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# A portrait of seniors in Canada

Target groups project



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# A portrait of seniors in Canada

Target groups project

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# Highlights

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## Chapter 1 – Demographics

- By the year 2031, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over will have increased dramatically, to almost a quarter of the total population, from about 8% in 1971 (Chart 1).
- The proportion of seniors who were widowed decreased from 1976 to 1986, except for females aged 85 and over. The largest decreases were for males aged 75 and over and females aged 75 to 84 (Table 1).
- The proportion of persons aged 55 and over who were divorced approximately doubled between 1976 and 1986, while the proportion who had never married dropped slightly (Table 1).
- Compared with a national average of 10.7% of the population aged 65 and over, and 2.1% aged 80 and over, Newfoundland, Quebec, Alberta and both Territories were below the national level, while the 7 remaining provinces were above (Chart 4).
- The proportion of persons who did not change residences between 1981 and 1986 increased steadily with age, from about one-half for those aged under 55, to four-fifths for those aged 75 and over (Chart 5).

## Chapter 2 – Living arrangements and housing

- The proportion of men living in family households decreased sharply with age in 1986, from 85.8% for men 55 to 64, to 66.2% of men 75 and over. For women, the decrease was even greater, from 79.8% of those aged 55 to 64, to only 34.2% of women 75 and over (Chart 6).
- A higher proportion of women than men lived alone in 1986. This difference was especially pronounced in the 65 to 74 age group, where the proportion was almost three times higher for women than for men (30.4% compared with 11.8%) (Chart 7).

## Chapter 3 – Employment, income and expenditures

- About 30% of households with heads aged 65 and over had 1988 household incomes of \$15,000 to \$24,999 compared with only 16.8% for all households. A further 38% of these senior households had incomes below \$15,000, more than twice the proportion for all households (Chart 15).
- The proportion of seniors with private retirement pensions increased significantly between 1977 and 1988. The largest increases were for men aged 65 to 69 (38.5% in 1977 to 57.4% in 1988), and those aged 70 to 74 (33.2% to 53.3%) (Chart 17).

## Chapter 4 – Health and safety

- In 1986, disability rates increased steadily with age, from 7.7% of males and 7.1% of females under age 55 to 75.3% of males and 85% of females aged 85 and over (Chart 21).
  - Hospitalization rates over the period 1980-81 to 1985-86, although higher for females than males in the total population, were higher for males than females in the 65 and over age group (Chart 22).
  - Compared with the total population, persons aged 65 and over in 1985 were at least twice as likely to report respiratory troubles, arthritis or rheumatism and hypertension, and at least three times as likely to report heart trouble (Chart 27).
  - The types of support most frequently received by senior males in 1985 were housework (85%) and meal preparation (86%). For females, the most common areas of support were yardwork (87%) and grocery shopping (43%) (Table 7).
  - Compared with persons aged 15 to 64, persons aged 65 and over in 1987 were less than one-third as likely (8% compared with 25%) to have been victimized (Chart 29).
-

## Highlights – concluded

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### Chapter 5 – Social and cultural characteristics

- Satisfaction with retirement increases with age. Only 3.9% of retired persons aged 75 and over in 1988 reported being dissatisfied with retirement, compared with over one-fifth (20.3%) of retirees under age 60 (Chart 33).
  - About half of male and female seniors aged 65 and over reported involvement in political organizations in 1988 (Chart 34).
-



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## Introduction

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Seniors, the fastest growing segment of Canada's population, have gained increasing importance and visibility in the eyes of policy-makers, business, and the general public over the last decade. As their numbers continue to grow, along with their economic power and their organization, what has been dubbed the "Age Wave" will sweep across the country, affecting not only all of our institutions, but also the way in which people think about and perceive seniors.

This chartbook is an effort to paint a statistical portrait of this important segment of Canadian society, using as wide an array of data as possible from the many sources of data at Statistics Canada. Whenever possible, the "traditional" seniors population (persons aged 65 years and over) has been expanded to include the population aged 55 to 64 years. As well, whenever possible, additional age breakdowns within the 65 and over age group have been included, as have comparisons between the sexes and observations over time.

The data depicted in the charts and shown in the tables are taken mainly from published information (see the bibliography for a complete listing of the publications consulted) originating from various Statistics Canada surveys. Most non-census surveys exclude residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, persons living on Indian reserves, institutional residents, and full-time members of the armed forces. Data from the various censuses generally include these groups, with the exception of incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Some of the universes represented and definitions used throughout the report may vary slightly according to the various source surveys employed. It is suggested that readers seeking more precise information, or generally interested in comparability and data quality consult the source publications listed in the bibliography at the end of this report.

This publication was prepared by the Target Groups Project, located in the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division of Statistics Canada. The objective of this project is to integrate data on target group populations from the diverse holdings within Statistics Canada. As examples, target groups also include the family, children, aboriginal peoples, women, visible minorities, and the disabled. Thus, this report is but one of the products such as reference guides, chartbooks and databases designed to facilitate user access to data on target groups. A complete list of these publications is also included in the bibliography mentioned previously.

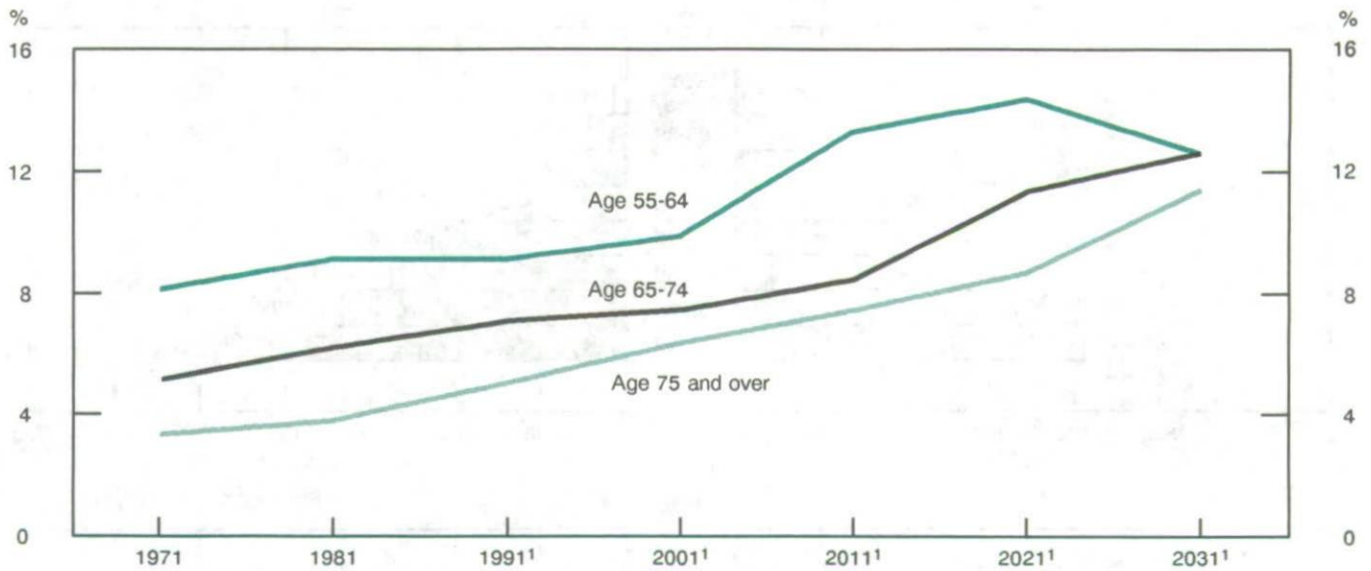
This publication was prepared by Pierre Gauthier under the direction of Jack Scott, Manager, Target Groups Project, with the assistance of Patricia Lapointe, Cheryl Sarazin, Mario Lisciotto, and Carolyne Poppe of the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. The content of the publication was generously reviewed and commented on by the Minister of State for Seniors, the Seniors Secretariat of Health and Welfare Canada, One Voice-A Seniors Network, and the members of Statistics Canada's Target Groups Committee.



## Chapter 1 – Demographics

Chart 1

Percentage of selected age groups in the population, Canada, 1971-2031



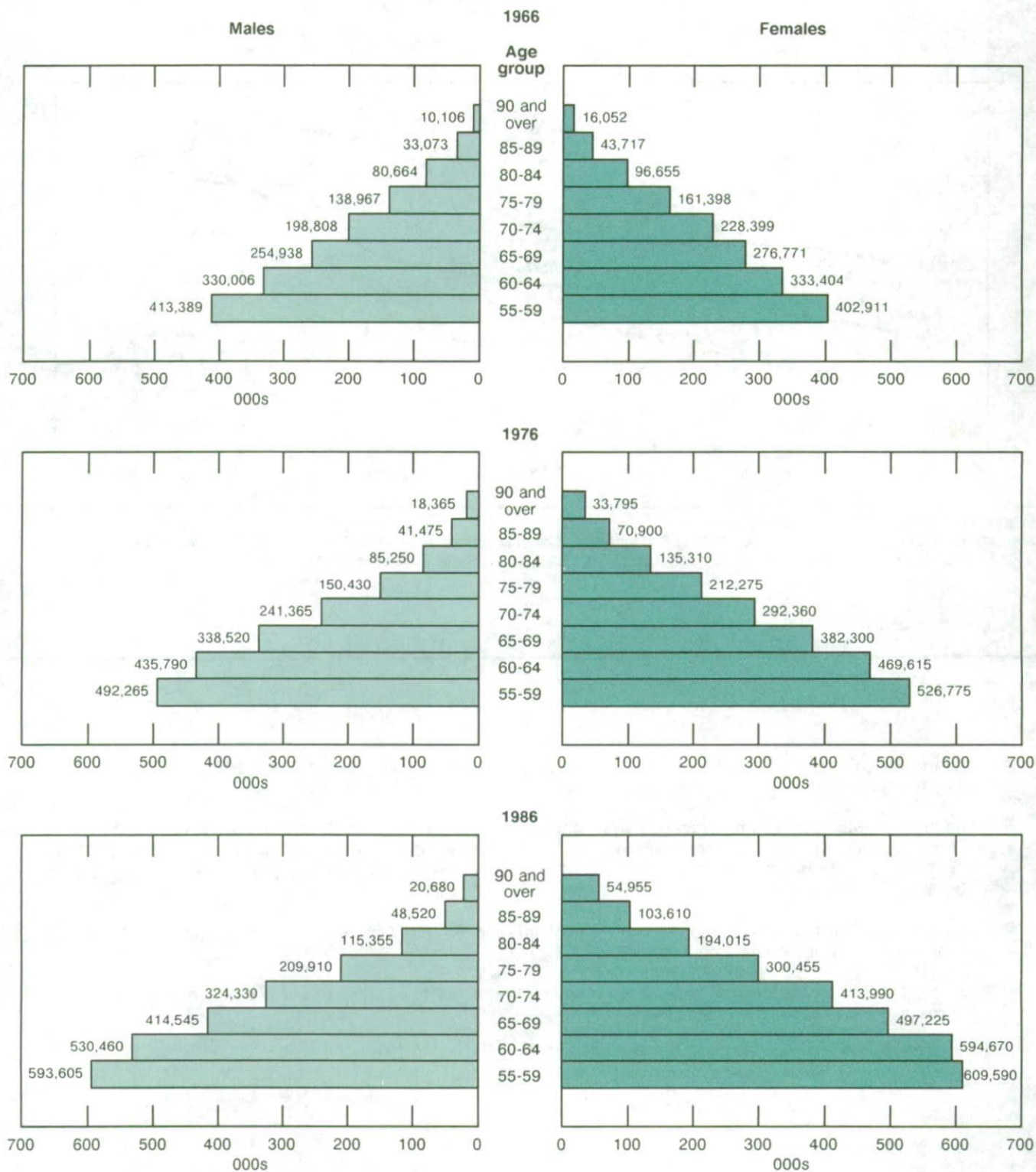
<sup>1</sup> Projections using projection number 3.

Source: 1971 Census of Canada, Vol.1-Pt.2; 1981 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 92-901; and Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-520.

- As of 1991, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over is anticipated to be around 11.8%, up from only 8.1% in 1971.
- As the post-war baby-boom generation ages, it will cause significant jumps in the proportion of the population in the age groups it enters. Between 2001 and 2011, the biggest increase will be for those aged 55 to 64 (9.7% to 13.1%). Between 2011 and 2021, the biggest jump will be for those aged 65 to 74 (8.3% to 11.3%). Between 2021 and 2031, it will be for those aged 75 and over (8.5% to 11.3%).
- By the year 2031, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over will have increased dramatically, to almost a quarter of the total population (23.8%).
- As the baby-boom generation approaches retirement (ages 55 to 64) around 2021, this age group alone will make up 14.2% of the total population.

Chart 2

## Pyramids for the population aged 55 years and over, by sex, Canada, 1966-1986



Sources: 1966, 1976 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-610, 92-823, and 93-101.

- 
- The number of males aged 90 or over doubled between 1966 and 1986 (10,106 to 20,680), while the number of females in that age group more than tripled (16,052 to 54,955).
  - Although women aged 85 and over outnumbered men in that age group by 16,590 in 1966, by 1986 they outnumbered them by 89,365.
  - There were very large increases during the period 1966-1986 in the number of males and females aged 55 to 64 (381,000 more males and 468,000 more females).
  - In 1986, there were 653,035 women aged 75 and over, 65% more than the 394,465 men in that age group.
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Table 1

## Population aged 55 years and over, by age group, sex and marital status, Canada, 1976 and 1986

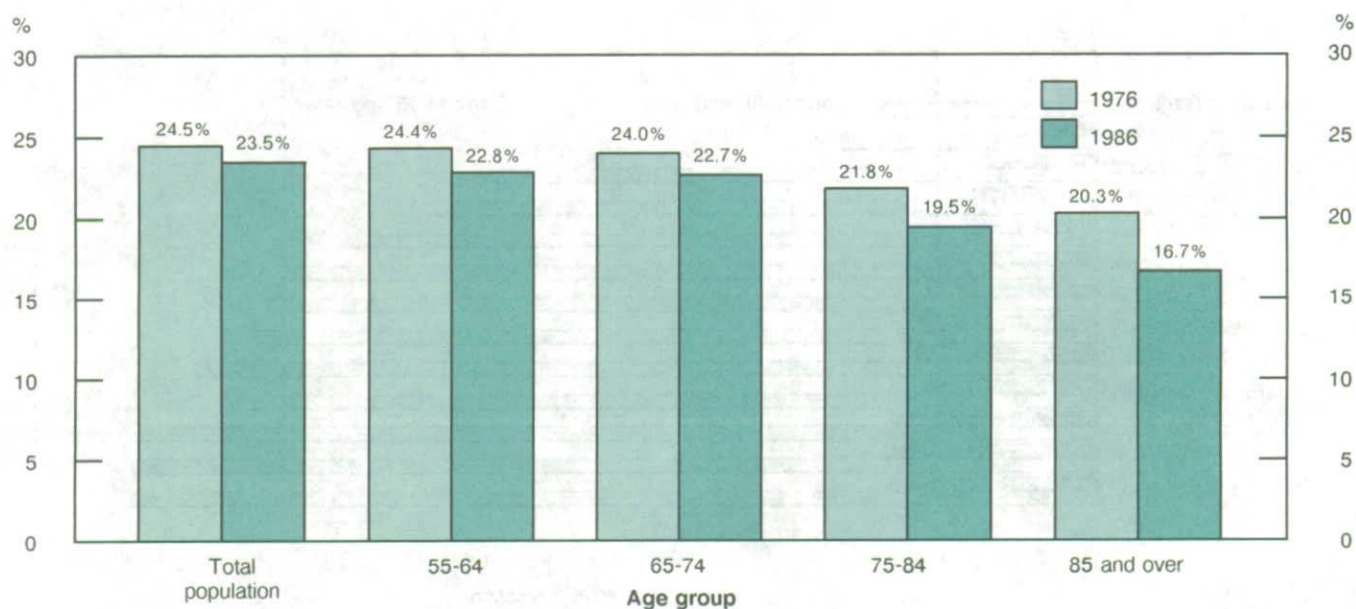
	Age 55-64		Age 65-74		Age 75-84		Age 85 and over	
	1976	1986	1976	1986	1976	1986	1976	1986
	%							
<b>Males</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Single	8.2	7.4	9.4	7.2	9.6	8.1	10.8	8.6
Married	83.8	82.3	77.7	79.6	64.4	68.8	41.4	46.0
Separated	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.5
Divorced	1.9	4.2	1.4	2.7	0.9	1.6	0.5	0.9
Widowed	3.5	3.3	9.0	8.2	22.9	19.5	45.8	42.9
<b>Total number</b>	<b>928,050</b>	<b>1,124,065</b>	<b>579,880</b>	<b>738,880</b>	<b>235,680</b>	<b>325,270</b>	<b>59,840</b>	<b>69,195</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Single	7.9	6.0	10.0	7.7	10.4	9.8	11.1	10.3
Married	69.2	70.5	48.5	51.8	24.7	27.0	8.5	8.1
Separated	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.4
Divorced	2.3	5.0	1.4	2.8	0.6	1.3	0.2	0.5
Widowed	17.8	15.6	38.1	35.7	63.4	60.8	79.7	80.7
<b>Total number</b>	<b>996,380</b>	<b>1,204,260</b>	<b>674,655</b>	<b>911,210</b>	<b>347,590</b>	<b>494,460</b>	<b>104,695</b>	<b>158,560</b>

Sources: 1976 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- About 80% of males aged 55 to 74 are married. This proportion drops to about 69% in the 75 to 84 age group, and 46% in the 85 and over. For females, the proportions drop much faster, going from about 70% in the 55 to 64 age group, to 52%, 27% and 8% in the 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 and over age groups, respectively.
- The proportion of seniors who are widowed decreased from 1976 to 1986 for every group except females aged 85 and over. The largest decreases were for males aged 75 and over and females aged 75 to 84.
- The proportions of persons aged 55 and over who are divorced approximately doubled for all age and sex groups between 1976 and 1986, while the proportion who have never married dropped slightly for all groups.

