2015 REPORT

WAITING YOUR TURN

Wait times for health care in Canada

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FRASER INSTITUTE

Contents

Executive summary

Waiting for treatment has become a defining characteristic of Canadian health care. In order to document the lengthy queues for visits to specialists and for diagnostic and surgical procedures in the country, the Fraser Institute has—for over two decades—surveyed specialist physicians across 12 specialties and 10 provinces.

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn* indicates that, overall, waiting times for medically necessary treatment have not improved since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed report a median waiting time of 18.3 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment—slightly longer than the 18.2 week wait reported in 2014. This year's wait time is 97% longer than in 1993 when it was just 9.3 weeks.

There is a great deal of variation in the total waiting time faced by patients across the provinces. Saskatchewan reports the shortest total wait (13.6 weeks), while Prince Edward Island reports the longest (43.1 weeks). Results for the latter province should be interpreted with caution since data is not available for certain specialties because of either a lack of response or an absence of doctors practising some specialties.

There is also a great deal of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (35.7 weeks), while those waiting for radiation oncology begin treatment in 4.1 weeks.

The total wait time that patients face can be examined in two consecutive segments.

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist. The waiting time in this segment is 8.5 weeks this year, roughly the same as in 2014. This wait time is 130% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Saskatchewan (6.7 weeks) while the longest occur in Prince Edward Island (28.3 weeks).

2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment. The waiting time in this segment is roughly the same as last year, 9.8 weeks. This wait time is 76% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and almost three weeks longer than what physicians consider

to be clinically "reasonable". The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Saskatchewan (6.9 weeks), while the longest are in Newfoundland & Labrador (20.5 weeks).

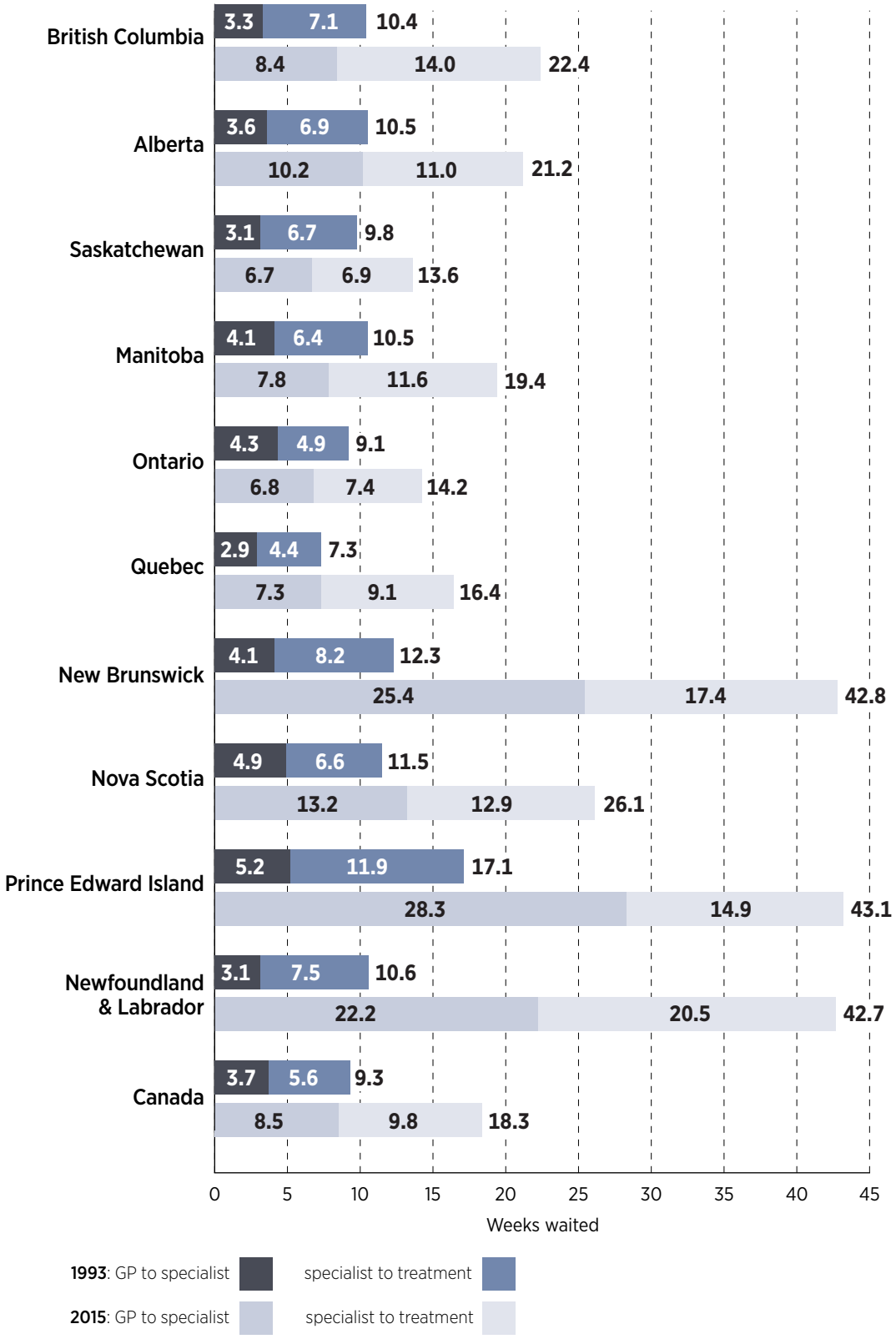
It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2015 is 894,449. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.5% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2015. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 1.7% in Quebec to a high of 8.4% in Newfoundland & Labrador. It is important to note that physicians report that only about 12.5% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 4.0 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 10.4 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 4.0 weeks for an ultrasound.

Research has repeatedly indicated that wait times for medically necessary treatment are not benign inconveniences. Wait times can, and do, have serious consequences such as increased pain, suffering, and mental anguish. In certain instances, they can also result in poorer medical outcomes—transforming potentially reversible illnesses or injuries into chronic, irreversible conditions, or even permanent disabilities. In many instances, patients may also have to forgo their wages while they wait for treatment, resulting in an economic cost to the individuals themselves and the economy in general.

The results of this year's survey indicate that despite provincial strategies to reduce wait times and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada continue to wait too long to receive medically necessary treatment.

Median wait from referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2015



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

This publication has four series of illustrations and tabular material.

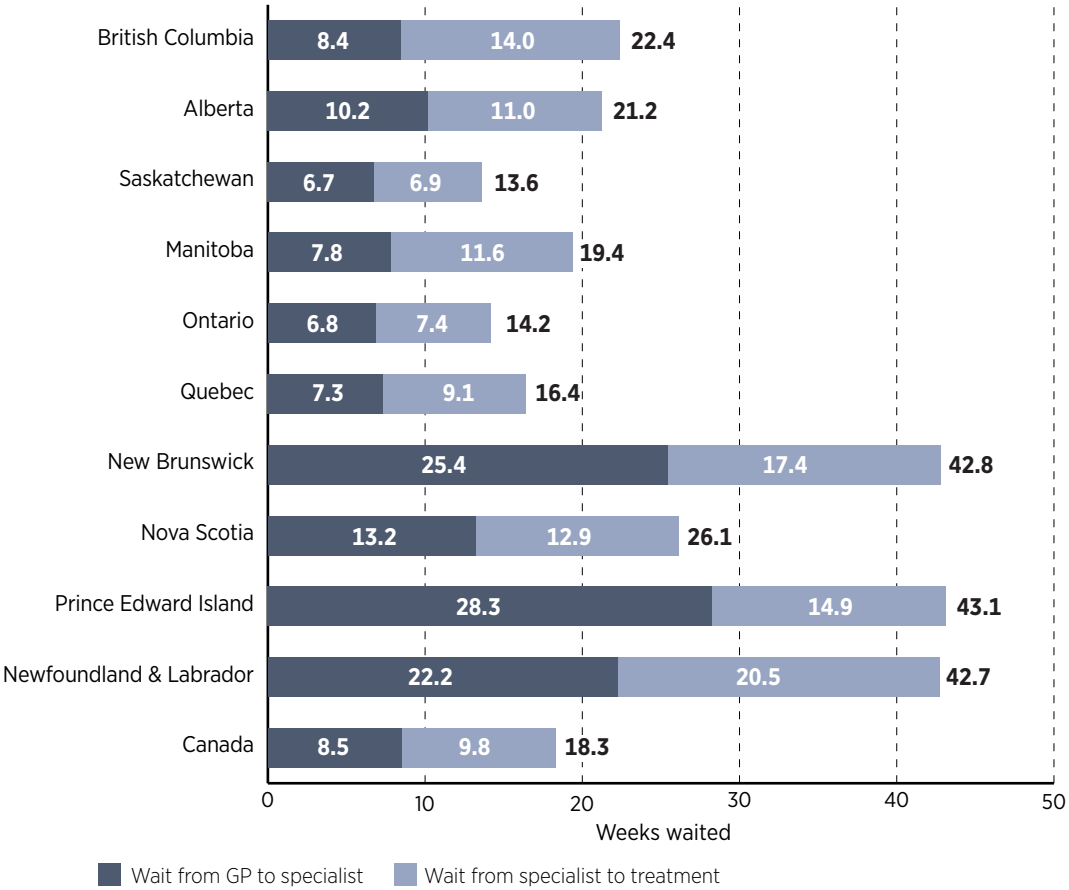
- Charts, which may be graphs or tables, will be found in the main text, pp. 1–17.
- Graphs will be found in “Selected graphs”, pp. 18–32.
- Tables will be found in “Selected tables”, pp. 33–68.
- “Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2015 Report”, pp. 71–78, has tables and a graph labeled “B1” and so on.

Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twenty-fifth annual waiting list survey finds that wait times [1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments have not improved since last year—indeed, they have gotten slightly worse (table 2; chart 1). The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of medically necessary elective treatment by

Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2015—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015.

1. For an explanation of how *Waiting Your Turn* measures wait times, see the "Method" section.

a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has risen from 18.2 weeks in 2014 to 18.3 weeks in 2015. Compared to 1993, the total waiting time in 2015 is 97% longer. The deterioration in wait times nationwide reflects increases in British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador while concealing improvements in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

Saskatchewan reports the shortest total wait in 2015 (13.6 weeks), followed by Ontario (14.2 weeks), and Quebec (16.4 weeks). Prince Edward Island has the longest total wait at 43.1 weeks, followed by New Brunswick (42.8 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (42.7 weeks).

Wait time by segment

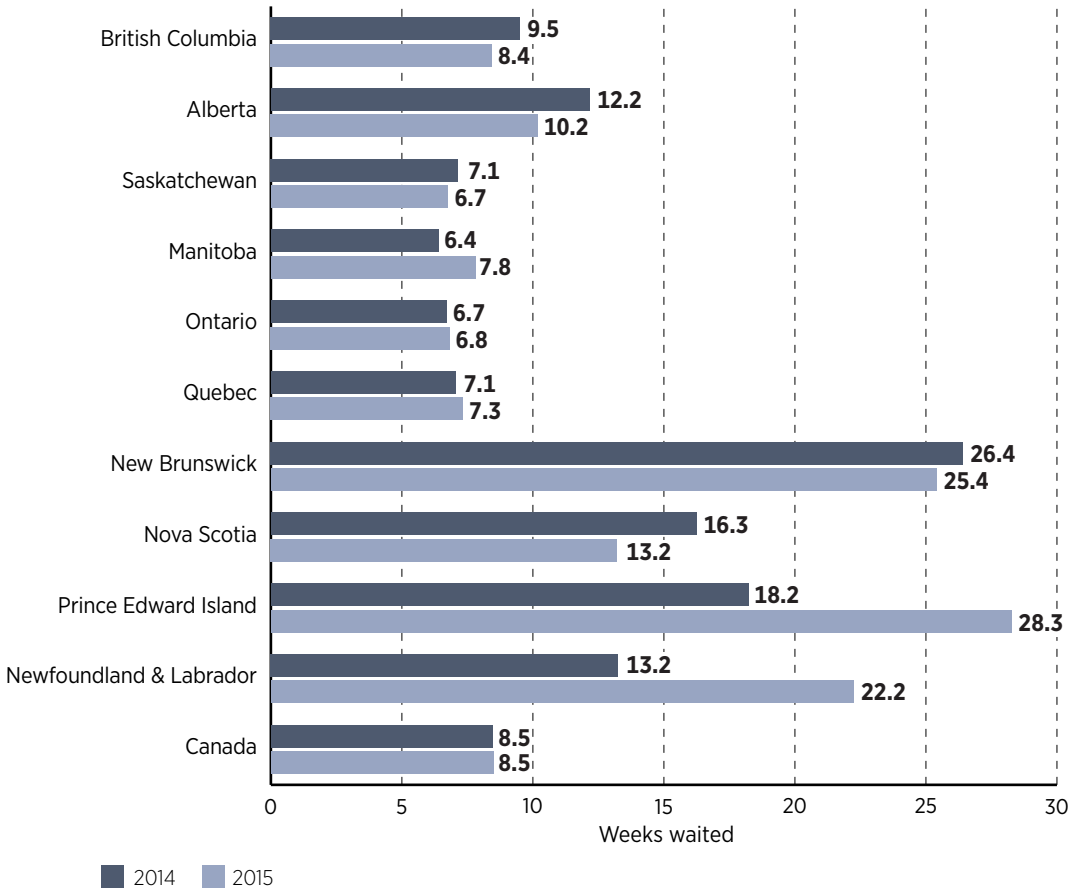
Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. the first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist;

2. the second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.

While the total waiting time marginally increased between 2014 and 2015 by 0.1 weeks, this increase is reflected in neither the first nor second segments as a result of rounding to the first decimal place in displayed tables and graphs. The waiting time in the first segment, from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist, is 8.5 weeks in 2015, the same as in 2014. This wait time is 130% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks (graph 1; graph 2). The waiting time to see a specialist has decreased in five provinces since 2014, but has risen in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador (chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Saskatchewan (6.7 weeks), Ontario (6.8 weeks), and Quebec (7.3 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations occur in Prince Edward Island (28.3 weeks), New Brunswick (25.4 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (22.2 weeks) (see table 3).

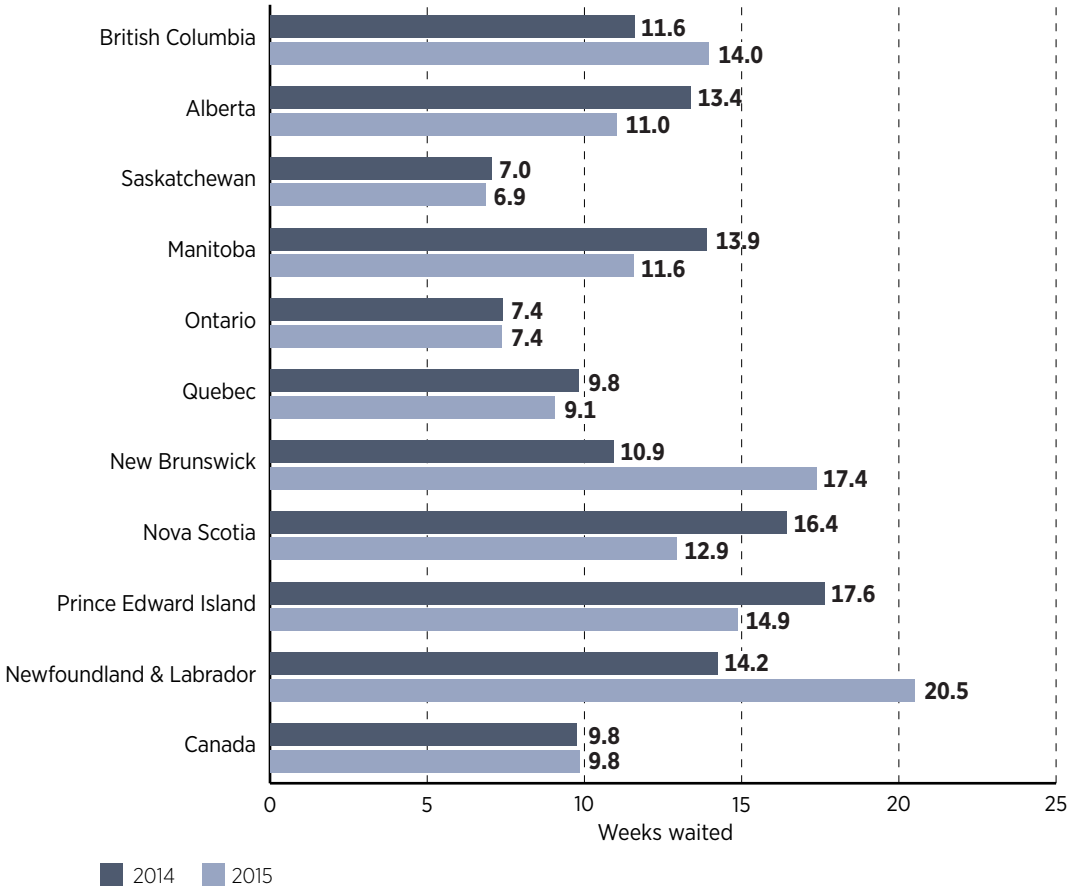
Chart 2: Wait by province in 2014 and 2015—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014, 2015.

The waiting time in the second segment, from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment, is 9.8 weeks in 2015—the same as in 2014 (chart 3). This portion of waiting is 76% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (graph 3; graph 4). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have decreased in six provinces, stayed the same in Ontario, and increased in British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland & Labrador. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Saskatchewan (6.9 weeks), Ontario (7.4 weeks), and Quebec (9.1 weeks), while the longest are in Newfoundland & Labrador (20.5 weeks), New Brunswick (17.4 weeks), and Prince Edward (14.9 weeks) (table 4).

Chart 3: Wait by province in 2014 and 2015—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



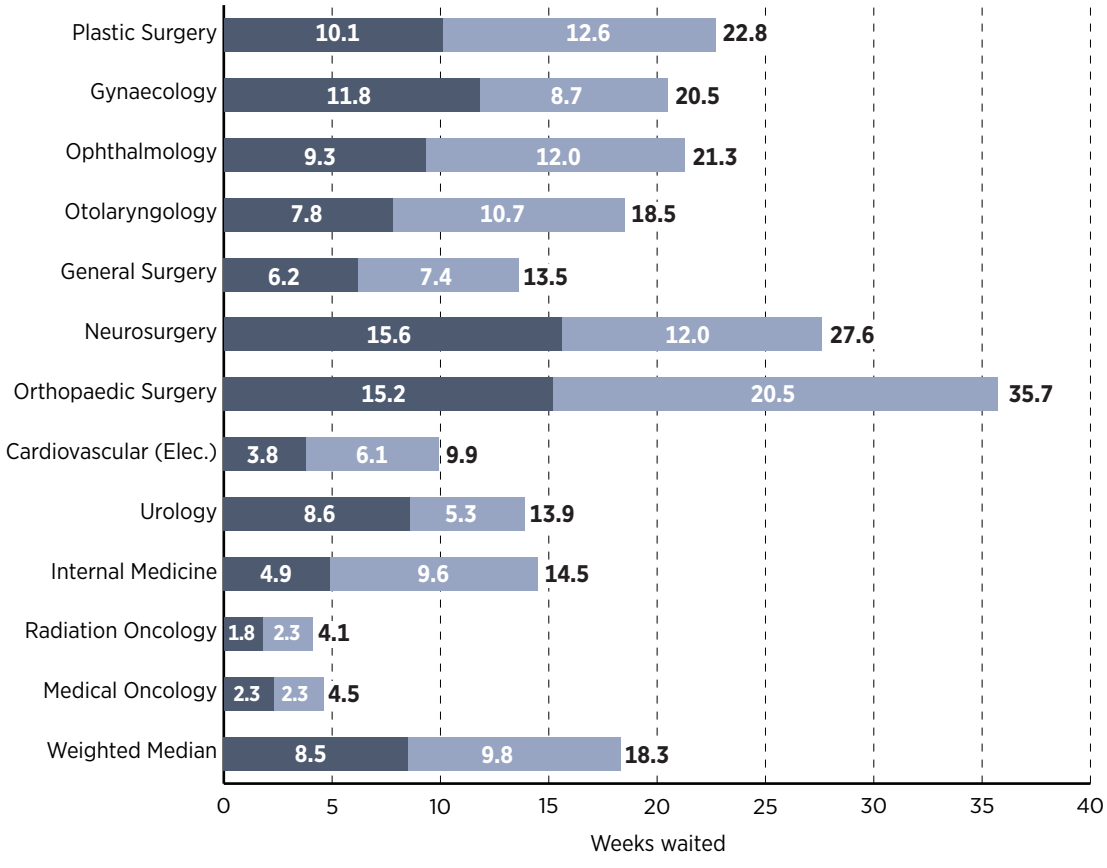
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014, 2015.

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for radiation oncology (4.1 weeks), medical oncology (4.5 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (9.9 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a referral by a GP and orthopaedic surgery (35.7 weeks), neurosurgery (27.6 weeks), and plastic surgery (22.8 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2014 and 2015 have been for gynaecology (4.3 weeks), ophthalmology (1.6 weeks), and medical oncology (1.2 weeks). Such increases are offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in the fields like orthopaedic surgery (–6.5 weeks), plastic surgery (–4.4 weeks) and neurosurgery (–3.6 weeks).

Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. With regard to the first segment, the shortest waits are in radiation oncology

Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2015—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment

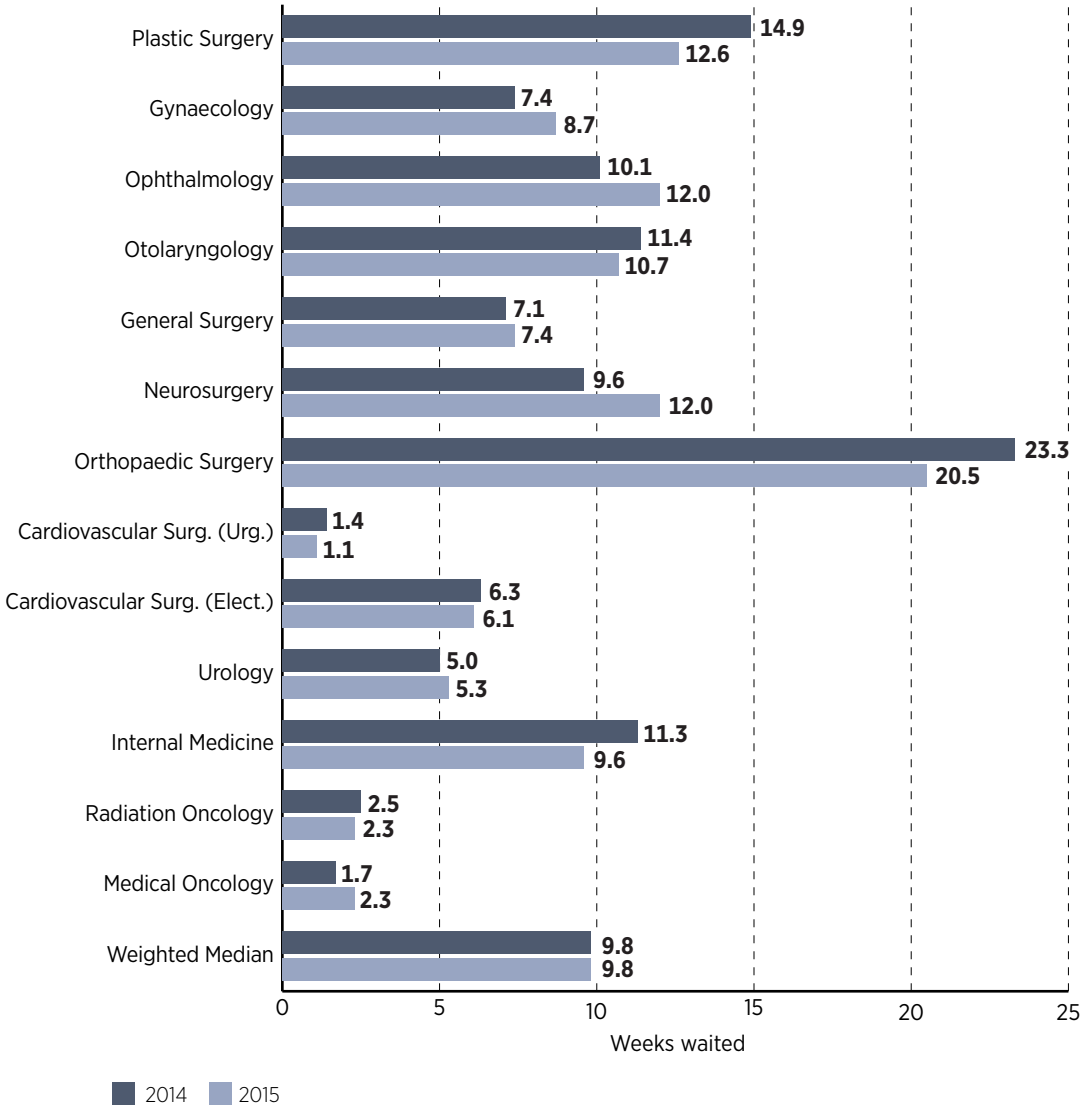


Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015.

(1.8 weeks), medical oncology (2.3 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (3.8 weeks). Meanwhile, the longest waits are for neurosurgery (15.6 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (15.2 weeks), and gynaecology (11.8 weeks) (table 3).

For the second segment, patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.1 weeks), medical oncology (2.3 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.3 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (20.5 weeks), plastic surgery (12.6 weeks), and neurosurgery and ophthalmology (12.0 weeks) (table 4; chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5A–5L.

Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2014 and 2015—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014, 2015.

Comparison between clinically "reasonable" and actual waiting times

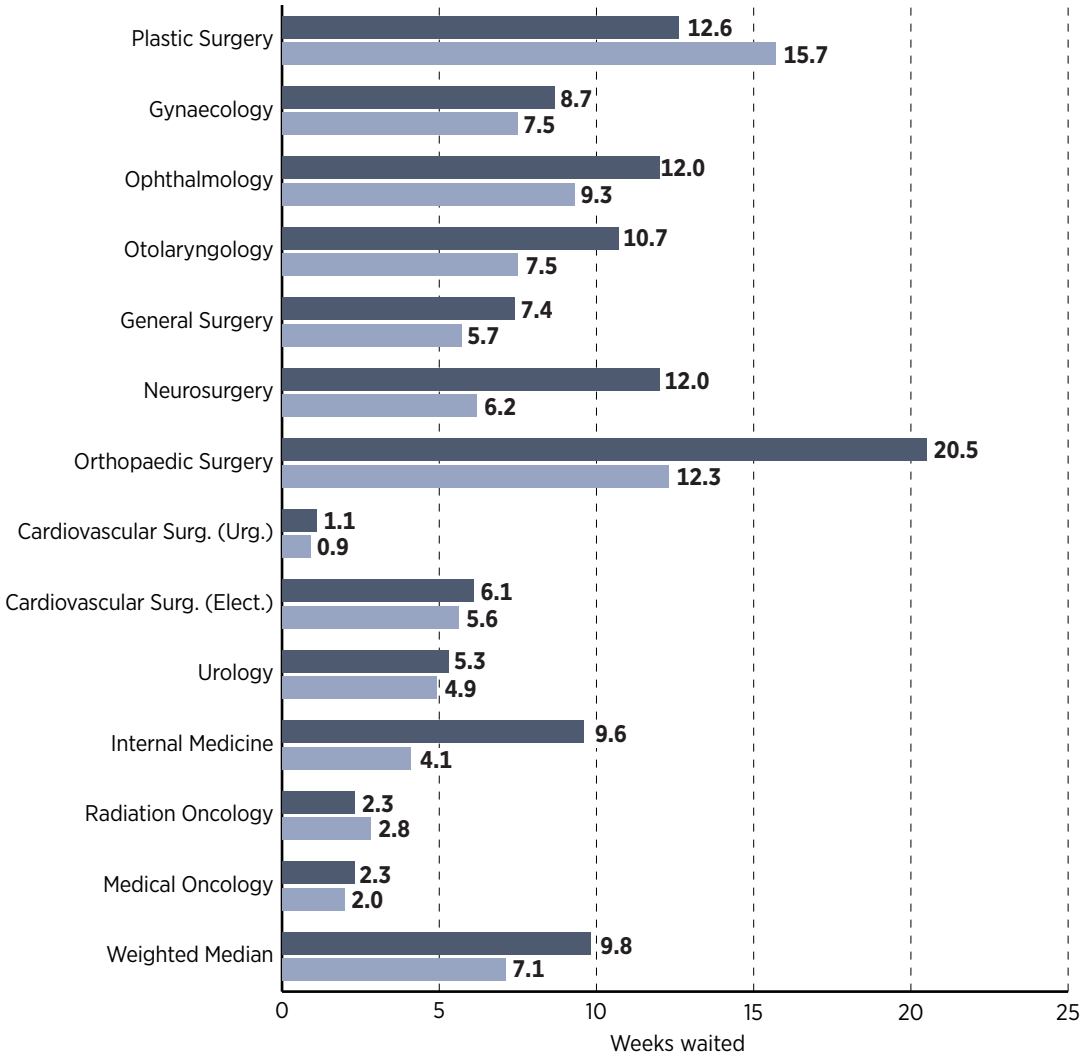
Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically "reasonable" waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 104 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 66% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Saskatchewan is the only province where actual wait times are shorter than what physicians in the province consider is clinically reasonable. While this performance must not be discounted, it should however be noted that physicians in Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland & Labrador hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is "reasonable" (table 10). The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is 8.2 weeks longer than what is considered to be "reasonable" by specialists (chart 6). [2] Median reasonable wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 9A–9L.

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan has increased to 4.0 weeks in 2015 from 3.8 weeks in 2014. Ontario has the shortest wait for a CT scan (3.0 weeks), while the longest wait occurs in Prince Edward Island (6.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has increased to 10.4 weeks in 2015 from 8.7 weeks in 2014. Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait for an MRI (5.0 weeks), while residents of British Columbia wait longest (24.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has increased to 4.0 weeks in 2015 from 3.3 weeks in 2014. Alberta and Ontario have the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Prince Edward Island has the longest ultrasound waiting time: 42.0 weeks (chart 7).

2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Internal Medicine, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 133%.

Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait by specialty in Canada in 2015—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015.

Chart 7: Waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2015, 2014, and 2013

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
British Columbia	5.0	5.0	4.0	24.0	20.0	16.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Alberta	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	4.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Manitoba	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	5.0	4.0	5.0
Ontario	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	5.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	4.0	6.5
New Brunswick	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	7.0	5.5	5.5
Nova Scotia	5.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Prince Edward Island	6.0	6.0	3.5	12.0	16.0	13.0	42.0	4.0	6.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	4.8	4.0	5.3	6.0	6.0	10.0	6.3	6.0	6.0
Canada	4.0	3.8	3.6	10.4	8.7	8.3	4.0	3.3	3.8

Note: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A

Numbers of procedures for which people are waiting

This study estimates that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2015 is 894,449 (table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis). The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting increased in British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland & Labrador but decreased in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. [3] Comparisons with data from 2014 for Quebec (and, thus, also the Canadian total) cannot be made reliably this year due to a change in methodology (see "Method", p. 11ff). Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.5% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2015, which varies from a low of 1.7% in Quebec to a high of 8.4% in Newfoundland & Labrador. [4] Tables 13A–13L (pp. 55–60) show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

3. It is likely that the number of patients waiting in 2015 is underestimated as a result of a lack of data in certain specialties.

4. These numbers should be interpreted with caution, especially for Saskatchewan. As a result of discussions with provincial authorities in 2002, counts of "the number of patients waiting for surgery" have been replaced with the "number of procedures for which patients are waiting". There do not, however, appear to be significant systematic differences between the numbers of "procedures for which people are waiting" estimated in this edition of *Waiting Your Turn* and counts of "patients waiting" reported by provincial ministries.

Method

The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 12 and April 27, 2015. Survey questionnaires [2] were sent to practitioners in 12 medical specialties: plastic surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, cardiovascular surgery, urology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. This year, the overall response rate was 21% (table 1). The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in table 2 to table 15.

While this study replicates methods used in previous editions, this year's survey contains fewer questions than in previous years. Both versions of the survey are included for comparison (Appendixes C, D). Because data from the eliminated questions were treated independently of calculated medians, there is no reason to believe that their removal this year will have any material impact on the results contained in this edition of the report.

As with previous editions, this study is designed to estimate the wait for medically necessary elective treatment.[3] Waiting time is calculated as the median of physician responses. The median is calculated by ranking specialists' responses in either ascending or descending order, and determining the middle value. [4]

The provincial weighted medians, for each specialty, reported in the last line of tables 5A–5L, are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty or neurolysis for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all surgeries within that specialty constituted by that procedure. The sum of these multiplied terms forms the weighted median for that province and specialty (an analogous method is used for tables 9A–9L).

2. The Cornerstone Group of Companies provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Specialists were offered a chance to a $2000 cash prize (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond. Physicians were contacted via letter-mail, facsimile, and telephone.

3. Emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured for cardiovascular surgery. The specialties of Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, Neurosurgery, and Radiation Oncology also include non-elective wait times.

4. For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

To obtain the provincial medians (displayed in the last row of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8), the 12 specialty medians are each weighted by a ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists of all types in the province. To obtain the national medians (displayed in the last column of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8) we use a similar ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists in that specialty across all provinces.

To estimate the number of procedures for which people are waiting, the total annual number of procedures is divided by 52 (weeks per year) and then multiplied by the Fraser Institute's estimate of the actual provincial average number of weeks waited. This means that a waiting period of one month implies that, on average, patients are waiting one-twelfth of a year for surgery. Therefore, the next person added to the list would find one-twelfth of a year's patients ahead of him or her in the queue. The main assumption underlying this estimate is that the number of surgeries performed will neither increase nor decrease within the year in response to waiting lists.

The number of non-emergency procedures for which people are waiting that were not included in the survey is also calculated, and is listed in table 12 as the "residual" number of procedures for which people are waiting. To estimate this residual number, the number of non-emergency operations not contained in the survey that are done in each province annually must be used. This residual number of operations (compiled from the CIHI data) is then divided by 52 (weeks) and multiplied by each province's weighted median waiting time for all specialties.

This study's weighting of medians and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting are based on data for 2013/14 from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2015a) the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2015b), and the Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB) (CIHI, 2015c) published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Last year, the authors had made a pro-rated estimate of surgeries in Quebec using the number of acute surgeries performed in the province in 2011/12. This year, data from Quebec is available from the Hospital Morbidity Database. Due to this change, year-to-year comparisons of estimates for the number of procedures for which patients are waiting in the province of Quebec (and hence, the Canadian total) cannot be made reliably.

There are also a number of minor problems in matching the CIHI's categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute's survey. In a few instances, an operation

such as rhinoplasty is listed under more than one specialty in *Waiting Your Turn*. In these cases, we divide the number of patients annually undergoing this type of operation among specialties according to the proportion of specialists in each of the overlapping specialties: for example, if plastic surgeons constitute 75% of the group of specialists performing rhinoplasties, then the number of rhinoplasties counted under plastic surgery is the total multiplied by 0.75. A second problem is that, in some cases, an operation listed in the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire has no direct match in the CIHI tabulation. An example is ophthalmological surgery for glaucoma, which is not categorized separately in the CIHI discharge abstract data. In these cases, we make no estimate of the number of patients waiting for these operations.

The Fraser Institute's cardiovascular surgery questionnaire, following the traditional classification by which patients are prioritized, has distinguished among emergent, urgent, and elective patients. However, in discussing the situation with physicians and hospital administrators, it became clear that these classifications are not standardized across provinces. Decisions as to how to group patients were thus left to responding physicians and heart centres. Direct comparisons among provinces using these categories should, therefore, be made tentatively.

Finally, when interpreting median wait-time data for procedures, specialties, and provinces, it is important to take note of the number of responses upon which estimates are based. These are contained in **tables 1a–c**. This year, provincial results for Prince Edward Island should be interpreted with particular caution since data is not available for certain specialties because of either a lack of response or an absence of doctors practising some specialties.

Comparisons of Data from Other Sources

Estimates of wait times measured by provincial governments

On November 16, 2015, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. A list of links to wait-times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

While it is encouraging that provincial governments have gradually come to recognize the value of measuring and reporting wait times for medically necessary procedures and treatments, there are a number of reasons that their estimates should be interpreted with caution.

1 Many provinces still do not measure the wait time between the date a patient receives a referral from a general practitioner and the consultation with a specialist. Although there are some notable exceptions, most provinces focus only on the time between the date on which a treatment was scheduled (or booked) and the date of the treatment. The Fraser Institute intends to assist those seeking treatment, and those evaluating waiting times, by providing comprehensive data on the entire wait a person seeking treatment can expect. Accordingly, the Institute measures the time between the decision of the specialist that treatment is required and treatment being received as well as the time between a referral by a general practitioner and the consultation with a specialist.

2 Even when examining only the waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment, many provinces only start their wait-time clocks when the operating room booking information for a case is received by the hospital. Using this definition may understate the patient's actual waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment because it will not include any delays between the decision to treat the patient and the formal booking and recording for that patient. In addition, because some hospitals may only book a few months ahead, this method of measuring waiting lists likely omits a substantial fraction of patients with waits beyond the booking period (Ramsay, 1998).

3 In years past, wait-times data from certain provinces have been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures they report to have been actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment. Previous reports by the Fraser Institute (for example, see Barua and Fathers, 2014) have consistently demonstrated how, in those provinces, either there had to have been fewer people waiting or significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government's reported wait time must have been incorrect.

4 Because of differences in the number of specialties and procedures included, as well as different definitions of how wait times are measured, estimates from provincial governments are usually not comparable among provinces or across time (usually only going back a few years). The Fraser Institute measures wait times for the same set of specialties across all provinces, employs a consistent methodology, and has published annual estimates for over two decades.

Comprehensive comparisons of wait time estimates from provincial governments with data from the Fraser Institute can be found in previous versions of *Waiting Your Turn*.

Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources

The waiting list data can be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily those found in academic journals. There exist 95 independent waiting-time estimates that can be compared with recent Fraser Institute's figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Fraser Institute's figures lie below the comparison values. In only 31 instances does the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they are identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Fraser Institute's measurements are not biased upward but, if anything, may be biased downward, understating actual waiting times. (For further explanation, see *Waiting Your Turn, 2009*).

Pan-Canadian benchmarks

Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments agreed to a set of common benchmarks for medically necessary treatment on December 12, 2005 (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005). **Chart 8** compares those benchmarks for which a similar comparator exists in *Waiting Your Turn*. Two observations arise from

Chart 8: Pan-Canadian benchmark wait times and *Waiting Your Turn 2015*

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/ *Waiting Your Turn*)	Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Time	National Median Wait Time (1) (Range of Provincial Median Wait Times) in weeks	National Median Reasonable Wait Time (1) (Range of Provincial Reasonable Median Wait Times) in weeks
Radiation Therapy/ Radiation Oncology	within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	2.3 (1.0–4.0)	2.8 (1.6–5.1)
Hip Replacements	within 26 weeks	23.2 (10.0–52.0)	13.2 (10.0–20.0)
Knee Replacements	within 26 weeks	23.2 (10.0–52.0)	13.2 (10.0–20.0)
Cataract Surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	13.1 (8.0–22.0)	10.2 (8.0–16.0)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.3 (0.0–1.5)/ Urgent: 0.9 (0.5–8.0)/ Elective: 5.7 (1.0–26.0)	Emergent: 0.3 (0.0–1.0)/ Urgent: 0.8 (0.5–2.0)/ Elective: 5.7 (3.0–12.0)

(1) These wait times were produced for individual procedures using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties, described above under "Methodology".

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005 and The Fraser Institute's National Waiting List Survey.

this comparison. First, Canada's physicians tend to have a lower threshold for reasonable wait times than do Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments. Second, median wait times in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50% of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider "reasonable". [5]

5. Note that, although the median wait time is less than the benchmark wait time, this does not mean that provinces have already met their targets. The pan-Canadian benchmark wait times apply to all patient cases, while the median wait time is the time by which 50% of patients have been treated and 50% of patients are still waiting for treatment.

Conclusion

The 2015 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that the total waiting time for elective medical treatment across the provinces is slightly longer than in 2014, and that it remains at a very high level historically. Even if one debates the reliability of waiting-list data, this survey reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From the standpoint of the Canadian economy, a study by Stokes and Somerville (2008) found that the cumulative total lost economic output that represents the cost of waiting longer than medically recommended for treatment for total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and MRI scans in 2007 was an estimated $14.8 billion. More recently, Barua and Ren (2015) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately $1,289 in 2014 if only hours during the normal working week were considered "lost", and as much as $3,929 if all hours of the week (excluding eight hours of sleep per night) were considered "lost".

Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse medical consequences from prolonged waiting (Waiting Your Turn, 2009; Day, 2013).

This year's survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.0% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2014/15. Physicians also report that only about 12.5% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 44.7% would agree to have their procedure performed within a week [6] if an opening arose.

Thus, despite provincial strategies to reduce wait times and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

6. The survey asks physicians what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that at least some respondents answer the question as if it were "a few days".

