

Community Health Assessment Survey

Stephenville-Bay St George Area

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Introduction

A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a dynamic and on-going process undertaken to identify the strengths and needs of a community, and to establish its health and wellness priorities. CHAs provide information about local areas as well as contribute to a broader understanding of health and wellness in Newfoundland and Labrador. Western Health uses CHAs to help prioritize, plan and act on unmet community needs to improve the health of residents of the Western region.

The CHA process involves:

- Gathering information about health and wellness (facts and opinions)
- Collecting information about health and community resources (assets)
- Evaluating the information to determine strengths, needs, and the community's priorities
- Building partnerships and strategizing together to address health and wellness needs using assets and resources within the community.

In keeping with provincial direction, Western Health followed the *Community Health Assessment Guidelines*- a draft provincial framework for conducting CHAs. In the past, CHAs in Newfoundland and Labrador were conducted according to the unique policies and practices of each regional health authority (RHA). In a partnered effort to standardize the CHA process, the RHAs, the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI), and the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) have agreed on CHA guidelines. This includes common indicators, methodology, data sources, and 39 unique and defined geographic regions across the province.

Methodology

The Western Health CHA survey was used to collect quantitative and qualitative data from residents of the region about where they find health-related information, where they go for care, satisfaction with health care services, community concerns, satisfaction with health and wellness resources, and health behaviors. The survey was available for completion between May 1 and June 30, 2019 and the target audience was individuals residing in the Western region, aged 18 and older.

A robust communication plan was developed to disseminate survey information and promote uptake. To encourage survey completion, Western Health's community partners were provided the survey information and asked to share within their networks and on social media. In addition, Western Health tweeted the survey link multiple times, a public service announcement was issued, the survey link was posted on the Western Health website, and Community Health staff distributed survey information at various events and community programs across the region. To promote uptake among Western Health staff, an article was included in the @Western Health newsletter, an email was sent to all staff, and the survey information was posted on the internal intranet site. A survey information poster was also developed and posted across the region in waiting rooms, community organizations, public areas, and Western Health facilities. To ensure all residents were able to complete the survey, both paper and electronic versions of the survey were provided.

Survey goal response rates were calculated based on each of Western Health's seven Primary Health Care (PHC) area's population, and a sample size based on an 85% confidence level was determined. A survey implementation team was established, and the team met weekly to review response rates for the region and each PHC area. The implementation team worked together to ensure all PHC areas met the target response rates and address any survey concerns.

Following the survey completion deadline, the survey data was compiled from the Get Feedback survey program and transferred it to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) data file. SPSS was then used to analyze the data frequencies by PHC area and the overall region. The following results section highlights the main themes and areas of interest for the Bay St George PHC Area as identified by the CHA survey. The Bay St. George Area includes the communities of Stephenville, St. Georges, Port au Port East, Boswalos, Stephenville Crossing, St. Theresa's, Bay St. George, Port au Port, Felix Cove, Flat Bay,

Port au Port West, Cape St. George, Campbell's Creek, Robinsons, Black Duck Siding, Barachois Brook, Jeffrey's, Cape St. George, McKay's, Piccadilly, Lourdes, Mattis Point, Point au Mal, Cold Brook, Three Rock Cove and St. David's. Unless otherwise noted, data tables do not include missing data. To view full detailed results, refer to Appendix A. A copy of the CHA survey can be found in Appendix B.

Results

Demographics

A total of 268 surveys were completed throughout the Stephenville/ Bay St. George PHC Area which includes communities such as Stephenville, St. Georges, Port au Port East, Boswarlos, Stephenville Crossing, St. Theresa's, Kippens, Bay St George, Port au Port, Felix Cove, Flat Bay, Port au Port West, Cape St. George, Campbell's Creek, Robinsons, Black Duck Siding, Barachois Brook, Jeffrey's, Cape St. George, McKay's, Piccadilly, Lourdes, Mattis Point, Point au Mal, Cold Brook, Three Rock Cove, and St. David's.

The following is a profile of survey respondents from the Stephenville/ Bay St. George PHC Area. The majority of survey respondents:

- \blacktriangleright Were from the Stephenville (45%)
- ▶ Lived in their community for more than 20 years (62.8%)
- \blacktriangleright Were in the 36-45 age group (17.2%) and the 46-55 age group (17.2%)
- ➤ Identify as female (75.1%)
- Reported their highest level of education completed as technical, vocational, or community college program (47.9%)
- \blacktriangleright Were employed full time (56.2%)
- ▶ Reported a household income between \$ 15,000 and \$29, 999 (24.1%)

Primary Health Care (Family Doctor, Nurse Practitioner and Routine Care)

The first section of the CHA survey focused on questions related to access to PHC and level of satisfaction with the quality of services received. According to the survey results, when respondents are looking for health-related information, the majority:

- 1. Search the internet (e.g. WebMD, Google search (63.8%)
- 2. Ask a family doctor (48.5%)
- 3. Ask a pharmacist (38.1%)

Respondents were asked if they currently have a family doctor or nurse practitioner and their level of satisfaction with their provider. Results indicate:

- ▶ 88.8% have a family doctor or nurse practitioner. Of the 88.8%,
 - 68.1% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their family doctor or nurse practitioner
 - 16.1% reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their family doctor or nurse practitioner and indicated the following reasons:
 - Waitlist for an appointment is too long (9.7%)
 - \circ You do not have trust and confidence in your health care provider(s) (6.0%)
 - Health care provider(s) do not give you a chance to ask to ask questions (3.7%)
 - Health care provider(s) do not involve you in decisions about your care
 (2.6%)
- > 11.2 % do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner

The last time respondents needed care for a minor health problem (e.g., fever or unexplained rash), the majority went to:

- 1. Family doctor/ nurse practitioner (33.6%)
- 2. I do not have a place to get care for a minor health care problem (18%)
- 3. Hospital emergency department (13.2%)

When asked if they were able to get same or next day care for a minor health problem, 51.7% reported yes, and 48.3% reported no.