Chart 3

**Percentage of population living in rural areas, by age group,  
Canada, 1976 and 1986**

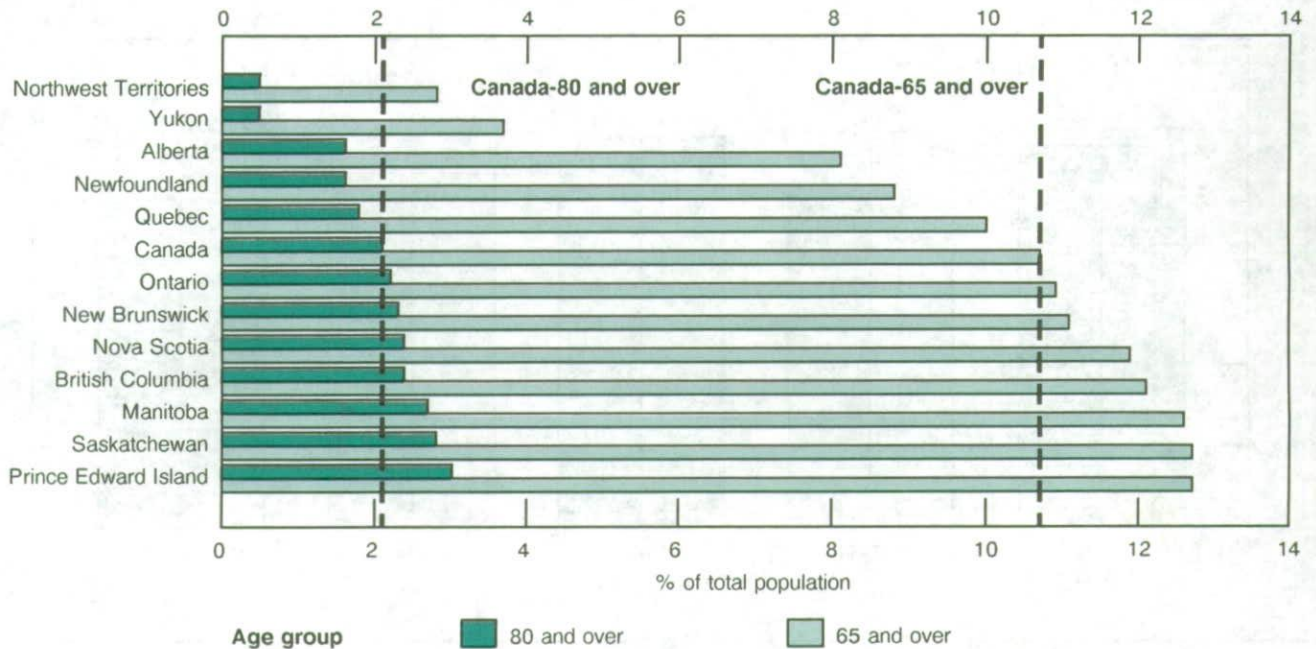


Sources: 1976 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 92-823, and 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The proportion of the population living in rural areas decreases with age, from almost a quarter (22.8%) in the 55 to 64 age group, to only 16.7% of persons aged 85 and over.
- Although the proportion of all persons living in rural areas fell slightly (one percentage point) between 1976 and 1986, this drop was much higher in the 75 to 84 age group (2.3 percentage points) and the 85 and over age group (3.6 percentage points).

Chart 4

Percentage of total population aged 80 years and over, and 65 years and over, Canada, provinces and territories, 1986



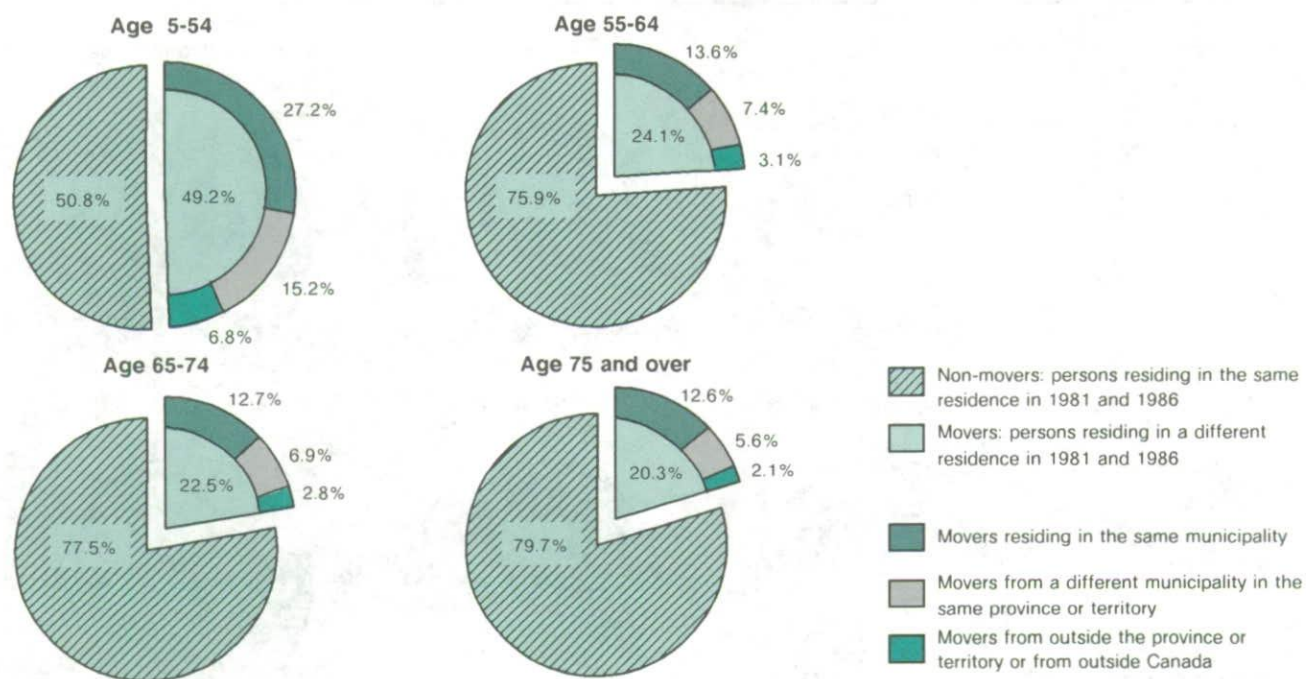
Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-101.

- Seniors in Canada are not found in higher concentrations either in the East or the West. Among the provinces, one Atlantic province and one Prairie province had both the lowest proportions of the population aged 65 and over (Newfoundland and Alberta), and the highest proportions (Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan).
- The Yukon and Northwest Territories had the lowest proportions of persons aged 65 and over (3.7% and 2.8%, respectively) and of persons aged 80 and over (0.5% each).
- Among the provinces, the proportions of the population aged 80 and over ranged from 1.6% in Alberta and Newfoundland, to 2.8% in Saskatchewan and 3% in Prince Edward Island.
- Compared with the national averages of 10.7% of the population aged 65 and over and 2.1% aged 80 and over, Newfoundland, Quebec, Alberta and both Territories fell below the national averages, while the 7 remaining provinces fell above.



Chart 5

### Mobility status distributions of the population aged 5 years and over, by age group, Canada, 1986



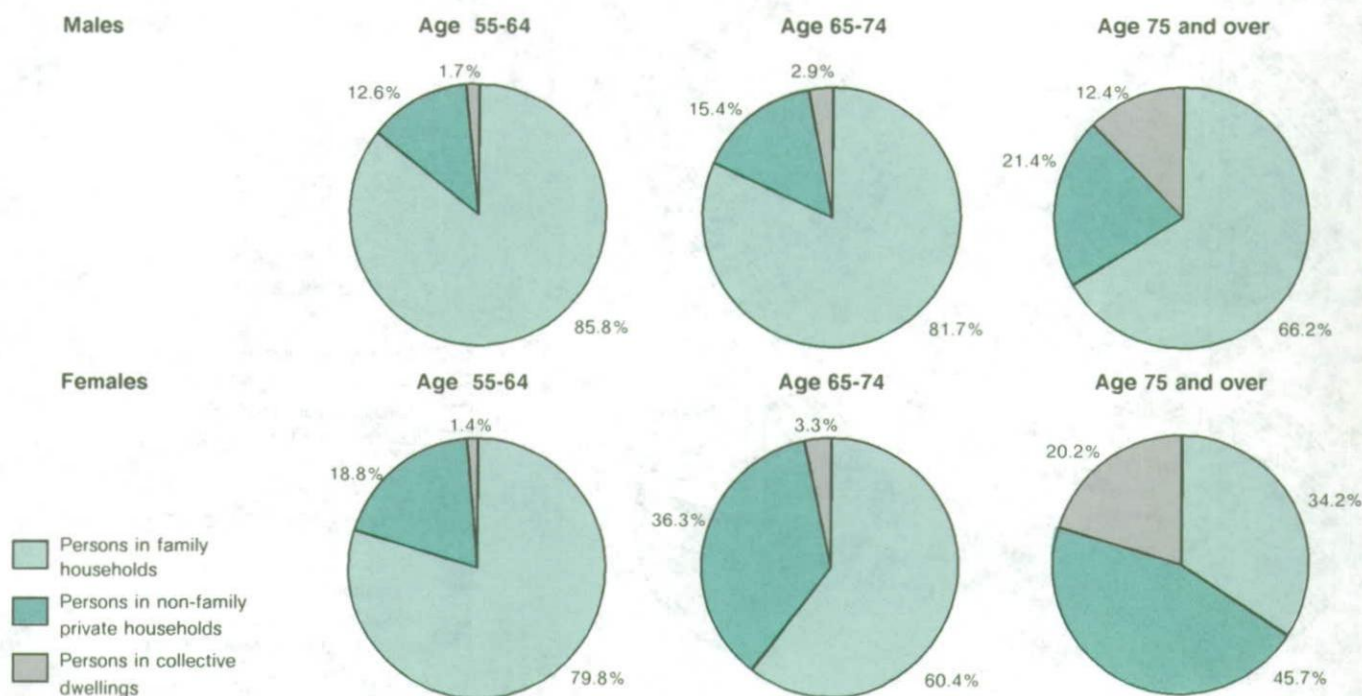
Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The proportion of persons who did not change residences between 1981 and 1986 increases steadily from about one-half (50.8%) for those aged under 55, to four-fifths (79.7%) for those aged 75 and over.
- The proportion of persons who moved from a different province or territory or from outside Canada is more than three times as high for those aged under 55 (6.8%) as it is for those aged 75 and over (2.1%).
- More than half of all persons who changed residences between 1981 and 1986 stayed within the same municipality. This was true for all age groups.

## Chapter 2 – Living arrangements and housing

Chart 6

Population aged 55 years and over, by age group, living arrangements and sex, Canada, 1986

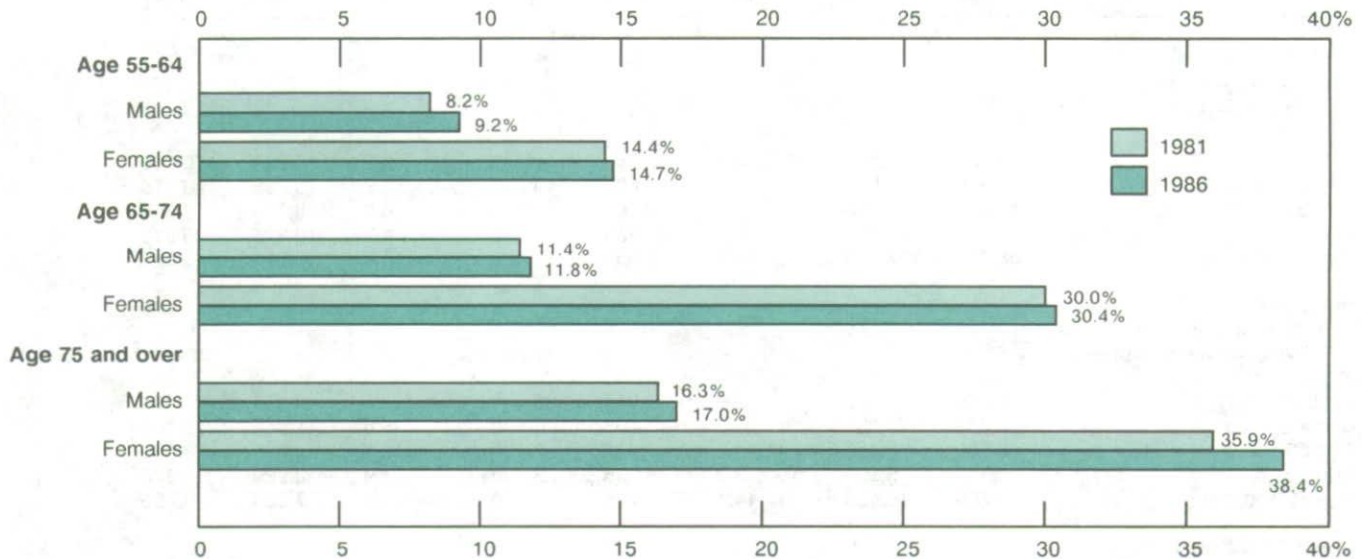


Sources: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-104 and 93-106.

- The proportion of men living in family households decreases sharply with age, from 85.8% for men aged 55 to 64 to 66.2% of men aged 75 and over. For women, the decrease is even greater, from 79.8% of those aged 55 to 64, down to only 34.2% of women aged 75 and over.
- In the 55 to 64 age group, a slightly higher proportion of men (1.7%) than women (1.4%) live in collective dwellings. In the 65 to 74 age group, a higher proportion of women (3.3%) than men (2.9%) are in collectives, and this difference is even greater in the 75 and over age group (20.2% of women, compared with 12.4% of men).
- The proportion of women aged 65 and over living in non-family private households is more than double that of men.

Chart 7

## Percentage of the population living alone, by age group and sex, Canada, 1981 and 1986



Sources: 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-905 and 93-106.

- The proportion of persons aged 55 and over who live alone increased between 1981 and 1986 for all age and sex groups. The largest increase was for women aged 75 and over, from 35.9% in 1981 to 38.4% in 1986.
- A higher proportion of women than men live alone. This difference is especially pronounced in the 65 to 74 age group, where the proportion is almost three times higher for women than for men (30.4% compared with 11.8%).
- The proportion of both men and women living alone increases sharply with age, from 9.2% and 14.7%, respectively, in the 55 to 64 age group, to 17% and 38.4%, respectively, in the 75 and over age group.



Table 2

## Residents of institutional collective dwellings, by age group, sex and selected collective dwelling type, Canada, 1981 and 1986

	Total			Males			Females		
	1981	1986	% Change	1981	1986	% Change	1981	1986	% Change
	No.		%	No.		%	No.		%
<b>Total residents of institutions<sup>1</sup></b>									
Total all ages	253,980	287,325	13.1	107,050	117,185	9.5	146,930	170,140	15.8
Under age 55	63,280	66,060	4.4	42,695	45,945	7.6	20,585	20,115	-2.3
Age 55-64	17,675	18,905	7.0	9,465	10,050	6.2	8,210	8,855	7.9
Age 65-74	34,580	36,585	5.8	15,260	15,980	4.7	19,325	20,610	6.7
Age 75 and over	138,450	165,775	19.7	39,635	45,220	14.1	98,815	120,560	22.0
<b>Hospitals (general, psychiatric and physically handicapped)</b>									
Total all ages	54,225	53,735	-0.9	28,970	28,355	-2.1	25,255	25,380	0.5
Under age 55	29,360	27,235	-7.2	17,405	16,530	-5.0	11,945	10,705	-10.4
Age 55-64	5,820	5,430	-6.7	3,490	3,125	-10.5	2,330	2,305	-1.1
Age 65-74	6,345	6,590	3.9	3,355	3,520	4.9	2,990	3,070	2.7
Age 75 and over	12,700	14,490	14.1	4,715	5,190	10.1	7,985	9,305	16.5
<b>Special care homes (elderly and chronically ill)</b>									
Total all ages	178,915	209,615	17.2	60,080	67,620	12.6	118,830	141,995	19.5
Under age 55	13,460	15,315	13.8	7,620	8,610	13.0	5,835	6,705	14.9
Age 55-64	11,575	13,105	13.2	5,725	6,595	15.2	5,860	6,510	11.1
Age 65-74	28,165	29,915	6.2	11,840	12,395	4.7	16,320	17,530	7.4
Age 75 and over	125,715	151,270	20.3	34,900	40,025	14.7	90,810	111,250	22.5
<b>Religious institutions<sup>2</sup></b>									
Total all ages	33,820	31,360	-7.3	7,230	6,905	-4.5	26,590	24,455	-8.0
Under age 55	10,130	7,340	-27.5	3,240	2,465	-23.9	6,900	4,880	-29.3
Age 55-64	6,995	6,105	-12.7	1,470	1,405	-4.4	5,530	4,700	-15.0
Age 65-74	9,260	8,740	-5.6	1,635	1,725	5.5	7,625	7,010	-8.1
Age 75 and over	7,430	9,175	23.5	895	1,305	45.8	6,530	7,865	20.4

<sup>1</sup> Counts for total institutions include all correctional and penal institutions, but exclude religious institutions (see note 2).

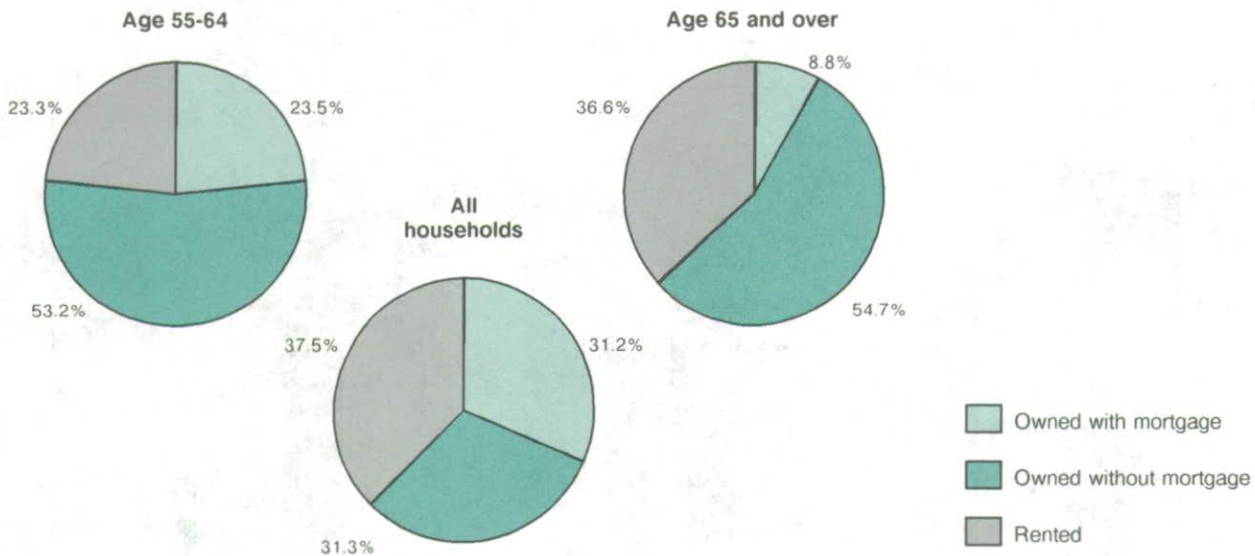
<sup>2</sup> Counts for religious institutions show residents and staff combined, and therefore are excluded from total for residents of institutions.

