

Your Future Under Obamacare

Benjamin Domenech, Heartland Institute

December 21, 2010

The Fraser Institute has issued its annual report on wait times in Canada, and again detailed an increase in wait times for therapeutic and elective procedures. Highlights of the study include:

- Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 18.2 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and elective treatment in 2010.
- Patients wait longest to undergo orthopedic surgery (35.6 weeks) and wait least for medical oncology treatment (4.9 weeks).
- Canadians wait nearly 3 weeks longer than what physicians believe is “reasonable” for elective treatment after an appointment with a specialist.
- Throughout the provinces, in 2010 people are waiting for an estimated 825,827 procedures. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.45 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment.
- Only 9 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they requested a delay or postponement.

I don't think it's a stretch to say America's on-demand mentality would never allow for such widespread wait times, one of the chief controlled advantages of a government-run system. Not an advantage for you, you understand – an advantage for the government.

SOURCE: Fraser Institute, <http://www.fraserinstitute.org>