



## Backgrounder: *Statistical Report on the Health of Canadians (1999)*

Similar to its 1996 predecessor (*Report on the Health of Canadians — Technical Appendix*), the *Statistical Report on the Health of Canadians (1999)* provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical overview of the health status of Canadians and the major determinants of health. The 1999 Statistical Report was developed by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health in collaboration with Health Canada, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The *Statistical Report*, together with its companion document *Toward a Healthy Future: Second Report on the Health of Canadians*, was developed to help policy makers and program planners identify priority issues and measure progress in the area of population health. Both reports take a population health approach in their organization and analysis.

The goals of a population health approach are to maintain and improve the health of the entire population, and to reduce inequities in health status among various population groups. This approach focuses on the interrelated conditions or determinants that most influence health and applies the evidence to suggest broad priority areas for action.

### ***Contents of the Report***

The *Statistical Report on the Health of Canadians (1999)* provides detailed statistics on 84 topics. Wherever possible it updates topics included in the 1996 report. It draws primarily on results from the National Population Health Survey and on such other sources as the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth.

The *Statistical Report* is organized into two major parts, *Determinants of Health* and *Health Status*, each providing detailed data on the following topics:

- ◆ **Health Determinants:** an exploration of social, economic, and physical environments, health services, personal resources and coping, health knowledge, and lifestyle behaviours.
- ◆ **Health Status:** an examination of individual well-being, general health and function, injuries, conditions and diseases, and death.

Chapters for each topic present the available data with a focus on group comparisons — sex, age, social status, province/territory — as well as on notable trends; touch upon health significance (both independently and in relation to other relevant topics); and provide definitions, methods, and important caveats affecting interpretation of the findings. Chapters are grouped into 11 sections, each accompanied by an overview of the topics addressed.

## ***An Essential Resource Document***

We can give no greater gift to the next generation than a healthy tomorrow. The *Statistical Report on the Health of Canadians (1999)* complements the more policy-oriented *Toward a Healthy Future*. Together they constitute an essential resource for health policy makers, program planners and researchers, providing a broad overview of health status, including temporal trends and provincial and international comparisons.

## ***How to Obtain the Reports***

The *Statistical Report on the Health of Canadians* is available on the Health Canada Web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>, the Statistics Canada web site at <http://www.statcan.ca>, and the Web site of the Canadian Institute for Health Information: <http://www.cihi.ca>. The full text of the policy-oriented report *Toward a Healthy Future: Second Report on the Health of Canadians* is available on the Health Canada Web site (above). Printed copies of both reports are available from Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health or from:

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