Languages Hot Facts

Languages in Richmond

Comparing 2006 and 2011 Census Results — Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue	2006 Census	2011 Census	% Change
English	67,040	69,460	3.6%
Cantonese	28,545	30,170	5.7%
Chinese, n.o.s.	23,230	24,670	6.2%
Mandarin	13,400	20,680	54.3%
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	6,010	7,305	21.5%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	6,775	5,795	-14.5%
Russian	1,705	2,140	25.5%
Japanese	1,810	2,075	14.6%
Spanish	1,840	1,875	1.9%
German	2,015	1,595	-20.8%
Persian (Farsi)	1,105	1,175	6.3%
Hindi	1.170	1.095	-6.4%
Taiwanese	880	1,075	22.2%
Arabic	855	965	12.9%
Korean	1,090	890	-18.3%
Urdu	685	870	27.0%
Vietnamese	675	775	14.8%
Fukien	n/a	670	n/a
Gujarati	680	615	-9.6%
Dutch	525	440	-16.2%
Polish	520	435	-16.3%
Other Languages	13,015	14,970	15.0%
Total Population	**173,570**	**189,740**	**9.3%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2011 Census.

Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned at home by the individual and still understood at the time of the Census (if two languages were spoken equally then this figure was captured also).

Ninety-seven percent of Richmond residents identified one language as their mother tongue while 3% of the population indicated that they spoke more than one language as their mother tongue.

In Richmond, 41% indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 36.6% indicated English, 3.9% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 3.1% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

Note: Chinese languages include Mandarin, Cantonese, Chinese, n.o.s., Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow, Fukien and Shanghainese.

Richmond

Comparing 2006 and 2011 Census Results — Language Spoken Most Often at Home

Language	2006 Census	2011 Census	% Change
English	92,130	93,715	1.7%
Cantonese	26,235	26,550	1.2%
Mandarin	11,975	17,920	49.6%
Chinese, n.o.s	18,455	17.685	-4.2%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	3,925	3,630	-7.5%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	3,065	3,305	7.8%
Russian	1,415	1,495	5.7%
Japanese	1,010	1.140	12.9%
Spanish	1,035	970	-6.3%
Persian (Farsi)	800	745	-6.9%
Arabic	495	640	29.3%
Korean	820	600	-26.8%
Taiwanese	305	570	86.9%
Urdu	380	480	26.3%
Hindi	490	455	-7.1%
Vietnamese	340	405	19.1%
Fukien	n/a	295	n/a
Gujarati	290	295	1.7%
Turkish	225	245	8.9%
German	230	185	-19.6%
Hebrew	180	160	-11.1%
Polish	200	155	-22.5%
Other Languages	9,560	18,100	89.3%
Total Population	**173,560**	**189,740**	**9.3%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2011 Census.

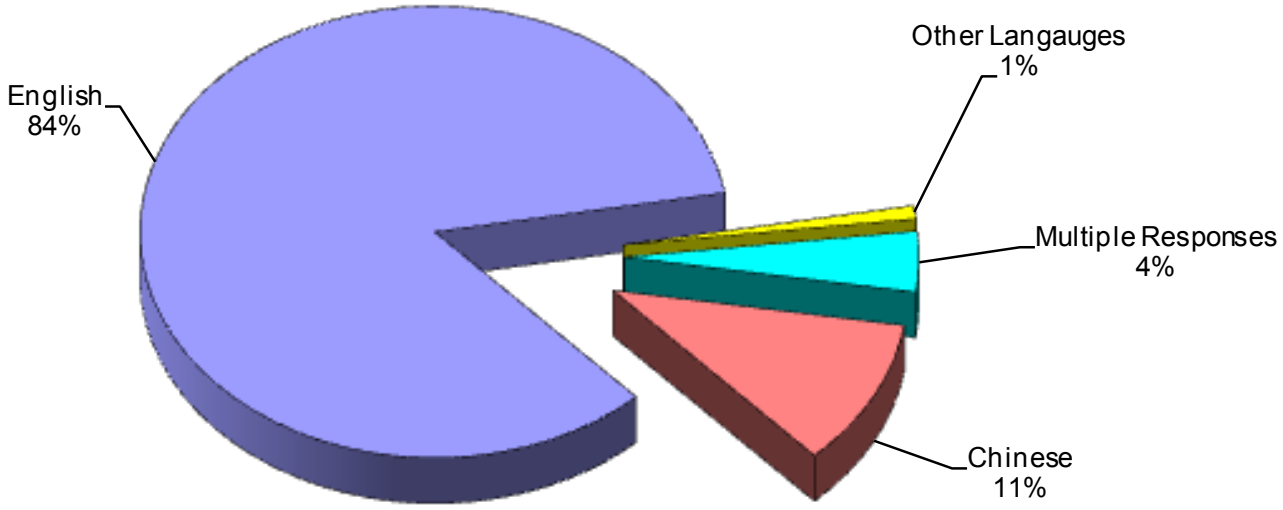
Home Language represents the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.

