



# Using the Internet to Find Health Information

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An Analysis of the 2001 NRE Household Survey

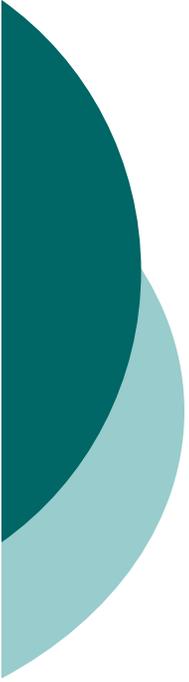
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# Outline

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- Purpose
- Context
- Methodology
- Analysis
- Discussion and Policy Implications



# Purpose

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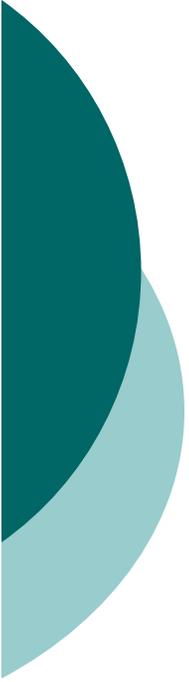
- Explore the extent of Internet use in Rural Canada, with emphasis on use for health information
- Assess differences within the NRE framework (leading and lagging communities)
- Assess demographic issues
- Explore connections to health status and volunteering in the health sector
- Discussion of policy issues



# Context

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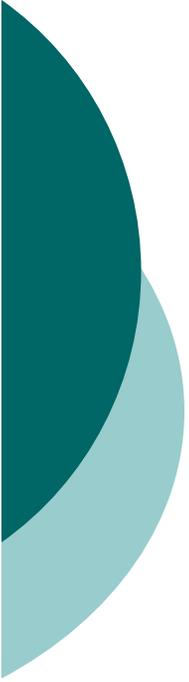
- Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada
  - Access to federal programs and services
  - Skills and technology to participate in the KBE
  - Access to health care
- Connection Canadians Agenda
  - Develop content
- Increasing Use of the Internet
- Wellness and Health Promotion
- Individual or Patient Interest in Health Issues
- Changing Nature of Service Access and Delivery



# For Example.....

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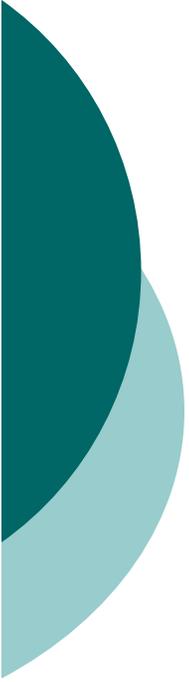
- Centre for Disease Control & Prevention - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Cdn. Institute for Health Information - [www.cihi.ca](http://www.cihi.ca)
- Canadian Health Network - [www.canadian-health-network.ca](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca)
- Medical Council of Canada - [www.mcc.ca](http://www.mcc.ca)
- College of Family Physicians of Canada - [www.cfpc.ca](http://www.cfpc.ca)
- Health Canada - [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)
- Canadian Paediatric Society - [www.cps.ca](http://www.cps.ca)
- Canadian Institute of Child Health - [www.cich.ca](http://www.cich.ca)
- Child and Family Canada - [www.cfc-efc.ca](http://www.cfc-efc.ca)
- Cyberisle Teen Health Web site - [www.cyberisle.org](http://www.cyberisle.org)
- Canadian Women's Health Network - [www.cwhn.ca](http://www.cwhn.ca)



# Methodology

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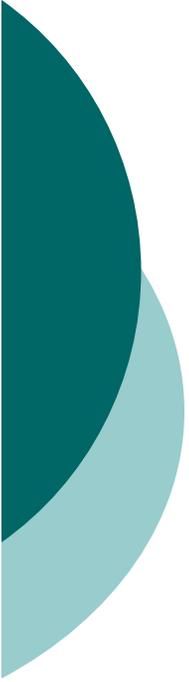
- Household Survey
  - NRE Framework ([nre.concordia.ca](http://nre.concordia.ca))
  - 1995 households in 20 different types of communities, summer 2001
  - Interview format with closed questions