Sources: 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-903 and 93-104.

- Out of a total 287,325 residents of institutions (excluding religious) in 1986, 165,775 were aged 75 and over, 120,560 of those being women.
- In the population aged 65 and over, all but 21,200 of the 202,360 institutional residents were in special care homes (181,185) in 1986.
- Between 1981 and 1986, the number of institutional residents under age 55 increased by only 4.4%, compared with a 19.7% increase in those aged 75 and over. These increases were greater for women than for men.
- While the number of residents (including staff) of religious institutions fell from 33,820 in 1981 to 31,360 in 1986, this number increased for those aged 75 and over, from 7,430 to 9,175.

Chart 8

## Distribution of households, by tenure and age of head, Canada, 1988

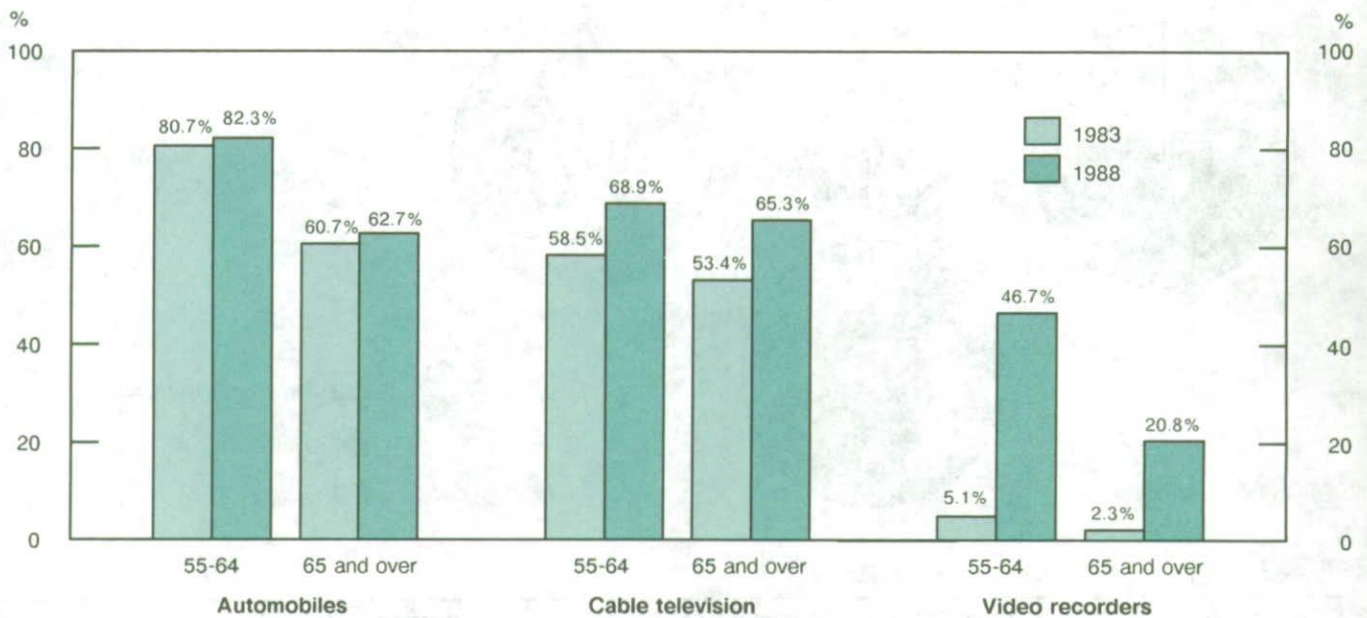


Source: *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

- The proportion of households with heads aged 65 and over that rent their home (36.6%) is slightly lower than the national average (37.5%). For households with heads aged 55 to 64, the proportion is much lower, at only 23.3%.
- The proportion of households that own their home free of a mortgage is much higher for households with heads aged 55 to 64 (53.2%) and 65 and over (54.7%) than the national average (31.3%).

Chart 9

Percentage of households reporting selected equipment, by age of head, Canada, 1983 and 1988



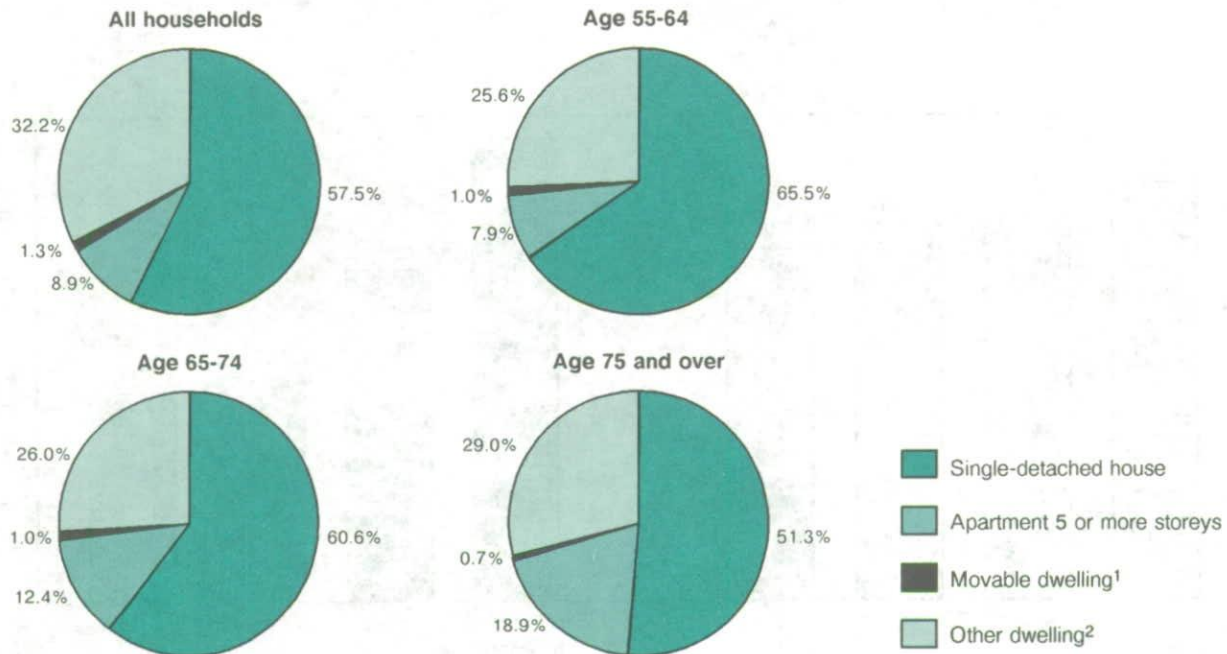
Source: *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

- The proportion of households with heads aged 55 to 64 and 65 and over reporting automobiles, cable television and video recorders all increased between 1983 and 1988.
- A higher proportion of households with heads aged 55 to 64 reported having automobiles, cable television and video recorders than households with heads aged 65 and over. This is especially true of video recorders, reported by almost half (46.7%) of households with head aged 55 to 64, compared with only one-fifth (20.8%) of households with head aged 65 and over. This difference is more pronounced in 1988 than it was in 1983 (5.1% compared with 2.3%).



Chart 10

## Private households, by structural type and age of household maintainer, Canada, 1986



<sup>1</sup> Includes mobile homes and other movable dwellings such as houseboats and railroad cars.

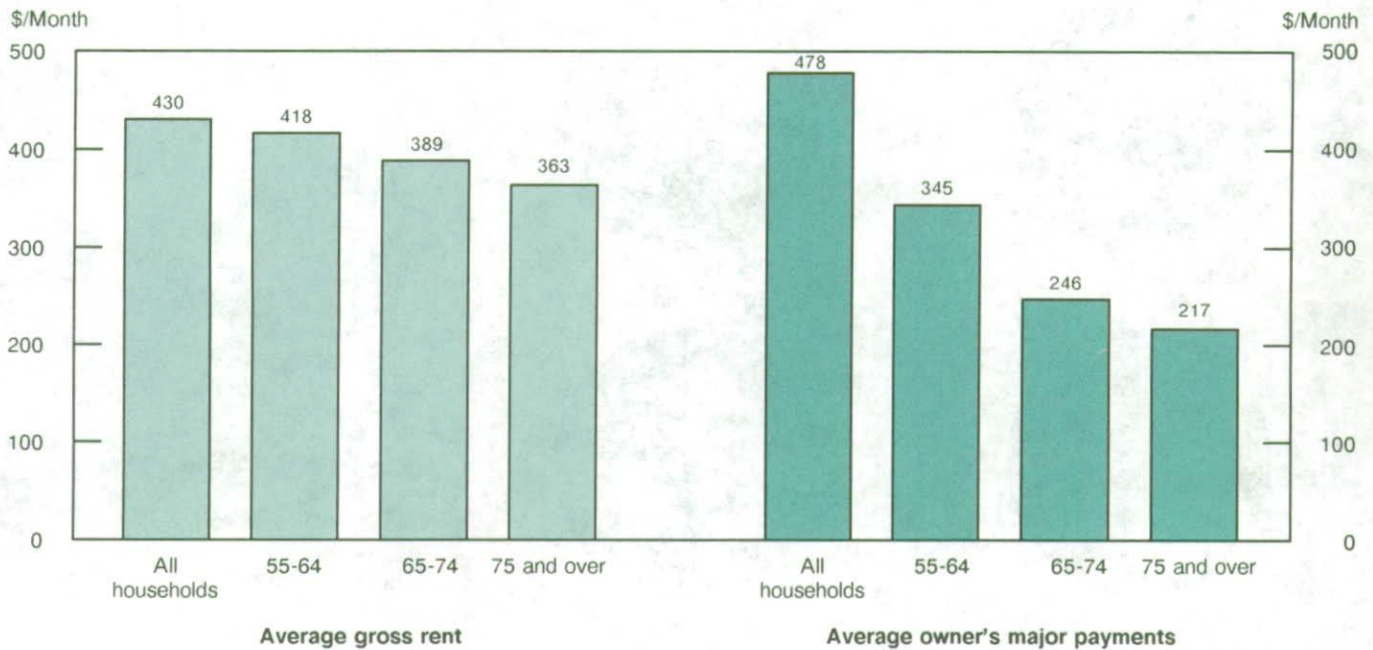
<sup>2</sup> Includes "semi-detached house", "row house", "other single-attached house", "apartment or flat in a detached duplex" and "apartment in a building that has less than 5 storeys".

Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-105.

- The proportion of households living in single-detached houses drops with age, from 65.5% of households with maintainers aged 55 to 64, to 60.6% of those with maintainers aged 65 to 74 and 51.3% of those with maintainers aged 75 and over.
- Compared with the national average (8.9%), more households with senior maintainers live in high-rise apartments (5 storeys or more). For households with maintainers aged 65 to 74, and 75 and over, these proportions are 12.4% and 18.9%, respectively.

Chart 11

**Average gross rent<sup>1</sup> and average owner's major payments<sup>2</sup> for private households, by age of maintainer, Canada, 1986**



<sup>1</sup> Applies to tenant-occupied non-farm, non-reserve dwellings only.

<sup>2</sup> Applies to owner-occupied non-farm, non-reserve dwellings only.

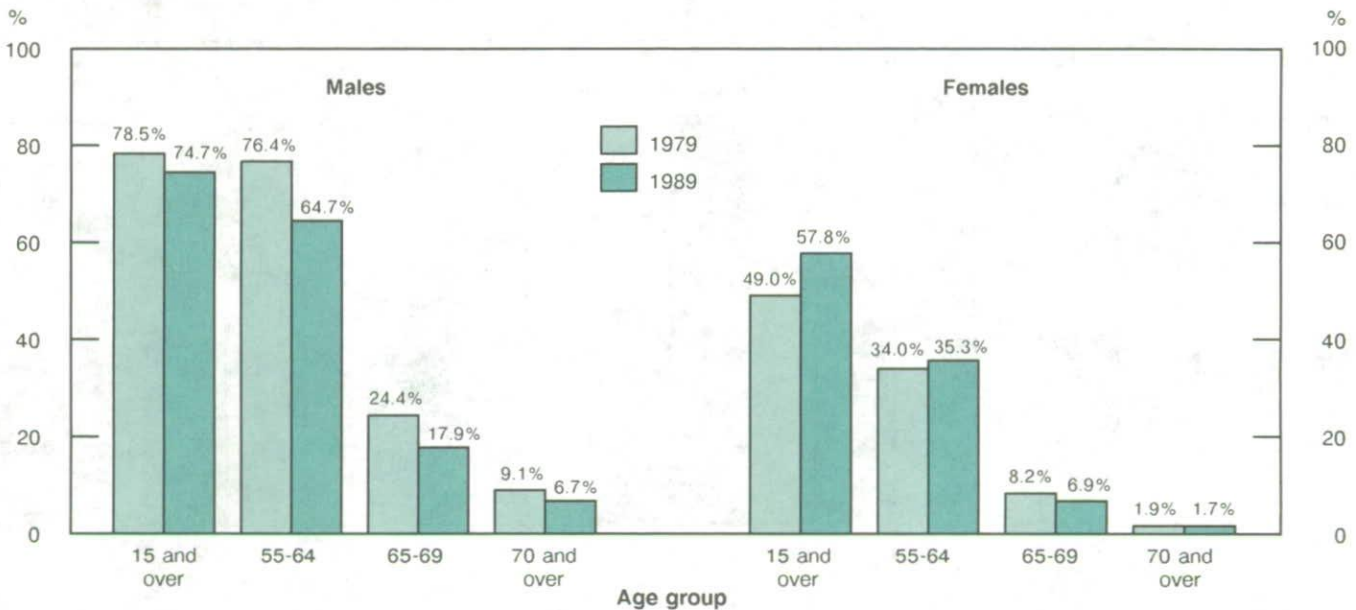
Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-105.

- Monthly shelter cost payments decrease with the increasing age of the household maintainer, for both renter households and owner households. The decrease is greater for owner households, likely due to households having paid off their mortgages.
- Gross rents, which include rent, electricity, heating and services, drop from \$418/month for households with maintainers aged 55 to 64, to \$363/month for households with maintainers aged 75 and over.
- Owner's major payments, which include mortgage payments (if any), taxes, electricity, heating and services, drop from \$345/month for households with maintainers aged 55 to 64, to \$217/month for households with maintainers aged 75 and over.

## Chapter 3 – Employment, income and expenditures

Chart 12

Labour force participation rates (annual averages), by age group and sex, Canada, 1979 and 1989

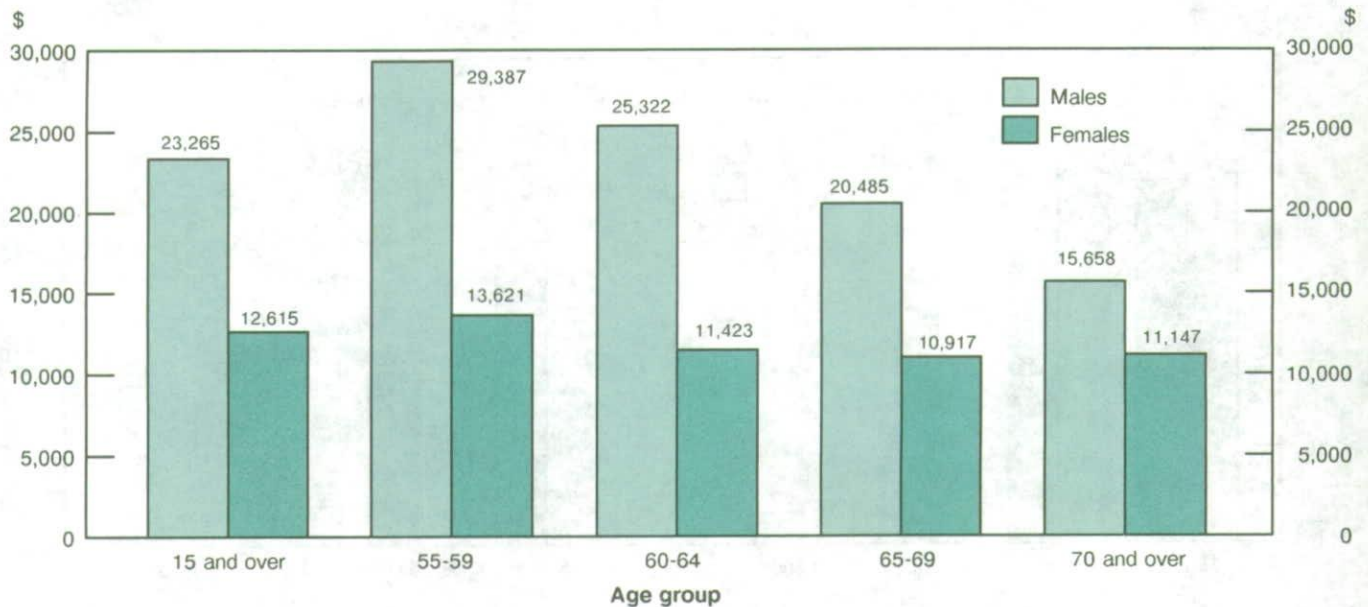


Sources: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975-1983, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529, and The Labour Force, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-001.

