

# **Alberta Health:** **Primary Care Network (PCN) Zone Profiles**

## **North Zone PCN**

2<sup>nd</sup> edition, March 2021

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**Note:**

*Qualifiers such as ‘higher than’, ‘much lower than’, ‘similar to’ etc. are used throughout the Primary Care Network (PCN) zone profile to compare zone PCN panel population indicator values to the provincial PCN panel average. Note that the qualifiers ‘similar’ and ‘comparable’ are chosen to describe situations in which the zone PCN panel population indicator value is either identical or very close to the provincial PCN average. For further details on these qualifiers please refer to Appendix A.*

**Suggested Citation:**

*Alberta Health, Primary Care Network (PCN) Zone Profiles: [insert Zone name] PCN, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, March 2021*

## INTRODUCTION

The Government of Alberta is working to improve primary health care in the province through its investment in Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to support the delivery of team-based primary care. PCNs are partnerships between a group of family physicians (who form a non-profit corporation) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to provide interdisciplinary programming and services such as chronic disease management and prevention, mental health, geriatric care, rehabilitative care, palliative care, family planning, and obstetrical care. They aim to provide comprehensive, collaborative primary health services to the local communities they serve.

In Alberta, there are a total of 41 PCNs with over 4,000 physicians and 1,300 other full-time equivalent health care providers (such as nurses, dietitians, psychologists, mental health therapists, pharmacists and midwives) serving over 3.8 million Albertans (approximately 85% of the population). Each PCN has the flexibility to develop programs and provide services in a way that meets the specific needs of patients. Allocation of funding is a PCN Board decision based on many different factors including, but not limited to, population-based data. PCNs are divided into five zonal groups that align with the five AHS Zones to help ensure the integration of services and uniformity in the various areas of the province.

PCNs were originally established under the 2003-2011 Trilateral Master Agreement between Alberta Health, the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) and the regional health authorities (now AHS). PCNs were established because the parties were concerned about the number of Albertans who did not have a family physician, the decreasing number of medical students choosing family medicine and the lack of coordination in primary health care delivery. The first PCN opened in 2005.

Alberta Health has developed the “Zone PCN Profile” reports (Profiles) to assist the zones and PCNs with primary health care planning by providing a broad range of demographic, socio-economic and population health statistics considered relevant to primary health care for communities across the province. The Profiles provide information for each zone for Alberta Health registrant population who belong to an Alberta PCN, and highlight areas of need for relevant information to support the consistent and sustainable planning of primary health care services. Each Profile offers an overview of the current health status of PCN paneled patient in the zone, indicators of the zone PCN population's current and future health needs, and evidence as to which quality services are needed on a timely and efficient basis to address the zone's and its PCN patients' needs. Each report includes sections that present panel level information. The Profiles also include Appendices with definitions and the PCN panel patients' geographic distribution by municipality.

Each report includes sections that present zone level level information for PCN population who reside in the zone. In addition, the Profile includes Appendices containing definitions and the zone PCN panel patients' geographic distribution by Municipality.

For more information, contact Alberta Health's PCN Operatios Unit at [PCNOps@gov.ab.ca](mailto:PCNOps@gov.ab.ca).

Note:

Various data sources are used to compile the PCN Profiles. The Profiles are developed through the collaboration of Alberta Health's divisions: Health Standards, Quality and Performance and Health Workforce Planning and Accountability with Alberta Health Services.

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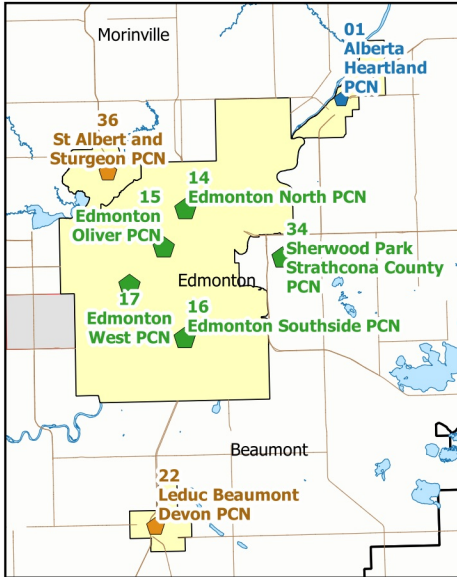
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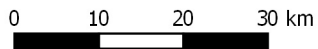
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# Map of Alberta Main PCN Offices

Inset: Edmonton area



Inset: Calgary area



(inset scale)

## Legend

### PCN Main Offices by Population Size

- ◆ Large (>100k enrollees)
- ◆ Medium (50-100k enrollees)
- ◆ Small (<50 enrollees)
- Highways
- Select City Boundaries
- Metis Settlements
- Indian Reserves
- Alberta Zones



(main map scale)

Note The main office PCN Information is as of September 2020.



