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How do I fill out the survey?

After you have been contacted and have agreed to participate a RHS Field Worker will bring a laptop computer with the survey questions on it to a convenient location (for example, your home, school or community centre).

You can fill out the survey on the computer on your own or you can ask the Field Worker to help you. The Field Worker will stay with you to answer any questions you have or help you complete the survey.

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Who is paying for this survey?

Funding for the RHS is provided by Health Canada, and is distributed by the FNIGC to its regional partners for the sole purpose of supporting data collection.

The RHS is carried out by FNIGC and its Regional Partners. The survey is not conducted by any federal, provincial or community governments and none of our RHS Field Workers are employed by federal or provincial governments.

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**THE FIRST NATIONS
INFORMATION
GOVERNANCE CENTRE**

By First Nations for First Nations



**THE FIRST NATIONS
REGIONAL
HEALTH SURVEY**

1 What is the First Nations Regional Health Survey?

The **First Nations Regional Health Survey** (FNRHS, or RHS for short) is the only national health survey in Canada that is run by First Nations for First Nations.

Founded in 1997 the RHS was born out of a response to a Federal Government decision to not include First Nation people living on reserve in three major population surveys.

In the nearly two decades since, the RHS has gathered quality, culturally relevant data from tens of thousands of First Nation people that has contributed to the renewal of important community programs and services such as the Aboriginal Head Start Program, Children's Oral Health Initiative, and the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative.

The RHS is carried out by the **First Nations Information Governance Centre** (FNIGC), a mandated independent non-profit First Nation organization working in partnership with First Nation Regional Organizations in 10 provinces and two territories.

2 Where is this survey taking place?

The RHS, which will begin in early 2015, is happening in 255 First Nations communities in 10 provinces and two territories across Canada: Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

3 Why was I selected to take part in the survey?

Your community was one of 255 First Nations communities across Canada selected at random to take part in the RHS. The community leadership was contacted in advance and has agreed to participate in this survey.

A certain number of people in each chosen community have been selected at random to represent their community in the RHS — but only those who agree to participate in the survey will be interviewed.

Though survey participation is voluntary, your input is an important part of the overall success of this important First Nations driven survey. Your participation makes it possible to obtain up-to-date, credible information about health and wellness conditions in your community and region. The RHS survey process plays a significant role in filling the gaps in data on First Nations on reserve and northern communities.

4 How did you get my name?

Your name was randomly selected from your band or community membership list. This means that your name was chosen by chance (like the winning numbers in a lottery) which ensures that the people chosen to take part are representative of the entire population.

5 Why is my participation in the RHS important?

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Your answers to these questions will make it possible to gather better information about health and well-being in your community.

More complete information means a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges that lead to success in First Nations on reserve and northern communities. Over the years RHS data has been used to support a wide range of programs and policies on a community and federal government level.

You can also change your mind about doing the survey at any time.

6 What kind of questions will I be asked?

The RHS contains questions that address health and well-being. It was developed holistically by First Nations people to make sure that the questions are relevant to life in your community.

The RHS contains three separate questionnaires: **one for children** (up to 11-years-old), **one for youth** (12 to 17-years-old) and **one for adults** (18 years and older).

Topics will include: senior's wellness, languages, household conditions, diabetes, long-term injury, health services, physical activity, oral health, and community wellness, among others.

7 How long will the survey take to finish?

The child survey will take about 30 minutes. The youth survey will take about 45 minutes. The adult survey may take up to 1 hour.

8 What will happen to my survey answers?

After you complete the RHS survey all the information you provide will be locked up and protected by Field Workers. Each Field Worker has received training on confidentiality, privacy, data security and the **First Nations principles of OCAP®** (which stands for **O**wnership, **C**ontrol, **A**ccess and **P**ossession): a set of guidelines that require your data be kept confidential and safe at all times. RHS Field Workers recognize and respect the importance of privacy and fully understand how to keep your information protected.

Personal information, including names and addresses, will be stored separately from your survey answers — and your personal information remains securely stored in your region. Anonymous data from the RHS will be published in Regional and National reports. No personal information about individuals who have taken part in the survey will ever be released and names will be used only in the event that respondents choose to withdraw from the study after having completed the questionnaire. There are no follow-up studies or questionnaires for the participants of the RHS.

The First Nations principles of OCAP® establish ground rules for how First Nations data is collected, protected, used or shared. It meant that First Nations control data collection processed in their communities, and that they own, protect and control how their information is used.