



Using Statistics Canada Data and Reports for Health Webquests

Tips for Students and Teachers

Introduction

Statistics Canada, in cooperation with other agencies, offers a number of interesting statistics, reports, articles and daily news summaries that can be used in health webquests. In some cases, it is necessary for your school to register with the E-Stats program of Statistics Canada in order to access the reports, articles or statistics. This is free and your teacher can do this by going to this [web page](#). Your school or class will be given a password that you can then use.

E-Stat - the Statistics Canada collection of educational resources includes lesson plans and other tools that have already been prepared for students and teachers. When your school or class [registers with E-Stat](#), you can access statistics drawn from CANSIM II, the Statistics Canada database as well as the Canadian Census database. E-STAT is Statistics Canada's dynamic interactive teaching and learning tool available on the Internet. It is designed to bring an enormous warehouse of timely, reliable and accurate data about Canada and its ever-changing people to educational institutions, using current CANSIM multidimensional tables, and the most recent census data, as well as historical data. E-STAT lets you bring the columns of data to life by presenting them as colourful graphs and maps, which immediately reveal the trends. ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

Health Indicators Statistics – these statistics include national, provincial/territorial and regional breakdowns that enable students and teachers to compare their health statistics to other regions and provinces. In some cases, these statistics can be compared to international studies and reports. ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

Canadian Community Profiles - these statistics contain information from the 1996 and 2001 Census Surveys and include population estimates (i.e. how many people live there), vital statistics data in the form of births and deaths and additional health information. A statistical profile is presented for all Canadian communities (cities, towns, villages, Indian Reserves and Settlements, etc.) for metropolitan areas and for health regions. Information is provided on education, income and work, families and dwellings, births and deaths, general population information, and health information. A mapping page enables you to find the finding your community. ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

Health Reports - a quarterly journal produced by the Health Statistics Division at Statistics Canada, is designed for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy makers, educators, and students. Its mission is to provide high quality, relevant, and comprehensive information on the health status of the population and the health care system. The journal publishes articles of wide interest that contain original and timely analyses of health and vital statistics data. The sources of data are typically national or provincial/territorial administrative databases or surveys. **Health Reports** contains research articles, reports, and data releases. You can access [Health Reports](#) from the E-STAT (Select Table of Contents, then select Data and then select Health under the heading People.) You will need to register with E-Stat to do so. ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

Human Activity and the Environment 2000 contains a collection of environmental statistics, brought together from many sources. The report provides a statistical picture of Canada's environment with special emphasis on human activity and its relationship to natural systems-air, water, soil, plants and animals. You can access [Human Activity and the Environment 2000](#) from the E-STAT (Select Table of Contents, then select Data and then select Environment under the heading Land and Resources.) ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

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[Canadian Social Trends](#) - Understand how the issues of today evolve into key trends that will influence tomorrow's decisions. Use Every issue of this popular quarterly journal delivers: well written articles in an easy-to-read style, trend analysis supported by Statistics Canada data, tables and charts that provide quick reference to the articles' facts and figures, a selection of Social Indicators with the latest time series data, the Lesson Plan — a guide on using *Canadian Social Trends* in the classroom, the information that you need to aid in your research, planning and decision-making processes and more! You can access many of the articles from Canadian Social Trends through E-Stat . ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

[The Daily](#) - is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin, the Agency's first line of communication with the media and the public. The Daily issues news releases on current social and economic conditions and announces new products. It provides a comprehensive one-stop overview of new information available from Statistics Canada ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

[Search for Statistics](#) – is a general jumping off page for access to Statistics Canada data. Use this page if you are looking for statistics on the Statistics Canada web site. ([See our tips](#) for using this resource)

Want to practice your skills on using the Statistics Canada data. Then try these lesson plans with your teacher. The first lesson is on the [Canadian People](#) and the second is on how to use the local statistics from the Community Profiles section of the web site to [see if your community will need babysitters](#). You can also access [User Guides](#) from E-Stat that explain how to use the statistical databases on the Statistics Canada web site.

See below for more specific tips on how to use each of these Statistic Canada resources when you are doing webquests.

Specific and Detailed Tips on Using Statistics Canada Resources for Webquests

[E-Stat](#) - the Statistics Canada collection of educational resources includes lesson plans and other tools that have already been prepared for students and teachers.

Tips:

1. Your school or class will need to [register with E-Stat](#). Then you can access statistics drawn from CANSIM II, the Statistics Canada database as well as the Canadian Census database as well as articles from the journals published by Statistics Canada.
2. Many of our webquests use the statistics and articles that have already been selected and stored in the E-Stat web site. Our webquests will include direct links to those specific items within each webquest, but you may be stopped (electronically) and asked for your username and password. (Don't forget to save your E-Stat username and password on your computer and in a safe place.)
3. Look around E-Stat for other teaching ideas and for interesting articles to read. It is a great resource for students and teachers.

