

The Dependency Load and Population Pyramids

Dependency Load: the percentage of the population that is non-working. It is conventionally defined as including people younger than age 15 and older than age 65.

-People not in the dependency load are in the work force - tax payers

-Knowing what percentage of our population is in the dependency load helps us determine the needs of our society.

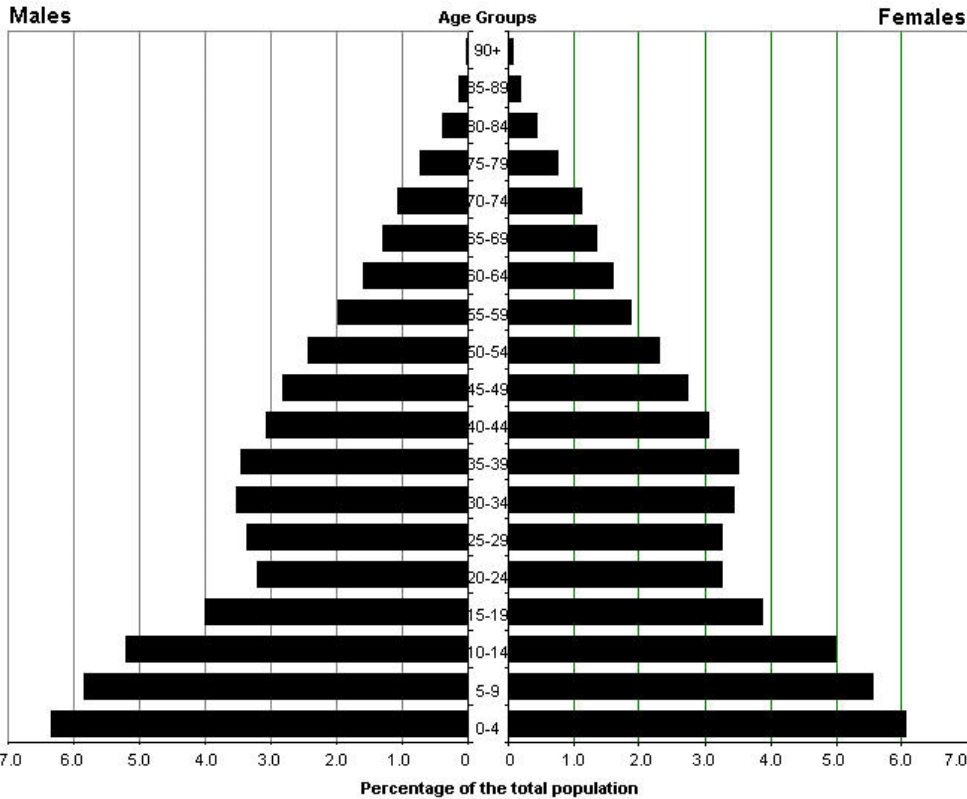
-Canada's dependency load is 33% (21% children, 12% older adults)

Population Pyramid: a graph that depicts population distribution by age and sex.

-Population pyramids help us to see the dependency load, separated into males and females, and it also allows us to predict how the dependency load has changed, and will change, over time.

Canada – 1961

Population Pyramid, 1961



A significant factor that has affected Canada's population was the **Baby Boom** – a period between 1946 and 1961 where the birth rate increased sharply.

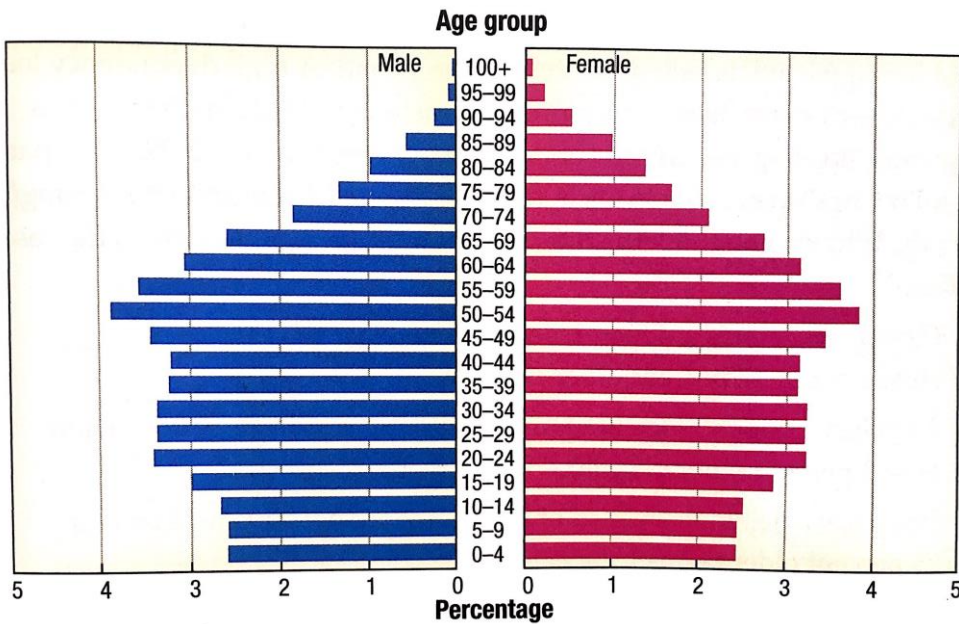
Notice how where the Baby Boom generation is in the 2014 population pyramid.

