

# NUNAVUT

## Jurisdictional Profile

2023 Report

*A profile of governance, programs, and services for the aging population in Nunavut*

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub, Advancing Policy and Practice in Technology and Aging (APPTA) welcomes comments about this report and would like to know how we can better meet your information needs. If you have any questions about the work APPTA conducts, please contact us.

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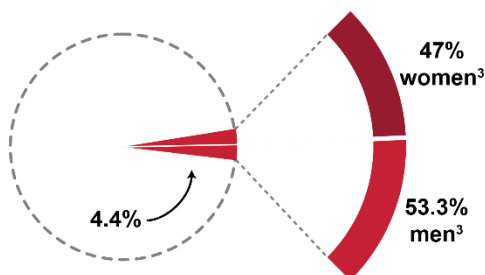
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**Preamble:** Nunavut's policies related to care and services for older adults lies with the Department of Health. The Department of Health works to improve the health and well-being of Nunavummiut by addressing the differing needs of each community through culturally appropriate programs and services<sup>1</sup>.

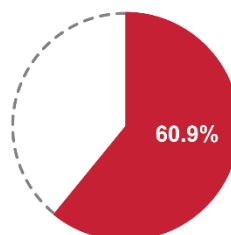
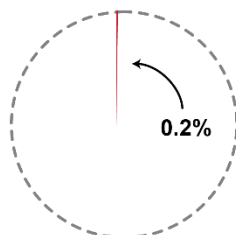
## Nunavut Older Adults Demographics

Residents 65 and older<sup>2</sup>

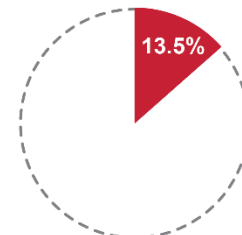


Residents aged 65 and over who derive their income from wages, salaries, and commission<sup>5</sup>

Residents aged 85 and over<sup>4</sup>



Multi-generational households<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/about-us>

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Nunavut&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDlist=2021A000262&HEADERlist=0>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Nunavut&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDlist=2021A000262&HEADERlist=0>

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Nunavut&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDlist=2021A000262&HEADERlist=0>

<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada-

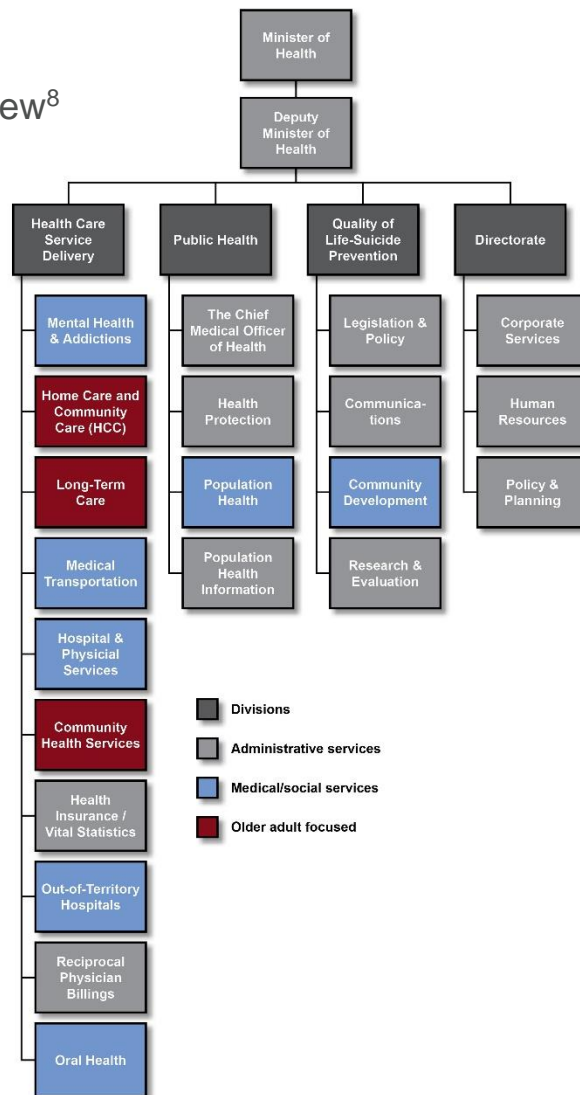
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<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Nunavut&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDlist=2021A000262&HEADERlist=0>

## Department of Health

The Department of Health is responsible for health services and social programming in Nunavut. It works to improve the health and well-being of Nunavummiut by addressing the differing needs of each community through culturally appropriate programs and services. The department works under the mission that states that through collaboration, innovation, and integration of Inuit Societal Values, they will provide excellent health care services that empower Nunavummiut to live healthy lives with a vision for a 'Healthy Nunavummiut!'<sup>7</sup>

### Governance Overview<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> <https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/about-us>

<sup>8</sup> Department of Health, Inuit Employment Plan 2017 to 2023- [https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea\\_iep\\_to\\_2023\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea_iep_to_2023_final_0.pdf)



## Strategies / Action Plans

This section includes strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving older adults. Not all of these serve older adults specifically, but they still are applicable.

