

Waiting Your Turn

Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2021 Report



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by Mackenzie Moir and Bacchus Barua

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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 25.6 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment—longer than the wait of 22.6 weeks reported in 2020. This year’s wait time is the longest wait time recorded in this survey’s history and is 175% 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—18.5 weeks—while Nova Scotia reports the longest—53.2 weeks. There is also a great deal of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and neurosurgical procedures (49.2 weeks), while those waiting for radiation treatments begin treatment in 3.7 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 10.5 weeks in 2020 to 11.1 weeks in 2021. This wait time is 201% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Ontario (8.2 weeks) while the longest occur in Prince Edward Island (24.1 weeks).
- 2 From the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.** The waiting time in this segment increased from 12.1 weeks in 2020 to 14.5 weeks this year. This wait time is 159% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and 6.1 weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically “reasonable” (8.3 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (10.3 weeks), while the longest are in Nova Scotia (34.1 weeks).

It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2021 is 1,425,517. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.7% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2021. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 2.96% in Ontario to a high of 10.76% in Nova Scotia. It is important to note that physicians report that only about 14.4% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

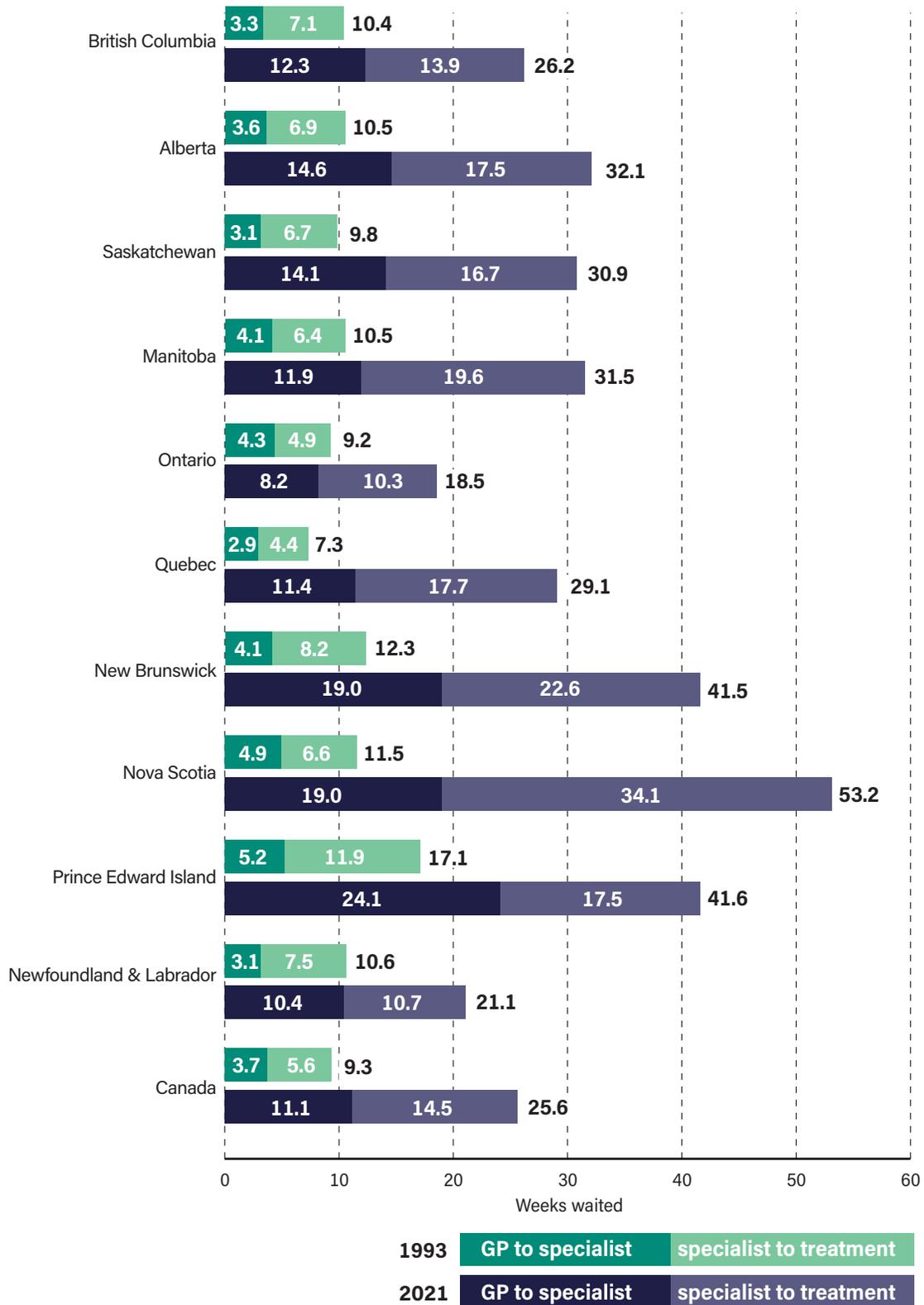
Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 5.2 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 10.2 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 3.6 weeks for an ultrasound.

Data were collected between January 15, 2021 and July 27, 2021, longer than the period of collection in years preceding 2020 when provincial governments began implementing hospital closures and surgical postponements in response to COVID-19. Despite this extension, this year's response rate was 9% (a lower response rate than in 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 2021



Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

This publication has five series of illustrations and tabular material.

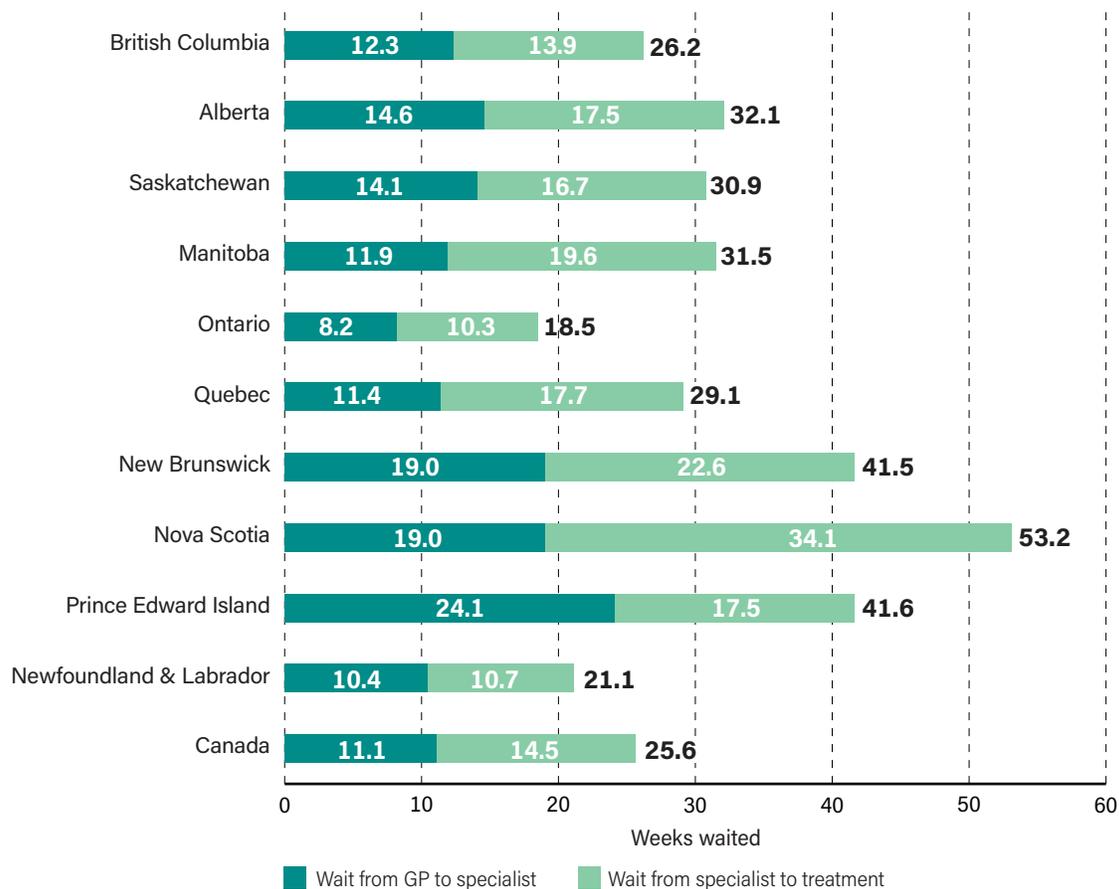
- Charts, which may be graphs or tables, will be found in the main text, pp. 1–18.
- Graphs will be found in “Selected graphs”, pp. 19–32.
- Tables will be found in “Selected tables”, pp. 33–57.
- Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2020 Report, pp. 60–67, has tables and a graph labeled “B1” and so on.
- Appendix E: Wait Times Data before and after March 16, 2020, pp. 71–77, has tables labeled “E1A (pre)”, “E1A (post)”, and so on.

Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute’s thirtieth annual waiting list survey finds that wait times [1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments increased in 2021 (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 22.6 weeks in 2020 to 25.6 in 2021. This year’s wait time is 175% longer than in 1993, when it was just 9.3 weeks.

Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2021—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



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

Source: The Fraser Institute’s national waiting list survey, 2021.

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

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2021 (18.5 weeks), followed by Newfoundland & Labrador (21.1 weeks) and British Columbia (26.2 weeks). Nova Scotia has the longest total wait at 53.2 weeks, followed by Prince Edward Island (41.6 weeks) and New Brunswick (41.5 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 2020 to 2021 is the result of an increase in both segments. The waiting time in the first segment—from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist—has risen from 10.5 weeks in 2020 to 11.1 weeks in 2021. This wait time is 201% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks (graph 1; graph 2). The waiting time to see a specialist increased in five provinces since 2020, but decreased in British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador (chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Ontario (8.2 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (10.4 weeks), and Quebec (11.4 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations are found in Prince Edward Island (24.1 weeks), Nova Scotia (19.0), and New Brunswick (19.0 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 increased from 12.1 weeks in 2020 to 14.5 weeks in 2021 (chart 3). This portion of waiting is 159% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (graph 3; graph 4). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in eight provinces but have decreased in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (10.3 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (10.7 weeks), and British Columbia (13.9 weeks), while the longest are in Nova Scotia (34.1 weeks), New Brunswick (22.6 weeks), and Manitoba (19.6) (table 4).

Chart 2: Wait by province in 2020 and 2021—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist

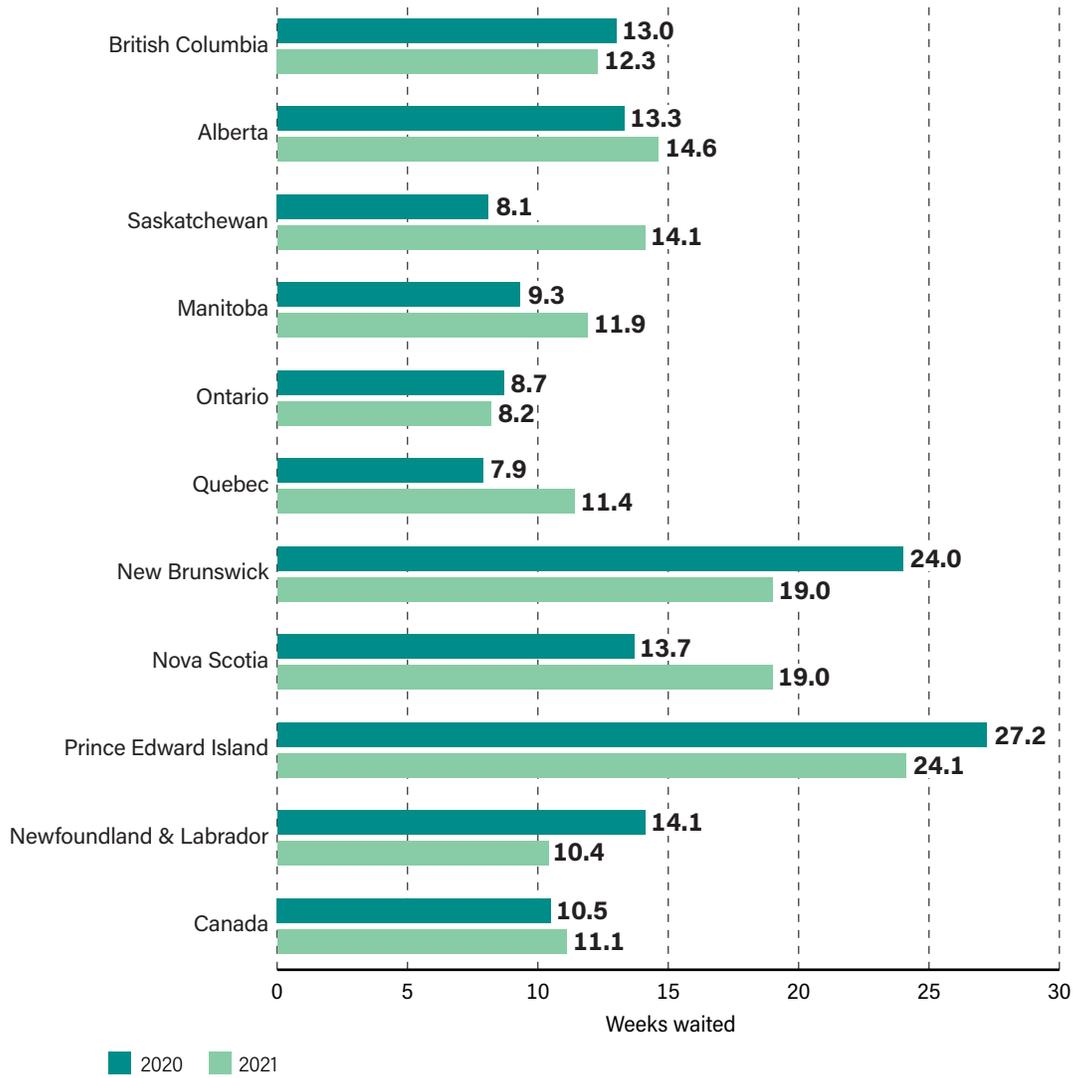
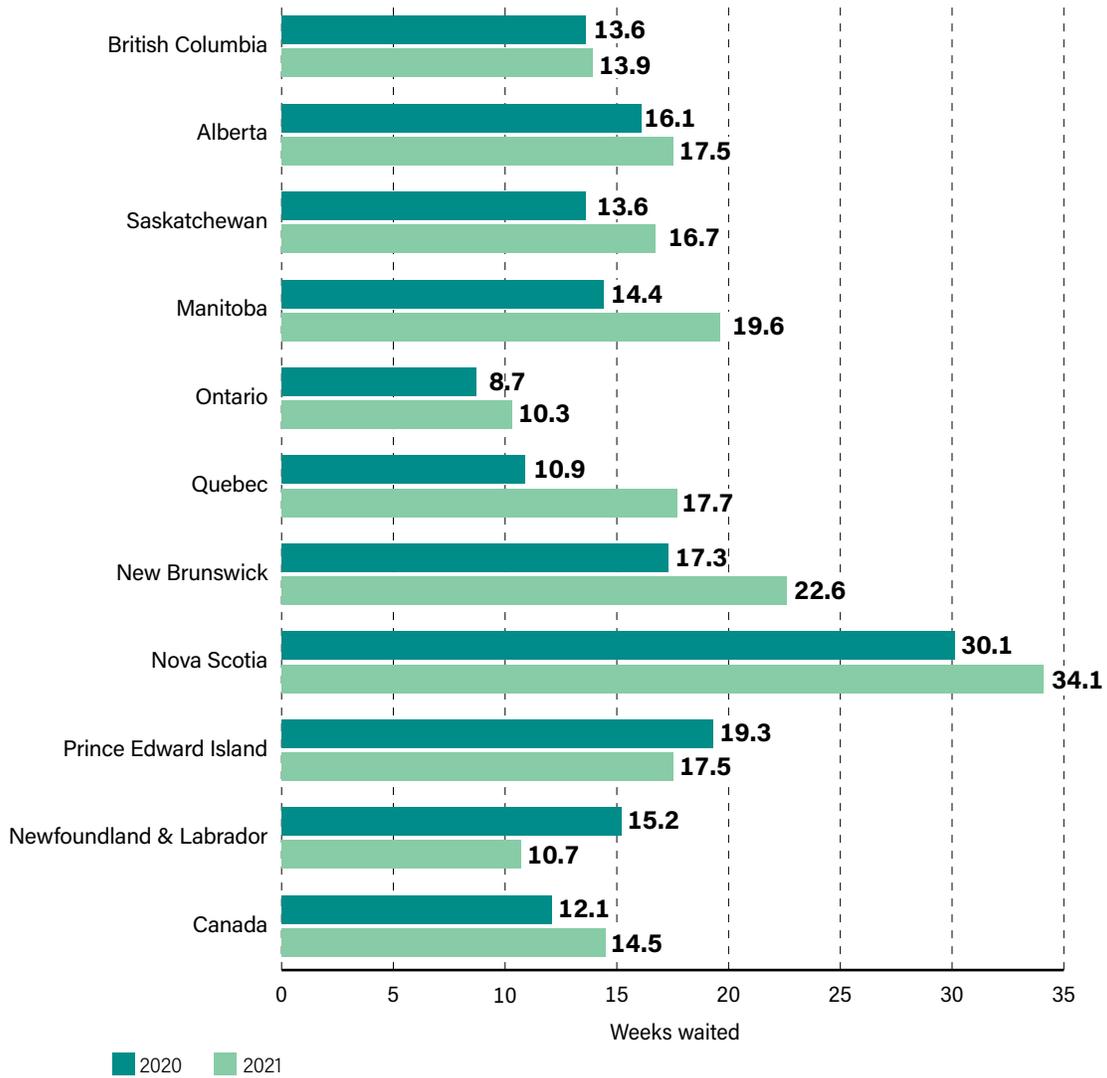


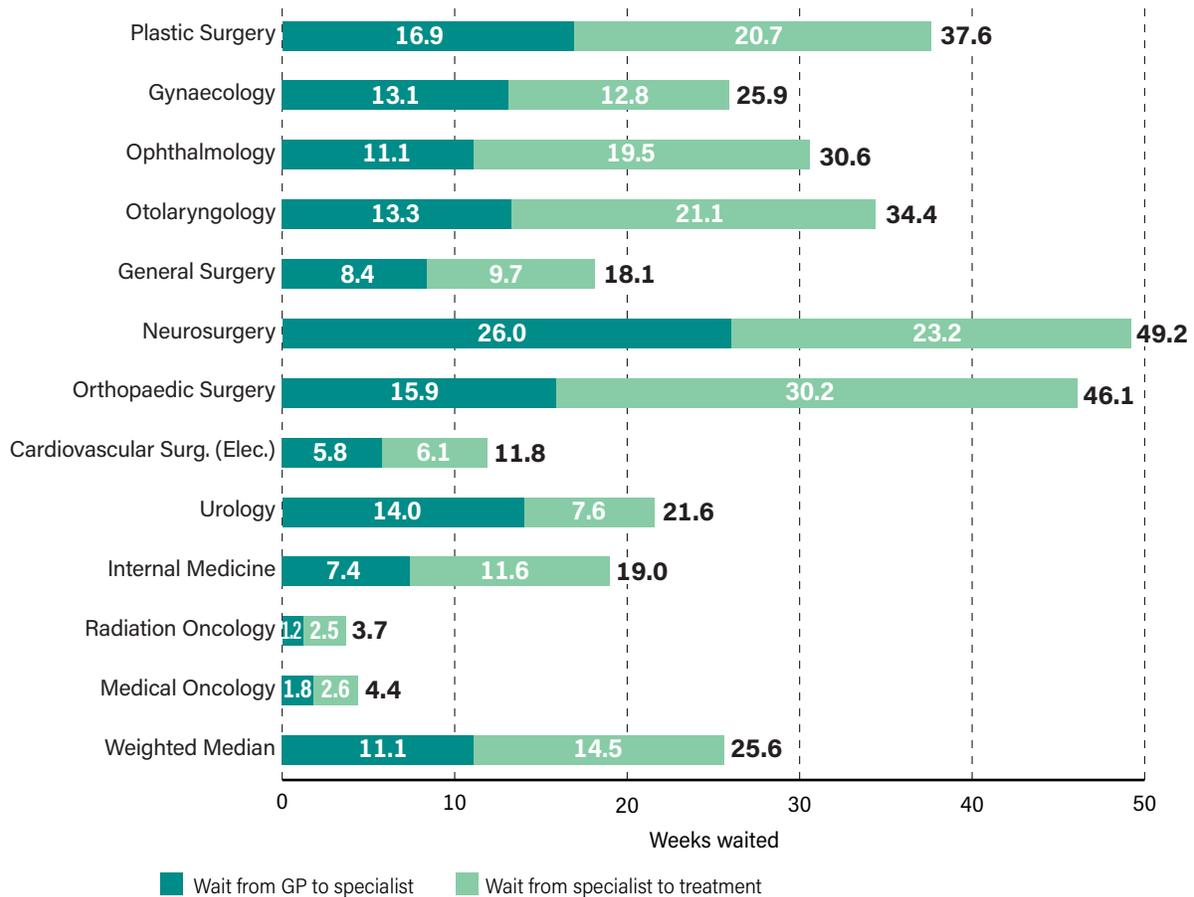
Chart 3: Wait by province in 2020 and 2021—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for radiation oncology (3.7 weeks), medical oncology (4.4 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (11.8 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a referral by a GP and neurosurgery (49.2 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (46.1 weeks), and plastic surgery (37.6 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2020 and 2021 have been for neurosurgery (+16.1 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (+12.0 weeks), and otolaryngology (+5.4 weeks). Such increases are partially offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in fields like ophthalmology (−3.5 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (−2.1 weeks).

Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2021—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, 2021.

Breaking waiting time 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 (1.2 weeks), medical oncology (1.8 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (5.8 weeks). The longest waits are for neurosurgery (26.0 weeks), plastic surgery (16.9 weeks), and orthopaedic surgery (15.9 weeks) (table 3).

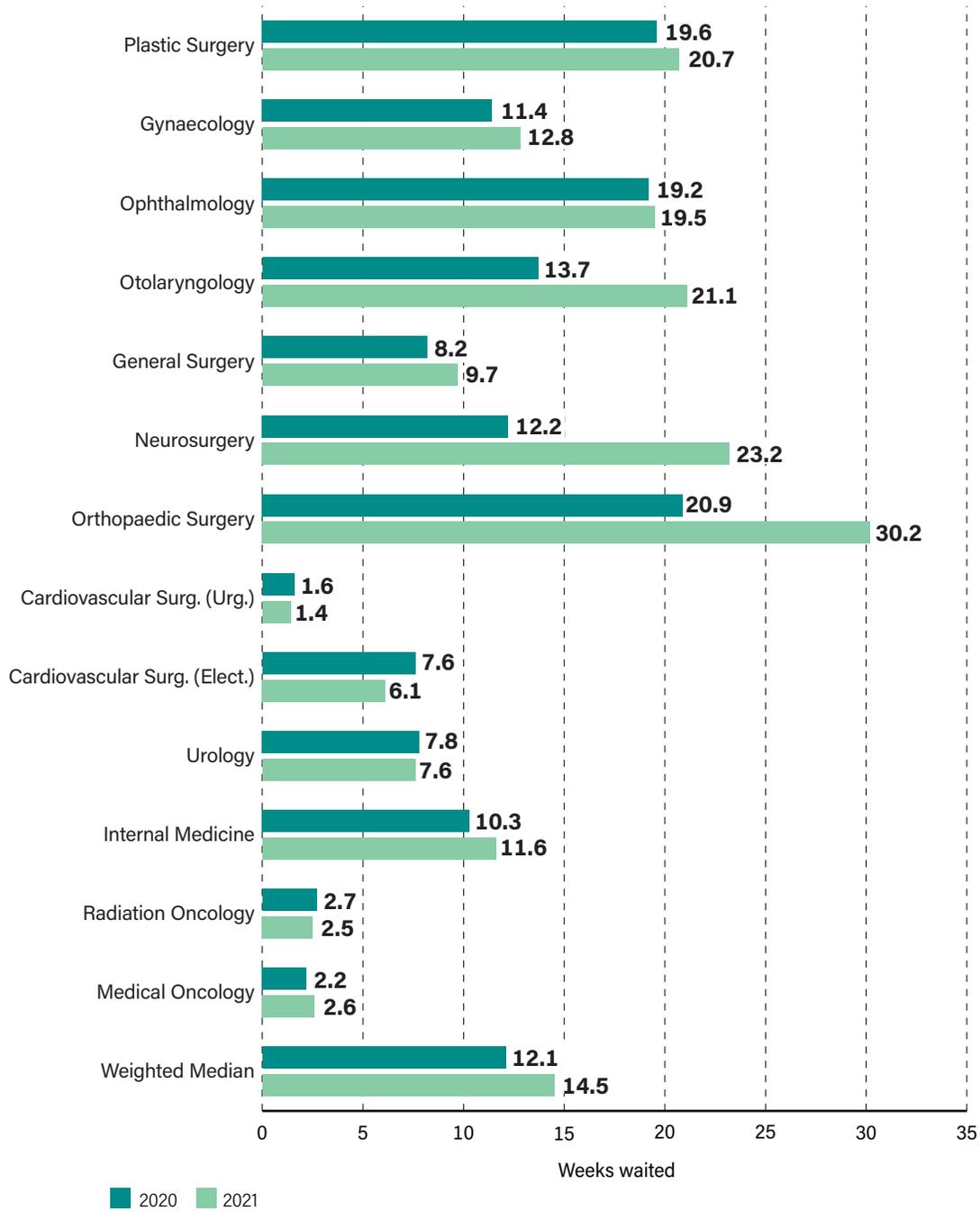
For the second segment—from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment—patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.4 weeks), radiation oncology (2.5 weeks), and medical oncology (2.6 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (30.2 weeks), neurosurgery (23.2 weeks) and otolaryngology (21.1 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 97 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 73% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Prince Edward Island and Ontario have come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable” wait times. However, their actual second-segment waits exceed the corresponding “reasonable” values by substantial percentages, 31% and 54%, respectively (table 10). Further, these two provinces achieve their performance by different means: the “reasonable” wait time in Prince Edward Island is the longest in Canada at 13.4 weeks, while the “reasonable” wait time in Ontario is the second shortest in Canada at 6.7 weeks. The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is 16.9 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.

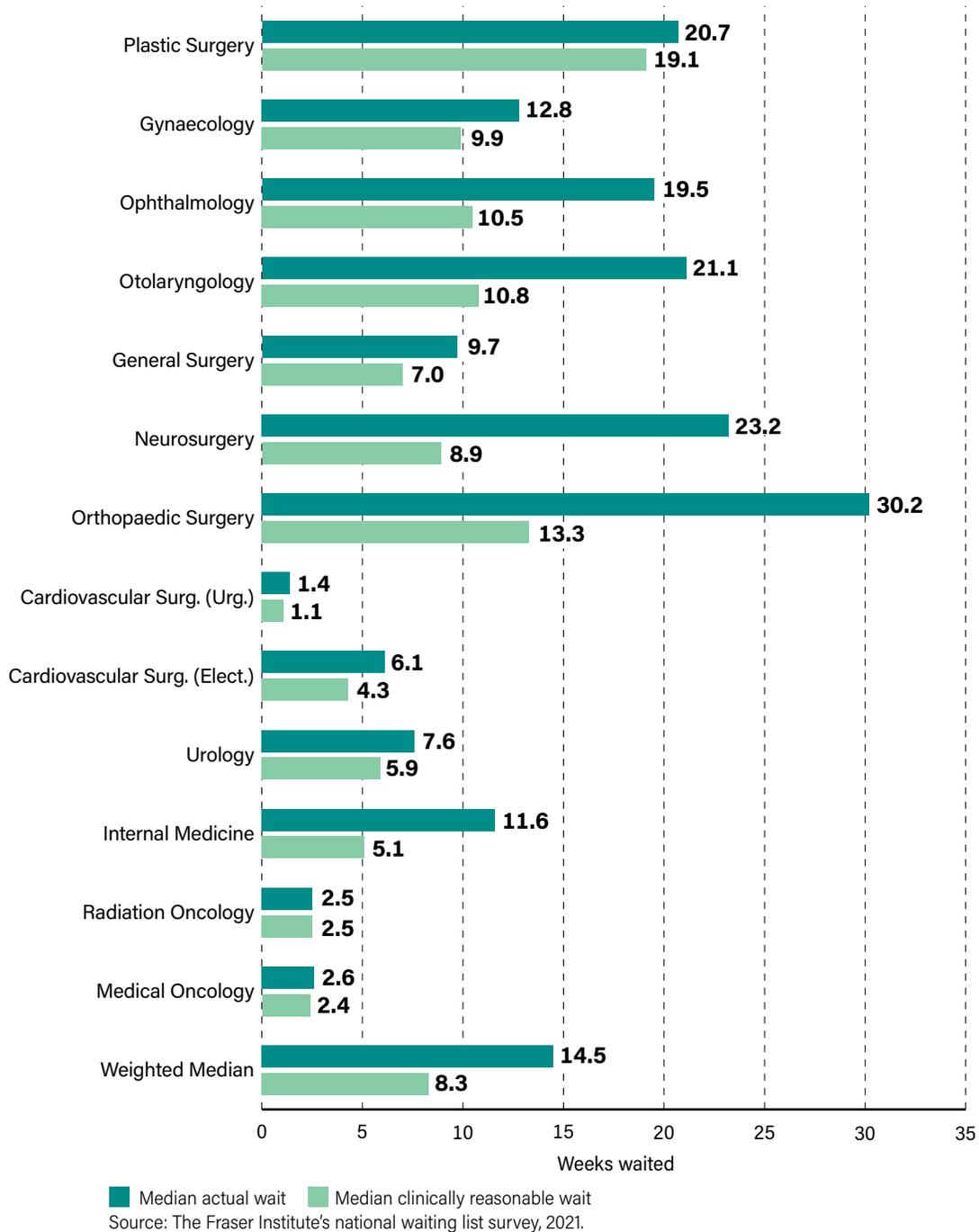
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2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Neurosurgery, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 161%.

Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2020 and 2021—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2020, 2021.

Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait, by specialty, in Canada in 2021—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan has decreased to 5.2 weeks in 2021 from 5.4 weeks in 2020. Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland & Labrador had the shortest wait for a CT scan (4.0 weeks), while the longest waits occur in Alberta (10.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has decreased to 10.2 weeks in 2021 from 11.1 weeks in 2020. Patients in Ontario faced the shortest wait for an MRI (6.0 weeks), while residents of Alberta wait longest (24.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound increased in 2021 to 3.6 weeks from 3.5 weeks in 2020. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario have the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Prince Edward Island has the longest: 16.0 weeks (chart 7).

Chart 7: Waiting for technology—weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2021, 2020, and 2019

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
British Columbia	6.0	6.0	6.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	5.0	6.0	4.0
Alberta	10.0	14.0	7.0	24.0	26.0	15.0	2.0	2.8	2.0
Saskatchewan	4.0	4.0	2.5	12.0	8.5	6.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Manitoba	6.0	4.0	4.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	6.0	6.3	5.0
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	9.5	8.0	5.0	4.0	5.0
New Brunswick	8.0	4.5	6.0	16.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	7.0
Nova Scotia	5.5	4.0	5.0	17.5	12.0	16.0	6.0	4.0	10.0
Prince Edward Island	8.0	4.0	5.0	21.3	14.0	18.0	16.0	17.0	5.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	4.0	3.0	4.0	8.0	4.5	7.0	6.0	4.5	6.0
Canada	5.2	5.4	4.8	10.2	11.1	9.3	3.6	3.5	3.4

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

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 2021 is 1,425,517 (table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis), an increase of 16% from the estimated 1,224,198 procedures in 2020. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting decreased in two provinces, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.7% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2021, which varies from a low of 2.96% of the population in Ontario to a high of 10.76% 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 January 15 and July 27, 2021. 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, 1,178 responses were received, for an overall response rate of 9% (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 2020, 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 (2021) as well as, for 2019/20, from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2021a), the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2021b), and the Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB) (CIHI, 2021c) 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.

Finally, there are a number of reasons for readers to exercise caution while interpreting the results of this—and the previous—years' surveys. 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 the past two years.

By design, these measures will likely lead to longer expected wait times than otherwise. In addition, the uncertainty regarding the length of these measures at the time led to a significant reduction in the response rates, either because physicians could not be reached since clinics were closed, physicians' offices were not taking new patients, or respondents were unsure how long the provincial measures would remain in effect.

As a result, the survey-collection window for this version of *Waiting Your Turn* was slightly longer than that used in years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, for example, data were collected between January 9 and April 26. This year, survey data was collected between January 15 and July 27.

Despite the extended survey period, this year's response rate (9%) 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. The authors recommend particular caution this year when interpreting the wait times for treatment in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador.

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, and cardiac bypass surgery in many provinces are already

within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50% of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider “reasonable”. [7] This year, however, the median wait time for cataract surgery and hip/knee replacements exceeds the pan-Canadian Benchmark wait time.

Chart 8: Pan-Canadian benchmark wait times and *Waiting Your Turn* 2021

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	2.4 (1.0-6.6)	2.6 (2.2-4.4)
Hip replacements	within 26 weeks	34.1 (20.0-52.0)	13.8 (6.0-26.0)
Knee replacements	within 26 weeks	34.1 (20.0-52.0)	13.8 (6.0-26.0)
Cataract surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	21.3 (12.0-52.0)	11.4 (7.5-16.0)
Cardiac bypass surgery [2]	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.3 (0.0-1.0)/Urgent: 1.3 (1.0-2.1)/Elective: 5.5 (4.0-9.0)	Emergent: 0.3 (0.0-1.0)/Urgent: 1.3 (0.5-3.0)/Elective: 5.2 (4.0-8.0)

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”. [2] Data for cardiac bypass surgery was unavailable for eight provinces. National estimates are based on data from British Columbia and Quebec.

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005; and The Fraser Institute’s National Waiting List Survey, 2021.

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 2021 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that, at 25.6 weeks, the total waiting time for elective, medically necessary, treatment across the provinces is higher than last year's wait time of 22.6 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 (2021) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$2,254 in 2020 if only hours during the normal working week were considered "lost", and as much as \$6,838 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 0.9% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2020/21. Physicians also report that only about 14.4% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 51.7% 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".

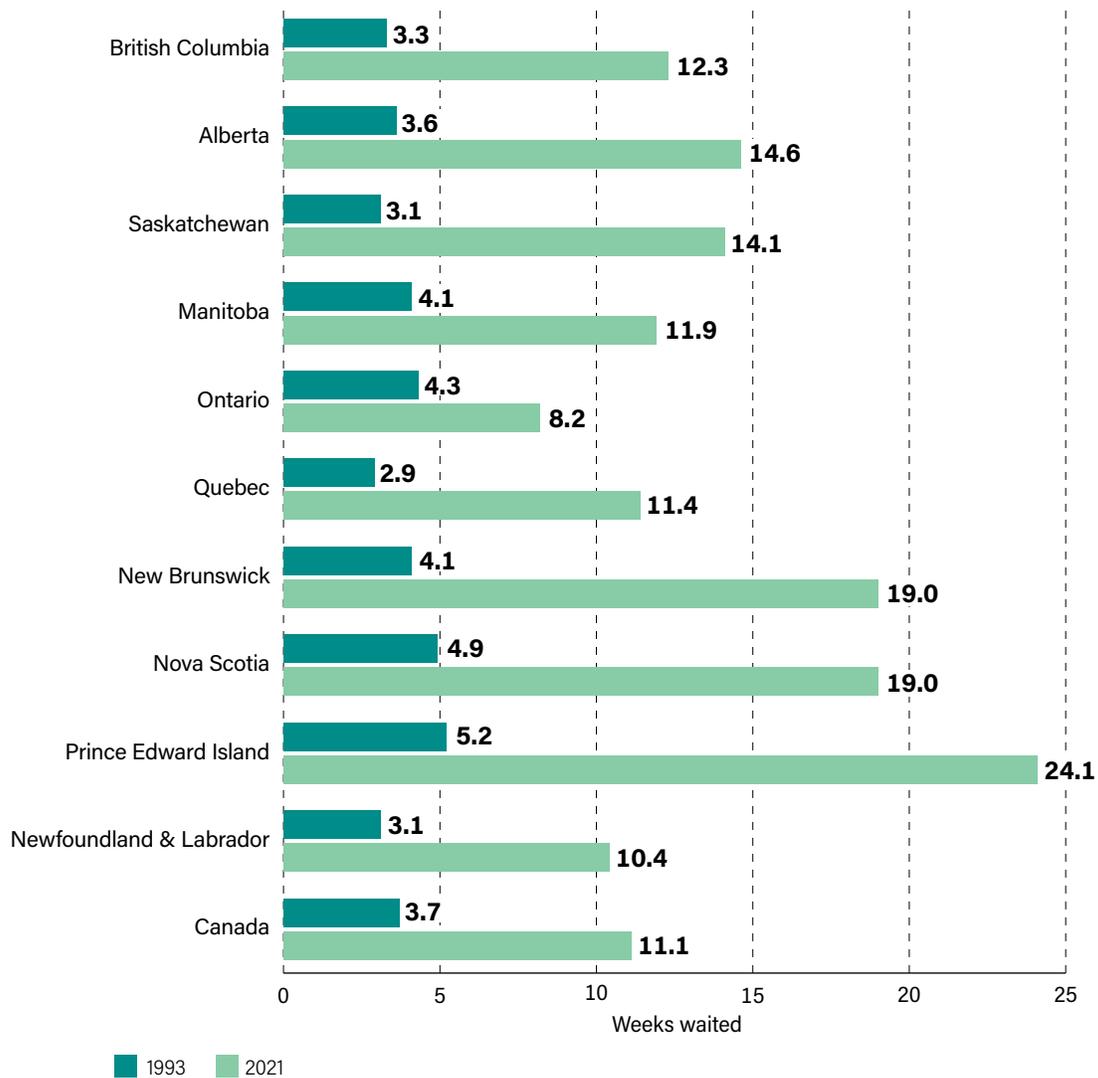
Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median actual waiting times, 1993 and 2021

