



The Daily

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Releases

Health Reports: Seniors' health care use, 2003

2

Seniors with low incomes or less education were no more likely to use Canada's health care services in 2003 than were their wealthier or more educated counterparts, according to a new study. Rather, the biggest factor was chronic conditions.

Canada's retirement income programs

4

The financial reserves in Canada's three principal retirement programs, essential to the future of many Canadians, have doubled since 1990, and they represent one of the largest pools of investment capital in the country.

Legal aid, 2004/05

6

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises, 2004

6

Population of businesses with employees, fourth quarter 2005

7

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, October 2005

8

Registered apprenticeship training programs, 2003

8

New products

9



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Releases

Health Reports: Seniors' health care use

2003

Poorer or less educated seniors were no more likely to use Canada's health care services in 2003 than their wealthier, more educated counterparts, according to a new study. In fact, the biggest factor in the frequency with which seniors consulted physicians and used medication was the number of chronic conditions they had.

Once these chronic conditions and other factors were taken into account, differences in education and sources of income had no statistically significant impact on how often seniors consulted physicians, were hospitalized or received home care.

While today's seniors are generally healthier than those of previous generations, they are much more likely than younger people to have poor health or chronic conditions.

According to the 2003 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 88% of seniors consulted a general practitioner or a family doctor during the year before the survey, compared with 76% of people aged 12 to 64. As well, 92% reported having taken at least one type of medication in the previous month, 14% had been hospitalized in the past year, and 15% had received home care.

Canada's roughly 4 million seniors aged 65 or older, who comprise 13% of the total population, are heavy users of the nation's health care system. Seniors account for one-third of all hospitalizations and more than one-half of all hospital days.

Medications: Nine in 10 had taken medications

Nine in 10 non-institutionalized seniors reported to the CCHS that they had taken at least one type of medication in the previous month. On average, they took three different types.

Senior women tended to take a wider variety of medications than did their male counterparts. More than one-quarter (27%) of women aged 65 or older reported taking at least five types of medication, compared with only 16% of senior men.

The drugs most commonly used were non-narcotic pain relievers, blood pressure medication, heart medication, diuretics and stomach remedies.

The variety of medications taken was strongly related to illness. Seniors with at least five chronic

Note to readers

This release is based on "Seniors' health care use", one of five in-depth analyses scheduled for release on Thursday, February 9, 2006, in How Healthy are Canadians?, the annual supplement to Health Reports.

This year's supplement is entitled "Health at older ages". The analyses examine a range of health issues confronting Canada's senior population.

conditions reported having taken an average of five types of medication, while those with no chronic illnesses averaged one.

Hospital admissions: Seniors' rate three times that of younger people

According to information from the Hospital Morbidity Database, the hospitalization rate of seniors was three times the rate for individuals younger than 65 during the fiscal year 2002/03.

The rate for seniors was nearly 16,500 hospitalizations for every 100,000 people aged 65 or older. By contrast, the rate for the rest of the population was about 5,000 for every 100,000 younger than 65.

As expected, the likelihood of hospitalization among seniors rose with age. The rate was nearly 28,000 for every 100,000 population aged 85 or older.

Repeat admissions were also more common among seniors than younger people. And once seniors are in hospital, they typically spend more time there than do younger people.

In 2002/03, the average length of stay for seniors was nearly 11 days, compared with 5 for patients younger than 65. The average stay for seniors aged 85 or older was about two weeks.

The CCHS data showed that the likelihood of seniors being hospitalized was closely tied to chronic conditions, injury and self-perceived health.

Home care: One in seven receive home care

One out of every seven non-institutionalized seniors, about 566,500, reported receiving home care in 2003, according to the study. These services included nursing care, personal care, everyday housework, meal preparation, and shopping.

This care was provided by formal sources such as nurses and/or informal sources such as family and

friends. However, more than one-half of seniors who reported home care received it exclusively from formal sources.

The proportion of seniors receiving home care rose with age from 8% among those aged 65 to 74 to 42% among those aged 85 or older.

