



Corporate Report

NO: R247

COUNCIL DATE: December 15, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: December 15, 2008
FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development FILE: 6600-01
SUBJECT: 2006 Census Update

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide Council with the second update in a series on the 2006 Census demographic information; and
- advise Council of the uploading of this information to the City's web site.

This report includes selected Census highlights related to the City of Surrey that have been released by Statistics Canada, including data on income, earnings and shelter costs.

BACKGROUND

Every five years Statistics Canada conducts a Census of Canada. The most recent Census was conducted in May 2006. In 2007, Statistics Canada released information on population, dwelling unit counts, age, gender, family structure, households, language, immigration, mobility, occupation and education. Over the past year, Statistics Canada released information on income, earnings and shelter costs. This completes the Statistics Canada basic profile data set. This information is being included on the City's website for the public to view.

DISCUSSION

Census Highlights Related to Income

The Census provides income information for individuals, families and households and also includes income distribution, median and average total income, composition of total income, and prevalence of low income. All income statistics released in the 2006 Census are for the 2005 calendar year.

Total income refers to the total income received from the following sources:

- Wages and salaries;
- Net farm income and net non-farm income from unincorporated business and/or professional practice;
- Child benefits, Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Employment Insurance benefits and income from other government sources;
- Dividends, interest on bonds, deposits and savings certificates, and other investment income;
- Retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities, including those from RRSPs and Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs); and
- Other money income.

Personal Income

In 2006, 94% of Surrey's population, aged 15 years and over, reported having an income. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution (the percent of the population in each income bracket) of personal income of Surrey residents in comparison to the Metro Vancouver population. The two are fairly similar, with the exception of the highest income bracket (\$60,000 and over).

Figure 1

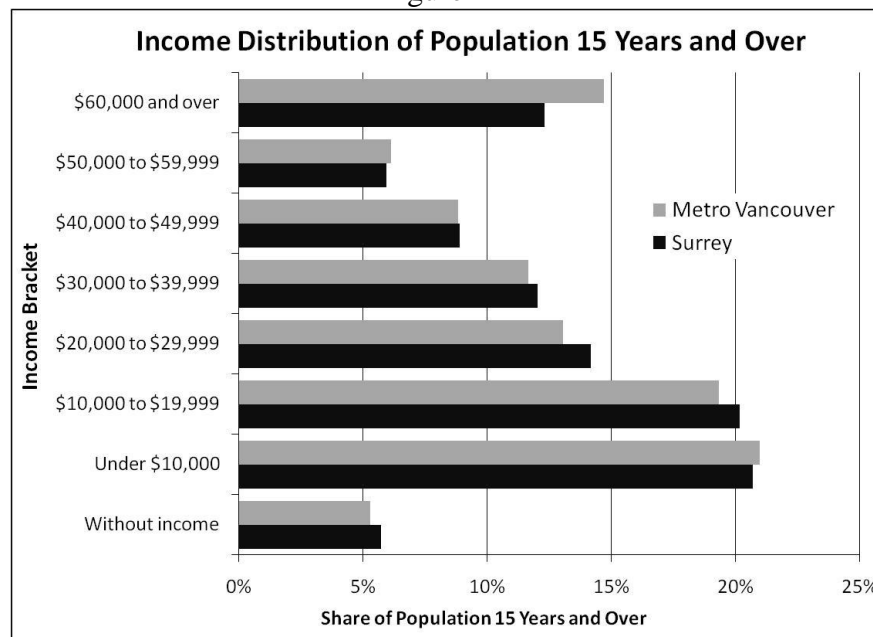
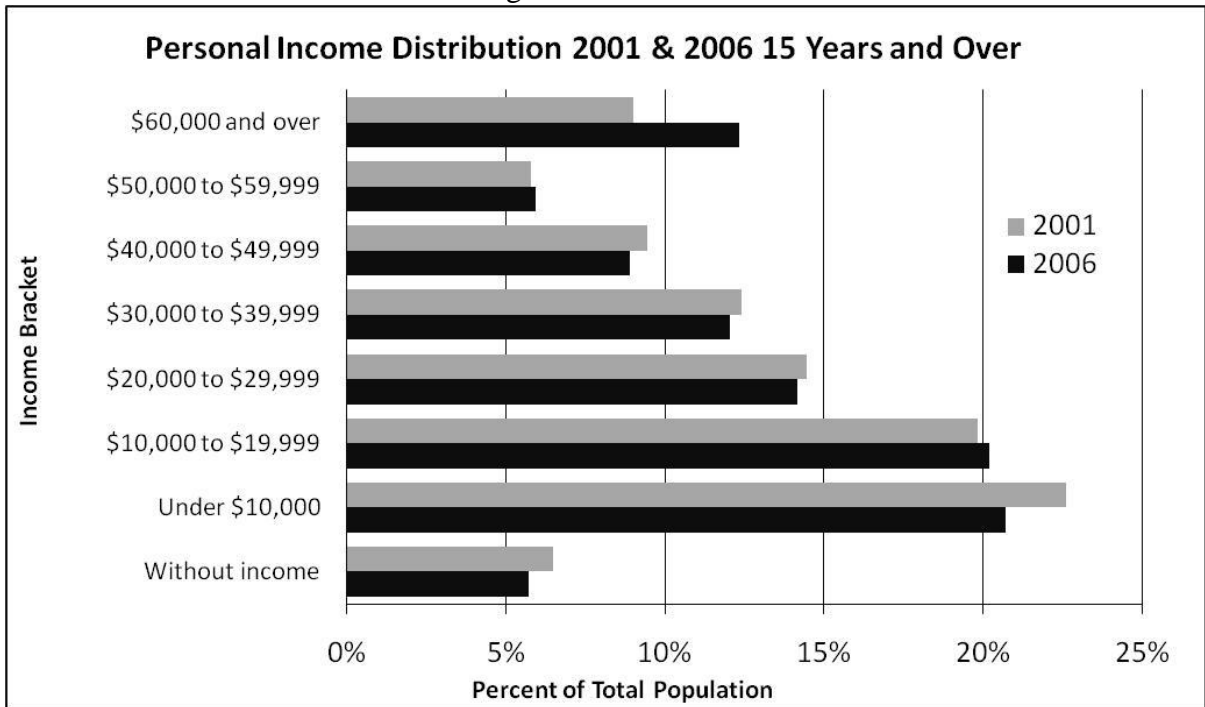


