

community health facts 2013

Comox Valley

Demographics

The Comox Valley area (which encompasses the Courtenay Local Health Area) is home to approximately 66,000 people.

- 4.4% identify as Aboriginal.
- 9.8% are aged 75 and over.
- The population is expected to grow by 30% over the next 20 years.
- The population over age 75 is expected to nearly double.

Health and Wellbeing

Compared to Island Health as a whole, Comox Valley has (based on most recent data available):

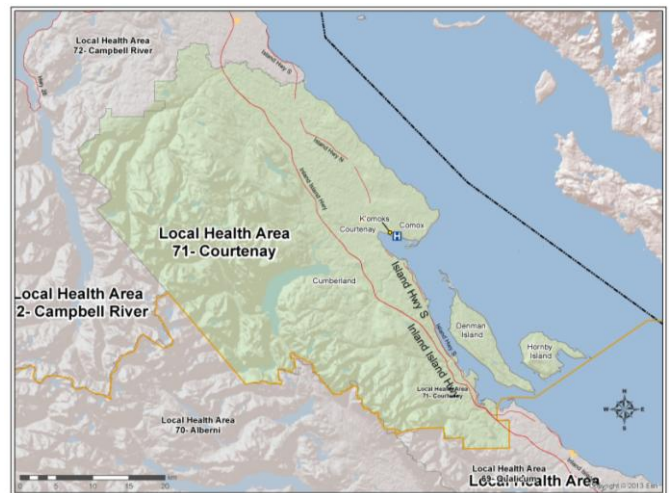
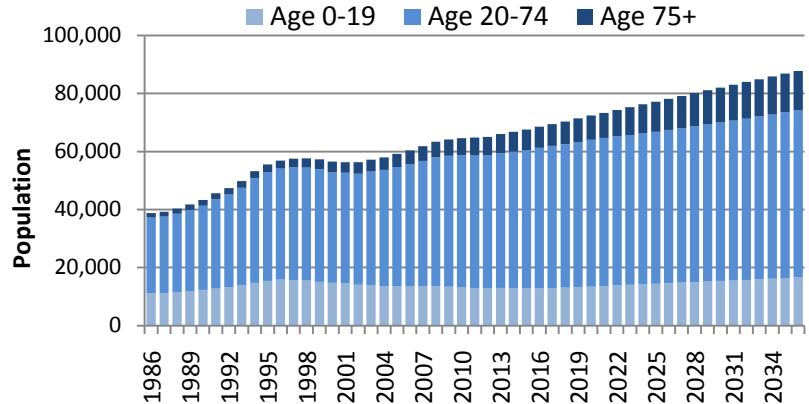
- A lower birth rate.
- A higher rate of maternal smoking.
- Lower rates of preterm births and low birth weight.
- A similar life expectancy (82 years).
- A higher rate of death due to chronic lung disease, lung cancer, and cerebrovascular disease/stroke.
- Similar prevalence of leading chronic conditions including hypertension, depression/anxiety and asthma.

Social Determinants of Health

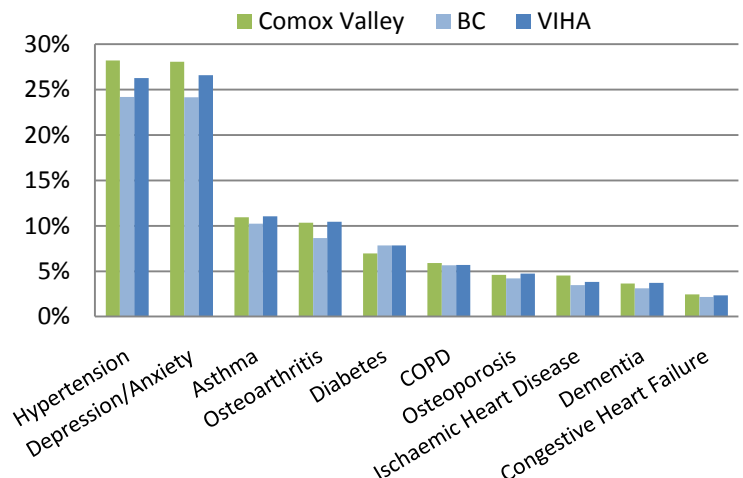
Housing, employment, education and social support can have a big impact on the health of our communities and our ability to make healthy lifestyle choices. Compared to Island Health overall (based on most recent data available):

