



SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

QANUILIRPITAA ? 2017

Nunavik Inuit Health Survey

The objective of this thematic report is to provide an overview of the sociodemographic characteristics of the population of Nunavik based on the *Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017 Health Survey, and changes since the previous *Qanuippitaa?* 2004 Health Survey. Describing and understanding sociodemographic characteristics is a key first step in tackling health disparities in Nunavik. This report is organized around three themes: 1) demographics, including age, sex, coast of residence and marital status; 2) languages, including languages spoken at home and ability to speak and read Inuktitut, English or French; and 3) socioeconomic characteristics, including education, vocational training, employment, income and perceived financial security. Sociodemographic determinants of health are examined by sex, age group, coast of residence and community size, and are compared with results of the *Qanuippitaa?* 2004 Health Survey when possible.

The Nunavik population is characterized by a high proportion of children and young adults. In *Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017, half of Nunavimmiut aged 16 and over were in a relationship, while 42% were single.

Compared to *Qanuippitaa?* 2004, fewer people were in a relationship in 2017, although this change could be due to the fact that the population was younger in that year.

In 2017, about 50% of Nunavimmiut spoke almost exclusively Inuktitut at home, with those aged 55 and over (64%) reporting doing so in greater proportion than youth (16-30 years old, 47%). Ninety-one percent (91%) reported speaking Inuktitut without difficulty or fairly well and 70% could read Inuktitut without difficulty or fairly well; about three out of four could speak (73%) and read (77%) English or French without difficulty or fairly well. More people aged 16 to 30 reported being able to read English or French without difficulty or fairly well compared to those aged 55 and over (81% vs. 70%).

More people reported having at least some secondary school education in *Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017 compared to *Qanuippitaa?* 2004 (61% vs. 56%). Youth (16 to 30 years old) and adults (31 to 54 years old) were more likely to have attended but not completed secondary school compared to Nunavimmiut aged 55 and

over (65% and 62% vs. 44%). Three out of five (61%) had attended a vocational training program in the past, with the proportion being greater for men than women (70% vs. 52%) and for those aged 55 and over and 31 to 54 compared to youth (78% and 68% vs. 48%).

Twelve months prior to the survey, 84% of Nunavimmiut had participated in paid work (including self-employment) and 42% in unpaid work such as childcare or volunteering; more people had participated in unpaid work on the Ungava coast compared to the Hudson coast (50% vs. 36%). Less than half of Nunavimmiut (45%) were employed full time at the time of the survey. The proportion was 59% among those aged 31 to 54. More women were not part of the labour force compared to men (19% vs. 12%). Almost half of the population (46%) reported an annual income below \$20 000, a proportion similar to that observed in *Qanuippitaa? 2004* (49%). However, more people reported an income above \$60 000 compared to *Qanuippitaa? 2004* (12% vs. 4%), which indicates increasing income inequality in the region. Income was higher on the Ungava coast.

Half of the population (52%) reported not having enough money to meet their needs, illustrating the extent of financial insecurity in Nunavik. More men reported not having enough money to fulfill their needs compared to women (55% vs. 48%).

The *Qanuilirpitaa 2017* Health Survey points to improvements in some socio-demographic indicators compared to the *Qanuippitaa? 2004* Health Survey and highlights the fact that the Inuktitut language remains strong in Nunavik. Low levels of formal education, low income, increasing income inequalities, and limited work opportunities are important factors to consider in relation to the health and well-being of Nunavimmiut.



Qanuilirpitaa? 2017 is a population healthy survey carried out in Nunavik from August to October 2017. A total of 1 326 Nunavimmiut aged 16 and over from all 14 villages participated to this survey.

Nakurmiik to all Nunavimmiut who contributed to this important health survey!

For more information: nrbhss.ca/en/health-surveys