1. What age group has the largest percentage of people? _____

2. What group has the smallest percentage of people? _____

3. What factors may have contributed to the population to have the pyramid look like this?

Canada – 2014



1. What age group has the largest percentage of people?

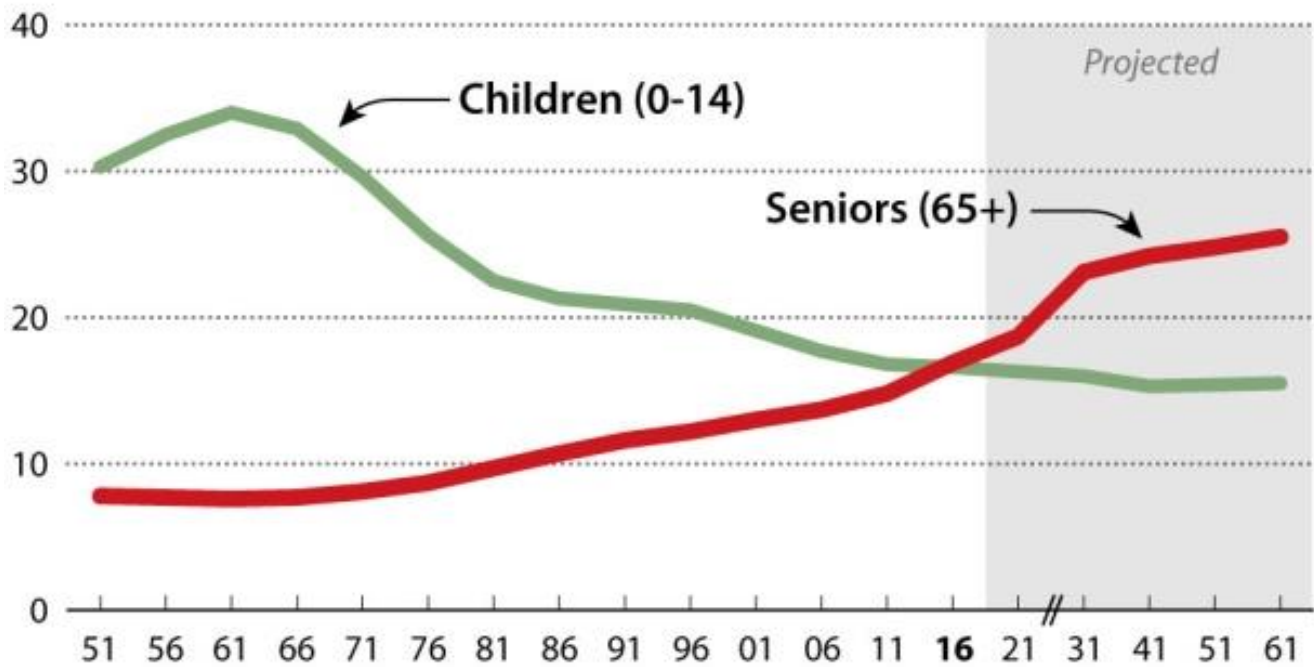
2. What group has the smallest percentage of people?

3. What factors may have contributed to the population to have the pyramid look like this?

MORE SENIORS THAN CHILDREN

In 2016, for the first time, the share of seniors (16.9%) exceeded the share of children (16.6%).

PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Summary Questions

1. How would the baby boom affect the dependency load (when the baby boomers were born)?

2. How did society and the economy change when 'baby boomers' were in the workforce?

3. How will the dependency load change when 'baby boomers' retire?

4. What will that affect you when you are in the workforce?
