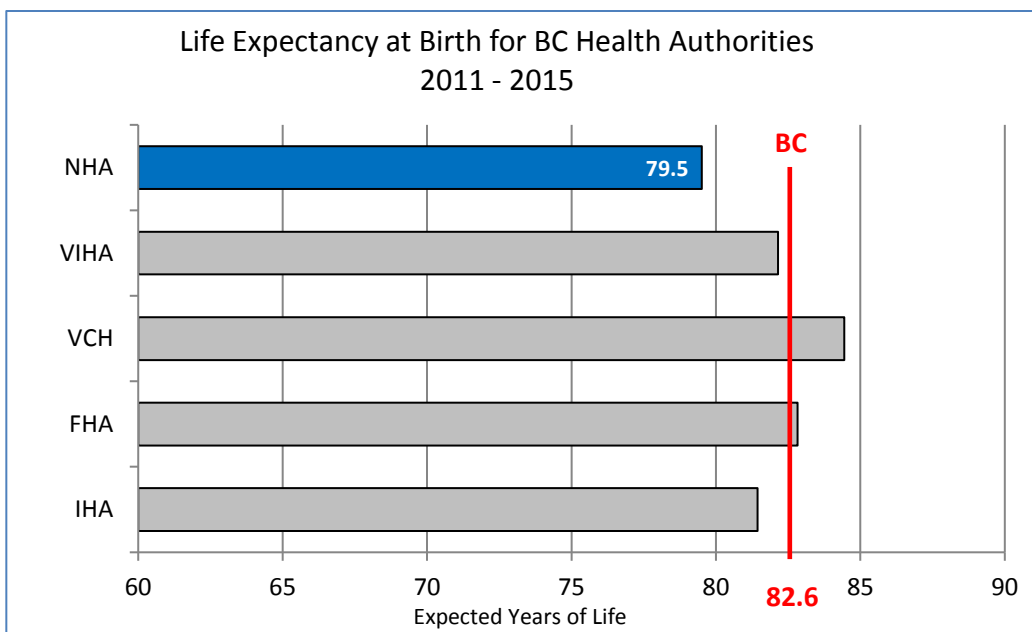
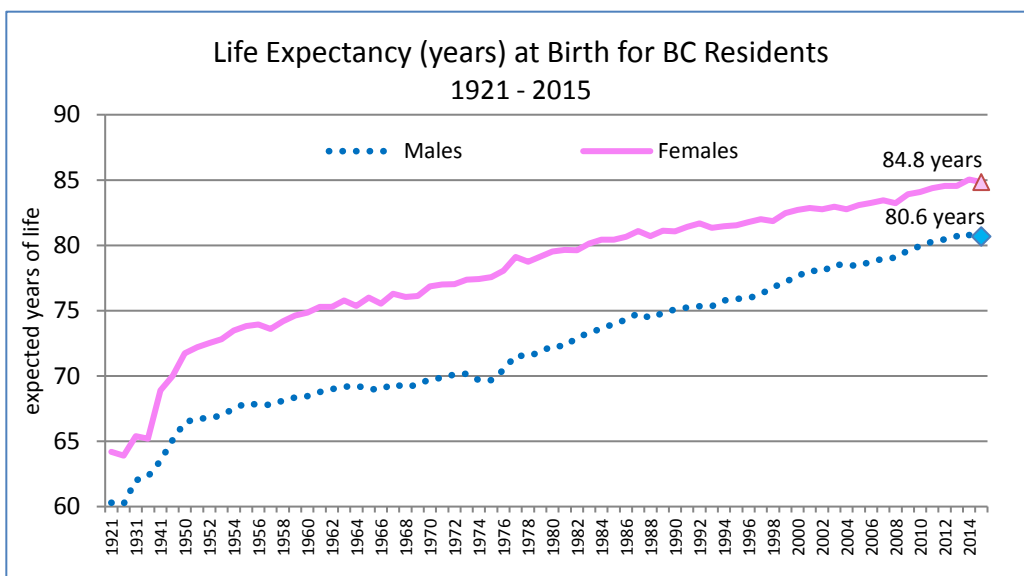


## Life Expectancy at Birth

**Life expectancy** is used around the world as a basic indicator of the extent to which people are able to live a long life, that a population is healthy, has adequate food and access to health care, and is protected from disease and other threats that would shorten their lifespan. <sup>1</sup> Over the past century we have witnessed huge increases in life expectancy in developed and emerging nations. These increases are attributed principally to improvements in sanitation, improved access to clean drinking water and childhood immunizations. <sup>2, 3</sup>

The top graphic shows the trend towards greater life expectancy for BC residents. The bottom graphic shows that northerners have an expected life expectancy of 79.5 years compared to the expected life expectancy of 82.6 years for BC residents overall. <sup>4</sup> Though not shown here, at 75.9 years, Aboriginal (Status persons) in British Columbia have a life expectancy that is far below that of many others. <sup>5</sup>



## References

This article was prepared by James Haggerstone, Northern Health, for inclusion in the annual Northern Health Environmental Scan 2017 / 18.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> BC Provincial Health Officer Annual Report 1999: Indicator Definitions; Accessed June 2016. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/annual-reports/phoannual1999.pdf>
  - <sup>2</sup> Immunization: A Report on the Health and Wellbeing of British Columbian. BC Provincial Health Officer, 1998. <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual1998.pdf>
  - <sup>3</sup> Small Area Populations Projections (P.E.O.P.L.E.): Technical Paper. BC Stats, July 2009. (mortality: page 10) <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/TechnicalPapers.aspx>
  - <sup>4</sup> BC Stats: Vital Statistics: Life-Expectancy at Birth Accessed May 26, 2016. <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/VitalStatistics.aspx>
  - <sup>5</sup> BC Provincial Health Officer and First Nations Health Authority: First Nations Health and Well-being: interim Update: November 2015. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/special-reports/first-nations-health-and-well-being-interim-update-nov-2015.pdf>