Graphs 7–8: Median reasonable waiting times, 1994 and 2021

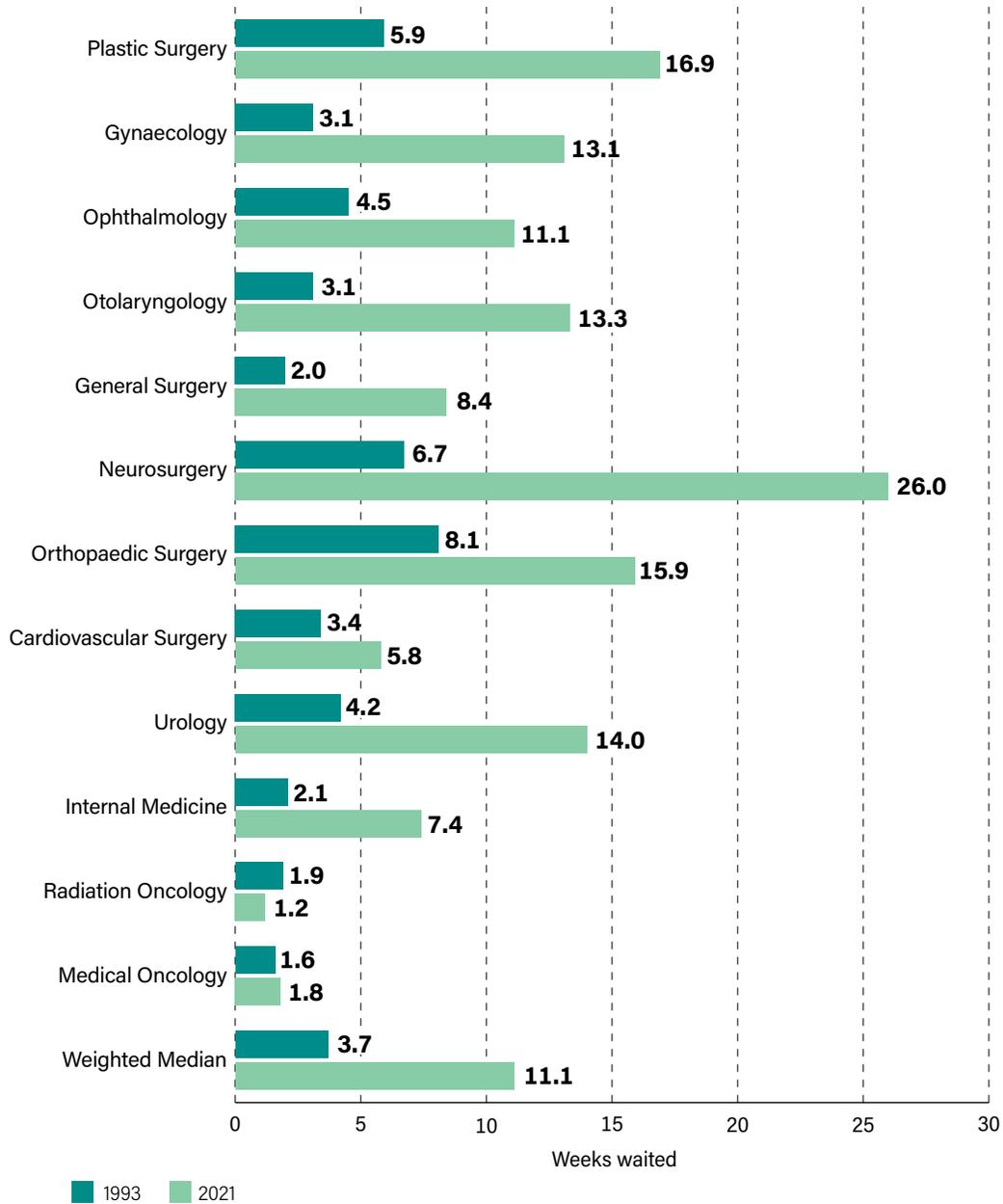
Graphs 9–19: Actual compared to reasonable waiting times, 1994 to 2021, by province

Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2021

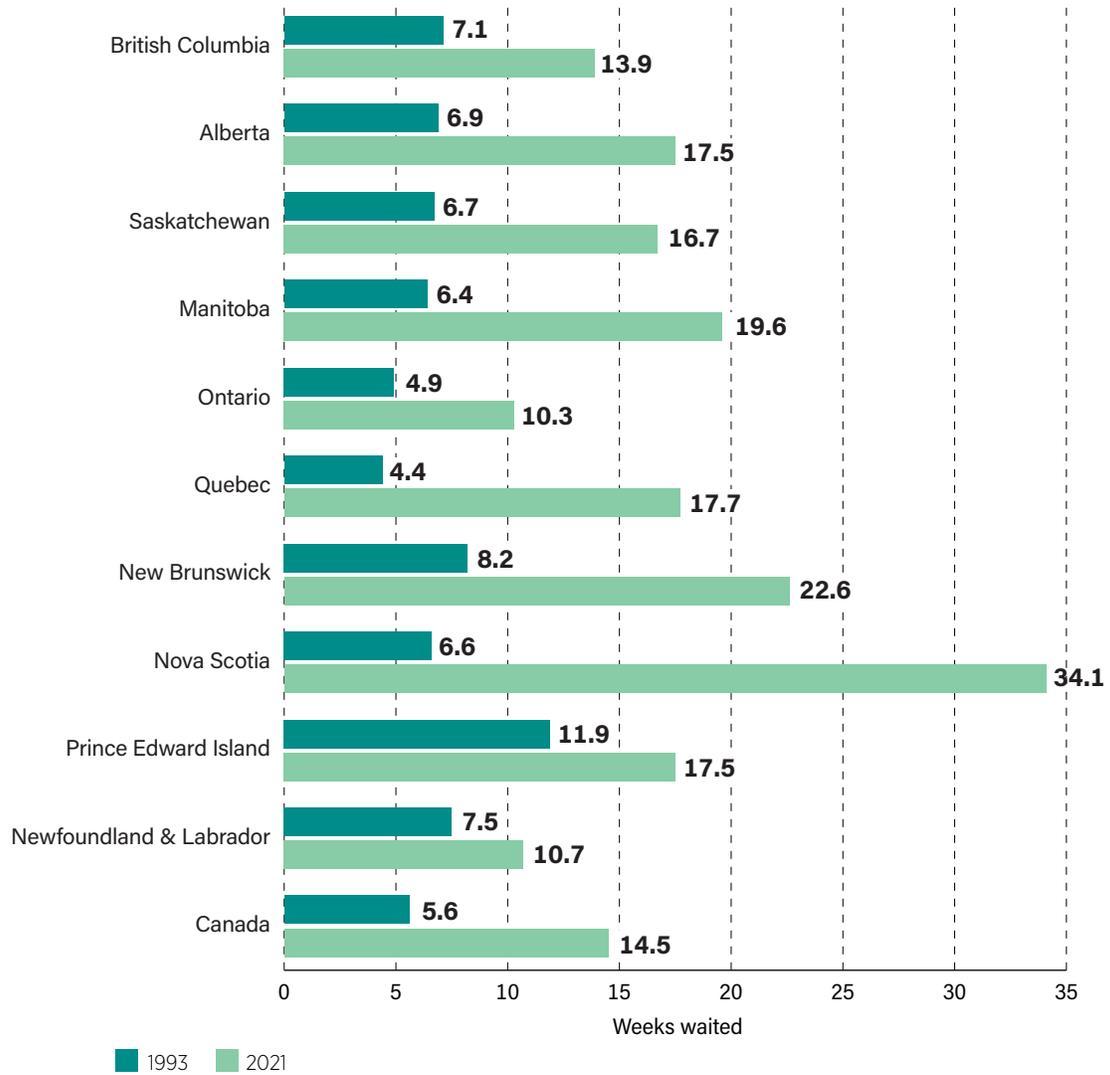


Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2021

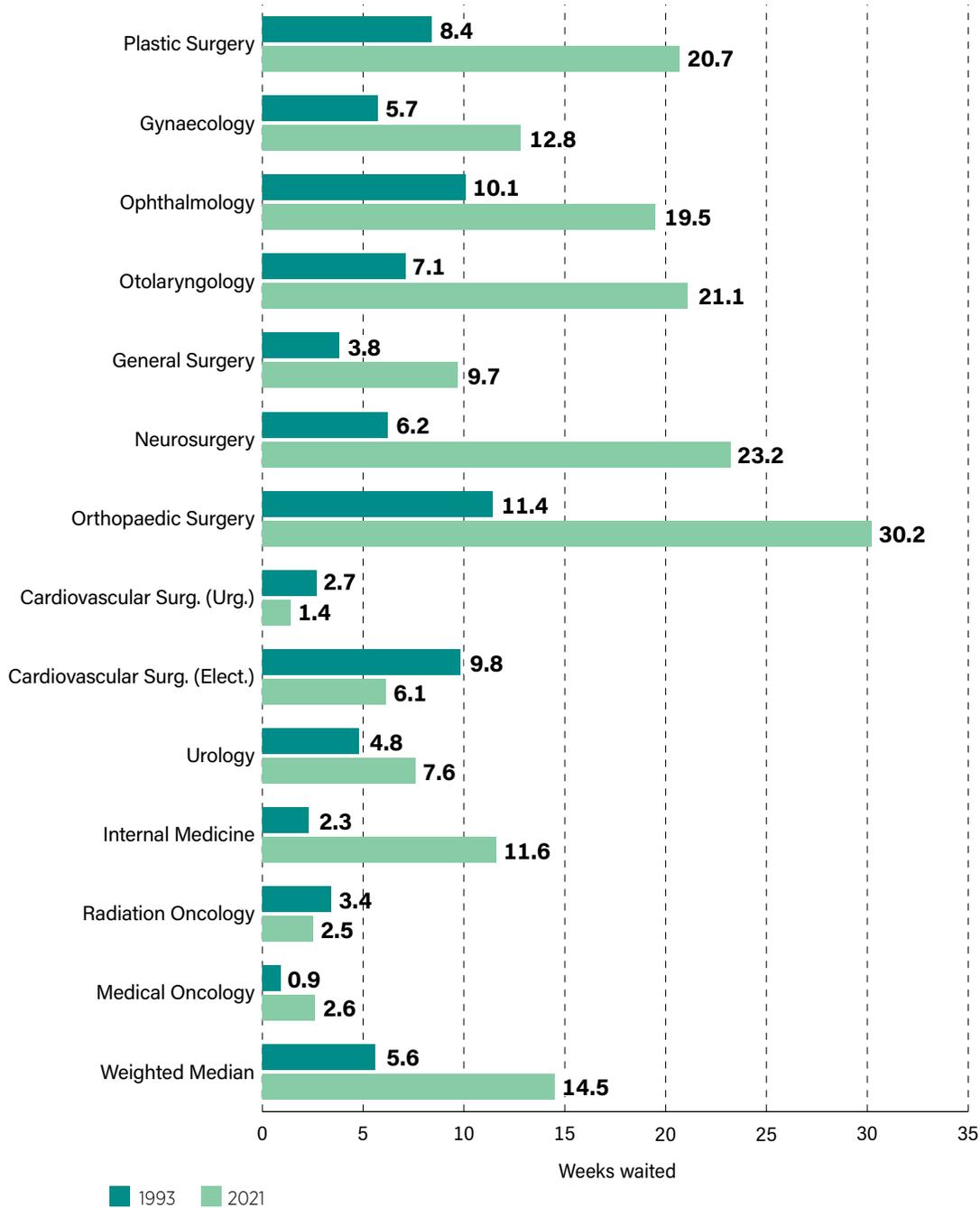


Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2021



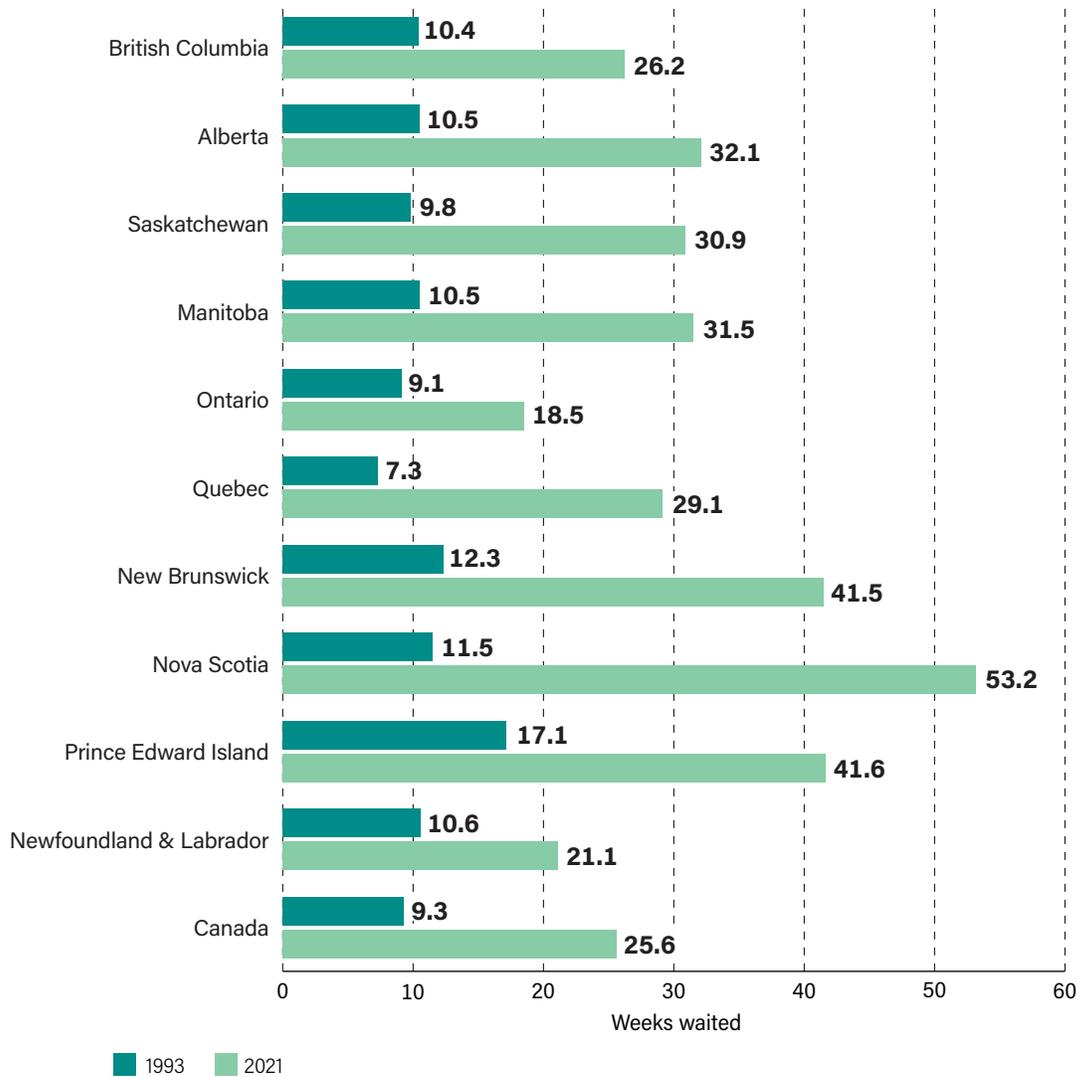
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2021



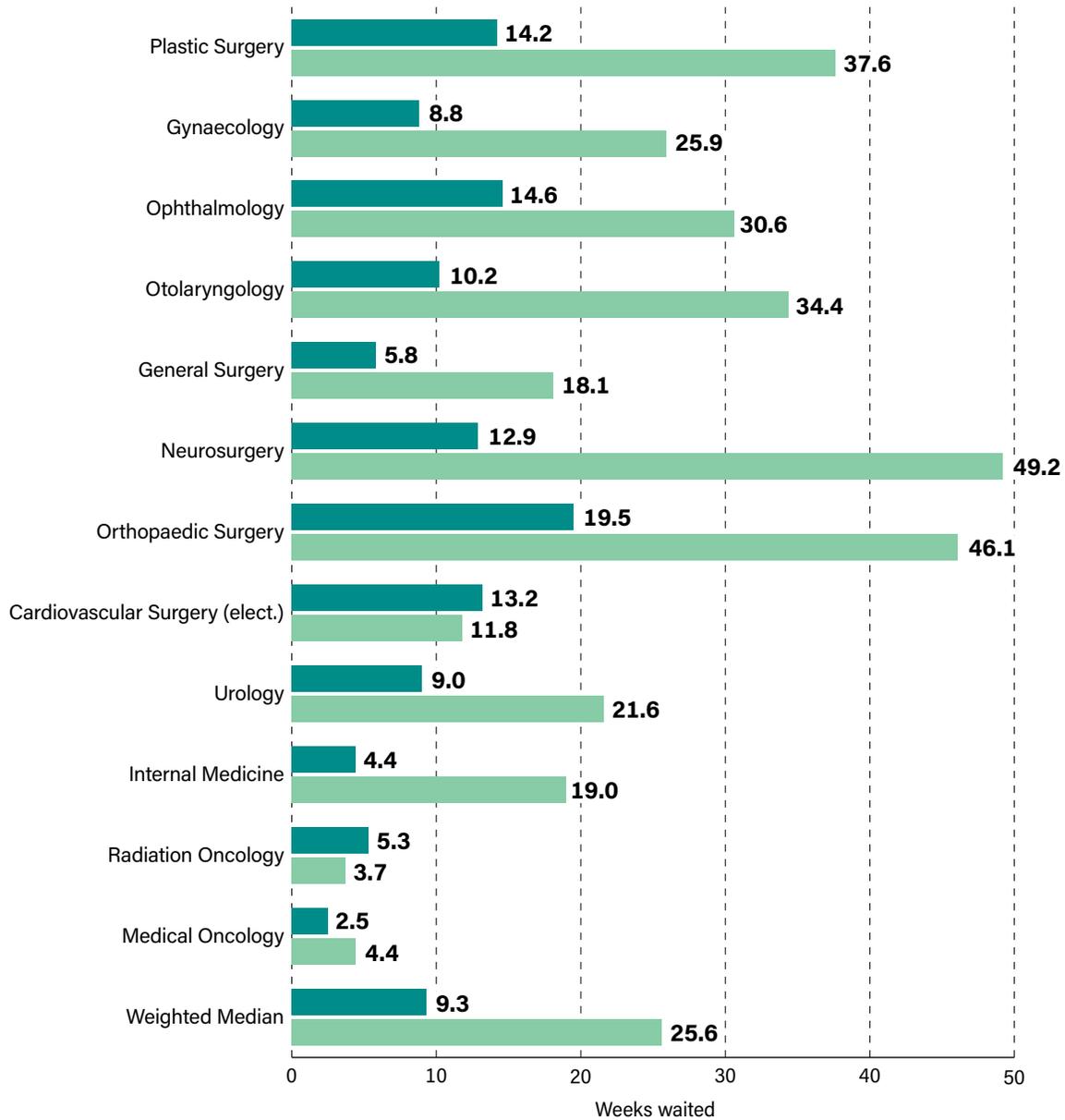
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2021



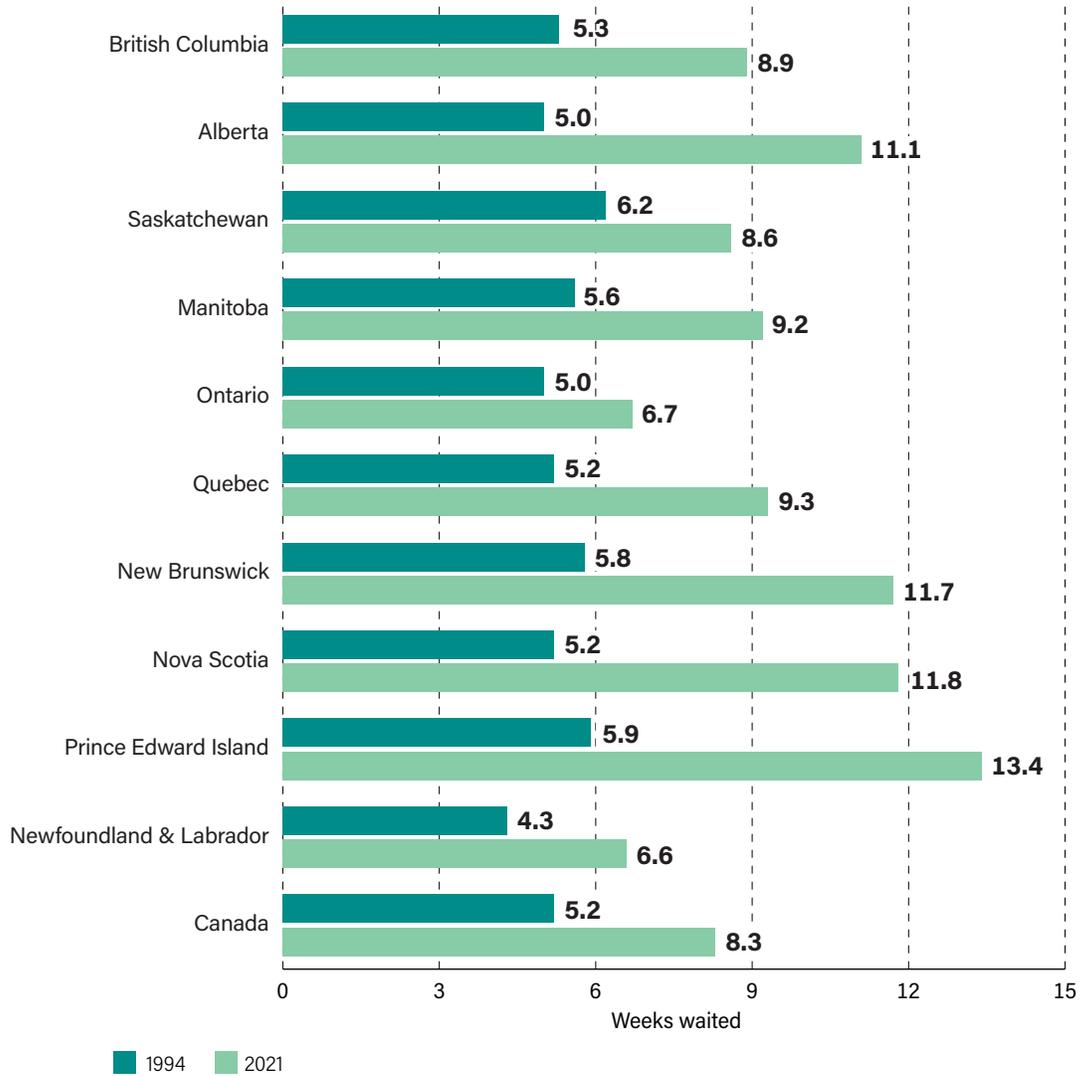
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2021



