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LIVING ALONE

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1981 Census of Canada

LIVING ALONE

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INTRODUCTION

She is 67, a widow who never graduated from high school. She does not have a job. Her major source of income is government pensions, and in 1980 she got by on \$5,500.

He is 27, single and a university graduate. He works nine to five and earns most of his income from that job. In 1980, he made \$17,800.

What do they have in common? They are both members of a growing minority - people who live alone. Living alone has changed from a rare arrangement to the life-style of 1 in every 11 Canadian adults.

In fact, the one-person household ranks just behind the two-person in popularity. It was the fastest growing household size in the seventies.

Several factors contribute to the rising numbers. The Canadian population is increasingly made up of young adults and the elderly, two groups who tend to live alone. Higher incomes have enabled larger segments of both groups to "purchase" the privacy of an independent household. By delaying marriage, the baby-boom generation has produced a singles boom. A soaring divorce rate has split many households in two. The fact that women generally live longer than men creates many widows.

From 1981 Census data, the following facts about living alone have emerged:

- By 1981, 1.6 million Canadians were living alone - double the number who had done so 10 years earlier.
- Nine adults in every 100 live alone.

- This life-style is most common among young single adults and the elderly, particularly older widows.
- More women than men live alone.
- Among the over 65 age group, women living alone outnumber men by better than three to one.
- One-half of all elderly widows live alone.
- The majority of people living alone are city dwellers who rent apartments. They may have chosen this arrangement because they have the means to maintain an independent household.
- Young people who live alone are better educated, more likely to have white-collar jobs and higher incomes than the average Canadian.
- Living alone is less common in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces than in the rest of the country.

This report answers several questions about people who live alone. It describes who they are, and looks at their numbers and why they are increasing. It discusses their income and what factors affect it. Finally, it tells where they live and in what type of housing.

HOW MANY CANADIANS LIVE ALONE?

Growing Numbers of Adults Live Alone

By the time of the 1981 Census, people living alone numbered more than 1.6 million, equivalent to the combined populations of New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. In 1981, 9 adults in every 100 lived alone.

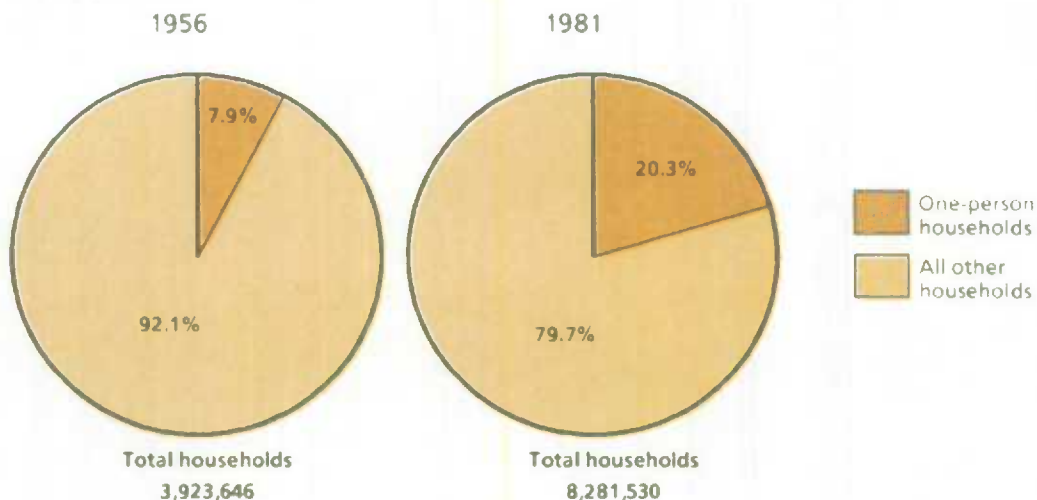
They Account for a Rising Percentage of Households

There has been a sharp rise in the number of one-person households over the past 25 years. In 1956, they made up fewer than 8% of all households; by 1981 they represented more than 20%.

The one-person household is growing faster than any other household size. Now only the two-person type is more numerous, accounting for 29% of the total.

Chart 1

One-person Households as a Percentage of All Households, Canada, 1956 and 1981



Source: Various Census of Canada bulletins (1956 - 1981)

And Contribute to the Rising Number of Households

While household size declined from 3.9 to 2.9 persons between 1956 and 1981, the number of households doubled.

The sharp rise in one-person households is a major factor in this growth. The number of households has grown by more than 2 million in the past 10 years, and the one-person type has accounted for over a third of the increase.

Table 1

Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over and as a Percentage of All Households, Canada, 1956-1981

	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
Persons living alone ('000)	309	425	590	812	1,205	1,681
Persons living alone as a percentage of the population 15 years and over	2.8	3.5	4.4	5.3	7.0	8.9
One-person households* as a percentage of all households	7.9	9.3	11.4	13.4	16.8	20.3

* The number of one-person households is equivalent to the number of persons living alone.

Source: Various Census of Canada bulletins, 1956-1981.

WHO LIVES ALONE?

Young Adults and the Elderly Predominate

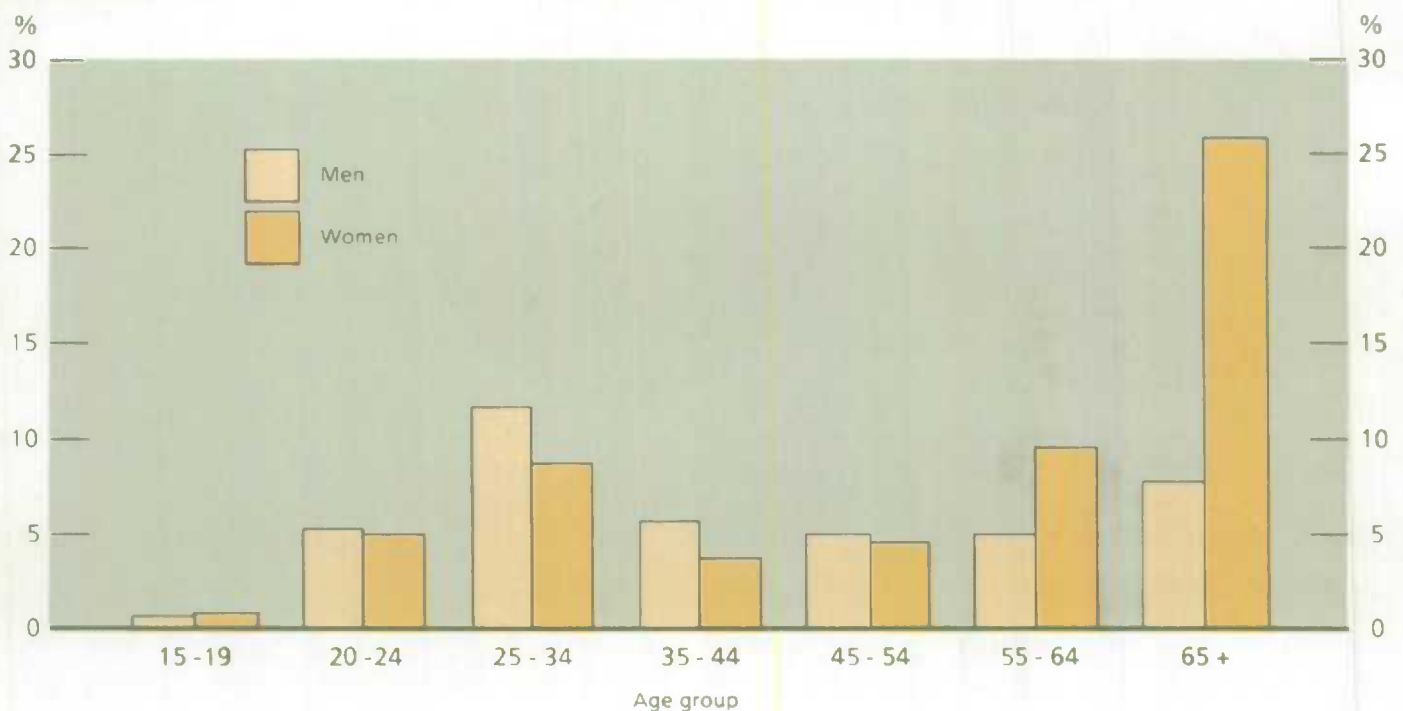
Living alone is most common during young adulthood and old age. Nearly a third of the people who live alone are between 20 and 34. Another third are 65 years and over.

More Women Than Men Live Alone

Six of 10 persons living alone are women. But the female majority does not prevail for all ages. In the younger age groups, single men and women live alone in almost equal numbers. It is after 55 that women predominate, reflecting their tendency to outlive their husbands. At ages 65 years and over women living alone outnumber men by better than three to one.

Chart 2

Percentage Distribution by Age and Sex of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

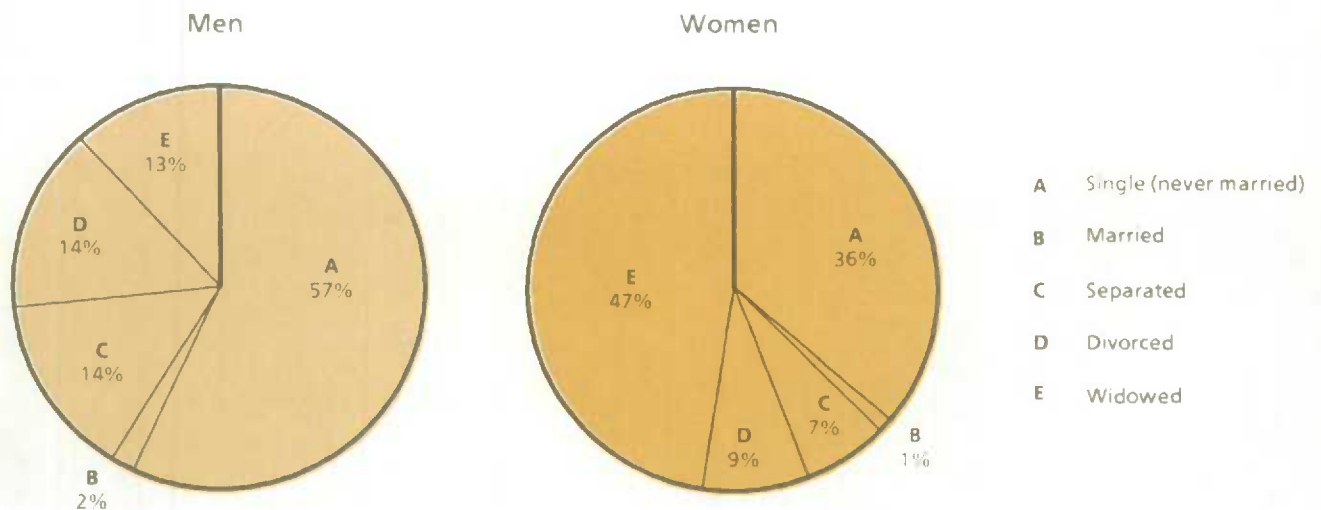
Widows and Single Men Make Up the Majority Living Alone

Marital status is, of course, a prime determinant of living arrangements. Most occupants of one-person households either have never been married or are widowed. More than half the men living alone are single. Close to half the women living alone are widows.

Separated and divorced men are more apt to live alone than women in the same circumstances. After a marriage break-up, the woman usually gains custody of the children. About half of divorced women head lone-parent families compared with just a ninth of divorced men.

Chart 3

Percentage Distribution by Marital Status of Men and Women Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note : Excludes population aged less than 15.
Source : 1981 Census of Canada

WHY HAVE THE NUMBERS GROWN?

Living Alone Took Off in the Seventies

Living alone has increased in the past 25 years, but particularly in the last decade. Changes in the age and marital status of Canadians as they move through the life cycle have a major impact on living arrangements.

Between 1971 and 1981, people living alone more than doubled as the proportion of adults in the population grew.

The number of young adults and elderly rose considerably. In the past 10 years, 20-34-year olds increased by 1.8 million, while the population 65 and over grew by 617,000.

The Baby Boom Contributes to a Singles Boom

Most of the baby-boom generation reached their twenties during the seventies, and many remained single. Between 1971 and 1981, the number of singles aged 20 to 29 increased by 633,000.

The Number of Widows Has Risen

The widowed population grew at the same pace as singles, with women accounting for almost all of the 214,000 added to this category.

Women's longer life expectancy at 77.5 years, as opposed to 70.2 years for men, makes them apt to outlive their husbands. In addition, men most often marry women younger than themselves. Widows have fewer chances to remarry than widowers because they greatly outnumber eligible men.

The Seventies Also Saw a Rapid Increase in Separations and Divorces

The rise in divorce, which usually creates two households out of one, began with the passage of a more liberal divorce act in 1968. The number of divorced persons nearly tripled between 1971 and 1981.

However, the Increase in One-person Households Was Not Only Caused by Rising Numbers of Single, Divorced and Widowed Persons

While population changes accounted for part of the increase in one-person households, the incidence of living alone also rose. The rate nearly doubled for singles; for the widowed and divorced, it went up by more than 10 percentage points. In other words, more and more people are choosing to live alone.

Higher Incomes May Encourage Living Alone

This life-style may have been facilitated by increases in real income. People living alone make up the majority of a larger group - unattached individuals - which also includes people in households where they are not related to other household members. The average income, in constant dollars, of unattached individuals rose by more than a third during the seventies.

Table 2

Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over by Sex and Selected Marital Status, Canada, 1971 and 1981

	Total		Men		Women	
	1971	1981	1971	1981	1971	1981
	%					
Single (never married)	7.8	14.2	7.6	13.6	8.2	14.9
Widowed	35.1	48.0	31.5	43.8	36.0	48.9
Divorced	25.7	36.9	30.5	46.1	22.2	30.7

Source: 1971 Census of Canada bulletins
1981 Census of Canada

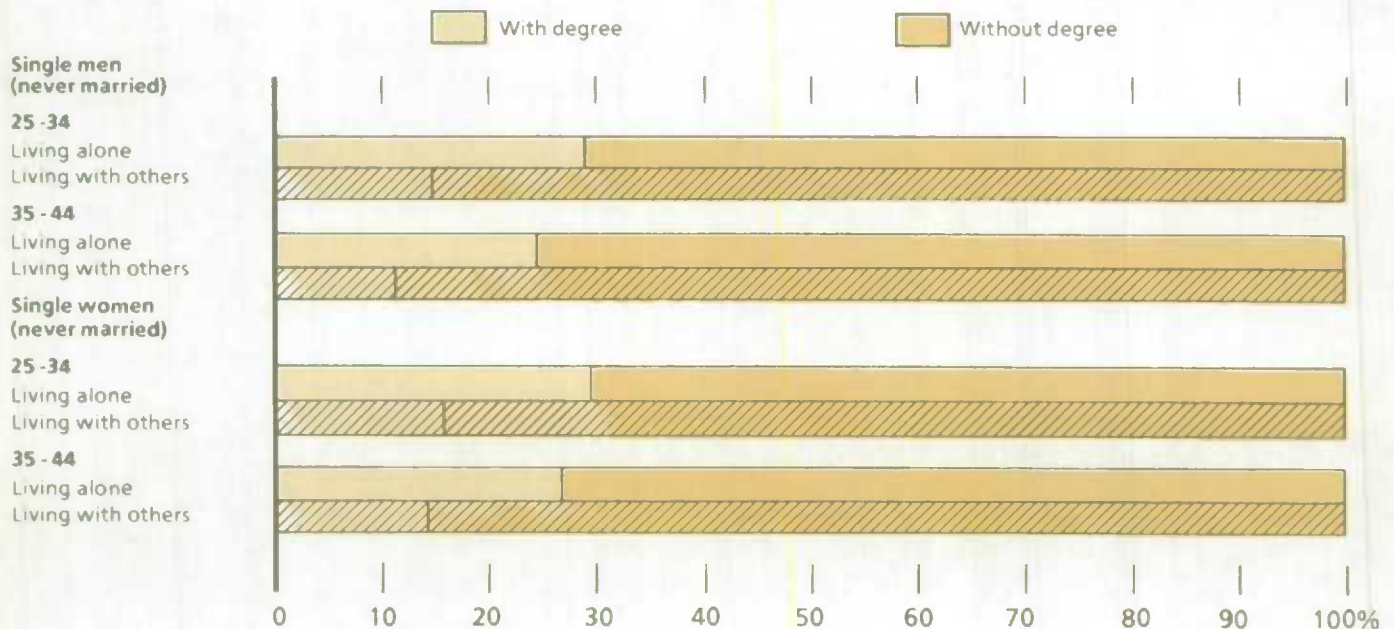
WHAT ABOUT EDUCATION, LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY AND INCOME?

People Who Live Alone Tend to Have a Higher Level of Education

Overall, 12 of every 100 people living alone have university degrees, compared with 8 of every 100 in the rest of the population. As with the general population, degrees are most prevalent among 25-34-year olds, and educational attainment drops with age.

Chart 4

Percentage of Degree-holders Among Single (Never Married) Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, by Sex and Selected Age Groups, Canada, 1981



Source : 1981 Census of Canada.

Of Those Living Alone, the Never-married Are More Likely to Have Degrees

Since most unmarried people who live alone tend to be young, it is not surprising that they are more likely to have degrees. However, in every age group, single women living alone are more apt to hold degrees than single men.

Below Retirement Age, People Who Live Alone Are More Likely to Be in the Labour Force

People living alone are more likely to be in the labour force than the rest of the population younger than 55. At older ages, especially after 65, their labour force participation is lower.

Age, Sex and Marital Status Affect Labour Force Activity

Women younger than 65 who live alone have higher labour force participation than other women under 65. Among men living alone, only those younger than 25 are more likely to be in the labour force than other men.

Compared with others of the same marital status, young adults who live alone are more apt to be in the labour force. Much lower participation rates for separated, divorced and widowed women who do not live alone suggest that they may have custody of children.

Table 3

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Sex, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living with Others, Canada, 1981

	Age group							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	
	%							
Men								
Living alone	88.4	94.7	95.3	92.8	85.2	65.9	13.5	74.6
Living with others	48.3	90.5	95.3	95.4	92.8	78.5	17.9	78.5
Women								
Living alone	88.0	94.6	95.2	89.6	76.4	48.8	5.2	46.0
Living with others	43.9	75.8	63.5	63.1	54.5	33.4	6.5	52.5
Total								
Living alone	88.2	94.6	95.3	91.5	80.9	54.6	7.1	57.7
Living with others	46.2	83.2	79.1	79.2	73.7	55.7	12.3	65.5

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Table 4

Labour Force Participation Rates of Young (20-34 years) Men and Women Living Alone and Living With Others by Selected Marital Status, Canada, 1981

	Marital status				Total
	Single (never married)	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	
	%				
Men (20-34 years)					
Living alone	94.9	96.6	96.0	89.3	95.1
Living with others	88.5	93.1	92.4	86.9	93.6
Women (20-34 years)					
Living alone	95.3	93.6	94.1	81.5	95.0
Living with others	82.7	68.0	70.1	57.0	67.9

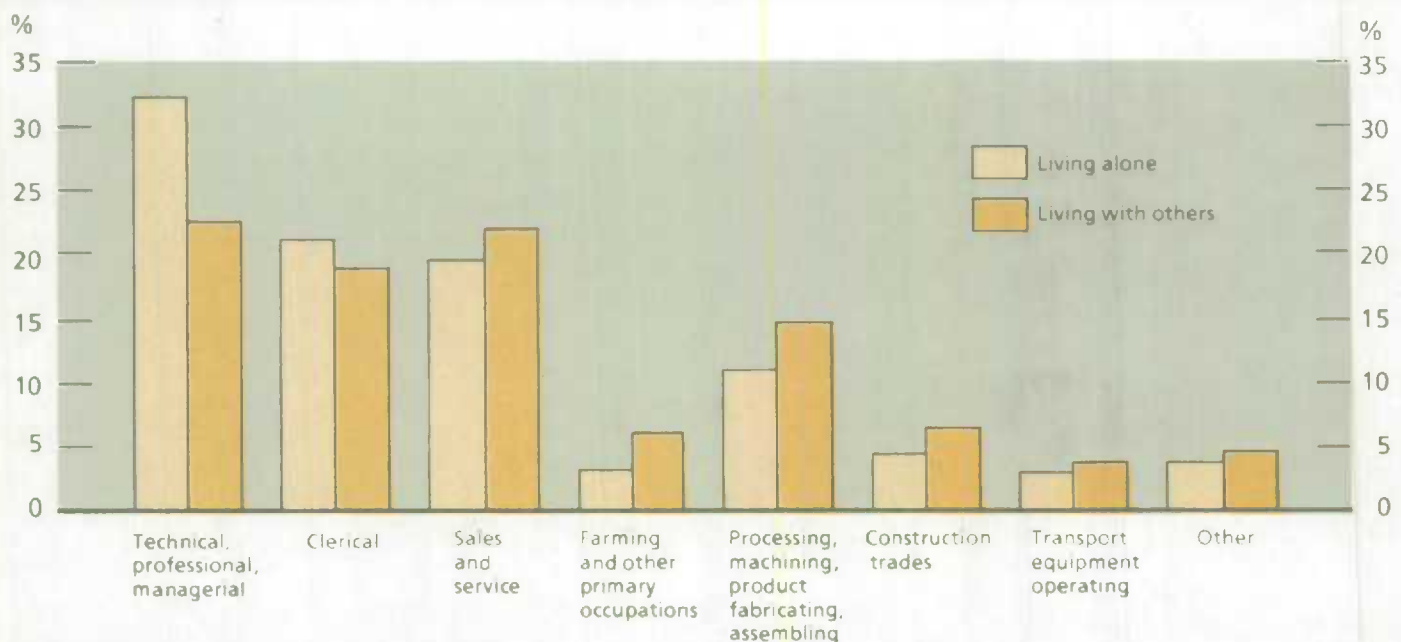
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

People Who Live Alone Are Less Likely to be Unemployed than Other Adults

When the census was taken in June 1981, the unemployment rate among people living alone was 5.6% compared with

7.5% for the rest of the population. Women living alone tend to have lower unemployment than their male peers. The reverse is true for the rest of the labour force.

Chart 5

Percentage Distribution by Occupation of the Population Who Worked Since January 1, 1980, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, Canada, 1981


Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

The Majority of People Living Alone are "White-collar" Workers, Many of Whom Are Professionals

A third of the people living alone, compared with less than a quarter of other adults, have occupations in the groups containing highly qualified jobs. Women are more likely to have such jobs than men.

Nearly as many women who live alone have technical, professional or managerial jobs as are in the traditionally female-dominated clerical category. Large percentages of women living alone are in teaching and health.

The "professional" trend is particularly strong among single people who live alone. More than a third of them have managerial or professional jobs compared with one-seventh of singles in other living arrangements. Single women living alone are most likely of all to have such occupations. Next in line are divorced women who live alone.

Those Living Alone Have Higher Earnings

With more education and a greater likelihood of holding a professional job, people who live alone also earn more than the rest of the population. When the 1980 employment incomes of single, separated and divorced full-time, full-year workers aged 15-64 are compared, men and women living alone have higher incomes than others.

If Resources Permit, Elderly Widows May Choose to Live Alone

For elderly widows, personal income may be the deciding factor in living arrangements. In 1980, those who lived alone averaged \$8,200 compared with \$6,500 for their counterparts in larger households.

While \$8,200 may provide necessities, it does not allow many extras. A considerable number of elderly widows who live alone may be poor. In fact, about 6 in 10 of them had 1980 incomes of less than \$8,000.

The share of total household income available to the widows who lived with others may have exceeded that of widows living alone. But living with others means giving up some privacy and independence. The difference in personal income between the two groups of widows suggests that those who can manage it may choose to live alone.

Table 5

Average 1980 Employment Income of Full-time, Full-year Workers Aged 15 to 64 by Selected Marital Status and Sex, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living with Others, Canada, 1981

	Single (never married)		Separated		Divorced	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Living alone	18,900	16,000	22,700	14,800	22,700	15,800
Living with others	14,200	12,300	20,600	13,600	20,700	14,800

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

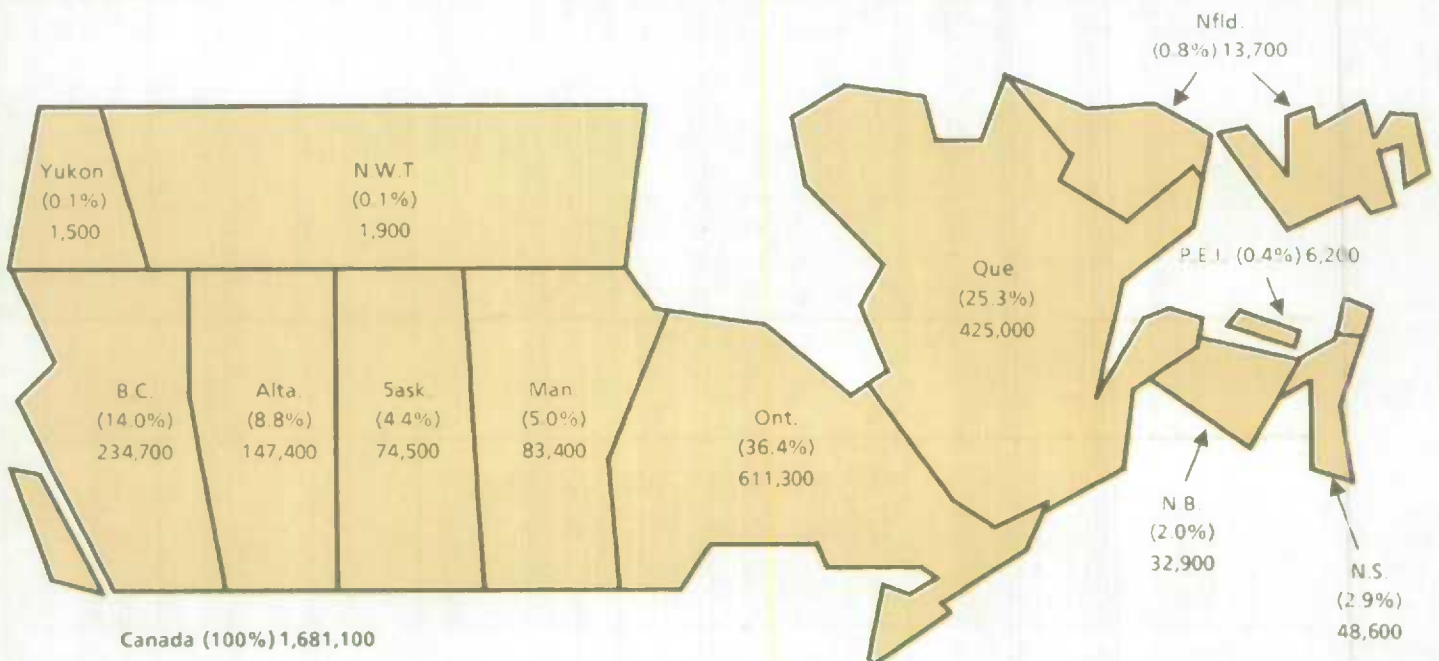
The Distribution of People Living Alone Parallels But Does Not Match the General Population

Compared with the distribution of the general population, those who live alone are somewhat overrepresented in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and underrepresented in the Atlantic provinces.

Between 1971 and 1981, one-person households grew fastest in Quebec, Alberta and Newfoundland. However, Ontario had the largest numerical increase.

Chart 6

Number and Percentage Distribution by Province and Territory of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

This Life-style is More Prevalent in the West

East of the Ontario-Quebec border, the proportion living alone in each province is less than the national average. By contrast, west of this dividing line, only Alberta, the Yukon and Northwest Territories fall below Canada's average. The province with the highest percentage of adults living alone is British Columbia, with better than 10 in 100. Living alone is least common in Newfoundland where the proportion is only 3 of every 100.

Most People Who Live Alone Live in Cities

Nine out of 10 one-person households are in urban areas. This is true of just 8 out of 10 family households. In urban centres, 1 adult in 10 lives alone. In rural areas, living alone is much less common - only about 1 in 20.

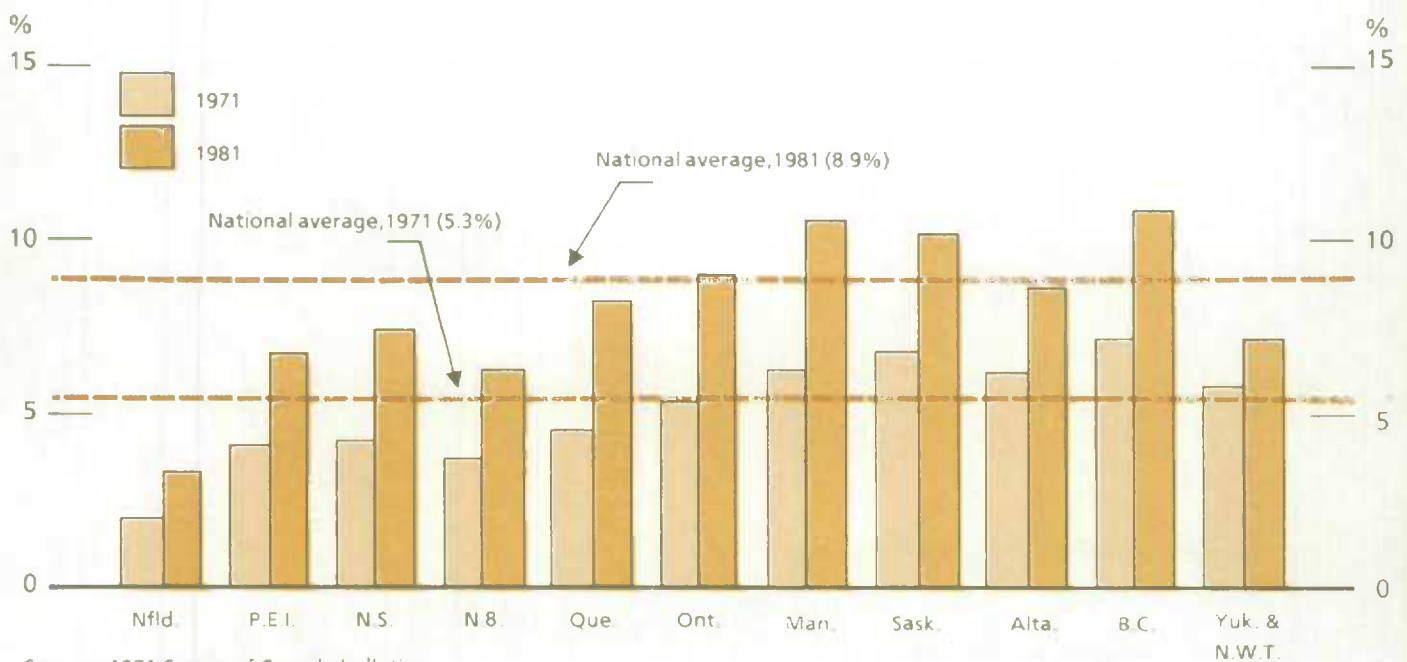
Victoria is the "Living Alone Capital" of Canada

In Victoria, 14 of every 100 adults are in one-person households. The next highest rates of living alone are in Vancouver, Saskatoon and Winnipeg.

Overall, in nine large metropolitan areas at least 10 of every 100 adults live alone. In addition to those already named, the others are: London, Montréal, Ottawa-Hull, Regina and Windsor. In only two of the nation's major metropolitan areas do fewer than 5 of every 100 adults live alone - Chicoutimi-Jonquière and St. John's, Newfoundland.

Chart 7

Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1971 and 1981



Source: 1971 Census of Canada bulletins.
1981 Census of Canada.

People Who Live Alone Are Apt to be Renters

Among people who live alone, renters outnumber owners by better than two to one. For the remainder of the population, the general tendency is ownership.

More than a fifth of people living alone are in apartment buildings taller than 5 storeys. This is true of just one-twentieth of other adults.

Ownership and Dwelling Type Are Related to Age, Sex and Marital Status

As with the rest of the population, ownership rates rise with age. The tendency to live in a single-detached home is more prevalent among older age groups, but again, much less characteristic of people living alone.

In general, men living alone are more likely to be home-owners and to live in single-detached dwellings than women. Highest rates of ownership are among widowers and widows. The widowed have the largest proportions in single-detached houses, suggesting that they continue to occupy the family home.

Ownership rates are lowest among people who have never married, but even in this group, more men than women are home-owners.

Table 6

Percentage Distribution by Type of Occupied Private Dwelling, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, Canada, 1981

	Single detached	Apartment buildings (5 storeys or more)	Movable	Other multiples*	Total	Number
	%					
Living alone	30.5	22.3	2.2	45.1	100.0	1,681,190
Living with others	67.0	4.8	2.4	25.8	100.0	16,662,175

* Includes attached houses and apartments in buildings of less than 5 storeys.

Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Demographic Trends Favour Living Alone

Results of the 1981 Census seem to indicate a growing inclination for the young and old to live alone. Since both groups are expected to increase in size, one-person households will likely multiply as well.

