

Waiting Your Turn

Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2023 Report

Mackenzie Moir and Bacchus Barua with Hani Wannamaker



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Executive summary

Waiting for treatment has become a defining characteristic of Canadian health care. In order to document the queues for visits to specialists and for diagnostic and surgical procedures in the country, the Fraser Institute has—for almost three 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 increased since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed report a median waiting time of 27.7 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment—longer than the wait of 27.4 weeks reported in 2022. This year’s wait time is the longest wait time recorded in this survey’s history and is 198% 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. Ontario reports the shortest total wait—21.6 weeks—while Nova Scotia reports the longest—56.7 weeks. There is also a great deal of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and plastic surgery (52.4 weeks), while those waiting for radiation treatments begin treatment in 4.4 weeks.

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

- 1 From referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist.** The waiting time in this segment increased from 12.6 weeks in 2022 to 14.6 weeks in 2023. This wait time is 296% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Quebec (12.3 weeks) while the longest occur in Nova Scotia (28.3 weeks).
- 2 From the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.** The waiting time in this segment decreased from 14.8 weeks in 2022 to 13.1 weeks this year. This wait time is still 133% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and 4.6 weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically “reasonable” (8.5 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Newfoundland & Labrador (8.0 weeks), while the longest are in Nova Scotia (28.4 weeks).

It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2023 is 1,209,194. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.0% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2023. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 2.14% in Ontario to a high of 8.39% in Nova Scotia. It is important to note that physicians report that only about 13.7% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

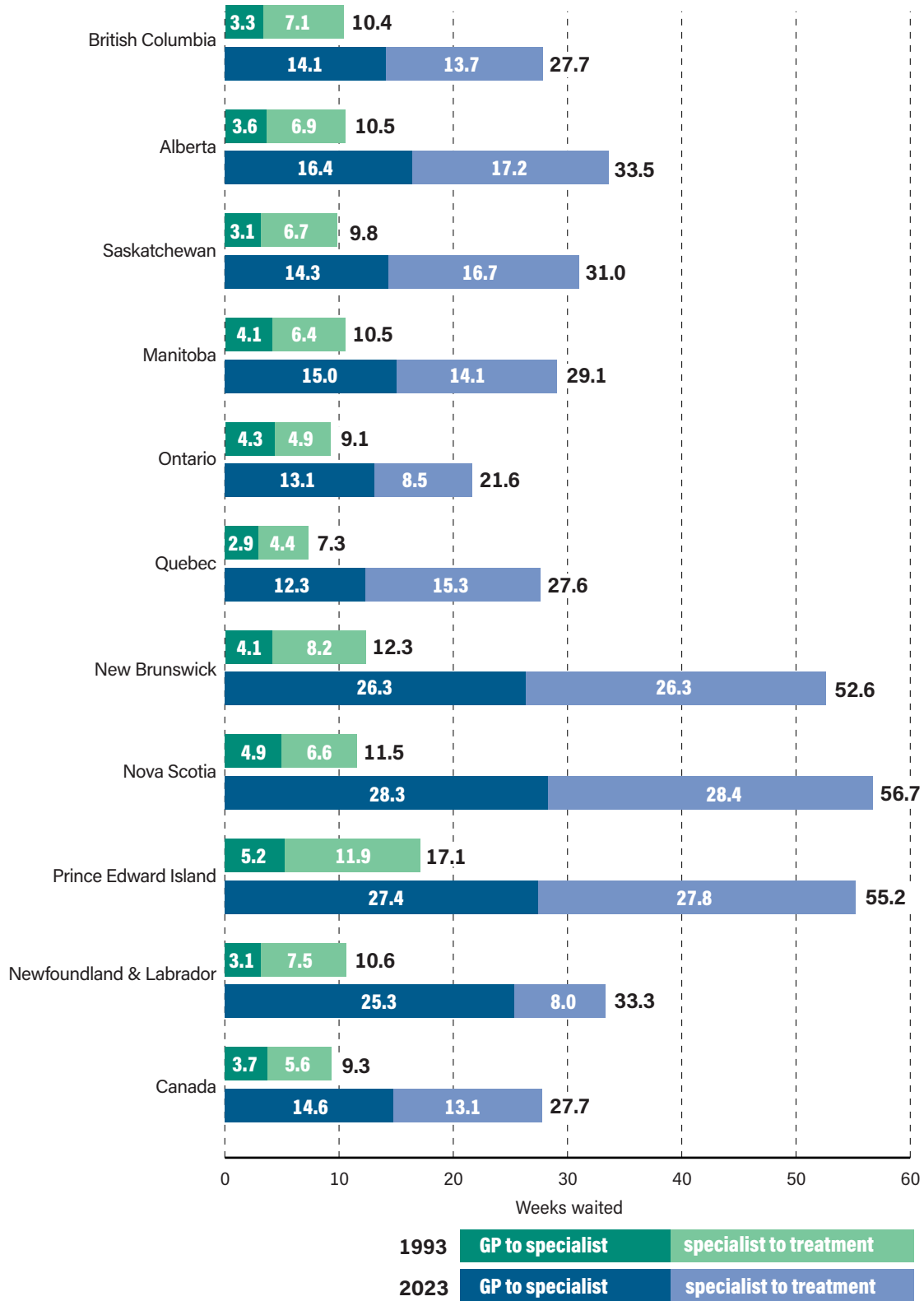
Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 6.6 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 12.9 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 5.3 weeks for an ultrasound.

Data were collected from the week of January 16 to July 1, 2023, longer than the period of collection in years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 1,269 responses were received across the 12 specialties surveyed. However, this year's response rate was 10.3% (a lower response rate than in some previous years). As a result, the findings in this report should be interpreted with caution.

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 to treatment, by province, 1993 and 2023



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.
 Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Charts, graphs, and tables

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. 1–18.
- Graphs will be found in “Selected graphs”, pp. 19–32.
- Tables will be found in “Selected tables”, pp. 33–57.
- Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2023 Report, pp. 61–68, has tables and a graph labeled “B1” and so on.

Errata

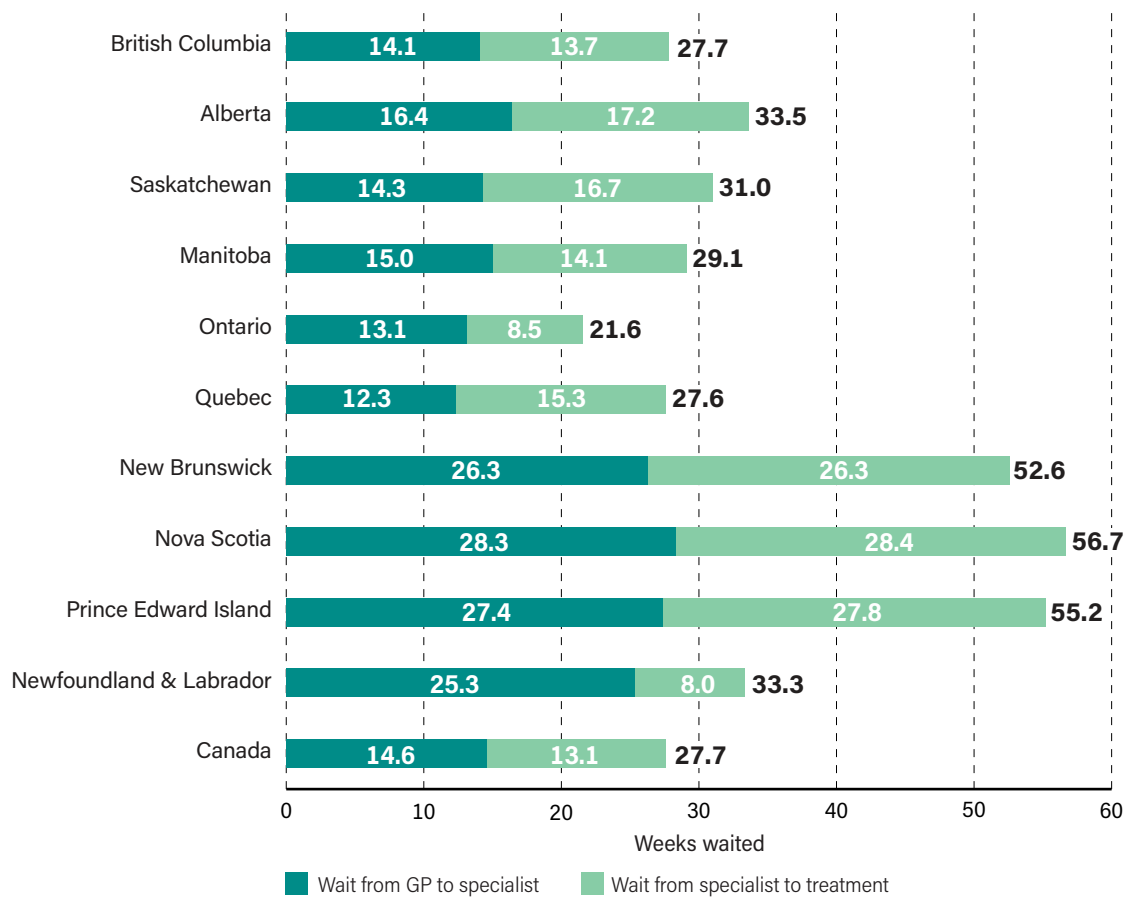
- Editions of *Waiting Your Turn* from 2019 to 2022 reported the median wait time for Ontario in 1993 at 9.2 weeks in the figure on page iii, *Median wait from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 1993 and 2023*. The correct wait time for 1993 was 9.1.

Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute’s thirty-second annual waiting list survey finds that wait times [1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments increased in 2023 (chart 1; table 2). The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of medically necessary elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has risen from 27.4 weeks in 2022 to 27.7 in 2023. This year’s wait time is 198% longer than in 1993, when it was just 9.3 weeks.

Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2023—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

Source: The Fraser Institute’s national waiting list survey, 2023.

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

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2023 (21.6 weeks), followed by Quebec (27.6 weeks) and British Columbia (27.7 weeks). Nova Scotia has the longest total wait at 56.7 weeks, followed by Prince Edward Island (55.2 weeks) and New Brunswick (52.6 weeks).

Wait time by segment

Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

- 1 from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist;
- 2 from the consultation with a specialist to point at which patient receives treatment.

The increase in total waiting time from 2022 to 2023 is the result of an increase in the first segment—from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist. The wait time in this segment has risen from 12.6 weeks in 2022 to 14.8 weeks in 2023. This wait time is 296% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks (graph 1; graph 2). The waiting time to see a specialist increased in seven provinces since 2022, but decreased in Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island (chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Quebec (12.3 weeks), Ontario (13.1 weeks), and British Columbia (14.1 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations are found in Nova Scotia (28.3 weeks), Prince Edward Island (27.4), and New Brunswick (26.3 weeks) (table 3).

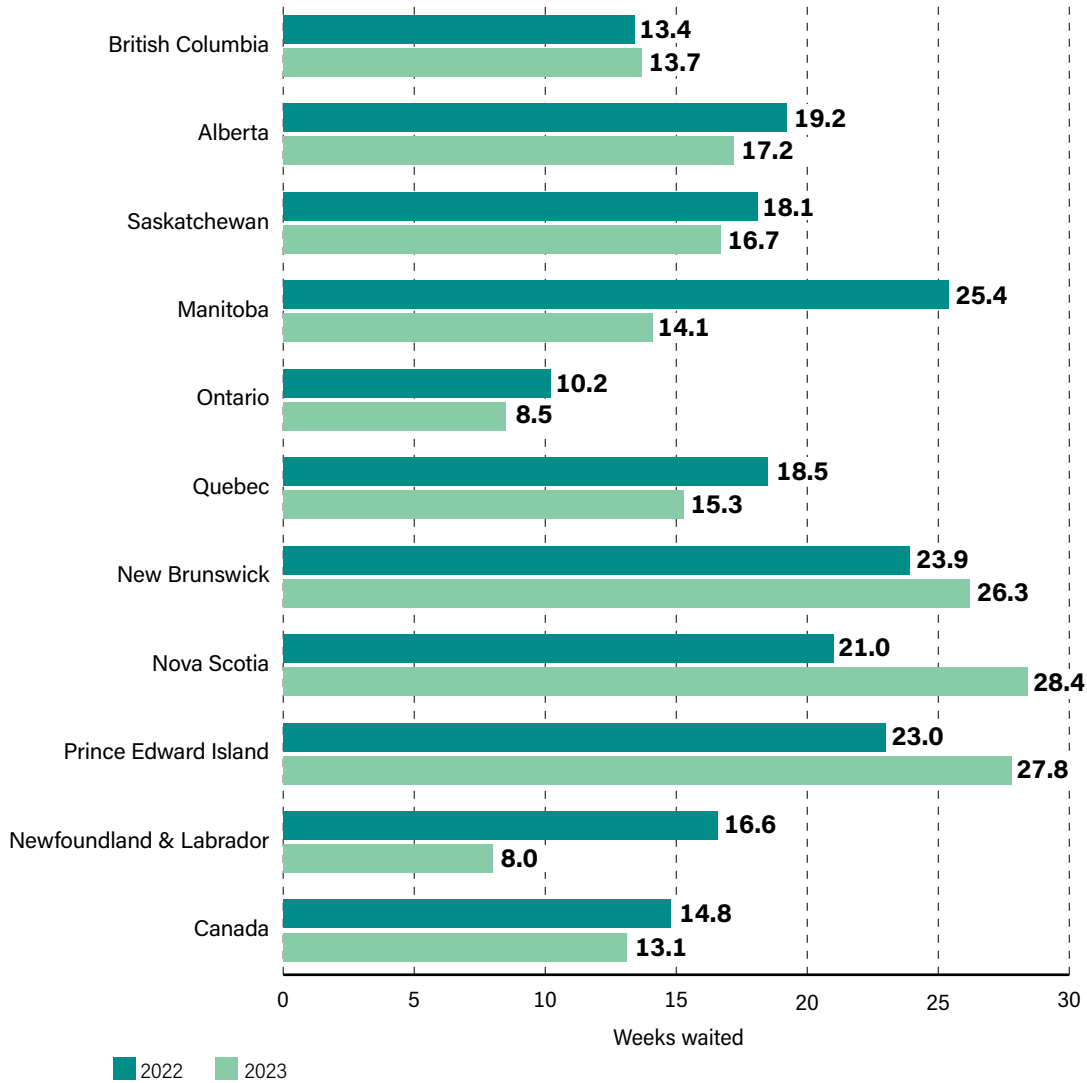
The waiting time in the second segment—from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment—has decreased from 14.8 weeks in 2022 to 13.1 weeks in 2023 (chart 3). This portion of waiting is 133% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (graph 3; graph 4). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have decreased in six provinces but increased in British Columbia (by 0.2 weeks), New Brunswick (by 2.5 weeks), Nova Scotia (by 7.4 weeks), and Prince Edward Island (by 4.8 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Newfoundland & Labrador (8.0 weeks), Ontario (8.5 weeks), and British Columbia (13.7 weeks), while the longest are in Nova Scotia (28.4 weeks), Prince Edward Island (27.8 weeks), and New Brunswick (26.3 weeks) (table 4).

Chart 2: Wait by province in 2022 and 2023—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022, 2023.

Chart 3: Wait by province in 2022 and 2023—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment

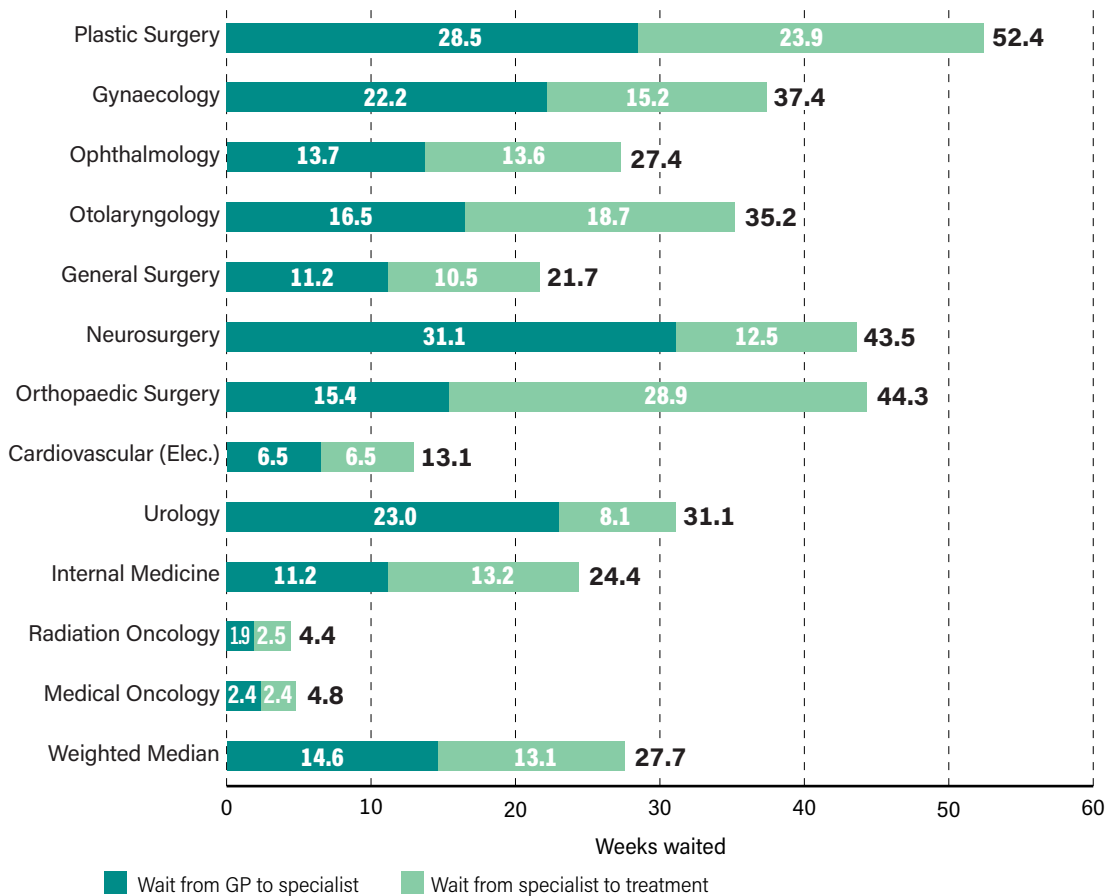


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022, 2023.

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for radiation oncology (4.4 weeks), medical oncology (4.8 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (13.1 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a referral by a GP and plastic surgery (52.4 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (44.3 weeks), and neurosurgery (43.5 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2022 and 2023 have been for urology (+11.9 weeks), otolaryngology (+6.5 weeks), internal medicine (+5.7 weeks), and gynaecology (+5.3 weeks). Such increases are partially offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in fields like neurosurgery (−15.4 weeks), ophthalmology (−7.6 weeks), and plastic surgery (−5.8 weeks).

Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2023—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals because of rounding.

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023.

When waiting time is broken down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. The shortest waits from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist are in radiation oncology (1.9 weeks), medical oncology (2.4 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (6.5 weeks). The longest waits are for neurosurgery (31.1 weeks), plastic surgery (28.5 weeks), and urology (23.0 weeks) (table 3).

For the second segment—from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment—patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.7 weeks), medical oncology (2.4 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.5 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (28.9 weeks), plastic surgery (23.9 weeks) and otolaryngology (18.7 weeks) (table 4; chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5A–5L.

