



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

John Abbott is misleading the public about the NLMA's polling numbers

For immediate release – October 21, 2021

St. John's, NL – Yesterday in the House of Assembly, John Abbott, Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development attempted to discredit the NLMA's polling data on the number of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who do not have a family doctor.

Mr. Abbott suggested the NLMA was the source of the data regarding 99,000 people of the province without a family doctor, and said it was merely a bargaining tactic for leverage over the government.

To counter the NLMA data, Mr. Abbott quoted 2019 data released by Statistics Canada, which showed that two years ago 12.5% of citizens of the province did not have a "regular health care provider". Statistics Canada collected this data using the Canadian Community Health Survey, which is a sample survey. That data is available [here](#).

Mr. Abbott is misleading in three respects:

First, the NLMA commissioned the survey but is not the source of the data. The survey was carried out by Narrative Research, a respected research company that uses a high-quality random sampling approach.

Second, the Statistics Canada survey occurred in 2019 whereas the Narrative Research survey was conducted in August 2021.

Third, the Statistics Canada survey measured a different concept. It was not investigating family doctors specifically, whereas Narrative Research focused solely on family doctors. Narrative Research defined family doctor as "the doctor you go to regularly for your general health care needs. This would exclude walk in clinics where you may see different doctors each time you visit."

Statistics Canada on the other hand, surveyed about a "regular health care provider", and [defined](#) that as a "health professional that a person sees or talks to when they need care or advice about their health. This can include a family doctor or general practitioner, medical specialist, or nurse practitioner."

Narrative Research did not poll Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about their access to a medical specialist or a nurse practitioner.

The Narrative Research poll found that 19% of the population did not have a family doctor, which equates to 98,905 people in a province of 520,553. The 2021 Narrative Research Survey data is provided below.

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NEWS RELEASE

THE ATLANTIC QUARTERLY® - SUMMER 2021

Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association

TABLE NM4:

A family doctor is the doctor you go to regularly for your general health care needs. This would exclude walk in clinics where you may see different doctors each time you visit. Do you currently have a family doctor?

	NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR %	REGION			GENDER		HH INCOME			AGE			EDUCATION	
		Avalon	Central/Eastern	Western/Labrador	M	F	L.T. \$50K	\$50- <\$100K	\$100K+	18- 34	35- 54	55+	High school (or less)	Post secondary (completed)
Yes, have family doctor	81	86	77	73	78	84	78	82	83	72	81	86	78	82
No, do not have family doctor	19	14	23	25	21	16	22	18	16	28	18	14	22	17
Don't know/No answer	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1
WEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE (#)	400	207	113	80	193	206	126	120	114	91	136	173	137	251
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE (#)	400	204	114	82	198	201	127	122	112	70	133	197	142	247



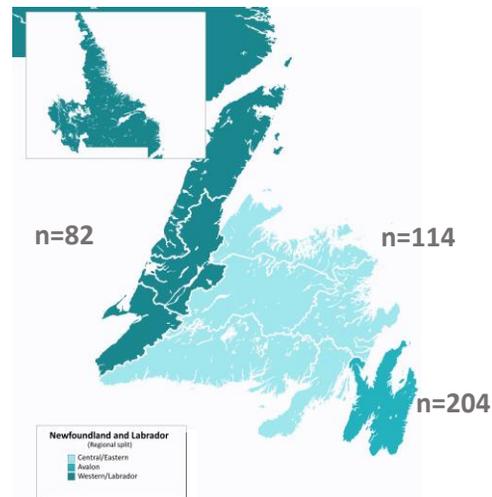
The following presents a brief snapshot of results for the questions commissioned by the **Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association** in the Summer 2021 Atlantic Quarterly®.
Details on the research methodology are provided below.

Key Highlights

- Overall, 81% of residents **currently have a family doctor** (on par with the 82% measured three months ago).
- The incidence of having a family doctor is slightly higher among those in the Avalon region (86%), compared to those in the Central/Eastern (77%) or Western/Labrador (73%) regions.
- It also increases with age (18-34: 72%, 35-54: 81%, 55+: 86%).

Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability telephone survey
Data Collection Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 9-29, 2021
Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random sample of 400 adults in Newfoundland and Labrador aged 18+ years
Margin of Error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall results are accurate to within ± 4.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Margins of error for sub-samples vary by size and are available upon request.

Regional Sample Distribution



Additional analysis including sub-group analysis, graphical presentation of results, advanced analyses, tracking where applicable, and interpretation of results is available upon request at an additional cost.

