



Metis Health Knowledge Authority in Manitoba

## Cancer and Related Health Care Utilization in the Manitoba Metis Population Summary Report - 2011

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### **What is cancer?**

Cancer refers to a collection of many different diseases involving the uncontrolled growth of unhealthy cells in the body. Over time cancer may spread and overtake healthy areas of the body. Our study focuses specifically on cancers that have spread into surrounding body tissue; these are called 'invasive' cancers, and they include lung, colorectal, breast, prostate, and cervical cancers.

### **Why do this study?**

This report, 'Cancer in Metis in Manitoba', was developed through a partnership between the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Health & Wellness Department and CancerCare Manitoba. Rationale for the production of this cancer report is to provide detailed information beyond the basic percentage of mortality by cancer 'overall' as reported in the *Profile of Metis Health Status and Healthcare Utilization in Manitoba*. That study showed that Metis had a higher percentage of deaths caused by cancer compared to All Other Manitobans (30.6% vs. 27.8%). This ten-section report, 'Cancer in Metis in Manitoba', provides an in-depth examination of cancer in Manitoba Metis. Examined are indicators on invasive cancer rates, stage of cancer at diagnosis (how far the disease progressed before being diagnosed), and cancer treatment (those who underwent surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy).

### **What did we ask?**

Are there differences in rates of cancer between Metis and All Other Manitobans based on where they live and/or their sex? Are there some Metis who are better off or worse off than other Metis living in different areas and/or by sex?

**Provincially, Metis have a 29.8% higher rate of lung cancer compared to All Other Manitobans (87.1 vs. 67.1 per 100,000).**

### **Who was studied?**

This population-based study includes every person living in Manitoba who had a provincial health card during the years studied. The Metis Population Database produced in a previous study was used to anonymously identify 73,000 Metis individuals of all ages in Manitoba.

### **What did we find?**

Provincially, there is no difference in rates of all invasive cancers in Metis compared to All Other Manitobans.

The table below displays some health indicators from our report.

## Rates of Invasive Cancers for Metis and All Other Manitobans

Health Indicator (age- and sex-adjusted)	Provincial Rate for Metis (per 100,000)	Provincial Rate for All Other Manitobans (per 100,000)	% Difference of Metis Compared to All Other Manitobans (+ higher / - lower)
All Invasive	469.7	458.5	Similar
Lung	87.1	67.1	+29.8%
Colorectal	65.3	63.8	Similar
Breast	120.0	119.0	Similar
Prostate	134.4	131.3	Similar
Cervical	10.0	8.4	Similar

Provincially, the lung cancer rate for Metis is much higher than the rate for All Other Manitobans (87.1 vs. 67.1 per 100,000) – which means Metis are 1.3 times more likely to have been diagnosed with lung cancer compared to All Other Manitobans. Regionally, lung cancer rates are higher for Metis in Winnipeg (1.3 times higher) and Rural South aggregate area (1.6 times higher). Provincial rates for colorectal, breast, prostate, and cervical cancers are statistically similar between Metis and All Other Manitobans.

Provincially, Metis and All Other Manitobans have similar patterns of cancer stage at diagnosis (how far cancer spread before it was diagnosed). While Metis in Manitoba receive surgery as a cancer treatment at the same rate as All Other Manitobans (56.3% vs. 55.7%), they are more likely to receive radiation therapy (34.9% vs. 30.6%) and chemotherapy (29.0% vs. 25.4%).

The Manitoba Metis Federation Health & Wellness Department is very pleased to release this report. This represents the first time we have worked with CancerCare Manitoba to produce Metis-specific information. Careful interpretation and comparison with other studies is essential to ensure appropriate policy response or program change. We wish to thank the Public Health Agency of Canada for their financial support.

### *Where do we go from here?*

It is hoped that this report will assist in the improvement of the health and well-being of Manitoba Metis. Our Regional Knowledge Networks, including MMF and Regional Health Authority members, are currently working together to adapt Manitoba Health programs and services to better meet Metis needs. These Knowledge Networks will use the results of this study in determining priority areas for improving the health of Metis people in Manitoba.

#### Want the complete report?

You can download the full report from our website: <http://health.mmf.mb.ca> or contact the Health & Wellness Department:

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