



High River Family Study

Socio-demographic Outcome Report



Corinne Finnie
Regional Stewardship Department
Bow Valley College
2015

High River Family Study

Socio-demographic Outcome Report

Contents of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part provided the intended use is for non-commercial purposes and full acknowledgement is given to the authors.

The Effects and Implications of Environmental Disasters on the Family: Communicating, Coping, and Caring Among Families Impacted by the 2013 High River, Alberta Floods

Mount Royal University
Dr. Caroline McDonald-Harker
Dr. Timothy Haney

Prepared by:

Corinne Finnie, Director
Regional Stewardship Department
Bow Valley College
2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – BOW VALLEY COLLEGE	4
BACKGROUND INFORMATION – MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY	5
RESEARCH SAMPLE	7
SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	
POPULATION	9
GENDER.....	11
AGE	12
<i>SENIORS</i>	12
<i>WORKING POPULATION</i>	13
<i>CHILDREN</i>	14
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES - GENDER AND AGE	
GENDER.....	15
AGE	16
ETHNICITY	17
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES - ETHNICITY.....	19
PLACE OF BIRTH COMPARISON	19
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT	24
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – EDUCATION ATTAINMENT	25
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – YEARS LIVING IN HIGH RIVER.....	27
TYPES OF FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS IN HIGH RIVER	28
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	30
WORK AND INCOME	
HIGH RIVER LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION RATES, 2006	34
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – INCOME PRE-FLOOD	36
COMPARISON BETWEEN PARTICIPANT AND SPOUSE OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY SECTOR.....	41
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: OCCUPATIONAL TOTALS, INDUSTRY SECTOR	41
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: WORKING HOURS PARTICIPANTS AND SPOUSES.....	43
DEPENDENTS.....	44
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: CHILDREN AT HOME.....	45
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: AGE OF CHILDREN	45
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: GRADES OF CHILDREN.....	47
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: CHILD GENDER FREQUENCIES.....	48
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES: LENGTH OF DISPLACEMENT FROM HOME	48
REFERENCES.....	49

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

Alberta holds a unique space in higher education that allows opportunities for post-secondary institutions to collaborate to increase access to higher education and support communities through social wellness and economic and community development activities, including research.

Supporting the Government of Alberta CampusAlberta model, Bow Valley College hosts the University of Lethbridge, Athabasca University and Olds College at the downtown Calgary South Campus. Furthermore, in an effort to better serve rural communities with an aligned learning pathway system and access to higher education, the Government of Alberta mandated 11 Comprehensive Community Institutions in the province with the “Regional Stewardship” initiative. Bow Valley College serves the rural communities surrounding Calgary and is committed to:

1. Understanding local higher education needs and responding to community and labour market demand.
2. Partnering with other post-secondary and training institutions to meet programming needs.
3. Collaborating with community adult learning programs for seamless transitions from foundational learning to higher education.
4. Aligning with the secondary school system to transition students to post-secondary education.
5. Meaningfully and sustainably increasing access to higher education opportunities in rural communities as a cornerstone to social wellness and community and economic development.

Bow Valley College, through the Applied Research & Evaluation (AR&E) department, seeks to find innovative solutions to fit the needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises and industry through applied research. AR&E aims to meet the needs of the learning community and has partnered on applied research projects with many organizations ranging from small, non-profit organizations to large corporations, with the goal of advancing practice, improving employment opportunities, and finding success in the workplace. Bow Valley College collaborates to assess needs or gaps, pilot and evaluate new initiatives, identify new approaches or ideas, and design and carry out applied research projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

The Effects and Implications of Environmental Disasters on the Family; Communicating, Coping, and Caring Among Families Impacted by the 2013 High River Alberta Floods.

Expected Outcomes

This research project will be of great value as it has the immediate goal of assisting families in the community of High River, Alberta in coping with and overcoming the recent major floods. This research project will also have the long term goal of providing a useful tool to assist families in other communities who have experienced major disasters, or who may in the future experience major disasters. Given increasing worldwide vulnerability to environmental disasters, this research will help illuminate how families can best prepare for, respond to, and cope with disasters in their communities. This research project will have significant impact in:

1. The academic field by way of research and literature.
2. The community sector, specifically among agencies, practitioners, and service providers.
3. The social policy and programming area, such as among governmental agencies and policy makers.

Specifically, this research will inform these groups about the struggles, difficulties, coping strategies, and needs of the family following disasters, which is crucial and valuable information that can be used to assist families impacted by disasters. This knowledge will help these groups to better disseminate information and mobilize resources to help families deal with, manage, and overcome the effects of disasters, and to help support and assist these families post-disaster, thus strengthening and improving these families and their communities.

Given the recent flooding that has taken place in High River, Alberta, we believe that it is crucial and important to study how the floods have impacted individuals, families and the wider community of High River, Alberta. In Canada, very little is known about the experiences of individuals, families, and communities following disasters. As such, our research study, which was conducted from January 2014 to December 2014, specifically focuses on and explores the experiences of individuals within the family unit, particularly in relation to their struggles, their difficulties, their coping strategies, their needs, and what resources, programs, and services can be of assistance to them in coping and re-adjusting post-disaster. Our research study specifically examines the following 4 areas:

1. How the family unit/life has been impacted by the floods. Specific attention will be given to how the floods have affected individual family members, such as parent relationships, parent-child relationships, and sibling relationships, and what their needs are.

2. How particular families have been impacted by the floods, namely immigrant families. Specific attention will be given to how the floods have affected immigrant family members, their communications and interactions with each other as well as within the wider community, their adaptation and integration within the community post-floods, and what their particular needs are.
3. How the family-school life, family-school dynamic, and family-school relationships have been impacted by the floods. Specific attention will be given to how the floods have affected the role and involvement of parents in their school-aged children's educational responsibilities at home; the role and involvement that parents play in their school-aged children's academic performance, achievement, and success; the role and involvement of parents in their children's schools and activities; and what families with school-aged children's particular needs are.
4. How the floods have resulted in specific difficulties for some families, and ways that this can be addressed. Specific attention will be given to preventing and dealing with issues of family trauma, family distress, and family suffering caused by the floods (these may include substance abuse, domestic abuse, child abuse, infidelity, etc).

The purpose of this research study is to *explore resources and strategies* that will best support and assist individuals, families, and the wider community of High River, Alberta in coping with the effects of the floods.

RESEARCH SAMPLE

Parameters

1. Criteria for Participation: Mothers and fathers who are over the age of 18 (adults), who have a child or children under the age of 18, and who lived in High River during the 2013 flood.
2. Definition of children: Individuals *under the age* of 18 years.
3. Research timeframe: Data collection occurred between June and September 2014. ***A total of 105 parents were interviewed.***
4. Recruitment Strategies: Participants were recruited through a variety of different strategies including:
 - a. Putting up posters and distributing small flyers advertising our study within local High River businesses, non-profit organizations, and community centers (once approval was received)
 - b. Bow Valley College staff at the High River campus recruited from prospective learners coming into the College
 - c. Providing the 13 community partners in High River who are part of our study with posters and postcards advertising our study to post within their organizations and to distribute to the clients that they work with
 - d. Using social media to build awareness within the community

The data presented in the following report includes two sets of sociodemographic information: a comparison of High River demographics with regional, provincial, or national data, and the research sample outcomes. The most recent data available for the High River community typically is the 2011 statistical information. Where ever possible more recent data has been included.

To provide context for the research project outcomes compared to the High River community environment, the community statistical information is summarized followed by the **High River Family Study Outcomes data based on quantitative sociodemographic data.**

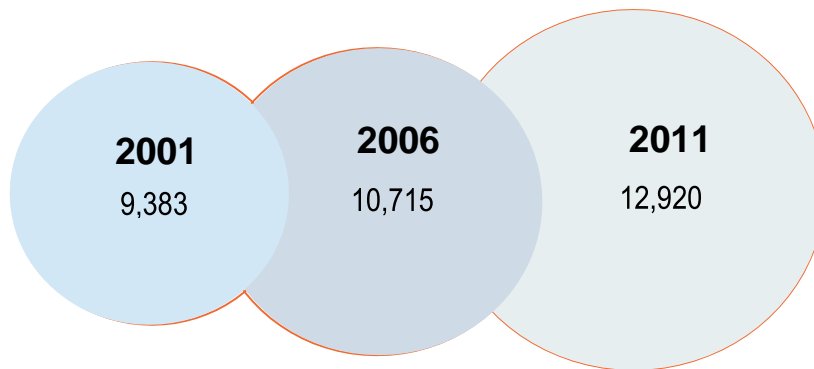
SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Population

Although the current 2015 population of High River is unknown and therefore so are the consequential outcomes of the flood event on the population, High River has been a community to watch, named one of Alberta’s fastest growing communities in 2012. The most recent statistical data collected for the population of the Town of High River is 2011, with a population reported of 12,920, up 17.0% from the 2006 population statistic of 10,715. The Town of High River projected that in the next 25 years the population would increase to over 25,000 residents. In preparation for this growth, the Town annexed an additional 1,726 acres for future development.

In 2011, High River had 5,261 private dwellings occupied by usual residents, an increase of 25.4% from 2006. For Canada as a whole, the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents, in the same time frame, increased by 7.1%.¹

The Town of High River, Population 2001 – 2011



¹ Stats Canada: Focus on Geography Series, Census 2011

Contrary to some Canadian rural community statistics, the population growth in rural Alberta including the Calgary region* is increasing; although at a decreasing rate since 2001. The increase is mainly due to high birth rates, as compared to larger provinces, and economic drivers that influence relatively high immigration, and a high rate of interprovincial migration.²

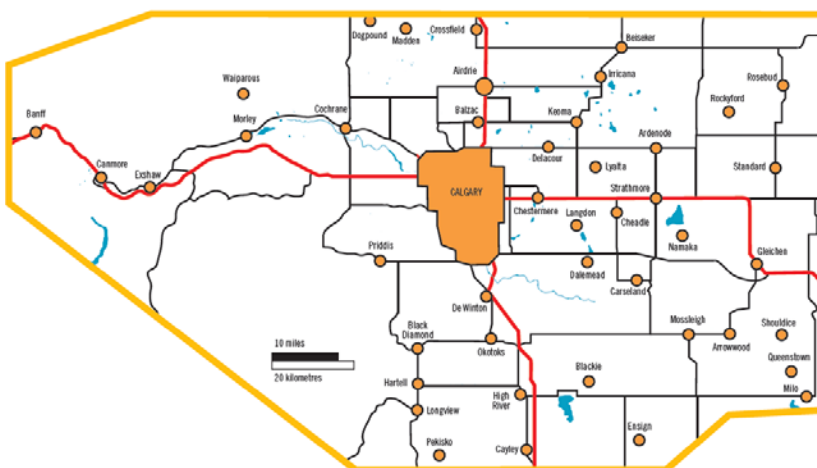
In the Calgary region, Okotoks, Cochrane, Airdrie, and Chestermere share with High River the “fastest growing community” status, in the past five years, illustrating that people are choosing rural communities to reside. The proximity to Calgary, in addition to what individual communities have to offer, are important factors for decision making focused on work, living, play, and education.

