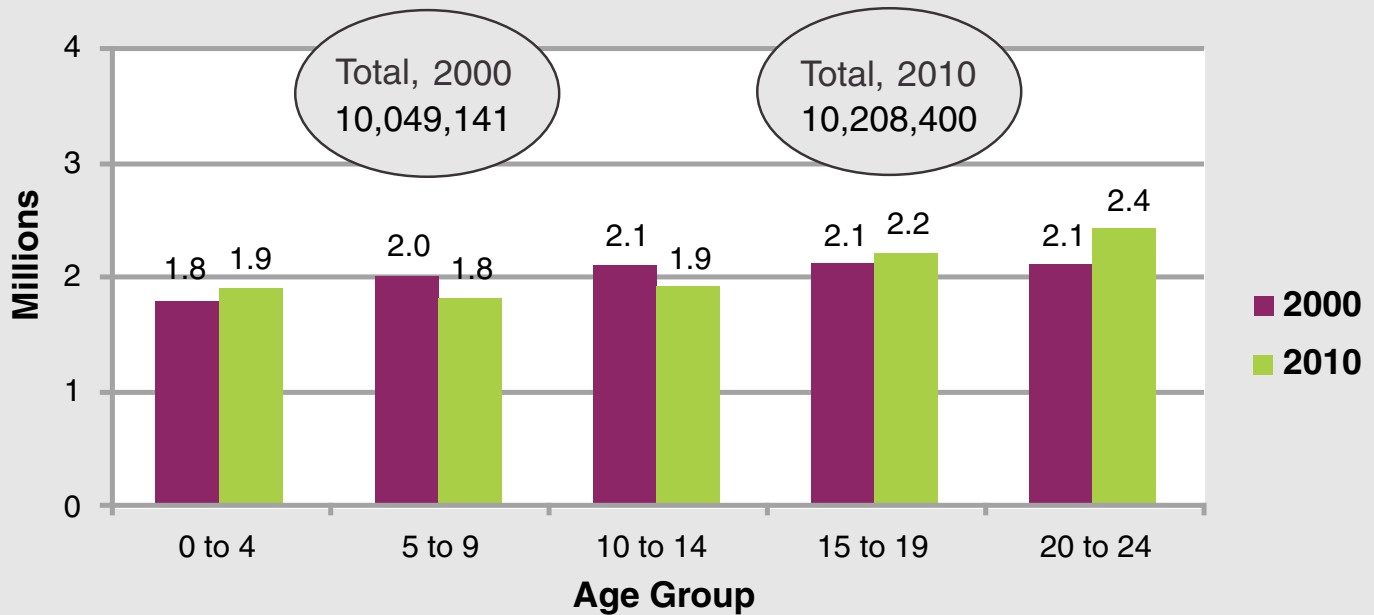




1.1.1 The Number of Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.1.1 Number of children and youth from birth to 24 years, by age group, Canada, 2000 and 2010



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 051-0001 accessed on July 8, 2011

In 2010, 10,208,400 children and youth called Canada home. Of these, approximately 1.9 million were infants, toddlers and young children between the ages of birth and 4 years; 1.8 million were children aged 5 to 9 years; 1.9 million were older children and youth in early adolescence, between the ages of 10 and 14 years; 2.2 million were youth ages 15 through 19 years; and 2.4 million were young adults, ages 20 through 24 years.

Implications

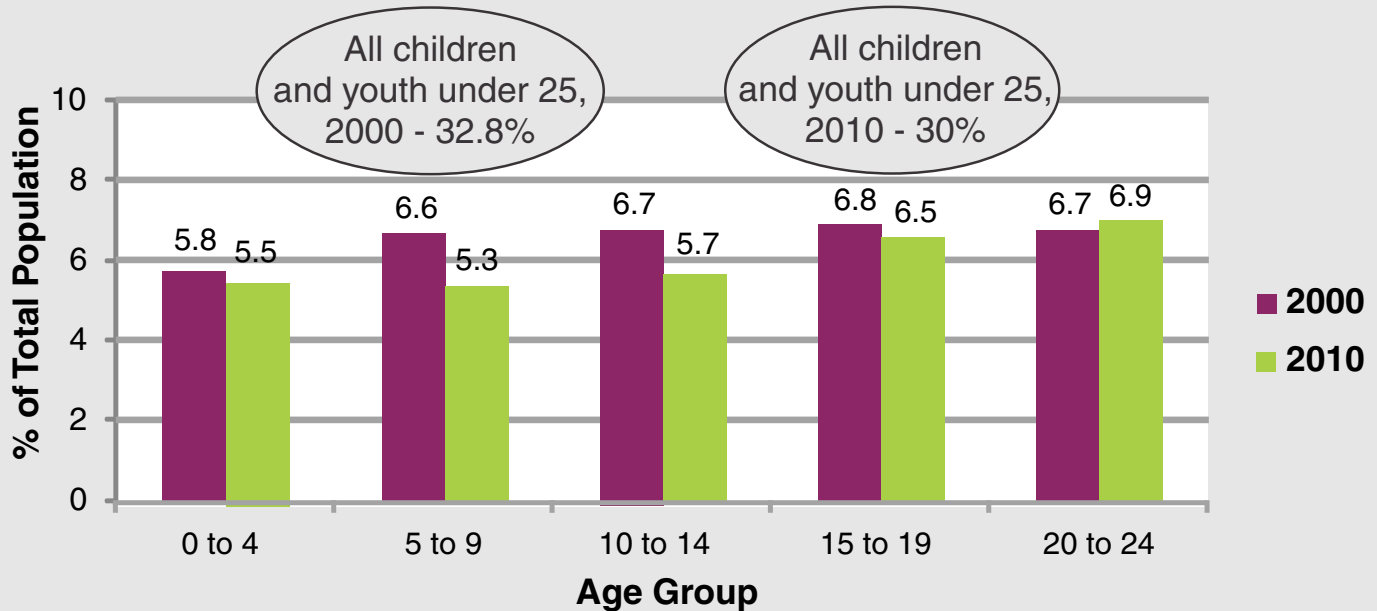
The number of children and youth living in Canada continues to increase. All of these children require caring and nurturing families and communities, as well as resources and services, so that they can reach their full potential. The relative increase in youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years highlights the need for ensuring continuity of care when youth move from child to adult social and health services.





1.1.2 The Number of Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.1.2 Proportion of the total population who were children and youth from birth to 24 years, by age group, Canada, 2000 and 2010



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 051-0001 accessed on July 8, 2011

Although the actual number of children and youth in Canada increased from 2000 to 2010, they accounted for slightly less as a proportion of the total population – 30% in 2010 compared to 33% in 2000.

In 2010, infants, toddlers and young children between the ages of birth and 14 years accounted for 16.5% of Canada's overall population compared to 19.2% in 2000.

Implications

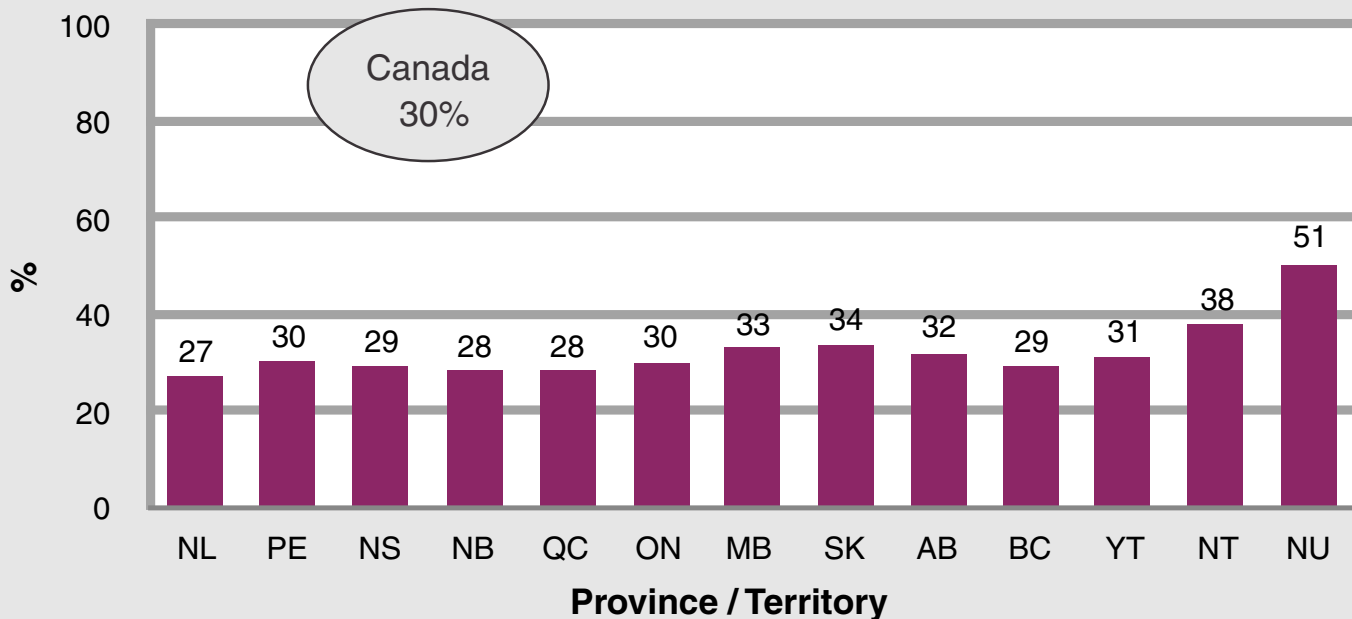
As the proportion children of various age groups, as a total of the Canadian population fluctuates, appropriate shifts in resources and services will have to be made.





1.1.3 The Number of Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.1.3 Children and youth from birth to age 24, as a proportion of the total population, by province and territory, 2010



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 051-0001 accessed on July 8, 2011

As of July 1, 2010 approximately 30% of the total population in Canada was children aged from birth to 24 years. In all provinces and the Yukon, the proportion of children and youth under 25 years of age was close to the national average. However, in the Northwest Territories, 38% of all residents were children and youth and, more than half of Nunavut's population were children and youth.

Implications

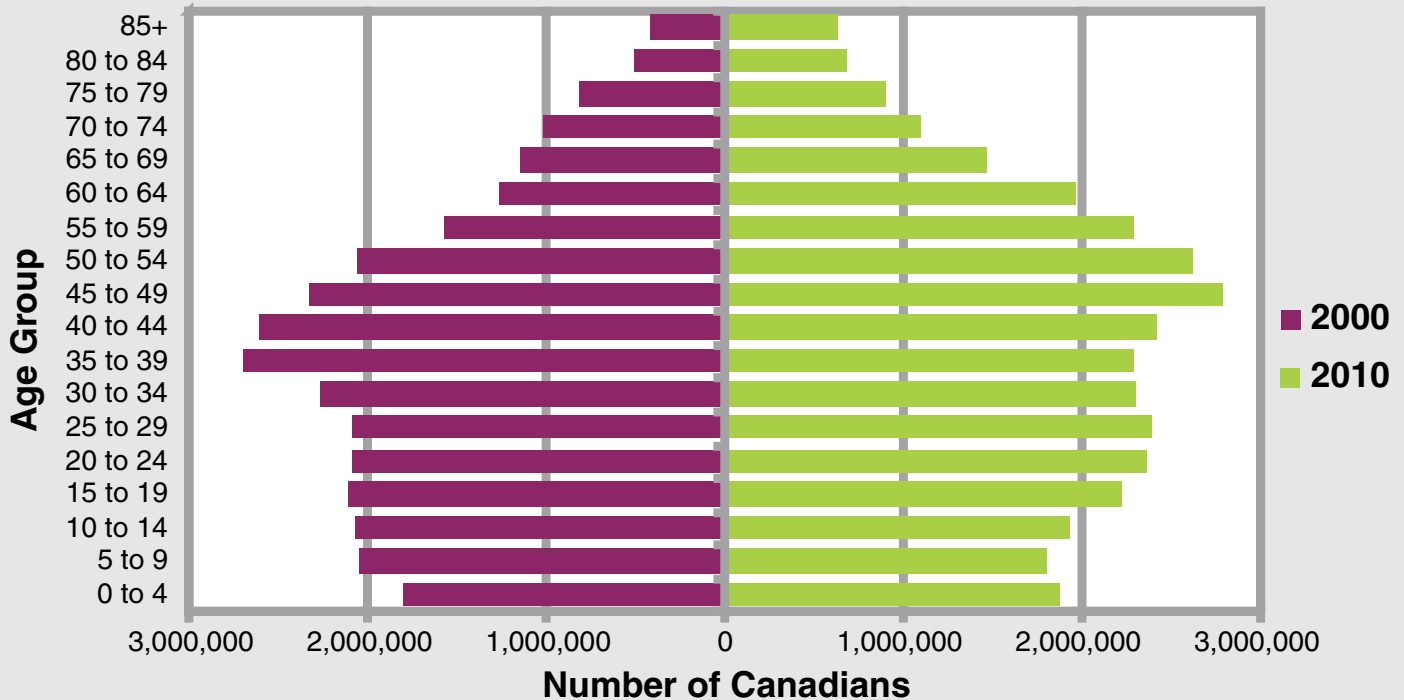
Everywhere they reside, children must have access to health care, education, early childhood learning and care, and other social supports that promote their well-being and healthy development. This is especially critical in NWT and Nunavut where children and youth make up a large proportion of the population.





1.1.4 The Number of Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.1.4 Population pyramid, by age and sex, Canada, 2010



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 051-0001 accessed on July 8, 2011

Looking at the total population of Canada by age group for 2000 compared to 2010 illustrates the overall trend towards an aging population. For the ten year period 2000 to 2010 there was a 5% decrease in the population aged 0 to 14 years while the population aged 15 to 24 increased by 10%. At the opposite end of the spectrum the number of those aged 80 and over increased by 48% from 2000 to 2010.

The baby boomer "bulge" can be seen moving from age 35 to 44 in 2000 to age 45 to 54 in 2010.

Implications

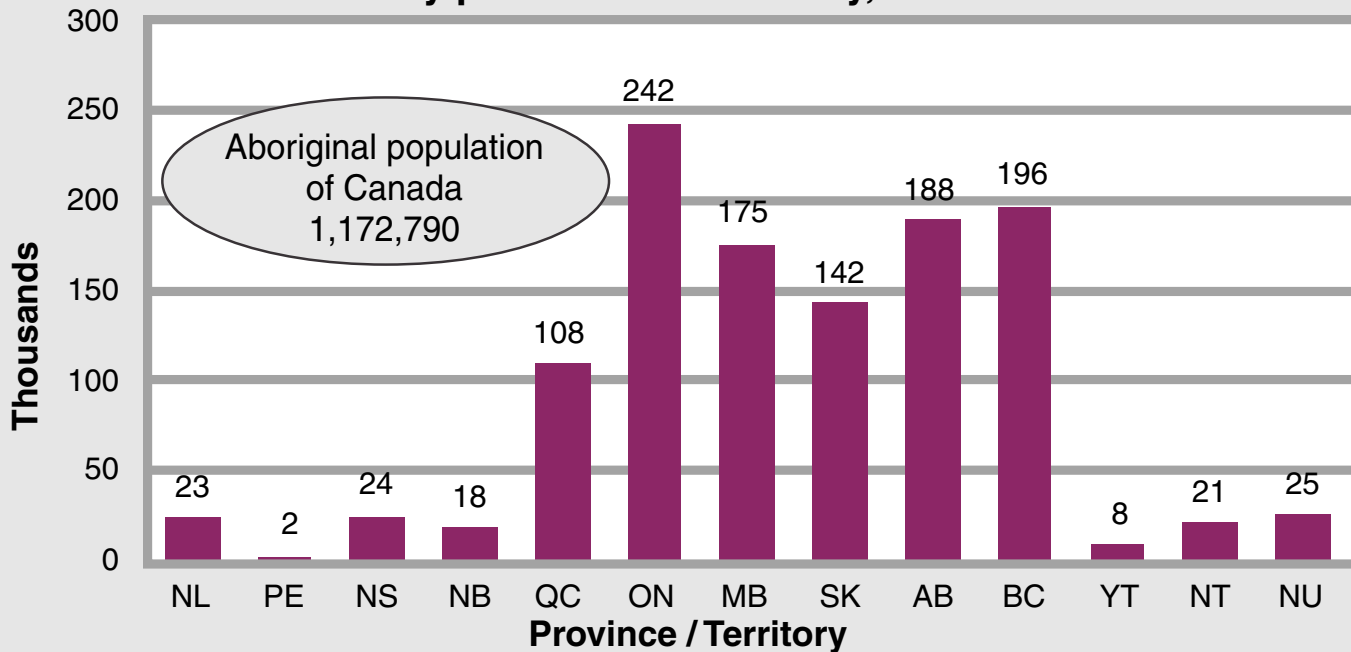
The increasing life expectancy of Canada's older population and retirement of the aging baby boomer generation will create challenges for Canada's economic and health care system in the future.





1.2.5 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.5 Population reporting Aboriginal identity, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40a-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40b-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40c-eng.htm> and <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40d-eng.htm> on July 8, 2011

Aboriginal Canadians are those who identify as First Nations/North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. According to the 2006 Census, Canada's total Aboriginal population was 1,172,790 people.

While the largest Aboriginal population (242,495) is in Ontario, many Aboriginal people live on the Prairies — Manitoba (175,395) and Saskatchewan (141,890) — as well as in the western provinces — Alberta (188,365) and British Columbia (196,075).

Implications

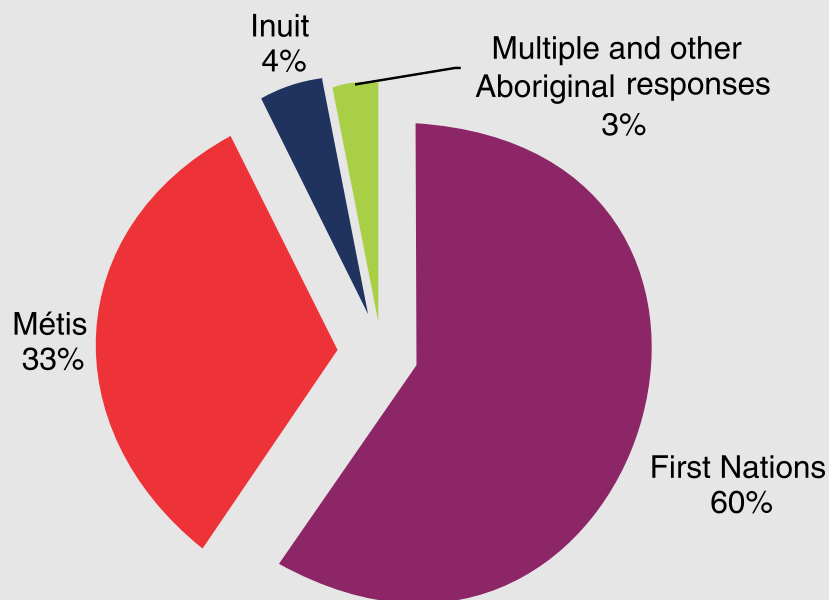
In the years to come, there is expected to be huge demands on Canada's labour market because of the increasing number of retiring baby boomers. As the non-Aboriginal youth and young adult population shrinks, there is potential for Aboriginal youth to benefit significantly. In preparation, Canada's leaders need to find ways to ensure that Aboriginal children and youth receive the education and employment skills necessary to take advantage of the opportunities that will inevitably unfold, and to have the opportunity to fully participate in Canadian society.





1.2.6 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.6 Canada's Aboriginal population, by Aboriginal identity, 2006, Total = 1,172,795



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89122&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=731&Temporal=2006&THEME=73&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> on July 8, 2011

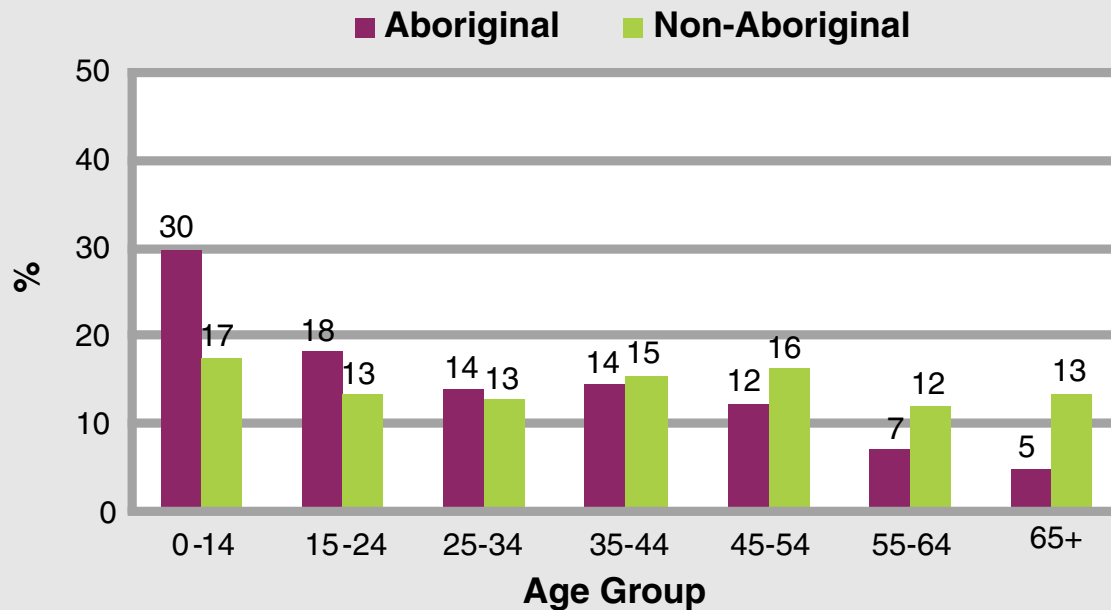
In 2006, the majority of people in Canada who identified as Aboriginal were of First Nations/North American Indian heritage (60%). One third (33%) identified as Métis and 4% as Inuit. It must be noted that 3% of people who reported Aboriginal identity were of multiple Aboriginal backgrounds or of an Aboriginal background other than First Nations, Métis or Inuit.





1.2.7 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.7 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations by age group, as a proportion of their total populations, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89122&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=731&Temporal=2006&THEME=73&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> accessed on July 8, 2011

Aboriginal communities in Canada are young communities. Thirty percent of the Aboriginal population in Canada is under 15 years of age, a further 18% are between 15 and 24 years.

Implications

According to population projections released by Statistics Canada in 2005, Aboriginal people could account for a growing share of the young adult population over the next decade. By 2017, Aboriginal people aged 20 to 29 could make up 30% of those in their 20s in Saskatchewan, 24% in Manitoba, 40% in the Yukon Territory and 58% in the Northwest Territories. Already, more than 80% of Nunavut's population aged 20 to 29 is Aboriginal, and the proportion is expected to grow.¹ Seniors represent a smaller proportion of the Aboriginal population than the non-Aboriginal population – this is due in part to higher mortality rates and reduced life expectancy in the Aboriginal population.

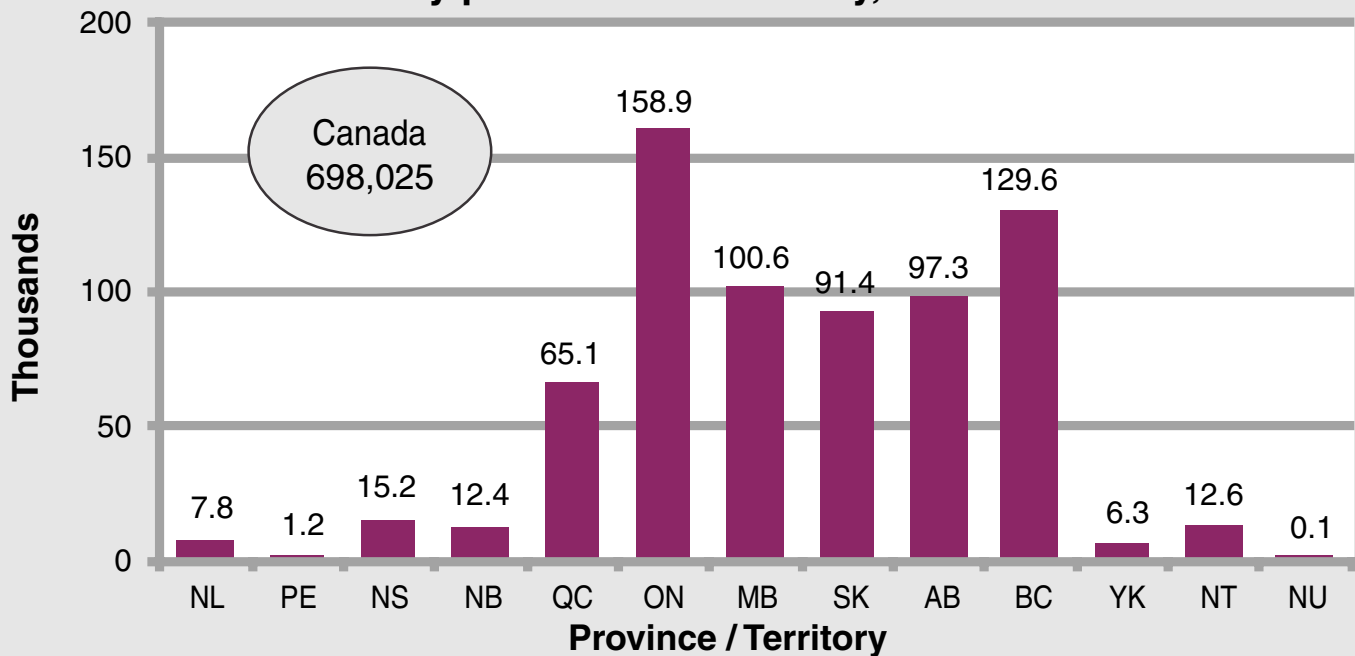
¹ Statistics Canada. 2006 Census: Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations, 2006 Census. <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-558/p4-eng.cfm>





1.2.8 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.8 Population reporting First Nations identity, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89122&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=731&Temporal=2006&THEME=73&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> accessed on July 8, 2011

In 2006, the largest populations of Métis and First Nations Canadians resided in the provinces west of Québec. Ontario is home to 158,900 First Nations and 73,600 Métis. BC has the next largest population with 129,600 First Nations and 59,400 Métis, followed by Manitoba (100,600 First Nations and 71,800 Métis), Alberta (97,300 First Nations and 85,500 Métis), Saskatchewan (91,400 First Nations and 48,100 Métis) and Québec (65,100 First Nations and 18,000 Métis).

Approximately 15,200 First Nations and 7,700 Métis reside in Nova Scotia, which is more than in any of the other Atlantic provinces.

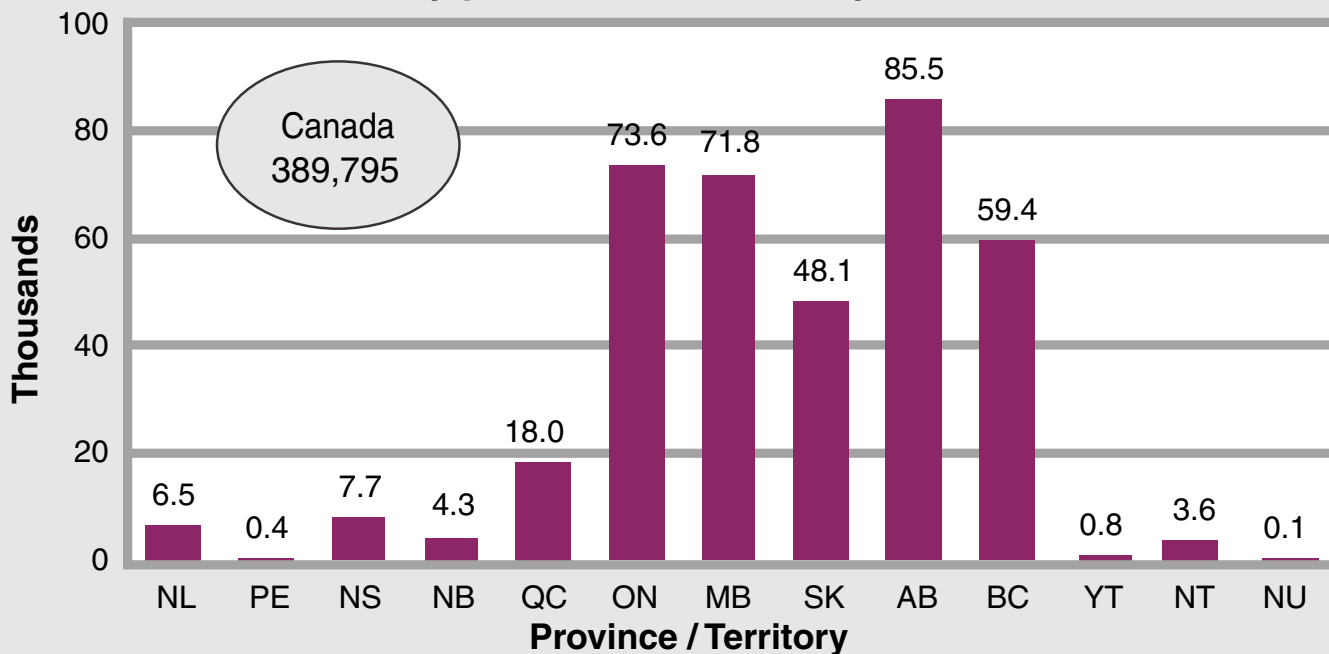
Among the territories, the Northwest Territories is home to largest population of First Nations (12,600) and Métis (3,600), followed by the Yukon (6,300 First Nations and 800 Métis). Fewer than 1,000 First Nations or Métis reside in Nunavut.





1.2.9 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.9 Population reporting Métis identity, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89122&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=731&Temporal=2006&THEME=73&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> accessed on July 8, 2011

In 2006, the largest populations of Métis and First Nations Canadians resided in the provinces west of Québec. Ontario is home to 158,900 First Nations and 73,600 Métis. BC has the next largest population with 129,600 First Nations and 59,400 Métis, followed by Manitoba (100,600 First Nations and 71,800 Métis), Alberta (97,300 First Nations and 85,500 Métis), Saskatchewan (91,400 First Nations and 48,100 Métis) and Québec (65,100 First Nations and 18,000 Métis).

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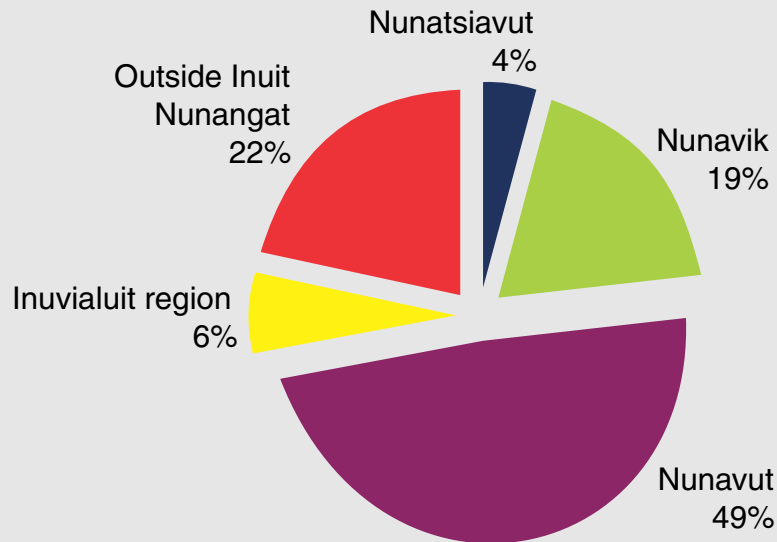
Among the territories, the Northwest Territories is home to largest population of First Nations (12,600) and Métis (3,600), followed by the Yukon (6,300 First Nations and 800 Métis). Fewer than 1,000 First Nations or Métis reside in Nunavut.





1.2.10 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.10 Distribution of the Inuit population, by region, Canada, 2006, Total = 50,485



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-636-x/2008001/tab/tab1-eng.htm> accessed on July 8, 2011

“Inuit Nunangat” is the Inuktitut expression for “Inuit homeland.” The Inuit Nunangat consists of four regions that extend across northern Canada. Inuit have inhabited this region for 5,000 years.

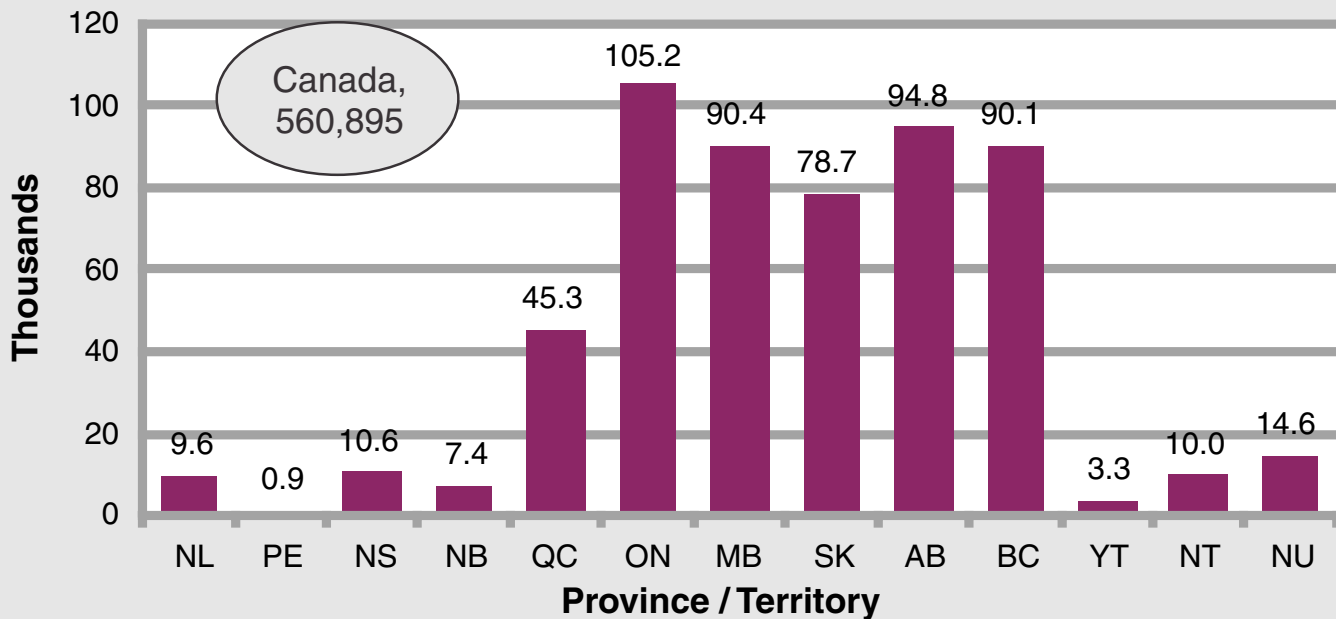
In 2006, the majority of Inuit (78%) lived in Inuit Nunangat. Of the total Inuit population in Canada, 49% lived in Nunavut, 19% in Nunavik in northern Quebec, 6% in the Inuvialuit region of the Northwest Territories and 4% in Nunatsiavut in northern Labrador.





1.2.11 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.11 Number of children and youth 0 to 24 years reporting an Aboriginal identity, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/demo40a-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/demo40b-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/demo40c-eng.htm> and <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/demo40d-eng.htm> accessed on July 8, 2011

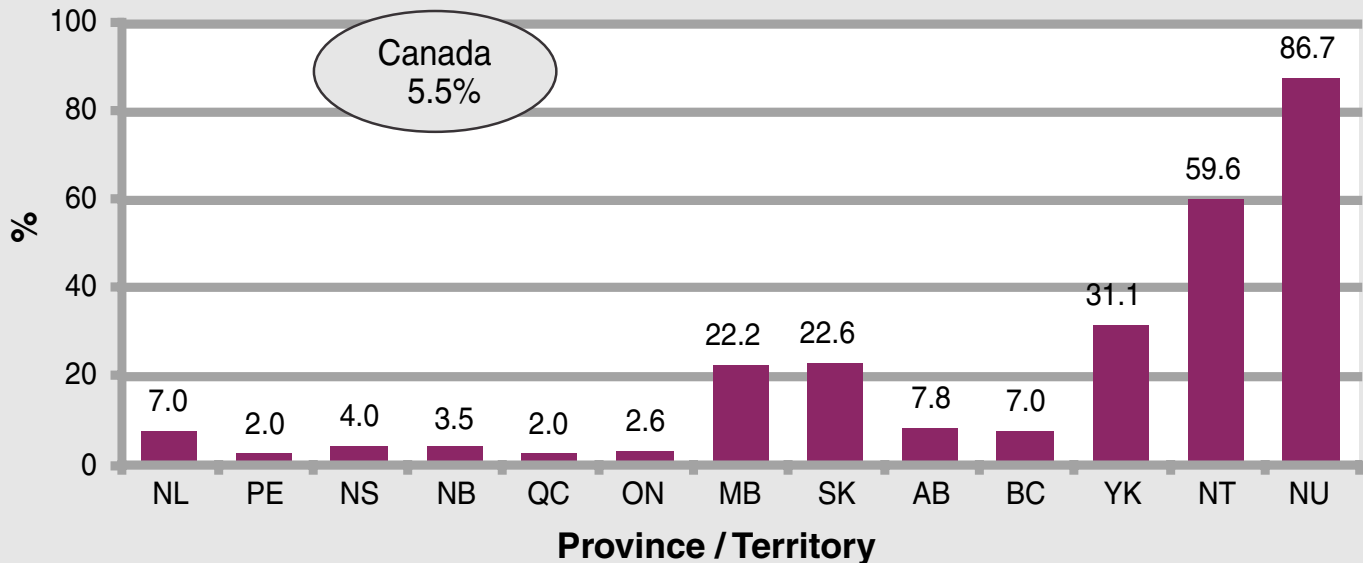
In 2006, over 560,000 Aboriginal children and youth under 25 years of age lived in Canada. The greatest number of these children and youth lived in Ontario (105,205) and many others lived in Manitoba (90,360), Saskatchewan (78,680), Alberta (94,805) and British Columbia (90,065). Fewer Aboriginal children and youth lived in the Atlantic provinces. Although the total number of Aboriginal children and youth in the territories appears low compared to some provinces, the proportion far exceeds the proportion of non-Aboriginal children and youth in the territories.





1.2.12 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.12 Percentage of the total population of children and youth 0 to 24 years reporting an Aboriginal Identity, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40a-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40b-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40c-eng.htm> and <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40d-eng.htm> accessed on July 8, 2011

According to the 2006 Census, 5.5% of the population of Canadian children and youth between 0 and 24 years identified as Aboriginal. The proportion varied greatly by province and territory. While the number of children and youth with Aboriginal identity may be highest in Ontario – the proportion of Aboriginal children and youth is much higher west of Ontario and in the Territories. In the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, over half of all children and youth reported Aboriginal identity. That proportion was almost a third in the Yukon. Over 20% of all children and youth in Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported Aboriginal identity compared with around 2% in Ontario and Québec.

Implications

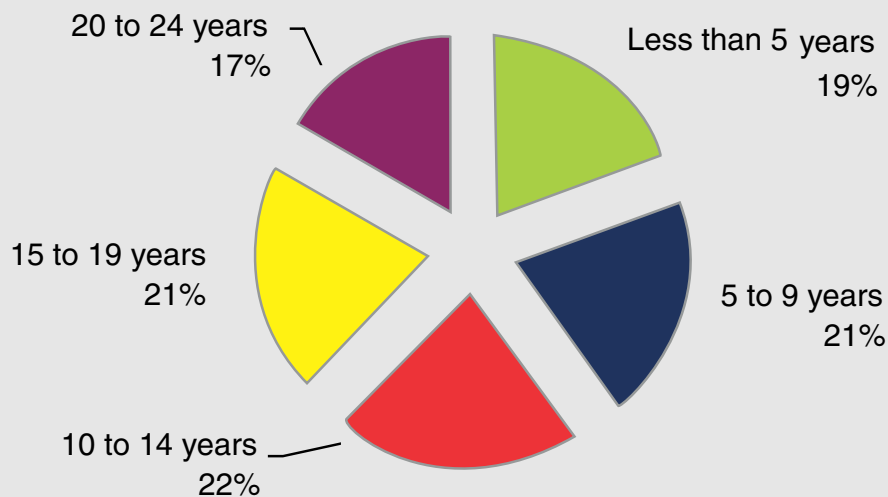
Resources and services that are culturally unique must be available wherever Aboriginal children and youth live.





1.2.13 Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada

Fig. 1.2.13 Distribution of children and youth reporting Aboriginal identity, by age group, Canada, 2006, Total = 560,895



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40a-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40b-eng.htm>, <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40c-eng.htm> and <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo40d-eng.htm> accessed on July 8, 2011

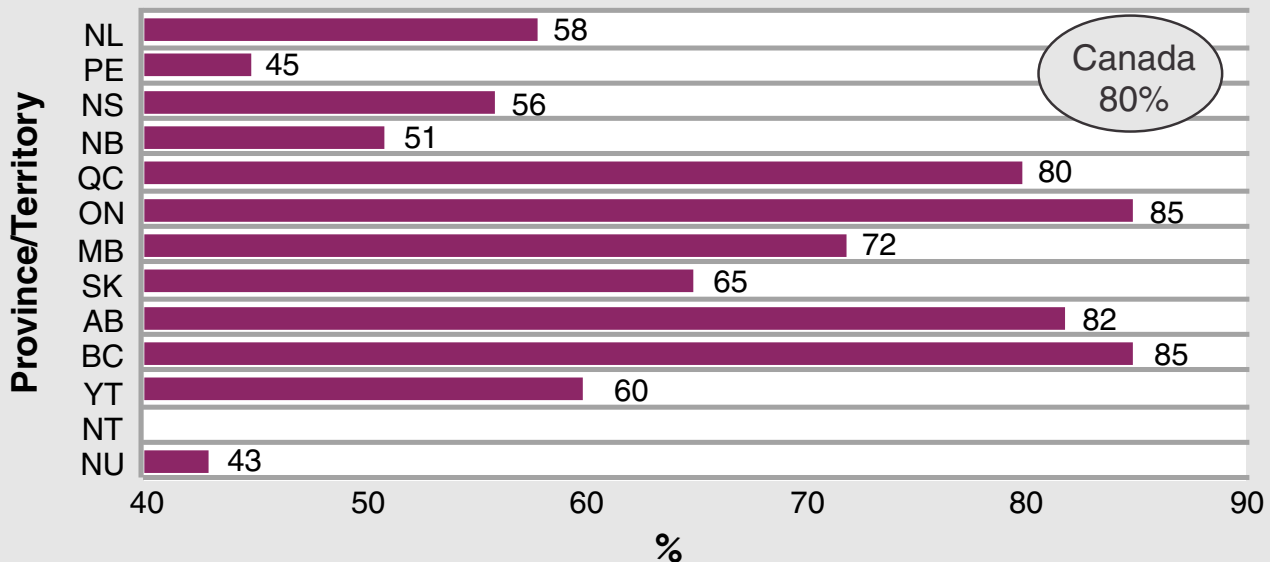
Of the over 560,000 Aboriginal children and youth under 25 living in Canada at the time of the 2006 Census, 19% were infants, toddlers and young children under the age 5 years; 21% were children between the ages of 5 and 9 years; 22% were older children and young adolescents aged 10 to 14 years; 21% were youth ages 15 through 19 years and 17% were youth aged 20 to 24 years.





1.3.14 Urban and Rural Composition

Fig. 1.3.14 Percentage of the population living in urban centres, Canada, provinces and territories, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/demo62a-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

In 2006, 80% of Canadians lived in urban centres. Urban living was most common in Ontario and British Columbia, where 85% of the population lived in urban centres. Urban living remained the dominant choice of people in many provinces and territories at 82% in Alberta, 80% in Québec, 72% in Manitoba, 65% in Saskatchewan, and 60% in the Yukon.

The Atlantic provinces were more closely divided between urban and rural living. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 58% of the population lived in an urban centre; in Nova Scotia, 56% lived in an urban centre. At 51% of its population living within an urban community, New Brunswick was the most evenly split between urban and rural living.

Prince Edward Island and Nunavut were the only exceptions to the national trend. The majority of their populations (65% and 67%, respectively) lived in rural rather than urban communities.

Implications

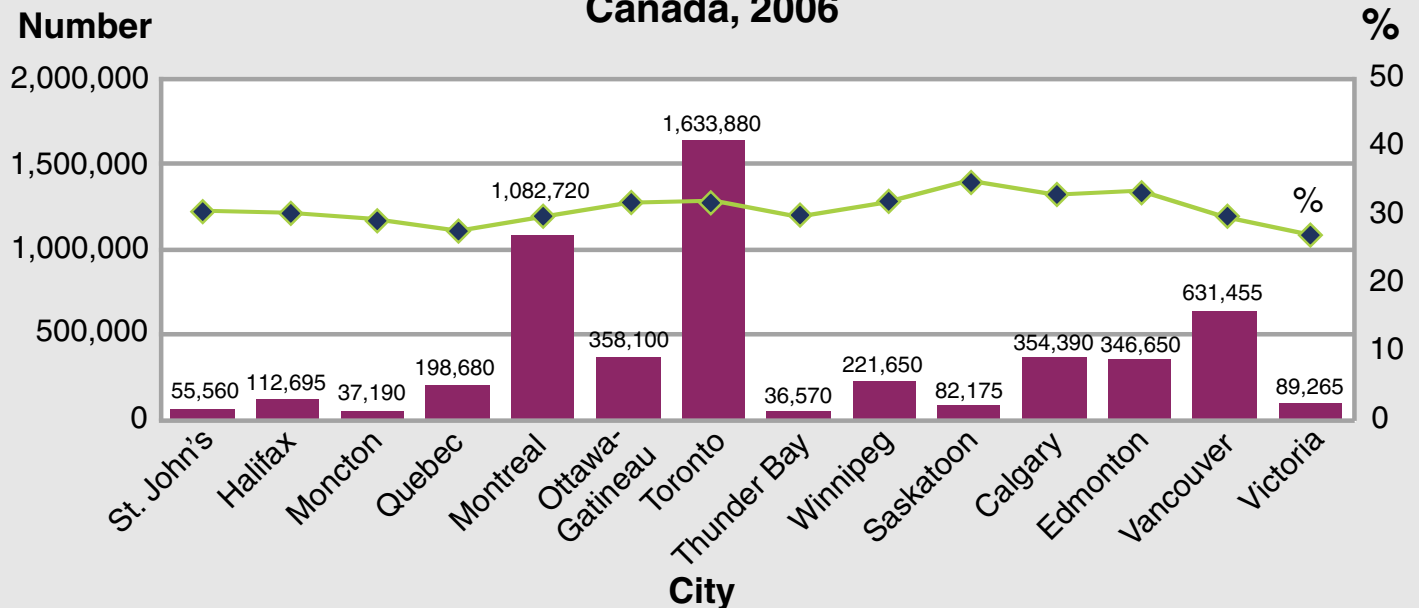
Where Canadians live is trending toward urban sprawl. At the time of the 2006 Census, about 80% of Canadians lived in urban communities and many of those resided in or close to densely populated city centres. Large Canadian cities, such as Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa-Gatineau, Toronto and Montreal, have become more ethnically and culturally diversified compared to rural towns and villages because new immigrants to the country are choosing to live in urban centres.





