

# Waiting Your Turn

Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2022 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 27.4 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment—longer than the wait of 25.6 weeks reported in 2021. This year’s wait time is the longest wait time recorded in this survey’s history and is 195% 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—20.3 weeks—while Prince Edward Island reports the longest—64.7 weeks. There is also a great deal of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and neurosurgical procedures (58.9 weeks), while those waiting for radiation treatments begin treatment in 3.9 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 11.1 weeks in 2021 to 12.6 weeks in 2022. This wait time is 242% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Ontario (10.1 weeks) while the longest occur in Prince Edward Island (41.7 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 14.5 weeks in 2021 to 14.8 weeks this year. This wait time is 164% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and 6.7 weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically “reasonable” (8.1 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (10.2 weeks), while the longest are in Manitoba (25.4 weeks).

It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2022 is 1,228,047. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.2% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2022. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 2.44% in Ontario to a high of 6.05% in Newfoundland & Labrador. It is important to note that physicians report that only about 11.03% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

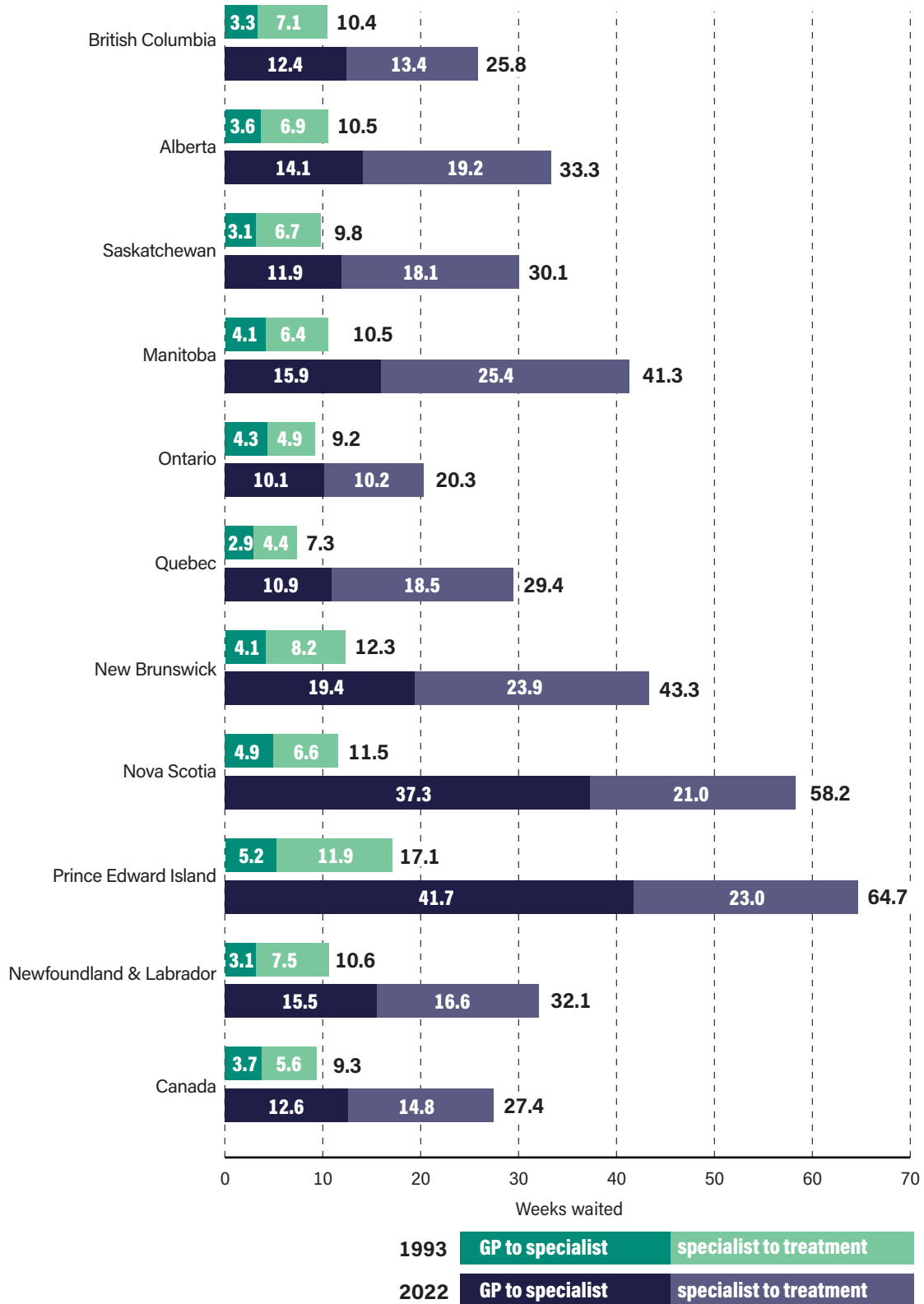
Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 5.4 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 10.6 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 4.9 weeks for an ultrasound.

Data were collected from the week of January 10 to September 15, 2022, longer than the period of collection in years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the extended period, this year's response rate was 7.1% (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 2022



Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *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.

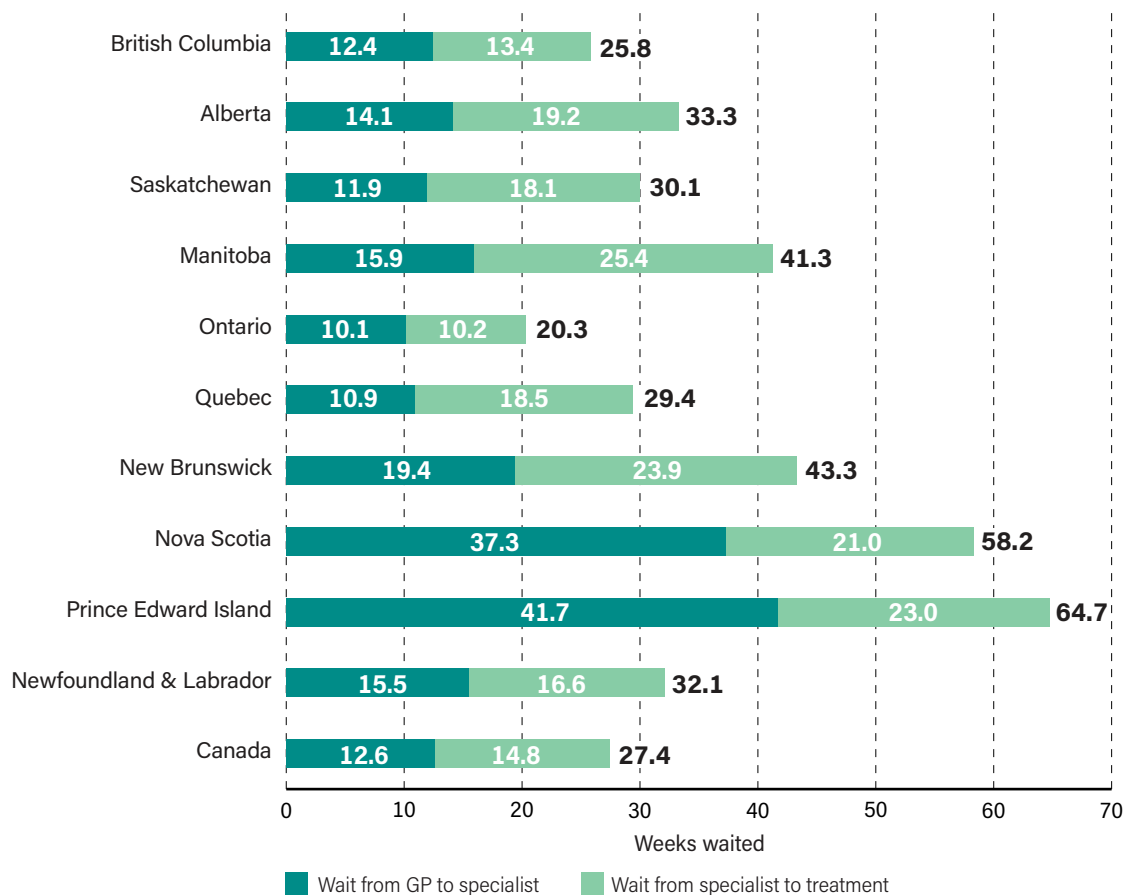


# Findings

## Total wait times

The Fraser Institute’s thirty-first annual waiting list survey finds that wait times [1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments increased in 2022 (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 25.6 weeks in 2021 to 27.4 in 2022. This year’s wait time is 195% longer than in 1993, when it was just 9.3 weeks.

**Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2022—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment**



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

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

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

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2022 (20.3 weeks), followed by British Columbia (25.8 weeks) and Quebec (29.4 weeks). Prince Edward Island has the longest total wait at 64.7 weeks, followed by Nova Scotia (58.2 weeks) and New Brunswick (43.3 weeks).

### **Wait time by segment**

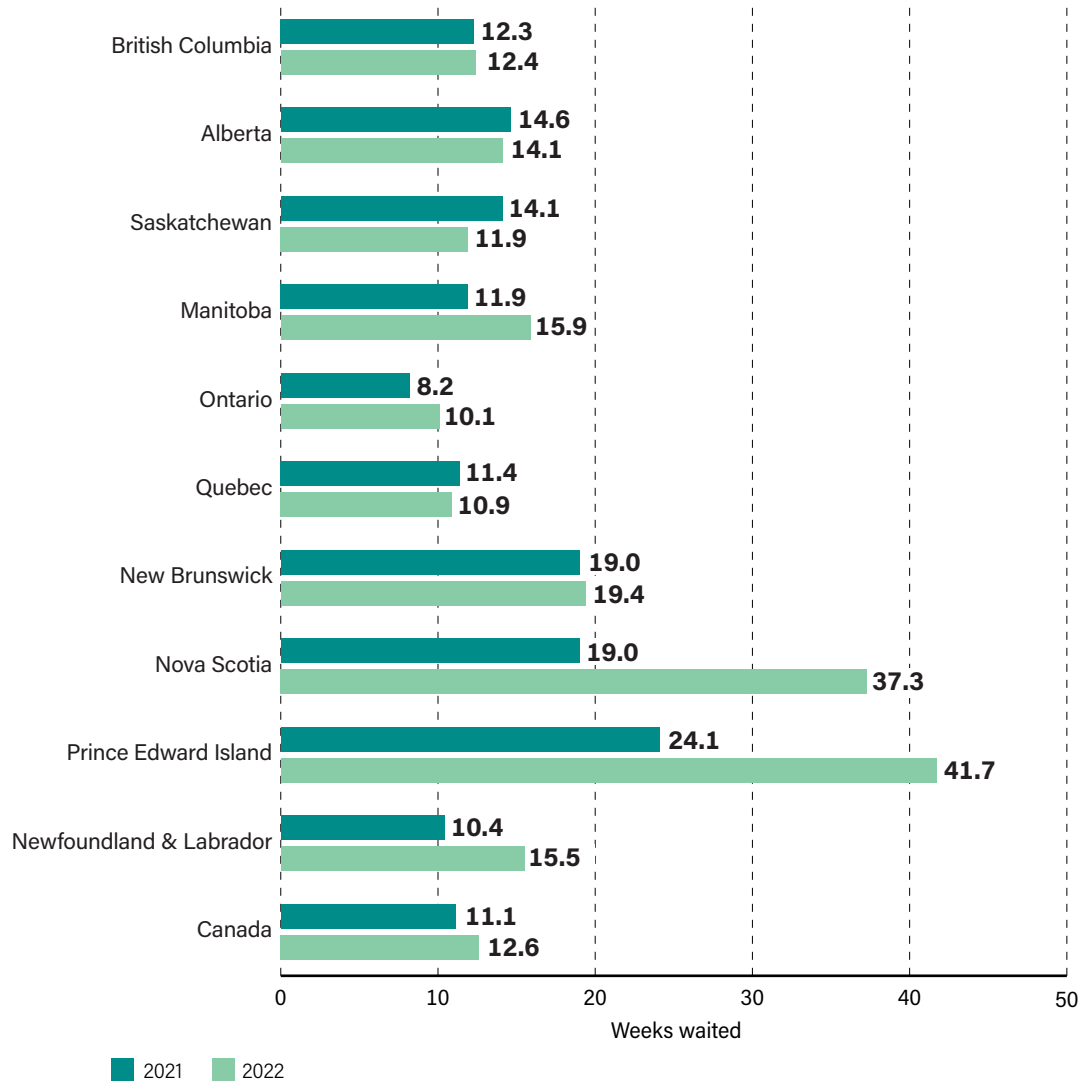
Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

- 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.

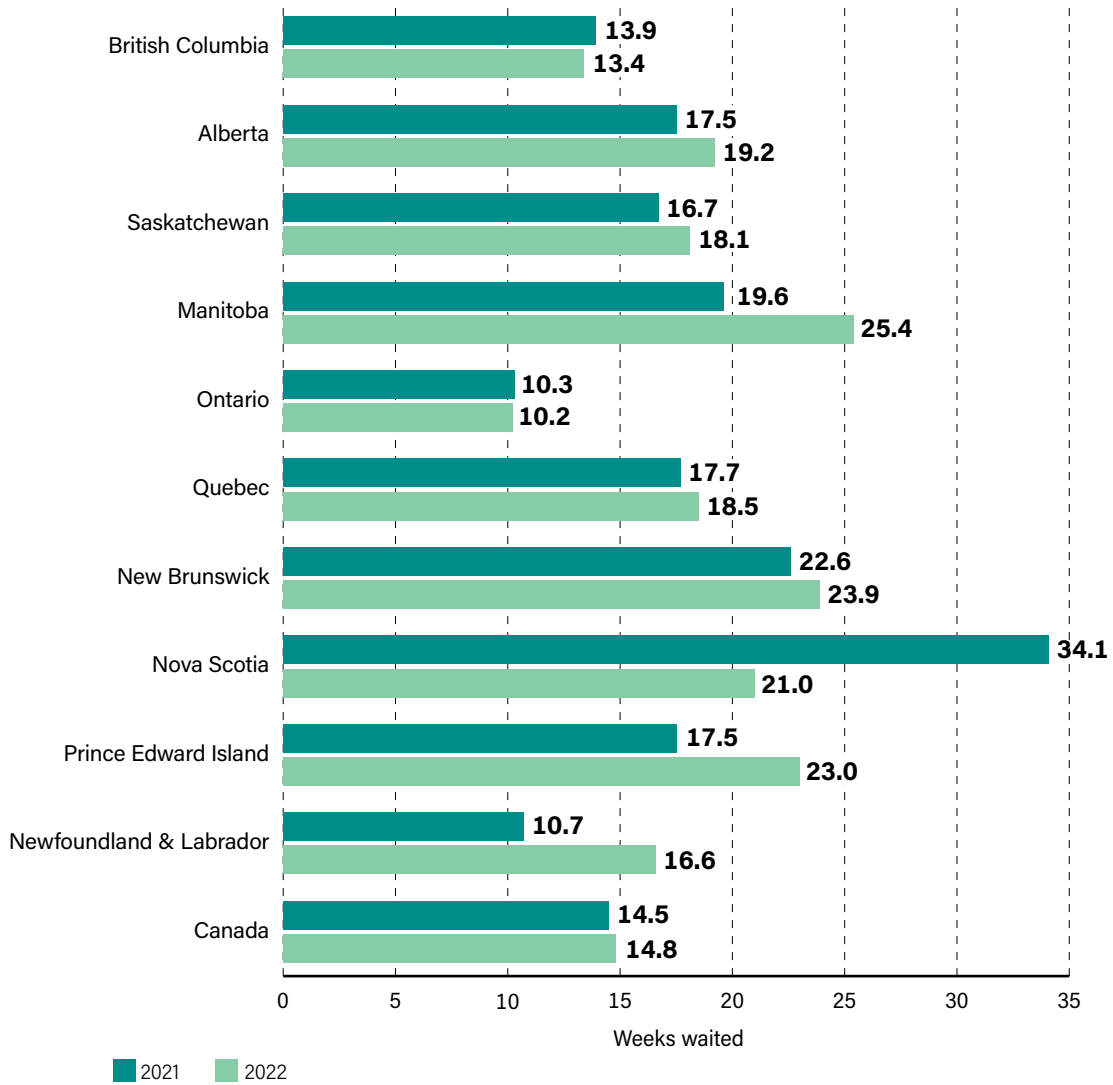
The increase in total waiting time from 2021 to 2022 is the result of an increase in both segments. The waiting time in the first segment—from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist—has risen from 11.1 weeks in 2021 to 12.6 weeks in 2022. This wait time is 242% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks (graph 1; graph 2). The waiting time to see a specialist increased in seven provinces since 2021, but decreased in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec (chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Ontario (10.1 weeks), Quebec (10.9 weeks), and Saskatchewan (11.9 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations are found in Prince Edward Island (41.7 weeks), Nova Scotia (37.3), and New Brunswick (19.4 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 14.5 weeks in 2021 to 14.8 weeks in 2022 (chart 3). This portion of waiting is 164% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (graph 3; graph 4). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in seven provinces but have decreased in British Columbia, and Nova Scotia, while staying relatively unchanged in Ontario (with a difference of less than 0.1 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (10.2 weeks), British Columbia (13.4 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (16.6 weeks), while the longest are in Manitoba (25.4 weeks), New Brunswick (23.9 weeks), and Prince Edward Island (23.0 weeks) (table 4).

**Chart 2: Wait by province in 2021 and 2022—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist**



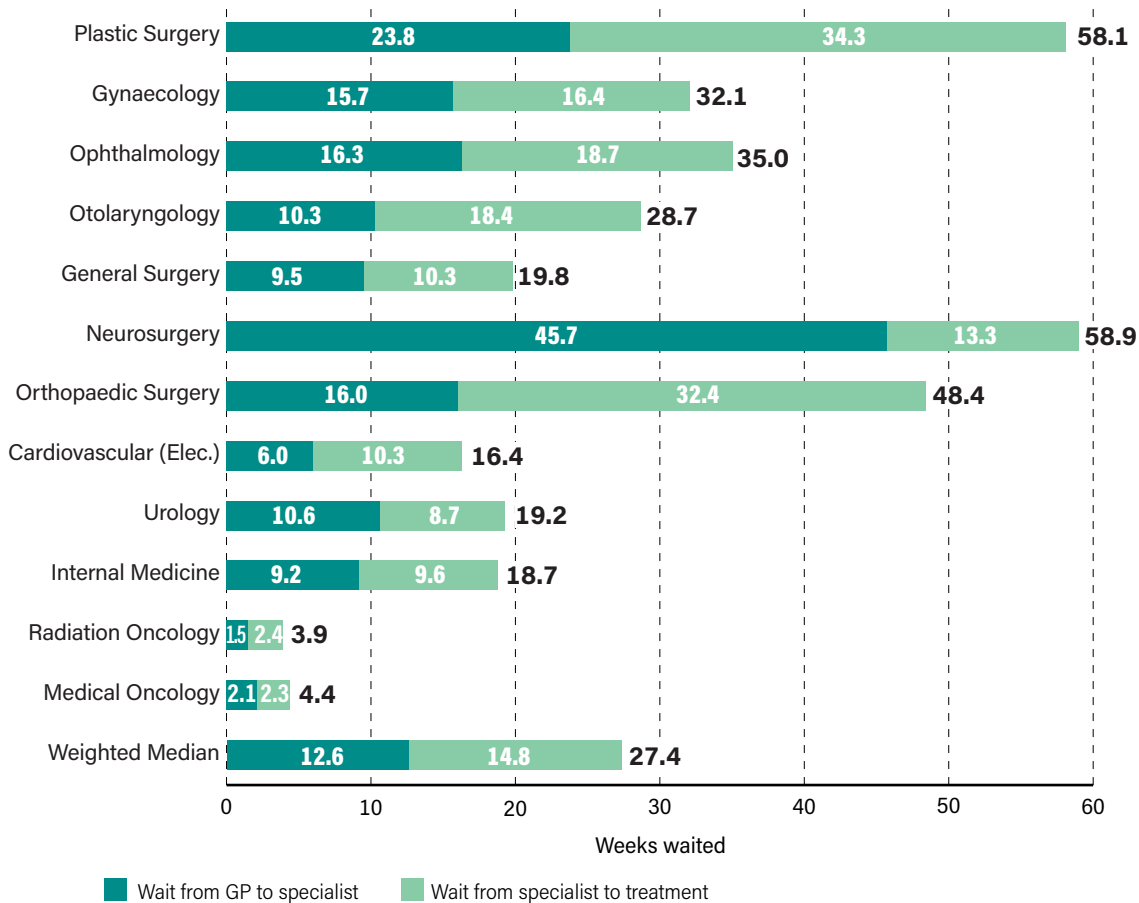
**Chart 3: Wait by province in 2021 and 2022—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment**



## Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for radiation oncology (3.9 weeks), medical oncology (4.4 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (16.4 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a referral by a GP and neurosurgery (58.9 weeks), plastic surgery (58.1 weeks), and orthopaedic surgery (48.4 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2021 and 2022 have been for neurosurgery (+25.8 weeks), plastic surgery (+24.1 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (+14.3 weeks), and gynaecology (+8.1 weeks). Such increases are partially offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in fields like radiation oncology (−0.7 weeks), and otolaryngology (−0.3 weeks).

**Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2022—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, 2022.

When waiting time is broken down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. The shortest waits from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist are in radiation oncology (1.5 weeks), medical oncology (2.1 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (6.0 weeks). The longest waits are for neurosurgery (45.7 weeks), plastic surgery (23.8 weeks), and ophthalmology (16.3 weeks) (table 3).

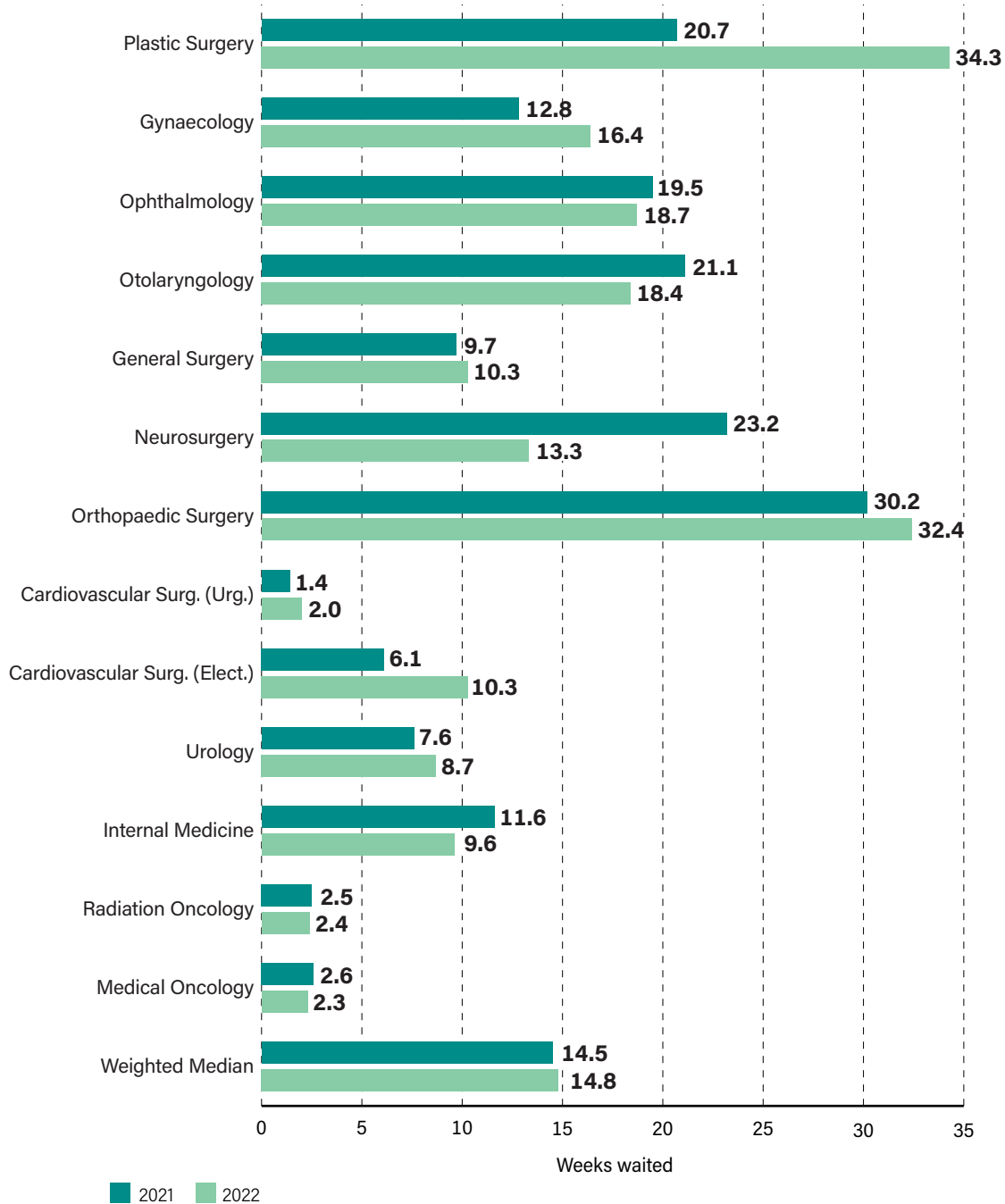
For the second segment—from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment—patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (2.0 weeks), medical oncology (2.3 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.4 weeks). They wait longest for plastic surgery (34.3 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (32.4 weeks) and ophthalmology (18.7 weeks) (table 4; chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5A–5L.

### **Comparison between clinically “reasonable” and actual waiting times**

Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically “reasonable” waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 109 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 83% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island 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, 47% and 60%, respectively (table 10). Moreover, these two provinces achieve their performance by different means: the “reasonable” wait time in Prince Edward Island is the longest in Canada at 14.3 weeks, while the “reasonable” wait time in British Columbia (9.1 weeks) is closer to the Canadian average (8.1). The greatest absolute difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in plastic surgery, where the actual waiting time is 20.7 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.

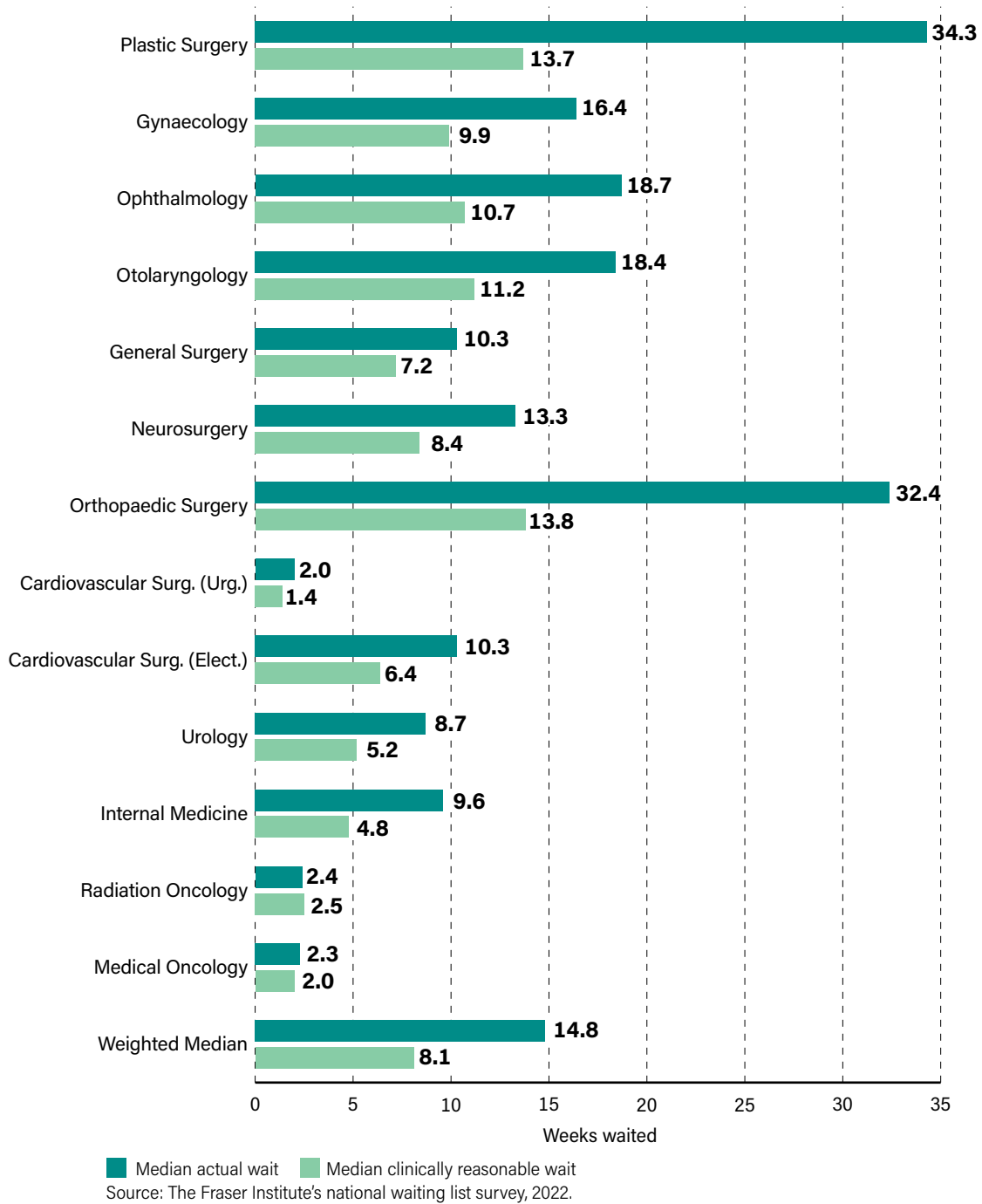
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2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is also in plastic surgery, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 151%.

**Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2021 and 2022—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment**



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

**Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait, by specialty, in Canada in 2022—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 increased to 5.4 weeks in 2022 from 5.2 weeks in 2021. Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Newfoundland & Labrador had the shortest wait for a CT scan (4.0 weeks), while the longest waits occur in New Brunswick (8.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has increased to 10.6 weeks in 2022 from 10.2 weeks in 2021. Patients in Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland & Labrador faced the shortest wait for an MRI (8.0 weeks), while residents of Prince Edward Island wait longest (20.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound increased in 2022 to 4.9 weeks from 3.6 weeks in 2021. Saskatchewan had the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Prince Edward Island had the longest: 24.0 weeks (chart 7).

**Chart 7: Waiting for technology—weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2022, 2021, and 2020**

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020
British Columbia	6.8	6.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	5.0	6.0
Alberta	7.0	10.0	14.0	12.0	24.0	26.0	3.0	2.0	2.8
Saskatchewan	4.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	12.0	8.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Manitoba	7.0	6.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	5.5	6.0	6.3
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	5.5	4.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	9.5	6.0	5.0	4.0
New Brunswick	8.0	8.0	4.5	12.0	16.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	8.0
Nova Scotia	7.0	5.5	4.0	18.0	17.5	12.0	8.0	6.0	4.0
Prince Edward Island	6.0	8.0	4.0	20.0	21.3	14.0	24.0	16.0	17.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	4.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	8.0	4.5	4.0	6.0	4.5
Canada	5.4	5.2	5.4	10.6	10.2	11.1	4.9	3.6	3.5

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2020, 2021, 2022.

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 2022 is 1,228,047 (table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis), a decrease of 14% from the estimated 1,425,517 procedures in 2021. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting decreased in seven provinces, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The decrease in the number of patients waiting for treatment should be interpreted with caution as it is based on both the expected wait time in 2022 as well as the relevant number of procedures performed in 2020/21 (see Method for more details). Notably, the total number of procedures performed in 2020/21 included in this year's report is significantly lower than in 2019/2020 (used in the previous year's report). Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 3.2% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2022, which varies from a low of 2.44% of the population in Ontario to a high of 6.05% in Newfoundland & Labrador. [3] Tables 13A–13L (pp. 49–52) show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

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

# Method

The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between the week of January 10 and September 15, 2022. 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, 855 responses were received, for an overall response rate of 7.1% (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 2021, 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 (2022) as well as, for 2020/21, from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2022a), the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2022b), and the Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB) (CIHI, 2022c) 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. The backlog of surgeries that have resulted from these cancellations continued during 2022 in some provinces.

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 continues to contribute to a significant reduction in the response rates.

As a result, the survey-collection window for the annual *Waiting Your Turn* survey was 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 the week of January 10 and September 15. [7]

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7. An additional fax was also sent out on June 21.

Despite the extended survey period, this year's response rate (7.1%) 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. Further, this year saw a significant drop in the number of cardiovascular surgical respondents (in 2021  $n = 31$ ; in 2022  $n = 23$ ). 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”. [8] 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* 2022**

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	2.2 (1.0–4.0)	2.5 (1.9–6.0)
Hip replacements	within 26 weeks	38.0 (6.0–104.0)	15.3 (12.0–24.0)
Knee replacements	within 26 weeks	38.0 (6.0–104.0)	15.3 (12.0–24.0)
Cataract surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	20.1 (12.0–61.0)	11.1 (8.0–26.0)
Cardiac bypass surgery [2]	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.6 (0.0–1.3) Urgent: 2.0 (1.0–5.5) Elective: 10.7 (4.0–64.0)	Emergent: 0.6 (0.0–1.0) Urgent: 1.0 (0.5–3.0) Elective: 5.7 (4.0–38.0)

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, 2022.

8. 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 2022 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that, at 27.4 weeks, the total waiting time for elective, medically necessary, treatment across the provinces is higher than last year's wait time of 25.6 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 (2022) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$2,848 in 2021 if only hours during the normal working week were considered "lost", and as much as \$8,706 if all hours of the week (excluding eight hours of sleep per night) were considered "lost".

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

This year's survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.3% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2022. Physicians also report that only about 11.03% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 53.7% would agree to have their procedure performed within a week [9] 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.

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9. 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".

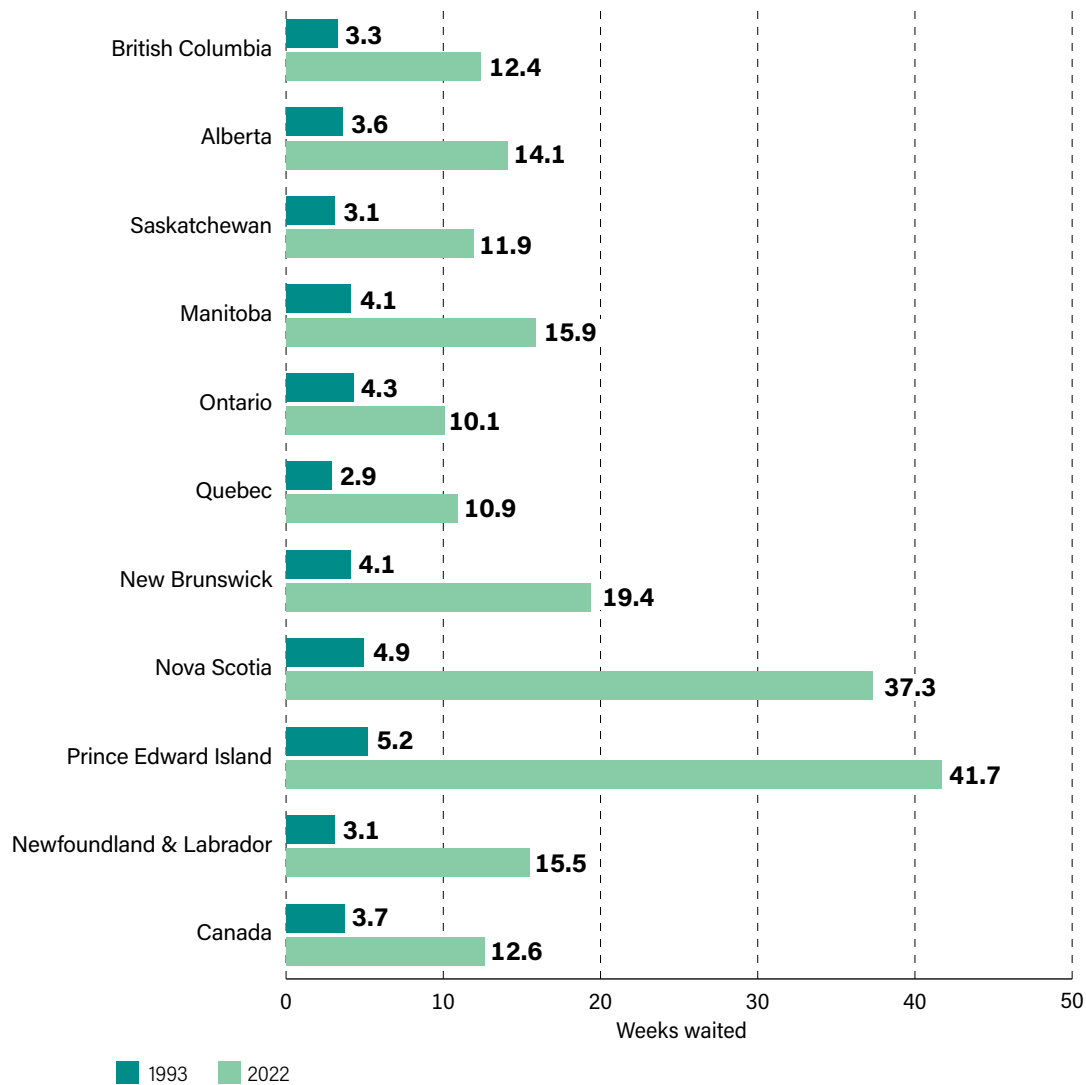
# Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median actual waiting times, 1993 and 2022

Graphs 7–8: Median reasonable waiting times, 1994 and 2022

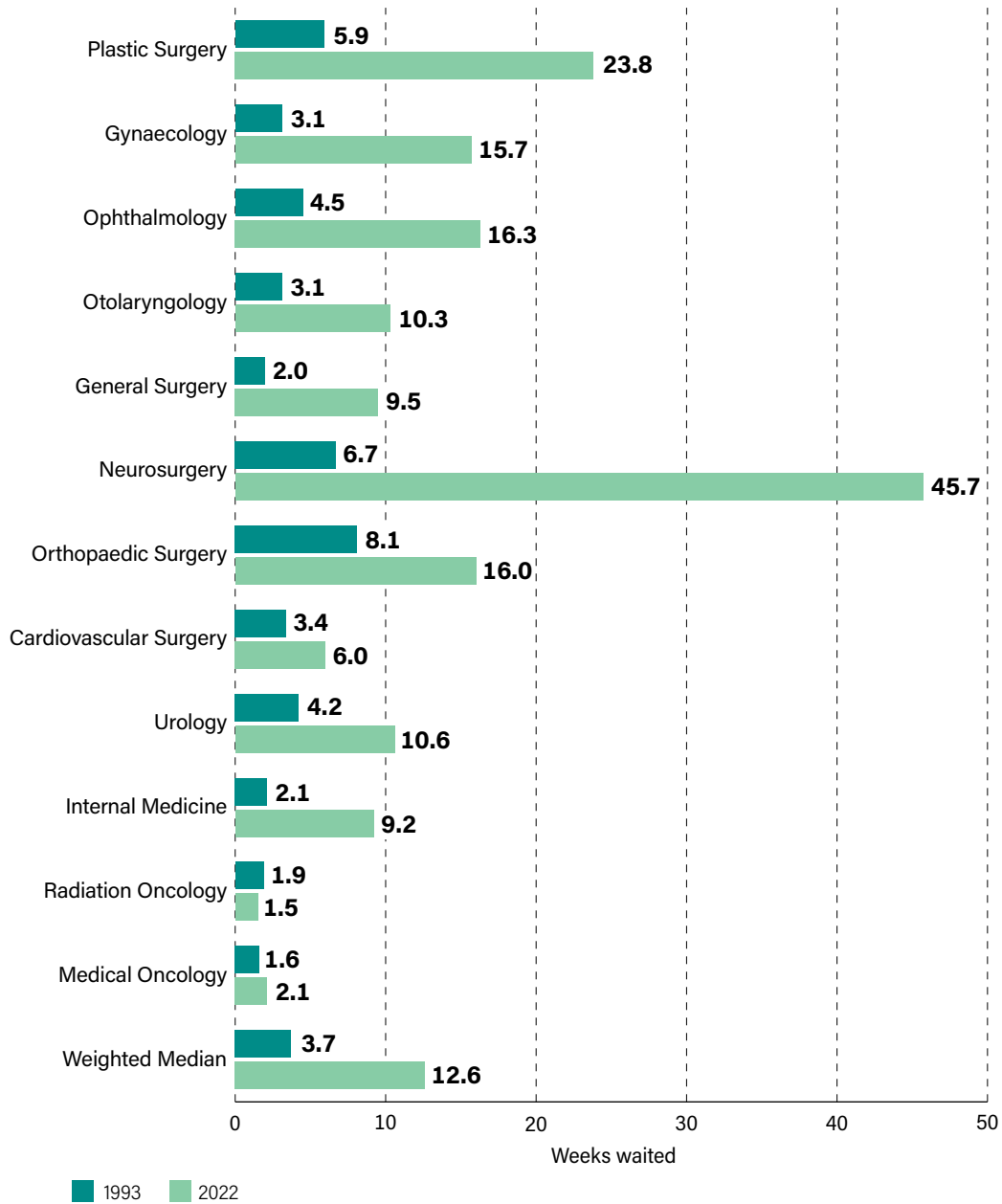
Graphs 9–19: Actual compared to reasonable waiting times, 1994 to 2022, by province

**Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2022**

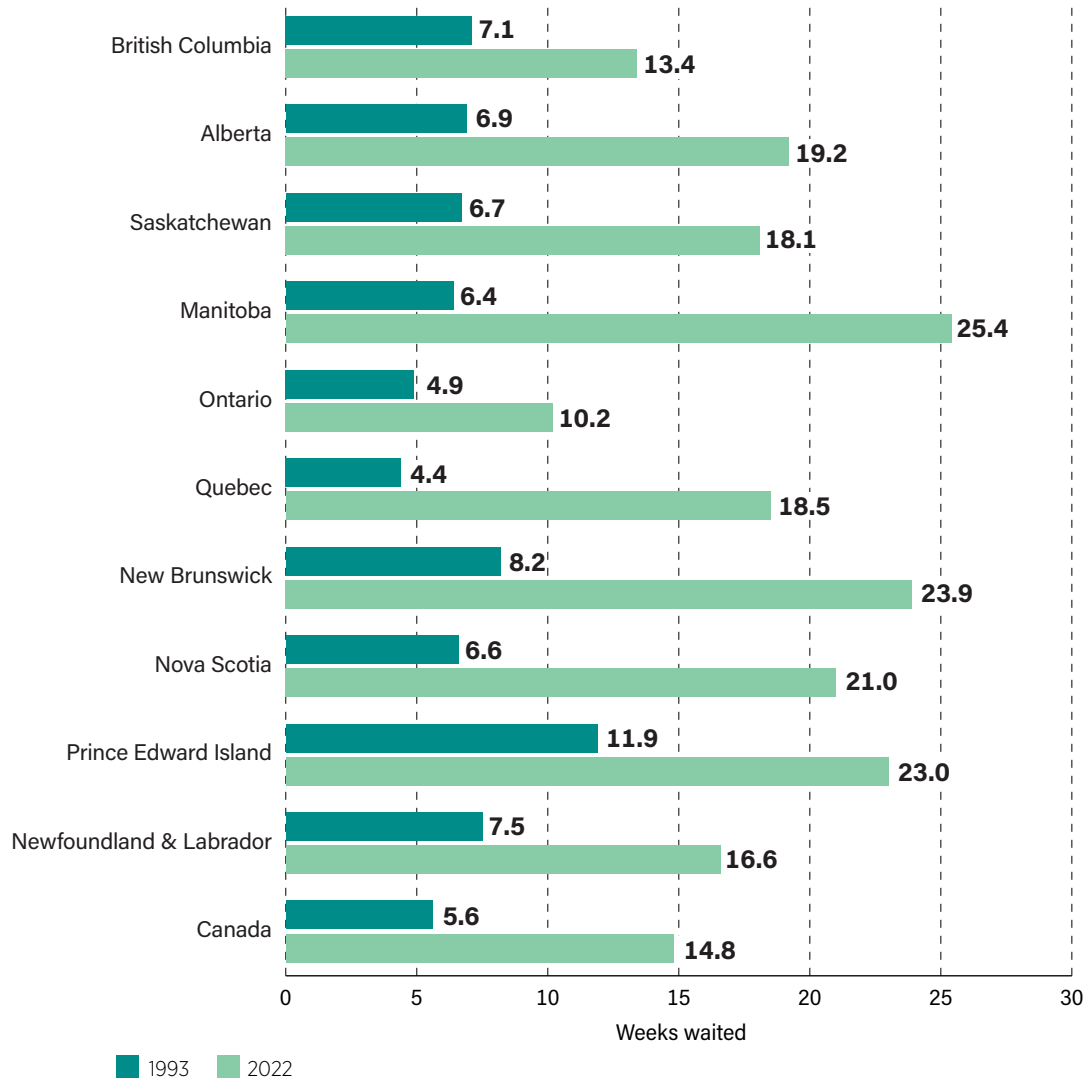


Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2022**

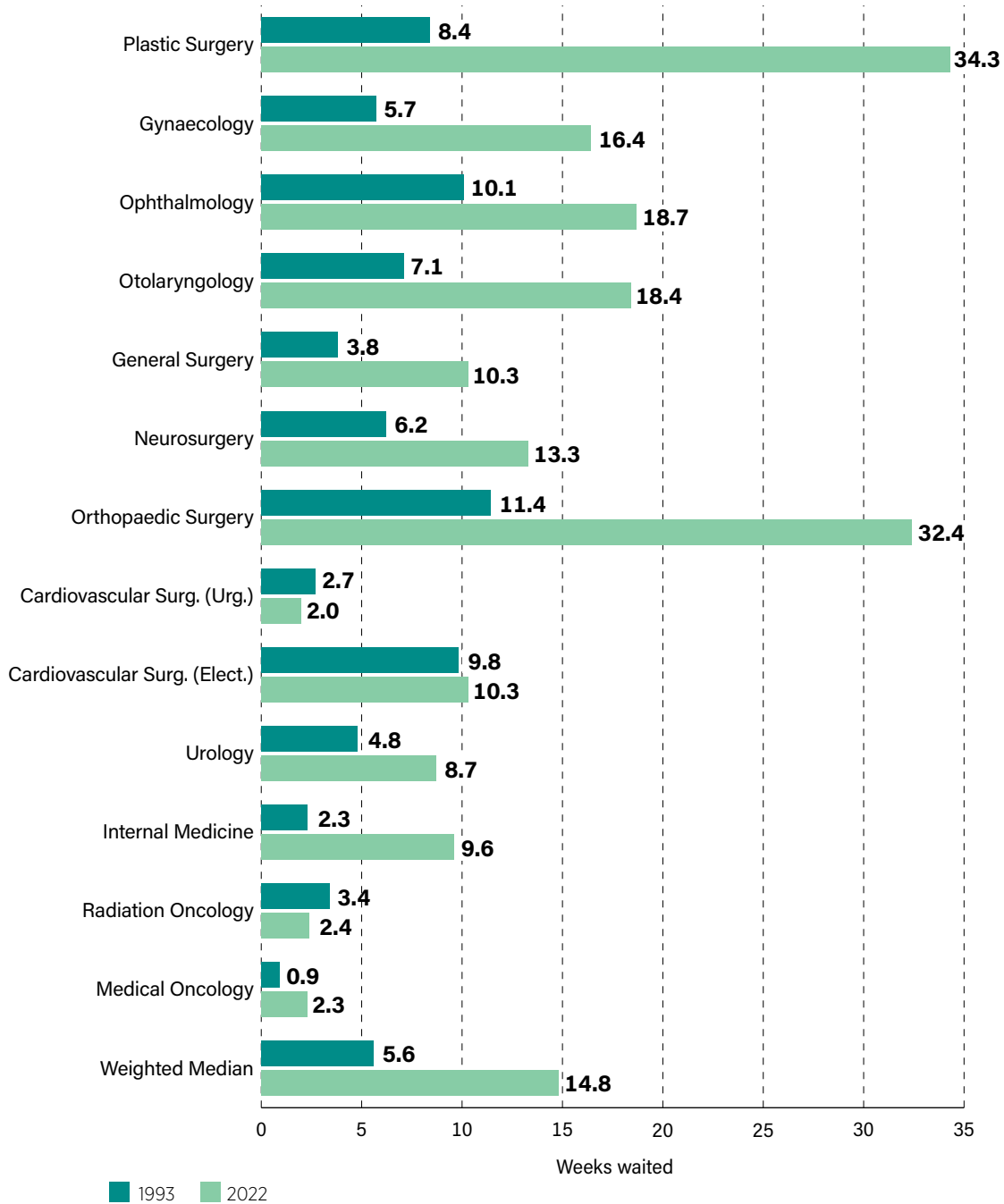


**Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2022**



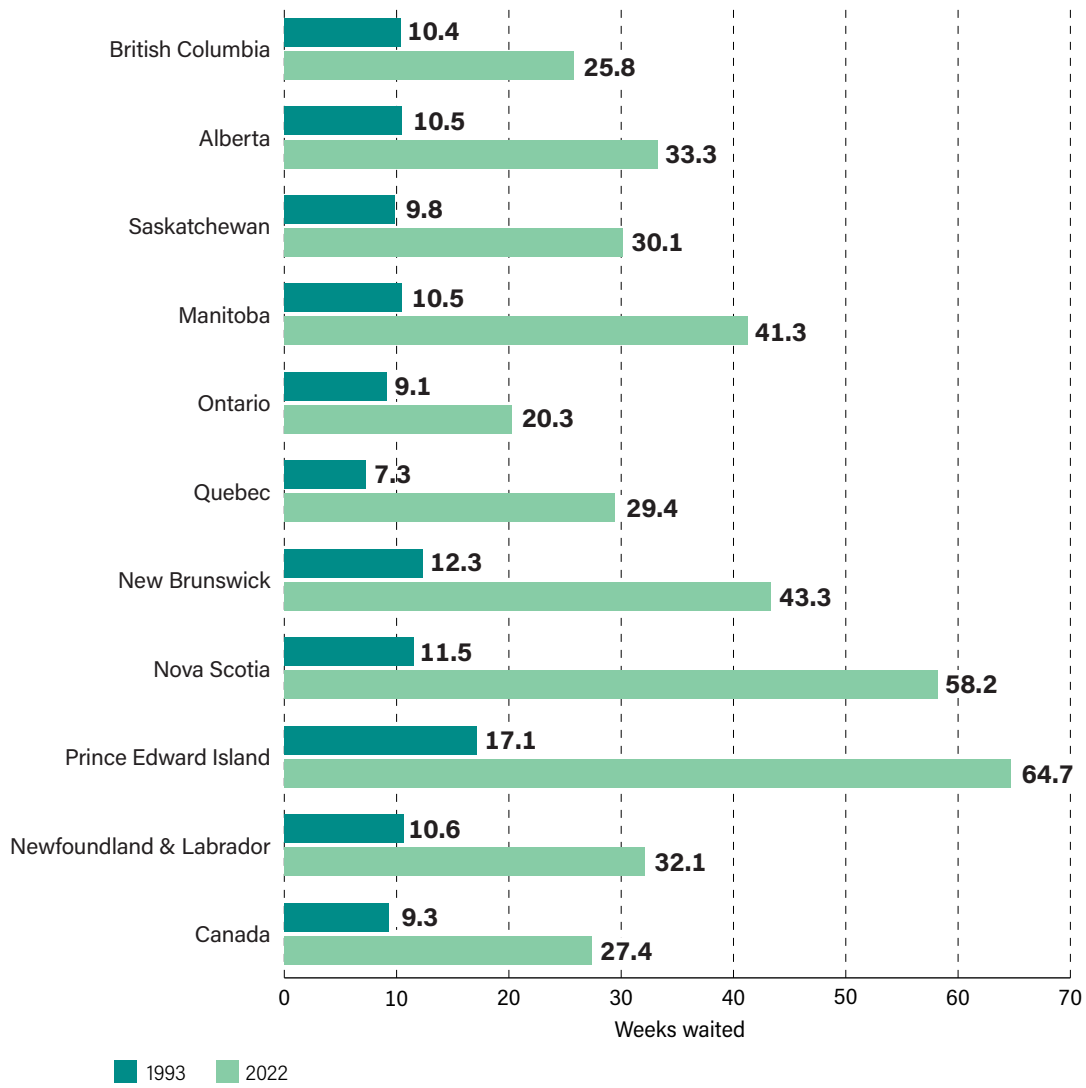
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2022**



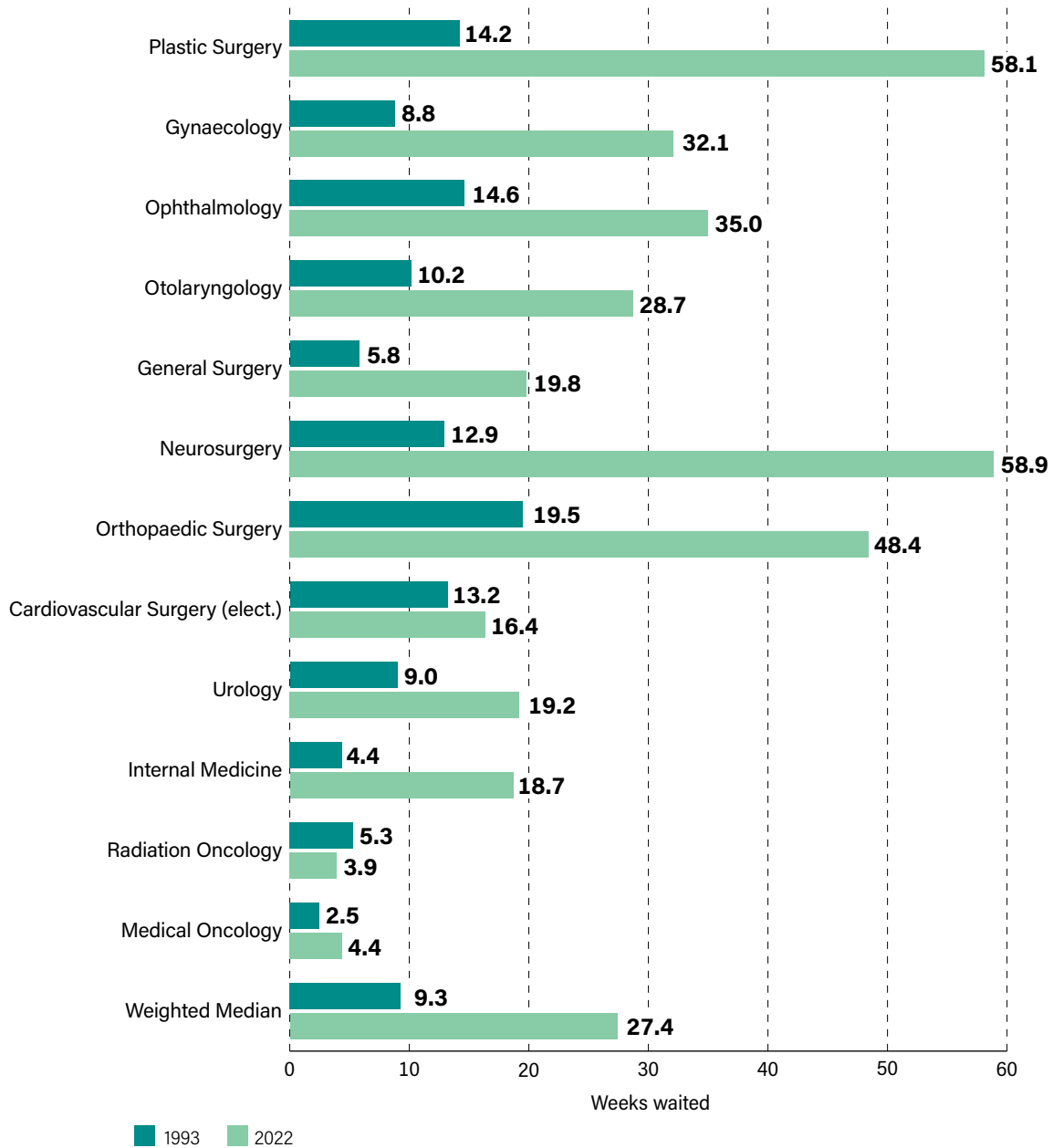
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2022**



Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

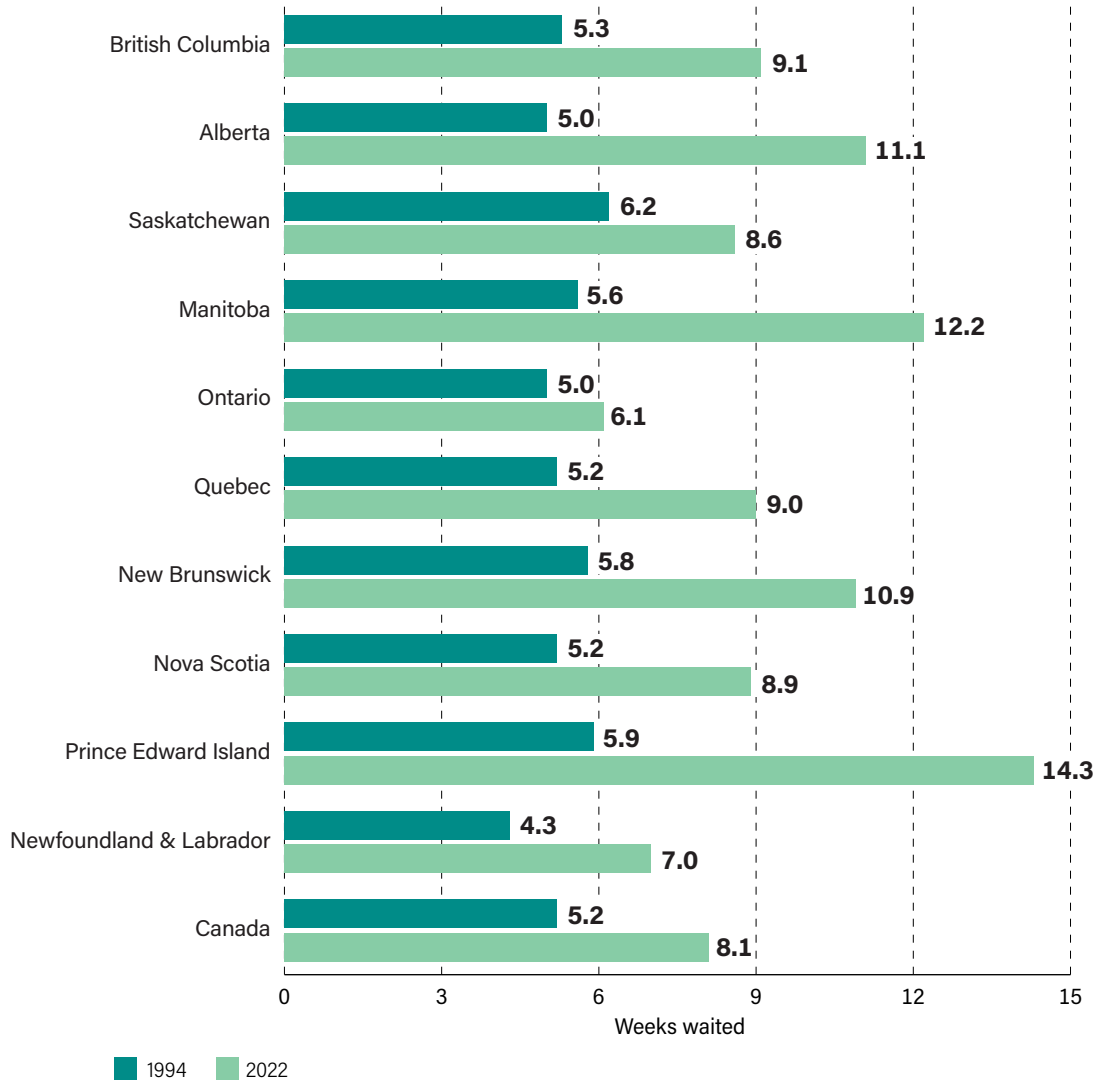
**Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2022**



Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

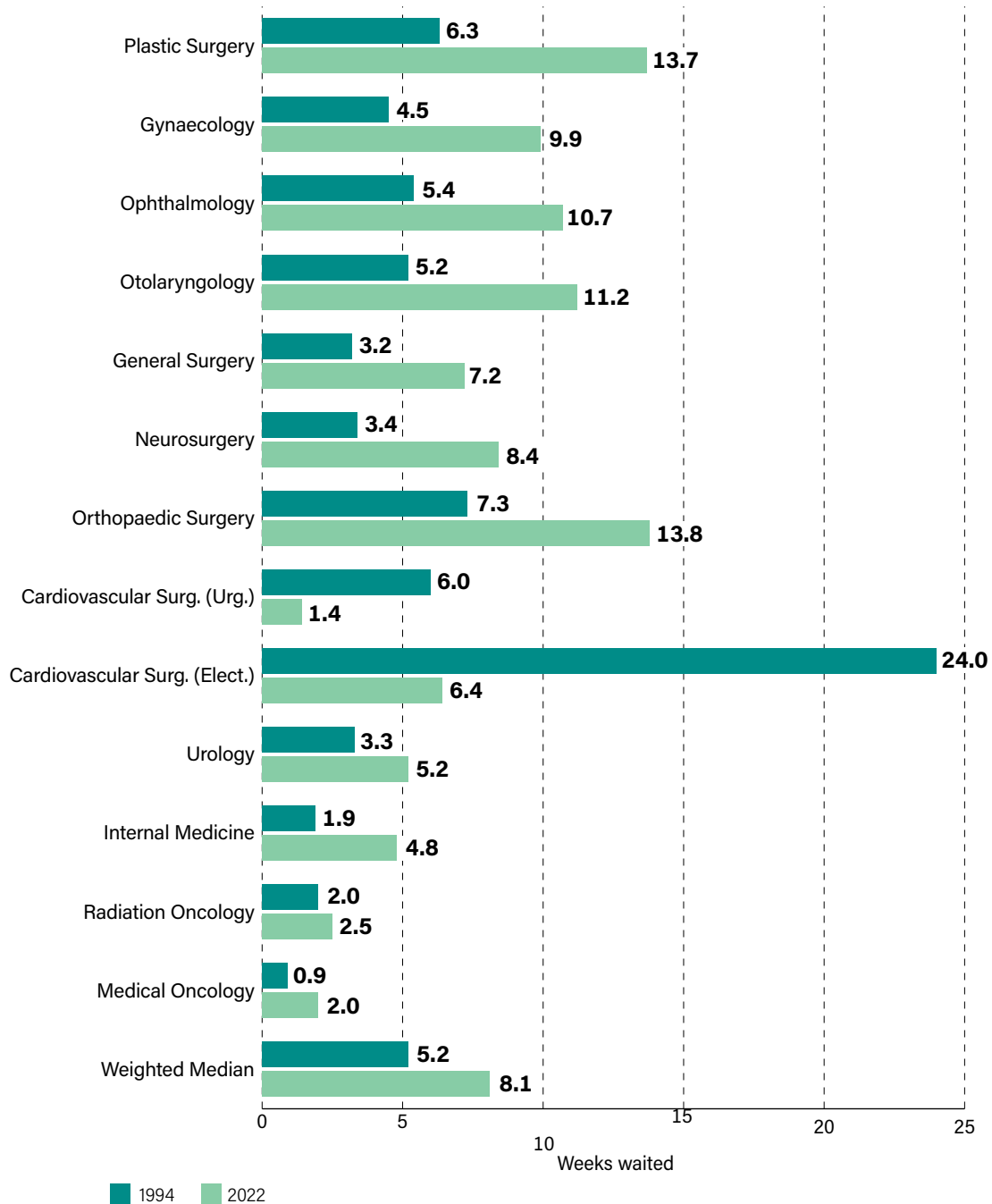


**Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2022**



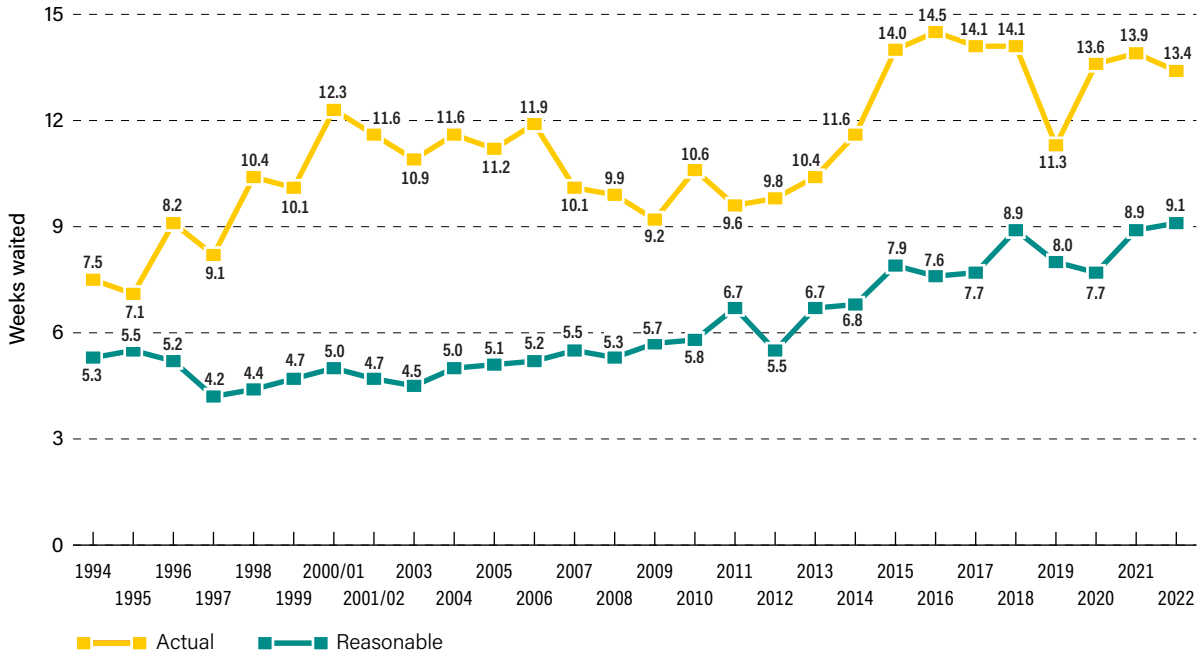
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2022**



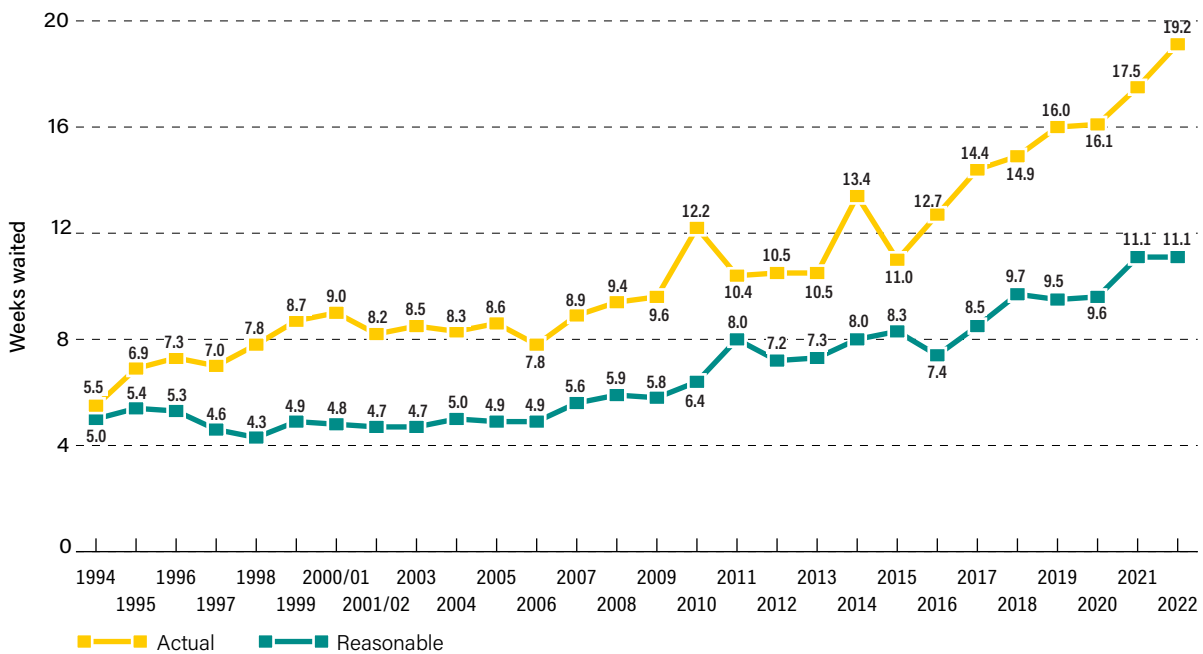
Sources: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2022; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 9: British Columbia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



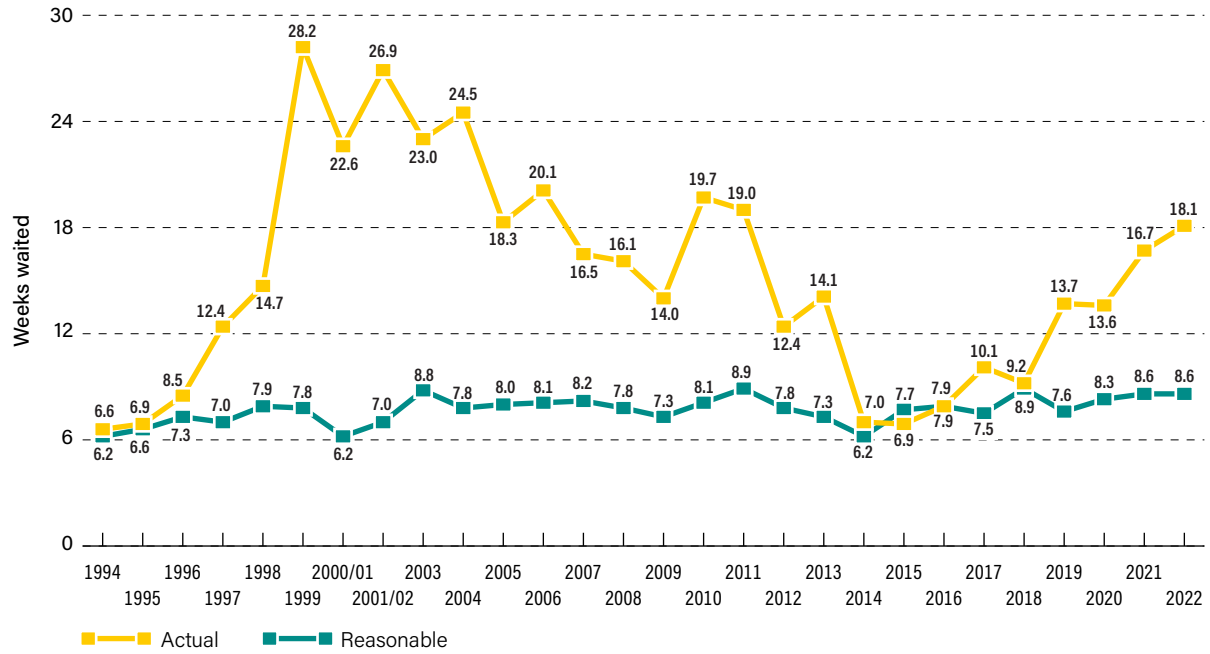
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 10: Alberta—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



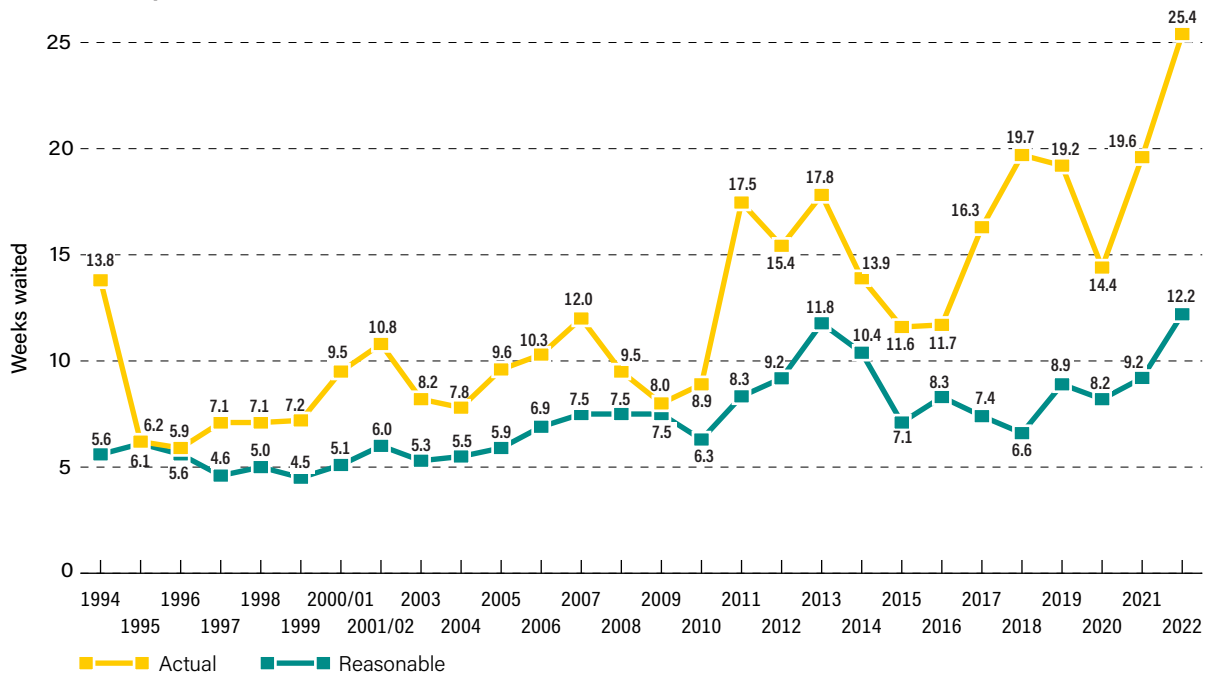
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



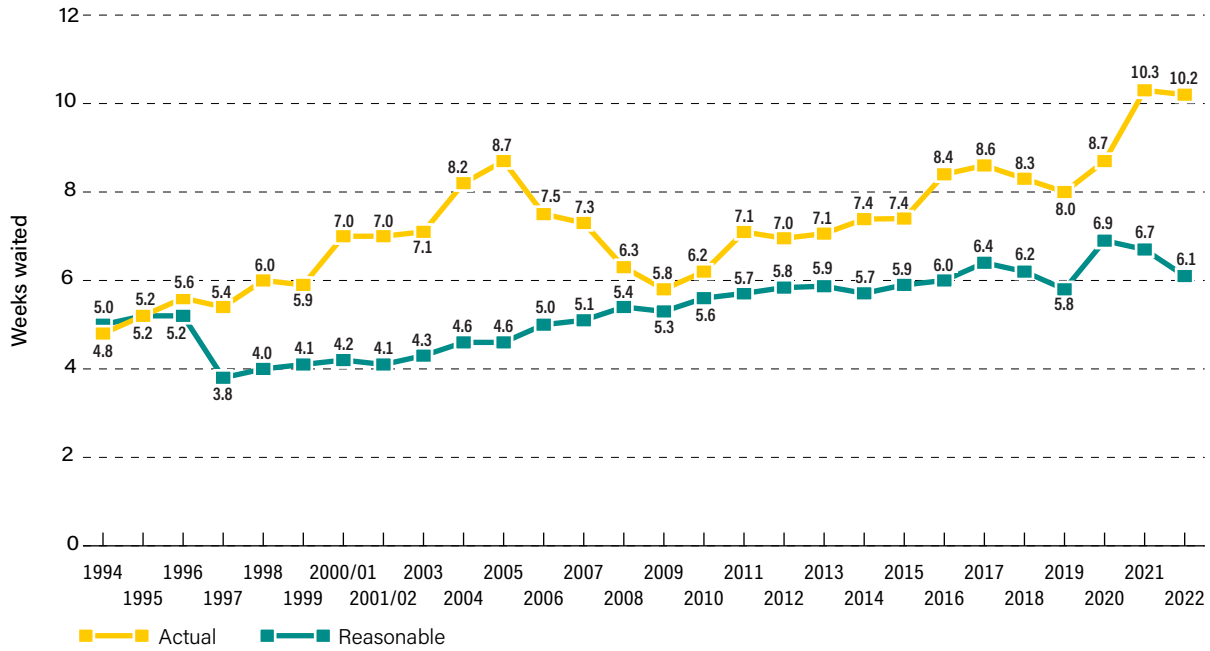
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 12: Manitoba—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



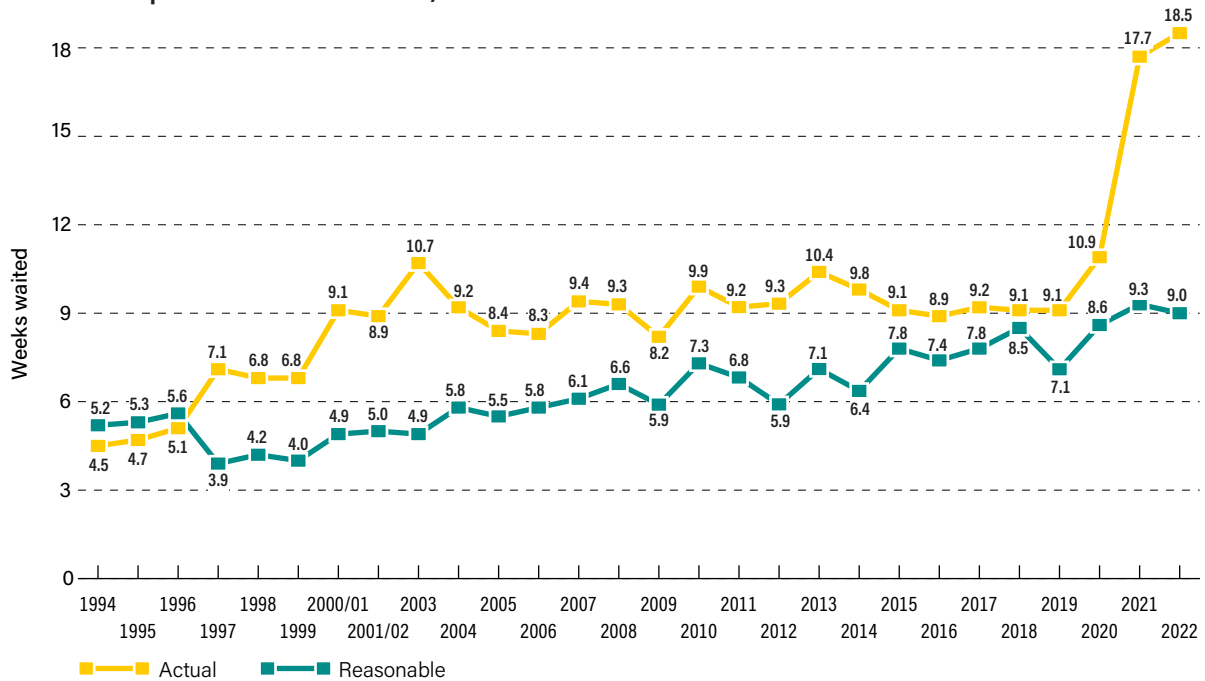
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 13: Ontario—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



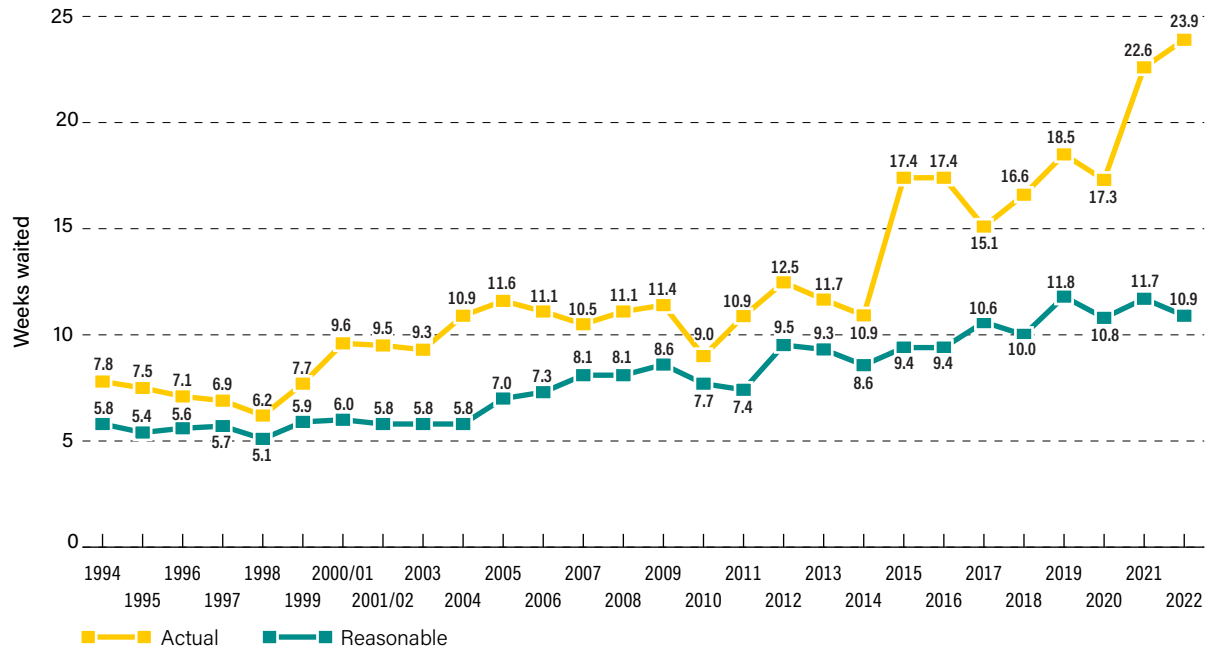
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 14: Quebec—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



