

COVID-19 and social support for seniors

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The social support systems of seniors living in private households play an important role in minimizing their exposure to the COVID-19 virus. In 2016, more than 8 in 10 seniors who lived in private households reported having a high level of social support. However, some groups such as low-income seniors and seniors who frequently experienced mental health conditions faced lower levels of social support than other seniors.

Given the increased importance of seniors' social support during the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying which groups are most vulnerable to low levels of social support can facilitate efforts to provide greater assistance to the senior population during this time.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [4504](#).

For more information, please see the article "[COVID-19 and social support for seniors: Do seniors have people they can depend on during difficult times?](#)" released today in the series *StatCan COVID-19: Data to Insights for a Better Canada* ([45280001](#)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).

