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.

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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