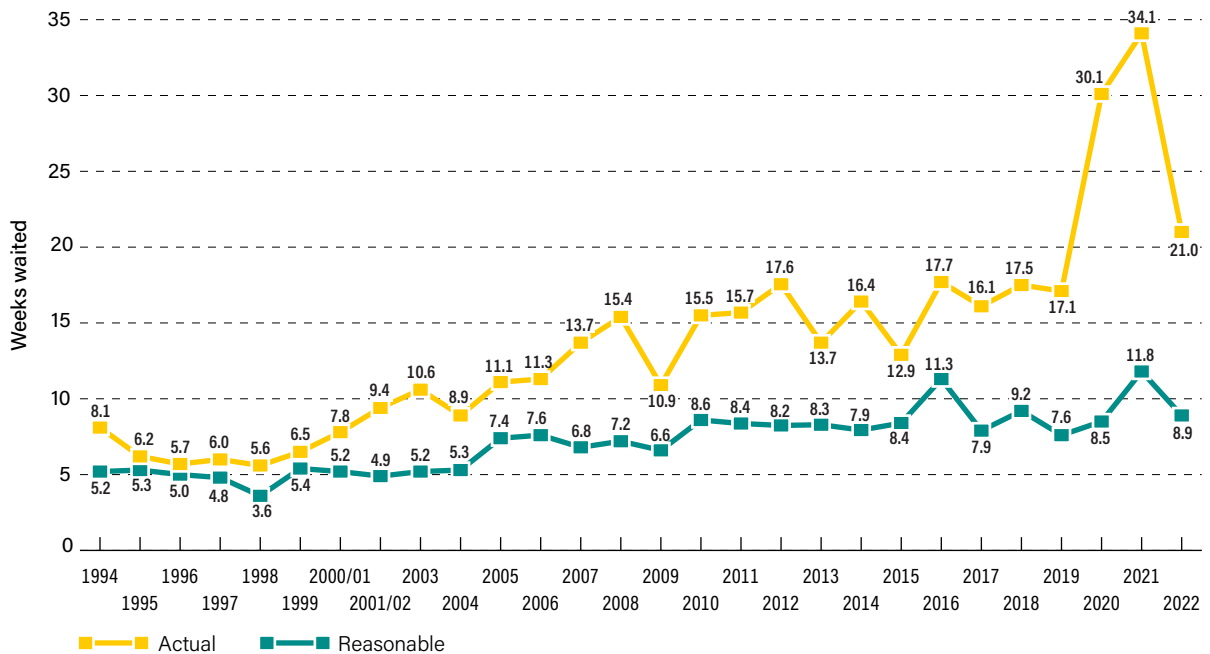
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



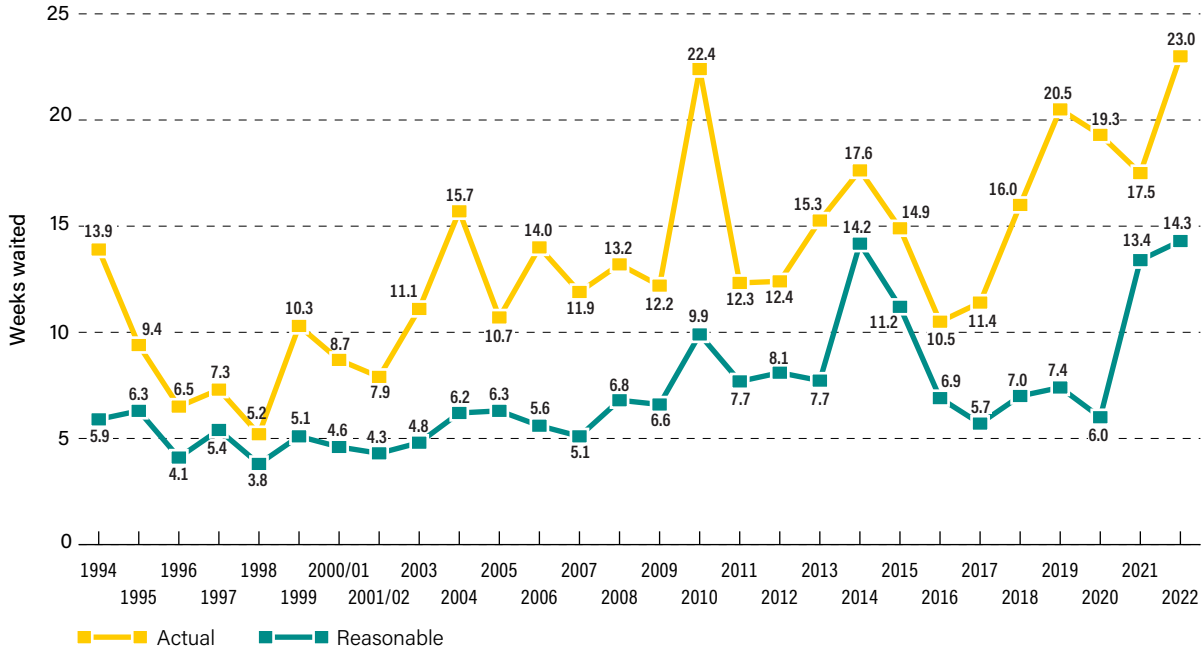
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



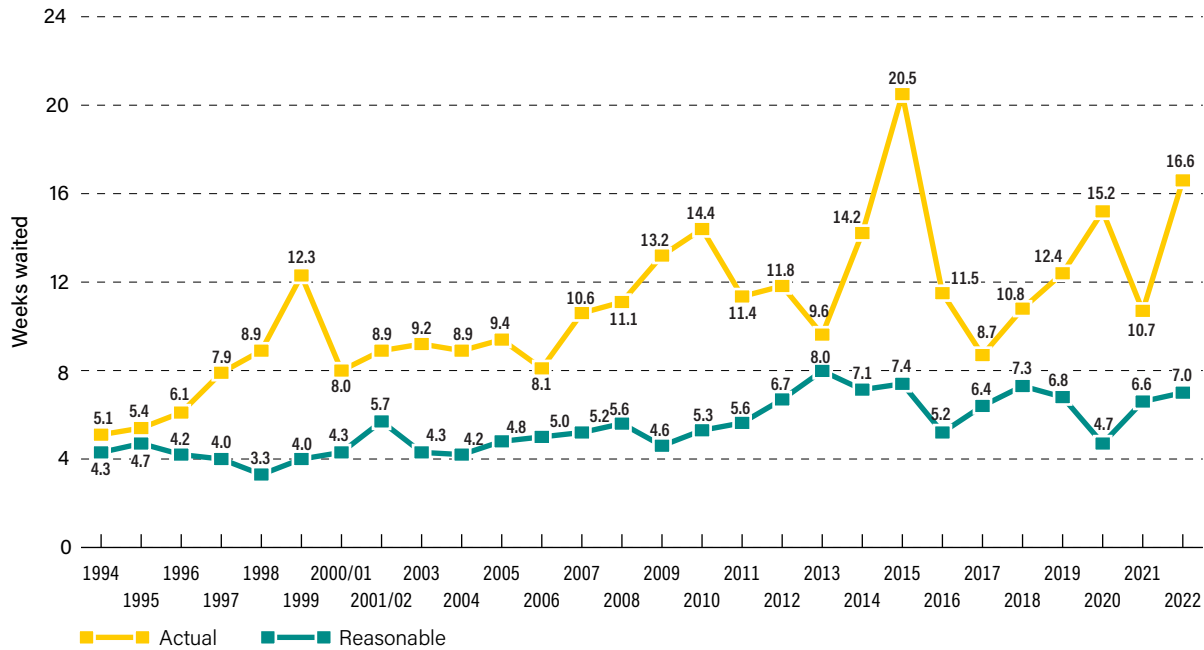
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



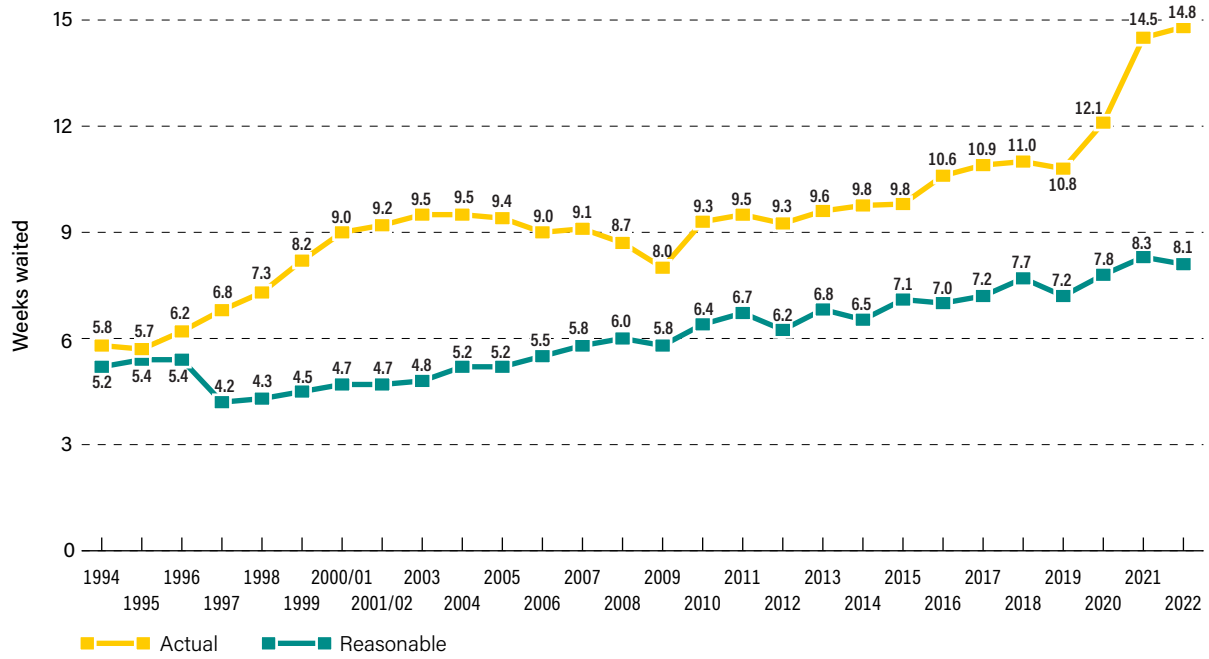
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.

**Graph 19: Canada—actual compared to reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2022**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2022.



# Selected tables

Tables 1A–1C: Summary of responses, 2022

Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2022 (in weeks)

Table 3: Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2022 (in weeks)

Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2022 (in weeks)

Tables 5A–5L: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks), by specialty, 2022

Table 6: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2022 and 2021

Table 7: Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2022—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges

Table 8: Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, 2022 (in weeks)

Tables 9A–9L: Median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks), by specialty, 2022

Table 10: Comparison between the median actual weeks waited and the median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2022

Table 11: Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, 2022

Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2022

Table 13A–13L: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, 2022

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2022)—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, 2022 and 2021

Table 16a: Acute inpatient procedures, 2020–2021

Table 16b: Same day procedures, 2020–2021

**Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2022—response rates (percentages), by specialty**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	28%	5%	17%	7%	5%	5%	13%	13%	100%	20%	10%
Gynaecology	13%	8%	26%	2%	7%	4%	11%	10%	20%	4%	8%
Ophthalmology	17%	6%	19%	13%	9%	5%	18%	8%	17%	7%	9%
Otolaryngology	24%	9%	0%	16%	10%	4%	23%	33%	100%	10%	11%
General Surgery	11%	3%	8%	8%	6%	2%	5%	4%	14%	7%	5%
Neurosurgery	18%	18%	17%	17%	3%	5%	0%	18%	—	0%	9%
Orthopaedic Surgery	24%	13%	25%	12%	10%	5%	19%	16%	33%	17%	12%
Cardiovascular Surgery	1%	11%	0%	0%	6%	7%	0%	22%	0%	0%	6%
Urology	19%	11%	0%	19%	6%	3%	24%	12%	0%	30%	9%
Internal Medicine	6%	4%	6%	3%	2%	2%	3%	23%	0%	3%	4%
Radiation Oncology	1%	5%	9%	7%	5%	6%	14%	7%	100%	13%	5%
Medical Oncology	2%	5%	33%	6%	2%	6%	29%	12%	0%	11%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

**Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2022—number of responses, by specialty**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	23	3	2	1	10	5	2	2	1	1	50
Gynaecology	29	15	12	1	43	18	4	4	1	1	128
Ophthalmology	30	7	4	3	32	14	3	3	1	1	98
Otolaryngology	20	5	0	3	24	8	3	8	1	1	73
General Surgery	23	4	5	5	35	9	2	2	1	2	88
Neurosurgery	7	6	2	1	2	4	0	2	—	0	24
Orthopaedic Surgery	50	19	9	6	51	16	7	7	1	4	170
Cardiovascular Surgery	1	4	0	0	8	6	0	4	0	0	23
Urology	17	5	0	3	15	5	4	3	0	3	55
Internal Medicine	27	11	4	2	28	16	1	10	0	1	100
Radiation Oncology	1	3	1	1	9	7	1	1	2	1	27
Medical Oncology	2	3	1	1	5	2	2	2	0	1	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>855</b>

**Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2022—number of questionnaires mailed out, by specialty**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	83	56	12	15	198	107	15	15	1	5	507
Gynaecology	216	180	47	64	646	444	37	41	5	26	1,706
Ophthalmology	173	108	21	24	362	295	17	36	6	15	1,057
Otolaryngology	82	54	11	19	229	195	13	24	1	10	638
General Surgery	214	147	60	62	588	435	37	45	7	29	1,624
Neurosurgery	39	34	12	6	80	79	9	11	—	3	273
Orthopaedic Surgery	211	145	36	49	516	339	37	44	3	23	1,403
Cardiovascular Surgery	70	36	11	9	139	82	8	18	1	4	378
Urology	91	46	11	16	236	162	17	26	2	10	617
Internal Medicine	420	310	70	72	1,144	672	37	43	13	38	2,819
Radiation Oncology	83	57	11	14	193	110	7	15	2	8	500
Medical Oncology	98	60	3	18	203	32	7	17	2	9	449
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>11,971</b>

**Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2022 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	70.4	65.8	52.9	38.9	33.9	74.1	61.1	77.2	39.0	46.1	58.1
Gynaecology	23.4	33.9	13.3	22.6	25.7	34.9	36.6	110.7	130.0	48.0	32.1
Ophthalmology	29.3	33.7	24.4	95.0	35.1	28.0	47.8	68.2	76.0	108.0	35.0
Otolaryngology	40.2	35.9	—	42.7	25.6	24.0	20.1	49.0	63.2	13.0	28.7
General Surgery	19.2	22.9	11.2	25.1	14.3	24.0	39.5	49.0	62.4	12.6	19.8
Neurosurgery	71.4	48.2	50.3	60.0	82.7	11.6	—	39.9	—	—	58.9
Orthopaedic Surgery	42.9	61.4	77.1	104.9	29.9	53.3	73.1	98.9	30.0	60.1	48.4
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	36.0	12.0	—	—	7.3	15.5	—	114.7	—	—	16.4
Urology	22.6	27.4	—	12.2	13.9	25.2	36.0	41.4	—	22.0	19.2
Internal Medicine	16.2	28.3	54.0	18.5	13.4	17.9	25.2	37.6	—	38.0	18.7
Radiation Oncology	6.0	7.8	4.0	6.2	3.5	3.9	2.0	6.0	5.3	8.0	3.9
Medical Oncology	7.7	7.5	3.8	6.5	4.2	2.9	3.4	2.6	—	4.0	4.4
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>27.4</b>

\* 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, 2022 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	36.0	6.5	8.5	15.0	16.0	33.0	26.9	32.0	1.0	30.0	23.8
Gynaecology	11.5	22.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	23.0	52.0	104.0	26.0	15.7
Ophthalmology	12.0	16.0	12.0	34.0	16.0	12.0	24.0	52.0	40.0	52.0	16.3
Otolaryngology	16.0	5.5	—	24.0	9.0	9.0	4.0	29.0	52.0	5.0	10.3
General Surgery	10.5	11.0	5.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	19.0	43.0	40.0	6.0	9.5
Neurosurgery	52.0	14.0	33.0	26.0	78.0	4.0	—	21.0	—	—	45.7
Orthopaedic Surgery	16.0	27.0	27.0	44.0	10.0	12.0	24.0	27.0	24.0	14.0	16.0
Cardiovascular Surgery	16.0	3.0	—	—	3.3	4.0	—	52.0	—	—	6.0
Urology	14.0	12.0	—	6.0	8.0	12.5	18.0	20.0	—	12.0	10.6
Internal Medicine	6.0	8.0	19.0	4.0	8.5	12.0	12.0	31.0	—	26.0	9.2
Radiation Oncology	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.3	4.0	1.5
Medical Oncology	3.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	1.3	2.0	1.8	—	2.0	2.1
Weighted Median	12.4	14.1	11.9	15.9	10.1	10.9	19.4	37.3	41.7	15.5	12.6

**Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2022 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	34.4	59.3	44.4	23.9	17.9	41.1	34.2	45.2	38.0	16.1	34.3
Gynaecology	11.9	11.9	9.3	10.6	13.7	22.9	13.6	58.7	26.0	22.0	16.4
Ophthalmology	17.3	17.7	12.4	61.0	19.1	16.0	23.8	16.2	36.0	56.0	18.7
Otolaryngology	24.2	30.4	—	18.7	16.6	15.0	16.1	20.0	11.2	8.0	18.4
General Surgery	8.7	11.9	6.2	16.1	8.3	18.0	20.5	6.0	22.4	6.6	10.3
Neurosurgery	19.4	34.2	17.3	34.0	4.7	7.6	—	18.9	—	—	13.3
Orthopaedic Surgery	26.9	34.4	50.1	60.9	19.9	41.3	49.1	71.9	6.0	46.1	32.4
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	1.1	—	4.8	—	—	2.0
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	20.0	9.0	—	—	4.0	11.5	—	62.7	—	—	10.3
Urology	8.6	15.4	—	6.2	5.9	12.7	18.0	21.4	—	10.0	8.7
Internal Medicine	10.2	20.3	35.0	14.5	4.9	5.9	13.2	6.6	—	12.0	9.6
Radiation Oncology	4.0	4.8	2.0	3.7	2.0	2.9	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.4
Medical Oncology	4.7	2.5	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.6	1.4	0.9	—	2.0	2.3
Weighted Median	13.4	19.2	18.1	25.4	10.2	18.5	23.9	21.0	23.0	16.6	14.8

**Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	46.5	156.0	52.0	32.0	23.0	66.0	52.0	45.5	38.0	18.0
Neurolysis	16.0	9.0	—	12.0	10.0	24.0	12.0	45.5	38.0	18.0
Blepharoplasty	24.0	12.0	—	16.0	10.5	12.0	20.0	45.5	38.0	18.0
Rhinoplasty	26.0	6.0	—	20.0	10.5	6.0	36.0	45.5	38.0	18.0
Scar Revision	40.0	9.0	78.0	30.0	27.5	38.0	36.0	45.5	38.0	18.0
Hand Surgery	20.0	6.0	7.0	12.0	20.0	38.0	4.0	44.0	38.0	4.0
Craniofacial Procedures	10.5	12.0	—	—	41.0	52.0	—	44.0	38.0	18.0
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	6.0	5.0	1.8	2.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	56.0	38.0	18.0
Weighted Median	34.4	59.3	44.4	23.9	17.9	41.1	34.2	45.2	38.0	16.1

