

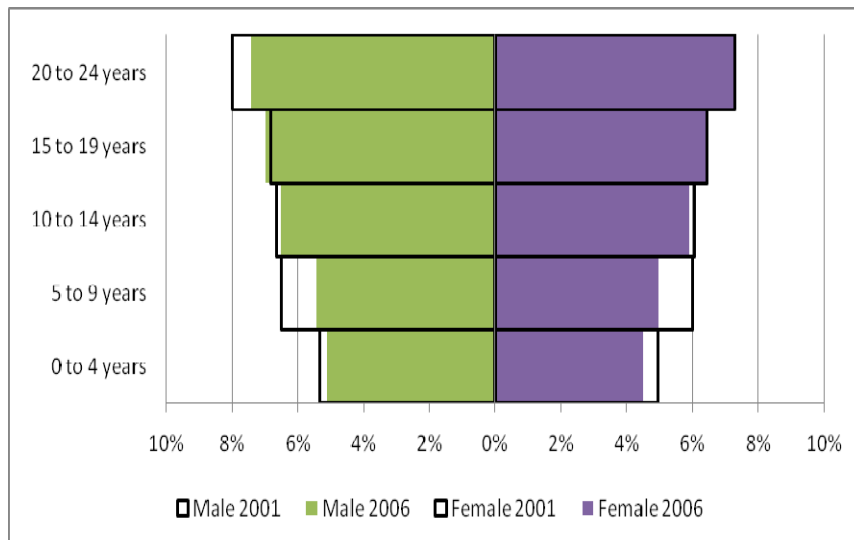
CHILDREN & YOUTH

The population of children and youth between the ages of 0 to 19 years is 34,780, which is 23% of Kingston's total population. Of this population, 17,830 (or 49%) are boys and 16,945 (or 51%) are girls. In 2006, most children, both boys and girls, were between the ages of 15 to 19 years. The least number of children are those 4 years and younger.

Highlights

- Common law couples are still proportionately the most common family type to have children under 6 years (39% of common-law families), But this proportion has actually dropped by 13% since 2001. Conversely, an increasing proportion of lone parents are those with young children:
 - Male lone parent: 26% increase, now 15% of male lone parents have only children younger than 6 years
 - Female lone parent 19% increase, now 20% of female lone parents have only children younger than 6 years
- In 2001 common-law couples used to be the youngest type of family, that is, it was the type with the most families with children 6 years and younger. Most older children are living in female lone parent families
- Married couples mostly have children between 6 to 14 years (34%) children under 6 years (27%)
- Common-law couples have a high proportion of children 6 to 14 years (37%).
- Most female lone parents have children under 6 years and over 18 years old
- Prevalence of low income is highest for those 6 years and younger

The Playground is less full!



- Less married with children (+0.19%)
- More common-law with no children +29% and married with no children (+8%)
- Less children per family

Implications

Growth in family types with no children: A decrease in the population of children will lead to a decrease in full-time school enrolment for local elementary and secondary schools. Could lead to an increase in demand for housing, but perhaps of a different form to accommodate smaller household sizes (e.g. more condominiums and townhouses, perhaps with shared green space, and less single detached homes)

Growth in lone parent families, especially male lone parents: If male lone parents are associated with the military or with the penitentiaries, relevant services in partnership with these institutions may be needed to support these families.

The trend towards older families and fewer young parents: Could be due to many individuals who pursue careers before families. Consequently this may be a factor in the declining population of children, since older families are unlikely to have as many children as those in their younger years.