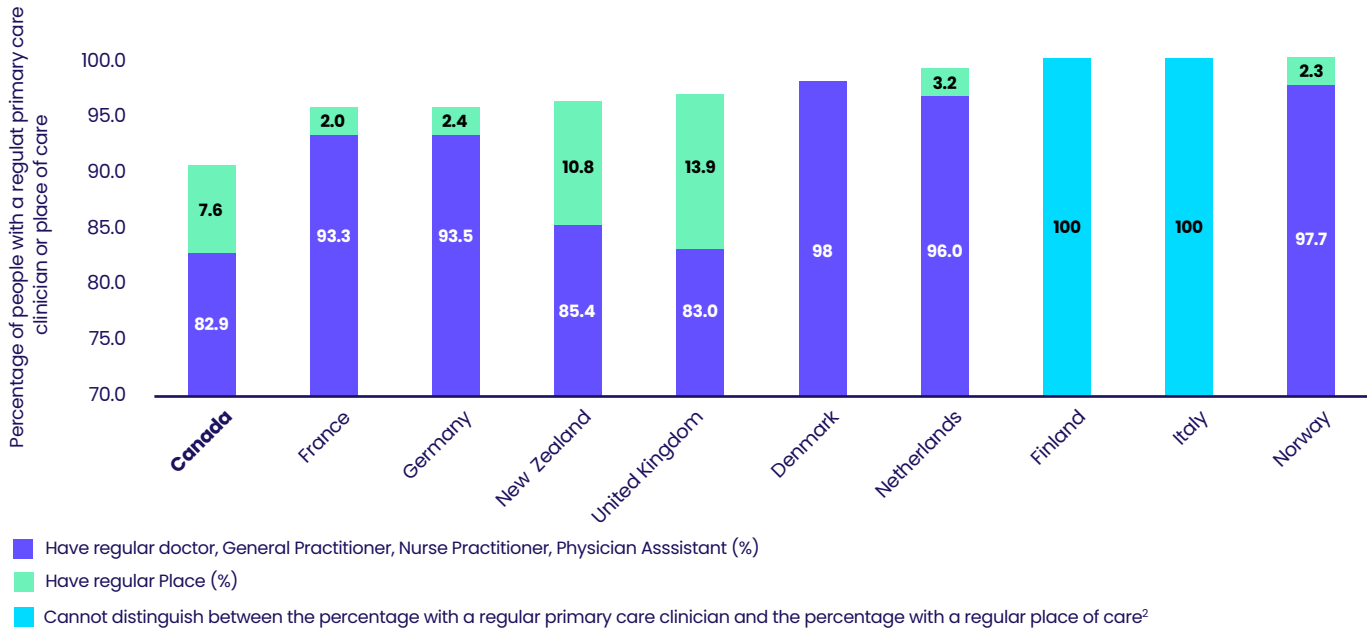


# What can Canada learn from other countries?

The OurCare survey found that 22% of adults in Canada—or more than 6.5million people—do not have access to primary care. Contrast that with the situation in several European countries, where 95% or more of the population has access to Care

## Peer countries where 95% or more of people have access to primary care<sup>1</sup>

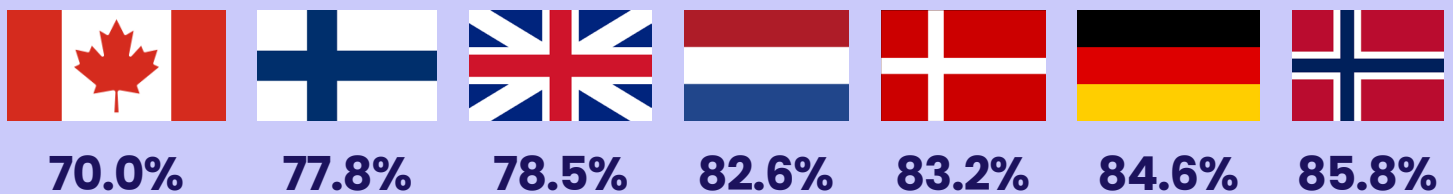


<sup>1</sup>Canadian Institute for Health Information. How Canada Compares: Results From the Commonwealth Fund's 2020 International Health Policy Survey of the General Population in 11 Countries — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Data from Health Systems in Transition Reports

