

# Denman Island

Community Profile

20  
23



## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that Denman Island, called Taystay'ich by the K'omox First Nation, is the traditional territory of members of the Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples.

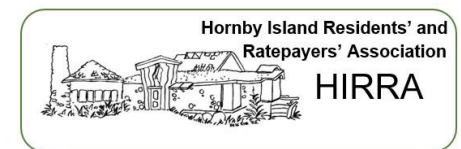
## Thank You To

- PlanH Healthy Communities
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association
- Denman Works!

PlanH is a partnership between BC Healthy Communities Society and the British Columbia Ministry of Health.

PlanH creates healthier communities by supporting partnerships across sectors, providing learning opportunities, resources, and consultation, and facilitating collaborative local action.

This PDF was produced and written by Angeleah Hoepfner. The authors acknowledge the contributions of the British Columbia Ministry of Health, Fraser Health, Interior Health, Northern Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Island Health, the Provincial Health Services Authority, the First Nations Health Authority, and the Union of BC Municipalities.



- Executive Summary..... 4
- Social Determinants of Health..... 7
- The Island and its People..... 8
  - Demographics..... 10
  - Diversity..... 12
  - Family..... 13
- Economy..... 16
  - Employment..... 17
  - Industry..... 18
  - Income..... 22
    - Individual Income..... 24
    - Individual Low-Income..... 25
    - Household Income..... 27
- Education..... 28
- Environment..... 32
  - Conservation and Protection..... 33
  - Recycling..... 35
  - Water..... 37
- Food Security..... 38
  - Farms..... 40
  - Meal Programs..... 40
  - Farmers' Market..... 41

- Health..... 42
  - Hornby Denman Health..... 44
  - Health Status..... 45
- Housing..... 46
  - Core Housing Need..... 49
- Safety..... 52
  - Emergency Preparedness.... 53
  - Fire..... 53
  - RCMP..... 54
- Social Inclusion..... 55
  - Community Engagement..... 56
    - Nonprofit Groups..... 56
    - Voting..... 56
  - Services..... 57
  - Recreation..... 57
  - Art..... 56
- Transportation..... 59
  - Public Transit..... 60
  - Ferry Ridership..... 60
- Glossary..... 61
- Links..... 63
- References..... 65
- Appendix A - Project Report..... 67

# Executive Summary

## Background

In September 2021, the Hornby Island Housing Network was created to bring together various island organizations and levels of local government that include housing in their mandate. The intention was to share information and resources, with the goal of co-creating a housing strategy for the island with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each organization.

An immediate challenge was identified: the lack of a comprehensive picture of the community that included current data in all the social determinants of health areas. Although, a wealth of information had been gathered over the years by various island organizations and individuals in their efforts to create and fund services and programs that benefit the community, it became readily apparent that there was considerable duplication of effort, loss of historical data, the creation of information silos specific to each group's focus, limited access to stored data and a lack of individual organizational capacity to carry out more in-depth research.

A secondary issue was identified, the lack of comparative data between similar communities, the province and the country as a whole. Although the organizations were aware of many inequities due to our rural, remote location and the disparity between low and high income residents, there was no current data to support that knowledge.

A sub-committee was formed to secure funding to create a comprehensive database for the Housing Network. A Housing Network participant, Hornby Denman Health (formerly the Hornby & Denman Community Health Care Society) which serves both Hornby and Denman Islands requested that Denman be included in the project.

## The Project

The Housing Network applied for funding from BC Healthy Communities to hire a research assistant to create comprehensive **community profiles** for both Hornby and Denman Islands, an easily accessed **website** to host the information, and a **database** that could be regularly updated. All three goals have been achieved. Several interactive maps of the communities have also been created, depicting the following: zoning, lots with houses, empty lots, aquifers, approved septic systems and lots with Short Term Rentals. This information will be key data for the creation of a housing strategy for the islands.

## Community Profiles

In order to determine what information would best meet our communities' needs, the Research Assistant and Steering Committee reviewed other community profiles for both content and formatting and also researched the various definitions of the Social Determinants of Health.

The profiles for both islands include all available local, provincial and federal information available in the following social determinants of health: Economy, Education, Environment, Food Security, Health, Housing, Safety, Social Inclusion, and Transportation. The profiles also point out social inequities in access to services and the barriers underlying that inequity.

These profiles not only contain the information needed to co-create a housing strategy, they will also be used to inform short and long term planning for all the organizations, no matter what their mandate.

All Stats Canada information is presented as a percentage of the whole in order to see the differences in relation to the population of each area. The numbers for Denman and Hornby Islands have been added for planning purposes.

Effort has been made to present this information as it is with no analysis or conclusions drawn. We leave the information to our users to interpret for their specific area of focus.

Website: [www.communityprofiles.ca](http://www.communityprofiles.ca)

The website contains both the Community Profile reports in PDF form. The collected data is also presented separately in each of the social determinants of health for both islands. The website is hosted by the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Society, and with links to it on the Denman Works website, the local WorkBC office on Denman.

## The Project Database

The current database containing all the spreadsheets with all the data and contact information will be stored with the Hornby Island Housing Society.

## Methodology

Information was gathered from a wide range of community organizations and businesses on both islands, BC Open Data, and Census Canada. To ensure we gathered as broad a base of information as possible, we spoke to **7** accommodation providers; **19** boards; **16** store-based businesses; the Preschool, Community schools and the Senior Secondary school; **3** environmental groups; **4** Food Security groups; **8** health care providers; **4** realtors; **3** groups involved in community safety; and **9** activity groups. Of these **69** sources, we received information back from **56**.

The draft profiles were circulated to all the participating organizations on both islands for their review and suggestions. Their feedback has been incorporated into the final report.

## Next Phase

This is step one of a long-term vision for this project. We will be researching funding sources for the next phase of the project which will include the following goals:

- Additional organizations and data that may have been missed in phase one, will be identified and added to future Community Profiles and the database.
- Strategies will be created to address the issue of “hard to obtain” data.
- The database will be updated at a minimum every 2 years to ensure the community always has current information to inform its planning.

## Conclusion

The two island communities will be well served by the work that has been done over the last several months.

Organizations that provide services and programs in all the sectors of the social determinants of health now have a much broader understanding of the state of our communities in significant areas and thus, will be better able to address the needs that are identified and to reduce the existing inequities of access to services.

On behalf of the Hornby Housing Network and the communities of Hornby and Denman Islands, we wish to thank our partners: BC Healthy Communities – Planh for funding this project; the Comox Valley Regional District for sponsoring our application; the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association for their financial management of the project and Denman Works for sponsoring the cost of printing of the report and public announcements of the successful completion of the project.

# Social Determinants of Health

There are many different lists of the social determinants of health; we chose the economy, education, the environment, food security, health, housing, safety, social inclusion, and transportation to focus on for Denman. We felt that these combine many, but certainly not all, of the important factors for the island.

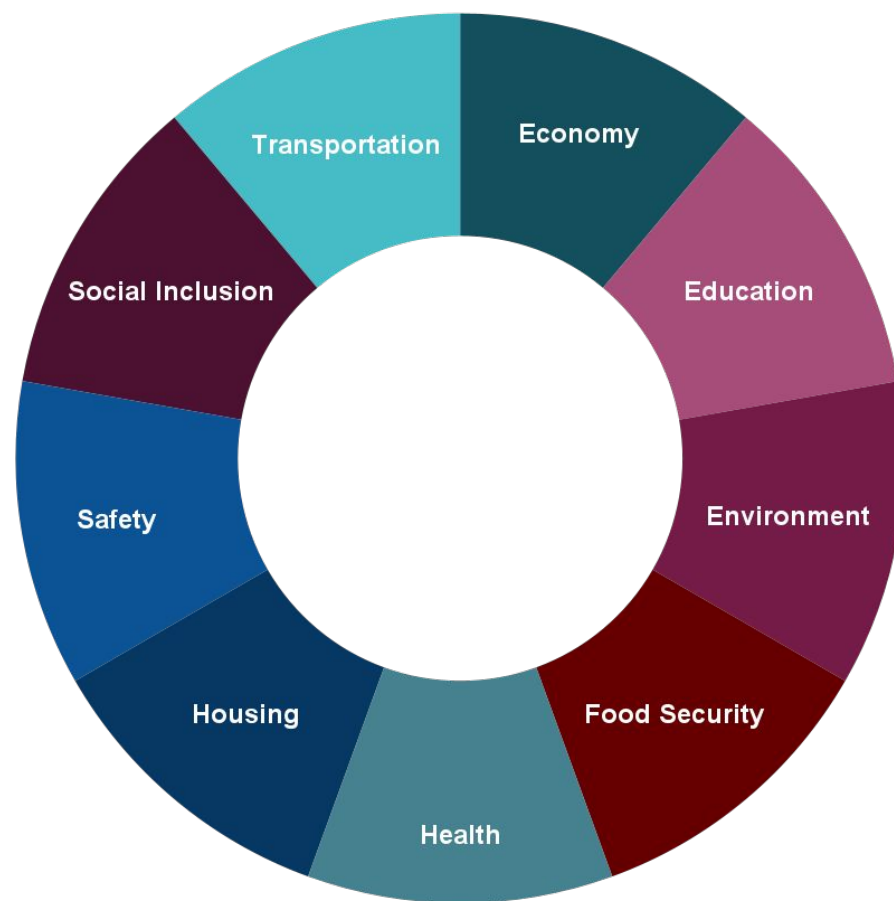
Medical News Today defines the “[s]ocial determinants of health [as] an individual’s personal circumstances that impact their health and well-being. They include political, socioeconomic, and cultural factors, alongside how easily someone can access healthcare, education, a safe place to live, and nutritious food.”<sup>1</sup>

These aspects of a person’s life are tightly intertwined and can have a large impact on each other. It is important to consider the many barriers to access when looking at these areas; keeping in mind that some barriers are universal and others may only apply to a subsection of the population. Inequity of access to services is a vital aspect to consider as service delivery models are planned.

A conference at York University identified a model of the social determinants of health and reviewed current literature citing that the evidence shows that the effects of the social determinants of health “are actually much stronger than the ones associated with behaviors such as diet, physical activity, and even tobacco and excessive alcohol use.”<sup>2</sup>

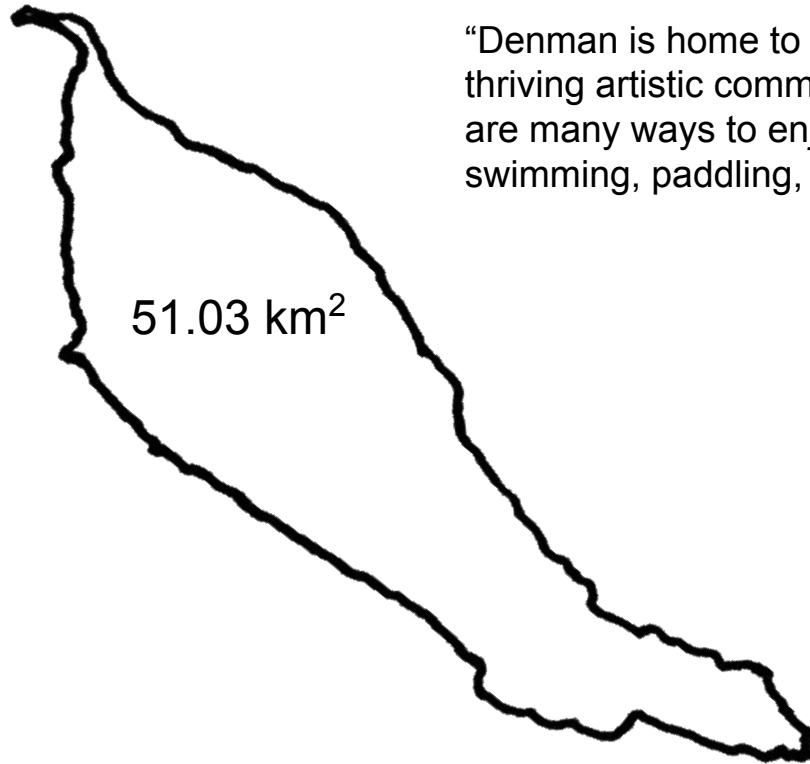
“UN Sustainable Development Goal #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages.”<sup>3</sup>

Social Determinants of Health

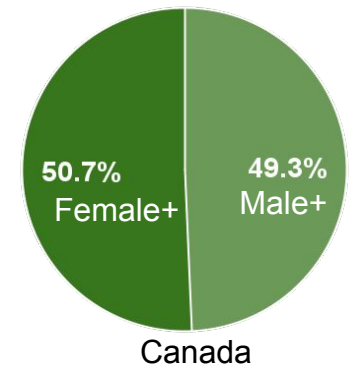
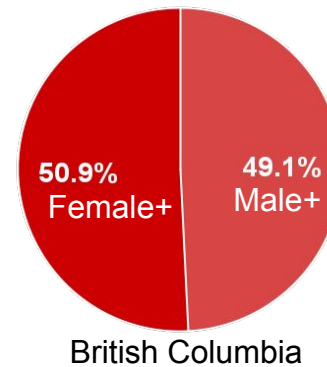
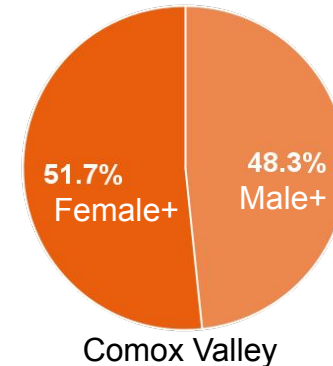
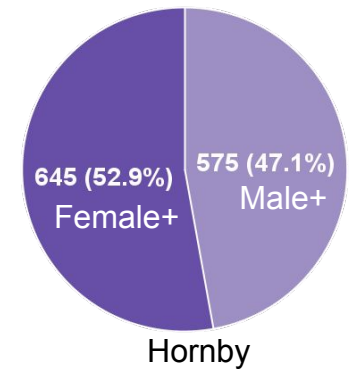
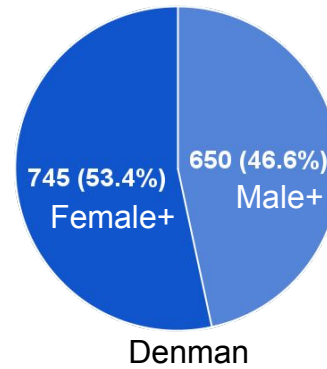


# The Island and its People

“Denman is home to approximately [1,400] year-round residents. The island is notable for its thriving artistic community, its festivals, farming, and a beautiful natural environment.” There are many ways to enjoy the natural beauty of the island: “[h]iking, biking, boating, swimming, paddling, birding, and wildlife watching.” [visitdnemanisland.ca](http://visitdnemanisland.ca)



## Gender



## 2SLGBTQI+

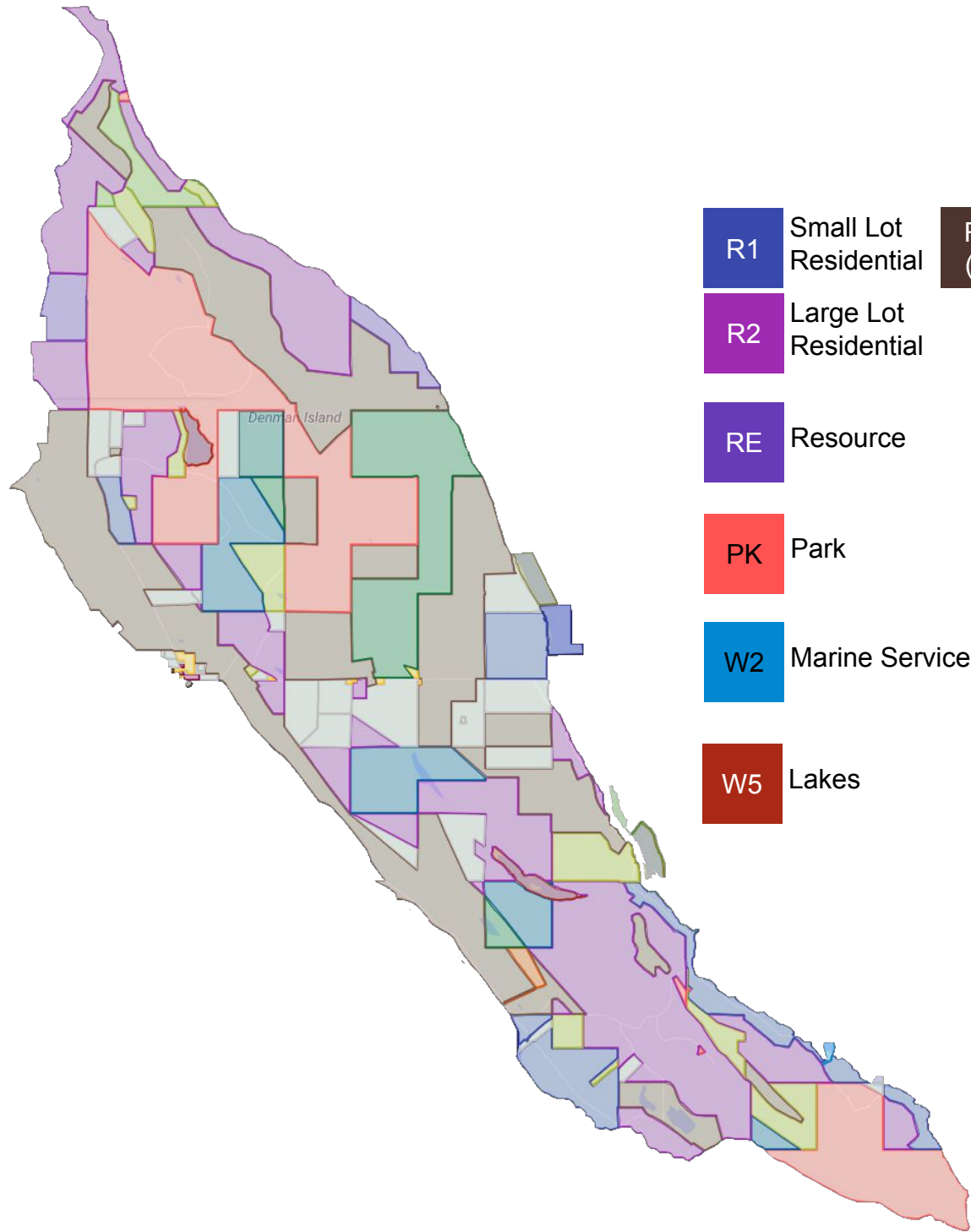
While there have been no studies, nor does Census Canada capture this information, it is believed that there is a sizable population of those who identify as two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, or intersex.\*

\*To protect the small and vulnerable population of non-binary individuals Census Canada has distributed them into the binary gender categories and symbolized this by the use of the "+".



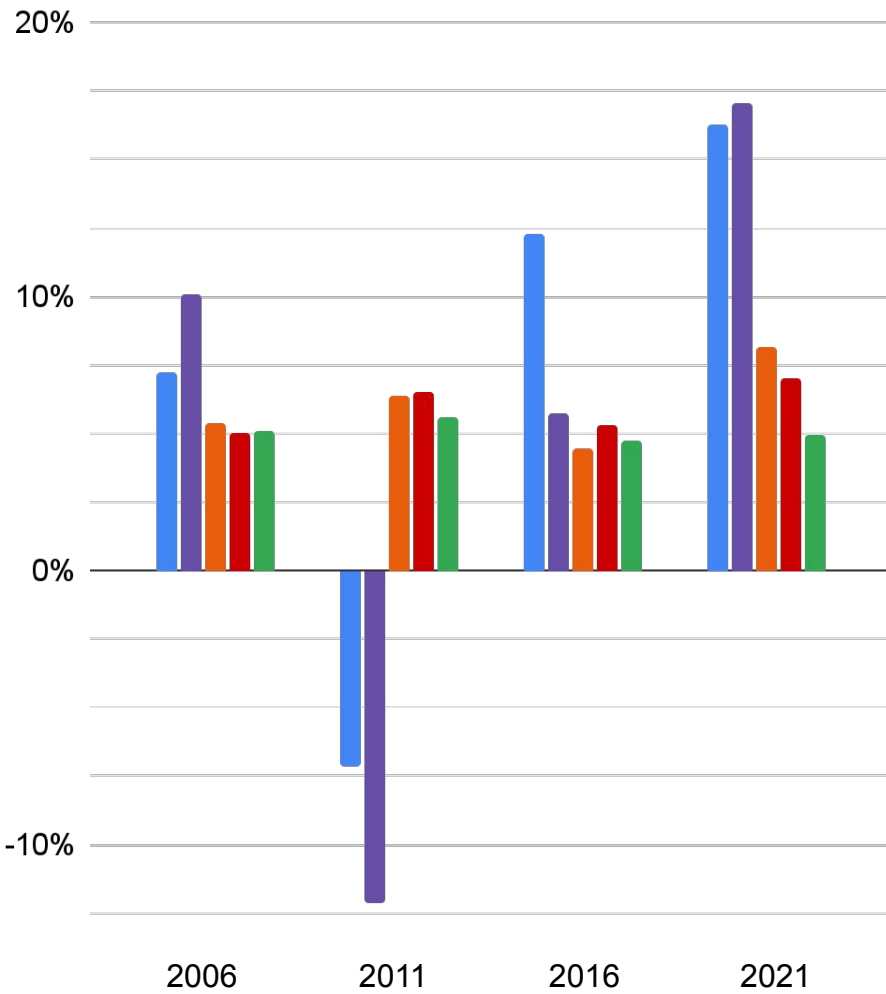
# Zone Map

<b>A</b> Agriculture	<b>A (1)</b>	<b>A (6)</b>	<b>A (10)</b>	<b>A (11)</b>
<b>C</b> Commercial				
<b>CN</b> Conservation				
<b>F</b> Forestry				
<b>IN</b> Institutional				



