



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, July 27, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Cancer incidence and mortality, 1991 to 1993** 2  
 The incidence of new cancer cases as well as rates of mortality from cancer varied widely from province to province, according to a study using data from 1991 to 1993. Cancer rates tended to be well above the national rate in Quebec and Nova Scotia, and much lower in the three westernmost provinces.

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- Inventory of Statistics Canada's questionnaires on CD-ROM, 1997 4

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### Health reports

Summer 1998

The Summer 1998 issue of *Health reports* contains articles entitled "Falling short of Pap test guidelines," "Pregnancy-related hospital use," "Home care in Canada," "Seniors' needs for health-related personal assistance," and "Cancer incidence and mortality across Canada."

*Health reports* provides comprehensive and timely analysis of national and provincial health information and vital statistics derived from surveys or administrative data bases. It is designed for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy makers, educators and students.

The Summer 1998 issue of *Health reports*, Vol. 10, no. 1 (82-003-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. See *How to order publications*.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Cancer incidence and mortality

1991 to 1993

The incidence of new cancer cases as well as rates of mortality from cancer varied widely among provinces and territories, according to a study using data from 1991 to 1993. Regional variations in the incidence of cancer and in mortality rates were strongly influenced by trends in the four leading cancers: lung, colorectal, prostate and breast. Together, these sites accounted for over half of total cancer incidence and mortality during the three-year study period.

Cancer rates tended to be significantly higher in Quebec and Nova Scotia, and significantly lower in the three westernmost provinces. To a large degree, these patterns reflected provincial and territorial variations in smoking prevalence, dietary habits and the extent of cancer screening programs.

For the 1991-to-1993 period, the incidence of cancer, adjusted to account for differences in the age distribution of the population in each province and territory, was much higher among Canadian men than women. Among men, 476 new cases were diagnosed for every 100,000 individuals, compared with 337 among women. Similarly, the age-standardized mortality rate was higher among men, at 243 deaths per 100,000, compared with 153 for women.

In terms of incidence, overall rates for men were above the national rate in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba. Rates were below the national level in Newfoundland, Ontario, the three westernmost provinces, and the two territories. Among women, the overall incidence of cancer showed less regional variation. However, rates were well above the national level in Nova Scotia and well below average in Newfoundland.

Mortality rates displayed a pronounced east-to-west pattern. The age-standardized cancer mortality rate among men was well above average in Nova Scotia and Quebec, and was also significantly high in Newfoundland and New Brunswick. Rates were particularly low in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and were lower than the national level in Ontario. Regional variations in female mortality rates were similar.

#### **Note to readers**

*This report is based on an article in the Summer 1998 issue of Health reports, which is released today.*

*Data for the incidence of new cases of cancer were obtained from the National Cancer Incidence Reporting System for 1991 and from the Canadian Cancer Registry for 1992 and 1993. These data are reported annually by the provincial and territorial cancer registries to the Health Statistics Division at Statistics Canada, which maintains these data bases.*

*Data on mortality, compiled from the vital statistics registries in each province and territory, are from the Canadian Vital Statistics Data Base at Statistics Canada.*

**Incidence** refers to the number of new cases of a given type of cancer diagnosed during the year.

**Mortality** refers to the number of deaths during the year attributed to a particular type of cancer, based on the underlying cause of death.

#### **Rates generally high in the east**

In Quebec, mortality rates and the incidence of cancer among men were well above national levels during the three-year study period, largely because of high rates of lung and colorectal cancer. High lung cancer mortality rates accounted for more than half of the overall excess cancer mortality among Quebec men, and reflect the high prevalence of smoking. The incidence rates for just two cancers (prostate and melanoma) were low among Quebec men, while mortality rates were low for melanoma and cancer of the esophagus.

Quebec women had mortality rates well above the national average for colorectal cancer, for cancers of the larynx, uterus and stomach, and for leukemia. Incidence rates were substantially above the national level for cancers of the larynx, bladder and stomach. The slight, but significantly elevated lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in Quebec mark a change from previously below-average levels. This increase accompanies continued high smoking prevalence among Quebec women.

