COMMUNITY REPORT: WHAT WE HEARD: 2024 HEALTH SURVEY

Métis Nation of Ontario ∞





Métis citizens contributing their insights







About 2 in 5 respondents were between the ages of 45 and 64 years.



About 9 in 10 respondents reported their sexual orientation as heterosexual.





73% of respondents were married or in a relationship, 15% were single and 12% were separated, divorced or widowed. About 1 in 4 respondents reported living with a disability.



About 6 in 10 respondents reported a college or university degree, or higher level of education.



About 2 in 5 respondents were employed full time.

29% 29% ≤\$49,999

42% \$50 - \$99,999

About 2 in 5 respondents reported an annual household income of between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

The figure below shows that nearly 7 in 10 respondents reported good, very good or excellent health.





11% 10%

7/10 respondents reported seeing a dental professional at least once a year for check-ups or treatments

31%

18%



Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

40% of MNO citizen respondents reported cost as a barrier. Treatments most commonly avoided:





Extended health benefit coverage from insurance plan or government program



Tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis consumption (at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey)

Sense of belonging to the Métis community

56%

44% "I am forever grateful and feel so overwhelmingly supported by the Métis community through this journey." "The Métis are people who depend upon each other, and having a sense of community is such a huge part of health."

Somewhat Somewhat or very or very strong weak "Although I answered the questions that I feel disconnected from the Métis community, I want to be a part of it." 7 in 10 respondents reported that their household income was enough to meet household's needs and can cover an unexpected \$500 expense

> 54% 32% 13% More than Enough Not enough enough

"The household income level for assistance should be reassessed. It is very difficult for families to live comfortably and give their children the opportunities for extra curriculars, have help with unexpected household expenses etc. with the income cap."

Food insecurity experiences in the past 12 months



Among citizens that reported food insecurity, 41% said it occurred in some months but not every month, while 38% said it occurred almost every month. 12% of respondents and/or their household members used home care services in the past 12 months



Delays in medical appointments/services:

- 76% respondents experienced delays
- Family doctor appointments are hard to access
- "I have been waiting for a family doctor for almost 5 years for my family."

Cost barriers in dental services:

- High dental costs prevent many from receiving needed care
- Delayed treatment can lead to more serious and expensive problems
- "A dental program to help with the financial burden of ongoing issues would be amazing. I
 need a broken tooth pulled and 6 cavities filled but cannot afford to have the work done. I'm
 scared of an infection in the broken tooth but I can't afford the work to be done. I'm scared and
 there is no supports."

Inadequate coverage for medical services

- Respondents struggle to secure full or partial coverage for prescription medication, dental, vision, and long-term care through insurance or government programs
- Some skip medication or treatment due to lack of financial support
- "I have diabetes and can not afford some of the medicine I have been prescribed, so I go without them."

Issues with Ontario's health system

- Concerns include transportation, long wait times, doctor shortages, and lack of culturally safe care
- Specialist and diagnostic test delays add to the burden
- "I have had long wait time to see my doctor, and when I do get referred and it takes another 6 to 8 months to get answers."

Gaps in MNO health programs/services

- Citizens suggest improvements to services related to extended benefits, housing, mental health services, elder care, inclusive care, and more
- "I feel that there are far less resources for Métis aging at home or opportunities for minimal care homes or long term care home settings. First Nation peoples have precedence."

Barriers in accessing government services

- Many don't know what services exist or how to access them
- "I don't know how to access services, and I don't know who to go to in order to figure it out ."

- Exploring health outcomes for MNO citizen respondents living with and not living with a disability
- Self-reported oral health comparing MNO citizen respondents with good versus not good oral health (including who is experiencing barriers)
- Exploring polysubstance (alcohol + cannabis + tobacco)
- Examining responses from MNO citizen respondents accessing homecare (includes the costs they
 are incurring, how they rate the services they receive)

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

