Government of Saskatchewan

Freedom of Information Office
Strategy and Innovation Branch

Ministry of Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Canada S4S 6X6

September 15, 2014

Mr. Colin Craig
1881 Portage Avenue, PO Box 42123
WINNIPEG MB R3J 3X7

Dear Mr. Craig:

RE: Access to Information Request – HE80-14G

Thank you for your Access to Information Request received in our office on March 26, 2014, and clarified on June 19, 2014, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* (the Act) requesting:

> *"Please provide copies of reports or analysis on demographic shifts in Saskatchewan and how that relates to health care costs in the future. The time period for this request is January 1, 2011 to the present. I am looking for big picture reports that discuss the financial impact. For example, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries released a report last year that looked at the demographic shifts will have on health care costs unless policies change. Federally, the federal government's parliamentary budget officer regularly releases government spending sustainability reports that take into account demographic shifts. Those are the types of reports I am looking for."*

In accordance with sections 5 and 8 of the Act, we are pleased to provide you with the responsive records totalling 72 pages.

Sections of the records have been redacted under the Act under section 17(1)(g) of the Act, which states:

> ***17****(1) Subject to subsection (2), a head may refuse to give access to a record that could reasonably be expected to disclose:*
>
> ...
>
> *(g) information, including the proposed plans, policies or projects of a government institution, the disclosure of which could*

reasonably be expected to result in disclosure of a pending policy or budgetary decision.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in our response. The Ministry of Health is examining internal processes for access requests and exploring options for streamlining processes and procedures in order to address delays such as this.

Should you be dissatisfied with this response or the manner in which your request is handled, as per section 49 of the Act you may, within one year of being given written notice or from the date deemed to be the last day of notice, apply for a formal process review by submitting a written request to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
503-1801 Hamilton Street
REGINA SK S4P 4B4

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact Dawn Campbell at (306) 798-5114 or by email at Dawn.Campbell@health.gov.sk.ca.

Please note that it would be most helpful if you could cite the assigned Ministry of Health identifier number when making an enquiry.

Yours truly,

Dawn Campbell

for Lisa Dietrich
Chief Privacy and Access Officer

cc: Dawn Campbell, Senior Policy Analyst

Scan Log

E-mail Sent

Date: Monday, 2014-09-15 13:45

To: dawn.campbell@health.gov.sk.ca

From:

Subject:

