



HEALTH INEQUITIES

Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination | September 2021

Health inequities are health differences that are: systemic (health differences that are patterned, where health generally improves as socioeconomic status improves); socially produced (could be avoided by ensuring that all people have the social and economic conditions that are needed for good health and well-being); and they are unfair and unjust because opportunities for health and well-being are limited.



73%

of working poor respondents from Guelph-Wellington indicated they do not have health benefits.

(The Impact of Working Poverty on Health & Wellbeing in Guelph-Wellington, Poverty Task Force, 2017)



Before the pandemic, **1.6 million people** in Canada had unmet mental health needs. Things have gotten worse since the pandemic.

(Canadian Mental Health Association, 2018)

From Jan to Aug 2020, substance-related overdose deaths in Guelph increased by



200%

compared to the same time period in 2019.

(FAST Overdose Alert Platform, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, 2020)



20%

of Canadians cannot afford dental care.

(Ontario Oral Health Alliance, 2021)



3 million

Canadians cannot afford to fill one or more of their prescription drugs.

(A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All, Government of Canada, 2019)



1 million

Canadians cut back on food or home heating in order to pay for their medication.

(A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All, Government of Canada, 2019)



Solutions

Policies that address health inequities, including policies that:

- ✔ fill the gap in universal healthcare to ensure access to public dental/oral healthcare, including preventative care, for all
Learn more: Ontario Oral Health Alliance
- ✔ introduce a universal national pharmacare system with public, single-payer administration that is accessible, comprehensive, and has portable coverage
Learn more: 2019 Consensus Principles for Pharmacare
- ✔ invest in supportive and affordable housing for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use problems
- ✔ increase funding in mental healthcare and support for people who use substances
Learn more: Canadian Mental Health Association 2021 Federal Election recommendations

Learn More

Watch **Judy and Gary's story** and learn about the impact that unaffordable prescription drugs can have: www.aplanforeveryone.ca

Read the 2019 final report of the **Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare**: <https://bit.ly/2L5XFCL>

Learn more about **the need for a pan-Canadian community mental health plan**: <https://bit.ly/2L5XFCL>

Take Action

Ask a candidate:

How will your party ensure that everyone has access to the healthcare they need, regardless of their income, age, or where they work or live?

Sign the petition:

<http://www.aplanforeveryone.ca>