Comparison between clinically “reasonable” and actual waiting times

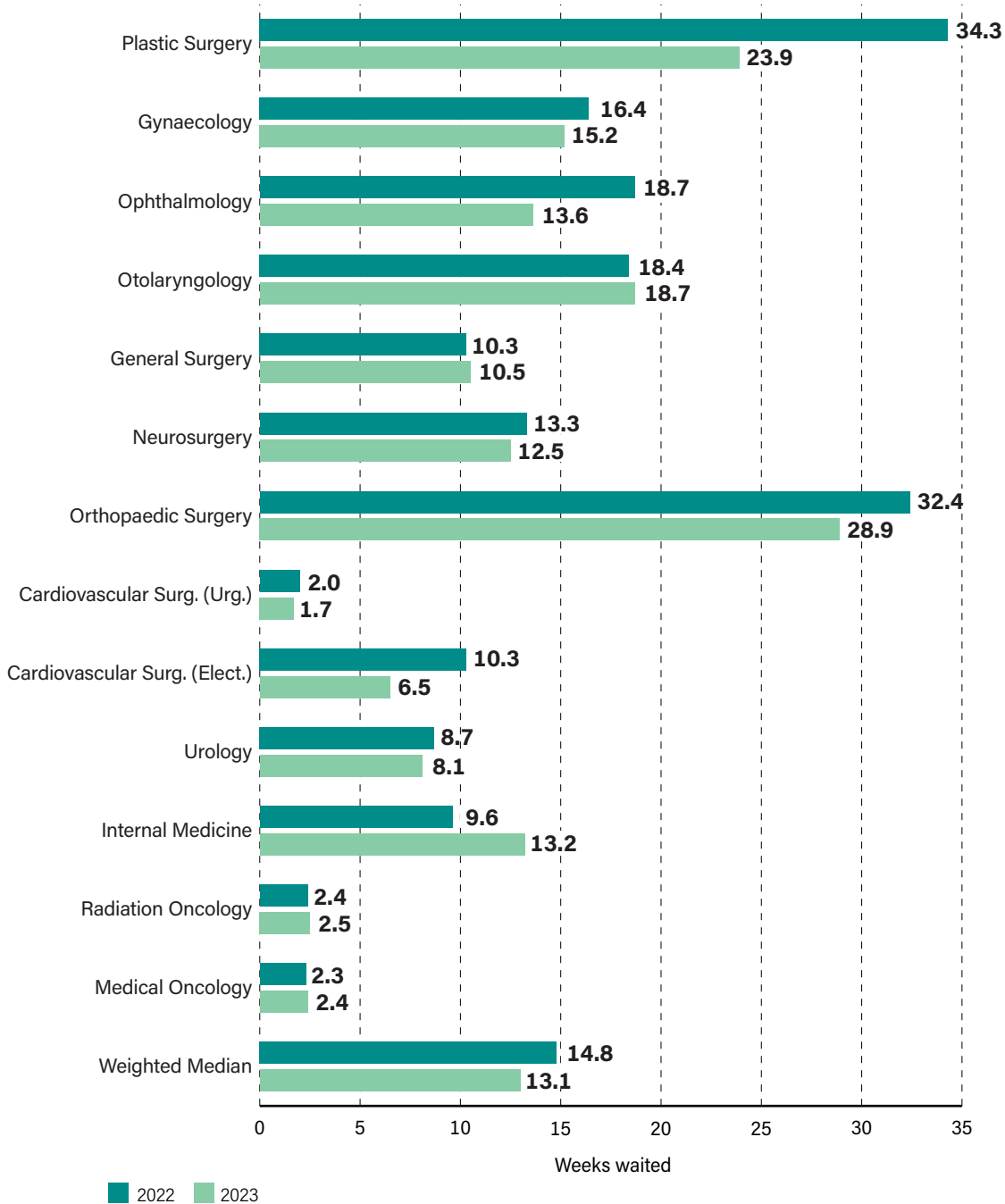
Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically “reasonable” waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 95 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 78% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Ontario has come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable” wait times, with the actual second-segment wait (8.5 weeks) exceeding the corresponding “reasonable” value by 16% (or by 1.2 weeks) (table 10). The greatest absolute difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is 15.6 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 face significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan has increased to 6.6 weeks in 2023 from 5.4 weeks in 2022. Quebec had the shortest wait for a CT scan (4.0 weeks) while the longest waits occur in Nova Scotia (14.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has increased to 12.9 weeks in 2023 from 10.6 weeks in 2022. Patients in Ontario and Quebec faced the shortest wait for an

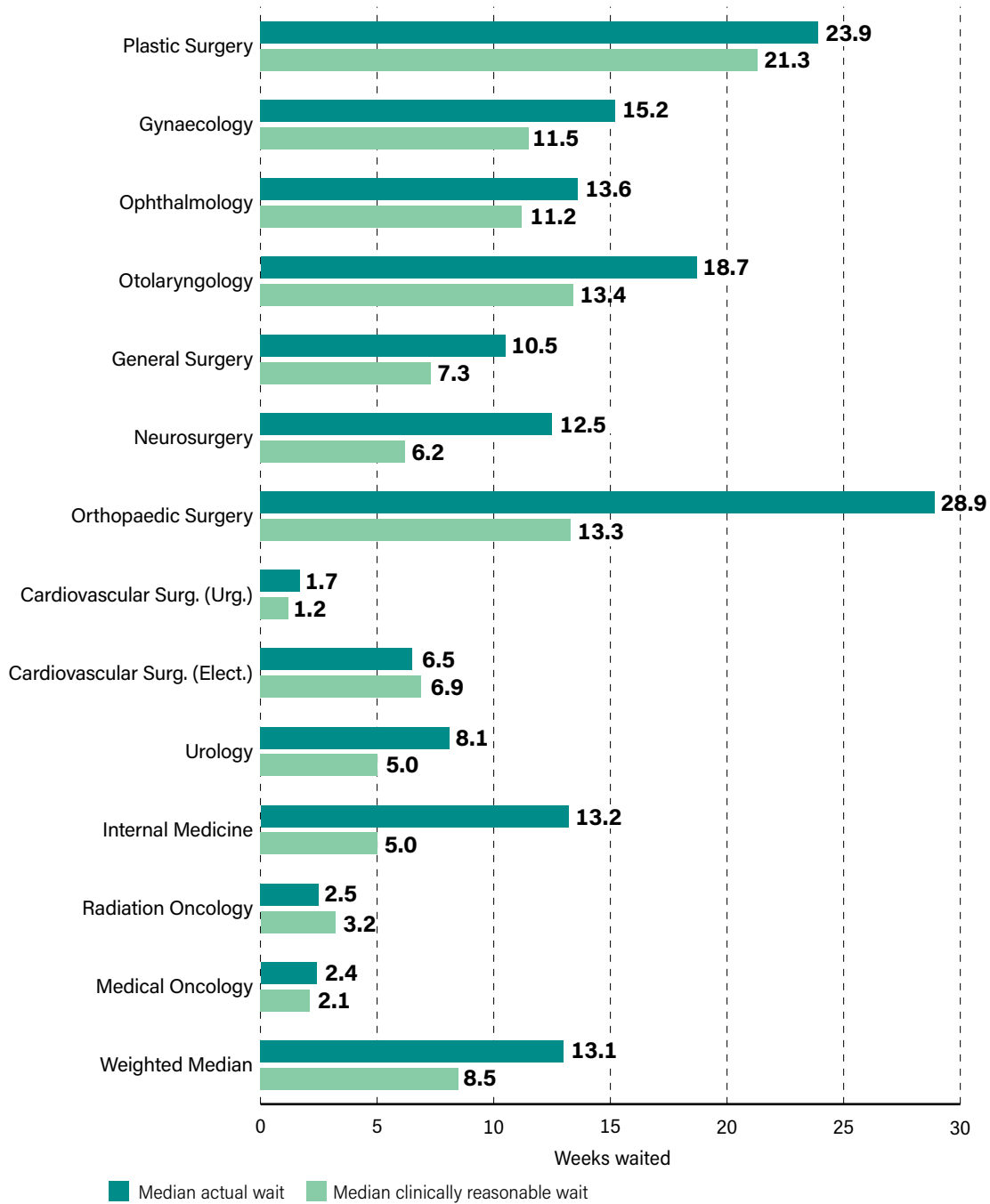
2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is that for internal medicine where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 162%.

Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2022 and 2023—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022, 2023.

Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait, by specialty, in Canada in 2023—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



MRI (10.0 weeks), while residents of Nova Scotia wait longest (25.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound increased in 2023 to 5.3 weeks from 4.9 weeks in 2022. Saskatchewan had the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Prince Edward Island had the longest: 14.0 weeks (chart 7).

Chart 7: Waiting for technology—weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2023, 2022, and 2021

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
British Columbia	8.0	6.8	6.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	5.0
Alberta	11.0	7.0	10.0	21.0	12.0	24.0	3.5	3.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	6.0	4.0	4.0	24.0	16.0	12.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Manitoba	8.0	7.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	5.5	6.0
Ontario	5.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	5.5	4.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	5.0
New Brunswick	6.5	8.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	12.0
Nova Scotia	14.0	7.0	5.5	25.0	18.0	17.5	12.0	8.0	6.0
Prince Edward Island	10.0	6.0	8.0	24.0	20.0	21.3	14.0	24.0	16.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	8.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	4.0	6.0
Canada	6.6	5.4	5.2	12.9	10.6	10.2	5.3	4.9	3.6

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021, 2022, 2023.

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 2023 is 1,209,194 (table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis), a decrease of 2.0% from the estimated 1,228,047 procedures in 2022. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting decreased in five provinces, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.0% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2023, which varies from a low of 2.14% of the population in Ontario to a high of 8.39% in Nova Scotia. [3] Tables 13A–13L (pp. 49–52) show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

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3. 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 the week of January 16 and June 1, 2023. Survey questionnaires [4] 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, 1,269 responses were received, for an overall response rate of 10.3% (table 1). The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in table 2 to table 15.

This study replicates methods used in previous editions but, like the surveys of 2015 to 2022, this year's survey contains fewer questions than in previous years (2014 and earlier). 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 will have a 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. [5] 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. [6]

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4. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Unlike lists of past years, this year's list included doctors with multiple specialties, many of which are outside the purview of the 12 specialties the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire is designed for. In order to stay consistent with earlier surveys, we include only doctors associated exclusively with the 12 specialties for which the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire is designed. For instances where doctors in this year's list were associated with more than one of the 12 specialties included in our survey design, the unique specialty they were associated with previously was used. Specialists were offered a chance to gain a \$2,000 cash prize (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond. Physicians were contacted via letter-mail, facsimile, and telephone.
 5. 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.
 6. For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

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 (for example, 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).

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 Canadian Institute for Health Information’s 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 from the Canadian Cancer Society’s Advisory Committee on Cancer Statistics (2023) as well as, for 2021/22, from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2023a), the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2023b), and the Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB) (CIHI, 2023c) published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). There

are 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.

This year's response rate (10.3%) is lower than it has been in previous years, and thus should be interpreted with caution. More generally, when interpreting median wait-time data for procedures, specialties, and provinces, it is always important to take note of the number of responses upon which estimates are based. This information is contained in tables 1a-c. For example, the number of survey responses in parts of Atlantic Canada are notably lower than in other provinces, which may result in reported median wait times being higher or lower than those actually experienced. This year, the authors advise particular caution when interpreting the results of Newfoundland & Labrador and Prince Edward Island due to missing data.

Comparisons of Data from Other Sources

Estimates of wait times measured by provincial governments

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, many 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, *Waiting Your Turn*, 2009) 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. A previous analysis examined 95 independent waiting-time estimates comparable with the Fraser Institute's figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Fraser Institute's figures lay below the comparison values. In only 31 instances did the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they were 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 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 for radiation therapy, cataract surgery, and cardiac bypass surgery in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in

Chart 8: Pan-Canadian benchmark wait times and *Waiting Your Turn* 2023

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 (range of provincial reasonable median wait times) in weeks
Radiation therapy/ radiation oncology	within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	2.5 (2.2-5.6)	3.2 (2.8-6.0)
Hip replacements	within 26 weeks	33.7 (18.0-84.0)	14.1 (12.0-24.0)
Knee replacements	within 26 weeks	33.7 (18.0-84.0)	14.1 (12.0-24.0)
Cataract surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	14.2 (9.5-48.0)	12.4 (8.0-16.0)
Cardiac bypass surgery [2]	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 1.4 (0.1-4.0) Urgent: 2.0 (0.5-4.0) Elective: 6.2 (3.0-16.0)	Emergent: 0.4 (0.3-0.5) Urgent: 1.1 (1.0-1.5) Elective: 10.6 (4.0-13.8)

Notes: [1] These wait times for individual procedures were produced using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties, described above under "Method".

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005; and The Fraser Institute's National Waiting List Survey, 2023.

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". [7] This year, however, the median wait time for hip/knee replacements exceeds the pan-Canadian Benchmark wait time.

7. 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 2023 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that, at 27.7 weeks, the total waiting time for elective, medically necessary, treatment across the provinces is higher than last year's wait time of 27.4 weeks. This year marks the highest overall wait time in the survey's history. Even if one debates the reliability of waiting-list data, this survey also 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, Moir and Barua (2023) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$2,925 in 2022 if only hours during the normal working week were considered “lost”, and as much as \$8,897 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 1.8% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2022/23. Physicians also report that only about 13.7% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 47.1% would agree to have their procedure performed within a week [8] if an opening arose. Thus, despite provincial strategies to reduce wait times and high levels of expenditure on health care, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

8. 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”.

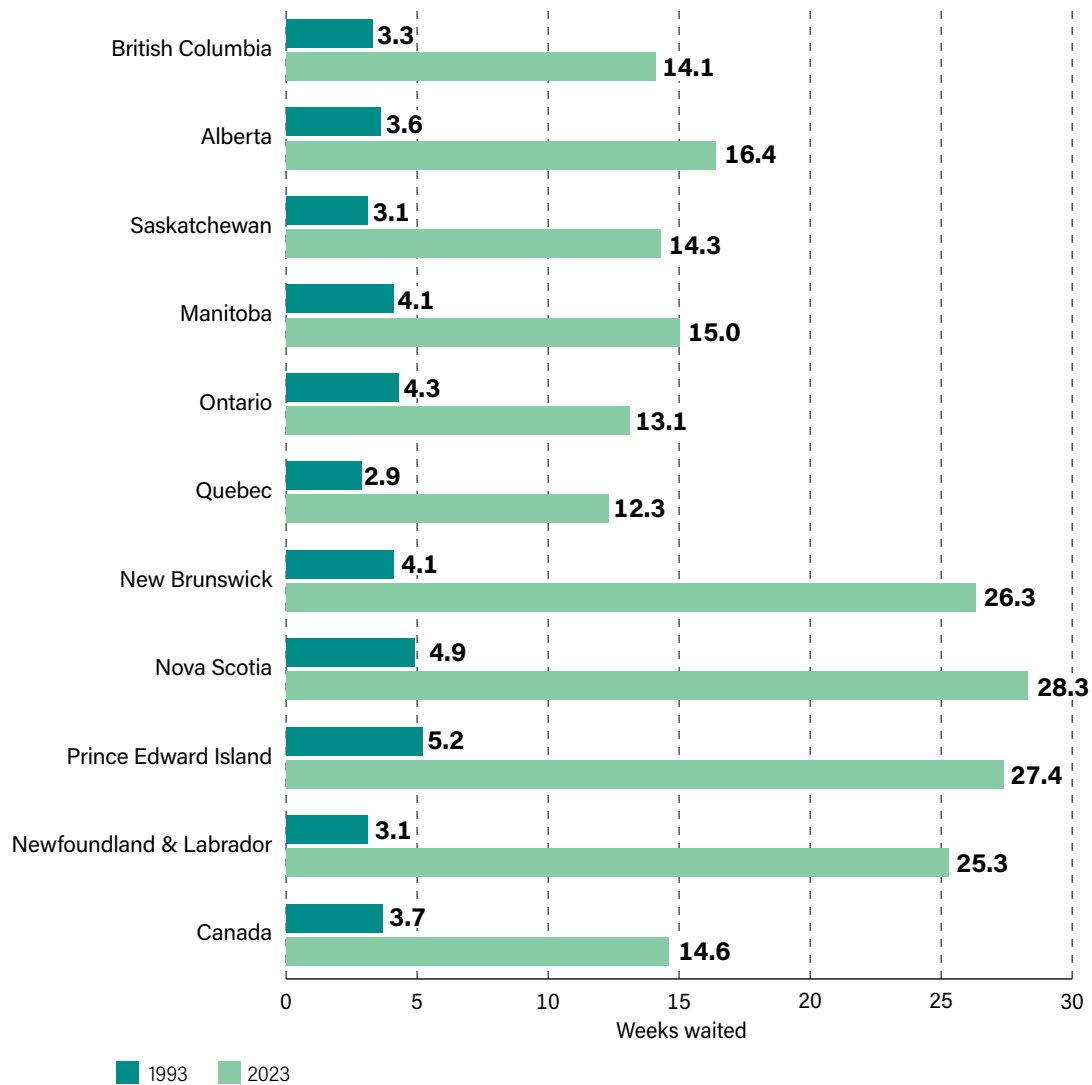
Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median actual waiting times, 1993 and 2023

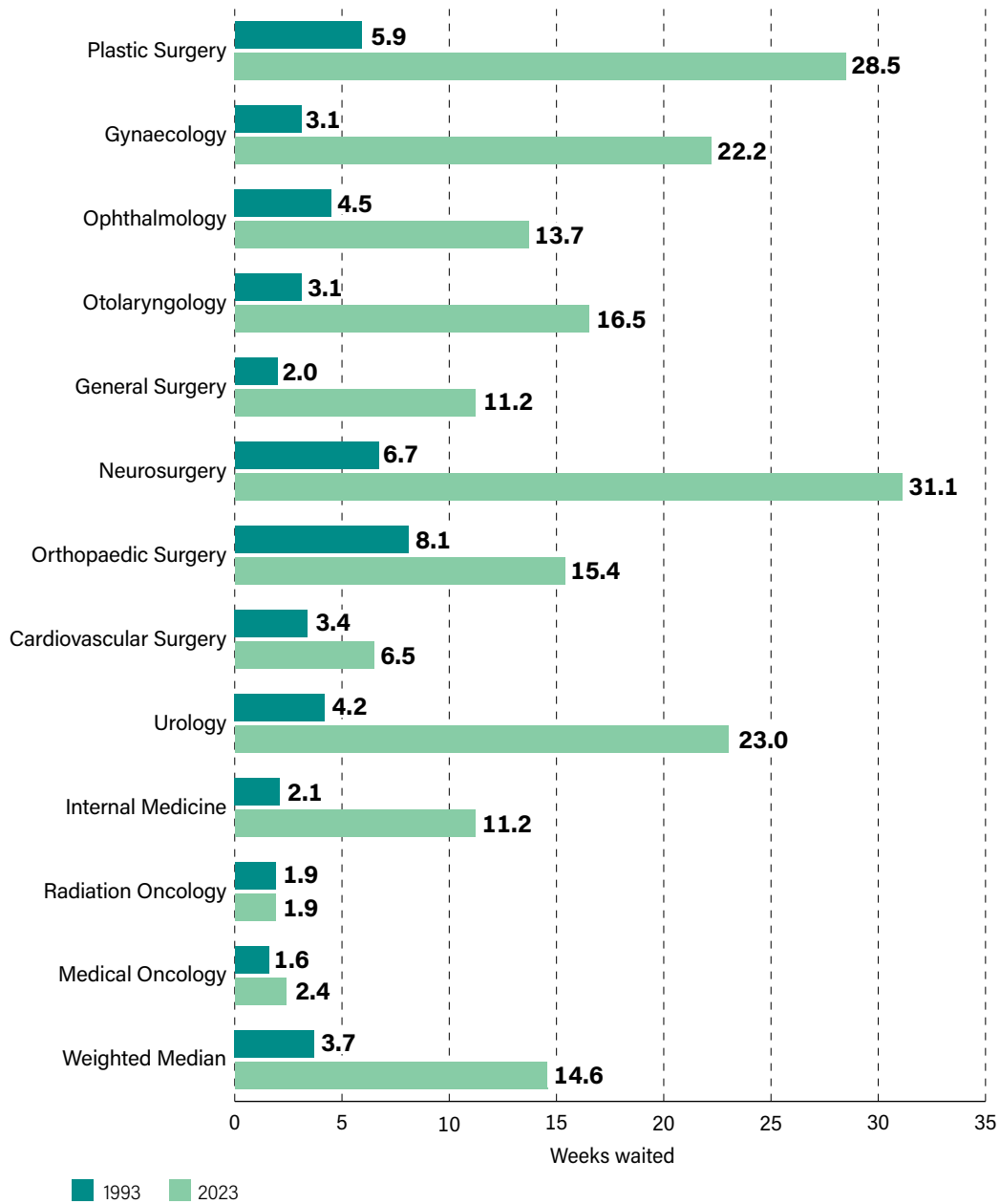
Graphs 7–8: Median reasonable waiting times, 1994 and 2023

Graphs 9–19: Actual compared to reasonable waiting times, 1994 to 2023, by province

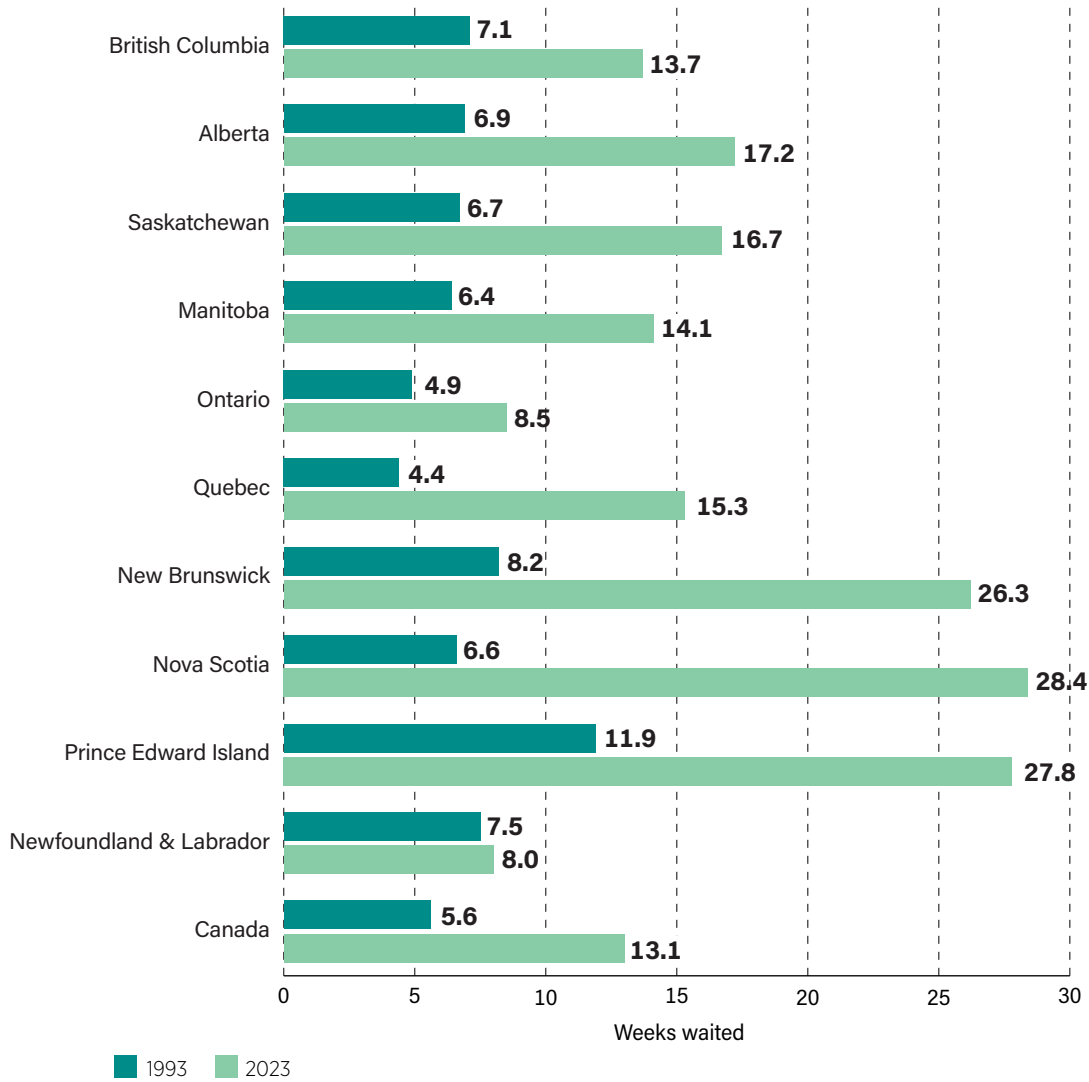
Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2023



Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2023

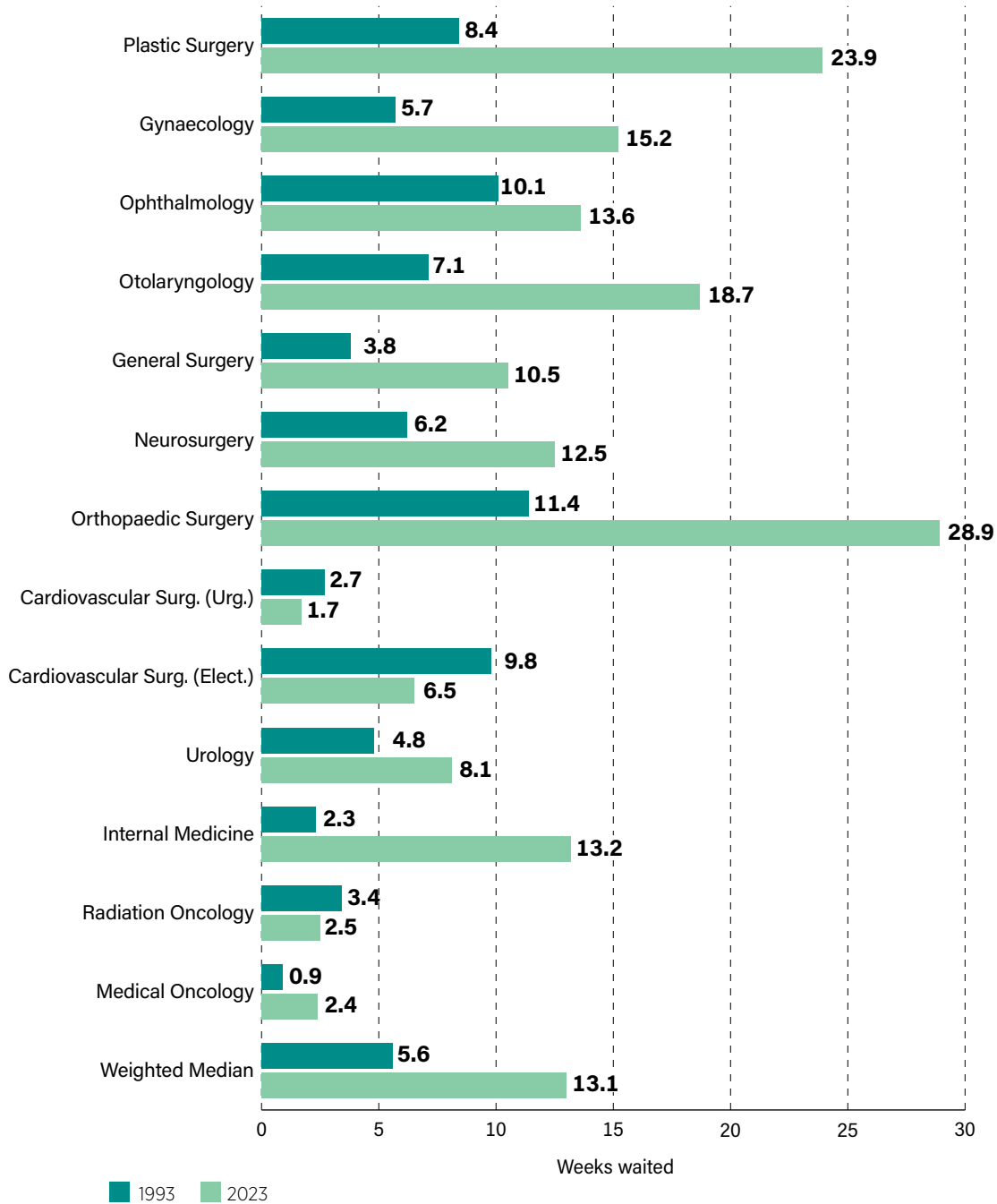


Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2023



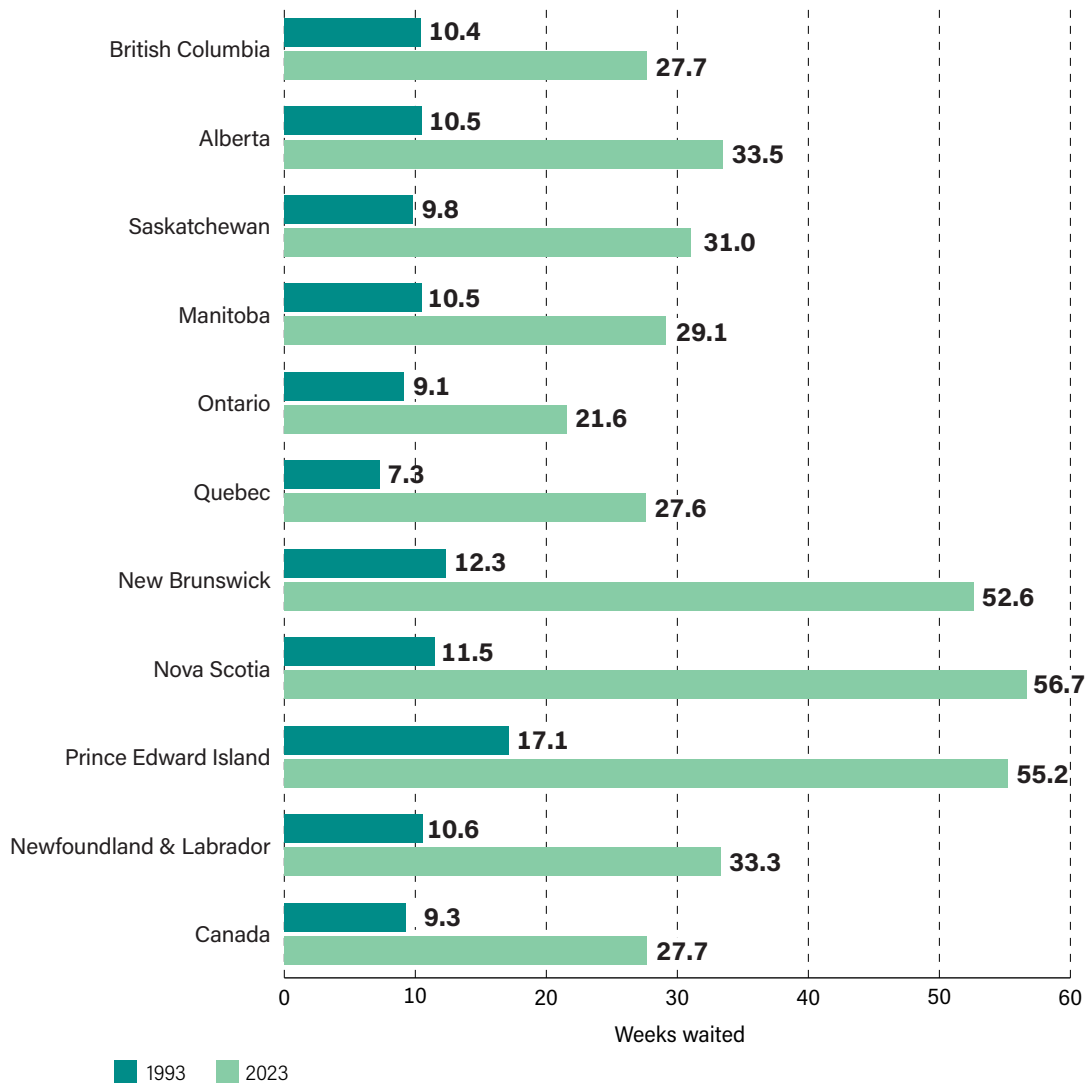
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2023



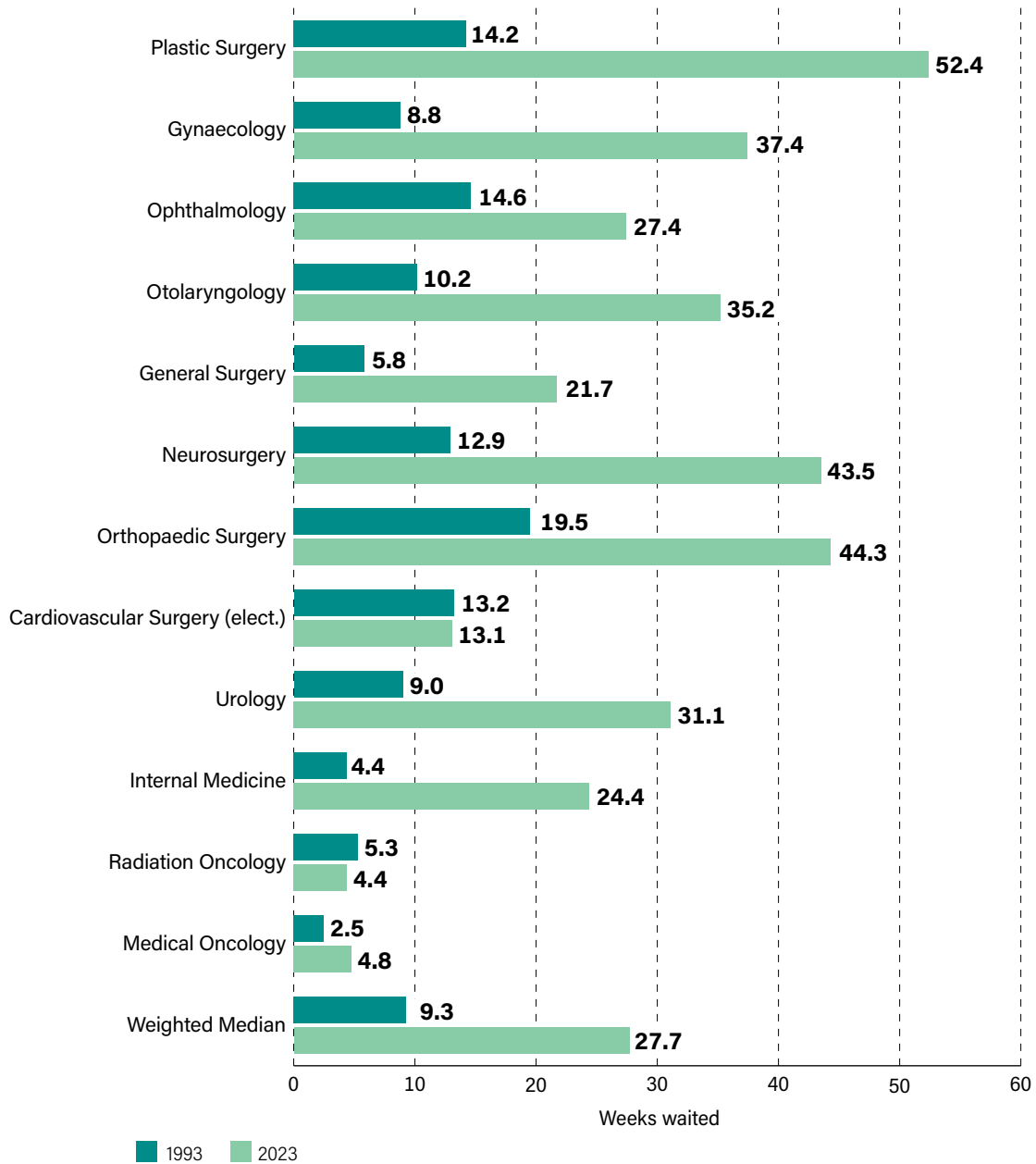
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2023



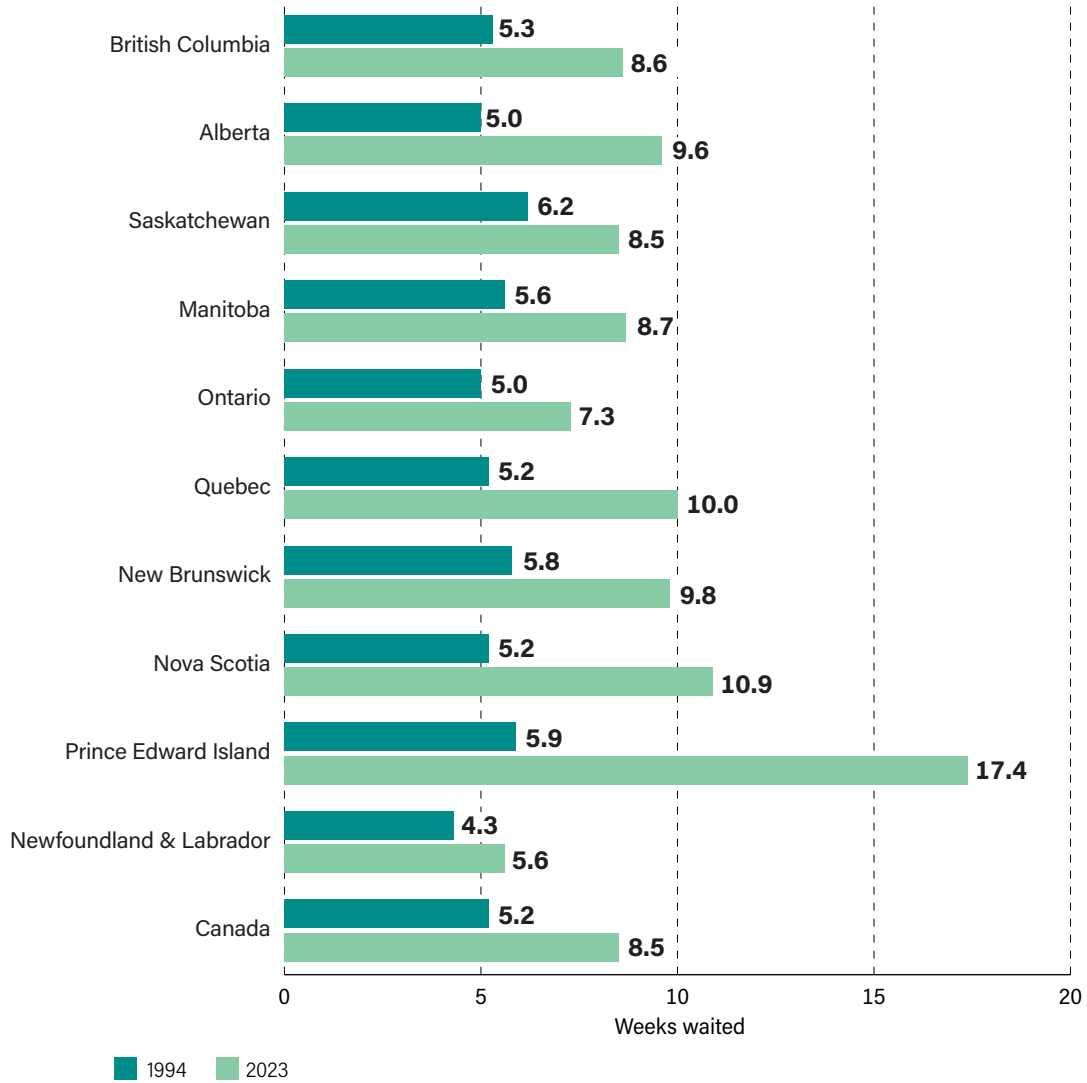
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2023



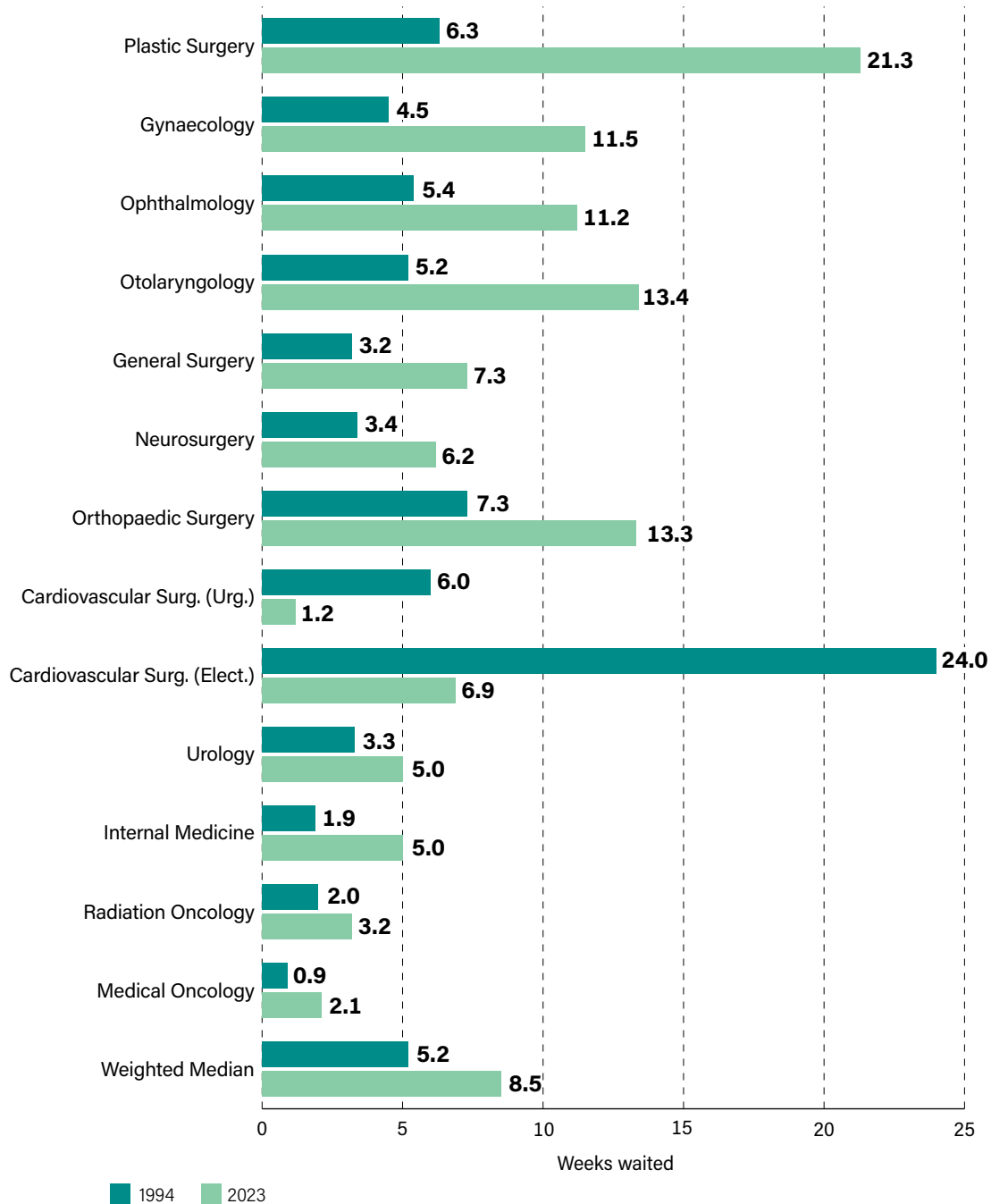
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2023



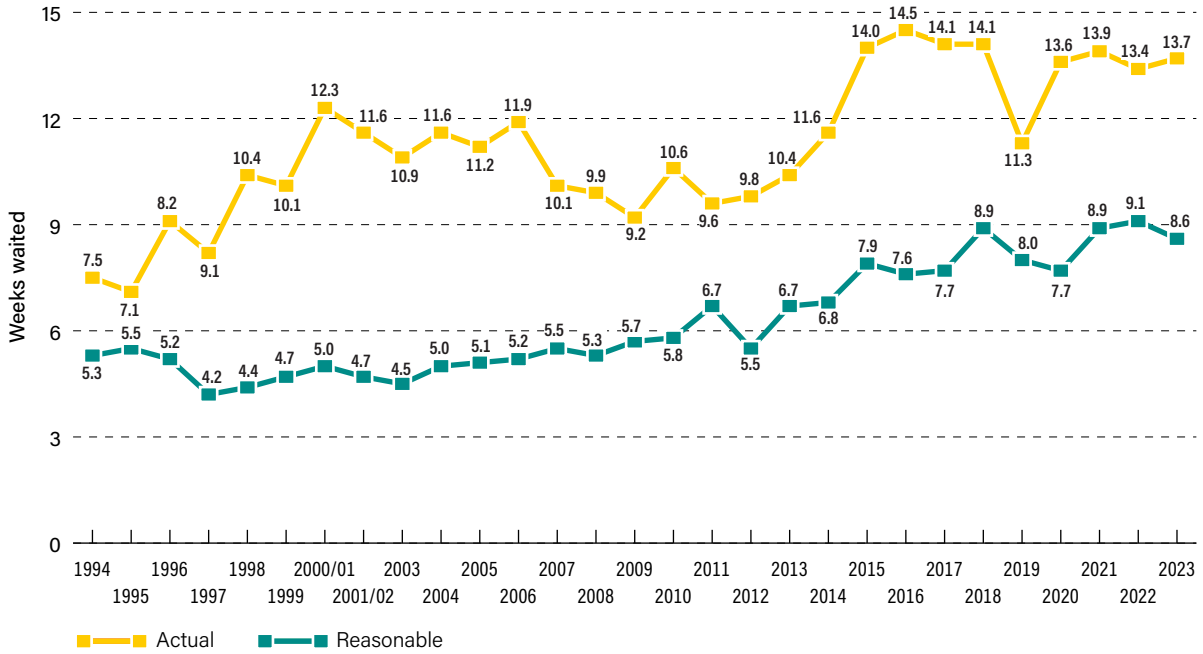
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2023



