



# Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.9)

<b>2.9</b>	<b>Health Behaviour of Women .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	Table 2.9.1 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998 .....	1
	Table 2.9.2 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998 .....	2
	Table 2.9.3 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998.....	2
	Table 2.9.4 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998 .....	3
	Table 2.9.5 – Use of oral contraceptives and sexual activity, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998.....	4
	Table 2.9.6 – Use of hormones for problems linked to menopause and perceived menopausal status, according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998.....	4
	Table 2.9.7 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	5
	Table 2.9.8 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	6
	Table 2.9.9 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998.....	6
	Table 2.9.10 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	7
	Table 2.9.11 – Use of oral contraceptives according to age and relative scolarity, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998 .....	8
	Table 2.9.12 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998.....	8
	Table 2.9.13 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	9
	Table 2.9.14 – Had a mammogram according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	9
	Table 2.9.15 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	10

Table 2.9.16 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	10
Table 2.9.17 – Use of oral contraceptives by mother tongue, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998 .....	11
Table 2.9.18 – Use of hormones for problems linked to menopause according to mother tongue, female population, 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	11
Table 2.9.19 – In menopause or entering menopause according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998 .....	11

## 2.9 Health Behaviour of Women

**Table 2.9.1 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998**

	At least once a month		Once every 2 or 3 months		Less than once every 2 or 3 months		Never	
	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998
	%							
<b>15-29</b>	18.4	18.0	18.6	17.2	25.5	25.2	37.5	39.6
<b>30-39</b>	20.7	23.6	25.3	23.5	30.0	29.7	24.0	23.2
<b>40-49</b>	26.2	29.0	24.2	23.9	27.1	25.4	22.6	21.7
<b>50-69</b>	31.2	34.9	22.7	20.6	21.9	22.8	24.3	21.7
<b>70+</b>	25.5	29.6	15.5	13.4	22.0	19.1	37.0	38.0
<b>Total Pop.</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>'000</b>	--	<b>794</b>	--	--				<b>831</b>

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

- The greater percentage of female survey respondents reported that they never do self-administered breast examinations and this remained relatively the same from 1992-1993 to 1998.
- The age group most likely not to do breast examinations was between 15-29 years of age and 70+. In contrast, those most likely to engage in self-administered breast examination at least once a month were located in the 50 - 69 age group followed by those 40-49. Both these groups increased their likelihood of an examination when 1992-1993 and 1998 are compared.



**Table 2.9.2 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998**

	Less than 12 months		1 or 2 years		More than 2 years		Never		Do not know	
	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998
	%									
15-29	50.3	42.9	15.1	13.5	7.0	7.2	26.0	35.3	1.7*	1.1**
30-39	51.7	45.2	22.6	24.0	18.5	20.6	6.6	9.1	0.7**	1.1**
40-49	50.8	49.1	22.2	25.0	18.8	18.8	7.3	5.8	0.9**	1.3**
50-69	44.4	53.4	23.0	21.4	22.3	16.6	8.8	7.0	1.6*	1.5**
70+	29.3	32.7	16.1	17.7	26.6	29.8	22.9	16.0	5.2*	3.8*
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Pop. '000</b>	--	<b>1,367</b>	--	<b>603</b>	--	<b>504</b>	--	<b>444</b>	--	<b>45</b>

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- The greater percentage of female survey respondents reported less than 12 months had elapsed since their last clinic breast examination.
- The 15-29 age group was the most likely to report never having had a breast examination followed by those 70+.
- The rate of women in the 15-29 age group never having had a clinical breast examination increased significantly from 1992-1993 to 1998.

**Table 2.9.3 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998**

	2 years or less		More than 2 years		Never		Do not know	
	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998	1992-93	1998
	%							
15-29	2.7*	1.6*	2.3*	1.7*	95.0	95.6	0.0**	0.1**
30-39	13.0	8.8	12.7	12.9	74.0	77.8	0.3**	0.4**
40-49	42.9	36.2	19.6	22.2	36.9	40.2	0.7**	1.4**
50-69	49.4	64.3	20.3	16.8	29.4	17.2	0.9**	1.7*
70+	26.3*	35.7	19.0*	27.1	52.9	35.5	1.8**	1.7**
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Pop. '000</b>	--	<b>870</b>	--	<b>431</b>	--	<b>1,633</b>	--	<b>29</b>

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- The greatest percentage of female survey respondents reported never having had a mammogram. The number of those located in this category decreased between 1992-1993 and 1998 with the most dramatic decrease in the 50 + age group.
- The next largest group of females reported 2 years or less had elapsed since their last mammogram and the numbers in this category increased between 1992-1993 and 1998. The most dramatic increase was located in the 50+ age group.

