

CANA Annual Statistics Report

Featuring final 2021 data, newly released 2022 data, and projections to 2027

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2022—First Glimpse of a Cremation Rate Plateau?

Disposition data from 2022 has proven that 2020 and 2021 were, by and large, pandemic outliers. The cremation growth rate has remained steady and predictable throughout this otherwise unpredictable era, but now the death and cremation numbers have decreased and follow a pre-pandemic growth pattern.

It is difficult to determine on a national level whether 2022 demonstrated a “pull forward” effect—a phenomenon where excess deaths in one year result in noticeably fewer deaths the next year or years. Data suggest it could be the case in some states or regions. Anecdotally, many CANA members reported fewer than expected deaths toward the end of 2022 and into 2023. However, 2022 represents the first year where more than 10 states experienced less than 1% growth rate, which may indicate that the state cremation growth rate begins to slow around 70% and significantly slows around 80%.

State cremation rates grow at different paces, but the observation CANA made in 2017 seems to be holding true: “The tipping point for growth acceleration is around 40%. Before that point, annual cremation growth is slow, closer to 1% on average. As 40% draws nearer, the cremation growth rate increases significantly and averages between 1.5 and 2% annually—almost following a straight line. It is expected that the growth rate will remain high until the cremation rate reaches 60%, after which it will slow significantly. . . . The U.S. cremation rate is currently 50.1%. If it follows the model, we are currently in a period of rapid growth that will peak around 60% and then begin to slow.”

In 2022, the U.S. cremation rate reached 59.0% Time will tell how quickly the national cremation rate follows state patterns; however, we may be starting to see a plateau in state cremation rates between 70 and 80%.

Methodology

Since 1913, CANA has been collecting death and cremation data from a variety of sources. Over the past 20 years, CANA has published figures primarily obtained through state and provincial governments in the United States and Canada. Based on disposition data derived from death certificates, CANA has determined the annual percentage of cremations to deaths and forecasts future cremation percentages. Please note that many states and provinces, as a matter of policy, do not release provisional data. The data reported for 2022 is provisional, subject to change, and collected from what was available at the time of publication. When the state or province would not provide data, staff retrieved death counts from national sources to support the statistical projections.

Projections

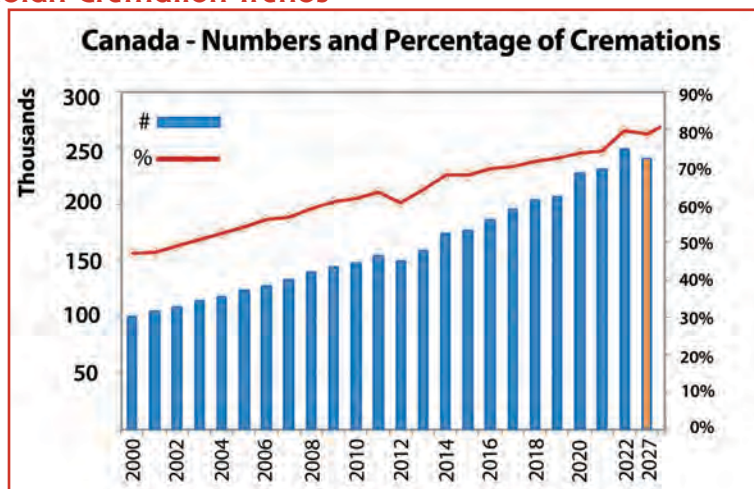
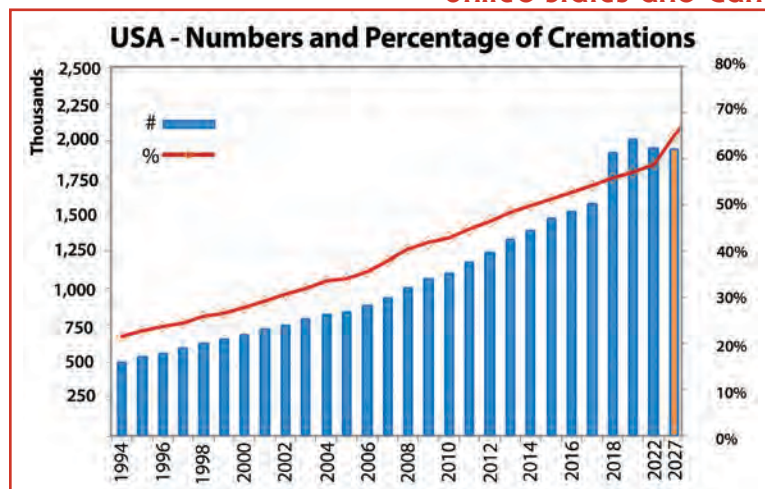
A regression analysis was implemented to aid the extrapolation of the data into future years. CANA’s consultant develops and runs six

