

4.1 SOCIAL SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1.1

Indicator of social support according to sex and age, population 15 years and over,
Quebec, 1998

	Weak %	Strong
Men		
15-24 years	15.8	84.3
25-44years	24.6	75.4
45-64years	26.5	73.5
65 years or more	15.4	84.6
Total	22.5	77.5
Women		
15-24 years	13.6	86.4
25-44years	18.6	81.4
45-64years	18.5	81.5
65 years or more	15.9	84.1
Total	17.4	82.6
Both sexes		
15-24 years	14.7	85.3
25-44years	21.6	78.4
45-64years	22.4	77.6
65 years or more	15.7	84.3
Total	19.9	80.1
Pop '000	1,158	4,667

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

Table 4.1.2

Components of the social support indicator according to age, population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998

	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total
	%				
Frequency of meeting					
Once a year or never	5.9	5.0	5.8	4.3	5.3
At least once a month	19.2	26.7	26.1	19.0	24.2
Once a week of more	74.9	68.4	68.1	76.7	70.5
Solitude during free time					
Alone more than half the time	10.6	12.8	14.7	17.5	13.6
With others	89.4	87.2	85.3	82.5	86.4
Satisfaction with social life					
Not satisfied	11.2	15.0	14.1	7.6	13.1
More or less satisfied	52.5	57.6	55.5	55.32	55.8
Very satisfied	36.3	27.3	30.5	37.1	31.1
Presence of friends					
No	2.5*	5.8	7.9	7.8	6.2
Yes	97.5	94.2	92.1	92.2	93.8
Satisfaction with relations with friends					
Not satisfied	4.9	3.6	2.3	1.5*	3.1
More or less satisfied	45.7	50.5	46.5	35.8	46.6
Very satisfied	49.4	45.9	51.2	62.7	50.3
Number of confidants					
None	7.2	10.9	12.6	11.7	10.9
One	14.9	21.0	20.1	17.6	19.3
Two	30.7	31.4	30.6	26.8	30.4
Three or more	47.2	36.7	36.7	44.0	39.4
Number of persons that can respond to need					
None	2.1*	4.0	4.3	3.1*	3.6
One	8.3	12.7	14.0	11.1	12.1
Two	23.4	24.8	24.3	23.4	24.2
Three or more	66.3	58.5	57.4	62.5	60.0
Number of persons showing affection					
None	4.3	5.5	3.9	2.6*	4.4
One	13.9	15.6	13.1	9.8	13.8
Two	17.8	19.7	18.6	16.4	18.6
Three or more	64.1	59.2	64.4	71.3	63.2

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.3

Persons unsatisfied with their social life according to age and sex, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	1987	1992-1993	1998
	%		
15-24 years	8.0	10.4	11.2
25-44years	11.8	12.6	15.0
45-64years	10.9	11.3	14.1
65 years or more	10.0	8.7	7.6
Men	10.1	10.8	12.8
Women	11.1	11.9	13.2
Total	10.6	11.4	13.1

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

Table 4.1.4

Life situation according to sex and age, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	Does not live alone	Lives alone	Pop
	%		'000
Men			
15-24 years	95.4	4.6*	23
25-44years	85.4	14.6	172
45-64years	86.3	13.7	116
65 years or more	84.0	16.0	56
Total	87.2	12.8	366
Women			
15-24 years	96.8	3.2*	15
25-44years	91.5	8.5	97
45-64years	84.1	15.9	138
65 years or more	58.8	41.2	193
Total	85.0	15.0	444
Both sexes			
15-24 years	96.1	3.9	38
25-44years	88.4	11.6	269
45-64years	85.2	14.8	254
65 years or more	69.5	30.5	249
Total	86.1	13.9	810

