

Definition/Description:

A population pyramid is a graphic representation of the distribution of a population by age and sex. The population pyramid was constructed by graphing the total number of people for each age group. We can graphically visualize the age structure by construction of population pyramid.

A population is considered old or young depending on the proportion of people at different ages. As the proportion of young people increases relative to the total, we speak of the population as growing younger. Conversely, an aging population is one in which the proportion of older people is increasing relative to the total.

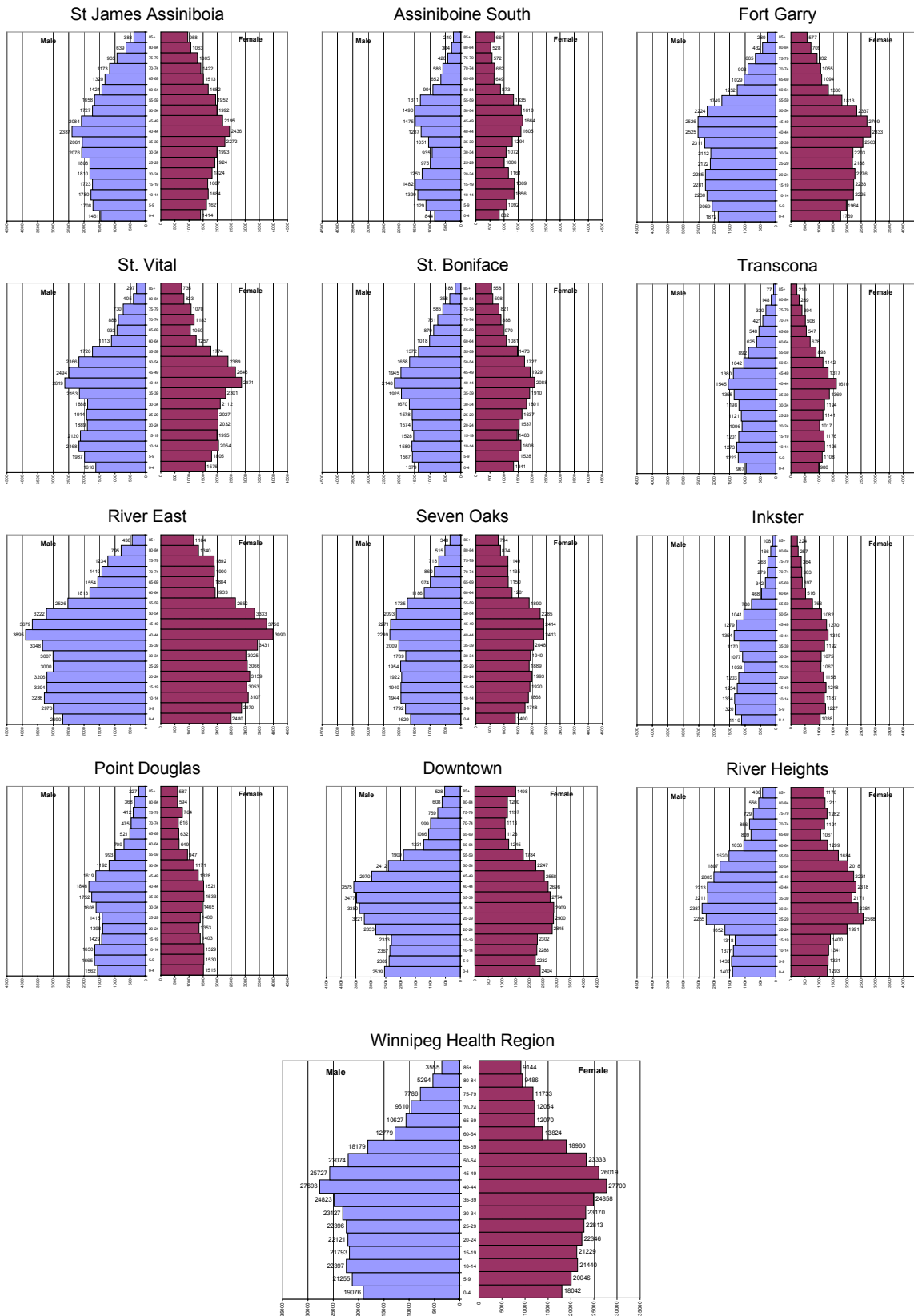
Information is presented at the regional and Community area levels for the year 2003. Population pyramids for the prior 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 year can be found at

http://www.wrha.mb.ca/howcare/decsup/quality_popu.php

Source:

Manitoba Health Registry Files, 2003.

