



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



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Environmental Health Association of Canada
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PEER-REVIEWED STUDY CONFIRMS OVER 1.13 MILLION CANADIANS LIVING WITH MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

Saint Sauveur, February 16, 2026 - A newly published peer-reviewed study in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* confirms the sustained prevalence of **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)** in Canada.

Robins, Molot, and Peris (2026) analyzed national data collected by Statistics Canada between 2000 and 2020 and found that over **1.13 million Canadians** live with a diagnosis of MCS. Approximately **72% are women**, underscoring the important gendered dimensions of this recognized disability.

The analysis further shows that **MCS prevalence increases with age for both sexes**. Although women are diagnosed at nearly three times the rate of men overall, age-stratified findings indicate that males account for a notable share of diagnosed cases within younger age groups. This highlights the importance of early prevention and exposure reduction strategies.

MCS is not anecdotal or newly emerging. **Statistics Canada has tracked the condition consistently since 2000**, demonstrating long-term federal recognition within national health data systems.

MCS is also recognized under Canadian human-rights law and addressed internationally under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**. The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has specifically referenced MCS in its Concluding Observations to Canada, calling for the elimination of discrimination and advancement of equality — obligations that extend to municipalities and public institutions.

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The findings reinforce the need for evidence-based accessibility measures, including **fragrance-free and least-toxic environments**, to ensure equal participation in workplaces, healthcare, housing, education, and public life.

Key Findings for Media

- **1.13+ million Canadians** live with a diagnosis of MCS.
- MCS has been **tracked by Statistics Canada for over 20 years (2000–2020)**.
- **72% of diagnosed individuals are women**, highlighting significant gender disparities.
- Prevalence **increases with age for both sexes**, with younger males representing a meaningful share of early-age diagnoses.
- MCS is recognized in Canadian human-rights law and referenced by the **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, reinforcing the need for accessible, fragrance-free, and least-toxic environments.

Attributed Quote

“This study confirms what our community has long known — multiple chemical sensitivity is measurable, documented, and nationally recognized. With over 1.13 million Canadians affected and more than two decades of federal data tracking the condition, MCS demands evidence-based policy, accommodation, and prevention strategies. Recognition must translate into real accessibility, including fragrance-free, lowest-VOC emissions and the use of least-toxic products, so that people living with MCS can participate fully and equally in society.”

— Rohini Peris, President & CEO
Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC-ASEC)
Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ)

Citation

Robins, S., Molot, J., & Peris, R. (2026). Prevalence of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity in Canada Between 2000 and 2020. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 23(2), 236. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph23020236>

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