

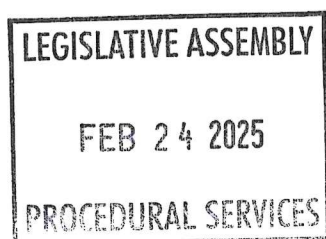
Public Accounts  
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency  
January 23, 2025  
Requested Follow-up Information

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency  
Chapter 17 – Screening Program for Breast Cancer

- What are some of the trends with the interval cancer rate?
  - Trends in Saskatchewan’s Interval Cancer Rates
    - **Interval Cancer Rate (<12 Months):** The data shows that the rate of individuals diagnosed with breast cancer within 12 months of a negative mammogram has remained **below the national target of 6 per 1000 negative screenings**. While fluctuations occur, the trend remains within the target range, indicating a high sensitivity of mammography in detecting early-stage cancers.
    - **Interval Cancer Rate (12-24 Months):** Similarly, the interval cancer rate for diagnoses occurring **between 12-24 months post-screening remains below the target of 12 per 1000 negative screenings**. This suggests that the screening program is effective in identifying cancers early and that those missed at screening do not occur at significantly high rates.

The interval cancer rates for the Screening Program for Breast Cancer remain **within the established national benchmarks**, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in early cancer detection. Continuous monitoring ensures that performance remains at high standards, and any deviations from targets can be investigated for quality improvement.

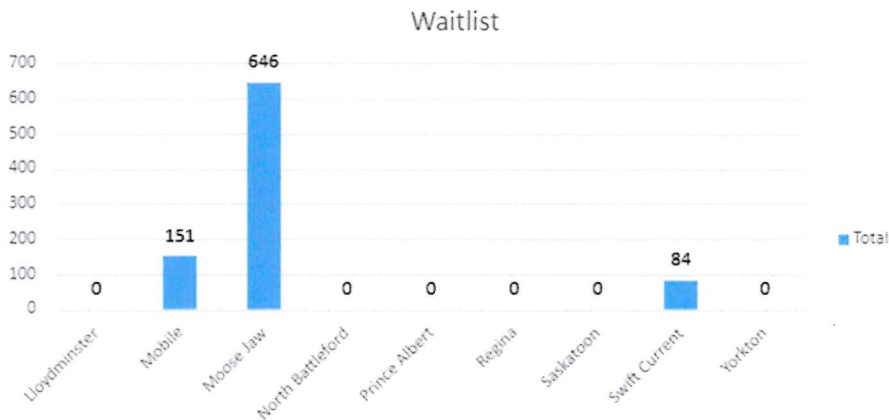
*(Hansard Verbatim Report No. 5, January 23, 2025, Page 127)*



- How many people are currently on the waitlist for mammograms and biopsies, respectively? Is the number different between Saskatoon and Regina, what are the numbers? Because there's a delay sometimes, and is that a waitlist or is it just it takes that long to get through those appointments? Is an appointment equal to a delay or a waitlist?

Screening Location	Booking Information
Regina – screening centre	Clients are booked into next available appointment.
Saskatoon – screening centre	
Lloydminster Hospital	Clients are booked into next available appointment. Appointment availability is determined when staffing schedules are finalized (month by month). If no appointment is available when a client calls, the client can choose to book at another location or be added to a waitlist. Clients on the waitlist are prioritized for new appointment availability.
Moose Jaw, Dr. F. H. Wigmore Regional Hospital	
North Battleford, Battlefords Union Hospital	
Prince Albert, Victoria Hospital	
Swift Current, Cypress Regional Hospital	
Yorkton Regional Health Centre	
Mobile Mammography Unit, 42 northern and rural SK locations	Clients are booked into next available appointment. Appointments become available approximately 4 weeks prior to the unit arrival.

- As of January 29, 2025, the number of patients 'waiting' to book an appointment is 881. There are no patients waiting to book an appointment in Regina or Saskatoon. While a patient may still have to wait for their appointment date, they already have a scheduled appointment.
- **Waitlist:** As noted above, the following figure represents the number of clients that have requested a screening mammogram and are waiting for their screening appointment to be booked at their requested site.



Note: for Moose Jaw and Swift Current, the waitlist is due to appointment scheduling being determined on a month-by-month basis, unlike Regina and Saskatoon, where schedules are opened several months in advance. Scheduling is done this way due to capacity/staffing availability.

