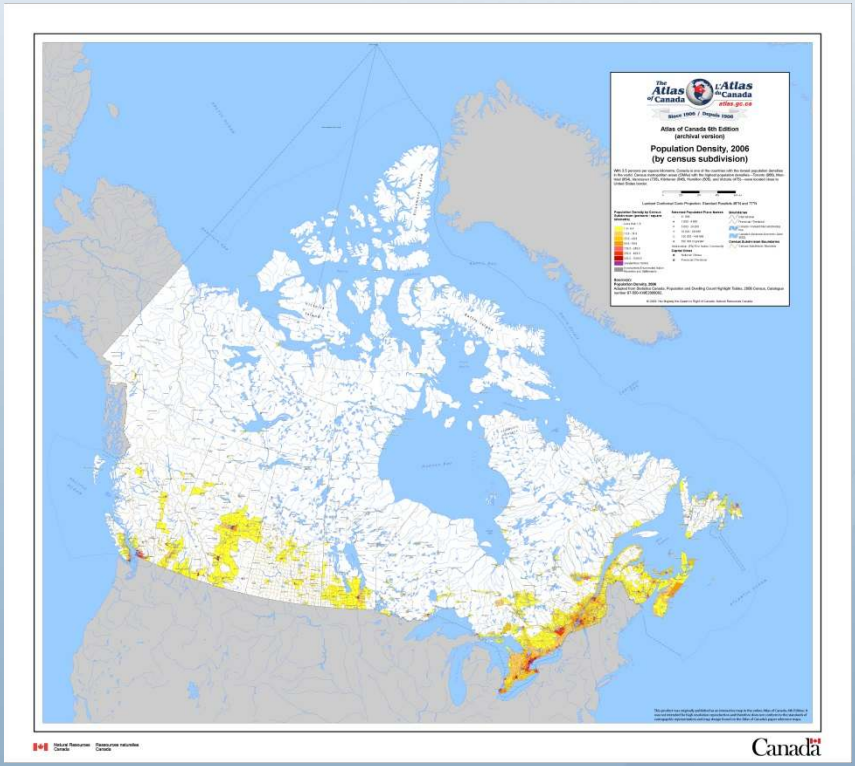
Rationed Care
The Canadian Model

- Bacchus Barua
  - Senior Economist, Centre for Health Policy Studies
- CEESTAHC, Cracow
  - 9th International Symposium Evidence-Based Health Care
  - HTA for Health Quality Assurance

Canada



Source: Natural Resources Canada

- 10 Provinces
  - 3 Territories
- 2nd Largest (Total area)
  - 4th Largest (Land)
- Population: 35m
  - 80% within 160 km of border
- GDP: $52,000 CAD pc
  - About €37,000
  - About zł 155,000

Canada Health Act (1984)

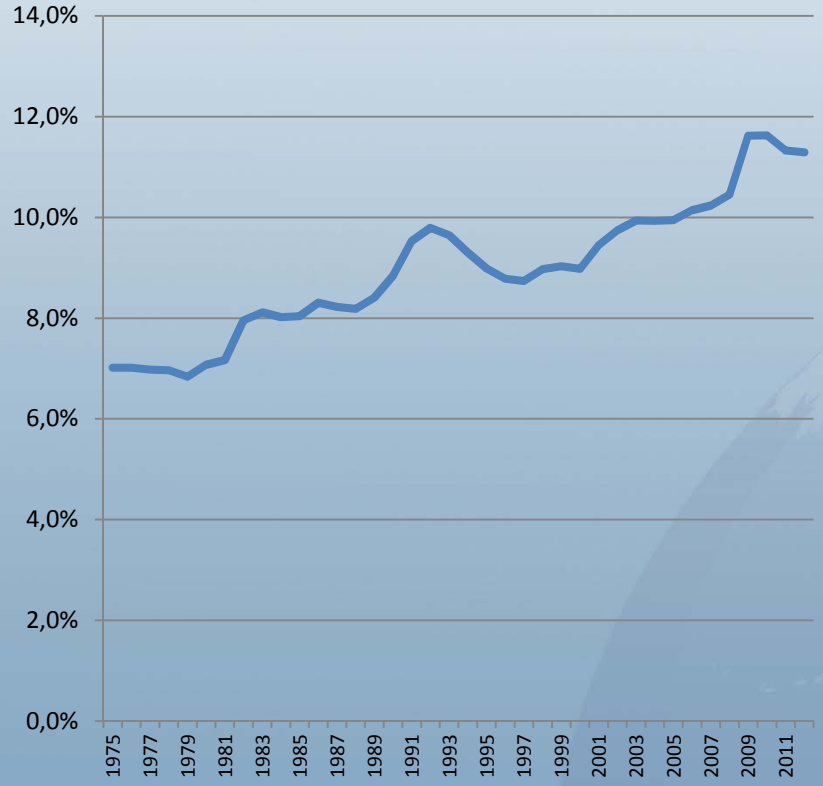
- Public Administration
- Comprehensiveness
- Universality
- Portability
- Accessibility

Sections 18-21

No extra-billing. No user fees.

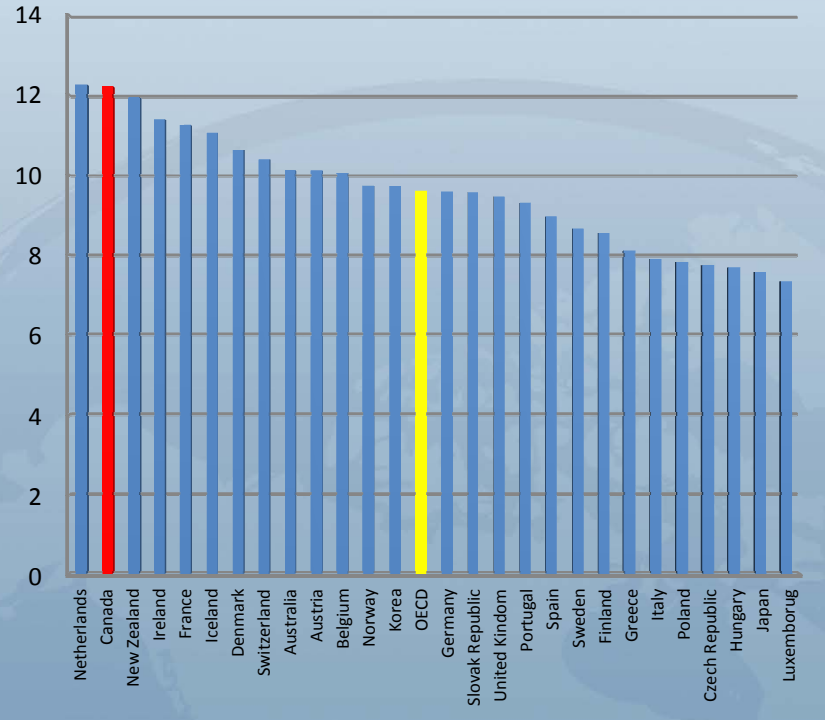
Health Spending

Health Spending 1975-2012
Percentage of GDP



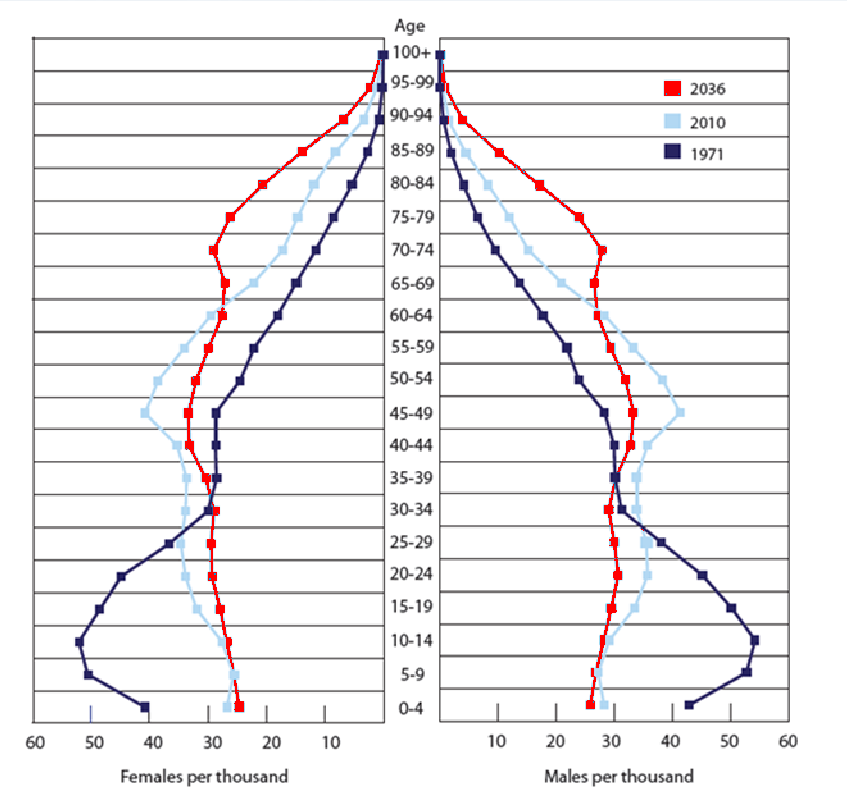
Source: Canadian Institute of Health Information

