
Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name:	First Nations and Inuit Regional Health Survey
Thematic Coverage:	This survey combines data from nine regional surveys conducted in 1996-97 in Aboriginal reserve communities in all provinces. It was originally undertaken as a companion survey to the National Population Health Survey to offer scientifically and culturally validated information. It is directed and implemented by First Nations, in keeping with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP).
Maintained by:	First Nations Centre of National Aboriginal Health Organization
Availability:	Requests for access to the national public data file can be made to the First Nations Information Governance Committee (FNIGC). Access to regional reports can be obtained through the regional organizations. Data release is guided by the Code of Research Ethics and Publication and Access Protocol of the FNIGC.
Start Date:	1996
Release Date:	Approximately 12 months after data collection
Frequency of collection:	Every four years – (most recent 2003)
Data Collection:	<p>In 1997, each region independently identified its target population & developed a sampling design, ranging from opportunistic sampling to stratified age-sex sampling. Different designs emerged to meet local objectives & out of respect of community participation protocols. Value of Child proxy interview was culturally-based. In 2002, all large (1500+) communities were included in the sample, as well as a random selection of small & medium communities using a selection from of locally validated membership lists.</p> <p>In most provinces, one person aged 18 years and older was asked to complete this survey for the household. Computer Assisted Phone Interviewing (CATI) was used for data collection. In areas where the child proxy interview was conducted, the individual identified as the person most knowledgeable about the child completed the child's health section.</p>
Sample size:	<p>In 1997, 9,870 adults + 4,138 children (by proxy) + youth in Nova Scotia and Ontario sampled from 186 First Nations / Inuit communities.</p> <p>In 2003, 28,405 target sample size taken from 270 First Nations / Inuit Communities.</p>

Geographic coverage: All provinces (P.E.I. was combined with New Brunswick), excluding James Bay Cree, Mohawk and Inuit communities in Quebec.

Lowest geographic level collected: Postal Code
Lowest geographic level of release: Province/Territory
Existing rural variable: No

Rural definitions that can be constructed from this database include (building block)[†]:

- ✓ Rural and Small Town definition (Census Subdivision)
- ✓ Metropolitan area and census agglomeration Influenced Zones (Census Subdivision)
- ✓ OECD “rural communities” definition (Census Consolidated Subdivision)
- ✓ OECD “predominantly rural regions” definition (Census Division)
- ✓ Ehrensaft’s “Beale codes” (Census Division)

[†] Results for these areas of geography could conceivably be derived from postal codes if respondent confidentiality is ensured.

Data Elements:

Health was broadly considered with aspects related to physical, emotional, social, and cultural well-being

- Outcomes (e.g. health, language, cognitive, social, emotional, behavioural)
- Characteristics of child’s family (SES, structure, parenting style, family functioning, social support)
- Child care, School, Neighbourhood
- Direct assessments of child (e.g. tests of vocabulary, math and reading skills)
- Reports from parents, teachers, principals

In 1997, important data elements that were included were:

	National Content	Regional Emphasis [*]
Children	➤ Birth Weight & Breastfeeding	➤ Nutrition
	➤ Health problems	➤ Leisure activities
	➤ Knowledge of culture	➤ Language & culture
	➤ Behaviour problems	➤ Emotional health
	➤ Injury	➤ Victimization (youth)
Adult	➤ Residential schools	➤ Residential schools
	➤ Tobacco	➤ Mental health
	➤ Chronic disease	➤ Addictions
	➤ Dental health	➤ Sexual health
	➤ Community wellness	➤ Nutrition / weight
	➤ Health services	➤ Traditional healing

^{*} The Regional surveys content was more diverse, but only recurrent topics and those addressed in depth are listed here

Notes:

Separate databases have been created for comparable variables, which were abstracted from the National Population Health Survey, National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth, and Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

The 2003 FNIRHS survey design represents the first cycle of 4 waves collecting regional longitudinal data.

1 st cycle of longitudinal component:	2003
2 nd cycle of longitudinal component:	2007
3 rd cycle of longitudinal component:	2011
4 th cycle of longitudinal component:	2015

For more information, visit

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni/fnihb/aboriginalhealth/reports_summaries/regional_survey.htm