

## 2.17 RECOURSE TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS

Table 2.17.1

Persons having consulted at least one professional, doctor or other, in the course of a two-week period, according to sex and age, total population, Quebec, 1998

	At least 1 professional		Doctor		Professional other than a doctor	
	%	Pop '000	%	Pop '000	%	Pop '000
Men	21.1	749	12.1	430	12.7	449
Women	29.2	1,058	17.0	617	17.8	645
Both sexes						
0-14 years	22.5	303	13.7	184	12.6	170
15-24 years	19.2	187	10.1	98	12.2	119
25-44 years	23.7	549	12.1	281	16.0	372
45-64 years	28.5	485	17.0	290	17.0	290
65 years or more	34.5	282	23.7	193	17.6	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>1,094</b>

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

**Table 2.17.2**

**Persons having consulted at least one professional, doctor or other, in the course of a two-week period, according to certain demographic and socio-economic characteristics, total population, Quebec, 1998**

	At least 1 professional	Doctor	Professional other than a doctor
	%		
Relative scolarity			
Very low	23.6	15.3	13.5
Low	25.3	14.2	15.3
Average	25.6	14.6	15.8
High	27.5	15.4	17.7
Very High	28.3	14.7	19.4
Income level			
Very poor	27.3	16.5	16.2
Poor	26.1	16.2	15.2
Lower middle income	24.2	14.6	14.1
Upper middle income	24.8	13.8	15.4
High income	27.0	14.4	17.8
Ethno cultural group			
Majority group	26.3	14.8	16.5
Minority group (2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> generation)	30.8	21.0	16.5
Minority group (1 <sup>st</sup> generation)	22.1	13.3	11.5

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

**Table 2.17.3**

**Persons having consulted at least one professional, doctor or other, in the course of a two-week period, according to certain health indicators, total population, Quebec, 1998**

	At least 1 professional	Doctor	Professional other than a doctor
	%		
Number of health problems			
None	7.8	2.5	5.9
1 problem	23.8	13.1	13.7
More than 1 problem	42.0	26.7	24.8
Incapacity short or long-term			
Without incapacity	22.7	2.7	13.7
With incapacity	49.3	33.2	30.6
Indicator of psychological distress <sup>1</sup>			
Low or average	24.5	13.7	15.0
High	31.5	18.6	20.0
Perception of state of health <sup>1</sup>			
Excellent	19.2	9.8	12.1
Very good	22.7	11.7	14.3
Good	26.9	15.4	16.6
Average	41.5	27.8	24.0
Poor	57.4	43.1	30.2

1. Population 15 years and older

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

**Table 2.17.4**

**Location of the last consultation, population having consulted at least one professional in the course of a two-week period, Quebec, 1998**

	%
Private office or private clinic	64.1
CLSC	4.9
Hospital emergency	3.1
Hospital out-patient clinic	10.1
Hospital during a stay	1.1
Work	0.3
School	0.8
Home	2.9
Telephone	1.3
Pharmacy	10.5
Other	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table 2.17.5**

**Location of the last consultation, population having consulted at least one professional in the course of a two-week period, Quebec, 1998**

	General physician	Specialist
	%	
Private office or private clinic	72.1	47.0
CLSC	7.4	0.6
Hospital emergency	7.8	4.2
Hospital out-patient clinic	8.4	39.5
Hospital during a stay	1.2	6.1
Work	0.2	0.0
School	0.1	0.0
Home	1.8	0.1
Telephone	0.8	2.0
Other	0.3	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table 2.17.6**

**Assessment of the waiting period with respect to the time elapsed between making an appointment and a consultation with a general physician or specialist, Quebec, 1998**

	General physician			Specialist		
	Acceptable	A little long	Too long	Acceptable	A little long	Too long
	%					
Time elapsed between making appointment and consultation						
Less than 1 day	98.2	1.4	0.4	99.3	0.7	0.0
1 day to less than 1 week	92.2	3.6	4.2	94.3	1.9	3.8
1 week to less than 1 month	84.9	9.3	5.7	88.4	6.9	4.8
1 to 3 months	72.0	9.0	18.9	66.7	16.1	17.3
3 months or more	70.9	8.0	21.0	60.6	12.3	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>