1.3.15 Urban and Rural Composition

Fig. 1.3.15 Children and youth under 25 in select large urban areas, and as a proportion of the total population in each urban area, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?TABID=1&LANG=E&A=R&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=01&GID=837928&GK=1&GRP=1&O=D&PID=88991&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=66&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0&D6=0>, accessed on November 28, 2011

In 2006, 5.2 million children and youth under the age of 25 lived in 14 of the country's largest urban areas. Of these children and youth, 64% — or 3.3 million young people — lived in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

The children and youth in these 14 urban centres accounted for 31% of the total population. This proportion was fairly consistent across cities, from 27% in Victoria to 35% in Saskatoon.

Implications

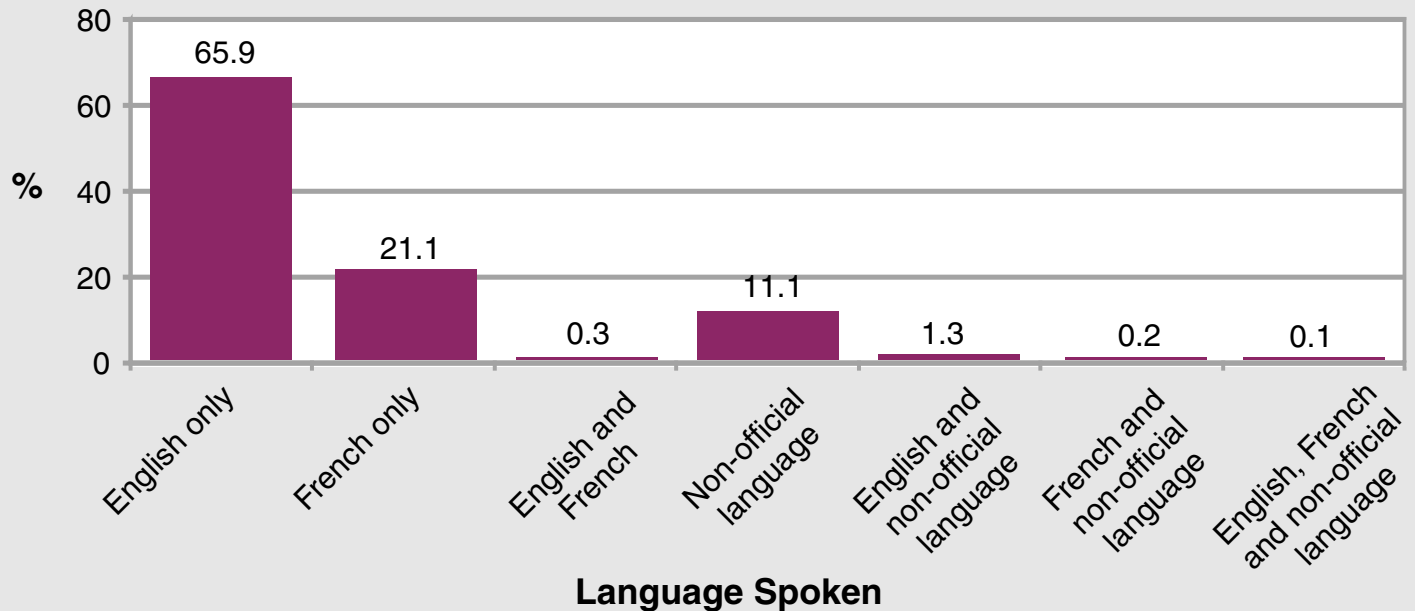
The proportion of the population that is under age 25 is comparable in each city. Cities must be able to accommodate the needs of youngsters as they develop, learn and grow.





1.4.16 Language

Fig. 1.4.16 Proportion of the Canadian population (all ages), by language spoken most often at home, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-555/T402-eng.cfm?Lang=E&T=402&GH=4&SC=1&S=99&O=A>, accessed on November 28, 2011

Canada has two official languages: English and French. The 2006 Census found that approximately 89% of Canadians spoke at least one official language in the home. The majority — 20,584,770 people or 66% of the overall population — were exclusively English-speaking, while 6,608,125 (21%) were exclusively French-speaking. Less than 2% of the population were bi- or multilingual in the home. Of the population — 11% or 3,472,130 people — spoke only a non-official language at home.

Implications

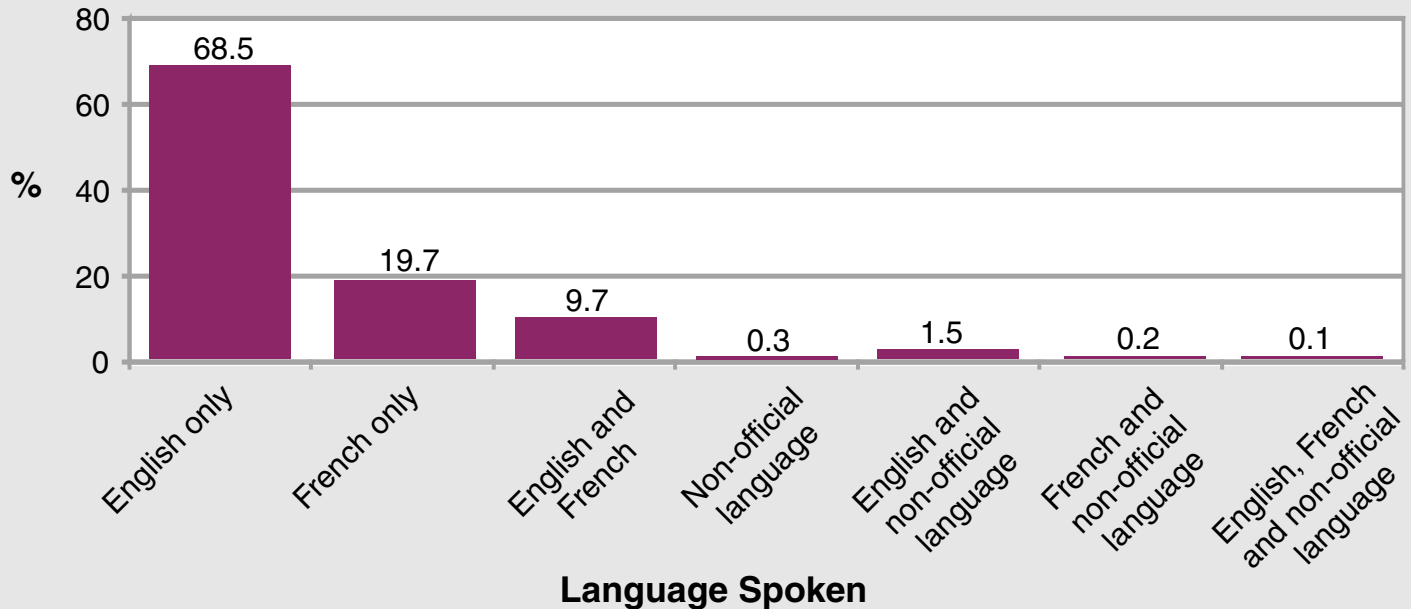
Canada is truly a multilingual country. With 11% of the population speaking neither English nor French at home, there is a great need for resources and services to be provided in a linguistically appropriate fashion.





1.4.17 Language

Fig. 1.4.17 Proportion of Canadian children under 25 years, by language spoken most often at home, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-555/T402-eng.cfm?Lang=E&T=402&GH=4&SC=1&S=99&O=A>, accessed on November 28, 2011

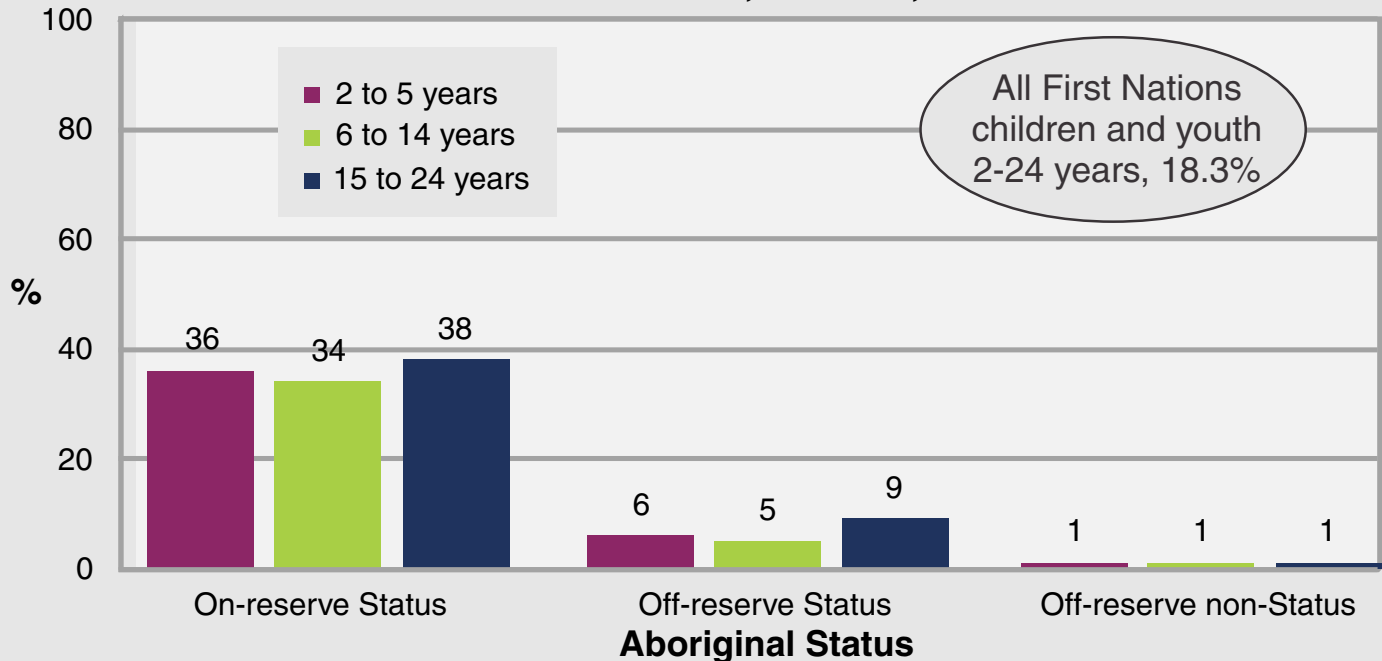
As one might expect, the languages spoken at home by children and youth under age 25 are, for the most part, proportionally similar to the general population. In 2006, there were 6,700,710 children and youth — about 68% of the population under 25 — who spoke only English in the home. There were 1,929,455 children and youth who spoke only French in the home, representing about 20% of the under 25 population. Almost 10% of children and youth under age 25 spoke solely a non-official language in the home.





1.4.18 Language

Fig. 1.4.18 Proportion of First Nations children and youth 2 to 24 years with an Aboriginal mother tongue, by Status and residence, on- vs. off-reserve, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2010002/c-g/11336/desc/desc001-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

In Canada, approximately 60 distinct indigenous languages are spoken. According to the 2006 Census, 18% of all First Nations children and youth 2 to 24 years old had an Aboriginal mother tongue. This was markedly more prevalent among Status children and youth living on-reserve. On-reserve, 38% of Status First Nations youth ages 15 through 24 years spoke an Aboriginal mother tongue, as did 34% of those ages 6 to 14 years and 36% of young children ages 2 to 5 years. Once off-reserve, speaking with an Aboriginal mother tongue was reported by only 9% of Status youth ages 15 to 24 years, 5% of children ages 6 to 14 years and 6% of children ages 2 to 5 years. Off-reserve non-Status First Nations children and youth were least likely to speak an Aboriginal mother tongue, with only 1% of the under 25 population in each age group reporting doing so.

Implications

The threat of their languages disappearing means that Aboriginal people's distinctive world view, the wisdom of their ancestors and their ways of being human could vanish as well.

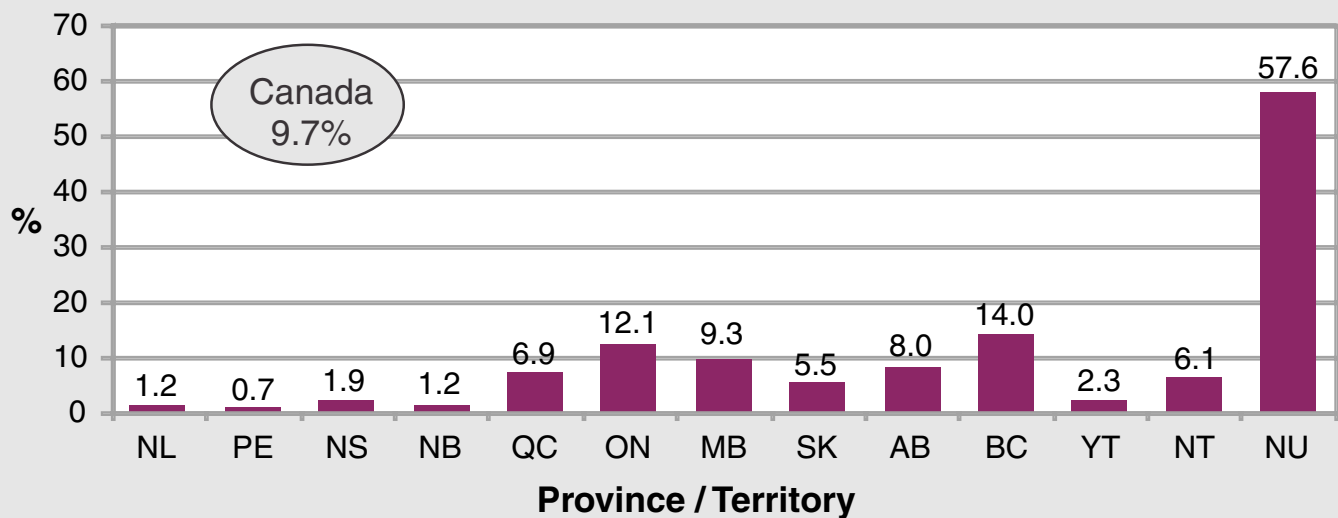
- Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996





1.4.19 Language

Fig. 1.4.19 Proportion of Canadian children and youth under 25 years speaking only a non-official language most often at home, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-555/T402-eng.cfm?Lang=E&T=402&GH=4&SC=1&S=99&O=A>, accessed on November 28, 2011

Canada's language diversity — that is, the use of languages other than English and French — is mainly affected by its Aboriginal and immigrant populations. Increasingly, Canadians have non-official mother tongues and speak non-official languages in the home. From 2001 to 2006, almost 20% more people reported speaking a non-official language in the home.¹

The proportion of children and youth who speak only a non-official language in the home varies greatly by province and territory. In Nunavut, 58% of children and youth under 25 years speak a language other than English and French at home. That proportion is 14% in British Columbia, 12% in Ontario and 9% in Manitoba.

¹ Statistics Canada. *The Evolving Linguistic Portrait, 2006 Census*. (Catalogue no. 97-555-XIE)

Implications

Language is the heartbeat of a culture. When a culture's language is endangered, so are its stories, literature, songs, traditions and discourse. Most notably in Canada, the Quebecois have been battling English Canada for the protection and distinction of the French language and the Quebecois culture. In response, Canada's official languages are French and English, which mandates that the federal government conduct its business in both official languages and provide government services in both languages. This includes encouraging provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to conduct themselves and to provide services in both English and French. The province of Quebec is officially French unilingual and is not required to provide services in English. The government provides grants and contributions to groups representing French-speaking minorities in the other provinces to assist with the establishment of an infrastructure of cultural support and services.¹

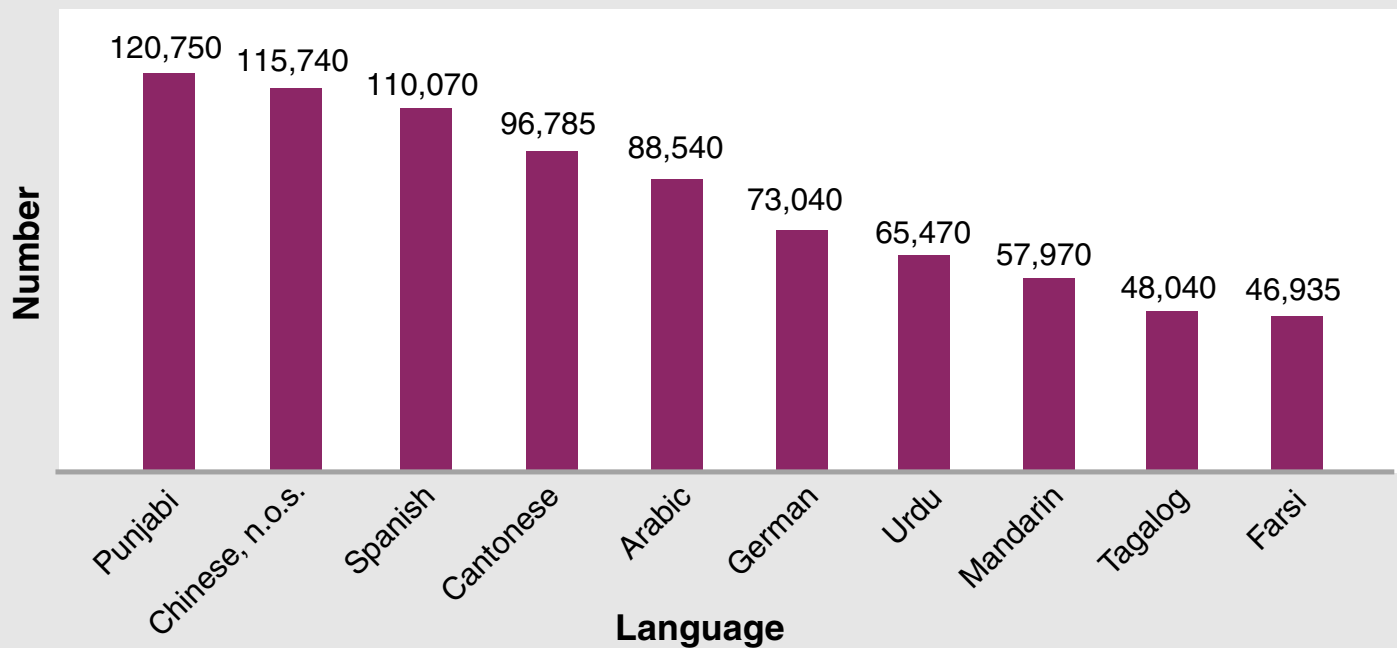
¹ Official Languages Act - 1985, c. 31 (4th Supp.). Act current to July 11, 2010. Department of Justice. Accessed on May 2, 2011.





1.4.20 Language

Fig. 1.4.20 Top 10 non-official languages spoken at home by children and youth under 25 years, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89273&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=70&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on November 28, 2011

On the 2006 Census, about 1.1 million children and youth under 25 reported speaking a non-official language in the home, either solely or in combination with English and/or French. Ordered by popularity of use, the four non-official languages most often spoken at home by children and youth across Canada were Punjabi, Chinese, Spanish and Cantonese.

The popularity of non-official languages was different from province-to-province and across territories.





1.4.21 Language

Fig. 1.4.21 Top three non-official languages spoken at home, children and youth 0 to 24, Canada, provinces and territories, 2006

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Canada | Punjabi (120,750) | Chinese, n.o.s. (115,740) | Spanish (110,070) |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | Montagnais-Naskapi (980) | Spanish (285) | Chinese, n.o.s. (225) |
| Prince Edward Island | Spanish (95) | Chinese, n.o.s. (55) | Mandarin (50) |
| Nova Scotia | Mi'kmaq (1,785) | Arabic (1,635) | Chinese, n.o.s. (725) |
| New Brunswick | Mi'kmaq (900) | Chinese, n.o.s. (530) | Arabic (325) |
| Quebec | Spanish (36,870) | Arabic (33,325) | Italian (18,105) |
| Ontario | Chinese, n.o.s. (53,185) | Urdu (51,425) | Punjabi (50,300) |
| Manitoba | German (14,940) | Cree (7,280) | Tagalog (5,075) |
| Saskatchewan | Cree (9,470) | Dene (3,780) | German (3,760) |
| Alberta | German (20,345) | Chinese, n.o.s. (12,270) | Punjabi (11,935) |
| British Columbia | Punjabi (51,730) | Cantonese (34,305) | Chinese, n.o.s. (31,780) |
| Yukon | German (100) | Vietnamese (40) | Mandarin (40) |
| Northwest Territories | Dogrib (595) | Hare (225) | Inuktituk, n.i.e. (170) |
| Nunavut | Inuktituk, n.i.e. (11,100) | Inuinnaqtun (35) | Spanish (10) |

Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89273&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=70&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on November 28, 2011.

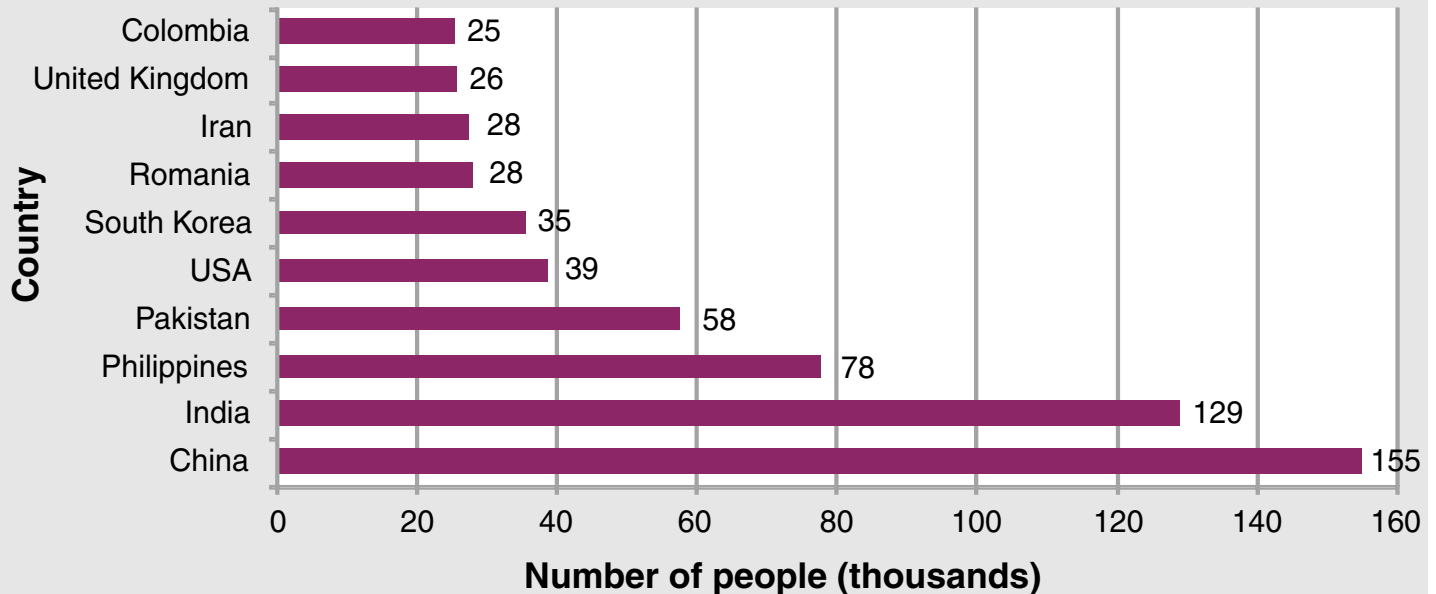
The top non-official languages that are spoken at home by children and youth vary considerably by province and territory. In 2006, the top three non-official languages spoken at home by children and youth under 25 in British Columbia were Punjabi, Cantonese and Chinese (not specified). In Québec, they were Spanish, Arabic and Italian. In Manitoba, the three languages were German, Cree and Tagalog, while in Saskatchewan they were Cree, Dene and German.





1.5.22 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.22 Number of recent immigrants coming to Canada, by leading countries of origin, 2001 to 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo24a-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

Immigration is a key component of net population growth in Canada. The below-replacement fertility rate (1.7 children per woman in 2007)¹ suggests that immigration will become the primary source of population growth.²

The 2006 Census estimated that 1,110,000 people immigrated to Canada between January 1, 2001, and May 16, 2006.³ Immigrants from the 10 leading countries of origin accounted for 54% of all recent immigrants to Canada. Most came from China and various other regions of Asia, including the Middle East. Many others immigrated from the United States, Romania, the United Kingdom and Colombia.

¹OECD Factbook 2010. (doi: 10.1787/20752288-2010-table-can).

²Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Pursuing Canada's Commitment to Immigration: The Immigration Plan for 2002.

³Statistics Canada, 2007. Immigration in Canada: A portrait of the foreign-born population, 2006 Census. Ottawa, Statistics Canada. (Catalogue no. 97-557-XWE2006001)

Implications

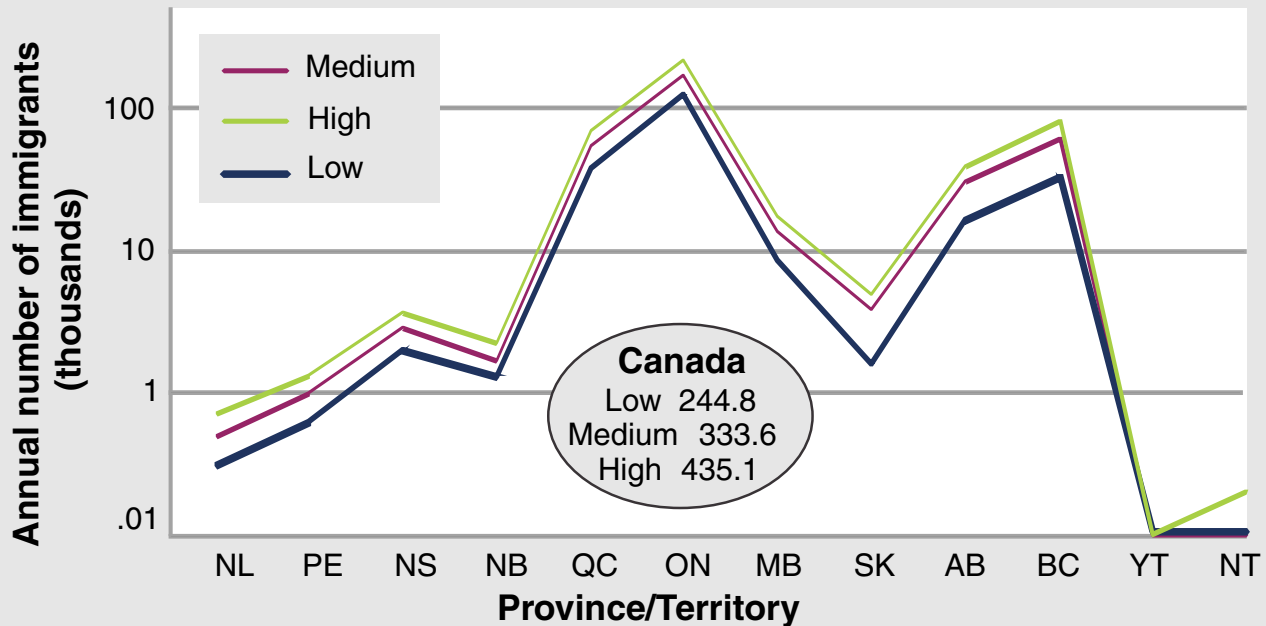
Starting life anew in a foreign country is not without obstacles. Many new immigrants to Canada must secure employment, enrol in school, find housing, learn a new language and the customs, register for health care, make friends and familiarize themselves with the expectations of their new neighbourhood. Social services, including church groups, job assistant programs and life skills training, can help to smooth the transition.





1.5.23 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.23 Annual number of immigrants projected (2035/36) according to low, medium and high immigration, Canada, provinces and territories (thousands)



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-520-x/2010001/tablesectlist-listetableauxsect-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

The number of immigrants admitted to Canada each year evolves with projected population growth.

Under the low assumption for patterns of immigration set out by the 2009 Immigration Plan as formulated by Citizenship and Immigration Canada,¹ 244,800 people would immigrate to Canada in 2035/36; under the medium assumption, 333,600 immigrants would come; and under the high assumption, 435,100 would come.

In each of the three scenarios, about 1/2 of all immigrants would settle in Ontario, just under 1/5th in British Columbia, about 1/8th in Québec and almost 1/10th in Alberta. The remainder would be scattered in pockets throughout the country.

¹ Statistics Canada. *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2009 to 2036*. Catalogue no. 91-520-X. Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

Implications

Canada's population growth depends on immigration more than it does on natural increase. To plan workforce, housing, education and health care needs effectively requires that different patterns of immigration be considered. It is also critical to know where immigrants are most likely to settle. Current trends indicate that Ontario will continue to absorb the greatest proportion of new immigrants to Canada until 2036, followed by the Western Provinces and Québec. However, more new immigrants are considering life in the Prairies.¹

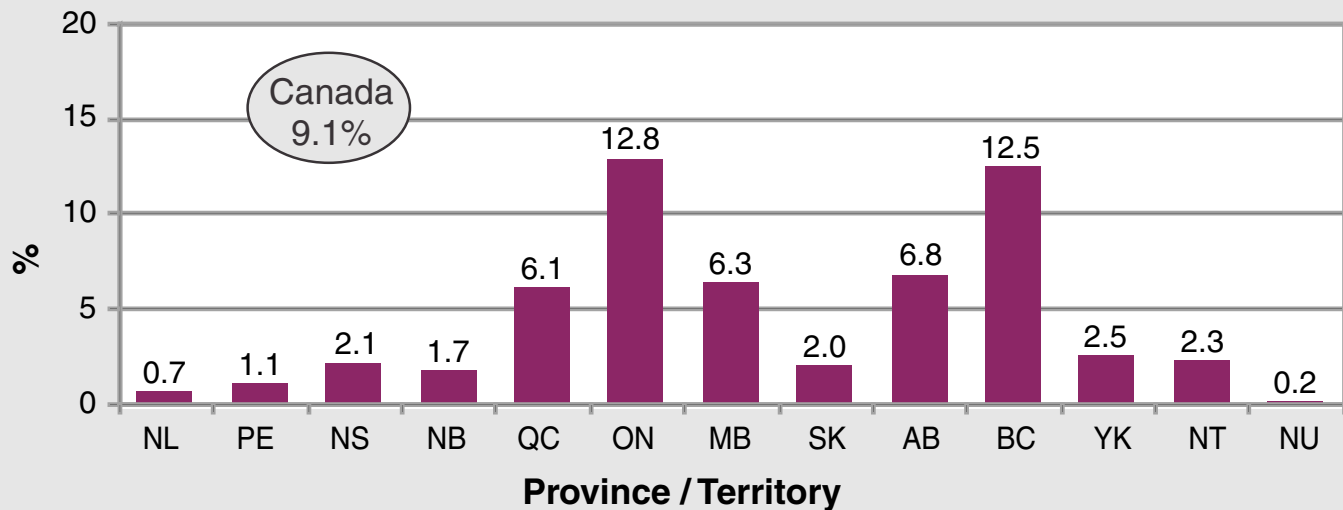
¹ Statistics Canada. *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2009 to 2036*. Catalogue no. 91-520-X. Statistics Canada: Ottawa.





1.5.24 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.24 Proportion of children and youth under 25 who have immigrated to Canada, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistic Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89443&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=72&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on November 28, 2011

In 2006, there were 894,960 children and youth under age 25 living in Canada who had immigrated from another country, which represented 9.1% of the total population of children and youth in Canada. Of those, 345,705 were between birth and 15 years old, and 549,255 were aged 15 through 24 years.

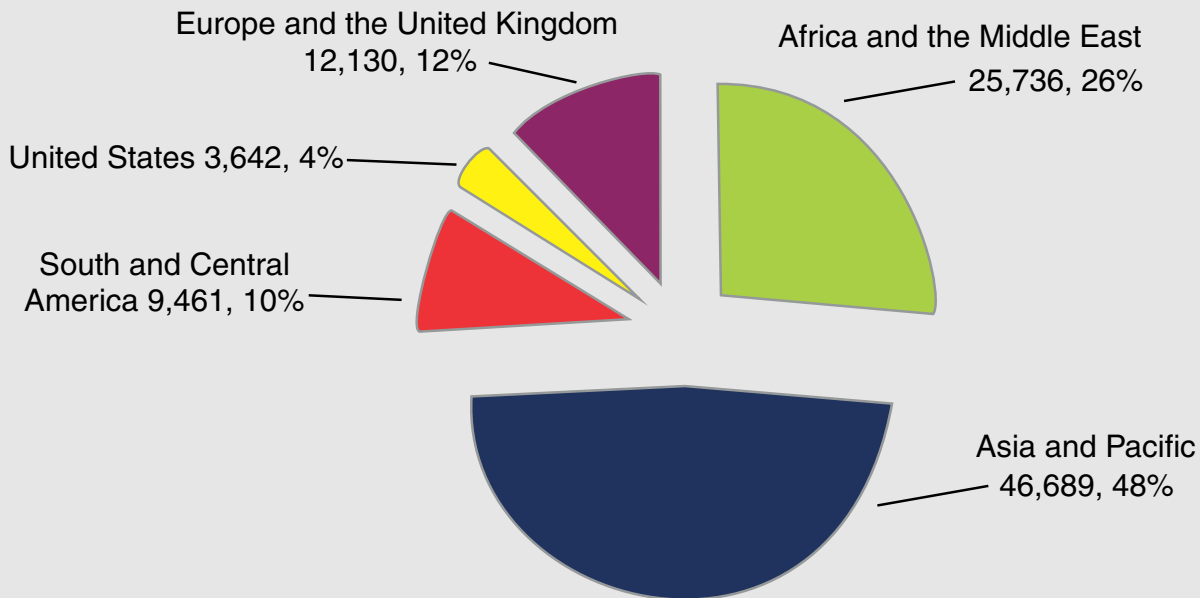
There was substantial interprovincial variation. More immigrant children and youth lived in Ontario — almost 500,000, or almost 13% of the total population of children and youth in the province — than any other province. British Columbia had over 151,000 children and youth who had immigrated to Canada, accounting for 12.5% of the province's total population of children and youth. In Québec, immigrant children and youth accounted for only 6.1% of the total child and youth population.





1.5.25 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.25 Distribution of permanent Canadian residents under age 25, by region of origin, 2010, Total = 97,702



Adapted from Citizen and Immigration Canada, data from facts and figures 2010 – immigration overview: permanent and temporary residents, at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010/permanent/09.asp>, accessed on November 28, 2011

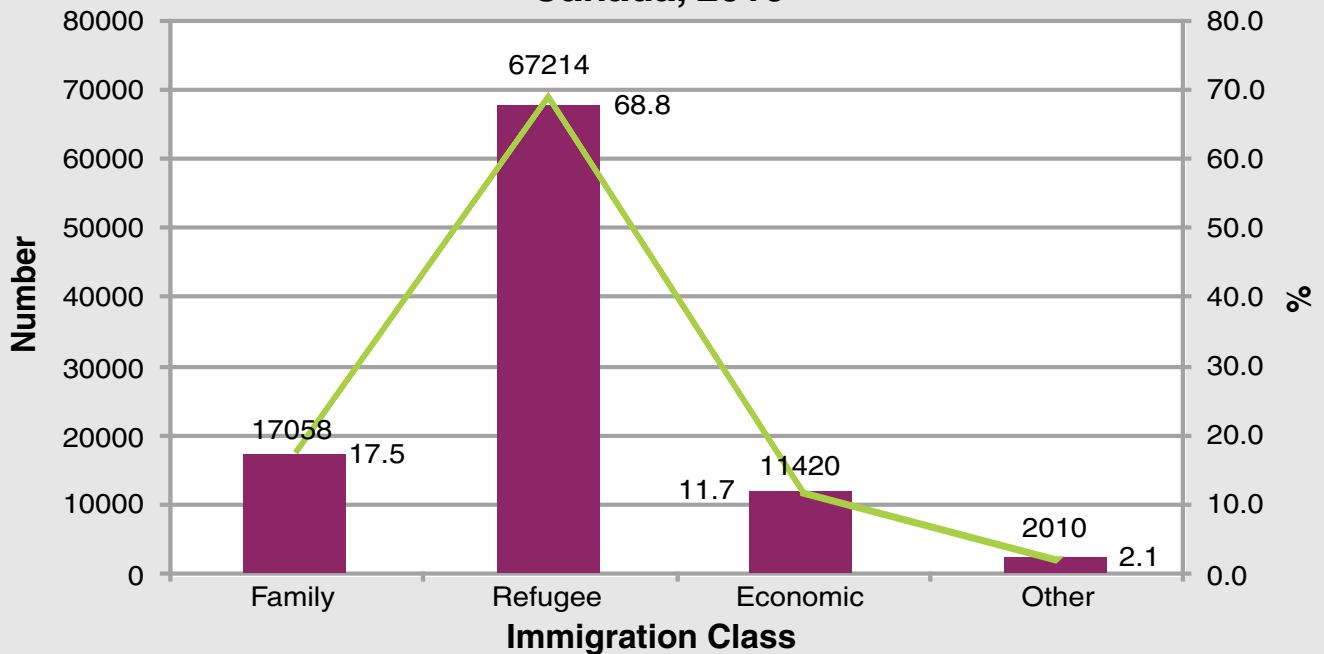
In 2010, Citizenship and Immigration Canada reported that 48% of the 97,702 children from birth to 24 years who had become permanent residents of Canada came from Asia and Pacific. Another 26% came from Africa and the Middle East.





1.5.26 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.26 Number of permanent residents under age 25, by immigration class, and proportion of permanent residents in each immigration class, Canada, 2010



Adapted from *Citizen and Immigration Canada, data from facts and figures 2010 – immigration overview: permanent and temporary residents*, at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010/permanent/05.asp>, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010/permanent/06.asp>, accessed on November 28, 2011

Immigrants to Canada are grouped into four classes: Economic, Family, Refugee and Other.

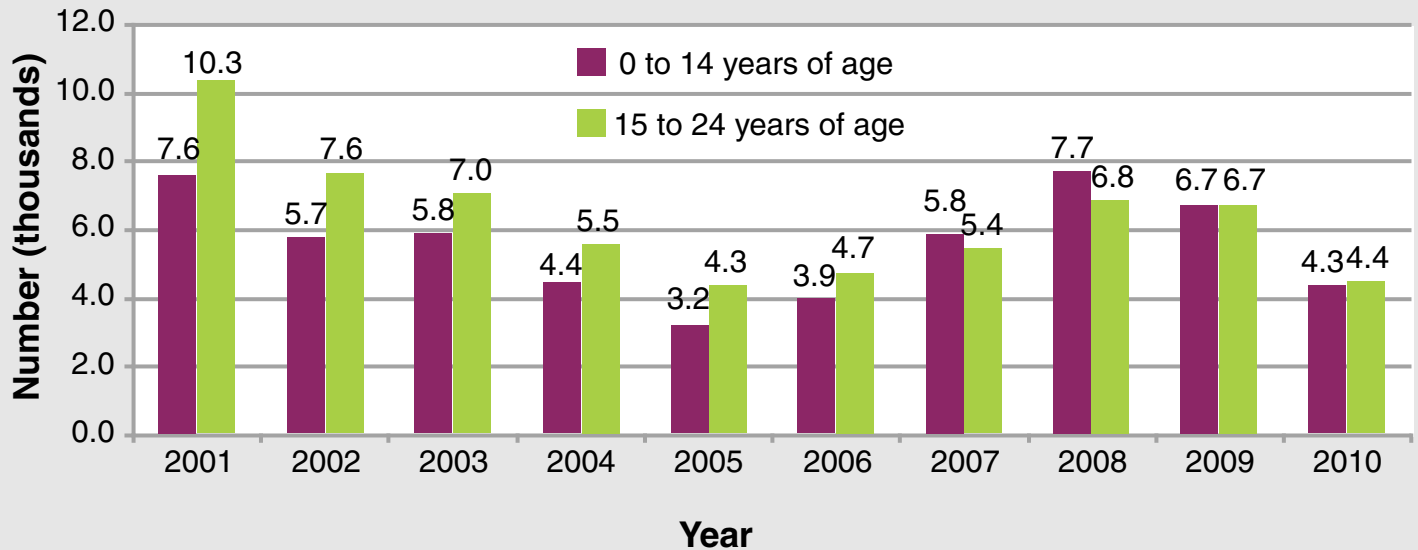
In 2010, 280,681 immigrants became permanent residents of Canada. Of those, 97,702 were children and youth between birth and 24 years of age. Of the permanent residents under age 25, 67,214 received residency status under the Economic immigration class. Of those who immigrated to join family members already living in Canada (Family class immigrants), there were 17,058 children and youth. Another 11,420 people under age 25 obtained permanent residency status in Canada as refugees after fleeing their home countries.





1.5.27 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.27 Total entries of children and youth under 25 who were refugee claimants, Canada, 2001 to 2010



Adapted from Citizen and Immigration Canada, data from facts and figures 2010 – immigration overview: permanent and temporary residents, at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010/temporary/29.asp>, accessed on November 28, 2011

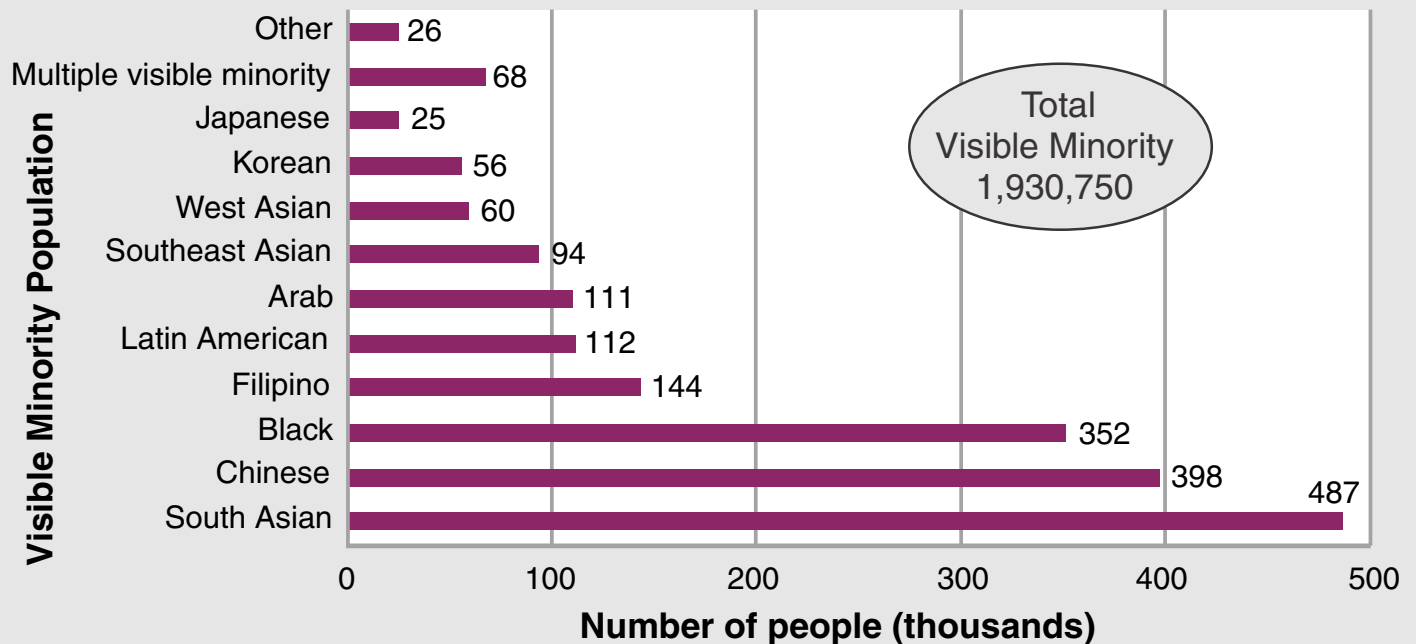
In 2010, among temporary residents, there were approximately 4,300 children from birth to 14 and another 4,400 youth from 15 to 24 who were refugee claimants. This compares to 7,600 children under 15 and 10,300 youth 15 to 24 in 2001.





