



# Janus Snapshots



The Janus Project  
Family physicians  
meeting the needs of  
tomorrow's society

Le Projet Janus  
Aider les médecins de famille à  
répondre aux besoins de la  
société de demain

## Addiction medicine services

The 2004 National Physician Survey (NPS) asked family physicians about the addiction services they provide. Overall, 22% of family physicians in Canada provide some form of addiction medicine as part of their practices, and 8% of family physicians in Canada indicated that at least 10% of their patient populations were patients with addictions. "Addictions" were not defined in the survey; interpretation of the term was left to respondents. Twenty-three percent of second-year family medicine residents in Canada intended to include addiction medicine as part of their practices when they finish their residencies.

Table 1 shows the disproportionate clustering of higher numbers of family practice patients with addictions within inner cities and isolated or remote communities, as compared with urban or suburban areas, small towns, and rural communities.

The 2004 NPS is a unique collaborative project of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. National-level estimates based on family physician results are considered accurate within  $\pm 0.9\%$ , 19 times out of 20. Detailed national analyses of the 2004 NPS results are available on the NPS website at [www.nps-snm.ca](http://www.nps-snm.ca).

If you would like to develop and write a future Janus Snapshot using the 2004 NPS results, please contact **Sarah Scott**, National Physician Survey and Janus Project Coordinator, College of Family Physicians of Canada; telephone 800 387-6197, extension 289; e-mail [sk@cfpc.ca](mailto:sk@cfpc.ca).



**Table 1. Distribution of family physicians with at least 10% of their patient population comprising patients with addictions compared with distribution of all family physicians in Canada, by primary patient population served**

PRIMARY PATIENT POPULATION SERVED	DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS WITH $\geq 10\%$ OF THEIR PATIENTS WITH ADDICTIONS* (%)	DISTRIBUTION OF ALL FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN CANADA* (%)	P VALUE
Inner city	25	10	<.0001
Urban or suburban	37	50	<.0001
Small town	13	18	<.0001
Rural	9	10	.14
Geographically isolated or remote	5	2	<.0001
Other	7	3	<.001
Cannot identify one population	3	2	<.05
No response	2	4	<.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

\*Figures might not total 100% owing to rounding.