

Has a Regular Health Care Provider

Name	Has a Regular Health Care Provider
Short/Other Names	Percentage of Population With a Regular Health Care Provider
Description	The percentage of the population that reported having a regular health care provider A regular health care provider is defined as a health professional that a person sees or talks to when he or she needs care or advice about health. This can include a family doctor or general practitioner, a medical specialist or a nurse practitioner.
Interpretation	Higher percentages are desirable.
HSP Framework Dimension	Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services
Areas of Need	Getting Better
Geographic Coverage	All provinces/territories
Reporting Level /Disaggregation	National, Province/Territory, Region
Indicator Results	Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth
Identifying Information	
Name	Has a Regular Health Care Provider
Short/Other Names	Percentage of Population With a Regular Health Care Provider
Indicator Description and Calculation	
Description	The percentage of the population that reported having a regular health care provider A regular health care provider is defined as a health professional that a person sees or talks to when he or she needs care or advice about health. This can include a family doctor or general practitioner, a medical specialist or a nurse practitioner. Population age 12 and older who reported that they have a regular health care provider divided by the total population age 12 and older
Calculation: Description	Population estimates are based on weighted survey responses to reflect the total population.
Calculation: Geographic Assignment	Place of residence
Calculation: Type of Measurement	Percentage or proportion
Calculation: Adjustment Applied	None
Calculation: Method of Adjustment	Not applicable
Denominator	Description: Population age 12 and older (based on weighted survey responses) Exclusions: Non-response categories (refusal, don't know and not stated) are excluded as of 2009.
Numerator	Description: Population age 12 and older who reported that they have a regular health care provider (based on weighted survey respondents)
Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks	
Rationale	On a daily basis, many Canadians receive health care services, usually through nurse practitioners, general practitioners or family physicians. Having a regular health care provider is an important source of disease prevention and management. Factors affecting whether a person has a regular health care provider include age and sex. In 2016, the most common reason respondents gave for not having a regular health care provider was that they had not looked for one.
Interpretation	Higher percentages are desirable.
HSP Framework Dimension	Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services
Areas of Need	Getting Better
Targets /Benchmarks	Not applicable

Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Experiences With Primary Health Care in Canada*. 2016.

Statistics Canada. [Primary health care providers, 2016](#). Accessed January 10, 2018.

Referen
ces Commonwealth Fund. [International Survey Data Center](#). Accessed January 10, 2018.

Statistics Canada. [Canadian Community Health Survey — Annual component \(CCHS\)](#). Accessed January 22, 2018.

Canadian Research Data Centre Network. [The Canadian Community Health Survey: What's New in the 2015 Cycle?](#) [PPT presentation]. January 25, 2017.

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources CCHS, Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 105-0509: Canadian health characteristics, two year period estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories and health regions, CANSIM (database); 2016 International Health Policy Survey, The Commonwealth Fund.

Type of Year:

Calendar

Available
Data Years **First Available Year:**

2015

Last Available Year:

2016

Geographic
Coverage All provinces/territories

Reporting
Level National, Province/Territory, Region

/Disaggregation

Result Updates

Update Frequency Every year

Web Tool:

Your Health System: In Depth

Indicator Results **URL:**

[Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth](#)

Updates Not applicable

Quality Statement

Data for the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is collected yearly from a sample of approximately 65,000 respondents. CANSIM Table 105-0509 presents estimates from 2-year combined data and features estimates for all provinces and territories as well as for health regions. The 2-year combined data has higher precision (less variability) than annual estimates; annual CCHS estimates are not available at the health region level.

Some values have data quality flags that indicate "use with caution" or "suppressed" due to high coefficients of variation: health regions with small populations and results disaggregated by age group or sex within small regions.

Caveat

s and Limitati
ons The CCHS covers the population age 12 and older living in the 10 provinces and 3 territories. Excluded from the survey's coverage are

- Persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces
- Full-time members of the Canadian Forces
- Children age 12 to 17 living in foster care
- The institutionalized population
- Persons living in 2 Quebec health regions: Nunavik Region and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James Region

Altogether, these exclusions represent less than 3% of the Canadian population age 12 and older.

Trendin

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Issues As a result of a redesign in 2015, the CCHS has a new collection strategy and sample design. For this reason, Statistics Canada does not recommend making comparisons with CCHS data from 2001 to 2014.

This indicator is calculated based on 2 years of pooled data from 2015 and 2016.

Data for Ontario's local health integration networks and British Columbia's regional health authorities was received from Statistics Canada through custom tabulation requests:

Source: Statistics Canada. Selected CCHS Indicators for Ontario by Local Health Integration Network, 2015–2016. February 27, 2018. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.

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Source: Statistics Canada. Selected CCHS Indicators for British Columbia by Regional Health Authority, 2015–2016. March 12, 2018. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.

Indicator results are also available in

- [Your Health System: In Brief](#)