

Alberta Waitlist Registry (AWR) Trend Reporting Definitions

90th Percentile Wait Time – The time (in weeks) within which 90% of persons served had their procedure or test performed. The calculation uses data from persons served in the 90 days prior to the report date. It excludes persons who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled follow up procedure, or those that received emergency care.

Decision Date – The date that the patient and physician decide upon a surgical intervention or diagnostic test.

Emergency – The situation of a patient having a life-threatening condition or requiring immediate assessment and treatment. Persons receiving emergency medical services are not entered on wait lists, as they are treated immediately.

Health Region is the region where the service was provided. Region 'Alberta' is a provincial aggregate value for all health regions.

Intervention – A service performed to improve the health, to alter the course of or diagnose a disease (health condition), or to promote wellness.

Mean (Average) Wait Time – The average time waited (in weeks) for persons served in the 90 days prior to the report date. It excludes persons who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled follow up procedure, or those that received emergency care.

Median Wait Time – The time (in weeks) within which 50% of persons served had their procedure or test performed. The calculation uses data from persons served in the 90 days prior to the report date. It excludes persons who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled follow up procedure, or those that received emergency care.

Persons Served – A count of persons served in the 30 days prior to the report date. It includes persons who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, and those who had a scheduled follow up procedure.

Persons Waiting – The number of person waiting on the last calendar day of the report period and reported on the Public Website and the downloadable Trend Reports. This calculation includes persons who are put on a wait list for a scheduled follow up procedure or test but excludes those who are voluntarily delaying their procedure.

Scheduled Follow Up – Indicates the intervention is for a follow up session to continue or complete an initial session, or the next in a series of services such as cataract surgeries, where the wait time to have the next session is clinically determined from the prior session, not a function of having to “wait.” Scheduled follow up records are included in Persons Waiting and Persons Served calculations, but are excluded from 90th Percentile Wait Time, Mean Wait Time, and Median Wait Time calculations.

Service Category – The categories used to group interventions for reporting.

Voluntary Delay – Occurs when a patient does not accept the next available date for the procedure or has voluntarily postponed a procedure. This is used when the postponement was patient-caused, either because the time available was not convenient for them, or the patient’s condition made the intervention unwise at the time available. These records are excluded from the following calculations: Persons Waiting, 90th Percentile Wait Time, Mean Wait Time, and Median Wait Time, but are included in Persons Served.

Wait Time – The time between the decision date (when a patient and physician decide that a procedure or test is required) and the date the procedure or test is performed.