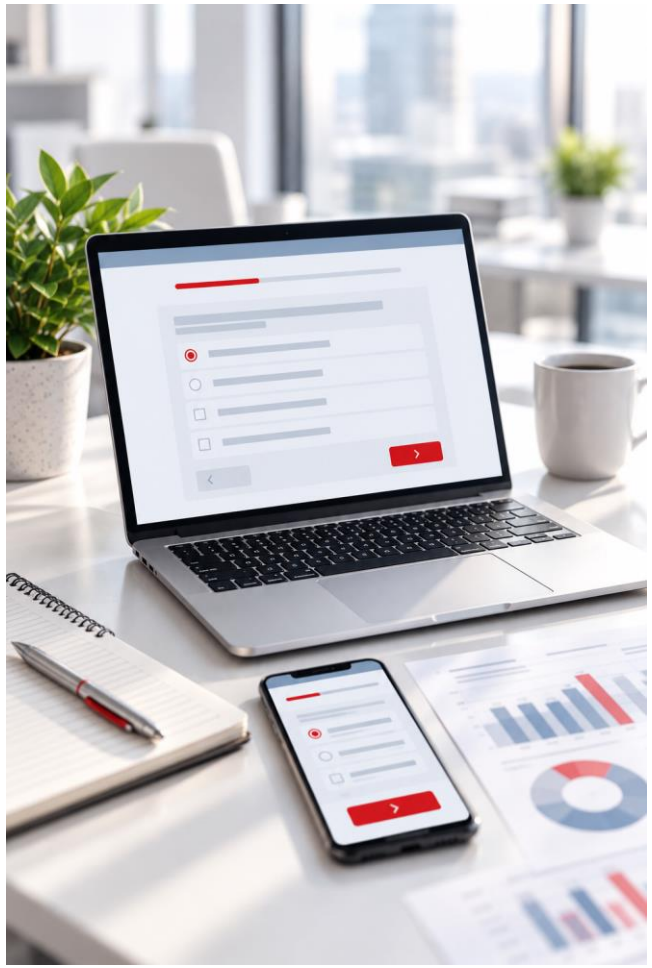
Omnibus Report

Healthcare in Canada Omni

Date: 10 / 21 / 2026
Project: 10019262

Methodology



Method

Online survey via Leger's LEO panel, with n=1,510 Canadians aged 18+.

When

The weekly online omnibus was in field from the 16th to the 18th of October 2026, inclusive, using Leger's online panel, LEO.

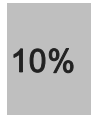
Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size (n=1,510) yields a margin of error no greater than ±2.5%, (19 times out of 20).

Detailed Results

A majority (84%) of Canadians believe the healthcare system where they live requires at least some degree of change; three-in-five (58%) believe it requires a *major* change.

A quarter (26%) of Canadians believe the healthcare system in their area requires some minor changes, and a tenth (10%) believe the system does not need change but does need more public funding. Women, those residing in Quebec and those born in Canada are more likely to believe that the healthcare system needs at least some change.



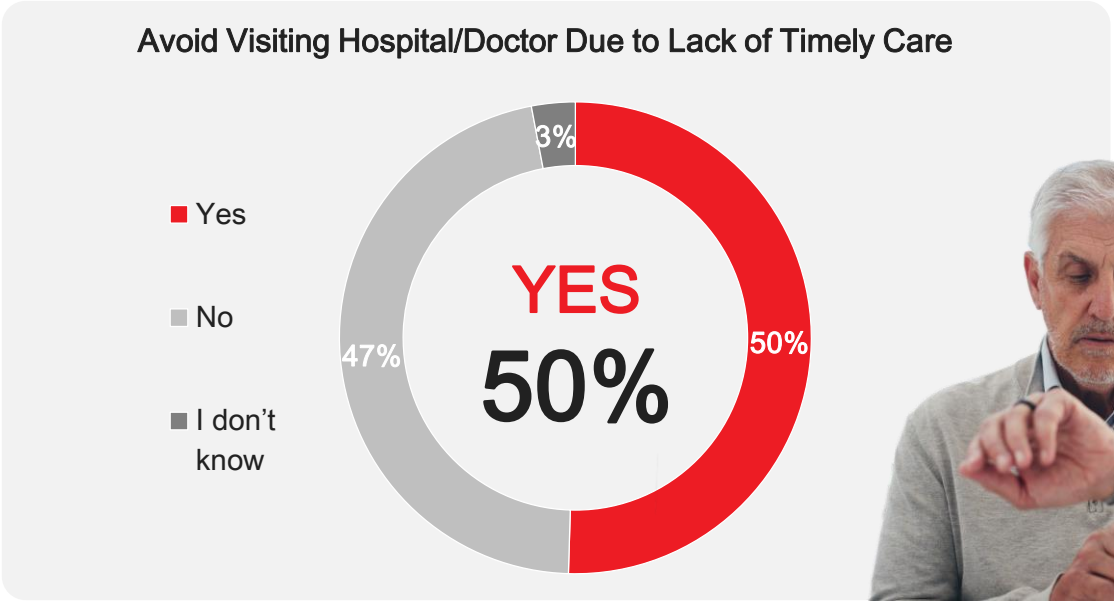
Level of Change Required for Healthcare System		GENDER		REGION		Born in Canada	
		Men	Women	Quebec	RoC	Yes	No
(NET) Needs change	84%	80%	86%	88%	82%	85%	78%
The system needs a major change	58%	51%	65%	69%	54%	59%	51%
The system needs some minor changes	26%	30%	22%	19%	28%	25%	27%
The system doesn't need to change, it just needs more public funding	10%	13%	7%	7%	11%	10%	12%
I don't know	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%	5%	10%

