



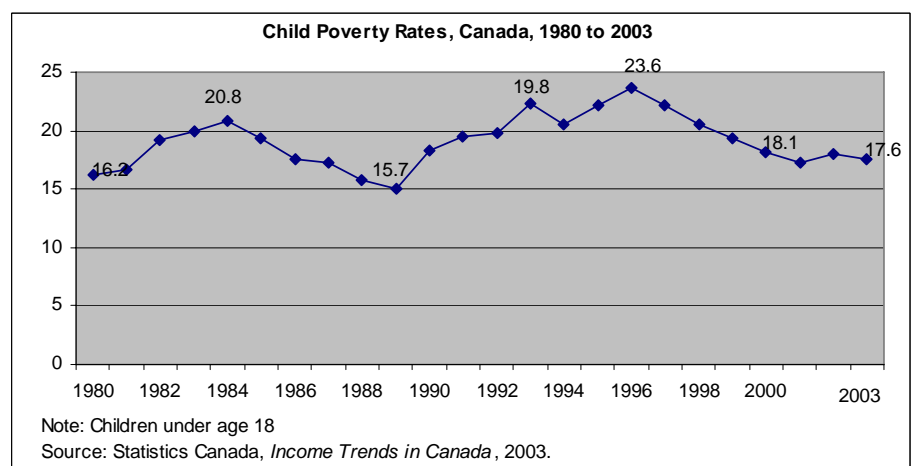
Economic security refers to an assured standard of living that provides families with the resources necessary to participate economically, politically, socially, culturally and with dignity in their community's activities. Family income directly affects children's living conditions, their opportunities to participate in school and community activities, and ultimately, their sense of well-being. While many other factors can influence healthy child development, family income is recognized as one of the key determinants.

Family Income

- Between 1993 and 2003, the gap between families with the highest incomes and those with the lowest incomes grew.
- Over the decade, the pre-tax income of the wealthiest 10% of families with children rose by 35%. For the poorest 10% of families, their average annual income rose by only 7%.
- Changes in the labour market have affected incomes at the low end of the scale. Precarious forms of employment are rising with more temporary work, part-time, contract, and seasonal jobs. Today, these non-standard forms of employment make up 37% of all jobs, compared to 25% in the mid-1970s.

Child Poverty

- In 2003, almost 18% of Canadian children under age 18 were poor – or 1,207,000 children.
- Across the country, child poverty rates ranged from 11.3% in Prince Edward Island to 23.9% in British Columbia in 2003.
- The situation would have been much worse without government transfers. Without that investment, the child poverty rate would have been 27%, and with transfers, 628,000 children avoided living in poverty in 2003.

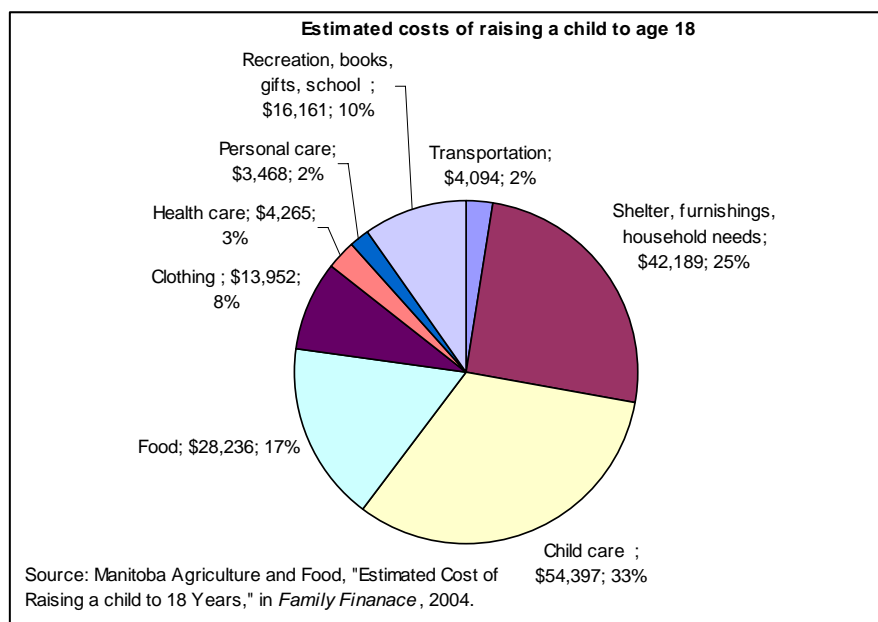




- Female lone-parent families have the highest poverty rates. Children in lone-parent families have a poverty rate 4½ times that of children in two-parent families.
- Almost one-third of poor children in 2003 had at least one family member who worked full-time for the entire year.
- Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 had a poverty rate of 37% in 2001, compared to 19% among non-Aboriginal youth.
- 42% of immigrant children under age 15 were poor in 2001, compared to 17% of Canadian-born children.
- For children with activity limitations, the poverty rate dropped by 23% between 1996 and 2001, and among Aboriginal children, by 21%.

Costs of Raising a Child

- In 2004, it cost approximately \$166,762 to raise a child from birth to age 18.



For more detailed information on the CCSD's *Progress of Canada's Children and Youth* project, visit our website at www.ccsd.ca/pccy/2006.