

Rural VIP No. 20: Role of Rural Municipalities in Health Care

The twentieth survey for the members of the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent out on September 2, 2021 to 218 members.

Through this survey, we sought to understand to what extent rural municipalities are involved in health care, and the importance of health care for rural voters during the upcoming municipal elections.

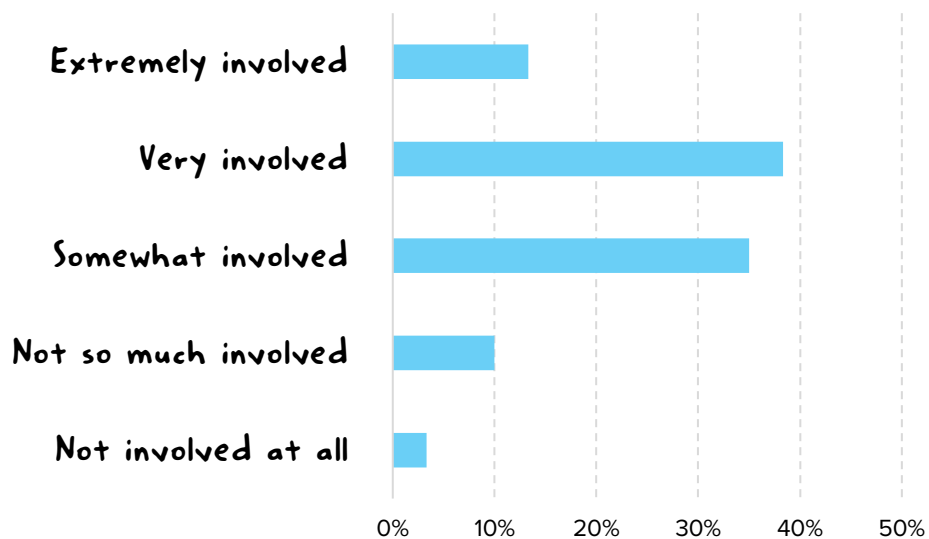
This document provides a summary of the responses.

Key Learnings

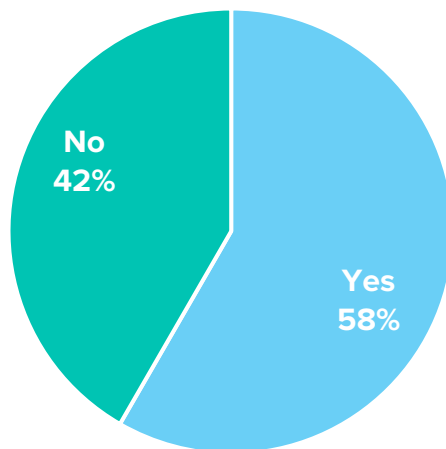


- **Q1:** Over half of respondents have indicated that their local municipal government is **very** involved in health care in their communities.
- **Q2-3:** 58 per cent of respondents are aware of changes or initiatives that their municipal government have made in the past four years to improve their community's health. Examples of these initiatives include building medical centres in their communities, becoming involved in Attraction and Retention committees, and supporting a regional transportation project to improve access to health care services.
- **Q8:** Two-thirds of respondents will consider the health care platforms of the candidates running for municipal election when voting.

1. Over the last four years, how involved has your municipal government (village, town, or county council) been in local health care issues?



2. Are you aware of any changes or initiatives that your municipal government (village, town, or county council) has made in your community to improve health care in the past four years?



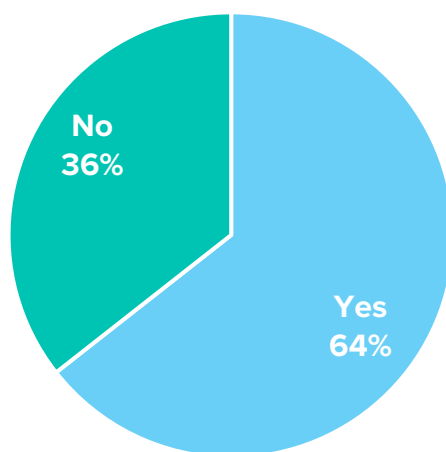
3. If you answered "Yes" to Question 2, can you please provide details of these changes or initiatives?

What you said:



- “Reorganized our Health Attraction and Retention committee, established clear terms of reference, passed a policy for financial support.”
- “Physical health promotion, Recreation Centre passes given for free to those with a prescription from physician to increase physical activity.”
- “Obtained an MRI machine by fundraising.”
- “Built a brand-new medical centre for our doctors”
- “Created and delivered a "Directory of Healthcare Services" available in our area, that included all Health Professionals.”
- “Supporting a regional transportation project to enable users to get to services 111+ km away.”

4. Are you aware if your municipal government (village, town, or county council) has advocated to the provincial government to improve health care in your community in the past four years?



