

**BATTLE RIVER  
BASIN:  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
PROFILE, 2006**

Prepared for:

**Battle River Watershed Alliance**

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## Table of Contents

|     |                                |    |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|
| 1.0 | BASIN OVERVIEW .....           | 1  |
| 2.0 | BIGSTONE SUB-BASIN .....       | 12 |
| 3.0 | PAINTEARTH SUB-BASIN .....     | 30 |
| 4.0 | IRON SUB-BASIN .....           | 43 |
| 5.0 | SOUNDING SUB-BASIN .....       | 59 |
| 6.0 | RIBSTONE SUB-BASIN .....       | 72 |
| 7.0 | BLACKFOOT SUB-BASIN .....      | 84 |
|     | DATA SOURCES AND METHODS ..... | 95 |

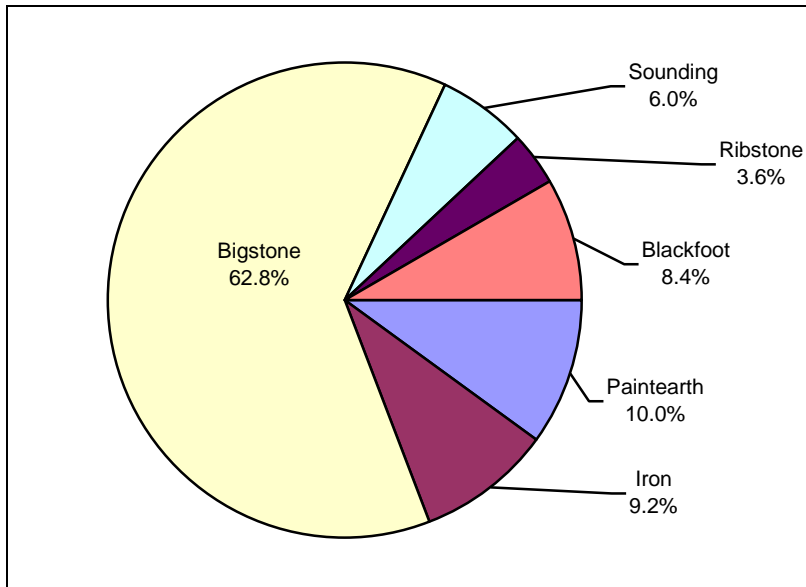
## Battle River Basin: Socio-Economic Profiles, 2006

### 1.0 BASIN OVERVIEW

#### 1.1 Population

In 2006, the Battle River Basin (BRB) had a population of about 122,660 people; this represents 3.7% of the population of Alberta. Overall, 22.3% of the basin population lived in one of two cities (Camrose and Wetaskiwin). Another 33.1% lived in one of the 15 towns in the basin and a similar percentage (32.5%) lived in one of 16 rural areas, including counties, municipal districts, and Special Areas. The balance of the population lived in one of 28 villages (5.9%), 10 summer villages (0.8%), or five Indian reserves (5.4%),

Figure 1-1: Population by Sub-Basin, 2006



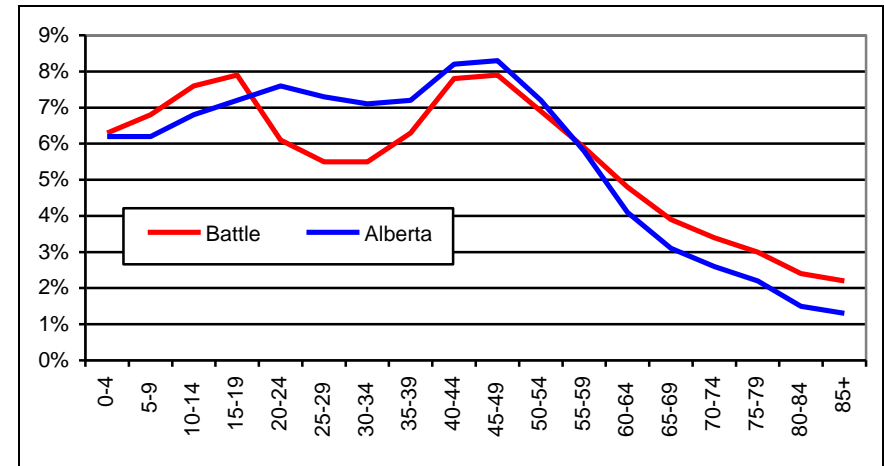
As shown in Figure 1-1, nearly two-thirds of basin residents (62.8%) lived in the Bigstone Sub-basin which includes the City of Camrose and the City of

Wetaskiwin, as well as the towns of Lacombe, Ponoka and Millet. The balance of the population was distributed relatively evenly throughout the rest of the basin, ranging from 10.0% in the Paintearth sub-basin to 3.6% in the Ribstone sub-basin.

#### 1.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the BRB were different from the Alberta population. Figure 1-2 shows that the BRB had higher percentages of people under the age of 19 years and higher percentages of people over the age of 60 years. However, the BRB had much lower percentages of people in the 20 to 39 year age groups and slightly lower percentages of people in the 40 to 59 year age groups.

Figure 1-2: Age Composition of the Battle River Basin Population, 2006



Overall, 79.4% of the population of the BRB was aged 15 years or older, and this was slightly lower than for Alberta (81.4%)

### 1.3 Aboriginal Population

About 9.4% of the residents of the BRB were Aboriginal. The 11,315 Aboriginal residents of the basin accounted for 6.0% of all Aboriginal people in Alberta. Figure 1-3 shows that the Bigstone sub-basin had the highest percentage of Aboriginal people (13.6%) and this sub-basin actually accounted for just over 90% of all the Aboriginal people in the entire BRB.

**Figure 1-3: Aboriginal Population by Sub-Basin, 2006**

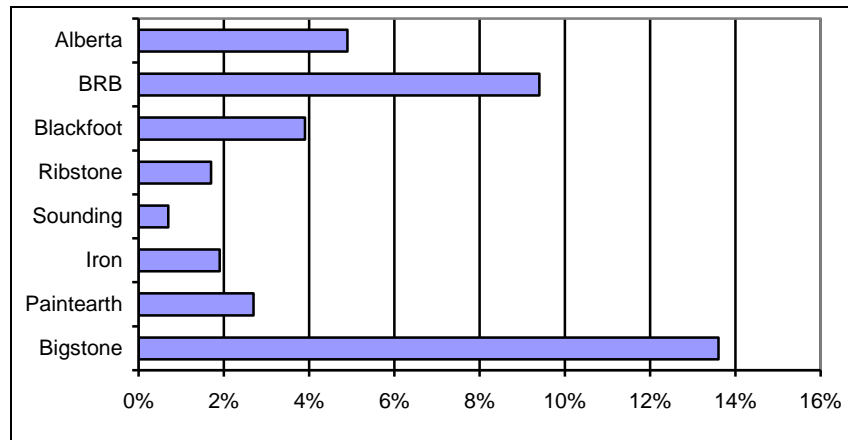


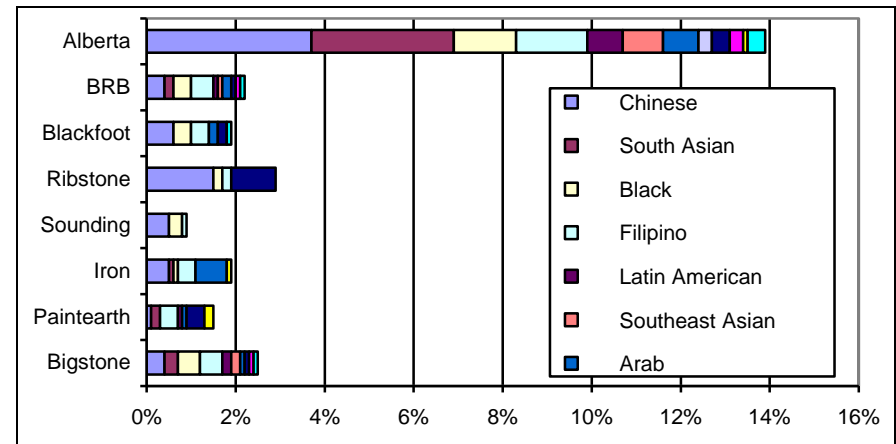
Figure 1-3 also shows that the Blackfoot sub-basin was the only other part of the BRB where Aboriginal people accounted for more than 3% of the population. Aboriginal people accounted for less than 0.5% of the population of the Sounding sub-basin. About 58% of the Aboriginal population lived on one of the five reserves.

### 1.4 Ethnicity

About 2.2% of the BRB population consisted of visible minorities; this was much lower than for Alberta (13.9%). The highest percentages of visible minorities were found in the Ribstone and Bigstone sub-basins, where they accounted for 3.0% and 2.6% of the sub-basin populations. Visible minorities accounted for less than 2% of the population of the other four sub-basins. The most common visible minorities in the BRB were Filipino

(which accounted for 19% of the visible minority population), Chinese (19%), Black (16%) and South Asian (11%).

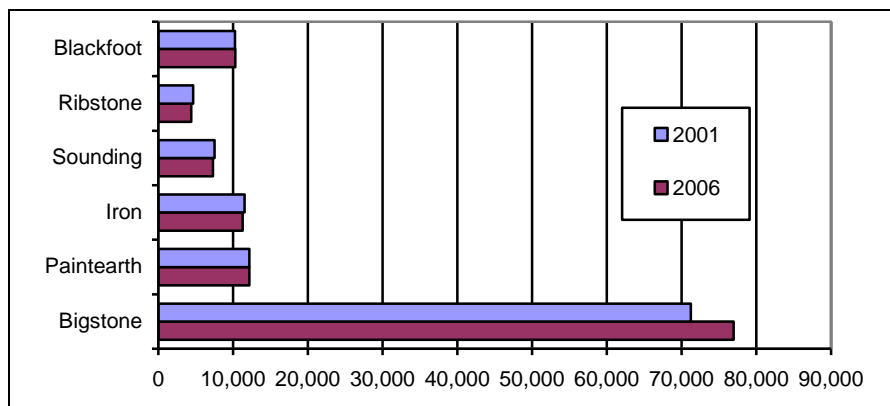
**Figure 1-4: Visible Minorities by Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 1.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the BRB increased by 4.3%, which was much lower than the Alberta average (10.6%). Figure 1-5 shows that almost all of the population increase occurred in the Bigstone sub-basin where the population increased by 8.0%. Population decreases occurred in three of the sub-basins, with the largest percentage decline occurring in the Ribstone sub-basin (-5.0%). In the Paintearth and Blackfoot sub-basins, the population grew by only 0.4% or less.

**Figure 1-5: Population Change in the BRB, 2001-2006**



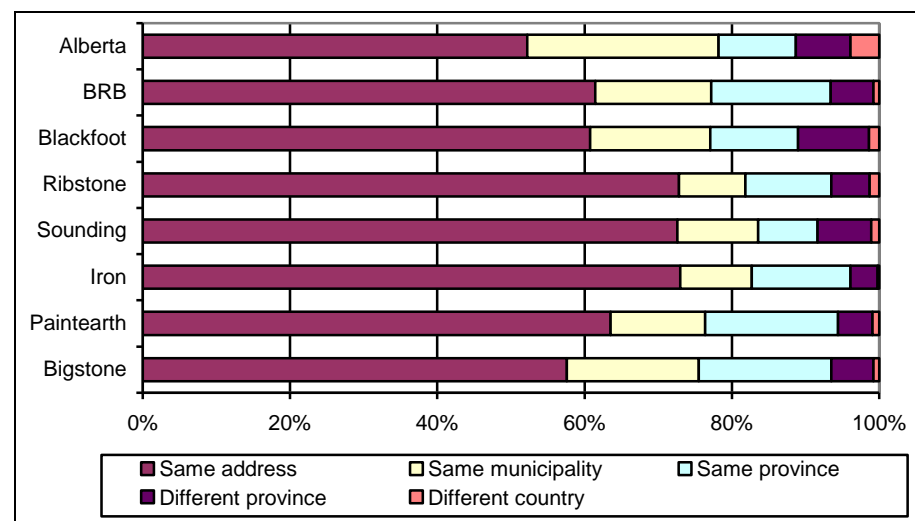
One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 1-6 shows population mobility in the BRB between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 61.4% of basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period, while 15.7% changed addresses within the same municipality.

A small percentage of people (0.8%) moved in from another country, 5.8% moved from another province, and 16.2% moved from a different municipality in Alberta. When compared to the provincial profile, BRB residents were more likely to have lived at the same location for the previous five years and more likely to have moved in from a different part of Alberta outside their home municipality.

The Ribstone and Sounding Creek sub-basins had the highest percentages of people who had lived at the same address for more than five years. The Blackfoot and Sounding sub-basins also reported the highest percentages of people who had moved into the basin from another province or country. Residents of the Bigstone sub-basin were the most mobile, although much of the changes consisted of people changing addresses within the same municipality. The Bigstone and Paintearth sub-basins also had the highest

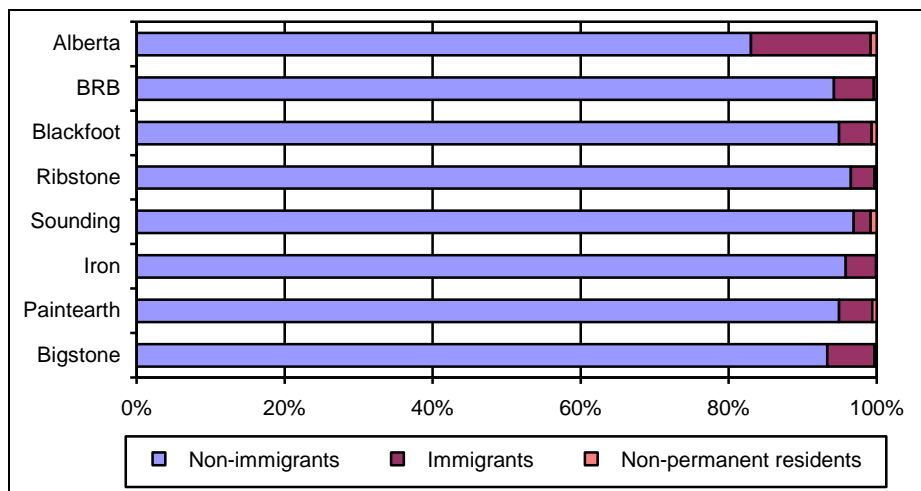
percentages of people who had moved from a different census subdivision (municipality) from within Alberta.

**Figure 1-6: Population Mobility, 2001-2006**



Immigration had contributed to population growth in the BRB. About 5.4% of the basin population consisted of immigrants, compared to 16% for Alberta. Immigrants accounted for 6.4% of the population of the Bigstone sub-basin, but represented less than 4.5% of the population of the other five sub-basins. The Sounding sub-basin had the lowest percentage of immigrants (2.3%).

**Figure 1-7: Role of Immigration by Sub-Basin, 2006**



About 73% of the basin population consisted of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations. In three sub-basins, 75% or more of the population had lived in Canada for three or more generations; these include the Sounding, Ribstone and Blackfoot sub-basins. In the other three sub-basins, only 72 % had lived in Canada for three or more generations. The Bigstone sub-basin had the highest percentage of people who had only lived in Canada for one generation.

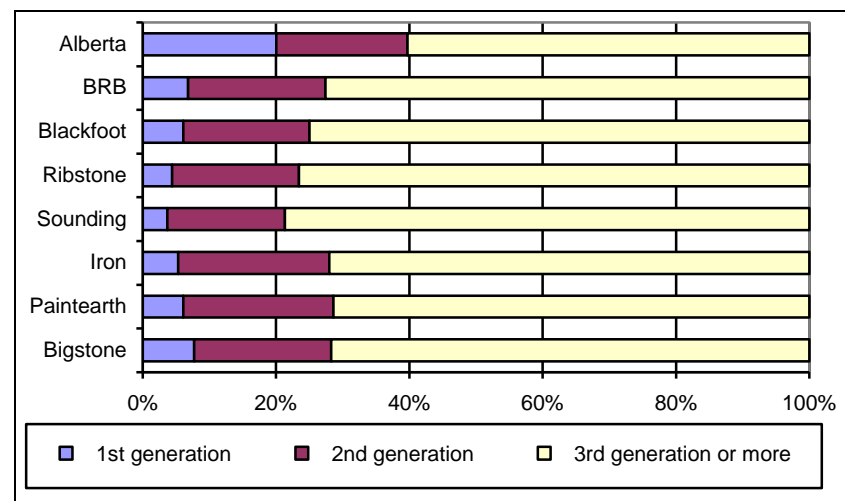
### 1.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 54.1% of the basin population, while the balance consisted of single people (29.2%), divorced people (7.2%), widowed people (6.9%) and people who are separated (2.6%). The basin profile (Figure 1-9) was similar to the Alberta profile, although the basin had a slightly higher percentage of married people and fewer single people.

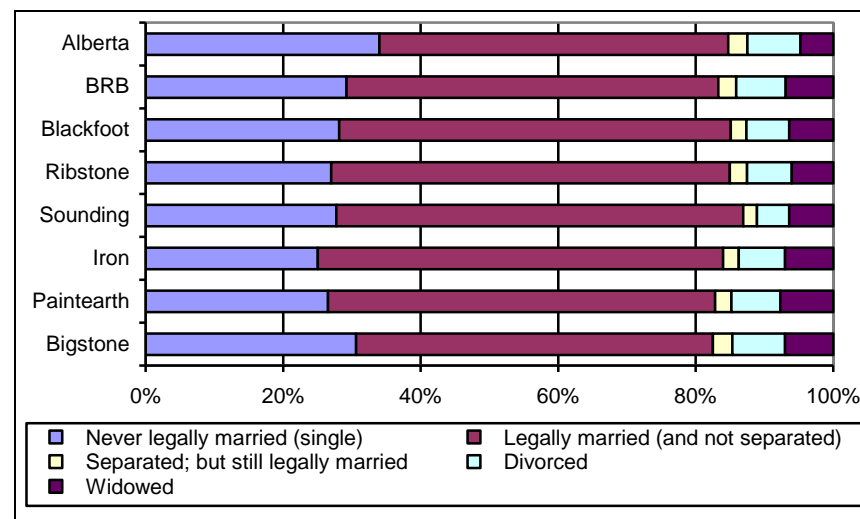
The highest percentages of single people are found in the Bigstone sub-basins, while the Iron sub-basin had the lowest percentage of single people. The highest percentages of married people are found in the Sounding and

Iron sub-basins. Marital status is partially correlated with age distributions, with higher percentages of widows/widowers found in older populations.

**Figure 1-8: Residency in Canada by Sub-Basin, 2006**



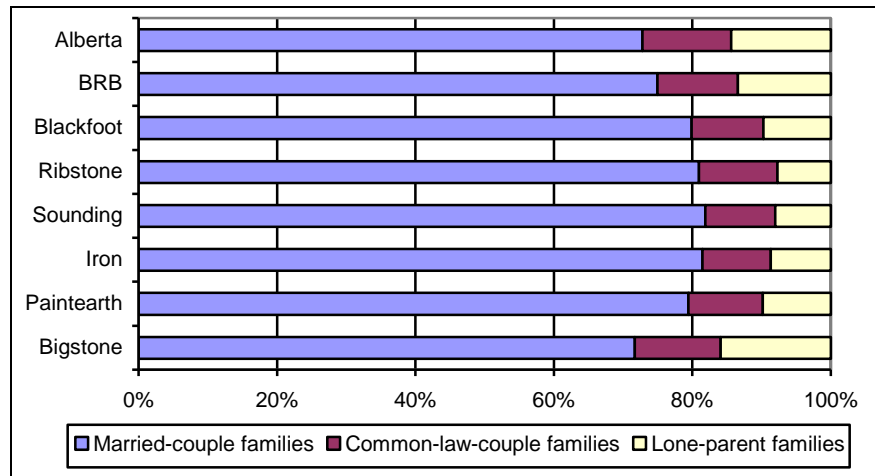
**Figure 1-9: Marital Status by Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 1.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 74.9% of the 34,060 families in the BRB. Lone-parent families accounted for 13.4% of families, while common-law couples accounted for the balance (11.6%). Figure 1-10 shows that the highest percentages of single-parent families occur in the Bigstone sub-basin (15.9%), followed by the Paintearth (9.8%) and Blackfoot sub-basin (9.7%). In contrast, the sub-basins with the highest percentages of married couple families include the Sounding, Iron and Ribstone sub-basins. The highest incidence of common-law families was observed in the Bigstone sub-basin.

**Figure 1-10: Family Structure by Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 1.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families as well as single persons.

**Figure 1-11: Household Structure by Sub-Basin, 2006**

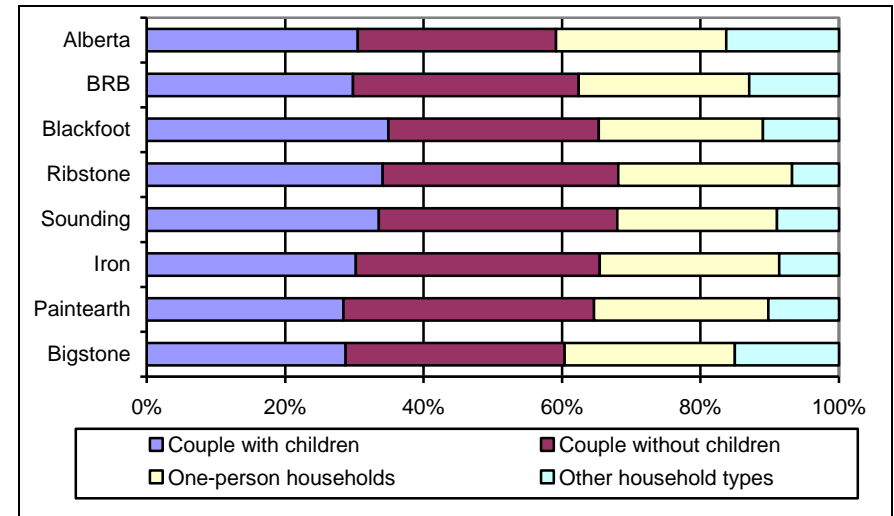
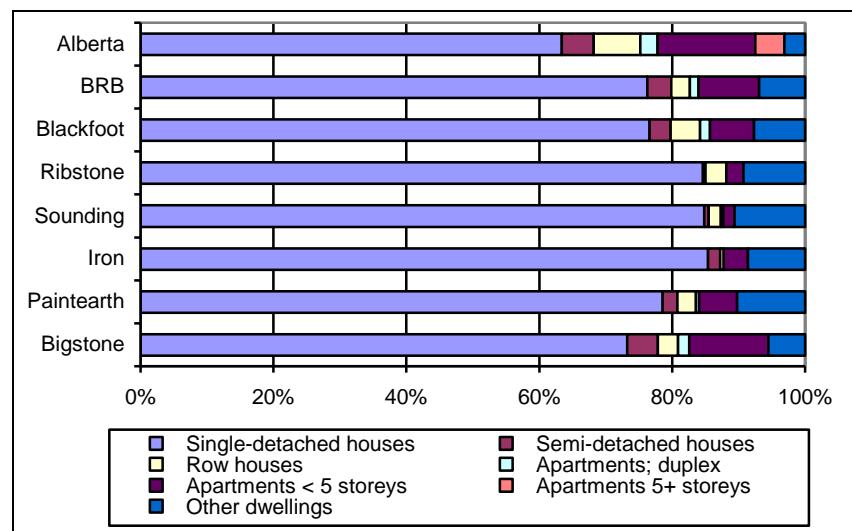


Figure 1-11 shows that 29.7% of households consisted of a couple with children, 32.5% were couples with no children, 24.6% were single person households, and the balance (12.9%) consisted of other household types. Couples with children were most common in the Blackfoot, Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins. Single-person households were more prevalent in the Iron and Paintearth sub-basins. The Bigstone sub-basin had the highest incidence of other household types.

### 1.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 46,175 housing units in the BRB; this represents 3.7% of all housing in Alberta. Figure 1-12 shows the composition of housing in each of the sub-basins. Overall, single detached houses accounted for 76.1% of housing in the basin, and were most prevalent in the Iron, Sounding and Ribstone sub-basins, which all have primarily rural populations.

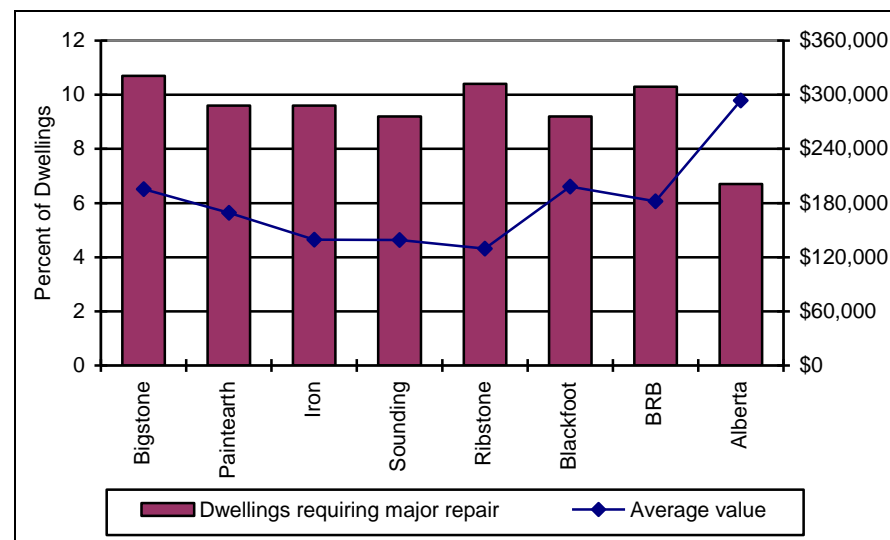
**Figure 1-12: Housing Characteristics by Sub-Basin, 2006**



The highest percentage of other household types was found in the Bigstone sub-basin, where most of the larger communities are located. Single detached houses accounted for 73.1% of housing in the Bigstone sub-basin, where 11.9% of housing consisted of apartment buildings of less than five stories. Other housing types were also prevalent in the Blackfoot and Paintearth sub-basins, which both have larger communities.

Figure 1-13 shows the reported value of housing in each of the sub-basins as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the BRB in 2005 was \$182,073, which was about 38% lower than the Alberta average.

**Figure 1-13: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs by Sub-Basin**

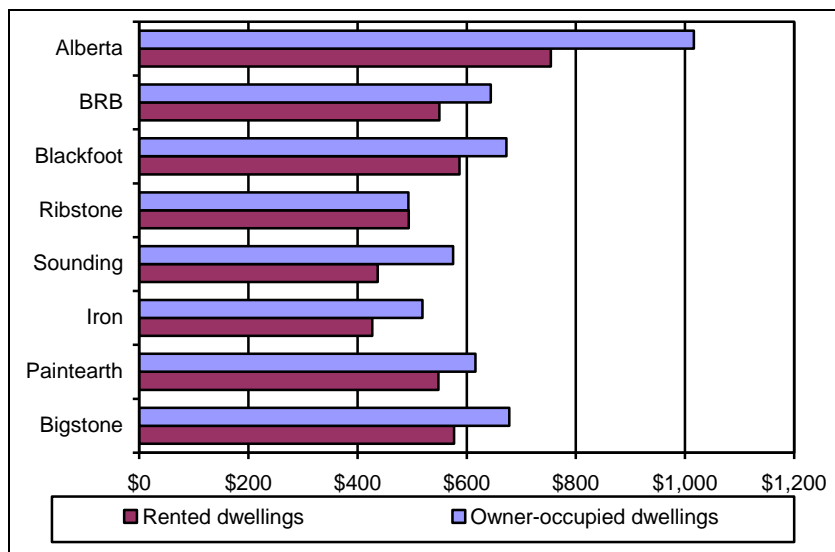


Within the BRB, the highest housing values were reported in the Blackfoot and Bigstone sub-basins, and this reflects the higher value of housing in the larger communities. The lowest housing values occurred in the Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins. Overall, 10.3% of dwellings in the basin were in need of major repair and this was higher than the provincial average of 6.7%. The percentage of housing in need of major repair was relatively consistent among all six sub-basins, but was highest in the Bigstone and Ribstone sub-basins.

Figure 1-14 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in each of the sub-basins in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage, electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. Overall, rental costs averaged \$550 per month in the BRB compared to \$644 per month for owned dwellings. These costs were well below the provincial averages (\$754 and \$1,016, respectively).



**Figure 1-14: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**

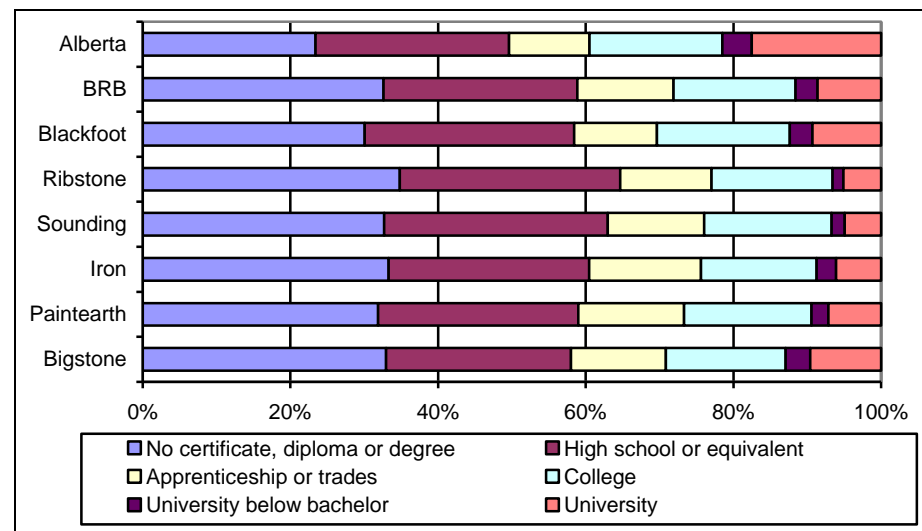


The highest monthly costs for both rental and owned-dwellings were reported in the Bigstone and Ribstone sub-basins. The lowest rental costs were in the Iron and Sounding sub-basins. The lowest cost for owned dwellings was reported in the Ribstone sub-basin.

### 1.10 Education

Basin residents were less educated than the Alberta average. Nearly one-third of the adult basin population (32.6%) had not completed high school compared to 23.4% of Alberta adults. While Alberta had twice the percentage of adults who had graduated from university, basin residents were more likely to have an apprenticeship or trade certificate.

**Figure 1-15: Educational Attainment by Sub-Basin**

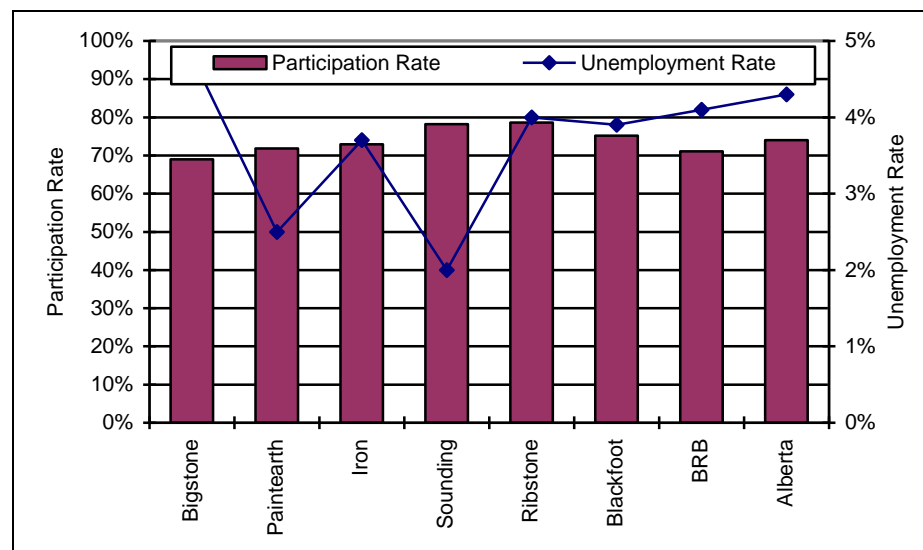


The highest levels of educational attainment were found in the Blackfoot sub-basin, which had the lowest percentage of people who had not graduated from high school and a relatively high percentage of people who had graduated from university. The Bigstone Sub-basin had the highest percentage of people who had graduated from university while the highest percentages of people with apprenticeships or trades certificates were found in the Iron and Paintearth sub-basins.

### 1.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 71.1% of the adult population was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. Figure 1-16 shows that labour force participation rates were fairly consistent throughout the basin. The highest labour force participation rates were found in the Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins while the lowest rate (69.0%) occurred in the Bigstone Sub-basin.

**Figure 1-16: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



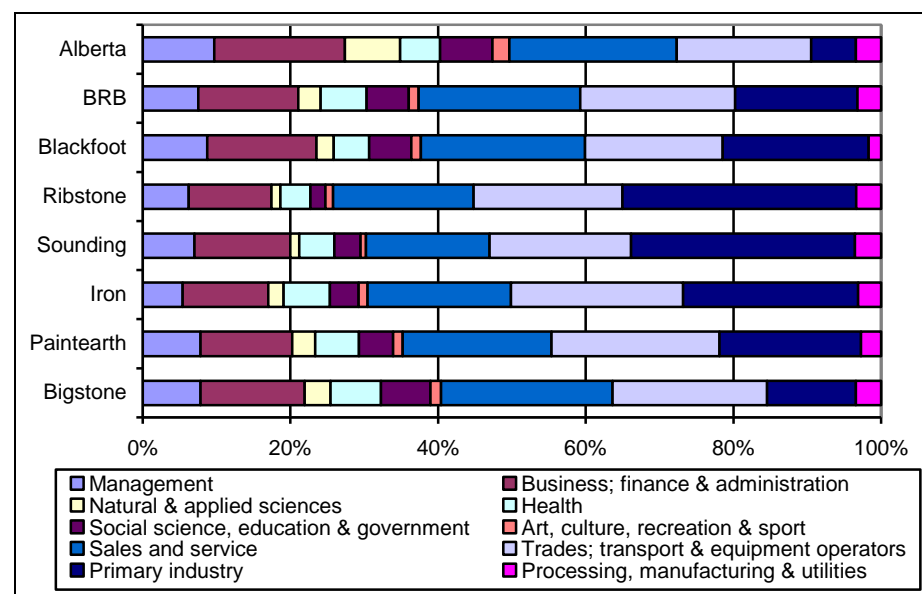
Average unemployment in the BRB in 2006 was 4.1%, which was slightly below the provincial average (4.3%). The lowest unemployment rates occurred in the Sounding sub-basin (2.0%) and the Paintearth (2.5%) sub-basin. The highest rates of unemployment were found in the Bigstone sub-basin (4.8%) and the Ribstone sub-basin (4.0%).

### 1.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 1-17 shows employment by occupation for each of the sub-basins. Employment in occupations related to primary industry was particularly important in the more rural parts of the BRB, including the Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins where more than 30% of the adult population was working in these occupations, compared to 21% for the entire basin. Employment in the trades or as transport and equipment operators was more predominant in the Paintearth and Iron sub-basins. The Bigstone sub-basin had the lowest percentages of people employed in primary industry and much higher percentages of people employed in the sales and service

and health industries. The percentages of people employed in business, finance and administration were relatively consistent among the six sub-basins.

**Figure 1-17: Employment by Occupation, 2006**

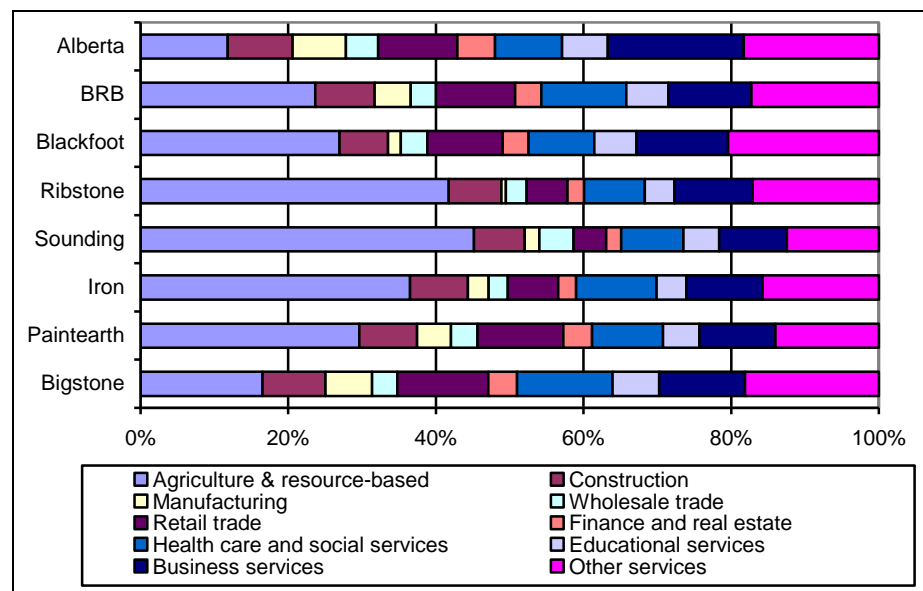


### 1.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 1-18 shows employment in each sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 23.6% of the workforce was experienced in agriculture and other resource-based industries, although this increased to 44.9% in the Sounding Sub-basin and 41.5% in the Ribstone Sub-basin. The other services industries accounted for 17.2% of employment in the BRB and this percentage was fairly consistent among the six sub-basins. The health care and social services industry provided 11.5% of basin employment although this ranged from a high of 12.9% in the Bigstone Sub-basin to 8.2% in the Ribstone Sub-basin. Another 10.7% of basin

employment was in the retail trade industries, although this ranged from 12.3% in the Bigstone Sub-basin to 4.4% in the Sounding Sub-basin.

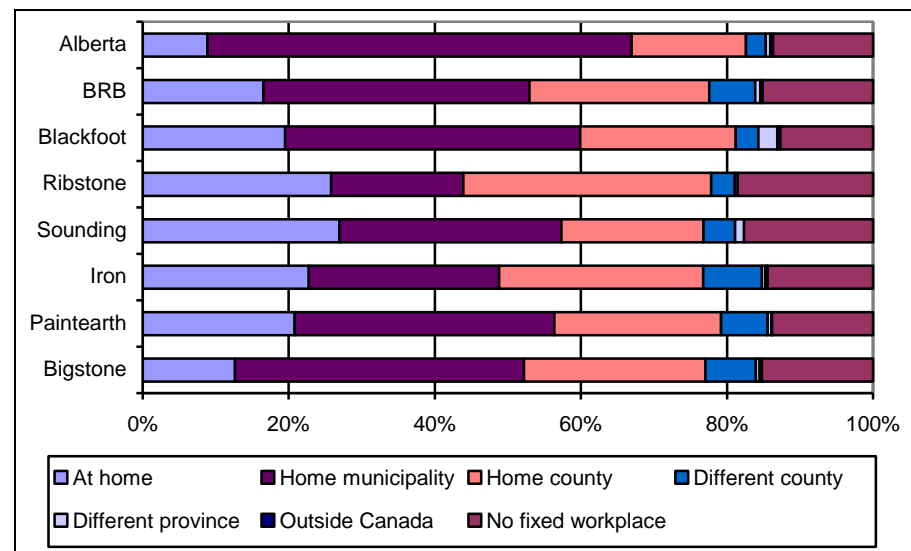
**Figure 1-18: Employment by Industry, 2006**



### 1.14 Location of Employment

Figure 1-19 shows where residents of the various sub-basins actually worked. Overall, 16.5% worked at home and 36.4% worked at a usual place in their home municipality. Another 24.6% worked in their home county outside their local community, while 6.5% worked in another part of Alberta, 0.7% worked outside Alberta and 0.3% worked outside Canada. Compared to the Alberta average, BRB residents were more likely to work at home or at a location outside their home municipality, and this is typical of a rural population where people may work on farms or commute to the nearest town or village to work.

**Figure 1-19: Location of Work, by Sub-Basin, 2006**



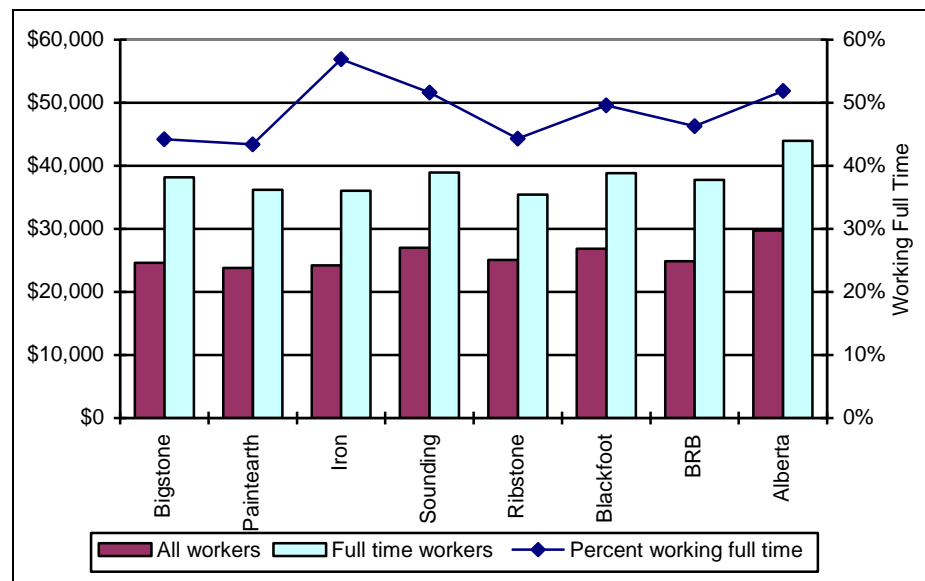
The location of the workplace varied considerably among sub-basins. Residents of the Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins are most likely to work at home while residents of the Bigstone and Blackfoot sub-basins are most likely to work in their home municipality. Residents of the Ribstone and Iron sub-basins were most likely to work in their home county outside their home municipality. Residents of the Blackfoot sub-basin, who live closer to Saskatchewan, are the most likely to work outside Alberta. About 15.1% of the BRB population did not work at a fixed workplace, and these percentages were slightly higher in the Ribstone and Sounding sub-basins.

### 1.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the BRB reported median earnings of \$24,856 in 2005. However, only 46% of workers were employed full-time, year round, and median earnings for this group averaged \$37,758. The corresponding statistics for individual sub-basins are provided in Figure 1-20. Within the BRB, the Iron Sub-basin had the highest percentage of people working full

time (56.9%), while only 43.4% of people in the Paintearth sub-basin reported full time employment.

**Figure 1-20: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, 2006**

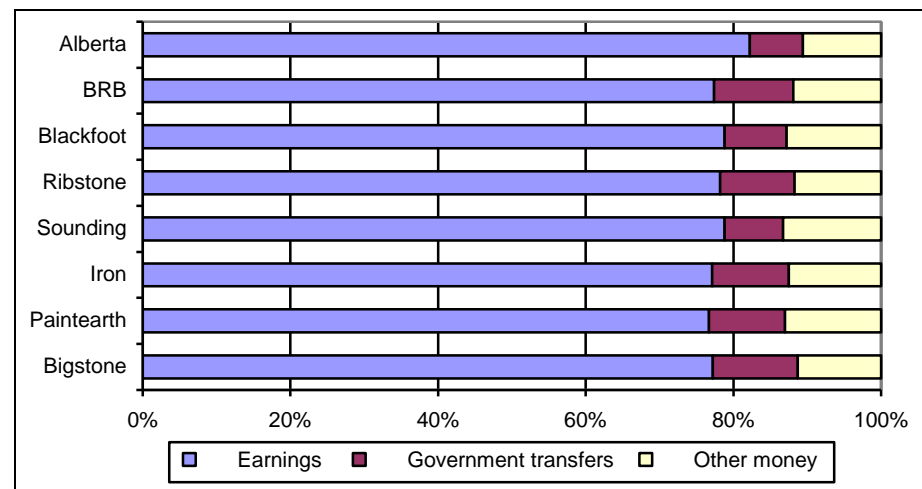


Median earnings ranged from an average of \$23,810 in the Paintearth sub-basin to a high of \$26,990 in the Sounding sub-basin. However, median earnings for all workers and for workers who were employed full time were fairly consistent among the sub-basins.

### 1.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 77.4% of income for basin residents. The remainder came from government transfers (10.7%) and other sources (11.9%). Figure 1-21 shows the reliance on transfer payments and other income for residents of the six sub-basins.

**Figure 1-21: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**



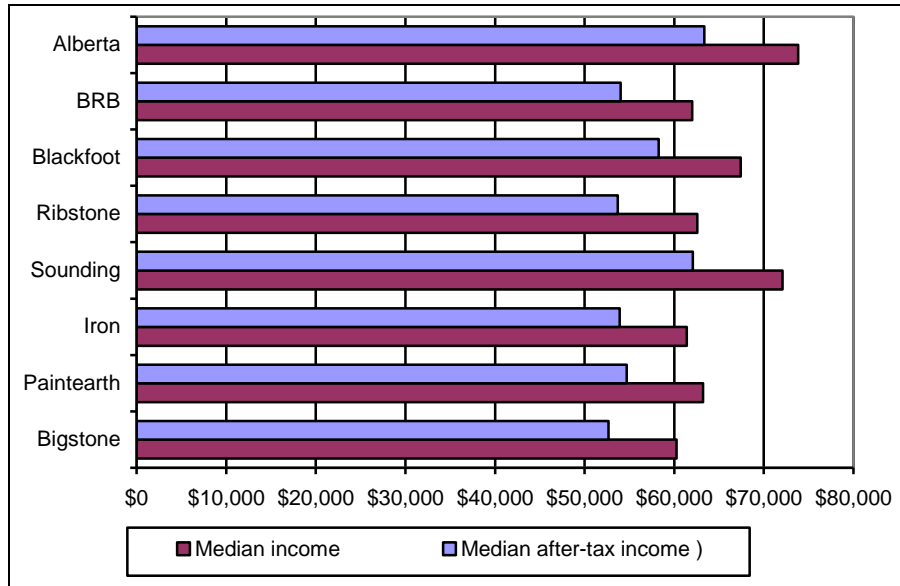
Earnings accounted for 77% or more of income in all six sub-basins. The lowest reliance on government transfers occurred in the Sounding sub-basin.

### 1.17 Family and Individual Income

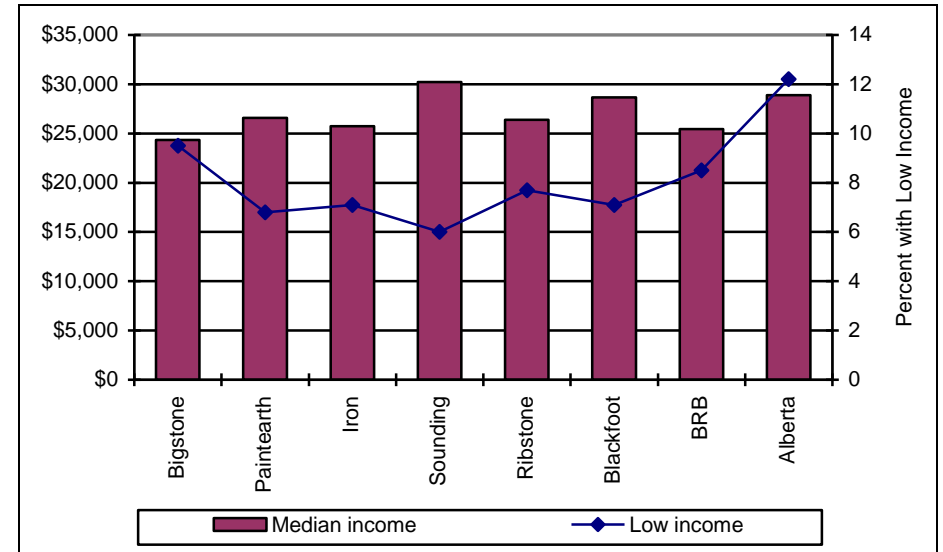
In 2005 families in the BRB reported median incomes averaging \$62,021, and \$54,025 after tax. These numbers are 17% to 19% lower than the median incomes for Alberta. Variations in median family incomes among sub-basins are shown in Figure 1-22.

Median family incomes are highest in the Sounding Sub-basin, about 16% higher than the BRB average. The lowest median family incomes were reported in the Bigstone and Iron sub-basins.

**Figure 1-22: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



**Figure 1-23: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005**



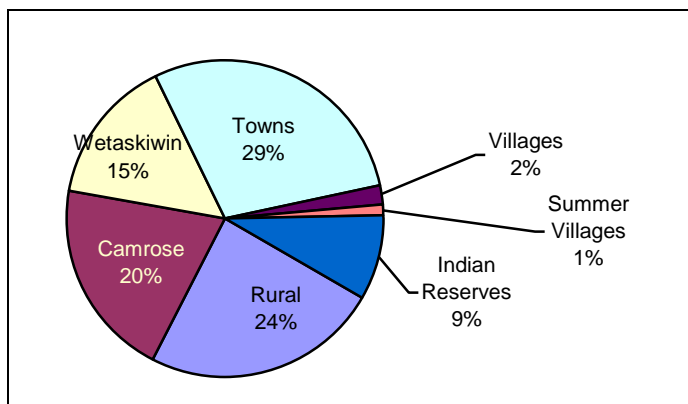
Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households averaged \$25,443 for the BRB and \$28,896 for Alberta. Overall, 8.5% of basin residents were considered to have low incomes (before tax). This percentage was slightly higher than the Alberta average (12.2%). Figure 1-23 summarizes median incomes and the incidence of low incomes for the six sub-basins. As was the case for family incomes, the highest individual incomes were reported in the Sounding sub-basins, while the lowest incomes occurred in the Bigstone and Iron sub-basins.

## 2.0 BIGSTONE SUB-BASIN

### 2.1 Population

In terms of population, the Bigstone Sub-basin is the largest in the BRB. In 2006, it had a population of 76,962 people, which represents 62.8% of the BRB population. As shown in Figure 2-1, the majority of the population lives in one of the numerous urban communities in the sub-basin. These include the City of Camrose (20.3% of the sub-basin population), the City of Wetaskiwin (15.2%), one of six towns (28.7%), one of six villages (1.9%) or one of 10 summer villages (1.2%). The balance of the population either lived on one of five Indian Reserves (8.6%) or in one of six counties (24.0%).

**Figure 2-1: Population Distribution in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



The largest towns in the sub-basin include Lacombe (14.0% of the sub-basin population), Ponoka (8.5%), Millet (2.7%), part of Blackfalds (2.3%), Daysland (1.1%), and Edberg (0.2%).

The six villages include Bawlf (0.5% of the sub-basin population), Hay Lakes (0.5%), New Norway (0.4%), Bittern Lake (0.3%), Rosalind (0.2%) and a small part of Heisler (0.0%). As the combined population of the six villages was very small and census information was not complete for three of the

villages, the socio-economic information has been combined into one category and is reported as such in the remainder of this analysis.<sup>1</sup>

The County of Wetaskiwin is home to the largest percentage of the rural residents of the sub-basin and accounts for 8.7% of the sub-basin population. The rest of the rural population was found in portions of Camrose County (5.9%), Ponoka County (5.6%), Leduc County (1.8%), Lacombe County (1.6%) and Flagstaff County (0.3%).

The ten summer villages are located around Pigeon Lake and have a combined population of 961 people. The summer villages include Golden Days (207 people), Ma-Me-O Beach (155), Grandview (127), Crystal Springs (112), Sundance Beach (102), Poplar Bay (84), Argentia Beach (52), Silver Beach (47), Norris Beach (40), and Itaska Beach (35). As these populations are very small and are not reported for four of the summer villages, the socio-economic information for the other six has been combined into one category and is reported as such in the remainder of this analysis.

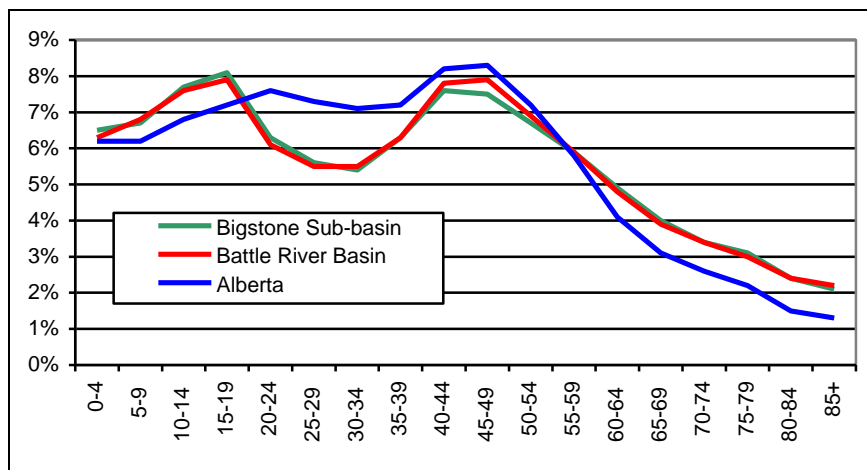
There are five populated reserves in the Bigstone Sub-basin. The largest of these is the Samson 137 reserve which had a population of 3,295 people in 2006 and accounted for 1.3% of the sub-basin population. The other reserves include Ermineskin 138 (1.9%), Louis Bull 138B (1.5%), Montana 139 (0.89%) and Pigeon Lake 138A (0.0%).

### 2.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin nearly matched the population profile of the BRB (see Figure 2-2). This was expected because the Bigstone Sub-basin accounted for nearly two-thirds of the population of the entire BRB. The only differences in the age profile were that the Bigstone Sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of population aged 10 to 25 and a lower percentage of people aged 40 to 54 years.

<sup>1</sup> Although data are reported for some of the smaller communities throughout the report, totals may not add due to rounding and may not be entirely accurate.

**Figure 2-2: Age Composition of the Bigstone Sub-Basin Population, 2006**



The age characteristics of the two cities, towns, villages, summer villages, reserves and rural areas in the Bigstone Sub-basin are provided in Figure 2-3. It shows that the population on the five reserves was very young, with 40.0% of the population being under the age of 15 years. On the other hand, people living in summer villages tend to be much older; 96.2% of the population was over the age of 14 years and 75.0% were 50 years of age or older. The age distribution of the populations of the two cities was quite similar and fairly closely matches the sub-basin profile, although the cities have slightly smaller populations of people under the age of 20 years and more people over the age of 69 years. The age characteristics of people living in towns were almost identical to the sub-basin profile. However, the villages had higher percentages of people aged 10 to 19 years, 25 to 29 years, and 35 to 44 years and smaller percentages of people over the age of 74 years. In contrast, the rural population had relatively few people aged 20 to 34 years and much higher populations of people aged 45 to 70 years of age.

**Figure 2-3: Age Composition of the Population in Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

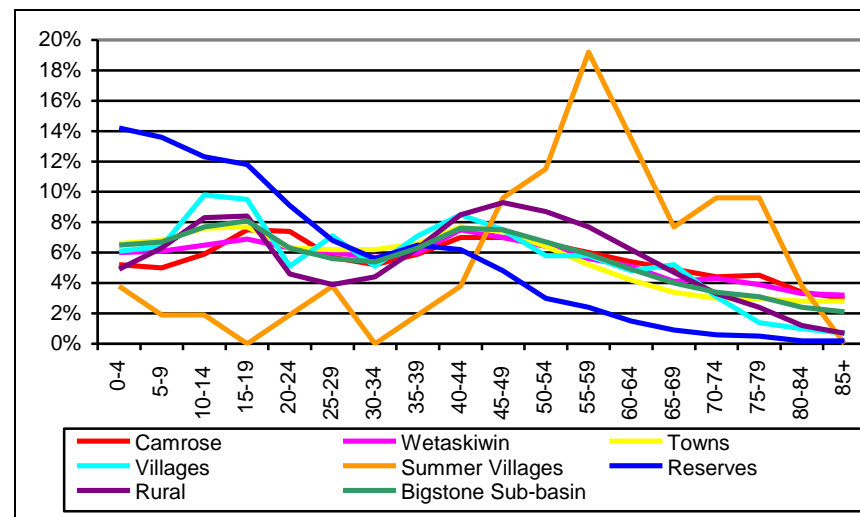
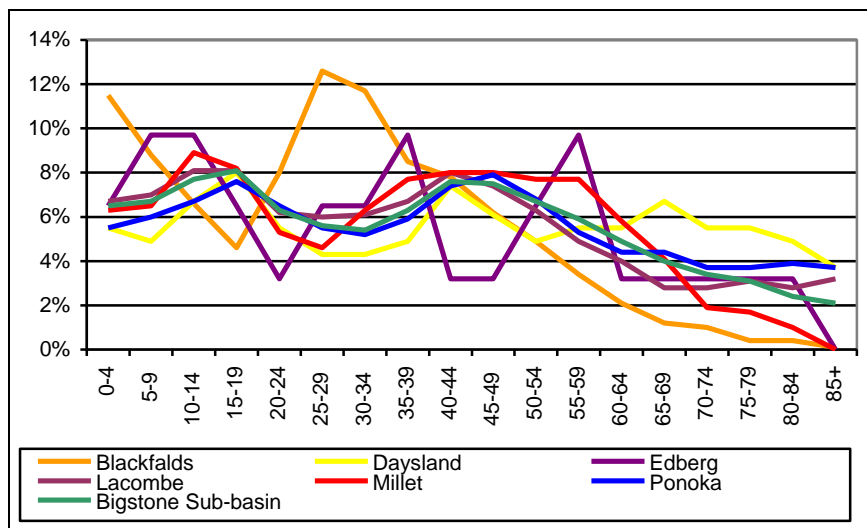


Figure 2-4 shows the age composition for the six towns in the sub-basin. It shows that age characteristics vary considerably. Blackfalds had a very young population with the highest percentage of people aged 0 to 4 and 25 to 39, with almost no one over the age of 64 years. Daysland, on the other hand, had the highest percentage of people over the age of 64 years and the smallest percentage of people under the age of 15 years. Age profiles for the two larger towns, Ponoka and Lacombe, closely matched the sub-basin profile, although Lacombe tended to be younger than the sub-basin with more people aged 25 to 39 years, while Ponoka was older, with higher percentage of people over the age of 64 years.

