At the onset of the pandemic, many journalists predicted a baby boom: with people stuck at home, so the reasoning went, couples would be spending more quality time together. However, in December 2020, 9 months after the first lockdown in BC due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we observe a drastically lower number of births than in the same month a year before. Using information gathered on government sites for monthly births by local health area (LCA) (BC Vital Statistics, 2020-2022), yearly population (StatCan, 2021), and unemployment rates (StatCan, 2021), and using local public newspapers for lockdown and travel restriction severity, we perform several regressions that help us determine how the pandemic changed birth rates. Creating a forecasting model for the expected birth rates had the pandemic not happened, but the unemployment rates stayed as they were in the pandemic, for 2020 and 2021, we show different trends based on different census metropolitan areas and British Columbia overall. From November 2020 to December 2021, we find that approximately 95 births are missing in BC overall but there is quite a bit of regional variation, with a missing 1114 births in Vancouver. 47 missing births in Victoria, 100 extra births in Abbotsford/Mission, and 280 extra births in Kelowna.

In conclusion, the Covid-19 pandemic affected births differently across different regions throughout British Columbia whether that was a baby boom, several missing births, or a mixture of both. More research needs to be done on the consistently low births throughout the last three quarters of 2020 throughout the whole province and its CMAs, but there seems to be a strong correlation between the onset of the pandemic and anomalies in births nine months later. For British Columbia as a whole, between November 2020 and December 2021, there were only an estimated 95 “missing” births, which is quite small when there were 50633 births in that same period. For BC overall, the Covid-19 pandemic did not really change overall births, however regions like Vancouver and Victoria saw a decrease in births, and Kelowna and Abbotsford/Mission experienced an increase in comparison to the forecast.

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