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MAJOR RELEASES

- Health reports, fourth quarter 1994**

Women in the Thunder Bay District in Ontario and Cumberland County in Nova Scotia had unusually high hysterectomy rates. In contrast, women living in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver had very low hysterectomy rates.

OTHER RELEASES

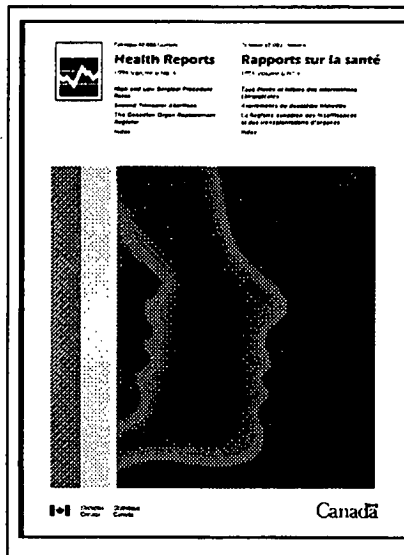
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Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending February 21, 1995

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Health reports

Fourth quarter 1994

This issue of *Health reports* contains two research papers. The first deals with high and low surgical procedure rates associated with 39 commonly-performed operations. Data are presented at the subprovincial level for all provinces (excluding Prince Edward Island). The second article focuses on trends and medical complications related to second trimester abortions (abortions performed at 13 to 24 weeks of gestation). A special article that describes the Canadian Organ Replacement Register is also featured.

The fourth quarter 1994 (Vol. 6, No. 4) issue of *Health reports* (82-003, \$28/\$112) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For more information, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division.



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New CD-ROM

Labour force historical review, a new compact disc, presents monthly results and annual averages from the labour force survey for 1976 to 1994. With this new product labour market data spanning three decades is available at the click of a mouse. A new software, "Ivision Browser™", allows you to easily modify the dimensions of the data, quickly create charts and maps, print, or transfer data to other software packages. The disc contains 42 tables corresponding to the publication *Labour force annual averages* and includes methodological notes as well as an article analyzing the Canadian labour market between 1976 and 1994. *Labour force historical review* is now available for only \$395 from any Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. Don't miss this opportunity to put a wealth of labour market information at your fingertips.

MAJOR RELEASES

Surgical procedure rates

Women in the Thunder Bay District in Ontario and Cumberland County in Nova Scotia had unusually high hysterectomy rates. In contrast, women living in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver had very low hysterectomy rates.

Hysterectomy rates vary widely across Canada. For example, Cumberland County's rate was 1,137 hysterectomies for every 100,000 women per year, compared with the national rate of 457. In the Thunder Bay District, 767 women out of every 100,000 had a hysterectomy.

It was a different story in the three major metropolitan areas, where rates were unusually low. In Toronto, 347 women out of every 100,000 had a hysterectomy, similar to rates in Vancouver (356) and Montreal (361).

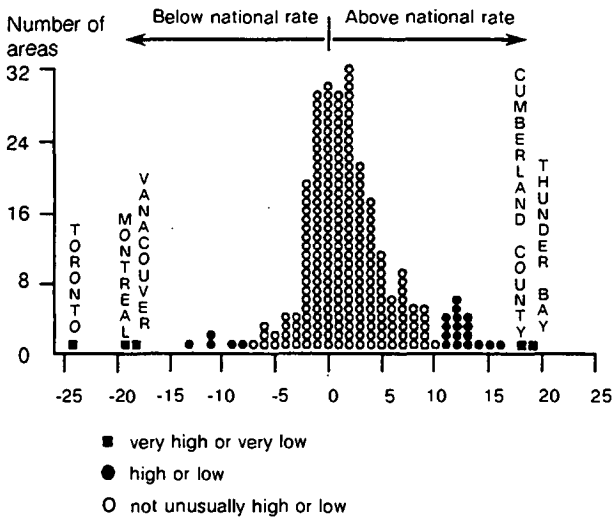
Hysterectomy exhibited far more unusually high and low rates than any other surgical procedure; 19 areas had unusually high rates (of which two were considered very high), and eight had unusually low rates (of which three were very low).

Note to users

"High and low surgical procedure rates in census divisions across Canada" is a national study of surgical procedure rates in subprovincial areas. It analyzes rates of 39 commonly-performed surgical procedures in 255 census divisions (geographical areas similar in size to counties defined for use in the census of population). The study is the first to identify areas across Canada with unusually high or low procedure rates compared with national rates. Among these high and low rates, some were far enough from the national rate to be designated as very high or very low rates. Statistical adjustments were used to give areas with smaller populations more leeway than larger areas in differing from the national rate, because smaller areas exhibit more random variation.

The study is population-based, as opposed to hospital-based; that is, rates are based on the patient's residence, regardless of where the surgery took place. The study covers surgery rates for a two-year period from April 1988 through to March 1990, using hospital records maintained by the Health Statistics Division at Statistics Canada. These are the most recently available nationwide data for these subprovincial areas.

