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A portrait of children in Canada

Target groups project

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A portrait of children in Canada

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Highlights

1.0 Demographics

- As of the 1986 Census, there were some 5.4 million children in Canada, distributed almost equally among the age groups 0 to 4, 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 (Table A).
- Children declined to only 21% of the Canadian population in 1986, compared with 30% in 1971. By 2001, it is estimated that children will make up just 19% of the total Canadian population (Chart 1.2).

2.0 Living arrangements

- The vast majority of children in private households in 1986 were part of a family household. Close to 88% of children were living with just their parent(s), while 10% were living with their parent(s) as well as other related or unrelated persons (Chart 2.1).
- The proportion of children living in husband-wife families declined from 89% to 85% between 1976 and 1986, while the proportion of children in lone-parent families increased from 9% to 13% during the same period (Chart 2.2).
- In lone-parent families in 1986, about 1 out of 5 children were living with a single never-married parent, while 3 out of 5 children were living with either a separated or divorced parent (Chart 2.3).

3.0 Housing and household facilities

- In 1989, the majority of children aged 0 to 15 were living in single-detached dwellings (71%). The proportion living in dwellings such as doubles, row houses or duplexes was slightly higher (14%) than the proportion accommodated in apartments or flats (13%) (Chart 3.1).
- Approximately 3 in every 4 children aged 0 to 15 in 1989 were living in dwellings that did not require any repair. The proportion living in dwellings in need of major or minor repairs were 12% and 16%, respectively (Chart 3.2).
- In 1988-89, 3 in every 4 children aged 0 to 15 were living in households which had video recorders, while 1 in every 5 children were in households with home computers (Charts 3.3 and 3.4).

4.0 Cultural characteristics

- According to the 1986 Census, ethnic origins of British and/or French were identified with 8 out of 10 Canadian children aged 0 to 14 (Chart 4.1).
 - Aboriginal children in Canada in 1986 numbered approximately 260,000, of whom 39% were strictly North American Indian in origin. An additional 34% were a combination of Indian and some other non-aboriginal origin. Children of Métis only and Inuit only origins accounted for 8% and 4%, respectively (Chart 4.2).
 - In 1986, some 425,000 children were members of Canada's visible minorities population. Three groups, namely, the Black, Chinese, and Indo-Pakistani stood out as representing in each case about 1 in every 5 of these children (Table C).
 - In 1986-87, about 1 child in 20 residing in households or institutions had some sort of disability. The rate was slightly higher for boys (5.7%) than for girls (4.7%) (Chart 4.6).
 - In 1988, children aged 2 to 11 spent an average of just over 20 hours a week viewing television. This was a drop of close to 8% from the previous year's 22 hours (Chart 4.9).
-

Highlights – concluded

5.0 Education

- In 1987-88, only 6% of children were enrolled in schools other than the public school system (Chart 5.1).
- There were some 146,600 children enrolled in French immersion programmes (outside Quebec) in 1987-88, compared with only 53,300 in 1980-81, an increase of 175% (Chart 5.3).

6.0 Health conditions

- For every 100,000 male infants under age 1 in 1988, there were just over 800 deaths, a rate about 30 times higher than that among boys aged 5 to 9 (Chart 6.1).
- In 1988, almost 6 in every 10 deaths of boys aged 10 to 14 were due to accidents and adverse effects. For girls, the ratio was about 4 in every 10 (Chart 6.6).
- Children under age 1 show hospitalization rates almost 3 times higher than those of children aged 1 to 4, and 5 to 6 times higher than those in the 5 to 14 age group (Chart 6.7).

7.0 Economic conditions

- Between 1981 and 1988, median income for husband-wife families with children under 15 years rose 5.9% in real terms versus a 2.4% drop for lone-parent families. In 1988, the median income of lone-parent families with children under 15 years (\$14,912) was one-third that of two-parent families (\$45,042) (Table E).
 - In 1988, some 836,000 children (representing 15.7% of all children) were living in low income census families. The comparable figures for 1981 were only slightly lower: 830,000 children corresponding to 15.6% of the total (Chart 7.1).
 - In 1988, close to 63% of children in female lone-parent families had a mother either working full-year/full-time (31%) or working part of the year or part-time (32%), while 37% of children had a mother who was unemployed or not in the labour force (Chart 7.7).
 - Total licensed or provincially-approved spaces in day care centres and family day care centres reached 298,100 in March 1989, some 34,500 more than in 1988 and a 10-fold increase since 1973 (Chart 7.8).
 - In 1981 and 1988, roughly 26% of children in husband-wife families had one or both parents who were unemployed at some time during the year. In approximately 4% of the cases, both parents experienced some unemployment (Chart 7.9).
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Introduction

According to figures from the 1986 Census, children in Canada (defined in this report as persons 14 years of age and under, unless otherwise specified) numbered 5.4 million, or just over 21% of the total population. This was close to a million less than in 1971, when children accounted for almost 30% of the total population. Projections to the year 2001 anticipate a continuing reduction in the proportion of children, to under 19%.

In addition, children are increasingly found living outside the "traditional" setting of a husband-wife family. Between 1976 and 1986 for example, the proportion of children in private households living in husband-wife families dropped from 89% to 85%, while the number situated in lone-parent families increased from 9% to 13%.

These and other profound changes in the composition and characteristics of Canada's children are highlighted in this overview, developed through an integration of information available from Statistics Canada's diverse data sources. While some data were available that described children's status directly, most were extracted from surveys that include information on children as members of households and families. Principal among these are the Census of Population and Housing, the Survey of Consumer Finance, Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, and other relevant information from education and health information systems.

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.

Findings are presented, for the most part, at the national level. Where possible, age grouping roughly approximating basic child care or schooling levels have been used. Historical data are employed to highlight areas reflecting significant trends, as are comparisons between the sexes where gender differences are noteworthy. For some information, it was possible to portray separately the situation of Canada's aboriginal children.

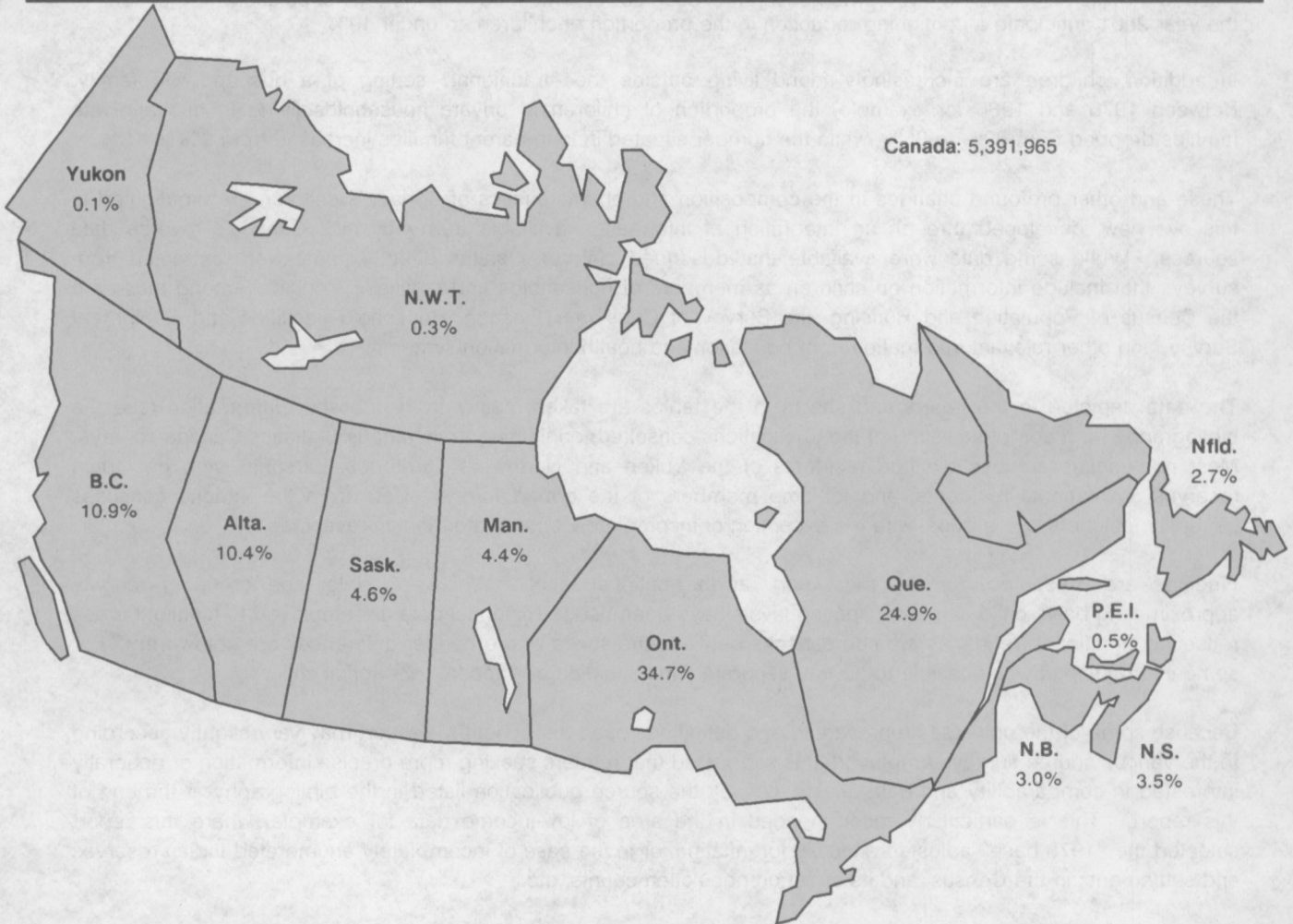
Because some of the universes represented and definitions used throughout the report may vary slightly according to the various source surveys employed, it is suggested that readers seeking more precise information or generally interested in comparability and data quality, consult the source publication listed in the bibliography at the end of this report. This is particularly recommended in the area of low-income data for example, where this report selected the "1978 base" adjusted annually for inflation, or in the case of incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and settlements in the Census, and its effect on population counts, etc.

This publication was produced by the Target Groups Project, located in the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division of Statistics Canada, as one of a series of compendia on selected "target groups" in the population. The objective of the Project is to facilitate user access and awareness of the range of demographic and socio-economic data on these unique and distinct special groups within the population. Other reports in the series focus on women, youth, the family, immigrants and Canada's seniors. A complete list of these publications is also included in the bibliography.

1.0 Demographics

Chart 1.1

Percentage distribution of children aged 0-14 years, Canada, 1986



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

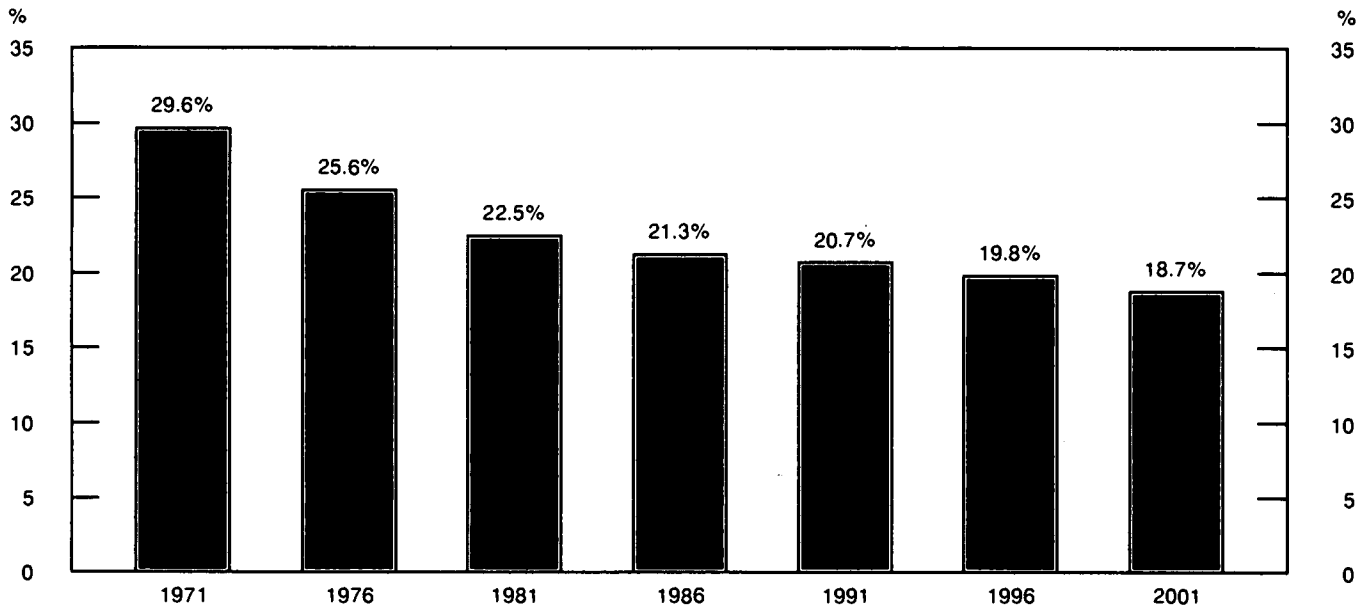
Table A.
Children, by age group and sex, Canada and regions, 1986

Age group	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	Yukon/Northwest Territories
0-4	1,810,190	163,095	431,910	631,390	370,395	204,755	8,655
5-9	1,794,975	171,990	470,310	608,160	343,055	193,875	7,580
10-14	1,786,800	190,045	438,820	629,870	329,310	191,965	6,785
Total 0-14	5,391,965	525,130	1,341,040	1,869,420	1,042,760	590,595	23,020
Male	2,764,625	268,910	687,975	958,230	534,560	303,100	11,860
Female	2,627,335	256,235	653,060	911,190	508,210	287,495	11,140

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

- As of the 1986 Census, there were some 5.4 million children in Canada distributed almost equally among the age groups 0 to 4, 5 to 9 and 10 to 14.
- Boys were slightly in the majority, accounting for 51% of the children aged 0 to 14.
- In total, 60% of the children were residing in either Ontario (35%) or Quebec (25%).

Chart 1.2

Children as a percentage of total population, Canada, 1971-2001¹

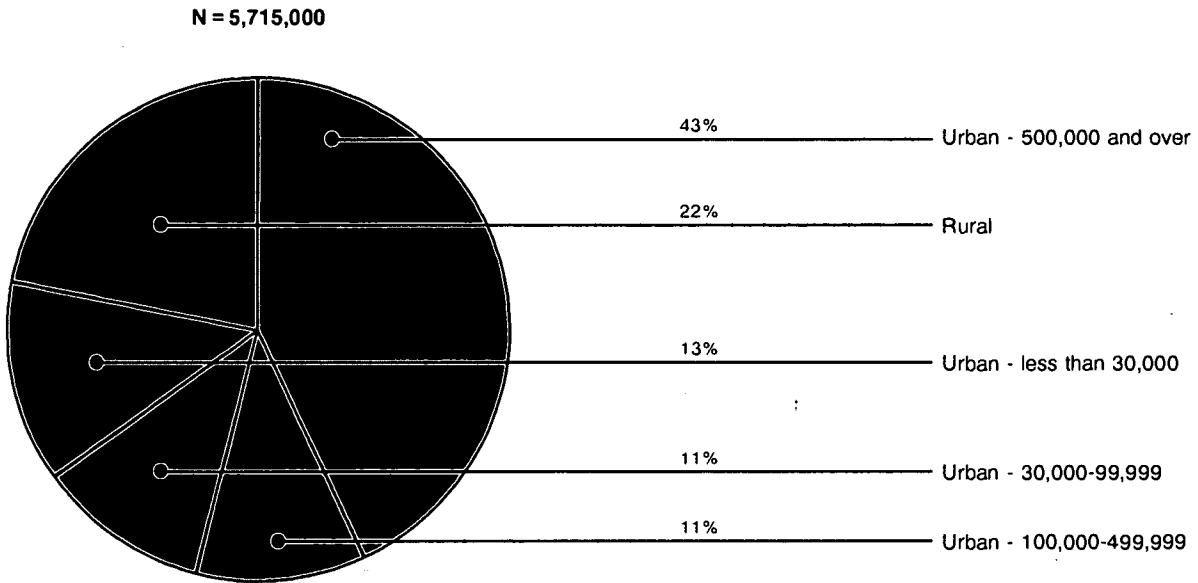
¹ Projections begin in 1991.

Sources: 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, and Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1989-2011, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-520.

- Children declined to only 21% of the Canadian population in 1986, compared with 30% in 1971.
- By 2001, it is estimated that children will make up just 19% of the total Canadian population.
- In 1986, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia had the lowest proportion of children (20.5%) among their population, while the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland experienced the highest proportions at 32.8% and 25.8%, respectively.

Chart 1.3

Percentage distribution of children aged 0-15 years living in urban and rural areas, showing urban population size groups, Canada, 1989



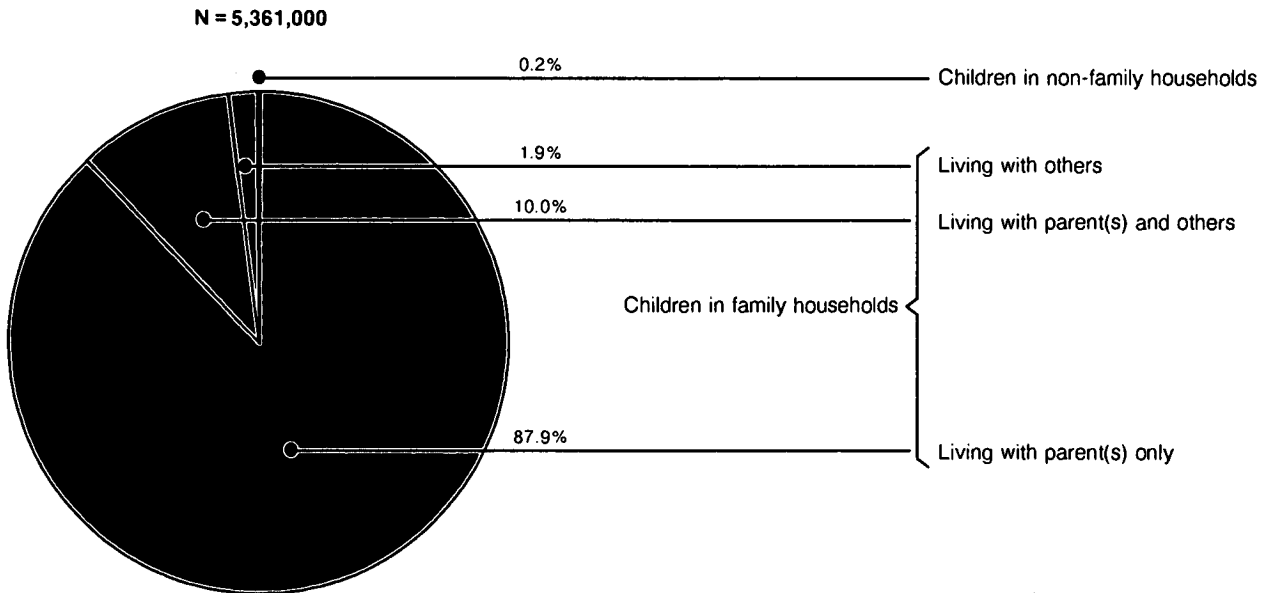
Source: *Household Income, Facilities and Equipment Microdata Files, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.*

- In 1989, more than 3 out of 4 children lived in urban (as opposed to rural) areas. The majority of children (43%) lived in large urban areas of 500,000 population and over, while 22% lived in urban areas of 30,000 to 499,999 and 13% in urban areas of less than 30,000 population.

2.0 Living arrangements

Chart 2.1

Percentage distribution of children in private households, by living arrangements, Canada, 1986

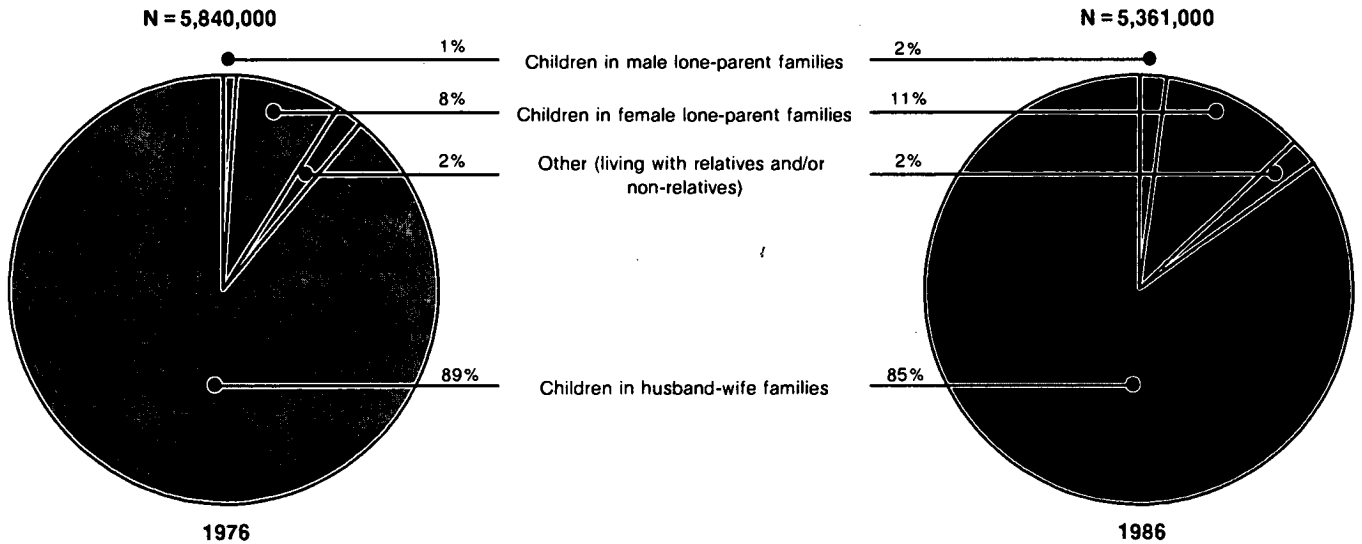


Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The vast majority of children in private households in 1986 were part of a family household. Close to 88% of children were living with just their parent(s), while 10% were living with their parent(s) as well as other related or unrelated persons. Only 0.2% of children were living in non-family households.

