



ABSTRACT

Background: Pharmacists in Alberta are positioned to provide primary care with their medication knowledge, accessibility, and prescribing authority. Research has explored patient perceptions of trust, communication styles, and patient experiences with community pharmacists, but not from an Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) perspective. Considering health disparities, inequalities in social determinants of health, distrust of health care systems, and recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to increase Indigenous wellness, relationships must be built between pharmacists and Indigenous Peoples. It is important to gain Indigenous patient perspective as pharmacy is built upon a patient focused pharmaceutical care framework, and because relationality is integral to Indigenous worldview. This research explored Alexander First Nation member's views of their relationships with community pharmacists, including areas such as trust, expectations of pharmacists, and their willingness to discuss traditional medicines. **General Methods:** A two-eyed seeing approach using Indigenous conversational methodology alongside Western thematic analysis was utilized. Patient oriented research (POR) guided the research, and the research proposal was developed over multiple meetings in conjunction with the Alexander Research Committee (ARC) and researchers. Framework, methodology, recruitment, data collection and analysis were co-developed. Two researchers, including one student research assistant from Alexander will code the interviews, thus integrating a First Nation patient lens. **Results:** ARC had equal status as co-collaborators in the research proposal development. Developing relationship based on relevance, respect, reciprocity and relationality with an existing First Nations' research committee is one way to integrate a POR approach. Integrating EDI and sex- and gender- based analysis (SGBA+) into POR increases patient perspectives in research design, increasing applicability to the patient population. **Conclusions:** Patient-oriented research with a First Nation community creates the opportunity to decrease health related disparities and improve Indigenous health and wellbeing. **Keywords:** Indigenous health, Patient-oriented research, Community pharmacist practice

BACKGROUND

Pharmacy Context

- Community pharmacists are considered **accessible** and **trustworthy**
- Community pharmacists **provide care and products for Indigenous** people.
- Pharmacists are important for improvements in **disease management** and quality of medications, and perceptions of **care, communication, trust building** are foundational to this benefit.

Indigenous Peoples

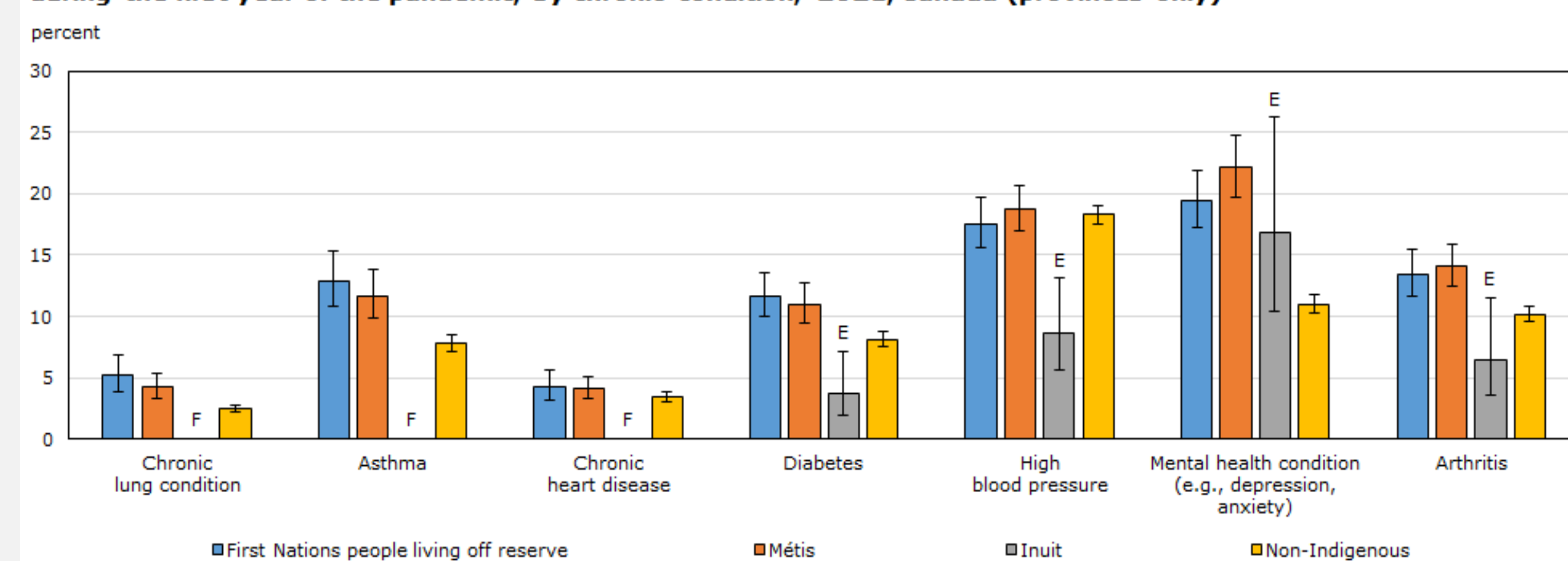
- Medication use higher and disease burden is greater.
- Greater **disparities** in health and social determinants of health.
- Distrust** in the health care systems.
- Current **racism** within health care at an ideological, system, and individual level.
- Limited research in Canada regarding community pharmacists and First Nation, Métis and Inuit.

