



Poverty Reduction Coalition



ALBERTA POVERTY FACTS

The purpose of this brief is to present key statistics regarding Alberta key municipalities’ low income population and indicators of poverty based on recent Statistics Canada, Province of Alberta, and City of Calgary data.

Cautions

- Note that Statistics Canada cautions regarding the use of the 2004 Income Trends data: it is more accurate to note that estimations of 3 year trends would give a better sense of the rate of poverty in Alberta, Edmonton, and Calgary.
- No data is available for other Alberta municipalities from the Income Trends data set; therefore we rely on Census 1996 and 2001 data.
- If the Income Trends data is compared to the 1996 & 2001 Census data, numbers will vary. This is because the Census has a more extensive sample and is thus more reliable. It is with caution that we compare the two data sets.
- For the purposes of this report, “poverty” is indicated by the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-offs (LICO).
- **Pre-tax LICOs are used unless otherwise specified.**
- Census 1996 & 2001 data comes from the Making Ends Meet: A Profile of Urban Poverty in Grande Prairie Inter-City Forum on Social Policy – April 2004 by Community Services Consulting Ltd.
- Income Trends data from 2000 to 2004 comes from Statistics Canada data sets.

Definitions

- Economic family refers to a group of two or more persons living in the same dwelling who are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.
- Unattached individual refers to a household member who is not a member of an economic family. A person living alone is an unattached individual.

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Key Findings

According to 1996 and 2001 Census show that poverty rates decreased by approximately 18% from 1996 to 2001. Most **Alberta communities** showed a decrease in poverty rates from 1996 to 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

- Census 1996 & 2001 comparisons show that **Calgary and Edmonton's rates of poverty decreased at similar rates** (Calgary: 17.4%, Edmonton: 16.9%) during this period (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Red Deer, Medicine Hat, St. Albert, Wood Buffalo and Leduc showed a rate of decrease in poverty exceeding 20% from 1996-2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Communities near large urban centers (St. Albert, Leduc, Airdrie, Strathcona County) have the lowest poverty rates (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- The highest rate of poverty in 2001 was Edmonton's at 20%, followed by Lethbridge (16.4%), and Calgary (14.8%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

After such encouraging results, Income Trends data from 2000 to 2004 suggests that the **rate of poverty has remained similar throughout the 2000s** (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004). The Income Trends data shows a slower rate of decrease in Edmonton from 2000 – 2004, and a stagnation of poverty rates in Calgary despite the economic boom (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

The **income gap** between rich and poor Albertans is increasing. From 1999 to 2004, the top 20% of Albertans' total income increased by 4.5% percentage points more than that of the bottom 20% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004). When comparing the after tax income, the gap is larger in comparison to the total income gap. This trend is similar to what the national data suggests (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Child poverty rates for those aged 0 to 14 years old showed improvement across Alberta from 1996 (21.8%) to 2001(16.2%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996). In 2004, children under 18 years old were more likely to be poor than all other age groups (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

There was a decrease in **senior poverty rates** from 1996-2004 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996, Income Trends 2004).

After significant decreases of poverty in the 1990s, **Alberta family poverty rates** climbed to reach 17.9% in 2004; this surpasses the 1996 rate of 14.9%. This 21.6% decrease was followed by an increase in family poverty in the 2000s culminating with the 2004 rate of 17.9% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta couples with children under 18 showed improvement from 1996 to 2004. A 32% decrease in poverty dropped the 1996 poverty rate for this group from 13.6% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996). This rate further dropped to 7.2% in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta lone parent families with children under 18 had declining poverty rates from 1996-2001. 51.3% in 1996 to 39.1% in 2001. However, this rate did not change significantly during the 2000s (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

From 1996 to 2001, **unattached individuals** across the province saw an improvement in their rate of poverty. In 2004, approximately, one out three unattached individuals lived in poverty. This represents an increase from the 2001 rate, while Calgary & Edmonton showed very slight decreases in 2004 in comparison to 2001 rates.

Aboriginal people's poverty rates showed great variance across the province, with an overall improvement from 1996 to 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

LICO Cut-offs

In Calgary, many households have incomes low enough to be considered as living in 'poverty'. In Canada, official examinations of poverty tend to use the Low Income Cut-offs (LICO's), commonly referred to (but not officially) as the "poverty line", as calculated by Statistics Canada.

According to this definition of poverty, a household is poor if it spends at least 20% more than the average Canadian household on the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. Statistics Canada has determined that the average Canadian household spends 34.7% of its income on these basic necessities.

Therefore, a family is 'poor' if it spends 54.7% or more of the average income on these basic necessities" (City of Calgary (2005) Indices of Community Well-Being for Calgary Community Districts).

Table 1: Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

Size of family unit	Community size				
	Rural areas	Urban areas			
		Less than 30,000 ¹	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 499,999	500,000 and over
	\$				
2004					
1 person	11,025	12,617	14,075	14,253	16,853
2 persons	13,418	15,357	17,131	17,347	20,512
3 persons	16,709	19,121	21,332	21,601	25,542
4 persons	20,844	23,856	26,613	26,948	31,865
5 persons	23,736	27,165	30,305	30,686	36,285
6 persons	26,324	30,127	33,610	34,032	40,241
7 or more persons	28,912	33,089	36,913	37,378	44,197
2005					
1 person	11,264	12,890	14,380	14,562	17,219
2 persons	13,709	15,690	17,502	17,723	20,956
3 persons	17,071	19,535	21,794	22,069	26,095
4 persons	21,296	24,373	27,190	27,532	32,556
5 persons	24,251	27,754	30,962	31,351	37,071
6 persons	26,895	30,780	34,338	34,769	41,113
7 or more persons	29,539	33,806	37,713	38,187	45,155

Table 2: Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

Size of family unit	Community size				
	Rural areas	Urban areas			
		Less than 30,000 ¹	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 499,999	500,000 and over
	\$				
2004					
1 person	14,000	15,928	17,407	17,515	20,337
2 persons	17,429	19,828	21,669	21,804	25,319
3 persons	21,426	24,375	26,639	26,805	31,126
4 persons	26,015	29,596	32,345	32,546	37,791
5 persons	29,505	33,567	36,685	36,912	42,862
6 persons	33,278	37,858	41,375	41,631	48,341
7 or more persons	37,050	42,150	46,065	46,350	53,821
2005					
1 person	14,303	16,273	17,784	17,895	20,778
2 persons	17,807	20,257	22,139	22,276	25,867
3 persons	21,891	24,904	27,217	27,386	31,801
4 persons	26,579	30,238	33,046	33,251	38,610
5 persons	30,145	34,295	37,480	37,711	43,791
6 persons	33,999	38,679	42,271	42,533	49,389
7 or more persons	37,853	43,063	47,063	47,354	54,987

Poverty across the Province

414,000 people were living in poverty in Alberta in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

13.2% of Albertans were living in poverty in 2004. This is very close to the previous four years (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

According to 1996 and 2001 Census show that poverty rates decreased by approximately 18% from 1996 to 2001. After such encouraging results, Income Trends data suggest that the **rate of poverty has remained similar throughout the 2000s** (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Over half of those living in poverty reside in Calgary and Edmonton. The two cities have similar rates of poverty and total amount of low-income individuals in 2004. **134,000** people were living in poverty in Edmonton in 2004 compared to 127,000 in Calgary (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Census 1996 & 2001 comparisons show that **Calgary and Edmonton's rates of poverty decreased at similar rates (Calgary: 17.4%, Edmonton: 16.9%)** during this period (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

