

Ontarians prefer the government prioritize
spending on public hospitals than private clinics –
Vast majority say there isn't enough staff in
hospitals in Ontario.

Survey | Summary

Conducted by Nanos for the OCHU-CUPE, June 2025.

Field: May 27th to June 1st, 2025

Submission 2025-2837

The research gauged the opinions among Ontarians on healthcare and funding.

Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,017 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.

A margin of error cannot be calculated on a non-probability sample. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1,017 respondents would have a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The statistical tabulations including the unweighted and weighted number of interviews can be accessed here:

[by region age and gender](#)

[by vote](#)

The research was commissioned by OCHU-CUPE and was conducted by Nanos Research.

KEY FINDINGS

1

ONTARIANS BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE SPENDING ON PUBLIC HOSPITALS RATHER THAN PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT CLINICS

Nearly three in four Ontarians (73%) believe the government should prioritize spending on public hospitals, while 16 percent believe the government should prioritize spending on both public hospitals and private, for-profit clinics. One in twenty-five (four percent) believe the government should prioritize spending on private, for-profit clinics and seven percent report being unsure. Respondents who report usually voting for the NDP at the provincial level are more likely to believe the government should prioritize spending on public hospitals (94%) than those who report usually voting for the Liberal Party (73%) or the Progressive Conservative Party (63%) at the provincial level.

2

MAJORITY OF ONTARIANS SAY IT IS OUTRIGHT UNACCEPTABLE FOR FOR-PROFIT CLINICS TO CHARGE PEOPLE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY SURGERIES

Ontarians are about two and a half times more likely to say it is unacceptable to some extent (52% unacceptable; 15% somewhat unacceptable) than they are to say it is acceptable to some extent (six percent acceptable; 20% somewhat acceptable) for for-profit surgical clinics to charge people for medically necessary surgeries. Women (58%) are more likely than men (46%) to say this is outright unacceptable. Respondents in the Golden Horseshoe West region (58%) are also more likely than those in the GTA (47%) to say this is outright unacceptable.

3

ONTARIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO AGREE THAN TO DISAGREE THAT CONTINUED EXPANSION OF FOR-PROFIT CATARACT SURGERIES WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ACCESS TO CARE FOR THE POOREST PEOPLE

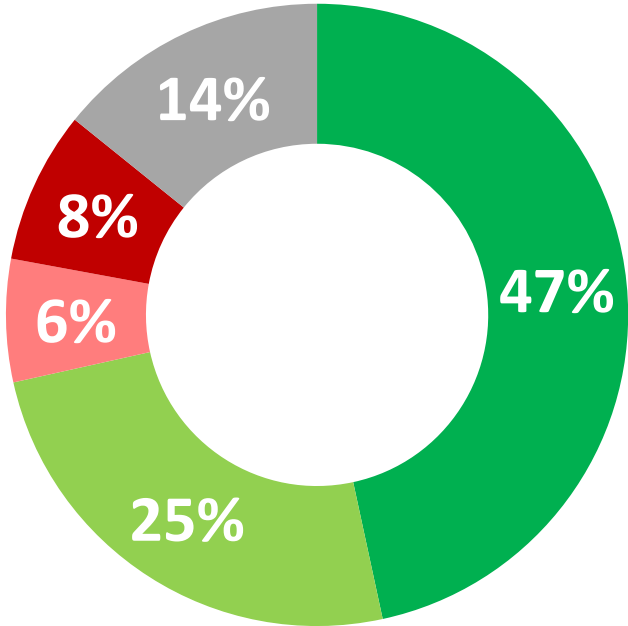
Just over seven in ten Ontarians agree (47%) or somewhat agree (25%) with the 2024 study findings that the continued expansion of for-profit cataract surgeries will have a negative impact on access to care for the poorest people. Meanwhile, fourteen percent disagree (eight percent) or somewhat disagree (six percent) with the study findings, while another 14 percent report being unsure. Respondents who report usually voting for the Liberal Party or the NDP at the provincial level are more likely to agree or somewhat agree with the study findings (80% Liberal; 92% NDP) than those who report usually voting for the Progressive Conservative Party at the provincial level (67%).

