

Our Health Counts London

The first inclusive, community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in London

CHILD ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

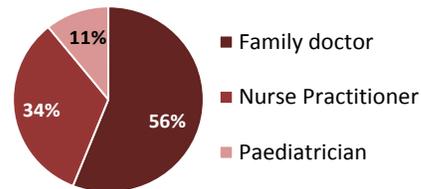
Due to a lack of ethnic identifiers, there is a gap in data on health care utilization among Indigenous children in Canada.^{1,2} Given the known health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous,³ there is a need to explore access to health care among Indigenous children. Similar to Indigenous adults, the health disparities experienced by Indigenous children are linked to inequitable access to care and colonial policies which continue to impact health service provision and treatment for Indigenous children.⁴

Primary Care

86% of Indigenous children in London have a regular health care provider who is familiar with their health and medical history.

In the past year, **89%** of Indigenous children in London have seen a health care provider, such as a doctor, pediatrician or nurse. This is similar to 88% of children in Canada.¹

Family doctors and nurse practitioners are the primary health care providers for Indigenous children in London.



Specialist Care

18% of Indigenous children in London have been referred to a specialist in the past year.

14% of parents of Indigenous children that were referred to a specialist reported encountering barriers when trying to get an appointment. Barriers included:

- Could not afford transportation
- Unable to arrange transportation

Unmet Health Needs

9% of Indigenous parents reported that there was a time in the past 12 months when they felt their child needed health care services, but did not receive them. Barriers included:

- Long waiting list
- Unable to arrange transport
- Doctor was not available
- Care needed was not covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits

Definitions

Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling (see Project Overview and Methods Factsheet)
Parents/guardians of Indigenous children or Indigenous children: parents/guardians of persons 1 to 14 years self identified as Indigenous by their parent or guardian, such as First Nations, Métis, Inuit or other Indigenous nations, living or using services in the City of London

Sources

1. Smylie & Adomako (2009); 2. Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (2011) ; 3. UNICEF (2009); 4. Allan & Smylie (2015)

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For the full OHC London report visit:
www.welllivinghouse.com

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Our Health Counts: Community health assessment by the people, for the people