



Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.12)

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2.12 Hearing and Vision Problems

- The rate of hearing loss among survey respondents was higher for men than women and for respondents 65 years of age and over.
- Men 45-64 years of age were twice as likely as women of the same age to suffer from hearing loss.
- Among respondents who declared a hearing loss, 54% have had a consultation with a health professional.
- More women than men report vision problems and more women suffer from near-sightedness compared to far-sightedness. The rate of near-sightedness is highest among women 65 years of age and over.
- Generally, near-sightedness is a more prevalent vision problem among survey respondents than far-sightedness.
- The rate of problems with farsightedness is somewhat elevated for those with very high scolarity.
- Problems with far-sightedness tend to be fairly evenly distributed among income levels with a somewhat higher rate among high income respondents.
- Anglophone respondents were more likely than Francophones to report hearing problems.
- In relative terms, 20% more Anglophones than Francophones report mild hearing loss, 84% more report moderate hearing loss and 11% more Anglophones than Francophones report severe hearing problems.



Table 2.12.1 – Hearing loss according to sex and age, population 16 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	%	Pop '000
Men		
16-24 years	2.8**	12
25-44 years	4.4	52
45-64 years	10.2	86
65-74 years	21.5	53
75 years+	34.2	35
Total	8.5	238
Women		
16-24 years	1.9**	8
25-44 years	3.4	39
45-64 years	5.4	47
65-74 years	11.9	33
75 years+	25.2	47
Total	6.0	175
Both sexes		
16-24 years	2.4*	20
25-44 years	3.9	91
45-64 years	7.8	133
65-74 years	16.4	86
75 years+	28.3	82
Total	7.2	413

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution.

** Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

- The rate of hearing loss is higher among men and respondents 65 years and over.
- Men 45-64 years of age are twice as likely as women of the same age to suffer from hearing loss.

Table 2.12.2 – Degree of hearing loss according to sex and age, population 16 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	Light	Moderate	Severe
	%		
Men	5.9	1.1*	1.5
Women	3.9	0.6*	1.6
Both sexes			
16-24 years	1.1	0.2	1.1**
25-44 years	2.5	0.3**	1.1*
45-64 years	5.7	0.8*	1.3*
65-74 years	11.8	2.1**	2.4*
75 years+	17.3	5.5*	5.5*
Total	4.9	0.9	1.5
Pop '000	277	49	87

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution.

** Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

- A much greater proportion of respondents with hearing loss report a light hearing loss as compared to moderate or severe degrees of loss.

Table 2.12.3 – Consultations with a health professional for hearing loss according to age and degree of loss, population 16 years and over declaring a hearing loss, Quebec, 1998

	Yes	No
	%	
Both sexes		
16-24 years	35.6*	64.4*
25-44 years	41.4	58.6
45-64 years	58.1	41.9
65-74 years	57.3	42.7
75 years+	62.6	37.4
Total	54.0	46.0
Degree of hearing loss		
Light	55.5	44.5
Moderate	78.6	21.4*
Severe	35.5	64.5
Loss for all degrees	54.0	46.0

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution.

- Among respondents who declare a hearing loss, 54% have had a consultation with a health professional.
- Respondents 65 years and over were more likely to have had a consultation with a health professional than those 25-64. For the 25-44 years age group who declare a hearing loss, only 41.4% have had a consultation with a health professional.
- Respondents with light or moderate degrees of hearing loss are more likely to have had a consultation with a health professional than those with severe loss.

Table 2.12.4 – Prevalence of vision problems according to sex and age, population 7 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	Vision problems: near-sightedness		Visions problems: far-sightedness	
	%	Pop '000	%	Pop '000
Men				
7-14 years	10.7	38	12.5	45
15-24 years	14.5	72	24.9	124
25-44 years	19.1	224	21.2	249
45-64 years	63.5	534	25.2	212
65-74 years	73.5	181	24.2	60
75 years+	70.5	71	37.6	38
Total	34.8	1 121	22.6	727
Women				
7-14 years	10.9	39	14.7	52
15-24 years	20.8	99	32.4	154
25-44 years	22.9	264	28.5	327
45-64 years	69.0	600	29.4	256
65-74 years	79.2	223	33.3	94
75 years+	78.4	148	43.8	82
Total	41.3	1 371	29.1	965
Both sexes				
7-14 years	10.8	77	13.6	97
15-24 years	17.6	171	28.5	278
25-44 years	21.0	487	24.8	576
45-64 years	66.3	1 134	27.4	468
65-74 years	76.6	404	29.1	153
75 years+	75.7	219	41.3	120
Total	38.1	2 492	25.9	1 692

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Generally, near-sightedness is a more prevalent vision problem among survey respondents than far-sightedness.
- Near-sightedness is more likely to occur among respondents who are 45 years and over while far-sightedness is fairly evenly distributed among all age groups with a higher concentration among those 75 years and over.
- More women than men report vision problems and more women suffer from near-sightedness compared to far-sightedness. The rate of near-sightedness is highest among women 65 years and over.

Table 2.12.5 – Problems with farsightedness according to scolarity, population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	%	Pop '000
Relative scolarity		
Very low	21.7	244
Low	24.2	286
Average	27.5	332
High	28.1	324
Very High	34.5	408

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- The rate of problems with farsightedness is somewhat elevated for those with very high scolarity.

Table 2.12.6 - Problems with farsightedness according to level of revenue, population 7 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	%	Pop '000
Income level		
Very poor	25.8	118
Poor	25.1	192
Lower middle income	24.7	527
Upper middle income	25.3	614
High income	31.9	242

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Problems with far-sightedness tend to be fairly evenly distributed among income levels with a somewhat higher rate among high income respondents.

Table 2.12.7 – Hearing problems by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	17845	1014	1025	432
		French	English	Other	n/a
No problem		92.88%	91.22%	95.12%	90.97%
Mild		4.77%	5.72%	3.32%	5.32%
Moderate		0.75%	1.38%	0.68%	0.00%
Severe		1.42%	1.58%	0.78%	2.78%
Unknown		0.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Anglophone respondents were more likely than Francophones to report hearing problems.

- In relative terms, 20% more Anglophones than Francophones report mild hearing loss, 84% more report moderate hearing loss and 11% more Anglophones than Francophones report severe hearing problems.