



Public Summary

January 2015

The Commonwealth Fund is a private U.S. foundation that aims to promote a high-performing health care system. The 2014 International Health Policy Survey focuses on people age 55 and older from 11 countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. In Canada, additional funding for an expanded Canadian sample was provided by CIHI, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Health Quality Council of Alberta, the Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être du Québec and Health Quality Ontario.

Additional Resources

The following companion products are available on [CIHI's website](#):

- Report
- Infographics
- Data tables
- Media release

Talk to Us

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Older Canadians feel good about their health, not so good about their health care system

How Canada Compares: Results From The Commonwealth Fund 2014 International Health Policy Survey of Older Adults

Older Canadians reported feeling better about their health than older people in most other countries. While not a perfect measure, self-reported health is an internationally recognized indicator of the overall health of a population.

However, older Canadians are not so optimistic about the health of their health care system. More than half said that fundamental changes were required to make the system better. The proportion who felt that only minor changes were needed was the second-lowest among the 11 surveyed countries. That said, perceptions have improved slightly in Canada.

Key findings

- 52% of older Canadians rated their health as excellent or very good. That is the second-highest percentage among surveyed countries, behind New Zealand and well above The Commonwealth Fund average of 38%.
- 34% of older Canadians gave their health system the highest rating. Only the United States rated lower.
- 10% of older Canadians said that their health system has so much wrong with it that it needs to be rebuilt; this percentage is down from 16% in the 2007 survey.
 - There is some variation among the provinces here, with only 6% of British Columbians wanting the system to be rebuilt, compared with 21% of respondents in Newfoundland and Labrador.