- [Strategic Framework: Addressing the needs of Nunavut Seniors](#)
- Department of Health Inuit Employment Plan 2017 to 2023<sup>9</sup>
- [Nunavut Sexual Health Framework for Action](#)
- [Tobacco Reduction Framework for Action](#)
- [Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan](#)
- [Addictions and Trauma Treatment in Nunavut](#)
- [Resiliency Within: An action plan for suicide prevention in Nunavut 2016/2017](#)
- [Nunavut Nursing and Midwifery Professional Development Initiative \(PDI\) Guideline](#)
- [Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- [Roadmap to Strengthen the Nunavut Nursing Workforce 2021-2026](#)
- [Consultations on Cannabis Legalization in Nunavut - What We Heard](#)
- [Mental Health Act Review-What we Heard from Nunavummiut](#)
- [Registered Nurses Association of the NWT and Nunavut Nurse Retention and Recruitment Survey 2021](#)

Note: A [Strategic Action Plan for Elders in Nunavut](#) has been announced and is currently in development.

## Legal Framework<sup>10</sup>

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in Nunavut that directs the Department of Health and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to older adults' care in the territory.

- The Medical Care Act
- Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act
- Dental Auxiliaries Act
- Dental Mechanics Act
- Dental Profession Act
- Public Health Act
- Tobacco Control Act
- Medical Profession Act
- Mental Health Act
- Nursing Act
- Ophthalmic Medical Assistants Act

<sup>9</sup> Department of Health Inuit Employment Plan 2017 to 2023- [https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea\\_iep\\_to\\_2023\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea_iep_to_2023_final_0.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Department of Health Inuit Employment Plan 2017 to 2023- [https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea\\_iep\\_to\\_2023\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/hea_iep_to_2023_final_0.pdf) & <https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/legislation-and-policy-0>

- Disease Registries Act
- Donation of Food Act
- Emergency Medical Aid Act
- Licensed Practical Nurses Act
- Nunavut Act
- Optometry Act
- Pharmacy Act
- Psychologists Act

## Programs and Services

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available programs and services for older adults.

- [Nunavut Seniors Information Handbook](#)
- [Medical Travel](#)
- [Health Card](#)
- [Health Insurance](#)
- [Telehealth](#)
- [Patient Relations](#)
- [Home and Community Care](#)
- [Rehabilitation](#)
- [Oral Health](#)
- [Immunization](#)
- [Communicable Disease](#)
- [Environmental Health](#)
- [Chronic Disease](#)

## Provincial Priorities/New Initiatives/Announcements<sup>11</sup>

The following section comprises a review of recent government announcements and budgets that have dedicated resources and action to improving programs, policy, and services offered to older adults in Nunavut.

### Aging with Dignity in Nunavut:

- The funding for health includes the promise made in Government of Nunavut's mandate, *Katujjiluta* to honour Nunavut's elders in their golden years by supporting them with facilities where they can age with dignity, close to their families. To this end the government has committed over \$59 million in capital funding to build a new long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet.

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<sup>11</sup> 2023-24 Budget Highlights- [https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/2023-24\\_budget\\_highlightsen\\_0.pdf](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/2023-24_budget_highlightsen_0.pdf) & [https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/2023-24\\_budget\\_address\\_en\\_1\\_0.pdf](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/2023-24_budget_address_en_1_0.pdf)

- \$12 M cash payments to Nunavummiut to offset higher costs associated with carbon tax. The Nunavut Carbon Credit will use carbon tax dollars to provide Nunavummiut a direct cash payment every three months to help offset higher fuel costs.
- The budget for income assistance has been increased by \$7 million to provide some relief against inflation and the increased price of food.

### **Expanding the Housing Continuum:**

- \$6.2 M budget increase for Local Housing Authorities to operate and maintain new units.

### **Enabling Health and Healing:**

- The Department of Health's operations increasing by a total of \$23.5 million, from \$446.1 million to \$469.6 million.
- To support existing facilities such as the Qikiqtani General Hospital and community health centres across Nunavut, the government plans to spend \$2.1 million more to continue to deliver the essential and mandatory health services that Nunavummiut rely on.
- To help address the workload of the territory's nurses, the government will provide \$230,000 to expand the Nursing Resource Program which deploys temporary nursing support to communities that require it.
- This is in addition to \$881,000 for the territory's Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office to address Nunavut's long-term nursing and midwifery needs.
- Budget 2023-24 provides \$3 million for security services to ensure Nunavut's health centres are places of healing and positive connections in the community.
- Nunavummiut often travel great distances to access basic services, which is inconvenient and expensive. To reduce this burden, the budget provides almost \$2.2 million for the Department of Health to implement a Virtual Nurse Practitioner program and invest in online specialist clinics.
- To expand the government's capacity to deliver services in health centres across the territory, the government is providing close to \$1 million to create new Radiology and Laboratory Clerk positions. The Department of Health will utilize their Basic Radiological Technician training program to train Inuit to fill these important roles in medical laboratories and x-ray suites.
- Delivering health services that are culturally relevant, safe, effective, and efficient increasingly depends on access to timely and accurate health data, and so the government is investing \$350,000 to expand the capabilities of the Health Information Unit to oversee the effective management, utilization, and protection of Nunavummiut's health data.
- \$2 M to continue staffing the Aaqjigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility.

## Key Stakeholders in Nunavut<sup>12</sup>

This section lists bodies that may have influence over policy or practice that impacts the delivery of services and supports to older adults.

- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, NWT and Nunavut
- Communicable Disease Expert Group
- Health Surveillance and Information Expert Group
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Expert Group
- Canadian Immunization Committee
- Pandemic Influenza Committee
- Canadian Tuberculosis Committee
- Council of Health Emergency Management Directors
- Committee on Health and the Environment
- FPT Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS
- Population and Health Promotion Expert Group
- Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Expert Group
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
- National Inuit Committee on Health
- Inuit Public Health Committee
- Pauktuutit (The National advocacy group for Inuit women)

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/Public%20Health%20Strategy%20-%20English%20final.pdf>