## Primary Care Network: North Zone PCN

### DEMOGRAPHICS

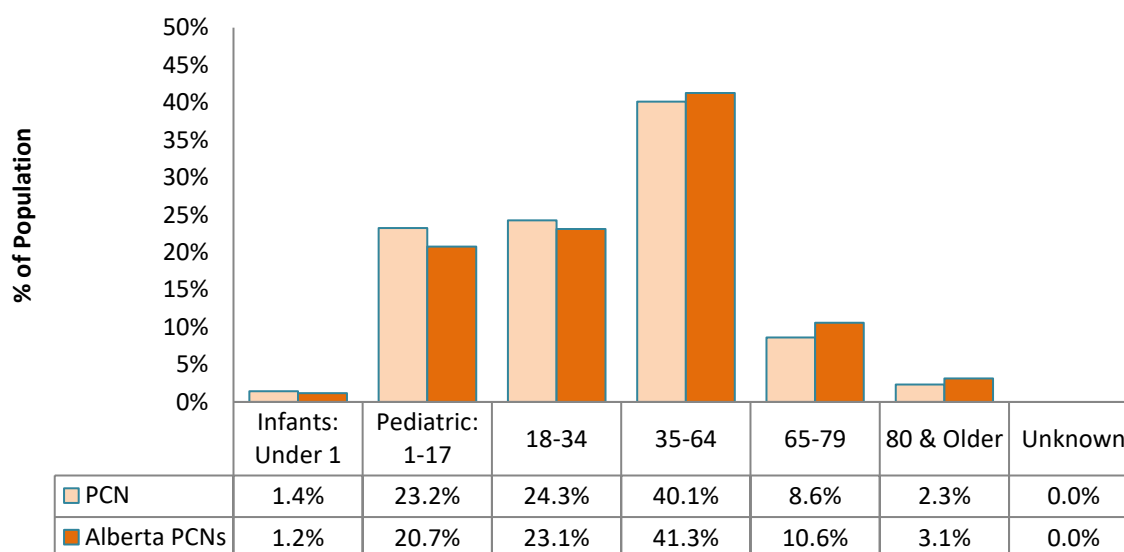
Table 1.1 shows the population distribution of the Zone Primary Care Network (PCN) patient panel broken down by age group and gender, for the most recent fiscal year available. Specific age groups have been identified. Children under the age of one year were defined as infants, while the pediatric age group includes all minors excluding infants. People with no age information available were categorized as unknown.

**TABLE 1.1 Distribution of PCN Zone Panel<sup>1</sup> Population by Age and Gender, as at March 31, 2019**

Primary Care Network Zone Panel Population			
Age Group	Female	Male	Total
Infants: Under 1	2,860	2,992	5,852
Pediatric: 1-17	46,469	48,288	94,757
18-34	51,867	47,197	99,064
35-64	80,611	83,200	163,811
65-79	17,347	17,842	35,189
80 & Older	5,266	4,166	9,432
Unknown	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,420</b>	<b>203,685</b>	<b>408,105</b>

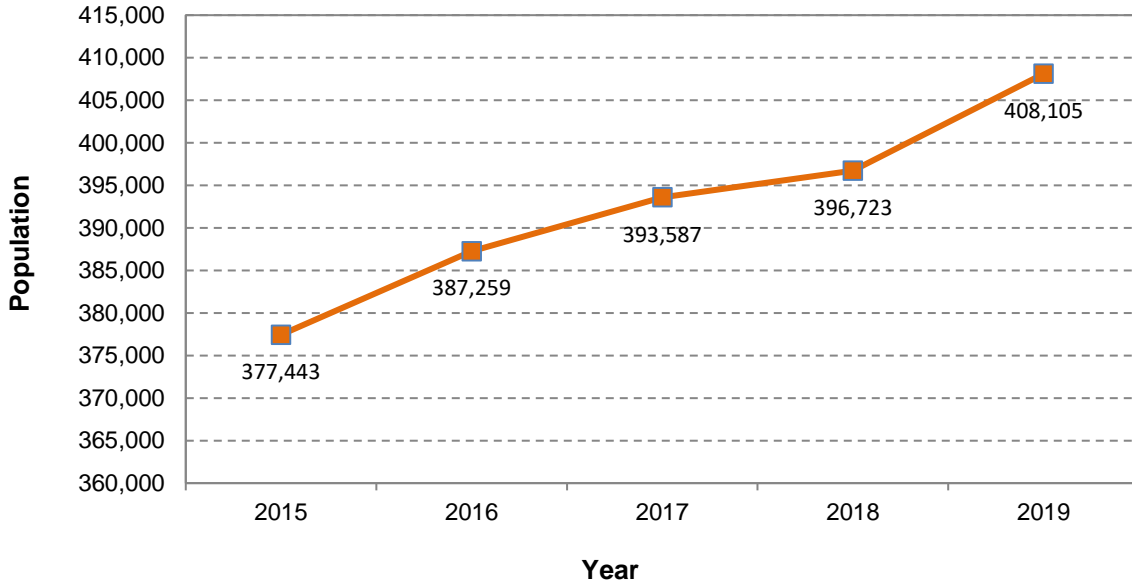
Figure 1.1 profiles the zone panel population distribution by age group for both the zone PCN and all PCNs in Alberta, for the most recent fiscal year available.