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

**Table 2.17.7**

**Assessment of the waiting period with respect to the time elapsed between making an appointment and a consultation with a general physician or specialist, Quebec, 1998**

	Less than 1 year	1 year or more %	Never
Mental health problem	81.2	14.1	4.8
Sleep disorder	71.7	20.2	8.1
Acute anxiety	49.1	20.1	30.9
Thyroid problem	83.9	16.0	0.1
Diabetes	93.1	6.5	0.4
Hypercholesteremia	92.8	7.0	0.3
Anemia	64.9	33.8	1.3
Other blood disorders	85.0	14.0	1.0
Headache	26.3	27.4	46.3
Eye disease	77.2	21.6	1.2
Hearing ailment	84.8	12.3	2.9
Hypertension	92.2	7.0	0.8
Cardiac problem	79.0	20.5	0.5
Flu	34.7	3.3	61.9
Bronchitis or emphysema	68.3	27.3	4.4
Asthma	62.6	36.4	1.0
Rhinitis	18.2	55.7	26.1
Other respiratory ailments	57.9	9.4	32.6
Other allergies	16.9	65.1	18.0
Gastric ulcer	52.8	39.3	8.0
Functional digestive disorder	48.0	19.4	32.7
Other digestive problems	75.1	20.9	4.1
Skin allergy	49.9	41.5	8.7
Arthritis or rheumatism	55.6	33.8	10.7
Back ache	49.1	37.8	13.1
Other back problems	53.5	39.9	6.6
Lesions	81.0	11.1	7.9
Urinary problem	76.2	20.3	3.5
Malaise or fatigue	51.5	13.4	35.1
Other problems	73.5	17.6	8.9
Menstrual or menopausal problems	68.2	25.2	6.6
Total	58.2	27.1	14.7

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

**Table 2.17.8**

**Number of professionals consulted in course of a period of four months, according to whether the type of problem the object of consultation was long or short term, Quebec, 1998**

	None	One	Two or more
	%		
Long-term problem	52.5	40.9	6.5
Short-term problem	61.5	34.8	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>

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

**Table 2.17.9**

**Persons having consulted at least one professional, doctor or other, in the course of a two-week period, according to type of region, total population, Quebec, 1998**

	Type of professional consulted			Among doctors	
	At least 1 professional	Doctor	Professional other than a doctor	General physician	Specialist
	%				
Central regions	26.5	15.8	15.2	11.3	6.1
Peripheral regions	25.3	14.3	16.4	10.9	4.8
Intermediate regions	23.8	13.7	14.1	10.6	4.3
Distant regions	20.6	11.5	12.9	9.1	3.3*
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>

\*Interpret with caution

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

**Table 2.17.10**

**Consultations having required a trip of 20 kilometres or more, or a traveling time of more than 30 minutes (one way), according to the type of doctor consulted and type of region, Quebec, 1998**

	Trip longer than 20 km	Traveling time greater than 30 minutes
	%	
Consultations with a general physician		
Central regions	2.7*	3.5*
Peripheral regions	13.3	4.2*
Intermediate regions	11.7**	5.1*
Distant regions	16.9**	6.2**
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Consultations with a specialist		
Central regions	6.5*	12.7
Peripheral regions	33.9	15.9
Intermediate regions	32.6	21.8*
Distant regions	39.3**	33.3**
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>

\*Interpret with caution

\*\*Imprecise estimate, indication only

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

**Table 2.17.11**

**Time elapsed between making an appointment and a consultation with a general physician, and assessment of waiting time, according to the type of region, Quebec, 1998**

