



sex
NOW

SEX NOW ACROSS CANADA

Highlights from the Sex Now survey by province

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INTRODUCTION

Sex Now 2011, Canada's largest online gay health survey, collected data from 8,607 men who have sex with other men between September 2011 and February 2012 from every province and territory. The survey was designed to investigate social determinants affecting gay and bisexual men's health. It was available on the Internet in both English and French.

Sex Now Across Canada features provincial breakout data. The questionnaire probed a series of interrelated topics including experiences with prejudice, mental health, social support, sexual health, physical health, and Internet use among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). This analysis presents demographic and sexual health variances among provinces.

In this report we selected data that we hope will be helpful in your work and grant writing. We look at sexual health data like condom use, Internet use, testing and risk of HIV, as well as issues concerning health care providers. We review these issues by age – under 30 and 30 plus – to give you some specific information on young gay men. We also review the issues by living environment – urban and rural. The report opens with a section on demographics providing information on who answered the survey.

Because we don't know the size of the gay population, we have no way of obtaining a representative sample. We recruited a large diverse sample of Canadian men who have sex with men. We combined Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut into Territories because of the small numbers participating. With low numbers participating from Territories, as well as Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador, please use caution when interpreting variances with other provinces.

Without population data that includes sexual orientation and gender identity, it is difficult to get a country-wide understanding of health trends and equity issues of sexual minority populations. In producing this report, **Sex Now across Canada: Highlights from the Sex Now survey by province**, we hope to contribute to a national picture of gay and bisexual men in Canada, as a population.

SEX NOW SURVEY

To give you some background, the Sex Now survey was originally commissioned by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in partnership with the Community-Based Research Centre Society in 2002 in response to a spike in HIV infection rates among men who sex with other men in British Columbia. CBRC consulted extensively with Sigma Research in London, England on their survey design. They had conducted their surveys at Pride Festivals for more than a decade and were getting large samples.

The first Sex Now survey in 2002 gathered over 1500 responses in a single day at Vancouver Pride. The dog tags for survey participants may have helped create a buzz. With a road trip to Pride festivals in Kelowna, Prince George and Victoria, the Sex Now survey became the largest survey of gay and bisexual men conducted in BC with close to 1900 participating. The results contributed many insights to the field about contemporary prevention behaviours for which there was little previous evidence. Following the example of Sigma Research, CBRC recognized that the survey would need to be conducted regularly to be able to see trends. Thus Sex Now appeared annually at Vancouver Pride for several years.

2004 was an exciting year of developments. CBRC participated in Pride festivals in Nelson, Kelowna, Prince George, Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver producing a sample of 2800. We also launched an Internet pilot study to compare results in person and online. Seeing only minor sample differences, we adopted an online only version in 2006 collecting 1330 responses from across BC, followed by online surveys in 2007 and 2008. Samples through these years showed a decline in community participation and increasing proportions of men who had never tested for HIV.

In 2009 CBRC undertook an initiative to investigate social determinants of health with the survey. Because determinants of health research normally uses large population data

sets, we moved to include all of Canada in our online sampling in English and French. In 2010 we sampled 7,920 and in 2011 8,600 men, making Sex Now the largest online survey of gay and bisexual men in Canada.

With this edition of Sex Now, Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health (CBRC) introduced its young Investigaytor program. A team of young gay men assisted with questionnaire development and promotion while learning the ropes of organizing and analyzing a national health survey. The program included a Quantitative Boot Camp where they learned how to use statistics software to analyze the Sex Now data. CBRC's Investigaytors program has published the studies conducted by the young gay men in the program along with their experiences in ***Under the Lens of the Investigaytors: Sex Now Survey 2011***, available in hard copy from CATIE or online at **cbrc.net**.

The CBRC research team has worked with Sex Now to keep the research process community-based while ensuring that the research is rigorous. Findings from the 2011 survey have been used extensively in the development of the BC Provincial Health Officer's report on HIV trends among gay and bisexual men. The use of postal code data allows a level of regional analysis previously impossible.

CBRC has continued to evolve and grow as a community research group. Up to recently we had been disseminating our findings through self-published reports and conference presentations. We're pleased to have recently published, ***"Evidence of a Syndemic among Young Canadian Gay and Bisexual Men: Uncovering the Associations between Anti-gay Experiences, Psychosocial Issues, and HIV Risk"*** in *AIDS and Behavior* (Oct 2013) from the CBRC team of Olivier Ferlatte, Travis Salway Hottes, Terry Trussler and Rick Marchand.

CBRC – WHO ARE WE?

Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health (CBRC) in Vancouver, British Columbia is a non-profit charitable community organization dedicated to improving gay men's health through participatory research, knowledge transfer and exchange (KTE), innovative program development and opportunities for training. We aim to develop knowledge about gay men's health and to guide community practice and theorizing on health and social issues.

Incorporated in 1999 by a group of gay men concerned about the lack of local relevant research to fight HIV, our mission is to advance gay men's health through research, learning and leadership development. Our current research focus is on the social determinants of health in gay and bisexual men and the trends in young gay men's culture. We feel that population based studies can help us locate structural gaps and social inequities that impact the health of gay, bisexual, two-spirit and other men who have sex with men.

We disseminate our findings through self-published reports, conference and meeting presentations, and through peer-reviewed journals. On our website (cbrc.net) we have a variety of articles, blogs and interviews on gay men's health issues including HIV prevention and health promotion. CBRC has coordinated the BC Gay Men's Health Summit since 2005 where we have been exploring social ecology, intersectionality, minority stress and life course as a framework for addressing the health needs of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

JUNE 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank our funders without whom this project would not have been possible.

Vancouver Foundation
Province of British Columbia

WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEY?

Age

The average age was 43, ranging from 13 to 84.

	N =	<30	30-44	45+
British Columbia	1804	22%	25%	53%
Alberta	1064	26%	30%	44%
Saskatchewan	289	24%	27%	49%
Manitoba	342	18%	26%	56%
Ontario	3366	20%	27%	53%
Quebec	1048	24%	32%	44%
New Brunswick	105	19%	32%	49%
Nova Scotia	223	26%	28%	47%
Prince Edward Island	33	12%	21%	67%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	44%	26%	31%
Territories	23	26%	26%	48%
National	8382	22%	28%	50%

Relationship Status

The relationship status of participants varied greatly.

