

The State of Poverty: A Summary of Policy, Data, and Reporting across Canada

KHRC Data & Reporting Scan



Kyler Woodmass

UPDATED: March 22 2022

This overview is intended to be a brief, non-exhaustive, semi-chronological guide to existing and planned data and policy on addressing poverty, at a federal level, at a provincial level within British Columbia, and at a regional level within the Central Okanagan.

Topics summarized below include:

1. [Available Community-Level Data](#)
2. [Official Federal Poverty Line & Federal Poverty Strategy](#)
3. [National Advisory Council on Poverty Reports: 2020 & 2021](#)
4. [Poverty Reduction in BC](#)
5. [Government Budgets](#)
6. [Basic Income Panel & Associated Works on Poverty \(2021\)](#)
7. [CMHA Housing Market Information Portal – Kelowna](#)
8. [Income Data & Kelowna](#)
9. [COVID & the Okanagan](#)
10. [Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis \(2020\)](#)

The Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative (KHRC), is a multidisciplinary team of researchers interested in understanding and supporting the provision of services to – and the perspectives of – individuals with lived experience of homelessness or who are vulnerable to homelessness. Investigators and collaborators are primarily based in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada. For additional resources, check out our website: <https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/>

Any feedback on this report or suggestions for further additions can be submitted to:

Ask.khrc@ubc.ca

Federal Resources			
<i>Title</i>	<i>Release</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Link</i>
Opportunity for All: Poverty Reduction Strategy (Government of Canada)	Aug 2018	Strategy / Report	LINK
Report on the Second Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure (Statistics Canada)	Feb 2020	Report	LINK
Canadian Income Survey 2019 (Statistics Canada)	Mar 2021	Data & Report	LINK (Data) LINK (Report)
Housing Market Information Portal (CMHC)	Ongoing	Data	LINK
Budget 2021 (Government of Canada)	Apr 2021	Budget Report	LINK
Building Understanding: The First Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty (ESDC)	2020	Report	LINK
Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty (ESDC)	2021	Report	LINK
Dimensions of Poverty Hub (Statistics Canada)	Ongoing	Data	LINK
2021 National Report Card on Child & Family Poverty - No One Left Behind (Campaign 2000)	Nov 2021	Report	LINK

BC Resources			
<i>Title</i>	<i>Release</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Link</i>
Poverty Reduction Strategy Act (Government of British Columbia)	Nov 2018	Law	LINK
TogetherBC (Government of British Columbia)	Mar 2019	Strategy / Report	LINK
TogetherBC 2019 Annual Report (Government of British Columbia)	Dec 2020	Report	LINK
TogetherBC 2020 Annual Report (Government of British Columbia)	2021	Report	LINK
Budget 2021 (Government of British Columbia)	Apr 2021	Budget Report	LINK
2021 BC Child Poverty Report Card (First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society)	Nov 2021	Report	LINK

Central Okanagan Resources			
<i>Title</i>	<i>Release</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Link</i>
Census 2016 – Kelowna CMA – Income (Statistics Canada)	2017	Data	LINK
Housing Market Information Portal – Kelowna (CMHC)	Ongoing	Data	LINK
Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis (United Way – Southern Interior BC)	Feb 2020	Report	LINK
Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy (RDCO / Urban Matters)	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Strategy / Report	LINK

Available Community-Level Data

Census 2016 (Release: 2017)

Statistics Canada allows users to sort products available through [Census 2016](#) by various levels of geography. This includes detailed breakdowns of demographics, but also the Income variable.

Census 2021 (*Forthcoming*)

Similar information collected during the [2021 Census of the Population](#) will be released throughout 2022.

Housing Market Information Portal (Ongoing)

CMHC's [Housing Market Information Portal](#) offers free, easy-to-use access to the latest housing market data for Canada (from Starts, to Core Housing breakdowns, to Ownership levels), from the National level, to the provincial level, to CMA data, down to Census Tract geographies.

Dimensions of Poverty Hub (Ongoing)

Statistic's Canada's [Dimensions of Poverty Hub](#) tracks data related to "Opportunity for All", the federal poverty reduction strategy.

Official Federal Poverty Line & Federal Poverty Strategy

Employment and Social Development Canada offers detailed background information on the [Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), first launched in August 2018. In addition to setting an Official Poverty Line to measure progress, it sets out targets of:

- a 20% reduction in poverty by 2020
- a 50% reduction in poverty by 2030

This Official Poverty Line would be the Market Based Measure.¹ The [Strategy](#) details how this line would vary from region to region.

In 2020, Statistics Canada released their [fourth and final report](#) on the re-based Market Based Measure to 2018 levels. When the results of the [2019 Canada Income Survey](#) were released in March 2021, the [associated Statistics Canada data tables](#) offered the first opportunity to compare British Columbia's progress in light of the updates to the measure, described in greater detail below.

