

Life Expectancy in Alberta

By Income and Sex, Combined Years 2005 to 2014

Life expectancy (LE) is one of the most widely used measures of health. The major limitation of life expectancy as a health indicator is that it only takes into account the length of life and not quality of life. Over the past 30 years in Alberta, life expectancy has increased by 5 years; from 76.8 in 1986 to 81.8 in 2014.

Life expectancy is affected by many factors including socioeconomic status (employment, income, education and economic wellbeing); health system quality (i.e. access); health behaviors (tobacco and alcohol consumption, diet, physical activity); social, genetic and environmental factors.

Today's edition of *Health Trends Alberta* shows the life expectancy of Albertans by sex, across 13 income groupings for the combined years 2005 to 2014. Median income is used from the 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey at the dissemination area (DA) level.

Life Expectancy highest for Albertans living in high income areas

Today's graph shows an increase in life expectancy as income increases. The gradient is steepest at the lowest income groups (i.e. for Albertans who live in DAs with median income under \$20,000) and then flattens out more as income increases.

The gap in LE between the highest and lowest income group is 16.6 years for males and 17.8 years for females.

The lowest income category (<\$15,000) include areas such as: Kehewin, Atikameg, Chateh, Fox Lake, Brocket, Orion, Morley, Stand Off, Stoney Reserve, Calgary Centre, Edmonton (Boyle Street/Alberta Avenue, McCauley).

