

comparisons are made with the total population, based on the results of the 1984 Survey of Consumer Finances) indicated that 31% of income recipients in the total population had incomes of \$20,000 or more, compared with 15% of those with a disability. Approximately 414,000 disabled adults indicated receiving income from one or more pension and/or assistance plans; disability pensions from the Canada Pension Plan or the Quebec Pension Plan were the most frequently cited sources of such incomes.

Many disabled adults were restricted in their ability to travel and those who were able to leave their homes may have required special transportation. Among the 2,448,000 disabled adults, 158,000 were unable to leave their residences because of their condition or health problems; 302,000 could not take long-distance trips and 121,000 reported that they could not travel at all.

Local public transportation was available to 59% of those who were able to leave their homes, and among those who did have access, some 281,000 persons (or 21%) reported difficulties in using it. The most frequently mentioned difficulties concerned getting on or off the bus or streetcar, or simply getting to the bus stop. Some communities have a special bus or van service for people who cannot use regular public transport. Approximately 142,000 disabled adults indicated a need for this service, of whom 80,000 indicated that it was available to them. Those disabled adults who were able to leave their homes and make trips of more than 80 kilometres were asked if they had difficulty using each of three modes of long-distance public transportation. Problems with air travel were mentioned by 7%, difficulties in travelling by bus were mentioned by 15% and 7% mentioned problems in travelling by rail. Boarding was the most frequently reported problem for each mode of transport.

Approximately 302,000 children under the age of 15, or 6% of the Canadian population in this age group, were identified as disabled. This prevalence increased from 4% of those aged 0-4 to 7% among those aged 10-14.

Disabled children were most likely to be identified by being reported to have an activity limitation at school, play or in other typical activities (110,000); other categories frequently mentioned were learning disabilities (66,000), heart conditions (40,000), hearing trouble (33,000) and other chronic health problems (37,000). For the 110,000 children with a general activity limitation, diseases of the respiratory system were the most common cause (23%) of such limitation.

Of the 224,000 disabled children aged 5-14 in Canada, many required special schooling. In October 1983, 12,000 disabled children who were going to school attended special schools. A further 10,000 children were attending special classes in a regular school and 31,000 were attending a mix of regular and special classes. A learning disability was the most frequently cited problem requiring attendance at special schools or classes.

A more comprehensive survey of disabled Canadians was conducted by Statistics Canada in 1986-87. The survey extended coverage to include the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Indian reserves and the population living in special care facilities. Initial results of the new survey are expected in 1988.

3.1.4 Specific health conditions

Mental disorders treated in psychiatric hospitals and general hospitals on an in-patient basis were responsible for approximately 11 million patient-days in 1982-83, with psychiatric hospitals accounting for 61% of these days, and general hospitals accounting for 39% (Table 3.20). During the last decade, the number of patient-days for mental disorders has been increasing in general hospitals and decreasing in psychiatric hospitals.

General hospitals are primarily used for short-term intensive treatment of mental disorders, whereas psychiatric hospitals are used for both short- and long-term treatment. In psychiatric hospitals the median length of stay in 1982-83 for males and females was 27 days and 32 days, respectively, while in general hospitals it was 9 days and 11 days, respectively (Table 3.21).

An examination of patient-days by diagnoses indicates that in psychiatric hospitals the largest utilization of patient-days was for cases diagnosed as schizophrenic, organic psychotic conditions and mental retardation, while in general hospitals it was for cases diagnosed as organic psychotic conditions, schizophrenic, and affective psychoses (Table 3.21).

Although the number of patient-days for mental disorders in general hospitals was less than the number of patient-days in psychiatric hospitals, the number of separations for mental disorders was greater in general hospitals than in psychiatric hospitals (Table 3.21). In 1982-83 general hospitals reported 155,261 cases diagnosed as mentally ill, whereas in psychiatric hospitals the number of cases reported was 34,256. In terms of the number of separations, the three most common diagnoses in general hospitals were neurotic disorders, affective