The young adult population will continue to grow during the eighties as the last of the baby-boom generation matures. In the short run, this should mean a further increase in living alone. Thereafter, with smaller numbers entering young adulthood, living alone could decline. Such a trend might be accelerated if people who have been postponing marriage eventually wed.

Continued large numbers of divorces could produce more one-person households. But for this group, living alone may just be an intermediate stage between marriages.

Because the population aged 65 and over is expected to grow, living alone may increase among the elderly. With fewer children than their predecessors, future elderly will have limited options for living with kin.

Canada has taken a census of population every ten years from 1851 and every five years from 1956. The last census was taken on June 3, 1981. The census data constitute the most important single source of information on the population of Canada by many geographic areas from the national and provincial levels down to smaller groups such as cities, towns and municipalities. These data include: information on the number of people who live in Canada; their characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, language, educational level and occupation; number and types of families; and types of dwellings. Census information is used for a variety of purposes by private individuals, governments at all levels, educational institutions, business people and other organizations.

As part of a program to supplement 1981 Census statistical reports, a special series of popular studies has been undertaken on selected topics of public interest. Each study is a description of major trends and patterns. The data used are from the 1981 Census and other relevant sources. This series is designed for use at the high school and community college levels. However, it could also be of interest to the general public.

LIVING ALONE is one of the reports in this series. It brings together under one cover highlights of information about persons living alone. Other studies in the series are being published at about the same time or within the next few months.

The manuscript for this study was prepared in the Social Statistics Field by M.S. Devereaux.

Editing services were provided by Federal and Media Relations Division. Census Operations Division, in cooperation with Production and Support Services Division, coordinated the design, composition and printing.

Le Canada effectue un recensement de la population tous les dix ans depuis 1851 et tous les cinq ans depuis 1956. Le dernier recensement a été effectué le 3 juin 1981. Les données de recensement, qui constituent la plus importante source de renseignements sur la population du Canada, sont ventilées par régions géographiques: ensemble du pays, provinces, villes, villages et municipalités. On y trouve notamment, comme renseignements, le nombre de personnes qui vivent au Canada; leurs caractéristiques concernant l'âge, le sexe, l'état matrimonial, la langue, le niveau d'instruction et la profession; le nombre de logements; et les genres de logements. Ces données sont utilisées à diverses fins tant par les particuliers que par divers paliers de l'administration publique, les établissements d'enseignement, les hommes d'affaires et d'autres organismes.

Dans le cadre d'un programme visant à compléter les bulletins statistiques du recensement de 1981, une série spéciale d'études populaires a été entreprise sur certains sujets d'intérêt public. Chaque étude constitue une description de tendances principales. Les données utilisées se fondent principalement sur les résultats du recensement de 1981. La série est destinée aux écoles secondaires et aux collèges communautaires. Elle pourra cependant servir également au grand public.

VIVRE SEUL est une des publications de cette série qui regroupe sous une même couverture les principales données sur les personnes qui vivent seules. D'autres études de la série sont publiées à peu près en même temps ou paraîtront dans quelques mois.

Le manuscrit pour cette étude a été préparé dans le Secteur de la statistique sociale par M. S. Devereaux.

Les services d'édition ont été assurés par la Division des relations avec les organismes fédéraux et les media. La Division des opérations du recensement, en collaboration avec la Division des services de production et de soutien, a coordonné le travail de conception graphique, de composition et d'impression.

PERSPECTIVES D'AVENIR

Les tendances démographiques
laissent prévoir une
augmentation du nombre de
personnes vivant seules

Les résultats du recensement de 1981
semblent indiquer une tendance
croissante de la part des plus jeunes et
des plus vieux à vivre seuls. Étant donné
que ces deux groupes devraient
augmenter en taille, les ménages d'une
seule personne devraient augmenter
également.

La population de jeunes adultes
continuera à augmenter au cours des
années 80 alors que la génération de
l'explosion démographique termine sa
croissance. À court terme, ceci pourrait
entraîner une augmentation
supplémentaire du nombre de
personnes vivant seules. Par la suite,
alors que le nombre de jeunes adultes
diminuera, il pourrait y avoir une
diminution de personnes vivant seules.
Une telle tendance pourrait accélérer
si les personnes qui ont retardé le
mariage en viennent à se marier.
La persistance d'un nombre élevé de
divorces pourrait produire plus de
ménages d'une personne. Mais, pour ce
groupe, vivre seul peut n'être qu'une
étape intermédiaire entre deux
mariages.

Vu qu'on s'attend à une augmentation
de la population de 65 ans et plus, le
nombre de personnes âgées vivant
seules pourra augmenter. Ayant eu
moins d'enfants que leurs
prédécesseurs, les personnes âgées de
l'avenir auront des choix limités pour ce
qui est d'habiter avec des membres de
leur famille.



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Ottawa

INTRODUCTION

Elle a 67 ans; elle est veuve et ne détient aucun diplôme d'école secondaire. Elle n'a pas d'emploi. Son revenu provient en grande partie de pensions gouvernementales; en 1980, elle a passé l'année avec \$5,500.

Il a 27 ans; il est célibataire et diplômé d'université. Il travaille de 9 à 5 et il tire de cet emploi la majorité de ses revenus. En 1980, il a gagné \$17,800.

Qu'ont-ils en commun? Ils sont tous les deux membres d'une minorité croissante - les personnes qui vivent seules. Vivre seul, qui était autrefois rare, est devenu le style de vie d'un adulte canadien sur onze.

En fait, le ménage d'une seule personne est le deuxième plus fréquent, juste après celui de deux personnes. Ce sont les ménages de cette taille (une seule personne) qui ont augmenté le plus vite au cours des années 70.

Plusieurs facteurs contribuent à cette augmentation. La population canadienne est de plus en plus constituée de jeunes adultes et de personnes âgées, deux groupes qui tendent à vivre seuls. Des revenus plus élevés ont permis à d'importantes parties de ces groupes d'"acheter" l'intimité d'un ménage indépendant. En retardant les mariages, la génération de l'explosion démographique a produit une explosion de personnes vivant seules. La hausse du taux de divorce a séparé en deux beaucoup de ménages. Le fait que les femmes vivent généralement plus longtemps que les hommes crée de nombreuses veuves.

L'analyse des données du recensement de 1981 a fait ressortir les faits suivants au sujet des ménages d'une seule personne:

- En 1981, 1.6 million de Canadiens vivaient seuls - deux fois plus que 10 ans auparavant.
- Neuf pour cent des adultes vivent seuls.
- Ce genre de ménages se retrouve surtout chez les jeunes adultes non mariés et les personnes âgées, principalement les veuves âgées.
- Plus de femmes que d'hommes vivent seuls.
- Dans le groupe d'âge de plus de 65 ans, on compte trois fois plus de femmes que d'hommes vivant seuls.
- La moitié de toutes les veuves âgées vivent seules.
- La majorité des personnes vivant seules sont citadins, mais locataires. Elles peuvent avoir choisi cette manière de vivre parce qu'elles ont les moyens de soutenir un ménage indépendant.
- Les jeunes qui vivent seuls sont plus instruits; probablement cols blancs et bénéficiant d'un revenu plus élevé que le Canadien moyen.
- Vivre seul est moins fréquent au Québec et dans les provinces de l'Atlantique que dans le reste du pays.

Cette étude répond à plusieurs questions sur les personnes qui vivent seules. Elle décrit qui elles sont; elle examine leur nombre et les causes de son augmentation. Elle discute leur revenu et les facteurs qui l'influencent. Finalement, elle nous indique où elles vivent et dans quel genre de logements.

COMBIEN DE CANADIENS VIVENT SEULS?

De plus en plus d'adultes vivent seuls

Au moment du recensement de 1981, le nombre de personnes vivant seules s'élevait à plus de 1.6 million, soit l'équivalent du total de la population du Nouveau-Brunswick, de la Saskatchewan, du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. En 1981, 9 adultes sur 100 vivaient seuls.

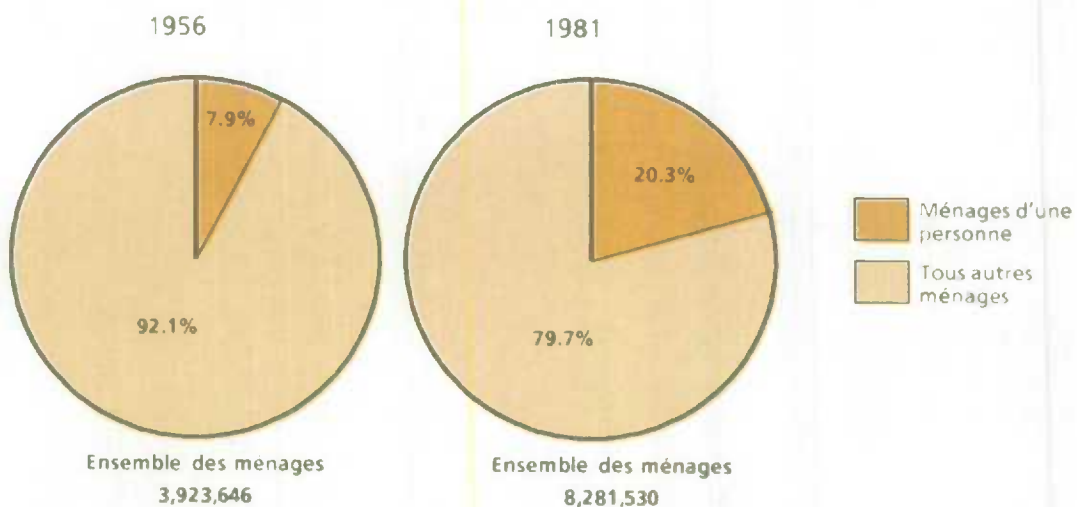
Ils forment un pourcentage croissant des ménages

Il s'est produit une forte hausse du nombre de ménages d'une seule personne au cours des 25 dernières années. En 1956, ils constituaient moins de 8 % de tous les ménages; en 1981, ils comptaient pour plus de 20 % de ceux-ci.

Le nombre de ménages d'une personne augmente plus rapidement que celui de toute autre taille de ménage. Actuellement, seul le nombre de ménages de deux personnes est plus élevé, comptant pour 29 % du total.

Graphique 1

Pourcentage de ménages d'une seule personne par rapport à l'ensemble des ménages, Canada, 1956 et 1981



Source : Divers bulletins du recensement du Canada, 1956 - 1981.

Ils contribuent à la hausse du nombre de ménages

Alors que la taille moyenne des ménages a baissé de 3.9 à 2.9 personnes entre 1956 et 1981, le nombre de ménages a doublé.

La forte hausse des ménages d'une personne est un facteur fondamental de cette augmentation. Le nombre de ménages a augmenté de plus de 2 millions au cours des 10 dernières années, et les ménages d'une seule personne comptent pour plus d'un tiers de cette augmentation.

Tableau 1

Personnes vivant seules en pourcentage de la population de 15 ans et plus et de l'ensemble des ménages, 1956-1981

	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
Nombre de personnes vivant seules (milliers)	309	425	590	812	1,205	1,681
Personnes vivant seules en pourcentage de la population de 15 ans et plus	2.8	3.5	4.4	5.3	7.0	8.9
Ménages d'une personne* en pourcentage de l'ensemble des ménages	7.9	9.3	11.4	13.4	16.8	20.3

* Le nombre de ménages d'une personne est équivalent au nombre de personnes vivant seules

Source: Divers bulletins du recensement du Canada, 1956-1981.

QUI VIT SEUL?

Surtout des jeunes adultes et des personnes âgées

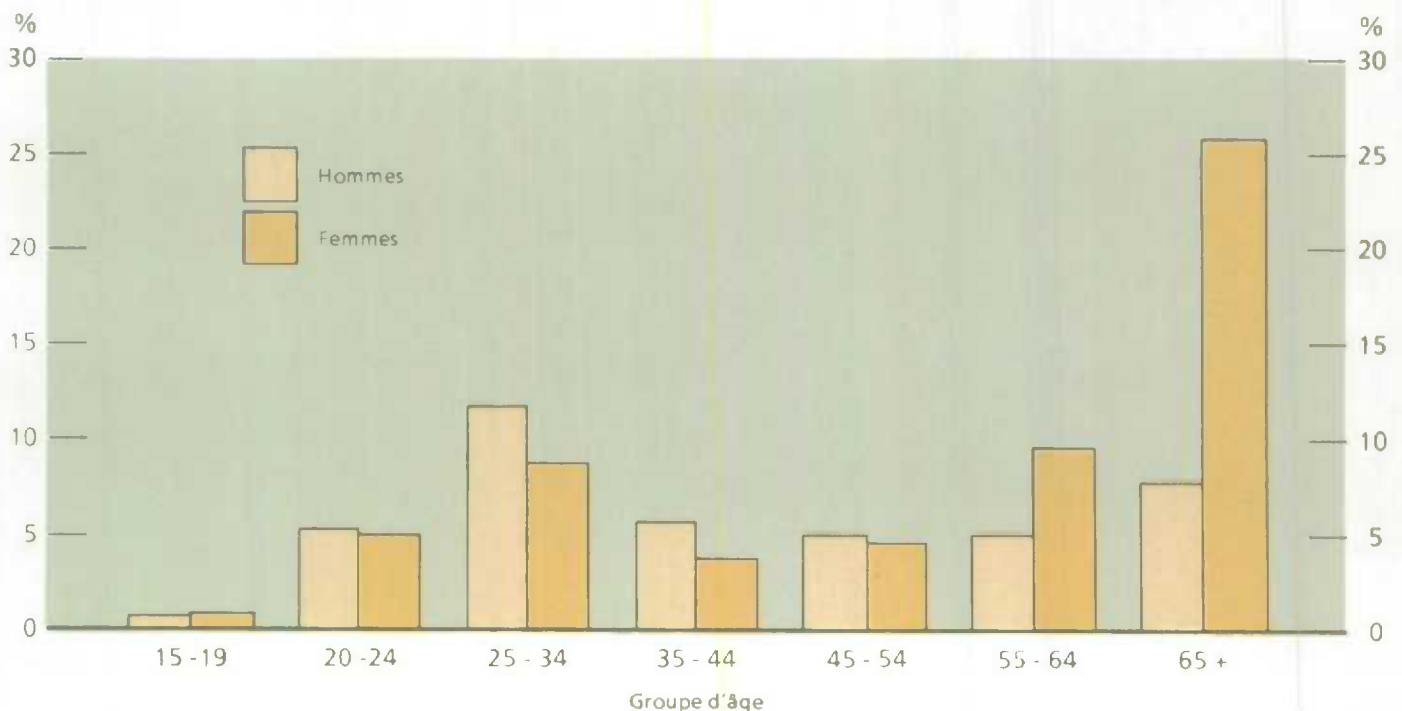
On vit seul surtout au début de l'âge adulte et dans sa vieillesse. Presque un tiers des personnes qui vivent seules ont entre 20 et 34 ans. Un autre tiers ont 65 ans ou plus.

Plus de femmes que d'hommes vivent seuls

Parmi les personnes vivant seules, 6 sur 10 sont des femmes. Mais cette majorité de femmes ne se retrouve pas dans toutes les catégories d'âge. Chez les plus jeunes, presque autant de femmes que d'hommes vivent seuls. C'est après 55 ans que les femmes sont plus nombreuses, ce qui traduit leur tendance à survivre à leurs maris. Au-dessus de 65 ans, les femmes vivant seules sont presque trois fois plus nombreuses que les hommes.

Graphique 2

Répartition en pourcentage selon l'âge et le sexe des personnes vivant seules, Canada, 1981



Nota : Ne comprend pas les personnes de moins de 15 ans.

Source : Recensement du Canada de 1981.

