

## 2.11 HEALTH PROBLEMS

Table 2.11.1

Number of health problems according to sex and age, total population, Quebec, 1998

	No problem	1 problem	More than 1 problem	At least 1 problem
	%			
<b>Men</b>				
0-14	52.6	28.8	18.7	47.4
15-24	51.3	26.8	21.9	48.7
25-44	43.0	28.0	29.0	57.0
45-64	33.0	26.0	41.0	67.0
65 years +	18.2	17.3	64.5	81.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>58.8</b>
<b>Women</b>				
0-14	56.9	26.3	16.9	43.1
15-24	39.1	25.2	35.7	60.9
25-44	30.0	24.9	45.2	70.0
45-64	19.1	21.9	58.9	80.9
65 years +	10.3	12.7	77.0	89.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>69.1</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>				
0-14	54.7	27.5	17.8	45.3
15-24	45.3	26.0	28.7	54.7
25-44	36.5	26.5	37.0	63.5
45-64	26.0	24.0	50.1	74.0
65 years +	13.7	14.6	71.7	86.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>64.0</b>
<b>Population '000</b>	<b>2 583</b>	<b>1 769</b>	<b>2 821</b>	<b>4 590</b>

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

Table 2.11.2

**Number and duration of health problems according to sex and age, total population,  
Quebec, 1998**

	No problem	Short term problem only	1 long term problem	More than 1 long term problem
	%			
<b>Men</b>				
0-14	52.6	18.7	19.4	9.3
15-24	51.3	12.5	21.8	14.4
25-44	43.0	10.9	25.6	20.6
45-64	33.0	8.9	26.1	32.0
65 years +	18.2	4.0*	21.8	56.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>23.7</b>
<b>Women</b>				
0-14	56.9	18.0	18.4	6.8
15-24	39.1	9.5	26.1	25.3
25-44	30.0	9.8	25.2	35.1
45-64	19.1	8.1	24.7	48.1
65 years +	10.3	3.8*	16.9	68.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>				
0-14	54.7	18.4	18.9	8.1
15-24	45.3	11.1	23.9	19.7
25-44	36.5	10.3	25.4	27.7
45-64	26.0	8.5	25.4	40.2
65 years +	13.7	3.9	19.0	63.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>30.0</b>
<b>Population '000</b>	<b>2 583</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>1 668</b>	<b>2 151</b>

\* Interpret with caution.

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

**Table 2.11.3**

**Number and duration of health problems according to certain socio-economic characteristics, population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	No problem	Short term problem only	1 long term problem	More than 1 long term problem
	%			
<b>Income level</b>				
Very poor	34.2	11.6	19.8	34.5
Poor	35.5	9.8	20.0	34.7
Lower middle income	37.3	10.4	22.7	29.6
Upper middle income	36.6	10.6	24.5	28.4
High income	32.3	13.0	26.7	28.1
<b>Professional category<sup>1</sup></b>				
Professional, senior manager	33.1	9.2	28.7	29.0
Intermediate manager, semi-professional, technician	33.5	11.3	26.0	29.2
Office, sales, service	33.9	10.7	25.8	29.6
Foreman, qualified labourer	41.5	10.7	25.1	22.7
Non-qualified worker, labourer	42.6	11.4	22.8	23.2
<b>Employment status</b>				
Employed	39.6	10.7	25.7	27.0
Student	43.3	10.4	24.9	21.4
Homemaker	21.5	6.3	24.8	47.4
Retired	15.6	4.6	20.2	59.5
Unemployed	22.7	7.1	17.8	52.4