Chart 2.2

Percentage distribution of children in private households, by type of family, Canada, 1976 and 1986

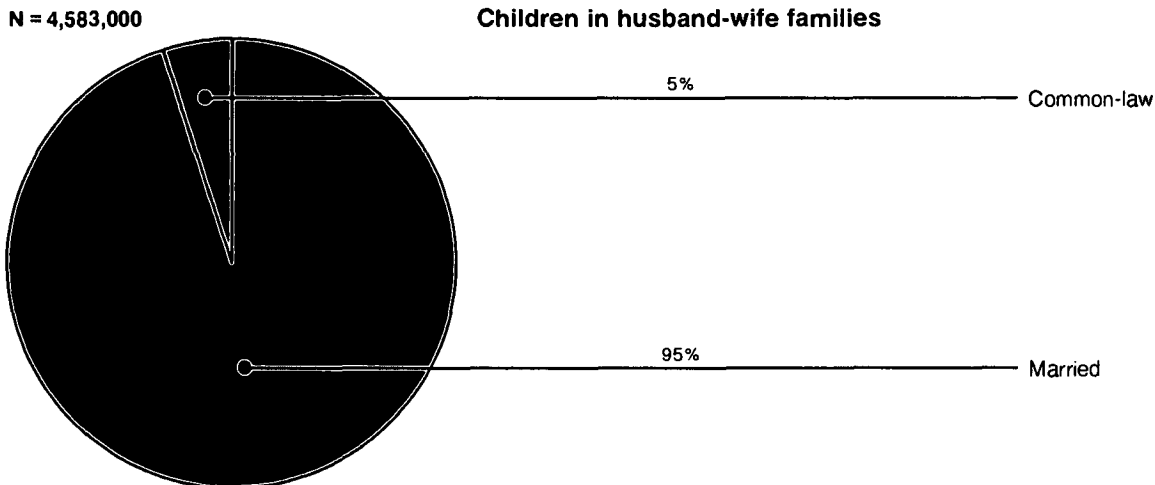
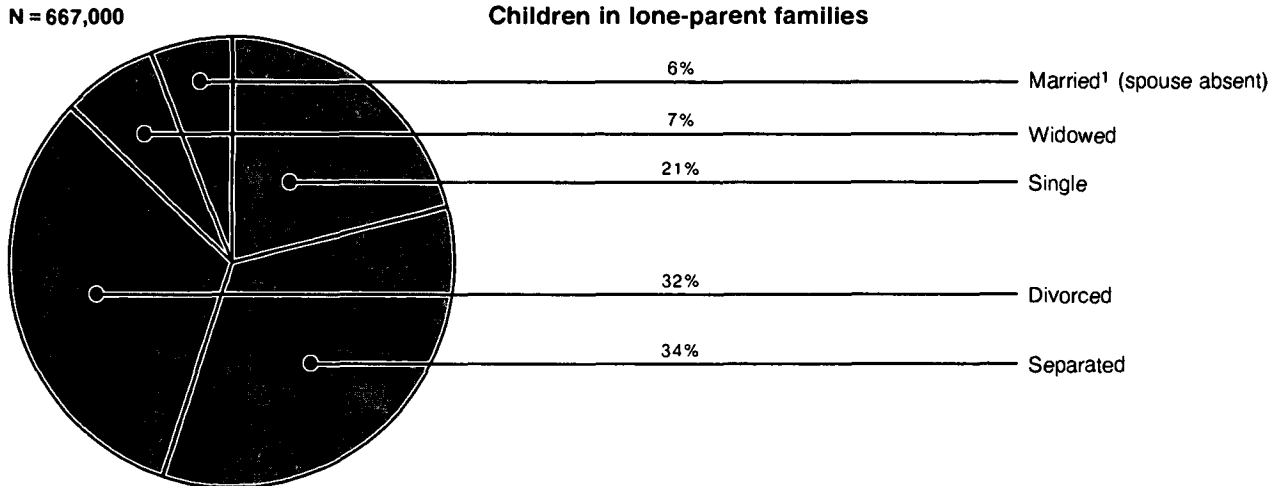


Sources: 1976 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The proportion of children living in husband-wife families declined from 89% to 85% between 1976 and 1986, while the proportion of children in lone-parent families increased from 9% to 13% during the same period.

Chart 2.3

Percentage distribution of children in private households, by type of family and marital status of parent(s), Canada, 1986

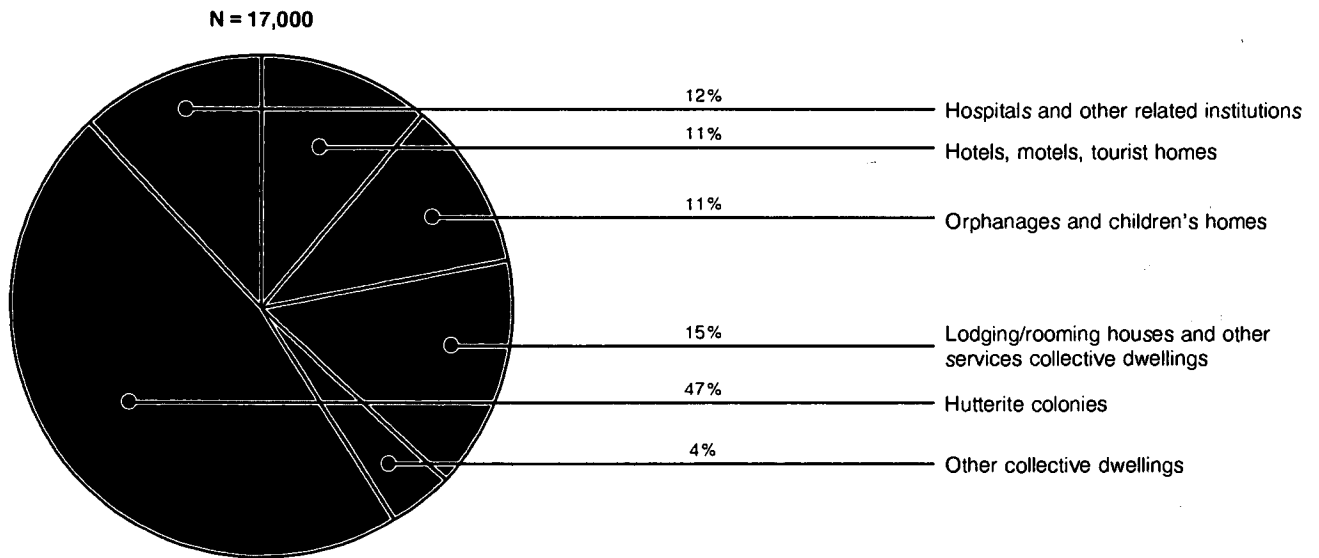


¹ The absent spouse has another usual place of residence.
 Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In lone-parent families in 1986, about 1 out of 5 children (21%) were living with a single never-married parent, while 3 out of 5 children were living with a separated (34%) or divorced (32%) parent. The remaining children were living either with a widowed parent (7%) or with a married parent/spouse absent (6%).
- In husband-wife families, 5% of children were in the situation where parents were living in a common-law type of union. Although a seemingly small percentage, this represents a number of children equal to almost one-third the number of children living in lone-parent families.

Chart 2.4

Percentage distribution of children living in collective dwellings, by type, Canada, 1986



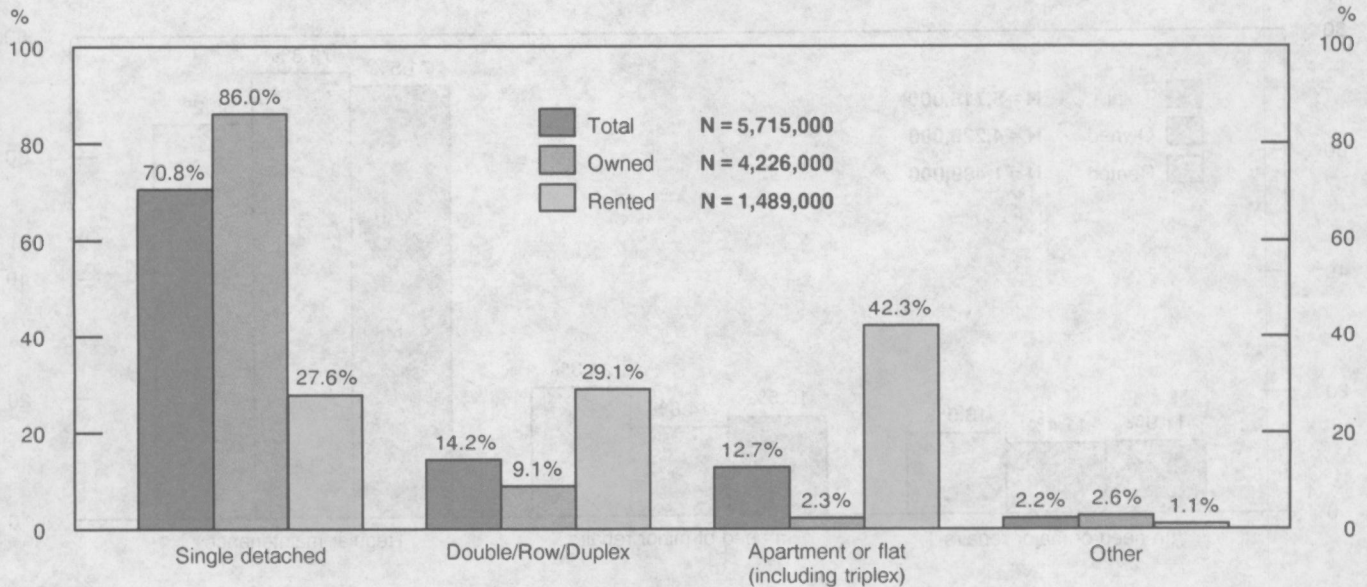
Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-104.

- In 1986, the usual place of residence for some 17,000 children was classified as a collective dwelling. Almost half of these children (47%) were part of Hutterite colonies, while 12% were living in hospitals and other related institutions, and 11% were living in orphanages and children's homes. The balance of children were living in lodging/rooming houses (15%), in hotels/motels or tourist homes (11%), or in other types of collective dwellings (4%).

3.0 Housing and household facilities

Chart 3.1

Percentage distribution of children aged 0-15 years, by type of dwelling and tenure, Canada, 1989

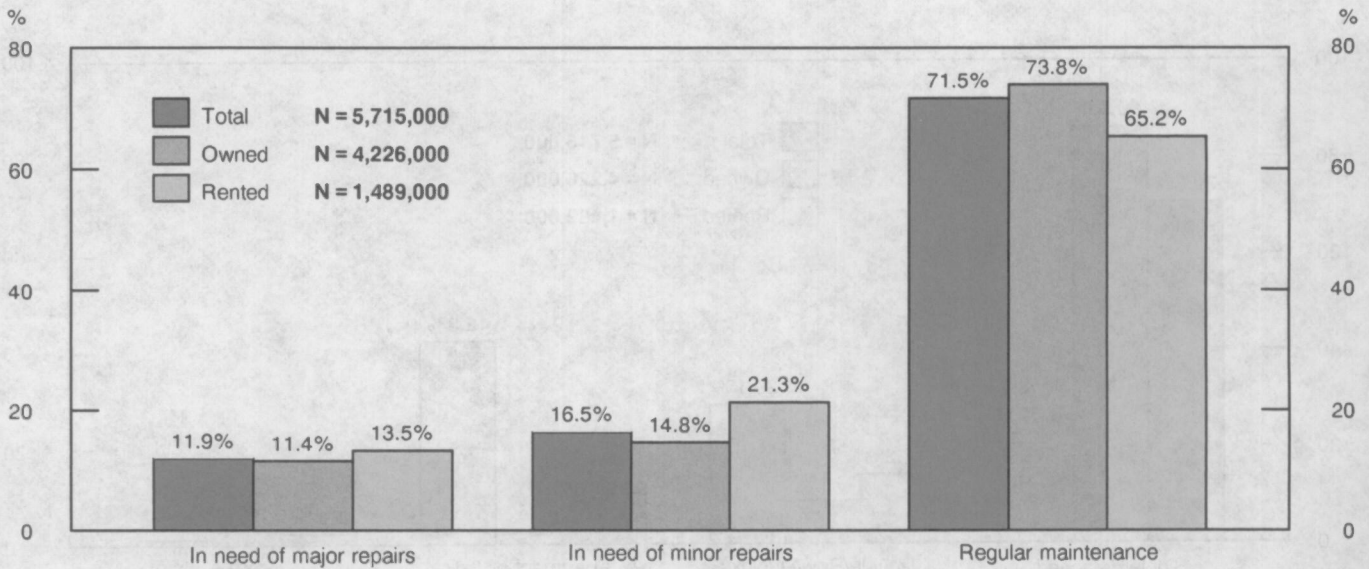


Source: Household Income, Facilities and Equipment Microdata File, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1989, the majority of children aged 0 to 15 were living in single-detached dwellings (71%). The proportion living in dwellings such as doubles, row houses or duplexes was slightly higher (14%) than the proportion accommodated in apartments or flats (13%).
- Children in rented dwellings were living mainly in apartments or flats (42%), followed by doubles, row houses or duplexes (29%) and single-detached dwellings (28%). Over 8 in every 10 children aged 0 to 15 in owned dwellings resided in single-detached homes.

Chart 3.2

Percentage distribution of children aged 0-15 years, by state of repair¹ of dwelling and tenure, Canada, 1989



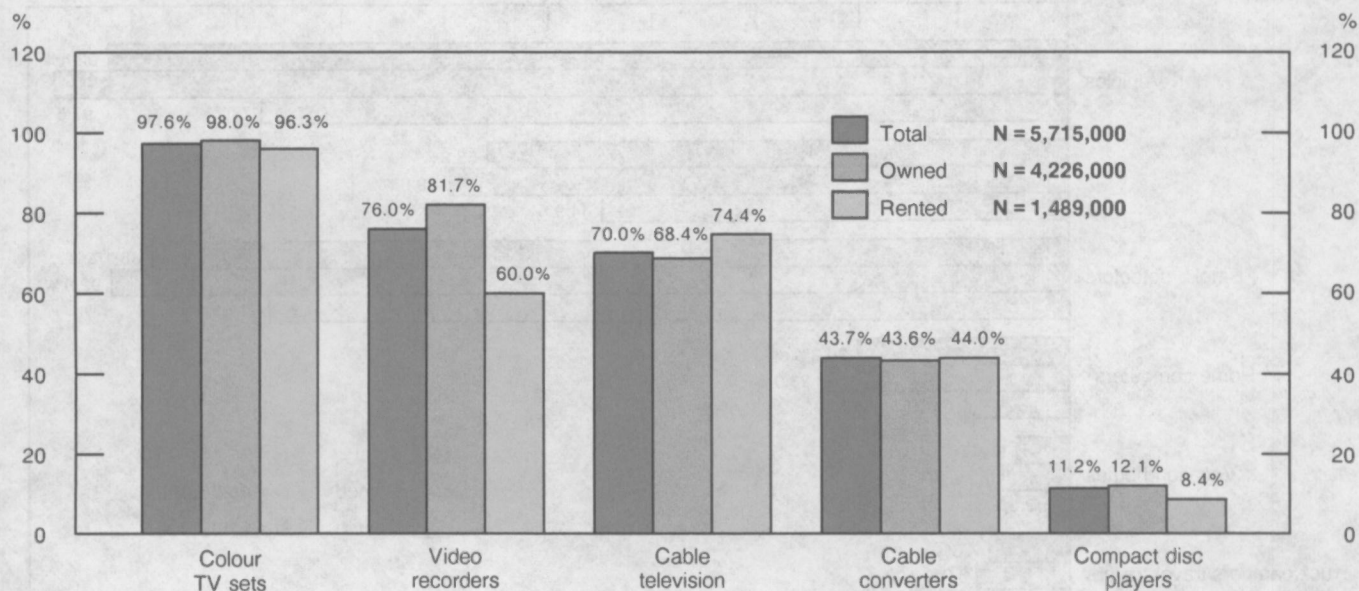
¹ Does not include desirable remodelling, additions, conversions or energy improvements.

Source: Household Income, Facilities and Equipment Microdata File, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Approximately 3 in every 4 children aged 0 to 15 (72%) in 1989 were living in dwellings that did not require any repair. The proportion living in dwellings in need of major or minor repairs were 12% and 16%, respectively.
- The percentage of children living in dwellings in need of repairs was higher for rented dwellings than owned, by about 2% in the case of major and 6% for minor repairs.

Chart 3.3

Proportion of children aged 0-15 years living in households with selected home entertainment facilities, by tenure, Canada, 1989

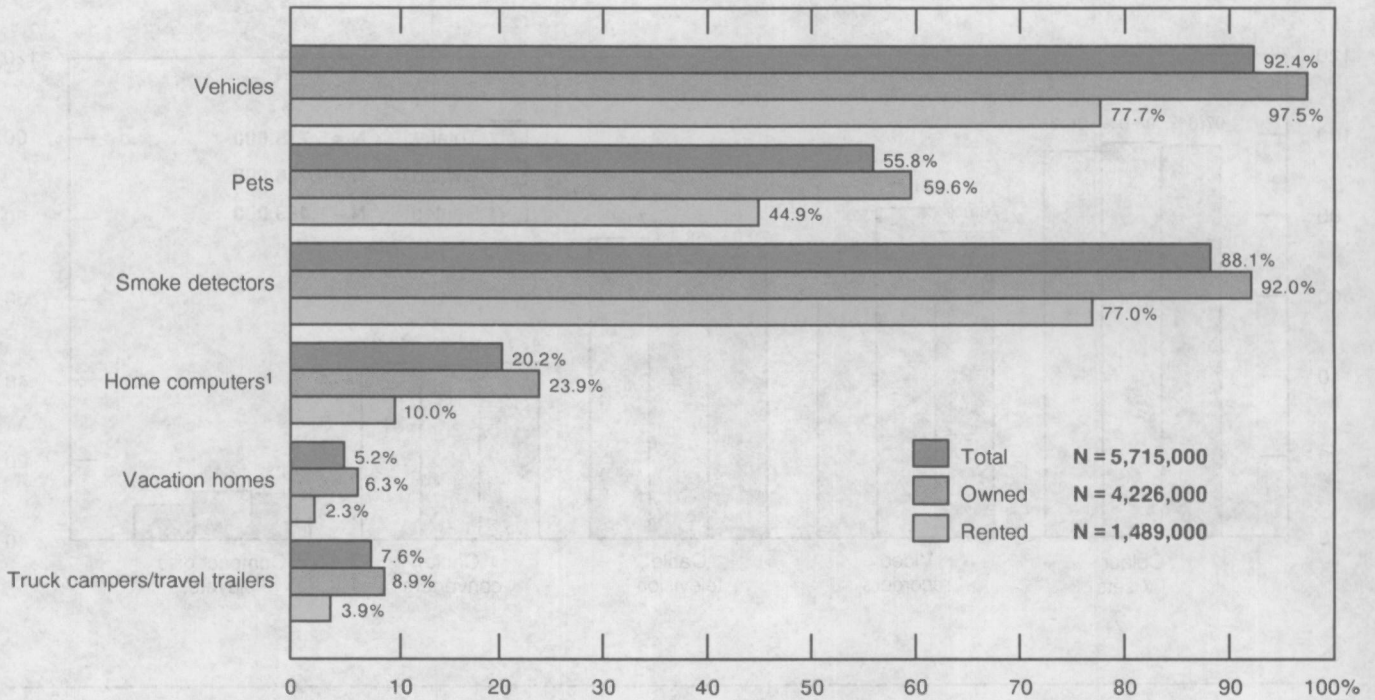


Source: Household Income, Facilities and Equipment Microdata File, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1989, almost all children aged 0 to 15 (98%) were living in households which had colour television sets.
- The proportions of children living in households that had video recorders and/or cable television were 76% and 70%, respectively.
- The proportions of children residing in homes with these most popular entertainment facilities were higher in owned than rented dwellings, except in the case of cable television and cable converters.

Chart 3.4

Proportion of children aged 0-15 years living in households with selected features and equipment, by tenure, Canada, 1989



¹ 1988 Data.

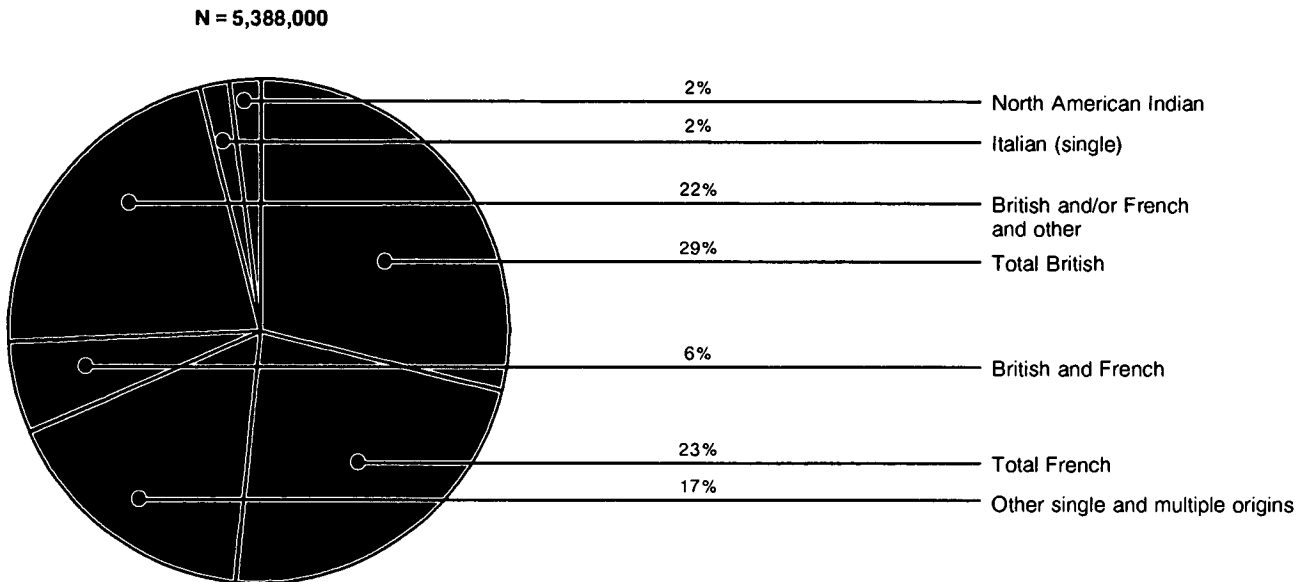
Source: Household Income, Facilities and Equipment Microdata File, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1989, approximately 9 in every 10 children aged 0 to 15 were living in households with vehicles and/or smoke detectors, while 1 in every 2 children were in households with pets.
- Slightly over 5% of children were living in households with vacation homes, 8% in households with truck campers/travel trailers and 20% (1988 data) in households with home computers. In all cases, the proportions of children potentially benefitting from these features were higher for owned than rented accommodation.

