



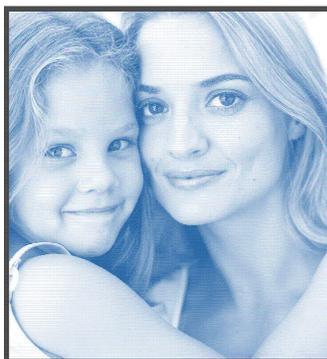
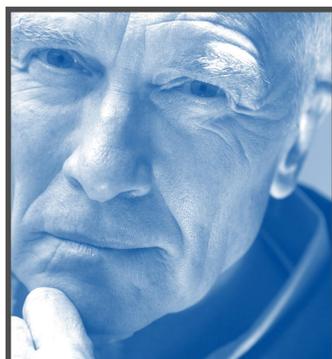
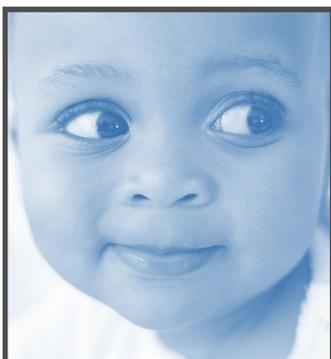
tracking the **TRENDS**

Social Health in Edmonton

2007 Edition

An  publication

Edmonton
Social Planning Council



Tracking the Trends: Social Health in Edmonton 2007 Edition

Other editions:

2002 The Cost of Healthy Living
2000 The Cost of Healthy Living
1995 Mental Health
1994 Youth
1993 Aboriginal People
1991 Immigrants
1990 Families with Children
1989 Youth and Seniors

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Preface

TRACKING THE TRENDS: *Social Health in Edmonton*, provides a comprehensive picture of many aspects of Edmonton's overall social health.

The 2007 edition of *Tracking the Trends* presents many new data variables on social and economic trends and provides more detailed analysis than previous editions. It also includes an updated Social Health Index, which is a means of measuring and tracking the overall level of social health in Edmonton over time. Other than population counts, data for the 2006 Census is not yet available. We will be including this data in future editions.

To allow for more focused and detailed analysis of the social and economic data presented, we have divided the trends into six major categories:

- ♦ **Demographics** - captures population growth, immigration and population diversity.
- ♦ **Education and Employment** - captures levels of education achievement and employment status of the population.
- ♦ **Cost of Living and Housing Trends** - captures the costs of basic necessities, such as food and housing, as well as the housing status of the population.
- ♦ **Income and Wealth** - captures the changing values of the incomes and net worth of individuals and families.
- ♦ **Poverty** - captures the prevalence of low incomes and some measures of extreme poverty.
- ♦ **Income Supports** - captures the investments made by governments towards improving financial security and the impact of those investments on low-income families.

Presented together, these trends give us a clearer picture of the social changes taking place in Edmonton. They also afford a better understanding of the segments of the population who are at a disadvantage or marginalized in some way.

Research on the social determinants of health tells us that all of these social factors impact people's health and well-being. The consequences of inequality are far-reaching, with implications not only for disadvantaged individuals, but also their communities and their city, not to mention the costs to all levels of government.

Decisions that impact the citizens of Edmonton must be informed by social trends in order to be effective in the long-term.

We are pleased to present this ninth edition of *Tracking the Trends*, a long-overdue update of social and economic data critical to sound decision-making. We hope that decision-makers, social policy planners, researchers and the general public will find this document useful in broadening their understanding of the social trends in the Edmonton Region.

Acknowledgements

Preparing this edition would not have been possible without the ongoing partnership and support of the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

We are also grateful to the many organizations who contributed data to be published in this volume. Any errors or omissions are strictly ours.

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Introduction

Why Track the Trends?

Whether planning programs and services, or developing policies, timely, accurate information is critical. Likewise, an understanding of the historical context of social issues is critical to the development of effective strategies for positive social change.

Presenting data in a central source permits us to see the trends in the context of many other social changes occurring simultaneously. For example, that the Consumer Price Index and average rents have risen steadily, while welfare rates have fallen.

Most Canadian publications present data at the national or provincial level. *Tracking the Trends* data focuses primarily on the Edmonton metropolitan region.

A Tool for Decision-Makers

As a planner, policy maker or analyst, this collection of data provides a clearer understanding of the present and historical social conditions in Edmonton. This information can provide the background necessary to make informed decisions, and even the insight needed to anticipate future changes.

We encourage readers to use *Tracking the Trends* to assess how well governments are fulfilling their role in ensuring that its citizens have the support they need to maintain a decent standard of living.

A Tool for Social Organizations and Researchers

Much like decision-makers, the work of organizations involved in social development activities must be informed by the current and historical social contexts. The information in *Tracking the Trends* may prove useful for program planning, organizational strategy-building, as well as any other community development activities.

Students and researchers will also benefit from this rich and unified source of data to inform their research projects, which can penetrate the issues in much greater detail. Our hope is that such research will further inform social policy development.

A Tool for the Public

Public awareness is critical to improving the social inclusiveness of our communities. A better understanding of the challenges and inequities that our fellow citizens face can inform the way we think of and treat each other. Regardless of our socioeconomic backgrounds, we all share this city and region, and have an interest in its healthy future.

Identifying the Trends

A key addition to this edition of *Tracking the Trends* is *the TREND* markers - symbols indicating how the situation has changed for each data set presented. Of course, social trends can be positive or negative, or both, depending upon the factors involved - external

factors, such as economic growth, or factors internal to government, such as policy effectiveness.

Throughout the document, the following four markers will be used:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ↑ | positive trend / situation improving |
| ↓ | negative trend / situation worsening |
| ◆ | no discernable trend / situation stable |
| ◻ | mixed trend / potential positive and negative aspects |

Part 1

Major Social and Economic Trends

In any community, public policy, social health and economic well-being are intricately linked. Still, there is disagreement on how these factors influence each other and on how to use public policy and social programs to bring about social change.

The following section presents graphs, tables and analysis on social and economic trends in the Edmonton area. Some data show us what it costs to live, such as the Consumer Price Index and average rents. Other data show our capacity to earn an income and maintain a decent standard of living.

Labour force participation and minimum wage tell us something about what percentage of the population is working and how much employers are paying for labour. Welfare rates reflect the standard of living for those outside the labour market. Low-income data represents the proportion of the population that live on incomes that are insufficient to cover the costs of living.

The data presented in this section of *Tracking the Trends* will help to answer the following questions:

- ♦ How is Edmonton's population changing?
- ♦ Have opportunities to make a living increased?
- ♦ How has the cost of living changed?
- ♦ Have Edmontonians' abilities to afford the cost of living changed?
- ♦ Has social equality improved?
- ♦ What groups within the population experience inequities, and how deep are the inequities they experience?
- ♦ Are disadvantaged people receiving the support they need to improve their situations?

Section A

Demographics

Why are Demographic Trends Important?

At the most basic level, population is an important variable to be able to plan for future services. Knowing how many people live within the boundaries of a given area is key. Understanding the basic composition of that population is also critical.

Demographic Signals, Planning Challenges

The age profile and cultural composition of a city, for example, has significant consequences for the types of programs, services and policies needed.

In the case of Edmonton, consistent with most developed nations, the population is aging due to a combination of a lower birth rate and higher life expectancy. This trend should signal to planners that plans must be formulated to deal with the present and future challenges that accompany an aging population. The growing seniors population means

plans must be made in advance to avoid a system overload when the projections become reality.

An aging population also means potential shrinking of the labour force. As a result, immigration is a major source of population growth, and a key avenue of augmenting the existing labour pool - as we have seen in the current economic boom.

However, there are many challenges that accompany welcoming new immigrants to the city, particularly in terms of integration into communities. Immigrants are often at an economic and social disadvantage, and need additional support to feel welcome and valued, and become fully active citizens.

Another significant trend is that Edmonton's Aboriginal population is significantly younger, and growing more rapidly, than the general population.



the TREND: ↑ population size and diversity increasing

How is Edmonton Changing?

Edmonton's population has grown at a rate above the Canadian average for most of the past quarter-century. This can be primarily attributed to the employment opportunities in Alberta, particularly in periods of accelerated economic growth. In concordance with the current boom, the city's rate of growth is approaching the pace of the late 70's and early 80's.

Age Profile

The city's population is also aging, though at a rate below the national average. It appears that immigration is helping to slow population aging.

Diversity

The City of Edmonton is trying to attract more highly skilled immigrants. As a result, we expect that the diversity of Edmonton's population, predominantly of European and North American origin, will increase significantly.

Despite the strong economy, fewer immigrants have settled in Edmonton relative to other similar-sized Canadian cities - in Alberta, Calgary continues to attract a greater number of immigrants.

The number of foreign workers was up 41% in the first six months of 2006 in Alberta, compared to just 8% in Edmonton. ⁽⁵⁾

Population *City of Edmonton and Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ■ population increasing rapidly

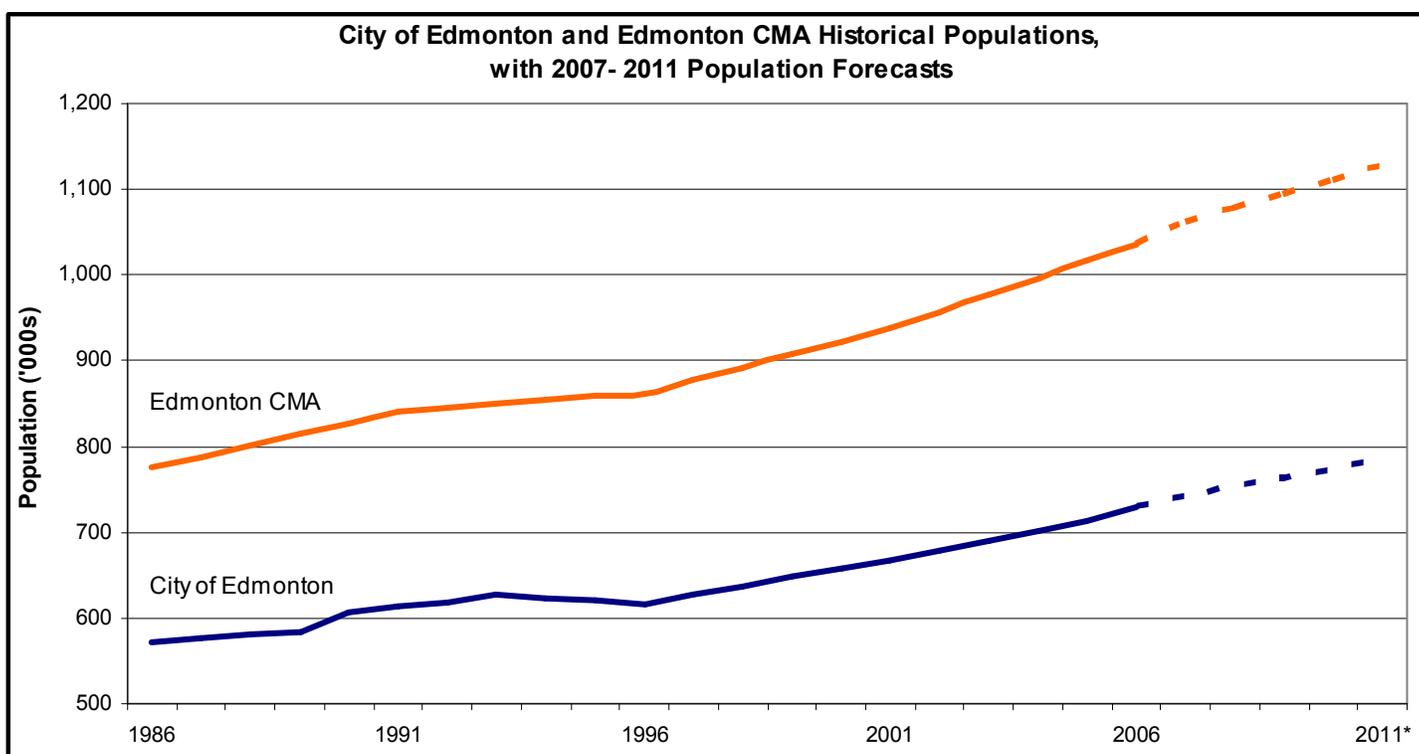
In 2006, 1,035,000 people lived in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Approximately 30% of the CMA population lived outside of the City of Edmonton proper.

The rates of growth in both the City and the CMA have varied over the past two decades.

- ◆ 1991 through 1996 was the slowest period of growth over this time period.
- ◆ The past five years represent the most rapid growth period, due to the economic boom driven by the recent record prices for oil and natural gas.

Over the past few decades, the CMA experienced a higher rate of growth than the City of Edmonton.

- ◆ Over this time period, the CMA population grew by almost 34%, while the city proper grew 28%.
- ◆ City forecasters predict continued rapid growth for both the City and the CMA over the next five years.



