

## Rural VIP No. 12: Health services and organizations in Alberta

The twelfth survey for the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent on September 3, 2020 to 200 members. This document provides a summary of the responses.

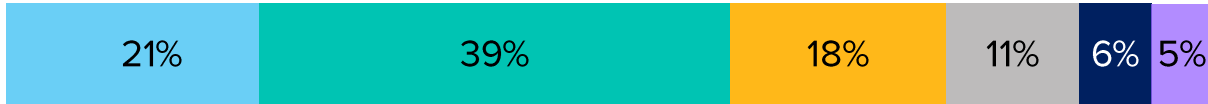
### Key Learnings



- **Q1:** The **majority of respondents** understand the purpose of Primary Care Networks (PCNs), are aware of the types of programs and services their local PCN offers, and know how to find information about PCNs in their health zone.
- **Q2:** Respondents reported a **low understanding** of Indigenous health organizations and services (73 per cent), the Health Quality Council of Alberta (61 per cent), and the Canadian Mental Health Association's Rural Mental Health Project (60 per cent). Overall, 59 per cent of respondents reported a **high understanding** of Family and Community Support Services, followed by Health Advisory Councils at 41 per cent.
- **Q3:** The **top three organizations** that respondents are interested in learning about are the Rural Mental Health Project (69 per cent), PCNs (54 per cent), and the Health Quality Council of Alberta (49 per cent).
- **Q4:** Some respondents wanted to learn about the **roles** PCNs, Health Advisory Councils, and the Health Quality Council of Alberta have, as well as their **services and mandates**. Others would like to know more about mental health services and **supports** and how these are **coordinated** across Alberta.
- **Q5:** Examples of unique health-care supports and services that contribute to community members' health and wellbeing include a local **wellness coalition**, a local **Healthy Community coordinator**, a pregnancy care centre, community attraction and retention committees, and local **health foundations** and Family and Community Support Services.

1. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

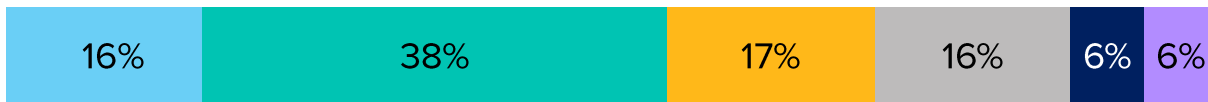
I understand the purpose of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Alberta.



I am aware of the types of programs and services that my local PCN offers.



I know how to find information about PCNs in my health zone.



2. Overall, what is your understanding of the following health services and health organizations?

Air ambulance organizations (e.g. STARS, HALO, HERO)



Indigenous health organizations and services (e.g. Awasisak Indigenous Health Program, Maskwacis Health Services)



Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)



Health Advisory Councils (HACs)



Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA)