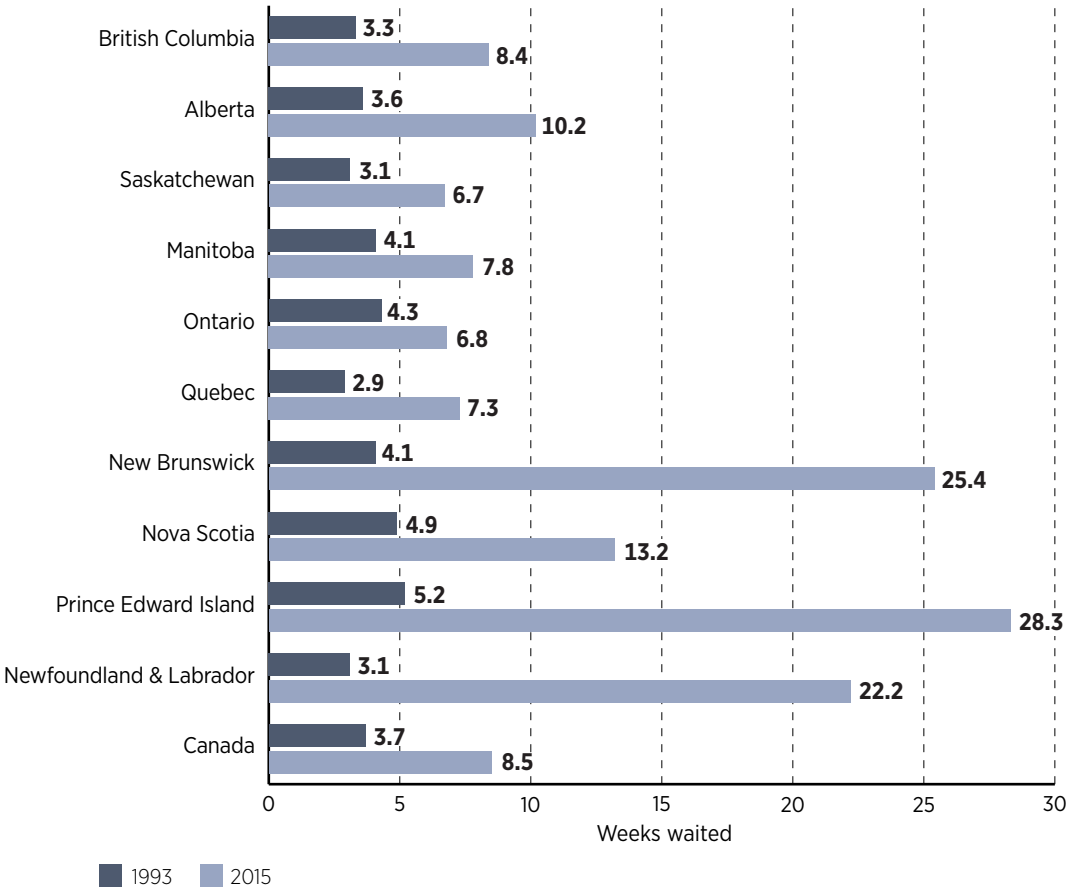
Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median Actual Waiting Times, 1993 and 2015

Graphs 7–8: Median Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 and 2015

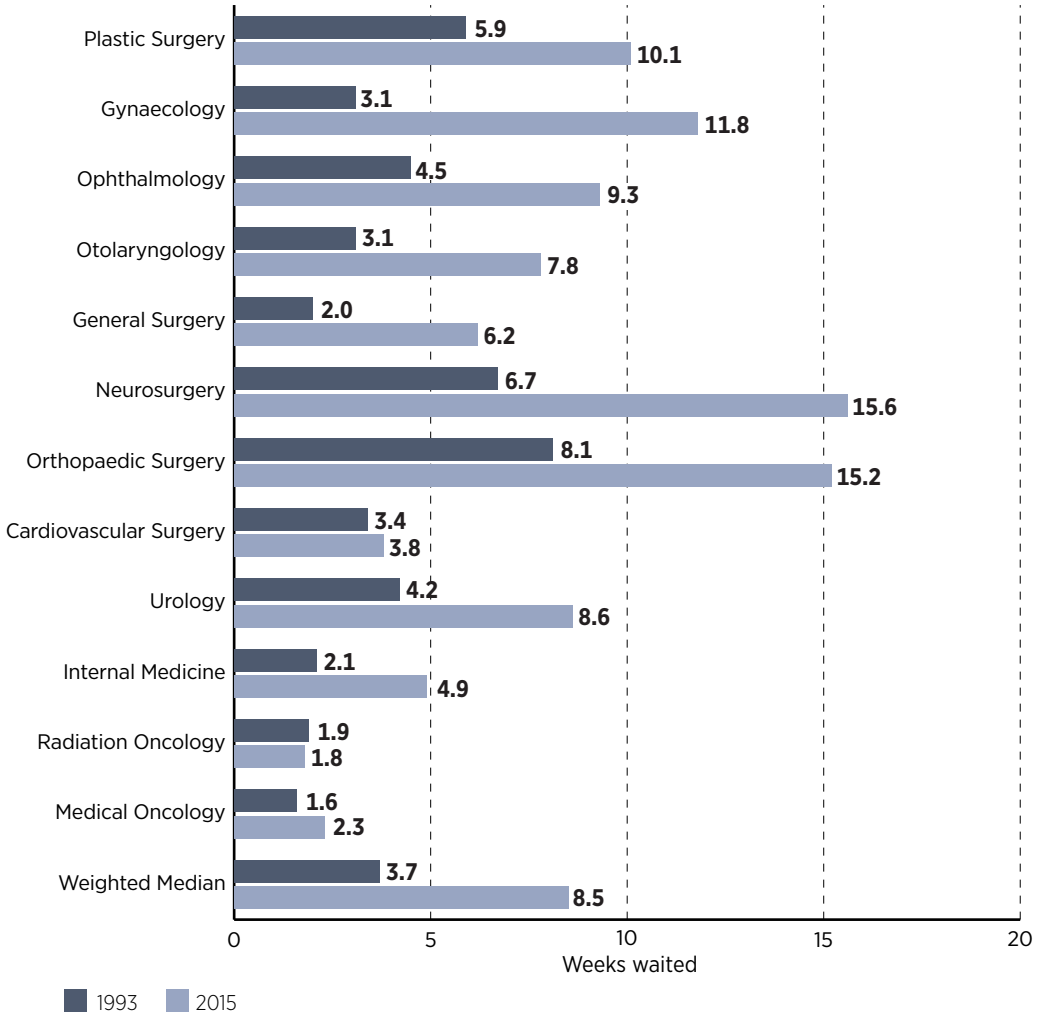
Graphs 9–19: Actual versus Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994–2015, by Province

Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2015



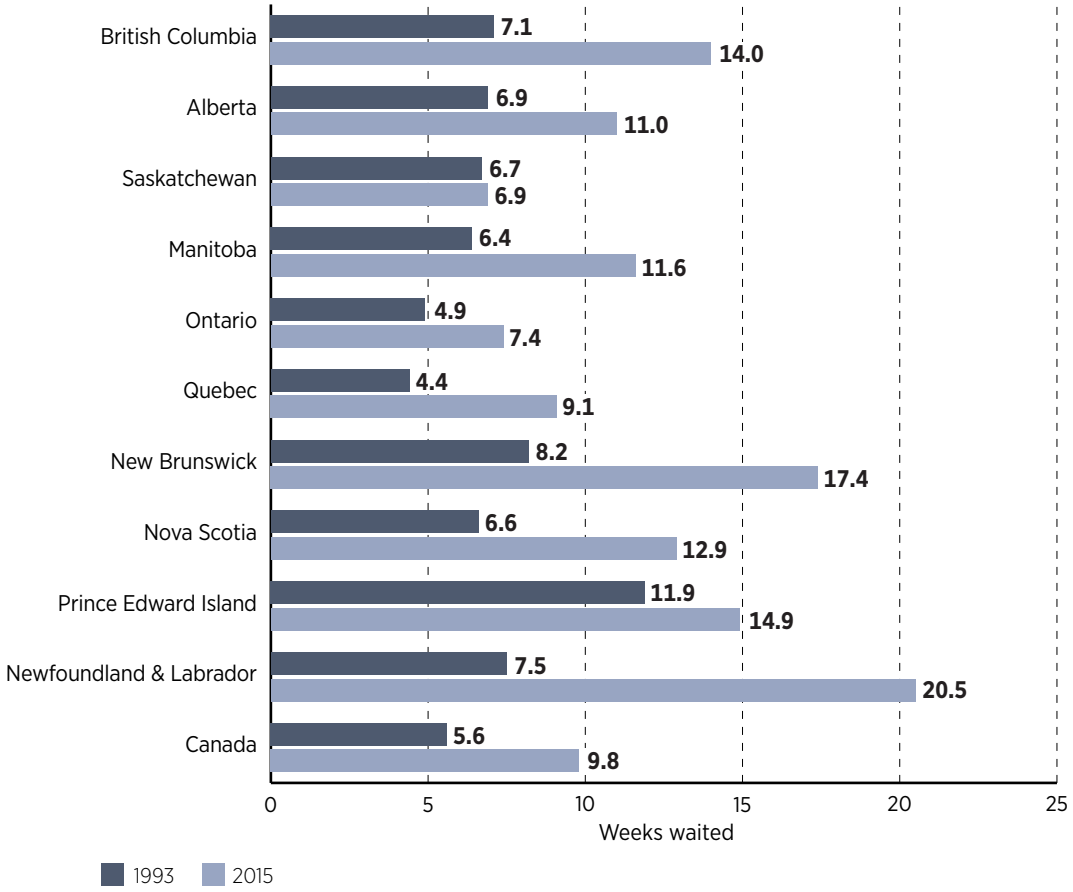
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2015



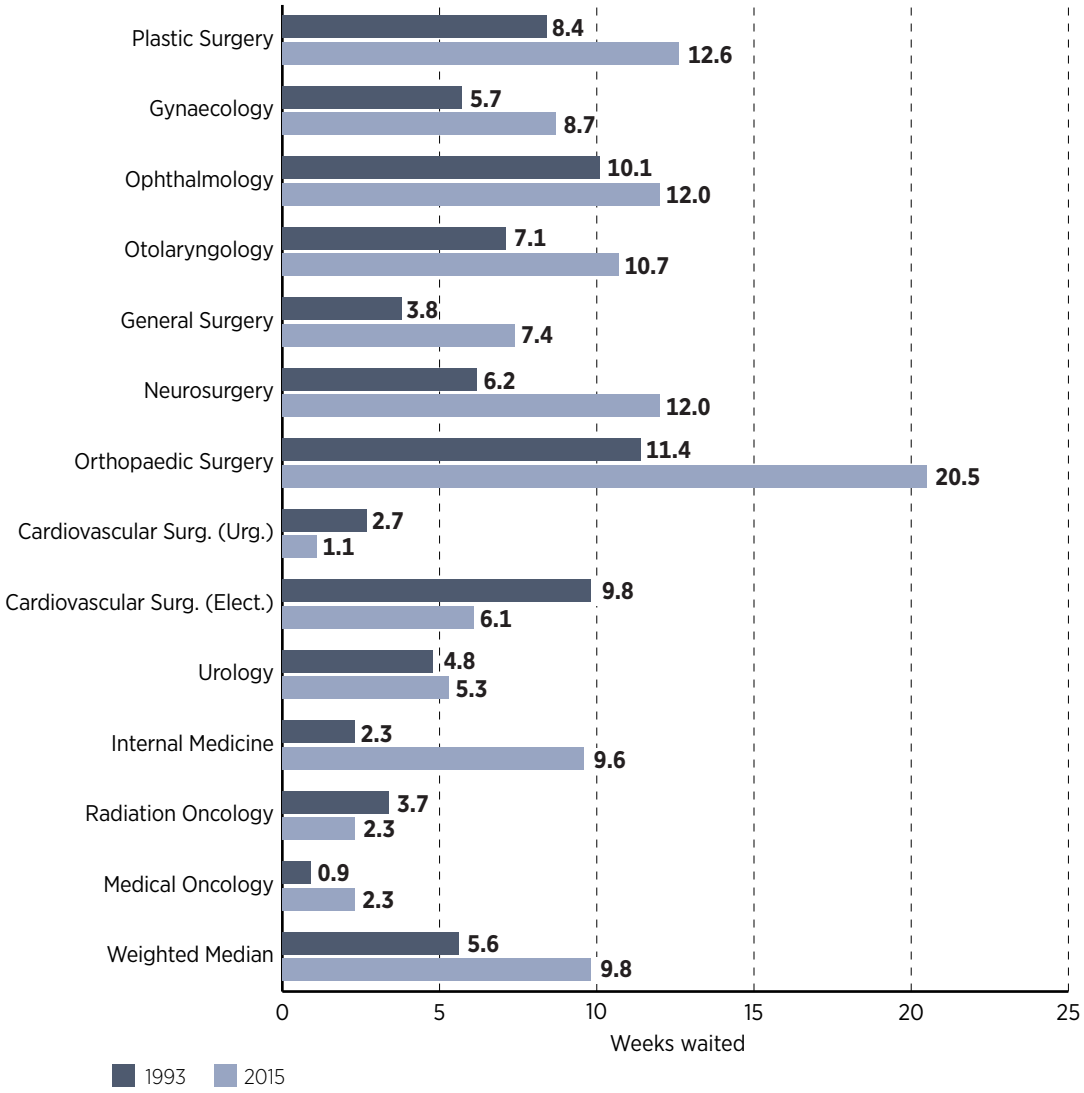
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2015



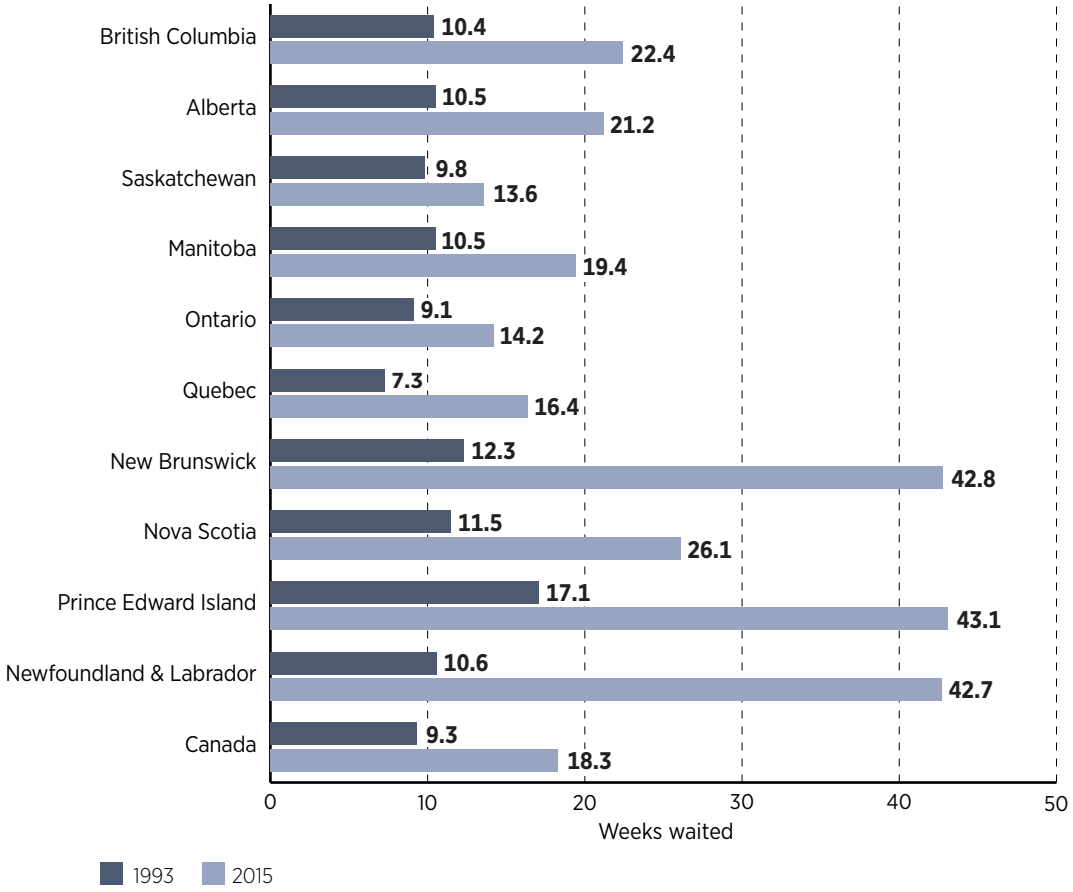
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2015



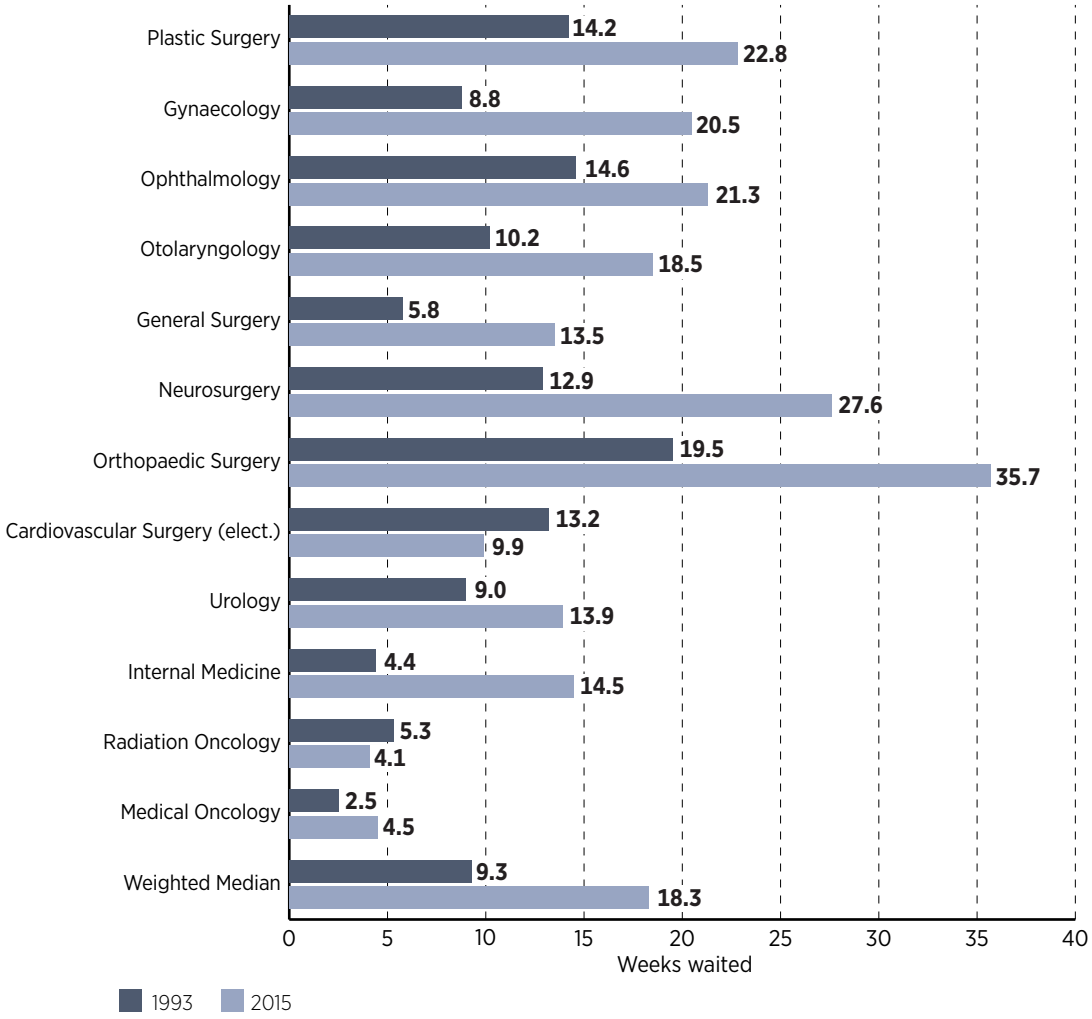
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2015



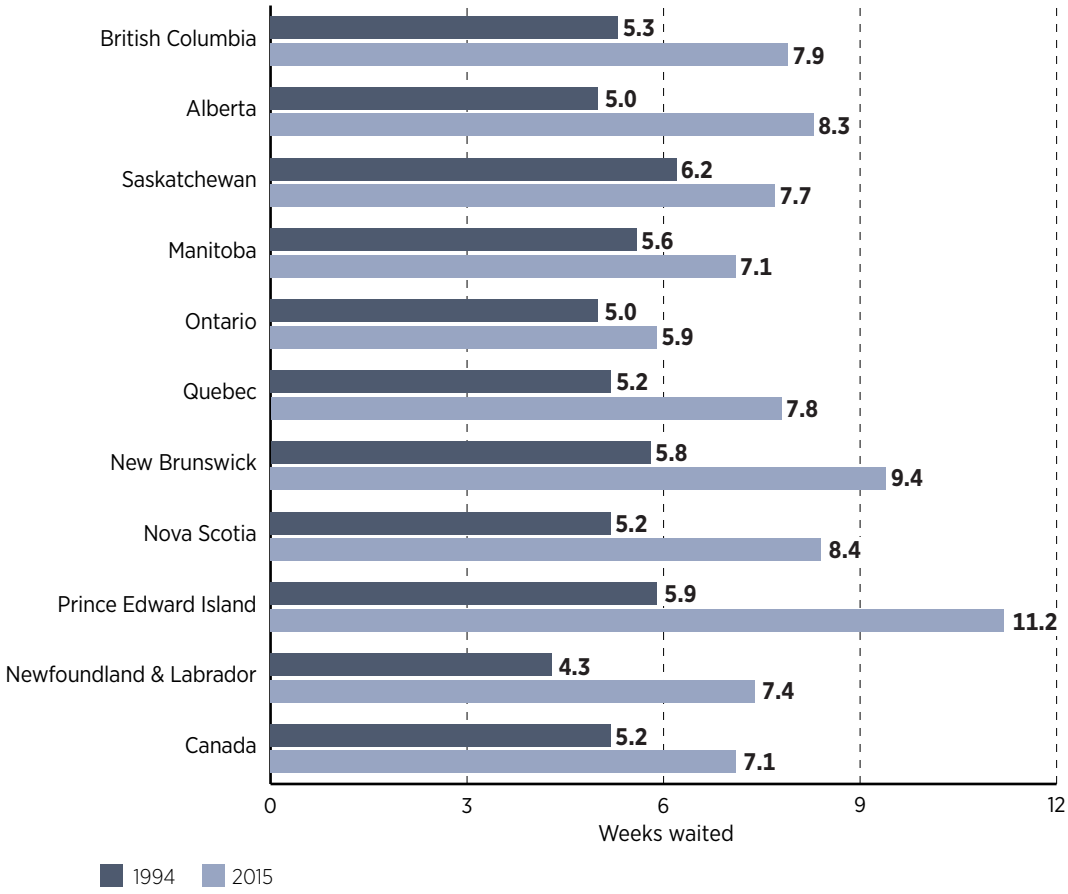
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2015