At every age, women were more likely than men to receive home care. For both sexes, a higher proportion of people living alone received home care, compared with those living with others. However, elderly women were more likely than their male counterparts to live alone.

As might be expected, poor health was an important determinant for receiving home care. About one-quarter of senior men and one-third of senior women with five or more chronic conditions had received home care in the year before the CCHS. This compares with only 5% of those who reported no chronic conditions.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3203 and 3226.

"Seniors' health care use" (82-003-SIE) is now available for free online. This study is one of five articles in the latest edition of the *How Healthy are Canadians?* series, an annual supplement to *Health Reports* (82-003-XIE, \$17/\$48; 82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63).

Other articles in this year's annual report are: "Healthy living among seniors," "Dependency, chronic conditions and pain in seniors," "Successful aging in health care institutions" and "Predictors of death in seniors." Electronic versions of these articles (82-003-SIE, free) will be released on February 9, and a print compendium (82-003-SPE, \$22) will be available in March.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michelle Rotermann (613-951-3166; Michelle.Rotermann@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Canada's retirement income programs

The financial reserves in Canada's three principal retirement programs, essential to the future of many Canadians, have doubled since 1990 and they represent one of the largest pools of investment capital in the country.

In total, Canadians had accumulated more than \$1.3 trillion in the three major retirement income programs at the end of 2003. This amount has doubled since 1990, taking inflation into account.

Employer-sponsored registered pension plans (RPPs) accounted for the biggest chunk of assets, about 63%, and registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) another 30%. The remaining 6% were held in the Canada/Quebec Pension Plans (C/QPP).

Pension funds are heavily invested in stocks and equity investment funds. As a result, changes in stock prices on Canadian and other stock exchanges have a direct impact on the value of pension fund assets.

Shaky market conditions in the first years of the new century have had an impact on the financial reserves of the funds. By the end of 2003, the assets held in both employer pension plans and RRSPs were struggling to regain the levels achieved in 2000, again taking inflation into account.

The assets of the C/QPP, on the other hand, were 35% higher in 2003 than in 2000. Concerns in the late 1990s about declining balances in these funds led to a change in investment strategy for the CPP. This, combined with subsequent increases in contribution rates for both plans, has greatly changed the picture for these plans.

Percentage of taxfilers who saved stable but amount saved increased

In 2004 alone, 7.9 million taxfilers aged 25 to 64, or 50% of the total, saved through either RPPs or RRSPs. The other half of taxfilers did not save through either program.

Although the percentage of taxfilers who saved grew very little from 1992 to 2004, the annual savings of these people was up 37% (adjusting for inflation) to \$50.8 billion in 2004.

By the end of this period, almost as much was being contributed to RRSPs as was saved in RPPs. This represents a significant change from 1992, when RRSP contributions were much lower (almost 23%) than the amount saved in RPPs.

Note to readers

Contributions to RRSPs refers to normal contributions, those that reduce RRSP room. This excludes eligible transfers of retiring allowances to RRSPs.

Savings through RPPs are estimated by the "pension adjustment," which also includes contributions to Deferred Profit Sharing Plans.

RPP coverage rates have declined substantially since early 1990s

As of January 1, 2004, there were nearly 14,800 active registered pension plans in Canada, covering nearly 5.6 million members.

The percentage of paid workers covered by an RPP stood at 45% in 1991, little changed from the coverage rate of 46% some 14 years earlier. Since then, however, the rate fell steadily to 39% in 2003.

Changes in coverage from 1977 to 2003 were very different for men and women. The biggest decline occurred among men. In 1977, more than one-half (52%) of male workers were covered. This proportion dropped over the entire period, although most dramatically from 1991, to 39%. The decline occurred in the private sector, where coverage fell from about 44% to 30%.

The situation was quite different for women. As a result of legislative changes allowing part-time employees to join an RPP, as well as the increase in the number of women employed in the public and private sectors, the female coverage rate rose substantially from 1987 to 1993. However, starting in 1993, the rate edged down slightly, from just over 42% in 1993 to 39% in 2003.