	Persons having consulted a general physician					
	Time elapsed				Assessment of waiting time	
	Less than 1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	Between 1 and 3 months	3 months or more	Acceptable	A little or too long
	%					
Central regions	51.7	31.9	12.6	3.7**	89.1	10.9*
Peripheral regions	51.6	30.7	16.1	1.5**	85.4	14.6
Intermediate regions	46.4	32.3	17.9*	3.4**	87.0	13.1*
Distant regions	45.3*	41.8*	10.6**	2.3**	84.7	15.3**
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>2.9*</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>12.8</b>

\*Interpret with caution

\*\*Imprecise estimate, indication only

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

**Table 2.17.12**

**Time elapsed between making an appointment and a consultation with a specialist, and assessment of waiting time, according to the type of region, Quebec, 1998**

	Persons having consulted a specialist					
	Time elapsed				Assessment of waiting time	
	Less than 1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	Between 1 and 3 months	3 months or more	Acceptable	A little or too long
	%					
Central regions	23.2	36.9	28.5	11.4*	82.7	17.3
Peripheral regions	23.5	39.4	25.6	11.6*	80.3	19.7
Intermediate regions	33.5	33.9	20.7*	11.9**	80.3	19.7*
Distant regions	24.4**	39.1**	26.8**	9.7**	79.7	20.3**
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>18.7</b>

\*Interpret with caution

\*\*Imprecise estimate, indication only

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

**Table 2.17.13**

**Distance travelled to see a general physician by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	1986	153	115	55
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>20 km or less</b>		86.40%	81.70%	84.35%	87.27%
<b>More than 20 km.</b>		12.19%	15.03%	11.30%	9.09%
<b>Unknown</b>		1.41%	3.27%	4.35%	0.00%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.17.14**

**Travel time required to see a general physician by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	1986	153	115	55
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Up to 20 minutes.</b>		87.71%	79.74%	81.74%	87.27%
<b>20 minutes to less than 30 minutes.</b>		6.85%	11.76%	9.57%	0.00%
<b>30 minutes and more</b>		4.93%	6.54%	7.83%	0.00%
<b>Unknown</b>		0.50%	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*.

**Table 2.17.15****Distance travelled to see a specialist by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	879	56	53	23
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>20 km or less</b>		65.19%	62.50%	84.91%	69.57%
<b>More than 20 km.</b>		30.72%	30.36%	13.21%	26.09%
<b>Unknown</b>		4.10%	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*.

**Table 2.17.16****Travel time required to see a specialist by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	879	56	53	23
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Up to 20 minutes.</b>		61.43%	55.36%	69.81%	69.57%
<b>20 minutes to less than 30 minutes.</b>		14.22%	14.29%	11.32%	0.00%
<b>30 minutes and more</b>		21.62%	26.79%	18.87%	0.00%
<b>Unknown</b>		61.43%	55.36%	69.81%	69.57%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.17.17**

**Location of the last consultation with a professional by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	4541	296	247	109
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Private office</b>		60.10%	64.53%	66.80%	59.63%
<b>CLSC</b>		6.14%	3.04%	2.83%	8.26%
<b>Outpatient Clinic</b>		10.68%	12.16%	13.77%	9.17%
<b>Emergency room-Hospital</b>		3.46%	1.69%	2.43%	0.00%
<b>Hospital overnight</b>		0.97%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Pharmacy</b>		11.43%	8.11%	11.74%	10.09%
<b>Home</b>		3.33%	4.39%	0.00%	7.34%
<b>School</b>		0.40%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Work</b>		0.31%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Telephone</b>		1.04%	2.03%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Other</b>		0.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Unknown</b>		1.30%	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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

**Table 2.17.18**

**Persons consulting at least one professional in the course of a two-week period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Yes</b>		24.94%	28.77%	23.64%	24.49%
<b>No</b>		74.91%	71.23%	76.36%	75.28%
<b>Unknown</b>		0.15%	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*.

**Table 2.17.19**

**Number of professionals consulted in a four-month period by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998**

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>None</b>		74.91%	71.23%	76.36%	75.28%
<b>1 consultation</b>		18.04%	20.12%	18.18%	16.85%
<b>2 or more consultations</b>		6.89%	8.65%	5.45%	7.64%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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