

Health & well-being

Changes to health and well-being have been monitored since the opening of the Tłıchq Highway, November 30, 2021.

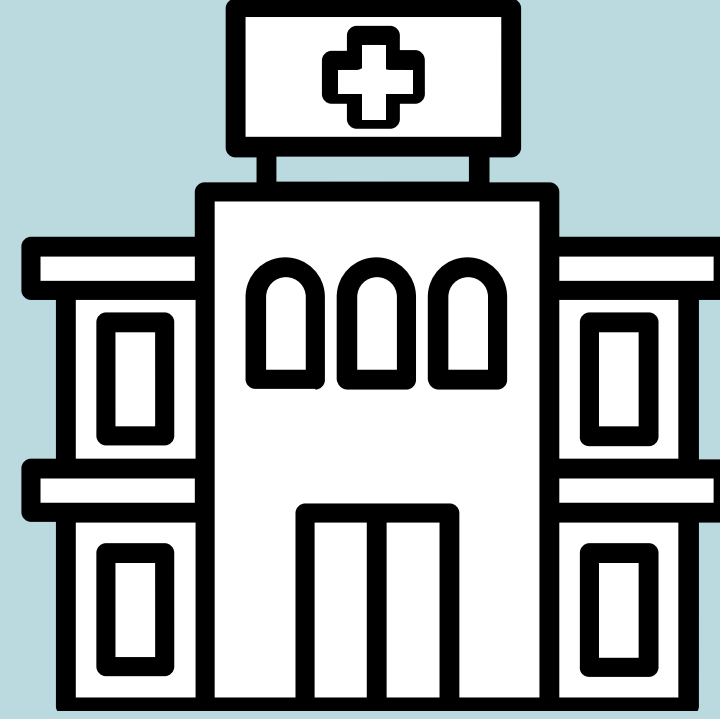
The highway opening coincided with COVID-19, followed by 2023 fire evacuations. Data should be considered within this context.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Alcohol and drug use hospitalizations declined in both Whatì and Behchokò between 2020–2021 and 2021–2022.

Whatì
drug & alcohol hospitalizations decreased by 27%

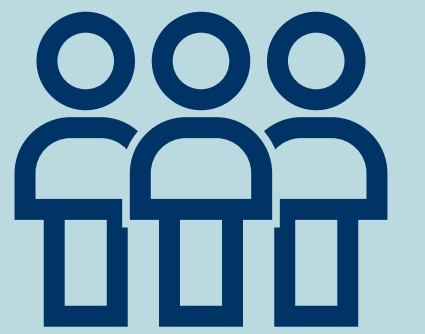
Behchokò
drug & alcohol hospitalizations decreased by 30%



Emergency department visits

In 2021–2022, Behchokò had 847 emergency room visits, about a 5% decrease from 895 the previous year.

In 2021–2022, Whatì had 196 emergency room visits, about an 8% increase from 180 visits the previous year.



Data reflects the *home community* of those visiting an ER, not the location of the ER visited.

SUBSTANCE USE

In Behchokò in 2022–2023, the following substances were indicated as being used by individuals seeking treatment:

- 100% involving alcohol
- 44% involving cannabis
- 68% involving cocaine/crack
- 4% involving gambling.

In Whatì, 100% of individuals seeking treatment indicated the use of alcohol. For 2022–2023, data on any other substances used was not made public to protect the privacy of the small population size.



PROGRAMS SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In 2022 and 2023, the Tłıchq Government and its partners facilitated the following health and wellness programs:

- Behchokò Warming Shelter
- Behchokò Wellness Centre
- Healing and wellness workshops (Behchokò and Whatì)
- Youth Visioning Workshops (Behchokò and Whatì)
- On the Land Healing Camps (Behchokò), with focuses including addictions, mental health, self-care, etc.
- Elders support program (Behchokò)
- Family Violence and Addictions week (Behchokò and Whatì)
- Build a Stronger You Grant (\$10,000) for community-based health promotion activities
- Condom dispenser installations (Behchokò and Whatì)
- Sexual health training for community health representatives (Behchokò and Whatì)

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Gonorrhoea

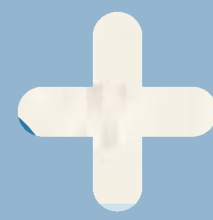
In 2022, Behchokò reports a rate of 6 out of 1,000, and Whatì 24 out of 1,000, a decrease for both communities over the previous three years.

Chlamydia

In 2022, Behchokò reports a rate of 38 out of 1,000, and Whatì 115 out of 1,000, an increase for both communities over the previous three years.

Syphilis

In 2022, Behchokò reports a rate of 6 out of 1,000, and Whatì 34 out of 1,000, an increase from previous years that reflects rising syphilis rates across the territory and country. Across Canada, the rate of infection for syphilis increased 410% from 2012 to 2021. In light of this, it is difficult to determine whether the rates in Tłıchq communities are directly related to the road or other factors.



Tłıchq Ndek'áowo



Tłıchq Government

The Tłıchq Highway Socio-Economic Working Group was established in 2019 to monitor the impacts of the new highway on overall health and well-being in Whatì and Behchokò. With representatives from the community governments of Whatì, Behchokò, the Tłıchq Government and the Government of Northwest Territories, the working group releases progress reports once per year. This series of posters — on child & family services, community safety, cultural well-being, early childhood education & student support, economic well-being, and health & well-being — highlights what the working group has found.

SOURCES: TG AND GNWT | PHOTOS: TG AND FIRELIGHT