Unfortunately, the Income Trends data shows a **slower rate of decrease in Edmonton from 2000 to 2004, and a stagnation of poverty rates in Calgary despite the economic boom** (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

- **Edmonton's rate of poverty has decreased in the 2000s. 14.1%** of Edmontonians were living in poverty in 2004 as opposed to 18.4% in 2000 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- **Calgary's rate of poverty has remained similar throughout the 2000s. 13.4%** of Calgarians were living in poverty in 2004. This is very close to the 2000, 2001, and 2002 levels and lower than the 2003 rate (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Number & percentage of low-income individuals, 2000-2004					
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Alberta					
Number	423,000	410,000	407,000	439,000	414,000
Percentage	14.4%	13.7%	13.3%	14.2%	13.2%
Calgary					
Number	114,000	114,000	128,000	157,000	127,000
Percentage	13.3%	13.1%	13.7%	16.7%	13.4%
Edmonton					
Number	179,000	159,000	161,000	136,000	134,000
Percentage	18.4%	16.3%	16.8%	14.1%	14.1%

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Most Alberta communities showed a decrease in poverty rates from 1996 to 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

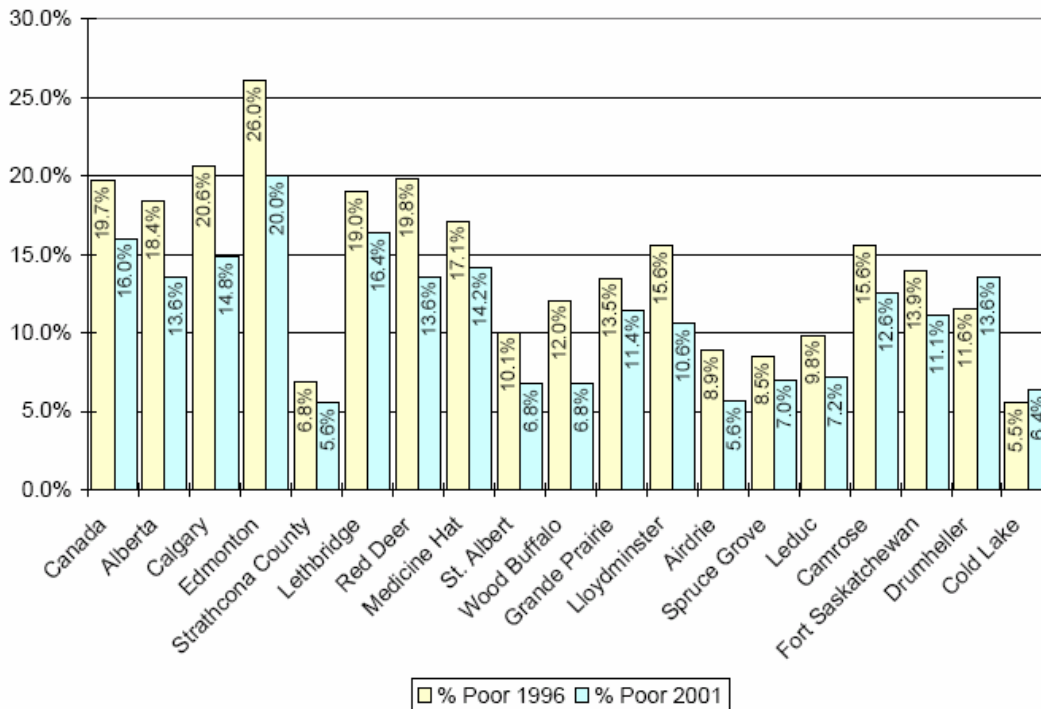
- Drumheller's rate increased by 12.2% (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- High numbers of Albertan living in poverty reside in Edmonton (131,215) and Calgary (129,105) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Red Deer, Medicine Hat, St. Albert, Wood Buffalo and Leduc showed a rate of decrease in poverty exceeding 20% from 1996-2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Communities near large urban centers (St. Albert, Leduc, Airdrie, Strathcona County) have the lowest poverty rates (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- The highest rate of poverty in 2001 was Edmonton's at 20%, followed by Lethbridge (16.4%), and Calgary (14.8%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

Population by poverty status for Canada, Alberta and selected Alberta communities (1996, 2001)								
	Total 1996	Total 2001	% Change	Poor 1996	Poor 2001	% Change	% Poor 1996	% Poor 2001
Canada	28,011,400	29,522,300	5.4%	5,514,200	4,720,490	-14.4%	19.7%	16.0%
Alberta	2,612,240	2,918,920	11.7%	481,520	395,650	-17.8%	18.4%	13.6%
Calgary	760,230	869,835	14.4%	156,380	129,105	-17.4%	20.6%	14.8%
Edmonton	606,660	655,680	8.1%	157,990	131,215	-16.9%	26.0%	20.0%
Strathcona County	63,550	71,310	12.2%	4,340	3,960	-8.8%	6.8%	5.6%
Lethbridge	61,880	66,110	6.8%	11,730	10,825	-7.7%	19.0%	16.4%
Red Deer	58,720	66,430	13.1%	11,650	9,015	-22.6%	19.8%	13.6%
Medicine Hat	55,550	50,565	-9.0%	9,500	7,175	-24.5%	17.1%	14.2%
St. Albert	46,530	52,755	13.4%	4,680	3,580	-23.5%	10.1%	6.8%
Wood Buffalo	33,000	41,190	24.8%	3,970	2,800	-29.5%	12.0%	6.8%
Grande Prairie	30,650	36,520	19.2%	4,130	4,180	1.2%	13.5%	11.4%
Airdrie	15,780	20,255	28.4%	1,400	1,140	-18.6%	8.9%	5.6%
Spruce Grove	14,240	15,925	11.8%	1,210	1,115	-7.9%	8.5%	7.0%
Leduc	14,040	14,730	4.9%	1,380	1,055	-23.6%	9.8%	7.2%
Camrose	13,240	14,300	8.0%	2,060	1,800	-12.6%	15.6%	12.6%
Fort Saskatchewan	12,070	12,905	6.9%	1,680	1,435	-14.6%	13.9%	11.1%
Drumheller	7,035	7,105	1.0%	860	965	12.2%	12.2%	13.6%
Cold Lake	11,570	11,330	-2.1%	866	720	-16.9%	7.5%	6.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Population by poverty status for Canada, Alberta and selected Alberta communities

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Alberta Income Gap

The gap between rich and poor Albertans is increasing. From 1999 to 2004, the top 20% of Albertans' total income increased by 4.5 percentage points more than that of the bottom 20% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

- Over 5 year time span (1999-2004), the lowest quintile's **total income** increased by 8.3% whereas the highest quintile's total income increased by 12.8%. This suggests that the wealth gap is increasing (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

The top 20% of Albertans had total incomes close to 10 times as much of the bottom 20% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

- In 2004, the bottom quintile of Albertans had an **average total income** of \$13,100 whereas the top quintile had an average total income of \$152,800 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