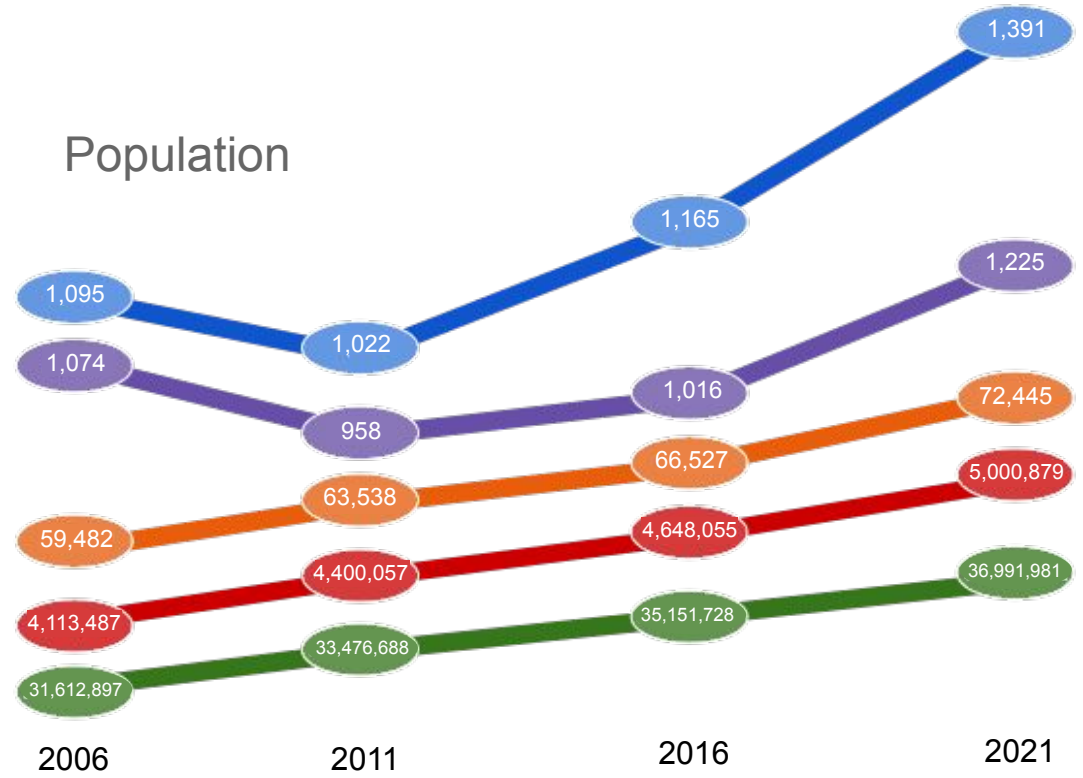
# Population

## Population Change Over Time

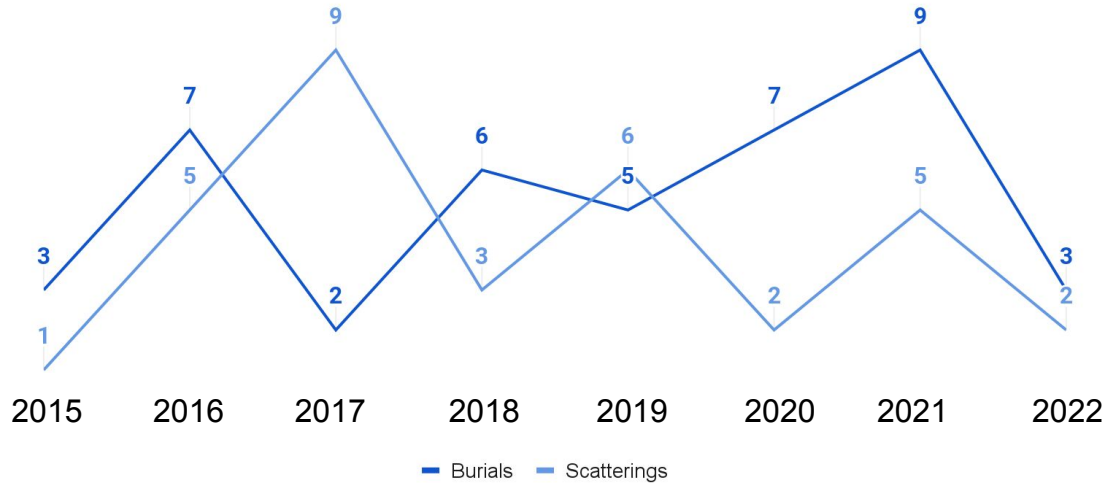


■ Denman ■ Hornby ■ Comox Valley ■ BC ■ Canada

## Population

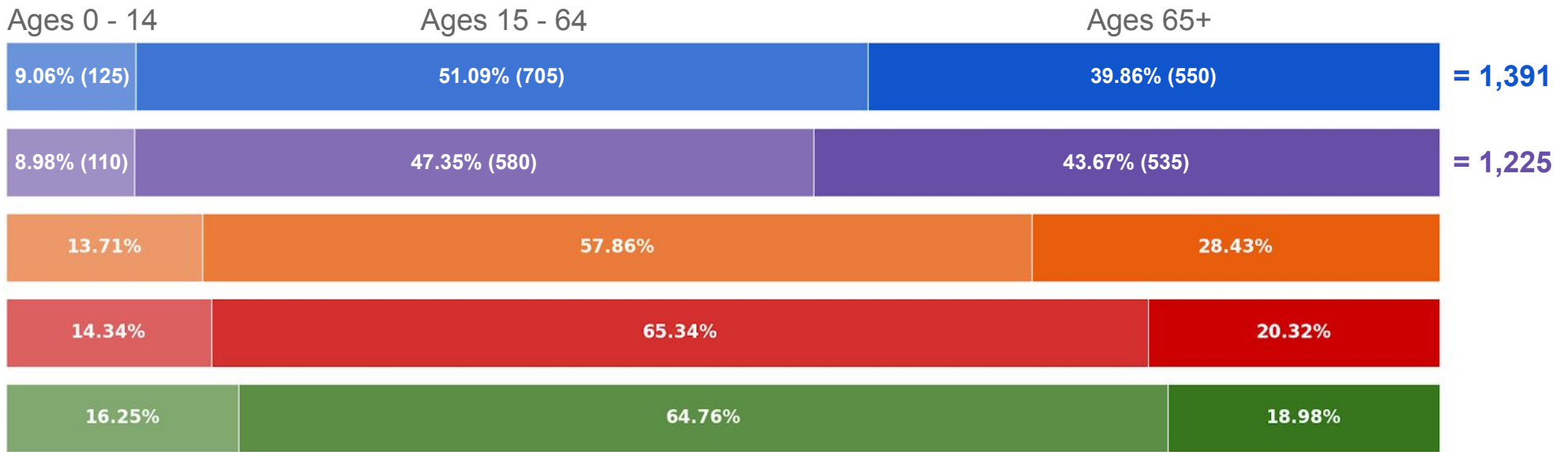


## Burials & Scatterings<sup>5</sup>

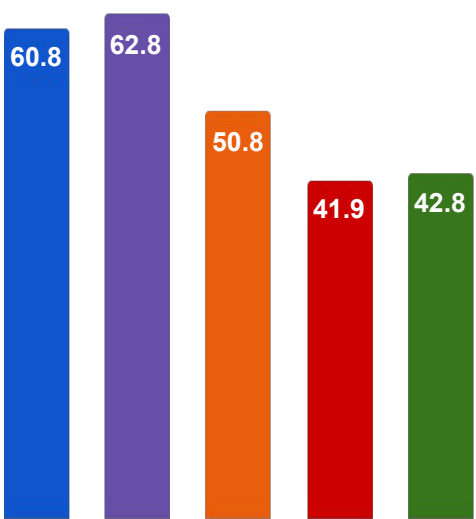


— Burials — Scatterings

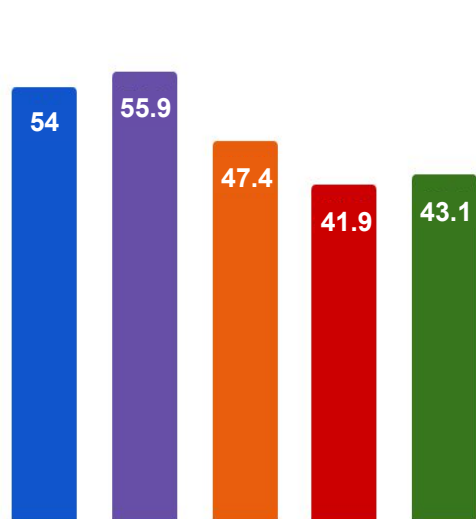
# Population Distribution by Age Range



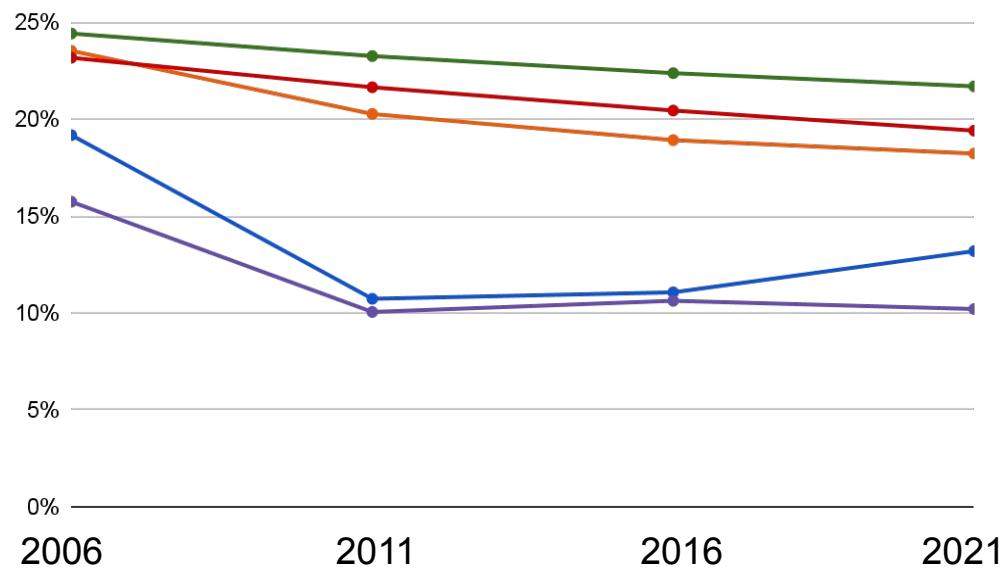
## Median Age



## Average Age



## Youth (0 - 19) Change Over Time



Denman

Hornby

Comox Valley

BC

Canada

# Diversity

## Heritage

Due to the small size of the population, discrepancies introduced by the round to 5 policy of Census Canada, and the 25% sample used, we are unable to determine the true list of backgrounds on the island. We do know that we have people from a wide variety of countries living here.

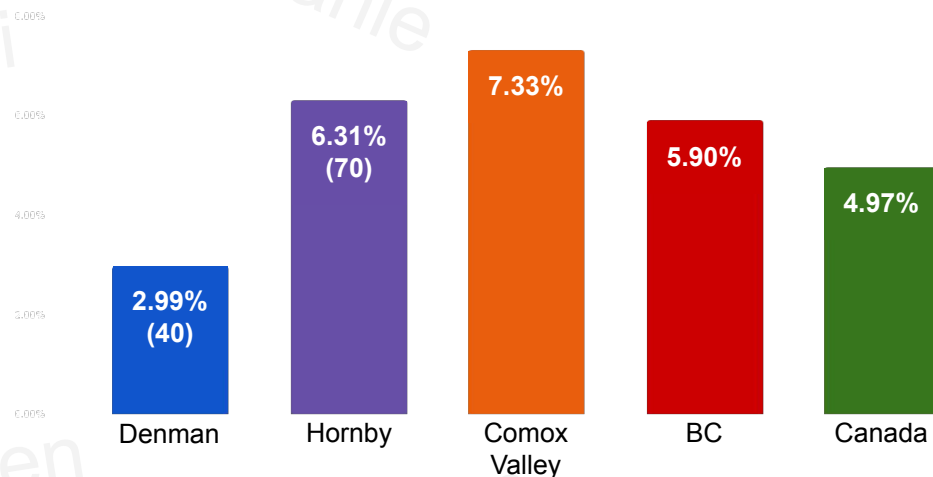
## Languages\*

- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Iranian Persian
- Japanese
- Mandarin
- Polish
- Slovene
- Spanish
- Thai

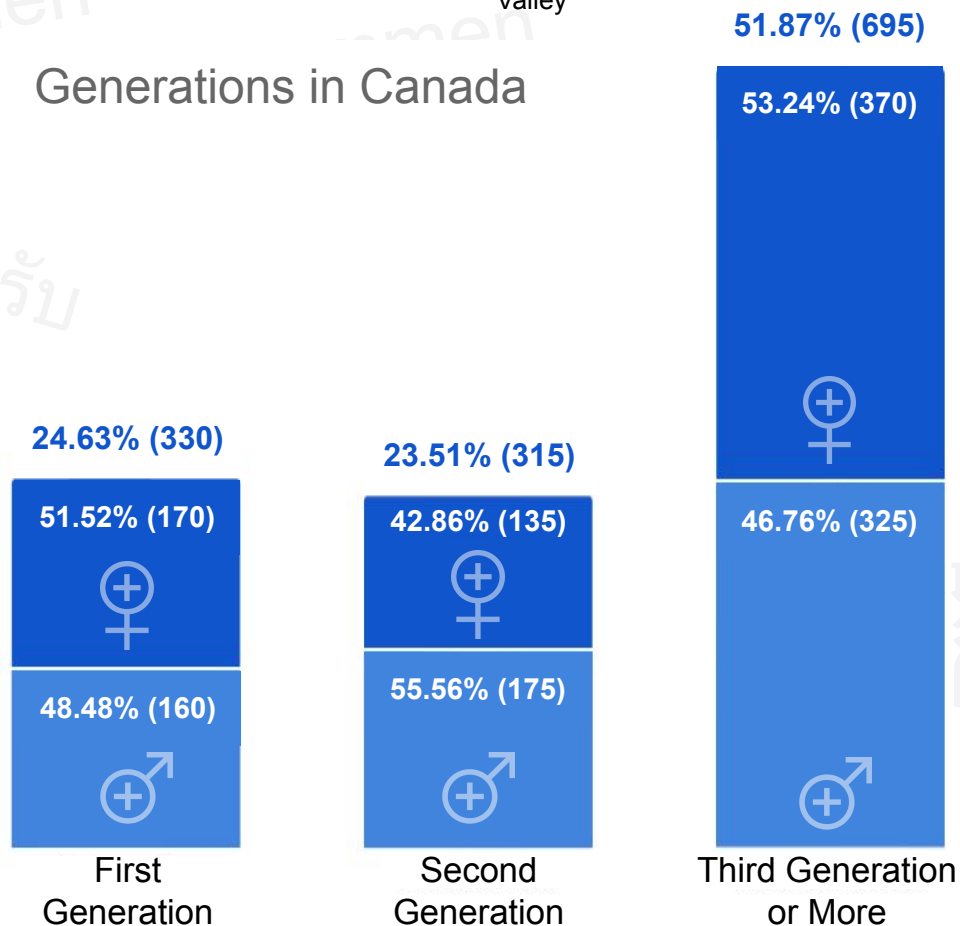
\*These are the languages reported by Census Canada, however, there are anecdotal reports of other languages.



## Proportion of Indigenous Identity



## Generations in Canada



# Family

## Average Family Size



Total Families

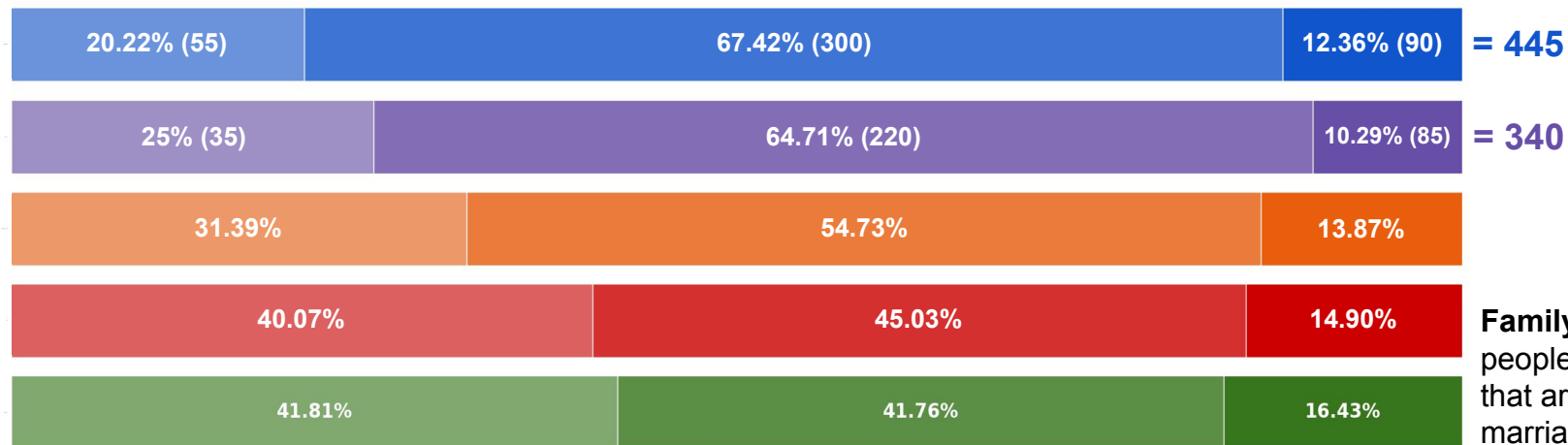


## Family Composition

One Parent Families

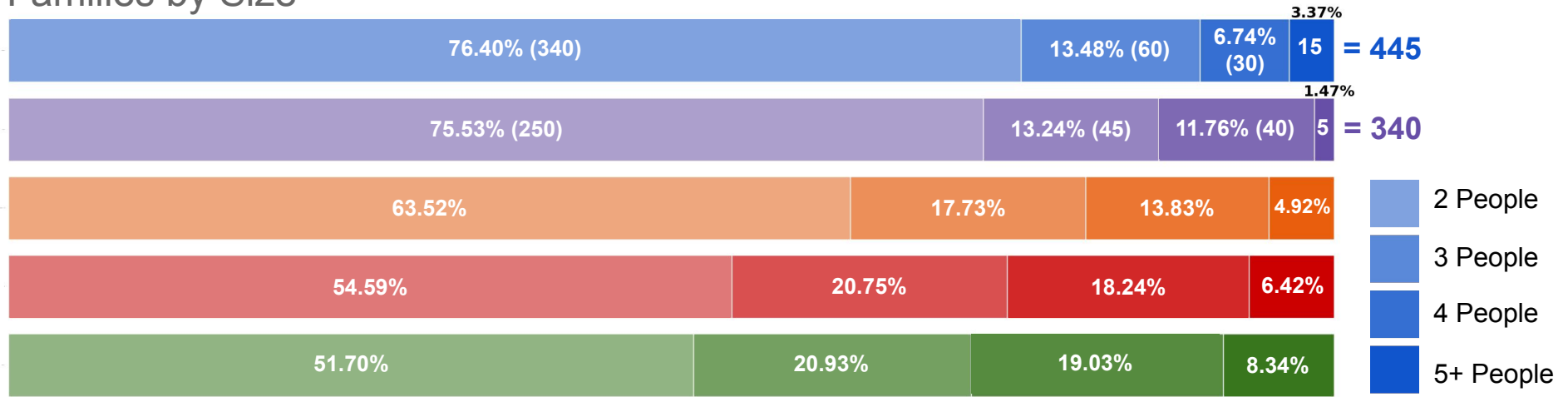
Couples without Children

Couples with Children

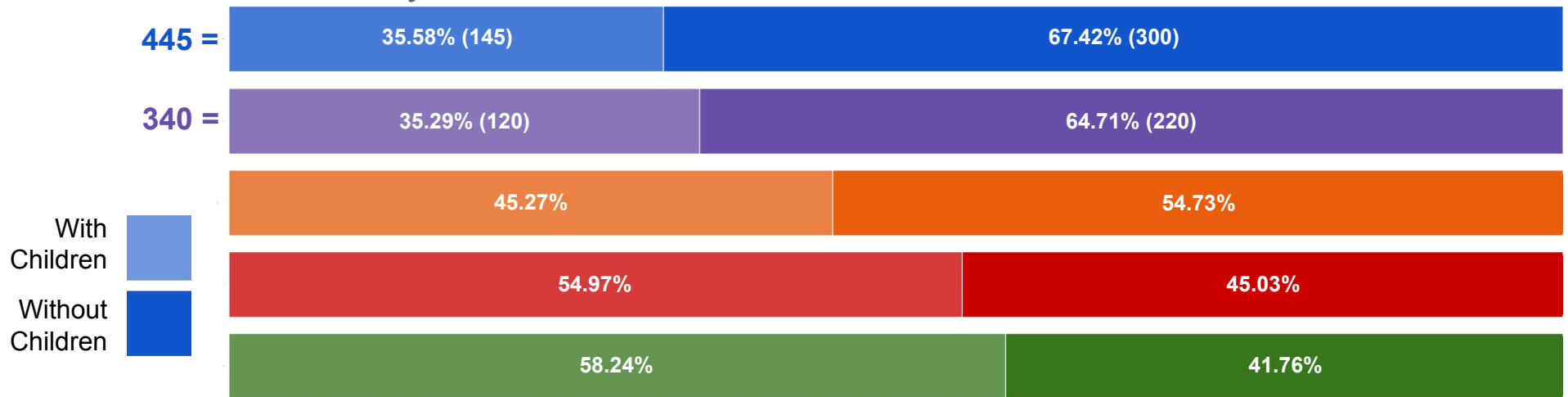


**Family** is a group of two or more people living in a single dwelling that are related through, blood, marriage, or legally.

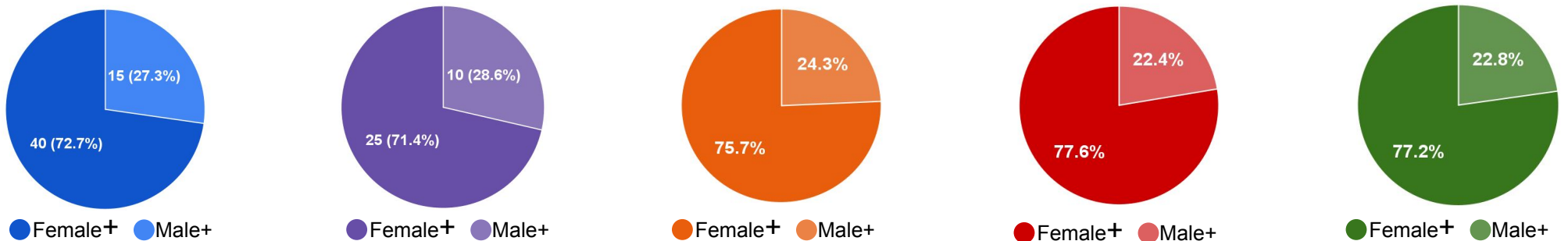
## Families by Size



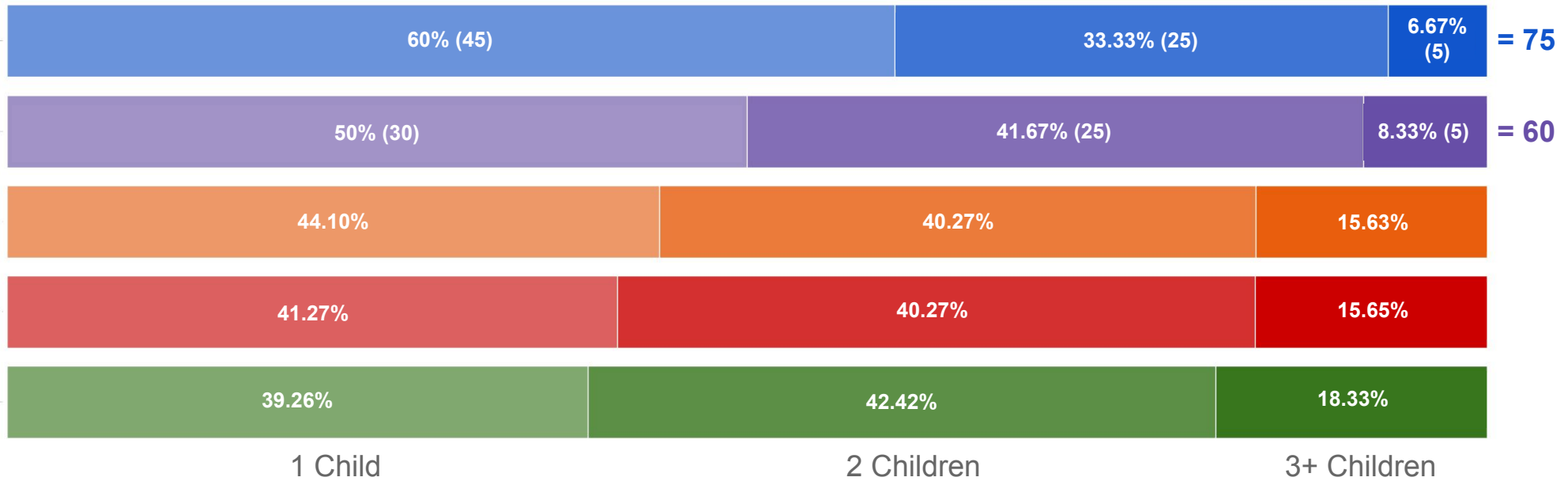
## Families by Child Status



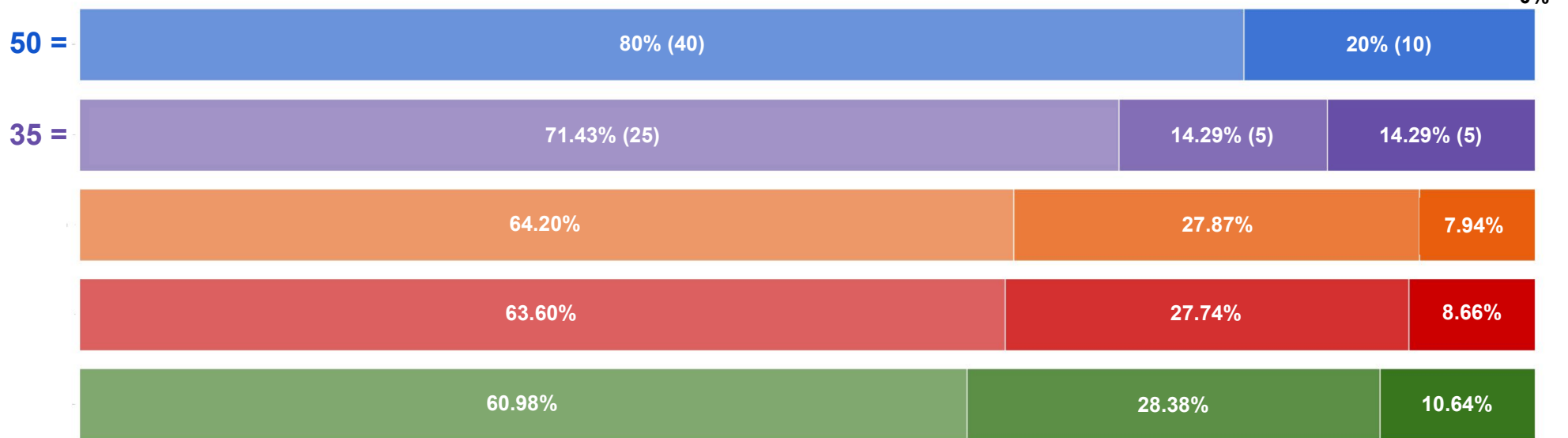
## One Parent Families by Gender of Parent



## Couple Families by Number of Children (2016)



## One-Parent Families by Number of Children (2016)



\* Due to Census Canada rounding all results to the nearest 5 and the small number of one-parent families, these results likely have a wide margin of error

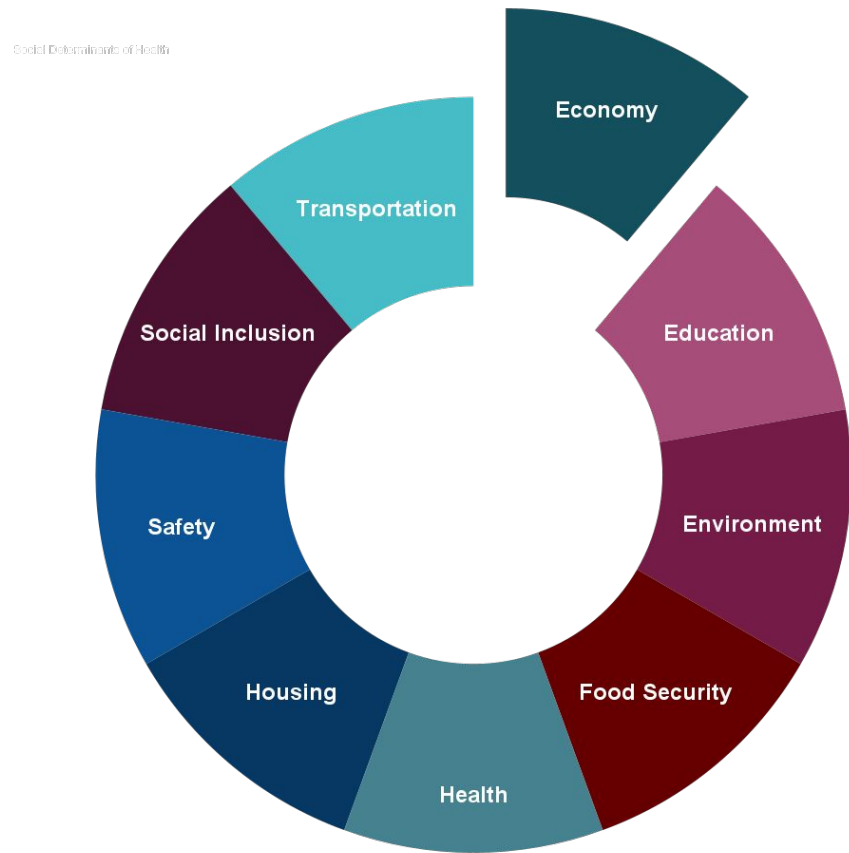
# Economy

**Economic health** is when a person has a stable job where they work a sufficient number of hours, are respected, valued, engaged, paid a living wage, and safe physically and mentally.

When a person has a job that affords them the necessities of life or more, they are able to participate in the local economy. They patronize the businesses and are able to spend money on entertainment and eating out occasionally. Their success helps others in their community achieve success as well.

