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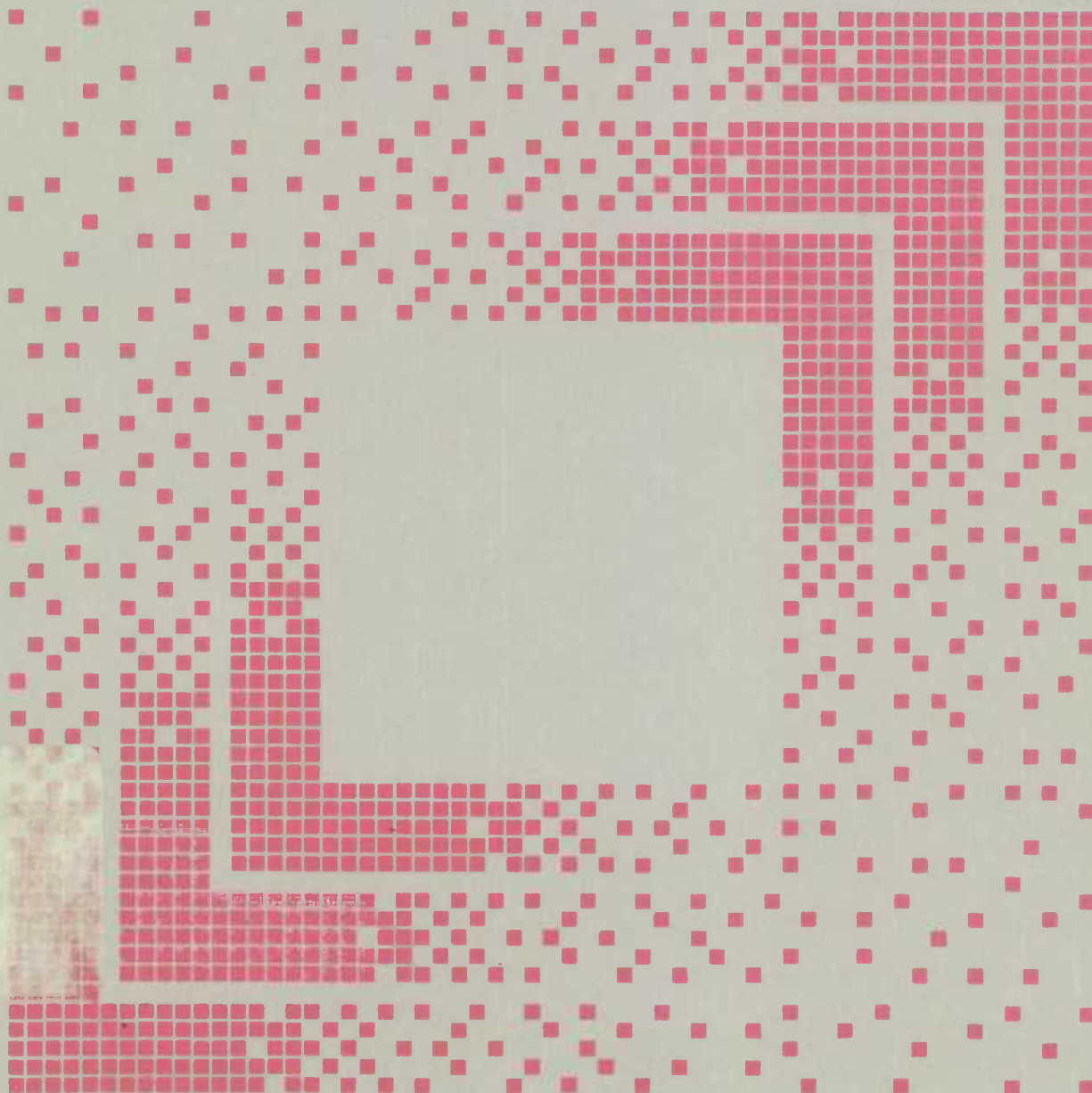
FEATURES AND STATUS REPORT

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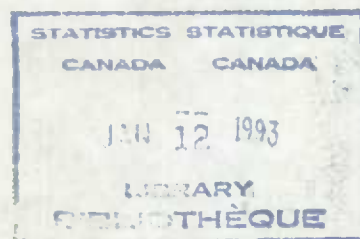
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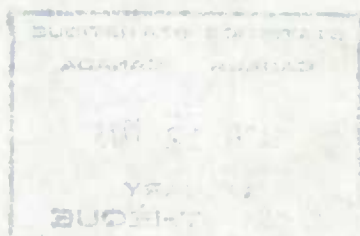


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FOR MORE INFORMATION...

The information listed below is available on request at no charge. To be added to the GSS Mailing List or receive any of the information, please mark the appropriate circle and return the form to the address indicated shown below.

