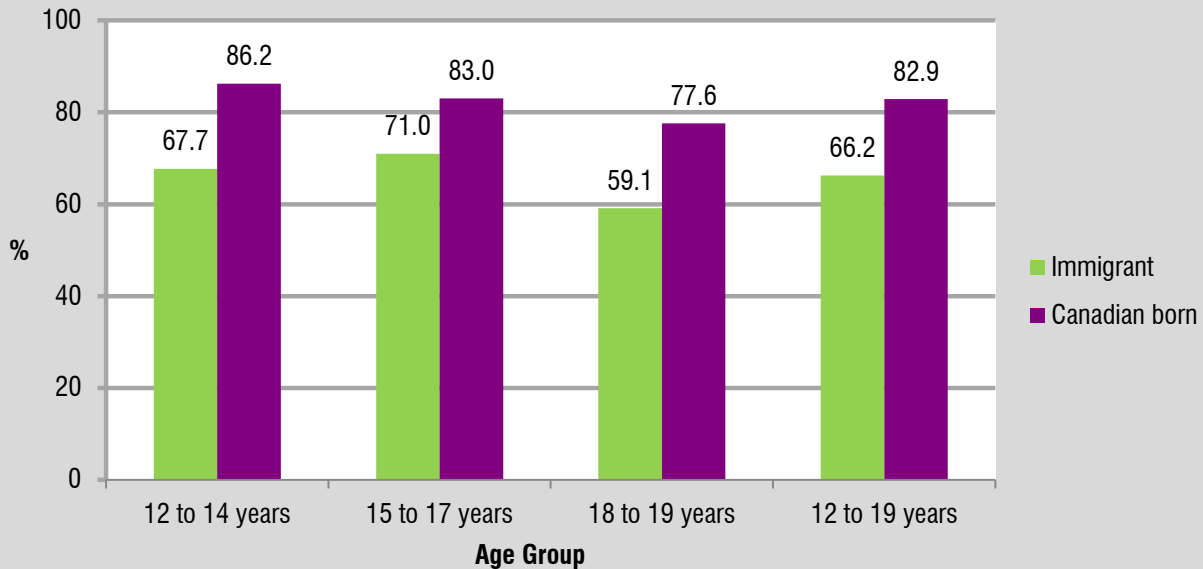




### 3.4.2 Access to Dental Care – Immigrant Children and Youth

Children and youth who consulted a dentist/orthodontist in the last year, by age group and immigrant status, Canada, 2011-2012



Graphic created by CICH using CICH's Analysis of the Canadian Community Health Survey, 2011-2012 Public Use Microdata File.

The proportion of immigrant children and youth aged 12 to 19 years and 15 to 17 years who had consulted a dental professional in the last year (2009/2010) was lower than the proportion of Canadian-born children and youth.

There are a number of factors that decrease access - lower income/financial priorities, language barriers, past experiences, fear and history of inadequate care; and embarrassment about dental disease.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pottie K, Greenaway C, Feightner J, et al. Evidence-based clinical guidelines for immigrants and refugees. CMAJ 2011;183:E824-925

#### Implications

Immigrant children and youth who are new to Canada are likely to see a medical doctor before seeking dental care. Since these newcomers to Canada often have unmet dental care needs, physicians and paediatricians should screen these youth and refer them to a dentist when needed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Caring for Kids New to Canada. Oral Health Screening. <http://www.kidsnewtocanada.ca/screening/oral-health>

