



Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.20)

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2.20 Consumption of Medication

- There was an increase in the percentage of survey respondents 25 years of age and over having consumed both prescribed and non-prescribed medication when 1987, 1992-1993 and 1998 are compared.
- The greatest consumers of prescribed medication are located in the 65 years and over age group.
- The 44-64 age group exhibit the highest levels of non-prescription medication consumption.
- When men and women 15 years of age and older are compared, women are consuming substantially higher levels of both prescribed and non-prescribed medication. The gender difference in the 15-24 age group with respect to the consumption of prescribed medication is noteworthy.
- The greatest percentage of persons using prescription and non-prescription medication in the course of a two-day period were average to very high income, and members of the majority ethno-cultural group or 2nd and 3rd generation minority group.
- When prescribed medication is considered, the greatest percentage was consumed by poor and very poor respondents and members of the majority ethno-cultural group and/or 2nd and 3rd generation minority group.
- The greatest percentage of non-prescribed medication was consumed by high income respondents, with high and very high scolarity, and by 2nd and 3rd generation minority ethno-cultural groups.
- Anglophone survey respondents were more likely than Francophones to have consumed 3 or more medications over a two day period.



Table 2.20.1 – Persons having consumed at least one medication and persons having consumed at least three medications or more in the course of a two-day period according to sex and age, total population, Quebec, 1987, 1992-1993 and 1998

	At least 1 medication			Pop '000	3 medications or more			Pop '000
	1987	1992- 1993	1998		1987	1992- 1993	1998	
	%				%			
Men								
0-14 years	34.9	40.0	35.7	246	2.2*	3.3	3.6	25
15-24 years	23.6	28.7	24.9	124	1.7**	2.7*	3.1*	16
25-44 years	26.9	34.6	35.3	415	2.4	5.2	7.0	83
45-64 years	42.9	49.2	55.1	464	8.2	14.1	17.9	151
65 years or more	66.8	72.2	77.4	269	23.3	38.1	45.6	158
Total	34.5	41.4	42.8	1,519	5.1	9.2	12.2	433
Women								
0-14 years	37.1	42.6	36.4	240	2.0*	4.6	3.2*	21
15-24 years	56.1	60.2	61.7	293	5.3	8.7	8.2	39
25-44 years	52.5	58.2	60.3	692	8.1	11.7	13.2	152
45-64 years	63/1	70.0	75.9	660	19.0	28.5	35.9	312
65 years or more	76.4	86.8	86.4	405	33.6	49.4	56.1	263
Total	54.7	61.4	63.2	2,291	11.5	18.0	21.7	787
Both sexes								
0-14 years	36.0	41.3	36.0	486	2.1	3.9	3.4	46
15-24 years	39.6	44.1	42.9	418	3.5	5.6	5.6	55
25-44 years	39.8	46.4	47.7	1,108	5.3	8.4	10.1	234
45-64 years	53.3	59.8	65.7	1,124	13.7	21.4	27.1	463
65 years or more	72.4	80.6	82.5	674	29.3	44.6	51.6	422
Total	44.7	51.5	53.1	3,809	8.3	13.7	17.0	1,219

Sources: Santé Québec, *Enquête Santé Québec 1987* et *Enquête sociale et de santé 1992-1993*.
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- * Interpret with caution
** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- There was an increase in the percentage of survey respondents having consumed medication in the course of a two-day period from 1987 to 1998.
- The greatest percentage of consumers of at least 1 medication in the course of a two-day period when both sexes are combined is the 65 years and over age group. This is also true of those consuming three medications or more in the course of a two-day period.
- Women report higher levels of medication consumption than men,

Table 2.20.2 – Persons having consumed at least one prescription medication and persons having consumed at least one non-prescription medication in the course of a two-day period according to sex and age, total population, Quebec, 1987, 1992-1993, and 1998

