

Definition/Description:

Average Length of Home Care Cases

This is the average number of days of home care received per case.

Home Care Use: Open Cases, Closed Cases, New Cases, Average LOS

'Open cases' was defined as the per cent of WHR residents who were open in the Home Care program, that is, the per cent of residents who were registered with the Home Care program for at least one day during the time period. 'Closed cases' was defined as the proportion of residents who were taken out of the Home Care program over the time period. 'New cases' was defined using the number of home care clients with a start date in the home care program after April 1st (i.e. after the fiscal year start). Average LOS (length of stay) was defined as the number of days "open" in the Home Care program, using registration and termination dates.

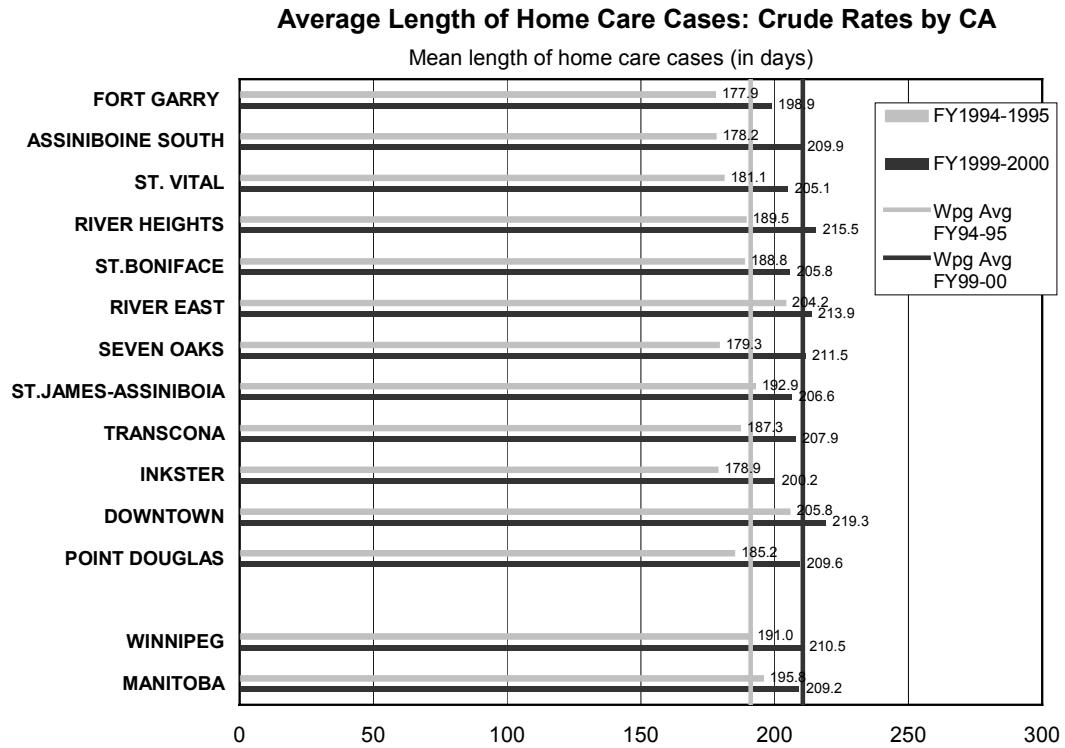
Method

For all Home Care and Personal Care Home (PCH) analyses, two years of data were used (1994/95-1995/96 and 1999/2000-2000/01), with the population from the same years as the denominator (see specific categories for exceptions).

Source:

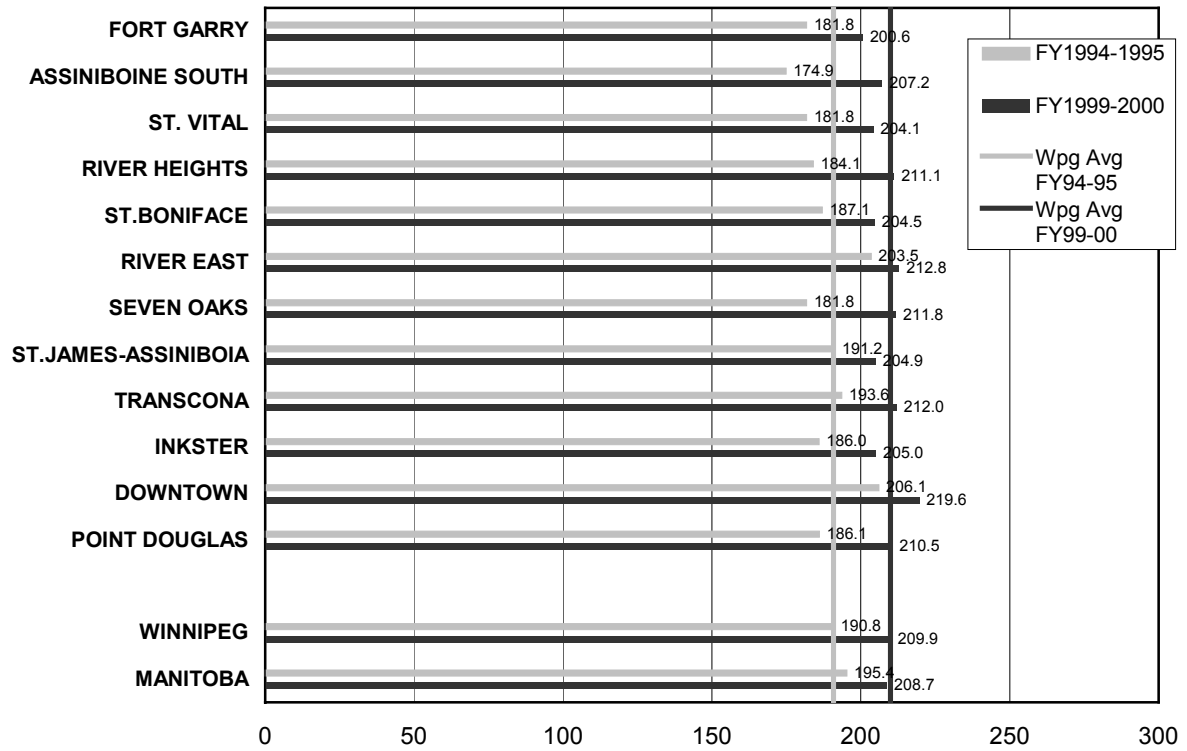
The Need to Know Project, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 2003. All numerical values, tables, and figures (including spatial analyses) were generated by the Population Health and Health System Analysis Unit, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Findings:



