

STATISTICS AND DAMN LIES

Proportion of Canadians who put up a Christmas tree: 90%
 Number of reported poison exposures resulting from poinsettia plants in the US in 1995: 2798
 Number of poison exposures from holly: 2651
 Number of fat and jolly Englishmen the country's main supplier of shopping mall Santa Clauses was short 6 weeks before Christmas, allegedly because of more healthy eating in the UK: 330 days' worth
 Proportion of Canadians who know Saskatchewan was the first province to introduce medicare: 25%
 Proportion who know the Montreal Canadiens have won the most Stanley Cups: 75%
 Number of cigarettes smoked by Canadian teens each year: 1 billion
 Activities that are equal in risk to smoking 100 cigarettes: driving a car for 6000 km or a motorbike for 350 hours, drinking 40 bottles of wine, eating 80 jars of peanut butter, rock climbing for 2 hours or whitewater canoeing for 2 hours
 Increase in the sales of St. John's wort in Canada from July 1997 to June 1998: more than 700%
 Proportion of Canadians who used an alternative medicine or therapy in 1997: 42%
 Proportion that has used complementary remedies such as vitamins, mineral supplements, and homeopathic or herbal remedies in the last 6 months: 59%
 Provinces where Canadians are most active: Alberta and British Columbia
 Provinces with the most couch potatoes: Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Newfoundland and New Brunswick
 Day of the week most Canadians die: Saturday
 Day of the week fewest Canadians die: Thursday
 Number of hours a physician spent getting haircuts over an 18-month period: 41 hours, 24 minutes
 Number of hours married female physicians practise per week: 46.3
 Number of hours single female doctors practise: 50.4
 Number of hours married male physicians practise: 55.8
 Number of hours single male physicians practise: 53.8
 Proportion of Canadian female physicians married to another physician: 36%
 Number of scientific articles published since 1970 that were subsequently retracted but continue to be cited in support of scientific concepts: 82
 Number of times they have been cited: 733
 Most expensive sports-related injury treated in US emergency rooms in 1995: cycling (US\$4.29 billion)
 Number of people worldwide older than 65 years: 300 million
 Number older than 65 by 2025: 800 million
 Proportion of Canadians aged 65 and over in 1971: 8.1%
 In 1996: 12.2%
 Projected for 2016: 17.8%
 Global life expectancy in 1955: 45 years
 In 1996: 68 years
 Proportion of Canadian women (under age 50) who are sterilized: 31%
 Proportion of men: 13%
 Proportion in other parts of the developed world: 8% of women, 5% of men
 Proportion of women with breast implants who have attended college: 70%
 Proportion of Canadians who believe possession of a little marijuana should not be a criminal offence: 76%
 Proportion in 1985: 60%
 Percentage of the audience attending a Grateful Dead concert who were using drugs: 55%
 Who were using alcohol: 86%

These data and related factoids were compiled by Lynda Buske, the CMA's Chief, Physician Resources Information Planning, and Deborah Scott-Douglas, the CMA's Manager, Information Services.