Population Growth, High River, Calgary Region, Alberta, 2001 - 2011

	High River	% change	Calgary Region*	% change	Alberta	% change
2001	9,383	27.5%	1,043,163	16.3%	2,974,807	10.3%
2006	10,715	14.2%	1,186,756	13.8%	3,290,350	10.6%
2011	12,920	20.6%	1,300,000	9.5%	3,645,257	10.8%

*the Calgary region includes 13 municipalities that work together to ensure growth occurs in a sustainable manner. For more information, please visit the Calgary Regional Partnership website at www.calgaryregion.ca or Bow Valley College’s website www.bowvalleycollege.ca

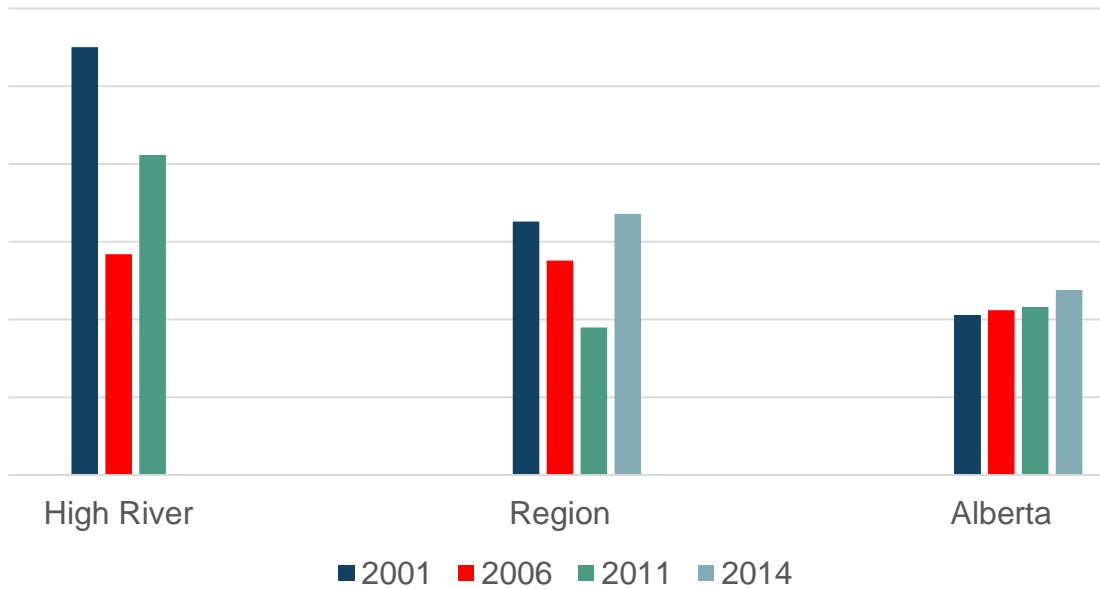
The Calgary Region
Bow Valley College, Regional Stewardship Department



² Statistics Canada, Alberta Population

Population Growth for High River, Calgary Region, and Alberta³

Population Growth 2001 - 2014



*High River 2014 data is unavailable

Gender

High River’s gender in 2011 was comparable to the provincial average with slightly more females than males living in Alberta.⁴ There were 220 more females than males; making 50.9% of the total population vs 49.1%, respectively.

High River Population by Gender, 2011

Total Population	Males	%	Females	%
12,920	6,350	49.1%	6,570	50.9%

³ Statistics Canada and Calgary Economic Development

⁴ Statistics Canada, Focus on Geography, High River, 2011

Age

High River's community comprised a higher proportion of seniors, compared to the provincial average but also considered as a young, family oriented community, with the median age of 41.8 years, slightly higher than Alberta's population median age of 36.5.

High River Median Age, 2006 and 2011

	2006	2011
MEDIAN AGE AGED 15 & OVER	40.7 80.9%	41.8 82.2%

High River Population, by Age, 2011

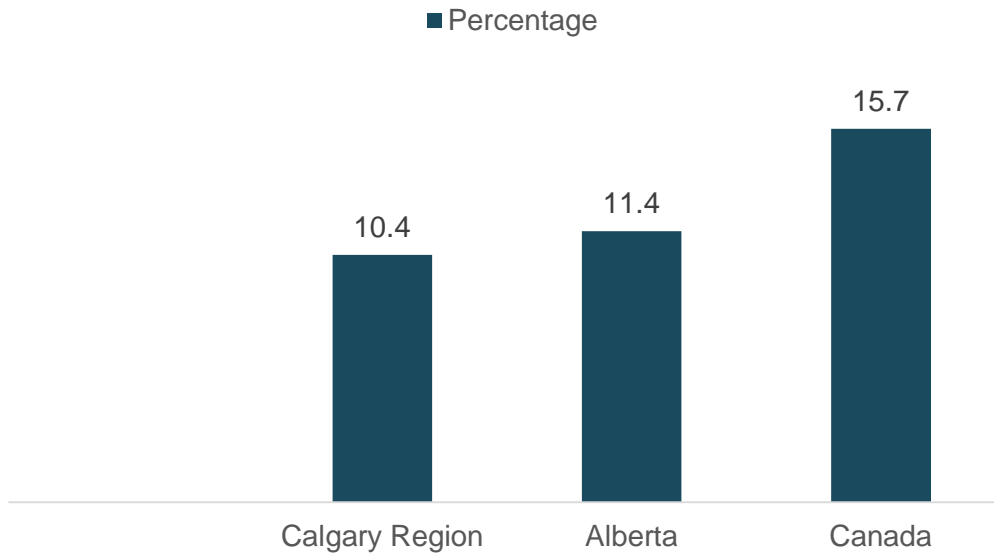
<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
< 19 years	3,050	23.6%
20 - 34 years	2,275	17.6%
35 - 49 years	2,495	19.3%
50 - 60 years	1,750	13.5%
60+ years	3,350	25.9%
<i>Total</i>	12,920	100.0%

Seniors

In 2011, High River had a higher than average population of seniors compared to the national average; the percentage of the population aged 65 and over in High River was 19.0%, compared with a national percentage of 14.8%. When comparing more recent statistics of where the senior population is residing, in 2014 Alberta reported about 3% fewer seniors compared to the national average, with the lowest numbers in the in the Calgary region of 10.4%.

Which provinces have the largest number of seniors in proportion to their total population? The Maritime provinces have the largest percentage of seniors (17.7–18.3%) compared to the rest of the provincial population.

Seniors Population, 2014



Working Population

By definition, the working population includes people *15 to 64 years of age*. In 2011, this group was comprised of nearly 64% of the total population in High River, slightly lower than the national average of 68.5%. Taking a look at the changes in the working population across Canada from 2014, Alberta has the second highest increase in both female and male populations (2.8 and 2.9%, respectively), behind Nunavut (3.2%).⁵ This trend supports that the population growth seen in Alberta is mainly due to economic drivers with this increase in the working population. Good news for rural communities surrounding Calgary, as the Calgary region has the highest percentage of working population compared to the rest of Alberta and Canada.

Population by Age, 2014⁶

	0 – 14 years	15 – 64 years	65+ years
Calgary and Region	17.8%	71.8%	10.4%
Alberta	18.3%	70.4%	11.4%
Canada	16.1%	68.2%	15.7%

⁵ Statistics Canada, Changes in Population by Sex and Age Group, 2014

⁶ Calgary Economic Development, Population in Calgary Economic Region, 2014

Children

In 2011, there were just over 2300 children under the age of 15 living in High River; 17.9% of the total population (higher than the national average of 16.7%). In 2014, Alberta has seen the highest percentage of population growth for children in the country with a 2.9% change since 2013, compared to other provinces and territories. Nunavut has the highest proportion of their population under that age of 15 years (31.1%), with the second highest population growth. Both birth rates and families moving to Alberta for work are all contributors to the increasing children population.



HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES - GENDER AND AGE

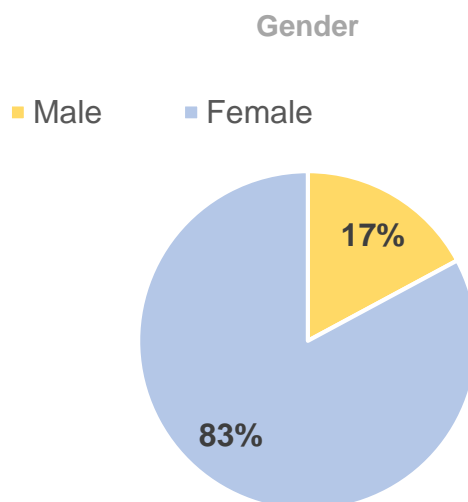
Gender

The sample for the research project included a predominantly female voice, with 82.9% of the participants identifying as female. Considerations from the research assistants were provided for why the majority of the total sample population interviewed were predominantly female and included:

- The interviews were conducted the majority of the time during weekdays, when some of the sample group would be available; including homemakers and self-employed individuals.
- The flexibility of the work schedules may have been a consideration. Over 75% of the sample worked in High River, allowing for more opportunities to participate.
- One third of the sample worked part-time at the time of the research project, which would make participating in the project easier.
- Perhaps females self-selected to participate based on the subject matter as well as being willing to discuss flood related topics
- Females may have been selected or offered to participate on behalf of the family.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Gender

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	18	17.1%
Female	87	82.9%
Total Participants	105	100.0%



Age

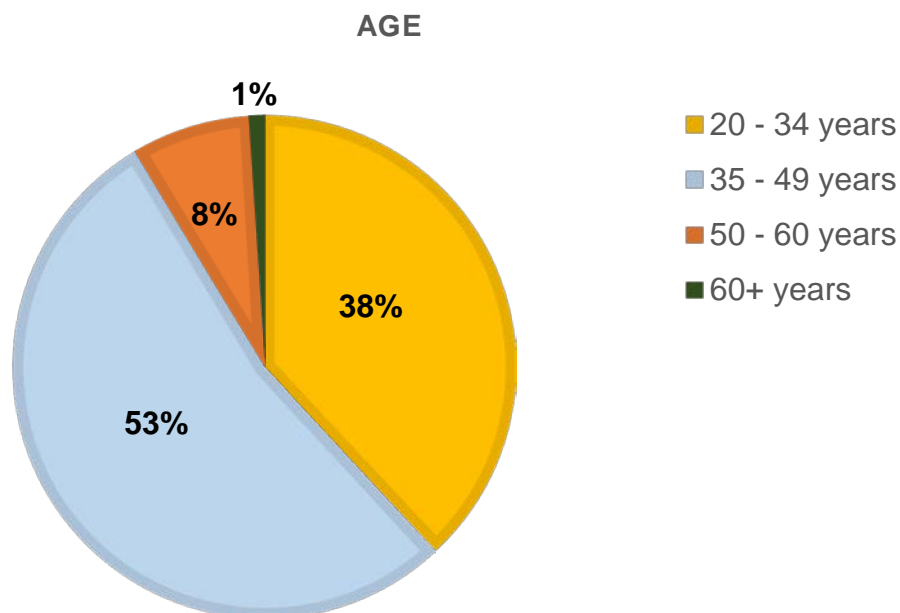
Over half of research project participants were between the ages of 35 and 49 years of age, with over 38 percent between the ages 20 and 34 years; the average participant age was 36.9 years old. There was a small representation in the over 50 age group, being 8.6 % of the total sample. The main reason why 91.4% of the sample was over the age of 19 and under the age of 50 is mainly due to the parameters for project participation:

1. Participants had at least one child living at home
2. Children needed to be under the age of 18 years old

This automatically narrows the sample size available for the project. There was a fairly high deviation across all ages; 31, 32, 35, 36, and 41 year olds each made up at least 6% of the total sample. The youngest participant interviewed was 21, while the oldest was 61 years old.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Age

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
< 19 years	0	0.0%
20 - 34 years	40	38.1%
35 - 49 years	56	53.3%
50 - 60 years	8	7.6%
60 + years	1	1.0%
Total	105	100.0 %



ETHNICITY

In 2011, 8.9% of High River residents reported having a mother tongue other than English or French (1,155 people). Conversely, 88.7% of the population reported *English only* as mother tongue, 1.4% reported *French only*, and 9.0% reported only a *non-official language*. The top three mother-tongues other than English or French in High River were: **Spanish (225)**, **Tagalog (200)**, and **German (185)** – see complete list below.

Top 10 Mother Tongue Non-official Languages in High River

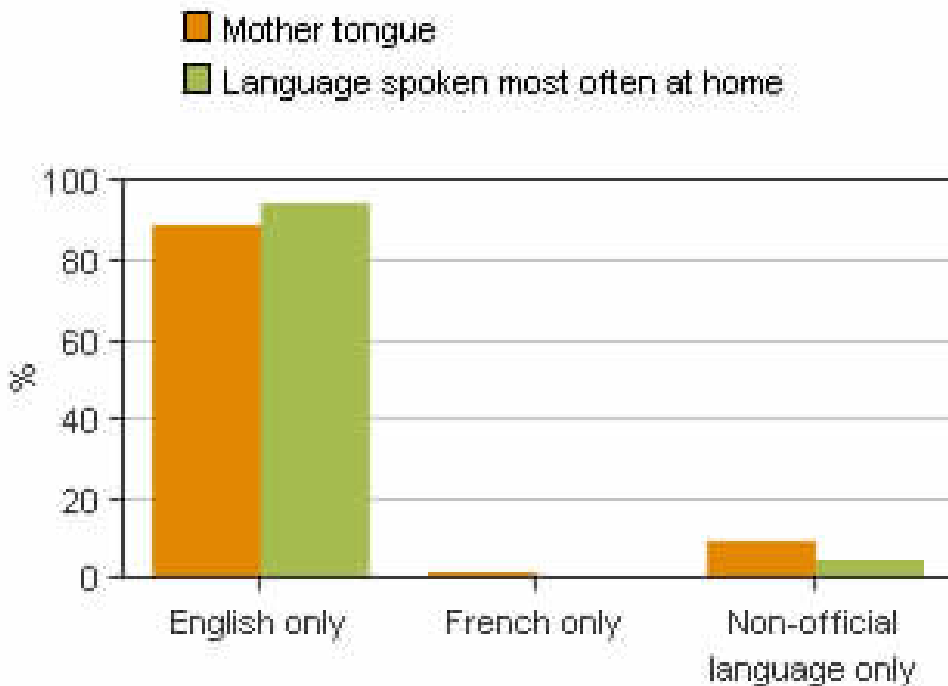
1. Spanish	225	25.9%
2. Tagalog	200	23.0%
3. German	185	21.3%
4. Dutch	90	10.3%
5. Arabic	50	5.7%
6. Ukrainian	35	4.0%
7. Biscayan languages	25	2.9%
8. Urdu	25	2.9%
9. Hungarian	20	2.3%
10. Chinese	15	1.7%

Mother Tongue Comparison, High River, Alberta, Canada, 2011

	High River	Alberta	Canada
English	88.7%	77.0%	56.9%
French	1.4%	1.9%	21.3%
Non-Official	9.0%	19.4%	19.8%

The majority of High River families (94.0%) reported speaking only English most often at home with a very small percentage speaking only French at home (0.2%) and 4.4 % of the population speaking an unofficial language most often at home.

