

Rural VIP No. 19: Primary Care

The nineteenth survey for the members of the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent out on May 6, 2021 to 221 members.

Through this survey, we sought to understand how rural Albertans access primary care services. The results of this survey will be used to inform future RhPAP programming.

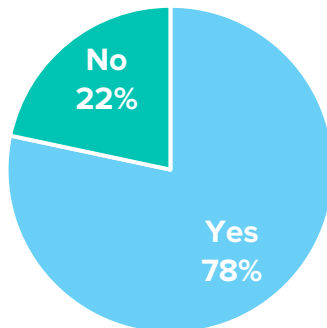
This document provides a summary of the responses.

Key Learnings

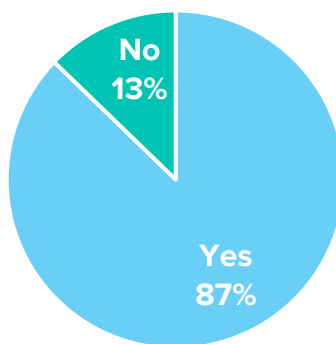


- **Q1&3:** 78 per cent of respondents have a regular primary care provider. Of those respondents, 89 per cent have a physician as their primary care provider and 11 per cent have a nurse practitioner.
- **Q4:** About half of respondents can make an appointment with their primary care provider in under a week. Over 20 per cent of respondents have to wait more than three weeks for an appointment with their primary care provider.
- **Q6-7:** Three-quarters of respondents know people in their community who do not have a primary care provider. The two most common reasons given were that the providers in the community have a wait list for patients or that their provider has recently retired or left the community.

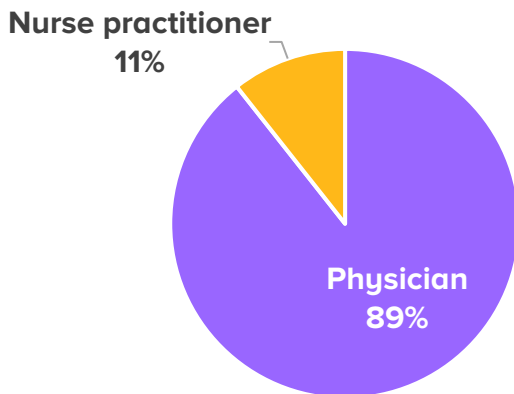
1. Do you have a regular primary care provider (a physician or nurse practitioner) who you see first for medical concerns?