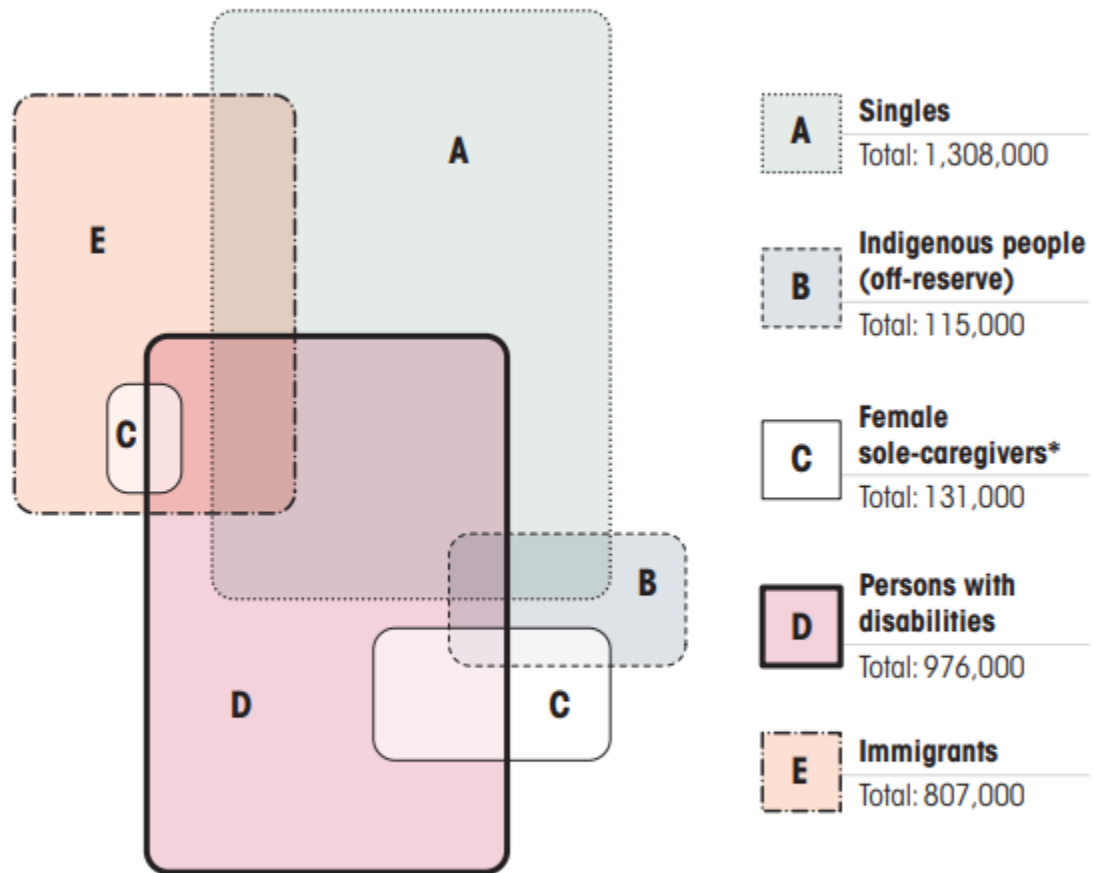
National Advisory Council on Poverty Reports: 2020 & 2021

The 2020 report by the National Advisory Council on Poverty, "[Building Understanding](#)", offers detailed background on the efforts to reduce poverty in Canada, as well as a discussion of the Council's engagements and the progress to date, including within the context of COVID-19. It concludes with recommendations for the Government of Canada.

Their subsequent 2021 report, "[Understanding Systems](#)", similarly provides an update on poverty in Canada, including detailed representations of how intersectionality shapes the prevalence (p.23):

¹ For an external critique of the MBM line, see the Fraser Institute's "[Critical Assessment of Canada's Official Poverty Line](#)" (Sarfo, 2020)

GRAPH 2 Composition of working age (18 to 64) persons belonging to selected vulnerable groups living in poverty, 2019