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

**Table 5B: Gynaecology (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	11.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	6.5	3.0	24.0	26.0	22.0
Tubal Ligation	15.5	12.0	12.0	8.0	18.0	40.0	26.0	58.5	26.0	22.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	16.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	16.0	25.5	15.0	78.0	26.0	22.0
Vaginal Repair	16.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	18.0	36.0	20.0	78.0	26.0	22.0
Tuboplasty	13.0	18.0	12.0	—	16.0	35.0	—	—	26.0	22.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	14.0	12.0	9.0	8.0	14.0	25.0	14.0	52.0	26.0	22.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	12.0	12.0	7.5	8.0	12.0	16.0	14.0	65.0	26.0	22.0
Weighted Median	11.9	11.9	9.3	10.6	13.7	22.9	13.6	58.7	26.0	22.0

**Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	18.0	20.0	12.0	61.0	20.0	16.0	24.0	18.0	36.0	56.0
Cornea Transplant	36.0	32.0	36.0	70.0	14.0	18.0	—	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	19.0	12.0	55.5	24.0	14.0	18.0	28.0	—	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	17.0	22.0	—	—	14.0	16.0	—	14.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	13.0	6.5	—	—	14.0	16.0	2.0	8.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	18.0	12.0	12.0	—	17.0	16.0	4.0	33.0	—	—
Strabismus	19.0	42.0	20.0	—	49.0	16.0	24.0	14.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	10.0	12.0	12.0	—	11.0	16.0	26.0	33.0	—	—
Glaucoma	9.5	17.0	12.0	—	10.0	12.0	24.0	14.0	—	—
Weighted Median	17.3	17.7	12.4	61.0	19.1	16.0	23.8	16.2	36.0	56.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

**Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	10.0	24.0	—	17.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	8.0
Tympanoplasty	24.0	95.0	—	17.0	20.0	26.0	24.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	8.0	—	12.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	26.0	—	8.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	23.2	30.0	—	24.0	16.0	16.5	16.0	26.0	12.0	8.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	30.2	53.5	—	24.0	24.0	26.0	24.0	26.0	14.0	8.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	34.0	26.0	—	18.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	21.0	14.0	8.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>

**Table 5E: General surgery (2022)—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	26.0	8.0	32.0	12.0	32.5	37.0	6.0	25.0	7.0
Cholecystectomy	12.0	10.0	12.0	32.0	12.0	20.8	13.0	6.0	25.0	6.5
Colonoscopy	11.0	6.0	8.0	19.0	12.0	12.0	50.0	6.0	60.0	6.5
Intestinal Operations	7.0	11.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	6.5
Haemorrhoidectomy	15.0	8.0	6.0	21.0	16.0	32.5	31.0	6.0	12.0	10.0
Breast Biopsy	3.5	4.0	2.0	3.5	2.3	4.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.8
Mastectomy	3.5	3.0	2.8	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	6.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	—	8.5	—	6.0	6.0	—	8.0
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	—	8.5	—	—	6.0	—	8.0
Varicose Veins	15.5	—	7.5	—	12.0	38.5	56.0	6.0	—	8.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>

**Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	26.0	39.0	8.0	34.0	—	8.0	—	26.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	26.0	33.5	42.0	34.0	9.0	12.0	—	19.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	12.0	33.5	9.0	34.0	3.0	6.0	—	17.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	39.0	—	34.0	—	—	—	26.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	39.0	—	34.0	—	—	—	26.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	16.0	24.0	7.0	30.0	12.0	20.0	15.0	20.0	6.0	13.0
Removal of Pins	14.0	24.0	8.0	30.0	14.0	26.0	16.0	20.0	6.0	18.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	31.0	40.0	72.0	69.0	20.5	56.0	65.0	104.0	6.0	67.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	26.0	24.0	72.0	52.0	12.0	32.0	8.0	16.0	6.0	10.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	24.0	22.0	16.5	52.0	12.0	25.0	17.0	16.0	6.0	60.0
Digit Neuroma	20.0	20.0	21.0	52.0	13.0	25.0	17.0	16.0	6.0	10.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	24.0	31.0	20.0	30.0	15.5	19.0	26.0	18.0	6.0	24.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	20.0	25.0	18.0	52.0	15.5	27.5	17.0	23.0	6.0	—
Routine Spinal Instability	34.0	52.0	20.0	—	56.0	56.0	38.0	70.0	—	—
Weighted Median	26.9	34.4	50.1	60.9	19.9	41.3	49.1	71.9	6.0	46.1

**Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
<b>Emergent</b>	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.0	1.3	—	—	1.0	0.0	—	1.0	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.0	1.3	—	—	1.0	0.0	—	1.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	1.3	—	—	0.3	0.1	—	0.8	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	1.3	—	—	1.0	1.0	—	0.8	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	1.3	—	—	1.0	—	—	1.0	—
	Weighted Median	0.0	1.3	—	—	1.0	0.0	—	1.0	—
<b>Urgent</b>	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	5.5	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	2.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	1.3	—	4.8	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	4.0	—	—	1.8	1.0	—	1.8	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	4.0	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	2.3	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	4.0	—	—	2.0	—	—	4.8	—
	Weighted Median	2.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	1.1	—	4.8	—
<b>Elective</b>	Coronary Artery Bypass	20.0	9.0	—	—	4.0	11.0	—	64.0	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	20.0	9.0	—	—	4.0	12.0	—	64.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	20.0	9.0	—	—	4.0	8.0	—	36.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	9.0	—	—	4.0	12.0	—	36.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	9.0	—	—	4.0	—	—	64.0	—
	Weighted Median	20.0	9.0	—	—	4.0	11.5	—	62.7	—

**Table 5I: Urology (2022)—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	28.0	19.5	—	7.0	9.0	33.0	28.0	32.0	—	52.0
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	13.0	—	6.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	15.0	—	12.0
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	6.0	13.0	—	2.8	6.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	—	6.0
Radical Cystectomy	6.0	13.0	—	4.0	8.0	3.5	6.0	—	—	9.0
Cystoscopy	4.5	13.0	—	6.0	4.5	10.0	11.0	20.0	—	6.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	24.0	19.5	—	16.0	14.0	25.0	52.0	60.0	—	78.0
Bladder Fulguration	8.0	17.0	—	2.5	7.0	3.0	12.0	5.0	—	6.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	12.0	18.3	—	5.0	13.5	5.0	—	—	—	26.0
Weighted Median	8.6	15.4	—	6.2	5.9	12.7	18.0	21.4	—	10.0

**Table 5J: Internal medicine (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	12.0	24.0	35.0	17.0	6.0	12.0	24.0	7.0	—	—
Angiography/ Angioplasty	5.0	4.0	—	6.8	2.3	4.0	8.0	6.0	—	12.0
Bronchoscopy	5.0	14.0	—	10.0	4.0	3.5	16.0	5.3	—	—
Gastroscopy	11.0	24.0	35.0	21.0	6.0	8.0	24.0	6.0	—	—
Weighted Median	10.2	20.3	35.0	14.5	4.9	5.9	13.2	6.6	—	12.0

**Table 5K: Radiation oncology (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of The Larynx	—	2.0	—	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	3.0	4.0
Cancer of The Cervix	—	3.3	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	—	3.0	4.0
Lung Cancer	4.0	2.0	—	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	3.0	4.0
Prostate Cancer	4.0	10.0	1.5	5.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Breast Cancer	—	3.0	2.5	5.0	2.0	3.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	2.0	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	3.0	4.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	3.0	1.5	6.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Weighted Median	4.0	4.8	2.0	3.7	2.0	2.9	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0

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

**Table 5L: Medical oncology (2022)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	—	2.5	2.0	2.5	1.5	5.0	1.5	1.0	—	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	4.0	—	2.5	1.8	5.0	1.8	—	—	2.0
Lung Cancer	4.5	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.5	—	2.0
Breast Cancer	5.0	2.5	—	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	—	2.0
Side Effects from Treatment	3.3	1.0	0.5	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	—	0.5
Weighted Median	4.7	2.5	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.6	1.4	0.9	—	2.0

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, 2022 and 2021**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg
Plastic Surgery	34.4	35.0	-2%	59.3	10.9	442%	44.4	68.3	-35%	23.9	31.2	-23%	17.9	11.0	63%
Gynaecology	11.9	11.5	3%	11.9	14.2	-16%	9.3	7.1	31%	10.6	8.6	24%	13.7	10.7	28%
Ophthalmology	17.2	21.2	-18%	17.7	19.1	-7%	12.4	15.6	-20%	61.0	42.0	45%	19.1	18.0	6%
Otolaryngology	24.2	14.3	69%	30.4	23.6	29%	—	47.0	—	18.7	28.4	-34%	16.6	12.6	32%
General Surgery	8.7	7.3	20%	11.9	9.5	26%	6.2	9.0	-31%	16.1	8.0	101%	8.3	7.8	7%
Neurosurgery	19.4	14.0	39%	34.2	9.8	249%	17.3	15.5	11%	34.0	17.2	98%	4.7	32.3	-86%
Orthopaedic Surgery	26.9	36.4	-26%	34.4	34.2	1%	50.1	31.8	58%	60.9	48.0	27%	19.9	19.6	1%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	2.0	2.1	-3%	4.0	2.5	60%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	0.8	139%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	20.0	6.7	198%	9.0	6.2	46%	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	4.0	1%
Urology	8.6	6.2	40%	15.4	7.4	109%	—	5.6	—	6.2	7.2	-14%	5.9	4.5	29%
Internal Medicine	10.2	14.1	-28%	20.3	25.8	-21%	35.0	20.4	71%	14.5	8.2	76%	4.9	4.8	2%
Radiation Oncology	4.0	6.6	-40%	4.8	—	—	2.0	2.8	-27%	3.7	1.9	95%	2.0	2.0	0%
Medical Oncology	4.7	7.0	-33%	2.5	2.0	27%	1.8	—	—	2.5	—	—	2.2	1.3	76%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>0%</b>

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg
Plastic Surgery	41.1	24.9	65%	34.2	33.4	2%	45.2	—	—	38.0	—	—	16.0	—	—
Gynaecology	22.9	20.7	11%	13.6	15.4	-12%	58.6	19.4	202%	26.0	15.2	71%	22.0	4.9	346%
Ophthalmology	16.0	17.5	-8%	23.8	35.1	-32%	16.2	12.5	29%	36.0	28.7	25%	56.0	—	—
Otolaryngology	15.0	15.5	-3%	16.1	14.6	11%	20.0	187.6	-89%	11.3	3.5	225%	8.0	8.0	0%
General Surgery	18.0	14.1	28%	20.5	18.6	10%	6.0	36.8	-84%	22.4	6.3	254%	6.6	3.6	81%
Neurosurgery	7.6	21.3	-65%	—	—	—	18.9	8.	114%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	41.3	38.5	7%	49.1	36.8	33%	72.0	40.7	77%	6.0	40.8	-85%	46.2	23.5	96%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urgent)	1.1	1.0	12%	—	2.1	—	4.8	1.5	221%	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elective)	11.5	5.5	109%	—	11.8	—	62.7	12.0	422%	—	—	—	—	4	—
Urology	12.7	17.3	-27%	18.0	9.1	97%	21.4	23.9	-11%	—	—	—	10.0	24.5	-59%
Internal Medicine	5.9	7.6	-23%	13.2	14.3	-8%	6.6	23.4	-72%	—	14.2	—	12.0	10	20%
Radiation Oncology	2.9	3.1	-5%	1.0	2.6	-61%	3.0	3.3	-9%	3.0	1.0	200%	4.0	—	—
Medical Oncology	1.6	6.9	-76%	1.4	1.8	-26%	0.9	—	—	—	3.5	—	2.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>55%</b>

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, 2022—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	9.3%	12.8%	12.8%	15.2%	17.9%	19.3%	11.4%	23.0%	28.0%	10.0%
4–7.99 Weeks	17.3%	23.4%	26.1%	10.7%	20.2%	13.0%	17.4%	18.1%	22.0%	22.2%
8–12.99 Weeks	20.1%	14.0%	29.4%	17.9%	24.9%	17.3%	17.4%	7.7%	8.0%	32.2%
13–25.99 Weeks	27.6%	20.9%	13.9%	21.4%	17.7%	22.2%	23.5%	12.5%	8.0%	20.0%
26–51.99 Weeks	16.6%	13.1%	5.6%	17.9%	8.8%	14.8%	20.1%	20.2%	32.0%	2.2%
1 year plus	9.1%	15.8%	12.2%	17.0%	10.5%	13.4%	10.1%	18.5%	2.0%	13.3%

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, 2022 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	20.7	10.7	72.6	10.5	8.5	14.5	16.3	13.5	19.0	8.0	13.7
Gynaecology	10.0	9.6	6.9	30.4	7.4	11.9	6.3	12.7	10.0	8.0	9.9
Ophthalmology	13.0	14.7	12.4	16.0	9.2	7.4	8.2	9.7	26.0	8.0	10.7
Otolaryngology	14.5	12.5	—	15.0	10.7	8.7	15.9	12.3	—	6.0	11.2
General Surgery	8.0	12.3	5.1	9.2	5.2	9.4	13.1	4.0	7.7	4.7	7.2
Neurosurgery	8.4	18.2	7.5	12.0	5.1	5.0	—	35.9	—	—	8.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.7	12.4	11.1	18.5	11.4	17.1	19.7	16.5	—	15.2	13.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.8	3.0	—	—	1.4	0.5	—	2.5	—	—	1.4
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.7	8.0	—	—	4.0	5.3	—	37.1	—	—	6.4
Urology	4.7	6.0	—	6.5	4.3	7.8	7.8	8.2	—	8.6	5.2
Internal Medicine	5.8	5.4	5.0	7.6	3.5	4.8	4.0	5.3	—	4.0	4.8
Radiation Oncology	6.0	1.9	2.8	4.6	2.0	3.1	—	6.0	3.0	3.0	2.5
Medical Oncology	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.3	2.0	—	2.0	2.0
Weighted Median	9.1	11.1	8.6	12.2	6.1	9.0	10.9	8.9	14.3	7.0	8.1

**Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	26.0	12.0	104.0	20.0	11.0	17.0	21.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Neurolysis	7.0	7.3	—	4.0	5.5	12.0	8.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Blepharoplasty	17.5	5.0	—	8.0	7.0	10.0	14.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Rhinoplasty	26.0	5.0	—	8.0	7.0	6.0	24.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Scar Revision	26.0	14.5	104.0	4.0	11.5	18.0	24.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Hand Surgery	12.0	6.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	4.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
Craniofacial Procedures	12.0	11.0	—	—	5.0	12.0	—	13.5	19.0	8.0
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	6.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.0	4.0	13.5	19.0	8.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

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

**Table 9B: Gynaecology (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	4.0	7.3	5.0	24.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	10.0	8.0
Tubal Ligation	17.0	12.0	7.0	24.0	12.0	22.0	20.0	24.0	10.0	8.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	13.0	11.0	9.0	38.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	16.0	10.0	8.0
Vaginal Repair	13.0	12.0	9.0	52.0	12.0	24.0	6.0	20.0	10.0	8.0
Tuboplasty	12.0	24.0	15.0	52.0	8.0	24.0	—	—	10.0	8.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	12.0	12.0	9.0	52.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	9.0	10.0	8.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	12.0	8.0	5.0	24.0	8.0	8.0	4.5	9.0	10.0	8.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

**Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	13.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	26.0	8.0
Cornea Transplant	16.0	24.0	—	20.0	8.0	6.0	—	4.0	—	8.0
Cornea - Pterygium	20.0	18.0	20.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	16.5	4.0	—	8.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	18.0	18.0	—	16.0	8.0	6.0	—	4.0	—	8.0
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	12.0	15.3	—	16.0	6.0	6.5	2.0	3.0	—	8.0
Lacrimal Duct	20.0	18.0	—	16.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	15.0	—	8.0
Strabismus	14.0	14.0	—	12.0	10.0	4.0	18.0	4.0	—	8.0
Operations on Eyelids	9.0	18.0	20.0	24.0	8.0	4.0	14.0	15.0	—	8.0
Glaucoma	6.0	24.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	—	8.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

**Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	9.0	6.0	—	9.0	4.5	4.0	10.0	5.0	—	6.0
Tympanoplasty	24.0	26.0	—	12.0	12.0	13.0	16.0	5.0	—	6.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	10.0	—	8.0	8.5	8.0	12.0	12.0	—	6.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	12.0	—	24.0	9.5	9.0	16.0	12.0	—	6.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	22.5	18.0	—	24.0	20.0	18.0	24.0	25.0	—	6.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	16.0	12.0	—	12.0	15.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	—	6.0
Weighted Median	14.5	12.5	—	15.0	10.7	8.7	15.9	12.3	—	6.0

**Table 9E: General surgery (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	8.0	20.0	5.0	12.0	9.0	15.0	24.0	4.0	16.0	5.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	20.0	5.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	9.0	4.0	6.0	4.5
Colonoscopy	11.0	2.5	6.0	9.5	4.3	7.0	22.0	4.0	16.0	4.5
Intestinal Operations	7.0	12.0	4.5	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	4.5
Haemorrhoidectomy	13.5	10.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	16.0	4.0	8.0	10.0
Breast Biopsy	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.3	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	7.0
Mastectomy	2.0	2.5	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	4.0	4.0	—	4.0
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	4.0	—	4.0
Varicose Veins	15.5	—	8.0	—	4.0	39.0	56.0	4.0	—	4.0
Weighted Median	8.0	12.3	5.1	9.2	5.2	9.4	13.1	4.0	7.7	4.7

**Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	12.0	26.0	5.0	12.0	—	8.0	—	52.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	8.0	17.0	5.0	12.0	11.0	6.0	—	33.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	8.0	17.0	9.0	12.0	3.0	4.0	—	33.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	26.0	—	12.0	2.0	—	—	52.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	26.0	—	12.0	1.0	—	—	52.0	—	—
Weighted Median	8.4	18.2	7.5	12.0	5.1	5.0	—	35.9	—	—

**Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	8.0	12.0	9.0	7.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	13.5	—	16.0
Removal of Pins	12.0	12.0	5.0	7.0	11.5	13.0	12.0	17.0	—	26.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	16.0	12.5	12.0	22.0	12.0	22.0	24.0	19.0	—	16.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	16.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	13.0	12.0	9.0	—	6.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	16.0	13.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	9.0	—	29.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	12.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	—	10.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	8.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	10.5	12.0	14.0	—	12.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	15.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	14.0	—	—
Routine Spinal Instability	20.0	12.0	10.0	—	10.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	—	—
Weighted Median	14.7	12.4	11.1	18.5	11.4	17.1	19.7	16.5	—	15.2

**Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

	Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.0	1.0	—	—	1.0	0.1	—	1.0	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.0	1.0	—	—	1.0	0.1	—	1.0	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	1.0	—	—	0.3	0.3	—	0.8	—	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	1.0	—	—	1.0	1.0	—	0.8	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	1.0	—	—	1.0	—	—	1.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.0	1.0	—	—	1.0	0.1	—	1.0	—	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.5	3.0	—	—	1.0	0.5	—	2.5	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.0	3.0	—	—	1.0	0.5	—	2.5	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	3.0	—	—	1.3	0.5	—	1.5	—	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	3.0	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	1.5	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	3.0	—	—	2.0	—	—	2.5	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.8	3.0	—	—	1.4	0.5	—	2.5	—	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	6.0	8.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	—	38.0	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	9.0	8.0	—	—	4.0	6.0	—	38.0	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	8.0	—	—	4.5	6.5	—	18.0	—	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	—	8.0	—	—	5.0	12.0	—	18.0	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	—	8.0	—	—	4.0	—	—	38.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	7.7	8.0	—	—	4.0	5.3	—	37.1	—	—

**Table 9I: Urology (2022)—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	10.0	8.0	—	12.0	4.0	10.0	8.5	16.5	—	4.0
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	6.0	—	12.0	4.0	4.5	5.5	11.5	—	12.0
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	4.0	4.0	—	3.8	4.0	3.0	3.5	2.3	—	3.0
Radical Cystectomy	3.5	6.0	—	6.0	4.0	2.5	3.5	—	—	8.0
Cystoscopy	3.0	6.0	—	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.8	8.5	—	8.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	6.0	—	18.0	8.0	24.0	26.0	12.0	—	52.0
Bladder Fulguration	6.0	6.0	—	3.3	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	—	3.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	8.0	7.0	—	5.0	8.0	5.0	—	—	—	6.0
Weighted Median	4.7	6.0	—	6.5	4.3	7.8	7.8	8.2	—	8.6

