

improvement has been particularly noteworthy in some of the less heavily populated provinces.

In the ratio of population to nearly 138,000 registered nurses, there was a range from 147 residents per RN working in Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia to 234 in Yukon. These figures indicate that even the sparsely populated areas of Canada have good access to nursing personnel (Table 5.22).

The scope of health occupations in Canada is illustrated by Table 5.23. In addition to physicians and registered nurses, there were nearly 158,000 persons listed in other health occupations. The importance of a wide range of professional, semi-professional and support occupations is reflected in the number of groups which have formed national associations. Provincial authorities have established registration and regulatory bodies for a number of health occupations.

5.10 International health services

Through the national health and welfare department, Canada participates in the activities of the Commonwealth ministers of health, the Pan-American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, other United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations whose programs have a substantial health component. Similarly the department takes part in bilateral exchanges with countries that have scientific, technological or cultural arrangements with Canada.

In addition, each year Canadian experts in public health and in the health sciences undertake specific assignments abroad as special advisers or consultants at the request of the World Health Organization, the Pan-American Health Organization or one of the other agencies.

The department enforces regulations governing the handling and shipping of shellfish under an international shellfish agreement between Canada and the United States. Other responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin and hormone standards for the World Health Organization and certain duties in connection with an international convention on narcotic drugs.

Sources

- 5.1 - 5.10 (except 5.4.2) Branch and Interagency Co-ordination Unit, Health Services and Promotion Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare; Health Division, Social Statistics Field, Statistics Canada.
- 5.4.2 Policy, Planning and Information Branch, Information Systems Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare.