

## Neighbourhood Poverty, 1995 to 2000

Just as poverty rates vary within and between large urban areas, poverty rates also vary at the neighbourhood level. As in the United States, studies in Canada have documented a long-term trend since the 1970s towards the urbanization of poverty, accompanied by a greater concentration of poor households within cities.

While the neighbourhood concentration of poverty increased through the early 1990s, the period from 1995 to 2000 saw a decrease in the number of high poverty neighbourhoods, as many areas of Canada began to recover from the 1991-92 recession. The pattern of recovery varied among large urban areas. Tracking neighbourhood poverty in future years will be important to see if these gains are sustained.

- In 1995, one of every 10 CMA residents lived in a very high poverty neighbourhood. By 2000, that was true for one in 20 CMA residents. There were about 800,000 fewer people living in very high poverty neighbourhoods in 2000 compared to 1995. (p. 41)
- Despite that decline, many people lived in very high poverty neighbourhoods. In 2000, more than one million poor people lived in 295 very high poverty neighbourhoods in Canada. (p. 41)
- In 1995, every large urban area (CMA) in Canada had very high poverty neighbourhoods – except St. Catharines-Niagara. By 2000, four CMAs had no high poverty neighbourhoods: St. Catharines-Niagara, Kitchener, Oshawa and Calgary. (p. 41)
- In 1995, one in five Montréalers lived in a very high poverty neighbourhood. By 2000, that was true of one in eight residents of Montréal. (p. 42)

**“High”** poverty neighbourhoods are census tracts in which 30-39.9% of the population lives below the LICO. **“Very high”** poverty neighbourhoods are those in which 40% or more of the population lives below the LICO. (p. 41)





# Urban Poverty in Canada

## Neighbourhood Poverty (continued)

### 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, definitions of census geographies, and other reports in this UPP series – can be found at <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/>.

- CMAs with high neighbourhood poverty rates had relatively high concentrations of poverty as well. In 2000, roughly one in six poor people (15%) living in Canada's large urban areas lived in a high poverty neighbourhood, a drop from one in four poor people (24%) in 1995.
- In 2000, more than one in five poor people lived in very high poverty neighbourhoods in the CMAs of Saint John, Montréal, Québec, Hamilton, Regina, and Winnipeg. (p. 42)
- In 1995, Montréal had the highest concentration of poverty, with almost 41% of its poor population living in very high poverty neighbourhoods. By 2000, that figure had dropped to less than 27%. (p. 43)
- In 2000, the CMA of Saint John had the highest proportion of its poor population living in very high poverty neighbourhoods – more than 27%. (p. 43)
- In Regina and Windsor, a higher proportion of the poor lived in very high poverty neighbourhoods in 2000 than in 1995. (p. 42)

**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](http://www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/index.htm).