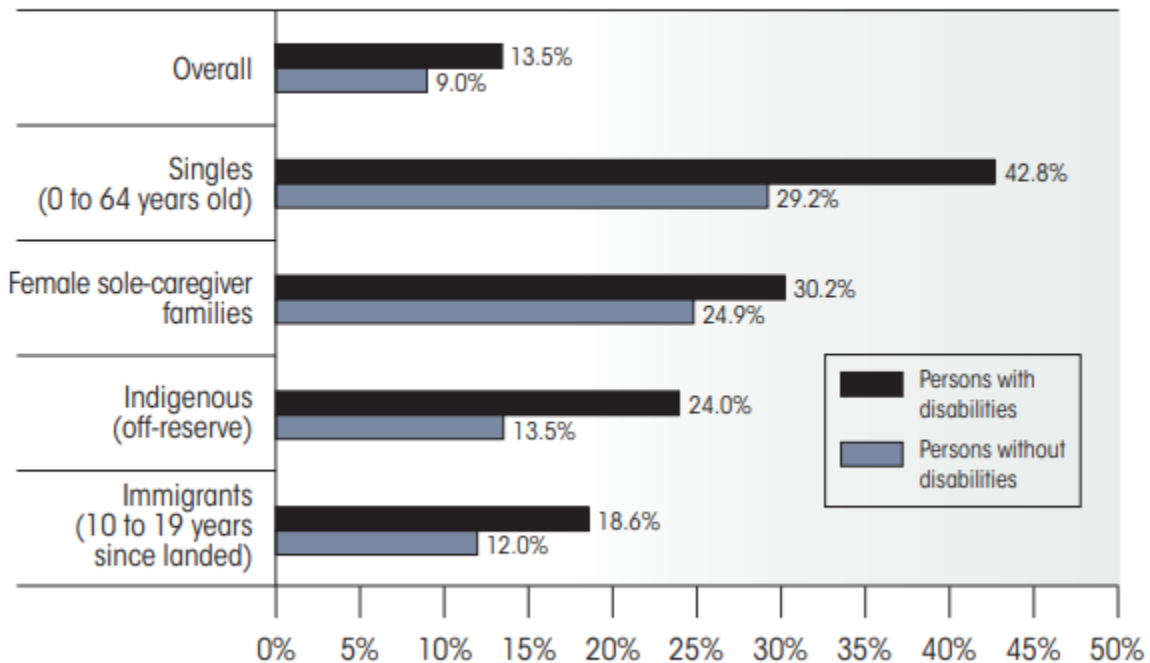
* Female sole-caregivers identified by head of Female sole-caregiver economic families. Counts do not include children or other members of female sole-caregiver economic families.

The Venn diagram is for illustration purpose only; the size and area of ellipses as well as the overlapping intersections are meant to provide a sense of magnitude but is not done to accurate scale.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey

The 2021 report also highlights the apparent role of disability of the prevalence of poverty for many populations (p.24):

GRAPH 3 Poverty rates among persons with disabilities with marginalized identities in 2019



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey

Poverty Reduction in BC

The BC’s provincial [Poverty Reduction Act](#) passed in the same year (2018), with mandates that:

- The minister must develop a strategy to reduce and prevent poverty in British Columbia.
- The strategy must include initiatives intended, over the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2019, to reduce the poverty rate for 2024 below the poverty rate for 2016 by at least
 - (a) 25% among all persons, and
 - (b) 50% among persons under 18 years of age.
- Progress: Government will prepare annual progress reports by October 1 each year

The [TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) detailed the province’s plan. The [Annual Report for 2019](#) highlighted evidence of progress (including a significant decrease in the incidence of poverty in other provinces as well):

“Between 2016 and 2018 (the most recent data available), the overall poverty rate in British Columbia decreased from 12 per cent to 8.9 per cent, a 25.8 per cent reduction. The child poverty rate decreased from 12 per cent to 6.9 per cent, a 42.5 per cent reduction. This is an overall

reduction of 136,000 British Columbians living in poverty since 2016, including 42,000 children.” (Page 15)

Table 1. Incidence of Low Income by Economic Family - MBM (2008 Base)³

All Persons	Incidence (%)				Ranking (Higher Number is Better)		
	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2016-2018	2016	2017	2018
Canada	10.6	9.5	8.7	-17.9%
BC	12.0	10.3	8.9	-25.8%	2	2	6
NL	10.8	9.7	9.7	-10.2%	6	5	2
PEI	11.3	10.1	9.1	-19.5%	5	4	5
NS	12.9	12.8	10.3	-20.2%	1	1	1
NB	11.8	9.7	7.9	-33.1%	3	5	8
QC	8.6	9.0	7.9	-8.1%	9	8	8
ON	11.8	10.2	9.5	-19.5%	3	3	3
MB	9.4	8.7	9.3	-1.1%	7	9	4
SK	9.2	9.5	8.8	-4.3%	8	7	7
AB	8.6	6.8	7.3	-15.1%	9	10	10

However, the report also noted some limitations:

“It is important to note that the MBM does not reflect the circumstances of poverty for Indigenous communities. Government is committed to working with the First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous organizations, to develop meaningful measures for Indigenous communities over the next year.” (Page 15)

Likewise, this was a period of review for the Market Based Measure, resulting in the 2019 Annual Report utilizing the 2008 MBM base while the still-forthcoming 2020 Annual Report would use the updated 2018 figures.

