

Prevalence of point-of-care ultrasound devices in Canada

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We read the publication “The prevalence and patterns of use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in Newfoundland and Labrador” with great interest.¹ Sheppard *et al.* noted that “This is the first study to our knowledge to report the prevalence of POCUS devices in Canada...” We agree on the usefulness of POCUS in rural medicine and that POCUS and education/training for rural practitioners is necessary. However, Sheppard *et al.*'s report is not the first study from Canada. Leschyna *et al.*² studied responders from several areas of Canada, including Newfoundland and

Labrador.² They concluded that there is an increasing rate of POCUS use.²

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REFERENCES

1. Sheppard G, Devasahayam AJ, Campbell C, Najafzada M, Yi Y, Power A. The prevalence and patterns of use of point-of-care ultrasound in Newfoundland and Labrador. *Can J Rural Med* 2021;26:160-8.
2. Leschyna M, Hatam E, Britton S, Myslik F, Thompson D, Sedran R, *et al.* Current state of point-of-care ultrasound usage in Canadian emergency departments. *Cureus* 2019;11:e4246.

RESPONSE

Dear Dr. Mungmunpanti-pantip and Dr. Adaman,

Thank you for your letter and interest in this work. Leschyna *et al.* performed a survey of CAEP members to describe the demographics, attitudes towards POCUS, POCUS utilisation and barriers to POCUS use in Canada.¹ The prevalence of POCUS reported in that study was estimated from the responses by the study participants. Our methodology is different, and therefore, we have reported new information.² We obtained the purchase records for all the POCUS devices in use within the Regional Health Authorities in Newfoundland and Labrador. The prevalence of POCUS devices was calculated by determining the number

of POCUS devices per population for each of the health regions in the province and then overall for the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Therefore, we are the first to report the prevalence of POCUS devices for a defined population in Canada.

Sincerely,
Gillian Sheppard, MD

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1. Leschyna M, Hatam E, Britton S, Myslik F, Thompson D, Sedran R, *et al.* Current state of point-of-care ultrasound usage in Canadian emergency departments monitoring. *Cureus* 2019;11:e4246.
2. Sheppard G, Devasahayam AJ, Campbell C, Najafzada M, Yi Y, Power A. The prevalence and patterns of use of point-of-care ultrasound in Newfoundland and Labrador. *Can J Rural Med* 2021;26:160-8.

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