**Table 2.9.4 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998**

	Less than 12 months		1 or 2 years		More than 2 years		Never		Do not know	
	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998
	%									
<b>15-29</b>	57.8	53.6	14.4	12.9	4.4	3.4*	21.9	28.1	1.5*	2.0*
<b>30-39</b>	56.8	49.8	23.7	25.6	14.7	17.2	3.6	5.0	1.2**	2.4*
<b>40-49</b>	49.8	46.5	23.9	24.5	21.9	21.2	2.9*	4.7	1.5**	3.1*
<b>50-69</b>	34.0	38.5	20.3	19.9	32.9	27.7	8.9	8.6	4.0	5.4
<b>70+</b>	14.7	14.8	11.0	11.2	39.2	34.9	25.3	27.6	9.8	11.5
<b>Total Pop. '000</b>	--	1,287	--	573	--	--570	--	410	--	124

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- A greater percentage of female survey respondents reported having had a PAP test in less than 12 months. When 1992-1993 and 1998 are compared, there is a decline in the percentage of female respondents who fall into this category.
- The age group most likely to report never having had a PAP test was 70+ followed by the 15-29 age group.

**Table 2.9.5 – Use of oral contraceptives and sexual activity, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998**

	Use of oral contraceptives (sexually active women or not)	At least one sexual partner over a 12-month period
	%	
15-17	29.8	42.3
18-19	56.6	77.0
20-24	52.2	85.1
25-34	28.5	91.5
35-44	7.1	88.4
<b>Total</b>	25.1	83.7

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

- Female survey respondents reporting at least one sexual partner over a 12 month period were highly likely (83.7%) to use oral contraceptives. The lowest rate of oral contraceptive use among those with at least one sexual partner over a 12 month period was among 15-19 year-olds.

**Table 2.9.6 – Use of hormones for problems linked to menopause and perceived menopausal status, according to age, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

		%
<b>Use of hormones</b>	15-24	0.1**
	25-44	2.4*
	45-64	35.5
	65+	16.1
	<b>Total</b>	13.9
<b>Menopausal status</b>	15-24	0.2**
	25-44	2.9
	45-64	66.2
	65+	57.4
	<b>Total</b>	29.0
<b>Do not know</b>	15-24	0.7**
	25-44	4.1
	45-64	8.8
	65+	2.3*
	<b>Total</b>	4.7

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- The highest users of hormones were found among those with perceived menopausal status. The greatest rate of hormone use was in females 45-64 and 65+.

**Table 2.9.7 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	At least once a month	Once every 2 or 3 months	Less than once every 2 or 3 months	Never
	%			
<b>Relative scolarity</b>				
Very low	31.9	16.9	20.3	31.0
Low	27.2	20.6	24.9	27.3
Average	24.3	20.9	26.7	28.1
High or very high	25.7	21.5	26.4	26.4
<b>Income level</b>				
Very poor	28.6	12.4	26.3	32.8
Poor	26.9	17.5	21.5	34.1
Lower middle income	28.2	18.7	24.1	29.0
Upper middle income	26.1	23.6	25.0	25.3
High income	23.1	22.9	30.7	23.3

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

- A greater percentage of women who do not engage in self-administered breast examinations report poor and very poor income.



**Table 2.9.8 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	Less than 12 months	1 or 2 years	More than 2 years	Never	Do not know
	%				
<b>Relative scolarity</b>					
Very low	39.3	19.6	18.2	20.4	2.5*
Low	47.2	19.4	17.4	14.6	1.5**
Average	45.3	21.3	15.8	16.1	1.6*
High or very high	49.7	20.6	16.9	11.9	1.0*
<b>Income level</b>					
Very poor	40.1	17.8	19.2	18.9	4.0*
Poor	38.4	18.0	19.8	21.5	2.3**
Lower middle income	43.2	21.3	17.6	16.8	1.2*
Upper middle income	50.8	20.9	15.4	11.8	1.1*
High income	53.2	20.4	15.0	10.1	1.4**

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Those who report less than 12 months since the last clinical breast examination tend to also report high income and scolarity. Those who report never having had a clinic breast examination show a tendency towards low scolarity and low income.

**Table 2.9.9 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	2 years or less	More than 2 years	Never	Do not know
	%			
<b>Relative scolarity</b>				
Very low	27.9	15.2	55.3	1.6**
Low	27.4	13.5	58.2	0.9**
Average	26.2	13.8	58.9	1.2**
High or very high	32.1	14.9	52.4	0.6**
<b>Income level</b>				
Very poor	27.0	14.5	57.6	1.0**
Poor	23.5	14.1	60.6	1.9**
Lower middle income	28.6	14.0	56.5	0.9**
Upper middle income	30.4	14.9	53.9	0.9**
High income	34.4	14.5	50.4	0.7**

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

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Female survey respondents who are most likely to report never having had a mammogram also tend to report low to average scolarity and poor and very poor income.

**Table 2.9.10 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to scolarity and income level, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	Less than 12 months	1 or 2 years	More than 2 years	Never	Do not know
	%				
<b>Relative scolarity</b>					
Very low	37.4	19.5	21.8	15.4	6.0
Low	44.0	19.6	18.1	14.1	4.3
Average	44.0	18.3	18.7	15.1	4.0
High	43.3	21.0	19.2	12.7	3.9*
Very high	50.4	19.2	17.5	10.7	2.2*
<b>Income level</b>					
Very poor	40.3	16.9	21.2	15.1	6.6*
Poor	34.6	17.8	21.3	19.1	7.2.*
Lower middle income	40.0	21.0	19.3	15.0	4.6
Upper middle income	49.1	19.4	17.8	11.0	2.7
High income	50.5	18.7	17.9	11.3	1.6**

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Respondents with the highest likelihood to have had a PAP test in the last 12 months tend to report very high scolarity and high income levels. The tendency to never have had a PAP test is linked with low scolarity and income.

