Avoidable Deaths From Preventable Causes

Name: Avoidable Deaths From Preventable Causes
Short/Other Names: Avoidable Mortality From Preventable Causes
Description: Premature deaths that could potentially have been prevented through primary prevention efforts.
Mortality from preventable causes is a subset of potentially avoidable mortality.
For further details, please see the General Methodology Notes.
Interpretation: Lower rates are desirable.
HSP Framework Dimension: Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians
Areas of Need: Not applicable
Geographic Coverage: All provinces/territories
Reporting Level/Disaggregation: National, Province/Territory, Region
Indicator Results: Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth

Indicator Description and Calculation:

Description: Premature deaths that could potentially have been prevented through primary prevention efforts
Mortality from preventable causes is a subset of potentially avoidable mortality.
For further details, please see the General Methodology Notes.

Calculation: Description
Mortality rate:
(Number of deaths at age younger than 75 from preventable causes ÷ Total mid-year population younger than age 75) × 100,000 (age-adjusted)
Potential years of life lost (PYLL):
The sum of differences between 75 and age of death from preventable causes ÷ Total mid-year population younger than age 75) × 100,000 (age-adjusted)

Calculation: Geographic Assignment
Place of residence
Calculation: Type of Measurement
Rate - per 100,000; also expressed as PYLL per 100,000 population
Calculation: Adjustment Applied
Age-adjusted
Calculation: Method of Adjustment
Direct Standardization

Standard Population:
Canada 2011

Denominator: Total mid-year population younger than age 75
Description: Number of deaths at age younger than 75 from preventable causes

Numerator: Potential years of life lost (PYLL):
The sum of differences between 75 and age of death from preventable causes

Inclusions: For the list of preventable causes, refer to the List of conditions for Potentially Avoidable Mortality and Mortality From Preventable and Treatable Causes Indicators document.

Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks

Mortality from preventable causes focuses on premature deaths from conditions that could potentially be avoided through primary prevention efforts, such as lifestyle modifications or population-level interventions (for example, vaccinations and injury prevention). The indicator informs efforts aimed at reducing the number of initial cases, or incidence reduction, as deaths are prevented by avoiding new cases altogether.

Interpretation: Lower rates are desirable.
HSP Framework
Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians

Rationale
For further details, please see the General Methodology Notes.
Dimension: Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians

Areas of Need: Not applicable

Targets/Benchmarks: Not applicable

References:

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources: Demography division, Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics - Death Database, Statistics Canada

Type of Year:
- Calendar

First Available Year: 2007

Last Available Year: 2014

Geographic Coverage: All provinces/territories

Reporting Level/Disaggregation: National, Province/Territory, Region

Result Updates:
- Update Frequency: Every year
- Web Tool: Your Health System: In Depth
- URL: Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth
- Updates: Not applicable

Quality Statement

Caveats and Limitations:
- It is generally acknowledged that not all deaths from potentially avoidable causes can actually be avoided. For example, some deaths from treatable causes may be unavoidable due to late diagnosis or concurrent health problems, while some deaths from preventable causes could be due to unpredictable events against which no protective measures could have been taken.
- An upper age limit of 75 should not imply that some deaths in the population older than 75 could not be avoided. However, multiple comorbidities are common among older adults, making the assignment of a single cause of death challenging.
- The indicators will be reviewed periodically to assess the upper age limit and potential new avoidable conditions due to better understanding of disease etiology or advances in treatment.

Trending Issues:
- Not applicable

Comments:
- The indicator is calculated based on three years of pooled data. The reference year reflects the mid-point of a three-year period.
- Avoidable mortality indicators were developed based on the Australian Potentially Avoidable Deaths indicator and the U.K. Office for National Statistics’ list of causes of avoidable mortality, followed by expert review of the diagnosis codes and rationales for including each condition.
- Causes of death were assigned to preventable and treatable subcategories based on two main mechanisms of mortality reduction: incidence and case-fatality reduction. These subcategories are mutually exclusive. In cases where a prevention/treatment overlap exists, the case was assigned to the preventable category; the exceptions were ischemic heart disease and stroke, where a random half of cases were assigned as preventable and the other half assigned as treatable. However, the mutually exclusive nature of the subcategories does not imply that all cases assigned to the preventable group do not have a treatable component, and vice versa.
- More information about the indicator can be found in the In Focus section of Health Indicators 2012, available on CIHI’s website (https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?locale=en&pf=PFC1791).
- Indicator results are also available on
- Statistics Canada website (http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-221-x/2013001/pyll-eng.htm).