Ninety-two percent of residents reported speaking only one language at home and 8% of the population reported speaking more than one language at home.

Language at Work, 2011

Ninety-six percent of Richmond residents speak only one language at work and 4% of the population speak more than one language at work.

Language Used Most Often at Work (2011 National Houshold Survey)



Eighty-four percent of Richmond residents speak English at work. The remaining 16% speak other languages or more than one language including English at the work place.

Note: Chinese languages include Mandarin, Cantonese, Chinese, n.o.s., Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow, Fukien and Shanghainese.

Home Language by Planning Area, 2011

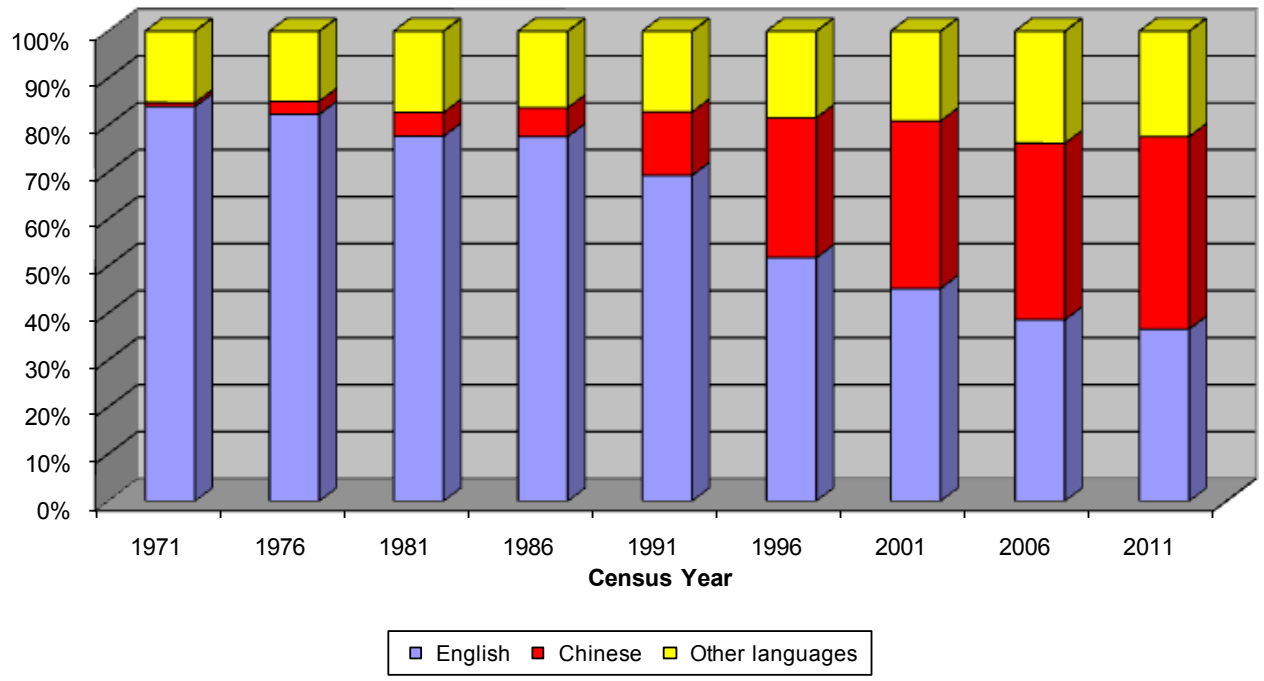
Planning Area	Home Language						
	English	Cantonese	Chinese, n.o.s.	Mandarin	Panjabi (Punjabi)	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	Other Languages
Blundell	49.1%	17.1%	12.1%	12.9%	1.1%	1.7%	6.1%
Bridgeport	54.3%	15.6%	7.7%	3.0%	6.6%	5.2%	7.5%
Broadmoor	52.7%	13.7%	10.4%	13.3%	1.9%	1.7%	6.3%
City Centre	38.4%	19.8%	15.3%	16.6%	0.3%	2.3%	7.4%
East Cambie	48.3%	15.6%	8.1%	4.1%	11.0%	3.6%	9.3%
East Richmond/Fraser Lands	67.6%	6.2%	3.8%	6.0%	9.7%	0.5%	6.2%
Gilmore	77.2%	3.3%	4.3%	6.5%	3.3%	0.0%	5.4%
Hamilton	66.4%	11.7%	4.7%	3.4%	2.6%	3.1%	8.1%
Sea Island	96.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	2.5%
Seafair	64.3%	11.7%	8.3%	7.0%	1.0%	1.6%	6.1%
Shellmont	64.2%	9.1%	4.6%	4.4%	7.7%	1.8%	8.1%
Steveston	77.3%	8.0%	3.8%	4.1%	0.2%	0.9%	5.8%
Thompson	49.3%	16.7%	13.1%	11.5%	0.8%	1.5%	7.0%
West Cambie	38.6%	32.2%	11.7%	9.0%	1.6%	1.8%	5.0%
Richmond CY	53.7%	15.2%	10.1%	10.3%	2.1%	1.9%	6.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census.