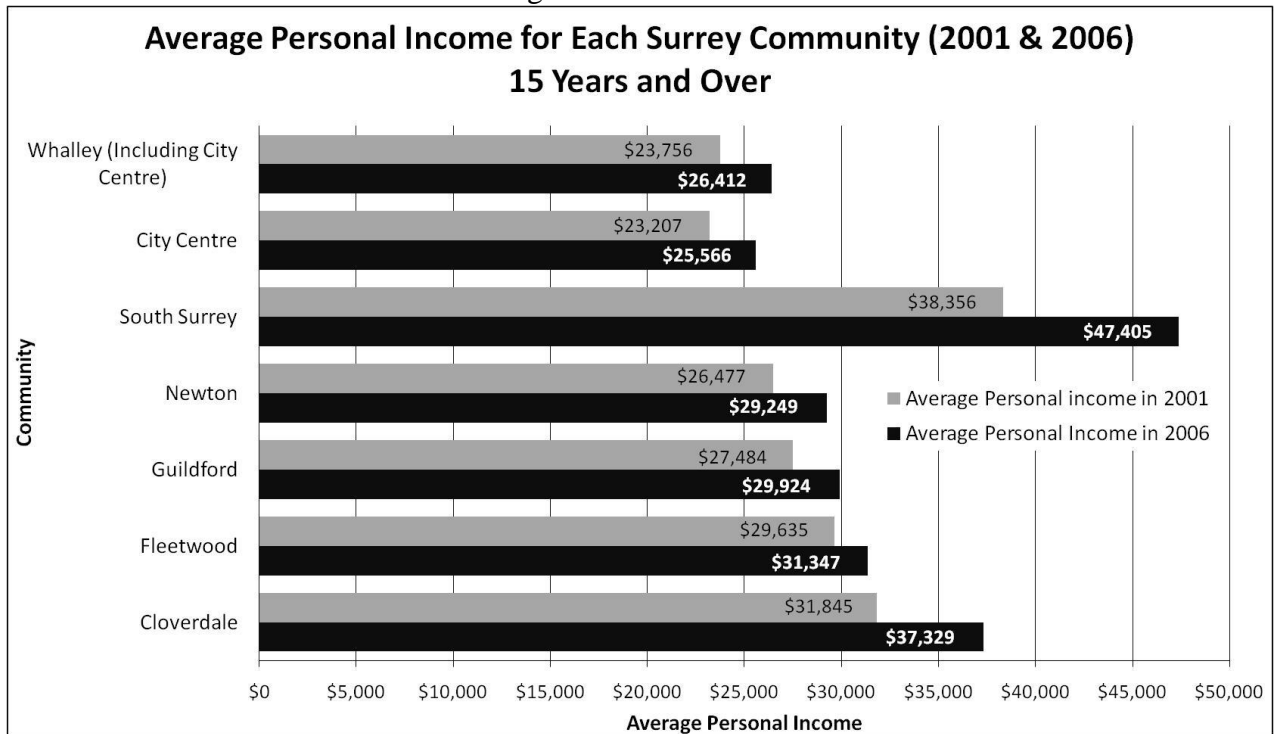
Figure 2 compares personal income, as reported in the 2001, with that reported in the 2006 Census for Surrey's population aged 15 years and over. The most significant difference is in the highest income bracket (\$60,000 and over). In 2001, 9.0% of Surrey's population fell within this category. By the 2006 census, this group had grown to just over 12% of the population. The proportion of the City's population that earned \$50,000 to \$60,000 also increased.