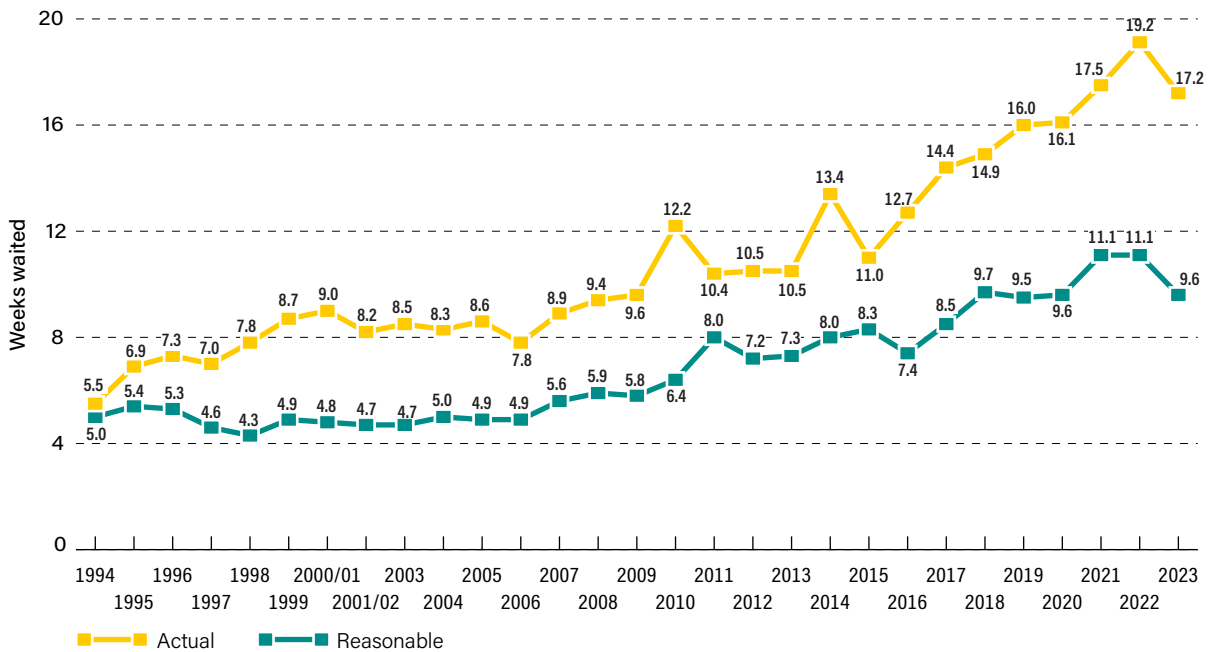
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



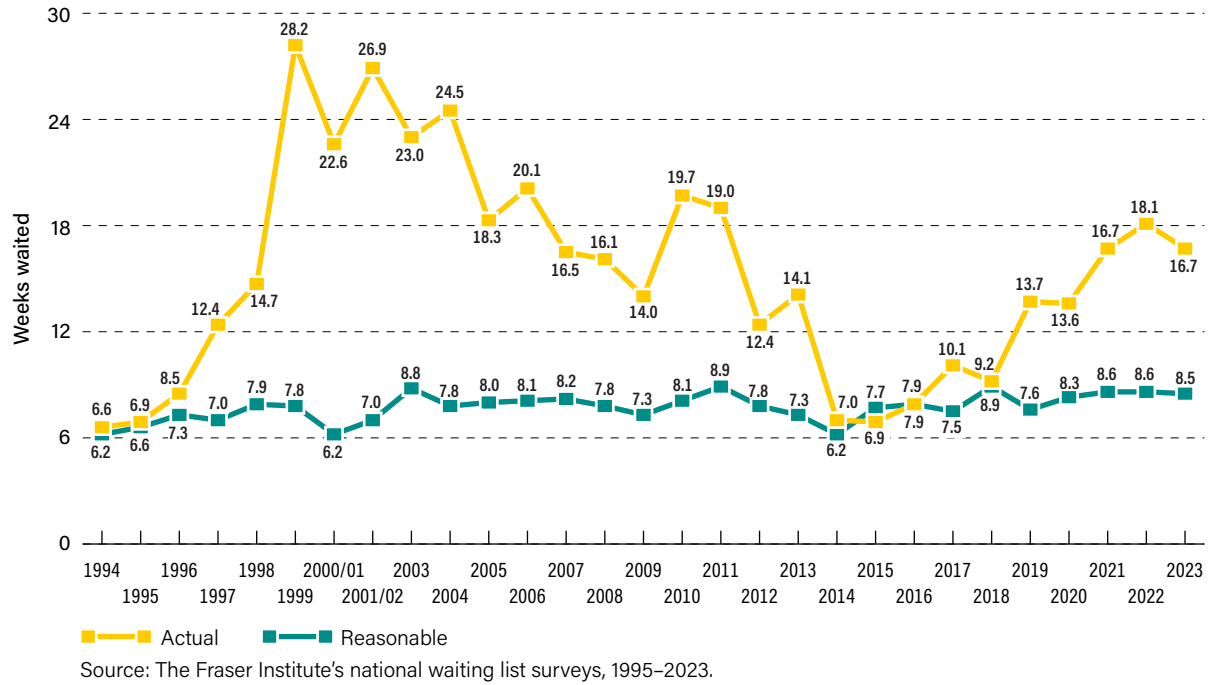
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 10: Alberta—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023

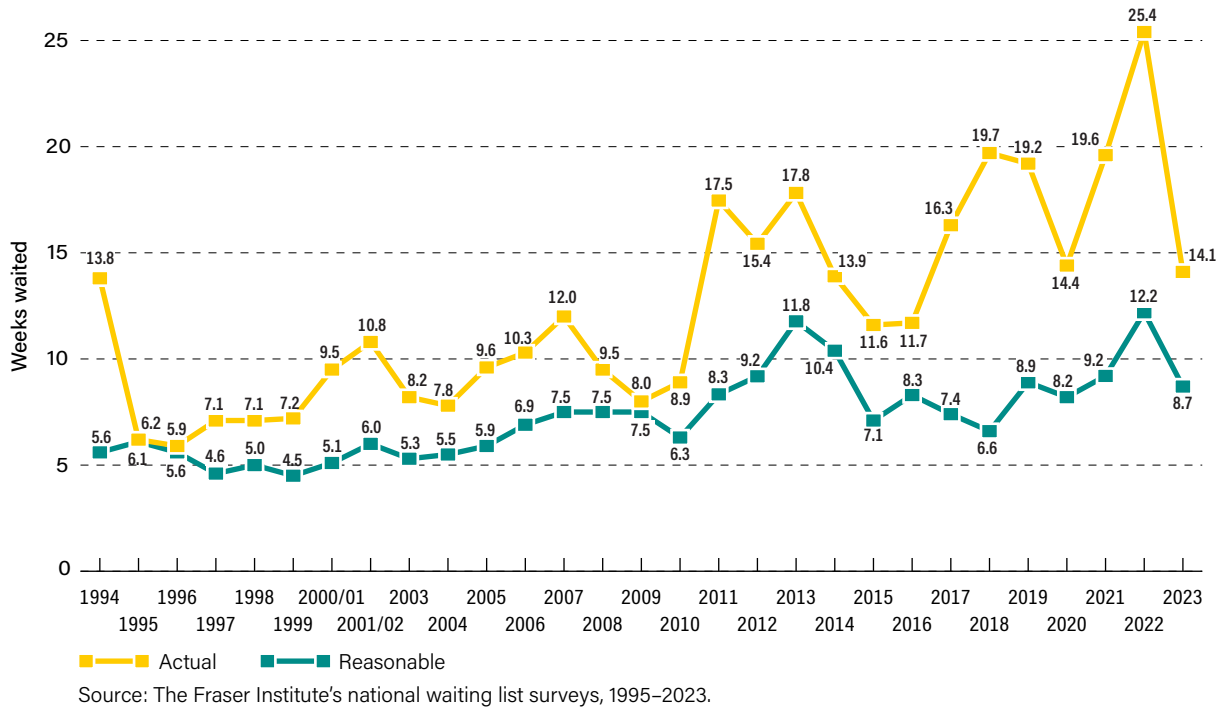


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

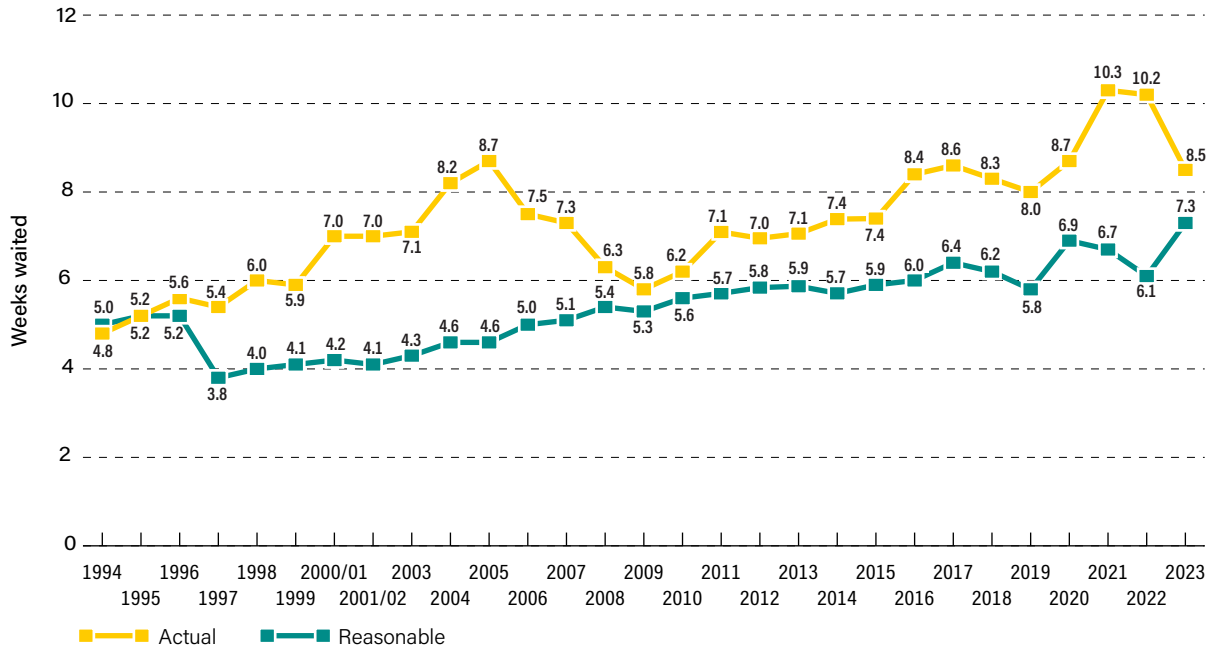
Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



Graph 12: Manitoba—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023

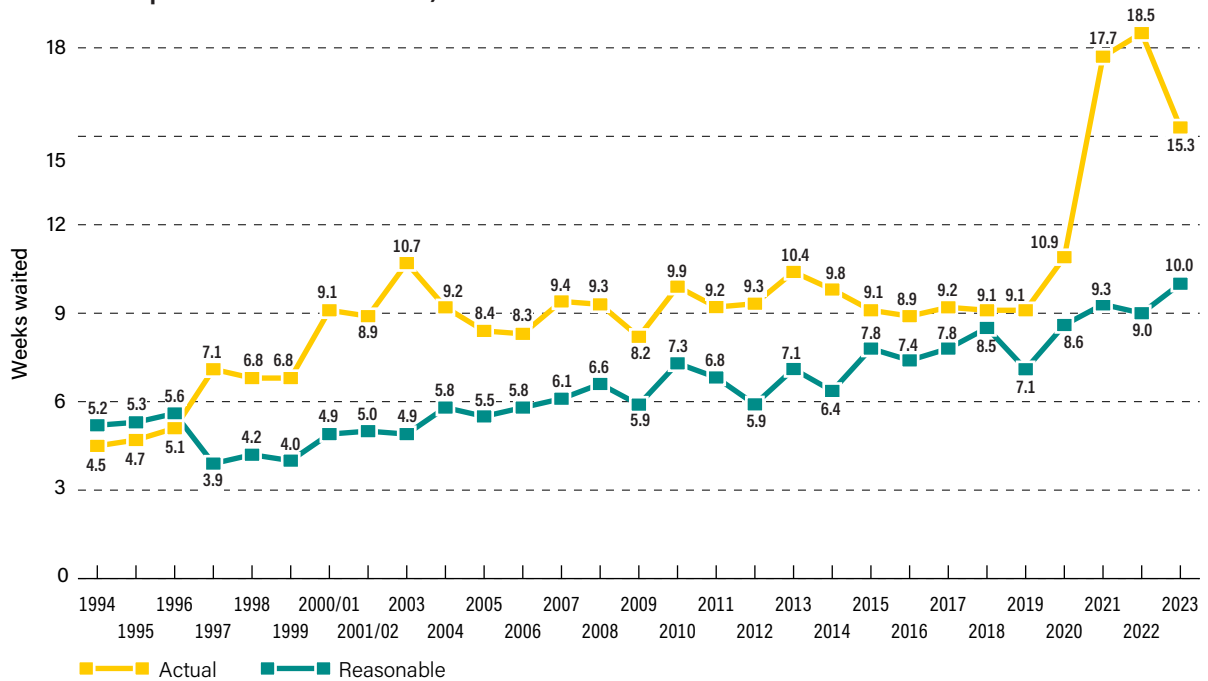


Graph 13: Ontario—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



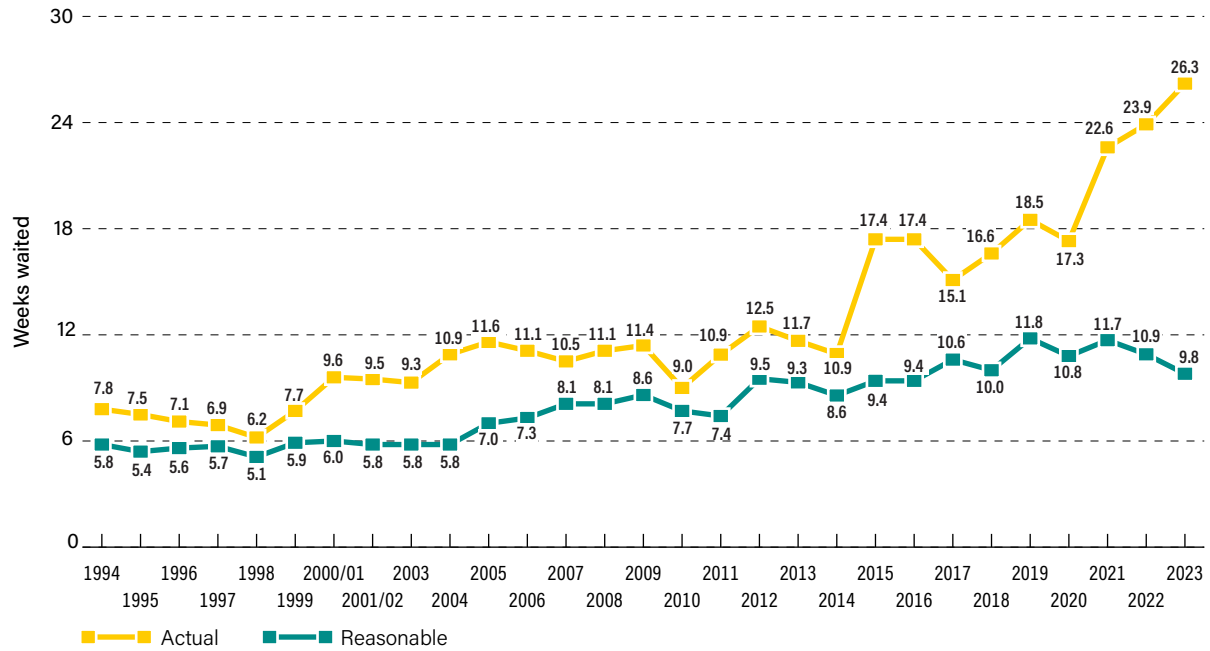
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 14: Quebec—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



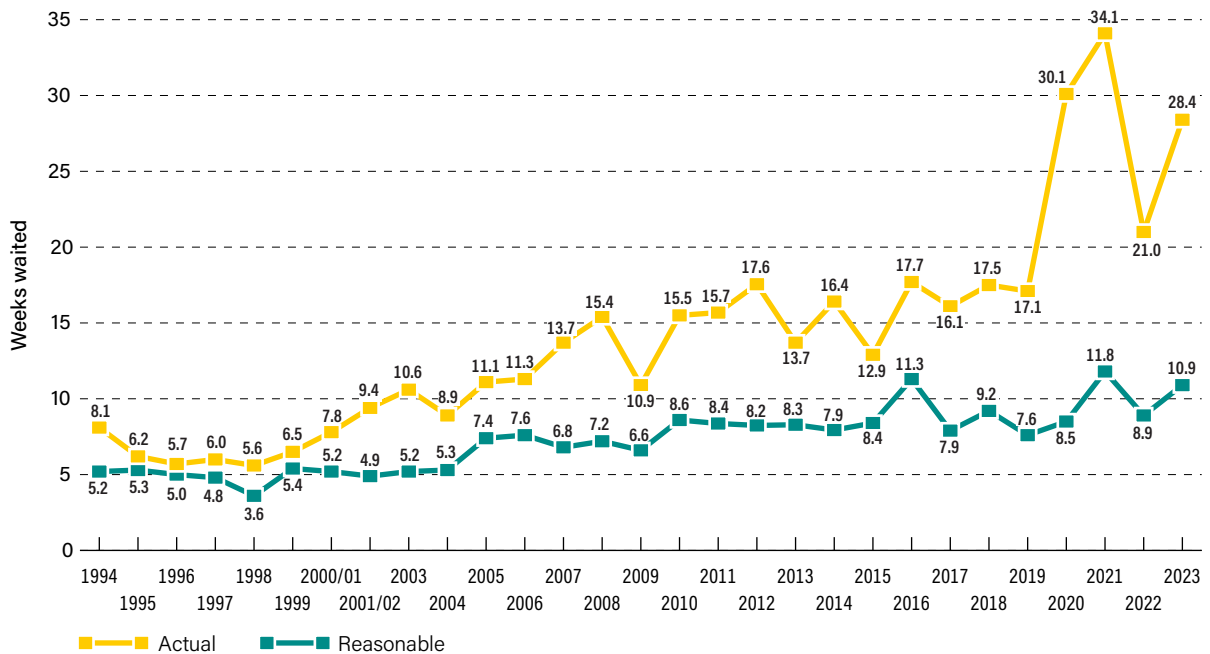
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



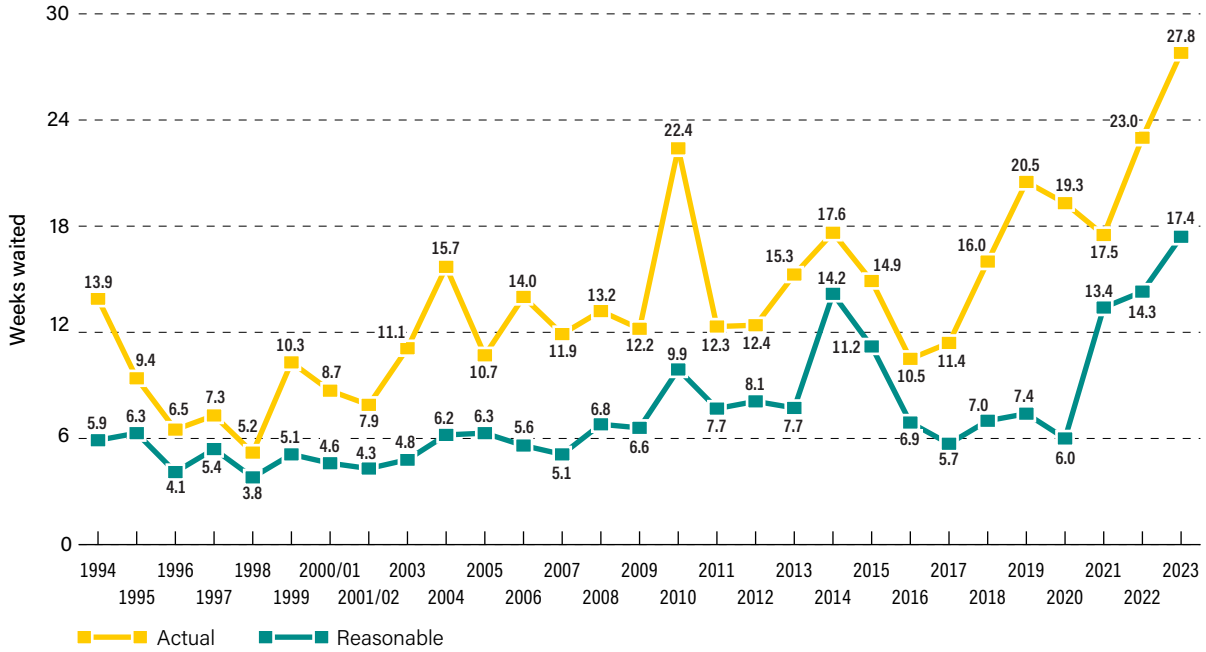
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



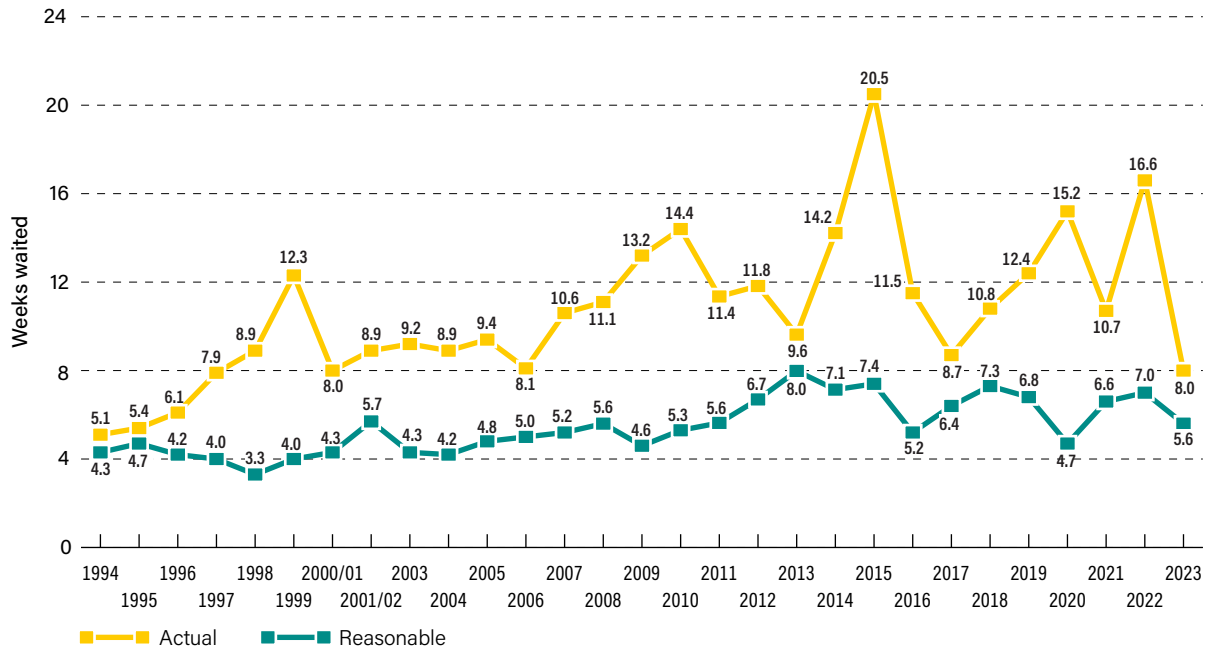
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



