

Suspected Heat-Related Deaths, 2023

The following summarizes the number of heat-related deaths reported to the BC Coroners Service between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Caveats: As the BCCS operates in a live database environment, the data are considered preliminary and subject to change as investigations conclude. These data were compiled by date of death, which may differ from the date of injury. In some cases, the death may occur months or years after injury.

Methodology: The data presented in this report are based on the aggregated results of coroners' investigations into the circumstances of a death where cause of death is suspected to be "Effects of Heat."

Definition: A heat-related death is defined as a death where:

- The localized environment or body temperature is keeping with hyperthermia (ICD10 T670); or
- There is no direct temperature at the time of death but there is evidence (circumstantial, scene environment, medical history) to support that heat played a significant causal effect on the death (ICD10 T679).

Summary

- There were 11 suspected heat-related deaths in 2023.
- The majority of deaths (82%) occurred in July and August.
- 64% of deaths were among people age 60 and over.
- Males accounted for 73% of deaths.
- Interior Health had the greatest number of deaths (5) followed by Island Health (4).

Heat-Related Deaths by Month of Death

Table 1: Heat-Related Deaths by Month of Death, 2023	
	2023
May	1
June	1
July	5
August	4
Total	11



Heat-Related Deaths by Age Group

Table 2: Heat-Related Deaths by Age Group, 2023	
	2023
<30	1
40-49	0
50-59	3
60-69	3
70-79	2
80-89	1
90+	1
Total	11

Heat-Related Deaths by Sex

Table 3: Heat-Related Deaths by Sex, 2023	
	2023
Female	3
Male	8
Total	11

Heat-Related Deaths by Health Authority of Injury

Table 4: Heat-Related Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2023	
	2023
Interior	5
Fraser	2
Island	4
Total	11