Births, Fertility and Contraception in Canada

377,636 Number of births in Canada in 2011 – up by 13% from 2001

3.94 & 1.61 Average number of children per woman in Canada in 1959 and 2011, respectively

23.6 & 28.5 Average age of first-time mothers in 1961 and 2011, respectively

91%, 77% & 53% Estimated proportion of women who can get pregnant at age 30, by age 35 and by age 40, respectively

14.9 & 11.0 Birth rate per 1,000 among women in Canada in 1981 and 2011, respectively

24.9 & 8.7 Birth rate per 1,000 among women in Nunavut and Newfoundland/Labrador, respectively, in 2011

13,106 & 10 Fertility rate per 1,000 among women in Canada aged 15–19, 30–34 and 40–44, respectively, in 2011

6.1 & 10.3 Fertility rate per 1,000 among women in Canada aged 40–44 in 2001 and 2011, respectively

25% & 29% Proportion of babies born to mothers who were single/never married in 1991 and 2011, respectively

1 in 6 Estimated proportion of couples in Canada that experience infertility

56% & 38% Proportion of Canadians who report that they are and aren’t using contraceptive methods to prevent pregnancy, respectively, in 2011

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1 Anne Milan, “Number of Births, Canada, 1926 to 2011” (Figure 1), Fertility: Overview, 2009 to 2011, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 91-209-X (July 2013), accessed August 6, 2014, http://bit.ly/1kHxRjU.


3 Anne Milan, “Average Age of Mother by Birth Order, Canada, 1945 to 2011” (Figure 3), Fertility: Overview, 2009 to 2011, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 91-209-X (July 2013), accessed December 8, 2014, http://bit.ly/1xw6syQ.


6 Ibid.


10 Government of Canada.