**Figure 2-4: Age Composition of the Towns in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



**Figure 2-5: Age Composition of the Rural Population in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

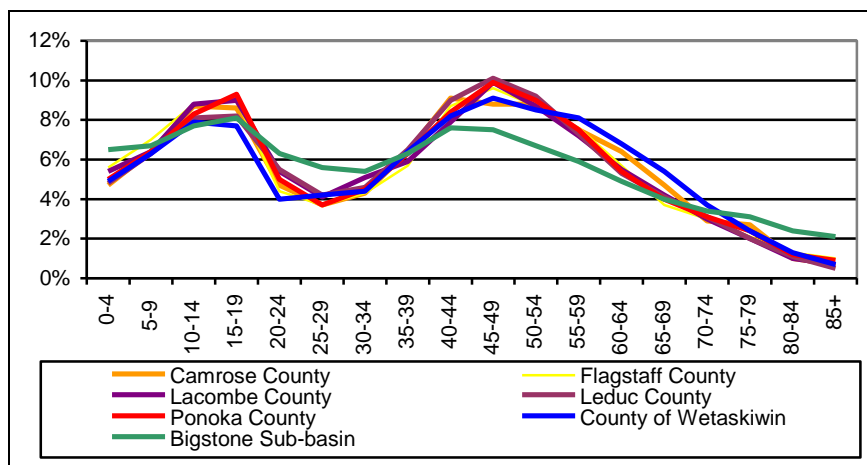


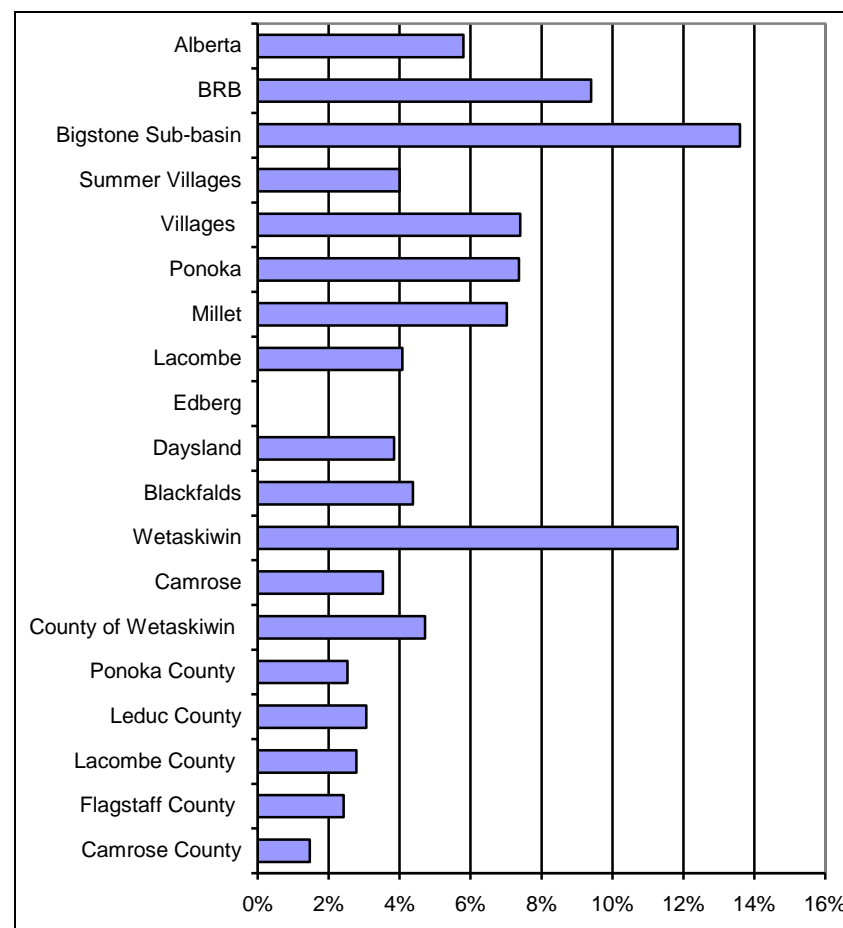
Figure 2-5 shows the age composition of the rural population in the Bigstone sub-basin. The age profiles for residents of all six counties were

very similar, and were consistently different from the sub-basin profile. The rural population had lower percentages of children less than 5 years of age as well as people aged 20 to 34 years and had much higher percentages of people aged 45 to 64 years.

### 2.3 Aboriginal Population

About 13.6% of the residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin were Aboriginal.

**Figure 2-6: Aboriginal Population in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**





This was much higher than for the entire BRB, where Aboriginal people accounted for 9.9% of the population.

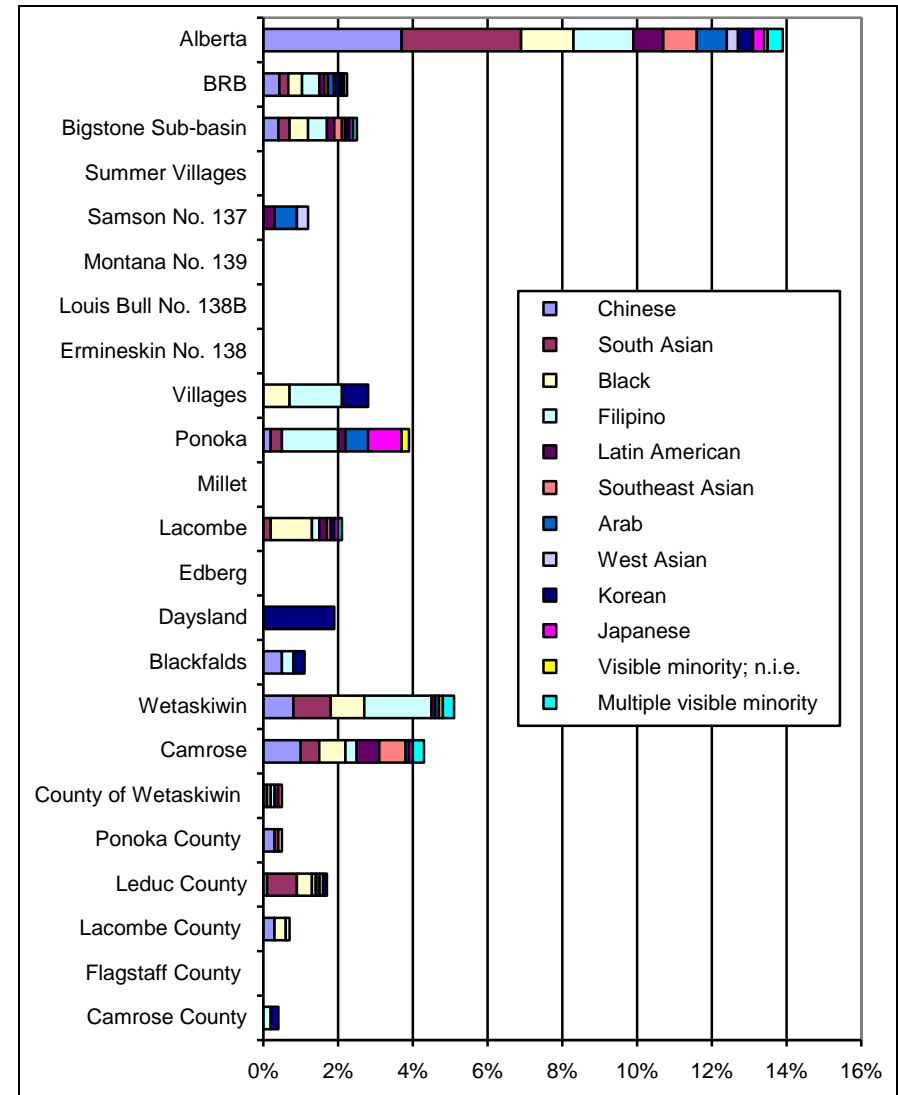
In total, 10,250 Aboriginal people lived in the Bigstone Sub-basin in 2006 and the majority of these (63.7%) lived on one of the five reserves. Figure 2-6 shows the percentage Aboriginal people in the various communities within the sub-basin. The highest percentages of Aboriginal people were found in Wetaskiwin (11.8% of the population). Other communities with relatively high Aboriginal populations include the six villages, Ponoka and Millet, where Aboriginal people accounted for more than 6.0% of the population. The smallest percentages of Aboriginal people were found in Edberg and Camrose County.

## 2.4 Ethnicity

Only 2.6% of the Bigstone Sub-basin population consisted of visible minorities; this was slightly higher than for the BRB (2.2%). The highest incidence of visible minorities was found in the City of Wetaskiwin, where visible minorities accounted for 5.1% of the population, and the City of Camrose (4.3%). Ponoka also had a relatively high percentage of visible minorities (3.9%). No visible minorities were reported for most reserves, all summer villages, Millet, Edberg, and Flagstaff County.

The most common visible minorities in the Sub-Basin were Black and Filipino, each of which accounted for 0.5% of the population, with Chinese people accounting for 0.4% of the population. Large percentages of the Filipino population in the sub-basin were found in Wetaskiwin and Ponoka, while the Black population was concentrated in Wetaskiwin and Lacombe. Daysland, Blackfalds and the villages were home to a small Korean population.

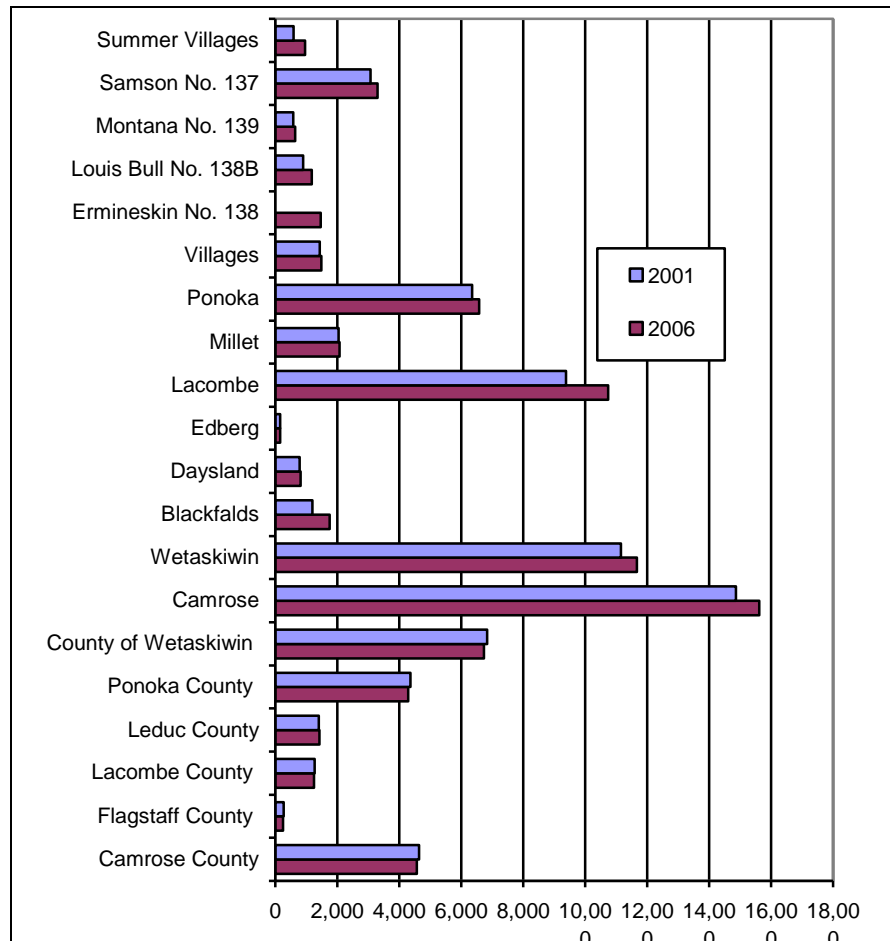
**Figure 2-7: Visible Minorities in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 2.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Bigstone Sub-basin increased by 8.0%. Figure 2-8 shows that population increases occurred throughout the sub-basin. The population of Camrose increased by 5.0% while Wetaskiwin increased by 4.7%.

**Figure 2-8: Population Change in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



During this period, the population of the towns increased by 11.1%, and villages increased in population by 3.7%. The largest population increase in percentage terms occurred in the summer villages which grew by 64.0%. The on-reserve Aboriginal population increased by 45.0% while the rural population actually declined by 1.4%.

One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 2-9 shows that, overall, residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin were slightly less mobile than other residents of the BRB, with 57.6% having lived at the same address for the five years prior to 2006 and 17.9% having changed addresses within the same community. Within the sub-basin, the populations with the lowest mobility include the residents of Flagstaff County, Edberg and the four reserves. The highest mobility occurred in Blackfalds where 49.8% of the population had moved into the community within the last five years. Other communities with high mobility include the six villages, Millet and Lacombe, and the summer villages. For the sub-basin, 6.5% of residents had lived in a different province or country in 2001, but some communities had higher percentages of people from outside Alberta. These include Daysland, Lacombe, Blackfalds and Millet.

The highest incidence of immigrants was found in Daysland, where immigrants accounted for 8.4% of the population. As shown in Figure 2-10 immigrants accounted for more than 7.0% of the population in Leduc County, Ponoka County and Wetaskiwin.

Figure 2-9: Population Mobility in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2001-2006

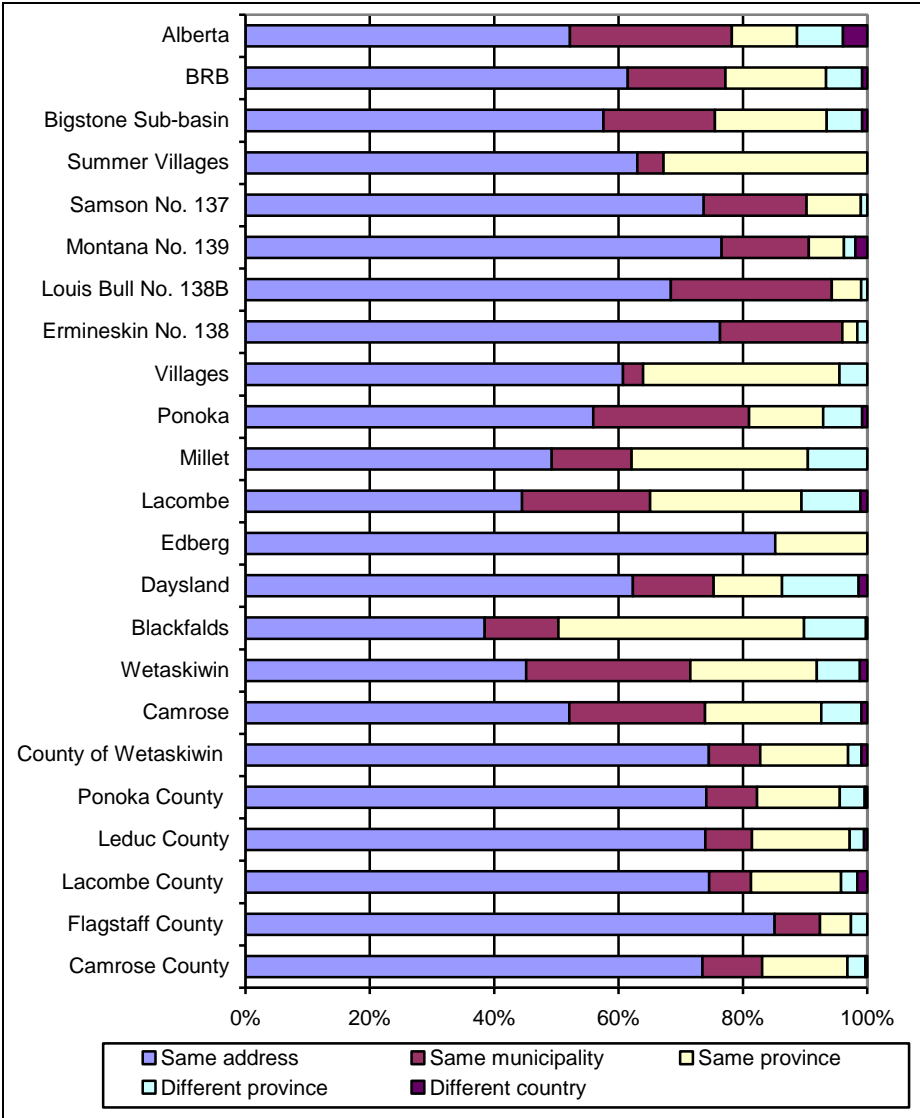
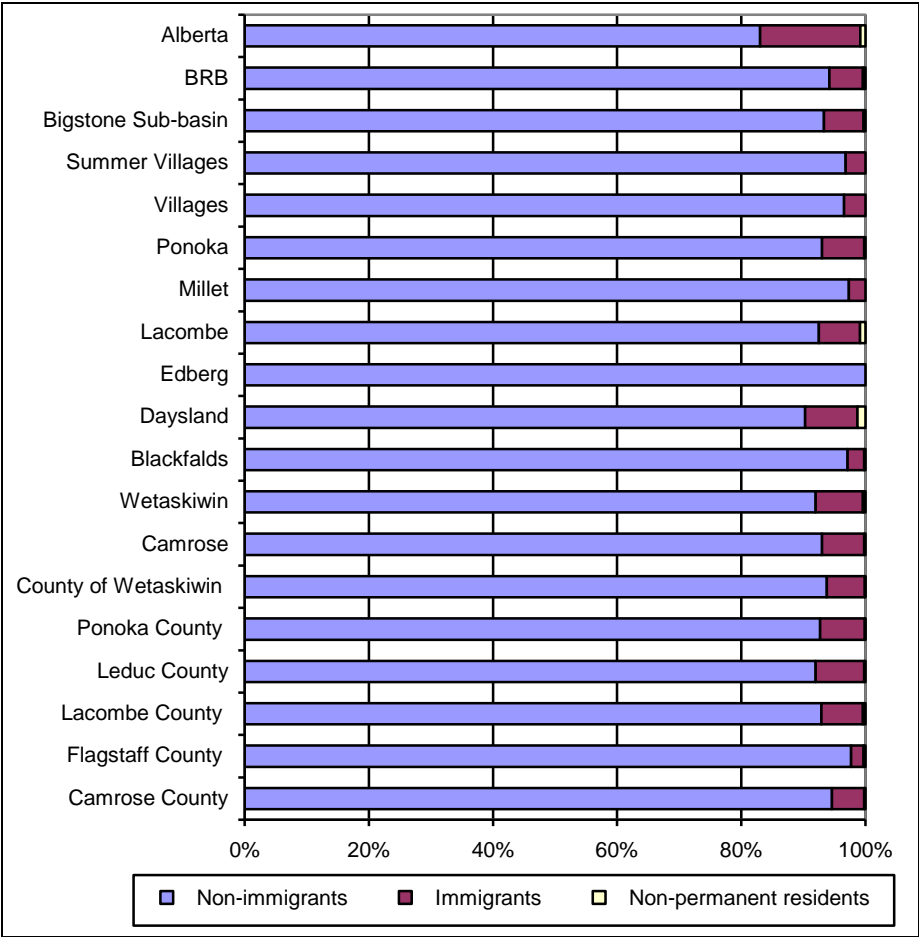
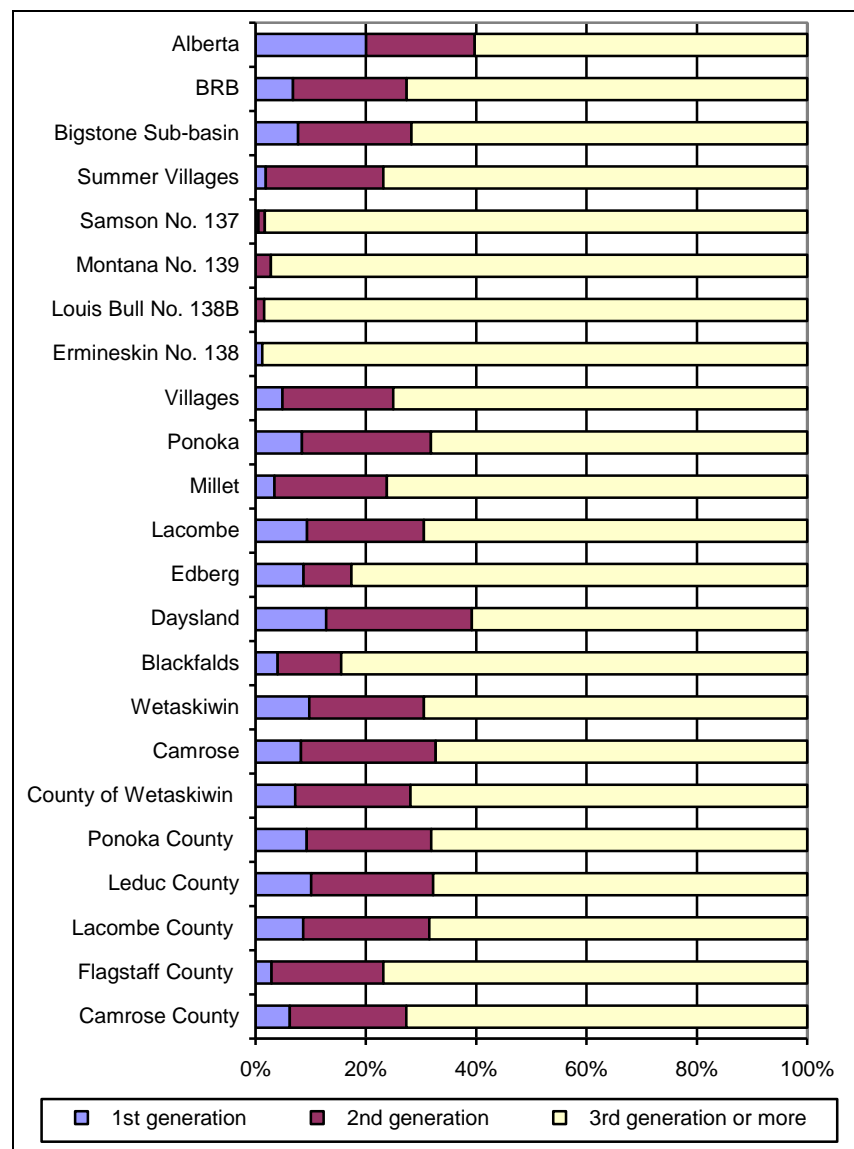


Figure 2-10: Role of Immigration in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006



**Figure 2-11: Residency in Canada, Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



About 71.8% of the sub-basin basin population consisted of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations while 7.7% were first generation Canadians; these percentages are nearly identical to those of the entire BRB population (see Figure 2-11). Residents of the four reserves had almost all lived in Canada for three or more generations. Other communities with high percentages of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations include Blackfalds and Edberg. The highest percentages of first generation Canadians were found in Daysland, Lacombe and Leduc County.

## 2.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 51.9% of the adult population in the Bigstone Sub-basin, single people (never married) accounted for 30.6%, 7.7% of the adult population were divorced people, 7.0%) were widowed and 2.8% were separated. The sub-basin profile (Figure 2-12) closely matches the BRB profile. For the various communities in the sub-basin the percentages of married and single people were fairly uniform with the exception of the reserves where at least 72.6% of the adult population was considered single (never married) and only 16.3% to 17.9% of the adult population was married. The highest percentages of married people were found in the summer villages (68.8%) as well as in the rural areas (counties). The larger communities had the highest percentages of people who were neither single nor married. The highest percentages of widowed people were found in Ponoka, Daysland, Camrose and Wetaskiwin. These communities also had relatively high percentages of divorced and separated adults.

## 2.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 71.6% of the 21,510 families in the Bigstone Sub-basin. Lone-parent families accounted for 15.9% of families, while the balance (12.4%) consisted of common-law couples. Figure 2-13 shows that married couple families accounted for more than 80% of families in Edberg, the summer villages, and all the rural areas. In contrast, less than 22.2% of census families on the four reserves consisted of married couples; there were higher percentages of lone-parent families on the reserves than common-law couple families.

Figure 2-12: Marital Status in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006

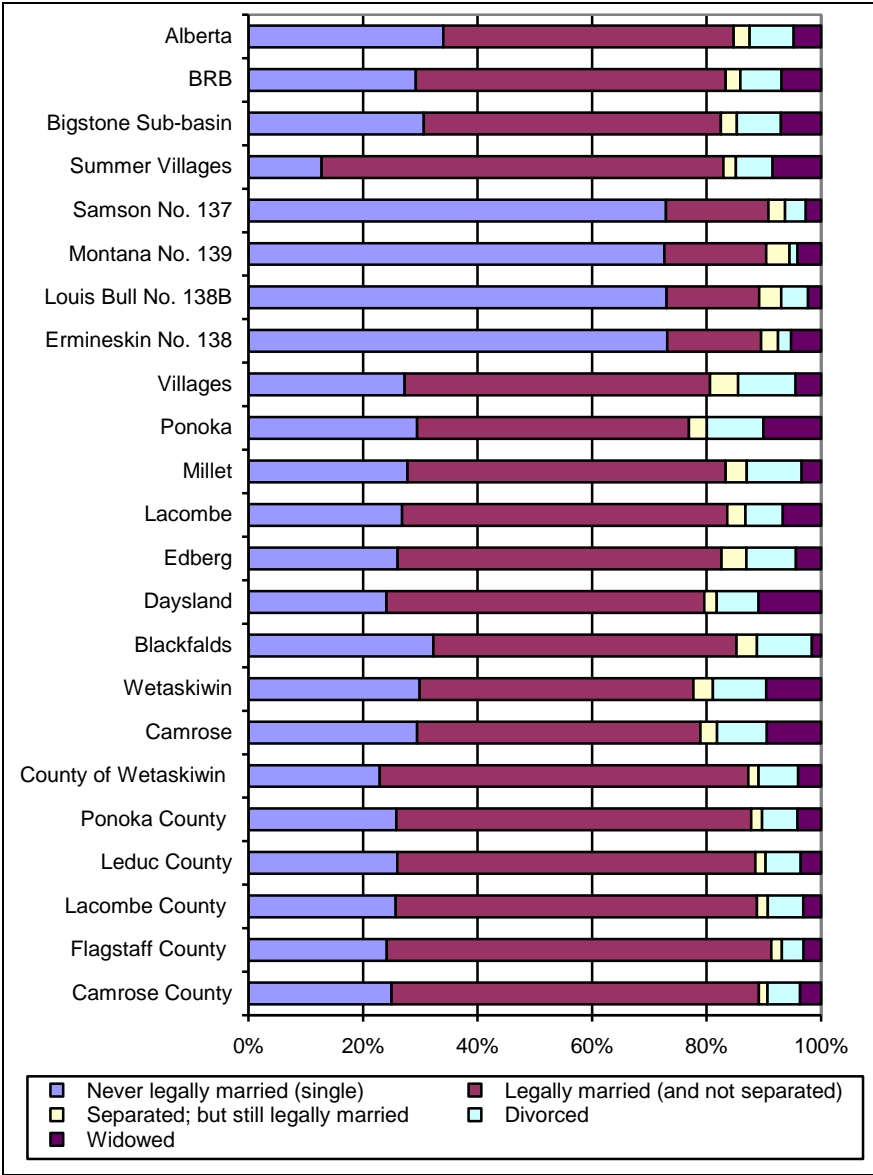
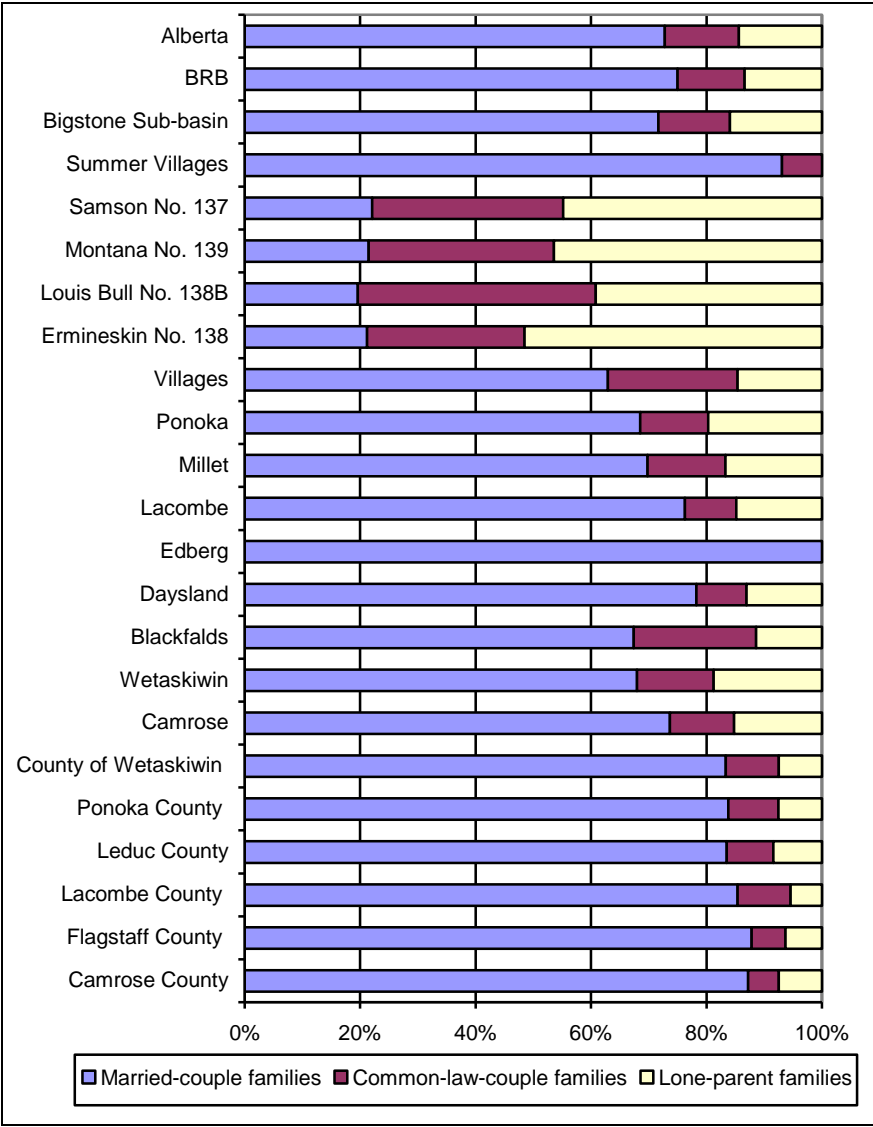


Figure 2-13: Family Structure in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006



Common-law couples were more commonly found in the six villages and in Blackfalds than elsewhere in the sub-basin. The highest incidence of lone-parent families was found in Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Millet and Camrose.

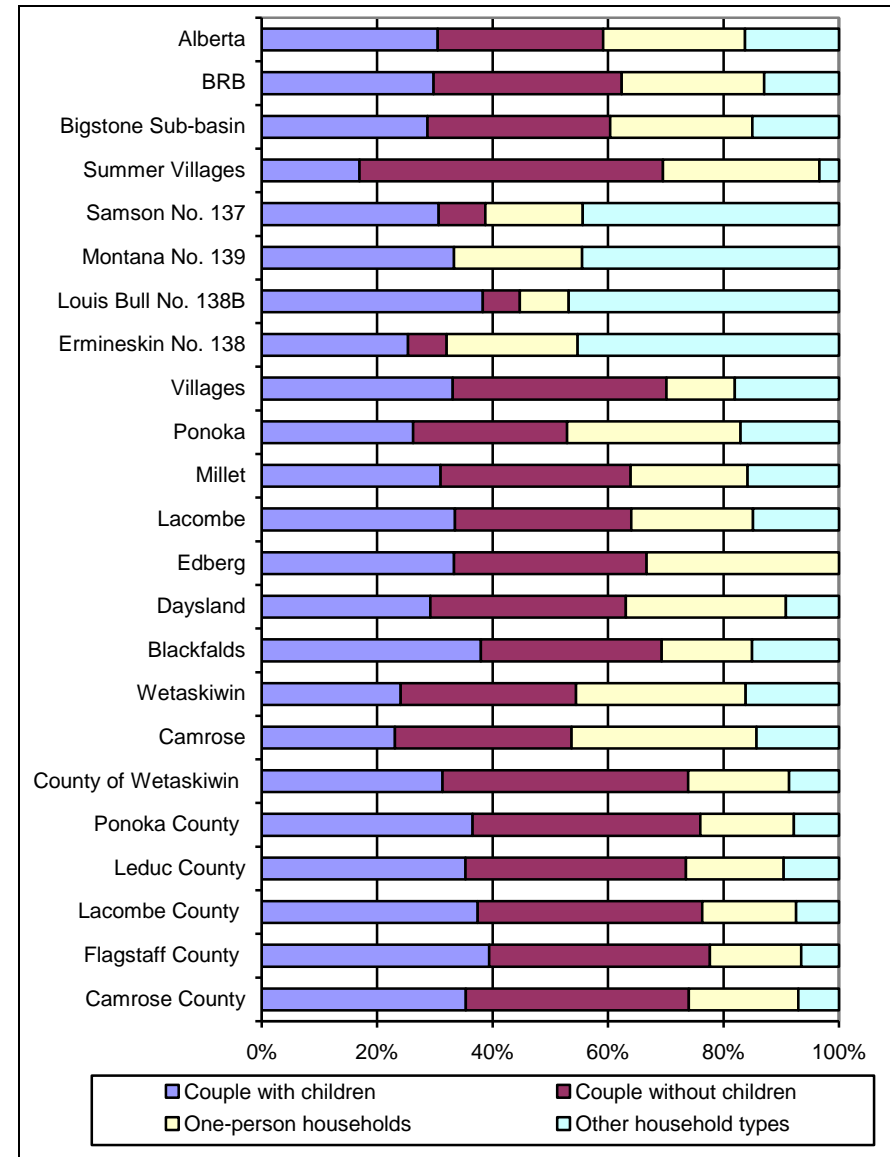
## 2.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families. Figure 2-14 shows that 28.7% of households in the Bigstone Sub-basin consisted of a couple with children, 31.6% were couples with no children, 24.6% were single person households, and the balance (15.0%) consisted of other household types. The highest incidence of single person households was found in Edberg (33.3%) of households. Other communities with high percentages of single person households include Camrose (32.0%), Ponoka (30.0%) and Wetaskiwin (29.4%). The highest percentages of couples with children were found in most of the rural areas as well as Blackfalds and the Louis Bull 138B reserve. The summer villages, the Ermineskin 138 reserve, Camrose and Wetaskiwin had the lowest percentages of couples with children. Couples without children were most commonly found in the summer villages (50.0% of households), as well as the County of Wetaskiwin, the other rural areas and the six villages. The four reserves had the highest percentages of other household types.

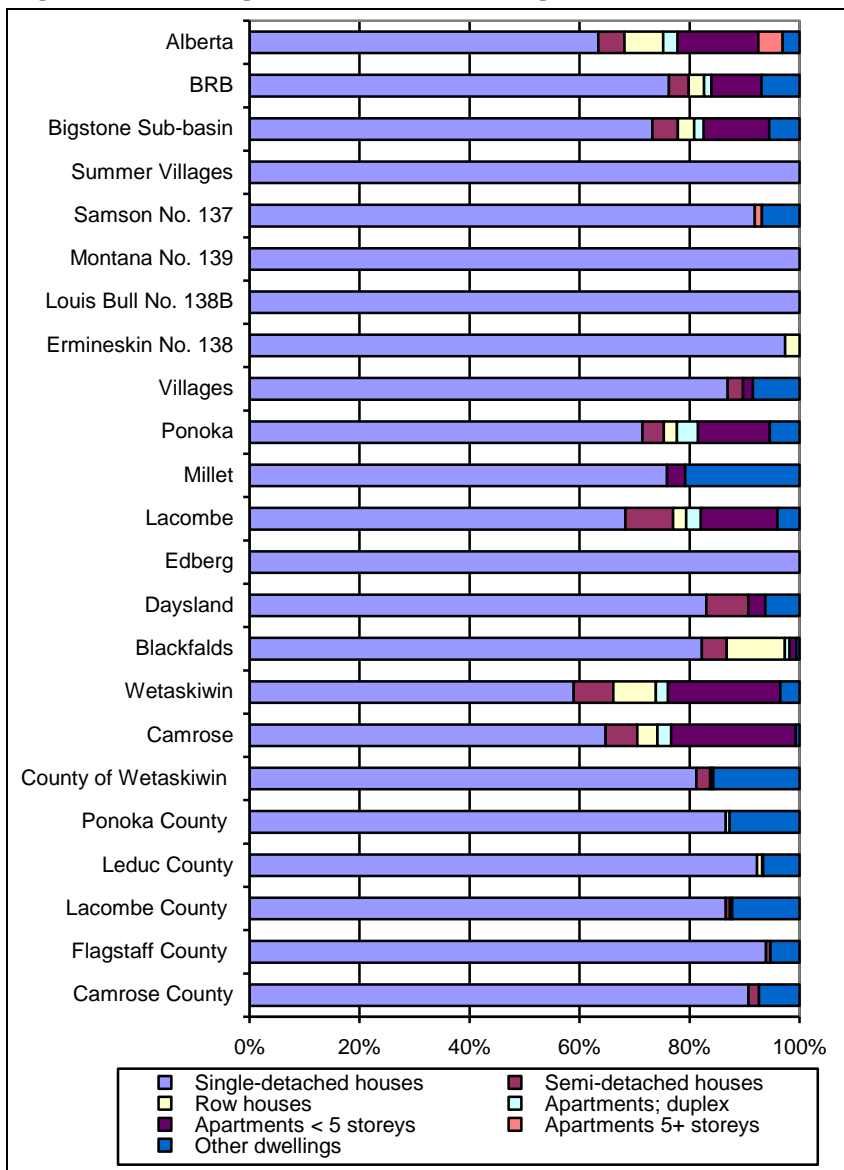
## 2.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 28,890 housing units in the Bigstone Sub-basin. Figure 2-15 shows the composition of these housing units in each community within the sub-basin. Overall, 73.1% of dwellings were single detached houses, 11.9% were apartment buildings of less than five stories, and 5.5% were other housing types. Single detached houses accounted for more than 80% of dwellings in most communities, especially the rural areas (counties), summer villages, reserves and villages.

**Figure 2-14: Household Structure in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



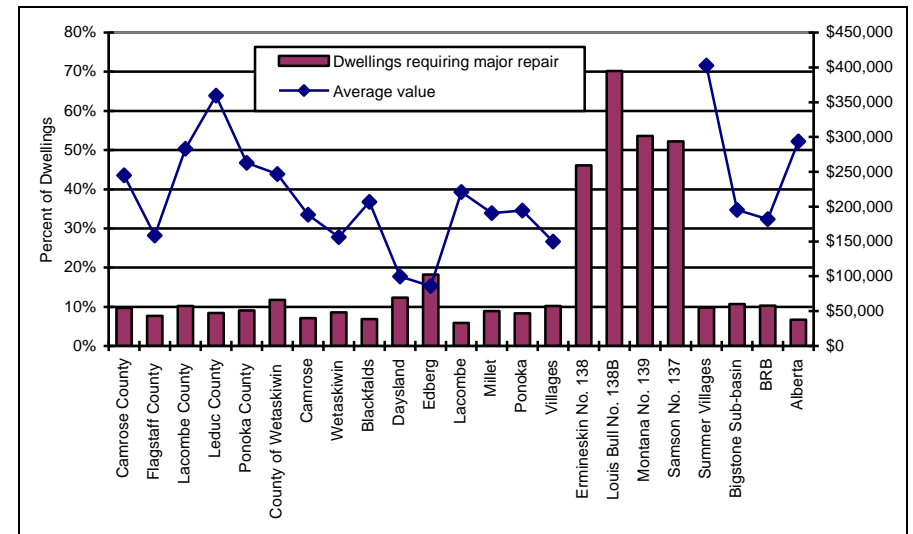
**Figure 2-15: Housing Characteristics in the Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



Other housing types were found primarily in the larger population centres. In Wetaskiwin, 41.0% of housing consisted of dwellings that were not single detached houses. Other communities that had relatively low percentages of single detached houses included Camrose (35.2%), Lacombe (31.6%) and Ponoka (28.6%). "Other" dwelling types were found primarily in Millet and in the rural areas.

Figure 2-16 shows the reported value of housing in the Bigstone Sub-basin as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the Paintearth Sub-Basin was \$195,325 which was about 7% higher than the BRB average (\$182,073). There was tremendous variation in the value of housing within the sub-basin. The highest housing values were reported in the summer villages (\$402,672) while the lowest values were found in Edberg (\$85,880) and Daysland (\$99,929).

**Figure 2-16: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs, Bigstone Sub-Basin**

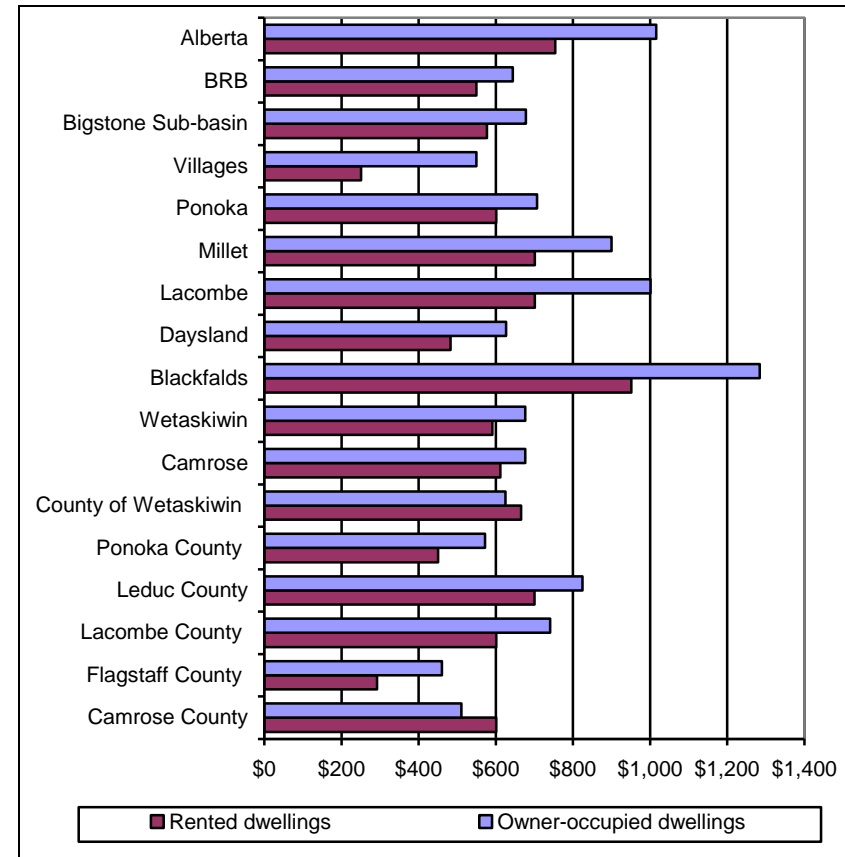


Leduc County also had higher housing values, averaging \$359,271. Among the urban communities, Lacombe and Blackfalds had the highest valued housing. No data on housing on the reserves are available.

Overall, 10.7% of housing in the Bigstone was considered to be in need of major repair; this was slightly higher than the BRB average (10.3%). Figure 2-16 shows that housing on the reserves was in poor condition, with 46.1% to 70.2% being in need of major repair. Elsewhere, between 6% and 12% of housing was considered to be in need of major repair, with the exception of Edberg (18.2%) and Lacombe (5.9%).

Figure 2-17 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in the various communities in the Bigstone Sub-basin in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage, electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. There was no information on housing costs for the reserves, summer villages or for Edberg. Overall, rental costs in the sub-basin averaged \$577 per month compared to \$678 per month for owned dwellings; these costs were higher than in the BRB where the average costs were \$550 for rental dwellings and \$644 for owned dwellings. The highest monthly costs were reported in Blackfalds, where monthly costs were \$951 for rental dwellings and \$1,284 for owned dwellings. Other communities with high dwelling costs included Lacombe, Millet and Leduc County. The lowest monthly costs were reported in the six villages, Flagstaff County, Ponoka County and Daysland.

**Figure 2-17: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**

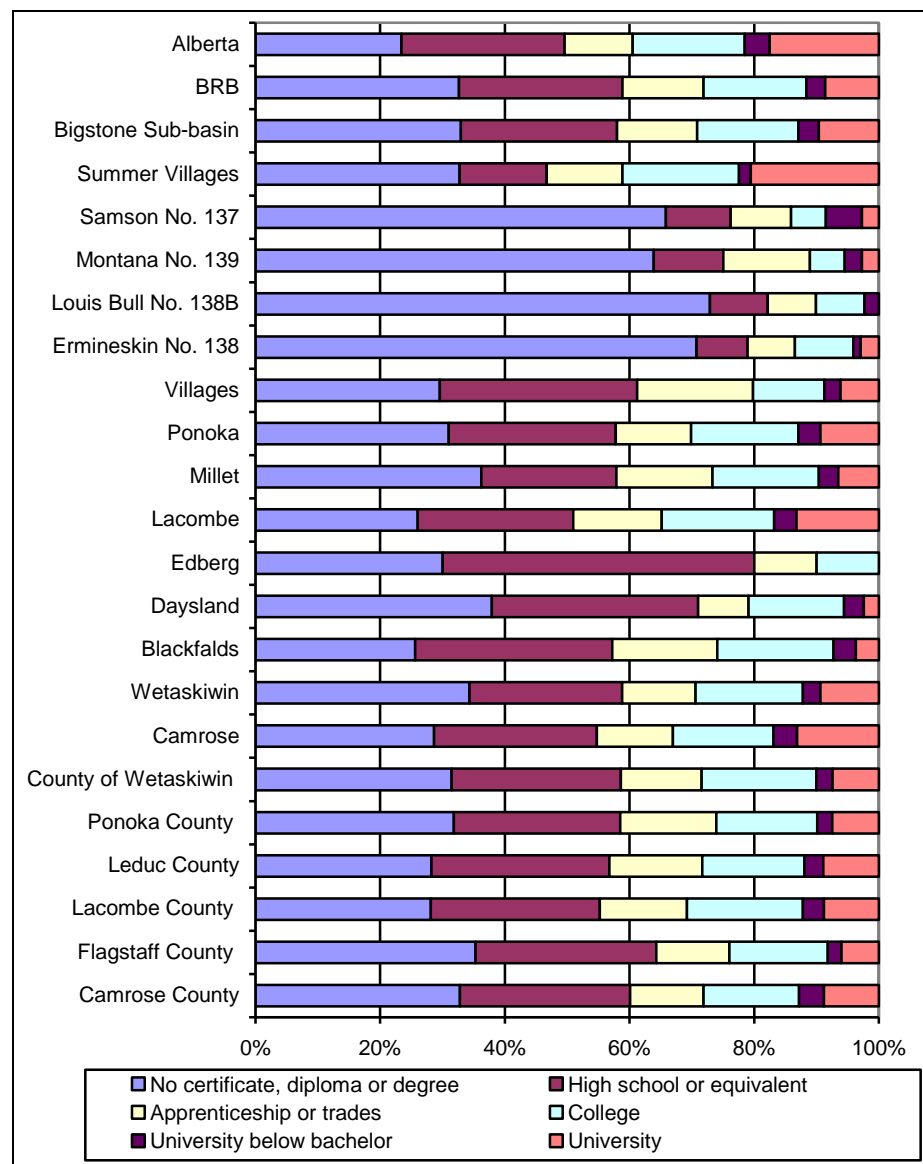


## 2.10 Education

Residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin had the same levels of education as people in the BRB (see Figure 2-18). About 32.9% of the adult population in the sub-basin had not completed high school, although this percentage was much higher for the reserves, where more than 63.0% and as high as 72.3% of the adult population had not completed high school.



**Figure 2-18: Educational Attainment for the Bigstone Sub-Basin**

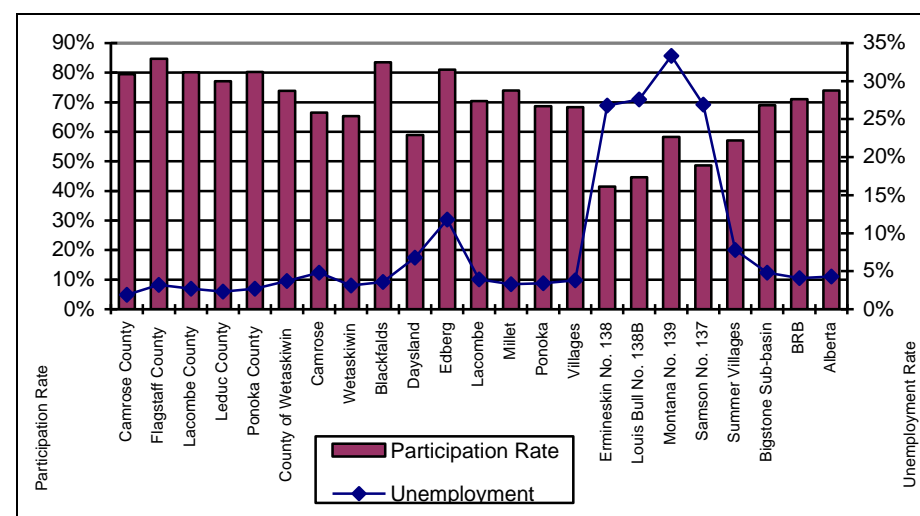


Within the sub-basin, 9.6 % of the population had obtained a university degree, although this ranged from 19.8% of people living in the summer villages to 0% in Edberg. Other communities with high percentages of people with university degrees include Camrose and Lacombe. About 12.8% of the sub-basin population had completed an apprenticeship or training in the trades; the highest percentages of people with such training were found in the six villages (18.5%) and in Blackfalds (16.9%)

## 2.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 69.0% of the adult population in the Bigstone Sub-basin was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. Figure 2-19 shows that some communities, such as Flagstaff County, Blackfalds and Edberg had labour force participation rates in excess of 80%. Labour force participation on the four reserves was considerably lower, ranging from 58.3% on the Montana 139 reserve to only 41.5% on the Ermineskin 138 reserve.

**Figure 2-19: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



Other communities with low labour force participation rates include Daysland, Wetaskiwin and Camrose.

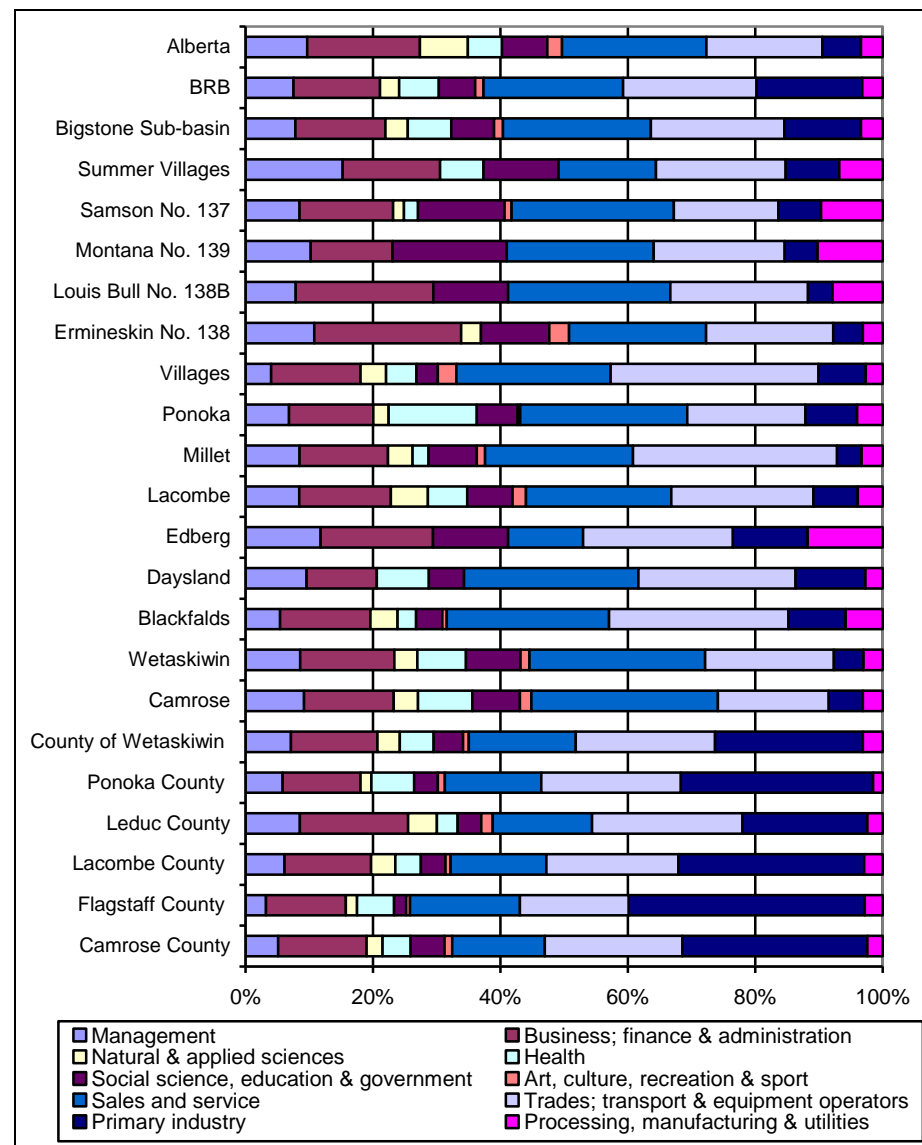
In 2006, 4.8% of the labour force in the Bigstone Sub-basin was unemployed; this was higher than the unemployment rate for the BRB (4.1%). The rate of unemployment in most communities was less than 6%, with the exception of Daysland (6.8%) and Edberg (11.8%) and the reserves. Unemployment rates on the reserves ranged from 26.8% on the Ermineskin 138 reserve to 33.3% on the Montana 139 reserve. The summer villages also reported a relatively high rate of unemployment (7.8%).

## 2.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 2-20 shows employment by occupation within the sub-basin. It shows that the occupation profile for the Bigstone Sub-basin was quite similar to that of the BRB, although the sub-basin had a smaller percentage of people in primary industry (12.0%) and higher percentages of people employed in health occupations (6.8%) and occupations in the social science, education and government (6.7%).

Among the various communities, the most obvious difference is that the rural populations had much higher percentages of people employed in primary industry (20% or more). The urban areas had highest percentages of people employed in sales and services occupations (23% or more in most communities). Within the sub-basin 20.9% of the labour force was employed in occupations related to trades, transport and equipment operations. However, these occupations were more important in the six villages and in Millet, where 31.8% of workers were employed in the trades. Occupations in processing, manufacturing and utilities employed only 3.4% of the sub-basin workforce, but employed 12.5% of the labour force in Edberg as well as about 10.0% of the labour force on the Samson 137 and Montana 139 reserves.