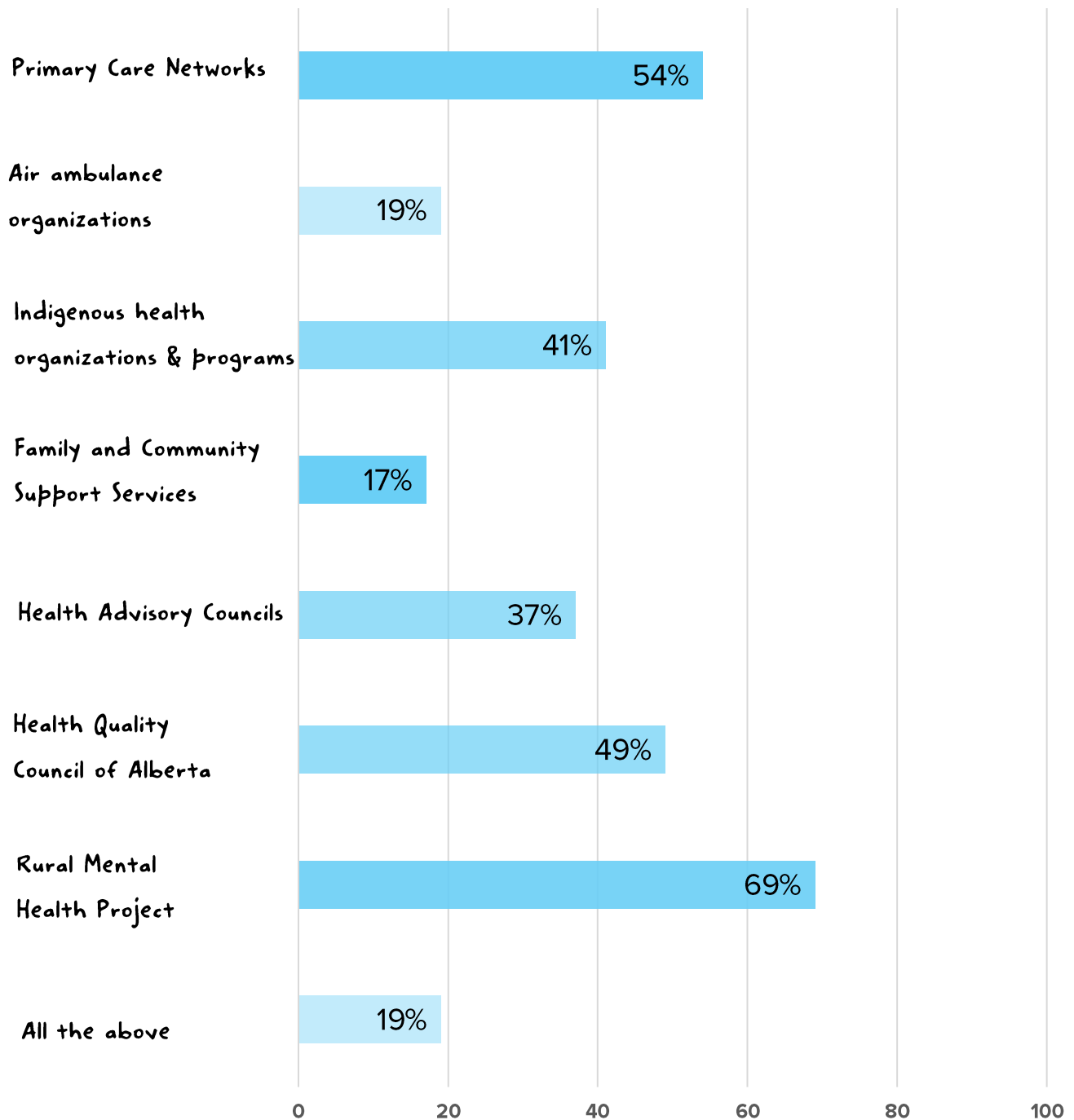


Rural Mental Health Project through the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Division



● High    ● Moderate    ● Low

**3. Which of the following supports and organizations would you like to learn more about? Choose all that apply.**



**4. Is there specific information you would like to know about your selection(s)?  
If so, please include a brief description.**



- Some respondents wanted to learn about the roles Primary Care Networks (PCNs), Health Advisory Councils (HACs), and the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) have in Alberta, including their **functions, services, and mandates**.
- Others would like to know more about **mental health services and supports** and how these are coordinated across Alberta.
- A respondent asked how rural or isolated community members can **access health-care options that are available through a PCN**.
- Other respondents would like more information about **Indigenous health care** and what kinds of programs and services are available.

**What you said (sample comments):**

- “What is the Health Quality Council of Alberta and what is their mandate?”
- “What are the PCN's involvement in the community, other than PCN staff in the clinics?”
- “Mental health services are a bit confusing - I do not understand how we have so many organizations involved in mental health [...]”
- “What is [PCN and HQCA's] purpose and function? Also, is there opportunity for input?”

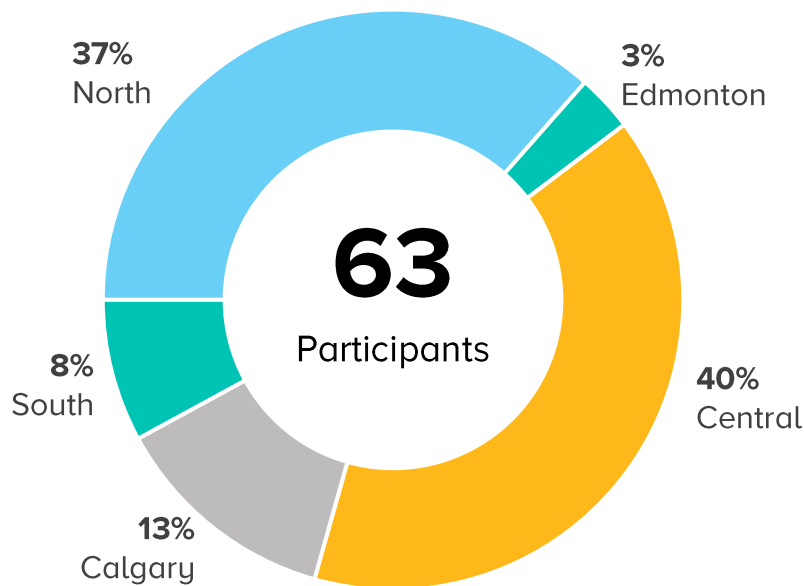
**5. Does your community have a unique health-care support, service, or organization that contributes to the health and wellbeing of residents?**

Respondents shared examples of supports and services in their communities, including:



- “We have a **wellness coalition** that tries to support the community through healthy eating and exercise initiatives, as well as partnering with like-minded organizations to offer relational and mental health supports.”
- “**Tofield and Area Health Services Foundation** and the **Community Attraction and Retention Committee.**”
- “**Greenwood Neighbourhood Place (FCSS)** – a comprehensive organization that covers a wide range of needs - one stop shopping!”
- “**Tree de la Vie – Midwifery**”
- “**Elevate Wellness Smoky Lake Action Team**”
- “**Bassano Health Foundation** and **Bassano FCSS Newell Foundation**”
- “**Vulcan County Health and Wellness Foundation** has future plans to include fundraising to help offset costs of augmenting wellness programs that are offered in the Vulcan Community Health Centre.”
- “**FCSS is a major supporter in our community** in trying to bring services to our residents.”
- “**Heart River Housing** supports its residents with activities. This has helped through COVID-19.”
- “We do have a **Healthy Community coordinator.**”

## 6. In which AHS (Alberta Health Services) zone do you live?



*\* Totals may not add due to rounding*

## What will we do with this feedback?

Your input helps us determine the Rural VIP's awareness and understanding of various health services and will inform RhPAP's educational resources and programming. We will share these survey results with RhPAP stakeholders and partners who are included in the survey questions.

## Did you know?

RhPAP is supporting the CMHA's Rural Mental Health Project to build local mental health capacity across rural Alberta. Key elements involve training community animators, developing local action plans, and supporting connections through the Rural Mental Health Network. You can learn more about the project and how to get involved by reading RhPAP's article [here](#).

To view the results of past Rural VIP surveys, click [here](#).

## Questions about RhPAP's Rural Voice Information Panel?

Email us at [ruralVIP@rhpap.ca](mailto:ruralVIP@rhpap.ca)