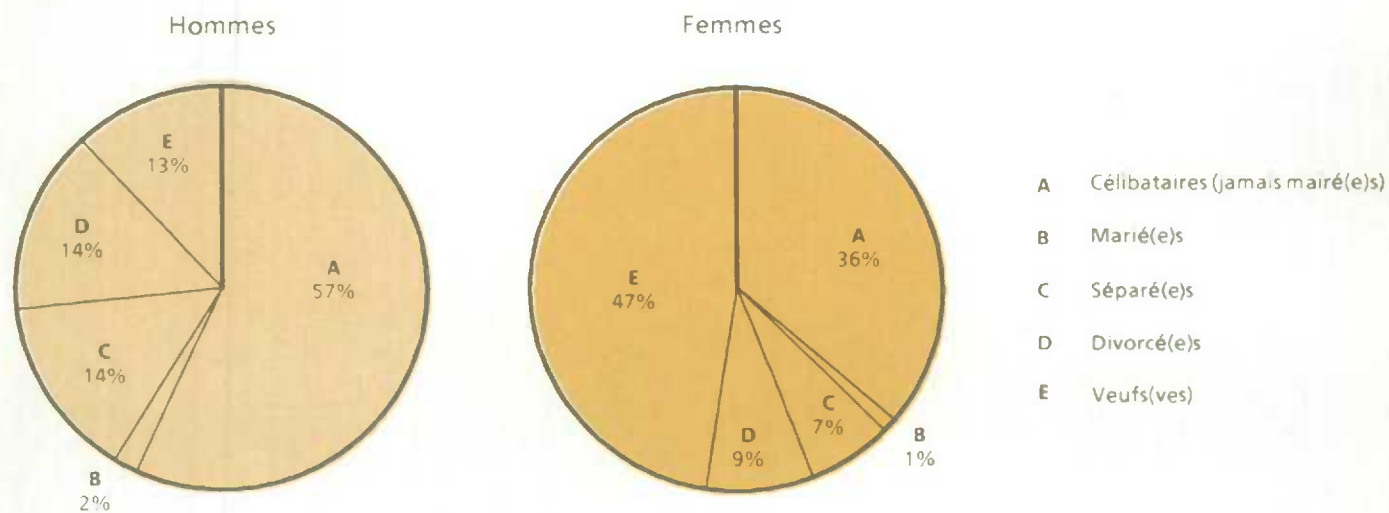
Les veuves et les hommes célibataires forment la majorité des personnes vivant seules

L'état matrimonial est, bien sûr, un facteur déterminant de la modalité de vie. La plupart des personnes vivant seules n'ont jamais été mariées ou sont veuves. Plus de la moitié des hommes vivant seuls sont célibataires. Près de la moitié des femmes vivant seules sont veuves.

Les hommes séparés et divorcés vivent plus souvent seuls que les femmes dans la même situation. Après la rupture d'un mariage, la femme reçoit généralement la garde des enfants. Près de la moitié des femmes divorcées sont à la tête d'une famille monoparentale, comparativement à un neuvième des hommes divorcés.

Graphique 3

Répartition en pourcentage selon l'état matrimonial des hommes et des femmes vivant seuls, Canada, 1981



Nota : Ne comprend pas les personnes de moins de 15 ans.

Source : Recensement du Canada de 1981

POURQUOI LEUR NOMBRE A-T-IL AUGMENTÉ?

Forte augmentation au cours des années 70

Le nombre de personnes vivant seules a augmenté au cours des 25 dernières années, mais surtout au cours de la décennie écoulée. Deux changements ont un effet important sur la modalité de vie des Canadiens: leur changement d'âge et celui de leur état matrimonial à mesure qu'ils traversent les divers cycles de leur vie.

Entre 1971 et 1981, le nombre de personnes vivant seules a plus que doublé alors que la proportion d'adultes augmentait.

Le nombre de jeunes adultes et de personnes âgées a fortement augmenté au cours des 10 dernières années. Le nombre de personnes entre 20 et 34 ans a augmenté de 1.8 million, alors que celui des personnes de 65 ans et plus s'est accru de 617,000.

L'explosion démographique contribue à l'explosion du nombre de personnes seules

La majorité des enfants de l'explosion démographique ont atteint la vingtaine au cours des années 70 et un bon nombre sont demeurés célibataires. Entre 1971 et 1981, le nombre de célibataires âgés de 20 à 29 ans a augmenté de 633,000.

Le nombre de veuves a augmenté

Le nombre des veufs et veuves a augmenté aussi rapidement que celui des célibataires, et les femmes comptent pour la presque totalité des 214,000 personnes qui se sont ajoutées à cette catégorie.

L'espérance de vie plus longue des femmes, 77.5 années contre 70.2 années pour les hommes, les rend susceptibles de survivre à leur mari. De plus, les hommes épousent souvent des femmes plus jeunes qu'eux. Les veuves ont moins de chances de se remarier que les veufs parce qu'elles sont beaucoup plus nombreuses que les hommes en mesure de le faire.

Forte augmentation des séparations et des divorces

L'augmentation des divorces, qui crée généralement deux ménages à partir d'un seul, a commencé avec la promulgation en 1968 d'une loi rendant plus facile l'obtention du divorce. Le nombre de divorcés a presque triplé entre 1971 et 1981.

Cependant l'augmentation des ménages d'une seule personne n'a pas été causée seulement par l'augmentation du nombre de personnes célibataires, divorcées et veuves

Alors que les changements de population comptent pour une partie de l'augmentation des ménages d'une seule personne, la proportion de gens vivant seuls a également augmenté. Le taux a presque doublé pour les célibataires; pour les divorcés et les veufs, il a augmenté de plus de 10 points de pourcentage. En d'autres mots, de plus en plus de gens choisissent de vivre seuls.

La hausse du revenu peut encourager à vivre seul

Ce mode de vie a pu être favorisé par des augmentations du revenu réel. Les personnes vivant seules forment la majorité d'un groupe plus large, soit celui des personnes seules. Les personnes seules ou bien vivent seules ou encore vivent avec d'autres personnes avec lesquelles elles n'ont aucun lien de parenté. Le revenu moyen, en dollars constants, des personnes seules a augmenté de plus du tiers au cours des années 70.

Tableau 2

Personnes vivant seules en pourcentage de la population de 15 ans et plus selon le sexe et certaines catégories d'état matrimonial, Canada, 1971 et 1981

	Total		Hommes		Femmes	
	1971	1981	1971	1981	1971	1981
	%					
Célibataires (jamais marié(e)s)	7.8	14.2	7.6	13.6	8.2	14.9
Veufs(ves)	35.1	48.0	31.5	43.8	36.0	48.9
Divorcé(e)s	25.7	36.9	30.5	46.1	22.2	30.7

Source: Bulletins du recensement du Canada de 1971.
Recensement du Canada de 1981.

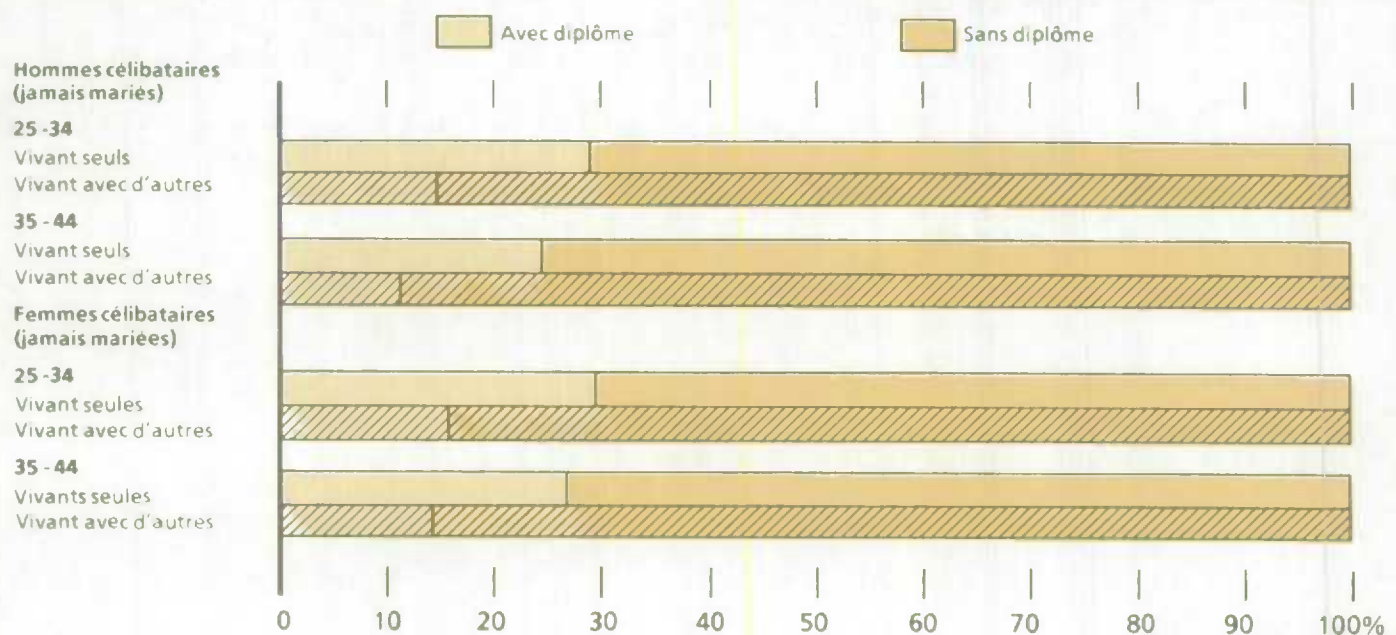
QU'EN EST-IL DES ÉTUDES, DE L'ACTIVITÉ ET DU REVENU?

**Les gens qui vivent seuls ont
tendance à avoir un niveau
d'instruction plus élevé**

Globalement, 12 % des personnes vivant seules détiennent des diplômes universitaires, comparativement à 8 % pour le reste de la population. Tout comme pour l'ensemble de la population, pour les personnes vivant seules, les diplômes sont plus nombreux chez les gens âgés de 25 à 34 ans et le niveau d'instruction plus faible chez les aînés.

Graphique 4

Pourcentage de détenteurs de diplômes chez les personnes célibataires (jamais mariées) vivant seules et personnes vivant avec d'autres, selon le sexe et certains groupes d'âge, Canada, 1981



Source : Recensement du Canada de 1981.

Chez les personnes vivant seules, une plus forte proportion de celles qui n'ont jamais été mariées détiennent un diplôme

Étant donné que la plupart des gens non mariés qui vivent seuls ont tendance à être jeunes, il n'est pas étonnant qu'ils aient plus de diplômes. Cependant, pour tous les groupes d'âge, les femmes seules célibataires sont davantage diplômées que ne le sont les hommes seuls célibataires.

Avant l'âge de la retraite, les personnes vivant seules ont plus de chances de faire partie de la population active

Chez les moins de 55 ans, les personnes vivant seules ont plus de chances de faire partie de la population active que le reste du groupe. Passé cet âge, surtout après 65 ans, leur taux d'activité est plus bas.

L'âge, le sexe et l'état matrimonial influent sur l'activité

Les femmes de moins de 65 ans qui vivent seules affichent un taux d'activité plus élevé que les autres femmes du même âge. Parmi les hommes vivant seuls, seulement ceux de moins de 25 ans font plus souvent partie de la population active que les autres hommes du même âge.

Comparativement aux autres adultes du même état matrimonial, les jeunes adultes vivant seuls ont généralement plus de chances de faire partie de la population active. Les taux d'activité beaucoup plus bas des femmes séparées, divorcées et veuves ne vivant pas seules suggèrent qu'elles peuvent avoir la garde des enfants.

Tableau 3

Taux d'activité selon l'âge et le sexe, personnes vivant seules et personnes vivant avec d'autres, Canada, 1981

	Groupe d'âge							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	
	%							
Hommes								
Vivant seuls	88.4	94.7	95.3	92.8	85.2	65.9	13.5	74.6
Vivant avec d'autres	48.3	90.5	95.3	95.4	92.8	78.5	17.9	78.5
Femmes								
Vivant seules	88.0	94.6	95.2	89.6	76.4	48.8	5.2	46.0
Vivant avec d'autres	43.9	75.8	63.5	63.1	54.5	33.4	6.5	52.5
Total								
Vivant seul(e)s	88.2	94.6	95.3	91.5	80.9	54.6	7.1	57.7
Vivant avec d'autres	46.2	83.2	79.1	79.2	73.7	55.7	12.3	65.5

Source: Recensement du Canada de 1981.

Tableau 4

Taux d'activité des jeunes hommes et femmes (20-34 ans) vivant seuls et avec d'autres selon certaines catégories d'état matrimonial, Canada, 1981

	État matrimonial				Total
	Célibataires (jamais marié(e)s)	Séparé(e)s	Divorcé(e)s	Veufs(ves)	
			%		
Hommes (20-34 ans)					
Vivant seuls	94.9	96.6	96.0	89.3	95.1
Vivant avec d'autres	88.5	93.1	92.4	86.9	93.6
Femmes (20-34 ans)					
Vivant seules	95.3	93.6	94.1	81.5	95.0
Vivant avec d'autres	82.7	68.0	70.1	57.0	67.9

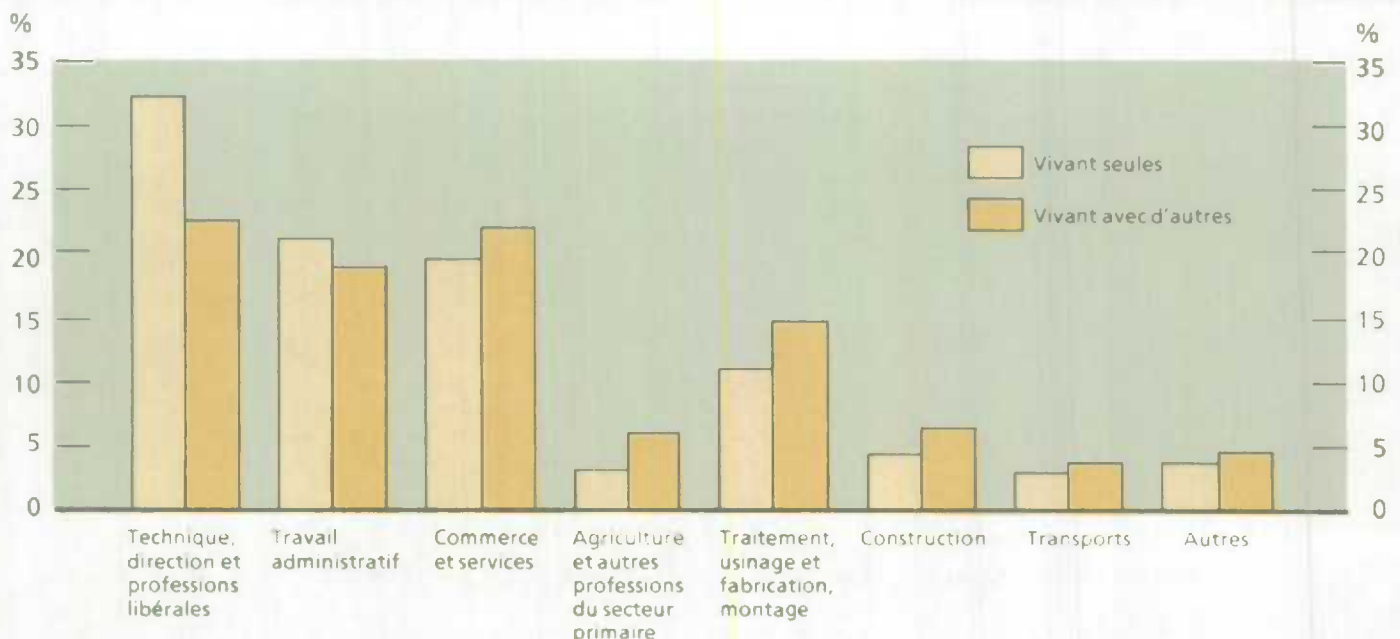
Source: Recensement du Canada de 1981.

Les personnes vivant seules ont moins de chances d'être en chômage

Lorsque le recensement a été effectué en juin 1981, le taux de chômage chez les personnes vivant seules était de 5.6 %,

comparativement à 7.5 % pour le reste de la population. Les femmes vivant seules affichaient un taux de chômage plus bas que celui des hommes vivant seuls. L'inverse est vrai pour le reste de la population active.

Graphique 5

Répartition en pourcentage selon la profession de la population ayant travaillé depuis le 1^{er} janvier 1980, personnes vivant seules et personnes vivant avec d'autres, Canada, 1981


Nota : Ne comprend pas la population de moins de 15 ans.

Source: Recensement du Canada 1981.

La majorité des personnes vivant seules sont des "cols blancs"

Un tiers des personnes vivant seules, comparativement à moins d'un quart des autres adultes, occupent des emplois nécessitant des qualifications supérieures. Les femmes ont plus de chances d'avoir de tels emplois que les hommes.

Presque autant de femmes vivant seules sont techniciennes, professionnelles ou gestionnaires qu'employées de bureau comme traditionnellement c'est le cas pour les femmes. Un pourcentage élevé de femmes vivant seules occupent des emplois dans les domaines de l'enseignement et de la santé.

La tendance "professionnelle" est particulièrement forte chez les célibataires qui vivent seuls. Plus d'un tiers sont gestionnaires ou professionnels, comparativement à un septième des célibataires dont la modalité de vie est différente. De telles professions sont plus nombreuses chez les femmes célibataires qui vivent seules. Elles sont plus fréquentes ensuite chez les femmes divorcées vivant seules.

