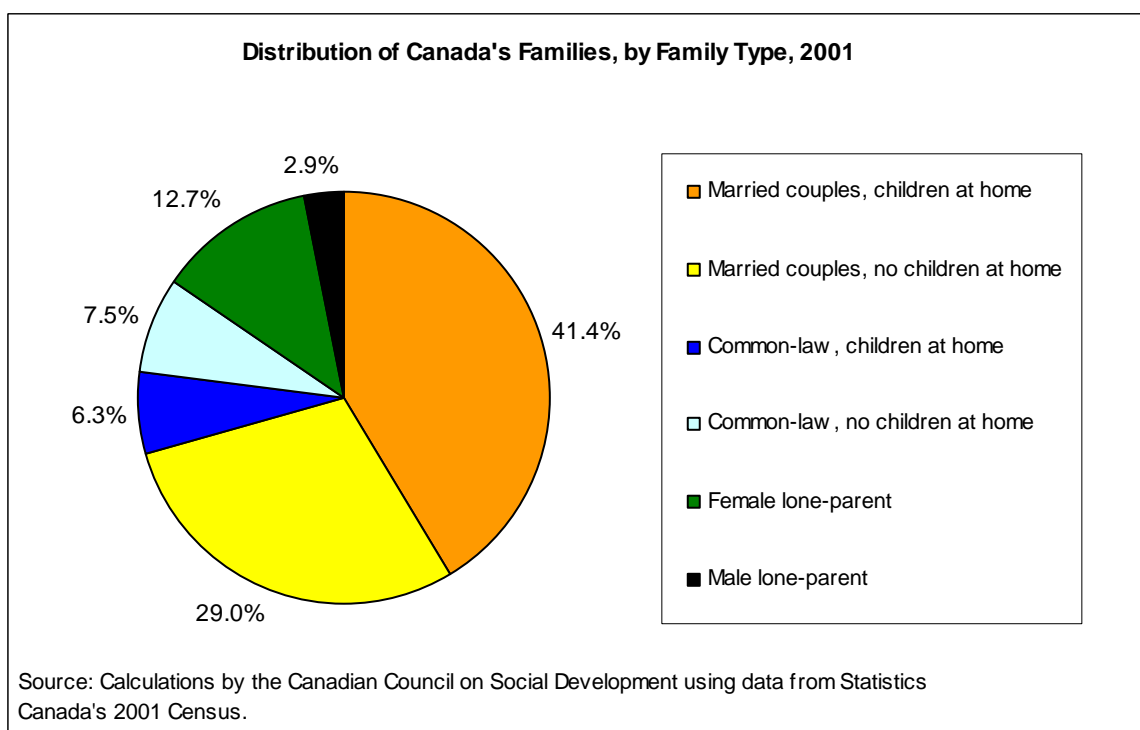


## A Profile of Canadian Families

### Families

- There were 8.4 million families in Canada in 2001.
- The majority of Canadian families are married households. In 2001, 70.4% of families were married couples, 13.8% were common-law relationships, and the remaining 15.6% were lone-parent families.
- Although married families are the most common family type in Canada, Quebec and the Northern Territories have a smaller percentage. In 2001, only 58.2% of families in Quebec were married families, while 25.2% were common-law. In the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, common-law families ranged from 23% to 31%, higher than the Canadian average of 13.8%.



- The size of Canadian families is decreasing. In 2001, average family size was 3.0 persons, down from 3.1 in 1991, and 3.7 in 1971. Nunavut had the largest average family size, at 4.4 persons.
- The number of families in Canada grew by 6.8% between 1996 and 2001. The largest proportional increase was among common-law families, which rose by 25.8%. Ontario and Prince Edward Island reported the largest increases in the number of common-law families, which grew by more than 30% over this five-year period.

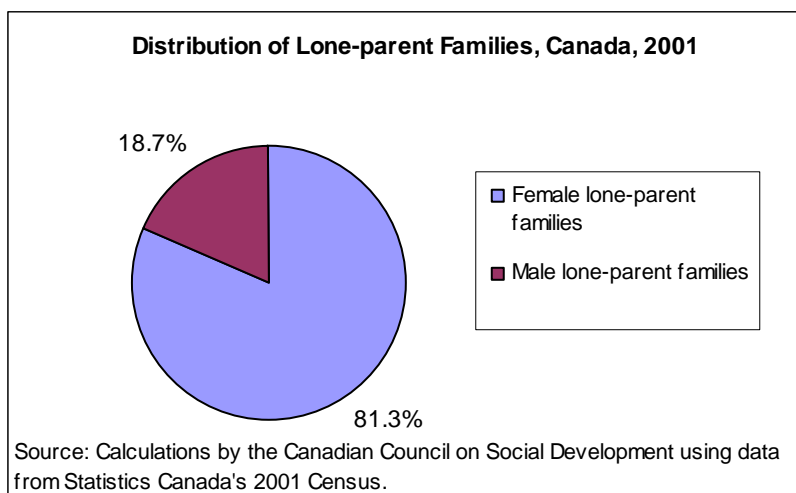
**Distribution of Canadian Families,  
by Family Type and Province/Territory, 2001**