Total health expenditures, age-adjusted share of GDP, 2011 or nearest year



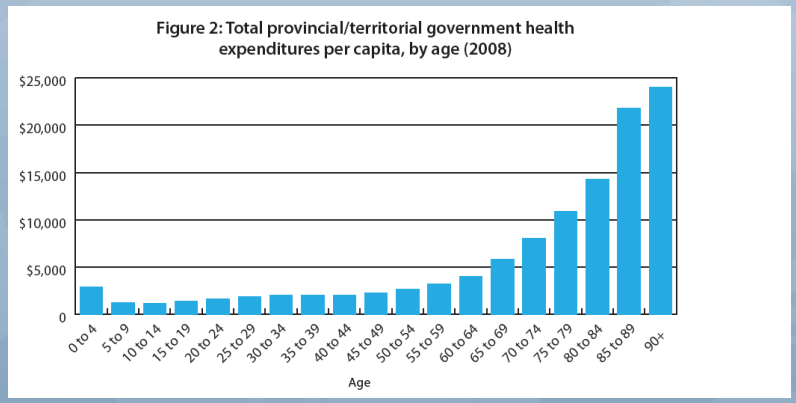
Source: OECD; calculations by FI

Population Projection



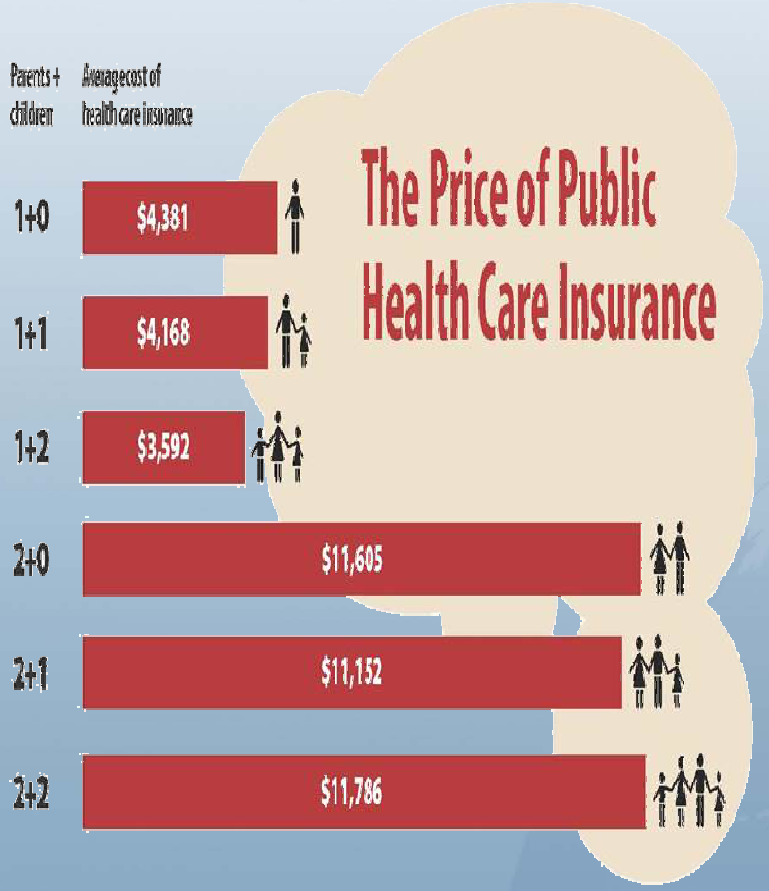
Source: Statistics Canada, Calculations by FI

- Median age
  - 39.7 (2010) / 43.6 (2036)
- Workers per dependent
  - 2.3 (2010) / 1.5 (2036)

