



Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.15)

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2.15 Suicidal Ideas and Suicide Attempts

- Respondents 15-24 years of age were more likely than other age groups to report the presence of suicidal ideas.
- Women were more likely than men to report the presence of suicidal ideas over a 12 month period.
- Survey respondents with high levels of psychological distress were more likely to report suicidal ideas and suicide attempts.
- The presence of suicidal ideas over a 12 month period was reported most frequently by unattached individuals (widowed, separated, divorced or single) and tends to be linked with poor and very poor income levels, low scolarity and unemployment
- Among all demographic and socio-economic characteristics, those who perceived their financial situation as poor were the most likely to report the presence of suicidal ideas.
- Generally, Anglophone and Francophone respondents are similar with respect to the presence of suicidal ideas and suicide attempts. Anglophones were slightly more likely to report suicide attempts over a 12 month period.

Table 2.15.1 – Presence of suicidal ideas¹ over a twelve-month period, according to sex and age, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	%	Pop '000
Men		
15-24 years	6.3	31
25-44 years	4.5	53
45-64 years	2.7*	23
65+	0.5**	2
Total	3.9	109
Women		
15-24 years	8.5	40
25-44 years	4.0	46
45-64 years	2.9*	25
65+	0.5**	2
Total	3.9	113
Both sexes		
15-24 years	7.4	71
25-44 years	4.3	99
45-64 years	2.9	48
65+	0.5**	4
Total	3.9	222

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

1- The reference population excludes persons having declared a suicide attempt.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- The frequency of suicidal ideas over a 12 month period was similar for male and female survey respondents.
- Respondents 15-24 years of age were more likely than other age groups to report the presence of suicidal ideas.

Table 2.15.2 – Presence of suicidal ideas¹ or suicide attempts over a twelve-month period, according to the indicator of psychological distress², population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	Psychological distress indicator (Santé Québec)	
	Low to average	High
	%	
Suicidal ideas	1.5	13.8
Suicide attempts	0.1**	2.3*

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

1- The reference population excludes persons having declared a suicide attempt.

2- Psychological distress indicator, Santé Québec.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- Survey respondents with high levels of psychological distress were more likely to report suicidal ideas and suicide attempts.



Table 2.15.3 – Presence of suicidal ideas¹ over a twelve-month period, according to certain demographic and socio-economic characteristics, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	%
Civil status	
Married	1.8
Common law	3.4
Widowed, separated or divorced	4.6
Single	7.5
Income level	
Very poor	8.3
Poor	5.1
Lower middle income	3.6
Upper middle income	3.2
High income	3.2*
Perception of financial situation	
Comfortable	2.7
Sufficient income	2.5
Poor	6.8
Very poor	14.8
Relative scolarity	
Very low	4.9
Low	3.8
Average	3.7
High	3.5
Very High	3.6
Employment status	
Employed	3.4
Student	7.1
Homemaker	2.6*
Retired	1.3*
Unemployed	10.5

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

1 – The reference population excludes persons having declared a suicide attempt.

* Interpret with caution

- The presence of suicidal ideas over a 12 month period was reported most frequently by unattached individuals (widowed, separated, divorced or single) and tends to be linked with poor and very poor income levels, low scolarity and unemployment.
- Among all demographic and socio-economic characteristics, those who perceived their financial situation as very poor were the most likely to report the presence of suicidal ideas.

Table 2.15.4 – Presence of suicidal ideas¹ over a twelve-month period, according to sex and age, population 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	%	Pop '000
Men		
15-24 years	0.9**	4
25-44 years	0.6**	6
45-64 years	0.4**	3
65+	-	-
Total	0.5*	13
Women		
15-24 years	2.0**	9
25-44 years	0.4**	4
45-64 years	0.3**	2
65+	-	-
Total	0.5*	15
Both sexes		
15-24 years	1.4*	13
25-44 years	0.5*	10
45-64 years	0.3**	5
65+	-	-
Total	0.5	29

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

1- The reference population excludes persons having declared a suicide attempt.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- Among survey respondents, the 15-24 years age group indicated the highest likelihood to have suicidal ideas over a 12 month period.
- Women were more likely than men to report the presence of suicidal ideas over a twelve-month period.

Table 2.15.5 – Presence of suicidal ideas by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

N=	18125	1021	1037	444
	French	English	Other	n/a
Present	3.89%	3.53%	2.03%	2.25%
Absent	93.35%	94.12%	94.99%	74.55%
Unknown	2.76%	2.35%	2.99%	23.20%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone respondents were somewhat less likely than Francophones to report the presence of suicidal ideas.

Table 2.15.6 – Suicide attempts over a twelve-month period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	17512	993	1025	435
		French	English	Other	n/a
Present		0.49%	0.81%	0.78%	0.00%
Absent		96.62%	96.78%	96.10%	76.09%
Unknown		2.89%	2.42%	3.12%	23.68%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone respondents were slightly more likely to report suicide attempts over a 12 month period when compared to Francophones.