4.0 Cultural characteristics

Chart 4.1

Percentage distribution of children, by ethnic origins¹, Canada, 1986

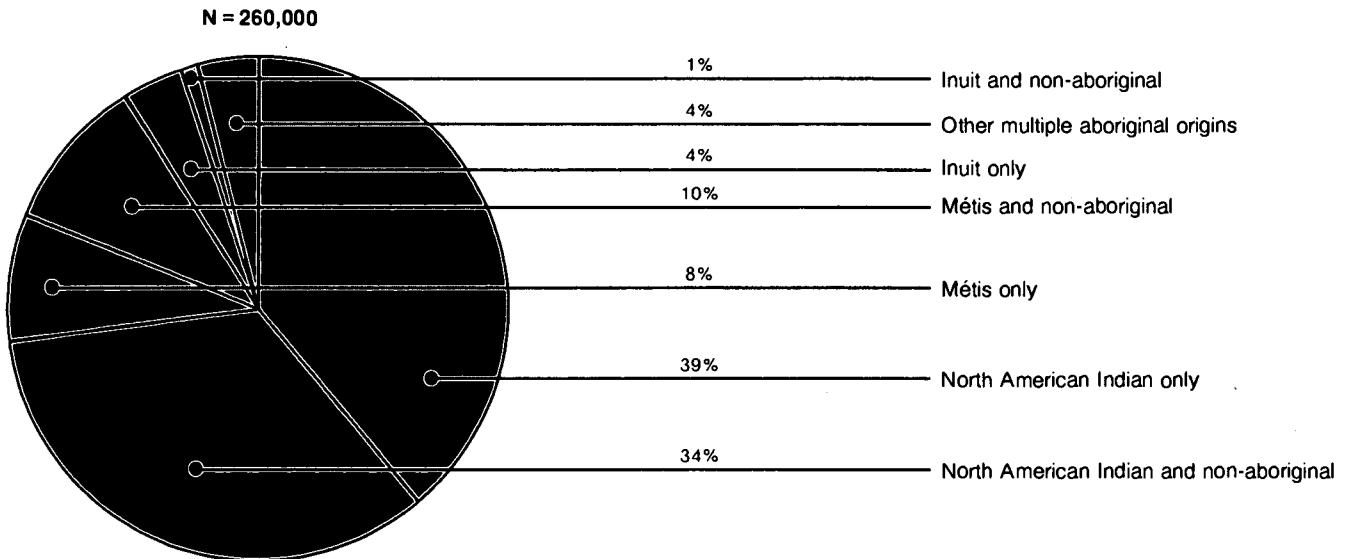


¹ Details on ethnic origins within each category are available in *Statistics Canada, Catalogue 99-101*.
 Source: 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- According to the 1986 Census, ethnic origins of British and/or French were identified with 8 out of 10 Canadian children aged 0 to 14. This comprised single origins of 29% for British, 23% for French, multiple origins of 6% British and French, and 22% British and/or French and some other origin.

Chart 4.2

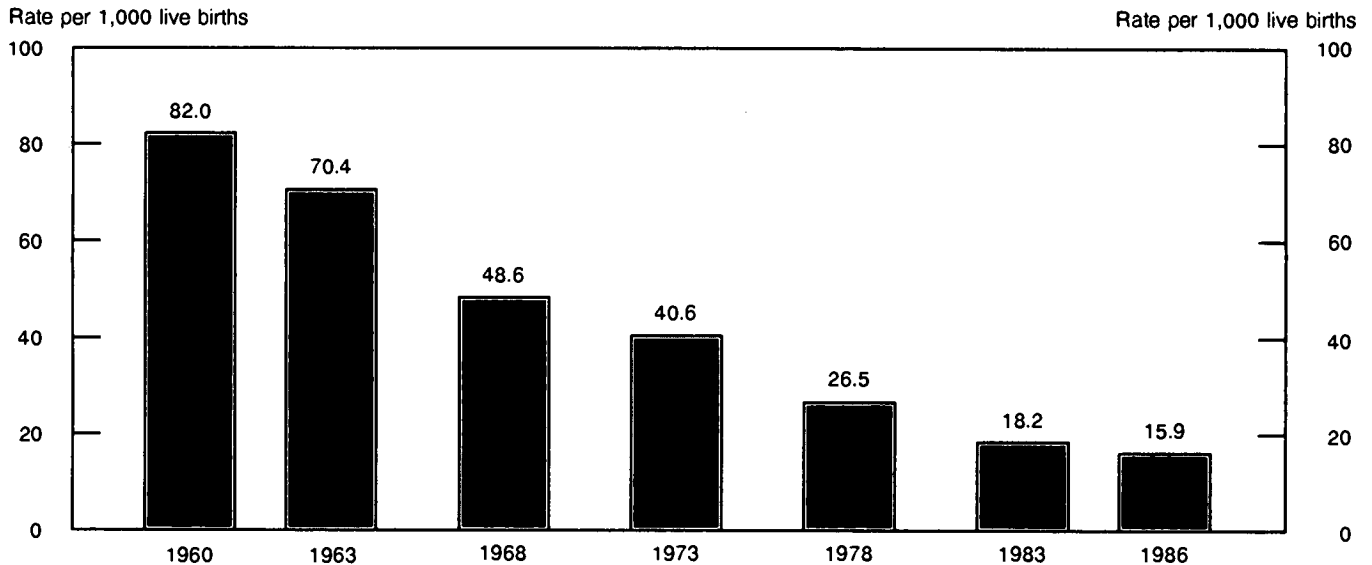
Percentage distribution of children with aboriginal origins, Canada, 1986



Source: *Aboriginal Peoples Output Program, A Data Book on Canada's Aboriginal Population, 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada.*

- Aboriginal children in Canada in 1986 numbered approximately 260,000, of whom 39% were strictly North American Indian in origin. An additional 34% were a combination of Indian and some other non-aboriginal origin. Children of Métis only and Inuit only origins accounted for 8% and 4%, respectively.

Chart 4.3

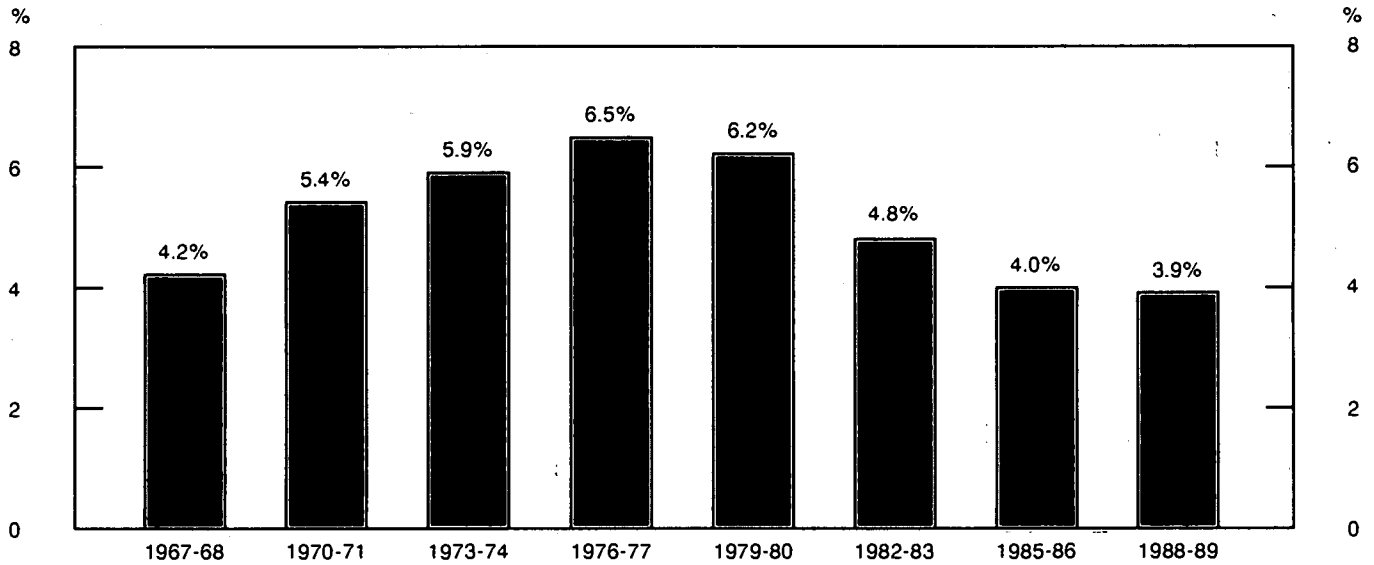
Mortality rates for registered Indian children¹ aged 1 year and under living on-reserve, Canada, selected years 1960-1986

¹ Population served by the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada.
Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Basic Departmental Data, 1989.

- In 1960, the death rate of registered Indian children aged 1 year or less living on reserves approached 1 in every 10 live births. By 1986, the rate had fallen to around 1 in every 60. Between 1960 and 1978, the rate fell by some two-thirds, but somewhat evened out around 1983, declining only 12% or 13% to 1986.

Chart 4.4

Percentage of on-reserve registered Indian children aged 16 years and under in care, Canada¹, selected years 1967-68 to 1988-89



¹ Excludes Indians residing in Northwest Territories and Newfoundland.

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Basic Departmental Data, 1989.

- In 1988-89, it was estimated that some 4,000 registered Indian children, aged 16 and under and living on reserves (excluding Newfoundland and Northwest Territories), had to be placed away from parental care for their protection, and the prevention of neglect and/or abuse. This was about 4% of the children in this age group, which represented a gradual decline from the peak of 6.5% reached in 1976-77.

Table B.
Number of new active and reactivated cases of tuberculosis among Indian and Inuit children, Canada, 1977-1987

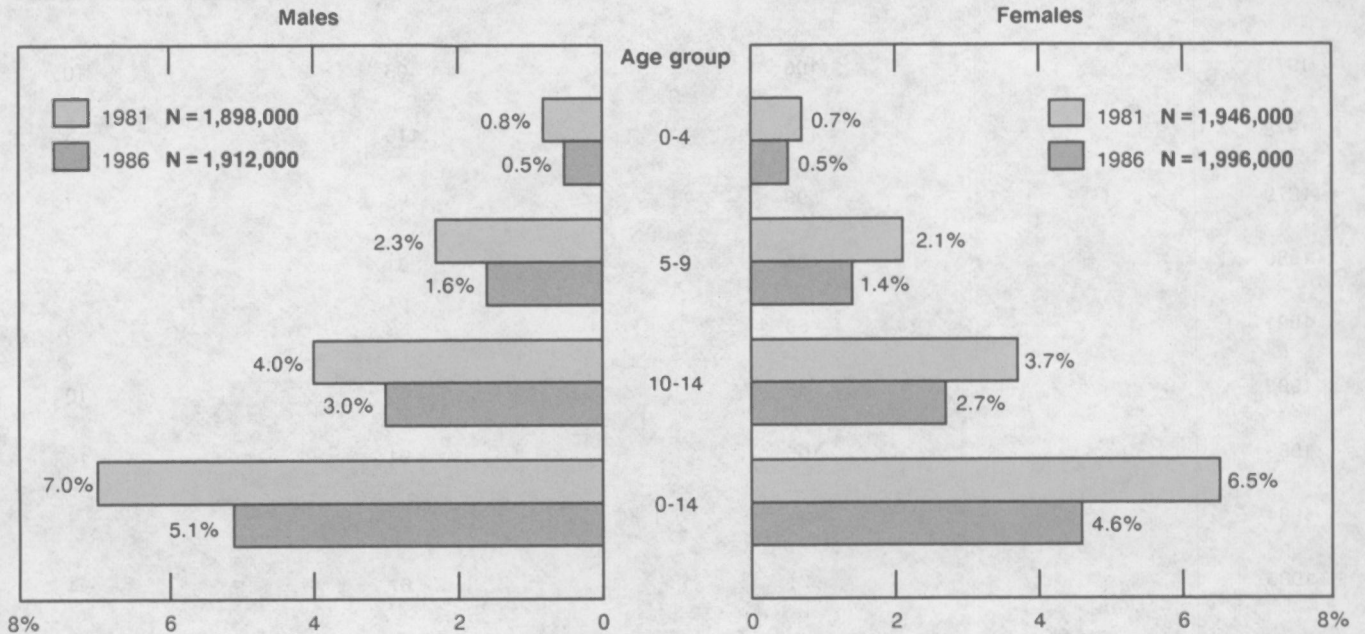
	Total	Indian	Inuit
1977	106	96	10
1978	114	110	4
1979	99	98	1
1980	85	81	4
1981	69	63	6
1982	63	53	10
1983	105	91	14
1984	96	95	1
1985	71	67	4
1986	76	70	6
1987	102	99	3

Sources: *Tuberculosis Statistics - Morbidity and Mortality, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-212, and Health Report Supplement, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.*

- The number of new active and reactivated cases of tuberculosis amongst Indian and Inuit children aged 0 to 14 in 1987 reached 102 (99 Indian and 3 Inuit). This was an overall increase of 26 cases or 34% compared with the previous year. However, cases displayed no clear trend over the years since 1977, alternately rising and falling in no particular order.

Chart 4.5

Proportion of male and female immigrants who are children, by age group, Canada, 1981 and 1986



Sources: 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1986, immigrant children represented 4.8% of the total population that had immigrated to Canada (5.1% of the males and 4.6% of the females). This was a decline from 6.7% in 1981, when the proportion of children among those who were not Canadian by birth was 7.0% for males and 6.5% for females.
- Between 1981 and 1986, the number of immigrant children fell by 70,200 to 189,100, representing a drop in the proportion of children who were immigrants from 4.7% to 3.5%.

Table C.
Number of children belonging to visible minorities¹ population, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986

Visible minority group	Age 0 to 14	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 9	Age 10 to 14
Black	96,495	32,385	31,635	32,475
Male	48,175	16,220	15,840	16,115
Female	48,320	16,165	15,795	16,360
Indo-Pakistani	87,930	31,640	31,090	25,200
Male	43,795	15,855	15,665	12,275
Female	44,135	15,785	15,425	12,925
Chinese	91,930	32,405	30,580	28,945
Male	47,850	16,490	16,145	15,215
Female	44,080	15,915	14,435	13,730
Korean	8,770	2,375	3,100	3,295
Male	4,430	1,225	1,575	1,630
Female	4,340	1,150	1,525	1,665
Japanese	12,140	4,100	4,175	3,865
Male	6,035	2,055	2,125	1,855
Female	6,105	2,045	2,050	2,010
South East Asian	26,485	9,670	8,830	7,985
Male	14,225	5,315	4,640	4,270
Female	12,260	4,355	4,190	3,715
Filipino	29,000	9,260	10,955	8,785
Male	15,195	4,945	5,690	4,560
Female	13,805	4,315	5,265	4,225
Other Pacific Islanders	2,905	1,020	1,085	800
Male	1,445	515	535	395
Female	1,460	505	550	405
West Asian and Arab	40,245	15,325	13,715	11,205
Male	20,435	7,955	6,795	5,685
Female	19,810	7,370	6,920	5,520
Latin American	16,365	5,230	5,900	5,235
Male	8,365	2,575	2,995	2,795
Female	8,000	2,655	2,905	2,440

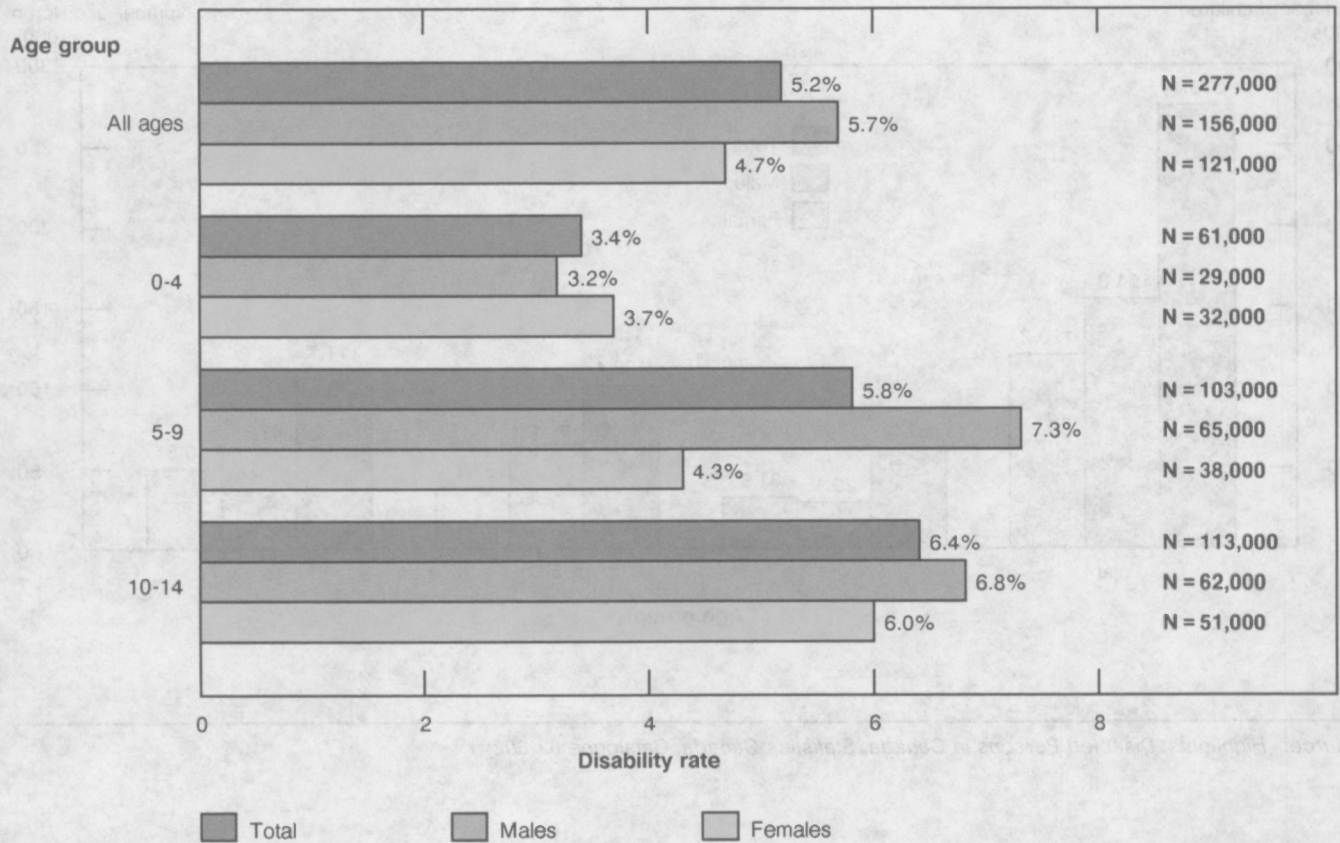
Table C.
Number of children belonging to visible minorities¹ population, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986 – concluded

Visible minority group	Age 0 to 14	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 9	Age 10 to 14
Multiple visible minorities	12,960	5,065	4,060	3,835
Male	6,680	2,580	2,140	1,960
Female	6,280	2,485	1,920	1,875
Total visible minorities (incl. multiples with aboriginals)	425,215	148,480	145,125	131,610
Male	216,635	75,740	74,145	66,750
Female	208,580	72,740	70,980	64,860

¹ As derived by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity from the 1986 Census of Canada. Each visible minority group may include some aboriginal children.
 Source: Profile of Visible Minorities and Aboriginal Peoples, 1986 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada.

- In 1986, some 425,000 children were members of Canada's visible minorities population. Three groups, namely, the Black, Chinese, and Indo-Pakistani stood out as representing in each case about 1 in every 5 of these children.

Chart 4.6

Disability rates for children¹, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986-87

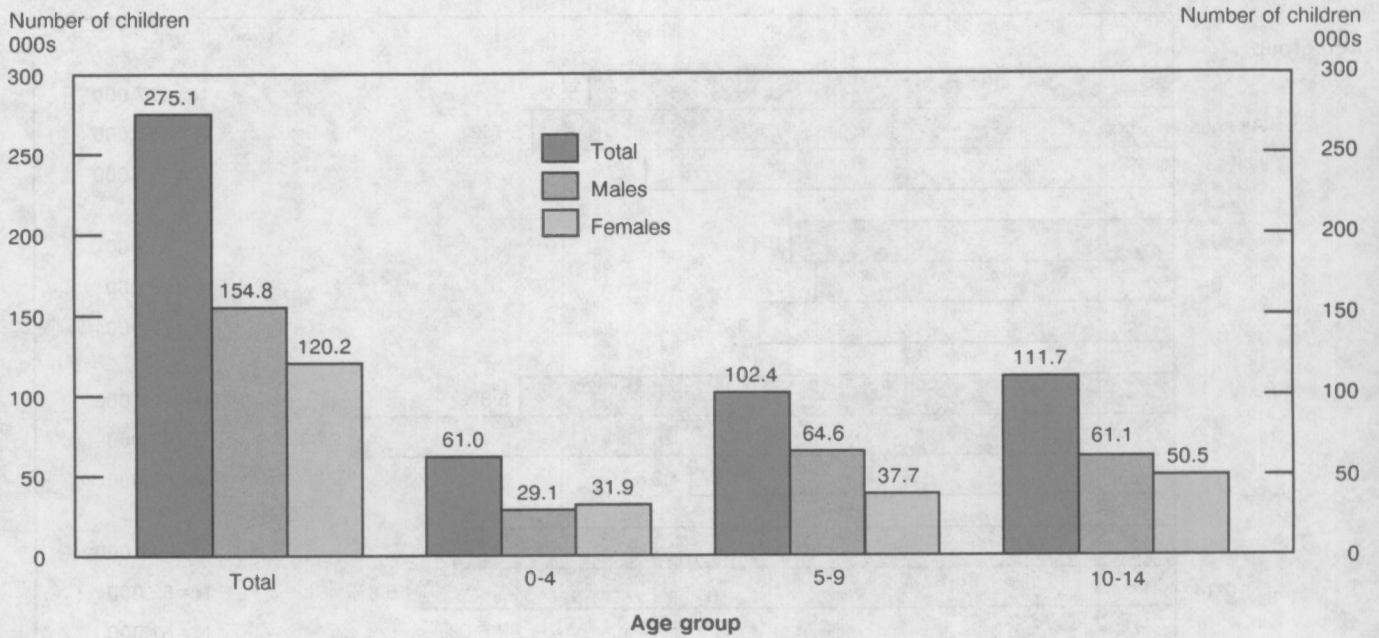
¹ Disabled children residing in households and institutions.