Les personnes qui vivent seules gagnent plus

Avec leur scolarité plus élevée et leur plus grande probabilité d'un emploi professionnel, les personnes vivant seules gagnent également plus que le reste de la population. Si l'on compare les données de 1980 sur le revenu provenant d'un emploi à plein temps toute l'année des travailleurs célibataires, séparés et

divorcés, âgés de 15 à 64 ans, on constate que les hommes et les femmes vivant seuls ont des revenus plus élevés que les autres.

Quand elles en ont les moyens, les veuves âgées peuvent choisir de vivre seules

Pour les veuves âgées, le revenu personnel peut être le facteur déterminant de leur modalité de vie. En 1980, celles qui vivaient seules avaient un revenu moyen de \$8,200, comparativement à \$6,500 pour celles qui vivaient dans d'autres ménages.

Alors qu'avec \$8,200 on peut payer le nécessaire, on n'en tire pas beaucoup de superflu. Un nombre considérable de veuves âgées vivant seules peuvent être pauvres. En fait, environ 60 % d'entre elles avaient en 1980 un revenu de moins de \$8,000.

La part du revenu total du ménage disponible a pu être plus grande pour les veuves qui vivaient avec d'autres personnes que pour les veuves vivant seules. Mais, à vivre avec d'autres, on perd une certaine partie de son intimité et de son indépendance. La différence de revenu personnel entre les deux groupes de veuves laisse croire que celles qui en sont capables peuvent choisir de vivre seules.

Tableau 5

Revenu moyen d'emploi des personnes de 15 à 64 ans ayant travaillé en 1980 à plein temps toute l'année selon le sexe et certaines catégories d'état matrimonial, personnes vivant seules et personnes vivant avec d'autres, Canada, 1981

	Célibataires (jamais marié(e)s)		Séparé(e)s		Divorcé(e)s	
	Hommes \$	Femmes \$	Hommes \$	Femmes \$	Hommes \$	Femmes \$
Vivant seuls	18,900	16,000	22,700	14,800	22,700	15,800
Autres	14,200	12,300	20,600	13,600	20,700	14,800

Source: Recensement du Canada de 1981.

OÙ VIVENT-ILS?

La répartition des personnes vivant seules se rapproche de celle de la population générale, mais n'est pas identique à celle-ci

Comparativement à la répartition de l'ensemble de la population, ceux qui vivent seuls sont surreprésentés en Colombie-Britannique, au Manitoba et en Saskatchewan et sous-représentés dans les provinces de l'Atlantique.

Entre 1971 et 1981, le nombre des ménages d'une seule personne a augmenté plus rapidement au Québec, en Alberta et à Terre-Neuve. Cependant, l'Ontario a connu la plus forte augmentation en valeur absolue.

Graphique 6

Nombre et répartition en pourcentage selon la province et le territoire des personnes vivant seules, Canada, 1981



Nota : Ne comprend pas la population de moins de 15 ans
 Source : Recensement du Canada de 1981.

Ce mode de vie est plus populaire dans l'Ouest

À l'est de la frontière Québec-Ontario, dans chaque province la proportion de personnes vivant seules se situe au-dessous de la moyenne nationale. Par contre, à l'ouest de cette ligne, seuls l'Alberta, le Yukon et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest se situent au-dessous de la moyenne canadienne. La province affichant le plus haut pourcentage d'adultes vivant seuls est la Colombie-Britannique, avec plus de 10 %. Les ménages d'une seule personne sont les moins fréquents à Terre-Neuve, où la proportion est de 3 %.

La plupart des personnes vivant seules habitent la ville

Neuf ménages d'une seule personne sur 10 se trouvent dans des régions urbaines. Ceci n'est vrai que pour 80 % des ménages familiaux. Dans les centres urbains, 10 % des adultes vivent seuls. Dans les régions rurales, les ménages d'une seule personne sont beaucoup plus rares - environ 5 %.

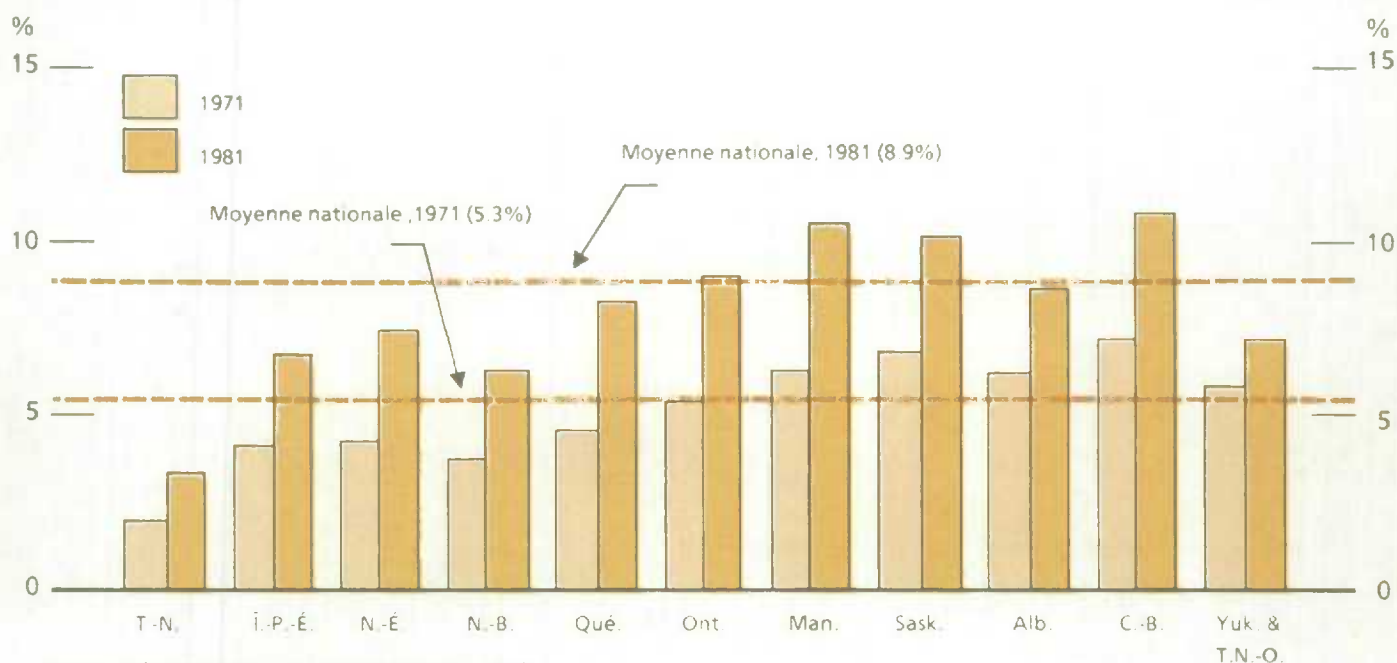
C'est à Victoria qu'on trouve le plus de personnes vivant seules

À Victoria, 14 % des adultes vivent seuls. Les taux les plus élevés se retrouvent ensuite à Vancouver, Saskatoon et Winnipeg.

Globalement, dans neuf régions métropolitaines importantes, au moins 10 % des adultes vivent seuls. En plus des villes déjà nommées, les autres sont: London, Montréal, Ottawa-Hull, Regina et Windsor. Ce n'est que dans deux des régions métropolitaines les plus importantes du pays que moins de 5 % des adultes vivent seuls: Chicoutimi-Jonquière et St. John's (Terre-Neuve).

Graphique 7

Personnes vivant seules en pourcentage de la population de 15 ans et plus, Canada, provinces et territoires, 1971 et 1981



Source : Bulletins du recensement du Canada, 1971.
Recensement du Canada de 1981

Les personnes vivant seules sont généralement locataires

Parmi les personnes qui vivent seules, les locataires surpassent les propriétaires de plus du double. Dans le reste de la population, la tendance générale est à la propriété.

Plus de 20 % des personnes vivant seules habitent des appartements dans un immeuble de cinq étages et plus. Cela n'est vrai que de 5 % des autres adultes.

La propriété et le genre de logement sont reliés à l'âge, au sexe et à l'état matrimonial

Tout comme chez le reste de la population, le taux de propriété augmente avec l'âge. La tendance à vivre dans une maison individuelle est plus forte chez les groupes d'âge plus élevé mais, encore une fois, elle est beaucoup plus basse chez les personnes vivant seules.

En général, les hommes vivant seuls ont plus de chances d'être propriétaires et de vivre dans des maisons individuelles que les femmes. On trouve les taux de propriété les plus élevés chez les veuves et les veufs. C'est dans le cas des maisons individuelles qu'on observe la plus forte proportion de veufs, ce qui laisse croire qu'ils continuent à occuper la maison familiale.

Les taux de propriété sont les plus bas chez les personnes qui n'ont jamais été mariées, mais même dans ce groupe, plus d'hommes que de femmes sont propriétaires.

Tableau 6

Répartition en pourcentage selon le genre de logements privés occupés, personnes vivant seules et personnes vivant avec d'autres, Canada, 1981

	Maisons individuelles	Appartements dans un immeuble (5 étages et plus)	Maisons mobiles	Autres logements multiples*	Total	Nombre
				%		
Vivant seules	30.5	22.3	2.2	45.1	100.0	1,681,190
Vivant avec d'autres	67.0	4.8	2.4	25.8	100.0	16,662,175

* Y compris les maisons jumelées et les appartements dans des immeubles de moins de 5 étages.

Nota: Ne comprend pas la population de moins de 15 ans.

Source: Recensement du Canada de 1981.



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

LIVING ALONE

Catalogue 11-518E

Canada

The four kits in this series were created by the Communications Division in consultation with the Census and Demographic Statistics Branch and are available individually, at \$25.00 each, or as a package of four at \$90.00. Educational organizations such as schools, school boards, colleges, universities and public libraries are eligible for a 30% discount. Such clients should send only the net amount (\$17.50 per individual kit, \$63.00 for package of four).

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Introduction

What does the elderly widow who didn't graduate from high school have in common with today's single male university graduate? They are both members of a growing minority of people who live alone. Living alone has changed from a rare arrangement to the life-style of one in every 11 Canadians. This kit looks at how many such people there are in Canada, where they live, the education, jobs and income they are likely to have and the kind of accommodation they occupy.

Students will probably be quick to realize why these facts are important to them personally, as they prepare for adult lives in which there is an increasing probability that they will spend at least some time living alone. They should also be interested in the use that can be made of these statistics by housing developers, supermarket chains, advertisers, recreation departments, police, home security firms, and many other agencies.

A class bulletin board can be set up for information on people who live alone. Newspapers and magazines abound with articles, advertisements and even comic strips on this group, which doubled in size between 1971 and 1981.

Statistics Canada conducts a census of the national population every 10 years. The data presented here are based on the findings of the census taken on June 3, 1981. The census definition of "single" to mean "never married" is used throughout.

How many Canadians live alone?

Chart 1

In 1981, the census showed that one of every 11 Canadians lived alone. The one-person household was second only to the two-person household in frequency. As we see here, in 1956 only 7.9% of all Canadian households consisted of one person. By 1981 this had risen to 20.3%.

Table 1

The number of persons living alone rose steadily from 309,000 in 1956 to 1,681,000 in 1981. The most dramatic increase occurred between 1971 and 1981, when the numbers of such people more than doubled. As a result, although they had made up only 2.8% of the population over 15 in 1956, they made up 8.9% in 1981.

Students will be able to suggest reasons for these increases, such as:

- The “baby boom” generation members reached their twenties in the 1970s, and many remained single.
- The life expectancy of women is now several years longer than that of men so we can expect there to be more widows. (Life expectancy tables give 77.5 years for women and 70.2 for men.)
- The Divorce Act of 1968 led to an increase in the number of divorces. Between 1971 and 1981, the number of divorced persons almost tripled.
- The 1981 Census showed that the “real” income of Canadians went up on average by 28% over 1971. For unattached people it rose even more. As a result, more people could afford to set up separate households, and many of them did so.

Who lives alone?

Chart 2

Here we see the percentages in various age groups of men and women who live alone. The chart suggests that you are most likely to live alone at two stages in life — between the ages of 20 and 34, and after 65. If you are male, there is slightly more chance that you will live alone at the younger age. If you live alone after the age of 65, however, you are considerably more likely to be a woman — elderly women outnumber elderly men living alone by three to one.

A class discussion will lead to some explanations for these findings. Most statistics suggest that younger men will, on average, earn more than younger women, and are therefore more able to afford to live alone. Perhaps, too, society still considers young men freer to move away from the parental home at an early age. In the case of young divorced people, the men are less likely to have custody of children. As for the elderly group, women, on average, live longer than men and are less likely to remarry after the death of a spouse.

Chart 3

Most people who live alone have either never been married or are widowed. The picture for men, however, is different from that for women. While more than half the men who live alone are single (57%), almost half (47%) of women who live alone are widowed. Of men who live alone, 28% are separated or divorced, but this is true for only 16% of women who live alone. This can be largely explained by the fact that after a marriage breakdown women usually have custody of any children.

Chart 4

This chart gives information about the education of people between the ages of 25 and 44 who have never been married. Members of this group who live alone are more likely to have a university degree than members who live with others. As can be seen, in keeping with the trend identified in "Schooling in Canada" (Catalogue 99-938), for both sexes there is a greater percentage of degrees in the younger age group. In the two age groups shown, however, single women living alone are more likely to hold degrees than single men living alone.

Students can suggest reasons for these facts. One might be economic. Are women with degrees more likely than other single women to earn enough to set up their own households?

Table 3

Interestingly, men over the age of 34 are rather less likely to be in the labour force if they live alone than if they live with others. Women who live alone, on the other hand, have much higher participation in the labour force than those who live with others, at every age except over 65.

Table 5

As you might guess, men and women aged 15-64 who live alone, whether single, separated or divorced, earn more than men and women of the same marital status who live with others.

For elderly widows, in 1980, those who lived alone averaged \$8,200 in personal income, which does not allow for many extras.

Where do they live?

Chart 6

The chart shows how the 1,681,100 Canadians who live alone are distributed among the various parts of the country. Prince Edward Island has the smallest number of people who live alone, 6,200 or 0.4%, Ontario has the largest, 611,300 or 36.4%. Compared with the distribution of the general population, however, those who live alone are somewhat over-represented in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and under-represented in the Atlantic provinces.

What percentage of all the people living alone live in your province? How does this compare with the percentage of the national population living there?

Chart 7

Here we see what percentage of every province's population lived alone in 1971 and in 1981. The percentage has risen noticeably in every part of the country. In 1981 British Columbia was the province with the highest percentage of its population living alone, more than 10 in every 100. Living alone is least common in Newfoundland, where the proportion is only three out of every 100.

The lower dotted line shows the national average for 1971; the upper dotted line shows the national average for 1981. As you see, east of the Ontario-Quebec border, the proportion living alone in each province is less than the national average. West of this border only Alberta and the Territories are below it. In these 10 years, Alberta changed from having a higher percentage of people

living alone than the national average to having a lower percentage. This may be because many young families moved to Alberta from other provinces during those years.

Table 6

A single detached house is the type of dwelling chosen most often by people in Canada. This is true for only 30% of people who live alone, however, as compared with 67% of people who live with others. As many as 45% of those who live alone occupy multiple dwellings such as duplexes, garden homes and condominiums and 22% occupy apartments in high-rise buildings. The 1981 Census also tells us that people who live alone are twice as likely to rent accommodation as they are to buy it. Home ownership is highest among widowers and widows.

Students can probably suggest who might be interested in this information and how they might use it. Some examples might be building developers, home security firms, recreation planners, etc.

The class can discuss how likely it is that the trend for people to live alone will continue. They could take into account:

- **the “baby boom” population;**
- **life expectancy trends;**
- **proposed new divorce legislation;**
- **state of the national economy and the construction industry.**

Some might like to discuss the extended family as it exists in other cultures and the significance for society as a whole of the fact that more and more people are choosing to live apart from family and friends.

Living Alone Exercises

Table 1

1. Use the information on this table to construct a graph to show how the percentage of the population living alone has increased since 1956.
2. What percentage of the population over 15 lived alone in 1956? in 1981?
3. Which decade has shown the greatest increase in the percentage of the population living alone?
4. Can you give three reasons for the trend?

Table 1 Living Alone

**Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over
and as a Percentage of All Households, Canada, 1956-1981**

	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
Persons living alone ('000)	309	425	590	812	1,205	1,681
Persons living alone as a percentage of the population 15 years and over	2.8	3.5	4.4	5.3	7.0	8.9
One-person households* as a percentage of all households	7.9	9.3	11.4	13.4	16.8	20.3

* The number of one-person households is equivalent to the number of persons living alone.