Source: City of Edmonton (1) & (2)

** See Appendix A, Table 1 to view the data table for this graph.

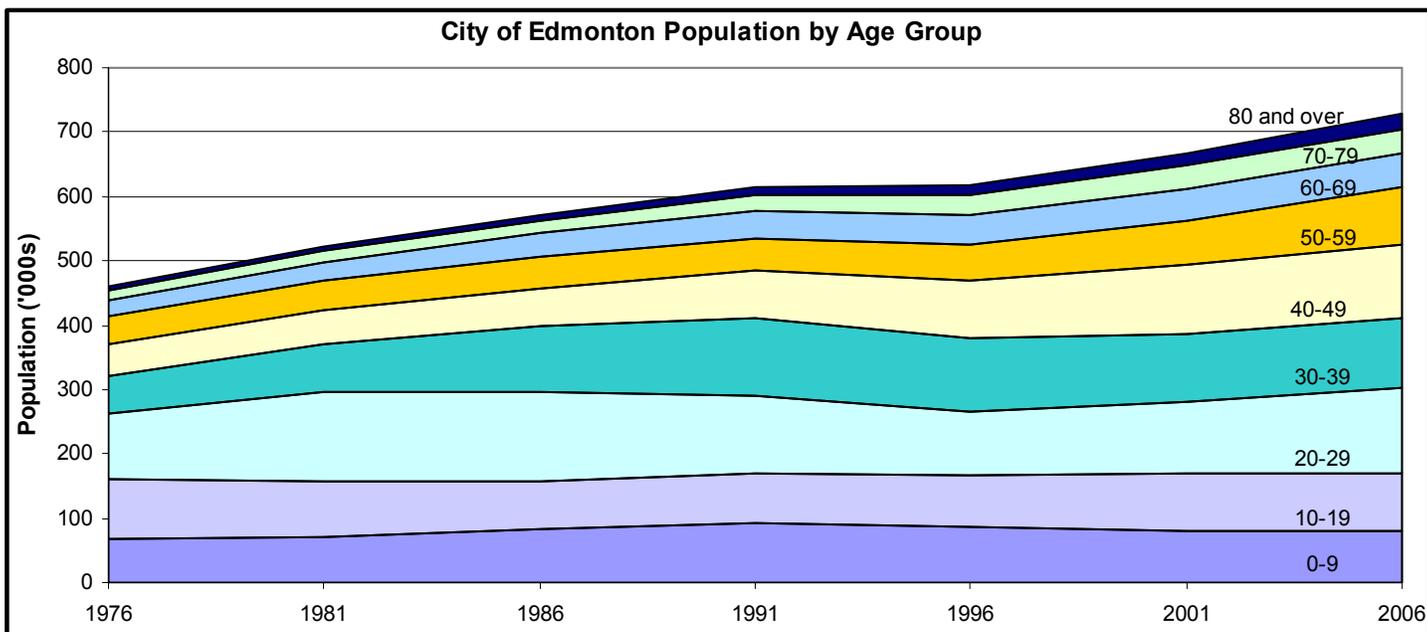
Population by Age Group

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ■ population aging

Based on the population forecast for 2006:

- Edmonton's population increased by approximately 56% over the past three decades, by 17% over the past ten years, and by 8% between 2001 and 2006.
- After a brief plateau between 1991 and 1996, the population growth rate has been approximately 8% every five years (just under 2% per year).



Source: City of Edmonton (3)

** See Appendix A, Table 2 to view the data table for this graph.

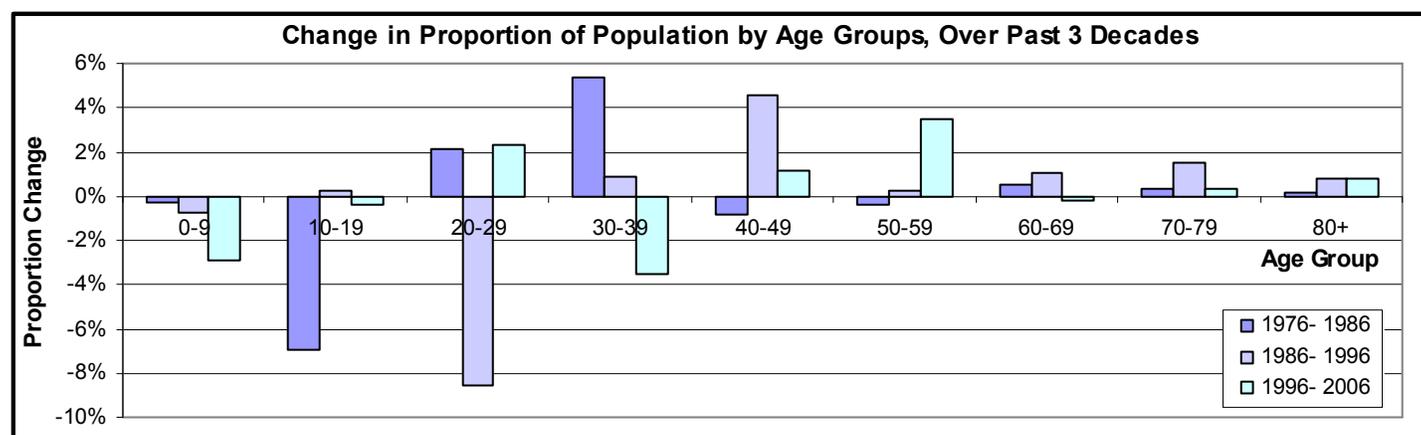
Population Change by Age Group

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ aging of population slowing

Over the past three decades, the population aged 30 and over increased as a proportion of the total population, while the younger age groups decreased.

- The greatest proportional increase occurred in the 40-49 age group, while the greatest overall decrease occurred in the 10-19 group.
- In the past decade however, the 50-59 age group experienced the greatest increase. In contrast to previous decades, the 30-39 age group decreased and the 20-29 group increased.



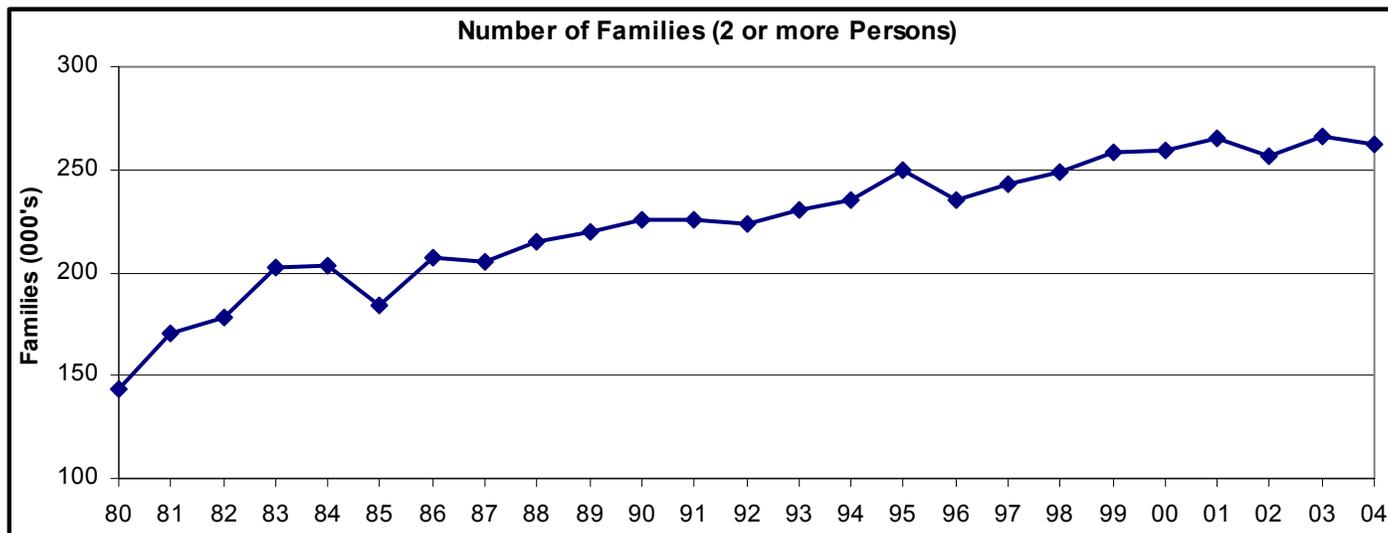
Families

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ■ family units increasing rapidly

As expected, the number of families in Edmonton has increased in tandem with the population.

- ◆ There were 83% more families in 2004 than there were in 1980.
- ◆ This is a slightly faster rate of growth than observed in the population, suggesting that there are now more family units with fewer people per family, on average.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix A, Table 3 to view the data table for this graph.

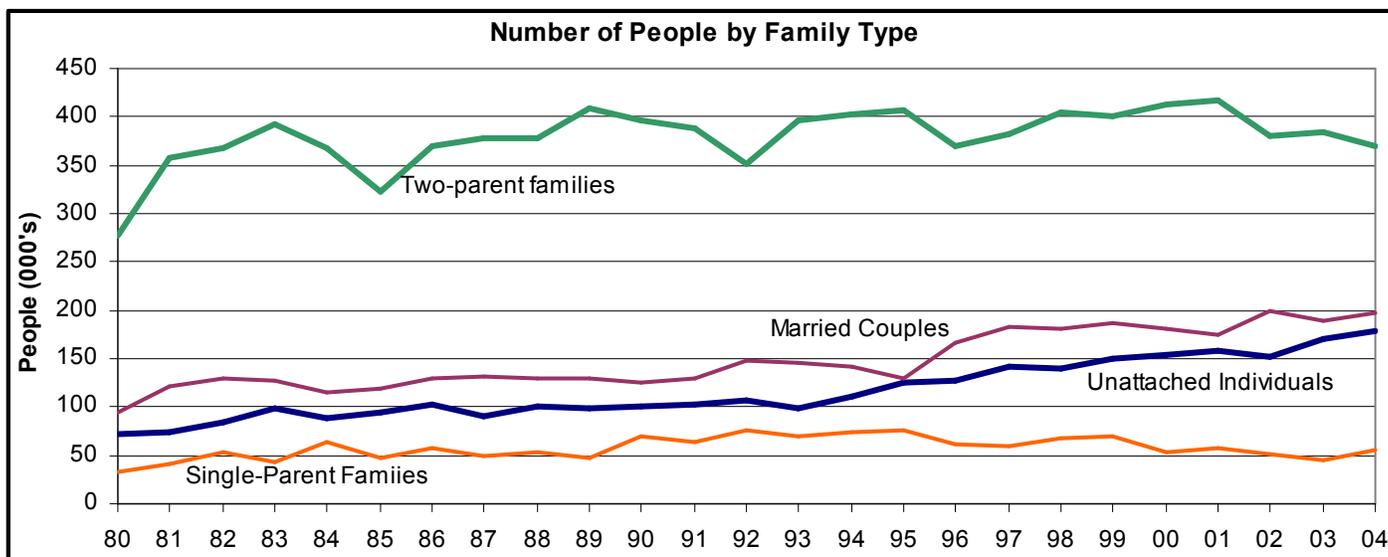
Family Types

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ■ Family units without children increasing most rapidly

The growth in different family types corresponds with the trend of an aging population, namely fewer children.

- ◆ Families with children - both two-parent and lone-parent - increased the least (33% and 67%, respectively).
- ◆ Families without children - married couples and individuals - more than doubled (147% and 110%, respectively).
- ◆ The number of elderly persons, not included in graph below, more than quadrupled (438%)!



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix A, Table 3 to view the data table for this graph.

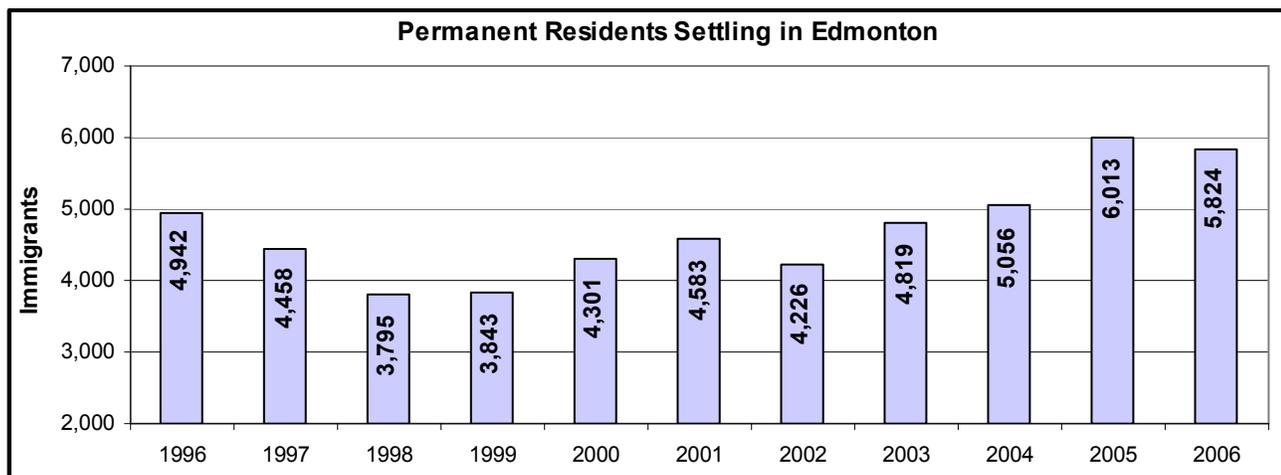
Immigrants, Permanent Settlement

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ immigrant and refugee settlement increasing

Immigrants to Edmonton accounted for approximately 2% of all immigrants entering Canada each year. The number of permanent immigrants settling in Edmonton fluctuates, but has increased fairly steadily over the past five years.

- The number of permanent residents was 22% higher in 2005 than in 1996.
- This trend will likely continue, as the economy has attracted many people to the province.



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (4) and (5)

** 2006 figure estimated based on number of permanent settlements during first half of 2006 (2,912).

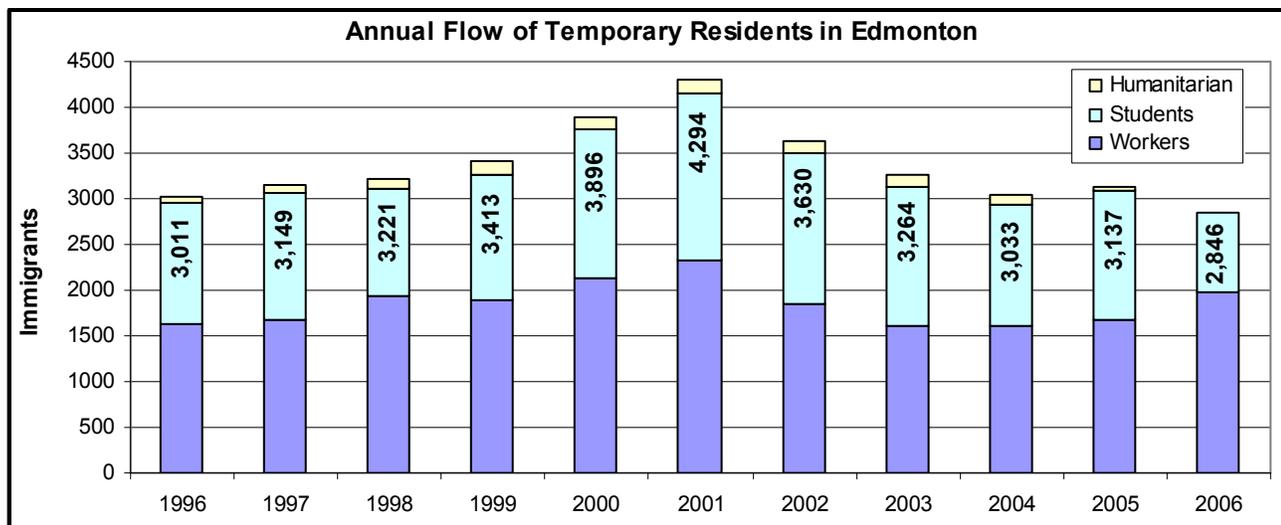
Temporary Residents

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ temporary settlement increasing slightly

The number of new temporary residents arriving in Edmonton peaked in 2001. With the recent policy changes and labour shortages, the number of foreign workers is expected to rise in the coming years.

