

Poverty among Lone-Parent Families on the Rise

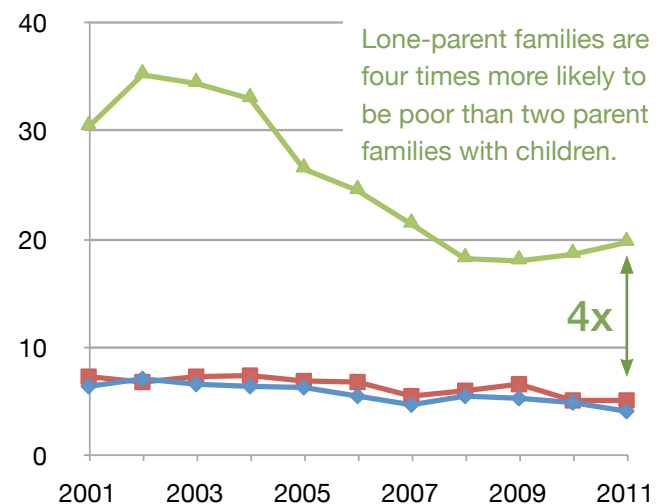
Lone-parent families continue to struggle and have experienced a rise in poverty since the 2008–09 recession.

In 2011, 19.7 per cent of lone-parent families lived in poverty, compared to 18.6 per cent in 2010. This represents 35,000 more parents and children living in poverty.

Lone-parent families are nearly four times more likely to be poor than two-parent families with children. Although our current income security programs help, they are inadequate at lifting some families out of poverty.

Eighty-nine per cent of poor lone-parent families are female-led.

Poverty rate among working-age families, by family type, 2001-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 202-0804 Persons in low income, by economic family type, annual

● Couple families (no children) ■ Two-parent families with children ▲ Lone-parent families

Here's What We Need To Do

1. Implement a comprehensive federal plan to eliminate poverty in Canada, as called for by all-party committees of both the House of Commons and Senate.
2. Strengthen income security programs for poor, single, working-age adults:
 - Expand the reach and benefit levels of the Working Income Tax Benefit so anyone working full-time is above the poverty line.
 - Invest in the creation of high-quality jobs.
 - Raise the federal minimum wage.
 - Evaluate a Guaranteed Livable Income through a federally-funded pilot project.
3. Protect and further the gains made against children's and seniors' poverty:
 - Raise the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) to a maximum of \$5,400 (indexed to inflation) per child for low-income families.
 - Reverse the decision to increase the eligibility age for Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from 65 to 67, and ensure that benefits are set to ensure no seniors live in poverty.
4. Invest in other important supports for low-income people, such as housing and affordable childcare.