- ☐ Please add my name to the GSS Mailing List
- ☐ Questionnaire package (Cycles 1 to 5)
- ☐ Questionnaire package (Cycle 6)

Preliminary Data Releases

- ☐ Cycle 2: Language Module
- ☐ Cycle 2: Time Use and Social Mobility Module
- ☐ Cycle 3: Personal Risk
- ☐ Cycle 4: Work and Education
- ☐ Cycle 5: Family and Friends

Other Releases

- ☐ Cycle 4: Working Paper on the design of the Work and Education Survey (by H. Krahn and G. Lowe)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone #.....

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
STATISTICS CANADA
7-D8, JEAN TALON BLDG
TUNNEY'S PASTURE
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0T6

GSS PRODUCTS

GSS also has a number of products which can be purchased. For more information, please contact one of the managers listed on page 10 of this report.

Public Use Microdata Files (user documentation included)

0	Cycle 1	Health and Social Support	\$750
0	Cycle 2	Time Use, Social Mobility and Language	\$750
0	Cycle 3	Personal Risk	\$750
0	Cycle 4	Work and Education	\$750

The Canadian Association of Research Librarians (CARL) has formed a consortium of 23 university libraries to purchase the GSS Microdata Files for Cycles 1 to 5. Participating institutions have received the microdata files from CARL.

Publications

Cycle 1	<u>Health and Social Support, 1985</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612, No.1 \$30 Canada \$32 Other Countries
Cycle 3	<u>Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612, No.2 \$38 Canada \$46 Other Countries
Cycle 3	<u>Accidents in Canada</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612, No.3 \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other Countries

To order publications, please contact:

Publication Sales	or call:
Statistics Canada	1-800-267-6677
Ottawa, Ontario	
K1A 0T6	

FEATURES AND STATUS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

For some time Statistics Canada has been aware of gaps in the national statistical information system with respect to data on socio-economic trends. These gaps cannot be filled through existing data sources or vehicles because of the level of detail required or the population to be covered. For example, there are no large scale household surveys in areas such as health, education, and criminal victimizations.

In 1985, Statistics Canada initiated the General Social Survey (GSS) which over five years would cover major topics of importance. The GSS has two principal objectives: first, to gather data with a degree of regularity on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian society over time, and secondly, to provide information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. GSS is a continuing program with a single survey cycle each year.

2. FEATURES

This section briefly describes basic features of the GSS which are common across all survey cycles.

2.1 CONTENT

To meet the stated objectives, the content of GSS is made up of three components: Classification, Core and Focus.

Classification content consists of variables which provide the means of delineating population groups and for use in the analysis of Core and Focus data. Examples of classification variables are age, sex, education and income.

Core content is intended to obtain information which monitors long-term social trends or measures temporal changes in society related to living conditions or well-being. General topic areas for core content include health, education, social environment and personal risk. All Core content areas cannot be treated adequately in each survey cycle. Instead, each cycle covers a specific Core content area, which will recur on a periodic basis. Figure 1 shows the expected content by cycle until 1992.

Within a survey cycle, data related to both the status of the content area as well as barriers and bridges to improving status are collected. For example Cycle 1 Core content included disability and health problems (health status measures) and smoking, alcohol use, and physical activity (barriers and bridges to improving health status).

Figure 1: GSS content coverage

Cycle	Data collection	Main Core content	Focus issue
1	1985	Health	Social support
2	1986	Time use, social mobility	Language
3	1988	Personal risk	Victim services
4	1989	Education and work	No Focus issue
5	1990	Family and friends	No Focus issue
6	1991	Health	Various health topics
7	1992 *	Time use	ND

Key: ND = Not yet decided.

Focus content is aimed at meeting the second objective of GSS, namely to provide information touching directly on a specific policy issue or social problem, for example, youth unemployment. This does not imply that Core content has little relevance to policy questions and social issues. However, in comparison to Focus content, Core content is not principally driven by short term policy issues, but rather provides the means for monitoring and analysis of important aspects of behaviour and living conditions of Canadians over the longer term. Focus content, in general, is not expected to be repeated on a periodic basis.

While resources for Classification and Core content are included as part of Statistics Canada's budget, costs associated with Focus content are recovered from sponsors.

2.2 COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Telephone interviewing plays a major role in collection of data by GSS. This collection methodology is attractive because of lower collection, sample design and maintenance costs, as well as considerable flexibility with respect to sample design and size changes. Furthermore, centralized data collection should allow better monitoring and control of costs and data quality. About three percent of households in the ten provinces do not have phones.

Nevertheless, phone interviewing does have drawbacks: non-coverage of households, while low, is concentrated in population groups with low education attainment or income; response rates tend to be lower than for face-to-face interviews, and there are limitations on the amount or type of data which can be collected. Alternative collection methods may be more appropriate than phone interviewing for particular population groups and for particular types of data. Thus, GSS is not being confined to a single collection methodology.

