



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Use of hospital emergency rooms, 2003** 2
Some 3.3 million people, or one out of every eight Canadians aged 15 and older, reported that their most recent contact with the health care system had been in a hospital emergency room in 2003, according to a new study.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Use of hospital emergency rooms

2003

Some 3.3 million people, or one out of every eight Canadians aged 15 or older, had their most recent contact with a health professional, or treatment for an injury, in a hospital emergency room in 2003, according to a new study.

Estimates from the Canadian Community Health Survey indicate that men were slightly more likely than women to have used emergency room (ER) services.

Among both sexes, the most likely to do so were aged 15 to 24. About 20% of men and 18% of women in this age range received treatment for a serious activity-limiting injury, or contacted a health professional, in an ER.

At older ages, ER use for both sexes declined, falling to 11% among seniors.

Household income was a factor in ER use. About 13% of people in the highest income group had received their most recent treatment in an ER, compared with 18% of people in the lowest income group.

Heavy users of medical care

This study supports results of other research showing that people who frequent emergency rooms for treatment are heavy users of other medical services.

People who reported having a "regular" doctor were just as likely to report ER use as those who said they did not have a regular physician. However, 21% of those who had consulted a doctor more than five times during the year before the survey reported using an ER, almost double the proportion (12%) for those who went to the doctor less frequently.

This may reflect their need for ongoing care related to the health problem or injury that took them to the ER.

The survey also asked ER users if they were satisfied with their care. About three-quarters said they had received excellent or good care. Another 16% felt their care was fair, and 11% said it was poor.

However, 20% of ER users said that they were "somewhat" or "very dissatisfied" with the way services were provided.

Among the provinces and territories, there were striking differences in satisfaction with the provision of ER services. About 24% of Ontario residents reported dissatisfaction. By contrast, 11% of ER users in Yukon were dissatisfied.

For more information on this article, contact Gisèle Carrière (604-666-5907; gisele.carriere@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Second-hand smoke: One-third of non-smokers regularly exposed

One-third of Canadians who are non-smokers say they are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke, according to a new study.

In 2003, 33% of non-smokers reported that in the previous month they had been exposed to second-hand smoke on most days in at least one of four locations: in public, at work, at home or in a private vehicle.

The study, which uses data from the Canadian Community Health Survey, shows that people in their late teens are most at risk of exposure to second-hand smoke.

Overall, non-smokers were most commonly exposed to second-hand smoke in public places. But children were most at risk of exposure to smoking at home. Among 12-year-olds, 24% were regularly subjected to second-hand smoke in their homes and 16% in public places.

Regardless of the setting, men were more likely than women to have been exposed to second-hand smoke. About 23% of male non-smokers reported having been exposed to second-hand smoke in public places, compared with 17% of their female counterparts.

Rates of exposure varied among the provinces and territories. In 2003, exposure rates in Ontario and British Columbia either matched or were significantly below the national levels in all four locations. By contrast, except in public places, rates in Quebec were significantly above the national level.

For more information on this article, contact Claudio E. Pérez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Other articles

This edition of *Health Reports* contains three other articles. "Shorter hospital stays for breast cancer" examines trends in and factors influencing the length of stay for female breast cancer patients who were hospitalized between 1981 and 2000. Since the early 1980s, their average length of stay declined from 15.1 days to 4.5 days. Declines occurred regardless of age group, stage of cancer, procedure and comorbid conditions.

For more information on this article, contact Aggie Adamczyk (613-941-8189; aggie_adamczyk@hc-sc.gc.ca), Public Health Agency of Canada.

"Dental consultations" shows increases in the percentage of people who consult dentists. In 2003, 63% of those aged 15 or older had visited their dentist in the previous year, up from an estimated 47% in 1978/79.

For more information on this article, contact Wayne J. Millar (613-951-1631; wayne.millar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Seniors make up just 14% of the population aged 12 and older, yet according to "Vision problems among seniors," they accounted for 23% of all people with vision problems, and nearly 20% of all consultations with eye doctors in 2003.

For more information on this article, contact Wayne J. Millar (613-951-1631; wayne.millar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

Complete articles appear in the October 2004 issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (82-003-XIE, \$17/\$48; 82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63), which is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Anik Lacroix (613-951-1807; anik.lacroix@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Environmental expenditures by businesses 2002 (preliminary)

Canadian companies have substantially increased their spending to protect the environment according to the most recent Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures. Spending reached \$6.8 billion in 2002, a 24% increase over expenditures in 2000. Much of the increase resulted from responses to new environmental regulations and industry's effort to reduce air emissions such as greenhouse gases (GHG). While expanded survey coverage of the oil and gas extraction industry in 2002 was also partially responsible, other industries still experienced a 22% spending increase on environmental protection over 2000 levels.

Capital expenditures to protect the environment increased 35% to \$2.9 billion in 2002. Approximately \$5 from every \$100 that businesses spent on capital projects was made for the purpose of protecting the environment.

Much of the increase in capital expenditures was as a result of investments in pollution prevention equipment (processes that eliminate or prevent the creation of pollution in the production cycle), which grew to \$1.4 billion in 2002. The other major area of capital expenditures was in pollution abatement and control systems and equipment (\$0.9 billion). These treat pollution and wastes after they have been created (also known as end-of-pipe).

The greatest increase in capital spending from 2000 to 2002 occurred in the petroleum and coal products industry. Firms invested in refinery upgrades in order to meet new sulphur reduction regulations, which came into effect in July 2002.

The electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry also reported a large increase in capital spending in 2002. These expenditures

occurred as utility companies invested in alternative energy facilities (e.g., wind power, substitution to less carbon-intensive fuels) and in systems and equipment to reduce air emissions.

