



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec  
Environmental Health Association of Québec

# Demographic characteristics of the MCS population in Canada, 2020

Introduction: this document presents the prevalence of MCS and at least one other chronic condition in Canada in 2020.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2020, Statistics Canada.  
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## ASEQ-EHAQ

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**Français :** HypersensibiliteEnvironnementale.com  
LaVieEcolo.ca

**English:** Environmentalsensitivities.com  
EcoLivingGuide.ca

The table below illustrates the presence and absence of chronic conditions among those with or without MCS, by age, Canada, 2020.

Condition	Stratifier	Age	Number of people	CV	95% Confidence interval (number)	Percentage of people	CV	95% Confidence interval (percentage)
Has MCS	Total population	Total	1,130,800	4.28	1,035,900 – 1,225,700	3.52	4.38	3.22 – 3.81
		55 and under	576,900	7.12	496,400 – 657,500	2.77	7.11	2.38 – 3.16
		Over 55	553,900	4.66	503,200 – 604,500	4.88	4.62	4.44 – 5.33
	Has at least 1 other physical chronic condition	Total	879,200	4.64	799,300 – 959,200	77.75	2.68	73.67 – 81.84
		55 and under	402,000	8.11	338,200 – 465,900	69.69	5.2	62.58 – 76.79
		Over 55	477,200	4.72	433,100 – 521,300	86.16	2.02	82.75 – 89.57
	No other chronic condition	Total	251,600	11	197,300 – 305,800	22.25	9.38	18.16 – 26.33
		55 and under	174,900	14.79	124,200 – 225,600	30.31	11.95	23.21 – 37.42
		Over 55	76,700	14.46	54,900 – 98,400	13.84	12.57	10.43 – 17.25
No MCS	Total population	Total	31,034,700	0.16	30,936,700 – 31,132,800	96.48	0.16	96.19 – 96.78
		55 and under	20,246,000	0.38	20,093,300 – 20,398,600	97.23	0.2	96.84 – 97.62
		Over 55	10,788,800	0.65	10,650,500 – 10,927,100	95.12	0.24	94.67 – 95.56
	Has at least 1 other physical chronic condition	Total	13,979,600	0.97	13,712,500 – 14,246,700	45.04	0.97	44.19 – 45.9
		55 and under	6,370,600	1.95	6,126,700 – 6,614,400	31.47	1.91	30.29 – 32.64
		Over 55	7,609,000	0.99	7,461,500 – 7,756,600	70.53	0.8	69.42 – 71.63
	No other chronic condition	Total	17,055,100	0.82	16,779,700 – 17,330,600	54.96	0.8	54.1 – 55.81
		55 and under	13,875,400	0.95	13,617,700 – 14,133,100	68.53	0.88	67.36 – 69.71
		Over 55	3,179,700	2.08	3,050,300 – 3,309,200	29.47	1.91	28.37 – 30.58

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2020



Note: the list of chronic conditions includes asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), fibromyalgia, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, suffers from the effects of a stroke, diabetes, dementia, chronic fatigue syndrome, mood disorder or anxiety disorder.

Summary description:

- Approximately **3.52%** of the total Canadian population **have a diagnosis of MCS**.
- **77.75%** of people diagnosed with MCS have **at least one other additional chronic condition** whereas 45.04% of the general population without MCS have an additional chronic condition.
- For people diagnosed with MCS **over the age of 55**, about **86.16%** have **at least one other additional chronic condition**. Whereas, 70.53% of the general population without MCS have an additional chronic condition.

The table below illustrate the presence and absence of chronic conditions among those with or without MCS, by sex, Canada, 2020.

Condition	Stratifier	Age	Number of people	CV	95% Confidence interval (number)	Percentage of people	CV	95% Confidence interval (percentage)
Has MCS	Total population	Total	1,130,800	4.28	1,035,900 – 1,225,700	3.52	4.28	3.22 – 3.81
		Male	315,100	8.91	260,100 – 370,200	1.98	8.92	1.64 – 2.33
		Female	815,700	4.79	739,100 – 892,200	5.02	4.79	4.54 – 5.49
	Has at least 1 other physical chronic condition	Total	879,200	4.64	799,300 – 959,200	77.75	2.68	73.67 – 81.84
		Male	243,900	10.14	195,400 – 292,400	77.39	4.49	70.58 – 84.21
		Female	635,300	4.96	573,600 – 697,100	77.89	3.25	72.93 – 82.85
	No other chronic condition	Total	251,600	11	197,300 – 305,800	22.25	9.38	18.16 – 26.33
		Male	71,200 <sup>E</sup>	17.6	46,700 – 95,800	22.61 <sup>E</sup>	15.37	15.79 – 29.42
		Female	180,300	13.64	132,100 – 228,500	22.11	11.45	17.15 – 27.07
No MCS	Total population	Total	31,034,700	0.16	30,936,700 – 31,132,800	96.48	0.16	96.19 – 96.78
		Male	15,587,000	0.2	15,526,600 – 15,647,400	98.02	0.18	97.67 – 98.36
		Female	15,447,700	0.26	15,370,000 – 15,525,500	94.98	0.25	94.51 – 95.46
	Has at least 1 other physical chronic condition	Total	13,979,600	0.97	13,712,500 – 14,246,700	45.04	0.97	44.19 – 45.9
		Male	6,630,400	1.45	6,442,100 – 6,818, 800	42.54	1.45	41.33 – 43.75
		Female	7,349,200	1.28	7,165,400 – 7,532,900	47.57	1.26	46.4 – 48.74
	No other chronic condition	Total	17,055,100	0.82	16,779,700 – 17,330,600	54.96	0.8	54.1 – 55.81
		Male	8,956,600	1.1	8,762,900 – 9,150,200	57.46	1.07	56.25 – 58.67
		Female	8,098,600	1.17	7,912,400 – 8,284,800	52.43	1.14	51.26 – 53.6

