

Subject methods
From PC Advocacy <publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca>
Date Friday, August 5, 2011 11:37 am
To BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca

Hello BC Stats,

I am helping a not-for-profit organization examine and understand population estimates and forecasts used to justify school closures in BC. In a report used to justify the closure of a school, readers are told to check out the BC Stats methods paper online.

The BC Stats website refers to the methods paper "Generalized Estimation System (GES) Small Area Population Estimation Methodology" from 1998 wherein the indicators used are said to be:

- 1. The number of residential electrical (hydro) connections as of July 1.*
- 2. The number of Old Age Security (OAS) recipients aged 65 and over as of July*

however, Statistics Canada states:

"The British Columbia population estimates used to calculate the [growth] rates are produced using a regression model based on residential electrical (Hydro) connections and Ministry of Health Client Registry data as symptomatic indicators." (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-214-x/2009000/technote-notetech2-eng.htm>)

I would like to know:

- 1) What indicators since 1998 has BC Stats used to estimate population change?
- 2) When did these indicators start to be used and or stop being used?
- 3) Does BC Stats still use telephone hookups?
- 4) Does BC Stats still purchase Telus data?

Thank you,

Warren Munroe
Population Analyst
Public Consultation Advocacy