**FIGURE 1.1 Percentage Distribution of the Zone PCN Panel Versus All Alberta PCNs Population By Age Group as at March 31, 2019**



The population counts for each year between 2015 and the most recent fiscal year are provided in Figure 1.2.

**FIGURE 1.2 Zone PCN Panel Population<sup>2</sup> Covered as at End (March 31) of Fiscal Years 2015 - 2019**



The population of North Zone PCN increased by 8.1% between 2015 and 2019. A low of 377,443 individuals was reported in 2015 and a peak of 408,105 people was reported in 2019.

**Sources:**

*Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Annual Population Registry File, Alberta Health  
Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health*

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Patient panel derived based on four-cut methodology.

<sup>2</sup> Population might be missing during early years due to some PCNs being established later on. See Appendix A for details.



## Primary Care Network: North Zone PCN

### SOCIO-DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Tables 2.1 present information regarding First Nations and Inuit populations for both the zone PCN panel<sup>1</sup> as well as all PCNs in Alberta. This information is presented as percentages.

**TABLE 2.1 Population Percentage of First Nations with Treaty Status<sup>2</sup> and Inuit as at March 31, 2019**

Indigenous		
	North Zone PCN	Alberta PCNs
Percent of Population that is First Nations or Inuit	8.2%	2.5%

**Sources:**

*Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Annual Population Registry Files, Alberta Health Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health*

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Patient panel derived based on four-cut methodology. See Appendix A for details.

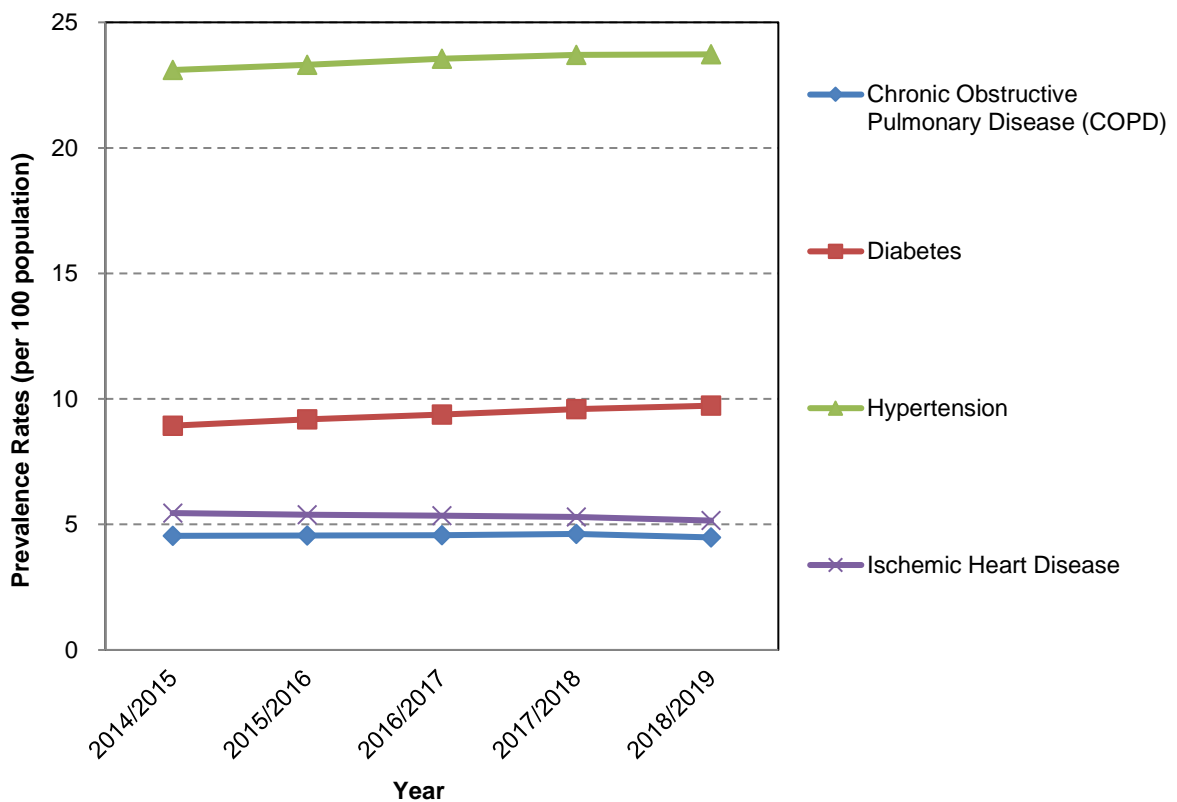
<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A for details.

## Primary Care Network: North Zone PCN

### CHRONIC DISEASE PREVALENCE

Figure 3.1 displays the rates per 100 population of the select chronic diseases in the zone PCN patient panel. The prevalence rates refer to the number of diagnosed individuals at a given time and have been standardized by age.

