

4.2 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED AND BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIONS (STBBIs)⁷

Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) are a major health concern in Nunavik with, in the case of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections, rates more than 20 times greater than the provincial rate (Rivette & Plaziac, 2016). STBBIs can be asymptomatic, but can also lead to cervicitis (inflammation of the cervix in females) and urethritis (in females and males). If left untreated, they also frequently result in symptoms such as lower abdominal pain, as well as long-term complications, namely, pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that develops outside the uterus) (Rivette & Plaziac, 2016).

Almost one Nunavimmiut aged 16 to 30 years old out of ten (10%^{*}) was diagnosed with a chlamydia infection at the time of the survey, with a significantly lower proportion being observed among people living on the Ungava coast (5%^{*} vs. 14%^{*} on the Hudson coast; Table 6) and among females aged 21 to 30 years old (7%) compared to those aged 16 to 20 years old (15%^{*}). No significant differences were observed between men and women, between youth aged 16 to 20 years old and those aged 21 to 30 or between levels for any of the other sociodemographic indicators.

With a gonorrhea infection prevalence of 2%^{**}, it was not possible to perform analyses according to levels of sociodemographic and sociocultural indicators. The results concerning syphilis infection are likewise not reported because of low proportions (<1%).

Table 6 Proportion of Nunavimmiut with STBBIs^a (%) by sex, age and coast, population aged 16 to 30 years old, Nunavik, 2017

| | Chlamydia infection (%) | Gonorrhea infection (%) |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total | 9.9 [*] | 2.2 ^{**} |
| Sex | | |
| Men | 9.5 [*] | NP |
| Women | 10.3 [*] | 3.9 ^{**} |
| Age group | | |
| 16-20 years | 13.6 [*] | 1.7 ^{**} |
| 21-30 years | 7.4 [*] | 2.5 ^{**} |
| Coast | | |
| Hudson | 13.7 ^{*1} | 3.4 ^{**} |
| Ungava | 5.2 [*] | NP |

NOTES

- ^a The results concerning syphilis infection are not reported because of low prevalence (<1%).
1. Statistically significant difference observed using the 5% threshold compared to the other group.
- ^{*} The coefficient of variation is greater than 15% and lower than or equal to 25%. The proportion should be interpreted carefully.
- ^{**} The coefficient of variation is greater than 25%. The proportion is shown for information only.
- NP: This value is not presented since some categories have less than 5 respondents.

7. All proportions for STBBIs are to be interpreted with caution as the coefficients of variation are all between 15% and 25%.