The three most common were single, partnered with a man, and married to a woman.

	N =	Single	Married to a man	Partnered with a man	Separated, divorced from a man	Married to a woman	Partnered with a woman	Separated, divorced from a woman	Other
British Columbia	1804	45%	8%	22%	2%	12%	6%	5%	2%
Alberta	1064	46%	4%	19%	1%	16%	7%	6%	2%
Saskatchewan	289	48%	5%	19%	1%	16%	5%	5%	1%
Manitoba	342	44%	2%	16%	1%	23%	7%	7%	2%
Ontario	3366	42%	5%	20%	1%	19%	6%	6%	2%
Quebec	1048	44%	5%	29%	2%	8%	6%	5%	2%
New Brunswick	105	41%	6%	19%	3%	21%	5%	6%	0%
Nova Scotia	223	49%	6%	17%	0%	16%	5%	6%	1%
Prince Edward Island	33	33%	3%	24%	0%	24%	6%	0%	9%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	53%	7%	20%	1%	8%	7%	2%	1%
Territories	23	52%	9%	13%	0%	13%	4%	9%	0%
National	8382	44%	5%	21%	1%	15%	6%	5%	2%

Sexual Orientation

Most survey respondents saw themselves as gay or bisexual.

	N =	Gay	Bi	Straight	Other
British Columbia	1804	68%	28%	2%	2%
Alberta	1064	62%	35%	2%	1%
Saskatchewan	289	61%	36%	2%	1%
Manitoba	342	57%	40%	2%	1%
Ontario	3366	60%	36%	3%	1%
Quebec	1048	77%	21%	1%	1%
New Brunswick	105	68%	31%	2%	0%
Nova Scotia	223	66%	31%	1%	1%
Prince Edward Island	33	58%	39%	0%	3%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	66%	32%	0%	2%
Territories	23	57%	44%	0%	0%
National	8382	65%	33%	2%	1%

Living Environment

Most respondents were living in urban or suburban areas. Atlantic provinces and northern territories contributed disproportionately more suburban, rural, and remote respondents than other regions.

	N =	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Remote	Other
British Columbia	1804	59%	28%	12%	1%	0%
Alberta	1064	61%	26%	11%	1%	1%
Saskatchewan	289	62%	13%	23%	2%	1%
Manitoba	342	61%	27%	9%	2%	0%
Ontario	3366	57%	28%	14%	1%	0%
Quebec	1048	61%	26%	9%	4%	0%
New Brunswick	105	51%	18%	28%	4%	0%
Nova Scotia	223	50%	22%	27%	1%	0%
Prince Edward Island	33	36%	21%	39%	3%	0%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	60%	19%	19%	2%	0%
Territories	23	17%	13%	22%	39%	9%
National	8382	58%	26%	13%	2%	0%

WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEY?

Education

The majority of participants had post-secondary education or greater.

	N =	Some high school	High school	Some college / university	College	University	Doctorate
British Columbia	1804	4%	13%	28%	16%	34%	5%
Alberta	1064	5%	15%	31%	19%	27%	3%
Saskatchewan	289	4%	14%	32%	16%	29%	5%
Manitoba	342	6%	20%	27%	19%	25%	3%
Ontario	3366	4%	13%	24%	21%	33%	4%
Quebec	1048	4%	12%	16%	20%	45%	4%
New Brunswick	105	3%	17%	20%	20%	37%	3%
Nova Scotia	223	5%	10%	25%	16%	40%	4%
Prince Edward Island	33	3%	24%	15%	15%	33%	9%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	6%	13%	33%	14%	31%	4%
Territories	23	0%	17%	35%	13%	30%	4%
National	8382	4%	14%	25%	19%	34%	4%

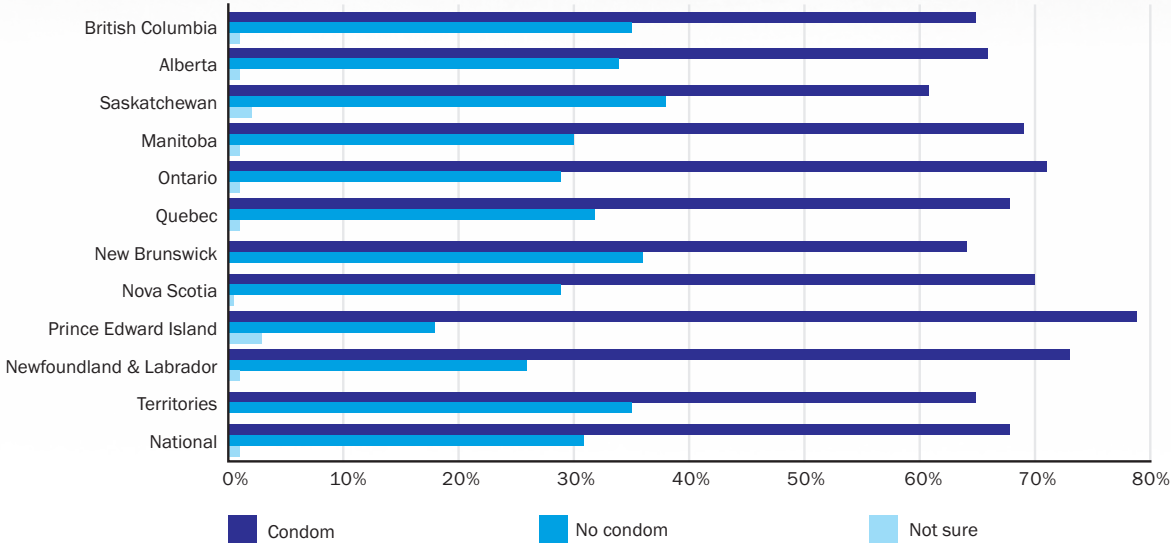
Ethnicity

“How do you describe yourself to other guys?”

