

# CANA Annual Statistics Report

Featuring final 2017 data, newly released 2018 data, and projections to 2023

©CANA, 2019

## Introduction

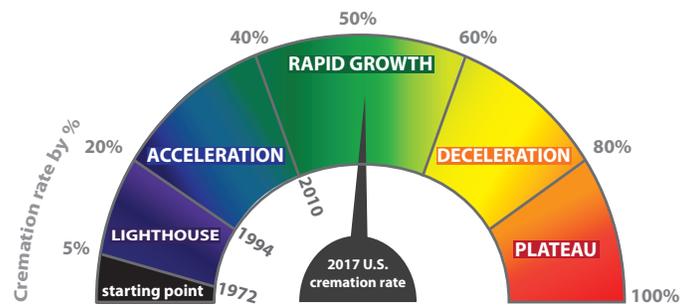
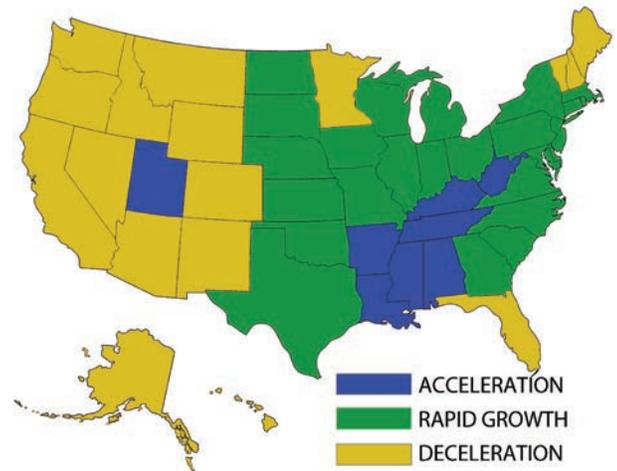
Although previous research indicated that cremation rates would continue to rise, the speed of that growth in 2018 was somewhat surprising. In 2017, CANA published research describing the growth pattern of cremation rates. Cremation rates do not demonstrate an expected trend where the growth of the cremation rate constantly declines as the cremation rate increases. Instead, there are two waves of growth, indicating that the speed of growth is not constant. As the states representing the first wave of growth reach or exceed 50%, the national rate grows more quickly.

## Cremation Growth Phases

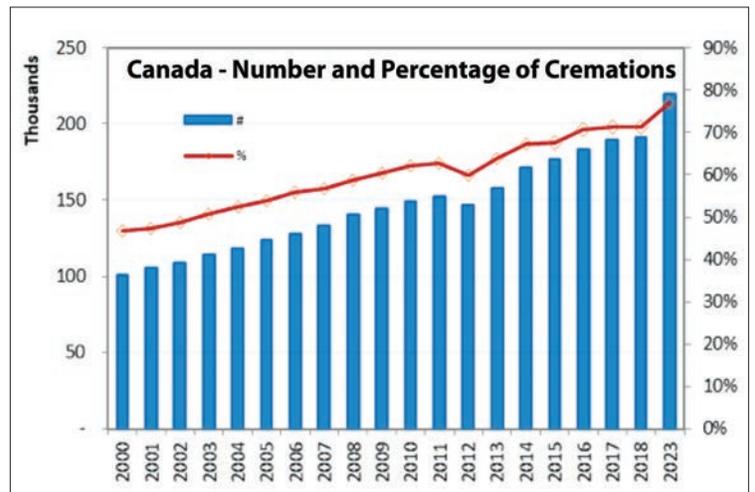
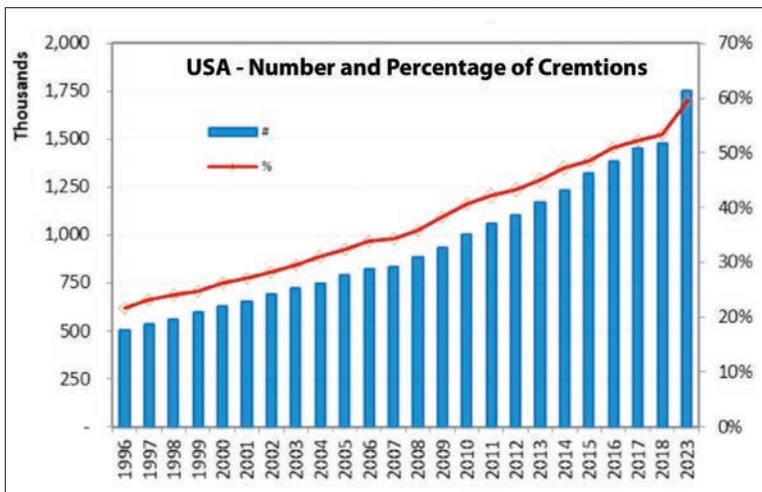
This year's final 2017 and provisional 2018 numbers demonstrate that the actual growth in cremation rates is exceeding the projected rates published in prior years. While CANA has traditionally been conservative in its projections, this difference is greater than usual. We anticipate this trend to continue until the national rate exceeds 60%, when the cremation rate growth is expected to start showing signs of tapering downward. At 53.4%, the United States is squarely in the rapid growth period.