In 2002, businesses were asked to report their expenditures made for systems and equipment that directly or indirectly reduced GHG emissions (including fugitive and vented emissions). Overall, businesses in the 16 industry groups surveyed spent \$1.1 billion in 2002 on environmental processes or technologies that resulted in the reduction of GHG emissions. The oil and gas extraction industry spent almost \$245 million to reduce GHG emissions, followed by the pulp, paper and paperboard mills industry at \$242 million.

Just over 40% of the systems and equipment purchased to reduce GHG emissions by businesses were supplied by Canadian manufacturers.

Tables from this data release are now available upon request. A report containing more detailed 2002 data will be released in this fall.

The 2002 Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures covered capital and operating expenditures made by businesses to comply with environmental regulations, conventions or voluntary agreements. The survey also collected information on environmental management practices and the use of environmental processes and technologies to prevent, abate or control pollution.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1903.

For more information, to obtain tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. □

Expenditures on environmental protection by industry and type of activity
2002 (preliminary)

Industry	Environmental monitoring	Environmental assessments and audits	Reclamation and decommissioning	Wildlife and habitat protection	Pollution abatement and control ¹ processes (end-of-pipe)	Pollution prevention processes	Fees, fines and licences	Other	Total
\$ millions									
Operating expenditures									
Logging	3.6	8.9	21.5	82.2	5.3	6.4	2.8	5.0	135.6
Oil and gas extraction	32.5	18.2	155.9	9.6	177.1	53.7	15.4	77.1	539.5
Mining	27.0	11.3	73.7	3.3	91.5	34.8	7.7	28.8	278.1
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	17.1	20.7	28.6	12.0	83.7	88.1	10.3	65.3	325.8
Natural gas distribution	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.9	2.0	0.1	2.4	9.9
Food	22.9	12.5	19.5	0.6	97.3	33.8	17.1	7.9	211.6
Beverage and tobacco products	1.0	0.4	2.0	0.0	9.3	1.2	4.3	1.3	19.5
Wood products	8.9	4.0	21.0	27.4	42.2	10.1	3.8	8.3	125.9
Pulp, paper and paperboard mills	41.6	6.5	12.9	1.8	265.1	69.2	8.2	16.5	421.8
Petroleum and coal products	7.1	3.0	76.4	0.1	80.1	68.0	2.6	7.1	244.3
Chemicals	41.2	6.9	20.4	5.2	133.0	69.8	3.0	23.0	302.5
Non-metallic mineral products	5.3	2.0	20.7	0.1	27.1	6.0	5.4	10.2	76.9
Primary metals	38.1	11.1	11.2	5.6	366.1	69.2	5.1	16.2	522.5
Fabricated metal products	4.6	6.8	0.1	2.6	57.2	4.9	0.6	7.5	84.4
Transportation equipment	7.4	4.5	11.9	0.1	134.2	14.8	0.8	28.3	201.9
Pipeline transportation	3.1	3.9	13.0	1.6	17.1	10.3	1.5	7.6	58.3
Total operating expenditures	262.8	121.7	489.8	152.8	1,588.0	542.3	88.6	312.4	3,558.4
Other manufacturing ²	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273.6
Total operating expenditures including "Other manufacturing"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,832.0
Capital expenditures									
Logging	0.0	0.0	0.1	x	x	0.6	...	...	5.8
Oil and gas extraction	111.3	23.7	92.4	5.5	85.9	243.7	...	...	562.4
Mining	2.5	3.9	21.8	1.6	36.3	31.1	...	...	97.3
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	9.3	26.9	15.7	13.5	218.3	228.2	...	...	511.9
Natural gas distribution	x	x	0.8	x	x	x	...	...	18.0
Food	10.3	2.6	4.0	2.7	59.5	46.4	...	...	125.4
Beverage and tobacco products	0.7	0.1	3.3	0.0	1.9	6.4	...	...	12.3
Wood products	x	0.4	0.2	0.6	x	29.0	...	...	62.7
Pulp, paper and paperboard mills	3.8	0.1	0.8	0.3	57.4	152.9	...	...	215.3
Petroleum and coal products	30.7	7.2	39.8	7.0	226.7	499.9	...	...	811.3
Chemicals	x	x	10.7	x	26.4	x	...	...	94.5
Non-metallic mineral products	1.5	0.1	1.1	3.2	38.7	24.4	...	...	69.0
Primary metals	8.8	1.1	11.2	0.7	87.4	31.1	...	...	140.1
Fabricated metal products	x	x	0.2	x	x	x	...	...	14.9
Transportation equipment	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	29.7	27.3	...	...	58.9
Pipeline transportation	x	x	4.7	x	x	32.0	...	...	49.7
Total capital expenditures	192.3	75.1	207.4	40.0	907.7	1,427.2	...	...	2,849.7
Other manufacturing ²	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	...	97.0
Total capital expenditures including "Other manufacturing"	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	...	2,946.6

Note: Preliminary estimates figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

.. Not available for a specific reference period.

... Not applicable.

X Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

1. (PAC) Pollution abatement and control. With respect to operating expenditures, purchased waste management and sewerage services are included in this category.

2. Detail of the expenditure breakdown by type of environmental protection activity is only available for the listed industries.

Steel wire and specified wire products

August 2004

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0010 and 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2106, 2116 and 2184.

The August 2004 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products*, Vol. 59, no. 8 (41-006-XIB, \$6/\$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

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Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 2004, Vol. 58, no. 8
Catalogue number 31-001-XIE (\$17/\$158).

Health Reports, 2004, Vol. 16, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XIE (\$17/\$48).

Health Reports, 2004, Vol. 16, no. 1
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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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 relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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