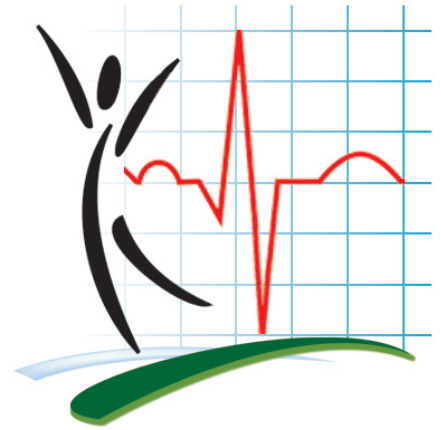


Health Fact Sheets

Trends in mortality rates, 2000 to 2012



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The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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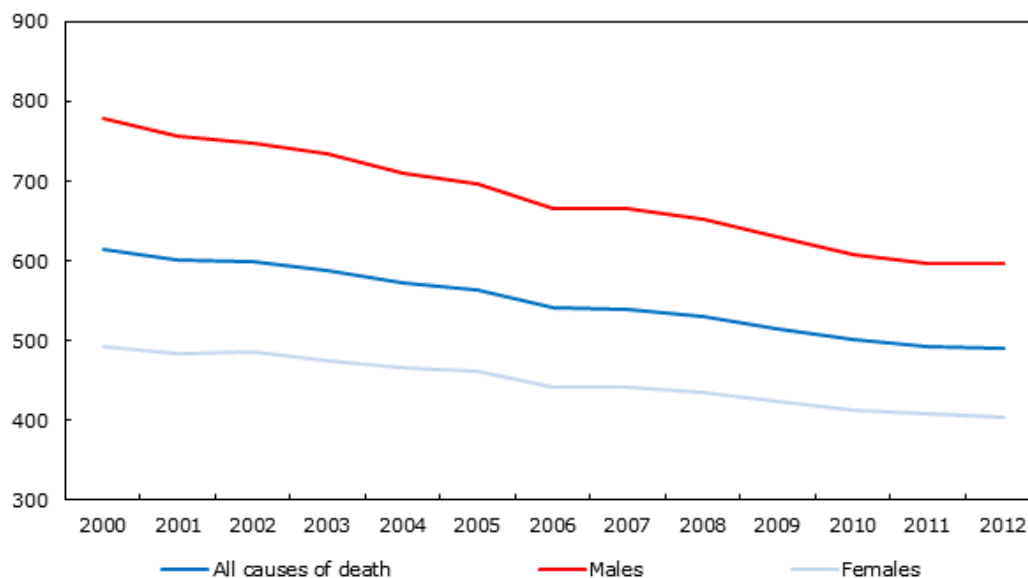
The age-standardized mortality rates show the number of deaths per 100,000 population that would have occurred in a given area if the age structure of the population of that area was the same as the age structure of a specified standard population. The mortality rates are calculated to eliminate the impact of population structure changes on death rates. Thus, the comparisons of these mortality rates reflect the actual changes in mortality.

For the period 2000 to 2012, the age-standardized mortality rate for all causes combined declined 20.4%, from 615.5 deaths per 100,000 population to 490.0 (Chart 1).

Age-standardized mortality rates for all causes of death declined for males by 23.2% (from 778.3 to 597.6) from 2000 to 2012, while rates for females declined by 18.0% (from 493.2 to 404.6).

Chart 1
Age-standardized mortality rates,¹ by sex, Canada, 2000 to 2012

per 100,000
standard population



1. Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 standard population.

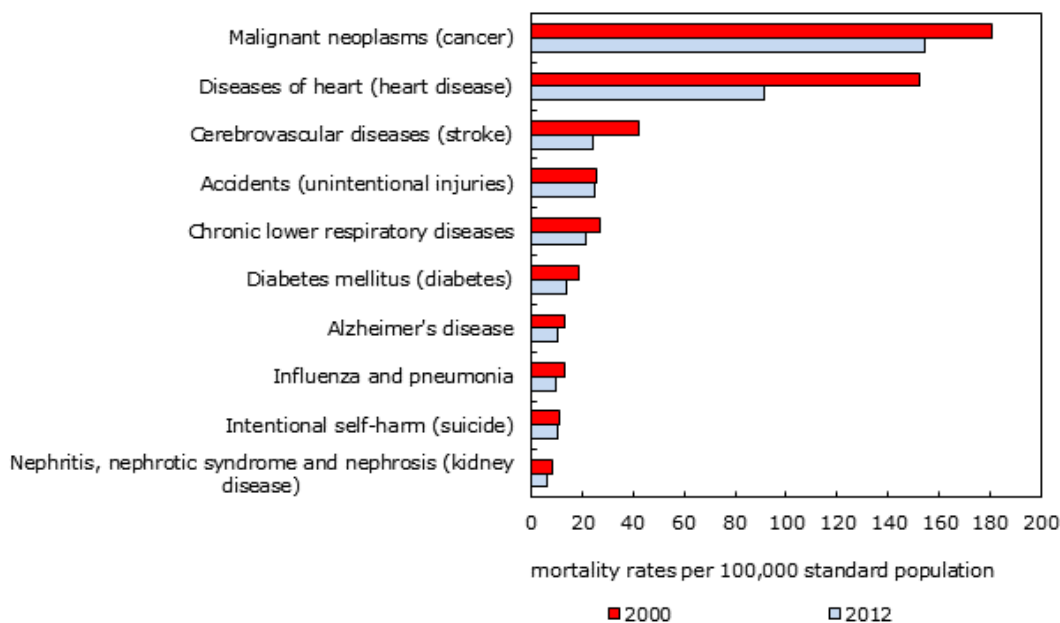
Source: Vital Statistics - Death Database, CANSIM Table 102-0563.

