

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic Among 2SLGBTQQIA+ Populations in Canada

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Introduction

COVID-19 impacts, including related public health measures, may be exacerbated for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and other sexual and gender marginalized (2SLGBTQQIA+) people due to stigma and discrimination that shape social and health inequities.¹ These impacts are difficult to assess using government data given inadequate collection and reporting of 2SLGBTQQIA+ identities.²

Objective

We evaluated the impacts of COVID-19 on the health, wellness, stigma, and material security of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada.

Methods

We conducted a Canada-wide cross-sectional online **community-based health survey** from April-September 2022. Recruitment occurred via social and news media and through community organizations. **Eligible participants** were:

- 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- Living in Canada;
- 15 years or older;
- Able to complete the questionnaire in English, French, or Spanish.

Questionnaire domains included socio-demographics, COVID-19, chronic health, health services, mental health, discrimination, community connection, sexual health, reproductive health, caregiving, economic security, substance use, and housing. Participants received a \$10 honoraria for completing the survey.

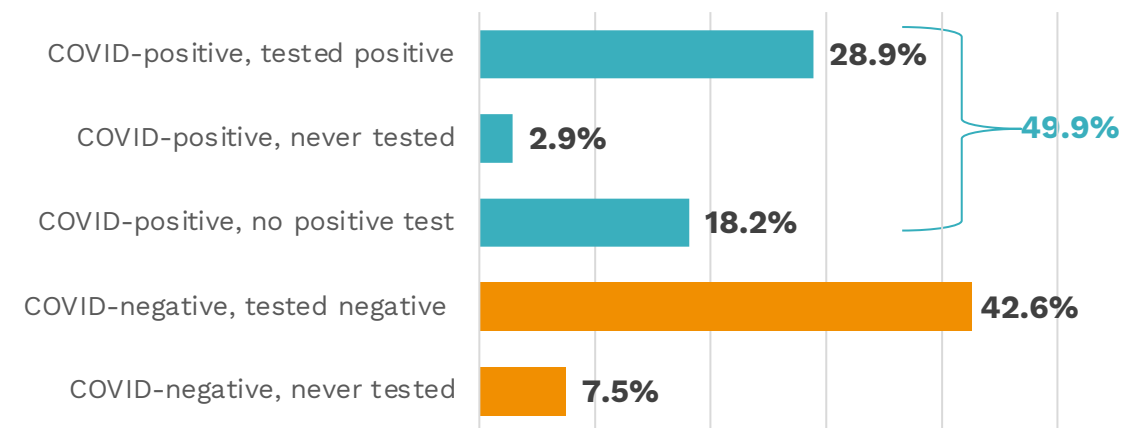
Descriptive statistical analyses were conducted using StataSE 17.

Results

Overall, 4044 participants completed the survey.

- ▶ **Age:** average of 37.4 years old (SD 13.8)
- ▶ **Indigenous:** 8.4%, and of these 56.8% were Two-Spirit
- ▶ **Trans:** 27.2%
- ▶ **Gender:** 39.8% man, 25.7% woman, 20.9% non-binary, 10.1% genderqueer, 6.4% trans man, 6.1% genderfluid, 3.8% trans woman, 3.0% agender
- ▶ **Ethnoracial identity:** 79.5% white, 6.0% East/Southeast Asian, 4.2% Latina/o/x/e, 3.3% Black, 3.1% South Asian, 2.1% Middle Eastern
- ▶ **Disability (self-identified):** 34.9%
- ▶ **Born in Canada:** 82.2%, 2.5% were non-citizen/non-PR

Figure 1. COVID-19 Status Self-Report & Testing History.



Conclusions

- ▶ Community-generated data on 2SLGBTQQIA+ populations in Canada highlights high rates of vaccination and testing, reduction in overall health status, and more concern about impacts on others than themselves during COVID-19.
- ▶ Future research should compare differing COVID-19 experiences within 2SLGBTQQIA+ sub-communities and with the general population.

- ▶ Of those who reported an infection, 2.8% were **hospitalized** and 17.7% self-reported **“Long COVID”**/post-COVID condition
- ▶ 9.2% reported someone close to them died due to COVID-19
- ▶ **COVID-19 vaccination** (≥1 dose): **97.5% yes**, 2.1% no, 0.4% PNA

Figure 2. Overall health now compared to before COVID-19 pandemic.

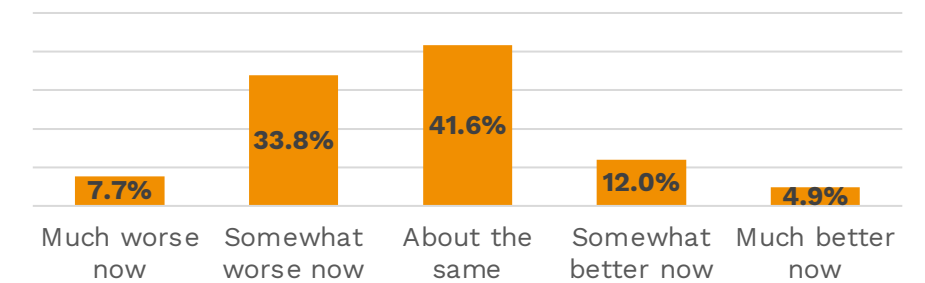
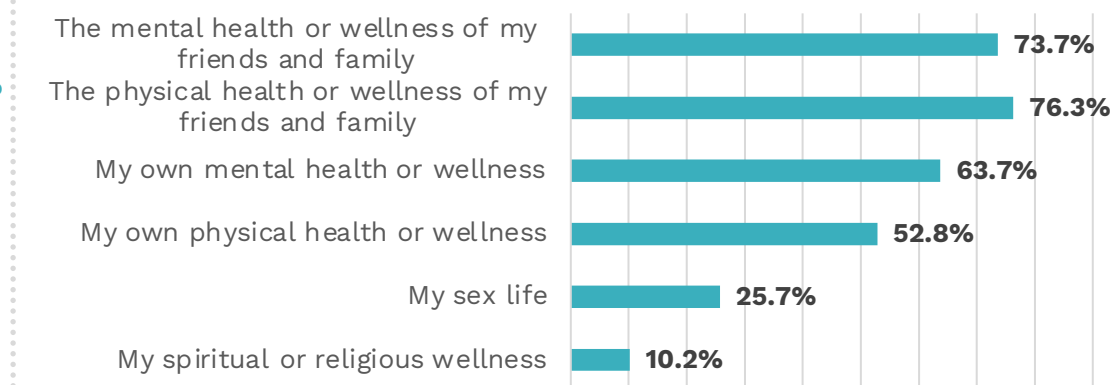


Figure 3. Very/extremely concerned about impacts of COVID-19.



References

1. Government of Canada. Report of the Standing Committee on Health: The Health of LGBTQIA2 Communities in Canada. Ottawa, Canada, 2021.
2. Canadian Public Health Association. CPHA calls for culturally safe collection and use of sociodemographic and race-based data. 2020 May 12. Available from: <https://www.cpha.ca/cpha-calls-culturally-safe-collection-and-use-socio-demographic-and-race-based-data>