



SCHIZOPHRENIA IN CANADA

SUPPLEMENT

Provincial Comparisons on:

Health Care Services

Access to Medications

Government Expenditures

Wait Times



A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.
SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ SCHIZOPHRÉNIÉ

UNE SOURCE D'ESPOIR, DE SOUTIEN ET D'ENTRAIDE.



PROVINCES AT A GLANCE

Provincial Ranking

The tables on the opposite page provide a ranking of each province based on: health care expenditure (per capita), availability of psychiatrists, wait times and availability of medication.

Public Mental Health Expenditures Per Capita	
B.C.	\$ 230
AB	\$ 207
NB	\$ 204
PEI	\$ 197
MB	\$ 174
NS	\$ 174
QC	\$ 169
ON	\$ 152
NL	\$ 143
SK	\$ 138

Psychiatrists per 100,000 Residents	
ON	22
NS	18
B.C.	16
QC	15
NB	15
MB	14
NL	13
AB	12
PEI	10
SK	5

Median Wait Time (weeks) Specialist to Treatment	
MB	15.8
B.C.	16.3
ON	17
QC	17.2
NB	23
NS	25.7
SK	29.6
AB	29.8
NL	33.3
PEI	54

Number of Medications Fully Reimbursed	
QC	6
AB	5
MB	5
B.C.	4
ON	4
NL	3
NS	3
SK	2
NB	0
PEI	0



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Health Care Services

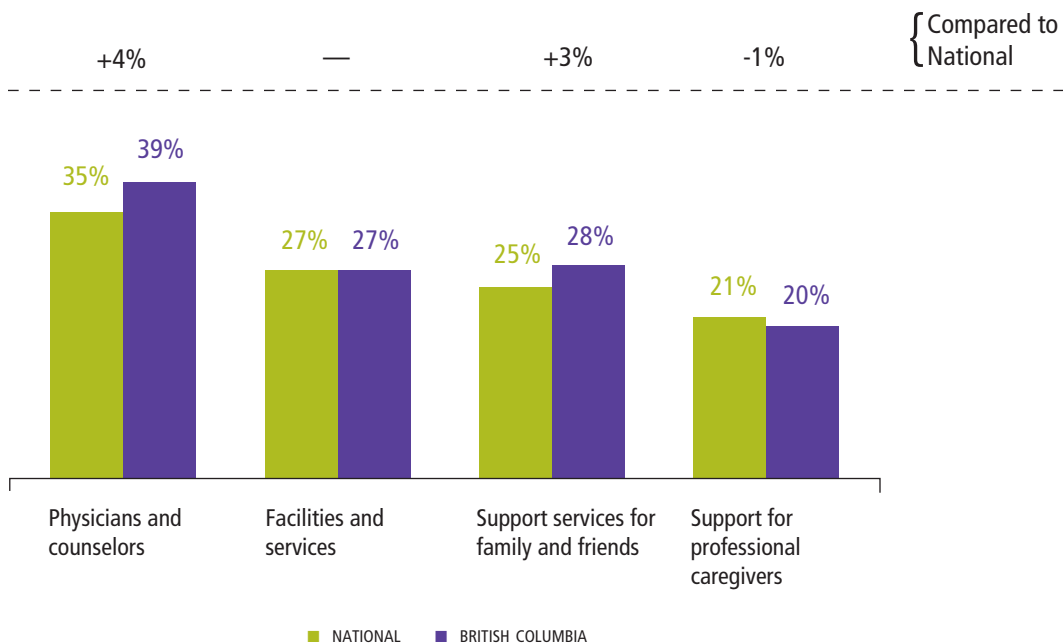
In 2008, British Columbia had a ratio of 16 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had 22 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³ Also, in 2004 British Columbia had 48 psychiatric nurses for every 100,000 individuals.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

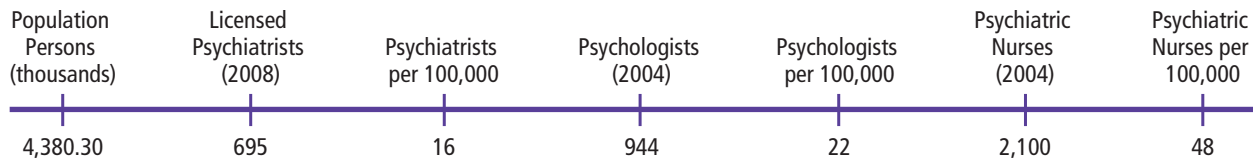
Nearly four in ten agree that their province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia. Less than three in ten, however, believe that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the illness, as well as any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are accessible.

