

For immediate release

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Dr. Roger Pitblado sheds light on distribution and movement of Canada's health care workforce

Sudbury (Ontario) – Today, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released a series of reports shedding light on the internal movement of Canada's health care workforce. Dr. Roger Pitblado, retired geographer of Laurentian University and senior research fellow of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research, is the principal investigator in this study.

Distribution and Internal Migration of Canada's Health Care Workforce is the first major Canadian study on the geographic distribution of the majority of Canada's health care workers. In addition to physicians and nurses, 25 occupational groups have been taken into account in the series of reports, including laboratory technicians, audiologists, physiotherapists, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists and ambulance attendants.

“Health care is a complex enterprise relying heavily on the skills and efforts of many individuals,” says Dr. Pitblado. “These analyses of our health human resources’ distribution and migration patterns are important because they reflect on some of the most critical issues related to the quality of health services in our country: recruitment, retention and accessibility.”

Based primarily on census data provided by Statistics Canada for the census years 1991, 1996 and 2001, the series of reports include, for each health occupation, description and analyses of: 1) supply; 2) age and sex characteristics and changes over time; 3) health care provider-to-population ratios for Canada, as well as by province/territory and census division; 4) rural-urban distributions, 5) intra-provincial and inter-provincial migration rates; and 6) rural-urban migration patterns.

All reports are available for downloading, in both English and French, on the CIHI website: www.cihi.ca.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) provides timely, accurate and comparable information. Its data and reports inform health policies, support the effective delivery of health services and raise awareness among Canadians of the factors that contribute to good health.

- 30 -

Source:

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