Figure 2



In 2006 the average income of Surrey's population, aged 15 years and over, was \$32,733. Figure 3 illustrates that the residents in each of Surrey's communities has experienced an increase in average personal income. South Surrey and Cloverdale experienced the largest increase in average personal income between the 2001 Census and the 2006 Census. The 2006 Census reports that residents of South Surrey have the highest average income (\$47,405) in the City followed by Cloverdale (\$37,329) and Fleetwood (\$31,347).

Figure 3



Employment Income

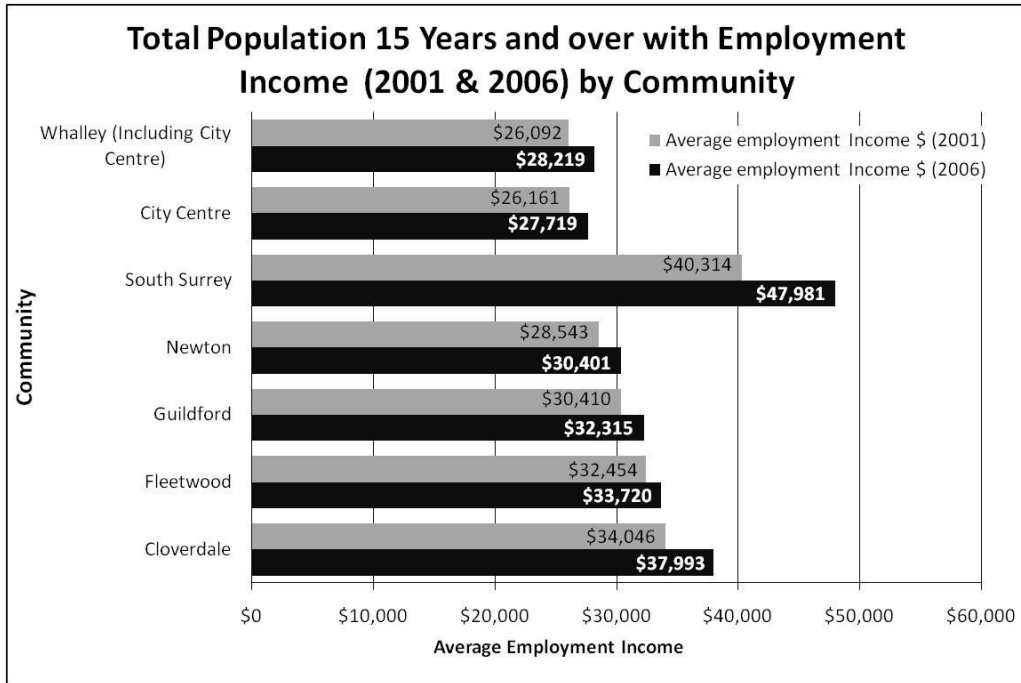
The 2006 Census reports that 70.5% of Surrey's population, aged 15 years and over, earned an employment income, compared to 70.9% for the same population group for all of Metro Vancouver. Employment income refers to total income received from the following sources:

