

# POVERTY & INEQUALITY MAKES US SICK

## Socio-economic disadvantage leads to worse health

Compared with the wealthiest people in Australia, people who are disadvantaged socio-economically:

- Are **twice as likely** to have a **long-term health** condition
- Will **die** on average **three years earlier**
- Are **twice as likely** to suffer from **chronic illnesses**
- Are **2.1 times as likely** to die of **something that could have been avoided**
- Have a mortality rate **1.5 times as high**
- Have a disease burden **1.5 times as high**
- Are over **70% more likely** to **suicide**

## The impact on the health of some groups in the community is even greater



### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- Have a **life expectancy** of around **8 years less** than non-Indigenous Australians



### People living outside a major city

- Rural & remote Australians experience higher death rates, which increase with greater remoteness
- Those in *very remote areas* have a death rate nearly **1.5 times** as high as people in major cities



### People with a disability

- Are **6 times more likely** than people without a disability to rate their health as *poor* or *fair*
- Those with a mental illness are likely to die between **14 and 23 years earlier** than the general population



### Precarious housing

- Insecure tenure, poor quality housing and overcrowding impacts physical & mental health
- Conversely, those with the worst health often experience substandard housing

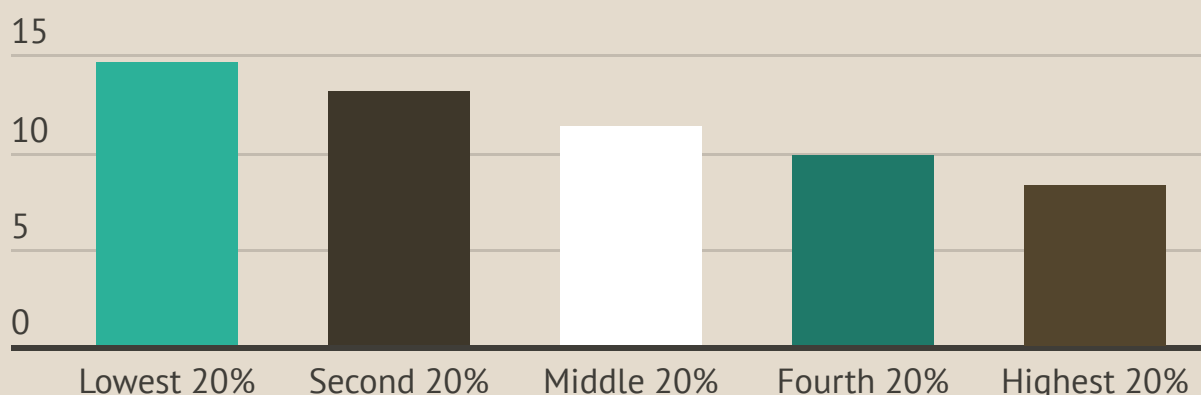


### Family violence

- Intimate partner violence has serious impacts on women's health
- It contributes 5.1% of the burden of health in women aged 18-44, more than any other risk factors.

## The risk of suicide is far greater for people on low incomes

Avoidable deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries by income level, persons aged 0 - 74 (rate per 100,000)



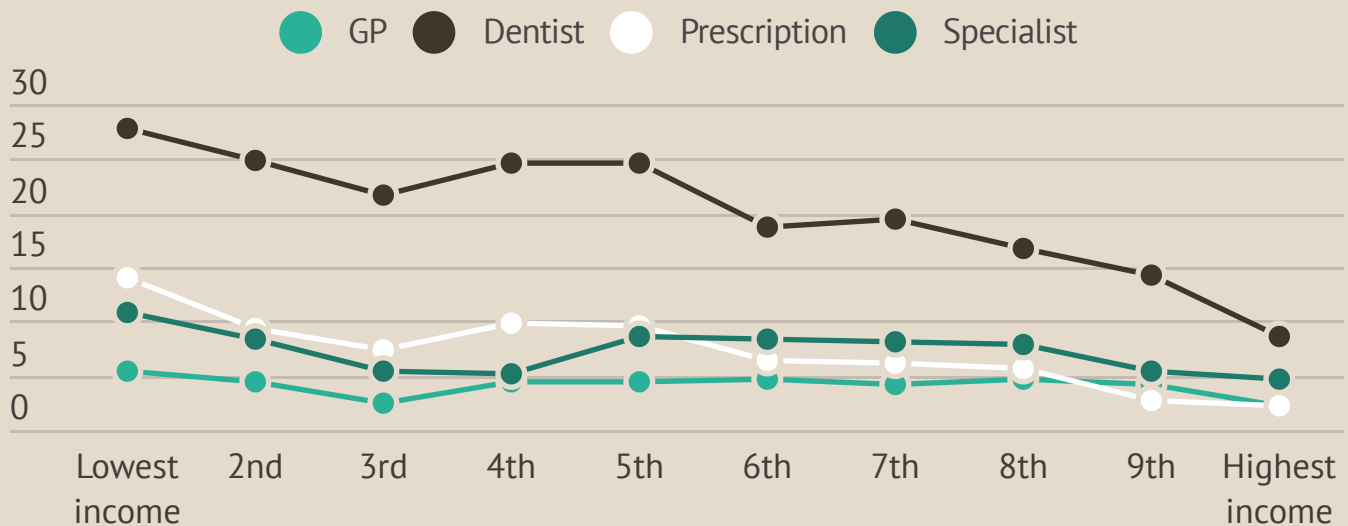
# Cost prevents access to health care



In 2016-17, cost was why:

- 4.1% of people did not see or delayed seeing a GP
- 18% of people did not see or delayed seeing a dentist
- 7.3% of people avoided or delayed filling a prescription for medication

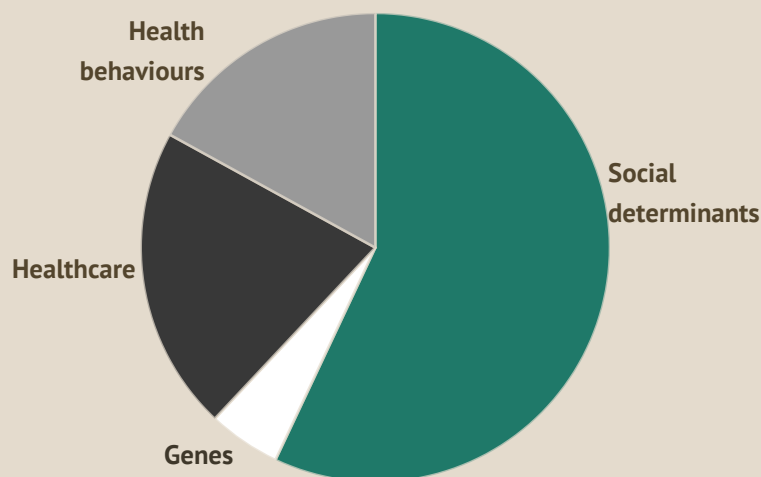
This graph shows that people on lower incomes are more likely to miss or delay care at least once in the past year



## Most of the difference in health is caused by people's socioeconomic status

The circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age - and the structural conditions in society which lead to unequal living conditions and affect the chances of a healthy life - are known as the **social determinants of health**. They include income, employment conditions, housing, where you live, and experiences of stigma, discrimination and marginalisation.

This graph shows that the social determinants of health impact people's health outcomes more than any other factor



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