**Table 9J: Internal medicine (2022)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	6.5	6.0	5.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	5.5	—	—
Angiography/ Angioplasty	4.0	4.0	—	3.8	2.0	4.0	3.0	5.5	—	4.0
Bronchoscopy	4.0	4.0	—	6.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	—	—
Gastroscopy	4.0	4.0	5.0	8.5	4.0	8.0	6.0	5.5	—	—
Weighted Median	5.8	5.4	5.0	7.6	3.5	4.8	4.0	5.3	—	4.0

**Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2022)—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	—	1.5	—	9.0	2.0	2.0	—	—	3.0	3.0
Cancer of the Cervix	—	1.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—	3.0	3.0
Lung Cancer	4.0	0.8	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—	3.0	3.0
Prostate Cancer	8.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	2.0	4.0	—	6.0	3.0	3.0
Breast Cancer	—	2.0	2.5	6.0	2.0	4.0	—	6.0	3.0	3.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	1.5	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.0	—	1.0	3.0	3.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	1.5	1.5	6.0	2.0	2.0	—	8.0	3.0	3.0
Weighted Median	6.0	1.9	2.8	4.6	2.0	3.1	—	6.0	3.0	3.0

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

**Table 9L: Medical oncology (2022)—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	2.0	1.0	1.8	5.0	1.0	2.0	—	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	4.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	1.5	—	—	2.0
Lung Cancer	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	2.0	—	2.0
Breast Cancer	3.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	—	—	2.0
Side Effects from Treatment	2.3	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.6	—	0.5
Weighted Median	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.3	2.0	—	2.0

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, 2022**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	34.4	20.7	66%	59.3	10.7	452%	44.4	72.6	-39%	23.9	10.5	128%	17.9	8.5	112%
Gynaecology	11.9	10.0	19%	11.9	9.6	24%	9.3	6.9	36%	10.6	30.4	-65%	13.7	7.4	84%
Ophthalmology	17.3	13.0	32%	17.7	14.7	21%	12.4	12.4	0%	61.0	16.0	281%	19.1	9.2	107%
Otolaryngology	24.2	14.5	67%	30.4	12.5	143%	—	—	—	18.7	15.0	24%	16.6	10.7	56%
General Surgery	8.7	8.0	9%	11.9	12.3	-4%	6.2	5.1	22%	16.1	9.2	75%	8.3	5.2	59%
Neurosurgery	19.4	8.4	131%	34.2	18.2	88%	17.3	7.5	131%	34.0	12.0	183%	4.7	5.1	-8%
Orthopaedic Surgery	26.9	14.7	83%	34.4	12.4	179%	50.1	11.1	350%	60.9	18.5	229%	19.9	11.4	75%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	2.0	0.8	157%	4.0	3.0	33%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	1.4	41%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	20.0	7.7	159%	9.0	8.0	13%	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	4.0	-1%
Urology	8.6	4.7	83%	15.4	6.0	158%	—	—	—	6.2	6.5	-5%	5.9	4.3	37%
Internal Medicine	10.2	5.8	76%	20.3	5.4	273%	35.0	5.0	600%	14.5	7.6	90%	4.9	3.5	39%
Radiation Oncology	4.0	6.0	-33%	4.8	1.9	152%	2.0	2.8	-26%	3.7	4.6	-19%	2.0	2.0	0%
Medical Oncology	4.7	3.0	54%	2.5	1.8	41%	1.8	2.0	-12%	2.5	1.0	150%	2.2	2.0	12%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>111%</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>68%</b>

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	41.1	14.5	183%	34.2	16.3	109%	45.2	13.5	235%	38.0	19.0	100%	16.1	8.0	101%
Gynaecology	22.9	11.9	93%	13.6	6.3	116%	58.7	12.7	361%	26.0	10.0	160%	22.0	8.0	175%
Ophthalmology	16.0	7.4	116%	23.8	8.2	191%	16.2	9.7	67%	36.0	26.0	38%	56.0	8.0	600%
Otolaryngology	15.0	8.7	72%	16.1	15.9	1%	20.0	12.3	63%	11.2	—	—	8.0	6.0	33%
General Surgery	18.0	9.4	91%	20.5	13.1	56%	6.0	4.0	50%	22.4	7.7	191%	6.6	4.7	39%
Neurosurgery	7.6	5.0	50%	—	—	—	18.9	35.9	-47%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	41.3	17.1	142%	49.1	19.7	149%	71.9	16.5	335%	6.0	—	—	46.1	15.2	203%
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.1	0.5	116%	—	—	—	4.8	2.5	97%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elect.)	11.5	5.3	116%	—	—	—	62.7	37.1	69%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urology	12.7	7.8	63%	18.0	7.8	131%	21.4	8.2	161%	—	—	—	10.0	8.6	16%
Internal Medicine	5.9	4.8	23%	13.2	4.0	234%	6.6	5.3	24%	—	—	—	12.0	4.0	200%
Radiation Oncology	2.9	3.1	-5%	1.0	—	—	3.0	6.0	-50%	3.0	3.0	0%	4.0	3.0	33%
Medical Oncology	1.6	1.6	0%	1.4	1.3	6%	0.9	2.0	-56%	—	—	—	2.0	2.0	0%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>118%</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>135%</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>137%</b>

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

**Table 11: Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, by specialty, 2022**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	2.0%	4.3%	1.0%	2.0%	5.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
Gynaecology	2.0%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	1.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Ophthalmology	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	1.7%	1.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Otolaryngology	0.8%	2.3%	—	2.5%	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
General Surgery	1.6%	1.5%	2.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Neurosurgery	4.0%	2.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	—	0.5%	—	—	1.9%
Orthopaedic Surgery	3.0%	3.2%	2.1%	1.5%	1.7%	0.2%	0.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.4%	1.9%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.1%	0.5%	—	0.0%	—	—	0.2%
Urology	0.6%	1.0%	—	0.0%	1.5%	0.1%	5.3%	0.0%	—	1.0%	1.2%
Internal Medicine	1.2%	2.5%	1.8%	0.0%	2.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	—	0.0%	1.5%
Radiation Oncology	0.0%	3.7%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Medical Oncology	10.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	—	2.0%	1.4%
All Specialties	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%	0.9%	1.3%	0.5%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	1.3%

**Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2022**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	5,962	8,397	728	588	6,449	7,839	919	1,124	102	230
Gynaecology	3,556	4,081	766	900	10,998	7,922	858	3,944	352	1,830
Ophthalmology	25,969	21,770	3,384	9,717	50,319	28,897	5,054	5,169	1,693	4,486
Otolaryngology	5,104	5,822	—	1,012	9,401	5,815	723	838	78	235
General Surgery	21,671	13,804	2,941	8,929	38,801	21,504	3,418	2,895	1,651	2,251
Neurosurgery	2,804	3,350	492	860	1,504	1,297	—	439	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	20,863	19,991	8,580	10,929	38,275	37,823	6,828	11,007	191	2,772
Cardiovascular Surgery	203	527	—	—	1,042	239	—	183	—	—
Urology	9,035	5,367	—	735	19,300	7,357	2,346	5,278	—	1,935
Internal Medicine	14,671	10,833	5,013	3,605	9,680	2,694	886	1,161	—	563
Radiation Oncology	44	47	2	20	403	135	12	19	3	15
Medical Oncology	426	155	39	42	1,756	261	27	24	—	20
Residual	77,248	87,186	26,007	36,404	181,472	110,259	17,459	26,175	3,350	17,482
Total	187,554	181,331	47,953	73,741	369,402	232,040	38,531	58,257	7,420	31,818
Proportion of Population	3.53%	3.99%	4.01%	5.23%	2.44%	2.67%	4.74%	5.71%	4.35%	6.05%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2022 — 1,228,047

Percentage of Population — 3.2%

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 (2022)—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	3,480	7,620	371	270	2,726	4,020	687	325	34	93
Neurolysis	464	144	—	51	1,075	886	47	156	14	76
Blepharoplasty	141	80	—	5	141	99	12	39	0	7
Rhinoplasty	397	75	—	52	283	73	69	88	16	16
Scar Revision	1,029	399	321	171	1,316	1,664	84	320	23	29
Hand Surgery	450	80	36	40	909	1,098	20	197	14	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,962</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>230</b>

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

**Table 13B: Gynaecology (2022)—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	557	1,167	111	255	2,453	427	42	417	97	669
Tubal Ligation	129	489	106	95	1,653	2,074	185	264	40	135
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,553	1,184	297	382	3,762	3,142	292	1,743	105	223
Vaginal Repair	346	345	44	65	686	592	73	315	9	63
Tuboplasty	44	28	4	—	27	29	—	—	1	3
Laparoscopic Procedures	163	97	42	25	808	674	32	105	10	39
Hysteroscopic Procedures	764	770	163	77	1,609	985	235	1,100	92	698
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>10,998</b>	<b>7,922</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>3,944</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>1,830</b>

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

**Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2022)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	20,950	16,887	3,009	9,571	38,831	20,753	4,873	4,079	1,693	4,486
Cornea Transplant	452	241	72	133	267	260	—	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	160	145	50	13	157	416	16	—	—	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	681	940	—	—	1,898	1,246	—	219	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	2,568	1,489	—	—	5,416	4,614	2	502	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	231	185	24	—	428	191	4	83	—	—
Strabismus	499	1,334	75	—	2,698	462	57	80	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	429	551	153	—	625	955	101	206	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,969</b>	<b>21,770</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>9,717</b>	<b>50,319</b>	<b>28,897</b>	<b>5,054</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>4,486</b>

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 (2022)—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	151	470	—	110	573	849	85	30	14	58
Tympanoplasty	240	1,586	—	63	725	651	78	37	5	28
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	526	366	—	136	1,685	670	79	244	—	42
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,257	1,740	—	379	2,350	1,840	249	283	33	44
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	456	642	—	78	747	577	40	80	6	14
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	2,474	1,017	—	246	3,320	1,228	192	164	21	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>5,822</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>9,401</b>	<b>5,815</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>235</b>

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

**Table 13E: General surgery (2022)—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	2,507	4,702	370	1,800	6,328	9,766	1,435	240	129	149
Cholecystectomy	2,055	1,700	570	1,925	5,853	6,295	554	311	173	139
Colonoscopy	5,849	1,089	930	2,817	7,351	772	801	731	1,174	477
Intestinal Operations	9,701	5,968	882	2,028	15,255	2,878	258	1,374	154	1,232
Haemorrhoidectomy	892	135	121	294	2,056	506	30	30	9	81
Breast Biopsy	8	4	1	1	21	16	1	29	0	82
Mastectomy	351	206	55	64	986	903	82	113	11	70
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	—	639	—	30	57	—	14
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	—	101	—	—	4	—	3
Varicose Veins	306	—	14	—	210	367	226	8	—	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,671</b>	<b>13,804</b>	<b>2,941</b>	<b>8,929</b>	<b>38,801</b>	<b>21,504</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>2,895</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>2,251</b>

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

**Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2022)—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	354	378	28	58	—	218	—	65	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	1,629	899	305	118	804	423	—	120	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	810	1,949	159	640	700	655	—	226	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	10	21	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	103	—	39	—	—	—	24	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2022)—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	483	557	46	111	841	1,832	64	87	7	41
Removal of Pins	1,006	1,439	114	352	1,862	2,686	114	228	18	85
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	14,675	12,852	7,037	8,628	25,372	25,128	5,801	9,710	121	2,409
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	962	495	456	338	714	863	30	71	12	23
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	175	102	17	84	165	227	25	18	7	12
Digit Neuroma	1,143	693	324	562	1,540	2,288	206	210	7	91
Rotator Cuff Repair	927	1,572	217	256	1,668	929	154	204	9	111
Ostectomy (All Types)	743	1,046	102	599	1,526	1,446	114	239	11	—
Routine Spinal Instability	749	1,235	267	—	4,588	2,423	320	240	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,863</b>	<b>19,991</b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>38,275</b>	<b>37,823</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>11,007</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>2,772</b>

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	90	107	—	—	271	97	—	53	—	—
Valves & Septa of the Heart	110	180	—	—	332	132	—	54	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	3	2	—	—	5	1	—	0	—	—
Carotid Endarterectomy	—	11	—	—	31	9	—	3	—	—
Pacemaker Operations	—	227	—	—	404	—	—	72	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 13I: Urology (2022)—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	2,598	940	—	68	1,514	2,250	367	396	—	262
Radical Prostatectomy	127	183	—	29	319	242	29	60	—	22
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	550	698	—	47	1,630	626	135	86	—	73
Radical Cystectomy	28	53	—	3	88	26	6	—	—	4
Cystoscopy	3,078	1,747	—	302	9,702	1,113	711	3,229	—	844
Hernia/Hydrocele	2,132	1,104	—	232	2,963	2,798	927	1,384	—	573
Bladder Fulguration	501	611	—	52	3,022	284	172	123	—	153
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	21	32	—	2	60	18	—	—	—	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,035</b>	<b>5,367</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>2,346</b>	<b>5,278</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,935</b>

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

**Table 13J: Internal medicine (2022)—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	12,523	9,190	4,746	2,927	7,151	1,193	384	814	—	—
Angiography /Angioplasty	1,665	314	—	416	1,097	1,061	353	221	—	563
Bronchoscopy	152	575	—	59	765	236	41	71	—	—
Gastroscopy	330	754	268	203	667	204	108	55	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,671</b>	<b>10,833</b>	<b>5,013</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>9,680</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>563</b>

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

**Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2022)—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	44	47	2	20	403	135	12	19	3	15

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

**Table 13L: Medical oncology (2022)—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	426	155	39	42	1,756	261	27	24	—	20

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

**Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2022)—procedures per 100,000 population**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	112	185	61	42	43	90	113	110	60	44
Gynaecology	67	90	64	64	73	91	106	486	206	348
Ophthalmology	488	479	283	690	333	332	622	636	992	853
Otolaryngology	96	128	—	72	62	67	89	103	46	45
General Surgery	407	304	246	634	257	247	421	357	967	428
Neurosurgery	53	74	41	61	10	15	—	54	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	392	440	718	776	253	435	841	1,355	112	527
Cardiovascular Surgery	4	12	—	—	7	3	—	23	—	—
Urology	170	118	—	52	128	85	289	650	—	368
Internal Medicine	276	238	420	256	64	31	109	143	—	107
Radiation Oncology	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	2	1	3
Medical Oncology	8	3	3	3	12	3	3	3	—	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, 2022 and 2021**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg
Plastic Surgery	5,962	5,981	0%	8,397	1,690	397%	728	2,291	-68%	588	999	-41%	6,449	4,848	33%
Gynaecology	3,556	3,916	-9%	4,081	5,415	-25%	766	741	3%	900	1,054	-15%	10,998	11,413	-4%
Ophthalmology	25,969	29,487	-12%	21,770	24,748	-12%	3,384	6,187	-45%	9,717	13,489	-28%	50,319	60,839	-17%
Otolaryngology	5,104	3,465	47%	5,822	5,603	4%	—	4,769	—	1,012	2,356	-57%	9,401	11,831	-21%
General Surgery	21,671	20,371	6%	13,804	13,487	2%	2,941	5,442	-46%	8,929	5,439	64%	38,801	45,646	-15%
Neurosurgery	2,804	1,880	49%	3,350	937	257%	492	559	-12%	860	397	117%	1,504	12,743	-88%
Orthopaedic Surgery	20,863	31,176	-33%	19,991	22,243	-10%	8,580	7,157	20%	10,929	10,959	0%	38,275	46,542	-18%
Cardiovascular Surgery	203	507	-60%	527	10	5069%	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,042	16	6237%
Urology	9,035	6,849	32%	5,367	3,844	40%	—	1,486	—	735	991	-26%	19,300	17,985	7%
Internal Medicine	14,671	22,649	-35%	10,833	20,452	-47%	5,013	5,474	-8%	3,605	2,615	38%	9,680	12,238	-21%
Radiation Oncology	44	108	-60%	47	—	—	2	4	-50%	20	12	68%	403	458	-12%
Medical Oncology	426	654	-35%	155	110	41%	39	—	—	42	—	—	1,756	990	77%
Residual	77,248	85,439	-10%	87,186	84,770	3%	26,007	28,086	-7%	36,404	32,094	13%	181,472	214,041	-15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,554</b>	<b>212,482</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>181,331</b>	<b>183,308</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>47,953</b>	<b>62,197</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>73,741</b>	<b>70,404</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>369,402</b>	<b>439,590</b>	<b>-16%</b>

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg	2022	2021	% chg
Plastic Surgery	7,839	6,350	23%	919	998	-8%	1,124	—	—	102	—	—	230	—	—
Gynaecology	7,922	9,180	-14%	858	1,018	-16%	3,944	1,440	174%	352	213	65%	1,830	578	217%
Ophthalmology	28,897	45,039	-36%	5,054	8,610	-41%	5,169	3,208	61%	1,693	1,443	17%	4,486	—	—
Otolaryngology	5,815	10,001	-42%	723	869	-17%	838	12,098	-93%	78	36	119%	235	431	-45%
General Surgery	21,504	19,737	9%	3,418	3,046	12%	2,895	20,604	-86%	1,651	486	240%	2,251	1,481	52%
Neurosurgery	1,297	3,491	-63%	—	—	—	439	220	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	37,823	45,189	-16%	6,828	4,997	37%	11,007	7,943	39%	191	1,168	-84%	2,772	1,529	81%
Cardiovascular Surgery	239	439	-46%	—	47	—	183	3	7086%	—	—	—	—	1	—
Urology	7,357	11,578	-36%	2,346	1,202	95%	5,278	5,910	-11%	—	—	—	1,935	5,141	-62%
Internal Medicine	2,694	4,203	-36%	886	1,093	-19%	1,161	5,536	-79%	—	600	—	563	68	732%
Radiation Oncology	135	183	-26%	12	29	-58%	19	27	-27%	3	1	91%	15	—	—
Medical Oncology	261	1,167	-78%	27	35	-23%	24	—	—	—	6	—	20	—	—
Residual	110,259	124,959	-12%	17,459	17,775	-2%	26,175	49,740	-47%	3,350	2,631	27%	17,482	13,757	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>232,040</b>	<b>281,517</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>38,531</b>	<b>39,719</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>58,257</b>	<b>106,727</b>	<b>-45%</b>	<b>7,420</b>	<b>6,585</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>31,818</b>	<b>22,985</b>	<b>38%</b>

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, 2020–2021**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	19,059	11,712	3,592	4,536	44,301	17,268	3,513	3,590	877	1,709
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	304	302	104	67	445	243	47	26	11	27
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	30	33	6	1	28	12	5	1	4	0
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	105	122	35	54	332	270	19	31	4	26
Ostectomy	841	950	145	280	2,234	1,374	160	269	23	71
Removal of Pins	907	805	190	256	2,126	1,260	139	163	47	75
Rotator Cuff Repair	721	902	284	201	2,241	1,081	86	188	19	64
Routine Spinal Instability	1,133	1,225	664	465	4,150	2,186	430	172	0	187
Bladder Fulguration	1,358	1,062	306	210	5,032	2,781	304	533	32	271
Cystoscopy	4,184	3,429	627	185	9,138	4,073	706	1,083	141	604
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,338	2,135	420	126	5,176	2,589	369	495	115	234
Radical Cystectomy	246	213	46	40	572	384	50	59	0	21
Radical Prostatectomy	1,101	724	150	250	2,071	1,354	149	208	0	96
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,135	1,263	245	129	3,856	1,532	217	219	59	353
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	60	37	5	11	172	125	6	25	1	4
Cataract Removal	56	160	29	43	65	120	8	23	8	1
Cornea Transplant	8	54	87	12	28	90	0	10	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	1	31	3	2	3	15	0	1	1	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	40	131	29	35	126	113	0	28	0	0
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	36	51	4	7	47	54	2	9	0	5
Operations on Eyelids	140	245	32	37	256	239	10	51	2	9
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	248	1,721	136	278	507	526	4	68	1	3
Strabismus Surgery	27	15	2	6	22	13	0	6	0	1
Myringotomy	108	149	44	39	373	666	21	20	9	17
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	550	134	37	79	687	523	35	132	1	44
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,555	1,744	419	259	5,497	3,505	296	380	28	272
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	736	506	189	100	1,522	1,821	100	69	128	140
Tympanoplasty	69	39	3	3	133	91	7	51	6	1
Radiotherapy	246	483	7	48	10,081	2,186	367	335	44	177
Chemotherapy	4,223	2,772	937	805	33,726	7,594	969	1,198	56	498
Breast Biopsy	73	38	13	6	247	150	10	12	3	18
Bronchus and Lung	1,376	1,062	194	367	3,790	3,496	256	486	0	91
Cholecystectomy	3,806	4,529	1,230	1,736	10,336	7,392	1,011	1,437	155	438
Haemorrhoidectomy	78	49	28	36	182	89	10	18	1	10