Similar to the national results, support for professional caregivers is perceived as the province's least accessible service.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



B.C. Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications (2008)

In British Columbia there are four medications fully reimbursed by the provincial drug plan. Of these, only one was made available in Canada in the past five years and the others were approved for reimbursement 10 to 15 years ago.²

Government Expenditure

In British Columbia, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 8.0% (2003/04).¹ Per capita (per capita means per person in the relevant population) equates to \$230 (2003/04).¹ B.C. has the highest per capita spending of all the provinces.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In B.C. the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is eight and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 16.3 weeks, which is slightly lower than the national average.³ B.C.'s wait time is the second shortest among all provinces.

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	B.C.	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	2.0	+0.2
ELECTIVE*	7.9	8.0	+0.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	8.3	-2.4
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	16.3	-2.3

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³

Health Care Services

In 2008, Alberta had a ratio of 12 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had the second highest psychologist per population ratio with 50 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³ Also in 2004, Alberta had 32 psychiatric nurses for every 100,000 individuals.³

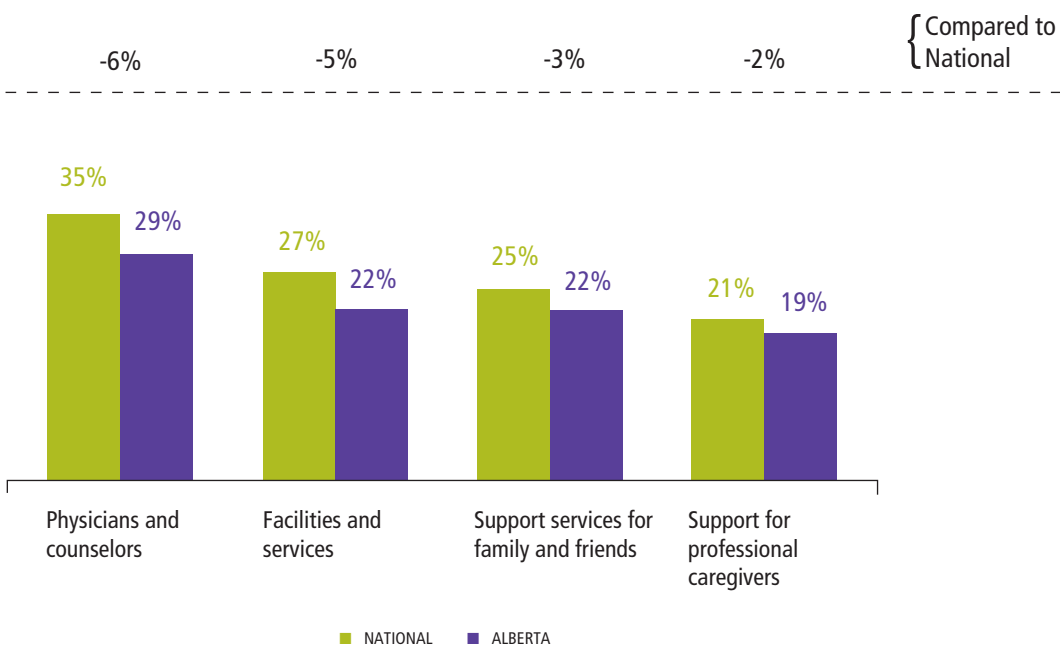
Leger Marketing Survey results:

Approximately three in ten Albertans (29%) believe that the province’s physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia. This perception is lower than that of any other province.

Compared to the national average, fewer Albertans believe that the facilities and services are in place for those suffering from the illness. Moreover, fewer think any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are accessible.

Similar to the national results, support for professional caregivers is viewed as the province’s least accessible service.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



AB Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

In Alberta, there are five medications fully reimbursed by the provincial drug plan. Of these medications, only one was made available in Canada in the past five years and the remaining four became fully available 10 to 20 years ago.²

Government Expenditure

In Alberta, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.6% which is \$207 per capita (2003/04).¹ Alberta has the second highest per capita spending of all the provinces.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita.¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Alberta the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 12 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 29.8 weeks, which is 11.2 weeks longer than the national average.³ Alberta has one of the longest wait times to see a specialist.

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	AB	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	2.0	+0.2
ELECTIVE*	7.9	12.0	+4.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	17.8	+7.1
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	29.8	+11.2

