

The demography of COVID-19 deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)
Summary of metadata for Canada
(Last revised 03/06/2022)

Development of data collection systems during the pandemic

In Canada, the counting of COVID-19-related deaths is managed at provincial and territorial level. At federal level, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) centralizes the figures reported by local authorities. These data are then published by two different entities: Statistics Canada and the Government of Canada. Both sets are therefore based on the same source, but the figures differ because StatCan only includes cases for which a detailed report has been provided by the province or territory. In addition, the StatCan file is published only occasionally and does not report the number of deaths for patients under 50 years of age. The Government of Canada publishes its figures weekly.

Summary description of each source as of 21 April 2022

A.1. Data source 1

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada (StatCan):
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/fr/tv.action?pid=1310077501>

A.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

Confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 04/06/2020 to 18/03/2022.

A.3. Data collection method

Provincial and territorial health authorities report back to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A.4. Collected data

- 4.1. Age group: 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+
- 4.2. Sex: male and female, broken down by age group
- 4.3. Reference date type: report date
- 4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

A.5. Update frequency and data cut-off time

“Occasional” publication, approximately once a month. The number of deaths is established 5 days before publication.

B.1. Data source 2

The official Government of Canada website (data received from the Public Health Agency of Canada):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

B.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

Confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 08/03/2020 to 20/04/2022.

B.3. Data collection method

Provincial and territorial health authorities report back to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

B.4. Collected data

4.1. Age group: 0-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+

4.2. Sex: male and female, broken down by age group

4.3. Reference date type: date of occurrence

4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

B.5. Update frequency and data cut-off time

Weekly

ANNEX: Detailed metadata sheet for Canada (Last updated 06/05/2021)

Data Source 1

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) publishes detailed preliminary information on cases and deaths related to COVID-19:

Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0775-01 Detailed preliminary information on cases of COVID-19: 4 Dimensions (Aggregated data), Public Health Agency of Canada.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310077501-eng> or
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310077501&request_locale=en

Coverage

The data published by Statistics Canada only account for those deaths where a detailed case report was provided by the provincial or territorial jurisdiction to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving, these data are considered preliminary. Routine updates on health outcome status are not uniformly made across Canada, and therefore the data may underestimate the number of hospitalizations, admissions to intensive care units and deaths.

Statistics Canada's detailed preliminary number of deaths of confirmed COVID-19 cases will not match the total number of deaths obtained by summing up the numbers at the provincial and territorial levels which are reported daily by each jurisdiction and compiled by the PHAC (MetaData_20200604.csv). The discrepancy is due to delays associated with the submission of the detailed information, its capture and coding. Hence, Statistics Canada's file on detailed case reporting is a subset of the total counts reported by the health authorities across Canada.

Data collection method

Data are extracted from administrative files. Confirmed cases are laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 for which a case report form has been received by the Public Health Agency of Canada from provincial or territorial partners. Data are collected for all units of the target population, therefore no sampling is done.

Cases in this database may be revised as new information is captured related to a person's hospitalization status, ICU admittance, or death. The record level case identifier will be kept consistent after revisions and the information on the date the case was last updated will reflect the most recent information obtained.

These data should not be considered comprehensive given a possible lag time between the occurrence date of the death and the date of the report. Given the rapidly-evolving nature of this situation, these data are considered preliminary.

Collected Data

Death counts are given by date of report. New revisions of the database include deaths that took place from January 15, 2020 to the reference date.

Database communicates deaths by large age groups: [0-19], [20-29], [30-39], [40-49], [50-59], [60-69], [70-79], [80+], sex, region. It also includes all variables that describe evolution of a case from the transmission, hospitalization to the death or to the recovery.

Periodicity and countdown stop time

Data is published occasionally. It corresponds to the counts of deaths occurred from January 15, 2020 up to four days before the data is published. For example, the database published on June 18 2020, covers all deaths reported from January 15, 2020 to June 14, 2020.

Data Source 2

The official website of the Government of Canada (data received from Public Health Agency of Canada). The Government of Canada publishes daily total of COVID-19 deaths on its page.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

It also gives more detailed information on deaths by age and sex in its Epidemiological summary "COVID-19 Daily Epidemiology Update".

[Epidemiological-summary-of-COVID-19-cases-in-Canada-Canada.ca.pdf](#)

Coverage

Only the laboratory confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) are considered.

Data collection method

The provinces and territories provide detailed case report forms on deaths related to COVID-19 that are further aggregated. To have the most updated data for any province, territory or city, one should visit their web site.

Collected Data

Cumulative number of COVID-19 death counts confirmed with laboratory confirmation.

Periodicity and countdown stop time

The data is typically updated mid-morning and, in the evening, but is dependent on the time when individual provinces or territories report their numbers.