### Name and Definition

**Full Name**
Access to primary health care: Percentage of the population with a regular medical doctor

**Short Name**
Have a Regular Doctor

**Definition**
Population With a Regular Medical Doctor measures the percentage of Albertans 12 years of age and over who reported having a regular medical doctor.

The question asked in the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) was:
“Do you have a regular medical doctor?”
Choices of answers: “1. Yes” and “2. No”

**Domain**
Health Services Delivery

### Acceptability

- **Effectiveness**: No
- **Efficiency**: No
- **Appropriateness**: No

### Effectiveness

- **Acceptability**: No
- **Efficiency**: Yes
- **Appropriateness**: No

### Context

**Business Context**
Alberta Health 2014-17 Business Plan – Goal 3 - Albertans have enhanced access to high quality, appropriate, cost effective health care and support services

Alberta Health Outcomes and Measurement Framework

**Rationale**
Primary health care is the first place people go for health care or wellness advice and programs, treatment of a health issue or injury, or to diagnose and manage a health condition.

Attachment to a regular source of primary health care is associated with better preventive and chronic disease care, fewer ER visits and hospitalizations, and higher patient satisfaction with their care.

This measure is an important indicator of the accessibility of primary health care as provided by a medical doctor. The survey question that provides the data source for the measure (Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey) is being revised for 2015; the question will focus on access to health care provider rather than specifically to a physician which will improve the measure.

This measure identifies gaps and the disparity in access to primary health care and can help identify the existing barriers and strategies to ensure that primary health care programs and services are available to all Albertans.

**Notes for Interpretation**
The measure is based upon Statistics Canada estimates from the CCHS Master file and may vary slightly from CCHS Provincial Share File. These differences are quite small (less than one percentage point for most measures). Caution should be exercised when comparing the Alberta measure with the previously published Statistics Canada estimate. Many CCHS estimates produced by Statistics Canada prior to 2007 include question non-response in their denominators; these estimates have not been restated on the Statistics Canada website to be consistent with the current methodology of removing question non-response from the denominator.

The measure in this file represents proportions of the Alberta population during the survey cycle. They are not age or otherwise standardized. Caution should be exercised in interpreting changes in crude proportions over time.
Performance Measure Definition

Question Years:
Not all questions are asked in all years of CCHS. Questions and universes (those the question is posed to) change over time as there are improvements to the survey methodology. Certain questions are asked on a cyclical basis (every two or four years) and some questions are chosen for inclusion in a particular year by the provinces.

Weighting, Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals:
To account for variability due to the complex survey design, Statistics Canada provides 500 bootstrap weights with the provincial share file. These weights have been used in all analyses. The bootstrap method has been used for all directly estimated standard errors and confidence intervals. The design effect from a pooled bootstrapped estimate is used to adjust the weights and hence standard errors and confidence intervals in the small area estimates; the standard errors and confidence intervals also account for the random effects used to describe the small areas.

Organizational Strategy
Primary health care is delivered by Primary Care Networks (PCNs), Family Care Clinics (FCCs) and other physician offices. PCNs and FCCs are groups of family doctors and other health professionals that work together to coordinate the delivery of primary health care services for their patients. Both are expected to increase the proportion of Albertans with ready access to primary care, offer extended hours of service and to reduce the number of emergency department visits.

Benchmark Comparisons
The benchmark for Percentage of Population With a Regular Medical Doctor is not yet determined.
Percentage of Population With a Regular Medical Doctor for Canada is used for comparison. For example: the Percentage of the population with a regular medical doctor for Canada was 84.7% in 2011

Cited References
CIHI Indicator Library - Percentage of Population With a Regular Medical Doctor
Available at: http://indicatorlibrary.cihi.ca/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=1114249
Results for “Percentage of Population With a Regular Medical Doctor”
Available at: http://ourhealthsystem.ca/#/indicators/001/have-a-regular-doctor
Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2012, Health Care Utilization section
Available at: http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/instrument/3226_Q1_V9-eng.htm#a16
CANSIM table 105-0501, Statistics Canada
Available at: http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/COR-COR/cor?lang=eng&srcObjType=CST&srcObjId=health76a

Technical Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Preferred Display Format</th>
<th>Numerator</th>
<th>Inclusion Criteria for Numerator</th>
<th>Exclusion Criteria for Numerator</th>
<th>Data Source(s) for Numerator</th>
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<th>Denominator</th>
<th>Inclusion Criteria for Denominator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metric</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number of weighted Albertan survey respondents who reported having a regular medical doctor</td>
<td>12 years of age and over</td>
<td>People live on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the province</td>
<td>Canadian Community Health Survey</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Statistics Canada</td>
<td>Total number of weighted Albertan survey respondents</td>
<td>12 years of age and over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Performance Measure Definition

**Exclusion Criteria for Denominator**
- People live on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the province
- Full-time members of the Canadian Forces
- Non-response ("refusal," "don't know" and "not stated") are excluded as of 2009

**Data Source(s) for Denominator**
- Canadian Community Health Survey

**Refresh Rate for Denominator**
- Annually

**Data Steward for Denominator**
- Statistics Canada

**Technical Notes**
- Weighting Methodology from CCHS

**Calculation**

\[
\text{Percentage of Population With a Regular Medical Doctor} = \left( \frac{\text{Number of weighted Albertan survey respondents who reported having a regular medical doctor}}{\text{Total number of weighted Albertan survey respondents}} \right) \times 100\%
\]

**Relationship to Other Indicators**
- Not applicable

**Level of Reporting**
- National: No
- Provincial: Yes
- Zone: No
- Site: No

**Frequency of Reporting**
- Annually: Yes
- Quarterly: No
- Monthly: No
- Other: No

**Limitations**
- CCHS is a self-reported survey. Self-reported answers may be exaggerated and/or biased.
- Respondents’ answer can be influenced by their feeling at the moment they respond to the survey or by their general perception of this subject.