



# CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

CATALOGUE  
NO. 11-008

## FEATURES

*Young people's  
Internet use*

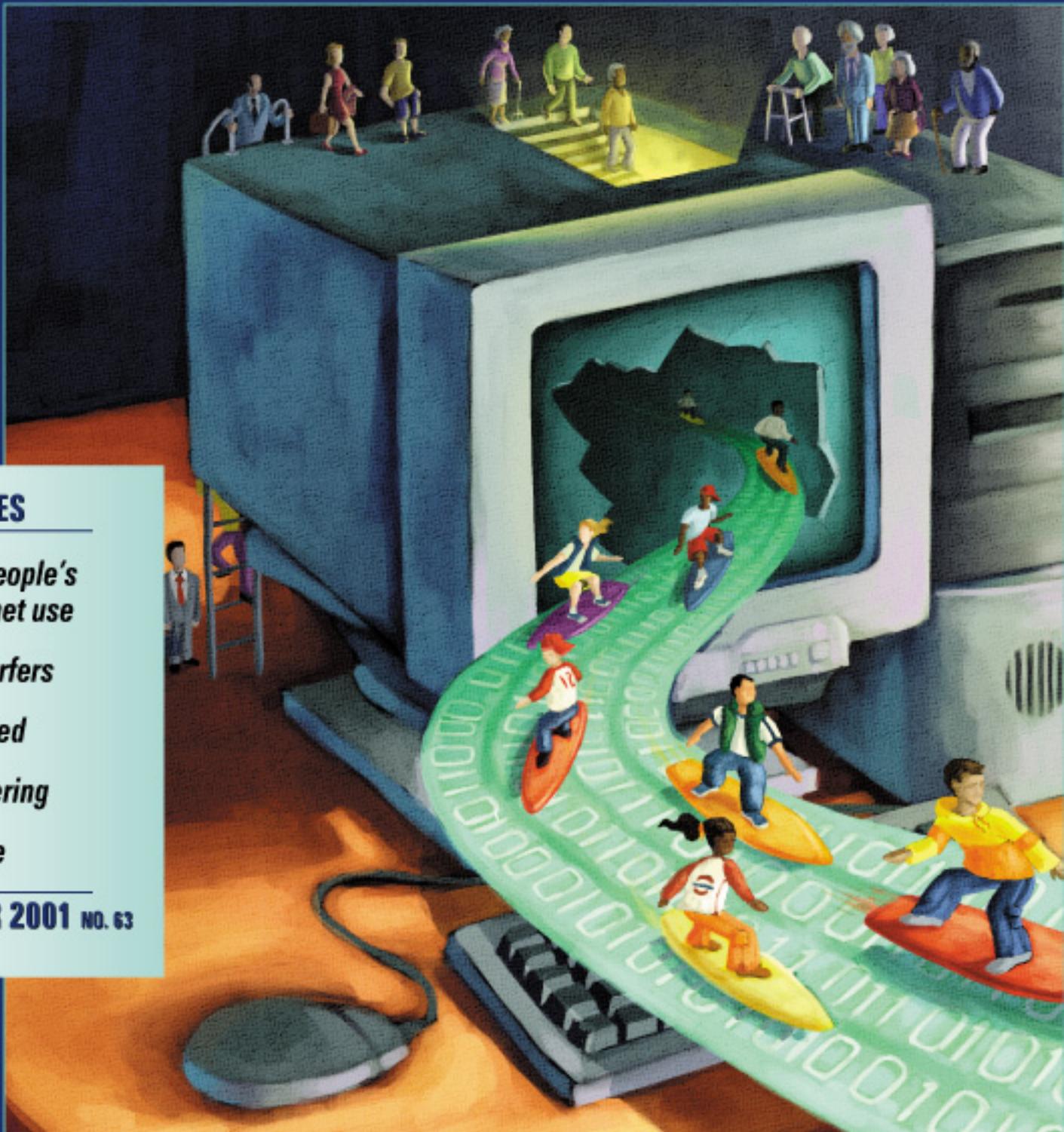
*Older surfers*

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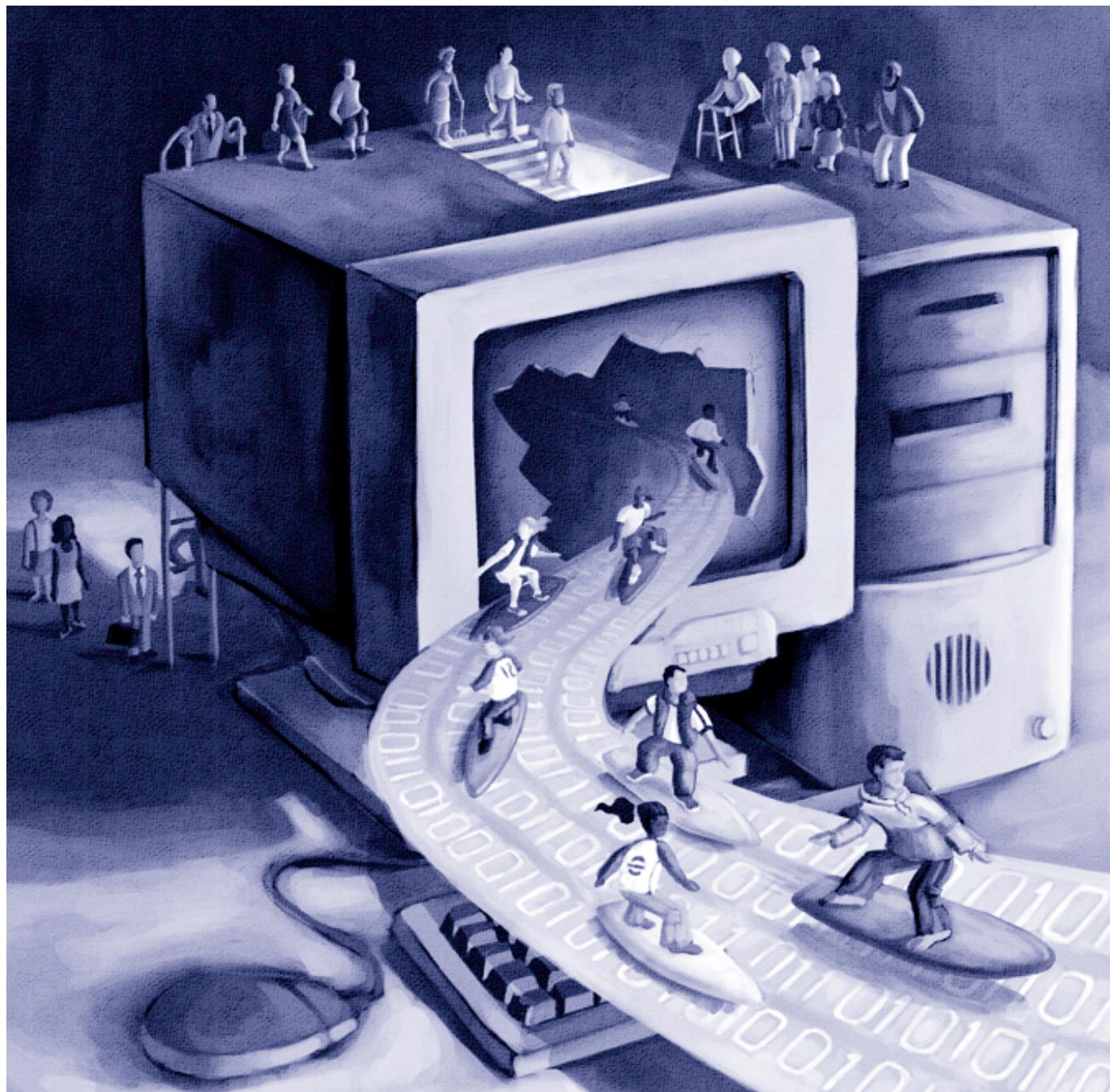
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# Internet use on the cusp of the 21st century



In 1997, Statistics Canada began to collect data on Internet use in the Household Internet Use Survey (HIUS). The data have been very valuable, especially now that a portrait of change over time is emerging (results of the fourth HIUS were released in July 2001), but the information remains limited because it is collected at the household level only. For instance, we know that in 2000 about 60% of Canadian households had at least one person who used the Internet, up 22% from 1999; however, we don't know which household members were the users, or even how many there were.

In 2000, Statistics Canada addressed this data gap by collecting, for the first time, detailed information about the individual's use of technology. With Cycle 14 of the General Social Survey (GSS) on access to and use of information communication technology, researchers are able to focus on personal use of computers and the Internet, people's opinions about the impact of technology on privacy and security, access to information and social networks, and other issues.

Since the three Internet articles that follow share the same data source, information regarding data use and limitations is presented here once, instead of being repeated in each article.

### What you should know about the next three studies

The GSS is an annual telephone sample survey covering the population aged 15 and over living in private households in all provinces. Data were collected over a 12-month period from January to December 2000 from almost 25,100 respondents. Respondents were identified as *Internet users* if they had used the Internet at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey. "Wired young Canadians" draws on the data collected from just under 3,300 respondents

aged 15 to 24, representing 4.1 million young Canadians (85% of whom are Internet users); "Older surfers" is based on a sample of about 6,200 persons aged 60 and over, representing 4.9 million older Canadians (13% of whom are users); "Connected to the Internet, still connected to life?" uses the full sample of the adult population, that is, almost 25,100 respondents representing almost 24.6 million Canadians aged 15 and over (53% of whom use the Internet).

### Some basic background information

Just as the data source is common to each article, so there are some basic characteristics common to most Internet users that do not need to be revisited in each article. The principal characteristic is the well-documented fact that Internet use is greatly influenced by the socio-economic status of the household; that is, households with higher incomes and higher levels of education are much more likely to own a computer and use the Internet.<sup>1</sup> For example, only 30% of individuals with household incomes under \$20,000 in 2000 had used the Internet in the previous year, compared with 81% of individuals in households where annual income exceeded \$80,000. An even more substantial gap exists in usage rates by educational level: 13% of adults aged 20 and over with less than a high school diploma used the Internet, whereas 79% of those with a university degree did so.

