COVID-19


- Although more infectious, the vaccines are expected to be effective on the variants.

PANDEMIC – A worldwide occurrence affecting a large number of people. On March 11, 2020 the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic after 113,000 people world-wide were infected and more than 4,000 had died.

VACCINES – The first dose in Canada was given on December 14, 2020.

- The vaccines approved in Canada are Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

EDMONTON VITAL SIGNS

Ethnicity

Visible minorities are at greater risk of COVID-19 due to higher poverty rates. They are more likely to live in overcrowded housing and work in jobs with greater exposure to the virus.

Note: much of the data collected on ethnicity is self-reported as the medical system does not regularly collect or report on ethnicity.

African, Black and Caribbean Canadians

- Compared to the Canadian average, Black Canadians are more likely to report COVID-19 symptoms, and 3x as likely to know someone who has died.
- 1.9x more likely to report difficulty paying rent.
- 2.6x are more likely to experience food shortages.

Asian Canadians

- People of South Asian heritage report higher instances of COVID-19.
- Two of the largest outbreaks in Alberta were at two meat processing plants.
  - 70% of Cargill’s employees are of Filipino descent.
  - 33% of JBS employees are from East Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.
- Police across Canada have reported an increase in hate crimes targeting Asian populations.

Other Socioeconomic Factors

Persons with disabilities

More than 20% of Canadians have one or more disabilities.

- 36% reported losing work (of the 66% that worked pre-pandemic).
- 44% reported an impact on food and 40% on personal protective equipment.
- 71% reported impacts on their finances.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- 76% were very concerned about managing their children’s behaviours, and anxiety compared with 57% of parents of children without disabilities.
ECF@WORK ECF has provided 24 grants to greater Edmonton organizations and charities in the amount of $580,000 to assist seniors during the pandemic.

Seniors

CANADIANS OVER THE AGE OF 60 ACCOUNT FOR
• 71% of hospitalizations.
• 61% of cases admitted to the Intensive Care Unit.
• 97% of deaths.

CO-MORBIDITIES People with pre-existing chronic conditions are at higher risk of dying of COVID-19.

LGBTQ2S+ Canadians

Pre-existing inequalities in financial and housing security have made LGBTQ2S+ individuals even more vulnerable during the pandemic.
• LGBTQ2S+ youth may be forced to isolate at home with phobic family members.

Quality of Life

53% of Canadians report that the pandemic has had a strong impact on their quality of life.
• 14% live alone which means spending days with limited social contact.
• 24% of women and 21% of men are caring for children all day.

In 2018, average life satisfaction among Canadians was 8.09 (0–10 scale). In June 2020, satisfaction declined to 6.71.
• Satisfaction was lowest among those aged 15 to 29 and highest for those 60+.
• Satisfaction was lowest among Asian-born immigrants.

Food Security

ECF@WORK 55 grants > $1.45 M to assist with food security.

In September 2020 Edmonton Food Bank reported that:
• Home delivery for hampers provided to 1,134 households between March and August 2020.
• 46,807 individuals received a food hamper so far.

Food Security Canada-wide
• 1 in 7 Canadians were estimated to live in a food-insecure household in May 2020. Of households with children it rises to 1 in 5.

The Economy

Many individuals have lost work due to the pandemic. According to Statistics Canada some groups reported higher unemployment rates:
• South Asian 17.8% (South Asian women were at 20.4%)
• Arab 17.3% • Black 16.8% (18.6% for Black women)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT THE 100-DAY MARKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNE (100 days)</th>
<th>SEPT. (200 days)</th>
<th>DEC. (Jan unavailable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>15.8%*</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Highest of all the major cities.

Domestic Violence during the Pandemic

ECF@WORK 12 grants > $290,000 towards stemming violence in the home.

• 10% of women and 6% of men in Canada are concerned about violence in their home during the pandemic.
• Domestics violence-related calls to Edmonton police rose 16% in 2020.

Mental Health

ECF@WORK 110 grants > $1.8 M to assist with mental health supports.

According to a June 2020 Leger poll Edmontonians stated that friends and family were the thing that helped them most during the pandemic.
• 59% of Canadians indicate that their mental health has been negatively affected by COVID-19, 66% among women.
• Only 1 in 5 have sought healthcare for their issues.

Alcohol consumption
1 in 5 Canadians say they are drinking more since the pandemic.
21% drink at least once per day. They say they drink more due to:
• Stress and boredom (34%),
• No regular schedule (29%)
• Loneliness (23%).
1 in 10 report drinking less.

Record Opioid usage
Beginning in March 2020, opioid use began to increase significantly. As of June 2020:
• 2.5 people were dying every day in Alberta due to Opioids.
• 284 people died from fentanyl-related poisoning (130 the previous quarter).
• There were 3,028 emergency and urgent care visits related to opioids and drug use (2,472 the previous quarter).

Becoming complacent

Only 3 months into the pandemic Canadians started to change their habits:
• 40% say they are not keeping extra personal space from others.
• 57% say they are not staying away from public spaces.
• 70% of Albertans felt that the worst of COVID was over.

How are our medical professionals?

Infections among health care professionals
As of November 23, 2020, Alberta Health Services employees reported 2.66% had tested positive for COVID-19 including 2% of physicians.

Mental health among health care professionals
According to an on-going study by University of Alberta researcher Dr. Nicola Cherry:
• More than half the doctors now have very high levels of anxiety.
• Nurses and other healthcare workers have higher levels of depression.

How you can help:

Follow local guidelines – Wear a mask when indoors with those outside your cohort. Stay home whenever possible. Wash your hands frequently. Adhere to all local guidelines.
Check in on friends and family (safely) – Text, phone, or video check-ins. Don’t forget about the people you know who may be in quarantine.
Support local – Small businesses are being hit hardest by the pandemic. Shop online or call for curbside pick-up.
Kindness counts – Grocery store employees, delivery personnel, and especially medical professionals are stressed. Be kind and compassionate.
Volunteer your time (even online) volunteerconnector.org