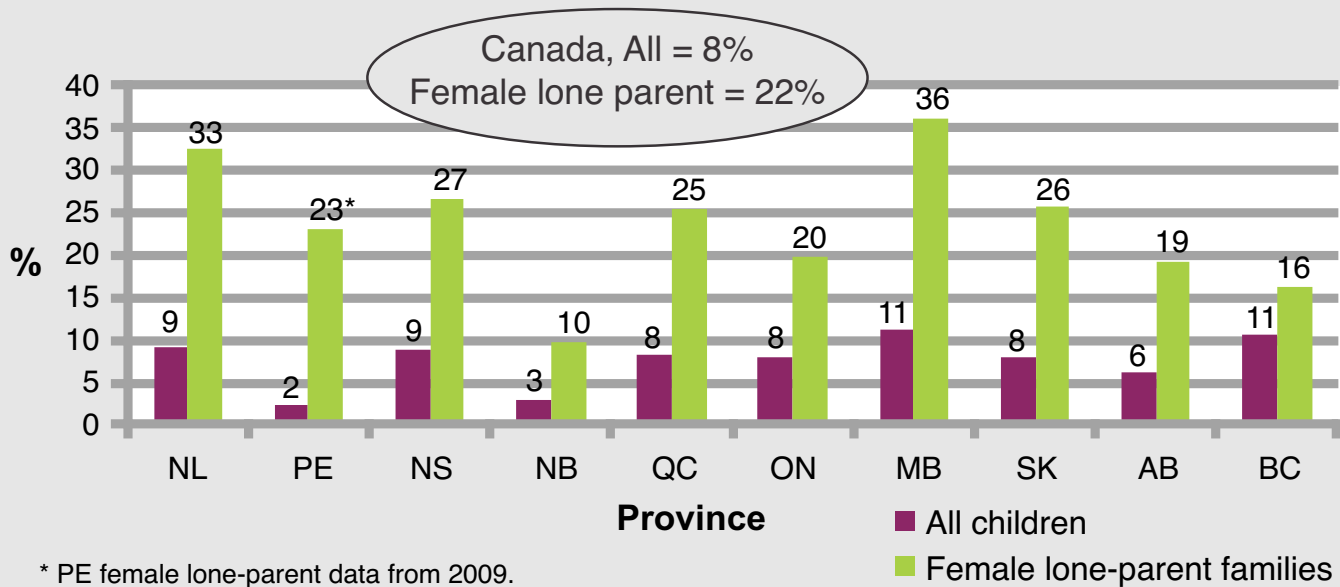




4.1.2 Economic Inequities - Poverty

Fig. 4.1.2 Children under 18 years living in low income*, by family type, Canada and provinces, 2010



* Poverty is represented by low income cut-offs (LICO). LICOs represent the income level at which a family may be in distressed circumstances because they spend a greater proportion of their income on necessities (i.e. food, shelter, and clothing) than the average family of similar size. In this case, LICOs have been calculated after a family has paid income tax (after-tax).

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0802, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, 8% of all children in Canada and 22% of children living in female lone-parent families were living in poverty. Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick had the lowest rates of child poverty overall. In PEI, 2% of all children and youth lived in poverty, which was the case for 3% of New Brunswick's children and youth. In New Brunswick, 10% of children and youth living with female lone-parents lived in poverty. Manitoba and British Columbia had the highest rates of child poverty in Canada. In both Manitoba and British Columbia, 11% of all children and youth lived in poverty. In Manitoba, 36% of children and youth living with female lone-parents lived in poverty.

Implications

In every province except Newfoundland, the welfare¹ income of a lone-parent with one child is below the poverty line. With the rising cost of food and the nearly unaffordable cost of housing, many families continue to struggle to balance their budgets each month².

¹ Welfare income for a lone-parent with a child aged two includes basic social assistance, other provincial benefits, federal child benefits, provincial child benefits, provincial child benefits, GST credit.

² "Campaign 2000, 2011 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2011EnglishRreportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

