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 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?

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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