## Barriers

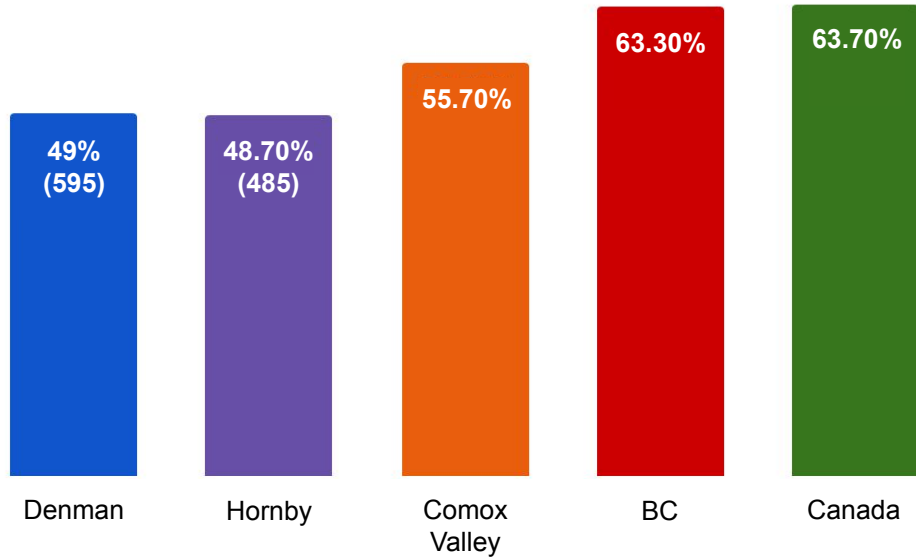
- Challenging for employers to find staff
- Housing and food cost inflation is pushing more people into poverty
- Lack of
  - affordable housing means workers leave island
  - Lack of full-time/full-year employment
  - Lack of reliable transportation to/from work
- Mental Health Challenges
- Part-time minimum wage jobs don't pay the rent





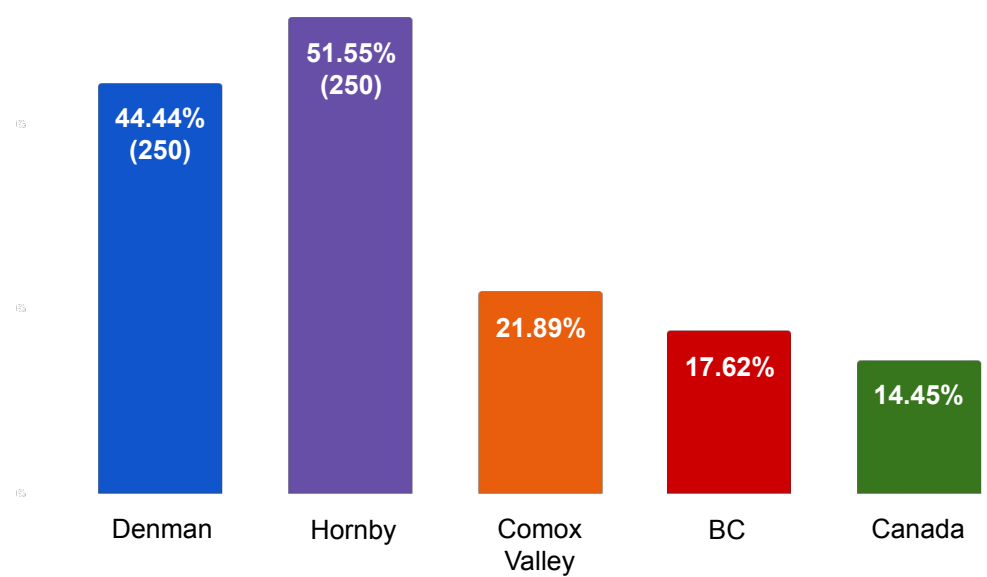
# Employment

In the Labour Force\*

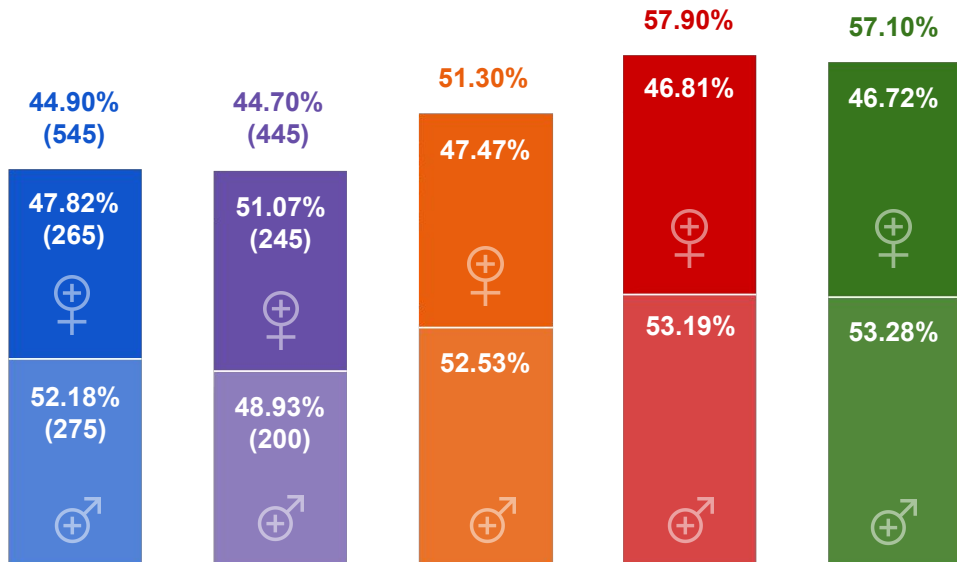


\*Excludes full time students and retirees

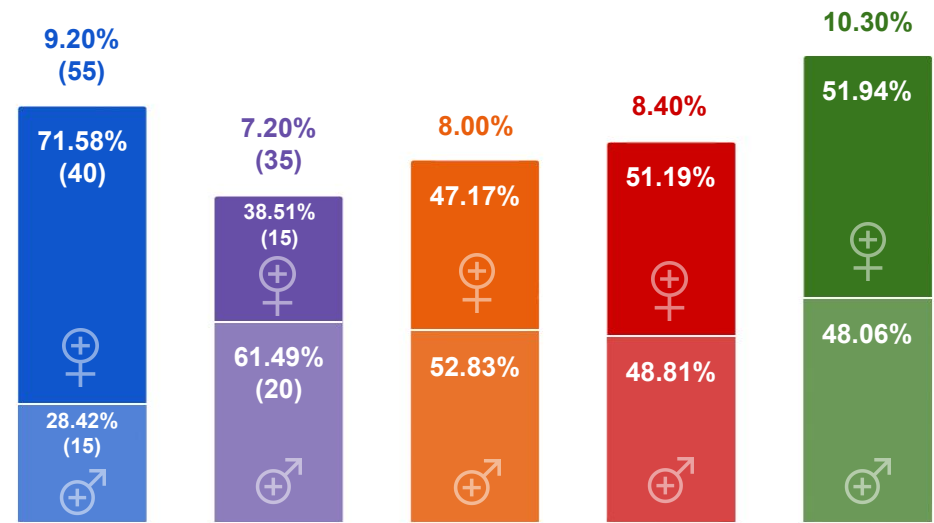
# Self-Employment Rate



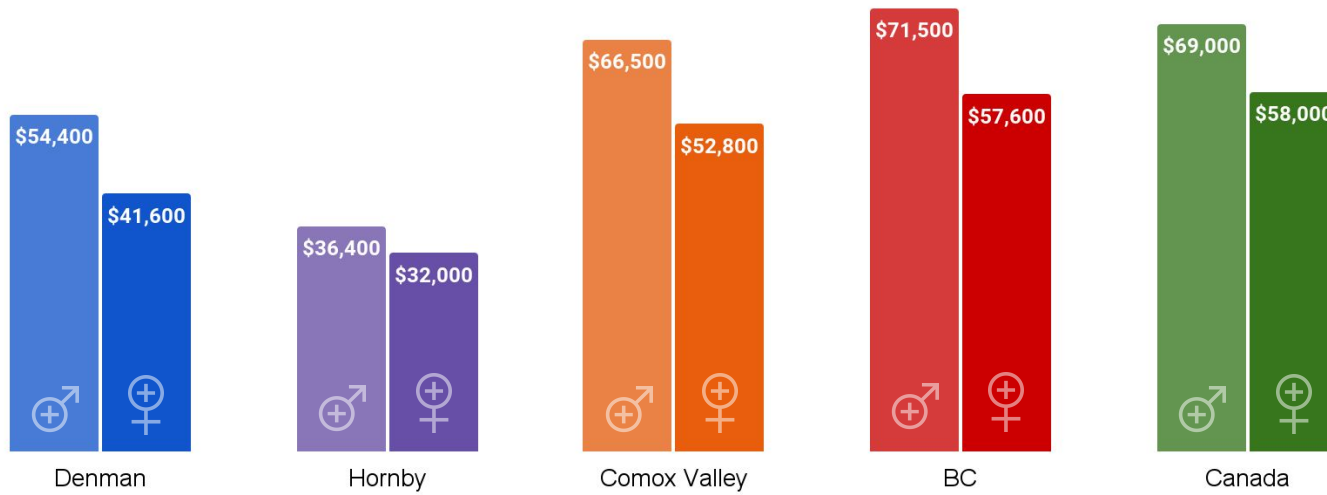
# Employment Rate by Gender



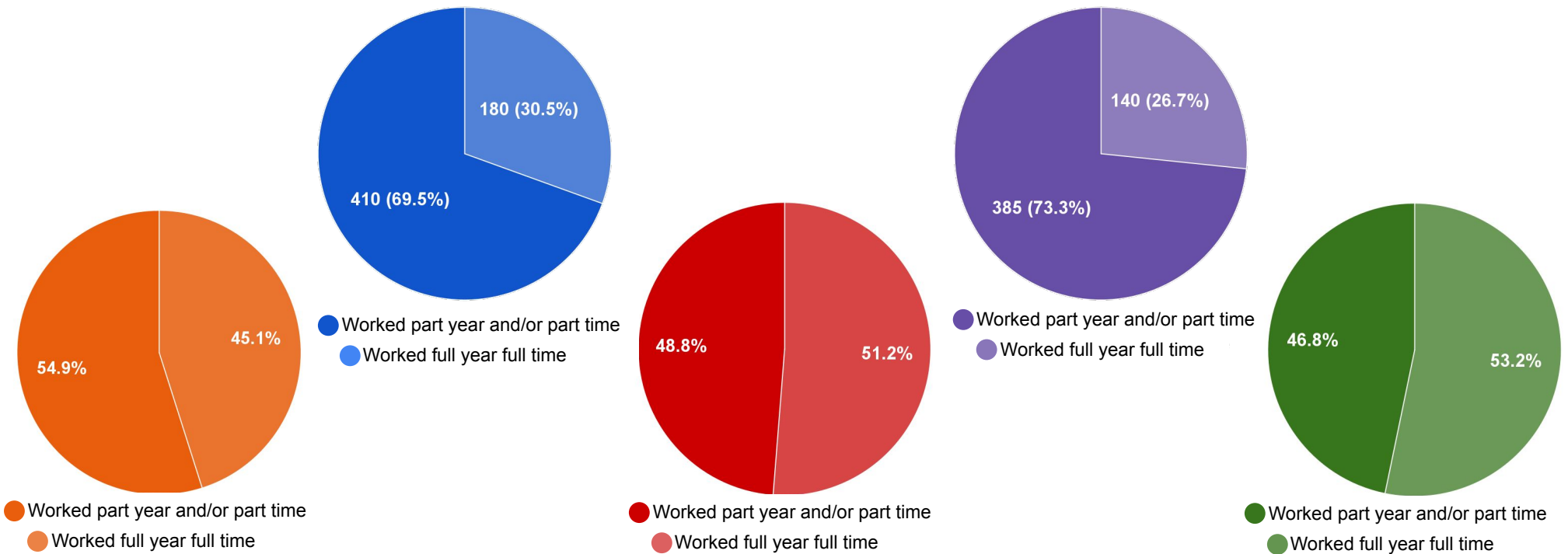
# Unemployment Rate by Gender



# Median Employment Income for Full-year Full-time Workers by Gender (2020)



## Work Status by Tenure



Employers

15

All Businesses

76

All Home Businesses

61

Year-Round Jobs<sup>7</sup>

26+

Home Art Businesses<sup>9, 10</sup>

37

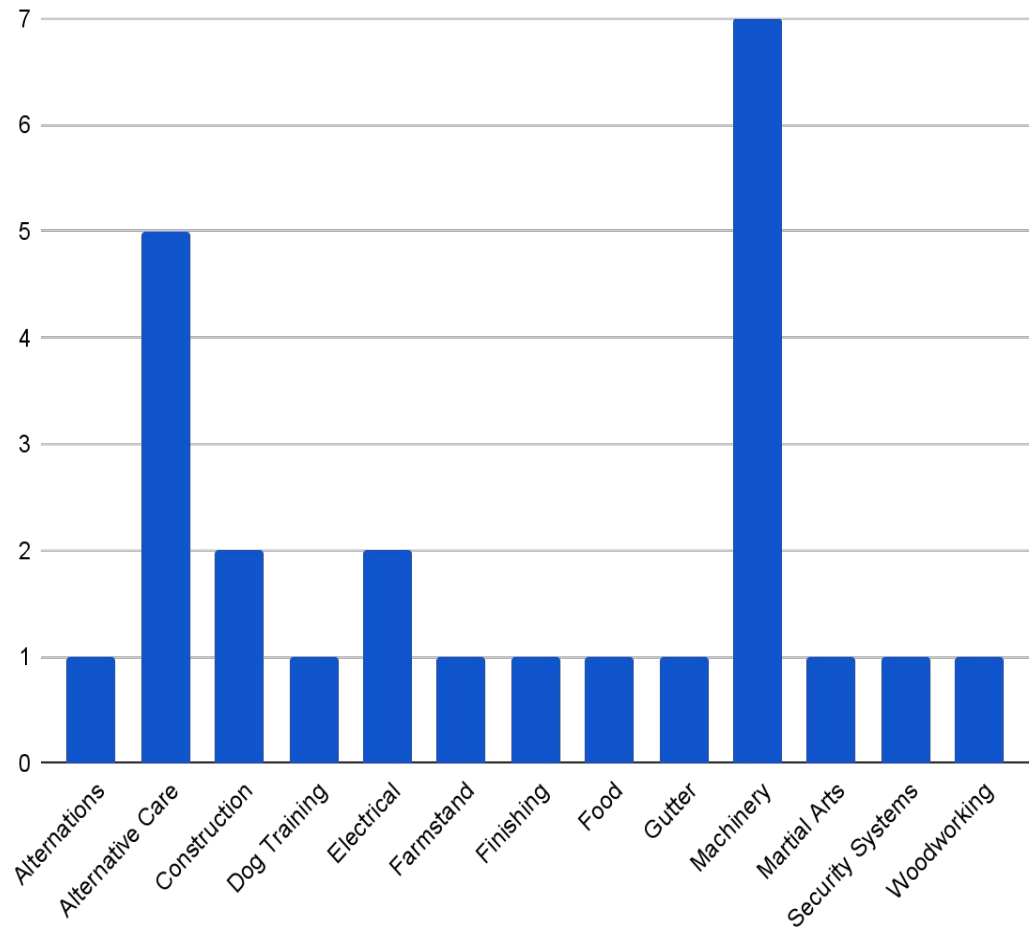
Non-Art Home Businesses<sup>9</sup>

24

Commercial Real Estate Value:<sup>8</sup>

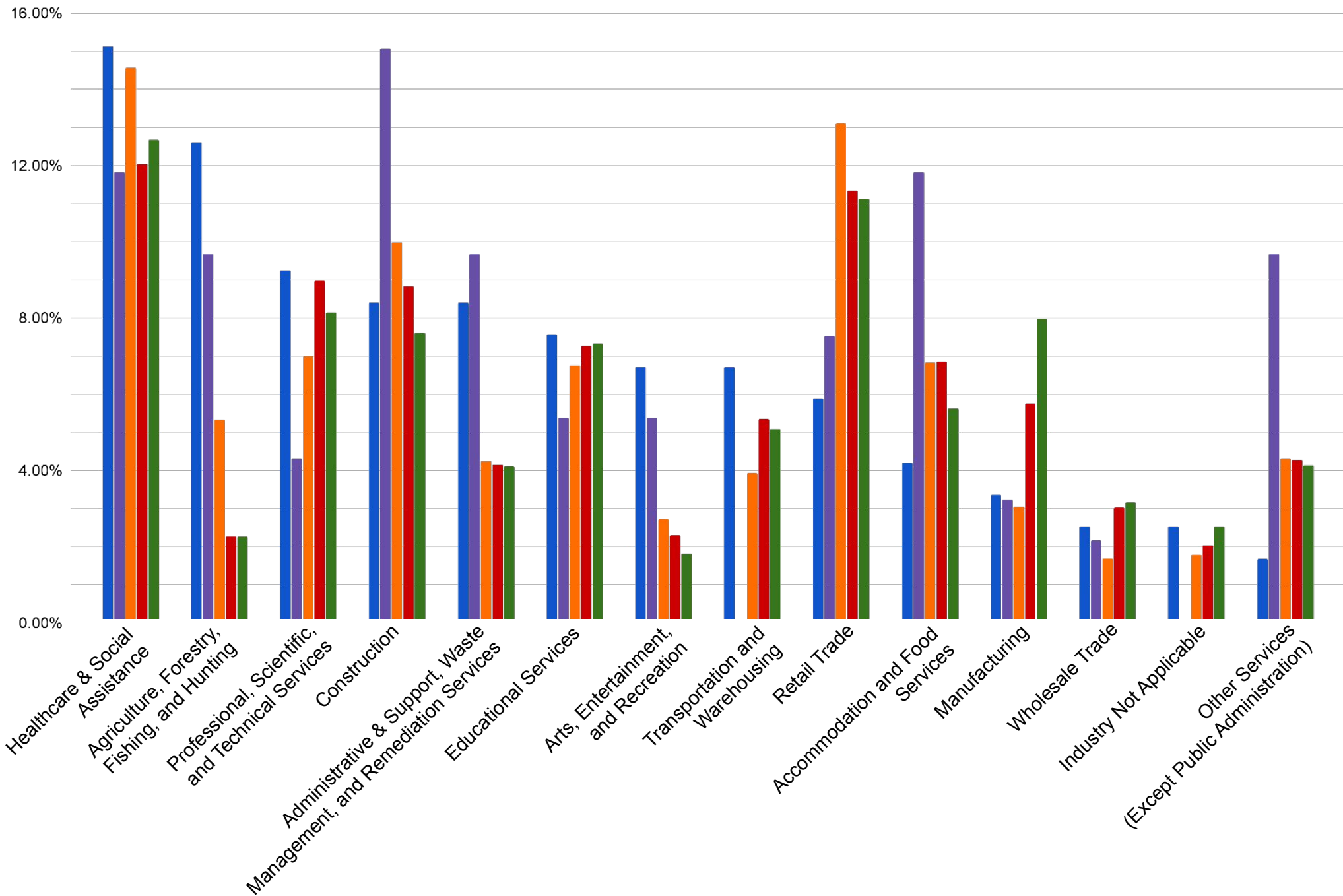
\$4,527,100.00

Home Based Businesses

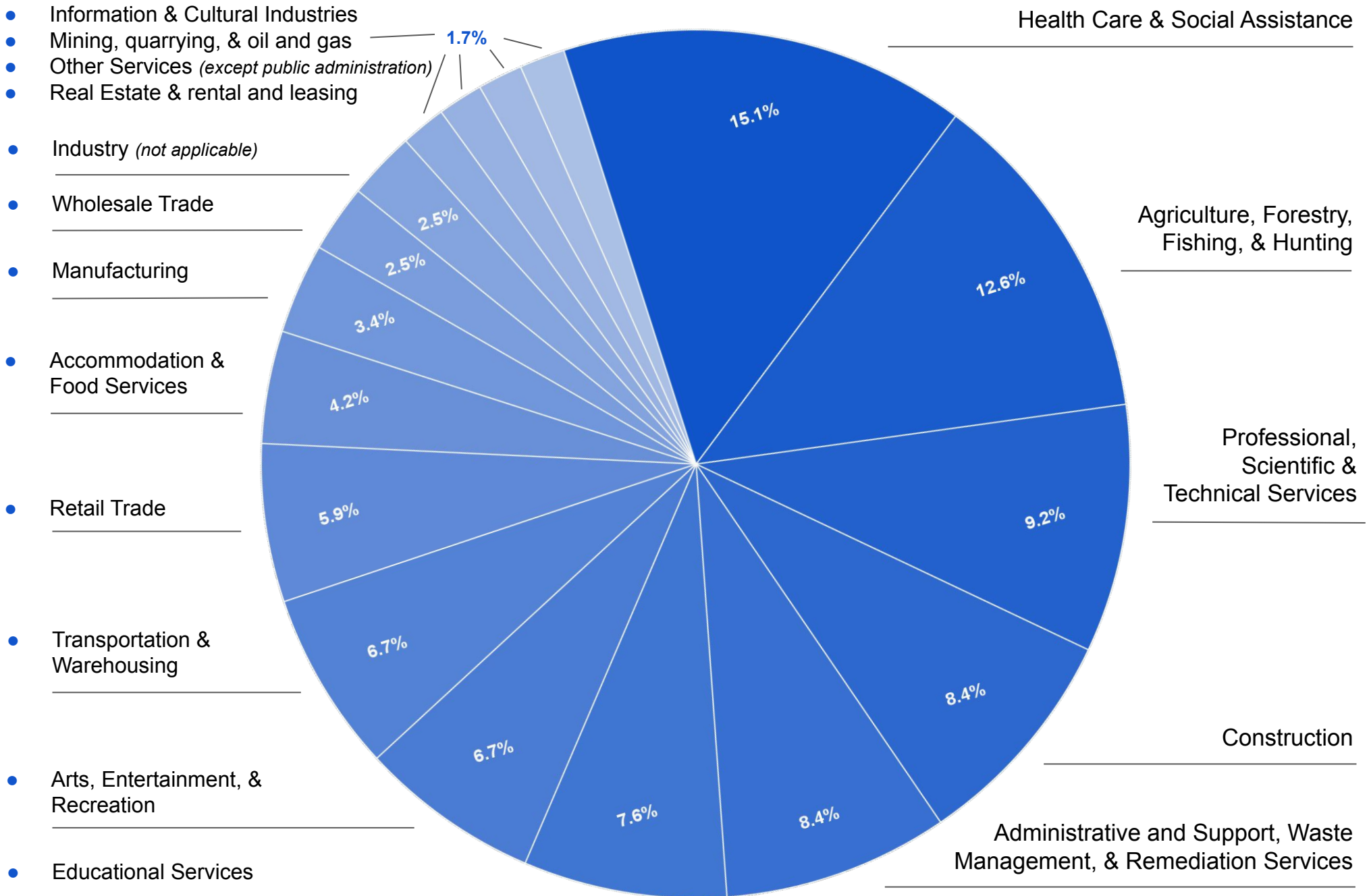


*\*These numbers are for the businesses list online and in the phonebook, but we are aware that there are many types of businesses that don't operate that way. We know gardening/landscaping, house cleaning, and odd-jobs/handy people are all areas that are unlikely to be listed.*

# Occupations by Industry (All Areas)



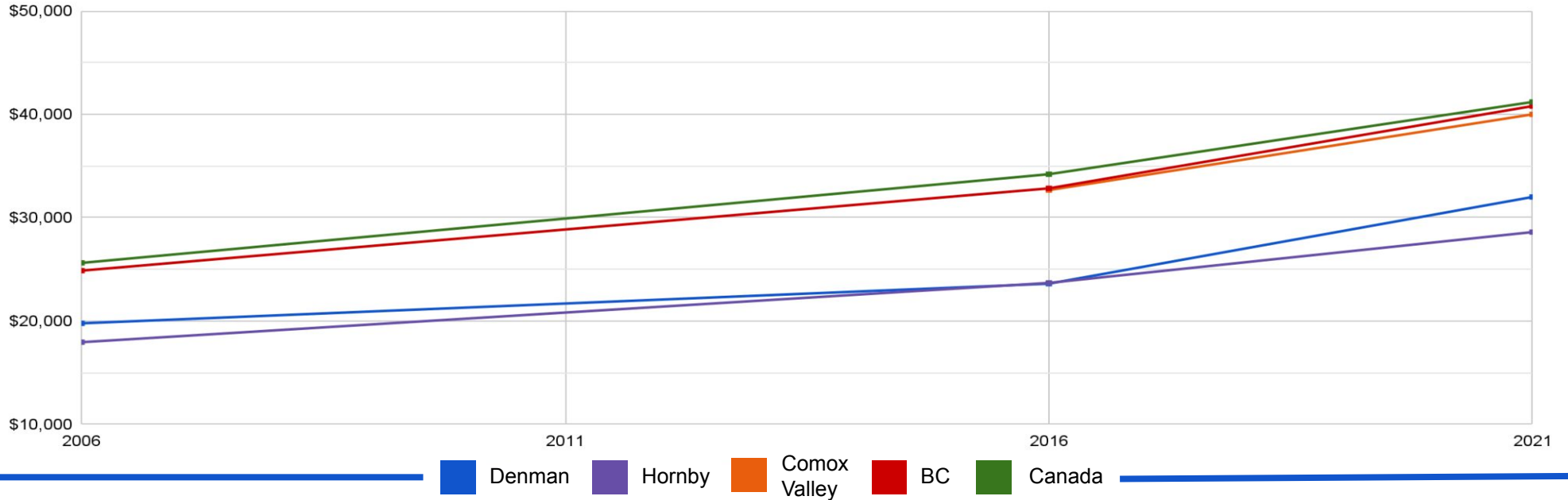
# Occupations by Industry (Denman Island)



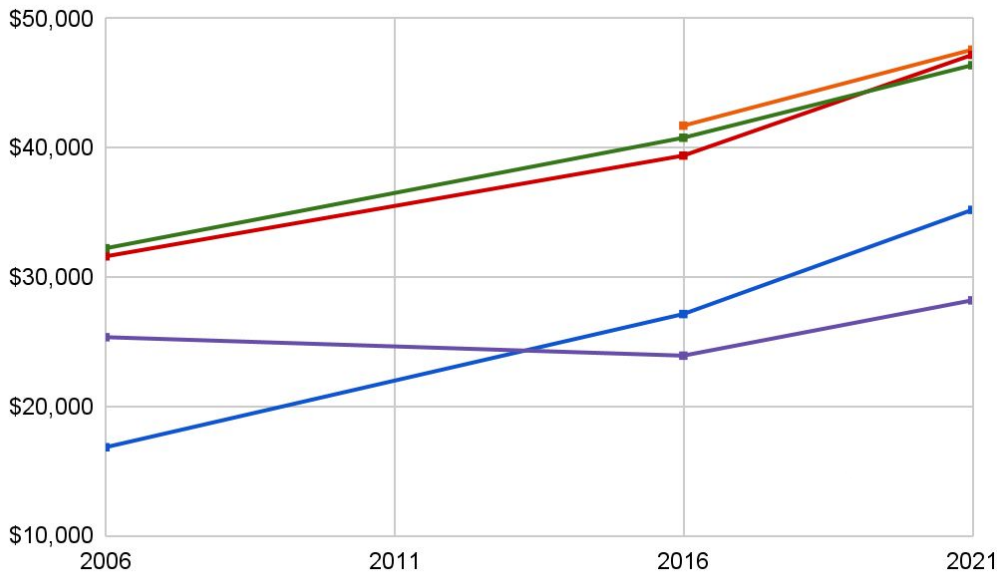
# Income

## Median income change over time (Total Population)

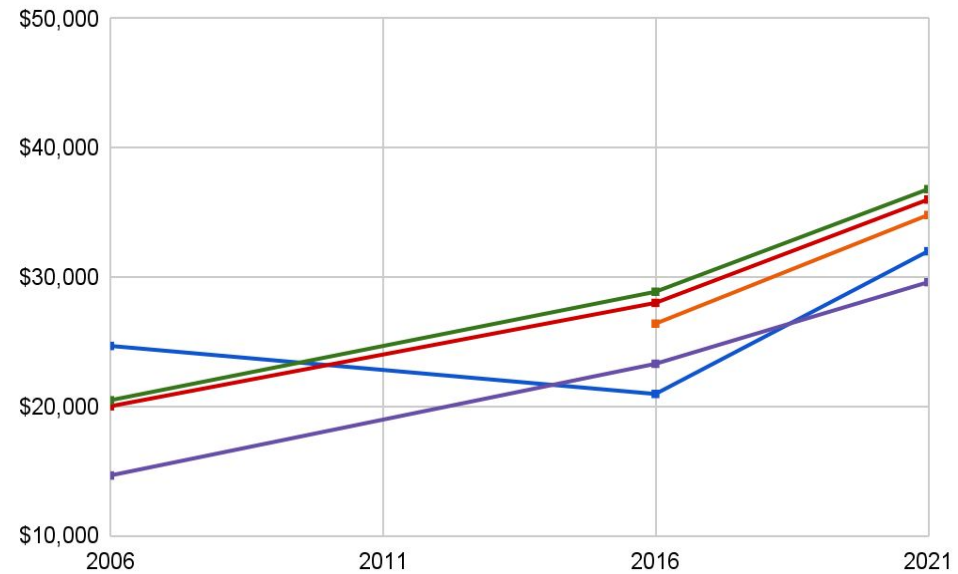
*\*All information is pre-tax as there is no after-tax information prior to 2016*



## Male+

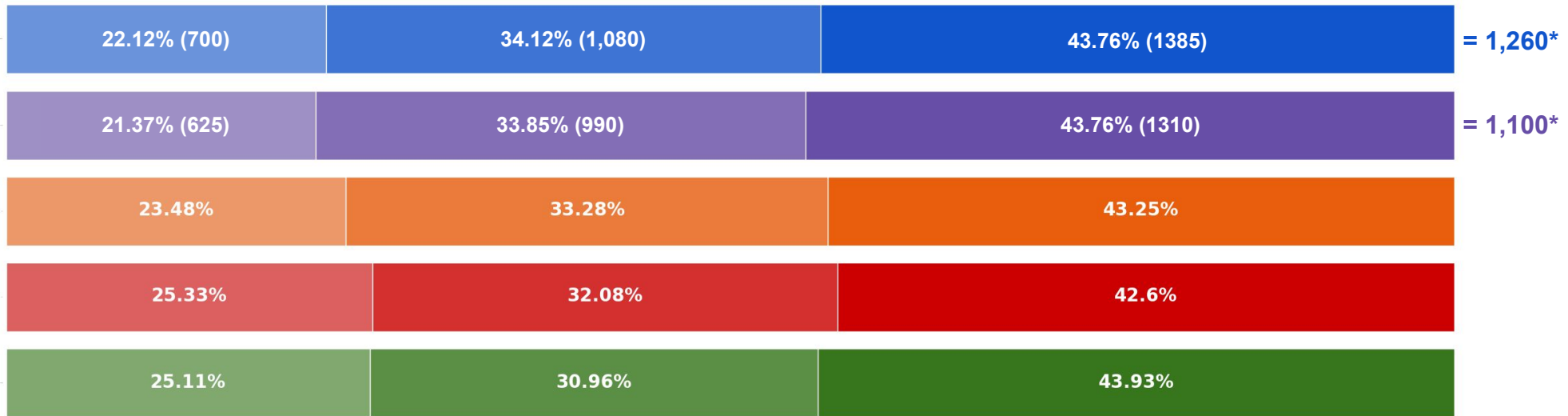


## Female+

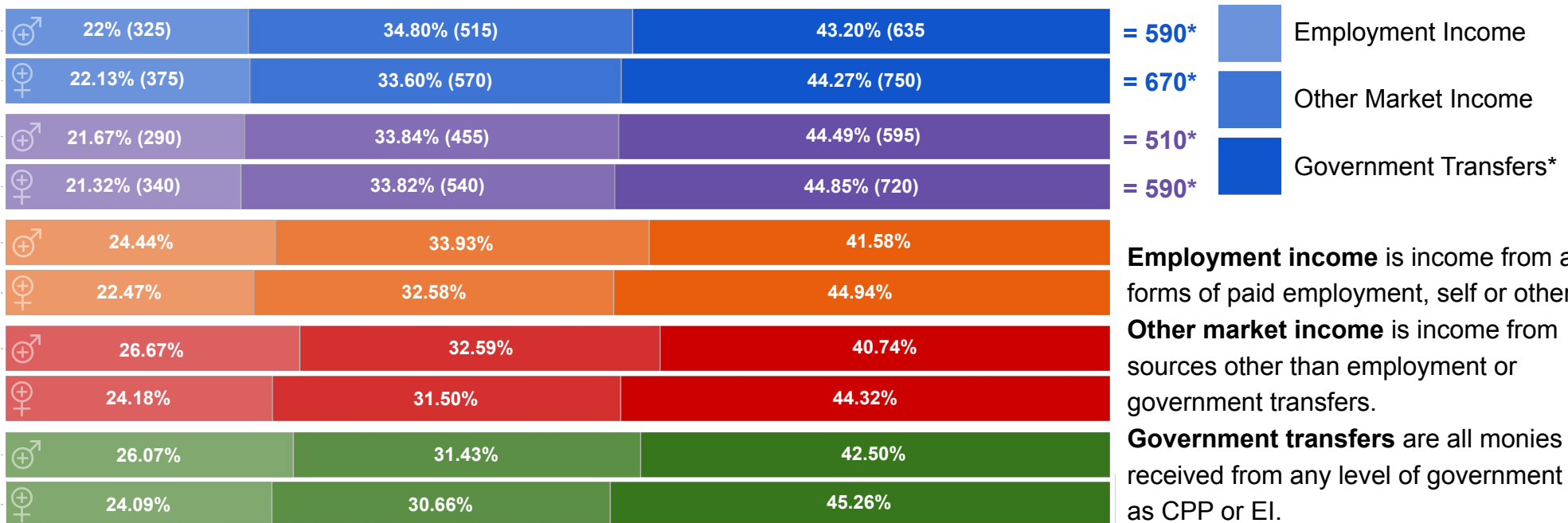


# Income Source

## Source of Income (Age 15+)



## Source of Income by Gender (Age 15+)



\*The numbers do not add up because a person could be counted for one or all of these categories, leading to double and/or triple counting of an individual.

