

How does immigration status impact B.C. residents' access to COVID-19 testing & health care?

What did we find?

Compared to citizens, temporary residents were

47%

more likely to test positive for COVID-19

50%

less likely to see a doctor for COVID-19

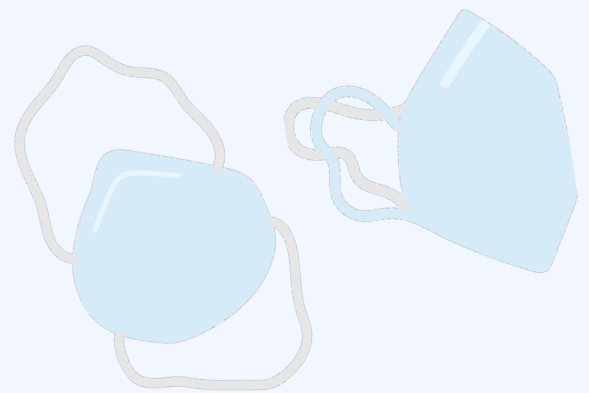
42%

less likely to get tested for COVID-19

Did you know?

We studied the rate of positive tests across income brackets and immigration statuses. We found that:

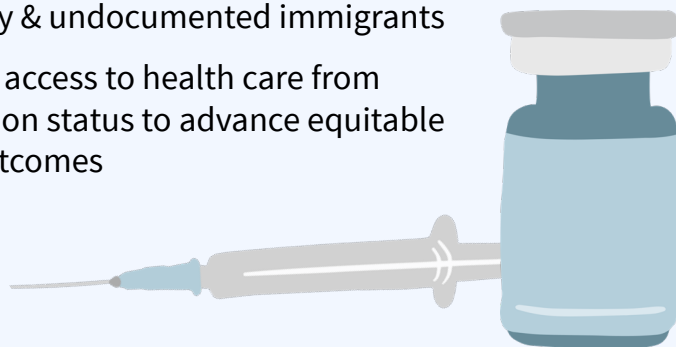
- Across all income brackets, temporary residents had more positive tests than citizens
- Across all immigration statuses, people in lower income neighbourhoods had more positive tests than those in high income neighbourhoods
- Temporary residents in the highest income neighbourhoods still had more positive tests than citizens in the lowest income neighbourhoods



What do we recommend?

We need immediate policy changes to address the high health risks and lack of access to health care experienced by temporary residents in Canada.

- Extend permanent residency status to temporary & undocumented immigrants
- Decouple access to health care from immigration status to advance equitable health outcomes



Types of immigration statuses in Canada

Canadian citizens

(i.e. people born in Canada & immigrants who got citizenship)

- full range of rights outlined in the Canadian Charter
- access to health insurance

Permanent residents

(i.e. economic or family class immigrants & resettled refugees)

- have most social benefits of citizens, like ability to travel & work in Canada
- access to health insurance

Temporary residents

(i.e. work or study permits holders & refugee claimants)

- are allowed to live in Canada on a temporary basis
- variable access to health & social services