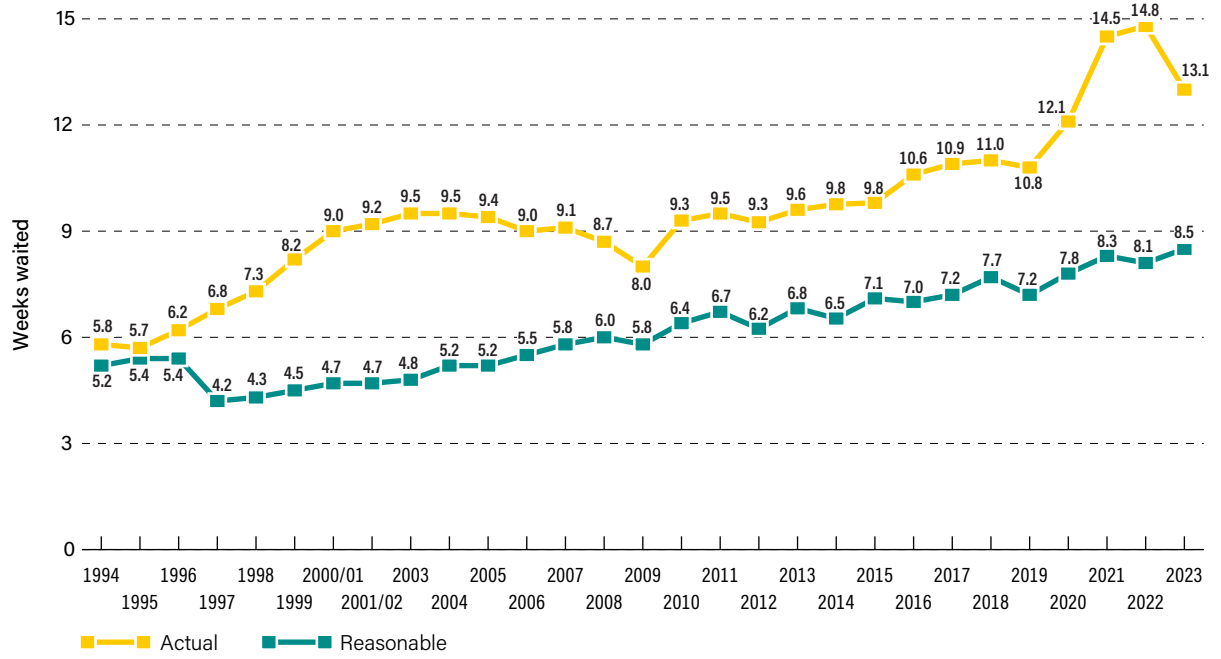
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2023.

Graph 19: Canada—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2023



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Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2023—response rates (percentages), by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	33%	23%	27%	21%	8%	12%	15%	21%	100%	20%	16%
Gynaecology	17%	23%	30%	18%	11%	6%	14%	15%	43%	21%	13%
Ophthalmology	23%	22%	35%	24%	6%	7%	24%	18%	17%	9%	12%
Otolaryngology	33%	31%	38%	35%	10%	10%	23%	30%	100%	0%	17%
General Surgery	18%	15%	22%	20%	6%	2%	14%	4%	17%	3%	8%
Neurosurgery	23%	34%	33%	13%	15%	3%	25%	20%	—	0%	16%
Orthopaedic Surgery	25%	24%	18%	20%	8%	6%	33%	17%	33%	23%	14%
Cardiovascular Surgery	41%	24%	43%	43%	22%	17%	14%	25%	100%	60%	26%
Urology	24%	26%	23%	38%	7%	11%	31%	22%	—	10%	14%
Internal Medicine	6%	5%	5%	2%	2%	2%	3%	8%	0%	9%	3%
Radiation Oncology	4%	0%	10%	7%	5%	4%	38%	8%	100%	0%	5%
Medical Oncology	8%	2%	0%	10%	6%	6%	11%	19%	67%	0%	7%
Total	18%	16%	21%	16%	7%	5%	18%	15%	34%	12%	10.3%

Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2023—number of responses, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	28	12	3	3	17	13	2	3	1	1	83
Gynaecology	39	38	16	11	75	29	6	7	3	7	231
Ophthalmology	39	19	8	6	24	22	4	7	1	1	131
Otolaryngology	26	15	5	6	24	20	3	7	3	0	109
General Surgery	40	21	12	12	36	10	6	2	1	1	141
Neurosurgery	9	11	4	1	12	2	2	2	—	0	43
Orthopaedic Surgery	53	33	8	10	43	20	12	8	1	5	193
Cardiovascular Surgery	27	8	6	3	30	15	1	4	1	3	98
Urology	21	11	3	6	19	18	5	6	—	1	90
Internal Medicine	26	15	4	2	25	12	1	4	0	3	92
Radiation Oncology	3	0	1	1	11	4	3	1	2	0	26
Medical Oncology	8	1	0	2	13	2	1	3	2	0	32
Total	319	184	70	63	329	167	46	54	15	22	1,269

Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2023—number of questionnaires mailed out, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	84	52	11	14	216	111	13	14	1	5	521
Gynaecology	232	166	54	62	712	466	44	47	7	34	1,824
Ophthalmology	168	88	23	25	394	303	17	40	6	11	1,075
Otolaryngology	80	48	13	17	229	210	13	23	3	10	646
General Surgery	220	143	55	60	626	438	42	47	6	29	1,666
Neurosurgery	39	32	12	8	82	76	8	10	—	4	271
Orthopaedic Surgery	214	136	45	49	514	343	36	46	3	22	1,408
Cardiovascular Surgery	66	34	14	7	135	87	7	16	1	5	372
Urology	88	43	13	16	257	158	16	27	—	10	628
Internal Medicine	439	329	74	92	1,211	719	40	52	12	32	3,000
Radiation Oncology	83	54	10	15	202	104	8	12	2	8	498
Medical Oncology	99	59	4	21	203	32	9	16	3	9	455
Total	1,812	1,184	328	386	4,781	3,047	253	350	44	179	12,364

Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2023 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	95.7	33.0	150.9	96.4	51.8	18.3	75.4	55.7	27.4	25.1	52.4
Gynaecology	40.2	55.9	32.1	32.1	24.3	31.5	51.5	99.1	118.3	48.1	37.4
Ophthalmology	24.4	24.4	19.8	21.1	29.9	23.5	78.6	32.6	89.8	42.0	27.4
Otolaryngology	29.4	53.1	84.1	36.3	30.3	26.9	36.2	59.2	27.4	—	35.2
General Surgery	22.2	30.2	11.2	19.9	17.2	31.2	22.9	34.0	31.1	10.0	21.7
Neurosurgery	34.8	34.3	35.3	43.5	55.9	6.8	276.1	143.3	—	—	43.5
Orthopaedic Surgery	52.0	64.1	84.1	53.4	29.0	39.8	75.1	64.2	63.1	46.7	44.3
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	18.0	18.5	3.9	8.0	10.4	11.0	28.0	82.0	26.0	18.0	13.1
Urology	22.8	35.9	25.3	36.9	21.9	57.2	34.2	99.5	—	—	31.1
Internal Medicine	27.1	23.4	34.7	30.8	16.0	17.8	23.7	88.3	—	19.0	24.4
Radiation Oncology	9.1	—	6.0	7.8	4.3	3.3	3.2	8.1	4.3	—	4.4
Medical Oncology	9.9	7.0	—	2.3	4.2	3.6	—	8.3	—	—	4.8
Weighted Median	27.7	33.5	31.0	29.1	21.6	27.6	52.6	56.7	55.2	33.3	27.7

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

Table 3: Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2023 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	50.0	18.0	104.0	52.0	30.0	8.0	28.0	33.4	1.0	12.0	28.5
Gynaecology	22.0	36.0	19.0	12.0	13.0	16.5	31.0	65.5	102.0	44.0	22.2
Ophthalmology	12.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	18.0	11.0	33.3	18.0	42.0	30.0	13.7
Otolaryngology	14.0	26.0	40.0	23.0	14.0	9.0	24.0	51.0	20.0	—	16.5
General Surgery	14.0	19.0	4.5	10.0	10.0	6.0	12.0	13.0	18.0	4.0	11.2
Neurosurgery	27.0	23.0	24.5	36.0	40.0	1.8	210.0	117.0	—	—	31.1
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.0	24.0	24.0	29.0	13.0	8.0	25.3	39.0	6.0	14.0	15.4
Cardiovascular Surgery	11.0	12.0	0.9	4.0	5.0	4.0	12.0	56.0	24.0	4.5	6.5
Urology	16.0	22.0	12.0	20.0	18.0	52.0	20.0	40.0	—	52.0	23.0
Internal Medicine	10.0	7.0	21.0	13.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	47.8	—	18.0	11.2
Radiation Oncology	3.5	—	2.5	4.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	—	1.9
Medical Oncology	4.0	3.5	—	1.8	2.3	1.5	—	4.0	2.0	—	2.4
Weighted Median	14.1	16.4	14.3	15.0	13.1	12.3	26.3	28.3	27.4	25.3	14.6

Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2023 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	45.7	15.0	46.9	44.4	21.8	10.3	47.4	22.4	26.4	13.1	23.9
Gynaecology	18.2	19.9	13.1	20.1	11.3	15.0	20.5	33.6	16.3	4.1	15.2
Ophthalmology	12.4	16.4	9.8	9.1	11.9	12.5	45.3	14.6	47.8	12.0	13.6
Otolaryngology	15.4	27.1	44.1	13.3	16.3	17.9	12.2	8.2	7.4	—	18.7
General Surgery	8.2	11.2	6.7	9.9	7.2	25.2	10.9	21.0	13.1	6.0	10.5
Neurosurgery	7.8	11.3	10.8	7.5	15.9	5.1	66.1	26.3	—	—	12.5
Orthopaedic Surgery	38.0	40.1	60.1	24.4	16.0	31.8	49.9	25.2	57.1	32.7	28.9
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.0	2.2	1.2	0.5	1.6	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.5	3.9	1.7
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.0	6.5	3.1	4.0	5.4	7.0	16.0	26.0	2.0	13.5	6.5
Urology	6.8	13.9	13.3	16.9	3.9	5.2	14.2	59.5	—	—	8.1
Internal Medicine	17.1	16.4	13.7	17.8	8.0	7.8	11.7	40.6	—	1.0	13.2
Radiation Oncology	5.6	—	3.5	3.9	2.3	2.3	2.2	5.1	2.3	—	2.5
Medical Oncology	5.9	3.5	—	0.5	2.0	2.1	1.2	4.3	—	—	2.4
Weighted Median	13.7	17.2	16.7	14.1	8.5	15.3	26.3	28.4	27.8	8.0	13.1

Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	78.0	25.0	6.0	47.5	43.0	14.0	70.0	18.0	—	12.0
Neurolysis	14.0	12.0	—	34.0	10.0	8.0	14.0	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	24.0	6.0	1.0	39.0	12.0	8.0	18.0	12.0	104.0	20.0
Rhinoplasty	24.0	5.5	—	39.0	13.0	10.0	52.0	20.0	—	—
Scar Revision	30.0	9.5	—	56.0	18.0	8.0	29.0	—	24.0	8.0
Hand Surgery	22.0	16.0	156.0	36.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	32.0	28.0	17.0
Craniofacial Procedures	20.0	18.0	—	21.0	6.0	15.0	—	20.0	5.0	4.0
Skin Cancers and other Tumours	5.5	3.2	—	6.0	4.0	6.5	4.5	20.0	2.0	7.0
Weighted Median	45.7	15.0	46.9	44.4	21.8	10.3	47.4	22.4	26.4	13.1

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

Table 5B: Gynaecology (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	12.0	14.0	6.0	12.0	6.0	4.0	12.0	30.0	6.0	3.5
Tubal Ligation	26.0	25.0	18.0	38.5	13.0	20.0	52.0	56.5	13.5	7.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	26.0	26.0	18.0	24.0	16.0	20.0	20.0	44.5	40.0	4.0
Vaginal Repair	26.0	25.0	12.0	20.0	18.0	13.0	52.0	56.5	40.0	6.5
Tuboplasty	24.0	25.0	16.0	14.0	13.0	24.0	6.0	56.5	3.0	4.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	24.0	18.0	13.0	24.0	13.0	16.0	20.0	18.0	8.0	6.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	12.0	16.0	12.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	6.0	4.0
Weighted Median	18.2	19.9	13.1	20.1	11.3	15.0	20.5	33.6	16.3	4.1

Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	14.0	16.0	9.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	46.0	18.0	48.0	—
Cornea Transplant	16.0	6.0	—	8.0	33.0	21.0	—	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	15.0	18.0	65.0	12.0	11.0	16.0	25.0	—	30.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	3.0	12.0	—	3.8	8.5	15.0	—	4.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	2.0	19.0	0.5	3.5	9.0	10.0	—	5.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	14.0	16.0	19.0	4.8	15.5	10.0	52.0	4.0	18.0	—
Strabismus	20.0	24.0	104.0	1.5	26.0	32.0	26.0	—	—	12.0
Operations on Eyelids	14.0	13.0	16.0	—	12.0	19.0	27.0	14.0	—	—
Glaucoma	4.0	12.0	2.0	—	10.0	2.0	10.0	8.0	—	—
Weighted Median	12.4	16.4	9.8	9.1	11.9	12.5	45.3	14.6	47.8	12.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	12.0	11.5	4.0	12.0	9.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	5.0	—
Tympanoplasty	16.0	30.0	52.0	13.0	17.3	24.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	13.0	25.0	61.0	12.0	15.5	20.0	12.0	8.0	5.5	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	30.0	52.0	14.0	16.5	19.0	14.0	12.0	9.0	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	20.0	30.0	36.0	14.0	24.0	24.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	18.0	30.0	40.0	14.0	18.0	24.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	—
Weighted Median	15.4	27.1	44.1	13.3	16.3	17.9	12.2	8.2	7.4	

Table 5E: General surgery (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	44.0	20.0	19.5	6.0	7.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	10.0	44.0	10.0	13.5	6.0	5.0
Colonoscopy	12.0	10.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	12.0	6.5	42.0	30.0	—
Intestinal Operations	6.0	12.0	6.0	10.0	6.5	4.5	7.0	12.0	8.0	6.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	16.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	9.5	14.0	8.0	24.0	8.0	—
Breast Biopsy	3.5	3.5	5.0	3.0	2.0	3.5	6.0	—	2.0	—
Mastectomy	3.5	3.5	6.0	3.0	3.0	4.3	6.0	—	2.0	—
Bronchus and Lung	2.0	19.0	3.5	—	—	4.5	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	52.0	7.8	3.5	—	6.0	40.0	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	27.0	6.5	4.3	10.0	13.0	80.0	—	—	—	—
Weighted Median	8.2	11.2	6.7	9.9	7.2	25.2	10.9	21.0	13.1	6.0

Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	12.0	10.0	—	—	12.0	6.0	21.0	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	12.0	10.0	18.0	8.0	36.0	7.0	96.5	26.3	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	4.0	65.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	21.0	14.0	12.0	4.0	14.0	35.0	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	7.5	13.0	2.0	1.0	7.0	6.0	10.3	—	—	—
Weighted Median	7.8	11.3	10.8	7.5	15.9	5.1	66.1	26.3		

Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	25.0	24.0	24.0	16.0	8.0	13.0	15.0	17.5	4.0	6.0
Removal of Pins	18.0	14.0	20.0	14.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	15.0	4.0	6.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	38.0	52.0	84.0	24.0	18.0	40.0	56.0	33.0	72.0	52.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	52.0	38.0	24.0	24.0	8.0	26.0	52.0	9.4	—	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	52.0	24.0	36.0	19.0	12.0	30.0	36.0	9.4	6.0	8.0
Digit Neuroma	48.0	24.0	36.0	38.5	14.0	33.0	52.0	12.8	—	6.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	38.5	24.0	24.0	16.0	13.0	26.0	42.0	14.0	—	12.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	41.0	24.0	36.0	38.5	15.3	24.0	40.0	14.5	6.0	5.5
Routine Spinal Instability	59.0	38.0	20.0	—	14.0	12.5	46.0	—	—	18.0
Weighted Median	38.0	40.1	60.1	24.4	16.0	31.8	49.9	25.2	57.1	32.7

Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2023)—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	1.3	0.1	0.5	0.7	2.5	0.5	—	1.5	4.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.5	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.5	—	1.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.3	6.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	12.0	—	0.5	0.5	0.8
	Pacemaker Operations	1.5	0.6	0.6	—	0.5	1.0	0.5	—	0.6	—
	Weighted Median	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	3.9
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.0	2.0	1.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	4.0	4.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	2.0	3.3	1.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	1.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.5	1.5	0.4	0.5	1.3	4.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	—	3.0	1.0	2.8
	Pacemaker Operations	2.0	1.5	1.0	—	1.0	0.8	1.0	—	1.5	—
	Weighted Median	2.0	2.2	1.2	0.5	1.6	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.5	3.9
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	5.0	9.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.5	16.0	—	8.0	14.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	7.0	8.0	3.0	4.0	8.0	9.5	16.0	—	8.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	5.0	9.0	1.5	4.0	6.5	8.0	16.0	26.0	4.0	2.8
	Carotid Endarterectomy	4.0	9.0	4.5	4.0	6.5	12.0	—	26.0	6.0	4.0
	Pacemaker Operations	8.0	4.0	—	—	3.5	5.5	—	—	2.0	—
	Weighted Median	7.0	6.5	3.1	4.0	5.4	7.0	16.0	26.0	2.0	13.5

Table 5I: Urology (2023)—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	8.0	12.0	4.5	25.0	4.0	6.0	18.0	104.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	6.5	3.0	17.0	5.0	6.0	9.5	18.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	59.0	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	4.5	6.0	14.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	104.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	6.0	6.0	13.3	20.0	3.5	6.0	5.5	59.0	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	15.0	52.0	17.0	30.0	7.5	8.0	65.0	104.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	6.5	8.0	24.0	7.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	7.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	10.0	13.0	10.0	30.0	8.0	6.0	24.0	104.0	—	—
Weighted Median	6.8	13.9	13.3	16.9	3.9	5.2	14.2	59.5		

Table 5J: Internal medicine (2023)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	21.0	19.0	19.0	20.0	9.0	10.0	24.0	51.8	—	1.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	6.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	10.8	—	1.0
Bronchoscopy	8.0	10.0	4.0	12.0	7.0	4.0	18.0	6.5	—	1.0
Gastroscopy	8.0	16.0	19.0	16.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	—	1.0
Weighted Median	17.1	16.4	13.7	17.8	8.0	7.8	11.7	40.6		1.0

Table 5K: Radiation oncology (2023)—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	2.0	—	—	1.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	—
Cancer of The Cervix	1.8	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	—	—	3.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	4.0	2.0	—
Prostate Cancer	7.0	—	—	6.0	3.0	3.0	2.3	6.0	2.5	—
Breast Cancer	8.0	—	3.5	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	6.0	2.5	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	—	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.5	2.0	0.5	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	—	3.0	6.0	2.5	4.8	1.3	3.0	—	—
Weighted Median	5.6		3.5	3.9	2.3	2.3	2.2	5.1	2.3	

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

Table 5L: Medical oncology (2023)—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	5.0	3.5	—	1.3	1.0	3.8	—	7.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	3.5	3.5	—	—	1.5	4.3	—	6.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	6.0	3.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.2	3.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	6.0	3.5	—	0.5	2.0	2.0	—	6.0	—	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.5	1.5	—	1.8	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.8	—	—
Weighted Median	5.9	3.5		0.5	2.0	2.1	1.2	4.3		

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, 2023 and 2022

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg
Plastic Surgery	45.7	34.4	33%	15.0	59.3	-75%	46.9	44.4	6%	44.4	23.9	86%	21.8	17.9	22%
Gynaecology	18.2	11.9	53%	19.9	11.9	67%	13.1	9.3	41%	20.1	10.6	88%	11.3	13.7	-17%
Ophthalmology	12.4	17.3	-28%	16.4	17.7	-7%	9.8	12.4	-21%	9.1	61.0	-85%	11.9	19.1	-38%
Otolaryngology	15.4	24.2	-36%	27.1	30.4	-11%	44.1	—	—	13.3	18.7	-29%	16.3	16.6	-2%
General Surgery	8.2	8.7	-7%	11.2	11.9	-5%	6.7	6.2	7%	9.9	16.1	-39%	7.2	8.3	-13%
Neurosurgery	7.8	19.4	-60%	11.3	34.2	-67%	10.8	17.3	-38%	7.5	34.0	-78%	15.9	4.7	241%
Orthopaedic Surgery	38.0	26.9	41%	40.1	34.4	17%	60.1	50.1	20%	24.4	60.9	-60%	16.0	19.9	-20%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	2.0	2.0	0%	2.2	4.0	-45%	1.2	—	—	0.5	—	—	1.6	2.0	-19%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	7.0	20.0	-65%	6.5	9.0	-27%	3.1	—	—	4.0	—	—	5.4	4.0	36%
Urology	6.8	8.6	-22%	13.9	15.4	-9%	13.3	—	—	16.9	6.2	172%	3.9	5.9	-34%
Internal Medicine	17.1	10.2	68%	16.4	20.3	-19%	13.7	35.0	-61%	17.8	14.5	23%	8.0	4.9	65%
Radiation Oncology	5.6	4.0	40%	—	4.8	—	3.5	2.0	72%	3.9	3.7	5%	2.3	2.0	15%
Medical Oncology	5.9	4.7	27%	3.5	2.5	37%	—	1.8	—	0.5	2.5	-79%	2.0	2.2	-12%
Weighted Median	13.7	13.4	2%	17.2	19.2	-11%	16.7	18.1	-8%	14.1	25.4	-44%	8.5	10.2	-17%

