

Health Fact Sheets

Primary health care, 2015



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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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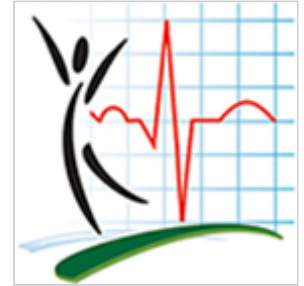
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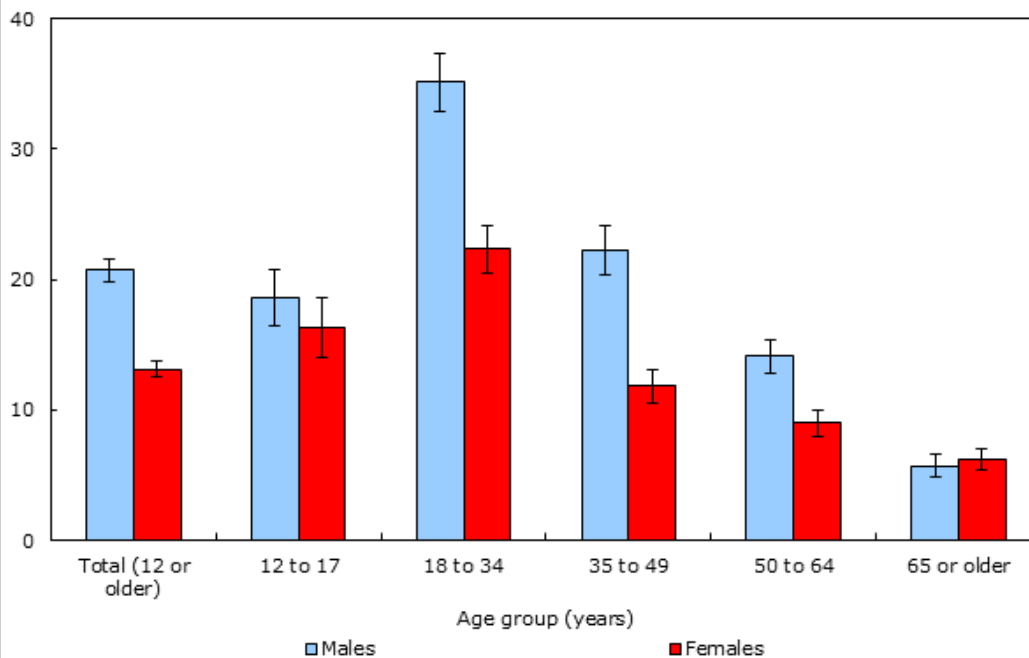


In 2015, 16.8% of Canadians aged 12 or older, or roughly 5.0 million people, reported that they did not have a regular health care provider they see or talk to when they need care or advice for their health.¹ Significantly more males (20.7%) than females (13.1%) reported they were without a regular health care provider.²

Among both sexes, the proportion of those without a primary health care provider was highest among those aged 18 to 34. Males were more likely (35.1%) to report that they did not have a health care provider compared with females (22.3%). The group that had the lowest proportion of people without a health care provider were Canadians aged 65 or older (around 6% for both males and females; Chart 1).

Chart 1
Percentage without a primary health care provider, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2015

percent



Note: A regular health care provider is defined as a health professional that a person sees or talks to when they need care or advice about their health. This can include a family doctor or general practitioner, medical specialist, or nurse practitioner.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2015.

The proportion of residents who were without a primary health care provider was **lower** than the national average (16.8%) in:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (11.9%)
- Prince Edward Island (11.3%)
- Nova Scotia (11.3%)
- New Brunswick (9.2%)

- Ontario (10.4%)

The proportion of residents who were without a primary health care provider was **higher** than the national average in:

- Quebec (27.8%)
- Alberta (19.5%)

The proportion of residents who were without a primary health care provider was similar to the national average in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Manitoba.

In 2015, Aboriginals³ were more likely to report they did not have a primary health care provider (20.8%) compared to the non-Aboriginal population (16.1%).

Of the 5.0 million people without a primary health care provider, the most commonly reported reasons were that they had not tried to find one (27.4%) or that they did not need one, but had a usual place of care (28.0%).⁴

About primary health care

For many Canadians, the first point of contact for medical care is their regular health care provider. Being without a regular health care provider is associated with fewer visits to general practitioners or specialists, who can play a role in the early screening and treatment of medical conditions.

A regular health care provider is defined as a health professional that a person sees or talks to when they need care or advice about their health. This can include a family doctor or general practitioner, medical specialist, or nurse practitioner.

References

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Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from [CANSIM](#) table 105–0508.

Notes

- 1 Estimates in this article referring to the national average or Canada rate exclude the territories. This is because the coverage of [CCHS](#) in 2015 does not represent the entire population of the territories. Only half of the communities in the territories were visited in 2015, and the other half in 2016 so analyses based on the territories is only available for two year cycles of the [CCHS](#) (e.g. 2015-2016).
- 2 In this article when two estimates are said to be different this indicates that the difference was statistically significant at a 95% confidence level (p-value less than 5%).

- 3 Aboriginal status is based on self-identification as First Nations, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit). The CCHS does not survey on reserve, therefore the numbers in this fact sheet reflect only Aboriginals living off reserve.
- 4 Respondents could have reported more than one reason for not having a primary health care provider, so estimates are not exclusive within the population (they can add to more than 100%). Respondents could have also indicated: no providers were available in the area, no one in the area is taking patients, that their provider had left or retired, or other. Each of these four reasons was indicated by around 17.5% of respondents without a primary health care provider.