- Typically, half of the temporary residents in Edmonton have come to work (between 49 and 60%).
- Many foreign students are also drawn to Edmonton (between 37% and 47% of temporary residents).
- Temporary residents classified as humanitarian cases are less common in Edmonton (between 1.5% and 4.5%).



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (4) and (5)

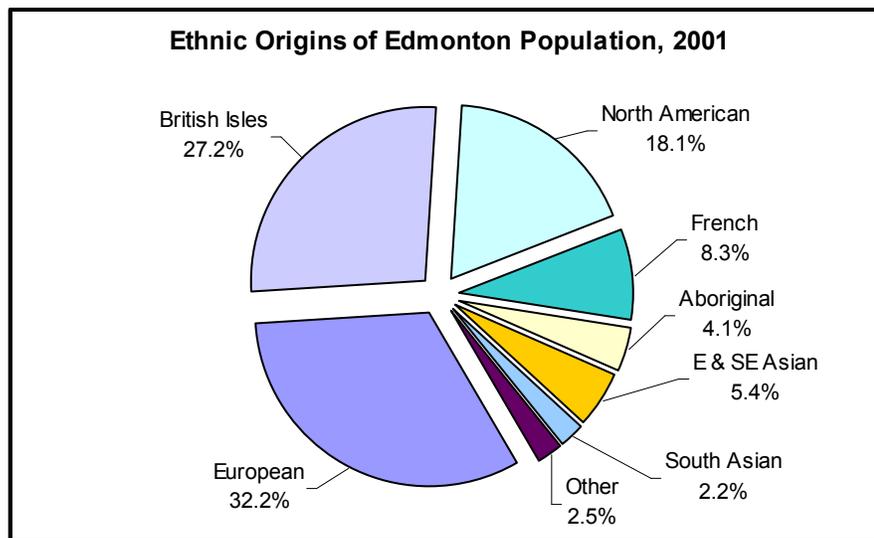
** 2006 figure estimated based on flow of workers (990) and students (433) during first half of 2006, humanitarian residents not included.

Ethnic Origin *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ♦ increased diversity expected

In 2001, Edmonton's population had predominantly European and North American origins. (This includes people reporting multiple origins.)

- ♦ Almost half (47%) people in the Edmonton CMA reported having multiple ethnic origins.
- ♦ 41,000 Edmontonians reported Aboriginal origins, second highest among Canadian CMAs (after Winnipeg).
- ♦ Most people reporting non-European/North American origins were from Asian countries.
- ♦ With the 31% increase in permanent residents settling in Edmonton annually between 2001 and 2005, the 2006 census data will likely reflect increasing diversity.
- ♦ Most new immigrants to Canada are arriving from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.



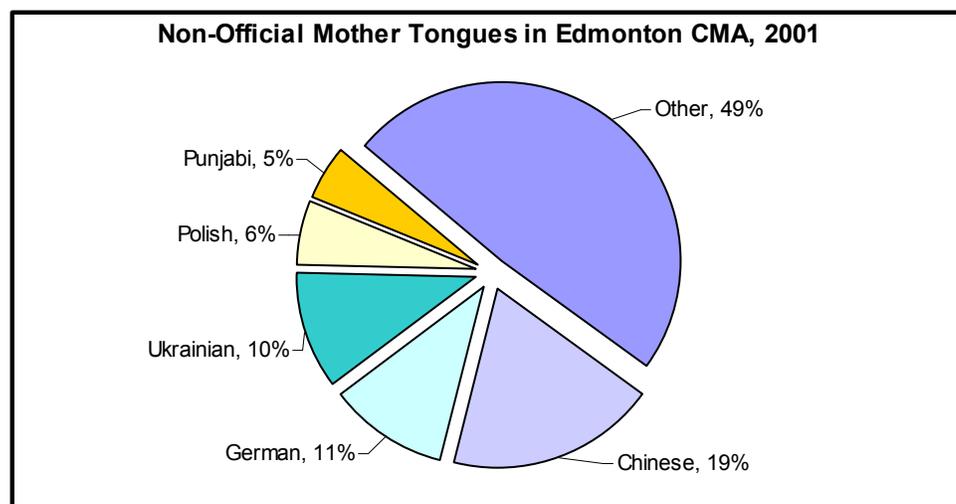
Source: Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (6)

Mother Tongue *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ♦ increased diversity expected

Most people in the Edmonton CMA (78%) spoke English only in 2001.

- ♦ Few (2%) reported a French mother tongue. However, 8% spoke both English and French.
- ♦ Just under one-in-five people (19%) reported non-official languages as their mother tongues.



Source: Statistics Canada (7)

Section B

Education and Employment

Why are Education Trends Important?

One of the key goals of education is to produce responsible and productive citizens for the future.

Education is a determinant of future career options and lifetime earning potential, particularly as the economy becomes increasingly knowledge-based. Higher education also provides some protection against economic fluctuations - more highly educated individuals are less likely to become unemployed in the event of an economic downturn. Earnings for university graduates are significantly higher than high school graduates. People with post-secondary degrees are also more likely to receive significant income increases over their working years. ⁽⁸⁾

Why are Employment Trends Important?

Employment measures serve as indicators of a population's ability to support itself through paid work. The higher unemployment rises, the more people will need financial support to maintain a decent standard of living. Times of high unemployment also challenge government and business to find opportunities to stimulate job growth.

Times of low unemployment are not without challenges either. For example, working families often face difficulties maintaining a balance between their work and family roles, and may face difficulties securing adequate child care, etc. These situations also require informed program and policy planning.



the TREND: ↑ **education trends consistently improving**
employment trends improving, in step with economic growth

How is Edmonton Changing?

In general, Edmontonians are benefiting from the strong economic situation in the province. They also appear to be investing more in their education, likely a response to the increasing prevalence of high-skilled and knowledge-based jobs.

Education

Edmonton's population has become more highly educated, both in terms of high school completion and post-secondary educational attainment.

Employment

Economic growth has been strong over the past decade - employment has increased as a result of that growth.

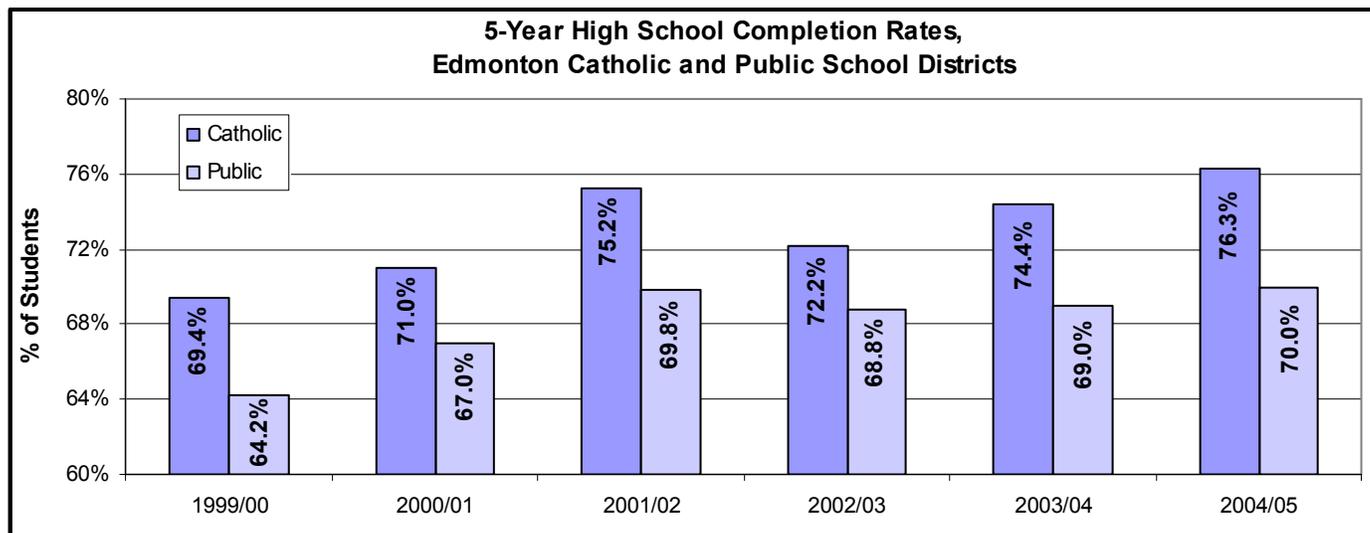
However, some groups have historically tended to be, and continue to be, at a greater risk of unemployment. While gender and age gaps in employment have narrowed, young people and the Aboriginal population continue to be at a disadvantage.

High School Completion Rates *Edmonton Public & Catholic School Districts*

the TREND: ↑ high school completion increasing

As of the 2004/05 school year, just over 2-out-of-7 public school students, and about 1-in-4 Catholic school students, did not complete high school within five years of starting grade 10.

- Completion rates have increased for both school districts over the past 6 years (7% for Catholic district, 6% for Public district).



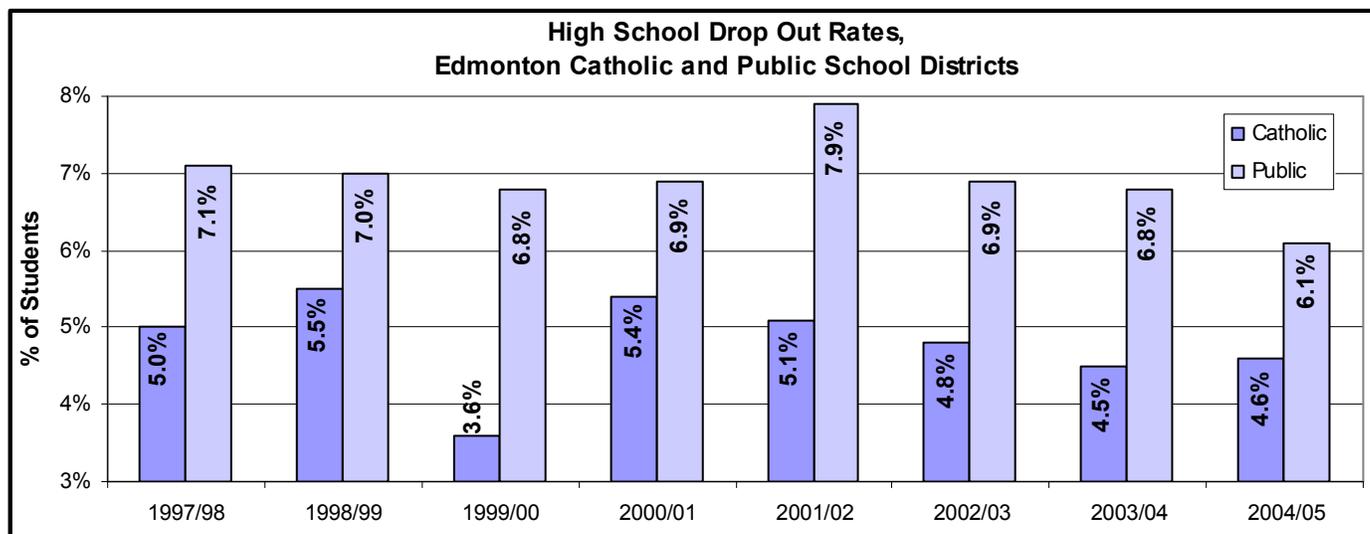
Source: Alberta Education (9)

High School Drop Out Rates *Edmonton Public & Catholic School Districts*

the TREND: ↑ high school drop-out rate declining

As of the 2004/05 school year, approximately 1-in-16 public school students aged 14 to 18, and 1-in-22 Catholic school students, dropped out of high school.

- Approximately one-fourth of the students who drop out subsequently returned to school.
- Drop out rates fluctuated considerably for both school districts over the past eight years.
- The public district's drop out rates showed greater improvement between 1997 and 2004 (rate reduced by 14%) than the Catholic district (8% reduction).



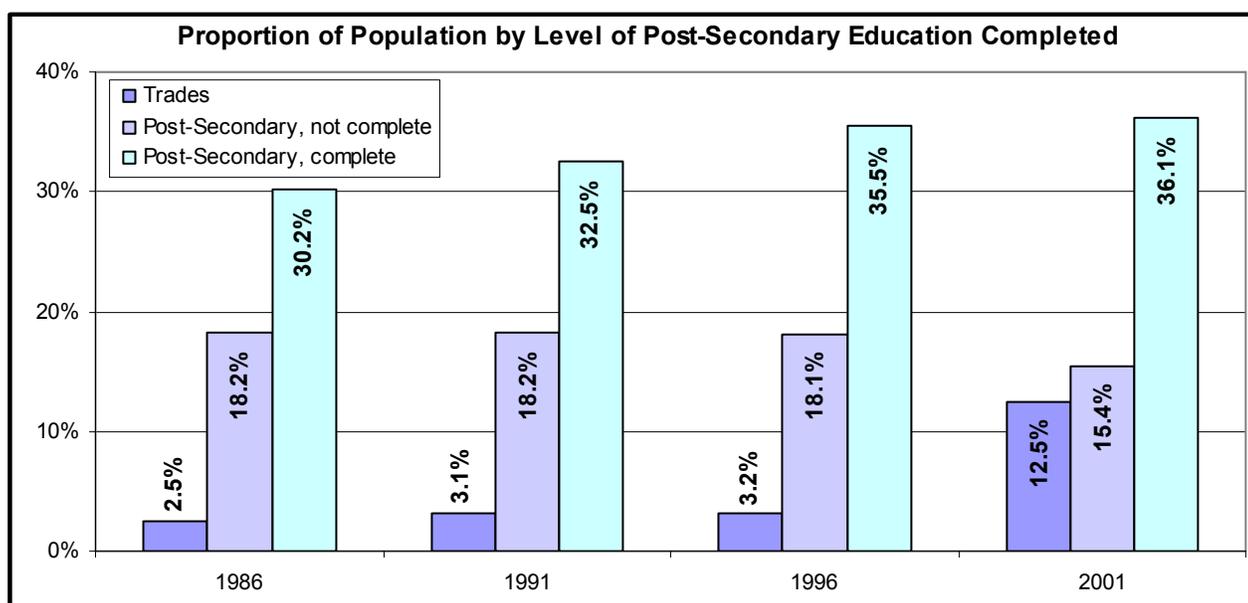
Source: Alberta Education (9)

the TREND: ↑ population becoming more educated

Edmonton’s population has become more highly educated over the past 15 years.