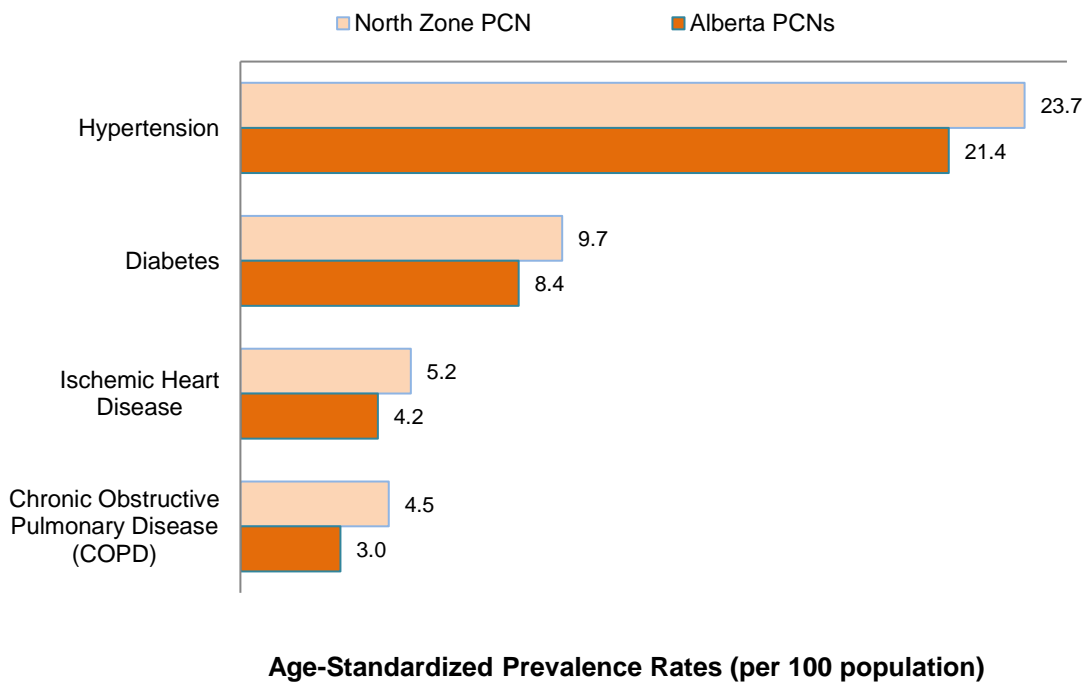
**FIGURE 3.1 Zone PCN Panel Age-Standardized Chronic Disease Prevalence Rates<sup>1 2 3</sup> (per 100 population), 2014/2015 - 2018/2019**



On average, the condition with the highest chronic disease prevalence rate reported for North Zone PCN during 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 was hypertension. In terms of highest rates, in 2018/2019, North Zone PCN ranked number 1 in hypertension, number 1 in diabetes, number 1 in ischemic heart disease and number 1 in COPD among prevalence rates reported for the five Zone PCNs.

Figure 3.2 depicts the 2018/2019 age-standardized prevalence rate for select major chronic diseases, per 100 population, for both the zone PCN panel and Alberta PCNs.

**FIGURE 3.2 Zone PCN Panel versus Alberta PCNs Age-Standardized Chronic Disease Prevalence Rates (per 100 population), 2018/2019**



In 2018/2019, the North Zone PCN population prevalence rate for hypertension per 100 population was 1.1 times higher than the corresponding rate reported for the provincial PCNs (23.7 vs. 21.4 AB PCNs). In addition, North Zone PCN showed prevalence rates higher than the provincial PCN rates for four of the four chronic diseases included above.

**Sources:**

- Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Physician Claims Data, Alberta Health*
- Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Quarterly Population Registry Files, Alberta Health*
- Alberta Hospital Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), Alberta Health*
- Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health*
- Census 2011 Population Data, Statistics Canada*

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Age-standardized prevalence rates are adjusted using the direct method of standardization, with weights from Statistics Canada's 2011 census population.
- <sup>2</sup> Patient panel derived based on four-cut methodology. See Appendix A for details.
- <sup>3</sup> Population might be missing during early years due to some PCNs being established later on. See Appendix A for details.

## Primary Care Network: North Zone PCN

### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Table 4.1 highlights maternal and child health indicators such as birth weight, fertility rate, teen birth rate and prenatal smoking for the zone PCN panel and Alberta PCNs. The indicator information is presented as rates, percentages, or raw numbers, depending on the indicator.

**TABLE 4.1** Zone PCN Panel<sup>2</sup> Maternal and Child Health Indicators<sup>3</sup> for Three-Year Period

Maternal and Child Health Indicators	Period	North Zone PCN	Alberta PCNs
Number of Births	2016/2017 - 2018/2019	18,310	146,058
Percent Low Birth Weights (of Live Births) <sup>1</sup> , less than 2500 gm		5.5%	6.9%
Percent High Birth Weights (of Live Births) <sup>1</sup> , greater than 4000 gm		11.5%	8.3%
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) <sup>1</sup>		32.6	22.9
Fertility Rate (per 1,000 Women 15 to 49 Years) <sup>1</sup>		64.9	46.5
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000 Women 15 to 19 Years)		22.3	8.0
Percent of Deliveries with Maternal Prenatal Smoking		17.7%	10.2%

During 2016/2017 to 2018/2019, North Zone PCN's birth rate of 32.6 per 1,000 women was much higher than the provincial PCN rate based on qualifier method, and the teen birth rate of 22.3 per 1,000 was much higher than Alberta's PCN teen birth rate. In addition, a higher proportion of prenatal smoking cases were reported compared to the province (17.7% vs. 10.2% AB PCNs).