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³



SASKATCHEWAN

Health Care Services

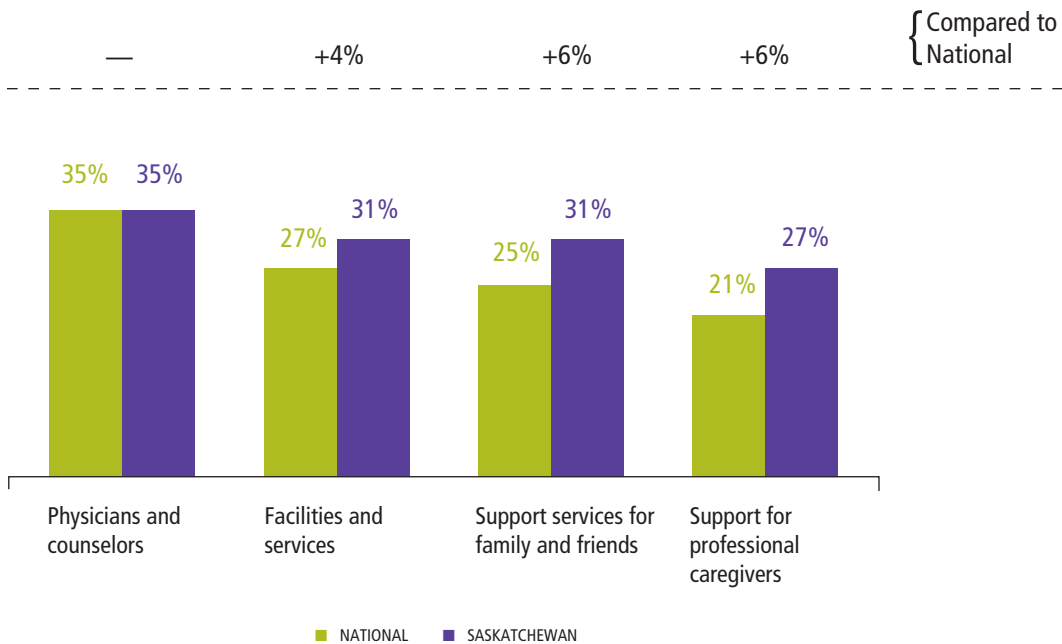
In 2008, Saskatchewan had a ratio of five psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals, the lowest compared to any other province.³ In 2004, this province had 41 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³ Also in 2004, Saskatchewan had 94 psychiatric nurses for every 100,000 individuals.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

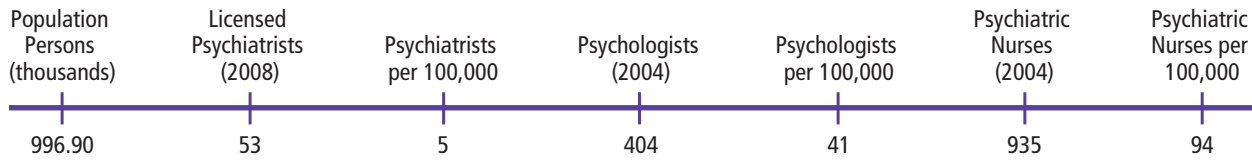
Three in ten Saskatchewan residents agree that their province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia, and nearly as many believe that their province's facilities /services for those suffering from the illness, as well as any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are also accessible.

Similar to the national results, however, support for professional caregivers is perceived as the province's least accessible service.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



SK Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

There are only two medications within Saskatchewan that are fully reimbursed under the provincial drug plan. Both of these medications have been approved within the past 10 to 20 years and several new medications are currently under review.²

Government Expenditure

In Saskatchewan, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 4.4% which is \$138 per capita (2003/04).¹ Saskatchewan spends the least per capita of all the provinces.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Saskatchewan the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 18 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 29.6 weeks; much higher than the national average.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	SK	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	2.0	+0.2
ELECTIVE*	7.9	18.0	+10.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	11.6	+0.9
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	29.6	+21

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³

Health Care Services

In 2008, Manitoba had a ratio of 14 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had 15 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals; the least amount compared to any other province in Canada.³ Also in 2004, Manitoba had 81 psychiatric nurses for every 100,000 individuals.³

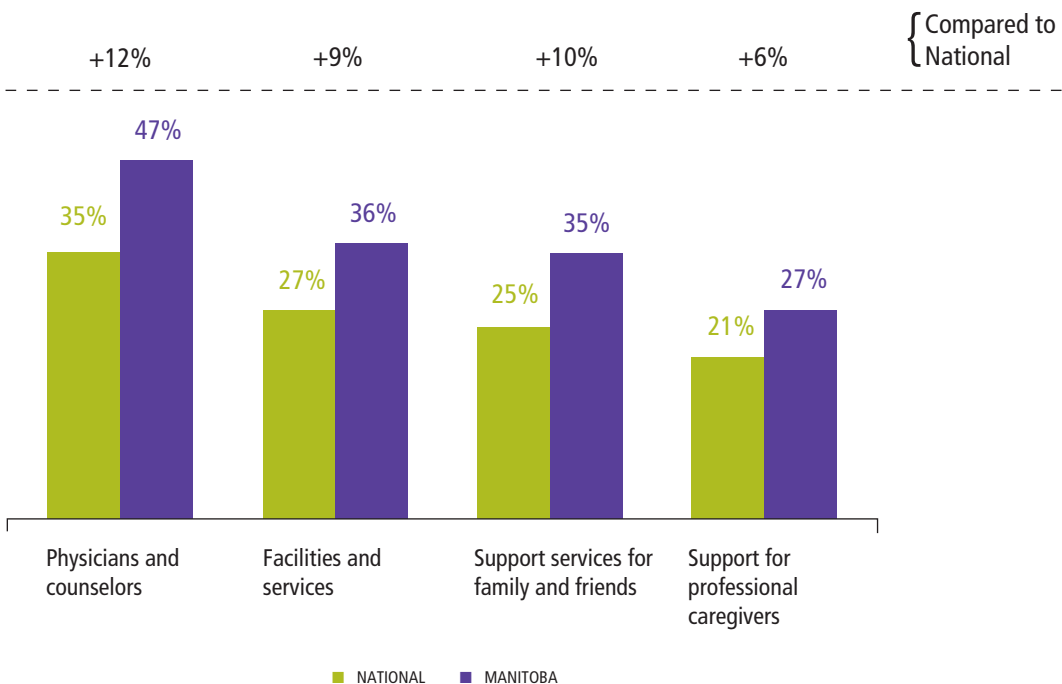
Leger Marketing Survey results:

Close to half the Manitobans surveyed believe that their province’s physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia in their province—the highest percentage of any province.

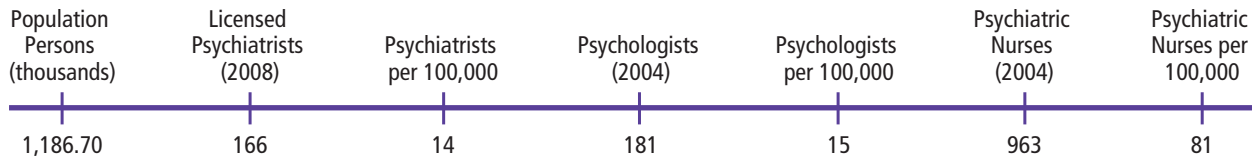
Furthermore, nearly four in ten believe that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the illness, as well as any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are accessible as well.

Nearly three in ten agree that the province provides accessible support for professional caregivers.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



MB Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

Manitoba's drug plan provides full reimbursement for five medications. With the exception of one, the medications were approved in Canada 10 or more years ago.²

Government Expenditure

In Manitoba, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 5.3% (2003/04) which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Manitoba the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 4.5 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 15.9 weeks; a somewhat shorter wait than the national average and is the shortest wait time among all provinces.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	MB	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	1.5	-0.3
ELECTIVE*	7.9	4.5	-3.4
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	11.3	+0.6
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	15.9	-2.7

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³

Health Care Services

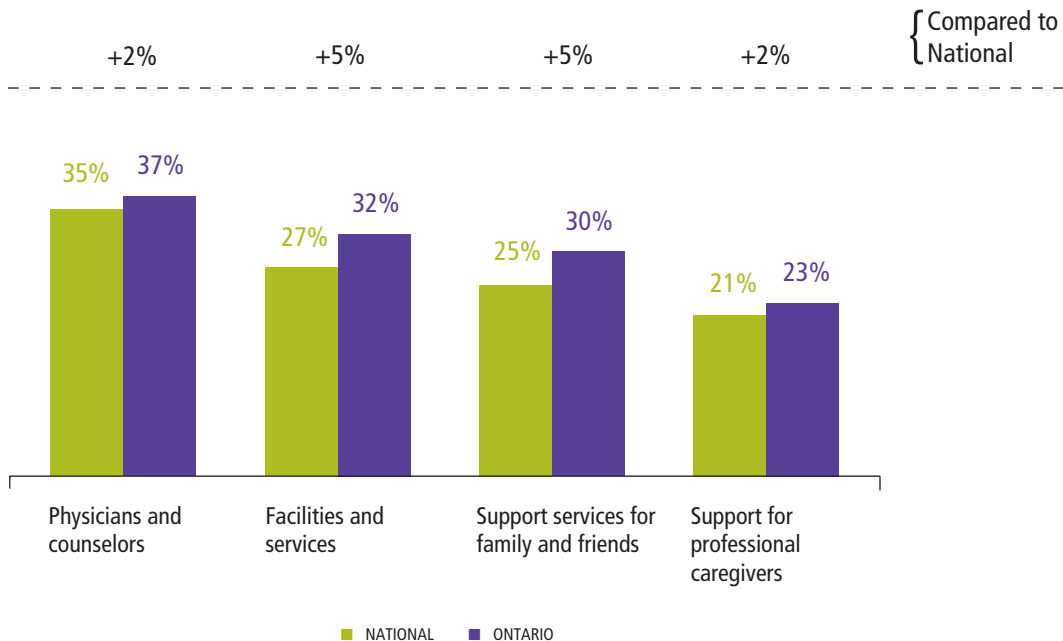
In 2008, Ontario had the highest psychiatrist to population ratio with 22 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ However, in 2004, this province had one of the lowest psychologist per population ratio with 21 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

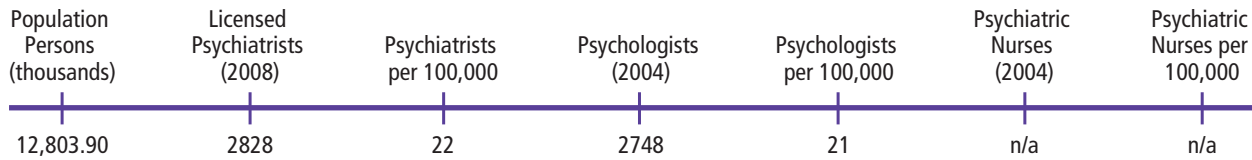
In Ontario, nearly four in ten agree that the province’s physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia. Also, nearly as many believe that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the illness and schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are accessible.

