

OUR HEALTH COUNTS

URBAN INDIGENOUS HEALTH DATABASE PROJECT

Tungasuvvingat Inuit

OUR HEALTH COUNTS
GOVERNING COUNCIL

O.F.I.F.C.

the Métis Nation of Ontario

Tungasuvvingat Inuit

ONTARIO NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

St. Michael's
Inspired Care.
Inspiring Science.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions to this project from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and St. Michael's Hospital

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O.F.I.F.C.

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We would like to acknowledge the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) who funded Dr. Janet Smylie with a New Investigators Award during the time she worked on this study.

OUR HEALTH COUNTS INUIT OTTAWA:

CHILDREN'S RESPECTFUL HEALTH SURVEY, DATA SUMMARY

Our Health Counts (OHC) projects aim to address gaps in health data for First Nations, Inuit and Metis (FNIM) people living in urban and related homelands. To date, OHC has successfully produced meaningful, culturally relevant health data for FNIM adults and children living in six Ontario cities: Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto, London, Thunder Bay, and Kenora.

The OHC Inuit Ottawa project was led by Tungasuvvingat Inuit, who worked with a research team led by Indigenous physician, Dr. Janet Smylie from the Well Living House at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto.

The goal of the OHC Inuit Ottawa project was to develop an Inuit-owned baseline population health database for Inuit residing in Ottawa. Comprehensive and inclusive health data, like that created by OHC Inuit Ottawa, is critical to providing insight into our urban communities' size, health, and wellbeing. This data can be used to inform and address local priorities.

Child surveys were completed by OHC Inuit Ottawa adult survey participants who were parents or custodial relatives/guardians of children under the age of 18, who resided with them, and were under their care.

In total, 159 OHC Inuit Ottawa child surveys were completed. Data collection took place during 2010.

This data summary shares the findings from the Inuit child surveys. The findings represent health determinants, health status and health service access experiences for the population of Inuit children in Ottawa.

This project was funded by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Indigenous Health Transition Fund, and the Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital.

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Reading the Graphs

*What Do the Whiskers on a Bar Graph Represent?

The whiskers on a bar graph represent the 95% CI (confidence interval). The top (or far right) of the whisker represents the upper bound and the bottom (or far left) of the whisker represents the lower bound of the confidence interval.

When the whiskers overlap across groups, this means that there is no statistically significant difference across the groups in the population. Using gender (Figure 2) as an example, we see the whiskers in the graph overlap. This means that we cannot conclude that there is a significant difference in the proportion (%) of females and males among the population of Inuit children living in Ottawa.

What is a 95% CI?

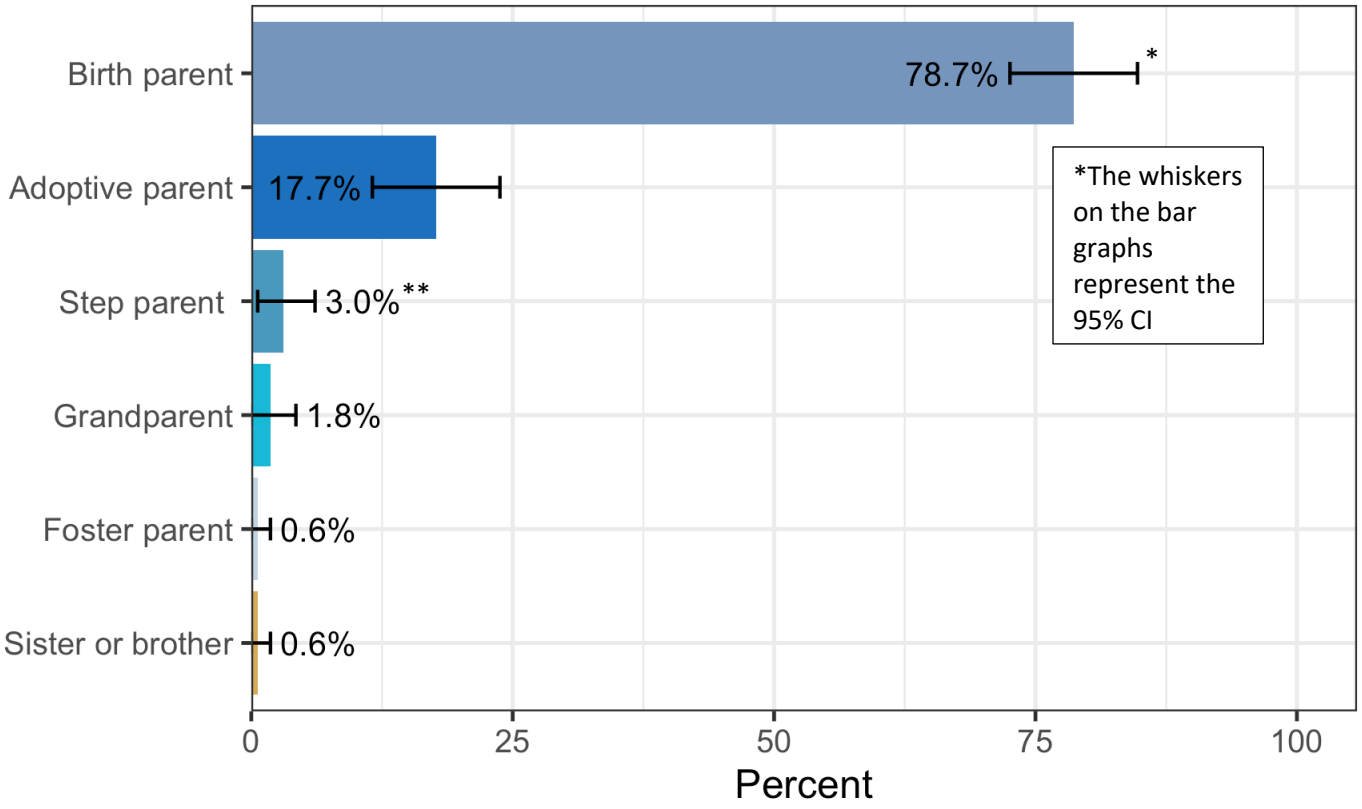
The 95% CI is the "confidence interval" used in sampling statistics. We use a 95% confidence interval because it is difficult, and often impossible, to study every single person in a population. Instead, we use what is called a "sample". In OHC Inuit Ottawa, we used a sample, rather than find every single Inuit person living in the Ottawa area. **This sample should be representative of the entire child population we are surveying.**

To help us understand how well we did in understanding the entire population of Inuit children living in Ottawa, we use what is called a 95% confidence interval in sampling statistics. **Using the OHC population "sample" we create an estimate of what is happening in the entire population.**

The upper and lower values of the "confidence interval" mean that if the study was repeated multiple times, the true estimate would be within this range. For example in Figure 3, we see that 56.7% of Inuit children in Ottawa speak Inuktitut in their day-to-day lives, with a 95% CI: 48.8-64.0 (see Appendices, page 19). That means that if the OHC Inuit Ottawa study was repeated multiple times, the true estimate of Inuktitut speaking children in Ottawa would be somewhere between 48.8% and 64.0%.

PERSONAL

Figure 1: What is your relationship to the child?



***The percentage indicated on the outside of the bars represents the estimated proportion of children, as does the percentage inside the bars. The number is placed outside the bar when space is limited on the graph. The vertical lines on the whiskers represent the upper and lower bounds of the confidence interval.*

Figure 2: Is your child male or female?