- *Economic Wellbeing* - Comox Valley has a lower percent of the population receiving income assistance, and a higher percent on employment insurance compared to BC and Island Health.
- *Education* – Comox Valley has more students in grades 4 and 7 scoring below the standard levels on reading and writing tests, but a higher percent of 18 year olds graduating high school.

Comox Valley Population Change



Prevalence of Chronic Conditions, 2010/11



Social Determinants of Health *(continued)*

- *Child Health* – Comox Valley has a higher rate of children hospitalized due to injury and poisoning and a lower rate of children hospitalized due to respiratory disease
- *Crime* – Comox Valley has lower crime rates, including motor vehicle theft, serious crime, and non-cannabis drug offences.

Health Services

Comox Valley is served by St. Joseph’s General Hospital, the Comox Valley Nursing Centre, and the Comox Valley Health Unit, and has 380 residential care beds and 95 assisted living beds spread over five sites, including St. Joseph’s Hospital. Additional services available include public health, home and community care, and mental health and substance use.

Every year, Comox Valley residents have about 13,500 hospital admissions, and 20,800 unscheduled emergency department visits.

Of the 13,500 admissions in 2011/12:

- 75% were to St. Joseph’s Hospital
- 7% were to the nearby Campbell River Hospital
- 18% were to other hospitals

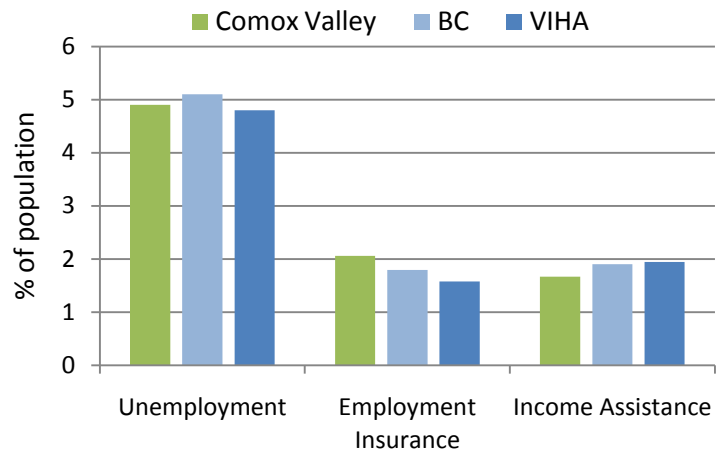
Of the 20,800 unscheduled emergency visits in 2012/13:

- 81% were to St. Joseph’s Hospital
- 38% were for those over the age of 60

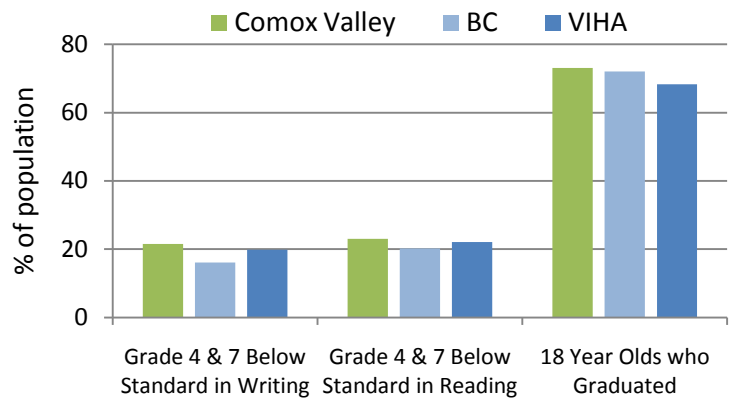
For more information on Island Health Services in your region, please visit:

<http://www.viha.ca/locations/>

Economic and Employment Statistics



Education Statistics



Comox Valley Resident Cases by Hospital