[Health indicators](#) is a large set of statistics produced by Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. It provides a set of indicators (statistics) that measure the health of the Canadian population and the health care system. Health indicators are designed to provide comparable information at the health region and provincial/territorial level, and are based on standard definitions and methods. These indicators are organized into four categories:

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- health status (including health conditions, mortality rates, measures of well-being);
- non-medical determinants of health (socio-economic characteristics and health behaviour);
- health system performance (measures of accessibility, appropriateness, effectiveness of health care services); and,
- community and health system characteristics (contextual information).

Health indicators contains data tables with rates for a variety of indicators broken down by sex and by health region. Provincial and national rates are also provided within each table. These data are produced from a wide range of sources and are the most recent available. Technical notes and definitions present information necessary to interpret these indicators.

Tips:

1. We will be using “health regions” in our webquests because they are the smallest sets of data that are closest to your school. A “health region” is defined by the public health system of the province and usually corresponds to a fairly large geographical or heavily populated area of the province or territory.) The Statistics Canada web site enables you to find the “health region” closest to your school by using the maps or descriptions on this [web page](#).
2. Or, you can use the search engine on this Communities Profiles [web page](#) of the Statistics Canada web site. To find your “health region” using this page, simply enter the name of your town or city in the box provided. When the data is displayed for that town or city, use the drop-down menu (right beside the name of your town or city) to find the “health region” in which you live)
3. When you are on a webquest, you will be referred to a specific set of statistics that is the subject of the quest (e.g. smoking rates, dietary practices). We will provide a link to the specific table of statistics that you need to use. You will have to find the region that is closest to your school and then compare that data with provincial/territorial and national results. On some webquests, you will also be asked to use that data in other comparisons or in other ways.
4. In some cases, we will also use regional, provincial/territorial or national data taken from another set of Statistics Canada statistics called [Community Profiles](#). These statistics cover things that relate to health such as level of education, ethnicity and income. (Note: These Community Profiles are taken from the [1996](#) and [2001](#) Census Surveys. In some cases, the data from the 2001 survey is not yet published on the Statistics Canada web site.)

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2. In some cases, we will also use regional, provincial/territorial or national data taken from another set of Statistics Canada statistics called [Health indicators](#). (See above for an explanation of these sets of data.

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The Journal [Health Reports](#) - a quarterly journal produced by the Health Statistics Division at Statistics Canada, is designed for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy makers, educators, and students. The Health Reports journal publishes articles of wide interest that contain original and timely analyses of health and vital statistics data. The sources of data are typically national or provincial/territorial administrative databases or surveys. **Health Reports** contains research articles, reports, and data releases.

Tips:

1. You can access [Health Reports](#) from the E-STAT section of the Statistics Canada web site. (Select Table of Contents, then select Data and then select Health under the heading People.) Your school or class will need to [register with E-Stat](#) to do so.
2. When you are on a webquest, you may be referred to a specific article that is related to the subject of the quest (e.g. smoking rates, dietary practices). We will provide a link to the specific article that you need to use. But you may need to enter your E-Stat username and password to get to that article.

The Journal [Human Activity and the Environment 2000](#) contains a collection of environmental statistics, brought together from many sources. The report provides a statistical picture of Canada's environment with special emphasis on human activity and its relationship to natural systems-air, water, soil, plants and animals.

Tips:

1. You can access [Human Activity and the Environment 2000](#) from the E-STAT section of the Statistics Canada web site (Select Table of Contents, then select Data and then select Environment under the heading Land and Resources.)
2. When you are on a webquest, you may be referred to a specific part of that report on the environment that is related to the subject of the quest (e.g. environmental hazards). We will provide a link to the specific part of that report that you need to use. But you may need to enter your E-Stat username and password to get to that part of the report.

[Canadian Social Trends](#) - Every issue of this popular quarterly journal delivers: well written articles in an easy-to-read style, trend analysis supported by Statistics Canada data, tables and charts that provide quick reference to the articles' facts and figures, a selection of Social Indicators with the latest time series data,

Tips

1. You can access many of the articles from Canadian Social Trends through the E-Stat section of the Statistics Canada web site. See [this list of articles](#) from CST and from other sources.
2. Read the Lesson Plan (a guide on using *Canadian Social Trends* in the classroom).
3. When you are on a webquest, you may be referred to a specific article that is related to the subject of the quest (e.g. family practices, youth trends etc). We will provide a link to the specific article that you need to use. But you may need to enter your E-Stat username and password to get to that article.

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Tips:

1. When you are on a webquest, you may be referred to a specific article from The Daily that is related to the subject of the quest (e.g. smoking rates, youth trends etc). We will provide a link to the specific article that you need to use.

[Search for Statistics](#) – this web site search engine is a general jumping off page for access to Statistics Canada data. Use this page if you are looking for additional statistics on the Statistics Canada web site.

Tips:

1. This general search engine may help you find additional statistics needed for a webquest. Be careful using the search engine, as some of the statistics require you to purchase the reports. None of our webquests will require you to do so. Use only the free Statistics Canada information for our webquests.