1.6.28 Children and Families from Visible Minorities

Fig. 1.6.28 Visible minority population under age 25, by leading country of origin, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo50a-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

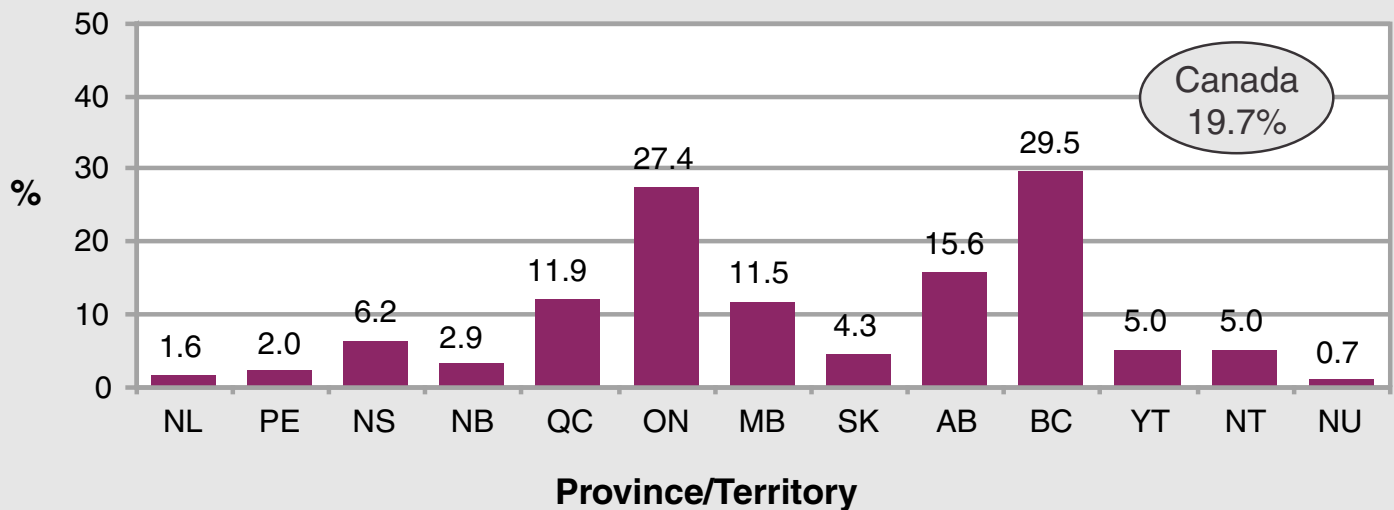
At the time of the 2006 Census, 1,930,750 Canadian children and youth, from birth to 24 years, were visible minorities. They came from a broad range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Most were of South Asian (486,630), Chinese (397,855) or Black (351,670) heritage. Many other visible minority children and youth came from the Philippines (143,665), from within Latin America (111,800) and from Arab nations (110,635). There were 93,625 children and youth from Southeast Asia and another 60,030 with roots in unspecified parts of West Asia. Korean children and youth numbered 56,220 in Canada, with 25,190 Japanese children living here. Almost 100,000 visible minority children and youth identified themselves as being either of mixed ethnic heritage (67,730) or as belonging to another ethnic minority (25,680).





1.6.29 Children and Families from Visible Minorities

Fig. 1.6.29 Proportion of children and youth under 25 years who are a member of a visible minority group, by province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=92342&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=80&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on November 28, 2011

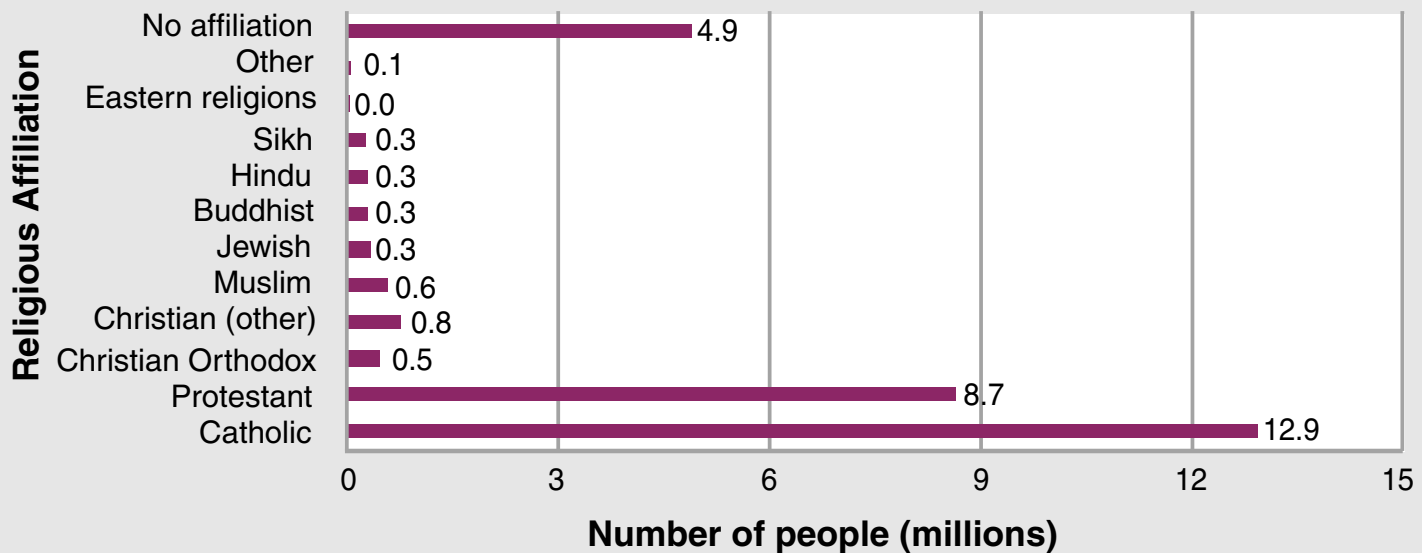
In 2006, almost one in five of Canada's children and youth under 25 were in a visible minority group. Of Canada's visible minority population, 96% under the age of 25 lived in four provinces. Ontario was home to 1,050,840 visible minority children and youth, almost three times as many as in British Columbia, which had 358,910 visible minorities under age 25. However, the proportion of youth who were in a visible minority population was slightly higher in British Columbia at 30% than in Ontario at 28%. Québec had the third largest population of visible minority children and youth, with 261,555 under the age of 25, or 12% of the province's youth population.





1.7.30 Religion

Fig. 1.7.30 Population of Canada, by religious affiliation, 2001



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/demo30d-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

The 2001 Census categorized religions among Canadians into 12 affiliations, including a category for non-believers and/or people who do not subscribe to an organized faith. In 2001, 12.9 million people, or 44% of the total population, identified as Catholic; 8.7 million people, or 29% of the total population, identified as Protestant; almost 500,000, or 2% of the population, reported being Christian Orthodox; and another 780,000, or 3% of Canadians, belonged to a different Christian sect. Collectively, 77% of all Canadians identified with one of these four Christian denominations.

Several religious minorities were reported as well. Almost 600,000 people, or 2% of the population, identified as Muslim; 329,995 people, or 1% of the population, identified as Jewish; 300,345 (1%) identified as Buddhist; 297,200 (1%) identified as Hindu; and 278,410 (1%) identified as Sikh.

The largest minority, consisting of almost 500,000 Canadians, or 17% of the total population, reported no religious affiliation.

Implications

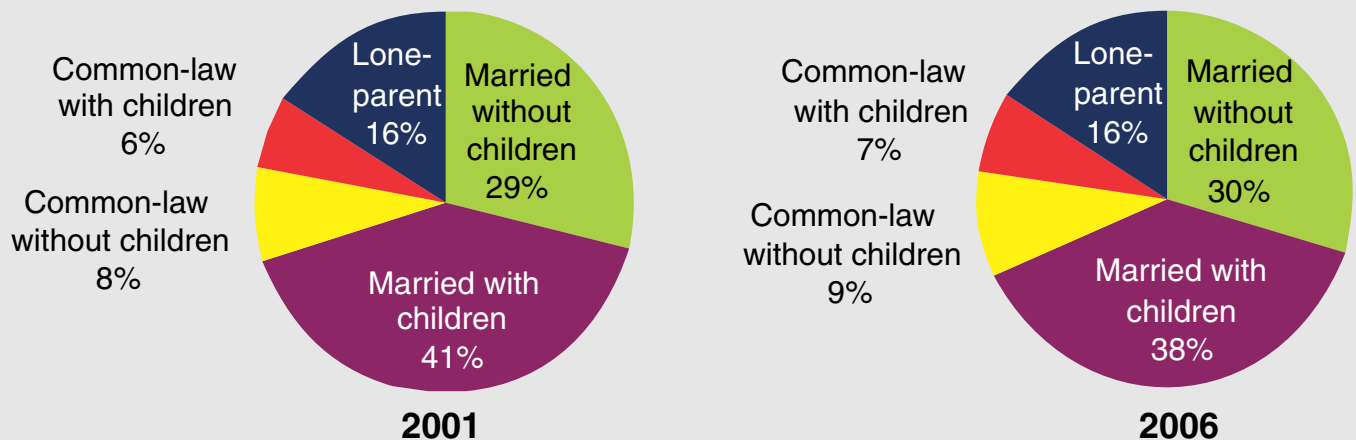
Religion and faith play a central role in the lives of many Canadians, though not all. Canadians who subscribe to any one of several religions may practice their faiths to varying degrees. Religion is important because it can influence the core values and beliefs of a person or a group, which in turn can affect his/her/their community life. Religion can determine whether a child is enrolled in public versus Catholic schools, political persuasion, dietary practices and observation of religious holidays, to cite a few examples. Degree of religiosity also affects social integration and carries implications for the debate about "reasonable accommodation" of religious minorities. As Canada welcomes an increasing number of immigrants each year, making religious accommodations for people of faith is a contentious issue and an increasingly important one. Regrettably, no new data has been collected on Canadians and religions since the 2001 Census.





2.1.1 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.1 Distribution of Census families by family structure, Canada, 2001 and 2006



Note: Excludes census data for one or more incompletely enumerated Indian reserves or Indian settlements.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89016&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

According to the Census, there are five kinds of families in Canada: married with children, married without children, common-law with children, common-law without children and lone-parent. Findings from the 2006 Census suggest that the structure of Canadian families is evolving. In 2006, 39% of Census families were married with children compared to 41% in 2001. In 2006, 7% of Census families were common-law couples with children compared to 6% in 2001. Thus, the proportion of all Canadian families who are married families with children is declining while the the proportion of common-law families with children is increasing.

Implications

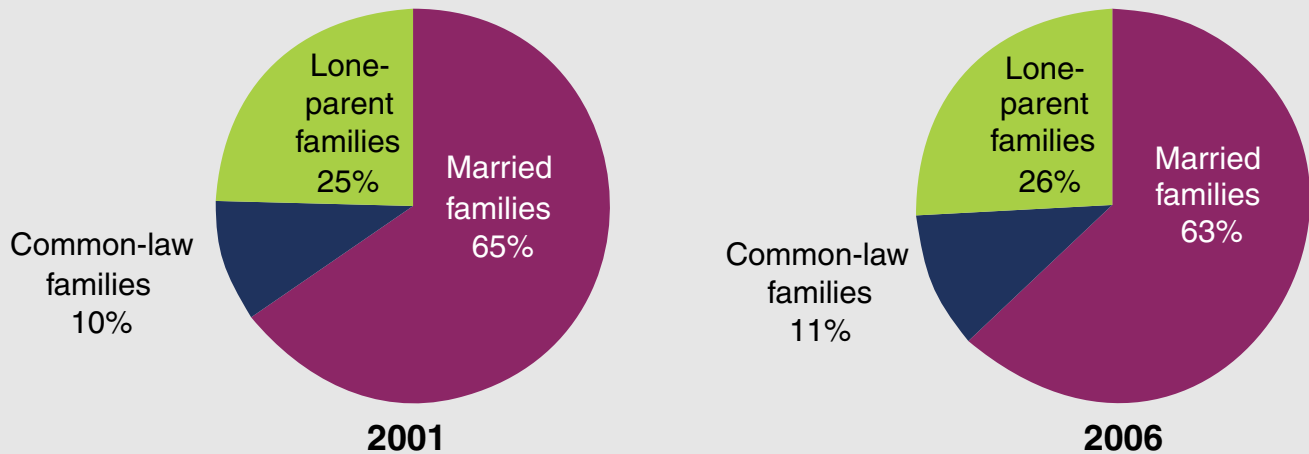
With more children living in non-traditional arrangements, the way Canada defines a family must be socially sensitive and sufficiently broad to encapsulate present-day family structures. Beyond that, there needs to be an appreciation that not all families function in the same way or are equally privileged. By recognizing the disparities and struggles that are common to specific family types (e.g., lower incomes among female lone-parent families), we can begin to redress these inequalities and, in doing so, lessen the toll on the family unit and the children affected.





2.1.2 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.2 Proportion of families with children living at home by family structure, Canada, 2001 and 2006



Notes: Excludes census data for one or more incompletely enumerated Indian reserves or Indian settlements. "Children living at home" refers to blood, step-or adopted sons and daughters (regardless of age or marital status) who are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s).

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89016&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

In 2006, the majority of families with children living at home were married families (63%), while 26% were lone-parent families and 11% were common-law families. Census data from 2001 and 2006 suggest that the structure of families with children is changing. The proportion of lone-parent and common-law families increased while married families decreased.

Implications

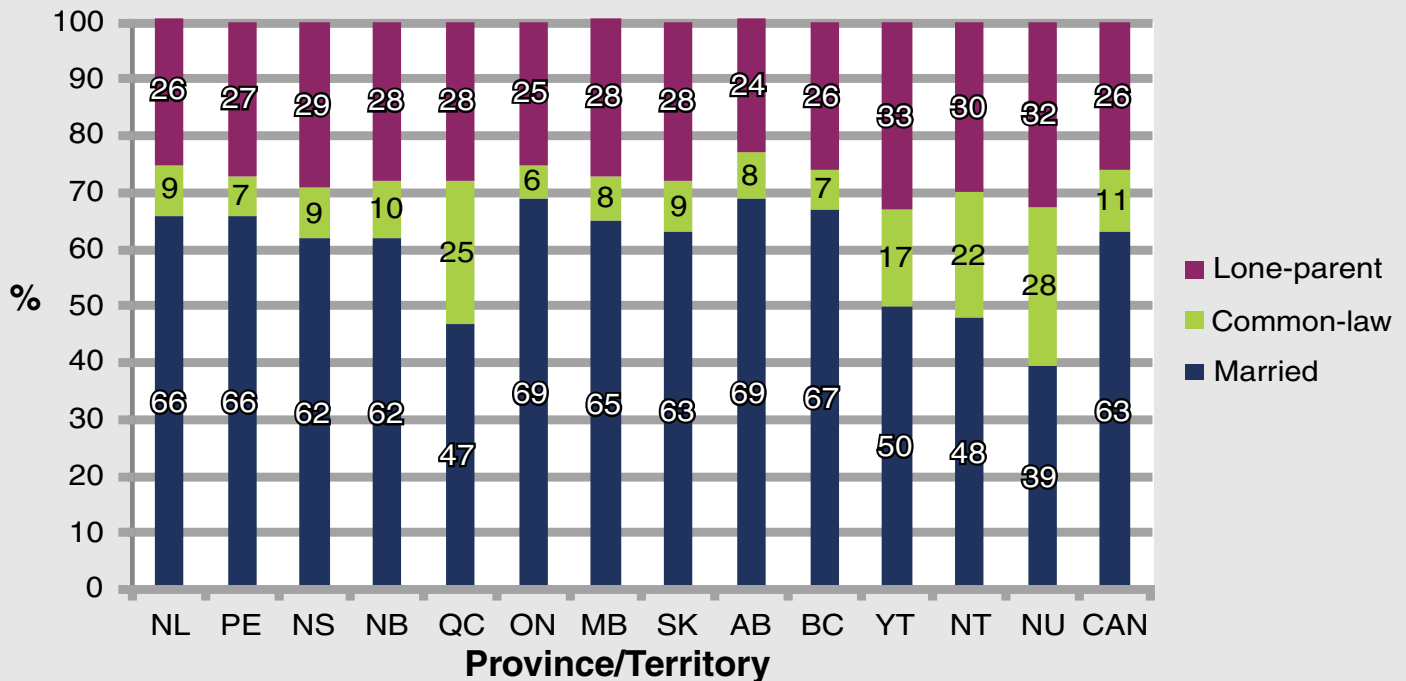
We must be aware that family structures are fluid. The relative stability portrayed in these charts can be misleading if readers fail to note that children's experiences of family structure may have been or will be different than at the time of the Census.





2.1.3 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.3 Distribution of census families with children, by family structure, province and territory, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89016&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

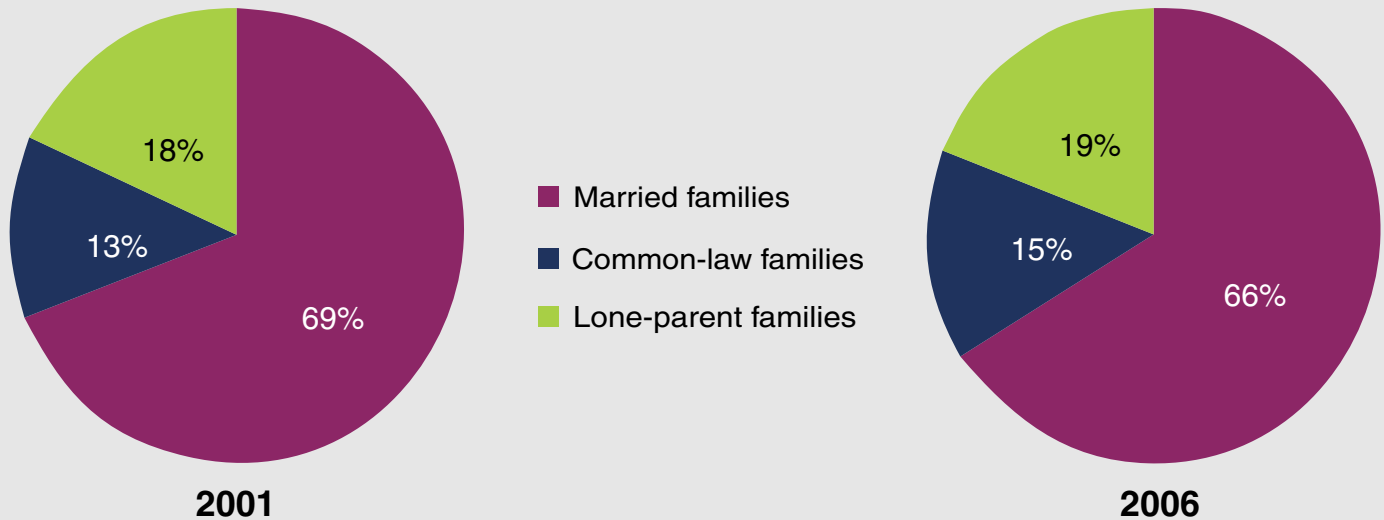
In 2006, across the provinces, the proportion of Census families with children led by married parents ranged from 62% to 69%, except Québec where only 47% of parents were married. In the territories, on the other hand, 50% or less of families were led by a married couple, while 30% or more were led by a lone parent. The Yukon showed the highest proportion of lone-parent families at 33%.





2.1.4 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.4 Distribution of children under 15 years by family structure, Canada, Census, 2001 and 2006



Note: Excludes census data for one or more incompletely enumerated Indian reserves or Indian settlements.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89021&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

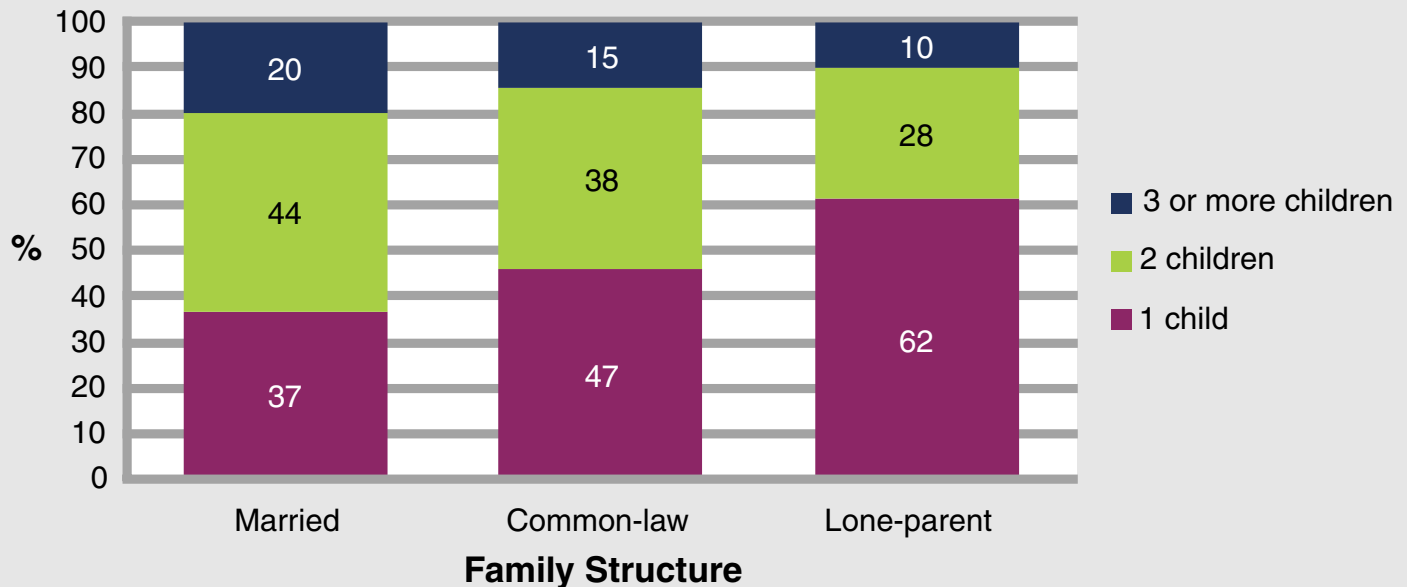
Although married couples remain the most common Census family with children under the age of 15, findings from the 2006 Census suggest a shifting distribution among Census family structures. In 2006, married families with children under 15 accounted for 66% of all families with children under 15, down from 69% in 2001. The proportion of common-law families with children under 15 rose to 15% from 13%.





2.1.5 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.5 Number of children living at home per family by family structure, Canada, 2006



Note: Excludes census data for one or more incompletely enumerated Indian reserves or Indian settlements.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89016&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

In 2006, the majority of married and common-law families with children had 2 or more children living in their household (64% and 53%), while the majority of lone-parents had only one child living in their household (62%).

Implications

In Canada, the average family size declined from 3.7 in 1971 to 3.0 in 2006.¹ There are many factors influencing the size of a family. Economic security, age of parents, marriage and divorce, educational attainment and participation in the labour force are some of the factors driving the trend toward smaller families in Canada.

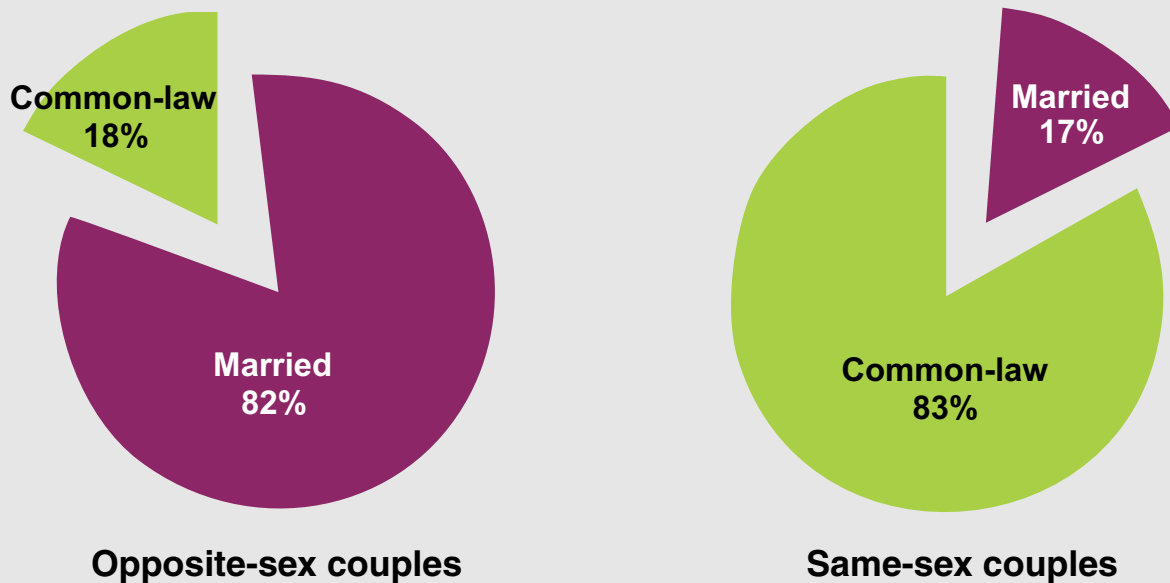
¹ Statistics Canada accessed at <http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/famil40-eng.htm> on December 13, 2011.





2.1.6 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.6 Opposite-sex and same-sex couples marital status, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-553/table/t2-eng.cfm>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

In 2001, a question about same-sex relationships was included in the Census for the first time. On June 17, 2003, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Justice Minister Martin Cauchon announced that the federal government was going to introduce legislation legalizing same-sex marriage across the country.

In 2005, the Supreme Court of Canada legalized same-sex marriage. One year later, the 2006 Census reported 17% of same-sex couples were married while 83% continued to live common law. Among opposite-sex couples, 82% were married and 18% were living common law.

Implications

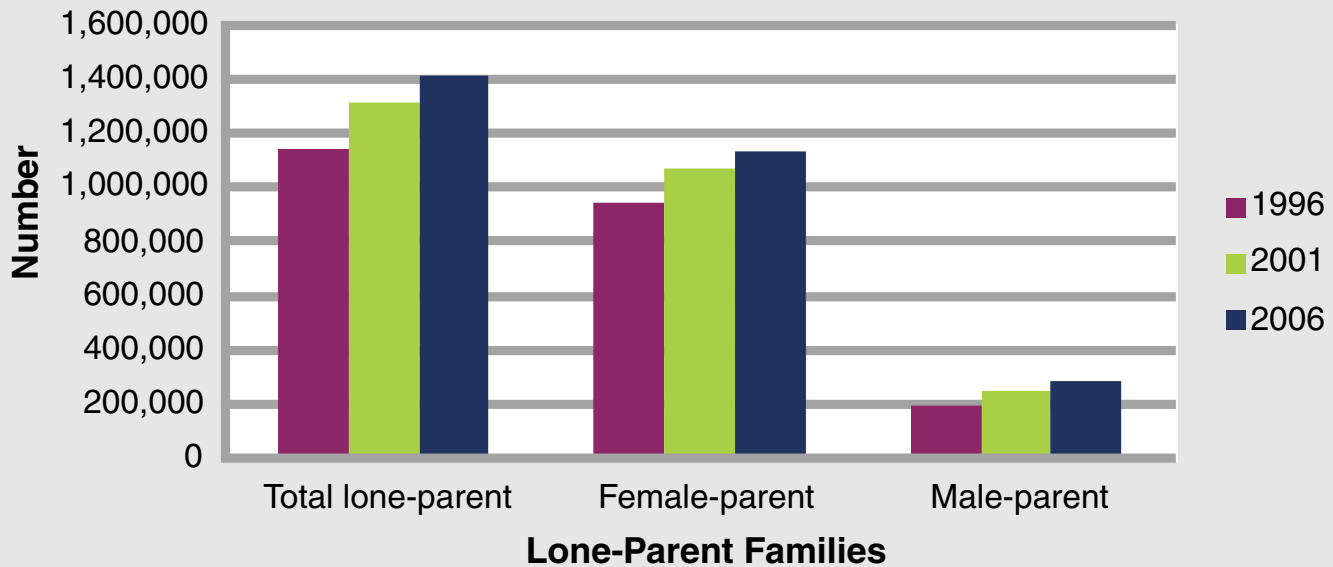
Same-sex couples have made significant progress toward legal equality with opposite-sex couples through Charter litigation. There have been a number of Charter challenges alleging discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation that have proceeded through the courts both in and apart from the family law context. Same-sex couples have used the Charter to gain rights and obligations similar to those available to opposite-sex couples.





2.1.7 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.7 Number of lone-parent families by parent's gender, Canada, 1996-2006 (selected years)



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/tbt/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=89016&PRID=0&PTYPE=88971,97154&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2006&THEME=68&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=> and <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/c1996-r1996/oct14-14oct/family-famille2-eng.htm>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

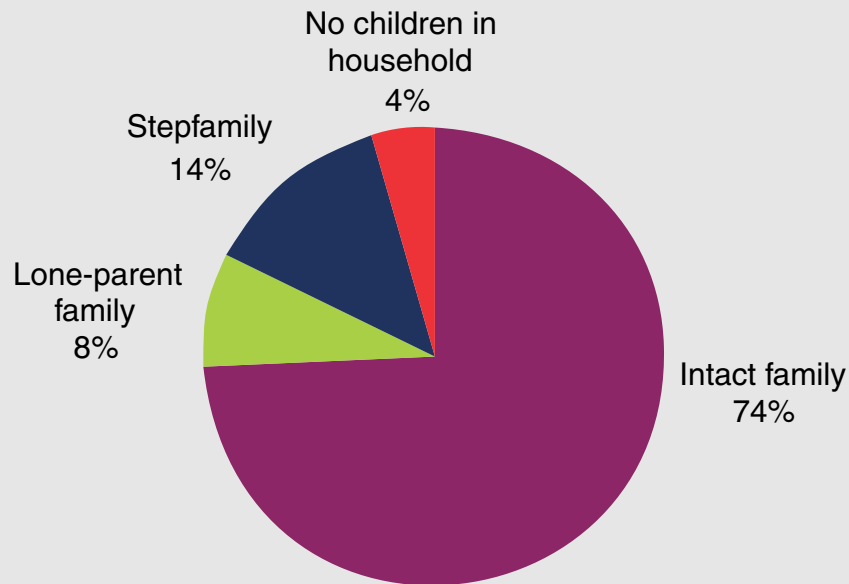
The number of lone-parent families in Canada has been increasing steadily for the last many decades. In 2006, there were four times more female-led lone-parent families than male-led families. In that year, over 1.1 million lone-parent families were led by mothers compared to 282,000 families led by lone-parent fathers.





2.1.8 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.8 Distribution of fathers by family structure, Canada, 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2010002/t/11165/tbl003-eng.htm>, accessed on December 13, 2011. Fathers are 18 to 65 years of age.

The majority of fathers in Canada (74% in 2006) cared for their children in a married or common-law family. Another 14% of fathers brought their children into a stepfamily or were stepfathers to a non-biological child or children. Fewer were lone-parents (8%) and only 4% of fathers indicated no children living in their household.

Implications

The concept of fatherhood has broadened considerably in the last 20 years. Today, fathers include men who have children in common law-relationships, gay fathers with or without partners, divorced or separated men who do not live with their children, stepfathers or men who have become stepfathers, adoptive fathers, foster fathers, fathers in blended families and older men who no longer live with their grown children.² Given the realities of Canadian fatherhood, it is difficult to measure how many of these different types of fathers we have in Canada.

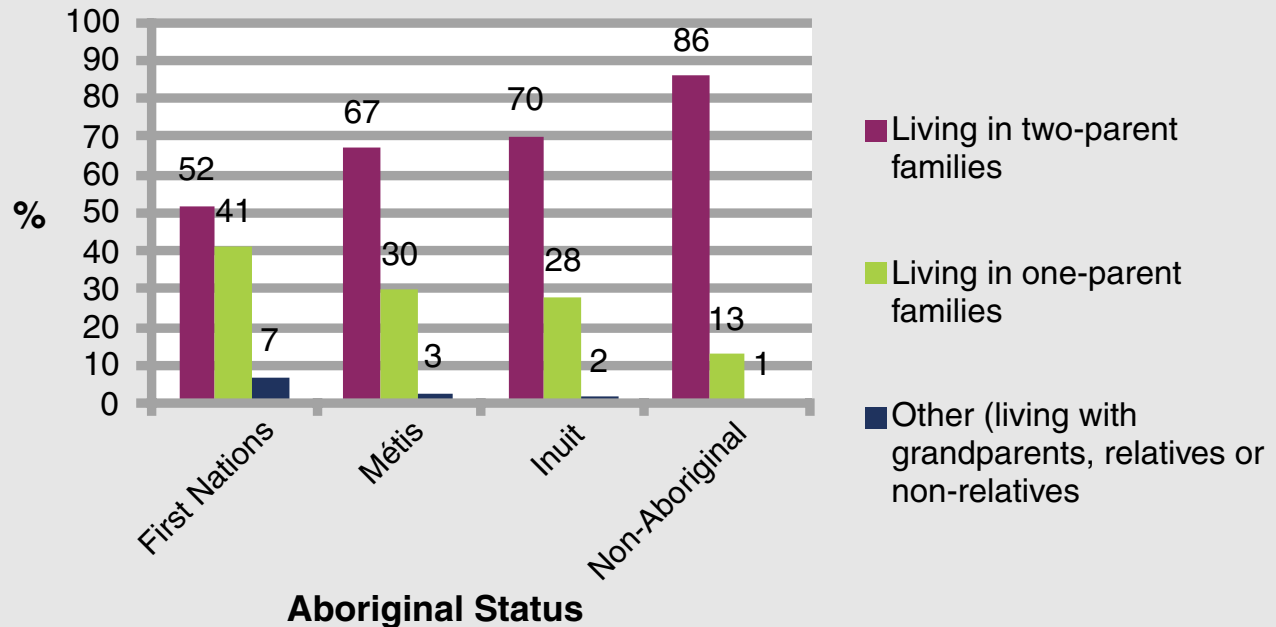
² Father Involvement Research Alliance, Canadian Fathers by the Numbers accessed at <http://www.fira.ca/article.php?id=66> on December 13, 2011.





2.1.9 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.9 Living arrangements of children under age six, by Aboriginal status, Canada, 2006



Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-634-x/2008001/charts/6000124-eng.htm>, accessed on December 13, 2011.d on July 8, 2011

In Canada, the 2006 Census found that most (86%) of non-Aboriginal children under 6 years old lived in two-parent families, while 13% lived in lone-parent families and 1% lived in some other form of arrangement.

Aboriginal children under 6 years old were more likely to be living in a lone-parent family compared to non-Aboriginal children. Of First Nations children, 52% under 6 years old were living in a two-parent family.

Implications

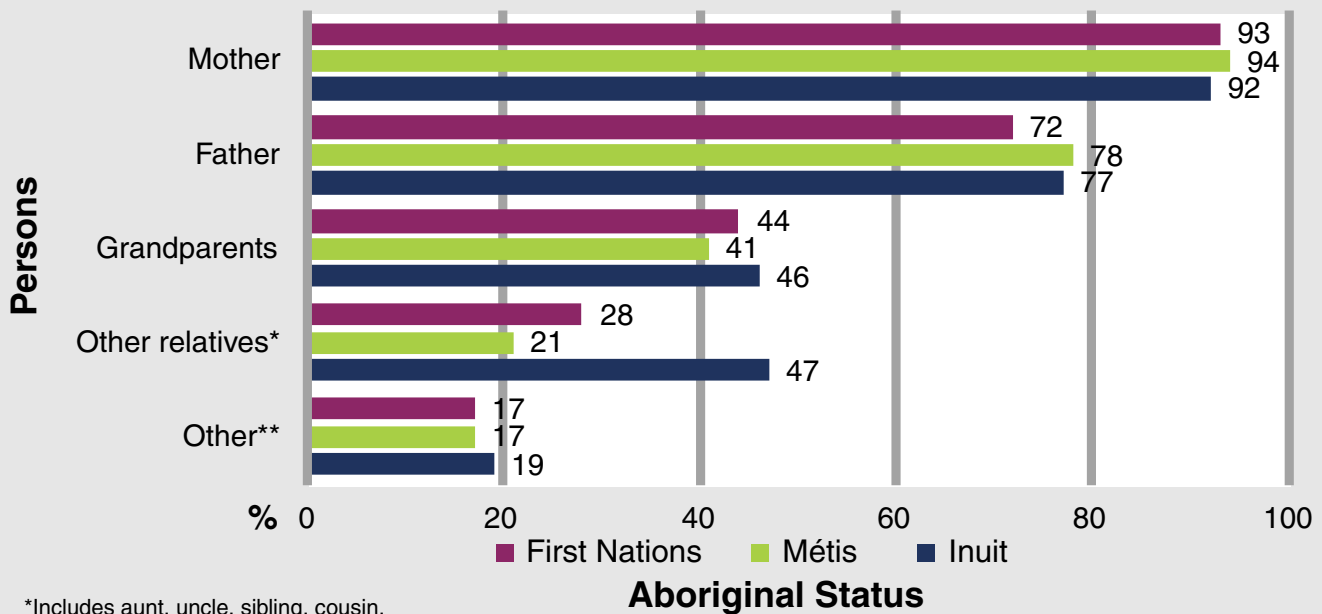
There are far more Aboriginal children under 6 years living in lone-parent families than non-Aboriginal children of the same age. This puts Aboriginal children at increased risk of living in poverty.





2.1.10 Family Structure

Fig. 2.1.10 Persons involved in raising Aboriginal children under 6 years of age, Canada, 2006



*Includes aunt, uncle, sibling, cousin.

** Includes child care provider, teacher, other relatives not already specified and non-relatives.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008002/t/10729/tbl001-eng.htm>,
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008002/t/10729/tbl003-eng.htm> and
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008002/t/10729/tbl005-eng.htm>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

The 2006 Aboriginal Children's Survey examined the prevalence of parent, grandparent, relative and non-relative involvement in raising an Aboriginal child under 6 years of age. The vast majority of mothers — First Nations (93%), Métis (94%) and Inuit (92%) — were involved in raising their children, as were many First Nations (72%), Métis (78%) and Inuit (77%) fathers. The survey also found that 44% of First Nations children under age 6 years were raised in part by their grandparents, as were 41% of Métis children and 46% of Inuit children. Other relatives, which includes siblings and extended family, were involved to a lesser degree among First Nations (28%) and Métis (21%) families, but played a more prominent role in raising young children in Inuit families (47%). Community-based, non-relative caregivers played a role in childrearing for 17% of First Nations and Métis children, and for 19% of Inuit children under the age of 6 years.

Implications

"Children hold a special place in Aboriginal cultures. According to tradition, they are gifts from the spirit world... They carry within them the gifts that manifest themselves as they become teachers, mothers, hunters, councillors, artisans and visionaries. They renew the strength of the family, clan and village and make the elders young again with their joyful presence."

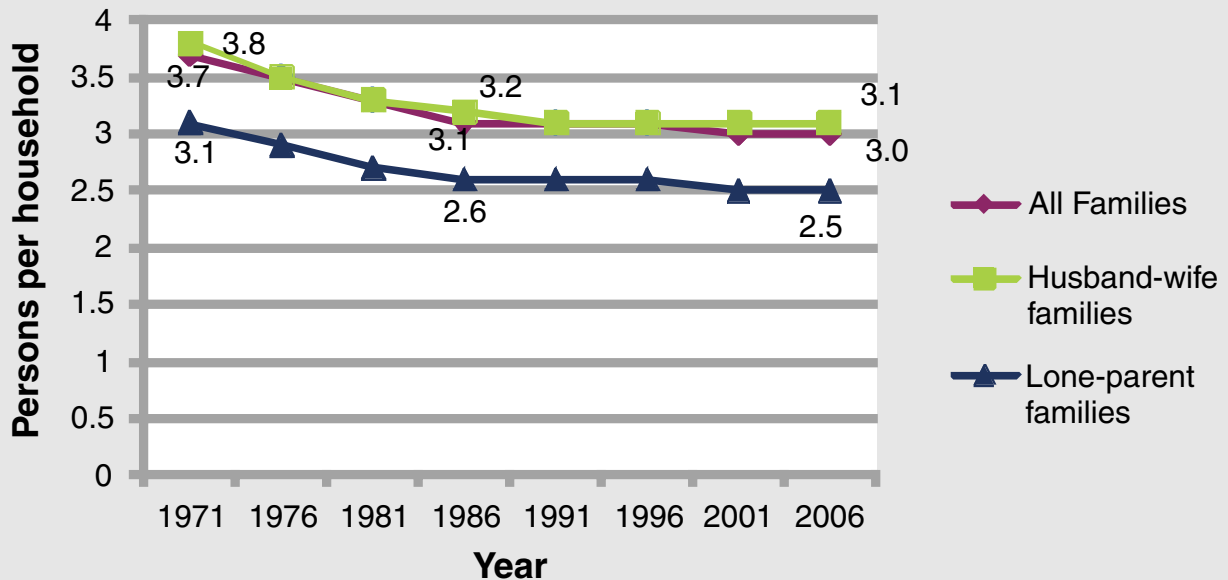
(Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996)





2.2.11 Family Structure

Fig. 2.2.11 Average family size by family structure, Canada, 1971 to 2006 (select years)



Note: Includes families without children.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/famil40-eng.htm>, accessed on December 13, 2011.

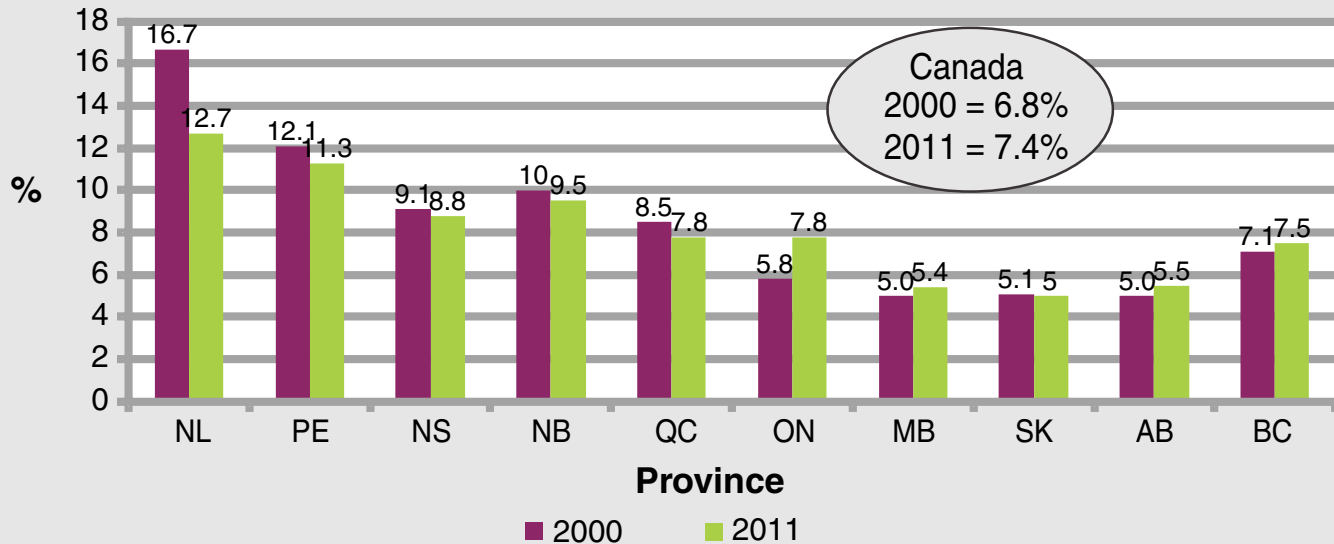
The average family size among all Census families—with or without children—has declined over the last generation. In 1971, the average family in Canada had 3.7 people; by 2006, that number had dropped to 3.0. Similar decreases have been observed among husband–wife families (from 3.8 to 3.0) and among lone-parent families (3.1 to 2.5).





2.2.12 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.12 Unemployment rate, Canada, by province, 2000 and 2011



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database (<http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/table/282-0002>), accessed January 15, 2012.

In 2011, Canada's national unemployment rate was 7.4%. Newfoundland and Labrador experienced the highest rate of unemployment (12.7%), followed by PEI at 11.3%. Rates for Manitoba (5.4%), Saskatchewan (5.0%) and Alberta (5.5%) fell below the national average. Newfoundland and Labrador's unemployment rate improved in 2011 compared to 2000 (16.7%), while Ontario's unemployment rate rose from 5.8% in 2000 to 7.8% in 2011.

Implications

Being unemployed means there are fewer financial resources to meet the needs of the family. The duration of employment also plays an important role in the well-being of the family. Although the Atlantic region had the highest unemployment rates among the provinces, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia had the highest average weeks spent unemployed (23, 22 and 21 weeks, respectively).¹ To safeguard vulnerable communities from economic collapse during difficult times, leaders need to initiate profitable, sustainable development that can provide a safety net for the labour force.

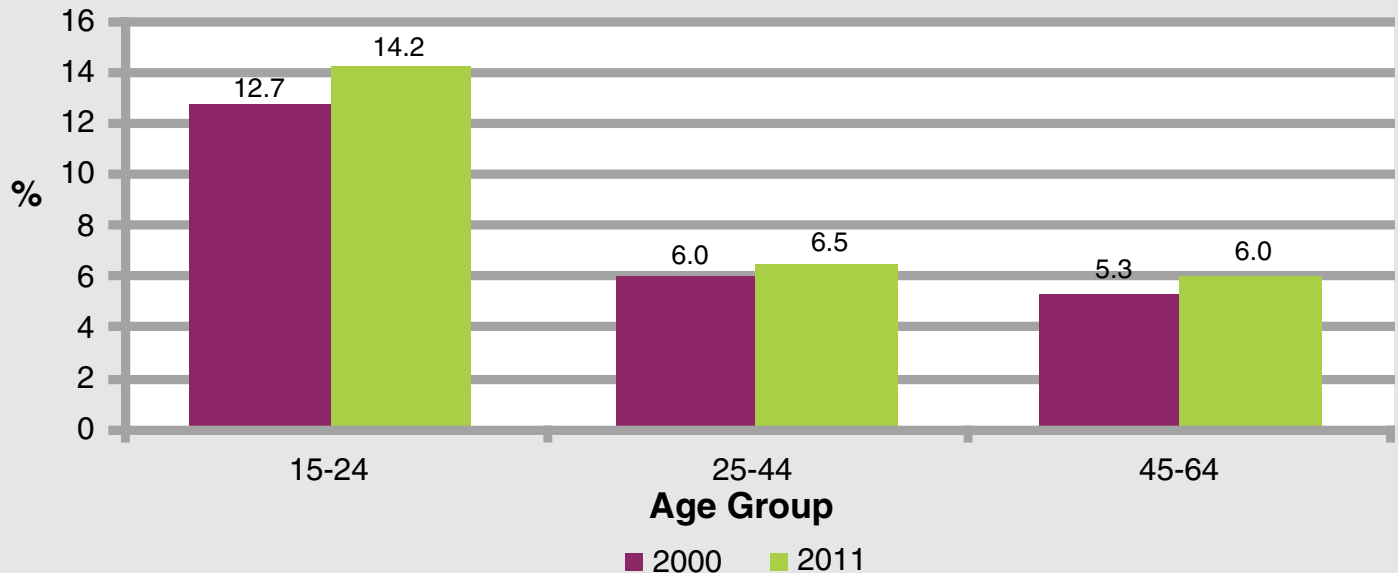
¹ Statistics Canada, 2011. CANSIM Table 282-0048 – Labour force survey estimates accessed at <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2820048&paSer=&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=-1&tabMode=dataTable&csid=> on January 15, 2012.