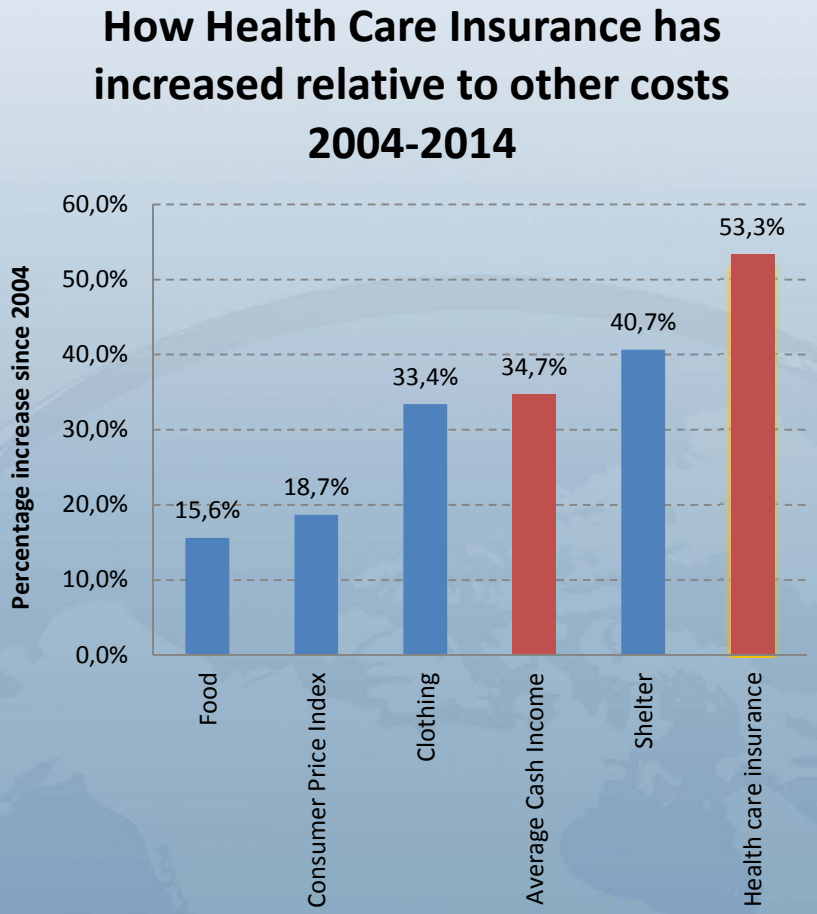


Source: Canadian Institute of Health Information

Health Spending Hidden Costs



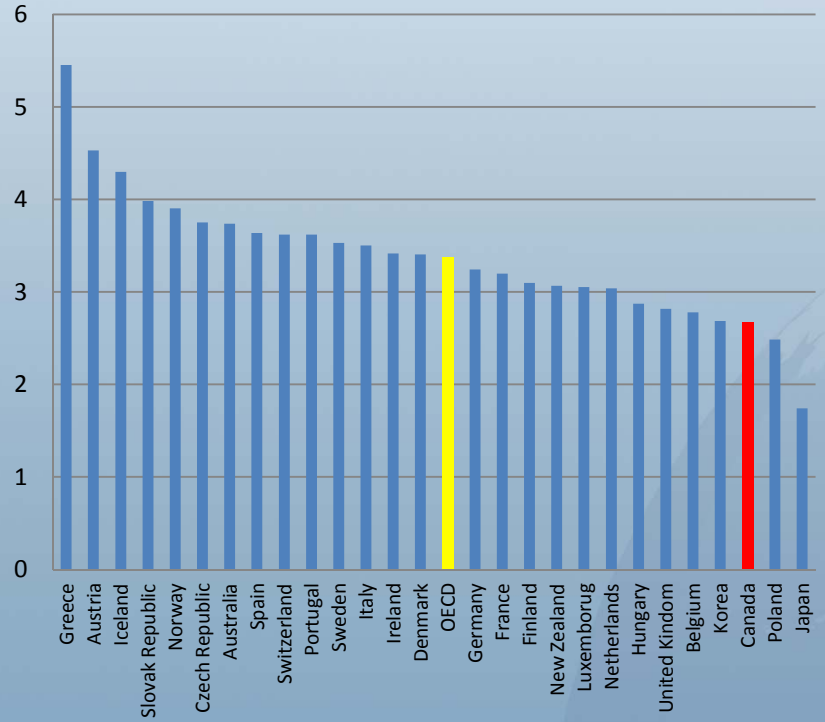
Source: Fraser Institute



Source: Fraser Institute

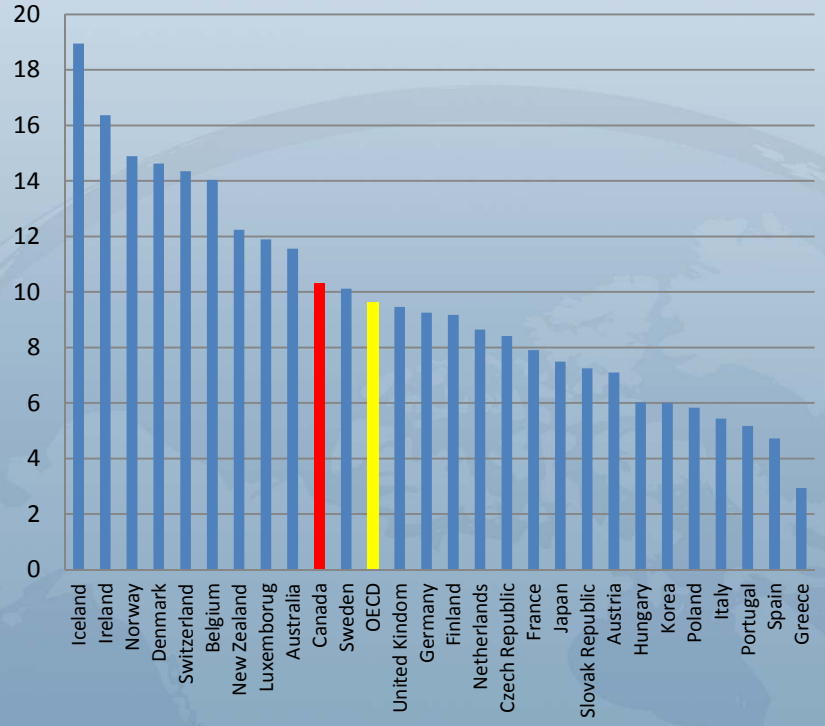
Human Resources

Practising doctors per 1,000 population (age-adjusted), 2011 or nearest year



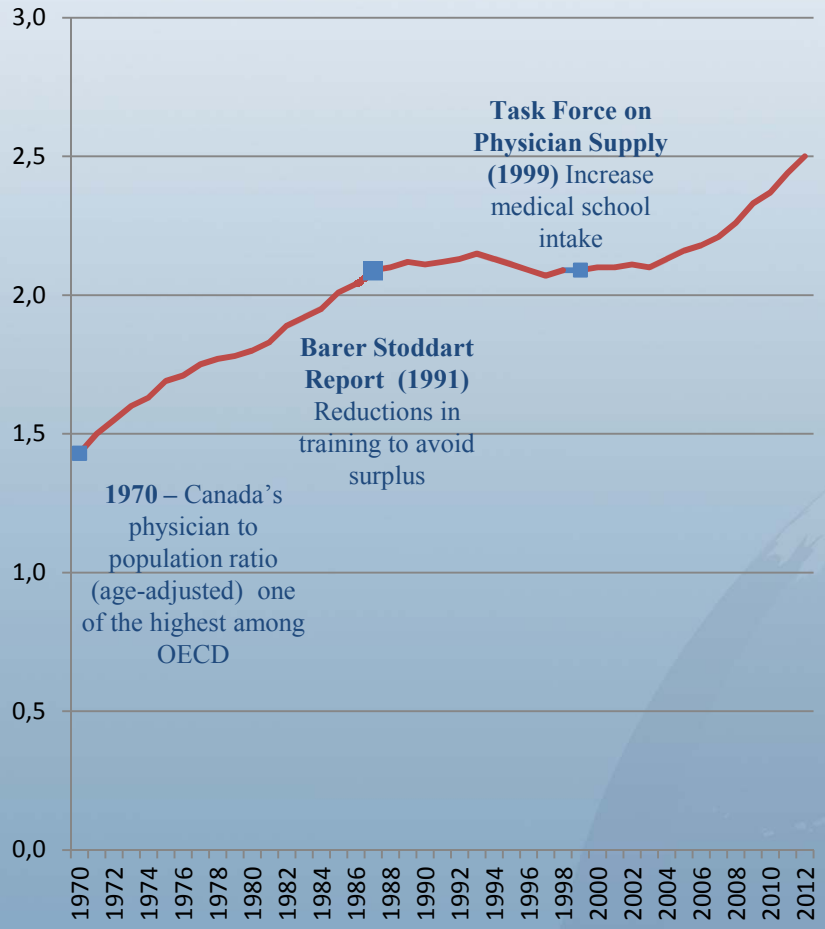
Source: OECD; calculations by FI

Practising nurses per 1,000 population (age-adjusted), 2009 or nearest year



Source: OECD; calculations by FI

Physician Supply

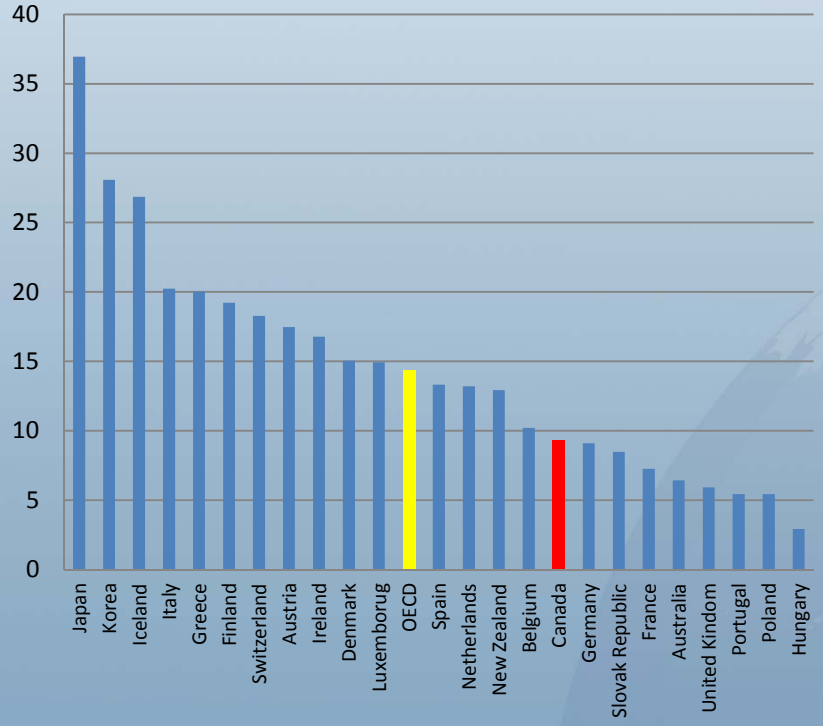


Source: OECD; calculations by FI

- 1991 (Barer-Stoddart)
  - Reduce undergraduate enrollment by 10%
  - Reduce no. of post-graduate training positions by 10%
  - Reducing reliance on foreign trained doctors
- 2000s
  - Increase enrollment
  - Recruit foreign-trained physicians
- 2010
  - 15% without regular family doctor (Statistics Canada)
- 2012
  - "Sixteen percent of new specialist and subspecialist physicians said they cannot find work" (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada)
- Other Factors
  - Global Budgets, OR Time

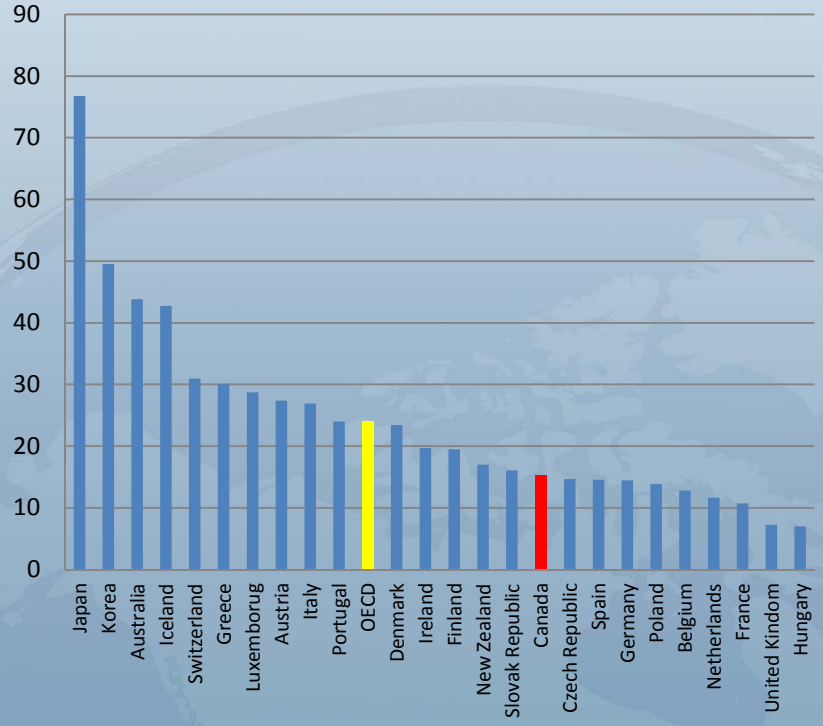
Technology

MRI units per million population (age-adjusted), 2011 or nearest year



Source: OECD; calculations by FI

CT scanners per million population (age-adjusted), 2009 or nearest year



Source: OECD; calculations by FI

Indicators of Mortality and Quality of Care

Below OECD 25th Percentile

Cancer Mortality (F)
Lung Cancer Mortality (F)
Infant Mortality
Foreign Body Left In
Post-Op PE/DVT: Hip and Knee
Obstetric Trauma: Instrument
Obstetric Trauma: No Instrument

Between OECD 25th Percentile and Median

Cervical Cancer Survival
Lung Cancer Mortality (M)
Heart Disease Mortality
Post-Op PE/DVT: Total
Post-Op Sepsis: Abdominal
30-Day In-Hospital Fatality: Ischemic Stroke

Between OECD Median and 75th Percentile

Cancer Mortality (M)
Breast Cancer Screening (Survey)
Breast Cancer Mortality
Colorectal Cancer Survival
Colorectal Cancer Mortality
Post-Op Sepsis: Total
30-Day In-Hospital Fatality: AMI
Life Expectancy at Birth