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

- About 1 child in 20 in 1986-87 residing in households or institutions had some sort of disability. The rate was slightly higher for boys (5.7%) than for girls (4.7%). Boys in the 5 to 9 age group had the highest overall rate at 7.3%, while the lowest incidence occurred among boys aged 0 to 4 (3.2%). The latter age group was the only one in which the female rate (3.7%) exceeded that of the male.

Chart 4.7

Disabled children residing in households, by age group and sex, Canada, 1986

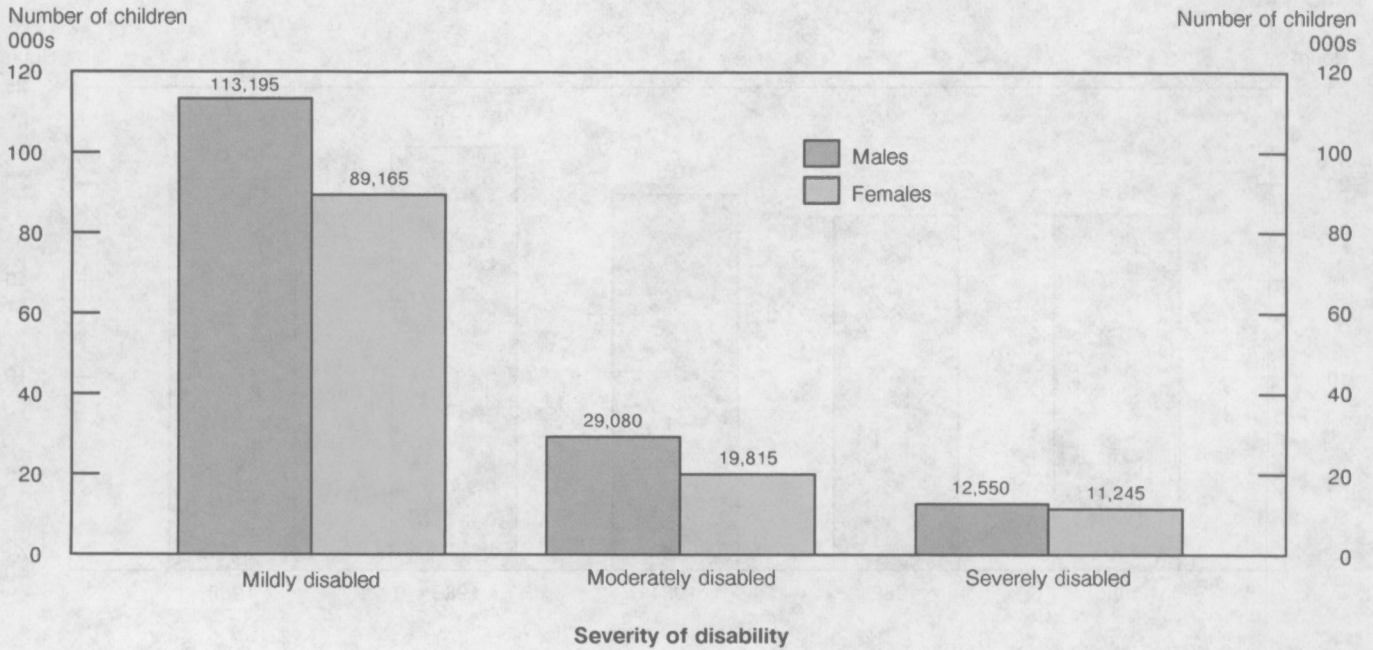


Source: Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

- Of the total number of disabled children residing in households (275,050), some 56% were boys and 44% girls. There were 26,900 more disabled boys than girls in the 5 to 9 year old age group.

Chart 4.8

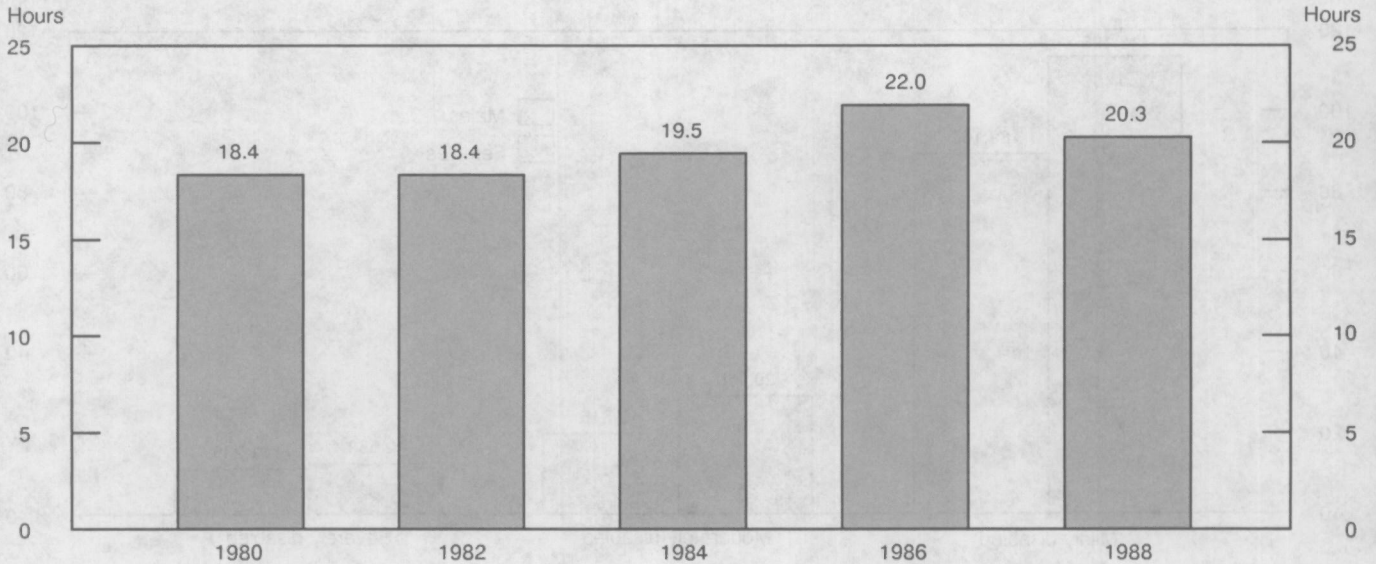
Disabled children in households showing severity of disability and sex, Canada, 1986



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

- Close to three-quarters of the disabilities of boys and girls were classified as being "mild". Those with moderate disabilities ranged between 16% and 19%, and the severely disabled were in the order of 8% to 9%. In the case of mild and moderate disabilities, boys significantly outnumbered girls, but for the severely disabled the difference was considerably less (1,305 more boys).

Chart 4.9

Average hours per week of television viewing, by children aged 2-11 years¹, Canada, selected years 1980-1988

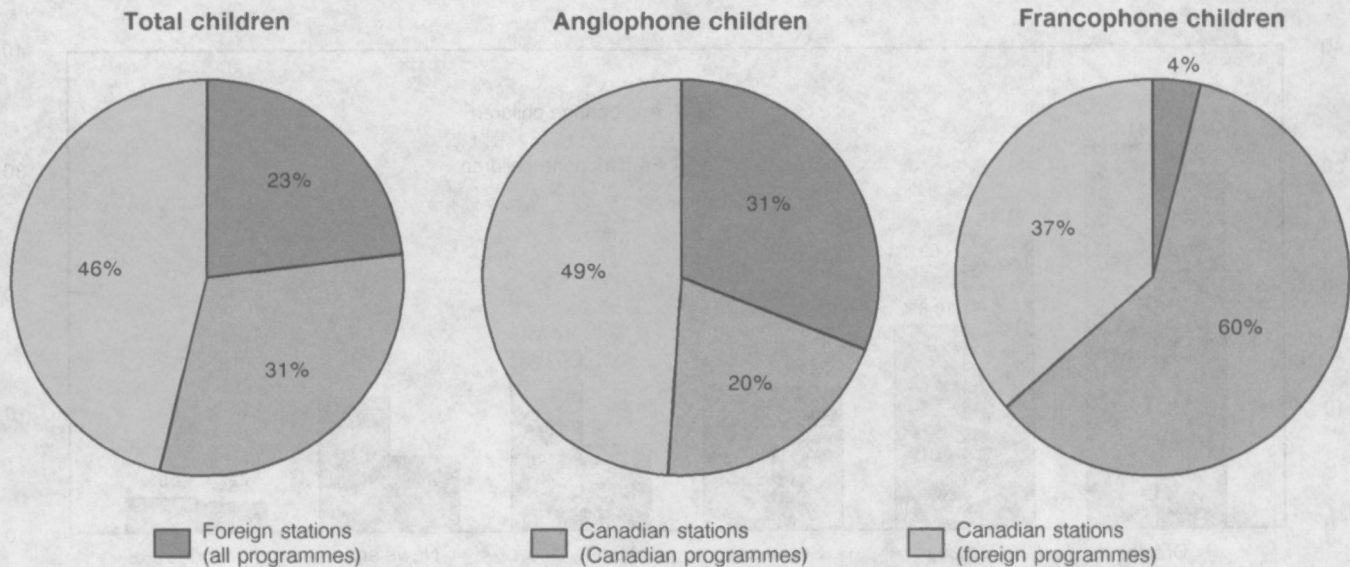
¹ Excludes residents of Yukon and Northwest Territories, and of communal institutions (e.g., hospitals, college dormitories, etc.).

Sources: *Television Viewing in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-208, and *Education, Culture and Tourism Division*, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, children aged 2 to 11 spent an average of just over 20 hours a week viewing television. This was a drop of close to 8% from the previous year (22 hours). Between 1980 and 1986, average time spent per week had increased by about 20%.

Chart 4.10

Percentage distribution of television viewing time of anglophone/francophone children aged 2-11 years¹, by origin of programme and station, Canada, 1988

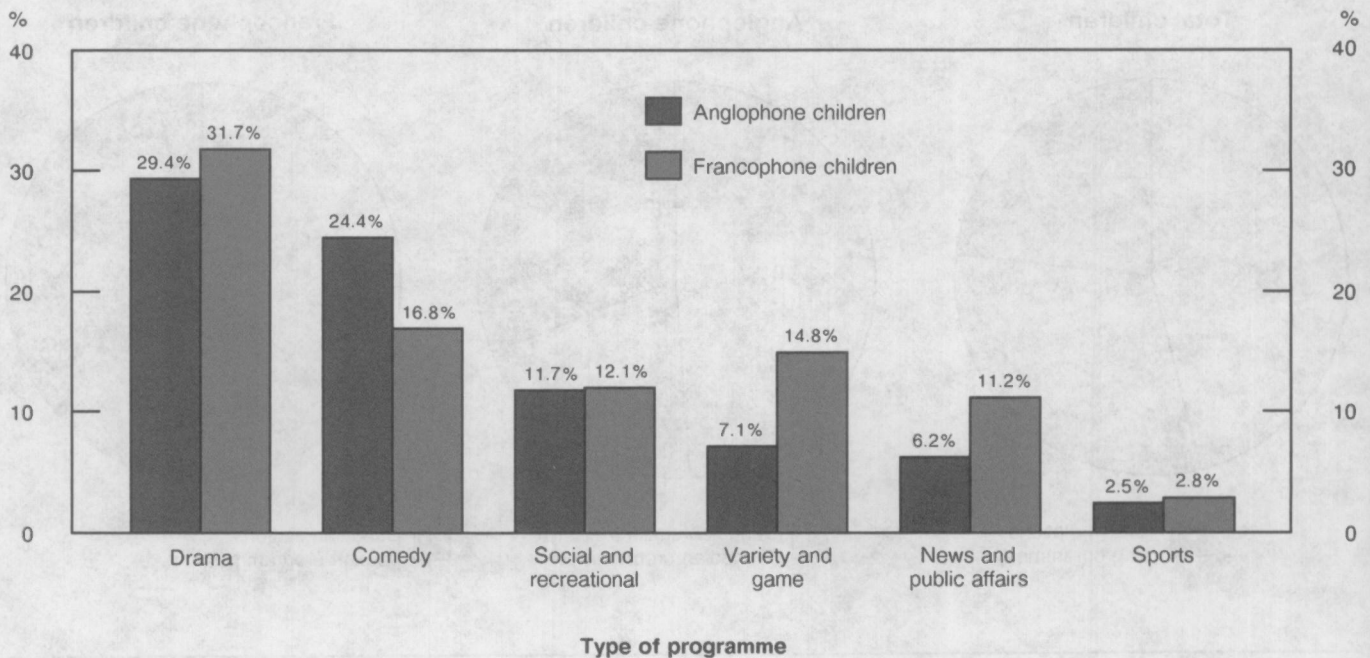


¹ Excludes residents of Yukon and Northwest Territories, and of communal institutions (e.g., hospitals, college dormitories, etc.).
Source: *Television Viewing in Canada, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-208.*

- There were substantial differences between viewing habits of anglophone and francophone children aged 2 to 11 in 1988. Almost half of the time (49%) of anglophones was spent watching foreign programmes on Canadian stations, while fully 60% of the time of francophones was spent viewing Canadian programmes originating with Canadian stations. Nearly 1 in every 3 hours of viewing by anglophone children concerned strictly foreign stations, while the comparable proportion of time for francophones was only 4%.

Chart 4.11

Percentage distribution of television viewing time of anglophone/francophone children aged 2-11 years¹, by type of programme, Canada, 1988



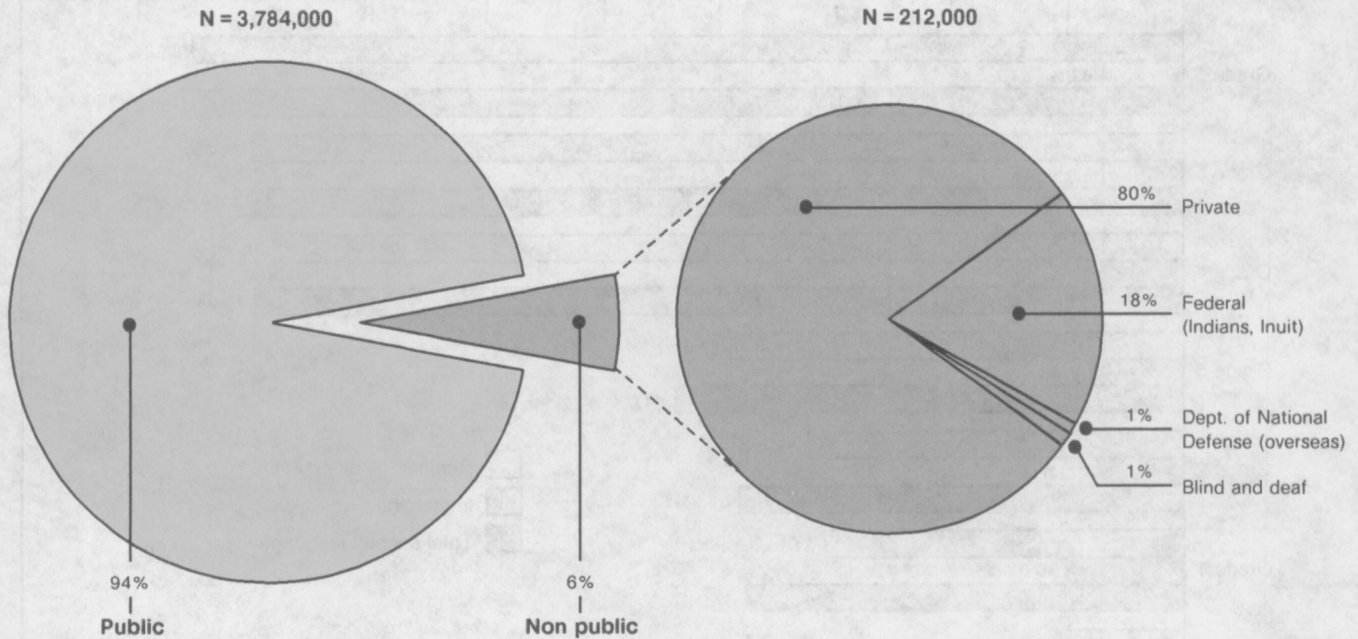
¹ Excludes residents of Yukon and Northwest Territories and of communal institutions (e.g., hospitals, college dormitories, etc.).
Source: *Television Viewing in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-208.

- Drama was the preferred type of television programme for anglophone or francophone children in 1988, consuming 29% and 32%, respectively, of their viewing time. There were noticeable differences in preferences for comedy (24% of anglophones and 17% of francophones), as well as variety and game shows (7% versus 15%) and news and public affairs (6% versus 11%).

5.0 Education

Chart 5.1

Percentage distribution of enrolment for children, by type of school, Canada, 1987-88

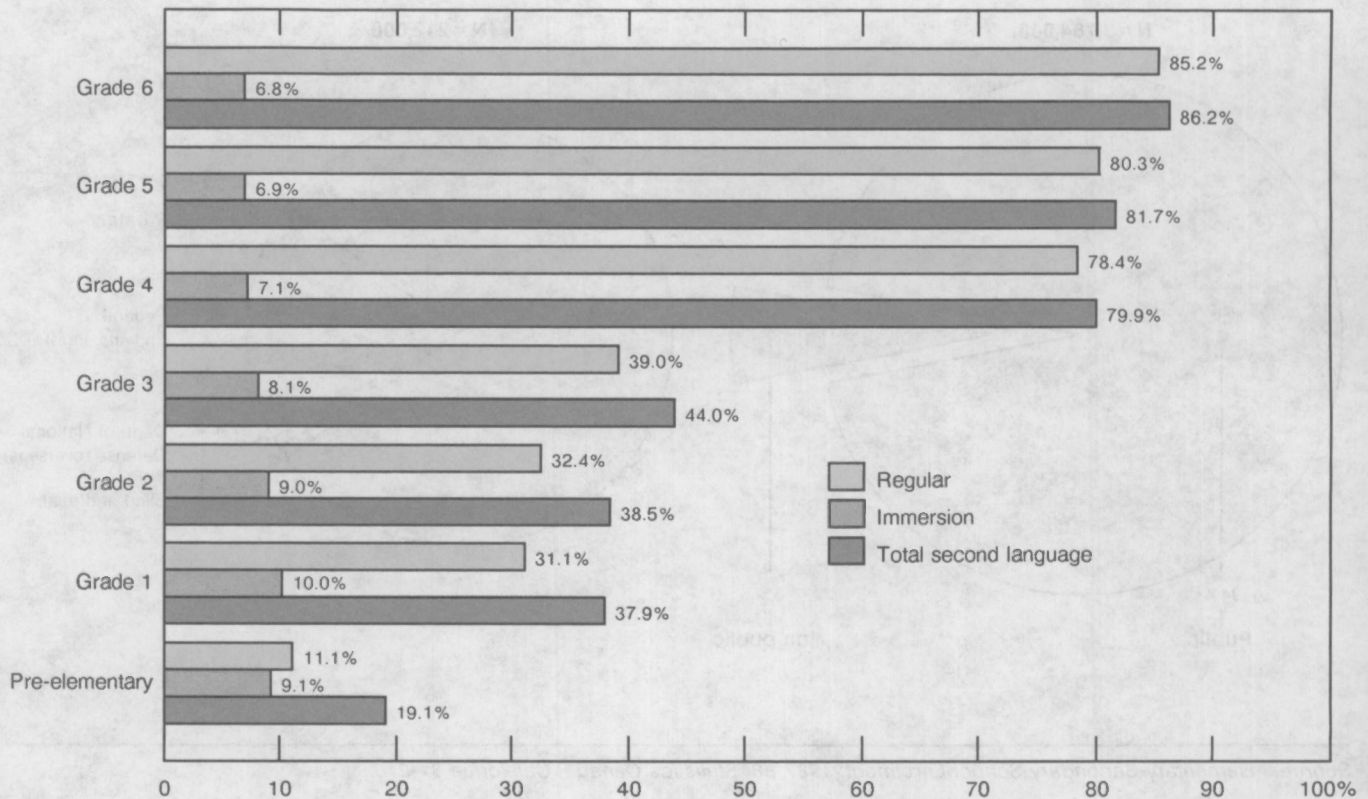


Source: *Elementary-Secondary School Enrolment, 1987-88, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-210.*

- In 1987-88, only 6% of children were enrolled in schools other than the public school system.
- Among the 212,000 children enrolled in non-public schools, 80% attended private schools and 18% federal schools for Indians and Inuit.