High River Mother Tongue Comparison, 2011



Similarly to the provincial/ territorial percentages, with 85.7% for English only, 0.7% for French only and 10.5% for only a non-official language.

Aboriginal Demographics

In 2011, the number of working age Aboriginal persons living off-reserve in Alberta was 124,000. The estimated off-reserve population of Aboriginal persons (15+ years) in the Calgary economic region in 2011 was 30,900.⁷

In 2006, the Aboriginal population of High River was approximately 295 (2.3% of total population) with 57.6% female and 40.7% male.

The High River Medicine Tree was first discovered by the Blackfoot people. They set up camp under the tree and offered prayers to the spirits. They also would pray for good medicine and blessings of the land. The natives in their travels always made a practice of visiting the unusual tree. They would leave gifts of tobacco, dried meats, arrowheads, and songs of the spirits. It got its name from the natives because they believed it could heal people that were ill and it would bring them good luck if they would touch it.

Foothills School Division Student Story

⁷ Alberta Labour Force Profiles, 2011, Aboriginal People

HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES - ETHNICITY

The majority of the research participants (85%) self-identified their ethnicity as Caucasian. The sample group that were included in the visible minority category, 15% of the participants, were made up of 31% African, 19% Aboriginal – including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – and 19% Latino. The remaining ethnicities included Chinese, Filipino, and South East Asian. All participants in the sample group responded to this question providing researchers a clear understanding of the ethnicity in the sample population.

As outlined in the statistics for High River, the demographics of the community is indeed mostly Caucasian; however, there were a significant number of individuals with diverse ethnic backgrounds that wanted to participate in the research project and ultimately have their voices captured in the research.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Caucasian	89	84.8%
African	5	4.8%
Aboriginal	3	2.9%
Latino	3	2.9%
Chinese	2	1.9%
Filipino	2	1.9%
South East Asian	1	1.0%
Total	105	100.0%

PLACE OF BIRTH COMPARISON

As a direct result of economic opportunities in High River and the region, there are a number of immigrants moving to the High River community. In 2012 the research study titled “A Chance for A Better Life: Development of Immigrant Workforce in Smaller Communities in Rural Alberta, Bow Valley College” identified that the majority of immigrants to High River are from Asia and the Middle East (70.8%), with 95.9% of those immigrants from the Philippines. The same study highlighted that 76% of High River’s most recent immigrants are Permanent Residents and 24% are Temporary Foreign Workers.

Based on outcomes of this survey, a subsequent study identified a need in High River for enhanced immigrant services in the areas of English language learning, foreign qualification recognition support, and opportunities for newcomers to connect to the wider community. This study also noted that current immigrant services are experiencing capacity issues due to increasing client demand, and calls for better access to public transportation and affordable housing.⁸

High River Recent Immigrants, 2012

Recent Immigrants - Country of Origin	Number	Percentage
Total	274	
Asia and the Middle East	194	70.8%
Central and South America	44	16.1%
Africa	18	6.6%
Europe	10	3.6%
United States	8	2.9%

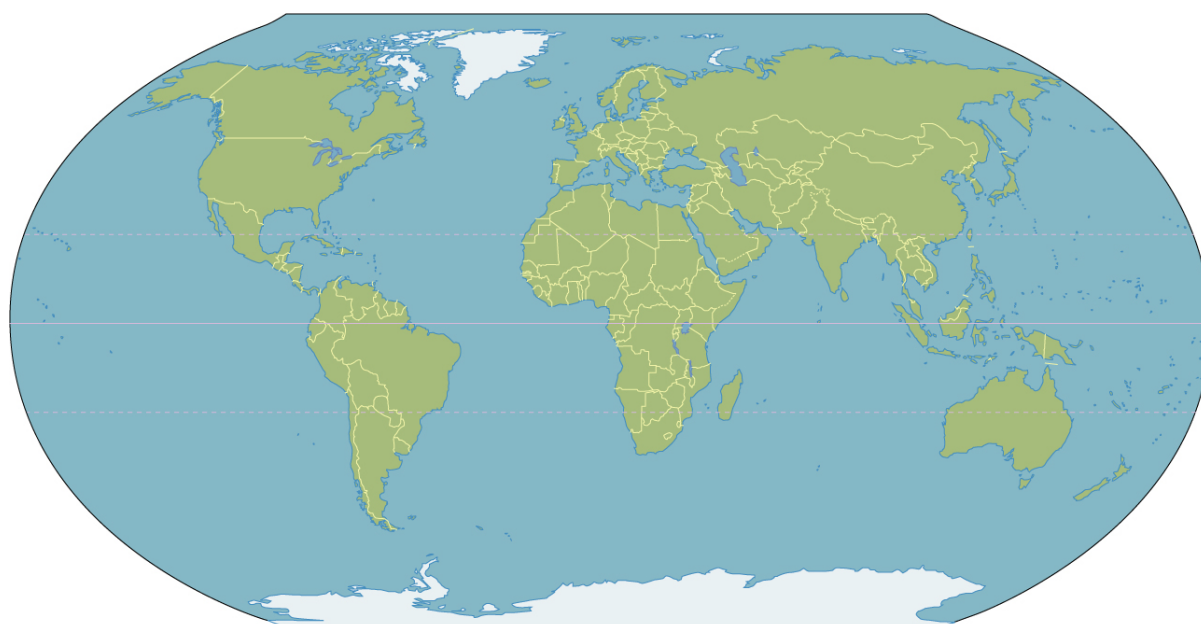
Canadian and Alberta Immigrants

When comparing where non-Canadian born residents are indeed born, the majority of the population immigrates from Asia and the Middle East (40.8%), followed by Europe (36.8%), which is consistent for both Alberta and Canada. A higher percentage of people from the United States immigrate to Alberta compared to Canadian immigration patterns; along with less immigrants from the Caribbean islands are choosing Albertan compared to the rest of Canada.

⁸ Bow Valley College, "A chance for a better life: Development of the Immigrant Workforce in Smaller Communities and Rural Alberta," September 2012)

Immigrant Place of Birth, 2011, Alberta and Canada, %

	Canada	Alberta
Total — Place of birth	6,186,950	527,030
United States	4.0%	5.4%
Central and South America	6.2%	5.9%
Caribbean and Bermuda	5.1%	2.0%
Europe	36.8%	35.6%
United Kingdom	9.4%	11.4%
Other Northern and Western Europe	7.9%	10.1%
Eastern Europe	8.3%	8.8%
Southern Europe	11.3%	5.3%
Africa	6.1%	6.7%
Asia and the Middle East	40.8%	42.8%
West Central Asia and the Middle East	6.0%	4.7%
Eastern Asia	14.1%	13.7%
Southeast Asia	9.1%	14.0%
Southern Asia	11.6%	10.4%
Oceania and other countries	1.0%	1.6%



High River Family Study Outcomes – Place of Birth

Participants’ Place of Birth

The table below shows the birthplace region of all participants. Global regions have been generalized to protect confidentiality of participants. Canadian birthplaces represent the largest majority of birthplaces, yet non-Canadian birthplaces still account for 20% of all participants. Non-Canadian birthplaces are fairly evenly distributed between other regions, with African, Asian, and American birthplaces all representing a frequency of 5.

Participant birth region can in no way be taken as representative of the enormity of diversity in language, culture, or subject position from these regions. These areas are comprised of many countries and regions themselves, each with levels of differences that this study cannot even begin to comment on. The sample size of participants is miniscule in comparison to the larger population, both in Canada and Globally.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Place of Birth, Global Region

Location	Number	Percentage
Canada	84	80.0%
Asia	5	4.8%
Africa	5	4.8%
United States	5	4.8%
United Kingdom	4	3.8%
Central America	2	1.9%
Total	105	100.0%

Of the 84 participants who indicated they were born in Canada, 59.5% indicated they were born in the province of Alberta. The majority of the participants were born in Western Canada (82.1%) with the remaining of the Canadian born sample population in Eastern Canada (17.9%)

High River Family Study Outcomes: Place of Birth, Canada

Location	Number	Percentage
Alberta	50	59.5%
Ontario	13	15.5%
British Columbia	11	13.1%
Saskatchewan	6	7.1%
Maritimes	2	2.4%
Quebec	1	1.2%
Manitoba	1	1.2%
Total	84	100.0%

Of those participants who were born in Alberta, the majority started their lives in Calgary with 45.8% of the sample population. Almost 13% of the participants were originally from High River. The research does not provide clarity about if this smaller subsample has always been living in High River or recently moved back.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Place of Birth, Alberta

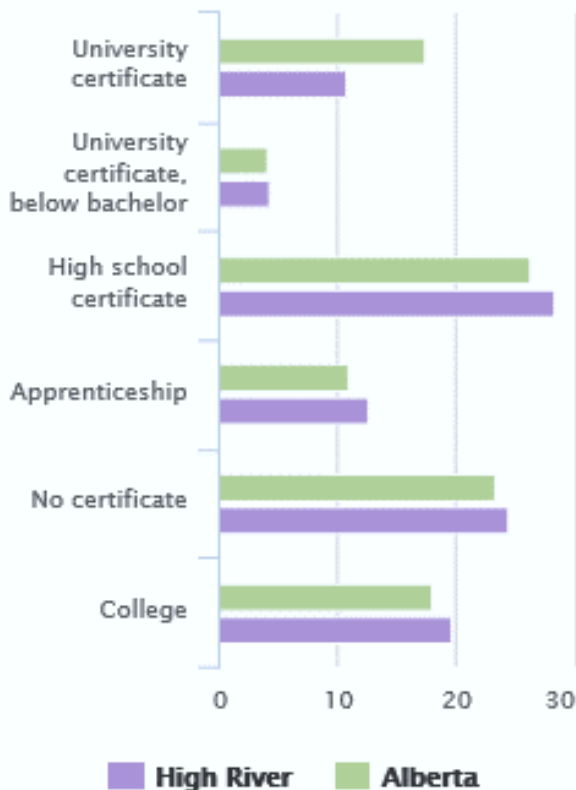
Location	Number	Percentage
Calgary	22	45.8%
High River	6	12.5%
Edmonton	5	10.4%
Lethbridge	2	4.2%
Red Deer	2	4.2%
Ft. McMurray	1	2.1%
White Court	1	2.1%
Taber	1	2.1%
Cardston	1	2.1%
Drumheller	1	2.1%
Turner Valley	1	2.1%
Pincher Creek	1	2.1%
Vulcan	1	2.1%
Sundre	1	2.1%
Jasper	1	2.1%
Coleman	1	2.1%
Total	48	100%

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

In 2006 in High River over 47% of the population over the age of 15 years held a post-secondary credential and conversely, 24% of High River's residents age 15 and over had no certificate, diploma, or degree. In 2011, there were 163 high school graduates – with 41 transitioned directly to post-secondary education (25%), with the majority of those individuals choosing to attend an institution outside the Calgary region (63.4%).