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2020

E: use with caution

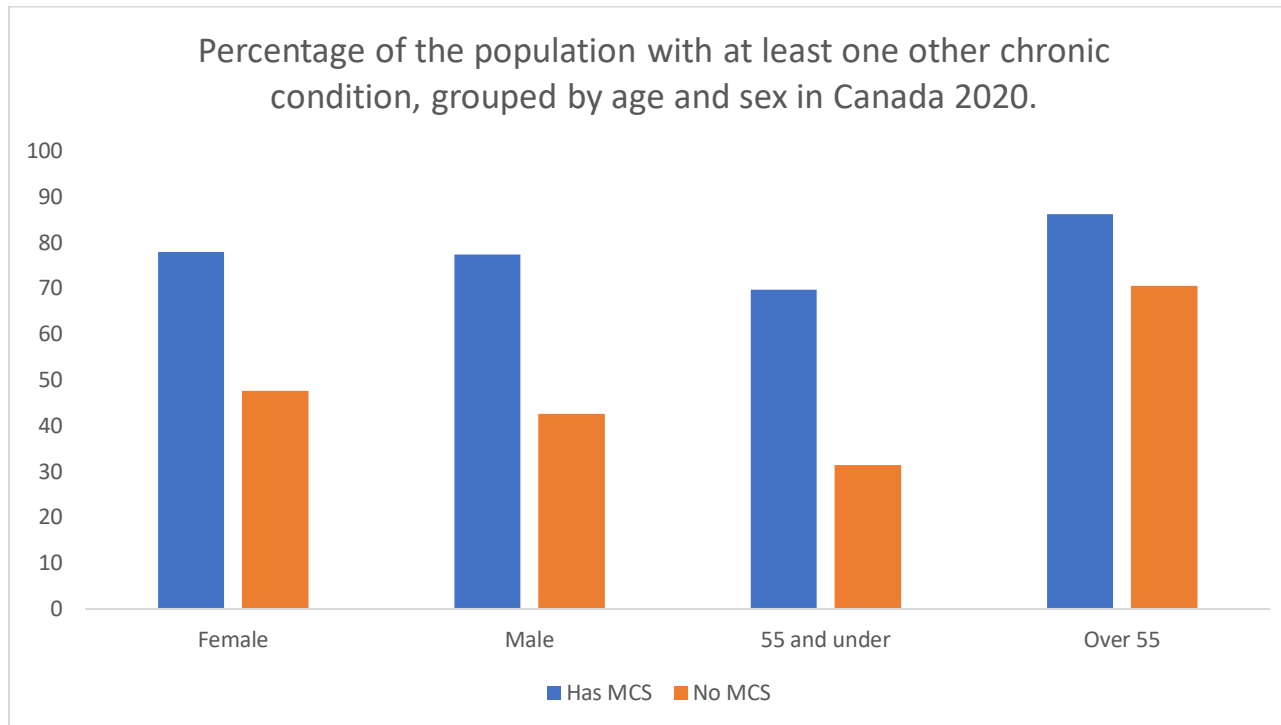


Note: the list of chronic conditions includes asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), fibromyalgia, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, suffers from the effects of a stroke, diabetes, dementia, chronic fatigue syndrome, mood disorder or anxiety disorder.

#### Summary description

- For people diagnosed with MCS, females (**77.89%**) and males (**77.39%**) have **similar prevalence** of having at least one another chronic condition at national level
- **For the general Canadian population:** more females (**47.47%**) have an additional chronic condition than males (**42.54%**).

The graph shows the comparison between the general population and the population living MCS, grouped by age and sex.



Summary description: In Canada, the population diagnosed with MCS are **more likely to have at least one additional chronic condition than** the population without MCS, **regardless of age or sex.**