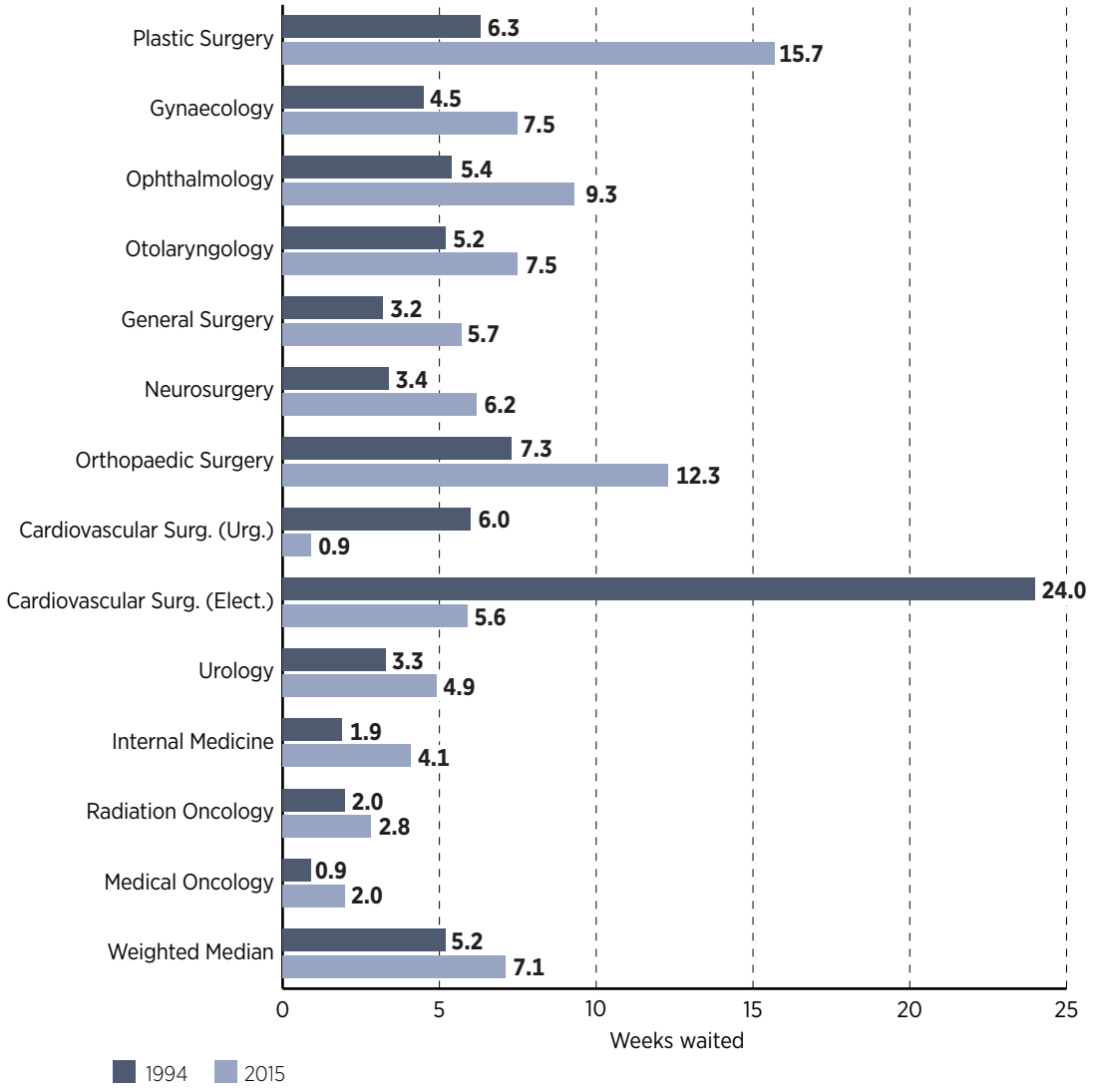
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2015



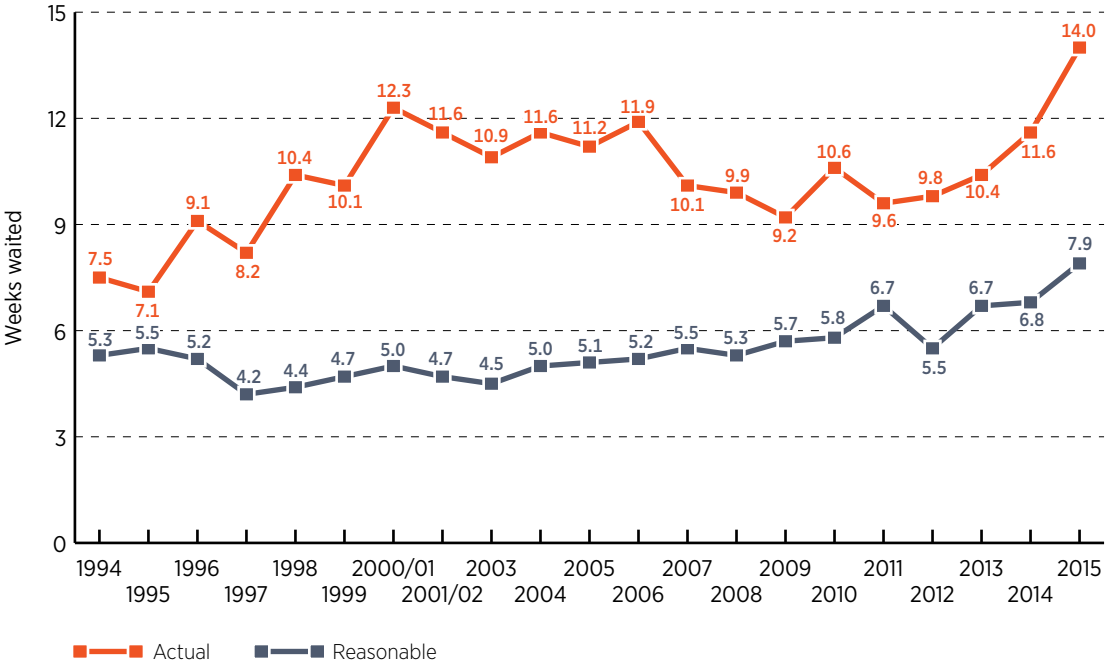
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2015



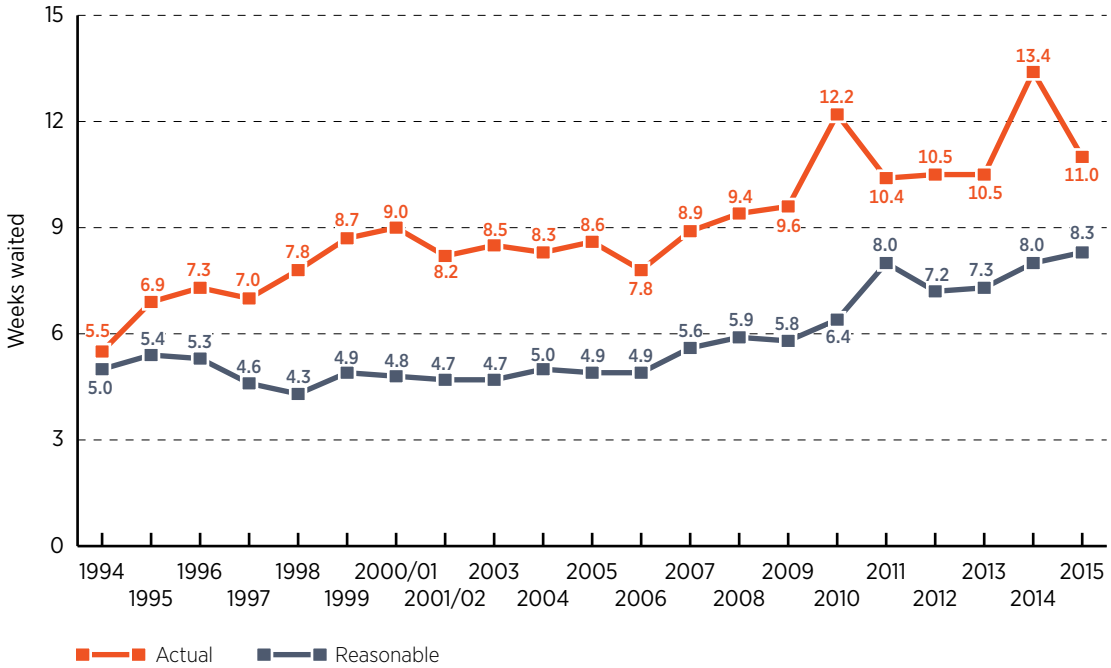
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015; *Waiting Your Turn, 1997*.

Graph 9: British Columbia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



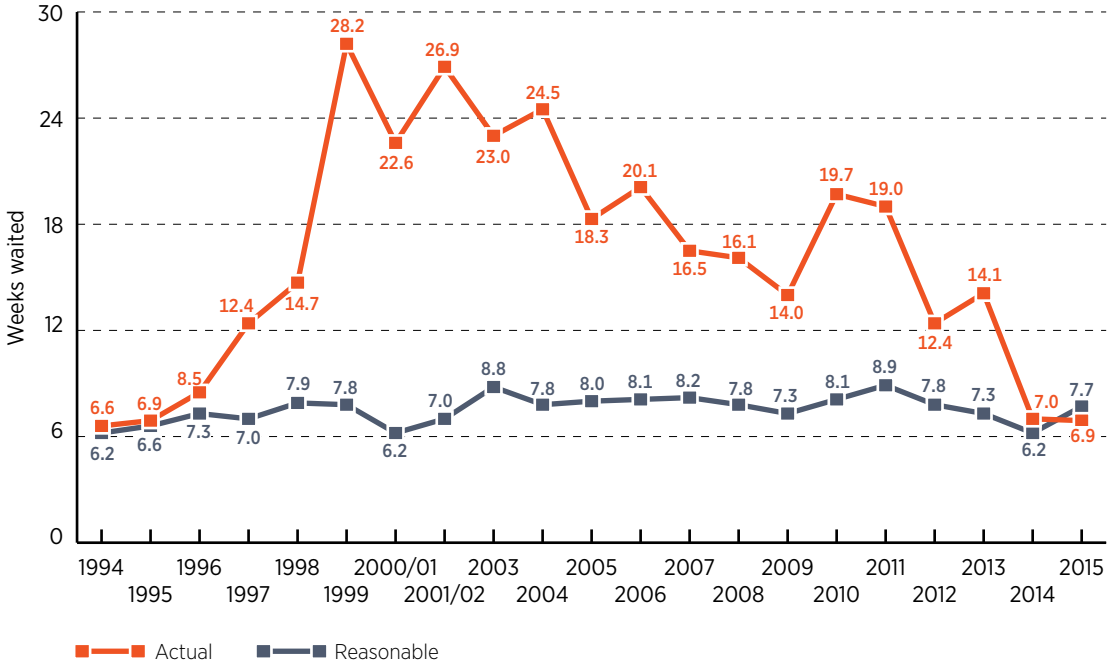
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 10: Alberta—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



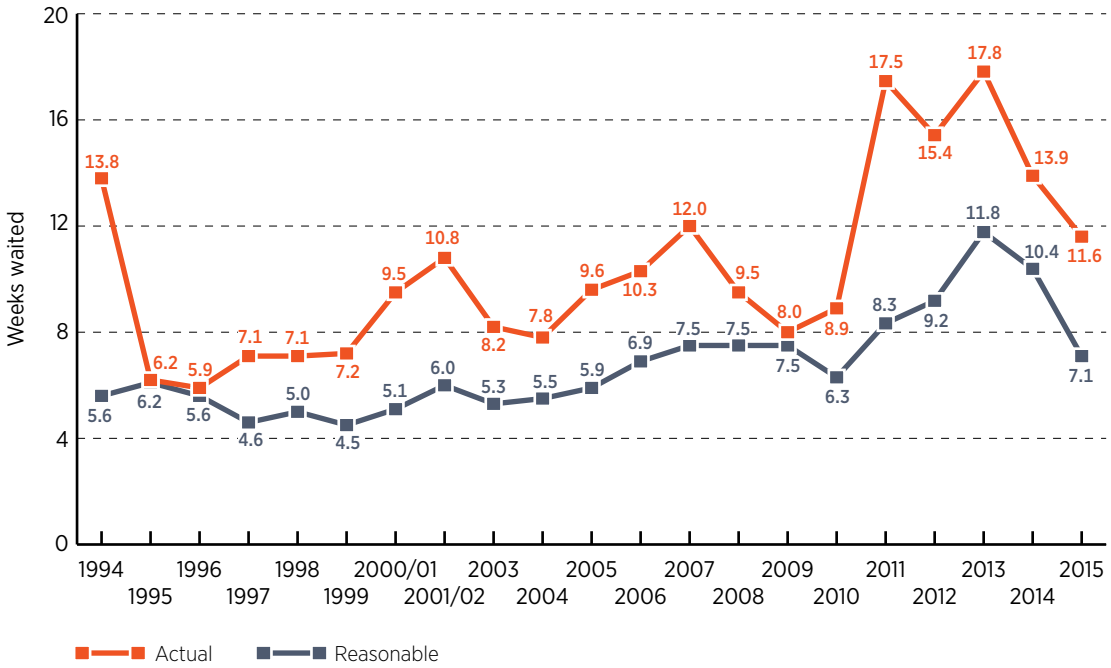
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



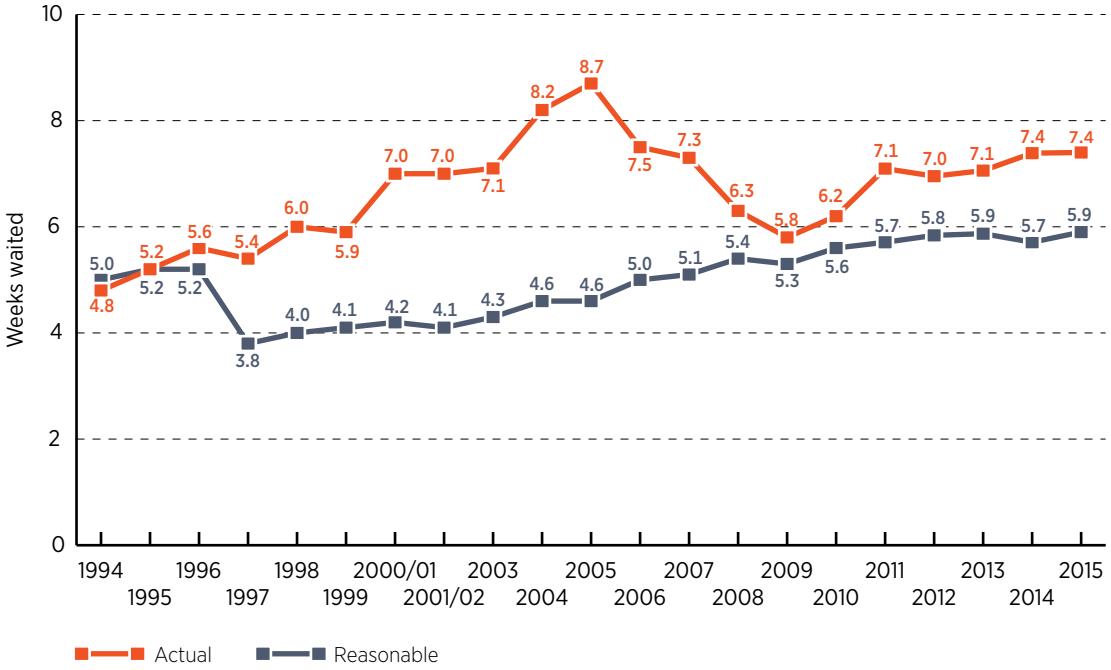
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 12: Manitoba—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



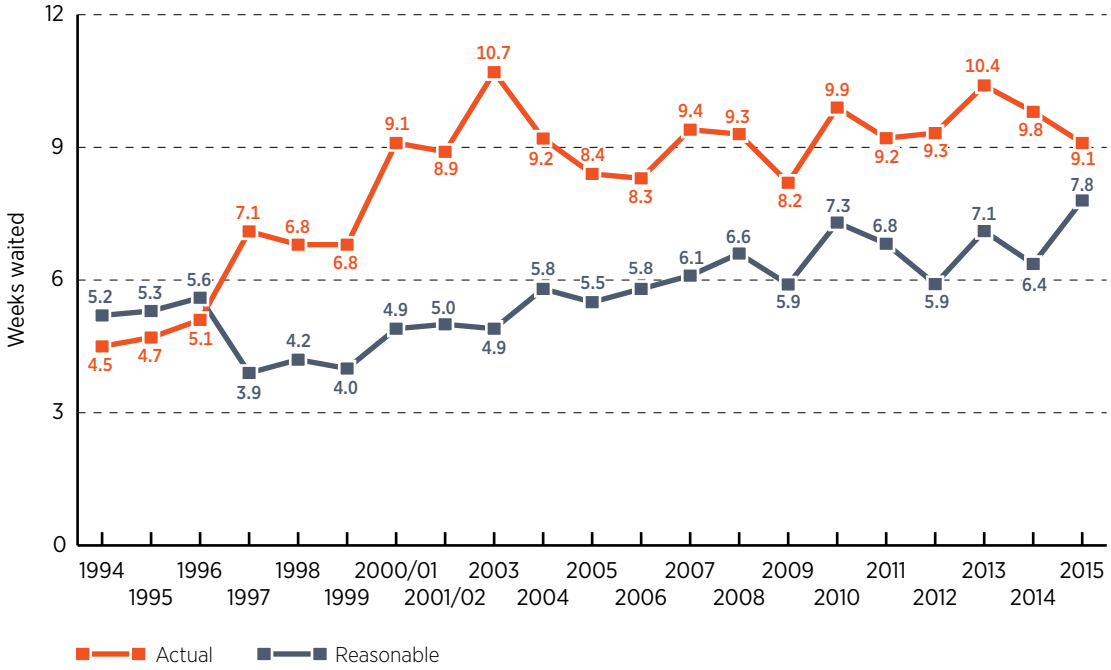
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 13: Ontario—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



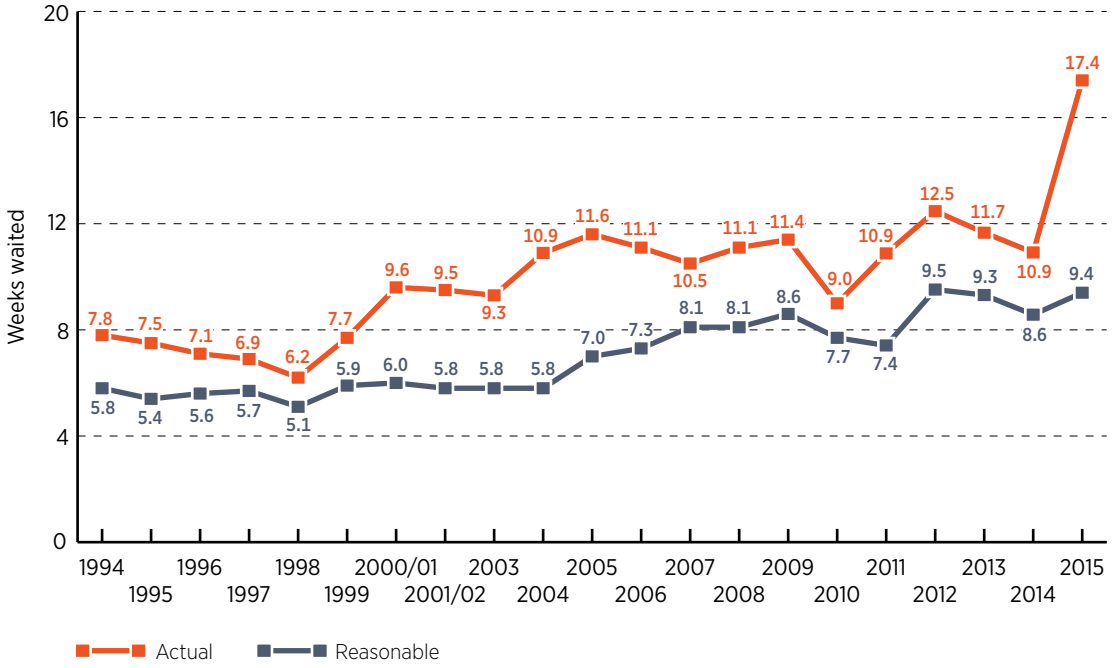
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 14: Quebec—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