In 2004, the bottom quintile of Albertans controlled 4% of the total income, whereas the top quintile controlled 46% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta, all family units, before-tax income					
	1999		2004		Change
	Share of income (Percent)	Average income (Dollars)	Share of income (Percent)	Average income (Dollars)	
Total of quintiles	100%	59,600	100%	66,400	11.4%
Lowest quintile	4.1%	12,100	4%	13,100	8.3%
Second quintile	9.8%	29,200	9.6%	31,900	9.2%
Third quintile	16.3%	48,600	16.1%	53,400	9.9%
Fourth quintile	24.4%	72,700	24.4%	81,100	11.6%
Highest quintile	45.5%	135,500	46%	152,800	12.8%

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

When examining 2004 **after-tax incomes**, the bottom quintile of Albertans had an after of \$12,700 whereas the top quintile had an after-tax income of \$119,700 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

In 2004, the bottom quintile of Albertans controlled 4.6% of the **after-tax income**, whereas the top quintile controls 43.3% of the after-tax income (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Over 5 year time span (1999-2004), the lowest quintile's after-tax income increased by **8.5%** whereas the highest quintile's after-tax income increased by **16.8%** (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

This suggests that after accounting for taxation, the **income gap is increasing over the 5 years**. This becomes more apparent when comparing the income gap based on after-tax income, which is higher in comparison to the total income. This trend is similar to what the national data suggests (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta, all family units, after-tax income					
	1999		2004		Change
	Share of income (Percent)	Average income (Dollars)	Share of income (Percent)	Average income (Dollars)	
Total of quintiles	100%	48,300	100%	55,200	14.3%
Lowest quintile	4.8%	11,700	4.6%	12,700	8.5%
Second quintile	11%	26,600	10.6%	29,300	10.2%
Third quintile	17.2%	41,600	16.8%	46,400	11.5%
Fourth quintile	24.6%	59,400	24.7%	68,100	14.6%
Highest quintile	42.4%	102,500	43.3%	119,700	16.8%

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Poverty by Age Group

Child poverty rates for those aged 0 to 14 years old showed improvement across Alberta from 1996 (21.8%) to 2001(16.2%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

- Most communities, led by Wood Buffalo, showed a significant reduction in child poverty (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Medicine Hat, Drumheller, and Grande Prairie were exceptions where poverty rates either remained constant or climbed significantly (Drumheller) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- In 2001, Calgary's rate had dropped from 23.8% in 1996 to 15.1% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Edmonton also showed a decrease in child poverty rates from 1996 (32.1%) to 2001 (21.7%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

In 2004, children under 18 years old were more likely to be poor than all other age groups (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

- 14.5% of Albertans, 15.9% of Calgarians, and 14.6% of Edmontonians **under 18 years old** were poor in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

There was a decrease in senior poverty from 1996-2004 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996, Income Trends 2004).

- 14.3% of **65-69 year olds** were poor in 2001 vs. 11.1% in 1996 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)
- 17.1% of **70 year olds and above** were poor in 2001 vs. 13.7% in 1996 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)
- 7.8% of Albertans, 8.4% of Calgarians, and 11.3% of Edmontonians **65 years old and over** lived in poverty in 2004(Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

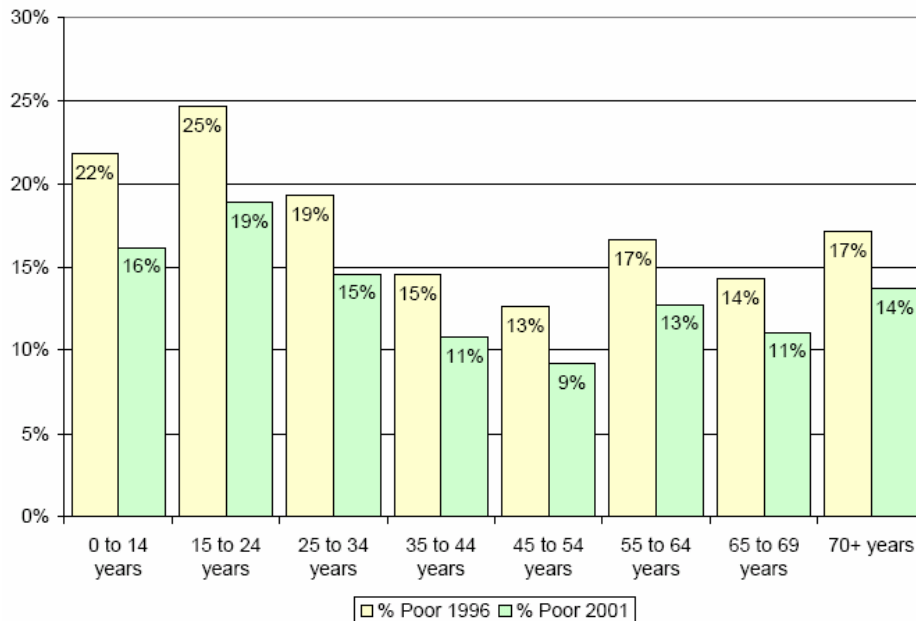
Low-income persons, 2004, low income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base		
	Percentage	Number
Alberta		
All persons	13.2%	414, 000
Persons under 18 years	14.5%	106, 000
Persons 18 to 64 years	13.6%	284, 000
Persons 65 years and over	7.8%	24, 000
Calgary		
All persons	13.4%	127, 000
Persons under 18 years	15.9%	NA
Persons 18 to 64 years	13.2%	88, 000
Persons 65 years and over	8.4%	NA
Edmonton		
All persons	14.1%	134,000
Persons under 18 years	14.6%	N/A
Persons 18 to 64 years	14.4%	92, 000
Persons 65 years and over	11.3%	N/A

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Population by age, gender and poverty status for Alberta						
	Total 1996	Total 2001	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	1996%	2001%
All ages	2,612,235	2,875,760	481,510	395,650	18.4%	13.8%
0 to 14 years	593,355	594,345	129,150	96,045	21.8%	16.2%
15 to 24 years	365,170	423,570	89,945	79,785	24.6%	18.8%
25 to 34 years	425,915	418,910	82,135	60,975	19.3%	14.6%
35 to 44 years	471,465	507,580	68,470	54,765	14.5%	10.8%
45 to 54 years	314,250	413,275	39,550	37,850	12.6%	9.2%
55 to 64 years	199,000	236,575	33,020	30,125	16.6%	12.7%
65 to 69 years	83,810	91,665	11,960	10,155	14.3%	11.1%
70+ years	159,265	189,835	27,280	25,945	17.1%	13.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Population by age, gender and poverty status for Alberta
(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