Two interesting state trends are worth noting. Contributing to the difficulty in projection precision is irregular reporting from a number of states, particularly California, which represents 8% of the deaths and 11-12% of cremation rates in the United States. This high number has a significant impact on the overall country's averages. Nevada has exceeded 80% cremation and there are preliminary indications that the growth curve there is slowing down.

Since 1913, CANA has been collecting death and cremation data. Using figures primarily obtained through state and provincial governments in the United States and Canada, CANA has determined the annual percentage of cremations to deaths and forecasts future cremation percentages. For detailed information about our methodology, contact [info@cremationassociation.org](mailto:info@cremationassociation.org).



## United States and Canadian Cremation Trends



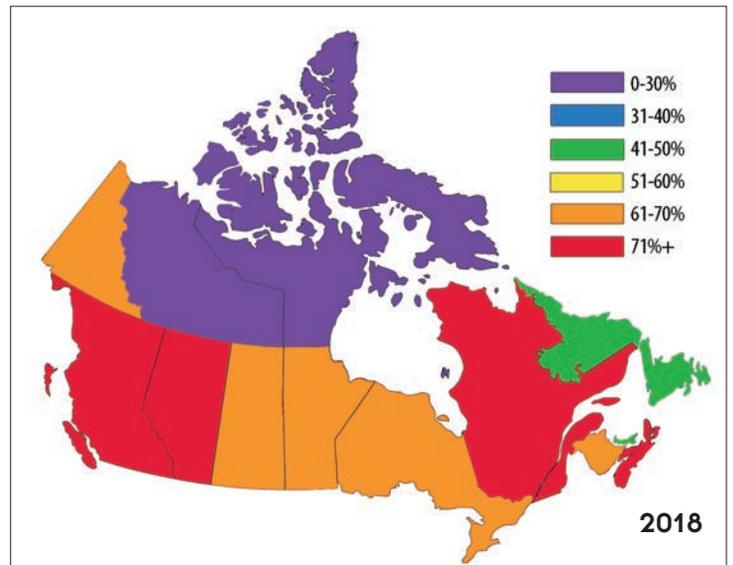
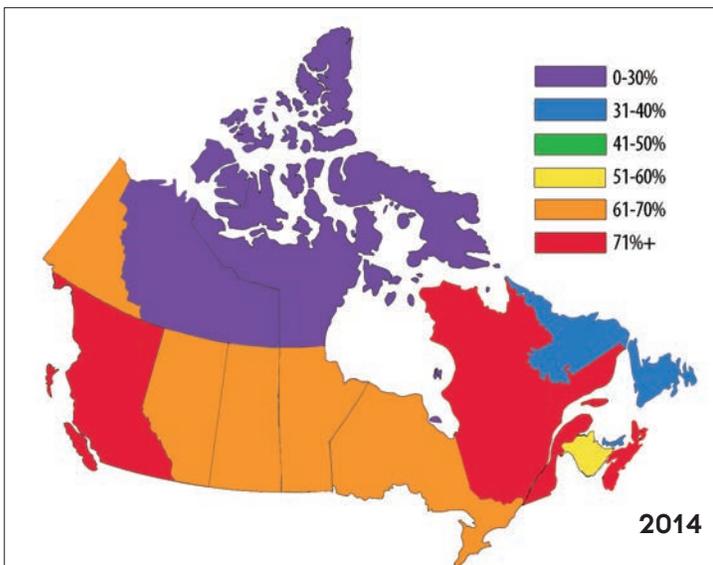
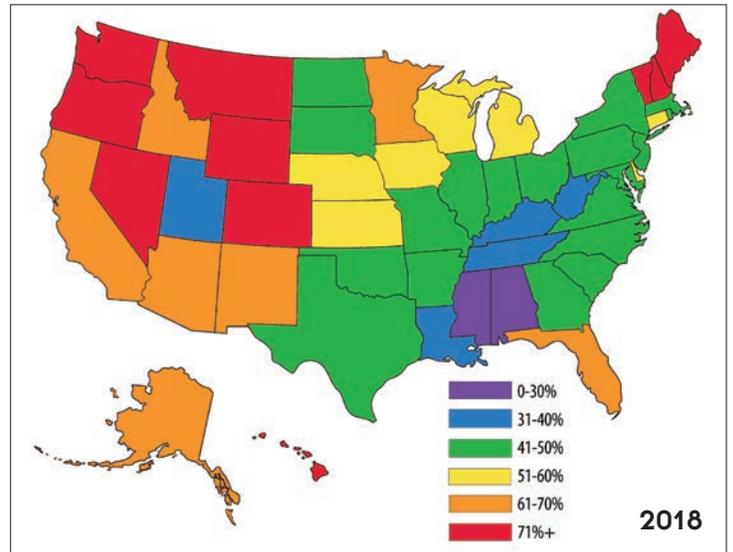
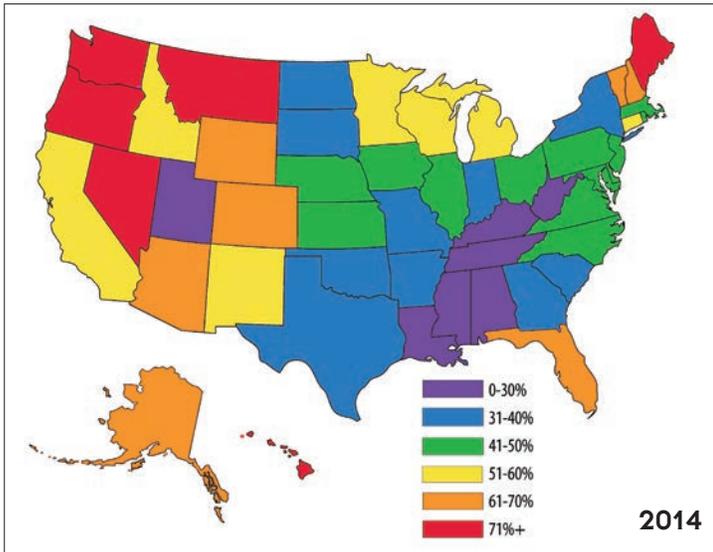
## Annual Growth Rate

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 2003 through 2018. Further, these tables illustrate that the cremation rate is increasing exponentially, with the current average growth at 1.58% annually in the U.S. and 1.69% in Canada.

Annual Growth Rate – Five Year Average USA	
Year	% Cremated
2003	29.6%
2008	35.9%
2013	45.2%
2018	53.1%
% Change 2003 - 2008	6.3%
% Change 2008 - 2013	9.2%
% Change 2013 - 2018	7.9%
Annual Growth Rate per year over 2013-2018	1.58%

Annual Growth Rate – Five Year Average Canada	
Year	% Cremated
2003	50.6%
2008	58.8%
2013	63.7%
2018	72.1%
% Change 2003 - 2008	8.2%
% Change 2008 - 2013	4.9%
% Change 2013 - 2018	8.4%
Annual Growth Rate per year over 2008-2013	1.69%