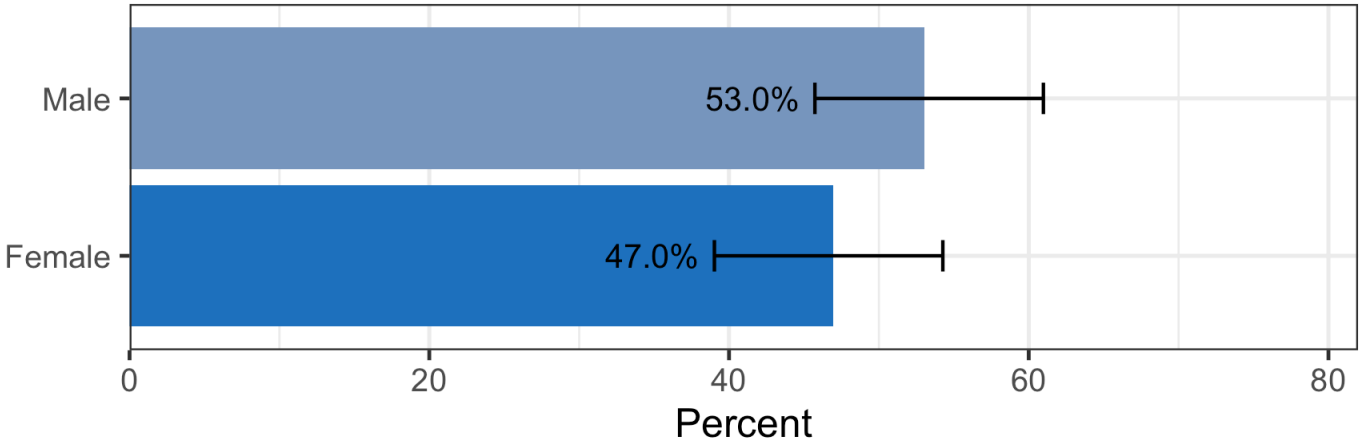
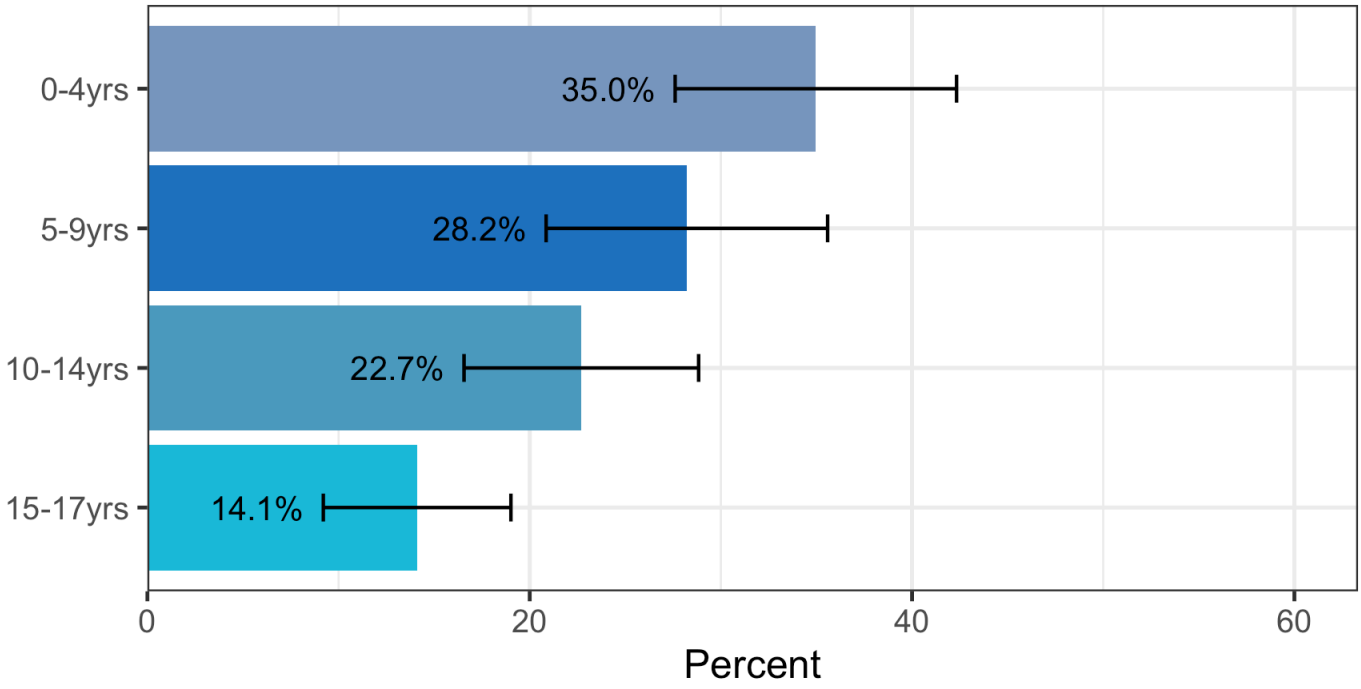


Figure 3: How old is your child?



LANGUAGE

Figure 4: What language(s) does the child use in their day-to-day life? (check up to 3 responses)

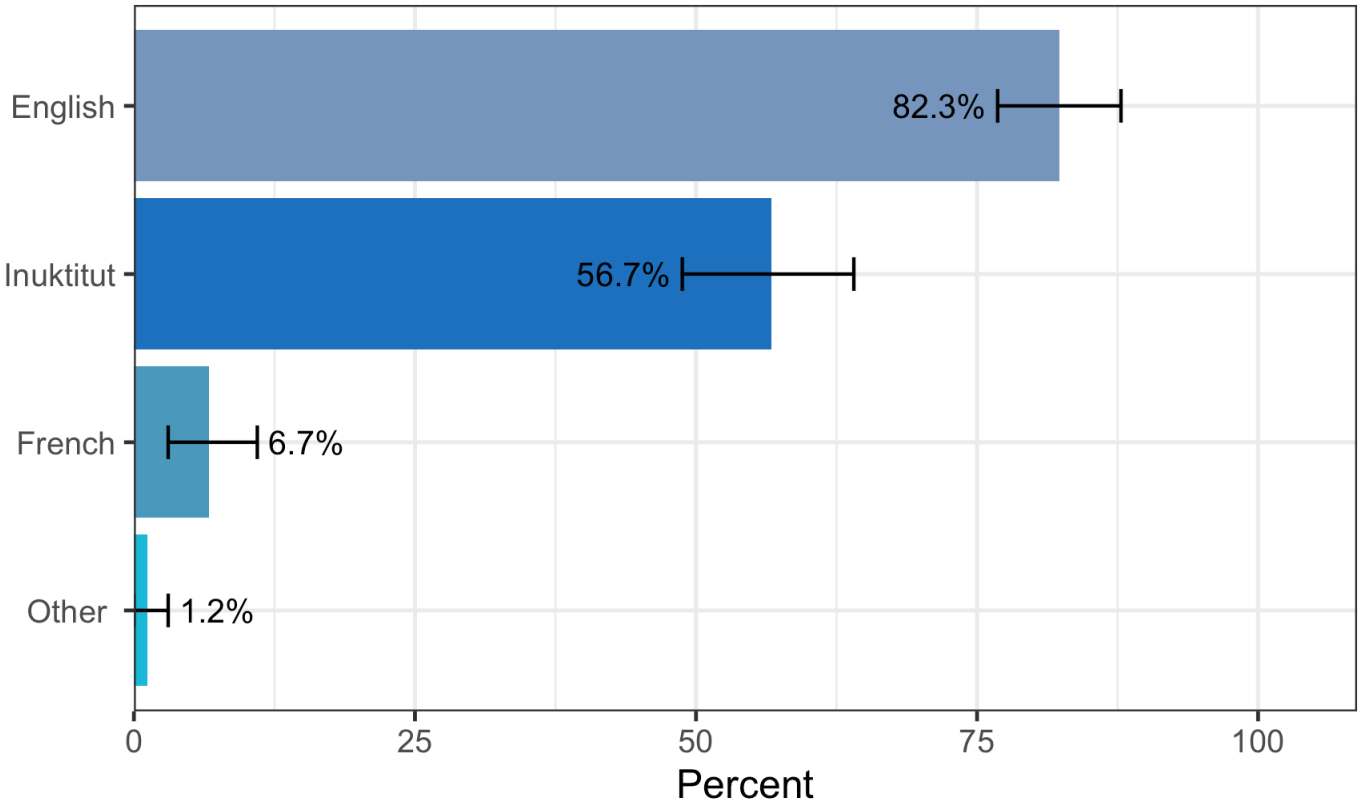


Figure 5: Can the child understand or speak Inuktitut?