2.2.13 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.13 Unemployment rate, Canada, by age group, 2000 and 2011



Note: The labour force does not include 1) full-time students currently attending school and looking for full-time jobs or 2) students that are not available to work due to attending school.

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database (<http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table 282-0002), accessed January 15, 2012.

Youth unemployment is the number of unemployed persons aged 15 to 24 expressed as a percentage of the number in the labour force (those working or seeking employment). In 2000, the youth unemployment rate in Canada was 12.7%.¹

In 2011, the youth unemployment rate was up to 14.2%. Almost one in five (19.5%) 15 to 19 year olds were unemployed, while 10.9% of 20 to 24 year olds were unemployed. For adults aged 25 to 64 years, the unemployment rate was 6.2%.

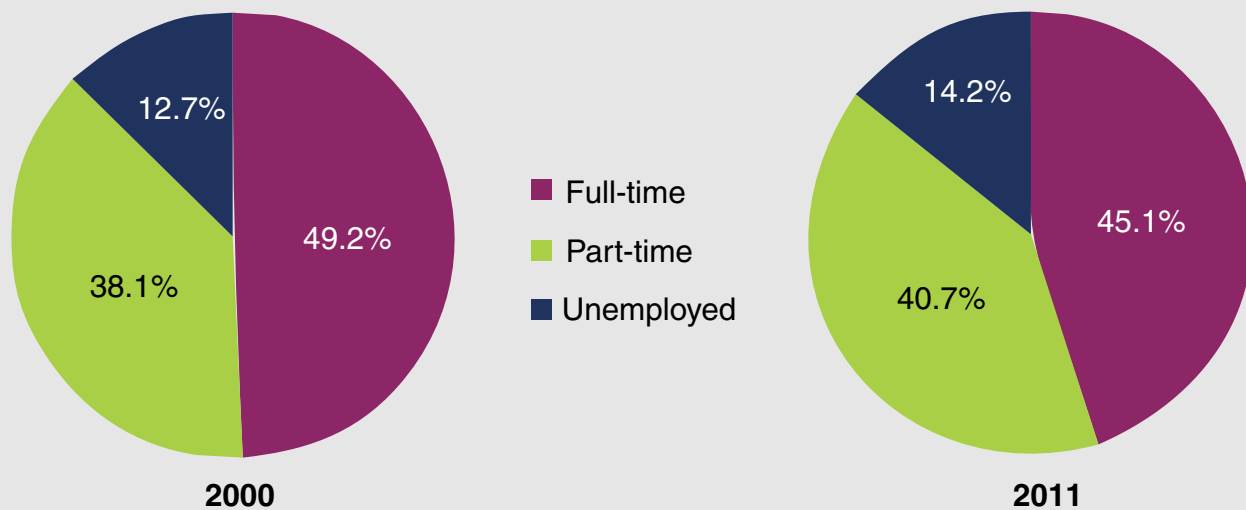
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000.





2.2.14 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.14 Employment status of labour force, age 15 to 24 years, Canada, 2000 and 2011



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database (<http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table 282-0002), accessed January 15, 2012.

Of all Canadian youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years in 2011, 45.1% were working full time and 40.7% were working part time.

Most employed youth aged 15 to 24 (71%) reported “going to school” as the reason for choosing part-time employment, 5% said it was a personal preference and 20% noted “other”, which included business conditions and unable to find full-time work.¹

¹ Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM tables 282-0014 and 282-0001.

Implications

Part-time employment has been increasing steadily, especially among youth aged 15 to 24 years.¹ For this age group, part-time employment is often ideal because it provides income while allowing youth to attend secondary and post-secondary schooling.

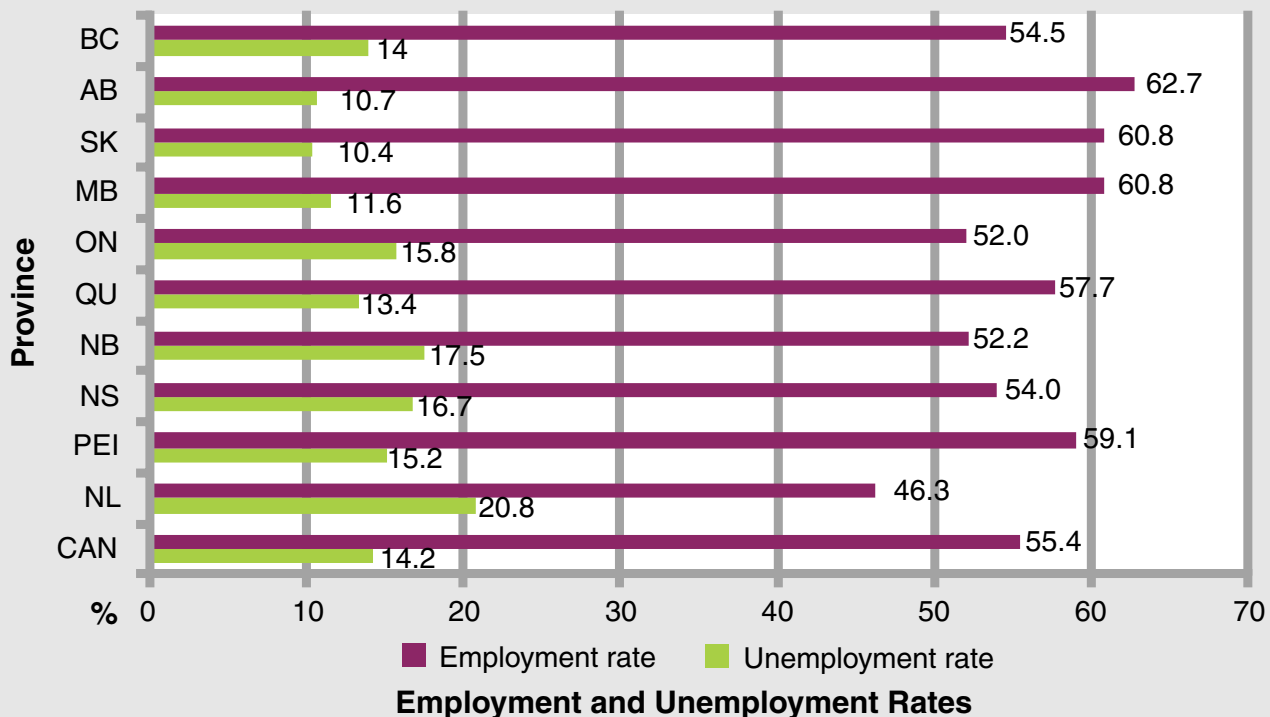
¹ Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, 2010. Work-Employment Rate, accessed at http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=13#M_6 on January 15, 2012.





2.2.15 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.15 Employment and unemployment rates, ages 15 to 24 years, by province, Canada, 2011



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database (<http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table 282-0002), accessed January 15, 2012.

In 2011, Alberta (62.7%), Saskatchewan (60.8%) and Manitoba (60.8%) had the highest employment rates for youth aged 15 to 24 years. Newfoundland and Labrador (46.3%) had the lowest proportion of 15 to 24 year olds employed within the labour force.

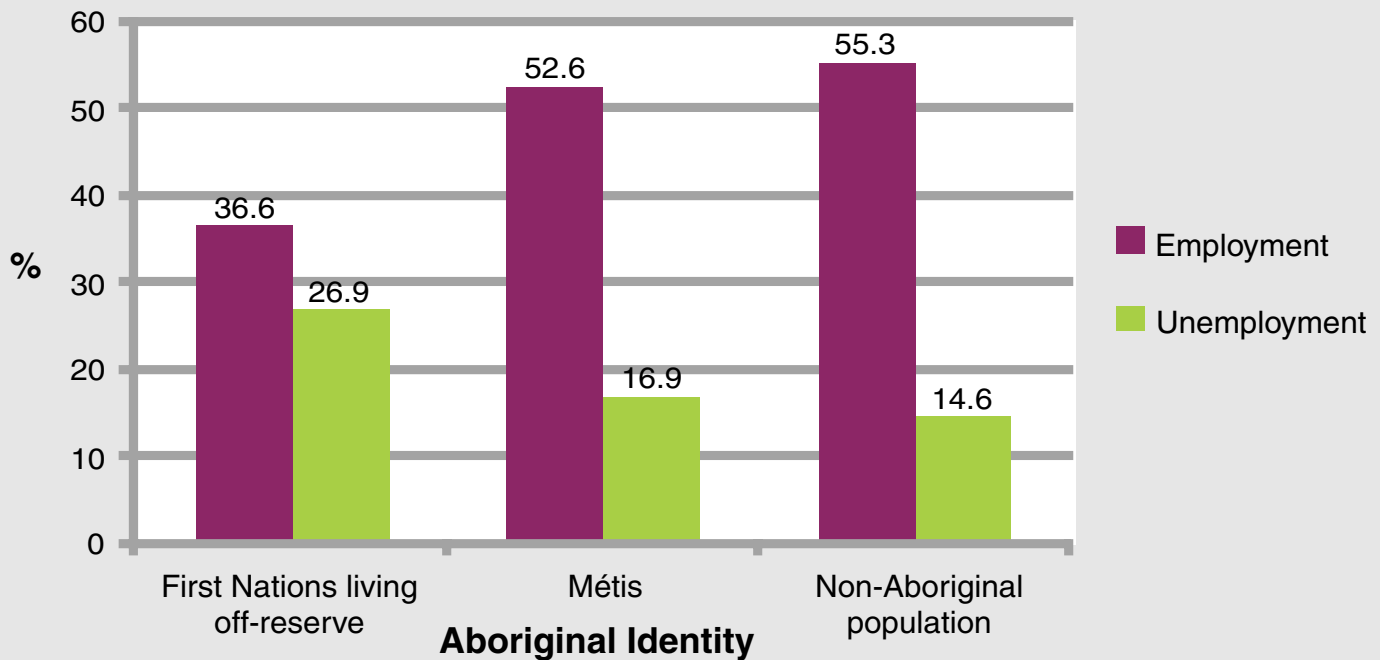
The national employment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years was 55.4% in 2011. Newfoundland and Labrador (46.3%), Ontario (52.0%), New Brunswick (52.2%), Nova Scotia (54.0%) and British Columbia (54.5%) all had employment rates below the national average.





2.2.16 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.16 Youth employment and unemployment rates, age 15 to 24 years, by Aboriginal identity, Canada, 2010



Note: Inuit data is not included within given Aboriginal data.

Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/71-588-x/2011003/t006-eng.htm>, accessed January 15, 2012.

In 2010, the unemployment rate for First Nations youth living off-reserve was 26.9% and the rate for Métis youth was 16.9%. The comparable rate for non-Aboriginal youth was 14.6%.

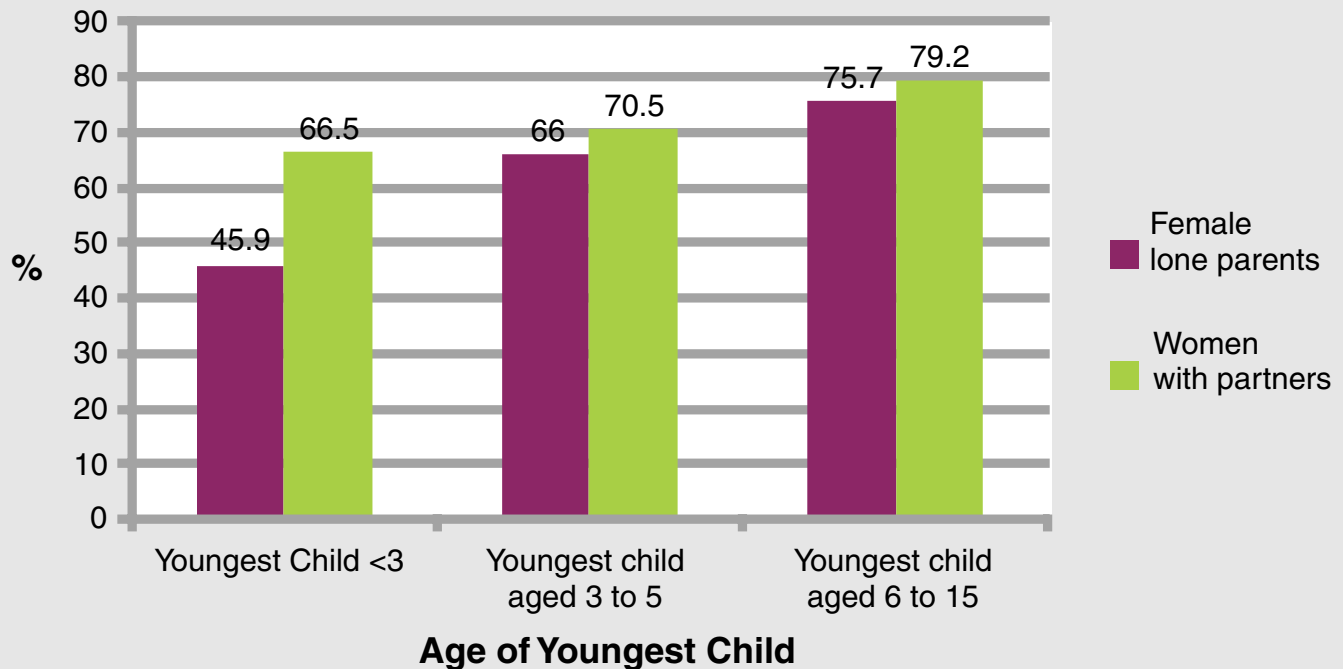
The employment rate for First Nations youth living off-reserve was 36.6% while that for Métis youth was 52.6%.





2.2.17 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.17 Employment rate of women with children by family status, Canada, 2009



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387/tbl/tbl006-eng.htm>, accessed January 15, 2012.

A mother's employment status can be affected by her family structure. Women with younger children are less likely to be employed than are those with older children. Still, in 2009, 45.9% of lone-parent mothers and 66.5% of women with partners who had a child under 3 years were employed outside the home.

By the time children are in school, 75.7% of lone-parent mothers and 79.2% of mothers with partners are employed.

Implications

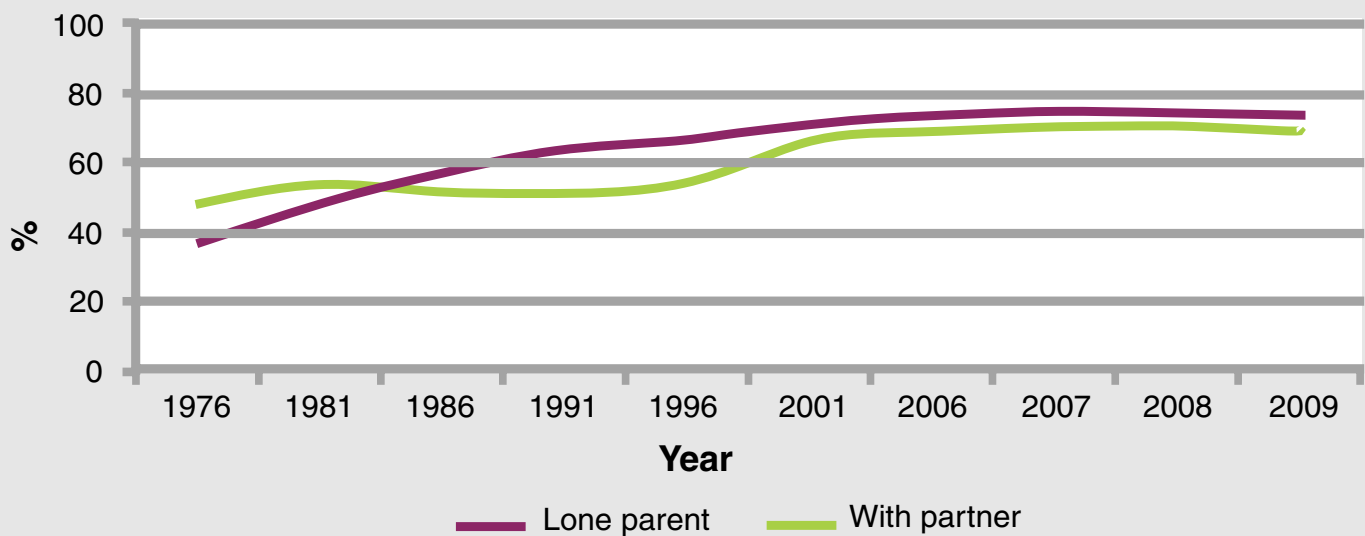
With an increasing number of mothers working outside the home, it is important to provide more accessible and affordable early childhood care and education, and after school care.





2.2.18 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.18 Employment rate of mothers with youngest child under 16, Canada, 1976 to 2009 (selected years)



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387/tbl/tbl006-eng.htm>, accessed January 15, 2012.

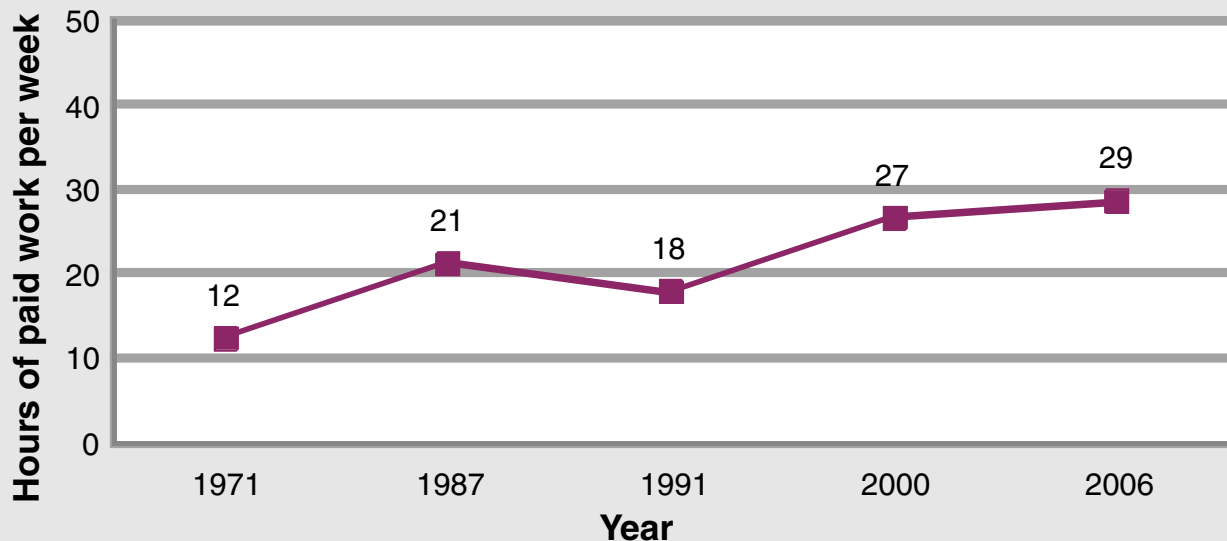
The majority of women with children are employed, whether they are lone parents or have a partner. In 2009, 74% of mothers who had at least one child under 16 and who were with a partner were employed, as were 69% of lone-parent mothers. This is a 95% increase for mothers with partners and a 44% increase for lone-parent mothers since 1976. The employment rate of women with children under 16 has remained relatively stable since 2001.





2.2.19 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.19 Weekly hours of paid work among mothers who are lone-parents and have children <18 in the house, Canada, 1971 to 2006 (select years)



Note: Weighted by household and not individual.

Burton, P. and Phipps, S. 2010. *Families, time and well-being in Canada, Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper Series, No. 537*, pg. 30, accessed at <http://www.lisproject.org/publications/liswps/537.pdf> on January 15, 2012.

In 1971, a lone-parent mother worked on average 12 hours per week to support her family. By 1987, that number had increased to 21 hours per week. At the start of the new millennium, lone-parent mothers were working 27 hours per week and most recent estimates suggest that number is continuing to climb, having reached 29 hours per week in 2006. In spite of this increase, in 2006, real disposable incomes for lone-parent mothers were low.

Earnings for lone-parent mothers have also increased. In 1971, lone-parent mothers on average had disposable incomes of \$9,825. In 1991, this had increased to \$15,120 and, by 2006, the average amount of disposable income for lone-parent mothers was \$22,874.

Implications

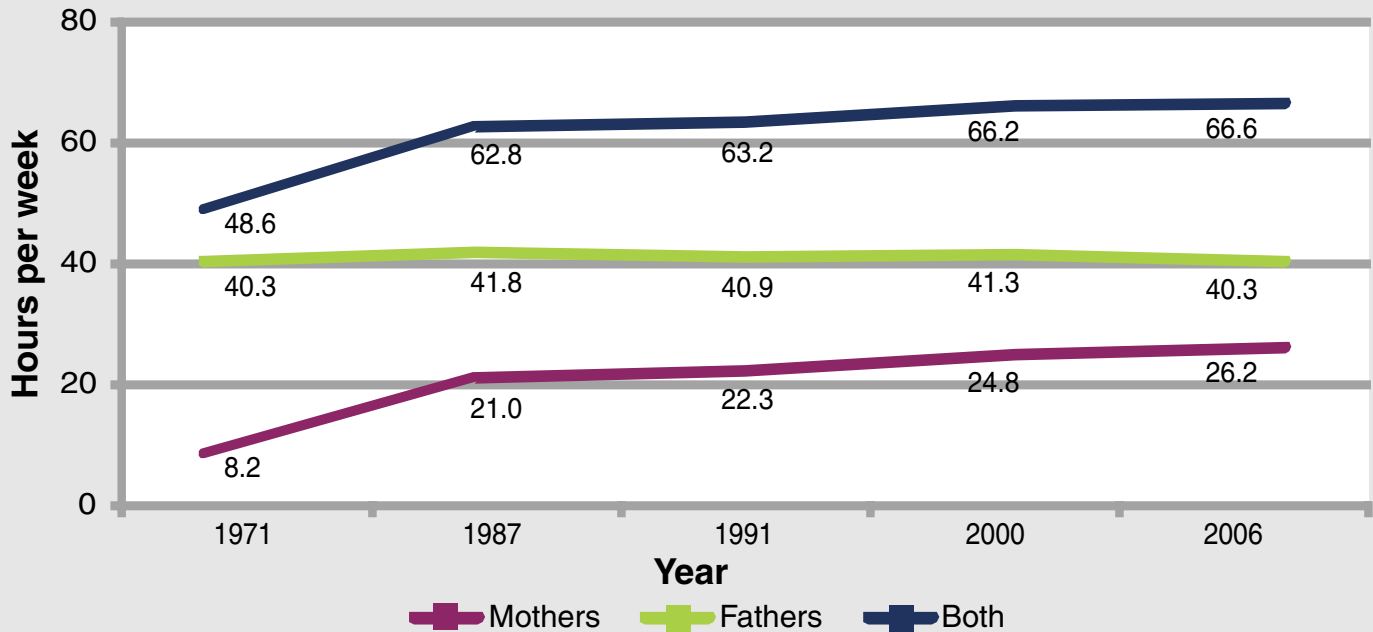
Although in recent years mothers who are lone-parents are earning more employment income, they are also spending more time in the workplace, leaving less time for them to be at home with their children. Further, in spite of the increase in the amount of time they are working, their incomes continue to be low.





2.2.20 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.20 Weekly paid work hours of mothers and fathers living in couples with children < 18 in the house, Canada, 1971 to 2006 (select years)



Burton, P. and Phipps, S. 2010. *Families, time and well-being in Canada, Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper Series, No. 537*, pgs. 27–29, accessed at <http://www.lisproject.org/publications/liswps/537.pdf> on January 15, 2012.

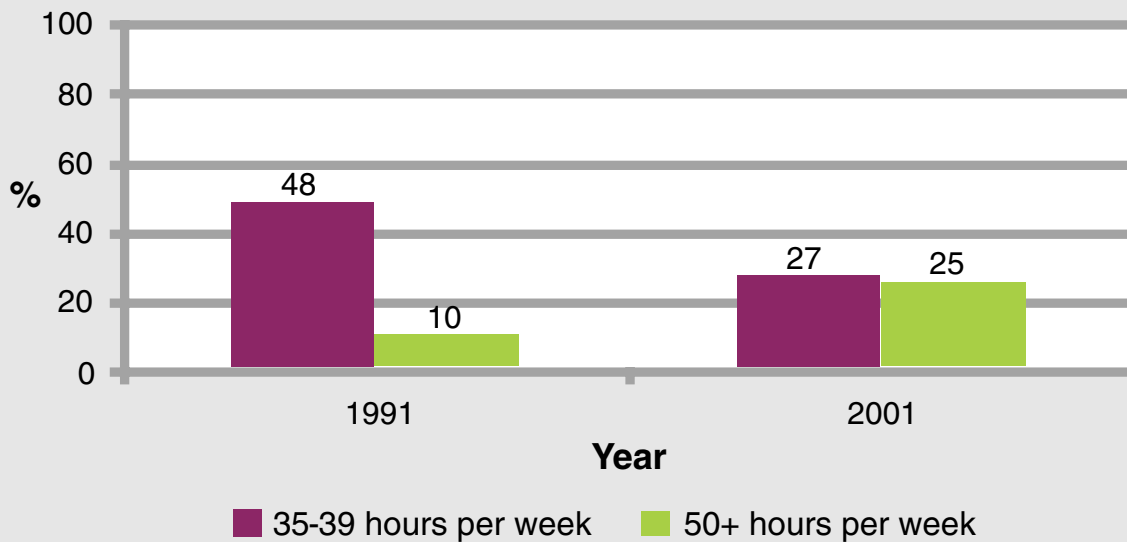
In 1971, mothers and fathers living in couple relationships and having children under 18 years of age living with them worked on average 48.6 hours per week for pay. By 2006, that number had increased by 37% to 66.6 hours; however, the increase was attributable to mothers working more hours for pay. The time mothers spent in paid work increased over threefold to 26.2 hours per week in 2006 from 8.2 hours in 1971. Furthermore, the increase in mothers' paid hours has been proportionally greater for lower-income families. While the largest increases in hours have occurred for low and middle-income families, the largest increases in real income have occurred for higher-income families.





2.2.21 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.21 Percent of employees working 50+ hours/week and 35-39 hours/week, Canada, 1991 and 2001



Duxbury, L. and Higgins, C. 2009. Key findings and conclusions from the 2001 National Work-Life Conflict Study. Health Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, accessed at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/occup-travail/balancing_six-equilibre_six/index-eng.php on January 15, 2012.

A recent study on work-life conflict included 100 Canadian companies with 500+ employees. The study included 31,571 people, 55% of which were women.¹

This study showed an overall increase in work hours from 1991 to 2001. Employees working 50 or more hours per week rose from just 10% in 1991 to 25% in 2001. Employees with a 35 to 39 hour work week decreased over that period from 48% to 27%. It was estimated that no fewer than one in four but as many as 60% of employed Canadians struggle to balance their work and home lives. This speaks almost exclusively to the demands of caregiver duties, either for an elderly parent, an ill family member or a child or children.

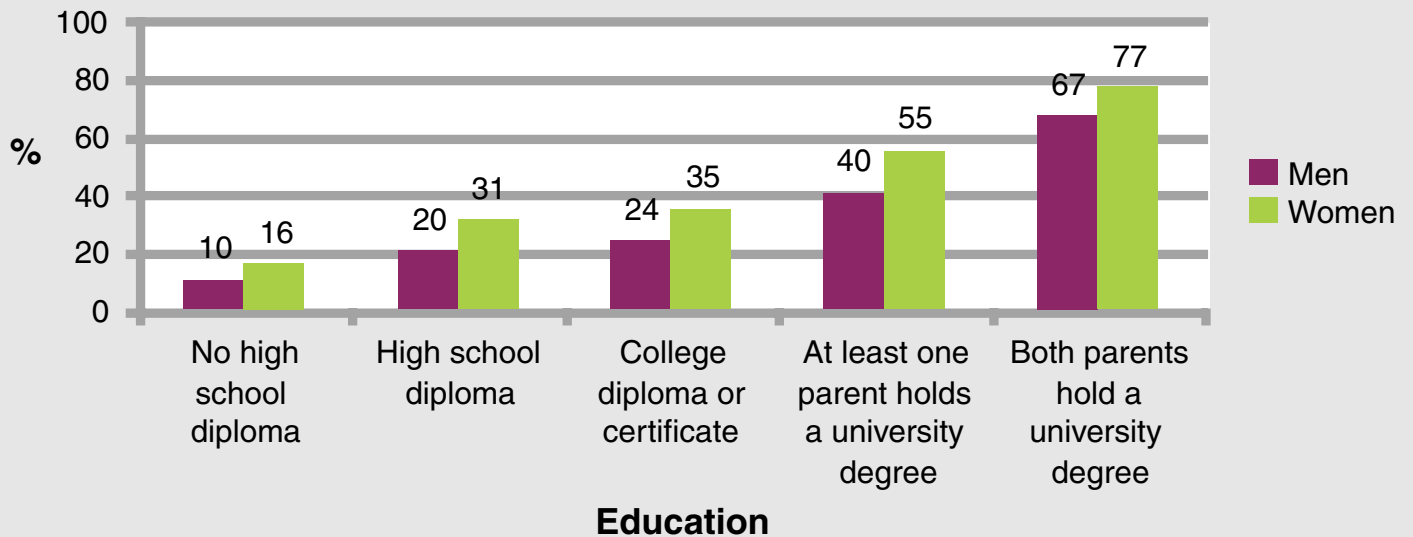
¹ Duxbury, L. and Higgins, C. 2009. Key findings and conclusions from the 2001 National Work-Life Conflict Study. Health Canada; Ottawa, Ontario (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/occup-travail/balancing_six-equilibre_six/index-eng.php).





2.2.22 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.22 Percentage of Canadians aged 25 to 39 who have a university degree by parents' education, Canada, 2009



Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2011002/article/11536-eng.pdf>, accessed January 15, 2012.

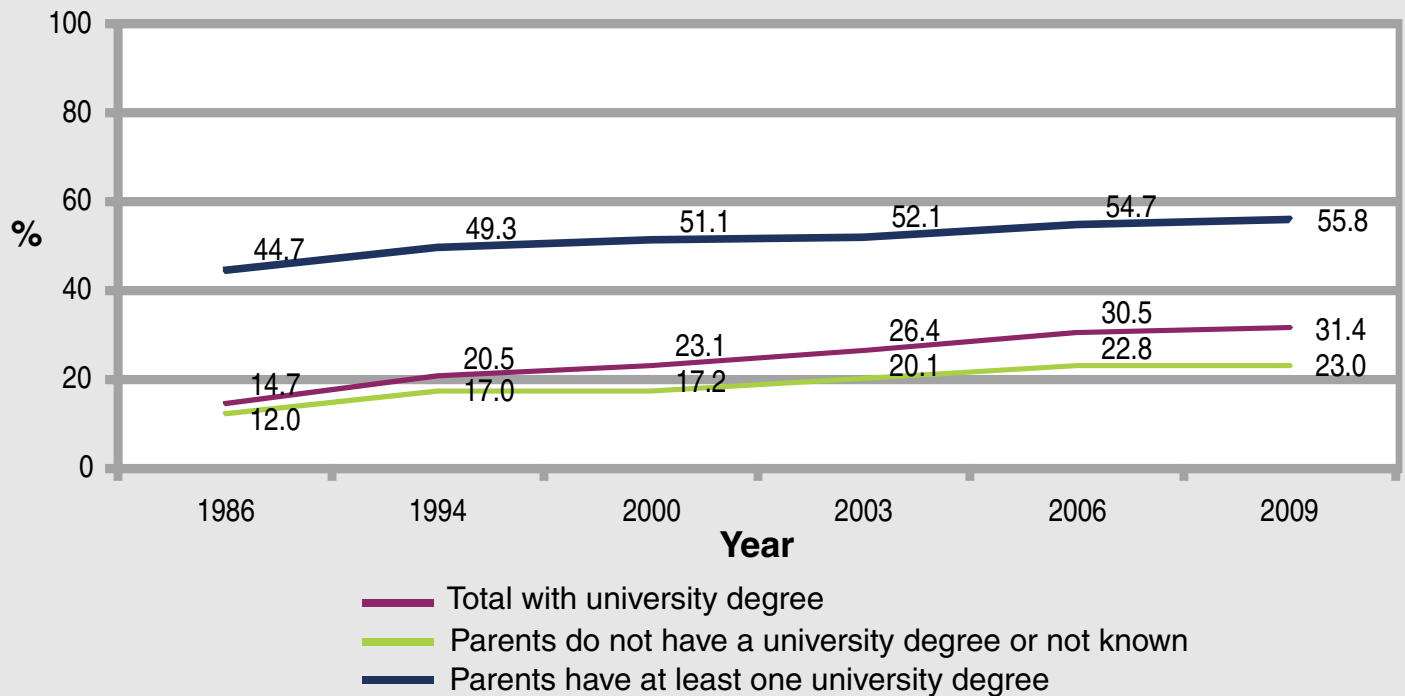
Women are more likely to have a university degree than men. In 2009, 37% of women 25 to 39 years of age held a university degree compared with 27% of men. However, young people are more likely to get a university degree if their parents have one. In fact, if both parents had a university degree, 67% of men and 77% of women aged 25 to 39 had a university degree compared with 20% and 31% of men and women, respectively, whose parents had a high school diploma. The likelihood of obtaining a university degree increases as parental level of education increases.





2.2.23 Work and Family

Fig. 2.2.23 Percentage of Canadians aged 25 to 39 who have a university degree by parents' education, Canada, 1986 to 2009 (select years)



Adapted from Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2011002/article/11536-eng.pdf>, accessed January 15, 2012.

In 2009, 31.4% of all Canadians aged 25 to 39 had a university degree. Of those who had at least one parent with a degree, 55.8% had a university degree. Of those Canadians aged 25 to 39 whose parents did not have a degree, 23.0% had a university degree, or roughly half the percentage of those who have a parent with a degree.

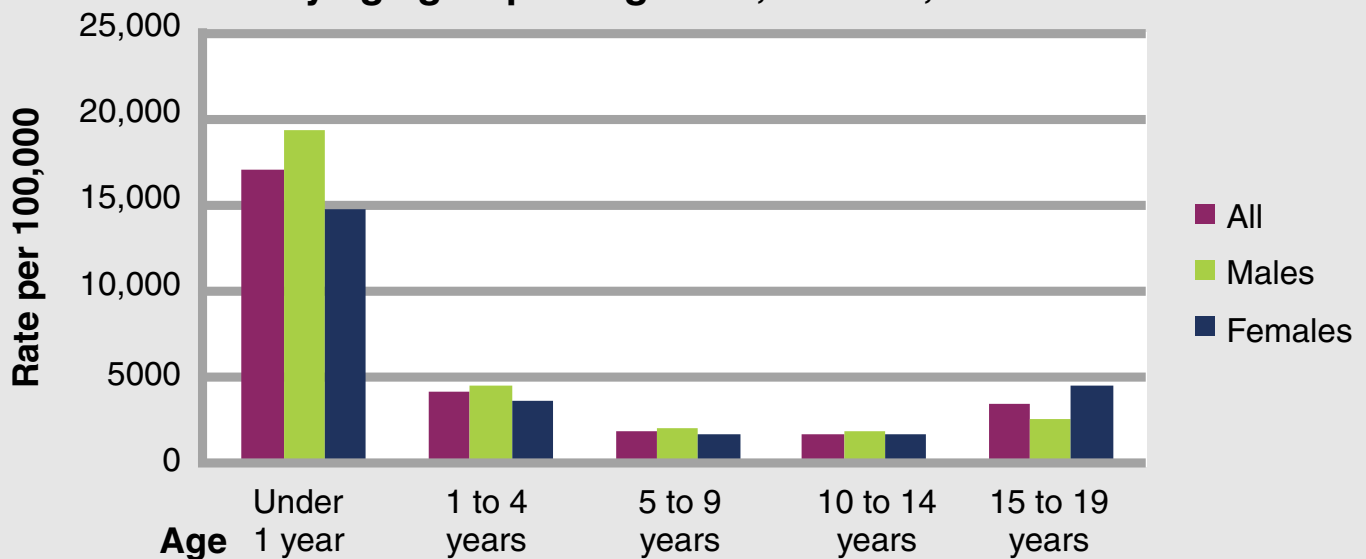
Among people whose parents did not have a degree, the likelihood of their obtaining a degree nearly doubled between 1986 and 2009. The increase was less dramatic for those whose parents had a degree, at 1.25 times higher.





3.1.1 Hospitalizations

Fig. 3.1.1 Hospitalization rates for all causes, by age group and gender, Canada, 2009/10



| Age | <1 | 1-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Both | 17,064 | 4,212 | 1,906 | 1,868 | 3,563 |
| Males | 19,298 | 4,633 | 2,073 | 1,922 | 2,634 |
| Females | 14,725 | 3,769 | 1,728 | 1,811 | 4,538 |

Adapted from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
<http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Home/home/cihi000001>. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In 2009/10, infants had, by far, the highest rate of hospitalization of all age groups. Infants were discharged from hospital at a rate of 17,064 per 100,000, which was at least four times the rate of any of the other age group. Male infants were 1.3 times more likely to be hospitalized than were female infants.

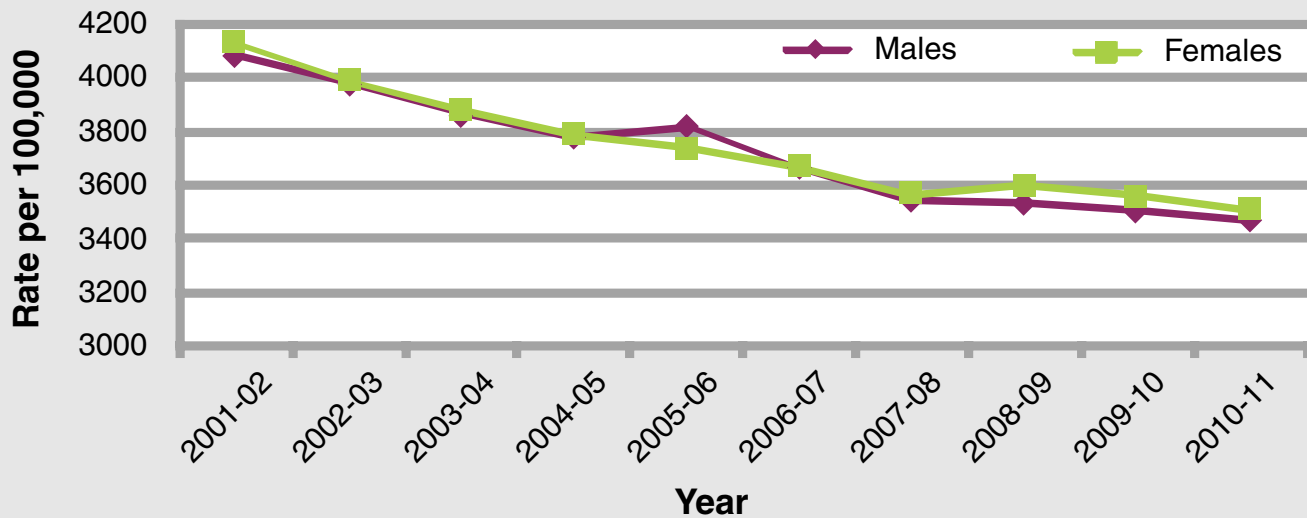
Note: The figure presented here excludes all newborns born in the reporting facility and some newborns born outside the reporting facility but admitted to that facility within 24 hours of birth.





3.1.2 Hospitalizations

Fig. 3.1.2 Hospitalization rates for all causes, children 0 to 19 years, by gender, Canada, 2001/02 to 2010/11



| | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Males | 4,082 | 3,980 | 3,867 | 3,774 | 3,816 | 3,654 | 3,542 | 3,538 | 3,502 | 3,468 |
| Females | 4,126 | 3,983 | 3,884 | 3,783 | 3,742 | 3,669 | 3,559 | 3,596 | 3,563 | 3,506 |

Adapted from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
<http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Home/home/cihi000001>. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Hospitalization rates for all causes for males and females 0 to 19 years of age declined between 2001/02 and 2010/11. For males there was a 15% decline and for females a 16.1% decline. Improvements in the approaches to care and the quality of care, as well as health care reform, contributed to the decline in hospitalizations.

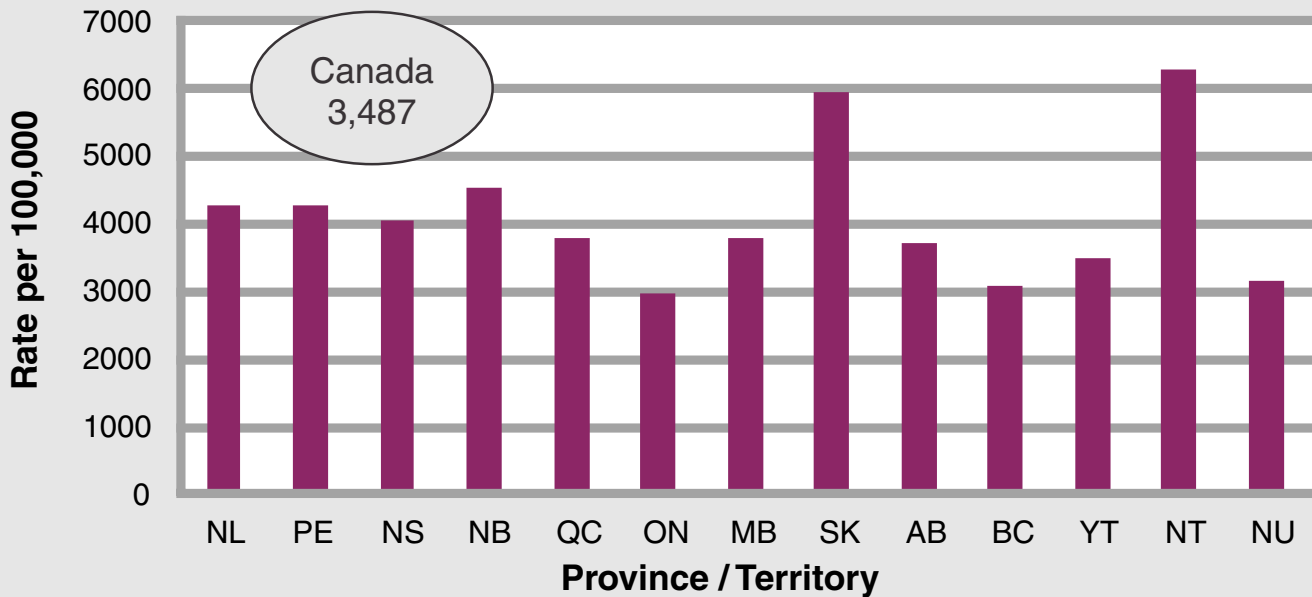
Note: The figure presented here excludes all newborns born in the reporting facility and some newborns born outside the reporting facility but admitted to that facility within 24 hours of birth.





3.1.3 Hospitalizations

Fig. 3.1.3 Hospitalization rates for all causes, children 0 to 19 years, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2010/11



| NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4,296 | 4,276 | 4,056 | 4,534 | 3,804 | 2,980 | 3,784 | 5,958 | 3,720 | 3,077 | 3,500 | 6,297 | 3,171 |

Adapted from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
<http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Home/home/cihi000001>. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In 2010/11, hospitalization rates for children and youth 0 to 19 years of age were highest in the Northwest Territories (6,297/100,000) and Saskatchewan (5,958/100,000) and lowest in Ontario (2,980/100,000) and British Columbia (3,077/100,000).

Note: The figure presented here excludes all newborns born in the reporting facility and some newborns born outside the reporting facility but admitted to that facility within 24 hours of birth.

Implications

Differences in hospitalization rates in Canada may be attributable, in part, to the varying proportions of rural and remote communities, the socioeconomic status, and the number of Aboriginal children living in each province and territory. The rates of injury are higher in rural and remote communities, for Aboriginal children, and for those with a lower socioeconomic status. Further people in these situations often have to travel longer distances to reach medical services, thus increasing the likelihood of an overnight stay. The variation in hospitalization rates may also reflect differences in the management of care across jurisdictions.¹

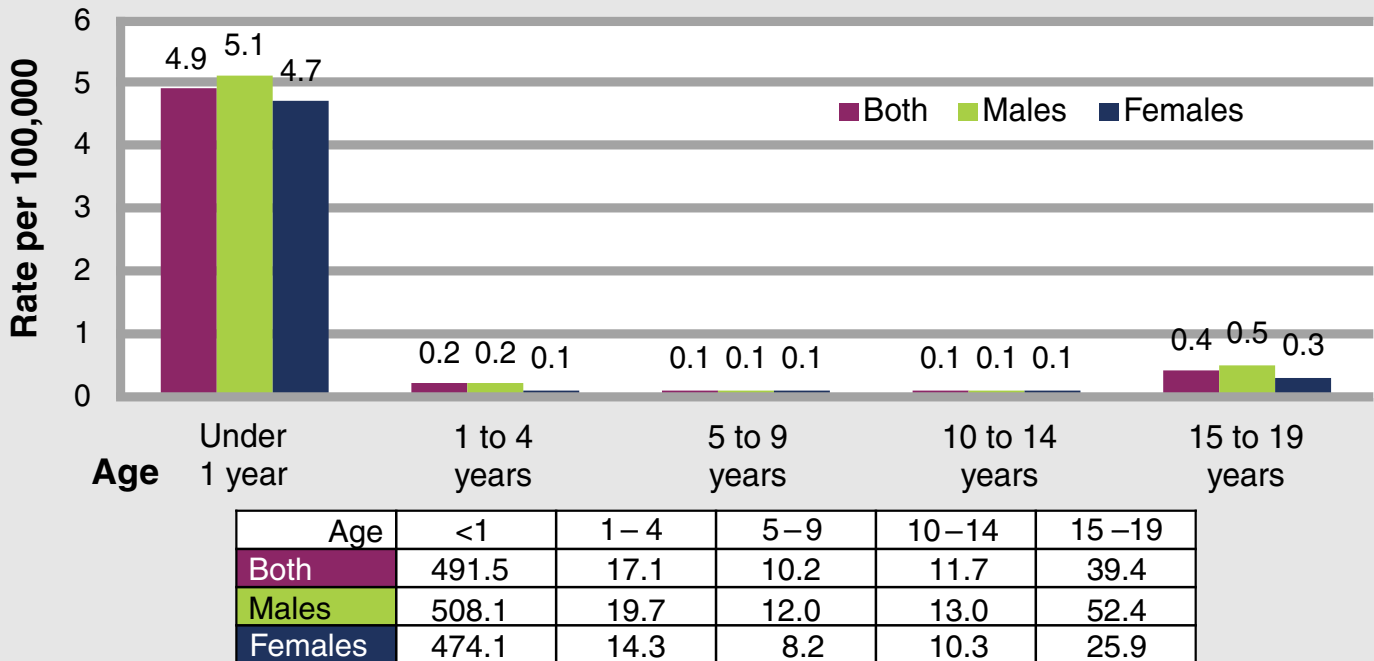
¹ Rural and Northern Healthcare Framework/Plan (2010). Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Accessed on May 28, 2012 at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ruralnorthern/docs/report_rural_northern_EN.pdf.





