

# 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)
<b>Suicide and Self-inflicted Injury Outcomes</b>			
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 (excluding Nunavut)	61.0 hospitalizations per 100 000 population	DAD (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)
<b>Individual-level Risk and Protective Factors</b>			
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 moderate to severe 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 illicit 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)
<b>Family-level Risk and Protective Factors</b>			
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		

<b>Community-level Risk and Protective Factors</b>			
Social support	Percentage (%) of population aged 15+ who report having no family or close 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)
<b>Societal-level Risk and Protective Factors</b>			
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:** CCHS, Canadian Community Health Survey; CSTADS, Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CTADS, Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey; CVSD, Canadian Vital Statistics–Death Database; DAD, Discharge Abstract Database; eCHIRPP, electronic Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program; GSS, General Social Survey; HBSC, Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children; NACRS, National Ambulatory Care 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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