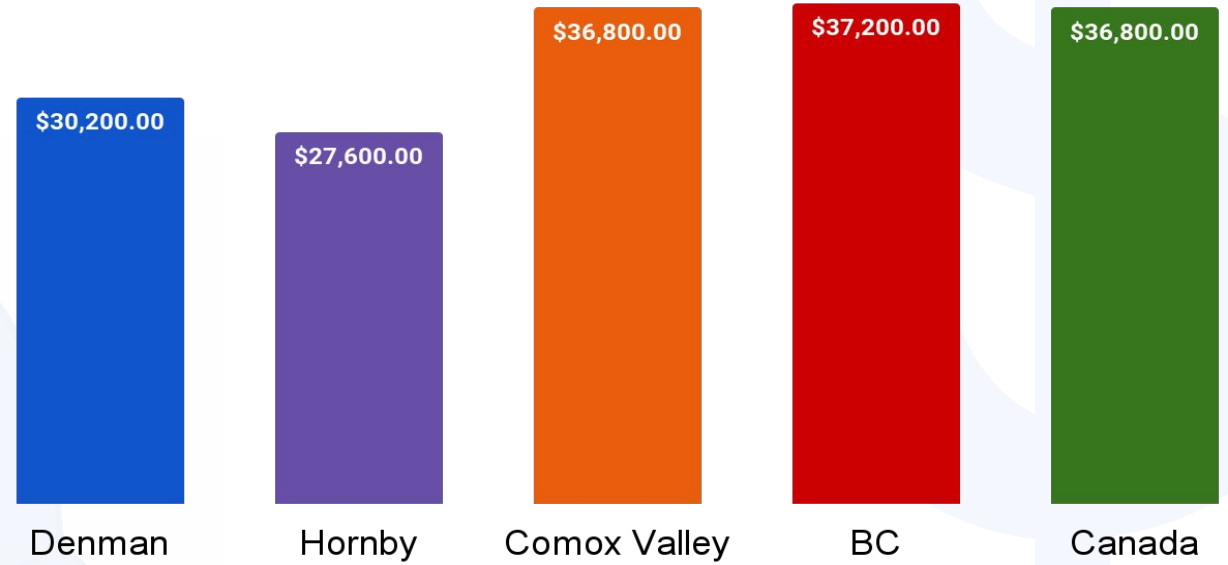
# Individual Income

**Median:** The median value of a set of numbers is the middle value. Half of the numbers are below the median and half are above.

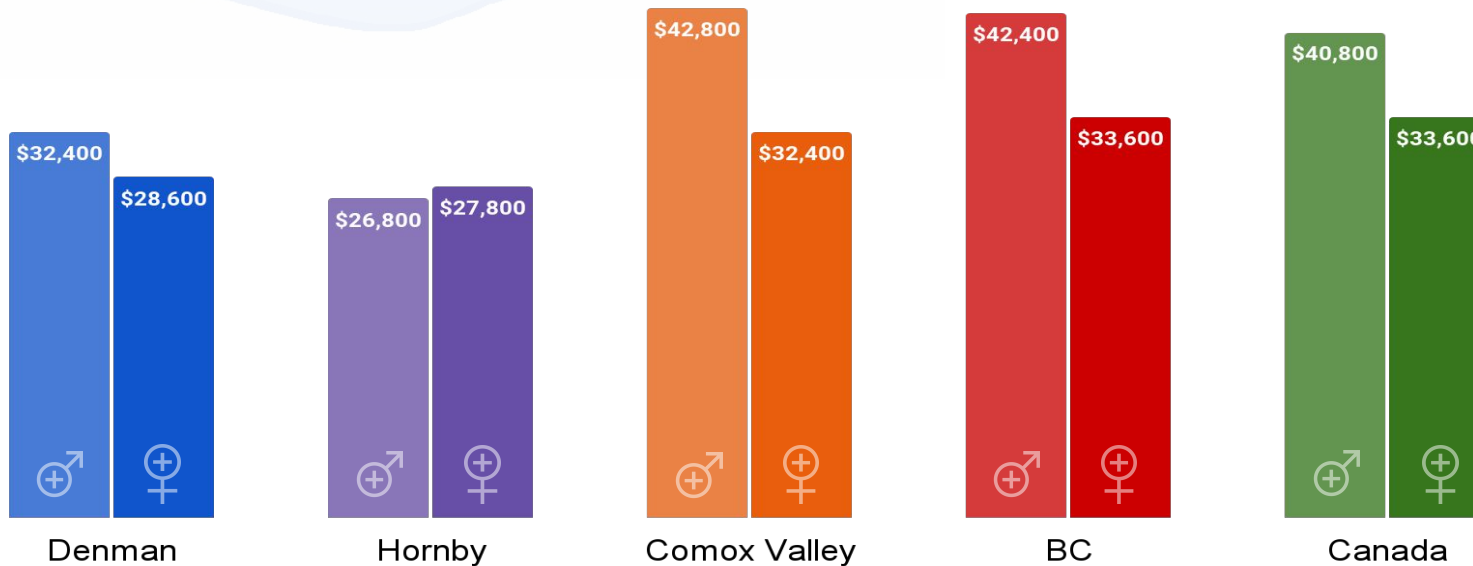
**Average:** The average value of a set of numbers is the result of adding all of the numbers together and dividing by the number of numbers.

The Median was used in this case due to the fact that the average is easily skewed by extremely high or low values. Were we to use the average it would be lower than the reality if there were a few really low values, the same would be true in the other direction if there were some really high values.

## Median After-Tax Income (2020)



## Median After-Tax Income by Gender (2020)



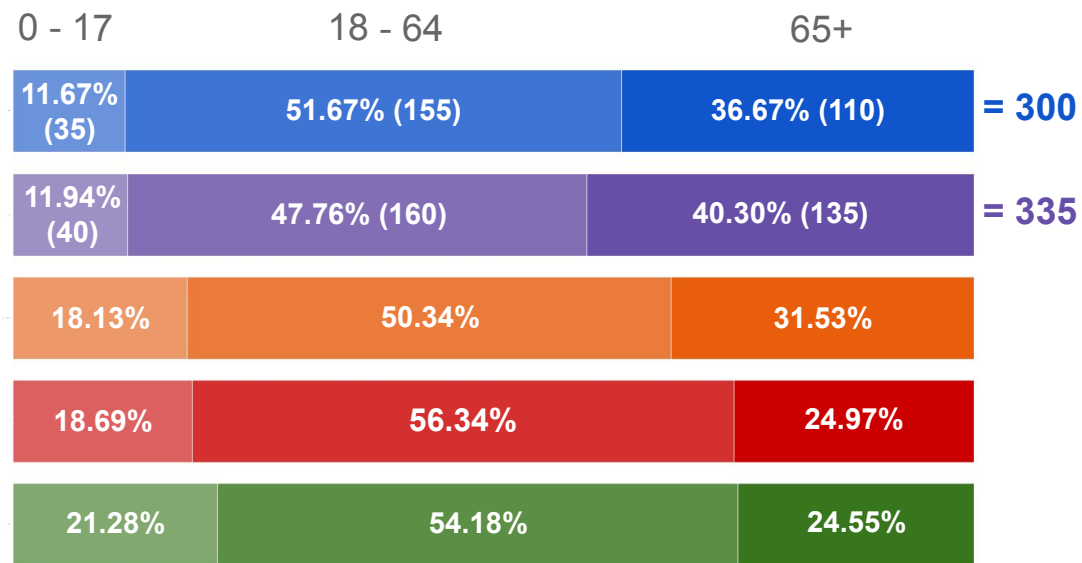


# Individual Low-Income

## Repercussions

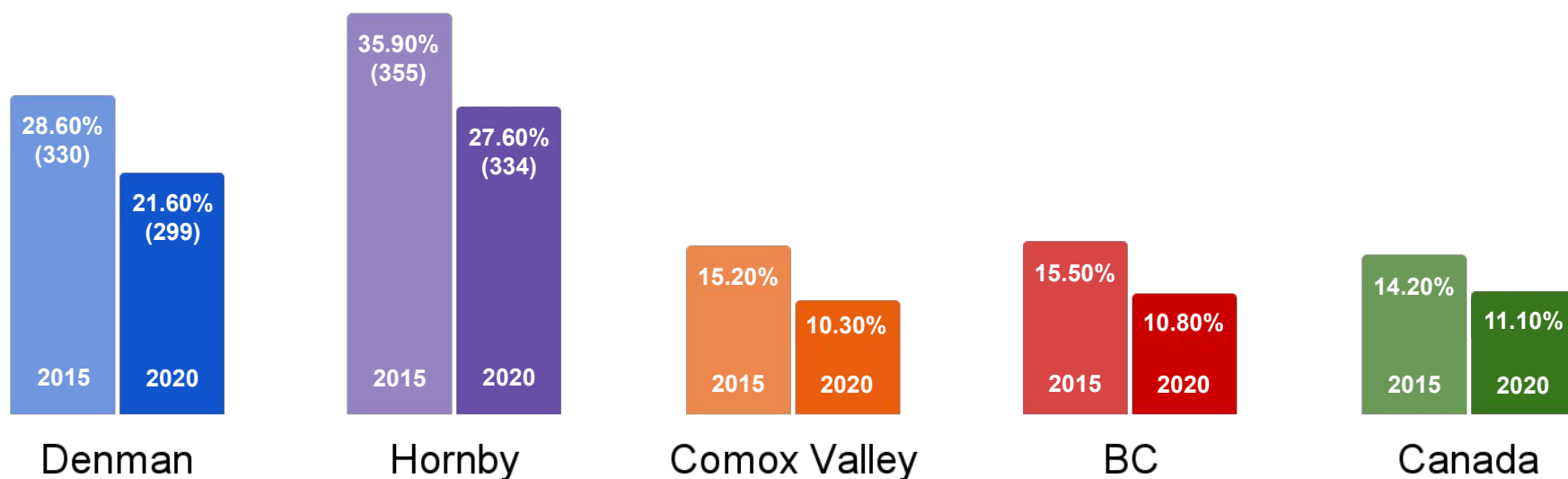
The ramifications of living in a low-income household are varied and long-lasting. Those living in low-income households are more likely to suffer chronic ill health due to substandard living conditions and inadequate nutrition; poor mental health due to stigmatization and constant struggle; low education outcomes due to lack of access to necessary technology and limited reading, discussion, and homework time (caregivers too busy/ tired from work to help with homework or even just read. Literacy is a luxury); lack of childcare; and a lack of job opportunities due to no/unreliable transportation or communication technology.<sup>11</sup>

## Prevalence of Low-Income by Age (2020)

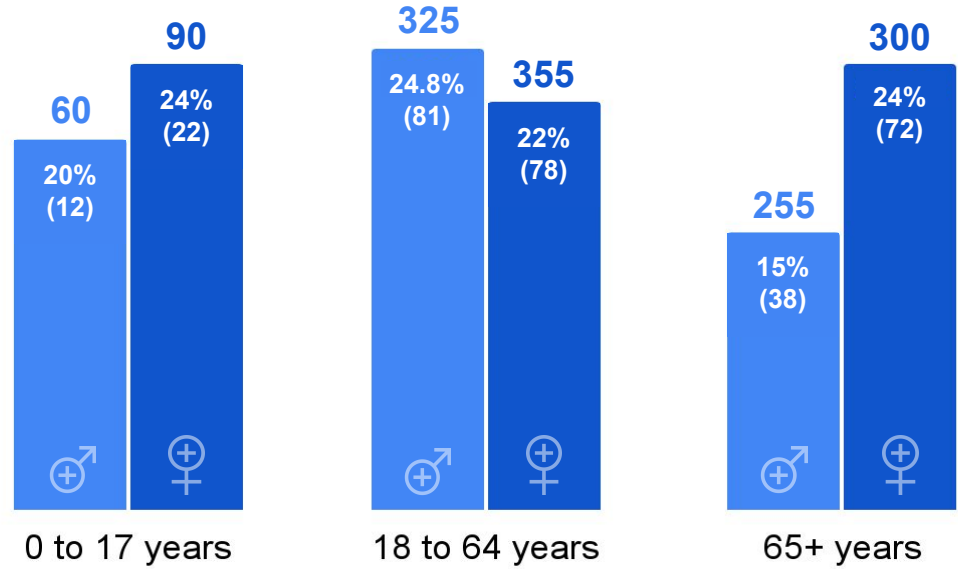


**Low-Income** refers to individuals or households that fall below a specified income level for the prior year.<sup>4</sup>

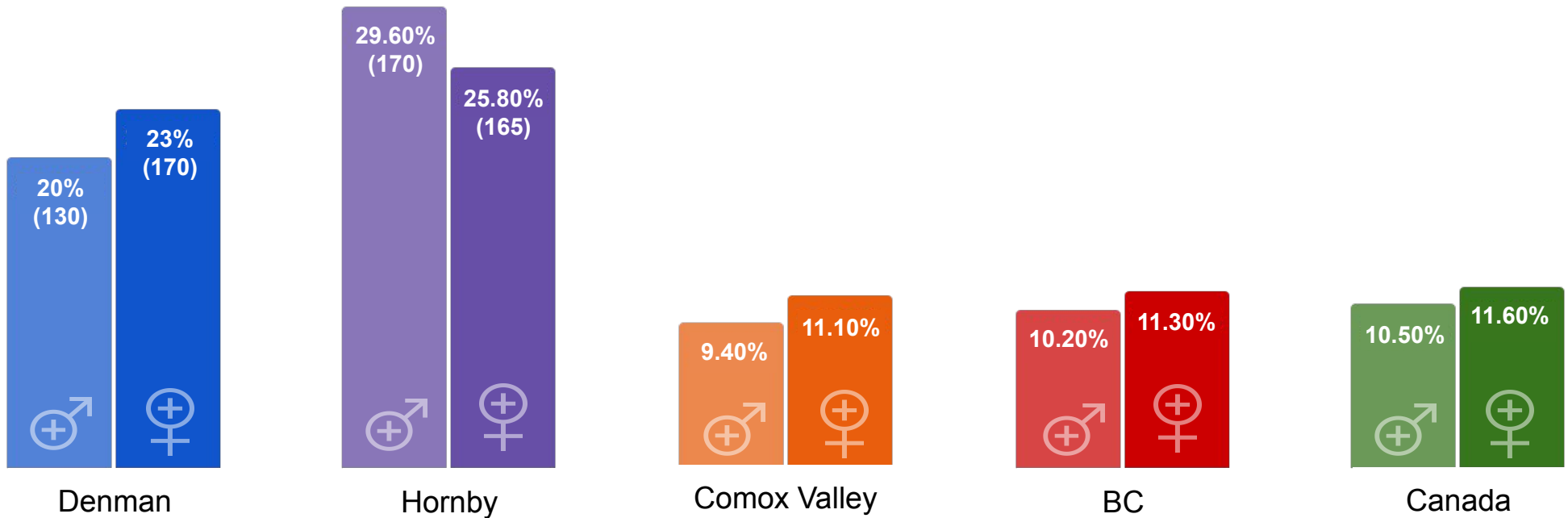
## Prevalence of Low-Income Over Time (2015, 2020)



## Prevalence of Low-Income by Gender and Age



## Prevalence of Low-Income by Gender

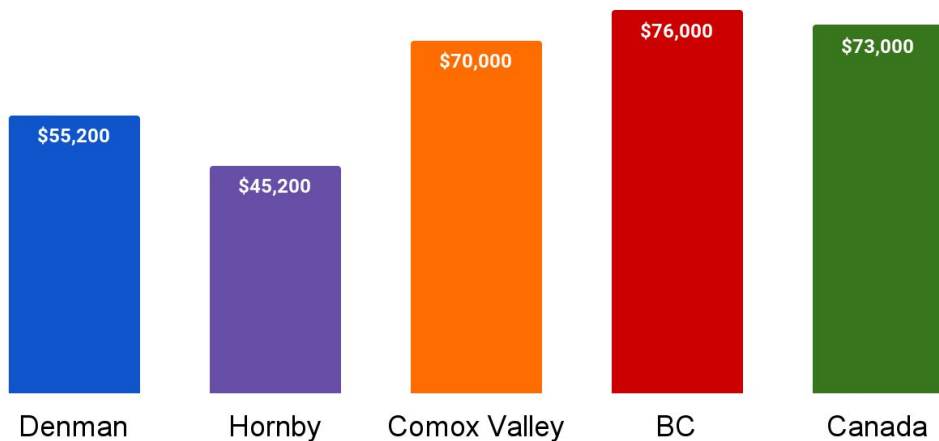


# Household Income

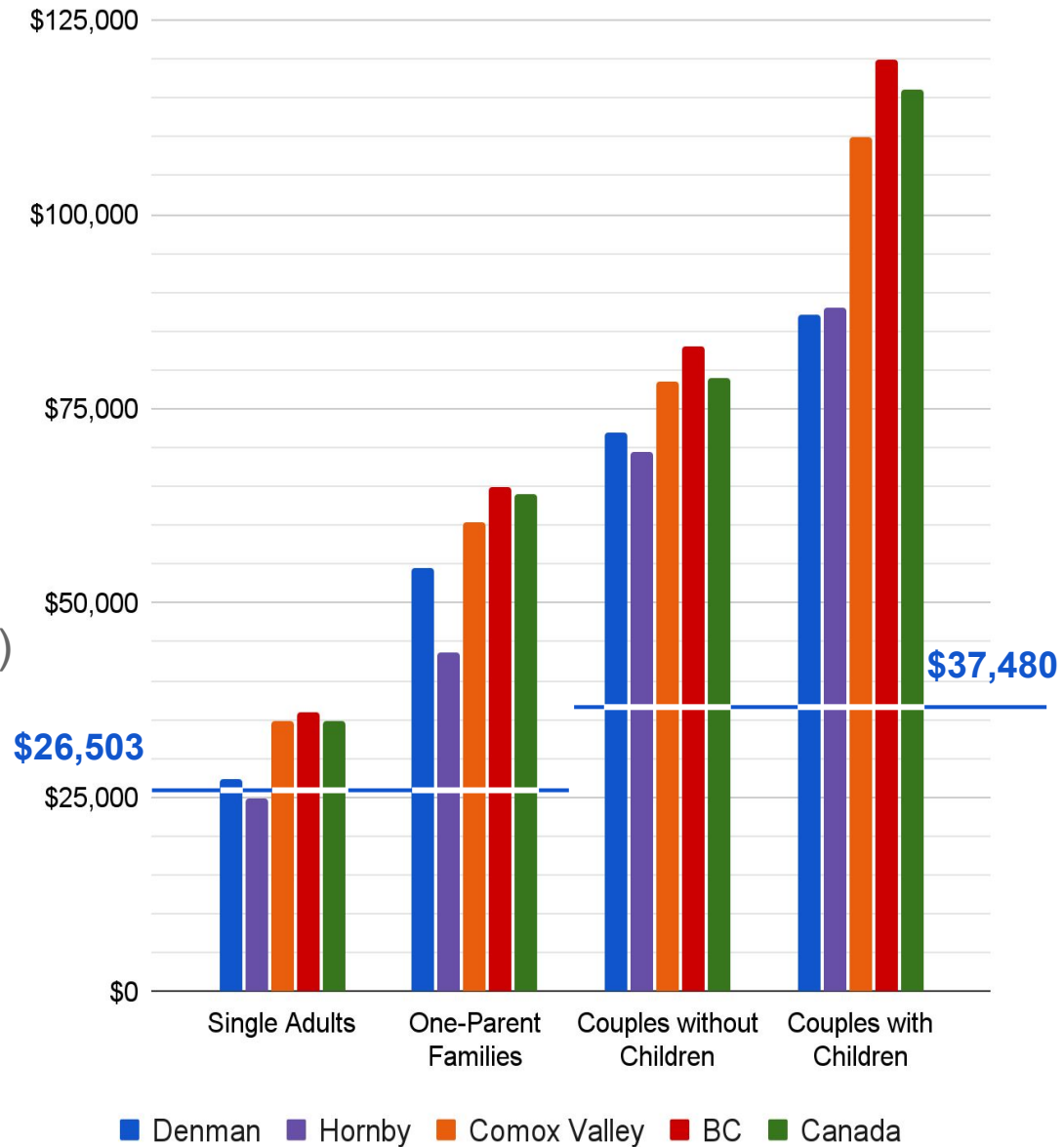
Number of Earners	After-Tax Poverty Line
1 Person	\$26,503
2 People	\$37,480
3 People	\$45,904
4 People	\$53,005

The low-income line is recalculated each year based on reported earnings and depends on the number of people in the household.

## Median After-Tax Income of Household (2020)



## Median Economic Family Income by Family Type (2020)



# Education

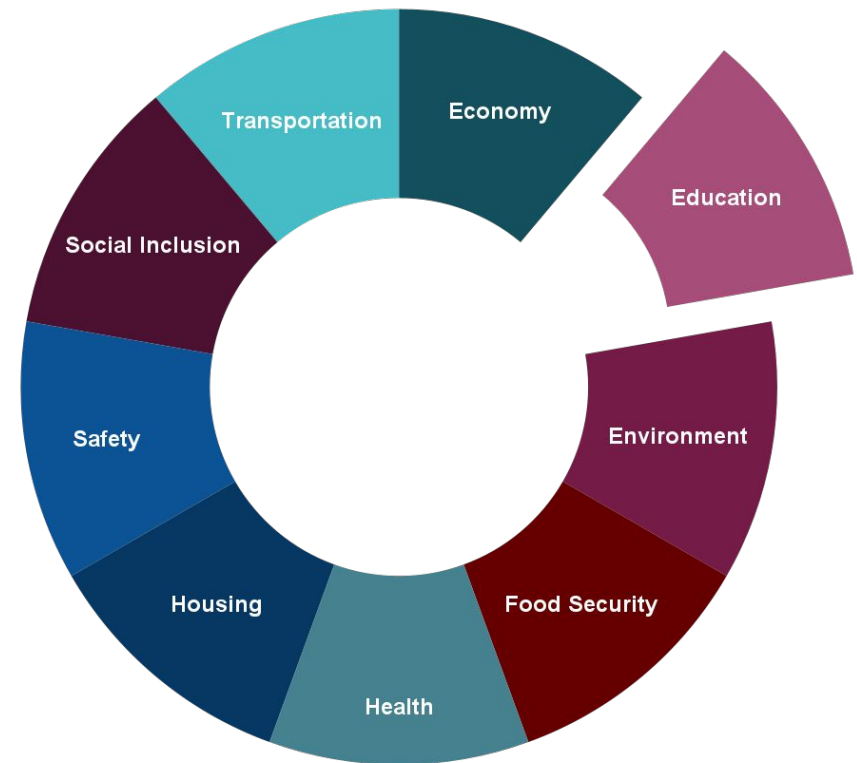
**Educational health** means you have educational opportunities close to home that are affordable, physically accessible, mentally safe, stimulating, and high quality.

Education, "...has been linked to income level, employment stability, employment environment, civic understanding, [and] personal physical and mental health. These in turn influence housing and transportation which influence safety. Once these things are in place then you can think about the environment and society as a whole."<sup>13</sup>

Social Determinants of Health

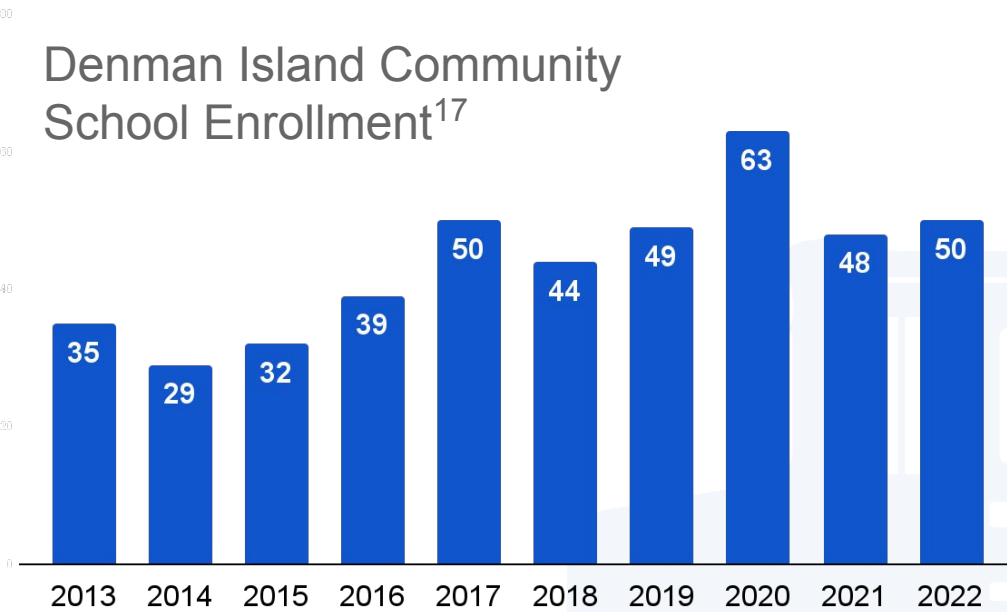
## Barriers

- Expense - ferry and transportation costs get added to tuition and books
- Public access to computers and internet is unreliable
- Public transportation only runs in the summer
- No traditional education on-island after grade 7



# Enrollment

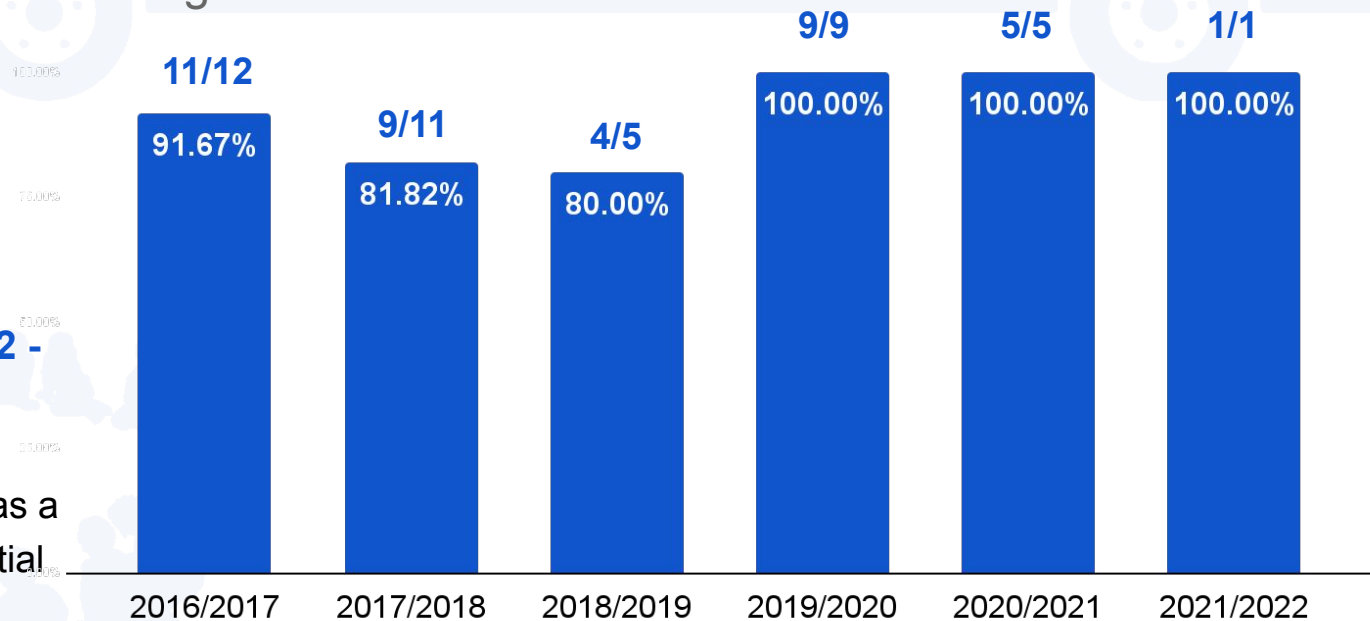
## Denman Island Community School Enrollment<sup>17</sup>



## School Enrollment

There were **130** school-aged children (5 - 19) on Denman in 2021.<sup>4</sup> Of those, **48** were enrolled at Denman Island Community School and INSERT were enrolled at GP Vanier in Courtenay. This is a one hour commute each way to school every day. This commute includes two buses and one ferry ride. The remaining CALCULATE were either homeschooled or did not attend school.

