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## Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

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Database name: **Maternity Experiences Survey**

Thematic Coverage: This survey collects data on perinatal health determinants and outcomes for Canada and provides an opportunity to assess the views and needs of women directly with regard to their reproductive health care and just how well health care services in Canada are meeting the objectives for care. It also collects information for in-depth examination of selected population subgroups deemed to be at higher risk for adverse perinatal health outcomes such as recent immigrants, refugees and teenage mothers (<20 years old).

Maintained by: Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada

Availability: A public version of the file 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 available on a cost recovery basis

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Start Date: 2003  
Release Date: Approximately 14 months after reference period  
Frequency of collection: One time

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Data Collection: All women who have had a live birth in the months preceding this survey will be surveyed using a data collection instrument developed by the Maternity Experiences Study Group of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System.

Sample size: Approximately 7000 women

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Geographic coverage: All provinces, excluding residents of Territories, inmates of institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and residents of First Nation reserves.

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)<sup>†</sup>:

- ✓ Census "rural areas" (Enumeration Area)
- ✓ Rural and Small Town definition (Census Subdivision)
- ✓ Metropolitan area and census agglomeration Influenced Zones (Census Subdivision)
- ✓ OECD "rural communities" definition (Census Consolidated Subdivision)
- ✓ OECD "predominantly rural regions" definition (Census Division)
- ✓ Ehrensaft's "Beale codes" (Census Division)

<sup>†</sup> Results for these areas of geography could conceivably be derived from postal codes if respondent confidentiality is ensured.

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Data Elements:

- Sociodemographic information
- General health
- Reproductive history
- Sexuality and contraception
- Conception/finding out about pregnancy
- Folic acid use
- Care during pregnancy
- Feelings/support during pregnancy
- Labour and delivery, Complications during pregnancy
- Postpartum care, Infant feeding
- Smoking, Alcohol use, Illicit drug use during pregnancy
- Physical/sexual abuse

Notes:

For more information, contact the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System  
[cpss@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cpss@hc-sc.gc.ca)