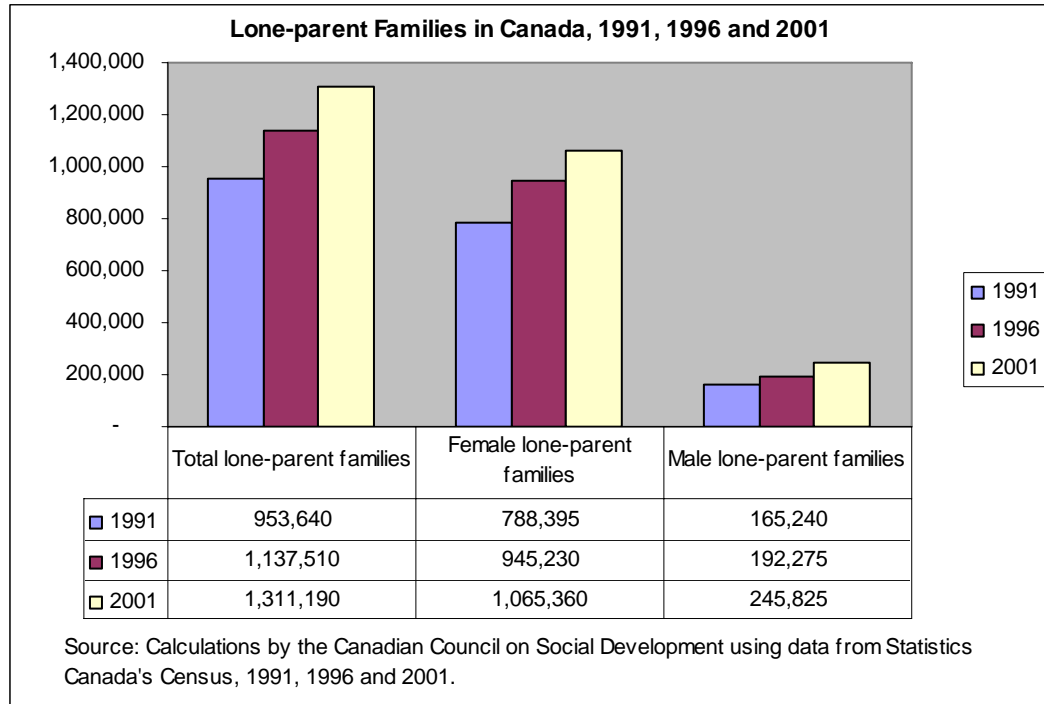
	<b>Married, children at home</b>	<b>Married, no children at home</b>	<b>Common-law, children at home</b>	<b>Common-law, no children at home</b>	<b>Female lone- parent</b>	<b>Male lone- parent</b>
Newfoundland & Labrador (NF & LB)	45.5%	29.9%	4.7%	5.0%	12.3%	2.7%
Prince Edward Island (PEI)	44.3%	29.9%	4.4%	5.0%	13.6%	2.7%
Nova Scotia (NS)	39.9%	31.9%	4.8%	6.6%	14.0%	2.8%
New Brunswick (NB)	40.1%	30.9%	6.0%	6.9%	13.1%	3.0%
Quebec (QC)	33.2%	25.0%	13.0%	12.2%	13.2%	3.4%
Ontario (ON)	46.1%	29.3%	3.9%	5.4%	12.6%	2.7%
Manitoba (MB)	42.7%	31.3%	4.4%	5.4%	13.2%	3.0%
Saskatchewan (SK)	40.8%	33.8%	4.5%	5.0%	12.9%	3.0%
Alberta (AB)	44.3%	29.8%	4.7%	6.9%	11.5%	2.9%
British Columbia (BC)	41.0%	32.4%	3.9%	7.1%	12.6%	2.9%
Yukon (YK)	33.9%	23.4%	11.1%	11.9%	15.7%	4.2%
Northwest Territories (NWT)	37.2%	15.6%	15.6%	10.8%	15.8%	5.2%
Nunavut (NV)	36.6%	6.4%	23.8%	7.4%	18.7%	7.0%
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census, Division Table 97F0005XCB01006.ivt.

