

Under embargo until
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Medical Imaging in Canada 2012

In 2011–2012, 1.7 million magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams and 4.4 million computed tomography (CT) exams were performed in Canada, according to new data released today by the **Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)**. This represents annual increases in the numbers of MRI and CT exams of 8.7% and 2.7%, respectively, and more than double the number of MRI exams performed in 2003–2004.

While the number of exams is on the rise in most parts of the country, medical imaging tests are more commonly used in some provinces. In 2011–2012, the rate of MRI exams in Ontario (61 per 1,000 people) was almost twice as that in Prince Edward Island (32 per 1,000).

Similarly, rates of CT exams varied significantly among provinces last year with a high of 209 per 1,000 people in New Brunswick, compared with a low of 88 in Alberta.

As of January 1, 2012, there were 308 MRI scanners and 510 CT scanners operational in Canada. This represents an increase of 15 MRI and 8 CT scanners over the previous year and an increase of 151 MRI and 169 CT scanners since 2004.

Despite continued growth in the number of exams and machines, Canada performs fewer diagnostic imaging exams relative to population size than the average among countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Internationally, rates of MRI exams per 1,000 varied from highs of 98 (United States) and 95 (Germany) to lows of 7 (Chile) and 18 (Israel), while CT rates ranged from highs of 275 (Estonia) and 265 (United States) to lows of 50 (Chile) and 66 (Netherlands). Canada's rates of MRI and CT exams—49 and 126, respectively—were lower than those in the United States and France.

Our Vision

Better data. Better decisions.
Healthier Canadians.

Our Mandate

To lead the development and maintenance of comprehensive and integrated health information that enables sound policy and effective health system management that improve health and health care.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration,
Excellence, Innovation