As was noted, Statistics Canada data tables also allowed for some preliminary comparisons. The resulting increase to the MBM line was strongest in BC.

Percentage and number of persons in poverty, 2018

	Percentage of persons in poverty					Number of persons in poverty		
	2008-base	2018-base	2008-base	2018-base	Difference	2008-base	2018-base	Difference
Geography	%	%	Order (High-Low)	Order (High-Low)	%	Persons (x1000)	Persons (x1000)	Persons (x1000)
Nova Scotia	10.3	13.3	1	1	3	96	124	28
NL and Labrador	9.7	11.2	2	5	1.5	50	58	8
Ontario	9.5	11.6	3	4	2.1	1,351	1,658	307
Manitoba	9.3	10.9	4	7	1.6	117	137	20

PEI	9.1	11.9	5	3	2.8	14	18	4
British Columbia	8.9	12.1	6	2	3.2	421	577	156
Saskatchewan	8.8	11.2	7	6	2.4	96	122	26
New Brunswick	7.9	10	8	8	2.1	58	74	16
Quebec	7.9	9.7	8	9	1.8	655	812	157
Alberta	7.3	9.4	10	10	2.1	316	403	87
Canada	8.7	11			2.3	3,173	3,983	810

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110013501>

However, the 2019 data demonstrates a far more worrying shift, with both Saskatchewan and Manitoba experiencing year over year increases in the percentage of the population falling below the MBM poverty line.

Market basket measure, 2018 base									
Percentage of persons in low income									
Geography	2016	Rank	2017	Rank	2018	Rank	2019	Rank	% 2018-2019
Saskatchewan	11.5	8	12.2	5	11.2	5	12.4	1	11%
Nova Scotia	16.2	1	15	1	13.3	1	12.1	2	-9%
Manitoba	12.3	6	11	8	10.9	7	11.4	3	5%
PEI	11.8	7	13.3	3	11.9	3	10.9	4	-8%
Ontario	13.6	3	12.2	4	11.6	4	10.9	5	-6%
British Columbia	15.3	2	13.6	2	12.1	2	10.8	6	-11%
NL and Labrador	12.4	5	11.4	7	11.2	6	10.7	7	-4%
New Brunswick	13.6	4	12.1	6	10	8	9.4	8	-6%
Quebec	10.9	9	10.8	9	9.7	9	8.7	9	-10%
Alberta	10.8	10	9	10	9.4	10	8.2	10	-13%

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110013501>

For British Columbia, there is a return to 6th place in the provincial rankings for 2019, which is reflected in the province's [TogetherBC 2020 Annual Report](#).

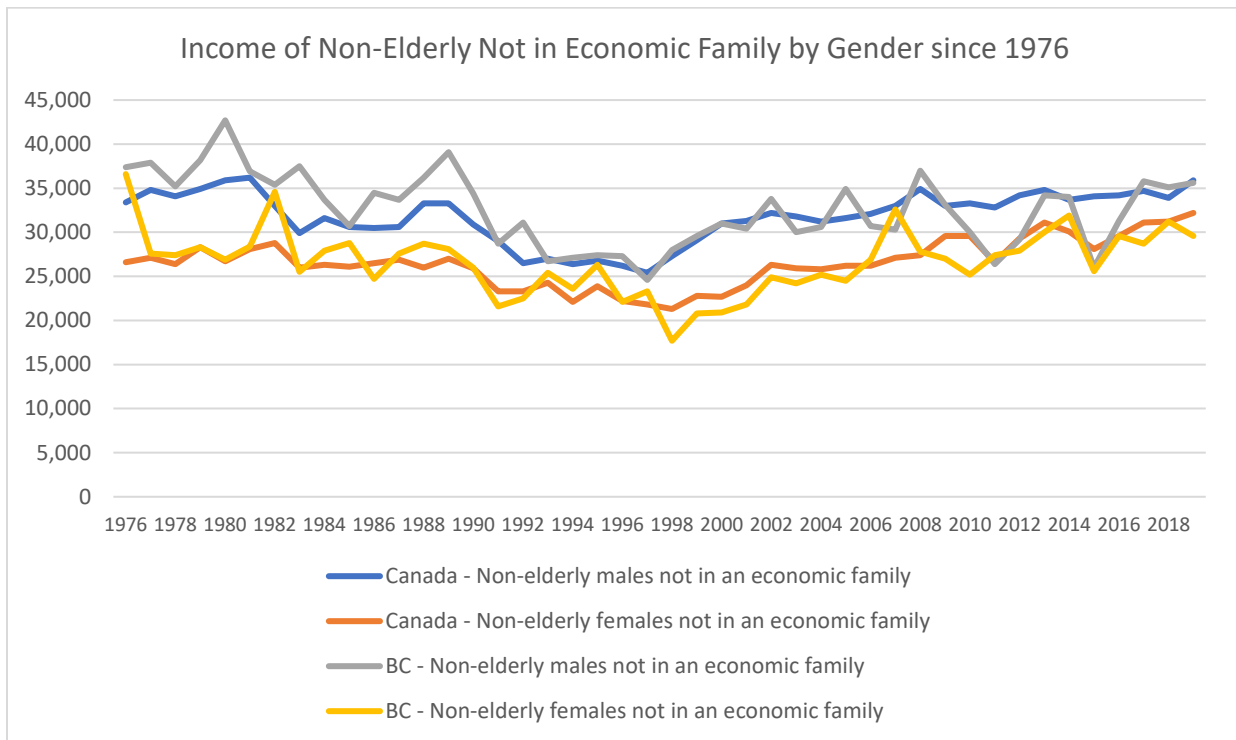
In general, the low-income rate has been particularly high for those not in an academic family. This was particularly true of non-elderly individuals. The rate for non-elderly females not in an economic family rose to 43% in 2019, while the rate for elderly individuals not in an economic family continued to see large declines (see below table).