Health Care

The health care system includes physical and mental health care services provided by Western Health and private health care providers (e.g., pharmacy, family practice/dental/vision clinics). Survey respondents were asked about access to the health care system and satisfaction with the quality of services received. According to survey results, the majority of respondents (47.2%) were "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with the health care services they have used in the past 12 months, while 32.2 % of respondents were

"Dissatisfied" or Very Dissatisfied". The respondents that indicated they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the health care services they used in the past 12 months, were asked to indicate the reasons why, and to indicate which services they were unable to access. The following are the top three reasons and the most common services respondents were dissatisfied with:

1. Waitlist for an appointment was too long (33%)

Services:

1.1 Family Doctor

- 1.2 Specialists (Ear, Nose, Throat Specialist (ENT), Cardiologist)
- 1.3 Test and Procedures (Holter Monitor, Coloscopy).
- 2. Wait time in the clinic/ facility was too long (17%)

Services:

- 2.1 Clinic
- 2.2 Blood Collection
- 2.3 Family Doctor
- 3. Health care provider did not treat you with respect (11.6%)

Services:

- 3.1 Specialist
- 3.2 Doctor

When asked about accessing health care services, the majority of participants (66.4%) indicated they were able to access a required health service, while 33.6% of respondents indicated they were not able to access a services when they were required. The 33.6% of respondents that indicated they were not able to access a required health service were asked to indicate reasons why there weren't able to access a required health service, and to indicate which services they were unable to access. The following are the top three reasons respondents were unable to access a required health services they were unable to access.

- 1. Wait time for service was too long (44.6%) Services:
 - 1.1 Doctor/ Family Doctor/ Nurse Practitioner
 - 1.2 Psychiatrist

1.3 General Surgeon

2. Transportation issues (14.8%)

Services:

- 2.1 Ear, Nose, Throat Specialist
- 2.2 Colonoscopy
- 3. Services not available (13.5%)

Services:

- 1.1 Electroencephalography (EEG)
- 1.2 Ear, Nose, Throat Consultation
- 1.3 In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

Community Health and Wellness

Survey respondents were asked questions about the health and wellness of their community as well as their satisfaction with the resources and services available within their community. Respondents were provided a list of various areas/issues and were asked to indicate which ones they were most concerned about in their community. The most commonly selected areas/issues were:

- 1. Road quality (57.1%)
- 2. Addictions (e.g. Alcohol and/ or drug abuse, gambling, etc.) (51.9%)
- 3. Cost of living (49.3%)
- 4. Chronic diseases (e.g. prevalence of diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, etc.) (48.5%)
- 5. Distracted driving of any vehicle (e.g. texting or talking on cell phone while driving car, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile, etc.) (43.7%)

Of the issues/areas that respondents selected, they were then asked to rank their top three areas/issues they are most concerned about. The top three ranked answers were:

- 1. Addictions (26.9 %)
- 2. Cost of living (23.5 %)
- 3. Chronic disease (20.1%)

There are many different groups and resources that aim to improve the health and wellness of a community. These include Western Health, private health clinics, churches, schools, town councils, resource centers, Community Advisory Committees, and other community groups. Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the resources available to help deal with the health and wellness challenges in their communities. The majority of respondents (36.7%) who answered this question, were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the resources available, while 34.9% were satisfied or very satisfied, and 60.7% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Respondents who indicated they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied were asked to explain which aspects of the health and wellness resources they are dissatisfied with. The following were the most common responses:

- 1. Access to services including family physicians, specialists, and diabetes resources
- 2. Wait times for services

Health Status

The following section of the CHA survey asked questions to determine the health of respondents who completed the survey. The majority of respondents reported that their physical health was excellent or very good/good (8.4% and 72.4% respectively). The majority of respondents also reported that their mental health was excellent or very good/good (12% and 73.5% respectively).

Survey respondents were asked what they feel they should do to improve their physical and/or mental health and what are the barriers to making the change. The following are the top three responses and the most common barriers to making the change:

- 1. Start/increase exercise, sports or physical activity (88.1%)
 - a. Too busy
 - b. Lack of will power/ self-discipline
 - c. Too costly
- 2. Eat healthier/ eat more fruits and vegetables (82.5%)
 - a. Too costly

- b. Lack of will power/ self-discipline
- c. Not enough resources in the community
- 2. Reduce stress (81.0%)
 - a. Too busy
 - b. Unsure how to make this improvement
 - c. Too stressed

Health Care Planning

Western Health is currently in the process of developing its Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. The plan will outline the main priorities and focus areas for Western Health over the next three years. To seek public feedback on potential priorities of the strategic plan, the CHA survey asked respondents to report the one thing Western Health could do to make a difference in their care. The most common responses were:

- 1. Access to mental health services
- 2. Increase staffing of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses through improved recruitment and retention.
- 3. Improve staff health and wellness by offering more resources.

Concluding Remarks

To conclude the survey, respondents were asked if there was anything else, they would like to add. The most common responses were:

- Concerns with aging population, services for seniors in rural centers, cost of living, and outmigration.
- Hope that this survey's feedback is considered and actioned. More community engagement through town hall meetings, and involvement in new hospital planning.
- Access to services (e.g. testing, family doctors, nurse practitioners, ambulance, and diabetes resources) in rural areas challenging due to lack of services or travel/ transportation barriers. Improve access by providing after-hours walk-in clinics and increasing staff resources.