Chart 5.2

Participation rates in second language programmes, by type of programme and grade, Canada (excluding Quebec), 1987-88



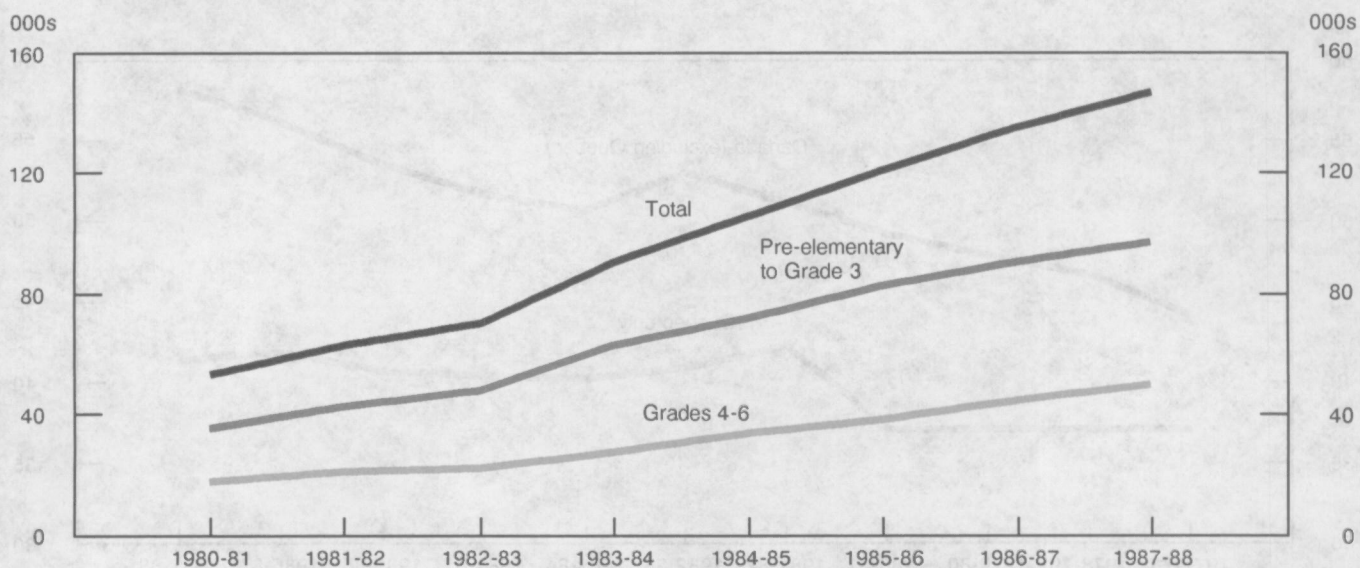
Source: *Minority and Second Language Education, Elementary and Secondary Levels, 1987-88, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-257.*

- In 1987-88, the participation rates of children (outside Quebec) in a second language immersion programme began at 9.1% in the pre-elementary level and rose slightly to 10% in Grade 1, from which point it gradually declined to 6.8% in Grade 6.
- The participation rates in regular second language programmes i.e., where students take the second language as one of the "subjects", were considerably higher, ranging from a low of 11.1% at the pre-elementary level to a high of 85.2% in Grade 6.

Note: Immersion and total second language enrolment excludes students in minority language programmes, while regular second language programmes exclude those in minority language and immersion programmes.

Chart 5.3

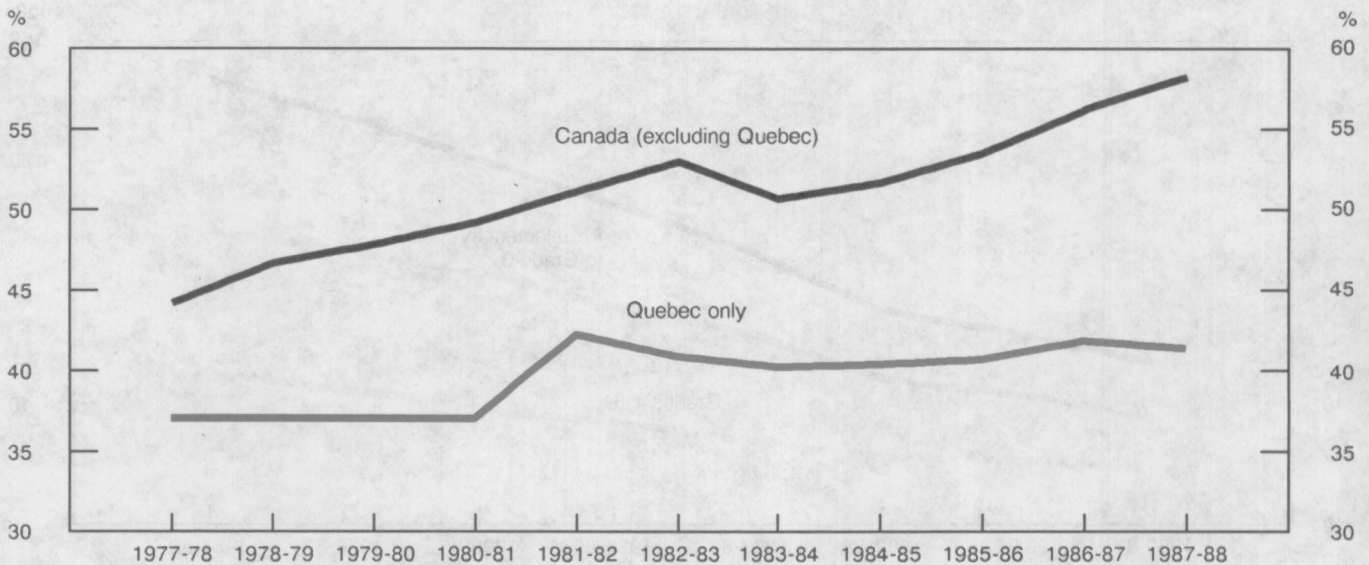
Number of children enrolled in French immersion programmes, Canada (excluding Quebec), 1980-81 to 1987-88



Source: *Minority and Second Language Education, Elementary and Secondary Levels, 1987-88*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-257.

- There were some 146,600 children enrolled in French immersion programmes (outside Quebec) in 1987-88, compared with only 53,300 in 1980-81, an increase of 175%.
- The number of children enrolled in French immersion programmes at the pre-elementary to Grade 3 level increased by 173% from 35,500 in 1980-81 to 97,000 in 1987-88. During the same period, the number of children at the Grade 4 to 6 level enrolled in the same type of programmes increased by 179% from 17,800 to 49,600.

Chart 5.4

Participation rates in second language programmes at the elementary level in public schools, Canada, 1977-78 to 1987-88

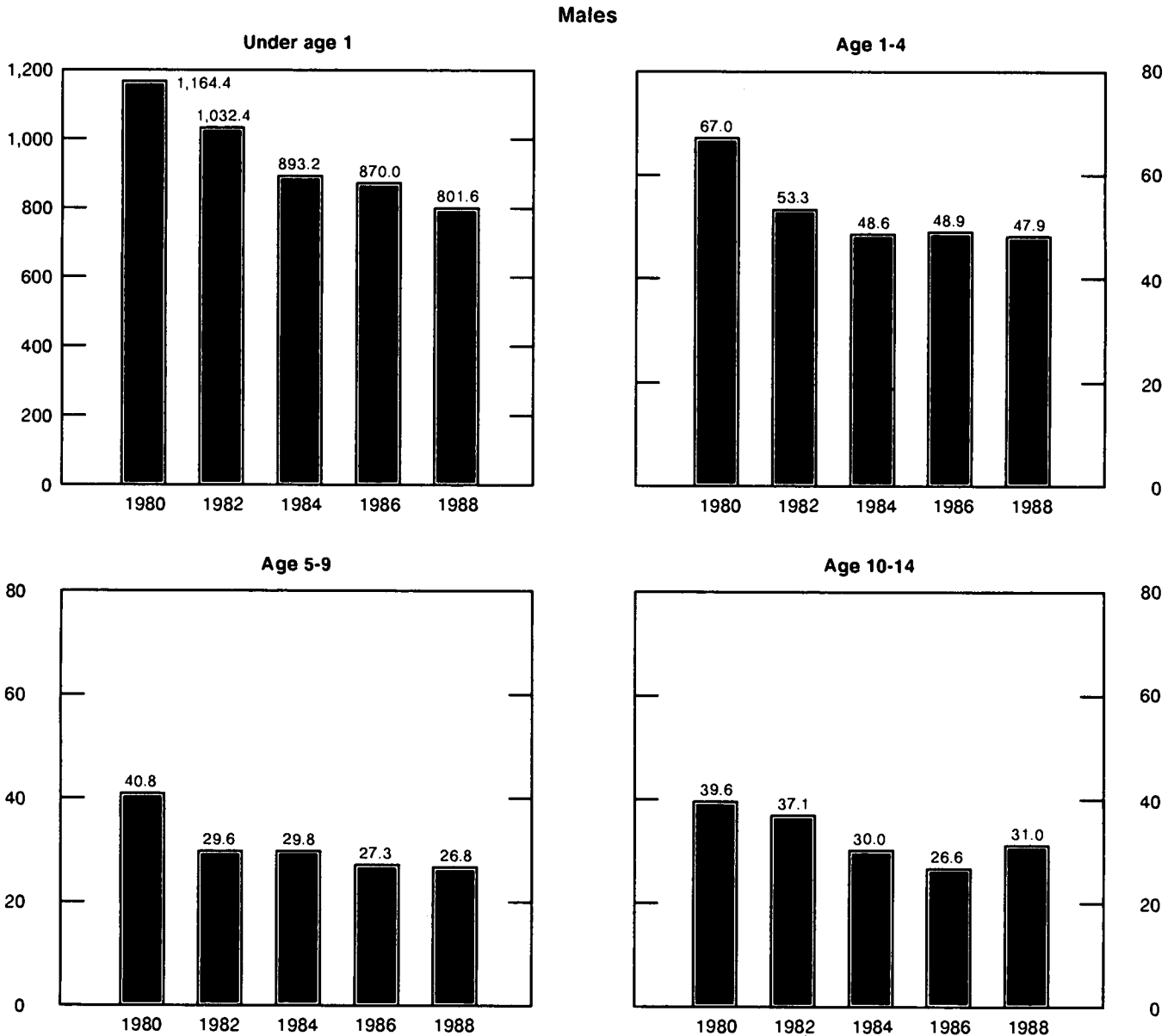
Source: *Minority and Second Language Education, Elementary and Secondary Levels, 1987-88, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-257.*

- The general trend in participation rates in second language programmes at the elementary level in public schools during the 1977-78 to 1987-88 period was upwards. For Canada (excluding Quebec), the rate ranged from a low of 44.2% in 1977-78 to a high of 58.1% in 1987-88. Comparable figures for Quebec showed a low in 1977-78 of 37% and a high in 1981-82 of 42.2%. The proportion in 1987-88 was 41.3%.

6.0 Health conditions

Chart 6.1

Death rates¹ for male children, by age group, Canada, selected years 1980-1988

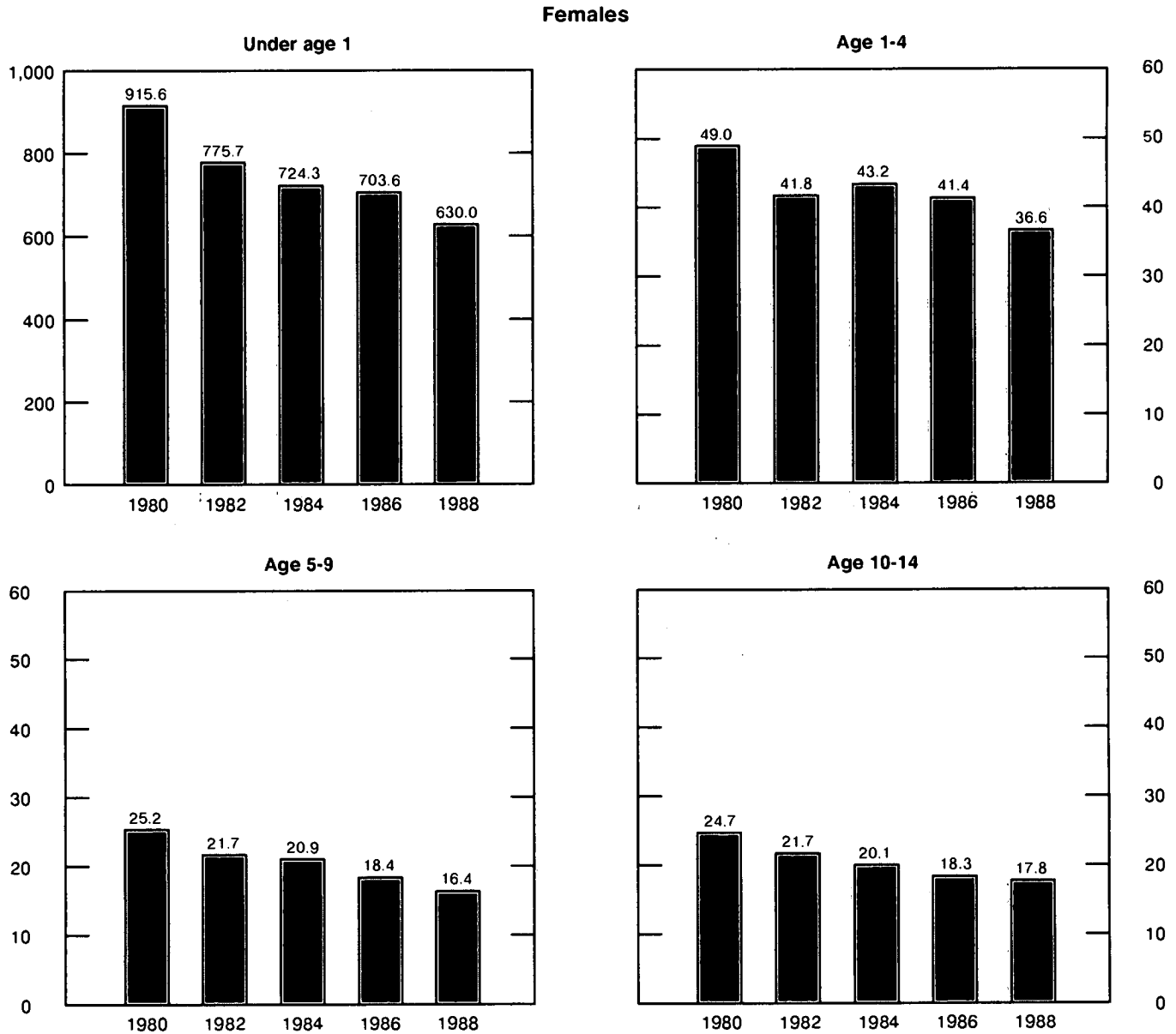


¹ Rates per 100,000 population.

Sources: Mortality, Summary List of Causes, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 84-206 and 82-003S.

- For every 100,000 male infants under age 1 in 1988, there were just over 800 deaths, a rate about 30 times higher than that among boys aged 5 to 9. However, the general trend for all age groups over time has been for mortality rates to drop significantly, most noticeably for these two groups, falling by over 30% in each case.

Chart 6.2

Death rates¹ for female children, by age group, Canada, selected years 1980-1988

¹ Rates per 100,000 population.

Sources: *Mortality, Summary List of Causes, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 84-206 and 82-003S.*

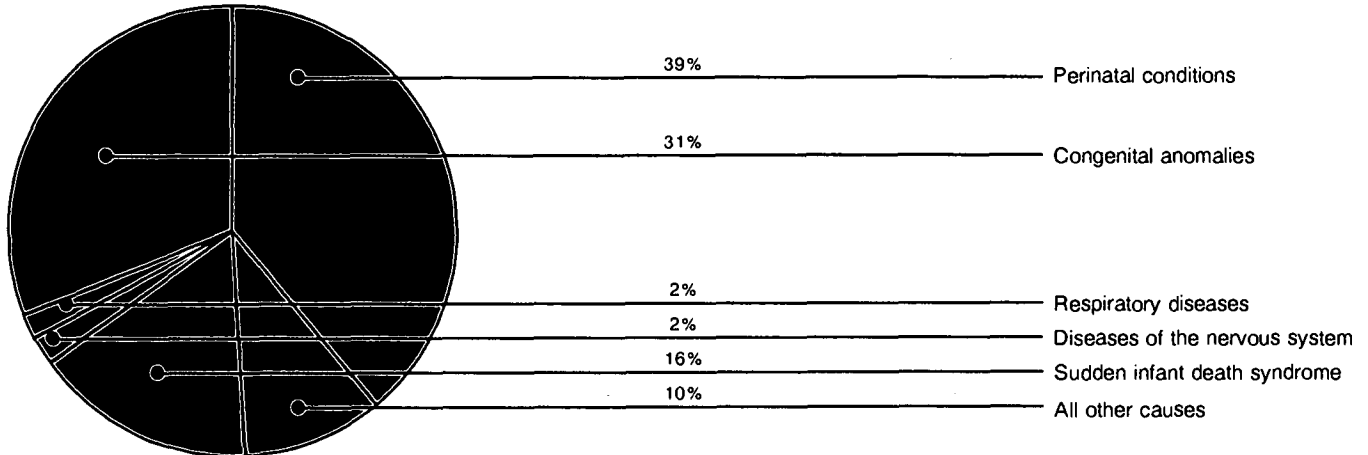
- Mortality rates for girls, although similar to those of boys with respect to differences by age groups and trends over time, were noticeably lower. The rate of 18 deaths per 100,000 females aged 10 to 14 in 1988 was not quite 60% of the male rate.

Chart 6.3

Leading causes of death for children under 1 year, by sex, Canada, 1988

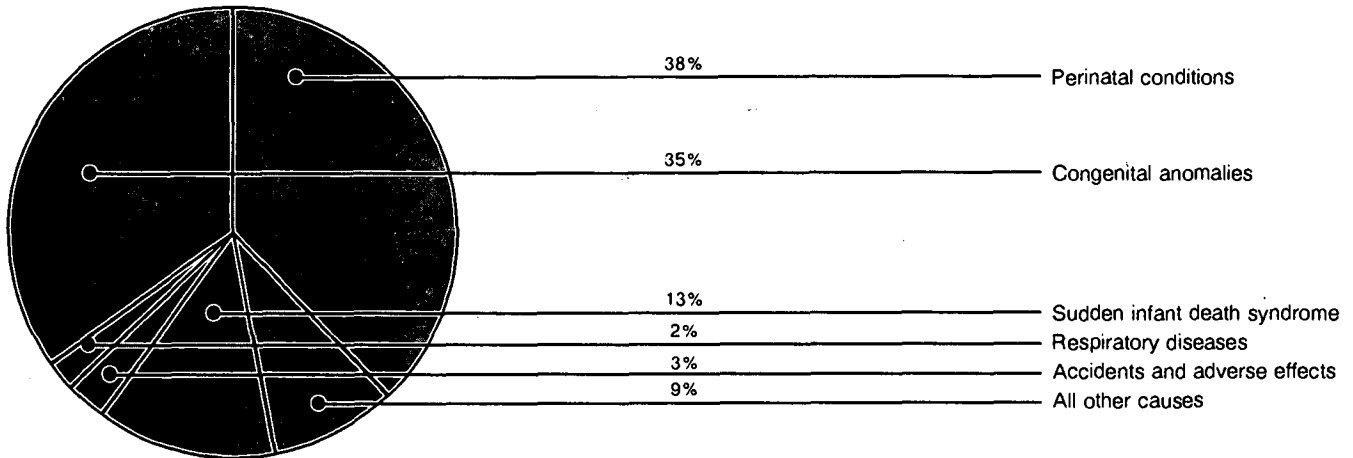
N = 1,550

Males



N = 1,160

Females

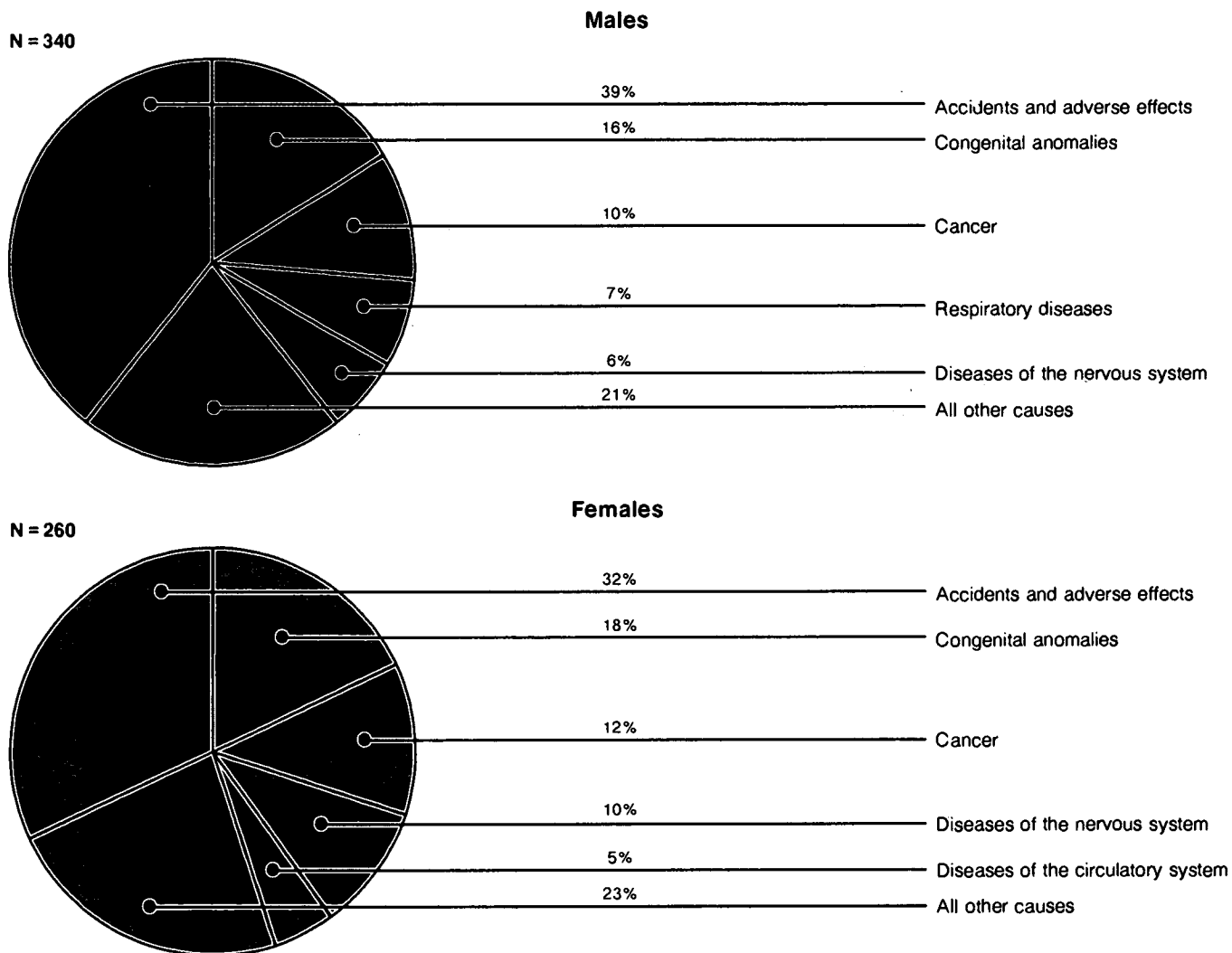


Source: *The Leading Causes of Death at Different Ages, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.*

- For male or female infants under age 1, the leading causes of death in 1988 were not too dissimilar. The main cause of death was attributable to perinatal conditions, accounting for 38% to 39%. Congenital anomalies were the cause in over 30% of cases, and sudden infant death syndrome, in 16% of cases for males and 13% for females.