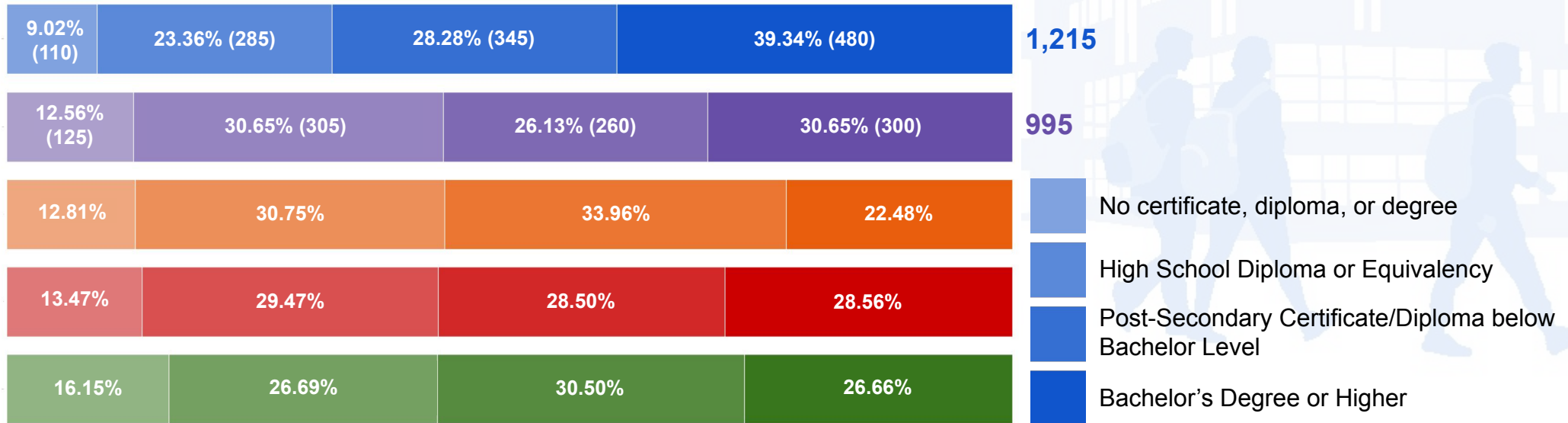
## High School Graduation Rate<sup>14</sup>



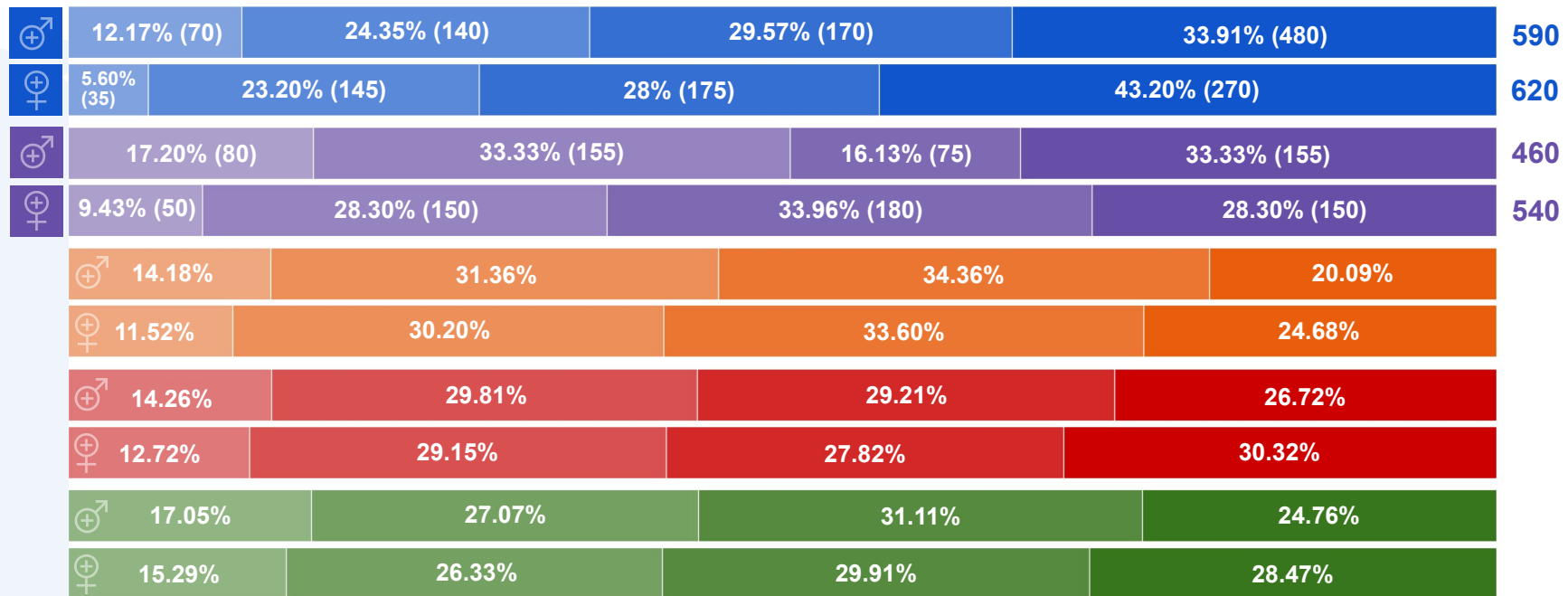
## Licensed Child Care Spaces

There were **25** children aged 0 - 4 on Denman in 2021. In 2022 there were **12 - 16** children enrolled in the licensed preschool on-island. This preschool is licensed for 2.5 years to 5 years and has a waitlist that varies between **0 - 3** potential children.<sup>15</sup>

## Highest Level of Education Attained

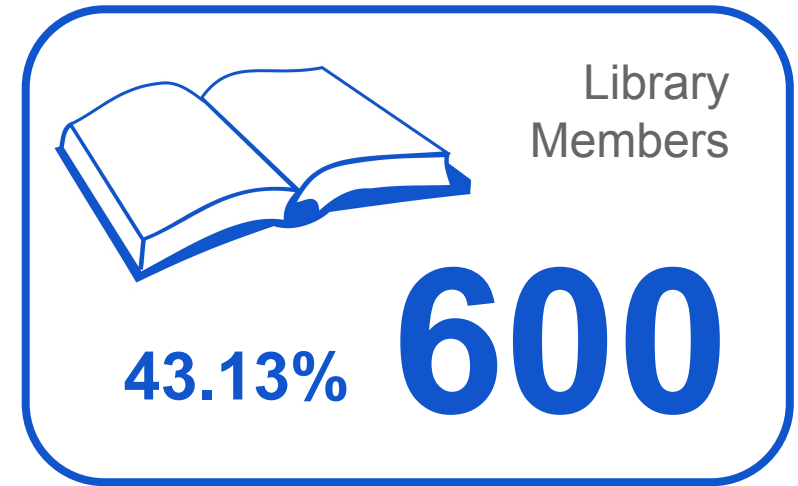


## Education by Gender



# Library Usage

Denman Island has a fully volunteer run library on-island, the Dora Drinkwater Community Library.<sup>16</sup> There is a branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Courtenay that is open to all those who reside on Vancouver Island or one of the Gulf Islands. As a rural community Denman Island is eligible for the Books by Mail program through the Vancouver Island Regional Library. An in-person visit to the branch in Courtenay is more complicated as it requires a trip off-island that is not possible for all islanders.



Items borrowed per Capita from the Community Library

**2.28** books per active library member in 2022

## Lifelong Learning

### All Community Members

- Adult Education
- Arts Council Programming
- Baroque Festival
- Book Launches
- Creative Threads Conspiracy
- Denman Island Community Education Society
- Denman Museum
- First Aid
- Local Theatre
- Monthly Open Mic
- Music Lessons
- Readers and Writers Festival Workshops

### Youth

- Clay Creations
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Everything on a Spectrum
- Textile Arts
- Youth Squad

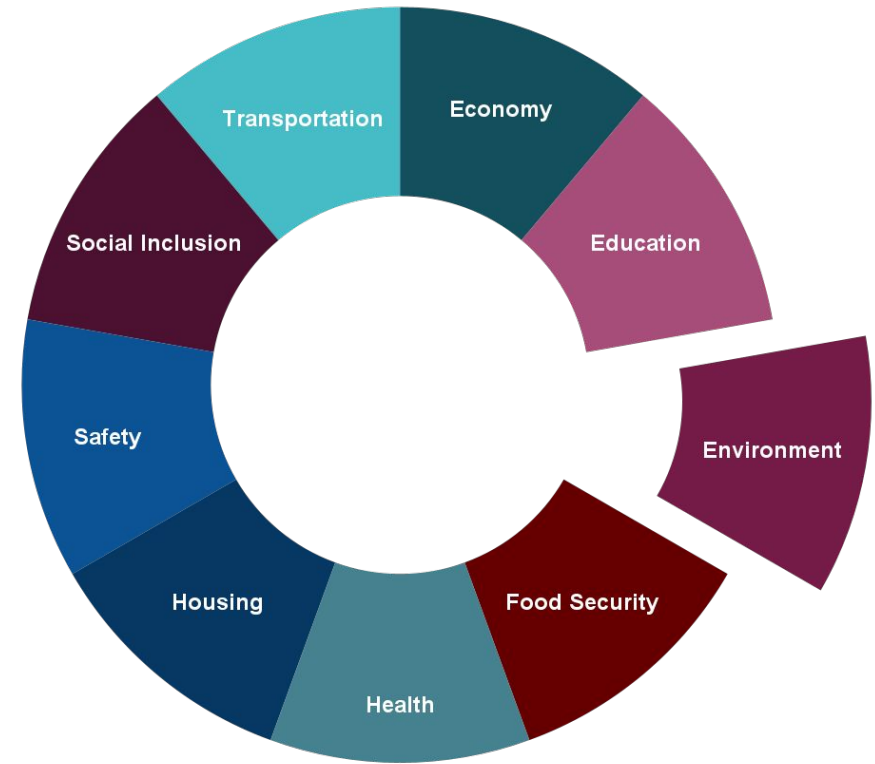
# Environment

**Environmental health** means you live in a place that is safe; both your home and the surrounding area. You have easy access to clean, potable water; your dwelling is in good repair; there are no vermin in your living space; you have clean air; the ground you live on does not contain toxic chemicals or minerals; you have access to a properly maintained toilet facility; and you have access to green space.

## Barriers

- Many homes do not have safe potable water
- Publicly funded water system only covers a small proportion of homes
- Setback restrictions for water and septic systems on small lots are challenging to navigate
- Stable, safe, legal and affordable housing limited
- Unable to afford
  - a cistern and water collection and treatment system. Can't carry it to your next place when you have to move
  - unable to afford a roof that you can collect rainwater from
  - unable to afford a water collection system
  - unable to afford modern, water-saving fixtures
  - unable to afford septic maintenance and upgrades
  - water testing
- Unable to transport water tests to town

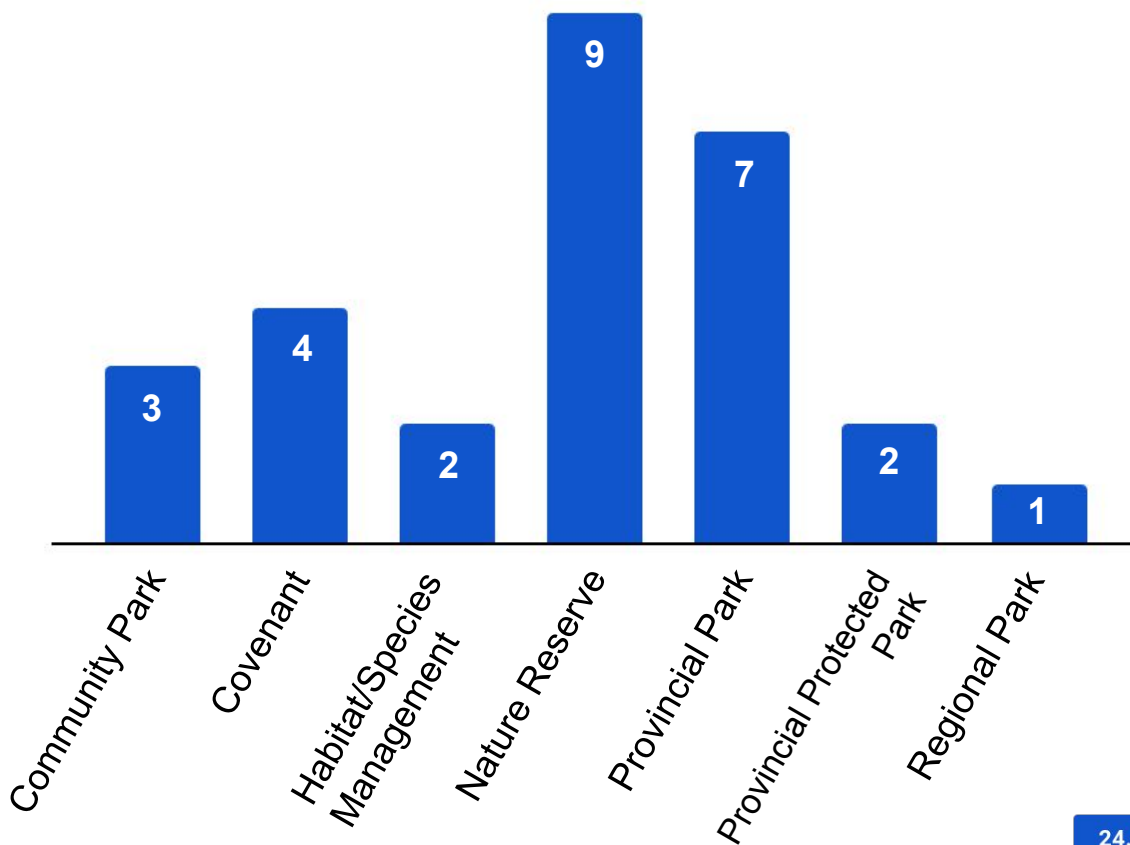
Social Determinants of Health



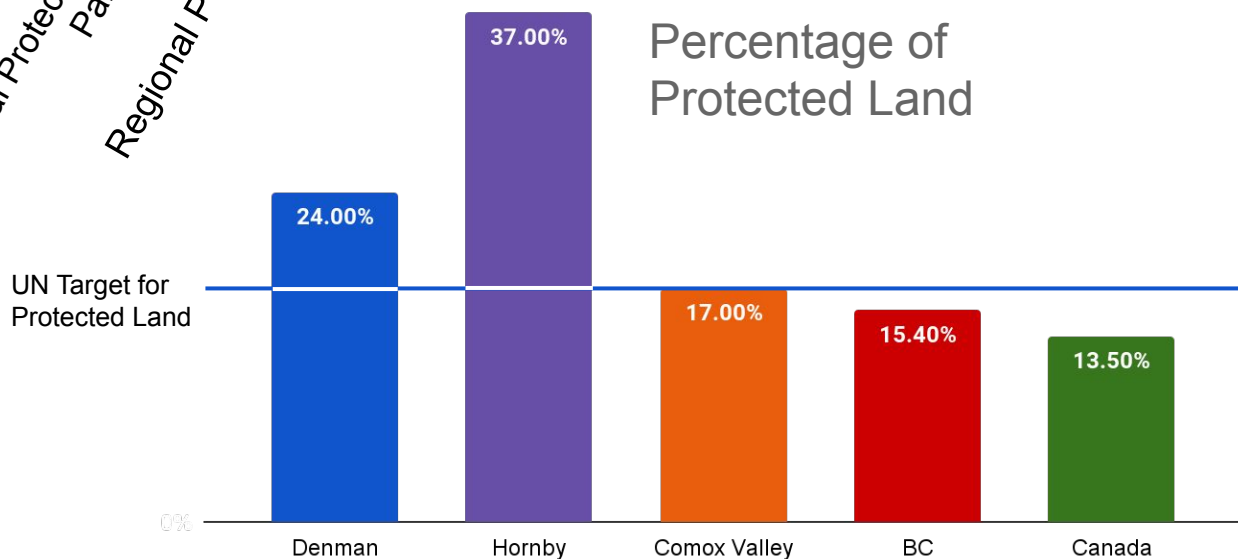


# Conservation

Counts of Protected Land



Size of Protected Land	
Community Park	3.08 ha
Covenant	91.18 ha
Habitat/Species Management Area	567.76 ha
Nature Reserve	286.05 ha
Provincial Park	776.62 ha
Provincial Protected Area	117.65 ha
Regional Park	1.21 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,841.13 ha</b>



# Natural Places

## Parks

- Bill Mee Park
- Boyle Point Park
- Central Park
- Denman Island Provincial Island & Protected Area
- Fillongley Provincial Park
- Jajjem and Kw'uin Marine Park (*Sandy Island*)
- Maple Park
- McFarlane Park
- Morning Beach Park
- Northlands Park
- Piercy Park
- Stanehill Park

## Lakes

- Chickadee Lake
- Graham Lake

## Conservation Covenants

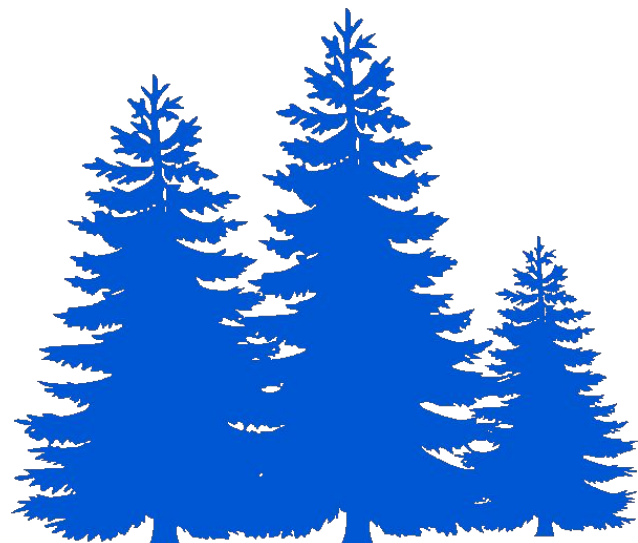
- Danes Creek North Covenant Area
- Danes Creek South Conservation Covenant Area
- Denman Island Chocolate Covenant Area
- Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery Covenant Area
- Komas Bluffs Conservation Covenant Area
- Railway Grade Marsh Covenant Area (*in Denman Provincial Park*)

## Protected Lands

- Central Park
- Raven Woods and Wetlands  
(*Pickles Rd Conservation Area*)
- Settlement Lands
- Winter Wren Wood

## Nature Reserves

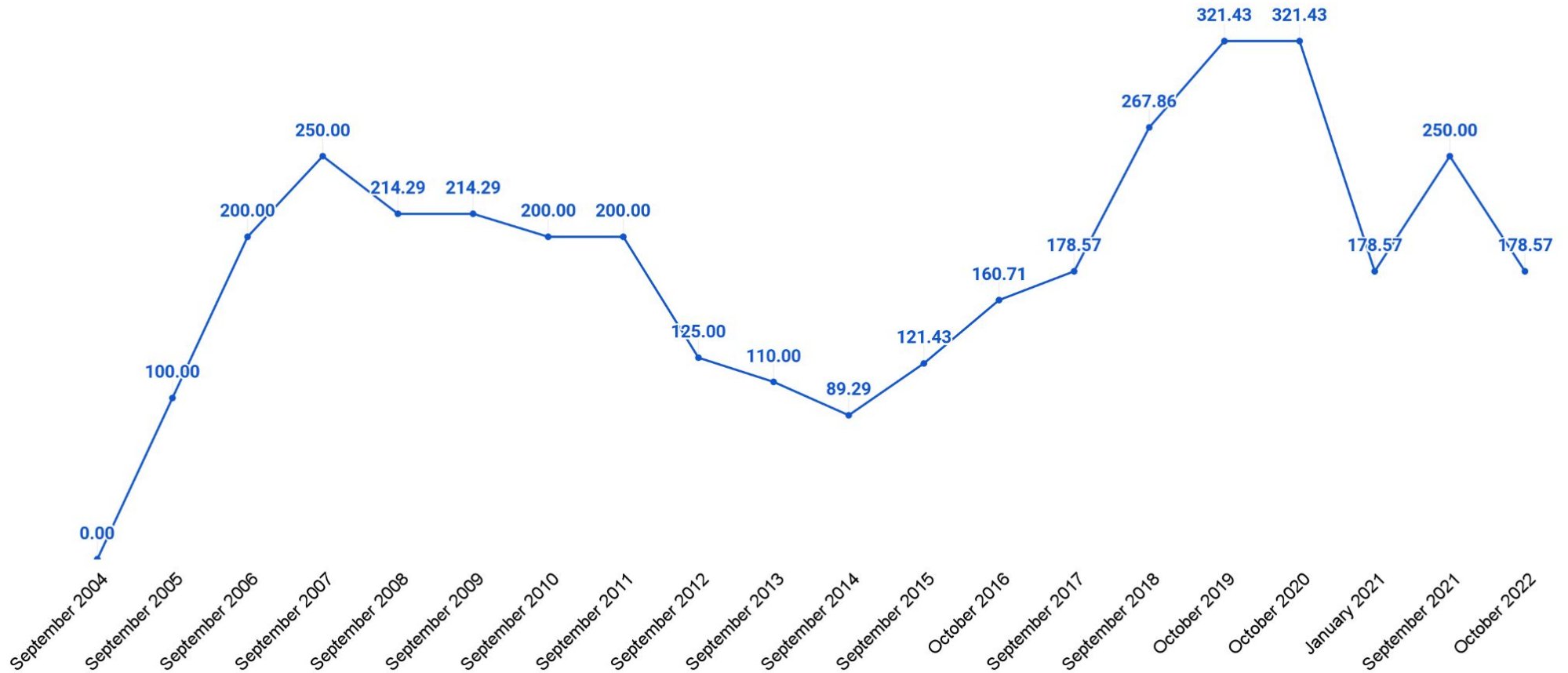
- Inner Island Nature Reserve
- Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve
- Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve
- Valens' Brook Nature Reserve



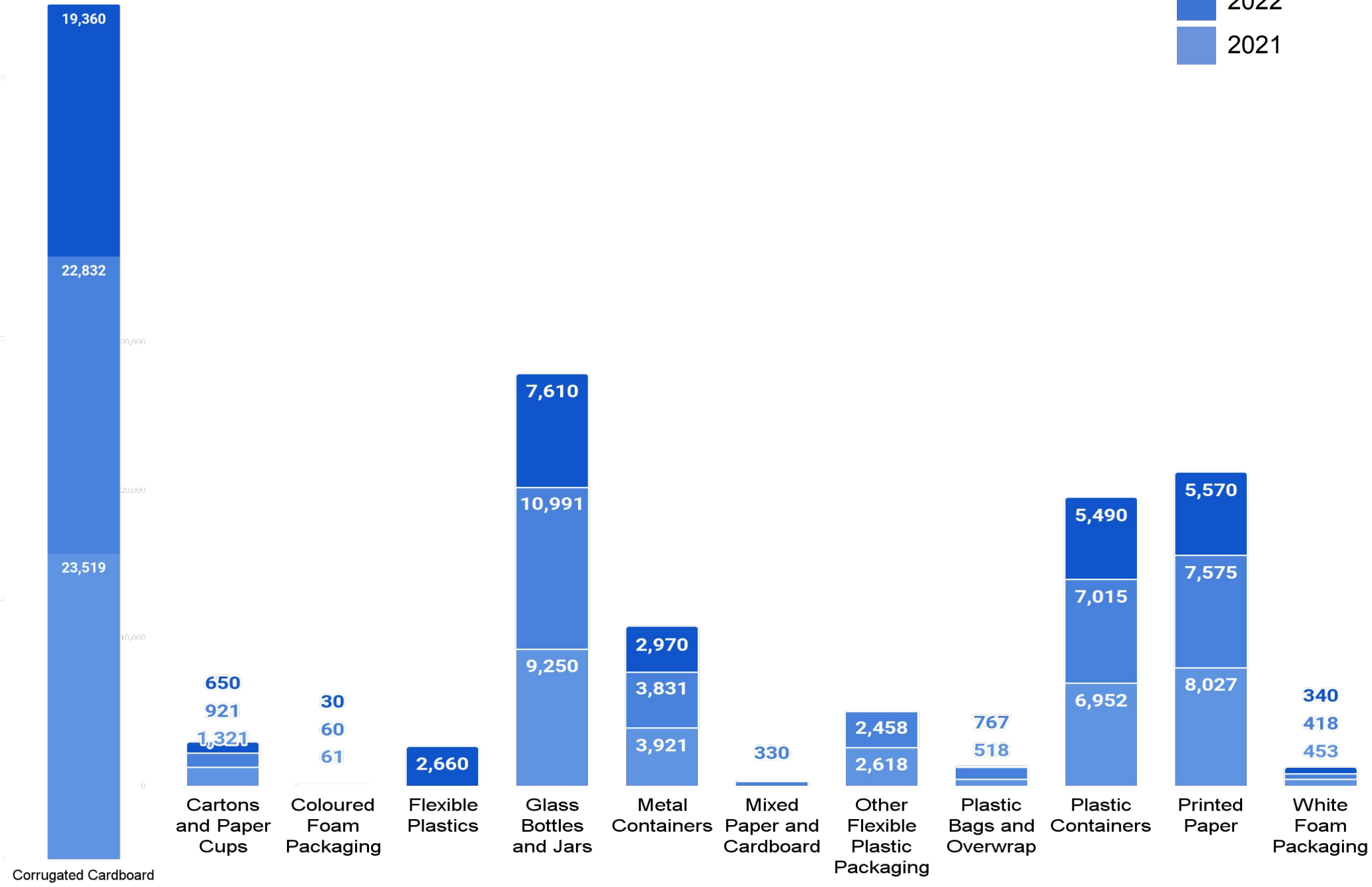
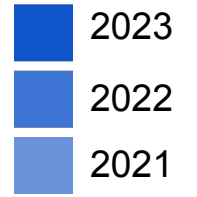
# Recycling

The Denman Island Recycling Depot has a number of new streams of recycling in addition the standard metal, paper, plastic, and cardboard. The have started a tire pickup service, used oil recycling program, cigarette butt recycling program, propane tank recycling, and recycling for all types of batteries.