Highest Education Level Attained, High River 2006 Census Data

Highest Education Level Attained	Number	Percentage
No Response	5,324	62.1%
High School Certificate or Equivalent	2,425	28.3%
No Certificate, Diploma, or Degree	2,095	24.4%
College, CEGEP or other non-University Certificate or Diploma	1,685	19.7%
Apprenticeship or Trades Certificate or Diploma	1,080	12.6%
University Certificate, Diploma, or Degree	925	10.8%
University Certificate or Diploma below the Bachelor Level	360	4.2%
Total Population 15 Years and Over	8,570	



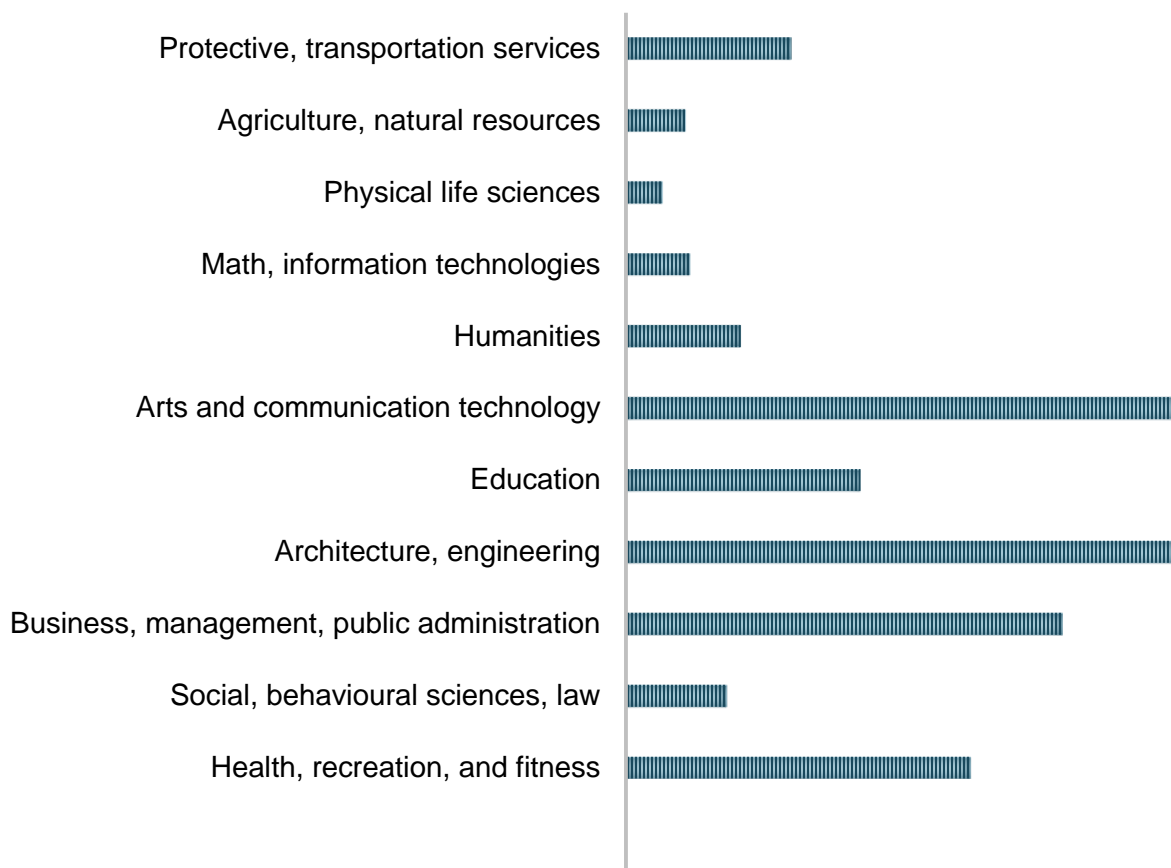
In comparison with Alberta education attainment status, High River's population had more high school graduates and apprenticeship and college certificate holders in 2006.

The population in Alberta has more university degree holders than compared to High River's education attainment.

Area of Study, High River and Alberta, 2006 Census Data

	High River	Alberta
Architecture, engineering	12.0%	13.6%
Arts and communication technology	12.0%	13.6%
Business, management, public administration	9.5%	10.3%
Health, recreation, and fitness	7.5%	7.3%
Education	5.1%	4.0%
Protective, transportation services	3.6%	3.8%
Humanities	2.5%	2.0%
Social, behavioural sciences, law	2.2%	4.0%
Math, information technologies	1.4%	1.7%
Agriculture, natural resources	1.3%	1.4%
Physical life sciences	0.8%	1.9%

AREAS OF STUDY, HIGH RIVER 2006



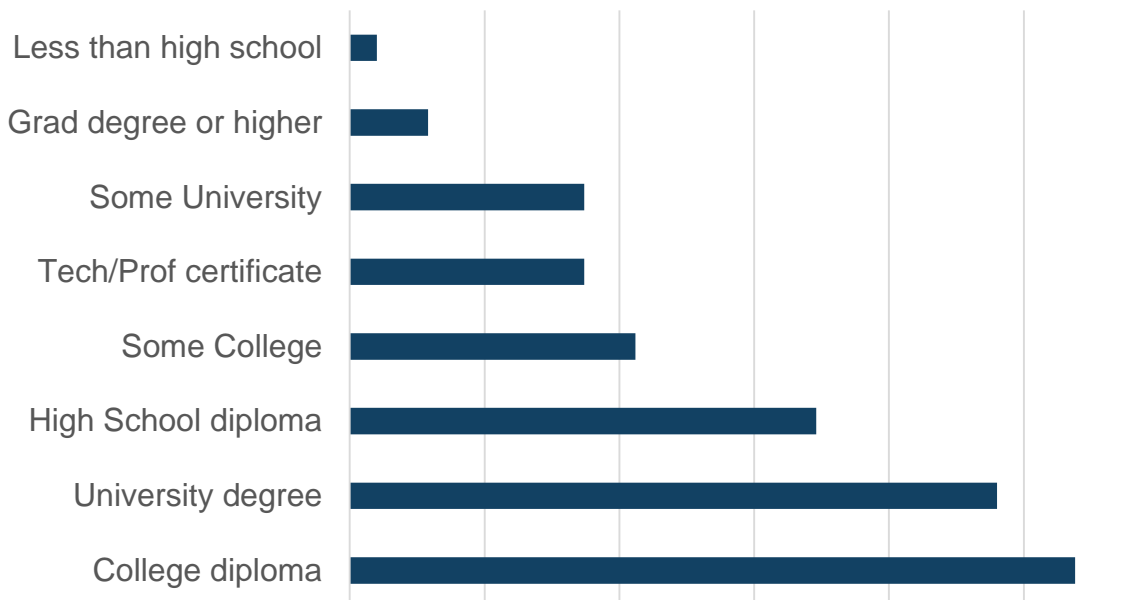
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Education

The majority of research participants completed a credentialed program with a degree, diploma, or certificate (62.5%); with college diploma being the most frequent credential (26.9%) closely followed by university degree (24%).

High River Family Study Outcomes: Education

Highest Level	Respondents	Percentage
College diploma	28	26.9 %
University degree	25	24.0 %
High School diploma	18	17.3 %
Some College	11	10.6 %
Tech/Prof certificate	9	8.7 %
Some University	9	8.7 %
Grad degree or higher	3	2.9 %
Less than high school	1	1.0 %
Total	104	100.0 %

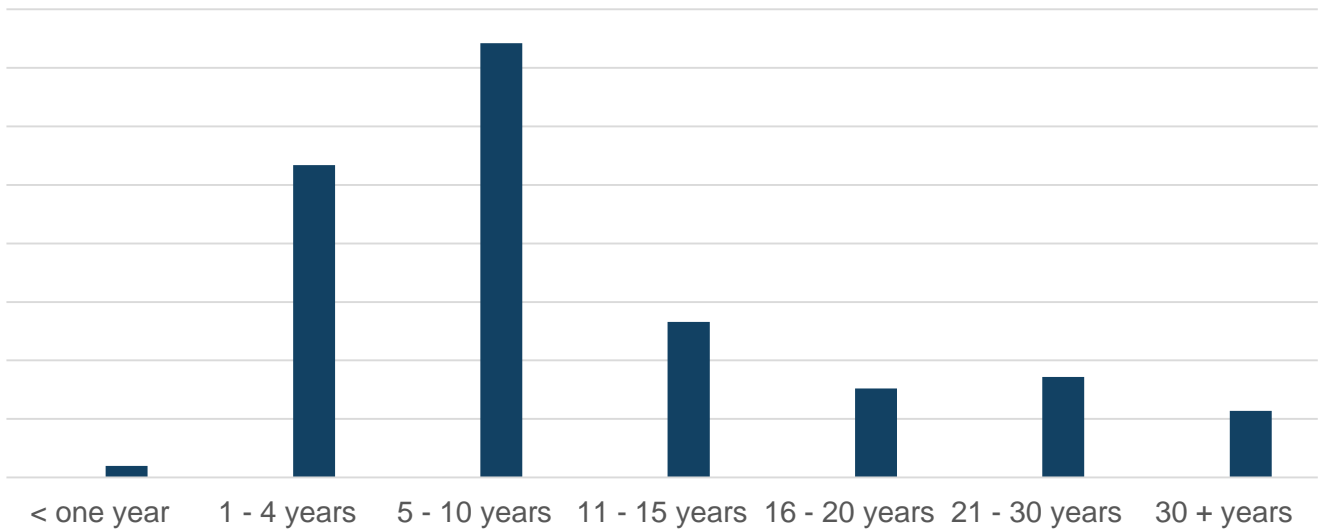


HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – YEARS LIVING IN HIGH RIVER

The majority of the research project participants lived in High River for over five years (50.4%). Just over one quarter of the sample were relatively new to High River, having lived in the community for less than five years (27.7%). Longtime residents also participated in the project representing 14.3% of the sample population.

Timeframe	Respondents	Percentage
< one year	1	1.0%
1 - 4 years	28	26.7%
5 - 10 years	39	37.1%
11 - 15 years	14	13.3%
16 - 20 years	8	7.6%
21 - 30 years	9	8.6%
30 + years	6	5.7%
	105	

Number of Years in High River

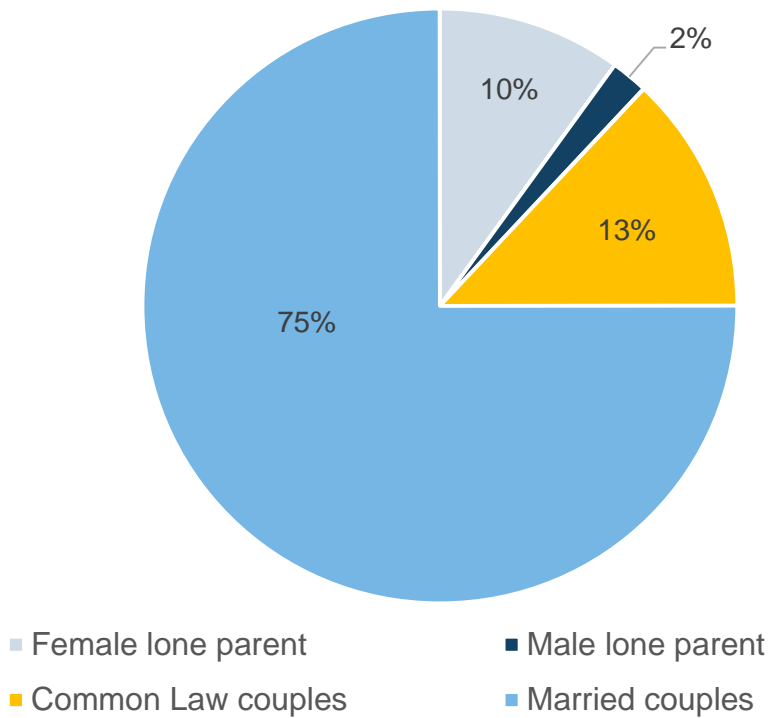


TYPES OF FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS IN HIGH RIVER

There were 5,260 private households in High River in 2011, a change of 25.7% from 2006. Of these, 25.8% of the households were comprised of couples with children aged 24 and under at home, a change of 15.3% compared with five years earlier.

