



Public Health Expenditure in the NHEX Database

The National Health Expenditure Database (NHEX) captures public health spending by governments and government agencies and includes expenditures for items such as food and drug safety, health inspections, health promotion activities, community mental health programs, public health nursing, measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease, and occupational health to promote and enhance health and safety at the workplace in public-sector agencies. A broad definition of public health beyond the scope of health promotion, disease prevention and health inspection is consistent with the definition of prevention and public health services used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its manual *A System of Health Accounts* (SHA). The SHA is the framework that Canada's health accounts are based on.

In 2014, total health spending in Canada was \$215.8 billion; public health accounted for 5.6% of total health expenditures, at \$12.1 billion. Provincial/territorial governments were the main source of finance for public health (78%), and the remaining 22% came from other public sectors: federal direct government (16%), municipal government (4%) and social security funds (3%). Private-sector spending on public health cannot be explicitly identified in NHEX data.

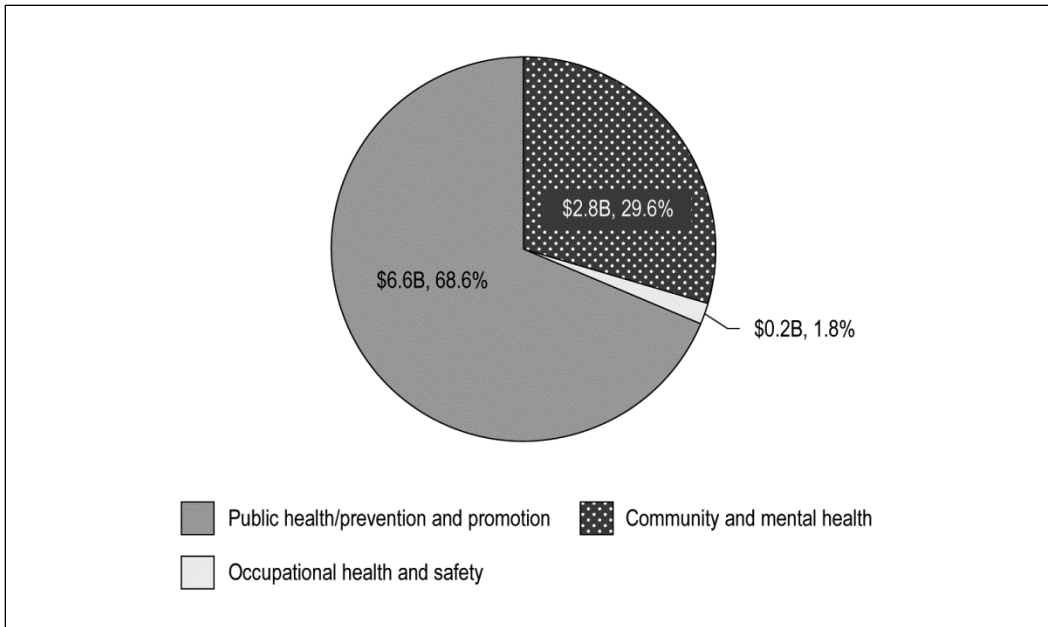
Figures for total provincial/territorial government public health spending include spending reported by the provincial/territorial ministry responsible for health services as well as by other departments that report spending on public health in accordance with national health accounts definitions. In the provincial/territorial government sector, public health spending can be further redistributed into 3 distinct spending categories: public health/prevention and promotion, community and mental health, and occupational health and safety. Public health/prevention and promotion had the largest share of the total for provincial/territorial government public health spending (68.6%, \$6.6 billion), followed by community and mental health (29.6%, \$2.8 billion) and occupational health and safety (1.8%, \$0.2 billion). This distribution has been fairly stable since 2010.





Technical Note

Public health spending by Canada's provincial/territorial governments, by category, 2014–2015 (billions of dollars and percentage share)



Source

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.