1. Active population

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

Table 2.11.4

## Prevalence of health problems according to sex, total population, Quebec, 1987 and 1998

	Men		Women		Total		Pop '000
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						
Headache	5.1	7.2	11.7	16.2	<b>8.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	844
Arthritis or rheumatism	7.2	8.8	12.7	14.7	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>	844
Other allergies	4.9	7.7	7.9	12.8	<b>6.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	737
Back or spinal pain	7.3	9.7	8.1	10.8	<b>7.7</b>	<b>10.2</b>	733
Allergic rhinitis	6.0	9.1	6.1	9.8	<b>6.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>	677
Allergies or skin ailments	6.5	7.0	9.3	11.2	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	654
Arterial hypertension	4.7	7.0	7.9	10.0	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>	611
Accidents with injuries	...	9.2	...	6.3	...	<b>7.8</b>	556
Other respiratory ailments	4.0	4.9	4.2	6.0	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.4</b>	390
Digestion problems	2.8	4.1	5.0	5.8	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>	356
Asthma	2.2	4.5	2.5	5.4	<b>2.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	356
Heart disease	4.0	4.8	4.2	4.4	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	329
Mental health problems	2.4	3.4	3.6	5.1	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	306
Acute anxiety	2.3	2.7	4.9	5.4	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	292
Eye disease <sup>1</sup>	...	2.9	...	5.1	...	<b>4.0</b>	287
Thyroid problems	0.3*	1.3	2.3	6.2	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	268
Flu	3.4	3.2	4.0	4.1	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	265
Other joint ailments	1.7	2.2	2.9	4.0	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	221
Hypercholesteremia	0.3*	3.0	0.3*	2.8	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	206
Diabetes	1.4	2.7	1.9	2.9	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	202
Bronchitis or emphysema	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.6	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	165
Sleep disorder	1.3	1.7	2.7	2.8	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	162
Other digestive disorders	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.6	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	152
Urinary and kidney disorders	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.1	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	133
Other blood diseases	0.2*	2.1	0.3*	1.6	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	130
Fatigue	1.0	1.2	2.6	2.3	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	126
Anemia	0.4*	0.5	2.2	2.5	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	108
Gastric and duodenal ulcers	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.4	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	98
Ear ailments	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	78
Other problems	7.2	9.5	10.0	12.2	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	780
Menstrual or menopause problems	...	...	2.4	7.3	...	...	265

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.5**

**Prevalence of principal health problems according to sex, population 0 to 14 years, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Boys		Girls		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
Allergies or skin ailments	8.1	8.1	8.6	9.8	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	120
Other allergies	6.5	8.7	6.9	7.0	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	106
Other respiratory ailments	7.4	7.7	5.9	7.8	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	104
Asthma	3.9	8.4	2.7	4.7	<b>3.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	88
Accidents with injuries <sup>1</sup>	...	6.5	...	4.3	...	<b>5.5</b>	73
Flu	4.8	4.4	5.0	5.4	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	66
Allergic rhinitis	3.9	5.4	2.7	3.7	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	62
Ear ailments	3.0	2.8*	2.6	3.1*	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	40
Headache	1.4*	3.1*	2.0	2.5*	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	37

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.6**

**Prevalence of principal health problems according to sex, population 18 to 24 years, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
Allergic rhinitis	9.4	14.2	10.2	15.2	<b>9.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	143
Other allergies	6.8	10.6	10.6	17.2	<b>8.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	135
Allergies or skin ailments	7.0	7.1	10.5	14.0	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	102
Headache	4.0	6.1	10.8	13.3	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>	93
Accidents with injuries <sup>1</sup>	...	10.5	...	5.5	...	<b>8.1</b>	78
Back or spinal pain	4.1	4.7	4.0	7.0	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	57
Asthma	1.9*	4.2*	3.1	7.0	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	54
Other respiratory ailments	3.1	3.4*	4.3	4.3*	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	37
Flu	3.2	2.9*	3.9	3.5*	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	31
Menstrual or menopause problems	...	...	3.9	6.3	...	...	30

