

Suicide Surveillance Indicator Framework, 2023 Edition

Quick Stats Overview

The Suicide Surveillance Indicator Framework (SSIF) provides information on suicide and self-inflicted injury outcomes and its associated risk and protective factors. The SSIF contains a core set of indicators grouped by suicide and self-inflicted injury outcomes and four key domains as listed below. Each indicator has a corresponding measure. For each measure in the SSIF, pan-Canadian estimates are available, along with breakdowns by key demographic and socioeconomic variables.

| Indicator Group | Indicator Measure(s) | Latest Data | Source (Year) |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Suicide and Self-inflicted Injury Outcomes | | | |
| Suicide mortality | Mortality rate due to suicide (excluding Yukon) | 10.9 deaths per 100 000 population | CVS-D (2020) |
| Self-inflicted injuries — hospitalizations | Hospitalization rate for self-inflicted injuries | 61.0 hospitalizations per 100 000 population | DAD , HMDB, NACRS-ON, OMHRS (2020/2021) |
| Self-inflicted injuries — emergency department | Emergency department (ED) presentation rate for self-inflicted injuries, Ontario | 279.4 ED visits per 100 000 population | NACRS-ON (2021/2022) |
| | Emergency department (ED) presentation rate for self-inflicted injuries, Alberta | 414.2 ED visits per 100 000 | NACRS-AB (2021/2022) |
| | Proportion of emergency department (ED) presentations for self-inflicted injuries of total CHIRPP cases among 10- to 24-year-olds | 9 997.0 ED visits per 100 000 ED presentations | CHIRPP (2021) |
| Suicidal thoughts | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever having serious thoughts of suicide or taking their own life (lifetime) | 12.0% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having serious thoughts of suicide or taking their own life in the past 12 months | 2.6% | CCHS (2020) |
| Suicide plans | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever making a suicide plan (lifetime) | 4.2% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report making a suicide plan in the past 12 months | 0.8% | CCHS (2020) |
| Suicide attempts | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever attempting suicide or to take their own life (lifetime) | 3.1% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report attempting suicide or to take their own life in the past 12 months | 0.3% | CCHS (2020) |

| Indicator Group | Indicator Measure(s) | Latest Data | Source (Year) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Individual-level Risk and Protective Factors | | | |
| Health status | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who self-rate their health as fair or poor | 10.6% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who self-rate their mental health as fair or poor | 9.7% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ with moderate to poor functional health, as per HUI | 22.8% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ with one or more of these major chronic diseases: cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, and/or respiratory | 25.0% | CCHS (2020) |
| Chronic pain | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report having pain that prevents some or most activities | 8.0% | CCHS (2020) |
| Sleep disturbances | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having trouble going to sleep or staying asleep most or all of the time | 14.5% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| Stress | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who perceive most days as being quite a bit or extremely stressful | 20.5% | CCHS (2020) |
| Coping | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report a high level of coping | 82.1% | CCHS (2019) |
| Mental illness | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who have been diagnosed with a mood and/or generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) | 14.6% | CCHS (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having been diagnosed with schizophrenia and/or psychosis by a health professional | 1.3% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having been diagnosed with an eating disorder by a health professional | 0.4% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by a health professional | 1.7% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| Violence | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report experiencing, before age 15, at least one: physical or sexual violence by an adult and/or exposure to violence exhibited by parents or guardians | 32.4% | GSS—Safety (2019) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report being the victim of physical or sexual assault in the past 12 months | 4.3% | GSS—Safety (2019) |
| | Percentage (%) of Grade 7-12 students who report being bullied by other students in the past 30 days | 23.0% | CSTADS (2018/2019) |
| Substance use | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ whose reported alcohol consumption exceeds Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol-Drinking Guideline for chronic effects in the past 12 months | 17.6% | CADS (2019) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report experiencing at least one harm in the past year due to illegal drug use | 4.5% | CADS (2019) |
| School environment | Percentage (%) of grade 6-10 students who agree or strongly agree that they feel they belong at their school | 59.3% | HBSC (2017/2018) |
| Personality | In development | | |