Differences between 255 area hysterectomy rates and national hysterectomy rate¹



¹ Differences were adjusted for population size

Variation in these and other types of surgery rates is of considerable importance. It raises the question of why rates are so high in one place and so low in another when there is no obvious association with variations in health status. For example, residents of areas with heavier hospital use are not necessarily in poorer health. Both too much and too little surgery may result in serious health outcomes and have major financial and personal implications.

Surgical procedure rates vary across geographical areas for a number of reasons beyond normal random variation. Individuals living in different places may not have the same access to medical resources such as physicians, surgeons, nurses, and hospital beds, and the method of paying physicians may vary. Also, doctors may use different clinical criteria to determine whether a procedure will be performed.

Moderate variation in coronary bypass rates

Rates of coronary bypass showed a moderate amount of variation across Canada. The major exception was a very high rate for Sudbury, where 114 individuals out of every 100,000 underwent the operation (compared to a national rate of 47.4). Of the six unusually high or low rates noted for coronary bypass, all were in Ontario, suggesting a high rate of variation within the province. Similarly, a recent study of Ontario surgical rates by the Institute for Clinical

Evaluative Sciences found large differences in coronary artery bypass rates among Ontario counties.

Cesarean section rates high in British Columbia

Rates of cesarean section varied less than hysterectomy rates but more than coronary artery bypass rates. Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District in British Columbia had an unusually high cesarean section rate, 967 for every 100,000 women per year. Quebec City had a very low rate of 366. Almost all of the 27 cesarean section rates analyzed for British Columbia were above the national rate of 557.

Teaching hospital areas have low rates

The study also focused on surgical procedure rates for the areas containing medical schools and their associated teaching hospitals. Residents of these 16 locations had remarkably low procedure rates. In fact, every rate designated by the study as being very low and half of the rates designated as being low were in these places. This monopolization of low rates by areas with medical schools and teaching hospitals was observed, for example, for cesarean section, implantation of cardiac pacemaker, nephrectomy (kidney removal), prostatectomy, radical mastectomy, spinal fusion, and splenectomy.

Areas with teaching hospitals may exhibit lower rates because of the increased presence of medical personnel with current, specialized knowledge, and of students who scrutinize medical decisions and activities. The lower rates near teaching hospitals may also reflect problems transmitting knowledge of appropriate clinical practice from teaching hospitals to medical practitioners in other locations.

Overall, for 39 surgical procedures, the study identified 48 very high rates, 254 high rates, 21 very low rates, and 79 low rates among the 255 areas analyzed. Very high or high rates were found more than three times as often as very low or low rates.

A document containing procedure rates for all areas and procedures is available for \$30 (hard copy) or \$55 (hard copy plus diskette) from Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Health Statistics Division.

"High and low surgical procedure rates in census divisions across Canada" is a feature article in the fourth quarter 1994 (vol. 6, no. 4) issue of *Health reports* (82-003, \$28/\$112), which is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Dr. Jane Gentleman (613-951-8553), Health Statistics Division, or Dr. Eugene Vayda (416-967-6461), University of Toronto. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Youth custody and probation

1993-1994

In 1993-94, 78,010 cases heard in youth courts, two thirds of the total, resulted in a guilty verdict. Probation was the most significant disposition (39% of cases), while a term of custody was ordered in 33% of cases. Other dispositions handed down in youth courts were community service orders (13%), fines (7%) and absolute discharges (3%). The remaining 5% of youth court cases with a guilty verdict resulted in dispositions of compensation, apologies, or counselling. Youth courts, established under the *Young Offenders Act*, hear the cases of young offenders aged 12 to 17.

Of the one-third of cases resulting in a term of custody, 19% were open custody dispositions while 14% were for secure custody. A facility is considered 'open' when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. Work camps, community based correctional facilities and group homes are considered open security. A facility is considered 'secure' when youths are detained by security devices, including those with full perimeter security features, and/or are under constant observation. Males accounted for 87% of all youths sentenced to open custody and 90% of those sentenced to secure custody.

On an average day in 1993-94, there were 4,921 young offenders in custodial facilities across Canada, an increase of 5% over 1992-93. Forty-three percent of young offenders were being held in open custody, 39% in secure custody and 18% were on remand. Remand status refers to individuals who are detained in custody while awaiting a further court appearance.

Volume 15, No.7 of the *Juristat service bulletin: youth custody and probation in Canada, 1993-94* (85-002, \$5/\$60) is now available. This *Juristat* employs data from the youth court survey and the young offender key indicator report survey.

For further information contact Information and Client Services (1- 800-387-2231, 613-951-9023; fax 613-951-6615), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Railway Carloadings

Seven day period ending February 21, 1995

The number of railway cars loaded in Canada during the seven day period increased 3.7% from the same period one year earlier. Revenue-freight loaded increased 6.9% to 4.6 million tonnes.

