

Rankings: What do they matter, what do they measure?

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Outline

- Healthcare statistics in Canada
- My organization and what we do
- Why we are interested in rankings
- Our “Making Sense of Health Rankings” report





CIHI and the Canadian Context





CIHI's Mandate

- Serve as the national coordinating mechanism for a common approach to Canada's health information system
- Produce timely information for:
 - Establishment of sound health policy
 - Effective management of health system(s)
 - Generating public awareness about health determinants



The Daily S

Thursday, June 26, 2008

B.C. Leads Country in Meeting Wait Time Benchmarks

By CARMELLE SANDER

A NATIONAL toxicology expert says chemicals released from the centre in Canning Vale threaten to residents' health. Dr Mark Donohoe, a Sydney environmental physician with 22 years' experience in toxicology, said toxins present in the air surrounding the South Metropolitan Regional Council plant were a concern. Samples taken last week showed the presence of several odorous compounds, including limonene, acetone, toluene, acetone and acetaldehyde.

The Department of Health said at the time that it did not expect odours to cause health problems for residents. The main issue at the site was amenity.

He said itchy watery eyes, sore throats, sneezing and headaches were all indicators that there were irritants in the air.

was closed, with results indicating that detected compounds were well above odour thresholds but below irritation thresholds."

Doug Thompson said Dr Donohoe's comments were hypothetical in nature, given that he had not visited the Bannister Road plant.

Health Care Spending in Canada to Exceed \$180 Billion this Year

Dateline Michigan City, IN: A popular columnist who writes for a very popular weekly newspaper in Michigan City has been fighting the effects of calluses from an overabundance of surfing. "It's just one of the hazards of the job," the writer explained, adding that she has to surf dozens of websites before she can find five or six decent ones to write about in her column. The writer said that she planned to create

flash and dash for her strong and increasing readership. She wants to give her readers more than

B.C. spends the least on drugs: Per capita prescriptions lowest in the country

generator will serve to help her callus problem, she

that relationship between the behaviour of experts in their fields is becoming more or v

Number of Regulated Nurses Working in Canada up by 8% between 2004 and 2008

However, with the help of Rebecca Schimpf, people will be able literally to reinvent themselves by having cosmetic surgery done in Thai hospitals.

Ms Schimpf recently set up her own business, Restored Beauty Getaways, to act as a broker between two Thai hospitals and West Australians after she realised there was a niche for such a service.

She said "medical tourism" was booming and Ms Schimpf, of Maylands, had some cosmetic surgery done in Thailand last year after doing her research on the internet.

"Then my friends wanted information and other people started ringing me up asking for contact details and I thought 'why don't I

Canadian Hospitals Aim to Reduce Mortality Rates, but Severe Infections Remain a Challenge

Dateline Michigan City, IN: A popular columnist who writes for a very popular weekly newspaper in Michigan City has been fighting the effects of calluses from an overabundance of surfing. "It's just one of the hazards of the job," the writer explained, adding that she has to surf dozens of websites before she can find five or six decent ones to write about in her column. The writer said that she planned to create a "surprise" column that would add more visual

flash and dash for her strong and increasing readership. She wants to give her readers more than just words on a page in the column, with the added benefit of healing her callus problem. "The neat thing is that readers just don't know what to expect in this column from week to week. But then I don't usually know what to expect, either." The newspaper snippet generator will serve to help her callus problem, she explained.

Growth in Drug Spending Reaches Lowest Rate in a Decade

By CARMELLE SANDER

A NATIONAL toxicology expert says chemicals released from the waste composting centre in Canning Vale could be posing a threat to residents' health.

Dr Mark Donohoe, a Sydney environmental physician with 22 years' experience in toxicology, said toxins present in the air surrounding the South Metropolitan Regional Council plant were a concern.

Samples taken last August showed the presence of several odorous compounds, including limonene, acetic acid, ammonia, toluene, acetone and acetaldehyde.

The Department of Health said at the time that it did not expect odours to cause health problems for residents. The main issue at the site was amenity.

However, Dr Donohoe said toxins present in the sampling could pose a risk to people's health.

"Toluene is a known toxin. Limonene, when initially exposed to it, will only smell funny, but inflammatory responses can then flare up because people become sensitised to it," he said.

"As time goes by, they become more sensitive to the smells and after a while people can get direct irritation and inflammation, which can lead to nose bleeds."