3.2.4 Death

Fig. 3.2.4 Death rates for all causes, by age group and gender, Canada, 2009



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0551. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

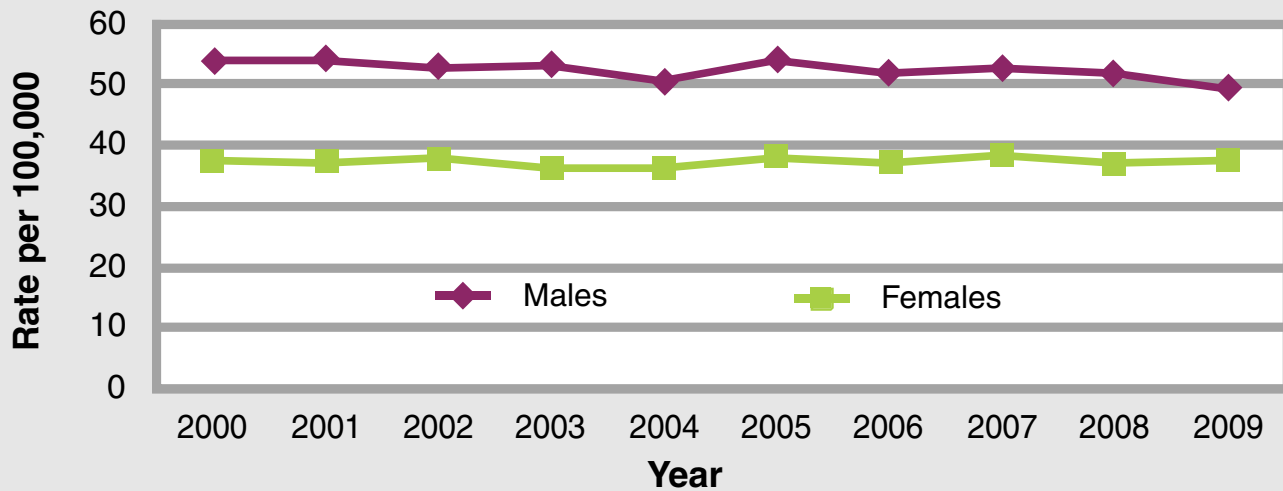
While Canadian children and youth enjoy relatively good health compared to children in other parts of the world, they still face challenges to their health and well-being. These challenges vary according to age group and gender. In 2009, as in previous years, infants had the highest death rate among children and youth. Male infants had a higher death rate (508.1/100,000) than female infants (491.5/100,000). Between the ages of 1 and 14 years, death rates were consistently low and did not vary significantly between age groups. For youth 15 to 19 years of age, death rates were slightly higher, which is in part attributable to the increase in deaths due to injury among youth in this age group.





3.2.5 Death

Fig. 3.2.5 Death rates for all causes, children 0 to 19 years, by gender, Canada, 2000 to 2009



| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Males | 54.0 | 54.1 | 52.8 | 53.3 | 50.8 | 53.9 | 51.8 | 52.8 | 51.9 | 49.2 |
| Females | 37.6 | 36.9 | 37.9 | 36.2 | 36.2 | 38.1 | 37.1 | 38.2 | 37.1 | 37.5 |

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0551. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In Canada, the death rates for children and youth aged 0 to 19 years have remained relatively stable¹ over the 10-year period from 2000 to 2009, especially for females. For males 0 to 19 years, between 2000 and 2009, death rates declined by about 9%.

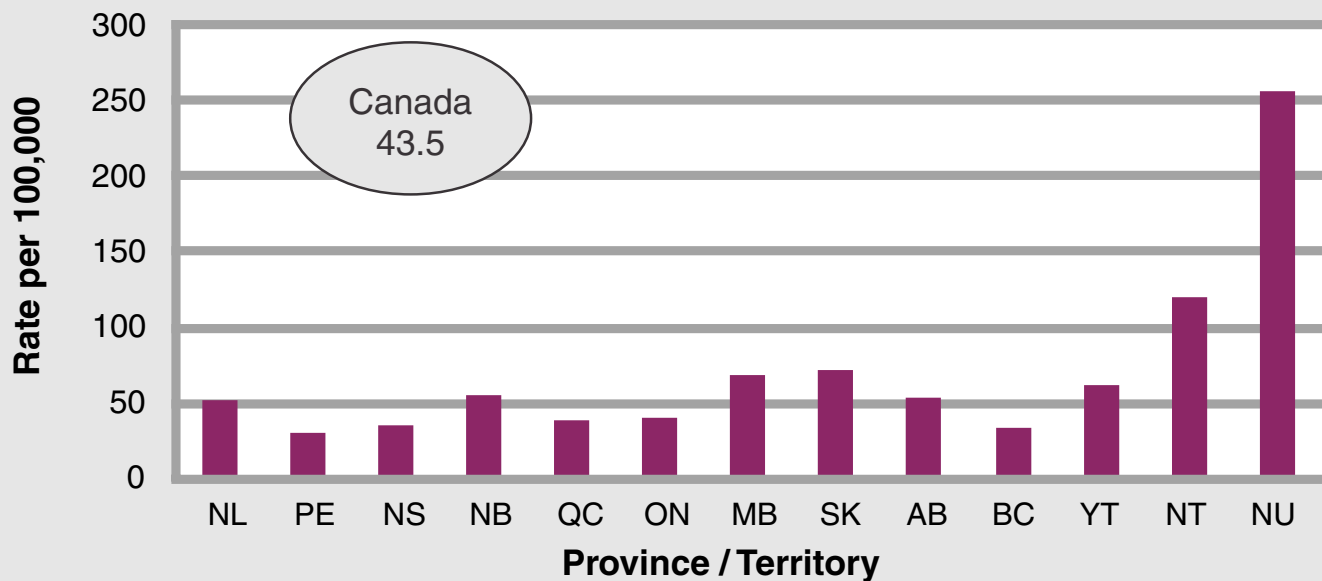
¹ Statistics Canada (2009). Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth and Death Databases and population estimates.





3.2.6 Death

Fig. 3.2.6 Death rates for all causes, children 0 to 19 years, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009



| NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 51.8 | 29.7 | 34.5 | 55.8 | 38.1 | 40.2 | 67.8 | 71.7 | 53.9 | 33.4 | 61.4 | 120.2 | 257.0 |

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0504. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

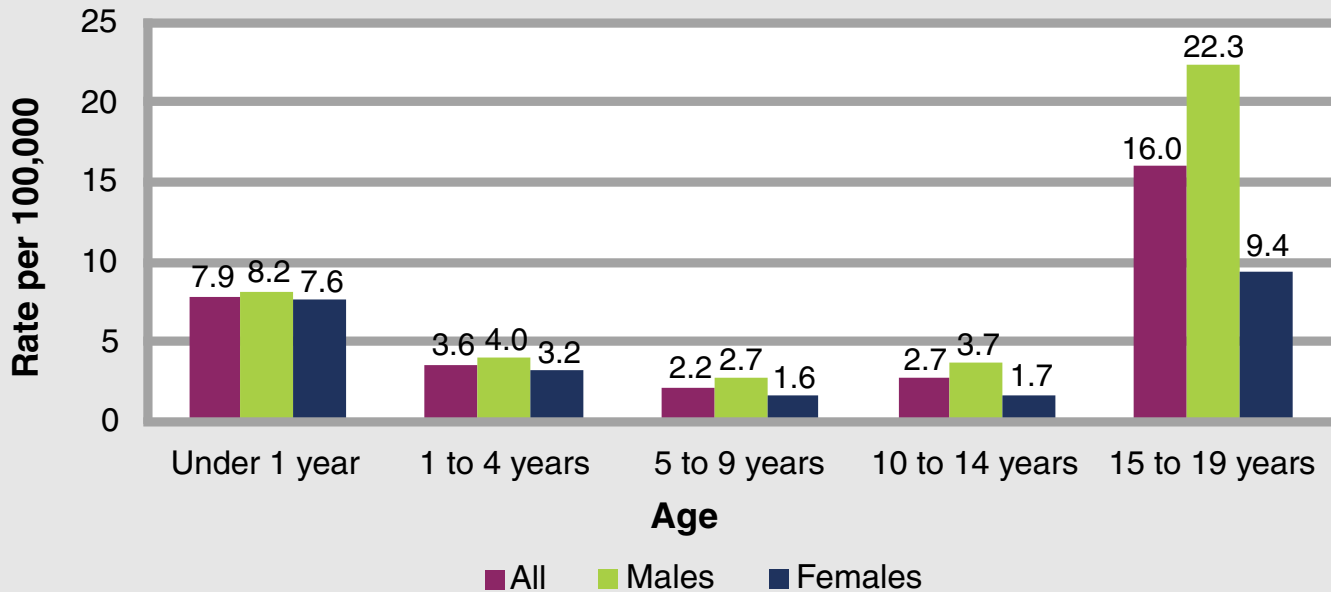
In 2009, 3,423 Canadian children and youth aged 0 to 19 years died, resulting in a death rate of 43.5 per 100,000. There was considerable provincial and territorial variation in the death rates for this age group. The territories had the highest death rates (Nunavut 257.0/100,000 and the Northwest Territories 120.2/100,000). Provincially, Saskatchewan (71.7/100,000) and Manitoba (67.8/100,000) reported the highest death rates for this age group, while Prince Edward Island (29.7/100,000) and British Columbia (33.4/100,000) had the lowest death rates.





3.3.7 Unintentional Injury

Fig. 3.3.7 Unintentional injury death rates, by age group and gender, Canada, 2009



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0540. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Unintentional injuries continue to be the leading cause of death for Canadian children and youth over age 1. The highest rate of unintentional injury death is in the 15 to 19 year age group, at 16/100,000. In 2009, 360 youth aged 15 to 19 years died as a result of an unintentional injury, for a rate of 16.0/100,000. The unintentional injury death for infants was 7.9/100,000.

Implications

Starting at an early age, males experience more frequent and severe unintentional injuries than females.¹ The unintentional injury death rate of teenage males is almost 2½ times that of females.

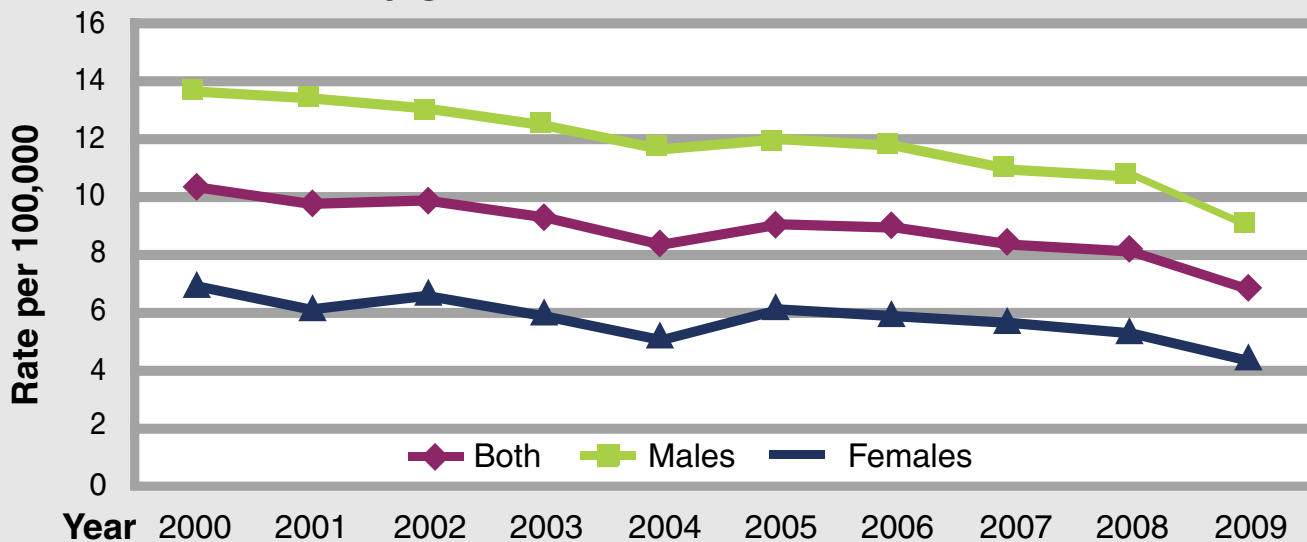
¹ Canadian Institutes of Health Research (2005). Gender and Health. Accessed on May 28, 2012 at http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/gender_health_mpkit_2005_e.pdf.





3.3.8 Unintentional Injury

Fig. 3.3.8 Unintentional injury death rates, children 0 to 19 years, by gender, Canada, 2000 to 2009



| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Both | 10.4 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 6.8 |
| Males | 13.7 | 13.4 | 13.1 | 12.5 | 11.7 | 12.0 | 11.8 | 10.9 | 10.7 | 9.0 |
| Females | 6.9 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 5.0 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 4.4 |

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0540. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Unintentional injury deaths for males and females 0 to 19 years of age declined between 2000 and 2009. For males there was a 34% decline and for females there was 36% decline.

Implications

Unintentional injuries are largely preventable. However, Canada ranks 18th out of 23 OECD countries in terms of injury mortality rates.¹ Common fatal injuries for children and youth include motor vehicle accidents, drowning, suffocation, strangulation, choking, pedestrian injuries, poisoning and falls.

Deaths as a result of unintentional injuries are the tip of the iceberg. Unintentional injuries are a major public health problem, and the burden falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our society. Approximately 500 children and youth 0 to 19 years die as a result of unintentional injuries, and a further 21,000 are hospitalized every year. Many of those who survive are left with disabilities, both physical and emotional. For a child, this can mean a lifetime of living with the consequences of an injury. The stress on the child, their family and the health care system cannot be underestimated.

The economic burden of unintentional injuries to children is substantial, costing Canadians \$4 billion per year.²

¹ Safe Kids Canada (2011). The financial costs and prevention strategies of unintentional injuries. Accessed on May 28, 2012 at <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Professionals/Documents/33201-PublicSectorDigestInjuryPrevention.pdf>.

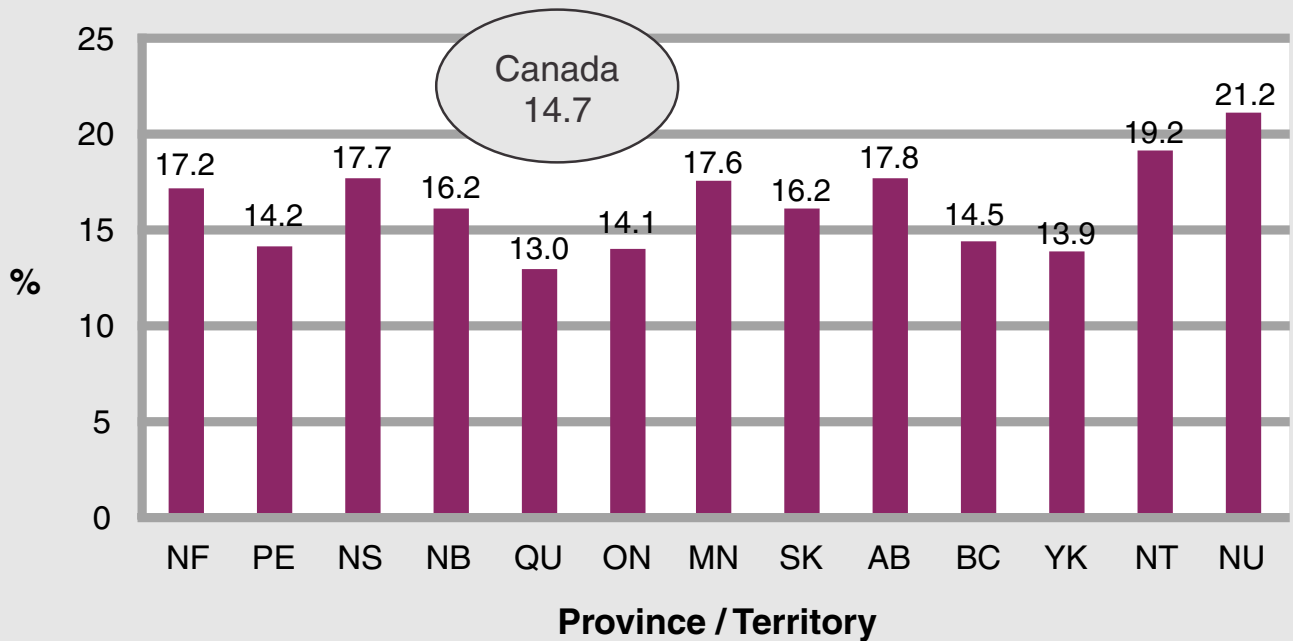
² Safe Kids Canada. About Injuries. <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Professionals/Safety-Information/About-Injuries/Index.aspx>. Accessed on July 6, 2012.





3.4.9 Disability

Fig. 3.4.9 Youth 12 to 19 years who reported being limited in selected activities,* for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009/10



* The term "activity limitation" refers to physical, developmental, learning, behavioural or emotional problems that limit certain activities on a continuing basis.

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0502. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

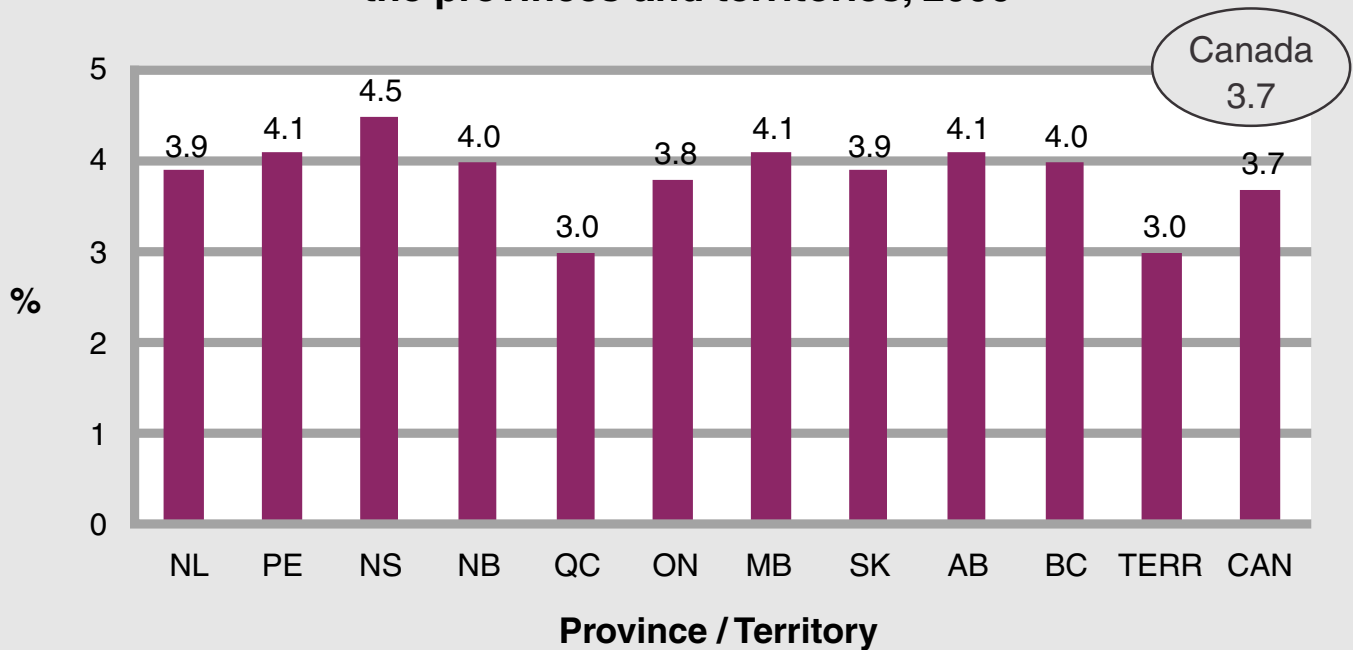
According to the 2009/10 Canadian Community Health Survey, activity limitations are common among youth in Canada. In Nunavut, 21.2% of youth 12 to 19 years of age reported having an activity limitation, the highest across the provinces and territories. In Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon, the proportion of youth 12 to 19 years of age reporting an activity limitation just under to the national average of 14.7%.





3.4.10 Disability

Fig. 3.4.10 Children under 15 years with disabilities, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2006



Statistics Canada, Participation and Activity Limitations Survey, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-628-x/89-628-x2008004-eng.pdf>. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In Canada, 3.7% of children under 15 years of age reported having a disability in 2006. Among the provinces and territories, Nova Scotia had the highest rate, with 4.5% of children reporting a disability.

Implications

In 2006, almost half of the parents who reported having a child with a disability also reported having difficulties in obtaining special education programs regardless of the type of disability¹ or level of severity. Access to special education for children with disabilities is important. Parents who reported having unmet needs for their child in school also reported a shortfall in their performance.²

¹ Persons with disabilities are those who reported difficulties with daily living activities or who indicated that a physical or mental condition or health problem reduced the kind or amount of activities they do.

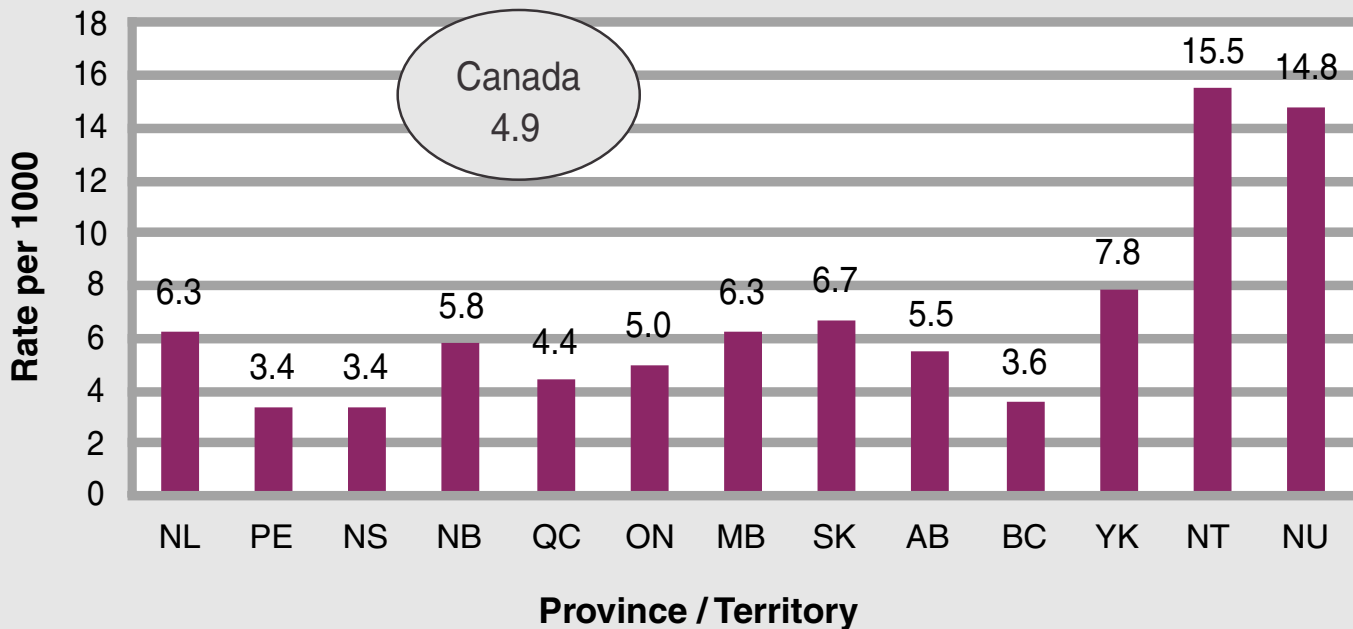
² Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: A Profile of Education for Children with Disabilities in Canada (2008). Statistics Canada. Accessed on May 28, 2012, at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-628-x/89-628-x2008004-eng.pdf>.





3.5.11 Infant Death

Fig. 3.5.11 Infant death rates, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0507. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In 2009, 1,911 infants died in Canada, for a death rate of 4.9/1,000. The trend in infant death rates was relatively stable at 5.3/1,000 in 1999 compared with 4.9/1,000 in 2009.¹ In 2009, the highest infant death rates were reported in the Northwest Territories (15.5/1,000), Nunavut (14.8/1,000) and the Yukon (7.8/1,000). The lowest infant death rates were reported in Prince Edward Island (3.4/1,000), Nova Scotia (3.4/1,000) and British Columbia (3.6/100,000). In 2009, the overall infant death rate in Canada was 4.9/1,000.

¹ Statistics Canada (2008), Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth and Death Databases and population estimates.

Implications

Although the Public Health Agency of Canada considers Canada's overall infant mortality rate to be in line with other OECD countries,² some populations and certain communities experience much higher rates of infant death.

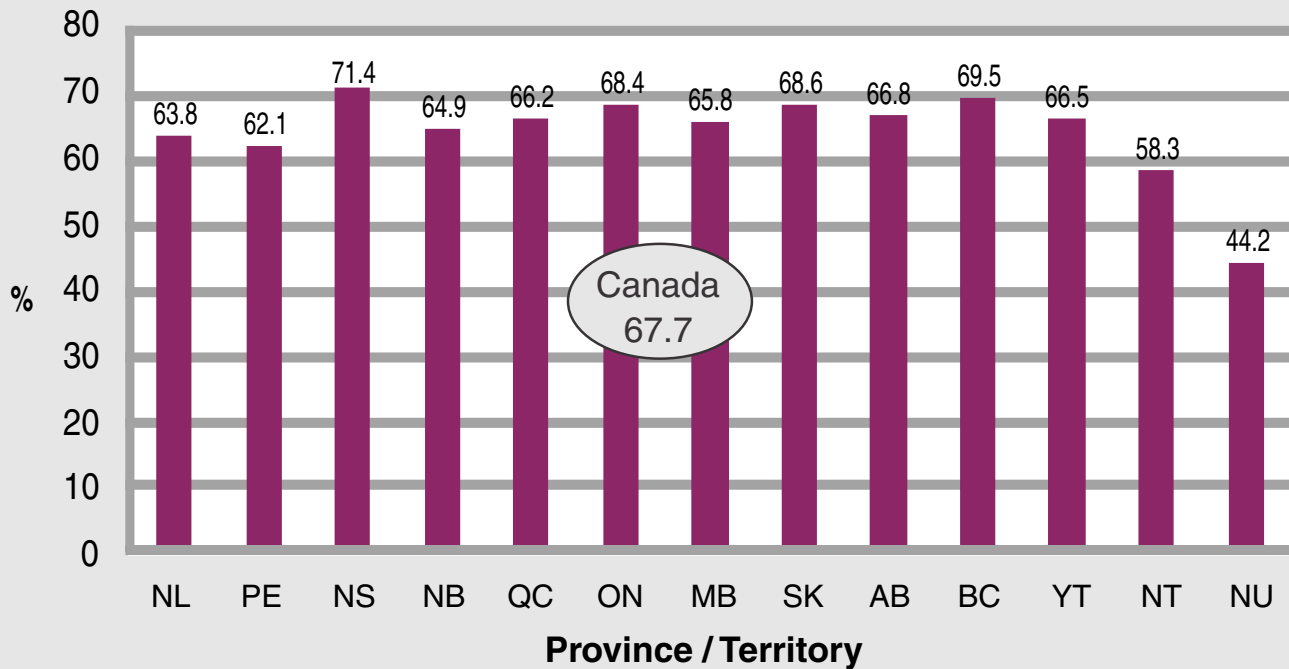
² Public Health Agency of Canada (2008). The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on The State of Public Health in Canada 2008. Accessed on May 29, 2012, at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2008/fr-rc/cphorsphc-respcacsp06c-eng.php.





3.6.12 Self-perceived Health

Fig. 3.6.12 Children 12 to 19 years who perceived their health to be “very good” or “excellent”, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009/10



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0502. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

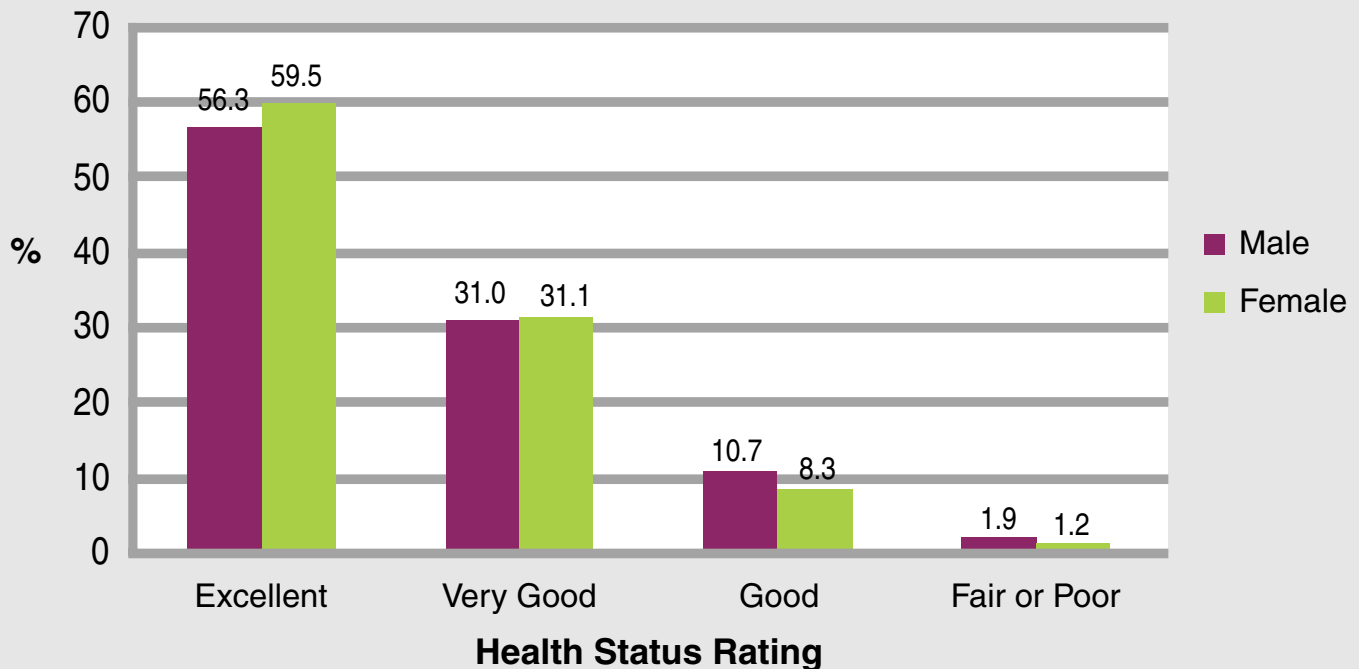
According to the 2009/10 Canadian Community Health Survey, almost 68% of youth 12 to 19 years of age reported that their health was either “very good” or “excellent”. Nova Scotia had the greatest proportion of youth perceiving their health to be “very good” or “excellent” (71.4%), while Nunavut had the lowest proportion (44.2%).





3.6.13 Self-perceived Health

Fig. 3.6.13 Self-perceived health status of children 6 to 9 years, by gender, Canada, 2006/07



Statistics Canada, custom tabulation, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 2006/07.

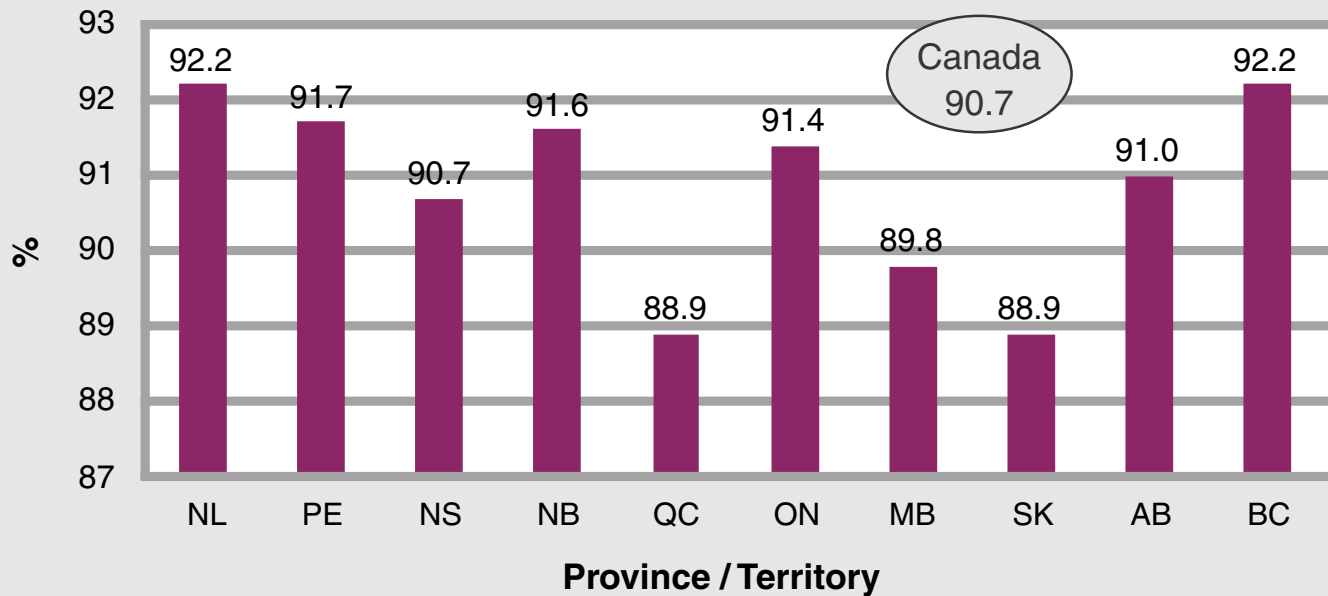
According to the 2006/07 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 56.3% of males and 59.5% of females aged 6 to 9 years reported excellent health status, and a further 31.0% of males and 31.1% of females reported very good health status. Very few males and females reported fair or poor health status, at 1.9% and 1.2%, respectively.





3.6.14 Self-perceived Health

Fig. 3.6.14 Parental rating of child's health as "very good" or "excellent", children 0 to 7 years, for Canada and the provinces, 2008/09



Statistics Canada, custom tabulation, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 2008/09.

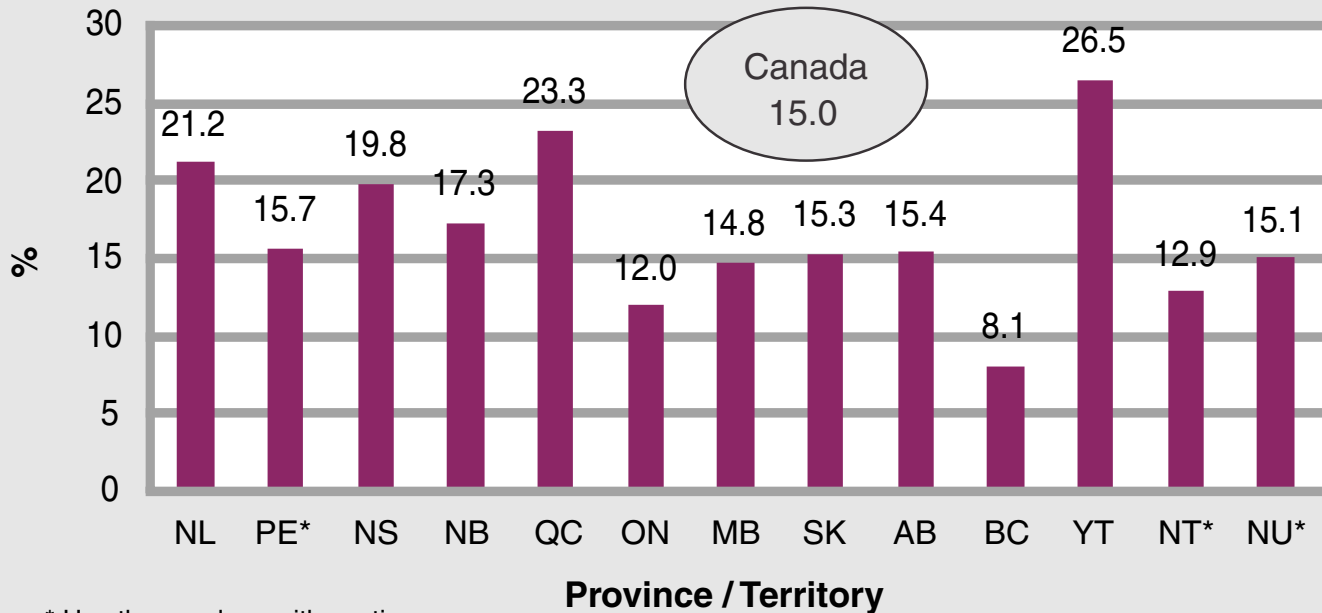
According to the 2008/09 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 90.7% of the persons most knowledgeable (PMK) of children 0 to 7 years of age rated the child's health status as "very good" or "excellent". (In over 90% of cases, the PMK was the child's mother.)





3.7.15 Environmental Health

Fig. 3.7.15 Exposure to secondhand smoke at home, 12 to 19 years of age, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009/10



* Use these values with caution.

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0502. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

According to the 2009/10 Canadian Community Health Survey, 15% of Canadians 12 to 19 years of age were exposed to second-hand smoke at home. British Columbia (8.1%) and Ontario (12.0%) reported the lowest rates of exposure to smoke at home.

Implications

Initiatives to reduce smoking at home are important for youth. As well as reducing their exposure to environmental toxins, reducing environmental tobacco smoke in a community has a potential impact on future adolescent smoking habits because it makes smoking less visible.¹

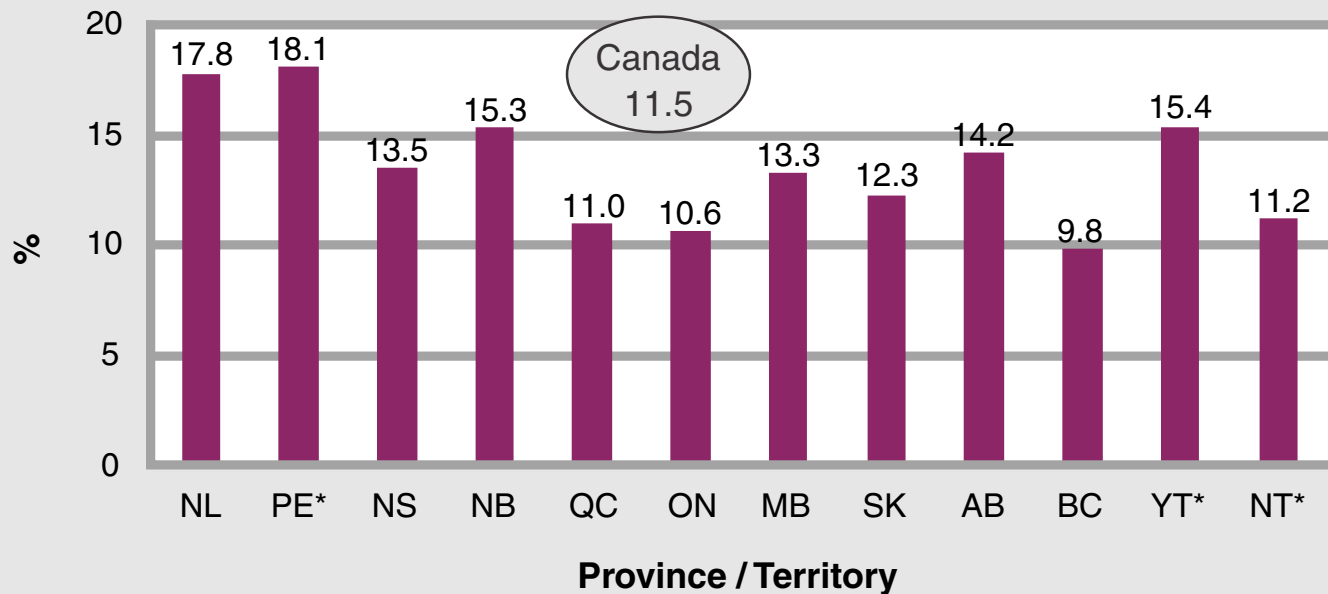
¹ Health Canada (1999). Youth and Tobacco. Accessed on May, 28 2012, at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/tobac-tabac/youth-jeunes/youth-jeunes-eng.pdf.





3.7.16 Environmental Health

Fig. 3.7.16 Children 12 to 19 years who have been diagnosed by a health professional as having asthma, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009/10



* Use these values with caution.

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0502. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Asthma, a chronic inflammatory disorder of the airways, is one of the more prevalent chronic conditions in Canada.¹ According to the 2009/10 Canadian Community Health Survey, 11.5% of youth 12 to 19 years of age were diagnosed with asthma by a health professional.

¹ Gershon, A., et al., (2007). ICES Report: The burden of asthma: can it be eased? Accessed on May 28, 2012, at <http://www.longwoods.com/content/18644>.

Implications

After cardiovascular disease (34%) and cancer (29%), chronic respiratory disease is responsible for the greatest proportion of chronic disease deaths in adults (4.3%) in Canada.¹

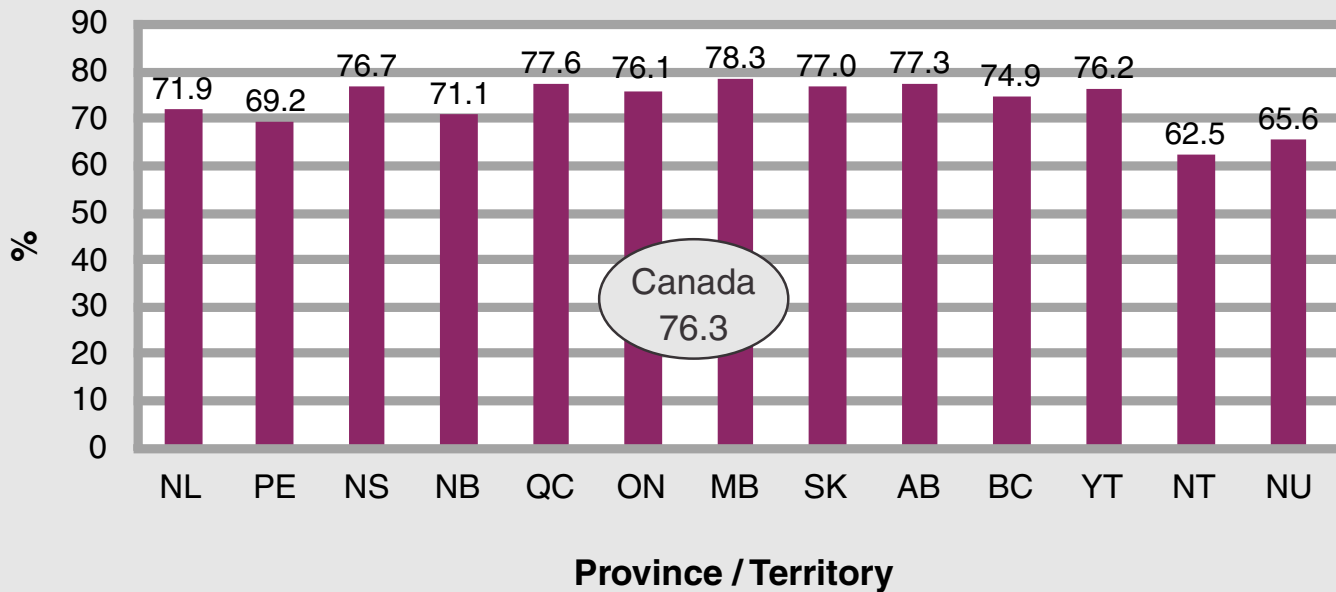
¹ Gershon, A., et al., (2007). ICES Report: The burden of asthma: can it be eased? Accessed on May 28, 2012, at <http://www.longwoods.com/content/18644>.





3.8.17 Mental Health

Fig. 3.8.17 Children 12 to 19 years who perceived their mental health to be “very good” or “excellent”, for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2009/10



* Use these values with caution.