different data models to describe future trends and projections for each state, territory and province. The reported numbers are the median of those six data models. This analysis was applied over a twenty-year period in states and provinces where such a data set was available. From these figures, CANA has determined the annual percentage of cremations to deaths, which includes all the states and provinces. CANA has also been able to use these figures to forecast future cremation percentages. Distant projections do not account for the excess deaths of 2020 and 2021 or the potential of the novel coronavirus or other widespread disaster to occur.

Quebec stopped collecting disposition data. Therefore, data is shared by provincial associations and CANA members to validate statistical projections.

For detailed information about our methodology, contact info@cremationassociation.org

United States and Canadian Cremation Trends



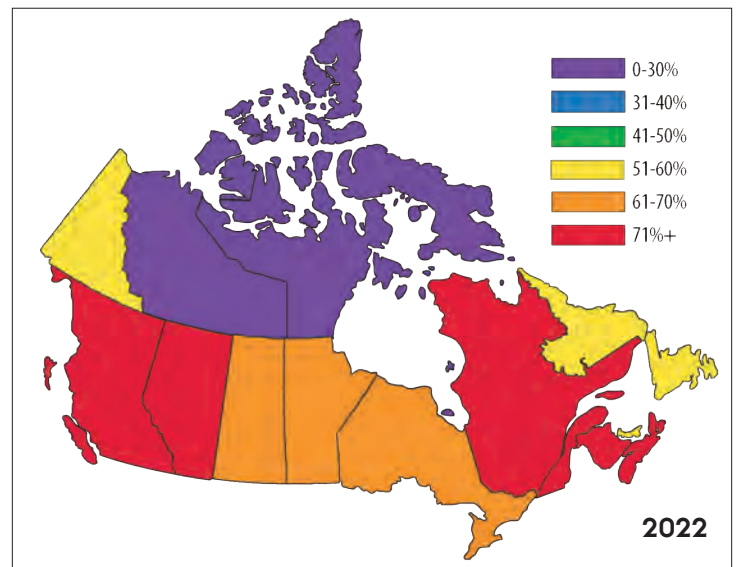
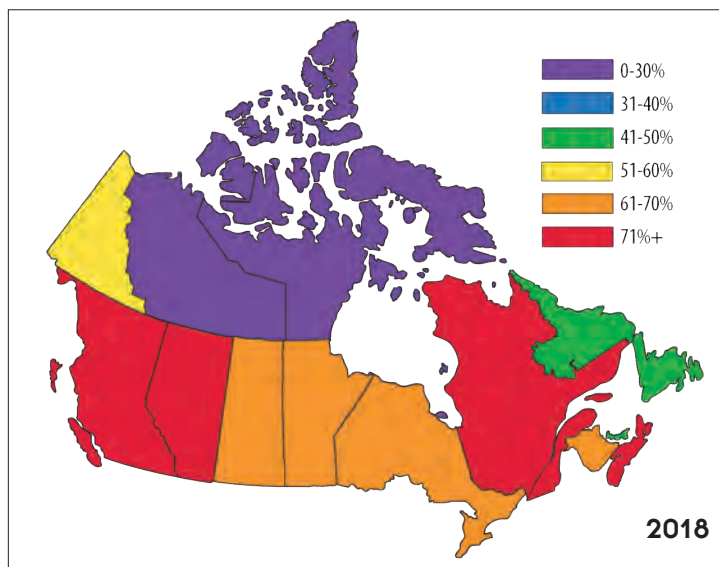
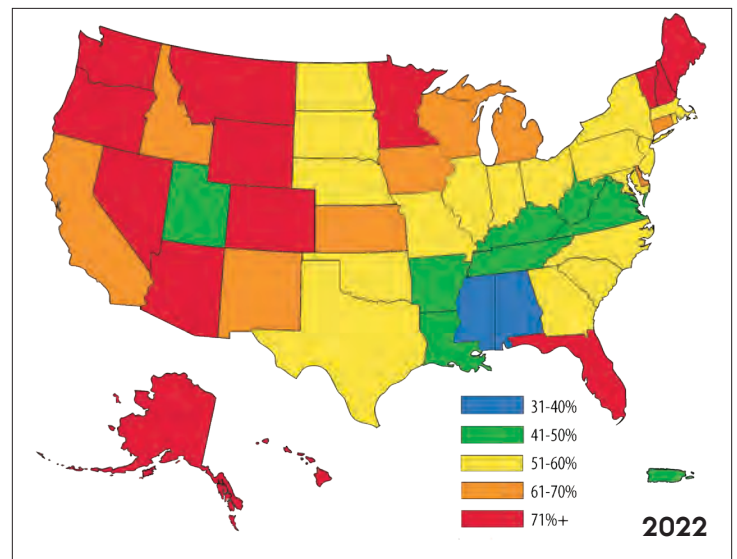
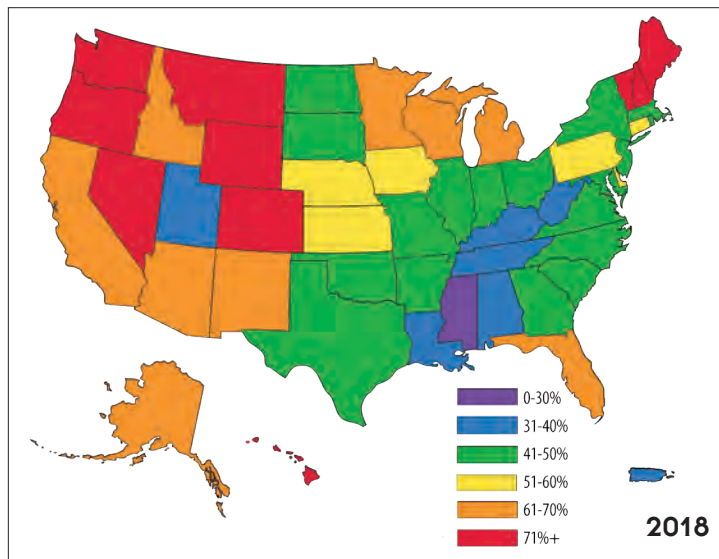
Annual Growth Rate

The annual growth rate is the difference between the yearly percentages of deaths cremated and averaged over a five-year period. The tables below show the rates for the United States and Canada from 2007 through 2022. Two items to note in the USA and Canadian tables below: 1) As cremation rates exceed 50%, the growth rate is declining as expected. 2) Canada's cremation rate in 2006 is similar to the USA 2021 percentage and the five-year average growth rate is equal. CANA predicts that the USA average growth rate will decline as Canada's did.

Annual Growth Rate – Five-Year Average USA	
Year	% Cremated
2007	34.2%
2012	43.0%
2017	51.5%
2022	59.0%
% Change 2007 - 2012	8.9%
% Change 2012 - 2017	8.4%
% Change 2017 - 2022	7.5%
Annual Growth Rate per year over 2017-2022	1.50%

Annual Growth Rate – Five-Year Average Canada	
Year	% Cremated
2007	56.6%
2012	60.5%
2017	70.0%
2022	74.4%
% Change 2007 - 2012	3.9%
% Change 2012 - 2017	9.5%
% Change 2017 - 2022	4.4%
Annual Growth Rate per year over 2017-2022	0.88%

Percentages of Cremations in the States/Provinces for 2018 and 2022



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