

Inequalities in Unintentional Injury Mortality in Canada



Unintentional injury is one of the leading causes among Canadians.* Over 30 people per 100,000 die each year from unintentional injury in Canada.

Unintentional injury mortality is influenced by:



Behaviour (e.g. risk-taking)



Psychosocial factors (e.g. exhausted workers)



Socioeconomic factors (e.g. safe and adequate housing)

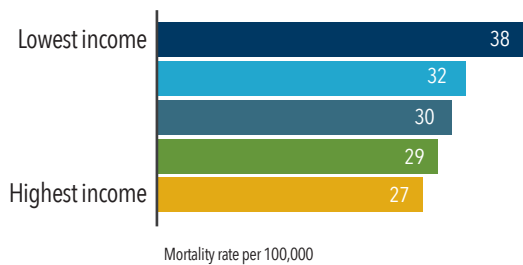


Environment (e.g. decreased access to essential services such as hospitals)

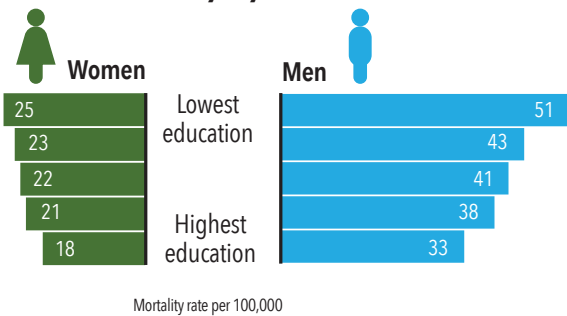
Lower income and education levels are associated with higher rates of death from unintentional injury.



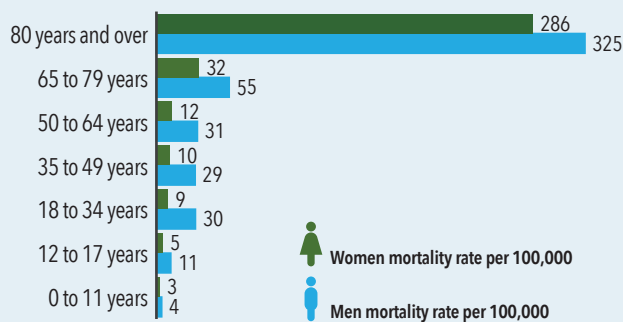
Unintentional injury mortality by income



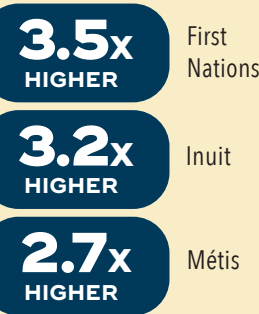
Unintentional injury mortality by education



Death by unintentional injury increases with age with a dramatic increase among seniors 80 years or older. Men have higher rates of mortality by unintentional injury than women.



Compared to non-Indigenous people, Indigenous peoples are at greater risk of unintentional injury mortality:



Inequities experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations are a direct result of colonial policies and practices that included massive forced relocation, loss of lands, creation of the reserve system, banning of Indigenous languages and cultural practices, and creation of the residential school system. Unaddressed intergenerational trauma adds to the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous peoples.

Unintentional injury mortality is

1.6x HIGHER

among Canadians living in the **most materially deprived areas** than among Canadians living in the least materially deprived areas**

1.9x HIGHER

in **remote areas** than in urban centres***

Reducing unintentional injury mortality requires addressing behavioural, socioeconomic and environmental factors.

Follow us @GovCanHealth

* Unintentional injury refers to what is more commonly known as accidents. Falls, transportation incidents, of which the majority were motor vehicle collisions, and accidental poisonings, including drug overdoses, are the three leading causes of deaths due to unintentional injury in Canada.

** Material deprivation is defined by higher % of people with no high school diploma, lower population/employment ratio, and lower average income (among aged 15 years and older).

*** other than Toronto, Montréal, or Vancouver

Source: Vital Statistics – Death Database (2009–2011).

For more data on health inequalities in Canada, visit: www.health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities

Suggested citation: Public Health Agency of Canada. Key Health Inequalities in Canada: A National Portrait. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Health, 2019
Cat.: HP35-113/7-2019E-PDF | ISBN: 978-0-660-29690-6 | Pub.: 180796