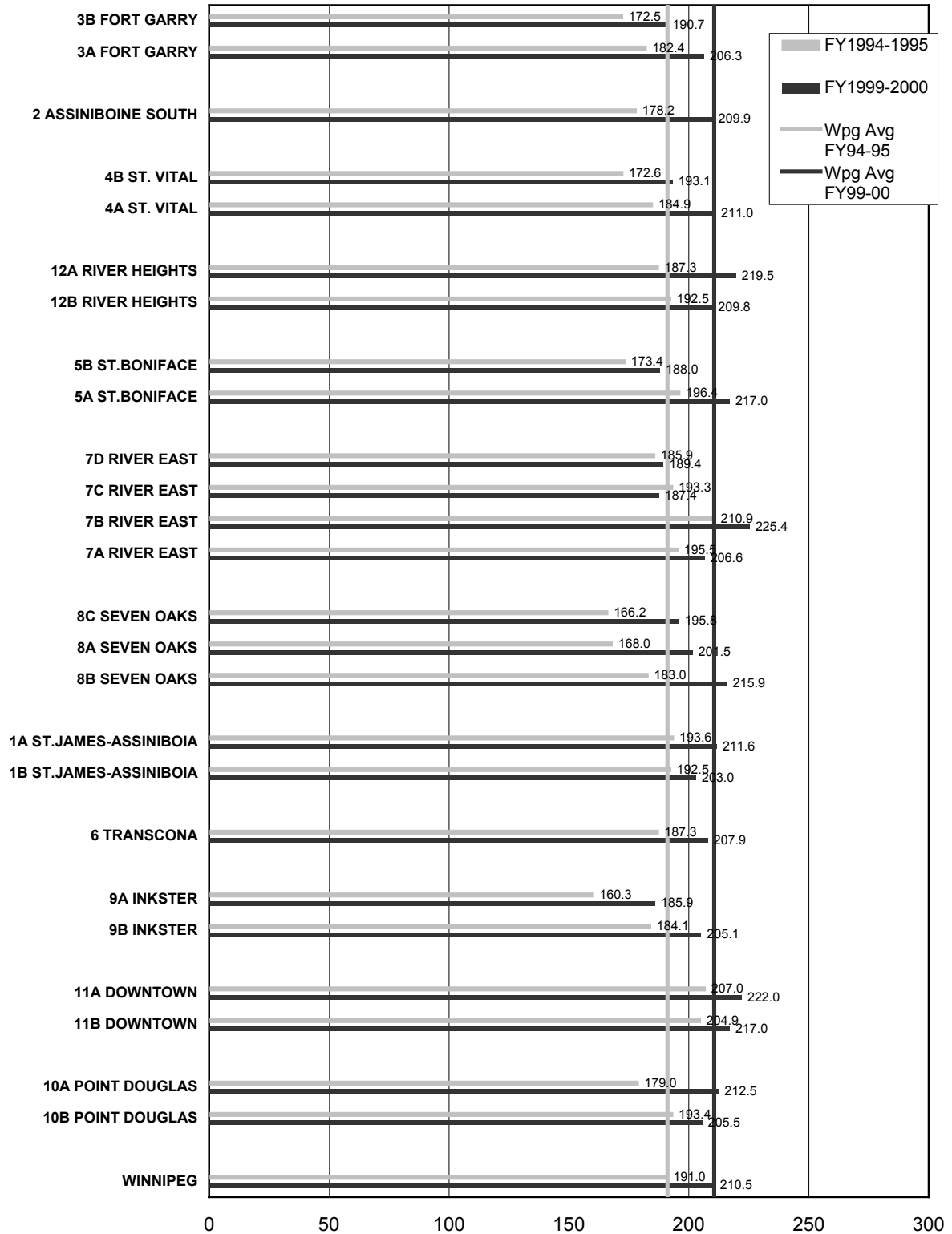
Average Length of Home Care Cases: Age-Adjusted Rates by CA

Age- & sex-adjusted mean length of home care cases (days)



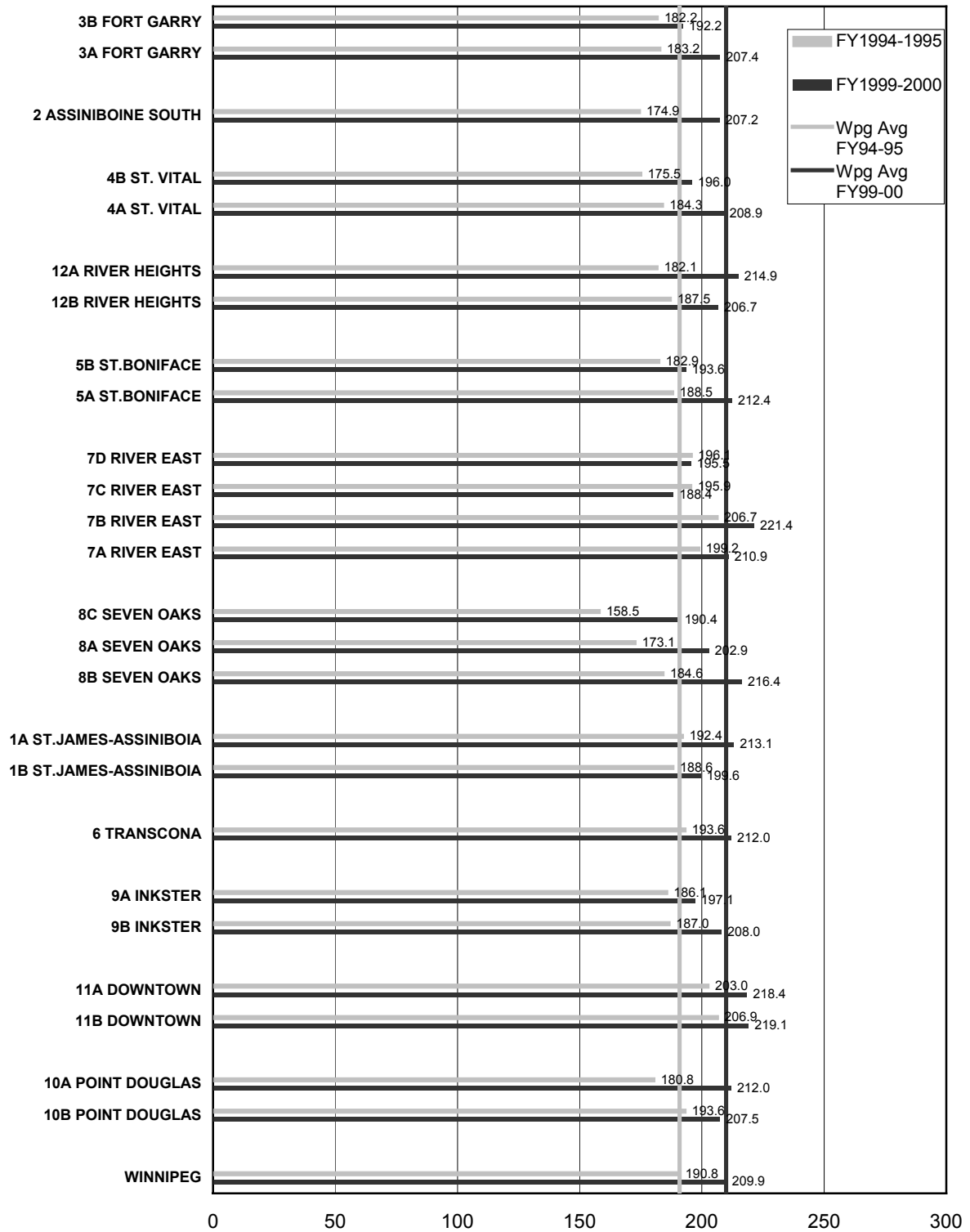
Average Length of Home Care Cases: Crude Rates by NC