Comparisons between 2001 and previous years should be made with caution, due to inconsistent reference groups.** However, it appears that:

- An increasing number of people have completed high school and moved on to post-secondary education and trades (from 51% in 1986 to 64% in 2001).
- The trades, in particular, grew significantly between 1996 and 2001 (from 3% to 12.5%).
- Most people (70%) who entered post-secondary education (college and university) had completed a certificate, diploma or degree (up from 62% in 1986).



Source: City of Edmonton (10)

** 2001 data should be interpreted with caution, as it is based upon the population aged 20+, rather than 15+ like in previous years.

Employment

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ employment rising

Employment has increased steadily since the late 1980s.

- ◆ Between 1987 and 2006, the number of employed persons in Edmonton increased 38%.



Source: Statistics Canada (11) and Alberta Finance (12)

** See Appendix B, Table 4 to view the data table for this graph.

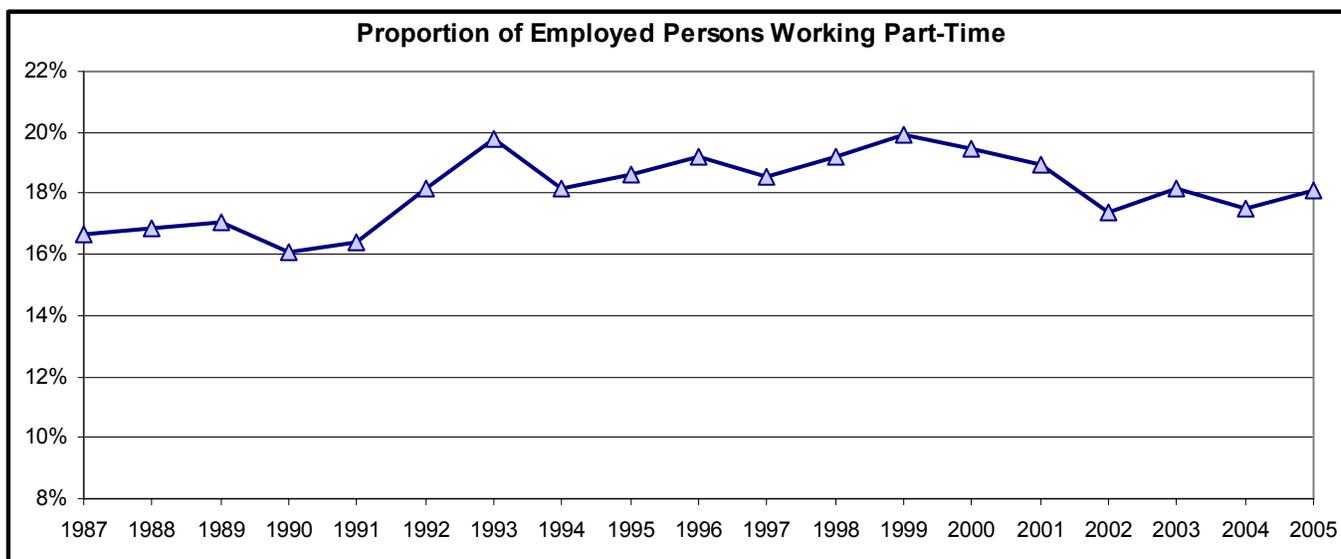
Part-Time Employment

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↓ part-time employment rising slightly

Between 1987 and 2005, the proportion of employed Edmontonians working less than 30 hours per week in their main (or only) job increased by 2 percentage points.

- ◆ The prevalence of part-time work grew fairly steadily between 1987 to 1999, but has since tended to decline.
- ◆ In 1993 and 1999, one in five workers were employed part-time.



Source: Statistics Canada (11)

** See Appendix B, Table 4 to view the data table for this graph.

Unemployment Rate

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ unemployment declining

Unemployment has decreased steadily over the past decade.

- ◆ Since its peak of over 10% in 1993, the unemployment rate has since dropped to below 4%.



Source: Source: Statistics Canada (11) and Alberta Finance (12)

** See Appendix B, Table 5 to view the data table for this graph.

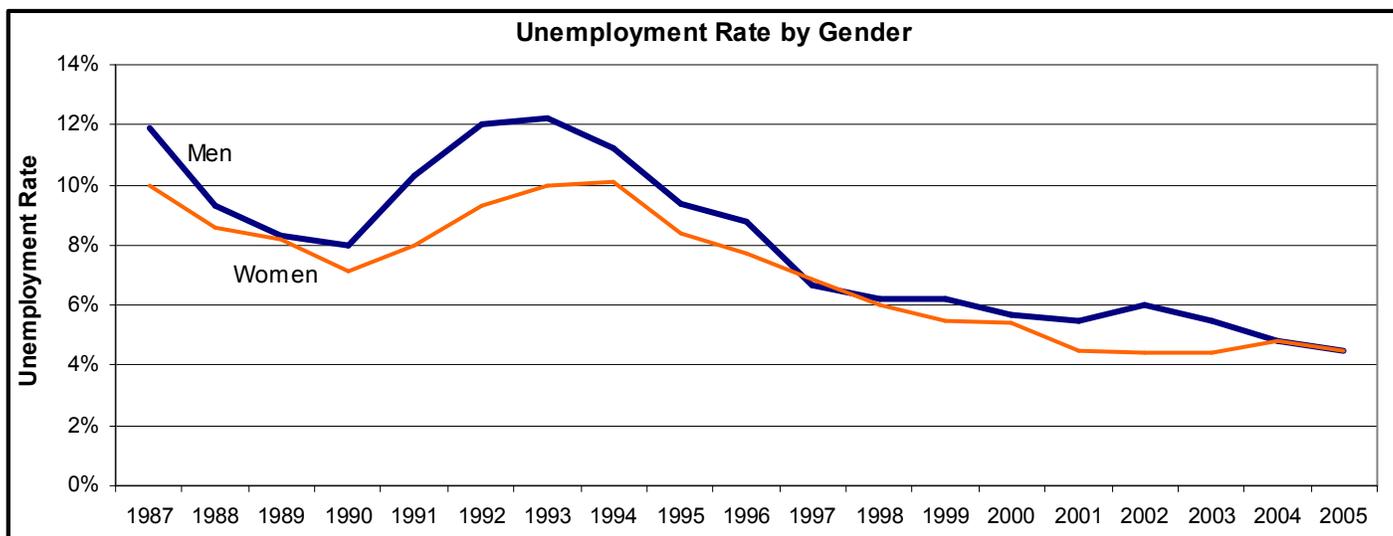
Unemployment Rate by Gender

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ gender gap in unemployment closing

Until recently, men in Edmonton have experienced higher unemployment rates than women.

- ◆ Statistics Canada employment data indicates that the unemployment rate for women and men was equal in 2004 and 2005.



Source: Source: Statistics Canada (11)

** See Appendix B, Table 5 to view the data table for this graph.

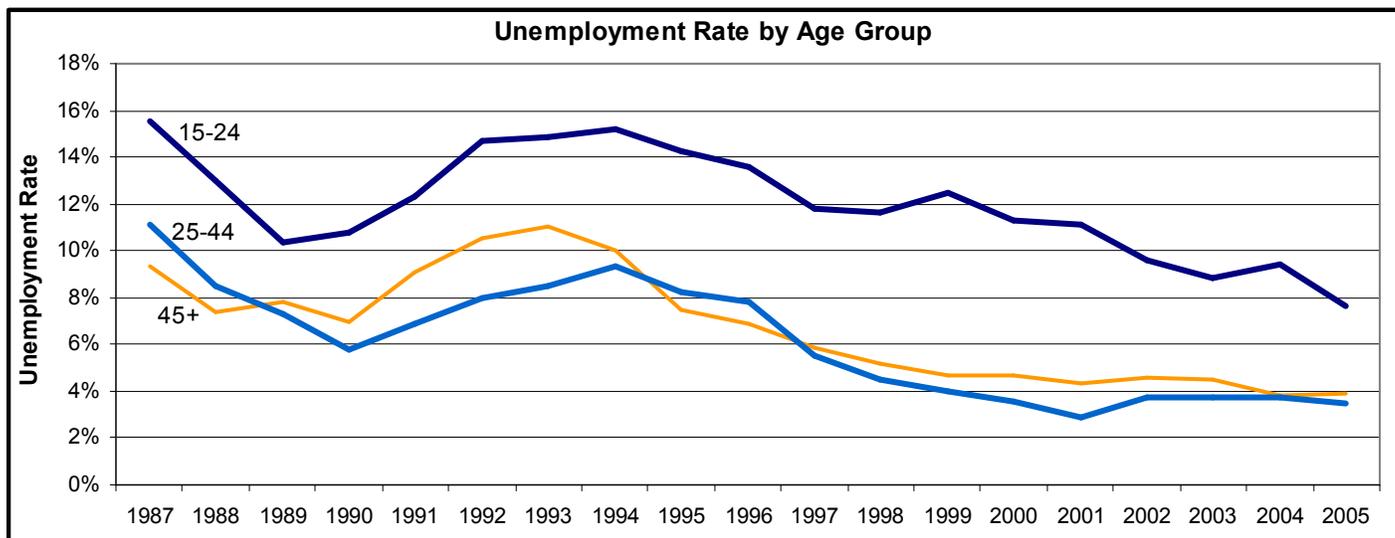
Unemployment Rate by Age Group

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ■ unemployment declining, but youth unemployment still high

Young Edmontonians have consistently been at greater risk of unemployment than the rest of the working population.

- ♦ The unemployment rate for workers aged 15 to 24 has ranged between 2% and 7% higher than the population average, while the rate for the 25-44 and 45+ age groups have been consistently below average.
- ♦ The age gap in unemployment has decreased fairly steadily since 1999.



Source: Statistics Canada (11)

** See Appendix B, Table 5 to view the data table for this graph.

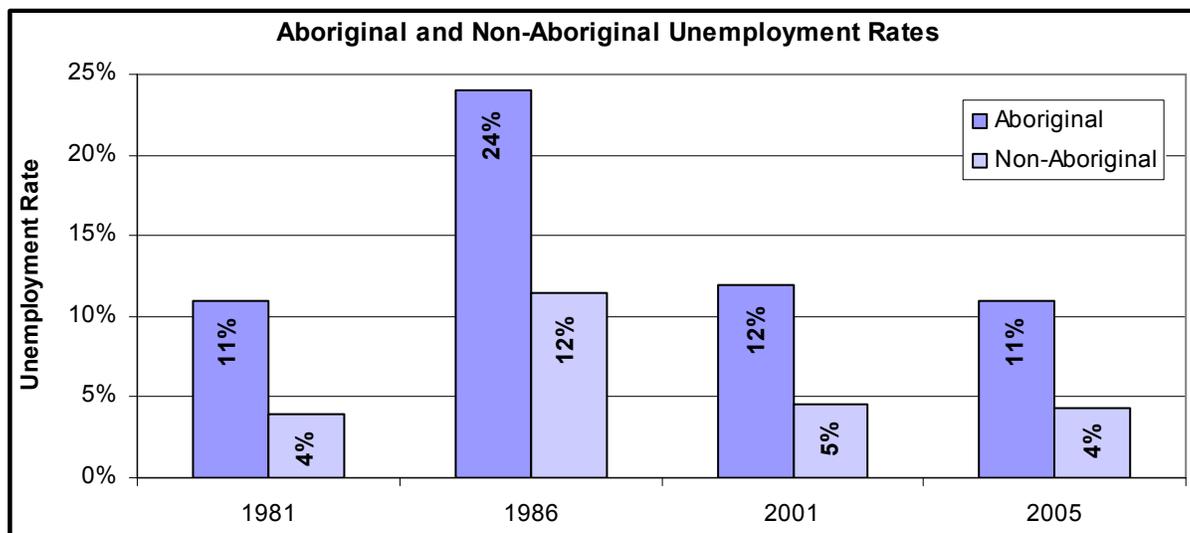
Aboriginal Unemployment Rate

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ■ Aboriginal unemployment decreasing, but still higher than average

Aboriginal Edmontonians have consistently had a higher unemployment rate than the non-aboriginal population.

- ♦ For the years presented in the following graph, the Aboriginal unemployment rate ranged from double to triple the rate of the non-aboriginal population (7% to 13% higher).



Source: ESPC (13) & Statistics Canada (14)

Section C

Cost of Living and Housing Trends

Why are Cost of Living Trends Important?

One of the key factors that determines a family's standard of living is the cost of the goods and services they need to maintain their household - food, housing, clothing, education, health care, child care, etc.

Increased costs of living can impact a family's ability to support a decent standard of living. If costs rise faster than a family's income, the health, well-being and financial security of the family will deteriorate.

The more families that are unable to maintain a decent standard of living, the greater the costs to the government in terms of providing services and income supports.

Why are Housing Trends Important?

Apartment vacancy rates provide an estimation of the availability of more affordable housing (relative to the cost of home ownership).

Renters tend to have lower than average wealth⁽¹⁵⁾, and are therefore less able to afford purchasing a home. This also applies to newcomers who often need a chance to settle and become established before moving on to home ownership.

Home ownership rates provide a crude indicator of the overall level of financial independence in a

community. Purchasing a home requires a great deal of capital, which many low to moderate income families are not able to accumulate.

Home ownership tends to increase with age, as young people attempting to enter the housing market have to save a considerable sum in order to do so.⁽¹⁵⁾ Rising housing costs can make it more difficult for young people to enter the housing market, thereby delaying financial independence.

