
Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name: **Survey on Aging and Independence**

Thematic Coverage: This survey collects information to provide a "baseline" on factors important to remaining independent in the community as one ages and to measure a wide range of characteristics of Canadians, 45 years of age and older.

Maintained by: Special Surveys Division

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 also available on a cost recovery basis.

Start Date: 1991
Release Date: 18 months after the reference period
Frequency of collection: Occasional

Data Collection: All persons 45 years and older using Random Digit Dialing sampling system. Pre-selected respondents were given a 30 minute telephone interview.

Sample size: 20,036; weighted to the Canadian population

Geographic coverage: All provinces, excluding residents of the Territories, inmates of institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and residents of Indian reserves. These exceptions represent less than 3% of the populations.

Lowest geographic level collected: Postal Code
Lowest geographic level of release: Region (BC, Prairies, ON, QB, Maritimes)
Existing rural variable: Yes, (only available from master data file)

The "area of residence" variable codes for the following categories:

- URBAN AREAS POPULATION 500,000 OR MORE
- URBAN AREAS POPULATION 100,000 - 499,999
- URBAN AREAS POPULATION 30,000 - 99,999
- URBAN AREAS POPULATION 15,000 - 29,999
- SMALL URBAN AREAS
- RURAL AREAS

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

- ✓ 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)

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

Data Elements:

- Demography
- Education, Literacy, Training
- General Health

Notes:

For more information, contact the Special Surveys Division, ssd@statcan.ca