Sociodemographic and Social Determinants of Health Data in Perinatal Care Environments Survey Findings | 2025

Purpose of the Survey

BORN Ontario surveyed data partners across the province to understand how sociodemographic (SD) and social determinants of health (SDH) data are collected and used to **identify current practice insights on:** (1) strengths, gaps and inconsistencies; and (2) challenges, opportunities and best practices.

Survey Participants

61 organizations participated → Type of organizations represented:

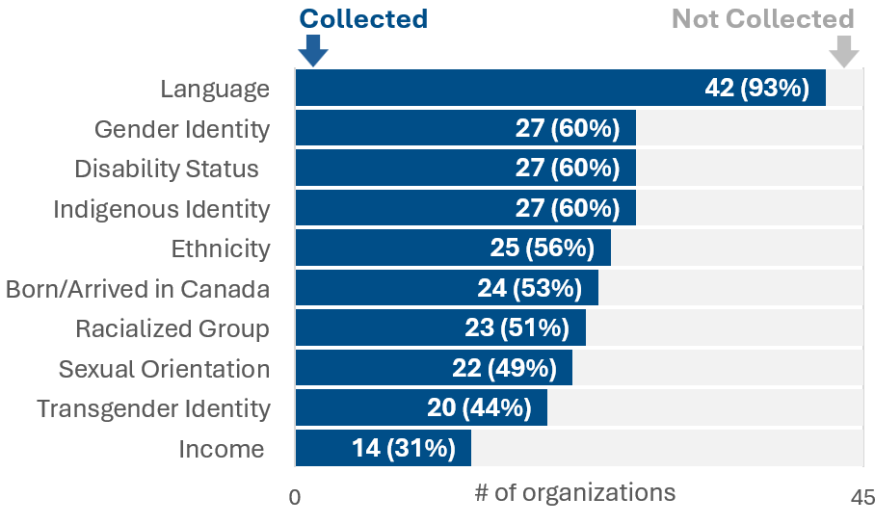
51%	18%	16%	15%
Hospitals (n=31)	Midwifery practices (n=11)	Public Health Units (n=10)	Other (n=9)

Data Collection Practices

Results include responses from **45 organizations**

Collection of Ontario Health Core Data Elements

Of these core data elements, language was by far the most widely collected across the organizations. # and % of organizations



Data Collection Practices

% of organizations

Timing of data collection

55% during pregnancy/ in clinic

Staff responsible

73% clinical staff member

Method of data entry

51% mixed methods*

44% electronic methods only^

4% manual/transcribed

*Mixed methods: electronic and transcribed

^Electronic methods: use portable device, EHR, database/system other than EHR

SD/SDH Collection Measures

Measures most commonly and less commonly used in SD/SDH data collection practice across organizations:

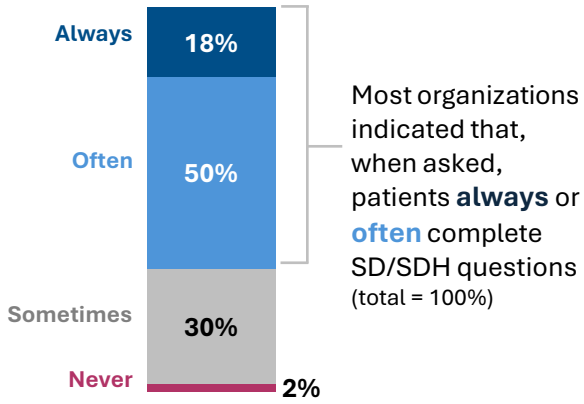
MOST COMMON

- Explain that data is used for care planning
- Use of interpreter
- Explain that questions are voluntary
- Explain purpose

LESS COMMON

- Staff are trained to create a feeling of safety
- Explain data governance
- Offer privacy to answer questions

Completion of SD/SDH Questions



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Patient Engagement Practices

Engagement Across the Data Lifecycle

Responding organizations are at various stages of patient/client engagement. Almost 1/3 of organizations engage them in decisions *to collect* SD/SDH data, compared to just more than 1/5 later in the data lifecycle.

