

Subsection 3.—Numbers of Physicians and Earnings of Those in Private Practice

Numbers.—According to a survey conducted by the Department of National Health and Welfare, there were 21,011 active civilian physicians in Canada in 1962; the 1962 ratio of 881 persons per physician continues the postwar trend of improvement in physician supply. Table 16 shows the historical trend since 1901 and the provincial distribution for 1962. The ratio of 748 persons per physician for British Columbia in the latest year is the most favourable supply yet achieved by a Canadian province.

16.—Active Civilian Physicians and Population per Physician, 1901-62, and by Province, 1962

Year	Active Civilian Physicians		Province or Territory	Active Civilian Physicians	
	Number	Population per Physician		Number	Population per Physician
Census Data—			Newfoundland.....	304	1,539
1901.....	5,475	972	Prince Edward Island.....	87	1,218
1911.....	7,411	970	Nova Scotia.....	735	1,012
1921.....	8,706	1,008	New Brunswick.....	458	1,321
1931.....	10,020	1,034	Quebec.....	5,932	902
1941.....	10,723	1,072	Ontario.....	7,826	808
			Manitoba.....	1,085	859
			Saskatchewan.....	919	1,010
Register of Physicians—			Alberta.....	1,367	998
1951.....	14,163	989	British Columbia.....	2,210	748
1954.....	15,651	977	Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	25	1,560
1959.....	19,300	906			
1962.....	21,011	881	Canada.....	21,011¹	881

¹ Includes 63 not allocated by province.

Table 17 shows that the physicians of Canada are more highly concentrated in the larger centres of population than is the population generally, and that this concentration has been increasing for both the total population and physicians. In addition, the percentage increase of the 1962 total of physicians in centres of fewer than 10,000 population over that for 1951 was less (5.8) than the percentage increase over 1951 of the 1959 total in these areas (11.9), indicating a decrease in the total number of physicians in these areas during the 1959-62 period. Although the trends indicated in these data are slightly exaggerated by changes between censuses in the make-up of census metropolitan areas, it is clear that there is an over-all widening of the traditional disparity in availability of physician services between smaller localities and large urban centres.

17.—Percentages of Population and of Active Civilian Physicians in Centres of Over or Under 10,000 Population and Percentage Increases Over 1951

Item	Percentages of Total			Percentage Increases Over 1951		
	In Centres of—		Total	For Centres of—		Total
	10,000 or Over Population	Under 10,000 Population		10,000 or Over Population ¹	Under 10,000 Population	
Population—						
1951.....	48.2	51.8	100.0
1961.....	57.7	42.3	100.0	55.9	6.3	30.2
Physicians—						
1951.....	73.2 ²	26.8	100.0
1954.....	73.7 ²	26.3	100.0	12.3	9.3	11.5
1959.....	78.2 ³	21.8	100.0	46.8	11.9	37.4
1962.....	81.0 ⁴	19.0	100.0	64.6	5.8	48.8

¹ Includes all parts of census metropolitan areas, regardless of size.

² Size of place as in 1956 Census.

³ Size of place as in 1961 Census.

⁴ Size of place as in 1951 Census.