Another important characteristic of Internet users relates to age: young

people are far more enthusiastic surfers than people in their 60s or 70s. As well, the income-connectivity gap is much wider for older than for younger adults. For example, among 15- to 24-year-olds, Internet use increased from 77% of those with household incomes under \$20,000 to 94% of those with household income over \$100,000. However, a much more dramatic contrast can be found among 55- to 64-year-olds, where the rate of Internet use increased almost ten-fold from 8% for those with the lowest income to 77% for those with the highest.

— Ed.

1. For more information, see "General Social Survey: Internet Use, 2000." *The Daily*, March 26, 2001. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/010326/d010326a.htm> and "Household Internet Use Survey, 2000." *The Daily*, July 26, 2001. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/010726/d010726a.htm>.

# Wired young Canadians

by Michelle Rotermann

Young people today can access vast volumes of information and visit new worlds, at a click of a mouse. Using electronic mail (e-mail), they can interact with anyone, anywhere, quickly, conveniently and at low cost. Parents often worry

about whether the Internet is a blessing or a curse. They wonder if it is an advantage of growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century or if it distracts from more healthy pursuits, encourages social isolation and exposes users to offensive material.

Using data from the 2000 General Social Survey (GSS), this article examines access to and use of the Internet by young Canadians aged 15 to 24. It explores their motivations and their concerns about security and privacy. The article also investigates where



Young people with home Internet access are more likely to use the Net from all locations...

	All	Home	School	Work	Other <sup>1</sup>
% aged 15-24 who used the Net in the last month					
Total	85	56	42	21	53
With home access	97	97	52	25	57
No home access	69	n.a.	29	16	49

... and young adults spend more time on the Net than teens

	All	Home	School	Work	Other
Average hours on Internet last week					
15-24	9.3	9.1	3.1	7.5	1.9
15-17	8.8	9.3	2.2	5.0	1.8
18-19	9.2	9.5	3.3	6.8	2.1
20-24	9.8	8.8	4.2	7.6	1.9

n.a. = not available.

1. "Other" refers to friends' and relatives' homes, libraries, Internet cafés and other public access points.

Note: Each column refers to a different sub-population and so cannot be added to get average total hours of use from all locations.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

Internet access occurs and how location may influence its use.

### Who uses the Net?

The most "connected" young Canadians are teens between 15 and 17 years: 92% of them used the Internet at least once during the year 1999-2000. Internet use declines for each successive age group, to 86% of 18- to 19-year-olds and 79% of 20- to 24-year-olds. In general, men and women aged 15 to 19 are equally likely to use the Internet; among 20- to 24-year-olds, men (82%) are slightly more likely to do so than women (77%).

### Home use most popular

In 2000, 56% of 15- to 24-year-olds (2.3 million) were connected to the Internet at home, making this the most popular point of access, as opposed to school, work and other locations such as friends' and relatives' homes, libraries, Internet cafés and other public access points. Almost half (45%) who used the Net from home did so every day, whereas daily use was less common from work (22%), school (14%) and other locations (2%).

Connections outside the home gave Internet access to nearly 1.3 million young people who did not have home access. However, those who already had home access were most likely to use the Net in other places as well. For example, 52% of those with a home connection also used the Internet from school, compared with 29% of 15- to 24-year-olds without home access.

### Home users surf nearly four times more hours than other users

Young people in "connected" homes averaged 12 hours per week on the Net (about 9 hours from home and 3 hours from other places). In contrast, those without a home connection were online for about 3.4 hours per week. This suggests there are barriers to Net use outside the home. For example,

Internet use from schools, libraries and other locations may be constrained by hours of operation, time limits, waiting lines and geographic location. Pay-per-use Internet cafés often charge by the hour, a constraint that may limit use, while home users may have unlimited access for a monthly fee.

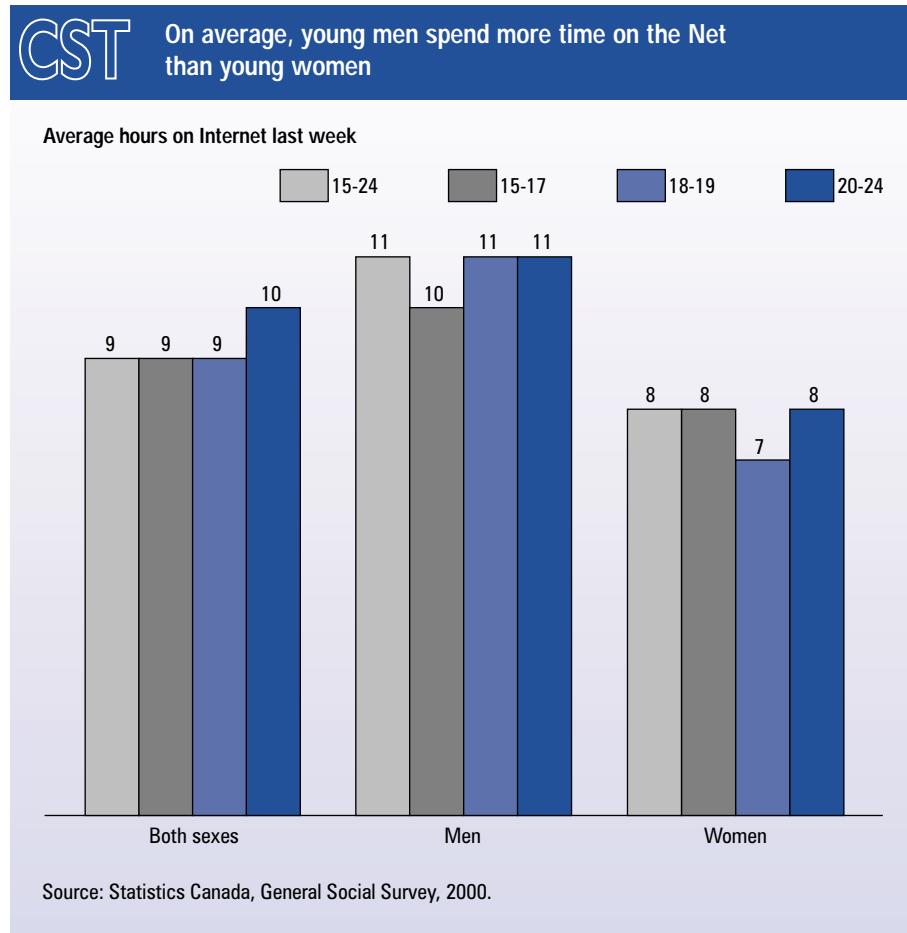
Gender also has a bearing on how much time is spent on the Net. Young men use the Internet for an average of about 11 hours per week, while young women average less than 8 hours. This difference may be due to the way each sex uses the Net. Typically, men report entertainment as a reason for logging on; they are more likely to play games, build Web pages and search for information on topics and products of interest. While young women engage in these types of activities as well, some research suggests they tend to be more goal-oriented

when online;<sup>1</sup> other studies show they are also more likely to use the Internet as a means to communicate and to save time.<sup>2</sup>

### E-mail is the principal Internet activity

E-mail is the most popular Internet activity among Canada's young people (71%), and its rate of use does not vary

1. Media Metrix. September 12, 2000. "Teens Spend Less than Half as Much Time Online as Adults, Jupiter and Media Metrix Research Finds." <http://www.jup.com/company/pressrelease:jsp?doc=pr000912>.
2. Maynard, Rona. January 1997. "Here's to digital women," *Chatelaine Online*. <http://www.chatelaine.com/read/computers/digfem.html>; Shiver, Jube. May 11, 2000. "Internet Gender Gap Closes in U.S., Study Says." *Los Angeles Times*. [http://www.latimes.com/news/state/updates/lat\\_netgap000511.htm](http://www.latimes.com/news/state/updates/lat_netgap000511.htm)



Activity	Age		
	15-17	18-19	20-24
Use e-mail	72	70	70
Search for information on goods or services	60	65	74
Access online chat services	71	63	48
Play games	65	59	50
Access online news site	36	49	52
Access information on government programs or services	23	36	42
Search for medical or health-related information	28	35	36
Put up a Web page	26	26	20
Purchase goods or services	11	13	24
Subscribe to a newsgroup or listserv	19	18	15
Do electronic banking	4	9	18
Correspond with government departments	3	5	5

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

by gender or age. Presumably, young people use e-mail to stay in touch with friends and family, to communicate with teachers, to send and receive documents and to interact with their co-workers and clients. E-mail may also be used to exchange photos, confirm e-commerce orders and subscribe to newsletters and press releases.

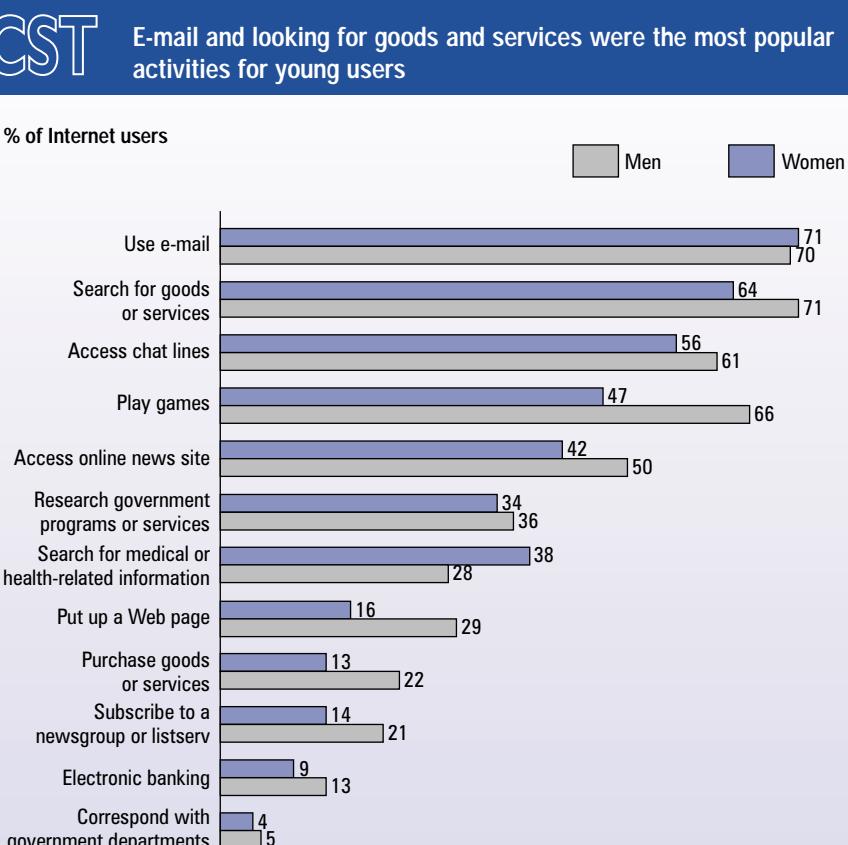
Other popular uses of the Internet are to search for information on goods and services (67% of users), to access online chat groups (59%), and to play games (57%). Only about one in 10 young users bank online (11%).

