



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

Data indicators report on the Mental Health of Canadians

OTTAWA – The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) today released the first phase of ***Informing the Future: Mental Health Indicators for Canada*** -- the first-ever national-level set of indicators that identifies and reports on the mental health of Canadians.

This pioneering project reveals the current landscape of the mental health of Canadians and will serve to promote discussion of how to improve mental health across the country. Working in partnership with Simon Fraser University's Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction under the leadership of Dr. Elliott Goldner, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the objective of this MHCC-led project is to accurately show the state of mental health in Canada.

“Informing the Future: Mental Health Indicators for Canada will paint a more complete picture of mental health in this country. More important, these indicators will tell us how well – or poorly – the health system is responding to Canadians’ mental health needs. And what, collectively, we need to do about it,” said Dr. David Goldbloom, Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

“This is the most comprehensive set of indicators for mental illness and is a first for Canada,” said Louise Bradley, MHCC President and CEO. “Having a clear understanding of both the problems and opportunities, and putting this knowledge to work in our communities, is critical to making inroads in mental health in Canada.”

Today’s release of the first 13 indicators focus on subjects outlined in MHCC’s Mental Health Strategy for Canada. Each indicator is followed by the colour of its present status: green (good performance) yellow (Some concerns, red (significant concerns):

- ***Children and Youth*** examines Anxiety/Mood Disorders (yellow); Intentional Self-Harm among College Students (red) and School-based Mental Health Promotion (yellow).
- ***Seniors*** measures Anxiety and/or Mood Disorders (yellow)



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- **Economic Prosperity** indicators includes Stress at Work (yellow) and Mental Illness-Related Disability Claims (yellow)
- **Recovery** examines Self-Rated Mental Health in people with common mental health conditions (red)
- **Caregiving** measures Stress Associated with Family Caregiving (red)
- **Diversity** includes Sense of Belonging Among Immigrants (green) and Experienced Discrimination (yellow)
- **Suicide** examines Suicide Rates in the General Population (yellow)
- **Access and Treatment** includes Unmet Need for Mental Health Care Among People with Mental Disorders (yellow) and Mental Illness Hospital Re-Admissions within 30 days (yellow)

“This project is a major step forward in understanding mental health and mental illness in Canada,” said David O’Toole, President and CEO of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. “Working together is important because mental illness touches all parts of the health system, and all parts of society. No one organization can tackle this complex issue alone. Our continued collaboration with the Mental Health Commission and others will improve available information and fill information gaps, a priority in the Mental Health Strategy for Canada,” said David O’Toole, President and CEO, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The preliminary report can be found online:

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/document/68796/informing-future-mental-health-indicators-canada>

The full report, which covers the remaining 50 indicators, will be released later this Spring.

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ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a catalyst for change. We are collaborating with hundreds of partners to change the attitudes of Canadians toward mental health problems and to improve services and support. Our goal is to help people who live with mental health problems and illnesses lead meaningful and productive lives. Together we create change. The Mental Health Commission of Canada is funded by Health Canada.

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