**Table 2.9.11 – Use of oral contraceptives according to age and relative scolarity, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998**

		%
<b>Relative scolarity</b>		
<b>15-24</b>		
Very low		31.0*
Low		41.3
Average		48.8
High		44.3
Very high		58.1
<b>25-44</b>		
Very low		12.3
Low		14.2
Average		21.0
High		15.4
Very high		20.0
<b>Total</b>		
Very low		16.6
Low		21.5
Average		32.2
High		23.4
Very high		30.0

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

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- The use of oral contraceptives is highest among respondents aged 15-24 with high scolarity.

**Table 2.9.12 – Frequency of self-administered breast examination according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	9718	556	533	210
		French	English	Other	n/a
<b>At least 1 a month</b>		26.03%	33.09%	27.02%	27.14%
<b>Once every 2 to 3 months</b>		21.07%	20.50%	15.01%	11.43%
<b>Less often</b>		25.14%	23.02%	22.89%	15.71%
<b>Never</b>		25.75%	21.94%	30.02%	16.19%
<b>Unknown</b>		2.01%	1.44%	5.07%	29.52%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone women were more likely to report a self-administered breast examination at least once a month when compared to Francophone women. They were also less likely to report never having engaged in a self-administered breast examination.

**Table 2.9.13 – Time elapsed since the last clinic breast examination according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>210</b>
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Less than 12 months</b>		46.14%	47.12%	37.71%	33.33%
<b>1-2 years</b>		20.38%	24.64%	21.01%	10.48%
<b>More than 2 years</b>		16.32%	14.03%	12.76%	13.33%
<b>Never</b>		13.68%	11.15%	22.89%	12.38%
<b>Do not know</b>		1.52%	1.62%	1.88%	0.00%
<b>Unknown</b>		1.96%	1.44%	3.75%	29.52%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- English-speaking female respondents were more likely than French-speaking females to report a clinical breast examination in less than 2 years. They were less likely than Francophone females to report never having had a clinical breast exam.

**Table 2.9.14 – Had a mammogram according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>210</b>
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Yes</b>		42.23%	48.24%	35.00%	40.95%
<b>No</b>		55.69%	50.70%	62.65%	30.48%
<b>Refusal</b>		2.08%	1.06%	2.35%	28.57%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone female respondents were more likely than female Francophones to have had a mammogram.

**Table 2.9.15 – Time elapsed since the last mammogram according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	<b>N=</b>	<b>4104</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>86</b>
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Less than 12 months</b>		37.99%	36.13%	40.34%	47.67%
<b>1-2 years</b>		26.78%	34.67%	30.25%	20.93%
<b>More than 2 years</b>		32.68%	27.74%	26.89%	25.58%
<b>Never</b>		2.17%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Do not know</b>		0.39%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Unknown</b>		37.99%	36.13%	40.34%	47.67%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- When compared to Francophones, Anglophone women were more likely to report a 1-2 year time lapse since their last mammogram.

**Table 2.9.16 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

	<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>210</b>
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Less than 12 months</b>		43.60%	43.31%	34.12%	30.48%
<b>1-2 years</b>		19.46%	23.59%	18.53%	12.38%
<b>More than 2 years</b>		18.85%	20.25%	11.18%	11.90%
<b>Never</b>		11.60%	8.45%	23.53%	6.19%
<b>Do not know</b>		3.59%	2.82%	7.65%	4.76%
<b>Unknown</b>		2.90%	1.58%	5.00%	34.29%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Compared to Francophones, Anglophone female respondents more frequently reported 1-2 years since their last PAP test. They were also less likely to report never having had a PAP test.

**Table 2.9.17 – Use of oral contraceptives by mother tongue, female population 15 to 44, Quebec, 1998**

<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Yes</b>	15.54%	14.26%	7.94%	5.71%
<b>No</b>	81.17%	83.10%	88.82%	62.86%
<b>Refusal</b>	3.29%	2.64%	3.24%	31.43%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone respondents were less likely than Francophones to report using oral contraceptives.

**Table 2.9.18 – Use of hormones for problems linked to menopause according to mother tongue, female population, 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Yes</b>	14.19%	11.27%	6.47%	13.81%
<b>No</b>	83.11%	86.62%	90.29%	54.76%
<b>Refusal</b>	2.70%	2.11%	3.24%	31.43%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.9.19 – In menopause or entering menopause according to mother tongue, female population 15 and over, Quebec, 1998**

<b>N=</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Yes</b>	26.38%	34.15%	17.94%	29.52%
<b>No</b>	65.53%	59.15%	71.18%	34.76%
<b>Do not know</b>	4.83%	4.05%	7.06%	2.86%
<b>Refusal</b>	3.26%	2.64%	3.82%	32.86%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

- Anglophone female respondents were more likely than Francophone females to report being in menopause or entering menopause.