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## Government Data confirms that Canadians with Fibromyalgia are very disadvantaged

The following information was extracted by the National ME/FM Action Network from the Statistics Canada datafile for the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey.

An estimated **390,000 Canadians have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia**. Over half were between the ages of 45 and 64. Roughly a quarter were younger than 45 and 20% were 65 years old or older. Over 80% were female.

### Canadians with Fibromyalgia showed a high degree of activity limitation.

% of group reporting	Canadians with Fibromyalgia	Canadians in General
Need help – preparing meals	16%	3%
Need help – getting to appointments and running errands	28%	5%
Need help – doing housework	35%	5%
Need help – heavy household chores (such as spring cleaning or yard work)	57%	12%
Need help – personal care	7%	2%
Need help – moving about inside the house	8%	1%

### Canadians with Fibromyalgia also experienced socio-economic disadvantage.

% of group reporting	Canadians with Fibromyalgia	Canadians in general
Permanently unable to work (ages 15-74)	14%	2%
Annual personal income less than \$15,000 (ages 15+)	43%	29%
Food insecure	11%	5%
Very weak sense of belonging to local community	13%	10%

**There are gaps in service to Canadians with Fibromyalgia.**

% of group reporting	Canadians with Fibromyalgia	Canadians in General
Unmet health care needs over the previous 12 months	26%	11%
Unmet home care needs over the previous 12 months (ages 18+)	11%	2%

**The National ME/FM Action Network has been telling government health officials for years that:**

- **Fibromyalgia is a very disabling illness,**
- **the illness has substantial impact on people's lives**
- **there are significant gaps in health care delivery.**

**Now Canadian government data confirms what we have been saying.**

**Please share this important information with others. Help to make this information as widely known as possible.**

**About the Canadian Community Health Survey**

The Canadian Community Health Survey is a major survey designed by Canadian health authorities to identify and monitor health issues affecting Canadians aged 12 and up. There were 27,100,000 Canadians in scope for the survey. Over 130,000 Canadians were interviewed.

**About the National ME/FM Action Network**

The National ME/FM Action Network is a registered charity working on behalf of Canadians with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia. Please visit [www.mefmaction.net](http://www.mefmaction.net). These tables were compiled by Margaret Parlor, President. Ms Parlor recently retired from a 30 year public service career where she worked as a statistician, policy analyst and manager.