4

VAST MAJORITY OF ONTARIANS SAY THERE IS NOT ENOUGH STAFF IN ONTARIO HOSPITALS

Over four in five Ontarians (84%) believe there is currently not enough staff in hospitals in Ontario. Three percent say there is too much staff in Ontario hospitals, while five percent say there is enough staff and eight percent report being unsure. Respondents who report usually voting for the NDP at the provincial level are more likely to believe there is not enough staff in Ontario hospitals (96%) than those who report usually voting for the Progressive Conservative Party at the provincial level (82%).

Agreement with findings on the impact of privatization of hospital cataract surgeries



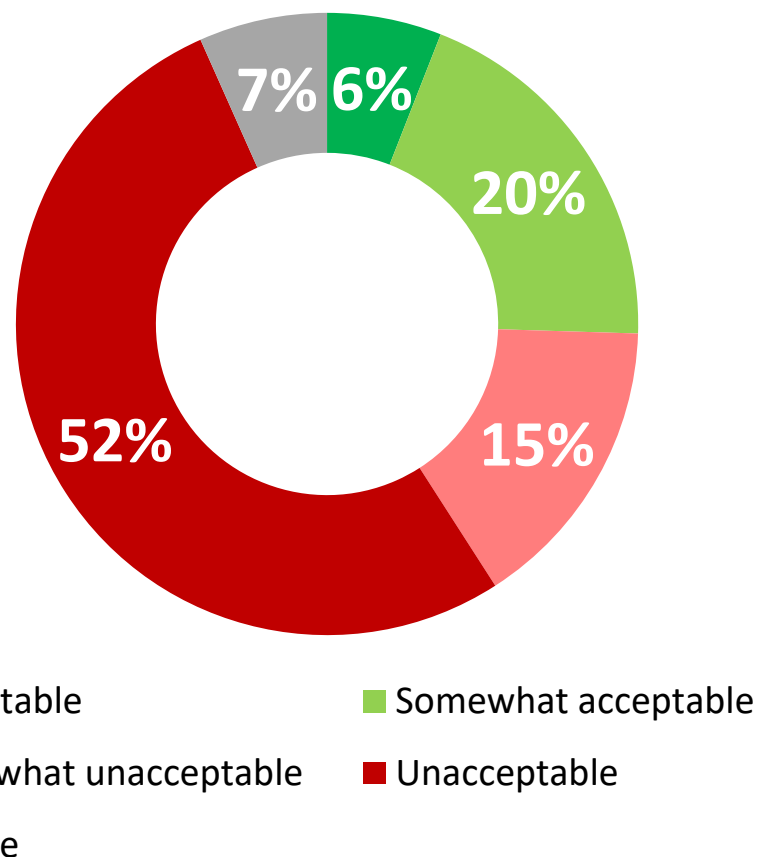
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree
- Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.
*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Agree/Somewhat agree	Golden Horseshoe West (n=178)	Southwest/Central (n=215)	East/North (n=219)	Toronto (n=181)	GTA (n=222)
	66.5%	77.1%	76.6%	70.3%	66.5%
	Men (n=510)	Women (n=502)	18 to 34 (n=253)	35 to 54 (n=376)	55 plus (n=386)
	69.8%	73.2%	74.1%	67.7%	72.8%
Disagree/Somewhat disagree	Usually votes PC (n=339)	Usually votes Liberal (n=253)	Usually votes NDP (n=120)		
	66.9%	79.8%	91.7%		
	Golden Horseshoe West (n=178)	Southwest/Central (n=215)	East/North (n=219)	Toronto (n=181)	GTA (n=222)
	17.4%	11.3%	13.8%	15.5%	14.0%
Disagree/Somewhat disagree	Men (n=510)	Women (n=502)	18 to 34 (n=253)	35 to 54 (n=376)	55 plus (n=386)
	17.1%	11.5%	13.9%	16.0%	13.1%
	Usually votes PC (n=339)	Usually votes Liberal (n=253)	Usually votes NDP (n=120)		
	20.8%	8.4%	5.1%		

Q – A 2024 study suggested that privatization of hospital cataract surgeries resulted in reduced access for the poorest Ontarians while increasing access for the wealthiest Ontarians. Do you agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or disagree with the study findings that the continued expansion of for-profit cataract surgeries will have a negative impact on access to care for the poorest people?

