

Inequalities in Housing in Canada



Housing is a basic human need that not only provides shelter to provide safety from the outside world and a place to share with family and friends, but is also an important determinant of health.

Three key indicators related to housing inequalities include:



living with a core housing need¹



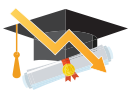
experiencing at least one neighbourhood issue reported as a big problem²



at least one lifetime experience of homelessness³

The indicators combine considerations such as income, affordability, neighbourhood dynamics, and dimensions of homelessness.

The proportion of adults living in core housing need is:



2.0x HIGHER

among adults who have lower than high school education than among adults who are university graduates. This inequality is more prominent among **women**.⁴

3.4x HIGHER

among adults who are separated or divorced or widowed



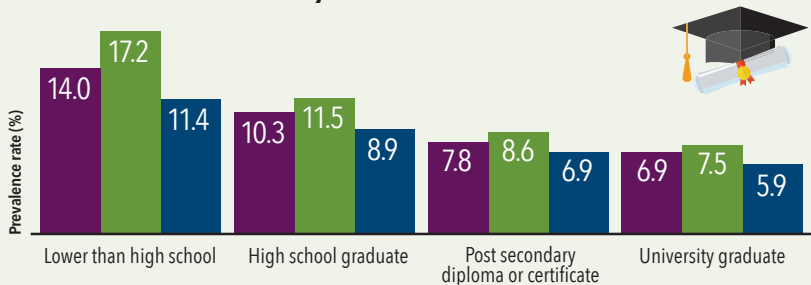
3.1x HIGHER

among adults who are unemployed than among adults who are employed.

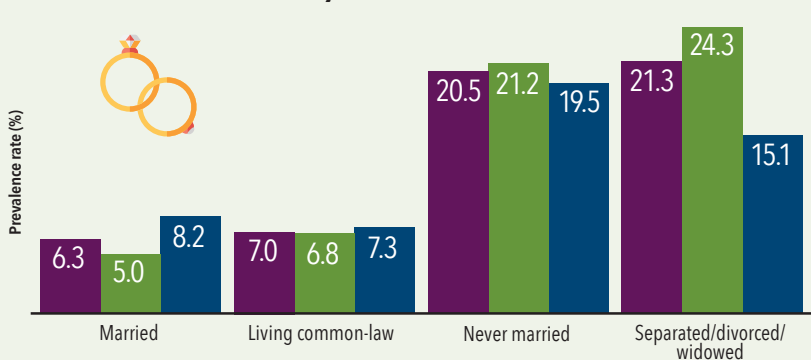
3.3x HIGHER

and among adults who have never been married than among adults who are married. This inequality is more prominent among **women**.

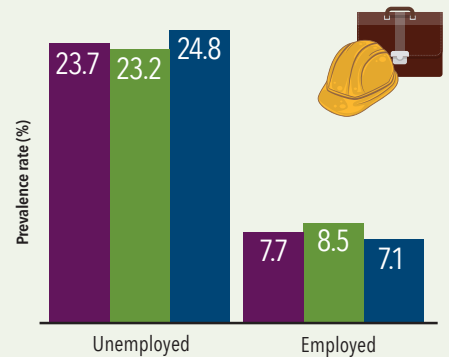
Proportion of Adults Living in Core Housing Need by Education Level



Proportion of Adults Living in Core Housing Need by Marital Status



Proportion of Adults Living in Core Housing Need by Employment Status



Both Women Men



Reporting at least one neighbourhood issue as a big problem might be experienced by Canadians in all socioeconomic groups but is particularly concentrated among those with the lowest socioeconomic status:



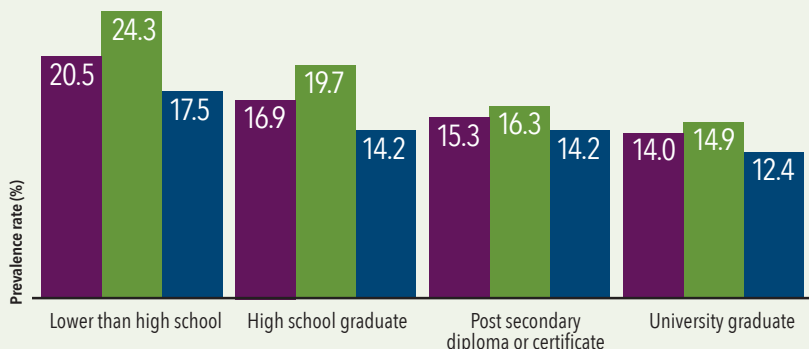
The proportion of adults reporting at least one neighbourhood issue as a big problem:

1.5x
HIGHER

among adults who have lower than high school education than among adults who are university graduates.