Similar to the national results, however, support for professional caregivers is thought to be the province’s least accessible service.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



ON Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

Ontario has four medications that are fully reimbursed by the provincial drug plan. The majority of these medications have been released 10 or more years ago. Only one medication was approved for reimbursement within the last five years.²

Government Expenditure

In Ontario, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 5.3% which is \$152 per capita (2003/04).¹ Ontario is among the provinces spending the least per capita on mental health.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Ontario the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is seven and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 17 weeks.³ Ontario's wait time is the third shortest among all provinces.

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	ON	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	2.0	+0.2
ELECTIVE*	7.9	7.0	-0.9
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	10.0	-0.7
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	17.0	-1.6

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³

Health Care Services

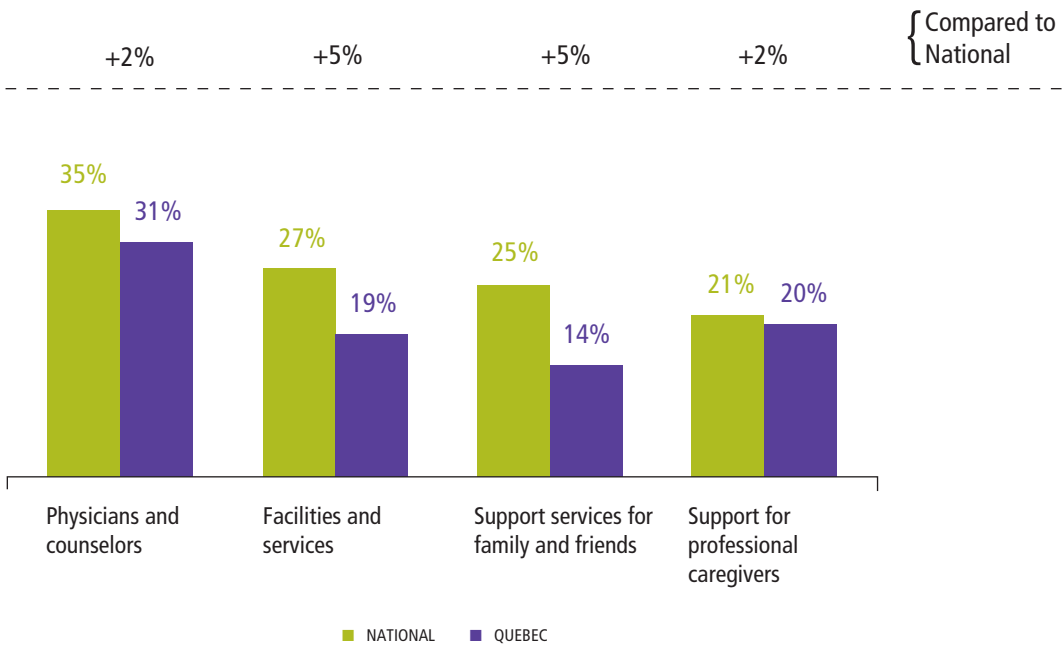
In 2004, Quebec had the highest psychologist per population ratio compared to any other province in Canada with 100 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2008, Quebec had 15 psychiatrists per 100,000 population, slightly higher than the national average.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

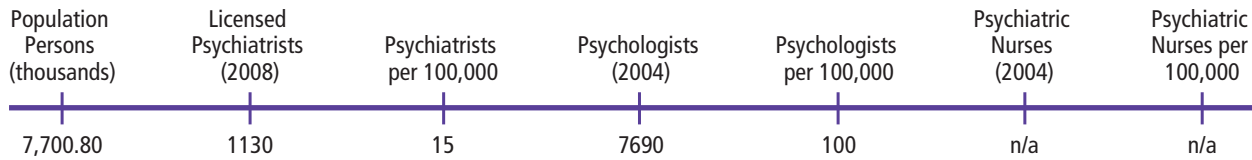
Three in ten Quebec residents believe that their province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia. Far fewer think the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the illness, any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends are accessible.

