

Appendix 3: Data Sources

National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2000

The 2000 NSGVP surveyed approximately 15,000 Canadians aged 15 and older in the 10 provinces about the ways in which they supported one another and their communities through their involvement in giving, volunteering, and participating. This survey provides the most comprehensive assessment of civic engagement ever undertaken in Canada. Together with the results from the 1997 NSGVP, these data paint a portrait of the ways in which Canadians contribute to society through their monetary and voluntary support of others.

General Social Survey, 2003

The GSS on Social Engagement surveyed approximately 25,000 Canadians aged 15 and older living in private households in the 10 provinces. It was developed to explore the measurement of social capital and develop a better understanding of how social networks and norms of trust and reciprocity contribute positively to individual and social outcomes. It was designed to collect information on a wide range of activities, such as social contacts with family, friends and neighbours; involvement in organizations, political activities, and volunteer work; and informal care provided or received. This survey also explores the values, attitudes, and levels of trust in people and public institutions. Overall, it provides comprehensive information on the many ways in which Canadians engage in civic and social life.

Census, 2001

Statistics Canada conducts a Census of the Population, on one specific day every five years, to develop a statistical portrait of Canada and its population. It provides national coverage of the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the entire Canadian population and its housing units. The Census is used to estimate the population of the provinces, territories, and local municipal areas, as well as to support the planning, administration, policy development, and evaluation activities of governments at all levels, and the activities of data users in the private sector.

Ethnic Diversity Survey (2002)

The EDS was developed to provide important new information about the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of Canadians and to explore how ethnicity relates to everyday life. This survey followed the 2001 Census; 42,500 people aged 15 and older living in private households were interviewed. The survey provides a portrait of the different generations of Canadians and analyses the levels of attachment that people have to their own ethno-cultural group and the broader Canadian society. It covers such topics as ethnic or cultural ancestry, family background, language use, social networks, interactions with others, and civic participation.