

National Population Health Survey

General Information and Products and Services

Introduction

The National Population Health Survey (NPHS) program started its first 12-month cycle of data collection in early June 1994 and will continue every second year thereafter. This initiative is the major component of a concerted effort to improve the information available to support the development and evaluation of health policies and programs in Canada during a time of economic and fiscal pressures on the health care system.

Extensive and invaluable consultations took place with representatives from Health Canada and the provincial and territorial ministries of health in the development of the survey. As well, *ad hoc* groups of researchers and specialists were convened to address content and methodological problems. The survey will produce both periodic cross-sectional information to monitor programs and longitudinal data to improve our understanding of the determinants of good health.

Methodology

The three target populations are: 1) **household** residents in all provinces (with the principal exclusion of populations on Indian Reserves, Canadian Forces Bases and some remote areas in Quebec and Ontario); 2) long-term residents expected to stay longer than six months in **health care institutions** with four beds or more in all provinces (with the principal exclusion of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories; and 3)

the **Northern population** including household residents in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories (with the principal exclusion of populations on Indian Reserves, Canadian Forces Bases and some of the most remote areas of the Territories).¹

The household and territorial components collect most of the information from a single household member. Interviewing one respondent simplifies the longitudinal follow-up. However, each time the respondent is re-surveyed, demographic, socio-economic and basic health-related information will also be collected from all members of the household in which he or she is then living.

For the 1996-97 cycle, the household component of the NPHS started using the 17,276 longitudinal respondents from 1994-95. In addition, the provinces of Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba purchased supplemental samples so that a larger sample of dwellings could be selected. The final response rate was approximately 83% of households.

Content

¹ For more information on the sample design of the NPHS, refer to: Tambay J-L, Catlin G. Sample design of the National Population Health Survey, *Health Reports* (Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 82-003) 1995; 7(1): 29-38.

The questionnaire includes content related to health status, use of health services, determinants of health and a range of demographic and economic information. For example, the health status information includes self-perception of health, a health status index, chronic conditions, and activity restrictions. The use of health services is probed through visits to health care providers, both traditional and non-traditional, and the use of drugs and other medications. Health determinants include smoking, alcohol use and physical activity. In the second cycle, emphasis has been placed on the collection of information related to access to health services through questions on preventive tests and examinations which probed for frequency, reason for use or non-use and barriers encountered. The demographic and economic information includes age, sex,

education, ethnicity, household income and labour force status.

For more information on the content of the questionnaire, please consult the *National Population Health Survey 1996-97 Household Component Questionnaire*. This document is available on this site.

Who to Contact

For data content support call:
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National Population Health Survey

Products and Services

Ordering Information

For products listed in Section A and Section B, contact:

Client Custom Services Unit
Health Statistics Division
Statistics Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6
Telephone: (613) 951-1746
Fax: (613) 951-0792

For products listed in Section C, contact:

Marketing Division, Sales and Service
Statistics Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6
Telephone: (613) 951-7277
1-800-267-6677, toll-free in Canada
Fax: (613) 951-1584
Or visit our site on the Internet: www.statcan.ca

A. Custom Tabulations

Custom tabulations tailored to meet a client's specific data requirements are available from the cross-sectional and longitudinal files of the National Population Health Survey Program. This includes both Cycles 1 and 2 for the Household component and Cycle 1 for both the Health Care Institutions and Northern Territories components. Custom tabulations from the 1996-97 Health Care Institutions and Northern Territories components will be available in Winter 1999.

Also available are custom tabulations from supplementary questions to the NPHS sponsored by Health Canada. In Cycle 1, these questions covered a variety of topics including nutrition, smoking, injury prevention and safety, and drugs taken during pregnancy. In Cycle 2, the supplementary survey was on asthma.

The minimum charge for this service is \$200.

B. Microdata Files

Public use microdata files from Cycles 1 and 2 of the NPHS program are now available for the Household component. For the Health Care Institutions component, public use microdata files are currently available for Cycle 1; the files for Cycle 2 will be available in Spring 1999. No public use microdata file is produced for the Northern Territories component.

These files will allow clients to carry out their own tabulations, research and analysis using non-aggregated information. In the creation of these public use files, special measures were taken to ensure respondent confidentiality. Furthermore, clients must sign a microdata licence agreement before purchasing these products.