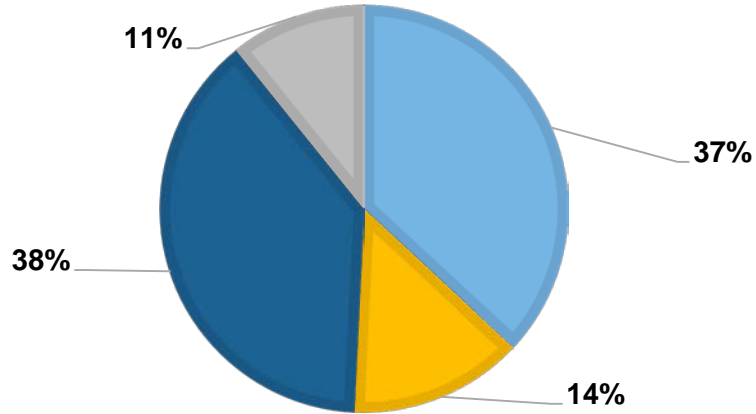
Family Characteristics	2011
Total Private Households with Children	1,900
Households Containing a Couple with Children	1,445
Total Married Couples with Children	1,255
Total Lone Parent Families	455
Female	390
Male	65
Total Common-Law Couples with Children	190

FAMILY TYPES IN HIGH RIVER



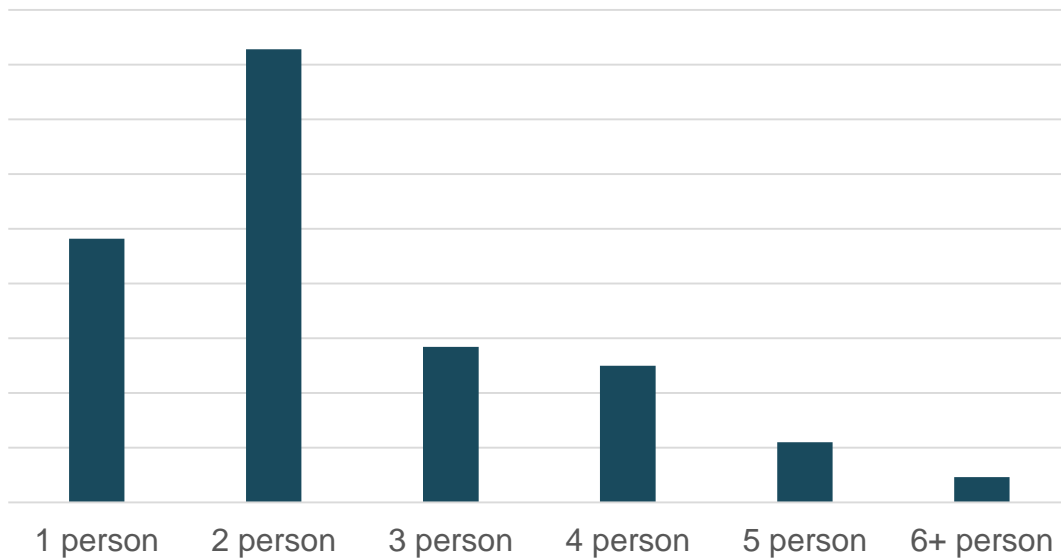
HOUSEHOLD TYPES IN HIGH RIVER

- One person households
- One-family households with children
- Other
- Lone-parent family households



The majority of High River residents live in a private household with an average of 2.8 family members.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE, HIGH RIVER 2011



For individuals over the age of 65, in 2011 there were over 2300 mature residents living in High River (49% male and 51% female) with over 20% live on their own.

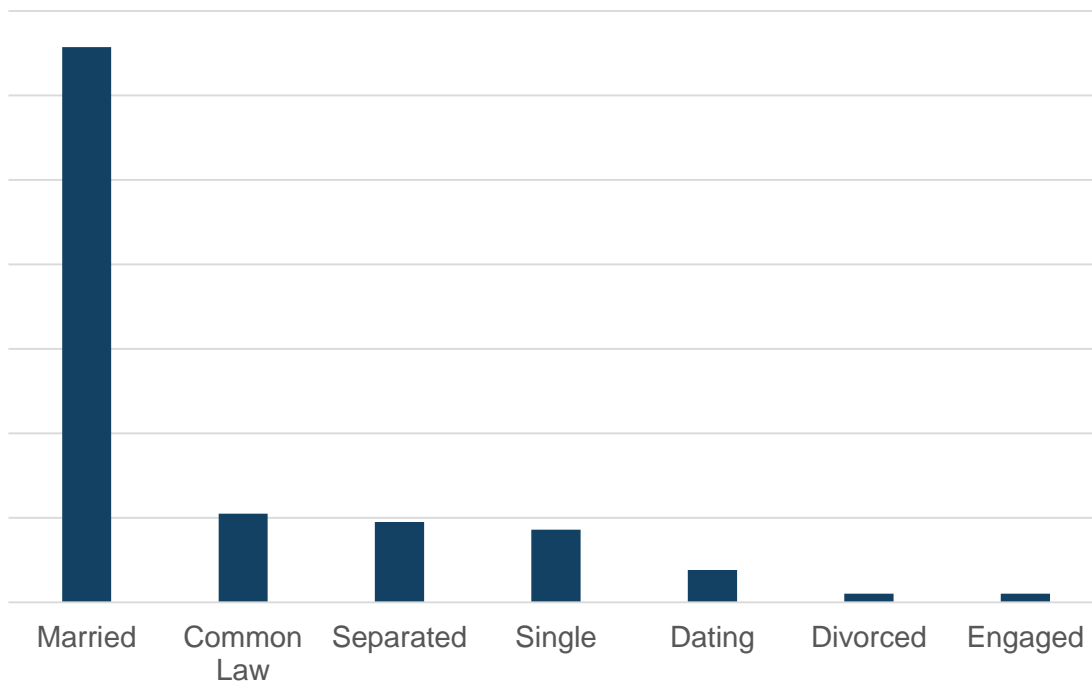
HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

The majority of participants (66%) reported “married” as their relationship status, which is in alignment with the survey requirement that they have children under 18 who live at home. Seventy-seven percent of the participants were in some form of relationship, including married, common-law, or engaged. The remaining 23% were either: divorced, separated, single, or dating.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Relationship Status at Time of Flood

Status	Number	Percentage
Married	69	65.7 %
Common Law	11	10.5 %
Separated	10	9.5 %
Single	9	8.6 %
Dating	4	3.8 %
Divorced	1	1.0 %
Engaged	1	1.0 %
Total	105	100.0 %

RELATIONSHIP STATUS AT TIME OF FLOOD

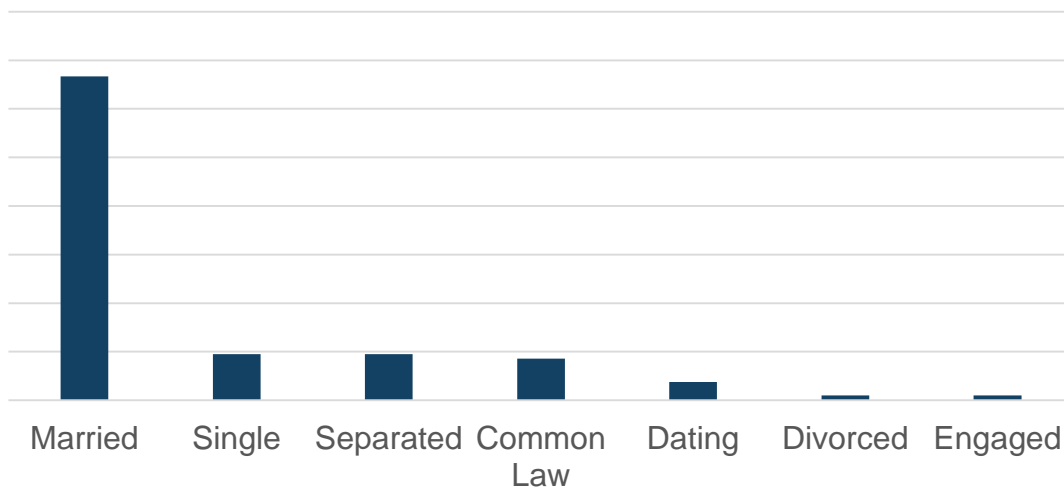


At the time of the survey, there were small changes in relationship status in the sample population. Most notably, a decrease in the number of common law partners, an increase in the single and married status.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Relationship Status at Time of Survey

Status	Respondents	Percentage
Married	70	66.7 %
Single	10	9.5 %
Separated	10	9.5 %
Common Law	9	8.6 %
Dating	4	3.8 %
Divorced	1	1.0 %
Engaged	1	1.0 %
Total	105	100.0 %

Relationship Status at Time of Survey

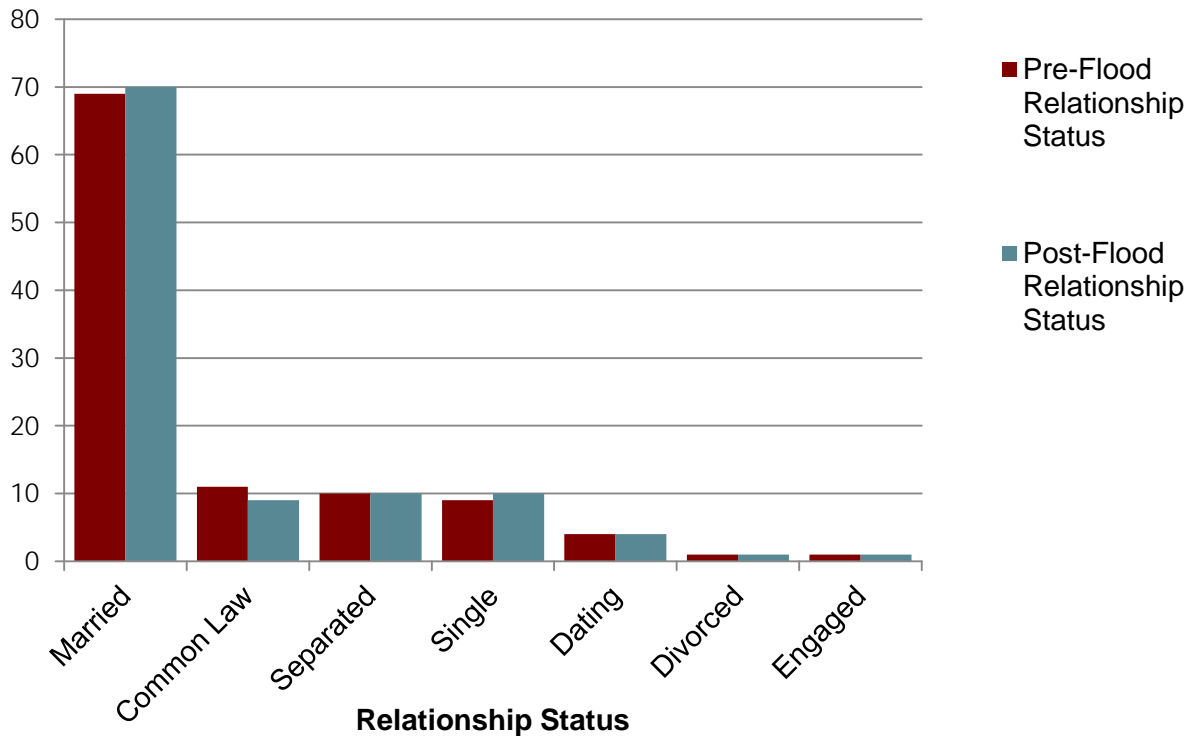


A small number of respondents (7.6%) changed their relationship status in the year since the flood, but these shifts did not have a significant impact on the overall changes in relationships.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Change in Relationship Status

Change in relationship status	Number	Percentage
Yes	8	7.6 %
No	97	92.4 %
Total	105	100.0 %

PRE- AND POST-FLOOD RELATIONSHIP STATUS COMPARISON



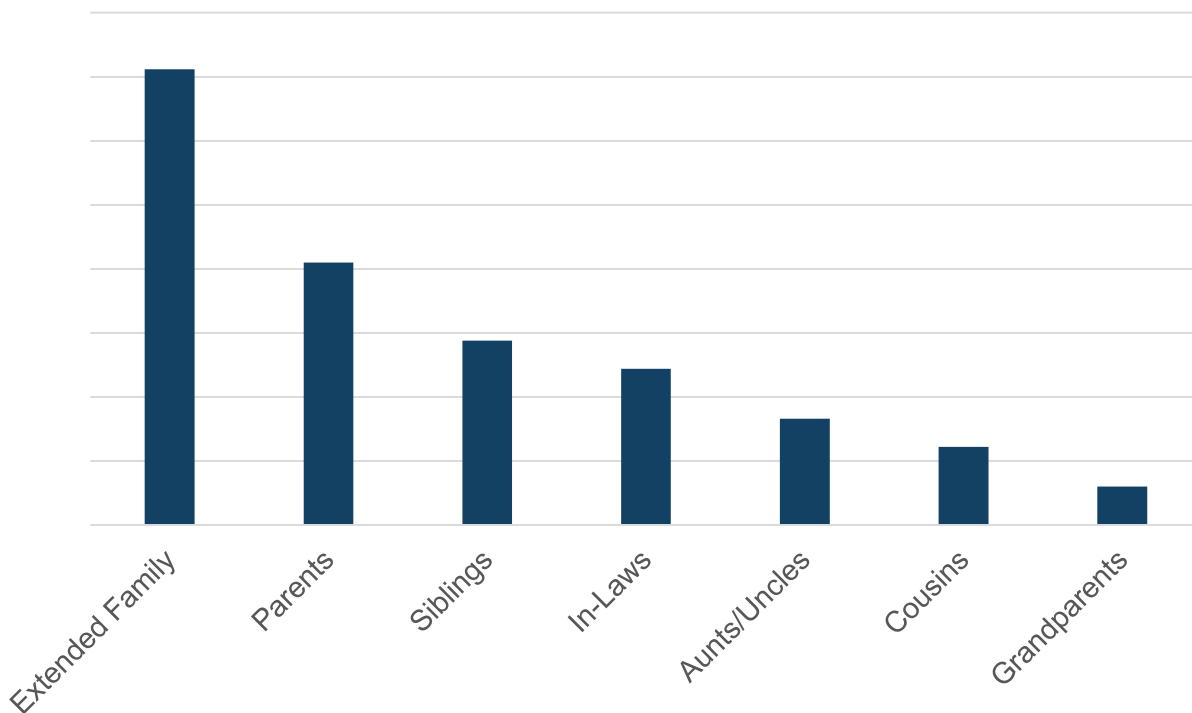
High River Family Study Outcomes: Extended Family in High River

The below table illustrates the number of participants who responded “yes” to the corresponding types of extended families in High River. About 36% of respondents indicated that they had extended family in High River; with 20% having parents and 14% with siblings in High River. Participants could answer yes to more than one option.

