

**Access to primary care through Primary Care Networks:  
Percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network**

**Full data definition sign-off completed.**

<b>Name of Measure</b>	Access to primary care through Primary Care Networks: Percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network
<b>Name of Measure (short)</b>	Access to primary care through Primary Care Networks (PCNs ): Albertans enrolled in a PCN
<b>Definition</b>	<p>Access to primary care through Primary Care Networks is defined as the percentage of Albertans informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network as at March 31 of a given year.</p> <p>The percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network is determined by calculating the number of Albertans who are informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network (numerator) in a given fiscal year as a proportion of the total population covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (denominator) as at March 31 of that year.</p>
<b>Domain</b>	Health Services Delivery
<b>Dimension</b>	Accessibility
<b>Category of Measure</b>	Strategic
<b>Type of Measure</b>	Process measure
<b>Business Context</b>	Health and Wellness 2012-15 Business Plan. Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan 2010-2015.
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are a province- wide, comprehensive service delivery model to improve access to, and better co-ordinate, primary health care for Albertans. In a PCN, family physicians work with Alberta Health Services and other health professionals as a multi-disciplinary, integrated team to increase Albertans' access to the right care, from the right provider, at the right time.</p> <p>Determining the number of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network will identify gaps in access and ensure that primary health care programs and services are available to all Albertans.</p> <p>According to research conducted by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), access to a broad spectrum of services including health promotion and disease prevention (offered by PCNs), as well as comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and coordinated care, are markers of health care service delivery excellence.</p>
<b>Notes for Interpretation</b>	See Technical Notes.
<b>Organizational Strategy</b>	The Alberta Government is committed to further expanding and fine-tuning Primary Care Networks (PCN's), as well as the introduction of other ways of delivering primary care, to help ensure primary health care programs and services are available to all Albertans. This will continue to be a key strategy in improving quality, access, and sustainability for the health system overall.

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<b>Benchmark Comparisons</b>	Not available.
<b>Cited References:</b>	<p>Government of Alberta. Health and Wellness 2012-15 Business Plan. Available at: <a href="http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2012/health-wellness.pdf">http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2012/health-wellness.pdf</a></p> <p>Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan 2010-2015. Available at: <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf">http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf</a></p> <p>Pan-Canadian Primary Health Care Indicator (Report 1, Volume 2, CIHI Pan-Canadian Primary Health Care Indicator Development Project). Available at: <a href="https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/PHC_Indicator_Report_1-Volume_2_Final_E.pdf">https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/PHC_Indicator_Report_1-Volume_2_Final_E.pdf</a></p> <p>Government of Alberta. Health and Wellness. Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Statistical Supplement 2010/2011. Available at: <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AHCIP-Stats-Supplement-11.pdf">http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AHCIP-Stats-Supplement-11.pdf</a></p> <p>The <i>Statistical Supplement</i> is an accompaniment to the Ministry of Health Annual Report, and includes data on the number of people registered with the AHCIP, payments made by the AHCIP to Alberta physicians and allied practitioners for services provided to Albertans, payments for services provided to Albertans while they are out of the country, and data on Primary Care Networks. Table 2.21 of the <i>Statistical Supplement</i> includes information on the distribution of Primary Care Networks by health zone, the number of primary care physicians, the number of patients informally enrolled in Primary Care Networks, and total payments for the service year (April 1 to March 31). The Statistical Supplement for a given fiscal year (e.g. 2010-2011) is published annually in the third quarter of the next fiscal year (e.g. 2011-2012).</p>