The sample size of each cycle of the GSS is approximately 10,000 households, with the majority of data collected in non-proxy mode from one person per household.¹ This sample is allocated across the ten provinces so as to improve the scope of regional estimates, even at some expense to national estimates. In some cycles sample size has been increased to better focus on a particular group or region. The sample size was increased for cycles 1, 2, 5 and 6.

2.3 OUTPUTS

The GSS provides four main types of outputs.

- a) A series of publications which present national and some regional level summary data, primarily in the form of tables and charts, as well as initial analyses and findings. An important goal of this series is to display the range of survey data and to indicate the potential for further data analysis and research by others.
- b) Public use microdata files, together with supporting documentation, which will facilitate the use of General Social Survey data by governments, universities, institutes, business, media and the general public. These files contain individual records, screened to ensure confidentiality, which permit detailed analyses, for example, by occupation, by education or by five-year age groups.

¹ Cycle 6 is an exception and will allow proxy responding in case of illness or disability or where language problems exist.

Files are available on 9-track tape, tape cartridge and in some cases microcomputer diskettes.

- c) Special request tabulations and analyses, primarily on a cost recovery basis. These are intended for users who do not have suitable computer facilities for manipulating the microdata files, do not wish to purchase the microdata files, or have specific requests not satisfied by the public use microdata files alone.
- d) Special studies which illuminate aspects of the system used to develop, collect, process and analyse the General Social Survey data.

3. STATUS

This section summarizes progress to date for Cycles 1 to 6 as well as expected activities over the next year.

3.1 CYCLE 1

Initial work on Cycle 1 started in August 1984. Classification content to be used for this and subsequent cycles was identified. Core content on health covered short and long term disability, well-being, height and weight, health problems, smoking, alcohol use, physical activity, sleep and use of health care services. Focus content, concentrating on the elderly, included potential support networks, support received and given and social activities.

Questionnaires, procedures and manuals were produced for a pilot survey in March 1985, which was carried out through Toronto and Vancouver Regional Offices. A small field test to assess French versions of the questionnaires was mounted in May in Montreal. Interviewing for the main Cycle 1 sample took place across the ten provinces in September and October 1985. Persons aged 15 to 64 years old were interviewed by phone, with persons 65 years and older interviewed face-to-face.

Cycle 1 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
Questionnaire package	October 1985	No charge
Public use microdata file plus user documentation (9-track tape - all ten provinces)	January 1987	\$750
"Health and Social Support, 1985" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612, No.1)	January 1988	\$30

3.2 CYCLE 2

Core content development for Cycle 2 was initiated in August 1985, when the topic of "personal risk" was proposed. This topic covers risk from accidents, crime and the environment, that is, risk to a person from outside (the person) sources. However, in December 1985, a decision was taken to delay the personal risk Core content component. Core content on time use and social mobility, intended for a later Cycle, was moved forward as a replacement. This new Core content covers the topics of daily activities done on own and with others, inter- and intra- generational mobility, and personal well-being. A consortium of clients sponsored language knowledge and use as the topic for Focus content.

A pilot survey in July and August 1986 was carried out through the Montreal and Winnipeg Regional Offices. Interviewing for the main Cycle 2 sample (10,000 households across 10 provinces) was done, solely by telephone, in November and December 1986. An additional sample of approximately 6,000 households was interviewed by telephone during the same period and using the same questionnaires, except for the exclusion of the section on daily activities. This additional sample was concentrated in areas of New Brunswick, Québec and Ontario where there are significant proportions of both official language groups. Both samples selected only persons who were 15 years of age or older.

Cycle 2 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
Questionnaire package	December 1986	No charge
Preliminary data: Language module	January 1989	No charge
Preliminary data: Time Use module and Social Mobility module	February 1989	No charge
Public Use Microdata File Tape	December 1989	\$750

A public use microdata file was released in December, 1989, and GSS Analysis Series reports from Cycle 2 are currently in preparation.

3.3 CYCLE 3

Core content for Cycle 3 is on personal risk, with primary emphasis on exposure to accidents and crime. Focus content, sponsored by the Department of Justice, is on services to victims of crime.

A pilot survey was carried out through Halifax and Montreal Regional Offices in June and July 1987. Interviewing by telephone for the main Cycle 3 sample, of approximately 10,000 households, was done in January and February 1988. As in previous cycles, only persons 15 years of age or older were selected.

A small scale reinterview survey was introduced in Cycle 3 in order to obtain some consistency measures, primarily for Classification content variables.

Cycle 3 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
Questionnaire package	February 1988	No charge
Preliminary data (Tables)	April 1989	No charge
"Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612, no.2)	April 1990	\$30 Canada \$38 Other
"Accidents in Canada" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612, No.3)	February 1991	\$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other
Public use microdata file tape	May 1990	\$750

A public use microdata file was available in May 1990. The GSS Analysis reports on Crime and Accidents have been released.

3.4 CYCLE 4

Development of Core content for Cycle 4, targeted at work and education. Three main themes underlie this content: work and education in the service economy, new technologies and human resources, and emerging trends in education and work. A small module on knowledge and attitudes to science and technology is also included.