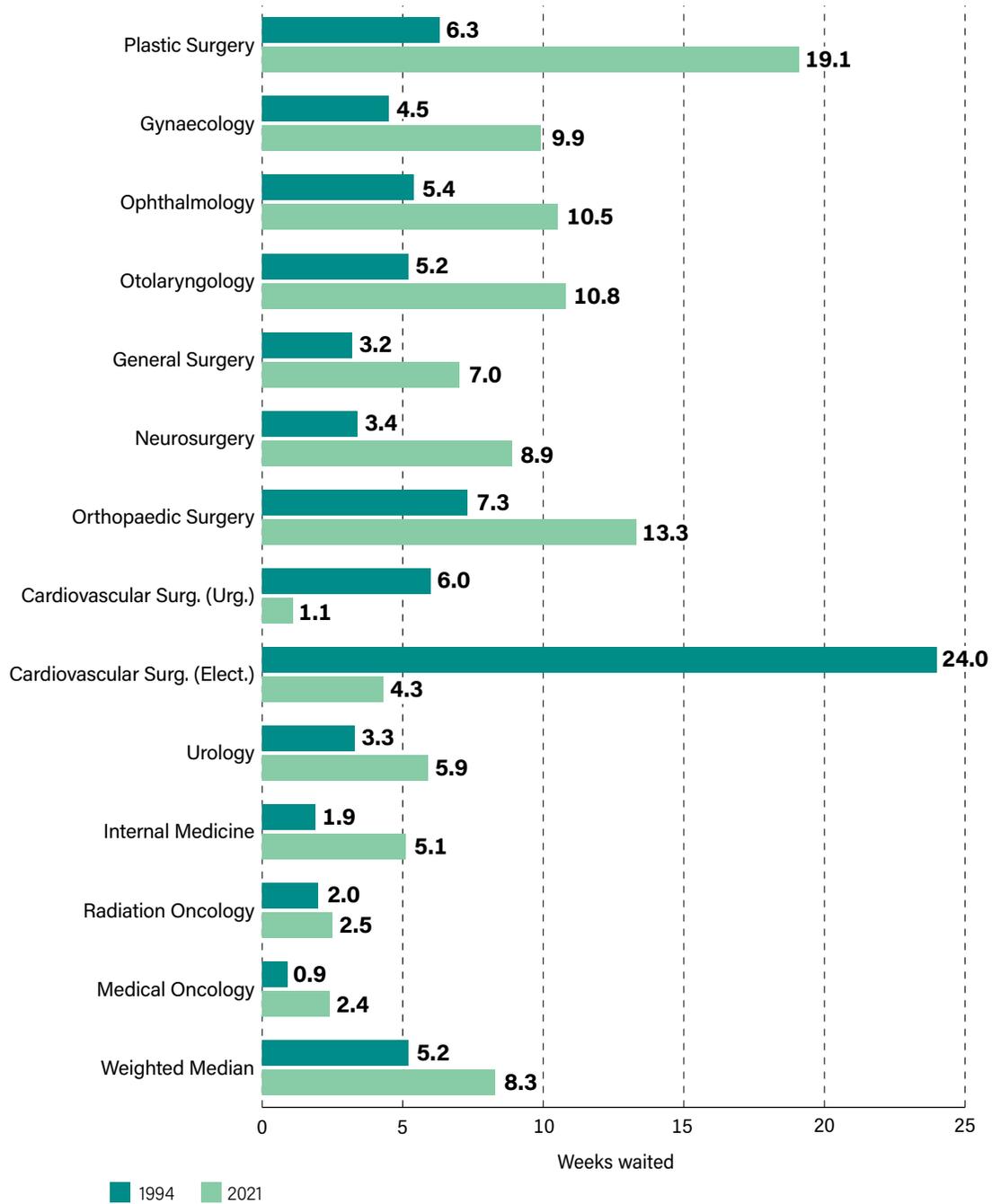
■ 1993 ■ 2021
 Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2021



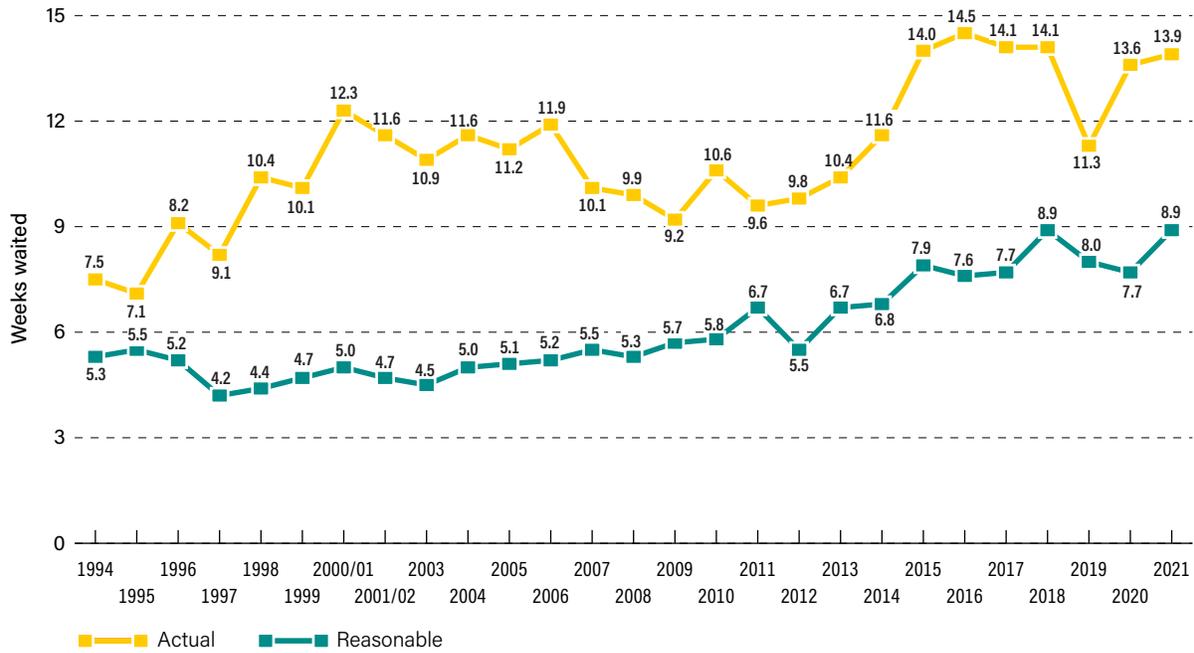
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2021



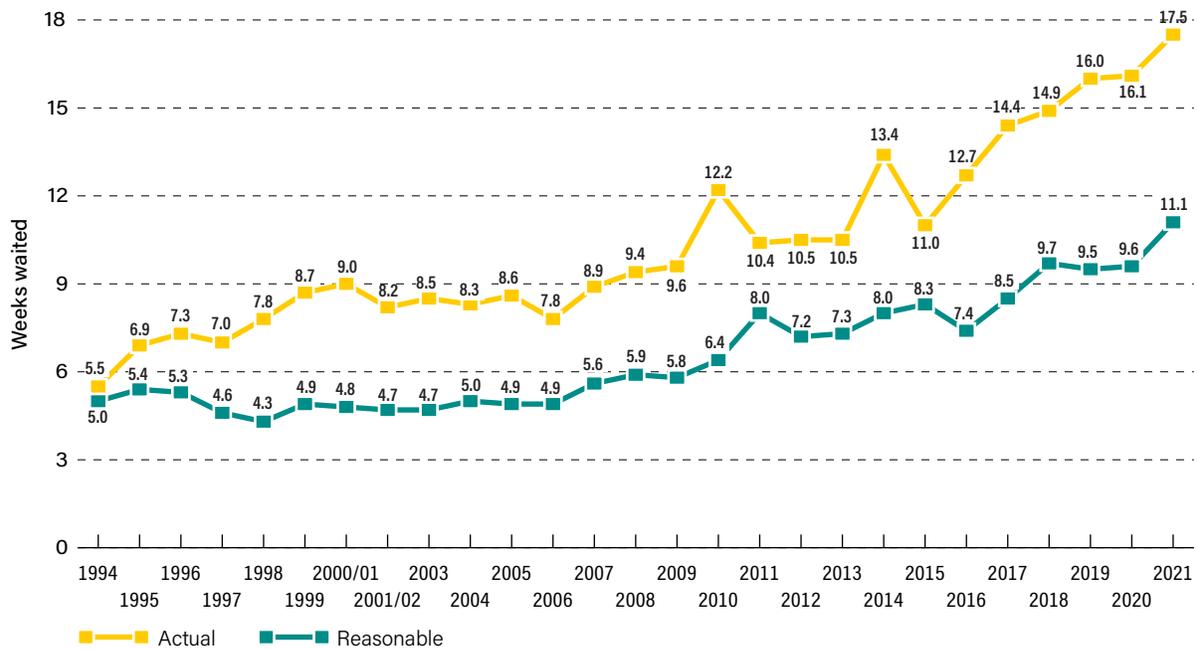
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2021; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



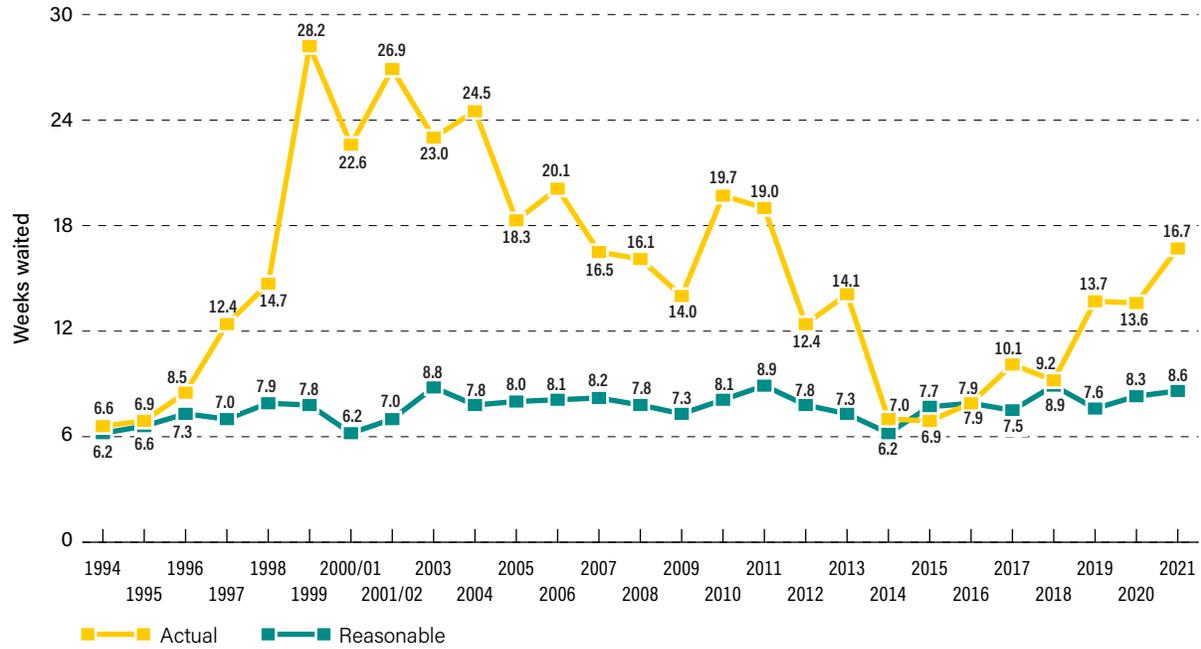
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 10: Alberta—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



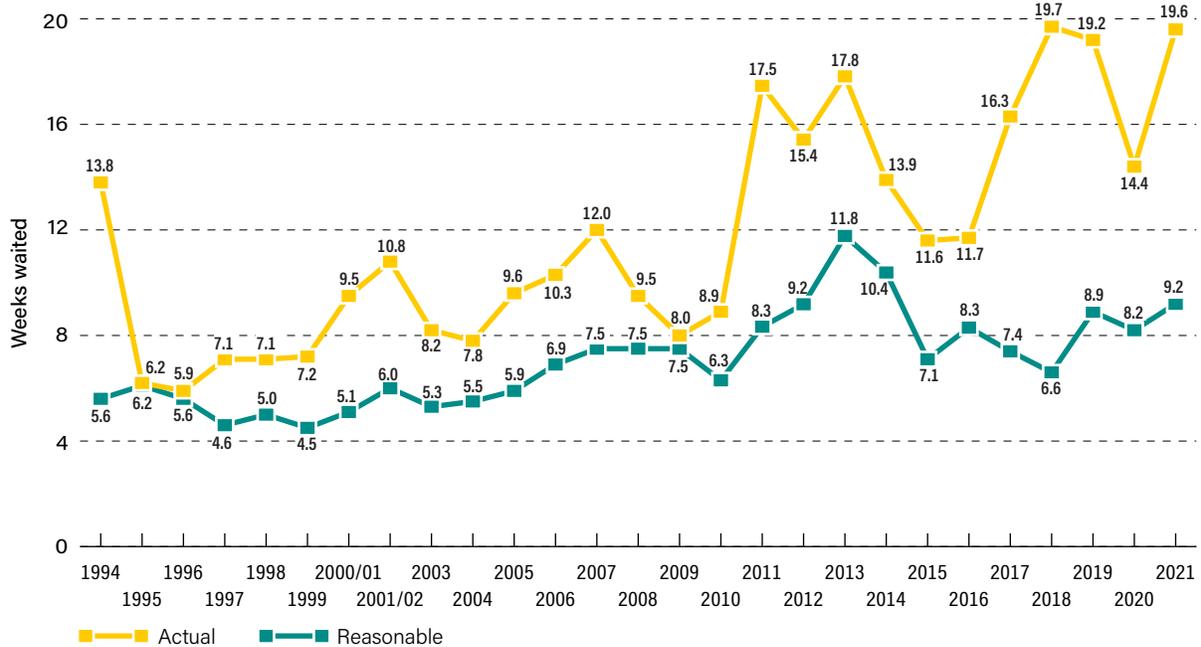
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



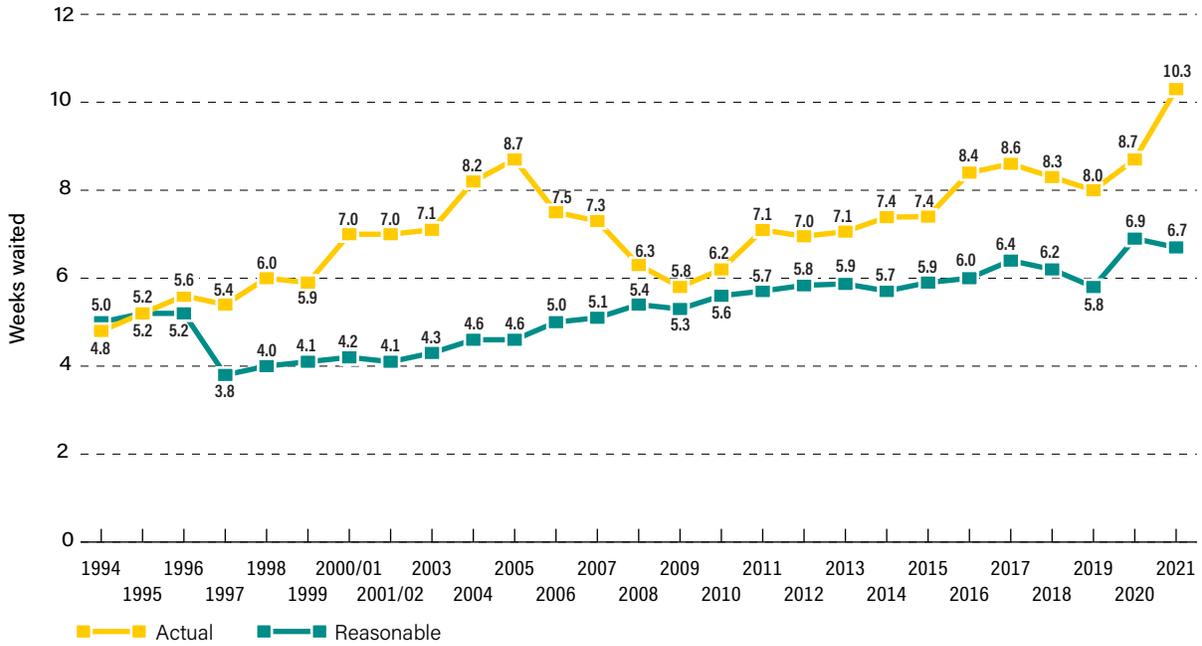
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 12: Manitoba—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



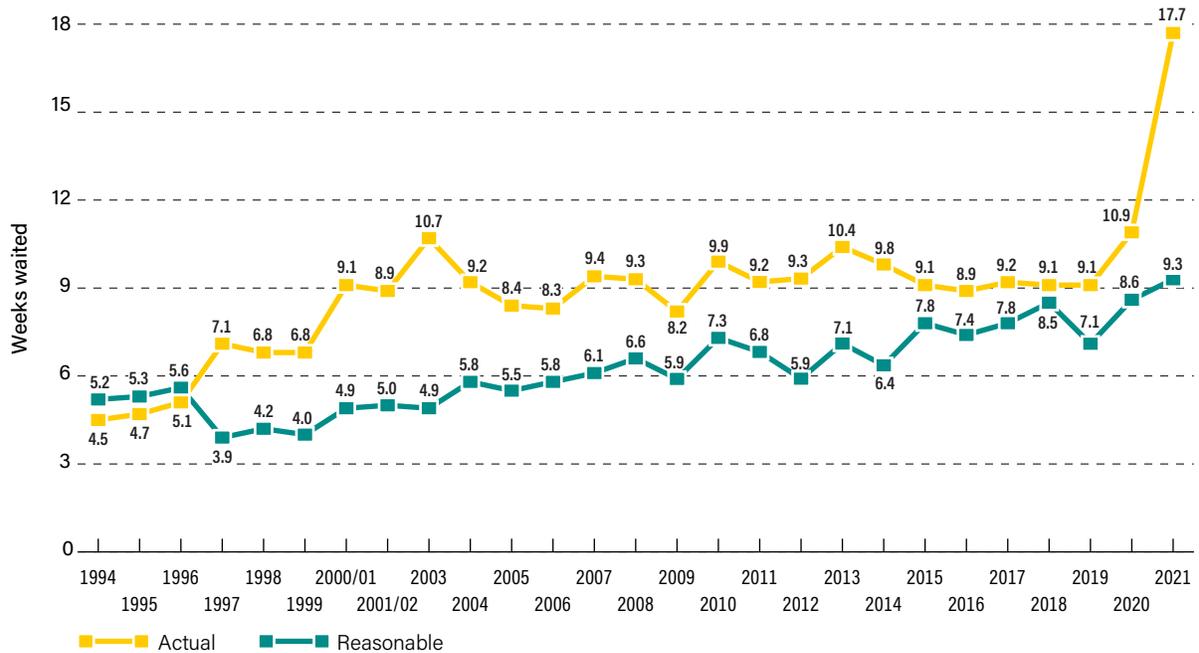
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 13: Ontario—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