Many young people look for information on goods and services — the equivalent of “window shopping.” Nearly 75% of 20- to 24-year-olds have searched for products and services, but only 24% have purchased something online; the figures for 15- to 19-year-olds are smaller. Teens may be less likely to buy because online shopping requires a credit card and, at some Web sites, parental permission.<sup>3</sup>

Higher percentages of 15- to 17-year-olds play games than those aged 18 to 24. This suggests that the younger set may be using the Internet for entertainment, while the older group may value it more as a source of information. Regardless of age, young men are considerably more likely to play games than young women (about 66% versus 47%).

Participating in chat rooms is enjoyed equally by 15- to 17-year-olds of both sexes and more by men than women aged 18 to 24. For these young users, chat rooms are places to share elements of youth culture, as well as a place to meet people.

With few exceptions, many of the remaining Internet activities, including



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

3. *Business Wire*. June 1, 2000. “Teen Purchasing Power Weak in Online Shopping Arena, PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Survey Reports.”

designing Web pages, joining news groups, and doing online banking, are more popular among men than women across all age brackets. The only online activity more common among women than men is searching for medical and health-related information.

### Most young people started to use the Net for personal interest

Young people have grown up surrounded by digital media. Computers are commonplace in many of their homes and at school. Their teachers instruct them to use the Internet for assignments and their friends encourage them to e-mail, chat online, and check out Web sites of their favourite sports teams, performing artists and merchandise.

The majority of young Internet users began using the Net for personal interest (63%). School ranked second as a reason for starting to surf (34%), while work-related reasons were reported by only 2%. Whereas men were more likely to cite personal interests (69% versus 57% of women), women more frequently named school as a reason for beginning to use the Internet (40% versus 28%).

### Many concerned about security and privacy but few have encountered problems

Concerns about security and privacy are less widespread among young people than among adults. Seventy-two percent of 25- to 44-year-olds were greatly or somewhat concerned about security when making purchases or banking over the Internet, compared with 60% of 15- to 24-year-olds. Protecting privacy was also a more important issue among older people: 66% compared with 56% among young people. In some cases, these apprehensions may inhibit Internet use. Interestingly, young Internet users are somewhat more anxious about security than non-users.

## Quebec has lowest rate of Internet use among young people

Just over three-quarters (77%) of 15- to 24-year-olds in Quebec are Internet users, compared with the national average of 85%. Lower rates of Internet use may be due to francophones' reluctance to use the Net because much of the content is available only in English. According to the General Social Survey (GSS), young francophones are less satisfied than their anglophone counterparts with the provision of content in their mother tongue. Virtually all young anglophones who use the Internet believe that there is enough English whereas only 59% of francophone users feel that there is enough French and most would prefer to access French-language sites.

Language is a challenge for all non-anglophone Internet users, however. A 1997 article in *Scientific American* estimated that 60% of the Internet's host computers are located in the United States and most of these feed English language content to the Net.<sup>1</sup> The Quebec government has taken steps to get more families in the province connected. An initiative entitled "Brancher les familles sur Internet" (Connecting families to the Internet) was implemented May 1, 2000.<sup>2</sup> This program was implemented after interviews for the 2000 GSS began and therefore its full impact is not reflected in the data.

% of young adults using the Internet

Canada	85
British Columbia	92
Ontario	87
Atlantic Region	84
Prairies	83
Quebec	77

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

1. Oudet, Bruno. March 1997. "Multilingualism on the Internet", *Scientific American*. <http://www.sciam.com/0397issue/0397oudet.html>.
2. The "Brancher les familles sur Internet" initiative has connected more than 284,000 low income families to the Internet and has helped almost 218,000 families to buy or rent a computer as of June 26, 2001. <http://communiques.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiques/GPQF/Mars2001/05/c0930.html>. <http://www.familles.mic.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/index.htm>.

	Concerned about security				Concerned about privacy			
	Age 15-24		Age 25-44		Age 15-24		Age 25-44	
	Total	Users	Non-users	Total	Total	Users	Non-users	Total
Greatly/somewhat	60	61	51	72	56	57	50	66
Hardly	8	9	4	5	10	11	6	7
Not at all	26	26	25	15	30	30	28	19
No opinion	6	4	19	7	4	2	16	8

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

Although security awareness is widespread, only 8% of 15- to 24-year-olds reported they had experienced problems such as hacker attacks or computer virus infections. Not surprisingly, those who have come across security problems had greater concerns about this issue.

This wariness, however, did not stop young people from meeting and becoming friends with someone online. A surprising 33% of Internet users have met and become friends with people online. Teens aged 15 to 17 were most likely to form online friendships (46%), while 20- to 24-year-olds were least likely to do so (23%). Yet young people were cautious about their online relationships: some 62% of Internet users who had formed an online friendship believed that most people cannot be trusted and that they themselves cannot be too careful.

The possibility of young people accessing or receiving material that is offensive, threatening or inappropriate is one of the most controversial aspects of the Internet. According to the 2000 GSS, there is a very real possibility that the majority of Internet users have come across this type of material.<sup>4</sup> About 60% of Canadians aged 15 to 24 who use the Net have found Web sites that contain pornography, 24% have come across content that promotes hatred or

violence, and another 10% have received an e-mail that they considered threatening or harassing.

### Conclusion

In many respects the Internet is still in its infancy, leaving much to be learned and understood. Nevertheless, one thing is certain: our lives — for better or for worse — have been transformed and these changes are most obvious in the young. They use it to stay in touch, form new relationships, search for information, entertain, and play online games. Youth, some of whom have not known life without computers, will grow up in a surprisingly different society than their parents. However, this is not the first time that new communication technologies have

changed society. In the past, it was the telephone, radio and television; today, it is the Internet.

- 
4. This statement reflects the subjective judgment of the respondent as to what constitutes offensive or inappropriate material.



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WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

# Older surfers

by Cynthia Silver

This article was adapted from "Internet Use among Older Canadians" by Cynthia Silver, *Connectedness Series*, available on the Statistics Canada Web site at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/56F0004MIE01004.htm>.

**E**very day, the Internet becomes more embedded in our lives. Business, media and government are embracing it as a way to provide services to their clients and the general public. Schools require children and teens to use it as a research tool and libraries and community centres offer access to those without a home connection.

The 2000 General Social Survey (GSS) shows that nearly every teenager used the Net but that use drops quickly with each successive age group. Older Canadians are much less likely to use the Internet than young people, though their numbers are growing; in doing so, many Canadians aged 60 and over may reduce the impact of social isolation following retirement and the onset of age-related health conditions. Older adults are benefiting from access to networked communities through the Internet.

Using data from the 2000 GSS, this study explores Internet use among Canadians aged 60 and over, specifically, why and how they use it, and how they developed their computer skills. It will also examine barriers to use.

### Older people are the fastest growing group of users

Among Canadians aged 60 and over, only 13% (614,000) had used the Internet in the previous year. While equal percentages of boys and girls in their late teens used the Internet, the gender gap emerges with age. Among those aged 60 and over, men were nearly twice as likely (17%) as women (9%) to use the Net.

The GSS asked respondents about Internet use during the previous 12 months; it also asked when they began using the Net. Measuring change over this period, it is clear that use grew fastest among those aged 60 and over from 1999 to 2000.<sup>1</sup> Growth was strongest among older women, 43% of whom had started using the Net in the last year compared with 25% of older men. In contrast, 19% of 15- to 24-year-olds had started online in the previous 12 months.

### Older surfers spend less time on the Net than young people

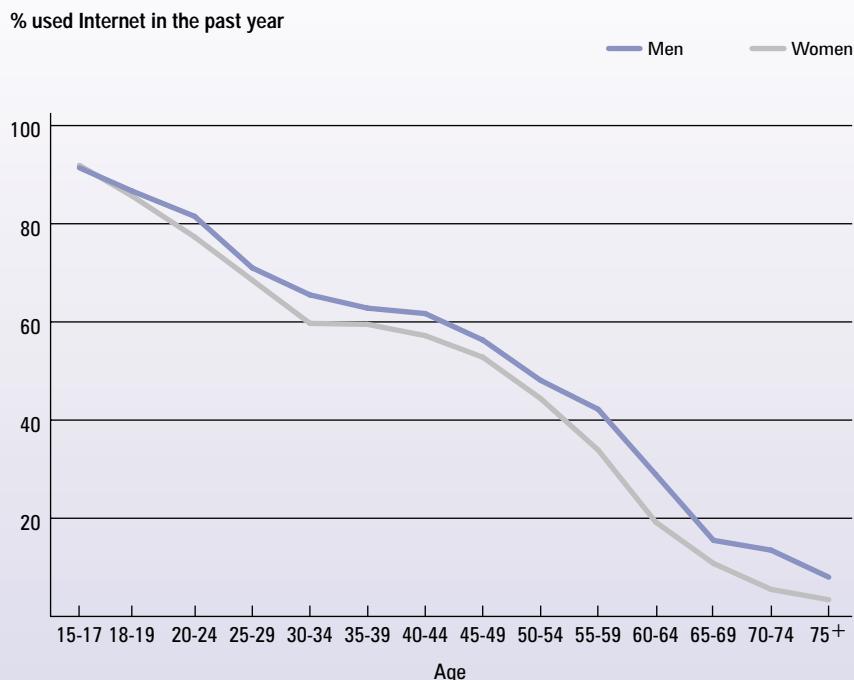
On average, older surfers spent an average of 6 hours per week on the Net, about the same as 45- to 54-year-olds, but considerably less than the nine-hour weekly average of young people aged 15 to 24. Averages do not tell the full story, however, as nearly 30% of older adults spent less than one hour per week online and another 20% over 8 hours online. There was less than an hour's difference in the amount of time older men and women were online each week, in contrast to the two-hour weekly gap between men and women under 60.