A pilot survey was carried out through Halifax and Montreal Regional Offices in July and August 1988. Interviewing by telephone for the main Cycle 4 sample survey, of approximately 10,000 households, was done in January and February, 1989. In March a reinterview survey, containing a small subset of the questions asked in the main survey, was conducted in two regional offices. The primary aim of this reinterview survey was to obtain consistency measures for selected Core content variables.

Cycle 4 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
-----	-----	-----
Questionnaire package	January 1989	No charge
Preliminary data (Tables)	January 1990	No charge
Working Paper on the design of the survey	January 1990	No charge
Public Use microdata file tape	July 1990	\$750
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Preliminary data were released in January 1990 and a public use microdata file was available in July 1990. GSS Analysis Series reports should start appearing in the Summer of 1991.

3.5 CYCLE 5

Core content for Cycle 5 concentrated on the respondent's family and friends and the relationships and interactions with them. The content draws heavily on the 1984 Family History Survey for birth and marriage/cohabitation history questions and on the social support sections of GSS Cycle 1 (1985 Survey). Some comparisons will be possible with both of these earlier surveys.

A pilot survey was carried out in Halifax and Montreal in August 1989 and the main survey was conducted over the January to March 1990 period. A number of interested data users have funded additional sample for the population 65 and over across Canada and for the entire population in Ontario. Total sample size is approximately 14,000.

Cycle 5 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
-----	-----	-----
Questionnaire package	February 1990	No charge
Preliminary data (Tables)	January 1991	No charge
-----	-----	-----

Preliminary results were released in January 1991 and a microdata file should be available by April 1991. An analysis report from the survey is in preparation.

3.6 CYCLE 6

Cycle 6 marks the first repeat of the GSS core subject areas. Most of the core content of Cycle 6 repeats that of Cycle 1(1985). As well, much of the core content was included in the Canada Health Survey(1978/79). The three surveys can be used to measure changes in health status over time.

Focus content is diffuse: flu vaccinations, job benefits, old age and disability pension sources of income, and emotional health measures sponsored by various divisions of Health and Welfare Canada and a health state classification system sponsored internally by Analytical Studies Branch.

Data collection began the third week of January 1991 and will continue through to the second week of December 1991. The sample will be evenly distributed over the 12 months to counterbalance seasonal variation. Data collection will take place from 5 regional offices - Halifax, Montreal, Sturgeon Falls, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The target sample size will approach 11,500 respondents. This includes an oversample of 1,500 respondents, 65 years and over selected from Labour Force Survey rotate-outs. The additional sample is sponsored by the Seniors Secretariat of Health and Welfare Canada. All interviewing will be done by telephone.

The questions and associated procedures were successfully field tested in August, in Halifax, Montreal and Toronto.

Cycle 6 outputs

Output	Date released	Cost
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Questionnaire package	March 1991	No charge
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3.7 CYCLE 7

Core content for Cycle 7 will be time use. The diary approach used in Cycle 2 will be repeated. Consideration is being given to a number of time use related topics. A pilot test is planned for August 1991. The survey is planned for 1992 and data will be collected monthly.

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**ANNEX 1: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT
"HEALTH AND SOCIAL SUPPORT, 1985"**

**1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REPORT**

The first General Social Survey was carried out in September and October 1985, collecting information on health and related factors from 11,200 persons age 15 and older. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population of Canada; those aged 65 and older were over-sampled to increase the reliability of findings for this group. The data were gathered with telephone and face-to-face interviewing, with a response rate of approximately 85 percent.

The 1985 General Social Survey obtained information on the health status of persons 15 years of age and older, covering activity limitation, well-being and chronic health problems. Barriers and bridges to improving this status were also examined, including smoking, alcohol use and physical activity. In many cases, comparisons with the 1978 Canada Health Survey are possible. The first cycle of the General Social Survey also included a specific focus on older Canadians, covering support given and received, as well as social participation.

**Barriers and bridges to improved health
(chapter 2):**

- More than half of the Canadian population either smoke regularly or are exposed to second-hand smoke in their own homes. Data from the General Social Survey show that while only three Canadians in ten smoke daily, there are over three million additional non-smoking adults who live with someone who smokes.
- Regular cigarette smoking continues to decline, but there was confirmation of two disturbing trends - large numbers of young women smoking regularly and additional evidence suggesting that regular cigarette smokers are smoking more.
- Sixty-three percent of the adult Canadian population can be classified as current drinkers. While this figure is approximately the same as the 65% reported in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey, those who do drink are consuming less alcohol per week.
- Nearly three in ten adult Canadians are active enough to anticipate health benefits which may include additional years of life.