Schizophrenia-related services for affected family and friends are thought to be the province's least accessible service.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



QC Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

In Quebec there are six medications fully reimbursed by the provincial drug plan.²

Government Expenditure

In Quebec, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.5% which is \$169 per capita (2003/04).¹

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Quebec the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is eight and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 17.2 weeks.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	QC	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	1.5	-0.3
ELECTIVE*	7.9	8.0	+0.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	9.2	-1.5
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	17.2	-1.4

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³



NEW BRUNSWICK

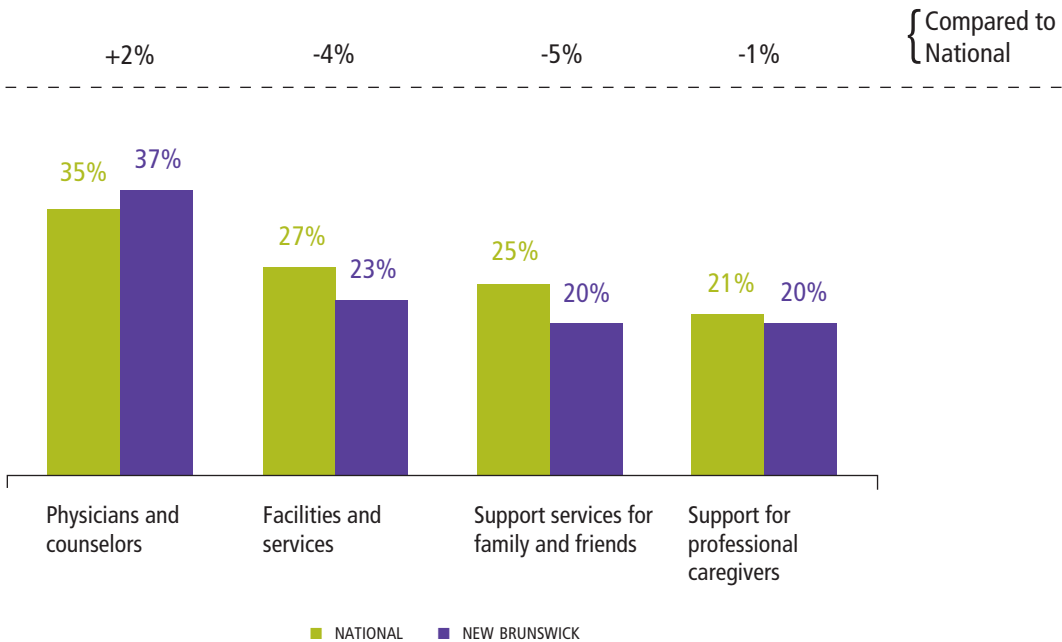
Health Care Services

In 2008, New Brunswick had a ratio of 15 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had a ratio of 37 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

Nearly four in ten residents of New Brunswick believe that the province’s physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia. Fewer, however, believe that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the disease, as well as any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends or professional caregivers are as accessible.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



NB Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

In New Brunswick, there are no medications that are fully reimbursed by provincial drug plans. Most medications are available only under limited use and therefore are not as easily available to people with schizophrenia.²

Government Expenditure

In New Brunswick, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 7.3% which is \$204 per capita (2003/04).¹ New Brunswick has the third highest per capita spending of all the provinces.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In New Brunswick the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 12 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 23 weeks. This is more than four weeks longer than the national average.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	NB	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	1.5	-0.3
ELECTIVE*	7.9	12.0	+5.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	11.0	+0.3
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	23.0	+4.4

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³

Health Care Services

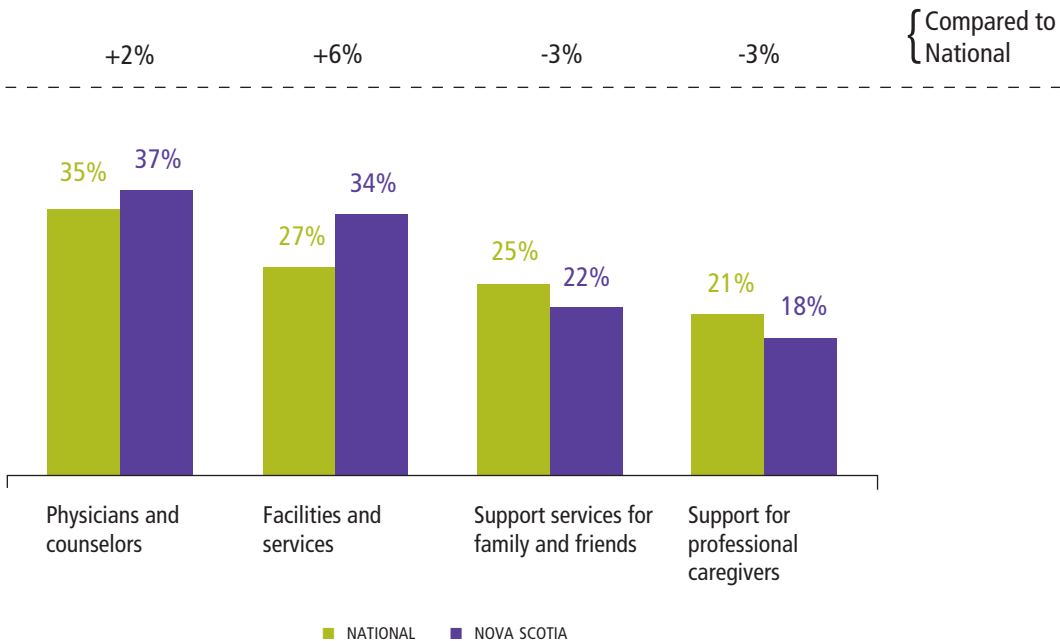
In 2008, Nova Scotia had the second highest ratio of psychiatrist per population with 18 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had a ratio of 43 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

