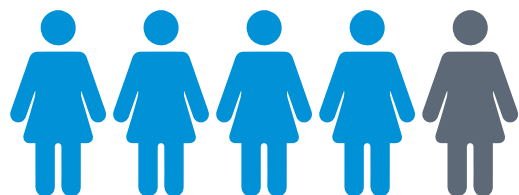


Substance Use Harms among Canadian Women: A Spotlight on Deaths Attributable to Alcohol

Among women in Canada,

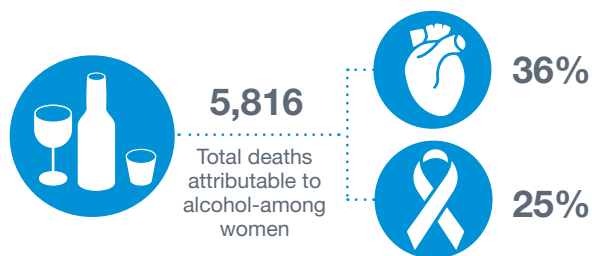


about 1 in 5 deaths from all causes in 2017 were attributable to substance use.¹

20% of these deaths were attributable to alcohol.²

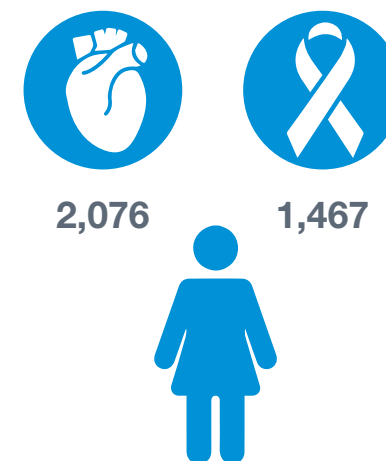


More than 6 in 10 alcohol-attributable deaths among women were associated with cardiovascular conditions and cancers.³



Over 20% of the women who died from these conditions were 65 or younger.

This amounts to about **3,543 preventable deaths**



That's almost **10 lives lost per day.**

Context matters!

Individual and social factors shape health outcomes, including rates of deaths attributable to substance use among Canadians.⁴

It is important to consider these factors when analyzing and interpreting rates of substance-use attributable deaths across Canada.



Childhood experiences



Physical environments



Education and literacy



Income and social status



Employment and working conditions



Access to health and social services



Social environment and supports



Race and culture



Biology and genetics



Gender

¹ We estimated the proportion of female deaths attributable to substance use by dividing the total number of deaths among females reported in CSUCH (28,949 deaths) by the total number of female deaths in Canada in 2017 reported by Statistics Canada (135,591 deaths; StatsCan Table: 13-10-0709-01).

² We estimated the proportion of female deaths attributed to alcohol using CSUCH data by dividing the number of female deaths attributed to alcohol (5,816 deaths) by the number of female deaths attributed to all substances (28,949 deaths). See the CSUCH online data visualization tool, found at www.csuch.ca to replicate our findings.

³ Cardiovascular conditions include hypertensive disease/hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, cardiac arrhythmias, haemorrhagic stroke, oesophageal varices. Cancers include oral cavity and pharynx, oesophageal, colorectal, liver, pancreatic, laryngeal, and breast. See *Canadian Substance Use Cost and Harms Scientific Working Group (2020)* for more information.

⁴ To learn more about how the social determinants of health can shape health outcomes see [Social determinants of health and health inequalities](#).