11th Health Care in Canada Survey

Health of the nation is everybody's business, as are measuring its status and driving its improvement.

The *Health Care in Canada (HCIC) Survey* is the only national survey to measure and report on how the Canadian public and professionals perceive the state of our health care system. To date, 11 Health Care in Canada (HCIC) surveys, spanning 1998 to 2014, have offered a comprehensive overview of the changing perceptions of physician, nurse, pharmacist, administrator and public stakeholders of the nation's health status, its burden of illness, quality and cost of care; and, its future potential.

2013-2014 Survey highlights

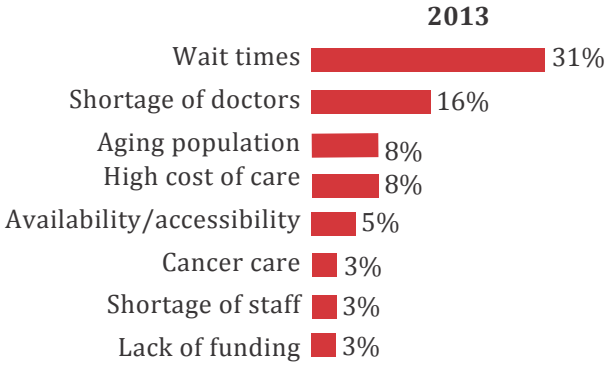
In the 2013-2014 survey overall, there persists a universal sense of quality in our health system; just over half of Canadians feel that we are receiving quality health care services. At the same time, in the public's view, the prevalence of poor, or fair, health status is increasing and so is the prevalence of chronic illness.

Personal Health: Increasing public perception of poor or fair personal health status

Chronic Disease: Increasing self-reported prevalence of one or more chronic illnesses.

Over the last decade and a half, there has been an eight-fold increase in the public's perception of unduly long wait times for access to care. Wait time is now rated as the most important health care issue in the country, displacing the previously top-rated concern of lack of government funding. Among professionals surveyed, wait times and the availability/ accessibility of services were perceived to be the most important health issues facing Canada.

Most Important Care Issue: Increasing public perception of unduly long wait times.



2007	2000	1999	1998
20%	7%	6%	4%
19%	5%	5%	3%
8%	5%	5%	5%
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3%	10%	4%	2%
2%	19%	9%	18%

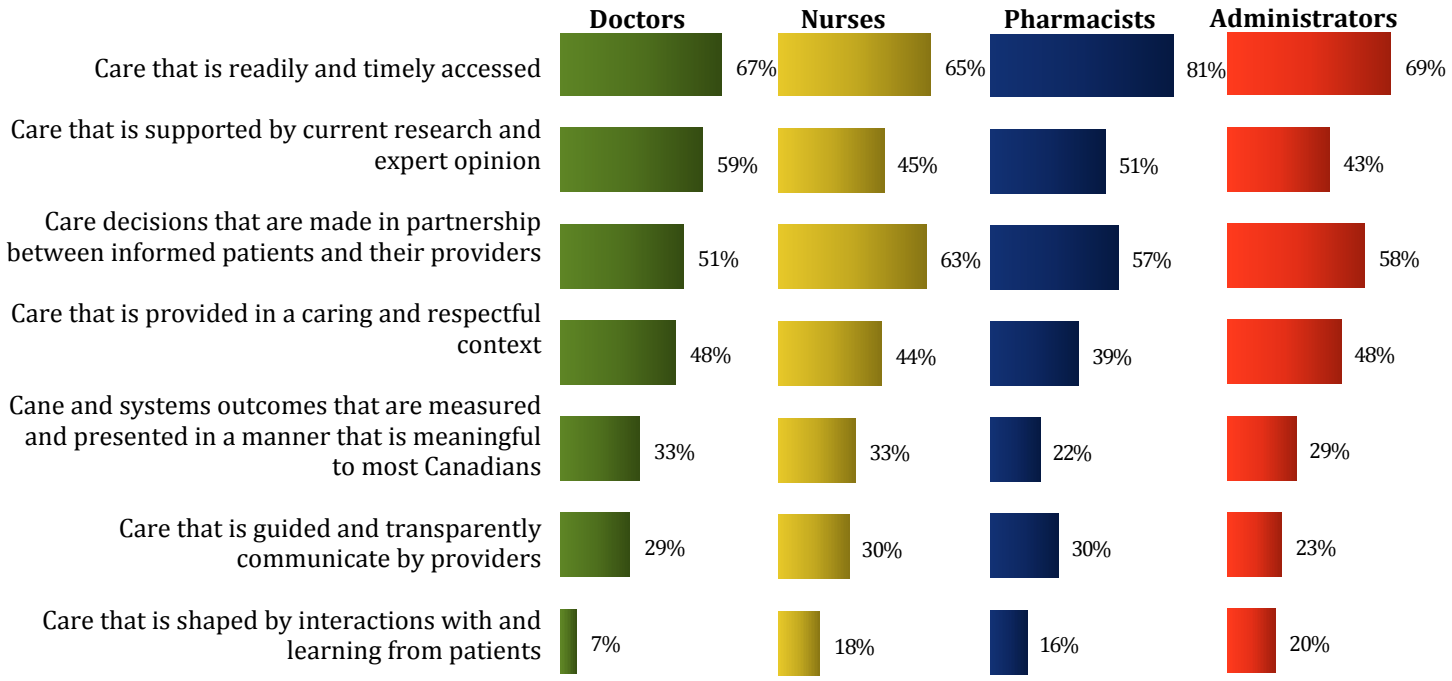
31% of the public feel that wait times are the most important care issue

HCIC SSSC

48% of the public believe timely access to health care has worsened over the last five years and 46% expect it will not improve over the next five years.

There is also high, and concordant, support among all stakeholders, public and professional, for enhanced **patient-centred care**, particularly as defined by: timely access, caring delivery, partnerships between informed patients and providers; and, care that reflects current research and expert opinion.

Professional perceptions of the priorities for enhancing patient-centred care



NEW to the 2013/2014 Survey

New questions were added to the 2013-2014 HCIC Survey to reflect changing priorities in health and health care in Canada. Emergent issues include support for more team-based care, patient-centred care and recognition of the huge contribution of friends' and family members' provision of non-professional care to patients with chronic illnesses.

19% of respondents had spent time caring for a family member or close friend in the past 12 months.

Data from the most recent survey are housed at McGill and accessible upon request. The 11 surveys have built an extensive knowledgebase of public and professional opinions about health and the health care system. The goal is that this knowledge will be used to inform Canadian health policy and clinical decision making in order to facilitate better outcomes. Visit http://www.mcgill.ca/hcic-sssc/ to learn about the ***Health Care in Canada Survey*** initiative.