
Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name: **Canada Health Survey**

Thematic Coverage: This survey collected information on the lifestyle and health of Canadians, complementing existing administrative databases.

Maintained by: Health Statistics Division

Availability: A public release version of the data files is available through the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI). Some variables are suppressed and other are aggregated to protect the anonymity of individual survey respondents. Custom tabulations are also available on a cost recovery basis.

Start Date: 1978
Release Date: N/A – Discontinued
Frequency of collection: One time

Data Collection: Sample survey of all persons 15 years of age or older living in Canada excluding residents of the Territories and full-time residents of institutions. Data was obtained from 100% telephone interview.

Sample size: 31,668 households

Geographic coverage: All provinces, excluding all territories and full time residents of institutions

Lowest geographic level collected: Postal Code
Lowest geographic level of release: Province
Existing rural variable: No

Rural definitions that can be constructed from this database include (building block)[†]:

- ✓ Rural and Small Town definition (Census Sub-Division)
- ✓ Metropolitan area and census agglomeration Influenced Zones (Census Sub-Division)
- ✓ OECD “rural communities” definition (Census Consolidated Subdivision)
- ✓ OECD “predominantly rural regions” definition (Census Division)
- ✓ Ehrensaft’s “Beale codes” (Census Division)

[†] Results for these areas of geography could conceivably be derived from postal codes if respondent confidentiality is ensured.

Data Elements:

- Heart diseases, by factors causing heart problems, Blood pressure and cholesterol, control methods used
- Exercises for sustenance of good health, by type
- Smoking habits, social acceptance, restrictions and public opinions
- Risk of sexually transmitted disease
- Alcohol consumption, quantity, frequency and reasons for
- Drugs and medicines, use and abuse, by type

- Dental health
- Health concerns for government

Notes:

An extensive report was written on the findings of this survey; see Statistics Canada's *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey* (STC 82-538).