

IMPACT OF THE COLLECTION MODE ON THE RESULTS OF A QUÉBEC HEALTH SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

L'Enquête Sociale et de Santé (ESS) is a cross-sectional survey aimed at developing a better understanding of the state of health and well-being of Quebecers, the factors affecting that state of health and well-being, and the impact of social and health problems on the consumption of services and medication. The survey has been conducted every five years since 1987.

The ESS uses a mixed collection mode. An initial questionnaire, designed to collect data on all members of the household, is completed by an interviewer (ICQ) during a face-to-face interview. Further data is drawn from a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) given to all individuals aged 15 years or older in the household.

In 1998, a so-called parallel study was introduced to evaluate the impact of a change in collection mode (telephone ICQ and postal SAQ). The study, which is intended mainly to determine the comparability of results from the telephone and face-to-face interviews, was set up to ensure a sample of approximately 5,000 respondents.

The results in terms of response rate will be presented in detail, and some impacts related to the comparability of estimates will be discussed.

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