

The Appeal Process That Caught 1 in 3 Errors

AISH Citizens Appeal Panel — Five-Year Decision Record

Submitted by: *The Alberta Disability System Breakdown*

April 2026 — Source: *Alberta Government Open Data*

KEY NUMBERS:

37% of all appeal decisions were overturned or varied · **30%** pure reversal rate — government decision found simply wrong · **1,218** decisions overturned 2021-2025 across 3,218 panel hearings · **\$0** appeal rights remaining under ADAP — Bill 12 eliminated them

WHAT THIS DATA SHOWS

Every year from 2021 to 2026, the Alberta government published quarterly statistics on the Citizens Appeal Panel (CAP) — the independent body that reviewed decisions made about AISH eligibility, living allowances, and benefits. The data is sourced directly from the Alberta Government Open Data portal (Appeals Overview dataset, 2025-26 Q3).

The panel could issue one of four outcomes on each decision it reviewed:

- **Confirm** — the government's original decision was correct.
- **Confirm Abandoned** — the appellant stopped participating in the process.
- **Reverse** — the government's decision was found to be wrong and overturned entirely.
- **Vary** — the government's decision was partially wrong and changed.

Reversed and Varied outcomes together represent decisions the government got wrong. The data shows this happened consistently at approximately 1 in 3 decisions reviewed — year after year.

ANNUAL RESULTS — 2021 TO 2026

Fiscal Year	Panel Decisions	Confirmed	Reversed	Varied	Overtured Total	Overturn Rate
2021-22	934	486	317	49	366	39.2%
2022-23	870	464	276	60	336	38.6%
2023-24	749	410	232	61	293	39.1%
2024-25	665	425	178	45	223	33.5%
TOTAL (2021-2025)	3,218	1,785	1,003	215	1,218	37.9%

The overturn rate has been remarkably stable: 39.2%, 38.6%, 39.1%, and 33.5% across four consecutive fiscal years. The recent decline in 2024-25 may reflect changes in the types of cases being appealed as word spread about the impending ADAP transition, not an improvement in initial decision quality.

QUARTERLY BREAKDOWN — ALL 19 QUARTERS

The consistency of the overturn rate across all 19 quarters of available data rules out seasonal variation or isolated administrative error as an explanation. **This is a systemic pattern.**

Fiscal Year	Quarter	Panel Decisions	Confirmed	Reversed	Varied	Overturn Rate
2021-22	Q1	224	125	73	15	39.3%
2021-22	Q2	200	104	76	9	42.5%
2021-22	Q3	210	101	74	13	41.4%
2021-22	Q4	300	156	94	12	35.3%
2022-23	Q1	285	150	100	18	41.4%
2022-23	Q2	219	109	78	10	40.2%
2022-23	Q3	199	105	64	17	40.7%
2022-23	Q4	167	100	34	15	29.3%
2023-24	Q1	232	123	82	16	42.2%
2023-24	Q2	184	101	62	15	41.8%
2023-24	Q3	180	94	57	18	41.7%
2023-24	Q4	153	92	31	12	28.1%
2024-25	Q1	192	111	62	12	38.5%
2024-25	Q2	164	107	49	6	33.5%
2024-25	Q3	170	105	45	14	34.7%
2024-25	Q4	139	102	22	13	25.2%
2025-26	Q1	154	84	41	18	38.3%
2025-26	Q2	148	96	35	10	30.4%
2025-26	Q3	202	121	50	12	30.7%

Bolded cells indicate quarters where the overturn rate exceeded 40%. This occurred in **8 of the 19 quarters** for which data is available.

WHAT BILL 12 DID

On December 9, 2025, the Alberta Legislature passed Bill 12 — the Financial Statutes Amendment Act. Among its changes, Bill 12 eliminated the Citizens Appeal Panel for

AISH/ADAP eligibility decisions. Specifically:

- The **Medical Review Panel** — a new body that will determine whether transitioning AISH recipients qualify for AISH or are placed on ADAP — issues decisions that are final and not subject to appeal to any independent body.
- The **Citizens Appeal Panel**, which reviewed AISH decisions and overturned approximately 1 in 3 at hearing, no longer has jurisdiction over medical eligibility determinations under the new framework.
- Bill 12 also **removed the legislated requirement that AISH benefits increase annually with the cost of living**, leaving future increases to ministerial discretion.

WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN GOING FORWARD

The 79,290 Albertans currently on AISH will be transitioned to ADAP on July 1, 2026. Under the new system:

*If historical error rates hold — and there is no structural reason to expect they will not — approximately **1 in 3 Albertans** who receive an incorrect eligibility determination will have **no independent mechanism** to challenge it.*

That is not a hypothetical. The data shows the government has been making incorrect eligibility decisions at this rate for four consecutive years, and the Citizens Appeal Panel has been the mechanism that caught and corrected those errors. As of July 1, 2026, that mechanism will not exist for medical eligibility decisions.

The government has stated that Albertans may reapply for AISH if their condition progresses. This does not address wrong decisions made at the point of transition — it only provides a pathway if a person's condition worsens after the fact. A wrong decision made on July 1, 2026 will not be correctable by reapplication unless the person's medical condition independently deteriorates.

SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

All data in this document is drawn directly from the Alberta Government Open Data portal, **Appeals Overview dataset, 2025-26 Q3**, published by Assisted Living and Social Services (ALSS). The dataset is publicly available at open.alberta.ca. No data has been altered, estimated, or extrapolated — all figures are directly reported quarterly counts from the government's own administrative tracking system (SAM appeals tracking system).

Overtake rate calculation: (Reverse + Vary) / Total Panel Decisions, expressed as a percentage. *'Confirm Abandoned'* outcomes are excluded from the overturn rate as they represent non-completion of the process, not a finding on the merits.

The Alberta Disability System Breakdown — Advocate

St. Albert, Alberta · April 2026

albertadisabilitybreakdown@outlook.com

Find the public group on Facebook: facebook.com/share/g/1CrU5PfHha/

Data through: 2025-26 Q3 (October 1 - December 31, 2025)