Incomes are, of course, closely linked to home ownership. If the value of peoples' incomes do not compensate for rising cost of housing, the amount and length of mortgage debt will increase. This could mean the more people will acquire more debt for a longer period of time.

Policy makers and program planners need to be aware of these trends - in order to anticipate and appropriately respond to housing supply and demand. Rising housing costs and decreasing vacancy rates, for example, signal a need for more affordable housing developments.



the TREND: ↓ living costs rising and availability of affordable housing declining

How is Edmonton Changing?

The current economic boom, and the resultant population boom, has created multiple pressures on individuals and families living in and moving to Edmonton.

Costs of Living

The costs of living (and particularly housing) are definitely rising in Edmonton. The combination of rising costs, decreasing vacancy rates, and population growth has created a housing crisis and contributed towards the growing number of working poor.

Housing

In addition to the housing crisis, it seems likely that the average age of home ownership will increase. Due to the increasing housing purchase prices, young people will likely take longer to achieve the financial independence associated with home ownership.

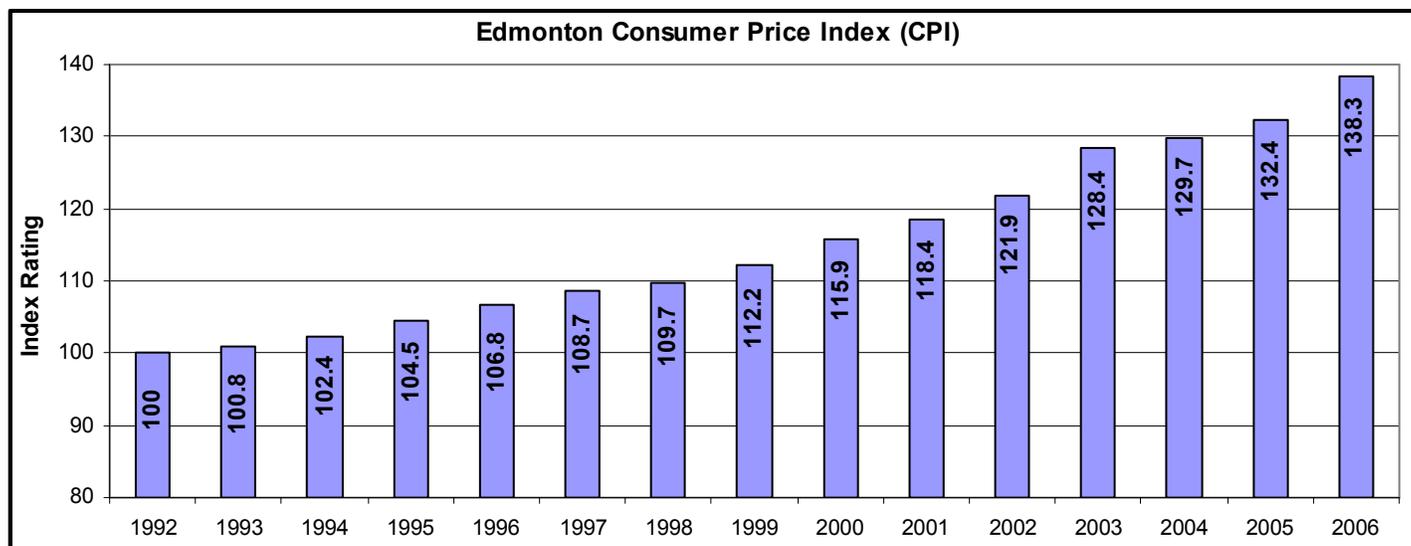
We may also see a decrease in home ownership rates, as the cost of purchasing a home rises even further beyond the reach of many low to moderate income families.

Consumer Price Index *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ↓ prices rising

The Consumer Price Index rose 38.3% in the 14 years since 1992.

- ◆ In the last year alone, prices increased nearly 5%.



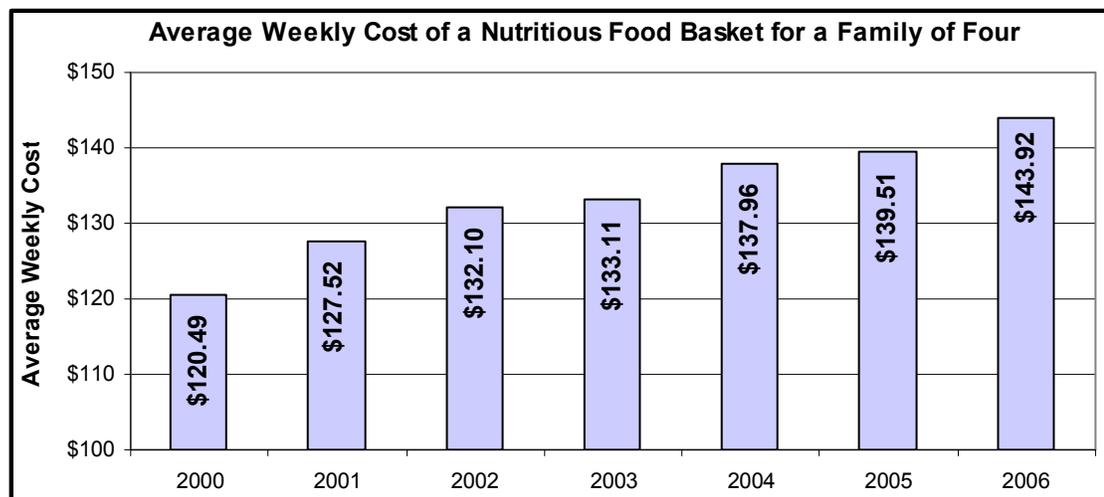
Source: City of Edmonton (16) and Statistics Canada (17)

Nutritious Food Basket Prices *City of Edmonton*

the TREND: ↓ food prices rising

The average weekly cost of a nutritious food basket increased \$23.43 from 2000 to 2006.

- ◆ This may not seem like a large increase at first glance - however, it equates to an increase of \$1,218.36 per year.
- ◆ In 2006, a family of four with two adults and two school-aged children would spend an average of \$7,483.84 per year for a nutritious diet.



Source: Alberta Agriculture (18) & (19)

** Alberta Agriculture bases its calculations on Health Canada's National Nutritious Food Basket.

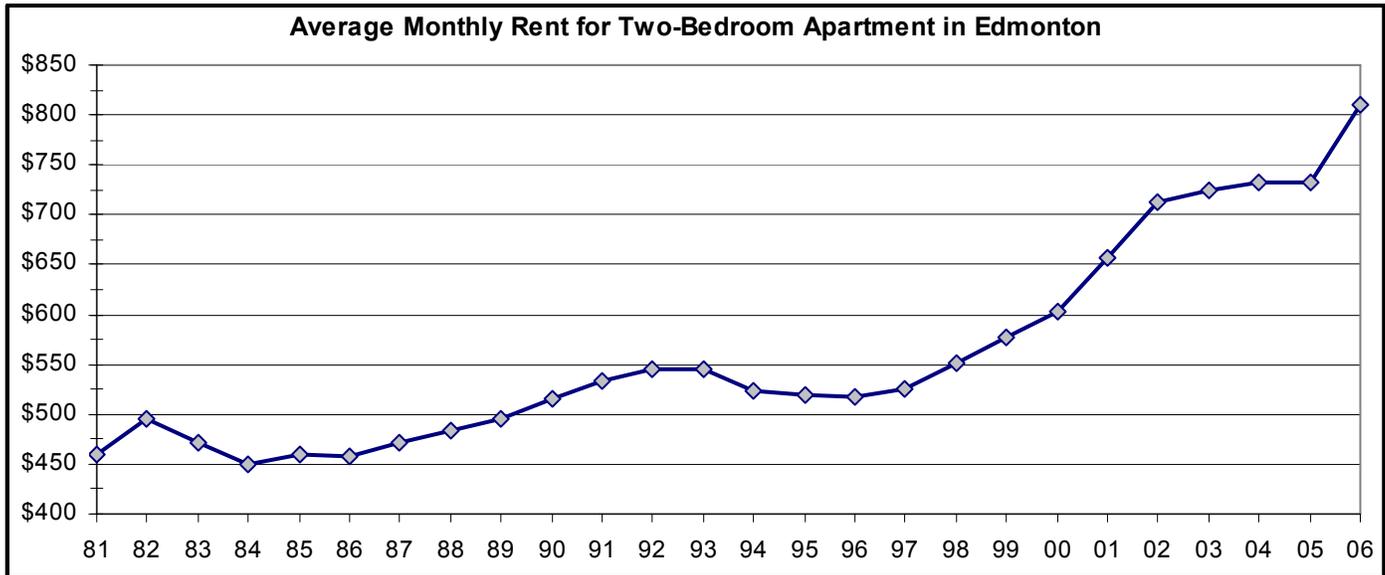
Average Rent

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ rents rising

The average rent in the City of Edmonton has risen considerably over the past 25 years (76%), with the most rapid increases in the last six years.

- ♦ In the last year alone, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment has increased 11%, over twice the rate of inflation during that time period.



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (20)

** See Appendix C, Table 6 to view the data table for this graph.

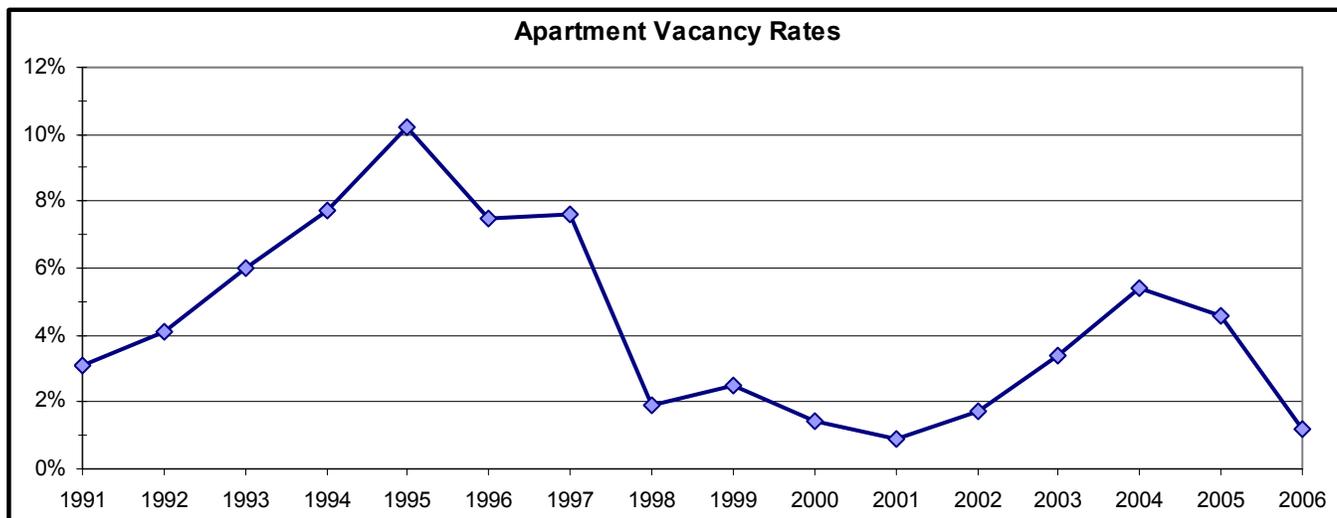
Vacancy Rates

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ rental availability declining

Private apartment vacancy rates have fluctuated considerably over the past 15 years.

- ♦ Edmonton experienced a sharp decline in vacancy rates in the past year (down 3.4%).
- ♦ The 50 percent increase in home prices in the past year may increase the pace of conversion of rental units to condominiums, placing further upward pressure on rents as supply declines.



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (20) and City of Edmonton (21)

** See Appendix C, Table 7 to view the data table for this graph.

** 1991 to 1999 rates are as at October of each year, 2000 through 2006 are based on full year.

Average Residential Selling Price

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↓ home prices rising

Housing prices have increased 220% since 1981 - 92% since 2002 - 49% since 2005.

- ♦ Over the last year, residential selling prices increased at 11 times the rate of inflation.



Source: Edmonton Real Estate Board (22)

** See Appendix C, Table 8 to view the data table for this graph.

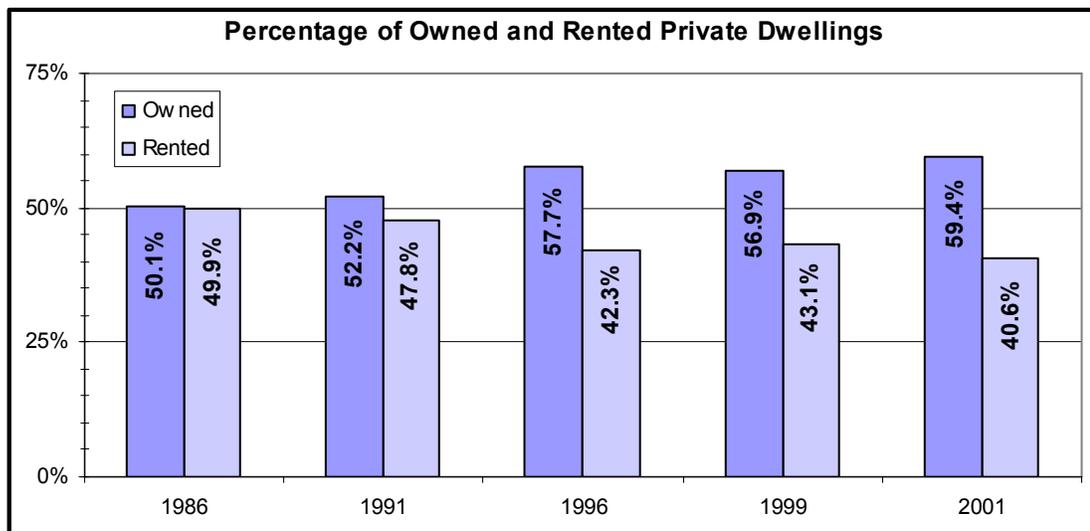
Housing Tenure

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ home ownership rising

The trend has been towards increased home ownership in Edmonton.