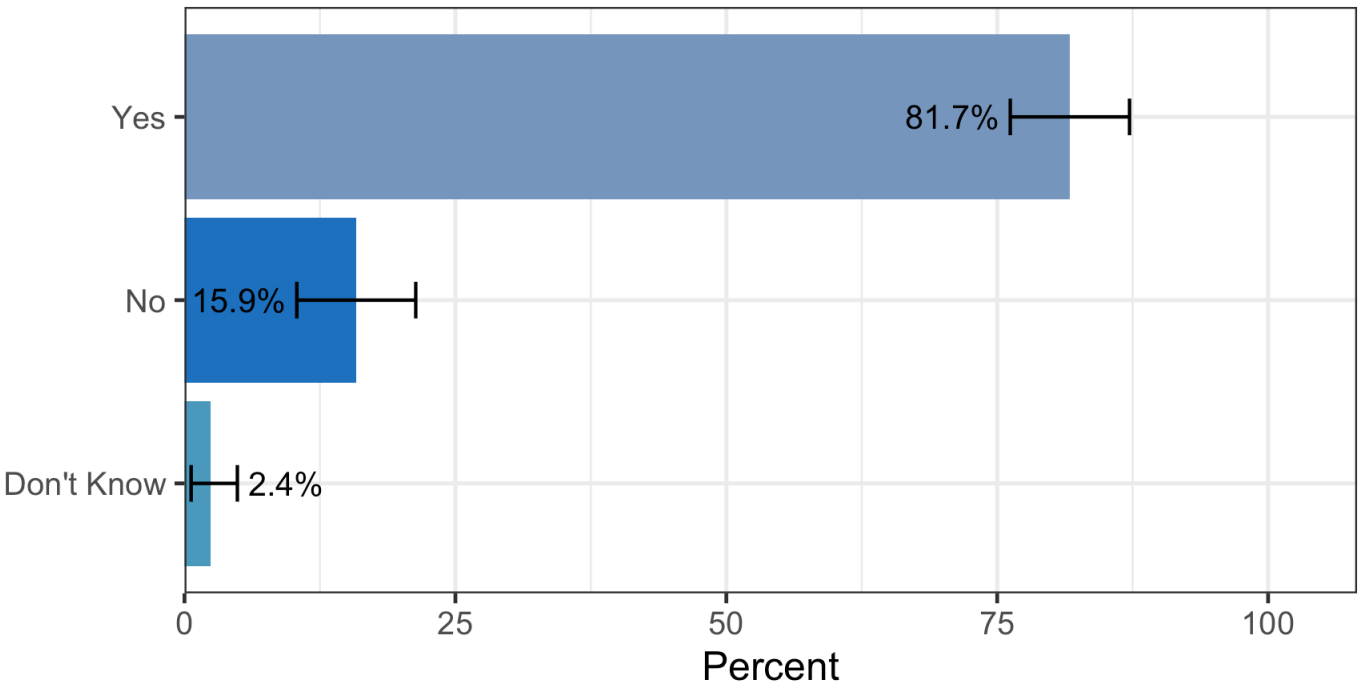
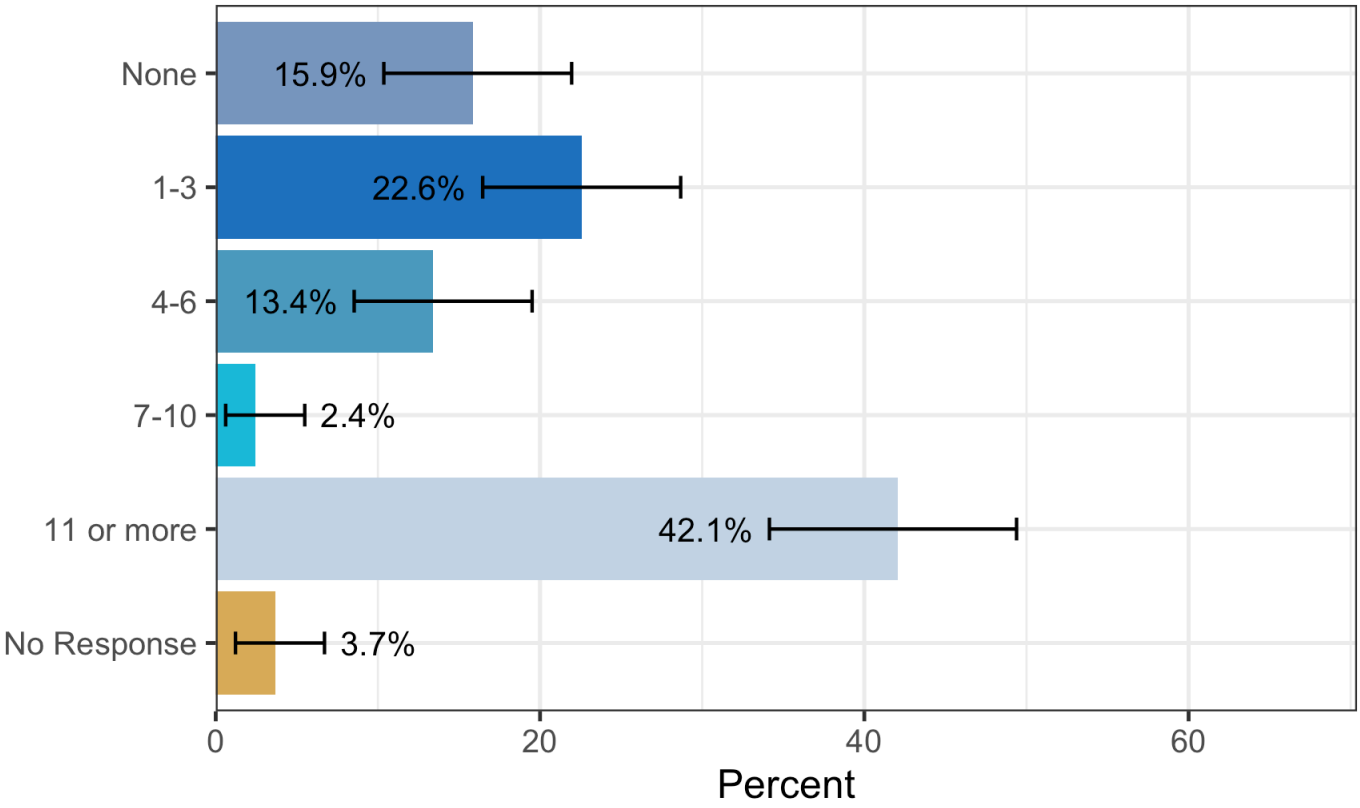


Figure 6: How many times per year does your child attend traditional Inuit cultural events?



GENERAL HEALTH

Figure 7: Does the child live in a smoke-free home?

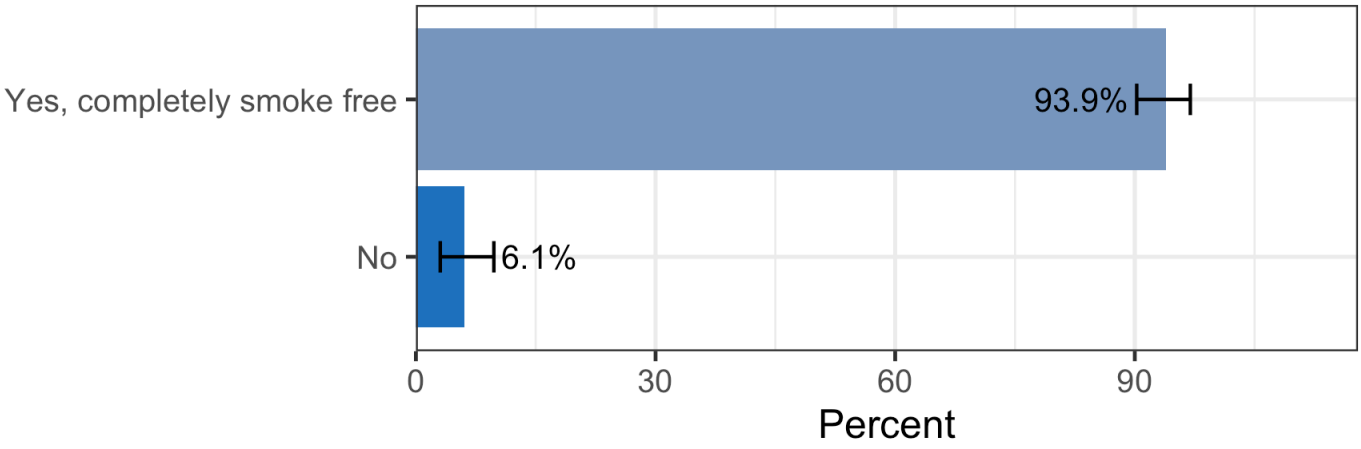


Figure 8: In general, would you say that the child's health is:

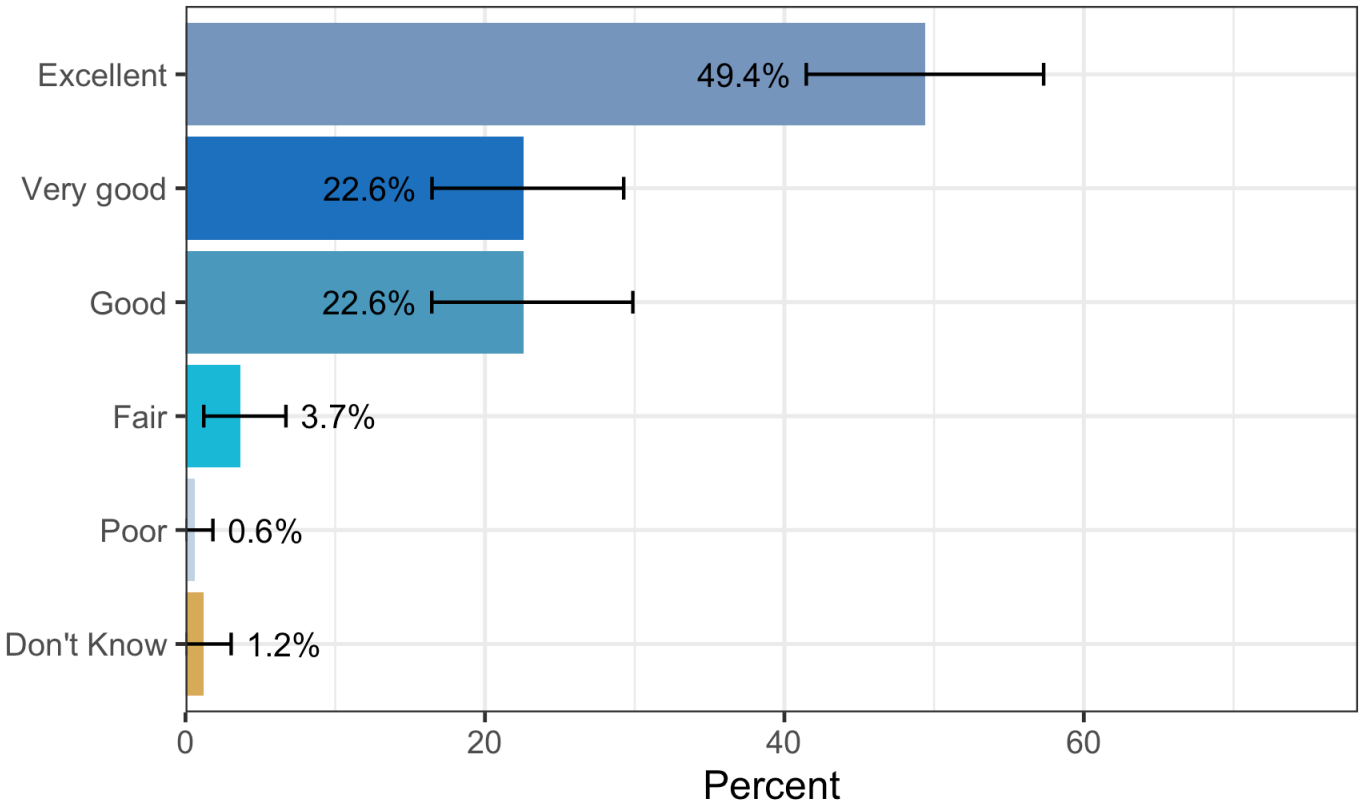
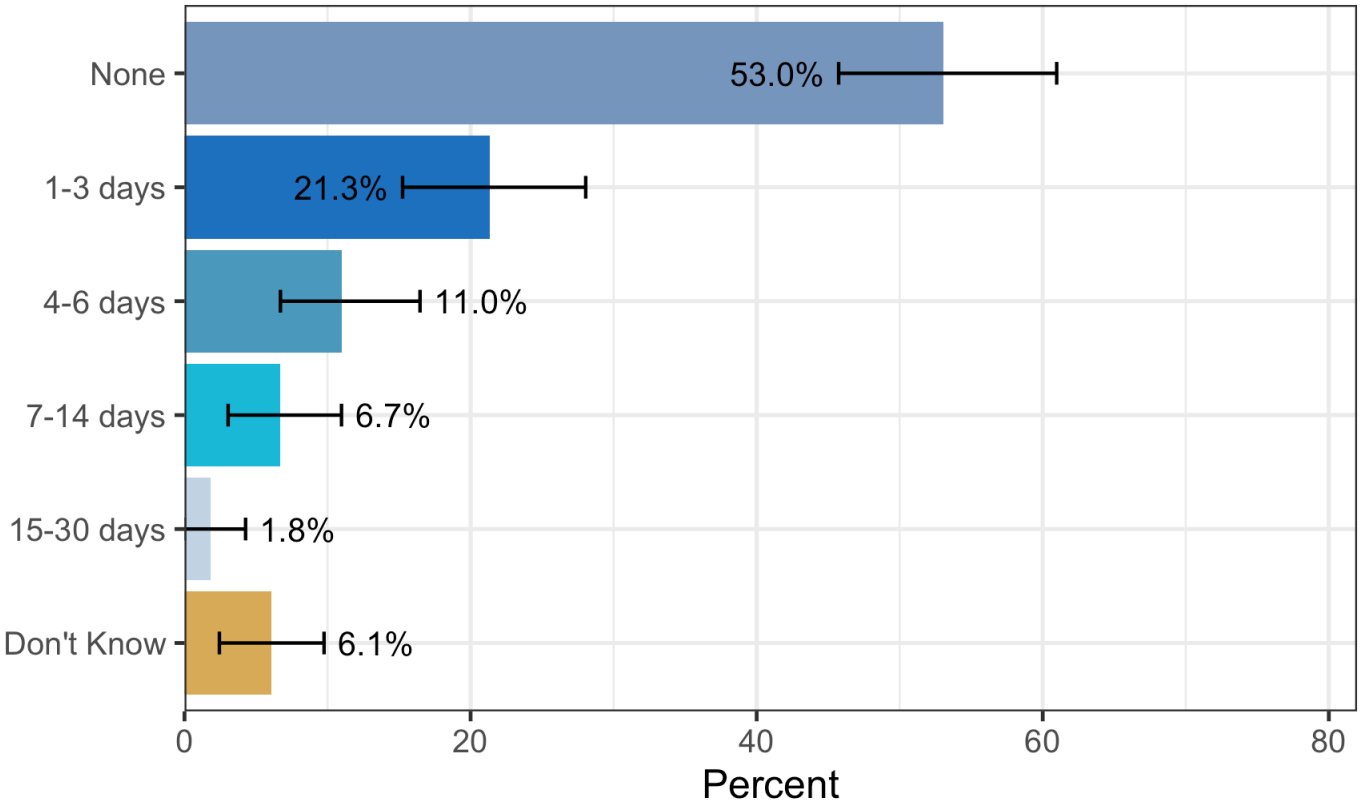
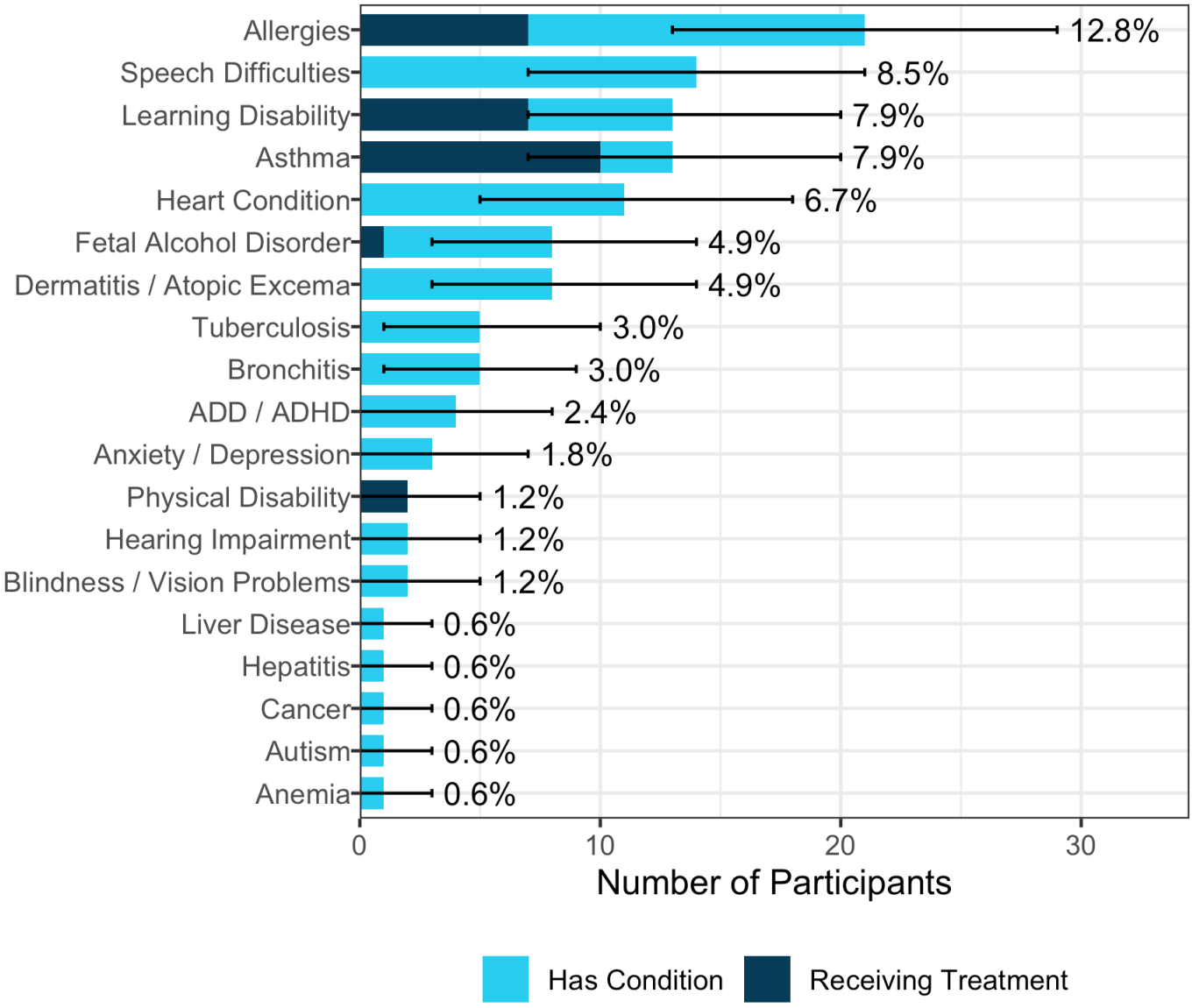


Figure 9: Over the past 30 days, on how many days has the child had a cough?