Cycle 1, 1994-95

National Population Health Survey: Households, 1994-95: Microdata File

82F0001XDB (Diskette: bilingual)

82F0001XCB (CD-ROM: bilingual)

Microdata Specifications: Two ASCII files are included with the product, the General file(59K) of all household respondents and the Health file(17K) of selected respondents. The CD-ROM package comes with an easy to use retrieval software called IVISION adapted for the Health file. The software Acrobat Reader is also provided in order to access the documentation files.

Computer Requirements:

Diskettes: This package contains 4 diskettes holding two sets of microdata files. 24 MB of hard disk space required to install both files; 12 MB for one file.

CD-ROM: Ivision Browser: minimum 4.6 MB space on hard drive; Acrobat Reader: 2.5 MB space

Diskette: Canada: \$650

Other Countries: US \$650

CD-ROM: Canada: \$800

Other Countries: US \$800

National Population Health Survey: Health Care Institutions, 1994-95: Microdata File

82M0010XDB (Diskette: bilingual)

A special component of the program is a survey designed for people living in health care institutions, including hospitals, nursing homes, and residential facilities for persons with disabilities. This microdata file contains data collected in 1995 from 2,287 long-term residents of health care institutions in the provinces.

Microdata Specifications: Survey year: 1995; Reference year: 1994-95; Universe: long-term residents of health institutions; Number of records: 2,287; Medium: PC high density diskette (3.5"); Format: ASCII

Computer Requirements: IBM compatible high-density diskette (3.5")

Canada: \$250 Other Countries: US \$250

B. Microdata Files, cont'd

National Population Health Survey supplement, 1994-95: Microdata file

82M0018SDB (Diskette: bilingual)

Health Canada sponsored a content buy-in to the National Population Health Survey 1994/95. The buy-in was collected as a supplementary survey for selected persons aged 12+ who are part of the core NPHS sample. The supplement was not collected for the sample buy-ins which were done in some provinces, and it was not collected for the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The information was collected quarterly, as a component of the NPHS Computer-Assisted Interviewing application. The NPHS supplement covers a variety of topics including nutrition, smoking, injury prevention and safety, breast-feeding, consumption of alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy, sexual health and health care services.

Canada: \$500 Other Countries: US \$500

Cycle 2, 1996-97

National Population Health Survey, 1996-97: Microdata File

82M0009XCB (CD-ROM: bilingual)

This product will be released in two stages: Version 1 and Version 2.

Version 1 (Household component only) --- **Now available**

This CD-ROM contains two NPHS Public Use Microdata files in ASCII format: the General file and the Health File. The General file contains information about all household members. The Health file contains information collected from the selected person who answered the more in-depth questionnaire. The Health file is partially provided in Beyond 20/20 format, allowing a quick and user-friendly access to cross-tabulation using the Beyond 20/20^{MD} Browser supplied on the CD-ROM.

- Contents:
- Cross-sectional microdata from the General (210K) and Health (81K) files
 - Beyond 20/20 data browser for part of the Health File
 - Users' Guide
 - National Population Health Survey Overview, 1996-97

Version 2 (Household and Health Care Institutions components) -- **Available Spring 1999**

- Contents:
- Version 2 of the CD-ROM will contain the contents of Version 1, plus cross-sectional and longitudinal microdata from the Health Care Institutions component of the NPHS.
 - Users' Guide
 - National Population Health Survey Overview- Health Care Institutions, 1996-97

Computer Requirements: IBM PC compatible 386, or better; 8MB of RAM; CD-ROM reader; Minimum of 8MB free space on hard disk; Microsoft mouse or compatible.

Canada: \$2,000 Other Countries: US \$2,000

Price Note: Clients who purchase Version 1 will receive Version 2 free of charge.

B. Microdata Files, cont'd

Special Package

Clients who purchase the 1994-95 *and* 1996-97 CD-ROMs will receive both for one special price.