- ♦ Home ownership is an indicator of greater financial independence. It is particularly important for future financial stability, as income is invested in an asset that hold long-term value, rather than losing income to rent.
- ♦ However, home ownership can also provide an avenue to greater debt for families, as shown by the growing use of home lines of credits.
- ♦ This trend in housing tenure may change as the affordability of home ownership declines. The simultaneous decline in rental vacancies, and increase in monthly rents, is also likely to have an impact.



Source: City of Edmonton (10)



Section D

Income & Wealth

Why are Income Trends Important?

At the most basic level, income is a key determinant of a family's ability to maintain a decent standard of living. As such, it is important to understand how incomes are changing in relation to costs of living.

People with low incomes are the least able to withstand rising costs or emergency expenses. If costs of living rise at a faster rate than incomes, more low- and modest-income families are at risk of poverty.

Family income also affects educational attainment, which in turn impacts lifetime earning potential. For example, low income youth are less likely to attend university. ⁽²³⁾



Why are Wealth Trends Important?

Wealth is also an important variable to track. A family's assets (what they own) and debts (what they owe) provide a gauge of their overall financial independence and security. Families with more assets than debts are, of course, better able to afford homes, and save for their children's education and their retirement.

It is not only important to track income and wealth overall, but also how income and wealth are distributed among the population.

As with low incomes, families with few assets are at a greater risk of poverty in times of economic fluctuations or emergencies. "Middle class" people are also likely to feel pressure in these circumstances, as much of their overall wealth is often tied up in their housing. ⁽¹⁵⁾ If residential purchase prices increase, increased debt loads are likely to worsen this situation for many families.

It is increasingly the case that financial security is limited to people with above-average wealth. ⁽¹⁵⁾

the TREND: ↓ **incomes not keeping pace with inflation, wealth gap increasing, some groups (women, youth, single-parent families) at income disadvantage**

How is Edmonton Changing?

The data in this section show that the current economic boom has not benefited all families equally. The gap between the richest and the poorest, in terms of both income and wealth, have been increasing.

Income

The real value of incomes (and the minimum wage) is not keeping pace with inflation.

The gender gap in income persists despite improvements in the past decade, and has actually widened in recent years. Age disparities also persist despite significant improvements over the past two decades - this remains an issue for young families.

The assumption that minimum wage earners are all teenagers is incorrect. Many low wage workers

belong to age groups that often have families to support.

At the neighbourhood level in Edmonton, the gap between the poorest and richest neighbourhoods is wide, and has also been increasing.

Wealth

Overall, the economic boom in Alberta appears to be disproportionately benefiting those with the highest incomes and net worth. The wealth of the poorest families has declined rapidly, while the overall share of wealth has shifted even more to the richest 10%.

The wealth trends presented are at the national level, since breakdowns for Alberta and Edmonton would are not available.

Minimum Wage

Alberta

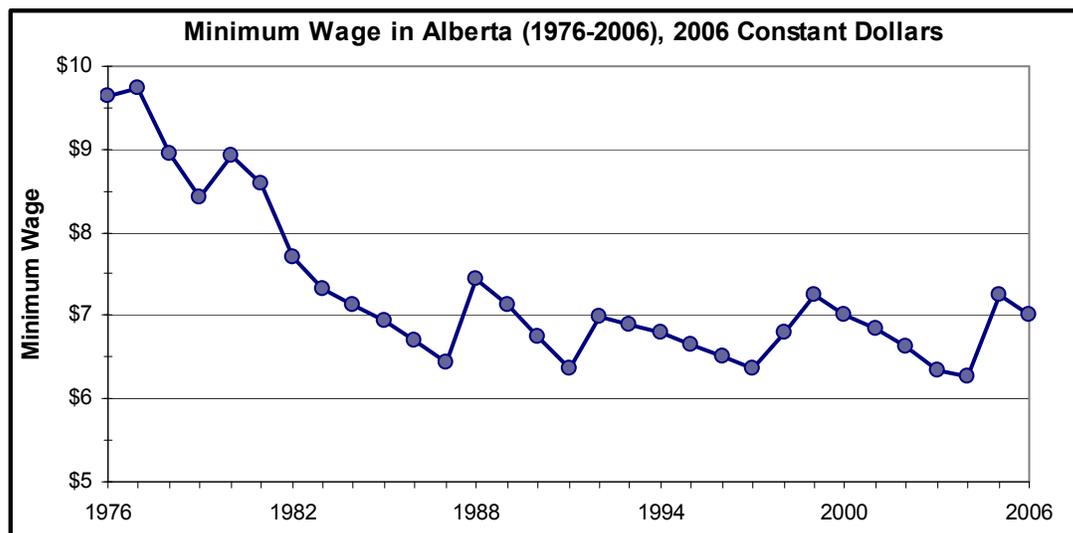
the TREND: ↓ value of minimum wage declined

Alberta's minimum wage has been raised 11 times over the past 3 decades.

- ♦ The real value of the minimum wage has decreased by \$2.74 (almost 30%) since its peak in 1977. In terms of annual income, this translates to a decrease in value of \$5,700 (based on a 40 hour work week).

Alberta Minimum Wage Increases since 1975	
Year	Minimum Wage
1975	\$2.50
1976	\$2.75
1977	\$3.00
1980	\$3.50
1981	\$3.80
1988	\$4.50
1992	\$5.00
1998 (Oct)	\$5.40
1999 (Apr)	\$5.65
1999 (Oct)	\$5.90
2005 (Sep)	\$7.00

Source: HRSDC (24)



Source: CUPE (25)

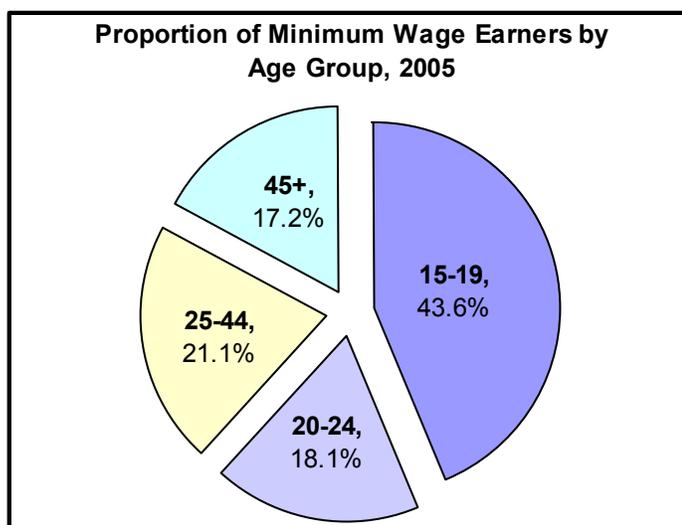
Minimum Wage Earners by Gender and Age

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ♦ women and youth most likely to earn minimum wage

While many minimum wage earners are young people, as many people would assume, a significant proportion are over 20 years of age. In 2005:

- ♦ Two-in-five minimum wage earners (8,700 people) were over 25 years of age; nearly 20% were over the age of 45.
- ♦ Two-thirds of minimum wage workers over 25 years of age were women.



Source: Statistics Canada (26)



Source: Statistics Canada (26)

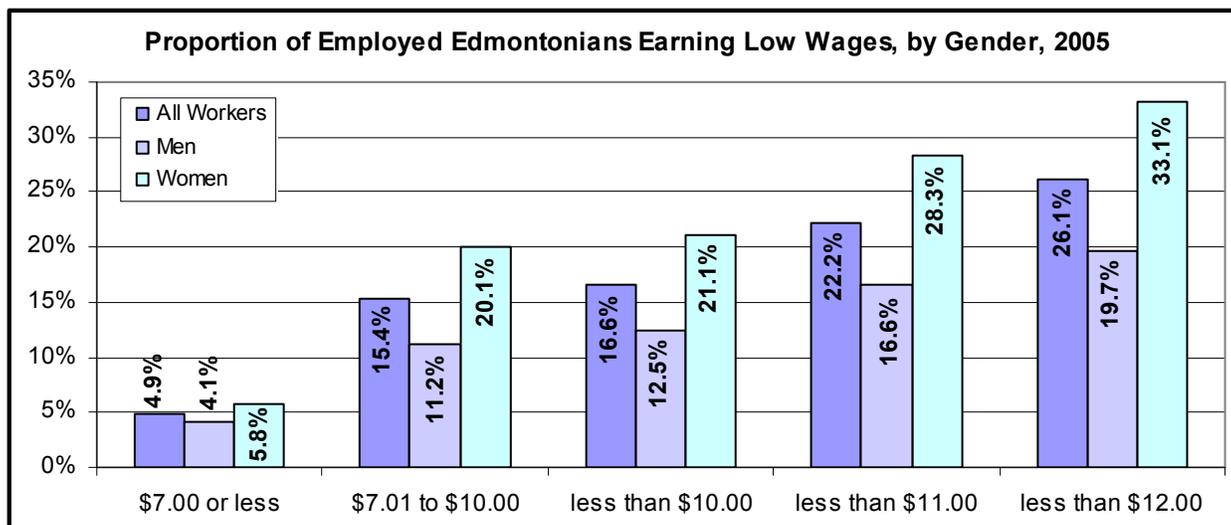
Low Wage Earners by Gender

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ♦ women are more likely to earn low wages

Many employed Edmontonians earned low wages in 2005:

- ♦ Over one-in-four workers (121, 400 people) earned less than \$12 per hour
- ♦ This proportion was higher for women, one-third of whom earned less than \$12 per hour.



Source: Statistics Canada (26)

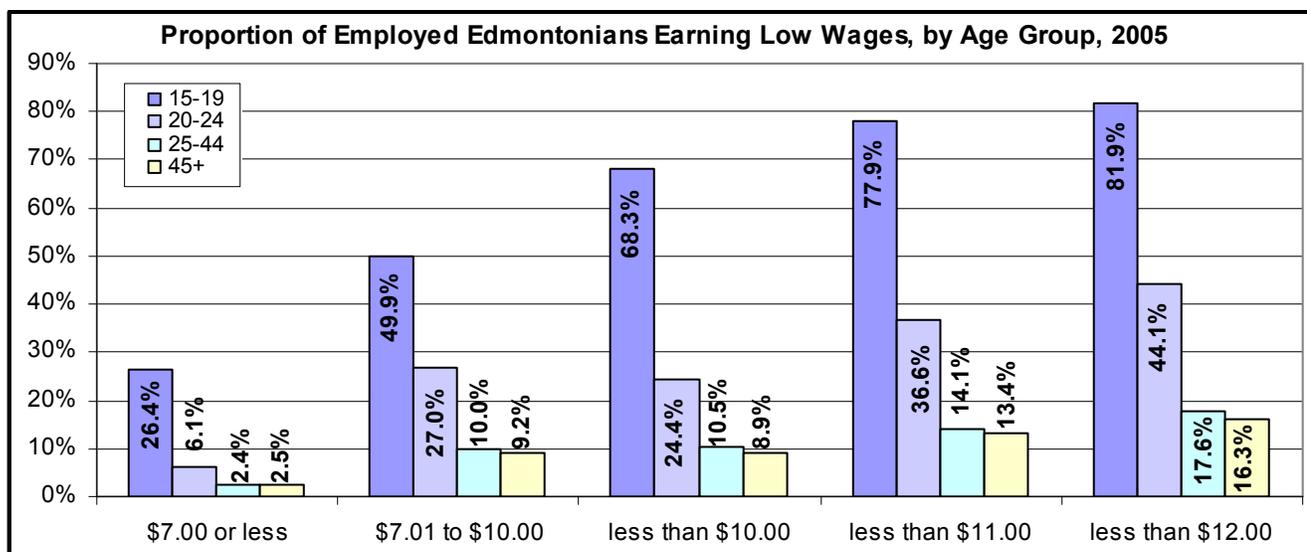
Low Wage Earners by Age Group

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ♦ young people are more likely to earn low wages

The majority of young Edmontonians earn low wages (82% of workers aged 15 to 19 earned less than \$12 per hour in 2005). However, a significant proportion of people in other age groups also earn low wages.

- ♦ Two-fifths of workers aged 20 to 24 earned less than \$12 per hour.
- ♦ Nearly one-in-five workers in both the 25 to 44 and 45 and over age groups earned less than \$12 per hour.



Source: Statistics Canada (26)

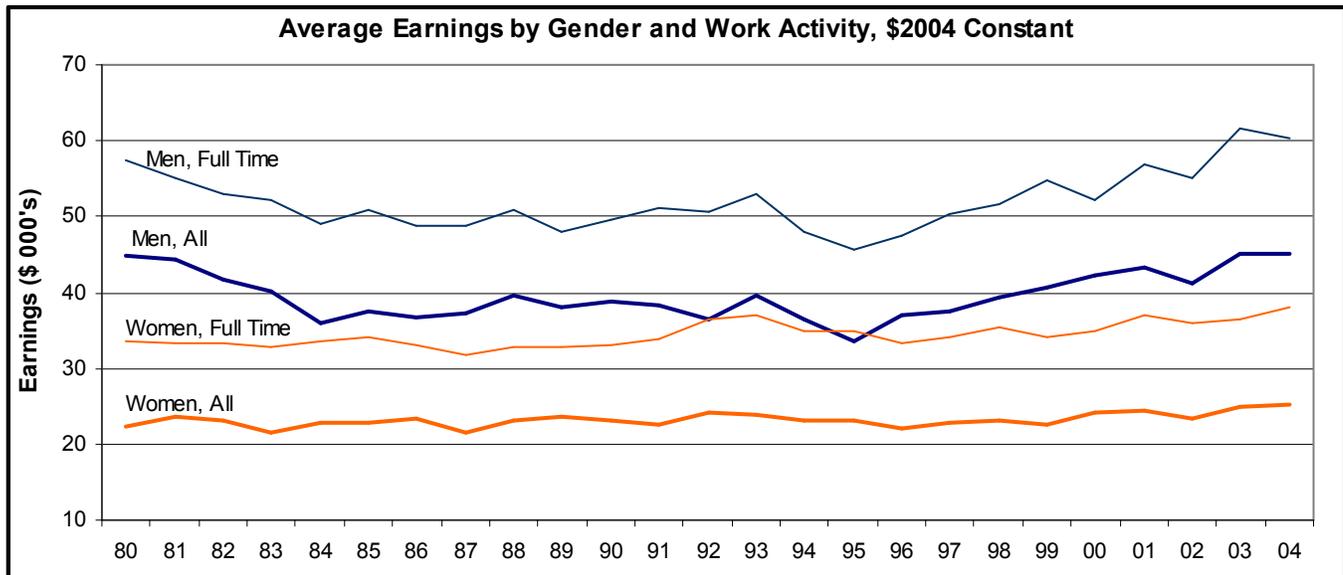
Average Income by Gender and Work Activity

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: █ value of earnings increasing, but overall unchanged

Women have made proportionately greater gains in income between 1980 and 2004 than men.

