

First Nations Regional Health Longitudinal Survey (RHS)



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**RHS is First Nations
Research Owned,
Controlled by and for
First Nations**

What is RHS?

- Survey which analyzes the health and well being of First Nations people
- designed based upon a holistic framework capturing the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental elements
- Arose in 1996 with the exclusion of First Nations living on reserve from 3 Federally implemented longitudinal surveys
- 1997 Pilot Regional Health Survey leading to Phase 1 2002/2003, to 2007/2008.
- Longitudinal Survey that has four year cycle
- 10 Regional RHS offices across Canada
- RHS adheres to the Principles of OCAP and First Nations Research Code of Ethics

How is RHS guided?

- Over seen by the First Nations Information Governance Committee (developed and implemented by AFN's Chiefs' Committee on Health)
- Supported by our Regional Health Survey Steering Committee
- RHS is currently housed and supported by the Assembly of First Nations based in Ottawa
- RHS is administered by the RHS National Team composed of the National RHS National Coordinator, RHS Senior Analyst, Data Analyst and Administrative Assistant
- Through Resolution, the Chiefs in Assembly of the First Nations Summit support the Regional Health Survey

RHS Questionnaires

- Developed and approved by the First Nations Informational Governance Committee in consultation with Research Consultants
- Questionnaires are designed for children, youth and adults
- Each Region across Canada has its' own “Regional Health “Regional Health Survey”
- RHS administers an Ecological Survey which captures the infrastructure social aspects in each First Nations community. Examples include, water quality, housing quality, education, etc.

Adult Questionnaire Themes

- Languages
- Employment & Income
- Housing
- General Health
- Health Conditions
- Injury
- Disability
- Health Care Access
- Dental Care
- Food & Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Lifestyle
- Preventative Health Care
- Residential Schools
- Personal Wellness
- Community Wellness & Traditional Culture

Questionnaire themes
similar in children & youth

How many First Nations Communities Participated in the last RHS?

- 39 First Nations Communities participated in the last RHS in BC in Phase 1 (2002/2003)
- Nationally, 238 First Nations communities participated whereby 22,602 surveys were completed across Canada

Who does the Regional Health Surveys?

- RHS Interviewers at the participating RHS First Nations community are interviewed, hired and trained by the First Nations Chiefs' Health Committee
- RHS Interviewers are professional positions administered from bottom up and not top down (Data Warriors and Collectors)
- RHS Interviewers are trained to use Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)

RHS Data Protection

- RHS adheres to First Nations Research Code of Ethics
- Adheres to OCAP Principles
- Data protection protocols, agreements and procedures are set in place to protect RHS Data
- Oath of Confidentiality must be signed
- Personal information such as names etc will be de-identified
- Government agencies will be not have access RHS Data

What is the Sampling Framework for RHS?

- In the last RHS, the sampling framework was longitudinal but in the next phase, some regional offices may continue the longitudinal sampling framework but others may use the cross sectional framework * (BC will use the cross sectional)
- Individuals versus household members will be captured in the next Phase 2 versus household *
- Square root method will be used to increase the RHS sample size whereby we may see an increase in RHS participants (Better data quality, fairness factor) This method will increase RHS First Nations communities across Canada. *
- RHS First Nations communities are aligned within each of the 5 health Authorities in BC. In the last RHS Phase, they were divided into 4 sub regions

*The decision for the sampling framework design was in consultation with our Research Consultants. With longitudinal studies, the optimal choice for RHS was to capture additional RHS participants.

What happens after the RHS data collection is complete?

- With the de-identification of RHS sensitive information, data is returned back to the participating Regional Health Survey First Nations community
- The information gathered becomes a powerful tool for learning and understanding the health and wellness of First Nations and their respected communities
- RHS goes through the AID process (Analyses, Interpretation and Dissemination)
- The outcome will be having the RHS Report rolled up at the National and Regional levels.

RHS Next Steps

- Prepare for the next RHS Phase 2 (2007/2008) set to begin in January 2008
- Recruit more First Nations Regional Health Survey communities
- Carry out limited off reserve Regional Health Surveys
- Hire and train RHS Data Collectors/Warriors

Harvard University Review

“Compared to other national surveys of Indigenous People from around the world, the 2002/2003 RHS was unique in First Nations ownership of the research process, it’s explicit incorporation of First Nations values into the research design and the intensive collaborative engagement of First Nations people and their representative at each stage of the research process”

RHS Information

BC RHS informational reports available online at www.fnchc.ca

1997 Our Nations On the Edge of a New Century – BC First Nations Regional Health Survey

2002/2003 Healthy Children, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities: BC First Nations Longitudinal Health Survey

RHS National Reports available online at: www.rhs-ers.ca

First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey – The Peoples Report

First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002/2003 – Results for Adults, Youth and Children Living in First Nations Communities

First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002/2003 – Report on Process and Methods

RHS Our Voice, Our Survey, Our Reality – Selected Results from Phase 1, 2002/2003

RHS Contact Information

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