

Inequalities in Housing Below Standards in Canada



9.4 million

Canadians live in housing below standards.*

This means that their housing:



costs more than they can afford, and/or



is crowded, and/or



requires major repairs

High cost of housing is the most common reason for Canadians to live in housing below standards.

Poor housing conditions including issues such as mould, safety, crowding, and unaffordability, have been associated with a wide range of health conditions among adults:



chronic diseases



infectious disease such as tuberculosis



injuries (e.g. falls among seniors)



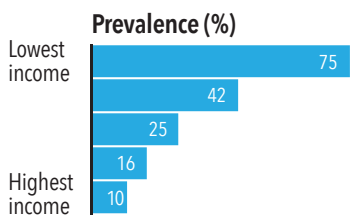
poor mental health



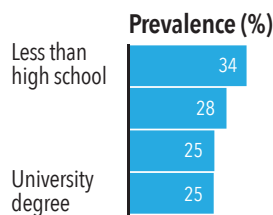
adverse childhood development

Housing below standards might be experienced by Canadians in all socioeconomic groups but is particularly concentrated among those with the lowest socioeconomic status:

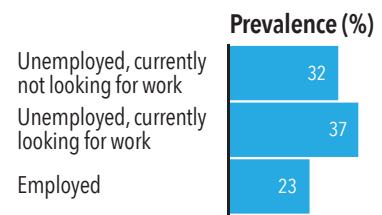
Individuals in housing below standards by income



Individuals (ages 20+ years) in housing below standards by education



Individuals (ages 18-75 years) in housing below standards by employment



Housing below standards is:

2.0x HIGHER

among recent immigrants than among Canadian-born people

1.8x HIGHER

among visible minority Canadians than among non-visible minority Canadians

Addressing housing below standards by improving the quality and by increasing the availability of adequate and affordable housing, including social housing, has the potential to reduce health inequalities in chronic and infectious diseases and injuries.

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* Housing below standards reflects affordability, adequacy, and suitability standards only. An alternative indicator to measure housing conditions is Core housing need. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/data-and-research>

Source: National Household Survey (2011)

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

For information on Core housing need, visit: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/data-and-research>

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