

Deaths of Children, Youth and Young Adults Receiving Intervention Services

April 1, 2015 to August 31, 2024

The Ministry of Children and Family 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.
- **Post 18 Intervention Supports:** Young adults aged 18 and over who were previously involved in Child Intervention can access Post 18 Intervention Supports to enable their transition to full independence. New supports for young adults were launched in 2022-23 under the Transition to Adulthood (TAP) program.

TABLE 1: COUNT BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Type of Intervention	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Initial Assessment	12	15	15	11	11	12	15	9	7	0
Not In Care	1	1	3	6	3	2	5	6	2	2
In Care	6	8	7	9	9	6	7	19	9	8
Post 18 Intervention Supports	3	2	8	7	10	14	22	16	16	8
Total	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	34	18

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

©2024 Government of Alberta | September 2024 | Children and Family Services | Page 1 of 5



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

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Manner of Death	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Accidental	4	7	9	8	11	13	24	20	15	1
Homicide	5	2	4	2	0	4	1	1	0	0
Natural	1	4	4	2	3	1	3	2	1	0
Pending	1	0	1	1	3	1	3	7	13	13
Suicide	4	3	3	8	6	7	6	6	0	2
Unclassified ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined ²	4	2	5	7	2	3	6	4	1	0
Death not investigated by OCME	3	6	5	5	8	5	5	10	4	1
Death occurred outside Alberta	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	34	18

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

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Manner of Death		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Indigenous	Accidental	2	3	4	5	8	10	17	16	12	1
	Homicide	2	2	3	2	0	3	1	1	0	0
	Natural	1	3	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
	Pending	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	4	8	11
	Suicide	3	3	1	4	4	2	5	6	0	2
	Unclassified ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined ²	1	1	2	3	1	3	6	4	0	0
	Death not investigated by OCME	3	1	2	3	3	4	5	8	2	1
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Indigenous Subtotal	12	14	15	19	19	23	39	41	22	16	
Non-Indigenous	Accidental	2	4	5	3	3	3	7	4	3	0
	Homicide	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Natural	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0
	Pending	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	5	2
	Suicide	1	0	2	4	2	5	1	0	0	0
	Unclassified ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined ²	3	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Death not investigated by OCME	0	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	2	0
	Death occurred outside Alberta	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Indigenous Subtotal	10	12	18	14	14	11	10	9	12	2	

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

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Status	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Indigenous	12	14	15	19	19	23	39	41	22	16
Non-Indigenous	10	12	18	14	14	11	10	9	12	2
Total	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	34	18

Gender

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

TABLE 5: COUNT BY GENDER

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Gender	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Female	9	10	14	16	18	15	24	29	20	7
Male	13	16	19	17	15	19	25	21	14	11
Total	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	34	18

Age Group

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

TABLE 6: COUNT BY AGE GROUP

2015-2016 – 2024-2025

Age Group	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
0 – 5	8	13	16	14	13	10	13	15	7	3
6 – 12	0	3	0	1	3	1	5	7	1	0
13 – 15	7	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	8	6
16 – 17	4	5	6	7	2	4	5	7	2	1
18+	3	2	8	7	11	14	22	16	16	8
Total	22	26	33	33	33	34	49	50	34	18