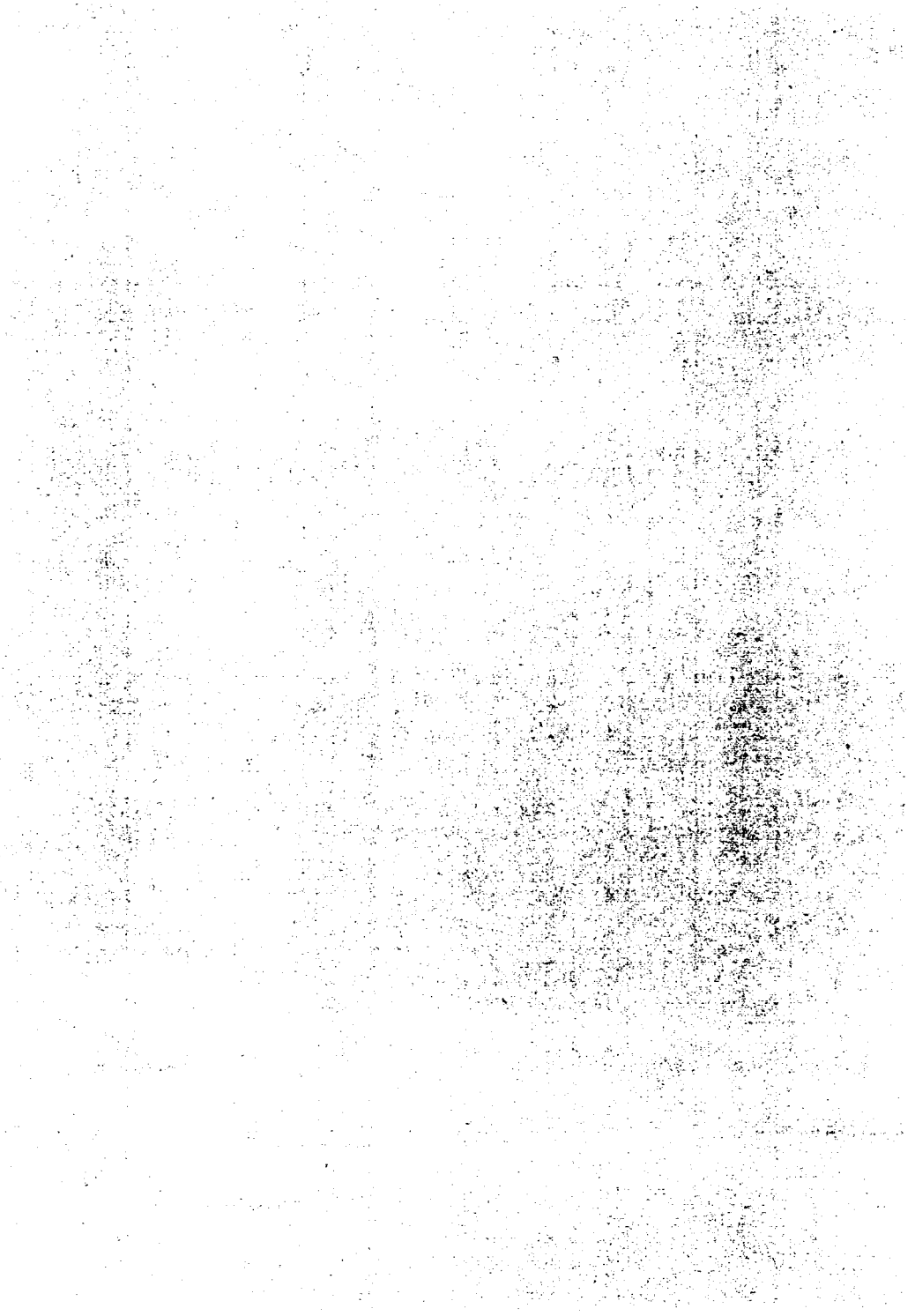
Message

Attachments: document2014-09-15-134533.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2014-15

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

17(1)(g)



