Employment and Social Development Canada

Indicators of **Well-being in Canada**

Health - Mortality from Leading Diseases

Status

- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Self-rated Health
- Self-rated Mental Health
- Low Birth Weight

Life events

- Mortality from Leading Diseases

Key influences

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Physical Activity
- Regular Medical Doctor
- Patient Satisfaction

Definition and Methodology | *Display High Contrast Charts*

Relevance

Diseases of the circulatory system and cancers are the leading causes of death in Canada. Heart attack and stroke are the main causes of death from circulatory diseases. The leading cause of death from cancer is lung cancer among the Canadian population.

In order to compare mortality over time and across populations with different age structures, mortality is age-standardized to the 1991 Canadian Census population (see *Age-standardized rate* for more details).

Summary

- National Picture — In 2009, heart attack and lung cancer were the leading causes of death in Canada.
- Gender — The probability of dying from a heart attack, stroke, or leading cancers was higher for men than women in 2009.
- Regions — In 2009, mortality from heart attack, stroke and leading cancers combined was much higher in Nunavut compared to other territories and provinces.
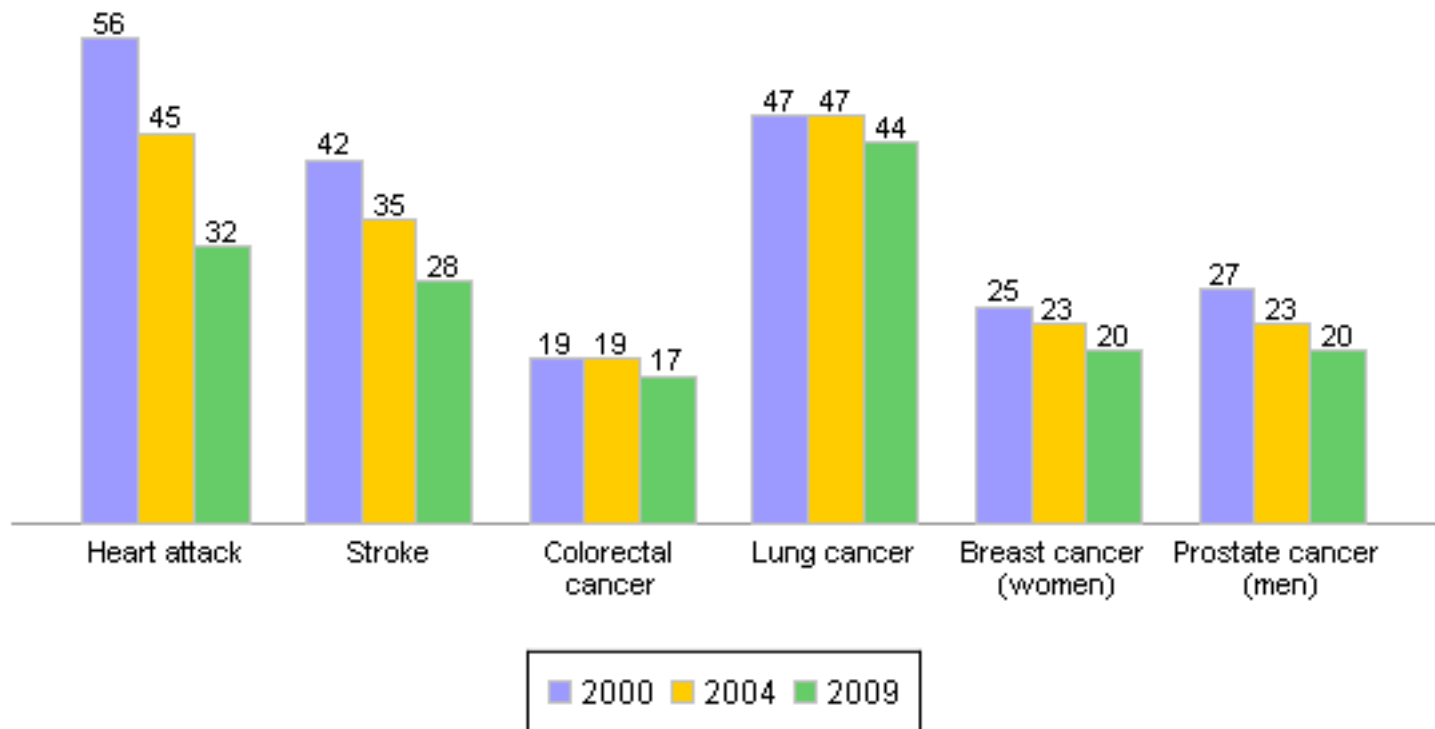
National Picture

In 2009, heart attack was the leading cause of death from circulatory diseases, at 32 deaths per 100,000 Canadians. Lung cancer was the leading cause of death from cancer, at 44 deaths per 100,000.