Coverage also differs greatly in the public and private sectors. Since 1977, the RPP coverage rate for the private sector has been steadily decreasing, from 35% in 1977 to about 27% in 2003. In the public sector, the coverage rate has always been much higher. In 2003, over 86% of workers in that sector were covered by an RPP. Coverage in this sector actually increased over much of the earlier part of this period, from 1977 to 1991, but has since been dropping.

A number of factors may have contributed to the decline in RPP coverage rates, including a drop in unionization and employment shifts towards low-coverage industries; increased employer contributions to programs such as C/QPP or Employment Insurance; and administration costs of defined benefit plans.

Employer contributions to RPPs up sharply in 2003

At the end of 2003, total annual contributions to RPPs stood at \$29 billion, up 36% from 2001 (in 2003 constant dollars). This increase, the largest on record, is due to a 52% jump in employer contributions. Employee contributions increased only 9%.

Employer contributions rose sharply because many plan managers had to increase contributions, or resume them after a "contribution holiday," to avoid or at least reduce unfunded liabilities. Prior to 2003, employer contributions (adjusting for inflation) had generally been decreasing since 1993.

RRSPs: Contributions highest among older age groups, higher income groups

About 5.6 million people, or 38% of all eligible taxfilers aged 25 to 64, made normal contributions to RRSPs in 2004, totaling \$25.2 billion. The proportion was up slightly from 36% in 1992.

Between 1992 and 2004, the biggest increase in the number of contributors to RRSPs occurred in older age groups. Contributions by taxfilers aged 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 were up by about 50%. At the same time, the number contributing in the youngest age group (25 to 34) rose just 3%.

The average contribution was also highest for the older age groups. Taxfilers aged 55 to 64 contributed, on average, about \$5,200 in 2004, well above the \$3,460 contributed by taxfilers aged 25 to 34.

Not surprisingly, an individual's income affects both the likelihood of participating in RRSPs and the amount contributed. In 2004, just 3% of taxfilers aged 25 to 64 with incomes less than \$10,000 and eligible to contribute made normal contributions.

This compares with 76% of taxfilers with incomes of \$80,000 and over. This group also made the highest average contribution in 2004 or \$9,512 per person.

The total RRSP room available to taxfilers aged 25 to 64 reached \$367.3 billion in 2004, 4.5 times higher than it was in 1992, taking inflation into account. The share of room used has continued to drop, from 20% in 1992 to 7% in 2004.

The bulk of the unused room is held by low-income taxfilers, who may not be in a financial position to contribute.

Significant amounts withdrawn from RRSPs in 2004

Although taxfilers aged 25 to 64 contributed over \$25 billion to RRSPs in 2004, they also withdrew significant amounts that year.

Over 1.4 million Canadians, or 9% of all taxfilers, received about \$7 billion in RRSP income, an average of \$4,905 per person. This average is, however, down significantly from \$6,918 in 1994. This RRSP income was mainly in the form of withdrawals. Although it also includes annuities, they are less common among persons under 65.

Nearly 1.4 million RRSP holders aged 25 to 64 cashed in all or part of their RRSP savings under the Home Buyers Plan (HBP) since its inception in 1992, to at least partially finance the purchase or building of a home. Since 1992, close to 9% of taxfilers in this age group took advantage of this program, withdrawing in total \$14.2 billion. Not surprisingly, the HBP was more heavily used by the younger age groups. Just over 12% of taxfilers 25 to 44 withdrew money under the HBP.

The Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP) was introduced in 1999. The latest statistics indicate that it is still not heavily used. Less than half a percent of taxfilers aged 25 to 64 withdrew money under the LLP. These 49,000 individuals withdrew close to \$363 million from their RRSP to finance full-time education or training since inception. Most of those taxfilers using the LLP were in the younger age groups; nearly 41% were 25 to 34 years of age, and another 35% were between 35 and 44.