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg
Plastic Surgery	10.3	41.1	-75%	47.4	34.2	39%	22.4	45.2	-51%	26.4	38.0	-30%	13.1	16.1	-19%
Gynaecology	15.0	22.9	-34%	20.5	13.6	51%	33.6	58.7	-43%	16.3	26.0	-37%	4.1	22.0	-81%
Ophthalmology	12.5	16.0	-22%	45.3	23.8	90%	14.6	16.2	-10%	47.8	36.0	33%	12.0	56.0	-79%
Otolaryngology	17.9	15.0	19%	12.2	16.1	-24%	8.2	20.0	-59%	7.4	11.2	-34%	—	8.0	—
General Surgery	25.2	18.0	40%	10.9	20.5	-47%	21.0	6.0	251%	13.1	22.4	-41%	6.0	6.6	-9%
Neurosurgery	5.1	7.6	-33%	66.1	—	—	26.3	18.9	39%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	31.8	41.3	-23%	49.9	49.1	2%	25.2	71.9	-65%	57.1	6.0	851%	32.7	46.1	-29%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	1.5	1.1	34%	1.0	—	—	3.0	4.8	-38%	1.5	—	—	3.9	—	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	7.0	11.5	-39%	16.0	—	—	26.0	62.7	-59%	2.0	—	—	13.5	—	—
Urology	5.2	12.7	-59%	14.2	18.0	-21%	59.5	21.4	179%	—	—	—	—	10.0	—
Internal Medicine	7.8	5.9	32%	11.7	13.2	-11%	40.6	6.6	514%	—	—	—	1.0	12.0	-92%
Radiation Oncology	2.3	2.9	-20%	2.2	1.0	121%	5.1	3.0	70%	2.3	3.0	-24%	—	4.0	—
Medical Oncology	2.1	1.6	27%	1.2	1.4	-11%	4.3	0.9	397%	—	—	—	—	2.0	—
Weighted Median	15.3	18.5	-0.2	26.3	23.9	0.1	28.4	21.0	0.4	27.8	23.0	0.2	8.0	16.6	-52%

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 7: Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2023—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges (percentage)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 weeks	14.9%	12.9%	19.7%	17.4%	22.7%	17.7%	12.1%	11.7%	39.0%	26.3%
4–7.99 weeks	16.7%	17.7%	20.0%	16.9%	22.8%	17.7%	18.7%	20.2%	23.2%	45.0%
8–12.99 weeks	19.3%	16.8%	16.7%	21.2%	21.3%	23.4%	16.7%	16.9%	13.4%	18.8%
13–25.99 weeks	19.9%	21.5%	18.0%	22.0%	17.8%	23.0%	20.2%	19.7%	11.0%	7.5%
26–51.99 weeks	17.3%	23.2%	8.5%	13.1%	8.4%	8.7%	14.6%	12.2%	7.3%	0.0%
1 year plus	11.8%	7.8%	17.0%	9.3%	7.1%	9.5%	17.7%	19.2%	6.1%	2.5%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 as a result of rounding.

Table 8: Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, 2023 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	25.1	39.4	—	6.8	17.9	15.8	22.8	—	—	—	21.3
Gynaecology	13.0	15.0	7.6	16.4	8.1	14.1	11.2	15.8	15.8	—	11.5
Ophthalmology	8.9	10.5	12.0	9.8	10.6	14.1	8.0	13.4	—	52.0	11.2
Otolaryngology	11.9	13.9	—	9.3	15.9	12.2	—	7.6	5.4	—	13.4
General Surgery	8.0	6.0	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.9	10.6	—	—	5.8	7.3
Neurosurgery	9.7	4.1	9.6	6.9	4.5	7.5	11.2	12.0	—	—	6.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	20.2	11.8	10.9	19.5	11.7	10.6	21.1	12.6	21.1	13.0	13.3
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.7	—	2.2	—	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.5	—	—	1.2
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	5.2	—	—	—	4.3	8.6	14.0	12.0	—	—	6.9
Urology	5.6	—	—	4.5	4.7	5.9	3.7	6.4	—	—	5.0
Internal Medicine	4.8	5.5	5.4	3.5	4.9	4.7	3.1	12.3	—	1.0	5.0
Radiation Oncology	2.8	—	6.0	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.7	—	—	3.2
Medical Oncology	3.0	1.5	—	—	2.2	1.0	—	2.3	—	—	2.1
Weighted Median	8.6	9.6	8.5	8.7	7.3	10.0	9.8	10.9	17.4	5.6	8.5

Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2023)—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	52.0	—	8.0	25.0	32.0	24.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	12.0	12.0	—	4.0	9.0	7.0	12.5	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	26.0	—	—	6.0	22.0	8.0	28.0	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	22.0	—	—	8.0	22.0	8.0	40.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	45.8	39.0	—	8.0	26.0	8.0	32.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	19.0	26.0	—	4.0	11.0	4.0	12.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	26.0	—	—	6.0	8.0	12.0	—	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumours	11.0	4.0	—	2.0	5.0	4.0	5.5	—	—	—
Weighted Median	25.1	39.4		6.8	17.9	15.8	22.8			

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

Table 9B: Gynaecology (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	11.0	4.0	14.5	4.0	6.0	4.0	—	6.0	—
Tubal Ligation	22.0	19.0	8.0	24.0	10.0	24.0	20.0	16.0	—	—
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	20.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	11.0	16.0	12.0	16.0	35.0	—
Vaginal Repair	24.0	26.0	12.0	16.0	11.0	12.0	20.0	16.0	35.0	—
Tuboplasty	21.5	—	0.0	17.0	10.0	24.0	—	—	—	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	16.0	17.0	8.0	16.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	35.0	—
Hysteroscopic Procedures	8.0	17.0	5.0	16.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	—	6.0	—
Weighted Median	13.0	15.0	7.6	16.4	8.1	14.1	11.2	15.8	15.8	

Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	9.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	16.0	—	—
Cornea Transplant	8.0	8.0	—	12.0	15.0	4.0	—	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	15.0	12.0	—	25.0	10.0	15.0	8.0	—	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	15.0	8.0	—	7.0	3.5	15.0	—	—	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	4.0	4.0	—	9.0	4.8	2.0	—	4.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	18.0	13.0	—	12.0	12.0	16.0	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	16.0	14.0	—	18.0	12.0	17.0	—	—	—	52.0
Operations on Eyelids	13.5	12.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	20.0	6.0	—	—	—
Glaucoma	3.0	5.0	4.3	7.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	8.9	10.5	12.0	9.8	10.6	14.1	8.0	13.4		52.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	9.5	5.0	—	6.0	8.0	5.0	—	5.0	4.0	—
Tympanoplasty	12.0	32.0	—	12.0	20.0	21.0	—	15.0	6.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	—	—	8.0	16.0	12.0	—	4.0	4.5	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	12.0	—	10.0	16.0	12.0	—	8.5	6.0	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	12.0	12.0	—	10.0	24.0	24.0	—	8.5	6.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	12.0	12.0	—	10.0	16.0	18.0	—	8.5	6.0	—
Weighted Median	11.9	13.9		9.3	15.9	12.2		7.6	5.4	

Table 9E: General surgery (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	12.0	16.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	—	—	6.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	12.0	16.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	—	—	4.0
Colonoscopy	11.0	3.0	5.5	10.0	8.0	8.0	55.5	—	—	—
Intestinal Operations	6.5	4.0	4.5	6.0	6.0	4.0	5.5	—	—	6.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	6.0	17.0	11.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	—	—	—
Breast Biopsy	4.0	2.5	3.0	1.0	2.3	2.0	5.5	—	—	—
Mastectomy	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	5.5	—	—	—
Bronchus and Lung	0.0	—	—	—	—	3.0	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	—	—	—	4.5	22.0	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	26.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	7.3	52.0	—	—	—	—
Weighted Median	8.0	6.0	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.9	10.6			5.8

Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	—	3.0	—	—	10.0	—	12.0	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	12.0	5.0	18.0	4.0	9.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	7.5	4.0	6.0	8.0	2.0	6.0	12.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	4.0	—	8.0	6.0	—	12.0	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	1.0	—	1.0	2.0	—	3.5	—	—	—
Weighted Median	9.7	4.1	9.6	6.9	4.5	7.5	11.2	12.0		

Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2023)—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	6.0	5.0	12.0	6.0	7.5	9.0	10.0	6.0	6.0
Removal of Pins	20.0	18.5	6.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	6.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	20.0	12.0	12.0	22.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	12.0	24.0	18.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	20.0	8.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	7.5	9.0	15.0	—	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	26.0	9.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	19.0	15.0	24.0	—
Digit Neuroma	26.0	9.0	10.0	16.0	12.0	7.5	26.0	15.0	—	6.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	20.0	10.0	8.0	16.0	10.5	8.5	9.0	—	—	6.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	20.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	15.0	12.0	6.0
Routine Spinal Instability	21.0	9.0	12.0	20.0	11.0	7.5	24.0	—	—	11.0
Weighted Median	20.2	11.8	10.9	19.5	11.7	10.6	21.1	12.6	21.1	13.0

Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2023)—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	0.5	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.5	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.5	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.5	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	—	—	—	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.5	—	—	—	0.5	0.6	—	0.5	—
	Pacemaker Operations	1.5	—	—	—	0.3	1.0	0.5	—	—
	Weighted Median	1.0	—	—	—	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.5	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	2.0	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	—	3.0	—	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.8	—	2.0	—	1.0	1.0	—	0.5	—
	Pacemaker Operations	3.5	—	—	—	0.5	0.5	1.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	2.7	—	2.2	—	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.5	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	4.0	—	—	—	—	13.8	8.0	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	4.5	—	—	—	—	14.3	6.0	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	4.5	—	—	—	7.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	3.5	—	—	—	7.0	5.8	—	12.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	6.0	—	—	—	4.0	2.8	20.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	5.2	—	—	—	4.3	8.6	14.0	12.0	—

Table 9I: Urology (2023)—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	6.0	—	—	4.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	—	—	4.0	6.0	4.5	4.0	12.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	3.5	—	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.3	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	3.5	—	—	6.0	4.5	3.8	4.0	3.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	4.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.5	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	24.0	—	—	8.0	13.0	12.0	6.0	22.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	4.0	—	—	12.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	5.6			4.5	4.7	5.9	3.7	6.4		

Table 9J: Internal medicine (2023)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	5.0	6.0	7.0	4.0	5.5	8.0	6.0	14.3	—	1.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	4.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	—	1.0
Bronchoscopy	4.0	4.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	2.0	—	1.0
Gastroscopy	6.0	6.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.5	—	1.0
Weighted Median	4.8	5.5	5.4	3.5	4.9	4.7	3.1	12.3		1.0

Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2023)—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	3.0	—	—	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	1.8	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	—	—
Prostate Cancer	3.3	—	—	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	3.0	—	6.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	—	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	—	6.0	6.0	4.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	—	—
Weighted Median	2.8		6.0	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.7		

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

Table 9L: Medical oncology (2023)—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	2.5	1.5	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	5.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.5	1.5	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	5.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.5	1.5	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	2.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	3.5	1.5	—	—	2.5	1.0	—	2.5	—	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	0.5	—	—	0.5	0.0	—	0.3	—	—
Weighted Median	3.0	1.5			2.2	1.0		2.3		

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

Table 10: Comparison between median actual weeks waited and median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2023

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	45.7	25.1	82%	15.0	39.4	-62%	46.9	—	—	44.4	6.8	552%	21.8	17.9	22%
Gynaecology	18.2	13.0	41%	19.9	15.0	32%	13.1	7.6	73%	20.1	16.4	22%	11.3	8.1	40%
Ophthalmology	12.4	8.9	39%	16.4	10.5	57%	9.8	12.0	-18%	9.1	9.8	-8%	11.9	10.6	12%
Otolaryngology	15.4	11.9	30%	27.1	13.9	94%	44.1	—	—	13.3	9.3	43%	16.3	15.9	3%
General Surgery	8.2	8.0	2%	11.2	6.0	86%	6.7	7.5	-11%	9.9	7.1	40%	7.2	7.0	3%
Neurosurgery	7.8	9.7	-19%	11.3	4.1	175%	10.8	9.6	13%	7.5	6.9	9%	15.9	4.5	251%
Orthopaedic Surgery	38.0	20.2	88%	40.1	11.8	241%	60.1	10.9	452%	24.4	19.5	25%	16.0	11.7	37%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	2.0	2.7	-26%	2.2	—	—	1.2	2.2	-46%	0.5	—	—	1.6	0.5	201%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	7.0	5.2	36%	6.5	—	—	3.1	—	—	4.0	—	—	5.4	4.3	28%
Urology	6.8	5.6	21%	13.9	—	—	13.3	—	—	16.9	4.5	273%	3.9	4.7	-16%
Internal Medicine	17.1	4.8	258%	16.4	5.5	197%	13.7	5.4	154%	17.8	3.5	410%	8.0	4.9	62%
Radiation Oncology	5.6	2.8	101%	—	—	—	3.5	6.0	-42%	3.9	2.8	36%	2.3	3.1	-26%
Medical Oncology	5.9	3.0	98%	3.5	1.5	133%	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	2.0	2.2	-13%
Weighted Median	13.7	8.6	58%	17.2	9.6	80%	16.7	8.5	95%	14.1	8.7	63%	8.5	7.3	16%

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	10.3	15.8	-35%	47.4	22.8	108%	22.4	—	—	26.4	—	—	13.1	—	—
Gynaecology	15.0	14.1	7%	20.5	11.2	83%	33.6	15.8	114%	16.3	15.8	3%	4.1	—	—
Ophthalmology	12.5	14.1	-12%	45.3	8.0	469%	14.6	13.4	9%	47.8	—	—	12.0	52.0	-77%
Otolaryngology	17.9	12.2	47%	12.2	—	—	8.2	7.6	8%	7.4	5.4	37%	—	—	—
General Surgery	25.2	7.9	220%	10.9	10.6	3%	21.0	—	—	13.1	—	—	6.0	5.8	3%
Neurosurgery	5.1	7.5	-33%	66.1	11.2	492%	26.3	12.0	119%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	31.8	10.6	199%	49.9	21.1	136%	25.2	12.6	101%	57.1	21.1	171%	32.7	13.0	152%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.5	0.8	95%	1.0	1.0	0%	3.0	0.5	500%	1.5	—	—	3.9	—	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	7.0	8.6	-19%	16.0	14.0	14%	26.0	12.0	117%	2.0	—	—	13.5	—	—
Urology	5.2	5.9	-11%	14.2	3.7	280%	59.5	6.4	825%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Internal Medicine	7.8	4.7	65%	11.7	3.1	283%	40.6	12.3	230%	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	0%
Radiation Oncology	2.3	3.3	-30%	2.2	3.1	-30%	5.1	4.7	9%	2.3	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Oncology	2.1	1.0	109%	1.2	—	—	4.3	2.3	87%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weighted Median	15.3	10.0	54%	26.3	9.8	168%	28.4	10.9	161%	27.8	17.4	60%	8.0	5.6	41%

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, by specialty, 2023

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	1.0%	0.4%	—	5.0%	0.9%	0.6%	1.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Gynaecology	1.8%	5.6%	2.3%	4.4%	3.1%	1.0%	1.3%	0.5%	3.5%	0.0%	2.7%
Ophthalmology	2.0%	2.2%	0.1%	1.5%	1.8%	0.6%	3.8%	3.3%	0.5%	—	1.7%
Otolaryngology	3.2%	0.3%	0.0%	3.4%	1.3%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	—	1.3%
General Surgery	0.7%	1.4%	3.2%	0.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Neurosurgery	1.8%	1.5%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	—	—	1.1%
Orthopaedic Surgery	4.2%	2.4%	2.8%	5.5%	1.3%	2.0%	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.5%	0.7%
Urology	1.9%	5.8%	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	0.5%	4.4%	2.7%	—	—	2.1%
Internal Medicine	2.2%	2.0%	—	5.0%	3.9%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	—	0.2%	2.2%
Radiation Oncology	1.3%	—	—	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%	—	1.0%
Medical Oncology	3.6%	1.0%	—	3.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	2.0%	—	1.7%
All Specialties	2.3%	2.3%	1.7%	2.5%	2.0%	0.8%	1.6%	0.9%	1.5%	1.1%	1.8%

Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2023

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	8,289	2,124	784	1,080	8,524	2,381	1,073	294	18	130
Gynaecology	5,665	6,598	1,230	1,839	9,158	5,652	1,141	2,227	183	402
Ophthalmology	22,814	21,541	3,537	2,004	33,216	29,959	9,649	5,395	2,241	29
Otolaryngology	3,055	4,391	3,375	648	8,409	8,411	428	321	52	0
General Surgery	22,881	14,494	3,543	5,609	38,248	35,171	1,775	11,263	1,141	1,563
Neurosurgery	1,187	1,161	296	162	6,174	1,004	1,274	125	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	29,493	23,483	11,922	4,367	31,377	33,881	6,319	3,658	1,542	2,500
Cardiovascular Surgery	480	300	49	11	846	629	40	6	4	36
Urology	7,633	4,622	3,532	2,093	14,031	3,442	1,832	15,598	—	—
Internal Medicine	27,719	10,473	3,800	5,216	17,575	3,804	927	8,975	—	156
Radiation Oncology	59	—	5	5	504	106	26	30	3	—
Medical Oncology	851	336	—	11	2,429	342	24	109	—	—
Residual	86,442	79,407	27,297	22,226	164,172	102,198	19,731	40,860	4,709	9,599
Total	216,567	168,930	59,371	45,273	334,662	226,980	44,240	88,863	9,894	14,415
Proportion of Population	3.92%	3.60%	4.91%	3.11%	2.14%	2.56%	5.30%	8.39%	5.69%	2.68%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2023 — 1,209,194

Percentage of Population — 3.0%

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

• Population data are from Q3 population estimates 2023 from Statistics Canada, 2023 (table 17-10-0009-01).

Table 13A: Plastic surgery (2023)—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	5,970	1,202	61	377	5,358	1,159	849	122	—	68
Neurolysis	436	189	—	139	1,226	355	39	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	189	42	2	8	163	87	7	7	0	8
Rhinoplasty	478	82	—	139	366	169	83	34	—	—
Scar Revision	764	423	—	310	883	358	68	—	6	11
Hand Surgery	452	186	721	108	528	253	27	132	11	43
Total	8,289	2,124	784	1,080	8,524	2,381	1,073	294	18	130

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13B: Gynaecology (2023)—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	1,233	1,516	121	393	1,572	272	160	521	23	127
Tubal Ligation	168	922	164	409	1,108	1,056	235	196	14	45
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	2,493	2,426	487	683	3,750	2,736	342	905	120	50
Vaginal Repair	590	564	50	113	632	295	176	224	7	21
Tuboplasty	88	36	5	1	19	16	0	3	0	0
Laparoscopic Procedures	289	145	67	77	698	494	49	33	2	9
Hysteroscopic Procedures	805	990	337	163	1,378	782	178	345	18	149
Total	5,665	6,598	1,230	1,839	9,158	5,652	1,141	2,227	183	402

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2023)—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	20,448	14,677	2,711	1,727	25,089	21,535	9,412	4,840	2,232	—
Cornea Transplant	201	46	—	12	642	331	—	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	171	239	104	6	122	398	10	—	5	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	154	504	—	36	1,115	1,756	—	69	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	441	4,495	28	210	3,531	3,187	—	370	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	179	260	57	6	414	165	42	10	4	—
Strabismus	497	683	454	6	1,518	1,284	103	—	—	29
Operations on Eyelids	723	637	184	—	784	1,303	83	107	—	—
Total	22,814	21,541	3,537	2,004	33,216	29,959	9,649	5,395	2,241	29

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of 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 (2023)—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	138	158	34	45	509	1,358	59	26	9	—
Tympanoplasty	200	490	214	37	667	740	33	34	4	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	554	1,077	710	147	2,254	1,762	89	72	3	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	492	1,094	1,559	148	1,691	2,336	142	103	19	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	380	411	246	60	715	767	19	22	3	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,292	1,161	612	211	2,573	1,448	85	64	14	—
Total	3,055	4,391	3,375	648	8,409	8,411	428	321	52	

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13E: General surgery (2023)—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	2,475	2,060	286	681	6,183	15,993	817	713	46	176
Cholecystectomy	1,329	1,969	310	707	4,950	14,322	426	653	51	115
Colonoscopy	7,161	2,117	1,014	1,222	4,283	721	102	6,187	678	—
Intestinal Operations	9,636	7,400	1,504	2,743	20,136	1,493	310	3,567	352	1,272
Haemorrhoidectomy	1,030	201	275	176	1,499	262	8	144	8	—
Breast Biopsy	9	4	1	1	24	13	2	—	0	—
Mastectomy	369	259	130	73	850	865	109	—	6	—
Bronchus and Lung	57	407	12	—	—	324	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	254	24	2	—	80	330	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	560	53	8	6	244	848	—	—	—	—
Total	22,881	14,494	3,543	5,609	38,248	35,171	1,775	11,263	1,141	1,563

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2023)—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	173	97	—	—	559	182	36	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	758	299	144	26	3,095	282	622	125	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	205	714	149	132	2,444	468	593	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	10	14	2	3	7	20	5	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	40	36	1	2	69	52	19	—	—	—
Total	1,187	1,161	296	162	6,174	1,004	1,274	125		