Canada: \$2,500 Other Countries: US \$2,500

(Product Nos. 82F0001XCB and 82M0009XCB)

C. Other Related Products

National Population Health Survey Overview, 1996-97

82-567-XPB (paper)

82-567-XIB (downloadable .pdf file available on the Statistics Canada web site)

This 14 page overview presents selected findings from cycles 1 and 2 (cross-sectional data). It also highlights changes in health observed between these two cycles (longitudinal data). Some of the longitudinal findings illustrate the relationships between health determinants (reported in Cycle 1) and health outcomes (reported in Cycle 2). Other longitudinal findings reveal changes in health status that occurred during this two-year period.

Topics include: children's health, chronic disease incidence, changes in activity limitation status, determinants of depression, repetitive strain and other injuries, alcohol dependence, smoking initiation and re-initiation, protective effects of physical activity, routine check-ups, recurring depression and doctor visits, blood pressure, mammograms, Pap tests, supplemental health insurance, use of American health care services, and home care.

Paper:	Canada \$35	Other Countries US \$35
Internet:	Canada \$26	Other Countries US \$26

Notes:

- This publication is also included on the 1996-97 public use microdata file CD-ROM (82M0009XCB).
- The 1994-95 edition of the *National Population Health Survey Overview* is still available as a downloadable .pdf file on the Statistics Canada web site.

National Population Health Survey 1996-97 : User's Guide for the Public Use Microdata Files:

Household component - 82M0009XPB (paper: bilingual)

Health Care Institutions component [available Spring 1999] - 82M0010XPB (paper: bilingual)

This documentation is also included on the 1996-97 public use microdata file CD-ROM (see product 82M0009XCB).

Households:	Canada \$50	Other Countries US \$50
Institutions:	Canada \$30	Other Countries US \$30

C. Other Related Products, cont'd

Health Reports

82-003-XPB (paper)

82-003-XIE (downloadable .pdf file available on the Statistics Canada web site)

This quarterly journal publishes articles of wide interest that contain original and timely analyses of health and vital statistics data. The sources of data are typically national or provincial/territorial administrative databases or surveys - *including the National Population Health Survey*.

Paper: Canada \$35 (\$116/subscription)
Other Countries US \$35 (US \$116/subscription)
Internet: Canada \$26 (\$87/subscription)
Other Countries US \$26 (US \$87/subscription)

Previous articles in Health Reports that analyzed NPHS data

Volume 10-3	Childhood asthma Attitudes toward smoking Which workers smoke? Work stress and health
Volume 10-2	Multiple-risk behaviour in adolescents and young adults
Volume 10-1	Home care in Canada
Volume 9-4	Multiple medication use among seniors At risk of first or recurring heart disease Smoking prevalence, quit attempts and successes Age of smoking initiation: Implications for quitting The health of Northern residents
Volume 9-3	Characteristics of hospital users The health of Canadians with diabetes
Volume 9-2	Characteristics of women on hormone replacement therapy Factors associated with bicycle helmet use
Volume 9-1	Who doesn't get a mammogram?
Volume 8-4	Depression: An undertreated disorder?
Volume 8-3	Trends in mammography utilization, 1981 to 1994 Chronic conditions, physical limitations and dependency among seniors living in the community
Volume 8-2	Reaching smokers with lower educational attainment
Volume 7-4	Depression A healthy outlook The health of Canada's immigrants in 1994-95 Chronic pain
Volume 7-1	Sample design of the National Population Health Survey
Volume 4-3	The National Population Health Survey: Highlights of initial developments

C. Other Related Products, cont'd

Health Indicators

82-221-XCB (CD-ROM)

Forthcoming: Winter 1999

The Health Indicators offers data for the latest health information derived from national surveys (including the *National Population Health Survey*) and administrative databases. Data for four categories: determinants of health, health status, health resources, and health care utilization are present for Canada and provinces in a historical context.

CD-ROM: Canada \$100 Other Countries US \$100

Health Statistics: Catalogue of products and services

82F0058XIE (downloadable .pdf file on the Statistics Canada web site)

This catalogue provides a comprehensive reference to statistical health information currently available from Statistics Canada.

This catalogue is available free of charge on the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca). Click on the main menu choice *Products and Services*, then *Downloadable Publications (free)*, then scroll down to 82F0058XIE.

Statistics Canada's Online Catalogue

For the most up-to-date information on all of Statistics Canada's products and services, consult the online catalogue available on the Statistics Canada web site www.statcan.ca under the main menu choice *Products and Services*.