	N =	African	Asian	Caribbean	Caucasian	First Nation	Inuit	Métis	Latino / Hispanic	Middle Eastern	Pacific Islander	South Asian	Mixed	Other
British Columbia	1804	0.2%	5.9%	0.6%	81.2%	2.2%	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	0.5%	0.2%	1.4%	4.3%	1.3%
Alberta	1064	0.1%	2.8%	0.7%	88.8%	1.7%	0.1%	0.6%	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	2.5%	1.2%
Saskatchewan	289	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	88.9%	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%
Manitoba	342	0.0%	2.0%	0.3%	88.9%	2.6%	0.0%	1.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	2.0%	1.5%
Ontario	3366	0.2%	1.7%	0.9%	88.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%	1.4%	1.0%	0.1%	1.1%	2.6%	1.7%
Quebec	1048	0.4%	0.8%	0.3%	89.3%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	2.4%	0.8%	0.1%	0.3%	1.6%	2.7%
New Brunswick	105	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	95.2%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Nova Scotia	223	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	93.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.4%
Prince Edward Island	33	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	93.9%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	94.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	1.2%
Territories	23	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	73.9%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	13.0%
National	8382	0.3%	2.5%	0.7%	87.2%	1.4%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%	0.6%	0.1%	0.9%	2.7%	1.6%

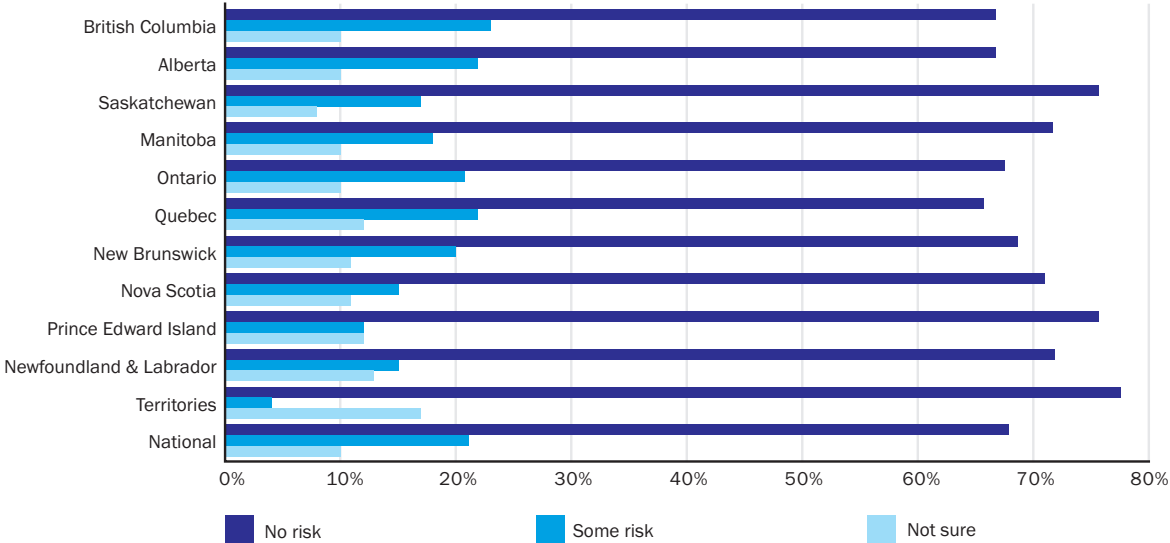
This section reviews several areas of sexual health using bar charts. You can also review these same results using the tables found in the Appendix on page 19.

Condom Use at Last Sex



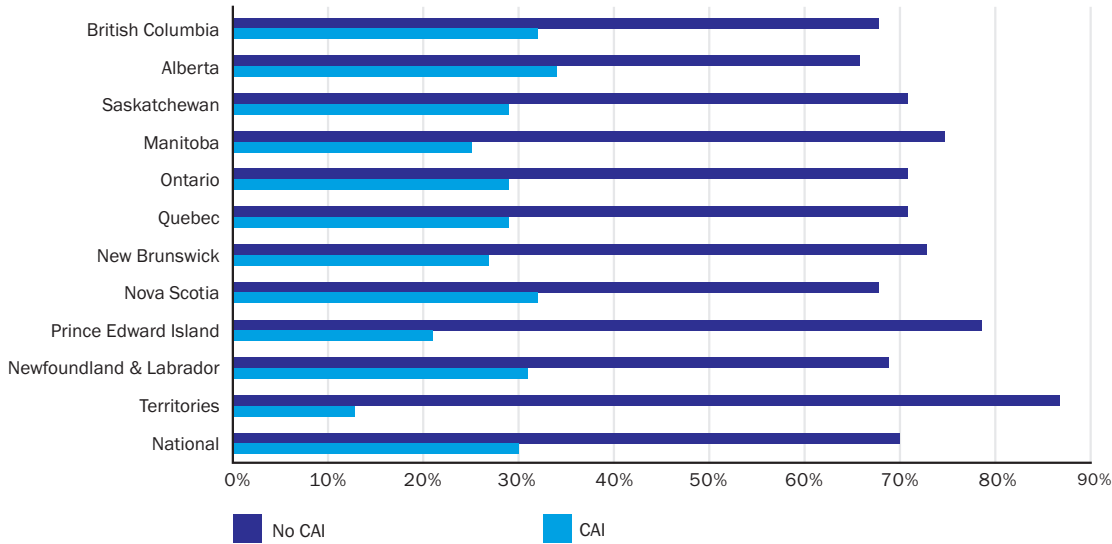
The majority of men, in all provinces, reported using a condom the last time they had anal sex (68%). Provinces with the highest rates of condom use were Prince Edward Island (79%), Newfoundland & Labrador (73%), and Ontario (71%). An average of 1% of men were “not sure” whether condoms were used in their last sexual encounter.