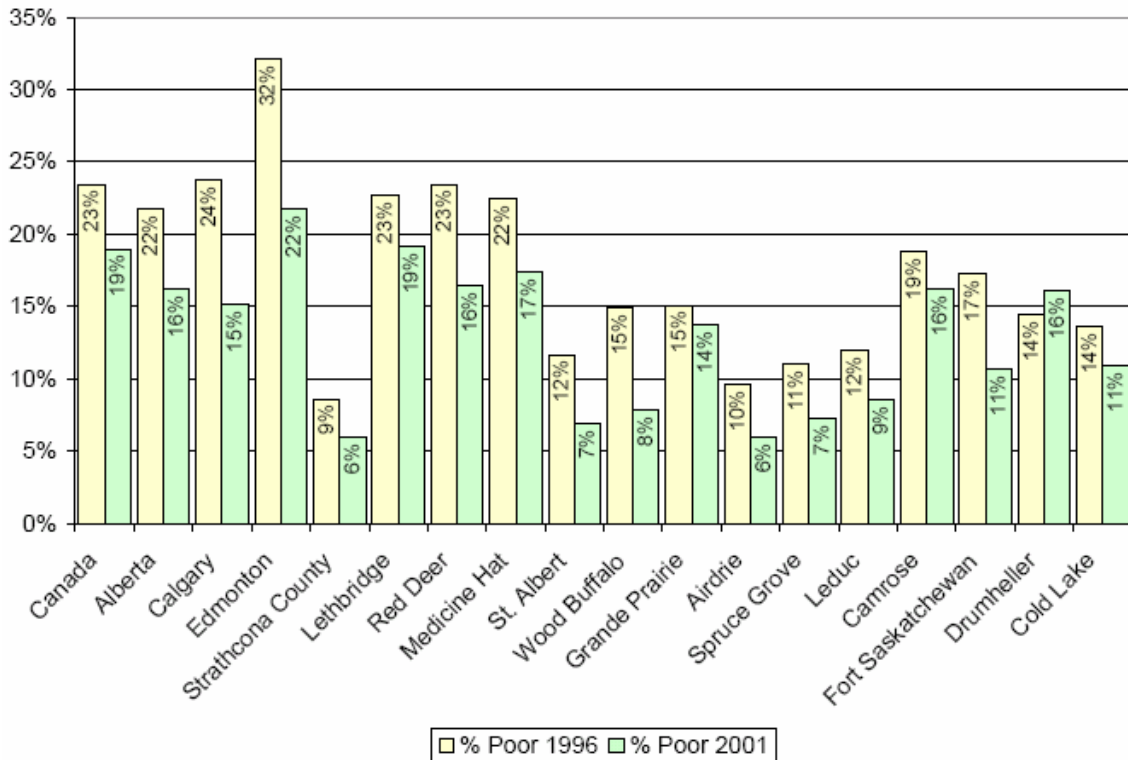
Children by poverty status for Canada, Alberta & selected Alberta communities

	Total 1996	Total 2001	% Change	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	% Change	% Poor 1996	% Poor 2001
Canada	5,737,020	5,566,220	-3.0%	1,344,530	1,055,615	-21.5%	23.4%	19.0%
Alberta	593,360	594,345	0.2%	129,150	96,045	-25.6%	21.8%	16.2%
Calgary	161,720	168,810	4.4%	38,410	25,471	-33.7%	23.8%	15.1%
Edmonton	125,830	123,250	-2.1%	40,400	26,745	-33.8%	32.1%	21.7%
Strathcona County	15,490	16,200	4.6%	1,330	961	-27.8%	8.6%	5.9%
Lethbridge	12,320	11,995	-2.6%	2,790	2,295	-17.7%	22.6%	19.1%
Red Deer	13,660	13,450	-1.5%	3,200	2,215	-30.8%	23.4%	16.5%
Medicine Hat	9,400	11,995	27.6%	2,110	2,080	-1.4%	22.4%	17.3%
St. Albert	11,230	11,500	2.4%	1,310	793	-39.5%	11.7%	6.9%
Wood Buffalo	8,650	9,515	10.0%	1,290	745	-42.2%	14.9%	7.8%
Grande Prairie	7,560	8,330	10.2%	1,140	1,140	0.0%	15.1%	13.7%
Airdrie	4,780	5,290	10.7%	460	316	-31.3%	9.6%	6.0%
Spruce Grove	3,630	3,685	1.5%	400	266	-33.4%	11.0%	7.2%
Leduc	3,340	3,110	-6.9%	400	266	-33.5%	12.0%	8.6%
Camrose	2,720	2,740	0.7%	510	445	-12.7%	18.8%	16.2%
Fort Saskatchewan	2,960	2,850	-3.7%	510	304	-40.3%	17.2%	10.7%
Drumheller	1,490	1,405	-5.7%	215	225	4.8%	14.4%	16.0%
Cold Lake	3,600	3,165	-12.1%	490	345	-29.5%	13.6%	10.9%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Children by poverty status for Canada, Alberta & selected Alberta communities

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Gender, Age & Poverty

Females were more likely to be poor than males.

- Alberta: 12.1% of males in comparison to 14.4% of females were poor in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- Calgary: 12.3% of males in comparison to 14.5% of females were poor in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- In Edmonton: 12.6% of males in comparison to 15.5% of females were poor in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

A significant decrease in poverty occurred from 1996 to 2001, and thereafter stagnated for both genders in Alberta in the 2000s.

- The rate of poverty dropped from 17% to 12.4% for males and from 19.8% to 15.2% for females from 1996-2001 in Alberta (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- 12.1% of males and 14.4% of females were poor in 2004 in Alberta (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Low-income persons, 2004, low income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base		
	Percentage	Number
Alberta		
Males	12.1%	193, 000
Males, under 18 years	14.9%	57, 000
Males, 18 to 64 years	12%	128, 000
Males, 65 years and over	5.5%	N/A
Females	14.4%	222, 000
Females, under 18 years	14%	49, 000
Females, 18 to 64 years	15.2%	156, 000
Females, 65 years and over	9.9%	17, 000
Calgary		
Males	12.3%	61, 000
Males, under 18 years	16.3%	NA
Males, 18 to 64 years	11.5%	40,000
Males, 65 years and over	8.8%	NA
Females	14.5%	66,000
Females, under 18 years	15.6%	NA
Females, 18 to 64 years	15.1%	48,000
Females, 65 years and over	8%	NA
Edmonton		
Males	12.6%	60, 000
Males, under 18 years	16.3%	N/A
Males, 18 to 64 years	12.7%	40, 000
Males, 65 years and over	N/A	N/A
Females	15.5%	74, 000
Females, under 18 years	12.6%	N/A
Females, 18 to 64 years	16.1%	51, 000
Females, 65 years and over	17.2%	N/A

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Population by age, gender and poverty status for Alberta, 1996 & 2001 Census (female)						
	Total 1996	Total 2001	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	1996%	2001%
Male - All ages	1,306,265	1,438,565	222,405	177,765	17.0%	12.4%
0 to 14 years	304,360	304,450	65,705	48,365	21.6%	15.9%
15 to 24 years	186,030	217,600	41,725	36,150	22.4%	16.6%
25 to 34 years	211,300	210,500	37,615	27,425	17.8%	13.0%
35 to 44 years	237,490	252,070	31,645	24,170	13.3%	9.6%
45 to 54 years	157,930	208,000	18,530	17,770	11.7%	8.5%
55 to 64 years	100,020	117,645	15,565	13,450	15.6%	11.4%
65 to 69 years	41,050	45,300	5,225	4,400	12.7%	9.7%
70+ years	68,085	83,000	6,395	6,040	9.4%	7.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Population by age, gender and poverty status for Alberta, 1996 & 2001 Census (male)						
	Total 1996	Total 2001	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	1996%	2001%
Female - All ages	1,305,975	1,437,195	259,110	217,880	19.8%	15.2%
0 to 14 years	288,995	289,900	63,450	47,685	22.0%	16.4%
15 to 24 years	179,140	205,980	48,215	43,640	26.9%	21.2%
25 to 34 years	214,620	208,410	44,525	33,550	20.7%	16.1%
35 to 44 years	233,975	255,505	36,825	30,595	15.7%	12.0%
45 to 54 years	156,325	205,275	21,020	20,080	13.4%	9.8%
55 to 64 years	98,985	118,935	17,455	16,680	17.6%	14.0%
65 to 69 years	42,755	46,365	6,735	5,760	15.8%	12.4%
70+ years	91,185	106,830	20,885	19,905	22.9%	18.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Low-Income Families

After significant decreases in poverty in the 1990s, family poverty rates climbed to reach 17.9% in 2004; this surpasses the 1996 rate of 14.9%.