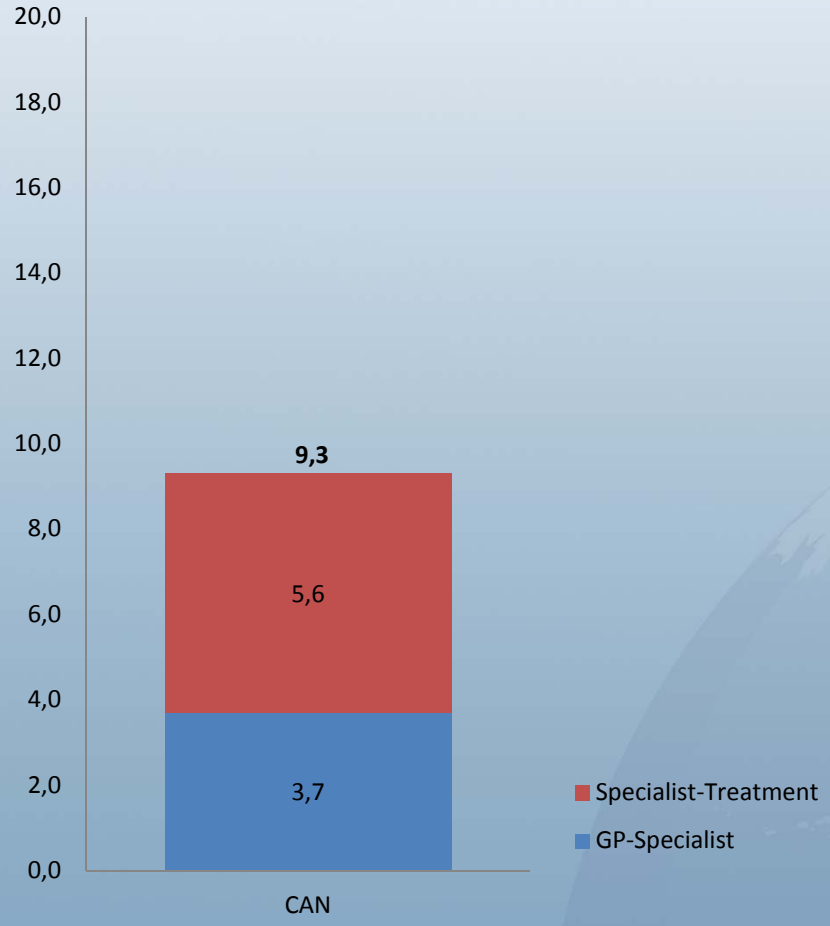
Above OECD 75th Percentile

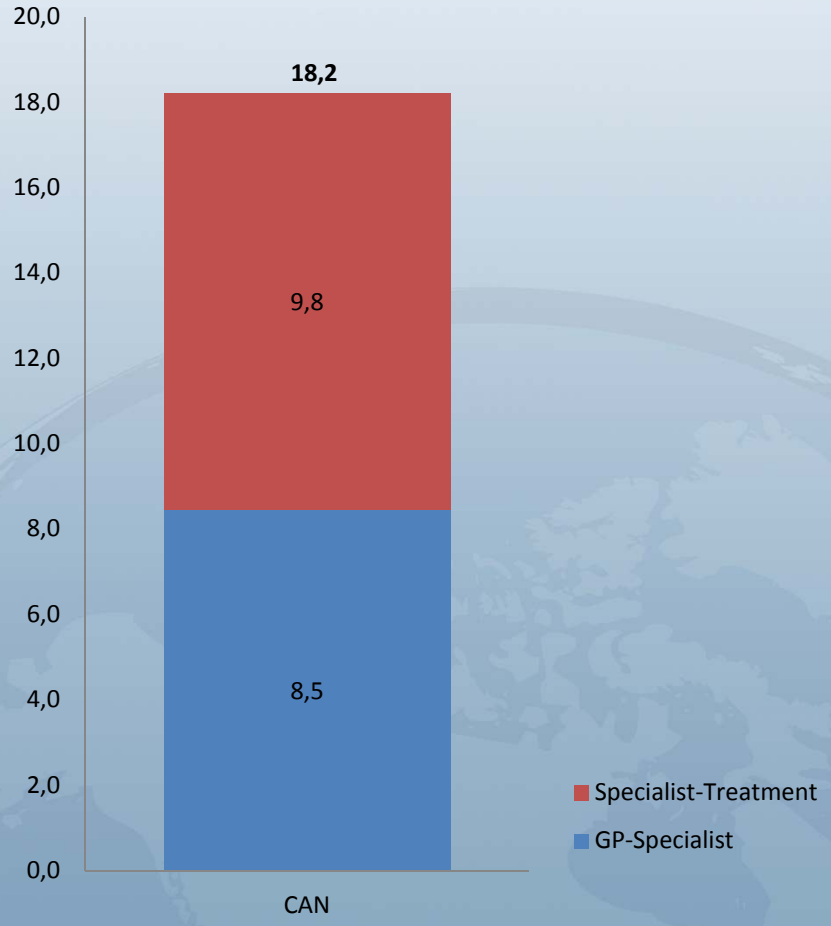
Stroke Mortality
Breast Cancer Survival
Cervical Cancer Screening (Survey)
Cervical Cancer Mortality

Waiting Your Turn

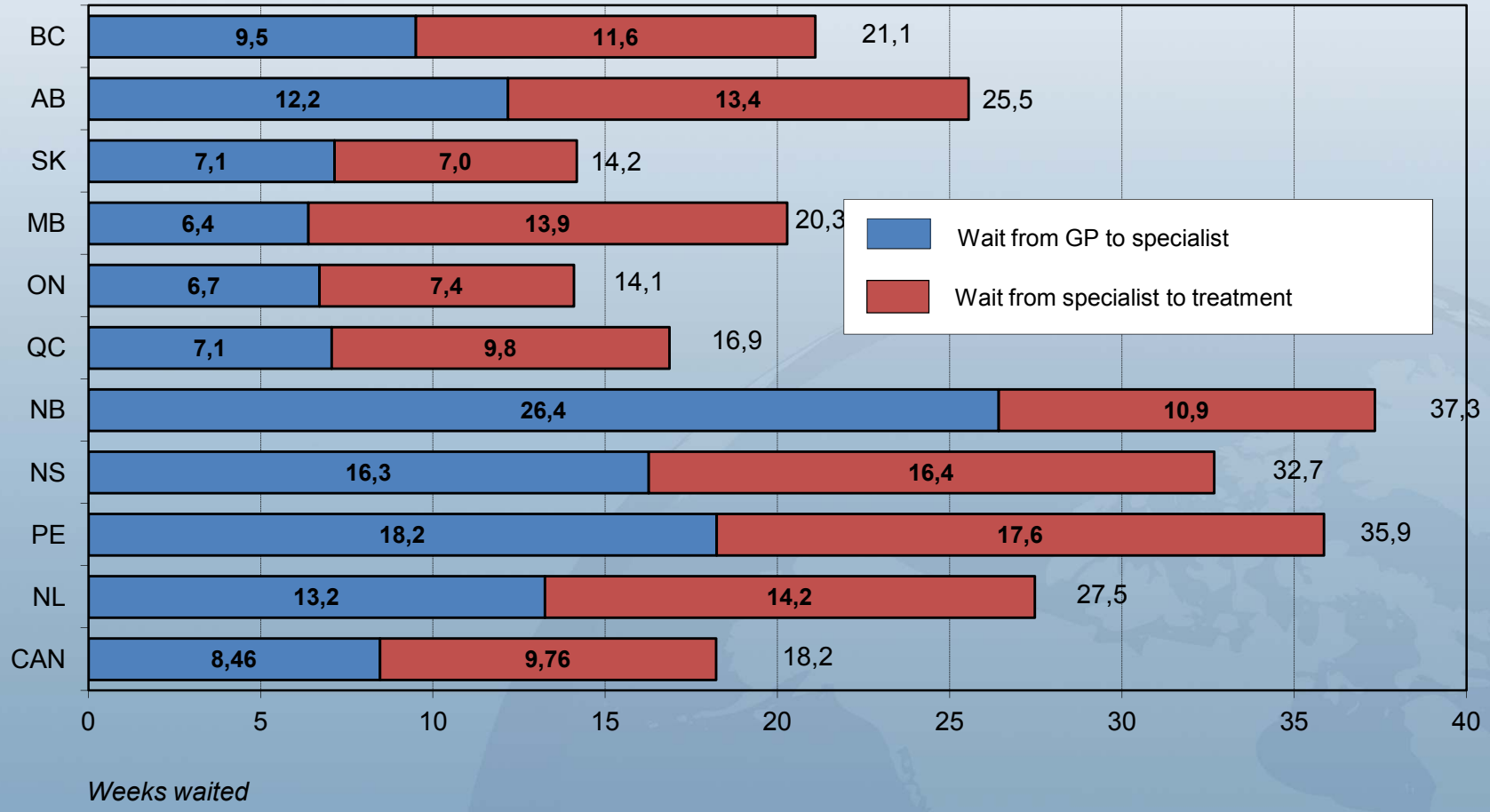
- 12 Major Specialties
- Letter-mail, Fax, Phone
- > 10,000 contacted
- ~2,000 responses
- Median wait time
- Weighted by number of procedures performed, per specialty/province

Wait Times
Canada (1993-2014)

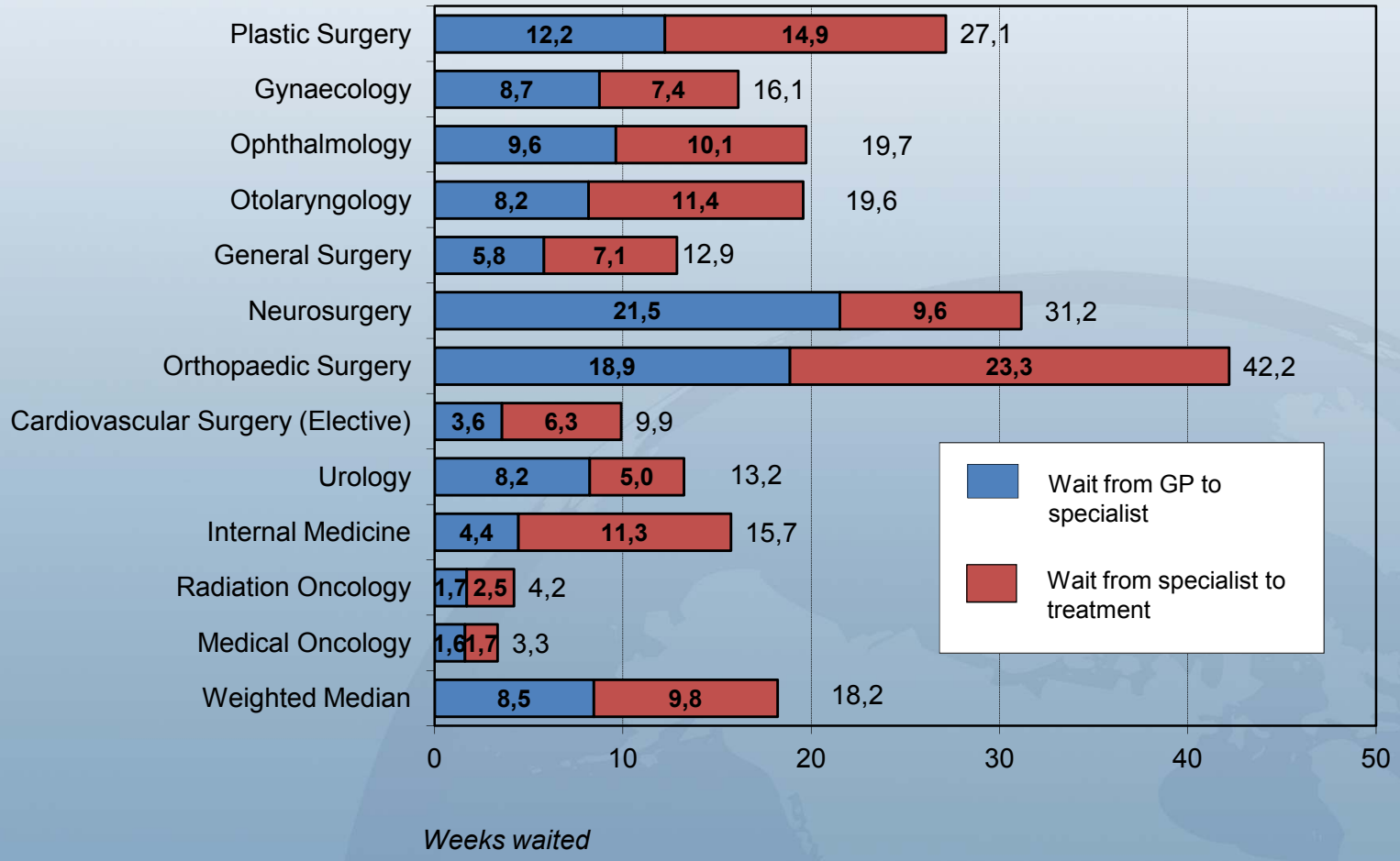




Wait Times
Canada, by Province (2014)