- Labour force participation rates for 1989 drop sharply with age for both men and women. Rates drop from 64.7% and 35.3%, respectively, in the 55 to 64 age group, to 17.9% and 6.9% in the 65 to 69 age group, to 6.7% and 1.7% in the 70 and over age group.
- While participation rates fell for men in all age groups between 1979 and 1989, they increased for women in general, from 49% to 57.8%. Among older women, this increase was only reflected in the 55 to 64 age group (34% to 35.3%).
- The biggest drops in participation rates between 1979 and 1989 were for men aged 55 to 64 (from 76.4% to 64.7%), and men aged 65 to 69 (from 24.4% to 17.9%).



Chart 13

**Average total income<sup>1</sup> in 1985, by age group and sex, Canada**

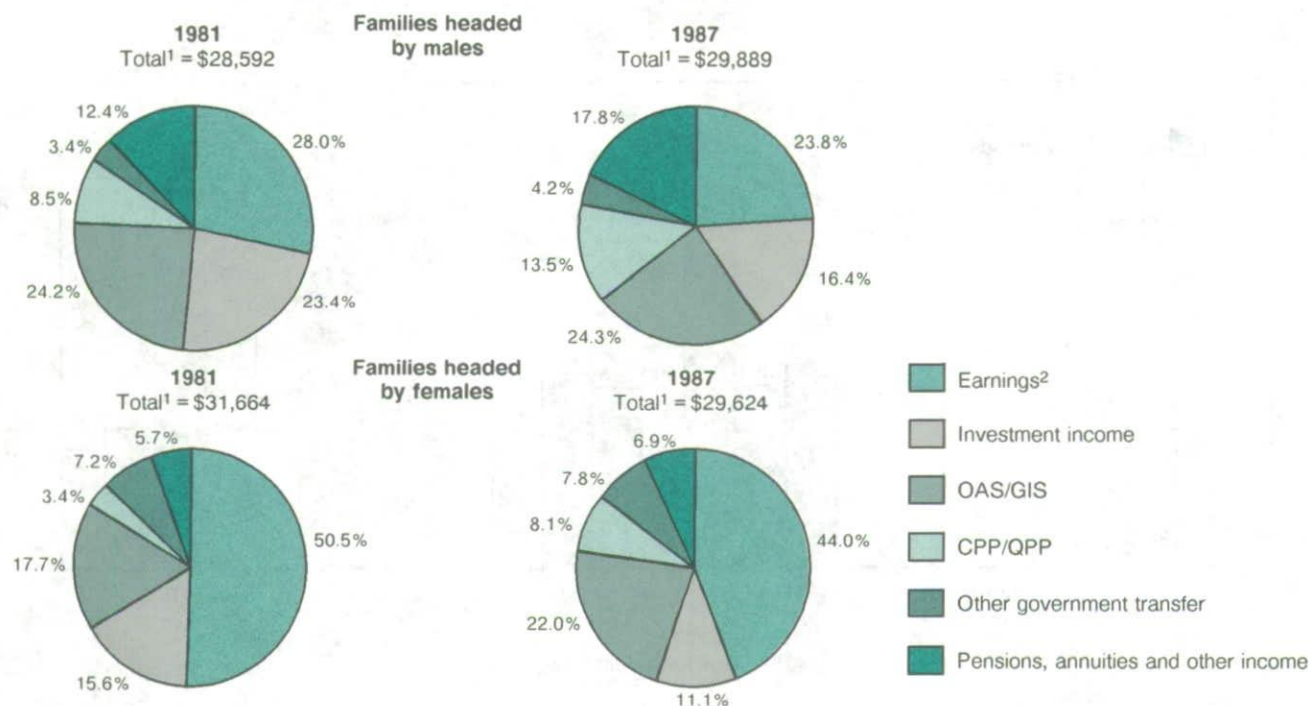
<sup>1</sup> Averages calculated excluding persons with no income.

Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-114.

- Average total incomes in 1985 were \$23,265 for men and \$12,615 for women. This gender gap is wider than average in the 55 to 59 and 60 to 64 age groups, about the same in the 65 to 69 age group, and much smaller in the 70 and over age group.
- Average incomes of senior men aged 55 to 59 (\$29,387) and 60 to 64 (\$25,322) were higher than the average income for all men (\$23,265). The same was true only for senior women in the 55 to 59 age group (\$13,621 compared with \$12,615 for all women).
- The decrease in incomes with age was much greater for male seniors than for female seniors. Between the 55 to 59 age group and the 70 and over age group, men's incomes in 1985 differed by \$13,729, while the corresponding difference for women was only \$2,474.

Chart 14

**Sources of income of families with head aged 65 years and over, by sex of head, Canada, 1981 and 1987**



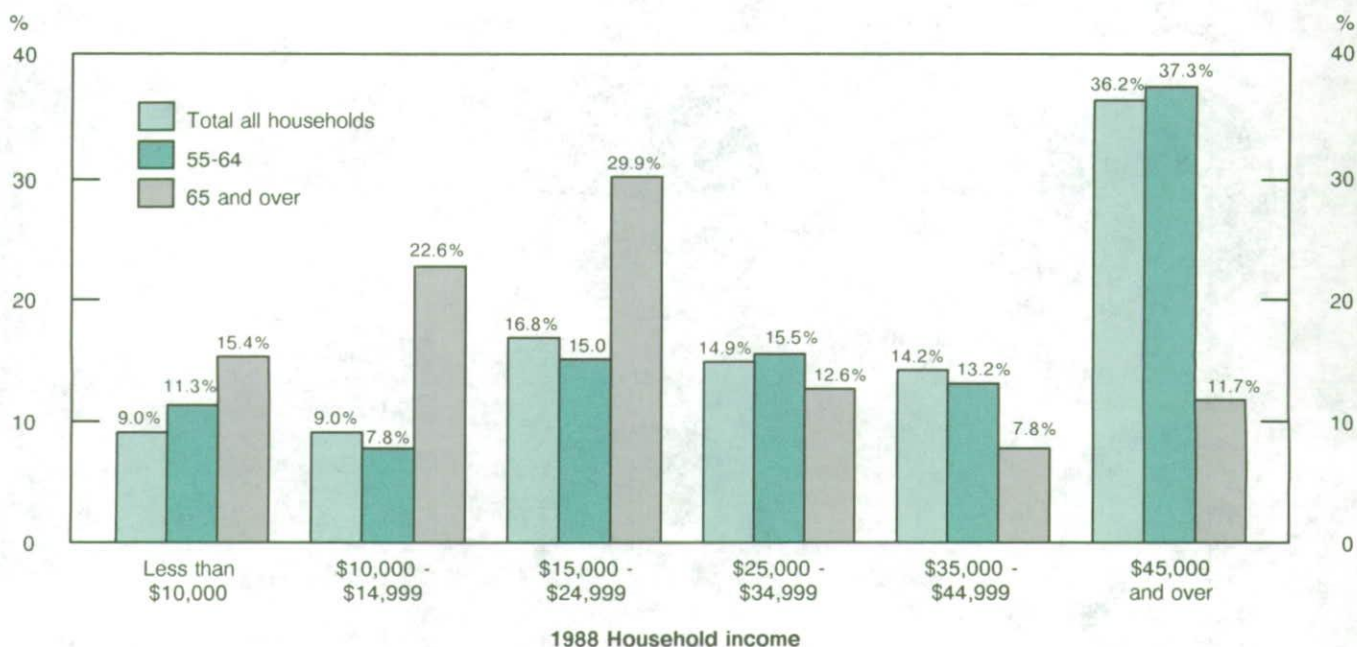
<sup>1</sup> Average family income in constant 1987 dollars.

<sup>2</sup> Includes wages, salaries and net income from self-employment.

Source: *Women in Canada, Second Edition*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 89-503E.

- In constant 1987 dollars, the average incomes of families with heads aged 65 and over changed slightly between 1981 and 1987. For families with male heads, the average income increased from \$28,592 to \$29,889, while for those with female heads, average incomes decreased from \$31,664 in 1981 to \$29,624 in 1987.
- The major sources of income in 1987 for families with female heads aged 65 and over were earnings (includes earnings of all family members) at 44%, followed by Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement (OAS/GIS) at 22% and investment income at 11%.
- The major sources of income for families with male heads aged 65 and over, in 1987, were OAS/GIS at 24.3%, followed by earnings at 23.8%, and by pensions, annuities and other income at 17.8%.

Chart 15

Distribution of households, by 1988 household income and age of head, Canada<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Private households only. Excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Source: Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

- The distribution of households with heads aged 55 to 64 by household income closely resembles the same distribution for all households, while the distribution of households with heads aged 65 and over is far more concentrated in the lower household income groups (below \$25,000).
- About 30% of households with heads aged 65 and over had 1988 household incomes of \$15,000 to \$24,999 compared with only 16.8% of all households. A further 38% of these senior households had incomes below \$15,000, more than twice the proportion of all households (18%).
- More than three times as many households, proportionally, had household incomes of \$45,000 or more when the head was aged 55 to 64 (37.3%), as when the head was aged 65 and over (11.7%). The same proportion for all households was 36.2%.



Table 3

Composition of wealth of family units<sup>1</sup> with head aged 65 years and over, by pension status, Canada<sup>2</sup>, 1984

	Received pension income	Did not receive pension income
Average wealth in spring 1984	\$108,671	\$84,054
<b>Composition of wealth:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Net financial assets <sup>3</sup>	43.3	28.8
Equity in home	40.3	35.5
Equity in real estate other than home	5.9	7.4
Equity in business/farm/professional practice	6.7	25.0
Market value of vehicles (including recreational)	3.9	3.2

<sup>1</sup> Consists of economic families with head aged 65 years and over, and unattached individuals aged 65 years and over.

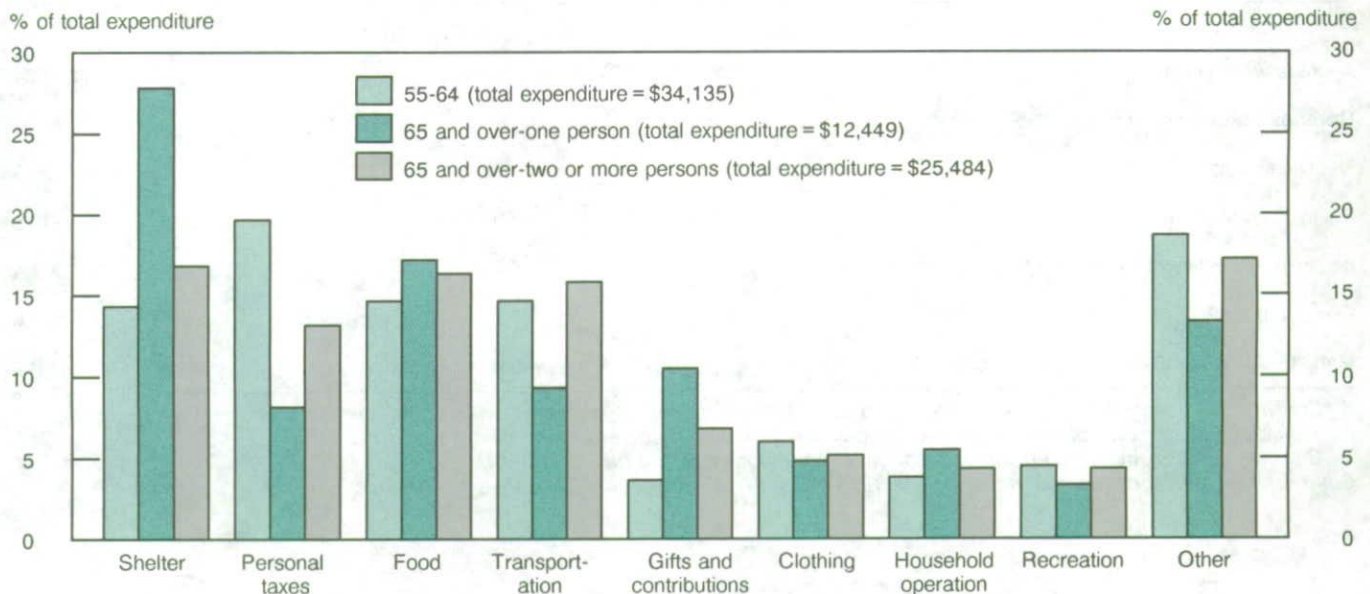
<sup>2</sup> Excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories, population on Indian reserves and in institutions.

<sup>3</sup> Consists of all financial assets minus all debts except mortgage and business debt.

Source: *Pensions and Incomes of the Elderly, 1971-1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-588, No.2.*

- The wealth of economic families with heads aged 65 and over and unattached individuals aged 65 and over was overwhelmingly concentrated in net financial assets and equity in the home (about 84% of the average wealth of those with private retirement pensions, and 64% for those without private pensions).
- One-quarter of the wealth of senior families and individuals with no pension income was in equity in a business, farm or professional practice. For those with pension income, the importance of this source was much less (6.7% of wealth).

Chart 16

Distribution of family expenditure, by age of head and family size, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1986

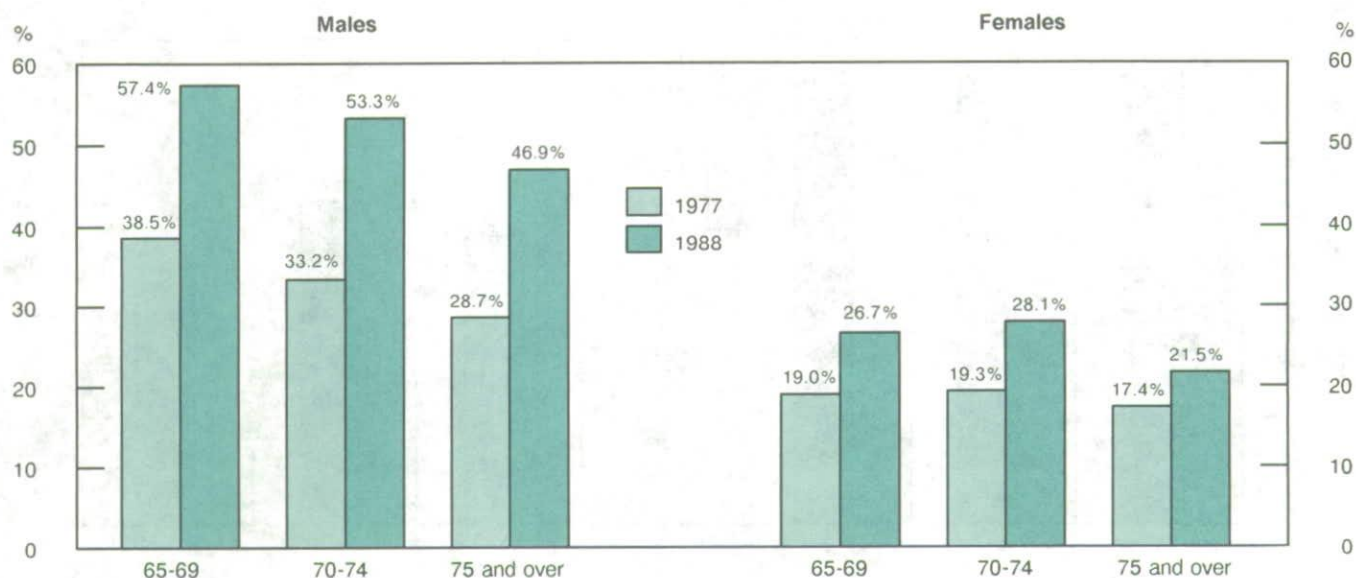
<sup>1</sup> Excluding Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Source: Family Expenditure in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 62-555.

- Heads of "one-person" families aged 65 and over devoted far more of their total expenditures in 1986 to shelter (27.8%) than did families with heads aged 55 to 64 (14.4%) or families of two or more persons with head aged 65 and over (16.8%).
- The largest expenditures for the more senior families of one or two or more persons alike were shelter and food. The third most important expenditure for senior two or more person families was transportation, while for senior "one-person" families, it was gifts and contributions.
- While families with heads aged 55 to 64 devoted about one-fifth (19.6%) of their total budget to personal taxes, this proportion was much lower for more senior families of two or more persons (13.2%), and "one-person" families (8.2%).

Chart 17

Percentage of the population with private retirement pensions, by age group and sex, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1977 and 1988



<sup>1</sup> Excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories, population on Indian reserves and in institutions.

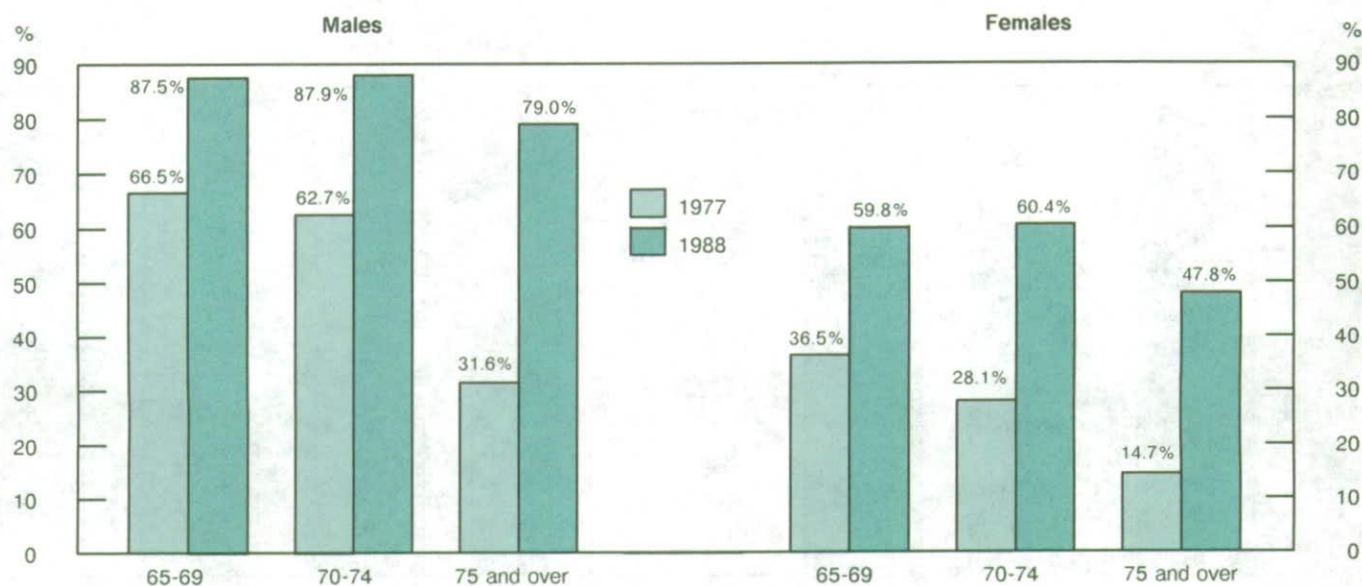
Sources: *Pensions and Incomes of the Elderly in Canada, 1971-1985*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-588, No. 2 and 1989 Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Roughly speaking, the proportion of men receiving private retirement pensions is about twice that of women (about half of men aged 65 and over, compared with about a quarter of the women). This gap has widened slightly since 1977.
- The proportion of seniors with private retirement pensions increased significantly between 1977 and 1988. The largest increases were for men aged 65 to 69 (38.5% in 1977 to 57.4% in 1988), and those aged 70 to 74 (33.2% to 53.3%).
- The proportion of seniors with private retirement pensions for the most part decreases with age, from 57.4% of men and 26.7% of women in the 65 to 69 age group, down to 46.9% of men and 21.5% of women aged 75 and over.