- In 2001, 10.4% of families were living in poverty in comparison to 14.9% in 1996 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- This 21.6% decrease was followed by an increase in family poverty in the 2000s culminating with the 2004 rate of 17.9% (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Close to 2 out of 10 Albertan families lived in poverty in 2004. This fact also applies to Calgary and Edmonton.

- There were 238,000 poor Albertan families in 2004. This represents 17.9% of all Albertan families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- There were 72,000 poor Calgarian families in 2004. This represents 17.5% of all Calgarian families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- There were 80,000 poor Edmontonian families in 2004. This represents 19.4% of all Edmonton families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta couples with children under 18 showed improvement from 1996 to 2004.

- A 32% decrease in poverty dropped the 1996 poverty rate for this group from 13.6% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- This rate further dropped to 7.2% in 2004 (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

Alberta lone-parent families with children under 18 had declining poverty rates from 1996-2001. 51.3% in 1996 to 39.1% in 2001. However, this rate did **not change significantly during the 2000s** (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

Lone-parent families are at a significantly higher risk to be poor than two-parent families.

- **Alberta lone-parent families were almost 5 times as likely to be poor than two-parent families.** 38% of Albertan lone-parent families were poor versus 7.4% of two-parent families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- **You are more than twice as likely to be poor if you live in a female lone-parent family as the average poor household in Alberta.** 47.8% of female headed families as opposed to 17.9% of average poor families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- **Edmontonian lone-parent families were almost 3 times as likely to be poor than two-parent families.** 29.4% of lone parent families were poor versus 9.1% of two-parent families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- **Calgarian lone-parent families were almost 10 times as likely to be poor than two-parent families.** 47.1% of lone-parent families were poor versus 5.1% of two-parent families (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- **The poverty rates of Calgary's lone-parent families (47.1%) were considerably higher than Alberta-wide rates (38%) and Edmonton rates (29.4%).**
- With respect to **other Alberta communities**, in 2001, Edmonton and Drumheller had highest rate of lone-parent poverty in 2001(50%), followed by Lethbridge (49.3%), Medicine Hat (45%) and Grande Prairie (44.8%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- In 2001, the most **significant decreases in lone-parent poverty** occurred in Cold Lake (-50%), Wood Buffalo (-35.7%), Leduc (-34.4%), Red Deer (-33.8%), followed by Fort Saskatchewan and Drumheller at -29.2% (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

Households by type and poverty status for Alberta, Census 1996 & 2001								
	Total	Total	%	Total	Total	%	% Poor	% Poor
	1996	2001	Change	Poor	Poor	Change	1996	2001
Total economic families	715,390	803,915	12.4%	106,610	83,630	-21.6%	14.9%	10.4%
Couples with children under 18	299,990	314,685	4.9%	40,870	27,790	-32.0%	13.6%	8.8%
Lone-parent families with children under 18	59,840	68,570	14.6%	30,720	26,805	-12.7%	51.3%	39.1%

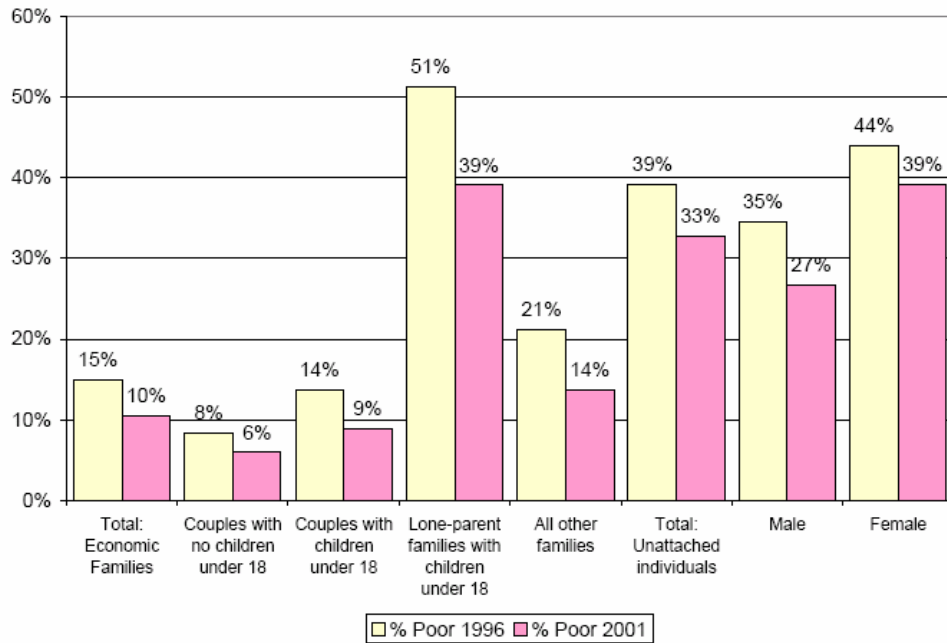
Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Low income families, low income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base, 2004		
	Number of families	Percentage of families
Alberta		
Low-income families	238,000	17.9%
Two-parent families with children	23,000	7.4%
Lone-parent families	25,000	38.0%
Female lone-parent families	25,000	47.8%
Calgary		
Total low-income families	72,000	17.5%
Two-parent families with children	N/A	5.1%
Lone-parent families	N/A	47.1%
Female lone-parent families	N/A	N/A
Edmonton		
Total low-income families	80,000	19.4%
Two-parent families with children	N/A	9.1%
Lone-parent families	N/A	29.4%
Female lone-parent families	N/A	N/A

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Households by type and poverty status for Alberta, Census 1996 & 2001

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



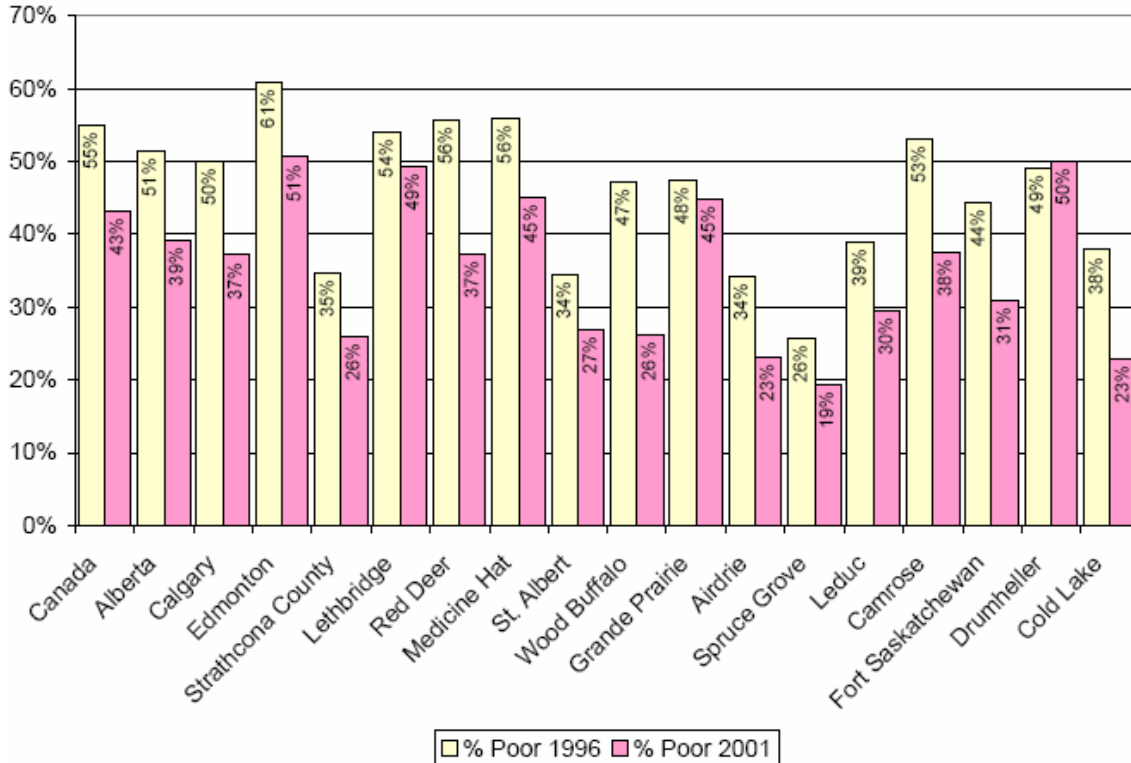
Lone-parent economic families with children under 18

