Searching for Canadian Health Data and Statistics
HESA 5320
"Over 80 indicators measure the health of the Canadian population and the effectiveness of
the health care system. Designed to provide comparable information at the health region and
provincial/territorial levels (...)." See also the Citizen's Guide to Health Indicators:

Access the indicators:

• By going to the most recent release date on the health indicator's page, clicking on "Table of contents" and then selecting "Data tables and definitions".

Quick groupings of indicators:

• CIHI's Health Indicators Interactive Tool.
• Stat Can data table 13-10-0113-01 of health characteristics by health regions.
• Stat Can data table 17-10-0086-01 of population estimates by health regions.
Most recent health indicators grouped by theme.

- The "newer" indicators are identified with a "1".
- When given options between different tables within a given indicator, be aware that data might be from different years.
- When looking at an interactive data table, check the footnotes to make sure that you have the most recent version available.

**Health Status**

*How healthy are Canadians?* Health status can be measured in a variety of ways, including well-being, health conditions, disability or death.

**Well-being**

Broad measures of the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals.

- Perceived health
- Perceived mental health
- Perceived life stress
CIHI Grouping of Health Indicators

If CIHI says that there is no data for your chosen indicator(s), try selecting more than one level of geography (i.e. Newfoundland and Labrador + associated health regions), grab all the years, and make sure to click on "Both" for Sex even if you want subcategories.
Stat Can Data Table Grouping of Health Indicators

- Review Stat Can data table slides: remember to look at "Add/Remove data".
The Canadian census happens every 5 years (on the '1s' and the '6s'). Data is available through publicly accessible tables and profiles, as well as through restricted to Dalhousie interfaces that also include special subsets of data not available on the open web.

Access 2016 data:
- Through Statistics Canada's Census Profile.
- Through Statistic Canada's Data Tables.
- Via CHASS's census analyser.

Access older data (try links above first):
- By consulting the print collections – see links in the Data and Statistics research guide or internet archive's collection.

When looking at census data, be sure to:
- Be aware of random rounding.
- Learn census geography.
- Try to use Beyond 20/20 (see the tutorials page for more) to extract complex data tables.
- Be prepared to take on some challenges if looking for data for smaller geographies, working with older censuses, or trying to compare numbers in time.
What data is available in the census?

Census Profile, 2016 Census

This profile presents information from the 2016 Census of Population for various levels of geography, including provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas, communities and census tracts. Using the search or browse options below, users can search for an area of interest by typing its place name, postal code or geographic code or by browsing a list. Data will be available according to the 2016 Census Program release schedule.

Search:
- Place name
- Postal code
- Geographic code

Browse:
- View data for Canada
- Aboriginal peoples
- Age and sex
- Education
- Families, households and marital status
- Housing
- Immigration and ethnocultural diversity
- Income
- Journey to work
- Labour
- Language
- Language of work
- Mobility and migration
- Population and dwelling counts
- Type of dwelling
Publicly available statistics about hospitals and the health system. Microdata datasets restricted to graduate students are also available.

Publicly available statistics of interest:

- **Your Health System** for indicators about specific hospitals, or about cities, health regions, provinces, or territories.
- **Wait Times** for benchmarks for treatment and wait times trending across Canada.
- **Quick Stats** for interactive tables and/or Excel tables on a variety of topics.

Access microdata from CIHI by:

- **Submitting a request** (graduate students only).
- Exploring a subset of the **Discharge Abstract Database** (many variables about hospital discharges – including diagnosis and treatments) in **SDA**.
You can add standard Stats Can geography to your search terms.

**Google search tips:**

- Try adding the following to your search expression: (data OR dataset OR stat OR statistic)
- Try using the "Country" filter in Google.ca
- Try limiting to federal, provincial, or municipal governments with the site operator - example: site:.gc.ca
- Try finding spreadsheets by using the filetype operator – (filetype:csv OR filetype:xls OR filetype:xlsx)
Searching Google

- **Site:** address of website or domain to search in a specific web site or domain.
- **Filetype:** extension to search for specific types of files
- **-word** to search pages that don’t have a specific word in their results.
- **OR** to find synonyms.

Don’t forget to check the sources of your findings!
Open Data Repositories

Check open data repositories at national, district, provincial, and even neighborhood and city level to see if you can find any datasets for your desired level of geography. Typically contains less detailed data but sometimes at very precise levels of geography. Try googling "open data" and the name of the country or sub-country region you are interested in exploring.

For Canadian Data Repositories:

- Explore FRDR.
- Explore a list of Canadian Open Data repositories in Open Government Canada.
- Try looking at Canadian Research Repositories (see this presentation by Peter Webster and exercise).

For Halifax:

- Try the Nova Scotia Open Data Portal.
- Try the Halifax Open Data Catalogue.

For global data:

- Try re3data.org.

Global Open Data Rankings:

- Explore in the Global Open Data Index.
- Explore in Open Data Watch.
Look for different levels of geography.
Check your Health Administration databases for statistics, incidence, prevalence, etc.

Data search tips:

- Try these PubMed data search tips.
- Try these CINAHL data search tips.

Look at datasets used by authors. If the authors have created their own dataset, see if you can access it online or contact the authors themselves.
Search results

Items: 1 to 20 of 271

1. [THE ROLE OF β-AMYLloid AND MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE].
   Szarka A.
   PMID: 26390418
   Similar articles

2. The prevalence of depression in Alzheimer's disease: a systematic review and meta-analyses.
   PMID: 26564505
   Similar articles

3. In-house heart-brain clinics to reduce Alzheimer's disease incidence.
   de la Torre JC.
   PMID: 25114069
   Similar articles

   Rizzi L, Rosseti L, Rontz Cruz M.
   PMID: 25089278
   Free PMC Article
   Similar articles
The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Data Cubes are accessible interactive tables (and graphs) about diseases, injuries, morbidity, mortality.

PHAC's website includes data from many sources including Statistics Canada. Some of the Stats Can data includes configurations not available publicly on Stats Can's website.

Access the Data Cubes:
- From the Public Health Agency of Canada's Data Cubes page.

Other interesting PHAC links:
- The Data Visualizations.
- Health Data.
Don't forget to visit your research guides for more links and help

Health Statistics Research Guide:
- [http://dal.ca.libguides.com/healthstats](http://dal.ca.libguides.com/healthstats)
  - Curated set of links for data resources useful for health statistical research.
  - Includes a few tutorials and exercises.

Data and Statistics:
- [http://dal.ca.libguides.com/data](http://dal.ca.libguides.com/data)
  - Includes Exercises, Tutorials, Learning Material page.
  - Includes sub-page about working with data in Excel.
Need Help?
Data Librarian and Health Librarian

Data Librarian
Julie.Marcoux@dal.ca
902-494-3189
Room 3621, Killam Library

Health Librarian
Melissa.Helwig@dal.ca
902-494-1338
2nd floor CHEB
WHO: Contact your friendly GIS Centre: GIS@dal.ca or 5th floor of the Killam Library.

WHERE: GISciences Centre website.

WHAT: Help with ArcGIS, help with extracting and analyzing a variety of data sources, help producing customized maps, help with GIS software.

WHAT: One-on-one, group or class training.