

# Epilepsy in Canada



Epilepsy is a brain disorder that produces abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain. If uncontrolled, it results in recurrent seizures that vary in:

## Frequency



LESS THAN 1 PER YEAR  
to MANY PER DAY

## Form



DIFFERENT SYMPTOMS  
and SIGNS

## Duration



A FEW SECONDS to a  
FEW MINUTES or LONGER

**CANADIANS LIVING WITH EPILEPSY** CAN EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES. WITH THE RIGHT CARE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO **MANAGE EPILEPSY** AND **LIMIT OR EVEN PREVENT SEIZURES**.

## Canadians LIVING with epilepsy (2013–2014)

About **300,000 Canadians**, or

**42,000** children/youth + **256,000** adults

**= 2X** population of Prince Edward Island



PREVALENCE IN ADULTS **HIGHER** THAN IN CHILDREN/YOUTH



1-19 YEARS  
545 per 100,000 individuals



20+ YEARS  
892 per 100,000 individuals

## Canadians NEWLY DIAGNOSED with epilepsy (2013–2014)

About **20,000 Canadians**, or

**5,000** children/youth + **15,000** adults

**= 54** new cases every day

INCIDENCE IN CHILDREN/YOUTH **HIGHER** THAN IN ADULTS



1-19 YEARS  
60 per 100,000 individuals



20+ YEARS  
53 per 100,000 individuals

Proportion of Canadians living with epilepsy OVER TIME (2005–2006 to 2013–2014):



**UP** by **1/3** in children/youth and by **1/4** in adults

This **INCREASE** is likely the result of an increasing rate of newly diagnosed epilepsy cases in children/youth and a decreasing rate of death due to any cause in Canadians with epilepsy.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT EPILEPSY IN CANADA

VISIT [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) and SEARCH 'Epilepsy'  
READ [Mapping connections—An understanding of neurological conditions in Canada](#)  
GET DATA [infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/CCDSS-SCSMC](http://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/CCDSS-SCSMC)

LIKE US @HealthyCdns on Facebook  
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MORE [epilepsy.ca](http://epilepsy.ca) | [canadianepilepsyalliance.org](http://canadianepilepsyalliance.org) | [claegroup.org/index.php](http://claegroup.org/index.php)

**DATA SOURCE:** Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System (CCDSS), September 2017. Rates do not include data from Quebec. Prevalence and incidence numbers for Quebec were estimated based on Canadian rates and added to the Canadian total.

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