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0502. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

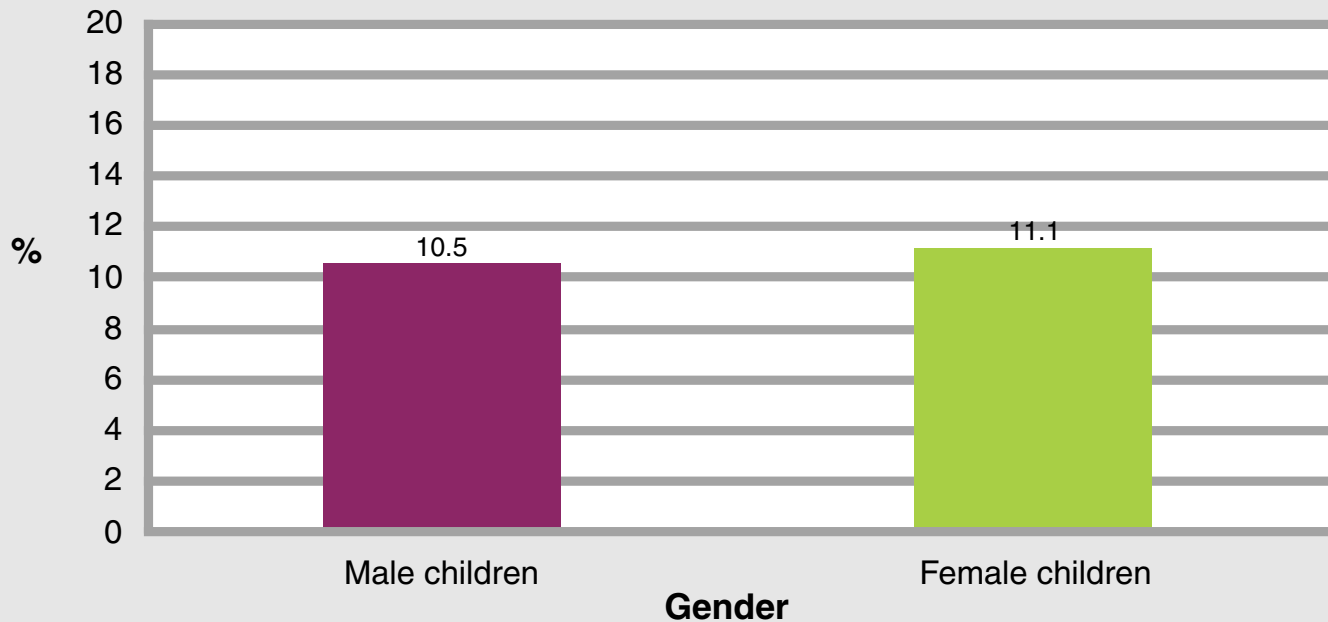
According to the 2009/10 Canadian Community Health Survey, 76.3% of youth 12 to 19 years of age reported their mental health was either “very good” or “excellent”. Manitoba had the greatest proportion of youth perceiving their mental health to be “very good” or “excellent” (78.3%), while the Northwest Territories had the lowest proportion at 62.5%. Consistently, across Canada, the proportion of youth reporting “very good” or “excellent” mental health was higher than the proportion reporting “very good” or “excellent” general health.





3.8.18 Mental Health

Fig. 3.8.18 High depressive symptoms among parents of children 6 to 9 years, by gender, Canada, 2006/07



Statistics Canada, custom tabulation, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 2006/07.

According to the 2006/07 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 10.8% of parents of children 6 to 9 years of age had high symptoms of depression.¹ This was the case for the parent of 10.5% of males and 11.1% of females aged 6 to 9 years.

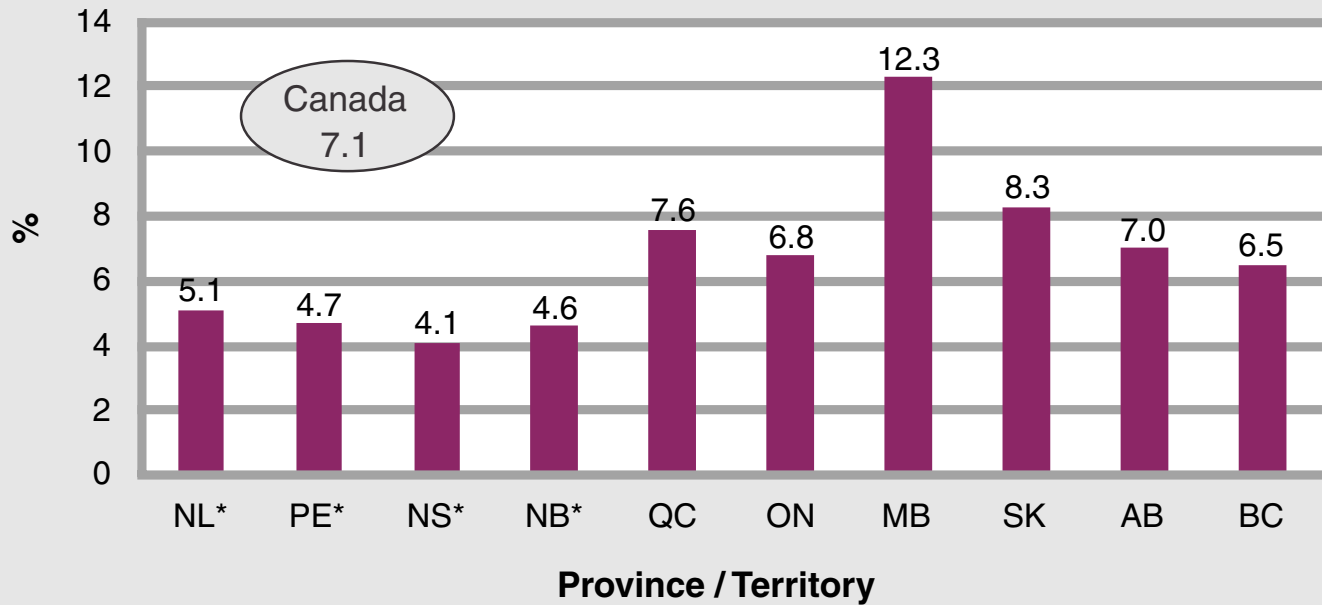
¹ To identify the presence of parental depression, thresholds (or cutoff points) were established by taking the scale score that is closest to the 90th percentile based on Cycle 3 data for children in all provinces. The variable represents the proportion of children whose PMK exhibits higher levels of depressive symptoms and those whose PMK does not. Higher PMK depressive symptoms correspond to a score of 11 or higher on the parental depression scale.





3.8.19 Mental Health

Fig. 3.8.19 Children 2 to 5 years reported to have high symptoms of an emotional disorder, for Canada and the provinces, 2010/11



* Use these values with caution.

Statistics Canada, custom tabulation, Survey of Young Canadians, 2010/11.

According to the 2010/11 Survey of Young Canadians, 7.1% of children 2 to 5 years were reported¹ to have high symptoms of an emotional disorder. Manitoba had the highest reported rate at 12.3%.

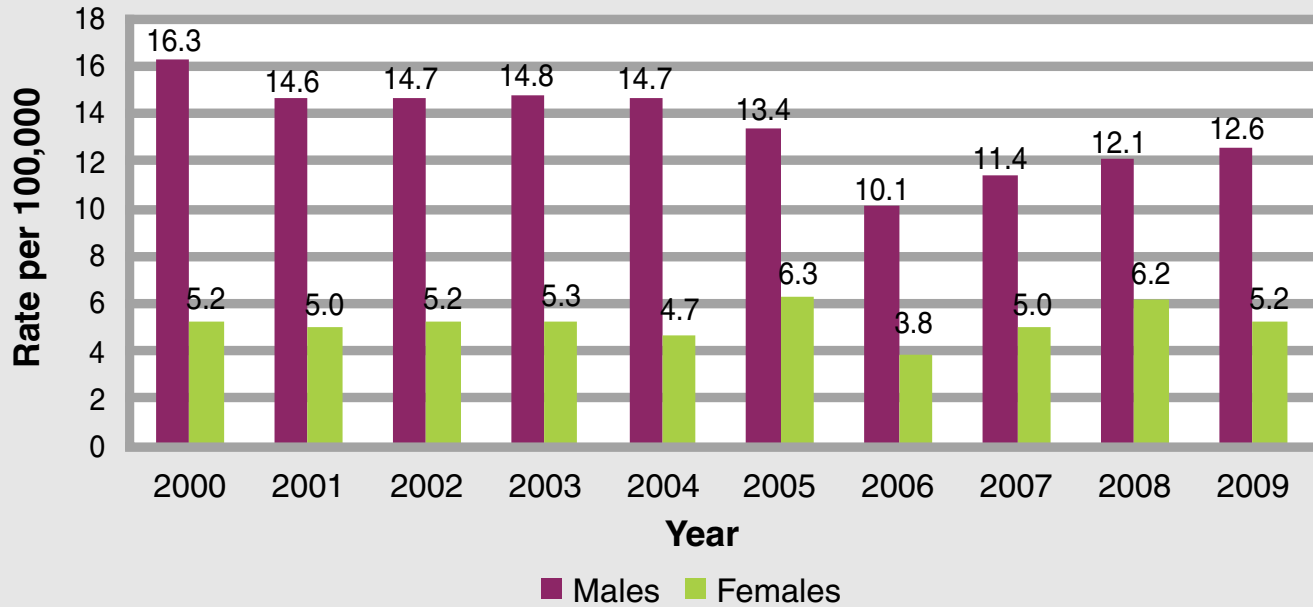
¹ Reported by the person most knowledgeable, which was the mother in over 90% of cases.





3.8.20 Mental Health

Fig. 3.8.20 Suicide rates, youth 15 to 19 years of age, by gender, Canada, 2000 to 2009



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0540. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In Canada, suicide is among the top causes of death for youth and young adults. For males 15 to 19 years of age, there was a 23% decline in the suicide rate between 2000 and 2009. For females, the suicide rate remained relatively stable over this period.

Implications

Young women attempt suicide more often than young men; however, young men succeed more often than young women.¹ Poor mental health has a significant impact on the overall health and well-being of Canadian youth and young adults and can lead to tragic outcomes in this age group.²

¹ Canadian Institutes of Health Research (2005). Gender and Health. Accessed on May 28, 2012, at http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/gender_health_mpkkit_2005_e.pdf.

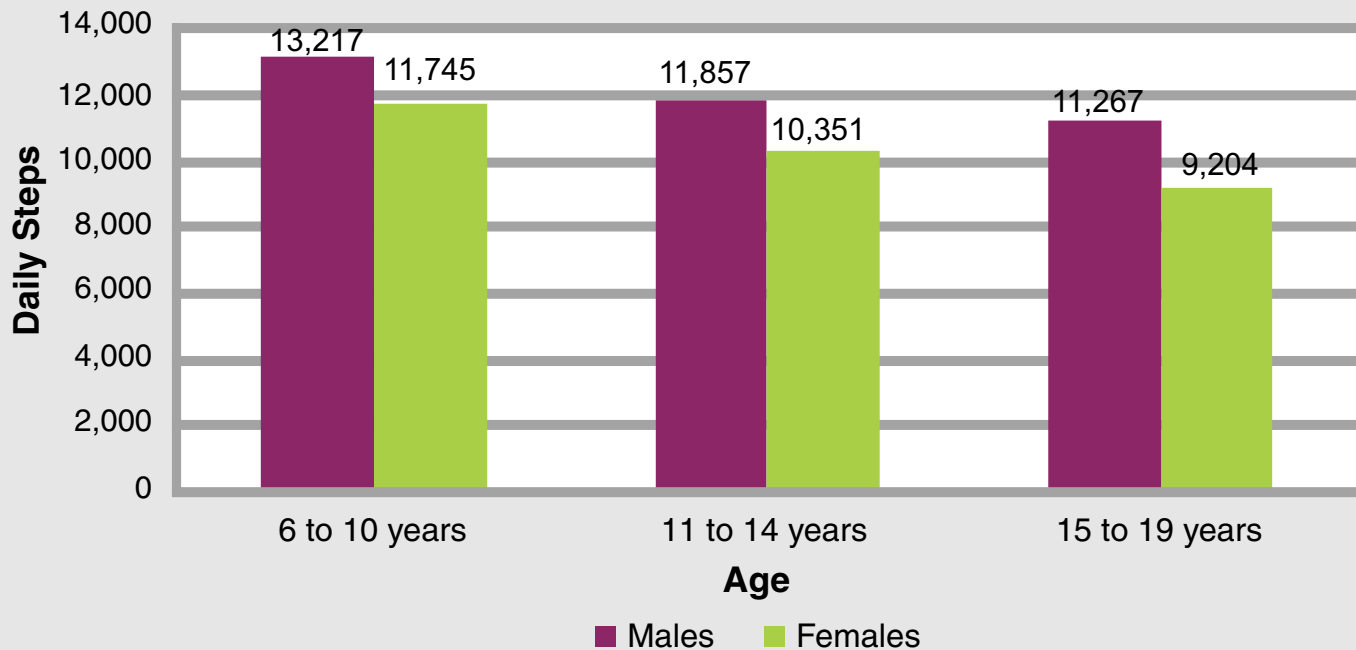
² Government of Canada (2006). The Human Face of Mental Health and Mental Illness in Canada. Accessed on May 28, 2012, at http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/human-humain06/pdf/human_face_e.pdf.





3.9.21 Healthy Active Living

Fig. 3.9.21 Average daily step counts, by gender and age group, Canada, 2007–2009



Statistics Canada, Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2007–2009, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2011001/article/11397/tbl/tbl4-eng.htm>. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

According to the 2007–2009 Canadian Health Measures Survey, younger boys and girls are more likely to be physically active – as measured by average daily step counts – than are teenagers. At all ages, boys are more likely to be physically active than are girls. The average daily step count declined by 15% among boys from the ages of 6 to 10 years to the teen years. The decline for girls was about 22%.

Implications

According to the Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth, only 7% of children and youth are meeting the Canadian guidelines of 60 minutes of physical activity per day.¹

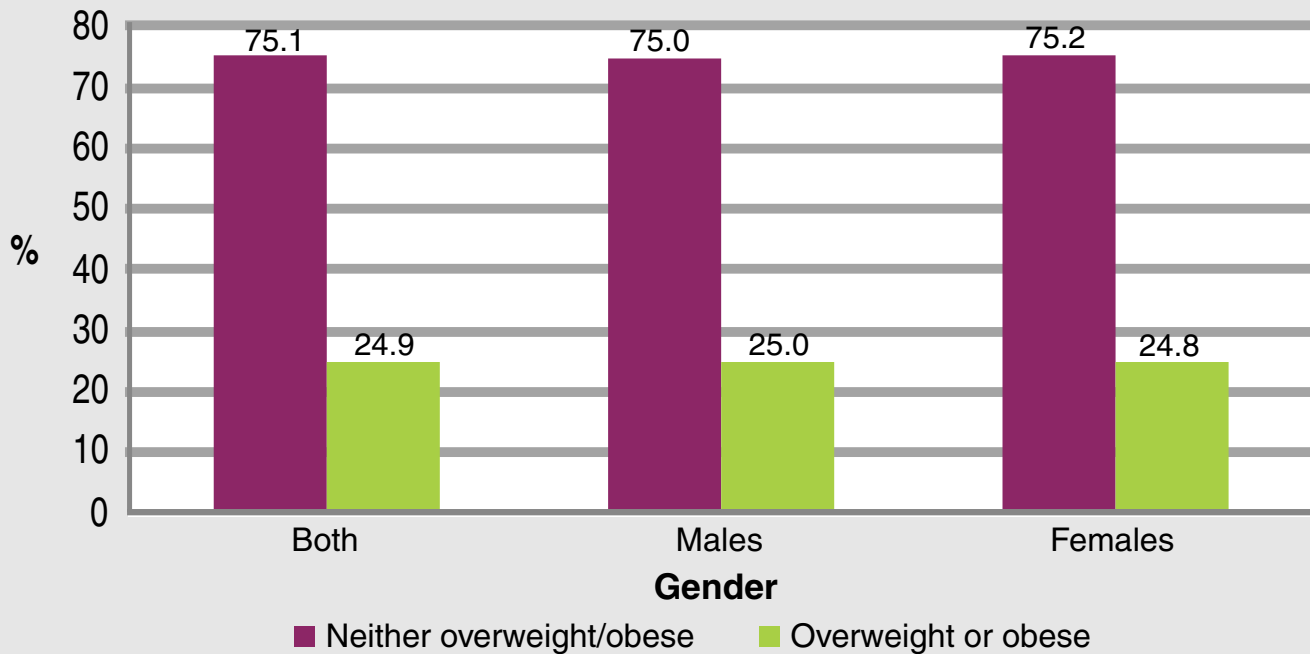
¹ Canadian Health Measures Survey (2007–2009). Statistics Canada.





3.9.22 Healthy Active Living

Fig. 3.9.22 Youth 12 to 17 years who reported being overweight or obese,* Canada, by gender, 2008



Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 105-0506. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Roughly 75% of Canadian youth aged 12 to 17 years recorded a healthy weight for their height when measured. Among females, 75.2% measured a body mass index (BMI) that was neither overweight nor obese, as did 75.0% of males. About 25% of males and females in this age group had a BMI that falls into the overweight or obese category.

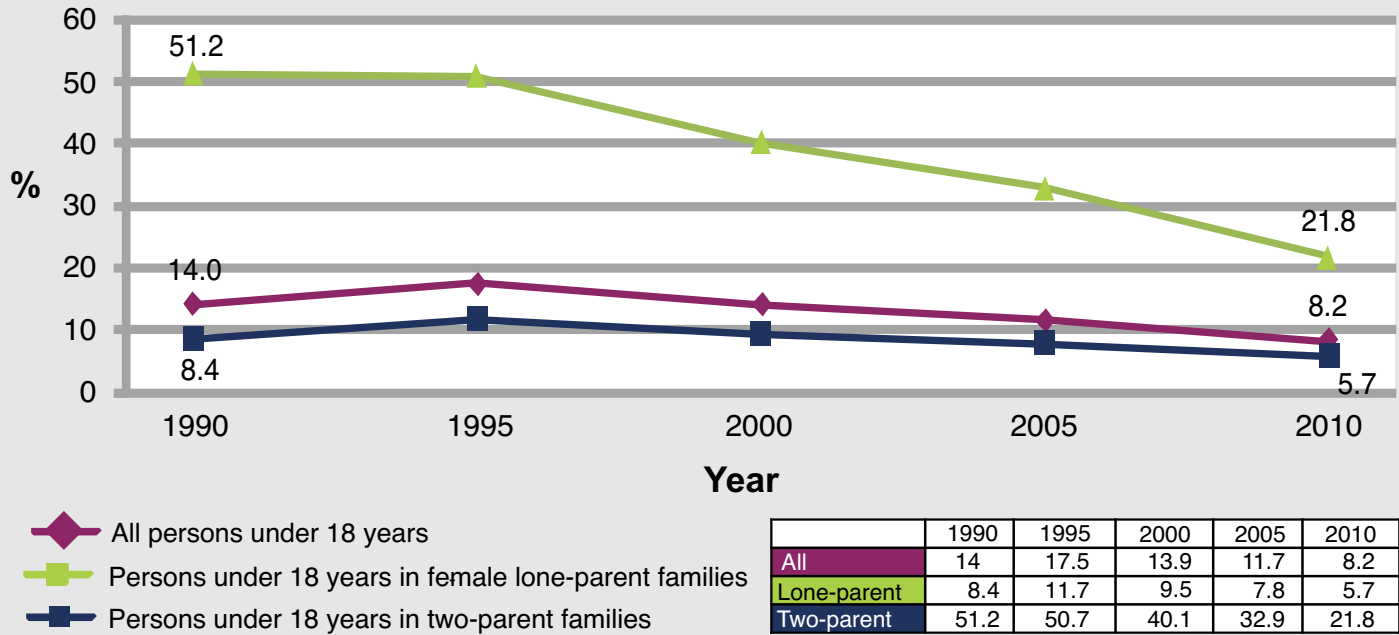
* Calculated using Body Mass Index (BMI). Index based on age- and sex-specific cut-off points as defined by Cole and others. BMI is calculated by dividing the respondent's body weight (in kilograms) by their height (in metres) squared.





4.1.1 Economic Inequities - Poverty

Fig. 4.1.1 Trends in child poverty*, by family type, Canada, 1990–2010



* 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.

The number of children under 18 years living in poverty in Canada decreased to 550,000 (8.2%) in 2010 from 942,000 (14.0%) in 1990. For children under 18 years living in two-parent families, the number living in poverty decreased to 314,000 (5.7%) in 2010 from 475,000 (8.4%) in 1990. The most marked change was among children living in poverty in female lone-parent families. Their numbers decreased to 187,000 (21.8%) in 2010 from 407,000 (51.2%) in 1990.

Implications

Children and youth living in poverty are faced with many challenges to their health and well-being. Conditions of inadequate nutrition; crowded or unsafe living accommodations; less access to health care; and lower quality education are well-known challenges that low-income families face frequently.¹

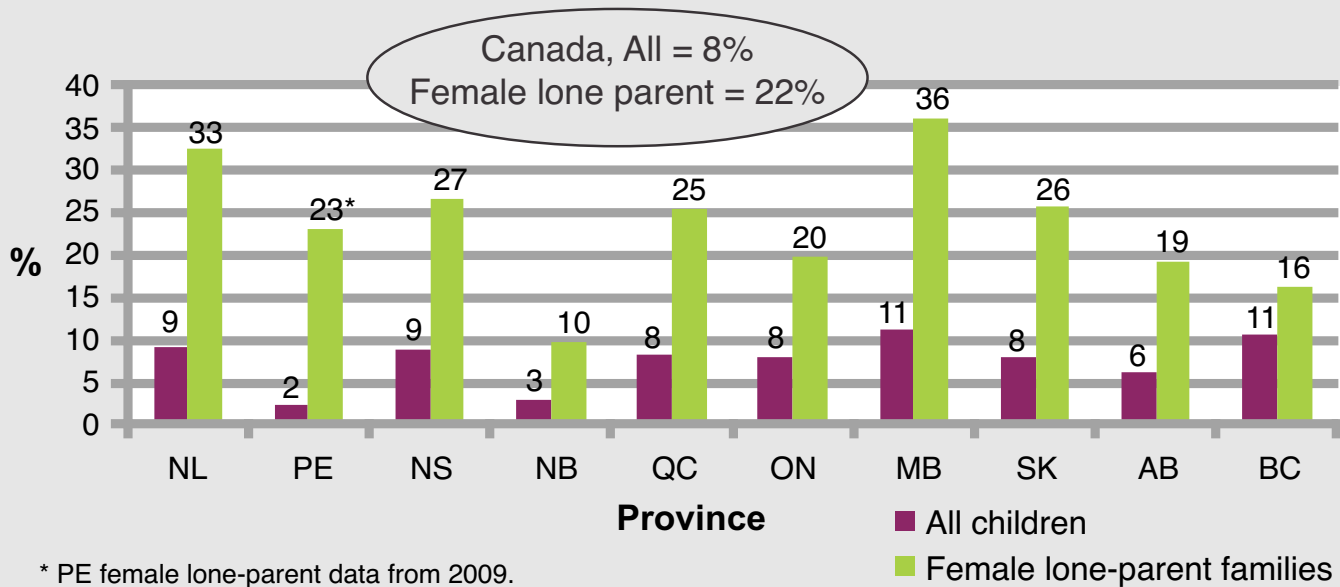
¹ "Campaign 2000: 2010 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada; 1989–2010." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2010EnglishC2000NationalReportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





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.

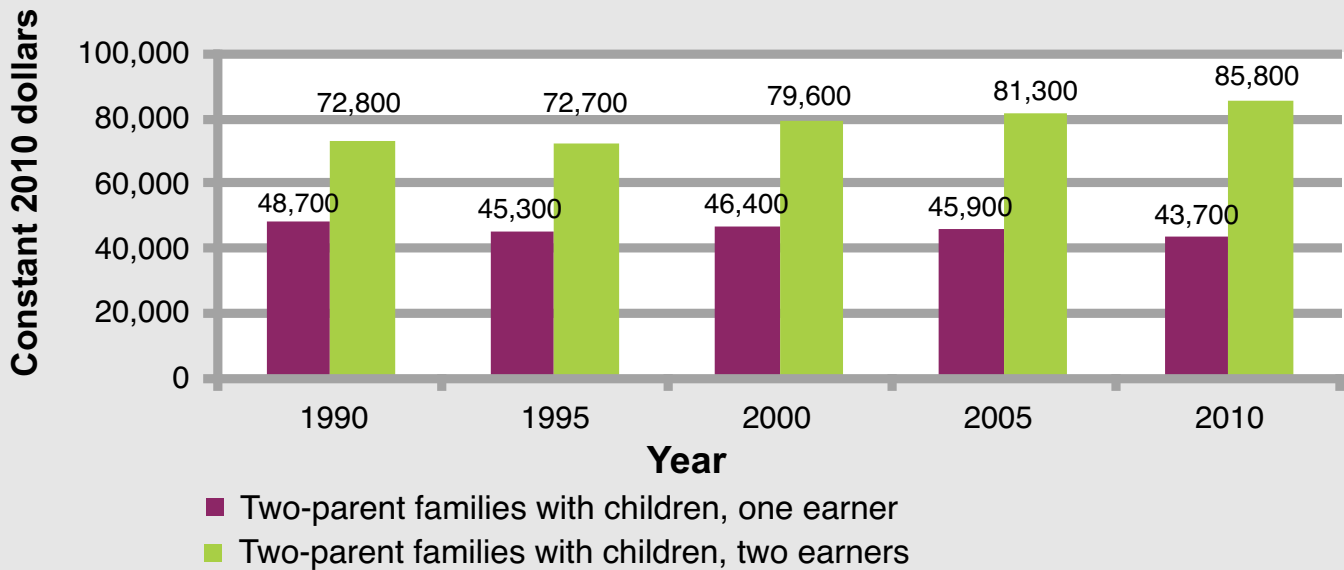
² "Campaign 2000, 2011 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2011EnglishRreportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.3 Income

Fig. 4.2.3 Median market income, couples with children by number of earners, Canada, 1990-2010



*Total income before tax minus income from government sources

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0203, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Children living in two-parent families with two earners were better off in 2010 compared to 1990 with an average income increase of 15%. Single-earner families showed an 11% decrease in income from 1990 to 2010.

Implications

The median income of single-earner families with children decreased over the two decades. With little to no gains in income, accompanied by increases in spending and debt, many of today's families are walking a "financial high wire".¹ Furthermore, living in a two-earner family reduces the likelihood of poverty. During the recession, two-earner couples with children had one of the lowest poverty rates among all family types (3.4%).¹

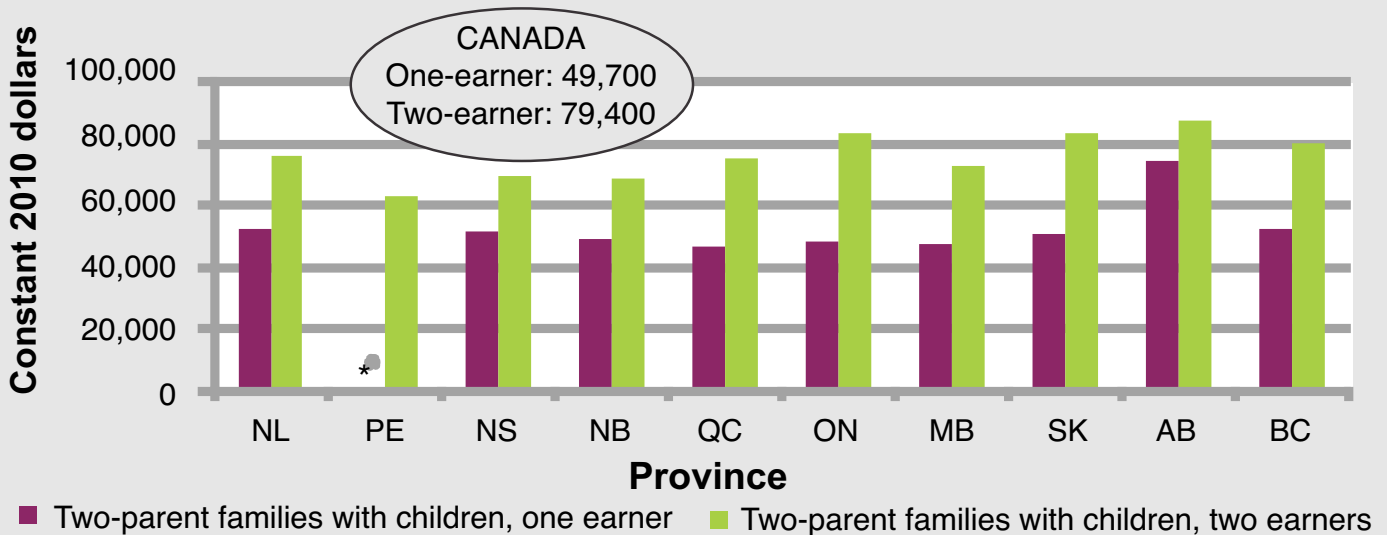
¹ Vanier Institute of the Family. "Fascinating Families." <http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=341>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.4 Income

Fig. 4.2.4 Median after-tax income, one and two-earner couple families, Canada and provinces, 2010



| | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| One-earner | 52,100 | * | 51,700 | 49,200 | 46,500 | 47,900 | 47,300 | 50,600 | 74,200 | 52,300 |
| Two-earner | 75,800 | 62,800 | 69,100 | 69,000 | 75,000 | 83,600 | 72,700 | 83,600 | 87,700 | 79,900 |

*Too unreliable to publish.

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

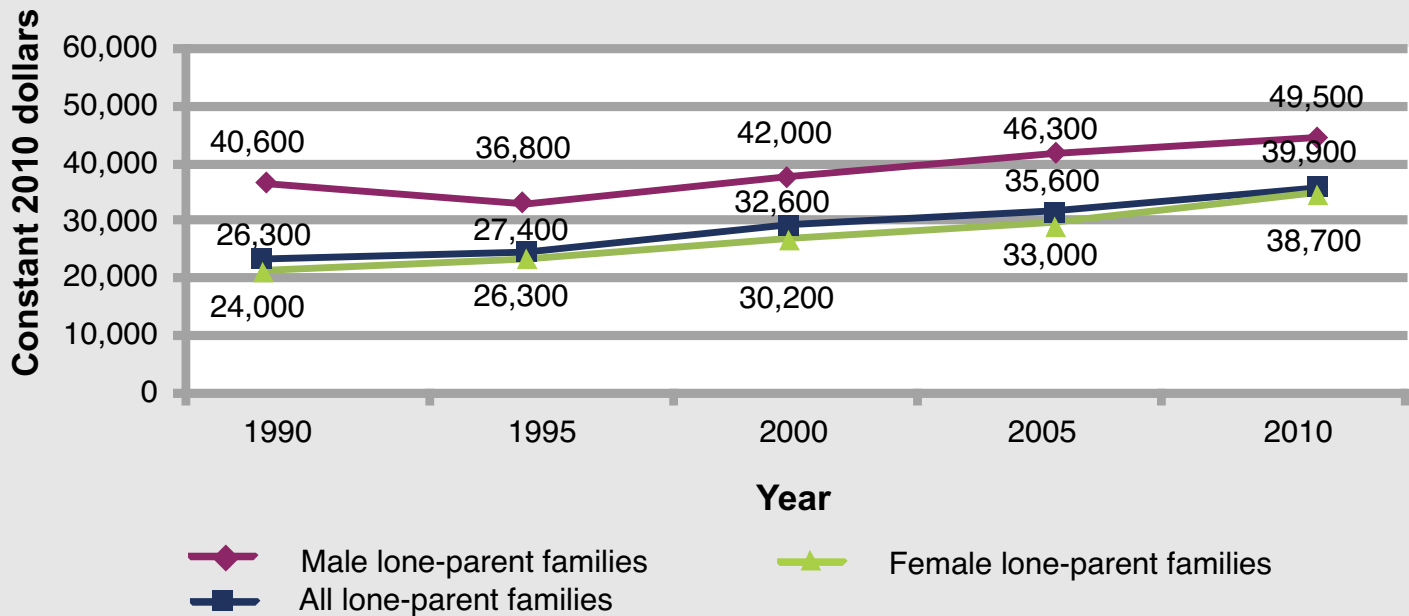
In 2010, the median after-tax income of couple families with children with one household earner was \$49,700 per year. If there were two earners in the family that income jumped to \$79,400 per year. Children in two-parent families in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta had the highest family income with two earners, but Ontario has a bigger gap between one-earner and two-earner family incomes. Children in two-parent families in Prince Edward Island have a family income of \$62,800 per year, 21% lower than the national average. Across the provinces, one-earner families in Quebec had the lowest after-tax income (\$46,500) and Alberta had the highest with one-earner families making \$74,200 per year, almost \$30,000 per year more than Quebec.





4.2.5 Income

Fig. 4.2.5 Median after-tax income of lone-parent families, by gender, Canada, 1990–2010



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Not only are there significantly more female lone-parent families than male lone-parent families in Canada, female headed households are also more likely to have lower incomes. Of the estimated 634,000 children under 17 years living in low-income families in 2009, 31% lived in a lone-parent family headed by a woman.¹

The income of all lone-parent families increased between 1990 and 2010. During that time, female lone-parent family incomes increased by 38%, to \$38,700 in 2010 from \$24,000 in 1990, whereas male lone-parents family incomes increased by 18%, to \$49,500 in 2010 from \$40,600 in 1990. Although female lone-parent family incomes increased significantly, their average after-tax income was almost \$11,000 less than their male counterparts in 2010.

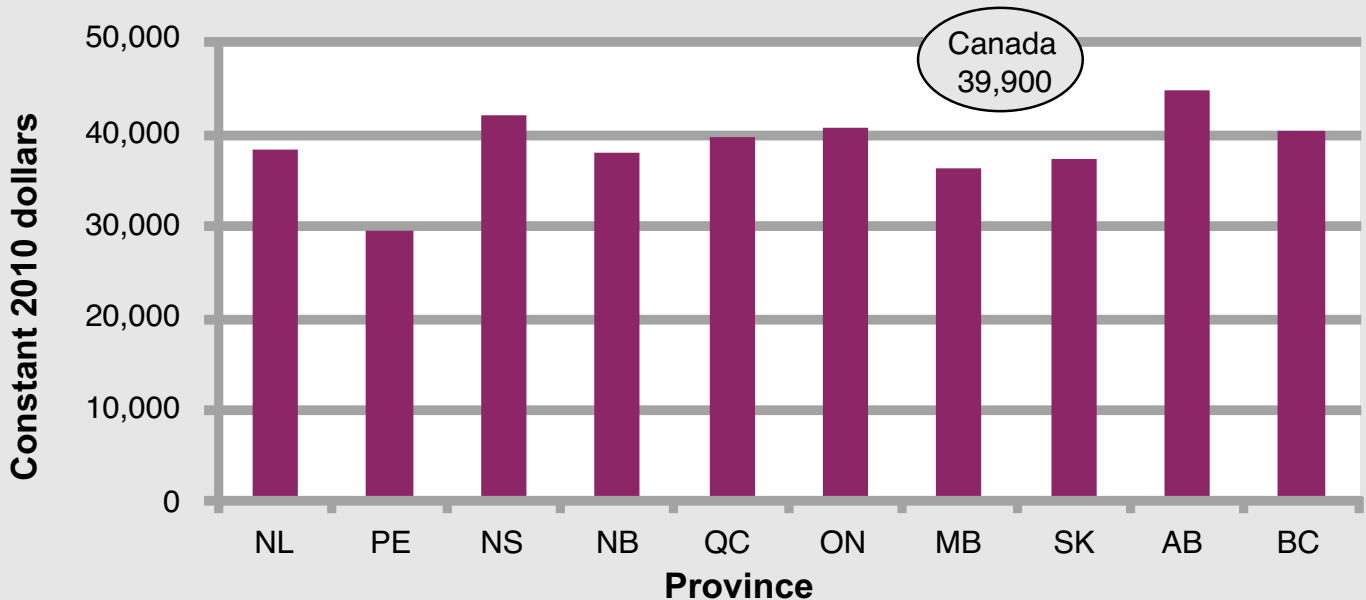
¹ Statistics Canada. The Daily. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110615/dq110615b-eng.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.6 Income

Fig. 4.2.6 Median after-tax income of lone-parent families, Canada and provinces, 2010



| NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 38,200 | 29,400 | 42,200 | 38,000 | 39,800 | 40,600 | 36,300 | 37,200 | 44,800 | 40,400 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

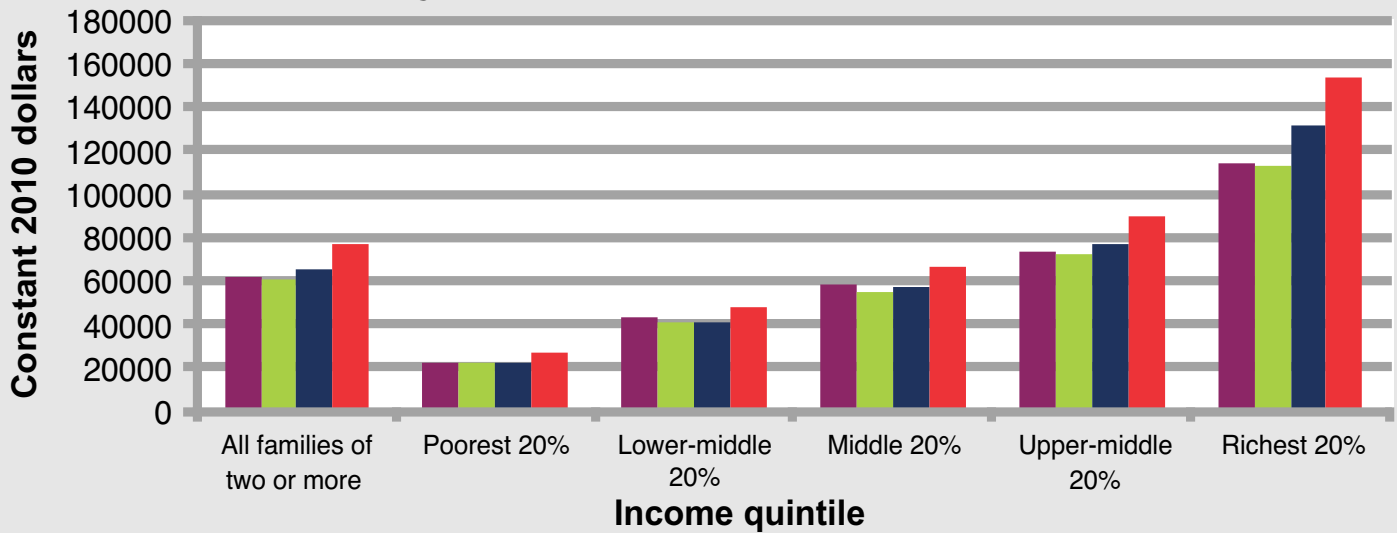
In 2010, the median after-tax income for lone parents in Canada was \$39,900. Lone-parents in Nova Scotia (\$42,200), Ontario (\$40,600), Alberta (\$44,800), and British Columbia (\$40,400) had after-tax incomes above the national average. Prince Edward Island (\$29,400) and Manitoba (\$36,300) had the lowest lone-parent family incomes. The median after-tax family income for Prince Edward Island was 36% below the national average.





4.2.7 Income

Fig. 4.2.7 Average after-tax income for families of two or more, by income quintile, Canada, 2010



| | All families of two or more | Poorest 20% | Lower-middle 20% | Middle 20% | Upper-Middle 20% | Richest 20% |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1980 | 62,300 | 22,500 | 43,200 | 58,100 | 73,900 | 113,700 |
| 1990 | 60,700 | 22,700 | 40,700 | 55,300 | 72,200 | 112,400 |
| 2000 | 65,800 | 22,800 | 41,400 | 57,200 | 76,700 | 131,000 |
| 2010 | 76,600 | 27,300 | 47,400 | 65,900 | 89,100 | 153,100 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0701, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The gap between the rich and poor in Canada is widening. In 1990, the income of the richest 20% of Canadian families was 5 times the income of the poorest 20%. In 2010, the richest 20% earned 5.6 times that of the poorest. The bottom 60% of households had income increases of less than \$8,000 from 1980 to 2010. The richest 20% had increases of almost \$40,000 from 1980 to 2010.

Implications

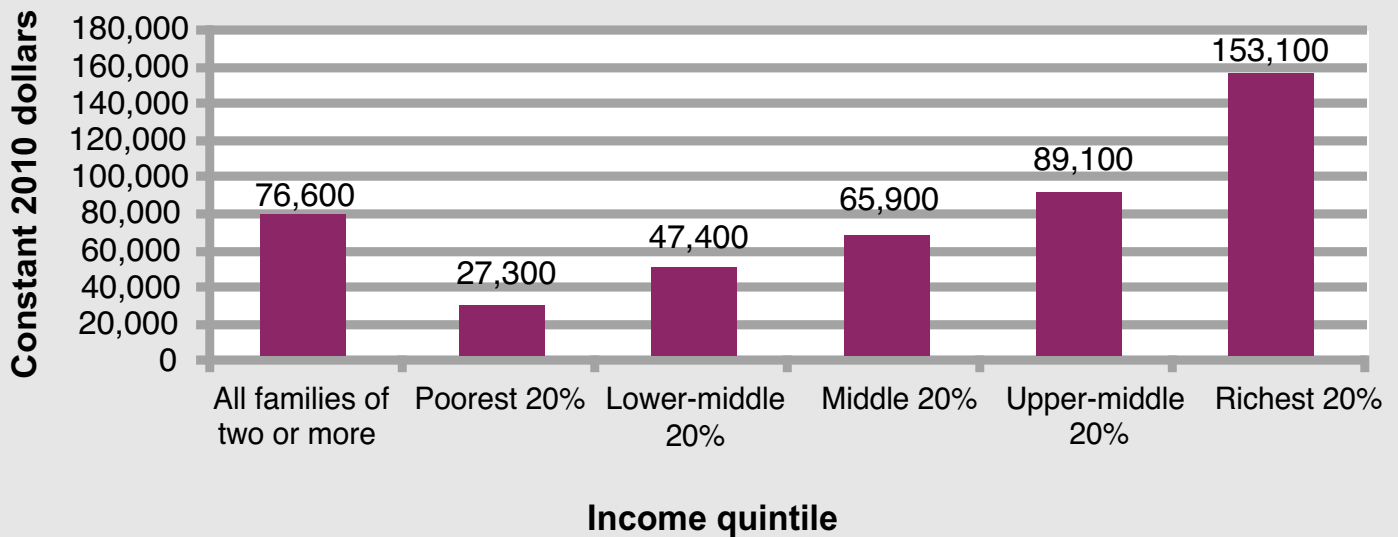
The living conditions that children and youth living in low-income families experience predisposes them to material and social deprivation. The greater the deprivation, the less likely families are able to afford the basic prerequisites of health such as food, clothing, and housing.





4.2.8 Income

Fig. 4.2.8 Average after-tax income for families of two or more, by income quintile, 2010



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0701, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, the average after-tax income of all families with two or more children was \$76,600. The richest 20% earned \$125,800 more than the poorest 20% (about 5.6 times greater).

Implications

Income is perhaps the most important social determinant of health for Canadian families. Level of income shapes overall living conditions, affects psychological functioning and well-being, and influences health-related behaviours. Level of income also determines the quality of other social determinants of health, including food security, housing, and access to social and cultural resources.¹

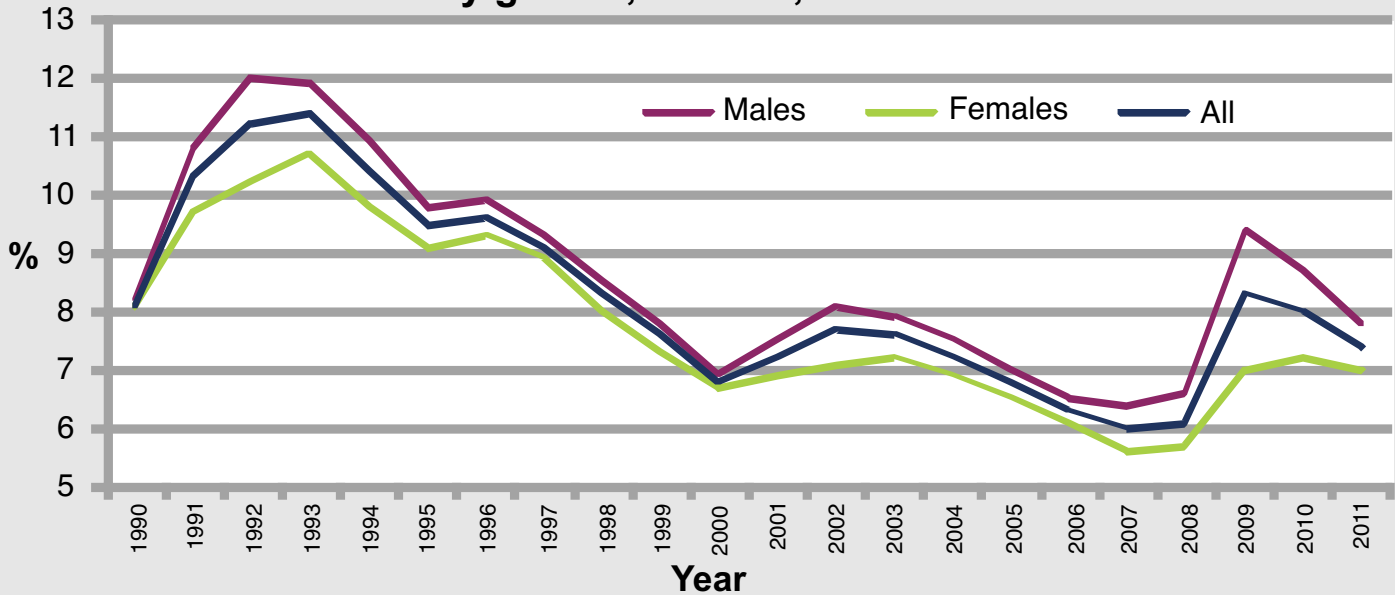
¹ Mikkonen J, Raphael D. (2010). "Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts." Toronto, ON: York University School of Health Policy and Management. http://www.thecanadianfacts.org/The_Canadian_Facts.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.9 Work

Fig. 4.3.9 Unemployment rates, total labour force, by gender, Canada, 1990–2011



| | 1991 | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All | 10.3 | 11.4 | 9.5 | 9.1 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 8.3 | 7.4 |
| Males | 10.8 | 11.9 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 9.4 | 7.8 |
| Females | 9.7 | 10.7 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 5.6 | 7.0 | 7.0 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The unemployment rate is the percent of people who are unemployed of all people 15 and over who are in the labour force (working and seeking employment).¹ During the recession in the early 1990s, unemployment in Canada rose to 11.4% for the total labour force. The economic boom in the late 1990s brought unemployment down to 7.6%. After a small increase, 2007 saw the lowest unemployment rate since 1991 at 6.0%. However, a further economic downturn in 2009 caused another peak in unemployment. As of 2011, the unemployment rate has declined to below 8%. In all years, unemployment among males was higher than for females.

