

Self-Rated Health

Figure 4a: Percent¹ Rated Health as 'Fair/Poor', by Income², Males Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined

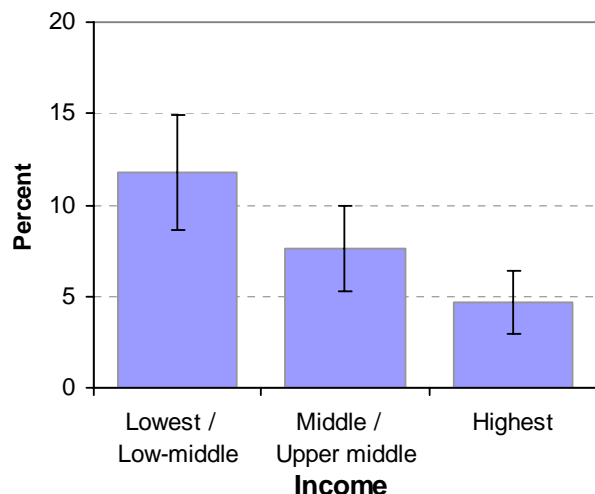
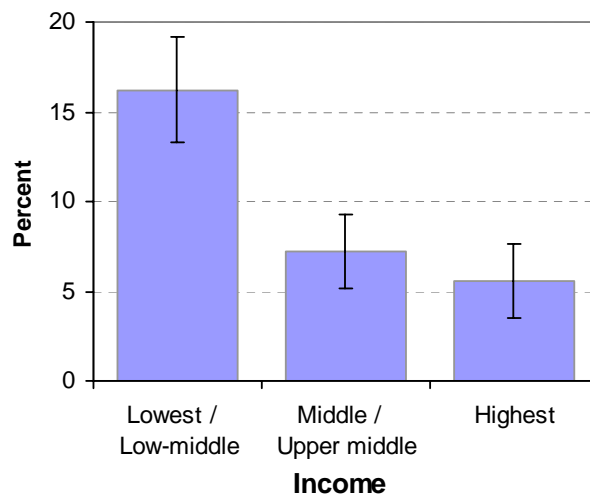


Figure 4b: Percent¹ Rated Health as 'Fair/Poor', by Income², Females Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined



¹ Age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population.

² Income is the income adequacy measure used in the CCHS.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey Cycles 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 .

The Canadian Community Health Survey asked respondents to rate their health as 'excellent', 'very good', 'good', 'fair' or 'poor'. Self-rated health is considered a sentinel indicator for overall health and well-being. Overall, 7% of Toronto male adults and 9% of females aged 20 to 64 years perceived their health as fair or poor.

Among those who reported their health as fair or poor there was a gradient across income category for Toronto males and females (20-64 years). The rate for males in the lowest income category was significantly different from those living in the highest category. Among males, there was a clearly defined gradient where the lowest income category reported the highest level of fair/poor health (12%), and the highest income category reported the lowest (5%). Females showed a similar pattern with a steeper gradient. Females in the lowest income category had a significantly different rate from the other income categories. Females in the lowest income category reported the highest level of fair/poor health (16%), while the highest income category reported the lowest (6%).

The absolute difference in self-reported fair/poor health status for males between the lowest and highest income categories was 7 percentage points, and for females it was 11 percentage points. In relative terms, males in the lowest income category reported their health as fair/poor 2.5 times more than males in the highest income category. For females, those in the lowest income category reported their health to be fair/poor approximately 3.0 times the percent reported in the highest income category.

If everyone had the rates of the highest income category, there would be 88,735 or 40% fewer adults (20-64 years) reporting their health as fair/poor.

Toronto males and females in the lowest income category reported higher levels of fair/poor health compared to the rate reported by the rest of Ontario. Toronto males in the lowest income category were 37% and females were 67% higher than the related rates in the rest of Ontario.