

Day of MOURNING

British Columbia Facts¹



Work-related death claims for 2021

There were 161 work-related deaths in 2021. Of those:

- 2 who died were young workers
- 99 workers died as a result of occupational disease, with 53 as a result of asbestos exposure
- 13 workers died as a result of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace

The workers who died included 149 males and 12 females.

Work-related death claims accepted, by year, 2017–2021

Year	Total work-related deaths	Male	Female
2017	158	152	6
2018	131	125	6
2019	140	135	5
2020	151	146	5
2021	161	149	12

Young worker work-related death claims accepted, by year, 2017–2021

Year	Young worker work-related deaths
2017	6
2018	4
2019	2
2020	2
2021	2

In 2021:

- There were a total of 97,591 short-term disability, long-term disability, and health-care only claims.
- Workplace injury and illness resulted in about 3.6 million lost days of work.
- More than 2,700 claims were reported each week and more than 130 long-term disability claimants received a first payment each week.
- Almost 3 work-related death claims were accepted each week.

Work-related death claims by subsector in 2021²

Subsector	Number of work-related death claims
Agriculture	4
Fishing	4
Forestry	9
Oil and Gas or Mineral Resources	7
Food and Beverage Products	1
Metal and Non-Metallic Mineral Products	16
Petroleum, Coal, Rubber, Plastic, and Chemical Products	1
Wood and Paper Products	9
Other Products (not elsewhere specified)	1
General Construction	28
Heavy Construction ³	-1
Road Construction or Maintenance	2
Transportation and Related Services	20
Retail	1
Wholesale	1
Public Administration	20
Accommodation, Food, and Leisure Services	3
Business Services	2
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5
Other Services (not elsewhere specified)	14
Education	2
Health Care and Social Services	6
Utilities	2

Number of accepted work-related death claims by regional district⁴ in 2021

Region	Number of work-related death claims	Region	Number of work-related death claims
Alberni-Clayquot	2	Mount Waddington	4
Bulkley-Nechako	6	Nanaimo	2
Capital	6	North Okanagan	0
Cariboo	2	Northern Rockies	0
Central Coast	0	Okanagan-Similkameen	3
Central Kootenay	1	Peace River	4
Central Okanagan	5	Powell River	2
Columbia-Shuswap	2	Skeena-Haida Gwaii	2
Comox Valley	0	Squamish-Lillooet	1
Cowichan Valley	4	Stikine	3
East Kootenay	2	Strathcona	4
Fraser Valley	3	Sunshine Coast	0
Fraser-Fort George	0	Thompson-Nicola	8
Greater Vancouver	56	Unknown or uncoded	13
Kitimat-Stikine	6	Out of province	2
Kootenay-Boundary	2	Disease with exposures in multiple regions	16

Work-related death claims accepted by year, cause of injury, 2017–2021

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Traumatic	43	40	40	51	47
Motor vehicle incident	28	25	16	12	15
Disease	87	66	84	88	99
Total	158	131	140	151	161

Work-related death claims accepted by year, asbestos-related and other diseases, 2017–2021

Category of disease	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Asbestosis	6	3	12	14	9	44
Lung cancer	12	10	15	11	12	60
Mesothelioma	47	34	41	29	30	181
Other cancer	10	7	10	16	16	59
Cardiovascular disease	4	4	5	9	9	31
Other disease	8	8	1	9	23	49
Total asbestos-related	69	46	60	51	53	279
Total occupational disease	87	66	84	88	99	424
Percentage of total work-related death claims	55%	50%	60%	58%	61%	57%

- 1 Preliminary statistics as of February 28, 2022.
- 2 Four work-related deaths are counted in deposit class subsectors.
- 3 A count of -1 represents a change in subsector for a given claim, where the -1 records the removal of the claim from the old subsector and a corresponding +1 is recorded in the new subsector.
- 4 Single-incident work-related death claims are primarily coded based on incident location.