Chart 18

Percentage of the population receiving CPP/QPP, by age group and sex, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1977 and 1988



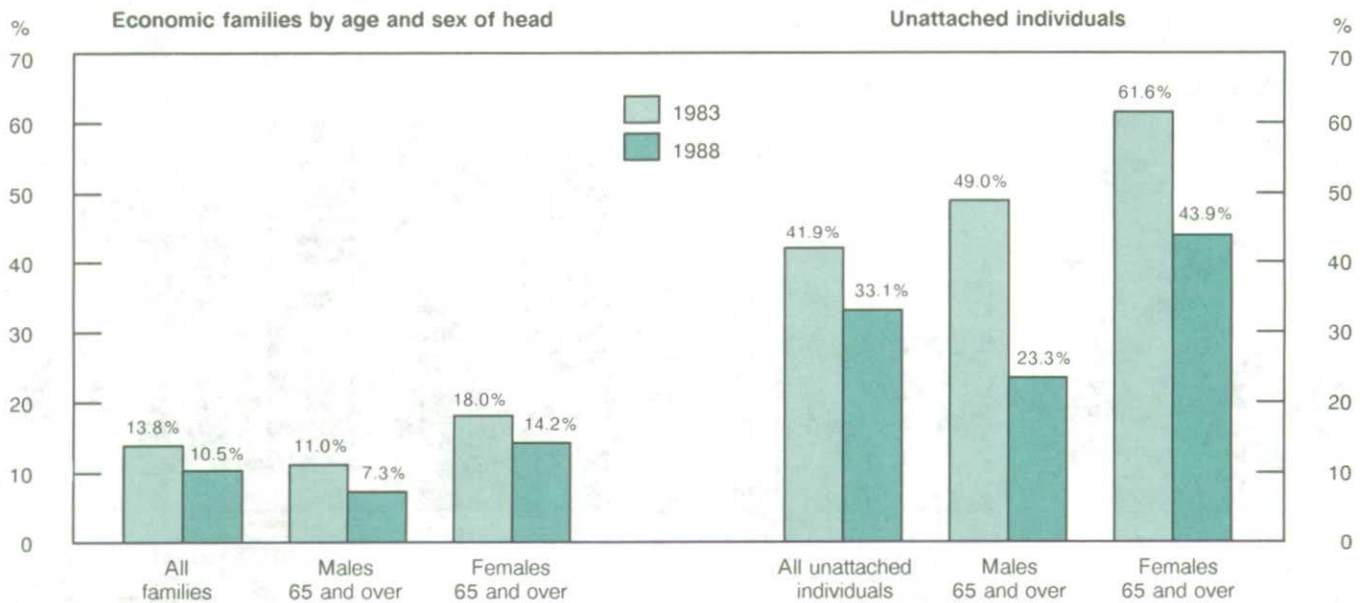
<sup>1</sup> Excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories, population on Indian reserves and in institutions.

Sources: Pensions and Incomes of the Elderly in Canada, 1971-1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-588, No. 2 and 1989 Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1977, the proportion of men receiving Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan (CPP/QPP) was about twice that of women, for all age groups. By 1988, this gap had narrowed considerably, especially in the 70 to 74 age group.
- Although in 1977 the proportion of men and women receiving CPP/QPP decreased steadily with age, by 1988 the situation had changed. The proportion receiving CPP/QPP was slightly higher for men and women in the 70 to 74 age group (87.9% and 60.4%, respectively), than in the 65 to 69 group (87.5% and 59.8%).
- A fairly wide gender gap in the proportion of persons aged 75 and over receiving CPP/QPP still existed in 1988, with almost four-fifths (79%) of men in this group receiving CPP/QPP, compared with less than half (47.8%) of women.

Chart 19

Incidence of low income in economic families and unattached individuals, by age group and sex, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1983 and 1988



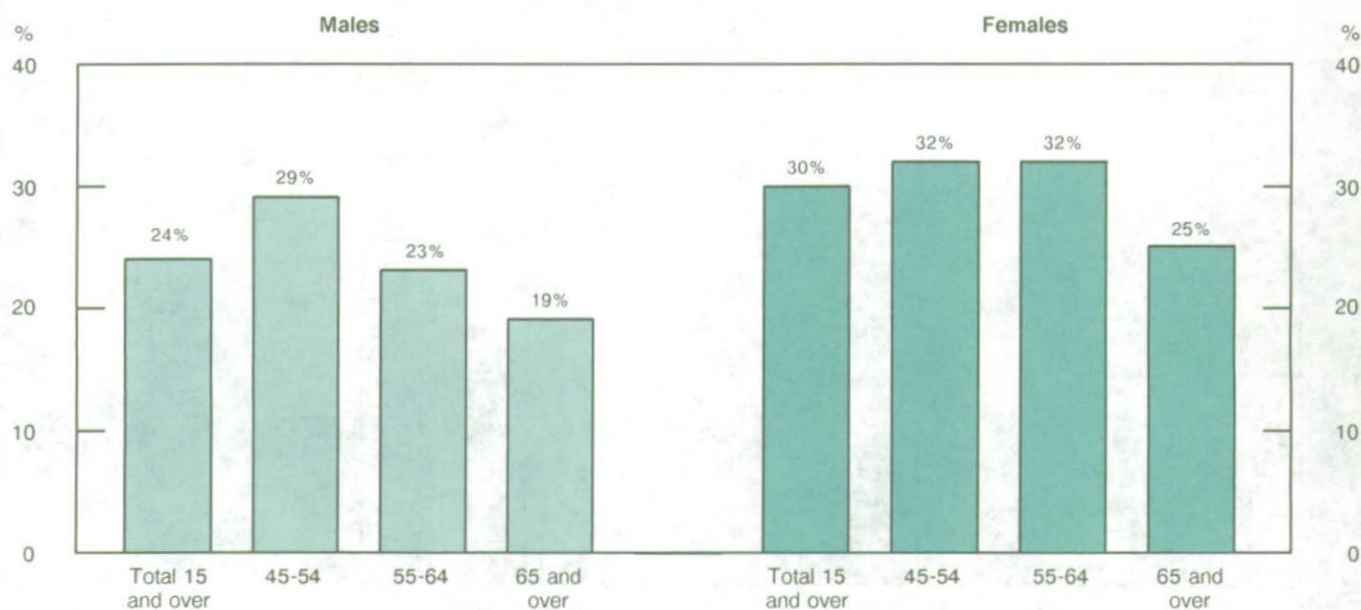
<sup>1</sup> Excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories, population on Indian reserves and in institutions.

Source: Income Distributions by Size in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

- The incidence of low income in 1988, in economic families with head aged 65 and over, is lower than the incidence for all families (10.5%) when the head is male (7.3%), but higher when the head is a female (14.2%). Similarly, the incidence for male unattached individuals aged 65 and over (23.3%) is lower than the average for all unattached individuals (33.1%), but the incidence for females in this group is higher (43.9%).
- Incidences of low income fell between 1983 and 1988 for all economic families and unattached individuals. The decreases were greatest for senior unattached individuals (from 49% to 23.3% for males and from 61.6% to 43.9% for females).
- Senior unattached males and females have incidences of low income (23.3% and 43.9% respectively) that are more than three times as high as economic families with heads that are senior men or senior women (7.3% and 14.2%, respectively).

Chart 20

Rates of volunteering of the population aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex, Canada, 1987



Source: *Giving Freely: Volunteers in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-535, No. 4.

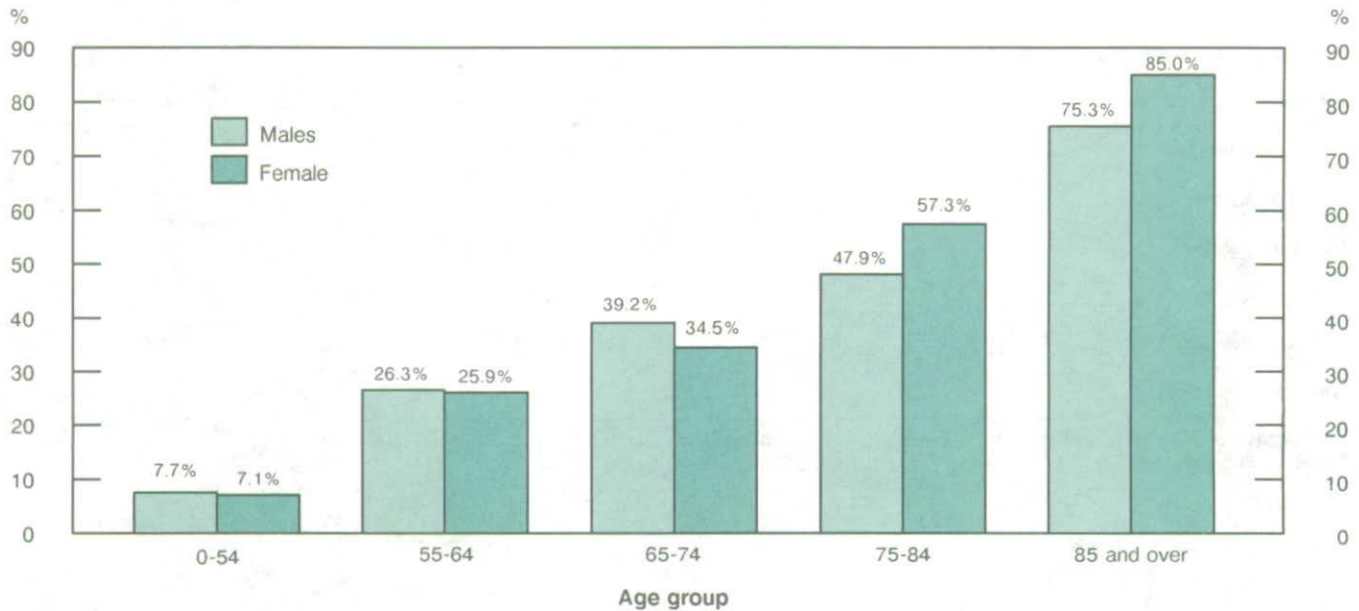
- Women displayed higher rates of volunteering in 1987 than men (30%, compared with 24%). This difference is greatest in the 55 to 64 age group (women 32%, men 23%).
- Rates of volunteering in the 65 and over age group are lower than average for both men (19%) and women (25%). By contrast, the rates for the 45 to 54 age group are higher than average for both men (29%) and women (32%).



## Chapter 4 – Health and safety

Chart 21

Disability rates of the population, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986



Source: Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

- In 1986, disability rates increased steadily with age, from 7.7% of males and 7.1% of females under age 55, up to 75.3% of males and 85% of females aged 85 and over.
- Disability rates are slightly higher for males than females in the age group under 75, while in the 75 to 84 age group, the rate is higher for women (57.3%) than men (47.9%), as is the case in the 85 and over age group (85% compared with 75.3%). This reversal may be due to higher mortality rates among disabled men under age 75.

Table 4

## Population aged 65 years and over in private households, by nature of disability, Canada, 1986

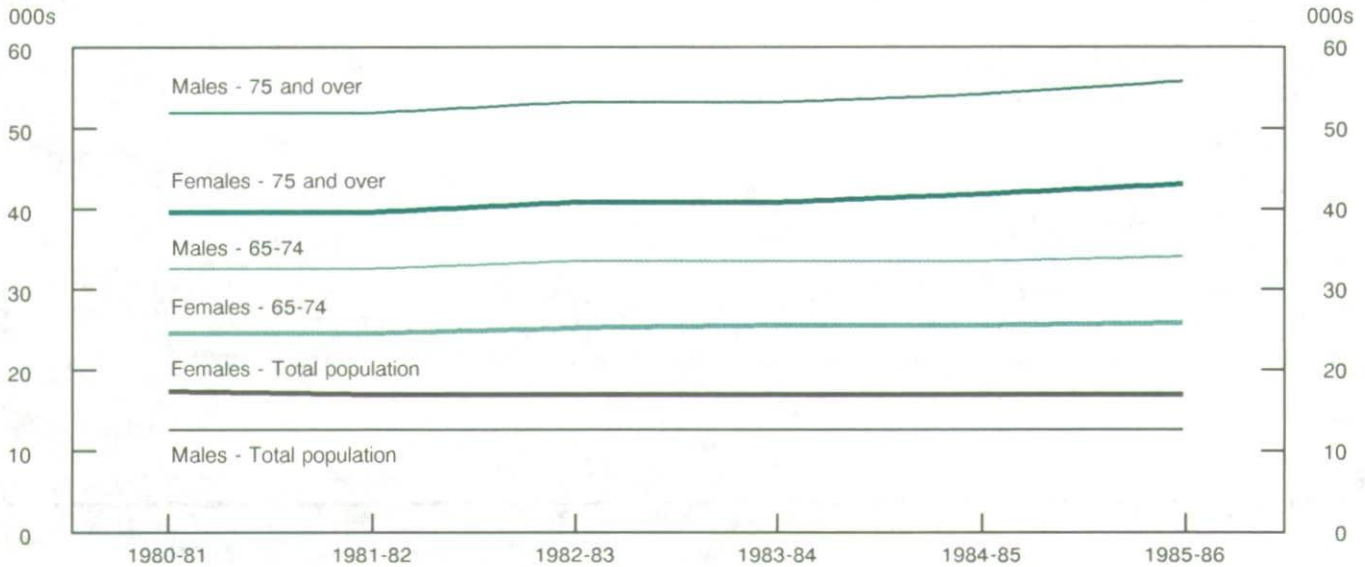
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total population aged 65 and over in private households</b>	<b>2,456,700</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Reporting any disability	1,026,915	41.8
Mobility disability	752,925	30.6
Agility disability	621,560	25.3
Hearing disability	443,620	18.1
Seeing disability	241,515	9.8
Speaking disability	53,725	2.2
Other or unspecified	292,320	11.9

<sup>1</sup> Components exceed total due to persons who report multiple disabilities.

Source: Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

- More than four out of ten (41.8%) persons aged 65 and over living in private households in 1986 reported at least one disability.
- The most frequently reported disabilities among seniors in private households are mobility disabilities (reported by over 30%), agility disabilities (25%), and hearing disabilities (18%).

Chart 22

Hospitalization rates<sup>1</sup>, by age group and sex, Canada<sup>2</sup>, 1980-81 to 1985-86

<sup>1</sup> Based on separations per 100,000 population.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Sources: Hospital Morbidity, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-206 and Canadian Centre for Health Information, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Hospitalization rates, although higher for females than males in the total population, are higher for males than females in the 65 and over age group. These differences remained constant over the period from 1980-81 to 1985-86.
- Although overall hospitalization rates based on separations per 100,000 population decreased slightly between 1980-81 and 1985-86, the reverse occurred in the seniors' population. In the 65 to 74 age group during this period, rates for males went from 32,626 to 34,176, and rates for females went from 24,483 to 25,758. The increases were more noticeable in the age 75 and over group (51,878 to 55,916 for males, and 39,643 to 43,173 for females).
- Hospitalization rates for males aged 75 and over (55,916) are between four and five times higher than rates for all males (12,333). By contrast, rates for females in this age group (43,173) are between two and three times higher than rates for all females (16,660).



Table 5

Hospitalization rates<sup>1</sup> for certain mental disorders<sup>2</sup>, by selected age groups, Canada, selected years 1971 to 1985-86

	1971	1975	1981-82	1985-86	% Change (1971-1985/86)
	Per 100,000 population				%
Age 45-54	305.5	313.1	294.4	280.6	-8.2
Age 55-64	265.2	281.4	289.3	285.7	7.7
Age 65-74	197.0	236.7	276.4	290.4	47.4
Age 75 and over	103.7	136.8	222.9	295.4	184.9

<sup>1</sup> Discharges per 100,000 population (length of stay 6-90 days only).