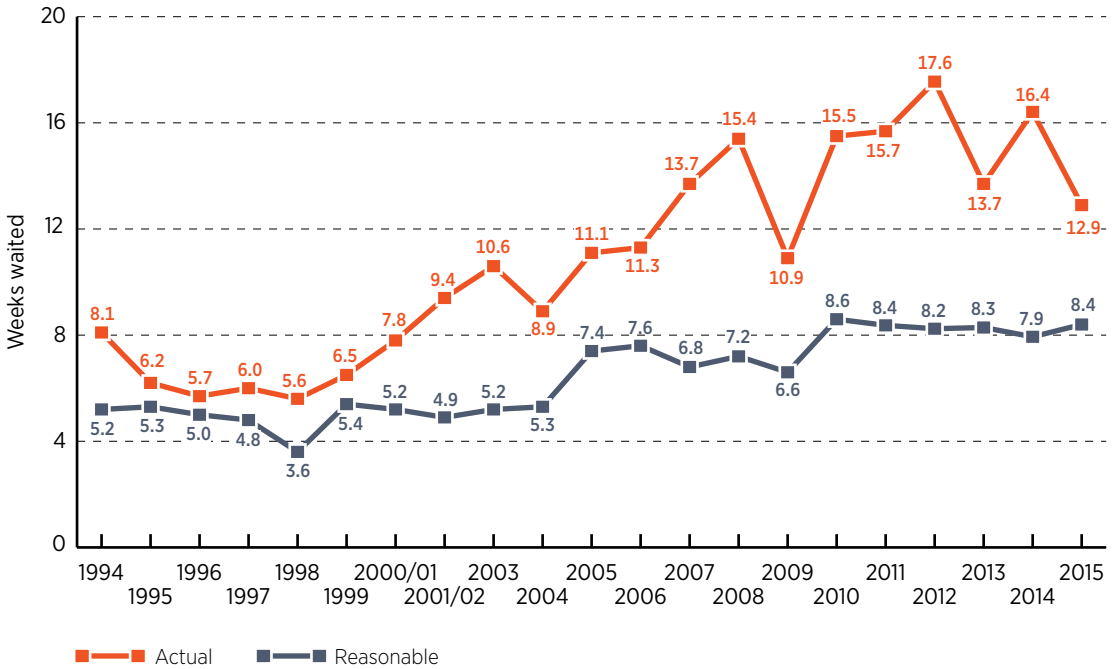
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



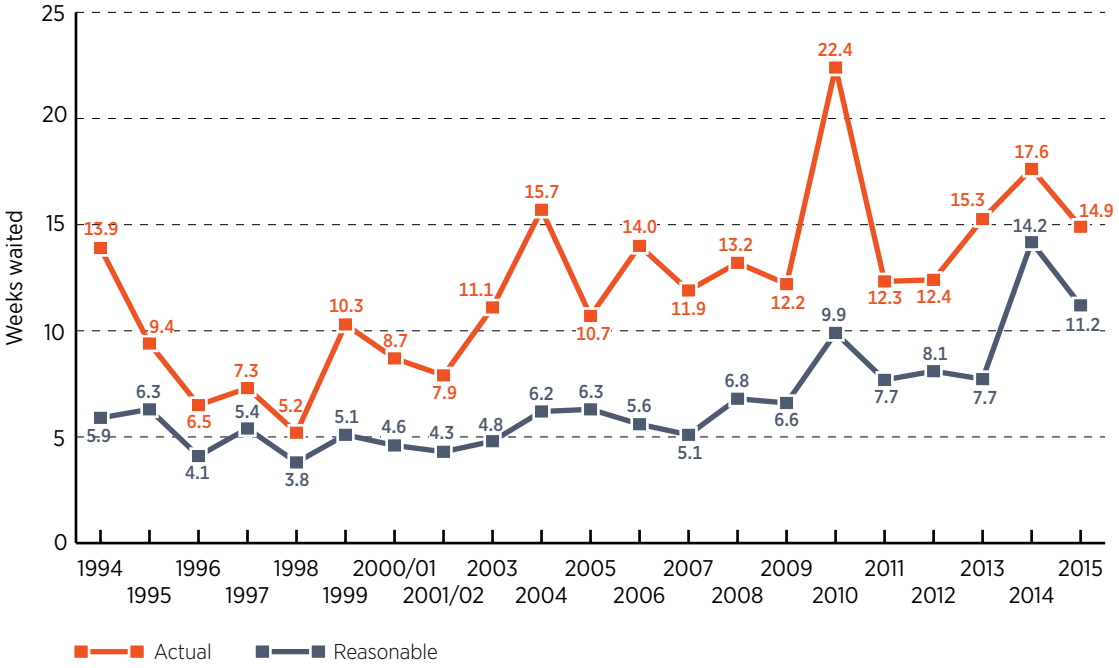
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



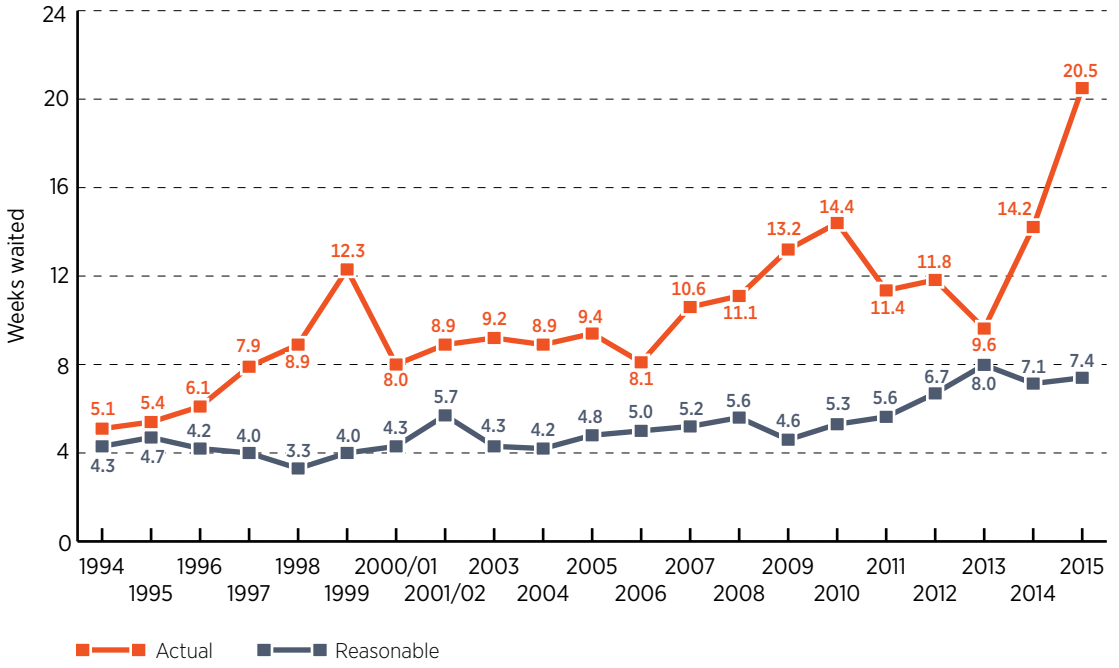
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



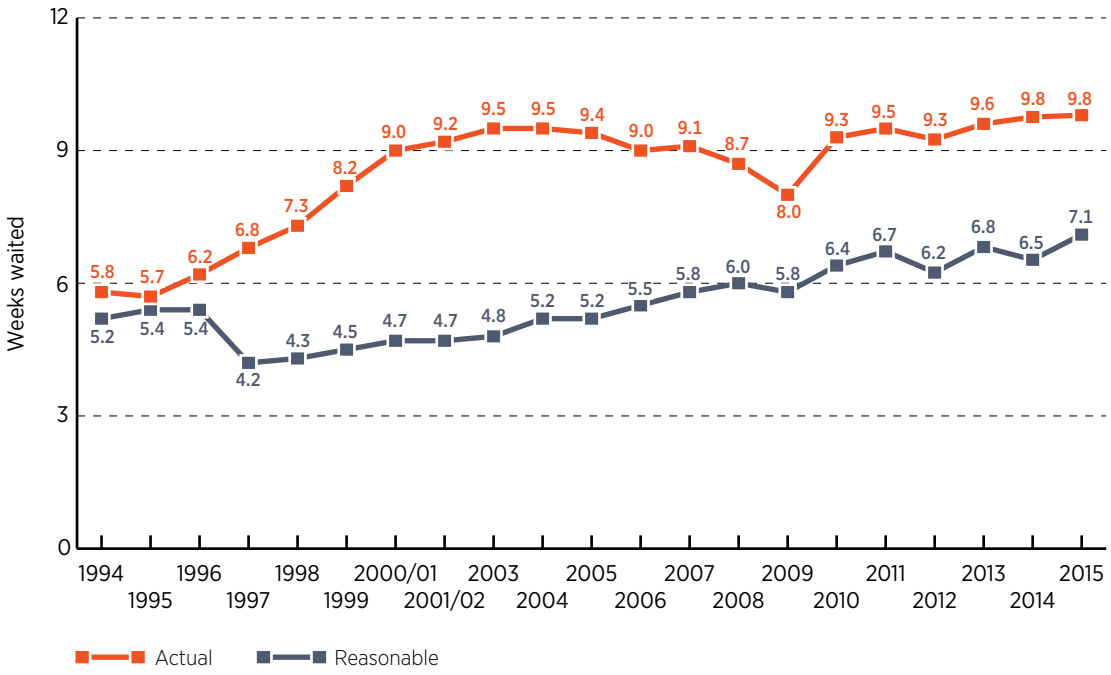
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2014.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Graph 19: Canada—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2015



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2015.

Selected tables

Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2015—response rates (percentages)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	38%	47%	60%	38%	27%	9%	57%	29%	100%	60%	29%
Gynaecology	36%	29%	34%	26%	22%	12%	32%	25%	50%	27%	23%
Ophthalmology	41%	38%	60%	48%	26%	16%	38%	20%	17%	50%	28%
Otolaryngology	52%	41%	50%	37%	28%	12%	40%	38%	100%	0%	28%
General Surgery	35%	28%	42%	33%	21%	6%	34%	22%	0%	19%	21%
Neurosurgery	51%	21%	8%	80%	6%	1%	10%	13%	—	0%	16%
Orthopaedic Surgery	45%	24%	42%	45%	25%	11%	45%	32%	40%	21%	27%
Cardiovascular Surgery	40%	23%	79%	78%	3%	6%	10%	6%	—	14%	17%
Urology	41%	43%	21%	35%	23%	12%	31%	30%	0%	29%	25%
Internal Medicine	28%	22%	46%	26%	13%	3%	29%	28%	29%	29%	16%
Radiation Oncology	4%	8%	18%	7%	7%	12%	14%	15%	0%	18%	9%
Medical Oncology	11%	0%	0%	8%	5%	6%	0%	23%	0%	0%	6%
Total	**35%**	**27%**	**42%**	**34%**	**19%**	**9%**	**33%**	**25%**	**29%**	**23%**	**21%**

Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2015—number of responses

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	25	23	6	5	49	9	8	4	2	3	134
Gynaecology	77	54	18	16	146	52	11	13	3	7	397
Ophthalmology	65	39	15	13	100	47	8	8	1	6	302
Otolaryngology	40	21	5	7	63	23	6	9	2	0	176
General Surgery	66	40	21	17	123	26	12	10	0	4	319
Neurosurgery	18	8	1	8	5	1	1	1	—	0	43
Orthopaedic Surgery	92	36	16	20	123	35	14	13	2	4	355
Cardiovascular Surgery	24	9	11	7	4	6	1	1	—	1	64
Urology	36	22	3	6	57	18	5	6	0	2	155
Internal Medicine	80	57	26	20	132	15	10	14	2	7	363
Radiation Oncology	3	4	2	1	14	13	1	2	0	2	42
Medical Oncology	9	0	0	1	10	9	0	3	0	0	32
Total	**535**	**313**	**124**	**121**	**826**	**254**	**77**	**84**	**12**	**36**	**2,382**

Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2015—number of questionnaires mailed out

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	66	49	10	13	183	100	14	14	2	5	456
Gynaecology	215	186	53	61	666	427	34	53	6	26	1,727
Ophthalmology	158	102	25	27	386	292	21	40	6	12	1,069
Otolaryngology	77	51	10	19	225	200	15	24	2	11	634
General Surgery	191	141	50	51	574	415	35	45	8	21	1,531
Neurosurgery	35	39	12	10	86	71	10	8	—	3	274
Orthopaedic Surgery	205	153	38	44	492	308	31	41	5	19	1,336
Cardiovascular Surgery	60	40	14	9	124	93	10	17	—	7	374
Urology	87	51	14	17	243	156	16	20	2	7	613
Internal Medicine	285	259	57	76	995	489	34	50	7	24	2,276
Radiation Oncology	68	51	11	14	197	113	7	13	2	11	487
Medical Oncology	83	46	1	13	192	153	5	13	1	8	515
Total	**1,530**	**1,168**	**295**	**354**	**4,363**	**2,817**	**232**	**338**	**41**	**154**	**11,292**

Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2015 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	52.5	29.5	46.2	26.7	12.3	15.1	25.5	17.1	15.9	17.8	22.8
Gynaecology	18.2	22.1	19.7	13.6	18.0	20.9	46.5	13.4	—	31.7	20.5
Ophthalmology	28.5	15.7	13.6	26.1	20.2	17.3	41.8	31.9	40.0	54.7	21.3
Otolaryngology	21.6	32.4	10.7	23.1	17.6	12.4	33.8	22.0	26.6	—	18.5
General Surgery	15.0	18.5	8.8	12.8	9.7	10.8	19.0	18.3	—	56.2	13.5
Neurosurgery	29.7	21.1	24.1	—	34.9	12.2	70.7	25.8	—	—	27.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	51.2	39.2	23.9	34.4	29.8	25.8	81.1	53.3	52.8	80.9	35.7
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	11.9	9.6	4.9	16.5	8.5	9.6	17.8	8.2	—	—	9.9
Urology	11.6	16.3	6.0	19.1	9.6	19.6	62.2	40.1	—	17.9	13.9
Internal Medicine	21.4	19.7	10.0	15.5	8.2	23.6	13.4	14.6	29.8	23.1	14.5
Radiation Oncology	11.0	3.4	3.7	2.8	3.8	3.9	2.0	5.7	—	5.6	4.1
Medical Oncology	6.1	—	—	31.9	3.8	2.7	—	6.2	—	—	4.5
Weighted Median	**22.4**	**21.2**	**13.6**	**19.4**	**14.2**	**16.4**	**42.8**	**26.1**	**43.1**	**42.7**	**18.3**

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding

Table 3: Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2015 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	28	12	34	8	5	5	11	5	7	5	10.1
Gynaecology	9.0	14.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	10.0	38.0	4.5	56.0	22.0	11.8
Ophthalmology	10.0	6.0	6.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	20.0	22.0	28.0	43.5	9.3
Otolaryngology	7.0	12.0	4.0	11.0	7.5	5.0	23.0	12.0	21.0	—	7.8
General Surgery	6.5	9.5	3.5	5.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	8.0	—	22.0	6.2
Neurosurgery	12.0	8.0	12.0	-	24.0	2.5	52.0	16.0	—	—	15.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	18.0	21.0	14.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	36.0	18.0	28.0	48.0	15.2
Cardiovascular Surgery	4.5	8.0	1.5	10.0	3.5	2.0	7.0	1.5	—	—	3.8
Urology	6.0	12.0	4.0	13.0	6.0	10.5	53.0	20.0	—	12.0	8.6
Internal Medicine	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	3.8	10.0	5.3	9.0	18.0	8.5	4.9
Radiation Oncology	7.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.0	1.0	2.5	—	1.8	1.8
Medical Oncology	3.5	—	—	12.0	2.0	1.4	—	2.0	—	—	2.3
Weighted Median	**8.4**	**10.2**	**6.7**	**7.8**	**6.8**	**7.3**	**25.4**	**13.2**	**28.3**	**22.2**	**8.5**

Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2015 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	24.5	17.5	12.2	18.7	7.3	10.4	14.8	12.6	8.9	12.8	12.6
Gynaecology	9.2	8.1	7.7	6.6	8.0	10.9	8.5	8.9	—	9.7	8.7
Ophthalmology	18.5	9.7	7.6	16.1	12.2	9.3	21.8	9.9	12.0	11.2	12.0
Otolaryngology	14.6	20.4	6.7	12.1	10.1	7.4	10.8	10.0	5.6	—	10.7
General Surgery	8.5	9.0	5.3	7.8	4.7	6.8	10.0	10.3	—	34.2	7.4
Neurosurgery	17.7	13.1	12.1	3.2	10.9	9.7	18.7	9.8	—	—	12.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	33.2	18.2	9.9	24.4	17.8	13.8	45.1	35.3	24.8	32.9	20.5
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.1	0.5	0.7	1.9	0.7	1.4	8.0	1.0	—	1.9	1.1
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	7.4	1.6	3.4	6.5	5.0	7.6	10.8	6.7	—	24.5	6.1
Urology	5.6	4.3	2.0	6.1	3.6	9.1	9.2	20.1	—	5.9	5.3
Internal Medicine	17.4	15.7	6.0	9.5	4.5	13.6	8.1	5.6	11.8	14.6	9.6
Radiation Oncology	4.0	2.3	2.2	1.3	2.0	2.9	1.0	3.2	—	3.8	2.3
Medical Oncology	2.6	—	—	19.9	1.8	1.2	—	4.2	—	—	2.3
Weighted Median	**14.0**	**11.0**	**6.9**	**11.6**	**7.4**	**9.1**	**17.4**	**12.9**	**14.9**	**20.5**	**9.8**

Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	30.0	19.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	20.0	19.0	12.0	8.0	22.8
Neurolysis	12.0	16.0	10.0	19.0	8.0	4.0	10.5	22.0	—	2.5
Blepharoplasty	25.5	16.0	12.0	20.0	5.0	4.0	15.0	12.0	16.0	4.0
Rhinoplasty	25.5	22.0	24.0	20.0	6.0	11.3	9.5	20.0	16.0	—
Scar Revision	20.0	16.0	10.0	20.0	7.0	2.5	15.0	12.0	6.0	4.5
Hand Surgery	20.0	12.0	4.0	22.0	6.0	5.5	8.0	5.0	9.0	4.8
Craniofacial Procedures	22.0	16.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	2.5	6.0	72.0	6.0	3.5
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	5.0	3.0	1.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.8	10.5	6.0	3.3
Weighted Median	**24.5**	**17.5**	**12.2**	**18.7**	**7.3**	**10.4**	**14.8**	**12.6**	**8.9**	**12.8**

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 5B: Gynaecology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	5.5	—	6.0
Tubal Ligation	12.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	—	18.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	14.0	10.0	9.0	—	16.0
Vaginal Repair	14.0	10.0	10.0	7.5	10.0	12.0	22.0	12.0	—	20.0
Tuboplasty	15.0	10.0	4.0	5.0	8.0	18.0	10.0	18.0	—	7.5
Laparoscopic Procedures	10.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	—	16.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	8.0	8.0	10.0	6.5	8.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	—	6.0
Weighted Median	**9.2**	**8.1**	**7.7**	**6.6**	**8.0**	**10.9**	**8.5**	**8.9**	**—**	**9.7**

Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	22.0	12.0	8.0	19.0	14.0	8.0	22.0	11.0	12.0	13.0
Cornea Transplant	24.0	10.0	20.0	52.0	16.0	12.0	78.0	100.0	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	24.0	8.0	7.0	16.0	11.0	14.0	18.0	4.0	12.0	14.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	12.0	4.0	7.0	—	7.0	12.0	52.0	8.0	—	8.0
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	5.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	43.0	2.0	—	2.5
Lacrimal Duct	10.0	7.0	11.5	—	12.0	24.0	22.0	6.0	—	1.0
Strabismus	12.0	11.0	—	—	20.0	24.0	20.0	15.0	—	3.0
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	7.0	6.5	2.0	8.0	26.0	8.0	4.0	—	14.5
Glaucoma	5.5	4.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	2.0	8.0	3.0	—	2.1
Weighted Median	**18.5**	**9.7**	**7.6**	**16.1**	**12.2**	**9.3**	**21.8**	**9.9**	**12.0**	**11.2**

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	10.0	10.0	3.0	8.0	6.5	6.0	8.0	4.5	4.0	—
Tympanoplasty	12.0	16.5	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	18.0	13.5	4.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	18.0	4.5	6.0	10.8	6.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	28.0	9.0	13.0	11.5	8.0	10.0	15.0	6.0	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	16.0	18.0	9.0	14.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	11.5	8.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	21.0	21.0	9.0	18.5	11.0	8.0	16.0	10.0	8.0	—
Weighted Median	**14.6**	**20.4**	**6.7**	**12.1**	**10.1**	**7.4**	**10.8**	**10.0**	**5.6**	**—**

Table 5E: General surgery (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	10.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	10.0	18.0	10.0	—	21.0
Cholecystectomy	10.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	5.5	8.0	10.0	8.0	—	21.0
Colonoscopy	16.0	10.0	6.0	10.0	5.5	4.0	10.0	22.0	—	80.0
Intestinal Operations	4.5	8.0	4.5	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	—	4.5
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	10.0	9.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	18.0	7.0	—	36.0
Breast Biopsy	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	—	2.0
Mastectomy	2.3	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	3.3
Bronchus and Lung	1.5	6.0	1.0	—	4.0	2.5	4.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	9.0	4.0	—	2.3	12.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Varicose Veins	7.0	17.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	24.0	32.0	6.0	—	—
Weighted Median	**8.5**	**9.0**	**5.3**	**7.8**	**4.7**	**6.8**	**10.0**	**10.3**	**—**	**34.2**

Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	20.0	19.0	16.0	2.5	4.0	11.0	26.0	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	35.0	26.0	16.0	2.5	12.0	11.0	26.0	16.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	6.0	9.0	10.0	3.5	12.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	4.0	—	3.5	5.0	9.0	20.0	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	11.0	2.0	—	2.5	2.0	—	4.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	**17.7**	**13.1**	**12.1**	**3.2**	**10.9**	**9.7**	**18.7**	**9.8**	**—**	**—**

Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	18.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	9.5	12.0	12.0	16.0	12.0
Removal of Pins	20.0	18.0	6.5	12.0	8.0	12.0	20.0	17.0	10.5	17.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	37.0	20.0	10.0	28.0	20.0	16.0	52.0	44.0	30.5	28.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	34.0	20.0	10.5	24.0	16.0	11.0	78.0	24.0	—	40.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	40.0	11.0	6.5	22.0	15.0	11.0	72.0	19.0	13.0	78.0
Digit Neuroma	28.0	14.0	8.5	20.0	16.0	11.0	63.5	26.0	12.0	57.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	30.0	10.0	8.0	20.0	16.0	12.0	40.0	24.0	15.0	32.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	39.5	12.0	6.0	18.0	20.0	11.0	44.0	30.0	11.0	28.0
Routine Spinal Instability	52.0	34.0	20.0	32.0	18.0	24.0	24.0	—	—	56.0
Weighted Median	**33.2**	**18.2**	**9.9**	**24.4**	**17.8**	**13.8**	**45.1**	**35.3**	**24.8**	**32.9**

Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

	Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	—	0.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.0	—	—	0.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.0	—	—	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	—	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	0.0	0.5	—	—	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**0.7**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**—**	**0.5**
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.3	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.8	8.0	1.0	—	2.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.3	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.5	1.0	8.0	—	—	2.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.8	1.0	4.0	1.5	0.8	1.0	8.0	—	—	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.5	1.0	4.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	—	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	0.5	—	—	1.0	2.0	—	1.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**1.1**	**0.5**	**0.7**	**1.9**	**0.7**	**1.4**	**8.0**	**1.0**	**—**	**1.9**
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	6.5	1.0	1.5	3.5	4.3	7.0	10.0	8.0	—	26.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	7.0	1.5	1.5	10.0	4.3	8.0	12.0	—	—	26.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	5.5	7.0	1.5	10.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	—	—	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	6.0	7.5	1.5	4.0	7.0	3.0	—	—	—	4.0
	Pacemaker Operations	8.0	1.5	5.0	—	6.0	8.0	—	6.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**7.4**	**1.6**	3.4	**6.5**	**5.0**	**7.6**	**10.8**	**6.7**	**—**	**24.5**

Table 5I: Urology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	9.0	5.5	2.0	7.0	6.0	13.0	16.0	9.5	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	5.0	2.0	7.5	6.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	6.0	4.0	—	5.5	3.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	—	6.0
Radical Cystectomy	6.0	4.5	—	4.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	6.0	—	3.0
Cystoscopy	4.0	3.3	—	4.0	3.0	6.0	6.0	26.0	—	6.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	8.0	—	12.0	6.0	18.0	22.0	18.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	6.0	4.0	—	5.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	—	5.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	8.0	10.0	—	12.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	—	14.0
Weighted Median	**5.6**	**4.3**	**2.0**	**6.1**	**3.6**	**9.1**	**9.2**	**20.1**	**—**	**5.9**

Table 5J: Internal medicine (2015) — median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	20.0	18.0	6.0	8.0	5.0	40.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	15.5
Angiography/ Angioplasty	8.0	8.0	6.0	16.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	12.0
Bronchoscopy	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	3.0	3.5	7.0	3.5	4.0	9.0
Gastroscopy	20.0	18.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	15.0	10.0	4.5	12.0	14.0
Weighted Median	**17.4**	**15.7**	**6.0**	**9.5**	**4.5**	**13.6**	**8.1**	**5.6**	**11.8**	**14.6**

Table 5K: Radiation oncology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of The Larynx	4.0	2.5	2.3	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.3	—	—
Cancer of The Cervix	4.5	2.8	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.5	—	1.8
Lung Cancer	4.0	2.0	2.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.8	—	—
Prostate Cancer	4.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	3.5	—	—
Breast Cancer	4.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	3.5	1.0	3.5	—	4.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.0	—	0.8
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.8	4.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	1.0
Weighted Median	**4.0**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**1.3**	**2.0**	**2.9**	**1.0**	**3.2**	**—**	**3.8**

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 5L: Medical oncology (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	3.3	—	—	20.0	3.0	2.0	—	3.5	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.3	—	—	15.0	3.5	2.0	—	—	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.3	—	—	20.0	1.5	1.0	—	2.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	3.0	—	—	20.0	2.0	1.5	—	7.0	—	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	—	—	10.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.6	—	—
Weighted Median	**2.6**	**—**	**—**	**19.9**	**1.8**	**1.2**	**—**	**4.2**	**—**	**—**

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 6: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015 and 2014

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg
Plastic Surgery	24.5	21.1	16%	17.5	36.8	−52%	12.2	5.0	145%	18.7	7.5	149%	7.3	7.6	−4%
Gynaecology	9.2	8.5	8%	8.1	7.3	11%	7.7	9.7	−21%	6.6	5.9	13%	8.0	7.3	9%
Ophthalmology	18.5	10.8	71%	9.7	10.3	−6%	7.6	7.2	5%	16.1	22.5	−29%	12.2	11.2	9%
Otolaryngology	14.6	18.8	−22%	20.4	17.1	19%	6.7	10.3	−35%	12.1	7.7	57%	10.1	11.2	−10%
General Surgery	8.5	7.0	23%	9.0	11.3	−20%	5.3	5.1	4%	7.8	6.3	24%	4.7	4.3	9%
Neurosurgery	17.7	17.0	5%	13.1	14.0	−6%	12.1	7.4	64%	3.2	—	—	10.9	6.3	73%
Orthopaedic Surgery	33.2	35.1	−5%	18.2	18.2	0%	9.9	12.4	−21%	24.4	43.1	−43%	17.8	20.6	−14%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.1	1.7	−32%	0.5	1.7	−70%	0.7	—	—	1.9	1.9	2%	0.7	1.2	−38%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.4	7.6	−4%	1.6	7.2	−78%	3.4	—	—	6.5	11.2	−42%	5.0	3.9	29%
Urology	5.6	5.2	6%	4.3	5.5	−22%	2.0	1.1	82%	6.1	4.9	25%	3.6	3.6	−2%
Internal Medicine	17.4	9.4	86%	15.7	23.8	−34%	6.0	7.9	−24%	9.5	9.5	0%	4.5	4.5	−2%
Radiation Oncology	4.0	4.3	−6%	2.3	3.5	−34%	2.2	1.8	20%	1.3	—	—	2.0	2.0	0%
Medical Oncology	2.6	3.7	−29%	—	2.1	—	—	—	—	19.9	2.5	701%	1.8	1.1	65%
Weighted Median	**14.0**	**11.6**	**20%**	**11.0**	**13.4**	**−17%**	**6.9**	**7.0**	**−2%**	**11.6**	**13.9**	**−17%**	**7.4**	**7.4**	**0%**

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 6, continued: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015 and 2014

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg
Plastic Surgery	10.4	11.8	−13%	14.8	11.6	28%	12.6	13.2	−5%	8.9	9.8	−9%	12.8	28.0	−54%
Gynaecology	10.9	7.1	54%	8.5	5.6	54%	8.9	5.9	51%	—	8.0	—	9.7	7.8	25%
Ophthalmology	9.3	8.1	15%	21.8	9.1	140%	9.9	12.8	−23%	12.0	16.0	−25%	11.2	8.0	41%
Otolaryngology	7.4	6.5	14%	10.8	10.6	1%	10.0	13.1	−23%	5.6	10.9	−48%	—	—	—
General Surgery	6.8	9.5	−28%	10.0	5.8	72%	10.3	12.5	−18%	—	15.7	—	34.2	—	—
Neurosurgery	9.7	3.8	155%	18.7	—	—	9.8	14.0	−30%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	13.8	16.7	−17%	45.1	26.4	71%	35.3	56.9	−38%	24.8	23.3	6%	32.9	18.1	81%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.4	1.5	−7%	8.0	2.2	258%	1.0	1.5	−33%	—	—	—	1.9	1.9	−2%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.6	7.9	−4%	10.8	6.0	81%	6.7	6.8	−1%	—	—	—	24.5	11.4	115%
Urology	9.1	5.0	80%	9.2	10.2	−10%	20.1	22.5	−10%	—	38.0	—	5.9	8.1	−27%
Internal Medicine	13.6	17.9	−24%	8.1	14.7	−45%	5.6	4.0	39%	11.8	—	—	14.6	27.6	−47%
Radiation Oncology	2.9	2.8	4%	1.0	1.5	−33%	3.2	4.5	−30%	—	—	—	3.8	2.4	57%
Medical Oncology	1.2	2.2	−44%	—	1.7	—	4.2	1.6	169%	—	4.0	—	—	1.0	—
Weighted Median	**9.1**	**9.8**	**−8%**	**17.4**	**10.9**	**59%**	**12.9**	**16.4**	**−21%**	**14.9**	**17.6**	**-16%**	**20.5**	**14.2**	**44%**

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for

Table 7: Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2015—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	16.8%	15.4%	26.3%	27.3%	24.2%	22.2%	9.3%	17.1%	0.0%	24.5%
4–7.99 Weeks	19.7%	21.0%	33.6%	23.6%	30.3%	22.2%	25.7%	29.0%	31.3%	23.1%
8–12.99 Weeks	19.9%	27.3%	29.8%	21.9%	24.1%	27.6%	22.8%	23.4%	37.5%	13.3%
13–25.99 Weeks	20.2%	19.6%	7.5%	19.7%	13.0%	17.1%	22.3%	12.8%	28.1%	22.4%
26–51.99 Weeks	15.1%	8.2%	1.8%	6.1%	6.0%	7.0%	7.4%	10.3%	3.1%	8.4%
1 year plus	8.2%	8.5%	1.1%	1.5%	2.4%	4.0%	12.5%	7.5%	0.0%	8.4%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding

Table 8: Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, 2015 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	20.8	17.5	27.7	24.0	8.4	21.0	15.0	—	—	—	15.7
Gynaecology	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.5	6.5	8.3	11.0	9.6	—	12.0	7.5
Ophthalmology	10.5	11.2	8.3	7.9	7.5	9.4	12.4	12.7	—	16.0	9.3
Otolaryngology	12.6	6.6	8.7	7.3	7.6	5.1	7.6	13.4	—	—	7.5
General Surgery	6.2	5.3	7.2	4.0	5.4	5.7	6.9	6.9	—	5.6	5.7
Neurosurgery	5.2	8.7	10.0	—	5.8	5.1	4.5	12.0	—	—	6.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.7	13.7	9.2	14.9	11.0	11.6	17.4	15.3	19.0	11.6	12.3
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.0	1.0	—	—	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.0	—	0.5	0.9
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	6.5	6.0	—	—	4.7	6.2	6.0	3.7	—	11.5	5.6
Urology	4.8	7.1	—	7.0	4.2	5.9	5.5	5.8	—	—	4.9
Internal Medicine	5.4	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.5	5.3	4.9	2.6	4.0	4.0	4.1
Radiation Oncology	2.9	3.4	1.6	5.1	2.2	3.5	2.0	4.6	—	3.8	2.8
Medical Oncology	1.5	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	2.8	—	—	2.0
Weighted Median	**7.9**	**8.3**	**7.7**	**7.1**	**5.9**	**7.8**	**9.4**	**8.4**	**11.2**	**7.4**	**7.1**

Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	26.0	18.0	30.0	24.0	10.0	18.0	18.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	8.0	8.0	20.0	24.0	6.0	6.0	10.0	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	12.0	18.0	30.0	—	7.0	17.0	13.0	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	24.0	20.5	30.0	—	8.0	50.0	18.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	22.0	21.0	30.0	24.0	10.0	42.0	16.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	12.0	10.0	20.0	24.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	12.0	14.0	20.0	24.0	10.0	30.0	—	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	4.0	6.0	10.0	3.0	4.0	7.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	**20.8**	**17.5**	**27.7**	**24.0**	**8.4**	**21.0**	**15.0**	**—**	**—**	**—**

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 9B: Gynaecology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	—	—
Tubal Ligation	13.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	21.0	14.0	—	12.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	—	12.0
Vaginal Repair	13.0	11.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	—	—
Tuboplasty	10.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	17.0	—	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	9.0	8.0	6.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	—	12.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	6.5	6.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	—
Weighted Median	**8.1**	**7.1**	**7.1**	**7.5**	**6.5**	**8.3**	**11.0**	**9.6**	**—**	**12.0**

Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	12.0	12.0	9.0	8.0	8.5	10.0	12.0	16.0	—	16.0
Cornea Transplant	8.0	12.0	12.0	—	12.0	10.0	14.0	26.0	—	-
Cornea - Pterygium	12.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	7.0	12.0	17.0	4.0	—	16.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	7.0	12.0	8.0	—	6.0	8.0	19.0	4.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	3.5	6.0	4.5	—	2.0	4.0	19.0	1.5	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	11.0	20.0	—	—	8.0	12.0	13.0	26.0	—	—
Strabismus	10.0	11.0	—	—	8.0	12.0	20.0	12.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	12.0	16.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	12.0	17.0	12.0	—	15.5
Glaucoma	4.0	8.0	5.0	—	4.0	6.0	10.0	3.0	—	10.0
Weighted Median	**10.5**	**11.2**	**8.3**	**7.9**	**7.5**	**9.4**	**12.4**	**12.7**	**—**	**16.0**

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	6.5	2.5	3.0	4.0	5.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Tympanoplasty	12.0	10.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	19.0	—	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	4.0	4.5	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	17.0	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	9.0	12.0	9.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	14.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	16.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	25.0	—	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	16.0	7.0	12.0	8.0	9.0	5.5	12.0	18.0	—	—
Weighted Median	**12.6**	**6.6**	**8.7**	**7.3**	**7.6**	**5.1**	**7.6**	**13.4**	**—**	**—**

Table 9E: General surgery (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	11.0	7.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	12.0	—	12.0
Cholecystectomy	7.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	7.5	6.0	7.0	6.5	—	8.0
Colonoscopy	8.0	6.0	6.0	2.5	6.0	4.0	9.0	10.0	—	6.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	4.0	6.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	—	12.0
Breast Biopsy	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	—	2.0
Mastectomy	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.5	2.5	3.8	4.0	3.0	—	2.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	—	4.0	2.5	4.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	24.0	—	4.5	6.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	3.0	—	—
Varicose Veins	12.0	8.0	12.0	6.5	8.0	12.0	26.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	**6.2**	**5.3**	**7.2**	**4.0**	**5.4**	**5.7**	**6.9**	**6.9**	**—**	**5.6**

Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	8.0	9.0	10.0	—	12.0	8.0	8.0	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	6.5	12.0	10.0	—	8.0	6.0	4.0	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	8.0	10.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	7.0	4.0	—	—	6.0	6.0	4.0	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	3.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	—	2.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	**5.2**	**8.7**	**10.0**	**—**	**5.8**	**5.1**	**4.5**	**12.0**	**—**	**—**

Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	12.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	10.0	9.0	7.0	11.0	9.0
Removal of Pins	12.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	12.0	20.0	9.0	15.0	12.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	16.0	14.0	10.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	18.0	20.0	12.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	16.0	21.0	11.0	16.0	10.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	—	12.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	12.0	14.0	8.0	16.0	11.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	18.0	19.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	18.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	26.0	11.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	12.0	12.0	6.0	16.0	10.0	9.0	16.0	5.5	11.0	12.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	12.0	12.0	5.3	16.0	10.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	16.0	8.0
Routine Spinal Instability	22.0	16.0	12.0	18.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	24.0	—	—
Weighted Median	**14.7**	**13.7**	**9.2**	**14.9**	**11.0**	**11.6**	**17.4**	**15.3**	**19.0**	**11.6**

Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

	Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.8	—	—	—	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.0	—	0.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.5	—	—	—	0.0	0.5	1.0	-	—	0.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	0.5	—	—	0.0	0.1	1.0	-	—	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.0	0.5	—	—	0.3	0.0	1.0	-	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	0.0	—	—	—	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**0.3**	**0.5**	**—**	**—**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**—**	**0.5**
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.0	—	—	—	0.5	1.0	2.0	1.0	—	0.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.0	—	—	—	0.5	1.0	2.0	—	—	0.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	1.0	—	—	0.8	1.0	2.0	—	—	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.5	1.0	—	—	1.0	0.5	2.0	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**1.0**	**1.0**	**—**	**—**	**0.7**	**1.0**	**2.0**	**1.0**	**—**	**0.5**
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	6.0	—	—	—	3.8	8.0	6.0	3.0	—	12.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	6.0	—	—	—	3.8	12.0	6.0	—	—	12.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	4.0	6.0	—	—	5.0	6.0	6.0	—	—	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	6.0	6.0	—	—	5.0	3.5	6.0	—	—	4.0
	Pacemaker Operations	7.0	—	—	—	6.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	**6.5**	**6.0**	**—**	**—**	**4.7**	**6.2**	**6.0**	**3.7**	**—**	**11.5**

Table 9I: Urology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	8.0	5.0	—	6.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	12.0	—	-	5.5	4.0	5.0	6.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	4.0	4.8	—	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.5	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	4.0	-	—	6.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	3.5	3.3	—	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	29.5	—	8.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	2.0	—	6.0	4.0	3.5	5.0	4.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	13.5	—	—	8.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	6.0	—	—
Weighted Median	**4.8**	**7.1**	**—**	**7.0**	**4.2**	**5.9**	**5.5**	**5.8**	**—**	**—**

Table 9J: Internal medicine (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	2.5	4.0	4.5
Angiography/ Angioplasty	3.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	4.0	2.0
Bronchoscopy	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	6.0	3.0	4.0	2.0
Gastroscopy	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	2.5	4.0	3.5
Weighted Median	**5.4**	**3.6**	**4.0**	**4.8**	**3.5**	**5.3**	**4.9**	**2.6**	**4.0**	**4.0**

Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.3	3.0	1.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.3	3.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	—	2.0
Lung Cancer	2.8	2.3	1.5	4.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	—	—
Prostate Cancer	3.0	5.0	2.3	8.0	2.8	4.0	2.0	4.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	3.0	3.0	1.3	4.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	—	4.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	2.0	0.0	—	1.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.0	5.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	2.0
Weighted Median	**2.9**	**3.4**	**1.6**	**5.1**	**2.2**	**3.5**	**2.0**	**4.6**	**—**	**3.8**

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 9L: Medical oncology (2015)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	2.5	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	1.5	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	-	—	—
Lung Cancer	1.5	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	1.8	—	—
Breast Cancer	1.5	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	4.0	—	—
Side Effects from Treatment	0.8	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.5	—	0.6	—	—
Weighted Median	**1.5**	**—**	**—**	**3.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**—**	**2.8**	**—**	**—**

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 10: Comparison between the median actual weeks waited and the median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	24.5	20.8	18%	17.5	17.5	0%	12.2	27.7	−56%	18.7	24.0	−22%	7.3	8.4	−13%
Gynaecology	9.2	8.1	13%	8.1	7.1	14%	7.7	7.1	8%	6.6	7.5	−12%	8.0	6.5	22%
Ophthalmology	18.5	10.5	76%	9.7	11.2	−14%	7.6	8.3	−9%	16.1	7.9	102%	12.2	7.5	63%
Otolaryngology	14.6	12.6	16%	20.4	6.6	208%	6.7	8.7	−23%	12.1	7.3	65%	10.1	7.6	32%
General Surgery	8.5	6.2	38%	9.0	5.3	69%	5.3	7.2	−26%	7.8	4.0	98%	4.7	5.4	−13%
Neurosurgery	17.7	5.2	242%	13.1	8.7	50%	12.1	10.0	21%	3.2	—	—	10.9	5.8	87%
Orthopaedic Surgery	33.2	14.7	126%	18.2	13.7	33%	9.9	9.2	8%	24.4	14.9	65%	17.8	11.0	62%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.1	1.0	11%	0.5	1.0	−49%	0.7	—	—	1.9	—	—	0.7	0.7	2%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.4	6.5	13%	1.6	6.0	−74%	3.4	—	—	6.5	—	—	5.0	4.7	8%
Urology	5.6	4.8	16%	4.3	7.1	−40%	2.0	—	—	6.1	7.0	−13%	3.6	4.2	−16%
Internal Medicine	17.4	5.4	224%	15.7	3.6	341%	6.0	4.0	51%	9.5	4.8	98%	4.5	3.5	26%
Radiation Oncology	4.0	2.9	38%	2.3	3.4	−31%	2.2	1.6	32%	1.3	5.1	−75%	2.0	2.2	−11%
Medical Oncology	2.6	1.5	75%	—	—	—	—	—	—	19.9	3.0	562%	1.8	2.0	−8%
Weighted Median	**14.0**	**7.9**	**78%**	**11.0**	**8.3**	**34%**	**6.9**	**7.7**	**−11%**	**11.6**	**7.1**	**63%**	**7.4**	**5.9**	**25%**