## Lone-parent families

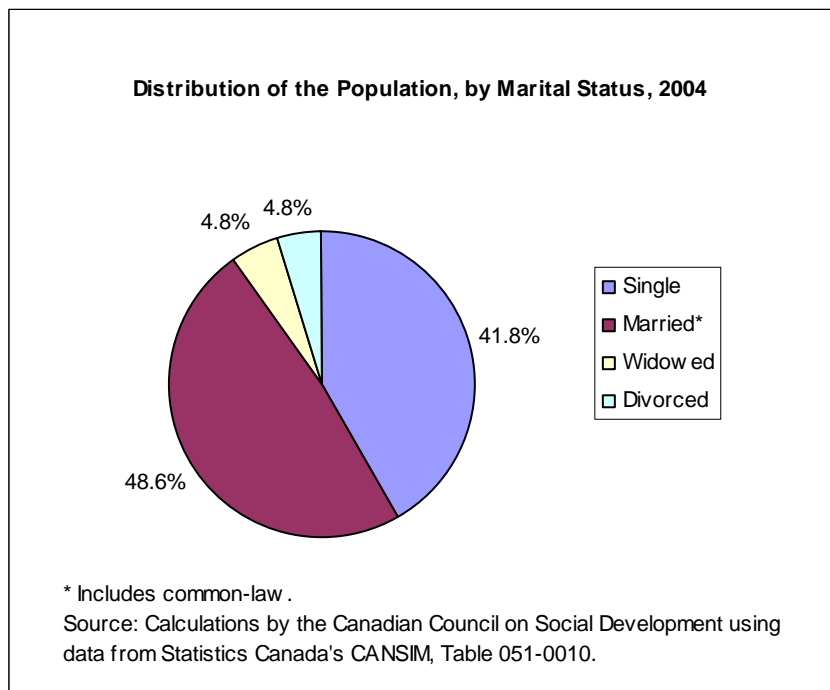
- There were 1.3 million lone-parent families in Canada in 2001. The majority of these families were headed by women (81.3%).
- Over the last decade, there has been a steady increase in the number of lone-parent families. Between 1991 and 2001, the number of male lone-parent families grew by 49%, while the number of female-lead lone-parent families rose by 35%.
- The Northwest Territories (21%) and Nunavut (25.7%) reported the highest percentage of lone-parent families in Canada in 2001.





## Marriage and Divorce

- In 2004, there were 146,377 marriages in Canada, a marginal decrease of 0.9% from the previous year. The number of marriages has been declining in recent years, with a drop of 6.0% recorded between 1999 and 2004.
- In 2004, 48.6% of the Canadian population were married, 41.8% were single, and the remainder (9.6%) were divorced or widowed. Nunavut had Canada's largest proportion of single people, at 62.8%, and Newfoundland had the lowest, at 38%.



- Canadians are continuing to marry later in life. The average age of brides in 2002 was 31.5 years. This was up by 2.2 years from 1991, and up 5.3 years from 1981. The average age of grooms in 2002 was 34 years, an increase of 2.2 years from 1991, and 5.2 years from 1981.
- The number of divorces in Canada has remained relatively stable over the last few years. In 2003, there were 70,828 divorces – up 1% over the previous year – largely due to increases in Ontario (+5.1%) and Quebec (+1.4%).
- Between 2002 and 2003, the divorce rate in Canada increased by only 0.7%. Most provinces and territories recorded a drop in their divorce rates, the exceptions being Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Ontario, which reported increases of 2.1% over this period. New Brunswick and Saskatchewan reported marginal increases of 0.4% and 0.3%, respectively.