# Analysis

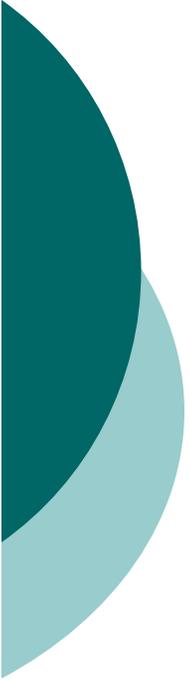
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- Who uses the Internet?
- Among Internet users, who uses it to access health information?
- Do those with health problems use the Internet to access health information?
- Do volunteers in the health sector use the Internet to access health information?
- How useful is the Internet?



## Internet Users: Age and Gender

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
All	1082	54
Leading	559	63
Lagging	523	47
Age 18-24	40	80
Age 25-34	159	69
Age 35-54	631	75
Age 55-64	158	43
Age 65 +	89	19
Female	688	55
Male	392	53



## Internet Users: Income

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	Count	Percent
less than \$10,000	15	32
\$10,000 - \$19,999	51	22
\$20,000 - \$29,999	102	38
\$30,000 - \$39,999	112	50
\$40,000 - \$59,999	257	68
\$60,000 - \$79,999	183	74
\$80,000 or more	248	86



## Internet Users: Education

	Count	Percent
Less grade 9	38	14
Some high school	95	33
High school comp	243	56
Trades certificate	169	75
Non-univ, IC	45	71
Non-univ, comp	199	65
Some university	75	74
Bachelor's or higher	217	85



## Using the Internet for What?

	Total %	Lead %	Lagg %
Family & friends	71	71	71
Browsing	71	69	74
Personal research	67	67	67
Entertainment	43	37	49
Business related	42	48	36
Employment	35	39	30
Health information	34	36	33
Health providers	6	6	7



## Health Info: Age and Gender

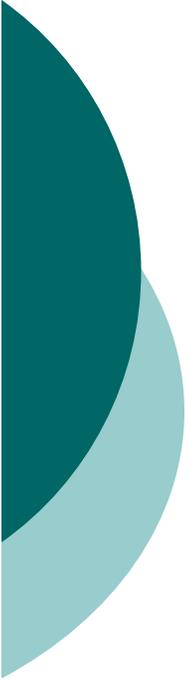
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
All	334	34
Leading	183	36
Lagging	151	33
Age 18-24	8	20
Age 25-34	47	30
Age 35-54	202	32
Age 55-64	43	27
Age 65 +	31	35
Female	203	30
Male	130	33



## Health Info: Income

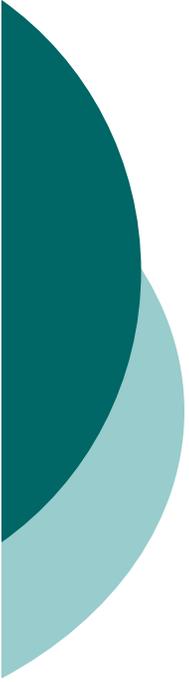
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	Count	Percent
less than \$10,000	6	40
\$10,000 - \$19,999	13	26
\$20,000 - \$29,999	28	28
\$30,000 - \$39,999	29	26
\$40,000 - \$59,999	69	27
\$60,000 - \$79,999	62	33
\$80,000 or more	97	39



## Health Info: Education

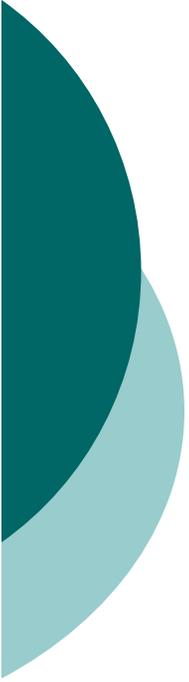
	Count	Percent
Less grade 9	4	11
Some high school	22	23
High school comp	72	30
Trades certificate	47	28
Non-univ, IC	15	33
Non-univ, comp	64	32
Some university	83	36
Bachelor's or higher	27	38