- Wages and salaries;
- Net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice; and
- Net farm self-employment income.

During the last census, 34.5% of Surrey's population, aged 15 years and over, worked full time for the full year. In addition, of the remainder, 31.8% worked either part of the year or part time. The comparators for Metro Vancouver are 34.0% and 31.8%, respectively.

Average employment income in Surrey rose in the 2006 Census to \$32,733 from \$28,952 in the 2001 Census. Figure 4 illustrates that the average employment income rose for residents in each of Surrey's communities. The most significant increase took place in South Surrey (\$40,314 in 2001 to \$47,981 in 2006).

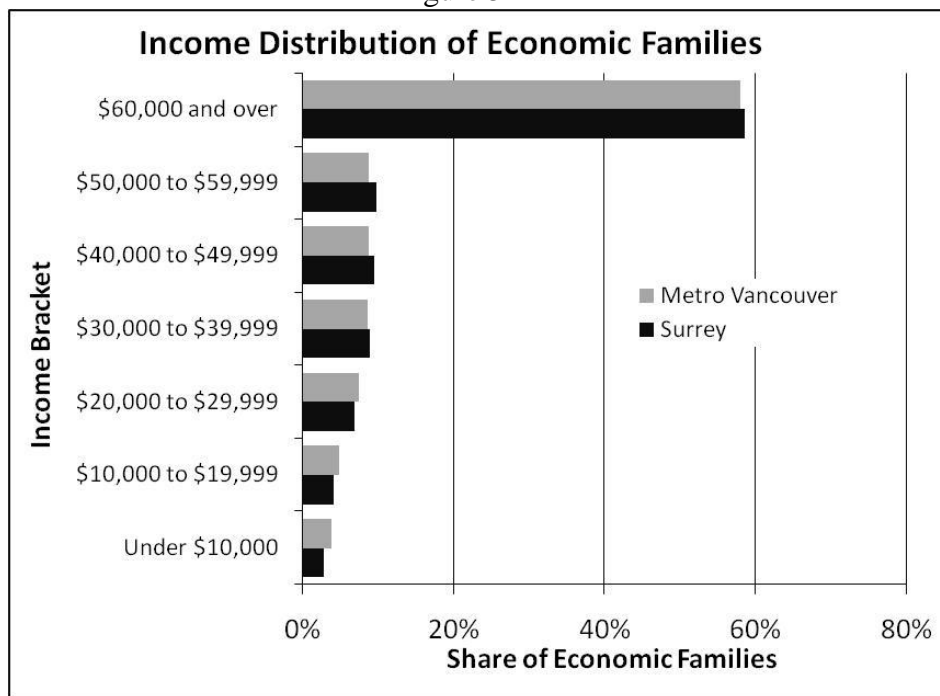
Figure 4



Family Income

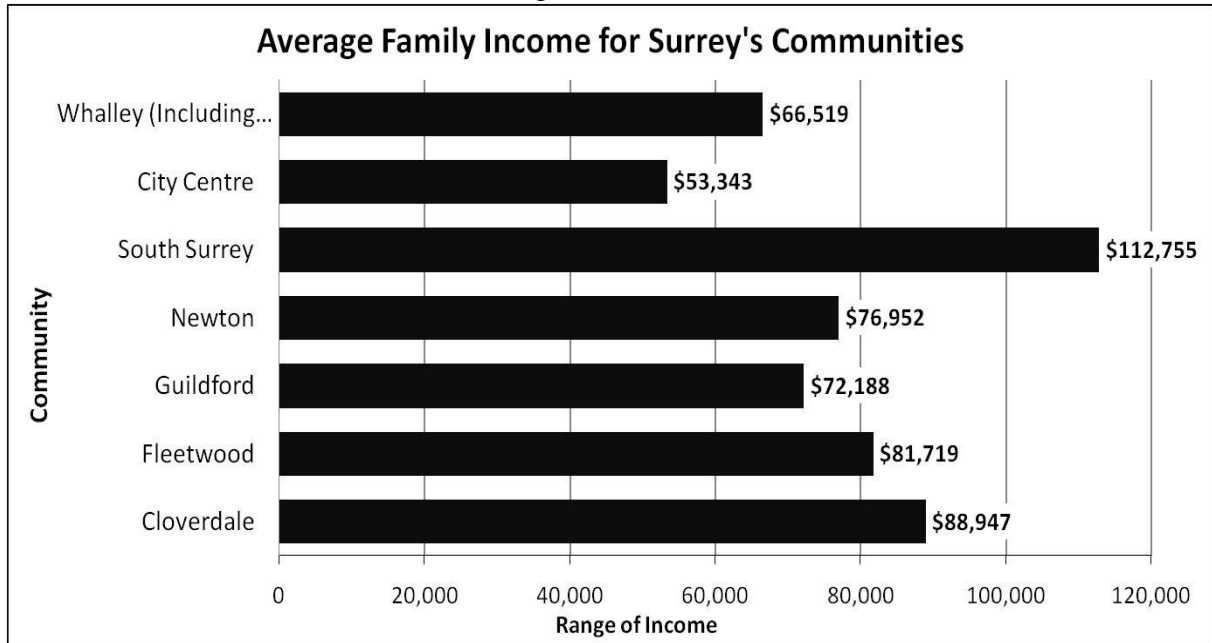
An economic family is considered to be a group of individuals who share a dwelling and who are related by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. Figure 5 compares Surrey and Metro Vancouver. Surrey, in comparison to the Metro Vancouver Region, generally has higher percentages of families who are in the higher income brackets above \$30,000, including \$60,000 and over.

Figure 5



The average income of an economic family in Surrey was \$82,254. Figure 6 illustrates average family income across Surrey's communities. *Note: A valid comparison cannot be made between the 2001 and 2006 census because Statistics Canada has changed the definition for family income.*

