

Edmonton Poverty Fact Sheet (Updated)

Over-all Statistics

- 100,810 Edmontonians live in poverty; 27,970 of which are children (1)
- 12.7% of Edmontonians lived in low income in 2011 (1)
- 17.5% of Edmontonians have not graduated high school in 2011 (1)
- 12,677 adults and children were served by the Food Bank in March 2013 (1)
- Men working full time made \$16,000 on average more than women working full time (2)
- One in five Albertans work for less than \$15.00 per hour (2)
- The poverty rate for unattached individuals is twice that for those in families (2)

Child Poverty

- 59% of poor children live in a household where one or more persons are working full-time for the full year (2)
- 60% of youth aged 15-17 not living with their family are poor; 1/3 of families headed by persons younger than 24 are poor (2)
- 39.3% of recent immigrant children are in low-income families (3)
- 42% of Aboriginal children under 14 in this city are living in low-income conditions. (4)

Aboriginal Edmontonians

- Experience low income at twice the rate of non-Aboriginal Edmontonians. (4)
- Aboriginal workers earn on average 2/3 of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. (4)
- Over half of Aboriginal Edmontonians report living with chronic health conditions. (4)

Newcomers

- Almost 2/3 of new immigrants to Canada experience low income for 3+ years. (7)
- Immigrant seniors are five times more likely to experience poverty than Canadian born seniors. (3)

Single Parent Female Headed Households:

- Lone parents' median income in 2011 was \$47,200 less than the median income for two-parent families in 2011; the income gap between lone-parent and two-parent families increased by \$10,500 between 2001 and 2011 (constant 2011\$). (2)
- Women in Edmonton working full-time earn on average just 75.1% of what their male counterparts do, and 27.3% of all employed women in Edmonton earn \$15.00/ hour or less. (2)
- Over 1 in 5 persons in single parent households lived in poverty in 2011. (2)

Poverty and Health:

- Rate of mental illness among Edmonton's homeless estimated at 59%. (7)
- Rates of asthma, diabetes, coronary heart disease, injury and COPD all significantly higher among low-income Edmontonians. (9)
- Teen birth rate 10 times higher for low income than high income teens. (9)

Cost of Poverty

- Poverty cost Albertans \$7.1 Billion dollars per year which includes health care costs, crime, intergenerational and opportunity costs (10)

Homelessness

- 2,235 people were housed in the first 4 years of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. 2,174 people were homeless in October 2012, 29% fewer than 4 years earlier. (7)

Literacy

- 40% of adults in Alberta between the ages of 16 to 65 lack the basic literacy and essential skills to function effectively in our society. 26% of adult Albertans can only deal with simple material and have difficulty reading safety manuals or hazardous material warnings found in the workplace (11)

Financial Security

- A 2012 survey found that 47% of Alberta employees are living paycheck to paycheck and would find it difficult if their pay was delayed even a week. (12)

References

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6. Urban Poverty Project, referenced in Edmonton Social Plan 2006: People with Disabilities
7. Federal Poverty Reduction Plan, November 2010
8. Edmonton Homeless Commission
9. Alberta Health Services, 2009
10. Poverty Costs, Vibrant Communities Calgary and Action to End Poverty in Alberta, 2012
11. International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey, Statistics Canada, 2003
12. Canadian Payroll Association, August 2012