Chart 6.4

Leading causes of death for children aged 1-4 years, by sex, Canada, 1988

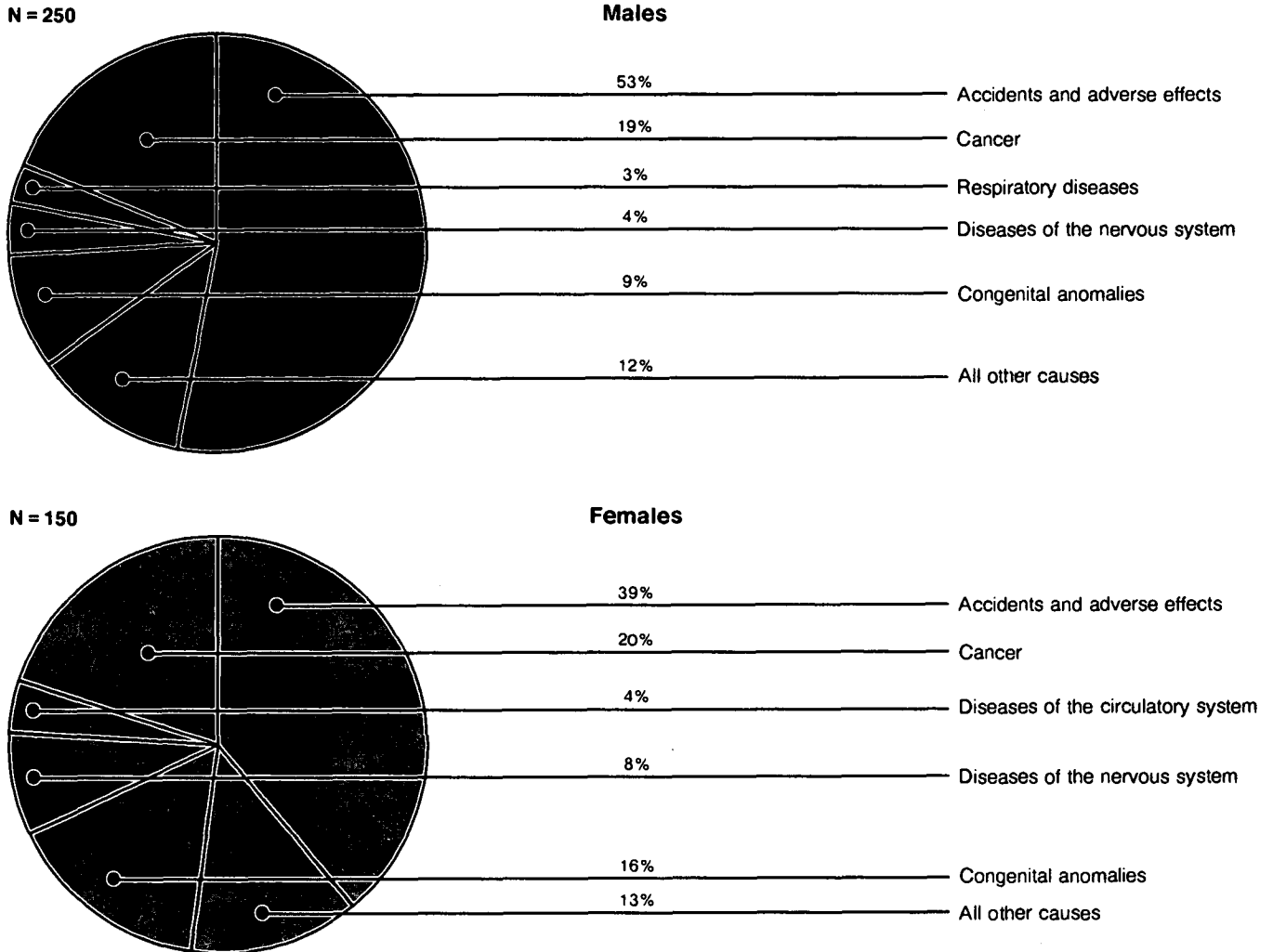


Source: *The Leading Causes of Death at Different Ages, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.*

- For children aged 1 to 4 in 1988, deaths related to accidents and congenital anomalies remained fairly high, however, cancer was also significant, accounting for 10% of male and 12% of female deaths. Diseases of the circulatory system represented 5% of female deaths, while for males, deaths from respiratory diseases rose to 7% from just 2% in the under age 1 category.

Chart 6.5

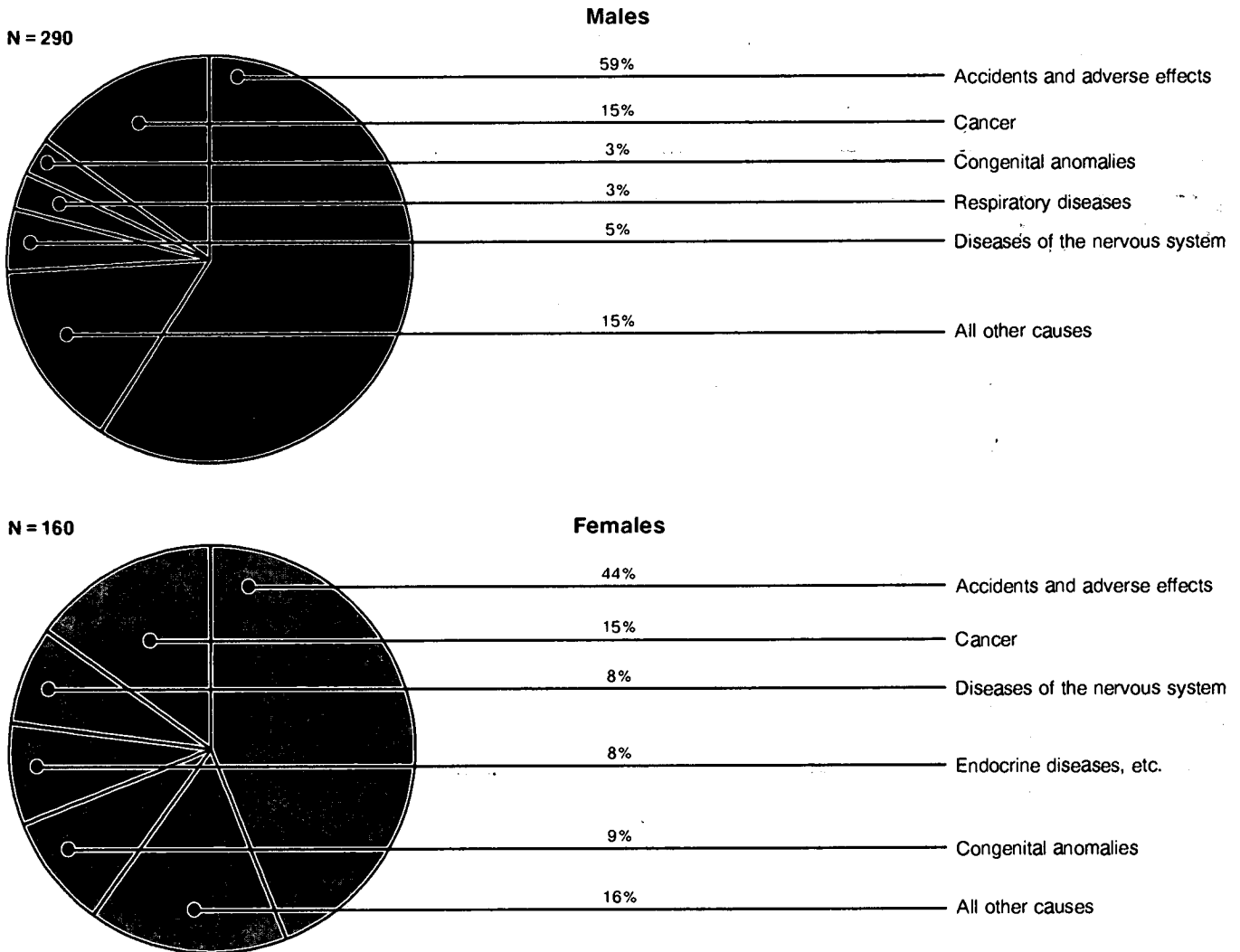
Leading causes of death for children aged 5-9 years, by sex, Canada, 1988



Source: *The Leading Causes of Death at Different Ages, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.*

- Over half the deaths among boys aged 5 to 9 were due to accidents and adverse effects, rising dramatically to 53%, (from 39% for those aged 1 to 4), while the proportion attributable to cancer almost doubled, at 19% to 20% for both boys and girls. Girls aged 5 to 9 experienced higher proportions of deaths due to congenital anomalies (16%) and diseases of the nervous system (8%) than did their male counterparts (9% and 4%, respectively).

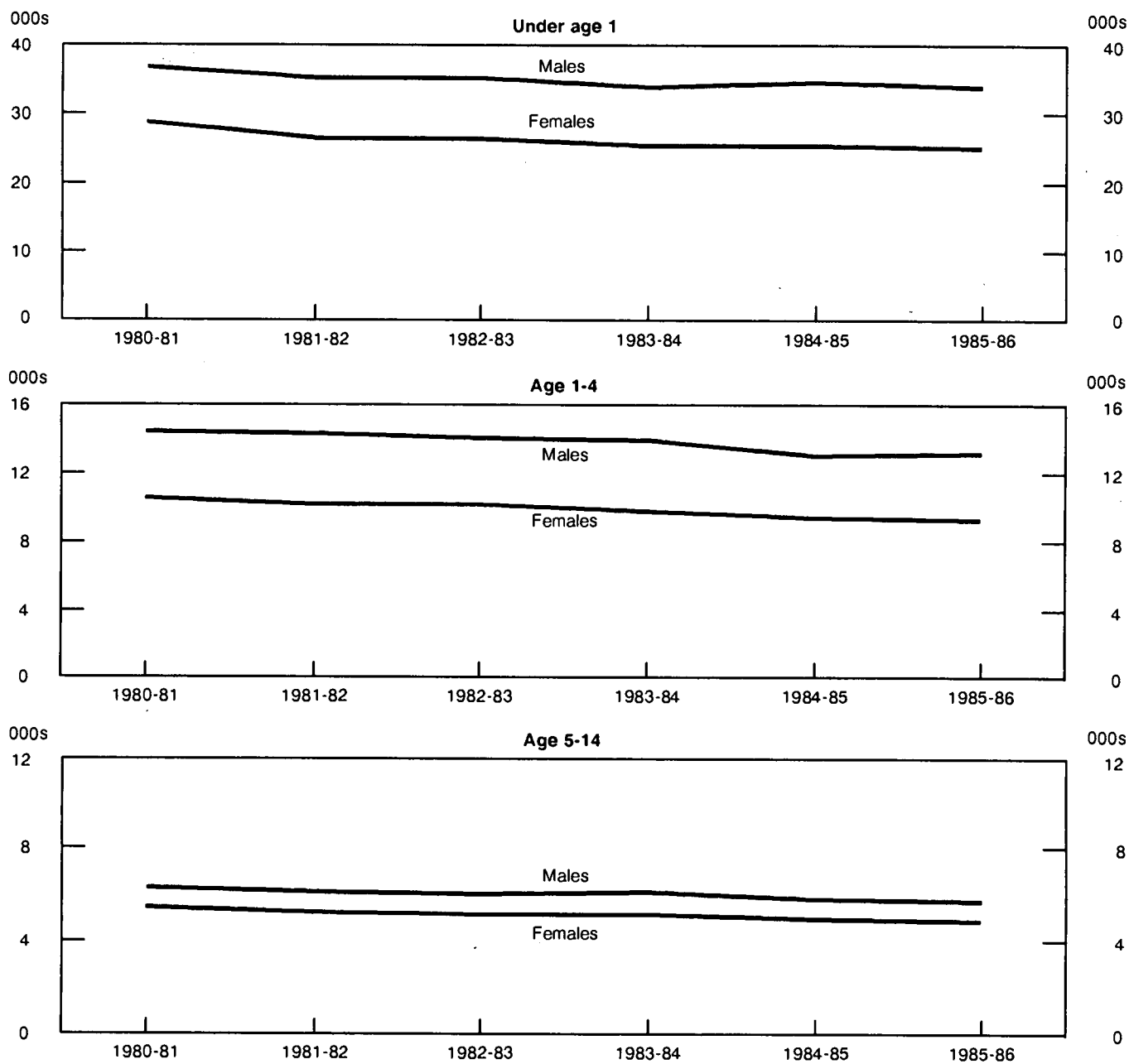
Chart 6.6

Leading causes of death for children aged 10-14 years, by sex, Canada, 1988


Source: *The Leading Causes of Death at Different Ages, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S.*

- In 1988, almost 6 in every 10 deaths of boys aged 10 to 14 were due to accidents and adverse effects. Compared with the 5 to 9 age group, the proportion of deaths due to cancer dropped by 5 percentage points to 15% for children of both sexes. For girls aged 10 to 14, deaths due to endocrine diseases etc., appeared among the leading causes at 8%.

Chart 6.7

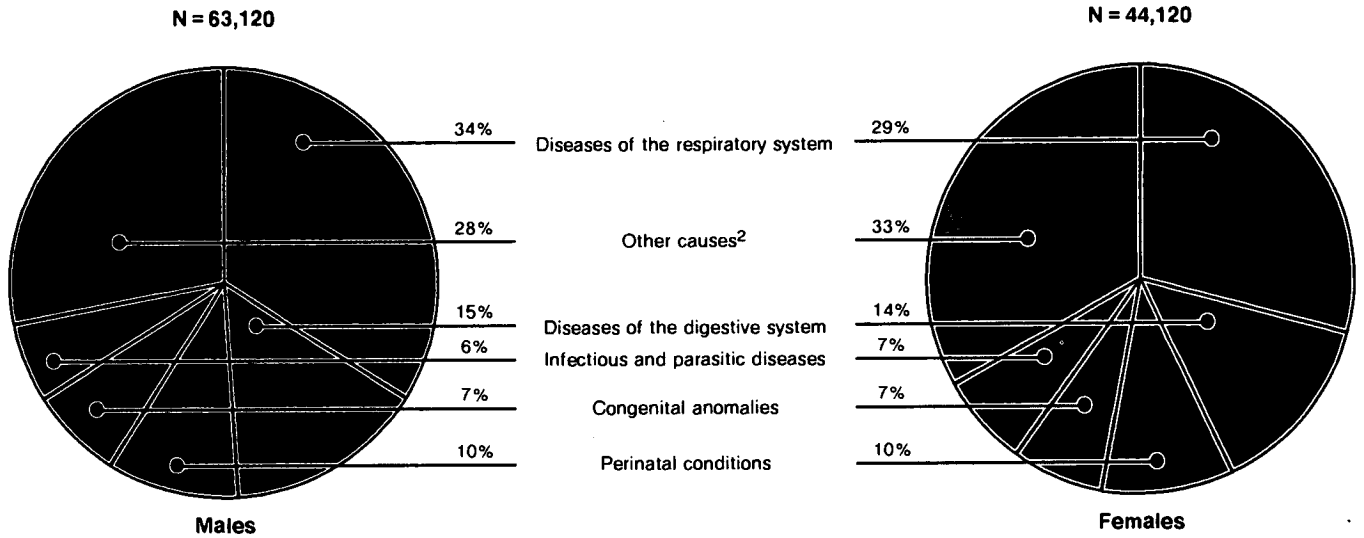
Hospitalization rates¹ for children, by age group and sex, Canada, 1980-81 to 1985-86

¹ Based on separations per 100,000 and excluding Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Sources: Hospital Morbidity, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-206 and 82-003S.

- Children under age 1 show hospitalization rates almost 3 times higher than those of children aged 1 to 4, and 5 to 6 times higher than those for the 5 to 14 age group. The general trend since 1980-81 has been a gradual decline in the rate per 100,000 population from 36,300 boys and 28,300 girls to 33,600 and 24,800, respectively, in 1985-86.
- Hospitalization rates for girls have consistently been lower than those of boys, ranging around three-quarters of the male rate in each of the age groups shown.

Chart 6.8

Leading causes of hospitalization¹ for children under 1 year, by sex, Canada, 1985-86


¹ Based on number of separations.

² Including ill-defined conditions.

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

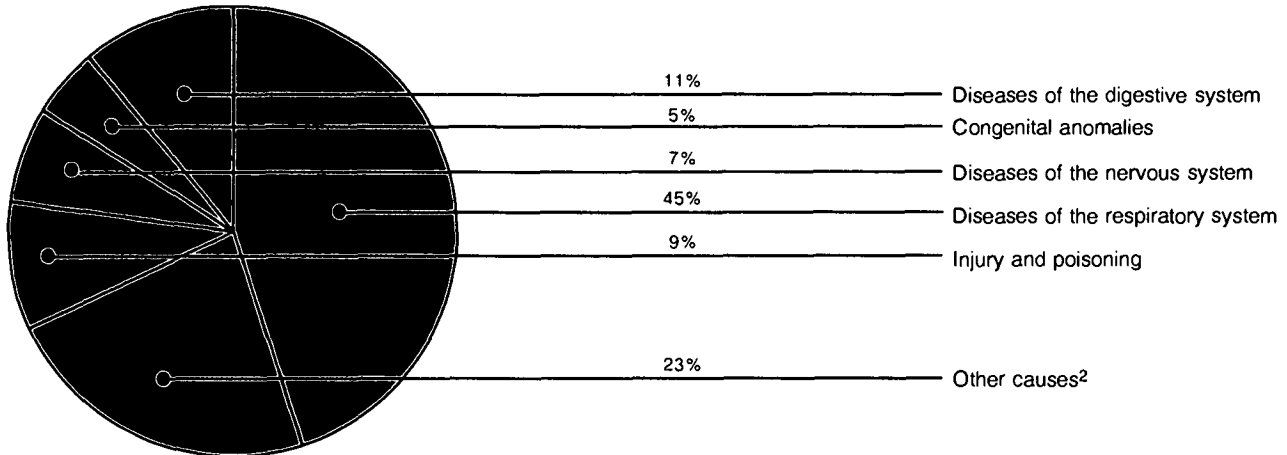
- Leading causes of hospitalization in 1985-86 for infants under 1 year of age were diseases of the respiratory system (34% of males; 29% of females) and diseases of the digestive system (15% and 14%, respectively). The distribution by other causes for males and females in this age category was also quite similar.

Chart 6.9

Leading causes of hospitalization¹ for children aged 1-4 years, by sex, Canada, 1985-86

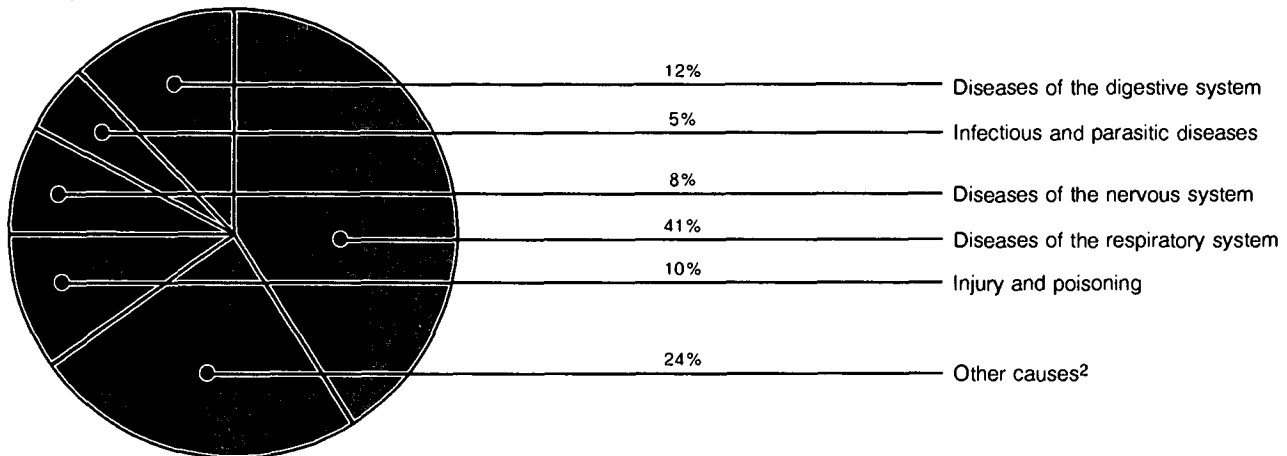
N = 97,190

Males



N = 64,960

Females



¹ Based on number of separations.

² Including ill-defined conditions.

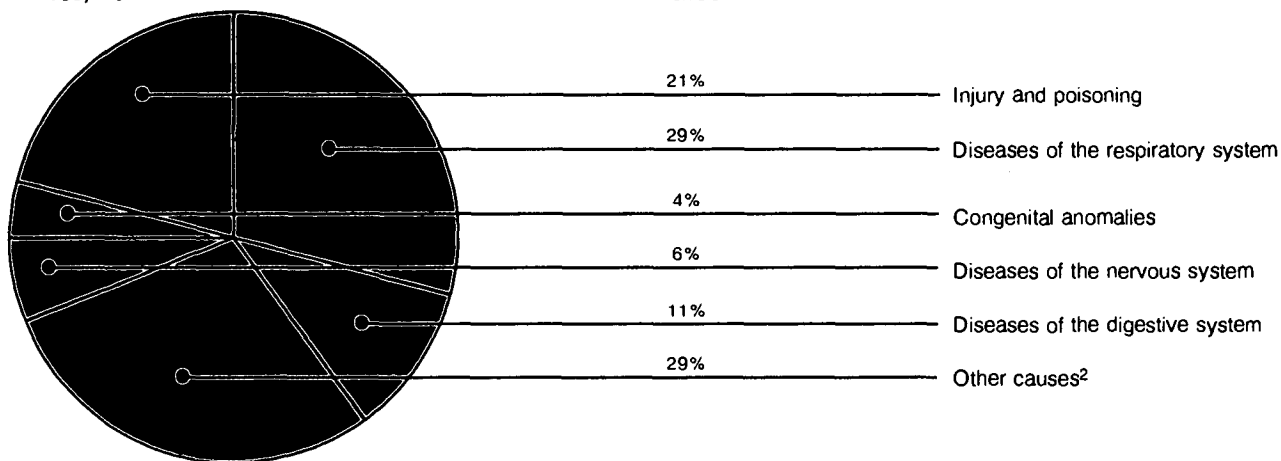
Source: Canadian Centre for Health Information, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- As children left infancy and moved into the 1 to 4 age group, some other causes of hospitalization gained prominence, specifically injury and poisoning, accounting for 9% to 10%, and diseases of the nervous system, representing 7% to 8%.