Age-standardized mortality rates for all 10 leading causes of death declined

Over the period 2000 to 2012, standardized mortality rates declined for all 10 leading causes of death. The standardized rates for stroke (cerebrovascular disease) and heart disease showed the largest decrease, a 42.4% decline (42.2 to 24.3) and a 39.7% decline (152.0 to 91.6) respectively. The mortality rate for accidents (unintentional injuries) had the smallest decrease at 1.9% (25.8 to 25.3). Cancer, the first leading cause of death, saw its rate go down by 14.6%, from 180.4 per 100,000 standard population in 2000 to 154.1 in 2012 (Chart 2).

From 2000 to 2012, the decline in the age-standardized mortality rate for cancer was more pronounced for males (18.4%), from 225.3 to 183.8, compared with the decline for females (11.1%), from 149.4 to 132.8. Meanwhile, the standardized rates for heart disease dropped 39.9% for males (202.9 to 122.0) and 40.6% for females (113.4 to 67.4).

Chart 2
Age-standardized mortality rates¹ for the 10 leading causes of death, Canada, 2000 and 2012



1. Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 standard population.

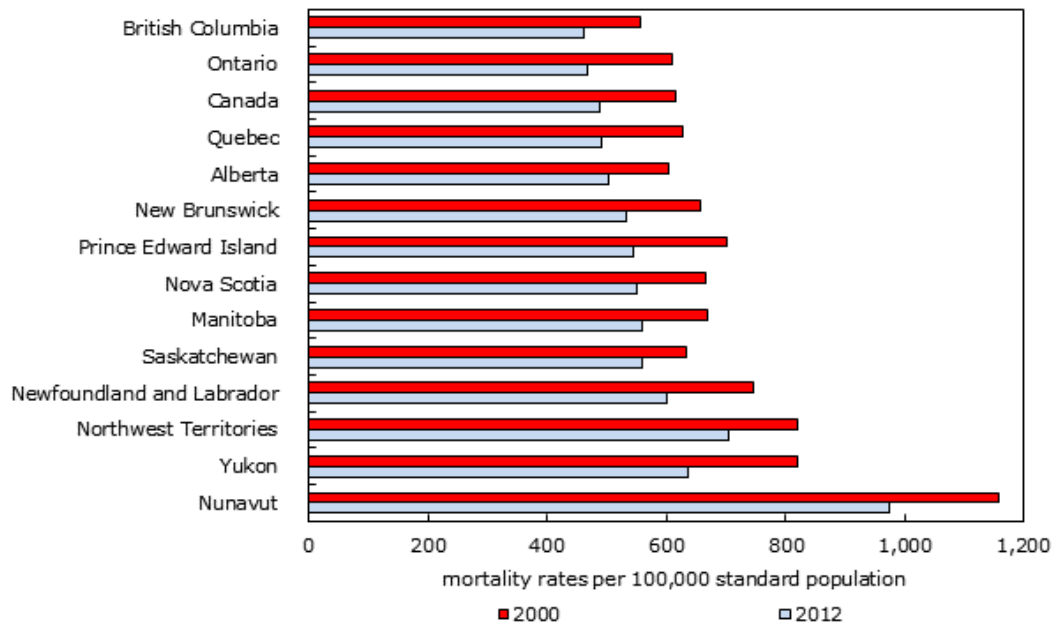
Note: The order of the causes of death in this table is based on the ranking of the 10 leading causes of death in 2012.

Source: Vital Statistics - Death Database, CANSIM Table 102-0563.

Trends of age-standardized mortality rates varied in provinces and territories

From 2000 to 2012, Ontario and British Columbia had age-standardized mortality rates lower than the Canada-level rate. By 2012, there were 469.1 deaths per 100,000 standard population in Ontario and 461.3 per 100,000 standard population in British Columbia compared with 490.0 deaths per 100,000 standard population for Canada. The rates for Quebec and Alberta have fluctuated around the national level while the other provinces and the three territories had higher mortality rates than the national average (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Age-standardized mortality rates¹ for all causes of death,
Canada, provinces and territories, 2000 and 2012



1. Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 standard population.

Source: Vital Statistics - Death Database, CANSIM Table 102-0563.

While cancer has been the first leading cause of death in Canada since 2000, only from 2008 did it become the first leading cause in all provinces and territories. In the provinces, the age-standardized mortality rates for the top three leading causes of death (cancer, heart disease and stroke) decreased over the period of observation, with heart disease and stroke decreasing at a more rapid pace than cancer.

A decrease was also observed in the mortality rate for chronic lower respiratory diseases in all provinces and territories from 2011 to 2012.

In general, the age-standardized mortality rate for accidents (unintentional injuries) has increased from 2000 to 2012 in Nova Scotia (24.1 to 33.6), New Brunswick (28.7 to 29.1), Ontario (22.3 to 25.3), Manitoba (33.3 to 36.0) and Saskatchewan (36.5 to 39.9). British Columbia started the upward trend in 2006 from 23.4 to 26.9 in 2012. In the other provinces and territories, the mortality rate for accidents has dropped over time.

Data

Additional data on leading causes of death CANSIM are available from CANSIM tables 102-0561, 102-0562 and 102-0563.