- Active Canadians describe themselves as happier than their sedentary counterparts. They also tend to adopt other good lifestyle practices (such as avoidance of both smoking and heavy drinking).
- Nine out of ten Canadians contacted at least one type of health professional (physician, nurse or dentist) during the 12 months prior to the General Social Survey. Physician consultation is the most frequent type of contact and was reported by eight out of ten persons.
- Lower income Canadians tend to consult a physician on a more frequent basis than those with higher incomes.

Current health status (chapter 3):

- Over 80% of Canadians rate their health as good or excellent. An even higher proportion (88%) express satisfaction with their health.
- Canadians in general report high levels of happiness, with less than one in twenty of the adult population reporting some level of unhappiness. Those groups most likely to report unhappiness are the elderly, widowed, separated/divorced and the unemployed.
- Nearly 40% of the Canadian population 20 years of age and older can be classified as having excessive weight. This compares with over 50% found in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.
- Fewer than one in ten Canadians report spending one or more illness-related days in bed in the two weeks prior to the General Social survey. Young people, 15-24 years of age, are the most likely to report bed-days, followed by those 75 years of age and older, but it is the elderly who report the greatest number of bed-days.
- More than one in five Canadians report having arthritis or rheumatism, which are the most prevalent chronic conditions. Women are one-half again as likely to report this condition as are men.
- Canadians who are obese, underweight, or who smoke are more likely to report a range of health problems than are those who are within recommended weight limits and are non-smokers.

- Those who combine smoking with heavy drinking are more likely to report health problems than those engaging in either of these lifestyle practices alone.

Support networks and social participation of the elderly (chapter 4):

- Most people 55 years of age and older living outside institutions feel they are able to carry out routine daily activities without assistance, such as light housework, grocery shopping, meal preparation, managing money and personal care. However, three in ten say that they require help or are unable to do yard work, while one in five report having trouble with or being unable to do heavy housework.
- Two out of three persons 65 years of age and older provide support to organizations or persons outside their own household, with one in three providing more than one kind of support. Over half the persons in this age group provide financial support to organizations or persons outside the household, while one in six babysit or provide transportation for others.
- Seniors who have many social activities report being happier and healthier than those with few activities, even when compared to those of similar health status.

"Health and Social Support, 1985"

(Catalogue 11-612E, no. 1)

(Price: Canada \$30; elsewhere \$32)

Available from

Statistics Canada Publication Sales and Service

(613) 951-7276

**ANNEX 2A: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 4, 1989
"GSS - Cycle 2 - LANGUAGE MODULE, 1986"**

**General Social Survey - Language
Module
1986**

Among Canadians 15 years and older, 67% have English as their main language and 24% have French. Two per cent of the population is equally at ease in English and French and the same percentage reported that they are equally at ease in English and a non-official language. About 5% of the population indicated that they have a main language other than English or French.

French is less widespread in Quebec than English in the rest of the country. In fact, 84% of the Quebec population 15 years and older has French as their main language (10% English), while 88% of other Canadians have English as their main language (3% French). In Quebec, as in the rest of the country, about 2% of the population is equally at ease in English and French.

Other highlights show:

- Nearly nine out of 10 Canadians can speak English. About half of adults with French mother tongue indicated at least a good ability to speak English.
- About 35% of Canadians can speak French and 12% of adults with English mother tongue reported at least a good ability to speak French.
- In Quebec, 95% of the population has at least a good ability to speak French (49% English). Four of 10 adults with French mother tongue can speak English; 60% of those with English mother tongue can speak French.

- In the nine other provinces, 99% of the population can speak English (14% French). Among adults with French mother tongue, nine out of 10 speak English, while 10% of those with English mother tongue report having at least a good ability to speak French.
- Two out of 10 Canadians have at least a good ability to speak a non-official language. This proportion rises to about 90% for adults with a mother tongue other than English or French.

ANNEX 2B: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - March 15, 1989
"GSS - Cycle 2 - TIME USE AND SOCIAL MOBILITY, 1986"

**General Social Survey:
Time Use Module
1986**

Canadians aged 15 years and older spend 18% of their time each week on activities related to work and education, 46% on sleep and other personal activities, 13% on domestic work, care of children and shopping, and 23% on leisure activities.

On any given day in an average week, Canadians spend 4.4 hours alone, excluding time spent asleep or on other personal activities. Men average 4.1 hours alone, and women average 4.6 hours alone. Females 15-24 spend the least time alone (3.3 hours), while females 65 years of age and over spend the most time alone (6.9 hours).

In comparison, Canadians spend an average of 2.4 hours per day with friends. Persons aged 15 to 24 are more likely to spend time with friends (73% for both women and men) than any other age group. For other age groups, only 36% to 44% spend time with friends on any given day. Males aged 65 and over are the least likely to spend time with friends.

Whether Canadians drive or use public transit, they spend about the same amount of time on transportation. Those who travel by auto (69% of the population) average 78 minutes per day compared to 75 minutes per day for those who use public transportation (11% of the population). Males aged 35 to 44 are the most likely to be in a car on any given day while women aged 65 and over are the least likely. Persons aged 15 to 24 are overwhelmingly the greatest users of public transit (27% versus 7% for older age groups).