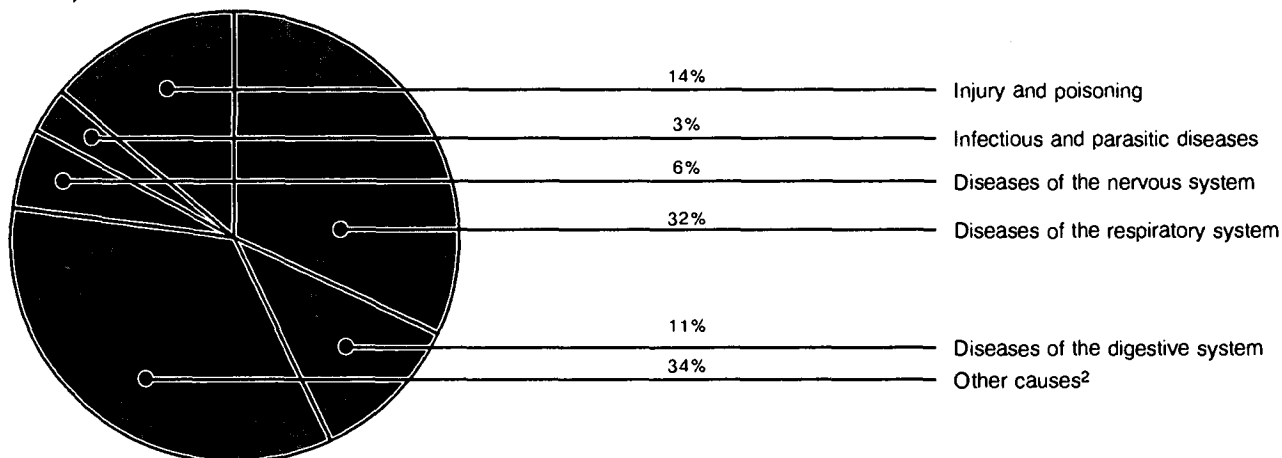
Chart 6.10

Leading causes of hospitalization¹ for children aged 5-14 years, by sex, Canada, 1985-86

N = 105,740

Males

N = 86,140

Females

¹ Based on number of separations.

² Including ill-defined conditions.

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

- By the time children reached the ages of 5 to 14, diseases of the respiratory system had fallen to account for 29% of the boys and 32% of the girls hospitalized. As might be expected, the impact of increased injury and poisonings was greater at these age levels, especially among boys, accounting for one in every five hospitalizations.
-

Table D.
Number of children with AIDS, by age group and sex, Canada, February 1989

Age group	Male	Female	Total	%
	Number			
Under 1	9	9	18	44
1-4	6	10	16	39
5-9	4	2	6	15
10-14	-	1	1	2
Total 0-14	19	22	41	100

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Federal Centre for AIDS, Surveillance Update: AIDS in Canada, March 1989.

- As of February 1989, there were 41 children diagnosed with Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Close to half of these children (44%) were under age 1 and 39% were 1 to 4 years old.

7.0 Economic conditions

Table E.
Percentage distribution of children, by census family income groups and type of family, Canada, 1981¹ and 1988

Income group in constant (1988) dollars	Total children		Children in husband-wife families		Children in lone-parent families	
	1981	1988	1981	1988	1981	1988
	%					
Under \$10,000	4.7	4.0	2.1	1.1	27.7	23.9
\$10,000-\$19,999	10.6	11.7	7.8	7.3	34.8	41.5
\$20,000-\$29,999	14.7	14.7	14.2	14.0	18.8	20.5
\$30,000-\$39,999	20.0	17.1	21.2	18.4	10.5	7.6
\$40,000-\$49,999	19.5	17.2	21.2	19.3	4.1	3.1
\$50,000-\$59,999	13.4	14.0	14.8	15.8	2.0	1.9
\$60,000-\$69,999	7.3	8.5	8.1	9.6	1.0	1.0
\$70,000 and over	9.7	12.6	10.8	14.4	1.0	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	000s					
Estimated number of children	5,307	5,339	4,765	4,664	541	675
Estimated number of families	2,996	3,034	2,646	2,593	350	441
	Constant 1988 dollars					
Average census family income	42,741	44,568	45,815	48,945	19,486	18,809
Median census family income	40,179	41,157	42,513	45,042	15,286	14,912

¹ Income in constant (1988) dollars.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Between 1981 and 1988, median income for husband-wife families with children under 15 years rose 5.9% in real terms versus a 2.4% drop for lone-parent families. In 1988, the median income of lone-parent families with children under 15 years (\$14,912) was one-third that of two-parent families (\$45,042).

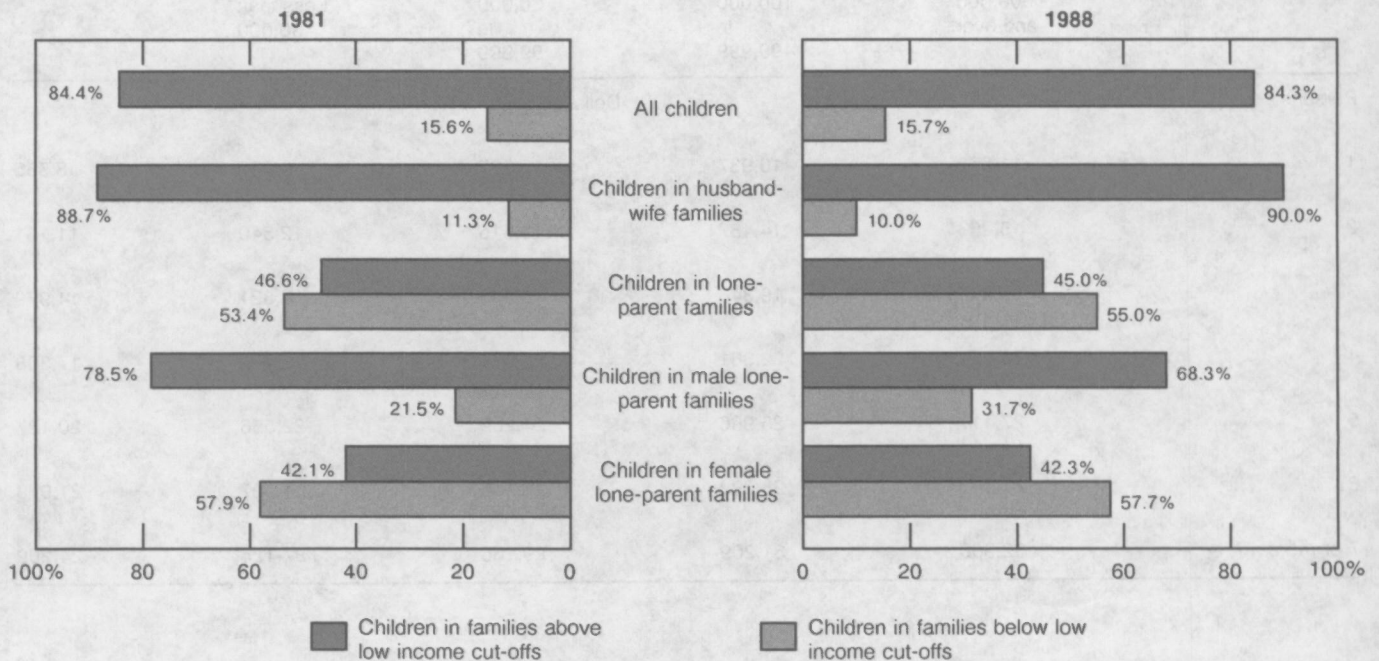
Table F.
Low income cut-offs (1978 base), Canada, 1988

Size of family unit	Population size of area of residence				Rural areas
	Urban areas				
	500,000 and over	100,000 to 499,999	30,000 to 99,999	Less than 30,000	
Persons	Dollars				
1	11,569	10,987	10,307	9,529	8,555
2	15,263	14,487	13,516	12,540	11,181
3	20,418	19,348	18,083	16,821	14,972
4	23,528	22,361	20,903	19,444	17,308
5	27,417	25,960	24,209	22,556	20,127
6	29,945	28,292	26,446	24,597	21,973
7 or more	32,960	31,209	29,168	27,125	24,209

- For an explanation of how these cut-offs were revised, see *Income Distributions by Size in Canada, 1980*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207. Also a technical reference paper entitled "Rebasing Low Income Cut-offs to 1978", which describes the derivation of these low income cut-offs, is available on request from the Household Surveys Division.

Chart 7.1

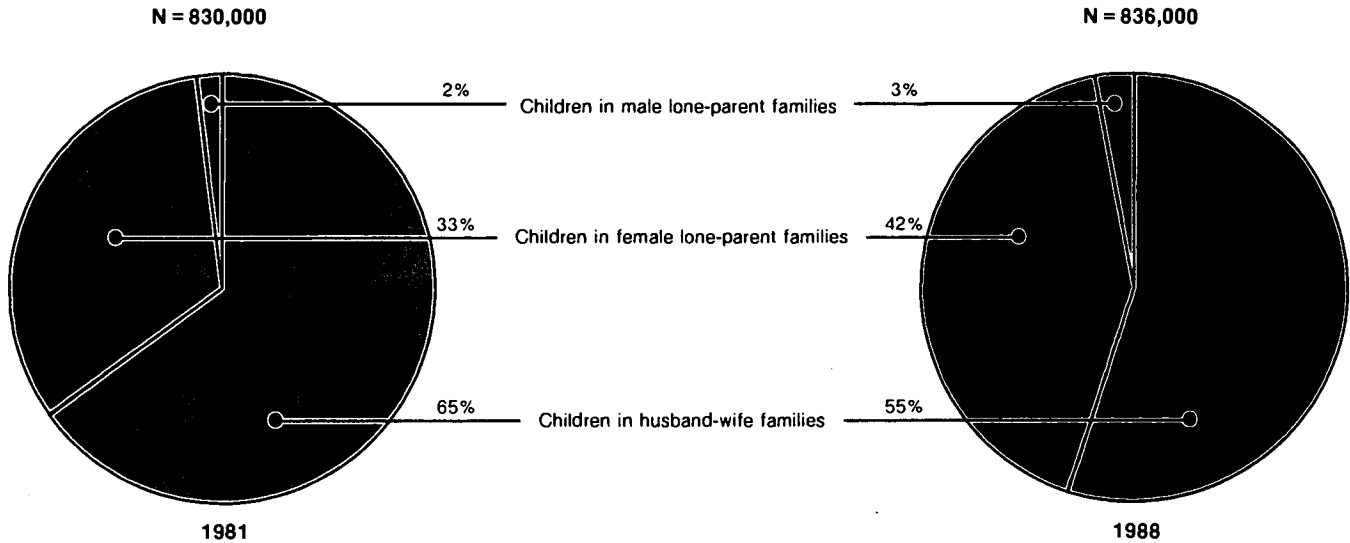
Percentage distribution of children, by census family low income status and type of family, Canada, 1981 and 1988



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, some 836,000 children (representing 15.7% of all children) were living in low income census families. The comparable figures for 1981 were only slightly lower: 830,000 children corresponding to 15.6% of the total.
- The proportion of children in a low income setting among husband-wife families decreased from 11.3% in 1981 to 10.0% in 1988. Over the same period, the proportion of children in low income situations among lone-parent families increased from 53.4% to 55.0%.

Chart 7.2

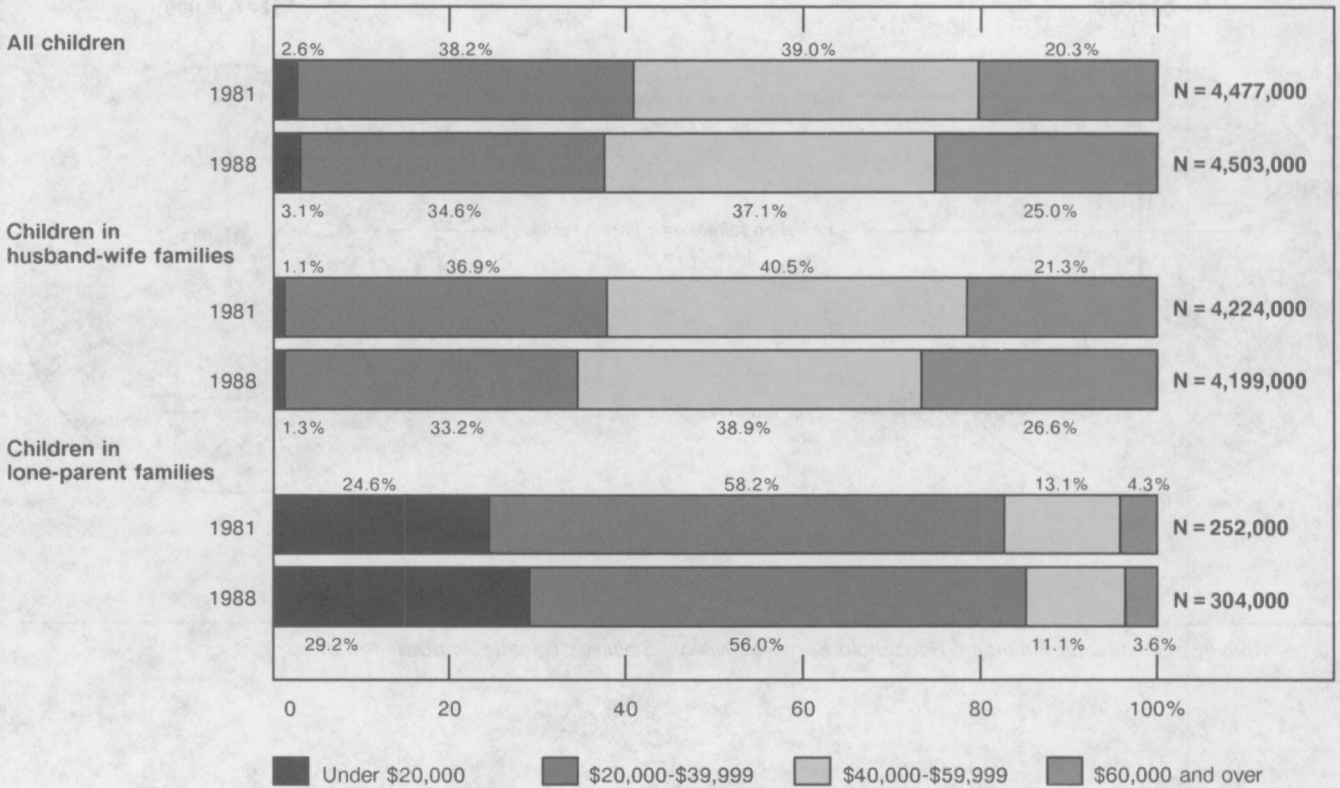
Percentage distribution of children in low income census families, by type of family, Canada, 1981 and 1988

Source: *Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.*

- In 1988 as in 1981, the majority of all children in low income situations were part of husband-wife families even though they represented a much lower proportion of low income children in 1988 (55%) than in 1981 (65%).
- Conversely, the proportion of all children in low income situations belonging to lone-parent families increased from 35% in 1981 to 45% in 1988.

Chart 7.3

Percentage distribution of children in census families above low income cut-offs, by income group and type of family, Canada, 1981¹ and 1988



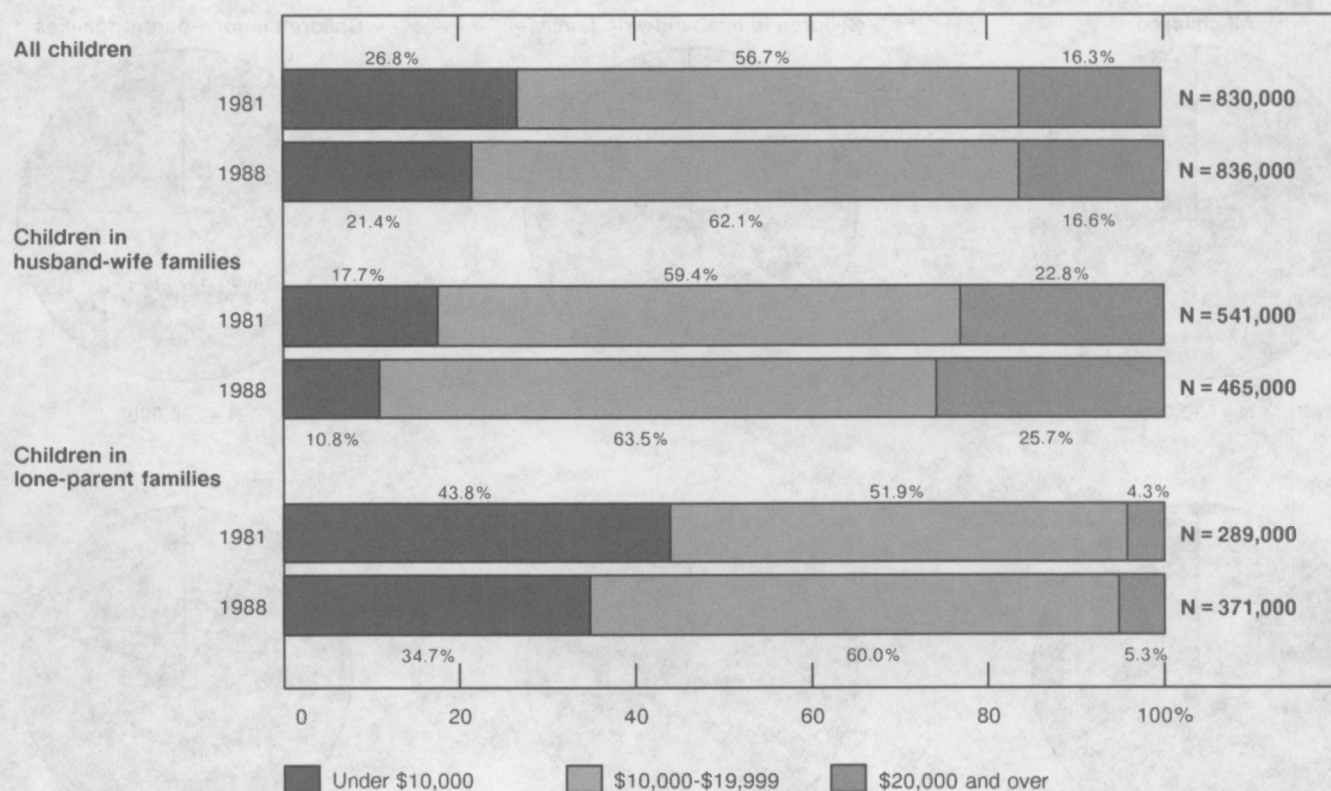
¹ Income group in constant (1988) dollars.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Among children living in families above low income cut-offs in 1988, more than 62% were in families with an annual income of \$40,000 and over. The comparable proportion in husband-wife families was 65.5%. By contrast, only 14.7% of children in lone-parent families were members of a family with income at \$40,000 and over.
- Data for 1981 show somewhat similar proportions of children above low income cut-offs where annual family income in constant (1988) dollars was \$40,000 and over: 59.3% for all children, 61.8% for children in husband-wife families and 17.4% for children in lone-parent families.

Chart 7.4

Percentage distribution of children in low income census families, by income group and type of family, Canada, 1981¹ and 1988



¹ Income group in constant (1988) dollars.

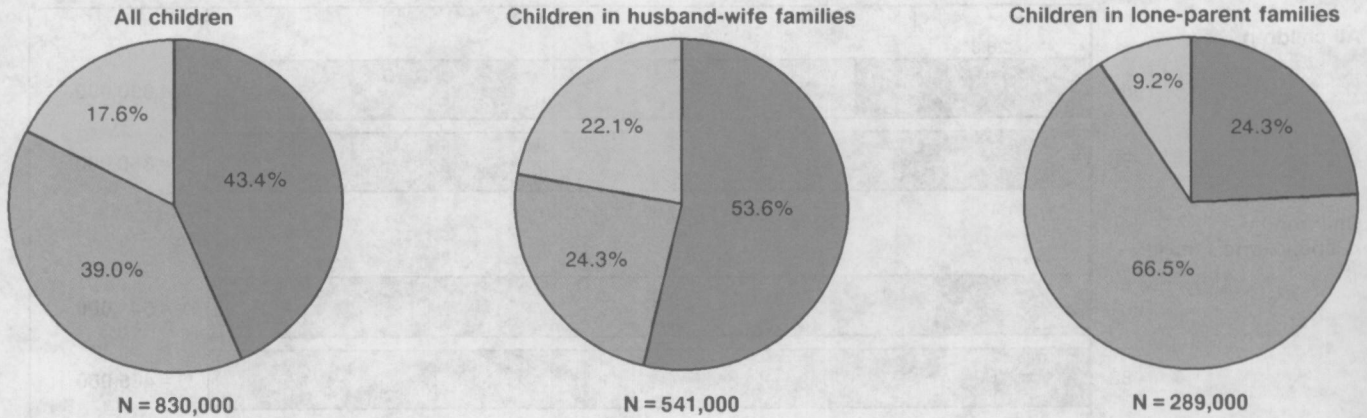
Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- Among all children living in low income family situations in 1988, more than 83% were living in a family with an annual income of less than \$20,000. Comparable proportions for children in husband-wife families and children in lone-parent families were 74.3% and 94.7%, respectively.
- Data for 1981 show that 83.5% of all children in low income families, 77.1% of those in low income husband-wife families, and 95.7% of those in low income lone-parent families were in the situation where annual family income in constant (1988) dollars was less than \$20,000.