Marine Debris (kg/km)<sup>19</sup>



# Recycling (kg)<sup>20</sup>



# Water

Registered Wells

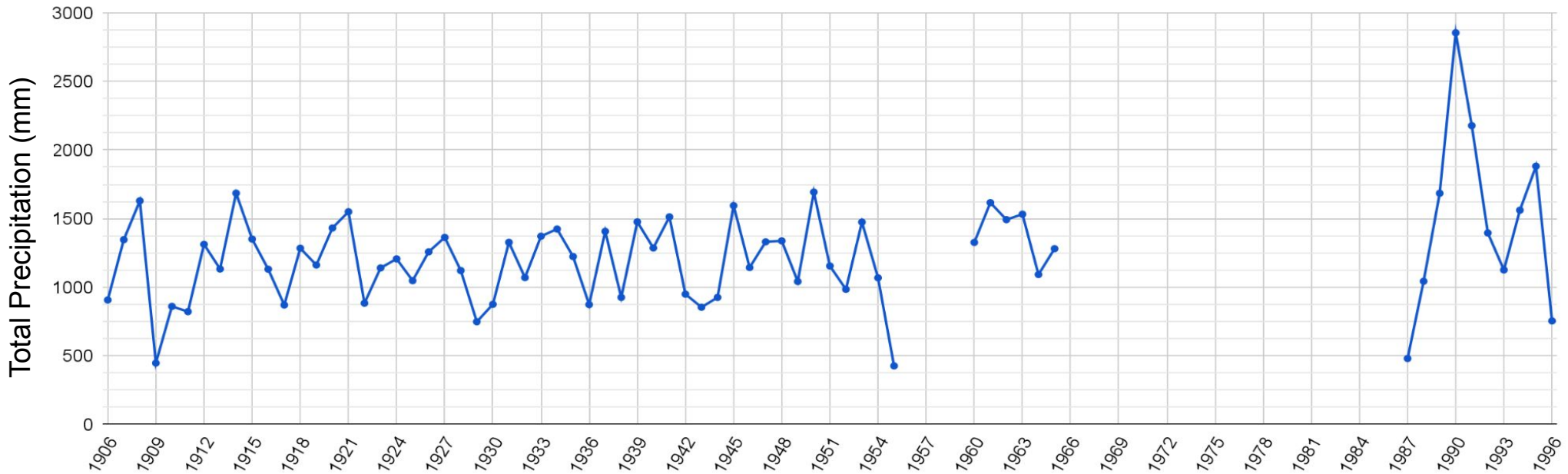
# 587

There are ongoing water issues on Denman Island. The 67 households in the Graham Lake water district have been under a long-term boil water advisory.

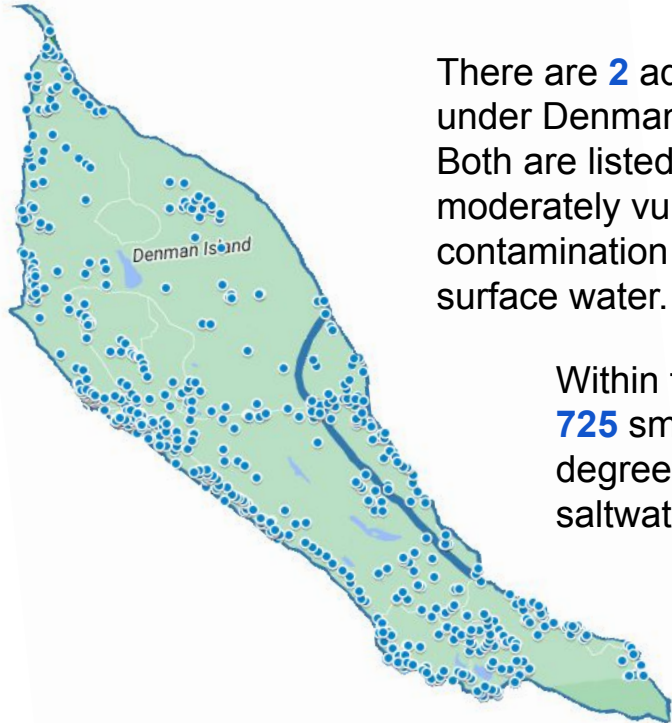
Many households in and out of the Graham Lake district need to have water delivered. A total of five companies are known to sell water in bulk on the island but the amount is unknown.



Annual Rainfall (1906 - 1996)<sup>22</sup>



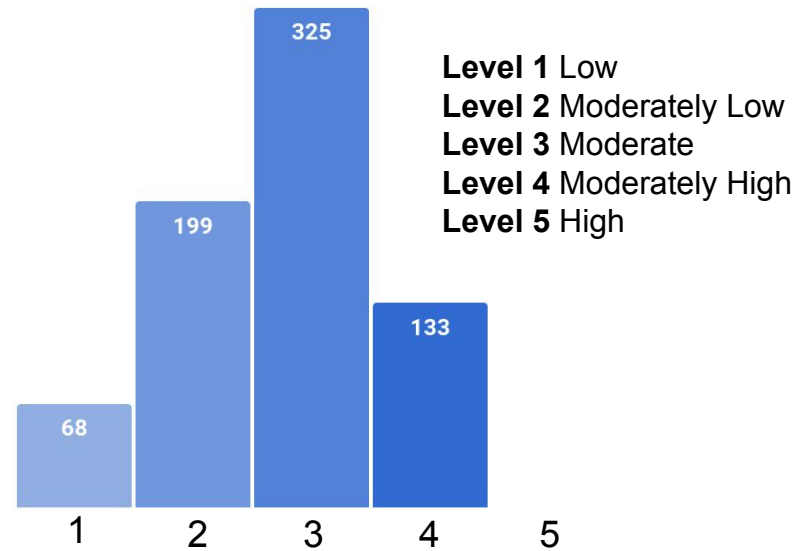
\*All three weather stations on Denman Island were closed in 1996. Weather information is now collected at the Comox Valley Air Base.



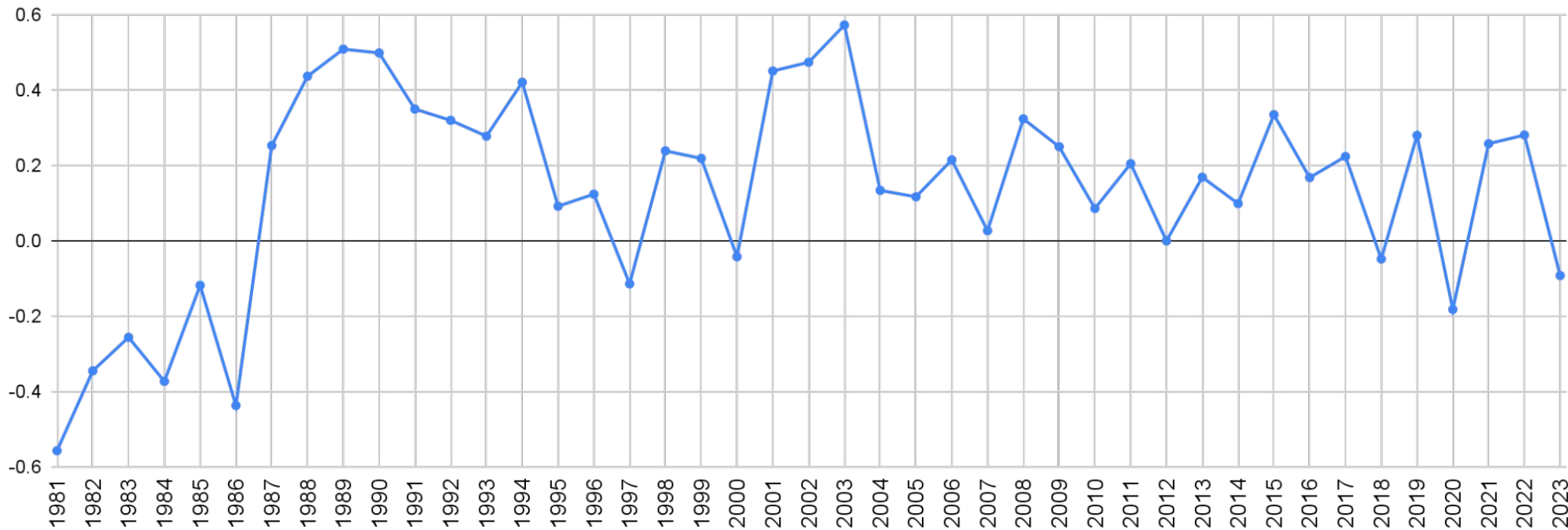
There are **2** aquifers under Denman Island. Both are listed as moderately vulnerable to contamination from surface water.

Within these aquifers there are **725** smaller areas with varying degrees of vulnerability to saltwater intrusion.

### Areas Vulnerable to Saltwater Intrusion<sup>23</sup>



### Government Monitor Well Levels<sup>24</sup> (m)



# Food Security

**Food security** is having access to enough affordable nutritional food to eat. In rural areas such as Denman, transportation to and from the grocery store or farmers market can be a big challenge. With no bus transport in the winter and limited bus service in the summer those without a personal vehicle need to rely on someone else to transport them. Distances between destinations in rural areas are often much farther than those in the city and are not reasonably walkable.

## Barriers

- Food is expensive both on and off island.
- Expensive and time-consuming to go off island to get groceries.
- Housing costs have increased so food budgets are reduced.
- Unstable housing means a lack of access to land for growing
- No public gardens
- Food Bank open two days per week

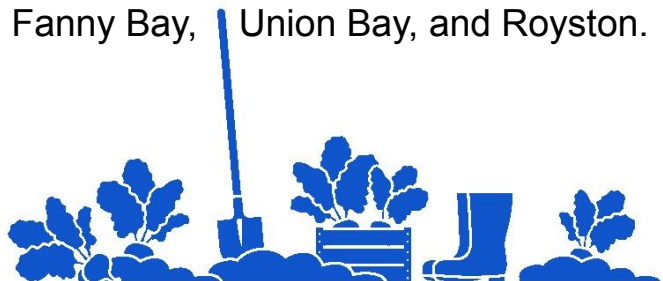
## Vision

“An Island where we feed each other abundantly because farming is a viable and valued foundation of our sustainable community<sup>25</sup>”

Social Determinants of Health



Census Canada breaks out working farms at the regional district level and higher, for Area A it shows 71 working farms. Area A includes Denman Island, Hornby Island, Fanny Bay, Union Bay, and Royston.



The Census Canada Profile for Denman Island shows a total of **75** people working in “Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting”. This indicates that at the very most there can be 67 farms on Denman, but there are likely fewer due to multiple people working on one farm, the inclusion of forestry, fishing and hunting, and the number of farms in other Area A locations.<sup>4</sup>

## Meal Programs

Denman Island has a food bank that operates in the evening twice a week. They are able to provide local and fresh veggies through donations from local farmers when they are in season. They serve **80 - 100** people per month, with roughly **30%** of those being children and about the same single mothers. They are looking at utilising the new certified cooking facilities next door for a meal program. The food bank does have the capacity to perform home deliveries upon request.

## Farm to Family

This program started during COVID to support farmers and elders. Food is purchased from local farmers and nutritious meals are prepared. As of 2021, around **35** people are the recipients of these free meals.<sup>26</sup>

## Farmers Market Coupon Program

This program supports local farmers by providing coupons for people to shop at their local farmers market. These coupons enable locals to support their farmers and provides local and nutritional food that many may be unable to afford otherwise.<sup>27</sup>

## Holiday Hampers

Delivered in December, these hampers contain wrapped presents, fresh produce, turkey, ham, or vegan options, treats, and basic groceries. This is a program run out of the Community School and is guided by the Denman Island Community Education Society (DICES). This program is available for families and individuals.

## School Lunch Program

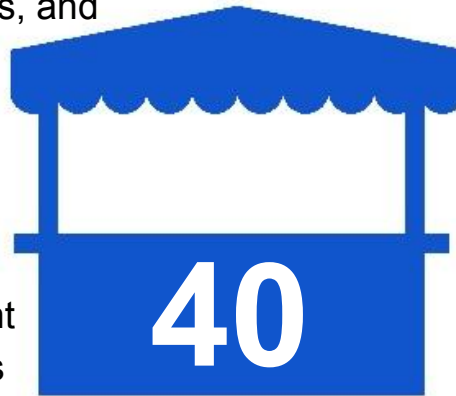
The school district has a weekly lunch program at the elementary school. It is run with the assistance of hired DICES staff.



## Farmer's Market

The Denman Saturday Market is a long running and popular program. The bulk of the vendors are selling local food or serving hot pre-made lunches. The crowd is a diverse mix of locals and visitors.

The market contributes to Denman's economy, but that is the least of the benefits. As a member of the BC Farmers' Markets Association, Denman's Saturday Market is eligible for the Association's Nutrition Coupon Program. This program supports local farmers by providing coupons for people to shop at their local farmers market. These coupons enable locals to support their farmers, and provides local and nutritional food that many may be unable to afford otherwise. Through the coupon program the Saturday Market boosts the health and food security on Denman Island. Each Saturday the market has about 25 unique vendors, with 40 different ones throughout the summer. The market has a wide range of providers, including some children and youth. This offers a valuable learning opportunity for these participants.



Lastly, this popular meeting place also supports social inclusion and community connection. The wide array of meals provided offers the perfect destination for a lunch out with plenty of opportunities to catch up with the neighbours.<sup>27</sup>

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### Farm Stands\*

- Numerous egg sellers
- SNAG Farmstand
- Two Roads Farmstand

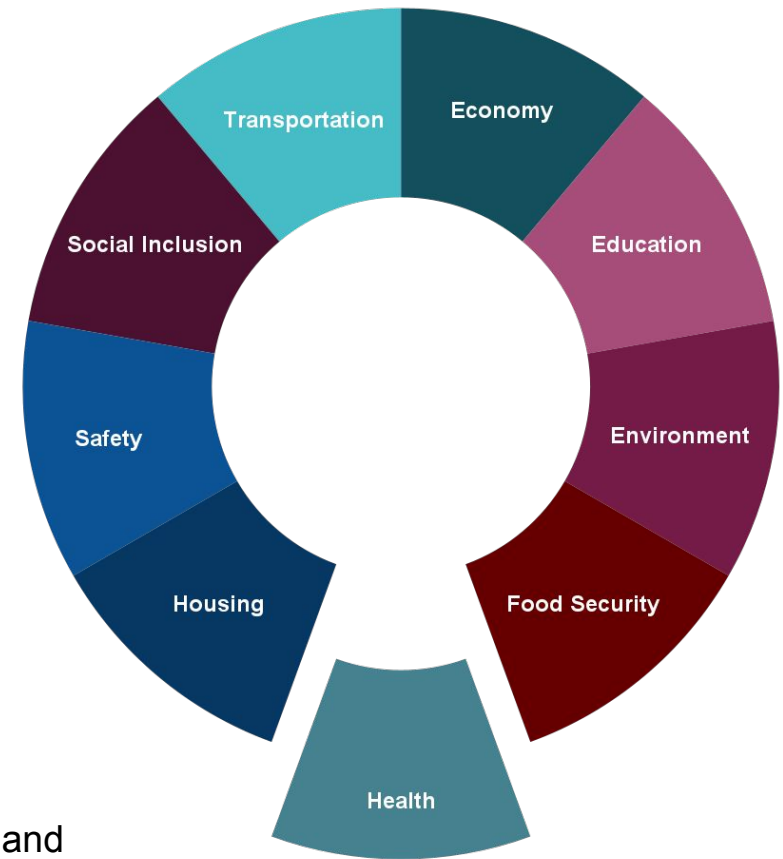
### Farms\*

- Corlan Vineyard & Farm
- Landor Farms
- Orkney Farm
- Rhubarb Ranch
- Tree Eater Farm & Nursery
- Two Roads Farm

# Health

From a social determinants of health perspective, **health** means far more than just being healthy. It means you have ready access to emergency and non-emergency health-care. You are able to get preventative care as a routine part of your life and you have access to life-saving treatment when needed.

Social Determinants of Health



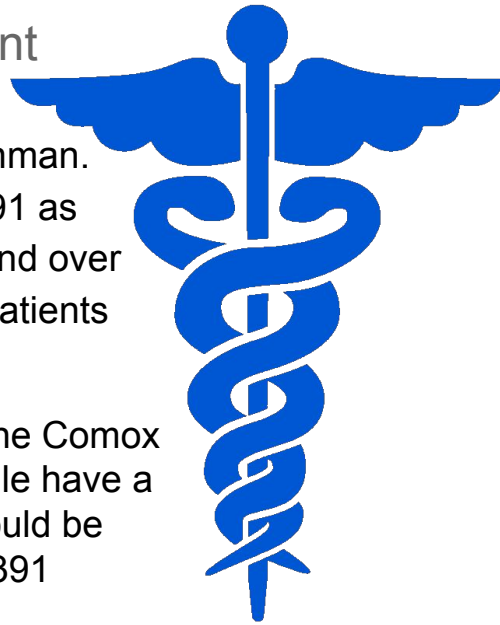
## Barriers

- Current medical services depend on one doctor
- After-hours emergencies don't have reliable transportation off island
- Cannot access medical centre services without ID and an appointment
- Discharge from off-island hospital could leave you without clothing, money, transportation, or a place to stay
- No dentist on island
- Transportation, money, and time can be prohibitive to see specialists off-island

## Physician Attachment

There is one doctor currently working on Denman. With a population of 1,391 as of 2021 this puts the island over the recommended 800 patients per rural doctor.<sup>28</sup>

**81.1%** of the people in the Comox Valley Rural Health Profile have a GP. For Denman this would be **1131.35** people of the 1391 residents.<sup>29</sup>



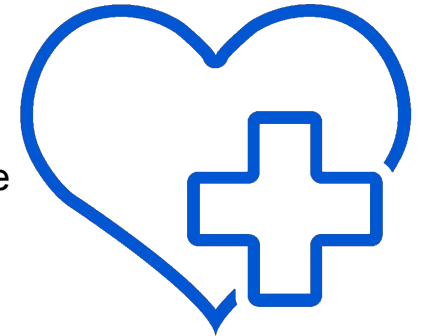
## Acute Care

Acute care services are provided off-island at the North Island Hospital in Courtenay. This is roughly a one hour journey away, including a ferry between Denman and Vancouver Islands, and, if transported by emergency transport, 2 separate vehicles with one transfer. Outside of the ferry schedule this trip could include transportation via helicopter or water taxi. The ferries are not required to run for emergency transportation outside of their regular schedule.

## Additional Care

Denman Island has a mix of on-island and visiting alternative care services.

- Acupressure
- Acupuncture
- Bio-Energy Healing
- Chiropractics
- Foot care nurse
- Massage Therapy
- Nutrition
- Physiotherapy
- Qi Gong
- Somatic Experiencing



## Health Network

Acute care services are provided off-island at the North Island

# Hornby Denman Health

The Hornby Denman Healthcare Society, now Hornby Denman Health, was formed in 1979. Since then it has been delivering services to all residents of Denman and Hornby Islands, especially for seniors.

From their start with a small number of staff it has grown to an organization that employs over 50 people between the two islands.

Once a month the Executive Director of Hornby Denman Health meets with representatives from all organisations that play a role in healthcare on.

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## Services

- Adult Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Child & Youth Mental Health Counselling
- Family Support and Parent/Caregiver Groups
- Medical Equipment Loans
- Youth Outreach Services

## Seniors Services

- |  |                                     |                                      |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Companionship Care/Caregiver Support | • Grocery Shopping/Meals            | • Medication Pick ups                |
| • Digital Access & Learning            | • Help around the Home              | • Seniors Guide                      |
| • Extreme Weather Registry             | • Home Assist                       | • Transportation Services            |
| • Friendly Visits                      | • Information and Care Coordination | • Weekly Lunch and Activity Programs |
| • Garbage and Recycling Help           | • Library and Parcel Pick ups       |                                      |
|  | • Light Yard Work & Firewood        |                                      |

## Health Network Organisations

- BC Ambulance
- BC Emergency Health Services
- Comox Valley Transition Society
- Community Paramedics
- Denman Island Affordable Housing Society
- Denman Island Community Education Society
- Denman Island Doctors
- Denman Island Fire Rescue
- Hornby Denman Health
- Hornby Island Doctors
- Hornby Island Fire Rescue
- Hornby Island Housing Society
- Island Health
- RCMP
- RCMP: Domestic Violence Division
- The Kitchen

# Health Status

## Chronic Diseases in Order of Prevalence

Chronic Disease	Profile Prevalence	Denman Calculated Counts
Mood & Anxiety Disorders (Ages 1+)	33.29%	464
Depression (Ages 1+)	27.75%	387
Hypertension (Ages 20+)	21.67%	302
Asthma (Ages 1+)	12.34%	172
Osteoarthritis (Ages 1+)	9.03%	126
Ischemic Heart Disease (Ages 20+)	7.56%	105
Osteoporosis (Ages 50+)	6.41%	89
Diabetes Mellitus (Ages 1+)	5.91%	82
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary (Ages 35+)	5.63%	79
Gout (Ages 20+)	2.99%	42
Chronic Kidney (Ages 1+)	2.94%	41
Heart Failure (Ages 1+)	2.25%	31
Acute Myocardial Infarction Hospitalizations (Ages 20+)	2.04%	29
Alzheimer's/Dementia (Ages 40+)	1.75%	24
Rheumatoid Arthritis (Ages 1+)	1.27%	18
Epilepsy (Ages 1+)	0.97%	14
Stroke (Ages 20+)	0.87%	12
Schizophrenia (Ages 10+)	0.73%	10
Parkinsons (Ages 40+)	0.45%	6
MS	0.37%	5

## Cancer

The new cancer diagnosis rate for the Comox Valley Rural health area is **0.71%** of a person per year. Translated to Denman's population this would be roughly **1** new cancer diagnoses every **10** years.

## Suicide

In 2021 there were 128 deaths by suicide in the Island Health region. Calculated for Denman's population this equates to **1** suicide roughly every **5** years. Coroner reports

# Housing

**Housing health** means having a home to start with. Your home is clean and dry; pest and mould-free; it is an appropriate size for the number of people in your family; has access to adequate clean potable water; light after dark, heat in the winter, and it is affordable.

Canadian Facts pg 29 - Lack of economic resources is the prime reason many Canadians experience housing problems. This is big on Denman, wages are low, median income is low, job opportunities are scarce and inadequate.

Clean water and sanitation - fundamental public health risk

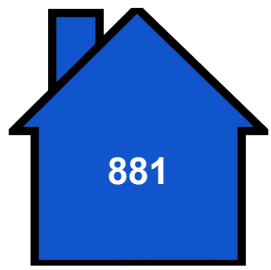
## Barriers

- Lack of affordable housing for rent or purchase
- Lack of housing stock
- Many rentals offered are unsuitable and/or unsafe
- Challenging to age in place
- Unfounded rumours/reputation can affect housing opportunities

Social Determinants of Health



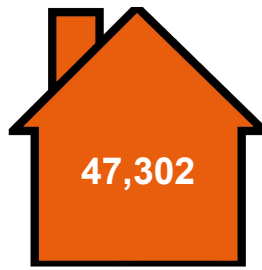
## Total Houses



Denman



Hornby



Comox Valley



BC

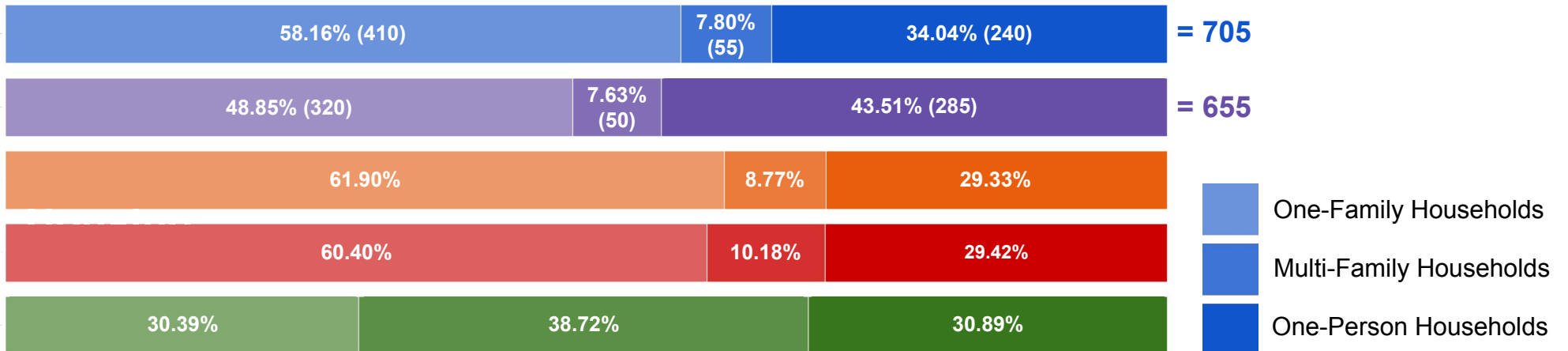


Canada

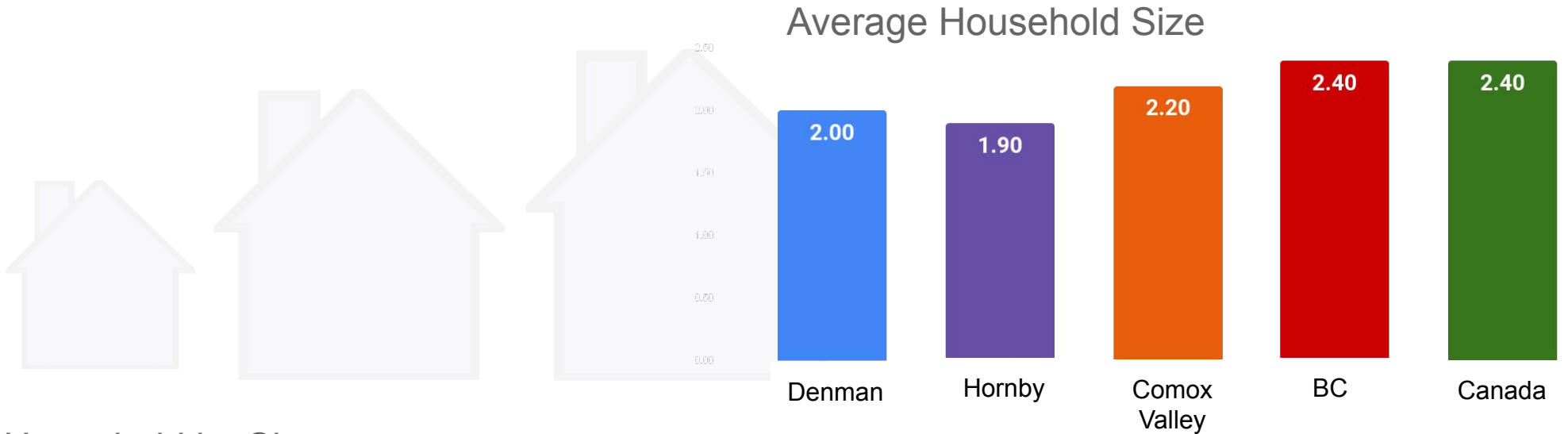
**Private Dwelling** refers to a separate set of living quarters with a private entrance directly to the living quarters.