Successes and Limitations

The CHA survey implementation team experienced success in promotion and uptake of the survey with a 107% increase in survey completion from the previous CHA survey cycle implemented in 2016. In addition, each PHC area, including Bay St.George, met their target response rate. This was the first time a provincially standardized survey tool was used.

Despite these successes, there were some limitations to note. While the implementation team made efforts to promote the survey to all residents, the characteristics of the survey participants was not found to be representative of the population of the area for all characteristics (ex. Income level, education, etc.). For example, the majority of respondents in both the region, and in the Bay St.George area identified as female (80% and 75.1%). To mitigate this in the future, specific strategies should be included in the survey communication plan to target survey completion among male residents as well. Initial feedback on the survey from the public indicated the survey was too long, especially if it was completed in the paper format. Other feedback suggested that some of the questions were structured and worded in a way that was confusing and unclear to respondents. To avoid this in the future, the survey could be developed in partnership with the public (e.g. Advisors) to create more reader-friendly questions.

Conclusion

The CHA survey is an important step in determining the needs and resources of residents in the Western region. The survey included qualitative and quantitative questions, providing residents with an opportunity to express their views of the health and community services offered in the region. Overall for the Stephenville/ Bay St George PHC Area findings from the survey indicated that residents have concerns about addictions, cost of living, and chronic disease. Themes identified from the comments indicated respondents were also concerned about access to mental health services, increased staffing of physicians/ nurse practitioners, nurses through improved recruitment and retention, as well as improved staff health and wellness. The survey also demonstrated positive feedback including 88.8 % of respondents have a family doctor/ nurse practitioner, and 66.4 % were able to access services when needed.

Data obtained from the CHA for the region and each PHC area will support planning at the local PHC area level as well as organizational strategic, branch, and program planning. Survey results will be used by service providers/programs, community advisory committees and primary health care teams to determine key priorities and to inform planning. Results will also be shared with relevant community partners to inform their planning and service delivery processes.

Appendix A: Full Survey Results

Question 1. If you needed to find health-related information for yourself or someone else today,		
how would you get that information (select all that apply)?		

Information Source	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Ask a family doctor	48.5	130
Ask a nurse practitioner	27.6	74
Ask a pharmacist	38.1	102
Ask a social worker	7.5	20
Call a hospital/clinic	23.5	63
Ask a community or public health nurse	29.1	78
Search the internet (e.g. WebMD, Google search)	63.8	171
Western Health website	11.9	32
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	9	24
Use 811 HealthLine	27.6	74
Contact a not-for-profit agency (e.g., Cancer Society, Mental Health Association) or a community or church group	8.6	23
Ask a friend or family member	33.2	89
Other	 Most common responses: Asking Colleagues Family members who work in the health field 	

Question 2. Do you currently have a regular family doctor or nurse practitioner?

Response	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Yes	88.8	238
No	11.2	30

Level of Satisfaction	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Very satisfied	31.5	74
Satisfied	36.6	86
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15.7	37
Dissatisfied	14	33
Very dissatisfied	2.1	5

Question 3. Overall, how satisfied are you with your family doctor/nurse practitioner?

Question 4. Why are you dissatisfied with your family doctor/nurse practitioner (select all that apply)?

Reason	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Wait list for an appointment is too long	9.7	26
Wait time in clinic/facility is too long	1.9	5
Too far to travel	0.4	1
Hours of service are inconvenient	0.7	2
Communication barrier	0.4	1
Facility and/or equipment quality is poor	1.1	3
Health care provider (s) do not give you a chance to ask questions	3.7	10
You do not have trust and confidence in your health care provider (s)	6.0	16
Health care provider (s) do not treat you with respect	0.7	2
Health care provider (s) do not explain things in a way that is easy to understand	2.2	6
Health care provider (s) do not involve you in decisions about your care	2.6	7
Other	•	aged (e.g. does not listen, g appointments, rushed).

Question 5. The last time you needed care for a minor health problem (e.g., fever or unexplained rash), where did you go?

Location	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Family doctor/nurse practitioner	33.6	89
Walk-in clinic	2.3	6
Hospital emergency department	49.8	132
Pharmacist	3.0	8
HealthLine 811	3.0	8
I do not have a place to get care for a minor health problem	6.8	18
Other	Most common responses:	
	Did not seek treat	ment
	• Internet	
	Nurse Practitioner	

Question 6. The last time you needed care for a minor health problem (e.g., fever or unexplained rash), were you able to get same day or next day care?

Response	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Yes	51.7	136
No	48.3	127

Question 7. Overall, how satisfied were you with the health care services that you used during the past 12 months?

Level of Satisfaction	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Very satisfied	10.9	29
Satisfied	36.3	97
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18.4	49
Dissatisfied	23.6	63
Very dissatisfied	8.6	23
I have not used any health care services	2.2	6

Question 8. Why were you dissatisfied with the health care services that you used during the past 12 months (select all that apply)? For each reason selected, please list the services you were dissatisfied with.