Findings



Highlights:

- The Winnipeg Health Region (WHR), as of June 2003 consists of 658 579 residents.
- River East Community Area, has the largest population. Inkster Community Area has the smallest.
- Females comprise a slightly larger proportion (51.4%) of the total population. This asymmetry is noticeable throughout the pyramid in all ages older than 20. (Difference is most apparent among senior age groups, which contain 19.3% more females than males. Least noticeable, with only 1% more females than males are between ages 20 to 64.)
- The base of the pyramid reflects a younger population. In the WHR this base, is small relative to the older age groups. This is true for all the community areas, except Point Douglas and Downtown, which have younger populations.
- The largest proportion of the population falls between ages 35 – 54, (which reflects generations commonly referred to as baby boomers, ages 38 - 57). This “bulge” in the population is easy to distinguish among community areas.

Population Count in the Winnipeg Health Region by Community Areas and by Specific Age Groups

CA Reference Number	Community Area Name	Total Population	Population by Specific Age Groups					
			<=19 years		20-64 years		>=65 years	
			Count	% of total population	Count	% of total population	Count	% of total population
01	ST.JAMES - ASSINIBOIA	59079	13058	22.10	35305	59.76	10716	18.14
02	ASSINIBOINE SOUTH	37084	9503	25.63	22301	60.14	5280	14.24
03	FORT GARRY	63677	16643	26.14	39358	61.81	7676	12.05
04	ST. VITAL	60806	15321	25.20	37371	61.46	8114	13.34
05	ST.BONIFACE	48668	12001	24.66	30071	61.79	6596	13.55
06	TRANSCONA	33208	9123	27.47	20615	62.08	3470	10.45
07	RIVER EAST	93326	23663	25.36	56043	60.05	13620	14.59
08	SEVEN OAKS	58160	14241	24.49	35411	60.89	8508	14.63
09	INKSTER	31356	9718	30.99	18855	60.13	2783	8.88
10	POINT DOUGLAS	41378	12283	29.68	23899	57.76	5196	12.56
11	DOWNTOWN	75891	18834	24.82	46966	61.89	10091	13.30
12	RIVER HEIGHTS	55946	10890	19.47	35747	63.90	9309	16.64
	WHR	658579	165278	25.10	401942	61.03	91359	13.87

Senior citizens (people 65 or older)

- WHR senior citizens account for 13.9% of total population. A population with about 12% or more of its people aged 65 and over can be considered ‘old’¹.
- The proportion of senior citizens in community areas varies throughout the WHR.
- St. James Assiniboia and River Heights Community Areas contain highest proportion of senior citizens (65+) in their population distributions. (18.1% and 16.6% respectively).
- By looking at the pyramid shape of each community area, other patterns emerge. Assiniboine South Community Area has a second “bulge” which has been characterized as the echo generation, the generation born to the baby boomers.

¹ John R. Weeks. 2002. Population An Introduction to Concepts and Issues. Eight Edition. Belmont, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Children

- Highest proportion of children and youth (<=19) resides in community areas Inkster and Point Douglas, 31.0% Inkster, 29.7% Point Douglas.
- The median age of the WHR population is 37 for both sexes, 39 for females and 36 for males. This number also varies between community areas, from 33 in Inkster to 40 in St. James–Assiniboia and Assiniboine South.

Median Age by Community Areas in the Winnipeg Health Region

Community Areas	Median Age		
	Both sexes	Females	Males
ST.JAMES - ASSINIBOIA	40	42	39
ASSINIBOINE SOUTH	40	41	39
FORT GARRY	37	38	35
ST. VITAL	38	39	37
ST.BONIFACE	38	39	37
TRANSCONA	36	37	35
RIVER EAST	38	39	37
SEVEN OAKS	39	40	37
INKSTER	33	34	32
POINT DOUGLAS	34	35	34
DOWNTOWN	35	36	35
RIVER HEIGHTS	39	41	37
WHR	37	39	36