

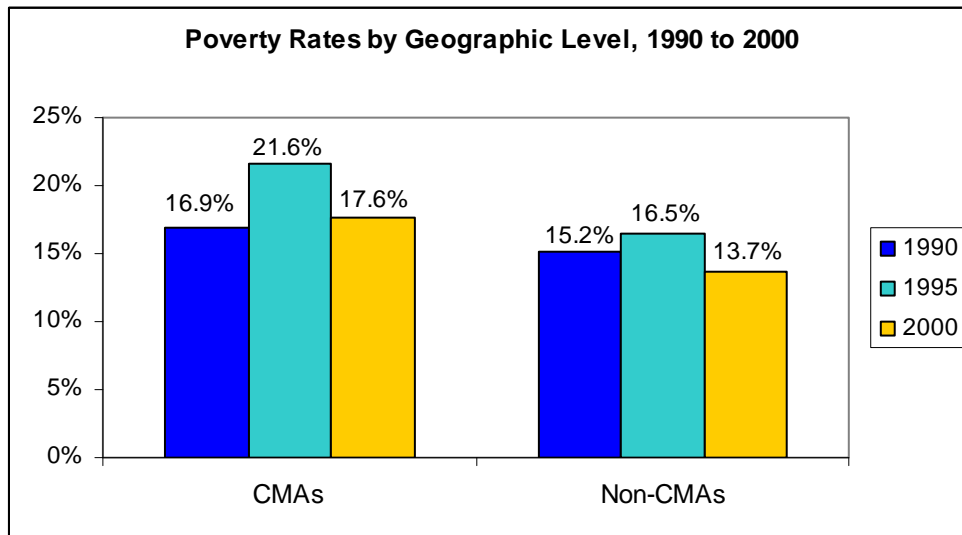
Urban Poverty in Canada: Place Matters

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Place Matters

The decade between 1990 and 2000 set poverty patterns that continue to play out in Canada's urban and suburban areas. Here are some facts:

- In terms of numbers, poverty is largely an urban problem in Canada, with a disproportionate number of poor people living in Canada's large urban areas or Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). In 2000, 64% of the population lived in CMAs, but they were home to 70% of the poor population. (p. 11)
- The number of poor people living in CMAs grew at a faster rate than the total population in these areas. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of poor grew by 19%, while the overall population living in CMAs grew by just under 15%. (p. 12)
- By 2000, over half a million more poor people lived in CMAs than a decade earlier. That's more than the population of the cities of St. John's, Halifax and Saint John combined. (p.10)



Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census, custom tabulations.

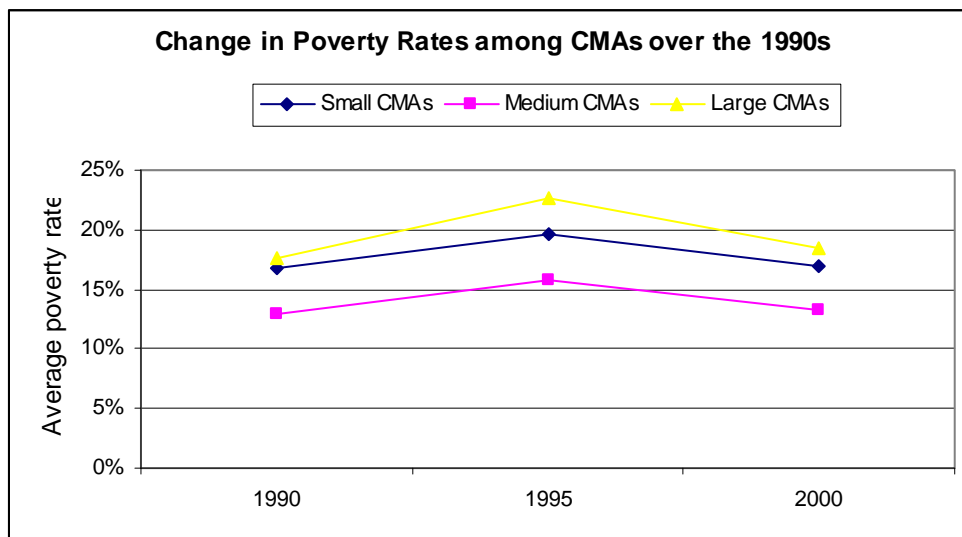


Urban Poverty in Canada

Place Matters (continued)

Large Urban Areas:

- The largest CMAs (those with populations of 500,000+) generally had higher poverty rates and a larger share of the poor population. In 2000, the average poverty rate among large CMAs was about 18%; it was 13% in medium-sized CMAs (with populations of 250,000 to 500,000), and 17% among small CMAs (those with populations under 250,000). (p. 19)



Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census, custom tabulations.