Decision to Collect	How to Collect	Use the Data
31%	27%	22%

Training Opportunities (in patient-centred, culturally-sensitive data collection)

Out of 61 organizations (total = 100%)

49% Offer mandatory or optional training

28% In the process of offering training

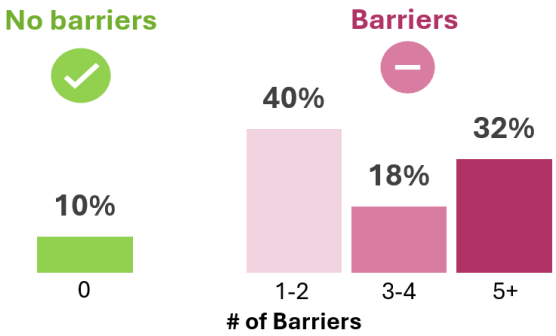
23% Do not currently provide training or are unsure

Barriers

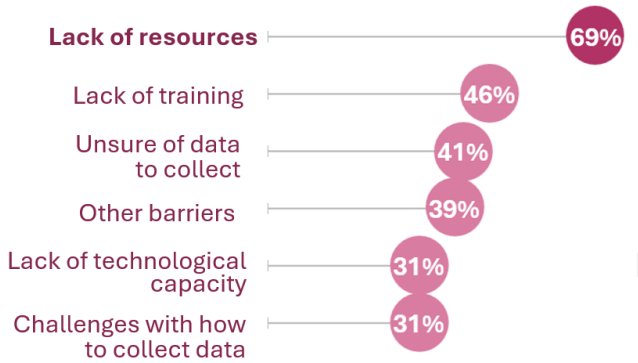
Of 60 organizations responding on *barriers* to SD/SDH data collection...

Number of reported barriers

50% of responding organizations reported **3 or more barriers** to collecting SD/SDH data.



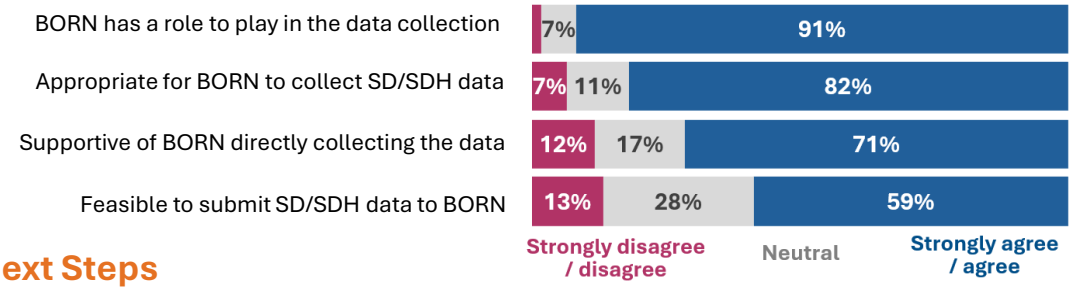
Most common barriers to data collection



Note: Organizations who selected "none" (n=6) were removed.

Call to Action

To explore the feasibility of a new Ontario-wide SD/SDH data collection and use strategy, organizations were asked to share their perceptions about the role of BORN in this effort.



% of 60 responding organizations (row totals = 100%)

Next Steps

These findings highlight the need for a coordinated, system-wide SD/SDH data strategy focused on standardization, capacity-building, and cultural safety to support equitable care and planning.

In 2026/27 BORN/PSO will engage with people with lived experience and clinicians to learn more about their willingness, attitudes, and suggestions for how we can better incorporate SD/SDH data into care and health system planning.

Engage with us!

Email: equity@bornontario.ca

Complete the SD/SDH Survey to share your data collection and use practices with us.