Mortality for heart attack, stroke, and prostate cancer decreased between 2000 and 2009. Heart attack mortality decreased from 56 deaths per 100,000 Canadians in 2000 to 32 in 2009. Stroke mortality fell from 42 to 28 deaths per 100,000 Canadians. Prostate cancer mortality decreased from 27 to 20 deaths per 100,000 men. Breast cancer decreased, from 25 to 20 deaths per 100,000 women.

Mortality from leading circulatory diseases and cancers, Canada, 2000, 2004 and 2009

(per 100,000 people)

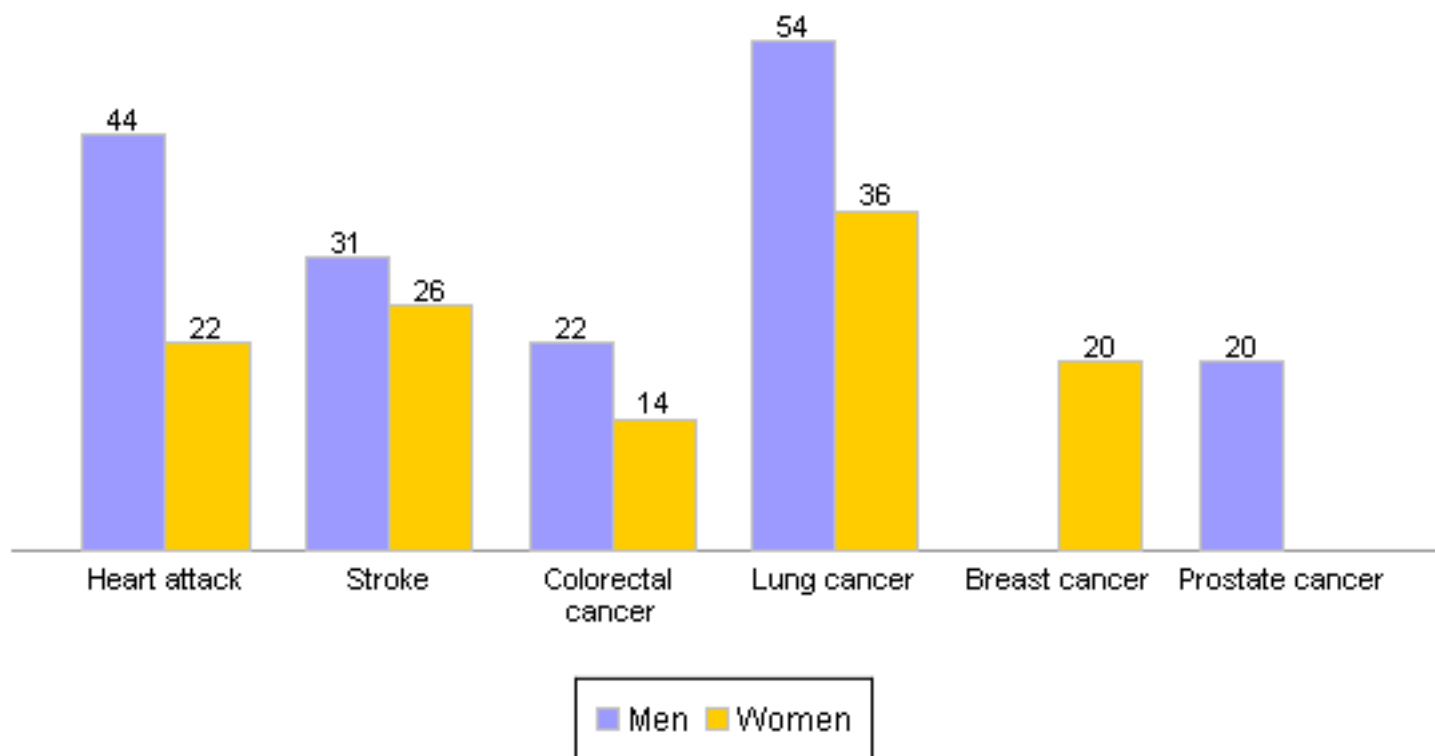| Cause	2000	2004	2009
Heart attack	56	45	32
Stroke	42	35	28
Colorectal cancer	19	19	17
Lung cancer	47	47	44
Breast cancer (women)	25	23	20
Prostate cancer (men)	27	23	20

Source: Statistics Canada. *Deaths and mortality rate, 2000-2009, by selected causes and sex, Canada, provinces and territories* (CANSIM Table 102-0552). Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012.

[Show Data Table]

Gender

Mortality for heart attack, stroke, and colorectal and lung cancers was higher for men than women in 2009. Thus, except for gender-specific cancers, men were more likely to die from these diseases than women.