	Total 1996	Total 2001	% Change	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	% Change	% Poor 1996	% Poor 2001
Canada	697,260	735,745	5.5%	383,070	317,685	-17.1%	54.9%	43.2%
Alberta	59,840	68,570	14.6%	30,720	26,805	-12.7%	51.3%	39.1%
Calgary	18,010	20,070	11.4%	9,010	7,455	-17.3%	50.0%	37.1%
Edmonton	18,060	18,835	4.3%	10,980	9,530	-13.2%	60.8%	50.6%
Strathcona County	950	1,155	21.6%	330	300	-9.1%	34.7%	26.0%
Lethbridge	1,520	1,715	12.8%	820	845	3.0%	53.9%	49.3%
Red Deer	2,100	2,075	-1.2%	1,170	775	-33.8%	55.7%	37.3%
Medicine Hat	1,110	1,445	30.2%	620	650	4.8%	55.9%	45.0%
St. Albert	900	1,040	15.6%	310	280	-9.7%	34.4%	26.9%
Wood Buffalo	890	1,035	16.3%	420	270	-35.7%	47.2%	26.1%
Grande Prairie	800	1,005	25.6%	380	450	18.4%	47.5%	44.8%
Airdrie	350	520	48.6%	120	120	0.0%	34.3%	23.1%
Spruce Grove	310	360	16.1%	80	70	-12.5%	25.8%	19.4%
Leduc	410	355	-13.4%	160	105	-34.4%	39.0%	29.6%
Camrose	320	465	45.3%	170	175	2.9%	53.1%	37.6%
Fort Saskatchewan	270	275	1.9%	120	85	-29.2%	44.4%	30.9%
Drumheller	245	170	-30.6%	120	85	-29.2%	49.0%	50.0%
Cold Lake	370	305	-17.6%	140	70	-50.0%	37.8%	23.0%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Lone-Parent Economic Families with children under 18

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Unattached Individuals

From 1996 to 2001, unattached individuals across the province saw an improvement in their rate of poverty.

- In 2001, 32.7% of unattached Albertans were living in poverty. This rate had dropped from 1996 (39.2%) (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- In Calgary, the rate of poverty for unattached individuals dropped significantly from 41.8% in 1996 to 33.1% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Edmonton's unattached individuals' rate of poverty also dropped from 46.8% in 1996 to 40.9% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Major reductions in from 1996 to 2001 poverty rates for unattached individuals occurred in Red Deer, St. Albert, Wood Buffalo, and Camrose where rates dropped by approximately 10% (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Slight increases occurred in Strathcona County and Leduc (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

In 2004, approximately, one out three unattached individuals lived in poverty. This represents an increase from the 2001 rate, while Calgary & Edmonton showed very slight decreases in 2004 in comparison to 2001 rates.

- In Alberta, there were 158,000 poor unattached individuals in 2004; in other words, one out three (34.2%) unattached individuals will be poor (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- There were 48,000 poor unattached individuals in 2004 in Calgary; this represents 32.5% of unattached individuals (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004). This represents a very slight decrease from the 2001 rates.
- The rates for unattached individuals' poverty rates in Edmonton are higher than in Alberta and Calgary. In Edmonton, there were 55,000 poor unattached individuals in 2004, or 38.4% of unattached individuals (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004). This represents a minimal decrease from the 2001 rates.

Unattached females are more likely to live in poverty than unattached males.

- Alberta: 40.8% low income individual unattached females vs. 28.6% low income individual unattached males (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- Calgary: 38.9% low income individual unattached females vs. 28.1% low income individual unattached males (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).
- Edmonton: 50.2% low income individual unattached females vs. 25.8% low income individual unattached males (Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004).

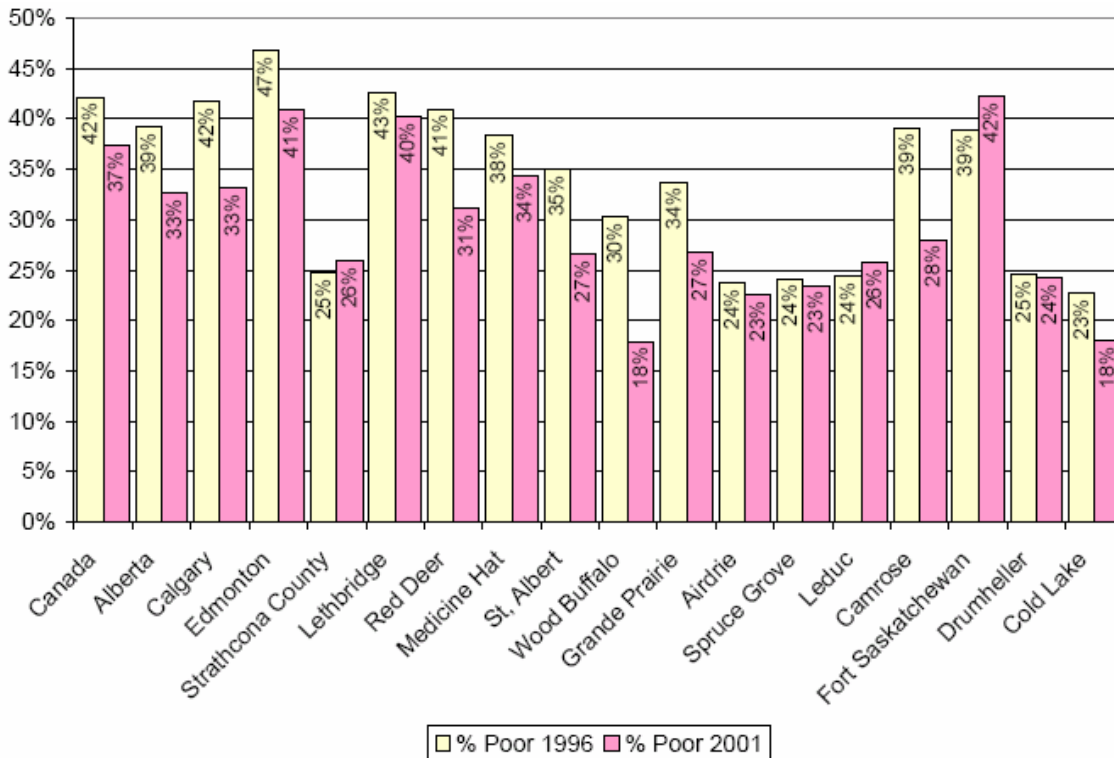
Low-income persons, Alberta, 2004, low income cut-offs before tax, 1992 base						
	Alberta		Calgary		Edmonton	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Unattached individuals	34.2%	158,000	32.5%	48,000	38.4%	55,000
Unattached individuals, males	28.6%	71,000	28.1%	25,000	25.8%	18,000
Unattached individuals, females	40.8%	87,000	38.9%	23,000	50.2%	37,000
Unattached individuals, elderly persons	23.2%	20,000	32.1%	N/A	39.4%	N/A
Unattached individuals, elderly males	21.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unattached individuals, elderly females	23.7%	15,000	27.2%	NA	45.1%	N/A
Unattached individuals, under 65 years	36.8%	138,000	32.5%	43,000	38.1%	43,000
Unattached individuals, males, under 65 years	29.3%	66,000	27.1%	23,000	26.5%	N/A
Unattached individuals, females, under 65 years	48.3%	71,000	42.1%	20,000	52.7%	26,000