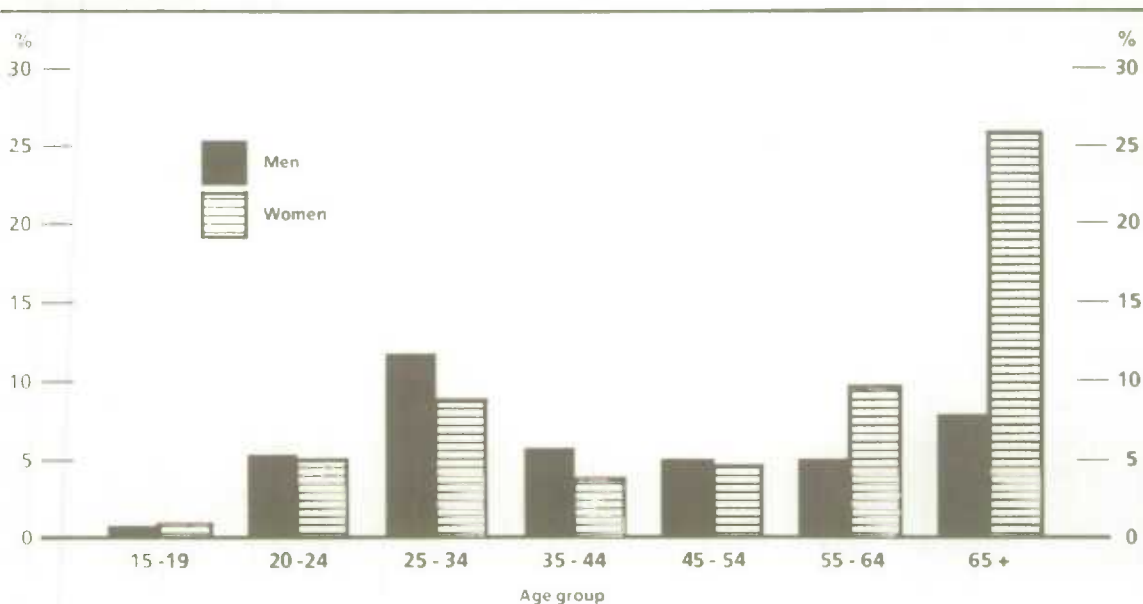
Source: Various Census of Canada bulletins, 1956-1981.

Chart 2

5. At which two times in your life do these figures suggest you are most likely to live alone?
6. At what age are you most likely to live alone if you are a man? Can you explain this answer?
7. At what age are you most likely to live alone if you are a woman? Can you explain this answer?

Chart 2 Living Alone

Percentage Distribution by Age and Sex of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

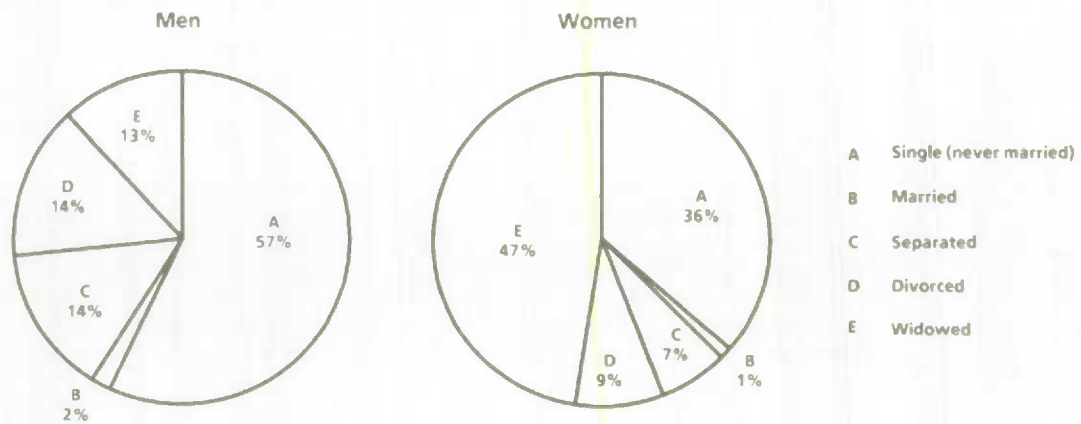
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 3

8. Compare the facts given on the marital status of men who live alone and women who live alone. Can you suggest why there would be a sex difference in these statistics?

Chart 3 Living Alone

Percentage Distribution by Marital Status of Men and Women Living Alone, Canada, 1981



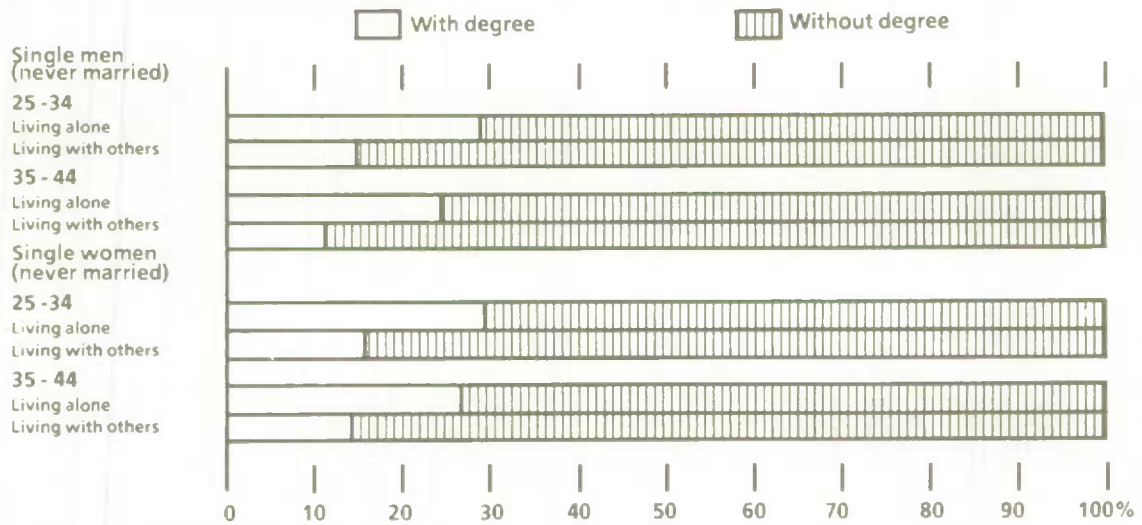
Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 4

9. People in which age group are more likely to have a university degree: 25-34 or 35-44?
10. From this chart make a general statement comparing the education of people who live alone and that of people who live with others.
11. Compare the proportions of men and women who live alone and have university degrees.

Chart 4 Living Alone

Percentage of Degree-holders Among Single (Never Married) Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, by Sex and Selected Age Groups, Canada, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Table 5

12. Compare the average employment incomes of people who live alone and people who live with others.
13. Compare the average employment incomes of single, separated and divorced men and women who live alone.
14. Can you suggest why the discrepancy should exist?

Table 5 Living Alone

Average 1980 Employment Income of Full-time, Full-year Workers Aged 15 to 64 by Selected Marital Status and Sex, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living with Others, Canada, 1981

	Single (never married)		Separated		Divorced	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Living alone	18,900	16,000	22,700	14,800	22,700	15,800
Living with others	14,200	12,300	20,600	13,600	20,700	14,800

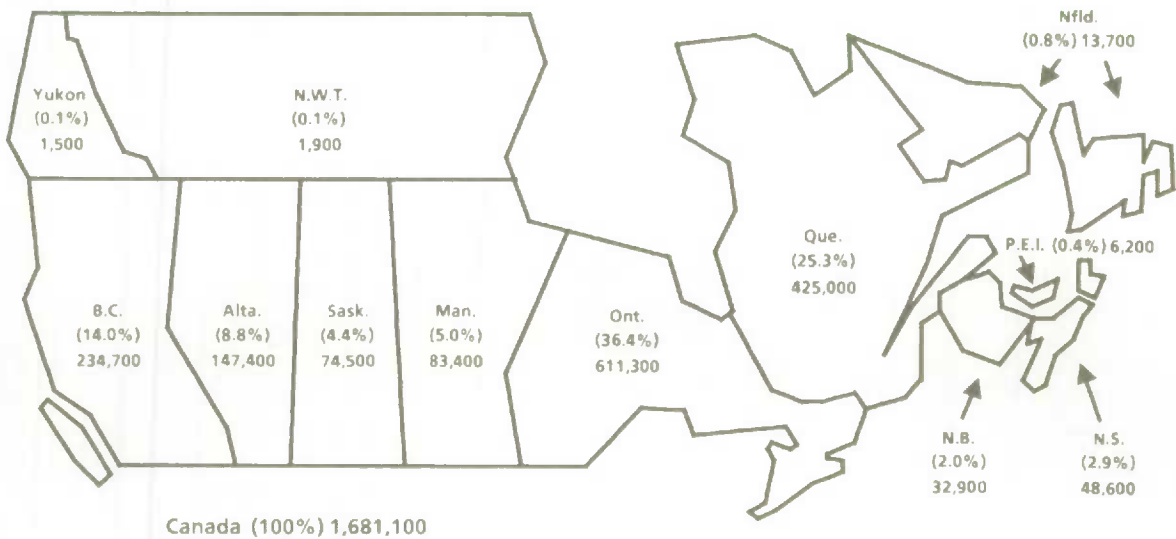
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 6

15. Which province has the smallest number of people who live alone?
16. Which province has the largest number of people who live alone?
17. How many people are there in your own province or territory who live alone? What percentage is this of the national population living alone?

Chart 6 Living Alone

Number and Percentage Distribution by Province and Territory of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

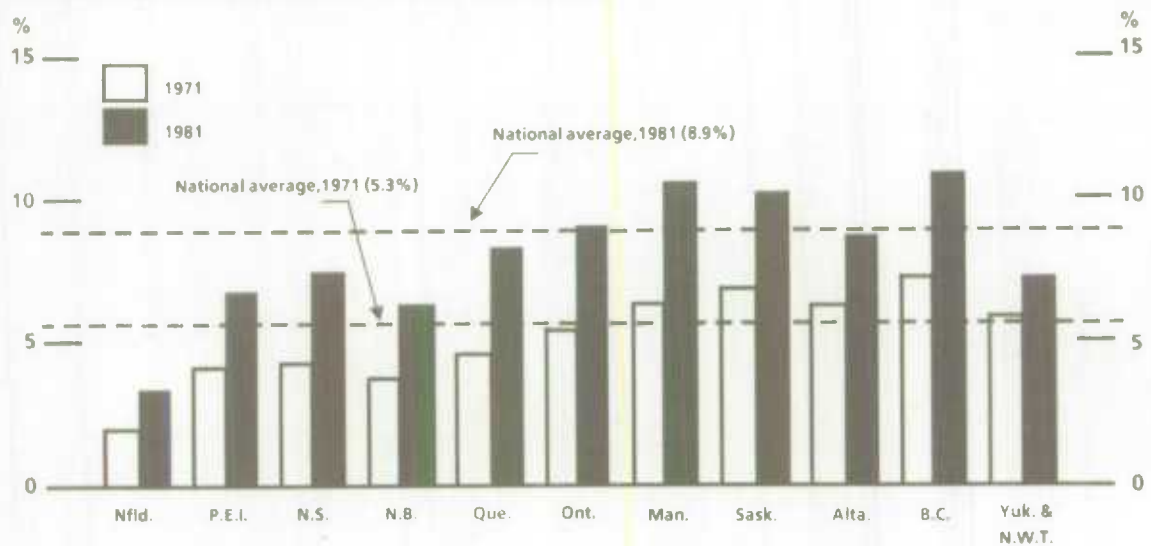
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 7

18. Which part of Canada has the lowest percentage of its population living alone?
19. Which part of Canada has the highest percentage of its population living alone?
20. How did your own province or territory compare with the national average for population living alone in 1971? 1981?
21. What reasons can you suggest for your answers to the above questions?

Chart 7 Living Alone

Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over,
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1971 and 1981



Source: 1971 Census of Canada bulletins.
1981 Census of Canada.

General Questions

1. Write an essay comparing the statistics for men who live alone and women who live alone. You should discuss age, income, marital status, education and labour force participation. Where possible, give reasons for the differences between the sexes.
2. Suppose you are planning a housing development to accommodate people who live alone. What special features might be introduced into the accommodation? Make a presentation to the class on your plans, especially as they have been influenced by these statistics.
3. Write an essay on how the facts about those who live alone might change during the next few years. Consider such things as the changing population, easier divorce laws, increased participation of women in the labour force, more men gaining custody of their children, more (or less) availability of housing, etc.
4. Show how the following people could make use of the statistics shown here: a grocery store manager, a restaurant owner, the proprietor of a home security firm, an advertiser. (Students could pick one and make a presentation on this to the class.)
5. Hold a debate on the pros and cons of living alone at different stages of life.

Living Alone

Game Questions

1. In 1981, the percentage of the population over 15 who lived alone was: **9%; 15%; 20%?**
2. Women who live alone are most likely to be: **single; divorced; widowed?**
3. Men who live alone are most likely to be: **single; divorced; widowed?**
4. What percentage of the population living alone hold university degrees: **4%; 12%; 20%?**
5. Which part of Canada has the smallest percentage of adults who live alone: **Saskatchewan; Newfoundland; the Territories?**
6. Of the following types of accommodation which is chosen least often by people who live alone: **single houses; high-rise apartments; other multiple dwellings?**
7. At what age are men who live alone much more likely to participate in the labour force than men who live with others: **15-19; 35-44; 65 and over?**
8. Which of the following groups, living alone, is likely to have the highest employment income: **single women; separated women; divorced women?**
9. The highest rates of home ownership among those who live alone are for: **widowed people; divorced people; single people?**
10. In 1980 the average annual income of widows who lived alone was: **\$17,000; \$8,200; \$12,300?**

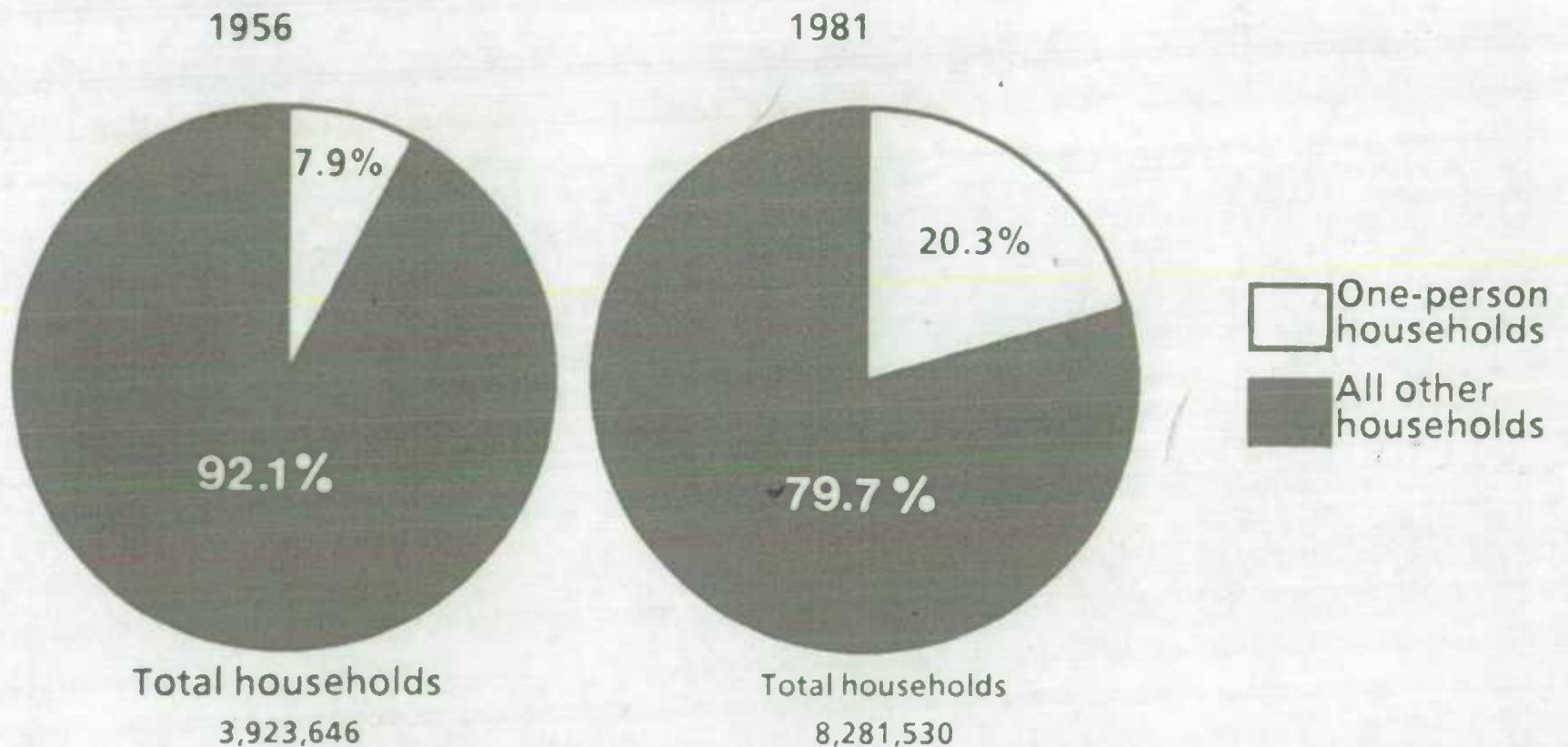
Living Alone

Game Question Answers

1. 9%
2. **Widowed**
3. **Single**
4. 12%
5. **Newfoundland (3%)**
6. **High-rise apartments (chosen by 22.3%)**
7. 15-19
8. **Single women who live alone (\$16,000)**
9. **Widowed people**
10. \$8,200

