

**RE: methods**

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**From :** Angelo CITZ Cocco:EX  
<Angelo.Cocco@gov.bc.ca>

Mon, Aug 08, 2011 03:00 PM

**Subject :** RE: methods

**To :** 'publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca'  
<publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca>

**Cc :** BC Stats CITZ:EX <BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca>

Hi Warren –

The Statistics Canada publication you identified in your email correctly describes the symptomatic indicators currently used in the Generalized Estimation System (GES) – i.e., residential electrical (Hydro) connections and Ministry of Health Client Registry data. An updated (long overdue) GES methodology paper is scheduled for release at the end of August. However, a summary of the current methodology, *GESing Sub-Provincial Population in B.C.*, was published in late 2009 and is available on the BC Stats website at:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/bcbi/bcbi0911.pdf>

The GES methodology is revisited regularly to make use of improved sources of information to ensure it is producing results of the highest possible quality; as such we have updated the symptomatic indicators used in GES over the years. For example, use of the Old Age Security (OAS) recipients data was dropped in 2003, and the residential telephone (land line) indicator was replaced in 2007 with Ministry of Health Client Registry data.

I hope that you find this response satisfactory.

Angelo

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Angelo Cocco  
Provincial Statistician & Executive Director  
BC Stats  
Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government  
Province of British Columbia  
Tel: (250) 356-2119  
Fax: (250) 387-0380

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**From:** BC Stats CITZ:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2011 12:43 PM

**To:** Cocco, Angelo CITZ:EX; Stock, Cathy CITZ:EX; Storen, Jackie CITZ:EX  
**Subject:** RE: methods

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**From:** PC Advocacy [mailto:publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2011 11:38 AM  
**To:** BC Stats CITZ:EX  
**Subject:** methods

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

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