	Prescribed medication				Non-prescribed medications			
	1987	1992-1993	1998	Pop	1987	1992-1993	1998	Pop
	%			'000	%			'000
Men								
0-14 years	16.1	15.2	14.7	101	22.6	29.3	25.7	177
15-24 years	8.4	9.6	8.2	41	16.7	21.5	19.8	98
25-44 years	11.0	13.5	14.0	165	18.4	25.2	25.8	303
45-64 years	30.6	31.8	37.3	314	17.8	25.7	28.9	243
65 years or more	56.6	64.3	67.9	236	20.3	26.8	30.9	107
Total	19.2	21.7	24.1	856	19.0	25.8	26.2	929
Women								
0-14 years	16.5	16.7	13.4	89	23.7	31.1	26.8	177
15-24 years	42.5	46.8	49.9	237	23.9	29.0	26.8	128
25-44 years	32.7	33.2	36.3	417	29.4	37.1	39.1	449
45-64 years	46.2	52.5	56.6	491	31.2	39.7	45.0	390
65 years or more	67.1	76.2	78.5	368	25.7	36.4	39.0	183
Total	37.4	41.0	44.3	1,603	27.4	35.4	36.6	1,327
Both sexes								
0-14 years	16.3	15.9	14.1	190	23.1	30.2	26.2	353
15-24 years	25.2	27.8	28.5	278	20.2	25.2	23.2	226
25-44 years	21.9	23.3	25.0	582	23.9	31.1	32.4	752
45-64 years	38.6	42.3	47.1	805	24.7	32.8	37.0	634
65 years or more	62.7	71.2	74.0	604	23.4	32.4	35.5	290
Total	28.5	31.4	34.3	2,459	23.3	30.6	31.4	2,255

Sources: Santé Québec, *Enquête Santé Québec 1987* et *Enquête sociale et de santé 1992-1993*.
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- There was an increase in the consumption of both prescribed and non-prescribed medication among respondents 25 years of age and over when 1978, 1992-1993 and 1998 time periods are compared.
- When men and women 15 years of age and over are compared, women are consuming substantially higher levels of both prescribed and non-prescribed medication. The gender difference in the 15-24 age group with respect to the consumption of prescribed medication is noteworthy.
- The 65 years and over age group exhibit the highest levels of consumption of prescribed medication. The 44-64 age group exhibit the highest levels of non-prescription drug consumption.

Table 2.20.3 – Persons having consumed at least one medication, prescription or non-prescription, in the course of a two-day period according to income level, relative scolarity and ethno cultural group, total population, Quebec, 1998

	Prescribed medication	Non-prescribed medication	Prescribed and non-prescribed medication
	%		
Income level			
Very poor	35.8	30.2	52.5
Poor	37.1	28.3	53.2
Lower middle income	34.3	31.3	52.6
Upper middle income	33.3	31.4	52.3
High income	33.5	36.3	57.4
Total	34.3	31.4	53.1
Relative scolarity			
Very low	38.7	28.9	54.8
Low	37.3	31.2	55.0
Average	42.7	32.6	59.7
High	38.6	34.5	57.5
Very High	39.3	39.6	61.7
Total	39.3	33.4	57.8
Ethno cultural group¹			
Majority	40.0	33.8	58.5
Minority (2 nd or 3 rd generation)	36.5	37.0	60.0
Minority (1 st generation)	31.9	28.8	49.0
Total	39.2	33.5	57.7

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

1- Population 15 and over

- The greatest percentage of persons using prescription and non-prescription medication in the course of a two day period were high income, average to very high income, and members of the majority ethno-cultural group or of 2nd and 3rd generation minority group.
- The greatest percentage of persons consuming prescribed medication were poor and very poor and of the majority ethno-cultural group or 2nd and 3rd generation minority group.
- The greatest percentage of non-prescribed medication was consumed by high income respondents, with high and very high scolarity, and by 2nd and 3rd generation minority ethno-cultural group.

Table 2.20.4 – Number of medications consumed over a two-day period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
No medication		42.63%	36.44%	49.19%	43.15%
1-2 medications		37.31%	38.29%	35.12%	32.81%
3 or more medications		19.78%	24.98%	15.60%	24.04%
Unknown		0.27%	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*.

- Relatively speaking, Anglophone respondents were 26% more likely than Francophones to have consumed 3 or more medications over a two day period.

Table 2.20.5 – Persons consuming prescribed medications over a two-day period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
Yes		39.84%	42.18%	32.92%	44.27%
No		59.80%	57.05%	66.89%	55.51%
Unknown		0.36%	0.78%	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*.

- Among survey respondents, Anglophones were somewhat more likely to consume prescribed medications over a two day period.

Table 2.20.6 – Persons self-administering medications over a two-day period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
Yes		31.86%	37.12%	28.71%	29.89%
No		67.63%	61.81%	71.00%	69.89%
Unknown		0.51%	1.07%	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*.

- Anglophones were more likely (17% in relative terms) to be self-administering medications over a two day period when compared to Francophones.