Extended Family in High River

Family Frequencies	Number	Percentage
Extended Family	47	35.6%
Parents	27	20.5%
Siblings	19	14.4%
In-Laws	16	12.2%
Aunts/Uncles	11	8.3%
Cousins	8	6.1%
Grandparents	4	3.0%
Total	132	100.0%

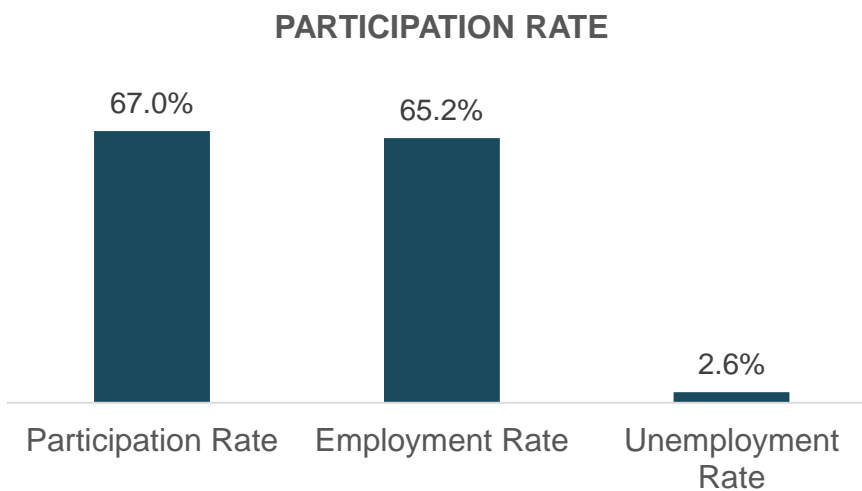
EXTENDED FAMILIES IN HIGH RIVER



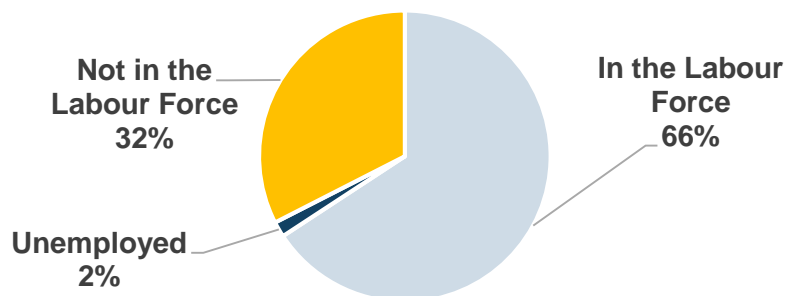
WORK AND INCOME

The majority of High River population in 2006 were participating in the labour force with only 1.8% unemployed – which is slightly lower than the provincial average of 3.2%. Nearly one third of the population in High River indicated they were not in the labour force, mainly due to the high percentage of seniors living in High River and to some extent stay at home parents.

High River Labour Market Participation Rates, 2006⁹



LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY IN HIGH RIVER, 2006



⁹ Bow Valley College. (2013). *Community and Human Resources Profile: High River*. Calgary, Alberta: Bow Valley College Marketing & Communications.

Type of Occupation	Number	Percentage
Sales and Service	1,345	23.5%
Trades, Transport, and Equipment	1,155	20.2%
Business and Finance	945	16.5%
Management	555	9.7%
Processing and Manufacturing	390	23.5%
Social Science, Education, Government, and Religion	385	6.7%
Health	340	5.9%
Primary Industry	260	4.5%
Natural and Applied Sciences	230	4.0%
Art, Culture, and Recreation	105	1.8%
Total Experienced Labour Force 15 Years and Over	5,725	

High River Occupations, by Industry 2011

HIGH RIVER OCCUPATIONS



HIGH RIVER FAMILY STUDY OUTCOMES – INCOME PRE-FLOOD

The majority of participants (60%) reported a household income between \$25,000 and \$100,000. Within this range, the most common income bracket was \$50,000 - \$75,000, with 27% of households falling into this category.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Income Pre-Flood

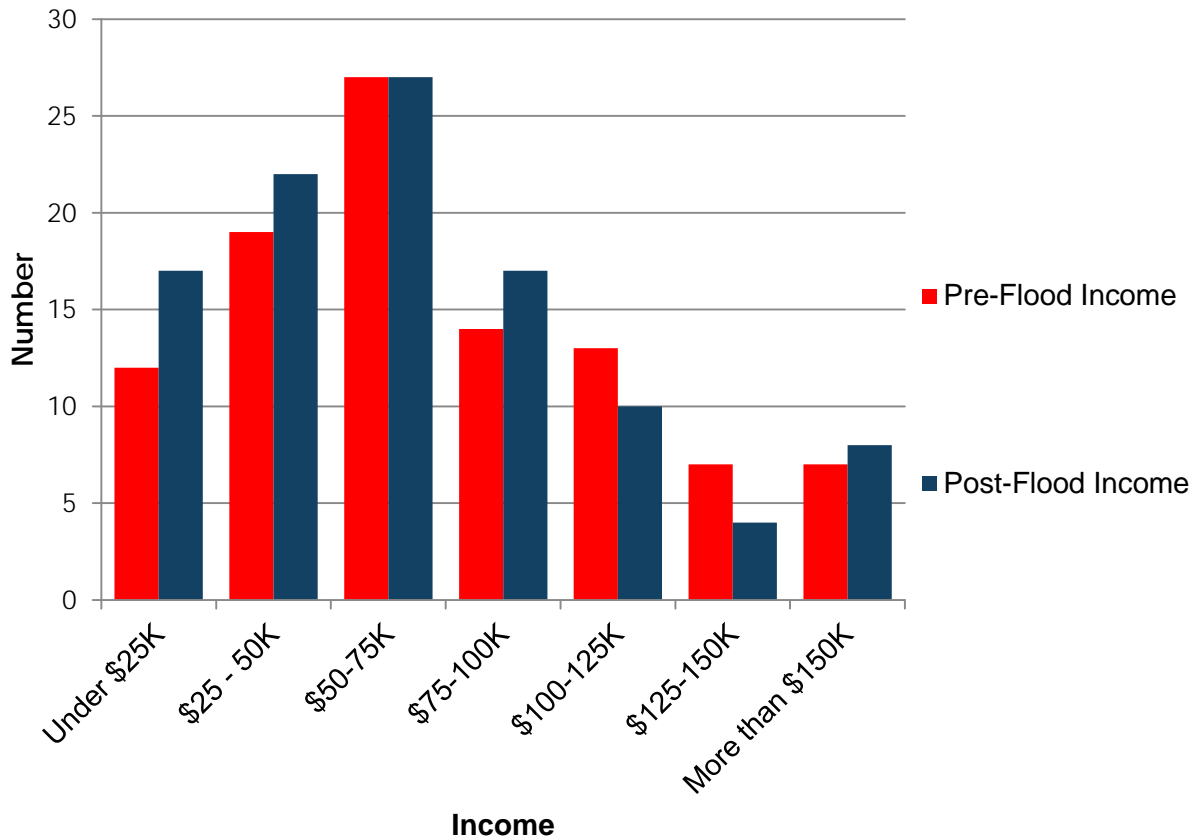
Level	Number	Percentage
Under \$25K	12	12.1 %
\$25 - 50K	19	18.1 %
\$50-75K	27	27.3 %
\$75-100K	14	14.1 %
\$100-125K	13	13.1 %
\$125-150K	7	7.1 %
More than \$150K	7	7.1 %
Total	99	100.0 %

When post-flood income is compared with pre-flood income, the number of households in the lower income brackets (under \$25,000 and \$25,000 – \$50,000) increased, while the number of households in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 – \$125,000 and \$125,000 – \$150,000) decreased. This indicates a downward trend in income as a potential result of the flood. The exception to this trend is the \$150,000 or higher bracket, which saw an increase in households.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Income Post-Flood

Level	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Under \$25K	17	16.2 %
\$25-50K	22	21.0 %
\$50-75K	27	25.7 %
\$75-100K	17	16.2 %
\$100 -125K	10	9.5 %
\$125-150K	4	3.8 %
More than \$150K	8	7.6 %
Total	105	100.0 %

Pre-Flood and Post-Flood Income Comparison

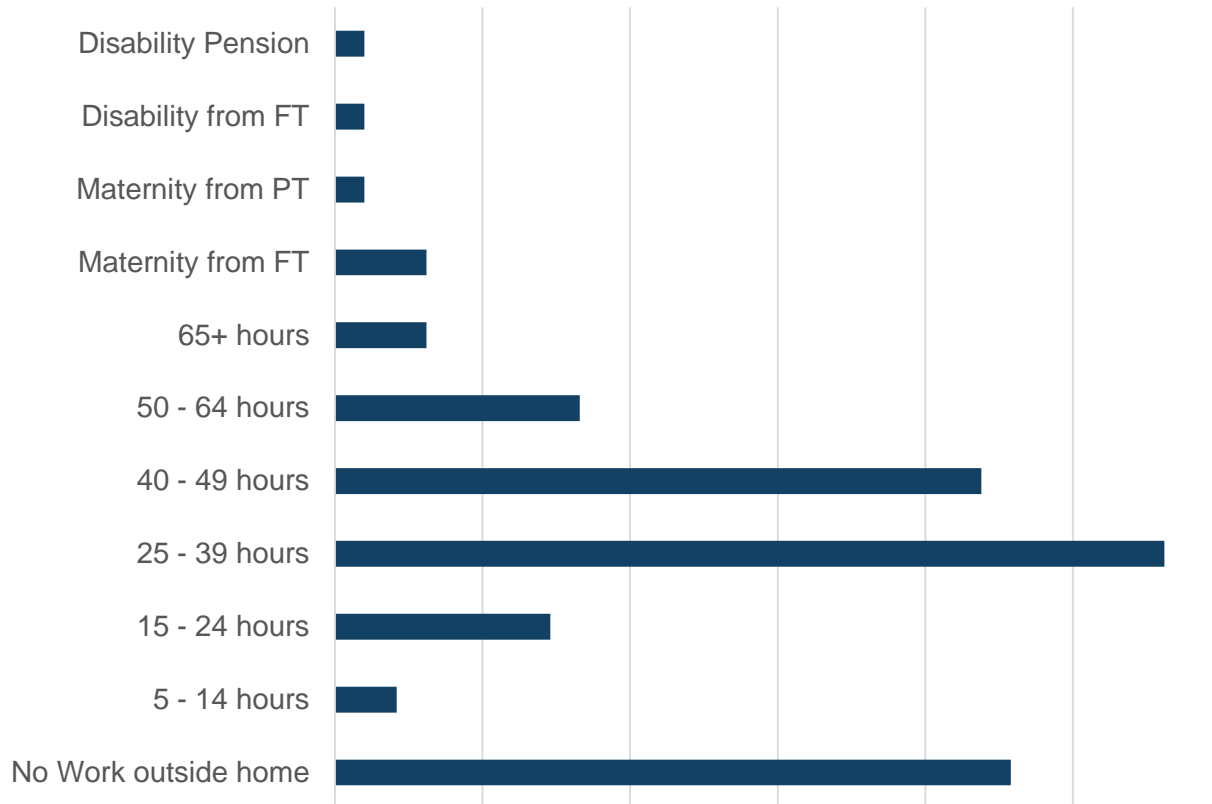


The majority of participants (71%) reported that they work outside of the home, with 50% of respondents working between 25 and 49 hours per week. 29% of respondents indicated that they do not work outside the home; instead they either raise their children full-time or they are on a leave form work. 33% of participants indicated that they worked more than 40 hours per week, and 11% indicated working more than 50 hours per week.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Hours Spent at Work