- ◆ Women's earnings fluctuated less abruptly than men's over this time period, though they continue to earn less.
- ◆ Women working full time have made greater gains than women working in other arrangements (part time, contract, etc.) This trend is the same for men.
- ◆ However, women working full-time still earn less than both full-time and part-time employed men.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix D, Table 9 to view the data table for this graph.

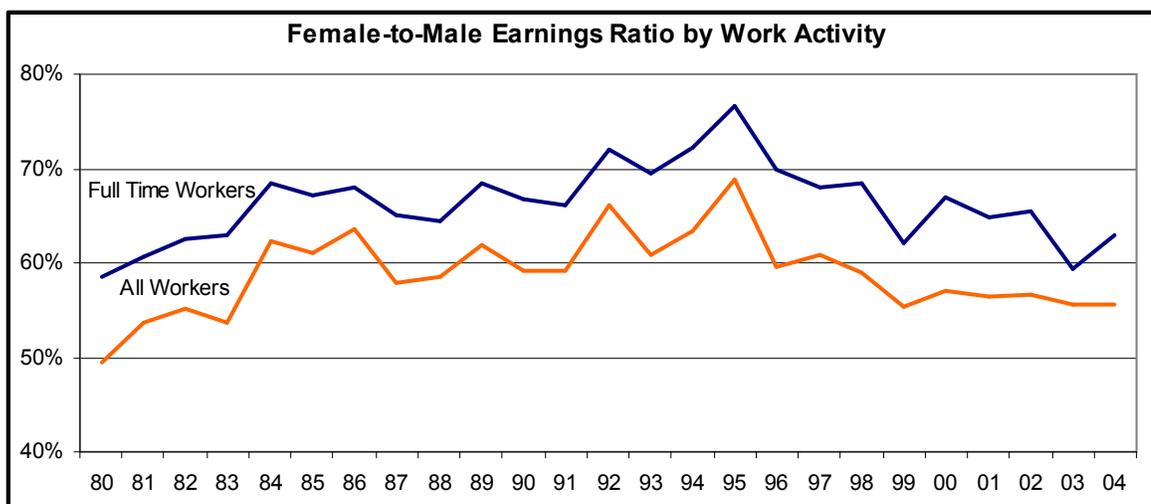
Gender Gap in Earnings

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↓ gender gap improved, but widening

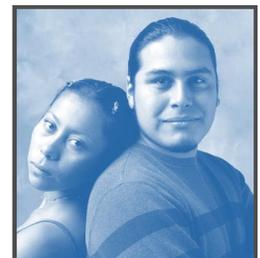
As the female-to-male earnings ratio increases, the gender gap in earnings decreases. While the earnings ratio has improved in Edmonton, the gains made in the '90s have been lost.

- ◆ In 1995, women working full-time earned 77% of the average income for men. In 2004, that ratio was 63%.
- ◆ When we compare this graph with the graph above, it becomes apparent that the increases in the earnings ratio had more to do with decreases in male earnings, than increases in earnings for women.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix D, Table 9 to view the data table for this graph.



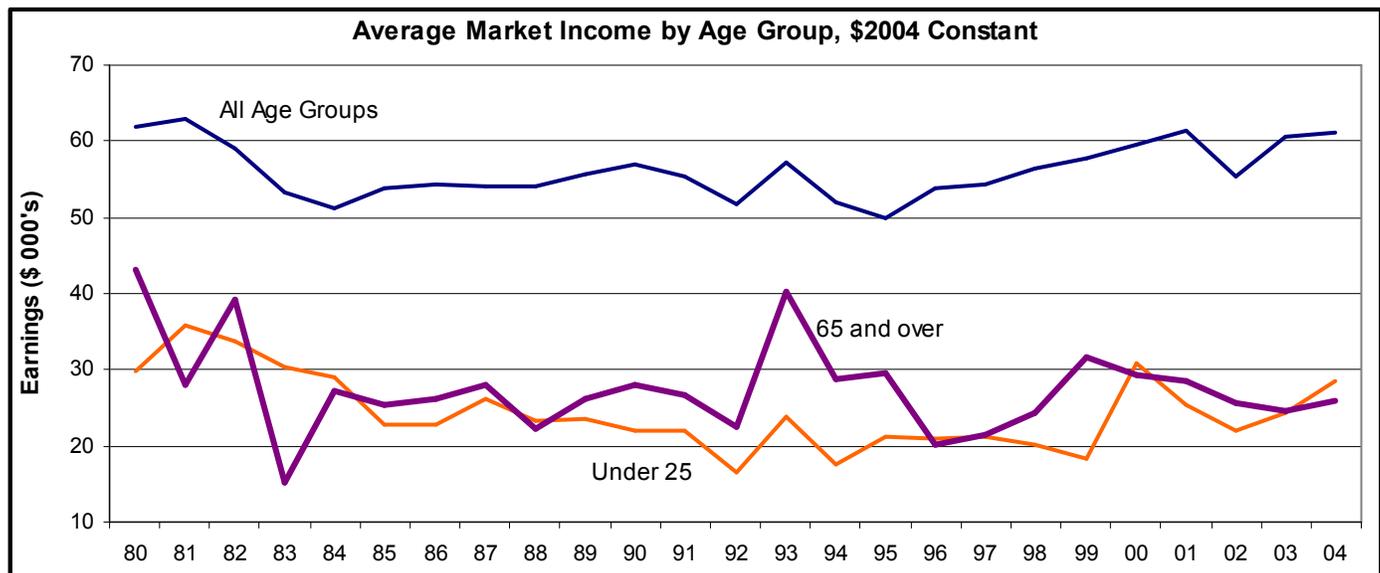
Average Market Income by Age Group

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↓ value of incomes declined

After adjusting for inflation, it becomes apparent that the average market income has not increased since 1980.

- ♦ Average market incomes declined steadily from the early 1980's to the mid-1990's, and are only now recovering to what they were 25 years ago.
- ♦ People aged under 25 and over 65 are the most likely to earn incomes significantly below average.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix D, Table 10 to view the data table for this graph.

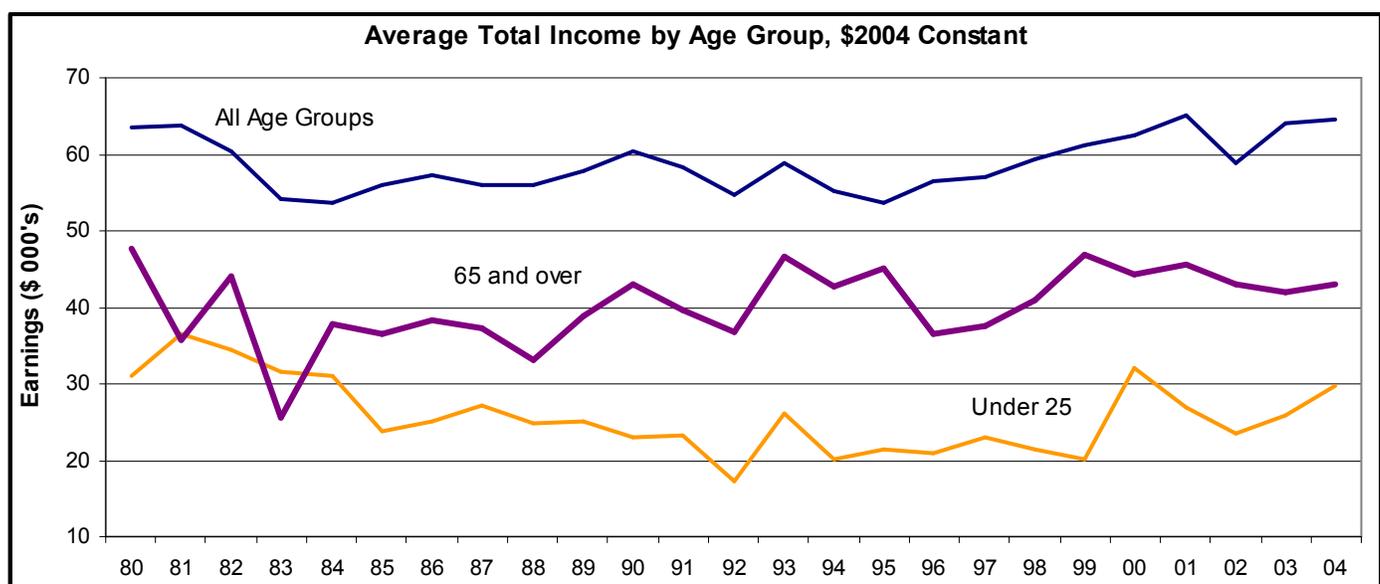
Average Total Income by Age Group

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: □ government transfers not benefiting all age groups equally

Comparing total and market income illustrates the effect of government transfer payments on peoples' incomes.

- ♦ People aged 65 and over have benefited the most - the amount of additional income they received through government transfers increased \$12,600 between 1980 and 2004.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

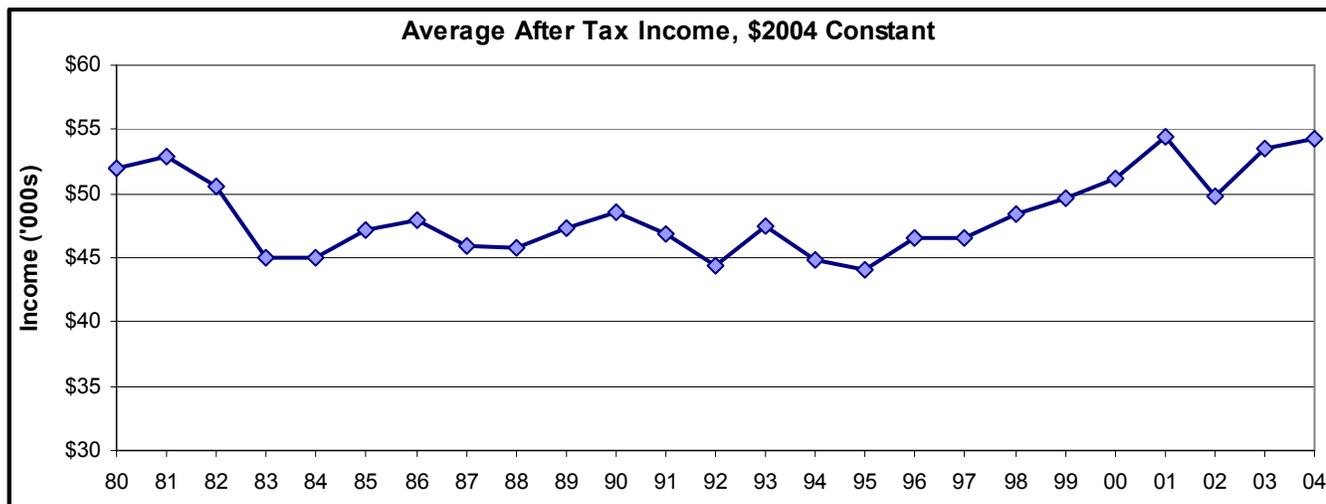
** See Appendix D, Table 10 to view the data table for this graph.

Average Family Income *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ▣ family incomes increased over past decade, but little change overall

Between 1980 and 2004, the value of the average household's after-tax income has not increased substantially (\$2,300).

- However, due to strong economic growth, there has been modest growth in average family incomes over the past ten years. The real value of the average family income increased about 21% over this time period.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

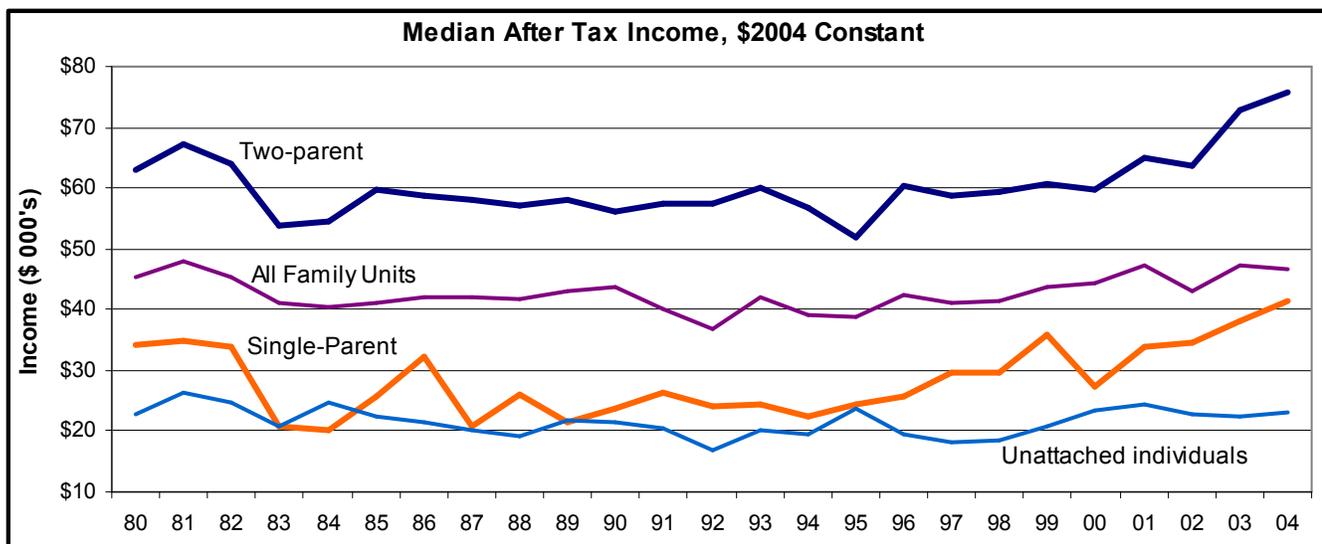
** See Appendix D, Table 11 to view the data table for this graph.