Source: Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,015 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.



*Weighted to the true population proportion.
*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Acceptability of for-profit charges on medically necessary surgeries

2 in 3 Ontarians

report that it is unacceptable (52%) or somewhat unacceptable (15%) for for-profit surgical clinics to charge people for medically necessary surgeries. About one in four believe this is acceptable (six percent) or somewhat acceptable (20%) and seven percent report being unsure.

Q – Do you think it is acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat not acceptable or not acceptable for for-profit surgical clinics to charge people for medically necessary surgeries?

Source: Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,015 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.

Acceptability of for-profit charges on medically necessary surgeries - by demographics

Q – Do you think it is acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat not acceptable or not acceptable for for-profit surgical clinics to charge people for medically necessary surgeries?

	2025-06 (n=1015)	Golden Horseshoe West (n=178)	Southwest/ Central (n=213)	East/North (n=220)	Toronto (n=181)	GTA (n=223)	Men (n=510)	Women (n=502)	18-34 (n=254)	35-54 (n=377)	55 plus (n=384)	Usually votes PC (n=338)	Usually votes Liberal (n=252)	Usually votes NDP (n=120)
Acceptable	6.0%	3.8%	6.4%	5.8%	7.0%	6.6%	9.0%	3.1%	9.3%	6.9%	2.9%	11.5%	4.9%	0.5%
Somewhat acceptable	19.5%	15.1%	17.2%	17.8%	25.4%	22.3%	21.2%	18.1%	25.0%	19.4%	15.9%	31.2%	13.3%	6.7%
Somewhat unacceptable	15.4%	14.4%	14.9%	15.7%	16.1%	16.0%	16.1%	14.9%	16.1%	18.0%	12.9%	14.6%	18.9%	13.9%
Unacceptable	52.4%	57.7%	55.6%	53.6%	48.9%	47.1%	46.3%	57.9%	42.1%	48.0%	63.0%	37.4%	59.5%	75.7%
Unsure	6.7%	9.1%	5.9%	7.2%	2.7%	8.1%	7.4%	6.1%	7.5%	7.7%	5.3%	5.3%	3.3%	3.2%

Source: Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,015 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.

Governmental priority for funding of healthcare services

Q – Thinking about funding for healthcare services in Ontario, do you think the government should prioritize spending on public hospitals or private, for-profit clinics?



■ Public hospitals

■ Private, for-profit clinics

■ Both equally

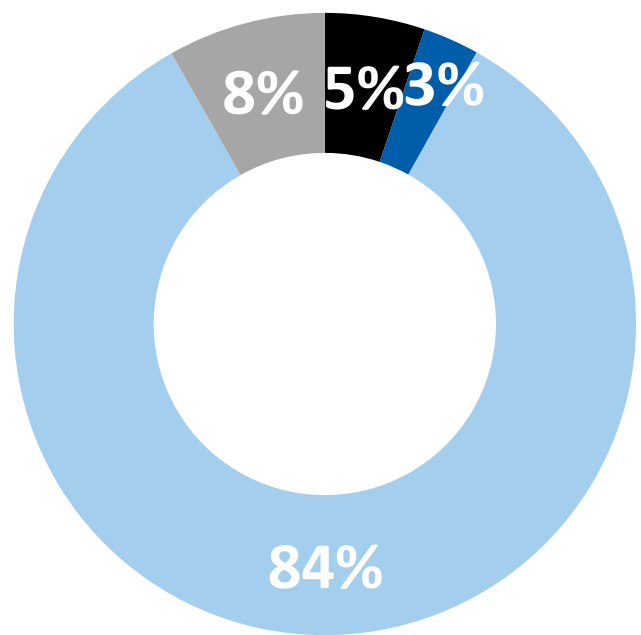
■ Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Public hospitals	Golden Horseshoe West (n=177)	Southwest/Central (n=213)	East/North (n=215)	Toronto (n=179)	GTA (n=223)	Private, for-profit clinics	Golden Horseshoe West (n=177)	Southwest/Central (n=213)	East/North (n=215)	Toronto (n=179)	GTA (n=223)
	77.6%	78.5%	75.0%	69.2%	65.7%		3.7%	5.5%	1.9%	2.5%	5.9%
	Men (n=508)	Women (n=496)	18 to 34 (n=252)	35 to 54 (n=376)	55 plus (n=379)		Men (n=508)	Women (n=496)	18 to 34 (n=252)	35 to 54 (n=376)	55 plus (n=379)
	72.8%	73.5%	65.8%	72.1%	78.8%		6.2%	1.7%	9.5%	2.8%	1.1%
	Usually votes PC (n=339)	Usually votes Liberal (n=253)	Usually votes NDP (n=120)				Usually votes PC (n=339)	Usually votes Liberal (n=253)	Usually votes NDP (n=120)		
	62.9%	78.3%	93.6%				8.3%	3.2%	0.7%		

