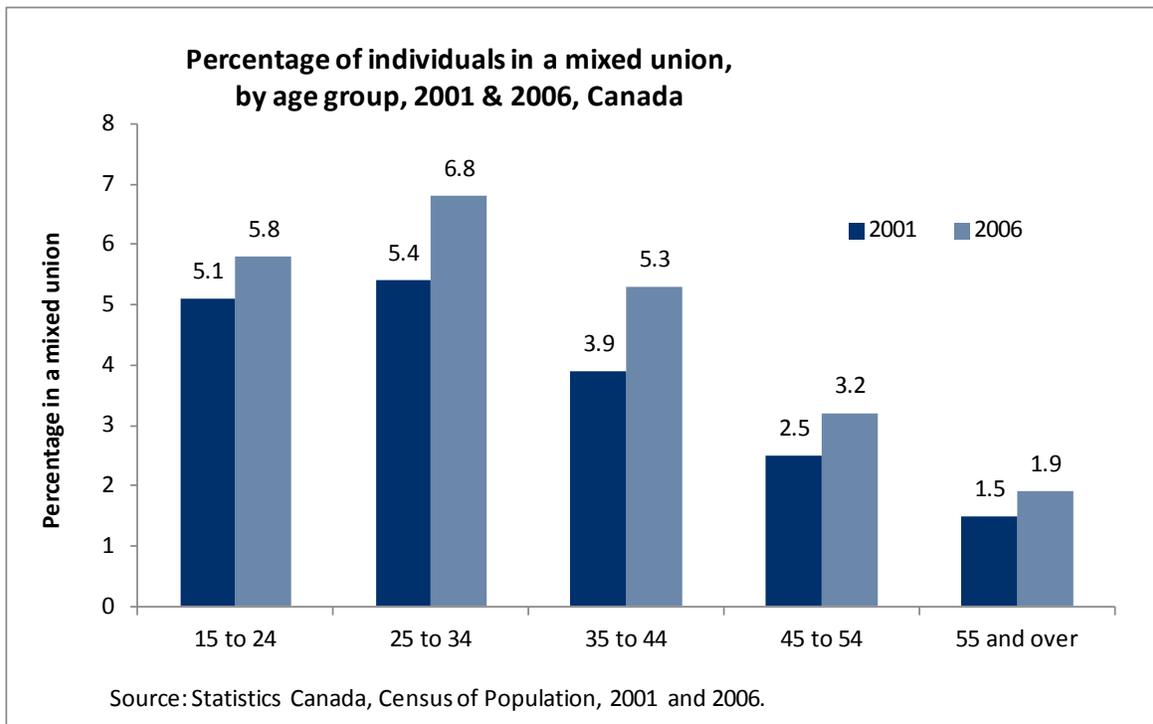


# FASCINATING *Families*

JANUARY 18, 2012 ISSUE 44

## Blending Family Traditions



Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Diwali, Easter, Kwanzaa, Now Ruz, or other holidays, chances are you are likely busy preparing and participating in family traditions throughout the year. For many families in Canada - a country of rich diversity - the year is punctuated by celebrations, holidays and traditions. In addition, many families, due to mixed unions, now celebrate or take part in various, blended traditions and celebrations.

The 2006 Census by Statistics Canada revealed that 3.9% of couples in Canada were mixed unions. According to Statistics Canada, “mixed unions may refer to spouses or partners with differing sociodemographic or cultural characteristics such as age, education, religion or ethnic origin”. The number of mixed union couples has increased steadily from 2.6% of couples in 1991 and 3.1% of couples in 2001. The increase in mixed unions may be attributed to the exposure to multiple cultures and traditions due to the diversity found in our social, educational and work environments (Statistics Canada).

More specifically, the 2006 Census revealed that individuals between the ages of 25 to 34 years had the highest proportion of mixed unions at 6.8%, decreasing steadily after age 34 to 1.9% for age 55 and over (Statistics Canada).

### Family Lens

For many families, participating in, blending together, or creating unique multicultural traditions creates new memories, a sense of belonging, connects family members across generations and builds diverse communities. Although sometimes preparing for celebrations, may be stressful for those responsible for organizing and coordinating events and preparing special meals, these celebrations are often filled with laughter, joy and family togetherness, and through our unique celebrations and traditions, families contribute to Canada’s rich cultural mosaic.