#### Sources:

Alberta Hospital Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), Alberta Health  
 Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Annual Population Registry File, Alberta Health  
 Alberta Vital Statistics Births File  
 Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for definition.

<sup>2</sup> Patient panel derived based on four-cut methodology. See Appendix A for details.

<sup>3</sup> Some PCNs do not have indicator values for this section due to the PCN being established after 2011/2012. See Appendix A for details.

## Primary Care Network: North Zone PCN

### INPATIENT SERVICE UTILIZATION

Table 5.1 describes inpatient separation<sup>1</sup> rates per 1,000 population for the zone PCN and Alberta PCNs patients accessing health facilities across all of Alberta. The rate of inpatient separations is the ratio between the total number of separations and the total panel population, for each year.

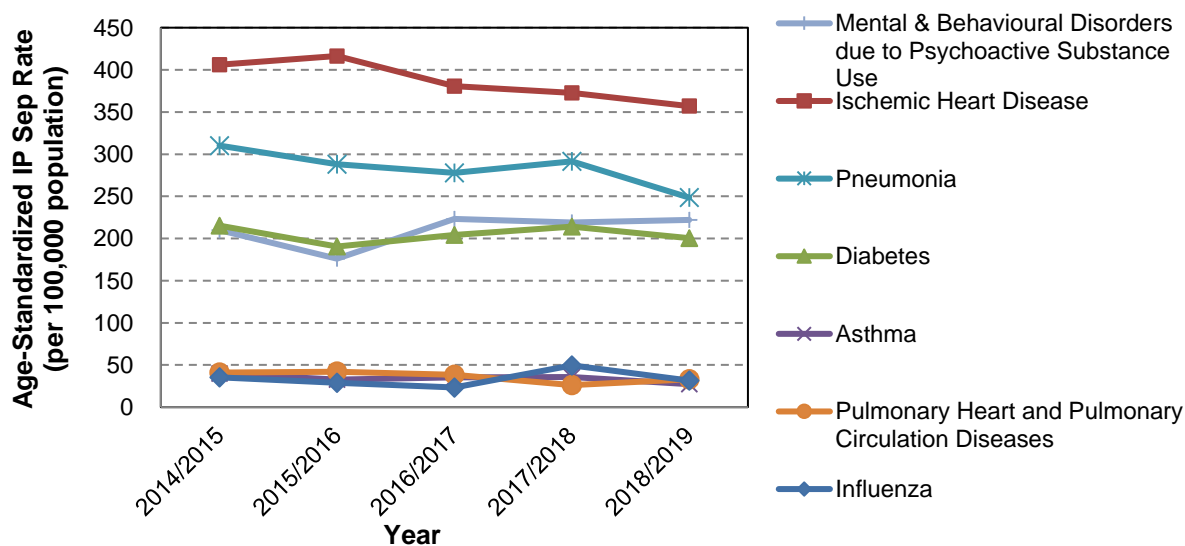
**TABLE 5.1 Inpatient Separation Rates (per 100,000 population) for the PCN Panel<sup>2</sup> vs. Alberta PCNs Panel 2016/2017 - 2018/2019**

Inpatient Separation Rates (per 1,000 population) <sup>3</sup>		
Fiscal Years	North Zone PCN	Alberta PCNs
2016/2017	114.0	91.5
2017/2018	113.7	89.3
2018/2019	108.6	86.4

North Zone PCN's inpatient separation rate for panel patients in this PCN varied between 108.6 in 2018/2019 and 114.0 in 2016/2017. In addition, in 2018/2019, the inpatient separation rate for patients in the North Zone PCN panel was 1.3 times higher than the provincial PCN rate (108.6 vs. 86.4 AB PCNs).

Figure 5.1 presents inpatient separation zone PCN panel rates for select health conditions (per 100,000 population), for the fiscal years 2014/2015 through 2018/2019. The rates have been standardized by age.