### Personal interest and entertainment most popular with older surfers

Most older users (80%) go online for personal interest or entertainment. While 32% of men used it for household management such as paying bills or financial planning, only 15% of women surfers had done so in the previous month.

Older Canadians primarily searched for online information on goods and

1. During the 12 months before being interviewed in 2000.



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

services (57% of surfers), news (54%) and health information (38%).<sup>2</sup> Few older surfers participated in a listserv<sup>3</sup> or newsgroup and chat groups were clearly the preserve of the young.

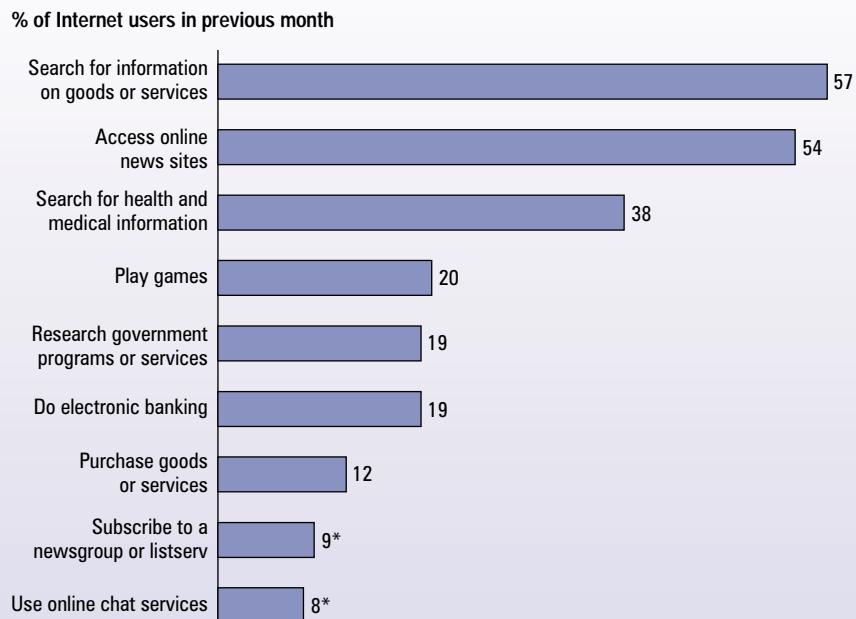
Many older adults have retired or reduced their work time, thus creating more time for leisure activities. It is not surprising that half of older surfers looked for online travel information and 41% looked for information on arts, entertainment or sports. One-third looked for business or economic news, but information on education or work was rarely sought by users aged 60 and over.

#### E-mail — maintaining ties with family and friends

As people age, they may tend to become socially isolated. A lower income after retirement, declining physical ability and the loss of a spouse are examples of changes that may cause older Canadians to lose touch with people.

However, the Internet seems to be a valuable tool in maintaining contact with others. Nearly all older Internet users (87%) used e-mail and they were sending messages almost as often as younger people: 69% who had used it in the last month did so at least several times a week, as did 76% of those under age 60. Although older people e-mailed their family more often than younger people did, old and young e-mail users were equally likely to stay in touch with friends. And while women have had the traditional role

#### CST Adults aged 60 and over look for information on goods and services, online news and health



\* High sampling variability.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

2. Most of those looking for health information sought information about specific diseases (65%), drugs (27%) or lifestyle information such as diet, exercise or health promotion (23%).
3. A listserv is an electronic mailing list used by a broad range of discussion groups. When users subscribe to a listserv, they receive periodic e-mail messages and can communicate with each other.

% of Internet users in previous month



\* High sampling variability.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

of sustaining family relationships, men were just as likely as women to use e-mail to keep in touch.

Apart from a desire to maintain family ties, older e-mail users may communicate more often with family than young people do because they have more surviving children and grandchildren than younger people have surviving parents, grandparents and siblings. In addition, older adults may have more time to stay in touch with their families and friends.

### Home connection more popular among older people

Independent living is important to the quality of life of older adults. They have more mobility and transportation problems to deal with, which suggests they have limited access to locations with Internet connections. A home connection therefore offers older adults the opportunity to socialize with others, pursue life-long

learning and participate in community activities. As well, it can assist with activities of daily living such as shopping and managing money. About 84% of older Internet users had a home connection, compared with two-thirds of surfers aged 15 to 34.

Paradoxically, people aged 60 and over are less likely than young people to take advantage of the home connection. Only two-thirds of older Canadians who lived in a connected home used the Net, reflecting situations in which the respondent does not use the Internet but their spouse or children do. In younger families, all members of the household tend to use the Net.

### Most older adults used informal methods to acquire computer skills

While younger adults frequently learned their computer skills in school or at work, fewer older people have had recent exposure to these environments.

Of the three main methods of skills acquisition — at work, at school or on one's own — 35% of older users were exclusively self-taught.<sup>4</sup> Another 17% had taken courses at an educational institution, while 48% of older Internet users had obtained at least some employer-sponsored computer training. Whether or not older users had received workplace training or taken formal educational courses, most had also learned by trial and error, with help from friends or relatives or using informal self-help methods.

### First barrier to Internet use may be attitudinal

Among adults aged 60 and over who had never used the Internet, only 8% were interested in doing so, compared with 34% of younger non-users. Just over one-quarter of older Canadians thought that everyone in Canada should have Net access compared with more than half of those aged 15 to 59. This suggests that older adults may be resistant to adopting the Internet, perhaps because they see no important reason to use it.

There are some important barriers to access for older people without home access who are interested in using the Internet but do not. The main barriers cited were access (30%) and cost (26%), but not having enough time (15%) and lack of skills or training (14%) were also important constraints. Fear of technology was not reported as a reason for non-use by people of any age. However, the generally lower levels of education and literacy<sup>5</sup> among older people are also barriers that may make the acquisition of computer skills more difficult. Diminished physical abilities

4. They used manuals, online help and tutorials, Web-based training, informal help from a friend or relative as well as trial and error to acquire computer skills.

may also inhibit Internet use among older people as eyesight, dexterity and hand-eye coordination tend to deteriorate with age and make it more difficult to work with a keyboard, mouse or computer monitor.

## Summary

While Canadians aged 60 and over lag considerably behind younger adults in adopting the Internet, they are the fastest growing group of Internet users. Many older adults use the Internet to connect with family and friends, but they quickly find it a valuable source of information on travel, leisure activities, health and other areas of interest. The Internet may stimulate independent living, help combat isolation, create opportunities for volunteering and make it easier for retirees to earn income without leaving home. The Internet can open the world to older people who may feel isolated and lonely.

Because many older adults are no longer employed, they may need to find other ways to learn the new technology. Many seniors' groups now offer programs to help older adults become familiar with computers and to assist them with Internet access. Very often, though, they use their own ingenuity and learn from the people around them. Since older women are less likely to have developed computer skills in the workplace, having a son, daughter or grandchild with skills may encourage them to get online.

Access to a computer is an important barrier to Internet use among older people. Those who use the Net

are a relative elite, with higher education levels and higher incomes than older people who do not use the Net. Most often, older Internet users rely on their own resources to purchase a computer and get an Internet connection. Since many retired people live on low incomes, family and community resources are also important ramps onto the information highway. Those who do quickly find themselves connected to their community and the world.



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5. In 1994, over half of Canadian seniors scored at the lowest literacy level on the International Adult Literacy Survey. This means that many seniors are restricted in daily activities and often depend on others for help. *Reading the Future: A Portrait of Literacy in Canada*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89F0093XIE.

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# Connected to the Internet, still connected to life?

by Cara Williams

**O**ver the last decade, the Internet and e-mail have changed the way we communicate at home and at work. These technologies have revolutionized both the manner in which we acquire and absorb information, and the way in which we socialize and are entertained. In 2000, about half of Canadians aged 15 and over had used the Internet in the previous 12 months. Users spent an average of eight hours per week on the Net, although about one in six users were connected more than 15 hours a week.

The Net's pace of growth, coupled with Canadians' quick adoption of it, has raised questions about both the benefits and the costs associated with this technology. The benefits of the Internet are clear — it has allowed increased access to information and enabled cheap and efficient communication around the globe — but it is important to acknowledge that for some people, being on the Internet means time taken away from other activities. This is an important trade-off to being "connected."

One of the greatest concerns to social analysts is that Internet users become isolated from traditional social support networks. An American study published in 2000 found that greater use of the Internet by both adults and teens during the first year of access was associated with a decline in social involvement;<sup>1</sup> another study the same year reported that the more time people spend on the Internet, the more socially isolated they become.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, it is

argued that our sense of community is increasingly based on shared interests, rather than geographic proximity; if this is the case, then the Internet clearly supports the establishment of new communities.

The 2000 General Social Survey (GSS) on access to and use of communication technology explicitly asked respondents if using the Internet had increased, reduced or had no effect on the amount of time they dedicated to other activities. This article draws on these data to investigate whether

1. Subrahmanyam, K., R.E. Kraut, P.M. Greenfield and E.F. Gross. 2000. "The Impact of Home Computer Use in Children's Activities and Development," *Children and Computer Technology*. 10, 2: 123-144. <http://www.futureofchildren.org>.
2. Nie, N.H. and L. Erbring. 2000. *Internet and Society — A Preliminary Report*. Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society.

Internet users spend less time with other people or on other activities.

### Time away from some activities... and more time on others

One of the reasons the Internet is so popular is that it facilitates contact between friends and families who live far apart. Although phoning a loved one on another continent can be easy, finding a mutually convenient time to call is usually more difficult. The Internet eradicates time zones, thus improving the ease of communication. According to the 2000 GSS, just over 3% of users devoted more time to visiting or talking with family and almost 5% spent more time with friends because they now had an Internet connection. However, over 7% chose to spend less time socializing with family and 6% less time with friends because they preferred being on the Net.

For the most part, though, Internet users — especially men — were far more likely to cut back on other pursuits before they reduced the time dedicated to friends and family. Watching television was affected most, with over one-quarter of users reporting less television viewing; almost one in six reported reading less. Time spent engaging in leisure activities at home (11%), sleep (11%) and household chores (10%) were also reduced because people preferred to devote the time to their activities on the Net. Interestingly, users aged 55 and over were slightly less likely to displace these other activities than younger adults, perhaps because they have more leisure time, spend less time online or may have more scheduling flexibility.