Percentage of persons in low income (British Columbia, Market-based measure, 2018 base)			
Persons in low income	2018	2019	Change
All persons	12.1	10.8	-1.3
Persons under 18 years	10.9	7.2	-3.7
Persons 18 to 64 years	13.8	13.3	-0.5
Persons 65 years and over	7.7	5.9	-1.8
Males, under 18 years	12.3	6.9	-5.4
Males, 18 to 64 years	14.0	12.4	-1.6

Percentage of persons in low income (British Columbia, Market-based measure, 2018 base)			
Persons in low income	2018	2019	Change
Males, 65 years and over	7.2	5.1	-2.1
Females, under 18 years	9.3	7.4	-1.9
Females, 18 to 64 years	13.6	14.2	0.6
Females, 65 years and over	8.3	6.7	-1.6
Persons in economic families	7.9	6.6	-1.3
Males in economic families	8.2	6.6	-1.6
Females in economic families	7.5	6.7	-0.8
Elderly persons in economic families	3.5	3.1	-0.4
Elderly males in economic families	3.3	3.3	0
Elderly females in economic families	3.7	2.9	-0.8
Persons under 18 years in economic families	10.8	7.0	-3.8
Persons under 18 years in couple families with children	9.2	5.0	-4.2
Persons under 18 years in female lone-parent families	30.7	27.7	-3
Persons 18 to 64 years in economic families	8.0	7.5	-0.5
Males 18 to 64 years in economic families	8.1	7.4	-0.7
Females 18 to 64 years in economic families	8.0	7.5	-0.5
Persons in female lone-parent families*	25.0	23.2	-1.8
Persons in male lone-parent families*	<i>unreliable</i>	<i>unreliable</i>	
Persons not in an economic family	32.5	30.6	-1.9
Males not in an economic family	32.4	27.3	-5.1
Females not in an economic family	32.5	33.7	1.2
Elderly persons not in an economic family	19.7	13.6	-6.1
Elderly males not in an economic family	21.5	11.4	-10.1
Elderly females not in an economic family	18.6	15.1	-3.5
Non-elderly persons not in an economic family	37.4	37.4	0
Non-elderly males not in an economic family	35.5	32.2	-3.3
Non-elderly females not in an economic family	39.7	43.0	3.3

<https://doi.org/10.25318/1110013601-eng> / <https://doi.org/10.25318/1110013501-eng>

Female subsets of several demographic groups saw increases, but year-over-year change should be considered in the context of broader trends. For example, while variable, gender disparities in non-elderly median after-tax income have not had visibly sustained growth either provincially or federally.



<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb11/en/tv.action?pid=1110019001>

Government Budgets

Both federal and provincial budgets identified a number of proposals related to employment, income supports, housing, homelessness, and related topics.

- Federal Budget 2021: “[A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience](#)”
- Provincial Budget 2021: “[A Stronger BC for Everyone](#)”

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives maintains a list of its own analysis on the federal budget, but also organizational responses such as the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Oxfam Canada, the Women’s National Housing & Homelessness Network, and many others:

- [CCPA 2021 Federal Budget Analysis](#)

This is in addition to investments at the municipal level related to poverty and social development (see, e.g. [Kelowna Council Priorities 2019-2022](#)).

