

Multiple Sclerosis in Canada



Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease of the **central nervous system (CNS)**. The immune system attacks **myelin** (protective covering of the nerves) in the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves, which disrupts communication between the CNS and the rest of the body.

MS is unpredictable, often occurring in a pattern of relapses and remissions. There is currently no cure for MS, but **TREATMENTS** are available to decrease the frequency and severity of relapses and to ease MS symptoms.

Symptoms may include



WALKING DIFFICULTIES



VISION PROBLEMS



WEAKNESS OR CLUMSINESS



FATIGUE



ABNORMAL SENSATION
(e.g. tingling or numbness)



MOOD AND COGNITIVE CHANGES



PAIN

MS causes are not fully understood, but **GENETICS** combined with other factors related with **LIFESTYLE + ENVIRONMENT**, for example, may play a role.

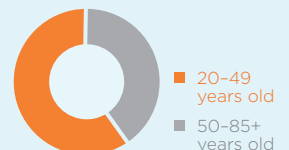
New estimates (fiscal year 2014–2015) show that in **Canadians aged 20+**

Over **77,000** live with MS;
almost **3/4** are women.



On average, **8 women + 3 men**
are diagnosed with MS every day.

About **60%** of adults newly
diagnosed with MS are **20–49 years old**.



Between 2003–2004 and 2014–2015

The proportion of Canadians living with MS increased by 1/3 but the rate of new cases did not increase.



Overall, Canadians with MS **live longer now than before.**



LEARN MORE ABOUT MS IN CANADA

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DATA SOURCE: Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System (CCDSS), March 2018. Rates do not include data from Quebec and Yukon. Prevalence and incidence numbers for Quebec and Yukon were estimated based on Canadian rates and added to the Canadian total. CCDSS data are based on health administrative data and capture people with diagnosed MS who had contact with the health system during the data collection period. This may underestimate the total number of people diagnosed with MS during a lifetime.

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