The statistics related to these programs are based on a file of tax returns received and processed in September 2005 for the 2004 tax year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0002 to 280-0026.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2607, 2608 and 2609.

The CD-ROM *Canada's Retirement Income Programs: 2006 Edition* (74-507-XCB, \$209) is now available. See *How to order products*.

This product is an easy-to-use CD-ROM providing comprehensive statistics on the major retirement income programs in Canada, including: Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada/Quebec Pension Plans, employer-sponsored Registered Pension Plans, Registered Retirement Savings Plans. Also included is information on group RRSPs and Retirement Compensation Arrangements.

Data tables are also available for free on the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site, including the proportion of the labour force and paid workers covered by a RPP for six-year intervals from 1979 to 2003, and on the retirement savings through RRSPs and RPPs for 2004.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Legal aid

2004/05

Spending by Canada's 13 legal aid plans during fiscal year 2004/05 was virtually unchanged from the previous year, once inflation was taken into account, according to a new report.

These plans spent \$608 million on delivering legal aid services in 2004/05, or the equivalent of \$19 for every Canadian. Spending has been relatively stable over the past three years.

Each province and territory has developed its own individual legal aid scheme, so structures, operations and eligibility requirements vary from one jurisdiction to the next.

Legal aid plans received 755,000 applications for assistance, down about 1% from the previous year. About 469,000 applications were approved for full legal aid service, unchanged from 2003/04.

Cases involving civil matters accounted for slightly more than half, or about 52% of direct legal aid expenditures. The remaining direct expenditures went toward criminal cases.

Governments, both provincial/territorial and federal, were still the major source of funding for legal aid plans. They contributed \$545 million in 2004/05, or about 90% of total revenues of \$599 million. Client contributions and cost recoveries accounted for 3%, legal profession contributions 1%, and other sources 5%.

Staff numbers in legal aid offices rose about 5% to nearly 3,200. Lawyers accounted for more than one-third (37%) of all legal aid plan staff. The remainder consisted of administrative staff, law students, accountants, librarians and research staff.

Available on CANSIM: tables 258-0001 to 258-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3308.

Data are also available for free in data tables in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site.

The annual report, *Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics, 2004/05* (85F0015XIE, \$31) is now available. This product provides data on revenues, expenditures, caseload and personnel involved in delivering legal aid services in Canada. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023). ■

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises

2004

Corporate operating profits hit a record high in 2004 as the Canadian economy rebounded strongly from a series of negative shocks in 2003 that included an appreciating dollar, the power blackout in Ontario, BSE in Alberta cattle and SARS.

Corporations earned profits of \$216.6 billion, surpassing the previous record of \$191.5 billion set in 2000.

The improvement was broadly based, as profits in the non-financial sector surged 15.3% to \$158.3 billion and those in the financial sector rose 13.1% to a record high \$58.3 billion.

The top five industries ranked by operating profits were: banking and other depository credit intermediation; oil and gas extraction and support activities; securities and commodity exchanges and other financial investment activities; utilities; and petroleum and coal products manufacturing. For the second consecutive year, all industries except air transportation were profitable.

Growth in the non-financial sector was driven by a rebound in manufacturing profits, which increased 36.2% to \$44.5 billion after a 13.7% decline in 2003. The negative impact of an appreciating Canadian dollar on exporting manufacturers was offset by strong global demand, soaring energy prices and a vibrant North American construction market.

Operating profits for wood product manufacturers more than tripled to \$4.8 billion, as did profits of primary metal manufacturers, which hit \$3.7 billion. Profits for petroleum and coal producers reached \$9.1 billion, a 42.4% increase.

The manufacturing sector's performance was not all positive, as 8 of the 22 industries recorded a combined decline in profits of \$1.6 billion. The largest decline was recorded by motor vehicle and trailer manufacturers, whose profits fell 46.1% to \$740 million.

Strong metal prices helped boost operating profits in the mining industry to their highest level since 2000. The industry reported operating profits of \$3.2 billion, up 57.3% over 2003.