### More hours online means less time with family and friends

The more hours people spend online, the more likely they are to dedicate less time to social activities. About 14% of users spend more than 15 hours



Men were generally more likely than women to trade other activities for time online...

	Both sexes	Female	Male
	% of Internet users who decreased time spent...		
Working <sup>1</sup>	2	2	2
Doing school work <sup>2</sup>	7	6	8
Watching TV	27	22	31
Reading books or magazines	15	13	17
Shopping	8	7	8
Sleeping	11	8	13
On leisure activities at home	11	9	13
With children <sup>3</sup>	4	3	5
On household chores	10	10	9
Visiting or talking with family	7	6	7
Visiting or talking with friends	6	5	6
On leisure activities outside the home	7	5	8

... but all Internet users were most likely to give up watching television and reading rather than other activities.

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
	% of Internet users who decreased time spent...					
Watching TV	28	28	27	25	22	23
Reading books or magazines	17	15	15	12	11	15
Shopping	10	8	8	6	4*	--
Sleeping	15	11	10	8	4*	--
On leisure at home	12	11	11	10	10*	9*
Being with children	--	--	3*	--	--	--
Household chores	12	10	10	8	4*	--
Visiting or talking with family	8	7	7	5	4*	--
Visiting or talking with friends	6	7	7	4	3*	--
On leisure outside the home	9	7	7	6	4*	--

Note: Figures will not add to 100 because of multiple responses.

\* High sampling variability.

-- Sample too small to produce reliable estimate.

1. Employed users only.

2. Users attending school only.

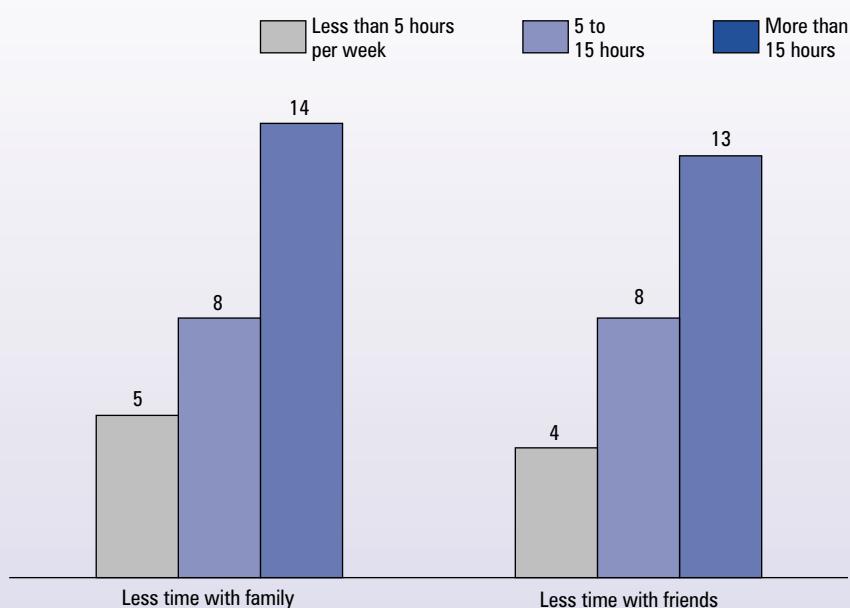
3. Users with children only.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

per week online; although they were much more likely to reduce sleep time (27%) and TV time (53%) in order to find the necessary hours to devote to

the Internet, a significant proportion stated that they cut down on visiting or talking with family (14%) and friends (13%). Among the 33% of

% of Internet users



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2000.

moderate Internet users reporting between 5 and 15 hours a week on the Internet, about 8% scaled back time with family or friends. In contrast, only a few of the 53% of users surfing the Net for less than 5 hours a week reduced time spent with family (5%) and friends (4%).

Although data on the actual amount of time spent on non-Internet activities were not collected by the 2000 GSS, it is possible to get a rough idea from the 1998 GSS. These data show that Internet users spend about 4 hours engaging in social contact with other members of their household, which is about 48 minutes less per day than non-users. On the other hand, they reported about 72 more minutes of social contact with people outside the household (6.3 hours), suggesting that Internet users may talk less face-to-face with their families but chat more online with other people.<sup>3</sup>

### Long-time Internet users are more likely to reduce time spent doing other activities

Generally, when people first buy a new "toy", they tend to devote a lot of time learning how to use it. As the novelty wears off, they spend less time with it. This, however, does not appear to be the case with the Internet. Individuals who had been using the Internet for more than one year spent an average of almost 9 hours per week online in 2000, compared with just under 5 hours for people who had been using the Net for less than 12 months. Part of this difference may be attributable to the greater amount of time that long-time users spent working for pay: 8% of employed users with over one year's Internet

experience reported that their work-time had increased because they were now online, compared with only 3% of new users.

On the other hand, long-time Internet users cut down on certain activities. For example, about 29% watched less TV, in contrast to 19% of those who were newer users. The pattern is similar for reading print material and pursuing other at-home leisure activities. However, the likelihood that long-time Internet users cut down on time with friends is not significantly different than that for more recent users of the Net. This may indicate that with time, the Internet evolves into a hobby that replaces some leisure activities but not those outside the home.

### Summary

There is little doubt that the Internet is an important tool for many Canadians. Vast amounts of information are stored only a "few clicks away," transmission of information is quick, and regardless of distance families and friends can communicate almost instantly at minimal cost. On the other hand, some Internet users have found that they have reduced the time spent on social activities with friends and family. Nevertheless, the data suggest not that they are unplugged from life, but that they are plugged in differently from non-users.



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3. Based on information for individuals who used the Internet for non-work-related activities in the previous 12 months.

# Volunteering and giving: a regional perspective

by Paul B. Reed and L. Kevin Selbee

This article was adapted from *Formal and Informal Caring and Giving: Regional and Community Patterns in Canada*, one in a series of reports from the Non-profit Sector Knowledge Base Project. This is the third of a series of articles *Canadian Social Trends* is publishing to commemorate the International year of the Volunteer.

and direct personal volunteering and giving are taken into account. In addition, the article shows that distinctive styles of giving and volunteering appear to characterize several regions and certain kinds of communities. The following analysis is based on data from both the 1997 and the 2000 National Surveys of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP), along with some information from the 1987 Volunteer Activity Survey (VAS).

declined to 6.5 million, or 27% of the adult population. These data are important, but they do not provide a complete picture. Many Canadians prefer to assist others directly, in ways that do not involve organizations, and it is equally important to take measure of these personal, less structured ways of helping.

In fact, the incidence of direct personal helping far exceeds that of formal volunteering. Compared with

**A**re Canadians equally likely to volunteer in any region of Canada? Does their style of volunteering change depending on the size of community they live in? Many studies have shown clear and consistent regional differences in the volunteering and charitable giving behaviour of Canadians.<sup>1</sup> In 2000, for example, residents of the Prairies reported the highest levels of formal volunteering and giving, which is done through organizations, while those living in Quebec reported the lowest. However, to provide a more accurate measure of contributory behaviour, it is also necessary to consider direct personal helping and giving, that is, efforts to help others independent of voluntary groups, charitable tax receipts or public recognition.

This article proposes that regional differences in giving and volunteering diminish markedly when both formal

## Regional differences decline when formal and direct volunteering are combined

According to the 1987 VAS, about 5.3 million Canadians or 27% of the adult population volunteered their time and skills to groups and organizations across the country during that year. Ten years later, in 1997, these numbers had grown to 7.5 million or 31% of Canadians. By 2000, however, the number of formal volunteers had

1. Caldwell, G. and Reed, P.B. 1999. *Civic participation in Canada: Why so much variation?* Reed, P.B. and Selbee, L.K. 2000. "Distinguishing characteristics of active volunteers in Canada." *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 29, 571-592. Reed, P.B. 1999. *Generosity in Canada: Trends in Personal Gifts and Charitable Donations over Three Decades, 1969-1997*. Statistics Canada. 1998. *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 71-542-XPE.

## CST What you should know about this study

Data used in preparation of this article come from the 1997 and 2000 National Surveys of Giving, Volunteering and Participating as well as the 1987 Volunteer Activity Survey. The purpose of these surveys was to ask Canadians 15 years of age and over how they gave money and other resources to individuals and to organizations, volunteered their time to help and care for others, and participated in civic and community activities.

	Formal volunteering			Direct personal volunteering			Total volunteering		
	1987	1997	2000	1987	1997	2000	1987	1997	2000
	% of population age 15 and over								
Canada	27	31	27	64	73	77	68	76	79
Maritimes	30	36	32	69	76	80	72	79	82
Quebec	19	22	19	62	66	76	65	71	78
Ontario	26	32	26	62	73	73	67	77	76
Prairies	39	42	39	71	77	84	75	81	86
British Columbia	29	32	26	60	77	77	65	79	80

Sources: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000; and Volunteer Activity Survey, 1987.

the gap was only half as large in the case of direct personal helping.

As a result, when formal and direct personal volunteering are combined, regional differences fall markedly. In both 1987 and 1997, the overall rate of helping in the Prairies was 10 percentage points higher than in Quebec (which had the lowest rate in those years), and in 2000 it was 10 percentage points higher than in Ontario (the lowest rate in that year). More importantly, while the rate of formal volunteering rose and then fell between 1987 and 2000, the overall rate of helping climbed quite substantially in all regions; the smallest increase was a 9 percentage point rise in Ontario and the largest, a 15 point jump in British Columbia.

These regional patterns may be the result of different provincial preferences for formal and direct personal helping. Canadians in the Prairies clearly had a greater propensity to volunteer through formal organizations, while those in Quebec seemed to prefer direct personal helping.

