

NUMBERS

- Number of patients in Ponoka Asylum at its founding in 1911: 164; in 1937: 1,707
Number of patients in Oliver in 1968: 996; in 1972 after “deinstitutionalization”: 496
Number of psychiatric beds in Alberta general hospitals in 1998: 510
Amount spent by Alberta taxpayers on mental health services in 2001: \$505-million
(does not include cost of capital construction, drugs or private services)
Amount Albertans spend on wine, beer and liquor annually: \$1,000,000,000
Number of psychiatrists in Alberta in 2000: 277; family physicians: 2,545;
doctors: 4,800; psychologists: 1,200; social workers: 300
Median payment to family physicians: \$155,358; to psychiatrists: \$148,493
- Number of Albertans who commit suicide every year: 350
Percentage of Albertans who will suffer a mental health problem in their lives: 20
Hospitalizations for mental disorders in Alberta, 1999–2000: 18,886
Percentage of Albertans who don’t know the symptoms of mental illness: 40
Age group most likely to suffer mental disorders: 15–24
Number of children in Alberta who suffer from a “diagnosable psychiatric disorder”: 150,000
Of Albertans with mental health problems, percentage that suffer
anxiety disorder: 57; depression: 42; schizophrenia: 4.8
Percentage of people with schizophrenia that attempt suicide in their lifetime: 40
- Percentage of people who seek help for mental health issues from their family doctor: 26
From a psychiatrist: 12; from a spiritual advisor such as a priest, chaplain or rabbi: 4
Percentage of people who say they confide in their pets: 30
Percentage by which the rate of mental health problems is higher among
Canadian military personnel than in the general population: 50
- Percentage of Albertans who say they have “high” self-esteem: 44
Percentage of Albertans who find their work days “quite” to “extremely” stressful: 27.6; “not at all” stressful: 9.9
Cost to have a professional clown visit your workplace: \$150
- Rank of Paxil in Alberta among prescribed anti-depressants: 1
Rank of St. John’s wort in Germany among prescribed anti-depressants: 1
2002 profits posted by Eli Lilly, makers of Prozac, the most-prescribed anti-depressant in the world: \$2.7 billion
Possible side effects of Prozac listed on Eli Lilly’s prozac.com: 14
Possible side effects listed on prozactruth.com: 305
Year in which a major health study discovered a link between daily smoking
and a significant increase in the risk of major depression: 1998
Where Albertans rank in terms of most prolific smokers in Canada: 2 (behind Quebec)
Percentage of Albertans who smoke (as of 2002): 23
Percentage by which cigarette consumption is higher in Alberta than in B.C.: 49
Percentage of people with schizophrenia that smoke: 80