If no appointment is available when a client calls, they have the option to book at another location or be placed on a waitlist. Clients on the waitlist are prioritized when new appointment slots become available.

- o **Number of Patients Waiting for Breast Biopsy by Location** – as of January 23, 2025. Please note that breast biopsy services at Dr. F. H. Wigmore Regional Hospital in Moose Jaw are limited to ultrasound guided biopsy only.

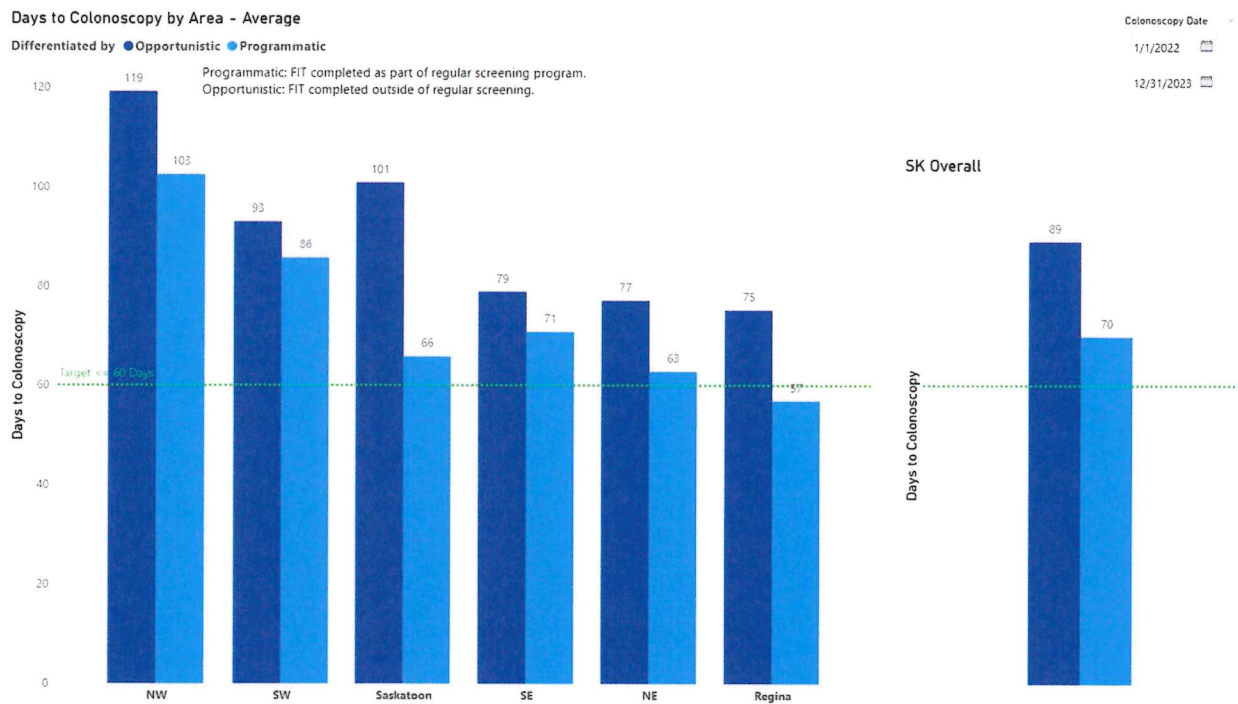
SHA Facility	Count of Patients Waiting for Biopsy – January 23, 2025
Saskatoon – Breast Health Centre	45
Regina – Breast Assessment Centre	97
Moose Jaw – Dr. F. H. Wigmore Regional Hospital	4

*(Hansard Verbatim Report No. 5, January 23, 2025, Page 128-129)*

**Saskatchewan Cancer Agency  
Chapter 23 –Delivering the Screening Program for Colorectal Cancer**

- **What are the wait times for colonoscopies for Saskatchewan in general, and then specific figures for Regina, Saskatoon, rural, and northern areas?**
  - **Provincial Trends**
    - The average wait time across Saskatchewan is **78.48 days**.
  - **Regions Trends:**
    - The graph below illustrates **wait times by region**, distinguishing between:
      - **Programmatic FIT:** Completed as part of the regular screening program.
      - **Opportunistic FIT:** Tests completed outside of regular screening (i.e. physician-ordered).

**Average Days to Colonoscopy**



*(Hansard Verbatim Report No. 5, January 23, 2025, Page 133)*