## People with a Health Change

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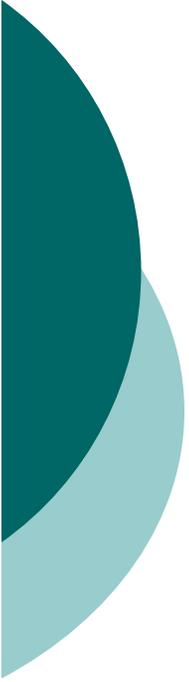
- Reporting a change in health status in 2000-2001: 599 or 30%
- Of these, 285 or 48% use the Internet
- Of these 285, 255 provided information about Internet use
- 124 use the Internet to access health information
  - 49% of Internet users
  - 21% of those with a health status change



## People Who Are Health Volunteers

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- 131 (7%) people are health volunteers
- Of these 131, 72 or 55% use the Internet
- Of these 72, 65 provided information about Internet use
- 37 use the Internet to access health information
  - 57% of Internet users
  - 28% of health volunteers



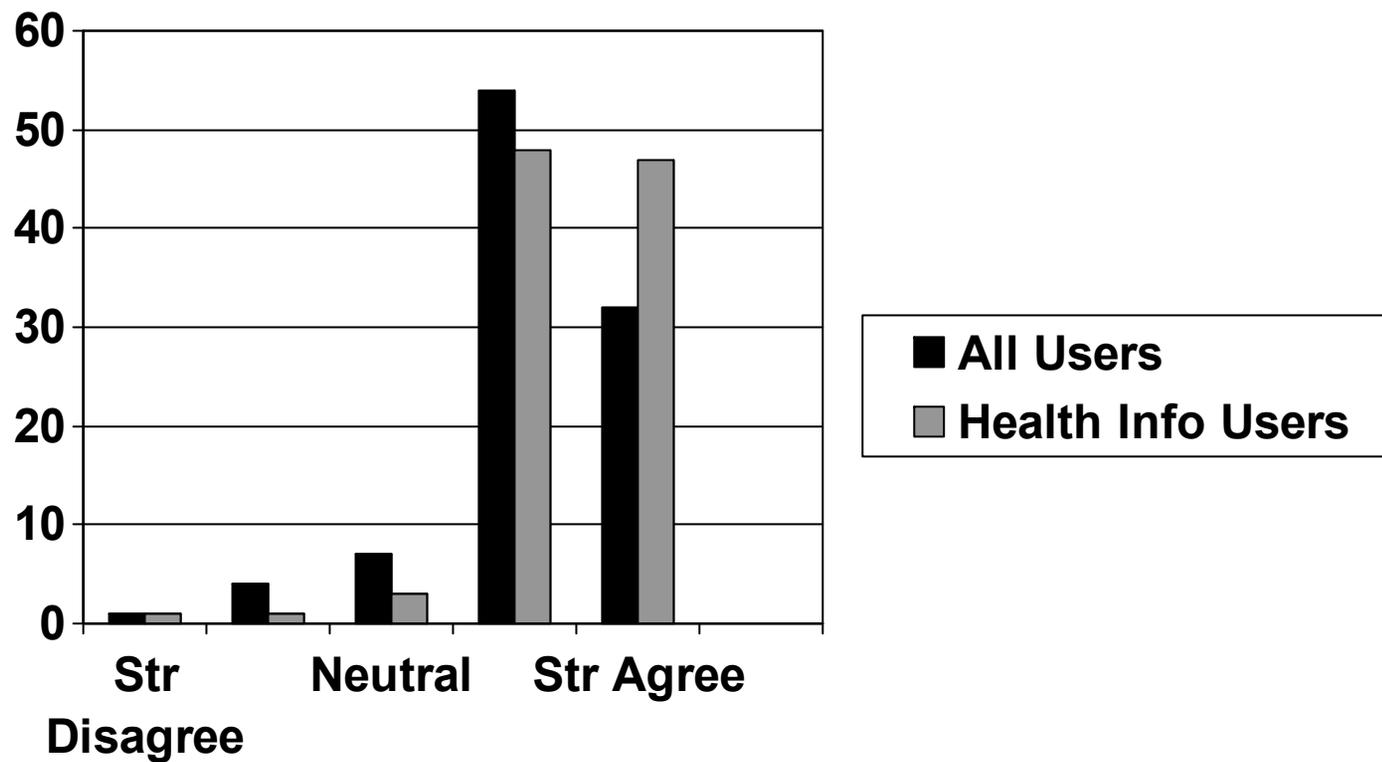
# How Useful is the Internet?