¹ Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June, 29 2012. Labour force includes both those who are unemployed and those who are searching for work.

Implications

Employment determines the capacity to which parents can use available resources to invest in their children. In the most general sense, families successful within the labour market invest more in their children.²

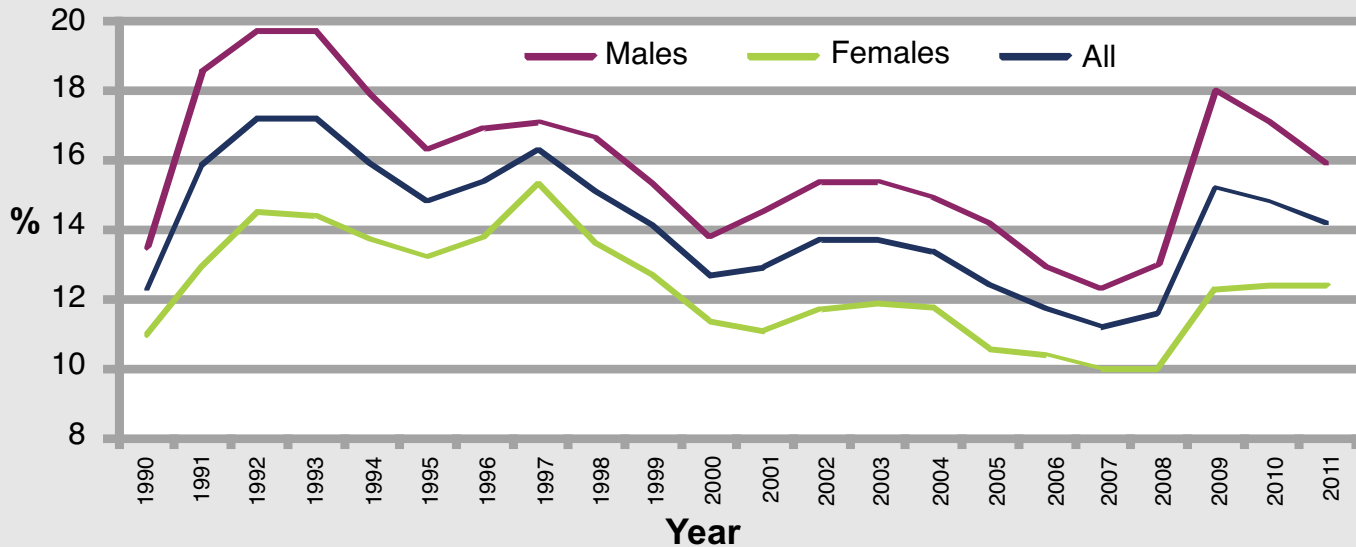
² Corak M, Curtis L, Phipps S. (2010). "Economic Mobility, Family Background, and the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Canada." http://economics.dal.ca/Files/Econ_Mobility_Family_Background.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.10 Work

Fig. 4.3.10 Unemployment rates, age 15 to 24 years, by gender, Canada, 1990–2011



| | 1991 | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All | 15.8 | 17.2 | 14.8 | 16.3 | 14.1 | 12.9 | 13.7 | 12.4 | 11.2 | 15.2 | 14.2 |
| Males | 18.5 | 19.7 | 16.3 | 17.1 | 15.3 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 14.2 | 12.3 | 18.0 | 15.9 |
| Females | 12.9 | 14.4 | 13.2 | 15.3 | 12.7 | 11.1 | 11.9 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 12.3 | 12.4 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2011, the youth unemployment rate in Canada (14.2%) was higher than it was 30 years ago – 12.8% in 1981. And, the youth unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national average (14.2% vs. 7.4%). The outlook for employment for youth and young adults has shown some improvement in the last decade, but rates for young males are still high at nearly 16%.

Implications

NEET – not in employment, education, or training – is a fairly new phenomena and a growing concern to policymakers. According to Statistics Canada, in 2011, nearly a million young people age 15 to 29 years were considered NEET. Among this group, 391,000 were actively looking for work, while the other 513,000 were not.¹ Being unable to find work and being out of school over a long period of time takes a major toll on the health and well-being of young people. It can create a sense of uselessness and idleness that can lead to increased mental health problems, substance use, and violence.²

¹ Marshall K. (2012). "Youth Neither Enrolled Nor Employed." Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2012002/article/11675-eng.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

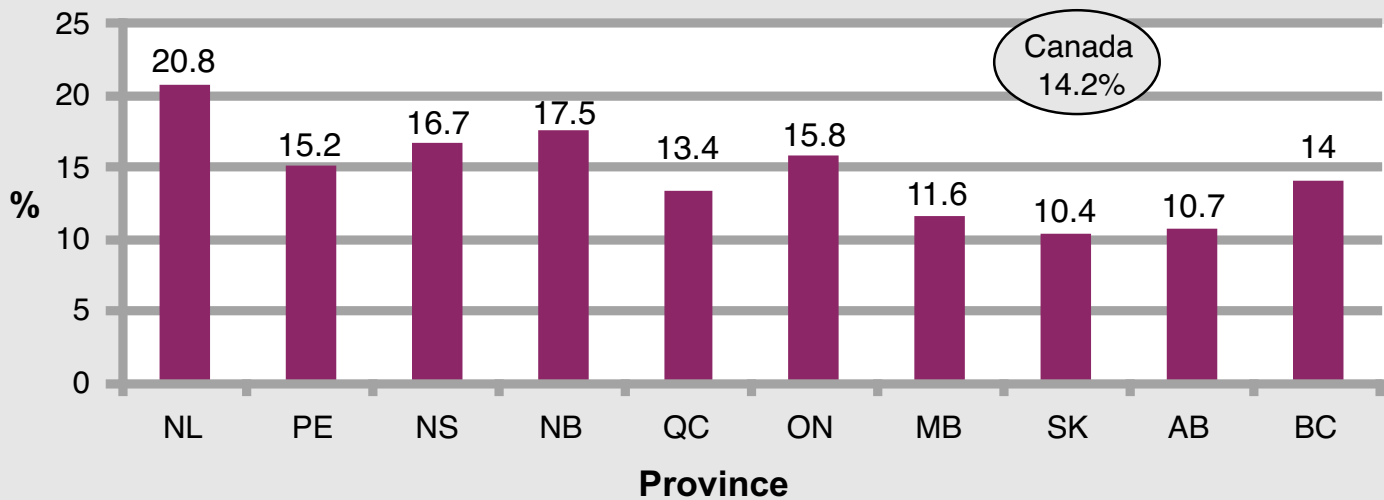
² As cited in Canada's Public Policy Forum (2012). "Employment Challenges for Canadian Youth in a Changing Economy." <http://www.pppforum.ca/sites/default/files/Youth%20Backgrounder%20-%20FINAL%20EN.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.11 Work

Fig. 4.3.11 Unemployment rates, age 15 to 24 years, Canada and provinces, 2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June 29, 2012.

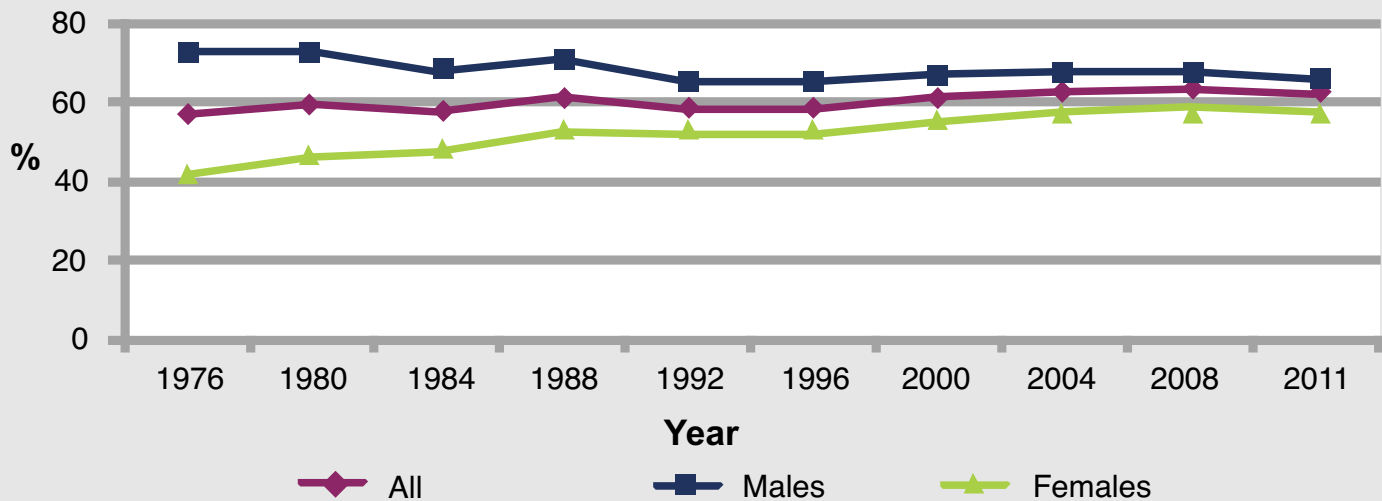
Youth unemployment varies widely across the country. In 2011, the highest rate was in Newfoundland and Labrador at nearly 21% and the lowest rate was in Saskatchewan at around 10%.





4.3.12 Work

Fig. 4.3.12 Employment rate, by gender, Canada, 1976–2011



| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All | 61.7 | 58.7 | 61.3 | 62.5 | 61.6 |
| Males | 69.9 | 65.4 | 67.3 | 67.7 | 65.4 |
| Females | 53.8 | 52.2 | 55.4 | 57.6 | 57.9 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The employment rate has increased among women during recent decades, while it has declined slightly for men. Between 1990 and 2010, the employment rate for women rose to 57.9% from 53.8%, a 4.1 percentage point increase. The employment rate for men declined by 4.5 percentage points to 65.4% in 2010 from 69.9% in 1990.

Implications

Children and youth require the material sustenance money can buy, but also the non-material care they share with their parents and other caregivers. On one hand, parental employment provides children with resources. On the other, the choice or need to work means that parents need to find alternative arrangements to care for their children. Depending on family structure, families will face challenges to meet the basic needs of their children.¹

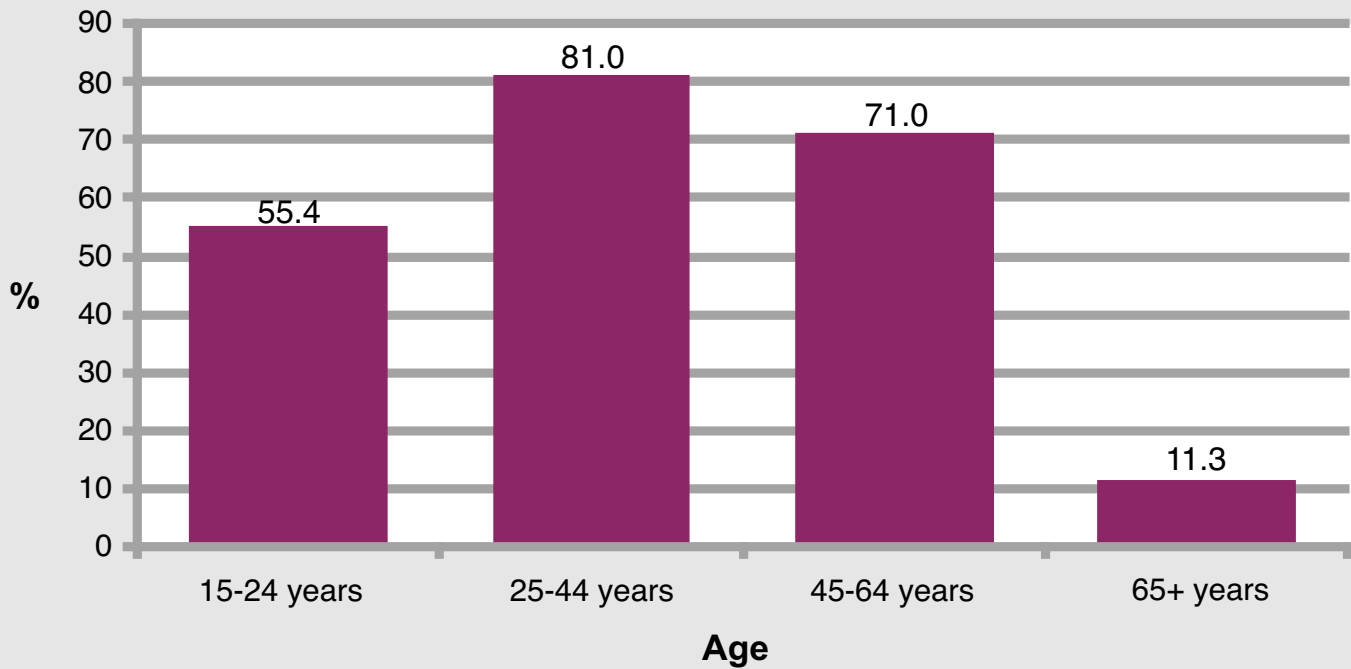
¹ Corak M, Curtis L, Phipps S. (2010). "Economic Mobility, Family Background, and the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Canada." http://economics.dal.ca/Files/Econ_Mobility_Family_Background.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.13 Work

Fig. 4.3.13 Employment rate, by age, Canada, 2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

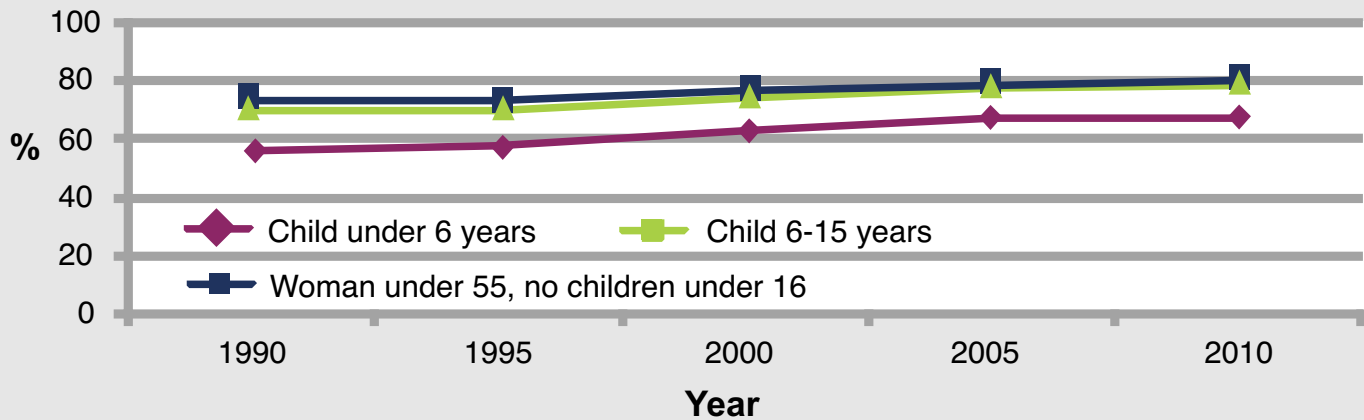
In 2011, 81.0% of Canadians aged 25 to 44 were working compared to 55.4% of youth aged 15 to 24 and 71.0% of individuals aged 45 to 64. Among seniors, 11.3% had jobs in 2011.





4.3.14 Work

Fig. 4.3.14 Employment rate for women, by age of youngest child, Canada, 1990–2010



| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Children under 16 years | 55.8 | 57.7 | 63.2 | 67.1 | 66.9 |
| Child 6–15 years | 70.1 | 69.8 | 74.4 | 77.4 | 78.6 |
| Women under 55, no children under 16 | 73.5 | 73.0 | 76.3 | 78.6 | 80.2 |

Statistics Canada. Labour Force Historical Review 2010 (Table 217). Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012 (Cat. No. 71F0004XVB).

The employment rate of women with children increased between 1990 and 2010, especially among women with children under six years of age. In 2010, the employment rate for women with children under six was 66.9%, up from 55.8% in 1990, and 78.6% for women with children from 6 to 15 years old, up from 70.1% in 1990.

Implications

In general, employment rates for women have steadily increased over the last 35 years, and more women with children are finding employment outside the home. Although the proportion of women working with pre-school children has grown, they are still less likely to be employed than women with school-aged children.¹

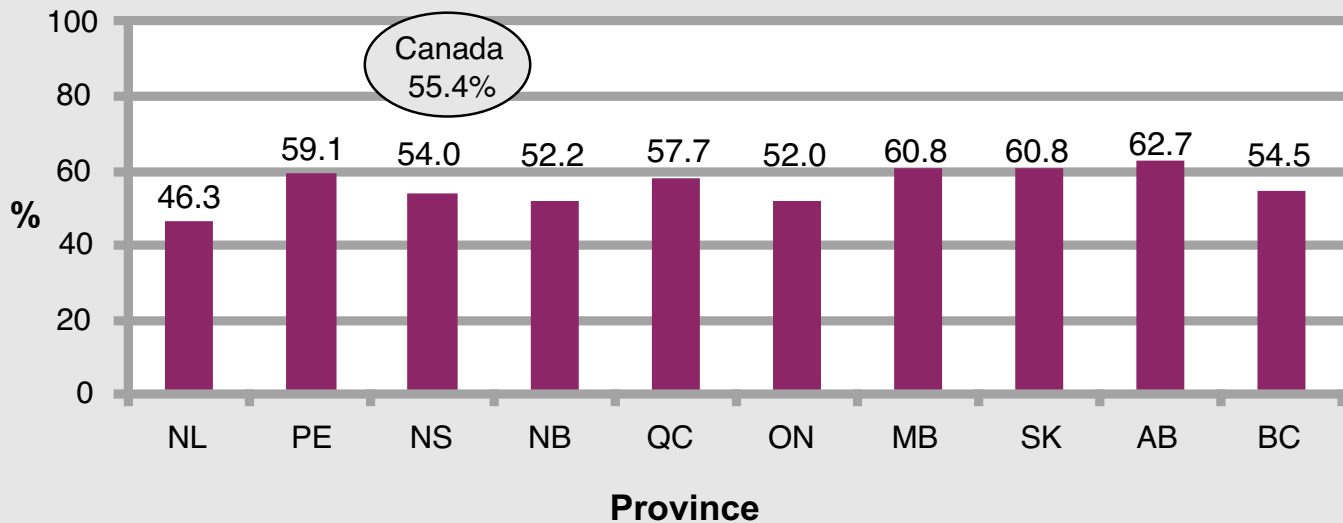
¹ Ferrao V. "Women in Canada: a gender-based statistical report." Paid Work. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.pdf>, accessed June 29, 2012.





4.3.15 Work

Fig. 4.3.15 Employment rate, aged 15 to 24 years, Canada and provinces, 2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2011, just over half (55.4%) of youth were employed—52.6% were employed full time and 47.4% were employed part time. In 2011, Alberta (62.7%), Saskatchewan (60.8%), Manitoba (60.8%), and Quebec (57.7%) had youth employment rates above the national average. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest proportion of youth and young adults holding a job. With an employment rate of 46.3%, Newfoundland and Labrador was 9.1 percentage points below the national average.

Implications

For younger workers in Canada, economic recovery after the recession has been almost non-existent, and youth 15 to 24 years of age entering the workforce are faced with some significant challenges. “In addition to competition within their own age group, they now must compete with older workers looking to re-enter the labour market and those more experienced who lost their job during the recession.”¹

Increased competition leads young graduates to take jobs outside of their degrees or pulls them out of the labour market. Unable to find jobs in their area of study, university and college grads often retreat into another degree or into jobs that support them but don't put their training to use.¹

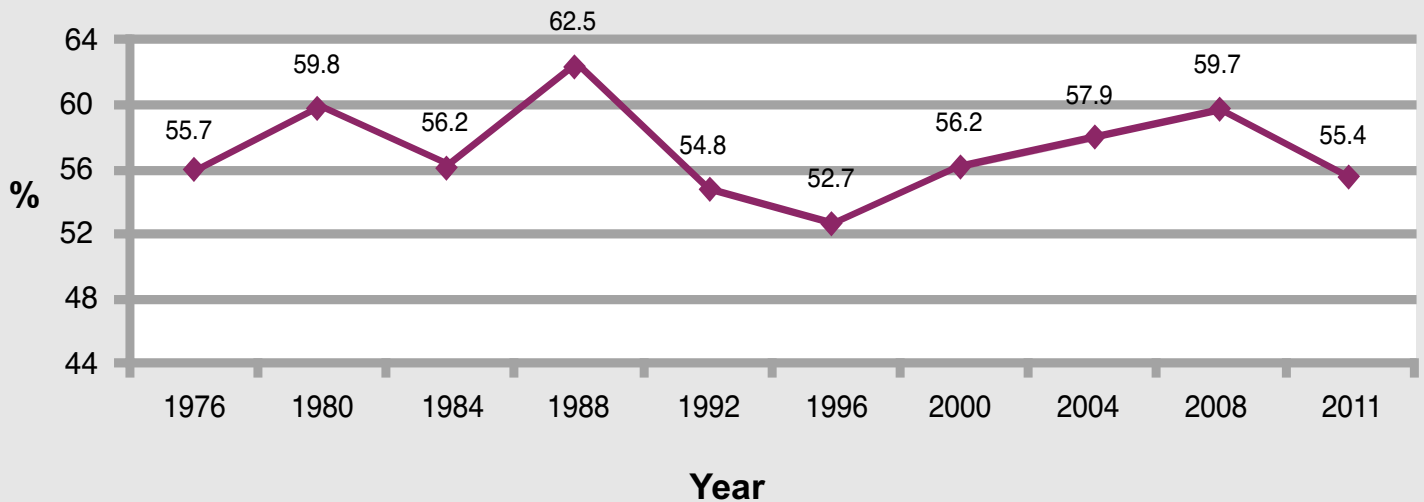
¹ Fong F. (2012). “The Plight of Younger Workers.” TD Economics. http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/ff0312_younger_workers.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.16 Work

Fig. 4.3.16 Employment rate, aged 15 to 24 years, Canada, 1976–2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Although the employment rate for youth 15 to 24 years of age has fluctuated over time, the rate in 2011 was just slightly less than that of the rate in 1976. However, the composition of employment for this group changed significantly. In 1976, 78.9% of employed youth worked full time and the other 21.1% worked part time; in 2011, 52.6% of employed youth worked full time and the other 47.4% worked part time.

Implications

“Like adults, teenagers can feel somewhat burdened with their day-to-day unpaid and paid work responsibilities. Approximately 1 in 10 regularly felt very stressed with not having enough time in the day. Similar proportions were quite or extremely stressed because of school, while 16% considered themselves workaholics. Almost 4 in 10 reported being under constant pressure to accomplish more than they could handle, and 6 in 10 tended to cut back on sleep when they needed more time.”¹

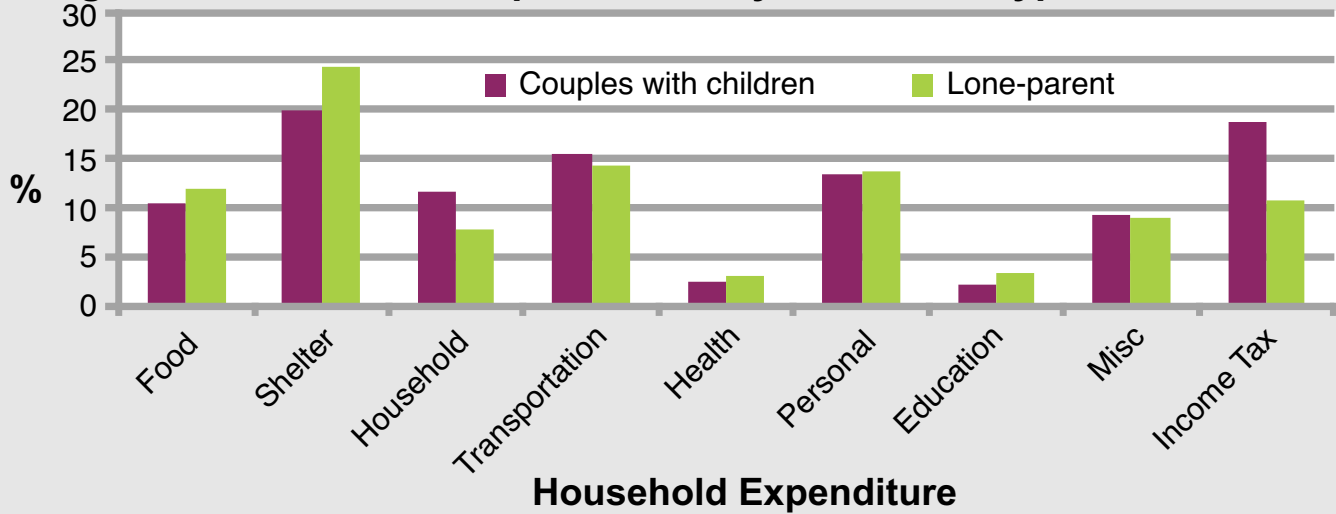
¹ Marshall K. (2007). “General Social Survey, Perspectives on Labour and Income: The Busy Lives of Teens.” Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/75-001-x2007105-eng.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.17 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.17 Percent of expenditures by household type, Canada, 2010



| | Food | Shelter | Household | Transportation | Health | Personal | Education | Misc | Income Tax |
|-----------------------|------|---------|-----------|----------------|--------|----------|-----------|------|------------|
| Couples with children | 10.4 | 19.9 | 11.7 | 15.4 | 2.5 | 13.4 | 2.2 | 9.3 | 18.7 |
| Lone-parent | 11.8 | 24.3 | 7.7 | 14.2 | 3.1 | 13.6 | 3.2 | 9.0 | 10.7 |

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 203-0023, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, housing was the biggest expenditure in Canadian's budgets, at 21.3%. Lone-parent families spend proportionately more on shelter than do couple families with children. They also spend proportionately more on food, education, and health care.

Implications

For low and modest income families, housing is an even larger expense proportionately. In Canada, 1 in 4 households pay more than 30% of their income on housing.¹ In 2010, families in the lowest quintile spent 32.3% of their total income on housing, where families in the highest income quintile only spent 16.7% of their total income on housing.² Families sometimes face affordability problems and may be forced to choose between appropriate housing and other necessities. Roughly 750,000 children under 15 live in housing that is unaffordable, substandard, or overcrowded—or all three.¹ Living in inadequate housing can have negative effects on children's health, behaviour, and development.³

¹ "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.

² Statistics Canada. "Survey of Household Spending, 2010." <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120425/t120425a001-eng.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

³ Jackson A, Roberts P. (2001). "Physical Housing Conditions and the Well-Being of Children." Background paper on housing for The Progress of Canada's Children 2001. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Council on Social Development. <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2001/pcc2001/housing.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.18 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.18 Estimated cost of raising a child to age 18, typical two-child family, Canada, 2011

| | Food | Clothing | Health care | Personal care | Recreation, reading, school supplies | Transportation | Child care | Shelter, furnishings and household operation | Total cost |
|----------------------|--------|----------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|--|----------------|
| Total cost to age 18 | 32,815 | 15,945 | 4,655 | 4,750 | 19,080 | 39,235 | 75,500 | 51,680 | 243,660 |

Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Raising children in Canada is an expensive proposition. The average cost of raising a child in Canada to age 18 in a typical two-child family is \$243,660. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,070 per month per child. This cost varies by the number of children in a family. The estimated per-child expenditure in lone-child families (\$304,600) is 25% higher than in families with two children, while families with three or more children spend 22% less per child (\$190,050).¹

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Implications

Based on ratios developed for the U.S., it is estimated that the bottom third by income of couples with children spend about 28% less (\$175,400) per child than the average household. The upper third by income of families with children spend almost 40% more (\$404,500).¹ In terms of child outcomes, higher income is almost always associated with better outcomes for children.²

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

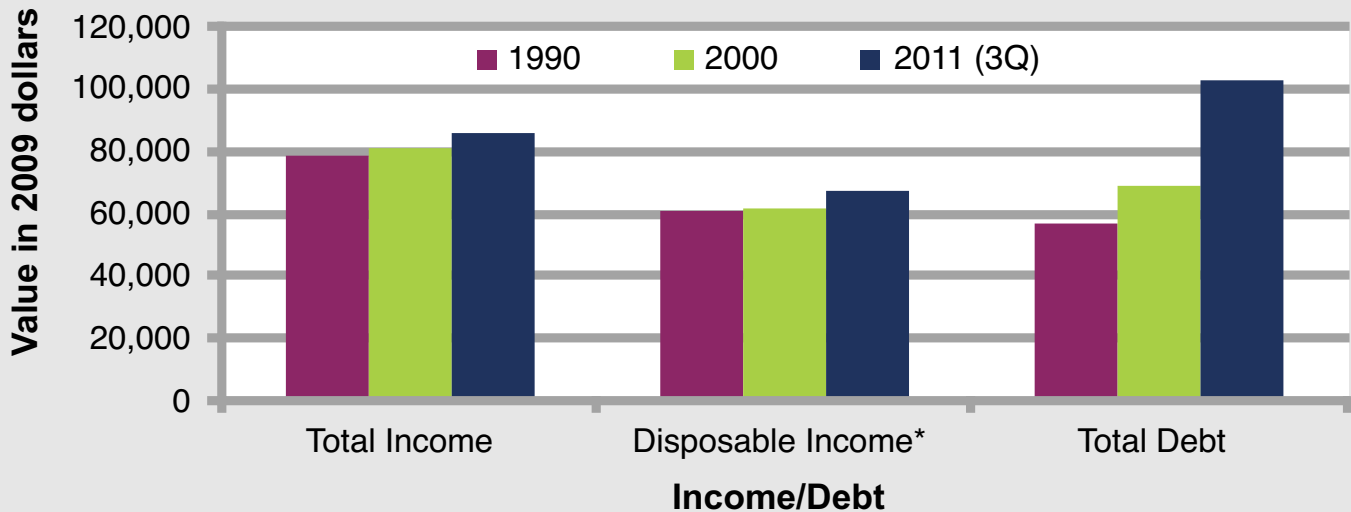
² Phipps S, Lethbridge L. (2006). "Income and the Outcomes of Children." Statistics Canada. <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/Statcan/11F0019MIE/11F0019MIE2006281.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.19 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.19 Income and debt per household, Canada, 1990–2011



| | 1990 | 2000 | 2011 (3rd quarter) |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| Total income | 78,545 | 80,847 | 86,049 |
| Disposable income* | 61,249 | 61,528 | 67,368 |
| Total debt | 56,929 | 69,296 | 103,000 |

*After-tax income

Statistics Canada, *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 10, no. 3 Catalogue 13-010-X. Vanier Institute of the Family. "The Current State of Canadian Family Finances: 2011–2012 Report." <http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=1779>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

By the end of 2011, the debt load in Canada stood at \$103,000 per household. (This average includes households that have debt and those that do not.) While disposable income remained almost unchanged from 1990 to 2011, total household debt almost doubled.

Implications

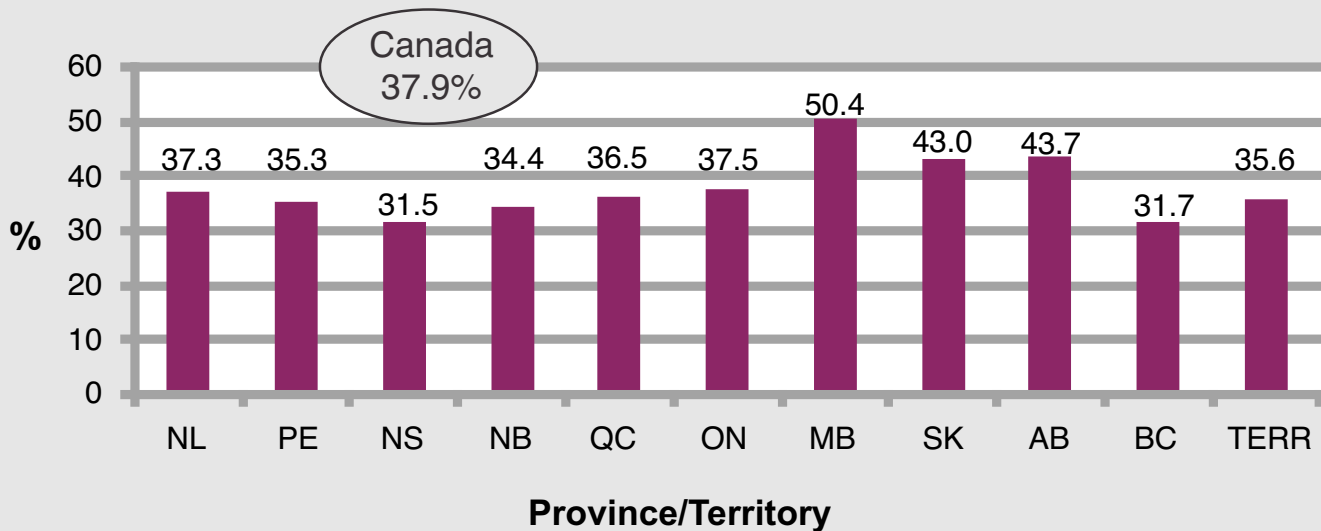
Being in debt is a very distressing experience that affects the entire family. Owing money limits a family's purchasing power, financial flexibility, and financial stability. For children and youth, the burden of debt means that fewer resources can be allocated to fill their monetary and non-monetary needs.





4.5.20 Food Security

Fig. 4.5.20 Percent of food bank users under 18 years of age, Canada, provinces and territories, March 2011



Adapted from "Hunger Count Canada (2011)." Food Banks Canada. <http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/getmedia/dc2aa860-4c33-4929-ac36-fb5d40f0b7e7/HungerCount-2011.pdf.aspx>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

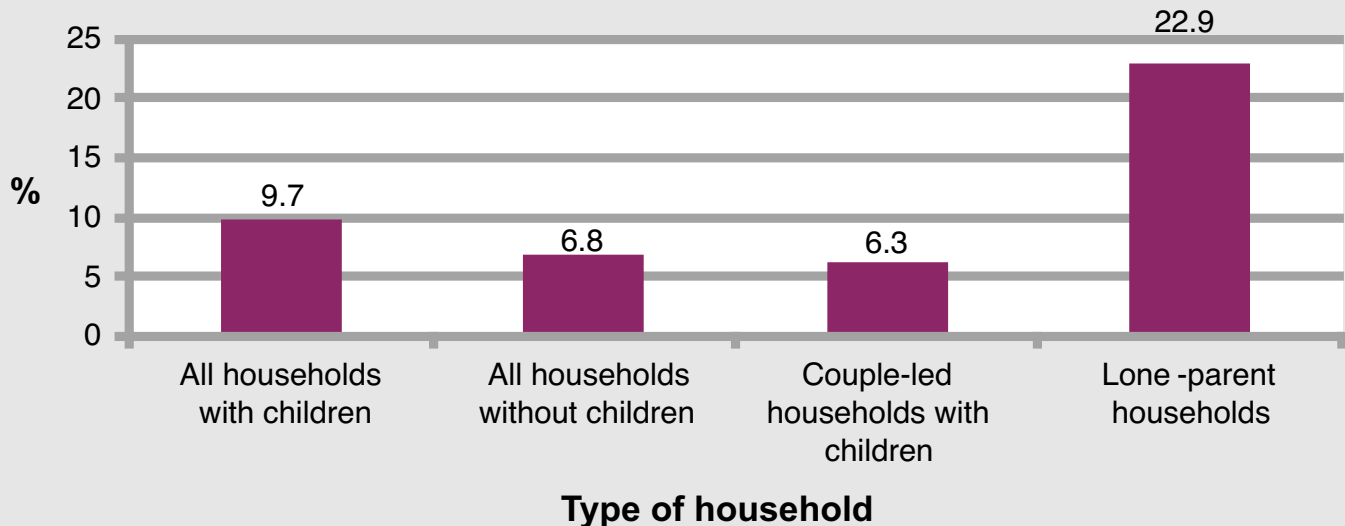
More than a third (38%) of people receiving assistance from food banks in Canada are children and youth under age 18. That means that 851,014 children and youth received assistance. That proportion was lowest in British Columbia (31.7%) and Nova Scotia (31.5%) and highest in Manitoba (50.4%).





4.5.21 Food Security

Fig. 4.5.21 Household food insecurity by household composition, Canada, 2007–2008



Note: Data from this graph is from respondents who were moderately food insecure and severely food insecure. Moderately food insecure: indication of compromise in quality and/or quantity of food consumed. Severely food insecure: indication of reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.

Adapted from Health Canada, "Household Food Insecurity." <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/nutrition/commun/insecurit/key-stats-cles-2007-2008-eng.php#a>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2007–08, almost 10% of households with children reported that they had been uncertain of having, or being able to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of their family because they had insufficient money for food at some time or times during the year.¹ Lone-parent households were far more likely to worry about having enough food, with 22.9% of such families saying that was the case. Lone parents were almost 4 times as likely as two-parent families to face food insecurity.

¹ Health Canada. "Household Food Insecurity." <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/nutrition/commun/insecurit/key-stats-cles-2007-2008-eng.php#a>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.1.1 Economic Security

Fig. 5.1.1 Child poverty, children 0 to 17 years of age, economically advanced countries, 2009

| Country | % | Country | % |
|----------------|------|----------------|-------------|
| Iceland | 4.7 | Australia | 10.9 |
| Finland | 5.3 | Slovakia | 11.2 |
| Cyprus | 6.1 | New Zealand | 11.7 |
| Netherlands | 6.1 | Estonia | 11.9 |
| Norway | 6.1 | United Kingdom | 12.1 |
| Slovenia | 6.3 | Luxembourg | 12.3 |
| Denmark | 6.5 | Canada | 13.3 |
| Sweden | 7.3 | Poland | 14.5 |
| Austria | 7.3 | Portugal | 14.7 |
| Czech Republic | 7.4 | Japan | 14.9 |
| Switzerland | 8.1 | Lithuania | 15.4 |
| Ireland | 8.4 | Italy | 15.9 |
| Germany | 8.5 | Greece | 16 |
| France | 8.8 | Spain | 17.1 |
| Malta | 8.9 | Bulgaria | 17.8 |
| Belgium | 10.2 | Latvia | 18.8 |
| Hungary | 10.3 | USA | 23.1 |
| | | Romania | 25.5 |

Percent of children in households with income lower than 50% of national median

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. "Measuring Child Poverty." Available at: http://www.unicef.gr/pdfs/RC10_report.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

In a report released by UNICEF in 2012 on child poverty in 35 industrialized countries, Canada lies in the bottom half of the group (24 of 35) despite the government's 1989 pledge to eradicate child poverty by the year 2000. At 13.3%, Canada's child poverty rate is almost 2 percentage points higher than the national average and twice as high as that for seniors. Canada's tax-transfer programs more effectively lower poverty rates among the elderly than among the young.¹

¹ UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. "Measuring Child Poverty." Available at: http://www.unicef.gr/pdfs/RC10_report.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Implications

Although the UNICEF Innocenti Report Card has met with some criticism (see Miles Corak), the main point to be taken from this report is that Canada's child poverty rate is where it was five years ago. Miles Corak stresses that even though cross-country comparisons help us monitor governmental progress, what is really needed in this report is an indicator measuring changes in poverty over time for each country.²

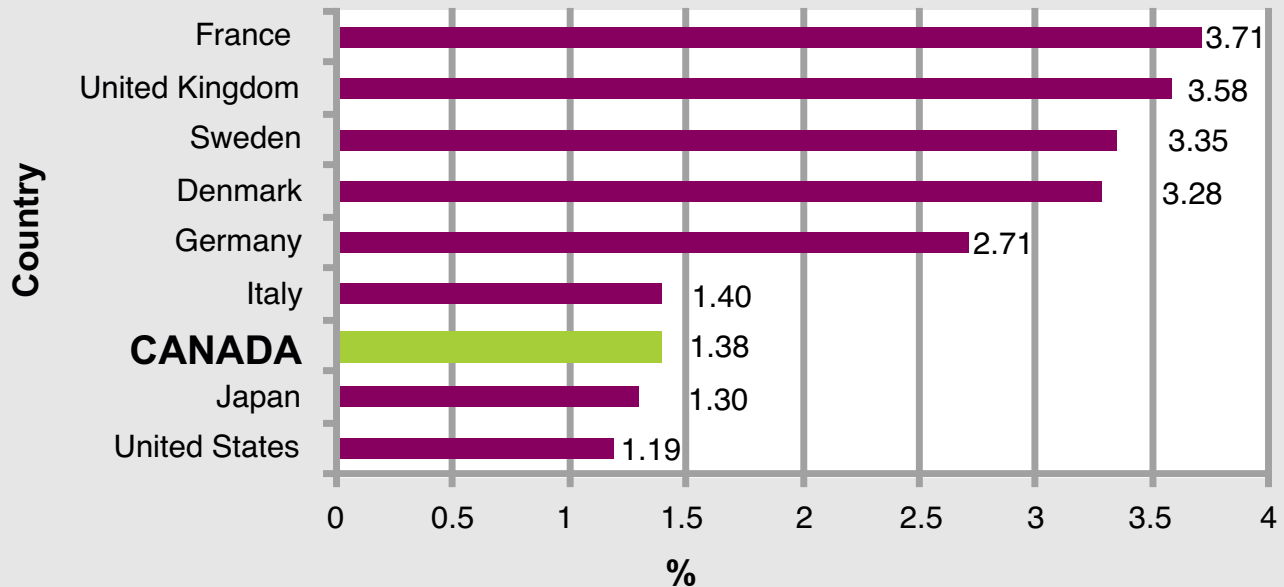
² Corak M. "The Sad, Sad Story of the UNICEF Child Poverty Report and Its Critics." Available at: <http://mileskorak.com/2012/05/29/the-sad-sad-story-of-the-unicef-child-poverty-report-and-its-critics/>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.1.2 Economic Security

Fig. 5.1.2 Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, in per cent GDP, 2007



OECD (2011). *OECD Family Database*. OECD Paris. Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/els/socialpoliciesanddata/37864391.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Public spending on family benefits includes financial support that is exclusively for families and children. The OECD* family database includes three types of public spending on family benefits.

- 1) **Child-related cash transfers to families with children.** For example, public income support payments during periods of parental leave.
- 2) **Public spending on services for families with children.** For example, direct financing and subsidizing of providers of child care and early education facilities.
- 3) **Financial support for families provided through the tax system.** For example, child tax allowances.

Public spending on family benefits is an indicator of a government's commitment to children. OECD countries spend on average 2.2% of their GDP on family benefits. In 2007, France, the United Kingdom, and Sweden spent the highest percentage of GDP, followed by Denmark. These countries spent between 3.2% and 3.7% of GDP on children and families, more than twice as much as Canada at 1.3%.

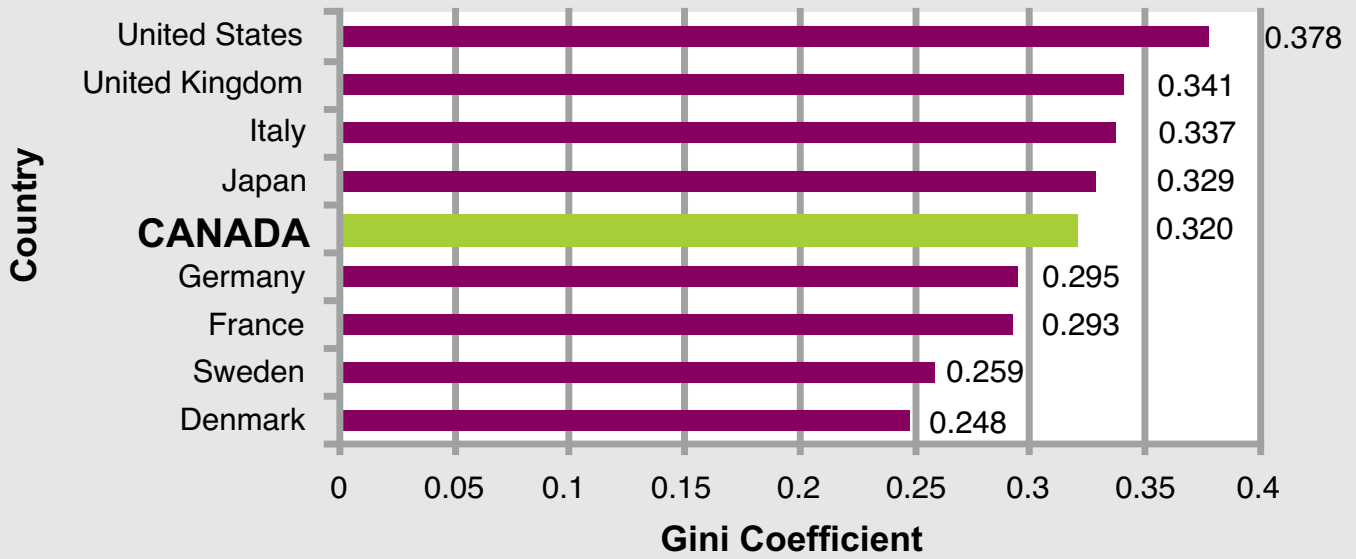
* OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.





5.1.3 Economic Security

Fig. 5.1.3 World income inequality*, Canada and select countries, late-2000s



*Income distribution: Inequality measured by the Gini index (after taxes and transfers). The Gini index, which ranges from a coefficient of 0 to 1, calculates the extent to which the distribution of income deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini coefficient of 0 represents exact equality (i.e., everybody has the same amount of income); a Gini coefficient of 1 represents total inequality (i.e., one person has all the income and the rest of the society has none).