Table 16A, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	8,760	6,545	2,316	2,424	24,113	14,743	1,757	2,295	235	1,346
Mastectomy	1,039	532	294	163	2,010	1,681	103	335	54	250
Varicose Veins	28	1	6	7	29	5	1	4	0	2
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,598	1,099	268	169	3,500	1,412	333	278	0	269
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,443	2,957	904	960	11,953	5,567	460	677	0	440
Blepharoplasty	2	12	4	2	23	6	0	2	0	0
Mammoplasty	325	451	28	56	621	333	71	116	41	36
Scar Revision	756	1,668	140	241	1,659	1,229	74	245	7	52
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,334	1,387	430	448	7,036	5,024	572	505	0	329
Pacemaker Operations	2,834	1,695	628	587	7,022	8,213	758	578	95	306
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,841	2,340	357	528	8,632	5,503	367	593	0	184
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,373	3,119	2,151	1,087	22,984	13,712	1,520	1,798	0	979
Bronchoscopy	996	1,209	155	192	6,089	3,317	119	370	4	153
Gastroscopy	615	583	126	113	2,704	1,093	215	195	10	113
Dilation and Curettage	205	190	27	51	304	134	15	20	12	10
Hysterectomy	4,829	4,374	892	957	9,250	5,452	980	1,103	208	513
Hysteroscopic Procedures	112	129	33	10	185	91	12	24	9	28
Laparoscopic Procedures	271	177	100	75	1,363	797	58	40	4	31
Tubal Ligation	243	1,545	316	465	3,662	1,631	187	129	45	187
Tuboplasty	15	48	6	6	51	30	1	3	1	2
Vaginal Repair	745	956	147	141	1,129	644	149	170	12	112
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	273	152	22	36	293	249	11	64	2	9
Hernia/Hydrocele	3,734	3,304	836	1,069	15,296	4,930	836	1,106	107	523
Carotid Endarterectomy	761	283	67	148	1,278	902	196	126	0	39
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	247	381	138	80	724	510	46	55	4	31
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	379	496	63	88	3,257	1,565	62	115	6	14
Colonoscopy	3,044	2,482	1,185	878	9,300	6,338	643	551	40	427
Aneurysm Surgery	373	178	59	92	852	537	43	56	0	23
Residual	121,242	112,508	29,726	28,820	355,231	186,859	22,462	28,431	2,059	14,347
Total	215,315	189,628	51,666	50,602	650,052	337,722	41,357	51,380	4,731	26,222

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2020–21, and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

**Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2020–2021**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	5,557	4,996	1,490	1,966	20,057	6,065	1,128	1,265	169	161
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,620	771	225	271	2,648	1,160	151	206	91	93
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	349	208	46	83	687	461	71	59	54	10
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	1,465	1,084	303	138	3,311	4,493	202	194	53	136
Ostectomy	1,091	1,225	151	319	2,886	1,361	190	272	73	60
Removal of Pins	2,829	2,313	554	354	4,791	4,112	232	430	111	170
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,288	1,735	281	242	3,354	1,461	221	401	61	177
Routine Spinal Instability	12	10	30	11	110	64	8	6	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	1,897	808	887	878	17,419	2,143	443	750	183	1,058
Cystoscopy	31,382	3,558	8,584	2,429	102,978	1,714	2,654	7,313	1,395	6,714
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,487	371	166	376	3,574	957	312	148	3	28
Radical Cystectomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radical Prostatectomy	1	6	0	0	4	43	0	0	0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,630	1,528	591	769	10,272	6,609	660	896	82	276
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	29	55	16	7	61	60	1	3	0	3
Cataract Removal	60,465	43,747	13,010	8,116	100,896	67,327	10,551	11,760	2,437	4,165
Cornea Transplant	645	337	17	87	963	660	66	180	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	438	596	44	26	581	1,187	30	32	11	16
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	2,042	2,091	563	367	6,922	3,936	127	787	5	160
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	630	749	102	54	1,261	567	53	121	12	59
Operations on Eyelids	2,089	2,142	632	56	2,697	2,866	192	273	19	213
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	10,025	10,187	2,468	2,779	19,611	14,469	59	3,196	6	1,121
Strabismus Surgery	1,339	1,636	194	241	2,841	1,488	124	292	4	91
Myringotomy	677	870	684	296	3,351	4,240	421	295	79	360
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,234	1,900	559	633	6,507	2,138	381	274	76	268
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	726	638	62	329	1,806	852	114	107	0	4
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,081	2,510	815	721	6,117	3,977	710	496	17	146
Tympanoplasty	450	829	165	191	1,752	1,211	162	190	24	181
Radiotherapy	320	25	50	225	396	215	262	1	0	20
Chemotherapy	513	393	219	64	7,134	660	59	236	46	18
Breast Biopsy	50	15	5	11	236	57	4	236	0	728
Bronchus and Lung	39	47	9	34	121	60	4	7	0	2
Cholecystectomy	5,101	4,310	1,238	1,392	15,026	8,384	1,204	1,258	204	677
Haemorrhoidectomy	3,015	829	1,018	691	6,501	721	41	238	40	413



Table 16B, continued

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	63,303	21,665	9,146	10,759	108,096	1,886	478	9,610	1,772	8,511
Mastectomy	4,181	3,040	748	948	10,808	7,708	753	648	91	355
Varicose Veins	1,000	471	91	38	881	491	209	66	0	13
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,660	296	110	12	1,145	423	66	50	0	25
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	67	68	16	19	179	112	4	14	1	3
Blepharoplasty	304	334	116	13	676	421	32	42	0	20
Mammoplasty	3,567	2,089	343	383	5,542	2,834	616	255	6	232
Scar Revision	582	636	74	55	829	1,048	47	121	24	33
Coronary Artery Bypass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacemaker Operations	3,502	1,253	499	603	3,473	984	344	207	60	420
Valves & Septa of the Heart	14	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	11,946	969	2,012	2,117	2,361	83	776	121	8	1,461
Bronchoscopy	585	926	202	115	3,854	187	14	330	80	282
Gastroscopy	947	1,050	272	390	3,079	231	18	281	50	136
Dilation and Curettage	4,622	5,327	935	1,606	12,454	3,280	705	883	182	1,572
Hysterectomy	217	758	394	286	2,976	955	32	59	1	13
Hysteroscopic Procedures	3,200	3,207	1,096	490	6,788	3,109	862	856	174	1,622
Laparoscopic Procedures	334	245	140	90	1,637	605	62	65	15	60
Tubal Ligation	191	574	145	151	1,113	1,065	182	106	34	132
Tuboplasty	161	34	12	1	36	13	2	5	0	6
Vaginal Repair	378	326	42	71	853	211	40	40	6	37
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	1,307	1,120	430	268	2,726	1,538	175	197	43	131
Hernia/Hydrocele	11,751	9,043	2,007	2,610	23,132	16,515	2,108	2,170	238	967
Carotid Endarterectomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,895	2,116	933	654	7,801	5,752	839	860	75	548
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	1,837	839	297	224	4,588	1,771	264	194	13	339
Colonoscopy	78,875	26,871	11,909	15,786	84,530	2,177	1,023	11,831	2,868	8,389
Aneurysm Surgery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residual	180,066	120,123	44,829	45,768	550,965	117,640	15,580	39,745	5,508	40,378
Total	525,008	295,902	111,978	107,614	1,197,393	316,757	46,068	100,678	16,504	83,213

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2020–21; 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](http://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](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 the week of January 10 and September 15, 2022. 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, 120 psychiatrists responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 2.8% (table B1). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

**Table B1: Psychiatry (2022)—summary of responses, 2022**

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	608	449	74	154	1,691	1,044	50	109	8	60	4,247
Number of Responses	25	13	2	6	53	13	1	5	0	2	120
Response Rates	4.1%	2.9%	2.7%	3.9%	3.1%	1.2%	2.0%	4.6%	0.0%	3.3%	2.8%

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.

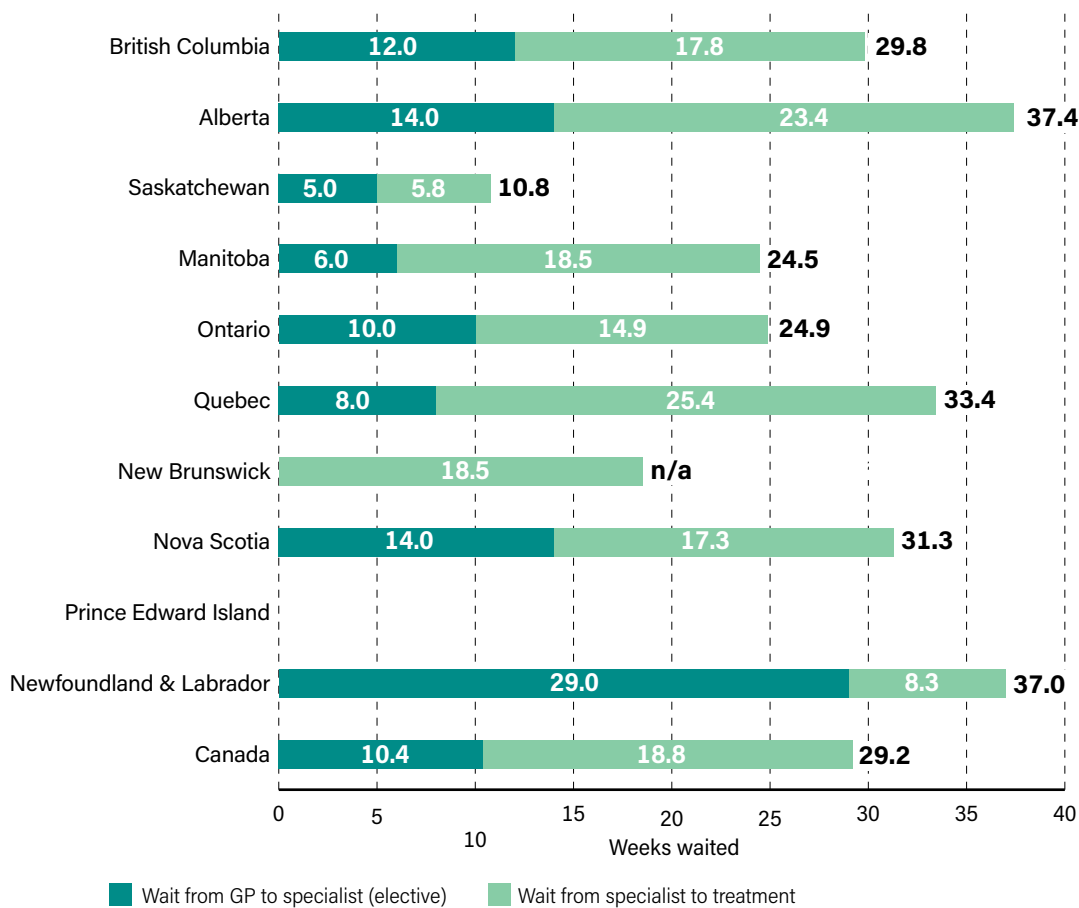
Unlike other specialties discussed in *Waiting Your Turn*, in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section, “Method” (pp. 11–14), for a clear 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 has increased from 22.4 weeks in 2021 to 29.2 weeks in 2022 (graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Saskatchewan (10.8 weeks), Manitoba (24.5 weeks), and Ontario (24.9 weeks). The longest total waits are in Alberta (37.4 weeks) and Newfoundland & Labrador (37.0 weeks).

**Graph B1: Psychiatry—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2022**



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

Note about data for New Brunswick\*: Total wait between referral to treatment is not estimated in New Brunswick because there is data missing for the wait time between referral by a general practitioner and consultation with a psychiatrist. However, data for the wait time between consultation with a psychiatrist and receipt of treatment in New Brunswick is included in the calculation for the corresponding Canadian estimate.

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

### 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 3.2 weeks, ranging from 1.0 week in Saskatchewan to 8.0 weeks in Alberta. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 10.4 weeks. The province with the longest wait times for elective referrals is Newfoundland & Labrador (29.0 weeks). On the other hand, Saskatchewan (5.0 weeks) has the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

**Table B2: Psychiatry (2022)—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	3.3	8.0	1.0	2.3	3.0	1.8	—	3.0	—	2.5	3.2
Elective	12.0	14.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	8.0	—	14.0	—	29.0	10.4

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 Quebec (25.4 weeks), Alberta (23.4 weeks), and New Brunswick (18.5 weeks). The shortest waits are in Saskatchewan (5.8 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (8.0 weeks) and Ontario (14.9 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to an evening program (37.4 weeks) and to a housing program (27.5 weeks), while wait times are shortest for initiating a course of pharmacotherapy (7.4 weeks) and for a day program (12.2 weeks).

Table B4 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait (after a consultation with a psychiatrist) for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces. Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Newfoundland & Labrador (13.3%), and most frequent in Alberta (37.7%).

Table B5 compares the 2022 and 2021 waiting times for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist). This year's study indicates an overall increase in the waiting time

**Table B3: Psychiatry (2022)—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	14.0	22.0	9.0	5.0	10.0	20.0	12.0	8.0	—	15.5	14.2
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	14.0	26.0	6.0	28.0	22.0	15.5	24.0	13.0	—	4.0	19.2
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	11.0	8.0	3.5	4.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	—	2.5	7.4
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	20.0	22.0	7.0	9.0	9.0	16.0	28.0	4.0	—	15.5	13.8
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	12.0	22.0	5.0	7.5	11.0	20.0	12.0	13.0	—	4.0	14.3
Access a day program	10.0	16.0	5.0	15.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	16.0	—	14.0	12.2
Access an eating disorders program	24.0	14.0	9.0	39.0	24.0	24.0	36.0	14.0	—	10.0	22.9
Access a housing program	33.0	56.0	5.0	26.0	26.0	19.0	52.0	3.0	—	2.0	27.5
Access an evening program	10.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	14.0	116.0	8.0	—	—	4.0	37.4
Access a sleep disorders program	32.0	15.0	9.0	39.0	6.0	24.0	4.0	54.0	—	10.0	17.6
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	16.0	52.0	0.5	26.0	24.0	5.0	12.0	36.0	—	6.0	20.7
<b>Unweighted Median</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>18.8</b>

**Table B4: Psychiatry (2022)—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	10%	8%	25%	15%	18%	8%	0%	13%	—	13%
4-7.99 weeks	12%	25%	42%	23%	17%	18%	9%	13%	—	53%
8-12.99 weeks	26%	15%	33%	23%	20%	26%	55%	25%	—	13%
13-25.99 weeks	23%	15%	0%	6%	21%	22%	9%	31%	—	7%
26-51.99 weeks	13%	11%	0%	11%	13%	4%	18%	13%	—	13%
1 year plus	16%	26%	0%	23%	12%	23%	9%	6%	—	0%

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

**Table B5: Psychiatry—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2022 and 2021**

	2022	2021	% change
British Columbia	17.8	11.6	53%
Alberta	23.4	12.7	84%
Saskatchewan	5.8	—	—
Manitoba	18.5	18.5	0%
Ontario	14.9	14.4	3%
Quebec	25.4	12.4	106%
New Brunswick	18.5	36.2	-49%
Nova Scotia	17.3	16.6	4%
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	8.0	34.3	-77%

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.

between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in five provinces (Manitoba remained the same, Saskatchewan had no recorded data in 2021, and data was unavailable in Prince Edward Island in both years.). Two provinces reported a decrease: New Brunswick (-49%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (-77%).

#### 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 Alberta, where the wait time for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist) is 704% longer than the median considered reasonable. In contrast, the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits in Saskatchewan exceeds the corresponding “reasonable” value by 187%, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.



**Table B6: Psychiatry (2022)—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	5.0	3.8	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	—	1.5	4.3
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	8.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	6.0	—	5.0	6.3
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	1.8	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	—	3.0	—	3.0	2.8
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	6.0	3.3	5.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	—	3.0	4.8
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	3.3	2.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	—	3.0	4.4
Access a day program	4.0	3.3	2.0	6.0	4.0	3.5	—	7.0	—	3.5	3.9
Access an eating disorders program	5.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	6.5	—	1.5	4.3
Access a housing program	5.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	12.0	3.0	—	1.0	5.6
Access an evening program	4.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	7.0	—	2.5	4.4
Access a sleep disorders program	7.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	9.0	—	2.5	5.4
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	4.0	3.3	0.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	4.5	3.9
<b>Unweighted Median</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 5.9% 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 74.5%.

<sup>1</sup> 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 (2022)—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	280%	587%	180%	125%	250%	400%	300%	200%	—	1033%	326%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	175%	650%	133%	560%	367%	221%	300%	217%	—	80%	306%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	275%	457%	350%	200%	300%	200%	—	400%	—	83%	267%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	333%	677%	140%	150%	225%	267%	350%	100%	—	517%	287%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	300%	677%	250%	188%	275%	333%	300%	325%	—	133%	327%
Access a day program	250%	492%	250%	250%	300%	343%	—	229%	—	400%	313%
Access an eating disorders program	480%	467%	180%	780%	533%	600%	900%	215%	—	667%	530%
Access a housing program	660%	1867%	250%	650%	433%	271%	433%	100%	—	200%	494%
Access an evening program	250%	133%	225%	125%	350%	1933%	—	—	—	160%	847%
Access a sleep disorders program	457%	300%	180%	780%	150%	343%	100%	600%	—	400%	324%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	400%	1600%	100%	650%	600%	125%	300%	514%	—	133%	525%
<b>Unweighted Median</b>	<b>350%</b>	<b>704%</b>	<b>187%</b>	<b>415%</b>	<b>353%</b>	<b>470%</b>	<b>309%</b>	<b>315%</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>282%</b>	<b>411%</b>

### 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 2021, the national waiting times for CT scans have decreased in 2022. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 5.2 weeks, ranging from a high of 13.0 weeks (Newfoundland & Labrador) to a low of 3.0 weeks (Nova Scotia). In 2022, the median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 12.8 weeks, shorter than it was in 2021 (13.0 weeks). Patients in Newfoundland & Labrador wait the longest

**Table B8: Psychiatry (2022)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2022, 2021, and 2020**

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020
British Columbia	4.0	6.0	8.0	16.0	16.0	17.0	6.0	5.0	4.0
Alberta	4.0	9.0	12.0	12.0	28.0	23.0	8.0	12.0	4.0
Saskatchewan	—	—	3.0	—	—	13.5	—	—	4.0
Manitoba	5.0	8.0	2.5	11.5	12.0	13.0	6.0	12.0	9.0
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	7.5	12.0	5.5	4.0	4.0
Quebec	8.0	6.0	5.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	4.0	6.5
New Brunswick	12.0	24.0	17.0	24.0	39.0	17.0	12.0	18.0	3.0
Nova Scotia	3.0	12.0	4.3	8.0	26.0	6.8	4.0	12.0	3.8
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	13.0	14.0	8.0	27.0	14.0	17.0	10.0	14.0	4.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>

(27.0 weeks), while patients in Nova Scotia wait the least amount of time (8.0 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces has increased from 5.7 weeks in 2021 to 6.1 weeks this year. Residents of Nova Scotia face the shortest waits for an EEG (4.0 weeks), while residents of New Brunswick wait longest (12.0 weeks). [2]

## Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 29.2 weeks from referral by a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 411% 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 5.4 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 5.2 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 3.4 weeks across eight provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs was 10.6 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 12.8 weeks in the psychiatry survey. The mean absolute difference in this case was 6.6 weeks.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Do you use the diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients inquired in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:

In another province? \_\_\_\_\_ % Outside of Canada? \_\_\_\_\_ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:

In another province? \_\_\_\_\_ % Outside of Canada? \_\_\_\_\_ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

## Appendix D: The Fraser Institute Annual Study of Wait Times for Health Care in Canada (2022)

**General Surgery** In which province is your office is located? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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