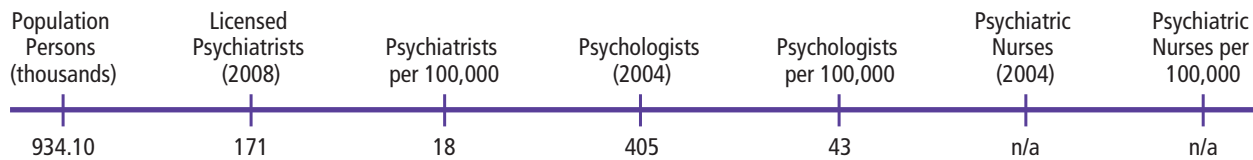
Close to four in ten Nova Scotians believe that their province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia, and nearly as many believe that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the disease are accessible.

Fewer perceive the province's schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends or professional caregivers to be as accessible.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



NS Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

In Nova Scotia, there are only three medications that are fully reimbursed by a provincial drug plan. These medications have been approved for reimbursement 10 or more years ago, indicating that there have not been any new treatments approved recently.²

Government Expenditure

In Nova Scotia, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Nova Scotia the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 6.5 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 25.7 weeks. This wait time is significantly longer than the national average.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	NS	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	2.0	+0.2
ELECTIVE*	7.9	6.5	-1.4
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	19.2	+8.5
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	25.7	+7.1

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

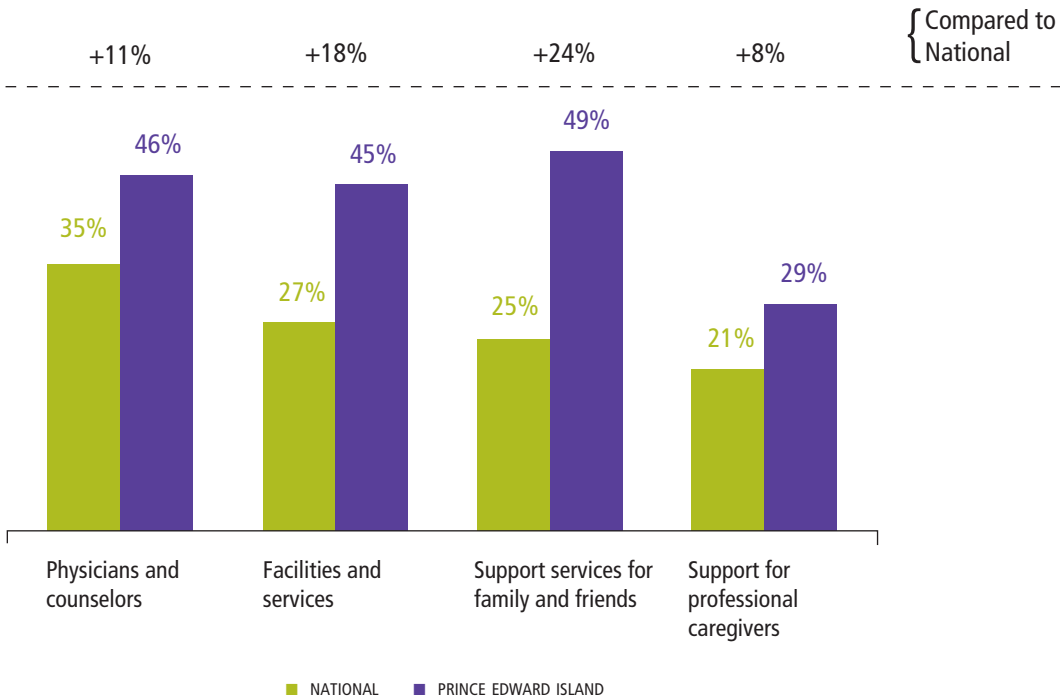
Health Care Services

In 2008, Prince Edward Island had the second lowest ratio of psychiatrist per population with 10 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had a ratio of 21 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals; the second lowest compared to all provinces in Canada.³

Leger Marketing Survey results:

Nearly half of those surveyed in PEI believe that their province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia, that the facilities and services in place for those suffering from the disease are accessible, and that any support services for family and friends affected by schizophrenia are accessible.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



PEI Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

Prince Edward Island has no medications that are fully reimbursed by provincial drug plan. The majority of the medications are available under limited use or are currently under review.²

