

This report summarizes avalanche deaths in B.C. reported between January 1, 1996 and March 7, 2013.

The BCCS operates in a live database environment. The data are considered preliminary until all investigations have been completed. Data are subject to change, and are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.

Summary

- Between January 1, 1996 and March 7, 2013, there was an average of 10.2 avalanche related deaths each year
- During this period 129 avalanches caused 183 deaths; 29 of these avalanches caused multiple deaths
- The average age was 36.1 years
- 90.2% of decedents were male and 9.8% were female
- 68.3% of avalanche-related deaths occurred in the Interior region, 21.3% in the Northern region, 8.2% in the Metro region, 1.6% in the Island region, and 0.5% in the Fraser region
- 40.4% of decedents were snowmobiling, 30.6% were skiing, 18.0% were heli-skiing, 4.9% were snowboarding, 4.4% were hiking or climbing, and 1.6% were engaged in occupational activities

Cases are grouped by avalanche season, with each season defined as beginning in November and ending in April of the following year. Three fatalities occurred in July (one in 1997 and two in 2005). These were included in the previous avalanche season. The 1995-1996 avalanche season only includes cases from January 1, 1996. The 2012-2013 avalanche season only includes cases up to and including March 7, 2013.

Number of Avalanche Deaths per Avalanche by Avalanche Season

Avalanche Season	Avalanche #															Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1995-1996	1	1	3													5
1996-1997	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	1							14
1997-1998	1	6	1	2	1	1	1									13
1998-1999	1	1	1	2	1	1										7
1999-2000	1	1	1	1												4
2000-2001	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						12
2001-2002	1	1	3	1	2	1										9
2002-2003	1	1	7	7	2	3	1	1	1	1						25
2003-2004	1	1	1	1	1	1										6
2004-2005	1	1	1	1	1	1	2									8
2005-2006	1	1	2	1	1	1										7
2006-2007	1	2	2													5
2007-2008	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						11
2008-2009	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	24
2009-2010	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1							11
2010-2011	1	1	1	1	3	2										9
2011-2012	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2							10
2012-2013	1	1	1													3

Avalanche Death Demographics by Season

Season	Female	Male	Average Age
1995-1996	1	4	39.3
1996-1997	1	13	36.7
1997-1998	2	11	32.4
1998-1999	1	6	32.7
1999-2000	-	4	30.8
2000-2001	2	10	34.9
2001-2002	2	7	45.3
2002-2003	4	21	31.9
2003-2004	-	6	36.3
2004-2005	-	8	43.2
2005-2006	1	6	34.9
2006-2007	1	4	31.9
2007-2008	1	10	36.2
2008-2009	-	24	34.0
2009-2010	-	11	39.2
2010-2011	1	8	44.4
2011-2012	1	9	36.9
2012-2013	-	3	36.4
Average	1.0	9.2	36.1

Avalanche Deaths by Region and Season

Season	Fraser	Interior	Island	Metro	Northern	Total
1995-1996	-	2	3	-	-	5
1996-1997	-	8	-	3	3	14
1997-1998	-	11	-	-	2	13
1998-1999	-	3	-	2	2	7
1999-2000	-	2	-	2	-	4
2000-2001	-	7	-	-	5	12
2001-2002	-	7	-	1	1	9
2002-2003	-	22	-	-	3	25
2003-2004	-	5	-	1	-	6
2004-2005	-	5	-	-	3	8
2005-2006	-	6	-	-	1	7
2006-2007	-	2	-	-	3	5
2007-2008	-	9	-	1	1	11
2008-2009	-	15	-	2	7	24
2009-2010	-	8	-	1	2	11
2010-2011	1	4	-	-	4	9
2011-2012	-	7	-	2	1	10
2012-2013	-	2	-	-	1	3
Average	0.1	6.9	0.2	0.8	2.2	10.2

Avalanche Deaths by Activity and Season

Season	Heli-ski	Hike/Climb	Snowboard	Snowmobile	Ski	Occupational*	Total
1995-1996	-	-	1	-	4	-	5
1996-1997	9	1	1	2	1	-	14
1997-1998	-	-	-	5	8	-	13
1998-1999	-	2	1	-	2	2	7
1999-2000	1	-	1	1	1	-	4
2000-2001	1	-	-	7	4	-	12
2001-2002	3	-	-	2	4	-	9
2002-2003	8	-	-	7	10	-	25
2003-2004	-	-	1	2	3	-	6
2004-2005	2	2	1	3	-	-	8
2005-2006	-	1	2	2	2	-	7
2006-2007	3	-	-	2	-	-	5
2007-2008	-	-	-	7	4	-	11
2008-2009	1	-	1	19	3	-	24
2009-2010	2	-	-	6	3	-	11
2010-2011	-	2	-	6	1	-	9
2011-2012	3	-	-	3	4	-	10
2012-2013	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Average # Deaths	1.8	0.4	0.5	4.1	3.1	0.2	10.2
Average Age	40.5	36.6	29.0	35.8	34.5	43.6	36.1

* "Occupational" decedents include a mining surveyor, and two avalanche technicians