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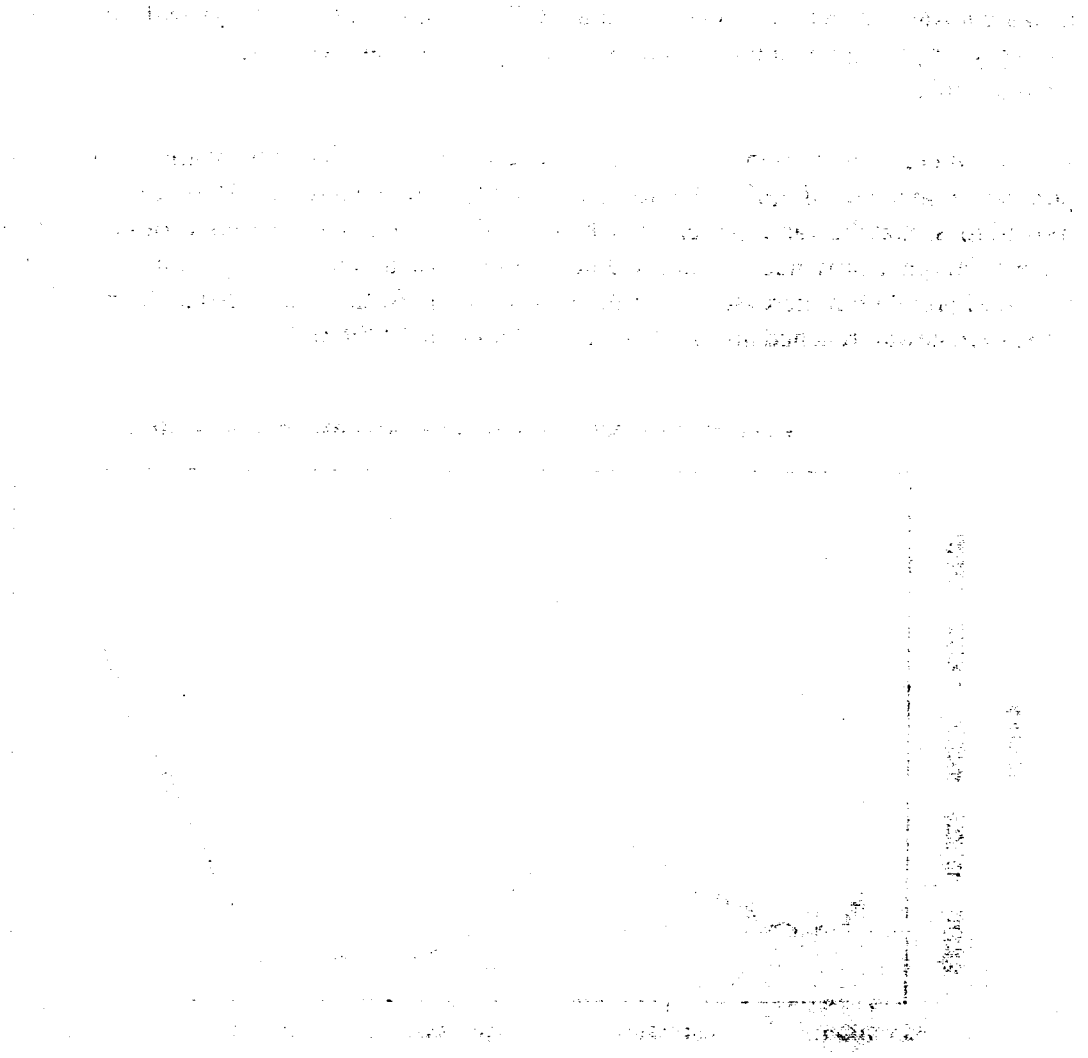


2. Demographic Change

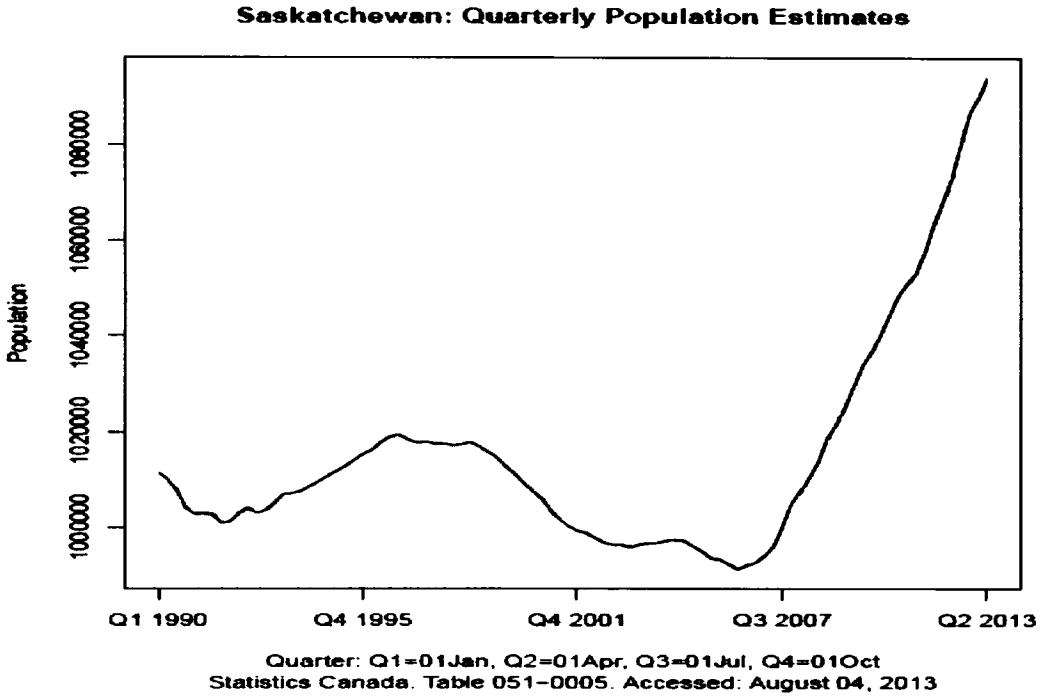
Saskatchewan's population is increasing

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth sets out the Government of Saskatchewan's vision for a province of 1.2 million people by 2020. The population of Saskatchewan has continually grown over the past six years, and is currently forecasted to achieve this target.

