

# HOME CARE NEEDS IN CANADA

Home care services allow people of all ages to receive care at home rather than in a hospital or long-term care facility. Home care services include short-term care for recovery, long-term care for disabilities, chronic conditions or age limitations, and end-of-life care. Care provided by family or friends is not included.

## ABOUT 1.2 MILLION CANADIAN ADULTS NEEDED HOME CARE SERVICES

Of these,

**26%** had their needs partially met

**10%** had their needs unmet

## BENEFITS OF HOME CARE USE

- Ability to remain at home
- Improved quality of life
- Reduced costs associated with institutional options
- Decreased mortality



## TOP BARRIERS TO OBTAINING HOME CARE

- Availability of services
- Personal characteristics
- Cost
- Ineligibility; doctor does not think it necessary

## FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH UNMET HOME CARE NEEDS

- Age - 35 to 49 years of age were more likely to have unmet home care needs
- Not having long-term care insurance
- Fair or poor self-perceived health
- Living alone

## NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF UNMET HOME CARE NEEDS

- Overall poorer health
- Increased use of other health services
- Admission to nursing homes
- Reduced emotional well-being

## WHO PAID FOR HOME CARE SERVICES, BY HOUSEHOLD?



**52%**

were paid for solely by government



**27%**

were paid for solely out-of-pocket



**8%**

were paid for at least in part by government and/or insurance



**7%**

were paid for solely by insurance



**6%**

were paid for by other sources

### Sources

Gilmour, H. 2018. "Formal home care use in Canada." *Health Reports* 29 (9): 3–9.  
Gilmour, H. 2018. "Unmet home care needs in Canada." *Health Reports* 29 (11): 3–11.

Catalogue number: 11-627-M  
ISBN number: 978-0-660-27738-7



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