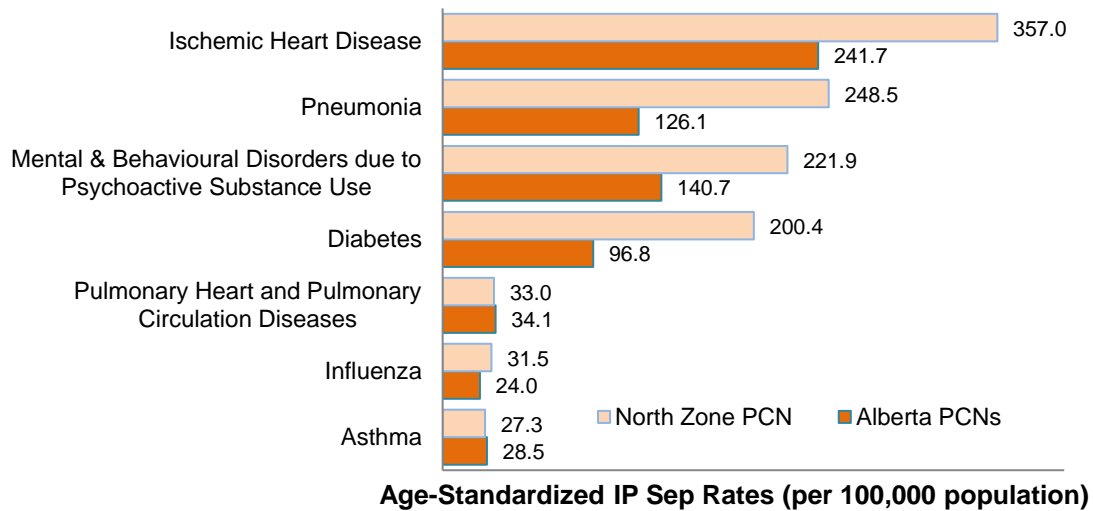
**FIGURE 5.1 PCN Panel Age-Standardized<sup>3 4</sup> Inpatient Separation (IP Sep) Rates (per 100,000 population), for Selected Conditions, 2014/2015 - 2018/2019**



On average, the highest inpatient separation rates, among select health conditions, reported in North Zone PCN during 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 were due to ischemic heart diseases. These rates reached a high of 416.4 per 100,000 population in 2015/2016 and a low of 357.0 per 100,000 population in 2018/2019.

Figure 5.2 presents inpatient separation rates per 100,000 population for panel patients in the zone PCN, compared to provincial PCN rates, for the most recent fiscal year and select health conditions.

**FIGURE 5.2 Zone PCN Panel Versus Total Alberta PCNs Age-Standardized IP Separation Rates (per 100,000 population), For Select Conditions, 2018/2019**



In 2018/2019, the three highest inpatient separation rates were reported for ischemic heart disease, pneumonia, and mental & behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use. The most common reason for inpatient separations in North Zone PCN panel was ischemic heart disease, which had a much higher rate compared to the provincial PCN rate per 100,000 population (357.0 vs. 241.7 AB PCNs). Additionally, North Zone PCN's inpatient separation rates were higher than the provincial rates for five of the seven diagnoses.

**Sources:**

- Alberta Hospital Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), Alberta Health*
- Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Quarterly Population Registry Files, Alberta Health*
- Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health*
- Census 2011 Population Data, Statistics Canada*

**Notes:** <sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for definition.

<sup>2</sup> Patient panel derived based on four-cut methodology. See Appendix A for details.

<sup>3</sup> Population might be missing during early years due to some PCNs being established later on. See Appendix A for details.

<sup>4</sup> Age-standardized rates are adjusted using the direct method of standardization, with weights from Statistics Canada's 2011 census population.

### Age Standardization

Age standardization is a technique applied to make rates comparable across groups with different age distributions. A simple rate is defined as the number of people with a particular condition divided by the whole population. An age-standardized rate is defined as the number of people with a condition divided by the population within each age group. Standardizing (adjusting) the rate across age groups allows a more accurate comparison between populations that have different age structures. Age standardization is typically done when comparing rates across time periods, different geographic areas, and or population sub-groups (e.g. ethnic group).

### Birth Rate

The birth rate is the number of live births, of a given geographic area in a given year, per 1,000 population of the same geographic area in the same year. (Statistics Canada)

### Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

The population aged 35 and over who reported being diagnosed by a health professional with chronic bronchitis, emphysema or COPD. (Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey)

COPD is a progressive disease that makes it hard to breathe. It can cause coughing that produces large amounts of mucus, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and other symptoms. Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of COPD. Most people who have COPD smoke or used to smoke. Long-term exposure to other lung irritants (such as air pollution, chemical fumes, or dust) also may contribute to COPD.

### Fertility Rate

The fertility rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15 - 49 years) in a population per year. This is a more standardized way to measure fertility in a population than birth rate because it accounts for the percentage of women of reproductive age. (Statistics Canada)

### Status First Nations

A status First Nation person refers to the legal status of a person who is registered under the *Indian Act*. Under the *Indian Act*, status First Nations persons, also known as a registered First Nation person, may be eligible for a range of benefits, programs and services offered by the federal and provincial/territorial governments. (Government of Canada (2020) "What is [First Nation] Status?" <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032463/1572459644986> Retrieved October 15, 2020)

## **Four Cut Methodology**

The Four Cut Funding Methodology is a way of assigning patients to one PHCP in the province. All patients who have visited a family physician (or pediatrician or nurse practitioner in select circumstances) are assigned to a patient list for that PHCP. These patients are called enrollees. The application of the Four Cut Funding Methodology only permits patients or enrollees to be counted once even if they have seen multiple PHCPs.