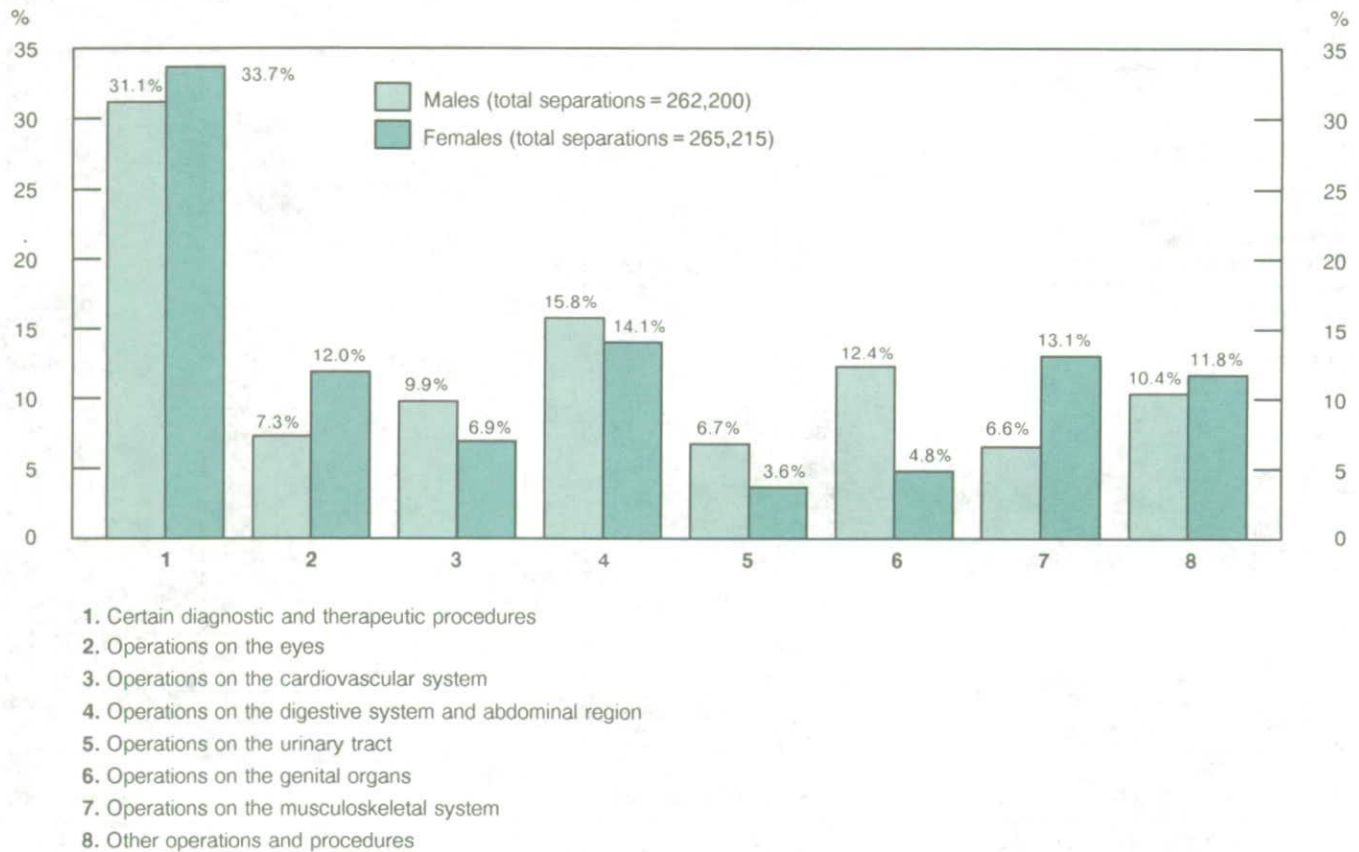
<sup>2</sup> Functional psychoses only (includes schizophrenia, affectual psychoses, paranoid state, other non-organic psychoses, child psychoses).

Source: Canadian Centre for Health Information, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- While hospitalization rates for certain serious mental disorders (functional psychoses) remained relatively stable between 1971 and 1985-86 for the population under age 65, there were important increases in these rates for persons aged 65 and over.
- In 1971, persons aged 75 and over had the lowest hospitalization rates (103.7 per 100,000) of any age group for the group of mental disorders shown (functional psychoses). By 1985-86, this same group had the highest rates (295.4 per 100,000) of any age group.

Chart 23

**Surgical procedures<sup>1</sup> for the population aged 65 years and over, by type of procedure and sex, Canada, 1985-86**



<sup>1</sup> Based on separations from surgical procedures.

Source: Health Reports Supplement, 1989 Vol. 1, No. 1, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.

- Apart from a preponderance of certain diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, the most common surgical procedures on persons aged 65 and over in 1985-86 were operations on the digestive system and the abdominal region. Next most frequent for men were operations on the genital organs (12.4% of separations), while for women, it was operations on the musculoskeletal system (13.1%).
- Women aged 65 and over had a higher frequency than men of operations on the eyes and on the musculoskeletal system. Senior men were operated on more often for matters dealing with the cardiovascular system, the digestive system, the urinary tract, and the genital organs.

Table 6

## Major causes of death, by age group and sex, Canada, 1988

	All ages	Age 55 to 64	Age 65 to 74	Age 75 to 84	Age 85 and over
	%				
<b>Males</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Heart disease	30.7	33.0	34.3	33.9	34.4
Cerebrovascular disease	5.6	3.6	5.1	7.9	9.1
Atherosclerosis	1.0	0.3	0.5	1.1	3.0
Cancer - breast	--	--	--	--	--
Cancer - lung	8.9	15.5	12.5	7.5	3.1
Cancer - other	18.1	22.3	21.6	17.9	13.6
Diabetes mellitus	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.7
Pneumonia and influenza	3.2	1.2	2.1	4.3	8.4
All other respiratory diseases	5.9	3.7	6.6	8.3	7.4
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1.3	2.8	1.5	0.5	0.1
All accidents and adverse effects <sup>1</sup>	9.1	5.9	2.7	2.4	2.8
All other causes	14.5	10.0	11.3	14.1	16.5
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	<b>104,106</b>	<b>15,921</b>	<b>27,089</b>	<b>28,541</b>	<b>14,579</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Heart disease	30.1	19.3	29.3	35.6	37.5
Cerebrovascular disease	9.6	4.9	6.7	11.3	13.6
Atherosclerosis	1.8	0.3	0.5	1.4	4.2
Cancer - breast	5.2	12.3	6.7	3.5	1.6
Cancer - lung	4.5	10.6	8.1	3.1	0.8
Cancer - other	16.7	27.8	23.0	15.4	8.6
Diabetes mellitus	2.4	2.1	2.8	3.2	2.0
Pneumonia and influenza	3.9	1.3	2.0	3.7	7.3
All other respiratory diseases	3.7	3.8	4.6	4.3	3.0
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	0.8	2.0	1.2	0.5	0.1
All accidents and adverse effects <sup>1</sup>	4.8	4.1	2.3	2.3	3.0
All other causes	16.6	11.6	12.7	15.7	18.4
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	<b>85,905</b>	<b>8,824</b>	<b>17,109</b>	<b>25,667</b>	<b>24,860</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including late effects (also includes suicide and homicide).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

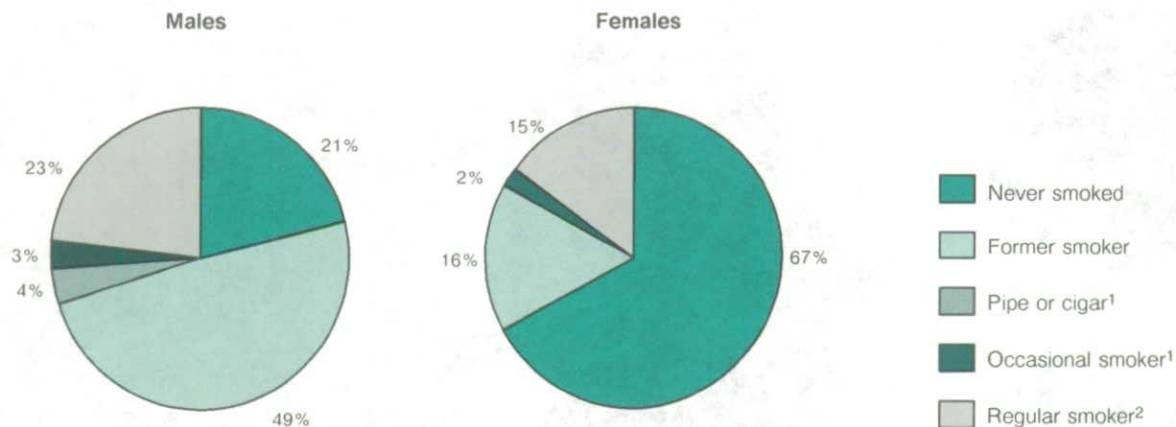
Source: Canadian Centre for Health Information, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The two leading causes of death in the total population in 1988, heart disease and cancer, for the most part repeat as the two leading causes of death for senior men and women. One exception to this is for women aged 85 and over, where cerebrovascular disease (at 13.6%) replaces cancer (at 11.0%) as the second leading cause of death.
- The proportion of deaths caused by cancer decreases steadily after age 55. For men, it decreases from 37.8% of all deaths in the 55 to 64 age group to 16.7% of deaths in the 85 and over group. The decrease is even more dramatic for women, from 50.7% of deaths in the 55 to 64 group to only 11% in the 85 and over age group.
- The proportion of deaths caused by pneumonia and influenza increases from 1.2% (men) and 1.3% (women) in the 55 to 64 age group, to 8.4% (men) and 7.3% (women) in the 85 and over group.



Chart 24

## Distribution of the population aged 65 years and over, by type of smoker and sex, Canada, 1985



<sup>1</sup> High sampling variability, use with caution.

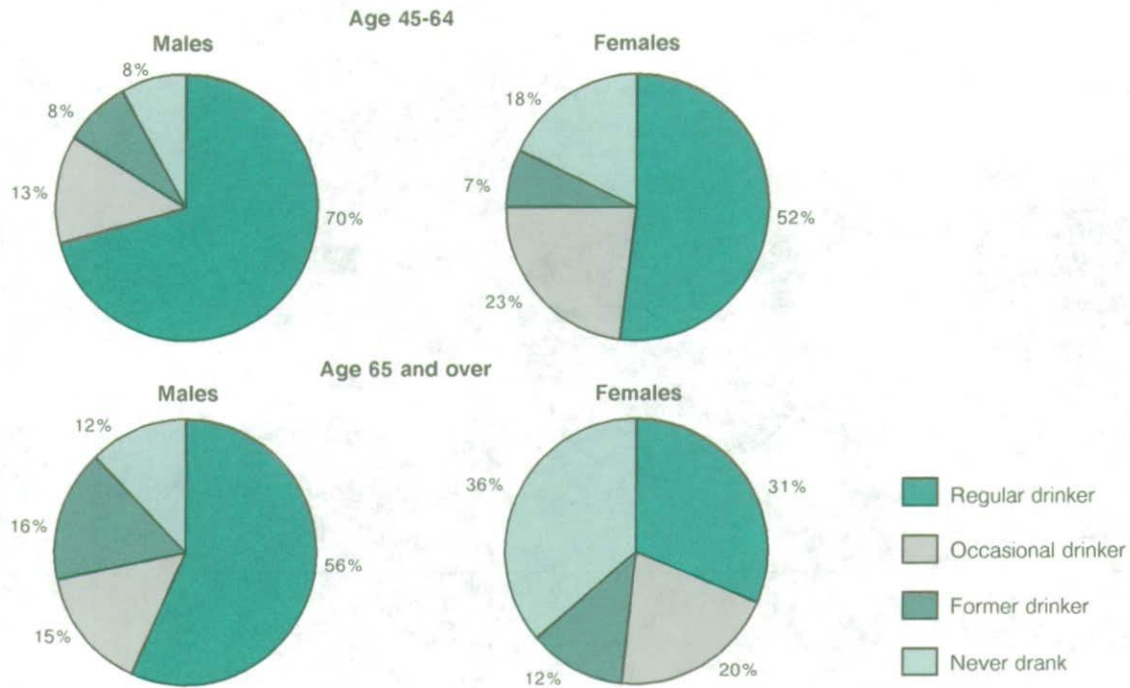
<sup>2</sup> One or more cigarettes daily.

Source: Health and Social Support, 1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 1.

- The proportion of men aged 65 and over in 1985 who smoked cigarettes regularly (23%) was more than half again as much that of women in the same group (15%). The ratio would be even higher if pipe and cigar smoking (4% of men) were included.
- While about two-thirds (67%) of senior women reported never having smoked, compared with about one-fifth (21%) of senior men, nearly half (49%) of senior men were former smokers, compared with only 16% of senior women.

Chart 25

## Type of drinker, by age group and sex, Canada, 1985

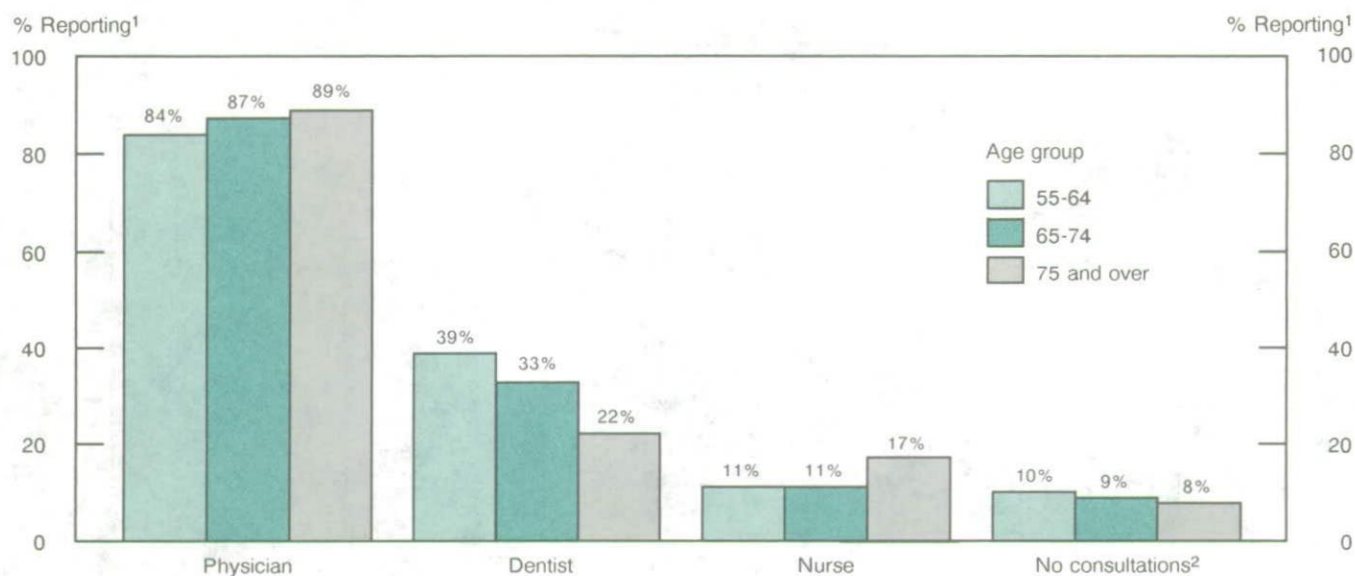


Source: Health and Social Support, 1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 1.

- The proportion of both men and women who were regular drinkers in 1985 dropped sharply between ages 45 to 64 and ages 65 and over. For men, the proportion dropped from 70% to 56%, and for women it dropped from 52% to 31%.
- The proportion of women aged 45 to 64 who reported never drinking (18%) was more than twice as high as the proportion of men in that age group (8%). In the 65 and over age group, the difference was even greater (36% of women compared with 12% of men).
- As with smokers, the proportion of men aged 65 and over who were former drinkers (16%) was higher than the same proportion for women (12%).

Chart 26

# Consultations with health professionals, by type of health professional and age group, Canada, 1985



<sup>1</sup> Percentage of the population who report having consulted with a health professional in the 12 months prior to the survey.

<sup>2</sup> High sampling variability, use with caution.

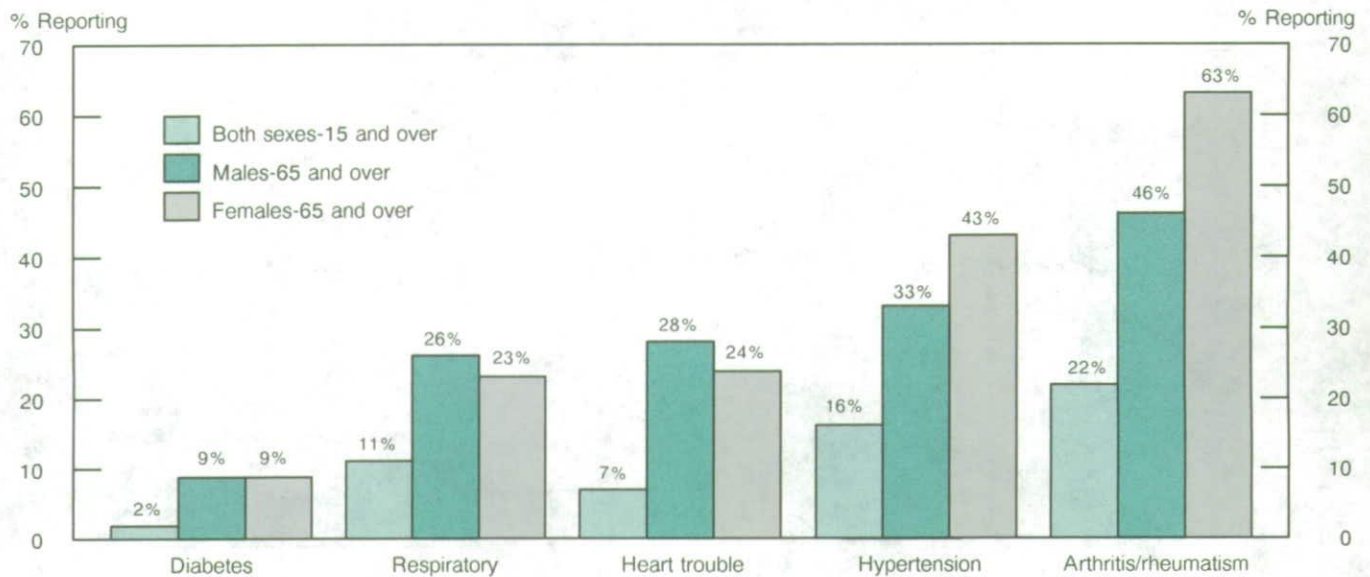
Source: Health and Social Support, 1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 1.

- The proportion of persons aged 55 and over in 1985 who did not consult any health professionals decreased slightly with increasing age, from 10% of those aged 55 to 64, to 8% of those aged 75 and over.
- About 90% of seniors aged 65 and over consulted a physician, but the proportions consulting dentists were much lower, at 33% of persons aged 65 to 74, and only 22% of those 75 and over.
- Persons aged 75 and over were about half again as likely to have consulted a nurse (17%) as persons aged 55 to 74 (11%).



Chart 27

## Prevalence of selected health problems, by age group and sex, Canada, 1985



Source: *Health and Social Support, 1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 1.*

- Compared with the total population, persons aged 65 and over in 1985, were at least twice as likely to report respiratory troubles, arthritis or rheumatism and hypertension, and at least three times as likely to report heart trouble.
- Male seniors were somewhat more likely than females to report respiratory troubles (26% compared with 23%), and heart trouble (28% compared with 24%) in 1985.
- Female seniors were much more likely than males to report hypertension (43% compared with 33%), and arthritis or rheumatism (63% compared with 46%).