<i>Hours per week</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No Work outside home</i>	22	22.9%
<i>5 - 14 hours</i>	2	2.1%
<i>15 - 24 hours</i>	7	7.3%
<i>25 - 39 hours</i>	27	28.1%
<i>40 - 49 hours</i>	21	21.9%
<i>50 - 64 hours</i>	8	8.3%
<i>65+ hours</i>	3	3.1%
<i>Maternity from FT</i>	3	3.1%
<i>Maternity from PT</i>	1	1.0%
<i>Disability from FT</i>	1	1.0%
<i>Disability Pension</i>	1	1.0%
Total	96	100.0 %

HOURS SPENT AT WORK



High River Family Study Outcomes: Work Location

The majority of participants (75.5%) reported that they work in High River, with 92% of locations falling inside the Foothills region; 7% of respondents work in Calgary.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Work Location

Area	Number	Percentage
High River	74	75.5 %
MD Foothills	9	9.2 %
Calgary	7	7.1 %
Okotoks	4	4.1 %
Nanton	3	3.1 %
Ponoka	1	1.0 %
Total	98	100.0 %

High River Family Study Outcomes: Industry Sector

The most popular occupational industry sector reported (31.4% of participants) was the category of “Management, Health, Arts, Culture, and Education,” which includes teachers, health service workers, and non-profit sector jobs. Participants working in Sales and Services positions made up 22.5% of respondents, while those who indicated they do not work outside the home made up 21.6% of respondents.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Industry Sector

Industry Sector	Number	Percentage
Management, Health, Arts, Culture, Education	32	31.4%
Sales & Services	23	22.5%
Homemaker	22	21.6%
Business, Finance & Administration	16	15.7%
Trades & Transport	9	8.8%
Total	102	100.0%

*Occupations were recoded into groups to protect participant confidentiality, as well as to more broadly describe occupational trends

Participants generally reported a higher number of hours per week worked by their spouse outside the home, with only 17% of participant’s spouses working less than 40 hours per week, including the 8.3% who do not work outside the home. 83% of respondents indicated that their spouses work more than 40 hours per week and 26% indicated that their spouses work more than 50 hours per week.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Spouse Work Hours

Hours	Number	Percentage
Does not work outside the home	7	8.3%
5 - 14 hours	1	1.2%
15 - 24 hours	2	2.4%
25 - 39 hours	4	4.8%
40 - 49 hours	48	57.1%
50 - 64 hours	18	21.4%
65+ hours	4	4.8%
Total	84	100.0%

Compared with participants, a higher number of spouses work outside of High River. 72% of spouses are reported to be working in High River and the surrounding communities and 23.5% of spouses work in Calgary. A small number of spouses (5%) work in communities a significant distance from High River, such as Lloydminster or Grande Prairie.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Spouse Work Locations

Location	Number	Percentage
High River and surrounding area	58	68.2%
Calgary	20	23.5%
Northern Alberta (Oil)	2	2.4%
Blackie	1	1.2%
Okotoks	1	1.2%
Vulcan	1	1.2%
Lloydminster	1	1.2%
Grande Prairie	1	1.2%
Total	85	100.0%

The industry sectors that employ participants’ spouses are quite different than the industry sectors that employ the participants directly. Almost 50% of spouses work in the Trades and Transport industry and close to 20% work in the area of Business, Finance and Administration.

The two most popular industry sectors among participants – Management, Health, Arts, Culture & Education; and Sales & Services – employed only 24% of spouses.

Notably, 17 cases were missing from this frequency.

Comparison between Participant and Spouse Occupation, Industry Sector

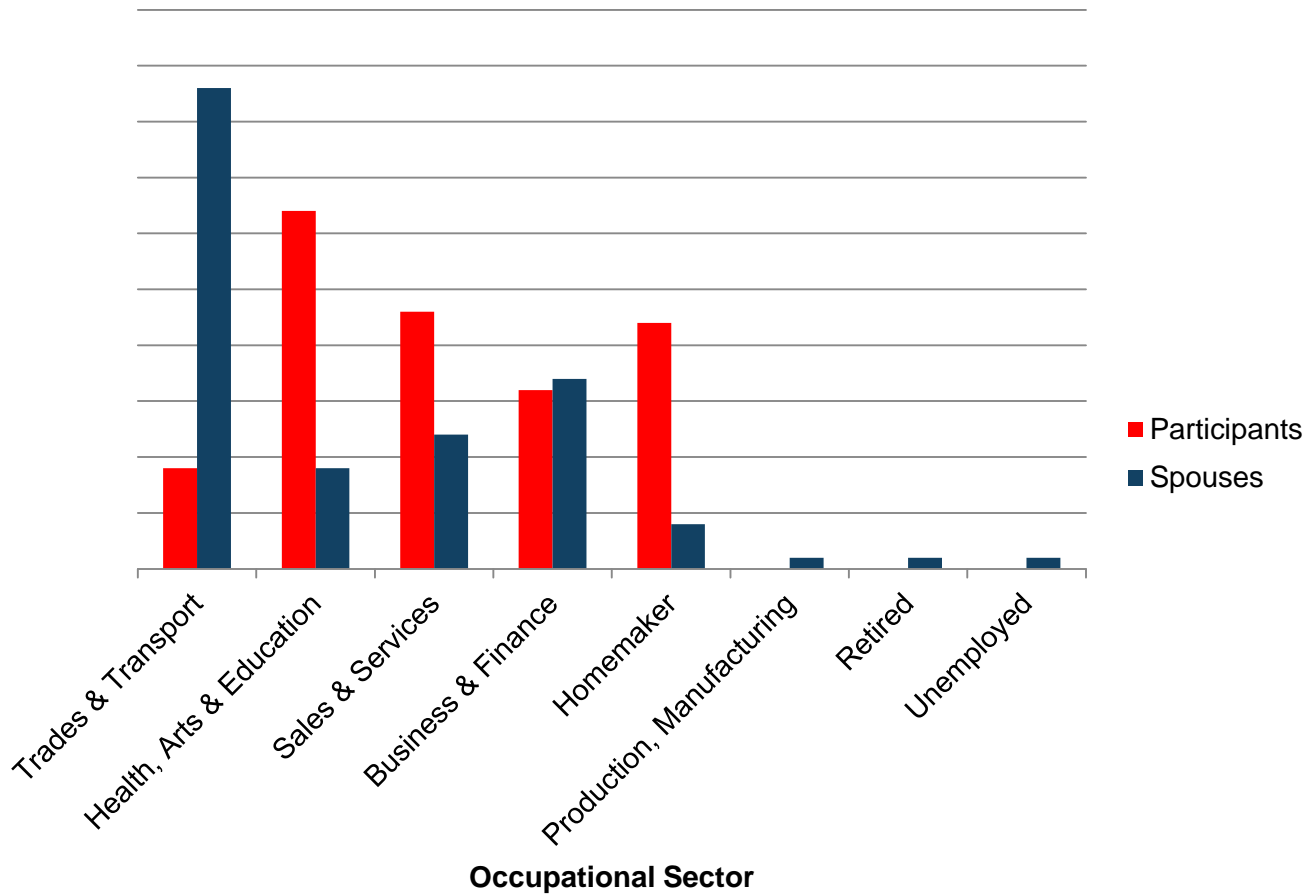
Group	Number	Percentage
Trades & Transport	43	48.9%
Business, Finance & Administration	17	19.3%
Sales & Services	12	13.6%
Management, Health, Arts, Culture & Education	9	10.2%
Homemaker	4	4.5%
Production, Manufacturing	1	1.1%
Retired	1	1.1%
Unemployed	1	1.1%
Total	88	100.0%

When the occupation sectors of both participants and their spouses are considered together, the most common sectors are: Trades & Transport (27.5%), Management, Health, Arts, Culture & Education (21.7%), Sales & Services (18.5%), and Business, Finance & Administration (17.5%).

High River Family Study Outcomes: Occupational Totals, Industry Sector

Group	Number	Percentage
Trades & Transport	52	27.5%
Management, Health, Arts, Culture & Education	41	21.7%
Sales & Services	35	18.5%
Business, Finance & Administration	33	17.5%
Homemaker	26	13.8%
Production & Manufacturing	1	0.5%
Retired	1	0.5%
Total	189	100.0%

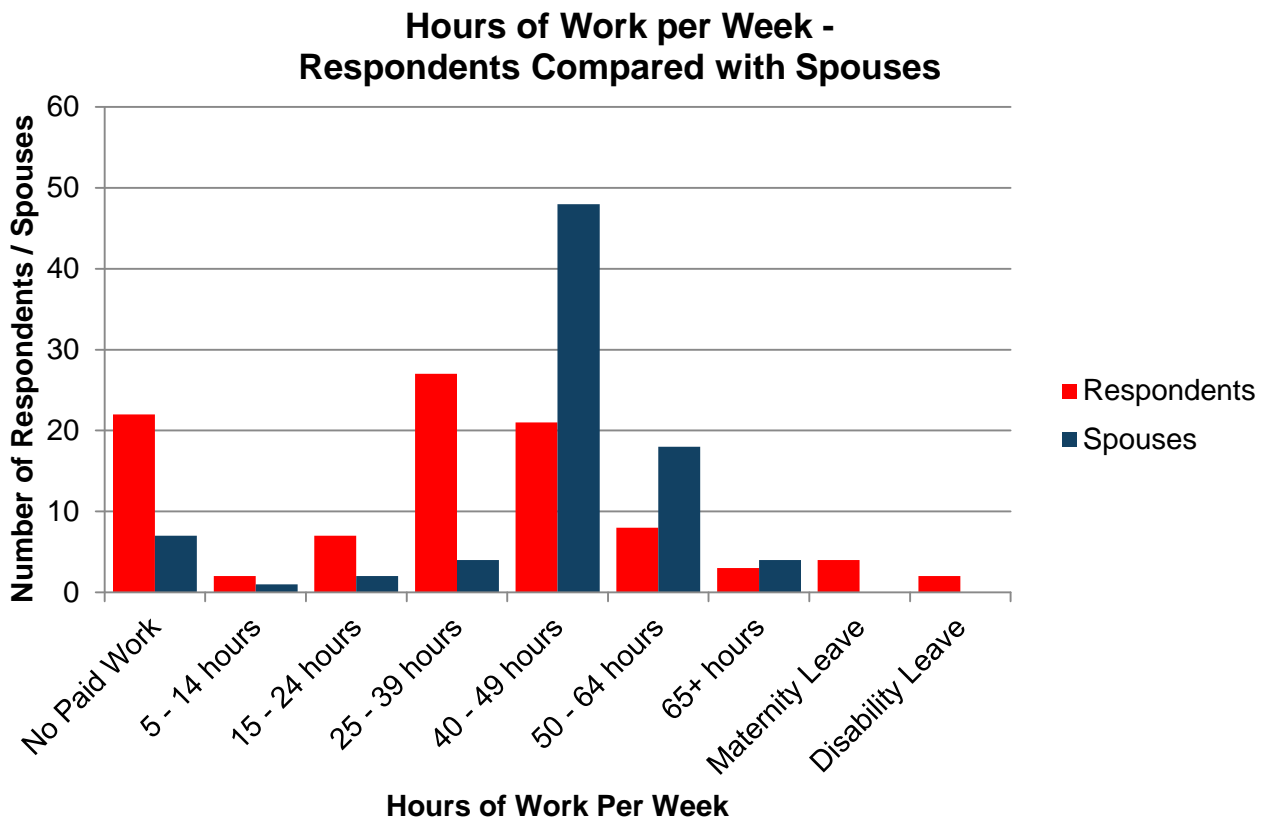
COMPARISON BETWEEN PARTICIPANT AND SPOUSE INDUSTRY SECTORS



When the work hours of both participants and spouses are considered together, 62% of respondents work between 30 and 59 hours per week. 24% of respondents either work less than 20 hours per week, do not work outside the home, or have taken a leave from work. 57% of respondents work more than what is generally considered a full-time workweek (40 hours), 18% work more than 50 hours per week, and 7% work more than 60 hours per week.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Working Hours Participants and Spouses

Hours per Week	Number	Percentage
Does Not Work Outside the Home	29	16.1%
0 - 9	2	1.1%
19-Oct	6	3.3%
20 - 29	13	7.2%
30 - 39	22	12.2%
40 - 49	69	38.3%
50 - 59	20	11.1%
60 - 69	7	3.9%
70 - 79	1	0.6%
80 - 89	4	2.2%
90 - 99	1	0.6%
Maternity Leave	4	2.2%
Disability Leave or Pension	2	1.1%
Total	180	100.0%



DEPENDENTS

High River Family Characteristics, 2006-2011¹⁰

Family Characteristics	2006	2011
Total Married Couples with Children	-	1,255
Total Common-Law Couples with Children	-	190
Households Containing a Couple with Children	1,175	1,445
Total Lone Parent Families	405	455
	(Female 345)	(Female 390)
	(Male 60)	(Male 65)
Total Private Households with Children	1,580	1,900