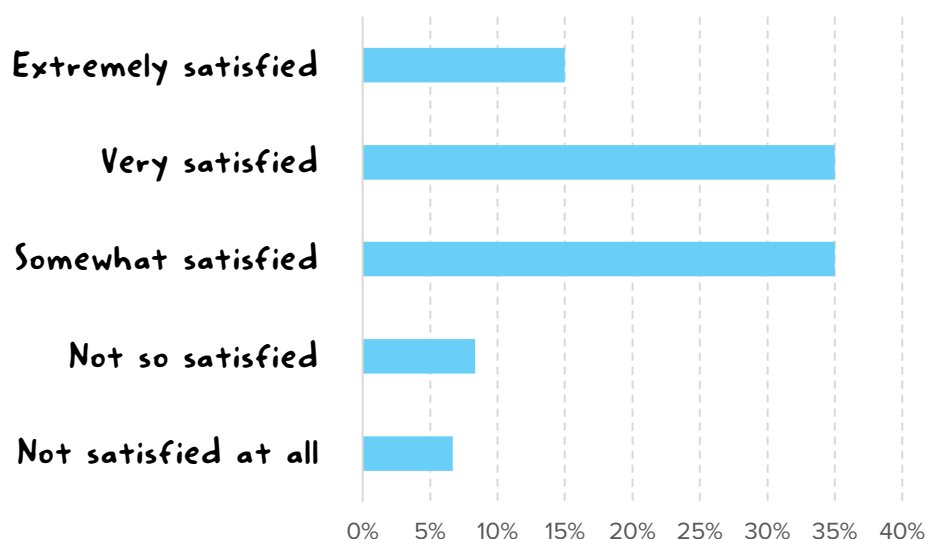
5. If you answered "Yes" to Question 4, can you please provide details of these advocacy activities?

What you said:

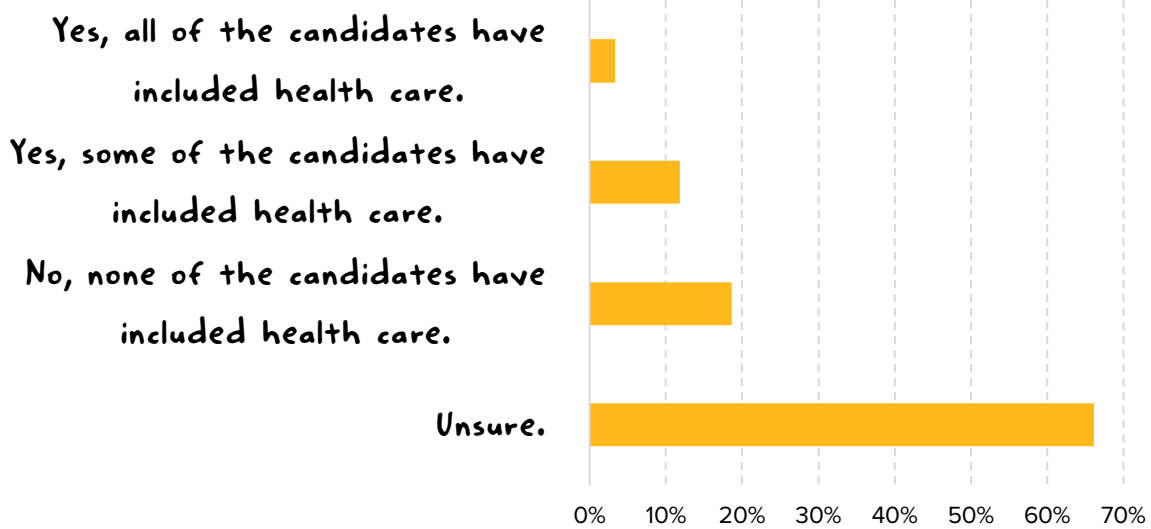


- “Letters sent to the Health Minister.”
- “Participated in a group message to the Premier of Alberta.”
- “We have been working hard on a much-needed new medical facility in our town, lobbying Alberta Health, AHS and the province.”
- “Advocated for more senior housing with supports.”
- “Advocated for the province to provide mask restrictions for all the province and not leave it to individual municipalities.”
- “Our local representatives write letters to our MLA. When our MLA meets with our council, they always bring up the lack of healthcare professionals at our hospital.”

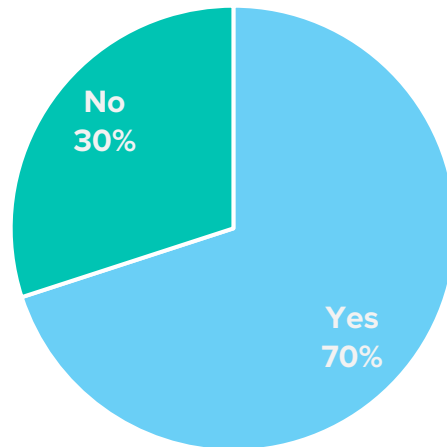
6. Over the last four years, how satisfied have you been with your municipal government’s (village, town, or county council) involvement in health care in your community?



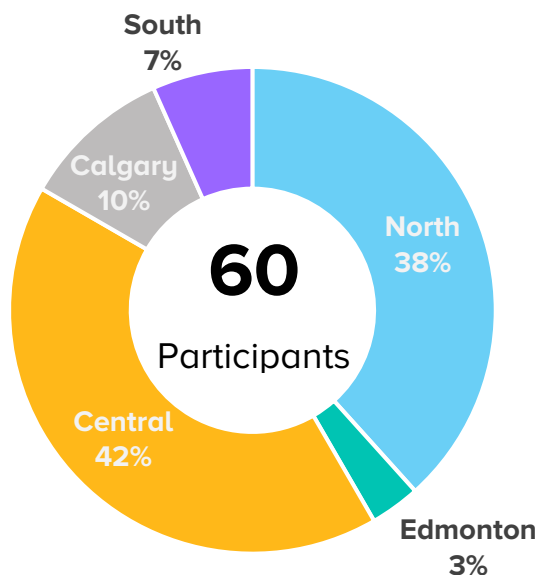
7. Is health care included on the platforms of the candidates running for municipal (village, town, or county council) election next month?



8. Will the health care platforms influence which candidates you vote for?



9. 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 the role that rural municipalities play in improving health care in their communities.

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