Figure 6

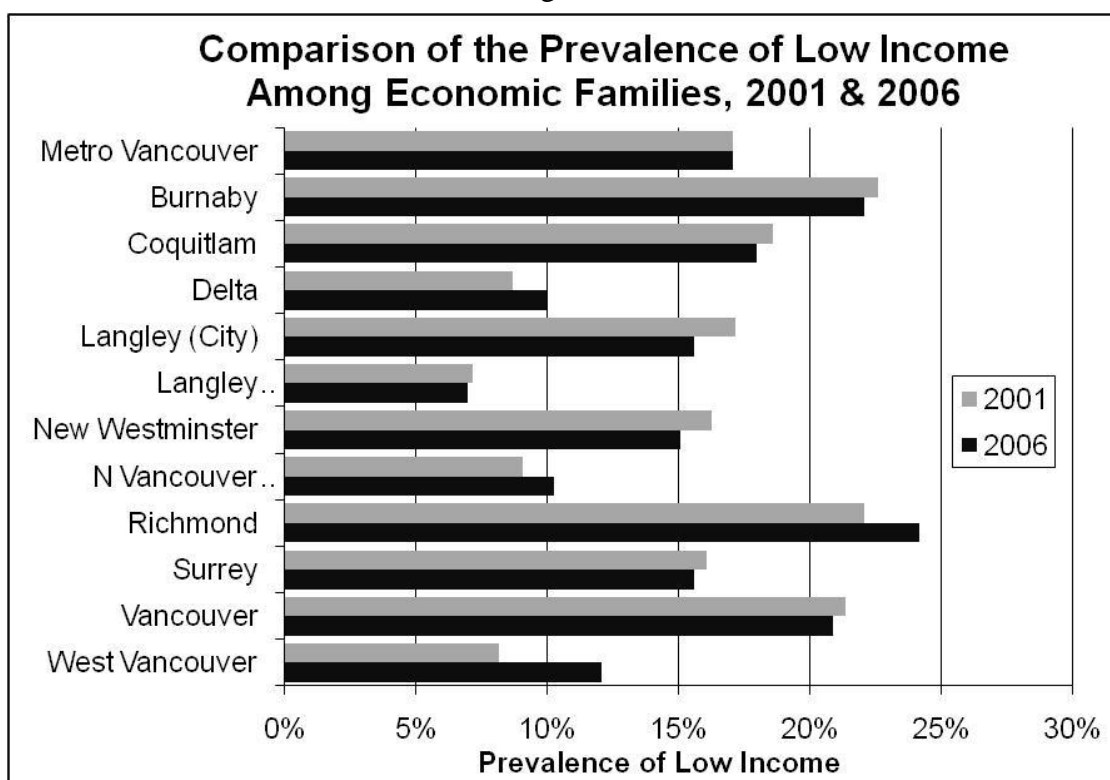


Low Income

The Census publishes figures on the prevalence of low income families and persons among economic families and among persons 15 years and over that are not part of a family. This is expressed as the proportion of total population earning less than the low income cut-off. The low income cut-off is the income at which a family or person 15 years or over spends 20% more of their income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family or individual. The low income cut-off is set at varying levels differentiated by family size and size of community.

The 2006 Census reports that low income among families in Surrey declined from 16.1% in 2001 to 15.6% in 2006. During the same period in Metro Vancouver low income families remained constant at 17.1% (Figure 7).

Figure 7

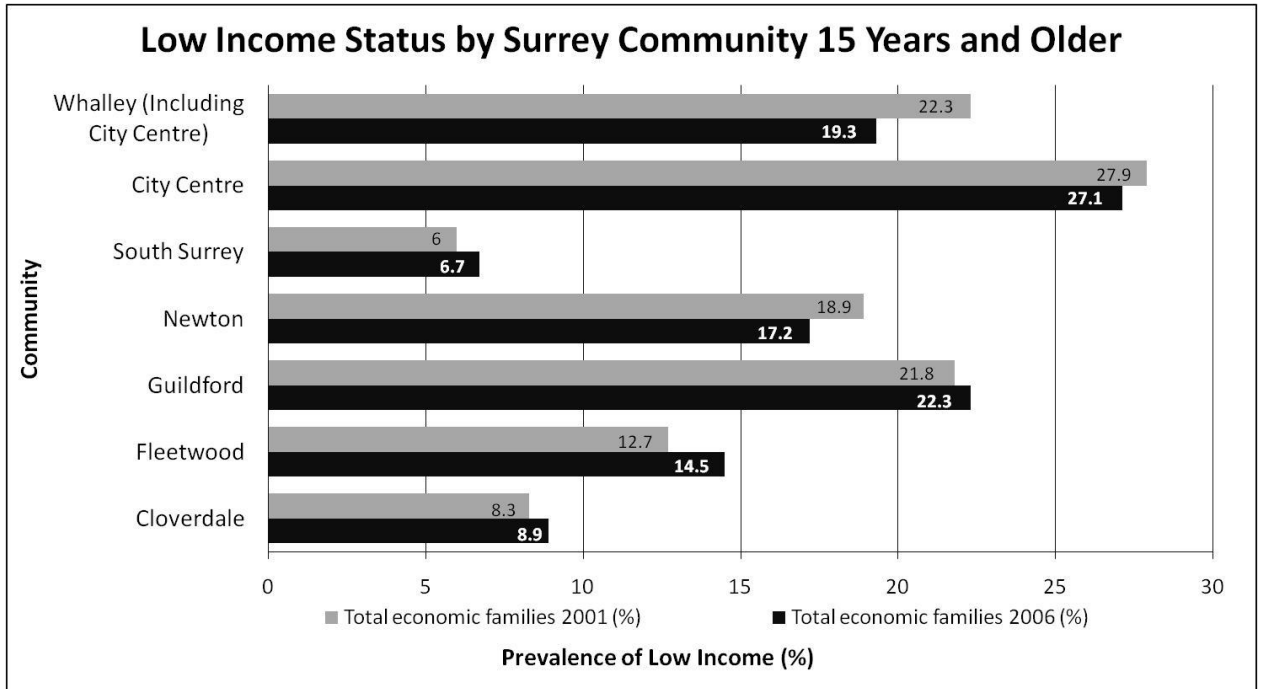


In 2005, 35% of female lone-parent economic families in Surrey spent 20% more of their income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. This is nearly identical to the Metro Vancouver average.