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 10, continued: Comparison between the median actual weeks waited and the median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	10.4	21.0	−51%	14.8	15.0	−2%	12.6	—	—	8.9	—	—	12.8	—	—
Gynaecology	10.9	8.3	31%	8.5	11.0	−23%	8.9	9.6	−7%	—	—	—	9.7	12.0	−19%
Ophthalmology	9.3	9.4	−2%	21.8	12.4	76%	9.9	12.7	−22%	12.0	—	—	11.2	16.0	−30%
Otolaryngology	7.4	5.1	46%	10.8	7.6	42%	10.0	13.4	−25%	5.6	—	—	—	—	-
General Surgery	6.8	5.7	18%	10.0	6.9	44%	10.3	6.9	49%	—	—	—	34.2	5.6	510%
Neurosurgery	9.7	5.1	92%	18.7	4.5	312%	9.8	12.0	−19%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	13.8	11.6	19%	45.1	17.4	159%	35.3	15.3	130%	24.8	19.0	31%	32.9	11.6	184%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.4	1.0	39%	8.0	2.0	300%	1.0	1.0	0%	—	—	—	1.9	0.5	277%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.6	6.2	23%	10.8	6.0	81%	6.7	3.7	82%	—	—	—	24.5	11.5	114%
Urology	9.1	5.9	54%	9.2	5.5	66%	20.1	5.8	249%	—	—	—	5.9	—	—
Internal Medicine	13.6	5.3	155%	8.1	4.9	65%	5.6	2.6	115%	11.8	4.0	195%	14.6	4.0	267%
Radiation Oncology	2.9	3.5	−17%	1.0	2.0	−50%	3.2	4.6	-31%	—	—	—	3.8	3.8	0%
Medical Oncology	1.2	2.0	−38%	—	—	—	4.2	2.8	54%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weighted Median	**9.1**	**7.8**	**17%**	**17.4**	**9.4**	**84%**	**12.9**	**8.4**	**53%**	**14.9**	**11.2**	**32%**	**20.5**	**7.4**	**178%**

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 11: Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, 2015

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	0.2%	1.6%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	—	0.0%	0.8%
Gynaecology	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	0.9%	0.6%	1.2%	—	0.0%	0.9%
Ophthalmology	1.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.4%	0.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.0%	0.8%	1.1%
Otolaryngology	1.3%	1.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%	—	0.8%
General Surgery	1.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	—	0.5%	0.7%
Neurosurgery	0.9%	3.8%	0.0%	—	0.6%	0.0%	5.0%	1.0%	—	—	1.5%
Orthopaedic Surgery	1.7%	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	1.5%	0.4%	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	4.5%	1.2%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	—	0.0%	0.4%
Urology	3.3%	1.4%	0.0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.7%	1.7%	1.2%	—	3.0%	1.6%
Internal Medicine	1.5%	2.7%	0.5%	0.8%	1.1%	0.3%	0.8%	1.7%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%
Radiation Oncology	1.5%	0.3%	2.5%	0.0%	1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	—	0.0%	0.9%
Medical Oncology	1.7%	—	—	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%	—	1.3%	—	—	1.3%
All Specialties	**1.5%**	**1.0%**	**0.4%**	**0.4%**	**1.2%**	**0.5%**	**0.9%**	**1.0%**	**0.4%**	**1.0%**	**1.0%**

Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2015

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	3,996	2,426	387	636	3,080	2,714	525	367	28	251
Gynaecology	3,498	3,489	1,034	854	9,307	5,614	818	845	—	1,012
Ophthalmology	23,714	10,616	2,529	4,654	39,652	24,456	3,615	3,525	374	1,496
Otolaryngology	4,015	5,253	760	1,075	10,168	5,511	850	792	57	—
General Surgery	18,692	10,263	3,118	4,449	25,652	10,649	1,842	5,135	—	13,114
Neurosurgery	2,576	1,403	409	74	4,232	1,984	443	184	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	26,092	11,484	2,431	5,725	40,915	16,174	6,886	6,289	756	2,677
Cardiovascular Surgery	255	62	14	44	369	546	137	38	—	22
Urology	5,612	2,197	31	831	13,484	5,645	1,184	4,814	—	935
Internal Medicine	20,016	10,338	1,643	3,022	12,286	7,195	532	1,322	385	2,906
Radiation Oncology	60	32	10	7	317	194	14	26	—	22
Medical Oncology	164	—	—	270	624	179	—	71	—	—
Residual	74,872	44,967	10,370	16,862	126,937	60,147	13,425	17,456	1,942	21,975
Total	**183,561**	**102,531**	**22,737**	**38,501**	**287,023**	**141,008**	**30,272**	**40,863**	**3,542**	**44,411**
Proportion of Population	3.96%	2.49%	2.03%	3.01%	2.10%	1.72%	4.01%	4.34%	2.42%	8.39%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2015 — **894,449**

Percentage of Population — **2.52%**

Notes: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures due to rounding. • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13A: Plastic surgery (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	2,174	1,139	166	213	1,380	1,874	322	106	9	214
Neurolysis	222	183	30	64	678	176	56	77	—	12
Blepharoplasty	188	121	10	6	90	62	19	3	0	1
Rhinoplasty	538	283	114	75	308	262	29	58	7	—
Scar Revision	490	566	50	158	322	108	61	94	5	10
Hand Surgery	384	135	17	119	303	232	38	30	7	14
Total	**3,996**	**2,426**	**387**	**636**	**3,080**	**2,714**	**525**	**367**	**28**	**251**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13B: Gynaecology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	713	670	106	180	2,124	508	86	110	—	207
Tubal Ligation	399	650	291	175	1,624	1,134	219	202	—	246
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,121	992	265	239	2,973	2,342	229	251	—	231
Vaginal Repair	273	273	54	59	501	331	110	109	—	88
Tuboplasty	58	16	2	1	18	25	2	12	—	1
Laparoscopic Procedures	182	98	49	45	530	416	16	27	—	26
Hysteroscopic Procedures	752	790	267	154	1,537	858	157	135	—	212
Total	**3,498**	**3,489**	**1,034**	**854**	**9,307**	**5,614**	**818**	**845**	**—**	**1,012**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	20,996	8,487	2,101	4,242	34,124	16,600	3,363	2,734	371	1,337
Cornea Transplant	251	106	19	93	349	168	0	310	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	262	88	12	8	354	216	19	7	3	9
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	344	121	57	—	750	863	44	177	—	9
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	1,046	881	243	305	1,322	2,369	52	122	—	47
Lacrimal Duct	152	193	40	—	507	643	59	25	—	2
Strabismus	297	278	—	—	1,527	1,036	38	126	—	5
Operations on Eyelids	366	462	57	7	720	2,561	40	25	—	87
Total	**23,714**	**10,616**	**2,529**	**4,654**	**39,652**	**24,456**	**3,615**	**3,525**	**374**	**1,496**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding. • The procedure data reported generally includes only those procedures performed in public facilities. A large number of ophthalmological surgeries are performed in private facilities. The distribution of surgeries between public and private facilities varies significantly among provinces. There are also differences among provinces regarding payment or reimbursement for ophthalmological surgery at a private facility.

Table 13D: Otolaryngology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	453	550	95	144	1,572	1,636	201	118	15	—
Tympanoplasty	165	204	33	37	391	364	104	92	2	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	506	719	49	71	1,912	575	70	128	4	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	847	2,637	370	380	3,628	1,743	258	287	21	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	393	241	43	77	758	558	53	57	3	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,649	904	169	367	1,906	635	165	110	11	—
Total	**4,015**	**5,253**	**760**	**1,075**	**10,168**	**5,511**	**850**	**792**	**57**	**—**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13E: General surgery (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,989	2,212	355	527	3,873	3,965	742	475	—	532
Cholecystectomy	1,607	1,503	321	622	2,941	2,452	436	447	—	595
Colonoscopy	9,370	2,699	1,100	1,618	6,171	427	191	3,343	—	10,832
Intestinal Operations	4,566	3,092	1,045	1,358	10,252	1,447	179	672	—	705
Haemorrhoidectomy	673	249	173	246	969	606	67	46	—	376
Breast Biopsy	9	3	2	1	24	23	2	58	—	21
Mastectomy	263	145	76	25	797	871	79	71	—	52
Bronchus and Lung	34	131	5	—	316	163	32	-	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4	24	3	—	29	101	3	6	—	—
Varicose Veins	176	205	39	52	280	595	111	17	—	—
Total	**18,692**	**10,263**	**3,118**	**4,449**	**25,652**	**10,649**	**1,842**	**5,135**	**—**	**13,114**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	196	173	57	6	159	343	100	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	1,862	568	136	6	1,236	490	212	67	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	461	653	217	57	2,809	1,139	123	118	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	6	3	—	1	10	13	4	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	52	5	—	4	18	—	5	—	—	—
Total	**2,576**	**1,403**	**409**	**74**	**4,232**	**1,984**	**443**	**184**	**—**	**—**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	1,134	670	78	135	1,197	1,531	149	92	26	63
Removal of Pins	1,545	1,143	122	155	1,241	1,452	242	252	28	95
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	16,121	6,832	1,567	4,119	29,297	8,714	4,312	4,639	636	1,188
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	1,195	391	76	130	1,161	285	411	132	—	93
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	338	84	15	63	384	187	122	42	8	68
Digit Neuroma	1,670	492	136	365	2,170	1,431	670	451	25	633
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,193	346	70	212	1,694	678	212	290	13	193
Ostectomy (All Types)	1,754	508	57	265	2,479	727	512	389	21	95
Routine Spinal Instability	1,142	1,017	309	281	1,292	1,168	256	—	—	249
Total	**26,092**	**11,484**	**2,431**	**5,725**	**40,915**	**16,174**	**6,886**	**6,289**	**756**	**2,677**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13H: Cardiovascular surgery (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	64	13	6	22	85	86	79	13	—	15
Valves & Septa of the Heart	59	20	4	21	70	95	56	—	—	7
Aneurysm Surgery	2	1	1	0	2	2	2	—	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	12	3	3	1	19	11	—	—	—	0
Pacemaker Operations	118	26	—	—	193	351	—	25	—	—
Total	**255**	**62**	**14**	**44**	**369**	**546**	**137**	**38**	**—**	**22**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13I: Urology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	795	230	24	79	1,094	1,129	196	112	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	117	67	7	26	287	166	14	24	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	542	189	—	72	877	554	78	80	—	71
Radical Cystectomy	29	13	—	3	55	30	2	6	—	1
Cystoscopy	2,527	941	—	230	7,624	683	379	4,032	—	771
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,087	533	—	263	1,640	2,683	415	380	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	503	183	—	151	1,870	361	99	179	—	86
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	13	40	—	7	39	39	1	3	—	6
Total	**5,612**	**2,197**	**31**	**831**	**13,484**	**5,645**	**1,184**	**4,814**	**—**	**935**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13J: Internal medicine (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	17,477	8,925	1,254	1,929	9,725	5,026	222	1,013	353	2,399
Angiography /Angioplasty	1,704	652	278	963	1,416	1,547	213	202	1	341
Bronchoscopy	208	463	52	66	635	234	40	44	3	101
Gastroscopy	627	299	60	63	509	388	57	63	29	66
Total	**20,016**	**10,338**	**1,643**	**3,022**	**12,286**	**7,195**	**532**	**1,322**	**385**	**2,906**

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	60	32	10	7	317	194	14	26	—	22

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13L: Medical oncology (2015)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	164	—	—	270	624	179	—	71	—	—

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2015)—procedures per 100,000 population

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	86	59	34	50	23	33	70	39	19	47
Gynaecology	75	85	92	67	68	68	108	90	—	191
Ophthalmology	511	258	225	364	290	298	479	374	256	283
Otolaryngology	87	127	68	84	74	67	113	84	39	—
General Surgery	403	249	278	348	188	130	244	545	—	2,479
Neurosurgery	56	34	36	6	31	24	59	20	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	563	279	217	447	299	197	913	667	517	506
Cardiovascular Surgery	5	2	1	3	3	7	18	4	—	4
Urology	121	53	3	65	99	69	157	511	—	177
Internal Medicine	432	251	146	236	90	88	71	140	263	549
Radiation Oncology	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	—	4
Medical Oncology	4	—	—	21	5	2	—	8	—	—

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015 and 2014

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg
Plastic Surgery	3,996	3,278	22%	2,426	4,855	−50%	387	82	372%	636	234	172%	3,080	3,034	2%
Gynaecology	3,498	3,379	4%	3,489	2,978	17%	1,034	1,276	−19%	854	723	18%	9,307	8,610	8%
Ophthalmology	23,714	13,709	73%	10,616	10,777	−1%	2,529	2,299	10%	4,654	6,294	−26%	39,652	36,407	9%
Otolaryngology	4,015	5,238	−23%	5,253	4,312	22%	760	1,017	−25%	1,075	683	58%	10,168	11,628	−13%
General Surgery	18,692	12,816	46%	10,263	11,775	−13%	3,118	2,887	8%	4,449	3,413	30%	25,652	22,954	12%
Neurosurgery	2,576	2,453	5%	1,403	1,429	−2%	409	273	50%	74	—	—	4,232	2,406	76%
Orthopaedic Surgery	26,092	27,150	−4%	11,484	11,102	3%	2,431	2,777	−12%	5,725	9,584	−40%	40,915	46,056	−11%
Cardiovascular Surgery	255	312	−18%	62	188	−67%	14	—	—	44	49	−10%	369	560	−34%
Urology	5,612	4,956	13%	2,197	2,580	−15%	31	199	−85%	831	502	66%	13,484	13,003	4%
Internal Medicine	20,016	11,089	81%	10,338	16,589	−38%	1,643	2,259	−27%	3,022	3,499	−14%	12,286	13,212	−7%
Radiation Oncology	60	66	−8%	32	57	−44%	10	8	29%	7	—	—-	317	208	52%
Medical Oncology	164	185	−11%	—	111	—	—	—	—	270	35	668%	624	355	76%
Residual	74,872	59,559	26%	44,967	52,452	−14%	10,370	10,020	3%	16,862	19,533	−14%	126,937	122,186	4%
Total	**183,561**	**144,189**	**27%**	**102,531**	**119,204**	**−14%**	**22,737**	**23,098**	**−2%**	**38,501**	**44,549**	**−14%**	**287,023**	**280,621**	**2%**

Notes: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians, which have been rounded for inclusion in the table. • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete. • Data from Quebec must be interpreted with caution due to a change in the methodology regarding the number of procedures performed in the province.

Table 15, continued: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2015 and 2014

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg	2015	2014	% chg
Plastic Surgery	2,714	2,497	9%	525	397	32%	367	347	6%	28	26	11%	251	574	−56%
Gynaecology	5,614	4,853	16%	818	484	69%	845	614	38%	—	144	—	1,012	750	35%
Ophthalmology	24,456	30,646	−20%	3,615	1,419	155%	3,525	4,446	−21%	374	394	−5%	1,496	798	88%
Otolaryngology	5,511	3,949	40%	850	923	−8%	792	1,067	−26%	57	108	−47%	—	—	—
General Surgery	10,649	35,937	−70%	1,842	1,151	60%	5,135	6,137	−16%	—	980	—	13,114	—	—
Neurosurgery	1,984	173	1045%	443	—	—	184	340	−46%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,174	18,791	−14%	6,886	3,780	82%	6,289	9,356	−33%	756	629	20%	2,677	1,190	125%
Cardiovascular Surgery	546	607	−10%	137	42	227%	38	3	1267%	—	—	—	22	20	10%
Urology	5,645	7,637	−26%	1,184	1,240	−5%	4,814	4,706	2%	—	547	—	935	1,184	−21%
Internal Medicine	7,195	37,333	−81%	532	966	−45%	1,322	942	40%	385	—	—	2,906	4,158	−30%
Radiation Oncology	194	164	18%	14	30	−51%	26	33	−23%	—	—	—	22	6	258%
Medical Oncology	179	381	−53%	—	30	—	71	29	149%	—	7	—	—	17	—
Residual	60,147	86,447	−30%	13,425	8,104	66%	17,456	21,775	−20%	1,942	2,141	−9%	21,975	14,235	54%
Total	**141,008**	**229,415**	**−39%**	**30,272**	**18,565**	**63%**	**40,863**	**49,795**	**−18%**	**3,542**	**4,976**	**−29%**	**44,411**	**22,932**	**94%**

Notes: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians, which have been rounded for inclusion in the table. • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete. • Data from Quebec must be interpreted with caution due to a change in the methodology regarding the number of procedures performed in the province.

Table 16A: Acute inpatient procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	14,942	12,827	5,477	4,407	48,635	22,385	2,924	3,860	658	1,774
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	581	486	136	71	894	358	92	42	13	36
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	94	92	17	19	116	99	4	8	0	2
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	159	236	64	64	569	428	37	26	2	12
Ostectomy	1,235	1,377	234	305	3,196	1,926	212	330	41	118
Removal of Pins	1,090	1,173	252	218	2,663	1,702	208	271	37	99
Rotator Cuff Repair	747	907	138	188	2,082	1,025	76	191	8	69
Routine Spinal Instability	1,115	1,552	801	448	3,693	2,487	555	259	0	231
Bladder Fulguration	1,308	1,104	385	290	5,308	2,856	331	502	36	266
Cystoscopy	2,688	2,728	517	193	8,534	4,404	527	1,089	47	555
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3434,	1,960	452	258	7,346	3,889	438	575	103	366
Radical Cystectomy	248	150	45	36	567	343	27	48	1	24
Radical Prostatectomy	1,018	693	185	181	2,483	1,729	118	205	17	126
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,144	1,398	214	254	5,005	2,685	280	211	70	444
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	53	68	17	15	216	134	6	23	1	9
Cataract Removal	79	424	54	119	105	384	15	40	1	13
Cornea Transplant	34	281	48	19	34	268	0	20	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	3	11	2	1	5	15	0	1	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	59	363	93	72	149	343	2	61	2	4
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	33	59	13	14	74	87	13	9	0	9
Operations on Eyelids	113	231	42	42	361	289	17	73	1	9
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	320	3,481	518	952	1,027	1,221	1	174	0	14

Table 16A, continued: Acute inpatient procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Strabismus Surgery	11	18	1	7	95	33	2	6	0	0
Myringotomy	219	313	53	126	900	1,093	55	116	17	70
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	551	548	17	329	1,012	679	65	127	3	86
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,712	1,970	516	494	7,645	4,525	452	550	29	404
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	899	1,403	324	517	3,114	1,936	262	323	130	387
Tympanoplasty	69	71	0	8	300	216	22	132	3	7
Radiotherapy	421	700	206	59	8,053	2,806	480	411	107	290
Chemotherapy	2,979	2,285	972	700	11,907	6,926	1,013	836	72	814
Breast Biopsy	80	46	14	18	231	207	18	13	3	15
Bronchus and Lung	1,155	1,093	236	506	4,038	3,331	410	351	1	117
Cholecystectomy	3,445	4,230	1,271	1,499	7,560	7,265	989	1,344	216	550
Haemorrhoidectomy	87	72	53	55	201	175	15	17	1	24
Intestinal Operations	9,443	6,601	2,424	2,313	25,531	16,921	1,850	2,496	295	1,460
Mastectomy	2,074	1,880	561	335	3,426	2,468	220	432	83	383
Varicose Veins	75	25	27	58	36	31	2	10	0	18
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,354	1,000	359	108	4,401	1,923	306	201	0	245
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,945	3,741	1,110	835	12,054	6,437	528	755	0	462
Blepharoplasty	3	14	1	0	33	17	1	2	0	0
Mammoplasty	535	1,104	110	316	1,357	772	140	124	41	292
Scar Revision	751	1,441	173	268	1,538	1,439	126	289	18	95
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,656	1,387	606	570	8,299	5,966	515	650	0	389
Pacemaker Operations	2,570	1,810	794	804	6,821	8,246	915	643	98	222

Table 16A, continued: Acute inpatient procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,421	2,066	457	533	6,892	4,961	367	583	0	179
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,620	3,790	1,900	1,439	24,038	15,974	1,378	1,873	1	640
Bronchoscopy	856	1,513	234	230	7,012	3,181	167	416	10	257
Gastroscopy	541	521	180	95	2,258	1,221	229	245	30	96
Dilation and Curettage	369	283	49	110	562	347	13	20	3	37
Hysterectomy	4,782	5,143	1,475	1,523	14,901	8,459	1,191	1,445	207	749
Hysteroscopic Procedures	197	218	42	35	235	156	12	18	2	22
Laparoscopic Procedures	359	218	111	56	1,425	1,077	31	65	5	25
Tubal Ligation	825	2,163	716	679	4,541	1,971	361	301	71	278
Tuboplasty	35	44	16	3	66	50	5	9	2	2
Vaginal Repair	732	1,212	205	356	1,839	1,057	210	419	6	177
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	331	288	20	110	655	479	63	103	2	50
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,232	4,060	1,413	1,727	19,596	7,241	1,011	1,400	166	592
Carotid Endarterectomy	664	264	84	146	1,117	987	128	132	1	49
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	270	441	89	133	639	653	35	52	26	43
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	319	449	83	92	2,299	2,295	164	120	9	20
Colonoscopy	3,642	2,821	1,499	898	9,464	8,651	690	776	83	578
Aneurysm Surgery	307	215	51	73	910	608	57	76	0	26
Residual	114,604	114,928	29,201	31,203	335,958	196,270	21,518	28,537	2,187	15,514
Total	**206,637**	**203,990**	**57,357**	**57,532**	**636,021**	**378,107**	**41,899**	**54,436**	**4,966**	**29,844**

