

Inequalities in Oral Health in Canada



Inability to chew firm foods is a measure of oral health.

1.8
MILLION

Canadians experience inability to chew, which can be caused by:



Illness
(e.g. Parkinson's disease, stroke)



Tooth decay or pain



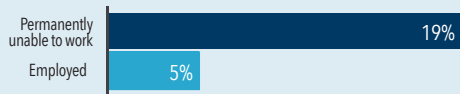
Missing teeth,
lack of dentures or
ill-fitting dentures

In Canada, the number of adults with an inability to chew increases with lower socioeconomic status.

Proportion of adults with inability to chew is:

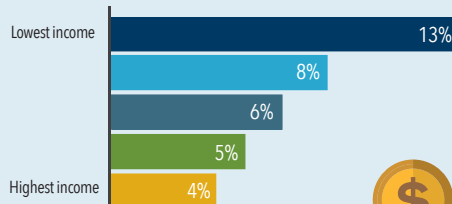
3.9x
HIGHER

for those who are permanently unable to work



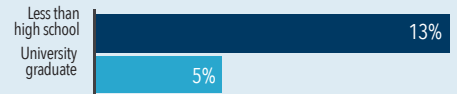
3.3x
HIGHER

among those with the lowest income



2.9x
HIGHER

for those with less than a high school education



Consequences of not addressing oral health inequities include:



Time lost from work or school



Increased risk for chronic diseases



Increased health care costs

Addressing gaps in income, employment and education would help reduce inequities in oral health by increasing access to, and knowledge about healthy foods, dental care, and oral hygiene.

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Source: Canadian Community Health Survey - Annual Component (2007-2008).

For more data on health inequalities in Canada, visit: <https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/health-inequalities/>

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