Proportion of Adults Experiencing At Least One Neighbourhood Issue Reported as a Big Problem by Education Level

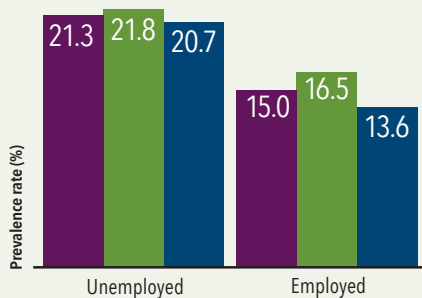


1.4x
HIGHER

among adults who are unemployed than among adults who are employed.



Proportion of Adults Experiencing At Least One Neighbourhood Issue Reported as a Big Problem by Employment Status

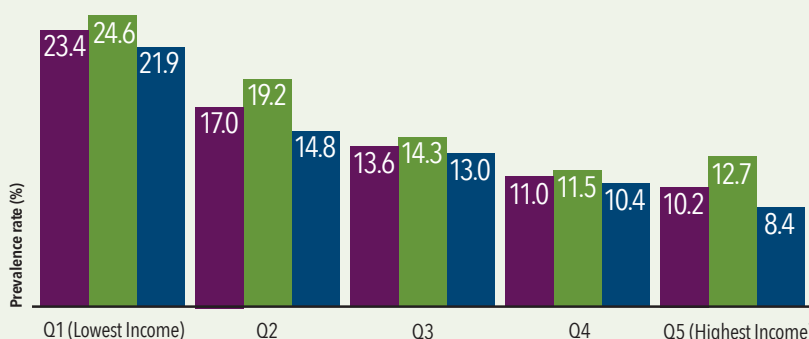


2.3x
HIGHER

among adults in the lowest income group than among adults in the highest income group.⁵



Proportion of Adults Experiencing At Least One Neighbourhood Issue Reported as a Big Problem by Income Level





Experiences of having ever been homeless might be reported by Canadians in all socioeconomic groups but is particularly concentrated among those with the lowest socioeconomic status:

The proportion of adults who have ever been homeless is:

**6.1x
HIGHER**

among adults who have lower than high school education than among adults who are university graduates.

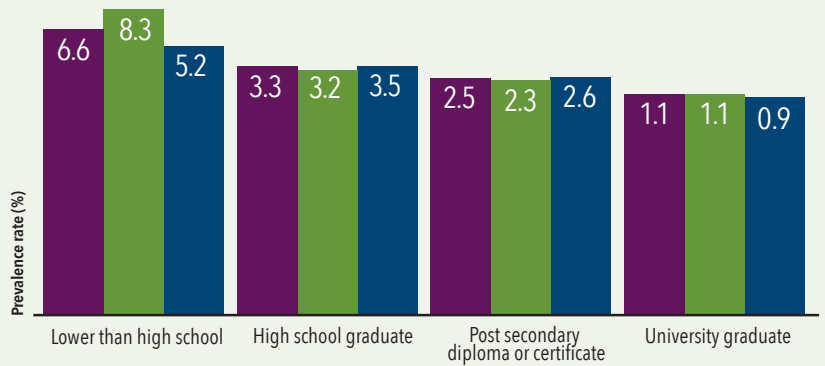


**3.2x
HIGHER**

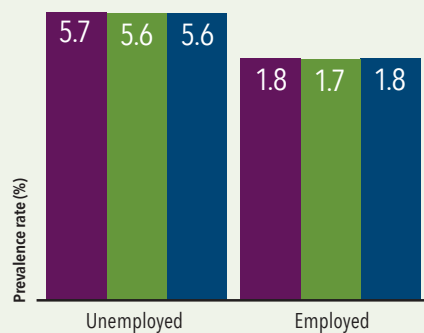
among adults who are unemployed than among adults who are employed.



Proportion of Adults who Have Ever Been Homeless by Education Level



Proportion of Adults who Have Ever Been Homeless by Employment Status



Understanding and exploring the inequalities within these housing indicators allows for future further research and policy development to reduce inequalities.



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For more data on health inequalities in Canada, visit: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities/data-tool/index>

Note: All reported data on infographic are significantly different from reference category.

¹ The core housing need indicator is defined as living in unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable dwelling and not being able to afford alternative housing in the community. <http://www.phn-rsp.ca/pubs/ihl-idps/pdf/Indicators-of-Health-Inequalities-Report-PHPEG-Feb-2010-EN.pdf>

² Neighbourhood issues being reported as a big problem include noisy neighbours or loud parties, people hanging around on the streets, garbage or litter lying around, vandalism/graffiti/other damage, attacks motivated by race/ethnicity/religion, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy in public, abandoned buildings, smog or air pollution. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2016002-eng.htm>

³ The have ever been homeless indicator is defined as an individual that has ever reported being homeless, which includes living in a homeless shelter, on the street, or in parks, in a makeshift shelter or in an abandoned building. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm>

⁴ CHS collects gender information: male, female and other. Only the data for "Other" category is suppressed due to small numbers.

⁵ Income was measured using income quintiles. It is derived from the total before-tax household income adjusted for household size.

Source: Canadian Housing Survey (CHS) 2018

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