

community health facts 2013

Ladysmith

Demographics

The Ladysmith area (which includes Ladysmith and Chemainus) is home to approximately 19,000 people.

- 10.8% identify as Aboriginal.
- 11% are aged 75 and over.
- The overall population is expected to grow by 20% over the next 20 years.
- The population over age 75 is expected to double by 2033.

Health and Wellbeing

Compared to Island Health as a whole, the Ladysmith area has (based on most recent data available):

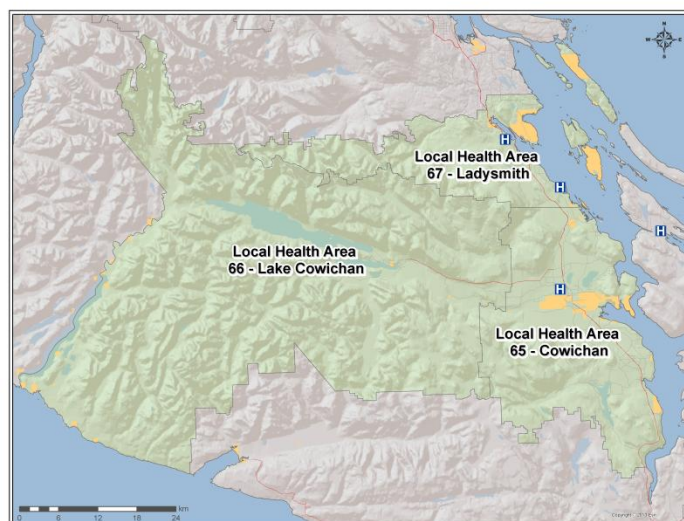
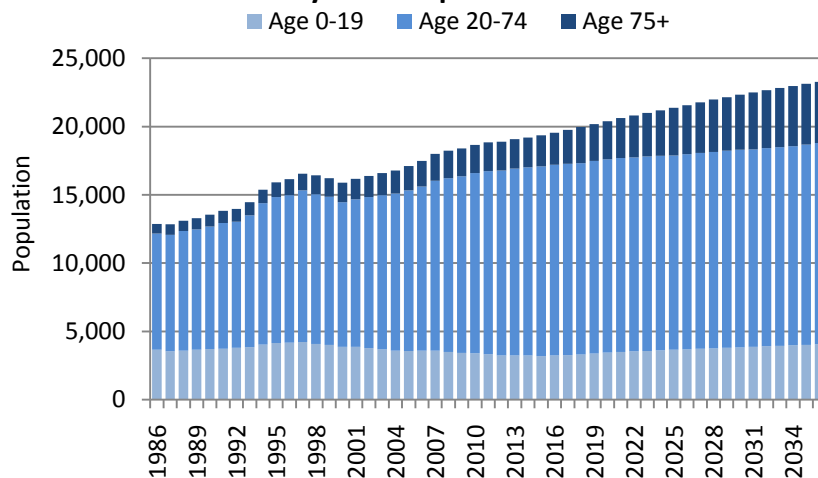
- A lower birth rate.
- A higher rate of births to teen mothers, and higher rates of pre-term births and low birth weight babies.
- A lower life expectancy (79 years).
- Lower rates of deaths due to illicit drug use, but higher rates of death due to motor vehicle accidents, pneumonia and influenza, and stroke.
- A higher prevalence of leading chronic conditions including depression/anxiety, hypertension and osteoarthritis.

Social Determinants of Health

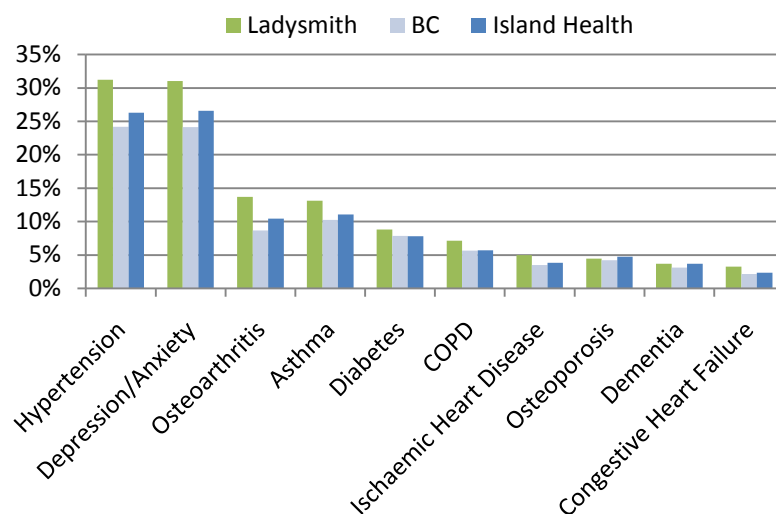
Housing, employment, education and social support can have a big impact on the health of our communities and our ability to make healthy lifestyle choices. Compared to Island Health overall (based on most recent data available):

- *Economic Wellbeing* – The Ladysmith area has a lower percent of people on income assistance, and a lower proportion of low income persons and low income seniors.
- *Education* – The Ladysmith area has a lower percent of adults with high school certificate, but a higher percent of 18 year olds graduating high school.