Rise in use of common osteoporosis drugs among Canadian seniors

"We requested that the Department of Environment and Conservation carry out air monitoring last year before the facility

was closed, with results indicating that detected compounds were well above odour thresholds but below irritation thresholds."

Nevertheless, Dr Donohoe said the presence of an odour was a clear indication that something was not right.

Regional council chairman Doug Thompson said Dr Donohoe's comments were hypothetical in nature, given that he had not visited the Bannister Road plant.

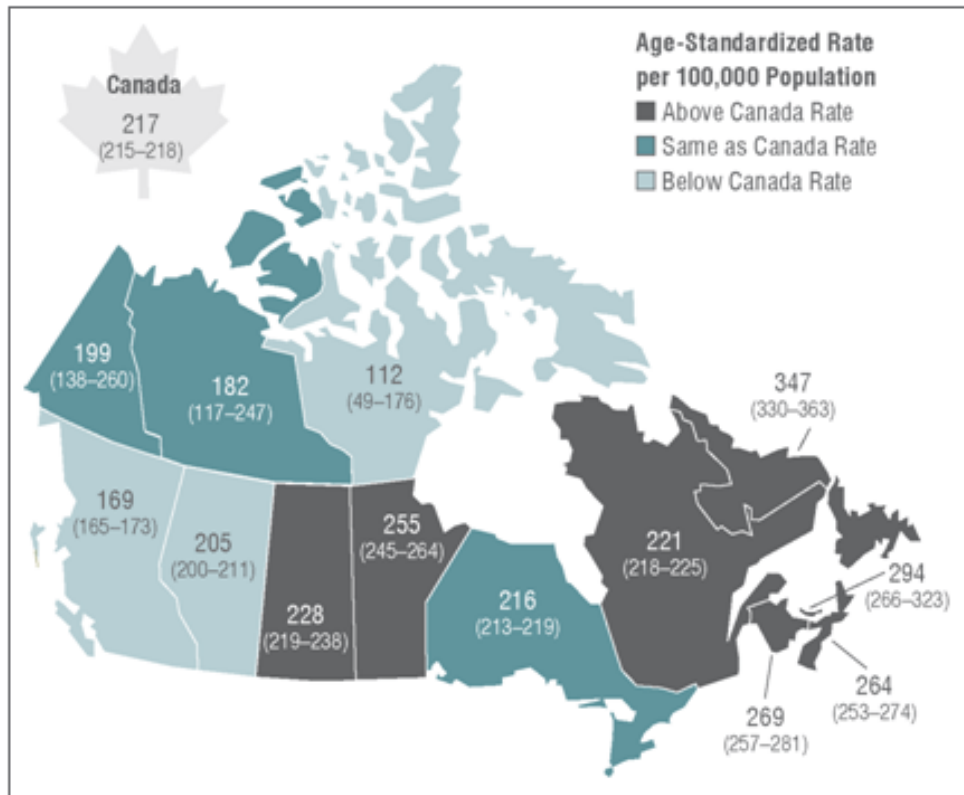
"The waste composting facility operates under a licence regulated by DEC and we take advice from the DoH," he said.

"Testing has demonstrated the facility operates under the relevant licence thresholds."

She said clients seemed interested mostly in cosmetic surgery.

For more details visit www.restoredbeauty.com

Health Indicators 2010





Have Canada's public health policies and health care systems succeeded in promoting the health of its citizens?

Does my province provide high quality services with good outcomes?





Our interest in rankings....

“Canada manages to hang on to its “B,” ranking 10th among the 16 peer countries”

Conference Board of Canada
September 2009





Our interest in rankings....

- Canada ranked 11th among 24 countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in terms of overall health performance.
- The ranking considered life expectancy, rates of death and disease, immunization rates, self-reported health and certain risk factors (such as rates of obesity).

OECD, 2007





Our interest in rankings....

“Canada ranked 23rd among 30 countries”

This incorporated measures of patient rights and information, waiting times for treatment, clinical outcomes, generosity of public health care systems and provision of pharmaceuticals

Euro Canada Health Consumer Index,
January 2009



Provincial Rankings

Provincial Comparison

Overall Ranking		Gold	Silver	Bronze	n.a.*	Weighted Count
1	British Columbia	63	27	27	2	153
2	Alberta	45	43	31	0	133
3	Saskatchewan	40	45	26	8	125
4	Ontario	37	48	28	6	122
5	Quebec	49	23	27	20	121
6	New Brunswick	38	37	38	6	113
7	Prince Edward Island	40	24	40	15	104
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	39	20	44	16	98
8	Nova Scotia	25	48	41	5	98
10	Manitoba	24	44	46	5	92

*n.a. = Data not available.