Divorces in Canada and the Provinces/Territories						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change 2000 - 2003	% Change 2002 - 2003
NF & LB	913	755	842	662	-27.5%	-21.4%
PEI	272	246	258	281	3.3%	8.9%
NS	2,054	1,945	1,990	1,907	-7.2%	-4.2%
NB	1,717	1,570	1,461	1,450	-15.6%	-0.8%
QC	17,054	17,094	16,499	16,738	-1.9%	1.4%
ON	26,148	26,516	26,170	27,513	5.2%	5.1%
MB	2,430	2,480	2,396	2,352	-3.2%	-1.8%
SK	2,194	1,955	1,959	1,992	-9.2%	1.7%
AB	8,176	8,252	8,291	7,960	-2.6%	-4.0%
BC	10,017	10,115	10,125	9,820	-2.0%	-3.0%
YK	68	91	90	87	27.9%	-3.3%
NWT	94	83	68	62	-34.0%	-8.8%
NV	7	8	6	4	-42.9%	-33.3%
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>71,444</b>	<b>71,110</b>	<b>70,155</b>	<b>70,828</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's *The Daily*, May 4, 2004.

## Child Care

- In 2003/04, there were 745,254 regulated child care spaces across Canada. This was an increase of 151,824 spaces from 2001, and 373,741 more spaces than in 1992. Of these 745,254 spaces, 48% were centre-based full-day and part-day care for preschool-aged children, 34.1% were child care spaces for school-aged children, and the remaining 17.9% were regulated family care spaces.
- In 2003/04, there were only enough regulated child care spaces to accommodate 15.5% of Canadian children aged 0 to 12. This was, however, an improvement over 2001, when there were regulated spaces for only 12.1% of Canadian children, and an increase over 1992, when there were spaces for only 7.5% of children. Among the provinces and territories, the percentage of children aged 0 to 12 for whom there was a regulated space available ranged from a low of 4.9% in Saskatchewan to a high of 29.9% in Quebec.
- Between 2001 and 2003/04, 151,824 new child care spaces were created and of those, 87,000 spaces – or 57.3% – were generated in Quebec. In fact, by 2003/04, 43% of all regulated child care spaces in Canada were in Quebec, up from 40% in 2001.
- Between 1992 and 2004, the percentage of children for whom there was a regulated space increased in all provinces and territories except Alberta. Quebec reported the greatest increase over this period (at 23.1%), while Alberta saw a decline of 0.4%. In five of the provinces, the increase was less than 5%.

In November 2004, the CCSD organized the “Child Care for a Change” conference in Winnipeg, in cooperation with Social Development Canada, the Government of Manitoba, and Status of Women Canada. Over three days, 650 participants from across Canada discussed, debated and shared their expertise on the latest developments in child care policy.

Highlights from the Conference proceedings and workshop sessions are available on the Council’s website at [www.ccsd.ca/subsites/childcare/](http://www.ccsd.ca/subsites/childcare/), along with a special issue of the CCSD’s *Perception* magazine, which focussed on quality child care and early learning.

**Estimated Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces, by Type of Care,  
Canada & Provinces/Territories, 2003/04**

	Centre-based full- and part-day child care for preschool-aged children	School-aged child care	Regulated family child care	Total regulated spaces	Per cent of children 0-12 for whom there is a regulated child care space
NF & LB	4,103	578	240 1	4,921	6.8%
PEI	3,365 2	695	40	4,100 2	18.9% 2
NS	12,600 3	n/a	159	12,759	9.6%
NB	11,747 3	n/a	150	11,897	11.0%
QC 4	97,711	141,977 5	82,044	321,732	29.9%
ON	124,292	62,613	19,838	206,743	10.7%
MB	15,299	6,126	4,209	25,634	14.3%
SK 4	4,666	874	2,370	7,910	4.9%
AB	41,405	17,767	6,554	47,959 (65,726) 6	9.3% (12.7%) 6
BC	39,769	23,089	17,372	80,230	13.7%
YK 4	743	243	383	1,369	29.2%
NWT	802	161	256	1,219	13.1%
NV	919	95	n/a	1,014	11.6%
<b>CANADA</b>	357,421	254,218	133,615	745,254	15.5%
	48.0%	34.1%	17.9%	100%	

Source: Childcare Resource and Research Unit. *Early Childhood Education in Canada 2003/04*.

**Notes:**

(1) Includes individually licensed and agency approved settings.

(2) For the purpose of comparison with other provinces, the figure 1,266 part-day spaces (excluding part-day kindergarten spaces) has been used in calculations.

(3) This figure includes school-aged child care, as breakdown is not available.

(4) Nursery schools (part-time) are not regulated in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Yukon, so are not included in these figures.

(5) School-aged child care for children 5-12 is the responsibility of the ministry of education (MEQ).