**Figure 2-20: Employment by Occupation, Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



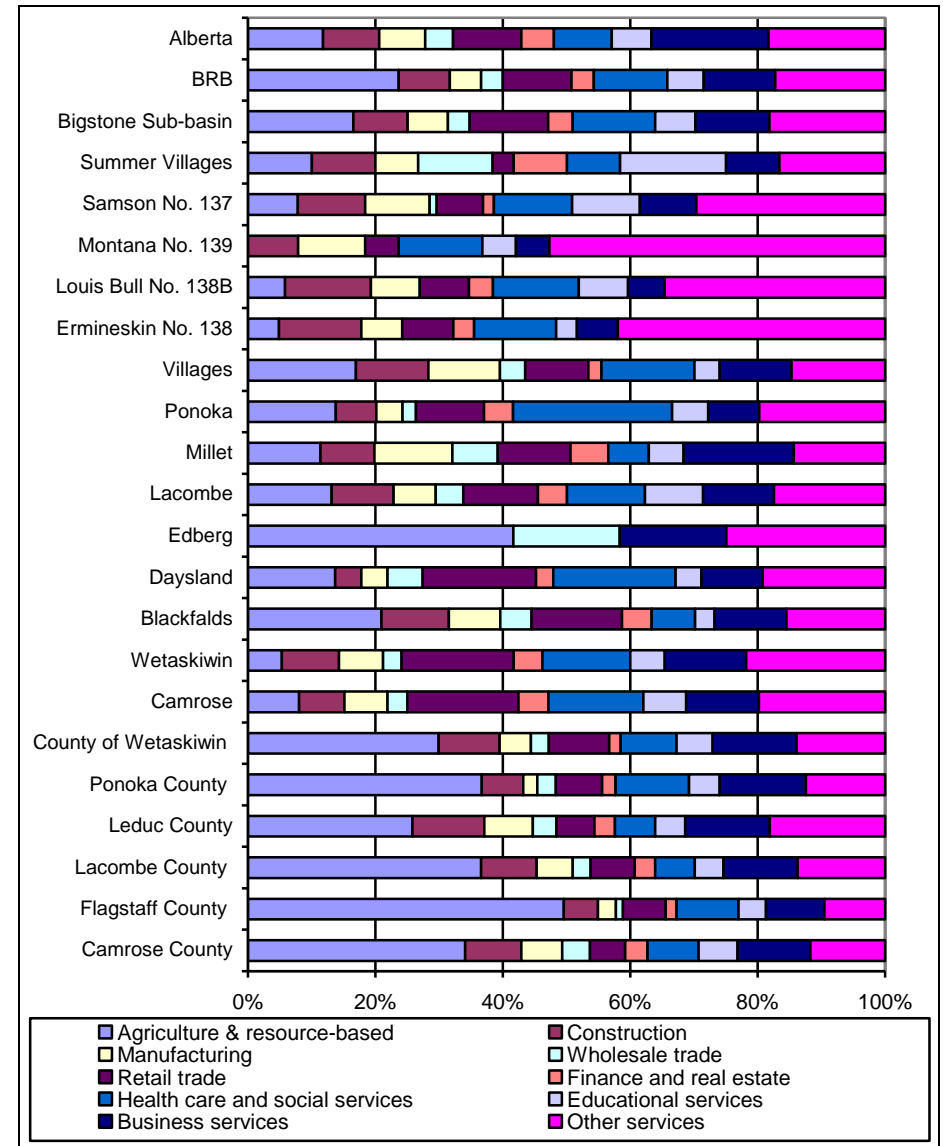
Ponoka had the highest percentage of people employed in health occupations (13.8%), while Wetaskiwin had the highest percentage of people occupied in social sciences, education and government (8.6%).

### 2.13 Employment by Industry

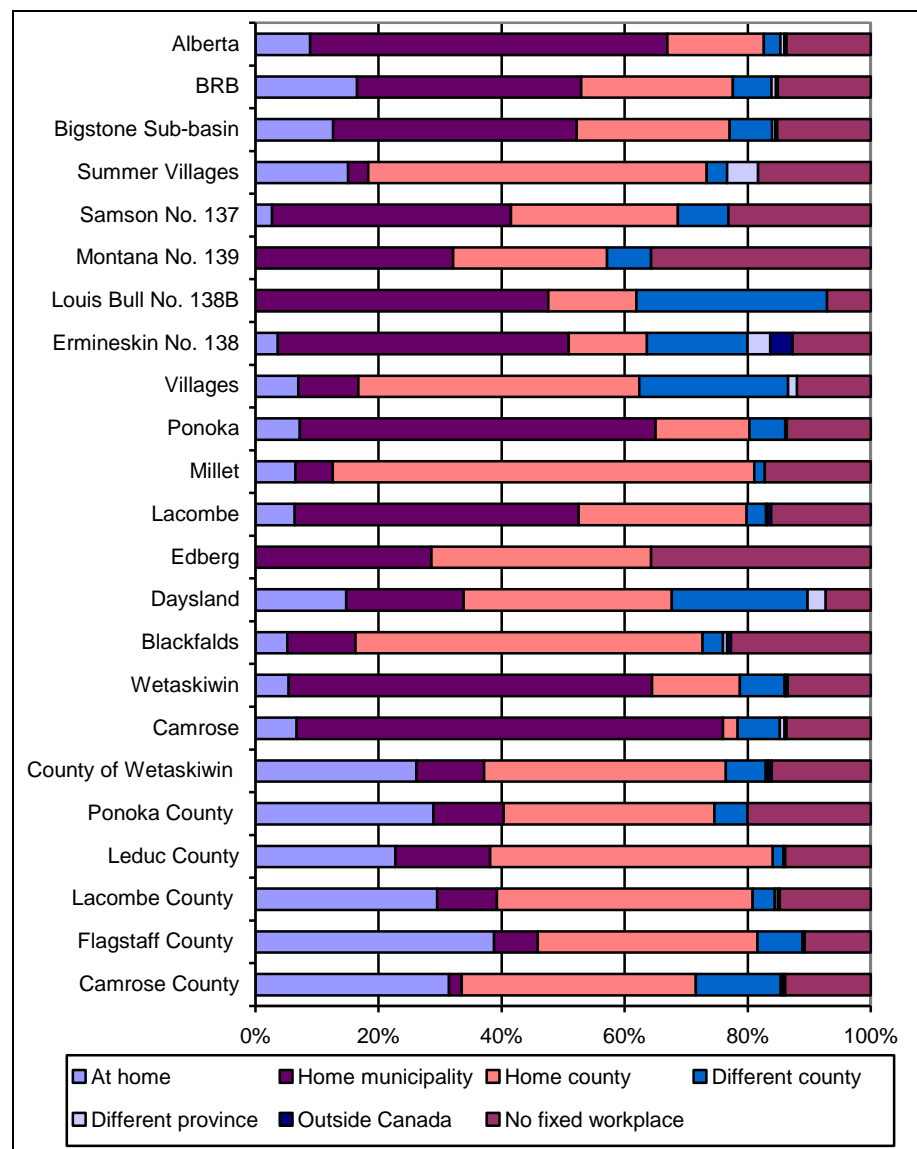
Figure 2-21 shows employment in the sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 31.4% of the workforce was experienced in basic or goods producing industries (agriculture and resources-based, construction and manufacturing) while the other 68.5% were employed in non-basic or service industries. For the rural populations, employment in the basic industries, primarily agriculture and resource-based industries, accounted for between 44.5% and 57.6% of employment. Edberg also had more than 40% of its employment in agriculture and resources-based industries. Blackfalds also had a fairly high percentage of employment in basic industries (39.7%), although this was due as much to employment in construction and manufacturing as to agriculture and resource-based industries. Other communities with relatively high percentages of their workforces employed in manufacturing include Millet and the six villages, while communities where the construction industry was an important source of employment include the six villages, Leduc County and Blackfalds.

Overall, 18.4% of the sub-basin workforce was employed in the “other” services industry. More than 20% of the workforce on the four reserves and in Edberg, Wetaskiwin and Camrose were employed in this industry. The health care and social services industry employed 12.9% of workers in the sub-basin, but as many as 25.0% of the workforce in Ponoka, 19.2% in Daysland and 14.9% in Camrose. Retail trade accounted for 12.3% of employment in the Bigstone Sub-basin. The highest percentages of employment in retail trade were found in Daysland (17.8%), Lacombe (17.7%), Wetaskiwin (17.6%) and Camrose (17.4%). The business services industry employed 11.6% of the sub-basin workforce but was particularly important in Millet, where it accounted for 17.2% of the workforce.

**Figure 2-21: Employment by Industry, Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



**Figure 2-22: Location of Work, Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 2.14 Location of Employment

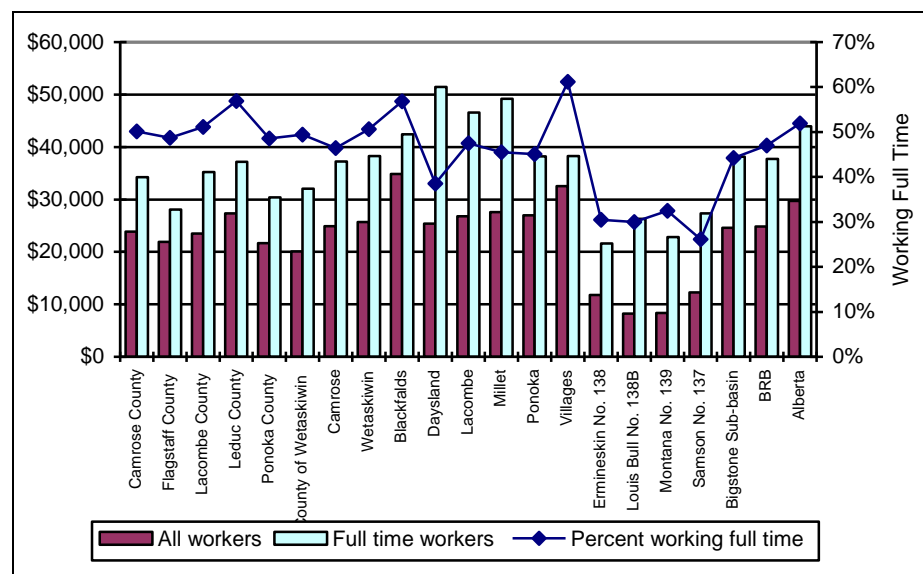
Figure 2-22 shows where residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin actually worked. It shows that relatively high percentages of residents of the rural communities (22.7% or greater) chose to work at home compared to residents of cities, towns and villages. A relatively high percentage of people living in summer villages also worked at home. Residents of the larger communities (Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Lacombe and Ponoka) tended to work in their home communities, as did a relatively high percentage of people living on the four reserves. Residents of some of the smaller communities commuted to work in a nearby community in their home region (county); these communities include Millet, Blackfalds, the six villages and the summer villages. In some cases (Louis Bull 138B, the six villages, and Daysland), relatively large percentages of people commuted to work at locations outside their home region.

## 2.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Bigstone Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$24,600 in 2005, which was slightly lower than the BRB average (\$24,856). However, only 44.2% of workers in the sub-basin reported working full-time, year round, and this was also lower than the BRB average (47.0%). Median earnings for people in the Bigstone Sub-basin who worked full time were \$38,164 and this was higher than the BRB average (\$37,708). Figure 2-23 shows median earnings for people all workers and full time workers in all communities in the sub-basin, as well as the percentage who worked full time. The highest median earnings were reported by workers in Blackfalds (\$34,877) but workers in Daysland reported the highest median earnings for full-time employment (\$51,437), although Daysland reported a relatively small percentage of full-time workers (38.5%). Residents of the four reserves reported the lowest median earnings for all workers (\$8,240 to \$12,256) as well as the lowest percentages of people working full-time, year round (26.1% to 32.5%). Other communities with low median incomes included the County of Westaskiwin and Ponoka County. While Lacombe and Millet had relatively low percentages of people working full-time, year

round, these communities also reported some of the highest median earnings from people working full time.

**Figure 2-23: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, Bigstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

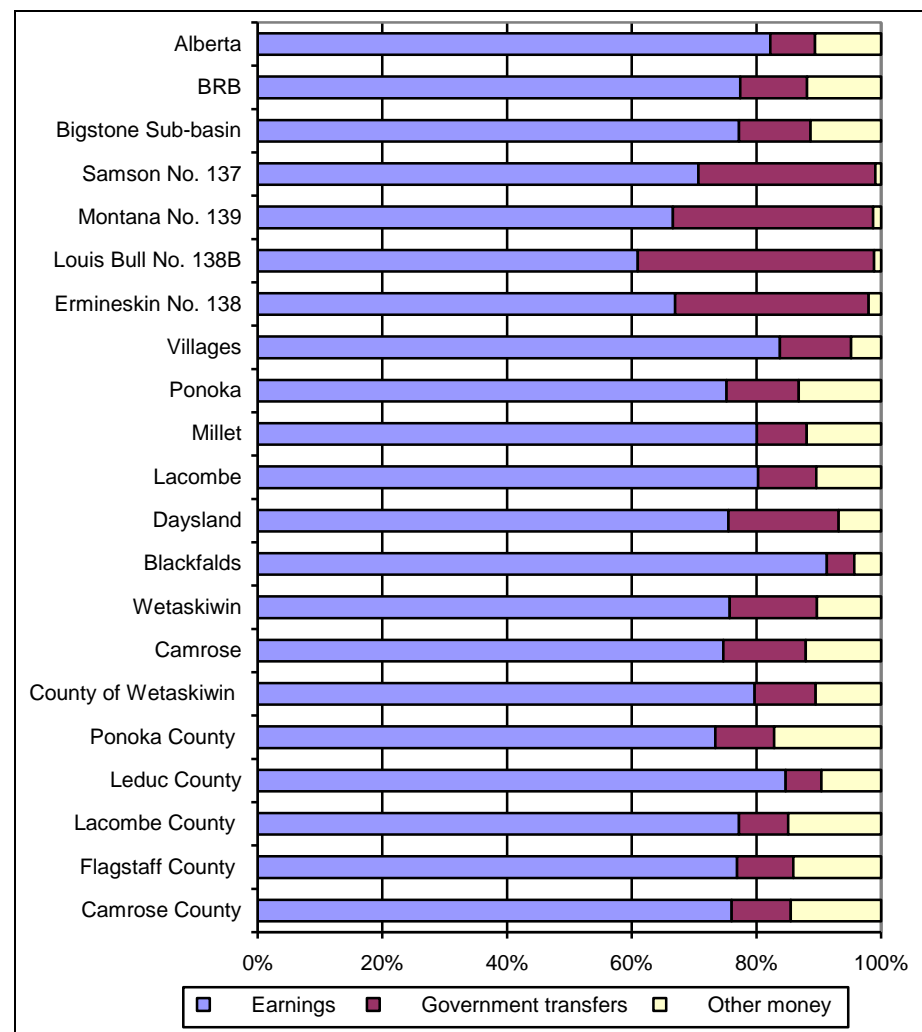


## 2.16 Other Income Sources

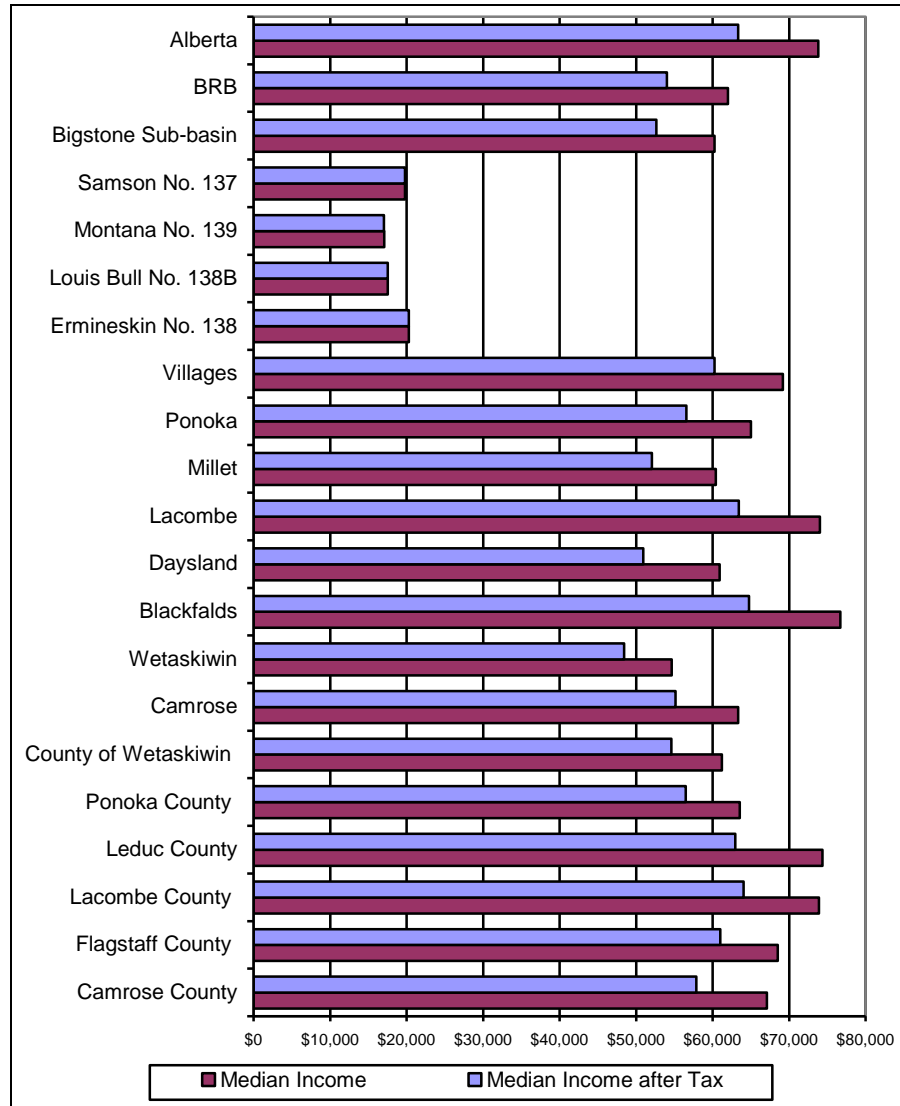
Earnings accounted for 77.2% of income for basin residents and this was nearly the same as the basin average (77.4%). Another 11.5% of income came from government transfers while the remainder (11.3%) came from other sources. Figure 2-24 shows the source of income for all communities in the sub-basin, although there was no information for Edberg or the summer villages. Blackfalds had the highest percentage of income from earnings (91.3%). Other communities that relied on earnings for more than 80% of incomes include Leduc County, the six villages, Millet, Lacombe and the County of Wetaskiwin. The highest reliance on income from government transfers occurred on the four reserves; government transfers accounted for between 28.4% and 37.6% of income on the reserves. Other

communities with high reliance on government transfers include Daysland (17.7% of income), Wetaskiwin (14.0%) and Camrose (13.2%).

**Figure 2-24: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**



**Figure 2-25: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



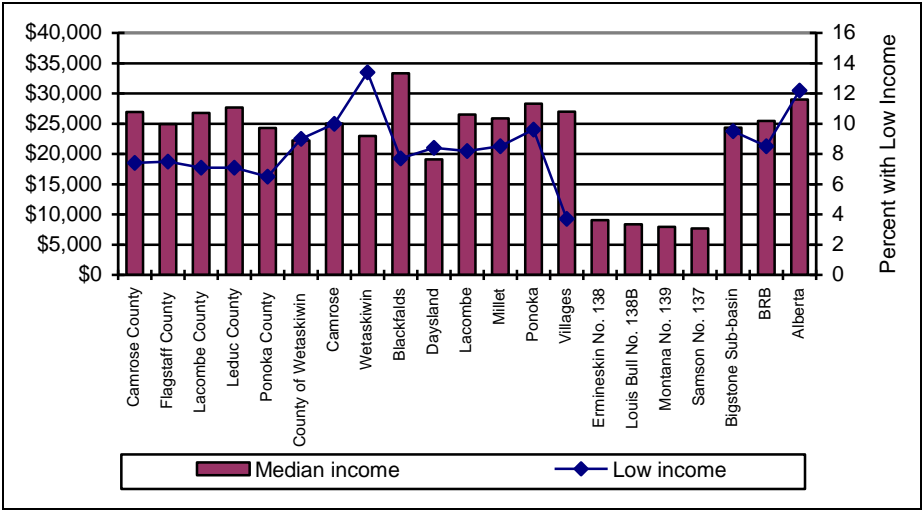
## 2.17 Family and Individual Income

In 2005 families in the Bigstone Sub-basin reported median incomes averaging \$60,252, and \$52,653 after tax. These numbers are just slightly lower than the median incomes for families in the BRB or Alberta. Figure 2-25 shows the median family incomes for communities in the sub-basin, although no income information was available for Edberg or the summer villages. It shows that the highest family incomes were reported in Blackfalds, Lacombe, Leduc County and Lacombe County; families in these communities had median incomes in excess of \$80,000. In contrast, families on the four reserves reported median incomes of \$20,290 or less. Wetaskiwin had the next lowest family median income (\$54,640).

Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households averaged \$24,352 for the Bigstone Sub-basin compared to \$25,443 for the BRB. Figure 2-26 shows the median incomes for individuals in each of the communities in the sub-basin as well as the incidence of individuals with low incomes. No data were available for Edberg or the summer villages, and the incidence of low income was not reported for reserves. Overall, residents of Blackfalds reported the highest individual median income (\$33,355 or about 37% higher than the average for the Bigstone Sub-basin. Residents of Ponoka had the next highest individual median incomes (\$28,290). The lowest income for individuals was reported on the four reserves, where the median income was \$9,040 or less.

About 9.5% of individuals in the Bigstone Sub-basin were considered to have low incomes. This was slightly higher than for the BRB where 8.5% were classified as having low income. The highest incidence of people with low incomes was reported for Wetaskiwin (13.4%). Other communities with a relatively high percentage of people with low incomes included Camrose (10.0%), Ponoka (9.6%) and the County of Wetaskiwin (9.0%). The lowest percentage of people with low incomes was reported in the six villages (3.7%).

Figure 2-26: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005

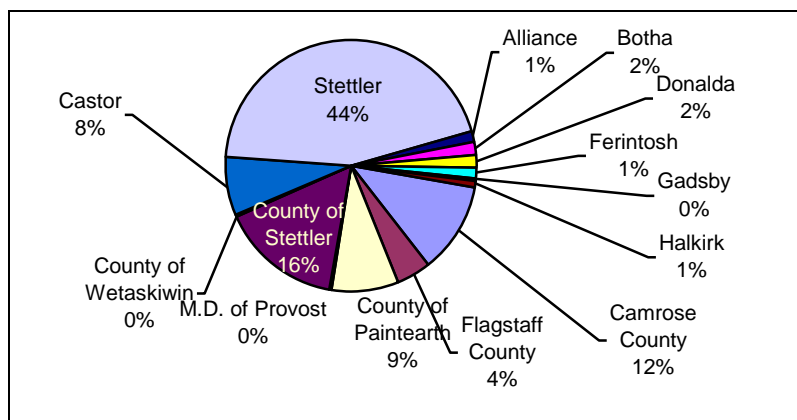


### 3.0 PAINTEARTH SUB-BASIN

#### 3.1 Population

In 2006, the Paintearth Sub-basin had a population of 12,197 people. This represents 10.0% of the population of the BRB. As shown in Figure 3-1 the majority of residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin were residents of the Town of Stettler (44.4%) or Stettler County (15.6%). Another 25.0% of the population lives in other rural areas (counties and municipal districts) in the sub-basin. About 11.7% of the population live in Camrose County, 8.6% live in Paintearth County and 4.3% in Flagstaff County. The County of Wetaskiwin and the Municipal District of Provost each accounted for 0.3% of the sub-basin population and socio-economic characteristics are not provided for these two areas because of their small populations in the sub-basin.

**Figure 3-1: Population Distribution in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



The remaining 14.7% of the sub-basin population lives in the Town of Castor (7.6% of the population) or one of six villages which collectively accounted for 5.8% of the population. These villages include Donalda (1.8% of the population), Botha (1.5%), Alliance (1.3%), Ferintosh (1.3%), Halkirk (0.9%)

and Gadsby (0.3%). Because of its small population, there is no additional census information on socio-economic conditions in Gadsby.

#### 3.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, the population of the Paintearth Sub-basin closely matched the BRB profile. As shown in Figure 3-2, the Paintearth had a smaller percentage of people under the age of 30 years (37.5%) than did the BRB (40.5%), but had a higher percentage of people over the age of 59 years (22.6%) than did the BRB (19.7%).

**Figure 3-2: Age Composition of the Paintearth Sub-Basin Population, 2006**

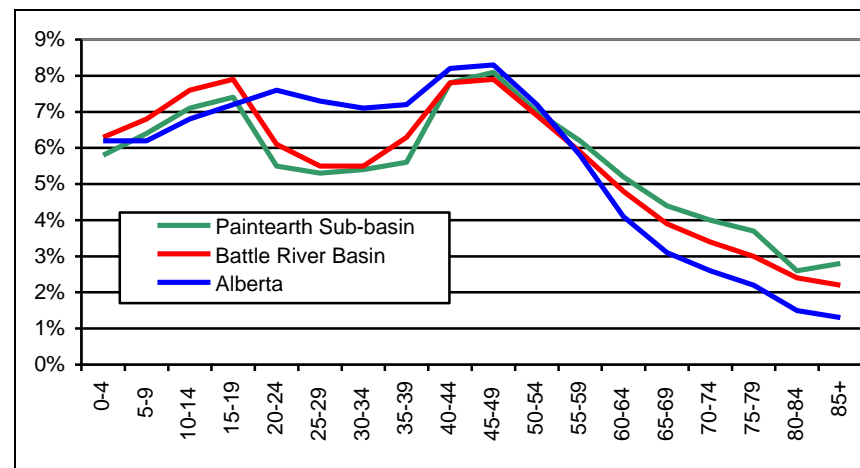


Figure 3-3 shows the age composition of the urban populations in the Paintearth Sub-basin. It shows that each community had a very different population profile. The population of Stettler fairly closely matches the sub-basin profile although it had higher percentages of people aged 20 to 34 years and people over the age of 74, and smaller populations of people aged 40 to 69 years. Castor had a very old population: 38.0% of its population was over the age of 59 years compared to 22.6% for the entire sub-basin. Donalda is also an older community with a relatively smaller percentage of people aged 10 to 39 years and people in the 50 to 54 year age group. It had a high proportion of the population in the 40 to 49 year



age group and higher percentages of people over the age of 54 years. The age profile for Botha matches the sub-basin profile for people under the age of 40, but Botha had higher percentages of people aged 40 to 49, and much lower percentages of people over the age of 49. Alliance had no population in the 25 to 29 age group or the 75 to 79 age groups; it had a smaller percentage of people less than 34 years of age but higher percentages of people over the age of 55 and in the 40 to 49 year age group. Similarly, Ferintosh had no one in the 25 to 34 year age group, but higher percentages of people aged 10 to 19 years, 40 to 49 years and 60 to 74 years. Compared to the sub-basin profile, Halkirk had higher percentages of people aged 10 to 14, 25 to 34, 50 to 64 and 80 to 84; it had no residents aged 35 to 39 years or 75 to 79 years.

**Figure 3-3: Age Composition of the Paintearth Sub-Basin Urban Population, 2006**

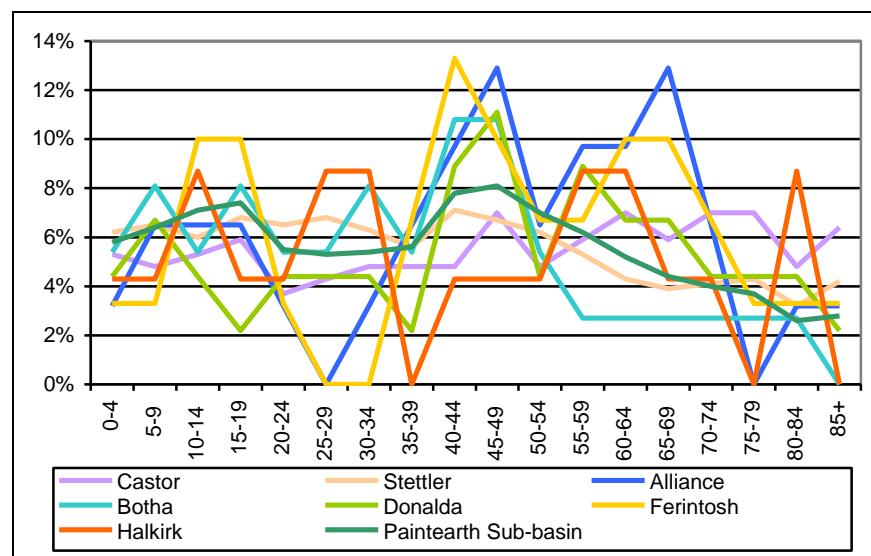
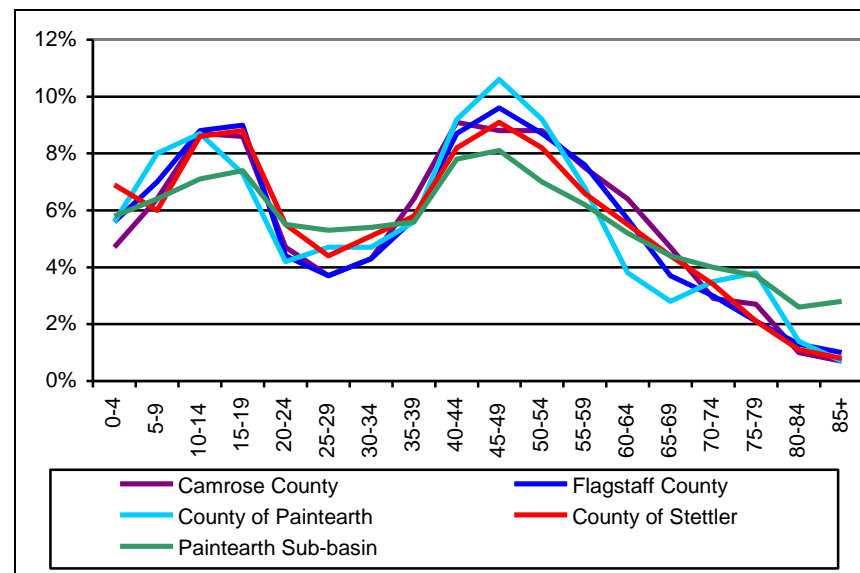


Figure 3-4 provides age profiles for the rural communities in the Paintearth Sub-basin. The profiles for each of the four major rural communities are nearly identical to each other and are similar to the sub-basin age profile.

Compared to the sub-basin population, the rural areas have slightly larger percentages of their population in the 10 to 19 and 40 to 54 year age groups and smaller percentages of people aged 20 to 34 years. The rural areas also have smaller percentages of people over the age of 69 years.

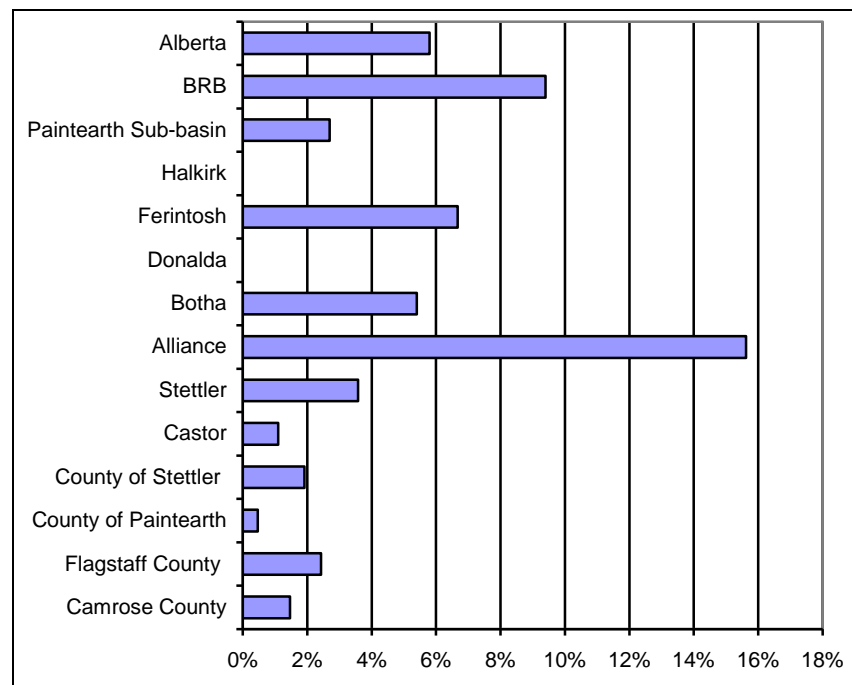
**Figure 3-4: Age Composition of the Paintearth Sub-Basin Rural Population, 2006**



### 3.3 Aboriginal Population

About 2.7% of the residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin were Aboriginal compared to 9.4% in the BRB. Figure 3-5 shows that there were small percentages of Aboriginal people in most communities except Donalda, where there were none, and Alliance, where Aboriginal people accounted for 15.6% of the population. Ferintosh and Botha also had relatively large Aboriginal populations, with Aboriginal people accounting for 6.7% and 5.4% of their respective populations.

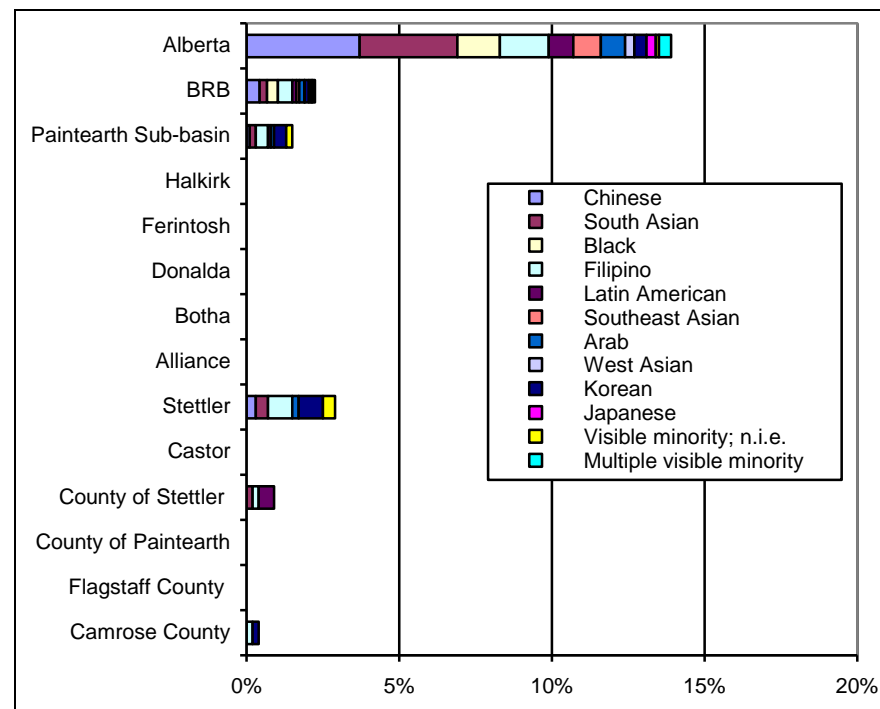
**Figure 3-5: Aboriginal Population in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 3.4 Ethnicity

About 1.5% of the Paintearth Sub-basin population consisted of visible minorities; this was lower than for the BRB (2.2%). There were no visible minorities in most urban and rural communities in the sub-basin. Almost all visible minorities were found in Stettler, where they accounted for 2.9% of the population, the County of Stettler, or Camrose County. The most common visible minorities in the Paintearth Sub-basin were Filipino (25.9% of visible minorities) and Korean (23.8%).

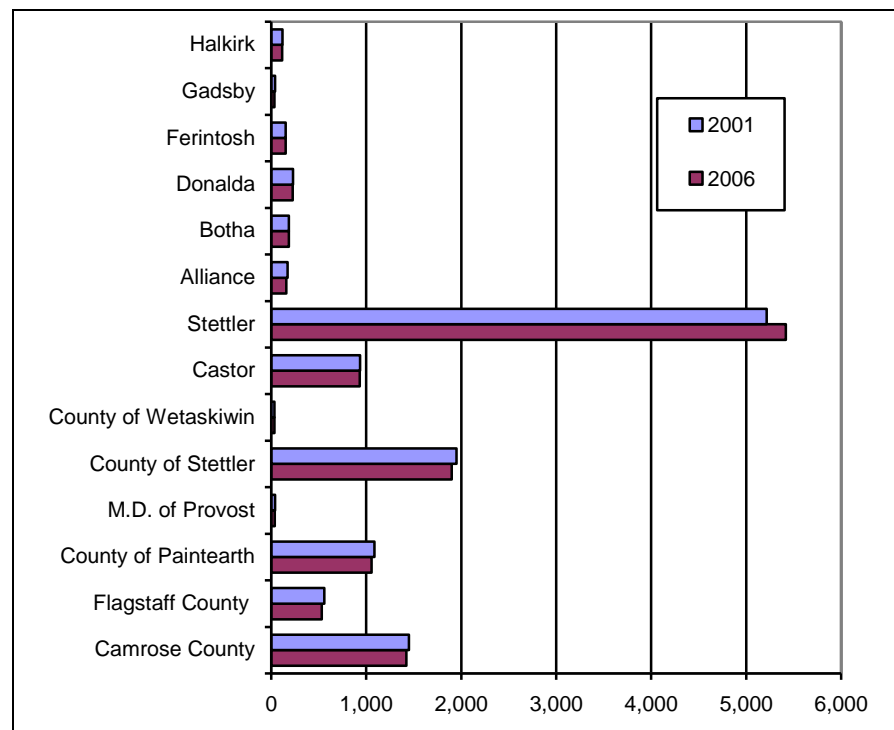
**Figure 3-6: Visible Minorities in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 3.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Paintearth Sub-basin increased by 0.3%. Figure 3-7 shows that most of the increase occurred in Stettler which grew by 3.9%. A small population increase was also reported in Ferintosh (2.0%). Population declines occurred in the rural areas and the other urban communities. The largest declines were reported in Gadsby, which decreased by 12.5% and Alliance (a loss of 7.5%). Elsewhere, population decreases were in the range of 0.5% (Botha) to 5.0% (Flagstaff County).

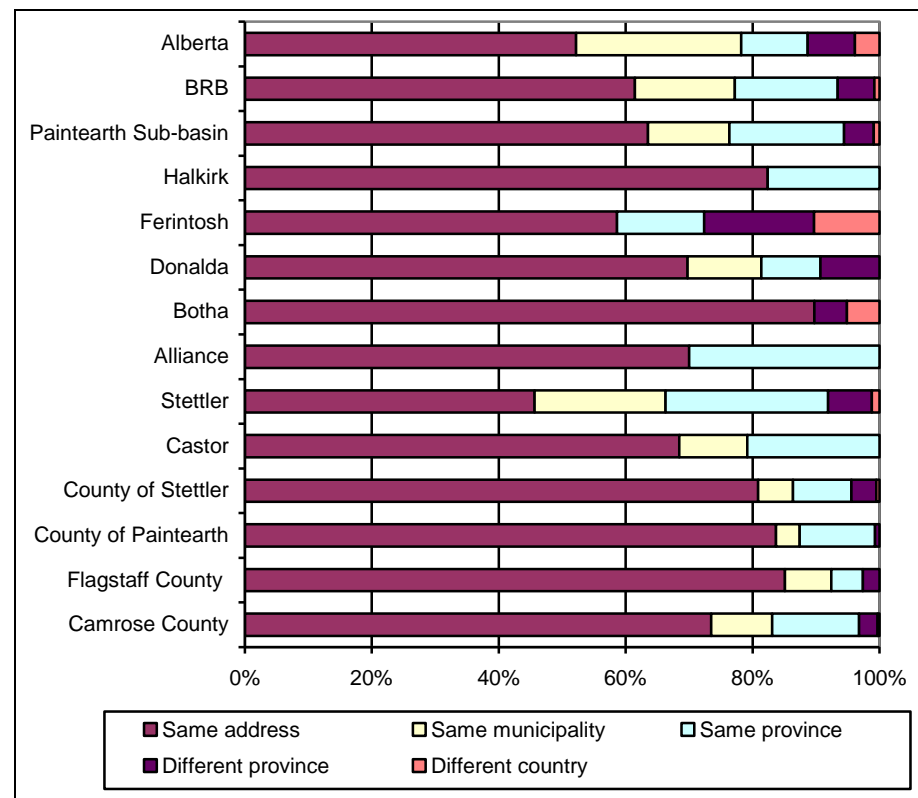
**Figure 3-7: Population Change in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 3-8 shows population mobility in the Paintearth Sub-basin between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 63.4% of sub-basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period. This was higher than for the BRB (61.4%), and suggests a more stable sub-basin population. Only 0.9% of sub-basin residents had relocated to the Paintearth Sub-basin from another country while 4.7% moved from another province, and 18.0% moved from a different municipality in Alberta. The remainder (12.8%) had changed addresses within their home municipality. Within the sub-basin, the communities with lowest in-migration included Botha (10.0%), Halkirk (17.6%), and the rural areas, especially Flagstaff County (7.6%). Ferintosh, Stettler and Alliance had the highest percentages of people who moved into

their home community in the five years prior to 2006. The majority of in-migration to Stettler and Alliance consisted of people moving from other parts of Alberta (outside their home municipality) while in Ferintosh a relatively high percentage of in-migrants came from a different province or country.

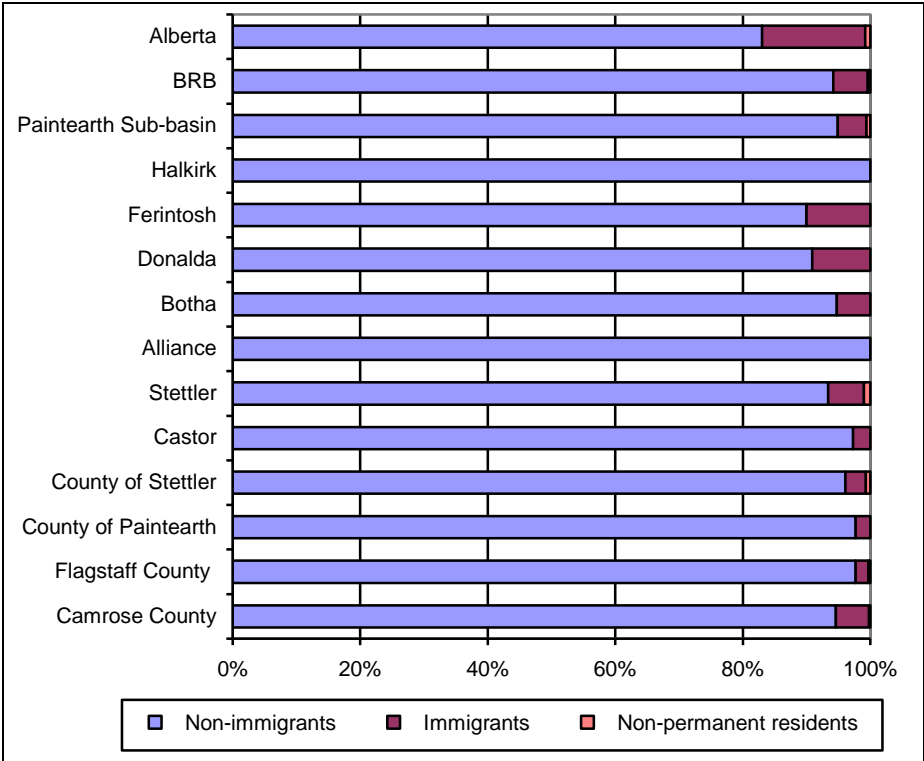
**Figure 3-8: Population Mobility in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



About 4.5% of the sub-basin population consisted of immigrants, and this was much lower than for the BRB where immigrants accounted for 5.4% of the population. Figure 3-9 shows that the percentage of immigrants ranged from 10.0% in Ferintosh and 8.9% in Donalda to 2.3% or less in the Flagstaff

County and the County of Paintearth. Immigrants accounted for 5.6% of the population of Stettler.

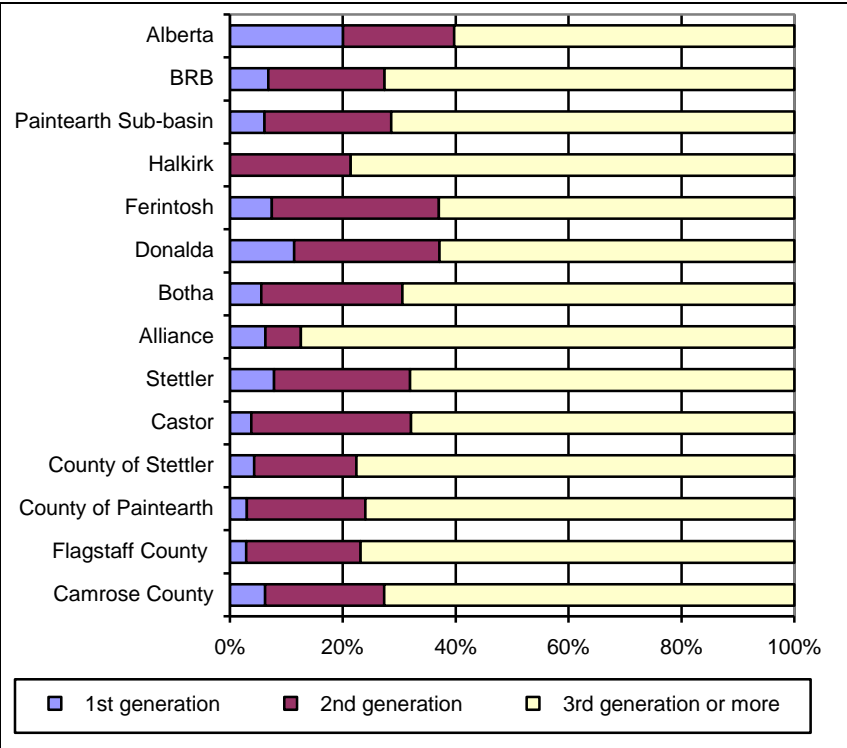
Figure 3-9: Role of Immigration by Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006



About 71.4% of the sub-basin population consisted of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations while 6.1% were first generation Canadians. The highest concentration of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations was found in Alliance (87.5%). The communities that had the lowest percentages of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations included Donalda (62.9%) and Ferintosh (63.0%); Donalda had the highest percentage of first generation Canadians (11.4%). The rural parts of the sub-basin, notably Stettler

County, had higher than average percentages of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations.

Figure 3-10: Residency in Canada, Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006

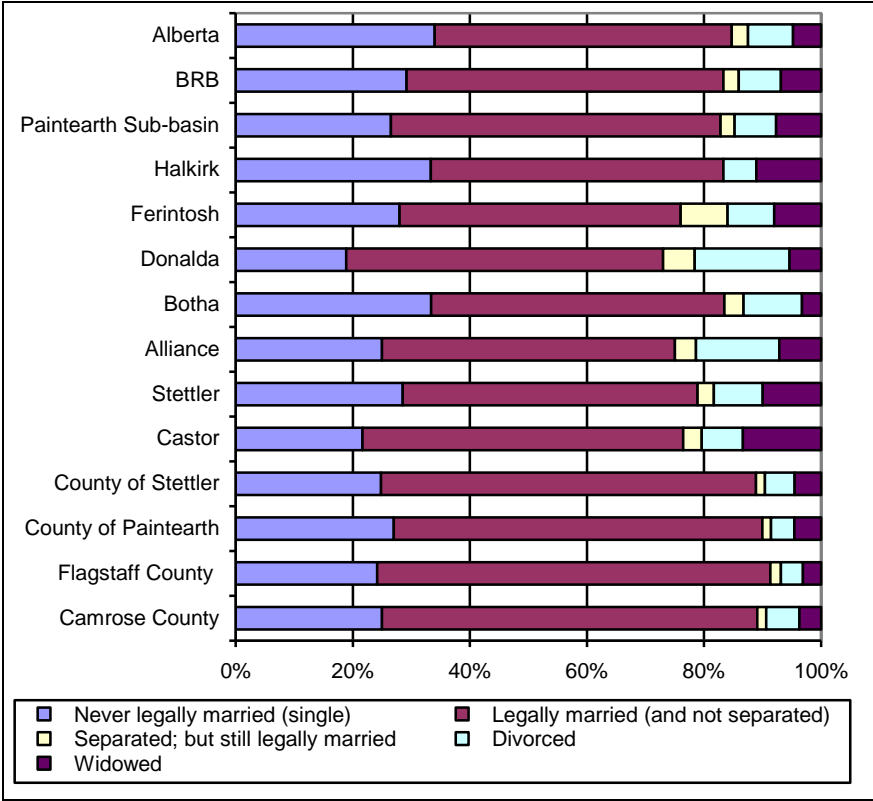


3.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 56.3% of sub-basin residents, while the balance consisted of single people (26.5%), divorced people (7.1%), widowed people (7.7%) and people who are separated (2.4%). The sub-basin profile (Figure 3-11) was similar to the BRB profile, although the sub-basin had a smaller percentage of single people (never legally married) and a slightly higher percentage of widowed people. Within the sub-basin, Donalda and Castor have the lowest percentages of single people, while relatively high percentages of widowed people were found in Castor,

Halkirk and Stettler. The percentage of married people ranged from a low of 47.4% in Halkirk and 48.0% in Ferintosh to a high of 67.3% in Flagstaff County. In Stettler, 50.3% of the adult residents were legally married.

Figure 3-11: Marital Status in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006

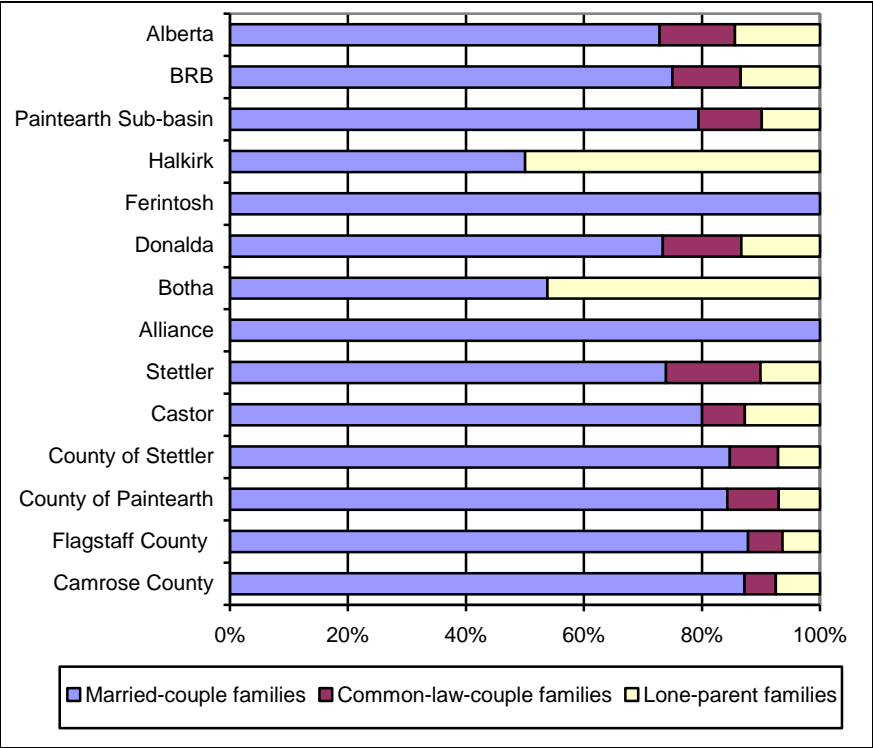


3.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 79.1% of the 3,345 census families in the Paintearth Sub-basin. Lone-parent families accounted for 9.8% of families, while common-law couples accounted for the balance (10.7%). Figure 3-12 shows that the Paintearth Sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of married couple families than were found in Alberta or the

BRB. Within the sub-basin, all families in Alliance and Ferintosh consisted of married couple families, while nearly half the families in Halkirk and Botha were lone-parent families. Stettler and Donalda had the highest percentages of common-law couple families. In the rural parts of the sub-basin, more than 84% of the families consisted of married couple families.

Figure 3-12: Family Structure in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006

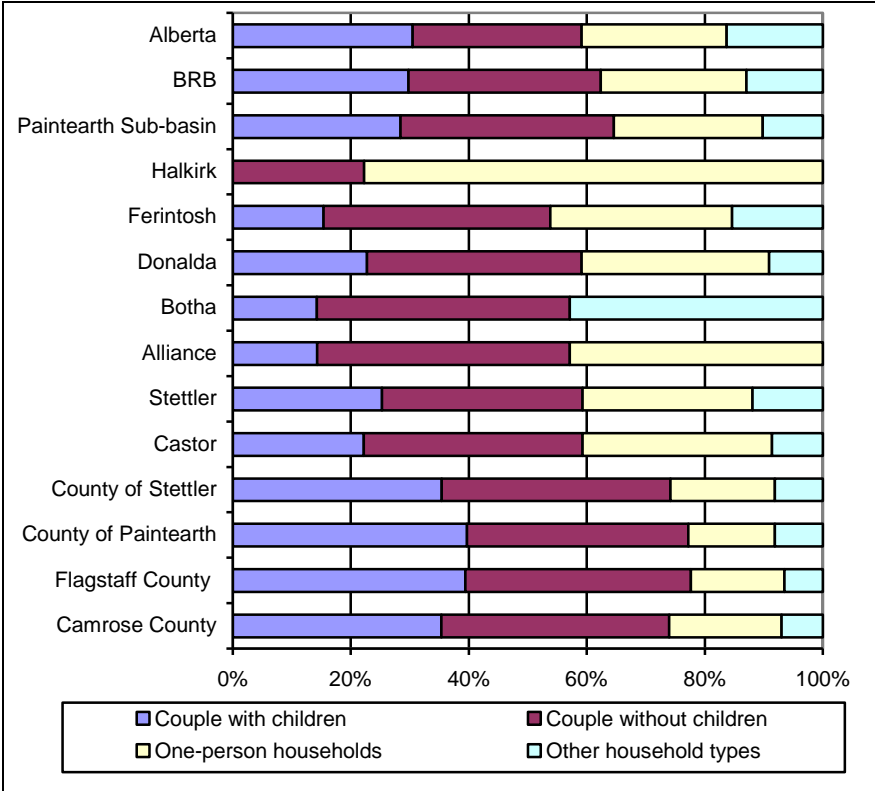


3.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families. Figure 3-13 shows that 28.2% of households consisted of a couple with children, 35.9% were couples with no children, 25.0% were single person households, and the balance (10.1%) consisted of other household types. Compared to the BRB, the Paintearth Sub-basin had

lower percentages of couples with children and higher percentages of couples without children. Within the sub-basin, the highest percentages of couples with children were found in the rural areas, particularly the County of Paintearth (39.7%) and Flagstaff County (39.3%). In contrast, couples with children accounted for 25.2% (Stettler) or less of households in the urban areas. The urban communities had much higher percentages of single person households, especially Halkirk, and higher percentages of couples without children, notably in Botha (40.0%), Donalda (38.1%) and Alliance (37.5%). Botha also reported a high incidence of other household types.

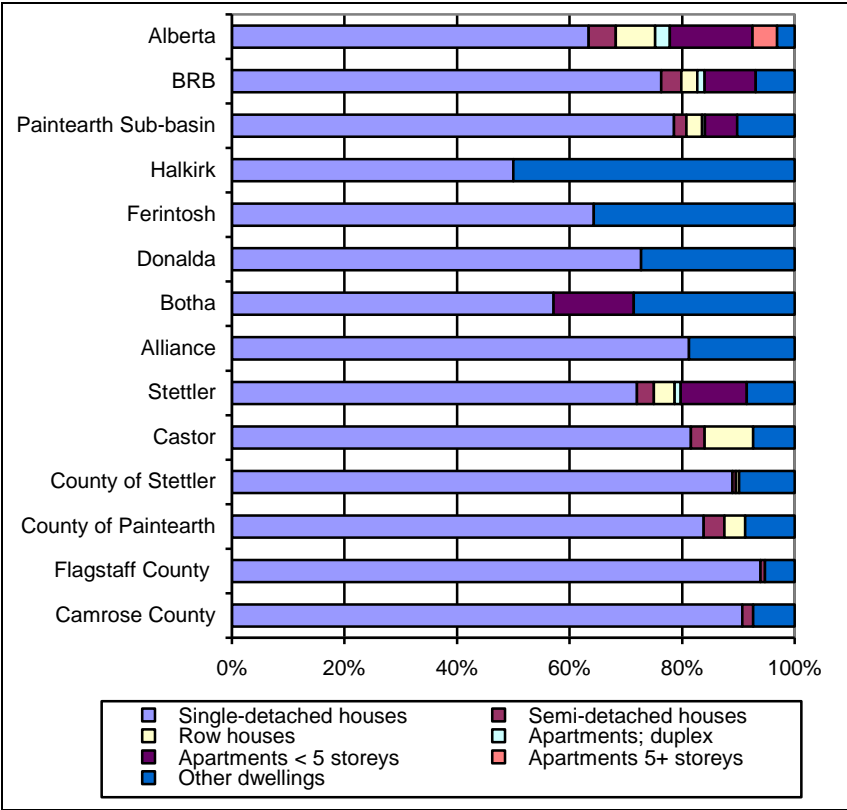
**Figure 3-13: Household Structure in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 3.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 4,665 housing units in the Paintearth Sub-basin. Figure 3-14 shows the composition of housing in each part of the sub-basin.

