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Health Indicators

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About Health Indicators

Background

In 1998, over 500 people - health administrators, researchers, caregivers, government officials, health advocacy groups, and consumers – were brought together to identify health information needs. One of their priorities was comparable quality data on key health indicators for health and health services.

In response to the consultations, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and Statistics Canada have launched a collaborative process to identify what measures should be used to report on health and the health system – and then to share this information with Canadians from coast to coast.

Health indicators are:

- relevant to established health goals
- based on standard (comparable) definitions and methods
- broadly available – disseminated electronically across Canada at the regional, provincial and national level

The primary goal of the Health Indicators project is to support health regions in monitoring progress in improving and maintaining the health of the population and the functioning of the health system for which they are responsible through the provision of quality, comparative information on:

- the overall health of the population served, how it compares to other regions in the province and country and how it is changing over time;
- the major non-medical determinants of health in the region;
- the health services received by the region's residents; and
- characteristics of the community or the health system that provide useful contextual information.

Consultations continue with provincial and regional health authorities to refine and expand the initial list of indicators confirmed at the consensus conference in May 1999. As data are compiled, the provincial and regional authorities are also involved in the verification process. This collaborative process is intended to ensure relevant data and consistent methods.

Health Indicator Framework

The health indicator framework describes the current indicators, categories and dimensions. The indicators in this issue include all those released in previous issues of *Health Indicators*, in addition to new indicators – see “What’s New?” for more details.

Certain current indicators have no data available at this time, but work is being done to have these data ready for future issues.

Health Indicators

Health Status			
Well-Being	Health Conditions	Human Function	Deaths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-rated health Changes over time in self-rated health Self-esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body mass index (BMI), Canadian standard Body mass index (BMI), International standard Arthritis/rheumatism Diabetes Asthma High blood pressure Chronic pain - affects activities Chronic pain - severity Depression Low birth weight <p>Cancer incidence, age-standardized rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All cancer incidence Lung cancer incidence Colorectal cancer incidence Breast-female cancer incidence Prostate cancer incidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury hospitalizations Food and waterborne diseases* Injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional health Two-week disability days Activity limitation Conditions causing activity limitation Disability-free life expectancy Disability-adjusted life expectancy Disability-adjusted life years Health expectancy * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant mortality Perinatal mortality Life expectancy <p>Mortality crude counts/rates, age-standardized rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total mortality Circulatory disease deaths Cancer deaths Respiratory disease deaths Suicide Unintentional injury deaths AIDS deaths <p>Potential years of life lost (PYLL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total PYLL Cancer PYLL Circulatory PYLL Respiratory PYLL Unintentional injuries PYLL Suicide PYLL AIDS PYLL
Non-Medical Determinants of Health			
Health Behaviours	Living and Working Conditions	Personal Resources	Environmental Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking status Smoking initiation Changes over time in smoking behaviour Frequency of heavy drinking Leisure-time physical activity Breastfeeding practices Dietary practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school graduates Post-secondary graduates Average number of years of schooling Unemployment rate Long-term unemployment rate Low income rate Children in low income families Average personal income Housing affordability Decision latitude at work Median share of income Government transfer income Owner-occupied dwellings Crime rate and youth crime rate** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School readiness Social support Life stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to second-hand smoke

Health System Performance			
Acceptability	Accessibility	Appropriateness	Competence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza immunization, 65 years and over Screening mammography, women aged 50-69 years Pap smear, women aged 18-69 years Childhood immunizations* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaginal birth after caesarean Caesarean sections 	
Continuity	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pertussis Measles Tuberculosis HIV Chlamydia Pneumonia and influenza hospitalizations <p>Deaths due to medically-treatable diseases, age-standardized rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial infections Cervical cancer Hypertensive disease Pneumonia and unspecified bronchitis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambulatory care sensitive conditions 30-day AMI in-hospital mortality 30-day stroke in-hospital mortality <p>Re-admissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMI Asthma Prostatectomy Hysterectomy Pneumonia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not require hospitalization Expected compared to actual stay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip fracture hospitalization

Community and Health System Characteristics		
Community	Health System	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Population density Dependency ratio Urban population Aboriginal population Immigrant population 1- and 5-year mobility Population within strong Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ) Lone-parent families Visible minorities Teen pregnancy** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflow/outflow ratio Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) Hip replacement Knee replacement Hysterectomy Contact with alternative health care providers Contact with health professionals Contact with health professionals about mental health Contact with dental professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Expenditures Doctors Nurses Other health professionals

* Data quality, definition or data availability are uncertain at this point in time.

** Province-level data only for the next few years

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