A patient is added to the physician list in the following manner:

1. Single PHCP - A patient visiting a single PHCP is assigned to that PHCP.
2. Most visited PHCP – The remaining patients who have seen more than one PHCP are assigned to the PHCP they visited most frequently.
3. Physical exam – If the remaining patients have seen two PHCPs the same number of times, then they are assigned to the PHCP who completed the last physical exam.
4. Last PHCP – If the remaining patients have seen two PHCPs the same number of times and have not received a physical exam, then they are assigned to the PHCP who saw them last.

These patient enrollee lists are calculated twice a year – April 1 and October 1 – and payments based on the calculations are sent to each PCN. Each PCN also receives a report twice a year after the calculation and data run are completed, providing specific information on the PCN's population.

## **High Birth Weight**

Birth weight is the body weight of a baby at its birth. High birth weight is defined as live births with a weight of 10 pounds or 4,500 grams or more, expressed as a percentage of all live births with known weight (Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Birth Database)

## **Hospitalization Rate**

The hospitalization rate is the age-standardized rate of acute care hospitalization, per 100,000 population. (Canadian Institute for Health Information)

## **Inpatient**

An inpatient is an individual who has been officially admitted to a hospital for the purpose of receiving one or more health services. (Canadian Institute for Health Information: MIS Standards 2011)

## **Inpatient Separations (Septs)**

A separation from a health care facility occurs anytime a patient (or resident) leaves because of death, discharge, sign-out against medical advice, or transfer. The number of separations is the most commonly used measure of the utilization of hospital services. Separations, rather than admissions, are used because hospital abstracts for inpatient care are based on information gathered at the time of discharge.



## **Inuit**

Inuit are the Aboriginal people of Arctic Canada. As of 2016, it is estimated that over 65,000 Inuit live in 51 communities in: Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador); Nunavik (Northern Quebec); Nunavut; and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories. Each of these four Inuit groups have settled land claims. These Inuit regions cover one-third of Canada's land mass. Please note that small numbers of Inuit people can be found in various other regions of Canada other than the four regions listed above. There are 2,500 Inuit people residing in Alberta. (Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and Inuit Statistical Profile 2018)

The word "Inuit" means "the people" in the Inuit language, called Inuktitut, and is the term by which Inuit refer to themselves. (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)

## **Low Birth Weight**

Birth weight is the body weight of a baby at its birth. Live births less than 5.5 pounds or 2500 grams at birth are considered as babies with low birth weight. Low birth weight is a key determinant of infant survival, health, and development. (Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Birth Database)

## **Prevalence Rate**

Prevalence is a measure of disease that allows us to determine a person's likelihood of having a disease. Therefore, the number of prevalent cases is the total number of cases of disease existing in a population. A prevalence rate is the total number of cases of a disease existing in a population divided by the total population. (<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/chronic/basicstat.htm>)

## **Primary Care**

Primary care is the first point of contact that people have with the health care system for medical needs requiring treatment and referral to other services as needed and is usually provided by a family physician or other PHCP.

(<http://www.albertapci.ca/aboutpcns/primarycare/pages/default.aspx>)

### Qualifier (comparisons between indicator values)

In comparing indicators across Primary Care Network (PCN) and the Provincial PCN, this report uses qualifiers such as 'higher than', 'lower than', 'similar to', etc. These statements are based on a simple statistical comparison that determines how far apart the indicator values are on the full scale of values for the indicator. For each indicator, the standard deviation (SD) was used as the measuring stick for whether the values are "close" or "far apart". For each indicator, the distance between the PCN value and the provincial (AB) PCN value was measured as number of SDs, and the direction of the difference (plus or minus). For example, if the PCN value is two SDs above the AB PCN value, then the PCN value is said to be 'much higher' than the provincial value. The complete set of comparison criteria is given below.

Qualifier	Distance between values
Much Lower	below $-1.5$ SD
Lower	$-1.5$ SD to $-0.25$ SD
Similar/Comparable	$-0.25$ SD to $+0.25$ SD
Higher	$+0.25$ SD to $+1.5$ SD
Much Higher	$+1.5$ SD and higher

### Separation Rate

A separation from a health care facility occurs anytime a patient (or resident) leaves because of death, discharge, sign-out against medical advice or transfer. The separation rate is the total number of inpatient separations divided by the total population.

### Teen Birth Rate

The teenage live birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19. (E-STAT, Statistics Canada)

## North Zone PCN Panel Patient Distribution by Municipality

The following listing shows the distribution of the North Zone PCN patient panel population by municipality top 30 municipalities for the most recently available five fiscal years. The population counts might be missing during early fiscal years due to some PCNs established later on in the 5 fiscal year period examined.