**Figure 3-14: Housing Characteristics in the Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**

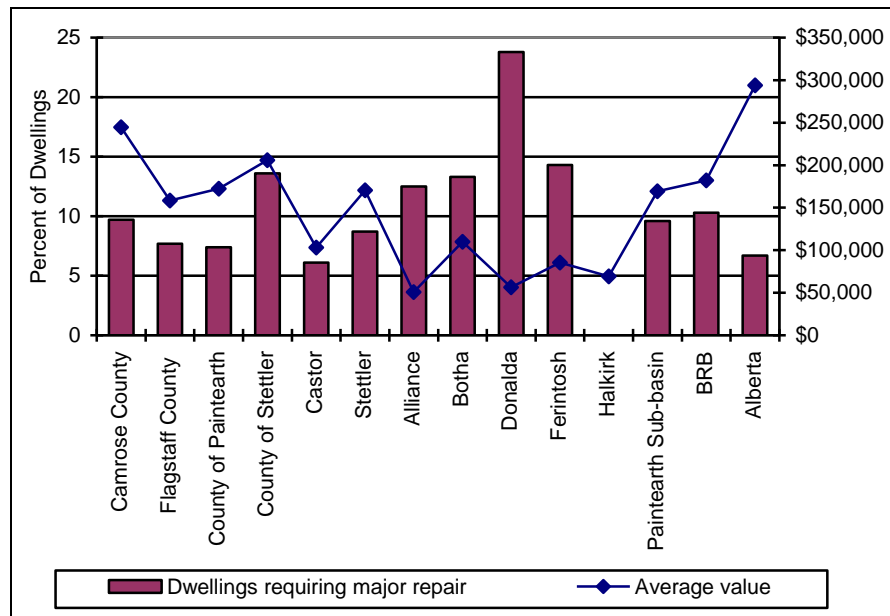


Overall, single detached houses accounted for 78.4% of housing in the sub-basin, although this ranged from 45.5% in Halkirk to 93.9% in Flagstaff County. Typically the rural areas had the highest percentages of single detached houses (83.8% or higher) but more than 80% of housing in both Alliance and Castor consisted of single-detached houses. The highest incidence of other housing types was found in Halkirk, Ferintosh, Donald and Botha, and these were primarily other dwelling types. Only Stettler and

Botha reported having any apartments, all of which were in buildings of fewer than five stories.

Figure 3-15 shows the reported value of housing in each of the sub-basins as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the Paintearth Sub-basin in 2005 was \$169,185, which was about 7% less than the BRB average (\$182,073). Average housing values within the sub-basin were highly variable, ranging from lows of \$50,928 in Alliance, \$56,570 in Donalda and \$69,092 in Halkirk, to \$205,928 in the County of Stettler. The average value of housing in Stettler was \$170,390.

**Figure 3-15: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs, Paintearth Sub-Basin**

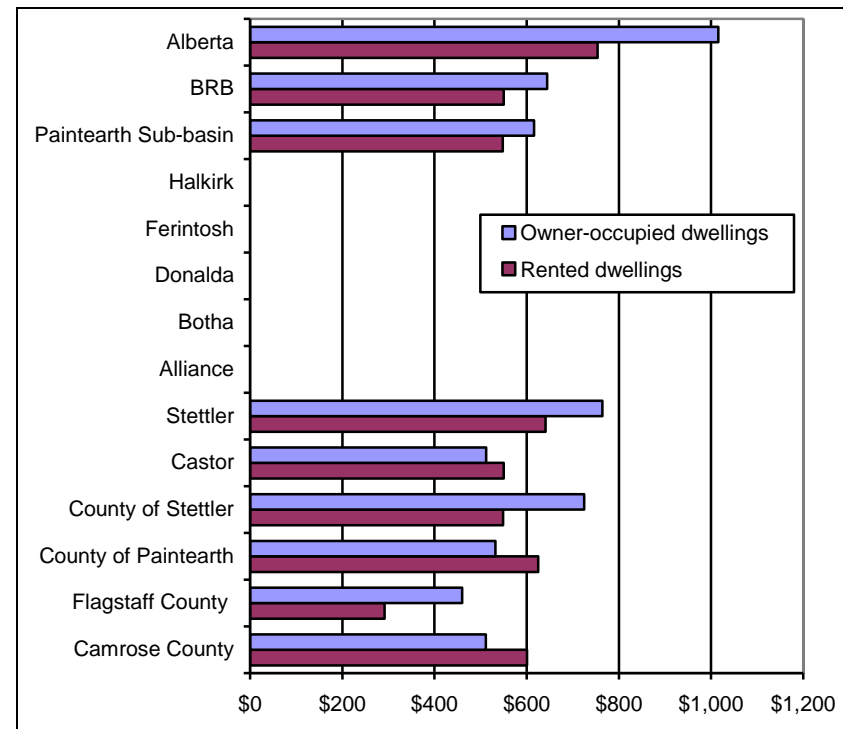


Overall, 9.6% of dwellings in the sub-basin were in need of major repair and this was slightly below the BRB average (10.3%). Housing stock in Donalda was in relatively poor quality, with 23.8% being in need of major repair.

Elsewhere in the sub-basin, the percentage of housing in need of major repair ranged from 6.1% in Castor to 13.6% in the County of Stettler and 14.3% in Ferintosh.

Figure 3-16 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in each of the sub-basins in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage, electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. Overall, monthly costs for both rental and owner-occupied dwellings both averaged \$548 for rental dwellings and \$616 for owner-occupied dwellings. These costs were slightly lower than the BRB averages.

**Figure 3-16: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**



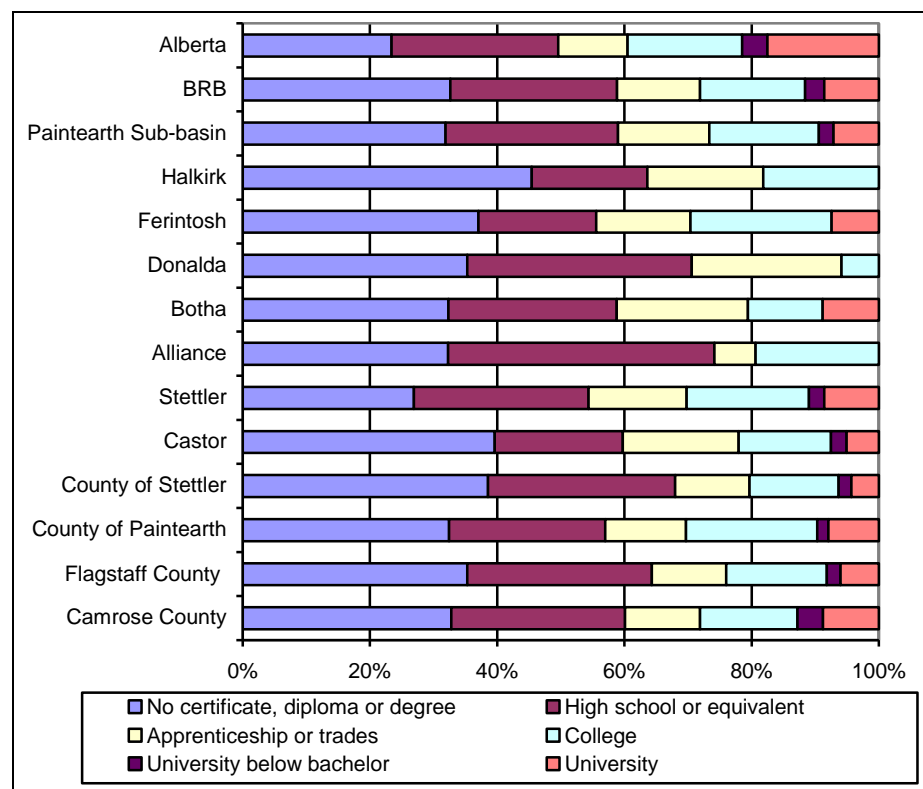
Residents of Stettler reported the highest monthly housing costs (\$641 for rental buildings and \$764 for owner-occupied dwellings). Housing costs

were lowest for residents of Flagstaff County (\$292 and \$460 for rented and owned dwellings, respectively). There was no information on housing costs for Alliance, Botha, Donalda, Ferintosh or Halkirk.

### 3.10 Education

Residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin were less educated than the BRB average. Overall, 31.8% of sub-basin residents had not graduated from high school, although this ranged from 26.9% in Stettler to 38.5% in the County of Stettler and 39.9% in Castor (see Figure 3-17).

**Figure 3-17: Educational Attainment in the Paintearth Sub-Basin**

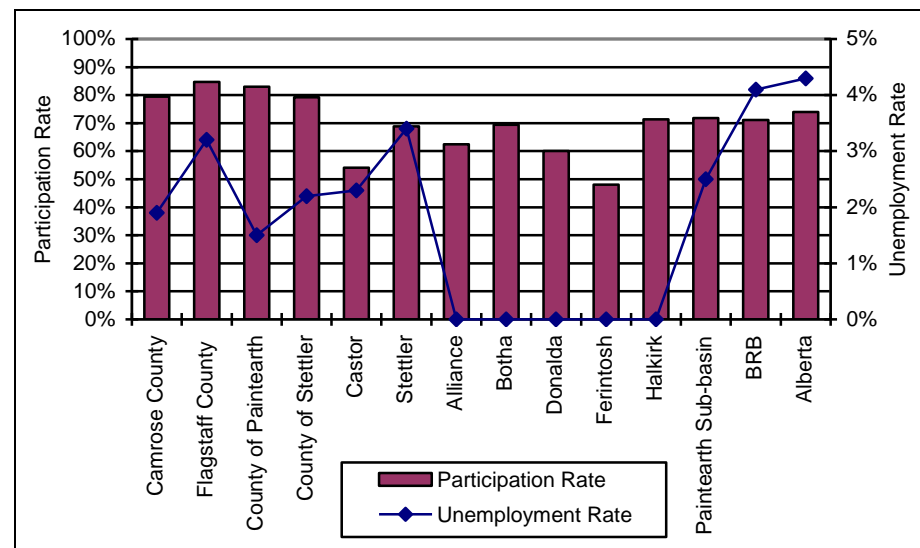


About 14.3% of sub-basin residents had completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate, including more than 20% of the adult population in Botha and Donalda. The highest percentages of university graduates were found in Camrose, Stettler and Botha.

### 3.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 71.8% of the adult population in the Paintearth Sub-basin was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. This was slightly higher than for the BRB (71.1%). Figure 3-18 shows that, within the sub-basin, labour force participation rates for residents of the rural areas were 80% or higher but were less than 60% in Ferintosh, and Castor. In Stettler, the labour force participation rate was 68.8%.

**Figure 3-18: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



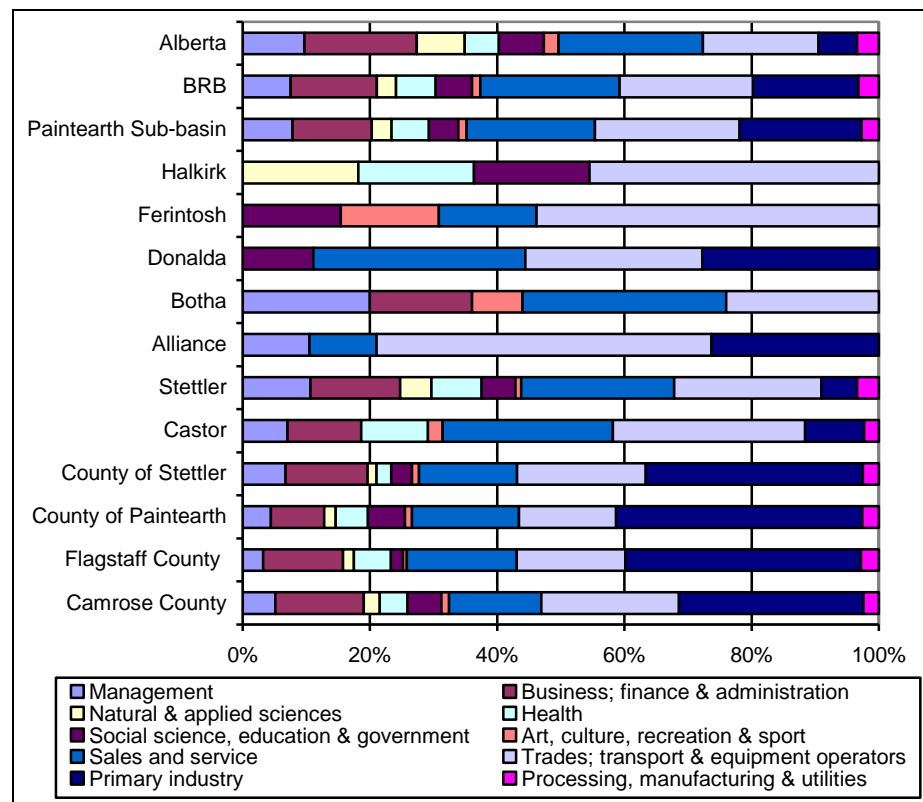
The rate of unemployment in the Paintearth Sub-basin was 2.5% in 2006, which was much lower than for the BRB (4.1%). The highest rate of unemployment was in Stettler (3.4%) and Flagstaff County (3.2%). No unemployment was reported in Alliance, Botha, Donalda, Ferintosh or Halkirk.



### 3.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 3-19 shows employment by occupation for each of the communities in the Paintearth Sub-basin. Compared to the BRB average, the Paintearth Sub-basin had higher percentages of people employed in occupations related to primary industry and lower percentages in business occupations.

**Figure 3-19: Employment in the Paintearth Sub-Basin by Occupation, 2006**



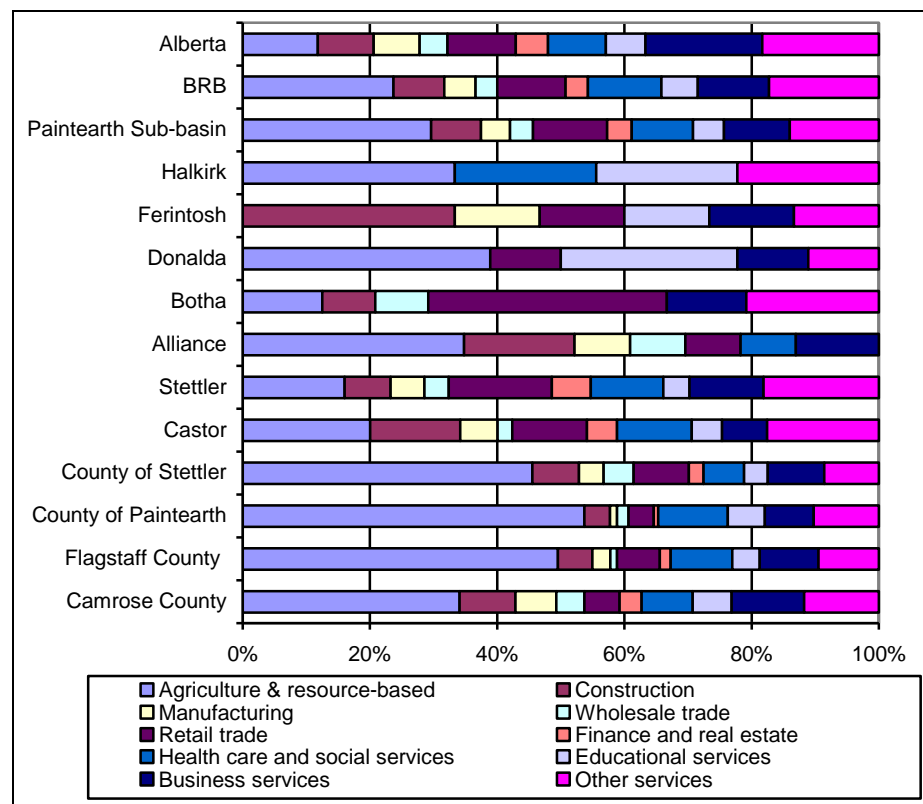
High percentages of employment in primary industry were found in the rural parts of the sub-basin, as well as in Alliance and Donalda. About 22.7% of the sub-basin workforce was employed in occupations in the trades, transportation and equipment operation. However, these

occupations accounted for more than 50% of employment in Ferintosh and Halkirk and 47.6% of employment in Alliance. Another 20.1% of the sub-basin workforce was employed in occupations related to sales and service, and these occupations were particularly important in Botha, Donalda, Castor and Stettler. The highest percentages of employment in occupations related to health were found in Castor and Halkirk, while Stettler and Botha had the highest percentages of their labour force employed in business, finance and administration.

### 3.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 3-20 shows employment in each sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 29.6% of the workforce was experienced in the agriculture and other resource-based industries, 14.0% in the other services industries, with 11.6% in retail trade and 10.3% in business services. Compared to the BRB, residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin were more likely to be employed in agriculture and other resource-based industries and less likely to be employed in other service or health-related industries. The employment-by-industry profiles for the three of the four counties were quite similar, with agriculture and other resource-based industries accounting for more than 40% of employment. Alliance, Donalda and Halkirk also presorted relatively high percentages of employment in agriculture and other resource-based industries. The highest percentages of employment in the other service industries were found in Botha, Halkirk and Stettler. Botha and Stettler also had higher percentages of people employed in retail trade. Stettler and Castor had the highest percentages of people employed in health care and social services. Although construction accounted for 7.8% of employment in the sub-basin, this was of particular importance to Ferintosh, Alliance and Castor.

**Figure 3-20: Employment in the Paintearth Sub-Basin by Industry, 2006**

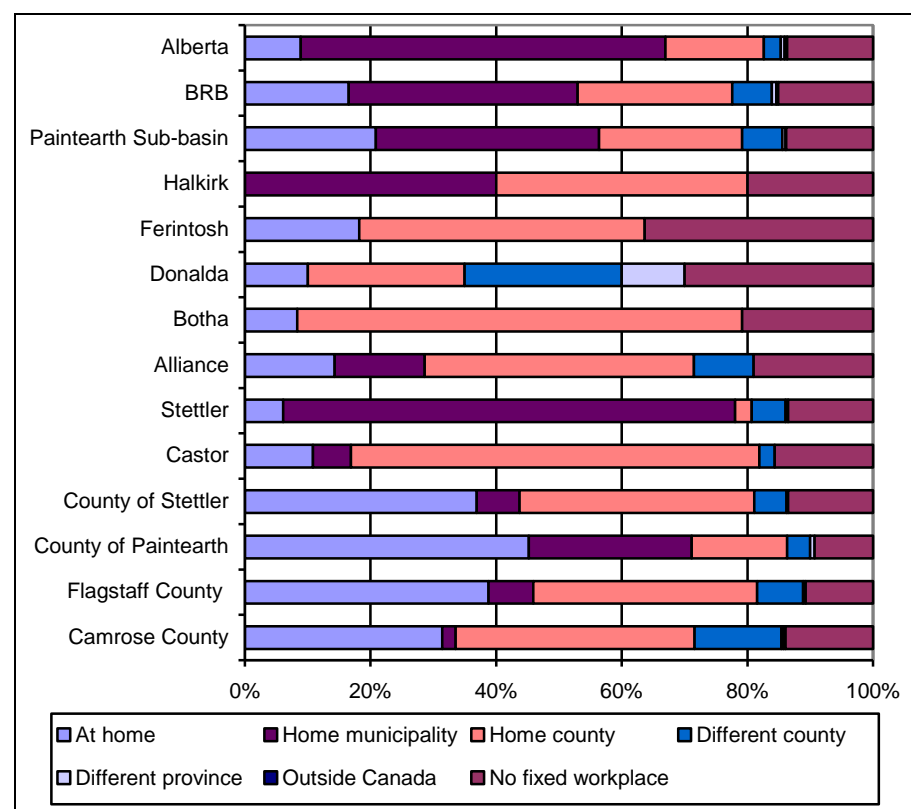


### 3.14 Location of Employment

Figure 3-21 shows where residents of the various communities within the Paintearth Sub-basins actually worked. Overall, 20.8% of sub-basin residents worked at home, while 35.5% worked at a usual place in their home municipality. Another 22.8% worked in their home county outside their local community, 6.4% worked in another part of Alberta, 0.5% worked outside Alberta and 0.1% worked outside Canada. This pattern of working was similar to the BRB average, although higher percentages of sub-basin residents worked at home.

Residents of the rural parts of the sub-basin were most likely to work at home. The majority of people living in Stettler (71.8%) worked in their home community, as did residents of Halkirk and Paintearth County. Residents of Castor, Botha, Alliance and Ferintosh commuted to work at job inside their home county but outside their community. Residents of Donalda were most likely to work in a different county or outside Alberta. Workers in Ferintosh and Donalda were the most likely to have no fixed place of work.

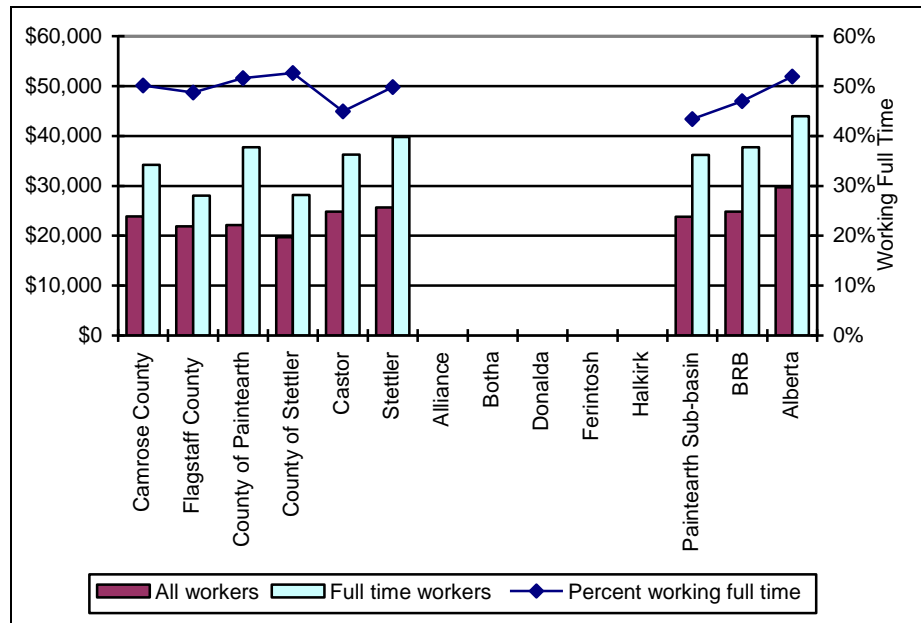
**Figure 3-21: Location of Work, Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 3.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$23,806 in 2005, and this was 4% less than the BRB average (\$24,856). However, 50.1% of workers in the sub-basin reported being employed full-time, year round, and median earnings for this group averaged \$35,920. The corresponding statistics for individual communities within the Paintearth Sub-basin are provided in Figure 3-22, although no income information was available for Alliance, Botha, Donalda, Ferintosh or Halkirk. Within the sub-basin, workers in Stettler reported the highest median earnings (\$25,648) followed by workers in Castor (\$24,835) although Castor had the lowest percentage of people working full time (44.9%). The highest incomes from full-time, year round employment were reported in Stettler (\$39,758) and the County of Paintearth (\$37,708).

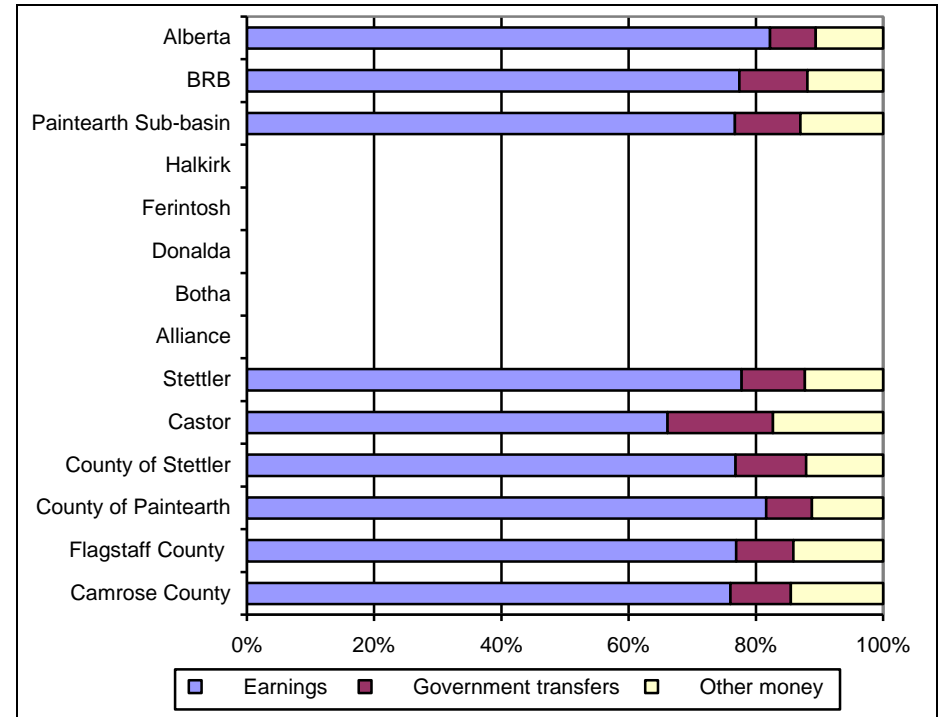
**Figure 3-22: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, Paintearth Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 3.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 76.7% of income for residents of the Paintearth Sub-basin; this was slightly less than the BRB average (77.4%). The remainder came from government transfers (10.3%) and other sources (13.0%). Figure 3-23 shows the reliance on transfer payments and other income for residents of the individual communities within the sub-basin.

**Figure 3-23: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**

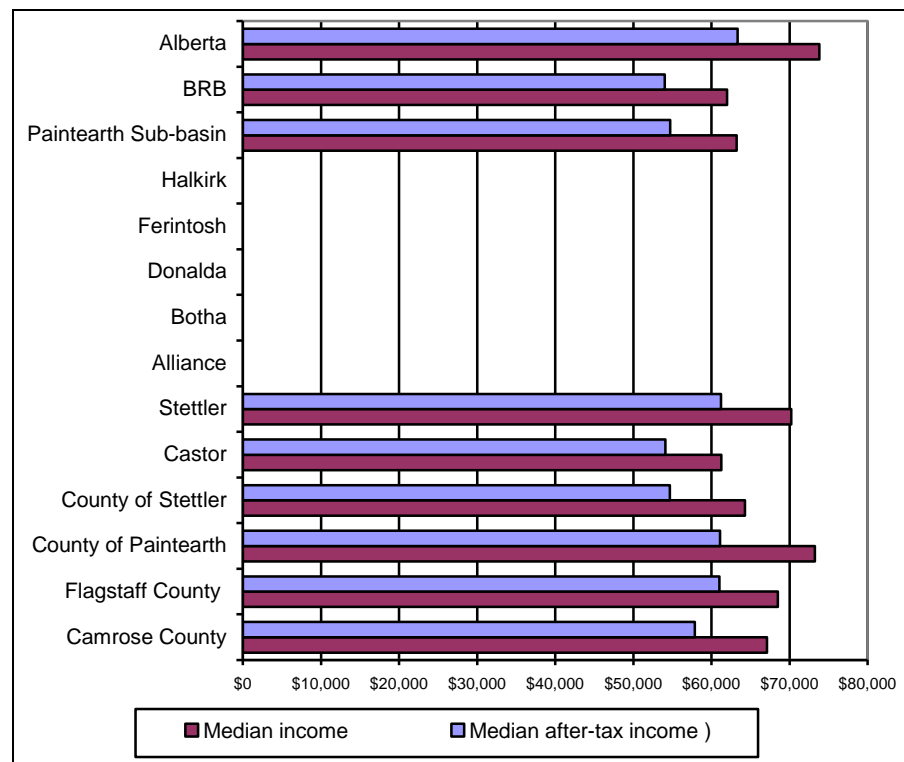


The percentage of income that came from earnings was nearly the same for most communities in the sub-basin, with the exception of Castor where only 66.0% of income came from earnings and 16.5% came from government transfers.

### 3.17 Family and Individual Income

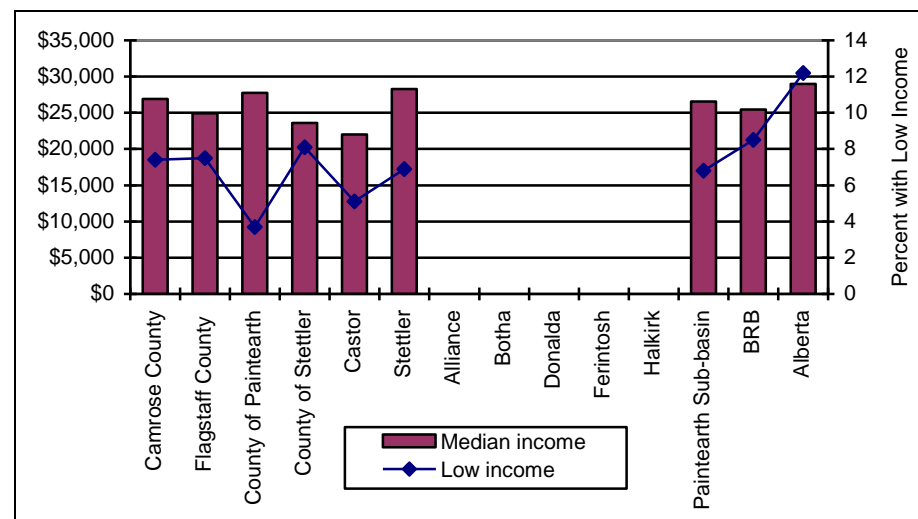
In 2005 families in the Paintearth Sub-basin reported median incomes averaging \$63,213. This was slightly higher than the BRB average (\$62,021). Variations in median family incomes within the sub-basin are shown in Figure 3-24. Residents of the County of Paintearth reported the highest median family income (\$73,252) and this was 16% higher than the average for the Paintearth Sub-basin. Families in Stettler reported a median income of \$70,232. In contrast, the lowest median family income was reported by residents of Castor (\$61,263). No family income information was available for Alliance, Botha, Donalda, Ferintosh or Halkirk.

**Figure 3-24: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households averaged \$26,570 in 2005, and this was 4% higher than for the BRB (\$25,443). Overall, 6.8% of sub-basin residents were considered to have low incomes (before tax) compared to 8.5% of BRB residents. Figure 3-25 summarizes median incomes and the incidence of low incomes for the communities within the Paintearth Sub-basin. As was the case for family incomes, the highest individual incomes were reported in Stettler and the County of Paintearth, while the lowest incomes occurred in Castor.

**Figure 3-25: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005**



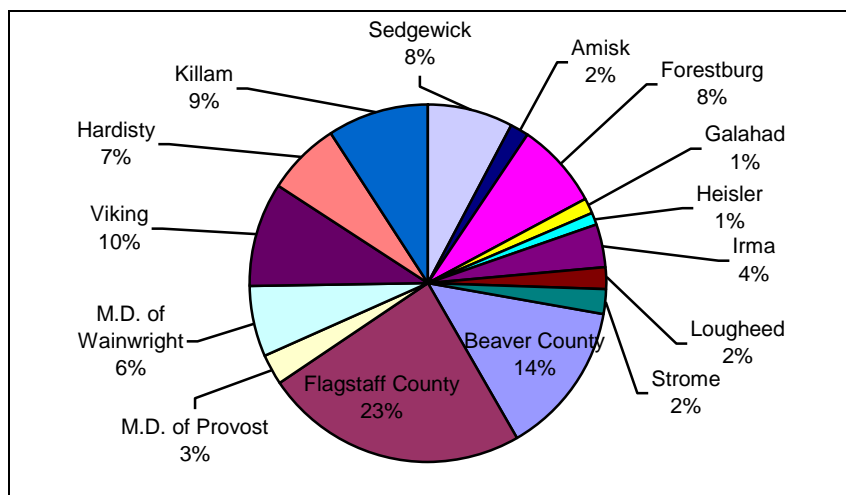
Residents of the County of Stettler reported the highest incidence of low income (8.1%) while residents of the County of Paintearth County reported the lowest incidence of low income (3.7%). In Stettler, 6.9% of residents were classified as having low incomes.

## 4.0 IRON SUB-BASIN

### 4.1 Population

In 2006, the Iron Sub-basin had a population of about 11,294 people; this represents 9.2% of the total population of the BRB. As shown in Figure 4-1, 46.8% of the sub-basin population lived in a rural area, notably Flagstaff County (23.9%) and Beaver County (13.9%). Relatively small percentages of the rural population were also found in the MD of Wainwright (6.1%) and the MD of Provost (2.8%). Another 33.2% of the population lived in one of four towns. These include Viking, with 9.6% of the sub-basin population, Killam (9.0%), Sedgewick (7.9%) and Hardisty (6.7%).

Figure 4-1: Population Distribution in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006



The balance of the population (19.9%) lived in one of seven villages, the largest of which is Forestburg, with 7.9% of the sub-basin population. Other villages in the sub-basin include Irma (3.9%), Strome (2.2%), Lougheed (1.9%), Amisk (1.5%), the majority of Heisler (1.2%) and Galahad (1.2%).

### 4.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the Iron Sub-basin were somewhat different from the population of the BRB. Figure 4-2 shows that the Iron Sub-basin had lower percentages of people aged 15 to 34 but higher percentages of people aged 45 to 64. The percentage of people aged 65 years and older was nearly identical to the BRB age profile, although the Iron Sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of people aged 85 years and older.

Figure 4-2: Age Composition of the Iron Sub-Basin Population, 2006

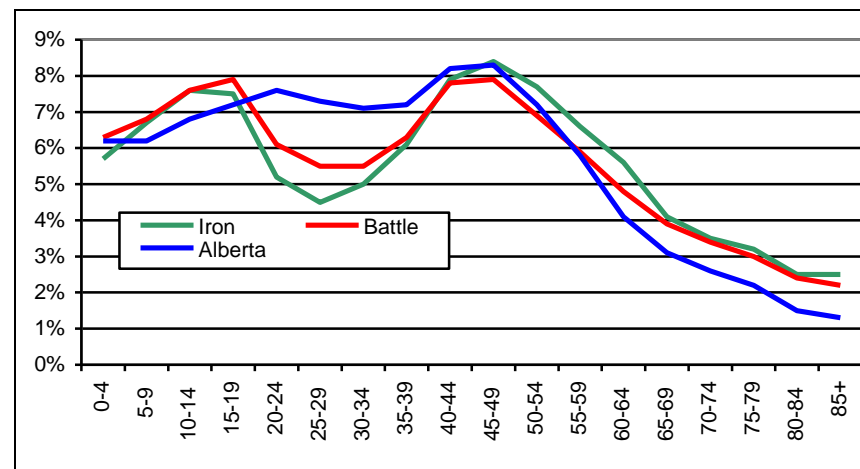


Figure 4-3 shows the age distribution for the four towns in the sub-basin. Viking is a relatively old community, with relatively few young children, people aged 25 to 29 years, and people aged 40 to 54 years, but very high percentages of people over the aged 74 years and older. Hardisty is the opposite, with higher percentages of children under 15 years and adults aged 20 to 34 years, with relatively few people aged 65 years and older. While Killam also had higher percentages of children less than 10 years of age, it had relatively few teenagers and low percentages of people aged 40 to 54 years. Killam had relatively high percentages of people aged 75 years and older, although these percentages are not as high as for Viking. Sedgewick had lower percentages of children aged 5 to 14 years but higher

percentage of young adults aged 15 to 29 years. Sedgewick also had slightly higher percentages of people aged 80 years and older.

**Figure 4-3: Age Composition of Towns in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**

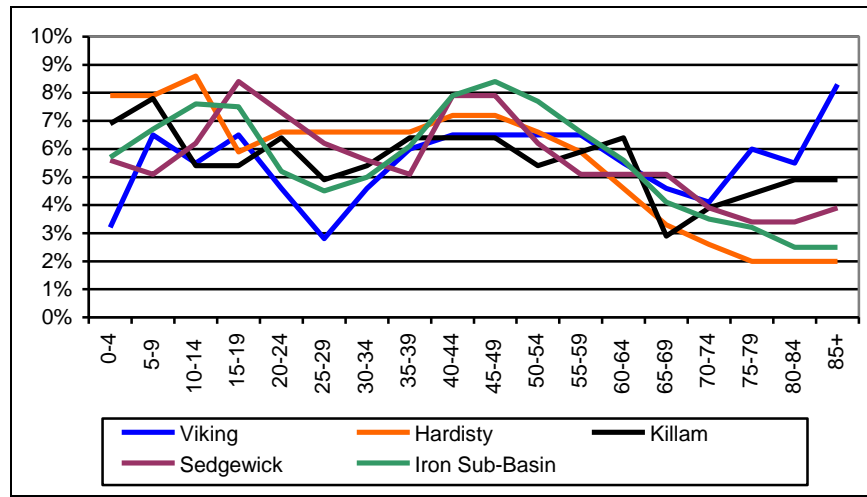
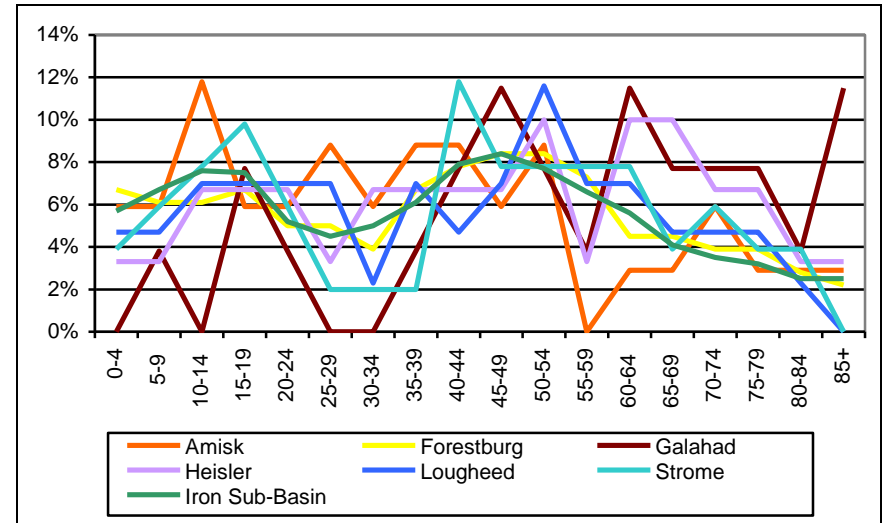


Figure 4-4 shows the age characteristics of villages in the sub-basin. Amisk can be characterized as having very high percentages of children aged 10 to 14 years and young adults aged 25 to 40 years, but relatively few people aged 55 to 69 years. The age profile for Forestburg fairly closely matches the sub-basin profile, although this community had lower percentages of people aged 5 to 19 years and higher percentage of people aged 50 to 59 years and people aged 70 and older. Irma also had an age distribution that resembles the sub-basin profile. However, Irma had fewer children under the age of 5 and more adults aged 45 to 59 years. Lougheed had higher percentages of people aged 20 to 29 years and 50 to 54 years, but relatively few aged 30 to 34 years or 85 years and older. Strome also had low percentages of children less than 5 years of age and relatively few adults aged 25 to 39 years but had more people aged 40 to 44 years and 60 to 64 years.

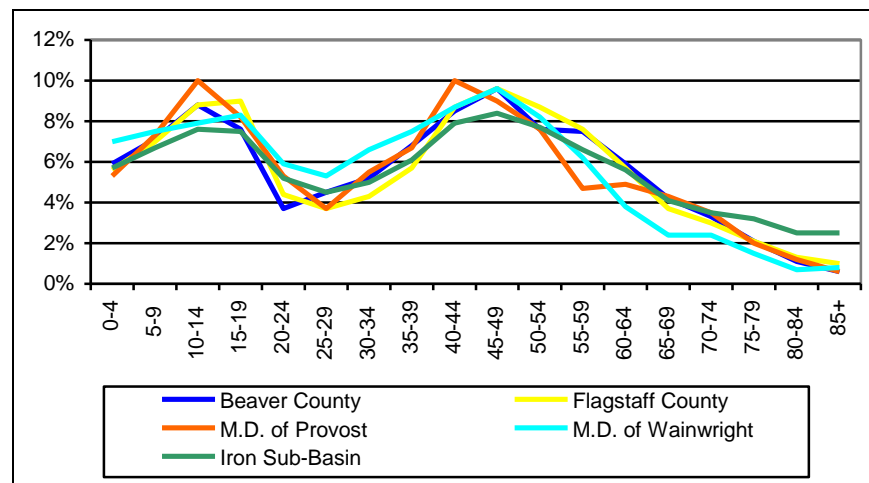
**Figure 4-4: Age Composition of the Villages in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**



Galahad had a very old population with almost no one under the age of 15 years and no young adults (aged 25 to 34 years), but very high percentages of people aged 45 to 49 years and people aged 60 years and older. The age profile for Heisler is similar to that of Galahad, although Heisler had more young people aged 10 to 24 years.

Figure 4-5 shows the age composition of the rural population in the Iron Sub-basin. The age profiles are relatively the same for all four counties and MDs and closely approximate the sub-basin profile. All four rural areas have higher percentages of children aged 5 to 14 years and adults aged 35 to 49. The rural areas also have smaller percentages of people aged 75 years and older.

**Figure 4-5: Age Composition of the Iron Sub-Basin Rural Population, 2006**



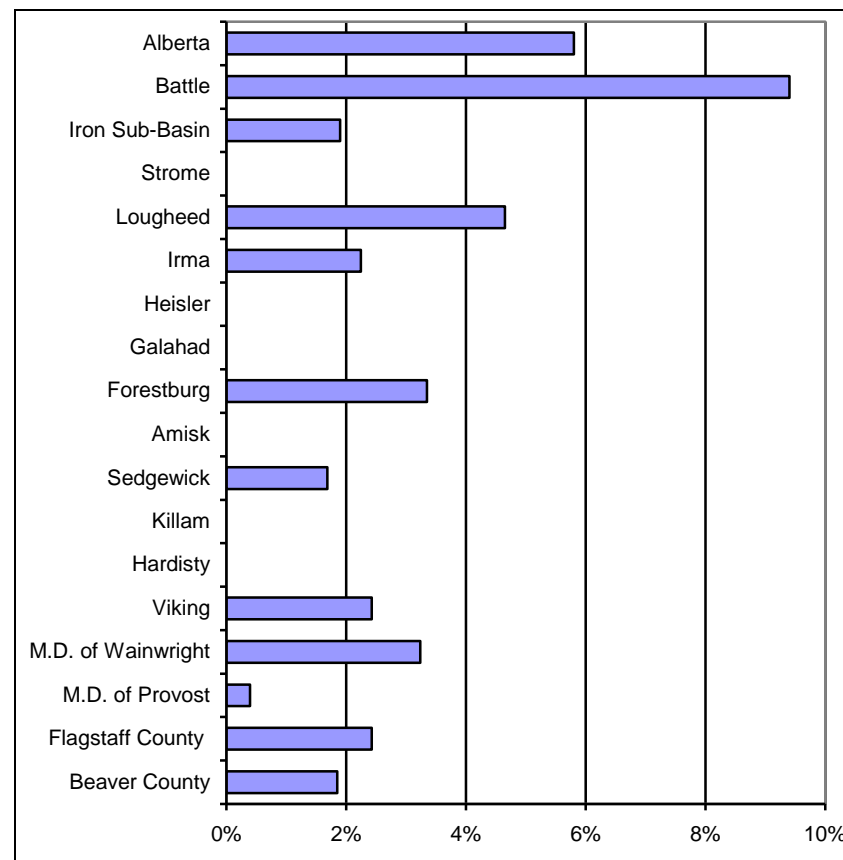
### 4.3 Aboriginal Population

About 1.9% of the residents of the Iron Sub-basin were Aboriginal. There were about 210 Aboriginal people in the sub-basin in 2006, and 31.7% of these lived in Flagstaff County. Figure 4-6 shows that Aboriginal people accounted for 4.7% of the population of Lougheed, 3.4% of the population of Forestburg, and 3.2% of the population of the MD of Wainwright. There no Aboriginal people living in Hardisty, Killam, Amisk, Galahad, Heisler or Strome.

### 4.4 Ethnicity

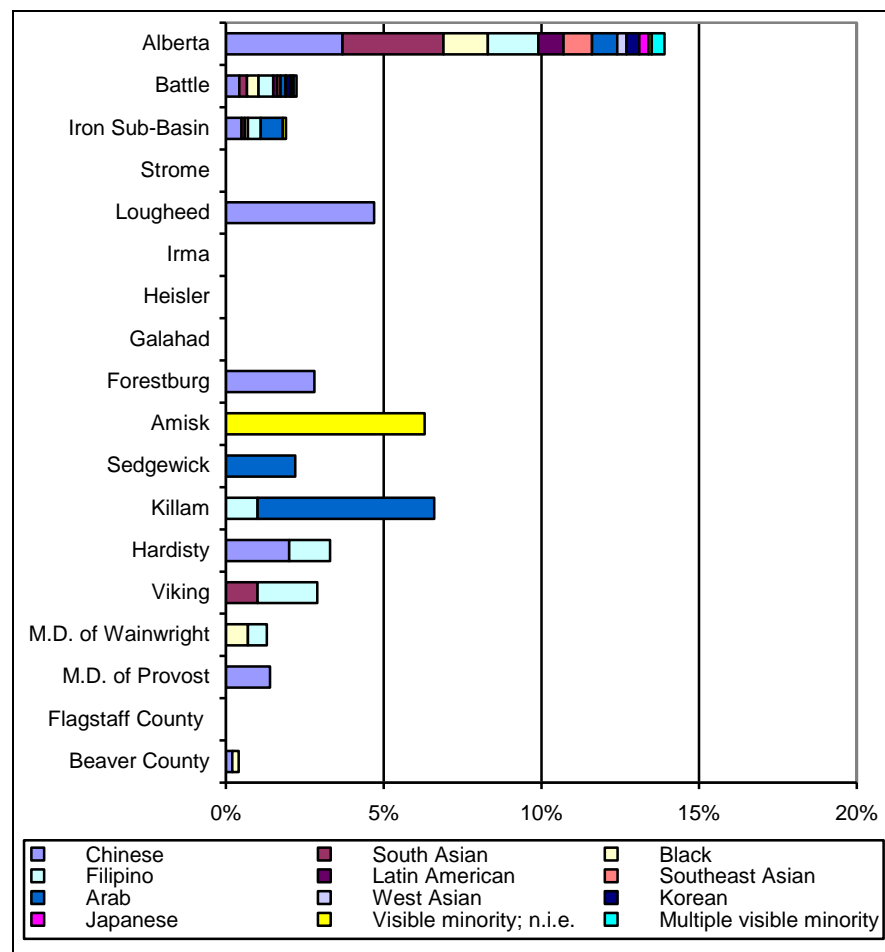
Only 1.8% of the Iron Sub-basin population consisted of visible minorities; this was slightly lower than for the BRB (2.2%). Figure 4-7 shows the distribution and composition of visible minorities in communities in the Iron Sub-basin. It shows that visible minorities accounted for less than 5% of the population of all communities except for Killam (6.7%) and Amisk (6.3%). No visible minorities were reported in Galahad, Heisler, Irma or Strome. The percentage of visible minorities was higher in the other urban communities than in the rural areas.

**Figure 4-6: Aboriginal Population in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**



The most common visible minorities were Chinese, especially in Lougheed, Forestburg and Hardisty, with an Arab population in Killam and Sedgewick, and a Filipino community in Viking.

**Figure 4-7: Visible Minorities in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**

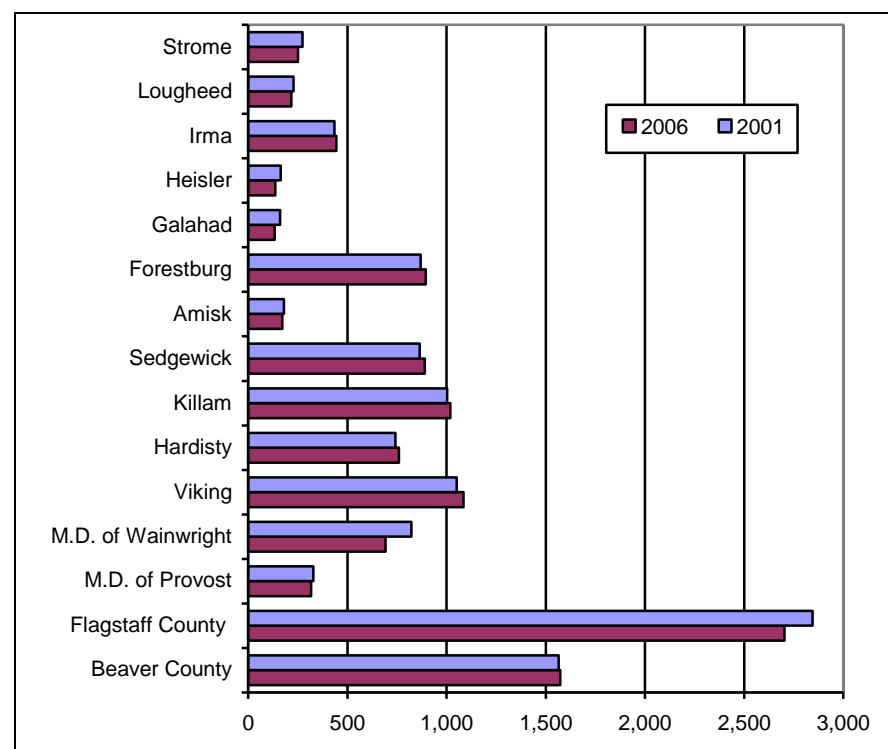


#### 4.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Iron Sub-basin decreased by 2.1%. Figure 4-8 shows that the largest decrease occurred in Flagstaff County. Other communities reporting population decreases include the MD of Wainwright, the MD of Provost, Strome, Lougheed, Heisler, Galahad, and

Amisk. These losses were partially offset by population increases in some communities, including Irma, Forestburg, Sedgewick, Killam, Hardisty, Viking and Beaver County. Overall, the rural population decreased by 5.0% between 2001 and 2006 while the urban population increased by 0.5%.

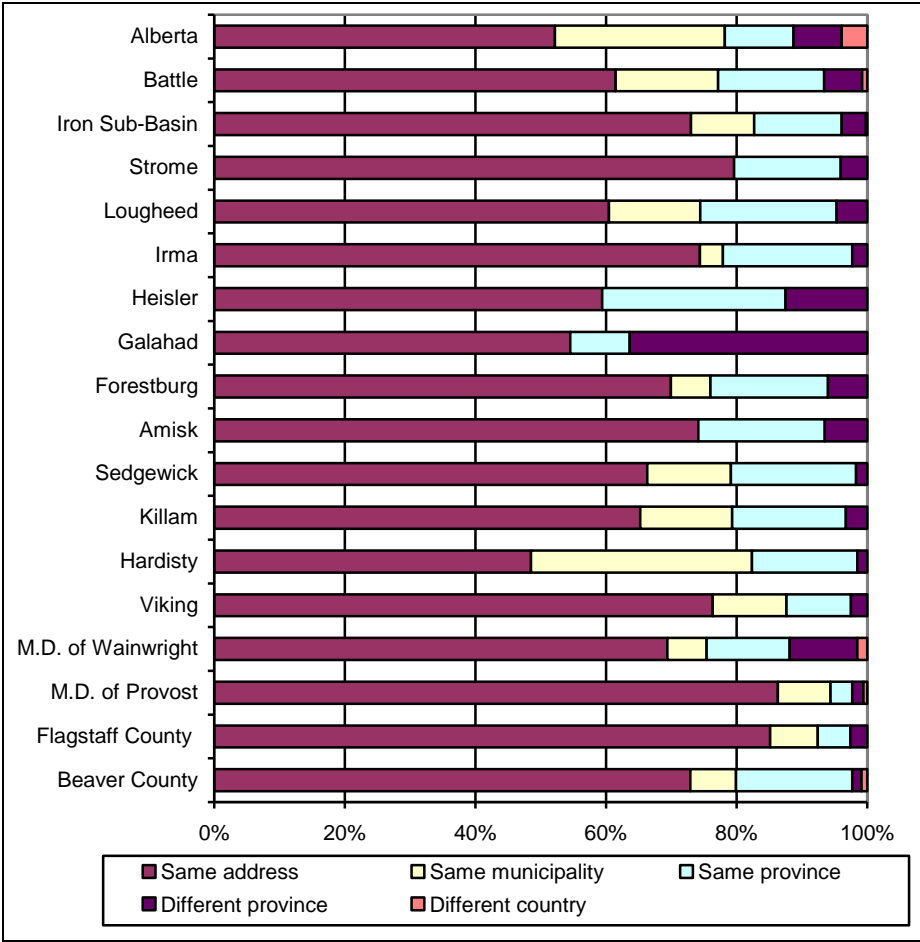
**Figure 4-8: Population Change in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 4-9 shows population mobility in the Iron Sub-basin between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 73.0% of sub-basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period, and another 9.7% changed addresses within the same county or municipality. A small percentage (0.2%) moved in from another country, 3.7% moved from another province, and 13.4% moved from a different municipality in Alberta.



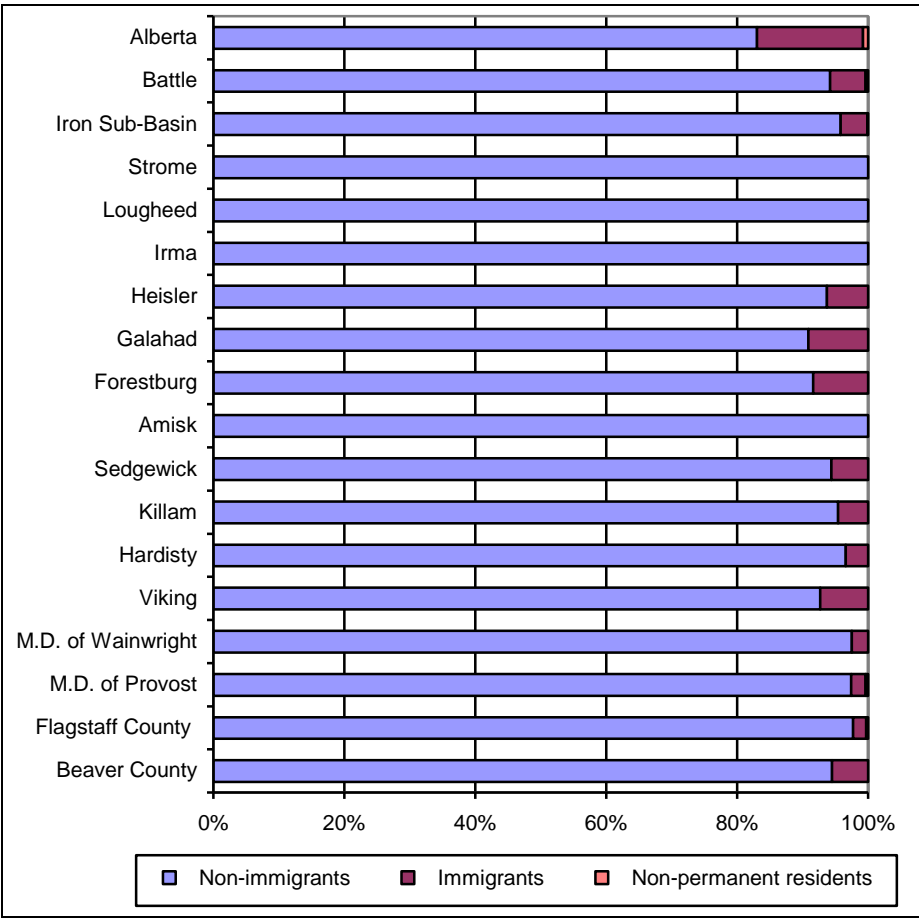
**Figure 4-9: Population Mobility in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



Within the sub-basin the rural residents were the least mobile; 86.3% of people in the MD of Provost and 82.5% of people in Flagstaff County lived at the same address between 2001 and 2006. Residents of Galahad were the most mobile, with 47.6% of people living in a different part of Alberta or outside Alberta in 2001. Other communities with high percentages of in-migrants include Heisler (41.9%), Lougheed (26.2%) and Amisk (25.0%).

While much of the in-migration involved people coming from other parts of Alberta, there was also some in-migration from outside Alberta, especially in Galahad, Heisler and the MD of Wainwright.

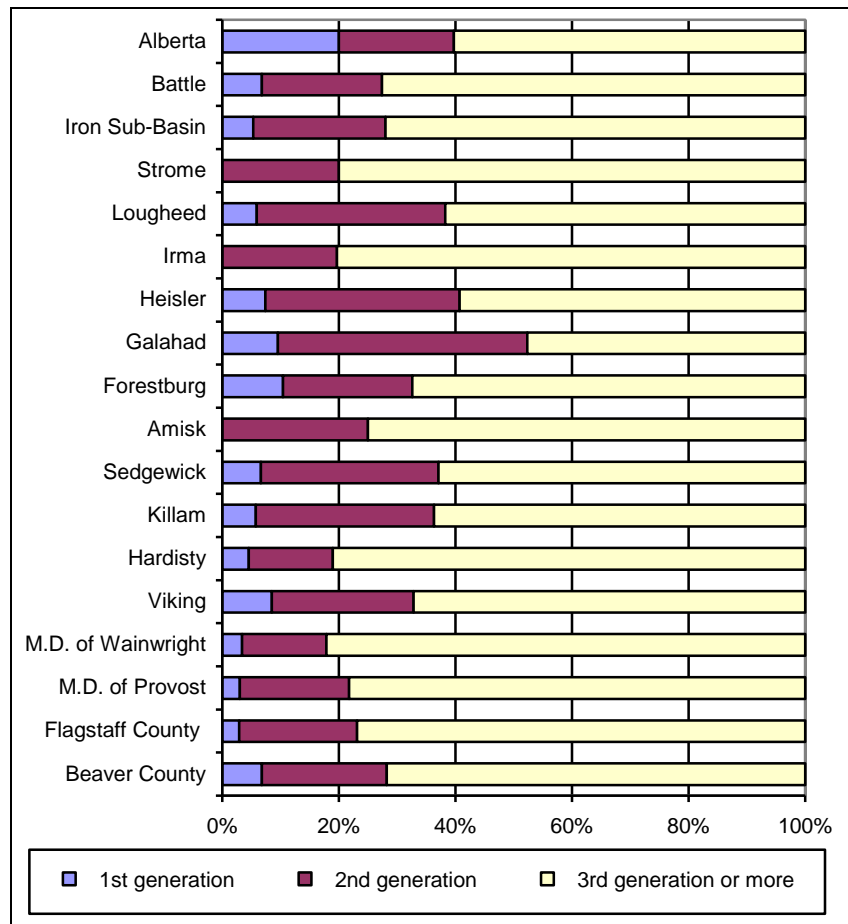
**Figure 4-10: Role of Immigration in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**



The Iron Sub-basin had relatively few immigrants: immigrants accounted for 4.1% of the sub-basin population and 5.4% of the BRB population. Figure 4-10 shows that the percentage of immigrants in the Iron Sub-basin. The

communities with the highest percentages of immigrants include Galahad (9.1%), Forestburg (8.4%), Viking (7.3%) and Heisler (6.5%). Some communities had no immigrants; these include Amisk, Irma, Lougheed and Strome.