Reason	% (n)	Services
Wait list for an appointment was too long	33 (28)	Family Doctor (7) Specialist (3) - Ear Nose, Throat Specialist, Ophthalmologist, Cardiologist Nurse Practitioner (1) Tests and Procedures (2) Holter Monitor, Coloscopy
Wait time in the clinic/facility was too long	17 (15)	Emergency Department/ Hospital (1) Clinic (11) Family Doctor (1) Specialist (1) Blood Collection (2)
Too far to travel	8.1 (7)	Mental Health/ Psychiatry
Hours of service were inconvenient	2.3 (2)	None
Cost of service	0	None
Communication barrier	3.5 (3)	Doctor
Facility and/or equipment quality was poor	2.3 (2)	None
Health care provider(s) did not give you a chance to ask questions	8.1 (7)	Doctor (3) Specialist (1)
You did not have trust and confidence in your health care provider(s)	7.0 (6)	Doctor (1)
Health care provider(s) did not treat you with respect	11.6 (10)	Specialist (1) Doctor (1)

	Reason	% (n)	Services
	Health care provider(s) did not explain things in a way that was easy to understand (20)	3.5 (3)	Specialist (1) Doctor (1)
	Health care provider(s) did not involve you in decisions about your care (18)	4.6 (4)	Doctor Mental Health
 Other reason not listed above (please specify): 		ove (please	Services: No Show by provider Family Doctor Nurse Practitioner Waitlist for services are too long Lack of services available/Doctor turnover

Question 9. Sometimes we require health care services but are unable to access them. Have you required any health care services that you were unable to access during the past 12 months?

Response	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)		
Yes	33.6	74		
No	66.4	146		

Question 10. Why were you unable to access services that you required during the past 12 months (select all that apply)? For each reason selected, please list the services you required but were unable to access.

Reason	% (n)	Services
 Wait time for service was too long 	44.6 (33)	Doctor/ Family Doctor/Nurse Practitioner (9) Ultrasound/ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) (2) General Surgeon (3) Ophthalmology (2) Obstetrician Gynecologist (OBGYN) (1) Audiology (Physiotherapy (1) Psychiatrist/Psychologist/ Counseling (4)
□ Cost of service	6.8 (5)	Physiotherapy (1) Optometry (1)

Reason	% (n)	Services
Transportation issues	14.8 (11)	Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) (1) Tests- Colonoscopy (1)
Too far to travel	8.1 (6)	Ophthalmology (1)
Unable to leave house due to health problems	0	None
Unable to access the services during scheduled time/hours of service	8.1 (6)	Family Doctor (1)
Unable to get referral	6.8 (5)	Dermatologist (1) Family Doctor (2)
Could not contact service	5.4 (4)	Family Doctor (1) Advanced Education and Skills (AES) (Transportation)- (1)
Communication barrier	1.3 (1)	None
Did not know service was available	0	None
Service not available	13.5 (10)	Electroencephalography - EEG (1) Ear, Nose, Throat Consultation (1) Family Doctor (1) In Vitro Fertilization (1) Mental Health Counseling (1) Anesthesiology (1) Rheumatologist (1) Emergency Department (1)
Other reason not listed ab specify):	ove (please	Family Doctor (3) Obstetrician/ Gynecologist OBGYN (1) Tests- Colonoscopy (1)

Issue/Area	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
I am not concerned about the health and wellness of		
my community	7.8	21
Addictions (e.g., alcohol and/or drug abuse,	51.9	139
gambling, etc.)	51.9	139
Bullying	38.1	102
Childcare (including affordability, lack of	27.2	73
accessibility)	21.2	75
Chronic diseases (e.g., prevalence of diabetes, high	48.5	130
blood pressure, cancer, etc.)		150
Crime and violence	15.7	42
Cost of living	49.3	132
Clean water supply	17.9	48
Distracted driving of any vehicle (e.g. texting or		
talking on cell phone while driving car, motorcycle,	43.7	117
ATV, snowmobile, etc.)		
Drug/alcohol impaired driving of any vehicle (e.g.	40.7	109
car, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile, etc.)		
Education system	23.5	63
Emergency services	22.4	60
Environmental issues (e.g., contaminants in the air,	20.1	54
water and soil)	20.1	51
Food security (access to sufficient, affordable,	29.1	78
nutritious food)		
Homelessness (including couch surfing)	7.1	19
Housing conditions	13.8	37
Illiteracy	8.2	22
Mental health of community residents	47	126
Outmigration	21.3	57
Physical health of community residents	24.6	66
Poverty	18.7	50
Public transportation (including affordability, lack	19.8	53
of accessibility)		
Recreational programs/spaces	26.5	71
Resources for people with disabilities (e.g.,	20.9	56
accessible buildings)		
Road quality	57.1	153
Seniors' resources/programs	30.2	81
Sexual health (including unplanned pregnancy,	10.1	27
Sexually Transmitted Infections)		
Social isolation and lack of community involvement	20.1	54

Question 11. Please select the areas/issues that you are most concerned about in your community (select all that apply).

Issue/Area	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Suicide	28.4	76
Tobacco use/smoking	25.4	68
Unemployment	29.5	79
Violence in the home (e.g., child abuse/neglect, domestic)	17.9	48
Working conditions (e.g., risks for injury on the job)	100	268
Other- most common responses: • Shortage/ access to doctors • Transportation	20 20	10 10

Question 12. Of the issues you selected in question 11, please select up to 3 areas/issues that you are most concerned about in your community.

Issue/Area	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
1. Addictions	26.9	72
2. Cost of Living	23.5	63
3. Chronic Disease	20.1	54

Question 13. Overall, how satisfied are you with the resources available to help deal with the health and wellness challenges in your community?

Level of Satisfaction	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Very satisfied	3.2	7
Satisfied	31.7	70
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	36.7	81
Dissatisfied	24	53
Very dissatisfied	4.5	10

Question 14. What aspects of the health and wellness resources are you dissatisfied with?

Overall themes:

- 1. Access to services including family physicians, specialists, and diabetes resources
- 2. Wait times for services

Rating	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Excellent	8.4	18
Very good	36	77
Good	36.4	78
Fair	16.4	35
Poor	2.8	6

Question 15. In general, would you say your physical health is...?

Question 16. In general, would you say your mental health is...?

