

BC POVERTY RATES

The latest figures from Statistics Canada (2010) show BC near the bottom of the heap when it comes to most major measures of poverty.

- BC had an overall poverty rate of 15.5% – the worst rate of any province in Canada using the before-tax low income cut-offs of Statistics Canada as the measure of poverty.
 - BC had the second worst child poverty rate at 14.3% – the worst rate of any province except Manitoba.
 - BC had the worst poverty rate of any province, at 11.6%, for children living in two-parent families.
 - BC had the most unequal distribution of income among rich and poor families with children. The ratio of the average incomes of the richest ten percent compared to the poorest ten percent was the worst of any province at 13.8 to one.
-

During the first decade of the 21st century, most poverty rates in British Columbia were dismally high. Most other provincial and territorial governments used the decade to adopt comprehensive strategies and timetables for reducing poverty.

The overall child poverty statistics hide the fact that particular groups of children are over-represented in these numbers.

Census data has consistently shown that there are significantly higher poverty rates for children of recent immigrants, children of Aboriginal identity, children of female lone-parent families, children in racialized families and children with a disability. The poverty rates for these sub-groups in Canada have ranged from 27% to 48% in the most recently published census data (2006). This 2006 census data also showed that urban Aboriginal families experienced nearly double the poverty rate of non-Aboriginal urban families (21% vs. 11% respectively).

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. 2012 Child Poverty Report Card, 2012.

The First Call Coalition is made up of over 90 provincial/regional partner organizations, contacts in numerous mobilized communities, and a network of community partners and individuals committed to the Four Keys to Success for Children and Youth. More partners are always welcome. Find out how to become a partner.