Perceived Risk of HIV Transmission



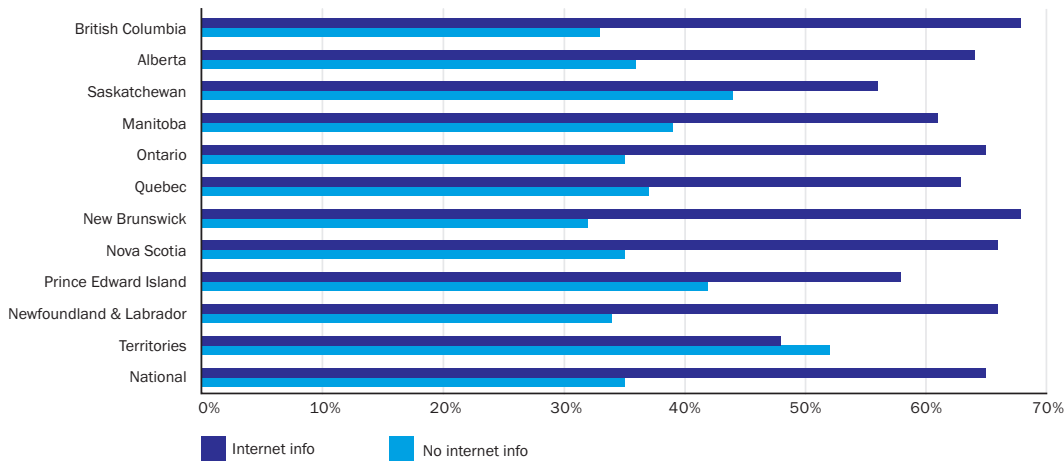
The majority of men reported no perceived risk of HIV transmission in the sex they had had in the last 12 months (68%). However, approximately 10% were unsure. Men from British Columbia (23%), Quebec (22%), and Alberta (22%) had the highest rates of perceived transmission risk.

Condomless Anal Intercourse (CAI) Unknown or Opposite Status Partner



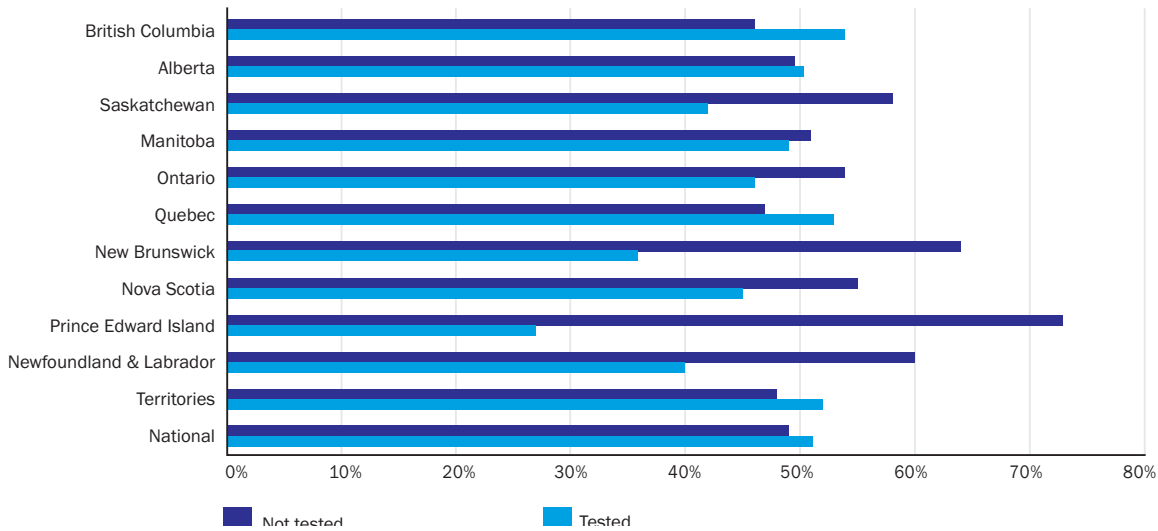
The majority of men reported no condomless anal intercourse (CAI) with a partner whose HIV status was unknown or opposite in the last 12 months. Alberta, Nova Scotia and British Columbia had the highest CAI rates. New guidelines from US CDC recommend using Condomless Anal Intercourse (CAI) instead of Unprotected Anal Intercourse (UAI).

Internet Use for Sexual Health Information in the Last 12 Months



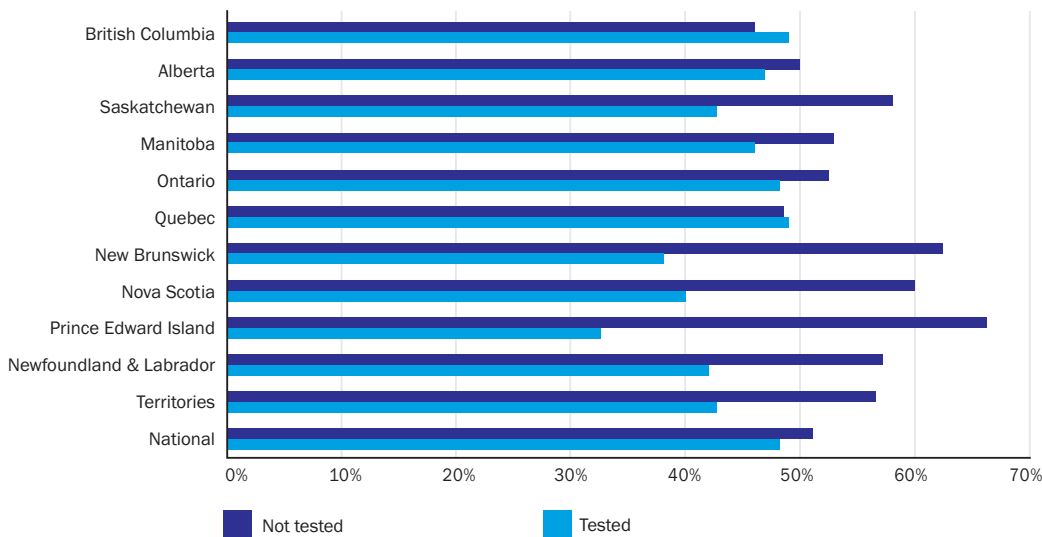
The top provinces for information seeking online were British Columbia (68%), New Brunswick (68%), Newfoundland & Labrador (66%) and Nova Scotia (66%).

