



Canadian Cancer Statistics 2025

Media backgrounder

Media backgrounder: Cervical cancer in Canada

Canadian Cancer Statistics 2025 provides insight into the current state over 20 cancers in Canada, including cervical cancer. The report was developed by the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society, Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada with cancer data provided by the provincial and territorial cancer registries through the Canadian Cancer Registry.

About cervical cancer

[Cervical cancer](#) starts in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. Nearly all cases of cervical cancer are caused by infection with human papillomavirus (HPV). There are 2 main cervical cancers, with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) being the most common. These types of cervical cancers usually develop from precancerous changes in the cervix because of infection with HPV.

HPV infection is the main cause of cervical cancer, but it doesn't always lead to the disease on its own. Other things that can increase the risk include being sexually active, smoking, and having several children. Some women — especially those with lower incomes or less access to education — may face more risk. This could be because they have fewer opportunities for regular cervical screening or may be more exposed to other risk factors.

Cervical cancer is one of the only cancers that can be eliminated and is largely preventable with HPV immunization programs and effective cervical screening. An HPV test can detect high-risk types of HPV that lead to cervical cancer.

Report highlight: Cervical cancer rates in Canada, once steadily declining, have now plateaued, signaling that the country may be at risk of falling short of its goal to eliminate the disease by 2040.

- This comes five years after the World Health Organization (WHO) launched its global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer.
- Canada set the ambitious goal to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040, which is defined as reducing incidence to fewer than four cases per 100,000 people.
- In 2025, an estimated 1,650 Canadians will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 430 lives will be lost – each one from a disease that can be prevented.
- Between 1984 and 2005, cervical cancer incidence in Canada had been steadily and significantly declining, by about -2.2% per year. But since 2005, this trend has shifted. From 2005 to 2021, the rate changed by just -0.3% annually — a shift that is no longer statistically significant. This suggests increased variability year-over-year, with the possibility that cervical cancer rates could be decreasing slightly, remaining stable, or even rising, within a range of -0.8% to +0.4% annually.

- We've seen more variability in cervical cancer incidence rates in recent years – likely driven in part by factors like increased transmission of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), lower vaccination and screening rates, and gaps in follow-up care.

Other key findings from the report

- This year, the highest cervical cancer rates are expected in Newfoundland and Labrador (10.2 per 100,000), Saskatchewan (10.1 per 100,000), and Prince Edward Island (9.4 per 100,000).
- The lowest cervical cancer rates are expected in Manitoba (7.0 per 100,000), British Columbia (7.5 per 100,000), Quebec (7.8 per 100,000), and New Brunswick (7.8 per 100,000).

To learn more about cancer in Canada, visit cancer.ca/statistics and view the full report. For more information, consult our news release. Explore the interactive [Canadian Cancer Statistics Dashboard](#).

Quotes and Insights

- “I didn’t get the HPV vaccine until after my diagnosis. By then, it was too late to prevent what I had already been through. It was never recommended to me by a doctor in Canada, and when I finally learned about it, the cost of the vaccine was a barrier. I wish I had known sooner - it could have made all the difference.” - **Daphny Xavier, Storyteller**
- “Cervical cancer can be silent. I had no pain and minimal symptoms. Regular screening isn’t something we should put off. We need to talk about it more, ask for it without hesitation, and treat it like any other part of our health routine.” - **Daphny Xavier, Storyteller**

This extensive report is currently able to report findings by sex assigned at birth based on binary categories (male/female) and it is beyond its scope to report findings by other important information such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and other identifiers. As a result, the report does not fully reflect the experiences of gender-diverse, racialized and other equity-deserving populations. Addressing these data gaps is essential to advancing equity in cancer research and care.

About Canadian Cancer Statistics

Canadian Cancer Statistics is developed by the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society, Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Cancer incidence and mortality data are from the Canadian Cancer Registry and the Canadian Vital Statistics Death databases, respectively, which are maintained at



Canadian
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Statistics Canada. The data originates from the provincial and territorial cancer registries and vital statistics registrars. Statistics Canada completed most of the analyses related to this report with contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada. French translation of this report was completed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Canadian Cancer Society coordinates the production and dissemination of this publication and supports it with charitable funds. For more than 35 years, this publication has been providing information that helps decide what support and services are needed and what research should be done. It also helps assess the impact of prevention, early detection and treatment. For more information about Canadian Cancer Statistics, visit cancer.ca/statistics.

About the Canadian Cancer Society

The Canadian Cancer Society works tirelessly to save and improve lives. We fund the brightest minds in cancer research. We provide a compassionate support system for all those affected by cancer, across Canada and for all types of cancer. Together with patients, supporters, donors and volunteers, we work to create a healthier future for everyone. Because to take on cancer, it takes all of us. It takes a society.

Help us make a difference. Call 1-888-939-3333 or visit cancer.ca today.

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