

psychoses and alcohol dependence syndrome; whereas in psychiatric hospitals the three most common diagnoses were schizophrenia, affective psychoses and personality disorders.

Heart disease caused one of every four deaths in 1982. Over the past decade, death rates have been gradually declining. The Canada Health Survey showed that about 800,000 Canadians had heart problems in 1979; over half were persons of working age. It was estimated that heart problems caused 300,000 persons to be restricted in their daily activities and over 100,000 persons to have disability days. Over 250,000 patients separated from hospital in 1982-83 were treated for heart disease.

Cancer accounted for more than one of every five deaths; 40% of persons who died from cancer were in their working years or younger. Over the previous decade the death rate gradually increased due largely to a 50% increase in deaths from cancer of the respiratory system. Over 228,000 patients treated for active or suspected cancer were separated from hospital in 1982-83.

Provincial registries reported a total of 82,454 new primary sites of cancer in 1982, representing an increase of 1.9% over the 80,949 cases reported in 1981. (Skin cancers other than melanoma are excluded from the incidence totals due to differences in reporting among the provinces.) Among the provinces, the highest incidence rates were observed in Manitoba, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. Lung cancer was the most frequently reported site of these new cases (12,428), followed by female breast cancer (10,300). All forms of cancer accounted for 41,964 deaths in Canada in 1982. As was the case for the incidence of new primary sites of cancer, Manitoba had the highest death rate from cancer, at 195 per 100,000 population. British Columbia had the highest rate of hospitalization for cancer in 1981-82 at 884 per 100,000 population. Among the major sites of cancer, lung cancer caused by far the greatest number of deaths in 1982, at 10,121 deaths, followed by female breast cancer, at 3,646 deaths. These two sites also accounted for the greatest numbers of hospital separations. Male prostate cancer was the third-ranking cause of hospitalization for cancer, at a rate of 104 per 100,000 males.

Respiratory diseases have had a relatively stable overall pattern with a small increase proportionate to the population increase. These diseases strike at all ages, though 78% of fatal illness occur after age 65. The average hospital stay is

seven to eight days. Nearly twice as many men as women die from respiratory disease, largely due to the much higher male death rate from the category bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

Fatal cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is primarily a condition of old age, with only 15% of deaths occurring before age 65. Deaths among men are more common at earlier ages, but elderly women over age 75 account for a large proportion of deaths from this condition. More men than women are admitted to hospital, but the days of care provided in hospital for women suffering from stroke exceeds that for men by over 30%.

Accidents and violence. Accidental injuries, poisoning, suicides, and assaults in 1982 resulted in 6,286 deaths and 288,360 persons discharged from general hospitals. Of the deaths, 53% were male and 47% were female, and of the persons discharged from hospitals, 58% were male and 42% female. However, the length of hospital stay was higher for females (15 days) than males (10 days), resulting in the utilization of 1,854,895 patient days by females and 1,777,418 patient days for males.

Alcohol-related problems are a major social and health issue in our society. In 1981 there were an estimated 397,000 males and 189,000 females suffering from the alcohol dependence syndrome (formerly termed alcoholism). Since 1960 the total number of persons afflicted with this disorder has increased by 157% and, in terms of rates per 100,000, the increase was 85%.

The number of deaths in Canada classified as directly attributable to alcohol was 3,063 in 1982, of which approximately 78% were due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Most alcohol-related deaths occur among men and in individuals aged 60 and over. Heavy drinkers have an overall mortality rate more than twice as high as a comparable group in the general population with the same age and sex composition. They have particularly high mortality rates for suicide, upper digestive and respiratory cancers, stomach and duodenal ulcers, pneumonia and accidents.

In 1982, the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels of 75% of individuals involved in the 1,564 driver fatalities in Canada were tested. Of the fatalities tested, 60% indicated the presence of alcohol with 35% having more than twice the legal limit. This situation has remained virtually unchanged over the past decade.

There were 143,424 persons charged with alcohol-related traffic offences in 1982, an increase of 52% since 1971. These alcohol-related traffic offences accounted for 91% of