Statistics Canada, Income Trends 2004

Unattached individuals by poverty status for Canada, Alberta & selected Alberta communities								
	Total 1996	Total 2001	% Change	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	% Change	% Poor 1996	% Poor 2001
Canada	3,584,510	3,954,355	10.3%	1,511,570	1,477,595	-2.2%	42.2%	37.4%
Alberta	331,050	395,800	19.6%	129,790	129,490	-0.2%	39.2%	32.7%
Calgary	112,400	134,635	19.8%	46,970	44,550	-5.2%	41.8%	33.1%
Edmonton	95,950	112,670	17.4%	44,900	46,040	2.5%	46.8%	40.9%
Strathcona County	3,070	4,285	39.6%	760	1,110	46.1%	24.8%	25.9%
Lethbridge	9,210	11,505	24.9%	3,930	4,630	17.8%	42.7%	40.2%
Red Deer	9,050	11,290	24.8%	3,710	3,510	-5.4%	41.0%	31.1%
Medicine Hat	6,260	7,435	18.8%	2,400	2,550	6.3%	38.3%	34.3%
St. Albert	2,800	3,810	36.1%	980	1,010	3.1%	35.0%	26.5%
Wood Buffalo	2,970	3,990	34.3%	900	715	-20.6%	30.3%	17.9%
Grande Prairie	4,210	5,615	33.4%	1,420	1,500	5.6%	33.7%	26.7%
Airdrie	1,010	1,415	40.1%	240	320	33.3%	23.8%	22.6%
Spruce Grove	910	1,150	26.4%	220	270	22.7%	24.2%	23.5%
Leduc	1,150	1,380	20.0%	280	355	26.8%	24.3%	25.7%
Camrose	2,070	2,285	10.4%	810	640	-21.0%	39.1%	28.0%
Fort Saskatchewan	950	1,265	33.2%	370	535	44.6%	38.9%	42.3%
Drumheller	1,080	1,215	12.5%	265	295	11.3%	24.5%	24.3%
Cold Lake	900	1,030	14.4%	205	185	-9.8%	22.8%	18.0%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Unattached individuals by poverty status for Canada, Alberta & selected Alberta communities
 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Aboriginal Poverty

Aboriginal people’s poverty rates showed great variance across the province, with an overall improvement from 1996 to 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

- Aboriginal people’s poverty rates improved significantly from 1996 to 2001 in certain communities: Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, St. Albert, Leduc, Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Drumheller, & Cold Lake and in Alberta overall. Nevertheless, these rates remained well above Alberta poverty rates (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Significant improvements in the poverty rates of poverty for Aboriginal Albertans occurred from 1996 (44%) to 2001 (22.9%). 13.6% is the Alberta average (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Calgary’s Aboriginal poverty rates also dropped from 50.6% to 31.3%, which remains above the average for Calgarians (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Edmonton’s Aboriginal poverty rates dropped from 61.6% in 1996 to 44% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Because the greatest number of Aboriginal people resided in Edmonton (13,280), followed by Calgary (6,160), this brought the overall Alberta Aboriginal poverty rate down (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).
- Certain communities however show different trends: Airdrie, Strathcona County, Grande Prairie, Spruce Grove, and Lethbridge’s Aboriginal poverty rates climbed from 1996 to 2001 significantly (Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996).

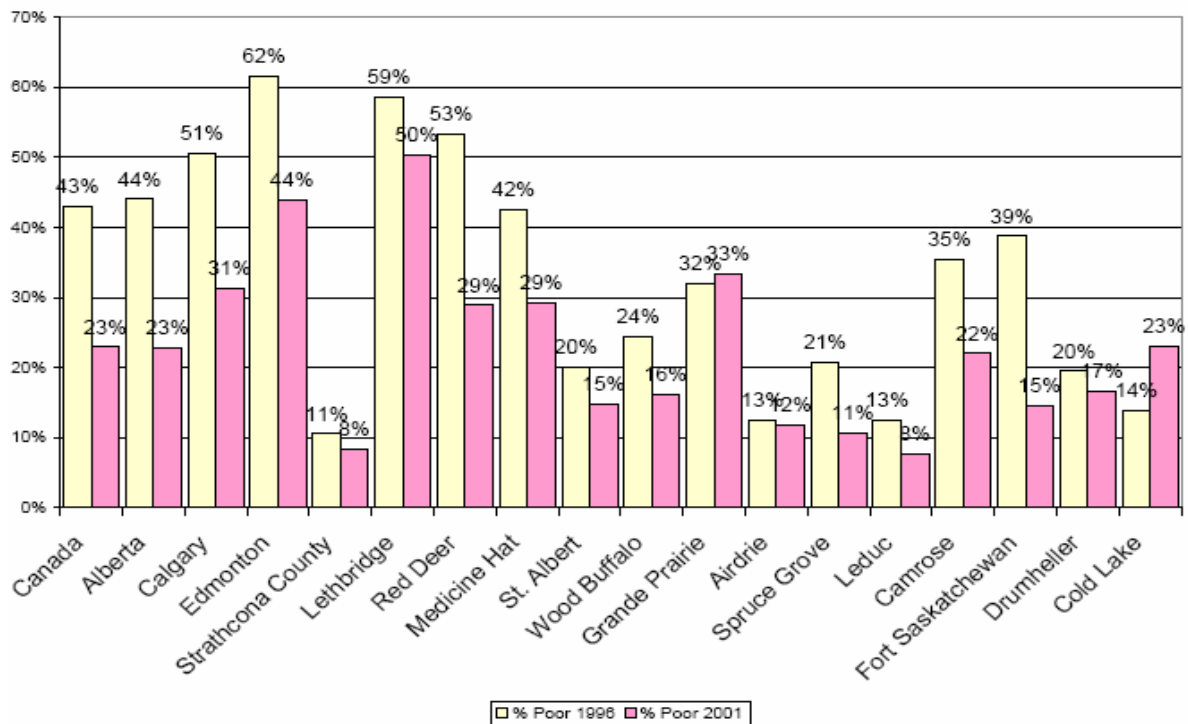
Aboriginal population by poverty status for Canada, Alberta and selected Alberta communities

