One in six Ontario children live in poverty.\(^1\)

The rate of poverty is 50% higher for aboriginal children, children of colour, and children of female single-parents.\(^2\)

47% of new immigrant children live in poverty.\(^3\)

*Chen is a statistical representation of the poorest kids living in Ontario.

Chen is 9.
He immigrated with his mother from China.

His father isn’t in his life. They live in public housing.

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- The rate of poverty is 50% higher for aboriginal children, children of colour, and children of female single-parents.\(^2\)
- 47% of new immigrant children live in poverty.\(^3\)

Chen’s mother works nights in a factory.

She’s asleep on school mornings. Chen has to get breakfast for himself, but often he can’t find anything to eat.

- In low-income neighbourhoods, as many as 68% of kids come to school without eating.\(^4\)
- In families that use food banks, 77% of their income goes to rent.\(^5\)
- Students in schools with a Student Nutrition Program perform 9-16% higher in EQAO tests in reading, writing and math.\(^6\)

Chen would benefit from a breakfast program and ESL training at his school.

Access to resources can affect his ability to succeed in school.

- Child poverty accounts for 21% of the risk of poor school performance.\(^7\)
- Students in families that earn less than $30,000 a year score 20-30% lower on grade 3 EQAO math and literacy tests than kids in families that earn more than $100,000 a year. The gap widens in grade 6.\(^8\)
- 50% of Ontario students who drop out of high school live in families earning less than $30,000 a year.\(^9\)
- Ontario plans to triple Parenting and Family Literacy Centres to 300 across the province.\(^10\)

REFERENCES


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REFERENCES

POVERTY IN CANADA

The chances of being impoverished... are not set by a lottery-like mechanism, in which everyone’s number has the same odds of coming up.

- Ontario Association of Food Banks, “The Cost of Poverty”

These Canadians are more likely than others to live in poverty:

- children
- unattached non-elderly
- lone parents
- Aboriginal Canadians
- recent immigrants
- people with disabilities
- seniors

PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS: Had to sleep in the street or a shelter Received help from a food bank or charity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Street Shelter (%)</th>
<th>Food Bank or Charity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba/Saskatchewan</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children in Poverty:

Where does Canada stand?

Survey: What’s the cause of poverty in Canada?

- 51% “Circumstances beyond the control of the poor.”
- 11% Respondent unsure
- 37% “People aren’t doing enough to help themselves”

REFERENCES

4. Why Poverty? tvo.org/whypoverty