

Life Expectancy at Age 65

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| Name | Life Expectancy at Age 65 |
| Short/Other Names | Not applicable |
| Description | Number of years a person would be expected to live, starting from age 65, if the age- and sex-specific mortality rates for a given reference period were held constant over his or her life span |
| Interpretation | A higher life expectancy at age 65 is considered an indicator of better overall health of the older population. |
| HSP Framework Dimension | Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians |
| Areas of Need | Not applicable |
| Geographic Coverage | All provinces/territories |
| Reporting Level /Disaggregation | International, National, Province/Territory, Region, Neighbourhood Income Quintile |
| Indicator Results | Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth |
| Identifying Information | |
| Name | Life Expectancy at Age 65 |
| Short/Other Names | Not applicable |
| Indicator Description and Calculation | |
| Description | Number of years a person would be expected to live, starting from age 65, if the age- and sex-specific mortality rates for a given reference period were held constant over his or her life span Cumulative number of person-years lived by persons age 65 and older, divided by the number of persons age 65 and older in the initial cohort |
| Calculation: Description | A period life table approach is used, applying the age- and sex-specific mortality rates for a given reference period to a hypothetical cohort. Life tables are usually constructed separately for men and women because of their different mortality rates. |
| Calculation: Geographic Assignment | Place of residence |
| Calculation: Type of Measurement | Average or mean |
| Calculation: Adjustment Applied | None |
| Calculation: Method of Adjustment | Not applicable Standard Population: Not applicable |
| Denominator | Description: Population age 65 in an initial cohort of 100,000 people Description: Cumulative number of person-years lived by persons age 65 and older, for a cohort of 100,000 persons Age- and sex-specific mortality rates corresponding to the reference period are applied to a hypothetical cohort, typically of 100,000. Starting at age 65, the probability of dying at each age or age interval is applied to the number of people surviving to that age or to the beginning of the age interval, respectively. |
| Numerator | Exclusions: Rates used by Statistics Canada to calculate life expectancy are calculated with data that excludes the following: 1. Births to mothers who are not residents of Canada 2. Births to mothers who are residents of Canada whose province or territory of residence was unknown 3. Deaths of non-residents of Canada 4. Deaths of residents of Canada whose province or territory of residence was unknown 5. Deaths for which age or sex of the decedent was unknown |
| Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks | |
| Rationale | Used worldwide, and often in combination with life expectancy at birth, life expectancy at age 65 is understood as a measure of the general health of the older population. By definition, life expectancy is affected by age- and sex-specific mortality rates for the 65 and older population in a particular reference period. Life expectancy measures quantity rather than quality of life. |
| Interpretation | A higher life expectancy at age 65 is considered an indicator of better overall health of the older population. |
| HSP Framework Dimension | Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians |
| Areas of Need | Not applicable |

Targets
/Benchmark Not applicable
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Goodyear M, Malhotra N. [Life-tables and their demographic applications](#). Accessed August 16, 2018.

References Statistics Canada. [Methods for Constructing Life Tables for Canada, Provinces and Territories](#). 2018.

Statistics Canada. [Health indicators definitions and data sources](#). Accessed August 16, 2018.

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources Demography division, Statistics Canada, OECD, Vital Statistics - Death Database, Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, Table 13-10-0063-01: [Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups](#)

Type of Year:

Calendar

Available Data **First Available Year:**

Years 2011

Last Available Year:

2015

Geographic Coverage All provinces/territories

Reporting Level /Disaggregation International, National, Province/Territory, Region, Neighbourhood Income Quintile

Result Updates

Update Frequency Every year

Web Tool:

Your Health System: In Depth

Indicator Results

URL:

[Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth](#)

Updates Not applicable

Quality Statement

Caveats and This indicator does not provide information on the individual causes of death or on quality of life for the older population.

Limitations The data is based on 2015 health region boundaries. For complete Canada coverage, each northern territory represents a health region.

The methods for estimating mortality and death probability at advanced ages were changed to better acknowledge characteristics of death in advanced ages, particularly in terms of small sample sizes. These changes apply to the construction of life tables for the period 2005 to 2007 onward. The impact of these changes on life expectancy for Canada as a whole is minimal, with a difference of 0.07 years.

Trending Issues National estimates are available in 10-year intervals starting in 1920 and annually starting in 1979. Provincial/territorial estimates are available annually from 1979 to 2006. Separate estimates for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are available annually from 1999 to 2006. From 1979 to 1999, estimates are available for the two territories combined as "Northwest Territories including Nunavut."

Estimates based on three years of pooled data are available at the provincial level from 1992 to 1994 onward; however, the territories are presented as a group for the period between 1992 to 1994 and 1997 to 1999.

Estimates based on three years of pooled data are available at the regional level from 2000 to 2002 forward, with the most current data being for 2014 to 2016.

Comments Life expectancy at age 65 does not provide information about the quality of life of the older population. Other measures have been developed using a composite of morbidity and mortality data. For example, health-adjusted life expectancy (HALE) at age 65 is the average number of remaining years that an individual is expected to live in a healthy state (PHAC, 2012).

Indicator results are based on three years of pooled data. The reference point reflects the mid-point of a three-year period.