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.7**

**Prevalence of principal health problems according to sex, population 25 to 44 years,  
Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
Headache	7.6	10.4	18.4	23.8	<b>13.0</b>	<b>17.0</b>	396
Allergic rhinitis	8.0	13.2	8.4	14.0	<b>8.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	316
Other allergies	5.3	8.9	9.1	16.5	<b>7.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	294
Back or spinal pain	10.7	12.5	10.1	12.2	<b>10.4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	287
Allergies or skin ailments	6.0	6.7	11.1	13.2	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>	229
Accidents with injuries <sup>1</sup>	...	10.8	...	6.8	...	<b>8.8</b>	205
Arthritis or rheumatism	5.5	6.9	7.4	9.3	<b>6.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	188
Other respiratory ailments	2.5	3.6	3.7	5.8	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	109
Acute anxiety	2.4	2.9	5.2	6.3	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	107
Mental health problems	2.5	3.5	4.1	5.6	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	105
Digestion problems	2.3	3.6	5.0	5.5	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	105
Asthma	1.3	3.4	2.2	5.7	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	105

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.8**

**Prevalence of principal health problems according to sex, population 45 to 64 years, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
Arthritis or rheumatism	13.0	15.3	26.0	23.9	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>	336
Back or spinal pain	11.4	14.8	13.0	14.9	<b>12.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>	254
Arterial hypertension	11.8	13.7	16.9	15.7	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	252
Headache	5.8	7.8	13.5	20.9	<b>9.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>	247
Other allergies	2.2	5.5	6.3	11.8	<b>4.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	149
Accidents with injuries <sup>1</sup>	...	9.1	...	7.6	...	<b>8.3</b>	142
Allergic rhinitis	3.6	6.4	4.1	9.5	<b>3.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>	136
Allergies or skin ailments	4.4	6.1	7.2	9.4	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	133
Heart disease	8.5	8.2	6.8	4.4	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	108
Thyroid problems	0.5**	1.9*	4.7	10.6	<b>2.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	108
Hypercholesteremia	0.7**	7.1	0.7**	5.3	<b>0.7*</b>	<b>6.2</b>	106
Mental health problems	3.5	4.2	5.3	7.5	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	100
Menstrual or menopause problems	...	...	4.4	19.5	...	...	169

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
 Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.9**

**Prevalence of principal health problems according to sex, population 65 years and over, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
Arterial hypertension	19.2	30.8	33.6	41.8	<b>27.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	303
Arthritis or rheumatism	27.2	24.9	40.1	42.1	<b>34.7</b>	<b>34.8</b>	284
Heart disease	22.9	24.3	20.1	22.3	<b>21.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	1889
Eye disease <sup>1</sup>	...	15.2	...	25.4	...	<b>21.1</b>	172
Back or spinal pain	8.2	13.3	11.7	17.6	<b>10.2</b>	<b>15.8</b>	129
Digestion problems	8.0	10.6	12.7	13.9	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>	102
Thyroid problems	0.8**	4.5*	4.8	16.9	<b>3.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>	95
Diabetes	5.6	10.6	7.4	11.3	<b>6.6</b>	<b>11.0</b>	90
Sleep disorder	8.4	8.8	12.9	12.1	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>	88
Hypercholesteremia	0.6**	9.6	0.8**	10.3	<b>0.7*</b>	<b>10.0</b>	82

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.10**

**Prevalence of diabetes according to age and sex, total population, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
0-14 years	0.2**	0.1**	0.0**	0.1**	<b>0.1**</b>	<b>0.1**</b>	1
15-24 years	0.4**	0.3**	0.3**	0.1**	<b>0.4**</b>	<b>0.2**</b>	2
25-44 years	0.6*	1.2*	0.8*	1.7*	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	33
45-64 years	3.2	5.2	3.7	3.7	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	75
65 years and older	5.6	10.6	7.4	11.3	<b>6.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>202</b>

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.  
Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.



**Table 2.11.11**

**Prevalence of heart disease according to age and sex, total population, Quebec, 1987 and 1998**

	Men		Women		Total		Pop
	1987	1998	1987	1998	1987	1998	
	%						'000
0-14 years	0.5**	0.2**	0.4**	0.1**	<b>0.5**</b>	<b>0.2**</b>	2
15-24 years	0.2**	0.4**	0.6**	0.5**	<b>0.4**</b>	<b>0.5**</b>	5
25-44 years	1.0*	1.0*	1.3	1.2*	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	25
45-64 years	8.5	8.2	6.8	4.4	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	108
65 years and older	22.9	24.3	20.1	22.3	<b>21.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	189
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>329</b>

1. Data for 1998 not comparable with that of 1987.

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate. Indication only.

