

## **Assigning residency to communicable disease clients**

**Preamble:** The practice described in this document is intended for surveillance purposes but also may be used to determine which jurisdiction should manage a case. In special situations, jurisdictions may need to determine between themselves whose jurisdiction the case should be attributed to.

This practice is modeled after the national surveillance practice of attributing case which has been in place for decades. It was formally operationalized in Saskatchewan in 1999 in response to devolution of public health to health districts.

### **Residency in Saskatchewan for public health surveillance purposes**

Saskatchewan residents are defined as:

- People who live in Saskatchewan the longer part of the year, that is, six months or longer.
- People who have recently moved to Saskatchewan with the expectation of staying over six months (e.g. university students, military service people, the incarcerated).
- Students studying out of province who return to their permanent Saskatchewan residence for the summer months if a communicable disease is acquired here during that time.

Those not considered as Saskatchewan residents:

- Short term workers, visitors or transients who are in Saskatchewan for less than six months are not considered a Saskatchewan resident and are referred back to the province of residence for counting there.

### **Residency in Saskatchewan Health Regions/Jurisdictions for public health surveillance purposes**

The rules as noted above translate to residency in health regions. Health authority residents are considered:

- People living in a health authority for longer than six months.
- People who have recently relocated to a health authority with the expectation of staying over six months, will be counted in that health authority.

- Students studying in another health region who return to their permanent Saskatchewan residence for the summer months if a communicable disease is acquired during that time.

#### **Attributing clients in correctional facilities**

- If incarcerated over six months, count them in the jurisdiction of the correctional facility unless it has been established they already have been reported elsewhere (eg. within the province, in another province)
- If incarcerated under six months, count them in their normal place of residency, unless it is determined the infection was acquired in the correctional facility then count them in the jurisdiction of the correctional facility.

#### **Attributing transient clients**

- transient individuals are counted in the region/jurisdiction where they are tested
- non-transient individuals are counted in their usual region/jurisdiction of residency

Definitions:

Transient individuals: people who have no permanent domicile. These would be people frequently moving domicile (including foster children), street people, foster children who change domiciles frequently.

Non-transient individuals: people who have a permanent domicile though they may live there only for short periods of time because of work but they return to their domicile on a regular basis (truckers, pipeline workers, mine workers)

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