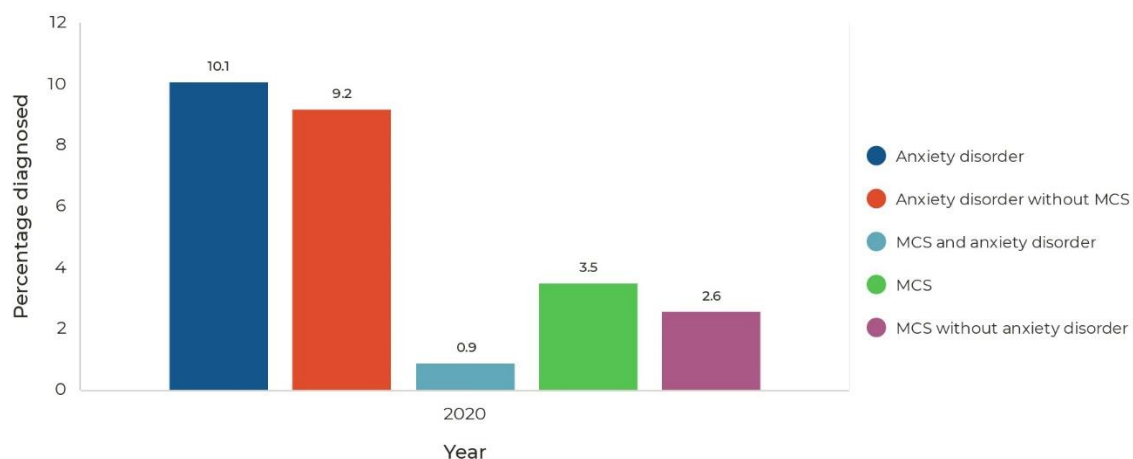


MCS and anxiety disorder

Data from the 2020 cycle of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada, shows that **the cause of multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) cannot be attributed to anxiety disorder**. This is evident from the graph shown below:

MCS and anxiety disorder Prevalence among Canadians aged 12 and over (2020)

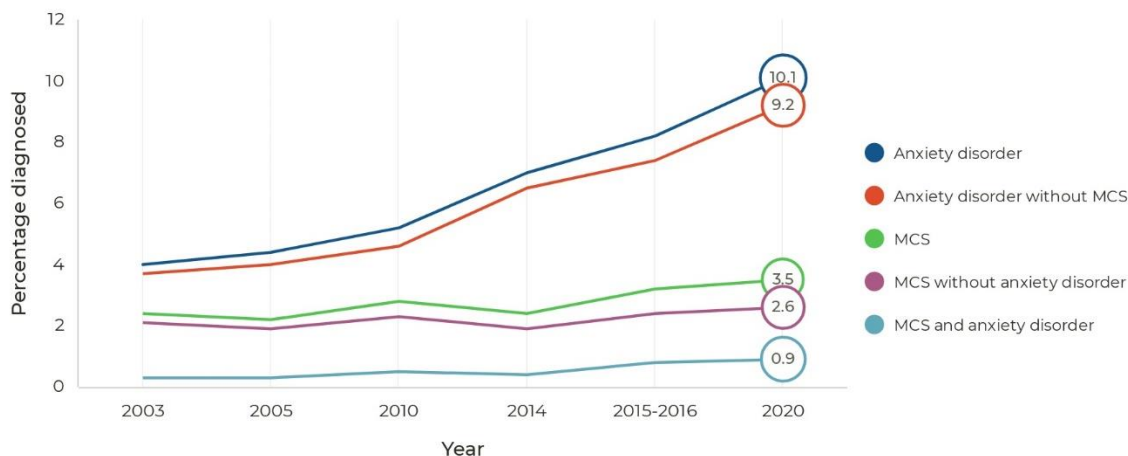


Source: 2020 Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada

Some key insights can be drawn from the above graph. An overwhelming majority of people with anxiety disorder do not have MCS and vice-versa. For example, in 2020, 91.3% of people diagnosed with anxiety disorder did not have MCS. **This trend has been observed for each cycle of the CCHS up until 2020 where data on both MCS and anxiety disorder has been collected which includes the following years: 2003, 2005, 2010, 2014, 2015-16, and 2020.** A graph depicting this trend is provided below:

MCS and anxiety disorder

Prevalence among Canadians aged 12 and over (2003-2020)



Source: 2003-2020 Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada

Key insights:

- From 2003 to 2020, diagnosed cases of anxiety disorder among Canadians aged 12 and above have surged by over 200%.
- In contrast, diagnosed MCS cases within the same demographic and timeframe have only risen by approximately 75%.
- Moreover, the percentage of individuals diagnosed with both MCS, and anxiety disorder has remained relatively steady and significantly lower in comparison. This data indicates that anxiety disorder is more prevalent in Canada, emphasizing that MCS cannot be attributed to anxiety.

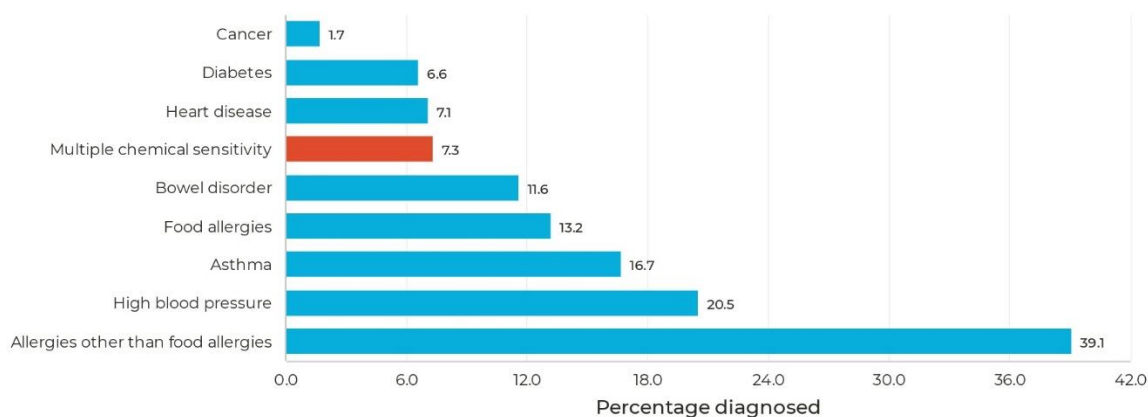
Anxiety disorder and comorbidities

Canadians with anxiety disorder also have other chronic conditions, many of which are more prevalent than MCS. These include allergies, high blood pressure, asthma, and bowel disorder. However, this does not imply that any one of these chronic conditions is caused by anxiety disorder. **Stating that anxiety disorder is the cause of any medical condition without scientific evidence underscores the suffering of those living with anxiety disorder and that**

medical condition. A graph depicting the prevalence of various comorbidities among Canadians aged 12 and above with anxiety disorder is provided below:

Anxiety disorder and comorbidities

Prevalence among Canadians aged 12 and over (2005)



Source: 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada

MCS is a chronic medical condition that is increasing in prevalence. **Labeling anxiety as the cause of MCS undermines the experiences of those affected, depriving them of access to necessary scent-free and least-toxic accommodations essential for full participation in society. This misattribution exacerbates challenges in securing employment, accessing healthcare, and maintaining relationships, leading to increased vulnerability, placing them at risk of harm, and diminished emotional well-being.**