

Socio-economic status may impact care of children with epilepsy

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Generalized 3 Hz spike and wave discharges in a child with childhood absence epilepsy. Credit: Wikipedia.

Socio-economic status may influence the use of health resources among children with epilepsy, even in a universal health insurance system.

In a study of more than 19,000 [children](#) in Ontario, Canada who were diagnosed with epilepsy, children with lower socio-economic status had fewer neurology visits, which may reflect transportation-, cultural-, or employment-related barriers in accessing specialized care. Children with lower socio-economic status had more frequent emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

"These patients need additional support to help reduce costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations, and better access to [specialist care](#)," said Dr. Elysa Widjaja, senior author of the *Epilepsia* study.

More information: Klajdi Puka et al. The influence of socioeconomic status on health resource utilization in pediatric epilepsy in a universal health insurance system, *Epilepsia* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/epi.13290](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.13290)

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