[6]Conference Board of Canada. *Provincial Outlook, Economic Forecast.* Spring 2013.
[7] Statistics Canada. Cansim Table 051-0037

Saskatchewan's population reached 1,089,807 in January 2013. The growth followed a twenty year period when the Saskatchewan population had declined resulting in a net decrease of 2%.[8]

In 2012, there were 15,035 births in Saskatchewan and 9,363 deaths resulting in a natural population increase of 5,672. Additionally, in 2012, there were 16,018 more people that moved to Saskatchewan than left, of which 13,371 were from other countries and 2,647 were from other provinces. Combined natural increase and net immigration have resulted in a total population increase of 21,690 over the year. At the end of 2012, the population of Saskatchewan reached an estimated record high of 1,089,807.[9]



The age distribution of Saskatchewan's population is gradually changing.

Over the decade from 2001 to 2011, the number of:

- children and youth (19 years and under) decreased by 35,600 (-3% of the provincial population)
- individuals aged 15 to 64 years increased by 65,800 (+3% of the population); and
- seniors (65 years and over) increased by 8,100 but their proportion of the provincial population remained constant.[10]

[8] Statistics Canada, Demography Division
[9] 2012 Review Bureau of Stats
[10] Statistics Canada, Census Population

In 2012, the seniors population (65+) was 157,239 or 14.4%, that is one is seven individuals in the province. It is predicted by 2028, Saskatchewan's population age 65+ will be approximately 223,373 accounting for approximately one in five individuals in the province.

Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population will continue to grow.

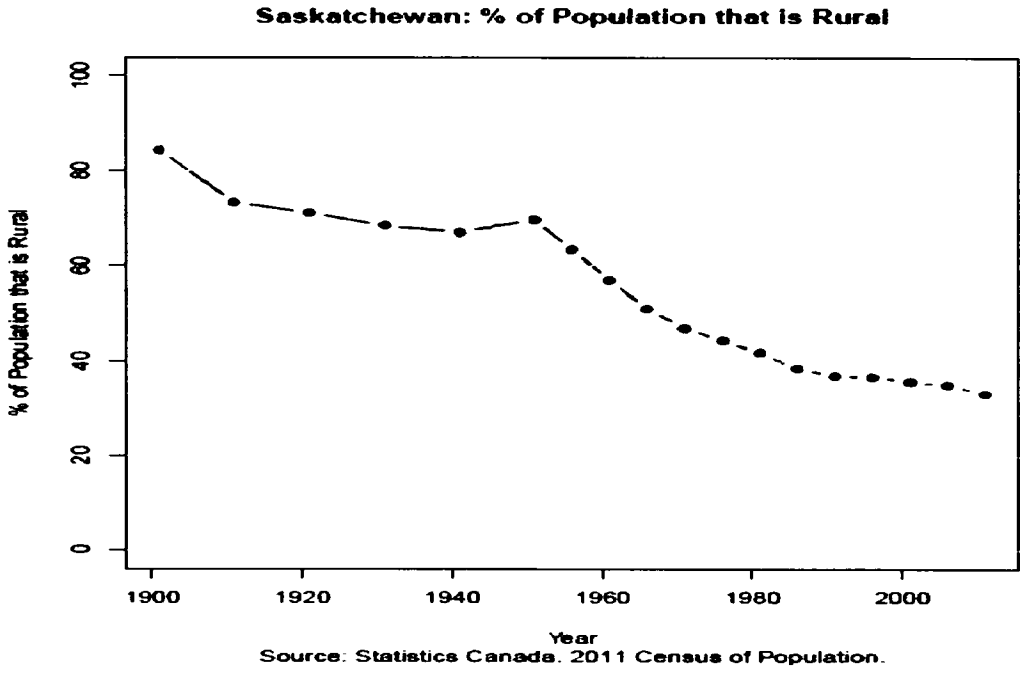
In 2011, Saskatchewan had the second highest provincial proportion (15.5%) of Aboriginal people following Manitoba (16.7%)[11]. By 2017, the Aboriginal population is expected to account for 21% of the province's population[12]. The census metropolitan areas with the highest proportion of Aboriginal people are Prince Albert (39%), North Battleford (22%), Regina (10%), Yorkton (10%) and Saskatoon (9%).[13]