Testing for STIs in the Last 12 Months



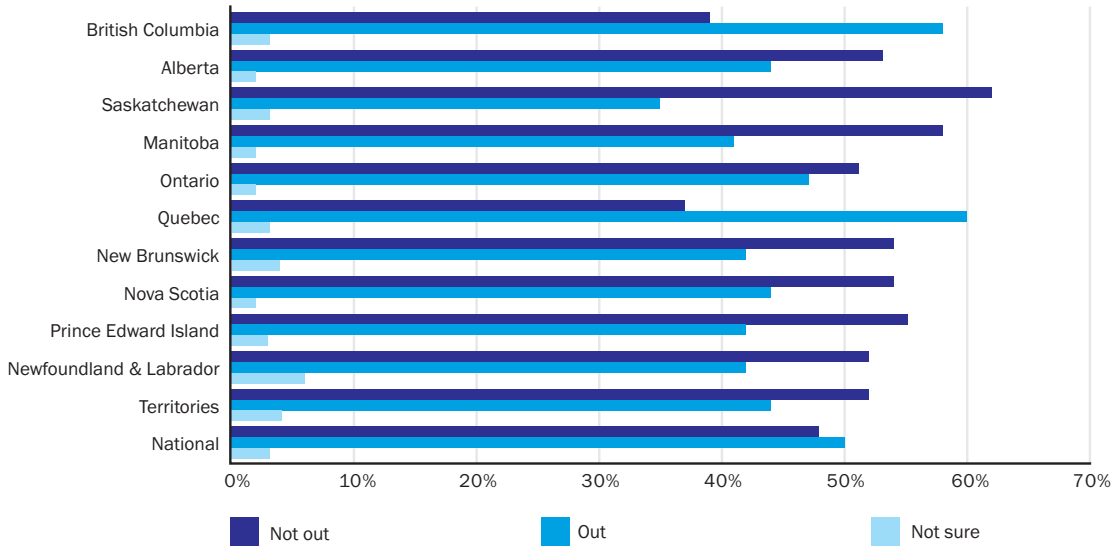
The reported rates of testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) in the past 12 months varied across provinces. Participants from British Columbia (54%), Quebec (53%), and the Territories (52%), had the highest rates of testing whereas those from Newfoundland & Labrador (40%), New Brunswick (36%), and Prince Edward Island (27%) had the lowest.

Testing for HIV in Last 12 Months



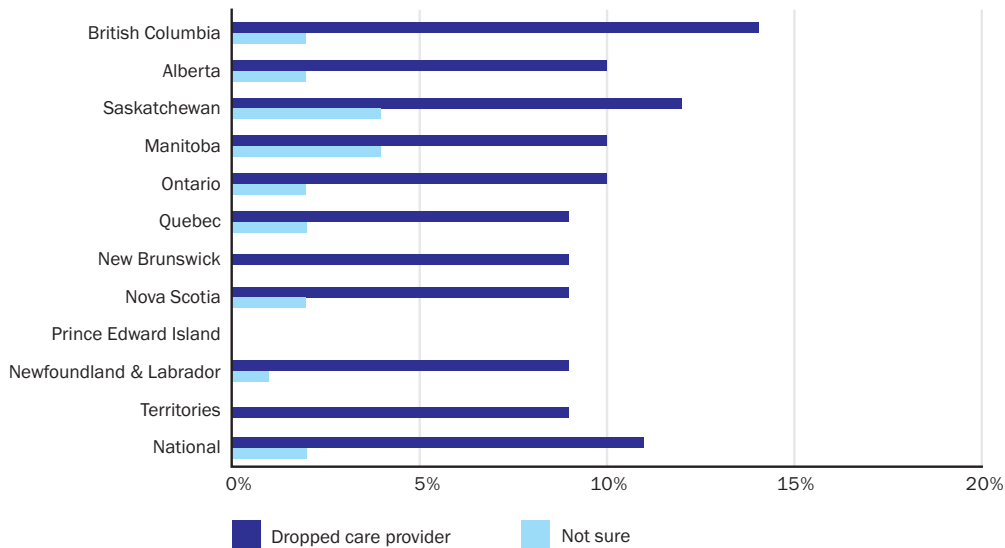
Nationally, 48.8% of men reported testing for HIV in the last 12 months. Quebec (49.8), British Columbia (49.2%) and Ontario (48.4%) reported the highest rates of HIV testing in the past 12 months. See page 14: Never Tested for HIV by Age with nationally 33% of guys under 30 reporting never testing for HIV.

Out to Primary Health Care Provider



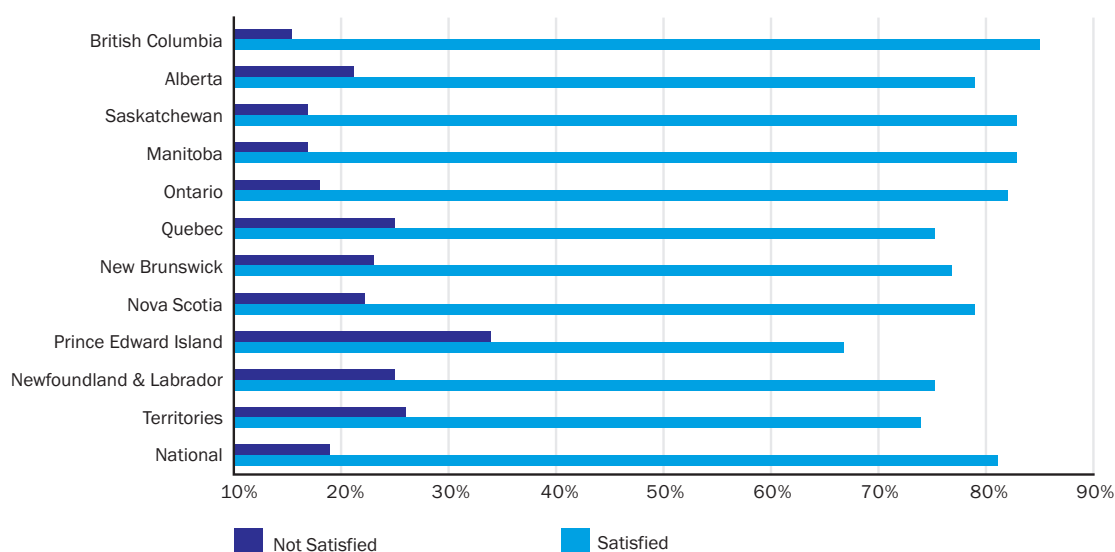
Disclosing ones sexual orientation to a primary health care provider was similar across many provinces. Men from British Columbia (58%) and Quebec (60%) led the way.

