

Deaths, 2009

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A total of 238,418 people died in Canada in 2009, down 0.1% from 2008. Of these, 120,311 were men and 118,107 were women.

In Canada, the age-standardized mortality rate declined from 531 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008 to 515 in 2009. The decline was larger for men (-3.5%) than for women (-2.9%).

British Columbia recorded the lowest age-standardized mortality rate in the country (480 deaths per 100,000 population). The highest rates were in Nunavut (1,165), Yukon (755) and the Northwest Territories (700).

The infant mortality rate continued a long-term downward trend, declining from 6.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 4.9 in 2009. During the same period, the male infant mortality rate decreased from 6.9 to 5.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, while for females, it went down from 5.8 to 4.7.

Life expectancy at birth reached 81.1 years for the three-year period from 2007 to 2009, up 0.2 years from 2006 to 2008. Life expectancy at birth for men was 78.8 years in 2007-2009, while for women, it was 83.3.

Women are living longer, but men continue to catch up. The gender gap in life expectancy at birth narrowed in the past 15 years from 6.1 years in 1992-1994 to 4.5 years in 2007-2009.

Life expectancy at birth was highest in British Columbia (81.7 years), followed by Ontario and Quebec. It was lowest in the three territories combined at 75.1, which is 6.0 years below the national average.

Life expectancy for seniors has also been on an upward trend over the last 15 years. A senior in Canada at age 65 could expect to live an additional 20.2 years in 2007-2009, up 2.1 years from 1992-1994.

In 2007-2009, life expectancy at age 65 for both men and women was highest in British Columbia, followed by Ontario. Again, it was the lowest in the three territories combined.

Note to readers

Life expectancy is the average number of years of life remaining for a population at a specific age, assuming that the individuals comprising that population would experience the age-specific mortality rates observed in a given year, throughout their lives. It represents a key indicator of a population's health status and it is based on age-specific mortality rates calculated using three-year data. The age-specific death rate is the number of deaths in a particular age group during a given year for a population in the same age group as of July 1 of the same year. The age-standardized death rate removes the effects of differences in the age structure of populations among areas and over time. This rate is calculated using the 1991 population of Canada as standard population.



Table 1
Number of deaths and age-standardized death rates, Canada, provinces and territories, 2008 and 2009

	Deaths			Standardized death rates ²	
	2008	2009	2008 to 2009	2008	2009
	number		% change	rates	
Canada¹	238,617	238,418	-0.1	531.3	515.0
Males	120,426	120,311	-0.1	652.6	629.9
Females	118,191	118,107	-0.1	436.0	423.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,539	4,391	-3.3	661.9	630.9
Prince Edward Island	1,201	1,268	5.6	574.2	600.1
Nova Scotia	8,220	8,227	0.1	581.7	566.2
New Brunswick	6,450	6,366	-1.3	575.6	561.4
Quebec	57,106	57,769	1.2	527.5	514.2
Ontario	88,041	88,468	0.5	512.7	499.7
Manitoba	10,073	9,972	-1.0	591.9	575.5
Saskatchewan	9,243	8,972	-2.9	595.6	573.9
Alberta	21,079	20,987	-0.4	546.1	527.2
British Columbia	32,095	31,440	-2.0	508.1	480.2
Yukon	198	201	1.5	811.0	754.9
Northwest Territories	201	186	-7.5	771.1	700.2
Nunavut	147	162	10.2	1,016.9	1,165.0

1. Canada includes unknown province or territory of residence.
 2. Standardized death rate per 100,000 standard population (1991 Canadian population).

Table 2
Life expectancy¹ at birth and at age 65 by sex, Canada, provinces and territories, 2007-2009

	At birth			At age 65		
	Both sexes	Males	Females	Both sexes	Males	Females
	years					
Canada	81.1	78.8	83.3	20.2	18.5	21.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	78.9	76.5	81.2	18.2	16.6	19.7
Prince Edward Island	80.2	77.5	82.8	19.3	17.6	20.7
Nova Scotia	80.1	77.7	82.4	19.3	17.5	20.9
New Brunswick	80.2	77.5	82.8	19.5	17.7	21.1
Quebec	81.2	78.8	83.4	20.1	18.3	21.6
Ontario	81.5	79.2	83.6	20.3	18.7	21.7
Manitoba	79.5	77.0	81.9	19.6	17.7	21.2
Saskatchewan	79.6	77.0	82.1	19.7	17.9	21.3
Alberta	80.7	78.5	83.0	20.2	18.5	21.6
British Columbia	81.7	79.5	83.9	20.7	19.2	22.0
Territories ²	75.1	72.5	78.2	16.9	15.6	18.4

1. Life expectancies were calculated using three-year data.
 2. Territories include Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 102-0030, 102-0501 to 102-0510, 102-0512, 102-0521 to 102-0538, 102-0540, 102-0542, 102-0551, 102-0552 and 102-4307.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3233.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).