



Survey Report

SecondStreet.org

Debbie's Law Polling Omnibus

Date: 19 / 03/ 2025
Project: 83192-011



Methodology



Method

Canadian online survey via Leger's LEO panel, with n=1,568 Canadian residents aged 18+.

When

In field from the 14th to 17th of March 2025, inclusive.

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of n=1,568 yields a margin of error no greater than $\pm 2.5\%$, (19 times out of 20).

Weighting

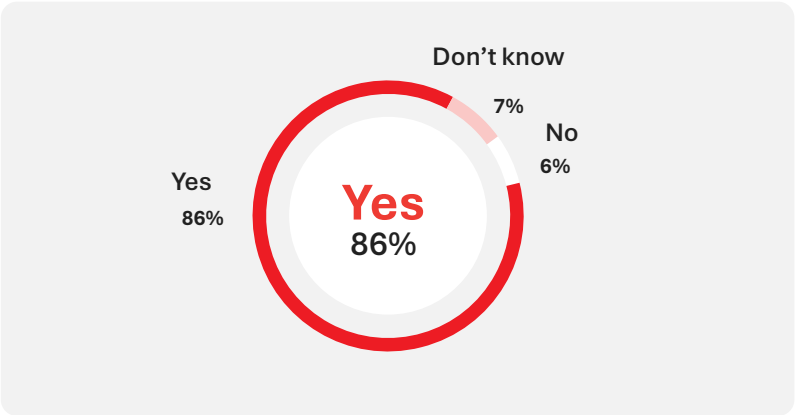
Incidence weighting was completed by gender, age, region, education, and language, based on Statistics Canada data.

Detailed Results



Nine-in-ten (86%) Canadians believe the healthcare system should inform patients as soon as possible if life-saving care cannot be provided on time.

However, a few (6%) disagree with this sentiment. Women, older Canadians (55+) and those of white ethnic background (89%) are significantly more likely to believe that the healthcare system should disclose this information in a timely manner. In contrast, men, younger Canadians aged (18-34) and those of BIPOC ethnic background (10%) are more likely to express disagreement with this view.



	Total	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	86%	83%	89%	78%	85%	93%
No	6%	9%	4%	13%	7%	2%
Don't know	7%	8%	7%	9%	8%	6%

Q1. In 2024, a Manitoba mother and grandmother, Debbie Fewster, was told she required life-saving heart surgery within three weeks. Debbie waited more than two months for the government to schedule surgery but then passed away. In Debbie’s case, she was told, belatedly, the system was backed up due to staff being away on holidays. Do you agree that the health care system should have to disclose to patients as soon as possible if it knows it cannot provide life-saving care within the necessary time frame and to suggest patients look elsewhere? *Base: All (n=1,568)*

Majority of Canadians (82%) support a policy requiring provincial governments to track and publicly report annual wait times and outcomes for health procedures.

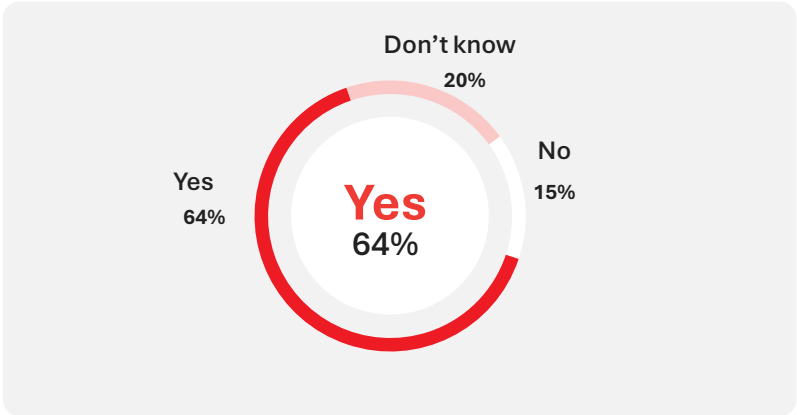
However, 7% disagree with this sentiment. Older Canadians (35+) and those from white ethnic backgrounds (85%) are more likely to support provincial governments' anonymous tracking and annual public disclosure of healthcare wait-time data while maintaining patient confidentiality. In contrast, younger Canadians (18-34) and those of BIPOC ethnic background (10%) are more likely to oppose the idea.

		Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Agree (NET)	82%	81%	83%	71%	84%	88%
Strongly agree	53%	52%	54%	40%	53%	62%
Somewhat agree	29%	29%	29%	31%	31%	26%
Disagree (NET)	7%	8%	6%	13%	6%	4%
Somewhat disagree	5%	5%	5%	10%	5%	2%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%
I don't know	11%	11%	10%	16%	10%	8%

Q2. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the following government policy? Provincial governments should carefully track anonymous data on patients who are waiting for the health care system to provide surgery and other procedures. The data should include information on how long patients waited, how that compares to the maximum professionally recommended wait time and the eventual patient outcome, including if they died while waiting for a procedure. This data should be disclosed to the public annually--without disclosing patient names. *Base: All (n=1,568)*

Six-in-ten (64%) Canadians support holding hospitals to private-sector transparency standards, requiring public reporting of preventable deaths.

One-in-seven (15%) disagree with this sentiment, while one-in-five (20%) remain unsure. Younger Canadians (18-34) are more likely to oppose holding hospitals to the same standards as private businesses and requiring public disclosure of preventable deaths.



	Total	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	64%	67%	62%	60%	65%	66%
No	15%	16%	15%	20%	14%	13%
Don't know	20%	17%	23%	20%	21%	20%

Q3. When the government inspects a restaurant and discovers a health violation, that information is often publicly posted. In some jurisdictions, the violation is even posted on the establishment’s window or door. Hospitals, however, face no such disclosure requirements when a patient dies while waiting for life-saving treatment. Do you think hospitals should be held to the same standards as private businesses and be required to post publicly when preventable deaths occur? *Base: All (n=1,568)*

Significantly higher

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