

The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile

A Perspective on Saskatchewan

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 Saskatchewan.

Population statistics:

- In Saskatchewan, 63% of the population lives in an urban area compared to 78% of the entire Canadian population.
- 13% of the population in Saskatchewan speaks a language other than English or French at home. The figure for Canada was 16% in 1996.
- 11% of people in Saskatchewan are Aboriginal, higher than the Canadian total of 2.8%.
- 31% of Saskatchewan's residents are under the age of 20 compared with the Canadian average of 27%.
- In 1996, 20% of families in Saskatchewan were headed by a lone-parent. The figure for Canada was 20% for the same year.

Pregnancy and birth statistics:

- In 1995, there were 13 live births per 1,000 population in Saskatchewan, down from 16 in 1990. The Canadian rates for these two time periods were 15 in 1990 and 13 in 1995.
- In 1995, 5.6% of female infants and 5.6% of male infants in Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan was 452 per 100,000 compared with a national rate of 486/100,000.
- In 1994, the teen pregnancy rate in Saskatchewan was 63 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 Saskatchewan was 9 in every 1,000 live births in 1995, higher than the overall Canadian rate of 6/1,000.
- Saskatchewan has higher than average death rates for all age groups with the exception of those between 10 and 14 years of age. In both the 1-4 and 5-9 year age group, the rate is over twice the national rate.

Income inequity:

- 22% of children and youth under the age of 18 were living in poverty in Saskatchewan in 1996 compared to 21% of the same age group across Canada.
- According to the 1996 figures, a lone parent with one child would have to work 63 hours a week at the Saskatchewan minimum wage rate in order to reach the low income cut-offs defined by Statistics Canada and commonly thought of as "poverty lines".
- The social assistance rates in Saskatchewan are such that a lone parent with one child would receive a payment equaling 58% of that needed to reach the "poverty line".

Child care places:

- Saskatchewan had regulated child care provisions for 4% of children from birth to 12 years of age in 1998. The Canadian rate for the same year was 10%.
- 51% of children in regulated child care in Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan:

- Death rates in Saskatchewan for all causes were higher than most provinces for all age groups except for youth between 10 and 14 years of age.

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