BC’s 2022 provincial budget offered additional funding ([fiscal plan](#) / [website](#)) relevant to the KHRC’s core focus of homelessness (though it of course included other economic and non-economic supports of direct relevance to those experiencing poverty as well):

- \$35 million over three years for new and increased supports for young people in government care until the age of 27, including a new financial supplement, a no-limit earnings exemption, help

with the cost of housing, improved access to transition workers, enhanced life skills and mental-health programs, and better medical benefits.

- \$600-per-month rent supplements with integrated health and social supports that will help more than 3,000 people with low incomes access housing in the private market over the next three years.
- More than doubling the current number of community integration specialists to help people experiencing homelessness navigate government programs and available supports in communities throughout the province.
- \$164 million over three years to expand government’s complex-care housing program, to help B.C.’s most vulnerable people with complex health, mental health and substance-use challenges who may need a level of support that goes beyond what the current model of supportive housing can provide.
- \$264 million over three years for a permanent housing plan to ensure the approximately 3,000 people who were temporarily housed during the COVID-19 pandemic do not return to homelessness.
- New minimum shelter rate: A new minimum shelter allowance for people receiving income assistance or disability assistance will help people experiencing homelessness with incidental expenses. The minimum rate for a single person is \$75 per month.
- Tenant startup kits: To help people moving from homelessness into more stable housing, government will fund a provincial non-profit organization that will partner with local service providers to provide tenant startup kits.

Table 1.2.1 Support for Individuals Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness

(\$ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Youth Transitions Program	5	10	20	35
Homelessness Supports	94	37	39	170
Complex Care Housing	55	54	54	164
Permanent Housing Plan (COVID-19)	<u>230*</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>264</u>
Total	<u>384</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>633</u>

Note: Table may not sum due to rounding

*Includes Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies allocation

BUILDING A STRONGER B.C. WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND



Building a stronger society by putting people first

Services people rely on like health care, child care and housing have supported people through the pandemic and recent climate-related disasters. Budget 2022 builds on these strengths and holds steady to what is right: putting people first.

[Learn more](#)



Building a stronger environment for our future

Wildfires, floods and extreme heat, have challenged people and reinforced the need to secure a low-carbon future for B.C. Budget 2022 helps fight climate change, build back better from recent disasters, and make sure people and communities across B.C. are protected from future disasters.

[Learn more](#)



Building a stronger economy for everyone

We have a vision for B.C.'s economic future: an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for everyone. Budget 2022 helps ensure people throughout B.C. are poised to benefit from a growing economy, today and into the future.

[Learn more](#)

The federal 2022 budget is forthcoming later on in the Spring of 2022 (April 7th 2022).

- <https://globalnews.ca/news/8681073/canada-federal-budget-day-2022/>

Basic Income Panel & Associated Works on Poverty (2021)

In parallel to this work, BC appointed an expert panel to explore the idea of a basic income guarantee in British Columbia.

- **Final Report of the BC Expert Panel on Basic Income** https://bcbasicincomepanel.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final_Report_BC_Basic_Income_Panel.pdf

Their work concluded in December 2020. While the panel recommended against implementing a basic income or conducting a basic income pilot, the report offers 65 recommendations to improve B.C.'s social safety net (starting p.507 of the report, also listed in the [Executive Summary](#)). Categories of recommendations include:

- Reform Disability Assistance into a targeted basic income
- Reform Temporary Assistance to reduce the “welfare wall”

- Provide extended health-care benefits to all low-income individuals
- Provide housing support to all low-income renters
- Provide intensive work support to targeted groups
- Enhance support for low-income families with children
- Enhance financial and support services for young adults
- Enhance financial and support services for people fleeing violence
- Improve precarious employment through labour regulation reform
- Improve the way benefit delivery platforms function
- Make ongoing engagement a permanent part of all policies

The researchers’ mandate was to study basic income as a potential policy tool for poverty reduction, assessing its feasibility and its relation to existing income and social supports in BC. A series of independent research papers were posted in support of this work, including four articles categorized as being focused on Poverty in BC:

- [A Note on Single Adult Poverty in British Columbia](#) - David Green (University of British Columbia)
- [Defining and Describing Energy Poverty in British Columbia: The Distribution of Households’ Energy Expenditure](#) - Blake Shaffer & Jennifer Winter (University of Calgary)
- [Homelessness and Poverty in British Columbia](#) - Ron Kneebone (University of Calgary)
- [Poverty in British Columbia: Income Thresholds, Trends, Rates, and Depths of Poverty](#) - Gillian Petit & Lindsay M. Tedds (University of Calgary)

Other works treat related topics of Basic Income Design, Children, Finance, Gender, Housing, Labour, Programs / System, Reform, and Tax. In particular, note that in the process of collecting data, Lindsay Tedds and Gillian Petit collected comprehensive details on Income and Social Support Programs in B.C. These data were then organized into publicly accessibly [Sunburst Charts](#).