### Canadians in small towns and rural areas are most likely to volunteer

According to the NSGPV, the proportion of people who volunteered formally was highest in rural communities; it declined steadily as the size of community increased. In 1987 and 1997, in small towns and rural areas the rate of formal volunteering was 8 percentage points higher than that in large urban centers. Interestingly, the gap between urban and rural areas was about the same when direct personal volunteering is considered. While formal volunteering rose about 5 percentage points in large, intermediate and small communities between 1987 and 1997, direct personal helping increased by 8 to 10 points. Although directly comparable data are not available for 2000, the trend suggests that informal helping

	Formal volunteering			Direct personal volunteering			Total volunteering		
	1987	1997	2000	1987	1997	2000	1987	1997	2000
	% of population age 15 and over								
Canada	27	31	27	64	73	77	68	76	79
Large urban areas	24	29	25	61	70	76	66	74	79
All other areas	31	36	30	67	77	79	71	80	81
Intermediate urban	29	34	n.a.	67	75	n.a.	71	78	n.a.
Small town and rural	32	37	n.a.	68	78	n.a.	72	81	n.a.

n.a. = not available.

Note: Large urban areas have a population of 100,000 or greater; intermediate urban areas 15,000 to 99,999 and small towns and rural areas have populations of less than 15,000.

Sources: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000; and Volunteer Activity Survey, 1987.

the approximately 3 in 10 Canadians who offered their time as formal volunteers in 1987, 1997 and 2000, nearly 8 in 10 reported helping directly in 2000, an increase from 6 in 10 in 1987.

According to the two NSGPV surveys, 66% of people in 1997 and 63% in 2000 provided direct personal help to relatives not living with them, and 71% and 79% respectively to people other than relatives. The most common activities included helping someone with shopping or driving

someone to appointments or stores (55% of people provided direct help in 1997 and 57% in 2000); babysitting without being paid (54% and 51%); helping others to write letters, solve problems, find information or fill out forms (47% and 38%); and visiting the elderly (47% and 45%).

Across Canada, in each of the three survey years, the gap separating the regions with the highest and the lowest proportions of formal volunteers — that is, the Prairies and Quebec — was 20 percentage points. In contrast,

has risen faster in large urban areas than elsewhere, to the extent that in 2000 the overall rate of helping was the same in large urban and other areas.

### Full measure of charitable giving provides a more accurate picture

Charitable giving serves numerous essential purposes. It enables many charitable and non-profit organizations to provide the services that are important to the well-being of individuals and their communities, it provides a vehicle through which individuals can express their ideals and values, and it improves the quality of life of the beneficiaries of the donations.

In 1997, just over 19 million Canadians, 82% of the population aged 15 and over, reported money donations totaling \$4.5 billion to charitable and non-profit organizations. In 2000, just under 20 million Canadians, 83% of the population, gave \$5.0 billion to charities. In both years, about 80% of Canadians also provided financial support directly to individuals and non-financial support to organizations, that is, direct personal giving such as giving money to people on the street, making bequests or donating food or clothing.

In 1997 and 2000, 78% of people who made donations did so as direct financial donations either by approaching, or in response to a request from, an organization; 36% in 1997 and 41% in 2000 deposited spare change in cash boxes, usually located beside a cash register at store checkouts; and 3% in 1997 and 4% in 2000 reported leaving a bequest to a charitable, religious or spiritual organization. In-kind donations were also common: 63% in 1997 and 70% in 2000 donated clothing or household goods; and 52% in 1997 and 54% in 2000 gave food to a charitable organization such as a food bank.

The regional patterns for charitable giving are much the same as those for volunteering. In all regions, the

## Hours of formal volunteering in 1997 and 2000

Volunteers contributed a total of just over 1.1 billion hours of their time in 1997, and over 1.0 billion hours in 2000, an average of 149 and 162 hours respectively per volunteer during each year. However, the annual averages include people who volunteered on only one occasion during the year as well as those who did so weekly or even daily. In fact, 22% of volunteers contributed over 200 hours in 1997 and over 208 hours in 2000. These figures highlight an important change that occurred during these years: while the proportion of Canadians who volunteered shrank, the aggregate time volunteered by those who gave a substantial number of hours rose. This resulted in an increasing concentration of volunteering in a shrinking group of individuals.

proportion of people who give directly is consistently higher than that of people who give through organizations, and combining the two measures narrows the gap between regions. In 1997, the combined rate of giving was highest in Ontario (91%) and lowest in Quebec (88%); in 2000, the rate was highest in the Prairies (94%) and lowest in British Columbia (89%).

A comparable pattern exists across communities of different size. The rates of combined giving diverge by less than 2 percentage points in 1997 and 2000, compared with a gap of 6 percentage points in 1997 and 3 percentage points in 2000 for formal charitable giving alone.

### Summary

Direct personal giving and volunteering constitute a large part of contributory behaviour. Consequently, contributory behaviour in Canada can be better characterized and understood by taking account of both formal and direct personal volunteering and giving.

While regional and community differences in the incidence of volunteering and giving are considerably reduced when formal and direct personal styles are combined, they are not eliminated entirely. People in the Prairies prefer to volunteer and give

through formal channels, while residents of Quebec favour contributing directly. Finally, differences in the incidence and mix of total volunteering and contributing are considerably smaller across communities than across regions.

The existence of regional styles of helping and giving is not unusual or surprising — there is in Canada, after all, systematic regional patterning of numerous other social phenomena such as unemployment, marriage and divorce, and crime. What is it in certain regions that gives rise to their particular style? What is the role of regional values and subculture? Of different regional demographic features? Of social and economic conditions? Answers to these questions require further analysis.



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## The harm that family violence does to children

If children witness physical fights between adults or teenagers in their home, they are much more likely to be physically aggressive, to commit delinquent acts against property, and to display emotional disorders and hyperactivity. About 70% of children who saw or heard spousal violence in the 5-year period preceding the 1999 General Social Survey witnessed assaults against their mothers. In half of all cases of wife assault witnessed by children, the women feared for their lives or were physically injured. Victims were more likely to seek help if their children witnessed spousal violence — in 45% of cases, the victim reported the incident to police and in 53% of cases, the victim contacted a social agency. The majority of children in shelters for abused women were there for reasons of abuse; children under five account for the largest proportion, followed by children aged five to nine.

**Family violence in Canada:  
A statistical profile 2001**

Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE



## Women and younger people most likely to be acceptable weight

In 1998-99, 42% of Canadians aged 20 to 64 (excluding pregnant women) were an acceptable weight for their height. Another 19% carried some excess weight and 31% were overweight. In 1998-99, women aged 20 to 64 were more likely than men to be underweight (11% versus 3%) and were more likely to be an acceptable weight (48% versus 36%). Men had a greater tendency to have some excess weight (24% versus 14% of women) or to be overweight (37% versus 26%). Younger Canadians were less likely than older individuals to have weight problems. For example, 71% of 20- to 24-year-olds were either underweight or had acceptable body weight, compared with 37% of adults aged 55 to 64. In 1998-99, residents of Quebec (46%) and British Columbia (45%) were most likely to have an acceptable weight, while Newfoundland (43%) and New Brunswick (42%) had the highest incidence of overweight people.

Note: As measured by body mass index (BMI), weight in kilograms is divided by height in meters squared. The BMI-Canadian standard index is under 20 (underweight), 20-24.9 (acceptable), 25-26.9 (some excess weight) and 27 or higher (overweight).

**Health Indicators,  
vol. 2001, no. 2**  
Catalogue no. 82-221-XIE



## Crime rate down nationally, up in some provinces

The national crime rate fell for the ninth consecutive year in 2000. The 1% decline was mainly due to a 5% drop in property crime, but increases were reported in total violent crime (up 3%) as well as several other offences (including drug offences, up 9%). The overall crime rate fell in three of the four largest provinces — British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario — but rose in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and in all three territories. The homicide rate, generally declining since the mid-1970s, remained unchanged at 1.8 homicides per 100,000. However, the rate of attempted murders jumped 11%. The property crime rate has been generally decreasing since 1991, and in 2000 approximately 1.3 million incidents were reported by police, the lowest rate since 1973. Residential break-ins fell 12%, and business break-ins 3%. A 9% increase in cannabis offences contributed to the increase in the overall rate of drug offences, since they accounted for three-quarters of all drug-related incidents. Police charged over 69,000 persons with impaired driving, a 5% drop from 1999. The impaired driving rate had stabilized during 1998 and 1999 after 15 years of steady decline.

**Juristat: Canadian crime  
statistics, 2000, vol. 21, no. 8**  
Catalogue nos. 85-002-XIE and  
85-002-XPE



## Older cruise passengers docking in Canada

In 2000, about 640,000 international cruise passengers visited the East and West coasts, up 17% over 1999 and almost three times as many as in 1990. The West Coast cruise market accounted for three-quarters of international arrivals in 2000. Almost 7 out of 10 American cruise passengers at the Vancouver Seaport were older adults, with the 65 and over age group making up the largest share (43%) followed by the 55 to 64 age group (26%). The growing segment of the cruise market represented by passengers aged 35 to 54 accounted for 23% of American cruise passengers to Vancouver. Although the Atlantic region is still in an early stage of development, its share of the Canadian cruise market has increased from 15% in 1995 to 24% in 2000. The amount visitors spend while visiting a port varies slightly. American cruise passengers arriving at the Vancouver Seaport spend an average of \$75 per visit compared with \$83 per passenger at the Port of Halifax.

### Travel-log

Catalogue nos. 87-003-XIE and  
87-003-XPB

# The time of our lives . . .

by Janet Fast, Judith Frederick, Nancy Zukewich and Sandra Franke

**L**ike other resources, time is finite. Unlike other resources, time is shared equally by everyone. Each of us has only 24 hours in a day, so spending more time on one activity means that we must spend less time on others. The trade-offs we make between competing activities depend largely on the nature of our roles and obligations at each stage of life.

Have the time use patterns of Canadians changed over the past decade? This question can be answered using data from the 1986, 1992 and 1998 General Social Surveys. These surveys asked about 10,000 respondents aged 15 and over living in private households in the 10 provinces to complete a time use diary. The information collected in this way allows comparison of activities over the years.<sup>1</sup>

The results of the surveys show that the general shape of time use over the life course has shifted somewhat over the past decade. Leisure activities — such as socializing, watching television, reading, going to events, playing sports and doing hobbies — are occupying a larger share of the day, but this is not necessarily because we are spending less time on the job. In fact, total work time — paid work, unpaid work and education — has increased for some, particularly for those with young families. Rather, the extra leisure time seems

to come from devoting less time to personal care activities like sleeping, eating, washing and dressing.