**Figure 4-11: Residency in Canada, Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**



About 71.8% of the sub-basin population consisted of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations, while 5.3% were first-generation

Canadians. In the BRB, 72.6% had lived in Canada for three or more generations and 6.8% were first-generation Canadians. As shown in Figure 4-11, people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations accounted for more than 80% of the population in the MD of Wainwright, Irma and Strome. The highest percentages of first-generation Canadians were found in Forestburg and Galahad

#### 4.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 58.8% of the sub-basin population, while the balance consisted of single people (25.0%), divorced people (6.7%), widowed people (7.0%) and people who are separated (2.3%). Figure 4-12 shows that married people accounted for more than 60% of the adult population in the rural areas. The percentage of married people in the urban communities was lower, ranging from 47.2% in Lougheed and 47.5% in Viking to 59.7% in Irma. The percentage of single (never legally married) people was similar for both urban and rural communities, but was highest in Amisk (34.6%). Compared to the rural areas, the urban communities had much higher percentages of widowed people, especially in Viking (16.4% of the population), Galahad (12.0%), Heisler (11.1%) and Killam (11.0%).

#### 4.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 81.8% of the 3,150 families in the Iron Sub-basin. Lone-parent families accounted for 8.7% of families, while common-law couples accounted for the balance (9.9%). Figure 4-13 shows that married-couple families accounted for more than 80% of families in most communities. The exceptions were Lougheed and Hardisty, which had high percentages of lone-parent families, and Sedgewick, which had a relatively high percentage of common-law couple families. Amisk also had a relatively high percentage of lone-parent families, while Killam had a high percentage of common-law couple families.

Figure 4-12: Marital Status in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006

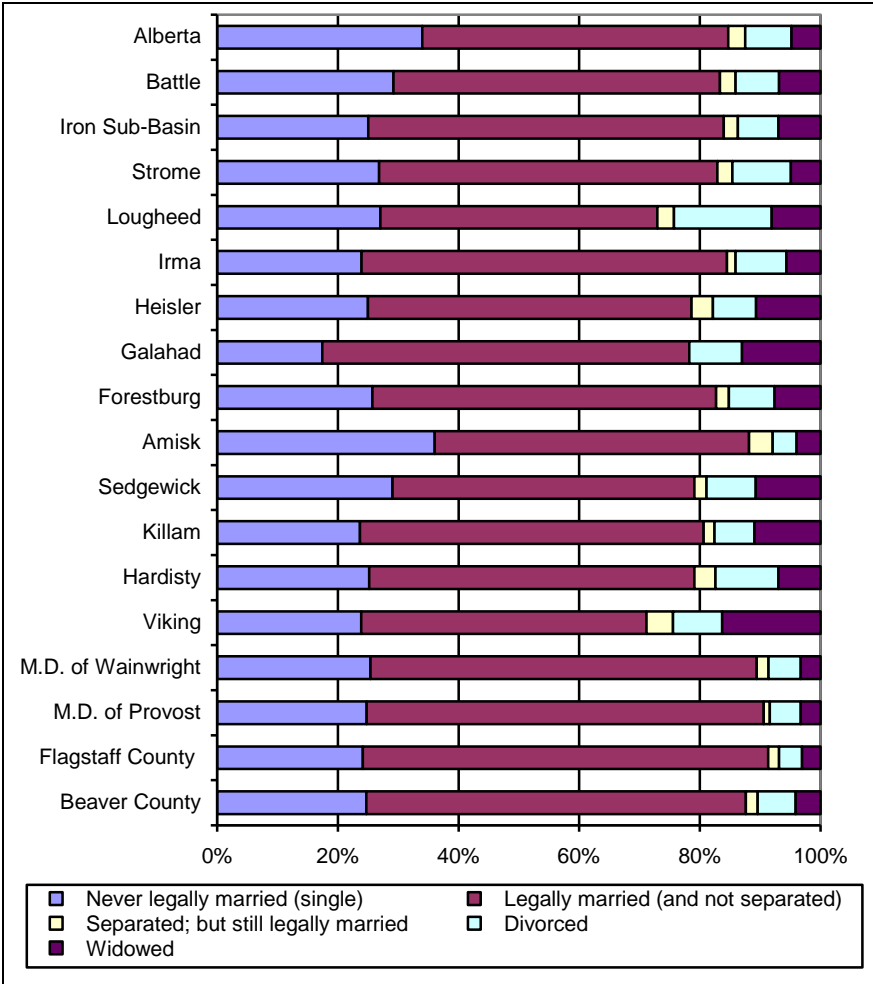
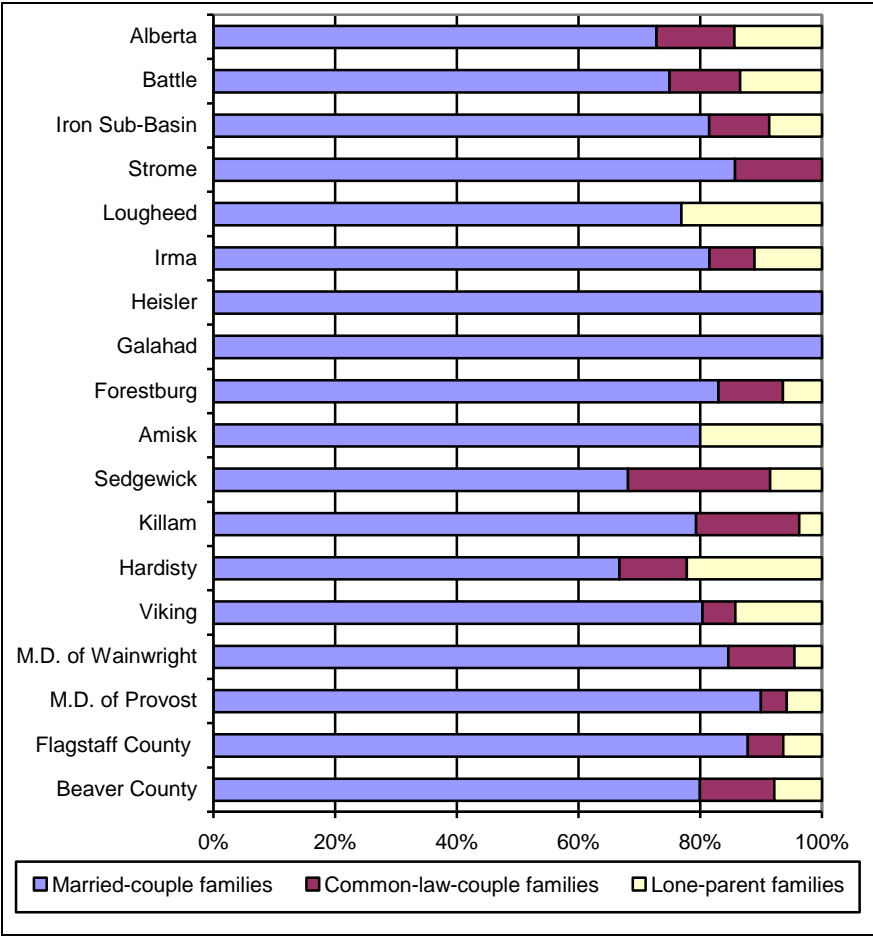


Figure 4-13: Family Structure in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006



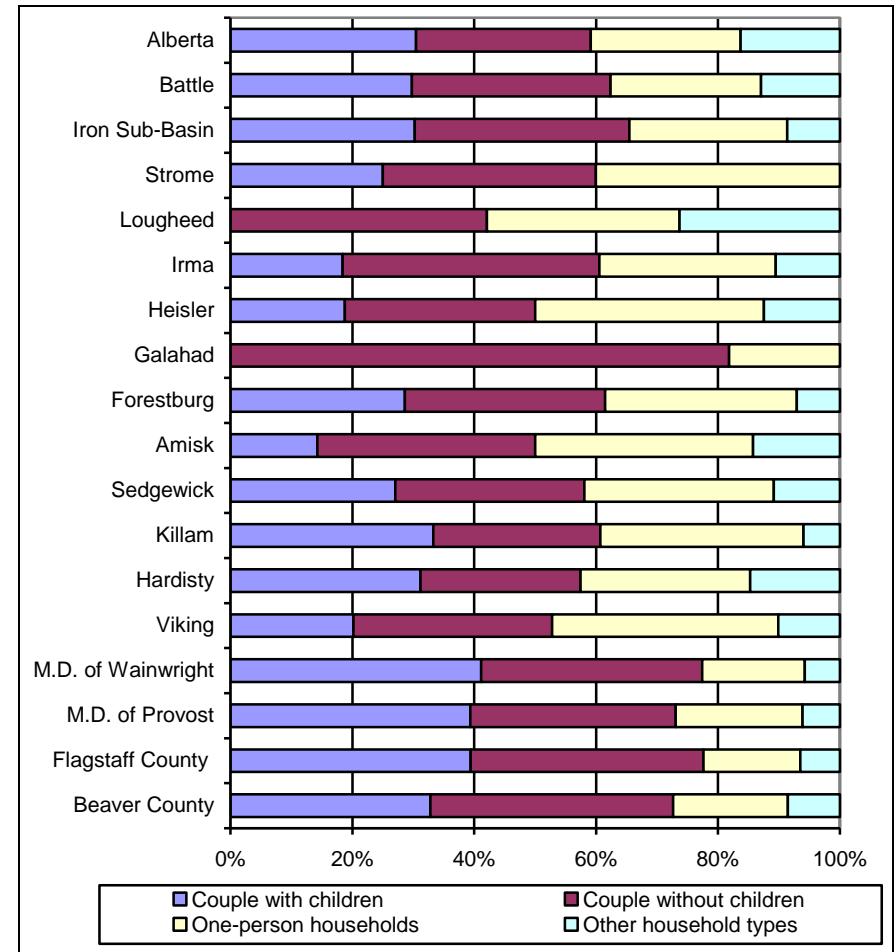
#### 4.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families. Figure 4-14 shows that 30.1% of households consisted of a couple with children, 35.1% were couples with no children, 25.8% were single person households, and the balance (8.6%) consisted of other household types. Compared to the BRB, the Iron Sub-basin had a higher percentage of couples without children and a smaller percentage of other household types. Some communities had relatively small percentages couples with children; in Irma, Heisler, Amisk and Viking 20% of households or less consisted of couples with children. Galahad and Loughheed reported having no couples with children. In some communities, couples without children accounted for more than 40% of households. These included Galahad (81.8%) and Irma (43.2%). Single person households were more prevalent in the urban communities. In some communities, single-person households accounted for more than 35% of all households; these include Heisler (40.0%), Strome (38.1%).

#### 4.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 4,335 housing units in the Iron Sub-basin. Figure 4-15 shows the composition of housing in each of the communities in the sub-basin. Overall, single detached houses accounted for 84.3% of housing in the sub-basin, although this ranged from 66.7% on Loughheed to 95.2% of dwellings in Galahad. More than 80% of housing in most communities consisted of single detached houses. The exceptions were Loughheed, Hardisty and Irma, which have a high percentage of other dwelling types, Sedgewick, where 10.7% of housing was in apartment buildings of less than five stories, and Viking, which has some semi-detached housing and some apartment buildings of less than five stories.

Figure 4-14: Household Structure in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006



**Figure 4-15: Housing Characteristics in the Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**

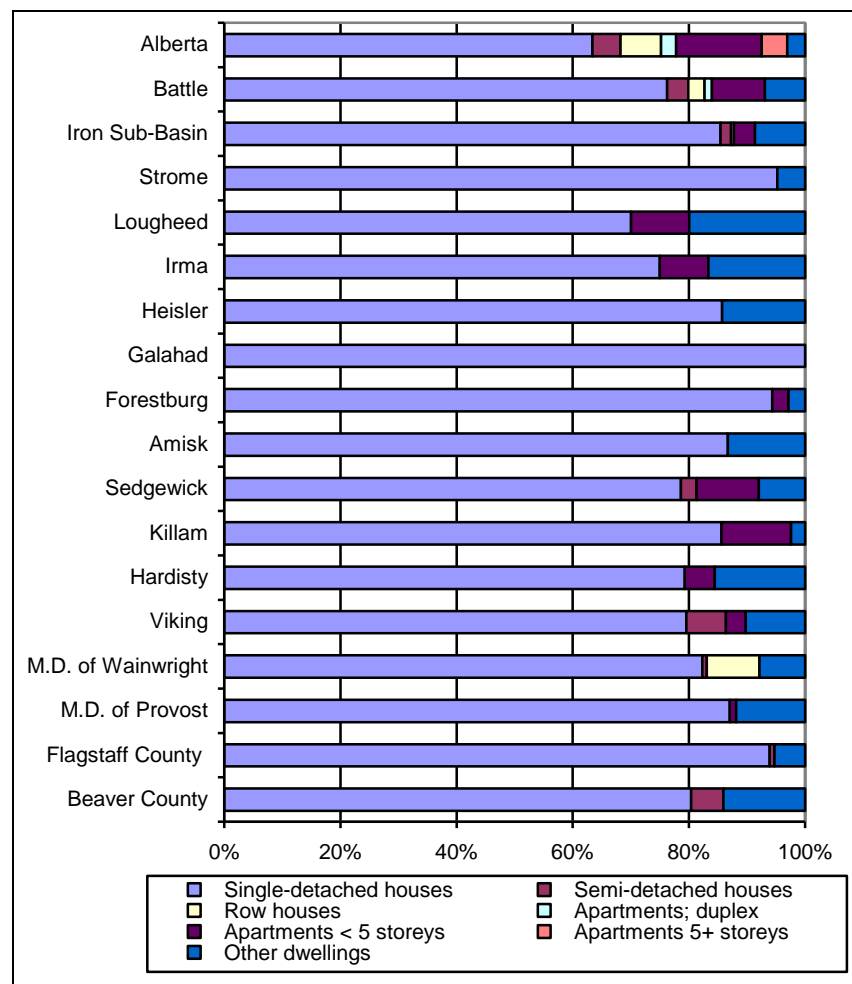
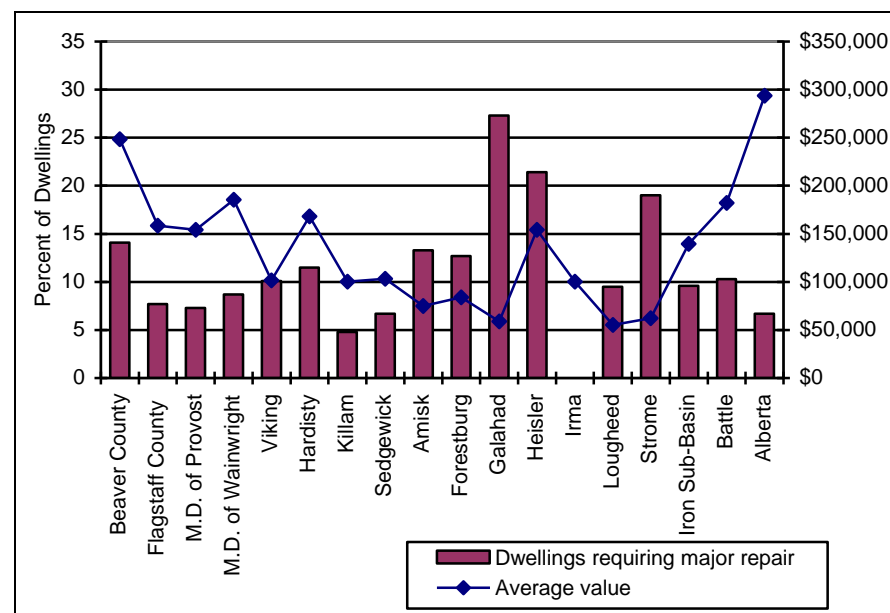


Figure 4-16 shows the reported value of housing in the Iron Sub-basins as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the Iron Sub-basin in 2005 was \$139,531, which was 23.4% lower than the BRB average (\$182,073). The rural communities generally had the dwellings with the highest average values,

ranging from \$158,624 in the MD of Provost to \$248,633 in Beaver County. In some of the urban communities the average value of houses was under \$100,000, including Lougheed (\$55,118), Strome (\$62,348), Amisk (\$75,059), and Galahad (\$83,913). Of the urban communities, Hardisty had the highest valued housing (\$168,223), followed by Heisler (\$154,208).

**Figure 4-16: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs, Iron Sub-Basin**

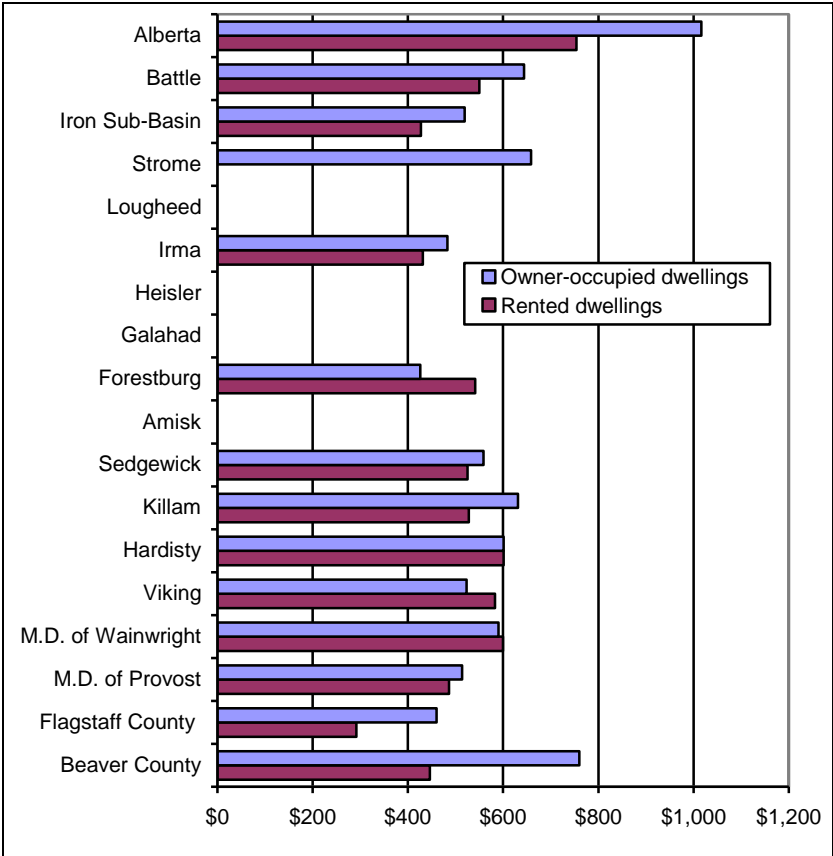


Overall, 9.6% of dwellings in the sub-basin were in need of major repair and this was slightly lower than the BRB average of 10.3%. The percentage of housing in need of major repair was only 4.8% in Killam but was highest in Galahad (27.3%), Heisler (21.4%), Beaver County (14.1%) and Amisk (13.3%).

Figure 4-17 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in the Iron sub-basin in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage,

electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. Overall, rental costs averaged \$427 per month compared to \$519 per month for owned dwellings. These costs were less than the BRB averages (\$550 and \$644, respectively). The highest costs for rental dwellings were reported in Hardisty and the MD of Wainwright while the highest monthly costs for owner occupied dwellings was in Beaver County and Killam. There was no information on housing costs for Amisk, Galahad, Heisler, and Lougheed.

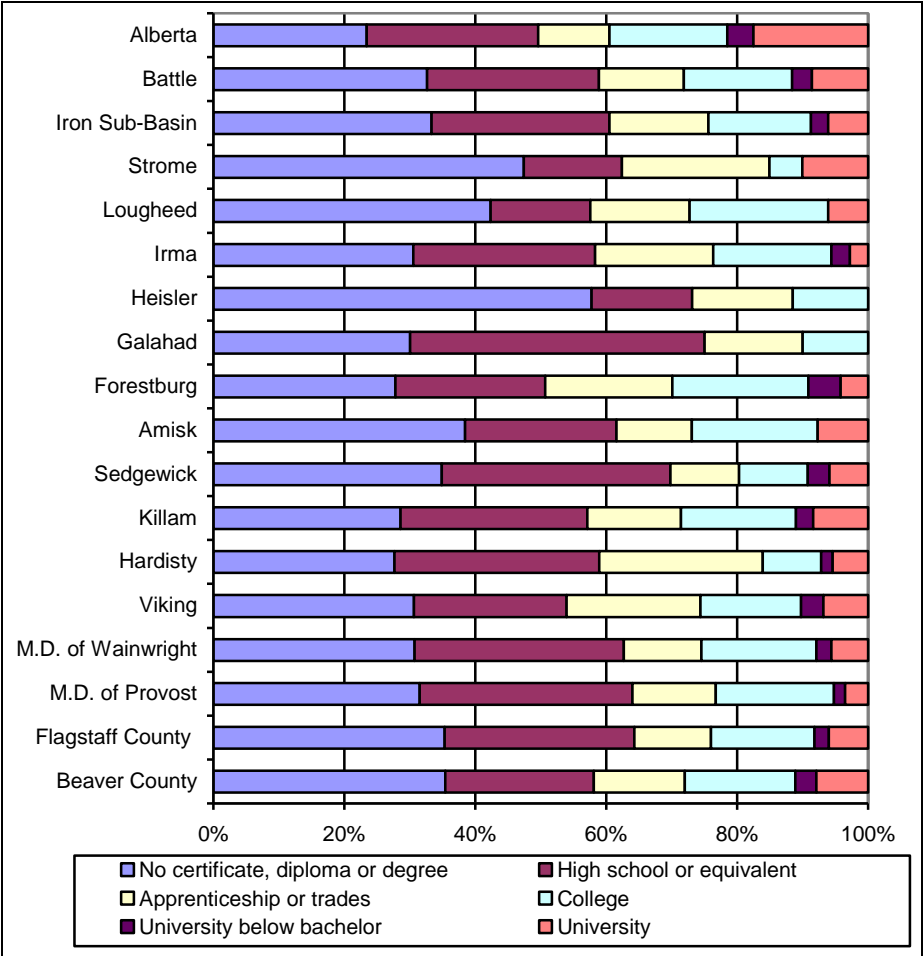
**Figure 4-17: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**



#### 4.10 Education

Residents of the Iron Sub-basin were less educated than the BRB average. Within the sub-basin, 33.2% of adults (people aged 15+) had not completed high school and this was slight higher than the BRB average (32.6%).

**Figure 4-18: Educational Attainment, Iron Sub-Basin**

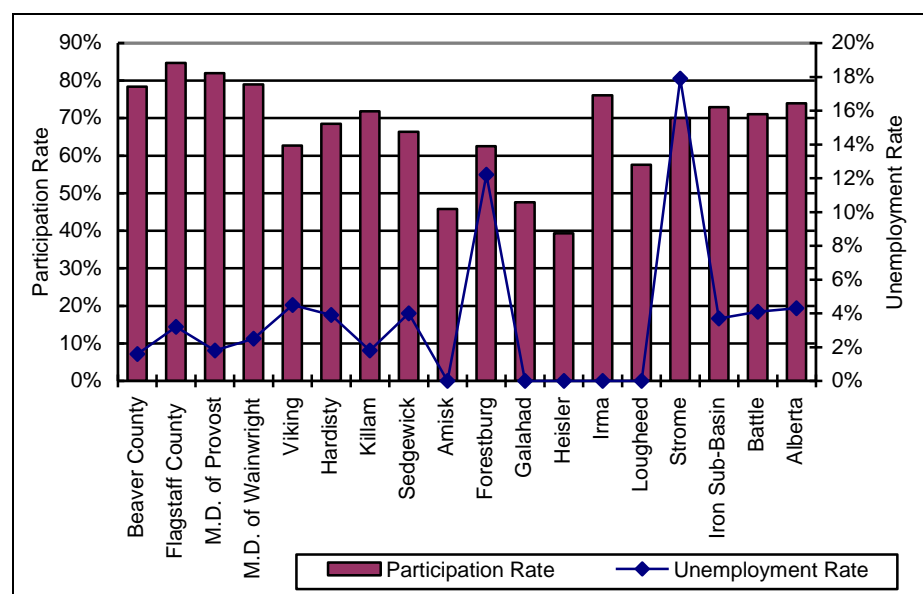


Within the sub-basin, the communities with the lowest educational attainment included Heisler, Strome and Loughheed; more than 40% of the adult residents of these communities had not completed high school. Overall, 15.1% of residents of the Iron Sub-basin had an apprenticeship or trade certificate, but this ranged from 25.0% in Hardisty and 22.0% in Strome to 11.7% in Flagstaff County and 11.9% in the MD of Wainwright. Another 6.1% of sub-basin residents had obtained their university degree or diploma, and this percentage was highest in Strome (9.8%) and Killam (8.3%).

#### 4.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 72.9% of the adult population was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work; this was slightly above the BRB average (71.1%). Figure 4-19 shows that rural parts of the sub-basin had higher labour force participation, with rates ranging from 78.4% in Beaver County to 84.7% in Flagstaff County.

**Figure 4-19: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



Labour force participation rates in the urban areas were, on average, 15 percentage points lower. Very low labour force participation was reported in Heisler (39.3%), Amisk (45.8%) and Galahad (47.6%). Of the urban communities, the highest labour force participation rates were found in Irma (76.1%) and Killam (71.8%).

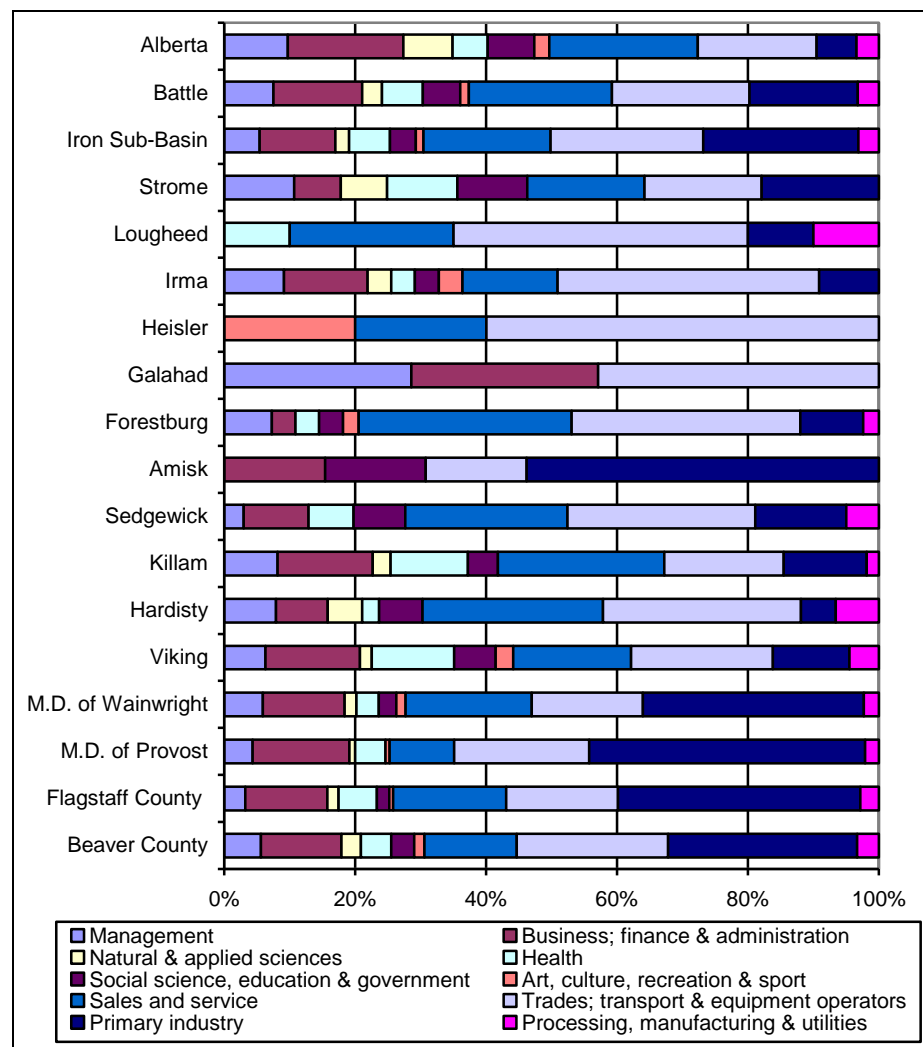
Figure 4-19 also shows the unemployment rates for 2006. The Iron Sub-basin had an unemployment rate of 3.7%, which was slightly lower than the BRB average (4.1%). Some communities reported no unemployment. These included Amisk, Galahad, Heisler, Irma and Loughheed. Strome and Forestburg had the highest rates of unemployment (17.9% and 12.2%, respectively), and the next highest were Viking, with 4.5% unemployment, and Sedgewick (4.0%).

#### 4.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 4-20 shows employment by occupation for the Iron sub-basin. Overall, the employment mix in the sub-basin featured higher employment in occupations relating to primary industry and the trades, transport and equipment operations, and lower employment in occupations related to management, business and finance, and natural and applied sciences.

Occupations in primary industry accounted for 23.6% of employment, and were particularly important in the rural parts of the sub-basin, as well as in Amisk and Strome. Occupations related to the trades, transportation and equipment operations accounted for another 23.2% of employment in the sub-basin. Communities with high employment in these occupations included Heisler (54.5% of employment), Loughheed (50.0%) and Irma (40.7%). Sales and service occupations accounted for 19.3% of employment in the sub-basin, with business, finance and administration occupations providing 11.5% of employment. Participation in sales and service occupations was highest in Forestburg (31.4%), Loughheed (27.8%), and Hardisty (27.6%). The highest percentages of employment in occupations related to health were found in Viking (12.6%) and Killam (11.7%).

**Figure 4-20: Employment by Occupation, Iron Sub-Basin, 2006**



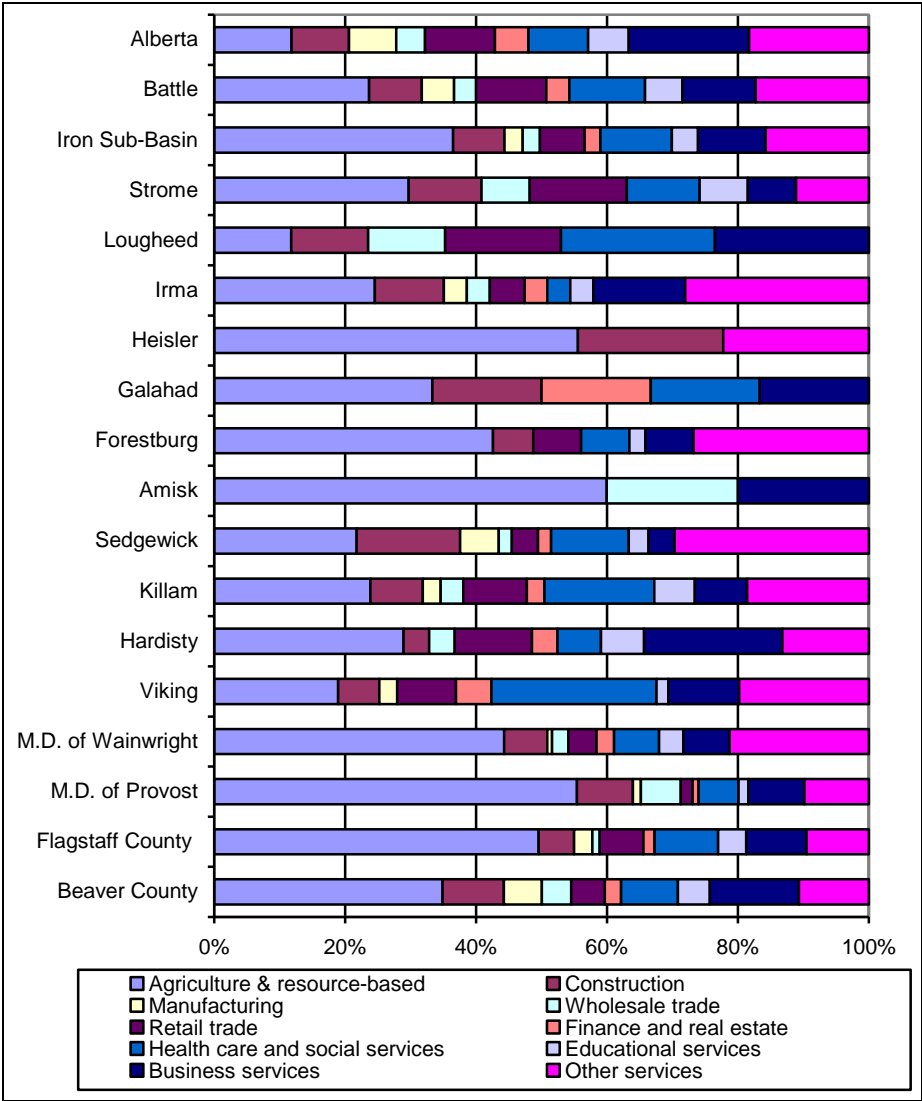
#### 4.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 4-21 shows employment in each part of the sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 36.4% of the workforce was experienced in agriculture and other resource-based industries, 15.7% in the other services industries, with 10.9% in health care and social services, and 10.3% in business services. The profile for the Iron Sub-basin shows higher levels of employment in the basic industries (agriculture and other resource-based industries, manufacturing and construction) than in the overall BRB and less likely to be employed in retail trade.

The employment-by-industry profiles for three of the four counties were quite similar, with agriculture and other resource-based industries accounting for more than 44% of employment. The exception was Beaver County where 36.4% of the workforce was employed in agriculture and other resource based industries. This industry also accounted for more than 40% of employment in Amisk, Heisler and Forestburg. The highest percentages of employment in the other service industries were found in Sedgewick, Irma, and Forestburg. Loughheed, Strome and Hardisty had the highest percentages of people employed in retail trade. In Viking, Loughheed and Strome, more than 20% of the labour force was employed in health care and social services. The business service industries accounted for more than 20% of employment in Loughheed, Hardisty and Galahad.



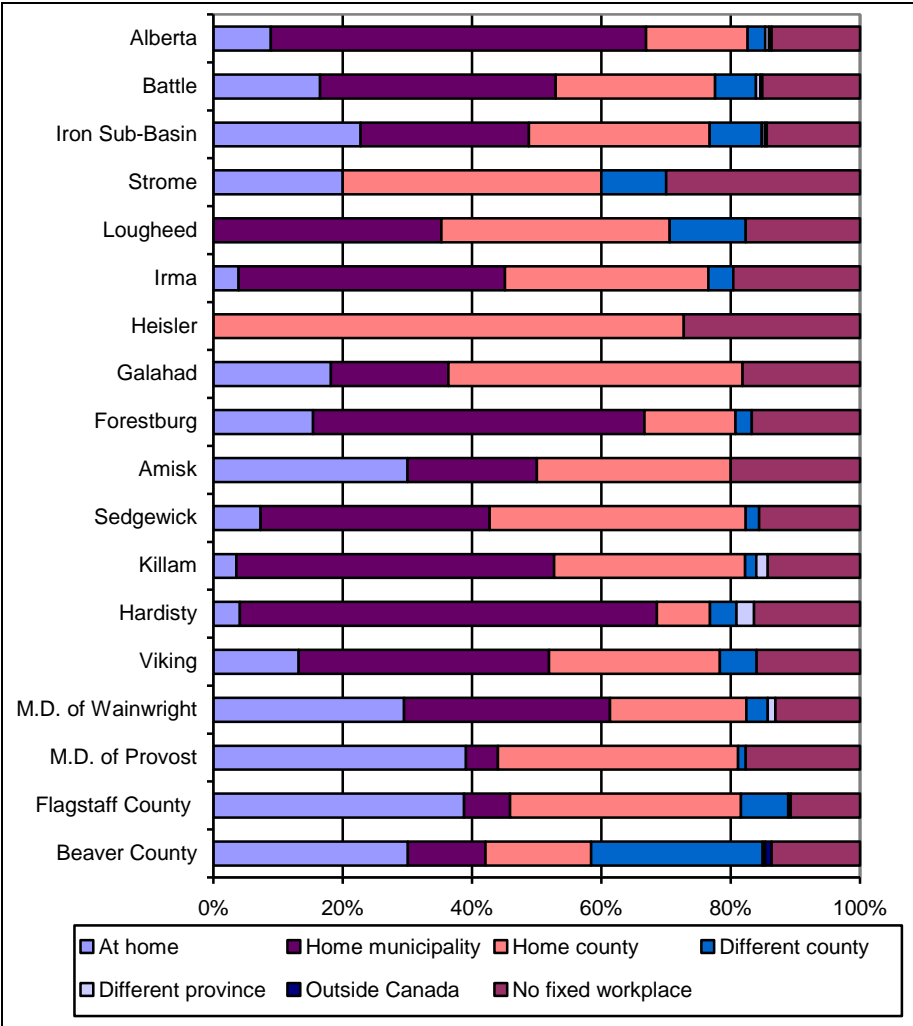
Figure 4-21: Employment by Industry, Iron Sub-Basin, 2006



4.14 Location of Employment

Figure 4-22 shows that 22.7% of residents of the Iron Sub-basin worked at home and 26.0% worked at a usual place in their home municipality.

Figure 4-22: Location of Work, Iron Sub-Basin, 2006



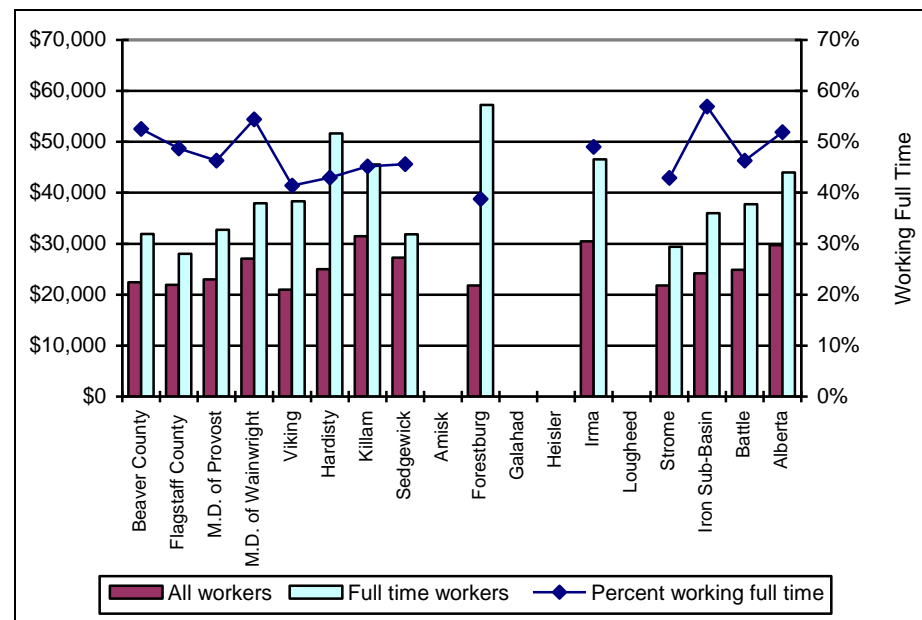
Another 27.9% worked in their home county outside their local community, while 8.0% worked in another part of Alberta, 0.5% worked outside Alberta and 0.3% worked outside Canada. The remainder (14.4%) had no fixed workplace address. Residents of the rural communities were the most likely to work at home, as were a high percentage of people living in Amisk and Galahad. Rural residents were also highly likely to commute to another location in their home county to work. More than 50% of residents of Hardisty, Forestburg and Killam worked in their home communities, while relatively high percentages of people living in Heisler, Galahad, Sedgewick and Strome commuted to work at another location in their home region. About 26.5% of people in Beaver County commuted to another county to work; relatively higher percentages of people in Loughheed and Strome also commuted to work at a location outside their home region (county). Residents of Hardisty were most likely to work in another province while residents of Strome and Heisler were most likely to have no fixed workplace.

#### 4.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Iron Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$24,204 in 2005; this was about 3% lower than the BRB (\$24,856). Median earnings were highest in Killam (\$31,500) and Irma (\$30,491) and lowest in Forestburg (\$21,801) and Flagstaff County (\$21,907) (see Figure 4-23). Income data were not available for Amisk, Galahad, Heisler and Loughheed.

Only 47.9% of workers in the Iron Sub-basin were employed full time and this was slightly lower than the BRB average (49.1%). Median earnings for people working full-time averaged \$36,016. Figure 4-23 shows that although residents of Forestburg were the least likely to be employed full-time (3.8.3%), they reported the highest earnings from full time employment (\$57,273). Other communities with high median earnings from full-time employment include Hardisty, Irma and Sedgewick.

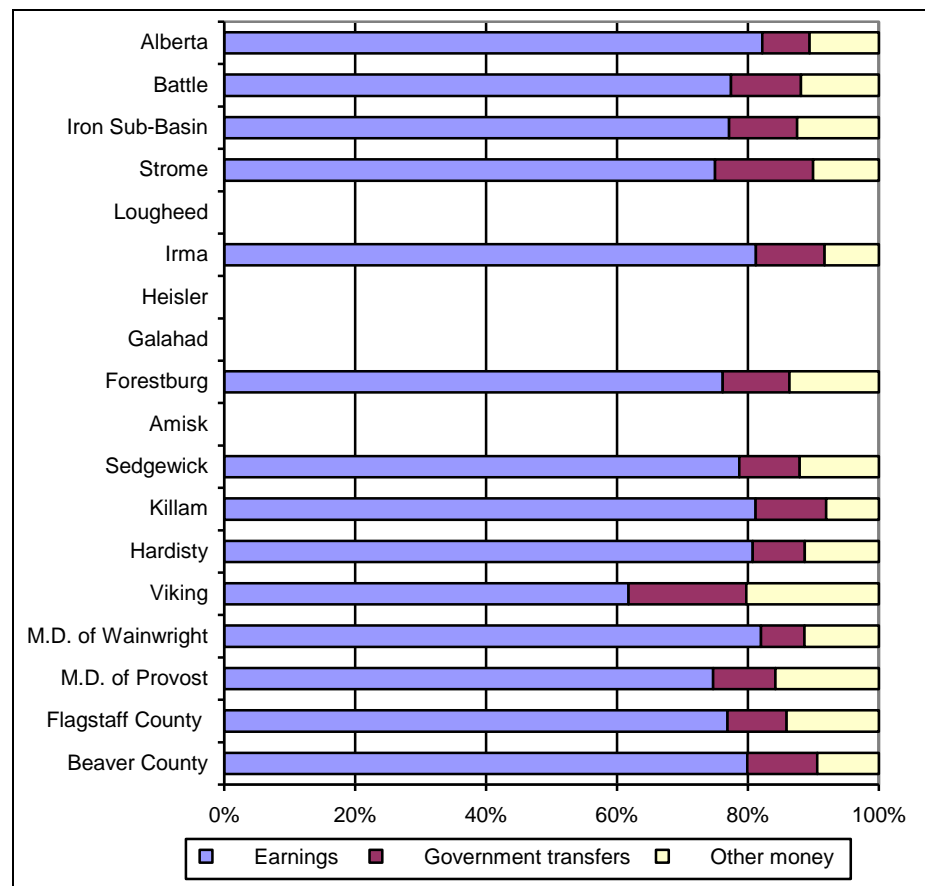
**Figure 4-23: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, 2006**



#### 4.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 77.1% of income for sub-basin residents. The remainder came from government transfers (10.4%) and other sources (12.5%). Figure 4-24 shows the reliance on transfer payments and other income for residents of the Iron sub-basin. It shows that earnings accounted for more than 80% of incomes for residents of Irma, the MD of Wainwright, Killam and Hardisty. For residents of Viking, only 61.7% of annual incomes came from earnings; 18.0% of income came from government transfers. Other communities that were relatively reliant on government transfers as a source of income include Strome (15.2%) and Killam (10.8%).

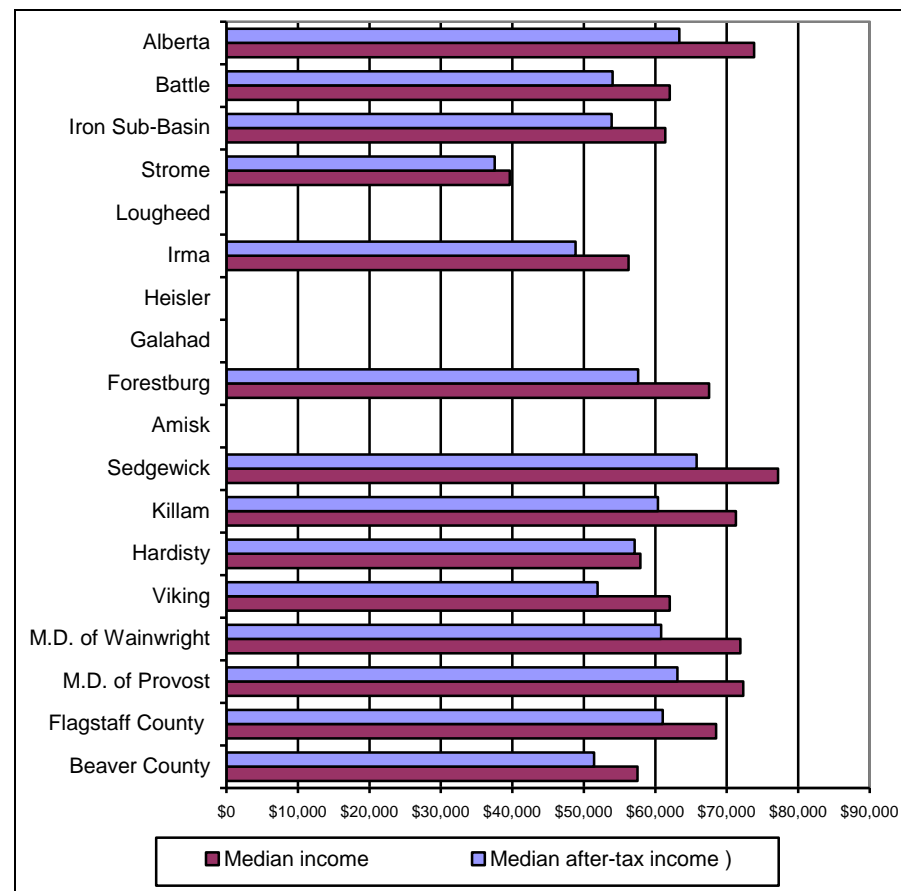
**Figure 4-24: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**



#### 4.17 Family and Individual Income

In 2005 families in the Iron Sub-basin reported median incomes averaging \$61,387, and this was slightly lower than the BRB average (\$62,021). Figure 4-25 shows that residents of Sedgewick reported the highest median family income (\$77,154). Other communities with relatively high median family incomes include Killam, the MD of Provost and the MD of Wainwright. The lowest family median incomes were reported in Strome (\$39,645).

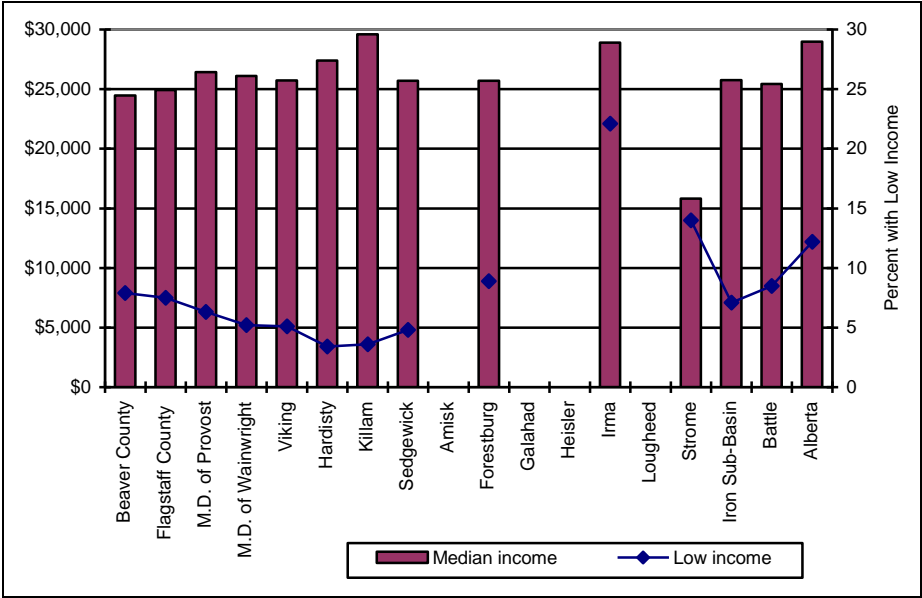
**Figure 4-25: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households in the Iron Sub-basin averaged \$23,891 and this was 6% lower than the BRB average (\$25,443). Overall, 7.1% of sub-basin residents were considered to have low incomes (before tax). This percentage was slightly less than the BRB average (8.5%). Figure 4-26 summarizes median incomes and the incidence of low incomes within the sub-basin. The highest median personal incomes were reported in Killam and Irma, but Irma had the highest incidence of low

income (22.1%). In Strome, 14.0% of individuals were considered to have low incomes. Personal income data were not available for residents of Amisk, Galahad, Heisler and Loughheed

Figure 4-26: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005

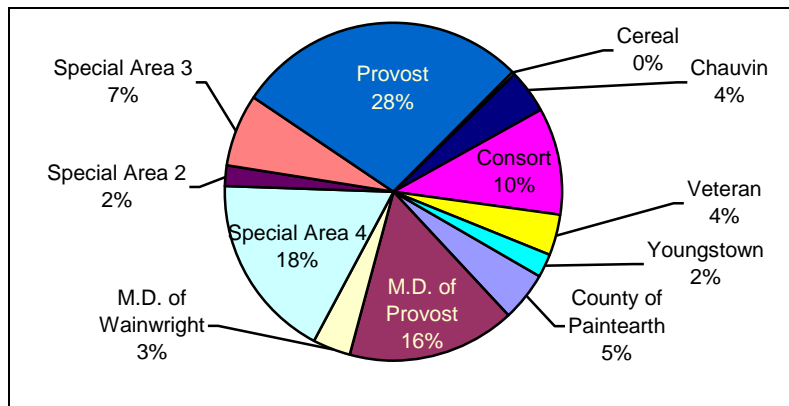


## 5.0 SOUNDING SUB-BASIN

### 5.1 Population

In 2006, the Sounding Sub-basin had a population of 7,328 people. This represents 6.0% of the population of the BRB. As shown in Figure 5-1, slightly more than half of the residents of the Sounding Sub-basin (51.0%) lived in rural communities. The largest rural population was in Special Area No. 4, which accounted for 17.8% of the sub-basin population. The MD of Provost accounted for another 16.1% of the sub-basin population. Other rural areas that accounted for small portions of the population included: Special Area No. 3 (6.7%), the County of Paintearth (4.8%), the MD of Wainwright (3.4%) and Special Area No. 2 (2.1%).

**Figure 5-1: Population Distribution in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**



More than half of the urban population lived in the Town of Provost, which accounted for 28.3% of the sub-basin population. The balance of the urban population lived in one of five villages. These included Consort, which accounted for 10.1% of the sub-basin population, Chauvin (4.2%), Veteran (3.8%), Youngstown (2.3%), and a small portion of Cereal (0.3%). Because of its small population, socio-economic characteristics for Cereal are not included in the remainder of the analysis.

### 5.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the Sounding Sub-basin were somewhat similar to the overall population of the BRB and Alberta. Figure 5-2 show the sub-basin had higher percentages of children less than 5 years of age, and more people aged 25 to 34, but lower populations of people over the age of 54 years.

**Figure 5-2: Age Composition of the Sounding Sub-Basin Population, 2006**

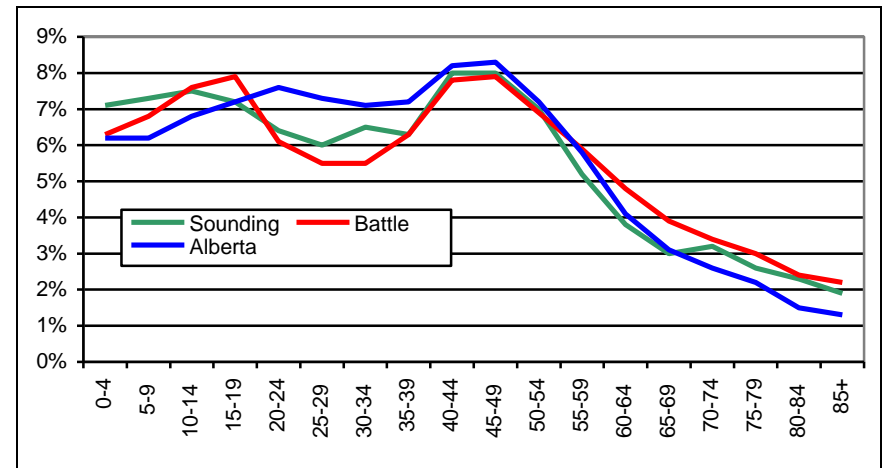


Figure 5-3 shows the age characteristics of the urban communities in the Sounding Sub-basin. The population of Provost is quite different from the overall sub-basin, with higher populations of young children (0 to 4 years), young adults (20 to 34 years) and people over the age of 74 years. The percentages of people in all other age groups were less than for the sub-basin. The population of Consort differs from the overall sub-basin by having higher percentages of people aged 20 to 24 years, 35 to 39 years and people over the age of 79 years, but much smaller percentages of people aged 45 to 54 years. The population profile for Chauvin fairly closely resembles the sub-basin profile although it had much lower percentages of people aged 10 to 14 years, a higher percentages of people aged 30 to 39 years, but lower percentages of people aged 65 to 79 years and over the

age of 84 years. Veteran had higher percentages of people aged 10 to 14 years, 20 to 24 years and 55 to 69 years, but relatively smaller populations of children aged 5 to 9 years and people aged 30 to 54 years. Youngstown is a more middle aged community, with very higher percentages of people aged 45 to 49 years and older children (10 to 19 years). It had very small populations of young children (under 5 years) and young adults (25 to 39 years).

**Figure 5-3: Age Composition of Urban Communities in the Sounding Sub-Basin**

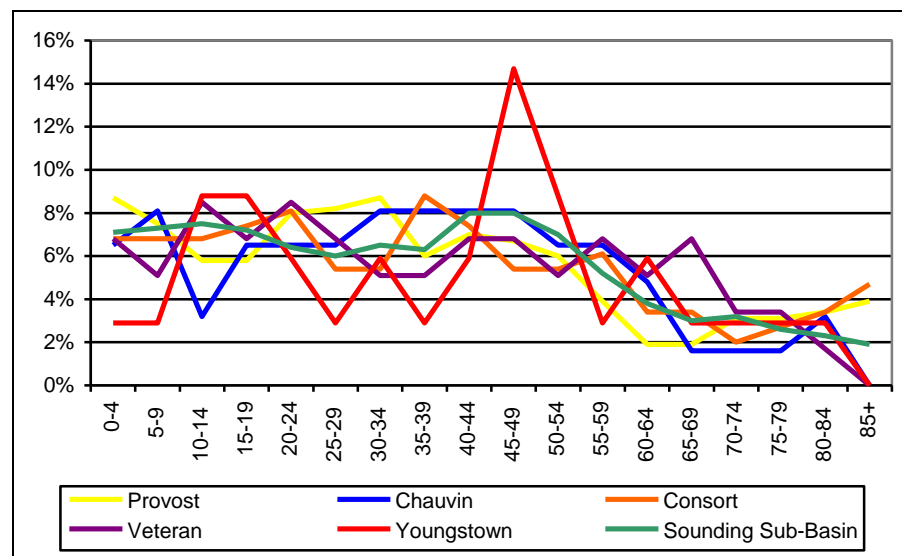
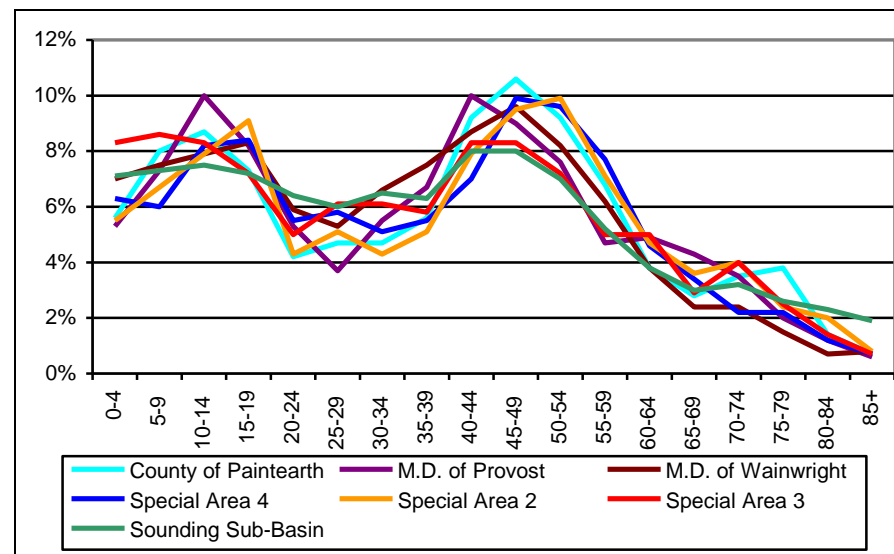


Figure 5-4 summarizes the age characteristics of the rural population. In general, the age profiles for the rural communities are quite similar and generally match the sub-basin profile. The rural communities tend to have higher populations of older children (10 to 19 years) and people aged 40 to 54, but have smaller proportions of young adults (20 to 34 years) and people over the age of 74 years.