Objectives

- Explore **Alexander First Nation members' views** of their **relationships with community pharmacists:**
- Trust, Prior interactions, Discussion of Traditional medicines.
- Goal to increase **cultural safety & trauma informed care** by pharmacists.



Chart 1 Percent of First Nations people living off reserve, Métis, Inuit and non-Indigenous people with chronic conditions during the first year of the pandemic, by chronic condition, 2021, Canada (provinces only)



E use with caution. F too unreliable to be published. Source: Survey on Access to Health Care and Pharmaceuticals During the Pandemic.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2022001/article/00008-eng.htm>

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN: TWO-EYED SEEING

Alexander First Nation

- Cree Nation in Treaty 6 Territory.**
- 45 Minutes NW of Edmonton, AB.
- 15 Minutes from closest community pharmacy.

Alexander Research Committee

- Composed of **community representatives** from education, recreation, Elders and University academic partners.
- Guiding Principles outline **ethical, reciprocal, respectful work.**
- Indigenous framework – See Figure 1.

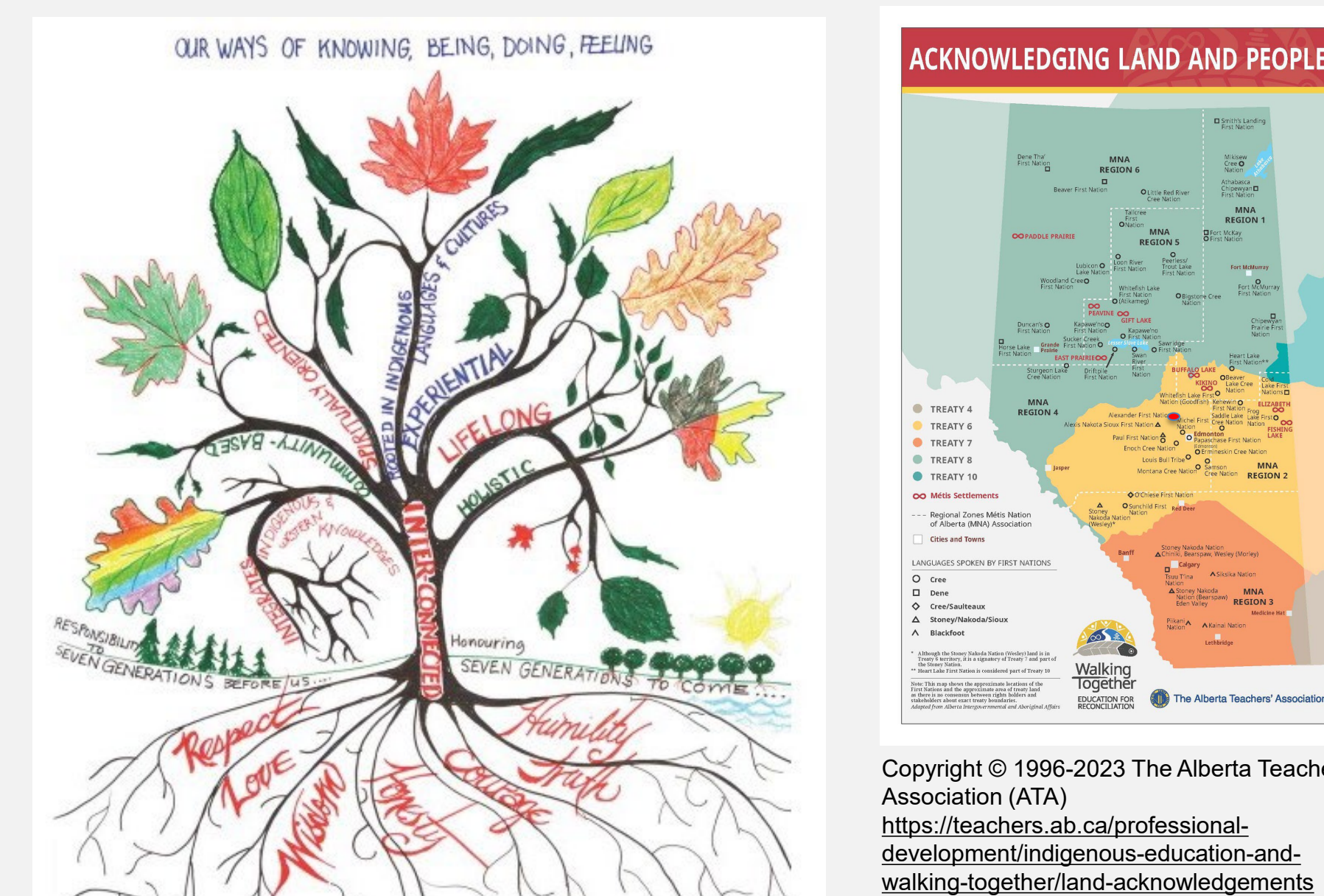


Figure 1. Representation of Indigenous Framework
Artist credit: Astrid MacNeill

Indigenous and Western Methodologies

Two-eyed seeing

- Conversational methodology**
Decolonizing by focusing on **Indigenous voice**
Collaborative, culturally safe, relaxed.
Based on **story-telling** and **oral tradition** as an important and legitimate form of imparting knowledge and tradition since time immemorial.
- Western thematic analysis**
- 19 interviews completed; data analysis ongoing

Indigenous Co-Design and OCAP

- Alexander First Nation** helped in **identifying** research and health **priorities.**
- Guidance provided regarding underrepresented group.
- Nation member** assisting in **interpretation** and coding.