(6) School-aged child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For purposes of comparison with previous years, 2003/04 figure for Alberta uses the number of spaces without school-aged care; the figure including school-aged care appears in brackets. However, the figure including school-aged spaces has been used in the total spaces calculations and total percentage calculations in this table.

n/a - not available

**Estimated Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces, Canada & Provinces/Territories, 1992 to 2004**

	1992	1995	1998	2001	2003/04	% Change 1992 to 2003/04
NF & LB	3,568	4,202	4,275	4,226	4,921	37.9%
PEI	4,123	3,888	3,717	4,270	4,100	-0.6%
NS	10,826	10,645	11,163	11,464	12,759	17.9%
NB	7,162	7,952	9,204	11,086	11,897	66.1%
QC	78,388	111,452	175,002	234,905	321,732	310.4%
ON	145,545	147,853	167,090	173,135	206,743	42.0%
MB	18,977	18,846	20,490	23,022	25,634	35.1%
SK	6,418	7,266	7,124	7,166	7,910	23.2%
AB	51,656	51,088	47,033	47,693	47,959 (65,726) *	-7.2% (27.2%) *
BC	42,927	59,794	68,978	72,949	80,230	86.9%
YK	1,020	1,060	1,307	1,348	1,369	34.2%
NWT	963	1,286	1,351	1,234	1,219	26.6%
NV	n/a	n/a	n/a	932	1,014	n/a
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>371,573</b>	<b>425,332</b>	<b>516,734</b>	<b>593,430</b>	<b>745,254</b>	<b>100.6%</b>

Source: Childcare Resource and Research Unit. *Early Childhood Education in Canada 2003/04*.

Note:

\*School-aged child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For purposes of comparison with previous years, the 2003/04 figure for Alberta uses the number of spaces without school-aged care; the figure including school-aged care appears in brackets. However, the figure including school-aged spaces has been used in the total spaces calculations and total percentage calculations in this table.

n/a - not available

## Mothers in the Paid Labour Force

- In 2003, almost 72% of Canadian mothers with children under age 16 were in the labour force working either full- or part-time. Over the last decade, the percentage of mothers in the workforce has increased steadily, particularly among women with children under age 3. In 1993, 55.1% of women with children under 3 were employed, and by 2003, this had climbed to 63.4%.
- Overall, women with preschool-aged children are less likely to be employed than those with school-aged children. In 2003, 65.6% of women with children under age 6 were employed, compared with 76.5% of women with children aged 6 to 15.

**Percentage of Mothers who are Employed, by Age of Youngest Child, 1993 to 2003**

	Youngest child under age 3	Youngest child aged 3 to 5	Youngest child under age 6	Youngest child aged 6 to 15	Youngest child under age 16	Mothers under age 55, no children under age 16 living at home
1993	55.1%	59.8%	56.9%	68.7%	62.8%	71.6%
1994	56.2%	59.4%	57.5%	68.7%	63.1%	72.0%
1995	56.7%	60.7%	58.3%	70.0%	64.2%	72.9%
1996	58.4%	60.8%	59.4%	70.0%	64.8%	72.3%
1997	59.2%	52.4%	60.6%	71.3%	66.2%	73.4%
1998	59.9%	64.2%	61.7%	72.3%	67.3%	74.8%
1999	60.7%	66.3%	63.1%	73.6%	68.7%	76.0%
2000	60.9%	67.8%	63.8%	74.5%	69.5%	76.3%
2001	62.0%	67.4%	64.2%	75.3%	70.3%	76.7%
2002	62.4%	68.4%	64.9%	76.9%	71.5%	77.5%
2003	63.4%	68.8%	65.6%	76.5%	71.7%	78.5%

Source: Statistics Canada. *Women in Canada: Work Chapter Updates, 2003.*

- Female lone-parents are less likely than women in two-parent families to be employed. In 2003, 67.9% of female lone-parents with children under age 16 living at home were employed, compared with 72.3% of mothers in two-parent families with children in the same age group.

## The Costs of Raising Children

- Based on estimates from the economics section of Manitoba Agriculture, the cost of raising a daughter to age 18 in 2004 was an average of \$166,549. For boys, the figure was slightly higher – at \$166,972 – due to extra costs for food.
- Raising a child can be an expensive undertaking, with the first year being the most expensive. In 2004, over \$10,000 was needed to raise a child to age one. Parents spent the least amount of money – close to \$7,000 – when their children reached age 12. Expenses for both boys and girls then began to rise again as they entered their teenaged years.