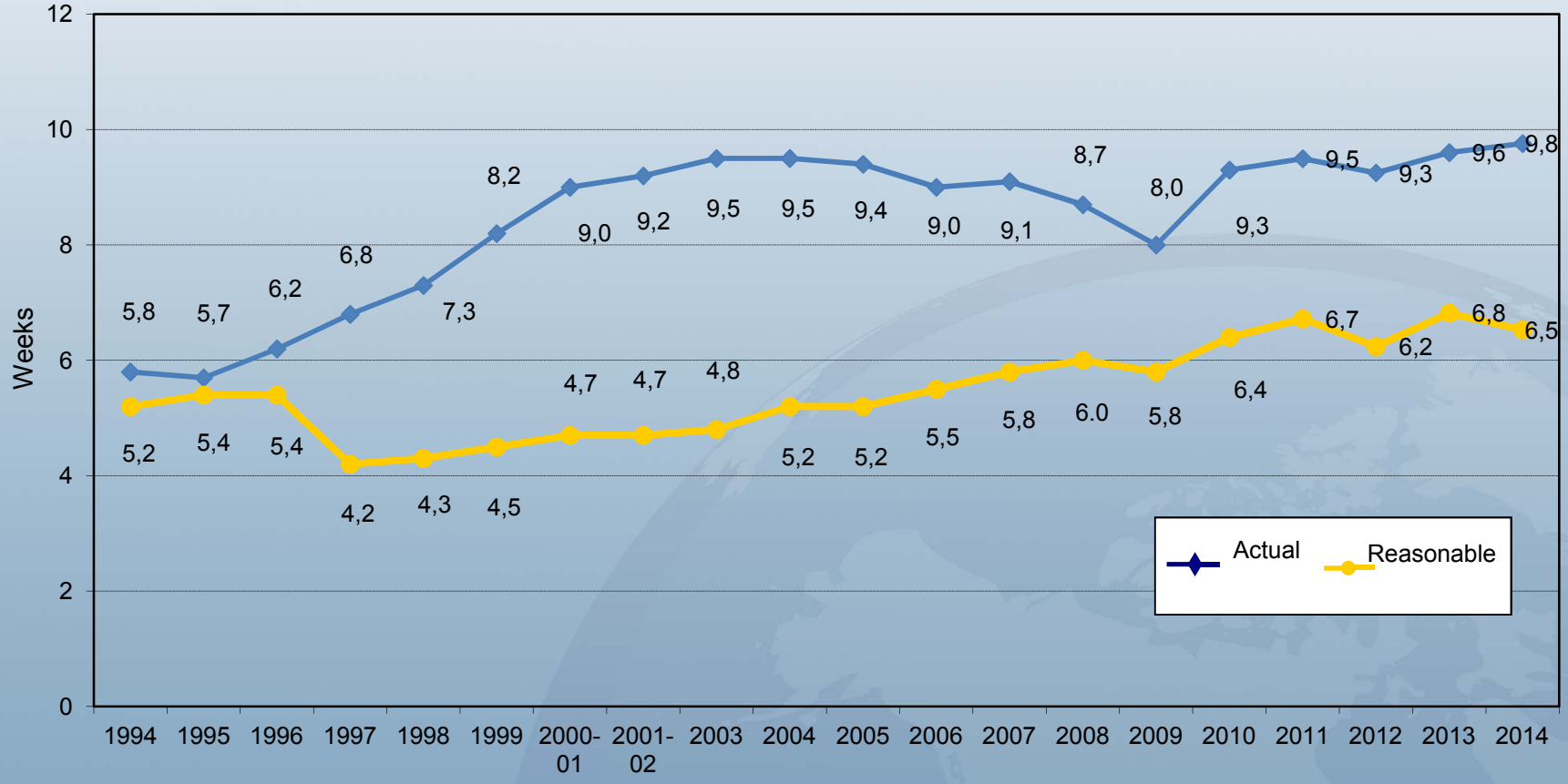


Wait Times
Canada, by Segment (2014)



Wait Times
Canada (1994-2014)

Specialist to Treatment, Reasonable vs Actual



Wait Times

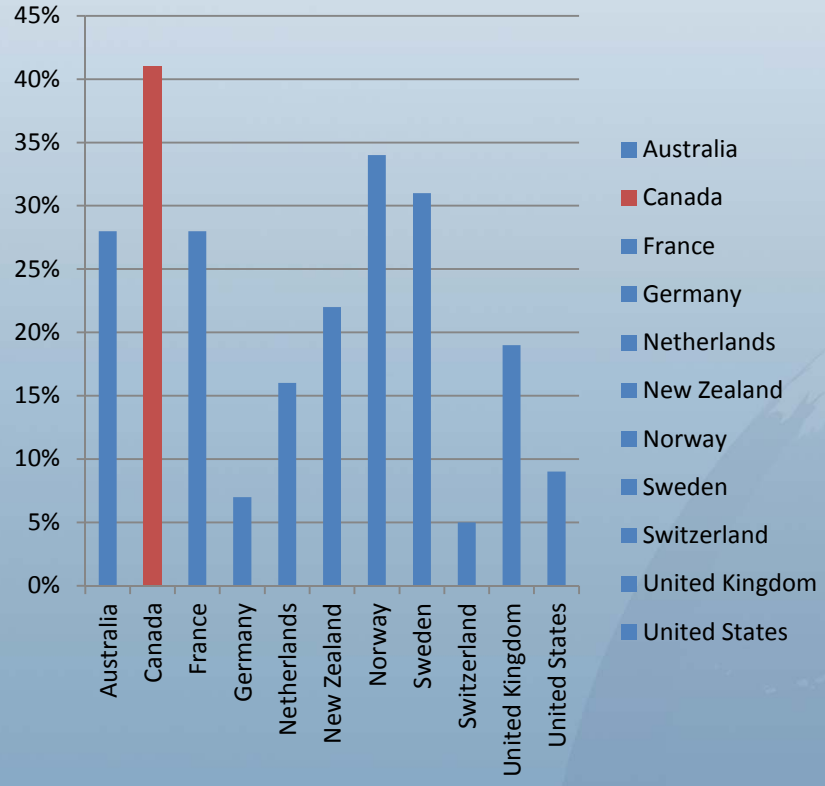
Diagnostic Technology (1994-2008)

Wait Times
Other Measures

- Number of procedures for which patients are waiting
- Number of patients who received care outside Canada
- The reason for the increase/decrease in wait time

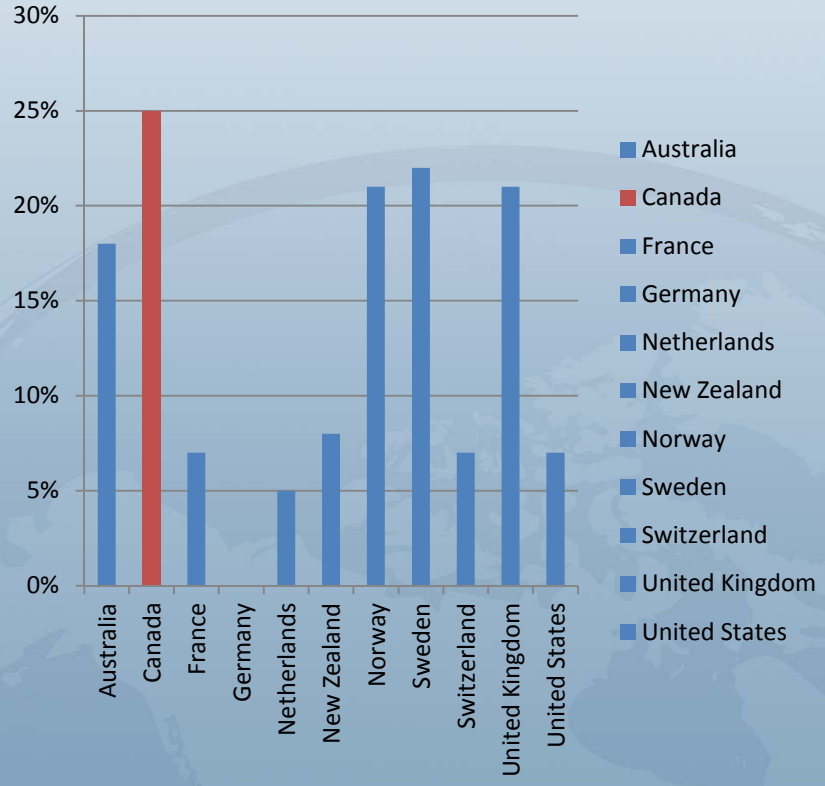
Wait Times
International Comparison

Waited Two Months or More for Specialist Appointment



Source: Commonwealth Fund

Waited Four Months or More for Elective Surgery



Source: Commonwealth Fund

Inefficiency

- Frappier and Laberge, 2007
  - Survey of 49% of hospitals in Quebec
  - One closed O/R per hospital
  - Rate of use of “open” OR’s
    - 46% for day shifts on weekdays
    - 62% open on weekday evenings, used at 9% capacity
    - 45% open on weekends, used at 6% - 8% capacity
- Boyer and Frappier, 2009
  - 43.6% of specialists willing to offer time to private sector in addition to their commitment in the public system
- Wait Time Alliance, 2011
  - 15% acute care beds in Ontario occupied by ALS patients