Relatively low mortgage and financing costs continued to stoke the red hot housing and construction markets. The construction industry recorded robust gains in 2004 with operating profits increasing 22.1% to \$6.2 billion.

Profits in the wholesale industry rose 26.0% to \$13.3 billion in 2004. The gain was led by building

material and supplies wholesaler-distributors, who contributed more than a third of the increase.

In the financial sector, deposit credit intermediaries, led by the chartered banks, posted operating profits of \$23.6 billion, up 9.4% from 2003. The gains were supported by improved confidence in the capital markets and strong demand for consumer and corporate loans.

Corporations involved in securities and commodity exchanges and other financial investment activities had a banner year. Operating profits were up 35.4% to \$12.6 billion in 2004, their most profitable year since 2000. Similarly, operating profits for property and casualty insurers surged 75.5% to \$6.5 billion.

The strong economic performance in 2004 generated \$45.2 billion in corporate taxes payable to government treasuries, up 13.9% from 2003. The federal portion amounted to \$31.1 billion, while the provinces claimed \$14.1 billion.

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises

	2003	2002 to 2003	2004	2003 to 2004
	\$ billions	% change	\$ billions	% change
All industries				
Operating revenue	2,514.9	3.5	2,660.0	5.8
Operating profit	188.8	10.8	216.6	14.7
Taxable income	117.0	14.0	138.6	18.5
Total tax payable	39.7	12.9	45.2	13.9
Non-financial				
Operating revenue	2,276.0	3.2	2,413.6	6.0
Operating profit	137.3	4.9	158.3	15.3
Taxable income	83.2	-4.6	107.5	29.2
Total tax payable	26.9	-5.3	33.8	25.5
Financial				
Operating revenue	238.9	6.6	246.4	3.1
Operating profit	51.5	30.4	58.3	13.1
Taxable income	33.7	120.0	31.0	-8.0
Total tax payable	12.8	89.9	11.4	-10.5

Taxes payable by the finance and insurance industries dropped 10.5% to \$11.4 billion, led by a decline of 28.7% to \$5.2 billion in the banking and other depository credit intermediation industry. This decline was primarily due to timing differences related to foreign currency translation adjustments.

Corporate taxes payable by the non-financial industries rose 25.5% to \$33.8 billion. The increase was attributable mainly to the manufacturing and oil and gas industries.

Available on CANSIM: table 180-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2510.

The publication *Financial and Taxation Statistics for Enterprises* (61-219-XIE, \$49), available soon, will provide a comprehensive statistical portrait of the financial performance of incorporated business enterprises for 67 industrial groupings.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-888-811-6235) or Louise Noel (613-951-2604; louise.noel@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ed Holmes (613-951-0584; fax: 613-951-0318; edward.holmes@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Population of businesses with employees

Fourth quarter 2005

Businesses with payroll deduction accounts reached just over 1,054,000 units in December, up 2.2% from the same period in 2004 and 0.2% higher compared with the previous quarter.

Provincially, there were more businesses with payroll deduction accounts in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia compared with the same period a year earlier, but fewer in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan.

Only Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia registered more businesses with payroll deduction accounts in the fourth quarter of 2005 compared with the previous quarter.

Information on Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will be available individually when sufficient quarterly observations are collected. Currently, counts for Northwest Territories include those for Nunavut.

Available on CANSIM: table 178-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1105.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021; fax: 613-951-0104; beau.cinnamon@statcan.ca), Business Register Division. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

October 2005

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for October.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Registered apprenticeship training programs

2003

Registrations and completions in registered apprenticeship training programs are now available for 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 477-0051 and 477-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3154.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division. ■

New products

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Building Permits, December 2005, Vol. 49, no. 12
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE (\$15/\$156).

Canada's Retirement Income Program, 1997 to 2005
Catalogue number 74-507-XCB (\$209).

Health Reports: Supplement: How Healthy are
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Catalogue number 82-003-SIE
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Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload
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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
OTHER RELEASES	
Map-worn index, May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production, Apr. 1997	12
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	11
 	

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