

Catalogue no. 81-600-X — Issue no. 004

ISSN: 1919-8507

ISBN: 978-1-100-12597-8

Fact Sheet

Health Human Resources and Education in Canada

From Aspirations to Career Choices: Youth Pathways to Health Occupations

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.

From Aspirations to Career Choices: Youth Pathways to Health Occupations

In high school, young people begin to make plans for their future by considering occupational options. They first develop aspirations, then make choices regarding postsecondary studies and finally, enter the labour market. This fact sheet compares the pathways of two cohorts of youth from their aspirations to an occupation in health in 2000 to their postsecondary education and employment outcomes six years later.

Postsecondary education choices are the first concrete steps in pursuing aspirations

Of the 15% (54,100) of 15-year-olds interested in a health or health-related occupation in 2000, 19% reported being enrolled in a corresponding field of study in 2006, at age 21, and 8% had graduated from a health or health-related program. An additional 5% had enrolled in a health or health-related program but had left the program without completing it (Chart 1).

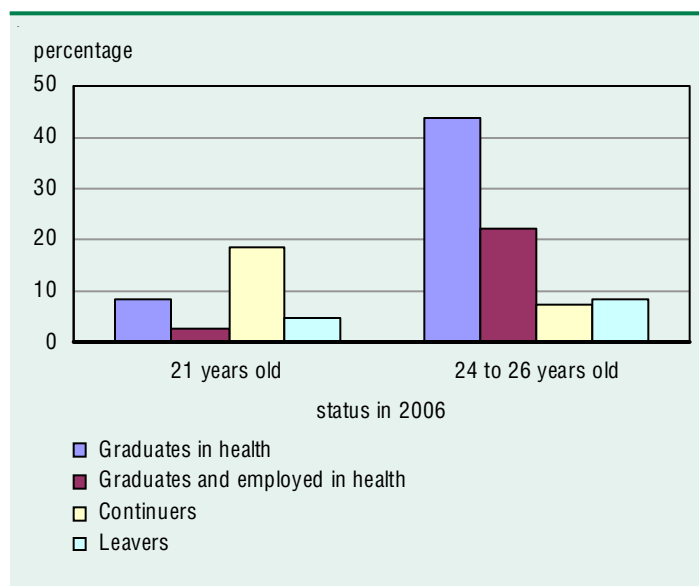
Perhaps not surprisingly, 18 to 20 year-olds were more likely to follow through on their aspirations: of the 11% (130,300) of 18 to 20 year-olds who reported an interest in a health or health-related occupations in 2000, 7% reported being enrolled in a health or health-related program in 2006, when they were 24 to 26 years old, and 44% had graduated from such a program. About 9% indicated that they left such a program without graduating (Chart 1).

In addition, some young people who had not indicated an interest in health or health-related occupations at age 15 or even at age 18 to 20 in 2000 opted for a program of study in this field: 8% of each of these two cohorts were either graduates of, or enrolled in, a health or health-related program six years later, in 2006.

Following graduation, retention in health occupations is high

About one-third of 21 year-olds who had graduated from a health or health-related program reported being employed in a health or health-related occupation in 2006. Employment in a health or health-related occupation was higher for the older cohort, who were 24 to 26 years old in 2006, with about half of those graduating from a health or health-related program being employed in a related occupation in 2006 (Chart 1). Those not working in a related field in 2006 could still have been students or, being relatively recent graduates, may not yet have found a job in their field of study.

Chart 1
From aspirations to an occupation in health to postsecondary education and employment outcomes six years later



Source: Statistics Canada. Youth in Transition Survey, Cycle 4, 2006.

Health human-resource planning information needs

Although there is a great deal of interest in health occupations among youth in Canada, more research is needed to fully understand the factors influencing changes in young people's interest in such occupations over time. This would assist health-care planners in designing effective recruitment strategies to attract young people to the field.