HEALTH CONDITIONS

Figure 10: Have you been told by a health care professional that the child has any of the following health conditions*? If yes, is the child currently undergoing treatment(s) or taking medication(s) for these conditions?



**Conditions have lasted at least 6 months or are expected to last at least 6 months*

Figure 11: Since birth, has the child ever had an ear infection?

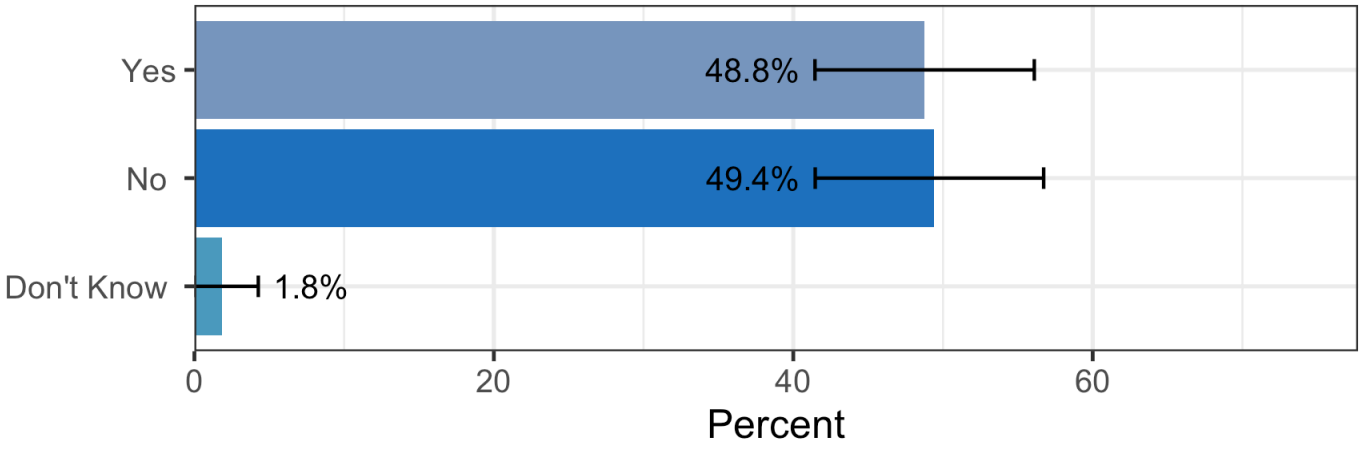
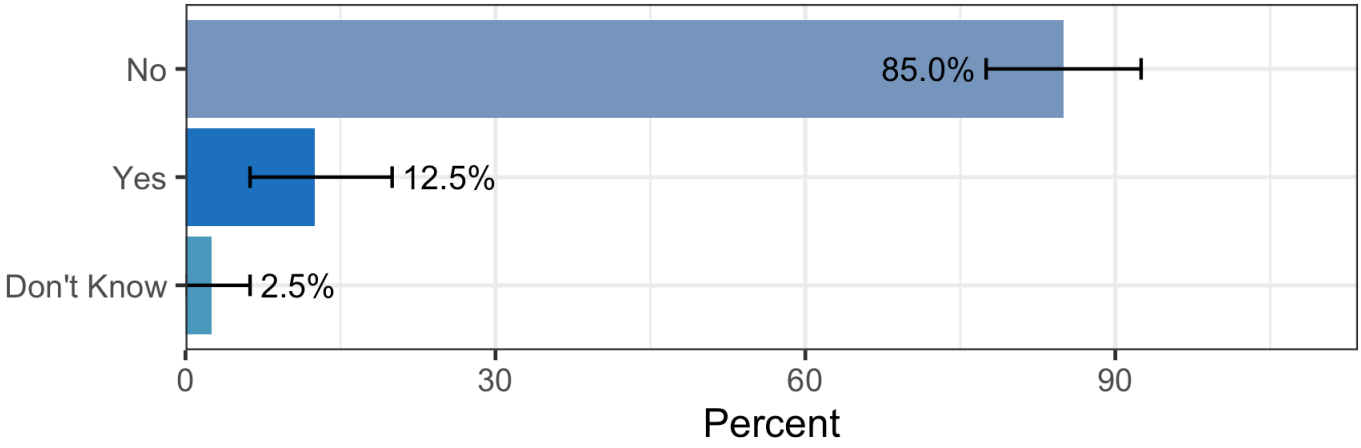
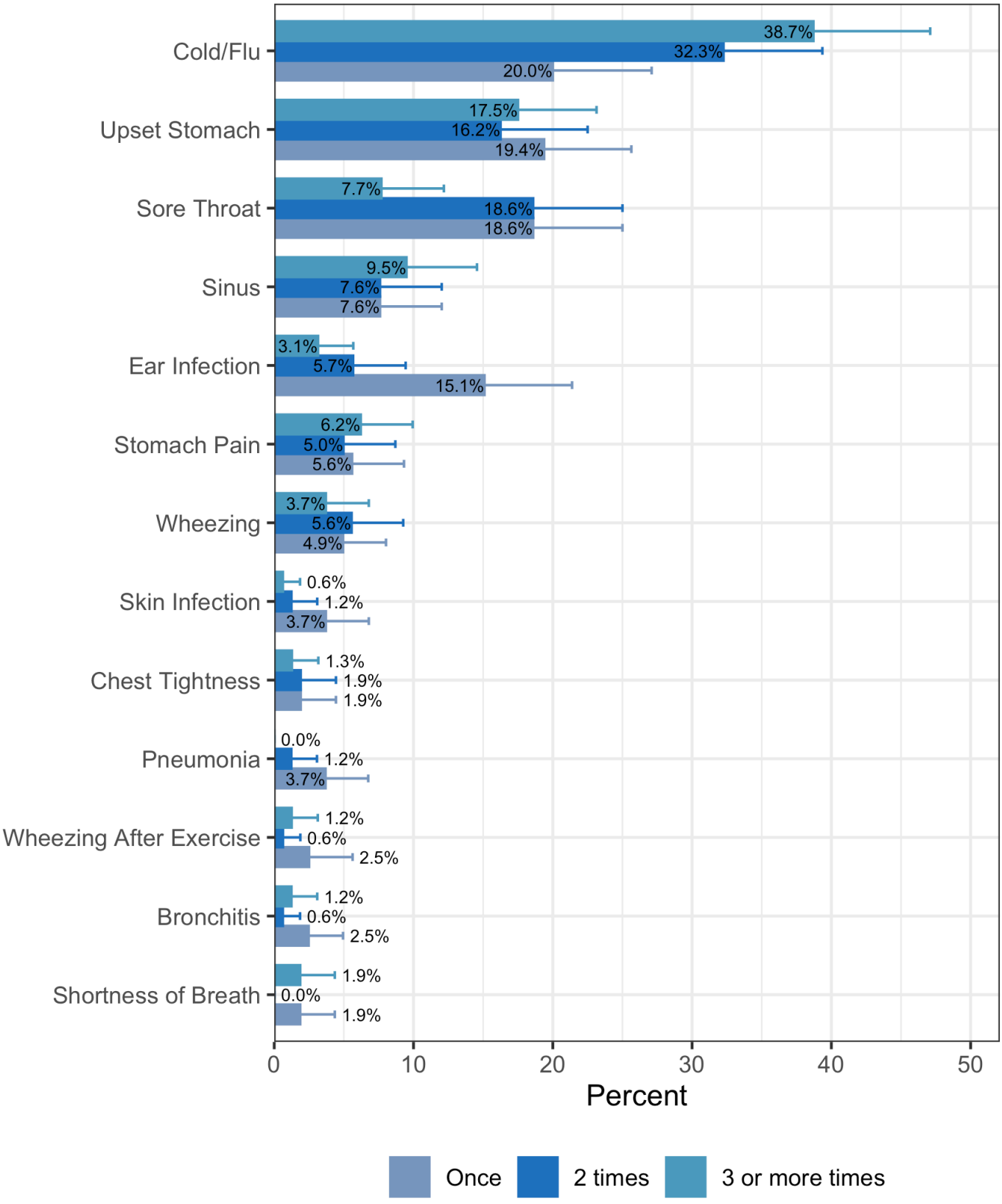


Figure 12: If yes, have you been told by a health care professional that the child has chronic ear infections or ear problems*?