Rating	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Excellent	12	25
Very good	37	77
Good	36.5	76
Fair	12	25
Poor	2.4	5

					Baı	rier to Maki	ng Change %	(n)		-		
Health Behavior	Not applicable to me	Unsure how to make this improvement	Not enough resources in the community	Community resources are not effective	I am too busy	I am too stressed	Addiction	Too costly	Disability	Transportation problems	Lack of will power/ self-discipline	Other
Start/ increase exercise, sports or physical activity	11.9 (32)	5.6 (15)	15.7 (42)	3.4 (9)	32.8 (88)	13.4 (36)	0.4 (1)	20.1 (54)	7.5 (20)	1.5 (4)	31 (83)	
Eat healthier/ eat more fruits and vegetables	17.5 (47)	3.4 (9)	10.1 (27)	2.6 (7)	7.1 (19)	6.0 (16)	0.7 (2)	44.4 (19)	0.7 (2)	0.4 (1)	18.7 (50)	
Drink less alcohol	70.1 (188)	0.4 (1)	0.7 (2)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	1.9 (5)	0.4 (1)	0.7 (2)	0.4 (1)	0.4 (1)	2.6 (7)	*see below for most common responses
Reduce smoking (not including cannabis)	66.0 (177)	0.7 (2)	1.1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2.6 (7)	2.6 (7)	0.4 (1)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	5.6 (15)	
Reduce vaping (not including cannabis)	75.4 (202)	0.7 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	

Question 17. What do you feel you should do to improve your physical and/or mental health (select all that apply)? For each health behavior selected, please tell us what is stopping you from making this change.

		Barrier to Making Change % (n)										
Health Behavior	Not applicable to me	Unsure how to make this improvement	Not enough resources in the community	Community resources are not effective	I am too busy	I am too stressed	Addiction	Too costly	Disability	Transportation problems	Lack of will power/ self-discipline	Other
Reduce cannabis use (in any form)	73.9 (198)	0.4 (1)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.7 (2)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0.7 (2)	
Reduce illegal drug use	75.4 (202)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Reduce prescription drug misuse	74.6 (200)	1.1 (3)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.7 (2)	*see below for most common responses
Gamble less	75.4 (202)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Reduce stress	19 (51)	20.5 (55)	13.8 (37)	6.3 (17)	23.5 (63)	13.8 (37)	0.4 (1)	9.7 (26)	4.1 (11)	0.7 (2)	4.9 (13)	

		Barrier to Making Change % (n)										
Health Behavior	Not applicable to me	Unsure how to make this improvement	Not enough resources in the community	Community resources are not effective	I am too busy	I am too stressed	Addiction	Too costly	Disability	Transportation problems	Lack of will power/ self-discipline	Other
Reduce screen time	47.0 (126)	6.7 (18)	1.1 (3)	0 (0)	3.0 (8)	2.2 (6)	1.9 (5)	0 (0)	0.7 (2)	0 (0)	16.8 (45)	
Get flu shot	63.8 (171)	1.9 (5)	0.7 (2)	0 (0)	1.5 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.7 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1.5 (4)	
Seek physical or mental health treatment	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6.3 (17)	0.7 (2)	2.6 (7)	3.7 (10)	*see below for
Connect more with family, friends or community	36.2 (97)	8.2 (22)	4.1 (11)	2.6 (7)	21.6 (58)	3.4 (9)	0 (0)	2.6 (7)	1.1 (3)	2.6 (7)	3.4 (9)	most common responses
Other		*see below for most common responses										

*" Other" most common responses to barriers to making behavior change:

Start/increase exercise, sports, or physical activity

• n/a

Eat healthier/eat more fruits and vegetables

• n/a

Drink less alcohol

• n/a Reduce smoking (not including cannabis)

• n/a Reduce vaping (not including cannabis)

• n/a Reduce cannabis use (in any form)

• n/a Reduce illegal drug use

• *n/a* Reduce prescription drug misuse

• n/a Gamble less

• n/a Reduce stress

• n/a Reduce screen time

• n/a

Get flu shot

• n/a

Seek physical or mental health treatment

• n/a

Connect more with family, friends or community

- Mental Health issues (Agoraphobia)
- Lack of communication with community events

Other health behaviors that would improve physical and/or mental health and most common reported barriers to making change:

- Lack of a family doctor/nurse practitioner
- Work related stress/ lack of work life balance
- Financial difficulties
- Dietary/ weight loss support

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Question 18. What is the one thing Western Health can do to make a difference in your care?
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Overall themes:

- 1. Access to mental health services
- 2.Increase staffing of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses through improved recruitment and retention.
- 3. Improve staff health and wellness by offering more resources.
- 4. Improve access to primary care through walk in clinics, after hours appointments, and same day appointments.

Question 19. Respondents by PHC area

PHC Area	Percentage (%)	# Responses
Stephenville/Bay St. George	100	268

Question 20: Identified respondent communities

Stephenville, St Georges, Port au Port East, Boswarlos, Stephenville Crossing, St. Theresa. Kippens, Bay St George, Port ay Port, Felix Cove, Flat Bay, Pork au Port West, Cape St George, Campbell's Creek, Robinsons, Black Duck Siding, Barachois Brook, Jeffrey's, Cape St George, McKay's, Piccadilly, Lourdes, Mattis Point, Point au Mal, Cold Brook, Three Rock Cove, St David's

Question 21. Respondent years lived in community

Years	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Less than 2 years	3.8	10
2-5 years	6.4	17
6-10 years	13.9	37
11-20 years	13.2	35
More than 20 years	62.8	167

Question 22. Respondent age groups

Age Group	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
18-25	10.3	6
26-35	13.8	8
36-45	17.2	10
46-55	17.2	10
56-65	15.5	9
66-75	15.5	9
76+	8.6	5