**Household** refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere.

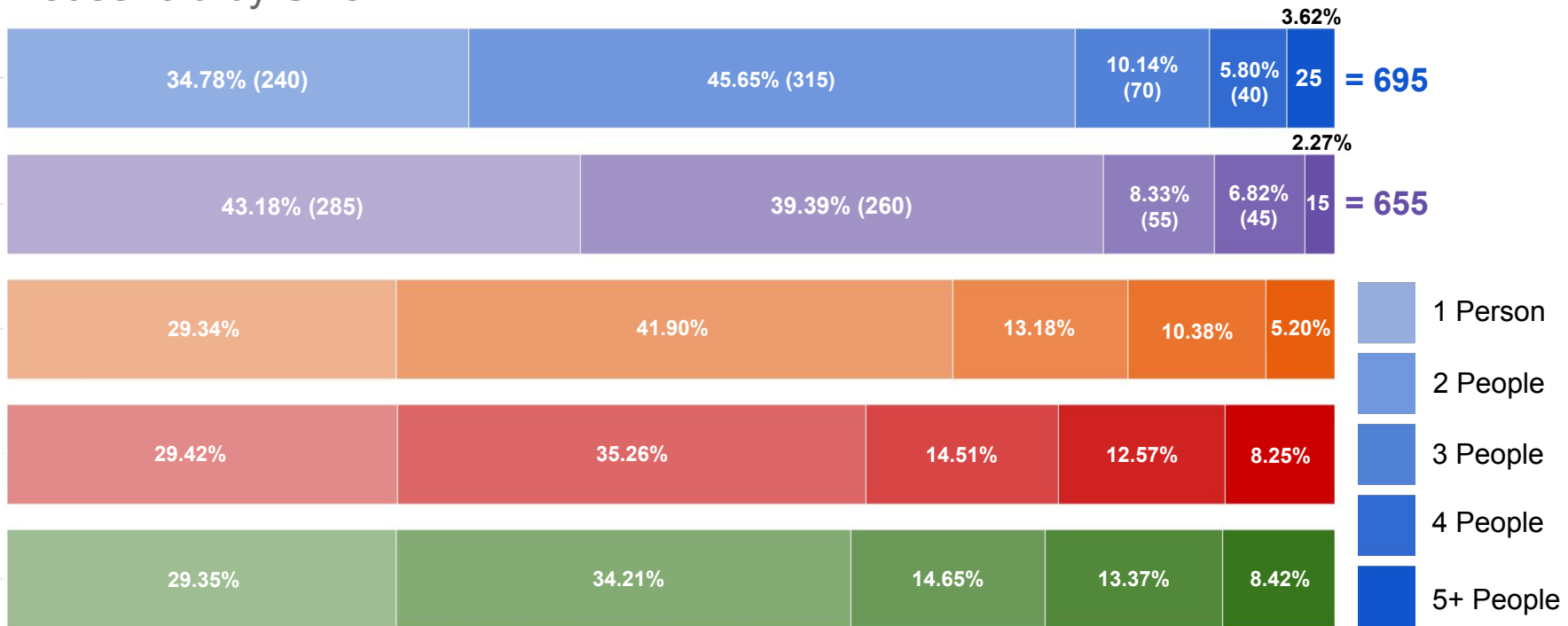
## Household by Family Type



# Household Size



## Household by Size

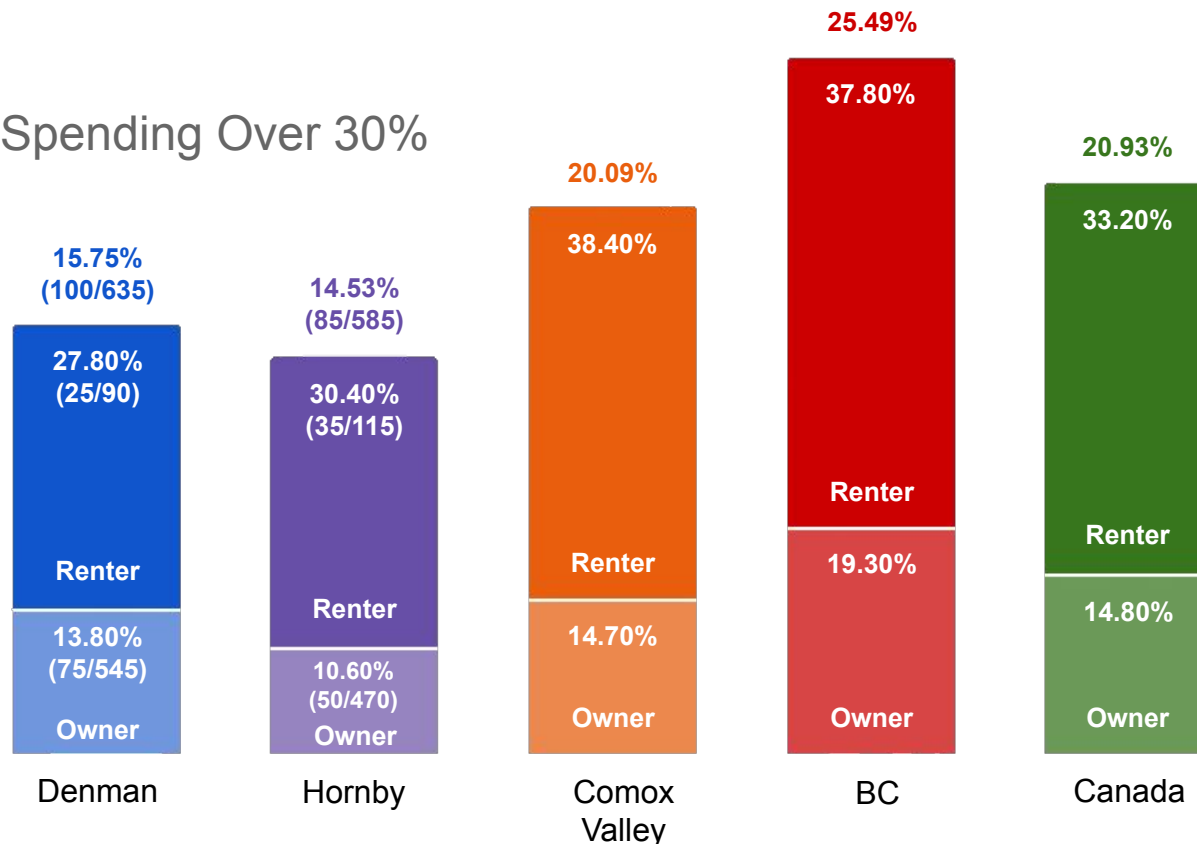




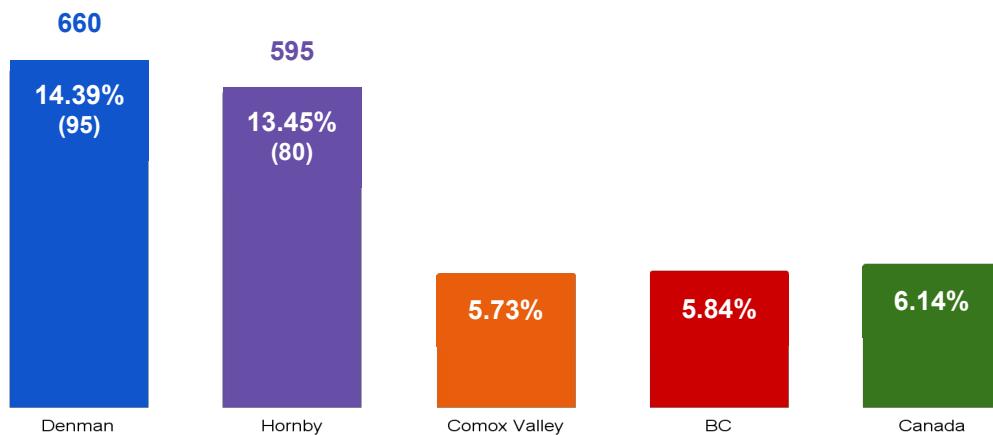
# Core Housing Need

**Core Housing Need:** Statistics Canada uses a combination of three factors to determine whether or not someone falls within their definition of core housing need: spending 30% or more of their income on shelter, dwellings in need of major repairs, and/or dwellings considered unsuitable.

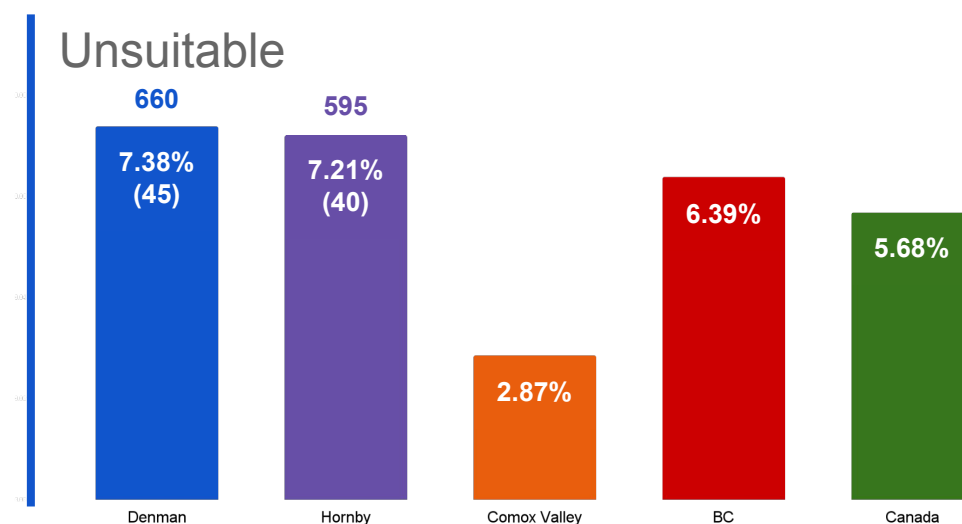
## Spending Over 30%



## Major Repairs Needed



## Unsuitable

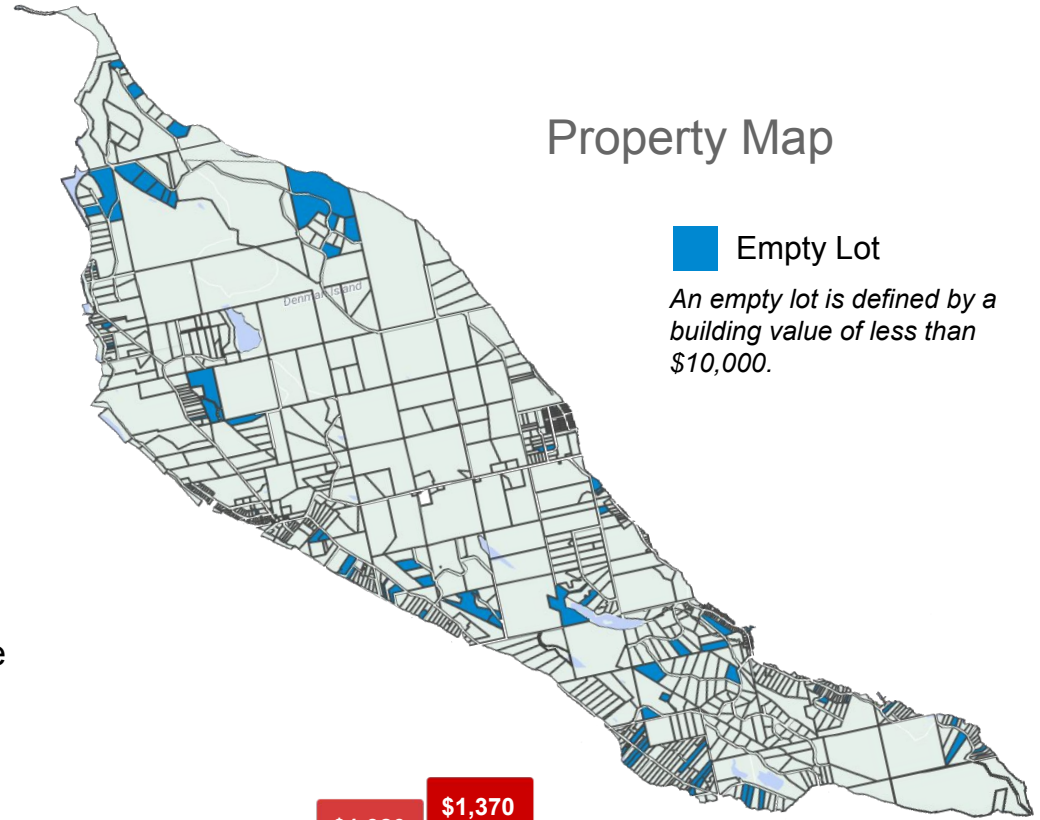


## Affordable Housing

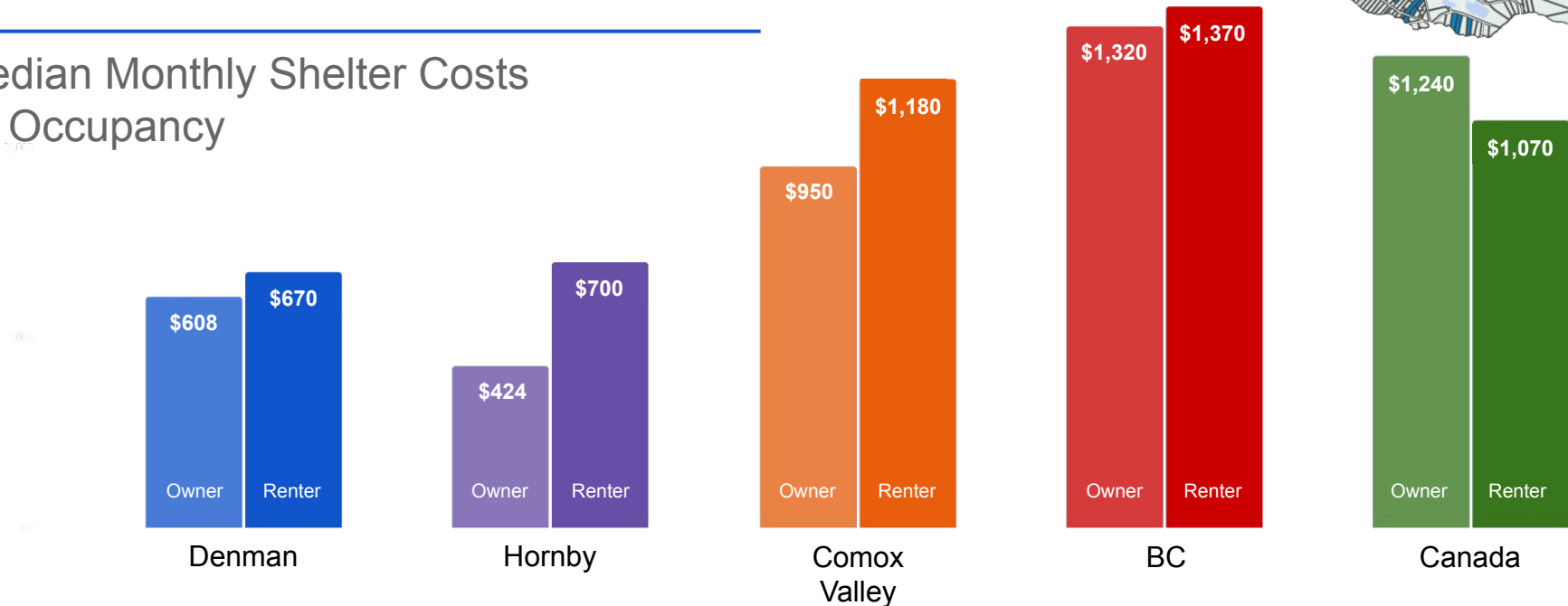
There is no government subsidised housing available on Denman. Some residents likely receive rent assistance based on age and/or income level, but this is unknown. Housing is challenging to find in general, aside from affordability. The Denman Housing Association has been able to acquire land in the village (downtown) core that will contain affordable rental units in the future.

The Denman Community Land Trust Association (DCLTA) is working to develop a seniors' affordable housing project after an earlier project fell through. Both the DCLTA and the Denman Housing Association are working closely to develop affordable housing on the island.

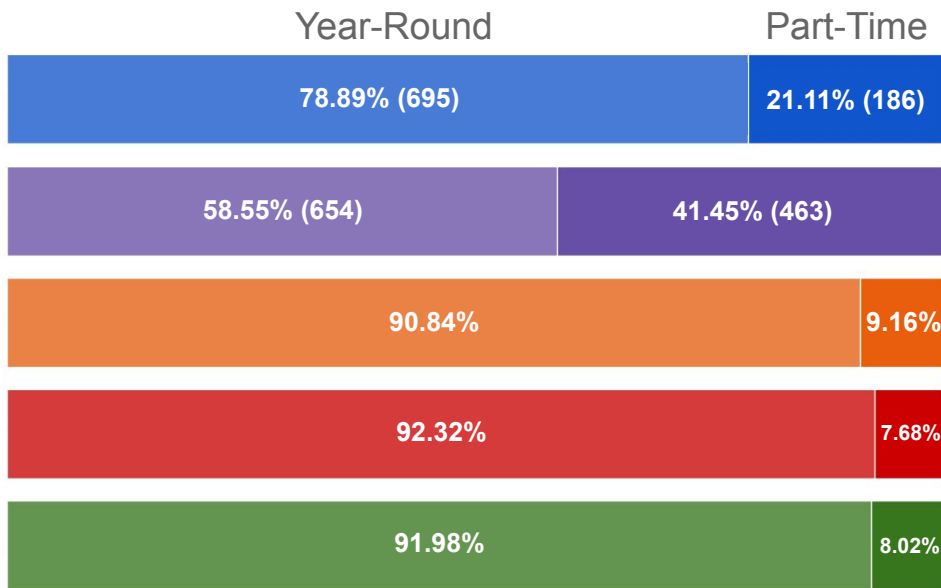
## Property Map



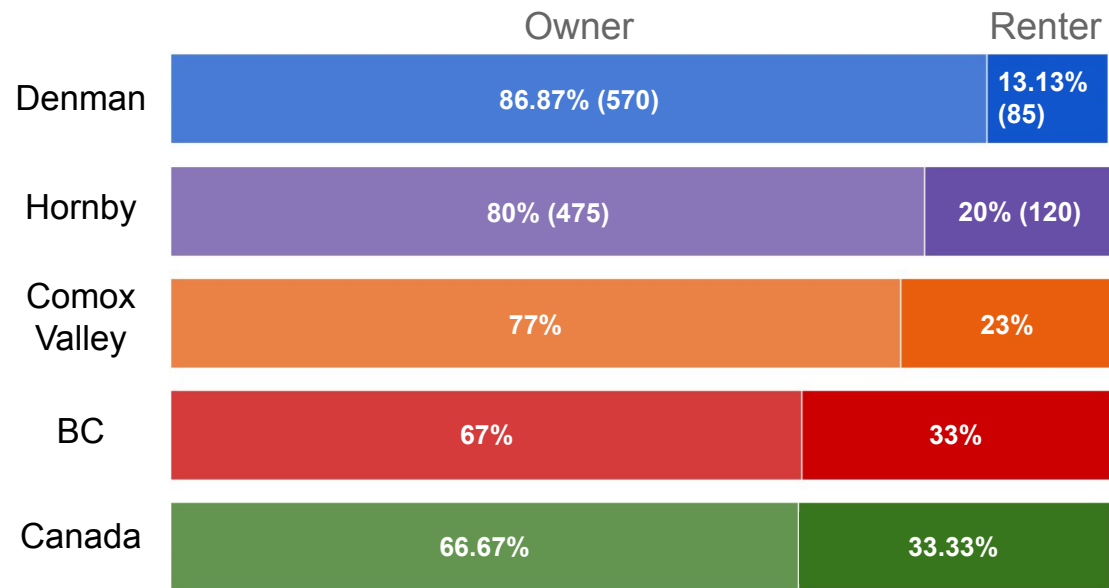
## Median Monthly Shelter Costs by Occupancy



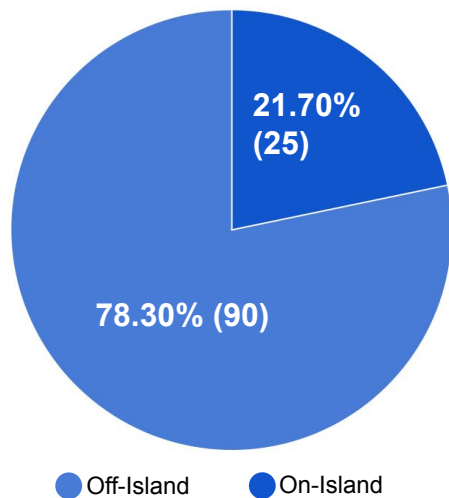
## Housing by Occupancy



## Housing by Tenure



### One Year Movers from On- and Off-Island

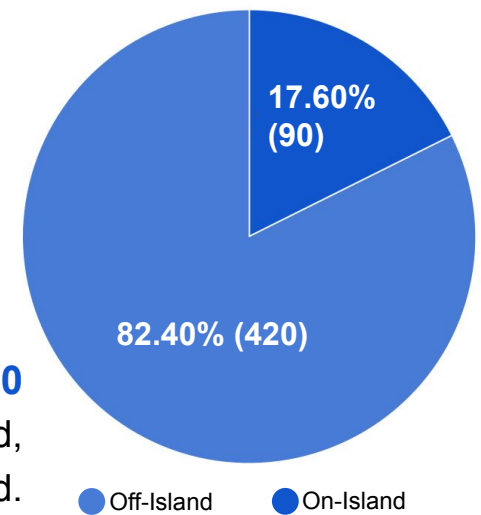


Of the **115** people who moved between 2020 and 2021, **25** were people moving from one location to another on island, the remaining **90** were new residents to Denman Island.

Of the **510** people who moved between 2016 and 2021, **90** were people moving from one location to another on island, the remaining **420** were new residents to Denman Island.

## Mobility

### Five Year Movers from On- and Off-Island



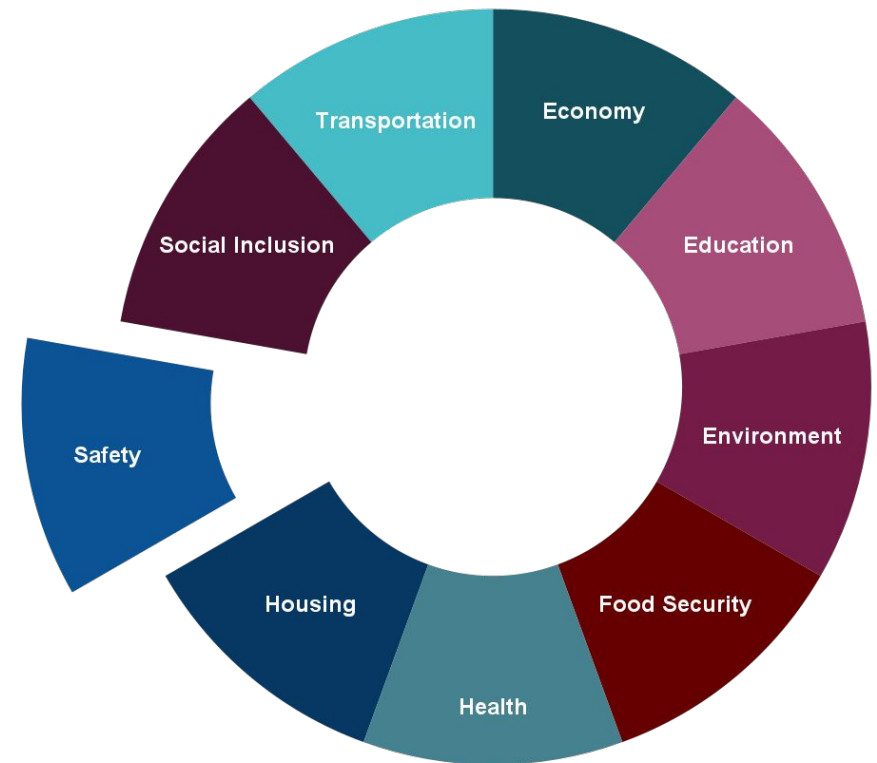
# Safety

**Safety** includes physical and mental safety. You live in a community where you have a support network nearby; emergency services are readily and respectfully available when needed; you can walk the streets without fear; there are safe places to go if needed; and the area you live in is relatively crime free.

## Barriers

- No police stationed on island
- No hospital on island
- No safe house
- No transition housing
- No publicly supported housing
- Limited social programs e.g., Out of the cold

Social Determinants of Health



## Emergency Preparedness

Denman has developed an emergency evacuation plan in collaboration with the Comox Valley Regional District. It has instructions for emergency response workers and island residents, including checklists for both. There are also contingencies and suggestions for domestic and livestock animals, but states that the plan's primary focus is on the residents of the island.

Denman has **4** Reception Centres identified on-island and indicates that others located throughout the Comox Valley may be used as well. There are some bulk transportation vehicles on the island, including the school bus and local summer bus for those without their own transportation. If transportation off-island is required, the ferry to Vancouver Island can accommodate **150** passengers and crew; the extra summer ferry holds **200**; the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue can be called; and there are numerous private boats that may be available. Air transport is limited to float planes and helicopters.

In an emergency situation it is important to identify those that may need support during the evacuation process. Hornby Denman Health has identified **30** residents as part of their Home Assist Program that will need assistance. It is likely that many at-risk people will have friends, family, or neighbours who know they may need assistance.<sup>31</sup>

## Transition Society

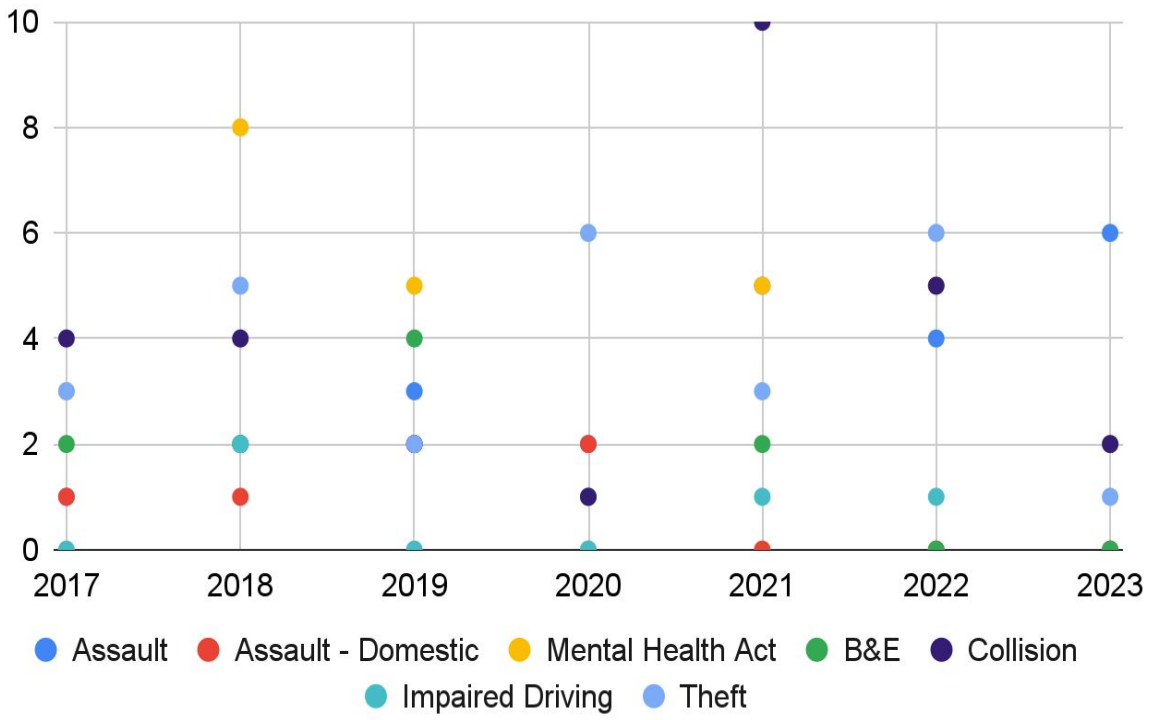
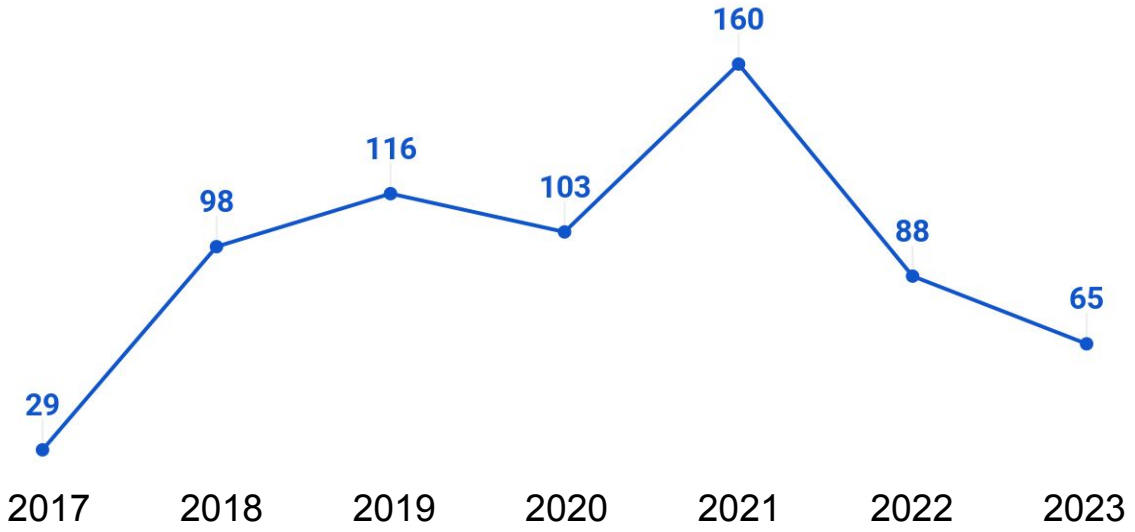
Counselling and other services are delivered through the Comox Valley Transition Society in conjunction with Hornby Denman Health.