Dropped Care Provider due to Attitude



Men from British Columbia reported dropping their care provider because of a perceived negative attitude (14%) more commonly than those from other provinces.

Satisfaction with Health Care Provider



The majority of participants reported satisfaction with their health care providers. However, dissatisfaction exceeded 25% in some provinces.

Routine Health Care Setting

	N =	Family physician	Walk-in clinic	Emergency/hospital	No routine care available	Other
British Columbia	1804	75%	22%	0%	2%	1%
Alberta	1064	69%	26%	1%	2%	2%
Saskatchewan	289	74%	19%	1%	4%	1%
Manitoba	342	74%	23%	1%	2%	1%
Ontario	3366	80%	15%	2%	2%	1%
Quebec	1048	64%	22%	5%	5%	3%
New Brunswick	105	86%	10%	2%	2%	1%
Nova Scotia	223	78%	15%	1%	4%	2%
Prince Edward Island	33	88%	3%	0%	6%	3%
Newfoundland & Labrador	85	81%	13%	2%	2%	1%
Territories	23	78%	9%	0%	9%	4%
National	8382	75%	19%	2%	3%	2%

Most men reported that their routine medical care was provided by family physicians. Walk-in clinics were the next most common care setting. Men from the Atlantic Provinces saw a family physician more commonly than men of other regions. Alberta (26%), Manitoba (23%), and Quebec / British Columbia (22%) had higher rates of men using walk-in clinics. Men in Quebec had the highest rate of using hospital emergency rooms for routine medical care (5%).

FOCUS ON AGE

Provider by Age

Although the majority of men reported satisfaction with their health provider, somewhat fewer younger men were satisfied than older in most provinces.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	84%	85%
Alberta	75%	80%
Saskatchewan	77%	85%
Manitoba	71%	86%
Ontario	76%	84%
Quebec	71%	76%
New Brunswick	70%	79%
Nova Scotia	70%	81%
Prince Edward Island	50%	69%
Newfoundland & Labrador	73%	77%
Territories	83%	71%
National	77%	83%

Out to Primary Care Provider by Age

Older men were more commonly out to their provider than younger men, in most provinces.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	43%	62%
Alberta	44%	45%
Saskatchewan	26%	38%
Manitoba	38%	42%
Ontario	39%	49%
Quebec	52%	63%
New Brunswick	50%	40%
Nova Scotia	25%	51%
Prince Edward Island	75%	38%
Newfoundland & Labrador	32%	50%
Territories	17%	53%
National	41%	52%

Internet for Sex Partners by Age

Older men reported using the Internet to cruise for sex partners, in the last 12 months, more commonly than younger men, in most provinces.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	75%	86%
Alberta	84%	93%
Saskatchewan	81%	88%
Manitoba	79%	94%
Ontario	87%	93%
Quebec	81%	87%
New Brunswick	70%	86%
Nova Scotia	81%	87%
Prince Edward Island	75%	93%
Newfoundland & Labrador	76%	83%
Territories	67%	88%
National	82%	91%

Internet for Sexual Health Information by Age

Younger gay men reported using the Internet to look up sexual health information, in the last 12 months, more commonly than older gay men, in most provinces.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	75%	65%
Alberta	75%	61%
Saskatchewan	64%	54%
Manitoba	67%	60%
Ontario	75%	62%
Quebec	75%	60%
New Brunswick	70%	67%
Nova Scotia	79%	61%
Prince Edward Island	50%	59%
Newfoundland & Labrador	84%	52%
Territories	50%	47%
National	75%	62%

Testing for STIs by Age

With the exception of Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick, younger men reported testing for STI more commonly than older gay men.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	54%	53%
Alberta	58%	48%
Saskatchewan	44%	42%
Manitoba	46%	50%
Ontario	48%	45%
Quebec	50%	54%
New Brunswick	35%	37%
Nova Scotia	51%	43%
Prince Edward Island	50%	24%
Newfoundland & Labrador	41%	40%
Territories	67%	47%
National	51%	48%

Testing for HIV by Age

HIV testing rates in the last 12 months were about the same between younger and older men in most provinces except for Alberta where significantly more younger than older men reported recent testing.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	55%	54%
Alberta	55%	47%
Saskatchewan	43%	43%
Manitoba	48%	46%
Ontario	48%	47%
Quebec	50%	51%
New Brunswick	30%	40%
Nova Scotia	40%	40%
Prince Edward Island	50%	31%
Newfoundland & Labrador	41%	44%
Territories	67%	35%
National	50%	48%

Never Tested for HIV by Age

Younger gay men reported having never tested for HIV much more commonly than older men. Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces had the highest rates of never-tested men.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	31%	14%
Alberta	30%	21%
Saskatchewan	46%	30%
Manitoba	39%	27%
Ontario	34%	23%
Quebec	30%	19%
New Brunswick	40%	31%
Nova Scotia	42%	24%
Prince Edward Island	50%	28%
Newfoundland & Labrador	43%	19%
Territories	17%	18%
National	33%	21%

Didn't Know Where to Go for Testing by Age

Younger gay men reported not knowing where to get tested more commonly than older gay men, in most provinces. Rates were highest in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	21%	7%
Alberta	23%	8%
Saskatchewan	16%	8%
Manitoba	25%	8%
Ontario	26%	9%
Quebec	18%	9%
New Brunswick	5%	9%
Nova Scotia	28%	10%
Prince Edward Island	0%	17%
Newfoundland & Labrador	24%	8%
Territories	17%	12%
National	23%	9%

Condomless Anal Intercourse (CAI) Unknown or Opposite Status Partner by Age

Overall, across provinces, 20 - 30% of participants reported condomless anal intercourse with an unknown or opposite status partner in the last 12 months. Highest rates were reported in Alberta.

