

Hospital Stay Extended Until Home Care Services or Supports Ready



Canadians increasingly need access to health services at home or in the community, outside of traditional settings such as hospitals and nursing homes. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are working together to improve access to home care services; they have identified a number of indicators to help target these improvements over the next 10 years, including **Hospital Stay Extended Until Home Care Services or Supports Ready**.

Indicator definition



This indicator measures the number of days patients remain in hospital when they no longer need that level of care but must wait there until home care services or supports are organized. Home health services typically include professional services such as nursing or rehabilitation services, whereas home support might include assistance with self-care activities, homemaking, home adaptation or other services that allow a person to return home. Time in hospital may also be extended if a person is waiting for family members or other informal caregivers to be available.

Why report on Hospital Stay Extended Until Home Care Services or Supports Ready?

This data can be used to

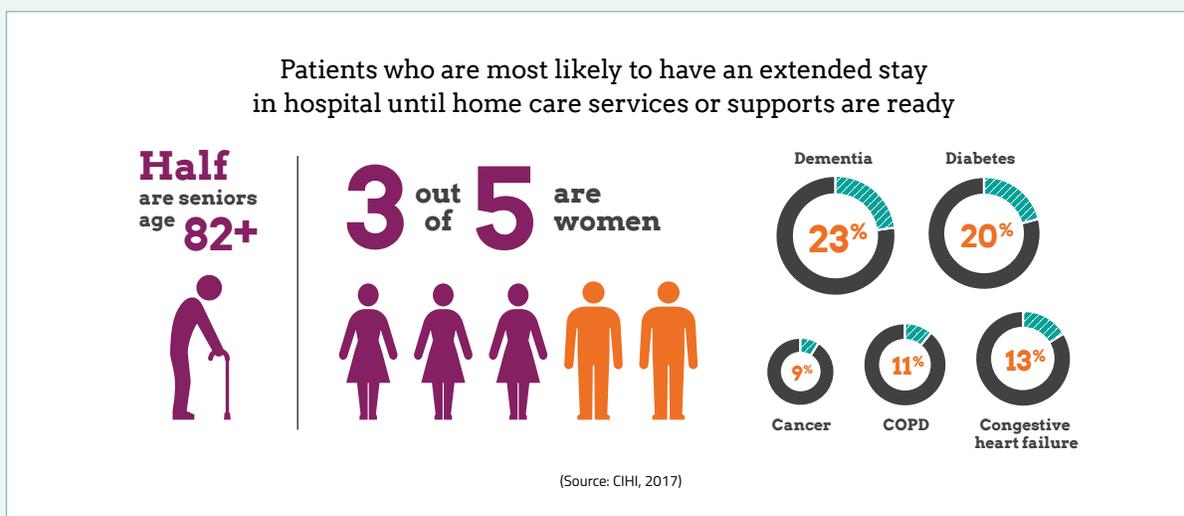
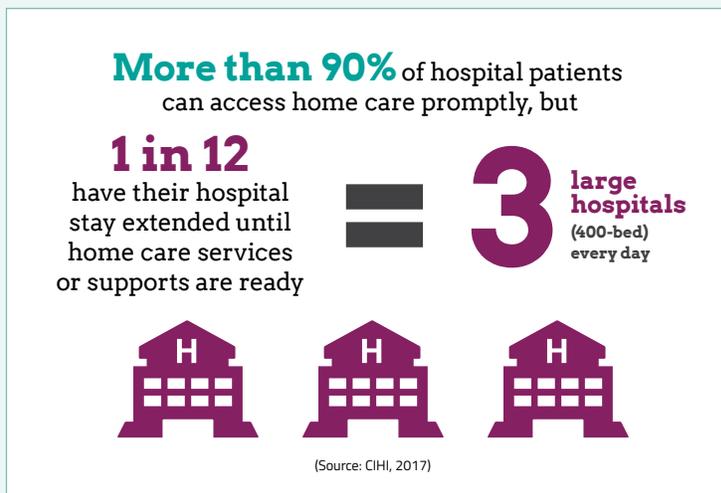
- Measure whether Canadians are getting timely access to home care when they no longer require care in a hospital;
- Show where additional home care services or supports could help to accelerate the discharge of patients and reduce the need for more expensive extended hospital services; and
- Raise awareness of the importance of planning for a patient's release from hospital as early as possible during a hospital stay to ensure that services are ready for the patient at home.

Data limitations and caveats

- There are differences among provinces and territories in how extended hospital stays are classified and recorded.
 - Quebec has no equivalent data, so that province’s results are not included.
 - Nova Scotia commonly describes patients as “waiting for nursing home,” which may contribute to some variation and under-reporting.
 - In the territories, the number of admissions overall is small and few extended stays are reported.
- This indicator does not show whether a patient received home care after leaving hospital, just that he or she was discharged from hospital expecting to receive formal home care.
- Hospital stays for mental health are not included.