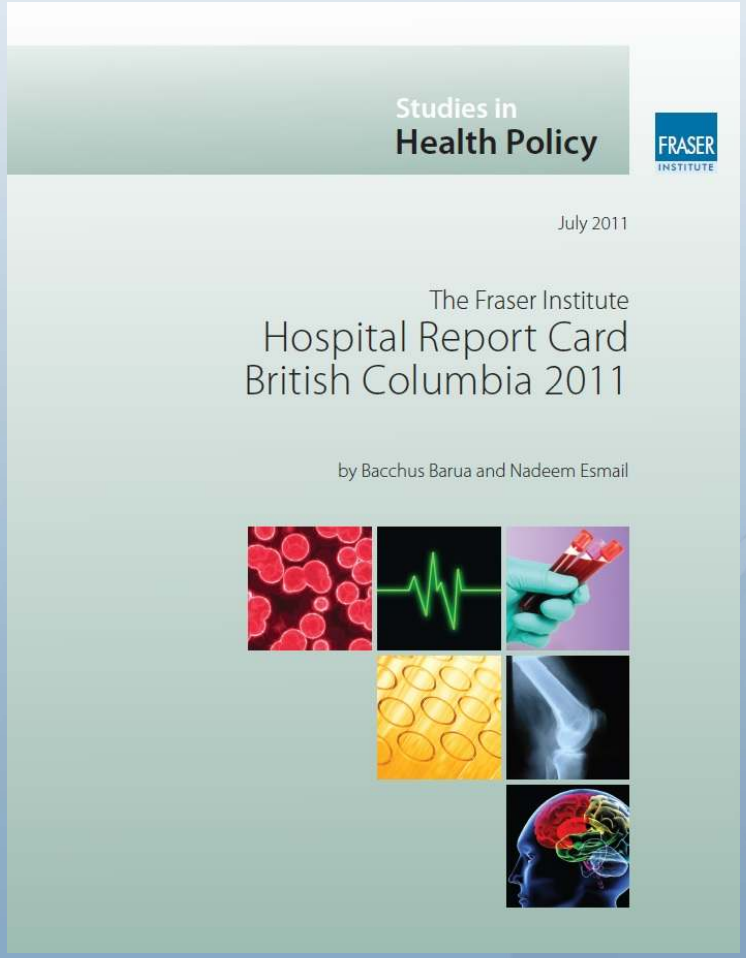
Consequences

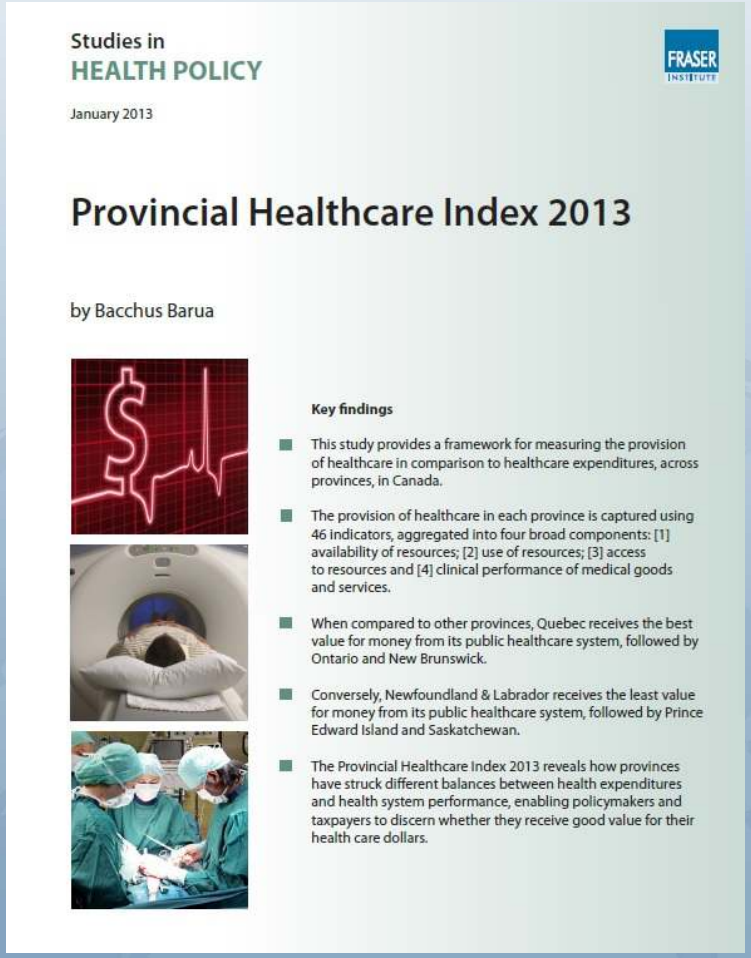
- Suffering
  - One fifth of patients who visited a specialist, and about 11 per cent of those waiting for non-emergency surgery, were adversely affected by their wait (Statistics Canada, 2005)
- Treatable Illness → Permanent Disability
- Mortality
  - Between 25,456 and 63,090 Canadian women may have died as a result of increased wait times between 1993 and 2009 (Barua, Esmail and Jackson, 2013)
- Economic Cost
  - $1,200 in lost wages per patient (Esmail, 2014)

Impact

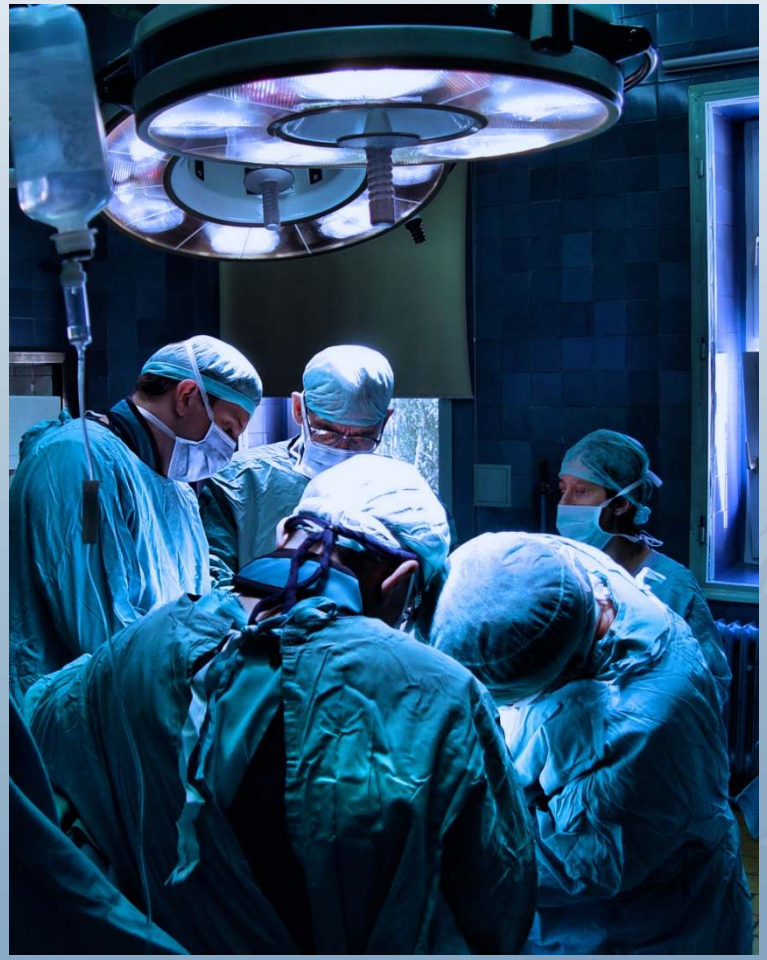
- Government websites
- 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care
- Chaoulli v. Quebec (2005)
  - *Access to a waiting list is not access to health care*
- Cambie Surgery Clinic Constitutional Challenge (2009-present)
  - Plaintiffs include teenager who was paralyzed after 27 month wait

Other Projects





Lessons

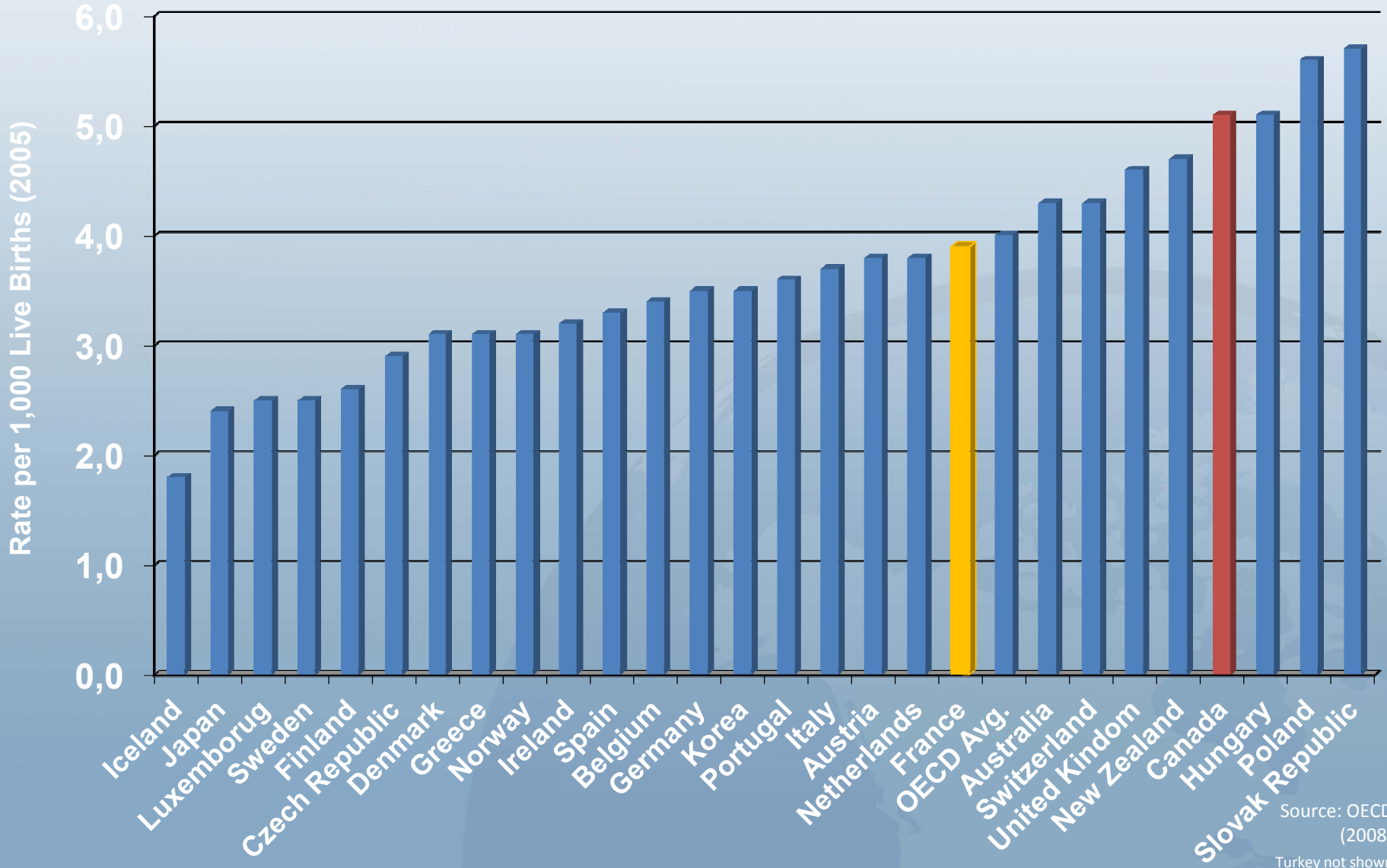


- If it matters, measure it
- What works?
  - Transparency, competition, incentives
- Stay the course
  - Reform takes a long time if you pursue a bottom-up approach

