

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

April 1, 2013 to March 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**

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Type of Intervention	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
Initial Assessment	8	10	12	15	15	11	11	12	15	9
Not In Care	5	10	1	1	3	6	3	2	5	6
In Care	8	10	6	8	7	9	9	6	7	19
Over 18 & Receiving Post 18 Intervention Supports	3	3	3	2	8	7	10	14	22	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>

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

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Manner of Death	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
Accidental	2	5	4	7	9	8	11	11	21	5
Homicide	1	2	5	1	3	2	0	3	1	0
Natural	6	4	1	4	4	2	3	0	2	0
Pending	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	6	13	31
Suicide	4	7	4	3	3	8	6	7	3	2
Unclassified <sup>1</sup>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined <sup>2</sup>	7	6	4	2	5	7	2	2	4	1
Death not investigated by OCME	4	7	3	6	5	5	8	5	4	11
Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Manner of Death	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023	
<b>Indigenous</b>	Accidental	1	4	2	3	4	5	8	8	15	<b>3</b>
	Homicide	1	1	2	1	3	2	0	2	1	<b>0</b>
	Natural	4	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	2	<b>0</b>
	Pending	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	10	<b>26</b>
	Suicide	3	6	3	3	1	4	4	2	2	<b>2</b>
	Unclassified <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Undetermined <sup>2</sup>	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	2	4	<b>1</b>
	Death not investigated by OCME	3	4	3	1	2	3	3	4	4	<b>9</b>
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>0</b>
	<b>Indigenous Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	Accidental	1	1	2	4	5	3	3	3	6	<b>2</b>
	Homicide	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>0</b>
	Natural	2	4	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Pending	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	<b>5</b>
	Suicide	1	1	1	0	2	4	2	5	1	<b>0</b>
	Unclassified <sup>1</sup>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Undetermined <sup>2</sup>	4	1	3	1	3	4	1	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Death not investigated by OCME	1	3	0	5	3	2	5	1	0	<b>2</b>
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous Subtotal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Status	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
Indigenous	15	20	12	14	15	19	19	23	39	41
Non-Indigenous	9	13	10	12	18	14	14	11	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>

## Gender

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

**TABLE 5: COUNT BY GENDER**

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Gender	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
Female	14	17	9	10	14	16	18	15	24	28
Male	10	16	13	16	19	17	15	19	25	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>

## Age Group

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

**TABLE 6: COUNT BY AGE GROUP**

2013 / 2014 – 2022 / 2023

Age Group	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
0 – 5	13	17	8	13	16	14	13	10	13	15
6 – 12	4	1	0	3	0	1	3	1	5	7
13 – 15	2	7	7	3	3	4	4	5	4	5
16 – 17	2	5	4	5	6	7	2	4	5	7
18+	3	3	3	2	8	7	11	14	22	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>