Piggyback traffic tonnage, which is included in total carload traffic, increased 9.5% during the same period.

Tonnage of revenue-freight loaded as of February 21, 1995 increased 19.8% from the previous year.

For further information, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Construction Type Plywood

January 1995

Firms produced 150 140 cubic metres of construction type plywood in January 1995, an increase of 1.7% from the 147 686 cubic metres produced in January 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The January 1995 issue of the *Construction type plywood* (35-001, \$6/\$60) will be available at a later date. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9. ■

Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia

January 1995

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 803 837 cubic metres of lumber and ties in January 1995, a decrease of 6.1% from the 2 986 122 cubic metres produced in January 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2).

The January 1995 issue of *Production, shipments and stocks on hand of Sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$8/\$80) will be available at a later date. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9. ■

Other dairy products industries

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other dairy products industries (SIC 1049) totalled \$3,840.7 million, down 3.1% from \$3,964.4 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5386.

The data for this industry will be released in *Food industries* (32-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

Other food products industries including malt and malt flour industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other food products industries including malt and malt flour industry (SIC 1098) totalled \$3,463.6 million, down 2.7% from \$3,561.3 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5400.

The data for this industry will be released in *Food industries* (32-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

Book publishing industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the book publishing industry (SIC 2831) totalled \$1,054.0 million, up 8.5% from \$971.5 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5500.

The data for this industry will be released in *Printing, publishing and allied industries* (36-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Suzanne Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division. ■

Agricultural implement industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the agricultural implement industry (SIC 3111) totalled \$1,104.8 million, up 29.0% from \$856.8 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5541.

The data for this industry will be released in *Machinery industries (except electrical machinery)* (42-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Commercial refrigeration and air conditioning equipment industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the commercial refrigeration and air conditioning equipment industry (SIC 3121) totalled \$342.3 million, down 13.6% from \$396.0 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5542.

The data for this industry will be released in *Machinery industries (except electrical machinery)* (42-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Compressor, pump and industrial fan industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the compressor, pump and industrial fan industry (SIC 3191) totalled \$801.6 million, up 21.5% from \$660.0 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5543.

The data for this industry will be released in *Machinery industries (except electrical machinery)* (42-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Motor vehicle fabric accessories industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle fabric accessories industry (SIC 3257) totalled \$1,636.1 million, up 12.0% from \$1,461.4 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5561.

The data for this industry will be released in *Transportation equipment industries* (42-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515), Industry Division. ■

Other electrical products industries not elsewhere classified

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other electrical products industries n.e.c. (SIC 3399) totalled \$499.3 million, down 3.5% from \$517.2 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5586.

The data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Other non-metallic mineral products industries not elsewhere classified

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other non-metallic mineral products industries (SIC 3599) totalled \$258.7 million, down 6.4% from \$276.3 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6864.

The data for this industry will be released in *Non-metallic mineral industries* (44-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Suzanne Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division. ■

Other instruments and related products industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other instruments and related products industry (SIC 3912) totalled \$939.3 million, up 7.3% from \$875.4 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6885.

The data for this industry will be released in *Other manufacturing industries* (47-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Suzanne Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Statistics Canada publication list
Catalogue number 11-209

Crude petroleum and natural gas production,
December 1994

Catalogue number 26-006

(Canada: \$11/\$110; United States: US\$14/US\$132;
other countries: US\$16/US\$154)

Canada's mineral production: preliminary
estimates, 1994

Catalogue number 26-202

(Canada: \$24; United States: US\$29; other countries:
US\$34)

Health reports, 1994, vol. 6, No. 4

Catalogue number 82-003

(Canada: \$28/\$112; United States: US\$34/US\$135;
other countries: US\$40/US\$157)

Juristat: Youth custody and probation in Canada,
1993-94, vol. 15, No. 7

Catalogue number: 85-002

(Canada: \$5/\$60; United States: US\$6/US\$72; other
countries: US\$7/US\$84)

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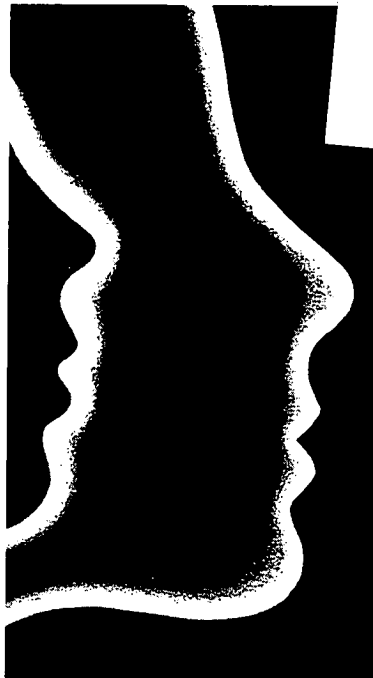
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