

The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile

A Perspective on Prince Edward Island

The *Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile, 3rd Edition*, is based on a comprehensive review of national and provincial data sources and extensive consultations with experts from many fields.

The *CICH Profile* contains ten chapters and 398 charts pertaining to the health and well-being of children and youth. It provides a relevant and clear picture of where our children are today, and gives some direction for where we might assist them as they explore their futures.

The following information from the *CICH Profile* addresses the health and well-being of children and youth in Prince Edward Island.

Population statistics:

- In Prince Edward Island, 44% of the population lives in an urban area compared to 78% of the entire Canadian population.
- 2% of the population in Prince Edward Island speaks a language other than English or French at home. The figure for Canada was 16% in 1996.
- Fewer than 1% of people in Prince Edward Island are Aboriginal, just less than the Canadian total of 2.8%.
- 29% of Prince Edward Island's residents are under the age of 20 compared with the Canadian average of 27%.
- In 1996, 19% of families in Prince Edward Island were headed by a lone-parent. In the same year, the figure for Canada was also 20%.

Pregnancy and birth statistics:

- In 1995, there were 13 live births per 1,000 population in Prince Edward Island, down from 15 in 1990. The Canadian rates for these two time periods were the same.
- In 1995, 5% of female infants and 4.2% of male infants in Prince Edward Island were born weighing less than 2,500 grams. Low birth weight, particularly very low birth weight, increases the risk of both short and long term health problems.
- In 1996, the rate of congenital anomalies in Prince Edward Island was 408 per 100,000 compared with a national rate of 486/100,000.
- In 1994, the teen pregnancy rate in Prince Edward Island was 32 for every 1,000 women aged between 15 and 19 years. The lowest rate for that year was 32 in both Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and the highest was 137 in the Northwest Territories.

Death rates:

- The infant death rate in Prince Edward Island was 5 in every 1,000 live births in 1995, slightly lower than the over-all Canadian rate of 6/1,000.
- Death rates in Prince Edward Island for all causes were half the national rate for the group aged 10 to 14 years, but higher for youth between 15 and 19 years of age. In this age group, the rate was 90 per 100,000 in 1995, a figure which exceeds all other provinces and is second only to the rate occurring the same year in the Northwest Territories.

Income inequity:

- 18% of children and youth under the age of 18 were living in poverty in Prince Edward Island in 1996 compared to 21% of the same age group across Canada.
- According to 1996 figures, a lone parent with one child would have to work 69 hours a week at the Prince Edward Island minimum wage rate in order to reach the low income cut-offs defined by Statistics Canada and commonly thought of as "poverty lines".
- In 1998, the social assistance rates in Prince Edward Island were such that a lone parent with one child would receive a payment equaling 61% of that needed to reach the "poverty line".

Child care places:

- Prince Edward Island had regulated child care provisions for 15% of children from birth to 12 years of age in 1998. The Canadian rate for the same year was 10%.
- 20% of children in regulated child care in Prince Edward Island were subsidized according to figures compiled for 1998. For the same year, the Canadian rate was 31%, and the range was from 9% to 68%.

Statistics of special interest to Prince Edward Island:

- In 1996-97, Prince Edward Island had twice the Canadian rate of hospitalization for asthma in children and youth aged 1 to 19 years. 791 males and 325 females per 100,000 population were hospitalized during 1996-1997.

For information about the sources of the data, please refer to *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile, 3rd Edition*. To order your copy of the *CICH Profile*, please contact:



Canadian Institute of Child Health

384 Bank Street, Suite 300

Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1Y4

Tel: (613) 230-8838 Fax: (613) 230-6654

E-mail: cich@cich.ca Internet: www.cich.ca

Dedicated to the Health and Well-being of Children and Youth