

HOME CARE NEEDS IN CANADA

Home care services allow people of all ages to receive care at home rather than in a hospital or long-term care facility. Home care services include short-term care for recovery, long-term care for disabilities, chronic conditions or age limitations, and end-of-life care. Care provided by family or friends is not included.

ABOUT 1.2 MILLION CANADIAN ADULTS NEEDED HOME CARE SERVICES

Of these,

26% had their needs unmet

10% had their needs partially met

BENEFITS OF HOME CARE USE

- Ability to remain at home
- Improved quality of life
- Reduced costs associated with institutional options
- Decreased mortality



TOP BARRIERS TO OBTAINING HOME CARE

- Availability of services
- Personal characteristics
- Cost
- Ineligibility; doctor does not think it necessary

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH UNMET HOME CARE NEEDS

- Age - 35 to 49 years of age were more likely to have unmet home care needs
- Not having long-term care insurance
- Fair or poor self-perceived health
- Living alone

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF UNMET HOME CARE NEEDS

- Overall poorer health
- Increased use of other health services
- Admission to nursing homes
- Reduced emotional well-being

WHO PAID FOR HOME CARE SERVICES, BY HOUSEHOLD?



52%

were paid for solely by government



27%

were paid for solely out-of-pocket



8%

were paid for at least in part by government and/or insurance



7%

were paid for solely by insurance



6%

were paid for by other sources

Sources

Gilmour, H. 2018. "Formal home care use in Canada." *Health Reports* 29 (9): 3-9.
Gilmour, H. 2018. "Unmet home care needs in Canada." *Health Reports* 29 (11): 3-11.

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