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2023)—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	720	619	166	62	501	1,268	63	120	2	23
Removal of Pins	1,241	799	296	179	1,604	2,604	140	184	10	36
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	18,183	17,366	9,721	2,964	22,524	22,229	4,617	2,820	1,512	2,221
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	1,931	824	199	121	499	872	205	38	—	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	370	113	64	38	163	313	36	14	8	3
Digit Neuroma	2,511	730	680	403	1,760	3,231	488	173	—	67
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,693	1,126	265	163	1,587	1,345	207	162	—	65
Ostectomy (All Types)	1,545	948	255	438	1,486	1,371	238	146	9	18
Routine Spinal Instability	1,300	957	275	—	1,254	647	325	—	—	68
Total	29,493	23,483	11,922	4,367	31,377	33,881	6,319	3,658	1,542	2,500

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13H: Cardiovascular surgery (2023)—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	92	53	11	4	279	204	10	—	0	35
Valves & Septa of the Heart	107	156	11	6	334	225	9	—	0	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4	1	0	0	4	7	0	1	0	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	18	4	1	1	32	49	—	5	0	1
Pacemaker Operations	259	86	26	—	198	144	21	—	4	—
Total	480	300	49	11	846	629	40	6	4	36

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13I: Urology (2023)—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	725	556	66	235	705	523	223	1,338	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	118	77	12	77	193	164	31	75	—	—
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	487	220	82	76	1,126	700	81	1,249	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	24	17	15	5	67	40	5	120	—	—
Cystoscopy	4,551	761	2,472	1,075	8,534	737	371	10,423	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,237	2,685	191	454	1,586	1,049	1,011	2,183	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	474	281	689	162	1,790	209	107	173	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	17	26	5	10	28	20	2	38	—	—
Total	7,633	4,622	3,532	2,093	14,031	3,442	1,832	15,598		

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13J: Internal medicine (2023)—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	25,008	9,252	3,239	4,163	12,429	987	360	8,434	—	100
Angiography /Angioplasty	2,189	320	357	797	2,950	2,290	446	401	—	44
Bronchoscopy	274	406	34	88	1,420	303	67	80	—	7
Gastroscopy	247	495	170	168	776	225	53	60	—	4
Total	27,719	10,473	3,800	5,216	17,575	3,804	927	8,975	—	156

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2023)—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	59	—	5	5	504	106	26	30	3	—

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

Table 13L: Medical oncology (2023)—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	851	336	—	11	2,429	342	24	109	—	—

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

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist—procedures per 100,000 population, 2023

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	150	45	65	74	55	27	129	28	10	24
Gynaecology	103	141	102	126	59	64	137	210	105	75
Ophthalmology	413	459	293	138	213	338	1,156	510	1,289	5
Otolaryngology	55	94	279	45	54	95	51	30	30	—
General Surgery	415	309	293	386	245	396	213	1,064	657	290
Neurosurgery	22	25	24	11	40	11	153	12	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	534	500	986	300	201	382	757	345	887	464
Cardiovascular Surgery	9	6	4	1	5	7	5	1	2	7
Urology	138	98	292	144	90	39	219	1,473	—	—
Internal Medicine	502	223	314	359	113	43	111	848	—	29
Radiation Oncology	1	—	0	0	3	1	3	3	2	—
Medical Oncology	15	7	—	1	16	4	3	10	—	—

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. As most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies, 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, 2023 and 2022

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg
Plastic Surgery	8,289	5,962	39%	2,124	8,397	-75%	784	728	8%	1,080	588	84%	8,524	6,449	32%
Gynaecology	5,665	3,556	59%	6,598	4,081	62%	1,230	766	61%	1,839	900	104%	9,158	10,998	-17%
Ophthalmology	22,814	25,969	-12%	21,541	21,770	-1%	3,537	3,384	5%	2,004	9,717	-79%	33,216	50,319	-34%
Otolaryngology	3,055	5,104	-40%	4,391	5,822	-25%	3,375	—	—	648	1,012	-36%	8,409	9,401	-11%
General Surgery	22,881	21,671	6%	14,494	13,804	5%	3,543	2,941	20%	5,609	8,929	-37%	38,248	38,801	-1%
Neurosurgery	1,187	2,804	-58%	1,161	3,350	-65%	296	492	-40%	162	860	-81%	6,174	1,504	311%
Orthopaedic Surgery	29,493	20,863	41%	23,483	19,991	17%	11,922	8,580	39%	4,367	10,929	-60%	31,377	38,275	-18%
Cardiovascular Surgery	480	203	137%	300	527	-43%	49	—	—	11	—	—	846	1,042	-19%
Urology	7,633	9,035	-16%	4,622	5,367	-14%	3,532	—	—	2,093	735	185%	14,031	19,300	-27%
Internal Medicine	27,719	14,671	89%	10,473	10,833	-3%	3,800	5,013	-24%	5,216	3,605	45%	17,575	9,680	82%
Radiation Oncology	59	44	35%	—	47	—	5	2	135%	5	20	-76%	504	403	25%
Medical Oncology	851	426	100%	336	155	116%	—	39	—	11	42	-73%	2,429	1,756	38%
Residual	86,442	77,248	12%	79,407	87,186	-9%	27,297	26,007	5%	22,226	36,404	-39%	164,172	181,472	-10%
Total	216,567	187,554	15%	168,930	181,331	-7%	59,371	47,953	24%	45,273	73,741	-39%	334,662	369,402	-9%

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg	2023	2022	% chg
Plastic Surgery	2,381	7,839	-70%	1,073	919	17%	294	1,124	-74%	18	102	-82%	130	230	-43%
Gynaecology	5,652	7,922	-29%	1,141	858	33%	2,227	3,944	-44%	183	352	-48%	402	1,830	-78%
Ophthalmology	29,959	28,897	4%	9,649	5,054	91%	5,395	5,169	4%	2,241	1,693	32%	29	4,486	-99%
Otolaryngology	8,411	5,815	45%	428	723	-41%	321	838	-62%	52	78	-33%	—	235	-100%
General Surgery	35,171	21,504	64%	1,775	3,418	-48%	11,263	2,895	289%	1,141	1,651	-31%	1,563	2,251	-31%
Neurosurgery	1,004	1,297	-23%	1,274	—	—	125	439	-71%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	33,881	37,823	-10%	6,319	6,828	-7%	3,658	11,007	-67%	1,542	191	707%	2,500	2,772	-10%
Cardiovascular Surgery	629	239	163%	40	—	—	6	183	-97%	4	—	—	36	—	—
Urology	3,442	7,357	-53%	1,832	2,346	-22%	15,598	5,278	196%	—	—	—	—	1,935	—
Internal Medicine	3,804	2,694	41%	927	886	5%	8,975	1,161	673%	—	—	—	156	563	-72%
Radiation Oncology	106	135	-22%	26	12	114%	30	19	53%	3	3	32%	—	15	—
Medical Oncology	342	261	31%	24	27	-9%	109	24	354%	—	—	—	—	20	—
Residual	102,198	110,259	-7%	19,731	17,459	13%	40,860	26,175	56%	4,709	3,350	41%	9,599	17,482	-45%
Total	226,980	232,040	-2%	44,240	38,531	15%	88,863	58,257	53%	9,894	7,420	33%	14,415	31,818	-55%

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. As most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 16A: Acute inpatient procedures, 2021–2022

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	18,713	12,225	4,247	4,630	40,219	20,466	2,978	2,816	935	2,037
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	310	274	112	49	396	234	40	16	5	15
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	31	28	13	4	22	21	2	2	0	1
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	81	106	32	57	324	285	23	32	1	25
Ostectomy	821	865	169	275	2,214	1,379	145	243	12	72
Removal of Pins	868	778	200	267	2,001	1,274	125	209	27	88
Rotator Cuff Repair	791	863	246	207	2,567	1,069	89	178	14	76
Routine Spinal Instability	1,123	1,299	679	462	4,516	2,637	313	193	0	195
Bladder Fulguration	1,396	1,043	331	226	4,672	2,942	248	510	45	256
Cystoscopy	4,659	2,871	759	229	9,039	4,197	688	1,040	109	609
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,209	1,930	526	111	4,705	3,037	305	457	172	229
Radical Cystectomy	277	148	54	36	582	343	45	60	0	27
Radical Prostatectomy	1,025	548	212	233	2,001	1,396	171	216	0	132
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,149	1,233	244	125	3,194	1,611	146	193	66	318
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	53	31	18	14	137	135	5	15	0	5
Cataract Removal	61	171	39	56	66	113	9	18	7	3
Cornea Transplant	10	73	48	8	37	73	0	8	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	1	36	6	0	4	11	0	1	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	48	102	32	18	91	126	1	33	1	1
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	39	44	1	9	42	66	1	6	1	2
Operations on Eyelids	123	213	22	20	259	227	13	53	0	2
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	285	1,621	344	241	453	497	4	55	0	5
Strabismus Surgery	19	12	1	0	30	21	0	1	0	0
Myringotomy	66	110	22	35	279	894	14	32	6	11
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	475	170	23	70	688	648	44	87	1	57
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,529	1,605	475	220	5,380	3,655	240	295	29	268
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	475	409	190	86	1,052	1,848	55	65	99	105
Tympanoplasty	66	24	4	2	100	92	7	37	0	1
Radiotherapy	324	455	9	57	10,956	2,171	375	276	76	154
Chemotherapy	6,792	4,577	1,582	1,026	55,951	7,714	970	1,033	60	507
Breast Biopsy	79	42	8	6	257	161	15	8	1	10
Bronchus and Lung	1,419	1,069	170	316	3,974	3,671	219	520	0	84
Cholecystectomy	3,705	4,540	1,284	1,682	10,961	7,738	936	1,312	202	397
Haemorrhoidectomy	58	52	35	49	183	101	11	12	0	20

Table 16A, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	9,014	6,497	2,502	2,492	25,552	15,761	1,775	2,393	255	1,348
Mastectomy	1,100	538	293	177	1,951	1,730	93	322	54	212
Varicose Veins	27	3	3	0	26	11	0	0	0	4
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,449	1,144	276	161	3,265	1,616	244	190	0	263
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,500	2,995	956	837	12,542	5,914	468	655	0	440
Blepharoplasty	10	13	0	1	13	9	0	3	0	1
Mammoplasty	302	381	22	50	565	366	51	64	41	49
Scar Revision	732	1,720	135	228	1,702	1,160	90	184	7	52
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,386	1,367	385	451	7,253	5,309	520	466	0	452
Pacemaker Operations	2,803	1,896	750	688	7,188	8,935	694	627	78	334
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,688	2,490	379	571	8,679	5,837	434	635	0	217
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,859	3,177	2,184	1,259	23,108	14,778	1,713	1,818	0	975
Bronchoscopy	1,160	1,218	221	246	6,431	3,691	166	422	7	141
Gastroscopy	682	551	139	90	2,725	1,317	214	188	18	104
Dilation and Curettage	216	170	28	31	316	149	13	24	7	18
Hysterectomy	4,749	3,752	924	1,135	8,715	5,760	730	1,007	156	631
Hysteroscopic Procedures	131	123	32	14	209	107	12	23	5	27
Laparoscopic Procedures	289	183	79	54	1,345	880	58	36	3	25
Tubal Ligation	241	1,515	254	447	3,521	1,565	143	99	23	179
Tuboplasty	24	41	11	3	44	23	2	2	3	2
Vaginal Repair	767	798	145	227	1,064	868	119	164	4	110
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	274	166	17	53	341	369	8	48	1	14
Hernia/Hydrocele	3,624	3,110	910	1,050	15,905	5,544	812	940	117	562
Carotid Endarterectomy	748	299	65	153	1,346	960	181	148	0	35
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	291	321	120	66	656	456	41	44	4	29
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	382	498	62	87	4,188	1,756	77	157	8	29
Colonoscopy	2,970	2,604	1,323	849	9,762	6,475	543	616	46	469
Aneurysm Surgery	373	229	45	129	932	589	50	50	0	24
Residual	126,106	112,849	31,646	30,972	370,860	203,057	21,756	28,820	2,124	14,628
Total	222,977	190,215	56,043	53,347	687,556	365,845	39,244	50,177	4,830	27,086

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2021–22, and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2021-2022

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	6,169	5,141	1,771	1,793	24,850	8,432	1,309	1,627	157	184
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,621	854	319	213	2,848	1,510	165	195	125	93
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	339	216	80	99	684	522	50	74	72	21
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	1,416	1,235	328	145	2,930	4,787	196	326	31	176
Ostectomy	1,138	1,190	200	316	2,854	1,591	165	280	67	94
Removal of Pins	2,717	2,191	569	399	4,948	4,369	280	430	103	223
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,495	1,577	329	322	3,779	1,621	167	425	52	206
Routine Spinal Instability	23	10	35	3	140	55	54	4	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	2,393	783	1,161	981	18,598	2,494	448	772	184	1,091
Cystoscopy	34,786	3,723	8,942	2,565	117,758	2,189	2,822	8,146	1,925	8,203
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,502	480	241	378	4,461	1,498	338	212	8	76
Radical Cystectomy	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radical Prostatectomy	0	66	0	1	6	29	0	0	0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,913	1,621	703	753	11,449	7,488	692	908	128	412
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	34	73	8	3	47	40	0	4	0	3
Cataract Removal	75,890	47,530	14,801	7,429	108,652	93,204	10,631	13,965	2,411	4,763
Cornea Transplant	642	322	26	72	975	747	67	150	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	592	654	77	27	572	1,284	21	28	8	20
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	2,625	2,080	820	482	6,733	5,962	147	858	3	215
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	625	801	154	62	1,347	790	41	126	11	78
Operations on Eyelids	2,563	2,336	575	68	3,140	3,338	146	343	29	229
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	11,189	10,682	2,533	2,876	19,948	16,077	84	3,789	6	1,013
Strabismus Surgery	1,273	1,468	226	211	3,006	2,066	205	318	3	126
Myringotomy	532	606	426	160	2,659	6,169	293	308	83	328
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,256	1,842	773	714	6,746	2,489	324	326	88	370
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	688	635	130	419	2,182	927	147	174	0	4
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,656	1,487	1,369	463	4,276	4,545	474	381	12	158
Tympanoplasty	584	826	210	145	1,910	1,511	137	187	27	220
Radiotherapy	223	37	69	6	411	188	234	27	0	10
Chemotherapy	683	411	267	89	8,263	812	82	278	22	44
Breast Biopsy	62	24	5	9	367	39	2	390	3	755
Bronchus and Lung	53	45	11	55	165	68	7	11	1	5
Cholecystectomy	4,935	3,992	1,404	1,382	14,778	9,188	1,279	1,204	238	799
Haemorrhoidectomy	3,288	817	1,267	783	8,023	873	40	300	54	428

Table 16B, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	74,500	25,569	10,536	11,770	135,535	1,487	531	13,064	2,033	9,675
Mastectomy	4,388	3,317	835	1,095	12,776	8,856	854	819	108	420
Varicose Veins	1,052	424	100	30	950	540	242	80	7	11
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,837	413	139	8	1,206	481	91	58	0	40
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	55	99	14	18	168	164	6	7	1	2
Blepharoplasty	400	350	97	9	692	555	21	28	0	21
Mammoplasty	3,678	2,120	509	363	5,914	3,939	580	288	4	246
Scar Revision	592	598	91	60	850	1,169	32	125	7	19
Coronary Artery Bypass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacemaker Operations	3,919	1,077	605	703	3,085	1,075	421	232	67	438
Valves & Septa of the Heart	106	7	15	2	1	0	16	0	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	13,112	986	2,455	2,193	2,455	107	1,188	121	1	1,324
Bronchoscopy	622	891	216	137	4,118	250	28	221	28	240
Gastroscopy	926	1,057	327	456	3,042	144	17	261	47	124
Dilation and Curettage	5,126	5,459	1,019	1,671	13,310	3,392	682	879	189	1,872
Hysterectomy	237	1,099	482	345	3,473	1,353	159	50	0	24
Hysteroscopic Procedures	3,357	3,096	1,429	551	6,958	3,282	760	975	149	1,908
Laparoscopic Procedures	337	237	187	112	1,447	727	70	60	11	56
Tubal Ligation	95	402	221	106	910	1,180	92	81	29	154
Tuboplasty	166	34	4	1	33	12	1	1	0	3
Vaginal Repair	412	375	72	67	763	313	57	42	5	61
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	1,749	1,318	638	356	2,671	2,170	157	183	29	153
Hernia/Hydrocele	11,390	8,503	2,152	2,690	21,886	20,175	2,121	2,052	280	1,196
Carotid Endarterectomy	2	0	1	2	8	0	0	1	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,497	1,866	1,103	633	8,630	6,283	623	874	81	679
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	1,987	824	321	247	4,609	2,129	156	221	10	401
Colonoscopy	89,988	33,725	14,130	17,034	99,169	1,780	1,057	15,518	3,479	9,416
Aneurysm Surgery	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Residual	198,940	123,515	51,962	49,959	627,439	133,765	16,570	46,006	6,569	48,715
Total	591,380	313,119	129,489	114,044	1,351,603	382,230	47,579	118,814	18,985	97,546

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2021-22; Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

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

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

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

Quebec Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services,
<<https://g74web.pub.msss.rtss.qc.ca/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 Dep't of Health and Community Services,
<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html>

Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2023 Report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between the week of January 16 and June 1, 2023. 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 Deloitte LLP. This year, 108 psychiatrists responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 2.5% (table B1). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

Table B1: Psychiatry (2023)—summary of responses, 2023

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	648	425	80	152	1,724	1,068	56	125	8	58	4,344
Number of Responses	25	9	4	4	41	19	2	4	0	0	108
Response Rates	3.9%	2.1%	5.0%	2.6%	2.4%	1.8%	3.6%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%

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.

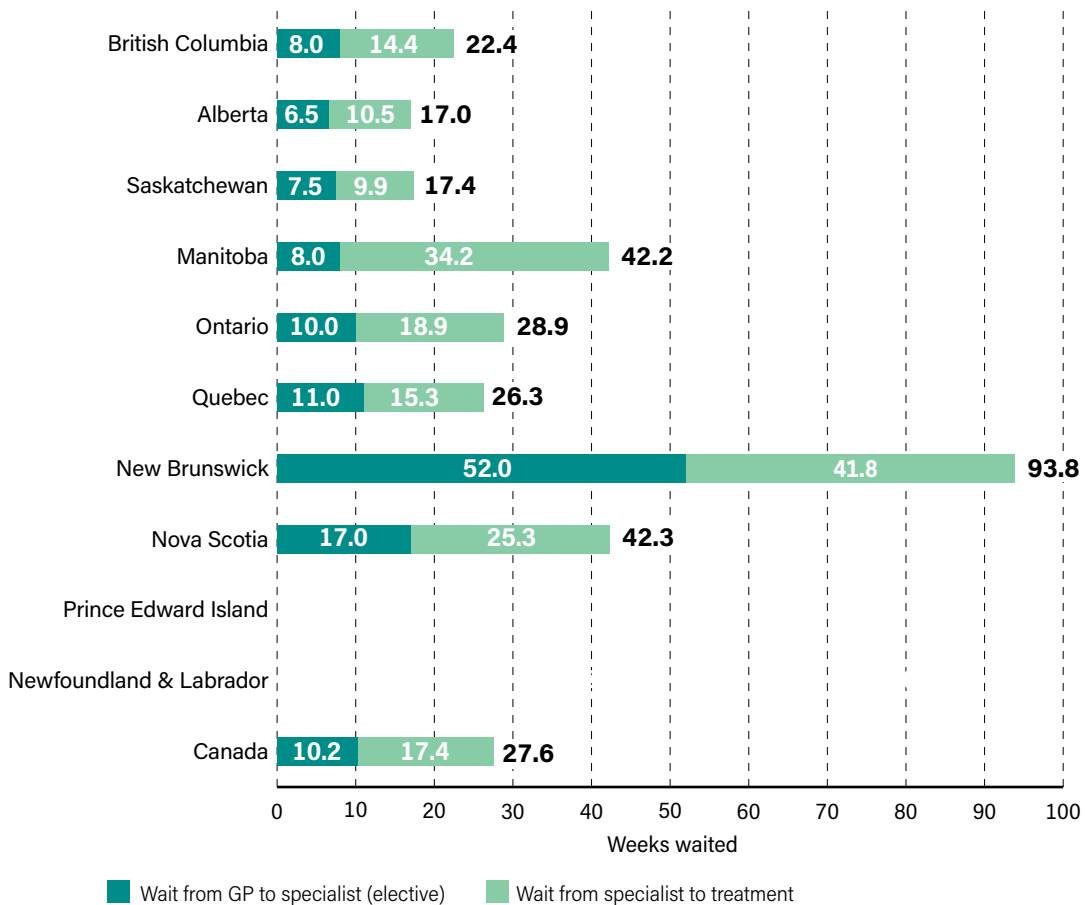
Unlike other specialties discussed in *Waiting Your Turn*, in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section, “Method” (pp. 11–13), for a clear 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 decreased from 29.2 weeks in 2022 to 27.6 weeks in 2023 (graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Alberta (17.0 weeks), Saskatchewan (17.4 weeks), British Columbia (22.4 weeks), and Quebec (26.3 weeks). The longest total waits are in New Brunswick (93.8 weeks) and Nova Scotia (42.3 weeks).

Graph B1: Psychiatry—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2023



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.
 Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2023.

Wait time by segment and specialty

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

- 1 from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist;
- 2 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 2.8 weeks, ranging from 1.8 weeks in New Brunswick to 9.0 weeks in Nova Scotia. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 10.2 weeks. The province with the longest wait times for elective referrals is New Brunswick (52.0 weeks). On the other hand, Alberta (6.5 weeks) has the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

Table B2: Psychiatry (2023)—median patient wait (weeks) to see a specialist after referral from a GP

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	3.0	4.0	6.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	1.8	9.0	—	—	2.8
Elective	8.0	6.5	7.5	8.0	10.0	11.0	52.0	17.0	—	—	10.2

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 (41.8 weeks), Manitoba (34.2 weeks), and Nova Scotia (25.3 weeks). The shortest waits are in Saskatchewan (9.9 weeks), Alberta (10.5 weeks) and British Columbia (14.4 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to a housing program (36.6 weeks) and to a sleep disorders program (25.0 weeks), while wait times are shortest for initiating a course of pharmacotherapy (5.9 weeks) and for a day program (8.8 weeks).