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.5

Certain social and health indicators according to indicators of social support environment, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	High level of indicator of psychological distress	Suicidal ideas in the course of 12 months	Consumption of alcohol and drugs in the course of 12 months	Long-term health problems (6 months or more)
	%			
Social support				
Weak	37.6	9.7	18.0	39.3
Strong	15.8	2.5	17.5	34.4
Marital difficulties¹				
None	13.1	1.8	14.4	32.0
Minor	28.0	5.8	19.3	35.6
Average	36.0	7.3*	19.3	38.8
Severe	44.8	9.2*	17.7	41.5
Lack of intimacy²				
Yes	36.6	8.8	25.3	38.0
No	15.4	2.4	15.9	32.4
Traumatizing events experienced in childhood or adolescence³				
None	13.1	1.7	11.8	32.7
One	20.9	4.3	17.9	37.1
Two	28.8	6.2	24.8	39.7
Three or more	37.1	10.6	28.1	45.8

1. Population living with a partner (girlfriend or boyfriend)

2. Excluding persons not living with a partner (girlfriend or boyfriend) and not seeking this type of relationship

3. Population 18 years and older

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

Table 4.1.6

Components of the social support indicator according to marital status, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	Married	Common law	Widowed, separated or divorced	Single
	%			
Frequency of encounters				
Once a year or never	4.5	4.3	5.9	7.0
At least once a month	26.5	27.0	19.9	20.4
Once a week or more	69.0	68.7	74.2	72.6
Solitude during free time				
Alone more than half the time	8.2	8.8	28.8	18.8
With others	91.8	91.2	71.2	81.3
Satisfaction with social life				
Not satisfied	10.3	13.0	17.7	15.7
More or less satisfied	56.9	56.1	55.5	53.7
Very satisfied	32.8	30.9	26.8	30.6
Presence of friends				
No	6.5	6.2	9.2	4.2
Yes	93.5	93.8	90.8	95.8
Satisfaction with relations with friends				
Not satisfied	2.2	3.7	3.5*	4.3
More or less satisfied	46.6	50.5	40.3	46.7
Very satisfied	51.2	45.7	56.2	49.0
Number of confidants				
None	12.7	9.5	10.2	9.2
One	21.0	21.3	17.2	16.0
Two	30.0	32.4	29.6	30.3
Three or more	36.3	36.8	43.0	44.5
Number of persons that can respond to need				
None	3.7	3.3	4.4	3.2
One	12.3	12.7	14.1	10.6
Two	23.6	25.3	25.9	24.1
Three or more	60.4	58.6	55.6	62.1
Number of persons showing affection				
None	4.0	3.7	4.7	5.6
One	12.8	15.0	13.2	15.1
Two	16.7	19.8	21.5	19.6
Three or more	66.5	61.5	60.6	59.8

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.7

Components of the social support indicator according to income level, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	Very poor	Poor	Lower middle income %	Upper middle income	High income
Frequency of encounters					
Once a year or never	10.9	6.4	5.4	4.4	3.5**
At least once a month	17.6	21.4	22.3	25.9	30.3
Once a week or more	71.5	72.2	72.3	69.7	66.2
Solitude during free time					
Alone more than half the time	26.8	19.7	13.0	10.9	10.8
With others	73.2	80.3	87.0	89.1	889.2
Satisfaction with social life					
Not satisfied	21.6	17.3	12.6	11.3	11.0
More or less satisfied	50.6	54.2	56.0	57.4	55.0
Very satisfied	27.8	28.5	31.4	31.3	34.0
Presence of friends					
No	10.5	7.4	6.2	5.4	4.8
Yes	889.5	92.6	93.8	94.6	95.2
Satisfaction with relations with friends					
Not satisfied	3.8*	3.6*	3.5	2.6	3.3*
More or less satisfied	41.6	45.0	46.1	48.0	47.2
Very satisfied	54.6	51.4	50.4	49.4	49.5
Number of confidants					
None	15.1	12.6	10.7	10.3	9.5
One	21.9	19.7	20.7	18.4	16.1
Two	26.2	31.2	30.0	31.3	30.2
Three or more	36.7	36.5	38.6	40.0	44.2
Number of persons that can respond to need					
None	10.7	4.8	3.3	2.9	1.7*
One	17.1	16.0	13.0	10.6	8.3
Two	25.7	26.4	24.6	23.7	22.2
Three or more	46.5	52.8	59.1	62.8	67.8
Number of persons showing affection					
None	10.8	6.0	4.2	3.5	2.8*
One	18.8	16.1	14.7	12.2	11.6
Two	20.2	21.2	18.6	18.2	16.4
Three or more	50.2	56.7	62.5	66.1	69.2