Chart 1 Living Alone

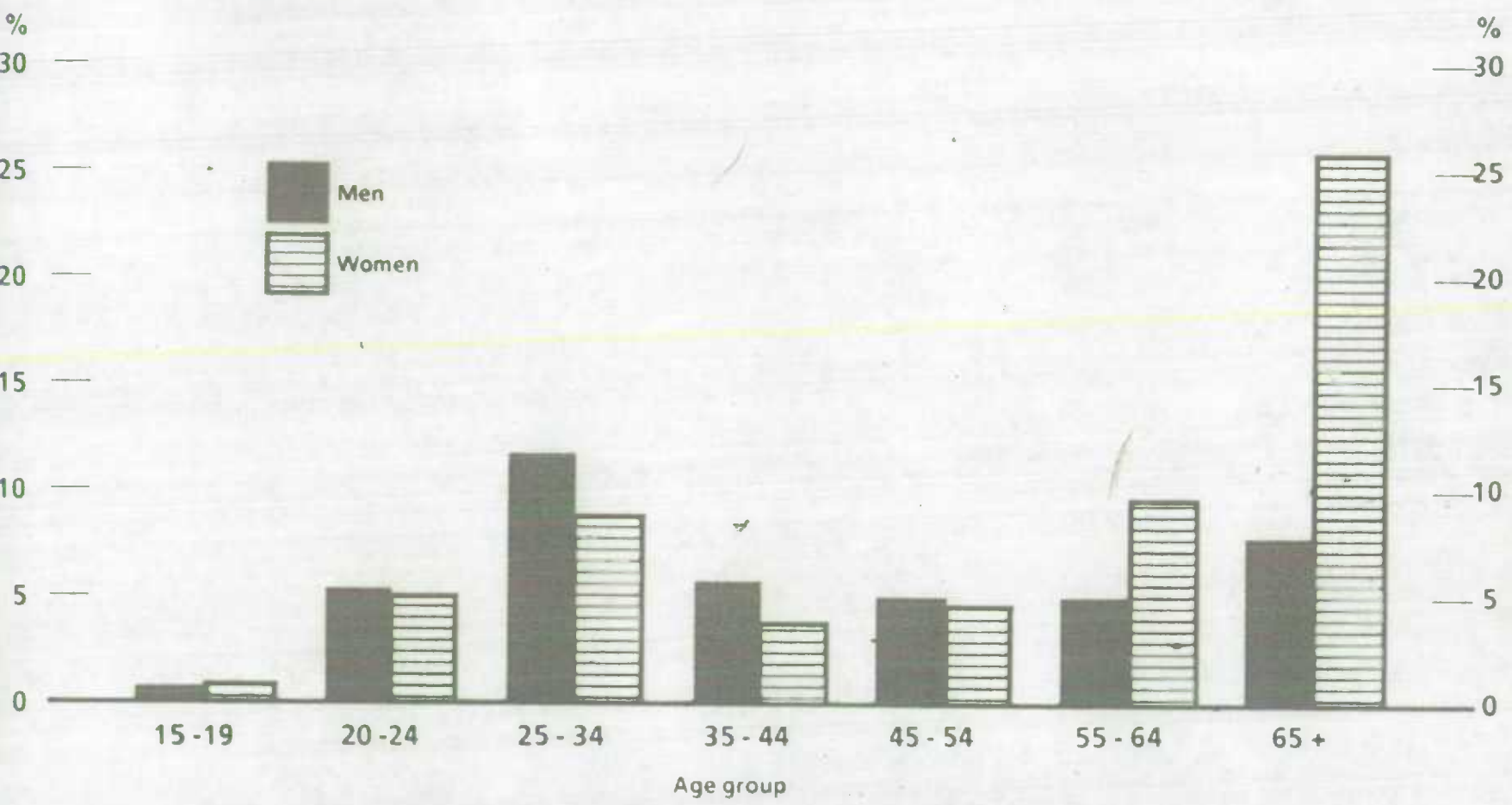
One-person Households as a Percentage of All Households, Canada, 1956 and 1981



Source: Various Census of Canada bulletins (1956-1981)

Chart 2 Living Alone

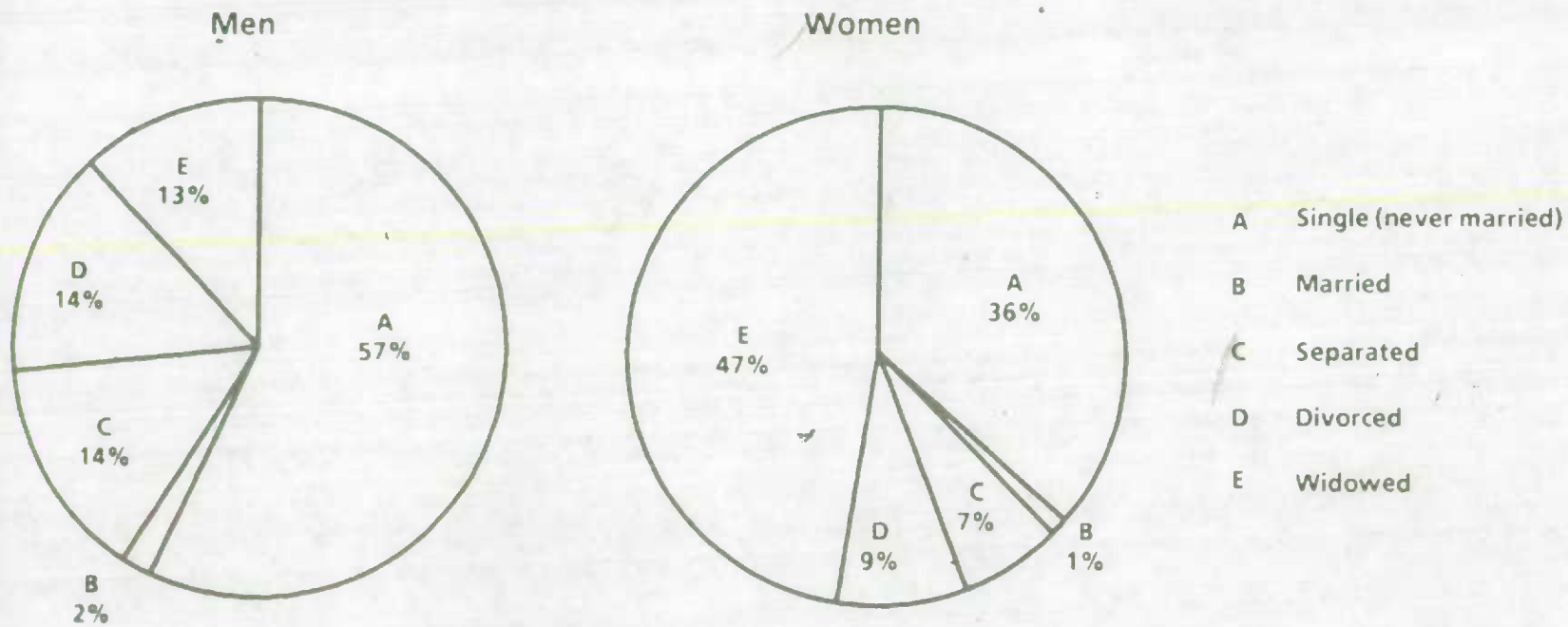
Percentage Distribution by Age and Sex of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 3 Living Alone

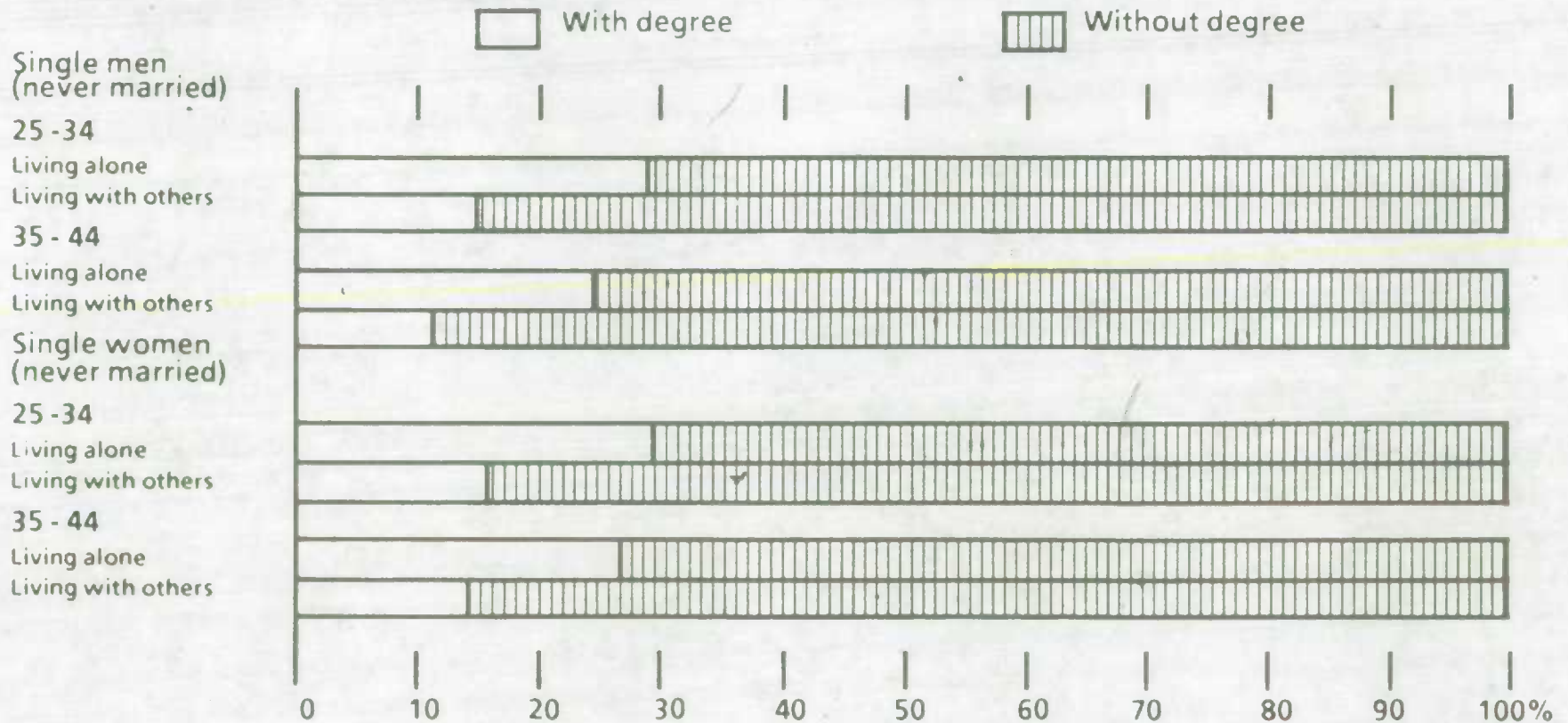
Percentage Distribution by Marital Status of Men and Women Living Alone, Canada, 1981



Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.
Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Chart 4 Living Alone

Percentage of Degree-holders Among Single (Never Married) Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, by Sex and Selected Age Groups, Canada, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

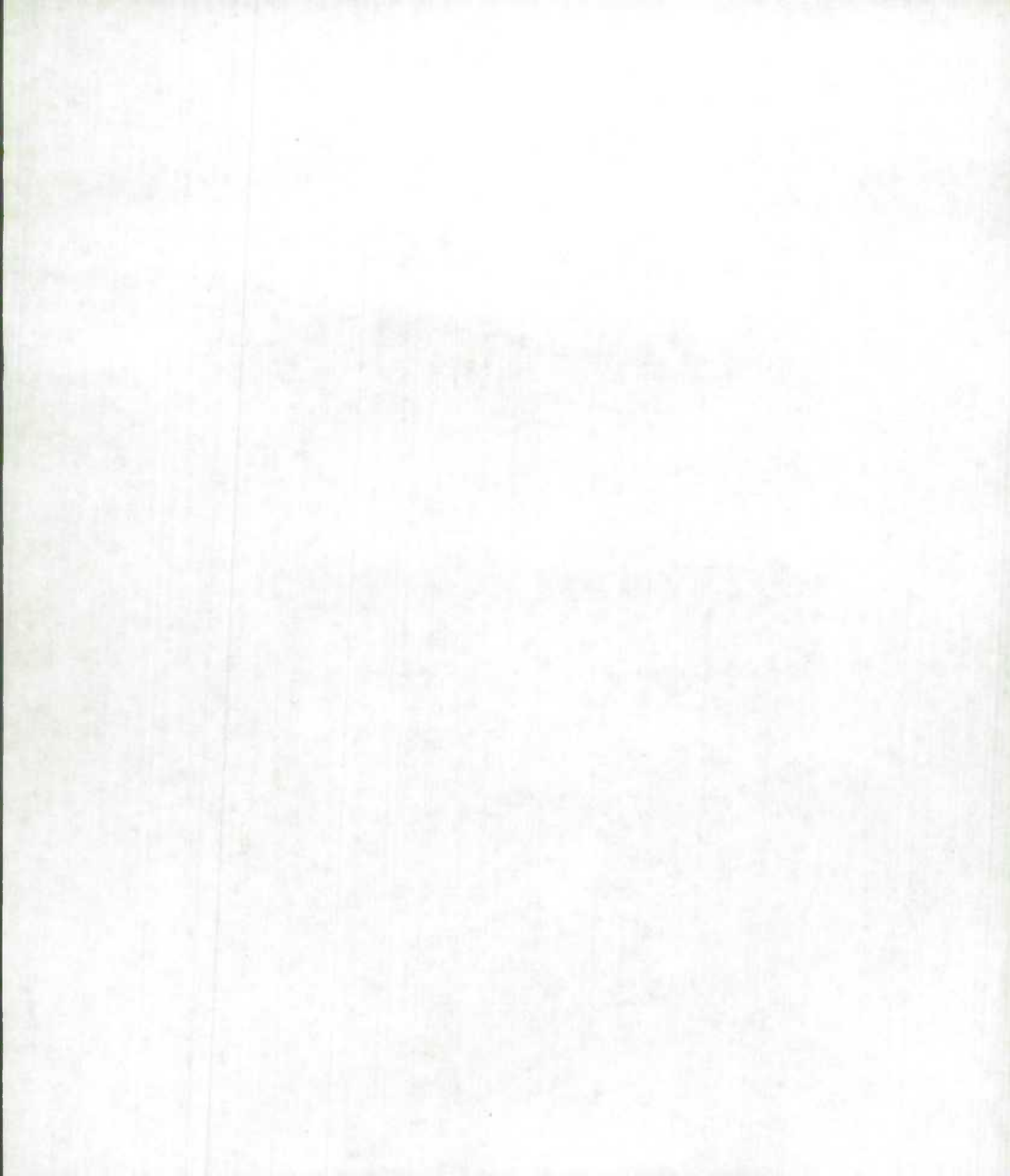
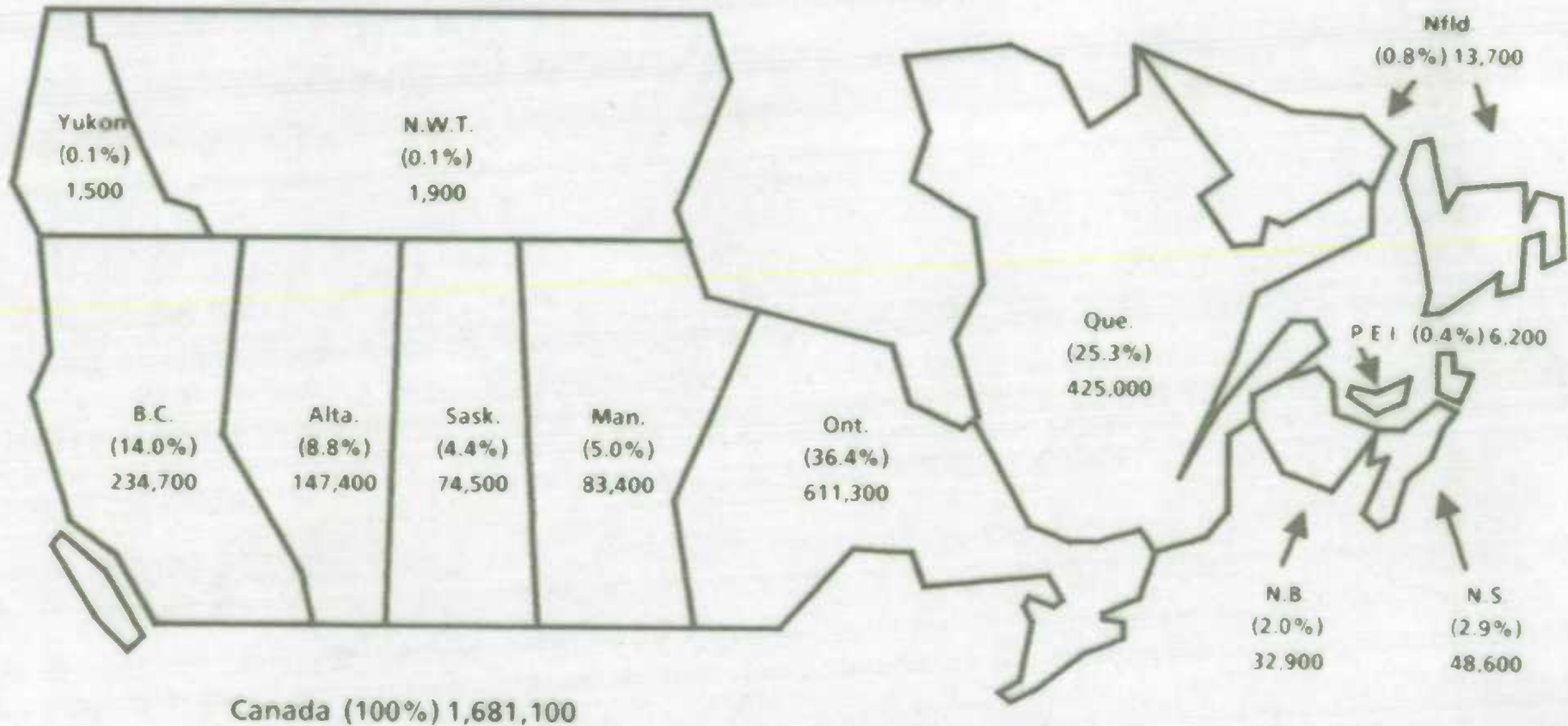