High River Family Study Outcomes: Number of Dependents

The vast majority of participants (93%) reported having between 1 and 4 children. The most common number of children was 2, reported by 41% of participants. Close to one quarter (23.8%) of participants reported having 1 child, while 19% reporting having 3 children. Since having at least one child living at home was a requirement of participating in the research project, no participants reporting having 0 children.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Number of Dependents

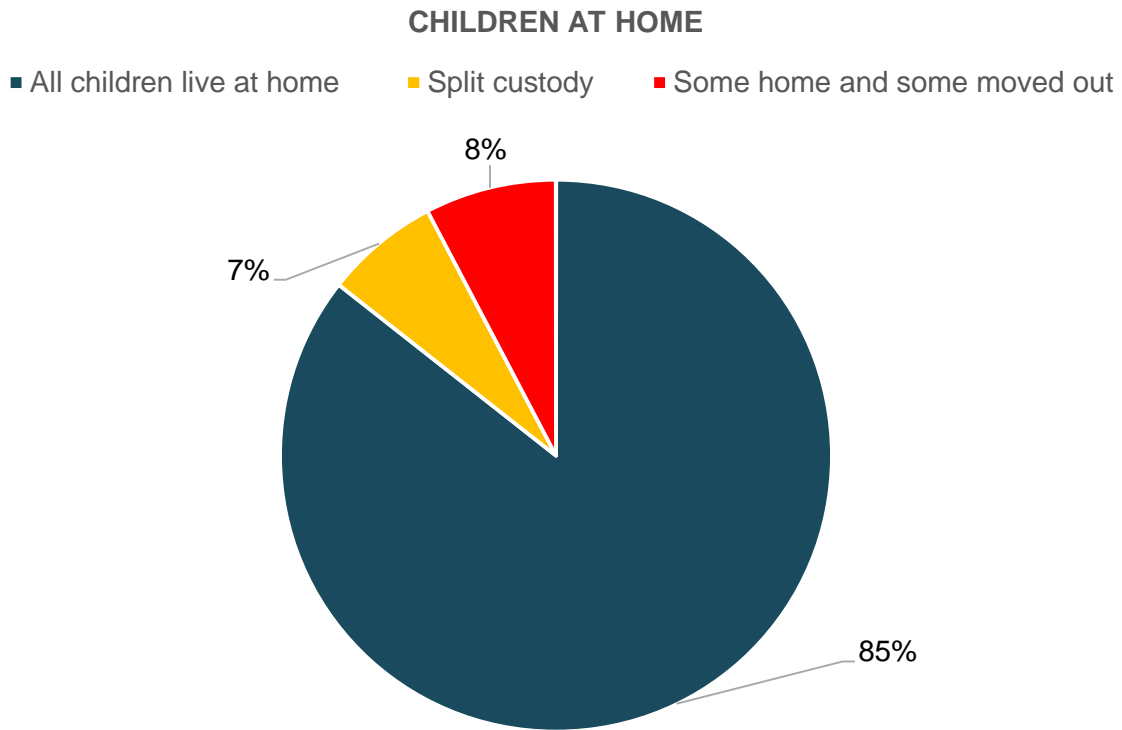
Number of Children	Number	Percentage
1	25	23.8%
2	43	41.0%
3	20	19.0%
4	10	9.5%
5	2	1.9%
6	1	1.0%
7	2	1.9%
9	2	1.9%
Total	105	100.0%

¹⁰ Bow Valley College. (2013). *Community and Human Resources Profile: High River*. Calgary, Alberta: Bow Valley College Marketing & Communications.

The majority of the participants (85.6%) reported that all of their children live at home with them. The remaining participants either reported split custody (6.7%) or that some of their children have already moved out (7.7%).

High River Family Study Outcomes: Children at Home

Response	Number	Percentage
All children live at home	89	85.6%
Split custody	7	6.7%
Some home and some moved out	8	7.7%
Total	104	100.0%

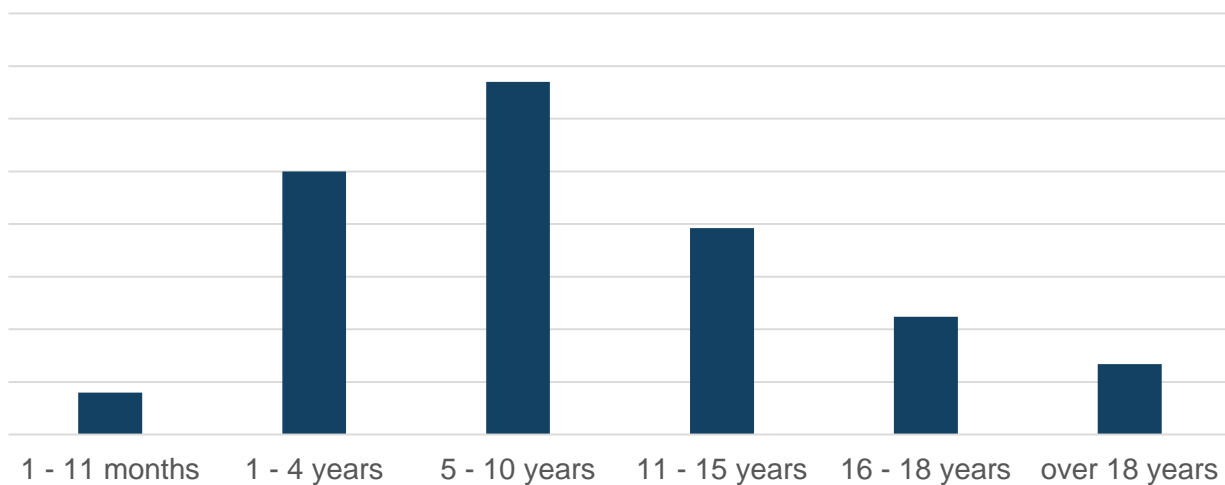


The majority of the children of the participants (78%) were between the ages of 1 and 15. The most common age bracket was 5-10 years (33.5% of children were in this group), followed by 1-4 years, which included 25% of children.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Age of Children

Age	Number	Percentage
1 - 11 months	9	4.0%
1 - 4 years	56	25.0%
5 - 10 years	75	33.5%
11 - 15 years	44	19.6%
16 - 18 years	25	11.2%
over 18 years	15	6.7%
Total	224	100.0%

AGE OF CHILDREN

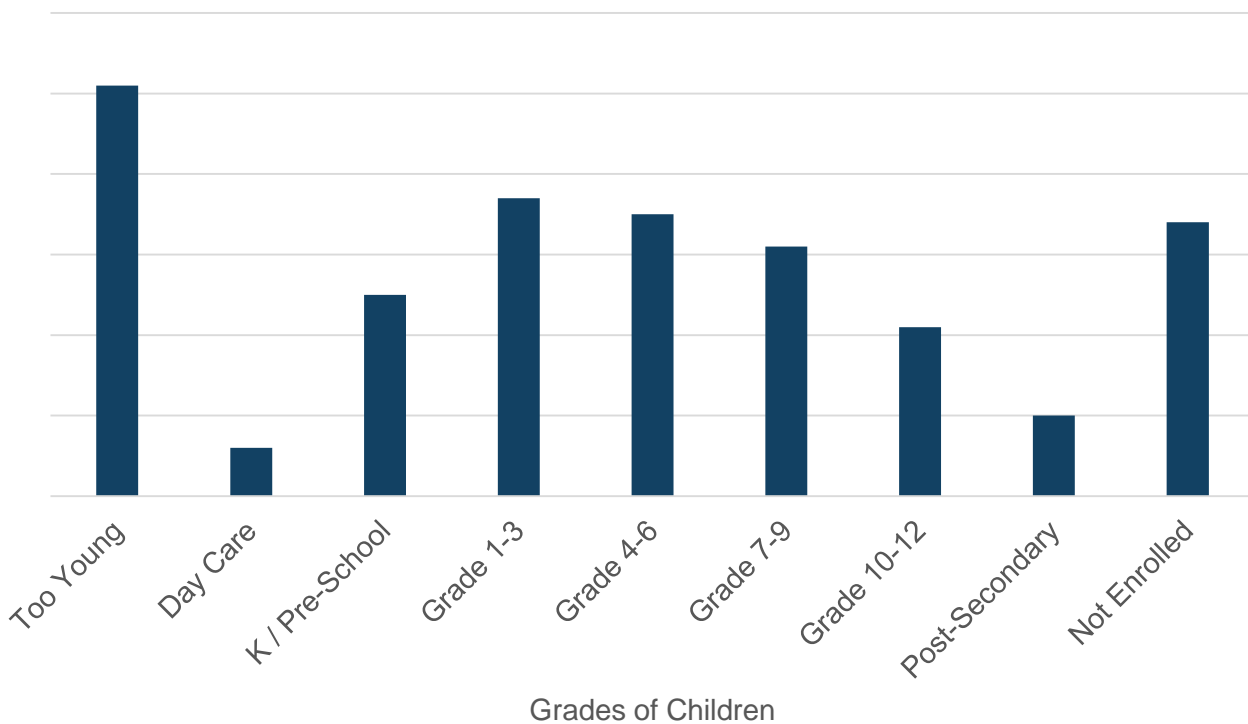


The distribution of the grades of children is fairly even, with a notable number of children who are too young for Grade 1 (33%) – these children either stay home or attend day care, kindergarten or pre-school. 13% of children are not enrolled in school but not due to being too young. The most common interval is grades 1-3, with 14.8% of children. 41% of children are in grades 1-9.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Grades of Children

Grades of Children	Number	Percentage
Too Young for School	51	20.4%
Day Care	6	2.4%
Kindergarten or Pre-School	25	10.0%
Grade 1-3	37	14.8%
Grade 4-6	35	14.0%
Grade 7-9	31	12.4%
Grade 10-12	21	8.4%
Post-Secondary	10	4.0%
Not Enrolled	34	13.6%
Total	250	100.0%

Distribution of Grades of Children



The gender split of the participant’s children was roughly 60% male compared with 40% female, instead of an even 50 / 50 split as would typically be expected. This could possibly be explained by the small sample size of survey participants; a larger sample size might have produced a more even distribution.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Child Gender Frequencies

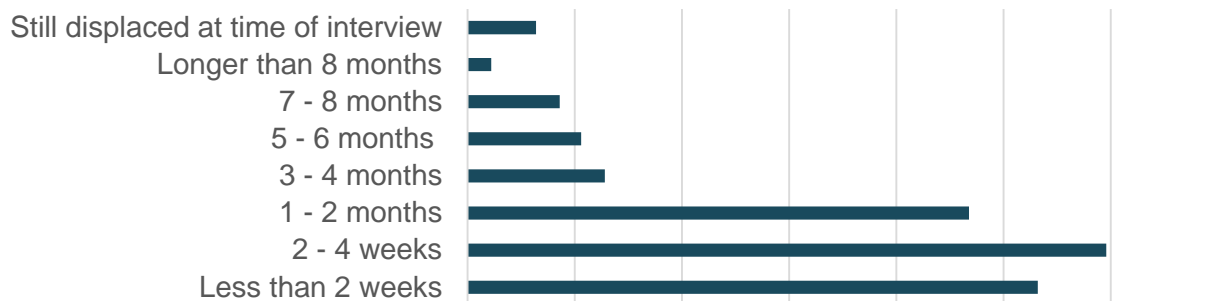
Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	149	58.9%
Female	104	41.1%
Totals	253	100.0%

The majority of participants (80%) were displaced for a length of time of 2 months or less, with 56% being displaced for one month or less and 26.6% being displaced for 2 weeks or less. Three percent of participants were still displaced at the time of the interviews, which took place more than a year after the flood. This frequency is not easily summarized, as there are a wide range of displacement durations, and an even greater diversity of experiences within these ranges.

High River Family Study Outcomes: Length of Displacement from Home

Length of Time	Number	Percentage
Less than 2 weeks	25	26.6%
2 - 4 weeks	28	29.8%
1 - 2 months	22	23.4%
3 - 4 months	6	6.4%
5 - 6 months	5	5.3%
7 - 8 months	4	4.3%
Longer than 8 months	1	1.1%
Still displaced at time of interview	3	3.2%
Total	94	100.0%

DISPLACED FROM HOME



REFERENCES

- Focus on Geography Series, 2011 Census – Census Agglomeration of High River
- Calgary Economic Development, Population in Calgary Economic Region, 2014
- Bow Valley College, “A chance for a better life: Development of the Immigrant Workforce in Smaller Communities and Rural Alberta,” September 2012
- Bow Valley College, Community Profiles, High River 2014
- Bow Valley College, Rural Workforce Development: Assessing Employer Needs and Improving Access to Training, 2012
- Statistics Canada, 2011