In 2011, the age distribution of the Aboriginal population is almost the exact mirror image of the non-Aboriginal population. 45% of the Aboriginal population is age 19 or younger compared to 23% of the Non-Aboriginal population. 4% of the Aboriginal population is age 65 or older compared to 16% of the Non-Aboriginal population.[14]

Saskatchewan's population is becoming more urban.

Saskatchewan's rural population continues to decline from 84% in 1901 to 33.2% in 2011.[15] [16]

[11] Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.
[12] Statistics Canada. "Projections of the Aboriginal Populations: Canada, Provinces, and Territories." (2005). Catalogue no. 91-547-XIE.
[13] Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.
[14] Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.
[15] Statistics Canada, Census.
[16] The definitions for rural and urban communities change over time. For example, rural population for 1981 to 2011 refers to persons living outside centres with a population of 1,000 and outside areas with 400 persons per square kilometre. Previous to 1981, the definitions differed slightly but consistently referred to populations outside centres of 1,000 population.


Saskatchewan: % of Population that is Rural
% of Population that is Rural
0
20
40
60
80
100
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
Year
Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 Census of Population.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2013-14

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

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1. Broad External Trends

i) Demographics and Geography

The make-up of the province's population provides some insight into the pressures that the health system can anticipate in the future. As we move forward the health system will be faced with both an **increasing population** as well as an **aging population:**

a) Increasing population

- In opposition to historical trends Saskatchewan's population is now **consistently increasing**. As of April 1, 2012 the province's population was 1,072,100, which is an increase of 4,500 in the first quarter of 2012, the largest population increase in the first quarter since 1972. The expectation is for this trend to continue with total Saskatchewan population projected to increase to 1.2M by 2036.[1]

[1] Statistics Canada, Demography Division

- A significant contributor to the province's increasing population is the expanded rate of growth through **immigration**. The rate of international immigration has more than doubled in recent years and continues to increase. From January 2006 to January 2011, an average of approximately 1286 people per quarter immigrated to Saskatchewan from other countries. This compares with approximately 456 people per quarter from January 2001 to January 2006.[2] In the first quarter of 2012 more than 2,800 immigrants settled in Saskatchewan, the largest number of immigrants for any quarter since 1971.[3]

- Along with increases in the overall, and immigrant population, Saskatchewan will witness significant **increases in the Aboriginal population**.
  - Provincially, Saskatchewan has the second highest proportion of Aboriginal people across the country at approximately 15% of the total population;[4]
  - By 2017, it is expected that approximately 21% of the province's population[5] will be Aboriginal;
  - As projections are extended further into the future, the Aboriginal proportion of total population continues to increase;[6]
  - Four census divisions account for two-thirds of the Aboriginal population (The Far North – 20%; Saskatoon – 15%; Regina – 15%; P.A. – 15%);
  - The age distribution of the Aboriginal population is almost the exact mirror image of the non-Aboriginal population. 55% of the Aboriginal population was under 25 years of age compared to 31% of the non-aboriginal population. 18% of the Aboriginal population was 45 years or older compared to 44% of the non-aboriginal population.[7]

b) Aging population

- In addition to an increasing population the health system will be faced with an **aging population**. Three of four young age groups had reductions in overall population

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[2] An increasing immigrant population brings with it novel challenges. Some immigrants may be from areas that suffered drought, famine and insurrection. They may have spent years in refugee camps before coming to Canada and they may suffer from chronic diseases and mental health difficulties. Others come from tropical locations and may suffer from exotic diseases that are not easily identified. Many come from areas of the world where Hepatitis B is endemic, leading to a higher incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma, for example. See Medical Post, April 7, 2009, pp 19-20

[3] Statistics Canada, Demography Division. *Quarterly Demographic Estimates: January to February 2012.*

[4] Manitoba has the highest proportion of Aboriginal people at 15.5%. This compares to 3.8% of the Canadian population being Aboriginal.

