

# Wait Times for Cataract Surgery (Percentiles)

Name	Wait Times for Cataract Surgery (Percentiles)
Short/Other Names	Not applicable
Description	The number of days a patient waited, between the date when the patient and the appropriate physician agreed to a cataract surgery and the patient was ready to receive it, and the date the patient received a planned cataract surgery
Interpretation	50th percentile means a time period that typical patients have to wait to receive care. 90th percentile means that provinces could treat 90% of patients within that time period.
HSP Framework Dimension	Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services
Areas of Need	Getting Better
Geographic Coverage	All provinces
Reporting Level /Disaggregation	National, Province/Territory
Indicator Results	<a href="http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract">http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract</a>

## Identifying Information

Name Wait Times for Cataract Surgery (Percentiles)

Short/Other Names Not applicable

## Indicator Description and Calculation

Description The number of days a patient waited, between the date when the patient and the appropriate physician agreed to a cataract surgery and the patient was ready to receive it, and the date the patient received a planned cataract surgery  
This indicator is calculated based on provincial and national wait time data for the first two quarters of the fiscal year (April–September).

### Measures:

Wait times are obtained by calculating

1. The number of days that half the patients in the sample received the surgery and half are still waiting (50th percentile)
2. The number of days that 90% of patients in the sample received the surgery and 10% are still waiting (90th percentile)

## Calculation: Description

Unit of Analysis: Client or patient

Calculation of all-Canada estimates:

All-Canada Median and 90th Percentile Waits

The national estimate for the 50th and 90th percentiles was calculated using a weighted average of provincial submissions. Weights were calculated using provincially submitted surgical volumes.

## Calculation:

Geographic Assignment Place of service

Calculation: Type of Measurement Number - 50th percentile, 90th percentile

Calculation: Adjustment Applied None

Calculation: Method of Adjustment Not applicable

Denominator **Description:**  
Not applicable

**Description:**

1. The number of days that half the patients in the sample received the surgery and half are still waiting (50th percentile)
2. The number of days that 90% of patients in the sample received the surgery and 10% are still waiting (90th percentile)

**Inclusions:**

1. Age 18 and older
  2. 1.CL.89.^ Excision total, lens and one of the following diagnoses:
    - a. H25.– Senile cataract
    - b. H26.– Other cataract
    - c. H28.– Cataract and other disorders of lens in diseases classified elsewhere (except H28.8 Other disorders of lens in diseases classified elsewhere)
  3. First eye only; bilateral cataract removal counts as a single wait
  4. All priority levels
- Numerator

**Exclusions:**

1. Emergency cases
2. Days when patient was unavailable
3. Abandoned procedures

**Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks**

In 2004, Canada's first ministers agreed to work toward reducing wait times for five priority areas: cancer treatment, cardiac care, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration. CIHI was mandated to collect wait time information and monitor provincial progress in meeting benchmarks.

**Rationale**

Many factors affect wait times, for example, availability of resources, efficiency of a particular facility, seasonal effects, volumes, patient choice, patient condition, follow-up care and/or treatment complexity.

This indicator can be used to understand access to care and to know how provinces are performing in terms of providing access to services. 50th percentile means a time period that typical patients have to wait to receive care.

**Interpretation**

90th percentile means that provinces could treat 90% of patients within that time period.

**HSP**

Health System Outputs: Access to comprehensive, high-quality health services

**Dimension**

Areas of Need Getting Better

Within 16 weeks (112 days)

**Targets**

/Benchmarks The pan-Canadian benchmark specifies surgery within 16 weeks (112 days) for patients who are at high risk. There is not yet consensus on a definition of "high risk," so the benchmark is applied across all priority levels.

References Health Canada. A 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care. Health Canada. <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/delivery-prestation/ftpcollab/2004-fmm-rpm/index-eng.php>. Updated September 16, 2004. Accessed June 7, 2013.

**Availability of Data Sources and Results**

Data Sources Provincial Wait Times Registry, Data may come from various sources, depending on the province.

**Type of Year:**

Fiscal

**Available Data Years****First Available Year:**

2008

**Last Available Year:**

2020

Geographic Coverage All provinces

Reporting Level/Disaggregation National, Province/Territory

**Result Updates**

Update Frequency Every year

**Web Tool:**

Indicator Results Wait Times

**URL:** <http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract>

**Updates**

There may be some provincial exceptions to the standard methodology each year. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions (<http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract>).

**Quality Statement****Caveats**

and Limitations Some provinces may have some exceptions and their methodology may be slightly different than the standard methodology. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions (<http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract>).

**Trending Issues**

Since 2008, an increasing number of provinces have adapted to the standard methodology in order to increase the comparability of results. When comparing data for a particular province over time, attention should be given to the exceptions. For more information, visit the Wait Times website and view provincial exceptions (<http://waittimes.cihi.ca/All/cataract>).

**Comments**

Not applicable