Gender has an impact on time use at virtually every stage of life. Compared to men, women continue to spend relatively less time on paid work and more time on unpaid work such as domestic chores, voluntary work, adult and child care. Women also tend to have less leisure time and to spend slightly more time on personal care activities.

Nevertheless, men have increased the amount of time devoted to unpaid work over the last 12 years. It has not, however, eliminated gender differences with respect to work, particularly for married women.

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1. The 1992 and 1998 surveys were conducted over 12 months of the year, while the 1986 survey was carried out in November; for this reason, there may be some seasonality in the 1986 estimates.

## 15- to 24-year-olds without children

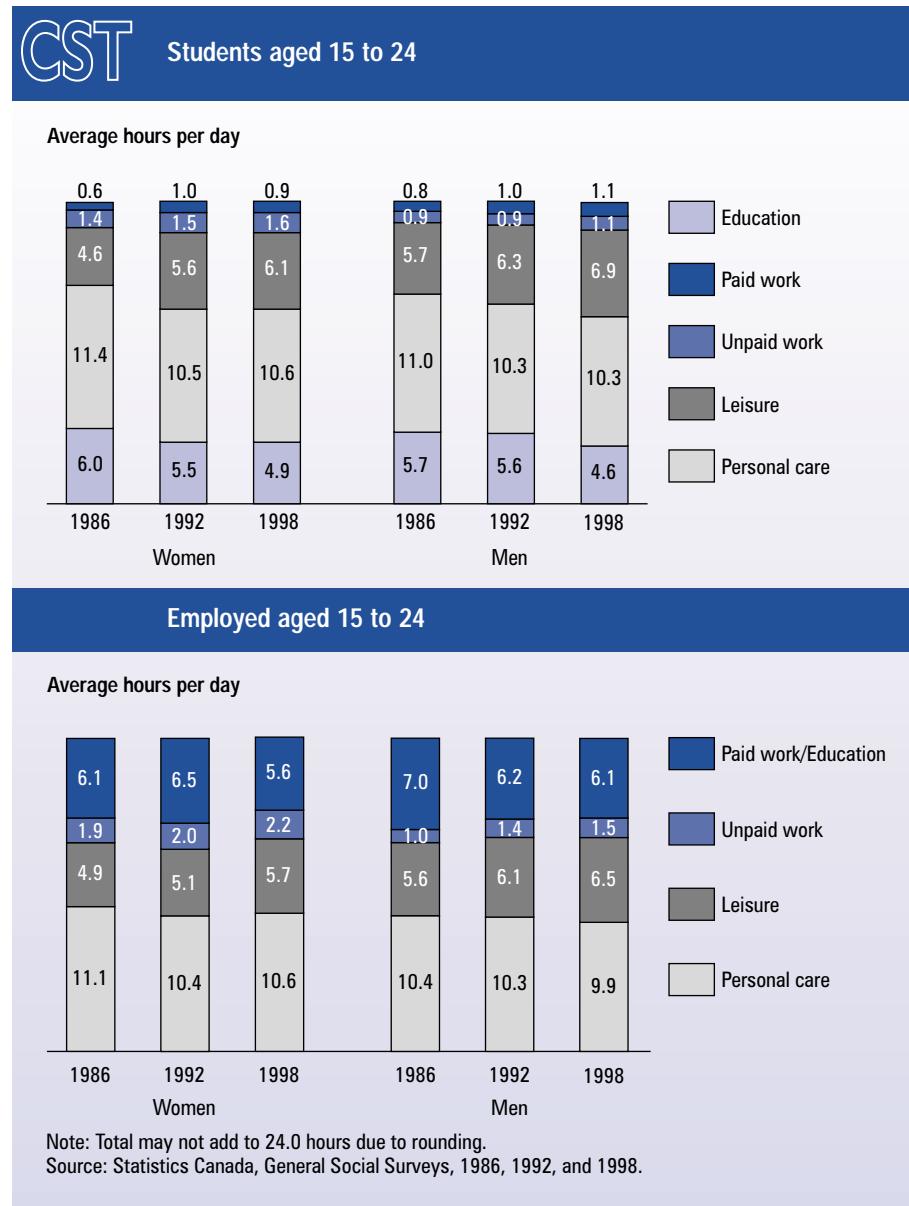
Students<sup>2</sup> today are spending less time studying and more time working for pay than they did a decade ago. On the other hand, they also have more leisure time, so that overall, the time they devote to total work has declined. Nevertheless, women still do more total work because they do about half an hour more unpaid work per day than men.

Employed<sup>3</sup> young women and men 15 to 24 are spending less time at their paid work (including overtime and commuting time) than in 1986; instead, they are spending more time on unpaid work and leisure activities. Unlike students, young workers of both sexes spent about the same amount of time on total work in 1998, although paid and unpaid work were distributed differently.

## 25- to 44-year-old singles, couples and parents

A far clearer image of the time constraints placed on people by their life roles emerges among adults aged 25 to 44. This is a time when people are building their careers and establishing families. Where does the time go? The lion's share of the day is devoted to working for pay and to personal care activities. It is in allocating the remaining time that most differences emerge when comparing those with and without children. For parents,<sup>4</sup> the hours left in the day tend to go to unpaid work; for single adults, they go to leisure activities; for couples only, they are split between unpaid work and leisure.

The total workday of parents has grown by almost one hour over the past decade, as both parents cut back on personal care activities and fathers reduce their leisure time. Although the total workload is presently similar for both mothers and fathers, parenthood does result in a more pronounced gendered division



of labour. For example, mothers devote 3 hours more than fathers to unpaid work and 3 hours less to paid work. However, the gap between time spent on paid and unpaid work has decreased over the past decade, due to mothers increasing time devoted to paid work and fathers increasing time devoted to unpaid work like child care, household maintenance and meal preparation.

Single never-married women and men now have similar time use profiles. Total work time is about the same (8 hours) for both sexes, compared with 1986 when women did

about 1.4 hours more than men. Men increased their hours of paid work by cutting back on personal care; at the expense of personal care and paid work, women found more time for leisure activities like visiting friends, going out and attending movies or cultural events.

- 
2. Main activity in the past seven days is going to school.
  3. Main activity in the past seven days is working for pay or profit.
  4. Having child(ren) refers to having at least one child under age 25 in the household.

Couples without children (married and common-law), particularly women, spend more time on the job and on leisure activities than in 1986. They have found this time by reducing personal care activities like sleeping and eating. As with single adults, total work time is about the same for both sexes. However, in 1998, married women devoted 1.2 hours more per day to unpaid work than married men, while single women spent only 0.6 hours more than single men.

#### 45- to 69-year-olds

Older employed Canadians have increased their leisure time mainly by cutting back on personal care activities. Men have experienced the biggest change in time use patterns over the past decade, devoting about 30 minutes less to paid work and 40 minutes more to unpaid work. Despite this change, the total work-day is about the same now for women and men as it was in 1986.

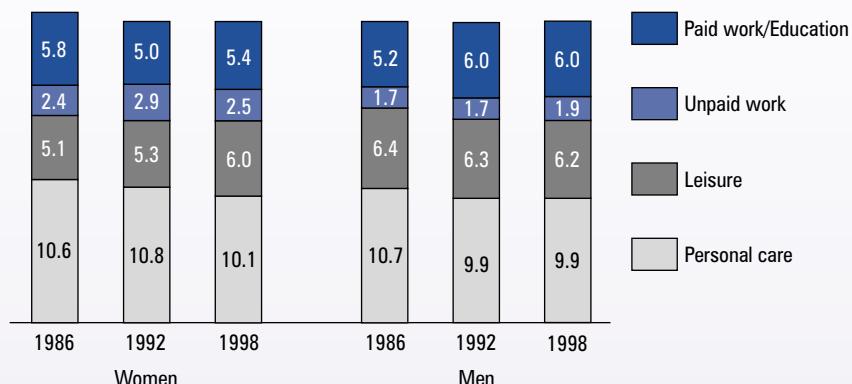
The pursuit of leisure activities occupies a growing place in people's lives upon retirement, as the balance of resources shifts from money to time. People aged 45 to 69 who are not employed spend nearly an hour more per day on leisure activities than they did in 1986. At this stage of life, the division of labour by gender translates into a difference in total work: women do about 1.5 hours more per day of unpaid work, time that men devote to leisure.

#### Adults aged 70 and over

Elderly people living with a spouse are spending more time on leisure and unpaid work, and less on personal care, than they did a decade ago. In particular, men increased their unpaid work time by almost one hour, while women gained one hour of leisure time. As a result, married elderly women now do only about a half an hour more total work per day than men, compared with over one hour more in 1986.

