



www.cihi.ca
At the heart of data



Canadian Institute
for Health Information
Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

Public Summary

May 2014

Who qualifies for bariatric surgery?

- Efforts to lose weight with diet and exercise have been unsuccessful.
- Body mass index (BMI) is 40 or higher (severe obesity).
OR
- BMI is 35 to 39, and there is a serious weight-related health problem such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure or severe sleep apnea.

Additional Resources

The following companion products are available on **CIHI's website** :

- Report
- Data tables
- Infographic

Talk to Us

For data-specific information:
healthreports@cihi.ca

For media inquiries:
media@cihi.ca

Bariatric surgery on the rise

Bariatric Surgery in Canada

Obesity has become a major population health issue around the globe. In Canada, 1 in 5 adults has obesity.

A new study by the **Canadian Institute for Health Information** takes a closer look at bariatric surgery, one of the treatment options for obesity. The report includes information on the types of surgeries, costs and patient outcomes.

Key findings

About 6,000 bariatric surgeries were performed in Canadian hospitals in 2012–2013.

- That's almost 4 times as many surgeries as the 1,600 performed in 2006–2007. This rise is due largely to an increase in surgeries performed in Ontario.

80% of bariatric surgery patients are female.

- The typical weight-loss surgery patient is a woman in her 40s with obesity and other health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure or sleep disorders.

Complication rates are declining.

- In 2012–2013, 5% of weight-loss surgery patients experienced complications during their hospitalization, down from 8% in 2009–2010.