| Indicator Group | Indicator Measure(s) | Latest Data | Source (Year) |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Family-level Risk and Protective Factors | | | |
| Family relationships | Percentage (%) of grade 6-10 students who agree or strongly agree that they get the emotional help and support they need from their family | 62.9% | HBSC (2017/2018) |
| | Percentage (%) of grade 6-10 students who agree or strongly agree having a lot of arguments with their parents/guardians | 21.9% | HBSC (2017/2018) |
| | Percentage (%) of grade 6-10 students who report it is easy or very easy to talk to their parents/guardians about things that really bother them | 78.9% | HBSC (2017/2018) |
| Family mental illness and substance use | a. Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ with one or more family members who have problems with their emotions, mental health, or use of alcohol or drugs | 39.3% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| | b. Among those with one or more family members who have problems with their emotions, mental health, or use of alcohol or drugs, percentage (%) who report that their life is affected some or a lot by their family member's problems | 35.2% | CCHS—Mental Health (2012) |
| Family history of suicide-related behaviour | In development | | |

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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Community-level Risk and Protective Factors | | | |
| Social support | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having no family or friends they feel close to (feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on their mind, or call on for help) | 1.0% | GSS—Social Identity (2020) |
| | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report being satisfied or very satisfied with the communication frequency with friends and relatives not living with them | 86.2% | GSS—Social Identity (2020) |
| Community belonging | Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report a somewhat strong or very strong belonging to their local community | 70.2% | CCHS (2020) |
| Discrimination | Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ years who report experiencing discrimination or unfair treatment in the past 5 years because of gender, race, age, or appearance | 35.2% | GSS—Social Identity (2020) |
| Suicide contagion/clusters | In development | | |

| Indicator Group | Indicator Measure(s) | Latest Data | Source (Year) |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Societal-level Risk and Protective Factors | | | |
| Mental-health service access | a. Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report receiving care for problems with emotions, mental care, and/or use of alcohol or drugs in the past 12 months | 18.3% | CCHS (2020) |
| | b. Among those who received care in the past 12 months, percentage (%) who perceived their needs were not met or only partially met | 44.4% | CCHS (2020) |
| Help lines — usage | Proportion of suicide behaviour-related interactions (phone, live chat, text) of total Kids Help Phone interactions | 117.3 interactions per 1 000 total interactions | KHP (2021) |
| | Proportion of suicide behaviour-related interactions (phone, chat, text) of total Talk Suicide Canada interactions | 663.2 interactions per 1 000 total interactions | Talk Suicide Canada (2021) |
| Poison centre — usage | Proportion of exposure cases related to intentional self-harm poisoning of total cases managed by Poison Centres | 190.5 cases per 1 000 total cases | CSSPI (2021) |
| Firearm possession | Percentage (%) of population aged 18+ possessing an individual firearm licence as of December of the report's year (number of individual firearm licence holders aged 18+) | 7.1% (2 236 983) | RCMP (2021) |
| Stigma | In development | | |
| Mental health literacy | In development | | |
| Media reporting guidelines (adherence to) | In development | | |

Notes

- **Abbreviations:**

- **Data sources:** CADS, Canadian Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CCHS, Canadian Community Health Survey; CHIRPP, Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program; CSSPI, Canadian Surveillance System for Poison Information; CSTADS, Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CVS-D, Canadian Vital Statistics–Death Database; DAD, Discharge Abstract Database; GSS, General Social Survey; HBSC, Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children; HMDB, Hospital Morbidity Database; KHP, Kids Help Phone; NACRS, National Ambulatory Care Reporting System; OMHRS, Ontario Mental Health Reporting System;
- RCMP, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- **Other:** HUI, Health Utilities Index.
- **"In development":** measures whose data source is currently not available or for which more research is needed to identify a promising measure and data source.

- **Suggested Citation:** Public Health Agency of Canada, Centre for Surveillance and Applied Research (2023). Suicide Surveillance Indicator Framework Quick Statistics, Canada, 2023 Edition. Ottawa (ON): Public Health Agency of Canada.

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