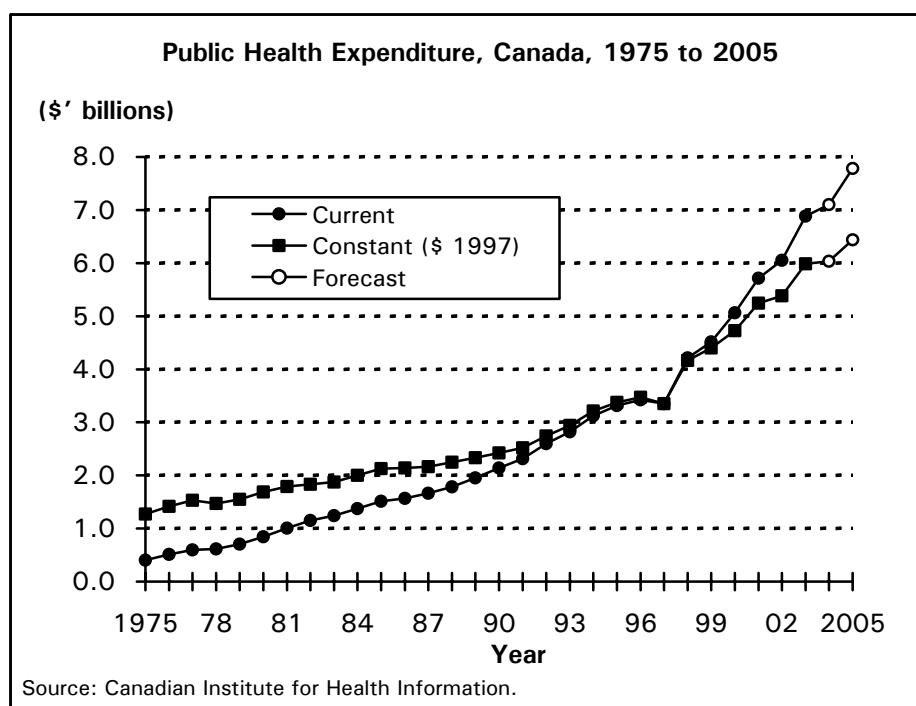


Public health data

When CIHI began reporting “public health and administration” spending as a single category in 2001, it quickly became clear that health-system stakeholders were interested in seeing this category broken into separate elements, making it more useful to decision-making. A feasibility study was done, and, after consultation with CIHI’s National Health Expenditure Expert Advisory Group, it was recommended that CIHI separate the two categories.



What are public health costs?

- Food and drug safety programs
- Health inspections
- Health promotion activities
- Community mental health programs
- Public health nursing
- Measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease
- Promotional activities to improve workplace health and safety

What are administration costs?

- Cost of running health insurance programs by the government and by private health insurance companies
- Infrastructure costs to run health departments

Public-sector administrative spending includes the overhead costs of running government health departments. Not included are the administrative costs of operating hospitals, drug programs, long-term care programs and other “non-insured” health services, which are incorporated in the category of the respective service.

Private-sector administrative spending is largely the difference between what people pay for insurance coverage and the claims that insurance companies pay out.

Data limitations

There are notable differences in the amount of detail that provinces are able to provide on both public health and administration data, making inter-provincial comparisons difficult. Similarly, differences in how public health data and public and private administration data are calculated make it difficult to compare expenditures between sectors.