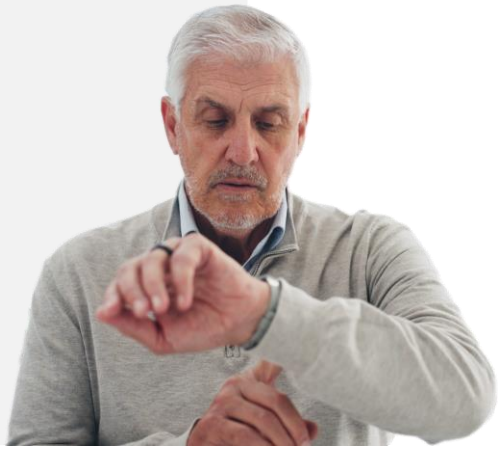
Q1. When you think of the changes necessary to improve health services where you live, which of the following best describes the level of change you feel is required to the health care system?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Half (50%) of Canadians have avoided visiting a hospital or doctor due to the belief that they will not receive timely treatment.

Women, those aged <55 and those residing in Quebec are more likely to have avoided visiting a hospital/doctor.





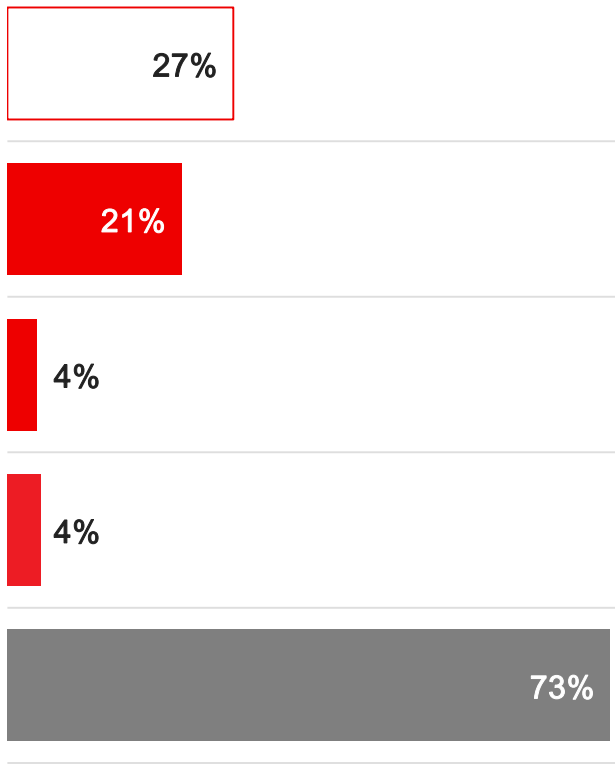
	Total	GENDER		AGE		REGION	
		Men	Women	<55	55+	Quebec	RoC
Yes	50%	41%	59%	55%	44%	56%	49%
No	47%	56%	37%	42%	54%	42%	48%
I don't know	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%

Q2. Do you ever avoid going to a hospital or a doctor because you don't believe you will receive timely treatment?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

A quarter (27%) of Canadians have paid for private health care services to avoid long wait times or unsatisfactory services in the public system.

Most commonly, Canadians have sought private healthcare in their own province (21%), while few have sought it outside their province (4%) or the country (4%). Men, those <55, those residing in Quebec, those born outside of Canada (34% vs 25% born in Canada), and those earning $60K+ in annual household income (31% vs 23% earning less) are more likely to have sought out private healthcare.



	GENDER		AGE		REGION	
	Men	Women	<55	55+	Quebec	RoC
(NET) Yes	30%	25%	34%	18%	46%	22%
Yes, in my own province	23%	19%	25%	16%	41%	15%
Yes, I traveled out of province	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	3%
Yes, I traveled out of the country	5%	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%
No	70%	75%	66%	82%	54%	78%

Q3. Have you ever paid for private health care services because you wanted to avoid long wait times or unsatisfactory services in the public system?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Three-in-five (61%) Canadians believe Canada should retain the public health system but allow patients to seek out private surgery options if they cannot receive timely care.

A quarter (25%) on the other hand, believe that Canada should retain the public health system and not allow patients to use their own money or extended health insurance to pay for surgery at local private clinics. Those aged <55 and those residing in Quebec are more likely to support allowing patients to seek private surgery. Outside of Quebec, residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are also more likely to be in support (75%, compared to British Columbians, Albertans and Ontarians). Support for allowing patients to seek private surgery options has increased slightly from 2025 (+2 percentage pts).

Thinking about Healthcare, Canada should…	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2022	AGE <55	AGE 55+	REGION Quebec	REGION RoC
…keep our public health care system, **but allow patients to use their own money, or their extended health insurance**, to pay for surgery at local private clinics if they cannot get timely care in the public system	59%	61%	62%	64%	56%	68%	59%
…keep our public health care system and **not allow patients to use their own money or extended health insurance** to pay for surgery at local private clinics if they don't want to use the public system, even when the wait lists exceed the maximum acceptable time	28%	25%	24%	24%	27%	18%	28%
I don't know	14%	14%	14%	12%	16%	14%	13%

Q4. Thinking about health care choices in Canada, which statement best represents your view?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Our Team

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