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September 2023

## Are we there yet?: The availability of surgery in Canada and the impact of traveling to access it in high-income countries

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### Citation of this paper:

Jeffrey, Curtis D., "Are we there yet?: The availability of surgery in Canada and the impact of traveling to access it in high-income countries" (2023). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 538.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/538>

According to the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, in 2015 there were roughly 5 billion people worldwide who lacked access to safe and affordable surgery and anesthesia. To help address these disparities, the Commission created six core indicators of geographic access, rates of surgical procedures, costs, and rates of death before, during, and after surgery. The vast majority of research on these indicators has addressed their use in low- and middle-income countries and areas where surgery has little presence in public health initiatives. High-income countries like Canada often operate under the notion that we inherently fulfill these indicators; however, little research has occurred to validate these assumptions. My thesis will consolidate current knowledge on the impact of traveling to surgery on postoperative outcomes in high-income countries as well as use geographic information systems to assess how much of Canada's population has equitable geographic access to elective and emergency surgery.