

Catalogue no. 81-600-X — Issue no. 001

ISSN: 1919-8507

ISBN: 978-1-1000-12591-6

Fact Sheet

Health Human Resources and Education in Canada

Do Canadian Health Graduates Find Jobs in their Field of Study?

May 2009

Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division
Main Building, Room 2001, Ottawa, K1A 0T6

Telephone: 1-800-307-3382

Fax: 1-613-951-9040



Health
Canada
Statistics
Canada

Santé
Canada
Statistique
Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca, e-mail us at infostats@statcan.gc.ca, or telephone us, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre

Toll-free telephone (Canada and United States):

Inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Fax line	1-877-287-4369

Local or international calls:

Inquiries line	1-613-951-8116
Fax line	1-613-951-0581

Depository Services Program

Inquiries line	1-800-635-7943
Fax line	1-800-565-7757

To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 81-600-X, is available for free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca and select "Publications."

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "About us" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2009

All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

Acknowledgement

The assistance of several individuals was critical to the production of this fact sheet and we gratefully acknowledge their contribution. A special thank you is extended to Health Canada who funded this project.

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Do Canadian Health Graduates Find Jobs in their Field of Study?

The labour market outcomes of health graduates show that there is a clear demand for their skills. About 96% of health graduates from the National Graduates Survey's Class of 2000 who had not gone on to further studies were employed five years after graduation, most of them in full-time positions and most, but not all of them, in health occupations.

Rates of full-time employment were highest for graduates of programs leading to occupations in allied health diagnostic, intervention and treatment¹ (93%), pharmacy (90%), communication disorders sciences and services² (87%), and medicine (86%) (Table 1). Rates were somewhat lower for graduates of programs leading to occupations in rehabilitation (83%), social work (82%) and nursing (82%). Similar results are observed for graduates of college-level programs.

A majority find jobs in their field of study

Of the 96% (6,900) university health graduates who had not gone on to further studies and were employed five years after graduation (full-time or part-time), about 79% reported working in health occupations. Of these, about half reported working as registered nurses, 11% as physicians and 9% as pharmacists.

Due to the varied nature of work, some health programs do not necessarily lead to occupations included in the "health occupations" category. In fact, of the 96% university health graduates who were employed five years after graduation, about 21% reported not working in health occupations. The large majority of them were either working in health-related occupations such as psychologists or social workers (28%) or in occupations in social science, education, government service and religion (36%).

1. This includes occupations such as cardiovascular technologists, perfusionists, radiation and respiratory therapists, sonographers, ultrasound technicians, physician assistants and radiographers.
2. This includes occupations such as audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

Similar results could be observed for the health graduates at the college-level, with slightly less than one-quarter reporting working in other sectors.

Table 1

A large proportion of graduates from health and health-related programs reported working full-time five years after graduation

	University	College
All programs	85.3	84.6
Health programs	83.2	74.2
Communication disorders	86.8	x
Allied health diagnostic	93.2	91.2
Medical laboratory science	..	82.3
Medicine	85.7	..
Mental and social health services	69.4	49.7 ^E
Nursing	82.3	81.7
Pharmacy	90.4	F
Rehabilitation	82.8	81.1
Selected health-related programs	79.2	79.3
Psychology	76.3	x
Social work	81.6	77.2
All other programs	86.1	86.8

.. not available for a specific reference period

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

Source: Statistics Canada. National Graduates Survey (Class of 2000).

Health human-resource planning information needs

Overall, then, almost all health graduates from the Class of 2000 who had not gone on to additional studies were employed five years after graduation, most of them in their field of study. This information is important for health-care planners in that it provides them with indicators of the proportion of new health graduates entering health professions and of the proportion choosing to work in other sectors of the economy. Trends in these respects may have implications for service delivery.

