

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.
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 2017, 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 \(PDF\)](#). 2016.

Statistics Canada. [Primary health care providers, 2017](#). Accessed February 20, 2020.

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

Statistics Canada. [Canadian Community Health Survey — Annual component \(CCHS\)](#). Accessed February 20, 2020.

Statistics Canada. [Health characteristics, two-year period estimates](#). Accessed February 20, 2020.

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources CCHS, Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, Table 13-10-0113-01: Health characteristics, two-year period estimates (by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories and health regions); 2016 International Health Policy Survey, The Commonwealth Fund.

Type of Year:

Calendar

Available Data **First Available Year:**

Years 2017

Last Available Year:

2018

Geographic Coverage All provinces/territories

Reporting Level /Disaggregation National, Province/Territory, Region

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

This indicator is calculated based on 2 years of pooled data from 2017 and 2018.

Data for the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is collected yearly from a sample of approximately 65,000 respondents. Table 13-10-0113-01 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.

Caveats and Limitations 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.

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 in other Indigenous 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.

Trending 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.

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

Comm Source: Statistics Canada. Selected CCHS Indicators for Ontario by Local Health Integration Network and British Columbia Regional Health Authority, 2017–2018. January 2020. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.

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Indicator results are also available in

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