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- For improving access to information?
- For improving access to government information?

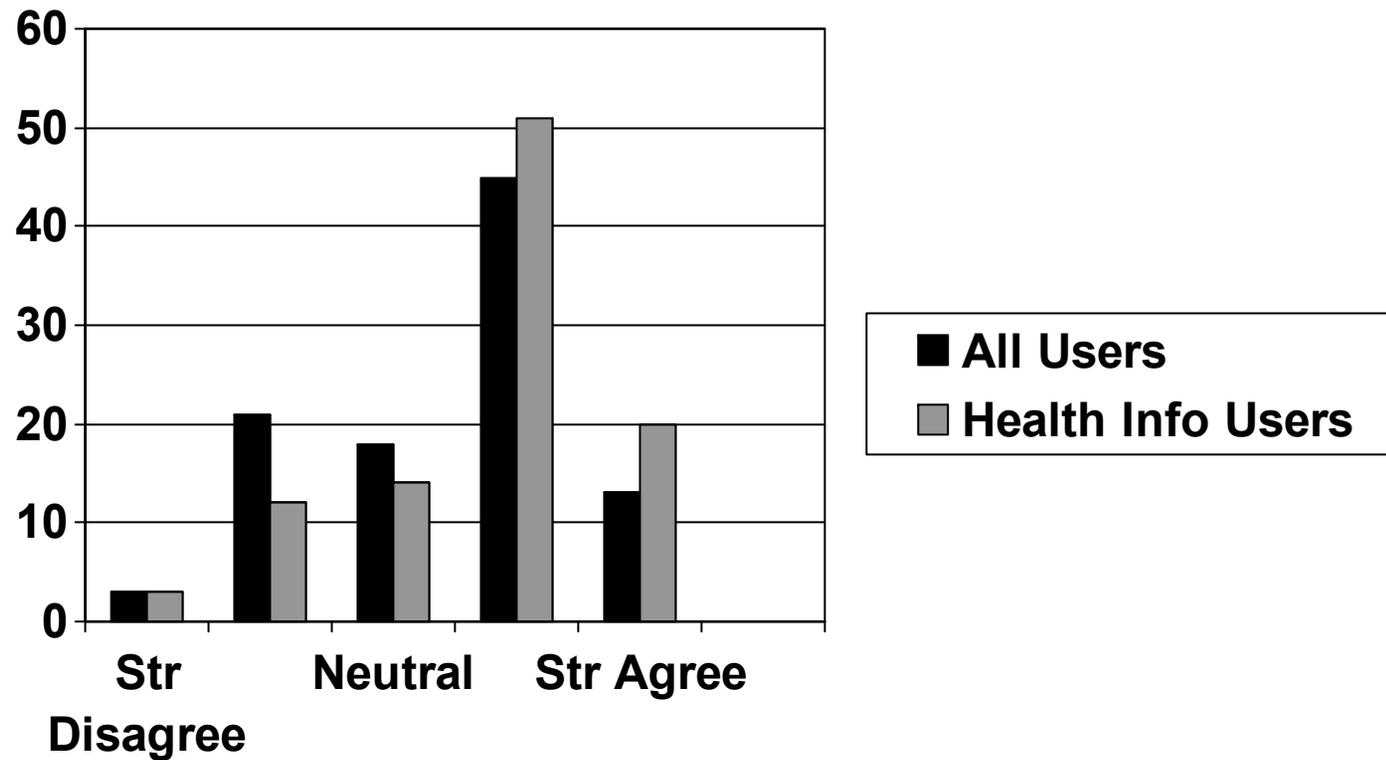
# Improves Access to Information

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# Improves Access to Gov't Information

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# Discussion and Policy Implications

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