Ladysmith Population Growth



Prevalence of Chronic Conditions



Social Determinants of Health *(continued)*

- *Healthy Development* – The Ladysmith area has a lower rate of children on income assistance, but a higher rate of children in care and children in need of protection.
- *Crime* – The Ladysmith area has a higher rate of serious crime, but a lower rate of juvenile crime, non-cannabis drug offences and illicit drug deaths.

Health Services

The Ladysmith area is served by the nearby Cowichan District Hospital, the Chemainus Health Care Centre, the Ladysmith Community Health Centre, and the Ladysmith Health Unit. The Cowichan Valley area, which also includes the Cowichan and Lake Cowichan regions, has 483 residential care beds and 137 assisted living beds spread over nine sites, including Chemainus Health Care Centre. Additional services available include child, youth and family services, public health, home and community care, mental health and substance use and maternity clinic services.

Every year, Ladysmith residents have about 4,000 hospital admissions, and 15,000 unscheduled emergency department visits.

Of the 4,000 admissions in 2011/12:

- 41% were to Cowichan District Hospital,
- 39% were to the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, and
- 20% were to other hospitals.

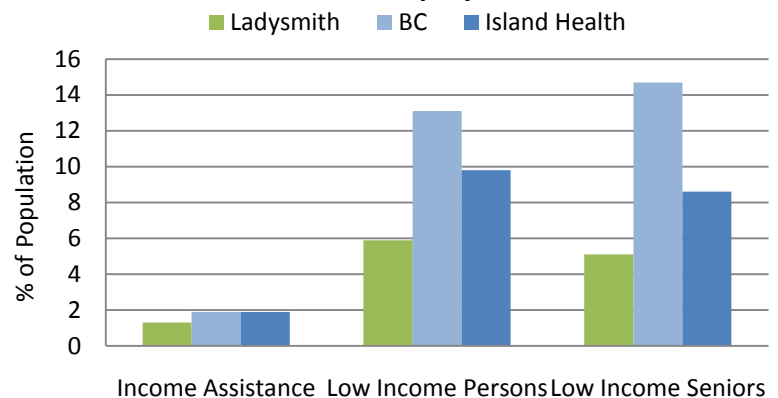
Of the 15,000 unscheduled emergency visits in 2012/13:

- 15% were to Cowichan District Hospital, 52% were to Ladysmith Community Health Centre and 17% were to the Chemainus Health Care Centre.
- 35% were for those over the age of 60.

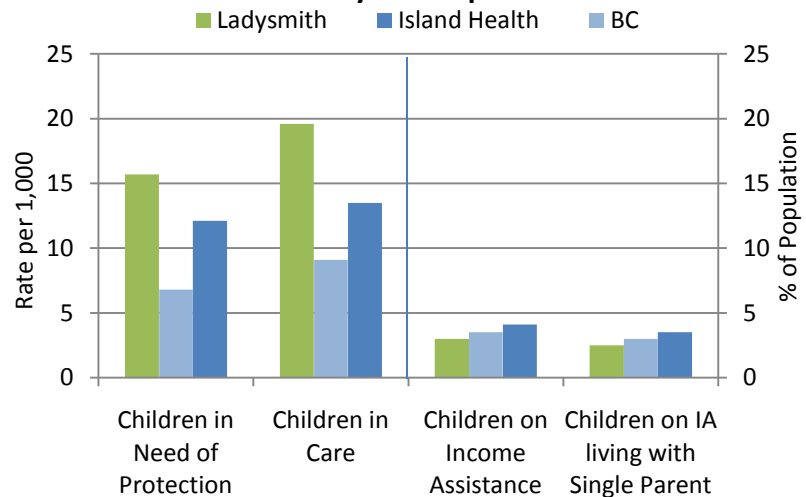
For more information on Island Health Services in your region, please visit:

<http://www.viha.ca/locations/>

Economic and Employment Statistics



Healthy Development



Ladysmith Resident Cases by Hospital