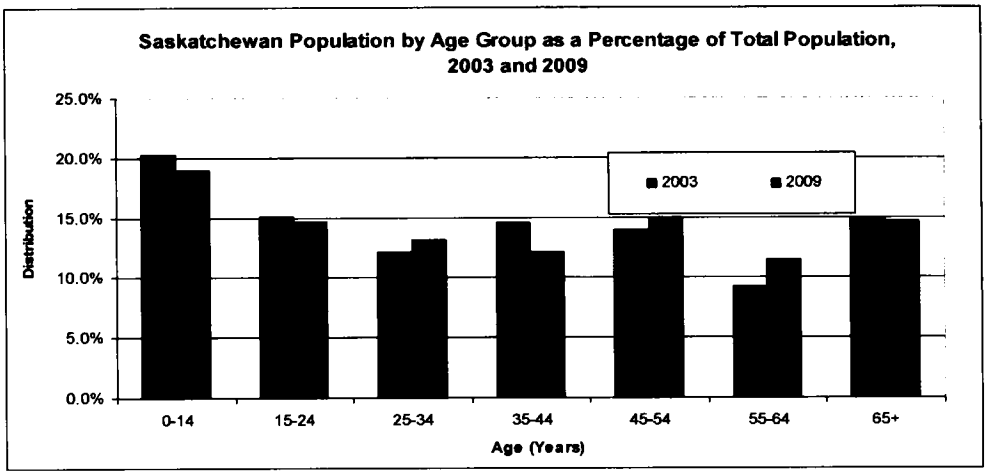
[5] Statistics Canada. "Projections of the Aboriginal Populations: Canada, Provinces, and Territories." (2005). Catalogue no. 91-547-XIE.

[6] Eric Howe from the University of Saskatchewan has projected Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population in a number of different studies. Based on parameters established in the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Howe estimated that Aboriginal peoples will constitute 35% of Saskatchewan's population by 2050. Subsequent research has indicated that these projections are likely substantially low and Howe estimates that the proportion will likely be closer to 50%. For the original projections see Howe, E. C.: *The Future of the Aboriginal Labour Market in Saskatchewan*, Fiscal Relations Table of the Common Table on Treaty Implementation, Toronto, April, 2000.

[7] 2006 Census Data

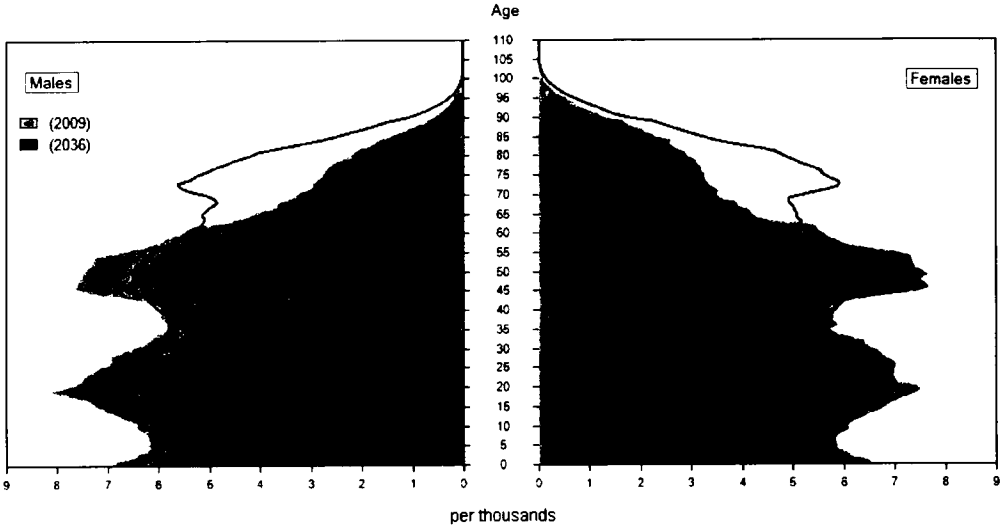
from 2003 to 2009 whereas two of three older age groups had increases over the same period (see Figure 1 below)