	Under 30	30 plus
N =	1866	6516
British Columbia	29%	33%
Alberta	36%	33%
Saskatchewan	27%	30%
Manitoba	21%	26%
Ontario	31%	28%
Quebec	28%	30%
New Brunswick	30%	26%
Nova Scotia	30%	33%
Prince Edward Island	0%	24%
Newfoundland & Labrador	19%	40%
Territories	33%	6%
National	30%	30%

Participants were asked to identify their living environment among the following urban, suburban, rural, remote and other. In the following tables, urban includes both urban and suburban; rural includes both rural and remote.

Satisfaction with Care Provider by Living Environment

Satisfaction with health care providers was about the same between urban and rural locations in most provinces except Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	85%	85%
Alberta	79%	78%
Saskatchewan	86%	78%
Manitoba	84%	74%
Ontario	82%	80%
Quebec	75%	77%
New Brunswick	78%	76%
Nova Scotia	78%	80%
Prince Edward Island	63%	71%
Newfoundland & Labrador	79%	61%
Territories	57%	79%
National	82%	80%

Sex with Risk of HIV Transmission by Living Environment

Men who lived in rural areas were less likely to report sex that might have risked HIV transmission in the last 12 months, in most provinces.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	34%	26%
Alberta	33%	29%
Saskatchewan	27%	17%
Manitoba	29%	23%
Ontario	33%	25%
Quebec	35%	28%
New Brunswick	35%	24%
Nova Scotia	28%	33%
Prince Edward Island	26%	21%
Newfoundland & Labrador	27%	33%
Territories	29%	21%
National	33%	26%

Out to Primary Care Provider by Living Environment

Men living in rural areas were less likely to report being out to their primary care provider than urban men in most provinces.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	59%	47%
Alberta	46%	33%
Saskatchewan	38%	27%
Manitoba	41%	39%
Ontario	48%	40%
Quebec	62%	49%
New Brunswick	40%	46%
Nova Scotia	46%	39%
Prince Edward Island	32%	57%
Newfoundland & Labrador	42%	44%
Territories	71%	29%
National	51%	41%

Dropped Care Provider by Living Environment

There was little difference between urban and rural rates of dropping a health care provider because of a negative attitude, across most provinces, with the exceptions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	15%	11%
Alberta	11%	8%
Saskatchewan	13%	7%
Manitoba	9%	15%
Ontario	10%	9%
Quebec	10%	8%
New Brunswick	6%	15%
Nova Scotia	6%	18%
Prince Edward Island	0%	0%
Newfoundland & Labrador	8%	17%
Territories	0%	7%
National	11%	10%

Internet for Sexual Health Information by Living Environment

There was a similar pattern among provinces on use of the Internet to look up sexual health information. Urban men used the Internet more commonly than those living in rural areas.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	68%	62%
Alberta	65%	63%
Saskatchewan	59%	49%
Manitoba	62%	59%
Ontario	65%	60%
Quebec	65%	57%
New Brunswick	68%	67%
Nova Scotia	70%	56%
Prince Edward Island	63%	50%
Newfoundland & Labrador	64%	72%
Territories	57%	36%
National	66%	60%

Internet for Sex Partners by Living Environment

Generally, there was very little difference between participants from rural and urban settings on using the Internet to find sex partners, in most provinces, with the exceptions of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	84%	85%
Alberta	91%	90%
Saskatchewan	84%	93%
Manitoba	91%	90%
Ontario	92%	93%
Quebec	85%	89%
New Brunswick	85%	79%
Nova Scotia	84%	90%
Prince Edward Island	84%	100%
Newfoundland & Labrador	84%	67%
Territories	86%	79%
National	88%	90%

Testing for STIs by Living Environment

Generally, more men living in urban settings tested for STIs within the 12 months prior to the survey than men in rural settings, in most provinces.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	56%	38%
Alberta	51%	49%
Saskatchewan	45%	35%
Manitoba	51%	39%
Ontario	47%	37%
Quebec	54%	42%
New Brunswick	42%	24%
Nova Scotia	51%	30%
Prince Edward Island	16%	43%
Newfoundland & Labrador	42%	33%
Territories	43%	57%
National	50%	39%

Testing for HIV by Living Environment

Generally, men living in urban settings tested for HIV within the 12 months prior to the survey more commonly than men in rural settings, in most provinces.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	56%	41%
Alberta	50%	47%
Saskatchewan	46%	34%
Manitoba	48%	33%
Ontario	48%	43%
Quebec	52%	39%
New Brunswick	43%	27%
Nova Scotia	45%	26%
Prince Edward Island	16%	57%
Newfoundland & Labrador	43%	39%
Territories	43%	43%
National	50%	40%

Had an STI by Living Environment

Men living in urban areas reported having an STI in the last 12 months more commonly than rural men in most provinces.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	10%	5%
Alberta	9%	6%
Saskatchewan	3%	6%
Manitoba	5%	3%
Ontario	7%	5%
Quebec	12%	5%
New Brunswick	10%	12%
Nova Scotia	8%	0%
Prince Edward Island	0%	7%
Newfoundland & Labrador	3%	0%
Territories	14%	0%
National	8%	5%

Didn't Know Where to Go for Testing by Living Environment

Data varied among provinces, however, those living in rural areas reported not knowing where to go for testing more commonly than men from urban areas.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	10%	9%
Alberta	11%	18%
Saskatchewan	8%	16%
Manitoba	10%	15%
Ontario	13%	13%
Quebec	11%	10%
New Brunswick	6%	15%
Nova Scotia	14%	16%
Prince Edward Island	21%	7%
Newfoundland & Labrador	15%	17%
Territories	14%	14%
National	11%	13%

Condomless Anal Intercourse (CAI) Unknown or Opposite Status Partner by Living Environment

Overall about 20% to 30% of gay and other men who have sex with men reported CAI in the last 12 months. Highest rates were noted in Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

	Urban	Rural
N =	7107	1245
British Columbia	32%	28%
Alberta	35%	30%
Saskatchewan	30%	25%
Manitoba	25%	28%
Ontario	29%	27%
Quebec	29%	30%
New Brunswick	26%	27%
Nova Scotia	30%	36%
Prince Edward Island	32%	7%
Newfoundland & Labrador	22%	61%
Territories	14%	14%
National	30%	28%

DISCUSSION

Based on these findings there do appear to be some significant variances in the sexual health patterns of survey participants among the provinces. Some of those differences expose structural conditions within provinces such as availability and access to testing services.

