



Inspiring  
Communities  
Digby

**SURVEY  
SUMMARY  
HEALTH CARE**

+902 245 6450 / [mcarty@inspiringcommunities.ca](mailto:mcarty@inspiringcommunities.ca) / [inspiringcommunities.ca](http://inspiringcommunities.ca)

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# THE PERSPECTIVE

*"Health care could be MUCH better in our community. We desperately need doctors"*

Health care was one of the 2 worries most frequently identified by survey participants; almost half of those surveyed expressed concerns about lack of access to quality health care.

Improving health care was also identified as one of the top 2 recommendations for how the community could be better.

Concerns about health care included:

- lack of family doctors;
- poor access to health care generally;
- emergency room closures;
- fear of losing hospital services in Digby; and
- lack of access to mental health care.

People also linked concerns about health care with other issues in the community, such as lack of transportation, declining population and negative narratives about the community.

*"I have no family doctor at the moment along with so many others. It's a HUGE issue of concern for myself and many others in similar situations. It causes a lot of stress and undue anxiety in the people who live in this area. I think alleviating that immediate concern would change the outlook many people have on the town of Digby."*

*"The lack of doctors, the poor health care and the long wait when needing to see one. Also how you have to go out of town for most of the appointments."*

## CROSSING THEMES

Infrastructure issues affect access to health care- especially concerns about transportation to health care appointments.

*"I worry very much about the shortage of Doctors in our area, especially the older I get and the more health concerns I have. The road conditions in my area are really very bad, especially on the dirt roads. There are times an ambulance or fire truck would be completely unable to reach us if there was an emergency. This seems crazy in this day and age."*

Poverty is a key determinant of health and affects health in many ways, including access to nutritious food.

Employment and other concerns associated with a declining population are key elements of concern related to economic development. The lack of health care services is a barrier for people to move to the area and a reason for people to leave.

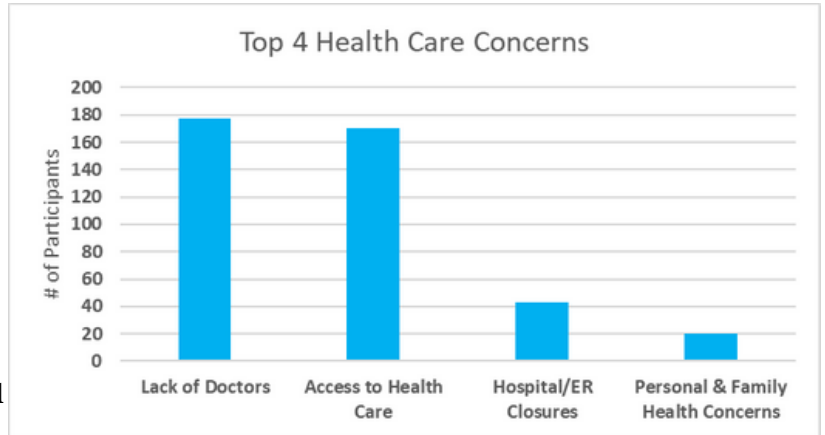




# WHAT ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

Almost half of survey participants expressed concerns about access to health care services. Specific concerns included:

- lack of doctors;
- hospital and ER closures;
- personal health and that of loved ones; and
- the lack of mental health services.

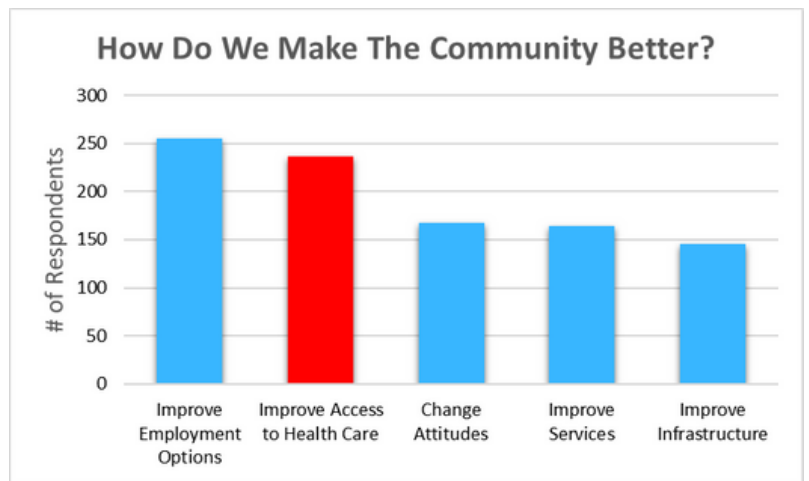


## ONE THIRD

OF PARTICIPANTS SUGGESTED THAT IMPROVING HEALTH CARE WAS AN IMPORTANT WAY TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITY BETTER

Specific suggestions included:

- recruit more doctors;
- improve health care generally;
- improve ER and hospital care;
- improve mental health resources; and
- develop resources and programs to promote healthy lifestyles.



## 76%

OF SENIORS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HEALTH CARE

- More women (61%) are concerned about health care than men (36%)
- 76% of seniors expressed concerns about health care. **This is higher than any other age group.**

*"I'm concerned about health care, my parents are getting older and it is a concern. One of my children has health issues and it is a struggle to get consistent care."*