



What influences family doctors to practise in the Territories?

When the first National Physician Survey (NPS) was conducted in 2004, the Canadian Medical Association's January 2004 CMA Masterfile indicated that 0.3% of all FPs in Canada were living and practising medicine in the Territories (Table 1). Forty-five FPs in the Territories and 11 041 FPs in Canada completed the NPS questionnaire in 2004. They were asked for up to 2 reasons why they selected their current practice location (Table 2) and about the environment in which they grew up before university (Table 3).

The 2007 NPS data-collection phase is wrapping up at the end of May. Practice patterns and profiles of locum tenens physicians are being explored and should help provide a more comprehensive picture of all of the FPs providing care in the Territories, whether residing there full time or acting as locos tenentes. Results will be available in the fall of 2007 at www.nationalphysiciansurvey.ca.

The NPS is a collaborative project of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. If you would like the opportunity to develop and write a future Fast Fact using the NPS results, please contact **Sarah Scott**, National Physician Survey and Janus Project Coordinator, at 800 387-6197, extension 289, or sks@cfpc.ca.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of FPs in the Territories and in Canada

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	FPS IN THE TERRITORIES N = 104 (%)	FPS IN CANADA N = 30 903 (%)
SEX		
Male	59	64
Female	41	36
AGE		
< 35 y	15	12
35-44 y	32	30
45-54 y	31	31
55-64 y	16	18
≥ 65 y	4	7
Unknown	2	2

Data from the 2004 National Physician Survey mailing list, generated from the Canadian Medical Association's January 2004 CMA Masterfile.

Table 2. Reasons for selecting current practice location

REASON FOR SELECTING PRACTICE LOCATION	FPS IN THE TERRITORIES N = 45 (%)*	FPS IN CANADA N = 11 041 (%)*
Availability of medical support system and resources	11	17
Family reasons or influence of spouse	13	50
Liked the area	58	42
Opportunity for affiliation with a university	0	8
Community needs were a good match with career interests	42	21
Practice opportunity was available	33	37
Religious, social, or cultural reasons	9	5
Financial recruitment and retention incentives	20	5
Other (non-financial) recruitment and retention incentives	0	2

Data from the 2004 National Physician Survey.

*Columns total more than 100% because multiple responses were permitted.

Table 3. Environments in which FPs grew up before university

ENVIRONMENT	FPS IN THE TERRITORIES N = 45 (%)	FPS IN CANADA N = 11 041 (%)
Exclusively or predominantly rural	18	11
Exclusively or predominantly small town	38	21
Exclusively or predominantly urban	29	55
Mixture of environments	13	10
No response	2	3
Total	100	100

Data from the 2004 National Physician Survey.