
Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name:	Southam Medical Database
Thematic Coverage:	This database collects interprovincially comparable and up-to-date information on the supply, distribution and migration (interprovincial and international) patterns of Canadian physicians.
Maintained by:	CIHI
Availability:	Data disclosure is determined by CIHI's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy (see www.cihi.ca). If privacy and confidentiality criteria are met, data can be released at the sub-provincial level. Costs are dependent upon the level data required, plus programming and processing fees.

Start Date:	1980
Release Date:	Release dates of publications vary. CIHI also responds to research and analysis requests.
Frequency of collection:	Annual

Data Collection:	CIHI purchases data from the Business Information Group, a division of Holliger Canadian Newspaper L.P, formerly Southam Medical Group, a division of Southam Inc.
------------------	--

Sample size:	Over 50,000 active civilian physicians in Canada
--------------	--

Geographic coverage:	Provinces and territories
Lowest geographic level collected:	Postal Code of physician's practice
Lowest geographic level of release:	Forward Sortation Area or Enumeration Area depending on request
Existing rural variable:	No

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:

- Demographics
- Specialty (most recent certified medical specialty)
- Primary medical interested (self-reported)
- Activity Status (e.g. active, abroad, etc.)
- Registration status
- Hospital affiliation and appointment
- Country, school and year of M.D. graduation

Notes:

Some mailing addresses may not reflect actual practice locations.

There is no variable indicating medical activity status.

For more information, contact smdb@cihi.ca