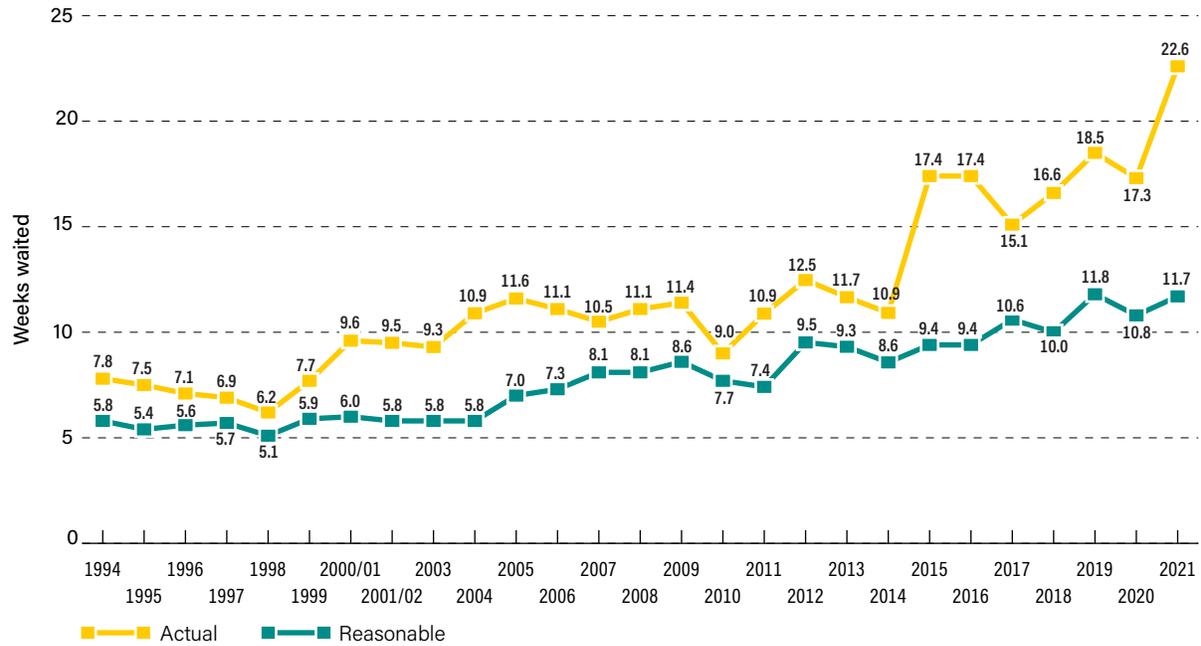
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 14: Quebec—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



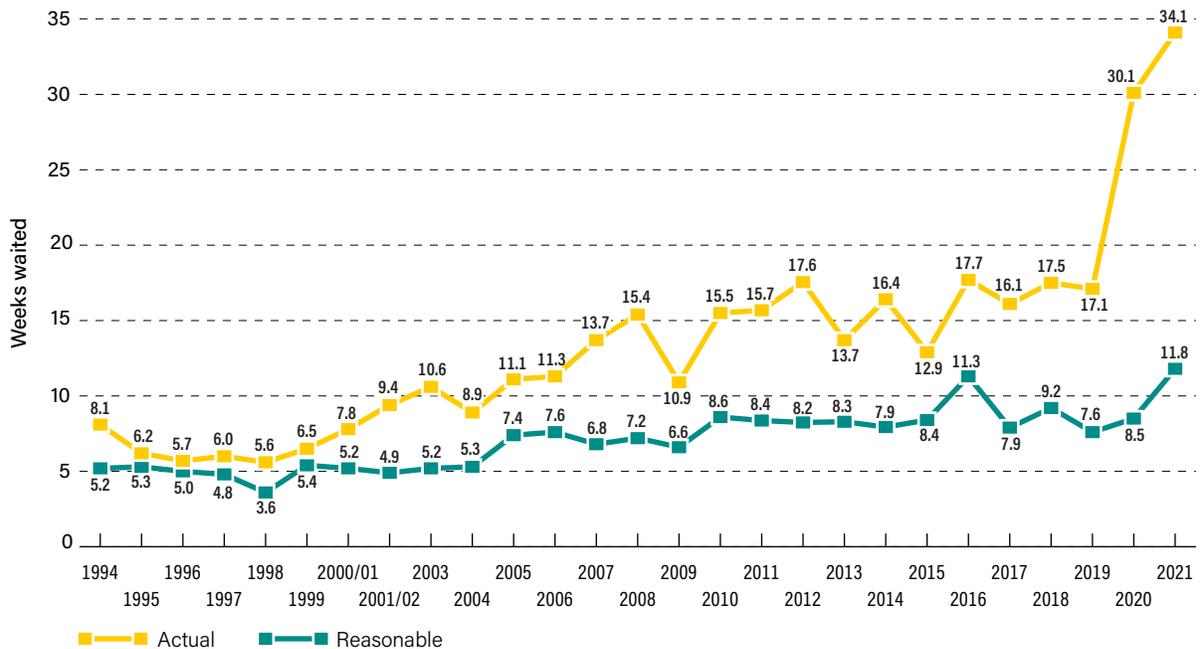
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



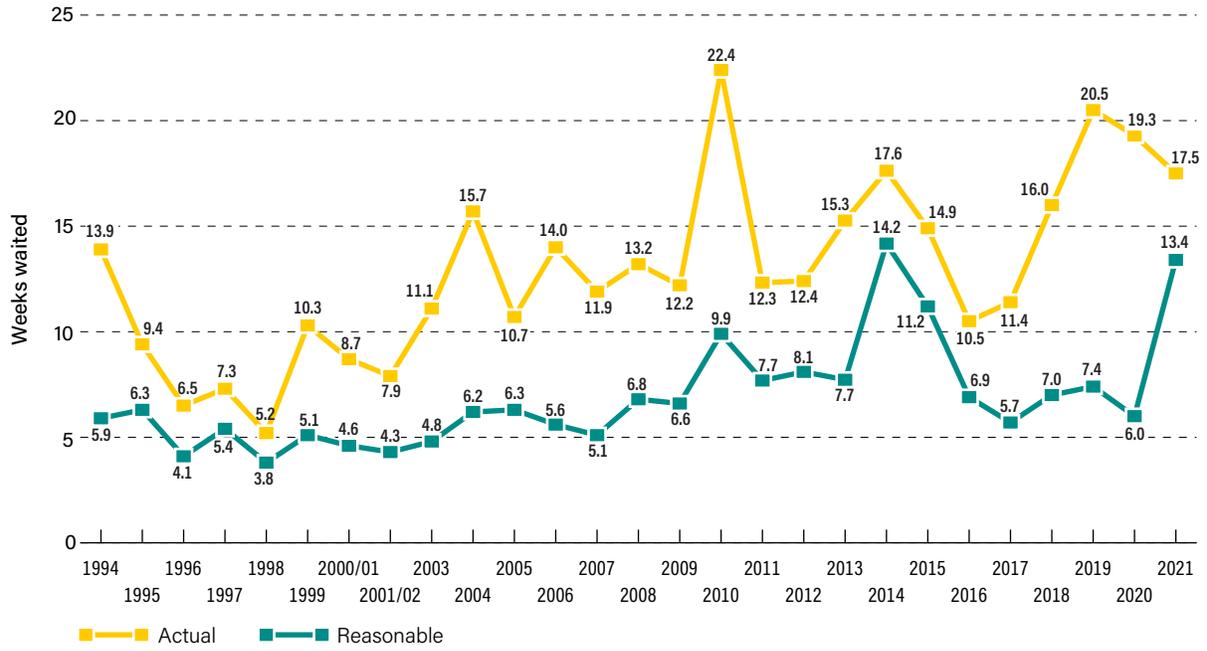
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



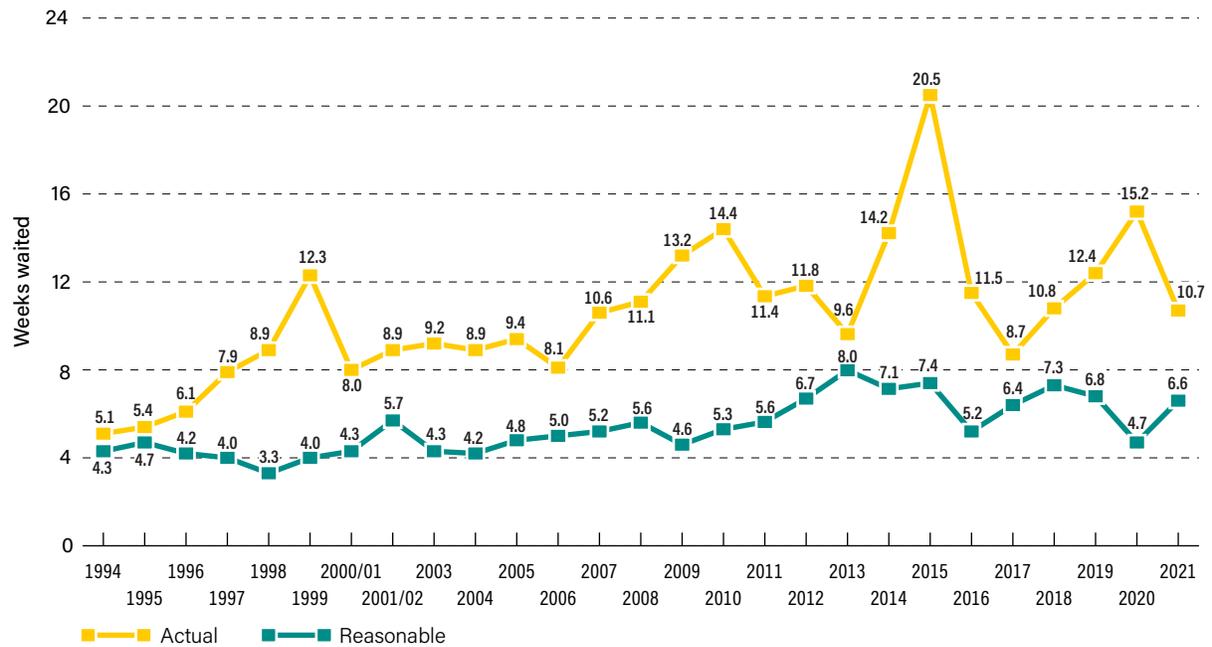
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



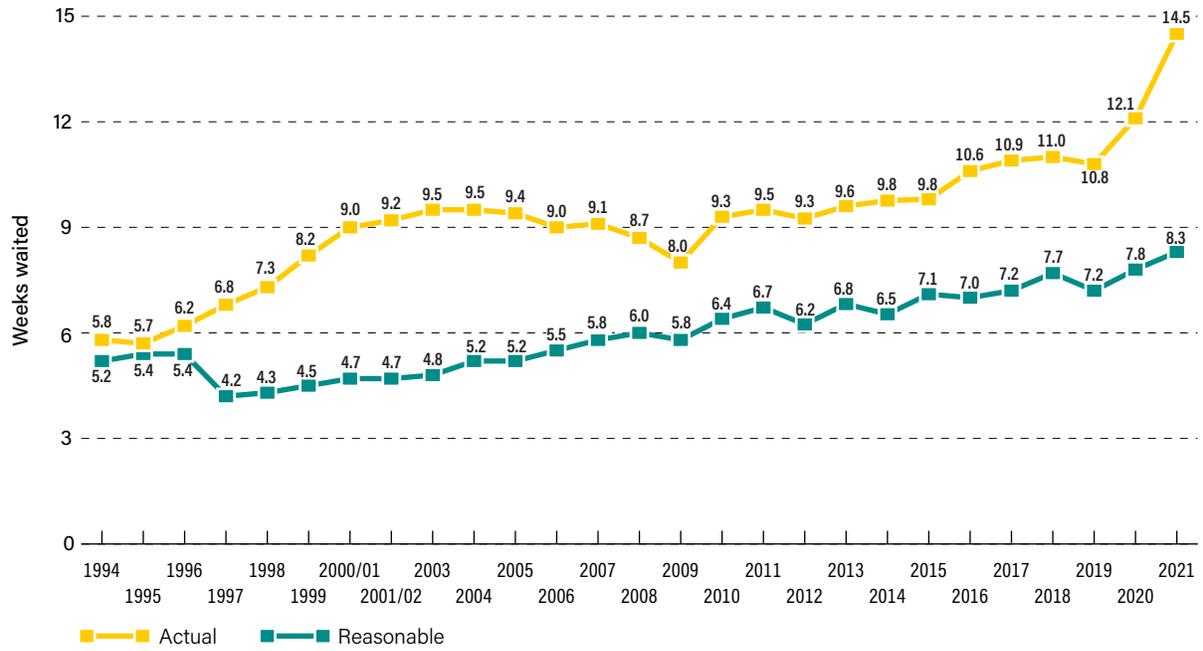
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Graph 19: Canada—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2021



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2021.

Selected tables

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Table 7: Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2021—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges

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Table 11: Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, 2021

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Table 13A–13L: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, 2021

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2021)—procedures per 100,000 population

Table 15: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2021 and 2020

Table 16a: Acute inpatient procedures, 2019–2020

Table 16b: Same day procedures, 2019–2020

Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2021—response rates (percentages), by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	22%	28%	27%	15%	8%	3%	29%	6%	0%	0%	12%
Gynaecology	18%	14%	18%	28%	8%	8%	19%	18%	60%	4%	11%
Ophthalmology	18%	16%	27%	32%	10%	11%	25%	17%	40%	8%	14%
Otolaryngology	26%	29%	31%	20%	8%	11%	62%	15%	100%	18%	16%
General Surgery	14%	12%	17%	19%	6%	3%	24%	7%	33%	6%	8%
Neurosurgery	17%	21%	23%	10%	6%	5%	0%	30%	—	0%	10%
Orthopaedic Surgery	19%	12%	13%	13%	10%	6%	39%	9%	67%	9%	11%
Cardiovascular Surgery	20%	5%	0%	0%	4%	3%	13%	11%	—	50%	8%
Urology	17%	15%	60%	38%	7%	5%	50%	18%	0%	11%	12%
Internal Medicine	15%	11%	10%	9%	3%	2%	21%	7%	55%	7%	6%
Radiation Oncology	4%	0%	27%	13%	5%	9%	11%	7%	100%	0%	6%
Medical Oncology	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	6%	29%	0%	100%	0%	3%
Total	16%	13%	18%	17%	6%	6%	28%	11%	54%	8%	9%

Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2021—number of responses, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	18	15	3	2	16	3	4	1	0	0	62
Gynaecology	39	24	9	18	56	36	7	8	3	1	201
Ophthalmology	31	15	6	8	41	34	5	6	2	1	149
Otolaryngology	20	17	4	4	21	22	8	4	2	2	104
General Surgery	31	16	11	12	36	15	8	3	2	2	136
Neurosurgery	6	7	3	1	5	4	0	3	—	0	29
Orthopaedic Surgery	42	17	5	6	54	22	13	4	2	2	167
Cardiovascular Surgery	14	2	0	0	6	3	1	2	—	3	31
Urology	16	7	6	6	19	9	9	4	0	1	77
Internal Medicine	61	33	7	7	35	13	7	4	6	2	175
Radiation Oncology	3	0	3	2	11	11	1	1	2	0	34
Medical Oncology	1	1	0	0	5	2	2	0	2	0	13
Total	282	154	57	66	305	174	65	40	21	14	1,178

Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2021—number of questionnaires mailed out, by specialty

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	83	54	11	13	211	113	14	16	2	5	522
Gynaecology	213	173	50	65	716	478	36	44	5	28	1,808
Ophthalmology	176	96	22	25	398	311	20	35	5	13	1,101
Otolaryngology	78	58	13	20	248	200	13	26	2	11	669
General Surgery	215	138	63	63	640	454	34	44	6	31	1,688
Neurosurgery	35	34	13	10	90	82	8	10	—	3	285
Orthopaedic Surgery	222	143	38	46	553	349	33	47	3	23	1,457
Cardiovascular Surgery	69	37	15	12	149	92	8	19	—	6	407
Urology	92	48	10	16	254	165	18	22	1	9	635
Internal Medicine	407	314	69	79	1,245	648	34	56	11	29	2,892
Radiation Oncology	84	51	11	16	208	126	9	15	2	9	531
Medical Oncology	93	59	4	18	207	32	7	15	2	9	446
Total	1,767	1,205	319	383	4,919	3,050	234	349	39	176	12,441

Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2021 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	71.0	27.7	98.3	43.2	18.0	36.9	72.4	—	—	—	37.6
Gynaecology	35.5	28.2	11.1	14.6	18.7	28.7	41.4	71.4	119.2	20.9	25.9
Ophthalmology	33.2	26.1	27.6	48.5	26.0	31.5	59.1	42.5	51.7	—	30.6
Otolaryngology	26.3	47.6	54.5	42.9	25.6	23.5	59.6	203.6	55.5	12.0	34.4
General Surgery	19.3	14.0	13.0	13.5	17.3	17.6	23.6	51.8	22.3	4.6	18.1
Neurosurgery	38.0	26.8	67.5	97.2	61.3	33.3	—	38.9	—	—	49.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	45.4	75.2	83.8	98.0	27.1	49.5	58.8	50.7	63.8	33.5	46.1
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	18.7	35.2	—	—	6.5	7.5	20.8	24.0	—	12.0	11.8
Urology	20.1	43.4	23.6	13.2	10.5	56.3	25.1	40.4	—	50.5	21.6
Internal Medicine	22.1	32.8	24.4	11.2	12.8	12.6	22.3	34.4	23.2	62.5	19.0
Radiation Oncology	10.6	—	5.0	3.7	3.0	4.1	4.1	6.8	2.0	—	3.7
Medical Oncology	13.0	6.0	—	—	2.5	7.9	3.3	—	7.0	—	4.4
Weighted Median	26.2	32.1	30.9	31.5	18.5	29.1	41.5	53.2	41.6	21.1	25.6

* 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, 2021 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	36.0	16.8	30.0	12.0	7.0	12.0	39.0	67.0	—	—	16.9
Gynaecology	24.0	14.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	26.0	52.0	104.0	16.0	13.1
Ophthalmology	12.0	7.0	12.0	6.5	8.0	14.0	24.0	30.0	23.0	—	11.1
Otolaryngology	12.0	24.0	7.5	14.5	13.0	8.0	45.0	16.0	52.0	4.0	13.3
General Surgery	12.0	4.5	4.0	5.5	9.5	3.5	5.0	15.0	16.0	1.0	8.4
Neurosurgery	24.0	17.0	52.0	80.0	29.0	12.0	—	30.0	—	—	26.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	9.0	41.0	52.0	50.0	7.5	11.0	22.0	10.0	23.0	10.0	15.9
Cardiovascular Surgery	12.0	29.0	—	—	2.5	2.0	9.0	12.0	—	8.0	5.8
Urology	14.0	36.0	18.0	6.0	6.0	39.0	16.0	16.5	—	26.0	14.0
Internal Medicine	8.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	11.0	9.0	52.5	7.4
Radiation Oncology	4.0	—	2.3	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.5	3.5	1.0	—	1.2
Medical Oncology	6.0	4.0	—	—	1.3	1.0	1.5	—	3.5	—	1.8
Weighted Median	12.3	14.6	14.1	11.9	8.2	11.4	19.0	19.0	24.1	10.4	11.1

Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2021 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	35.0	10.9	68.3	31.2	11.0	24.9	33.4	—	—	—	20.7
Gynaecology	11.5	14.2	7.1	8.6	10.7	20.7	15.4	19.4	15.2	4.9	12.8
Ophthalmology	21.2	19.1	15.6	42.0	18.0	17.5	35.1	12.5	28.7	—	19.5
Otolaryngology	14.3	23.6	47.0	28.4	12.6	15.5	14.6	187.6	3.5	8.0	21.1
General Surgery	7.3	9.5	9.0	8.0	7.8	14.1	18.6	36.8	6.3	3.6	9.7
Neurosurgery	14.0	9.8	15.5	17.2	32.3	21.3	—	8.9	—	—	23.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	36.4	34.2	31.8	48.0	19.6	38.5	36.8	40.7	40.8	23.5	30.2
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.1	2.5	—	—	0.8	1.0	2.1	1.5	—	1.0	1.4
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	6.7	6.2	—	—	4.0	5.5	11.8	12.0	—	4.0	6.1
Urology	6.1	7.4	5.6	7.2	4.5	17.3	9.1	23.9	—	24.5	7.6
Internal Medicine	14.1	25.8	20.4	8.2	4.8	7.6	14.3	23.4	14.2	10.0	11.6
Radiation Oncology	6.6	—	2.8	1.9	2.0	3.1	2.6	3.3	1.0	—	2.5
Medical Oncology	7.0	2.0	—	—	1.3	6.9	1.8	—	3.5	—	2.6
Weighted Median	13.9	17.5	16.7	19.6	10.3	17.7	22.6	34.1	17.5	10.7	14.5

Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	51.0	12.0	104.0	39.0	12.0	18.0	52.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	23.0	8.0	104.0	34.0	12.0	25.0	14.5	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	26.0	9.0	56.0	20.0	6.0	4.0	12.0	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	24.0	8.0	30.0	20.0	10.0	8.0	36.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	26.0	12.0	74.0	22.0	12.0	50.0	10.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	20.0	10.0	18.0	33.5	7.5	29.0	8.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	39.1	12.0	67.0	—	15.0	50.0	—	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	8.0	2.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	6.0	4.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	35.0	10.9	68.3	31.2	11.0	24.9	33.4	—	—	—

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

Table 5B: Gynaecology (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	5.0	10.0	6.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	6.0	8.0	5.5	3.0
Tubal Ligation	16.0	24.0	10.5	8.0	12.0	27.0	26.0	20.0	24.0	6.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	18.0	13.5	8.3	12.0	14.5	25.0	18.0	24.0	24.0	6.0
Vaginal Repair	16.0	24.0	9.0	14.0	16.0	26.0	24.0	30.0	16.0	7.0
Tuboplasty	7.0	12.0	14.0	9.5	16.0	52.0	24.0	38.0	16.0	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	16.0	14.0	6.0	8.8	12.0	24.0	12.0	24.0	24.0	7.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	10.0	12.0	4.5	6.5	11.0	20.0	14.0	20.0	12.0	6.0
Weighted Median	11.5	14.2	7.1	8.6	10.7	20.7	15.4	19.4	15.2	4.9

Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	22.0	24.0	12.0	52.0	18.5	20.0	36.0	12.0	29.0	—
Cornea Transplant	19.0	52.0	59.5	—	35.0	19.5	48.0	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	12.0	16.0	42.0	16.0	8.0	12.0	24.0	29.0	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	18.0	20.0	16.0	—	12.0	12.0	8.0	—	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	—	1.5	20.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	16.0	17.0	56.0	36.0	32.0	12.0	36.0	29.0	14.0	—
Strabismus	18.0	27.0	84.0	—	84.0	28.0	24.0	—	26.0	—
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	10.0	20.0	56.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	21.0	12.0	—
Glaucoma	11.0	7.0	10.0	—	10.0	8.0	13.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	21.2	19.1	15.6	42.0	18.0	17.5	35.1	12.5	28.7	—

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	9.0	12.0	10.0	15.0	10.0	8.0	7.0	10.0	3.0	3.5
Tympanoplasty	24.0	24.0	8.0	33.5	12.0	24.0	24.0	336.0	4.0	5.5
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	12.0	45.0	18.5	12.0	10.0	12.0	171.0	7.0	7.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	27.0	78.0	33.5	16.0	24.0	17.0	254.0	3.3	18.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	18.0	36.0	52.0	33.5	10.0	24.0	24.0	254.0	3.0	8.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	18.0	36.0	52.0	33.5	12.0	20.0	24.0	304.0	4.0	7.0
Weighted Median	14.3	23.6	47.0	28.4	12.6	15.5	14.6	187.6	3.5	8.0

Table 5E: General surgery (2021)—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	14.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	7.0	5.0	3.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	14.0	9.5	10.0	12.0	20.0	12.0	6.5	5.0	3.0
Colonoscopy	14.0	13.5	10.0	10.0	6.0	10.5	54.5	20.0	10.0	5.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	6.0	9.0	6.5	7.0	4.0	7.0	56.8	5.0	3.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	27.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	20.0	24.0	58.5	5.0	8.0
Breast Biopsy	4.0	2.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	2.5	4.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
Mastectomy	2.0	2.8	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	3.0	—	2.0	4.0	—	29.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	2.0	4.0	—	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	6.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	14.0	30.0	104.0	—	—	3.0
Weighted Median	7.3	9.5	9.0	8.0	7.8	14.1	18.6	36.8	6.3	3.6

Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	—	9.0	12.0	—	30.0	—	—	4.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	24.0	18.0	26.0	56.0	20.0	24.0	—	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	39.0	20.0	—	8.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	—	—	—	5.0	48.0	—	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	—	4.0	—	3.5	—	—	12.0	—	—
Weighted Median	14.0	9.8	15.5	17.2	32.3	21.3	—	8.9	—	—

Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	12.0	21.0	14.0	36.0	8.0	16.0	12.0	10.0	54.0	11.5
Removal of Pins	20.0	23.0	18.0	36.0	8.5	26.0	12.0	30.0	38.0	7.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	41.0	40.0	36.0	52.0	20.0	51.0	42.0	52.0	38.0	26.9
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	42.0	22.5	38.0	52.0	12.0	52.0	—	20.0	52.0	16.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	42.0	25.0	22.0	52.0	13.0	26.0	20.0	30.0	52.0	—
Digit Neuroma	42.0	22.5	18.0	52.0	10.0	20.0	—	30.0	26.0	—
Rotator Cuff Repair	21.0	27.0	35.0	18.0	8.0	26.0	24.0	9.0	56.0	—
Ostectomy (All Types)	36.0	30.0	36.0	36.0	17.3	22.0	12.0	30.0	52.0	—
Routine Spinal Instability	24.0	37.0	—	—	85.0	33.0	54.0	12.0	—	24.0
Weighted Median	36.4	34.2	31.8	48.0	19.6	38.5	36.8	40.7	40.8	23.5

Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2021)—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	1.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.5	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	
	Pacemaker Operations	2.0	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.0	—	—	
	Weighted Median	1.5	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.5
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.1	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—	—	
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	2.1	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—	—	
	Aneurysm Surgery	3.0	2.5	—	—	0.0	1.0	3.0	1.5	—	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	2.5	—	—	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.5	—	1.0
	Pacemaker Operations	2.0	—	—	—	—	1.0	2.0	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	2.1	2.5	—	—	0.8	1.0	2.1	1.5	—	1.0
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	9.0	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	—	
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	9.0	—	—	—	—	8.0	—	—	—	
	Aneurysm Surgery	10.0	7.0	—	—	5.0	8.0	52.0	12.0	—	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	16.0	6.0	—	—	3.8	5.0	52.0	12.0	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	4.0	—	—	—	—	5.0	8.0	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	6.7	6.2	—	—	4.0	5.5	11.8	12.0	—	4.0

Table 5I: Urology (2021)—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	6.0	11.5	21.0	24.0	7.0	14.0	14.0	24.8	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	7.8	7.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	25.0	—	12.0
Transurethral Resection —Bladder	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	—	6.0
Radical Cystectomy	4.0	4.0	4.5	6.0	6.0	4.5	7.0	6.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	6.0	6.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	28.0	—	26.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	10.0	12.0	—	15.0	9.0	52.0	22.0	35.0	—	26.0
Bladder Fulguration	6.0	9.0	4.5	3.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	3.3	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	6.0	6.0	—	8.0	10.0	8.0	13.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	6.1	7.4	5.6	7.2	4.5	17.3	9.1	23.9	—	24.5

Table 5J: Internal medicine (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	16.0	30.8	25.0	10.0	5.5	12.0	36.0	30.0	14.5	—
Angiography/ Angioplasty	8.0	2.1	12.0	2.0	2.8	7.0	8.0	4.5	4.5	—
Bronchoscopy	6.0	20.5	12.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	8.0	10.5	3.0	—
Gastroscopy	11.0	8.7	14.0	9.0	5.0	9.5	11.0	2.0	13.0	10.0
Weighted Median	14.1	25.8	20.4	8.2	4.8	7.6	14.3	23.4	14.2	10.0

Table 5K: Radiation oncology (2021)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	3.5	—	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	1.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	—	—	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	—
Lung Cancer	—	—	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	—
Prostate Cancer	6.8	—	3.0	2.3	2.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	—
Breast Cancer	—	—	3.0	1.8	2.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.8	—	1.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	2.0	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.3	—	1.0	0.8	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	—
Weighted Median	6.6	—	2.8	1.9	2.0	3.1	2.6	3.3	1.0	—

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

Table 5L: Medical oncology (2021)—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	7.0	2.0	—	—	1.3	2.0	—	—	3.5	—
Cancer of the Cervix	—	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.0	1.5	—	3.5	—
Lung Cancer	6.0	2.0	—	—	1.0	3.0	1.8	—	3.5	—
Breast Cancer	8.0	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.8	2.0	—	3.5	—
Side Effects from Treatment	3.0	1.0	—	—	0.1	0.0	0.5	—	0.2	—
Weighted Median	7.0	2.0	—	—	1.3	6.9	1.8	—	3.5	—

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, 2021 and 2020

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg
Plastic Surgery	35.02	34.4	2%	10.9	22.6	-52%	68.3	26.39	159%	31.2	17.3	81%	11.0	15.6	-30%
Gynaecology	11.51	14.6	-21%	14.2	14.1	0%	7.1	7.42	-4%	8.6	7.9	10%	10.7	9.6	11%
Ophthalmology	21.17	24.6	-14%	19.1	20.6	-7%	15.6	27.48	-43%	42.0	31.6	33%	18.0	16.4	10%
Otolaryngology	14.33	18.3	-22%	23.6	28.2	-16%	47.0	35.36	33%	28.4	9.2	210%	12.6	9.2	37%
General Surgery	7.26	7.8	-6%	9.5	9.2	3%	9.0	7.19	25%	8.0	7.5	6%	7.8	5.4	44%
Neurosurgery	13.96	21.3	-34%	9.8	14.1	-31%	15.5	18.76	-17%	17.2	11.5	50%	32.3	6.9	370%
Orthopaedic Surgery	36.42	22.4	62%	34.2	23.9	43%	31.8	6.33	402%	48.0	31.3	53%	19.6	18.2	8%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	2.07	1.7	20%	2.5	1.9	33%	—	0.51	—	—	0.7	—	0.8	1.1	-21%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	6.72	5.0	35%	6.2	17.9	-65%	—	1.54	—	—	1.9	—	4.0	3.9	1%
Urology	6.15	6.0	2%	7.4	14.2	-48%	5.6	17.99	-69%	7.2	4.8	49%	4.5	4.4	3%
Internal Medicine	14.09	11.4	24%	25.8	18.5	40%	20.4	6.20	230%	8.2	9.3	-12%	4.8	6.9	-30%
Radiation Oncology	6.65	7.9	-16%	—	—	—	2.8	—	—	1.9	2.5	-23%	2.0	2.2	-7%
Medical Oncology	7.00	4.3	61%	2.0	3.8	-48%	—	2.00	—	—	—	—	1.3	2.0	-37%
Weighted Median	13.89	13.6	2%	17.5	16.1	9%	16.7	13.64	23%	19.6	14.4	36%	10.3	8.7	18%

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg
Plastic Surgery	24.9	11.2	122%	33.4	25.2	32%	—	31.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	20.7	10.3	101%	15.4	14.4	7%	19.43	5.1	282%	15.2	9.2	65%	4.9	24.6	-80%
Ophthalmology	17.5	12.1	45%	35.1	23.9	47%	12.51	21.0	-40%	28.7	64.0	-55%	—	56.0	—
Otolaryngology	15.5	10.3	50%	14.6	14.4	1%	187.56	19.6	858%	3.5	14.2	-76%	8.0	10.1	-21%
General Surgery	14.1	6.1	131%	18.6	10.0	86%	36.79	43.3	-15%	6.3	10.6	-40%	3.6	4.2	-14%
Neurosurgery	21.3	13.7	55%	—	8.1	—	8.86	12.4	-29%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	38.5	19.8	94%	36.8	28.6	29%	40.72	43.6	-7%	40.8	—	—	23.5	16.8	40%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	1.0	1.5	-34%	2.1	8.1	-74%	1.50	—	—	—	—	—	1	2.9	-65%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	5.5	8.2	-33%	11.8	22.6	-48%	12.00	—	—	—	—	—	4	29.5	-86%
Urology	17.3	16.1	7%	9.1	13.1	-31%	23.89	18.1	32%	—	—	—	24.5	8.2	199%
Internal Medicine	7.6	5.1	48%	14.3	11.8	21%	23.43	25.8	-9%	14.2	3.9	261%	10	11.8	-16%
Radiation Oncology	3.1	3.1	0%	2.6	3.6	-28%	3.28	2.0	64%	1.0	—	—	—	1.6	—
Medical Oncology	6.9	1.2	470%	1.8	1.0	85%	—	5.0	—	3.5	3.0	17%	—	—	—
Weighted Median	17.7	10.9	63%	22.6	17.3	30%	34.13	30.1	13%	17.5	19.3	-9%	10.72	15.2	-29%

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, 2021—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	13.2%	9.4%	12.1%	17.0%	20.6%	18.8%	10.8%	15.8%	33.3%	36.8%
4–7.99 Weeks	21.6%	17.0%	30.4%	21.5%	24.0%	14.2%	16.0%	16.4%	20.2%	40.4%
8–12.99 Weeks	20.6%	25.3%	18.2%	20.5%	22.9%	20.4%	25.3%	21.9%	11.9%	8.8%
13–25.99 Weeks	18.9%	21.4%	16.6%	23.5%	17.0%	17.3%	26.4%	11.0%	14.3%	7.0%
26–51.99 Weeks	16.2%	15.7%	7.3%	3.0%	6.9%	15.0%	8.3%	19.2%	4.8%	7.0%
1 year plus	9.6%	11.3%	15.4%	14.5%	8.6%	14.2%	13.2%	15.8%	15.5%	0.0%

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, 2021 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	20.9	22.9	12.0	5.7	15.1	25.5	15.8	—	—	—	19.1
Gynaecology	11.1	11.9	6.3	4.7	8.9	9.6	19.1	14.1	9.8	—	9.9
Ophthalmology	11.8	11.7	11.7	13.5	8.7	11.0	11.8	8.1	16.0	—	10.5
Otolaryngology	11.2	11.8	—	18.0	11.9	8.3	9.5	7.8	13.4	6.8	10.8
General Surgery	7.0	7.6	7.3	8.2	5.6	8.6	10.3	14.0	—	4.8	7.0
Neurosurgery	10.0	13.6	—	4.9	5.0	15.0	—	9.4	—	—	8.9
Orthopaedic Surgery	19.0	12.2	14.3	14.1	11.5	12.2	20.7	10.9	26.0	—	13.3
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.4	—	—	—	0.8	0.4	—	1.5	—	—	1.1
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	5.8	—	—	—	7.7	3.3	—	12.0	—	—	4.3
Urology	6.2	50.0	—	4.9	4.1	7.2	6.3	12.2	—	8.5	5.9
Internal Medicine	5.6	6.9	3.5	5.6	3.7	4.5	5.1	12.1	4.2	10.0	5.1
Radiation Oncology	3.7	—	4.4	2.6	2.2	3.1	3.1	3.3	—	—	2.5
Medical Oncology	2.0	1.0	—	—	2.0	4.8	2.0	—	4.0	—	2.4
Weighted Median	8.9	11.1	8.6	9.2	6.7	9.3	11.7	11.8	13.4	6.6	8.3

Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	25.0	39.0	12.0	6.0	15.0	25.0	16.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	8.0	9.0	12.0	4.0	13.0	8.0	12.0	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	26.0	18.0	12.0	4.0	10.0	12.0	20.0	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	26.0	32.0	—	4.0	35.0	54.0	20.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	26.0	8.5	12.0	8.0	15.0	52.0	24.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	12.0	9.0	12.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	12.0	12.0	—	—	7.5	15.0	—	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	2.0	6.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	20.9	22.9	12.0	5.7	15.1	25.5	15.8	—	—	—

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

Table 9B: Gynaecology (2021)—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	8.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	9.0	11.0	8.0	—
Tubal Ligation	15.5	21.0	9.0	6.5	12.0	12.0	31.0	31.0	8.0	—
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	17.0	12.0	7.8	5.0	12.0	12.0	25.0	13.0	11.0	—
Vaginal Repair	16.0	12.0	10.0	6.5	12.0	13.0	32.0	17.0	16.0	—
Tuboplasty	16.0	19.0	14.0	6.0	12.0	12.5	24.0	—	16.0	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	16.0	12.0	7.3	5.0	10.0	10.0	13.5	18.0	10.0	—
Hysteroscopic Procedures	8.0	12.0	4.0	4.5	10.0	8.0	13.5	11.0	10.0	—
Weighted Median	11.1	11.9	6.3	4.7	8.9	9.6	19.1	14.1	9.8	—

Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	12.0	14.0	11.0	16.0	10.0	11.5	12.0	7.5	16.0	—
Cornea Transplant	20.0	16.0	15.0	—	9.0	15.0	12.0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	12.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	10.5	12.0	14.0	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	10.0	14.0	10.0	—	4.5	8.0	6.0	—	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	10.0	3.3	—	4.0	2.0	8.0	1.0	—	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	16.0	12.0	24.0	—	8.0	10.5	6.0	24.0	—	—
Strabismus	14.5	8.0	—	—	10.0	16.0	14.0	—	16.0	—
Operations on Eyelids	11.0	12.0	20.0	—	8.0	10.5	12.0	24.0	—	—
Glaucoma	4.0	4.8	5.0	—	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	11.8	11.7	11.7	13.5	8.7	11.0	11.8	8.1	16.0	—

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	5.0	5.0	—	8.0	11.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	10.0	2.0
Tympanoplasty	12.0	24.0	—	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	11.5	12.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	7.0	—	10.0	12.0	8.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	12.0	—	30.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	7.0	16.0	12.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	15.0	24.0	—	30.0	14.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	16.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	12.0	14.0	—	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	16.0	—
Weighted Median	11.2	11.8	—	18.0	11.9	8.3	9.5	7.8	13.4	6.8

Table 9E: General surgery (2021)—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	12.5	8.0	8.0	12.0	18.0	13.0	—	4.5
Cholecystectomy	8.0	10.0	7.5	8.0	7.5	12.0	9.0	13.0	—	4.5
Colonoscopy	12.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	9.0	—	6.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	6.0	5.0	8.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	17.8	—	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	20.5	12.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	25.0	14.5	—	13.0
Breast Biopsy	4.0	2.0	3.5	4.0	2.3	2.0	4.0	3.0	—	4.0
Mastectomy	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	4.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	6.0	2.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	26.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	24.0	8.0	26.0	9.0	12.0	26.0	52.0	—	—	3.0
Weighted Median	7.0	7.6	7.3	8.2	5.6	8.6	10.3	14.0	—	4.8

Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	—	6.0	—	—	4.0	—	—	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	16.0	11.0	—	12.0	8.0	6.0	—	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	16.0	—	4.0	4.0	18.0	—	8.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	19.0	—	—	—	20.0	36.0	—	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—	—	—	—
Weighted Median	10.0	13.6	—	4.9	5.0	15.0	—	9.4	—	—

Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2021)—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	12.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	7.5	26.0	—
Removal of Pins	20.0	11.0	4.8	9.0	12.0	15.0	12.0	7.5	26.0	—
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	20.0	12.0	18.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	6.0	26.0	—
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	16.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	—	6.0	26.0	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	20.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	15.5	19.0	31.0	26.0	—
Digit Neuroma	20.0	11.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	13.5	—	31.0	26.0	—
Rotator Cuff Repair	16.0	14.0	12.0	7.0	6.5	8.0	12.0	8.0	—	—
Ostectomy (All Types)	16.0	11.0	12.0	9.0	10.5	15.0	12.0	29.0	—	—
Routine Spinal Instability	14.0	20.0	—	—	12.5	13.5	16.0	34.0	—	—
Weighted Median	19.0	12.2	14.3	14.1	11.5	12.2	20.7	10.9	26.0	—

Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2021)—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	1.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.1	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.5	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	1.0	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	3.0	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	3.0	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	3.0	—	—	—	0.0	0.5	—	1.5	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.5	—	—	—	1.0	0.2	—	1.5	—
	Pacemaker Operations	2.0	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	2.4	—	—	—	0.8	0.4	—	1.5	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	8.0	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	8.0	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	—	—	—	6.0	4.0	—	12.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	4.0	—	—	—	8.0	2.5	—	12.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	4.0	—	—	—	—	2.5	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	5.8	—	—	—	7.7	3.3	—	12.0	—

Table 9I: Urology (2021)—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	6.5	50.0	—	6.0	6.0	8.5	7.0	14.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	4.8	—	—	6.0	6.0	4.0	5.5	12.0	—	12.0
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	3.0	—	—	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	4.0
Radical Cystectomy	4.5	—	—	6.0	4.0	3.3	4.0	—	—	—
Cystoscopy	6.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	—	—	8.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	10.0	50.0	—	12.0	10.0	16.0	18.0	24.0	—	26.0
Bladder Fulguration	8.0	—	—	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	10.5	—	—	8.0	16.0	3.5	6.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	6.2	50.0	—	4.9	4.1	7.2	6.3	12.2	—	8.5

Table 9J: Internal medicine (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	6.0	7.5	4.0	7.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	15.0	4.0	10.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	4.0	3.5	2.5	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.8	—
Bronchoscopy	4.0	6.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	2.0	—
Gastroscopy	6.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	4.0	6.5	8.0	2.0	12.0	10.0
Weighted Median	5.6	6.9	3.5	5.6	3.7	4.5	5.1	12.1	4.2	10.0

Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2021)—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	—	4.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	—	—	3.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	—	—	3.8	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	—
Prostate Cancer	3.8	—	5.0	3.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	—	—	4.8	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.1	—	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	1.5	—	2.0	0.8	2.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	—	—
Weighted Median	3.7	—	4.4	2.6	2.2	3.1	3.1	3.3	—	—

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

Table 9L: Medical oncology (2021)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	1.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	4.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	—	1.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	4.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	1.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	4.0	—
Breast Cancer	2.0	1.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	4.0	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	0.5	—	—	0.2	0.0	0.5	—	0.2	—
Weighted Median	2.0	1.0	—	—	2.0	4.8	2.0	—	4.0	—

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, 2021

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	35.0	20.9	67%	10.9	22.9	-52%	68.3	12.0	470%	31.2	5.7	446%	11.0	15.1	-27%
Gynaecology	11.5	11.1	3%	14.2	11.9	19%	7.1	6.3	12%	8.6	4.7	85%	10.7	8.9	20%
Ophthalmology	21.2	11.8	80%	19.1	11.7	63%	15.6	11.7	34%	42.0	13.5	211%	18.0	8.7	108%
Otolaryngology	14.3	11.2	28%	23.6	11.8	100%	47.0	—	—	28.4	18.0	58%	12.6	11.9	6%
General Surgery	7.3	7.0	4%	9.5	7.6	25%	9.0	7.3	23%	8.0	8.2	-2%	7.8	5.6	39%
Neurosurgery	14.0	10.0	39%	9.8	13.6	-28%	15.5	—	—	17.2	4.9	248%	32.3	5.0	547%
Orthopaedic Surgery	36.4	19.0	92%	34.2	12.2	179%	31.8	14.3	121%	48.0	14.1	240%	19.6	11.5	72%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	2.1	2.4	-15%	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.8	0%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	6.7	5.8	16%	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	7.7	-48%
Urology	6.1	6.2	-1%	7.4	50.0	-85%	5.6	—	—	7.2	4.9	45%	4.5	4.1	11%
Internal Medicine	14.1	5.6	154%	25.8	6.9	272%	20.4	3.5	478%	8.2	5.6	45%	4.8	3.7	30%
Radiation Oncology	6.6	3.7	79%	—	—	—	2.8	4.4	-37%	1.9	2.6	-28%	2.0	2.2	-7%
Medical Oncology	7.0	2.0	250%	2.0	1.0	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.3	2.0	-37%
Weighted Median	13.9	8.9	56%	17.5	11.1	58%	16.7	8.6	94%	19.6	9.2	114%	10.3	6.7	54%

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	24.9	25.5	-2%	33.4	15.8	112%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	20.7	9.6	115%	15.4	19.1	-20%	19.4	14.1	38%	15.2	9.8	56%	4.9	—	—
Ophthalmology	17.5	11.0	59%	35.1	11.8	196%	12.5	8.1	54%	28.7	16.0	79%	—	—	—
Otolaryngology	15.5	8.3	87%	14.6	9.5	54%	187.6	7.8	2292%	3.5	13.4	-74%	8.0	6.8	19%
General Surgery	14.1	8.6	63%	18.6	10.3	80%	36.8	14.0	162%	6.3	—	—	3.6	4.8	-24%
Neurosurgery	21.3	15.0	43%	—	—	—	8.9	9.4	-6%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	38.5	12.2	215%	36.8	20.7	78%	40.7	10.9	275%	40.8	26.0	57%	23.5	—	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.0	0.4	176%	2.1	—	—	1.5	1.5	0%	—	—	—	1.0	—	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	5.5	3.3	68%	11.8	—	—	12.0	12.0	0%	—	—	—	4.0	—	—
Urology	17.3	7.2	139%	9.1	6.3	44%	23.9	12.2	97%	—	—	—	24.5	8.5	190%
Internal Medicine	7.6	4.5	69%	14.3	5.1	179%	23.4	12.1	94%	14.2	4.2	242%	10.0	10.0	0%
Radiation Oncology	3.1	3.1	0%	2.6	3.1	-18%	3.3	3.3	-1%	1.0	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Oncology	6.9	4.8	43%	1.8	2.0	-8%	—	—	—	3.5	4.0	-13%	—	—	—
Weighted Median	17.7	9.3	91%	22.6	11.7	92%	34.1	11.8	189%	17.5	13.4	31%	10.7	6.6	62%

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, 2021

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	2.9%	0.2%	2.0%	—	—	—	1.4%
Gynaecology	1.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	30.0%	1.0%
Ophthalmology	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.7%	1.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	—	0.7%
Otolaryngology	1.7%	0.4%	0.0%	1.5%	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
General Surgery	0.6%	0.6%	2.2%	0.3%	1.3%	0.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Neurosurgery	2.3%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	—	0.3%	—	—	1.7%
Orthopaedic Surgery	0.6%	1.8%	1.0%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.0%	—	—	—	—	0.3%	—	—	—	—	0.3%
Urology	0.6%	2.2%	—	0.3%	2.3%	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	—	0.0%	1.3%
Internal Medicine	1.2%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
Radiation Oncology	0.5%	—	0.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	—	0.6%
Medical Oncology	1.0%	1.0%	—	—	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	—	0.3%	—	1.0%
All Specialties	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	4.3%	0.9%

Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2021

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	5,981	1,690	2,291	999	4,848	6,350	998	—	—	—
Gynaecology	3,916	5,415	741	1,054	11,413	9,180	1,018	1,440	213	578
Ophthalmology	29,487	24,748	6,187	13,489	60,839	45,039	8,610	3,208	1,443	—
Otolaryngology	3,465	5,603	4,769	2,356	11,831	10,001	869	12,098	36	431
General Surgery	20,371	13,487	5,442	5,439	45,646	19,737	3,046	20,604	486	1,481
Neurosurgery	1,880	937	559	397	12,743	3,491	—	220	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	31,176	22,243	7,157	10,959	46,542	45,189	4,997	7,943	1,168	1,529
Cardiovascular Surgery	507	10	—	—	16	439	47	3	—	1
Urology	6,849	3,844	1,486	991	17,985	11,578	1,202	5,910	—	5,141
Internal Medicine	22,649	20,452	5,474	2,615	12,238	4,203	1,093	5,536	600	68
Radiation Oncology	108	—	4	12	458	183	29	27	1	—
Medical Oncology	654	110	—	—	990	1,167	35	—	6	—
Residual	85,439	84,770	28,086	32,094	214,041	124,959	17,775	49,740	2,631	13,757
Total	212,482	183,308	62,197	70,404	439,590	281,517	39,719	106,727	6,585	22,985
Proportion of Population	4.07%	4.13%	5.27%	5.09%	2.96%	3.27%	5.03%	10.76%	4.01%	4.42%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2018 — 1,425,517

Percentage of Population — 3.7%

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

Table 13A: Plastic surgery (2021)—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	3,648	709	1,132	487	2,097	1,733	805	—	—	—
Neurolysis	639	112	333	123	1,206	1,180	64	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	156	84	167	3	117	61	8	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	444	110	133	80	394	136	52	—	—	—
Scar Revision	669	545	410	165	616	2,249	28	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	426	129	117	141	418	992	41	—	—	—
Total	5,981	1,690	2,291	999	4,848	6,350	998	—	—	—

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

Table 13B: Gynaecology (2021)—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	551	1,202	127	277	2,070	465	86	126	22	130
Tubal Ligation	139	1,147	137	122	1,435	1,720	194	141	32	48
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,803	1,475	274	380	4,154	3,825	373	614	99	87
Vaginal Repair	359	640	47	96	719	673	88	103	6	23
Tuboplasty	21	20	7	4	34	50	2	2	2	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	230	140	32	34	745	770	20	50	7	16
Hysteroscopic Procedures	812	790	117	142	2,256	1,678	256	404	46	274
Total	3,916	5,415	741	1,054	11,413	9,180	1,018	1,440	213	578

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

Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2021)—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	27,242	20,880	3,565	13,003	47,297	39,400	8,305	2,946	1,431	—
Cornea Transplant	208	452	77	—	777	311	25	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	118	221	82	10	149	285	38	37	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	815	919	181	—	1,843	1,056	19	—	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	—	359	1,080	264	1,660	1,282	6	—	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	239	398	254	74	1,282	310	44	89	2	—
Strabismus	495	872	573	—	6,799	1,317	67	—	2	—
Operations on Eyelids	370	647	376	138	1,032	1,077	106	136	9	—
Total	29,487	24,748	6,187	13,489	60,839	45,039	8,610	3,208	1,443	—

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 (2021)—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	305	494	277	176	2,174	1,963	134	176	11	64
Tympanoplasty	266	394	32	152	534	696	78	1,796	2	30
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	496	540	503	250	1,926	928	87	1,838	3	48
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	798	1,996	2,747	861	4,476	4,378	364	4,460	12	205
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	313	532	272	207	463	720	32	992	1	20
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,287	1,646	938	711	2,257	1,317	174	2,835	7	64
Total	3,465	5,603	4,769	2,356	11,831	10,001	869	12,098	36	431

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

Table 13E: General surgery (2021)—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	2,575	2,597	358	537	8,031	9,373	642	292	31	82
Cholecystectomy	1,304	2,314	504	630	6,426	6,487	509	331	33	74
Colonoscopy	9,027	3,612	1,574	1,880	5,035	783	908	2,707	219	537
Intestinal Operations	6,319	3,996	2,523	1,923	22,371	1,429	292	16,683	194	627
Haemorrhoidectomy	780	622	316	309	1,992	402	21	532	3	68
Breast Biopsy	11	2	1	1	47	11	2	12	0	48
Mastectomy	229	229	121	110	869	749	66	46	6	42
Bronchus and Lung	—	69	—	19	364	—	142	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	3	56	—	—	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	125	47	46	26	455	503	464	—	—	3
Total	20,371	13,487	5,442	5,439	45,646	19,737	3,046	20,604	486	1,481

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

Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2021)—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	—	79	45	—	1,286	—	—	12	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	1,602	505	247	153	1,915	1,050	—	90	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	269	353	264	244	9,497	2,368	—	109	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	9	—	—	—	10	73	—	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	—	3	—	35	—	—	9	—	—
Total	1,880	937	559	397	12,743	3,491	—	220	—	—

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

Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2021)—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	413	521	131	192	655	1,773	62	53	48	48
Removal of Pins	1,531	1,481	327	482	1,324	3,083	111	409	116	39
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	22,147	15,174	5,260	8,345	31,263	31,546	4,059	6,229	699	1,298
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	1,531	504	284	365	861	1,639	—	111	75	40
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	293	146	33	112	244	328	26	46	53	—
Digit Neuroma	2,393	771	403	772	1,461	2,112	—	496	28	—
Rotator Cuff Repair	867	1,328	414	204	979	1,533	161	131	68	—
Ostectomy (All Types)	1,461	1,302	305	487	2,056	1,342	90	416	82	—
Routine Spinal Instability	540	1,018	—	—	7,699	1,834	487	52	—	103
Total	31,176	22,243	7,157	10,959	46,542	45,189	4,997	7,943	1,168	1,529

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

Table 13H: Cardiovascular surgery (2021)—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	110	—	—	—	—	116	—	—	—	—
Valves & Septa of the Heart	120	—	—	—	—	113	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4	2	—	—	0	2	1	0.45	—	0.10
Carotid Endarterectomy	20	8	—	—	16	11	5	2	—	1
Pacemaker Operations	252	—	—	—	—	198	41	—	—	—
Total	507	10	—	—	16	439	47	3	—	0.75

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

Table 13I: Urology (2021)—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	550	588	333	283	1,388	1,254	172	334	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	127	113	24	58	354	180	27	84	—	24
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	391	231	107	69	1,159	816	104	74	—	84
Radical Cystectomy	20	14	4	3	60	30	6	8	—	—
Cystoscopy	4,407	1,697	905	244	10,752	1,049	397	4,597	—	4,828
Hernia/Hydrocele	918	774	—	256	2,391	7,381	416	730	—	206
Bladder Fulguration	427	413	113	75	1,838	840	78	84	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	9	14	—	2	42	29	2	—	—	—
Total	6,849	3,844	1,486	991	17,985	11,578	1,202	5,910	—	5,141

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

Table 13J: Internal medicine (2021)—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	19,529	18,719	4,309	2,358	8,979	1,277	600	5,169	583	—
Angiography /Angioplasty	2,593	186	921	130	1,449	2,297	418	167	0	—
Bronchoscopy	196	1,261	104	31	1,006	352	23	181	3	—
Gastroscopy	332	286	141	96	804	277	52	19	14	68
Total	22,649	20,452	5,474	2,615	12,238	4,203	1,093	5,536	600	68

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

Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2021)—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	108	—	4	12	458	183	29	27	1	—

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

Table 13L: Medical oncology (2021)—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	654	110	—	—	990	1,167	35	—	6	—

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

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2021)—procedures per 100,000 population

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	115	38	194	72	33	74	126	—	—	—
Gynaecology	75	122	63	76	77	107	129	182	130	111
Ophthalmology	565	557	524	975	410	523	1,091	406	878	—
Otolaryngology	66	126	404	170	80	116	110	1,533	22	83
General Surgery	391	304	461	393	308	229	386	2,611	296	284
Neurosurgery	36	21	47	29	86	41	—	28	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	598	501	607	792	314	525	633	1,006	711	294
Cardiovascular Surgery	10	0	—	—	0	5	6	0	—	0
Urology	131	87	126	72	121	135	152	749	—	988
Internal Medicine	434	460	464	189	83	49	139	701	365	13
Radiation Oncology	2	—	0	1	3	2	4	3	1	—
Medical Oncology	13	2	—	—	7	14	4	—	4	—

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

Table 15: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2021 and 2020

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg
Plastic Surgery	5,981	5,820	3%	1,690	3,631	-53%	2,291	295	676%	999	578	73%	4,848	6,969	-30%
Gynaecology	3,916	5,269	-26%	5,415	5,804	-7%	741	821	-10%	1,054	1,033	2%	11,413	10,834	5%
Ophthalmology	29,487	40,146	-27%	24,748	24,512	1%	6,187	10,278	-40%	13,489	9,320	45%	60,839	58,003	5%
Otolaryngology	3,465	4,582	-24%	5,603	6,790	-17%	4,769	3,806	25%	2,356	846	178%	11,831	9,303	27%
General Surgery	20,371	22,064	-8%	13,487	15,620	-14%	5,442	4,423	23%	5,439	5,019	8%	45,646	32,172	42%
Neurosurgery	1,880	3,321	-43%	937	1,406	-33%	559	630	-11%	397	222	79%	12,743	2,614	387%
Orthopaedic Surgery	31,176	19,243	62%	22,243	15,942	40%	7,157	1,407	409%	10,959	7,219	52%	46,542	44,488	5%
Cardiovascular Surgery	507	203	149%	10	262	-96%	—	10	—	—	1	—	16	608	-97%
Urology	6,849	6,625	3%	3,844	9,461	-59%	1,486	5,011	-70%	991	631	57%	17,985	17,690	2%
Internal Medicine	22,649	17,592	29%	20,452	18,351	11%	5,474	1,697	223%	2,615	3,103	-16%	12,238	17,831	-31%
Radiation Oncology	108	125	-13%	—	—	—	4	—	—	12	7	69%	458	465	-1%
Medical Oncology	654	372	76%	110	243	-55%	—	39	—	—	—	—	990	1,456	-32%
Residual	85,439	81,967	4%	84,770	80,094	6%	28,086	23,242	21%	32,094	22,884	40%	214,041	183,774	16%
Total	212,482	207,329	2%	183,308	182,118	1%	62,197	51,657	20%	70,404	50,863	38%	439,590	386,207	14%

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg	2021	2020	% chg
Plastic Surgery	6,350	2,134	198%	998	862	16%	—	610	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	9,180	4,954	85%	1,018	1,156	-12%	1,440	431	234%	213	164	30%	578	2,895	-80%
Ophthalmology	45,039	28,044	61%	8,610	5,893	46%	3,208	5,961	-46%	1,443	2,740	-47%	—	8,401	—
Otolaryngology	10,001	7,049	42%	869	899	-3%	12,098	1,318	818%	36	144	-75%	431	576	-25%
General Surgery	19,737	8,706	127%	3,046	1,807	69%	20,604	26,316	-22%	486	832	-42%	1,481	1,907	-22%
Neurosurgery	3,491	2,681	30%	—	163	—	220	328	-33%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	45,189	24,037	88%	4,997	4,377	14%	7,943	8,311	-4%	1,168	—	—	1,529	1,449	6%
Cardiovascular Surgery	439	643	-32%	47	323	-86%	3	0	—	—	—	—	1	41	-98%
Urology	11,578	11,023	5%	1,202	1,923	-38%	5,910	4,362	35%	—	—	—	5,141	1,819	183%
Internal Medicine	4,203	2,860	47%	1,093	1,047	4%	5,536	6,174	-10%	600	247	143%	68	2,188	-97%
Radiation Oncology	183	176	4%	29	43	-32%	27	13	99%	1	—	—	—	7	—
Medical Oncology	1,167	194	500%	35	17	110%	—	122	—	6	5	18%	—	—	—
Residual	124,959	76,508	63%	17,775	14,350	24%	49,740	43,723	14%	2,631	3,001	-12%	13,757	20,068	-31%
Total	281,517	169,010	67%	39,719	32,860	21%	106,727	97,670	9%	6,585	7,132	-8%	22,985	39,351	-42%

Notes: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians, which have been rounded for inclusion in the table. • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies and, therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 16A: Acute inpatient procedures, 2019–2020