Highest rates of condom use in one's most recent sexual encounter were noted in Ontario and the Maritime provinces.

Highest reports of using the Internet to find sexual health information were from British Columbia and New Brunswick.

Highest reports of HIV and STI testing were from British Columbia, Quebec and the Territories. Lowest were Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Highest numbers reporting being "out" to a primary care provider were from British Columbia and Quebec. However, British Columbia also had the highest number of men reporting that they had dropped care provider because of their attitude.

Satisfaction with health care providers was highest in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Quebec, Prince Edward Island and the Territories had the most men reporting no routine health care available.

Analyses by age showed that men younger than 30 were more likely to report never having tested for HIV in their lifetime and not knowing where to get tested.

Older men were more likely to report being satisfied with their health care provider, to be out to their care provider, and to use the internet to look for sex.

Men living in urban areas were more likely to report satisfaction with and being out to their primary care provider; engaging in risky sex; using the internet to look up sexual health information; testing for STIs and HIV; and having an STI.

Men living in rural areas were more likely to report not knowing where to go for testing.

All of these variances should be understood to be coming from complex and changing social processes. We are left with the impression that there is still much to learn about what influences gay men's health.

Condom Use at Last Sex

	Condom	No condom	Not sure
British Columbia	65%	35%	1%
Alberta	66%	34%	1%
Saskatchewan	61%	38%	2%
Manitoba	69%	30%	1%
Ontario	71%	29%	1%
Quebec	68%	32%	1%
New Brunswick	64%	36%	0%
Nova Scotia	70%	29%	1%
Prince Edward Island	79%	18%	3%
Newfoundland & Labrador	73%	26%	1%
Territories	65%	35%	0%
National	68%	31%	1%

CAI Unknown or Opposite Status Partner

	No CAI	CAI
British Columbia	68%	32%
Alberta	66%	34%
Saskatchewan	71%	29%
Manitoba	75%	25%
Ontario	71%	29%
Quebec	71%	29%
New Brunswick	73%	27%
Nova Scotia	68%	32%
Prince Edward Island	79%	21%
Newfoundland & Labrador	69%	31%
Territories	87%	13%
National	70%	30%

Perceived Risk of HIV Transmission

	No risk	Some risk	Not sure
British Columbia	67%	23%	10%
Alberta	67%	22%	10%
Saskatchewan	76%	17%	8%
Manitoba	72%	18%	10%
Ontario	68%	21%	10%
Quebec	66%	22%	12%
New Brunswick	69%	20%	11%
Nova Scotia	71%	18%	11%
Prince Edward Island	76%	12%	12%
Newfoundland & Labrador	72%	15%	13%
Territories	78%	4%	17%
National	68%	21%	10%

Internet Use for Sexual Health Information in the Last 12 Months

	No Internet	Internet
British Columbia	33%	68%
Alberta	36%	64%
Saskatchewan	44%	56%
Manitoba	39%	61%
Ontario	35%	65%
Quebec	37%	63%
New Brunswick	32%	68%
Nova Scotia	35%	66%
Prince Edward Island	42%	58%
Newfoundland & Labrador	34%	66%
Territories	52%	48%
National	35%	65%

APPENDIX OF TABLES ON SEXUAL HEALTH

Testing for STIs in the Last 12 Months

	Not tested	Tested
British Columbia	46%	54%
Alberta	50%	50%
Saskatchewan	58%	42%
Manitoba	51%	49%
Ontario	55%	46%
Quebec	47%	53%
New Brunswick	64%	36%
Nova Scotia	55%	45%
Prince Edward Island	73%	27%
Newfoundland & Labrador	60%	40%
Territories	48%	52%
National	51%	49%

Testing for HIV in Last 12 Months

	Not tested	Tested
British Columbia	45.8%	49.2%
Alberta	50.7%	47.9%
Saskatchewan	57.1%	42.9%
Manitoba	53.5%	46.5%
Ontario	52.8%	48.4%
Quebec	49.3%	49.8%
New Brunswick	61.9%	38.1%
Nova Scotia	60.1%	39.9%
Prince Edward Island	66.7%	33.3%
Newfoundland & Labrador	57.6%	42.4%
Territories	56.5%	43.5%
National	51.2%	48.8%

Out to Primary Health Care Provider

	Not out	Out	Not sure
British Columbia	39%	58%	3%
Alberta	53%	44%	2%
Saskatchewan	62%	35%	3%
Manitoba	58%	41%	2%
Ontario	51%	47%	2%
Quebec	37%	60%	3%
New Brunswick	54%	42%	4%
Nova Scotia	54%	44%	2%
Prince Edward Island	55%	42%	3%
Newfoundland & Labrador	52%	42%	6%
Territories	52%	44%	4%
National	48%	50%	3%

Dropped Care Provider Due to Attitude

	Dropped	Not Sure
British Columbia	14%	2%
Alberta	10%	2%
Saskatchewan	12%	4%
Manitoba	10%	4%
Ontario	10%	2%
Quebec	9%	2%
New Brunswick	9%	0%
Nova Scotia	9%	2%
Prince Edward Island	0%	0%
Newfoundland & Labrador	9%	1%
Territories	9%	0%
National	11%	2%

Satisfaction with Health Care Provider



	Not Satisfied	Satisfied
British Columbia	15%	85%
Alberta	21%	79%
Saskatchewan	17%	83%
Manitoba	17%	83%
Ontario	18%	82%
Quebec	25%	75%
New Brunswick	23%	77%
Nova Scotia	22%	79%
Prince Edward Island	33%	67%
Newfoundland & Labrador	25%	75%
Territories	26%	74%
National	19%	81%







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