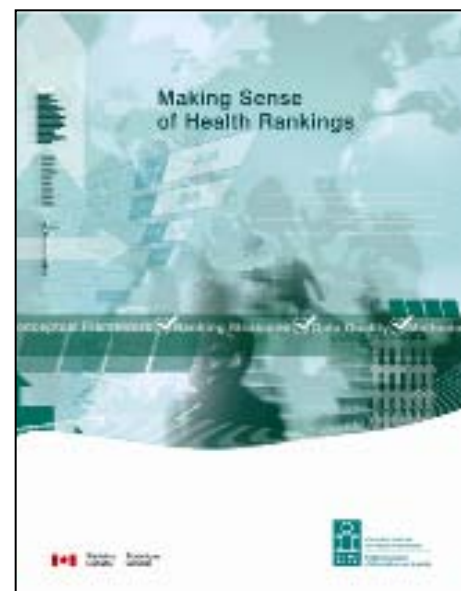
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.





Making Sense of Health Rankings

- Methodology paper designed to help:
 - Interpret information that ranks health care performance
 - Identify strengths and weaknesses in ranking methodologies
 - Assist in better understanding and evaluating ranking reports





Rankings

Strengths:

- Simple
- Easy to understand
- Easy to communicate

Challenges:

- Over-simplified
- Highly affected by methodology, measures and motive
- Comparability is often questionable





Making Sense of Health Rankings

Checklist for Reviewing Health Ranking Reports

- ① Assess the soundness of the conceptual framework
- ② Assess the indicators chosen to measure selected aspects of health and health care
- ③ Assess the data quality
- ④ Examine soundness of methods



Step 1: Assess the soundness of the conceptual framework

- Does the ranking scheme's conceptual framework cover the areas of health and health care that are relevant to the purpose of the ranking?



Step 2: Assess the indicators chosen to measure selected aspects of health and health care

- ☑ Are the indicators of health or healthcare used in the ranking consistent with the conceptual framework?
- ☑ Are the measures used for the selected indicators meaningful and valid?



Step 3: Assess the data quality

- ☑ Are data accurate, reliable, complete, comparable and free from bias?
- ☑ Are data elements defined and collected so that “apples to apples” comparisons are being made?



Step 4: Examine the soundness of methods

- ☑ Are meaningful differences in performance distinguishable?
- ☑ Are absolute and relative comparisons available for review?
- ☑ Have appropriate adjustments been made for underlying differences in the populations being compared?



Step 4: Examine the soundness of methods (cont.)

- ☑ is the way specific measures are combined in the ranking scheme clear?
- ☑ Is the specific formula, along with any weights used to combine individual measures or indicators, based on clear and reasonable principles?
- ☑ Are differences in performance statistically significant?



Step 4: Examine the soundness of methods (cont.)

- ☑ Have other statistical issues been appropriately handled (e.g., adjustments for correlated measures, handling outlier values and ties)?
- ☑ Have the authors of the report reduced the potential for bias through full disclosure of ranking methods and peer review?



Data, Indicators, Rankings . . .

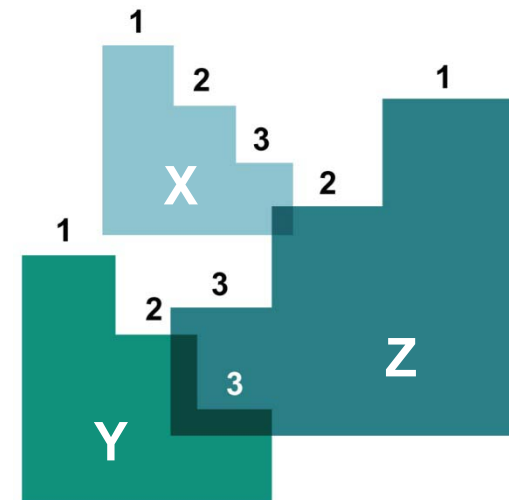
RAW DATA



INDICATORS

X	120
Y	97
Z	65

RANKINGS



Questions?

www.cihi.ca

CIHI
ICIS



Taking health information further
À l'avant-garde de l'information sur la santé

