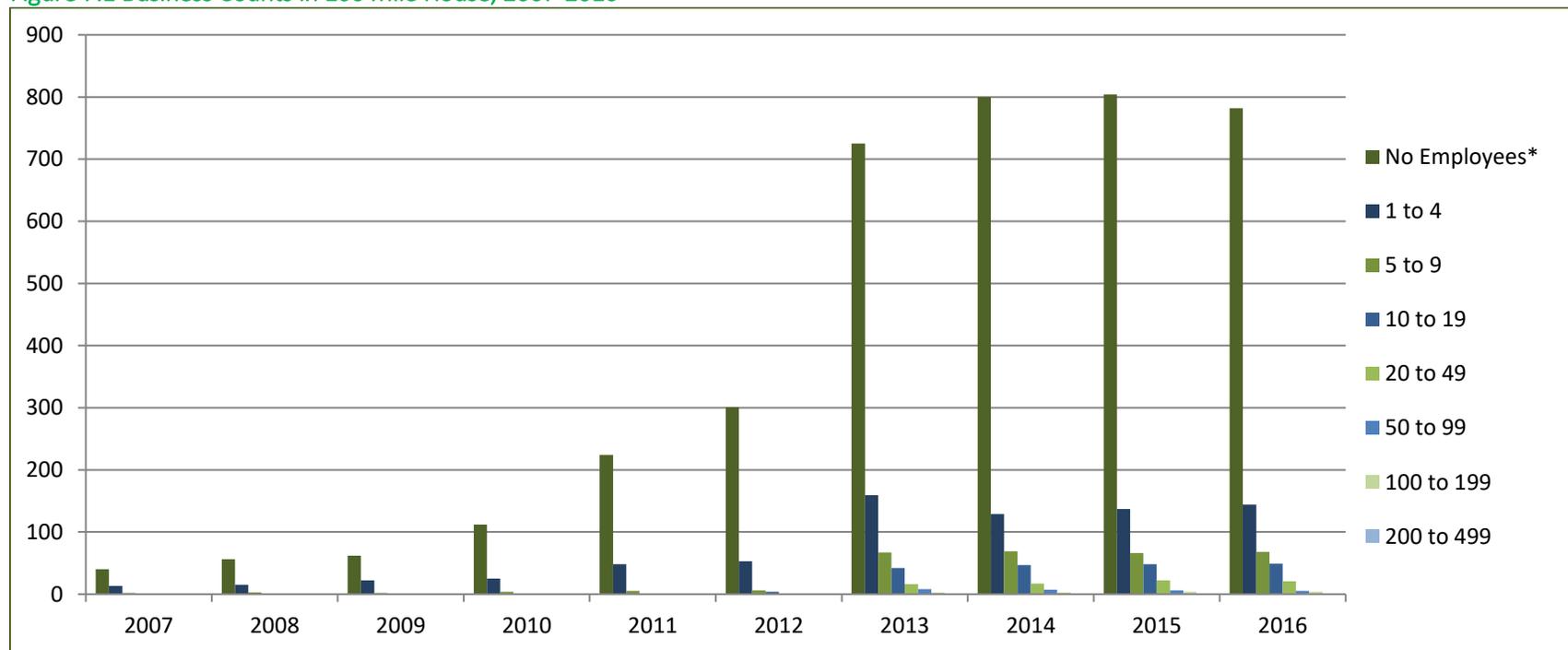
Source: Statistics Canada. 2006. Census Program.

Business and Industry

Business registrations are an indication of employers and sources of income in an area. Information about the size of businesses further describes the business situation.

The number of businesses registered in 100 Mile House has seen steady growth since 2010 and a dramatic increase in 2013. In 2016, BC Statistics records a total of 1,074 businesses registered in 100 Mile House. Of those, 782, or 73%, have no employees, and all but five businesses range in the small to medium enterprise category of under 100 employees.^{xv} This confirms that, besides gaining one large employer in 2012, 100 Mile House has added numerous small businesses in recent years.

Figure 7.1 Business Counts in 100 Mile House, 2007-2016



Source: BC Statistics. 2016. Number of Businesses & Employment by Industry.

Endnotes

ⁱ Statistics Canada. 1981-2016. Census.

ⁱⁱ Statistics Canada. 1981-2016. Census.

ⁱⁱⁱ Statistics Canada. Census Dictionary. Available at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/fam011-eng.cfm>. Accessed 12 October 2017.

^{iv} Statistics Canada. 2016. Census Program.

^v Statistics Canada. 2013. What Makes Canadians Healthy or Unhealthy? Available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/population-health/what-determines-health/what-makes-canadians-healthy-unhealthy.html>. Accessed on 29 September 2017.

^{vi} Statistics Canada. 2001-2011. Census.

^{vii} BC Ministry of Education. 2014. Completion Rate Field Definitions. Available at <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-six-year-completion-rate/resource/1affe149-d58b-4f31-a052-90fd3b1c492f>. Accessed 29 September 2017.

^{viii} BC Ministry of Education. 2014. Aboriginal Report 2009/10 - 2013/14: How Are We Doing? School District 027 Cariboo-Chilcotin. https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/ab_hawd/027.pdf. Accessed 14 July 2015.

^{ix} BC Ministry of Education. 2014. <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/odefiles/StudentHeadcountByGrade.xlsx>. Accessed 7 September 2017.

^x Early Development Instrument. <https://edi.offordcentre.com/about/what-is-the-edi/> Accessed on 7 September 2017.

^{xi} Statistics Canada. 1991, 1996, 2001, 1996, 2001, 2006. Census Program.

^{xii} Statistics Canada. 2001, 2006. Census Program.

^{xiii} Statistics Canada. 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016. Census Program.

^{xiv} Mochrie, C., M. Morris, and G. Halseth. 2016. Northern BC housing Study: 100 Mile House Housing and Community Profile. BC Housing. Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

^{xv} BC Stats. 2016. Number of Businesses & Employment by Industry. Available at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/business-industry-trade/number-of-businesses-and-employment-by-industry>. Accessed 09 September 2017.