Source: Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,007 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.



■ Enough ■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.
 *Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Q – Do you think there is currently enough, too much or not enough staff in hospitals in Ontario?

Adequacy of the number of staff in hospitals in Ontario

Too much	Golden Horseshoe West (n=177)	Southwest/Central (n=210)	East/North (n=214)	Toronto (n=180)	GTA (n=223)
	1.5%	3.8%	2.7%	3.3%	3.2%
	Men (n=506)	Women (n=495)	18 to 34 (n=253)	35 to 54 (n=374)	55 plus (n=377)
Not enough	3.4%	2.5%	5.3%	2.9%	1.3%
	Usually votes PC (n=334)	Usually votes Liberal (n=251)	Usually votes NDP (n=119)		
	4.5%	2.6%	1.5%		
Not enough	Golden Horseshoe West (n=177)	Southwest/Central (n=210)	East/North (n=214)	Toronto (n=180)	GTA (n=223)
	84.8%	81.6%	89.1%	81.1%	81.5%
	Men (n=506)	Women (n=495)	18 to 34 (n=253)	35 to 54 (n=374)	55 plus (n=377)
Not enough	79.8%	87.5%	77.6%	86.3%	85.8%
	Usually votes PC (n=334)	Usually votes Liberal (n=251)	Usually votes NDP (n=119)		
	82.3%	84.1%	96.2%		

Source: Nanos conducted an online representative survey of 1,004 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025.

METHODOLOGY

Nanos conducted a representative non-probability online survey of 1,017 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, between May 27th and June 1st, 2025. The sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada.

A margin of error cannot be calculated on a non-probability sample. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1,017 respondents would have a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The research was commissioned by OCHU-CUPE and was conducted by Nanos Research.

Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews are here: [by region age and gender](#); [by vote](#).

Note: Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Element	Description	Element	Description
Research sponsor	OCHU-CUPE	Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to ensure a distribution across all regions of Ontario. See tables for full weighting disclosure.
Population and Final Sample Size	1,017 Ontarians	Screening	Screening ensured potential respondents did not work in the market research industry, in the advertising industry, in the media or a political party prior to administering the survey to ensure the integrity of the data.
Source of Sample	SAGO	Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without internet access could not participate.
Type of Sample	Representative non-probability	Stratification	By age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Ontario.
Margin of Error (for a comparative probability sample)	For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1,017 respondents would have a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.	Estimated Response Rate	Not applicable
Mode of Survey	Online survey	Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Sampling Method Base	Non-probability	Question Content	All questions asked are contained in the report.
Demographics (Captured)	Ontario; Men and Women; 18 years or older. Six digit postal code was used to validate geography.	Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Demographics (Other)	Age, gender, income	Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Field Dates	May 27 th to June 1 st , 2025.	Contact	Contact Nanos Research for more information or with any concerns or questions. http://www.nanos.co Telephone:(613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: info@nanosresearch.com.
Language of Survey	The survey was conducted in English.	Data Tables	By region, age and gender By vote
Standards	Nanos Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and confirms that this research fully complies with all CRIC Standards including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/		



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Any questions?



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