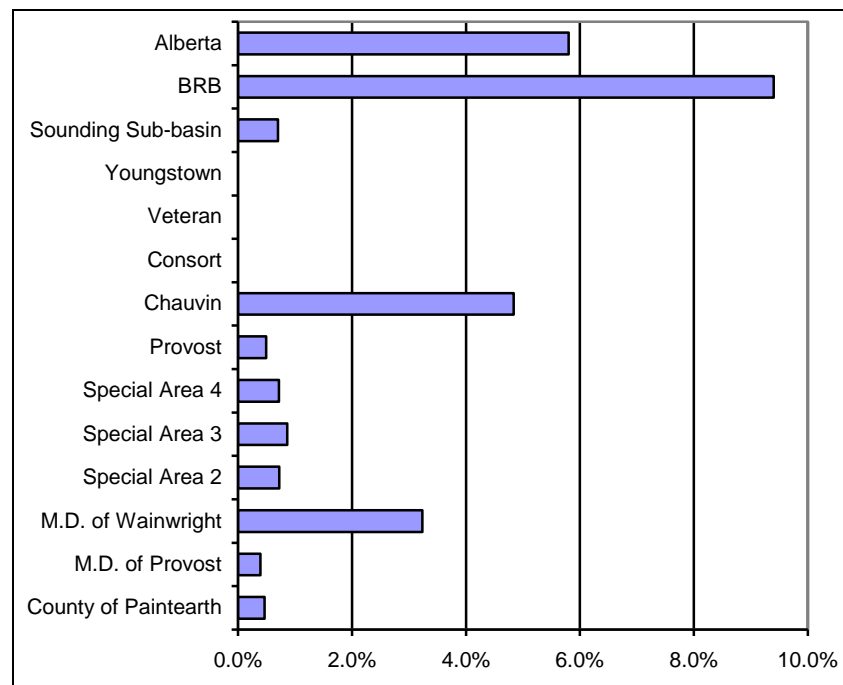
**Figure 5-4: Age Composition of Rural Communities in the Sounding Sub-Basin**



### 5.3 Aboriginal Population

Figure 5-5 shows that Aboriginal people accounted for 0.7% of the population of Sounding County. This was much lower than for the BRB, where Aboriginal people accounted for 9.4% of the population. There were 55 Aboriginal people in the sub-basin in 2006 and 30% of these lived in Chauvin where Aboriginal people accounted for 4.8% of the population. Some Aboriginal people were also found in the MD of Wainwright (3.2% of the population) and in smaller numbers in all three Special Areas and in Provost.

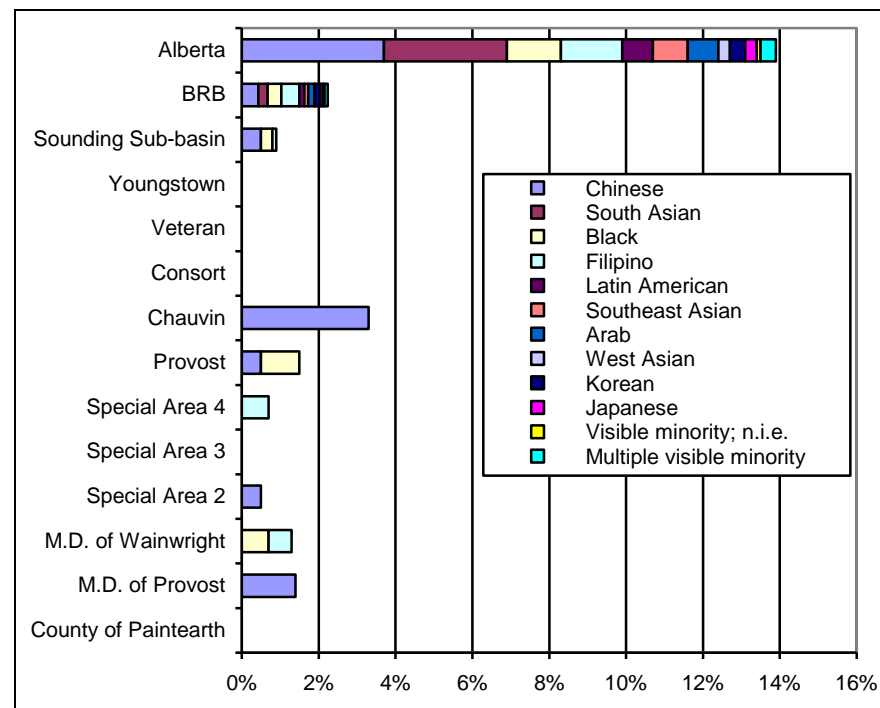
**Figure 5-5: Aboriginal Population in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**



#### 5.4 Ethnicity

Only 1.0% of the Sounding Sub-basin population consisted of visible minorities; this was much lower than for the BRB (2.3%). The highest percentage of visible minorities was found in Chauvin (3.3% of the population). Visible minorities were also found in Provost, the MD of Wainwright, and Special Areas No. 2 and 4. Nearly half of the visible minorities consisted of Chinese people, with small proportions of Black and Filipino people.

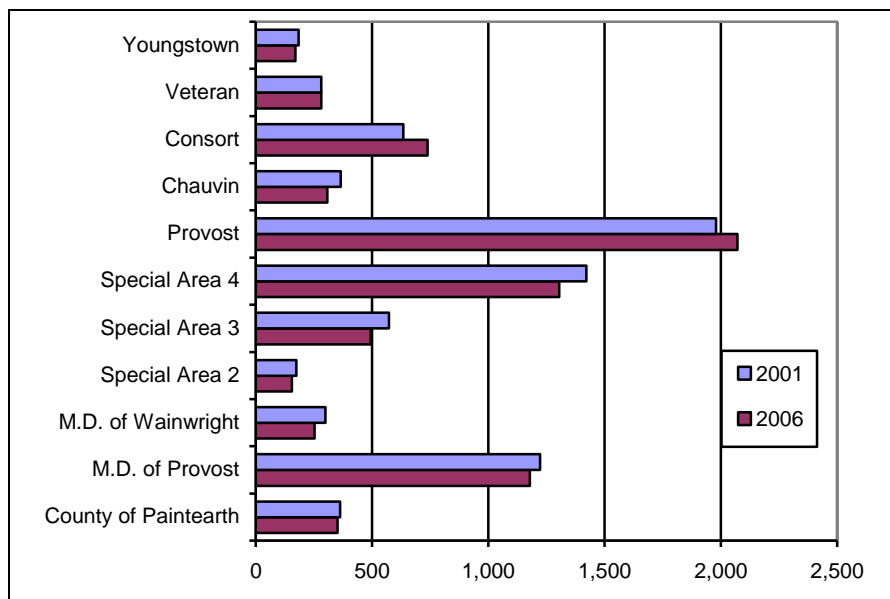
**Figure 5-6: Visible Minorities in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**



#### 5.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Sounding Sub-Basin decreased by 2.7%, which represents a loss of about 200 people. Figure 5-7 shows that almost all the communities in the sub-basin experienced a population loss, with the largest decreases occurring in Special Area No. 4, Special Area No. 3 and Chauvin. Some communities experienced population increases. These include Provost, which increased by 4.6%, and Consort, which grew by 16.6%. The populations of Veteran, Special Area No. 2 and the County of Paintearth remained relatively unchanged.

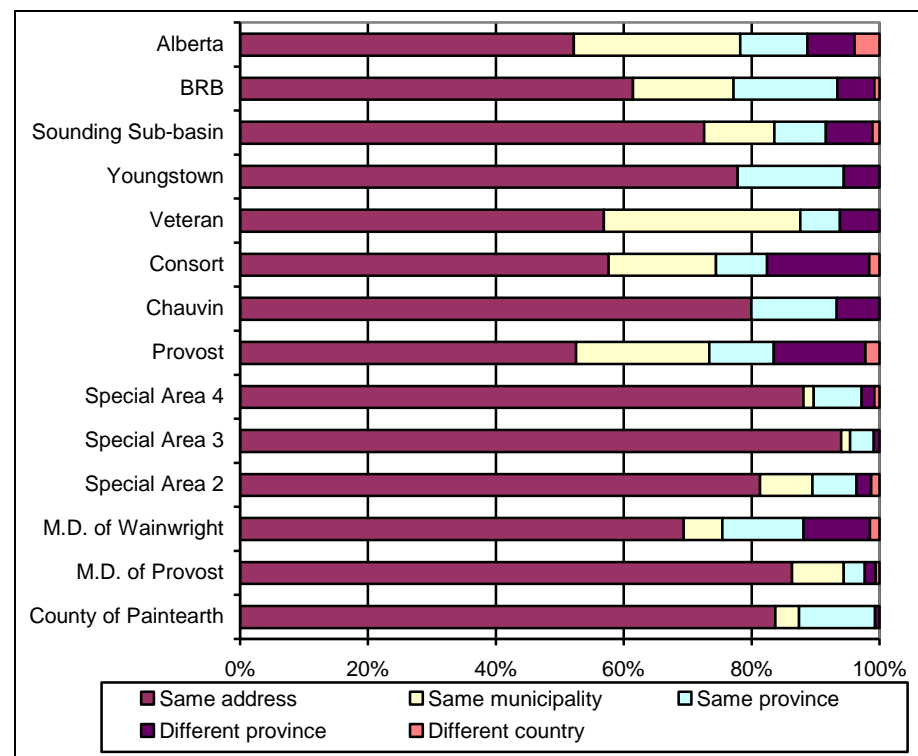
**Figure 5-7: Population Change in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 5-8 shows population mobility in the Sounding Sub-basin between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 72.8% of sub-basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period, and another 11.0% changed addresses within the same county or municipality. A small percentage (1.1%) moved in from another country, 7.3% moved from another province, and 8.1% moved from a different municipality in Alberta. Rural residents were the least mobile, with more than 80% of people living in the Special Areas, the MD of Provost and the County of Paintearth having lived at the same address between 2001 and 2006. Higher percentages of people in Veteran and Youngstown either remained at the same address or changed addresses within the same municipality. Consort, Provost and the MD of Wainwright had higher population mobility, with more than 20% of the population having moved into each community since 2001. Consort and

Provost had relatively higher percentages of people moving into the community from other provinces.

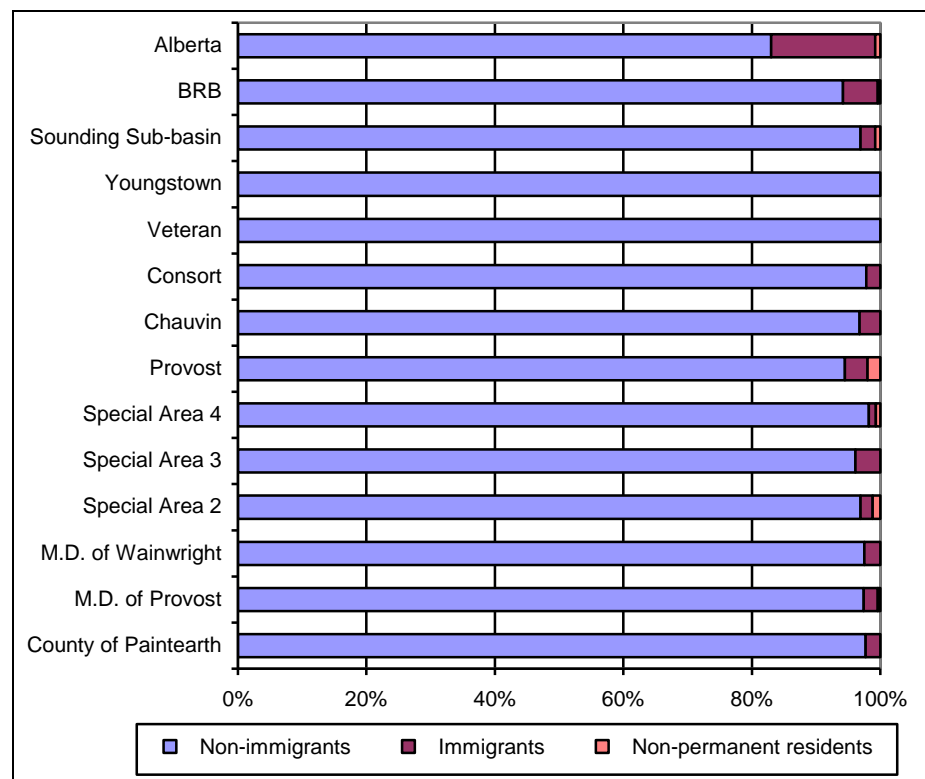
**Figure 5-8: Population Mobility, 2001-2006**



The Sounding Sub-basin had relatively few immigrants: immigrants accounted for 2.3% of the sub-basin population and 5.4% of the BRB population. Figure 5-9 shows that the percentage of immigrants in the Sounding Sub-basin. The communities with the highest percentages of immigrants include Special Areas No. 3 (3.9%), Provost (3.5%), and Chauvin (3.2%). Some communities had no immigrants; these include Veteran and Youngstown.

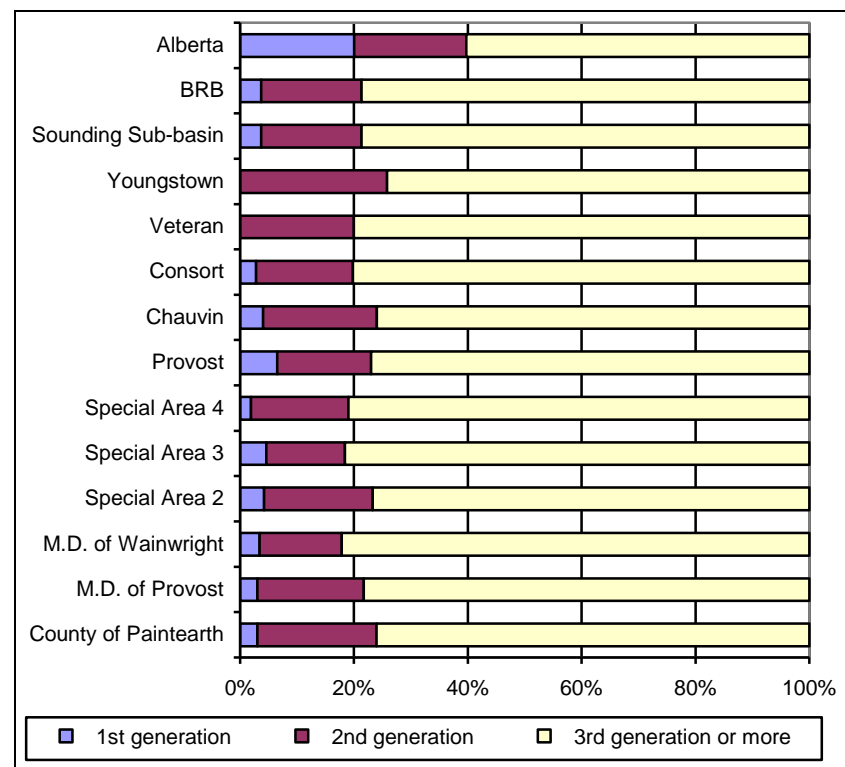


**Figure 5-9: Role of Immigration in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**



About 78.7% of the sub-basin population consisted of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations, while 3.7% were first-generation Canadians. In the BRB, 72.6% had lived in Canada for three or more and 6.8% were first-generation Canadians. As shown in Figure 5-10, people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations accounted for more than 80% of the population in the MD of Wainwright, Special Area No. 3, Special Area No. 4, Consort and Veteran. The highest percentages of first-generation Canadians were found in Provost. Youngstown had the highest percentages of second generation Canadians.

**Figure 5-10: Residency in Canada, Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**

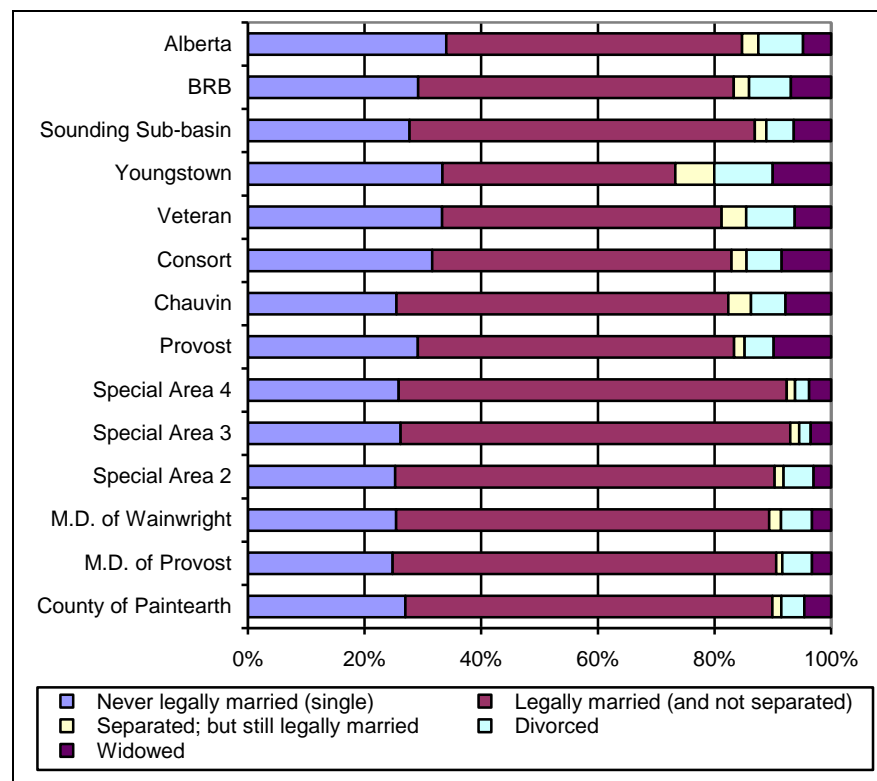


## 5.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 59.1% of the Sounding Sub-basin population, while the balance consisted of single people (27.7%), divorced people (4.7%), widowed people (6.4%) and people who are separated (2.0%). The sub-basin profile (Figure 5-11) differs from the BRB profile because it had a lower percentage of single people and higher percentages of married people. Within the sub-basin, the rural areas had higher percentages of married people (63.2% or more) than most urban areas, where married people accounted for between 38.7% (Youngstown) and 58.0% (Chauvin) of the adult population. The urban communities had higher percentages of

single people, as well as widowed and divorced people. Provost and Veteran had the highest percentages of widowed people.

**Figure 5-11: Marital Status in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**

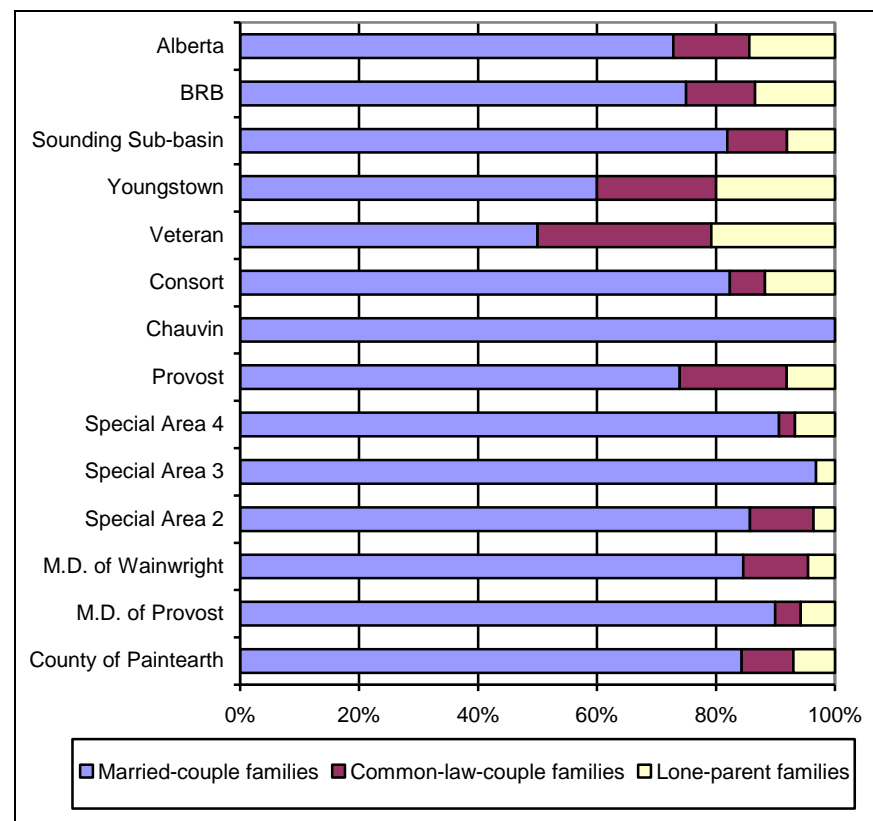


## 5.7 Family Structure

Figure 5-12 shows that married couple families accounted for 81.4% of families in the Sounding Sub-basin while common-law couples accounted for 10.0% of families and 8.1% were single-parent families. Compared to the BRB, the sub-basin had higher percentages of married couple families. Within the sub-basin, married couple families accounted for more than 80% of families in all of the rural areas, as well as Chauvin and Consort. The highest percentages of common-law couple families were found in Veteran,

Youngstown and Consort, while Veteran and Youngstown had the highest percentages of lone-parent families.

**Figure 5-12: Family Structure in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**

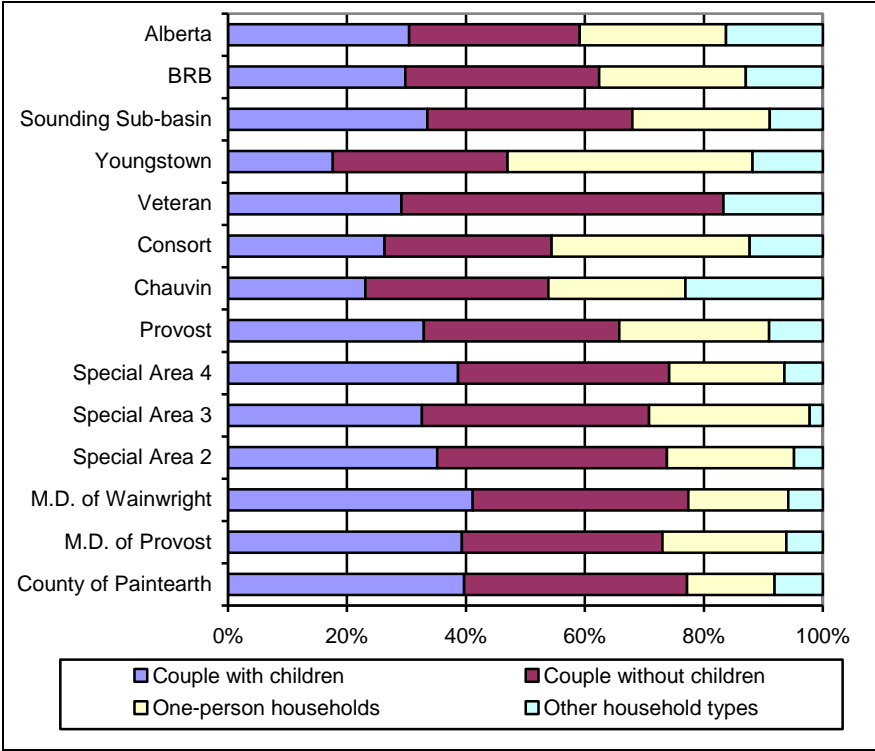


## 5.8 Household Structure

Figure 5-13 shows that 33.4% of households in the Sounding Sub-basin consisted of a couple with children, 34.3% were couples with no children, 23.0% were single person households, and the balance (8.9%) consisted of other household types. Compared to the BRB, the Sounding Sub-basin had a higher percentage of couples with children. The rural areas had higher

percentages of couples with children than the urban communities, especially Youngstown, Chauvin and Consort. These communities have higher percentages of one-person households and other household types. Veteran had the highest percentage of couples without children while Youngstown had the highest percentage of one-person households.

Figure 5-13: Household Structure in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006



5.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 2,675 housing units in the Sounding Sub-basin. Figure 5-14 shows that single detached houses accounted for 84.8% of dwelling types and another 10.6% consisted of other dwelling types. There were very small percentages of semi-detached and row housing and

apartments in the sub-basin. In most communities, single detached houses accounted for 80% or more of dwelling types. The exceptions were Consort, which had some row housing and other dwelling types, Youngstown, which had a relatively high percentage of other dwelling types, and Consort, which had a mix of dwelling types including semi-detached houses, row houses and apartments.

Figure 5-14: Housing Characteristics in the Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006

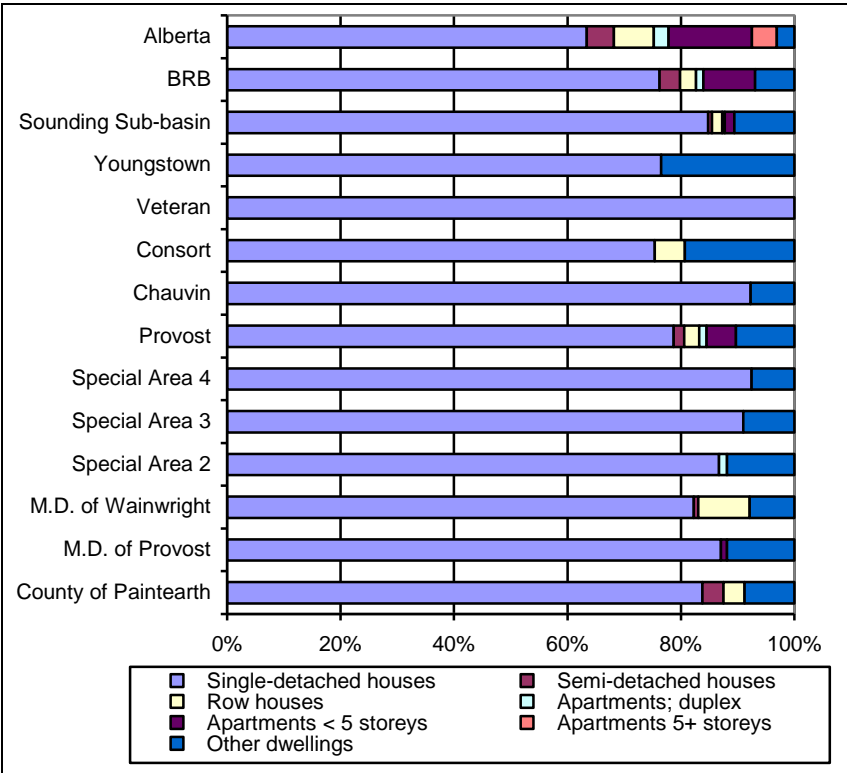
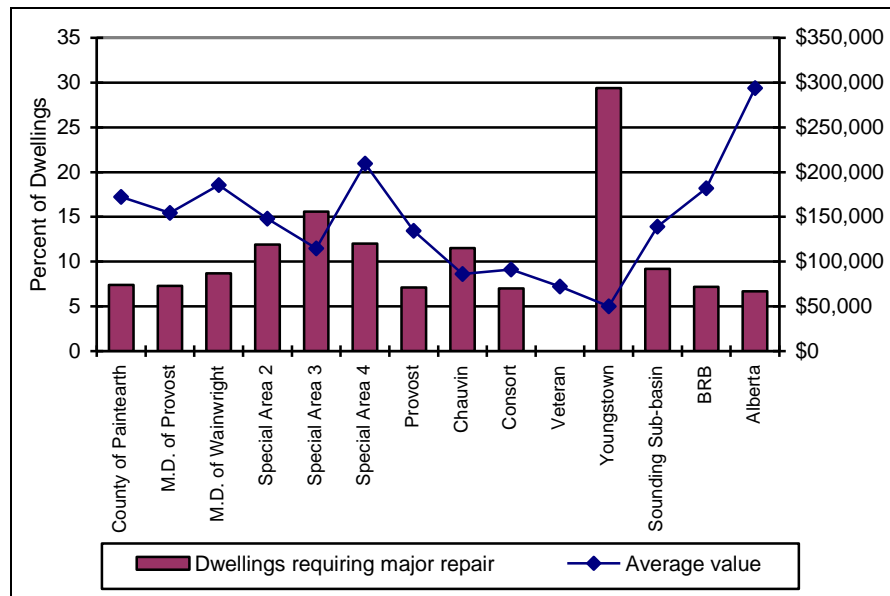


Figure 5-15 shows the reported value of housing in the Sounding Sub-basin in 2005 was \$139,085 which was 24% less than the BRB average (\$182,073). The highest housing values were found in Special Area No. 4 (\$209,645) and the MD of Wainwright (\$185,418). In comparison, the average value of

house in Youngstown was only \$49,965. Other communities with low housing values include Veteran (\$72,189), Chauvin (\$8,085) and Consort (\$91,290).

**Figure 5-15: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs by Sub-Basin**

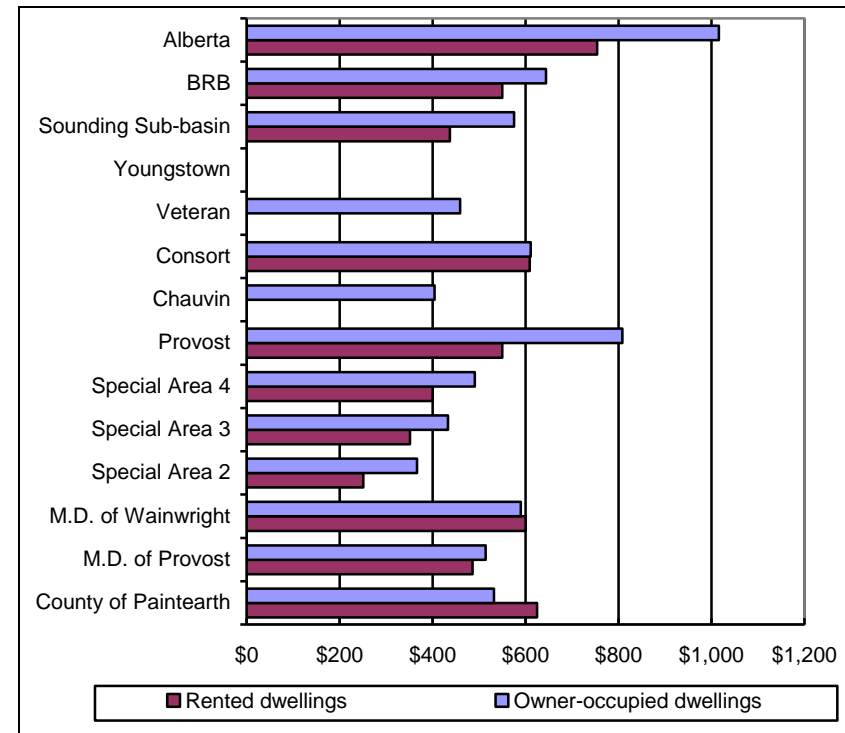


About 9.2% of housing in the Sounding Sub-basin was considered to be in need of major repair, and this was slightly lower than the BRB average (10.3%). Youngstown had the highest percentage of housing in need of major repair (29.4%). This percentage dropped to 15.6% in Special Area No. 3 and 11.9% in Special Area No. 2. Communities with the lowest percentages of dwellings in need of major repair include Veteran, Provost and Consort.

Figure 5-16 shows that the average monthly costs of housing in the Sounding Sub-basin in 2005 ranged from \$437 for rented dwellings to \$575 for owner-occupied dwellings. These costs include rent/mortgage,

electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling and were slightly less than the BRB averages (\$550 and \$644, respectively). Consort, the MD of Wainwright and the County of Paintearth reported the highest monthly costs for rental dwellings while residents of Provost reported the highest cost for owner occupied dwellings. Housing costs were lowest in Special Area No. 2. No information was available for Youngstown.

**Figure 5-16: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**

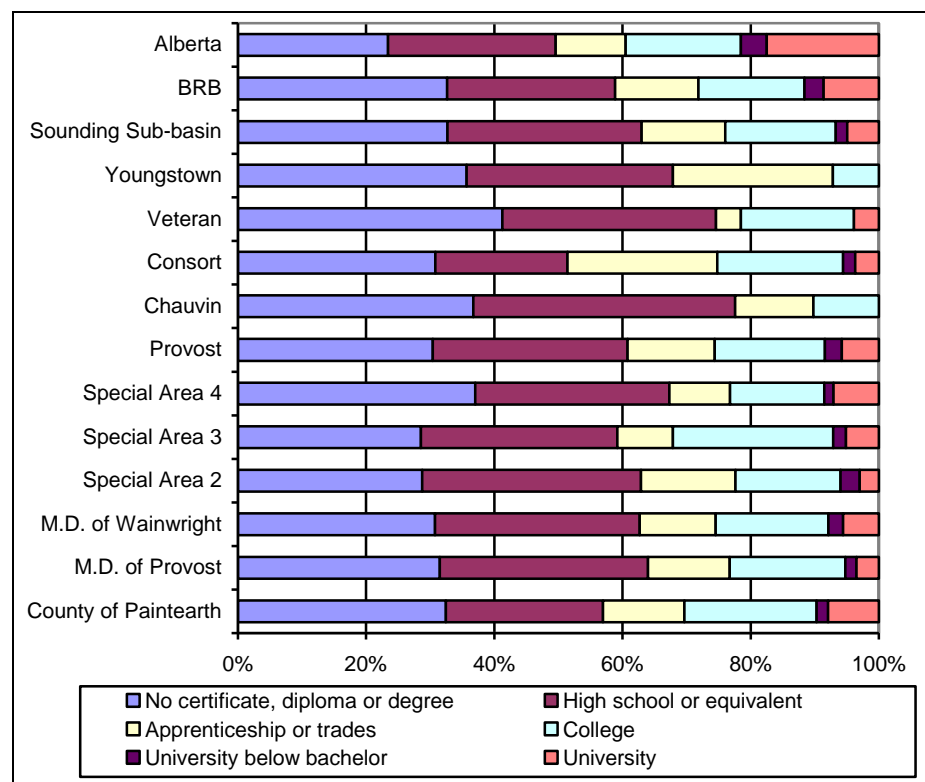


## 5.10 Education

Residents of the Sounding Sub-basin were less educated than the BRB average. While the percentage of the adult population who had not completed high school was the same for each (32.6%), the BRB had higher percentages of people who had a college or university education.

Figure 5-17 shows that the communities with the highest percentages of people who had not complete high school include Veteran (41.2%) and Special Area No. 4 (37.0%).

**Figure 5-17: Educational Attainment for the Sounding Sub-Basin**

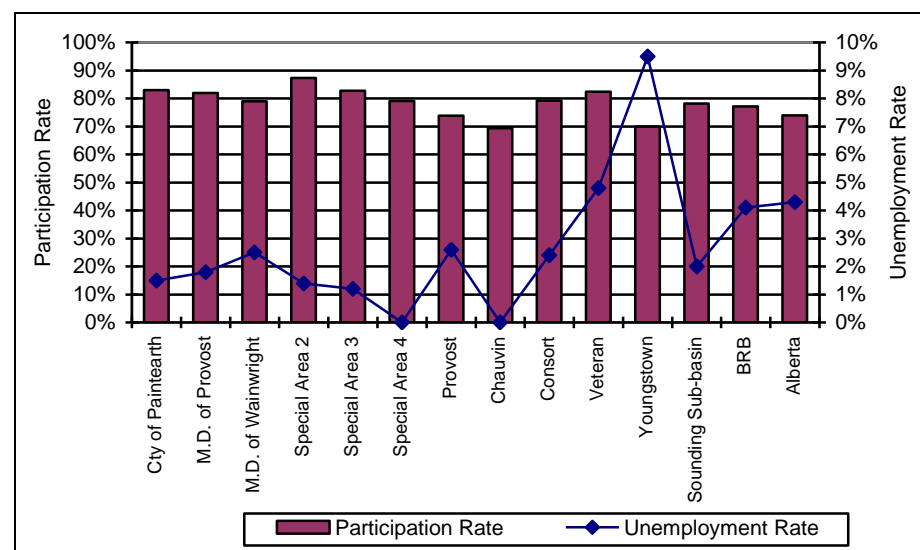


Only 13.0% of adults in the Sounding Sub-basin had an apprenticeship or trades certificate. This percentage was much higher in Consort (23.4%) and Youngstown (23.3%). The rural areas had higher percentages of people who had completed university than did the urban communities.

### 5.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 78.2% of the adult population in the Sounding Sub-basin was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. Figure 5-18 shows that this rate was slightly higher than for the BRB (71.1%). It shows that labour force participation rates were higher than 80% for most of the rural communities, except the MD of Wainwright and Special Area No. 4. Veteran was the only community to have a participation rate exceeding 80%; some communities had labour force participation rates of about 70%, including Chauvin and Youngstown.

**Figure 5-18: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**

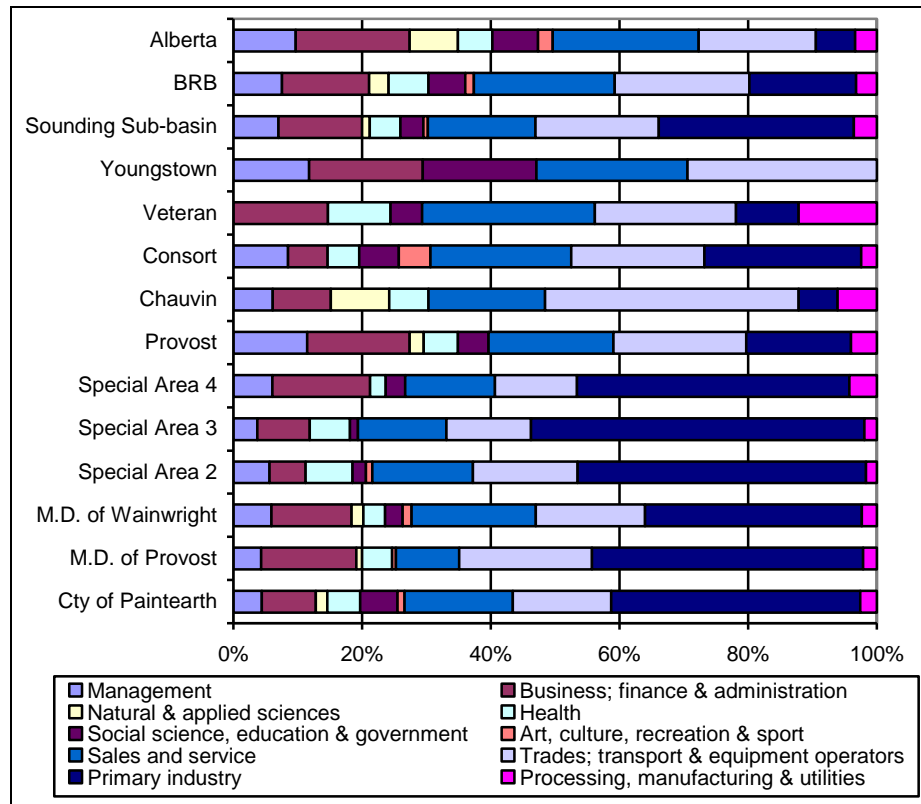


In 2006, the Sounding Sub-basin had an unemployment rate of 2.0% and this was about half the BRB average (4.1%). Unemployment rates in the rural areas were less than 2%, with the exception of the MD of Wainwright. Unemployment rates in the urban areas were generally higher, reaching 9.5% in Youngstown and 4.8% in Veteran. There was reported to be no unemployment in Chauvin and Special Area No. 4.

### 5.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 5-19 shows employment by occupation for the Sounding Sub-basin. Compared to the BRB, residents of the Sounding Sub-basin were more likely to be employed in occupations related to primary industry. The sub-basin had lower percentages of people employed in all other occupations.

**Figure 5-19: Employment by Occupation, Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**



Overall, 29.9% of sub-basin residents were employed in occupations related to primary industry. High percentages of employment in primary industry were found in the rural parts of the sub-basin, especially the Special Areas. Consort also had relatively higher percentages of people employed in

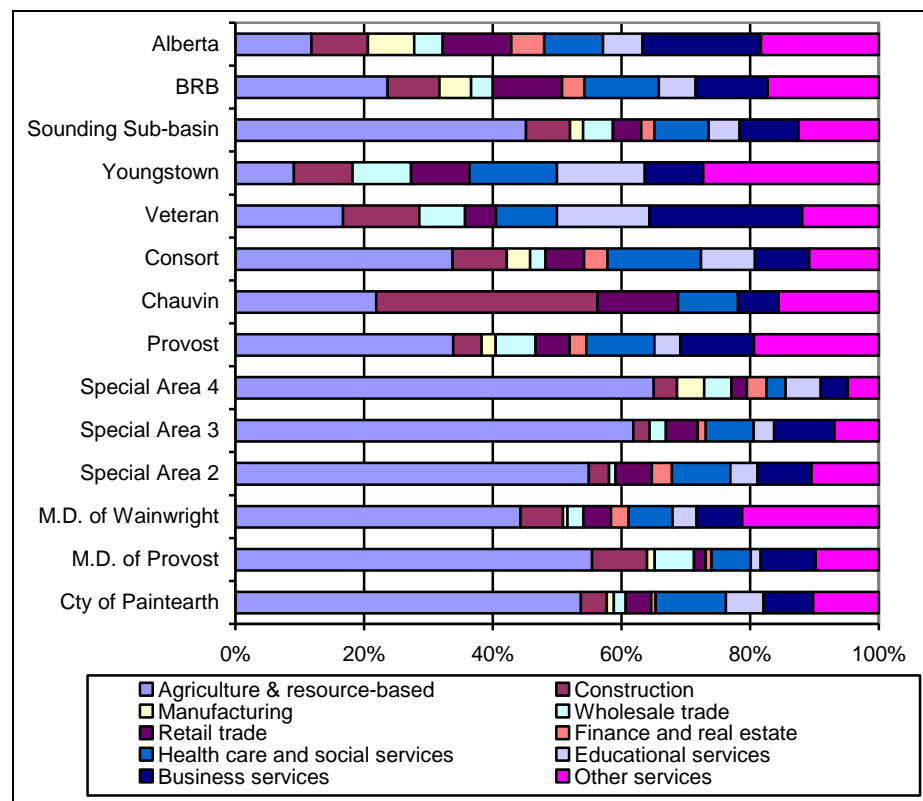
primary industry. About 18.9% of the sub-basin workforce was employed in occupations in the trades, transportation and equipment operation. However, these occupations were particularly important in Chauvin (38.2% of employment) and Youngstown (23.8%). Another 16.5% of the sub-basin workforce was employed in occupations related to sales and service, and these occupations accounted for more than 20% of employment in Consort and Veteran. Employment in business, finance and administration accounted for 12.8% of sub-basin employment, although higher percentages were reported in Provost, Special Area No. 4 and Youngstown.

### 5.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 5-20 shows employment in each sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 53.7% of the workforce was experienced in basic (goods-producing) industries, primarily agriculture and other resource-based industries (which accounted for 44.9% of employment in the sub-basin), manufacturing and construction. Another 12.4% of the workforce was experienced in the other services industries, 9.1% in business services, 8.4% in health care and social services, with 4.4% in retail trade. Compared to the BRB profile, residents of the Sounding Sub-basin were less like to be employed in finance and insurance, health care, education and business services.

The employment-by-industry profiles for many of the rural areas were quite similar, with agriculture and other resource-based industries accounting for at least 40% of employment and more than 60% in Special Areas No. 4 and Special Areas No. 3. Consort and Provost also had relatively high percentages of employment in agriculture and other resource-based industries. The highest percentages of employment in the other service industries were found in Youngstown, the MD of Wainwright and Provost. The highest percentages of people employed in retail trade were reported in Youngstown and Veteran. Consort, Youngstown, the County of Paintearth and Provost had the highest percentages of people employed in health care and social services. Although construction accounted for 6.8% of employment in the sub-basin, this industry accounted for more than 10% of employment in both Chauvin (32.4%) and Veteran (11.4%).

**Figure 5-20: Employment by Industry, Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**

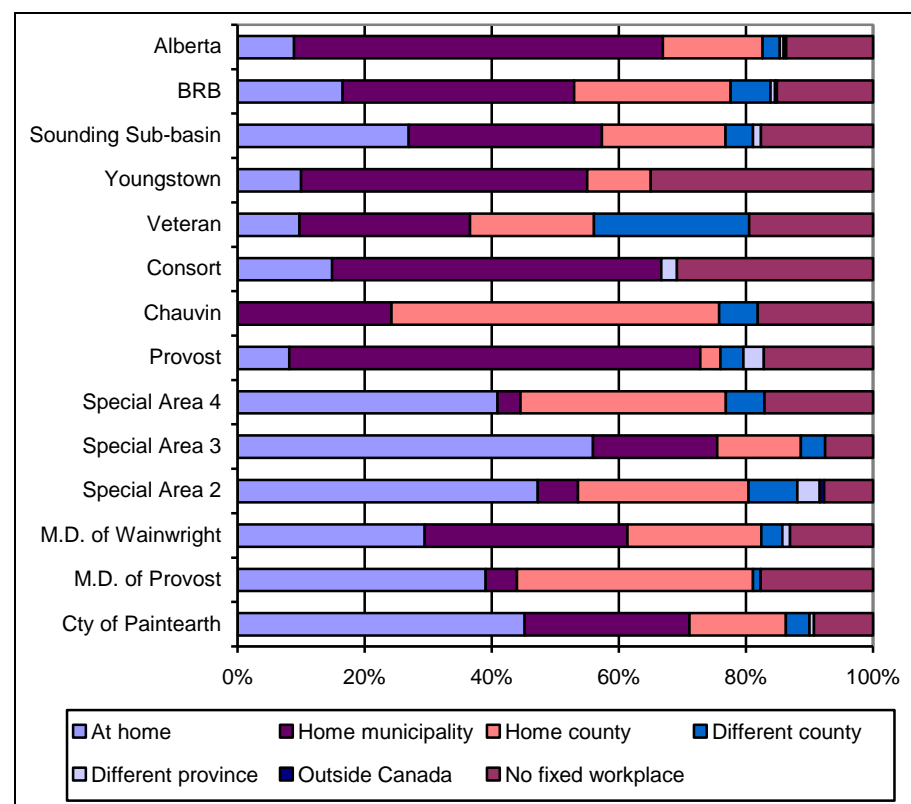


#### 5.14 Location of Employment

Figure 5-21 shows where residents of the Sounding Sub-basin actually worked. Overall, 26.7% worked at home and this was much higher than the BRB average. Another 30.1% worked at a usual place in their home municipality and 19.3% worked in their home county outside their local community, while 4.3% worked in another part of Alberta and 1.2% worked outside Alberta. The remainder (17.5%) had no fixed workplace. In most rural communities more than 40% of adult residents worked at home. In Provost and Consort, the majority of residents were employed in their

home community. High percentages of residents of Chauvin and the MD of Provost commuted to work in their home region outside their home community. High percentages of workers with no fixed workplace were noted in Youngstown and Consort.

**Figure 5-21: Location of Work, Sounding Sub-Basin, 2006**

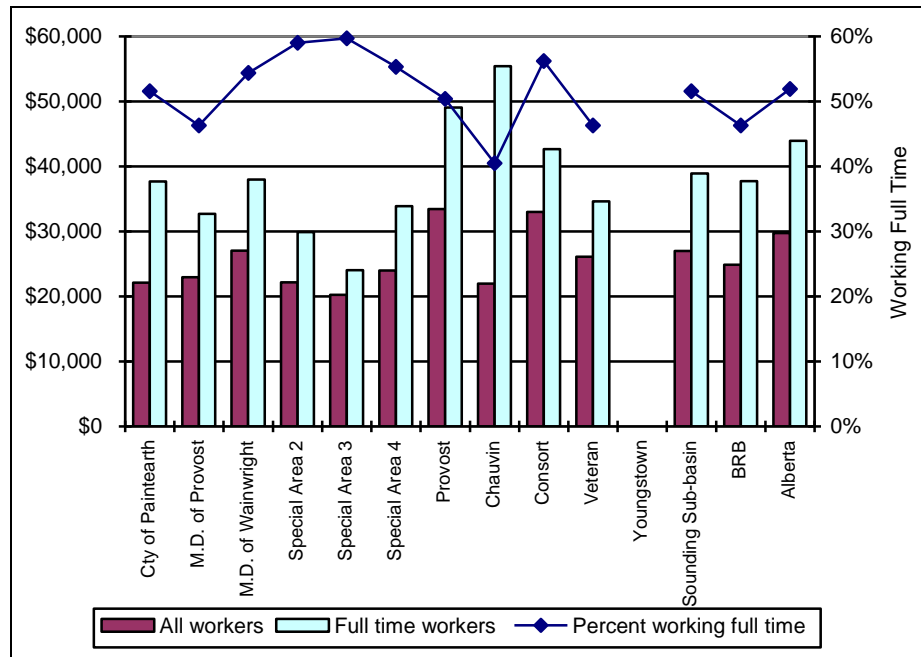


#### 5.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Sounding Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$26,990 in 2005; this was 9% higher than the BRB average (\$24,856). Full-time year-round employment was reported by 51.6% of workers in the Sounding Sub-

basin, slightly above the basin average of 49.1%. Figure 5-22 shows that residents of the sub-basin who worked full-time earned \$38,924 and this was also slightly higher than the BRB average.

**Figure 5-22: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, 2006**



Median earnings were highest in Provost (\$33,466) and Consort (\$33,018). The lowest median earnings were reported in Chauvin (\$21,961). No income data were available for Youngstown. Among the rural areas, the highest median income was reported in the MD of Wainwright.

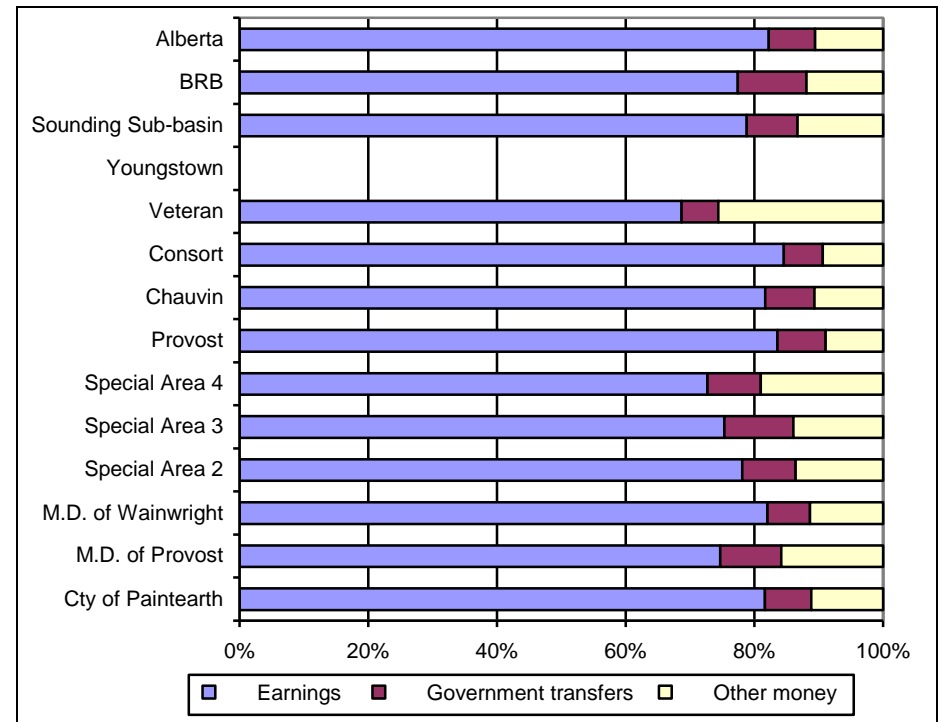
The communities with the highest percentages of people working full-time, year round were found in Special Area No. 3 (59.7%) and Special Area No. 2 (59.0%). The lowest percentage of people with full-time work occurred in Chauvin (40.5%), although they also reported the highest earnings from full time work (\$55,399). High incomes from full time employment were also

reported in Provost (\$49,075) and Consort (\$42,657). Less than half the workers in Veteran and the MD of Provost were employed full time.

### 5.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 78.9% of income for residents of the Sounding Sub-basin. The remainder came from government transfers (7.9%) and other sources (13.3%). Figure 5-23 shows that sub-basin residents were more reliant on earnings and less reliant on government transfer payment than were residents of the entire BRB. Earnings accounted for more than 80% of income in Consort, Chauvin, Provost and the MD of Wainwright. The highest reliance on transfer payments was reported in Special Area No. 3 (10.7%).

**Figure 5-23: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**

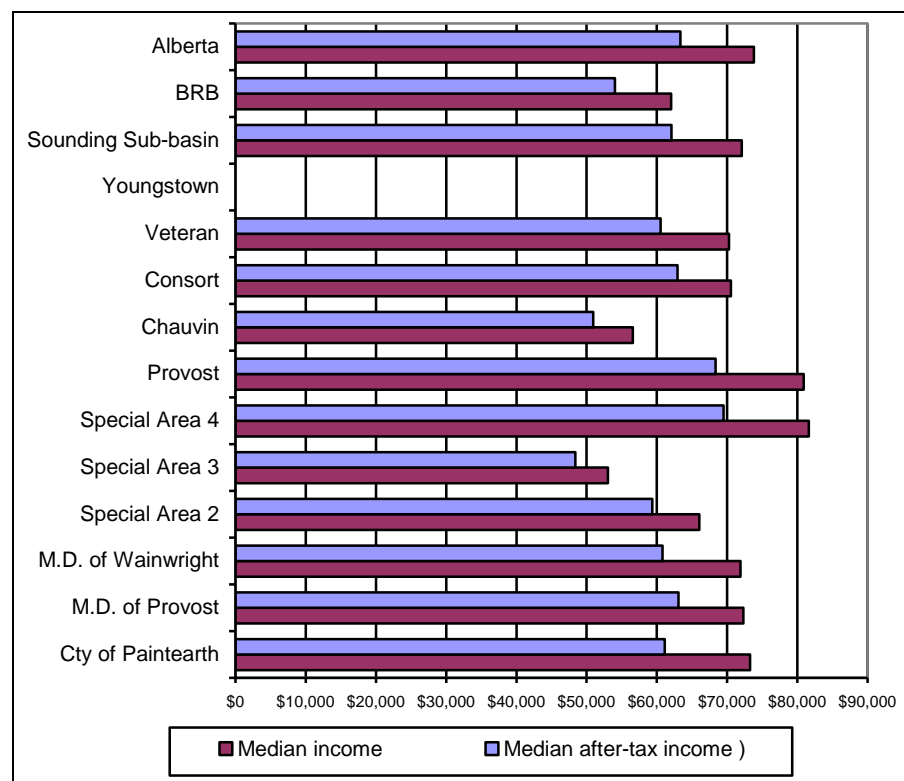




### 5.17 Family and Individual Income

In 2005 families in the Sounding Sub-basin reported median incomes of \$72,085 which was about 16% higher than the BRB average of \$62,021 (Figure 5-24). The highest median family incomes were found in Provost and Special Area No. 4; median family incomes were in excess of \$80,000. The lowest median family incomes were reported in Special Area No. 3 and Chauvin; median family incomes were less than \$60,000.