2. Is your primary care provider within a half hour commute of your residence?

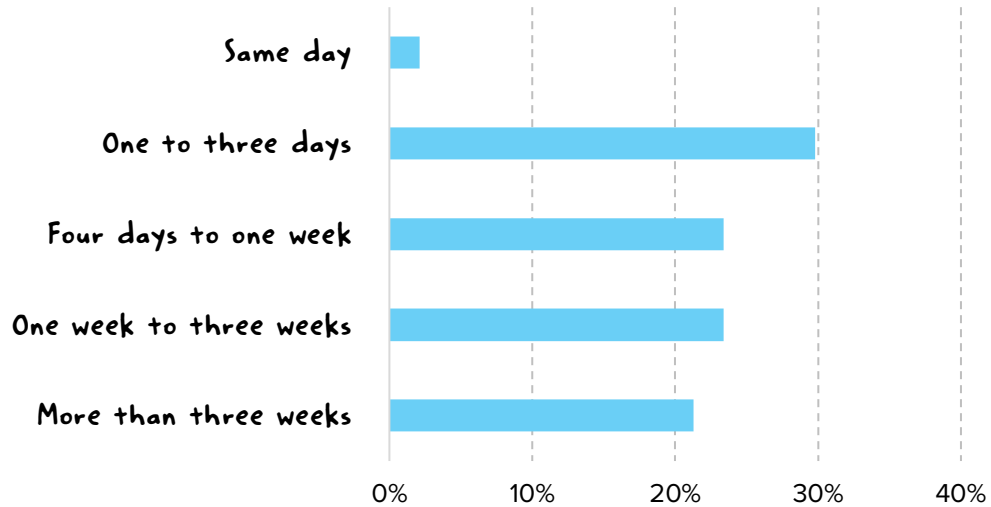


3. Is your primary care provider a physician or a nurse practitioner?

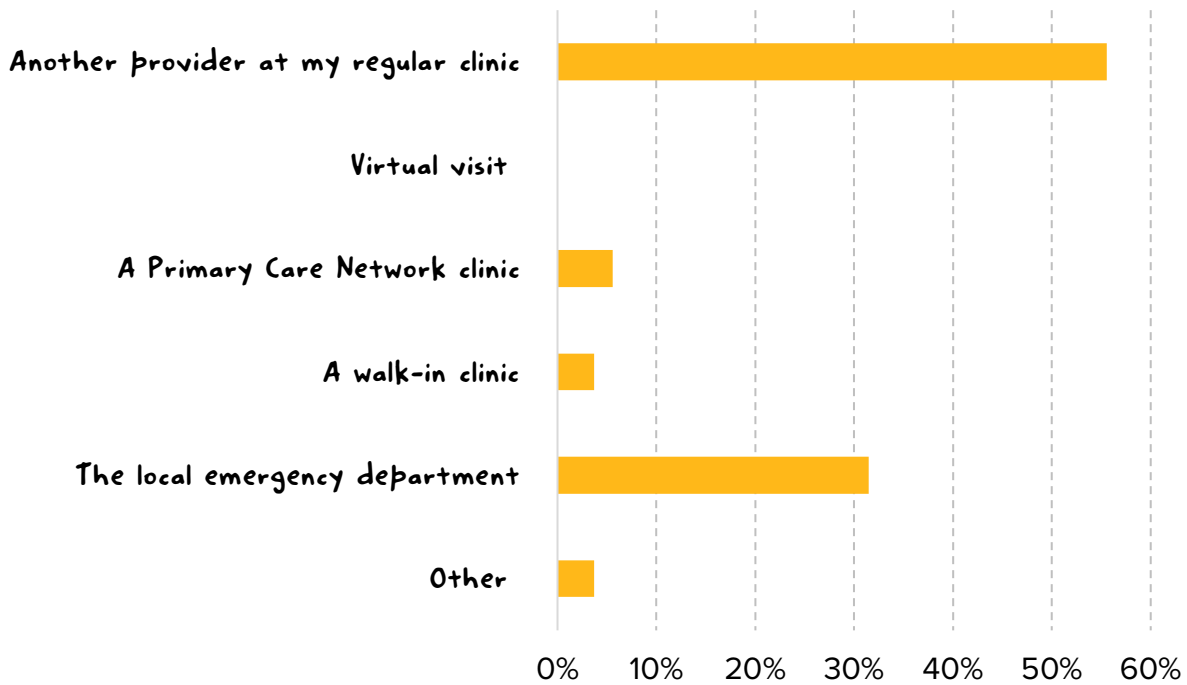




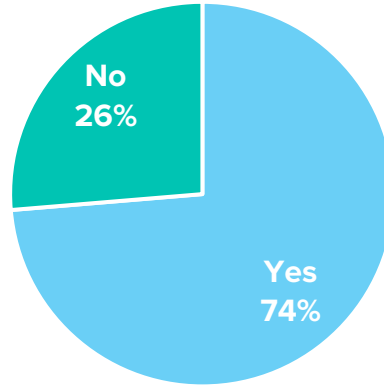
4. How long does it take to get an appointment with your primary care provider?