Mean length of home care cases (in days)



Average Length of Home Care Cases: Age-Adjusted Rates

Age- & sex-adjusted mean length of home care cases (days)



Highlights:

Note: The crude rates are referred to in this narrative (unless otherwise stated).

Regional Rates:

- There was an increase in the (crude) average number of days of home care received per case for the WHR between the time periods of 1994-1995 (t_1) and 1999-2000 (t_2).
- The WHR average length of home care cases increased from 191.0 days to 210.5 days (crude rates).
- The WHR average length of home care cases in t_1 was slightly less than that of Manitoba and in t_2 the WHR and Manitoba average length of cases was nearly identical.
- There were minimal differences between the age- & sex-adjusted rates and crude values at the regional level.

Community Area Rates:

- There is some variability in the average length of home care cases among the community areas.
- The lowest average length of home care cases were seen in Fort Garry community area for both time periods, these values being slightly lower than that of the WHR.
- The highest average length of home care cases were found in River Heights and Downtown for both time periods; these values were slightly higher than that of the WHR.
- Every community area experienced an increase in the average length of home care cases between the two time periods.
- Community areas Downtown, River East, Seven Oaks, and River Heights had average length of home care cases that were slightly higher than that for the WHR.
- Adjusting the average length of home care cases for the age and sex of the population had a minimal effect on the crude rates. However, the values in the community areas Downtown and River East remained the highest after adjustment, indicating that the age and sex distribution of the underlying population is less likely to account for differences seen in the crude values.
- In contrast, in the River Heights community area, the t_2 adjusted value was reduced (from the crude value), indicating that the age and sex distribution of the underlying population may account for the relatively high crude rate.

Neighbourhood Cluster Rates:

- The lowest rates of average length of home care cases were found in Inkster 9A for both time periods.
- The highest average length of home care cases were found in River East 7B for both time periods.
- There is some variability among the neighbourhood clusters in the average length of home care cases.
- Every neighbourhood cluster experienced an increase in average length of home care cases between the two time periods.
- The following neighbourhood clusters had values that were higher than the WHR value in t_2 : River Heights 12A, St. Boniface 5A, River East 7B, Seven Oaks 8B, Downtown 11A&B, and Point Douglas 10A.
- Adjusting the rates for the age and sex of the population had the overall effect of minimizing the differences seen among the neighbourhood clusters in the crude rates. However, the values in t_2 River East 7B and Downtown 11A&B, remained the highest after adjustment, indicating that the age and sex distribution of the underlying population is less likely to account for differences seen in the crude rates.