**Social Mobility Module
1986**

Among Canadians 15 years and older, one in four have the same educational level as their parents and about 60% have a level of education higher than their parents.

While a large proportion of Canadians have a higher education than their parents, the parents' education still makes a big difference in the determination of that attained by their children. The probability of having at least some college or university education is almost twice as high for the daughters and sons of parents who themselves have attended college or university (about 64%) as it is for the children of parents with an educational level of Grade 10 or less (about 33%). These differences apply equally to women and men.

Other Highlights:

- Media and communication activities (i.e. listening to the radio, watching television, reading books or newspapers, etc.) consume most Canadian leisure time. Each day, 87% of Canadians spend an average of 3.7 hours on such activities. A total of 3 1 hours a day is devoted to watching TV for the 75% of Canadians reporting this activity.
- Approximately 30% of Canadians engage in a sport or hobby on an average day. Overall, Canadians allocate 45 minutes per day to those activities with those persons engaging in sports or hobbies spending an average of 2.6 hours per day. Retired persons have the highest participation rate (46%) in these activities and paid workers have the lowest participation rate (23%).
- On average, nearly one in five Canadians eat a meal at a restaurant each day.

Note: All data reflect average time for a full seven-day week. If averages for the workweek and weekends were calculated separately, we would, of course, observe different patterns.

Intergenerational occupational mobility is also widespread. When occupations are ranked into 10 groups, 88% of women and 77% of men have experienced some degree of occupational mobility (i.e. moved to a different group) in relation to their fathers' occupation.

Upward mobility is more common than downward mobility for both women and men. While 65% of women and 47% of men were upwardly mobile, only 23% of women and 28% of men had occupations that were lower on the scale than their fathers'. (Intergenerational occupational mobility could not be determined from the mothers' occupational status because over 70% of mothers were not classified with a labour-force occupation.)

ANNEX 3: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "PATTERNS OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION IN CANADA"

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The third General Social Survey, carried out in January and February 1988, collected information on two types of personal risk - the risk of accident and criminal victimization - from 9,870 persons 15 years and older. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population throughout the 10 provinces of Canada. The data were gathered by telephone with a response rate of approximately 82%.

The 1988 General Social Survey collected the following types of information: attitudes to various components of the justice system; awareness of victim services; perception of risk with regard to accidents and crime incidents; and information on the kind and number of times the respondent had been involved in an accident or a crime incident during 1987. Each time an accident or criminal victimization was reported, a report was completed collecting details about the incident. In total, 2,404 Accident Incident Reports and 3,808 Crime Incident Reports were completed.

The current presentation covers only the criminal victimization data; the accident data are covered in a separate report.

The risk of victimization (chapter 2).

- An estimated 4.8 million Canadians 15 years and over were victimized by 5.4 million criminal incidents in 1987. Approximately one in three of these incidents were of a violent nature and a further 40% involved crimes against households.
- Among Canadians, the risk of personal victimization is highest for those who are male, young, single, residents of urban areas, and those who are students or unemployed. Greater risks are also faced by those Canadians who frequently engage in evening activities outside the home and among those who regularly use alcohol.
- Rates of household crime are generally greater for households with high incomes, for residences that are rented rather than owned, and for those located in urban areas.
- Risk of both personal and household crime increase from the eastern to the western regions of Canada.

Public reactions to crime and the criminal justice system (chapter 3).

- One in four Canadians indicated that they feel unsafe walking alone in their own neighbourhoods at night. The fear of crime is most frequently expressed by women, the elderly, urban residents, those who are divorced or separated or widowed and those who were victims of robbery or break and enter during the survey year.
- With respect to a number of dimensions of police service, at least one out of two Canadians perceive local police to be doing a good job. Overall, Canadians' views of the courts appear to be less favourable than their views of the police.
- Elderly Canadians and those who have lower levels of education are least likely to be familiar with services and programs intended to assist victims of crime.
- In response to crime, Canadians are most likely to state that they changed their daily activity patterns or installed new locks or burglar alarms and least likely to say that they changed their telephone numbers or took self-defence courses. Defensive behaviour of all types is more common among victims of crime.

The victimization experience (chapter 4).

- Except in the case of robbery, the majority of victimization incidents occurred in or around victims' residences. Almost two out of every three violent victimizations involved offenders with whom victims had some degree of familiarity.
- In total, the economic costs of criminal incidents exceeded one billion dollars in 1987.
- A small number of incidents caused victims to experience difficulties in carrying out their daily activities. Victims did not typically seek medical assistance in the aftermath of incidents involving violence.
- Overall, 40% of the victimization incidents revealed by the GSS came to the attention of the police. When the police did gain knowledge of crime incidents, they were most likely to do so as a result of action taken by the victim.
- In the majority of incidents, victims did not attempt to gain compensation from the courts or from insurance companies.
- In only about one in twenty incidents did victims contact a victim support agency for advice or assistance.

