



HOUSING AND DRINKING WATER

QANUILIRPITAA? 2017

Nunavik Inuit Health Survey

Housing is a human right and a fundamental determinant of health. Across Inuit Nunangat, housing shortages, overcrowded dwellings, repairs needed, and the high cost of home construction and renovations influence population health and constrain the capacities of communities for social and economic development. This report describes the housing conditions of Nunavimmiut in 2017. It further examines differences in housing conditions between men and women, age groups, communities, and socioeconomic conditions. Three sets of variables related to housing conditions are examined: household size, composition, and overcrowding; repairs needed and water consumption; and hidden homelessness and residential mobility. When possible, results from the 2017 *Qanuilirpitaa?* survey are compared to those of the 2004 *Qanuipitaa?* Survey.

At the 2017 *Qanuilirpitaa?* survey, there was an average of 4.8 people per house, a diminution from the average of 5.6 people observed in the 2004 *Qanuipitaa?* survey. One third of the population in Nunavik (33%) lived in a dwelling that was

overcrowded, defined as a dwelling with more than one person per room, a proportion significantly lower than observed in 2004 (41%). Nunavimmiut aged 16–30 years old, residents of the Hudson coast, and those with an annual income lower than \$20,000 were more likely to live in overcrowded dwellings. Regarding household composition, most households were composed of two adults with children (32%) or of more than two adults with children (40%). There were significantly more people living in adult-only households in 2017 (21%) compared to 2004 (13%). Living in adult-only households was more common among men (25%) than women (17%). One in five Nunavimmiut (19%) lived in a dwelling in need of major repairs. This proportion did not vary by socioeconomic conditions.

With regards to water infrastructure, more than 80% of Nunavimmiut reported drinking municipal water, either from the water tank of the house, or by getting water directly at the tap at the water plant. Furthermore, about 75% of Nunavimmiut treated the water at home (filtering or boiling) before consumption.

One third of Nunavimmiut (33%) reported having offered shelter in the past year to someone who had nowhere else to live, informing on the extent of hidden homelessness in the region. Residential mobility in the past year was higher among youth compared to other age groups.

Whereas housing needs are high in Nunavik, there seems to be improvements on some housing indicators, such as overcrowding, when comparing data from 2017 to 2004. This potentially reflects the large-scale investments in housing construction in communities across Nunavik in the past few years. Nonetheless, there are geographic and social disparities in housing in the region, and the gap with housing conditions for the general Canadian population remains large.



Qanuillirpitaa? 2017 is a population health survey carried out in Nunavik from August to October 2017. A total of 1 326 Nunavimmiut aged 16 and over from all 14 villages participated to this survey.

Nakurmiik to all Nunavimmiut who contributed to this important health survey!

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