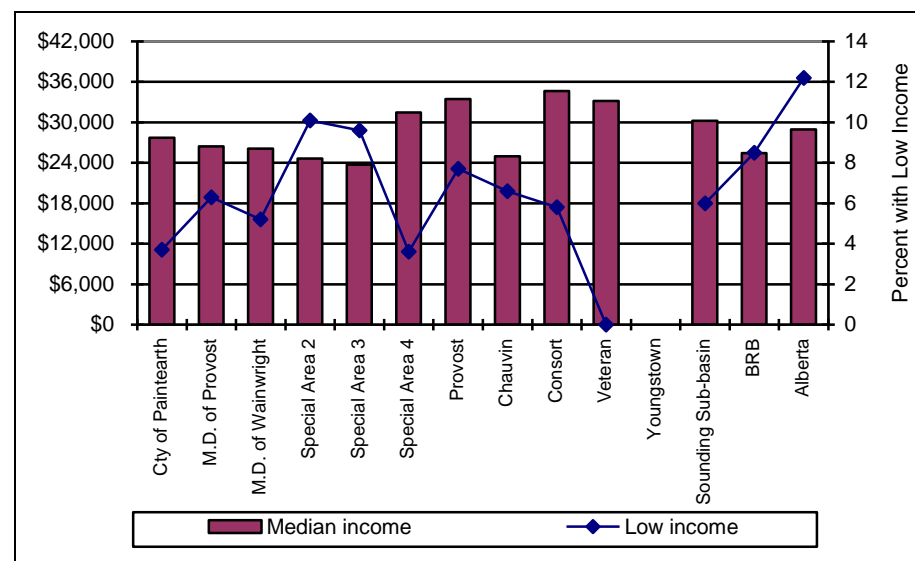
**Figure 5-24: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



Median incomes before tax in 2005 for persons in private households in the Sounding Sub-basin were \$30,233. As shown in Figure 5-25, this was lower than the BRB average of \$25,433. The highest median personal incomes

were reported in Consort (\$34,622), Veteran (\$33,193) and Provost (\$33,456). The lowest income was reported in Special Area No. 3 (\$23,746), Special Area No. 2 (\$24,641) and Chauvin (24,955).

**Figure 5-25: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005**



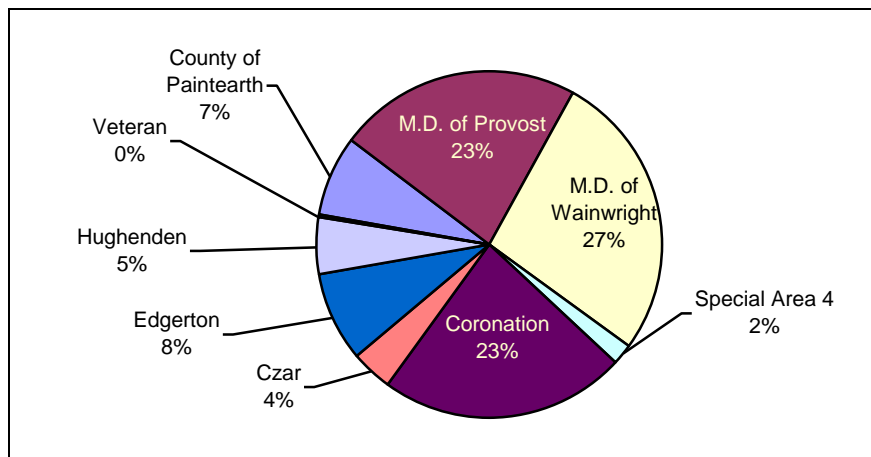
About 6.0% of individuals in the Sounding Sub-basin were considered to have low incomes and this compares to 8.5% of BRB residents who were considered to have low incomes. The communities with the highest percentages of people with low incomes included Special Area No. 2 (10.1%) and Special Area No. 3 (9.6%). Special Area No. 4 and Veteran had the lowest percentages of people with low incomes.

## 6.0 RIBSTONE SUB-BASIN

### 6.1 Population

In 2006, the Ribstone Sub-basin had a population of about 4,420 people which represents 3.6% of the population of the entire BRB. The majority of the population (59.2%) lives in the rural parts of the sub-basin. Figure 6-1 shows that just over one-quarter the sub-basin population lived in the MD of Wainwright (26.9%), with another 22.9% living in the MD of Provost. The balance of the rural population lives in the County of Paintearth (7.5%) and Special Area No. 4 (1.9%).

**Figure 6-1: Population Distribution in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



The Ribstone Sub-basin had a small urban population which was primarily centered in the Town of Coronation, which accounted for 22.9% of the population. The rest of the urban population lives in one of four villages, the largest of which include Edgerton (8.4%), Hughenden (5.2%) and Czar (4.0%). A small portion of the Village of Veteran is also included in the Ribstone sub-basin, but accounts for 0.3% of the population and is not included in the remainder of this analysis.

### 6.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin were quite similar to the overall population of the BRB. Figure 6-2 shows that the Ribstone Sub-basin had slightly higher percentages of children (5 to 9 years) and adults (30 to 34 years) but a much higher percentage of adults aged 40 to 54 years).

**Figure 6-2: Age Composition of the Ribstone Sub-Basin Population, 2006**

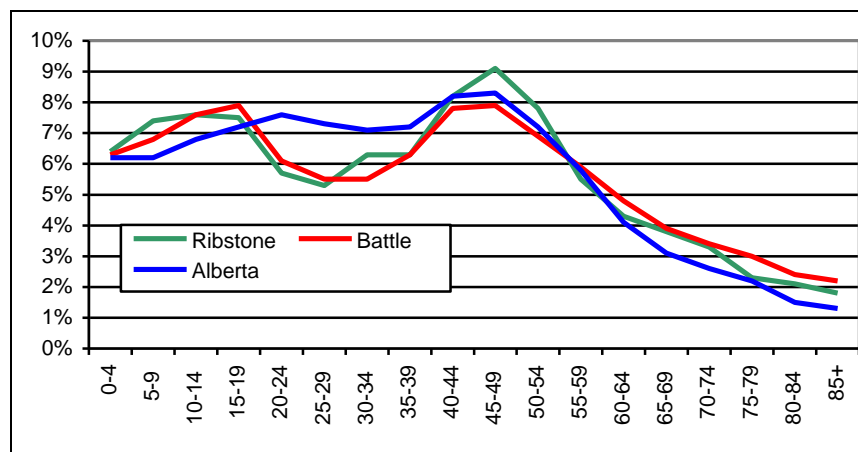
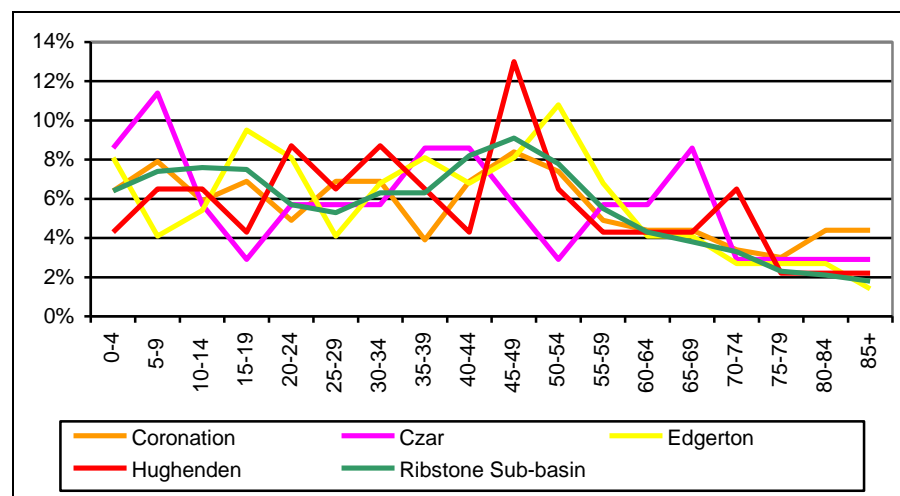


Figure 6-3 shows the age distribution for the individual urban communities within the Ribstone Sub-basin. Each of the urban communities had a different age profile. Czar had the highest percentage of children (0 to 9 years) but relatively few teenagers (10 to 19 years). Compared to the Ribstone Sub-basin, Czar had much lower percentages of people aged 45 to 54 years and a higher percentage of people aged 60 to 69 years. Coronation had a very large population of people over the age of 74 years but relatively small number of people aged 35 to 49 years and few children aged 10 to 14 years. Edgerton had the lowest percentage of children aged 5 to 9 years and few adults aged 25 to 29 years; it does have relatively large populations of people aged 15 to 24 years and 50 to 59 years. Hughenden had the highest percentages of people aged 45 to 49 years and 30 to 34

years of age, but the lowest percentages of children under the age of 5 years and people aged 40 to 44 years.

**Figure 6-3: Age Composition of Urban Communities in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



**Figure 6-4: Age Composition of Rural Communities in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

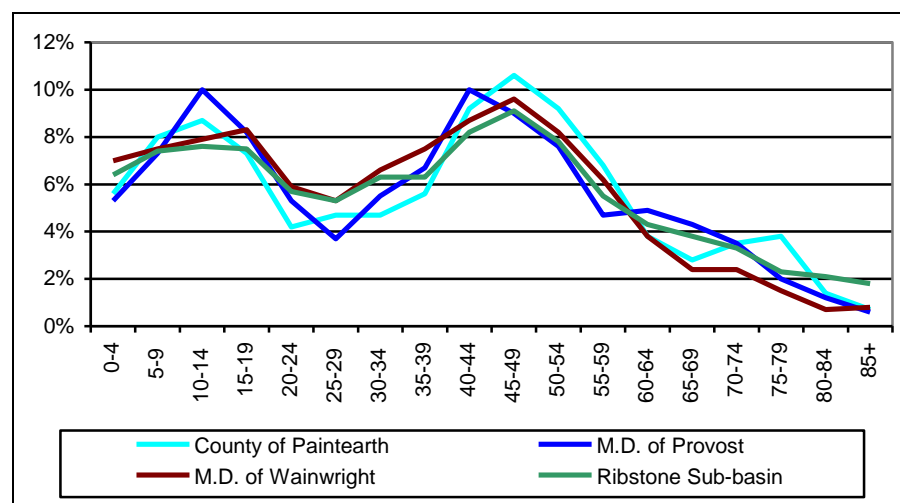
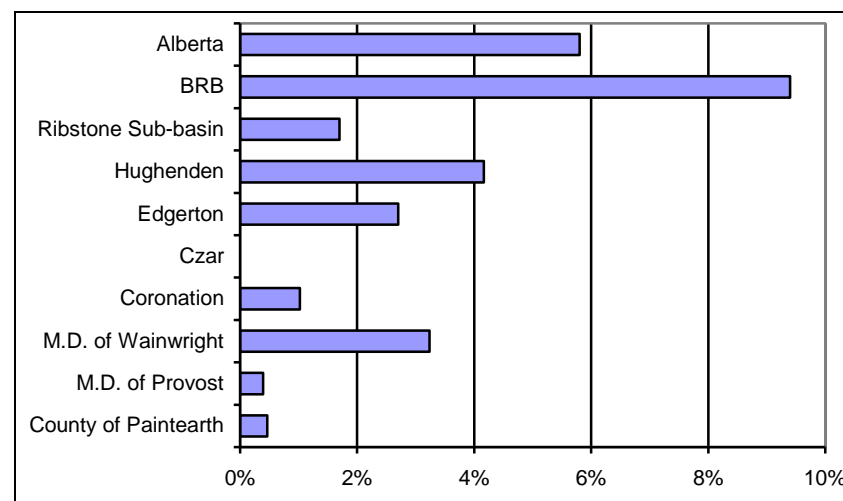


Figure 6-4 shows the age composition of the rural communities. It shows that the age distributions were quite similar and closely match the Ribstone Sub-basin. In general, the rural areas have higher percentages of teenagers (10 to 19 years) and people aged 40 to 49 years. The rural areas have lower percentages of adults aged 20 to 34 years as well as people over the age of 79 years.

### 6.3 Aboriginal Population

About 1.7% of the residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin were Aboriginal and this was much lower than the BRB average (9.4%). There were about 75 Aboriginal people living in the sub-basin and 50.7% of these were living in the MD of Wainwright. Figure 6-5 shows that, in general, Aboriginal people comprised less than 2.0% of the population of most communities. The only exception were Hughenden, where Aboriginal people accounted for 4.2% of the population, the MD of Wainwright (3.2%) and Edgerton (2.7%).

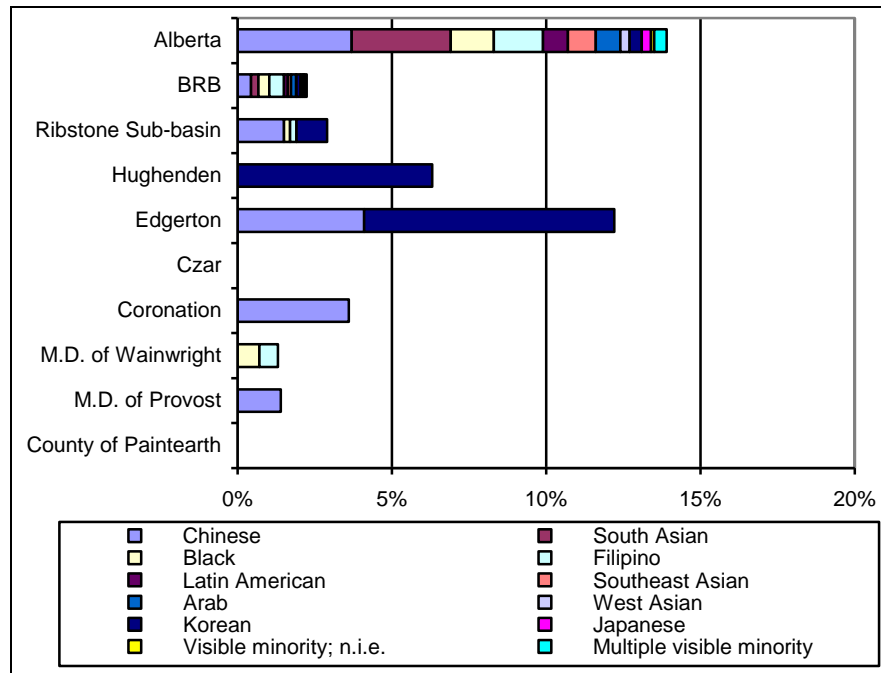
**Figure 6-5: Aboriginal Population in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.4 Ethnicity

About 3.0% of the population of the Ribstone sub-basin consisted of visible minorities. This was slightly higher than the BRB average of 2.3%. Figure 6-6 shows the percentage of visible minorities within each of the communities within the Ribstone sub-basin. It shows that the highest percentages occurred in Edgerton (12.2%, primarily Korean and Chinese) and Hughenden (6.3%, primarily Korean). Small percentages of visible minorities, primarily Chinese, were also found in Coronation and the MD of Provost. Overall, Chinese people accounted for 48.7% of visible minorities in the Ribstone Sub-basin while Korean people accounted for 34.3%.

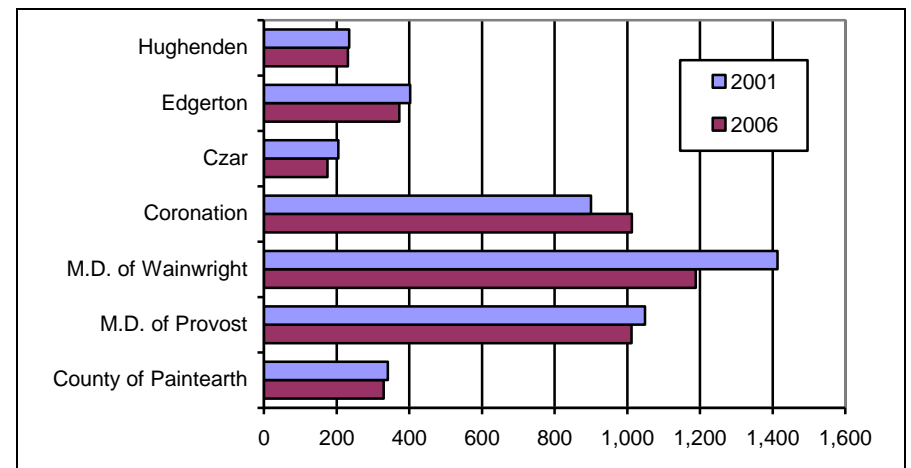
**Figure 6-6: Visible Minorities in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.5 Population Change

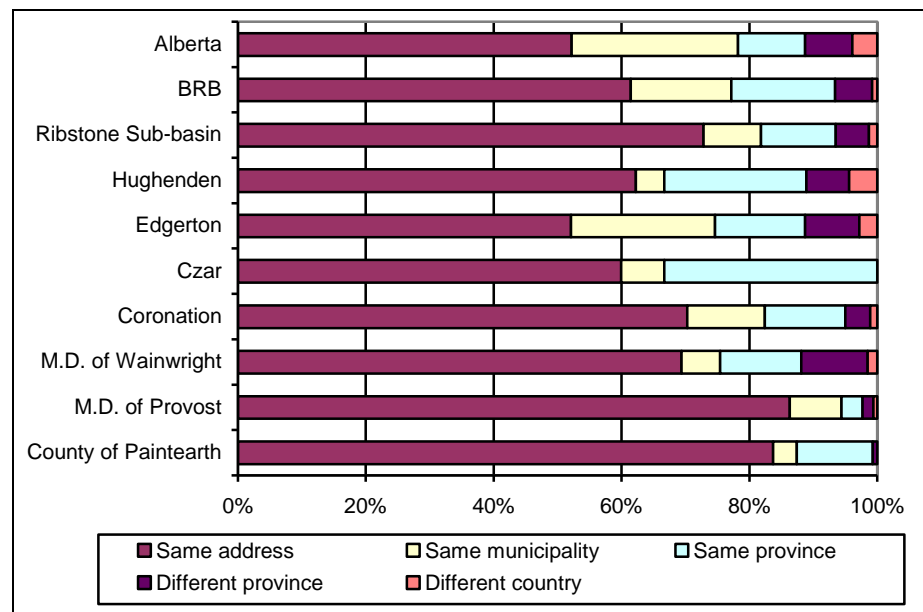
Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Ribstone Sub-basin decreased by 230 people which represents a decline of 5.0%. In contrast, the population of the BRB increased by 4.3%. Figure 6-7 shows that most of the population decrease occurred in the MD of Wainwright, where the population decreased by 15.9%. The populations of the MD of Provost, the County of Paintearth, Czar, Edgerton, and Hughenden also decreased during this period. Some population growth occurred in Coronation, which grew by 12.5%.

**Figure 6-7: Population Change in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



One factor affecting population growth is migration from one area to another. Figure 6-8 shows population mobility in the Ribstone Sub-basin between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 72.9% of sub-basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period; this was 11 percentage points higher than the BRB average (53.6%). Another 9.0% lived in the same census subdivision but changed addresses. A small percentage of sub-basin residents (1.3%) moved in from another country, 5.2% moved from another province, and 11.7% moved from a different municipality in Alberta.

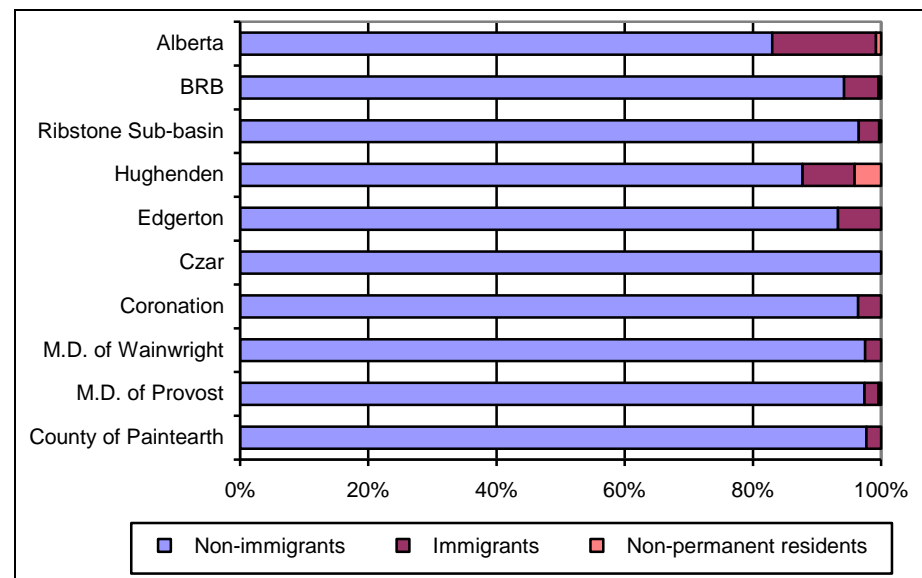
**Figure 6-8: Population Mobility in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



Residents of the rural areas, notably the MD of Provost and the County of Paintearth, were the most likely to have lived at the same address for the period from 20001 to 2006. Residents of Edgerton were the most mobile, although a relatively high percentage of residents (23.2%) had changed addresses within the same community. Hughenden and Czar had the higher percentages of people who had moved from another community either inside or outside Alberta. The MD of Wainwright also had a relatively large percentage of people who had moved from another province since 2001.

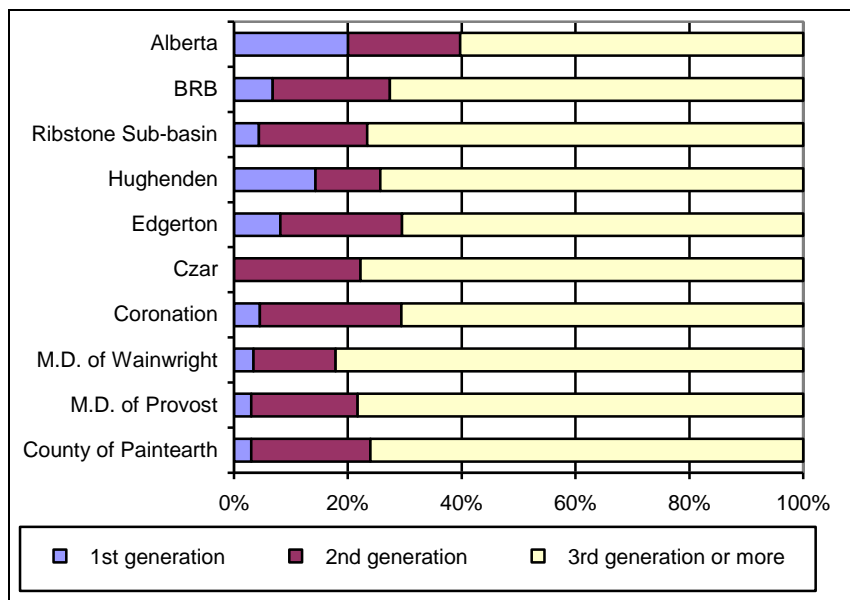
Immigration also contributed to population growth. About 3.2% of sub-basin residents consisted of immigrants and this was less than the BRB average of 5.4%. Overall, the percentage of immigrants ranged from 8.3% in Hughenden and 6.8% in Edgerton to 0% in Czar.

**Figure 6-9: Role of Immigration in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



About 76.5% of people living in the Ribstone sub-basin had lived in Canada for three or more generations, 19.0% had lived in Canada for two generations and 4.4% were first-generation Canadians. As shown in Figure 6-10, Coronation and Edgerton had the highest percentages of sub-basin residents who had lived in Canada for one or two generations. More than 80% of the residents of the MD of Wainwright had lived in Canada for three or more generations.

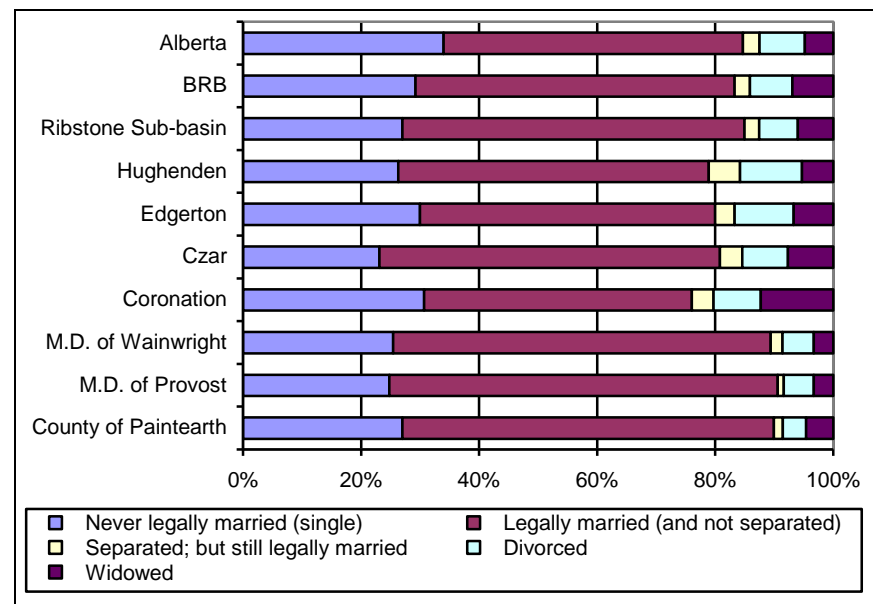
**Figure 6-10: Residency in Canada, Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 57.7% of the sub-basin population, while the balance consisted of single people (26.9%), divorced people (6.5%), widowed people (6.0%) and people who are separated (2.5%). The sub-basin profile (Figure 6-11) shows that it had higher percentages of married people than were found in the BRB. In general, the rural areas had the highest percentages of married people (ranging from 63.2% to 65.8%) compared to 45.4% of people in Coronation and 48.4% in Edgerton. These two communities had the highest percentages of single people (30.7% and 29.0%, respectively). Coronation also had relatively high percentages of widowed people (12.3%) while Edgerton and Hughenden had relatively high percentages of divorced adults.

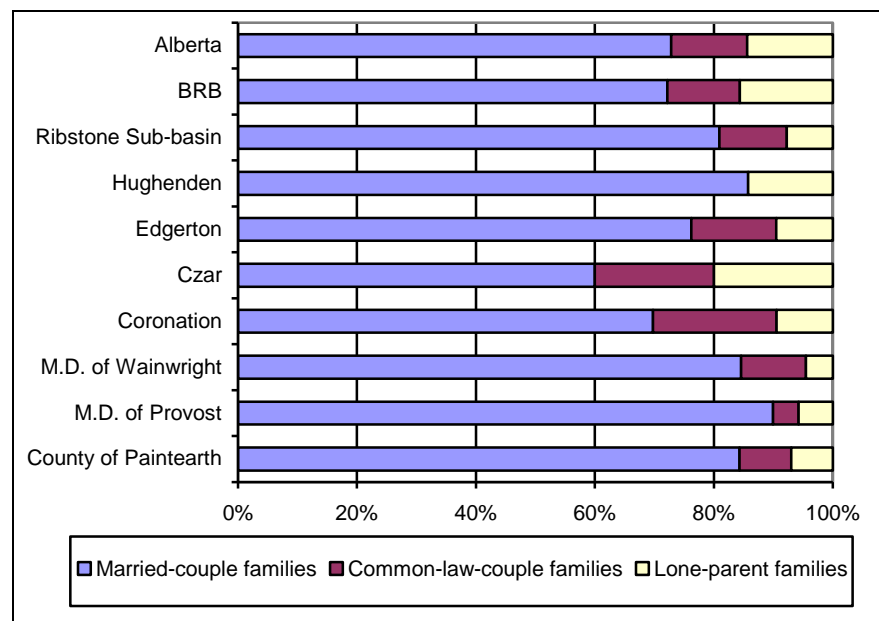
**Figure 6-11: Marital Status in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 80.7% of the 1,220 families in the Ribstone Sub-basin. Lone-parent families accounted for 7.7% of families, while common-law couples accounted for the balance (11.3%). Figure 6-12 shows that, when compared with the BRB, the Ribstone Sub-basin had a higher percentage of married couple families and fewer lone-parent families. The lowest percentage of married couple families was found in Czar (60.0%), which also had the highest percentage of lone-parent families (20.0%). Hughenden also had a relatively high percentage of lone-parent families. The highest percentage of common-law couple families was found in Coronation and Czar.

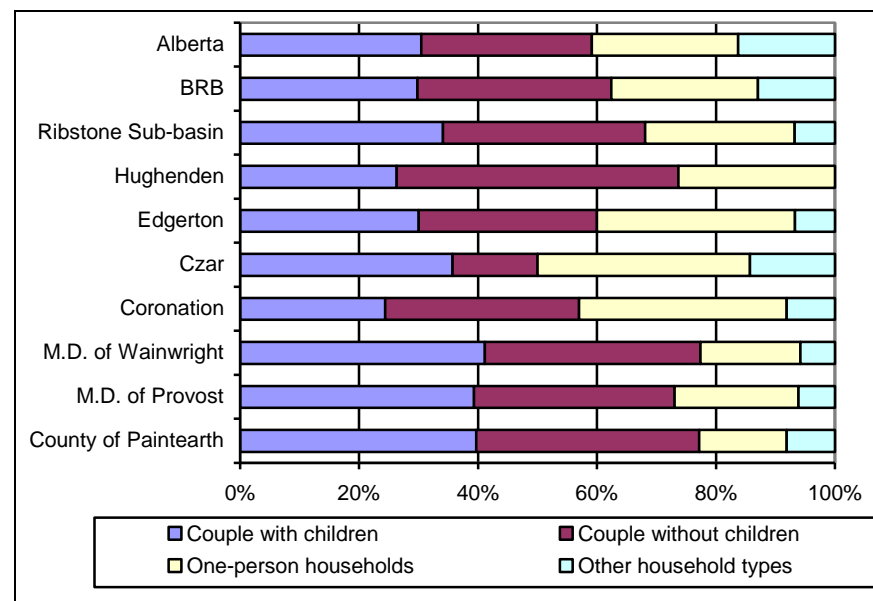
**Figure 6-12: Family Structure in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families. Figure 6-13 shows that 33.8% of households consisted of a couple with children, 33.7% were couples with no children, 24.9% were single person households, and the balance (6.7%) consisted of other household types. Overall, the Ribstone Sub-basin had higher percentages of couples with and without children than did the BRB. Within the sub-basin, the lowest percentages of families with children were found in Coronation, Hughenden and Edgerton; these communities also had the highest percentages of one-person households. Hughenden had the highest percentage of couples without children. The highest percentages of couples with children were found in the three rural areas.

**Figure 6-13: Household Structure in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 6.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 1,660 housing units in the Ribstone Sub-basin. Figure 6-14 shows the composition of housing in each of the communities within the sub-basin. Overall, single detached houses accounted for 84.8% of housing in the sub-basin, but represented 90.8% of housing in Coronation. The balance of the housing consisted of row houses (3.1%), apartments of less than five stories (2.6%) and other dwelling types (9.3%). Other dwelling types accounted for more than 20% of housing in both Czar and Edgerton. Apartment-type housing was found primarily in Coronation and Edgerton, while row houses were most common in Hughenden and the MD of Wainwright.

**Figure 6-14: Housing Characteristics in the Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

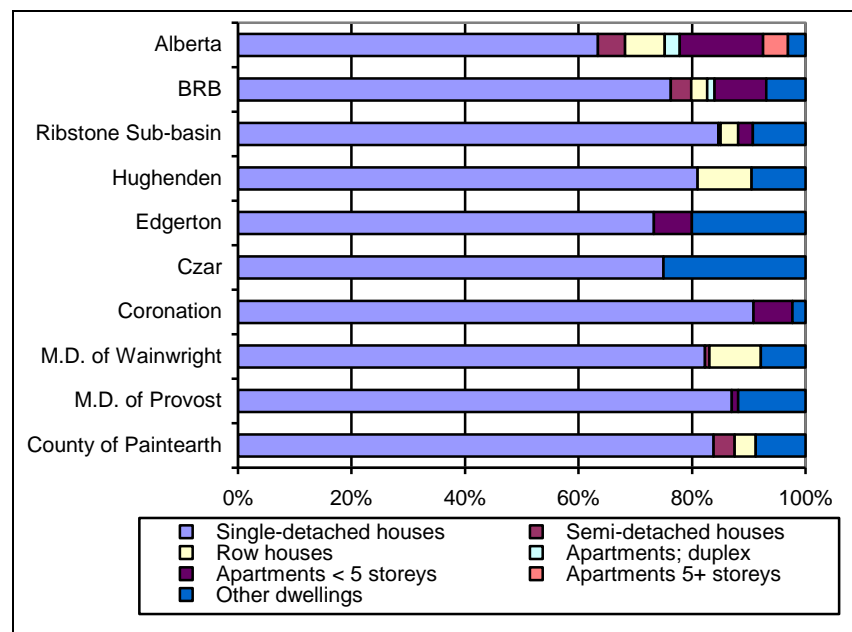


Figure 6-15 shows the reported value of housing in each of the communities within the Ribstone Sub-basin as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the Ribstone Sub-basin in 2005 was \$129,616, which was 29% less than the BRB average (\$182,073). The communities with the highest valued dwellings included the MD of Wainwright (\$185,418). The lowest values were reported in Hughenden (\$59,643) and Coronation (\$75,828).

Overall, 10.4% of dwellings in the Ribstone Sub-basin were in need of major repair and this was nearly the same as the BRB average of 10.3%. Housing stock in Hughenden was in the poorest condition, with 25.0% being in need of major repair. Relatively high percentages of housing in need of major repair were also reported in Czar (13.3%) and Coronation (12.6%).

**Figure 6-15: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs, Ribstone Sub-Basin**

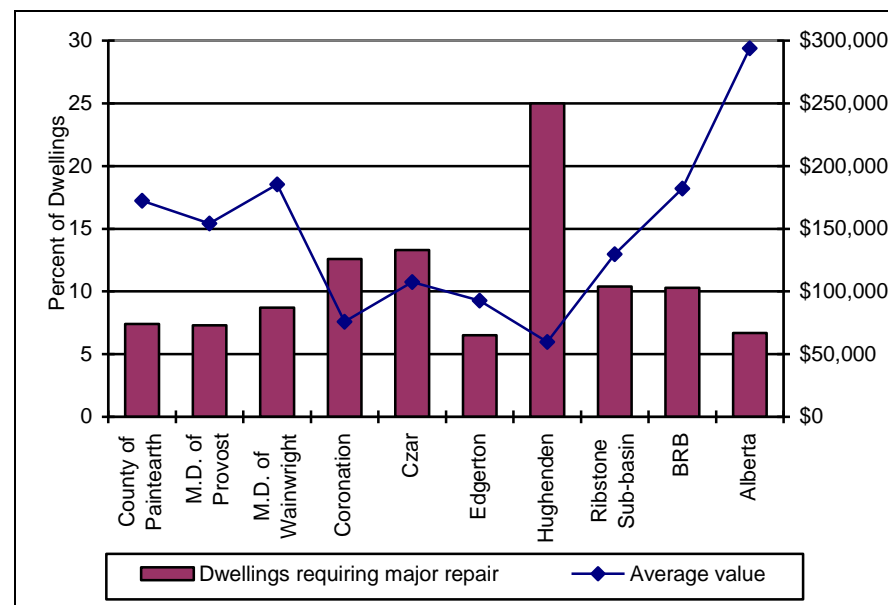
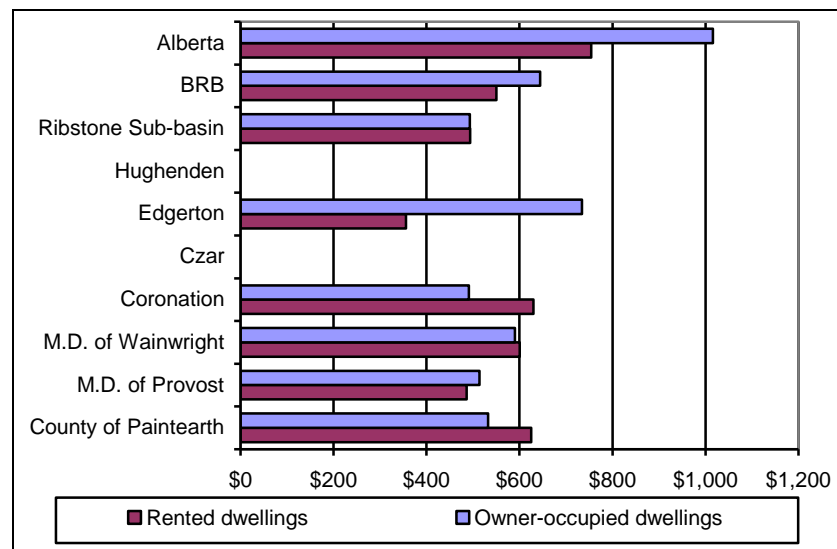


Figure 6-16 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in communities in the Ribstone Sub-basin in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage, electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. Overall, rental costs averaged \$494 per month (compared to \$550 in the BRB) while the average cost for owned dwellings was \$493 per month (compared to \$644 for the BRB). The highest monthly housing costs for rental housing were reported in Coronation and the County of Paintearth, while the lowest monthly costs were reported in Edgerton. Edgerton had the highest monthly costs for own-occupied dwellings. No data on monthly housing costs were available for Czar or Hughenden.



**Figure 6-16: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**

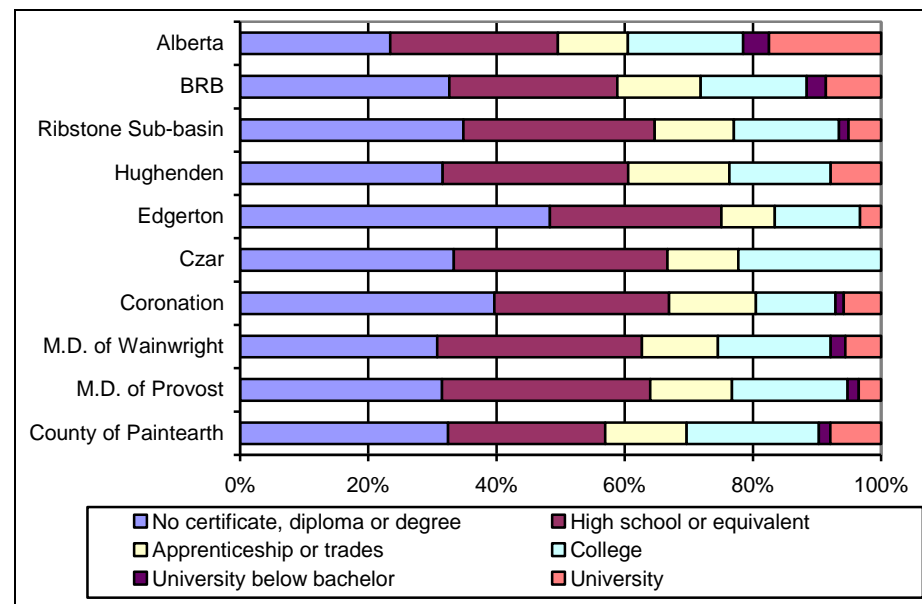


## 6.10 Education

Residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin were slightly less educated than the BRB average. Figure 6-17 shows that 34.9% of sub-basin residents had not completed high school and this percentage was slightly higher than for the BRB (32.6%). Edgerton had the lowest level of educational attainment, with 48.3% of adults having not completed high school.

About 12.4% of adult residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin had completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate, and this was slightly below the BRB average of 13.0%. Communities with relatively high percentages of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificate included Hughenden (16.2%) and Coronation (13.5%). Only 5.1% of sub-basin residents had completed their university education; this was less than the BRB average of 8.6%. The communities with the highest percentages of people with university educations included Hughenden (8.1%) and the County of Paintearth (7.9%).

**Figure 6-17: Educational Attainment, Ribstone Sub-Basin**

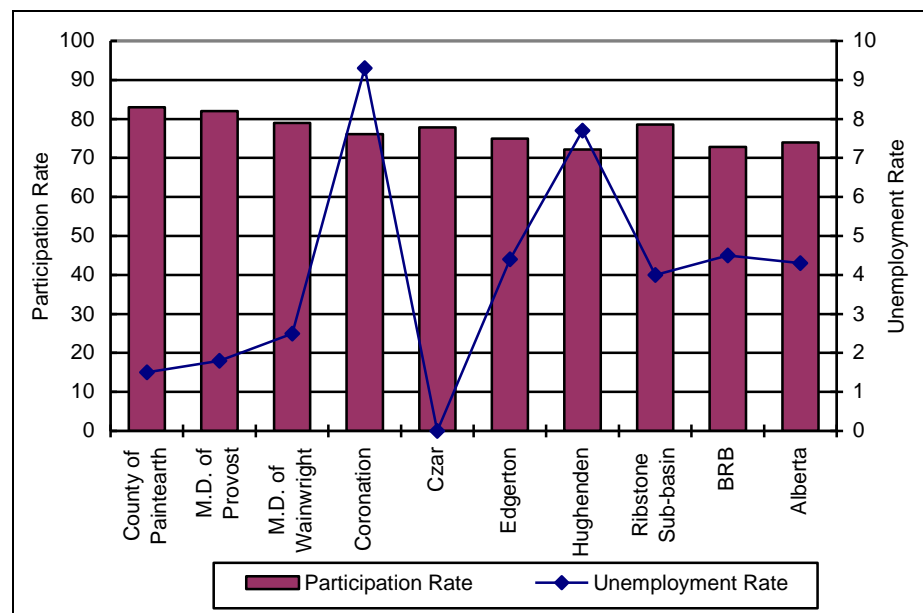


## 6.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 78.6% of the adult population in the Ribstone Sub-basin was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. This rate was considerably higher than for the BRB (71.1%). Figure 6-18 shows that labour force participation rates ranged from a high of 83.0% in the County of Paintearth and 82.0% in the MD of Provost to 72.2% in Hughenden.

In 2006, the Iron Sub-basin had an unemployment rate of 4.0%, which was slightly less than the BRB average (4.1%). Unemployment rates were less than 4.0% in the three rural areas but increased to 9.3% in Coronation and 7.7% in Hughenden. Czar reported no unemployment.

**Figure 6-18: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



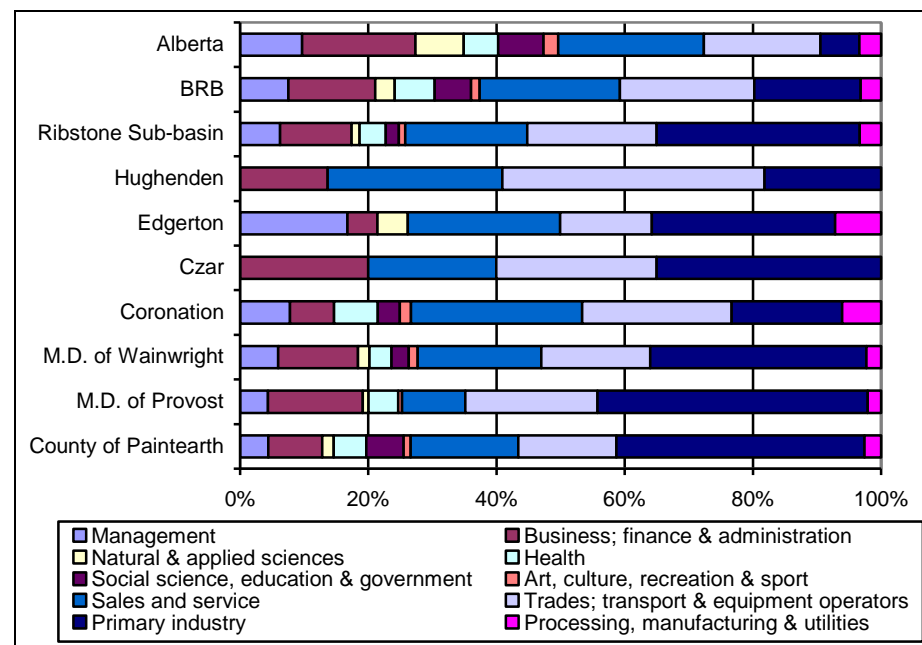
## 6.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 6-19 shows employment by occupation for the Ribstone Sub-basin. The sub-basin profile is different from the BRB profile, with the 31.1% of sub-basin residents being employed in occupations related to primary industry; this was nearly double the BRB average (16.5%). Compared to the BRB, the Ribstone-Sub-basin had lower percentages of people employed in all other occupations, except processing, manufacturing and utilities.

Within the sub-basin, high employment in primary industry occupations was reported in the rural areas, especially the MD of Provost, but high percentages were also reported in Czar and Edgerton. Employment in occupations related to the trades, transportation and equipment operation accounted for 19.8% of employment in the sub-basin, but was higher in Hughenden (36.0%) and Czar (23.8%). Employment in sales and service

occupations accounted for another 18.7% of sub-basin employment, and was particularly important in Coronation (26.5%) and Hughenden (24.0%).

**Figure 6-19: Employment by Occupation, Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



The sub-basin had relatively small percentages of people employed in occupations related to health (4.0%) and social sciences, education and government (2.0%).

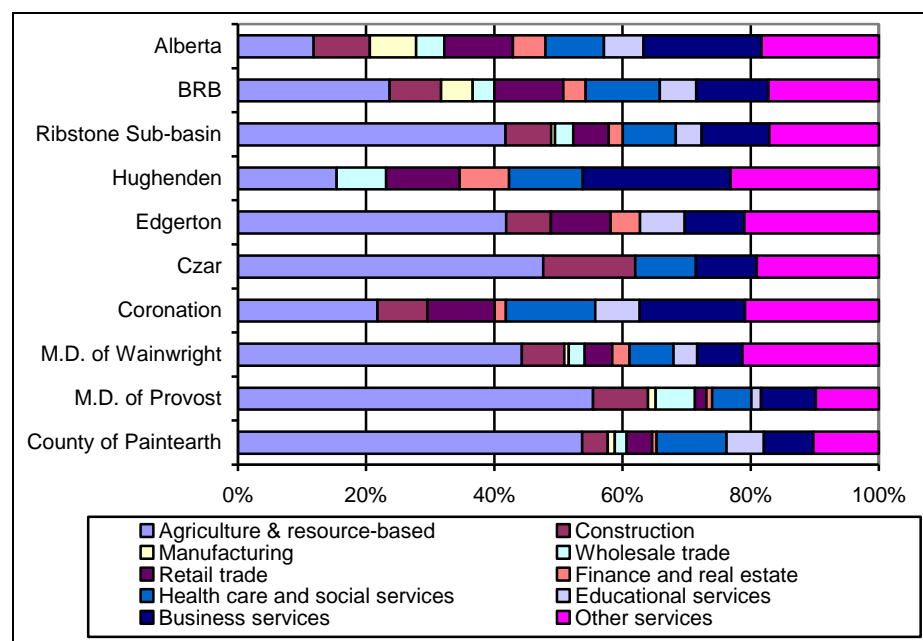
## 6.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 6-20 shows employment in the Ribstone Sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 49.2% of the workforce was working in basic (goods-producing) industries, which include agriculture and other resource-based industries, manufacturing and construction. This was much higher than the BRB, where 36.5% of the workforce was employed in basic industries. Employment in the agriculture and resource-based industries accounted for 41.5% of the employment workforce, although this

percentage reached 55.2% in the MD of Provost and 53.6% in the County of Paintearth, and was also relatively high in Czar and Edgerton.

Non-basic industries accounted for the other 50.2% of employment in the Ribstone Sub-basin. The non-basic industries that provided the greatest amounts of employment included other services (17.0%), business services (10.5%) and health care and social services (8.2%). The retail trade industry accounted for 5.5% of employment in the sub-basin.

**Figure 6-20: Employment by Industry, Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**



Within the sub-basin, Coronation had the highest percentages of people employed in health care and social services industries (13.7%) and also had relatively high employment in retail trade (10.3%) and business services (16.5%). Retail trade was also important in Edgerton (11.3% of employment) while Hughenden had relatively percentages of people employed in the health care and social services industries (11.5%) and

business services (23.1%). The percentage of people employed in other industries was similar throughout the sub-basin, but was lower in the County of Paintearth and the County of Provost.

## 6.14 Location of Employment

Figure 6-21 shows where residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin actually worked. Overall, 25.6% worked at home and 18.0% worked at a usual place in their home municipality. Another 33.7% worked in their home county outside their local community, while 3.2% worked in another part of Alberta and 0.4% worked outside Alberta. The balance (18.4%) had no fixed workplace. Compared to the BRB, residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin were more likely to work at home or in their home county, but less likely to work in their home municipality. This pattern is characteristic of a more rural population where people work on the farm or commute to a nearby community to work.

**Figure 6-21: Location of Work, Ribstone Sub-Basin, 2006**

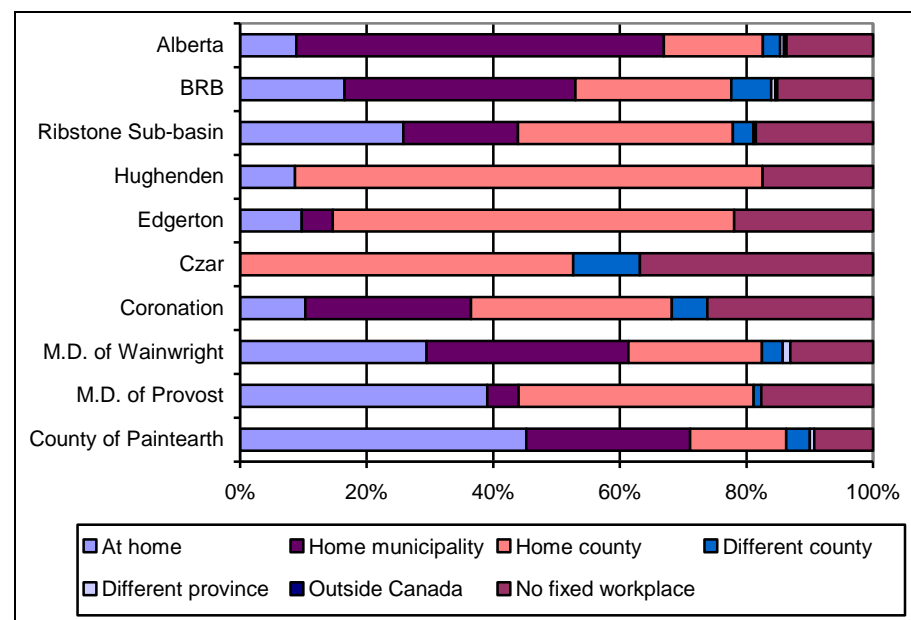
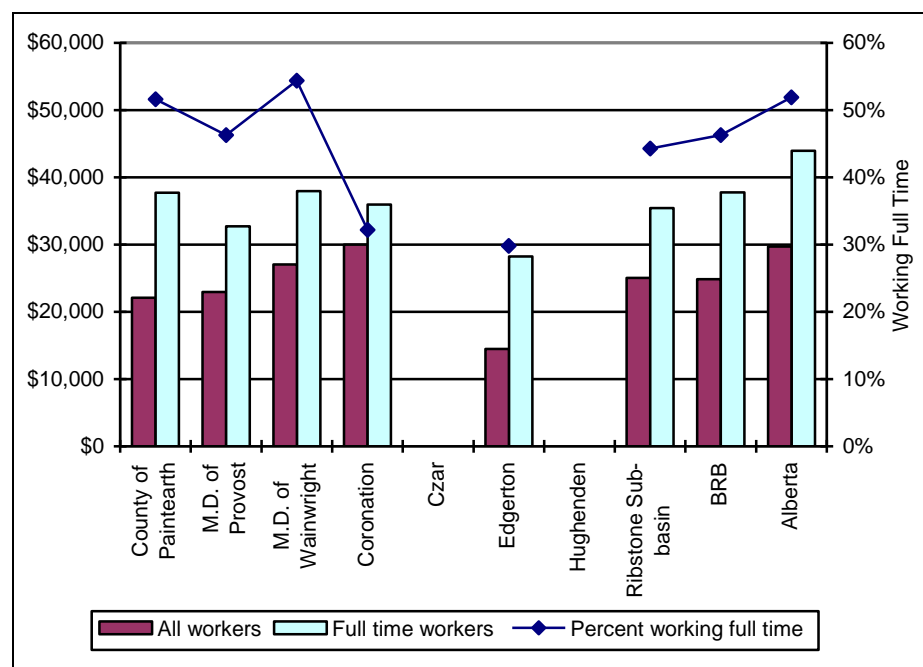


Figure 6-21 shows that residents of the three rural areas were most likely to work at home. Residents of Coronation and the MD of Wainwright were most likely to work in their home municipality while high percentages of people in Hughenden, Czar and Edgerton commuted to work at locations in their home county but outside their home municipality. Residents of Czar and Coronation were most likely to have no fixed place of work.

### 6.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$25,069 in 2005; this was slightly above the BRB average of \$24,856. The highest median earnings were reported in Coronation (\$30,003) but workers in Edgerton reported median earnings of only \$14,489. Information on earnings was not reported for residents of Czar and Hughenden.

**Figure 6-22: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, 2006**

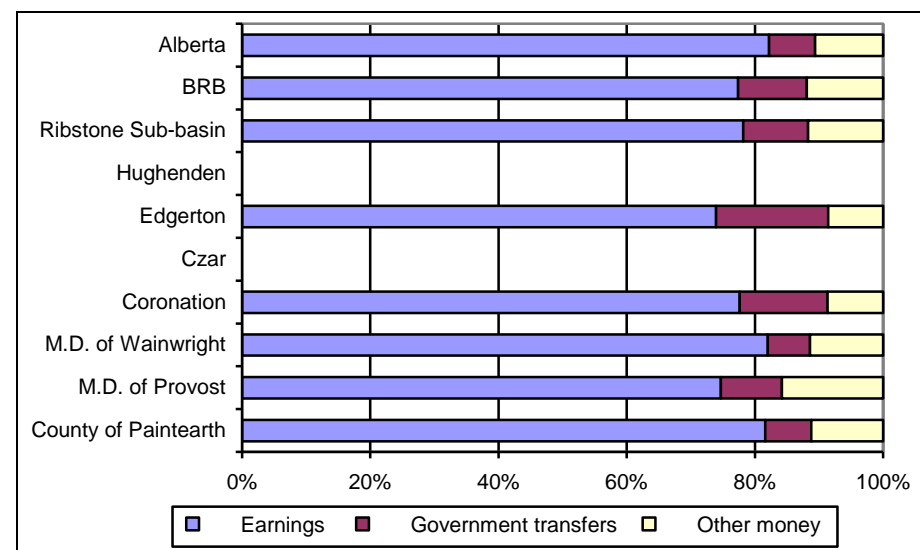


Within the sub-basin 44.3% of workers reported being employed full-time, year round; this compares to 49.1% of workers in the BRB. Within the Ribstone Sub-basin the percentage of workers with full-time employment ranged from 54.4% in the MD of Wainwright to only 29.8% in Edgerton and 32.2% in Coronation. People who did work full-time, year round reported median earnings of \$34,437, which was below the BRB average (\$37,557). The highest median incomes from full-time employment were reported in the MD of Wainwright (\$37,966) and the County of Paintearth (\$37,708). Workers in Edgerton reported median earnings of \$28,250 from full time employment.

### 6.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 78.2% of income for residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin; this was higher than for the BRB (81.4%). The remaining income came from government transfers (10.1%) and other sources (11.7%). Figure 6-23 shows the reliance on transfer payments and other income for individual communities within the sub-basin.

**Figure 6-23: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**

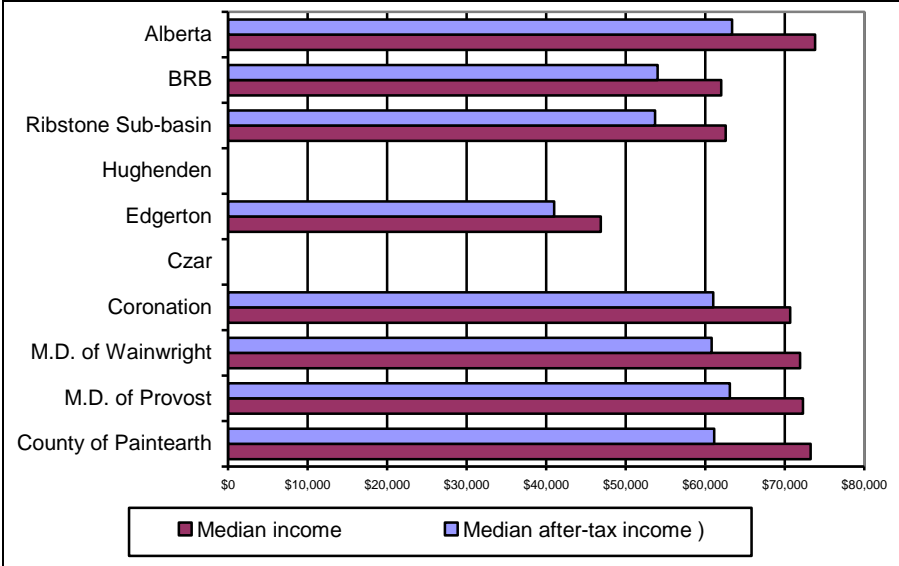


It shows that earnings accounted for more than 80% of income in the MD of Wainwright and the County of Paintearth. The MD of Provost and Edgerton reported the lowest percentage of their incomes from earnings. However, government transfers accounted for 17.6% of incomes reported by residents of the Edgerton and 13.7% of incomes for people living in Coronation.

