

CANCER

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY

The Métis Nation of Ontario AND
The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

WHAT IS CANCER?

- Cancer starts when cells in the body begin to divide and grow uncontrollably. When cancer cells spread to other parts of the body this is called metastases. Many cancers are preventable or treatable in their early stages so it is important to identify who is at risk and to 'catch it early'.

WHY STUDY CANCER AMONG THE MÉTIS OF ONTARIO?

- Little is currently known about cancer in the Métis population or how Métis people with cancer access and receive care. This lack of critical health information makes it challenging to target resources and programs where they will be most effective in improving Métis health outcomes.

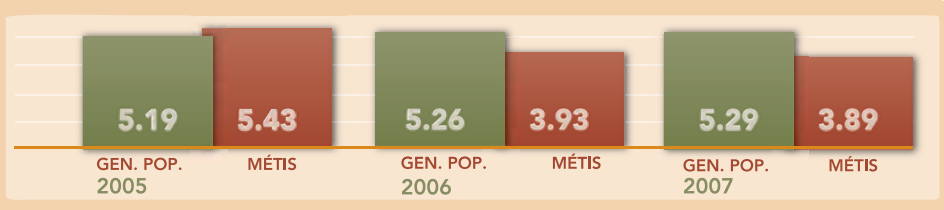
WHO WERE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY?

- Data from the Ontario Cancer Registry were used to identify the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence rates) among the approximately 14,000 Métis people included in the Métis Nation of Ontario Citizenship Registry. These rates were then compared to people within the general Ontario population.

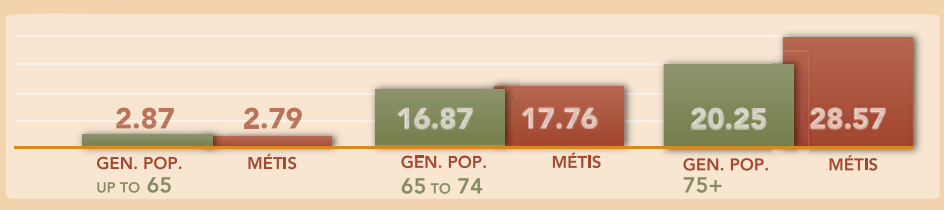
HOW WIDESPREAD IS CANCER AMONG THE REGISTERED MÉTIS POPULATION?

- A total of 168 cases of newly diagnosed cancers were identified in the registered Métis population during the three year period 2005 to 2007.
- For people aged 65 years and older the rate of cancer diagnosis was higher in the Métis than in the general Ontario population, with the gap being greatest among people 75 years and older (rates 1.4 times higher in the Métis).
- There were no significant differences in the rates of cancer diagnoses in the registered Métis and general Ontario population among people younger than 65 years of age.
- Diagnosis rates in 2005 were slightly higher among the Métis than in the general Ontario population, while in 2006 and 2007, cancer diagnosis rates were higher in the general population.

NEW DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER: OVERALL (OUT OF EVERY 1000 PEOPLE 2005 - 2007)



NEW DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER: BY AGE (OUT OF EVERY 1000 PEOPLE 2005 - 2007)



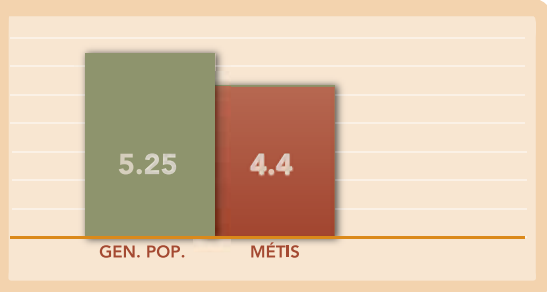
CANCER

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY

The Métis Nation of Ontario AND
The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

- When the numbers of newly diagnosed cancers were combined over all age groups and across all 3 years, the overall rate of cancer diagnosis for Métis was lower than for the general population, with people in the general population being 1.19 times more likely overall to be diagnosed with cancer.

NEW DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER: OVERALL
(OUT OF EVERY 1000 PEOPLE 2005 - 2007)



WHAT TYPES OF CANCER WERE DIAGNOSED MOST FREQUENTLY IN THE REGISTERED MÉTIS POPULATION?

- During the two year study period, the top four cancers diagnosed among the Métis were (in order) lung, prostate, colorectal and breast cancer, compared to (in order) prostate, breast, colorectal and lung in the general Ontario population.

HOW SHOULD WE INTERPRET THESE RESULTS?

- This landmark research represents the first population-based study of cancer incidence among the Métis of Ontario.
- These initial results suggest that cancer patterns among the Métis are not straightforward and are likely different than those in the general Ontario population. Unfortunately, the small number of incidences of new cancer diagnosis in the registered Métis population during the 3 year study period (168 in total) did not allow for a more detailed exploration of potential differences in types of cancers, or other factors such as age of onset of cancer between the two groups. Nor could we determine how many Métis people in total are living with cancer in Ontario (prevalence rates).
- Nonetheless, the study represents the first important step in addressing the large gap in information about cancer among the Métis of Ontario, and lays the essential groundwork for building the critical knowledge base required to inform health planning and policy development in this important area.
- As we continue to build our understanding of cancer patterns among Métis citizens, the MNO will use this information to target programs and resources to where they will be most effective and have the greatest impact on Métis health status and outcomes. Further research with larger samples and over longer periods of time will help in this ongoing, collaborative effort, as will research to identify interventions that are effective in promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing risk factors like smoking among the Métis.
- The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with its stakeholders and partners to reduce the incidence and prevalence of cancer among the Métis people of Ontario.



DETAILED REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT

www.metisnation.org

PROJECT CONTACT:

Lisa Pigeau, Manager of Policy, Planning and Research
at: lisap@metisnation.org or
613-798-1488 (toll free: **1-800-263-4889**) ext. **105**

Funding for this publication was provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors/researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.