



HEALTH INEQUITIES FACT SHEET

GUELPH & WELLINGTON TASK FORCE FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION / 2015

OUR GOAL

Everyone in Guelph & Wellington has access to affordable health services.



COST IS A BARRIER



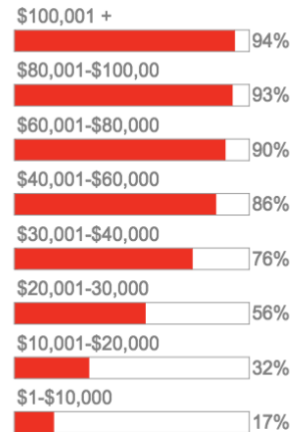
1 IN 10 CANADIANS

report that they cannot afford to take their medications as prescribed

36% of drug costs Canada-wide are funded through private insurance plans

22% of drug costs Canada-wide are funded out-of-pocket by patients

A universal public drug plan would reduce total household spending on prescription drugs in Canada by **\$7.3B** billion per year, or 32%



The proportion of Canadians in paid employment who have access to employer-provided medical benefits by individual earnings before tax in 2011.

Canadians in paid employment who are least likely to be able to afford prescription drugs are also less likely to have employer-provided coverage.



LOW EARNINGS, LOW BENEFIT COVERAGE

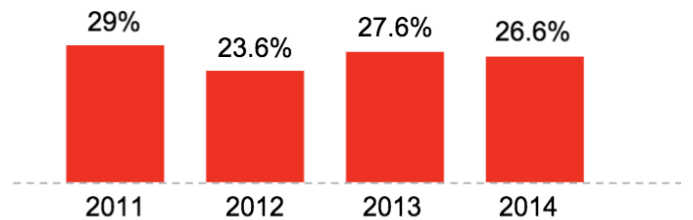
ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE



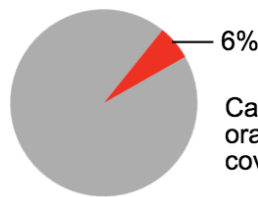
8 in 10 low-income survey respondents from Guelph reported that they couldn't afford regular oral health care



Seniors (65 years and older) in Guelph-Wellington are more than **2X** as likely as other low-income adults in Guelph to report that they have no benefits.



Percentage of children with urgent oral health needs identified through preventative clinics in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph



Canadians pay out of pocket for 94% of all oral health care costs. Government programs cover the remaining 6% of costs.



25%-50%

An estimate of the percent of homeless people that have a mental illness

INCOME & PERCEIVED POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH IN WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH

Income less than \$33,000/year

64%

Incomes more than \$100,000/year

95%



The percentage of total health care spending in Canada is attributable to poor health as the result of low-income.

WEALTH = HEALTH

Research has found that men in the wealthiest 20% of neighbourhoods in Canada live on average more than four years longer than men in the poorest 20% of neighbourhoods.



In Ontario, over three times as many people in the lowest income quintile report their health to be only poor or fair than the highest.

CANADA NEEDS A NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY PLAN THAT INCLUDES ELIMINATING HEALTH INEQUITIES

HEALTH INEQUITY SOLUTIONS



Develop and implement a National Drug Coverage Plan that is public, affordable, and safe, so that everyone in Canada can access the medicine they need.



Support and invest in programs that include oral health promotion and disease prevention strategies.



Implement the National Mental Health Strategy developed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada

Canada-wide resources on health inequities:

- Learn about why Canada needs a safe, affordable and public pharmacare program from the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres: <http://www.cachc.ca/pharmacare/>
- Download Dental Hygiene Canada's Federal Election toolkit: www.dentalhygienecanada.ca/accesstocare
- Read the National Mental Health Strategy: <http://strategy.mentalhealthcommission.ca/>
- Watch this video by the Wellesley Institute to learn how addressing social conditions can improve people's health and wellbeing and reduce inequities: <https://youtu.be/q-3mUiGi6bA>

LEARN MORE



Local resources for Guelph-Wellington

- Review local research reports on health inequities on the Poverty Task Force website: <http://www.gwpoverty.ca/resources/research-reports/>
- Learn about health inequities in Guelph & Wellington from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health: <https://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/?q=healthequity>
- Visit the Poverty Task Force website with information on issues that matter, and on how and where to vote: www.gwpoverty.ca/vote2015
- Find the candidates in your riding by simply entering your postal code: <http://www.makingvotescount.ca/prime-minister-and-mps>

TAKE ACTION



Learn about the Campaign for National Drug Coverage and sign their petition to federal party leaders: <http://campaign4nationaldrugcoverage.ca/>

Petition federal party leaders to debate on issues that affect municipalities, including affordable housing



Campaign for
National Drug Coverage

Share these resources on Twitter, Facebook, email, etc.

Prepared by:

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