	Total 1996	Total 2001	% Change	Total Poor 1996	Total Poor 2001	% Change	% Poor 1996	% Poor 2001
Canada	799,010	973,355	21.8%	343,570	222,830	-35.1%	43.0%	22.9%
Alberta	122,835	155,740	26.8%	54,045	35,635	-34.1%	44.0%	22.9%
Calgary	13,800	19,700	42.8%	6,980	6,160	-11.7%	50.6%	31.3%
Edmonton	24,110	30,205	25.3%	14,850	13,280	-10.6%	61.6%	44.0%
Strathcona County	760	1,505	98.0%	80	125	56.3%	10.5%	8.3%
Lethbridge	1,690	2,255	33.4%	990	1,135	14.6%	58.6%	50.3%
Red Deer	1,970	2,665	35.3%	1,050	770	-26.7%	53.3%	28.9%
Medicine Hat	730	1,060	45.2%	310	310	0.0%	42.5%	29.2%
St. Albert	950	1,220	28.4%	190	180	-5.3%	20.0%	14.8%
Wood Buffalo	3,110	5,125	64.8%	760	830	9.2%	24.4%	16.2%
Grande Prairie	1,840	2,610	41.8%	590	870	47.5%	32.1%	33.3%
Airdrie	240	425	77.1%	30	50	66.7%	12.5%	11.8%
Spruce Grove	290	660	127.6%	60	70	16.7%	20.7%	10.6%
Leduc	400	455	13.8%	50	35	-30.0%	12.5%	7.7%
Camrose	310	340	9.7%	110	75	-31.8%	35.5%	22.1%
Fort Saskatchewan	310	240	-22.6%	120	35	-70.8%	38.7%	14.6%
Drumheller	205	150	-26.8%	40	25	-37.5%	19.5%	16.7%
Cold Lake	505	845	67.3%	70	195	178.6%	13.9%	23.1%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996

Aboriginal population by poverty status for Canada, Alberta and selected Alberta communities

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Activity Limitation & Poverty

Note: New disability questions were used in the 2001 Census. The new questions ask about difficulty in daily activities and activity reduction covering the components of home, work or school, and other activities. The wording of the new questions and their accompanying response categories are different from the disability questions and response options used in previous censuses. Results from the new 2001 disability questions are not comparable with results from the disability questions asked in previous censuses. The also resulted in higher disability rates, as respondents found it easier to indicate some disability. The overall disability rate for Canada was 15.9% (4,715,600 individuals). Factors which account for the increases in the disability rates from 1996 include: the changes in the questions which allow more people to respond affirmatively, the aging population and the natural increase in disabilities.

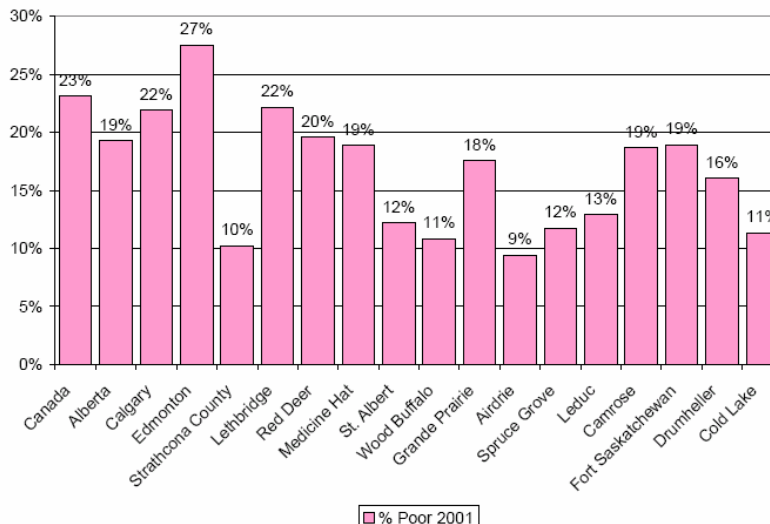
- 19.3% of Albertans with activity limitations lived in poverty in 2001. There were 90,255 such persons
- 21.9% of Calgarians with activity limitations were low income. There were 27,775 such persons in 2001
- Edmontonians with activity limitations (27.5%) experienced higher rates of poverty than Calgarians or Albertans in general. Edmonton also had the highest number (31,740) of people with activity limitations living in poverty
- All other Alberta communities had lower rates of poverty for activity limited-people (Census 2001).

Persons with activity limitations by poverty status for Canada, Alberta and selected Alberta communities			
	Total 2001	Total Poor 2001	% Poor 2001
Canada	4,691,975	1,083,940	23.1%
Alberta	468,805	90,255	19.3%
Calgary	126,910	27,780	21.9%
Edmonton	115,425	31,740	27.5%
Strathcona County	9,020	920	10.2%
Lethbridge	12,885	2,855	22.2%
Red Deer	10,840	2,120	19.6%
Medicine Hat	9,735	1,835	18.8%
St. Albert	6,470	790	12.2%
Wood Buffalo	3,965	430	10.8%
Grande Prairie	4,725	830	17.6%
Airdrie	2,555	240	9.4%
Spruce Grove	2,250	265	11.8%
Leduc	2,365	305	12.9%
Camrose	3,005	560	18.6%
Fort Saskatchewan	2,035	385	18.9%
Drumheller	1,620	260	16.0%
Cold Lake	1,370	155	11.3%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001

Persons with activity limitations by poverty status for Canada, Alberta & selected Alberta communities

(Statistics Canada, Census 2001 & 1996)



Visible Minority & Immigration

Calgary-specific only

Visible Minority

- There were 37,000 visible minority group members who were poor in 2001 in Calgary; 22.8% of visible minority members in Calgary were poor (Census 2001).

Low-income groups by characteristic, Calgary, Census 2001				
	Total Population		Low Income Population	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percent
Total population by visible minority groups	868,810		129,105	14.9%
Visible minority population	162,525	18.7%	37,000	22.8%
All others	706,290	81.3%	92,100	13.0%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001

Immigrants

- 19.4% of Calgary **immigrants** were poor in 2001. There were 129,105 such persons (Census 2001).
- Of this group, the most likely to be poor were **recent immigrants** who arrived between 1996 and 2001; 37.3% of them were poor in comparison to those who arrived before 1986 (13.2% were low income) (Census 2001).
- It seems that there is an **improvement in the income status of immigrants** related to their years in Canada. Those who had been in Canada for less than 5 years in 2001 were almost twice as likely to be poor than those who had arrived between 1991 and 1995. In fact, the percentage of low income immigrants who arrived prior to 1986 is 1.7% lower than for average Calgarians (Census 2001).
- Non-permanent residents** had a high incidence of poverty, 38.8%, which is similar to that of recent immigrants in 2001. There were 2,775 such individuals in 2001 (Census 2001).

Low-income groups by characteristic, Calgary, Census 2001				
	Total Population		Low Income Population	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percent
Total population by immigrant status	868,810		129,105	14.9%
Non-immigrants	671,805	77.3%	89,565	13.3%
Immigrants	189,840	22.7%	36,760	19.4%
Immigrated before 1986	100,050		13,220	13.2%
Immigrated between 1986-1990	22,470		4,085	18.2%
Immigrated between 1991-1995	31,965		6,255	19.6%
Immigrated between 1996-2001	35,360		13,205	37.3%
Non-permanent residents	7,160		2,775	38.8%

Statistics Canada, Census 2001