Table 7

## Percentage of population receiving support, by age group, sex and type of support, Canada, 1985

	Age 55-64		Age 65-74		Age 75 and over	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	%					
Total receiving support <sup>1</sup>	91.0	81.0	90.0	77.0	86.0	83.0
Receiving 1 type of support <sup>1</sup>	4.0 <sup>3</sup>	29.0	5.0 <sup>3</sup>	24.0	--	21.0
Receiving more than 1 type of support <sup>1</sup>	87.0	52.0	84.0	53.0	79.0	62.0
Yardwork <sup>2</sup>	42.0	87.0	48.0	87.0	59.0	94.0
Housework	85.0	25.0	85.0	39.0	81.0	55.0
Grocery shopping	77.0	43.0	73.0	47.0	71.0	62.0
Meal preparation	86.0	19.0	83.0	19.0	74.0	30.0
Managing money	18.0	20.0	17.0	17.0	26.0	31.0
Personal care	--	--	--	--	8.0 <sup>3</sup>	8.0 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Total receiving support", "receiving 1 type of support" and "receiving more than 1 type of support" refer only to the selected types of support listed. Other types of support, e.g. emotional support are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes population living in apartments.

<sup>3</sup> High sampling variability, use with caution.

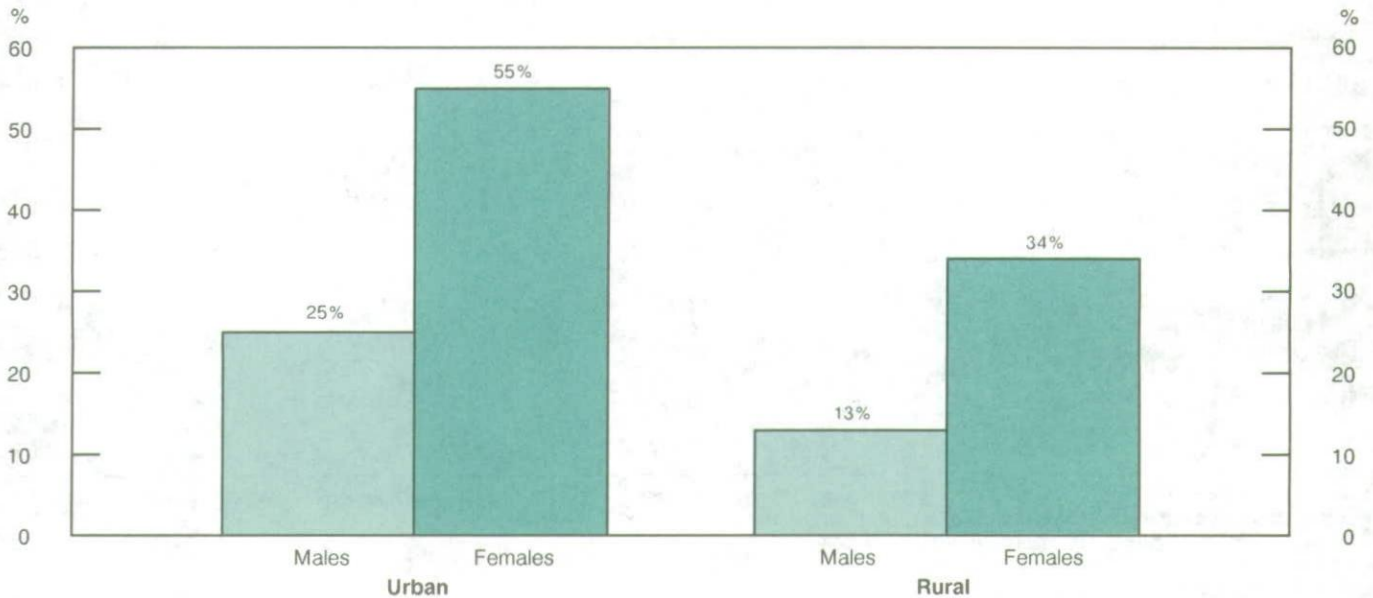
-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Health and Social Support, 1985, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.1.

- Males were more likely than females to report receiving support in 1985, especially in the 55 to 64 age group (91% and 81%, respectively) and the 65 to 74 age group (90% and 77%, respectively).
- The proportion of males receiving more than one type of support decreases with age, from 87% in the 55 to 64 age group to 79% of those aged 75 and over. For females, the reverse is true, with the proportion increasing from 52% in the 55 to 64 age group to 62% of those in the 75 and over age group.
- The types of support most frequently received by senior males are in housework and in meal preparation. The types of support most frequently received by senior females are in yardwork and in grocery shopping, although overall a greater proportion of males than females received support for grocery shopping.

Chart 28

Percentage of population aged 65 years and over feeling unsafe walking alone in own neighbourhood after dark, by urban/rural area and sex, Canada, 1987



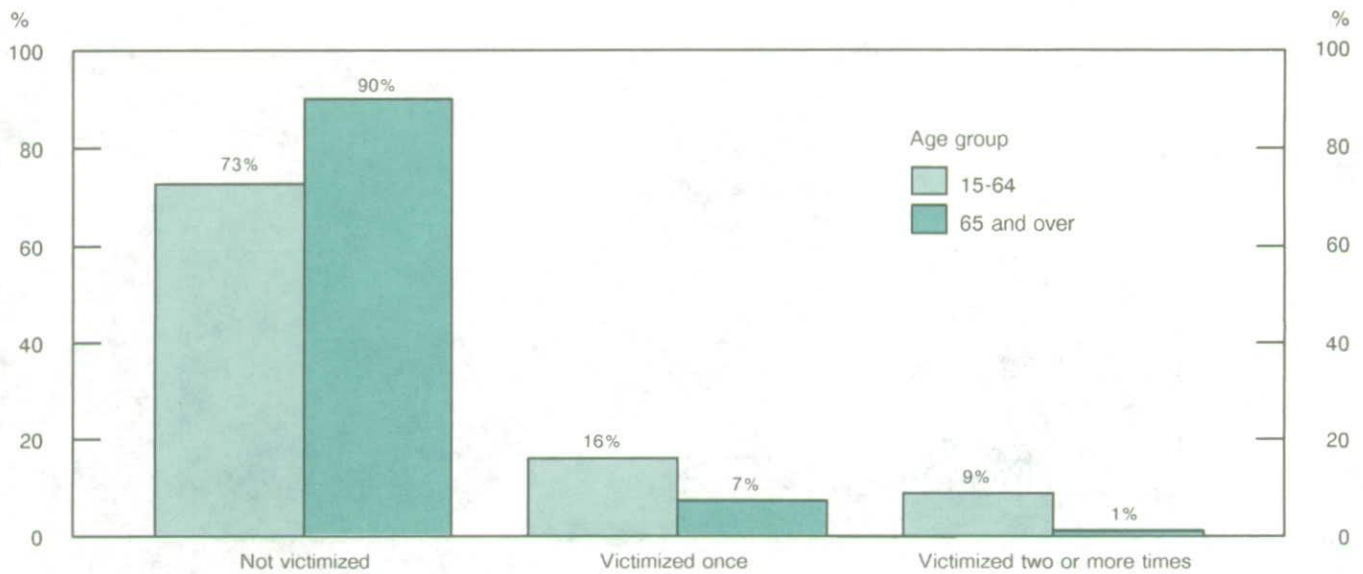
Source: *Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

- In 1987, more than half (55%) of female seniors in urban areas, and more than one-third (34%) of female seniors in rural areas felt unsafe walking alone in their own neighbourhoods after dark.
- Although female seniors were more than twice as likely as males to report feeling unsafe walking in their own neighbourhoods after dark, fully one-quarter of senior males in urban areas reported feeling unsafe doing so.



Chart 29

Population aged 15 years and over, by frequency of victimization<sup>1</sup> and age group, Canada, 1987

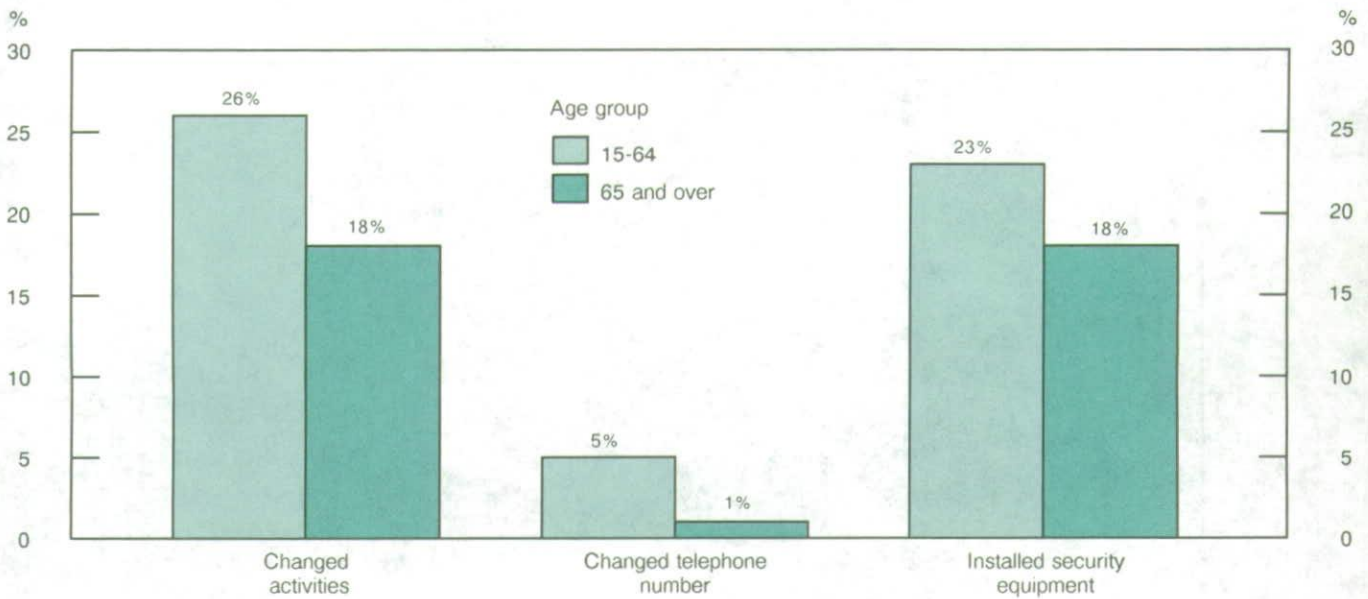


<sup>1</sup> Percentages may not total 100% due to "not stated" category.

Source: *Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

- Compared with persons aged 15 to 64, persons aged 65 and over in 1987 were less than one-third as likely (8% compared with 25%) to have been victimized.
- In 1987, almost 1 in 10 persons aged 15 to 64 had been victimized two or more times, compared with 1 in 100 persons aged 65 and over.

Chart 30

**Proportion of population who adopted defensive behaviours, by age group, Canada, 1987**


Source: *Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

- Seniors aged 65 and over in 1987 were much less likely than non-seniors to report having adopted a defensive behaviour. This was especially true of changing telephone numbers.
- Almost one-fifth (18%) of seniors in 1987 reported having changed their activities as a defensive behaviour, compared with about one-quarter (26%) of persons aged 15 to 64. A similar relationship existed between these age groups with respect to having installed security equipment as a defensive behaviour.

## Chapter 5 – Social and cultural characteristics

Table 8

Full-time and part-time university enrolments, by level and age group, Canada, 1983 and 1988

	Full-time enrolment			Part-time enrolment		
	1983	1988	% Change	1983	1988	% Change
	No.		%	No.		%
<b>Total enrolments</b>						
Age 40-49	5,463	9,540	74.6	38,747	54,012	39.4
Age 50-59	1,098	1,389	26.5	10,638	10,749	1.0
Age 60 and over	279	441	58.1	4,285	4,920	14.8
<b>Undergraduates</b>						
Age 40-49	2,902	5,127	76.7	33,891	46,059	35.9
Age 50-59	586	755	28.8	9,557	9,435	-1.3
Age 60 and over	161	272	68.9	4,123	4,662	13.1
<b>Graduates</b>						
Age 40-49	2,561	4,413	72.3	4,856	7,953	63.8
Age 50-59	512	634	23.8	1,081	1,314	21.6
Age 60 and over	118	169	43.2	162	258	59.3

Source: *Universities, Enrolment and Degrees, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-204.*

- A total of 5,361 persons aged 60 and over were enrolled in university in 1988. The majority of these (4,920) were part-time enrolments.
- The number of full-time undergraduate enrolments of persons aged 60 and over increased dramatically (68.9%) between 1983 and 1988, while the number of graduate enrolments increased by 43.2% during that time. The corresponding increases in part-time enrolments were 13.1% for undergraduates, and 59.3% for graduates.
- Full-time university enrolments of persons aged 50 to 59 increased by 28.8% between 1983 and 1988 for undergraduates, and by 23.8% for graduates.



Table 9

## Population by period of immigration and age group, Canada, 1986

	All ages	Under age 55	Age 55 to 64	Age 65 to 74	Age 75 and over
	Number				
Total population <sup>1</sup>	25,022,010	20,214,750	2,312,105	1,618,490	876,665
Non-immigrants	21,113,855	17,559,950	1,722,640	1,264,170	567,120
Immigrants	3,908,145	2,654,800	589,470	354,325	309,550
Percent immigrant	15.6%	13.1%	25.5%	21.9%	35.3%
	Percentage				
Period of immigration:					
All periods	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Before 1946	10.4	0.6	14.0	29.6	65.3
1946-1966	39.9	34.4	66.5	50.5	23.3
1967-1977	31.2	41.0	11.4	11.2	7.4
1978-1982	12.3	15.9	5.1	5.8	2.7
1983-1986 <sup>2</sup>	6.2	8.0	2.9	2.8	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Excludes residents of institutions.

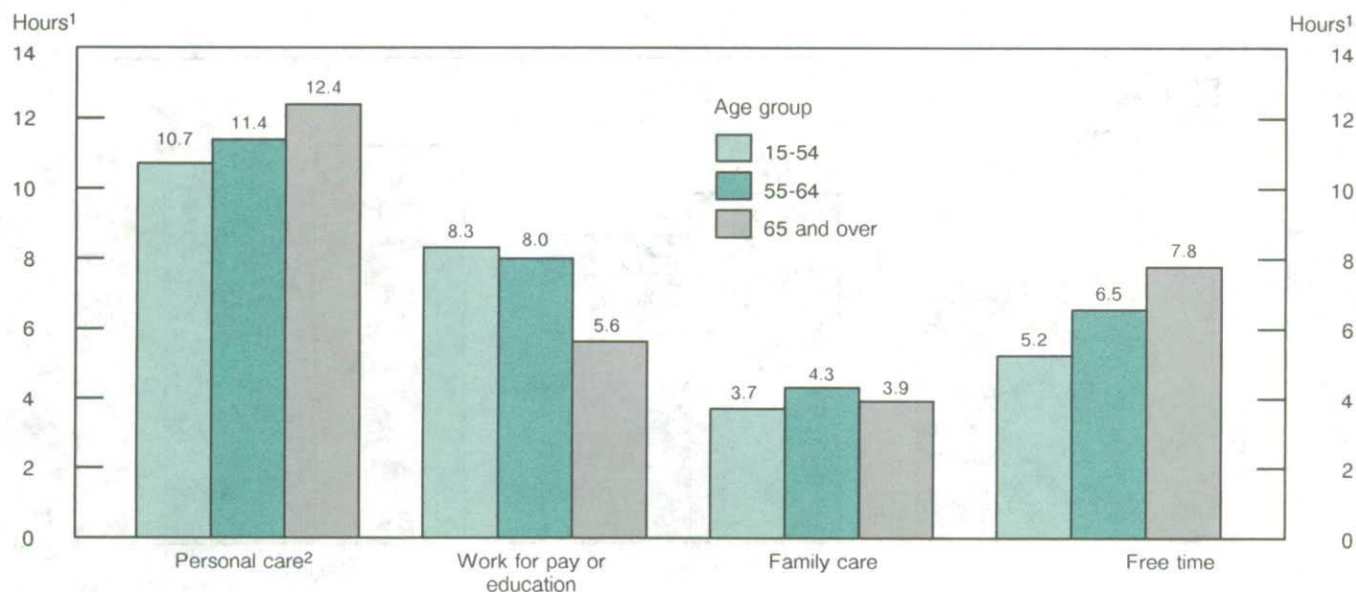
<sup>2</sup> Includes the first five months only of 1986.

Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-155.

- More than one-third (35%) of persons aged 75 and over in 1986 were immigrants, the highest proportion of any age group. Proportions for persons aged 55 to 64 (26%) and 65 to 74 (22%) were also well above the national average (16%).
- The proportion of immigrants to Canada who immigrated before 1946 increased dramatically with age, from less than 1% of immigrants under age 55, to more than 65% of immigrants aged 75 and over.
- About one-quarter (23.9%) of immigrants under age 55 immigrated between 1978 and 1986, compared with 8% and 8.6% of immigrants aged 55 to 64 and 65 to 74, respectively, and only 4% of immigrants aged 75 and over.

Chart 31

## Time spent on selected major activities, by age group, Canada, 1986



<sup>1</sup> Average number of hours per day, excluding persons who do not participate (therefore totals may exceed 24 hours).

