Avoidable Deaths From Preventable Causes

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**Indicator Results**

**Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth**

**Identifying Information**

Name | Avoidable Deaths From Preventable Causes  
Short/Other Names | Avoidable Mortality From Preventable Causes

**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**

Potential years of life lost (PYLL):

\[(\text{The sum of differences between 75 and age of death from preventable causes} \div \text{Total mid-year population younger than age 75}) \times 100,000 \text{ (age-adjusted)}\]

**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

**Denominator**

Description: Total mid-year population younger than age 75

Description: Mortality rate:

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 Dimension**

Health System Outcomes: Improve health status of Canadians

**Areas of Need**

Not applicable
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).