Citizens who reported that it is always or usually hard to understand written information about a medical condition or a prescription

Unit:%

	Year 2020	Year 2017	Year 2014	Year 2011
Province				
New Brunswick	12.3	9.3	9.4	13.5
Health zones				
Zone 1 - Moncton and South-East Area	13.0	10.0	10.3	13.8
Zone 2 - Fundy Shore and Saint John Area	10.7	8.3	7.7	13.0
Zone 3 - Fredericton and River Valley Area	11.3	7.2	8.0	11.7
Zone 4 - Madawaska and North-West Area	11.8	11.6	11.3	16.6
Zone 5 - Restigouche Area	15.2	9.9	13.2	11.8
Zone 6 - Bathurst and Acadian Peninsula Area	14.5	10.2	11.2	16.5
Zone 7 - Miramichi Area	13.1	14.7	9.8	13.3
Communities				
Bathurst, Beresford, Petit-Rocher Area	14.7	9.5	10.2	17.2
Bouctouche, Richibucto, Saint-Antoine Area	10.5	15.8	16.7	19.8
Campbellton, Atholville, Tide Head Area	17.2	11.6	12.3	9.3
Caraquet, Paquetville, Bertrand Area	12.2	11.2	13.4	14.1
Dalhousie, Balmoral, Belledune Area	13.2	8.3	14.0	14.1
Dieppe and Memramcook	10.1	8.9	7.4	10.1
Douglas, Saint Marys, Doaktown Area	8.4	8.2	10.2	12.0
Edmundston, Rivière-Verte, Lac Baker Area	12.1	10.8	11.0	15.3
Florenceville-Bristol, Woodstock, Wakefield Area	10.9	7.5	9.8	11.5
Fredericton	10.3	6.0	7.2	10.3
Grand Bay-Westfield, Westfield, Greenwich Area	14.2	6.4	5.3	10.9



	Year 2020	Year 2017	Year 2014	Year 2011
Grand Falls, Saint-Léonard, Drummond Area	13.3	14.0	11.0	19.3
Hillsborough, Riverside-Albert, Alma Area	10.4	4.3	7.0	15.8
Kedgwick, Saint-Quentin and Grimmer	6.2	9.1	13.9	15.6
Minto, Chipman, Cambridge-Narrows Area	14.4	7.2	10.5	13.5
Miramichi, Rogersville, Blackville Area	12.4	14.4	8.6	12.6
Moncton	13.9	10.1	10.0	13.2
Nackawic, McAdam, Canterbury Area	13.6	10.9	8.3	12.7
Neguac, Alnwick, Esgenoopetitj Area	17.0	16.4	14.9	16.2
New Maryland, Kingsclear, Lincoln Area	9.8	6.2	4.5	13.6
Oromocto, Gagetown, Fredericton Junction Area	14.4	6.5	7.6	8.0
Perth-Andover, Plaster Rock, Tobique Area	15.3	11.1	10.6	14.3
Quispamsis, Rothesay, Hampton Area	10.0	7.4	5.6	9.4
Riverview and Coverdale	8.7	8.0	5.4	10.9
Sackville, Dorchester, Port Elgin Area	15.0	7.7	6.1	16.5
Saint John, Simonds and Musquash	10.7	7.9	7.0	12.9
Salisbury and Petitcodiac	17.0	8.9	8.3	17.2
Shediac, Beaubassin East and Cap-Pelé	16.4	10.8	15.5	14.1
Shippagan, Lamèque, Inkerman Area	16.8	8.2	12.0	16.1
St. George, Grand Manan, Blacks Harbour Area	8.2	12.8	12.1	16.5
St. Stephen, Saint Andrews, Campobello Island Area	9.8	12.3	10.2	15.8
Sussex, Norton, Sussex Corner Area	12.3	6.9	10.7	16.4
Tracadie and Saint-Isidore	14.2	11.9	10.4	17.6
Age				
18-64	11.9	8.4	8.5	12.5

Data downloaded from the NBHC website on July 26, 2025 More information available at: https://nbhc.ca/indicators/ph_lit01_1



	Year 2020	Year 2017	Year 2014	Year 2011
65 and over	13.1	12.3	13.0	18.3
Sex at birth				
Female	10.7	7.9	8.9	11.9
Male	13.7	10.9	10.0	15.4
Sexual identity				
Minority sexual identity	12.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heterosexual	12.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Language				
Preferred language of service: English	12.5	9.0	8.9	13.0
Preferred language of service: French	11.7	9.9	10.6	14.5
Indigenous identity				
Indigenous	12.9	11.1	16.5	20.4
Non-Indigenous	12.1	9.3	9.1	13.3
Immigrant				
Immigrants	13.3	10.9	n/a	n/a
Non-immigrants	12.1	9.3	n/a	n/a
Education level				
High school or less	16.8	13.9	13.8	18.5
Postsecondary	9.6	6.3	6.7	9.8
Household income				
Less than \$25,000	17.9	15.1	17.7	18.4
\$25,000 to less than \$60,000	13.0	10.1	10.3	14.9
\$60,000 or more	8.9	5.6	5.1	9.5

Data downloaded from the NBHC website on July 26, 2025 More information available at: https://nbhc.ca/indicators/ph_lit01_1 Citizens who reported that it is always or usually hard to understand ...



	Year 2020	Year 2017	Year 2014	Year 2011
Persons with a disability				
Without disability	11.3	7.9	7.8	n/a
With disability	15.0	13.9	14.8	n/a



About

This indicator is the percentage of citizens who reported that it is always or usually hard to understand written information about a medical condition or a prescription.

Source

Primary Health Survey and Primary Care Survey

Calculations

This indicator is calculated by dividing the number of respondents who answered "usually or always" by the number of respondents who answered "never, rarely, sometimes, usually or always" to the question: Using the same scale, how often is it hard to understand written information when you want to learn about a medical condition or a prescription?

Notes

The 2020 edition of the Primary Health Survey (PHS) was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic did not influence the survey's response rate, NBHC had to assess the impact of surveying during the pandemic. Accordingly, advanced statistical analyses were performed to allow for comparison between the results obtained in 2020 and those obtained in previous PHS cycles. Despite these analyses, users are advised to use the PHS 2020 data with caution, especially when creating estimates for small sub-populations or when comparing it to other PHS editions.

Unit % Interpretation Lower is better NBHC code PH_LIT01_1

Caption

n/a = Not applicable / not available S = Data suppressed due to confidentiality requirements and/or small sample size