

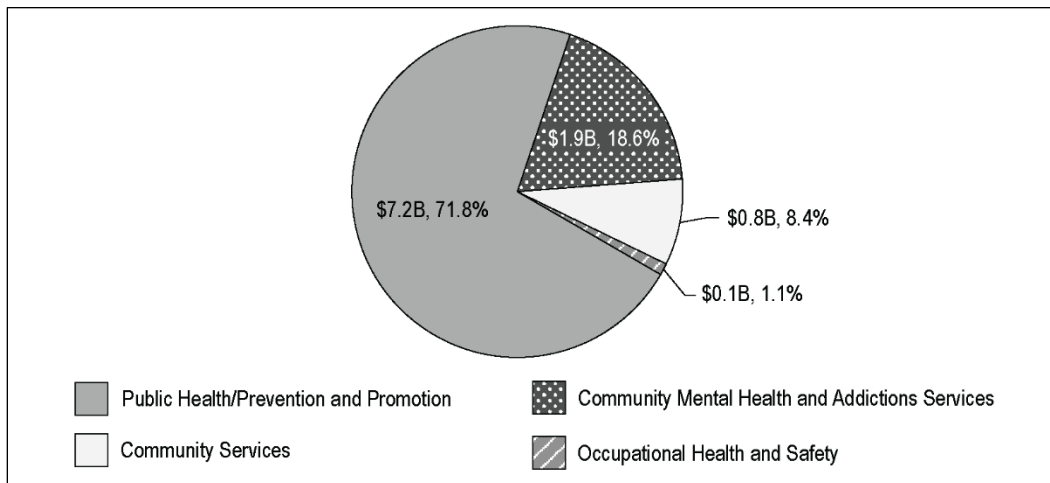


Public Health and Community Mental Health and Addictions Services in NHEX

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

The majority of public health expenditure is from provincial and territorial governments. The figure below presents total provincial/territorial government public health spending distributed by the 4 major spending categories: Public Health/Prevention and Promotion, Community Mental Health and Addictions Services, Community Services, and Occupational Health and Safety.

Figure Provincial/territorial government public health spending by category, Canada, 2017–2018 (billions of dollars and percentage share)



Note
Expenditures on mental health and addictions services delivered in emergency departments, hospitals (including psychiatric hospitals) and/or long-term care facilities are included in the Hospitals and/or Other Institutions categories.

Source
National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.





Technical Note

In 2017–2018, the latest year for which data is available, Community Mental Health and Addictions Services expenditure by provincial/territorial governments accounted for \$1.9 billion (18.6% of total public health expenditure, \$10.0 billion).

As seen in the figure, NHEX captures some expenditures on community mental health and addictions services. These services provide support for those who have mental health issues and are living in the community. The health care professionals involved usually include occupational therapists, social workers, registered nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists. Services are provided in a variety of ways across provinces and territories but commonly include the following:

- Screening, assessment, early detection and intervention, short-term therapy, promotion, prevention, consultation, service delivery coordination, community support and treatment programs;
- Information and referral, advocacy, case management, housing advocacy, rehabilitation, employment assistance, counselling, mental health promotion and prevention, support groups and social and recreational opportunities, and peer support services for consumers and survivors; and
- Services and support to mental health patients discharged from hospitals to assist them in returning to the community.

By their nature, the community mental health and addictions services described above are one form of public health services. In many provinces and territories, community mental health and addictions services are an integrated part of community public health programs and the expenditure data is not explicitly identified.