Suicide Surveillance Indicator Framework, 2021 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)	12.3 deaths per 100 000 population	CVS-D (2018)
Self-inflicted injuries — hospitalizations	Hospitalization rate for self-inflicted injuries	67.0 hospitalizations per 100 000 population	DAD, HMDB, NACRS-ON, OMHRS (2018/2019)
Self-inflicted injuries — emergency department	Emergency department (ED) presentation rate for self-inflicted injuries, Ontario	287.5 ED visits per 100 000 population	NACRS-ON (2019/2020)
	Emergency department (ED) presentation rate for self-inflicted injuries, Alberta	392.9 ED visits per 100 000	NACRS-AB (2019/2020)
	Proportion of emergency department (ED) presentations for self-inflicted injuries of total CHIRPP cases among 10- to 24-year-olds	9 526.4 ED visits per100 000 ED presentations	CHIRPP (2020)
Suicidal thoughts	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever having serious thoughts of suicide or taking their own life (lifetime)	11.7%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having serious thoughts of suicide or taking their own life in the past 12 months	2.8%	CCHS (2019)
Suicide plans	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever making a suicide plan (lifetime)	4.4%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report making a suicide plan in the past 12 months	0.8%	CCHS (2019)
Suicide attempts	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report ever attempting suicide or to take their own life (lifetime)	3.1%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report attempting suicide or to take their own life in the past 12 months	0.4%	CCHS (2019)

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	10.8%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who self-rate their mental health as fair or poor	8.0%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ with moderate to poor functional health, as per HUI	22.9%	CCHS (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ with one or more of these major chronic diseases: cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, and/or respiratory	24.0%	CCHS (2019)
Chronic pain	Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report having pain that prevents some or most activities	8.6%	CCHS (2019)
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	21.2%	CCHS (2019)
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)	13.9%	CCHS (2019)
	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	23.5%	CSTADS (2016/2017)
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	16.1%	CTADS (2017)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report experiencing at least one harm in the past year due to illegal drug use	4.1%	CTADS (2017)
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		

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 or can talk to about what is on their mind)	3.3%	GSS—Safety (2019)
	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report being satisfied or very satisfied with the communication frequency with friends and relatives not living with them	91.2%	GSS—Social Identity (2013)
Community belonging	Percentage (%) of population aged 12+ who report a somewhat strong or very strong belonging to their local community	69.7%	CCHS (2019)
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	19.8%	GSS—Safety (2019)
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	18.4%	CCHS (2019)
	b. Among those who received care in the past 12 months, percentage (%) who perceived their needs were not met or only partially met	44.7%	CCHS (2019)
Help lines — usage	Proportion of suicide behaviour-related interactions (phone, live chat, text) of total Kids Help Phone interactions	141.2 interactions per 1 000 total interactions	KHP (2019)
	Proportion of suicide behaviour-related interactions (phone, chat, text) of total Talk Suicide Canada interactions	655.1 interactions per 1 000 total interactions	Talk Suicide Canada (2019)
Poison centre — usage	Proportion of exposure cases related to intentional self-harm poisoning of total cases managed by Poison Centres	178.9 cases per 1 000 total cases	CSSPI (2019)
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+)	7.3% (2 209 906)	RCMP (2019)
Stigma	In development		
Mental health literacy	In development		
Media reporting guidelines (adherence to)	In development		

Notes

- **Abbreviations:**
  - **Data sources:** CCHS, Canadian Community Health Survey; CSSPI, Canadian Surveillance System for Poison Information; CSTADS, Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CTADS, Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CVS-D, Canadian Vital Statistics–Death Database; DAD, Discharge Abstract Database; CHIRPP, Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program; 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.

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- **For questions or comments, please contact us at:** infobase@phac-aspc.gc.ca