

## CANADA CHILD MARRIAGE

### Child marriage is legal and persists across Canada

- Over 3,600 marriage certificates were issued to children under the age of 18 between 2000 and 2018

Using data from vital statistics agencies and recent censuses, the researchers found that child marriage remains in practice from coast to coast, with the highest estimates of formal marriage found in Alberta (0.03%) and Manitoba (0.04%), and the highest estimates of any type of child marriage (formal or common-law) in Saskatchewan (0.5%) and the territories (1.7%). The study, published in Population and Development Review, is the first to shed light on how common child marriages are in the country

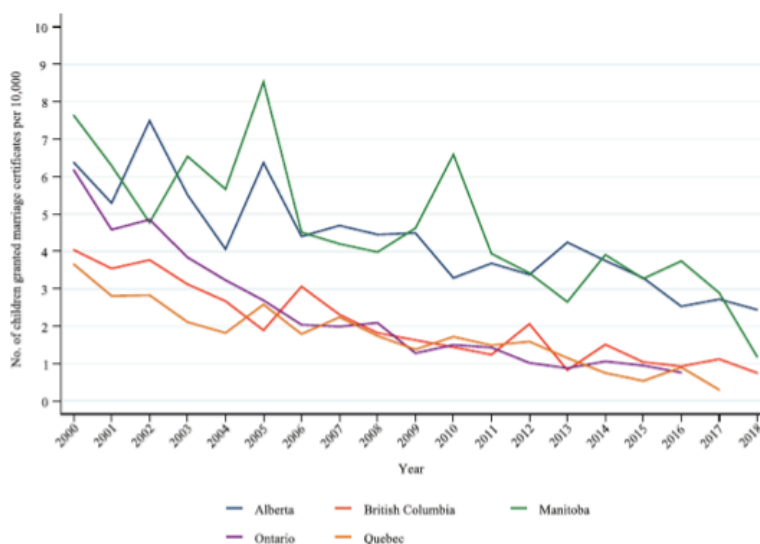
Canadian law permits children to marry from the age of 16 with parental consent or a court order.

About 95% of child marriages in Canada were informal as of 2016, compared with less than half in 2006, the study found.

### Child marriage is seeing declining formal marriage rates, but increasing commonlaw marriage among

- More than 85% of all marriage certificates granted to children were issued to girls, who typically wed much older spouses.
- Most Children wed in Canada were 16 -17 years old.
- Formal marriage accounted for only 5 percent and common-law unions were twenty times as prevalent.

FIGURE 2 Trends in the number of children granted marriage certificates per 10,000 16–17-year-olds in five provinces between 2000 and 2018



Source: Child Marriage in Canada, Alissa Koski and Shelley Clark McGill U March 2021  
Article: <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/daphne-bramham-canada-must-amend-its-marriage-laws-to-end-child-marriage>

Full text available for reading at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/padr.12369>