Question 23. Respondent reported gender

Gender	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Male	21.5	57
Female	75.1	199
Transgender male	0.4	1
Transgender female	0.4	1
Non-binary	0	0
Prefer not to say	2.6	7

Question 24. Respondent highest level of educated completed

Education	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Did not complete high school	4.2	11
Completed high school	13.6	36
Started university or college	3.8	10
Completed a technical, vocational, or community college	47.9	127
program		
Completed a bachelor's degree	18.9	50
Completed a graduate or professional degree	11.7	31

Question 25.	Respondent	employment status
£		<i>r r r r r r r r r r</i>

Employment Status	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Employed full time	56.2	146
Employed part time	7.3	19
Seasonal worker	2.3	6
Commuting/rotational worker	0	0
Student	1.5	4
Unemployed and looking for work	3.1	8
Unable to work due to a long-term sickness or disability	3.5	9

Looking after my home/family	4.2	11
Retired from paid work	21.9	57

Question 26. Respondent household income

Income	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)
Under \$15,000	6.2	12
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	24.1	47
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	19.5	38
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	0	0
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	19	37
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	21.5	42
Over \$150,000	9.7	19

Question 27. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Overall themes:

1) Concerns with aging population, services for seniors in rural centers, cost of living, and outmigration.

2) Hope that this survey's feedback is considered and actioned. More community engagement through town hall meetings, and involvement in new hospital planning.

3) Access to services (e.g., testing, family doctors, nurse practitioners, ambulance, and diabetes resources) in rural areas challenging due to lack of services or travel/transportation barriers. Improve access by providing after hours services and walk in clinics and increasing staff resources.

4) Wait times for services are long especially for ophthalmology and emergency department. Improve wait times by providing after hours services, walk in clinics.

Appendix B: Western Health Community Health Assessment Survey

Western Health Community Health Assessment Survey

Western Health is seeking your input. Your participation in our **2019 Community Health Assessment Survey** will provide us with valuable information that will help us understand and focus on the health-related needs of our communities. This information will also be used to inform future health-care planning.

- This survey is for people living in the Western Health region who are **18 years or older**.
- This survey will take about **10-15 minutes** to complete.
- This survey is **voluntary**.
- Your **privacy is very important**. Your answers will be **anonymous** and **confidential**. Survey responses will be analyzed and reported at the regional or primary health care service area level. It will be impossible to identify individuals.
- Please only complete the survey **once**.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mariel Parcon, Regional Manager Research and Evaluation at <u>marielparcon@westernhealth.nl.ca</u> or (709) 784-6806.

Primary Health Care

The following questions ask about your <u>access</u> to primary health care (family doctor, nurse practitioner, and routine care) and your satisfaction with the <u>quality of services</u> received.

- 1. If you needed to find health-related information for yourself or someone else today, how would you get that information (select all that apply)?
 - □ Ask a family doctor
 - □ Ask a nurse practitioner
 - □ Ask a pharmacist
 - □ Ask a social worker
 - □ Call a hospital/clinic
 - □ Ask a community or public health nurse
 - □ Search the internet (e.g., WebMD, Google search)
 - □ Western Health website

- □ Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)
- □ Use 811 HealthLine
- □ Contact a not-for-profit agency (e.g., Cancer Society, Mental Health Association) or a community or church group
- □ Ask a friend or family member
- Other (please specify): ______

2. Do you currently have a regular family doctor or nurse practitioner?

- □ Yes
- □ No (SKIP TO QUESTION 5)
- 3. Overall, how satisfied are you with your family doctor/nurse practitioner?
 - □ Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 5)
 - □ Satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 5)
 - □ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 5)
 - □ Dissatisfied
 - □ Very dissatisfied

4. Why are you dissatisfied with your family doctor/nurse practitioner (select all that apply)?

- □ Wait list for an appointment is too long
- □ Wait time in the clinic/facility is too long
- □ Too far to travel
- $\hfill\square$ Hours of service are inconvenient
- □ Communication barrier
- □ Facility and/or equipment quality is poor
- □ Health-care provider(s) do not give you a chance to ask questions
- □ You do not have trust and confidence in your health-care provider(s)
- □ Health-care provider(s) do not treat you with respect
- □ Health-care provider(s) do not explain things in a way that is easy to understand
- □ Health-care provider(s) do not involve you in decisions about your care

- Other (please specify): ______
- 5. The last time you needed care for a minor health problem (e.g., fever or unexplained rash), where did you go?
 - □ Family doctor/nurse practitioner
 - $\hfill\square$ Walk-in clinic
 - □ Hospital emergency department
 - □ Pharmacist
 - □ HEALTHLINE 811
 - $\hfill\square$ I do not have a place to get care for a minor health problem
 - Other (please specify): ______
- 6. The last time you needed care for a minor health problem (e.g., fever or unexplained rash), were you able to get same day or next day care?
 - □ Yes
 - □ No

Health Care

The health care system includes physical and mental health care services provided by Western Health and private health care providers (e.g., pharmacy, family practice/dental/vision clinics). The following questions ask about your <u>access</u> to the health care system and your satisfaction with the <u>quality of services</u> received.

- 7. <u>Overall</u>, how satisfied were you with the health-care services that you used during the past 12 months?
 - □ Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)
 - □ Satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)
 - □ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)
 - $\hfill\square$ Dissatisfied
 - □ Very dissatisfied
 - □ I have not used any health care services (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)

8. Why were you <u>dissatisfied</u> with the health care services that you used during the past 12 months (select all that apply)? For <u>each reason selected</u>, please list the services you were dissatisfied with.