How has Richmond changed over time?

The percentage of residents who claimed English only as their mother tongue has declined from 38.6% in 2006 to 36.6% in 2011.

Percentage of Population by Mother Tongue (2011 Census)



In 2011, the Total Chinese Group (41%) is the most common mother tongue followed by English (36.6%) and Tagalog (Pilipino) (3.9%).

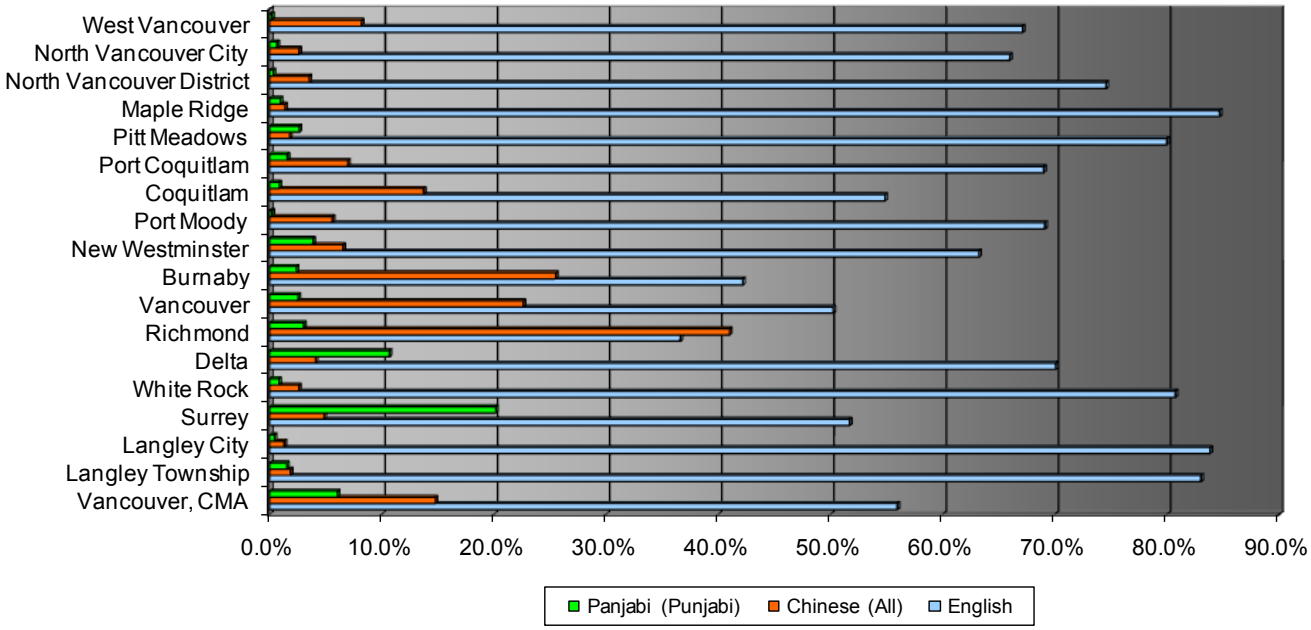
The percentage of Richmond residents who speak English at home has decreased since the 2006 Census. In 2006, 53.1% used English at home, 32.6% used Chinese and 2.3% used (Panjabi) Punjabi. In 2011, 49.3% used English at home, 33.3% used Chinese and 2% used (Panjabi) Punjabi.

Note: Chinese languages include Mandarin, Cantonese, Chinese, n.o.s., Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow, Fukien and Shanghainese.

How does Richmond Compare?

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue and home language and likewise, the smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue and home language compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. This is an indication that Richmond residents are the most diverse in their mother tongue and home language in the Lower Mainland.

Regional Comparision: Mother Tongue–Percentage of Total Population (2011 Census)



Summary

Almost 41% of Richmond residents indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, nearly 37% indicated English, just under 4% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 3% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

In the 2011 Census, 49% of Richmond residents speak English at home, 33% speak Chinese and nearly 2% speak Panjabi (Punjabi).

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue (41%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In Greater Vancouver, the percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue is 15%. Likewise, Richmond residents have smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue (36.6%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In the Greater Vancouver area, the percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue is 56.0%.

For Further Information:

Please contact the Policy Planning Division at 604-276-4116 or communityplanning@richmond.ca.

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