- Co-collaboration** with ARC members who are community pharmacy patients.
- Knowledge translation will include patients.
- ARC to have **possession** of data as themes.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

EDI research team:

- Includes Alexander Research Committee and Graduate Supervisory Committee
- Approximate 50:50 male and female representation.
- Variety of ages represented.
- First Nation, Métis, Inuit, Settler representation.

Team composition effects:

- Focus on Alexander First Nation perspective to meet research objective.
- Inclusion of underrepresented group.
- An Indigenous-strength based patient perspective to increase EDI in pharmacy systems.

Integration EDI procedures/protocols:

- Oral and verbal consent an option.
- Interviews in Alexander to increase accessibility.
- Pocket talker available for hard-of-hearing.
- Recruitment posters online and within community.
- In-person recruitment.
- All Nation members eligible regardless of residence.
- Adults of all ages encouraged to participate.
- Offered Cree translator.

Impact on Study:

- Broader recruitment, safer space to engage in dialogue, richer stories/responses. Improved applicability to whole community.

SGBA+ (Sex & Gender Based Analysis):

- Gender based analysis to be completed within thematic analysis to review gender-based differences.

CONCLUSION

- POR increases **First Nation voices** within research.
- Allows for **respect, reciprocity, relevance, and relationality** in the research process honoring First Nation worldview.
- By adapting Western methods and integrating with Indigenous methods the research is **equitable**, recruitment more **diverse**, and the **community included** as co-research partners rather than subjects.
- Goal of POR with First Nation communities is to increase health and wellbeing using **First Nation views and strengths.**

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