In 2023, women from Hornby and Denman sought services from the Comox Valley Transition Society. These services can be delivered in any combination of phone, Zoom, or in-person at the Denman Island Health Centre.<sup>38</sup>

## Fire

Denman Island's fire department started in 2009. Amongst their other emergency services they run a Junior Firefighter's Program.

# Police Incident Files<sup>32</sup>



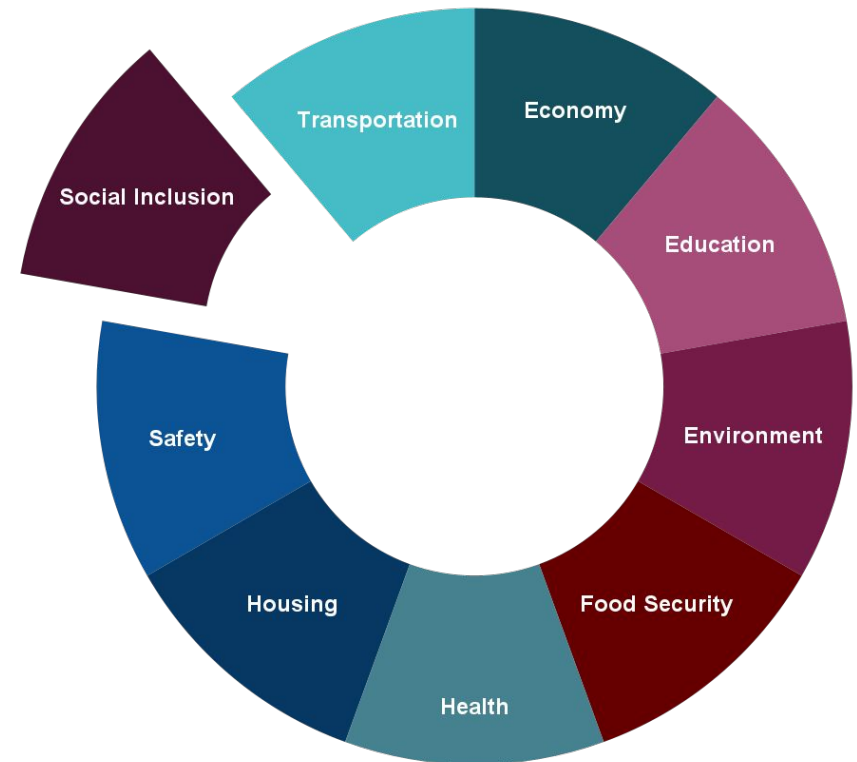
# Social Inclusion

**Social inclusion** means you have accessible ways to get involved in your community. This may mean you volunteer, you join a club or a group, you have an opportunity to be civically engaged, and/or there are people you regularly engage with.

## Barriers

- Lack of transportation
- Lack of adequate stable housing
- When living below the poverty line – survival takes all your energy
- Expense of clubs, groups, events, or classes
- Many activities limited by time of year
- Too young too old
- Lack of access to information about opportunities

Social Determinants of Health



# Community Engagement

Many of Denman's services are provided through non-profit groups. These services range from home care assistance to education to recreation and more. Through the tireless efforts of many volunteers these boards and committees are able to create a well-rounded and engaged community.

**84** Volunteer Board Members

**227** Additional Volunteers (approx.)

Nonprofit Boards and Committees

**21**

**5304** Annual Volunteer Hours (approx.)

Services

**25**

**21** Staff

A significant factor of rural life, especially rural life in winter, is isolation. While there are intermittent social benefits and opportunities, a section of citizens may require more.

Over 50% of people 18 years and over living in the rural areas surrounding the Comox Valley state that they feel a "strong sense of community belonging."<sup>34</sup>

While this is a positive statistic, it is important to remember that others may not subscribe to a similar sense of community well being. Certainly, one of the hoped-for benefits of rural community is the care that people feel for each other, and show in numerous ways including volunteering. Nevertheless, despite these beneficent efforts, there are still 8% of those 18 and over who "always feel lonely."<sup>31</sup>

By identifying barriers to the services that are currently offered we can work towards ensuring that they are better positioned to enhance the lives of those in our community who currently feel fully or partially excluded.

## Voters

2022 Local Election  
Area A Director  
Islands Trust Trustees

**564**  
Voters

Provincial Election

Unable to obtain at the island level

Federal Election

Unable to obtain at the island level



## Services

- After School Programs
- Art
- Climate Action
- Commercial Kitchen
- Community Dock
- Community Event Facilities
- Community School
- Conservation
- Farmers Market Coupon Program
- Food Bank
- Free Store
- Graham Lake Dock
- Health Care
- Holiday Hampers
- Home Support
- Housing
- Internet Access
- Laundry
- Lifelong Learning
- Manage Tax-Funded Services
- Marine Guardianship
- Museum & Archives
- Music
- Parent/Tot Programs
- Parks
- Recycling Depot
- Recreation: Youth
- Seniors Center and Activities
- Studio Tour
- Summer Bus
- Summer Camps
- Trails
- Waste Management
- Writers' Festival

---

## Recreation<sup>36</sup>

### All community members

- Basketball
- Multi-purpose covered area
- Soccer
- Tennis/pickleball Court
- Volleyball

### Youth

- Kids Club Gym Time
- Mixed Team Sports
- Parents' & Tots' Morning Out
- Summer Day Camp 5 weeks
- Summer Afternoon Camp 5 weeks
- Teen Night

### Activity Centre

- Badminton
- Children's Dance Class
- Fitness Centre
- Kids Karate
- Let's Dance
- Nia
- Pickleball
- Qi Gong
- Table Tennis

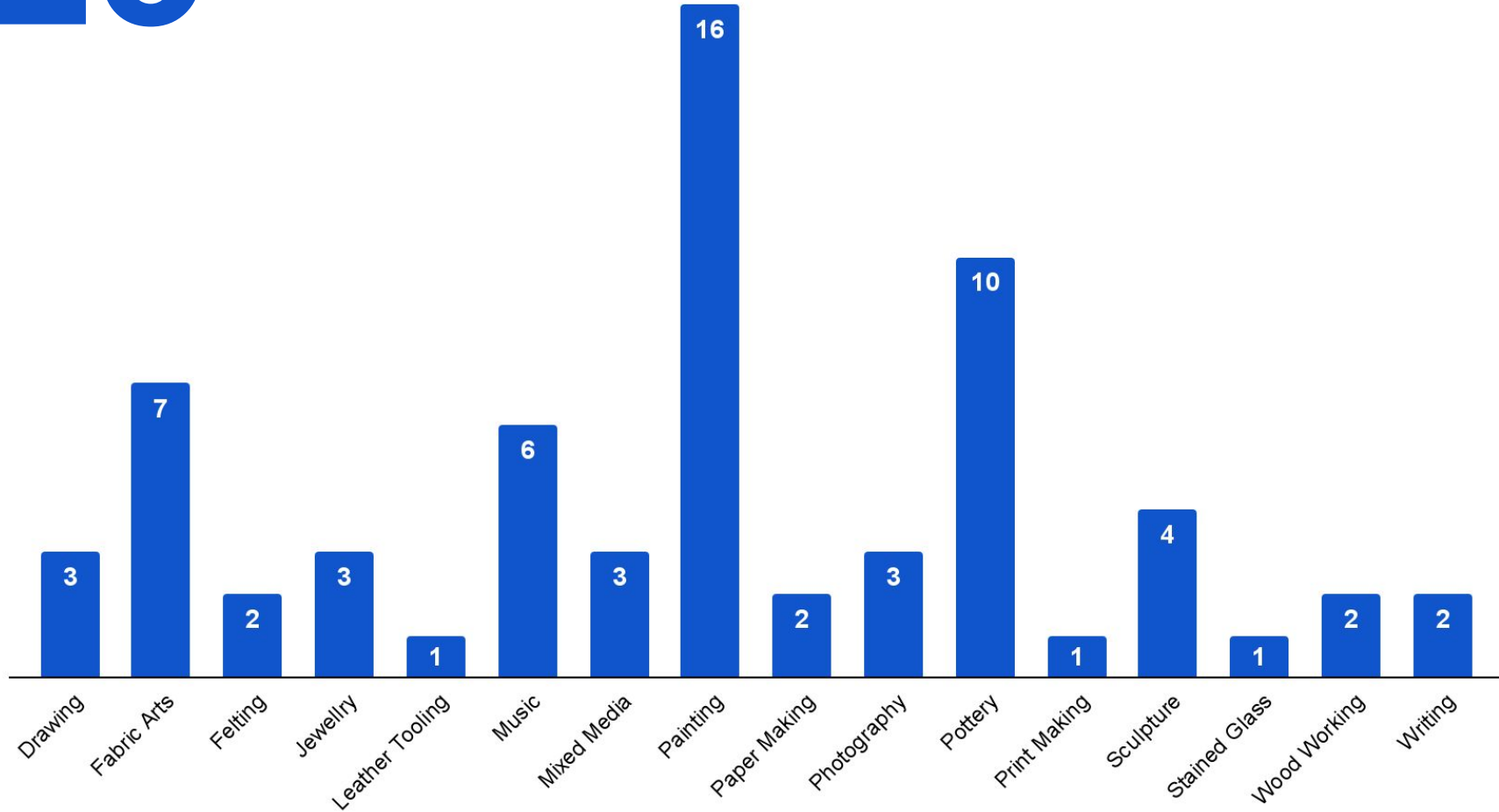
# Art

Practice multiple disciplines

23

Listed Artists\*

44



\*This number only includes listed artists found on [visitdenmanisland.ca](http://visitdenmanisland.ca) and those on the Studio Tour, there are many more unlisted.

# Transportation

You have access to adequate **transportation**. This could be a personal vehicle; a regular or electric bicycle, motorcycle, or scooter; and/or accessible and affordable public transportation to get where you need to go when you need to.

## Barriers

- Expense of owning a vehicle
- Expense of purchasing a mode of transportation
- Public transit only runs from May - September
- Cost of ferry
- Limited schedule for bus across Denman
- Denman bus does not line up with the ferries that meet the city bus to Courtenay
- Unable to drive for any reason
- No electricity for e-bike or scooter
- Fuel is more expensive on-island than off



# Transportation

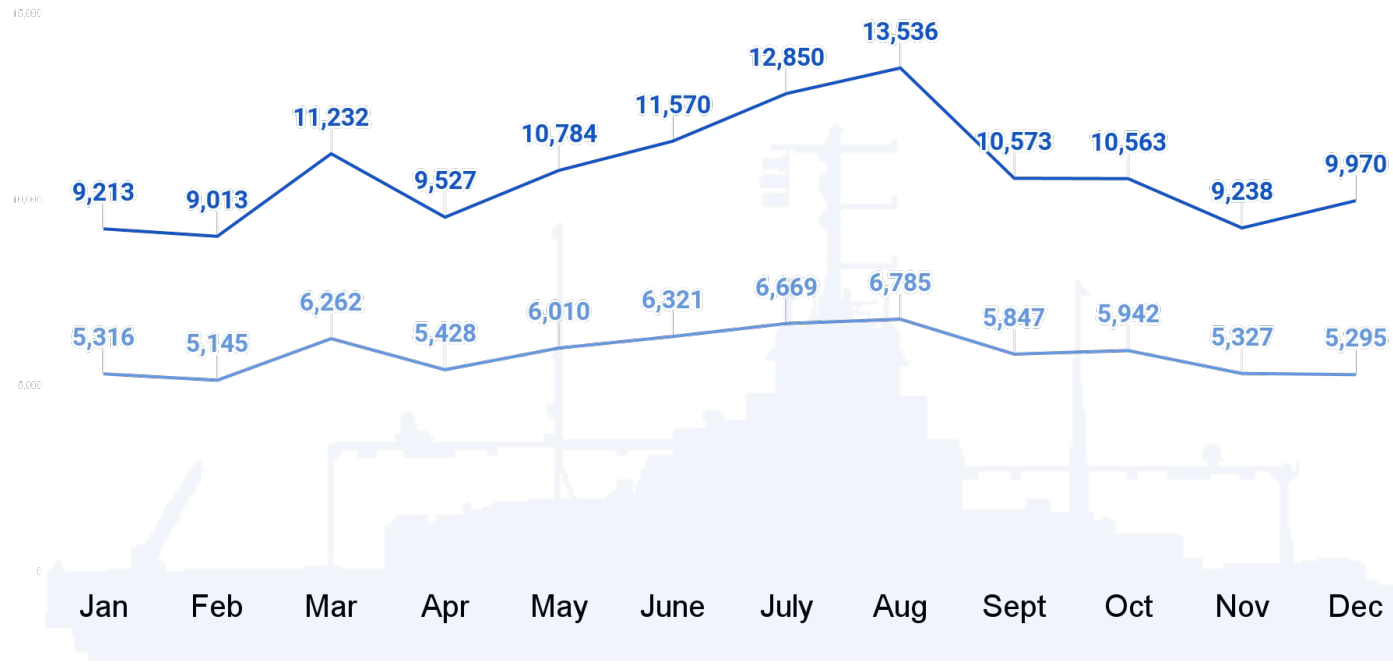
Bus Rides<sup>37</sup>

Bus Service  
May -  
August

2022 Riders  
**782**



Average Ferry Traffic to Denman by Month (2014 - 2022)



Passengers



Vehicles



# Glossary

## Core Housing Need

Core Housing Need: refers to whether a private household's housing falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for housing adequacy, affordability or suitability, and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (attains all three housing indicator thresholds).

## Core Housing Need: Affordable

Affordable Housing: Affordable housing has shelter costs equal to less than 30% of total before-tax household income.

## Core Housing Need: Major Repairs

Major Repairs: Adequate housing is reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.

## Core Housing Need: Suitable

Suitable Housing: Suitable housing has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of resident households according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS), conceived by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and provincial and territorial representatives.

## Family

Family is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either and/or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either and/or both partners; or a parent of any marital status in a one-parent family with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. Children may be biological or adopted children regardless of their age or marital status as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own married spouse, common-law partner or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family.

## Gender

Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

## Government Transfers

Government transfers are all monies received from any level of government, including: old age security pension, guaranteed income supplement, allowance or allowance for the survivor, retirement, disability and survivor benefits from Canada Pension Plan, and any benefits.

# Glossary

## Household

Household refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad. The dwelling may be either a collective dwelling or a private dwelling. The household may consist of a family group such as a census family, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, of a group of unrelated persons or of a person living alone.

Household members who are temporarily absent on reference day are considered part of their usual household.

## Income Source: Employment Income

Employment income is income from all forms of paid employment, self or otherwise

## Income Source: Government Transfers

Government transfers are all monies received from any level of government, including: old age security pension, guaranteed income supplement, allowance or allowance for the survivor, retirement, disability and survivor benefits from Canada Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, child benefits from federal and provincial programs, social assistance benefits, workers' compensation benefits, Canada workers benefit, goods and services tax credit and harmonised sales tax credit, and other income from government sources

## Income Source: Other Market Income

Other market income is income from other sources than employment or government transfers. This could include: investment income, non-governmental, or pensions.

## Private Dwelling

Private dwelling refers to a separate set of living quarters with a private entrance either from outside the building or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway inside the building. The entrance to the dwelling must be one that can be used without passing through the living quarters of some other person or group of persons.

# Links

Arts Denman	<a href="https://artsdenman.org/">https://artsdenman.org/</a>
Associate for Denman Island Marine Stewards	<a href="https://adims.ca/">https://adims.ca/</a>
BC Ferries Ridership	<a href="https://www.bcferrries.com/in-the-community/resources">https://www.bcferrries.com/in-the-community/resources</a>
BC Government Wells	<a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells-aquifers/groundwater-wells">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells-aquifers/groundwater-wells</a>
Blackberry Lane Children's Centre	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bblchildcare/">https://www.facebook.com/bblchildcare/</a>
Comox Valley Transition Centre	<a href="https://cvts.ca/">https://cvts.ca/</a>
Concerts Denman	<a href="https://concertsdenman.com/">https://concertsdenman.com/</a>
Courtenay RCMP	<a href="https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/detach/en/d/174">https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/detach/en/d/174</a>
CVRD Emergency Preparedness	<a href="https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sites/default/files/docs/Services/Emergency_Services/denman_island_evacuation_operational_guidelines.pdf">https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sites/default/files/docs/Services/Emergency_Services/denman_island_evacuation_operational_guidelines.pdf</a>
Denman Activity Centre	<a href="https://denmanactivitycentre.ca/">https://denmanactivitycentre.ca/</a>
Denman Artists	<a href="https://visitdenmanisland.ca/listing-type/artists-galleries/">https://visitdenmanisland.ca/listing-type/artists-galleries/</a>
Denman Community Land Trust Association	<a href="https://denmanaffordablehousing.org/">https://denmanaffordablehousing.org/</a>
Denman Conservancy Association	<a href="https://denmanconservancy.org/">https://denmanconservancy.org/</a>
Denman Food Bank	<a href="https://dices.ca/food-bank-pantry/">https://dices.ca/food-bank-pantry/</a>
Denman Housing Association	<a href="https://denmanhousing.ca/">https://denmanhousing.ca/</a>
Denman Island	<a href="https://visitdenmanisland.ca/">https://visitdenmanisland.ca/</a>
Denman Island Bus	<a href="https://www.denmanislandbus.ca/">https://www.denmanislandbus.ca/</a>
Denman Island Community Hall	<a href="https://denmanhall.wordpress.com/">https://denmanhall.wordpress.com/</a>
Denman Island Educational Society	<a href="https://dices.ca">https://dices.ca</a>
Denman Island Fire Rescue	<a href="https://denmanfire.ca/about-the-fire-department/first-responders/">https://denmanfire.ca/about-the-fire-department/first-responders/</a>
Denman Island Growers and Producers Association	<a href="https://www.denmangpa.ca/">https://www.denmangpa.ca/</a>

# Links

Denman Island Museum & Archives	<a href="https://denmanmuseum.ca/">https://denmanmuseum.ca/</a>
Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery	<a href="https://dinbc.ca/">https://dinbc.ca/</a>
Denman Island Recycling Centre	<a href="https://denmanresidents.com/waste-management-committee/">https://denmanresidents.com/waste-management-committee/</a>
Denman Island Residents Association	<a href="https://denmanresidents.com/">https://denmanresidents.com/</a>
Denman Works!	<a href="https://denman-works.ca/">https://denman-works.ca/</a>
Dora Drinkwater Library	<a href="https://visitdenmanisland.ca/listings/dora-drinkwater-community-library/">https://visitdenmanisland.ca/listings/dora-drinkwater-community-library/</a>
Farmers' Market	<a href="https://bcfarmersmarkettrail.com/market/denman-island-farmers-market/">https://bcfarmersmarkettrail.com/market/denman-island-farmers-market/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/p/Denman-Island-Farmers-Market-100063745614832/">https://www.facebook.com/p/Denman-Island-Farmers-Market-100063745614832/</a>
Hornby Denman Health	<a href="https://hornbydenmanhealth.com/">https://hornbydenmanhealth.com/</a>
Islands Trust	<a href="https://islandstrust.bc.ca/location/denman/">https://islandstrust.bc.ca/location/denman/</a>
Islands Trust Conservancy	<a href="https://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/">https://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/</a>
School District 71	<a href="https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/">https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/</a>
The Islands Grapevine	<a href="https://theislandsgrapevine.com/">https://theislandsgrapevine.com/</a>
The Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspective	<a href="https://www.thecanadianfacts.org/">https://www.thecanadianfacts.org/</a>
UN Protected Land Target	<a href="https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-met-target-protected-area-coverage-land-quality-must-improve">https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-met-target-protected-area-coverage-land-quality-must-improve</a>
UN Sustainable Development Goals	<a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a>
Voting Information	<a href="https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/">https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/</a>



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# Appendix A - Project Report

## Background

In September 2021, the Hornby Island Housing Network was created to bring together various island organizations and levels of local government that include housing in their mandate. The intention was to share information and resources, with the goal of co-creating a housing strategy for the island with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each organization.

An immediate challenge was identified: the lack of a comprehensive picture of the community that included current data in all the social determinants of health areas. Although, a wealth of information had been gathered over the years by various island organizations and individuals in their efforts to create and fund services and programs that benefit the community, it became readily apparent that there was considerable duplication of effort, loss of historical data, the creation of information silos specific to each group's focus, limited access to stored data and a lack of individual organizational capacity to carry out more in-depth research.

A secondary issue was identified, the lack of comparative data between similar communities, the province and the country as a whole.

Although the organizations were aware of many inequities due to our rural, remote location and the disparity between low and high income residents, there was no current data to support that knowledge.

A sub-committee was formed to secure funding to create a comprehensive database for the Housing Network. A Housing Network participant, Hornby Denman Health (formerly the Hornby & Denman Community Health Care Society) which serves both Hornby and Denman Islands requested that Denman be included in the project.

## The Project

The Housing Network applied for funding from BC Healthy Communities to hire a research assistant to create comprehensive **community profiles** for both Hornby and Denman Islands, an easily accessed **website** to host the information, and a **database** that could be regularly updated. All three goals have been achieved. Several interactive maps of the communities have also been created, depicting the following: zoning, lots with houses, empty lots, aquifers, approved septic systems and lots with Short Term Rentals.

This information will be key data for the creation of a housing strategy for the islands.

## Methodology

Information was gathered from a wide range of community organizations and businesses on both islands, BC Open Data, and Census Canada. To ensure we gathered as broad a base of information as possible, we spoke to **7** accommodation providers; **19** boards; **16** store-based businesses; the island Preschools, Community schools, and the Senior Secondary school; **3** environmental groups; **4** Food Security groups; **8** health care providers; **4** realtors; **3** groups involved in community safety; and **9** activity groups. Of these **69** sources, we received information back from **56**. We also included information gathered from another project; a group of self-identified precariously housed people were interviewed over the winter of 2022 to gather current data about the number of community members living in unsafe, substandard and/or insecure housing. Information gathered from that project is included in this report as it is possible that due to how the census forms are circulated on the islands, some of the renters included in our survey were missed in the census. It was important to us that these voices be added to this report.

The draft profiles were circulated to all the participating organizations on both islands for their review and suggestions. Their feedback has been incorporated into the final report.

## Community Profiles

In order to determine what information would best meet our communities' needs, the Research Assistant and Steering Committee reviewed other community profiles for both content and formatting and also researched the various definitions of the Social Determinants of Health.

The profiles for both islands include all available local, provincial and federal information available in the following social determinants of health: Economy, Education, Environment, Food Security, Health, Housing, Safety, Social Inclusion, and Transportation. The profiles also point out social inequities in access to services and the barriers underlying that inequity.

These profiles not only contain the information needed to co-create a housing strategy, they will also be used to inform short and long term planning for all the organizations, no matter what their mandate.

All Stats Canada information is presented as a percentage of the whole in order to see the differences in relation to the population of each area. The numbers for Denman and Hornby Islands have been added for planning purposes.

Effort has been made to present this information as it is with no analysis or conclusions drawn. We leave the information to our users to interpret for their specific area of focus.

## Database

The database containing all the spreadsheets with all the data and contact information will be stored with the Hornby Island Housing Society.

## Website: [www.communityprofiles.ca](http://www.communityprofiles.ca)

The website contains both the Community Profile reports in PDF form. The collected data is also presented separately in each of the social determinants of health for both islands. The website is hosted by the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Society, Hornby's local governing body and a key partner in this project.

Denman Works, the local WorkBC office on Denman Island, is in the process of creating a link for both profiles on their webpage.

## Challenges

There was a significant challenge to collecting health data for our two island communities. Due to the low population of each island, resulting in a lack of anonymity, Island Health were unable to release detailed data regarding the prevalence of health issues.

A second obstacle to including even general numbers related to health issues is the lack of computerized health information at the Hornby clinic.

A third area of information gathering that impacted data collection was a low response by the businesses on Hornby. We had hoped to gather information about their challenges related to the winter, shoulder and summer seasons to try to get a sense of the carrying capacity of the island and the relationship between staffing shortage issues and housing.

A fourth issue is the lack of data regarding how much of the income generated by short term rentals stays on the island and in the economy as we don't know how many operators are year-round residents.

## Successes

Although the website address has not yet been shared publicly and the final report has not yet been circulated to the island groups, at the time of writing of this report, the draft profiles and map presentations that were shared in the last few months to gather feedback, have already generated much excitement and appreciation throughout the community and there has already been significant benefit:

- Inter-agency collaboration has already deepened as organizations share their information. Two of the groups that are focussed on creating housing for the community are working more closely at the Board level.
- The Housing Network is currently using this data to inform the housing strategy for Hornby Island.
- Three other organizations are also using the information presented in the profile reports to support their planning and current funding applications.
- Denman Works will cover the cost of printing 20 copies of the Community Profiles reports
- HIRRA has covered the costs of the webpage domain and the wages for their technician to create the website account.

## Publicity

- The Community Profile website and Profile reports will be showcased at meeting of representatives from all the organizations on Hornby on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and at the Annual General Meeting of the Hornby Island Housing Society on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Articles describing the project and results, and informing the communities how to access the reports, will be posted on the community websites for both islands, and submitted to the local newspapers on both islands.
- Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association and Denman Works will host an ongoing link to the Profiles on their website.
- Links to the Profiles will be sent to Islands Trust and the Comox Valley Regional District.

## Project Sustainability

- An advisory committee will be formed to solicit feedback from the communities for an annual update.
- Denman Works has offered to provide funding to assist in the annual maintenance and updating costs.
- Organizations that benefit the most from having the data available to them, will be asked to contribute to the maintenance costs of the website and annual updating.

## Next Phase

This is step one of a long-term vision for this project. We will now begin researching funding sources for the next phase of the project which will include the following goals:

- Additional organizations and data that may have been missed in phase one, will be identified and added to future Community Profiles and the database.
- Strategies will be created to address the issue of “hard to obtain” data.
- The database will be updated at a minimum every 2 years to ensure the community always has current information to inform its planning.

## Conclusion

The two island communities will be well served by the work that has been done over the last several months.

Organizations that provide services and programs in all the sectors of the social determinants of health now have a much broader understanding of the state of our communities in significant areas and thus, will be better able to address the needs that are identified and to reduce the existing inequities of access to services.

On behalf of the Hornby Housing Network and the communities of Hornby and Denman Islands, we wish to thank our partners: BC Healthy Communities – Planh for funding this project; the Comox Valley Regional District for sponsoring our application; the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association for their financial management of the project and Denman Works for sponsoring the cost of printing of the report and public announcements of the successful completion of the project.

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Submitted by:

April Lewis

Steering Committee

Community Profiles Project

Hornby Island Housing Network