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## Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

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Database name:	<b>Youth Smoking Survey</b>
Thematic Coverage:	This survey collects information and estimates of adolescent smoking behaviour and attitudes towards tobacco use in Canada. Data from this survey helps to evaluate public information programs directed to Canadian youth about the health risks associated with smoking. Information also serves to reinforce the assessments to the Tobacco Act and the Tobacco Products Control Act.
Maintained by:	Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada
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:	1994
Release Date:	Approximately 14 months after the reference period
Frequency of collection:	Occasional (most recent in 2002)
Data Collection:	<p>This survey consists of two components:</p> <p>Labour Force Survey – Up to 11 current and previous LFS rotation groups will be used in each province. In households with persons 15-19 years old, all persons of this age will be interviewed by telephone either during the LFS collection or during a follow-up telephone call. In some rotation groups, households with children of specific ages are being excluded in order to avoid overlap with households being selected for the National Longitudinal Survey of Children.</p> <p>School portion – Formal approval will be obtained from school boards to conduct the survey in schools in their jurisdiction. A sample of schools will be selected in each province, followed by a sample of classes of students 10-14 years old (approximately 80 classes per province). A classroom session will be arranged during which questionnaires will be distributed to be self-completed by students with assistance from the interviewer as required. A telephone interview was conducted with the parent.</p>
Sample size:	9,491 persons 15-19 (LFS portion); 14,270 persons 10-14 (school portion), representing the 3.88 million people aged 10 to 19 in Canada. The sample is large enough for estimates by single years of age and for all 10 provinces.

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Geographic coverage: Youths aged 10 to 19 as of September 1, 1994 from all provinces, excluding persons on Indian reserves or living in institutions.

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

Rural definitions that can be constructed from this database include (building block)<sup>†</sup>:

- ✓ 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:

- Demography
- Education, Literacy, Training
- General Health
- Smoking behaviours, habits, consumption and attitudes of young Canadians
- Health status indicators
- Social behaviour

#### Notes:

The surveying is done through the school system to ensure a good representation of youths from different economic backgrounds and regions.

Low smoking prevalence in the lower age categories provides for some limits in the uses of the data for 10 to 14 year olds. The different data collection methods should also be taken into consideration when comparing the two age groups.

The LFS uses a rotating panel sample design so that selected dwellings remain in the LFS sample for six consecutive months. One feature is that each of the six rotation groups can be used as a representative sample by itself.

The technical report of the 1994 Youth Smoking Survey can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/tobacco/research/archive/survey94/yss.html>

For more information, contact [TCP-PLT-questions@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:TCP-PLT-questions@hc-sc.gc.ca)