CMHA Housing Market Information Portal – Kelowna

In addition to a variety of information on rents and household characteristics, the CMHC [Housing Market Information Portal](#) offers detailed information on the percent of households in Core Housing Need in Kelowna.²

Kelowna — Age of Primary Household Maintainer (% of Households in Core Housing Need)							
	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+	TOTAL
Kelowna	16.6	11	9.4	8.5	9.3	11.2	10.2
Core Area	17	11.2	8.5	8.6	9.2	11.1	10.1
Rutland	16.3	10.6	11.3	8.4	9.3	11.5	10.4

² Per CMHC: “A household is in core housing need if its housing does not meet one or more standards for housing adequacy (repair), suitability (crowding), or affordability and if it would have to spend 30 per cent or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent (including utilities) of appropriately sized alternative local market housing. Adequate housing does not require any major repairs, according to residents. Suitable housing has enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households. Affordable housing costs less than 30 per cent of before-tax household income.”

Kelowna — Household Type (% of Households in Core Housing Need)							
	COUPLE- WITH- CHILDREN	COUPLE- WITHOUT- CHILDREN	TOTAL LONE- PARENT HOUSEHOLDS	MULTIPLE- FAMILY	TOTAL ONE- PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	OTHER NON- FAMILY	TOTAL
Kelowna	4	4.1	24.8	3.3	19.4	12.4	10.2
Core Area	3.7	3.8	24.2	2.7	19.6	12.9	10.1
Rutland	4.6	4.8	26.1	3.2	19	11.7	10.4

Income Data & Kelowna

Income data is available down to a CMA level for Kelowna, through the [2016 Census Data Tables](#) (recalling the 2021 Census data will be released throughout 2022), including the incidence across a range of census family and household types:

- Low-income Indicators (4), Individual Low-income Status (6), Age (14) and Census Family and Household Type Characteristics of Persons (31) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census - 100% Data [98-400-X2016124](#)

As with the earlier national overview, persons living alone had a high prevalence of low income, as did lone-parent households in accordance with the number of dependents. A majority (53.7%) of lone-parent census families with three or more children aged 0 to 17 years met the criteria of low income.

Kelowna CMA				
<i>Low-income indicators = Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT)</i>				
Census family and household type characteristics of persons	Low-income status - applicable	In low income	Not in low income	Prevalence of low income (%)
Total - Persons by census family characteristics including sex of lone parent	180120	22535	157590	12.5
Persons in census families	144925	14400	130530	9.9
Persons in couple census families	126915	9455	117460	7.4
Persons in lone-parent census families	18015	4940	13070	27.4
In a male lone-parent census family	3980	710	3270	17.8
In female lone-parent census family	14030	4230	9800	30.1
Persons not in census families	35200	8140	27060	23.1
Total - Persons by census family characteristics including number of children aged 0 to 17	180125	22535	157590	12.5
Persons in census families	144925	14400	130530	9.9
In a couple census family with children aged 0 to 17 years	55840	4950	50890	8.9
One child	18320	1370	16945	7.5

Kelowna CMA				
<i>Low-income indicators = Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT)</i>				
Census family and household type characteristics of persons	Low-income status - applicable	In low income	Not in low income	Prevalence of low income (%)
Two children	25825	2005	23820	7.8
Three or more children	11695	1570	10125	13.4
In a lone-parent census family with children aged 0 to 17 years	11310	3995	7315	35.3
One child	5655	1615	4040	28.6
Two children	4100	1545	2555	37.7
Three or more children	1555	835	720	53.7
Persons not in census families	35195	8140	27060	23.1
Persons living alone	20085	6035	14050	30
Persons living with other relatives	3660	475	3185	13
Persons living with non-relatives only	11455	1625	9830	14.2
Total - Persons by household type including census family structure	180120	22535	157590	12.5
Persons in one-census-family households without additional persons	126070	13185	112890	10.5
In a couple census family without other persons in the household	112340	8810	103530	7.8
In a lone-parent census family without other persons in the household	13735	4375	9355	31.9
Persons in other census-family households	23930	1615	22315	6.7
In a couple census family with other persons in the household	14575	645	13930	4.4
In a lone-parent census family with other persons in the household	4280	570	3710	13.3
Not in a census family, living with persons who are in a census family	5080	405	4675	8
Persons in two-or-more-person non-census-family households	10035	1700	8335	16.9
Persons living alone (one-person households)	20085	6035	14050	30

That information is also available across age brackets, with a relatively high level of detail:

- Low-income Indicators (4), Individual Low-income Status (6), Age (15), Sex (3) and Year (2) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data and 2016 Census - 100% Data [98-400-X2016126](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/98-400-x2016126)

Low-income rates tended to be higher among those under 25 (shown in the table below).