## Percentages of Cremations in the States/Provinces for 2014 and 2018



## Top 10 States for Cremations – 2017

The table below shows the 10 states with the highest **number** of cremations in 2017. *Note that the rank order is defined from highest as 1 to lowest as 51. The number in parentheses shows the rank order by percentage of that state.*

Top 10 ranked by number of cremations		
State	Cremations	% Cremations (Rank)
California	171,196	64.3% (14)
Florida	135,066	66.4% (13)
Texas	87,999	43.9% (38)
New York	68,404	45.1% (34)
Pennsylvania	<b>63,358</b>	<b>48.4%</b> (24)
Ohio	61,202	48.2% (25)
Michigan	58,043	59.5% (18)
Illinois	<b>49,457</b>	<b>46.7%</b> (30)
North Carolina	44,004	46.8% (29)
Washington	<b>42,833</b>	<b>78.3%</b> (2)

The table below shows the 10 states with the highest **percentage** of cremations in 2017. *Note that the rank order is defined from highest as 1 to lowest as 51. The number in parentheses shows the rank order by the total number of cremations in that state.*

Top 10 ranked by percent of cremations		
State	% Cremations	Cremations (Rank)
Nevada	80.1%	21,689 (24)
Washington	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>42,833</b> (10)
Oregon	76.6%	28,104 (19)
Maine	76.2%	11,076 (35)
Montana	74.6%	7,659 (41)
New Hampshire	73.8%	9,075 (36)
Hawaii	72.9%	8,399 (38)
Colorado	71.9%	27,861 (20)
Wyoming	71.0%	3,103 (49)
Vermont	70.6%	4,068 (46)

## Bottom Five States for Cremations – 2017

The table below shows the bottom five states (in rank order) with the lowest **number** of cremations in 2017. *Note that the rank order is defined from lowest as 1 to highest as 51. The number in parentheses shows the rank order by the percentage of that state.*

Bottom five ranked by number of cremations		
State	Cremations	% Cremations (Rank)
Dist. of Columbia	2,913	46.7% (31)
Alaska	3,047	69.0% (12)
Wyoming	3,103	71.0% (10)
North Dakota	3,200	45.1% (35)
South Dakota	3,330	40.9% (43)

The table below shows the bottom five states (in rank order) and the percentage of deaths resulting in cremations with the lowest **percentages** of cremations in 2017. *Note that the rank order is defined from lowest as 1 to highest as 51. The number in parentheses shows the rank order by the total number of cremations in that state.*

Bottom five ranked by percent of cremations		
State	% Cremations	Cremations/Rank
Mississippi	23.7%	7,400 (42)
Alabama	29.5%	15,405 (28)
Kentucky	31.5%	15,166 (31)
Louisiana	33.3%	15,314 (29)
Tennessee	35.1%	25,836 (22)

## Top 10 States for Growth in Cremations

The table below shows the top 10 states with the highest growth in the number of cremations from 2013 to 2017.

Top 10 highest growth by number of cremations			
State	Increase in # of Cremations	Increase in % of Cremations	Rank by % growth
California	26,771	6.3%	29
Florida	22,237	4.8%	44
Texas	20,805	6.3%	30
Ohio	14,708	7.2%	13
North Carolina	13,229	10.2%	2
New York	11,520	6.4%	27
Pennsylvania	10,166	7.1%	16
Michigan	9,439	6.9%	19
Georgia	8,793	7.2%	15
Tennessee	7,666	7.8%	8

The table below shows the top 10 states with the highest growth in the percentage of cremations from 2013 to 2017.

Top 10 highest growth by percentage of cremations			
State	Increase in % of Cremations	Increase in # of Cremations	Rank by # growth
Iowa	13.2%	4,554	24
North Carolina	10.2%	13,229	5
North Dakota	8.7%	690	47
Kansas	8.4%	2,846	32
Indiana	8.1%	6,969	12
Kentucky	8.0%	4,961	20
West Virginia	7.8%	2,107	34
Tennessee	7.8%	7,666	10
Louisiana	7.6%	4,151	27
Wisconsin	7.6%	4,869	21

**Bold** indicates predicted numbers; final data not yet available.