

Inequities in healthcare access for injured Canadians: a national analysis

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INTRODUCTION

- Despite universal healthcare in Canada, research has shown **persistent disparities** in access to care for various sociodemographic groups.
- Most research has focused on access to primary care for particular sociodemographic groups, with much less attention paid to the effect of injury on **access** to healthcare.
- **Research Objective:** To evaluate and compare access to healthcare between injured patients and uninjured individuals in Canada.

Retrospective Cohort
(2017-2018)

Canadian Community Health Survey
(n=61,072)

Injured group (29%; n=17,715)
Non-injured group (71%; n=43,357)

58%

of participants in the injured group reported experiencing difficulties with accessing routine healthcare

49%

higher prevalence of inaccessibility in the injured group after adjusting for covariates

Challenges in securing appointments and extended waiting periods

are **common barriers** injured Canadians face, discouraging this vulnerable group from accessing **necessary** healthcare services



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RESULTS

- Of the 61,072 participants in the survey, there were 17,715 patients in the injured group, along with 43,357 non-injured controls.
- Routine healthcare was inaccessible to 58% of injured Canadians vs. 52% of non-injured controls (p=0.007).
- The results of the multivariate log regression model showed that after adjusting for potential confounders, the prevalence of difficulties with accessing care was 49% higher among injured patients.

METHODS

- Using data from the 2017-2018 **Canadian Community Health Survey** cycle, a study cohort with “injured” and “non-injured” subjects was created, restricted to those who responded to questions regarding access to care
- A **multivariable log Poisson regression** model was used to estimate adjusted prevalence ratios; determinants of access to care related to predisposing characteristics (age, sex, marital status, immigration status) and enabling characteristics (education, having a healthcare provider [HCP], income) were included as covariates.

DISCUSSION

- This study represents the first national analysis of injured Canadians experiencing difficulties accessing healthcare.
- Our results demonstrate that there is **substantial inequity in access** to healthcare for injured patients compared to those without injury.
- Future research is required to clarify the relationship between injury (type and severity) and the barriers that are experienced by Canadians when accessing definitive care and treatment.



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