

FACTS AND STATS



Access to Medical Doctors in Canada

85% Proportion of Canadians aged 12 and older who reported in 2014 that they have a regular medical doctor^{1,2}

89% & 82% Proportion of women and men in Canada aged 12 and older, respectively, who reported in 2014 that they have a regular medical doctor³

59% & 14% Proportion of Canadians without a regular medical doctor who reported in 2014 that they would use a walk-in clinic and proportion who reported that they would use a hospital emergency room, respectively, when they are sick or in need of health advice⁴

39% & 85% Proportion of Inuit people and the total Canadian population aged 15 and older, respectively, who reported having a regular medical doctor in 2012^{5,6}

10% & 2% Proportion of Canadians who said they have been invited to email their medical doctor with a question, and those who report having done so, respectively⁷

47% Proportion of Canadians who reported having recently used the Emergency Department for a concern that could have been addressed by their regular medical doctor had they been available⁸

67% Proportion of Canadians who said they are usually able to get a same-day answer to a phoned-in question to their medical doctor⁹

62% Proportion of Canadians who reported facing difficulty accessing care outside of regular hours (evenings, weekends, holidays, etc.) without going to a hospital Emergency Department¹⁰

22% & 14% Proportion of Canadians without a regular doctor in 2014 who said they didn't have one because doctors in their area were not taking new patients and proportion who said no doctors were available in their area, respectively¹¹

74% Proportion of Canadians aged 20–34 who reported in 2014 that they have a regular medical doctor (lowest rate among all age groups)¹²

¹ According to Statistics Canada, the term “medical doctor” includes “family or general practitioners as well as specialists such as surgeons, allergists, orthopaedists, gynaecologists or psychiatrists,” although it most commonly refers to family or general practitioners.

² Statistics Canada, *Health Indicator Profile, Annual Estimates, by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces, Territories, Health Regions (2013 Boundaries) and Peer Groups (CANSIM table 105-0501)*, accessed August 27, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1AU6xxC>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Statistics Canada, “Access to a Regular Medical Doctor, 2014,” *Health Fact Sheets*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-625-X (June 2015), accessed July 2, 2015, <http://bit.ly/1GQO32x>.

⁵ According to Statistics Canada, “most Inuit communities are served by a nursing station only and accessing hospital services can require extensive travel.”

⁶ Wallace, Susan, “Inuit Health: Selected Findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey,” *Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-653-X (August 2014), accessed August 28, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1tGmcyk>.

⁷ Health Council of Canada, “Where You Live Matters: Canadian Views on Health Care Quality,” *2013 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of the General Public* (January 2014), accessed July 2, 2015, <http://bit.ly/1gC3qC4>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Statistics Canada, “Access to a Regular Medical Doctor, 2014,” *Health Fact Sheets*, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 89-625-X (June 2015), accessed July 2, 2015, <http://bit.ly/1GQO32x>.

¹² Statistics Canada, *Health Indicator Profile, Annual Estimates, by Age Group and Sex, Canada, Provinces, Territories, Health Regions (2013 Boundaries) and Peer Groups (CANSIM table 105-0501)*, accessed August 27, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1AU6xxC>.