

People with family doctors in the Greater Hamilton Health Network and Ontario

Differences between most and least attached patients

Primary Care Data Reports (PCDR) consider a patient 'attached' if they received most of their care from a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

In both Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) and Ontario:

- Attached patients are slightly younger, more likely to be female with lower rates of mental health illness than those receiving Primary Health Care with no consistent provider.
- Those receiving Primary Health Care with no consistent provider are more likely to live with: low incomes, housing instability and a mental health diagnosis than attached patients. People in this group are more likely to be a visible minority or new to Ontario than attached patients.

	Greater Hamilton Health Network		Ontario	
	Attached to primary care provider	Inconsistent primary care provider	Attached to primary care provider	Inconsistent primary care provider
Number	565,480 people	25,433 people	12,854,553 people	631,553 people
Average age	41 years old	45 years old	41 years old	45 years old
Sex	49% male	53% male	48% male	53% male
Low income^a	21%	27%	19%	26%
New to Ontario^b	6%	14%	8%	18%
Visible minority^c	13%	20%	29%	33%
Housing instability^d	18%	27%	21%	30%
Mental health diagnosis	20%	27%	20%	26%

a percent of population among the lowest provincial income quintile

b percent of population registering a new provincial health card

c percent of population living in areas with highest rates of recent immigrants and visible minorities

d percent of population living with the highest rates of residential instability (measure of family/dwelling characteristics, neighborhood quality and cohesiveness)

Comparing Greater Hamilton Health Network & Ontario: Attachment to primary care

GHHN

614,818
total patients

92%
attached

8%
uncertainly attached
(49,338 patients)



ONTARIO

14,632,575
total patients

88%
attached

12%
uncertainly attached
(1,778,022 patients)

4% of Ontarians (651,553 patients) and **4%** of Greater Hamilton Health Network patients (25,433 patients) receive primary care, but do not have a consistent provider.

This group demonstrates need, but not access to primary care.



Attached patients either:

1. Receive care from a family doctor;
2. Receive care from a Community Health Centre;
3. Repeatedly see the same pediatrician (children); or
4. Repeatedly visit a walk-in style provider



Uncertainly attached patients either:

1. Only sought health care by visiting the emergency department e.g., following an accident; or
2. Received primary care from an inconsistent source e.g., someone who visited multiple walk-in style clinics

To learn more and see our references, please visit: <https://perc-phc.mcmaster.ca/>

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