

Deaths of Children, Youth and Young Adults Receiving Child Intervention Services

April 1, 2014 to May 31, 2023

The Ministry of Children's Services is committed to publicly reporting the deaths of children, youth and young adults that occurred while receiving child intervention services.

Type of Intervention

Table 1 provides data over a 10-year period for the following intervention types:

- **Initial Assessment:** The period of time when families are assessed to determine the right level of support to meet identified needs and if intervention is required.
- **Not In Care:** Children who remain at home while the family receives services to resolve matters of concern.
- **In Care:** Children who have been placed away from home on a temporary or permanent basis. These placements may include kinship homes, foster homes, group homes or treatment facilities.
- **Over 18 & Receiving Post 18 Intervention Supports:** Young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 who were previously involved in Child Intervention can access Post 18 Intervention Supports to enable their transition to full independence. These supports currently include Support and Financial Assistance (SFA) agreements and the Transition to Adulthood (TAP) program.

TABLE 1: COUNT BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Type of Intervention	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
Initial Assessment	10	12	15	15	11	11	12	15	9	1
Not In Care	10	1	1	3	6	3	2	5	6	1
In Care	10	6	8	7	9	9	6	7	19	2
Over 18 & Receiving Post 18 Intervention Supports	3	3	2	8	7	10	14	22	16	5
Total	33	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	9

This report is available online at: open.alberta.ca/publications/deaths-of-children-youth-or-young-adults-receiving-child-intervention-services

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Manner of Death

The Manner of Death (MOD) is determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) under most circumstances. Results may change from month to month as a result of OCME determinations.

In some cases, such as when a child dies in hospital while under the care of medical professionals, an attending physician may determine the MOD as “Natural” and no further review is required by the OCME. For these cases, the death is classified as “Death not investigated by the OCME”. Additionally, the OCME is unable to investigate deaths that occur outside of Alberta and a confirmed MOD may not be provided by the other jurisdiction. Further information on the OCME investigation process is available at: <https://www.alberta.ca/death-investigation-process.aspx>.

Table 2 provides data for all children and youth by MOD over a 10-year period, while Table 3 provides data for Indigenous/Non-Indigenous children and youth by MOD over a 10-year period.

TABLE 2: COUNT BY MANNER OF DEATH

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Manner of Death	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
Accidental	5	4	7	9	8	11	11	22	12	1
Homicide	2	5	1	3	2	0	3	1	0	0
Natural	4	1	4	4	2	3	0	3	2	0
Pending	0	1	1	2	1	3	6	10	21	8
Suicide	7	4	3	3	8	6	7	3	2	0
Unclassified ¹	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined ²	6	4	2	5	7	2	2	5	2	0
Death not investigated by OCME	7	3	6	5	5	8	5	4	11	0
Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	33	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	9

¹ Prior to January 1, 2016, this term was used to classify deaths due to drug toxicity that were not clearly accidental, homicidal or suicidal. As of January 1, 2016, this term is only used for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) deaths.

² This term is used when a completed death investigation does not provide enough evidence to determine the manner of death.

TABLE 3: COUNT BY MANNER OF DEATH

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Manner of Death	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023	
Indigenous	Accidental	4	2	3	4	5	8	8	16	9	1
	Homicide	1	2	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	0
	Natural	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	2	2	0
	Pending	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	8	17	4
	Suicide	6	3	3	1	4	4	2	2	2	0
	Unclassified ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined ²	5	1	1	2	3	1	2	5	2	0
	Death not investigated by OCME	4	3	1	2	3	3	4	4	9	0
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Indigenous Subtotal	20	12	14	15	19	19	23	39	41	5
Non-Indigenous	Accidental	1	2	4	5	3	3	3	6	3	0
	Homicide	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Natural	4	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0
	Pending	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	4	4
	Suicide	1	1	0	2	4	2	5	1	0	0
	Unclassified ¹	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined ²	1	3	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	0
	Death not investigated by OCME	3	0	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	0
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous Subtotal	13	10	12	18	14	14	11	10	9	4

¹ Prior to January 1, 2016, this term was used to classify deaths due to drug toxicity that were not clearly accidental, homicidal or suicidal. As of January 1, 2016, this term is only used for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) deaths.

² This term is used when a completed death investigation does not provide enough evidence to determine the manner of death.

Indigenous / Non-Indigenous

Table 4 provides data by Indigenous / Non-Indigenous status over a 10-year period.

TABLE 4: COUNT BY INDIGENOUS / NON-INDIGENOUS STATUS

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Status	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
Indigenous	20	12	14	15	19	19	23	39	41	5
Non-Indigenous	13	10	12	18	14	14	11	10	9	4
Total	33	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	9

Gender

Table 5 provides data by gender over a 10-year period.

TABLE 5: COUNT BY GENDER

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Gender	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
Female	17	9	10	14	16	18	15	24	28	4
Male	16	13	16	19	17	15	19	25	22	5
Total	33	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	9

Age Group

Table 6 provides data by age group over a 10-year period.

TABLE 6: COUNT BY AGE GROUP

2014 / 2015 – 2023 / 2024

Age Group	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
0 – 5	17	8	13	16	14	13	10	13	15	2
6 – 12	1	0	3	0	1	3	1	5	7	0
13 – 15	7	7	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	2
16 – 17	5	4	5	6	7	2	4	5	7	0
18+	3	3	2	8	7	11	14	22	16	5
Total	33	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	9