

Introduction

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The Saskatchewan Provincial Health Status Report describes the health of the Saskatchewan population and provides evidence for planning and evaluation of public health and other health programs. The project was initiated by the Population Health Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, in 2009, as part of its mandate to provide epidemiological support to the health regions and provincial decision makers. The provincial health status report is included under the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health's 2010 Strategic and Operational Directions, Goals 4.1: *The health system improves the health of the population through health promotion/ protection and disease prevention; Initiatives: Produce a comprehensive provincial health status report that will inform the development of strategies to promote, improve, and maintain the health of Saskatchewan residents.*

Health status reports describe the health of the population; offer comparisons within those populations and, when possible, to national figures; highlight issues related to the population's health; and may serve as an educational tool for various target audiences including the general public. The Saskatchewan Provincial Health Status Report includes the results and interpretation for a number of health-related indicators and makes that information easily accessible to a wide variety of audiences. A picture of the health status of Saskatchewan residents as well as the key conditions which affect their health is provided

Health status reports have limitations. There is no single measurement for the health status of an individual or population as health is a multi-dimensional concept and is difficult to measure.

Health status reports are a labourious undertaking and quickly outdate as new information becomes available. As a result, the Saskatchewan Provincial Health Status Report is intended to be a "living document". Chapters will be updated on a regular basis—usually when a sufficient period of time has elapsed in order to allow the appropriate databases to be updated to make it efficient and effective to update the specific chapter. As the data sources and their update schedules for each chapter vary considerably, the updates will not follow a defined timeline.

The Saskatchewan Provincial Health Status Report consists of three distinct components: an **executive summary** targeted for the general public, the **chapters** targeted for health planners and decision makers and **chart pages** targeted to medical health officers, epidemiologists and other data analysts. Each chapter is written as a stand alone report. The outline of the report is as follows:

Executive Summary/Highlights

- 1 – Introduction
- 2 – Methodology
- 3 – The Population of Saskatchewan
- 4 – The Environment and Health
- 5 – Mortality
- 6 – Morbidity
- 7 – Injuries
- 8 – Chronic Diseases
- 9 – Infectious Diseases
- 10 – Behaviour and Self Reported Health Indicator Charts

Each of the report chapters follows a consistent format. At the beginning of the chapter there is a key findings section that highlights the main findings. An introduction section provides the con-

text for the subject matter. The remainder of the chapter provides the detail and high level interpretation for the analyzed indicators. The glossary of terms and references sections complete the chapter.

The chart pages also follow a standardized format. The title section includes the chapter and the indicator. The left hand side of the page provides the indicator description with the definition, significance/use, limitations and data source. The middle section provides the accompanying charts. The bottom section is the summary of findings.