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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Provincial Highlights Document

This document provides 1-page summaries, by province, of the findings for each of the 9 indicators in the [Health Inequalities Interactive Tool](#). Indicators are categorized by increasing, persisting or decreasing inequality, and the current level of relative and absolute inequality is compared with the average inequality for Canada.

Canada

The following results for Canada as a whole can be used as a reference to help interpret the provincial results. Comprehensive results at the national and provincial levels are also available in the [Health Inequalities Interactive Tool](#).

Inequality *increased over time* for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** Between 2001 and 2012, the rate increased in the lowest income level but decreased in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 3.10 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (222 per 100,000 versus 72 per 100,000).
- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained stable in the highest income level; inequality increased on the absolute scale. The rate in the lowest income level is 5.21 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (14.5% versus 2.8%).
- **Smoking:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate remained stable in the lowest income level but decreased in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 1.91 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (29.1% versus 15.2%).

Inequality *persisted over time* for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** Between 2007 and 2012, the rate increased in the lowest and highest income levels. The rate in the lowest income level is 2.36 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (161 per 100,000 versus 68 per 100,000).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** Between 2001 and 2012, the rate decreased in all income levels. The rate in the lowest income level is 1.35 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (54 per 100,000 versus 40 per 100,000).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** Between 2008 and 2012, the rate decreased in the lowest income level and remained stable in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 1.32 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (309 per 100,000 versus 234 per 100,000).

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- **Influenza Immunization for Seniors:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate remained stable in the lowest and highest income levels. The rate in the highest income level is 1.12 times higher than the rate in the lowest income level (68.4% versus 61.2%).
- **Diabetes:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained stable in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 2.05 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (10.0% versus 4.9%).
- **Obesity among women:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate remained stable in the lowest and highest income levels. The rate in the lowest income level is 1.51 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (19.8% versus 13.1%).

Notes

- Provincial inequality estimates are classified as being similar to the Canadian average if there is no statistically significant difference (i.e., the 95% confidence intervals overlap).
- Some estimates are suppressed due to low event rates and unstable estimates.
- Unless otherwise stated,
 - Results are based on the most recent available data.
 - Comparisons made over time or with the Canadian average refer to both absolute and relative measures of inequality.

Detailed provincial-level results and data years for 9 indicators are available in our [interactive web tool](#). See the [technical report](#) for results for all 16 health indicators, along with summaries of interventions to reduce inequalities.

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: British Columbia

Inequality increased over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** Between 2001 and 2012, the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained stable in the highest income level. Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on a relative scale; the rate in the lowest income level is 3.67 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (185 per 100,000 versus 50 per 100,000).

Inequality increased over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** Between 2003 and 2013, inequality increased on the absolute scale because the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained stable in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 7.06 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (19.2% versus 2.7%).

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale; the rate in the lowest income level is 2.24 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (241 per 100,000 versus 107 per 100,000).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.14 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (27.8% versus 13.0%).
- **Influenza Immunization for Seniors:** The rate in the highest income level is 1.27 times higher than the rate in the lowest income level (66.3% versus 52.2%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.43 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (67 per 100,000 versus 47 per 100,000)
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.29 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (256 per 100,000 versus 198 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.22 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (8.6% versus 3.9%).

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Alberta

Inequality increased over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** Between 2001 and 2012, the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained stable in the highest income level. Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale; the rate in the lowest income level is 3.15 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (251 per 100,000 versus 80 per 100,000).

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.02 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (252 per 100,000 versus 84 per 100,000). Notably, rates have increased in all but the highest income level since 2007.

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.47 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (27.3% versus 18.5%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.35 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (83 per 100,000 versus 61 per 100,000). Notably, rates have decreased in all income levels since 2001.
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.21 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (286 per 100,000 versus 236 per 100,000).
- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.12 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (11.4% versus 3.7%).

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Saskatchewan

Inequality increased over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **Obesity among women:** Between 2003 and 2013, inequality increased over time on the absolute scale; the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained unchanged in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 3.32 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (37.2% versus 11.2%).
- **Diabetes:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate increased in the lowest income level but remained unchanged in the highest income level. Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale; the rate in the lowest income level is 4.29 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (17.8% versus 4.2%).

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.07 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (354 per 100,000 versus 115 per 100,000). Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale.
- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.46 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (377 per 100,000 versus 109 per 100,000).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.87 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (36.8% versus 19.7%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.4 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (115 per 100,000 versus 82 per 100,000). Notably, the rates in the province are higher than the Canadian average in all income levels.
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.55 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (319 per 100,000 versus 206 per 100,000).

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Manitoba

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average, when measured on an absolute scale, for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.73 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (289 per 100,000 versus 77 per 100,000).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.77 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (73 per 100,000 versus 41 per 100,000). Notably, rates have decreased in all income levels except the lowest since 2001.
- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.28 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (261 per 100,000 versus 114 per 100,000).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.28 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (32.2% versus 14.1%).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.34 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (340 per 100,000 versus 254 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.64 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (11.1% versus 4.2%).
- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** The rate in the lowest income level is 4.02 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (14.1% versus 3.5%). Notably, the rate in the lowest income level increased over time.