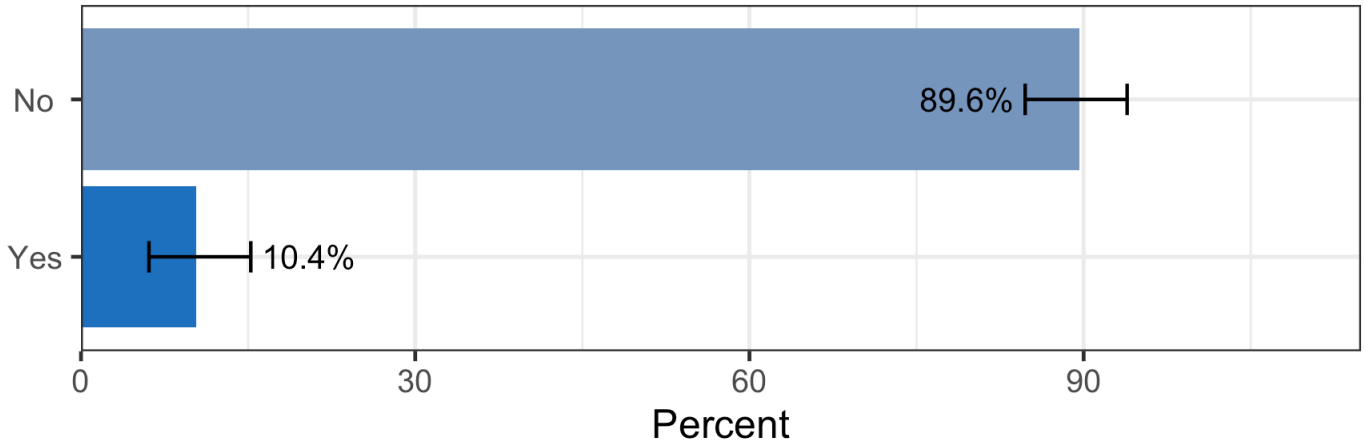
**Chronic ear infections happen frequently and/or last a long time*

Figure 13: In the past 12 Months, how many times did the child have…?



INJURY

Figure 14: Has the child required medical attention for a serious injury in the last 12 months?



ACCESS

Figure 15: Has your child seen a family doctor, general practitioner or pediatrician in the past 12 months?

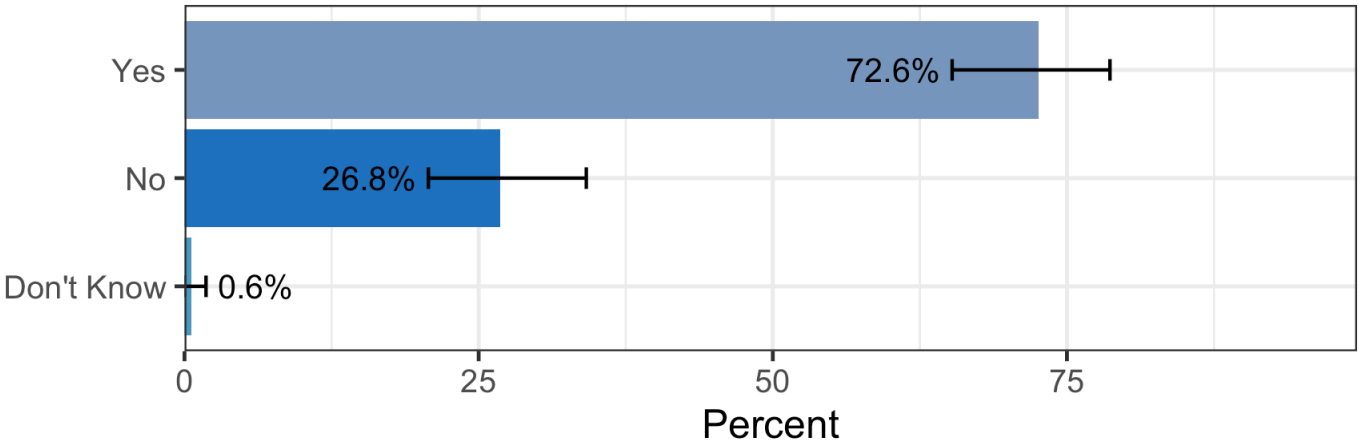


Figure 16: Has your child seen a dentist, dental therapist, or orthodontist in the past 12 months?

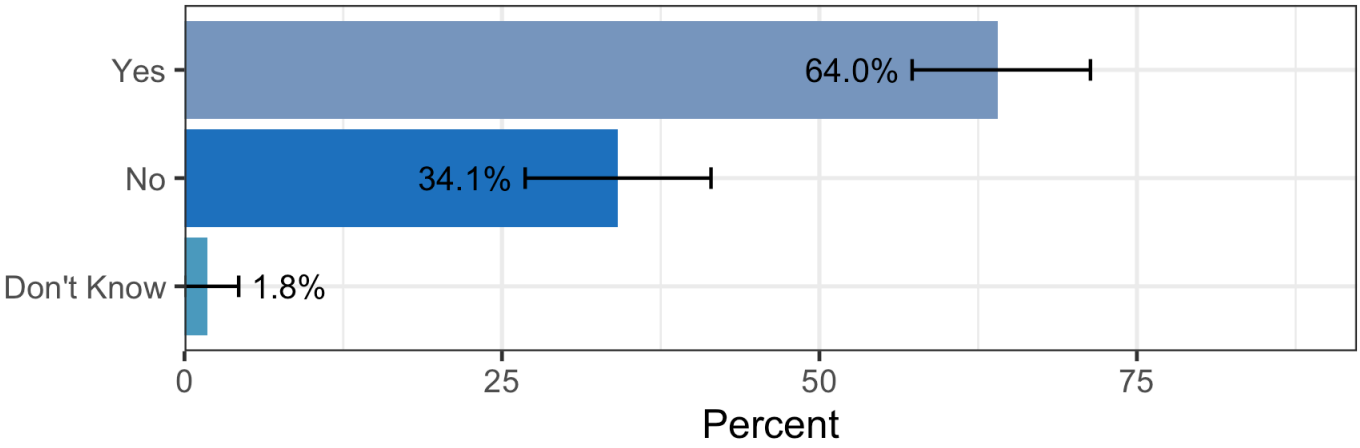


Figure 17: During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to receiving health care for the child?