Source: Santé Québec, enquête Santé Québec, 1987.

Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

**Table 2.11.12**

**Impact of asthma on the use of services and the limitation of activities, total population, Quebec, 1998**

	Asthma	
	Yes	No
Consultation with a doctor in the course of a period of two weeks	24.4%	14.1%
Hospitalization in the course of a period of 12 months	15.2%	5.9%
Two hospitalizations or more in a period of 12 months	40.7%	19.6%
Average annual numbers of days of incapacity	36.0 days	15.9 days

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

**Table 2.11.13****Number of health problems by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>No problem</b>		31.22%	28.28%	38.56%	31.24%
<b>One problem</b>		24.47%	24.30%	23.16%	22.25%
<b>More than one problem</b>		44.31%	47.42%	38.28%	46.52%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.11.14****Duration of health problems by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>No problem</b>		31.22%	28.28%	38.56%	31.24%
<b>Short term problem only</b>		9.31%	8.65%	9.86%	7.19%
<b>One long term problem</b>		24.90%	24.39%	22.68%	22.70%
<b>More than one long term problem</b>		34.57%	38.68%	28.90%	38.88%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.11.15**

**Prevalence of health problems by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

N=	18211	1029	1045	445
	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Headache</b>	14.36%	17.01%	14.55%	11.24%
<b>Arthritis or rheumatism</b>	13.83%	17.01%	13.11%	17.53%
<b>Other allergies</b>	10.54%	12.83%	7.46%	10.11%
<b>Back or spinal pain</b>	12.71%	11.08%	10.53%	15.73%
<b>Allergic rhinitis</b>	8.73%	12.15%	8.23%	5.84%
<b>Allergies or skin ailments</b>	9.15%	10.40%	7.37%	6.74%
<b>Arterial hypertension</b>	10.25%	13.70%	11.00%	14.83%
<b>Accidents with injuries</b>	8.75%	9.14%	6.32%	8.09%
<b>Other respiratory ailments</b>	4.69%	5.34%	4.31%	3.60%
<b>Digestion problems</b>	5.86%	6.12%	3.64%	7.87%
<b>Asthma</b>	4.66%	6.32%	2.39%	5.84%
<b>Heart disease</b>	5.58%	5.25%	5.07%	8.76%
<b>Mental health problems</b>	4.44%	7.00%	2.87%	6.97%
<b>Acute anxiety</b>	4.85%	3.21%	3.73%	6.29%
<b>Eye disease<sup>1</sup></b>	4.03%	5.93%	3.44%	5.62%
<b>Thyroid problems</b>	4.88%	6.12%	3.64%	6.07%
<b>Flu</b>	3.97%	2.82%	1.91%	4.04%
<b>Other joint ailments</b>	3.58%	4.28%	2.58%	4.94%
<b>Hypercholesteremia</b>	4.06%	2.33%	1.72%	3.37%
<b>Diabetes</b>	3.20%	3.11%	3.73%	6.74%
<b>Bronchitis or emphysema</b>	2.58%	2.43%	0.86%	2.47%
<b>Sleep disorder</b>	2.73%	1.75%	2.11%	3.60%
<b>Other digestive disorders</b>	2.40%	3.21%	1.24%	2.70%
<b>Urinary and kidney disorders</b>	2.05%	2.72%	1.91%	3.15%
<b>Other blood diseases</b>	2.53%	2.14%	1.91%	3.60%
<b>Fatigue</b>	2.22%	1.26%	1.44%	2.47%
<b>Anemia</b>	1.50%	2.14%	2.68%	1.80%
<b>Gastric and duodenal ulcers</b>	1.71%	2.43%	1.91%	2.70%
<b>Ear ailments</b>	0.67%	0.58%	0.57%	0.00%
<b>Other problems</b>	11.46%	13.22%	10.33%	12.13%
<b>Menstrual or menopause problems</b>	5.69%	4.08%	2.58%	3.37%

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