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Ontario

Inequality increased over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate of self-reported fair/poor mental health increased in the lowest income level but did not change in the highest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 4.76 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (14.4% versus 3.0%).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.72 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (25.2% versus 14.6%).
- **Obesity among women:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.37 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (19.8% versus 14.4%).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.4 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (300 per 100,000 versus 214 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.88 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (10.7% versus 5.7%).

Inequality persisted over time and is smaller than the Canadian average, when measured on an absolute scale, for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.3 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (189 per 100,000 versus 57 per 100,000).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.25 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (38 per 100,000 versus 30 per 100,000).
- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.14 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (117 per 100,000 versus 55 per 100,000).

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Quebec

Inequality increased over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** Between 2003 and 2013, the rate decreased in the highest income level but remained unchanged in the lowest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 2.41 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (35.6% versus 14.7%).
- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** Between 2001 and 2012, inequality increased over time when measured on a relative scale, because the hospitalization rate decreased in the highest income level but remained unchanged in the lowest income level. The rate in the lowest income level is 2.98 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (244 per 100,000 versus 82 per 100,000).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Obesity among women:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.80 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (18.6% versus 10.4%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.24 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (47 per 100,000 versus 38 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.56 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (10.0% versus 3.9%).
- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** The rate in the lowest income level is 6.45 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (11.0% versus 1.7%).

Inequality persisted over time and is smaller than the Canadian average for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.45 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (120 per 100,000 versus 49 per 100,000). Notably, rates in Quebec are lower than the Canadian average in every income level and inequality is smaller than the Canadian average on the absolute scale only.
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.21 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (335 per 100,000 versus 277 per 100,000). Notably, rates in Quebec are higher than the Canadian average in every income level and inequality is smaller than the Canadian average on the relative scale only.

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: New Brunswick

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **Obesity among women:** Inequality is larger than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale; the rate in the lowest income level is 2.18 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (37.6% versus 17.3%).

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.51 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (41.9% versus 16.7%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.68 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (65 per 100,000 versus 38 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.24 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (12.9% versus 5.8%).

Inequality persisted over time and is smaller than the Canadian average for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.4 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (300 per 100,000 versus 125 per 100,000). Notably, the overall rate for the population in New Brunswick is higher than the Canadian average and inequality is smaller when measured on a relative scale.
- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.78 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (103 per 100,000 versus 58 per 100,000). Inequality is smaller than the Canadian average when measured on an absolute scale.

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Nova Scotia

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.36 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (36.9% versus 15.6%).
- **Obesity among women:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.76 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (36.5% versus 20.7%).
- **Motor Vehicle Traffic Injury Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.51 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (59 per 100,000 versus 39 per 100,000).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.32 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (413 per 100,000 versus 312 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.29 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (11.1% versus 3.4%).
- **Fair/Poor Self-Rated Mental Health:** The rate in the lowest income level is 5.56 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (21.1% versus 3.8%).

Inequality persisted over time and is smaller than the Canadian average for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.53 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (78 per 100,000 versus 51 per 100,000).
- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.97 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (221 per 100,000 versus 112 per 100,000). Notably, the smaller inequality in this province is due to a higher rate in the highest income level.

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Prince Edward Island

Inequality persisted over time and is larger than the Canadian average for

- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.51 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (340 per 100,000 versus 135 per 100,000). Notably, rates are higher in Prince Edward Island than the Canadian average across all income levels and inequality is larger in this province when measured on an absolute scale.
- **Influenza Immunization for Seniors:** The rate in the highest income level is 1.70 times higher than the rate in the lowest income level (91.1% versus 53.5%). Notably, inequality is larger in this province than the Canadian average when measured on a relative scale.

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 3.49 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (35.1% versus 10.1%).
- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.35 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (350 per 100,000 versus 149 per 100,000).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.44 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (428 per 100,000 versus 298 per 100,000).
- **Diabetes:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.6 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (13.9% versus 5.4%).

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Trends in Income-Related Health Inequalities in Canada: Newfoundland and Labrador

Inequality persisted over time and is similar to the Canadian average for

- **Smoking:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.84 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (32.7% versus 17.8%).
- **Obesity among women:** The rate in the lowest income level is 2.01 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (34.5% versus 17.1%).
- **Hospitalized Heart Attacks:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.27 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (352 per 100,000 versus 277 per 100,000). Notably, rates are higher in Newfoundland and Labrador than the Canadian average in every income level.

Inequality persisted over time and is smaller than the Canadian average for

- **COPD Hospitalization for Canadians Younger Than Age 75:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.67 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (227 per 100,000 versus 136 per 100,000). Notably, the smaller inequality in this province is due to a higher rate in the highest income level.
- **Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalization:** The rate in the lowest income level is 1.45 times higher than the rate in the highest income level (106 per 100,000 versus 73 per 100,000).