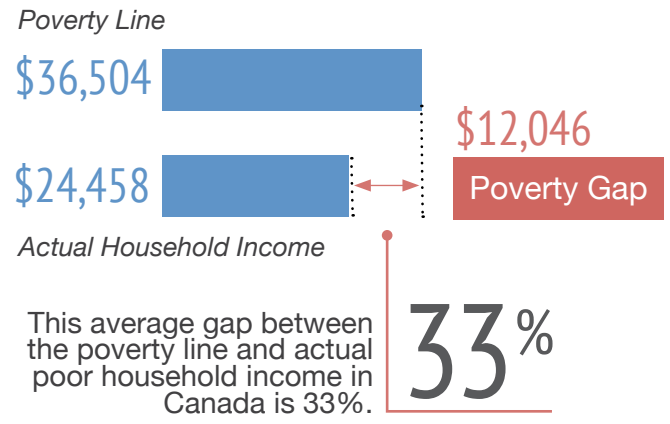


The Poor Are Very Poor

The average poverty gap (i.e. the difference between the poverty line and actual household income, expressed as a percentage of the poverty line) is 33 per cent. Low-income families are living on incomes that are only two-thirds of the poverty line.

The poverty line for a family of four living in Vancouver is \$36,504, but the average poor family lives on only \$24,458 per year. This amounts to \$2,038 per month to cover rent and utilities, put food on the table, pay for transportation, buy clothing, and purchase other basic needs.

Today's average poverty gap is the same as in 1981.



See pages 6-7 for information about the poverty line.

A Job Doesn't Guarantee Freedom from Poverty

Forty-four per cent of poor households in Canada had at least one person working in 2011. This can partly be attributed to the rise in precarious, low-wage employment. Temporary employment continues to increase, while high-quality full-time jobs are becoming increasingly scarce.



per cent of poor households in which at least one person works.

For more information, see CPJ's "Labour Market Trends" report, available at www.cpj.ca/labour-market-trends-report

Example:

Susan works 25 hours a week at a grocery store in Ontario. She earns minimum wage (\$10.25/hr) and receives no benefits. Her net monthly income after deductions is \$1,008, putting her well below the poverty line.



Wage: \$10.25/hr
Net income: \$1,008/mo
Poverty line: \$1,361/mo
Gap: \$353/mo