Table B4 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait (after a consultation with a psychiatrist) for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces except Manitoba and New Brunswick.

Table B5 compares the 2023 and 2022 waiting times for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist). This year's study indicates an overall increase in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in five provinces: Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Three provinces reported a decrease: British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec.

Table B3: Psychiatry (2023)—median patient wait (weeks) 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	8.0	7.0	12.0	11.5	16.0	30.0	16.0	—	—	12.1
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	12.0	12.0	16.0	24.0	16.0	50.0	27.0	20.0	—	—	24.0
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	7.5	6.0	10.0	6.0	2.5	52.0	12.0	—	—	5.9
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	12.0	16.0	3.0	52.0	14.0	12.0	—	8.0	—	—	14.4
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	8.0	7.5	3.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	23.0	16.0	—	—	12.5
Access a day program	8.0	5.0	4.0	42.0	10.0	2.3	—	28.0	—	—	8.8
Access an eating disorders program	24.0	12.0	10.0	82.0	24.0	8.0	—	26.5	—	—	20.6
Access a housing program	51.0	14.0	32.0	52.0	54.0	3.0	108.0	—	—	—	36.6
Access an evening program	12.0	14.0	1.0	8.0	24.0	1.0	—	—	—	—	14.0
Access a sleep disorders program	12.0	14.0	24.0	52.0	10.0	52.0	—	75.0	—	—	25.0
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	7.5	6.0	3.0	30.0	26.5	4.0	11.0	26.0	—	—	15.4
Unweighted Median	14.4	10.5	9.9	34.2	18.9	15.3	41.8	25.3			17.4

Table B4: Psychiatry (2023)—frequency distribution (%) of survey waiting times (specialist to treatment), by province

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0-3.99 weeks	14%	9%	39%	0%	17%	35%	0%	0%	—	—
4-7.99 weeks	20%	27%	21%	4%	20%	16%	11%	0%	—	—
8-12.99 weeks	37%	33%	14%	42%	16%	15%	0%	33%	—	—
13-25.99 weeks	12%	11%	7%	8%	17%	6%	33%	44%	—	—
26-51.99 weeks	4%	13%	14%	15%	11%	9%	33%	17%	—	—
1 year plus	13%	7%	4%	31%	18%	19%	22%	6%	—	—

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

Table B5: Psychiatry (2023)—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	% change
British Columbia	14.4	17.8	-19%
Alberta	10.5	23.4	-55%
Saskatchewan	9.9	5.8	72%
Manitoba	34.2	18.5	85%
Ontario	18.9	14.9	27%
Quebec	15.3	25.4	-40%
New Brunswick	41.8	18.5	126%
Nova Scotia	25.3	17.3	46%
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	—	8.0	—

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.

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 100% of cases where comparisons are possible, the actual waiting time for treatment (table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (table B6). The difference is greatest in New Brunswick, where the wait time for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist) is 866% longer than the median considered reasonable. In contrast, the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits in Quebec exceeds the corresponding “reasonable” value by 293%, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Table B6: Psychiatry (2023)—median reasonable patient wait (weeks) for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.5	—	—	4.5
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	8.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	—	—	8.7
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	6.0	5.0	—	—	2.8
Initiate a course of couple/ marital therapy	6.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	14.0	—	7.0	—	—	7.6
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	6.0	7.5	—	—	4.7
Access a day program	2.0	2.0	1.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	—	7.5	—	—	3.0
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	3.0	1.5	3.0	6.0	2.0	—	5.5	—	—	4.2
Access a housing program	4.0	1.5	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	—	—	3.6
Access an evening program	4.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	—	7.0	—	—	4.2
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	—	10.0	—	—	5.8
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	6.0	—	—	3.3
Unweighted Median	4.0	3.4	3.0	4.1	5.1	5.2	4.8	6.5			4.8

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 6.5% 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, [1] if it were available, is 70.8%.

¹ 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 (2023)—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	200%	160%	117%	300%	288%	320%	500%	291%	—	—	270%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	150%	171%	400%	600%	200%	417%	450%	250%	—	—	278%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	200%	250%	150%	250%	200%	125%	867%	240%	—	—	214%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	200%	533%	100%	1300%	233%	86%	—	114%	—	—	189%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	200%	188%	100%	300%	300%	277%	383%	213%	—	—	265%
Access a day program	400%	250%	267%	1050%	250%	113%	—	373%	—	—	289%
Access an eating disorders program	600%	400%	667%	2733%	400%	400%	—	482%	—	—	495%
Access a housing program	1275%	933%	1067%	2600%	1350%	75%	3600%	—	—	—	1010%
Access an evening program	300%	350%	50%	100%	600%	25%	—	—	—	—	334%
Access a sleep disorders program	300%	350%	1200%	1300%	125%	1300%	—	750%	—	—	434%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	375%	600%	100%	750%	530%	200%	550%	433%	—	—	465%
Unweighted Median	360%	309%	330%	836%	371%	293%	866%	386%			365%

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 2022, the national waiting times for CT scans have increased in 2023. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 6.9 weeks, ranging from a high of 13.0 weeks (New Brunswick) to a low of 4.5 weeks (Saskatchewan). In 2023, the median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 13.3 weeks, longer than it was in 2022 (12.8 weeks). Patients in Manitoba waited the longest (24.0 weeks), while patients

Table B8: Psychiatry (2023)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2023, 2022, and 2021

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
British Columbia	7	4	6	16	16	16	8	6	5
Alberta	10	4	9	16	12	28	6	8	12
Saskatchewan	4.5	—	—	11	—	—	8	—	—
Manitoba	10	5	8	24	11.5	12	40	6	12
Ontario	6	4	4	12	12	7.5	6	5.5	4
Quebec	6	8	6	11	12	12	4	6	4
New Brunswick	13	12	24	13	24	39	13	12	18
Nova Scotia	12	3	12	16	8	26	8	4	12
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	—	13	14	—	27	14	—	10	14
Canada	6.9	5.2	6.0	13.3	12.8	13.0	7.2	6.1	5.7

in Quebec and Saskatchewan waited the least amount of time (11.0 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces has increased from 6.1 weeks in 2022 to 7.2 weeks this year. Residents of Quebec face the shortest waits for an EEG (4.0 weeks), while residents of Manitoba wait longest (40.0 weeks). [2]

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 27.6 weeks from referral by a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 365% 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.

2. For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 6.6 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 6.9 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 2.1 weeks across eight provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs was 12.9 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 13.3 weeks in the psychiatry survey. The mean absolute difference in this case was 5.9 weeks.

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

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 (2022)

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.

Appendix E: Wait Times Data before and after March 16, 2020

The COVID-19 crisis led many provinces to take drastic measures both to limit the spread of the virus and to ensure scarce medical resources were available in the event of a surge in cases. One of these measures was the cancellation—or postponement—of thousands of elective surgeries across a number of provinces over 2020. As a result, the survey-collection window for *Waiting Your Turn: 2020 Report* was longer than that used in years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the data collection period lasted from January 7 to October 1.

Though no active efforts were made to solicit responses during the provincial halts of treatment, surveys that were mailed or faxed in were still accepted. Active efforts to contact physicians resumed mid-August 2020, once provinces had broadly restarted their programs of elective surgery.

Surveys collected after March 16, 2020 (when provinces began postponing elective surgeries) were tracked (n = 596) to separate them from surveys returned earlier; see E1A (post), E1B (post), E1C. Surveys collected before March 16, 2020 were also tracked separately (n = 662); see tables E1A (pre), E1B (pre), E1C.

Data for median wait times before and after March 16, 2020 were weighted separately using the same procedure as described in *Waiting Your Turn: Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2020 Report* (Barua and Moir, 2020). The time patients could be expected to wait between seeing a GP and receiving treatment before and after March 16, 2020 are presented in tables E2 (pre) and E2 (post). The wait between seeing a GP and seeing a specialist before and after March 16, 2020 are presented in tables E3 (pre) and E3 (post). Finally, the wait between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment before and after March 16, 2020 are presented in tables E4 (pre) and E4 (post).

Table E1A (pre): Summary of responses, 2020—response rates (percentages), by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	21%	6%	0%	7%	5%	1%	13%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Gynaecology	5%	7%	10%	15%	6%	5%	3%	5%	0%	0%	6%
Ophthalmology	10%	12%	9%	13%	6%	5%	14%	6%	20%	10%	7%
Otolaryngology	16%	2%	11%	17%	7%	6%	31%	17%	100%	9%	9%
General Surgery	8%	6%	8%	8%	4%	2%	16%	2%	0%	5%	5%
Neurosurgery	9%	3%	8%	17%	4%	6%	11%	20%	—	0%	6%
Orthopaedic Surgery	18%	9%	5%	12%	9%	5%	21%	12%	—	17%	10%
Cardiovascular Surgery	6%	9%	13%	0%	3%	4%	13%	0%	—	20%	5%
Urology	16%	6%	8%	13%	5%	4%	33%	0%	0%	13%	7%
Internal Medicine	6%	3%	5%	3%	2%	2%	14%	6%	8%	10%	3%
Radiation Oncology	4%	0%	0%	6%	5%	7%	14%	0%	0%	9%	5%
Medical Oncology	6%	3%	20%	0%	3%	3%	0%	7%	0%	0%	4%
Total	10%	6%	7%	9%	5%	4%	15%	6%	11%	8%	6%

Table E1B (pre): Summary of responses, 2020—number of responses, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	16	3	0	1	9	1	2	0	0	0	32
Gynaecology	9	11	5	9	35	22	1	2	0	0	94
Ophthalmology	16	12	2	3	23	15	3	2	1	1	78
Otolaryngology	12	1	1	3	16	10	4	3	1	1	52
General Surgery	16	7	5	4	24	11	5	1	0	1	74
Neurosurgery	3	1	1	1	3	5	1	2	—	0	17
Orthopaedic Surgery	38	12	2	5	45	16	7	5	—	3	133
Cardiovascular Surgery	4	3	2	0	4	4	1	0	0	1	19
Urology	13	3	1	2	12	6	5	0	0	1	43
Internal Medicine	20	6	3	2	21	15	5	3	1	2	78
Radiation Oncology	3	0	0	1	10	9	1	0	0	1	25
Medical Oncology	5	2	1	0	7	1	0	1	0	0	17
Total	155	61	23	31	209	115	35	19	3	11	662

Table E1A (post): Summary of responses, 2020—response rates (percentages), by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	7%	12%	17%	14%	1%	0%	7%	33%	0%	0%	5%
Gynaecology	21%	21%	15%	15%	11%	0%	12%	13%	100%	12%	10%
Ophthalmology	6%	2%	18%	21%	2%	1%	0%	15%	0%	20%	4%
Otolaryngology	16%	22%	11%	6%	7%	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%	7%
General Surgery	10%	6%	5%	14%	1%	0%	3%	7%	33%	10%	3%
Neurosurgery	21%	9%	8%	0%	5%	1%	0%	0%	—	0%	6%
Orthopaedic Surgery	5%	3%	5%	5%	3%	1%	3%	2%	—	6%	3%
Cardiovascular Surgery	17%	3%	33%	30%	6%	0%	25%	7%	—	40%	9%
Urology	10%	11%	8%	13%	6%	0%	20%	16%	0%	0%	6%
Internal Medicine	16%	19%	6%	14%	5%	0%	0%	6%	17%	5%	7%
Radiation Oncology	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Medical Oncology	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	22%	0%	100%	0%	1%
Total	11%	11%	10%	12%	4%	0%	6%	9%	25%	8%	5%

Table E1B (post): Summary of responses, 2020—number of responses, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	5	6	2	2	2	0	1	4	0	0	22
Gynaecology	37	31	8	9	65	0	4	5	3	3	165
Ophthalmology	9	2	4	5	7	3	0	5	0	2	37
Otolaryngology	12	10	1	1	15	0	0	3	0	0	42
General Surgery	20	7	3	7	3	0	1	3	1	2	47
Neurosurgery	7	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	—	0	16
Orthopaedic Surgery	10	4	2	2	13	2	1	1	—	1	36
Cardiovascular Surgery	11	1	5	3	8	0	2	1	0	2	33
Urology	8	5	1	2	13	0	3	3	0	0	35
Internal Medicine	49	44	4	10	41	1	0	3	2	1	155
Radiation Oncology	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Medical Oncology	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	6
Total	169	113	31	41	172	9	14	29	7	11	596

Table E1C: Summary of responses, 2020—number of questionnaires mailed out, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	76	50	12	14	185	114	15	12	1	4	483
Gynaecology	179	150	52	60	615	477	33	40	3	25	1,634
Ophthalmology	162	97	22	24	376	293	22	34	5	10	1,045
Otolaryngology	73	46	9	18	226	166	13	18	1	11	581
General Surgery	200	127	60	50	540	459	31	43	3	21	1,534
Neurosurgery	33	32	13	6	85	84	9	10	—	2	274
Orthopaedic Surgery	213	135	39	42	492	345	33	41	—	18	1,358
Cardiovascular Surgery	64	34	15	10	126	93	8	14	—	5	369
Urology	80	47	12	15	221	167	15	19	1	8	585
Internal Medicine	315	233	65	70	905	607	35	48	12	20	2,310
Radiation Oncology	82	45	11	16	192	124	7	14	1	11	503
Medical Oncology	86	58	5	18	201	30	9	14	1	9	431
Total	1,563	1,054	315	343	4,164	2,959	230	307	28	144	11,107

Table E2 (pre): Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	62.4	35.4	—	36.4	27.4	16.2	47.0	—	—	—	33.3
Gynaecology	21.7	26.6	6.6	16.4	16.7	22.3	—	17.6	—	—	19.6
Ophthalmology	34.0	29.5	40.1	60.0	32.2	23.0	49.9	83.3	116.0	—	33.5
Otolaryngology	43.0	92.6	44.4	13.7	23.1	17.3	82.4	37.8	44.2	14.1	29.7
General Surgery	15.9	39.9	10.7	21.3	12.7	8.6	18.2	97.4	—	8.5	19.8
Neurosurgery	66.6	20.0	27.4	35.5	44.9	21.7	38.1	70.7	—	—	40.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	28.4	47.7	38.8	67.7	26.7	32.3	51.4	53.7	—	33.1	33.9
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	20.9	25.9	8.0	—	13.8	12.2	42.0	—	—	30.8	15.8
Urology	22.0	29.8	16.5	11.0	14.3	21.1	44.5	—	—	26.2	18.6
Internal Medicine	15.9	32.6	9.1	18.6	11.0	11.4	25.8	46.2	53.5	18.8	17.2
Radiation Oncology	13.9	—	—	5.0	4.2	4.1	5.6	—	—	3.1	4.7
Medical Oncology	11.7	5.1	4.5	—	4.0	2.0	—	10.0	—	—	4.5
Weighted Median	23.6	35.3	21.3	30.4	18.2	18.7	41.7	71.7	101.5	20.6	23.7

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

Table E2 (post): Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	98.5	34.3	40.4	55.6	39.8	—	49.3	42.1	—	—	51.7
Gynaecology	32.2	29.9	14.1	15.3	20.8	—	55.2	49.3	15.2	36.6	26.3
Ophthalmology	57.6	14.1	24.9	57.1	33.9	30.0	—	32.3	—	129.2	36.6
Otolaryngology	41.8	43.6	—	—	28.2	—	—	58.8	—	—	32.0
General Surgery	29.3	7.3	11.4	8.7	8.8	—	13.0	22.8	12.6	7.7	13.9
Neurosurgery	38.2	84.0	29.6	—	16.9	—	—	—	—	—	26.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	35.3	65.6	34.1	33.4	48.5	46.9	89.3	160.0	—	—	49.9
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	8.5	29.2	—	16.9	8.4	—	27.0	—	—	10.3	10.1
Urology	27.8	27.8	72.0	8.5	10.1	—	49.0	39.1	—	—	18.8
Internal Medicine	17.4	19.8	25.0	12.1	10.8	9.7	—	21.8	31.9	—	15.7
Radiation Oncology	—	—	—	—	—	5.1	—	3.0	—	—	4.9
Medical Oncology	4.0	—	—	—	1.5	2.6	2.8	—	6.0	—	1.9
Weighted Median	33.8	23.0	25.9	20.2	19.1	27.0	36.1	39.0	20.3	43.2	24.4

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

Table E3 (pre): Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	30.0	8.0	—	12.0	12.0	5.0	23.0	—	—	—	13.4
Gynaecology	13.0	16.0	2.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	—	13.0	—	—	10.5
Ophthalmology	12.5	9.0	10.0	20.0	16.0	11.0	26.0	47.5	52.0	—	14.5
Otolaryngology	26.0	32.0	9.0	4.5	15.0	7.0	68.0	20.0	30.0	4.0	15.5
General Surgery	10.0	25.0	3.5	10.0	7.0	2.5	6.0	30.0	—	4.0	10.1
Neurosurgery	40.0	12.0	6.0	24.0	26.0	8.0	30.0	58.3	—	—	23.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	6.0	23.0	12.8	36.0	10.0	12.0	24.0	12.0	—	11.0	12.8
Cardiovascular Surgery	15.5	8.0	2.5	—	10.0	4.0	12.0	—	—	1.0	8.2
Urology	16.0	16.0	10.0	5.0	10.0	5.0	34.0	—	—	18.0	11.6
Internal Medicine	4.0	7.8	3.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	14.0	12.0	52.0	7.0	5.2
Radiation Oncology	6.0	—	—	2.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.0
Medical Oncology	7.0	1.3	2.5	—	2.0	1.0	—	5.0	—	—	2.3
Weighted Median	11.3	16.3	6.7	13.5	9.5	7.7	24.2	26.6	47.9	8.2	11.1

Table E3 (post): Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	39.0	9.6	14.0	42.0	15.0	—	36.0	11.0	—	—	20.3
Gynaecology	16.0	14.0	3.8	6.5	11.0	—	40.0	42.0	6.0	12.0	13.7
Ophthalmology	18.3	7.5	5.0	25.6	14.0	16.0	—	11.5	—	51.0	15.1
Otolaryngology	11.0	22.4	2.0	3.4	16.7	—	—	18.0	—	—	15.1
General Surgery	14.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	—	8.0	4.0	2.0	4.5	5.2
Neurosurgery	24.0	36.0	14.0	—	13.0	—	—	—	—	—	17.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	16.3	52.0	20.0	6.3	6.0	32.0	52.0	108.0	—	—	19.1
Cardiovascular Surgery	5.3	24.0	—	15.0	4.3	—	10.0	10.0	—	6.0	5.4
Urology	17.0	12.0	36.0	6.8	5.5	—	18.5	21.0	—	—	10.0
Internal Medicine	5.9	8.5	1.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	—	2.0	28.0	52.0	7.0
Radiation Oncology	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	1.0	—	—	1.9
Medical Oncology	2.5	—	—	—	1.0	1.2	1.8	—	3.0	—	1.2
Weighted Median	14.4	12.1	10.3	8.6	6.8	15.4	20.3	17.4	12.6	22.4	10.5

Table E4 (pre): Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	32.4	27.4	—	24.4	15.4	11.2	24.0	—	—	—	19.9
Gynaecology	8.7	10.6	4.6	8.4	8.7	10.3	11.2	4.6	—	—	9.0
Ophthalmology	21.5	20.5	30.1	40.0	16.2	12.0	23.9	35.8	64.0	38.8	18.9
Otolaryngology	17.0	60.6	35.4	9.2	8.1	10.3	14.4	17.8	14.2	10.1	14.3
General Surgery	5.9	14.9	7.2	11.3	5.7	6.1	12.2	67.4	—	4.5	9.7
Neurosurgery	26.6	8.0	21.4	11.5	18.9	13.7	8.1	12.4	—	—	17.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	22.4	24.7	26.1	31.7	16.7	20.3	27.4	41.7	—	22.1	21.1
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.9	1.9	2.5	—	1.1	1.5	16.0	—	—	3.0	1.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	5.4	17.9	5.5	—	3.8	8.2	30.0	—	—	29.8	7.5
Urology	6.0	13.8	6.5	6.0	4.3	16.1	10.5	—	—	8.2	6.9
Internal Medicine	11.9	24.8	6.1	10.6	7.0	7.4	11.8	34.2	1.5	11.8	12.0
Radiation Oncology	7.9	—	—	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.6	—	—	1.6	2.7
Medical Oncology	4.7	3.8	2.0	—	2.0	1.0	—	5.0	—	—	2.2
Weighted Median	12.4	19.0	14.6	16.8	8.7	11.1	17.5	45.1	53.7	12.4	12.6

Table E4 (post): Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2020 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	59.5	24.7	26.4	13.6	24.8	—	13.3	31.1	—	—	31.4
Gynaecology	16.2	15.9	10.3	8.8	9.8	—	15.2	7.3	9.2	24.6	12.6
Ophthalmology	39.3	6.6	19.9	31.5	19.9	14.0	—	20.8	—	78.2	21.5
Otolaryngology	30.8	21.3	—	—	11.5	—	—	40.8	—	—	16.9
General Surgery	15.3	5.3	8.4	6.2	6.3	—	5.0	18.8	10.6	3.2	8.7
Neurosurgery	14.2	48.0	15.6	—	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	9.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	19.0	13.6	14.1	27.1	42.5	14.9	37.3	52.0	—	18.1	30.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.8	2.0	0.5	0.7	1.6	—	2.1	—	—	1.0	1.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	3.2	5.2	1.5	1.9	4.1	—	17.0	—	—	4.3	4.7
Urology	10.8	15.8	36.0	1.7	4.6	—	30.5	18.1	—	—	8.8
Internal Medicine	11.5	11.3	24.0	5.7	6.8	3.7	—	19.8	3.9	—	8.7
Radiation Oncology	—	—	—	—	—	3.1	—	2.0	—	—	3.0
Medical Oncology	1.5	—	—	—	0.5	1.4	1.0	—	3.0	—	0.7
Weighted Median	19.4	10.8	15.6	11.6	12.3	11.6	15.9	21.6	7.8	20.8	14.0

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Prof. George Stigler* †

Prof. James M. Buchanan* †

Sir Alan Walters*

Prof. Friedrich A. Hayek* †

Prof. Edwin G. West*

Prof. H.G. Johnson*

* deceased; † Nobel Laureate