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	22,543	14,287	5,582	5,783	58,812	26,031	3,842	5,122	759	2,304
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	359	409	118	75	544	303	70	42	5	23
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	29	54	9	3	47	33	4	2	4	1
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	125	158	35	55	369	342	32	56	3	23
Ostectomy	1,058	1,114	205	332	2,671	1,601	163	344	25	71
Removal of Pins	1,072	961	235	289	2,583	1,618	171	223	50	73
Rotator Cuff Repair	852	874	244	233	2,464	1,222	96	219	19	62
Routine Spinal Instability	1,156	1,428	796	544	4,611	2,852	468	226	0	224
Bladder Fulguration	1,498	1,135	410	223	5,196	3,250	292	568	27	233
Cystoscopy	4,458	3,981	765	233	10,751	4,877	853	1,161	149	735
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,449	2,372	644	182	7,001	3,683	412	589	128	371
Radical Cystectomy	265	185	43	30	521	342	47	68	0	26
Radical Prostatectomy	1,101	757	178	250	2,302	1,562	177	175	0	103
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,255	1,545	275	247	4,629	1,988	269	203	64	400
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	51	53	11	12	157	140	8	16	2	6
Cataract Removal	55	237	32	53	95	179	17	31	2	6
Cornea Transplant	13	72	66	4	32	121	0	12	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	2	27	0	1	5	17	0	1	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	40	184	23	38	124	169	1	43	2	1
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	37	62	9	9	56	80	0	18	0	1
Operations on Eyelids	122	247	24	41	298	263	11	67	0	4
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	240	2,247	324	303	689	609	6	139	0	6
Strabismus Surgery	29	24	1	0	44	28	1	4	0	0
Myringotomy	195	201	51	80	899	1,415	40	59	18	56
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	684	188	52	245	1,126	751	42	134	5	55
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	1,586	1,828	537	506	6,748	4,193	323	462	21	354
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	996	665	230	222	3,037	2,694	179	164	152	277
Tympanoplasty	66	60	1	4	242	136	9	79	5	4
Radiotherapy	407	494	6	72	11,649	2,718	341	415	69	218
Chemotherapy	4,456	2,650	845	680	33,217	8,088	970	1,323	64	549
Breast Biopsy	93	32	10	11	218	180	19	15	0	12
Bronchus and Lung	1,514	1,143	237	477	4,616	4,179	252	476	1	116
Cholecystectomy	3,747	4,457	1,308	1,712	9,724	7,638	982	1,330	154	463
Haemorrhoidectomy	78	92	53	26	190	147	12	11	0	9

Table 16A, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	9,067	7,059	2,682	2,388	25,391	16,885	1,703	2,557	266	1,423
Mastectomy	1,628	844	449	223	2,631	2,393	186	386	38	291
Varicose Veins	45	1	6	20	33	21	3	1	0	11
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,663	1,168	353	128	3,809	1,759	355	320	0	367
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,428	2,995	1,121	1,033	12,459	5,985	521	699	0	466
Blepharoplasty	7	12	0	2	31	13	0	1	0	1
Mammoplasty	375	869	65	112	1,115	627	126	134	42	72
Scar Revision	811	1,765	186	268	1,643	1,262	92	258	4	67
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,675	1,619	482	530	8,454	6,024	568	505	0	413
Pacemaker Operations	3,056	1,906	766	681	7,569	9,424	738	638	90	332
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,820	2,382	439	600	9,060	5,878	387	604	0	252
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,640	3,621	2,161	993	25,327	16,936	1,560	1,759	0	1,089
Bronchoscopy	951	1,343	183	259	7,265	4,324	130	327	6	221
Gastroscopy	602	721	140	128	2,958	1,333	230	184	11	141
Dilation and Curettage	266	242	27	43	386	180	9	20	2	28
Hysterectomy	4,964	5,330	1,235	1,350	12,332	7,288	1,075	1,294	213	743
Hysteroscopic Procedures	165	112	32	16	227	108	18	28	1	27
Laparoscopic Procedures	272	237	107	80	1,524	910	36	48	0	26
Tubal Ligation	241	1,655	441	514	3,795	1,740	192	172	36	218
Tuboplasty	34	42	13	7	51	37	2	2	2	4
Vaginal Repair	785	1,174	194	258	1,516	1,054	158	135	10	114
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	378	209	8	92	533	437	26	68	2	31
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,094	3,791	1,152	1,356	18,934	6,513	811	1,136	117	621
Carotid Endarterectomy	792	333	75	164	1,371	1,043	179	111	0	51
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	311	430	159	77	759	582	64	48	10	21
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	330	427	85	90	1,919	2,178	85	192	4	20
Colonoscopy	3,113	2,808	1,239	861	9,642	7,302	559	622	79	455
Aneurysm Surgery	344	214	67	106	991	608	62	59	0	32
Residual	124,515	121,934	31,772	30,940	384,151	216,974	23,329	30,256	2,157	16,176
Total	227,003	209,466	58,998	56,294	721,543	403,267	43,313	56,361	4,818	30,499

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2019–20, and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2019-2020

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	5,546	5,439	2,016	2,562	22,473	6,134	1,184	1,107	197	210
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,536	755	270	290	3,186	1,336	140	247	70	106
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	334	249	69	109	928	622	64	77	49	15
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	1,664	1,132	452	223	3,888	5,421	238	218	43	196
Ostectomy	1,053	1,143	236	371	3,527	1,570	227	377	57	98
Removal of Pins	2,908	2,388	709	407	5,516	4,548	310	486	109	219
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,296	1,683	371	357	3,901	1,843	253	537	44	244
Routine Spinal Instability	14	2	24	10	99	38	1	1	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	2,199	1,250	901	1,083	18,697	2,209	384	770	120	1,010
Cystoscopy	33,732	10,729	9,693	2,942	129,024	1,942	2,584	7,376	1,389	8,921
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,320	285	181	431	3,313	973	228	112	3	28
Radical Prostatectomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radical Cystectomy	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,827	1,453	650	651	10,444	6,499	628	756	64	326
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	23	69	18	3	62	48	1	4	0	4
Cataract Removal	64,336	45,004	15,415	12,950	132,848	102,261	11,979	12,737	2,564	6,476
Cornea Transplant	555	380	1	100	1,122	709	27	222	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	511	691	101	31	963	1,218	83	65	8	27
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	2,313	2,205	564	408	7,863	4,409	120	977	9	186
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	740	1,155	227	98	2,027	1,263	64	141	7	97
Operations on Eyelids	2,281	3,117	953	87	4,175	4,405	219	269	37	305
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	10,636	10,197	2,485	3,132	20,886	16,060	102	3,661	4	982
Strabismus Surgery	1,402	1,655	354	340	4,165	2,418	144	379	4	127
Myringotomy	1,569	1,940	1,389	529	10,408	11,346	956	857	168	902
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,033	2,190	886	859	8,654	2,672	334	351	92	419
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	564	512	44	197	1,597	631	55	97	0	3
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,464	3,180	1,601	1,114	11,511	6,791	935	749	44	314
Tympanoplasty	510	794	209	232	2,072	1,371	160	199	15	276
Radiotherapy	438	31	78	245	257	365	246	5	0	18
Chemotherapy	403	217	185	30	7,399	705	15	276	29	19
Breast Biopsy	56	22	6	13	991	56	7	297	0	819
Bronchus and Lung	56	51	10	13	112	106	3	12	1	3
Cholecystectomy	4,732	4,139	1,449	1,564	18,124	9,227	1,222	1,316	188	825
Haemorrhoidectomy	3,300	1,105	1,315	1,122	8,442	898	34	462	32	430

Table 16B, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	73,074	27,569	11,895	12,999	140,794	1,698	466	12,730	1,748	9,451
Mastectomy	4,337	3,494	808	1,206	12,436	8,731	666	811	113	441
Varicose Veins	1,040	609	291	150	1,656	851	229	139	2	40
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,809	290	140	14	1,170	515	74	70	0	10
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	63	65	24	24	204	173	1	10	1	7
Blepharoplasty	304	474	155	5	980	777	35	35	0	24
Mammoplasty	3,345	2,205	501	537	7,974	4,379	679	274	7	283
Scar Revision	527	597	102	123	1,025	1,077	53	121	22	24
Coronary Artery Bypass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacemaker Operations	3,505	1,009	519	709	3,941	864	326	343	33	477
Valves & Septa of the Heart	91	6	8	15	0	2	0	0	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	11,216	1,044	1,830	2,380	2,078	127	1,155	175	4	1,748
Bronchoscopy	744	1,856	266	145	4,359	253	20	568	39	452
Gastroscopy	967	997	382	429	5,404	184	18	317	44	211
Dilation and Curettage	5,462	6,010	1,070	2,173	17,552	4,212	734	797	204	2,228
Hysterectomy	246	351	491	297	2,566	668	2	37	1	8
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4,057	3,313	1,322	1,120	10,436	4,256	934	1,022	197	2,348
Laparoscopic Procedures	476	284	170	124	1,704	758	49	60	15	96
Tubal Ligation	211	831	238	276	2,423	1,572	196	194	33	197
Tuboplasty	125	43	13	13	59	13	2	1	6	6
Vaginal Repair	381	212	77	97	822	291	32	44	8	55
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	1,486	1,274	495	437	3,924	2,005	119	260	33	159
Hernia/Hydrocele	11,842	9,208	2,445	3,021	29,681	21,177	2,027	2,119	257	1,207
Carotid Endarterectomy	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,759	2,024	1,344	913	9,737	6,687	827	1,105	83	752
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	1,724	758	278	244	5,538	2,058	274	202	14	332
Colonoscopy	93,883	42,758	15,908	21,176	118,893	2,106	1,174	15,376	3,154	10,351
Aneurysm Surgery	0	4	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Residual	190,872	129,434	55,440	54,057	699,959	138,070	17,180	45,467	5,648	50,550
Total	570,898	341,881	139,076	135,188	1,533,991	403,600	50,219	117,418	17,013	105,065

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2019–20; 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 Department of Health and Community
Services, <http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html>

Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2021 Report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 15 and July 27, 2021. 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, 116 psychiatrists responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 2.6% (table B1). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

Table B1: Psychiatry (2021)—summary of responses, 2021

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	660	413	79	159	1,834	1,088	55	119	9	58	4,474
Number of Responses	24	10	0	2	48	23	4	4	0	1	116
Response Rates	3.6%	2.4%	0.0%	1.3%	2.6%	2.1%	7.3%	3.4%	0.0%	1.7%	2.6%

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.

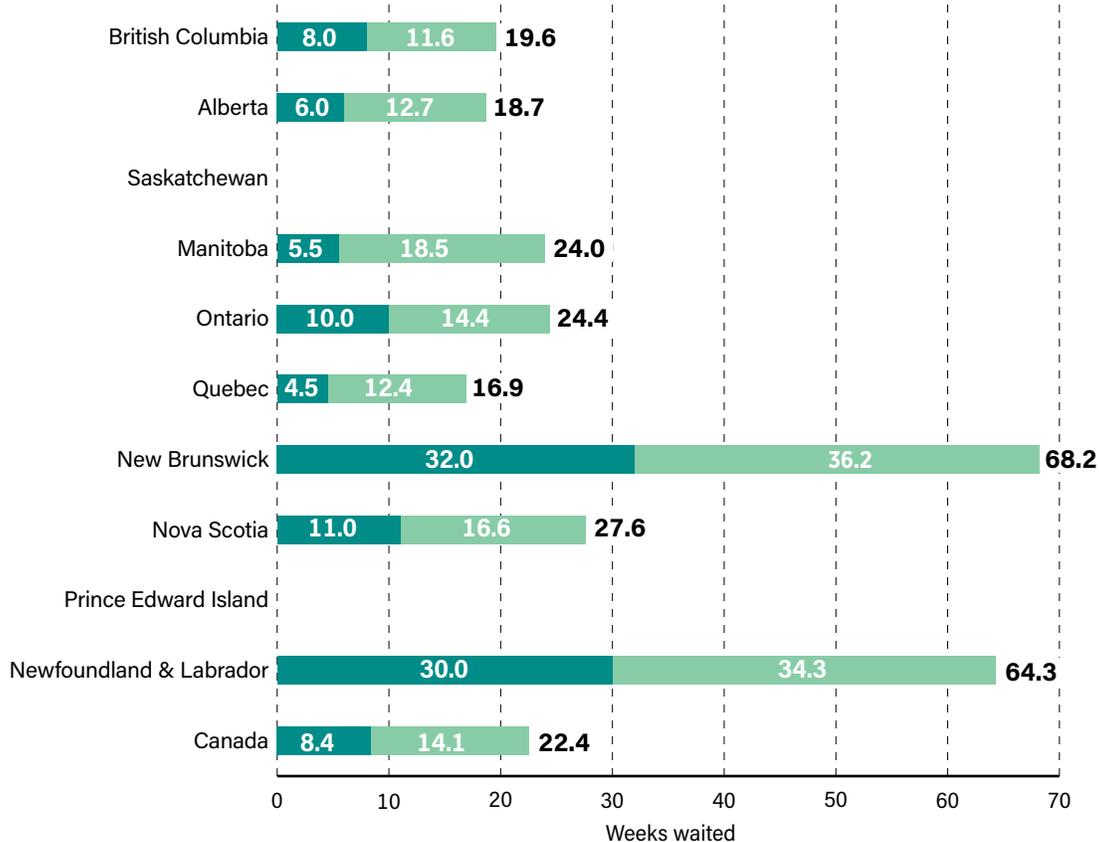
Unlike other specialties discussed in *Waiting Your Turn*, in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section, “Method” (pp. 11-14), for a clear 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 is 22.4 weeks in 2021—the same estimated wait time faced by patients in the previous year (graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Quebec (16.9 weeks), Alberta (18.7 weeks), and British Columbia (19.6 weeks). The longest total waits are in New Brunswick (68.2 weeks) and Newfoundland & Labrador (64.3 weeks).

Graph B1: Psychiatry—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2021



■ Wait from GP to specialist (elective) ■ Wait from specialist 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, 2021.

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 2.4 weeks, ranging from 2.0 weeks in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec to 4.5 weeks in Manitoba. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 8.4 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals are New Brunswick (32.0) and Newfoundland & Labrador (30.0 weeks). On the other hand, Quebec (4.5 weeks) and Manitoba (5.5 weeks) have the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

Table B2: Psychiatry (2021)—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	3.5	2.0	—	4.5	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.8	—	4.0	2.4
Elective	8.0	6.0	—	5.5	10.0	4.5	32.0	11.0	—	30.0	8.4

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 (36.2 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (34.3 weeks), and Manitoba (18.5 weeks). The shortest waits are in British Columbia (11.6 weeks), Quebec (12.4 weeks), and Alberta (12.7). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to a housing program (25.8 weeks) and to initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy (18.2 weeks), while wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.0 weeks) and for a day program (8.2 weeks).

Table B4 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait (after an appointment with a specialist) for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces except New Brunswick. Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in British Columbia (17.7%), and most frequent in Newfoundland & Labrador (85.7%).

Table B3: Psychiatry (2021)—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	6.0	10.0	—	3.0	8.0	20.0	24.0	9.0	—	32.0	11.2
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	12.0	13.0	—	6.0	16.0	26.0	36.0	25.5	—	50.0	18.2
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	3.0	—	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	7.5	—	—	4.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	9.0	26.0	—	4.0	13.5	8.0	56.0	34.0	—	32.0	13.6
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	5.0	11.0	—	4.0	14.0	12.0	36.0	15.0	—	50.0	12.3
Access a day program	7.0	5.0	—	12.0	7.0	8.0	48.0	12.0	—	32.0	8.2
Access an eating disorders program	11.5	14.0	—	36.0	20.0	9.0	38.0	19.0	—	32.0	16.4
Access a housing program	48.0	19.0	—	36.0	26.0	12.0	39.0	28.0	—	—	25.8
Access an evening program	12.0	19.5	—	12.0	22.0	6.0	36.0	-	—	—	15.9
Access a sleep disorders program	10.5	13.5	—	52.0	6.0	26.0	56.0	10.0	—	—	14.9
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	3.0	6.0	—	36.0	22.0	5.0	24.0	6.0	—	12.0	13.4
Unweighted Median	11.6	12.7	—	18.5	14.4	12.4	36.2	16.6	—	34.3	14.1

Table B4: Psychiatry (2021)—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	22%	18%	—	14%	18%	17%	0%	0%	—	0%
4-7.99 weeks	24%	23%	—	36%	21%	19%	7%	30%	—	0%
8-12.99 weeks	21%	15%	—	21%	14%	28%	4%	40%	—	14%
13-25.99 weeks	15%	16%	—	0%	18%	15%	30%	3%	—	0%
26-51.99 weeks	7%	16%	—	21%	18%	14%	30%	17%	—	86%
1 year plus	10%	11%	—	7%	11%	8%	30%	10%	—	0%

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

Table B5 compares the 2021 and 2020 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 six provinces. However, two provinces reported a decrease: Alberta (–29%) and Nova Scotia (–51%).

Table B5: Psychiatry—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020	% change
British Columbia	11.6	11.4	2%
Alberta	12.7	18.0	–29%
Saskatchewan	–	8.4	–
Manitoba	18.5	12.9	44%
Ontario	14.4	14.1	2%
Quebec	12.4	11.3	10%
New Brunswick	36.2	11.7	209%
Nova Scotia	16.6	33.9	–51%
Prince Edward Island	–	–	–
Newfoundland & Labrador	34.3	10.7	222%

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 494% longer than the median considered reasonable. In contrast, the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits in Manitoba exceeds the corresponding “reasonable” value by 174%, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Table B6: Psychiatry (2021)—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	3.0	7.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	—	6.0	4.2
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	6.0	7.0	—	8.0	7.3	10.0	8.0	8.0	—	12.0	7.8
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	—	3.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	—	—	2.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	6.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.0	6.0	20.0	10.0	—	12.0	5.3
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	2.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.0	5.8	6.0	4.0	—	12.0	4.3
Access a day program	4.0	2.0	—	8.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	—	12.0	3.7
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	4.0	—	12.0	3.5	4.0	8.0	4.0	—	12.0	4.2
Access a housing program	4.0	4.3	—	12.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	2.0	—	—	4.3
Access an evening program	4.0	3.3	—	8.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	—	—	4.3
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	4.0	—	36.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	—	—	5.3
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.5	—	18.0	4.0	3.0	5.5	3.0	—	4.0	3.8
Unweighted Median	3.7	4.0	—	10.7	4.0	4.7	7.3	4.8	—	10.0	4.5

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 4.4% 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 79.6%.

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 (2021)—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%	143%	—	75%	200%	500%	400%	225%	—	533%	268%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	200%	186%	—	75%	221%	260%	450%	319%	—	417%	232%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	200%	150%	—	86%	200%	200%	500%	375%	—	—	195%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	150%	650%	—	100%	338%	133%	280%	340%	—	267%	259%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	250%	275%	—	100%	350%	209%	600%	375%	—	417%	288%
Access a day program	175%	250%	—	150%	233%	200%	800%	200%	—	267%	221%
Access an eating disorders program	288%	350%	—	300%	571%	225%	475%	475%	—	267%	386%
Access a housing program	1200%	447%	—	300%	650%	300%	488%	1400%	—	—	597%
Access an evening program	300%	600%	—	150%	550%	120%	900%	—	—	—	371%
Access a sleep disorders program	263%	338%	—	144%	150%	650%	700%	125%	—	—	279%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	150%	240%	—	200%	550%	167%	436%	200%	—	300%	351%
Unweighted Median	312%	318%	—	174%	362%	263%	494%	345%	—	343%	312%

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 2020, the national waiting times for CT scans have increased in 2021. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 6.0 weeks, ranging from a high of 24.0 weeks (New Brunswick) to a low of 4.0 weeks (Ontario). In 2021, the median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 13.0 weeks, shorter than it was

in 2020 (13.8 weeks). Patients in New Brunswick wait the longest (39.0 weeks), while patients in Ontario wait the least amount of time (7.5 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces has increased from 4.8 weeks in 2020 to 5.7 weeks this year. Residents of Ontario and Quebec face the shortest waits for an EEG (4.0 weeks), while residents of New Brunswick wait longest (18.0 weeks). [2]

Table B8: Psychiatry (2021)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2021, 2020, and 2019

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
British Columbia	6	8	7	16	17	16	5	4	6
Alberta	9	12	6	28	23	12	12	4	8
Saskatchewan	—	3	4.5	—	13.5	9.5	—	4	10
Manitoba	8	2.5	6	12	13	12	12	9	12
Ontario	4	4	4	7.5	12	8	4	4	4
Quebec	6	5	5	12	12	11	4	6.5	4
New Brunswick	24	17	12	39	17	20	18	3	12
Nova Scotia	12	4.25	2.5	26	6.75	9	12	3.75	2
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	14	8	14	14	17	19	14	4	16
Canada	6.0	5.7	5.1	13.0	13.8	10.7	5.7	4.8	5.2

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 22.4 weeks from referral by a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 312% 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.

- For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 5.2 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 6.0 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 4.7 weeks across eight provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs was 10.2 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 13.0 weeks in the psychiatry survey. The mean absolute difference in this case was 6.9 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 (2021)

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. Edwin G. West*

Prof. H.G. Johnson*

* deceased; † Nobel Laureate