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Technical Specifications	
<b>Metric</b>	Percent
<b>Preferred Display Format</b>	99%
<b>Numerator</b>	The total number of all (new and historical) patients informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network in a fiscal year.
<b>Inclusion Criteria for Numerator</b>	Residents of Alberta who are registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, and who are informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network.
<b>Exclusion Criteria for Numerator</b>	Non-residents of Alberta; Residents of Alberta who have opted out of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan; and Residents of Alberta registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan who not informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network as of March 31 of a given year.
<b>Data Source(s) for Numerator</b>	Alberta Health Claims Assessment System (CLASS).  The total number of patients informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network in a given fiscal year is published in the <i>Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Statistical Supplement</i> , Table 2.21 Primary Care Networks: Distribution by Health Region (AHS Zone), Number of Primary Care Physicians, Number of Patients, and Total Payments for the Service Year April 1 (year) to March 31 (year).
<b>Refresh Rate of Numerator</b>	Annual.
<b>Denominator</b>	The total population covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan as at March 31 of a given fiscal year.
<b>Inclusion Criteria for Denominator</b>	Residents of Alberta who are registered for Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan coverage for insured services as at March 31.
<b>Exclusion Criteria for Denominator</b>	Non-residents of Alberta; Residents of Alberta who have opted out of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.
<b>Data Source(s) for Denominator</b>	Government of Alberta. Health and Wellness. <i>Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Statistical Supplement</i> . Table 1.2 Number of Registrations and Population Covered, as at March 31 (year).
<b>Refresh Rate of Denominator</b>	Annual.

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<b>Technical Notes</b>	<p>Patients are considered to be informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network when they are assigned to a physician/nurse practitioner/pediatrician registered to a PCN.</p> <p>The number of patients informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network is determined by the payments issued to the program, which are associated with the providers within the PCN. The payments to the PCN are identified by the payments the providers receive through the Claims Assessment System (CLASS). CLASS is an application that collects and processes claims transactions for physicians of multiple disciplines for fee-for-service items. A schedule of medical benefits is associated with each medical discipline and provides information on compensation for physician services.</p> <p>There are four steps used to assign a patient to a physician:</p> <p>Step 1: Patients who have seen one physician/nurse practitioner/pediatrician only are assigned to that physician/nurse practitioner/pediatrician.</p> <p>Step 2: Patients who have seen more than one physician, but one physician is predominant, and then assigns the patient to that physician.</p> <p>Step 3: Patients who have seen multiple physicians the same number of times are assigned to the physician who did the physical exam last.</p> <p>Step 4: Patients who have seen multiple physicians the same number of times and had no physical examination done are assigned to the physician who saw the patient last.</p>
<b>Calculation</b>	<p>The percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network (PCN) is calculated by dividing the total number of Albertans informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network in a given fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) by the total population covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan as at March 31 of the same fiscal year, and then multiplying the resulting quotient by 100 to obtain the percentage. That is, the percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network = (Total number of Albertans informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network in a given fiscal year) ÷ (Total population covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan as at March 31 of the same fiscal year) X 100.</p> <p>Example: In 2010/11, the percentage of Albertans enrolled in a Primary Care Network (67%) was obtained by dividing the total number of patients informally enrolled in a Primary Care Network in 2010-2011 (N=2,553,384) by the total population covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan as at March 31, 2011 (3,786,238), and then multiplying the resulting quotient (0.67) by 100 to obtain the percentage.</p> $2,553,384 \div 3,786,238 = 0.67 \times 100 = 67\%$
<b>Relationship to Other Indicators</b>	None.
<b>Level of Reporting</b>	Provincial (Alberta Health). Provincial and Zone (Alberta Health Services)
<b>Frequency of Reporting</b>	Annual.
<b>Limitations</b>	None identified.

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## Document Version History

Version	Version Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	January 25, 2012	Initial draft prepared and sent for review and revision by ministry SMEs/ PHC Unit.
1.1	March 21, 2012	Updated AB Health Key contact and signatories
1.2	May 25, 2012	Updated draft based on current information provided by SME's in Background and Results Achieved document for Ministry Annual Report
1.3	May 29, 2012	Additional edits to the following fields: Definition, Business Context, Rationale, Cited References, and Calculation. Also updates to Contact and Signatory fields to reflect organizational changes
1.4	July 5, 2012	Changes to logo and naming convention
1.5	August 8, 2012	Updates to measure definition
1.6	August 21, 2012	Updates to measure definition based on review by AH and AHS
1.7	August 28, 2012	Updates based on further review
2.0	August 31, 2012	Version ready for signoff
2.1	October 31, 2012	Full data definition signoff completed.