ANNEX 3B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "ACCIDENTS IN CANADA"

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The third General Social Survey, carried out in January and February 1988, collected information on two types of personal risk - the risk of accident and criminal victimization - from 9,870 people age 15 and over. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population throughout the 10 provinces. The data were gathered by telephone with a response rate of approximately 82%.

The 1988 General Social Survey collected the following types of information: attitudes to various components of the justice system; awareness of victim services; perception of risk with regard to accidents and crime incidents; and information on the kind and number of times the respondent had been involved in an accident or a crime incident during 1987. Each time an accident or criminal victimization was reported, a report was completed collecting details about the incident. In total, 2,404 Accident Incident Reports and 3,808 Crime Incident Reports were completed.

The current presentation covers only the accident data; crime victimization data are covered in a separate report.¹

Social and Environmental Factors (Chapter 2):

- An estimated one in five Canadians (3.8 million people) reported having had at least one accident in 1987. In total, these people reported 5.1 million separate incidents.
- Motor vehicle/traffic accidents accounted for one in three incidents reported. Those which occurred while participating in a sports or leisure activity were the next most frequently reported accidents (23%), followed by work-related accidents (21%). Just over one in ten accidents occurred in or around the home (13%).
- People who drank alcohol on a regular basis were more likely to have experienced one or more accidents in the past three years, than those who did not.
- Accident rates tended to be higher in the western provinces.

Consequences of Accidents (Chapter 3):

- Accidents resulted in one or more of the following consequences: personal injuries (79%), hospital care (45%), activity-loss days (79%), or financial loss (39%).
- Almost one out of two accidents resulted in hospital care (45%). In the majority of cases, however, this care was obtained on an out-patient basis, such as in a hospital emergency department. Fewer than one in ten resulted in an overnight stay in hospital (8%).

- In 1987, approximately 51 million activity-loss days, nine million bed-disability days and two million hospital days were attributable to accidents.
- Of all accidents, 36% resulted in the victims' spending one or more days in bed. Accidents in and around the home were somewhat more likely than other types to result in bed-days.
- In 1987, two out of three motor vehicle/traffic incidents resulted in financial loss (66%). Canadians paid approximately 1.1 billion dollars in personal out-of-pocket expenses for accidents. About one out of five sports-related accidents and home accidents resulted in financial loss (19% and 23%, respectively).

Prevention of Accidents (Chapter 4):

- Of the total population, one out of two accidents (52%) was viewed as being the result of carelessness or unsafe activity. In the remaining incidents, respondents stated that the accident was something that could not have been predicted or avoided.
- Personal carelessness was cited by 26% of respondents reporting work-related accidents. In 8% of work-related accidents, the victim stated that unsafe working conditions were responsible for the event.

Overview of Accident Types (Chapter 5):

- In 1987, Canadians reported 1.7 million motor vehicle/traffic accidents. These accidents represented 33% of all incidents.
- Of all motor vehicle accidents, 45% occurred to people under age 25. Thirty-one percent of all motor vehicle accidents involved men age 15-24.
- Almost two out of three (65%) work-related accidents resulted in hospital care.
- About 60% of all work-related accidents happened to people age 25-44.
- Work-related incidents were responsible for 39% of all spine and back injuries.
- Approximately 17 million days of activity-loss, 2.5 million days of bed-disability and .4 million in-patient hospital days resulted from work accidents.
- Of all sports accidents, 65% occurred to men. Of these incidents, 38% were reported by men age 15-24.
- Falls comprised about 43% of all home accidents. With increasing age, falls constituted an increasing proportion of all incidents.

ANNEX 4: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 23, 1990
"GSS - Cycle 4 - EDUCATION AND WORK, 1989"

General Social Survey - Education and Work, 1989

About 43% (5.4 million) of persons employed at the time of the survey reported that their work had been somewhat or greatly affected by the introduction of computers or automated technology in the past five years. Two-thirds of those affected reported that the level of skills required to do their work had increased, 88% stated that their job security had stayed the same or increased and 61% stated that their jobs had become more interesting as a result of this automation.

Highlights

Education Enrolment and Future Plans

- In 1989, 3.3 million (16%) Canadians age 15 years and older reported working towards a diploma or degree. Of these, 40% were seeking a high school diploma, some 30% were studying for a university degree, about 15% were pursuing a diploma or certificate from a community college (including CEGEPs and nursing schools), and 11% were seeking diplomas from a trade, technical or vocational school or business college. Of the 3.3 million individuals enrolled in a diploma or degree program, 8% had not taken any courses in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- In the 12 months before beginning their current educational diploma or degree program, more than two in three of this group had been students and 27% had been employed.
- Close to one in four (4.9 million) adult Canadians intend to start an educational program in the next five years. An estimated 2.3 million (60%) Canadians age 15 to 24 years and 2.2 million (25%) age 25 to 44 years have further educational plans, while only 5% of persons age 45 years and older plan to pursue further studies. Almost one in four Canadians who reported employment as their main activity in 1988 were planning for further education.
- The main reasons given for future education plans were predominantly employment-related: 29% to prepare for a first career, 33% to improve their existing career, 10% to make a career change and 10% to improve their earnings. Only 15% stated that their main reason behind plans for further education was an interest in the subject.