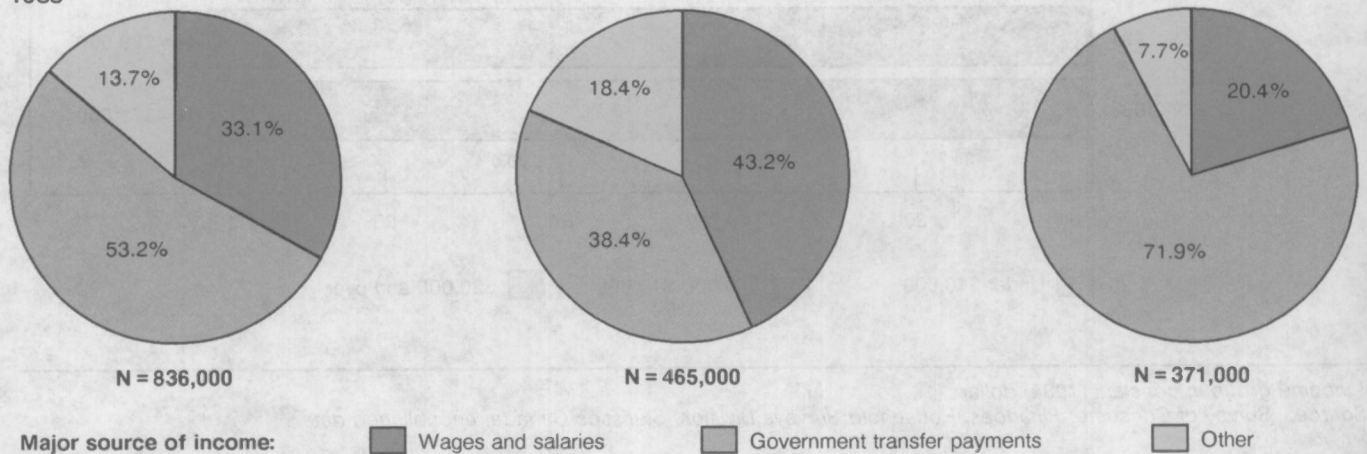
Chart 7.5

Percentage distribution of children in low income census families, by major source of family income and type of family, Canada, 1981 and 1988

1981



1988

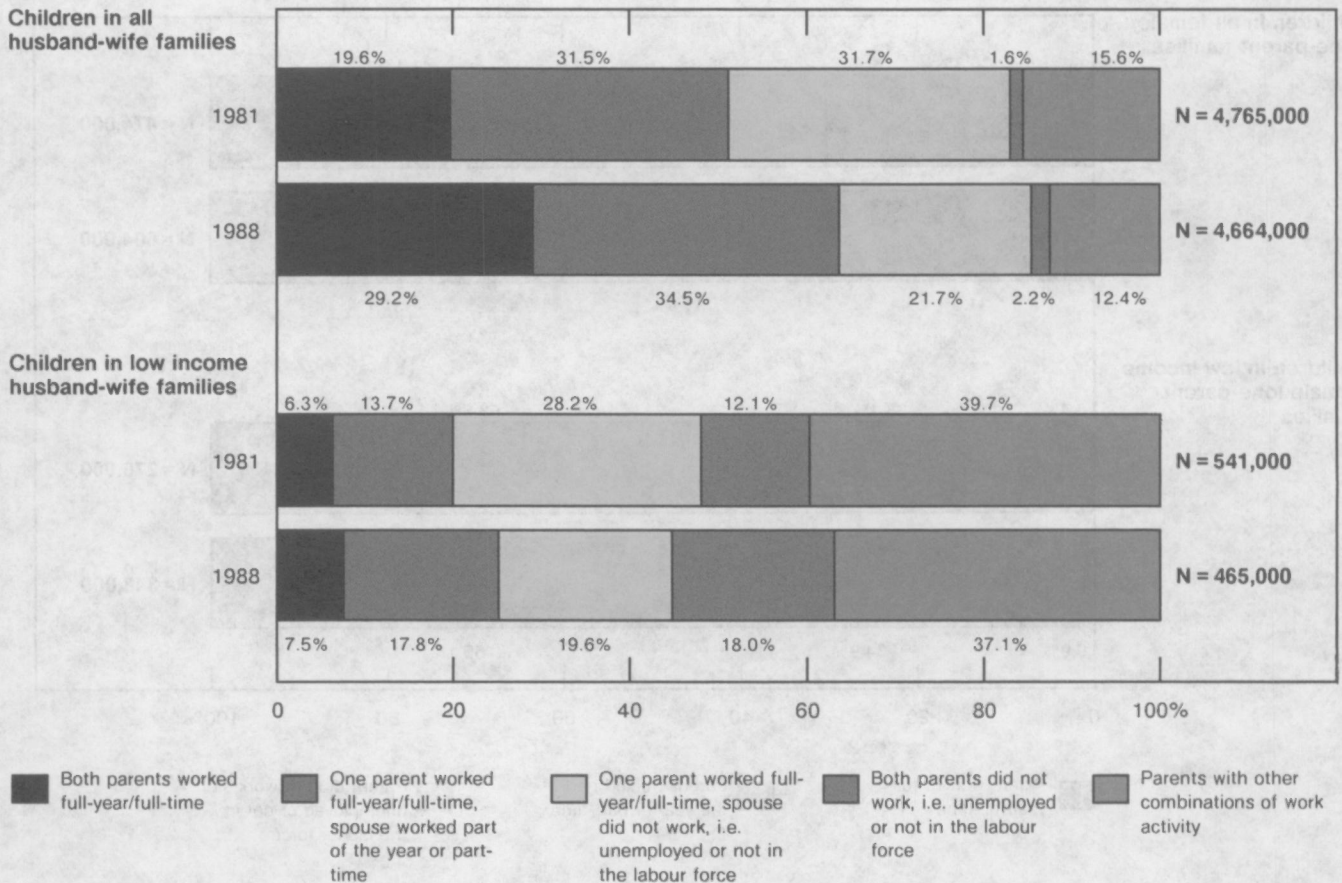


Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, for 38.4% of children in low income husband-wife families and 71.9% of children in low income lone-parent families, government transfer payments were the major source of their family's income.

Chart 7.6

Percentage distribution of children in all husband-wife families and in low income husband-wife families, by work activity of parents, Canada, 1981 and 1988

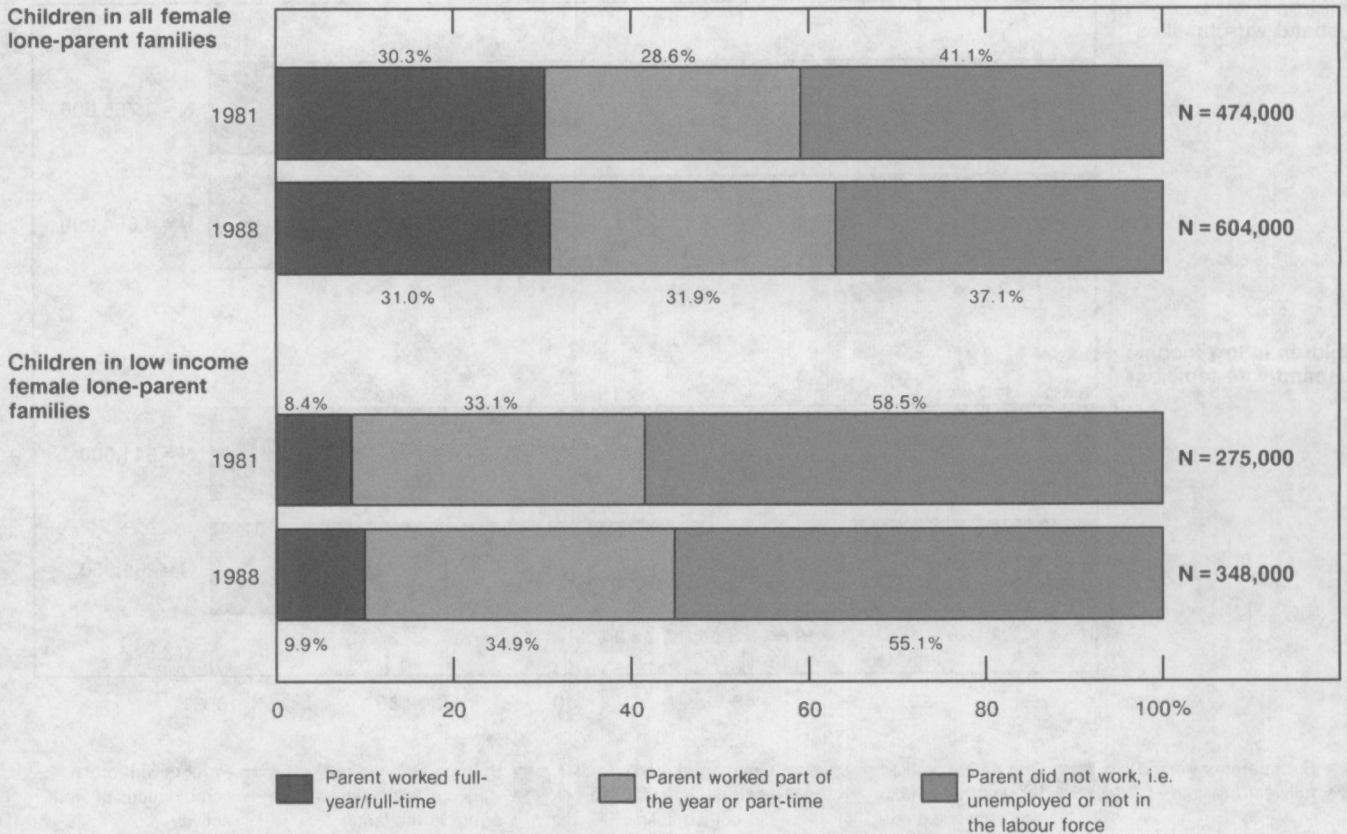


Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- The parents of 29% of the children in all husband-wife families worked full-year/full-time in 1988, while another 35% had one of their parents working full-year/full-time and the other parent working part-year or part-time. Approximately 1 child in every 5 had one parent working full-year/full-time and the other parent unemployed or not in the labour force.
- Among children in low income husband-wife families, only 7.5% had both their parents working full-year/full-time. In 18.0% of cases, both parents were unemployed or not in the labour force in 1988.

Chart 7.7

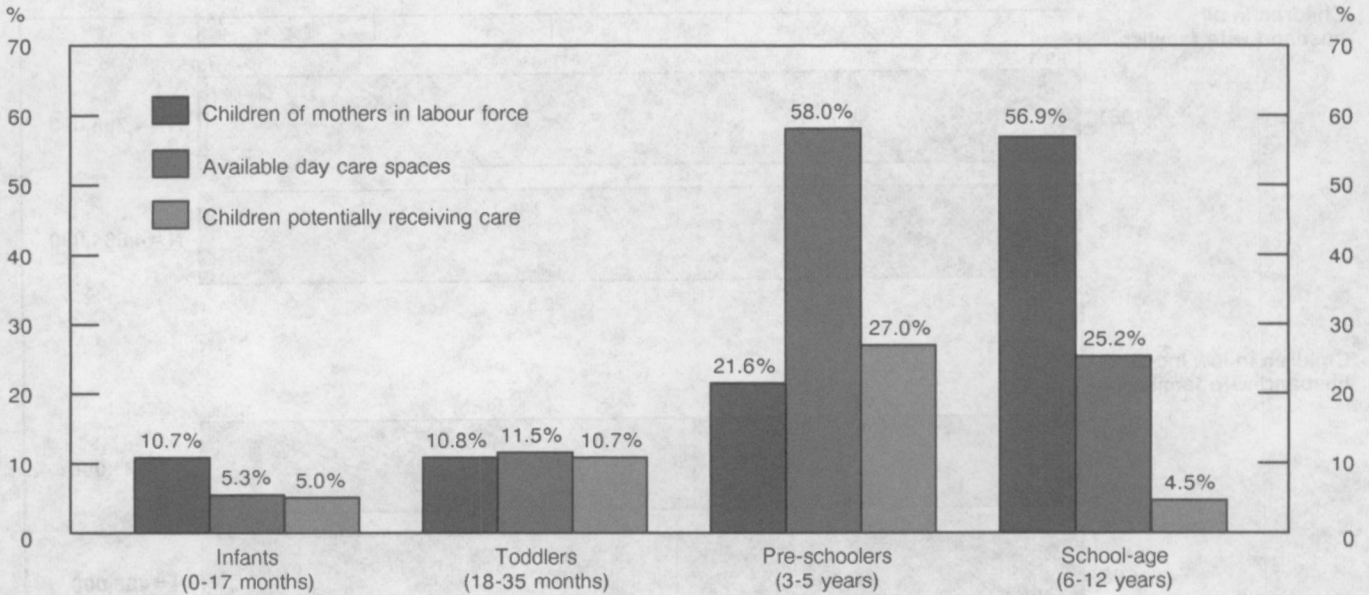
Percentage distribution of children in all female lone-parent families and in low income female lone-parent families, by work activity of parent, Canada, 1981 and 1988



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, close to 63% of children in female lone-parent families had a mother either working full-year/full-time (31%) or working part of the year or part-time (32%), while 37% of children had a mother who was unemployed or not in the labour force.
- Among children in low income female lone-parent families, more than half (55%) had a mother who was unemployed or not in the labour force, 35% had a mother working part of the year or part-time, and in only 10% of cases was the mother working full-year/full-time.

Chart 7.8

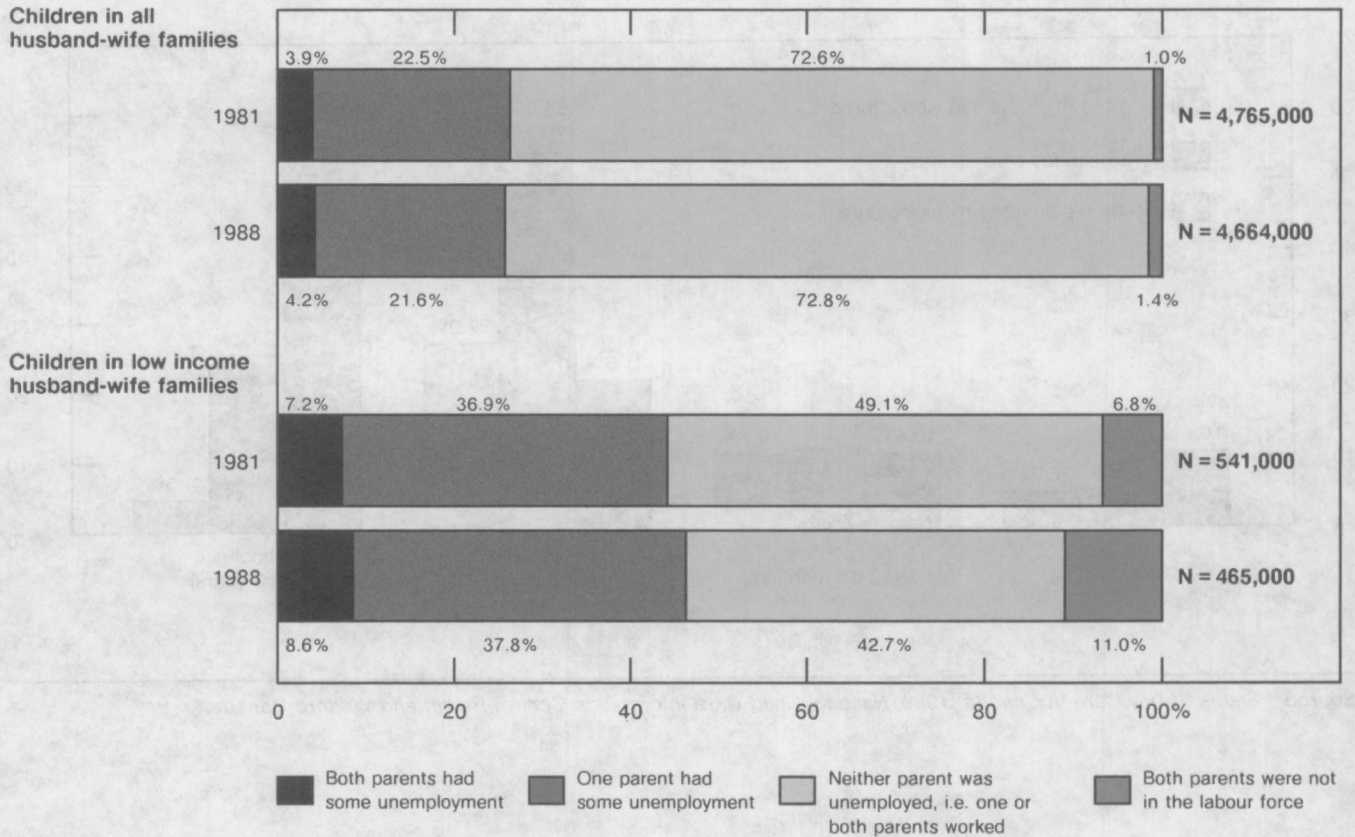
Children whose mothers are in the labour force, by proportion of day care spaces available and age group, Canada, 1989


Source: *Status of Day Care in Canada, 1989*, National Child Care Information Centre, Health and Welfare Canada.

- Total licensed or provincially-approved spaces in day care centres and family day care centres reached 298,100 in March 1989, some 34,500 more than in 1988 and a 10-fold increase since 1973.
- Spaces set aside for pre-schoolers commanded the majority at 172,800 or 58%, able to handle just over 1 in 4 of the 639,400 children in that age group.
- Although 1 in 4 spaces were set up to serve school-age children, this could only potentially accommodate 4% to 5% of the 1,682,500 children in this, the largest of the four groups.

Chart 7.9

Percentage distribution of children in all husband-wife families and in low income husband-wife families, by unemployment experience of parents, Canada, 1981 and 1988

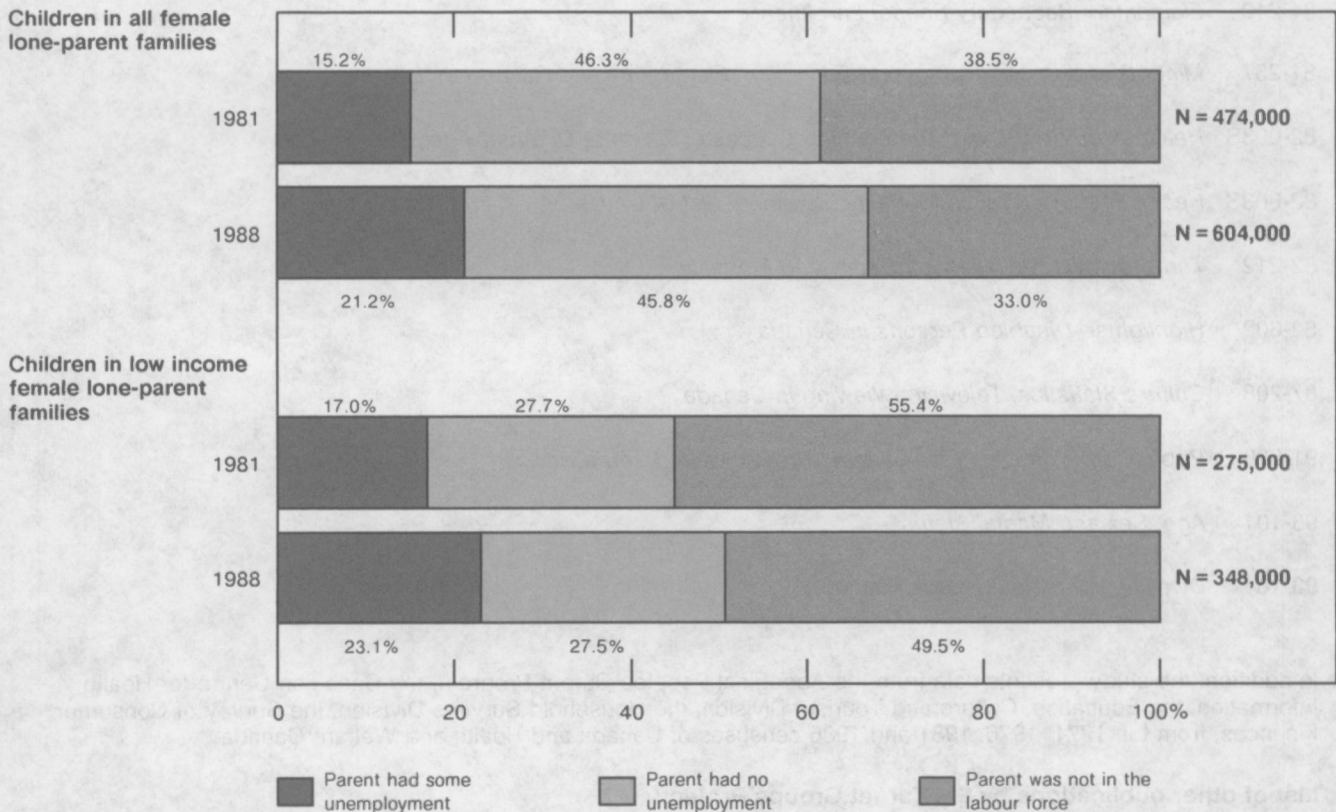


Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1981 and 1988, roughly 26% of children in husband-wife families had one or both parents who were unemployed at some time during the year. In approximately 4% of the cases, both parents experienced some unemployment, while 22% of the children had only one of their parents who had some unemployment.
- In sharp contrast, the proportion of children in low income husband-wife families with parents who had some unemployment was 44% in 1981 and 46% in 1988. Furthermore, the proportion of children in low income husband-wife families who had both of their parents not in the labour force climbed from 7% to 11% over the same period.

Chart 7.10

Percentage distribution of children in all female lone-parent families and in low income female lone-parent families, by unemployment experience of parent, Canada, 1981 and 1988



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

- In 1988, just under half (46%) of the children in female lone-parent families had a mother who worked and had no unemployment, about the same as in 1981. The proportion of children whose mother was not in the labour force dropped from almost 39% to 33% over the 1981 to 1988 period.
- Among children in low income female lone-parent families in 1988, 1 out of 2 had a mother who was not in the labour force, and approximately 1 out of 5 had a mother who experienced some unemployment.

Bibliography

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

Catalogue

- 81-210 *Elementary-Secondary School Enrolment*
- 81-257 *Minority and Second Language Education, Elementary and Secondary Levels*
- 82-003S *Health Reports Series: The Leading Causes of Death at Different Ages*
- 82-003S *Health Reports Series: Mortality; Summary List of Causes*
- 82-212 *Tuberculosis Statistics, Morbidity and Mortality*
- 82-602 *Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada*
- 87-208 *Culture Statistics, Television Viewing in Canada*
- 91-520 *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories*
- 93-101 *Age, Sex and Marital Status*
- 93-104 *Dwellings and Households, Part 1*

In addition, the study presents data from the Aboriginal Peoples Output Program, the Canadian Centre for Health Information, the Education, Culture and Tourism Division, the Household Surveys Division, the Survey of Consumer Finances, from the 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada and Health and Welfare Canada.

List of other publications by the Target Groups Project:

- 89-503E *Women in Canada: A Statistical Report, Second Edition*
 - 89-509 *The Family in Canada*
 - 89-510 *Immigrants in Canada*
 - 89-511 *Youth in Canada*
 - 89-519 *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*
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