Adapted from OECD StatExtracts. Available at: <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=INEQUALITY#>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

The Gini index is a measure of income inequality — the higher the coefficient, the greater the inequality. Among the G8 countries,¹ Canada has a lower Gini coefficient than the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan but a higher coefficient than Germany, France, Sweden, and Denmark.

¹ G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

Implications

A nation's income inequality has a profound impact on children's health. In a systematic review contrasting and combining results from different studies, investigators concluded that people living in places with high income inequality (a higher Gini coefficient) had an increased risk of premature death, independent of socioeconomic status, age, and gender.²

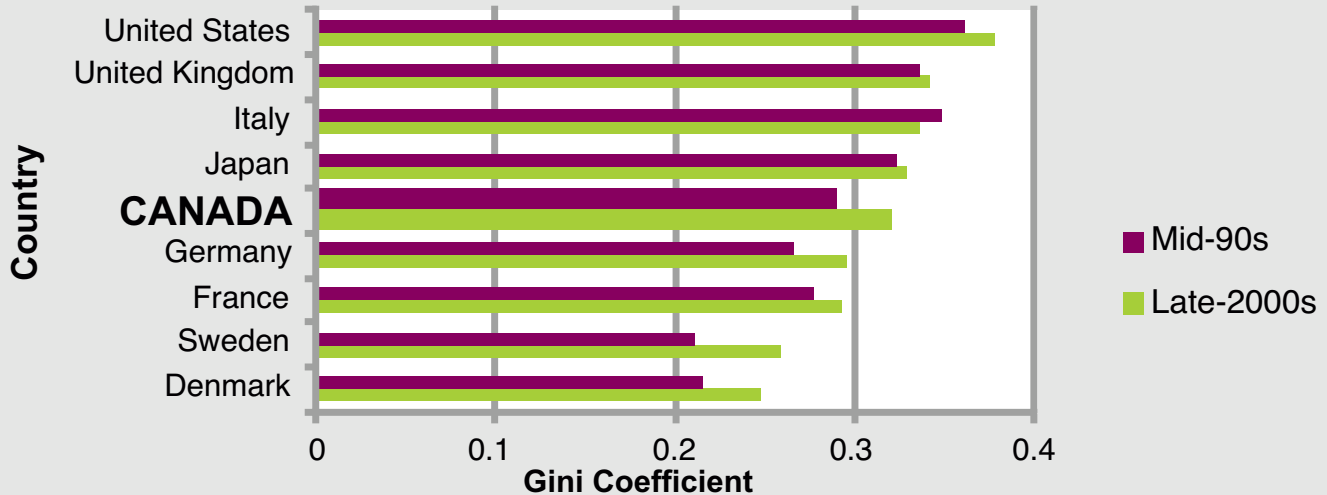
² Kondo N, et al. (2009). Income Inequality, Mortality, and Self-Rated Health: Meta-analysis of Multilevel Studies. British Medical Journal. Available at: http://www.bmj.com/highwire/filestream/398332/field_highwire_article_pdf/0/bmj.b4471. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.1.4 Economic Security

Fig. 5.1.4 Income inequality*, Canada and select countries, mid-90s and late-2000s



| | Denmark | Sweden | France | Germany | CANADA | Japan | Italy | United Kingdom | United States |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|----------------|---------------|
| Mid-90s | 0.225 | 0.211 | 0.277 | 0.266 | 0.289 | 0.323 | 0.348 | 0.336 | 0.361 |
| Late-2000s | 0.248 | 0.259 | 0.293 | 0.295 | 0.320 | 0.329 | 0.337 | 0.341 | 0.378 |

*Income distribution: Inequality measured by the Gini index (after taxes and transfers). The Gini index, which ranges from a coefficient of 0 to 1, calculates the extent to which the distribution of income deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini coefficient of 0 represents exact equality (i.e., everybody has the same amount of income); a Gini coefficient of 1 represents total inequality (i.e., one person has all the income and the rest of the society has none).

Adapted from OECD StatExtracts. Available at: <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=INEQUALITY#>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Between the mid-1990s and the late 2000s, the Gini coefficient for all G8 countries increased. This trend demonstrates a growing gap between the rich and the poor.

Implications

There are a number of factors that have caused income inequality to grow in Canada and its peer countries. Changes in the structure of the population—mainly the rise in the number of lone-parent households—is one factor that has driven the increase in income inequality.¹

In Canada, 80% of all lone-parent homes are headed by women. “In 2010, almost 22% of children living in female headed lone-parent families experienced low income, whereas just fewer than 6% of children living in two parent families were in low income homes.”²

¹ OECD. (2008). “Growing Unequal? Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries.” Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/els/socialpoliciesanddata/41527936.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

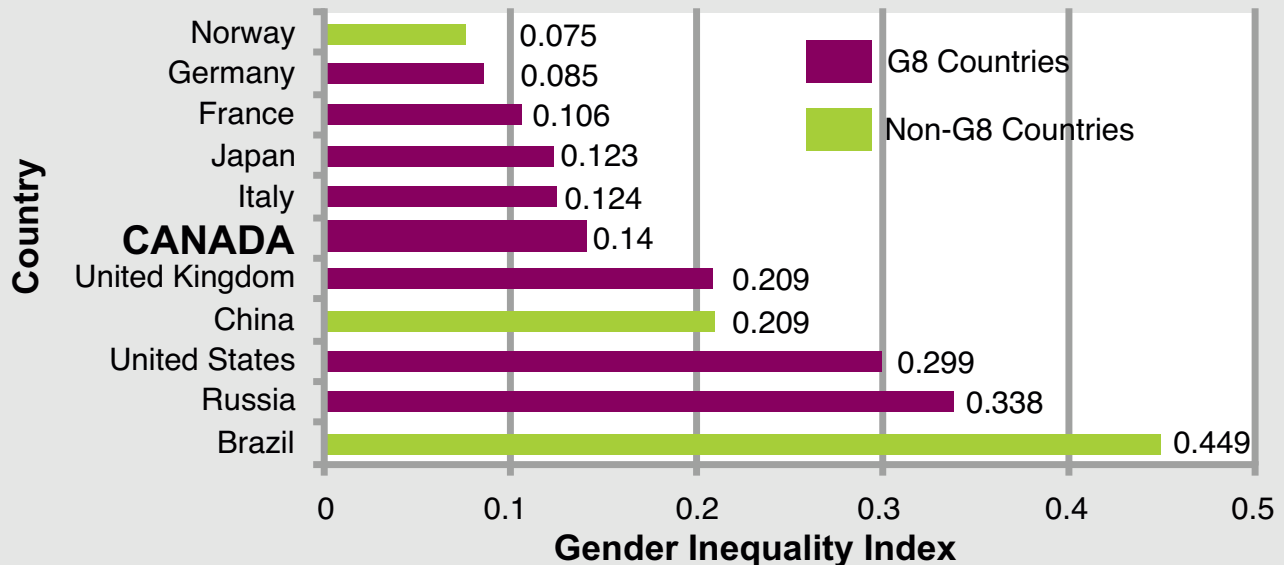
² Mitchell P. (2012). Institute of Marriage and Family Canada. “Marriage and Poverty in Canada.” Available at: http://www.imfcanada.org/sites/default/files/ereview_September28_12_0.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.2.5 Gender Inequities

Fig. 5.2.5 Gender Inequality Index*, G8[†] and selected countries, 2011



*The Gender Inequality Index, which ranges from 0 to 1, is a composite measure of inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market. A Gender Inequality value of 0 indicates perfect equality between the sexes; a value of 1 indicates the worst inequality in all three areas.

[†]G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

UNDP Human Development Reports. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/gii/>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Among the G8 countries, Canada has a lower Gender Inequality Index value than the United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom but higher than Germany, Japan, France, and Italy. For 2011, Canada ranks favourably on a worldwide basis. For 2011, some countries had values above 0.6, such as Afghanistan with a value of 0.707 and the Congo at 0.710. Canada ranked 19th out of 146 countries for which there are values for 2011.

Implications

"Gender equality and the well-being of children are inextricably linked. When women are empowered to lead full and productive lives, children and families prosper."

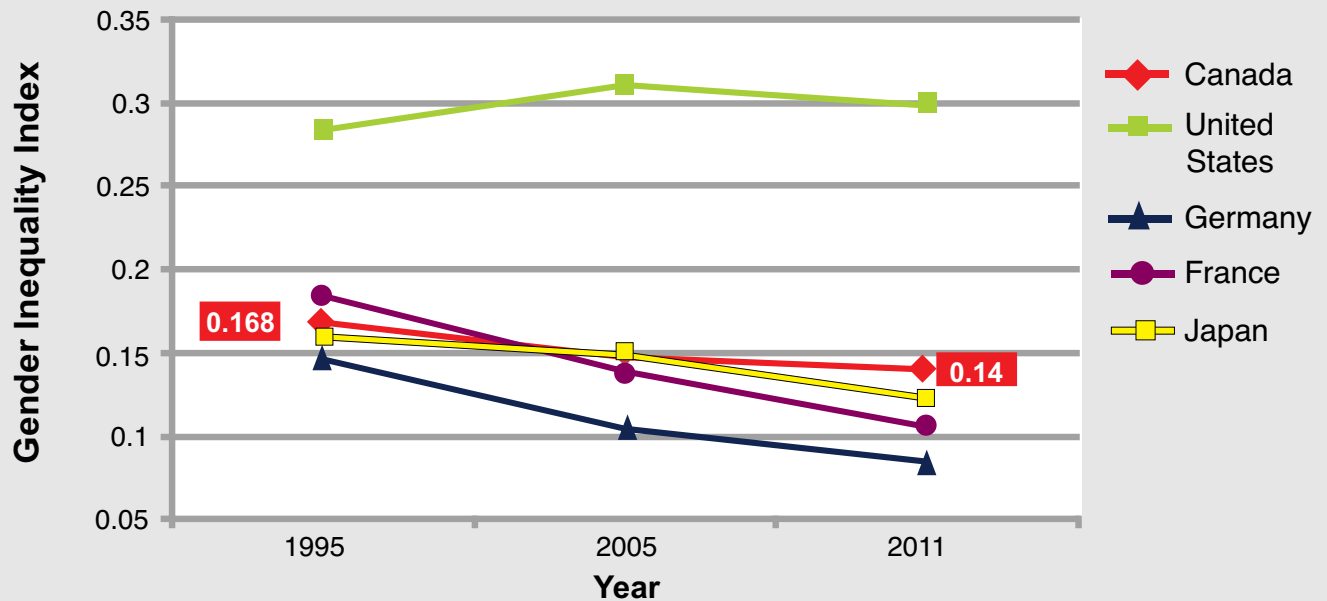
— UNICEF





5.2.6 Gender Inequities

Fig. 5.2.6 Gender Inequality Index*, Canada and select countries, 1995–2011



*The Gender Inequality Index, which ranges from 0 to 1, is a composite measure of inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market. A Gender Inequality value of 0 indicates perfect equality between the sexes; a value of 1 indicates the worst inequality in all three areas.

UNDP Human Development Reports. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/gii/>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Worldwide, gender inequality improved from 1995 to 2011. Over that time, Canada's index value improved slightly, from 0.168 to 0.140. In comparison, in the United States, gender inequality worsened between 1995 and 2011.

Implications

Although women's participation in the labour force has been increasing, women continue to earn less than men in Canada. Given that the majority of lone-parent families are headed by females, it is problematic that women are still earning less than men. Female lone parents are also less likely to be employed than mothers in two-parent families. In 2009, 68.9% of female lone parents with children less than age 16 living at home were employed compared with 73.8% of their counterparts in two-parent families.¹

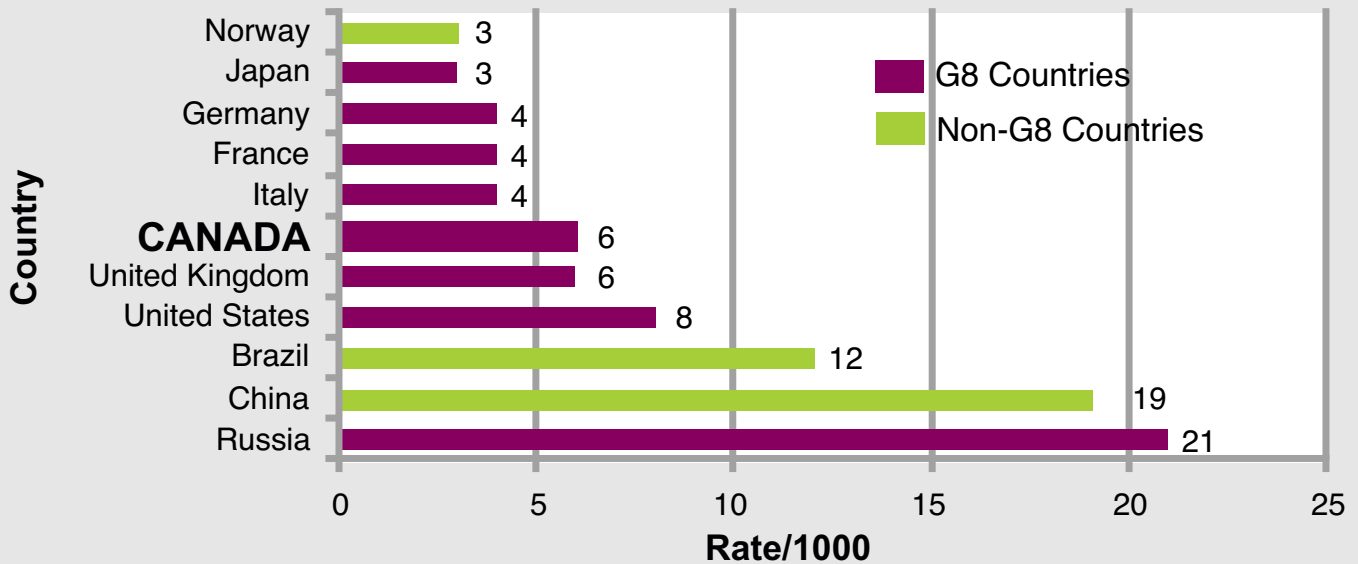
¹ Ferrao V. (2010). "Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report: Paid Work." Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.3.7 Deaths

Fig. 5.3.7 Death rates, children under 5 years of age*, G8[†] and selected countries, 2009



*Probability of dying between birth and exactly age 5, expressed per 1,000 live births.

[†]G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

UNDP, *International Human Development Indicators*, as of May 15, 2011. Available at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/57506.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Among the G8 countries, Canada's death rate for children less than five years ranks 5th behind Japan, Germany, France, and Italy. The rate is lower than that of the United States and significantly lower than Russia's death rate for this age group.

Implications

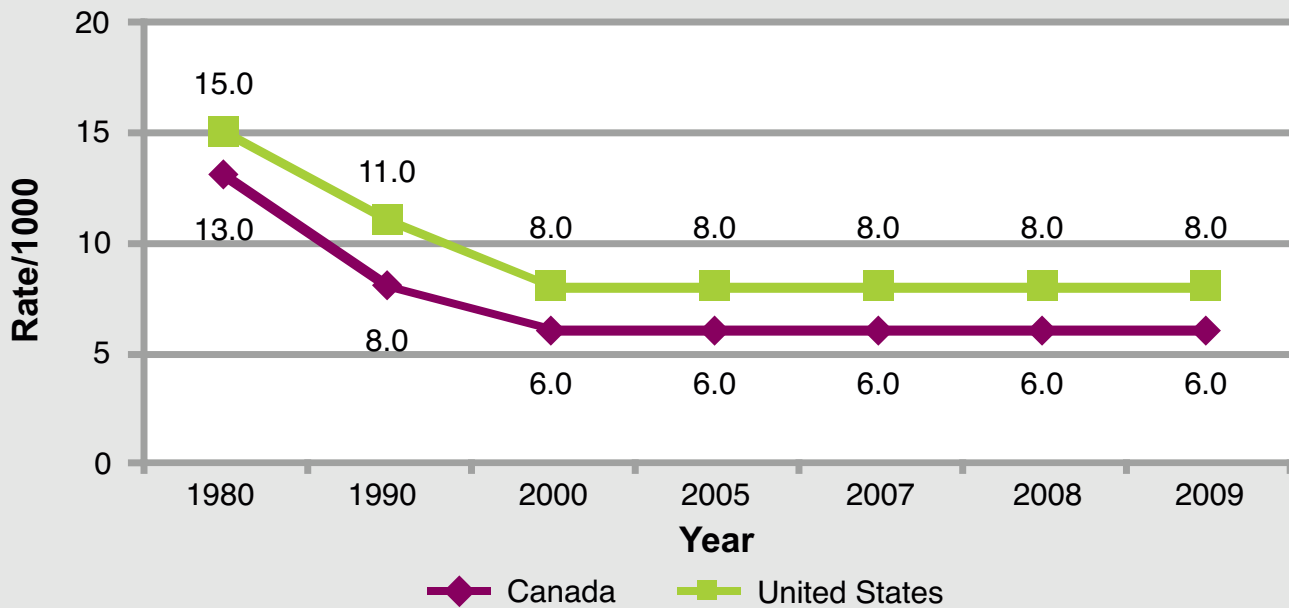
In Canada, many children under five lead healthy and happy lives. However, barriers to access and social and economic deprivation for some populations in Canada make providing a good start to life a daunting task.





5.3.8 Deaths

Fig. 5.3.8 Death rates, children under 5 years of age*, Canada and the United States, 1980–2009



* Probability of dying between birth and exactly age 5, expressed per 1,000 live births.

UNDP, *International Human Development Indicators*, as of May 15, 2011. Available at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/57506.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

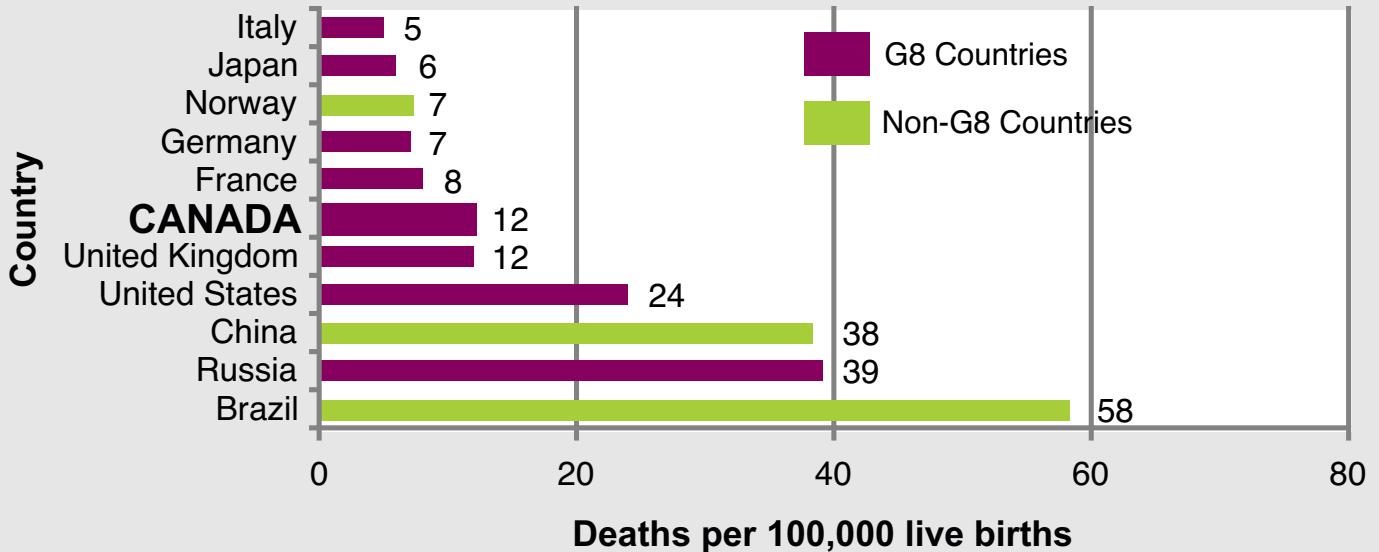
In Canada, the death rate for children less than five years of age dropped from 13 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 6 in 2000; from the year 2000 to 2009, this death rate remained stable. The death rate for children less than five years of age living in the United States followed a similar trend as that in Canada; however, the rate in 2009 was higher, at 8 per 1,000 live births.





5.3.9 Deaths

Fig. 5.3.9 Maternal death rates*, G8[†] and selected countries, 2008



*Ratio of the number of maternal deaths to the number of live births in a given year, expressed per 100,000 live births.

[†]G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

UNDP, *International Human Development Indicators*, as of May 15, 2011. Available at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/89006.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

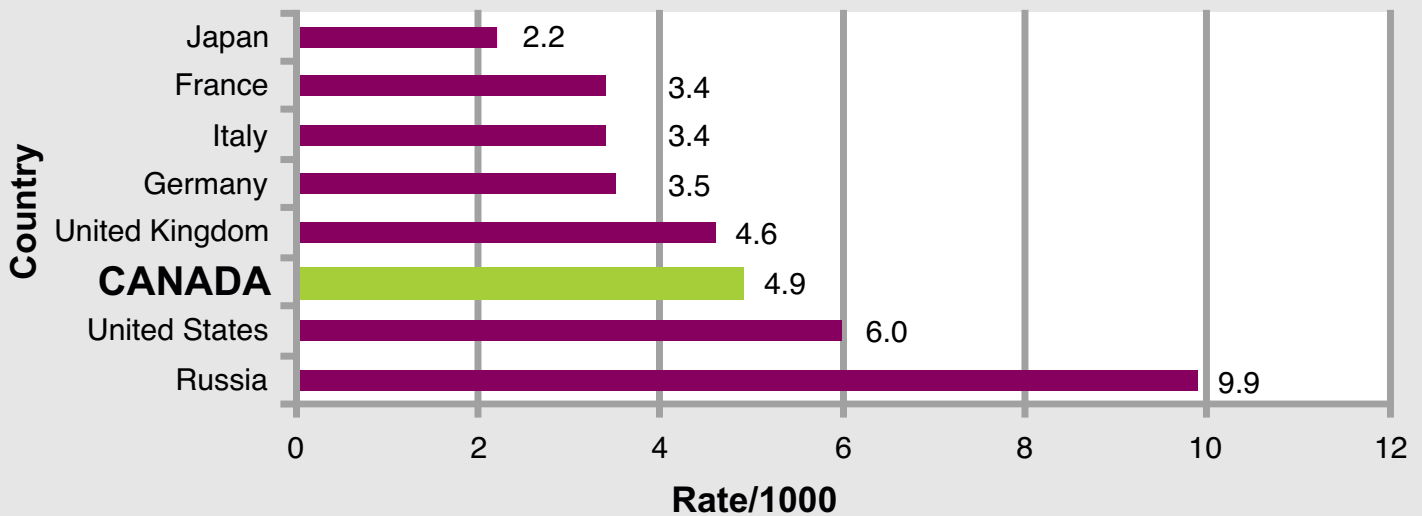
In 2008, there were 12 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births in Canada. Among G8 countries, Canada's rate was higher than those of Italy, Japan, Germany, and France, and the same as that of the United Kingdom. Canada's rate was lower than that of the United States and Russia for the same year.





5.3.10 Deaths

Fig. 5.3.10 Infant death rates, Canada and other G8* countries, 2012



[†]G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

Adapted from *The World Fact Book*. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2091rank.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

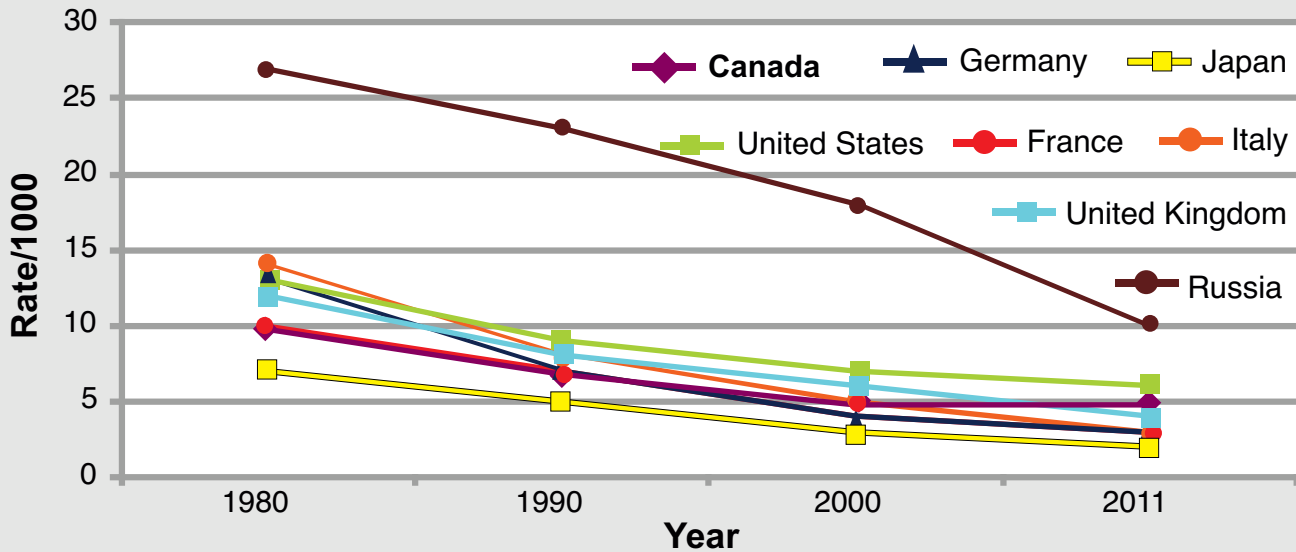
In 2012, among the G8 countries, Canada has a lower infant death rate (4.9/1,000) than the United States (6.0/1,000) and Russia (9.9/1,000) and a higher infant death rate than the United Kingdom (4.6/1,000), Germany (3.5/1,000), Italy and France (3.4/1,000), and Japan (2.2/1,000). On a worldwide basis, Canada ranks favourably. Some countries have very high infant death rates. For example, currently Afghanistan had the highest infant mortality rate, at 121.6 per 1,000 live births.





5.3.11 Deaths

Fig. 5.3.11 Infant death rates, Canada and other G8* countries, 1980–2011



| | Japan | France | Italy | Germany | U.K. | CANADA | United States | Russia |
|------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 1980 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 27 |
| 1990 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 23 |
| 2000 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 18 |
| 2011 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 10 |

*G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia.

Adapted from the World Bank. Available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN>. Accessed June 29, 2012.

In 1980, Canada tied for the second lowest (10/1,000) infant death rate compared to other G8 countries. In Canada, infant mortality decreased to 5 per 1,000 live births in 2011 from 10 per 1,000 live births in 1980.

Implications

Although Canada has decreased its infant mortality rate over the past few decades, other countries have done better. According to the Conference Board of Canada, Canada's infant mortality rate is shockingly high for a country with this level of socio-demographic development.¹

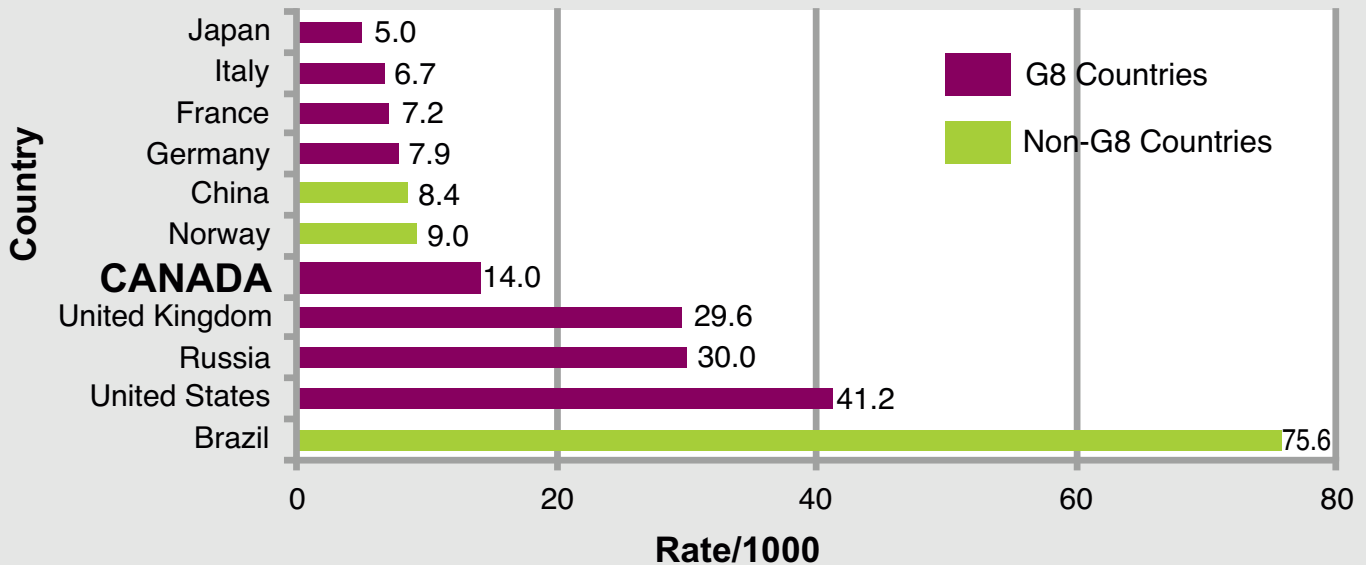
¹ Conference Board of Canada. "Infant Mortality." Available at: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/details/health/infant-mortality-rate.aspx>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.4.12 Reproductive Health

Fig. 5.4.12 Adolescent fertility rates*, G8[†] and selected countries, 2010



* Births to women 15 to 19 years of age per 1,000.

[†] G8 (Group of eight) refers to the forum of governmental leaders of eight large, industrialized nations: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia

UNDP, *International Human Development Indicators*, as of May 15, 2011. Available at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/36806.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

In Canada, 14 out of every 1,000 young women age 15 to 19 years gave birth in 2010. Among G8 countries, Canada's adolescent fertility rate was higher than Japan, Italy, France, and Germany but lower than the United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States. Countries with growing economies, such as Brazil (75.6/1,000) and India (86.3/1,000), still have very high rates of teen pregnancies. Non-G8 countries with stable, highly developed social systems, such as Norway (9.0/1,000) and Switzerland (4.6/1,000), have low adolescent fertility rates.

Implications

"National trends can mask a number of realities that exist in one country. Teen birth rates from specific sub-populations reveal a more complex picture of teen pregnancy within a society and can be important indicators of social and economic inequity. In Canada, the 2003 fertility rate, or live birth rate, for females 15 to 19 years of age, ranged from a low of 10.8 births per 1,000 in British Columbia and 11.4 in Ontario, to a high of 117.4 per 1,000 in Nunavut."¹

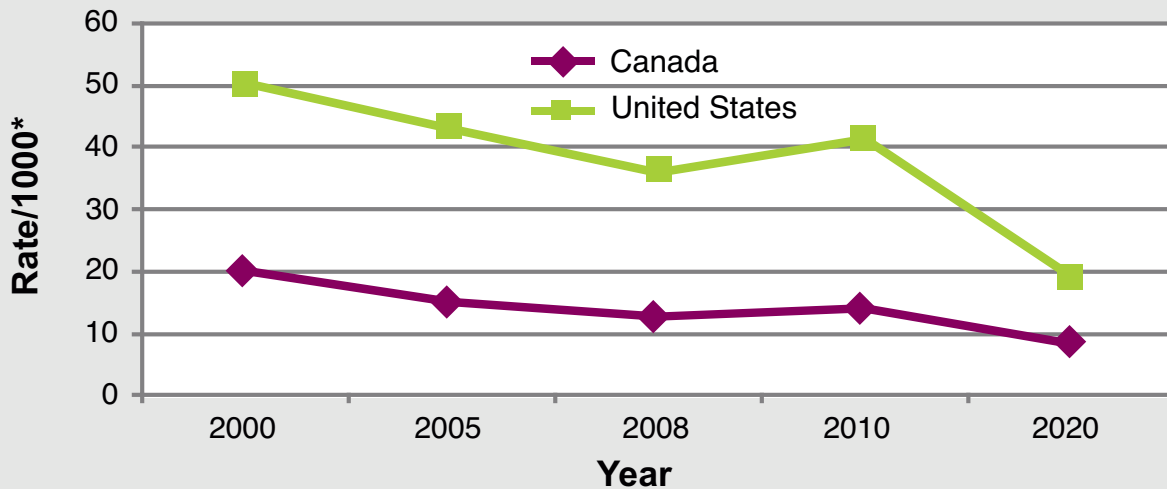
¹ "Best Start: Ontario's Maternal Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre and the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada." (2007). Available at: http://www.beststart.org/resources/rep_health/pdf/teen_pregnancy.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.4.13 Reproductive Health

Fig. 5.4.13 Adolescent fertility rates*, Canada and the United States, 2000–2020



| | 2000 | 2005 | 2008 | 2010 | 2020 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Canada | 20.1 | 15 | 12.8 | 14 | 8.4 |
| United States | 50.5 | 43.1 | 35.9 | 41.2 | 19.1 |

* Births to women 15 to 19 years of age per 1000.

UNDP, *International Human Development Indicators*, as of May 15, 2011. Available at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/36806.html>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Adolescent fertility rates in Canada declined to 14.0 in 2010 per 1,000 from 20.1 in 2000. The fertility rate for Canadian teens is projected to decline further, to below 10 per 1,000 by 2020.

Implications

In the U.S., “shifts in racial and ethnic composition of the population, increases in poverty, the growth of abstinence-only sex education programs at the expense of comprehensive programs, and changes in public perception and attitudes toward both teenage and unintended pregnancy,”¹ are all suggested reasons for the sudden increase in teen pregnancies. The teen pregnancy rate in Canada has dropped, declining 36.9% between 1996 and 2006 (McKay and Barrett) and is projected to decline further. This data suggests that young women are better informed and have greater access to contraception than ever before.²

¹ Guttmacher Institute. (2010). “U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions: National and State Trends by Race and Ethnicity.” Available at: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

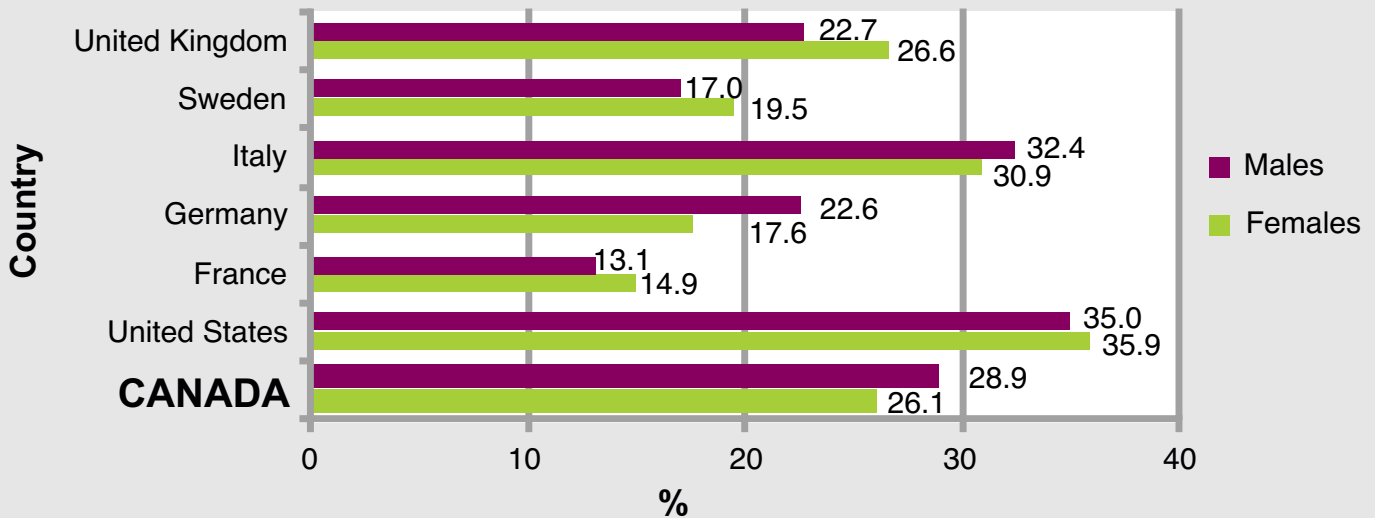
² McKay A, Barrett M. “Trends in Teen Pregnancy Rates from 1996-2006: A Comparison of Canada, Sweden, U.S.A., and England/Wales.” *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*. 19.1-2 (Toronto: Sex Information and Education Council of Canada [SIECCAN], 2010): 43–52.





5.5.14 Health Issues

Fig. 5.5.14 Children 5 to 17 years who are overweight (including obese), Canada and select OECD* countries, 2011 estimates



*OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.

Adapted from OECD StatExtracts. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932523994>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Compared to children in a number of other OECD countries, Canadian children are more likely to be overweight or obese. Only the United States and Italy have higher rates of overweight/obesity among children 5 to 17 years of age. According to the 2011 Health at a Glance report, across most OECD countries, one in five children is affected by excess body weight.¹

¹ OECD. (2011). Health at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators. OECD Publishing. Available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health_glance-2011-en. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Implications

“Research has demonstrated that excess weight puts children at risk for a range of preventable health problems, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, joint problems, and mental health issues.”² Increases in sedentary lifestyles, lack of access to healthy food, and decreases in physical activity levels are all contributing factors to the growing obesity epidemic in Canada.

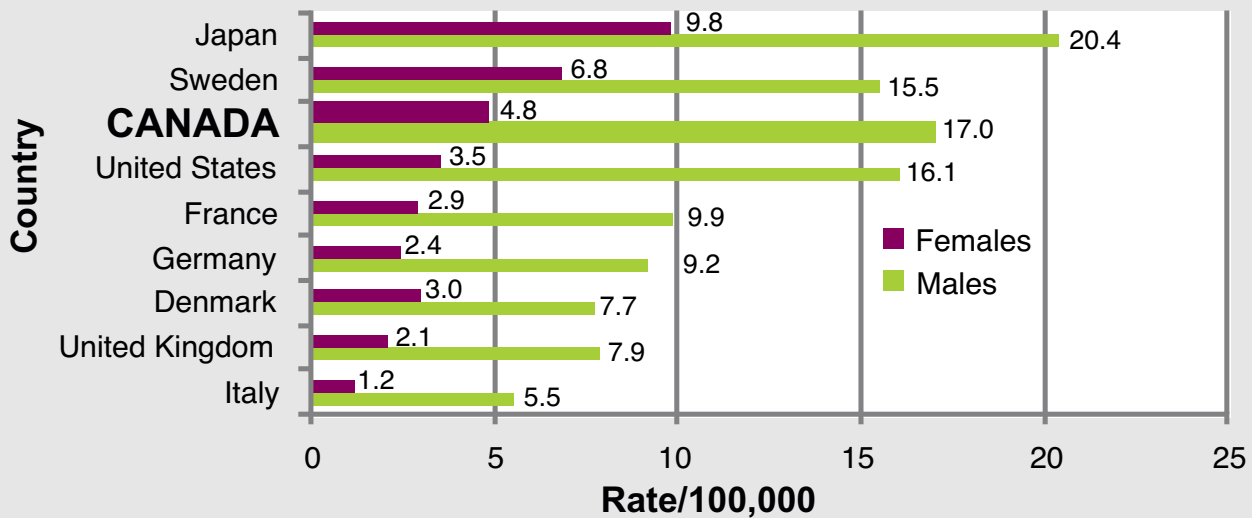
² Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2011. Available at: <http://dvqdas9jty7g6.cloudfront.net/reportcard2011/ahkcreportcard20110429final.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.5.15 Health Issues

Fig. 5.5.15 International suicide rates of youth 15 to 24 years of age, Canada and other OECD* countries, mid/late 2000s



| | Italy | U.K. | Denmark | Germany | France | USA | CANADA | Sweden | Japan |
|----------------|-------|------|---------|---------|--------|------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Males | 5.5 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 16.1 | 17.0 | 15.5 | 20.4 |
| Females | 1.2 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 6.8 | 9.8 |

*OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.

Adapted from the World Health Organization (WHO). Available at: http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/country_reports/en/index.html. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

In OECD countries, suicide rates are higher among young men aged 15 to 24 years than among young women. Japan has the highest suicide rate for both genders at 20.4/100,000 for young men and 9.8/100,000 for young women. Compared to the other OECD countries, Canada has the second highest suicide rate among young men (17/100,000) and the third highest among young women (4.8/100,000).

Implications

National data can hide differences that exist in one country. A new study released by Statistics Canada's health analysis division found that the suicide rate among children and teens in the Inuit homelands was 30 times that of youth in the rest of Canada between 2004 and 2008. For Inuit boys and young men, the rate was 101.6 /100,000, while the rate among boys and young men in the rest of the population was 6.1/100, 000.¹

¹ Oliver LN, Peters PA, Kohen DE. (2012). "Mortality Rates Among Children and Teenagers Living in Inuit Nunangat, 1994 to 2008." Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2012003/article/11695-eng.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.5.16 Health Issues

Fig. 5.5.16 Children aged 11, 13, and 15 years doing moderate-to-vigorous physical activity daily in the past week, 2005–2006

| Country | % | Country | % |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|------|
| Slovak Republic | 42.1 | Belgium | 19.1 |
| Ireland | 31.1 | United Kingdom | 18.7 |
| United States | 26.8 | Mexico | 18.1 |
| Finland | 24.8 | Poland | 17.3 |
| Canada | 23.6 | Germany | 17.0 |
| Denmark | 22.7 | Sweden | 16.4 |
| Czech Republic | 22.0 | Norway | 15.6 |
| Netherlands | 21.2 | Greece | 15.5 |
| Iceland | 20.6 | Luxembourg | 15.2 |
| Spain | 20.3 | Italy | 15.1 |
| OECD | 20.2 | Portugal | 14.6 |
| Turkey | 20.0 | France | 13.5 |
| Austria | 19.6 | Switzerland | 13.1 |
| Hungary | 19.5 | | |

Currie C, et al. (eds.) (2008). "Inequalities in Young People's Health: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children." International Report from the 2005/2006 Survey. WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen. Available at: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/53852/E91416.pdf; data available at www.oecd.org/social/familiesandchildren/48968008.xls. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

For 2005–06, compared to other OECD* countries, Canada's school-aged children — aged 11, 13, and 15 years — rank fairly well with regards to their level of physical activity. For example, only 13.1% of children aged 11 to 15 years participate in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week in Switzerland, whereas in Canada the rate is almost double that number (23.6%).

* OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.

Implications

Between countries, there are large differences between levels of reported daily physical activity for children aged 11, 13, and 15 years. In almost all countries, however, boys and younger children are more active.¹

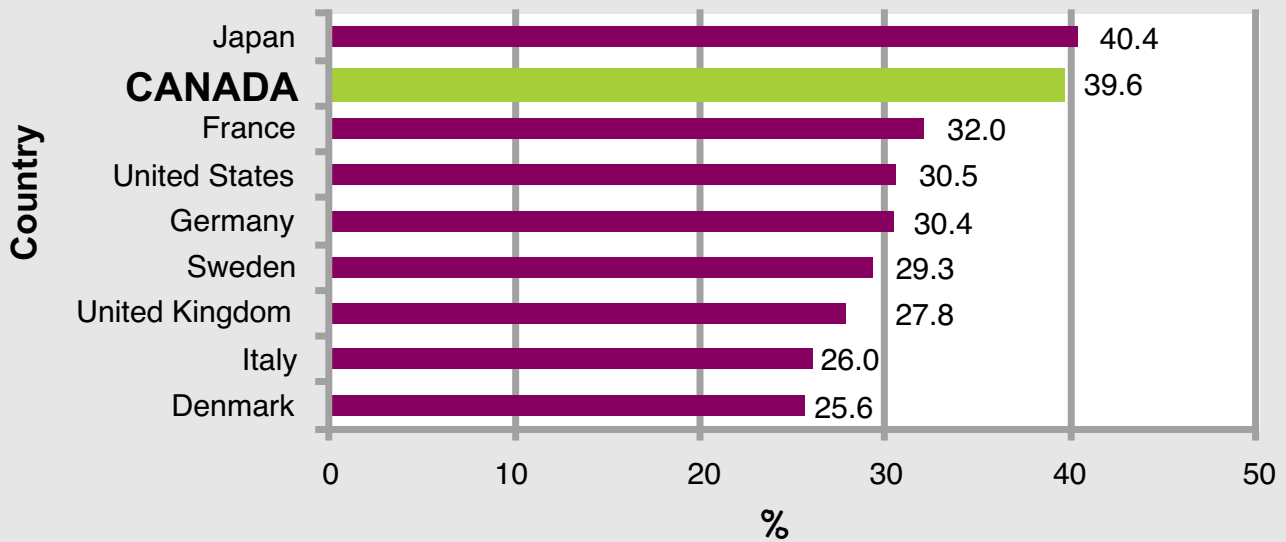
¹ Currie C, et al. (eds.) (2008). "Inequalities in Young People's Health: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children." International Report from the 2005/2006 Survey. WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen. Available at: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/53852/E91416.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2012.





5.6.17 Education

Fig. 5.6.17 Percent of students at level 4 or above for combined reading sources, Canada and select countries, 2009



Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). (2009). Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-590-x/2010001/tbl/tblb1.13-eng.htm>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a tool that seeks to measure the extent to which youth at age 15 have acquired some of the knowledge and skills that are essential for full participation in modern societies. "Sixty-five countries and economies participated in PISA 2009, including all 33 OECD* countries. Between 5,000 and 10,000 students aged 15 years from at least 150 schools were typically tested in each country. In Canada, approximately 23,000 15-year-olds from about 1,000 schools participated across the 10 provinces."¹

Overall, Canadian students continue to perform well compared with students in most other countries. On the higher end of the reading scale, students proficient at Level 4 or above have acquired the level of literacy that is required to participate effectively and productively in life and are also capable of the moderately difficult reading tasks in PISA 2009.² Forty percent of Canadian students achieved Level 4 or above, compared to the OECD average of 29%.

* OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.

¹ Statistics Canada. "The Performance of Canada's Youth in Reading, Mathematics and Science." Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-590-x/81-590-x2010001-eng.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

² OECD. (2010). "Volume 5: Learning Curves, From PISA 2000 to PISA 2009." Paris: OECD.