- The CMA of Montréal had the highest poverty rate throughout the 1990s, beginning and ending the decade with a poverty rate of 22%. (p. 15)
- Oshawa had the lowest poverty rate among CMAs. It began and ended the decade with a poverty rate of just over 9%. (p. 15)
- Windsor, Ontario was the only medium-sized CMA to lower its poverty rate over the decade, from 15% in 1990 to a poverty rate of 13% by 2000. (p. 15)
- Sherbrooke was the only small CMA to end the decade with a lower rate of poverty than it had at the beginning – almost 20% in 1990 and 19% in 2000. (p. 15)

Urban Poverty in Canada

Place Matters (continued)

Poverty Rates and Ranking for CMAs, 1990 to 2000				
From highest poverty rate (#25) to lowest (#1)				
CMA	1990		2000	
	% Poor	Ranking	% Poor	Ranking
Montréal	22.2	25	22.2	25
Winnipeg	20.7	24	19.2	22
Trois-Rivières	20.3	23	19.8	23
Sherbrooke	19.9	22	18.5	20
Edmonton	19.4	21	16.2	13
Saskatoon	18.9	20	18.0	19
Québec	18.7	19	18.9	21
Vancouver	17.9	18	20.8	24
Calgary	17.7	17	14.1	6
Saint John	17.3	16	17.8	18
St. John's	16.3	15	17.4	17
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	15.9	14	16.4	14
Regina	15.9	13	15.5	11
Hamilton	15.5	12	16.7	16
Toronto	15.0	11	16.7	15
Ottawa-Hull	14.6	10	15.0	9
Windsor	14.6	9	13.2	3
Halifax	14.1	8	15.5	12
London	13.6	7	15.1	10
Greater Sudbury	13.5	6	14.9	8
Victoria	13.5	5	14.4	7
St. Catharines-Niagara	12.8	4	13.2	4
Thunder Bay	12.1	3	14.1	5
Kitchener	11.7	2	11.3	2
Oshawa	9.2	1	9.4	1

Source: Prepared by the CCSD using data from Statistics Canada's Censuses for 1991, 1996 and 2001, custom tabulations.

The Urban Poverty Project

These facts have been compiled from the report, *A Lost Decade: Urban Poverty in Canada 1990 to 2000*, the second product in the CCSD's *Urban Poverty Project* series. Want more information about certain statistics? Most of the data here are referenced to a page number in the report. The entire document – as well as an extensive glossary and definitions of census geographies – can be found at <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/>.



Urban Poverty in Canada

Place Matters (continued)

Large Cities:

- Between 1990 and 2000, the overall population in Canada's 44 largest cities (or CSDs) grew by almost 13%. At the same time, the number of poor people living in those CSDs grew by 18% – a population roughly the size of the cities of Saint John, Sudbury and Regina combined. (p. 13)
- Oakville, Ontario (located within the CMA of Toronto) consistently had the lowest rate of poverty among CSDs throughout the decade. It recorded a poverty rate of almost 7% in 1990, which rose to 8% by 2000. In general, cities in southern Ontario had the lowest poverty rates across the country. (p. 23)
- The recession of the early 1990s affected poverty rates in all Canadian cities, causing them to spike mid-decade. By 2000, the rates in some cities had returned to their 1990 levels; however, other cities ended the decade with considerably higher rates. In Coquitlam, poverty rates climbed from 14% in 1990 to 21% by 2000; in Richmond, poverty rates rose from 15% to 24%; and in Burnaby, they grew from 19% to 26% by the end of the decade. (p. 25)
- Between 1990 and 2000, the poverty rate for the city of Toronto rose from 19% to 23%. In the neighbouring CSDs, poverty rates also increased: from 8% to 13% in Markham over the decade, from 9% to 11% in Brampton, and from 11% to 13% in Mississauga. (p. 25)
- The Calgary-Edmonton Corridor had a lower proportion of poor people than many other parts of the country. In Calgary, the poverty rate dropped from about 18% in 1990 to 15% in 2000. And in Edmonton, the rate decreased from 23% to 20% by 2000. (p. 25)
- But for the poor who were living in the Calgary-Edmonton Corridor, the depth of poverty worsened over the decade. For example, the use of food banks in this area was 28% higher in 2000 than it had been in 1993. (p. 29)
- Only one-quarter of poor urban residents live in areas outside of the large cities – that is, in the remainder of CMAs – but the poor population in these suburban areas grew at a faster rate over the decade than the population in the large cities (CSDs) themselves. (p. 10)
Is this the beginning of the suburbanization of poverty?

More Facts:

The CCSD supports community and social development with reliable data and analyses. Visit our **Stats and Facts** page on the CCSD website for more free information on demographics, education, health and more. Visit www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/index.htm.