- Females were slightly more likely than males to have plans for further education. Women were also more likely to be planning further education in order to get a first job, to change jobs or careers or because they were interested in the subject. Men, in contrast, were more likely than women to indicate increased earnings as a main reason for further education.

Use of Computers

- Among Canadians who were employed at the time of the survey, one-third (4.3 million) reported using computers in their job and more than half (58%) used the computer an average of 10 or more hours per week.
- An estimated 9.6 million adult Canadians (47%) reported being able to use a computer for some purpose, with little difference between males (48%) and females (46%). About 74% of the population age 15 to 24 years reported having this ability, compared with 58% of 25 to 44 year olds and only 22% of individuals age 45 or older.
- Nearly one in three Canadians (6.4 million) reported having taken a course on how to use computers. About 58% of persons 15 to 24 years old had taken a computer course, compared with only 14% of individuals 45 years of age or older.

Retirement

- Of those employed in 1988, 43% reported plans to retire before age 65, 14% at age 65 and only 1% after age 65. An additional 7% indicated they did not plan to retire and 34% did not know when they would retire.
- Retirement plans differ considerably by age. Baby boomers (persons age 25 to 44 years) were most likely to indicate plans for an early retirement, with about half of this age group choosing this option.
- The survey showed that about 62% of Canadians (12.6 million) do not support mandatory retirement. Of the one in three who believe it is a good idea, men are slightly more likely to favour mandatory retirement than women. Canadians age 45 years and over are somewhat more supportive of mandatory retirement than are younger persons.



ANNEX 5: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 24, 1991
"GSS - Cycle 5 - FAMILY AND FRIENDS, 1990"

General Social Survey - Family and Friends

1990

The 1990 General Social Survey collected data on contact with family members and friends, birth history of children, fertility intentions, marriage and common-law unions, household help and social support networks. Selected data from this fifth cycle of the GSS are now available. A public-use microdata file is scheduled for release in the spring of 1991.

Highlights

Marriage and Common-law Unions

- In 1990, 70% of Canadians aged 18-64 years had been married at least once, while 28% (compared to 16% in 1984) had lived or were living in common-law unions. Some 58% of persons in this age group were married and living with their spouse in 1990, 9% were living common-law and 32% were living outside marriage and common-law unions.
- Those living common-law represented 22% of all unmarried (never married, divorced, separated or widowed) Canadians aged 18-64 years. However, this proportion varied widely by province, from a high of 33% in Quebec to a low of 15% in the Atlantic provinces. Closer to the national average were the Western provinces of Manitoba (21%), Saskatchewan (20%), Alberta (22%), and British Columbia (19%). In Ontario, the proportion was 16%.
- Among younger Canadians, living common-law is often a prelude to marriage: some 37% of currently married people aged 18-29 years and 28% of those aged 30-39 years had lived in a common-law union with their spouse before marrying. By contrast, common-law unions preceded marriage for only 12% of those aged 40-49 years and 4% of those aged 50-64 years.

Raising Children

- In 1990, as in 1984, two-thirds of women aged 18-64 years had given birth to children. However, the proportion of younger women having children has decreased: to 30% of women aged 18-29 years from 35% in 1984, and to 76% of women aged 30-39 years from 80% six years earlier.

- In 1990, nearly 6% of men and just over 3% of women aged 18-64 years had raised step-children, up from 4% of men and 2% of women in 1984. The higher percentages for men reflect the fact that, after divorce, women more often have custody of children and are more apt to bring them to a new marriage.

Fertility Intentions

- Of Canadians aged 15-44 years, 50% intend to have a child or have additional children in the future. Another 9% are uncertain of their future plans. The remaining 40% indicate that they or their spouse/partner do not intend to have children and for more than half of them it is because of sterility or infertility.
- Some 76% of persons aged 15-44 years with no children intend to have children in the future: 48% of those with one child intend to have another child and only 9% of those with two or more children have such intentions.

Support Systems

- Among married persons, husbands (62%) were more likely to turn to their spouse for emotional support than were wives (51%). Wives (19%) were more likely to turn to friends for emotional support than were their husbands (11%).
- Among unmarried persons, women (46%) were almost as likely to turn to friends for emotional support as men (49%).

Second-generation Immigrants

- More than one in three Canadians (37%) aged 15 years and over have at least one foreign-born parent and 18% were themselves born outside Canada.
- Older Canadians are more likely to have a foreign-born parent: 50% of those 75 years and older compared to only 32% of those aged 15-24 years.