

## Age Standardized Rates

**What:** An age standardized rate is a summary of rates that have been age adjusted to a standard population for the purpose of rate comparisons between genders, disparate geographic regions or populations, or over time periods.

**Why:** When comparing rates between different time periods or geographic regions, there exist differences in age structures that may cause variations in the rates. To account for these variations, a standard population is applied to the rate calculations to give the same age distribution structure to allow for better comparisons across the geographic regions, populations, or time periods.

**How:** An age-specific rate (ASR) for each age group is first calculated by dividing the number of cases by the respective population and then multiplying the resulting number by 100,000.

Each age specific rate is then multiplied by the proportion of the standard population belonging to the particular age group.

The age-standardized rate (AAR) is obtained by adding the resulting numbers.

AAR = Summation of (ASR X standard proportion)

**When:** The 2011 Canadian Census Population is used as the standard population to calculate the age standardized rates. The iDOT tool provides the user an option of using either the 2011 BC Census Population or the 2011 Canadian Census Population as a standard population based on the requirements of rate calculations, particularly when looking at smaller geographic regions.