At a glance

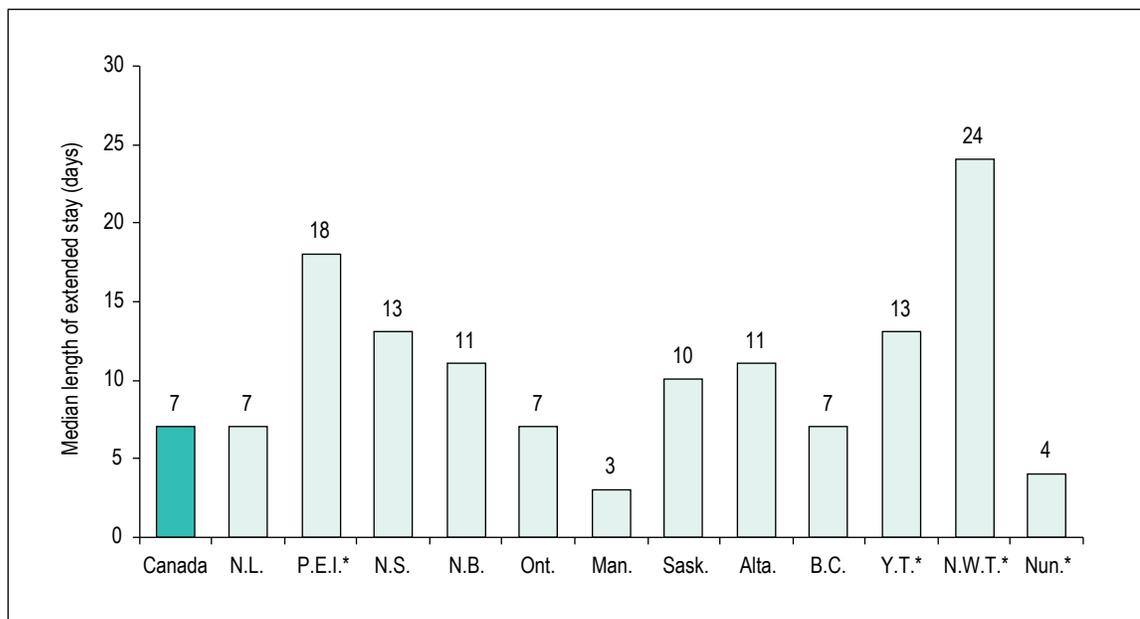


Provincial/territorial results

There is wide provincial and territorial variation in how long hospital stays are extended for. Many factors contribute to variations in hospital stays, such as the availability of home care services and supports, differences in population health, the availability of friend or family caregivers, the appropriateness of living arrangements at home for patients with mobility problems, variations in clinical practice and readiness to discharge patients, and data quality caused by differences in how patients' extended stays are recorded.

The results for this indicator are published in median days, meaning half the results are above the number and half are below. The median represents the typical length of stay for patients who have extended stays until home care is ready.

Figure Median length of extended stay for patients discharged to home care, by jurisdiction, 2017–2018



Notes

* Because the number of extended hospital stays is small in the territories and in provinces with smaller populations, results are not stable, and comparisons with larger provinces should be made with caution. Most patients (92%) discharged to home care don't have extended hospital stays and are not included in this indicator.

Source

Discharge Abstract Database, 2017–2018, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



Explore results for this indicator in the [Your Health System: In Brief](#) web tool.

More information about this indicator is available in [Common Challenges, Shared Priorities: Measuring Access to Home and Community Care and to Mental Health and Addictions Services in Canada](#).

Appendix: Text alternatives for images

At a glance image 1

More than 90% of hospital patients can access home care promptly. However, 1 in 12 have their hospital stay extended until home care services or supports are ready. This is the equivalent of 3 large (400-bed) hospitals filled to capacity every day.

At a glance image 2

Half of patients with extended stays in hospital until home care services or supports are ready wait 7 days or less. However, 1 in 10 wait 39 or more extra days.

At a glance image 3

Half of patients with an extended stay in hospital until home care services or supports are ready are age 82 and older. 3 out of 5 of these patients are women. 23% of patients who wait for home care services or supports have dementia, 20% have diabetes, 13% have congestive heart failure, 11% have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 9% have cancer.

Figure Median length of extended stay for patients discharged to home care, by jurisdiction, 2017–2018

| Jurisdiction | Median length of extended stay (days) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Canada | 7 |
| N.L. | 7 |
| P.E.I. | 18 |
| N.S. | 13 |
| N.B. | 11 |
| Ont. | 7 |
| Man. | 3 |
| Sask. | 10 |
| Alta. | 11 |
| B.C. | 7 |
| Y.T.* | 13 |
| N.W.T.* | 24 |
| Nun.* | 4 |

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