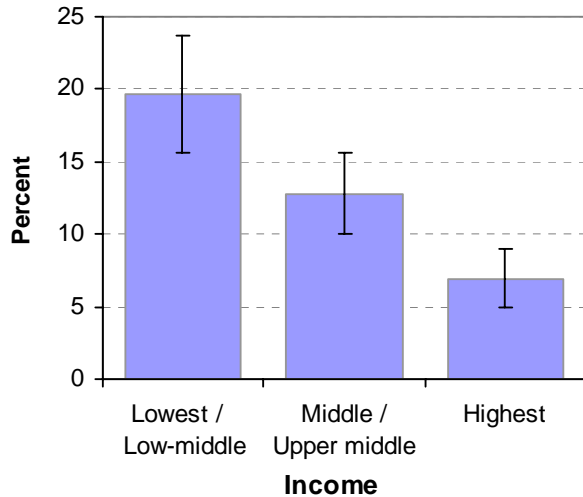
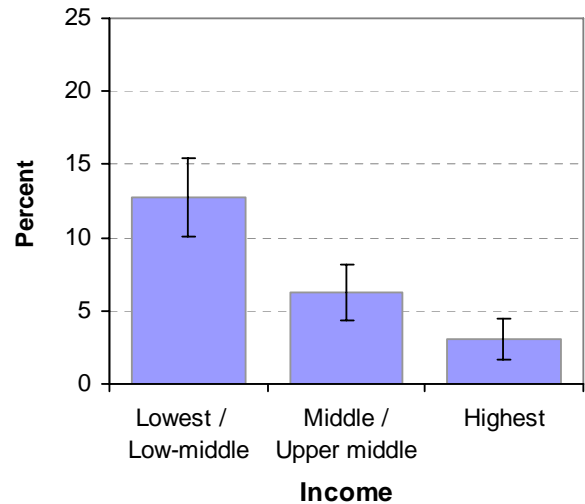


# Dental Visits

**Figure 16a: Percent<sup>1</sup> Last Visit to Dentist was More than 3 Years Ago, by Income<sup>2</sup>, Males Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined**



**Figure 16b: Percent<sup>1</sup> Last Visit to Dentist was More than 3 Years Ago, by Income<sup>2</sup>, Females Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined**



<sup>1</sup> Age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population.

<sup>2</sup> 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 .

Poor oral health reduces quality of life, employability and sociability. Untreated dental infections can also contribute to chronic diseases such as cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses, and diabetes. Generally people who visit the dentist annually do this on a preventative basis. Those who haven't had a dental visit for three years or more tend to see the dentist for longstanding, untreated, and / or end stage oral diseases.<sup>31</sup> Among Toronto adults, 12% of males and 7% of females reported that the last time they visited a dentist was more than 3 years ago.

There was a gradient across income categories among Toronto males and females aged 20-64 years who reported their last dental visit was more than 3 years ago. Males in the lowest income category had a significantly different rate from those in the highest income category. For males aged 20 – 64 years, there was a clearly defined gradient where the lowest income category was the most likely to report that their last visit to the dentist was 3 or more years ago (20%), compared to the highest income category (7%). Females showed a similar step-wise decrease. The rate for females in the lowest income category was significantly higher than the other income categories. Among females aged 20-64 years, 13% in the lowest income category reported their last visit to the dentist was 3 or more years ago, compared to 3% of females in the highest income category.

The absolute difference between the lowest and highest income categories was 13 percentage points for males and 10 percentage points for females. In relative terms, males in the lowest income category reported that it was 3 or more years since their last visit to the dentist 2.8 times more than males in the highest income category. Similarly females in the lowest income category reported 4.1 times more than females in the highest income category.

If everyone aged 20-64 years had the percent of the highest income category, there would be 107,883 or 51% fewer adults reporting their last visit to the dentist was 3 or more years ago in Toronto.

Toronto males and females in the lowest income category were 53% and 46% higher than the rate for the rest of Ontario.