Figure 1: SK. Population by Age Group



- As population projections are expanded further into the future the aging demographic becomes more acute (see Figure 2). Using a medium growth forecast the 65 and over population is expected to increase from approximately 153,000 people in 2010 to 280,700 people in 2036. This is an 83% increase in absolute numbers and an increase in proportion from 15% of total population (2010) to 23% of total population (2036).[8]

Figure 2: Age Distribution 2010 to 2036

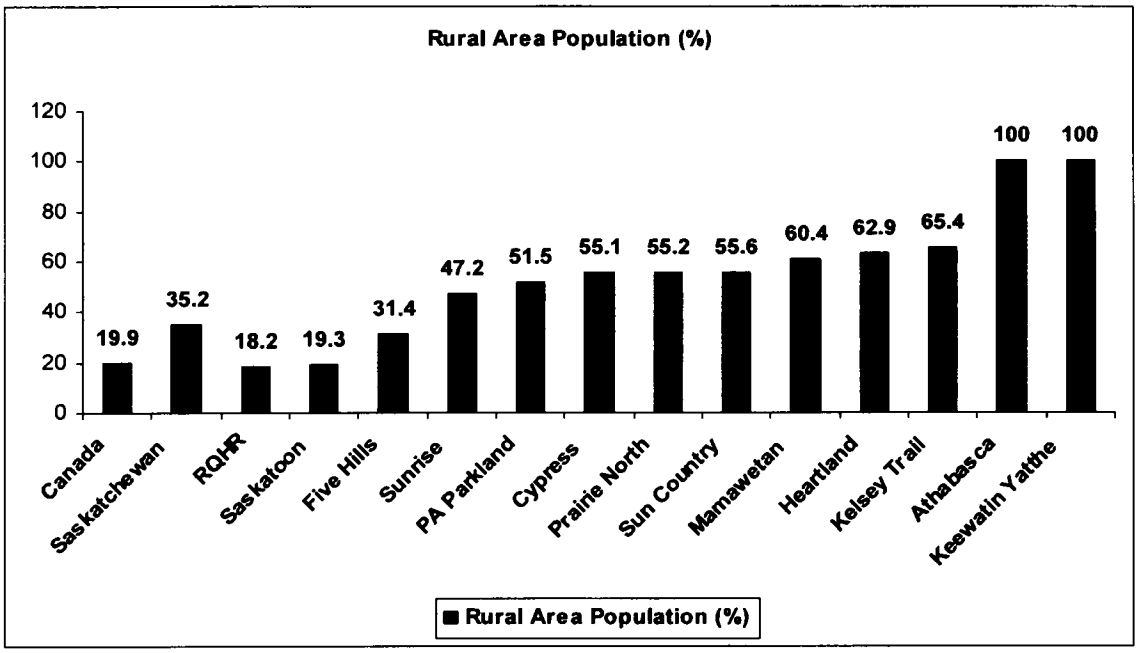


[8] Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Chart 3.33 Age pyramids (in relative value) of the Saskatchewan population, 2009 and 2036 (scenario M1)

c) Geography

In general, the Saskatchewan population over time has moved from rural populations to urban centers. That said a high percentage of Saskatchewan's population, relative to the Canadian average **remains in rural areas which has significant implications in terms of health care delivery.** As outlined in Figure 3, 35.2 % of the Saskatchewan population lives in rural areas compared to 19.9% of the Canadian population[9]. When broken down by health region one can see that both Regina Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon are very near the national average and well below the provincial average whereas all the other health regions of the province, with the exception of Five Hills, are well above not only the national average but also the provincial average.

Figure 3: Percentage of Population in Rural Area by Geographic Area



Source: *Statistics Canada. 2012. Health Profile.*
Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 82-228-XWE. Ottawa. Released June 19, 2012.

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