

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Changes in unmet health care needs, 2000/01** 2
One in 8 people reported having unmet health care needs in 2000/01, up from 1 in 24 in 1994/95. Long waits and unavailability of services were the most frequently cited reasons for reporting unmet needs.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Changes in unmet health care needs 2000/01

One in 8 people reported having unmet health care needs in 2000/01, up from 1 in 24 in 1994/95, according to an analysis of data from the new Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the first three cycles of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS).

Preliminary CCHS data show that an estimated 12.5% of Canadians aged 12 or older — about 3.2 million people — experienced unmet health care needs in 2000/01, nearly double the proportion of 6.3% in 1998/99.

This statistically significant jump is a continuation of a slow-but-steady rise in self-reported unmet health care needs, from 4.2% in 1994/95 to 5.1% in 1996/97 and to 6.3% in 1998/99.

Several factors may explain the recent substantial increase in reported unmet needs. These may be related to the structures and processes within the health care system, or to characteristics of the population, including individuals' perceptions of the state of health care.

Substantial increase for both sexes and across age groups

The CCHS results show substantial increases in unmet needs for both sexes and across age groups.

In 2000/01, almost 11% of men reported unmet needs, more than double the 5.2% who did so in 1998/99. The increase among women was from 7.4% in 1998/99 to 14.0% in 2000/01.

The greatest increase in self-perceived unmet needs was among 35- to 64-year-olds. However, for each age group the increase from 1994/95 to 2000/01 was statistically significant.

Seniors were the group least likely to report unmet health care needs. Just 8.1% of people 65 or older had unmet needs, compared with over 13% of people 12 to 34 or 35 to 64.

Long waits, unavailability of services most frequently cited reasons

In both 1998/99 and 2000/01, long waits and the unavailability of services when needed were the reasons most commonly reported for unmet health care needs — reasons related to features of the health care system.

Note to readers

This release is based on an article in the March 2002 issue of Health reports. It examines recent trends in self-perceived unmet health care needs and reasons reported for those unmet needs.

The analysis is based on the first half of data collection for the first cycle of the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted from September 2000 to February 2001, and from cross-sectional household components of the National Population Health Survey, conducted in 1994/95, 1996/97 and 1998/99.

The analysis examines perceived unmet health care needs and the reasons for them as reported by survey respondents. No information is available to ascertain if people truly are going without necessary care.

This article follows up on an analysis of unmet health care needs published in the previous issue of Health reports.

Among those reporting unmet health care needs, the proportion indicating waiting time as the reason rose from 23% in 1998/99 to 30% in 2000/01.

By contrast, the percentage of people with unmet needs reporting that service was unavailable when they needed it was stable — around 14% in both 1998/99 and 2000/01.

The percentage of people reporting unmet needs due to personal circumstances declined slightly between 1998/99 and 2000/01. In such cases, individuals who did not receive health care cited reasons such as being too busy, deciding not to bother, believing care would be inadequate, or disliking or fearing doctors. For example, in 1998/99, 13.5% of those with unmet needs had said they were "too busy" to seek care; 9.5% gave the same reason in 2000/01.

Even so, the absolute number of people with unmet needs who did not seek health care for personal reasons increased from 1998/99 to 2000/01.

The full report, "Changes in unmet health care needs," appears in the March 2002 issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (82-003-XIE, \$15/\$44; 82-003-XPE, \$20/\$58), which is now available. See *How to order products*.

This issue of *Health Reports* contains three other articles: "Canadian Community Health Survey — Methodological overview," "Fruit and vegetable consumption," and "Community belonging and health." Each of these articles is based on information provided by respondents to the CCHS during its first six months of data collection. These data comprised approximately half of the full data set, and

were processed to provide estimates at the national level for variables included in the analyses. In May, key health indicators and custom tabulations at the community level will be available from the full CCHS data set.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Marie P. Beaudet (613-951-7025; beaumar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Claudia Sanmartin (613-951-6059; sanmcla@statcan.ca) or Jean-Marie Berthelot (613-951-3760; berthel@statcan.ca), Social and Economic Studies Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Dairy statistics

January 2002 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased 256 000 kilolitres of milk and cream in January, up 3.9% from January 2001. Milk sales were 238 000 kilolitres, and cream sales reached 18 000 kilolitres.

The January–March 2002 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89), will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

Available on CANSIM: 003-0008 to 003-0012, 003-0029 and 003-0034.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

January 2002 (preliminary)

There were 318,591 take-offs and landings recorded in January at the 43 Canadian airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers, down 12.9% from January 2001.

The January preliminary monthly report is available on Transport Canada's Web site at this URL: (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP1496/tp1496.htm>). For more information concerning this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca).

Statistics for the 55 Canadian airports with Nav Canada Flight Service Stations are also available for January.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Economic overview of farm incomes — all farms

1998

The first bulletin in the 1997/98 taxation data bulletin series, *Economic overview of farm incomes*, a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is now available.

Economic overview of farm incomes presents farm financial information and analysis based on data from the Taxation Data Program and other agricultural surveys. The first bulletin provides an overview of all farms, with a detailed analysis of farm structure and financial performance of farms and farm operators, by revenue class and by province. Information on farm structure includes the distribution of farms, concentration of production, degree of specialization and the physical characteristics of farms. Detailed financial information is provided on farm-level revenues, expenses and net operating income before depreciation, as well as total operator income. Bulletins 2 through 7 will present similar information for the major farm types in Canada: grain and oilseed, cattle, dairy, hog, poultry and egg, and horticultural farms. The final bulletin will present information on farm families' sources of income — both on-farm and off-farm.

Economic overview of farm incomes — all farms, Vol. 2, no. 1 (21-005-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171; lina.dipietro@statcan.ca) or the Client Services Unit (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-5027; fax: 613-951-3868; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Economic overview of farm incomes — all farms,
Vol. 2, no. 1, December 2001
Catalogue number 21-005-XIE
(free).

Health reports, Vol. 13, no. 3
Catalogue number 82-003-XIE (\$15/\$44).

Health reports, Vol. 13, no. 3
Catalogue number 82-003-XPE (\$20/\$58).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Change in the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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