More information at
www.fraserinstitute.org

Attribution: Nadeem Esmail

Infant Mortality in the OECD

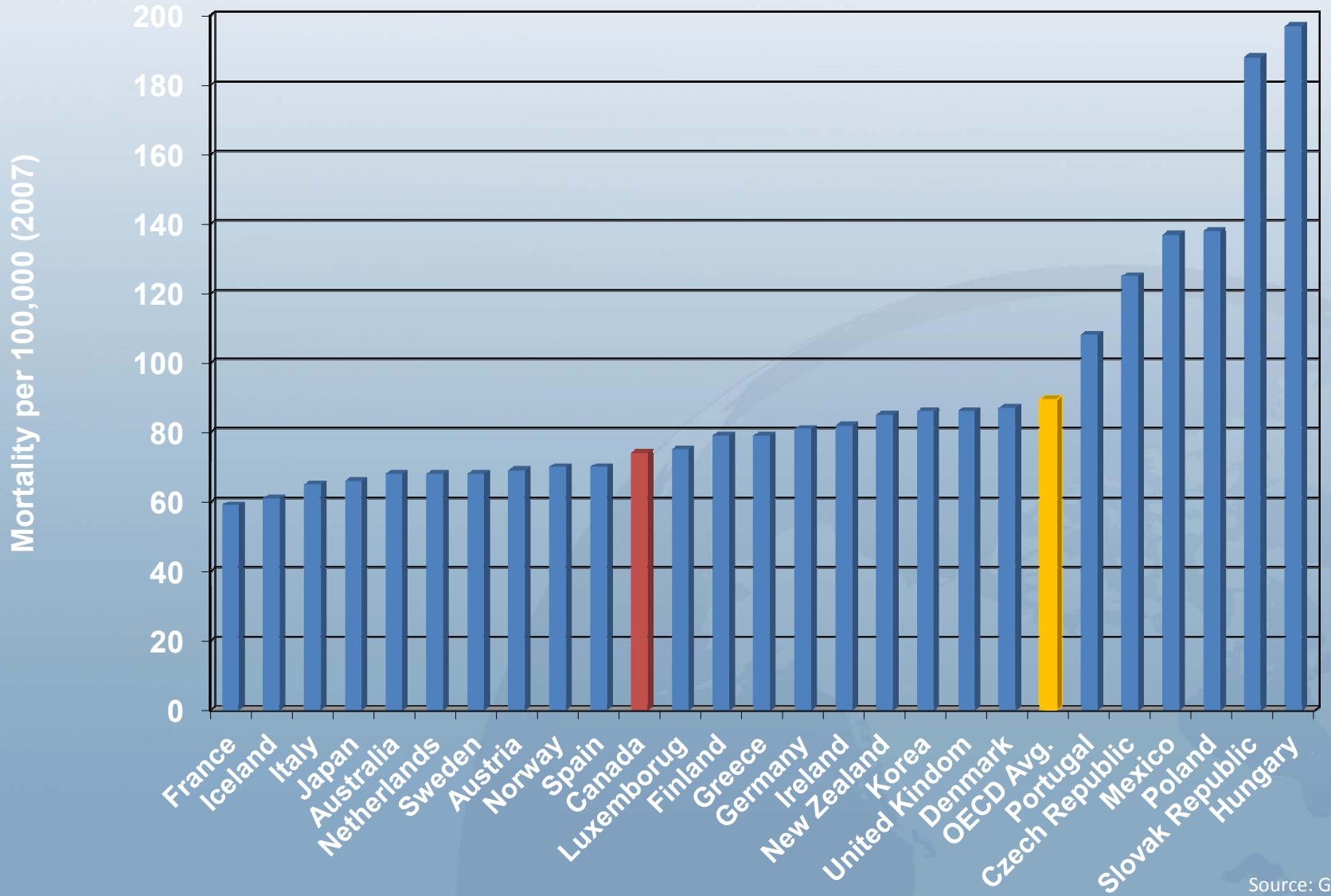


Source: OECD (2008)

Turkey not shown

Attribution: Nadeem Esmail

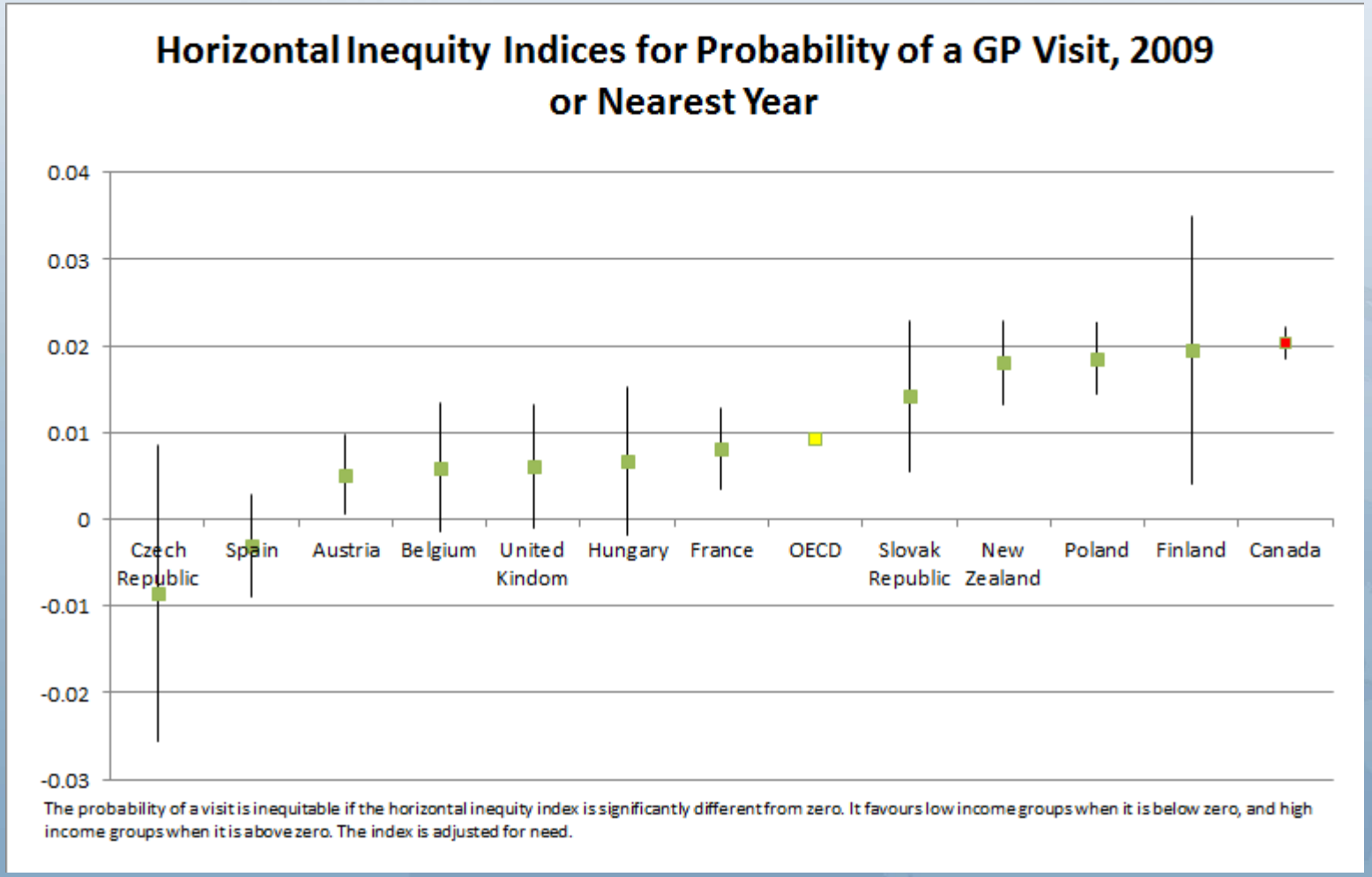
Medically Avoidable Mortality



Source: Gay et al. (2011)