In Surrey 23.2% of persons less than 6 years old and 16.4% of persons 65 years and over are below the low income cut-off. The Metro Vancouver values are 21.5% and 20.8% respectively.

Figure 8 illustrates this distribution within Surrey's communities. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, there was marked improvement in the prevalence of low income among economic families in the communities of Whalley (including the City Centre) and Newton. The other communities had a slight increase in the prevalence of low income status persons and families.

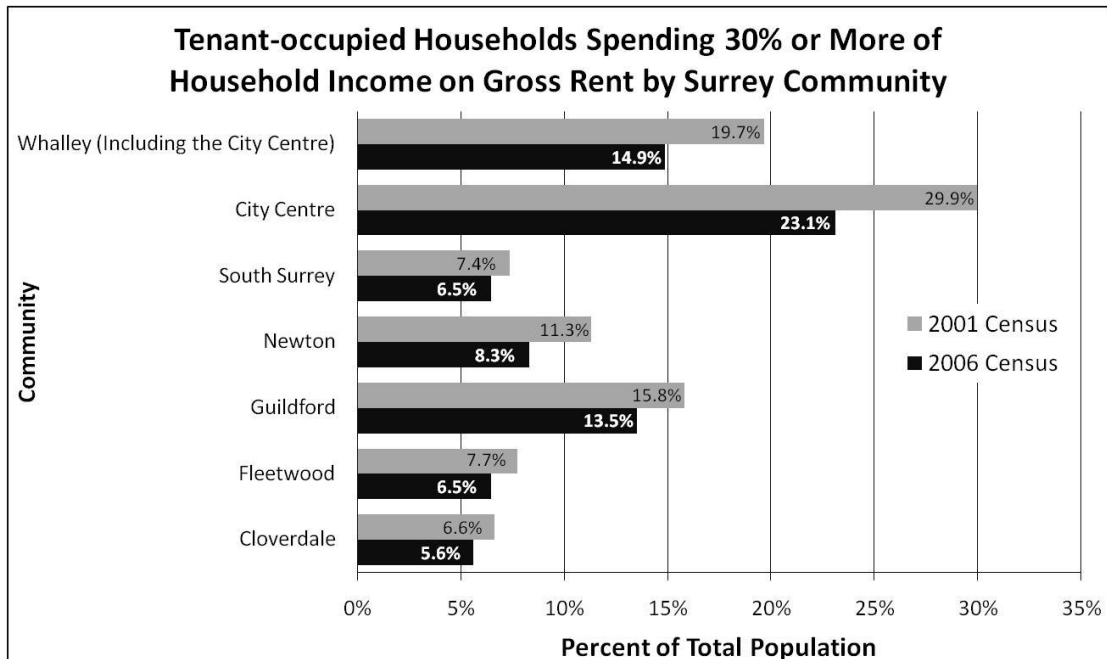
Figure 8



Shelter Costs

Overall, the percentage of tenant-occupied households spending 30% or more of household income on shelter costs was reduced from 12.4% of households in 2001 to 9.6% in 2006. Figure 9 illustrates the significant improvement in Whalley (including the City Centre) and Newton in this regard.

Figure 9



CONCLUSION

This report contains an overview of Census information that is currently available, including data on individual and family income and shelter costs.

Further reports will be provided to Council on Census data and information as it becomes available, along with commentary on the implications of the information.

The data and information will be made available on the City's website in the form of topic-based demographic fact sheets. They can be found in the section of the website on population and demographics (in the *Doing Business* channel). These packages will include:

- a comparison of the information with that of previous Census data/information;
- a comparison of Surrey with neighbouring municipalities throughout the region and the Region as a whole; and
- a series of profiles on Surrey's communities.

Jean Lamontagne
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Planning and Development

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