Government Expenditure

In Prince Edward Island, public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 7.0% which is \$197 per capita (2003/04).¹

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Prince Edward Island the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is six and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 54 weeks. This wait time is significantly longer than the national average and in fact is the longest wait time of all provinces.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	PEI	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	1.0	-0.8
ELECTIVE*	7.9	6.0	-1.9
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	48.0	+37.3
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	54.0	+35.4

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Health Care Services

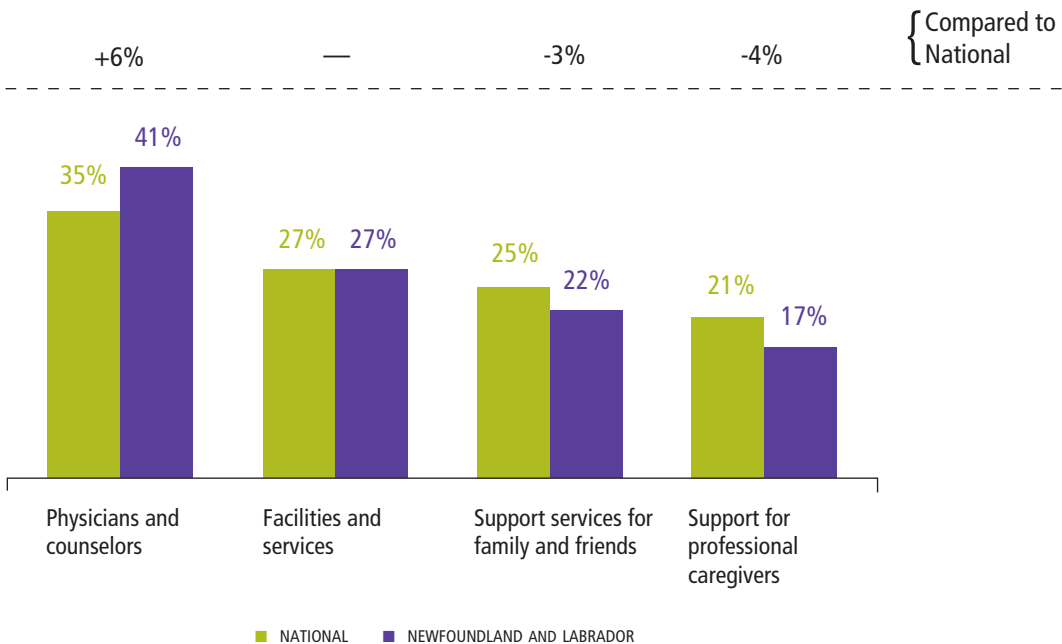
In 2008, Newfoundland and Labrador had a ratio of 13 psychiatrists for every 100,000 individuals.³ In 2004, this province had a ratio of 41 psychologists for every 100,000 individuals³.

Leger Marketing Survey results:

While many residents of Newfoundland and Labrador (i.e. four in ten) agree that the province's physicians and counselors are accessible for diagnosing and treating people with schizophrenia, fewer of the province's residents believe that any facilities and services in place for those suffering from the disease, any schizophrenia-related support services for affected family and friends, or any support services for professional caregivers are as accessible.

The perceived accessibility of support services for professional caregivers in Newfoundland and Labrador is among the lowest across Canada.

Perceived Accessibility of Services



NL Health Care Services: Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurses



Access to Medications

In Newfoundland and Labrador there are only three medications that are fully reimbursed by the provincial drug plan.²

Government Expenditure

In Newfoundland and Labrador public mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 4.5% which is \$143 per capita (2003/04).¹ Newfoundland and Labrador is among the provinces spending the least per capita on mental health.

Nationally, the public mental health expenditure is approximately \$5.5 billion which is \$174 per capita (2003/04).¹ The mental health expenditure as a percentage of public health expenditures is 6.1% (2003/04).¹

Psychiatric Wait Times

In Newfoundland and Labrador the median number of weeks waited to see a specialist is 12 and total time spent waiting from G.P. to actual treatment is 33.3 weeks. This wait time is significantly longer than the national average and is among the bottom three provinces that have the longest wait time.³

Median Patient Wait (in weeks) to See a Specialist After Referral From a G.P., 2008

	NATIONAL	NL	+/-
URGENT*	1.8	1.8	—
ELECTIVE*	7.9	12.0	+4.1
FROM SPECIALIST TO TREATMENT	10.7	21.3	+10.6
TOTAL WAIT TIME FOR TREATMENT	18.6	33.3	+14.7

Source: Fraser Institute 2008³



REFERENCES

- ¹ Jacobs, Philips et al., “Mental Health Economic Statistics.” (August 2008).
- ² Personal communication: Jennifer Gordon (Senior Consultant for Thornley Fallis Communications). Email to Tara Kubicki, August 27, 2008.
- ³ Esmail, Nadeem et al., “Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada, 2008 Report.” (October 2008).