Chart 6 Living Alone

Number and Percentage Distribution by Province and Territory of Persons Living Alone, Canada, 1981

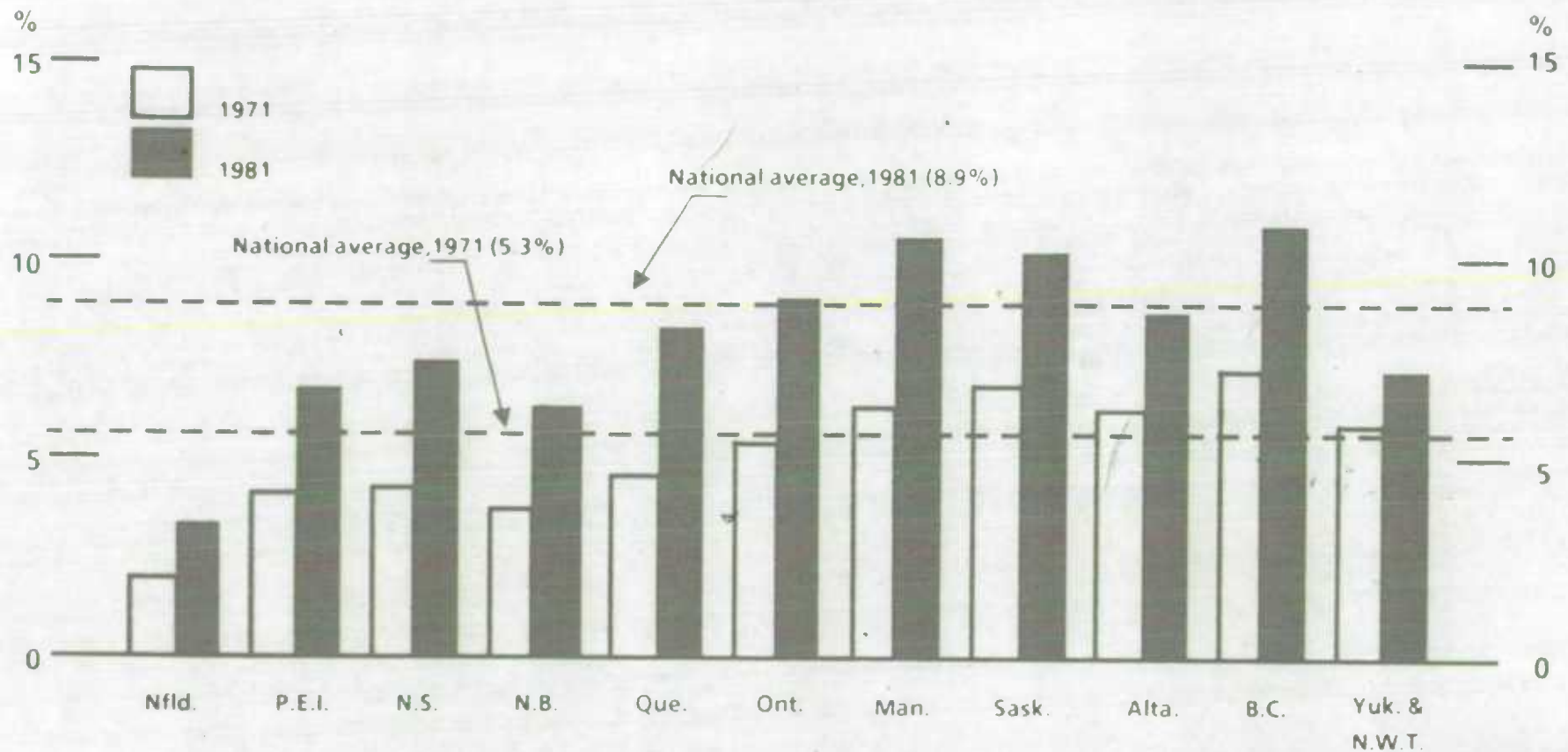


Note: Excludes population aged less than 15

Source: 1981 Census of Canada

Chart 7 Living Alone

Persons Living Alone as a Percentage of the Population 15 Years and Over, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1971 and 1981



Source: 1971 Census of Canada bulletins
1981 Census of Canada

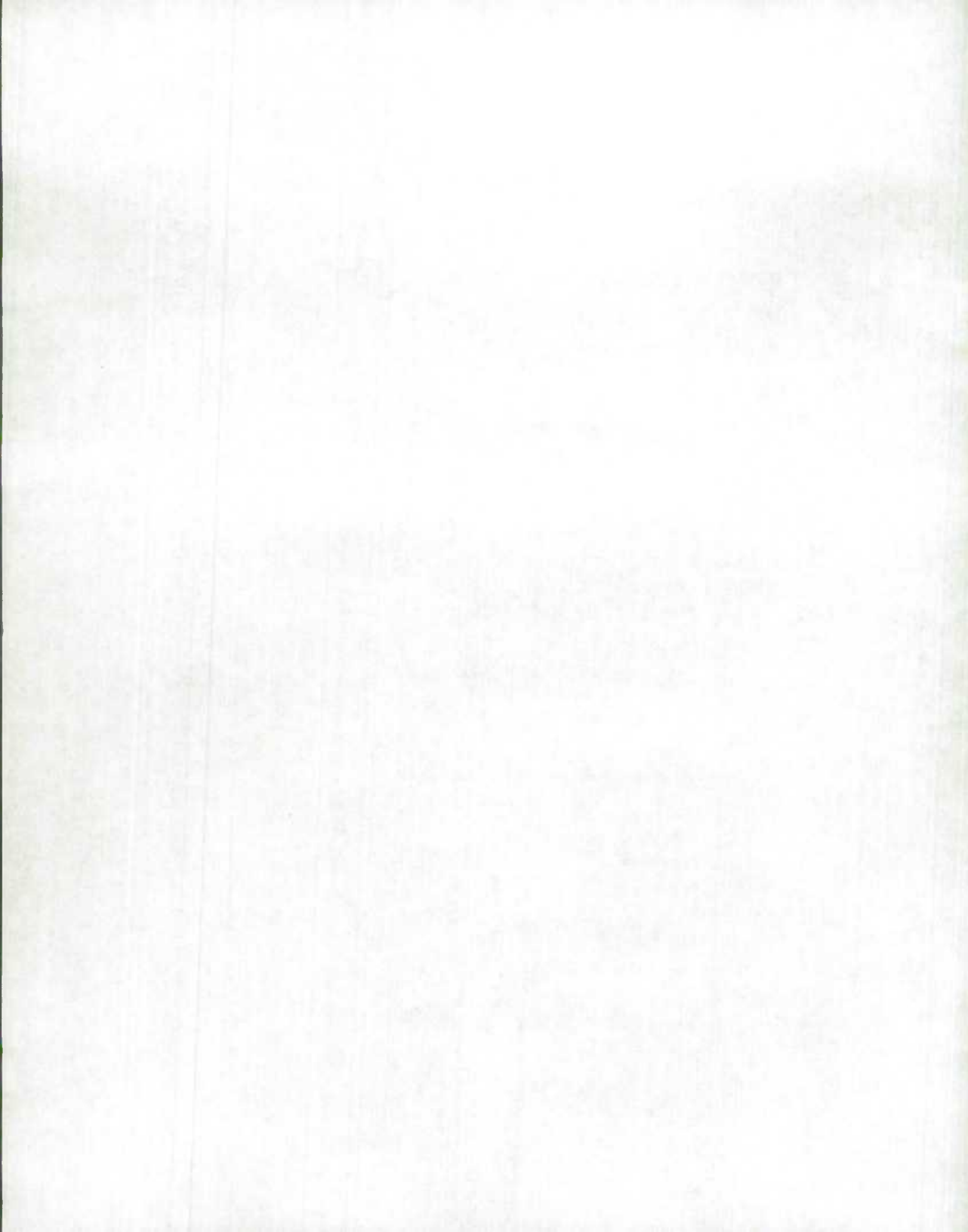


Table 1 Living Alone

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and as a Percentage of All Households, Canada, 1956-1981**

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Persons living alone as a percentage of the population 15 years and over	2.8	3.5	4.4	5.3	7.0	8.9
One-person households* as a percentage of all households	7.9	9.3	11.4	13.4	16.8	20.3

* The number of one-person households is equivalent to the number of persons living alone.

Source: Various Census of Canada bulletins, 1956-1981.

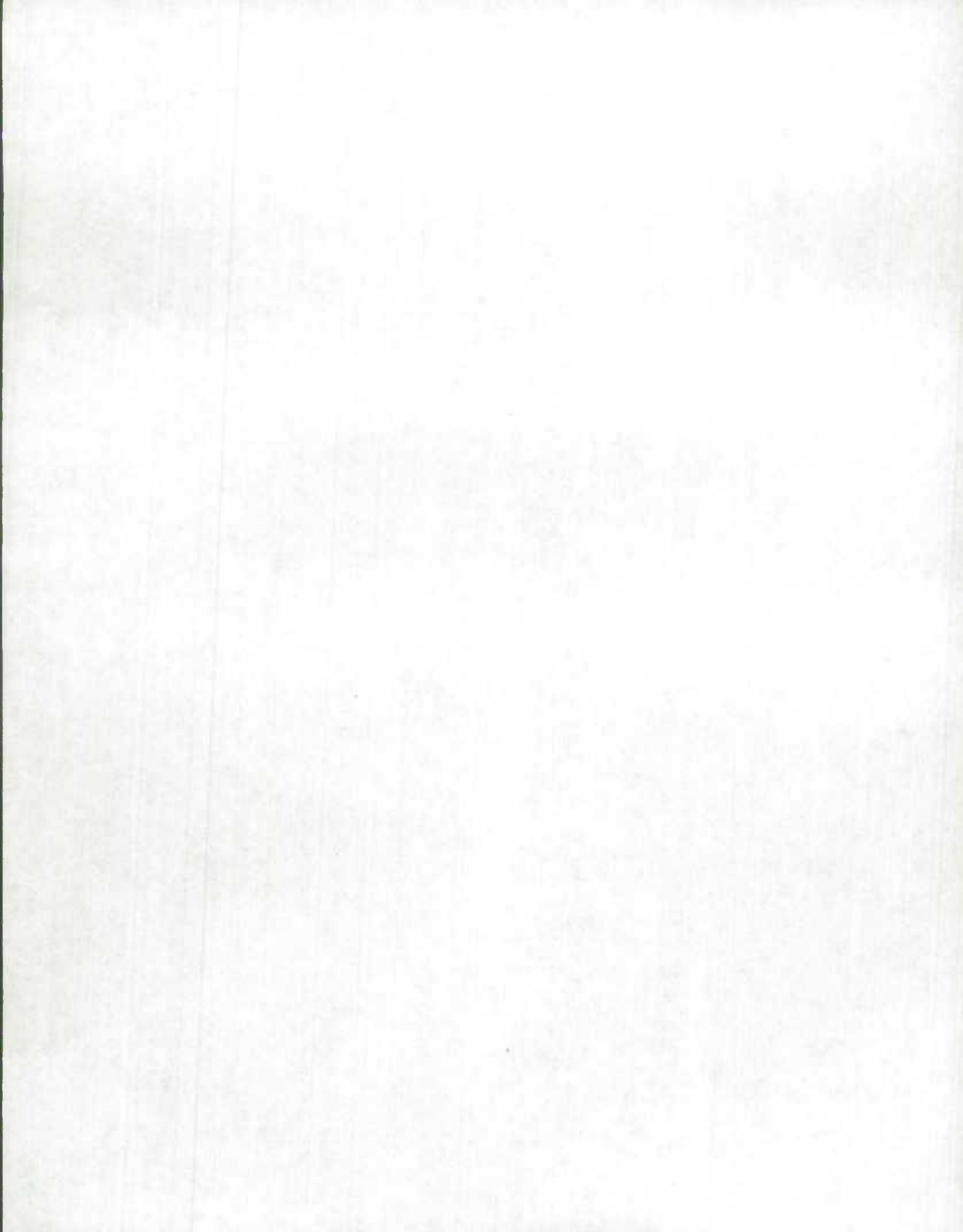


Table 3 Living Alone

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Sex, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living with Others, Canada, 1981

	Age group							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
	%							
Men								
Living alone	88.4	94.7	95.3	92.8	85.2	65.9	13.5	74.6
Living with others	48.3	90.5	95.3	95.4	92.8	78.5	17.9	78.5
Women								
Living alone	88.0	94.6	95.2	89.6	76.4	48.8	5.2	46.0
Living with others	43.9	75.8	63.5	63.1	54.5	33.4	6.5	52.5
Total								
Living alone	88.2	94.6	95.3	91.5	80.9	54.6	7.1	57.7
Living with others	46.2	83.2	79.1	79.2	73.7	55.7	12.3	65.5

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Table 5 Living Alone

Average 1980 Employment Income of Full-time, Full-year Workers Aged 15 to 64 by Selected Marital Status and Sex, Persons Living Alone and Persons Living with Others, Canada, 1981

	Single (never married)		Separated		Divorced	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Living alone	18,900	16,000	22,700	14,800	22,700	15,800
Living with others	14,200	12,300	20,600	13,600	20,700	14,800

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

Table 6 Living Alone

**Percentage Distribution by Type of Occupied Private Dwelling,
Persons Living Alone and Persons Living With Others, Canada, 1981**

	Single detached	Apartment buildings (5 storeys or more)	Movable	Other multiples*	Total	Number
			%			
Living alone	30.5	22.3	2.2	45.1	100.0	1,681,190
Living with others	67.0	4.8	2.4	25.8	100.0	16,662,175

* Includes attached houses and apartments in buildings of less than 5 storeys.

Note: Excludes population aged less than 15.

Source: 1981 Census of Canada.