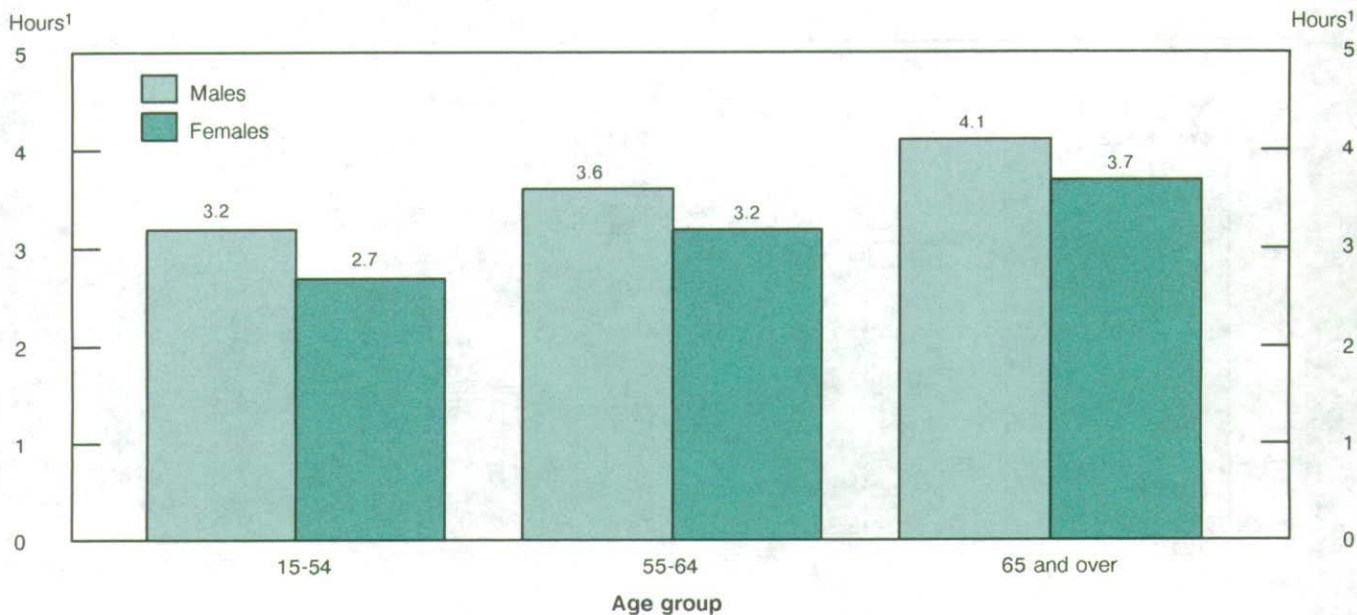
<sup>2</sup> Includes sleep.

Source: General Social Survey, Cycle Two, 1987, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The amount of time spent on personal care in 1986 increased with age, from 10.7 hours per day for those aged 15 to 54 to 12.4 hours per day for seniors aged 65 and over. The biggest increase with age, however, was in free time, which increased from 5.2 hours to 7.8 hours per day over the same age groups.
- On average, those persons aged 65 and over who worked for pay or were pursuing studies devoted 2.7 fewer hours per day to this activity than did persons aged 15 to 54 (5.6 hours compared with 8.3 hours).
- In 1986, persons aged 55 to 64 devoted more time to family care on average (4.3 hours per day) than did either their older (3.9 hours) or younger counterparts (3.7 hours).

Chart 32

## Time spent on television viewing, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986

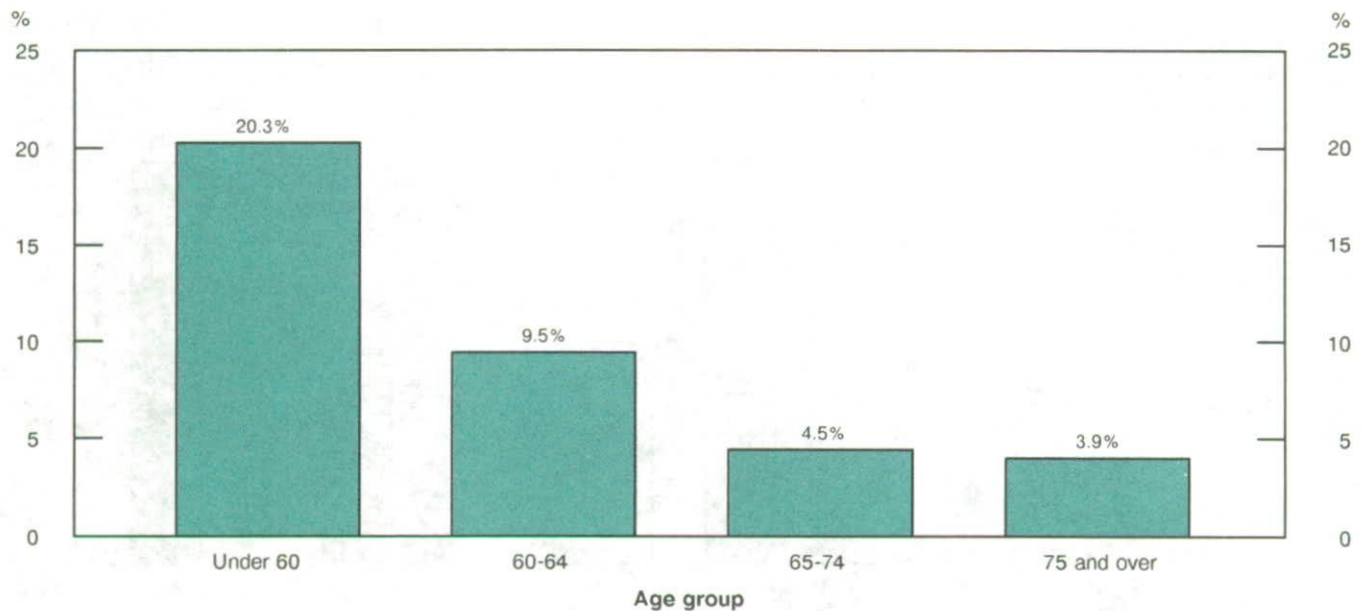


¹ Average number of hours per day, excluding persons who do not participate in this activity.  
Source: General Social Survey, Cycle Two, 1987, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The number of hours per day spent viewing television in 1986 increased with age, from 3.2 hours for males and 2.7 hours for females aged 15 to 54, to 4.1 hours per day for males and 3.7 hours per day for females aged 65 and over.
- In 1986, on average, males in all age groups consistently spent about half an hour more per day on television viewing than females.



Chart 33

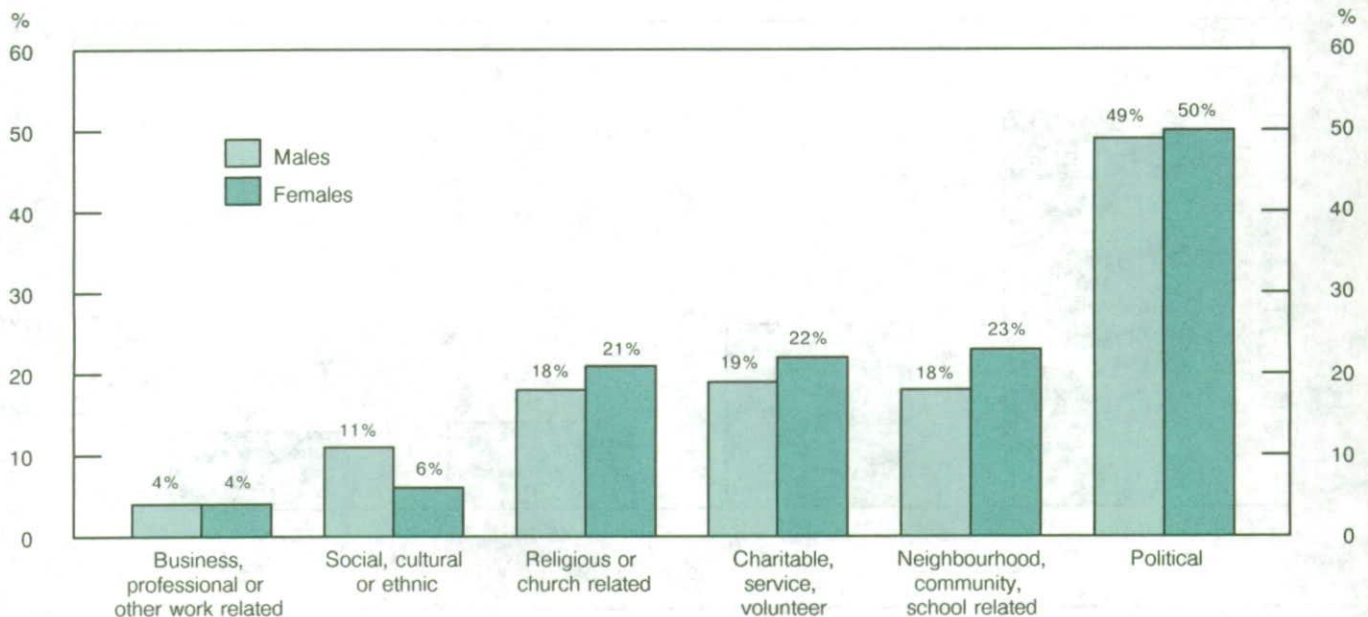
**Percentage of population reporting dissatisfaction with retirement, by age group, Canada, 1988**

Source: General Social Survey, Cycle Four, 1989, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Satisfaction with retirement increases with age. Only 3.9% of retired persons, aged 75 and over in 1988, reported being dissatisfied with retirement, compared with over one-fifth (20.3%) of retirees under age 60.
- The proportion of retired persons aged 60 to 64 who report being dissatisfied with retirement (9.5%) is more than twice as high as in the two older age groups.

Chart 34

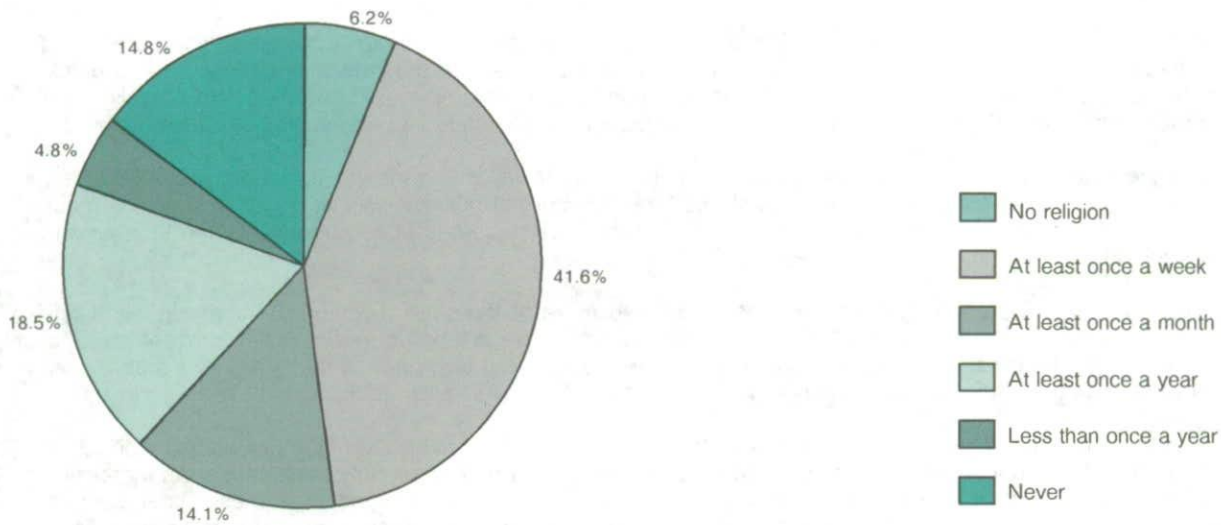
Percentage of population aged 65 years and over reporting involvement in selected organizations, by sex, Canada, 1988



Source: General Social Survey, Cycle Four, 1989, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Seniors aged 65 and over were more than twice as likely to report involvement in political organizations in 1988, than any other type of organization. This is true for both male and female seniors. About half of seniors were involved in political organizations.
- After political organizations, the next three most frequently specified were: charitable, service and volunteer organizations; neighbourhood, community and school-related organizations; and religious or church-related organizations.
- Female seniors were more likely to report involvement than males in all types of organizations except business, professional or work-related organizations (4% for both) and social, cultural and ethnic organizations (11% of males compared with 6% of females).

Chart 35

**Population aged 65 years and over, by frequency<sup>1</sup> of church attendance, Canada, 1988**

<sup>1</sup> Calculations exclude non-responses.

Source: General Social Survey, Cycle Four, 1989, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, seniors were more than twice as likely to report attending church at least once per week than any other frequency. More than four out of ten (41.6%) of seniors aged 65 and over attend church at least once per week. This represents over one million seniors.
- About one-fifth of seniors aged 65 and over reported never attending church (14.8%) or having no religion (6.2%).



## Summary: A portrait of seniors in Canada

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This chartbook has presented 43 different themes containing a very large amount of information on seniors in Canada. There is sufficient information herein for a comprehensive analysis of the changing situation of this important segment of the population. Persons wanting to pursue their analysis even further are encouraged to consult the original sources of the data, listed in the bibliography.

What follows below is a very succinct summary of only the most basic trends and highlights which can be gleaned from the charts and tables in this publication. It is included for the benefit of persons who wish to have a quick, summarized portrait of seniors in Canada, and serves as a non-statistical complement to the selected highlights at the start of the publication. For the purpose of this summary, seniors are defined as persons aged 65 and over.

As shown in the data in the chapter on demographics, seniors are making up an increasing proportion of Canada's population. As the post-war baby boom ages, it will swell the numbers of seniors, so that by 2031, they will make up almost a quarter of the population. This growth in the number of seniors is faster among women than among men, especially in the older age groups.

Fewer seniors are widowed compared with ten years ago, and more of them are divorced. Seniors are less likely than average to live in rural areas, particularly the older groups. Seniors are not found in higher concentrations in either the Eastern or the Western provinces, but very few are found in the territories. Seniors are less mobile than younger groups, with fewer than average changing residences between 1981 and 1986.

As shown in the chapter on living arrangements and housing, most seniors live in family households, although in the older groups a high proportion of women live in collective dwellings and non-family households. An increasing number of seniors live alone, especially the oldest seniors, and more often women than men. Older seniors, particularly the women, make up the bulk of residents of institutional collectives (mainly special care homes). Most senior households either rent their home or own it free of mortgage. Two-thirds of senior households have automobiles and cable television. Most senior households live in single-detached houses, although the proportion decreases with age. Monthly shelter costs for senior households are lower than average, especially for homeowners.

As shown in the data in the chapter on employment, income and expenditures, participation in the labour force drops sharply after age 65, and rates in 1989 were lower than in 1979, particularly for men. Average individual incomes are much lower for older seniors than for the average person, and men experience a larger drop in income than women as they age. The major sources of income for senior families are earnings and OAS/GIS. Senior households have lower incomes than average: a third of them had household incomes under \$25,000 in 1988. The wealth of senior families is concentrated in financial assets and equity in their homes. The largest expenditures of senior families are shelter and food, and their expenditures on personal taxes are lower than average. More seniors are receiving private pensions than a decade ago, with twice the proportion of men receiving them as women. An increasing number of seniors receive CPP/QPP, particularly in the 70 to 74 age group. Incidences of low income for seniors fell between 1983 and 1988, especially for unattached individuals. Seniors have rates of volunteering slightly below average.

As shown in the chapter on health and safety, seniors have much higher disability rates than average, in particular the oldest bracket. The most frequently reported disabilities in seniors are mobility, agility and hearing disabilities. Contrary to younger age groups, hospitalization rates for seniors increased between 1980-81 and 1985-86, especially for older seniors. The two leading causes of death for seniors are heart disease and cancer. A higher proportion of senior men than senior women smoke and drink regularly, although far lower than younger men. Seniors are as likely as other groups to consult health professionals, although the oldest seniors are less likely to see dentists. Seniors report more health troubles, especially heart trouble, hypertension, and arthritis/rheumatism. Seniors are less likely to have been victimized or to have adopted a defensive behavior than the younger groups. The great majority of seniors receive support, men most frequently with housework and meal preparation, women with yardwork and grocery shopping.

As shown in the data in the chapter on social and cultural characteristics, an increasing number of seniors are enrolled in university, mostly part-time. A higher than average proportion of seniors are immigrants, the majority of them having immigrated before 1967. Seniors spend more time than average on personal care and free time, less on work. Seniors watch more television than average. The great majority of seniors are satisfied with retirement, especially the older ones. Seniors report high levels of involvement in political organizations, and most of them attend church.

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## Bibliography

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The following Statistics Canada publications have been used in the preparation of this study and may be consulted for further information:

### Catalogue

11-612	<i>Health and Social Support, 1985, No.1</i>
13-207	<i>Income Distributions by Size in Canada</i>
13-218	<i>Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics</i>
13-588	<i>Pensions and Incomes of the Elderly in Canada, 1971-1985, No.2</i>
62-555	<i>Family Expenditure in Canada</i>
71-001	<i>The Labour Force</i>
71-529	<i>Labour Force Annual Averages, 1981-1988</i>
71-535	<i>Giving Freely: Volunteers in Canada, No.4</i>
81-204	<i>Universities, Enrolment and Degrees</i>
82-003S	<i>Health Reports Series: No.1, Surgical Procedures and Treatments</i>
82-602	<i>Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada</i>
89-503E	<i>Women in Canada: A Statistical Report, Second Edition</i>
91-520	<i>Population Projections for Canada, Provinces, and Territories</i>
92-901	<i>Population: Age, Sex and Marital Status, 1981 Census of Canada</i>
92-903	<i>Occupied Private Dwellings: Type and Tenure (also showing collective dwellings), 1981 Census of Canada</i>
92-905	<i>Census Families in Private Households: Persons, Children at Home, Structure and Type, Living Arrangements, 1981 Census of Canada</i>
93-101	<i>The Nation Series: Age, Sex and Marital Status (100% Data), 1986 Census of Canada</i>
93-104	<i>The Nation Series: Dwellings and Households, Part 1, 1986 Census of Canada</i>
93-105	<i>The Nation Series: Dwellings and Households, Part 2, 1986 Census of Canada</i>
93-106	<i>The Nation Series: Families, Part 1, 1986 Census of Canada</i>
93-114	<i>The Nation Series: Total Income-Individuals, 1986 Census of Canada</i>
93-155	<i>Dimensions Series: Profile of the Immigrant Population, 1986 Census of Canada</i>

In addition, the study presents data from the Canadian Centre for Health Information, The General Social Survey, the Survey of Consumer Finances and from the 1966, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

### List of other publications by the Target Groups Project:

#### Catalogue

89-503E	<i>Women in Canada: A Statistical Report, Second Edition</i>
89-509	<i>The Family in Canada</i>
89-510	<i>Immigrants in Canada</i>
89-511	<i>Youth in Canada</i>
89-520	<i>A Portrait of Children in Canada</i>

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