Reason	Services
 Wait list for an appointment was too long 	
 Wait time in the clinic/facility was too long 	
Too far to travel	
 Hours of service were inconvenient 	
□ Cost of service	
Communication barrier	
 Facility and/or equipment quality was poor 	
 Health care provider(s) did not give you a chance to ask questions 	
 You did not have trust and confidence in your health care provider(s) 	
 Health care provider(s) did not treat you with respect 	
 Health care provider(s) did not explain things in a way that was easy to understand 	

Reason	Services
 Health care provider(s) did not involve you in decisions about your care 	
 Other reason not listed above (please specify): 	

- 9. Sometimes we <u>require</u> health care services but are unable to access them. Have you <u>required</u> any health-care service that you were unable to access during the past 12 months?
 - □ Yes
 - □ No (SKIP TO QUESTION 11)
- 10. Why were you unable to access services that you <u>required</u> during the past 12 months (select all that apply)? For <u>each reason selected</u>, please list the services you required but were unable to access.

Reason	Services
Wait time for service was too	
long	
Cost of service	
Transportation issues	
Too far to travel	
 Unable to leave to house due to health problems 	
 Unable to access the services during scheduled time/hours of service 	

Reason	Services
Unable to get a referral	
Could not contact the service	
Communication barrier	
 Did not know the service was available 	
Service not available	
 Other reason not listed above (please specify): 	

Community Health and Wellness

The following questions ask about the <u>health and wellness</u> of your community, as well as your satisfaction with the <u>resources and services available within your community</u>.

11. Please select the areas/issues that you are <u>concerned about</u> in your community (select all that apply).

- I am not concerned about the health and wellness of my community (SKIP TO QUESTION 13)
- □ Addictions (e.g., alcohol and/or drug abuse, gambling, etc.)
- □ Bullying
- □ Childcare (including affordability, lack of accessibility)
- □ Chronic diseases (e.g., prevalence of diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, etc.)
- $\hfill\square$ Crime and violence
- $\hfill\square$ Cost of living
- $\hfill\square$ Clean water supply

- □ Distracted driving of any vehicle (e.g. texting or talking on cell phone while driving car, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile, etc.)
- □ Drug/alcohol impaired driving of any vehicle (e.g. car, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile, etc.)
- □ Education system
- □ Emergency services
- □ Environmental issues (e.g., contaminants in the air, water and soil)
- □ Food security (access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food)
- □ Homelessness (including couch surfing)
- □ Housing conditions
- □ Illiteracy
- □ Mental health of community residents
- □ Outmigration
- □ Physical health of community residents
- □ Poverty
- □ Public transportation (including affordability, lack of accessibility)
- □ Recreational programs/spaces
- □ Resources for people with disabilities (e.g., accessible buildings)
- $\hfill\square$ Road quality
- □ Seniors' resources/programs
- □ Sexual health (including unplanned pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Infections)
- □ Social isolation and lack of community involvement
- \Box Suicide
- □ Tobacco use/smoking
- □ Unemployment
- □ Violence in the home (e.g., child abuse/neglect, domestic)
- □ Working conditions (e.g., risks for injury on the job)
- Other (please specify): _____

12. Of the issues you selected in question 11, please select up to <u>3 areas/issues</u> that you are MOST concerned about in your community.

1.	
2.	
3.	

There are many different groups and resources that aim to improve the health and wellness of a community. These include Western Health, private health clinics, churches, schools, town councils, resource centers, Community Advisory Committees, and other community groups.

- 13. Overall, how satisfied are you with the <u>resources available</u> to help deal with the health and wellness challenges in your community?
 - □ Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)
 - □ Satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)
 - □ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)
 - □ Dissatisfied
 - □ Very dissatisfied

14. What aspects of the health and wellness resources are you dissatisfied with?

Health Status

This section will help us describe the **health of the population who completed the survey**.

15. In general, would you say your physical health is...?

- \Box Excellent
- \Box Very good
- \Box Good
- 🗆 Fair
- □ Poor

16. In general, would you say your mental health is...?

- \Box Excellent
- □ Very good
- \Box Good
- 🗆 Fair
- □ Poor
- 17. What do you feel you should do to improve your physical and/or mental health (select all that apply)? For <u>each health behavior selected</u>, please tell us what is stopping you from making this change.

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
 I do not think there is anything else I should do 	
□ Start/increase exercise,	Unsure how to make this improvement
sports or physical activity	 Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	□ Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Eat healthier/eat more	Unsure how to make this improvement
fruits and vegetables	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	□ Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Drink less alcohol	Unsure how to make this improvement
	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Reduce smoking (not	Unsure how to make this improvement
including cannabis)	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Reduce vaping (not	Unsure how to make this improvement
including cannabis)	Not enough resources available in the community
	 Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints

 Disability/health condition Transportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline Other (please specify):
 Lack of will power/self-discipline Other (please specify):
Other (please specify): Reduce cannabis use (of any form) Not enough resources available in the community Community resources are not effective I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too stressed Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline
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 Disability/health condition Transportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline
 Transportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline
Lack of will power/self-discipline
Other (please specify):
□ Reduce illegal drug use □ Unsure how to make this improvement
(e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, etc.) Not enough resources available in the community
 Community resources are not effective
 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
I am too stressed
Too costly/financial constraints
Disability/health condition

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Reduce prescription drug	Unsure how to make this improvement
misuse (e.g. opioids)	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
Gamble less	Unsure how to make this improvement
	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems

Health Behavior	V	Vhat is stopping you from making this change?
		Lack of will power/self-discipline
		Other (please specify):
Reduce stress		Unsure how to make this improvement
		Not enough resources available in the community
		Community resources are not effective
		l am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
		I am too stressed
		Addiction
		Too costly/financial constraints
		Disability/health condition
		Transportation problems
		Lack of will power/self-discipline
		Other (please specify):
Reduce screen time		Unsure how to make this improvement
(computer, cell phone, TV)		Not enough resources available in the community
		Community resources are not effective
		I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
		I am too stressed
		Addiction
		Too costly/financial constraints
		Disability/health condition
		Transportation problems
		Lack of will power/self-discipline
		Transportation problems