***The Progress of Canada's Children and Youth 2006*** is the latest edition in this highly acclaimed series of CCSD reports which explore different aspects in the lives of Canada's young people. Using information from a vast number of databases, *Progress* examines trends in family life, economic security, physical safety, community resources, health status, social engagement, learning, and the labour force (April 2006). Check the CCSD's website (www.ccsd.ca) for updates.



**The Cost of Raising a Girl to age 18, 2004**

Age	Food	Clothing	Health care	Personal care	Recreation, Rrading, gifts, school needs	Transportation	Child care (employed lone-parent)	Shelter, furnishings, household operations	TOTAL
Infant	\$1,507	\$1,720	\$141	0	0	0	\$4,568	\$2,157	\$10,093
1	\$804	\$488	\$141	\$112	\$571	0	\$6,200	\$2,294	\$10,610
2	\$866	\$537	\$141	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,256	\$9,683
3	\$866	\$537	\$224	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$9,728
4	\$1,156	\$558	\$224	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$10,039
5	\$1,156	\$558	\$224	\$112	\$648	\$75	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$10,191
6	\$1,156	\$521	\$224	\$109	\$729	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$8,837
7	\$1,351	\$521	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,282
8	\$1,351	\$521	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,282
9	\$1,351	\$540	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,301
10	\$1,578	\$540	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,528
11	\$1,578	\$540	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,528
12	\$1,578	\$1,060	\$260	\$339	\$950	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$6,914
13	\$1,711	\$1,060	\$260	\$339	\$950	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,047
14	\$1,711	\$1,060	\$260	\$339	\$962	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,059
15	\$1,711	\$1,099	\$260	\$426	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,355
16	\$1,639	\$1,099	\$260	\$426	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,283
17	\$1,639	\$1,099	\$260	\$426	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,283
18	\$1,639	\$1,099	\$260	\$426	\$1,348	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,499
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,349</b>	<b>\$15,159</b>	<b>\$4,265</b>	<b>\$3,935</b>	<b>\$16,161</b>	<b>\$4,094</b>	<b>\$54,397</b>	<b>\$42,189</b>	<b>\$166,549</b>

Source: Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, 2004.

**The Cost of Raising a Boy to age 18, 2004**

Age	Food	Clothing	Health care	Personal care	Recreation, Rrading, gifts, school needs	Transportation	Child care (employed lone-parent)	Shelter, furnishings, household operations	TOTAL
Infant	\$1,507	\$1,720	\$141	0	0	0	\$4,568	\$2,157	\$10,093
1	\$804	\$399	\$141	\$112	\$571	0	\$6,200	\$2,294	\$10,521
2	\$866	\$386	\$141	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,256	\$9,532
3	\$866	\$386	\$224	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$9,577
4	\$1,156	\$386	\$224	\$112	\$571	0	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$9,867
5	\$1,156	\$386	\$224	\$112	\$648	\$75	\$5,200	\$2,218	\$10,019
6	\$1,156	\$465	\$224	\$112	\$729	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$8,784
7	\$1,423	\$465	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,298
8	\$1,423	\$465	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,298
9	\$1,423	\$493	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,326
10	\$1,732	\$493	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,635
11	\$1,732	\$493	\$224	\$109	\$979	\$75	\$3,805	\$2,218	\$9,635
12	\$1,732	\$915	\$260	\$202	\$950	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$6,786
13	\$2,025	\$915	\$260	\$202	\$950	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,079
14	\$2,025	\$915	\$260	\$202	\$962	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,091
15	\$2,025	\$866	\$260	\$295	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,305
16	\$2,357	\$866	\$260	\$295	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,637
17	\$2,357	\$866	\$260	\$295	\$1,132	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,637
18	\$2,357	\$866	\$260	\$295	\$1,348	\$509	0	\$2,218	\$7,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,120</b>	<b>\$12,745</b>	<b>\$4,265</b>	<b>\$3,001</b>	<b>\$16,161</b>	<b>\$4,094</b>	<b>\$54,397</b>	<b>\$42,189</b>	<b>\$166,972</b>

Source: Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, 2004.

The **Canadian Council on Social Development** (CCSD) is one of Canada's most authoritative voices promoting better social and economic security for all Canadians. A national, self-supporting organization, the Council's main product is information and its main activity is research focusing on issues such as child well-being, economic security, poverty, cultural diversity, government social policies, and much more.

For a wealth of information on issues related to Canada's social safety net, visit our website at [www.ccsd.ca](http://www.ccsd.ca).

This and other fact sheets are available on our **Stats & Facts** subsite at [www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/](http://www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/).