The high overall incidence of cancer among men in Nova Scotia reflects rates well above average for lung, colorectal, bladder and kidney cancer, and for melanoma. Mortality rates were significantly higher for lung, prostate and kidney cancer.

Like their male counterparts, Nova Scotia women had elevated incidence and mortality rates for a relatively large number of cancers. Their mortality rates



for breast and cervical cancer were among the highest in Canada. Lung cancer mortality was also high.

#### **Low rates in the west**

In Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, the incidence of new cases and mortality rates for most cancers tended to be well below national levels. These rates generally mirror low smoking prevalence, healthier diets, and well-established cancer control programs, such as screening.

Among men in Saskatchewan, incidence rates were high only for prostate and bladder cancer, and mortality rates were not significantly high for cancer of any type. Saskatchewan women had a high incidence of breast cancer, but a low mortality rate from the disease, attributable, in part, to high rates of breast screening in the province.

In Alberta, no cancer sites had significantly high mortality rates for either sex. Among women, only breast cancer incidence was slightly above average.

Low overall rates of cancer in British Columbia reflected significantly low incidence and mortality rates for most sites, with many well below the national average.

However, there were some exceptions. Women had high lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in British Columbia, a consequence of high smoking rates in the 1960s. The high incidence of breast cancer, together with low mortality, is, in part, a product of the early implementation of breast screening. For both men and women, the incidence of melanoma was high. Among men, incidence and mortality rates for esophageal cancer were high, and the incidence rate for prostate cancer was also above average.

The Summer 1998 issue of *Health report* (82-003-XPB, \$35/\$116; Internet: 82-003-XIE, \$26/\$87) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Leslie Gaudette (613-951-1740), Health Statistics Division. ■



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Telephone statistics

May 1998

Canada's 14 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,404.7 million in May, up 0.6% from May 1997. Operating expenses were \$1,040.2 million, down 5.8% from the same period a year earlier. Net operating revenue totalled \$364.6 million, a 24.7% increase from May 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.**

The May 1998 issue of *Telephone statistics* (56-002-XIB, \$8/\$70) will be released on the Internet shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Haig McCarrell (613-951-5948), Science and Technology Redesign Project. ■

### Inventory of Statistics Canada's questionnaires on CD-ROM

1997

The *Inventory of Statistics Canada's questionnaires on CD-ROM, 1997*, is now available. The disc contains scanned images of questionnaires used to conduct questionnaire based surveys in 1997.

The product provides full text retrieval, allowing for searches by word or subject. It also has a viewer for displaying page-by-page images of the questionnaires.

Each questionnaire-based survey is listed with the titles of the questionnaires used, their form numbers and frequency. Information is also given about the printed and electronically available data series through which the survey data are disseminated. Names and telephone numbers of contact persons are also provided for each survey.

The *Inventory of Statistics Canada's questionnaires on CD-ROM, 1997*, (12-205-XCB, \$150) is now available. The price is subject to Statistics Canada's discount policy.

For further information on this release, or to order this product, contact Michael Webber (613-951-3458; fax: 613-951-8578; [webbmic@statcan.ca](mailto:webbmic@statcan.ca)), Standards Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Inventory of Statistics Canada's questionnaires on CD-ROM, 1997**  
**Catalogue number 12-205-XCB**  
(Canada: \$150; outside Canada: US\$150).

**Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, June 1998**  
**Catalogue number 44-004-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Imports by commodity, May 1998**  
**Catalogue number 65-007-XMB**  
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

**Imports by commodity, May 1998**  
**Catalogue number 65-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

**Health reports, Summer 1998, vol. 10, no. 1**  
**Catalogue number 82-003-XIE**  
(Canada: \$26/\$87; outside Canada: US\$26/US\$87).

**Health reports, Summer 1998, vol. 10, no. 1**  
**Catalogue number 82-003-XPB**  
(Canada: \$35/\$116; outside Canada: US\$35/US\$116).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 9, 1997	
For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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