Kelowna CMA				
Low-income indicators = Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT)				
Age	Low-income status - applicable	In low income	Not in low income	Prevalence of low income (%)
Total - Age	180125	22535	157590	12.5
0 to 17 years	32245	4925	27315	15.3
0 to 5 years	9865	1575	8290	16
6 to 10 years	9260	1525	7730	16.5
11 to 17 years	13120	1820	11300	13.9
18 to 64 years	112890	13355	99530	11.8
18 to 24 years	15840	2425	13420	15.3
25 to 54 years	69430	7575	61860	10.9
25 to 34 years	22800	2610	20190	11.4
35 to 44 years	21175	2385	18780	11.3
45 to 54 years	25465	2580	22885	10.1
55 to 64 years	27615	3360	24255	12.2
65 years and over	34990	4255	30735	12.2
65 to 74 years	20315	2130	18185	10.5
75 years and over	14675	2120	12555	14.4

COVID & the Okanagan

The BC COVID-19 Speak survey offered detailed information on the various impacts of the pandemic on BC’s communities. The second round of the survey in 2021 provided expanded information on housing, education, employment, and other topics. Select items are shown below for the Okanagan region, again broken down by the available age categories to highlight the acute impact on youth.

- [BC COVID-19 SPEAK site](#)

A separate data scan specific to data relevant to youth precarity in the Okanagan will be available on our website in the Spring of 2022:

- [KHRC Community Reports and Summaries](#)

B.C. COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2	REGION: OKANAGAN						
	Age Category						
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Not working due to COVID-19	11.4	<i>Suppressed</i>	4.0	6.2	4.2	1.4	<i>Suppressed</i>
Work interruption	50.1	39.7	37.2	33.7	31.7	24.3	<i>Suppressed</i>
Financial stress - current	47.9	37.6	36.0	30.9	18.4	13.5	13.4
Financial stress - future	45.8	30.0	30.1	29.3	16.8	10.9	10.0

B.C. COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2	REGION: OKANAGAN						
	Age Category						
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Concern for food security	21.2	17.7	15.2	10.9	5.8	5.9	<i>Suppressed</i>
Housing insecure	10.7	6.3	5.3	5.0	2.9	2.2	<i>Suppressed</i>
Used financial relief services	72.5	61.1	52.4	43.7	38.7	28.3	32.6
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/bccdc/viz/BCCCOVID-19SPEAKSurveyRound2/BCCCOVID-19SPEAKresults							

Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis (2020)

In the context of the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy, and in preparation for a regionally focused wellness strategy, the [United Way – Southern Interior BC](#) had led a series of engagements to better understand – and ameliorate – the state of poverty within our community. With support from the Vancouver Foundation, United Way SIBC, the City of Kelowna and the District of Lake Country, and the Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee partnered with Urban Matters CCC to develop the [Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis](#) (January 2020).

Guided by data integrated from [Statistics Canada Census Data](#), [BC Stats](#), the [Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission](#), and the [Canadian Rental Housing Index](#), the Community Wellness Analysis is intended to build “an evidence base as a foundation to the development of a regional Wellness Strategy” (p.1). The listed objectives include:

- Provide an overall context to various interrelated systems, including housing, income, employment, food security, transportation, and access to education;
- Define affordability and other terms common within the community wellness and poverty reduction sphere;
- Provide as much comprehensive data as possible regarding the state of poverty in the Central Okanagan – including within Peachland, West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, Kelowna, Lake Country, Okanagan Indian Band, and Regional District of the Central Okanagan. As much as possible, the analysis will include trends and characteristics of wellness unique to each community;
- Tease out factors contributing to poverty (root causes); and
- Prioritise areas for evidence-based action.

Upcoming Developments

Poverty Reduction in the Central Okanagan

The United Way – Southern Interior BC has partnered with the Regional District of the Central Okanagan to undertake a series of consultations throughout 2021 in support of the [development of a Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy](#) (COPAWS). This will embed aspects of TogetherBC and build on the regional [Community Wellness Analysis](#) released in 2020.

March 2022 Update

- Strategy development work in ongoing, with the support of consultants at Urban Matters CCC. The [planned](#) final strategy release is May 2022.

Additional Data: Census 2021

[Census 2021](#) will add additional data to conversation around households and income, as well as novel insights with items such as [Veteran status](#). However, based on prior timelines, the data collected via Census 2021 may not be available until 2022.

March 2022 Update

- Census 2021 data will be released periodically throughout 2022 in accordance with the Statistics Canada [release schedule](#).