
BACKGROUND

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Health

WHAT AFFECTS THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES

- The delivery of health services is complex and involves:
 - changes in population age, population growth, chronic disease rates, and increased demands for surgeries;
 - numbers of health professionals needed to manage the demand on the system; and
 - new technologies, diagnostic devices, research and drugs.
- B.C. currently spends \$12.8 billion a year on health services across government. Since 2000/01:
 - the health budget has increased by more than \$3.6 billion – a 35 per cent increase; and
 - funding to health authorities has increased from \$5.6 billion to \$6.8 billion – a 21 per cent increase.
- B.C. has invested in additional surgical capacity. Increases in the number of surgeries between 2000/01 and 2005/06 include:
 - Knee replacements increased by more than 84 per cent;
 - Angioplasties increased by more than 62 per cent;
 - Hip replacements increased by more than 47 per cent; and
 - Cataract surgeries increased by 33 per cent.
- In the last five years, B.C. has significantly increased equipment to speed diagnostic testing, including:
 - 10 new Computed Tomography (CT) scanners, giving a current total of 41 CT scanners throughout the province; and
 - 10 new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners, giving a current total of 19.
- Since 2001/02, the province is performing thousands more MRI and CT exams:
 - About 360,000 CT exams completed for 2005/06, an increase from almost 280,000 in 2002/03 – a 22 per cent increase; and
 - About 75,000 MRI exams completed for 2005/06, an increase from almost 50,000 in 2002/03 – an increase of 50 per cent.
- Since 2001, B.C. has created 75 per cent more student nursing spots. In 2001, there were 4,064 spaces available in the province, there are now 7,085.
- By 2007, the number of first year training spaces for new doctors in B.C. will double from 128 to 256 – an increase of 100 per cent.
- In 2004/05, British Columbians made approximately 20 million visits to general practitioners.
- Every year in B.C., there are 1.8 million visits made to the 108 emergency rooms around the province.

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