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
	Other (please specify):
Get the flu shot (influenza)	Unsure how to make this improvement
immunization)	Not enough resources available in the community
	 Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline
	Other (please specify):
 Seek physical or mental health treatment 	Unsure how to make this improvement
	Not enough resources available in the community
	Community resources are not effective
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule)
	I am too stressed
	□ Addiction
	Too costly/financial constraints
	Disability/health condition
	Transportation problems
	Lack of will power/self-discipline

Other (please specify): Get more sleep Unsure how to make this improvement Not enough resources available in the community Community resources are not effective I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too stressed Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline Other (please specify): Community Schedule) Unsure how to make this improvement I ransportation problems Lack of will power/self-discipline Other (please specify): Other (please specify): I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too stressed Addiction I am too stressed Disability/health condition I ransportat	Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?
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 Not enough resources available in the community Community resources are not effective I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too stressed Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems 	 Connect more with family, 	Unsure how to make this improvement
 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) I am too stressed Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems 	friends or community	Not enough resources available in the community
 schedule) I am too stressed Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems 		Community resources are not effective
 Addiction Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems 		
 Too costly/financial constraints Disability/health condition Transportation problems 		I am too stressed
 Disability/health condition Transportation problems 		Addiction
Transportation problems		Too costly/financial constraints
		Disability/health condition
		Transportation problems
Lack of will power/self-discipline		Lack of will power/self-discipline

Health Behavior	What is stopping you from making this change?	
	Other (please specify):	
Other (please specify):	Unsure how to make this improvement	
	·	
	Not enough resources available in the community	
	Community resources are not effective	
	 I am too busy (e.g., family responsibilities, work schedule) 	
	I am too stressed	
	Too costly/financial constraints	
	 Disability/health condition 	
	Transportation problems	
	Lack of will power/self-discipline	
	Other (please specify):	

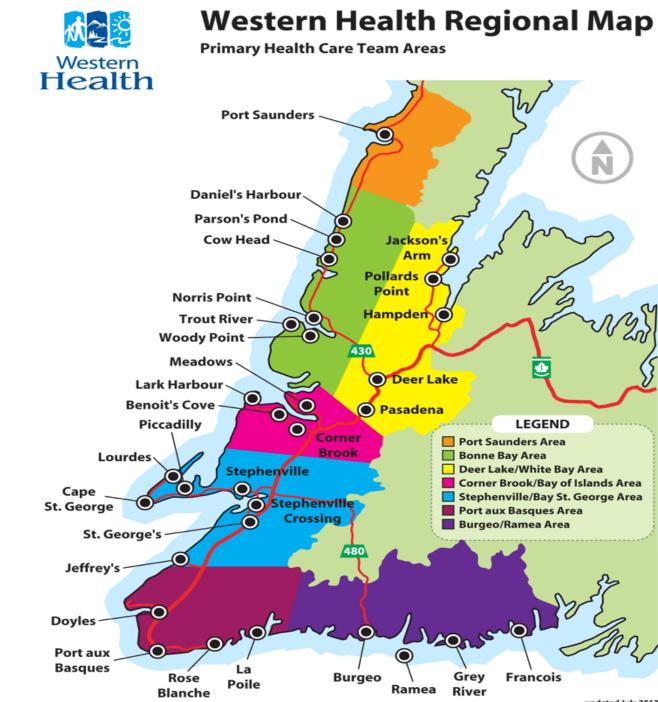
Health Care Planning

Western Health is in the process of developing its **Strategic Plan for 2020-2023**. The plan will outline the **main priorities and focus areas for Western Health** over the next three years.

18. What is the one thing Western Health can do to make a difference in your care?

Community

The Western Health region is divided into 7 primary health-care service areas. These areas are indicated on the map below.



19. In which of the following areas do you live?

- □ Burgeo/Ramea Area
- □ Port aux Basques Area
- □ Stephenville/Bay St. George Area
- □ Corner Brook/Bay of Islands Area
- □ Deer Lake/White Bay Area
- Bonne Bay Area
- □ Port Saunders Area

20. What is the name of your community?

21. How long have you lived in your current community?

- □ Less than 2 years
- □ 2 5 years
- □ 6 10 years
- □ 11 20 years
 - □ More than 20 years

Demographics

This section will help us **describe the population who completed the survey**. You can skip any question you do not wish to answer.

22. What year were you born?

____ ___ ___

23. What gender do you most identify with?

- \Box Male
- □ Female
- □ Transgender male
- □ Transgender female

- □ Gender Variant/Non-conforming
- □ Non-Binary
- $\hfill\square$ Not listed
- □ Prefer not to say

24. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- □ Did not complete secondary school or high school
- □ Completed secondary school or high school
- □ Started university or college education but did not complete it
- □ Completed a technical, vocational or community college program
- □ Completed a bachelor's degree
- □ Completed a graduate or professional degree

25. Which of the following describes your employment status?

- □ Employed full time (including self-employed or on a work training program)
- □ Employed part time (including self-employed or on a work training program)
- □ Seasonal worker
- □ Commuting/rotational worker
- □ Student
- □ Unemployed and looking for work
- □ Unemployed and not looking for work
- □ Unable to work due to a long-term sickness or disability
- □ Looking after my home/family
 - □ Retired from paid work

26. What is your household income?

- □ Under \$15,000
- □ Between \$15,000 and \$29,999

- □ Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
- □ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- □ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- □ Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
- □ Over \$150,000

27. Is there anything else that you would like to add?