Compared to these countries, a lower percentage of Canada's total health budget is spent on public (vs private) care

## Proportion of health spending that is public by country<sup>3</sup>

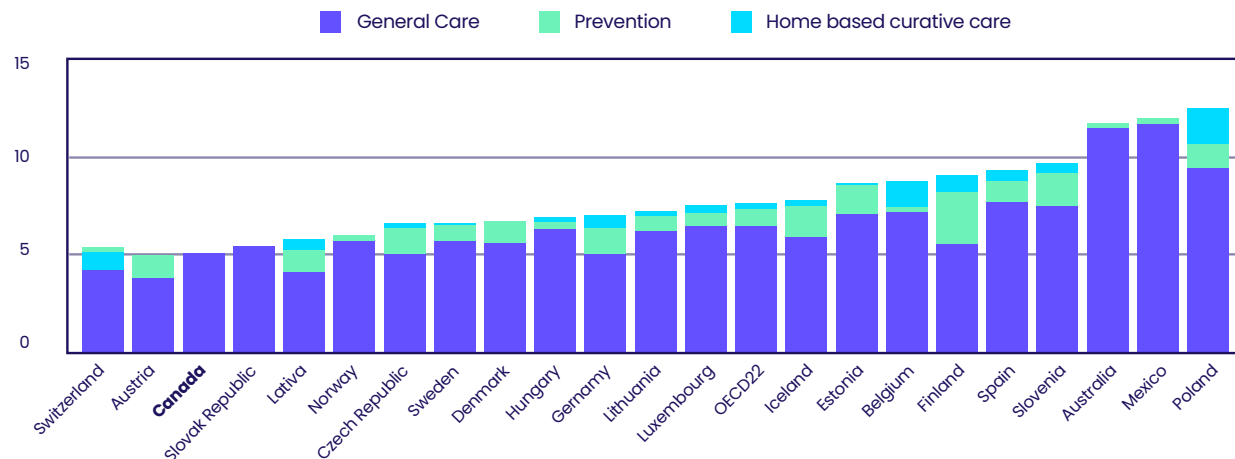


<sup>3</sup>Statista Research Department. Statista. 2022 [cited 2022 Aug 11]. Public and private per capita health expenditure by country 2019. Available from: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/283221/per-capita-health-expenditure-by-country/>

## Canada also spends less of its total health budget on primary care compared to many other countries.

The World Health Organization analyzed data from 22 countries that make up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). On average, the OECD countries spent 8.1% of their total health budget on primary care. In contrast, Canada spent only 5.3%, the 3rd lowest of all countries in the analysis.<sup>4</sup>

### Percentage of the total health budget spent on primary care



<sup>4</sup>Primary care spending. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; 2018. Available: <https://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/primary-care.htm>

## There are several lessons Canada can learn from countries where access to primary care is near universal

### Accountability

- Having family doctors largely work in office-based generalist practice (v. specialized or focused practices)
- Accountability of primary care clinician to health insurer

### Information systems

- Enhancing patient-clinician communication
- Integrating primary care with other parts of the system

### Funding

- Higher proportion of total health spending that is public
- Higher proportion of total health spending on primary care
- More physicians per capita

### System organization

- Requiring and facilitating patient registration with a family doctor or practice
- Encouraging care close to home

### Practice organization and physician payment

- Increasing responsibilities of other health care professionals (e.g., nurses, physiotherapists)
- Family doctors paid by salary or capitation (or practices paid by capitation)
- Organized after-hours care and limited walk-in clinics

Further reading: Shahaed et al. "Primary care for all: lessons for Canada from peer countries with high primary care attachment" CMAJ 2023."

Over 16 months, OurCare heard from almost 10,000 people across Canada about their hopes and priorities for a better primary care system. Visit [OurCare.ca](https://OurCare.ca) to learn more.