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.8

**Components of the social support indicator according to employment status, population
15 years and older, Quebec, 1998**

	Employed %	Unemployed
Frequency of encounters		
Once a year or never	4.7	11.0
At least once a month	27.7	22.8
Once a week or more	67.5	66.2
Solitude during free time		
Alone more than half the time	12.0	25.2
With others	88.0	74.8
Satisfaction with social life		
Not satisfied	13.2	27.2
More or less satisfied	58.1	48.3
Very satisfied	28.7	24.5
Presence of friends		
No	5.5	10.0
Yes	94.5	90.0
Satisfaction with relations with friends		
Not satisfied	3.5	4.1*
More or less satisfied	50.0	46.7
Very satisfied	46.5	50.2
Number of confidants		
None	11.3	14.9
One	20.0	24.2
Two	31.3	27.4
Three or more	37.4	33.6
Number of persons that can respond to need		
None	3.4	8.8
One	12.0	18.2
Two	24.5	25.5
Three or more	60.1	47.5
Number of persons showing affection		
None	4.4	9.7
One	14.5	18.0
Two	19.1	21.7
Three or more	62.0	49.6

1. Excluding students, homemakers and retired persons

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.9

Persons lacking intimacy according to certain demographic and socio-economic characteristics and according to sex, population 15 years and older¹, Quebec, 1998

	Men	Women	Total
	%		
Civil status			
Married	14.3	17.5	15.9
Common law	15.8	19.3	17.5
Widowed, separated or divorced	37.0	40.5	39.2
Single	40.4	41.7	41.0
Income level			
Very poor	29.3	35.5	32.5
Poor	30.1	29.8	29.9
Lower middle income	24.1	26.5	25.3
Upper middle income	21.7	23.9	22.8
High income	17.8	21.0	19.3
Employment status			
Employed	21.0	25.0	22.7
Student	35.0	36.1	35.5
Homemaker	26.2*	20.7	21.1
Retired	17.1	24.0	19.8
Unemployed	32.5	33.0	32.7
Relative scolarity			
Very low	24.3	24.3	24.3
Low	22.4	24.9	23.7
Average	21.9	27.4	24.9
High	23.2	26.0	24.4
Very High	24.0	25.8	24.9

1. Excluding persons not living with a partner (girlfriend or boyfriend) and not seeking this type of relationship

*Interpret with caution

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

Table 4.1.10**Satisfaction with social life by mother tongue**

	N=	18211	1054	685	445
		English	French	Other	n/a
Very satisfied		29.96%	39.28%	33.87%	30.11%
More or less satisfied		57.09%	46.58%	53.72%	42.47%
More unsatisfied		10.11%	9.96%	9.78%	6.07%
Very unsatisfied		1.87%	3.42%	1.17%	2.70%
Refusal		0.96%	0.76%	1.46%	18.65%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

Table 4.1.11**Level of social support by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
Low level of social support		19.09%	16.62%	20.29%	14.38%
High level of social support		78.61%	81.92%	75.69%	59.33%
Unknown		2.30%	1.46%	4.02%	26.29%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

Table 4.1.12**Difficulties in a relationship with a spouse by mother tongue, 1998**

	N=	13688	752	747	248
		French	English	Other	n/a
No difficulties		67.77%	66.76%	67.60%	55.24%
Light difficulties		11.41%	14.76%	11.51%	17.34%
Moderate difficulties		6.68%	7.71%	6.56%	6.45%
Severe difficulties		5.98%	4.12%	5.62%	3.63%
Unknown		8.15%	6.65%	8.70%	17.34%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

Table 4.1.13

Lack of intimate contact by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	16895	919	955	420
		French	English	Other	n/a
Yes		21.04%	20.24%	24.29%	15.48%
No		70.04%	71.49%	67.02%	49.05%
Unknown		8.92%	8.27%	8.69%	35.48%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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