

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

## Housing

### Key Points

**“As a general rule, households are considered to have affordability problems if more than 30% of household income is spent on housing costs. At that level of spending, it is likely that inadequate funds will be available for other necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation. Housing affordability problems affect renters more than owners.”<sup>28</sup> Using this rule as a base, SUNRISE HEALTH REGION had fewer households that are at risk of being unable to fulfill their basic needs than do the rest of Saskatchewan, as well as other comparable health regions.<sup>10</sup>**

Housing affordability (1995 income), by occupancy status, Canada, provinces, territories and health regions, every 5 years (Percent).<sup>29</sup>

Saskatchewan	<b>Total, households</b>	18.5
	<b>Renters</b>	9.8
	<b>Owners</b>	36.6
SUNRISE HEALTH REGION	<b>Total, households</b>	15.0
	<b>Renters</b>	8.9
	<b>Owners</b>	33.2

\* Households (renters, owners and total) spending 30% or more of total household income on shelter expenses.

\* Shelter expenses include payments for electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services.

\* Shelter expenses include monthly mortgage payments, property taxes, condominium fees and rent.

\* Housing affordability excludes Band housing on Indian reserves.

\* Housing affordability excludes farm dwellings, collective households (e.g., rooming houses, nursing homes, military camps) and households reporting loss of or no income.

## Air Quality

### **Key Points**

**“Saskatchewan has generally good air quality, with fewer episodes of air pollution than some other parts of the country”.<sup>30</sup> A study done from 1988 to 1991 indicated the levels of acidic particles (air pollution) in Yorkton’s air were below detection, which is important for healthy lung development and functioning.<sup>31</sup>**

## Water Quality

### **Key Points**

**Drinking water is primarily obtained from groundwater sources in SUNRISE HEALTH REGION. Issues of quantity, aesthetic quality, and public health safety continue to be addressed by Saskatchewan Environment, Public Health Inspection and Urban and Rural Municipalities.**