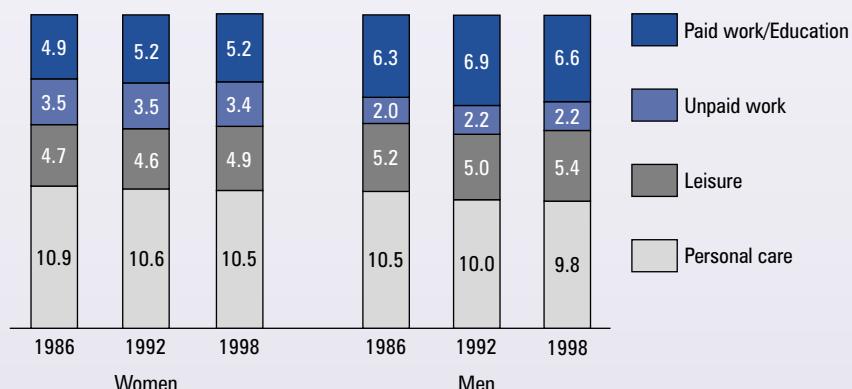


Average hours per day



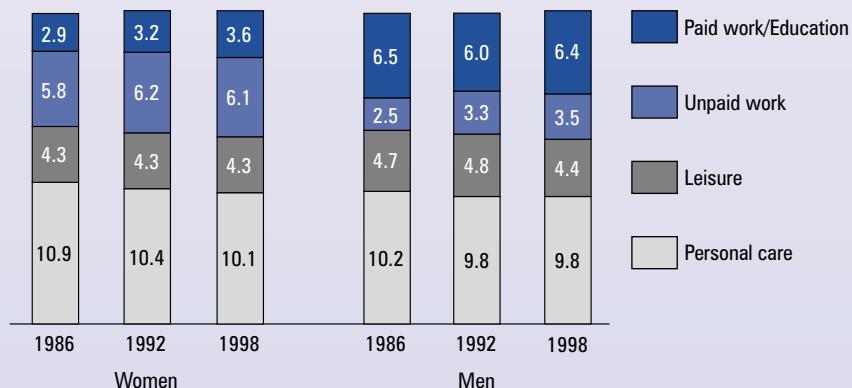
#### Married aged 25 to 44, no children

Average hours per day



#### Parents aged 25 to 44, with children under 25

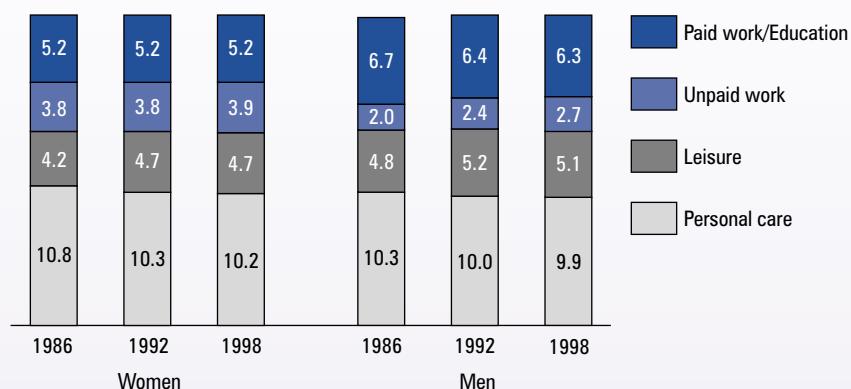
Average hours per day



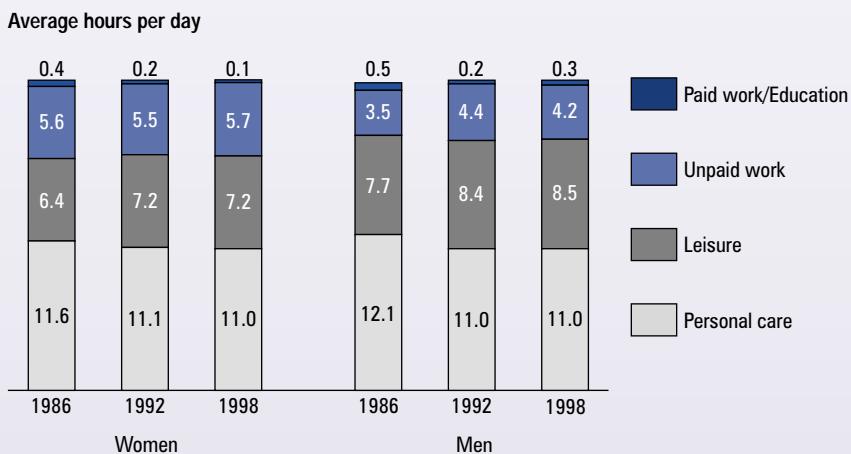
Note: Total may not add to 24.0 hours due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Surveys, 1986, 1992, and 1998.

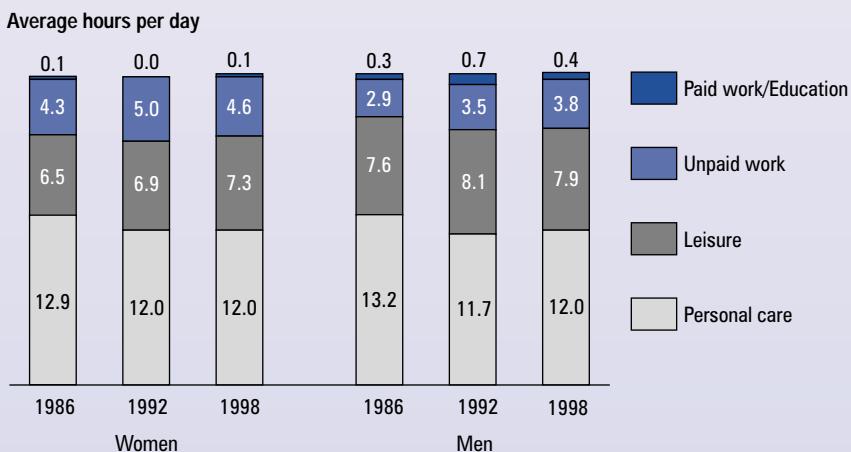
## Average hours per day



## Not employed aged 45 to 69



## Married aged 70 and over



Note: Total may not add to 24.0 hours due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Surveys, 1986, 1992, and 1998.

The time use patterns of elderly widows and widowers living on their own have not changed substantially over the past decade. Living alone means less unpaid work than living with a spouse: women do 3.5 hours per day of unpaid work and men do 3.3. Since 1986, widows have increased leisure time at the expense of personal care, while widowers now do about one hour more of unpaid work.



Judith Frederick, Nancy Zukewich and Sandra Franke are analysts with Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, and Janet Fast is a professor in the Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta.

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# SOCIAL INDICATORS

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>POPULATION</b>									
Total population (July 1)	28,376,550	28,703,142	29,035,981	29,353,854	29,671,892	29,987,214	30,247,949	30,493,433	30,750,087
Age 0-17	7,025,902	7,082,130	7,129,781	7,165,631	7,205,638	7,209,093	7,185,052	7,143,308	7,109,003
Age 18-64	18,054,826	18,250,340	18,466,074	18,676,227	18,884,263	19,119,660	19,333,124	19,559,844	19,791,187
Age 65 and over	3,295,822	3,370,672	3,440,126	3,511,996	3,581,991	3,658,461	3,729,773	3,790,281	3,849,897
Population rates (per 1,000)									
Total growth	12.9	11.1	11.2	10.8	10.4	9.8	7.9	8.3	8.7
Birth	14.0	13.5	13.3	12.9	12.3	11.6	11.3	11.0	10.8
Death	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.5
Natural increase	7.1	6.4	6.1	5.7	5.2	4.4	4.1	3.6	3.2
Immigration	8.9	8.9	7.7	7.2	7.6	7.2	5.8	6.2	7.4
Emigration	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Interprovincial migration	10.9	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.9	9.9	11.3
Marriage	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Percent growth in largest census metropolitan areas (to July 1)									
Toronto	1.7	1.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8
Montréal	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.0
Vancouver	2.7	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.3	2.9	1.6	1.5	1.0
<b>HEALTH</b>									
Total fertility per woman	1.69	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.59	1.55	1.54	--	--
Teenage pregnancies	45,323	45,412	46,753	45,402	44,182	42,162	--	--	--
Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19	48.1	47.8	48.8	47.1	45.2	42.7	--	--	--
% of low birthweight babies	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	--	--
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.3	--	--
Life expectancy (years)									
Men	74.9	74.9	75.1	75.4	75.7	75.8	76.1	--	--
Women	81.2	81.0	81.1	81.3	81.4	81.4	81.5	--	--
Leading causes of death for men (per 100,000 persons)*									
Cancer	245.8	243.8	242.7	239.9	237.6	230.7	231.1	--	--
Lung	77.9	78.2	75.8	73.5	73.2	70.1	70.3	--	--
Colorectal	26.5	25.3	25.6	25.8	24.9	24.1	24.7	--	--
Prostate	31.2	31.3	30.9	31.3	29.3	28.7	28.1	--	--
Heart diseases	258.8	259.3	249.5	245.6	240.9	231.8	227.8	--	--
Cerebrovascular diseases	54.8	56.9	55.4	55.2	53.2	53.0	50.2	--	--
External causes**	67.4	68.3	65.8	66.1	64.3	60.8	61.2	--	--
Leading causes of death for women (per 100,000 persons)*									
Cancer	153.7	155.4	155.6	152.4	155.7	149.1	151.6	--	--
Lung	29.8	31.8	32.0	31.5	33.8	32.5	34.7	--	--
Colorectal	17.0	16.9	16.4	16.5	16.1	15.6	16.0	--	--
Breast	30.5	29.5	30.1	28.8	29.0	27.5	26.5	--	--
Heart diseases	141.7	141.9	139.9	137.5	135.3	130.2	126.2	--	--
Cerebrovascular diseases	46.4	47.8	45.9	44.9	44.3	44.1	41.9	--	--
External causes**	25.9	26.8	25.3	25.8	25.5	24.4	24.4	--	--

-- Data not available.

\* Age-standardized to 1991 population.

\*\* Includes events such as suicide, poisoning and motor vehicle and other types of accidents.

Sources: Population estimates come from Demography Division, and health estimates come from Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.

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# EDUCATORS' NOTEBOOK

*Suggestions for using Canadian Social Trends in the classroom*

Lesson plan for "Wired young Canadians," "Older surfers" and "Connected to the Internet, still connected to life?"

## Objectives

- To examine the ways that people of different ages use the Internet.
- To assess the value of the Internet as a communication tool for different groups of people.
- To discuss the costs and benefits of Internet reliance.

## Method

1. Discuss the concept of "social isolation" and try to reach a consensus about its meaning.
2. Was the same kind of alarm about diminished social contact and disrupted family life raised when television became common in the 1950s and 1960s? What other communication technologies have sparked the same kind of concerns as the Internet?
3. How can the Internet help to prevent social isolation?
4. Older Canadians seem reluctant to use the Internet. With governments and other service providers putting more and more information online, older people who are not using the Net seem to run a real risk of losing access to valuable information and services. What do you think can be done to encourage older people go online?
5. Please see "Educators' Notebook" in Winter 1999 and Autumn 2001 for more Internet-based classroom ideas.

## Using other resources

- For other lesson plans for Social Studies courses, check out the Statistics Canada Web site, <http://www.statcan.ca>, under Education Resources. Select Teaching resources, then Lesson plans. There are more than 120 lessons available, listed by level and subject. E-STAT is now free to Canadian education institutions at <http://estat.statcan.ca>. Students may now access E-STAT from home. Please ask the person responsible at your school for the User Name and Password for E-STAT. To check if your school has already registered for E-STAT, visit <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Estat/licence.htm>. If your school is not a member, please ask your license administrator to visit the licence site above.

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