Attribution: Nadeem Esmail

Inequality



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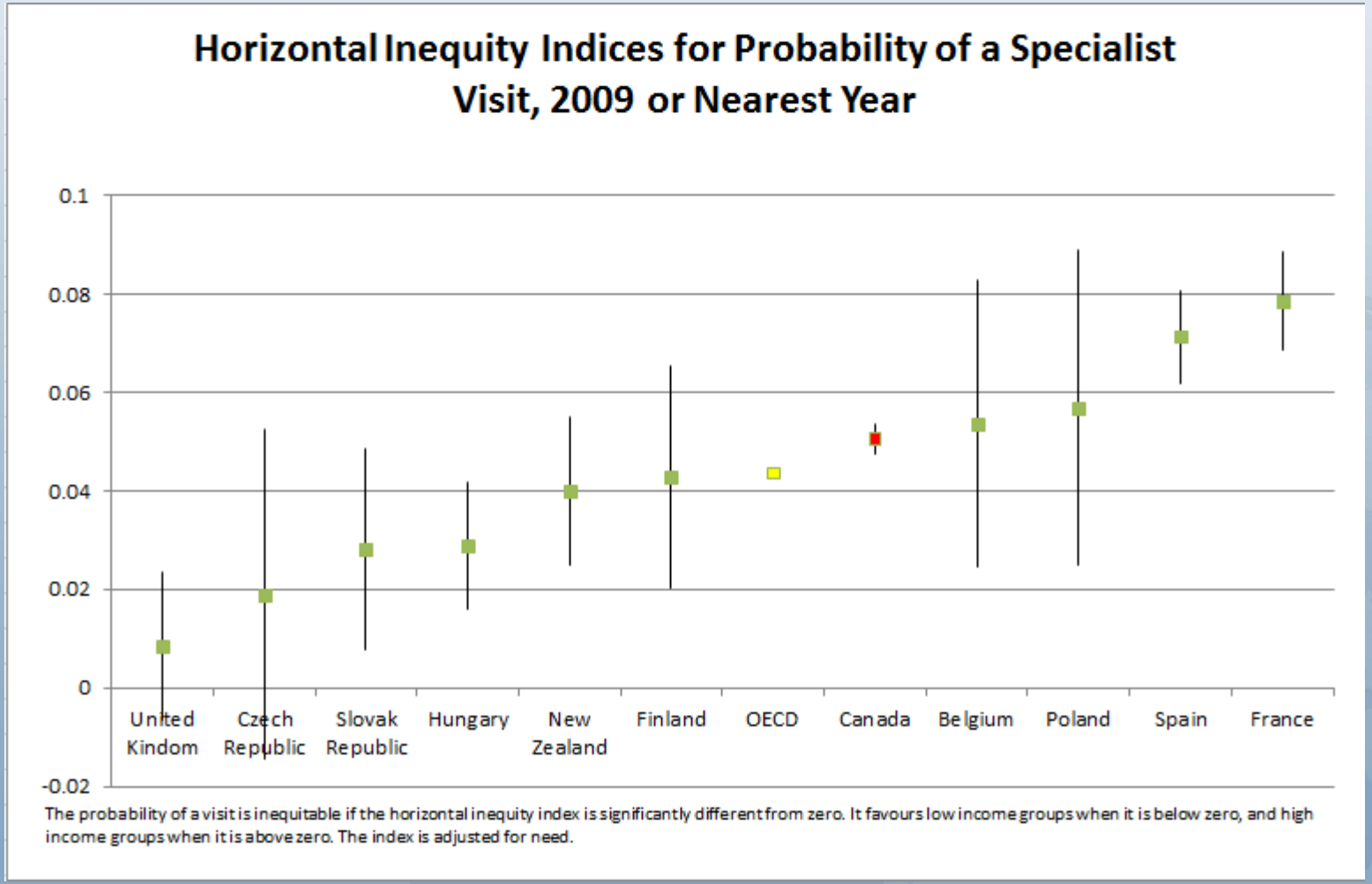

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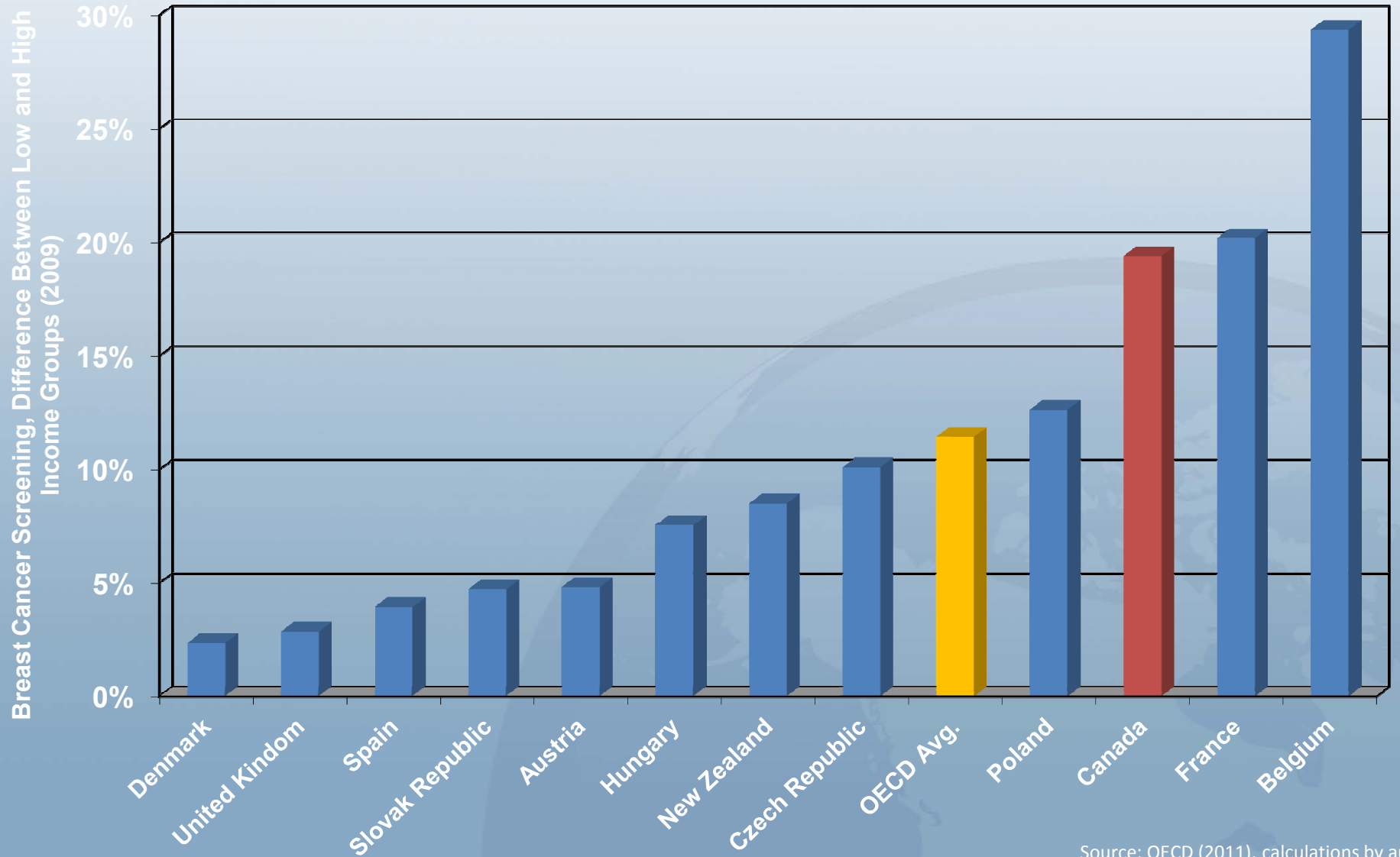

Source: OECD (2011), calculations by author

Attribution: Nadeem Esmail

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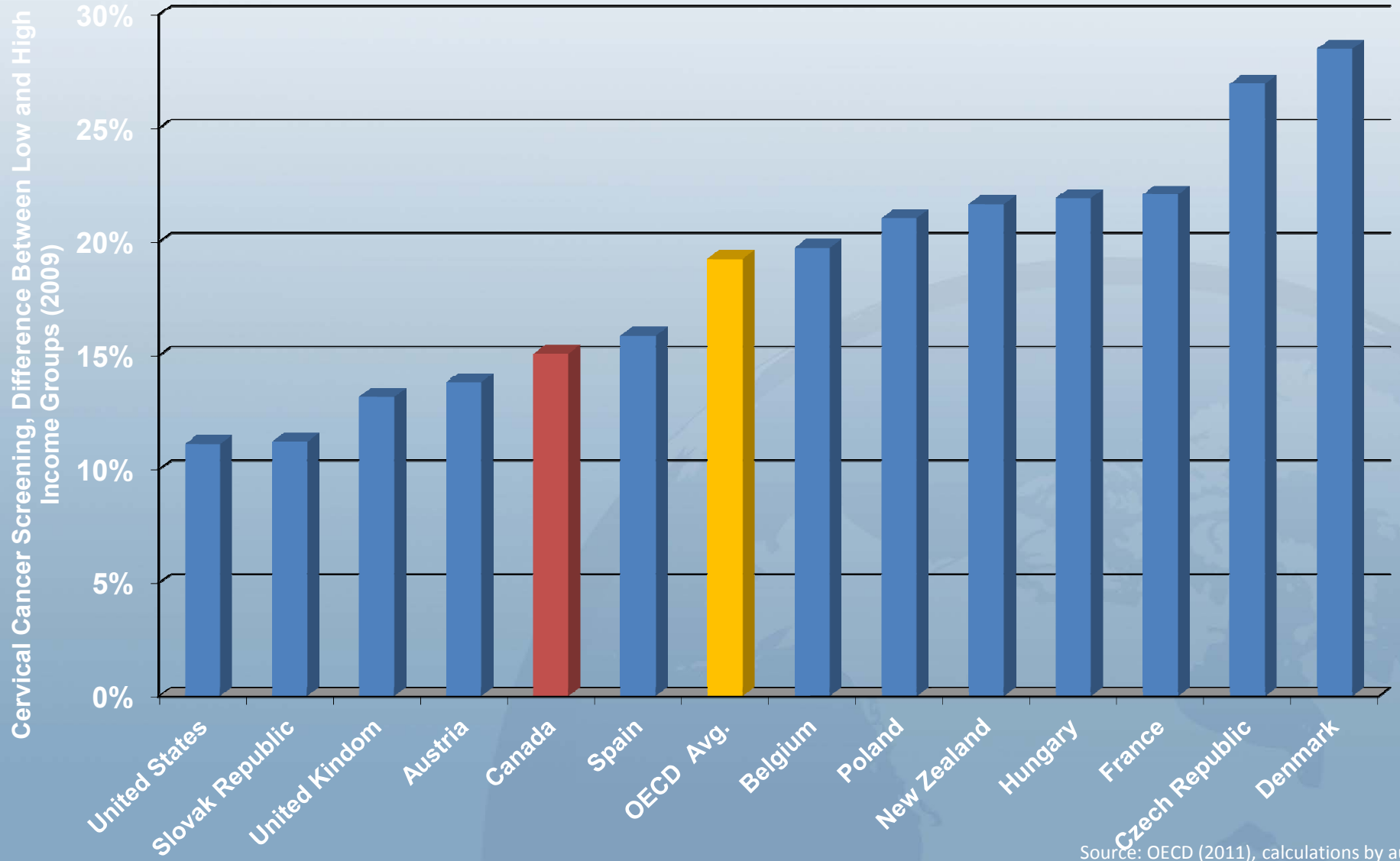

Source: OECD (2011), calculations by author

Wait Times
Canada (1993-2014)

- From today, how long would a new patient have to wait for a **routine office consultation** with you?

- From today, how long would a new patient have to wait for the following types of (elective) **surgery**? What would you consider to be a **clinically reasonable** waiting time for these types of surgery

- Approximately **what percentage** of your patients received **non-emergency** medical treatment in the past 12 months **outside Canada**