### 6.17 Family and Individual Income

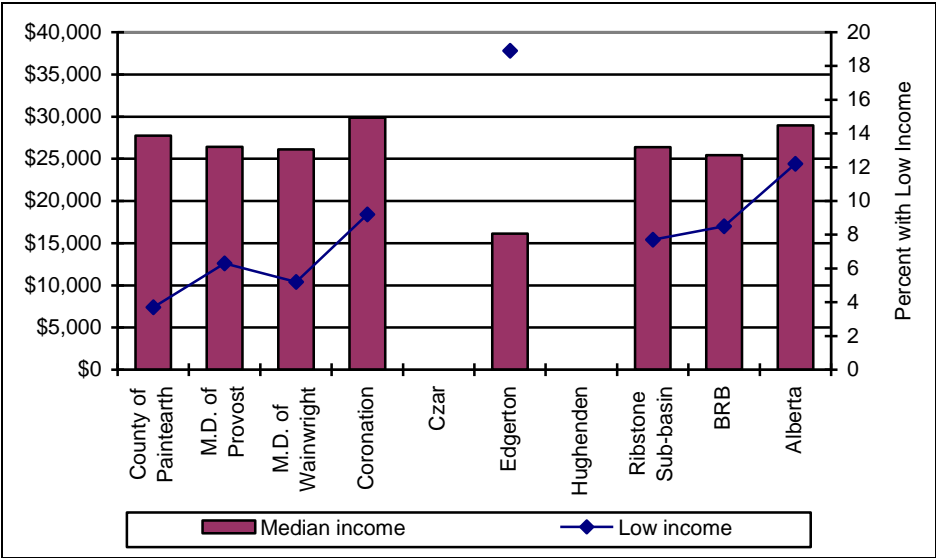
In 2005 families in the Ribstone Sub-basin reported median incomes averaging \$62,590 (or \$53,704 after tax); these incomes are nearly the same as the BRB average of \$62,021 (or \$54,025 after tax). Variations in median family incomes within the sub-basin are shown in Figure 6-24. The highest median family incomes were reported in the three rural areas, although median family incomes in Coronation also exceeded \$70,000. The families in Edgerton reported the lowest median income (\$46,877). No income data were available for Czar or Hughenden.

Figure 6-24: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005



Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households in the Ribstone Sub-basin averaged \$26,378; this was slightly higher than the BRB average (\$25,443). Overall, 7.7% of residents of the Ribstone Sub-basin were considered to have low incomes (before tax), and this was less than the BRB average (8.5%). Figure 6-25 summarizes median incomes and the incidence of low incomes for communities in the sub-basin. Median personal incomes were highest in Coronation (\$29,830) but were only \$16,124 in Edgerton. The incidence of people with low incomes ranged from 3.7% in the County of Paintearth to 18.9% in Edgerton.

Figure 6-25: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005

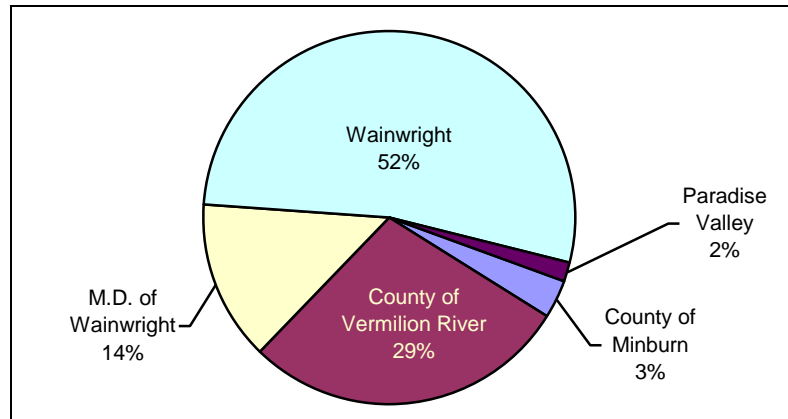


## 7.0 BLACKFOOT SUB-BASIN

### 7.1 Population

In 2006, the Blackfoot Sub-basin had a population of about 10,315 people which represents 8.4% of the population of the entire BRB. Figure 7-1 shows that the majority of the population (52.6%) lived in the Town of Wainwright. About 45.6% lived in rural areas (counties), primarily the County of Vermilion River (28.5%), the Municipal District of Wainwright (13.8%) and Minburn County (3.3%). The balance of the population (1.8%) lived in the Village of Paradise Valley.

**Figure 7-1: Population Distribution in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 7.2 Age Characteristics

In terms of age, residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin were similar to the overall population of the BRB. Figure 7-2 shows that, the Blackfoot Sub-basin had slightly higher percentages of young adults aged 15 to 19 years and higher percentages of people aged 30 to 49 years of age. The sub-basin age profile showed that, compared to the BRB, there were relatively fewer people over the age of 50.

**Figure 7-2: Age Composition of the Blackfoot Sub-Basin Population, 2006**

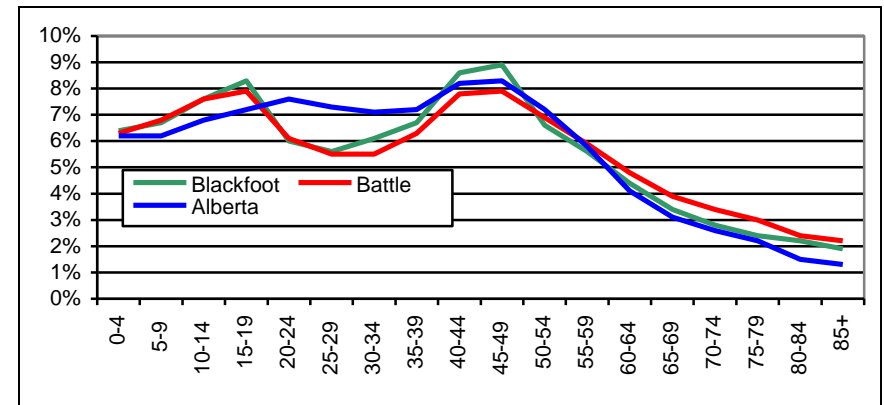
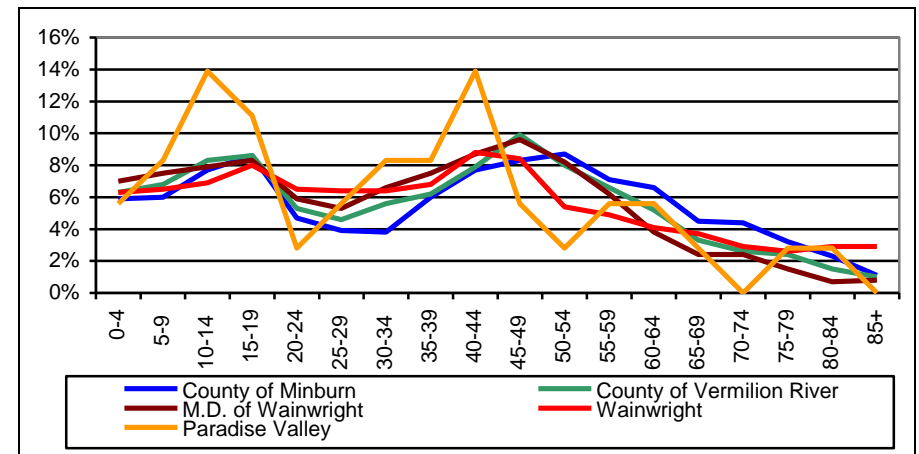


Figure 7-3 shows the age distributions for five communities in the Blackfoot Sub-basin. It shows that, with the exception of Paradise Valley, the age profile for the various communities was similar to the sub-basin profile.

**Figure 7-3: Age Composition of Urban Communities in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

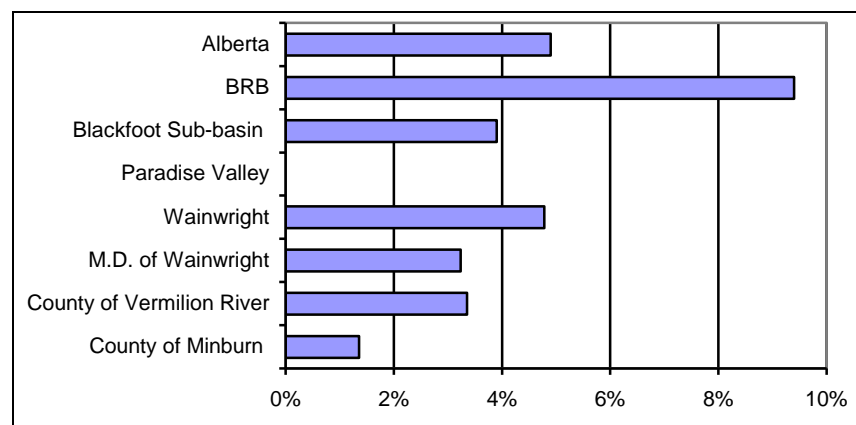


It shows that Wainwright had a relatively young population, with higher percentages of people aged 20 to 39 years, although Wainwright also had the highest percentage of people aged 80 years and older. The County of Minburn had a much older population, with relatively few people aged 20 to 39 years and higher percentages of people over the age of 49 years. Paradise Valley also had a young population with the highest percentages of people under the age of 19 years, with very few young adults (aged 20 to 24 years) and relatively few people over the age of 44 years.

### 7.3 Aboriginal Population

About 3.9% of the residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin were Aboriginal and this was slightly lower than the BRB average (9.4%). There were about 400 Aboriginal people living in the sub-basin. Figure 7-4 shows that Wainwright had the highest percentage of Aboriginal people (4.8%), compared to 3.4% in the County of Vermilion River and 3.2% in the MD of Wainwright. There were no Aboriginal people living in Paradise Valley.

**Figure 7-4: Aboriginal Population in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

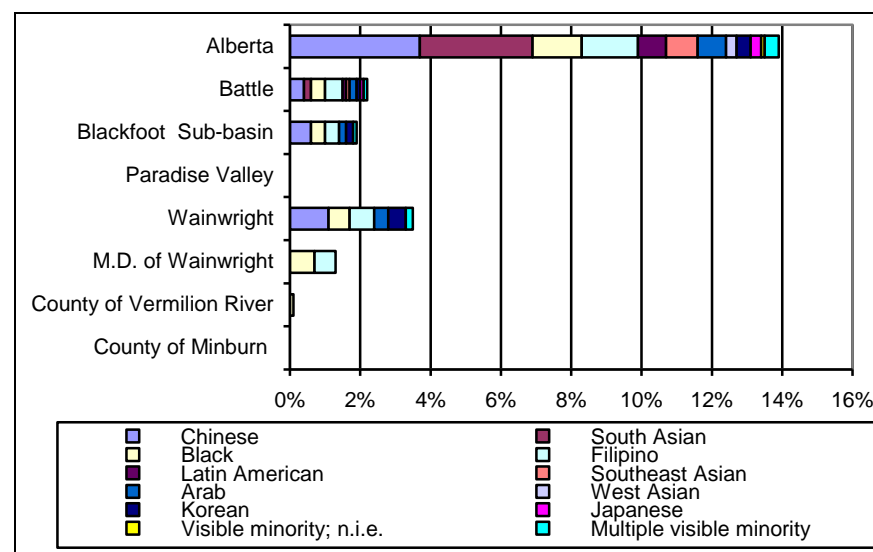


### 7.4 Ethnicity

About 2.0% of the population of the Blackfoot sub-basin consisted of visible minorities. This was slightly lower than the BRB average of 2.2%. Figure 7-5

shows that the highest percentages of visible minorities were found in Wainwright (3.3%) and no visible minorities were reported in Paradise valley or the County of Minburn. Visible minorities in the sub-basins were primarily Chinese.

**Figure 7-5: Visible Minorities in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 7.5 Population Change

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of the Blackfoot Sub-basin increased by about 40 people which represents an increase of 0.4%. This growth rate was lower than the population growth rate for the BRB (4.3%). Population growth in Wainwright, which had a growth rate of 6.0%, accounted for most of the population in the sub-basin. Figure 7-6 shows that although the population of Paradise Valley increased by 20.4%, the population of all the rural communities in the sub-basin decreased. The largest decrease occurred in the MD of Wainwright, which experienced a 15.9% population decrease between 2001 and 2006. Smaller population declines were reported for the County of Minburn (-3.4%) and the County of Vermilion River (-0.8%).

**Figure 7-6: Population Change in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**

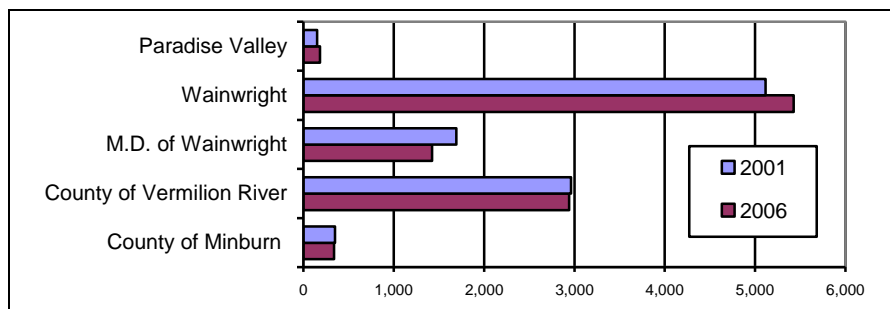
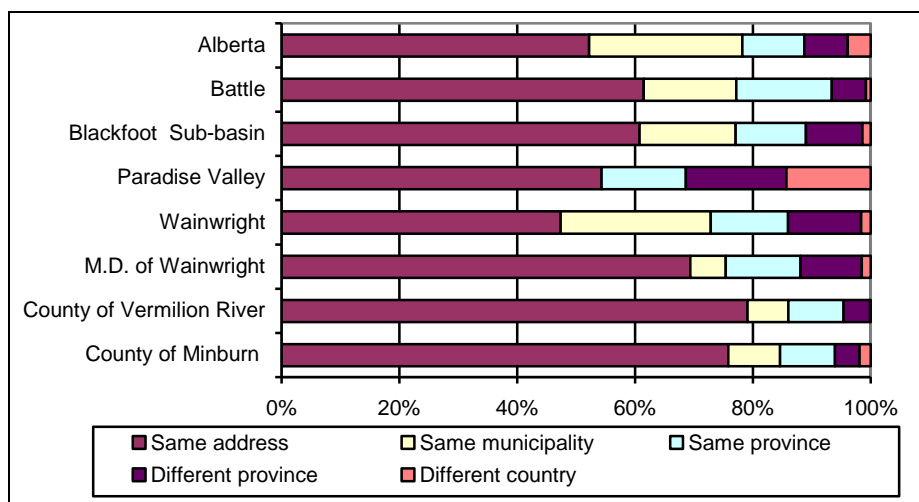


Figure 7-7 shows population mobility in the Blackfoot Sub-basin between 2001 and 2006. It shows that 60.7% of sub-basin residents resided at the same address for the 5-year period; this was slightly less than the BRB average (61.4%). Another 16.3% lived in the same census subdivision but changed addresses. A small percentage of sub-basin residents (1.4%) moved in from another country, 9.6% moved from another province, and 11.9% moved from a different municipality in Alberta.

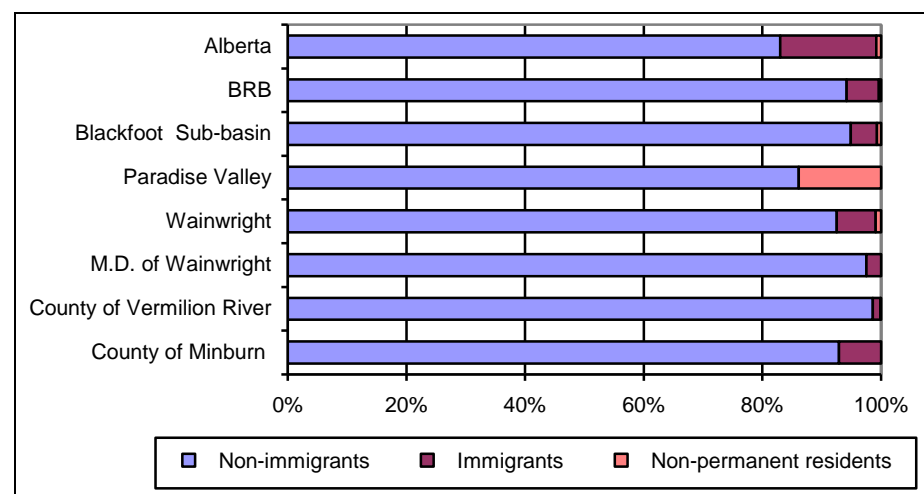
**Figure 7-7: Population Mobility in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2001-2006**



While more than 75.9% of residents of the County of Minburn and the County of Vermilion River were the most likely to have lived at the same address for the period from 2001 to 2006, only 47.3% of Wainwright residents had lived at the same address during this period. However, 25.4% of Wainwright residents had changed addresses within the community within the previous five years. Residents of Paradise Valley were the most mobile, with 31.4% having moved into the community from a different country or province since 2001.

Immigration also contributed to population growth. About 4.4% of sub-basin residents consisted of immigrants and this was slightly lower than the BRB average of 5.4%. Wainwright and the County of Minburn had the highest percentages of immigrants, 6.6% and 7.1% respectively. There were no immigrants in Paradise Valley, but this community had a relatively high percentage of non-permanent residents (13.9%).

**Figure 7-8: Role of Immigration in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

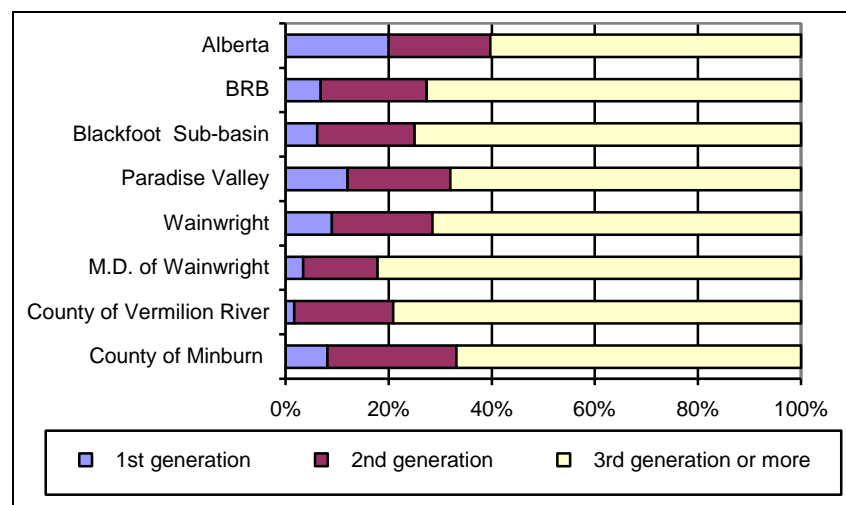


About 74.9% of people living in the Blackfoot sub-basin had lived in Canada for three or more generations, 18.9% had lived in Canada for two generations and 6.1% were first-generation Canadians. As shown in Figure



7-9, Paradise Valley had the highest percentages of first generation Canadians (12.0%). First-generation Canadians accounted for 9.0% of the population in Wainwright but only 1.7% of the population in the County of Vermilion River. The communities with the highest percentages of people who had lived in Canada for three or more generations include the MD of Wainwright (82.0%) and the County of Vermilion River (79.1%).

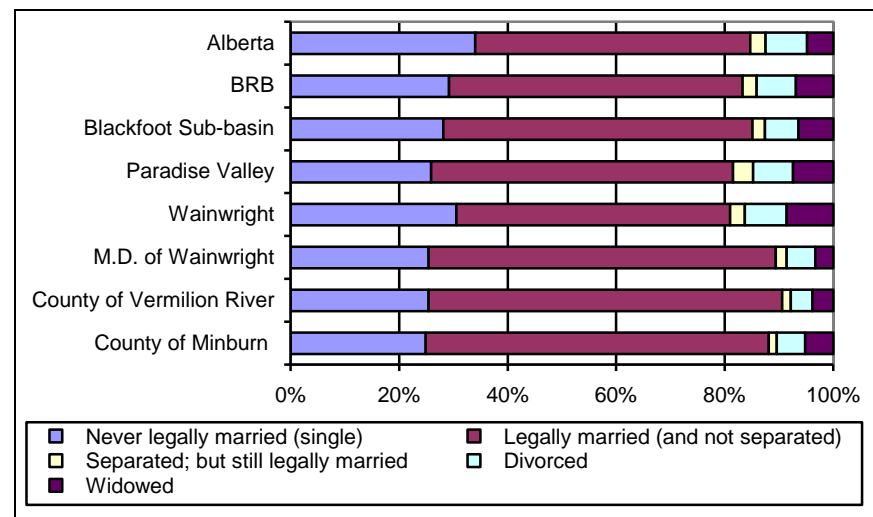
**Figure 7-9: Residency in Canada, Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 7.6 Marital Status

Married people accounted for 56.9% of the sub-basin population, while the balance consisted of single people (28.1%), divorced people (6.2%), widowed people (6.4%) and people who are separated (2.3%). The sub-basin profile (Figure 7-10) was very similar to the BRB profile, although the sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of married people. The three rural areas had higher percentages of married people (at least 63.1%) than in Wainwright (50.4%) or Paradise Valley (55.6%). The highest percentage of single people was found in Wainwright (30.5%). Wainwright and Paradise Valley also had higher percentages of widowed residents.

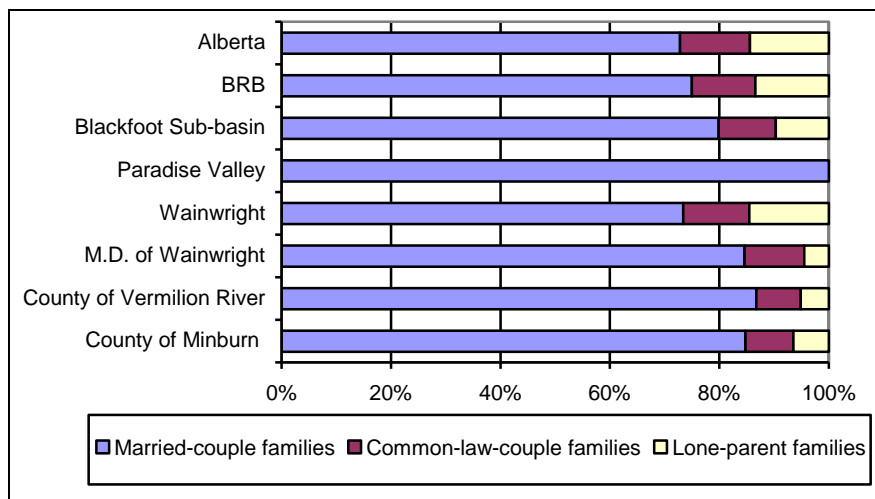
**Figure 7-10: Marital Status in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 7.7 Family Structure

Married couple families accounted for 79.8% of the 2,845 families in the Blackfoot Sub-basin. Lone-parent families accounted for 9.7% of families, while common-law couples accounted for the balance (10.4%). Figure 7-11 shows that, when compared with the BRB, the sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of married couple families and a smaller percentage of lone-parent families. The lowest percentage of married couple families was found in Wainwright (73.4%) while all families in Paradise Valley consisted of married couple families. Wainwright also had the highest percentages of lone-parent families (14.5%).

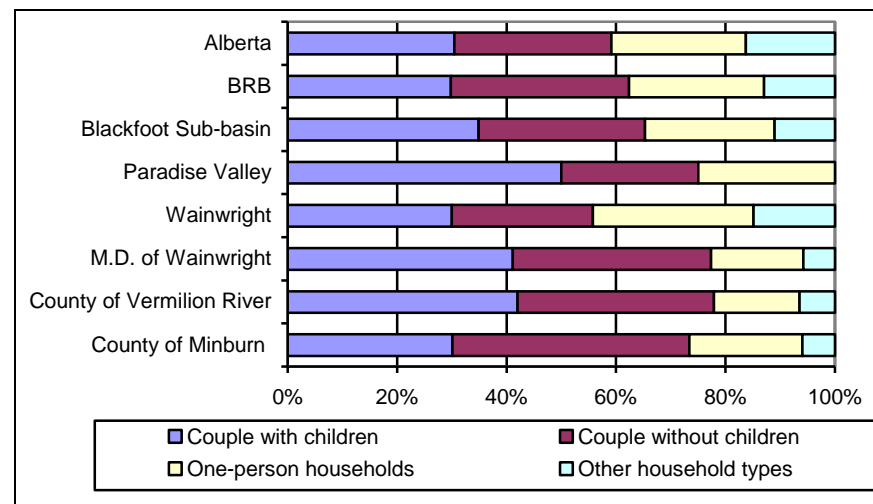
**Figure 7-11: Family Structure in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 7.8 Household Structure

Household structure differs from family structure because households can contain one or more families. Figure 7-12 shows that 34.9% of households consisted of a couple with children, 30.4% were couples with no children, 23.7% were single person households, and the balance (11.0%) consisted of other household types. Overall, the Blackfoot Sub-basin had a slightly higher percentage of couples with children than did the BRB (29.7%) and smaller percentages of other household types. Within the sub-basin, the lowest percentage of couples with children was found in Wainwright (30.0%) which also had the highest percentage of single-person households (29.3%). The rural communities had the highest percentages of couples without children: 43.5% in the County of Minburn and 36.4% in the MD of Wainwright.

**Figure 7-12: Household Structure in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



## 7.9 Housing

In 2006 there were about 3,855 housing units in the Blackfoot Sub-basin. Figure 7-13 shows the composition of housing in each of the communities within the sub-basin. Overall, single detached houses accounted for 82.6% or more of the housing in the rural parts of the sub-basin. In Wainwright and Paradise Valley, single detached houses accounted for 69.3% of dwellings. In Paradise Valley, the other 30.8% of housing consisted of "other" housing types. In Wainwright, 11.6% of housing consisted of apartments of less than five stories as well as small percentages of row housing and semi-detached houses. About 9.1% of housing in the MD of Wainwright consisted of row houses.

**Figure 7-13: Housing Characteristics in the Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

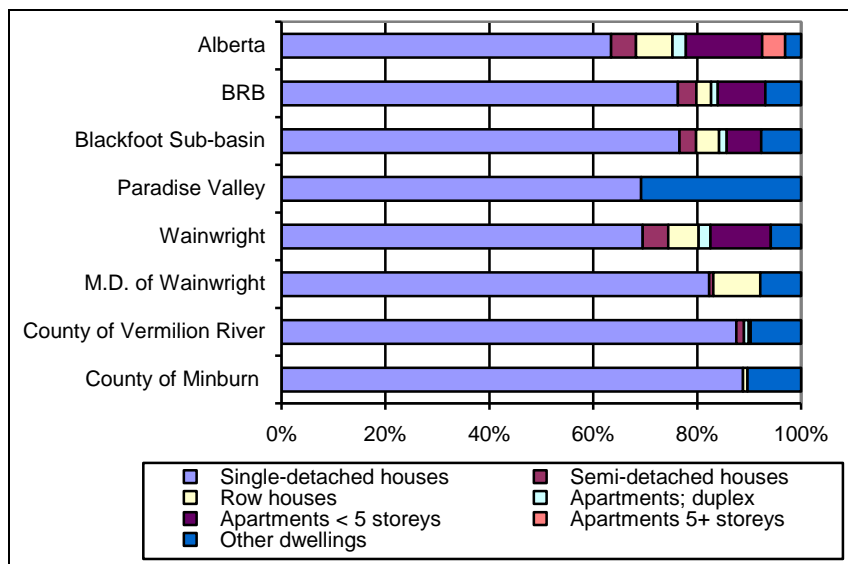


Figure 7-14 shows the reported value of housing in each of the communities within the Blackfoot Sub-basin as well as the percentage of housing stock in need of major repair. Overall, the average value of a house in the Blackfoot Sub-basin in 2005 was \$198,319, which was 9.0% higher than the BRB average (\$182,073). The County of Vermilion River had the highest valued dwellings (\$249,650) while the average value of housing in Wainwright was \$181,679. The average value of housing in Paradise Valley was only \$94,284.

Overall, 9.2% of dwellings in the Blackfoot Sub-basin were in need of major repair and this was slightly lower than the BRB average of 10.3%. Housing stock in Paradise Valley was in the poorest condition, with 15.4% being in need of major repair.

**Figure 7-14: Value of Housing (2005) and Need for Major Repairs, Blackfoot Sub-Basin**

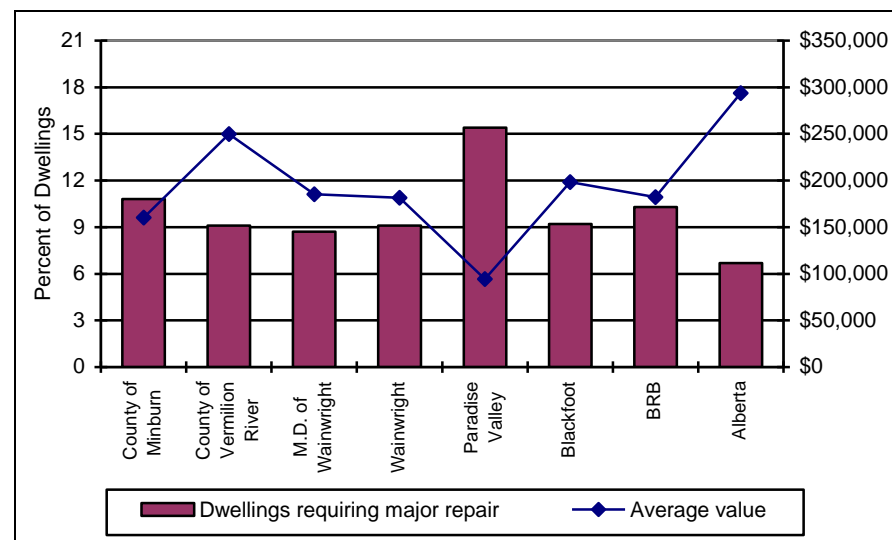
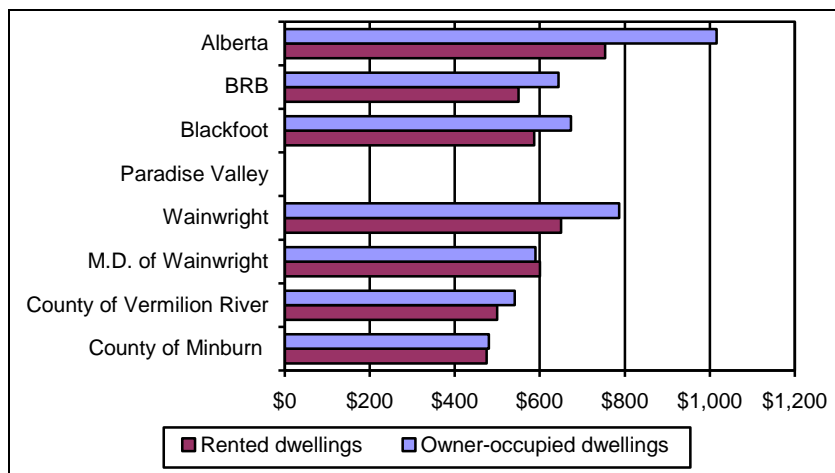


Figure 7-15 summarizes the average monthly costs of renting and owning dwellings in communities in the Blackfoot Sub-basin in 2005. These costs include rent/mortgage, electricity, heat and municipal services to operate a dwelling. Overall, rental costs averaged \$587 per month (compared to \$550 in the BRB) while the average cost for owned dwellings was \$673 per month (compared to \$644 for the BRB). The highest monthly housing costs were reported for Wainwright, where costs were about 11% to 17% higher than the sub-basin average. The lowest housing costs were found in the County of Minburn. There was no information on monthly housing costs in Paradise Valley.

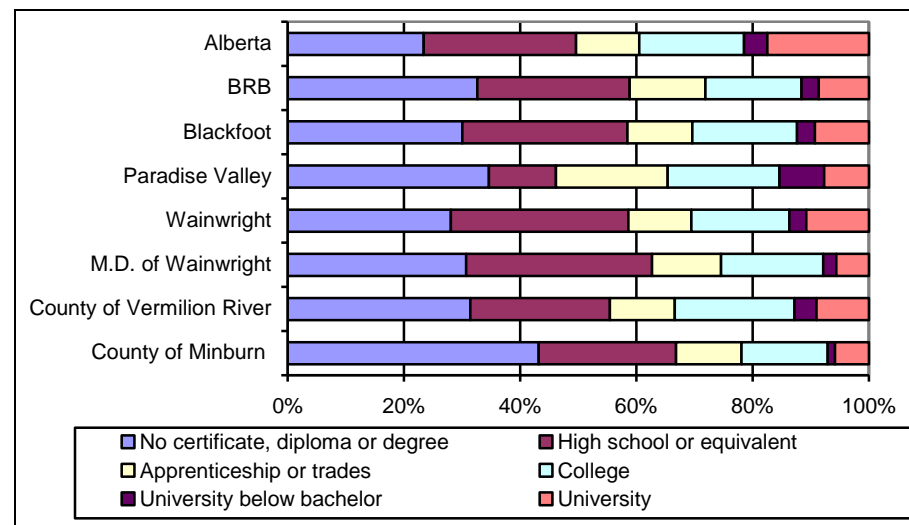
**Figure 7-15: Average Monthly Costs for Rental and Owned Dwellings, 2005**



### 7.10 Education

Residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin were slightly better educated than the BRB average. Figure 7-16 shows that 30.1% of sub-basin residents had not completed high school and this percentage was just below the BRB average (32.6%). The County of Minburn had the lowest levels of educational attainment, with 43.2% of the adult population not having completed high school. Wainwright had the lowest percentage of people who had not completed high school (28.1%) and the highest percentage of people who had graduated from university (10.8%). Paradise Valley had relatively low educational attainment, with 36.0% of residents not having completed high school, but 20.0% had completed an apprenticeship or held a trade certificate, and this was higher than the sub-basin average (11.2%).

**Figure 7-16: Educational Attainment, Blackfoot Sub-Basin**

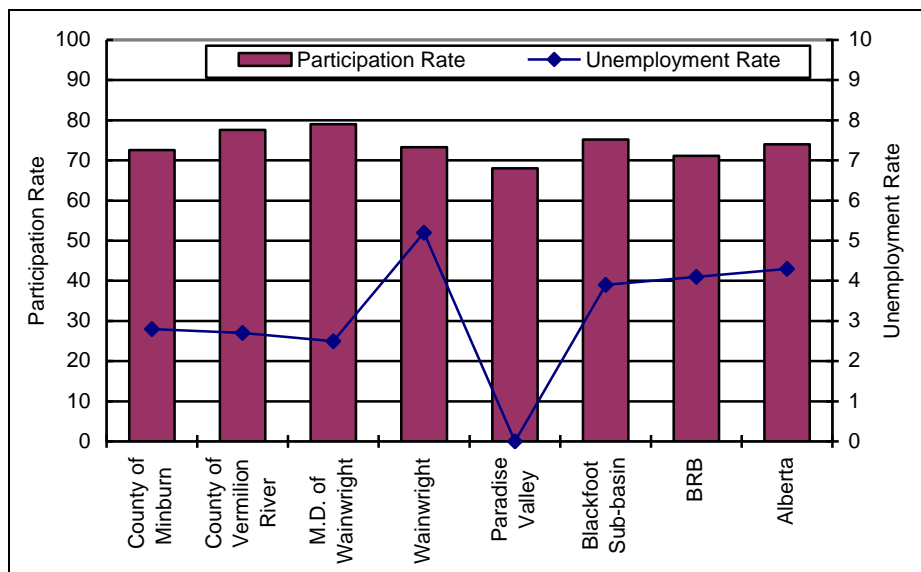


### 7.11 Labour Force Participation

Overall, 75.2% of the adult population in the Blackfoot Sub-basin was participating in the labour force, either working or actively seeking work. This rate was slightly higher than for the BRB (71.1%). Figure 7-17 shows that labour force participation rates ranged from a high of 79.8% in the MD of Wainwright to only 68.0% in Paradise Valley.

In 2006, the Blackfoot Sub-basin had an unemployment rate of 3.9%, which was slightly lower than the BRB average (4.1%). Unemployment rates were lowest in Paradise Valley (0.0%) and highest in Wainwright. In the rural areas, unemployment ranged from 2.5% in the MD of Wainwright to 2.8% in the County of Minburn.

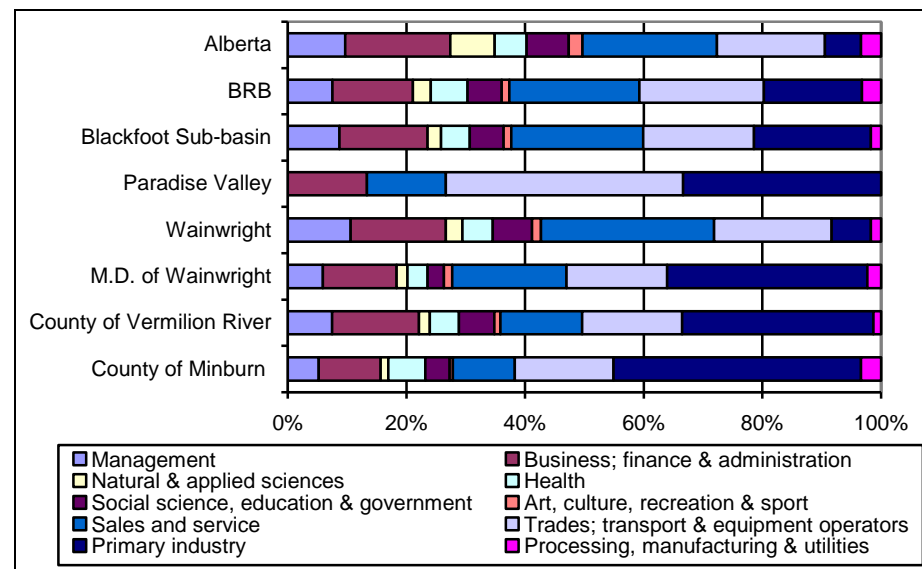
**Figure 7-17: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates, 2006**



### 7.12 Employment by Occupation

Figure 7-18 shows employment by occupation for the Blackfoot Sub-basin. Overall, the sub-basin profile is nearly identical to the BRB profile, with slightly higher percentages of people employed in occupations related to business, finance and administration and lower percentages in health occupations. Within the sub-basin, employment in sales and service occupations accounted for 22.2% of employment, primarily in Wainwright (29.1% of employment). Primary industry accounted for 19.7% of employment, and was found mainly in the rural parts of the sub-basin. Primary industry accounted for 41.5% of employment in the County of Minburn as well as 31.3% of employment in Paradise Valley. Paradise Valley also had a higher percentage of people employed in the trades and transport and equipment operations (37.5%) compared to 18.6% of employment in the sub-basin.

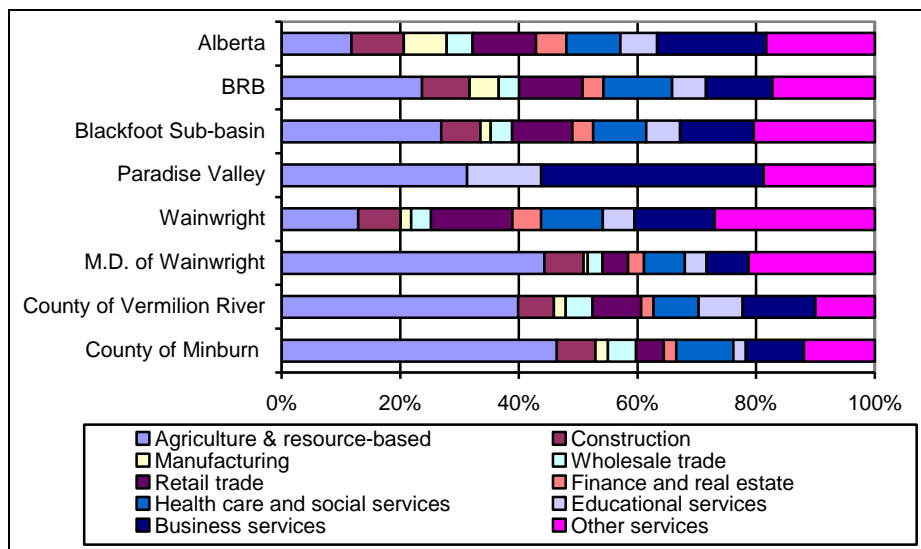
**Figure 7-18: Employment by Occupation, Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**



### 7.13 Employment by Industry

Figure 7-19 shows employment in the Blackfoot Sub-basin based on the industry of employment. Overall, 35.2% of the workforce was working in basic (goods-producing) industries, including agriculture and other resource-based industries, manufacturing and construction. This was slightly lower than the BRB, where 36.5% of the workforce was employed in basic industries. The agriculture and resource-based industries employed 26.9% of the sub-basin employment, although this percentage reached 46.3% in the County of Minburn and 44.4% in the MD of Wainwright. Employment in manufacturing accounted for 1.7% of total employment while construction employed 6.6% of the sub-basin workforce.

**Figure 7-19: Employment by Industry, Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

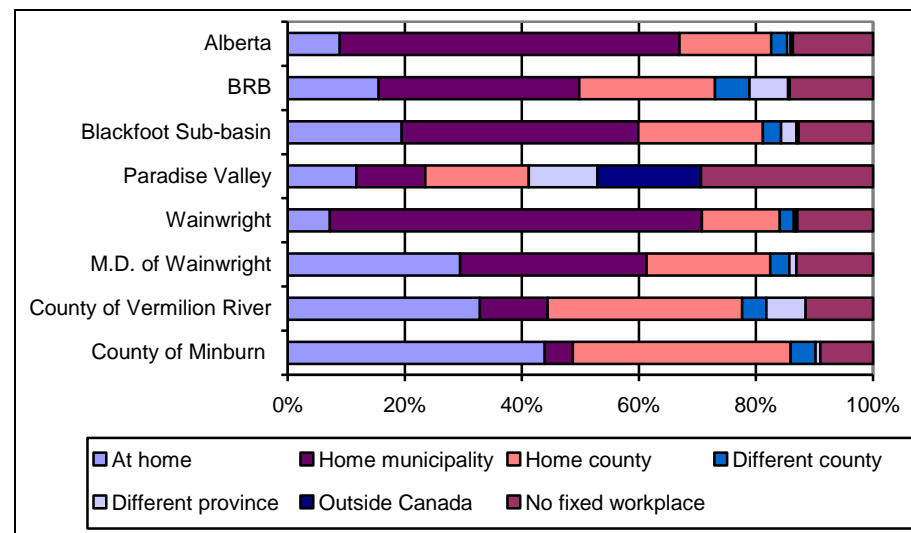


Non-basic industries accounted for 64.6% of employment in the Blackfoot Sub-basin. The non-basic industries that provided the greatest amounts of employment included other services (20.4%), business services (12.4%) and retail trade (10.2%). Within the sub-basin, the percentage of employment in other industries was similar highest in Wainwright (26.9%). Paradise Valley had the highest percentage of the workforce employed in business services (35.3%). The highest participation in retail trade was reported in Wainwright (13.7%).

#### 7.14 Location of Employment

Figure 7-20 shows where residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin actually worked. Overall, 19.5% worked at home and 40.4% worked at a usual place in their home municipality. Another 21.3% worked in their home county outside their local community, while 3.1% worked in another part of Alberta, 2.6% worked outside Alberta and 0.4% worked outside Canada. The balance (12.7%) had no fixed workplace.

**Figure 7-20: Location of Work, Blackfoot Sub-Basin, 2006**

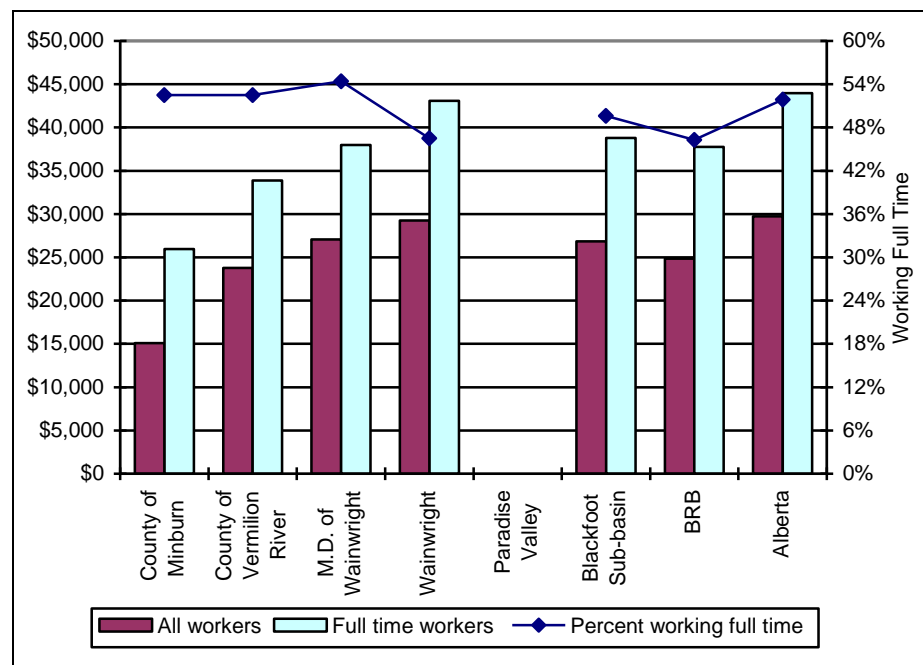


Compared to the BRB, residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin were more likely to work at home or in their home municipality. The highest incidence of people working at home was found in the rural parts of the sub-basin while 63.4% of people in Wainwright worked in their home community. Residents of the County of Minburn and the County of Vermilion River were the most likely to commute to work at a location in their home county, while residents of Paradise Valley were most likely to commute to work at allocation in a different province or outside Canada. Residents of Paradise Valley were also most likely to have no fixed workplace.

#### 7.15 Employment Earnings

Residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin reported median earnings of \$26,866 in 2005; this was 8.0% higher than the BRB average of \$24,856. Figure 7-21 shows that the highest median earnings were reported in Wainwright (\$29,250) while workers from the county of Minburn reported median earnings of only \$15,101. There is no information on earnings and income for residents of Paradise Valley.

**Figure 7-21: Median Earnings and Full-Time Employment, 2006**



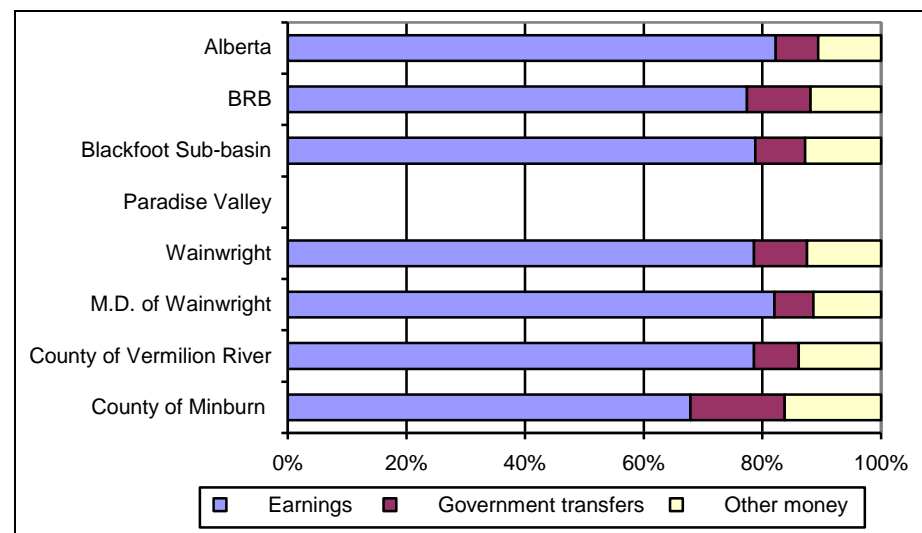
Within the Blackfoot Sub-basin 49.6% of workers reported being employed full-time, year round; this compares to 46.3% of workers in the BRB. The percentage of workers with full-time employment ranged from 54.4% in the MD of Wainwright to 46.5% in Wainwright. People who did work full-time, year round, reported median earnings of \$38,808, and this was higher than the BRB average (\$37,758). The highest median incomes from full-time employment were reported in Wainwright (\$43,069) while the lowest median earnings from full time employment occurred in the County of Minburn (\$25,876).

### 7.16 Other Income Sources

Earnings accounted for 78.8% of income for residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin; this was higher than for the BRB (77.0%). The remaining income came from government transfers (8.4%) and other sources (12.8%). Figure

7-22 shows the reliance on transfer payments and other income for individual communities within the sub-basin.

**Figure 7-22: Reliance on Transfer Payments and Other Income, 2005**

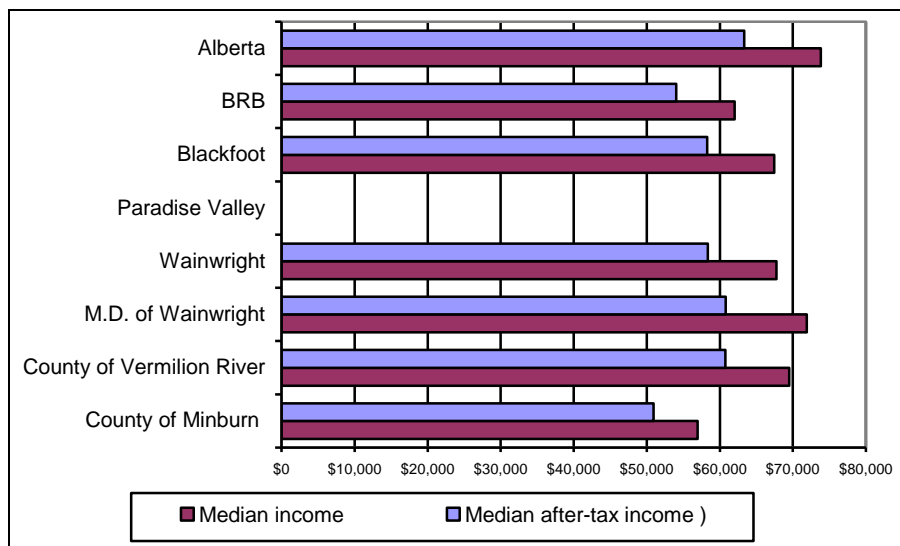


It shows that earnings accounted for more than 80% of income in the MD of Wainwright but only 68.0% of income in the County of Minburn, where government transfers accounted for 15.9% of total income.

### 7.17 Family and Individual Income

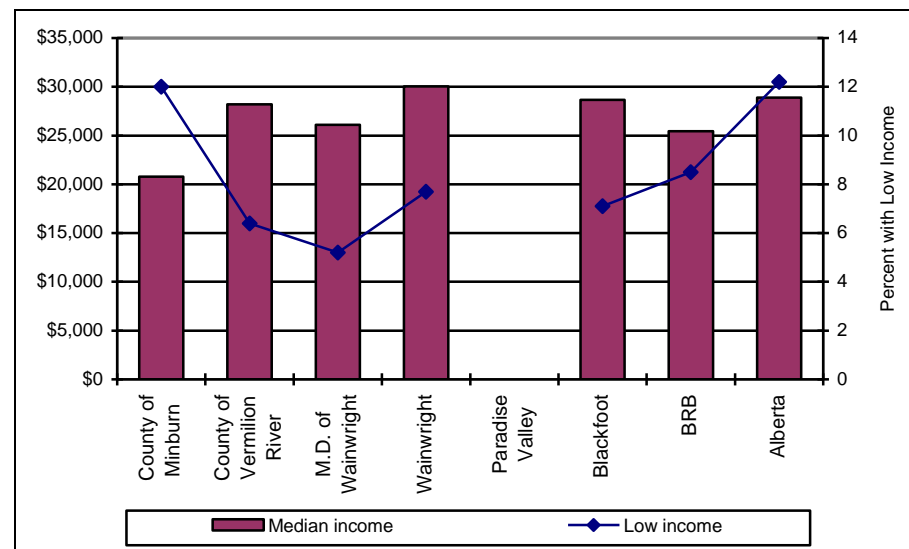
In 2005 families in the Blackfoot Sub-basin reported median incomes averaging \$67,432 (or \$58,268 after tax); these incomes are higher than the BRB average of \$62,021 (or \$54,025 after tax). Variations in median family incomes within the sub-basin are shown in Figure 7-23. The highest median family incomes were reported in the MD of Wainwright (\$71,918 while the lowest median family incomes occurred in the County of Minburn (\$56,877). The median family income in Wainwright was \$67,751. There is no information on incomes for residents of Paradise Valley.

**Figure 7-23: Median Family Income, Before and After Tax, 2005**



Median incomes in 2005 for persons in private households in the Blackfoot Sub-basin averaged \$28,669; this was about 13% higher than the BRB average (\$25,443). Overall, 7.1% of residents of the Blackfoot Sub-basin were considered to have low incomes (before tax), and this was slightly lower than the BRB average (8.5%). Figure 7-24 summarizes median incomes and the incidence of low incomes for communities in the sub-basin. Median personal incomes ranged from \$20,775 in the County of Minburn to \$30,049 in Wainwright. The median personal income in Wainwright was \$27,734. The incidence of people with low incomes ranged from 5.2% in the MD of Wainwright to 12.0% in the County of Minburn, with 7.7% of people in Wainwright considered as having low incomes.

**Figure 7-24: Median Personal Income and Incidence of Low Income, 2005**





## DATA SOURCES AND METHODS

All of the data used in this assessment is drawn from the 2006 Census of Canada, and available from Statistics Canada at <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>. The profiles for the sub-basins were calculated as the sum of the reported information for cities, towns, villages, summer villages and Indian reserves plus the portions of the rural areas (counties and municipal districts) that fell inside each sub-basin. The percentages of counties and municipal districts, as well as some communities (such as Heisler) were provided by the BRWA. These assumptions are summarized in the table below. Please note there is likely to be some variability in socio-economic characteristics within counties and municipal districts, and such differences are not captured in the analysis because census information is not available for specific portions of the counties and municipal districts.

|                             | Paintearth | Iron   | Bigstone | Sounding | Ribstone | Blackfoot |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Alliance                    | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Amisk                       |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Argentia Beach              |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Bawlf                       |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Beaver County               |            | 27.7%  |          |          |          |           |
| Bittern Lake                |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Blackfalds                  |            |        | 38.4%    |          |          |           |
| Botha                       | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Camrose                     |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Camrose County              | 19.9%      |        | 63.7%    |          |          |           |
| Castor                      | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Cereal                      |            |        |          | 15.3%    |          |           |
| Chauvin                     |            |        |          | 100.0%   |          |           |
| Consort                     |            |        |          | 100.0%   |          |           |
| Coronation                  |            |        |          | 0.2%     | 99.8%    |           |
| County of Minburn No. 27    |            | 0.1%   |          |          |          | 10.2%     |
| County of Paintearth No. 18 | 49.6%      |        |          | 16.5%    | 15.5%    |           |
| County of Stettler No. 6    | 36.4%      |        |          |          |          |           |
| County of Vermilion River   |            |        |          |          |          | 39.4%     |
| County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 | 0.3%       |        | 63.9%    |          |          |           |
| Crystal Springs             |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Czar                        |            |        |          |          | 100.0%   |           |
| Daysland                    |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Donalda                     | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Edberg                      |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Edgerton                    |            |        |          |          | 100.0%   |           |
| Erminskin No. 138           |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Ferintosh                   | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Flagstaff County            | 15.1%      | 77.1%  | 7.2%     |          |          |           |
| Forestburg                  |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |

|                           | Paintearth | Iron   | Bigstone | Sounding | Ribstone | Blackfoot |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Gadsby                    | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Galahad                   |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Golden Days               |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Grandview                 |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Halkirk                   | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |
| Hardisty                  |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Hay Lakes                 |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Heisler                   |            | 89.4%  | 10.6%    |          |          |           |
| Hughenden                 |            |        |          |          | 100.0%   |           |
| Irma                      |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Itaska Beach              |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Killam                    |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Lacombe                   |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Lacombe County            |            |        | 12.0%    |          |          |           |
| Leduc County              |            |        | 11.2%    |          |          |           |
| Lougheed                  |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Louis Bull No. 138B       |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| M.D. of Provost No. 52    | 1.5%       | 12.5%  |          | 46.3%    | 39.7%    |           |
| M.D. of Wainwright No. 61 |            | 19.4%  |          | 7.1%     | 33.4%    | 40.0%     |
| Ma-Me-O Beach             |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Millet                    |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Montana No. 139           |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| New Norway                |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Norris Beach              |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Paradise Valley           |            |        |          |          |          | 100.0%    |
| Pigeon Lake No. 138A      |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Ponoka                    |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Ponoka County             |            |        | 49.6%    |          |          |           |
| Poplar Bay                |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Provost                   |            |        |          | 100.0%   |          |           |
| Rosalind                  |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Samson No. 137            |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Sedgewick                 |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Silver Beach              |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Special Area 2            |            |        |          | 7.5%     |          |           |
| Special Area 3            |            |        |          | 39.0%    |          |           |
| Special Area 4            |            |        |          | 94.0%    | 6.0%     |           |
| Special Area 4            |            |        |          |          |          |           |
| Stettler                  | 100.0%     |        |          |          |          |           |

|                | Paintearth | Iron   | Bigstone | Sounding | Ribstone | Blackfoot |
|----------------|------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Strome         |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Sundance Beach |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Vermilion      |            |        |          |          |          | 0.8%      |
| Veteran        |            |        |          | 96.1%    | 3.9%     |           |
| Viking         |            | 100.0% |          |          |          |           |
| Wainwright     |            |        |          |          |          | 100.0%    |
| Wetaskiwin     |            |        | 100.0%   |          |          |           |
| Youngstown     |            |        |          | 100.0%   |          |           |