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2013-14 and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2012 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	7,714	4,936	2,672	3,242	27,538	5,936	1,388	1,623	427	433
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,247	531	242	210	2,879	989	182	245	49	85
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	346	305	100	129	1,214	787	84	108	31	43
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	3,118	2,669	515	638	7,214	7,954	610	373	81	263
Ostectomy	1,074	826	262	460	3,249	1,511	393	344	58	59
Removal of Pins	2,927	2,130	727	454	5,402	4,590	420	501	100	192
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,321	893	319	363	3,424	1,911	200	438	36	244
Routine Spinal Instability	27	3	2	9	40	44	0	1	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	3,048	1,279	777	1,138	19,002	1,843	525	1,052	61	630
Cystoscopy	30,160	12,335	7,751	2,796	123,612	1,514	2,757	6,974	606	6,127
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,157	219	159	331	2,137	626	199	36	1	13
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,553	1,064	487	423	8,018	4,523	535	616	25	172
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	32	138	23	14	35	68	1	4	0	12
Cataract Removal	49,548	36,353	13,602	11,490	126,641	107,519	7,933	12,885	1,606	5,335
Cornea Transplant	509	268	1	74	1,099	459	0	141	0	1
Cornea—Pterygium	564	559	87	24	1,670	789	54	88	13	34
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,433	1,208	331	491	5,420	3,396	42	1,089	10	55
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	755	1,378	168	123	2,123	1,307	127	207	5	92
Operations on Eyelids	2,269	3,203	417	127	4,318	4,832	242	250	27	303
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	9,572	7,974	2,011	2,224	21,882	14,176	62	2,996	11	967
Strabismus Surgery	1,275	1,295	259	367	3,874	2,212	97	430	15	86

Table 16B, continued: 16B: Same day procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	2,139	2,546	1,602	808	11,679	13,088	1,251	1,251	176	1,049
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,532	1,690	960	703	7,999	3,446	470	445	68	326
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	480	106	53	118	1,604	458	6	5	0	2
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,773	3,494	1,816	1,003	13,292	9,391	1,078	672	53	338
Tympanoplasty	648	571	285	230	1,731	1,363	277	221	28	196
Radiotherapy	361	12	36	206	184	623	273	9	0	8
Chemotherapy	248	305	106	8	5,704	554	31	41	19	8
Breast Biopsy	69	32	13	34	270	96	21	1,000	4	537
Bronchus and Lung	39	38	1	5	67	59	0	7	0	2
Cholecystectomy	4,913	4,455	1,510	1,735	20,246	8,672	1,279	1,561	202	924
Haemorrhoidectomy	2,830	1,225	946	1,010	8,201	3,763	179	325	12	519
Intestinal Operations	43,317	13,498	9,657	9,455	107,748	1,893	479	7,495	1,413	6,691
Mastectomy	4,012	1,889	761	955	13,142	8,853	806	799	144	455
Varicose Veins	1236	601	311	169	1785	1258	179	134	1	60
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1412	136	82	10	956	392	117	16	0	2
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	46	34	17	11	120	141	6	10	1	4
Blepharoplasty	381	378	42	16	901	795	66	10	1	7
Mammoplasty	3234	2012	610	376	7612	4101	741	336	18	198
Scar Revision	522	399	88	144	853	812	84	117	22	23
Pacemaker Operations	3541	865	584	458	3227	892	153	664	53	487
Valves and Septa of the Heart	43	1	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	0

Table 16B, continued: 16B: Same day procedures, 2013–2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Angiography/Angioplasty	5458	448	510	1690	514	115	472	227	10	838
Bronchoscopy	690	1924	149	201	3994	299	130	232	23	325
Gastroscopy	1089	343	338	316	4358	123	65	483	95	148
Dilation and Curettage	5813	5526	1324	1762	17847	4932	1106	1017	271	1761
Hysterectomy	76	17	246	33	557	240	0	4	1	2
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4690	4917	1347	1196	9754	4308	1349	857	232	1818
Laparoscopic Procedures	585	421	205	275	2018	725	70	110	21	58
Tubal Ligation	905	2059	1177	622	6018	2942	587	575	83	433
Tuboplasty	166	39	9	9	54	23	3	25	1	8
Vaginal Repair	281	206	78	56	767	377	51	54	17	53
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	2044	1075	475	373	5304	3148	269	305	43	143
Hernia/Hydrocele	10821	8990	2526	2840	28178	21128	2114	2165	357	1164
Carotid Endarterectomy	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3829	1973	962	1098	9037	8308	761	1157	124	686
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	1152	621	256	218	4178	1609	314	167	19	386
Colonoscopy	72250	36997	18900	20057	150025	3429	1263	15905	3191	14510
Aneurysm Surgery	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2
Residual	160466	92769	48966	44190	552742	146452	18411	40993	4607	40326
Total	**467,742**	**272,178**	**127,864**	**117,518**	**1,373,462**	**425,795**	**50,312**	**109,797**	**14,472**	**89,643**

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2013-14; Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2012 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

Appendix A: Links to Wait Times Data Published by Provincial Government Agencies

Alberta

Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site
<http://waittimes.alberta.ca/>

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Health
<https://swt.hlth.gov.bc.ca/>

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network
<http://www.sasksurgery.ca/>

Saskatchewan Specialist Directory
<http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/>

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
<www.saskcancer.ca>

Manitoba

Manitoba Ministry of Health
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/>

Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/>

Cardiac Care Network of Ontario
<http://www.ccn.on.ca/>

Cancer Care Ontario
<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/wait-times/>

Quebec

Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services

<http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/g74web/default.asp>

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Department of Health

<http://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx>

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health

<https://waittimes.novascotia.ca/>

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Department of Health

<http://www.healthpei.ca/waittimes>

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Health and Community Services

<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html>

Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2015 Report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 12 and April 27, 2015. Surveys were sent to all specialists in the psychiatry category of the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls who have allowed their names to be provided by Cornerstone List Fulfillment. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 5% (table B1). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

Table B1: Psychiatry (2015)—summary of responses, 2015

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	629	376	72	158	1,790	1059	48	123	9	47	4,311
Number of Responses	45	28	4	13	89	43	4	8	0	2	236
Response Rates	7.2%	7.4%	5.6%	8.2%	5.0%	4.1%	8.3%	6.5%	0.0%	4.3%	5.5%

The treatments identified in the following tables represent a cross-section of common treatments carried out by psychiatrists. The list of treatments was developed in consultation with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, who also assisted in making adjustments to the standard survey form to reflect differences between psychiatric practices and practices in the other specialties presented in this document.

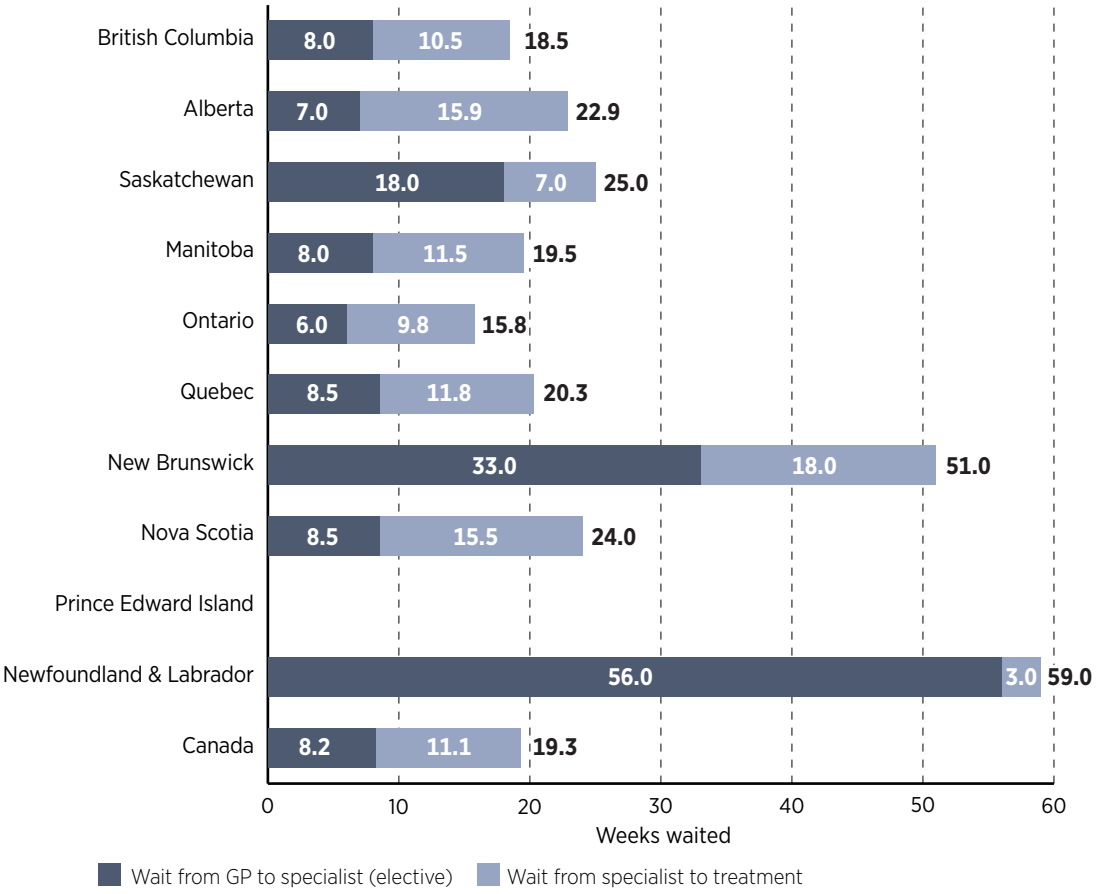
Unlike other specialties discussed in *Waiting Your Turn*, in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section, "Method" (pp. 11–13), for a clear description of the Fraser Institute's weighting procedures). All of the median measures that make up the final specialty median are given equal weight. This alteration to the standard methodology results from a lack of data counting the number of patients treated by psychiatrists, separated by treatment. We hope, in the coming years, to develop a weighting system for psychiatric treatments to allow a weighted average for this specialty to be calculated. In the current estimates, national medians are developed through a weighting system that bases the weight of each provincial median on the number of specialists contacted in that province.

Findings

Total wait times

Across the provinces, the total wait time (between referral by a general practitioner and the time that the required elective treatment begins) for psychiatry has risen from 18.2 weeks in 2014 to 19.3 weeks in 2015 (graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Ontario (15.8 weeks), British Columbia (18.5 weeks), and Manitoba (19.5 weeks). The longest total waits are in Newfoundland & Labrador (59.0 weeks), New Brunswick (51.0 weeks), and Saskatchewan (25.0 weeks).

Graph B1: Psychiatry—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2015



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2015.

Wait time by segment and specialty

The total wait time for psychiatric treatment can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. the first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist;
2. the second segment occurs from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

Table B2 indicates the number of weeks that patients wait for initial appointments with psychiatrists after referral from their general practitioners or from other specialists. The waiting time to see a psychiatrist on an urgent basis across the provinces is 2.0 weeks, ranging from 1.5 week in Saskatchewan to 3.0 weeks in Manitoba. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 8.2 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals are Newfoundland & Labrador (56.0 weeks) and New Brunswick (33.0 weeks). On the other hand, Ontario (6.0 weeks), Alberta (7.0), and British Columbia (8.0 weeks each) have the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

Table B2: Psychiatry (2015)—median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	2.0	2.0
Elective	8.0	7.0	18.0	8.0	6.0	8.5	33.0	8.5	—	56.0	8.2

Table B3 summarizes the waiting time for certain elective psychiatric treatments after an appointment with a specialist. The longest waiting times for this second segment of the total waiting time are in New Brunswick (18.0 weeks), Alberta (15.9 weeks), and Nova Scotia (15.5 weeks). The shortest waits are in Newfoundland & Labrador (3.0 weeks), Saskatchewan (7.0 weeks), and Ontario (9.8 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to a housing program (20.0 weeks) and an eating-disorders program (16.0 weeks), while wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.1 weeks) and to initiate a course of brief psychotherapy (7.9 weeks).

Table B4 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait (after an appointment with a specialist) for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces except New Brunswick. Newfoundland & Labrador performs the highest proportion of treatments within 13 weeks (100%), and within 8 weeks (100%). Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Newfoundland & Labrador (0.0 %), and most frequent in Quebec (26.1%).

Table B3: Psychiatry (2015)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	8.0	10.0	3.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	22.0	8.0	—	4.0	7.9
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	12.0	16.0	27.5	15.0	12.0	14.0	27.0	13.5	—	—	13.4
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	5.5	3.5	1.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	—	0.0	4.1
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	12.0	8.0	2.0	8.0	6.0	11.0	3.0	20.0	—	—	8.7
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	7.0	10.5	9.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	18.0	8.0	—	7.0	9.1
Access a day program	10.0	12.0	2.0	12.0	7.0	3.5	36.0	26.5	—	0.0	7.9
Access an eating disorders program	16.0	16.0	—	14.0	12.0	25.0	5.0	8.0	—	4.0	16.0
Access a housing program	21.0	26.0	8.5	18.0	23.0	14.0	32.0	10.0	—	—	20.0
Access an evening program	7.0	16.0	—	10.0	9.5	12.0	12.0	6.0	—	—	10.3
Access a sleep disorders program	12.0	45.0	3.0	18.0	6.0	16.0	26.0	56.0	—	—	14.9
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	5.0	12.0	—	12.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	—	—	10.7
Unweighted Median	**10.5**	**15.9**	**7.0**	**11.5**	**9.8**	**11.8**	**18.0**	**15.5**	**—**	**3.0**	**11.1**

Table B4: Psychiatry (2014)—frequency distribution of survey waiting times (specialist to treatment), by province, 2015

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	22%	22%	58%	11%	23%	16%	11%	12%	—	40%
4–7.99 Weeks	24%	14%	11%	29%	25%	18%	15%	17%	—	60%
8–12.99 Weeks	18%	18%	5%	25%	22%	25%	19%	22%	—	0%
13–25.99 Weeks	22%	23%	5%	33%	16%	14%	33%	24%	—	0%
26–51.99 Weeks	8%	12%	21%	3%	10%	13%	15%	10%	—	0%
1 year plus	6%	11%	0%	0%	5%	13%	7%	15%	—	0%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table B5 compares the 2014 and 2015 waiting times for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist). This year's study indicates an overall decrease in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in five provinces. However, three provinces experienced an increase: Alberta (72%), Ontario (8%), and Nova Scotia (11%). The wait time for treatment after an appointment with a specialist was unchanged in Quebec.

Table B5: Psychiatry (2015)—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2015 and 2014

	2015	2014	% change
British Columbia	10.5	11.0	−5%
Alberta	15.9	9.2	72%
Saskatchewan	7.0	8.5	−18%
Manitoba	11.5	17.9	−35%
Ontario	9.8	9.1	8%
Quebec	11.8	11.8	0%
New Brunswick	18.0	34.0	−47%
Nova Scotia	15.5	13.9	11%
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	3.0	15.8	−81%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Comparison between clinically reasonable and actual wait times

Physicians responding to the survey are also asked to provide a clinically reasonable waiting time for the various treatments. Specialists generally indicate a period of time substantially shorter than the median number of weeks patients actually wait for treatment (see tables B6 and B7). Table B6 summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. Table B7 summarizes the differences between the median reasonable and actual waiting times across the provinces for treatment after an appointment with a specialist and shows that, in 90% of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (table B6). In Newfoundland & Labrador the wait time for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist) is 36% shorter than the median considered reasonable; however, as mentioned previously this result should be treated with caution. The actual overall median

Table B6: Psychiatry (2015)—Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	—	6.0	3.8
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	3.5	12.0	—	—	6.1
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	1.8	3.0	2.3	2.0	2.0	4.0	—	4.0	2.2
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	7.0	—	—	4.1
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	6.0	—	4.0	3.9
Access a day program	4.0	4.0	2.0	7.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	12.0	—	—	3.4
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	7.5	—	—	4.0
Access a housing program	4.0	4.0	2.0	5.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	—	4.0
Access an evening program	4.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	—	—	4.0
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.5	—	—	4.4
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	12.0	—	—	3.7
Unweighted Median	**3.5**	**3.8**	**3.0**	**4.9**	**3.9**	**4.0**	**2.8**	**7.4**	**—**	**4.7**	**4.0**

specialist-to-treatment waits in Nova Scotia exceeds the corresponding "reasonable" value by 110%, a smaller gap than in the other provinces. However, the "reasonable" wait time in Nova Scotia is the longest in Canada.

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 6.8% of patients are on waiting lists because they have requested a delay or postponement of their treatment. Conversely, the proportion of patients who would have begun their treatment within the week, [7] if it were available, is 71.4% (*Waiting Your Turn, 2015*).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Table B8 displays the median number of weeks patients must wait for access to a computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, or an electroencephalogram (EEG). Compared to 2014, the national waiting times for CT scans have

7. The survey asks psychiatrists what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that at least some respondents answer the question as if it were "a few days".

Table B7: Psychiatry (2015)—difference between actual and reasonable patient waits for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	167%	150%	0%	125%	50%	150%	780%	100%	—	−33%	106%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	200%	300%	588%	150%	100%	75%	671%	13%	—	—	119%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	175%	75%	−29%	33%	78%	100%	150%	0%	—	−100%	85%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	200%	100%	−50%	100%	50%	175%	20%	186%	—	—	113%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	133%	163%	125%	75%	100%	200%	620%	33%	—	75%	135%
Access a day program	150%	200%	0%	71%	133%	75%	1700%	121%	—	—	135%
Access an eating disorders program	300%	300%	—	250%	200%	525%	150%	7%	—	—	295%
Access a housing program	425%	550%	325%	213%	475%	250%	700%	233%	—	—	400%
Access an evening program	75%	300%	—	100%	138%	200%	200%	20%	—	—	155%
Access a sleep disorders program	200%	650%	−25%	157%	50%	300%	550%	559%	—	—	237%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	150%	500%	—	200%	250%	100%	500%	−17%	—	—	187%
Weighted Median	**204%**	**317%**	**136%**	**136%**	**149%**	**194%**	**539%**	**110%**	**—**	**−36%**	**179%**

Table B8: Psychiatry (2015)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2015, 2014, and 2013

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
British Columbia	5.0	6.0	6.0	18.0	21.0	16.0	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**
Alberta	4.0	4.5	4.6	12.0	8.0	12.0	5.3	3.3	3.7
Saskatchewan	4.0	3.5	14.0	11.5	5.0	20.0	4.5	8.0	8.0
Manitoba	3.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	2.0	4.0	4.0
Ontario	4.0	4.0	3.5	6.0	6.0	6.5	3.0	4.0	3.0
Quebec	6.0	4.0	6.0	18.0	9.5	9.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
New Brunswick	7.0	20.0	6.0	11.0	25.0	10.0	7.5	25.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	3.0	2.0	3.5	5.0	6.0	8.5	6.0	3.0	3.5
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.0	1.5	6.0	12	4.5	20.0	1.0	3.0	4.0
Canada	4.6	4.3	4.7	11.5	9.5	9.3	3.7	4.2	3.6

increased in 2015. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 4.6 weeks, ranging from a high of 7.0 weeks (New Brunswick) to a low of 1.0 week (Newfoundland & Labrador). The median wait for an MRI across the provinces has increased from 9.5 weeks in 2014, to 11.5 weeks this year. Patients in British Columbia and Quebec wait the longest (18.0 weeks), while patients in Nova Scotia wait the least amount of time (5.0 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces has fallen from 4.2 weeks in 2014, to 3.7 weeks this year. Residents of Newfoundland & Labrador face the shortest waits for an EEG (1.0 week), while residents of New Brunswick wait longest (7.5 weeks). [8]

Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 19.3 weeks from general practitioner referral to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 179% longer than specialists feel is appropriate, it is clear that many patients in need of psychiatric attention are facing the effects of rationing in our health-care system.

8. For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 4.0 weeks in the traditional twelve specialties and 4.6 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 1.3 weeks across nine provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs in the psychiatry survey was 11.5 weeks, compared to 10.4 weeks for the other twelve specialties. The mean absolute difference in this case, again for nine provinces, was 3.5 weeks.

Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire (2014)

General Surgery

Please circle the province in which your office is located:

AB BC MB NB NL NS NT NU ON PE QC SK YT

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. Do you restrict the number of patients waiting to see you in any manner? (i.e. Do you accept referrals only at certain times of the year?)

❑ Yes ❑ No

3. Over the past 12 months, what percentage of the surgical procedures you performed were done on a day surgery basis? _____ %

4. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or procedure	Number of weeks to wait	Reasonable number of weeks to wait
Hernia repair (all types) / hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnosis)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy / other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy / segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

5. Has the length of your waiting lists changed since last year at this time?

❑ Increased ❑ Decreased ❑ Remained the Same

6. If the length of your waiting lists has changed, what are the major reasons for the change? (Check all which may be applicable.)

_____ Availability of O/R nurses
_____ Availability of other technical staff
_____ Availability of beds
_____ Availability of O/R time
_____ Change in patient load
_____ Availability of ancillary investigations or consultations (i.e. MRI, CT scans)
_____ Other

7. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because they requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

8. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose? _____ %

9. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your patients that are listed on hospital waiting lists might also be listed by other physicians for the same procedure? _____ %

10. Do you use the following types of diagnostic tests? If so, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?

Do you use the diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait
CT Scan				
MRI				
Ultrasound				

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients inquired in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:
In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:
In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Appendix D: The Fraser Institute Annual Study of Wait Times for Health Care in Canada (2015)

General Surgery

In which province is your office is located? _____

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or procedure	Number of weeks to wait	Reasonable number of weeks to wait
Hernia repair (all types) / hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnosis)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy / other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy / segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

3. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because *they* requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

4. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose? _____ %

5. How long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?
CT scan _____ weeks MRI _____ weeks Ultrasound _____ weeks

6. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months: In another province? ___ % Outside Canada? ___ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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