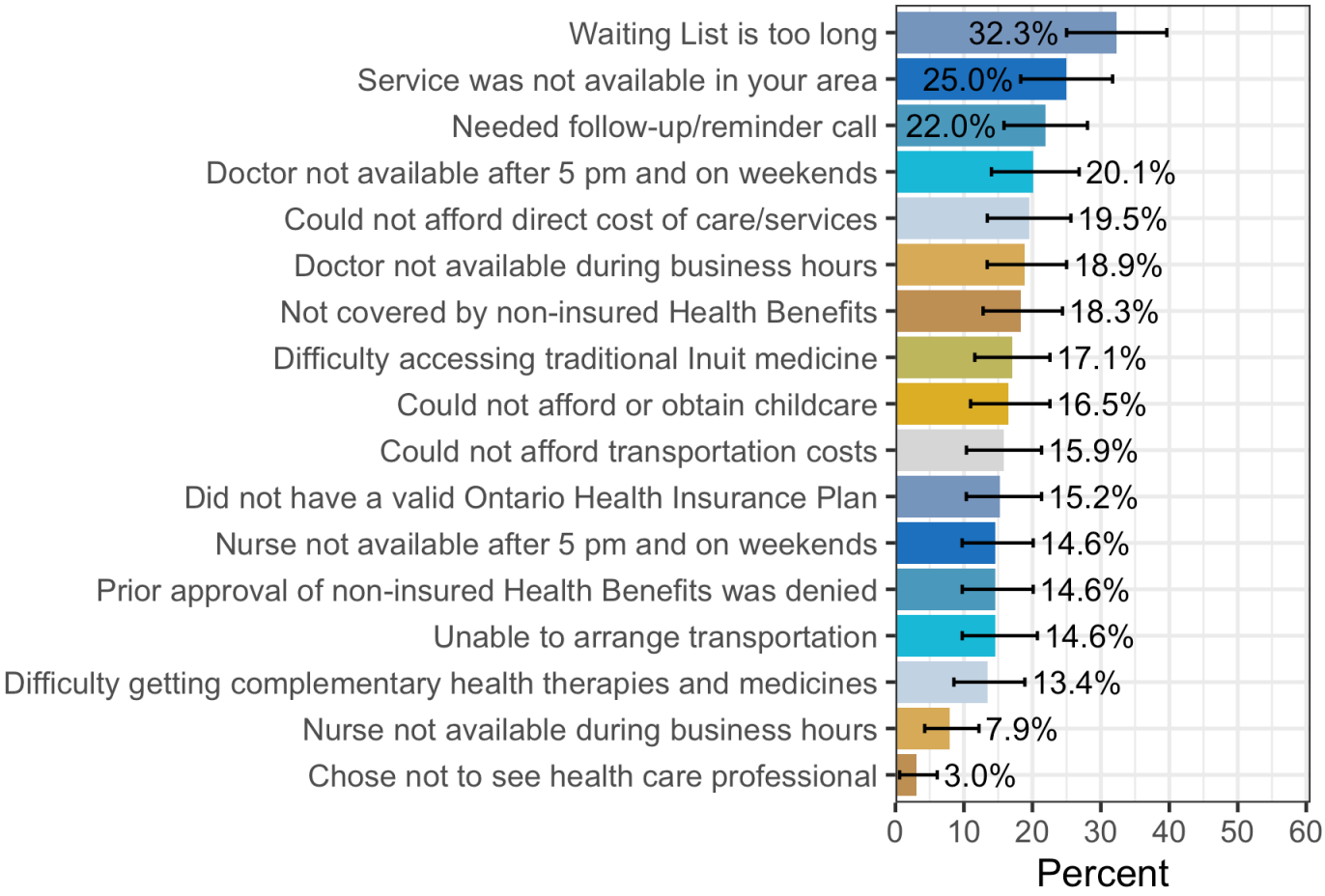
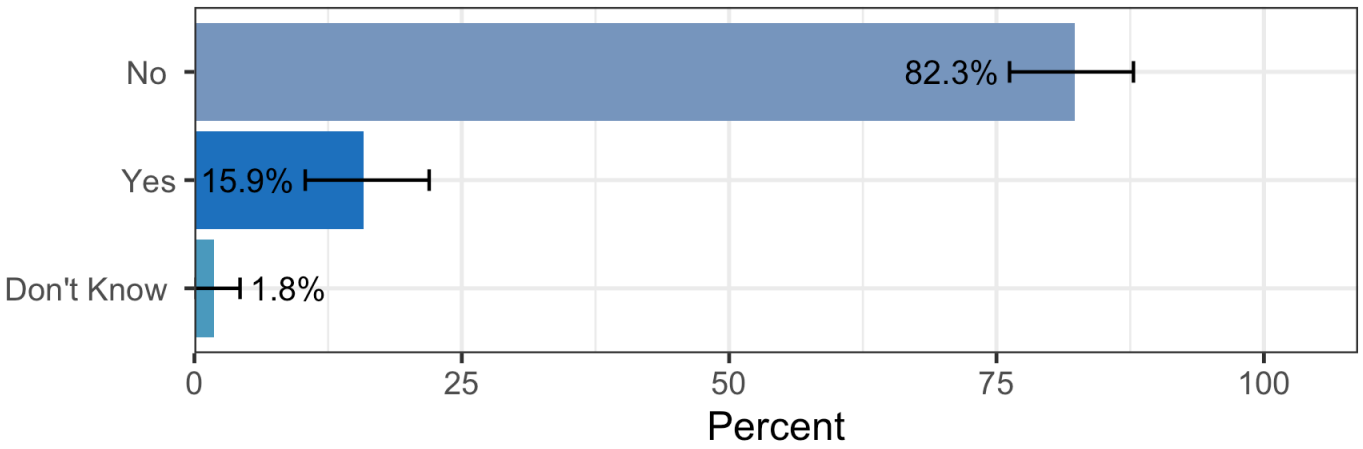


Figure 18: Has your child been referred to see a specialist in the past 12 months?



CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS

Figure 19: Has the child received their routine (regular) vaccinations/immunizations?

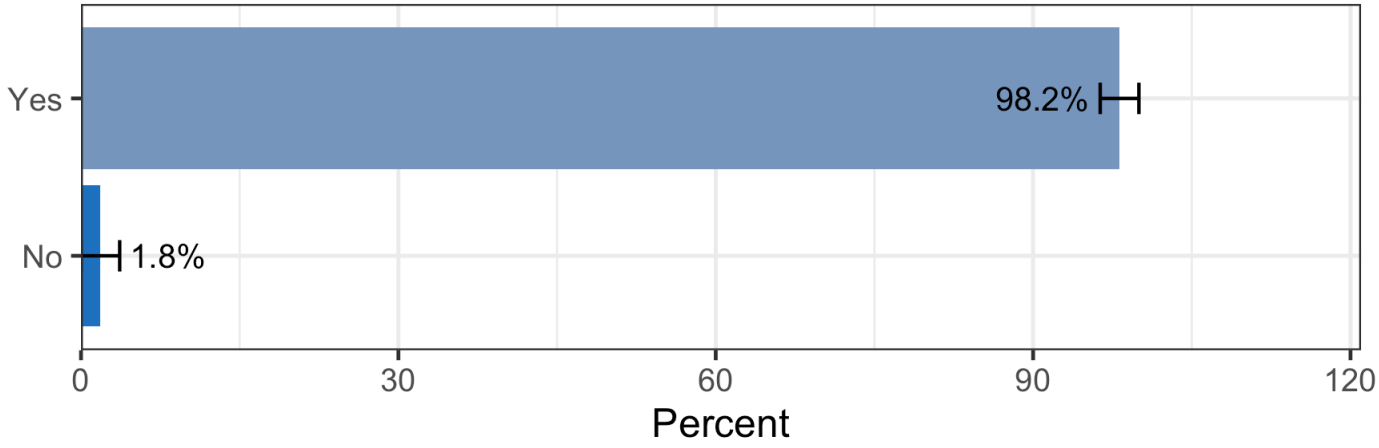
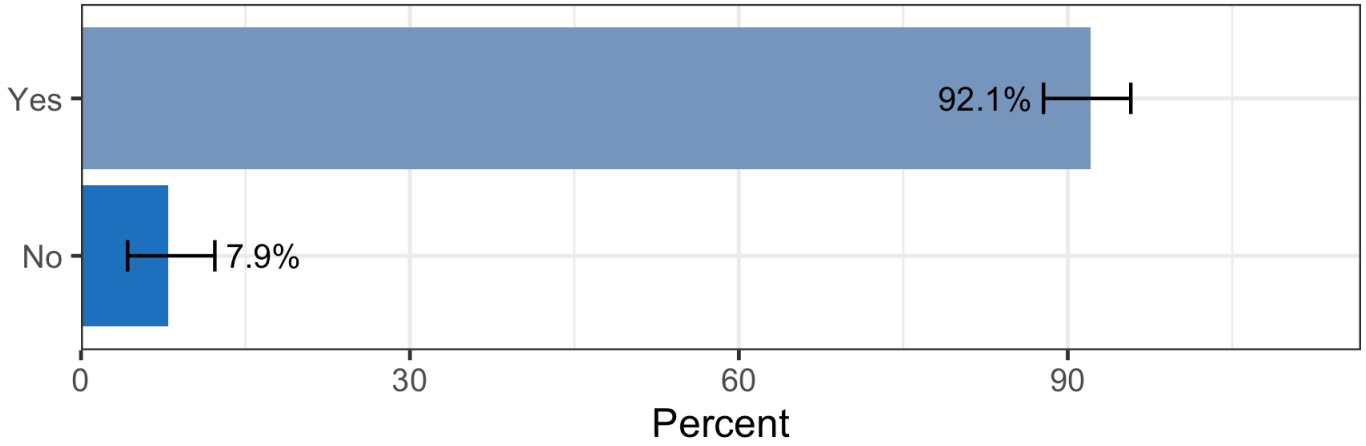


Figure 20: Is the child up to date on their routine (regular) vaccinations/immunizations?