Mortality from leading circulatory diseases and cancers, by gender, 2009 (per 100,000 people)
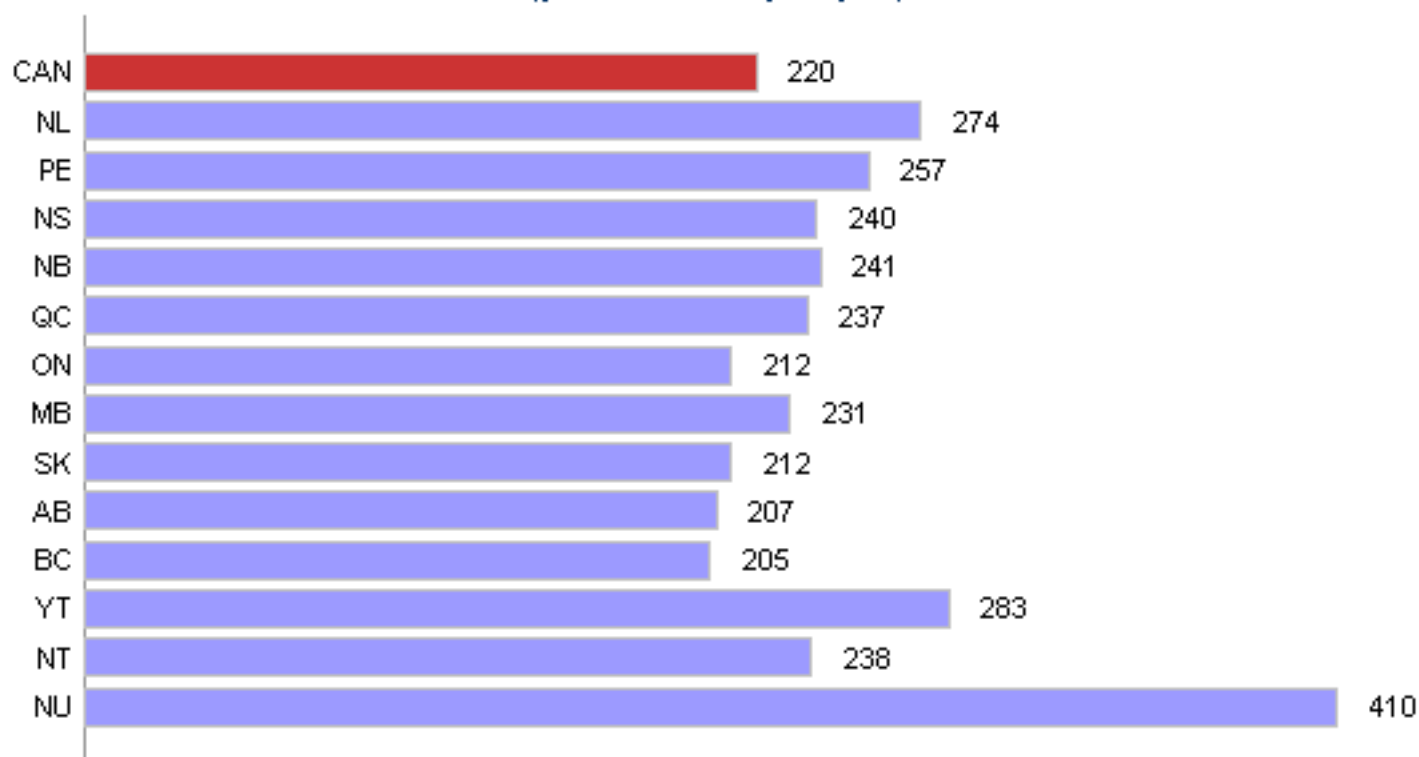

Source: Statistics Canada. *Deaths and mortality rate, 2000-2009, by selected causes and sex, Canada, provinces and territories* (CANSIM Table 102-0552). Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012.

[Show Data Table]

Regions

In 2009, mortality for heart attack, stroke and all cancers (excluding gender-specific cancers) ranged from 205 deaths per 100,000 people in British Columbia to 410 deaths per 100,000 in Nunavut. Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia had lower mortality for these illnesses than the national average.

Mortality from leading circulatory diseases and cancers combined by region, 2009 (per 100,000 people)

Region	Rate
CAN	220
NL	274
PE	257
NS	240
NB	241
QC	237
ON	212
MB	231
SK	212
AB	207
BC	205
YT	283
NT	238
NU	410

Source: Statistics Canada. *Deaths and mortality rate, 2000-2009, by selected causes and sex, Canada, provinces and territories* (CANSIM Table 102-0552). Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012.

[Show Data Table]

Download Data

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