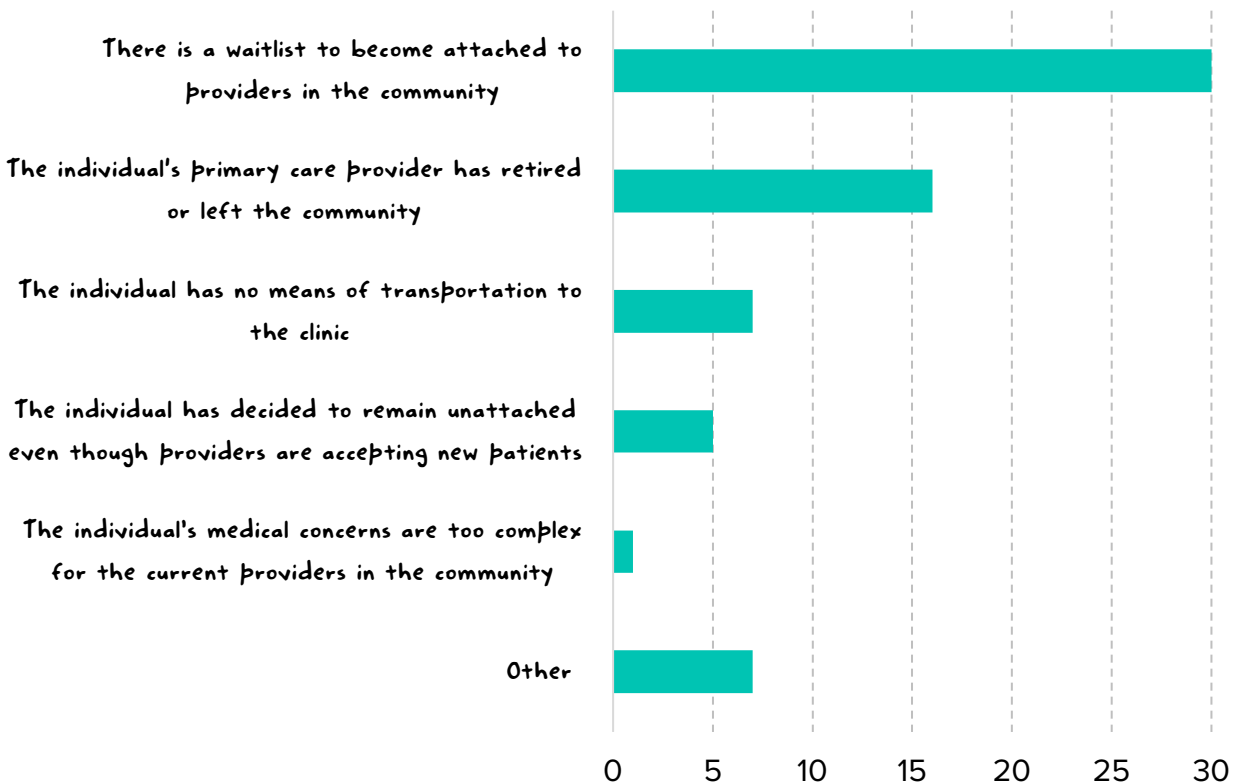
5. If you don't have a primary care provider or can't get in to see your primary care provider, where are you most likely to seek health services?



6. Do you know people in your community who do not have a primary care provider?

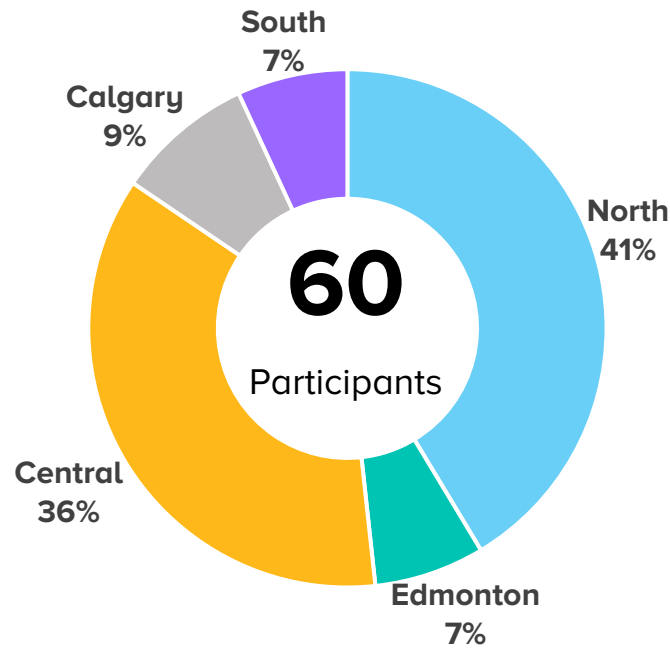


7. If you answered “Yes” to Question 6, do you know the reason(s) why these people are unattached? (Select all that apply)





8. 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 will help us understand how rural Albertans access primary care services and will inform future RhPAP programming.

RhPAP also shares learnings and feedback from the Rural VIP with health-care leaders, including Alberta Health, and the RhPAP Board of Directors, who represent the following organizations: Alberta Health Services, Alberta Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

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