



MEN'S PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER ROLES

QANUILIRPITAA? 2017

Nunavik Inuit Health Survey

The health and wellness of Inuit men was identified by regional leaders as an important theme of the *Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017 survey. The present report focuses on men's perceptions of gender roles, and it is the first component of a more global assessment of men's health, which is presented in a separate transversal report.

The questionnaire on men's perceptions of gender roles was answered by Nunavimmiut men aged 16 and over. Three dimensions of these roles were analyzed: 1) how male gender roles are generally perceived nowadays; 2) men's self-assessment of their success as a man; and 3) how male gender roles are perceived in relationship with children and partners.

Regarding male gender roles perceptions nowadays, approximately 3 men out of 4 mentioned that they valued the importance of education and of working outside their home, that there were good role models in their community and that they maintained a good balance between traditions and modernity. More than 8 men out of 10 said that being autonomous was important to them, that they valued being a good father

and that they wanted to maintain contact with their children in case of a relationship breakdown.

The results show that hunting remains an important part of the Inuk male gender role. Close to 7 men out of 10 valued the importance of being a hunter. Furthermore, 6 out of 10 said that they needed to be tough and strong. Men self-rated their perception of being a successful man on a scale of 10 (1: totally fail to achieve; 10: achieve completely). The mean score for all men was 6.43 on 10.

Maintaining contact with their children if a relationship broke up was important to more than 89% of Nunavimmiut men. A majority (71%) of men answered "equally with my partner" to the question who should have the final word about decisions in their home. Finally, 65% of men answered "equally with my partner" to the question about who should play the major role in taking care of children.

Nunavimmiut men were divided regarding the difficulty of being an Inuk man in today's world. Although 75% considered being able to balance traditional and modern lifestyles, 37% also mentioned that it is difficult to be an Inuit man nowadays. The situation seems to be easier for men who are married or in a common law relationship, men who are employed, those who have a higher level of education, and those who are older. These men assigned a higher rating to their success as a man.

Lastly, about 6 out of 10 Nunavimmiut men reported finding it easy to express their emotions. In contrast to what has been documented in the general male population of Quebec, elderly men were more likely to report feeling at ease to express their emotions. Older men may be more connected to traditional Inuit values, in which the expression of emotions is not related as closely to gender as it is in the general population of Quebec (and Western cultures in general).

A second report including data collected from other thematic reports produced as part of the *Qanuilirpitaa? 2017* survey provides a general portrait of men's health and wellness in Nunavik and suggests insights that could contribute to improving the health of Nunavimmiut men.



Qanuilirpitaa? 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!

For more information: nrbhss.ca/en/health-surveys