MUNICIPALITY	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
FORT MCMURRAY	70,659 (18.7%)	71,766 (18.5%)	70,232 (17.8%)	69,639 (17.6%)	71,326 (17.5%)
GRANDE PRAIRIE	61,972 (16.4%)	64,418 (16.6%)	65,097 (16.5%)	65,254 (16.4%)	65,574 (16.1%)
COLD LAKE	17,028 (4.5%)	16,062 (4.1%)	16,134 (4.1%)	15,969 (4.0%)	15,983 (3.9%)
WHITECOURT	12,077 (3.2%)	13,115 (3.4%)	13,283 (3.4%)	13,283 (3.3%)	13,306 (3.3%)
BONNYVILLE	11,297 (3.0%)	11,315 (2.9%)	11,435 (2.9%)	11,227 (2.8%)	11,225 (2.8%)
HINTON	1,308 (0.3%)	4,107 (1.1%)	9,272 (2.4%)	9,444 (2.4%)	10,432 (2.6%)
EDSON	10,550 (2.8%)	10,823 (2.8%)	10,831 (2.8%)	10,556 (2.7%)	10,336 (2.5%)
LA CRETE	8,183 (2.2%)	8,367 (2.2%)	8,581 (2.2%)	8,686 (2.2%)	8,759 (2.1%)
ST PAUL	7,605 (2.0%)	7,665 (2.0%)	7,684 (2.0%)	7,952 (2.0%)	8,683 (2.1%)
PEACE RIVER	8,228 (2.2%)	8,377 (2.2%)	8,341 (2.1%)	8,638 (2.2%)	8,518 (2.1%)
LAC LA BICHE	7,534 (2.0%)	7,663 (2.0%)	7,683 (2.0%)	7,589 (1.9%)	7,465 (1.8%)
WESTLOCK	7,652 (2.0%)	7,397 (1.9%)	7,367 (1.9%)	7,274 (1.8%)	7,399 (1.8%)
ATHABASCA	6,363 (1.7%)	6,682 (1.7%)	6,573 (1.7%)	6,524 (1.6%)	6,437 (1.6%)
HIGH PRAIRIE	4,153 (1.1%)	4,006 (1.0%)	3,498 (0.9%)	5,167 (1.3%)	6,359 (1.6%)
HIGH LEVEL	6,210 (1.6%)	6,292 (1.6%)	6,318 (1.6%)	6,255 (1.6%)	6,189 (1.5%)
COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO. 1	4,329 (1.1%)	4,851 (1.3%)	5,202 (1.3%)	5,541 (1.4%)	5,742 (1.4%)
SEXSMITH	5,088 (1.3%)	5,232 (1.4%)	5,299 (1.3%)	5,361 (1.4%)	5,238 (1.3%)
BARRHEAD	1,411 (0.4%)	1,621 (0.4%)	1,562 (0.4%)	1,271 (0.3%)	5,091 (1.2%)
BEAVERLODGE	4,566 (1.2%)	4,709 (1.2%)	4,607 (1.2%)	4,572 (1.2%)	4,447 (1.1%)

MUNICIPALITY	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
ONOWAY	4,714 (1.2%)	4,812 (1.2%)	4,587 (1.2%)	4,300 (1.1%)	4,228 (1.0%)
FAIRVIEW	3,788 (1.0%)	3,615 (0.9%)	3,794 (1.0%)	4,072 (1.0%)	3,905 (1.0%)
GRIMSHAW	2,977 (0.8%)	3,342 (0.9%)	3,490 (0.9%)	3,571 (0.9%)	3,677 (0.9%)
YELLOWHEAD COUNTY	2,238 (0.6%)	2,717 (0.7%)	3,275 (0.8%)	3,422 (0.9%)	3,555 (0.9%)
WABASCA	1,850 (0.5%)	1,405 (0.4%)	1,242 (0.3%)	3,310 (0.8%)	3,533 (0.9%)
MAYERTHORPE	3,166 (0.8%)	3,325 (0.9%)	3,317 (0.8%)	3,334 (0.8%)	3,457 (0.8%)
SLAVE LAKE	2,990 (0.8%)	2,748 (0.7%)	3,055 (0.8%)	3,244 (0.8%)	3,126 (0.8%)
GRANDE CACHE	3,722 (1.0%)	3,782 (1.0%)	3,709 (0.9%)	3,380 (0.9%)	3,050 (0.7%)
FORT VERMILION	2,775 (0.7%)	2,813 (0.7%)	2,841 (0.7%)	2,859 (0.7%)	2,913 (0.7%)
WEMBLEY	2,881 (0.8%)	2,955 (0.8%)	2,941 (0.7%)	2,888 (0.7%)	2,889 (0.7%)
SADDLE LAKE	2,537 (0.7%)	2,568 (0.7%)	2,623 (0.7%)	2,688 (0.7%)	2,883 (0.7%)
ALL OTHER MUNICIPALITIES	87,592 (23.2%)	88,709 (22.9%)	89,714 (22.8%)	89,453 (22.5%)	92,380 (22.6%)
<b>TOTAL PCN POPULATION</b>	<b>377,443</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>387,259</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>393,587</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>396,723</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>408,105</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>

**Sources:**

*Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Annual Population Registry File, Alberta Health  
Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Panel File, Alberta Health*

**Notes:**

- Due to some missed and/or invalid PCN Patients' Postal Codes, the TOTAL PCN POPULATION in the table above may be slightly lower in the TABLE 1.1.
- Some of the figures in the above table may show a significant change in distribution between years. This may be due to an increase in new providers moving into the region and joining a PCN, providers joining a PCN and bringing their patients with them, or patients transferring to a new PCN.