OHC INUIT OTTAWA CHILD SURVEY REFERENCE

A community-driven health survey for Inuit people in Ottawa

PERSONAL

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
What is your relationship to the child? (Check all that apply)	
Birth parent	78.7% (72.6, 84.8)
Grandparent	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)
Stepparent (including common-law stepparent)	3.0% (0.6, 6.1)
Sister or brother	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Adoptive parent	17.7% (11.6, 23.8)
Foster parent	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Is your child male or female?	
Male	53.0% (45.7, 61.0)
Female	47.0% (39.0, 54.3)
How old is your child?	
0-4 years	35.0% (27.6, 42.3)
5-9 years	28.2% (20.9, 35.6)
10-14 years	22.7% (16.6, 28.8)
15-17 years	14.1% (9.2, 19.0)

LANGUAGE

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
What language does the child use in their day-to-day life?	
Inuktitut	56.7% (48.8, 64.0)
French	6.7% (3.0, 11.0)
English	82.3% (76.8, 87.8)
Other	1.2% (0.0, 3.0)
Can the child understand or speak Inuktitut?	
Yes	81.7% (76.2, 87.2)
No	15.9% (10.4, 21.3)
Don't Know	2.4% (0.6, 4.9)
How many times per year does your child attend traditional Inuit cultural events	
None	15.9% (10.4, 22.0)
1-3	22.6% (16.5, 28.7)
4-6	13.4% (8.5, 19.5)
7-10	2.4% (0.6, 5.5)
11 or more	42.1% (34.1, 49.4)
No Response	3.7% (1.2, 6.7)

GENERAL HEALTH

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Does the child live in a smoke-free home?	
Yes, completely smoke free	93.9% (90.2, 97.0)
No	6.1% (3.0, 9.8)
In general, would you say that the child's health is:	
Excellent	49.4% (41.5, 57.3)
Very good	22.6% (16.5, 29.3)
Good	22.6% (16.4, 29.9)
Fair	3.7% (1.2, 6.7)
Poor	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Don't Know	1.2% (0.0, 3.0)
Over the past 30 days, on how many days has the child had a cough?	
None	53.0% (45.7, 61.0)
1-3 days	21.3% (15.2, 28.0)
4-6 days	11.0% (6.7, 16.5)
7-14 days	6.7% (3.0, 11.0)
15-30 days	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)
Don't Know	6.1% (2.4, 9.8)

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Have you been told by a health care professional that the child has any of the following health conditions (conditions that have lasted at least 6 months or are expected to last at least 6 months)..?	
Allergies	12.8% (7.9, 17.7)
Anemia	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Anxiety/Depression	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)
Asthma	7.9% (4.3, 12.2)
Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder	2.4% (0.0, 4.9)
Autism	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Blindness or serious vision problems	1.2% (0.0, 3.0)
Cancer	0.6% (0.6, 1.8)
Chronic Bronchitis	3.0% (0.6, 5.5)
Dermatitis, atopic excema	4.9% (1.8, 8.5)
Diabetes	0.0% (0.0, 0.0)
Fetal Alcohol Disorder (FASD, FASE, FAS)	4.9% (1.8, 8.5)
Hearing impairment	1.2% (0.0, 3.0)
Heart Condition	6.7% (3.0, 11.0)
Hepatitis	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Liver Disease other than infectious hepatitis (i.e. liver blockage, auto immune)	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Kidney Disease	0.0% (0.0, 0.0)
Learning Disability	7.9% (4.3, 12.2)
Speech/Language difficulties	8.5% (4.3, 12.8)
Physical Disability (other than visual and/or hearing impairment)	1.2% (0.0, 3.0)
Tuberculosis	3.0% (0.6, 6.1)
Since birth, has the child ever had an ear infection?	
Yes	48.8% (41.4, 56.1)
No	49.4% (41.5, 56.7)
Don't Know	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)
If yes, have you been told by a health care professional that the child has chronic ear infections or ear problems? (Chronic ear infections happen frequently and/or last a long time)	
Yes	12.5% (6.2, 20.0)
No	85.0% (77.5, 92.5)
Don't Know	2.5% (0.0, 6.2)
In the past 12 months, how many times did the child have…	

A cold or flu?	
None	9.0% (4.5, 13.6)
Once	20.0% (13.5, 27.1)
2 times	32.3% (25.2, 39.4)
3 or more times	38.7% (30.3, 47.1)
Sinus trouble or sinusitis?	
None	75.3% (69.0, 82.3)
Once	7.6% (3.8, 12.0)
2 times	7.6% (3.8, 12.0)
3 or more times	9.5% (5.1, 14.6)
A sore throat or tonsillitis?	
None	55.1% (46.8, 63.5)
Once	18.6% (12.8, 25.0)
2 times	18.6% (12.8, 25.0)
3 or more times	7.7% (3.8, 12.2)
An ear infection?	
None	76.1% (69.2, 83.0)
Once	15.1% (10.1, 21.4)
2 times	5.7% (2.5, 9.4)
3 or more times	3.1% (0.6, 5.7)
Upset stomach with vomiting or diarrhea or fever? :	
None	46.9% (38.8, 53.8)
Once	19.4% (13.8, 25.6)
2 times	16.2% (11.2, 22.5)
3 or more times	17.5% (11.9, 23.1)
Stomach pain other than vomiting or diarrhea or fever?	
None	83.2% (76.4, 89.4)
Once	5.6% (2.5, 9.3)
2 times	5.0% (1.9, 8.7)
3 or more times	6.2% (3.1, 9.9)
Bronchitis?	
None	95.7% (92.0, 98.8)
Once	2.5% (0.6, 4.9)
2 times	0.6% (0.0, 1.9)
3 or more times	1.2% (0.0, 3.1)
A skin infection?	
None	94.4% (90.7, 98.1)
Once	3.7% (1.2, 6.8)
2 times	1.2% (0.0, 3.1)
3 or more times	0.6% (0.0, 1.9)
Pneumonia?	
None	95.1% (91.4, 98.2)
Once	3.7% (1.2, 6.7)

2 times	1.2% (0.0, 3.1)
Medications	
Yes, the child takes antibiotics	6.7% (3.0, 11.0)
Yes, the child takes vitamins	37.2% (29.9, 44.5)
Yes, the child takes traditional medicines	4.9% (1.8, 8.5)

INJURY

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Has the child required medical attention for a serious injury in the last 12 months?	
Yes	10.4% (6.1, 15.2)
No	89.6% (84.8, 93.9)

ACCESS

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Has your child seen a family doctor, general practitioner or pediatrician in the past 12 months?	
Yes	72.6% (65.2, 78.7)
No	26.8% (20.7, 34.1)
Don't Know	0.6% (0.0, 1.8)
Has your child seen a dentist, dental therapist, or orthodontist in the past 12 months?	
Yes	64.0% (57.3, 71.3)
No	34.1% (26.8, 41.5)
Don't Know	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)
During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to receiving health care for the child?	
Doctor not available during business hours	18.9% (13.4, 25.0)
Doctor not available after 5 pm and on weekends	20.1% (14.0, 26.8)
Nurse not available during business hours	7.9% (4.3, 12.2)
Nurse not available after 5 pm and on weekends	14.6% (9.7, 20.1)
Waiting List is too long	32.3% (25.0, 39.6)
Unable to arrange transportation	14.6% (9.8, 20.7)
Difficulty getting complementary health therapies and medicines (ie. acupuncture, herbal medicines)	13.4% (8.5, 18.9)
Difficulty accessing traditional Inuit medicine	17.1% (11.6, 22.6)
Not covered by non-insured Health Benefits(NIHB) ie. service, medication, equipment	18.3% (12.8, 24.4)
Prior approval of non-insured Health Benefits was denied	14.6% (9.8, 20.1)
Could not afford direct cost of care/services	19.5% (13.4, 25.6)
Could not afford transportation costs	15.9% (10.4, 21.3)
Could not afford or obtain childcare	16.5% (11.0, 22.6)
Did not have a valid Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) card for child	15.2% (10.4, 21.3)
Needed follow-up/reminder call	22.0% (15.9, 28.0)
Chose not to see health care professional	3.0% (0.6, 6.1)
Service was not available in your area	25.0% (18.3, 31.7)
Has your child been referred to see a specialist in the past 12 months?	
Yes	15.9% (10.4, 22.0)
No	82.3% (76.2, 87.8)
Don't Know	1.8% (0.0, 4.3)

CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Has the child received their routine (regular) vaccinations/immunizations?	
Yes	98.2% (96.3, 100.0)
No	1.8% (0.0, 3.7)
Is the child up to date on their routine (regular) vaccinations/immunizations?	
Yes	92.1% (87.8, 95.7)
No	7.9% (4.3, 12.2)