Median Family Income by Family Type *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ↑ family incomes rising, single-parent income gap closing

Between 1980 and 2004, the value of households' after tax incomes has not increased significantly (\$1,100).

- The median incomes of single- and two-parent families have both increased modestly over this time period.
- While single-parents continue to have incomes lower than the population average, the income gap has narrowed from a high of \$21,500 in 1989 to \$5,100 in 2004.
- The median income of unattached individuals has not changed since 1980.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix D, Table 11 to view the data table for this graph.

** "All Family Units" includes economic families of 2 or more persons and unattached individuals.

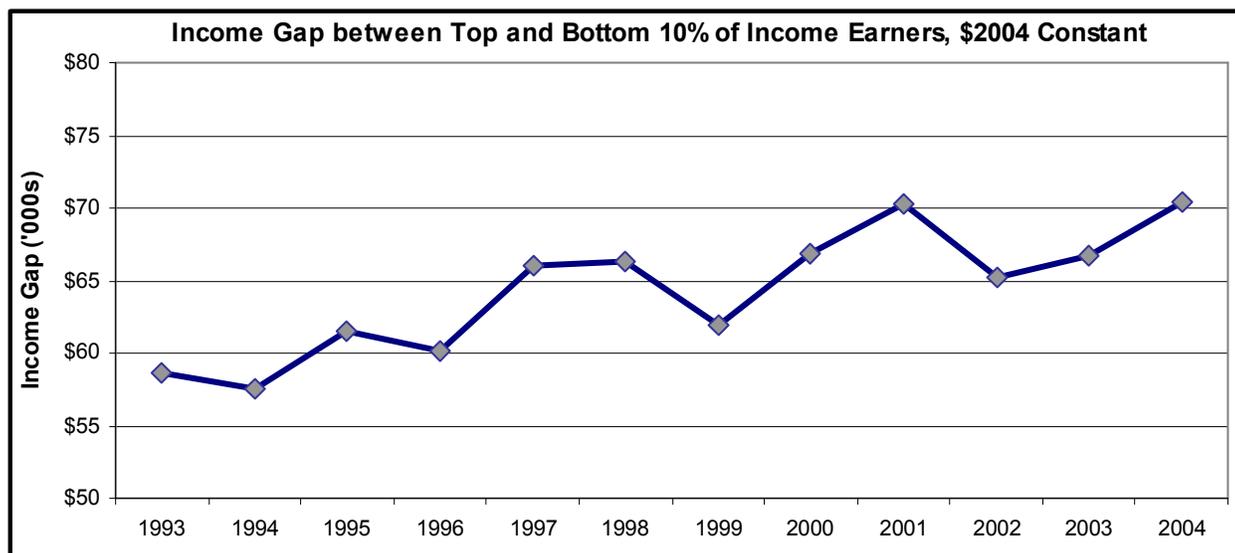
Family Income Gap by Income Decile

Alberta

the TREND: ↓ income gap increasing

The income gap between the poorest and wealthiest 10% of Canadians has increased 20% over the past decade.

- ♦ The real value of incomes of the poorest 10% of families increased only 2% from 1993 to 2004.
- ♦ Over the same time period, the real value of top 10% of families increased 13%.
- ♦ Overall, the average family income in Alberta increased 16% since 1993.



Source: CCSD (28)

** See Appendix D, Table 12 to view the data table for this graph.

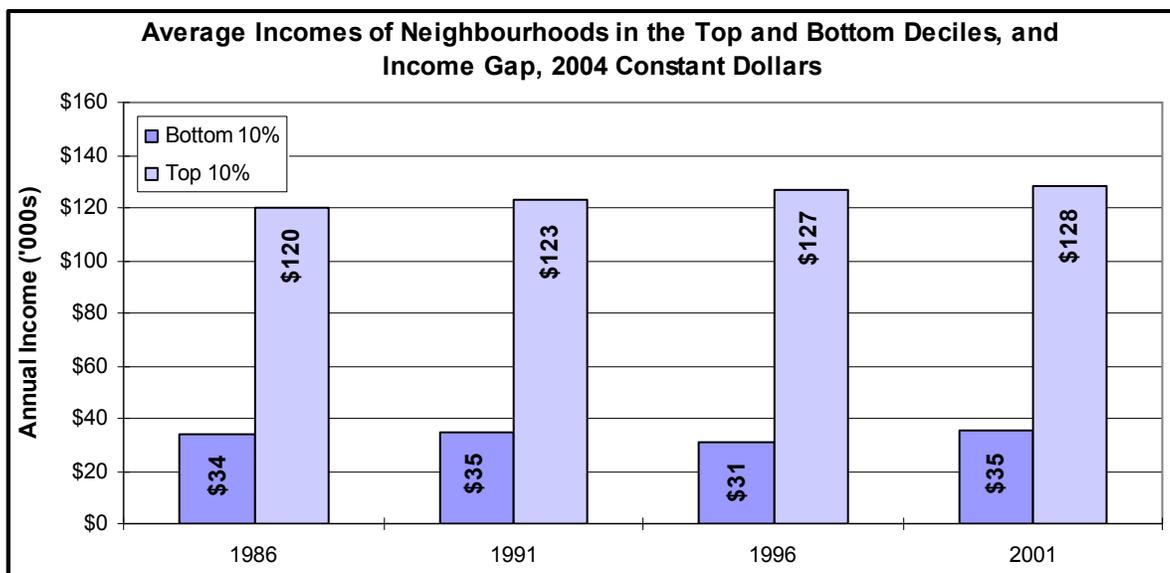
Family Earnings Gap by Income Decile

Edmonton Neighbourhoods

the TREND: ↓ income gap increasing

The income gap between the least affluent and most affluent neighbourhoods in Edmonton increased 9% between 1986 and 2001 - from \$85,000 to \$93,000.

- ♦ This provides further evidence that the incomes of the lowest income earners have stagnated.



Source: City of Edmonton (10)

the TREND: ↓ **wealth gap increasing**

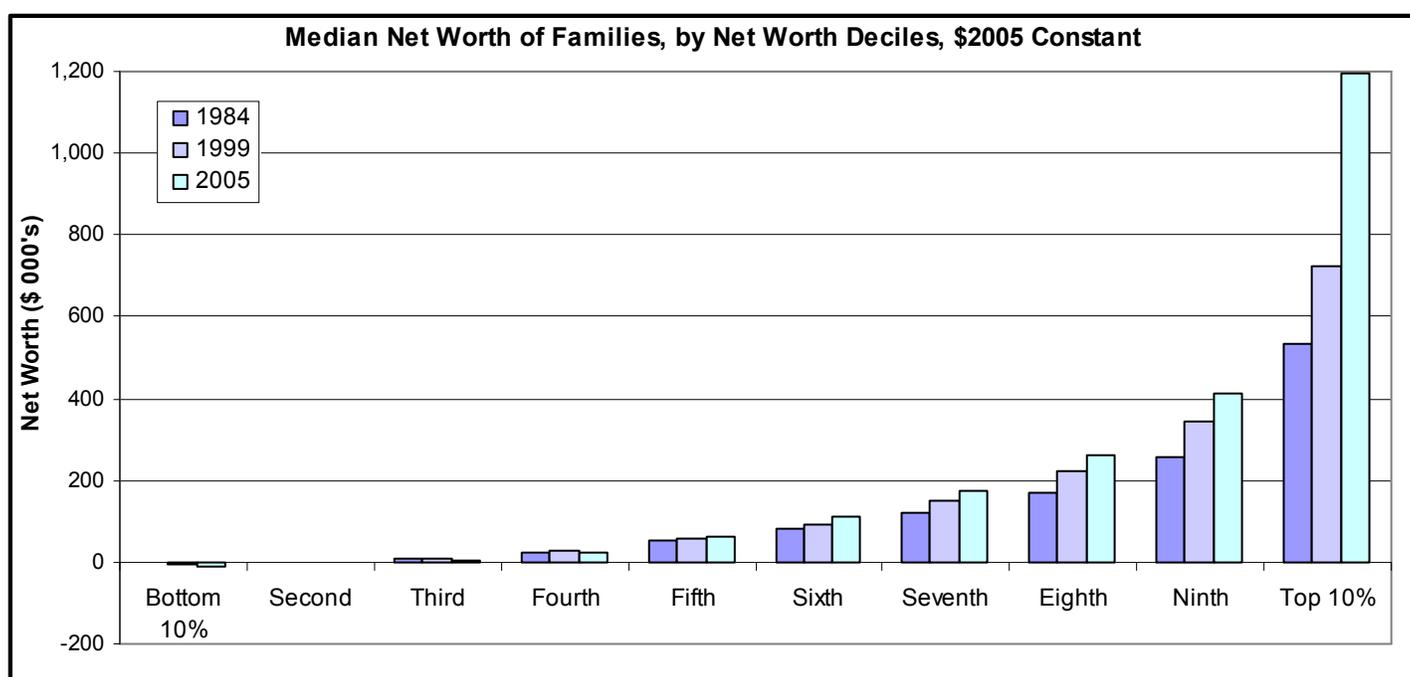
Most Canadian families experienced an increase in their net worth between 1984 and 2005. However:

- The top 10% was the only group to experience growth in their share of the total wealth, which increased 6% over the twenty year time period - from 52% to 58%.
- The gap between the top and bottom quintiles increased 125% (from \$537,000 to \$1.2 million).

It is apparent that families with the lowest 30% of wealth experienced a consistent decrease in net worth from 1984 to 2005. (The fourth decile increased from 1984 to 1999, and then decreased slightly in 2005.)

- The lowest 10% of families have negative net worth, meaning that they owe more than they own.
- Only the top 10% of families gained in relative wealth share, while the share of the bottom 90% decreased.

While these number represent the Canadian population, we expect that a similar trend is occurring in Alberta and Edmonton.



Source: Statistics Canada (29)

Decile	1984	1999	2005	Change (%)
Bottom 10%	\$ (2,100)	\$ (6,570)	\$ (9,600)	(357%)
Second	\$ 780	\$ 120	\$ 10	(99%)
Third	\$ 7,770	\$ 6,820	\$ 6,000	(23%)
Fourth	\$ 24,630	\$ 26,150	\$ 25,500	4%
Fifth	\$ 52,260	\$ 57,120	\$ 63,250	21%
Sixth	\$ 83,130	\$ 93,850	\$ 109,050	31%
Seventh	\$ 120,690	\$ 148,610	\$ 173,590	44%
Eighth	\$ 170,210	\$ 221,770	\$ 263,000	55%
Ninth	\$ 256,740	\$ 344,890	\$ 413,750	61%
Top 10%	\$ 534,980	\$ 723,590	\$ 1,194,000	123%

Section E

Poverty

Why are Poverty Trends Important?

Poverty is not a desirable feature in any society - it is both a cause and a result of poor health, low educational attainment, and a host of other factors. Poverty prevents our society from reaching its full potential.

The Costs of Poverty

In terms of daily reality, poverty represents an inability to maintain a decent standard of living that will ensure a family's overall health and well-being. Some of the consequences of poverty include poor nutrition and physical health, social isolation, and limited (to non-existent) financial stability.

The effects of poverty are not limited to those who are poor. As shown repeatedly by research on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), poverty and social inequality decrease the overall health of a society. This issue of health is (or should be) particularly salient to health care providers and governments (and taxpayers), who must provide the human and financial resources to deal with health issues resulting from poverty.

Measuring Poverty

Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) is the most commonly used measure of poverty. However, LICO is a relative measure based on an arbitrary income limit, and Statistics Canada has repeatedly warned that it should not be interpreted as an exact measure of poverty. It is, however, a useful indicator that can be used to track changes in poverty levels over time.

Several years ago, a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group developed a Market Basket Measure of poverty. This measure attempts to define a more absolute measure of poverty based on the actual costs of consumption (costs of living). Poverty rates are typically higher under the MBM than LICO.

Governments have since lost interest in the MBM; MBM poverty levels were last calculated for 2002.



the TREND: □ poverty rates declining, but some groups remain at a disadvantage
↓ extreme poverty (homelessness) increasing

How is Edmonton Changing?

The data in this section show that while Alberta is one of the richest provinces in Canada, it has a significant (and perhaps surprisingly high) level of poverty.

People in Poverty

Despite the widening income and wealth gap, poverty has declined over the past decade. However, specific social groups continue to be more prone to poverty, including young people, women, lone-parents, and Aboriginal peoples.

Deepening Poverty

When we consider poverty data in relation to the income and wealth data in Section D, it appears that the depth of poverty is increasing, as opposed to the rate. This means that while there appear to be fewer families living in poverty, those in poverty are becoming even poorer.

In addition, there is evidence that extreme poverty, in the form of homelessness, is on the rise.

It appears that while income supports and social programs are lifting some families out of poverty, those who are the poorest are not receiving adequate support. (This is covered in Section F.)

Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO) *Canada (Large Urban Areas)*

The low-income cutoffs represents the income level at which a family is likely to spend 20% more of its income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family.

- ♦ Statistics Canada determined that the average family (in 1992) spent 44% of their after-tax income on these basic necessities. This means that low-income families are expected to be spending at least 64% of their after-tax income on basic expenses. (30)
- ♦ The cut-offs defined in 1992 are the base to which the inflation rate has been applied for the following years.
- ♦ The LICOs are defined by family and community size. The amounts presented in the table below are the thresholds that apply to Edmonton's population.

LICO for Households Living in Urban Areas, population 500,000 and over (1992 LICOs base)

Household Size (persons)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	\$14,324	\$14,554	\$14,689	\$14,946	\$15,352	\$15,744	\$16,096	\$16,542	\$16,853	\$17,219
2	17,433	17,713	17,878	18,191	18,684	19,162	19,590	20,133	20,512	20,956
3	21,708	22,057	22,262	22,651	23,266	23,861	24,394	25,070	25,542	26,095
4	27,083	27,518	27,773	28,259	29,026	29,768	30,433	31,277	31,865	32,556
5	30,839	31,334	31,625	32,179	33,052	33,897	34,654	35,615	36,285	37,071
6	34,201	34,750	35,073	35,687	36,656	37,593	38,432	39,498	40,241	41,113
7	37,564	38,167	38,522	39,195	40,260	41,288	42,210	43,381	44,197	45,155

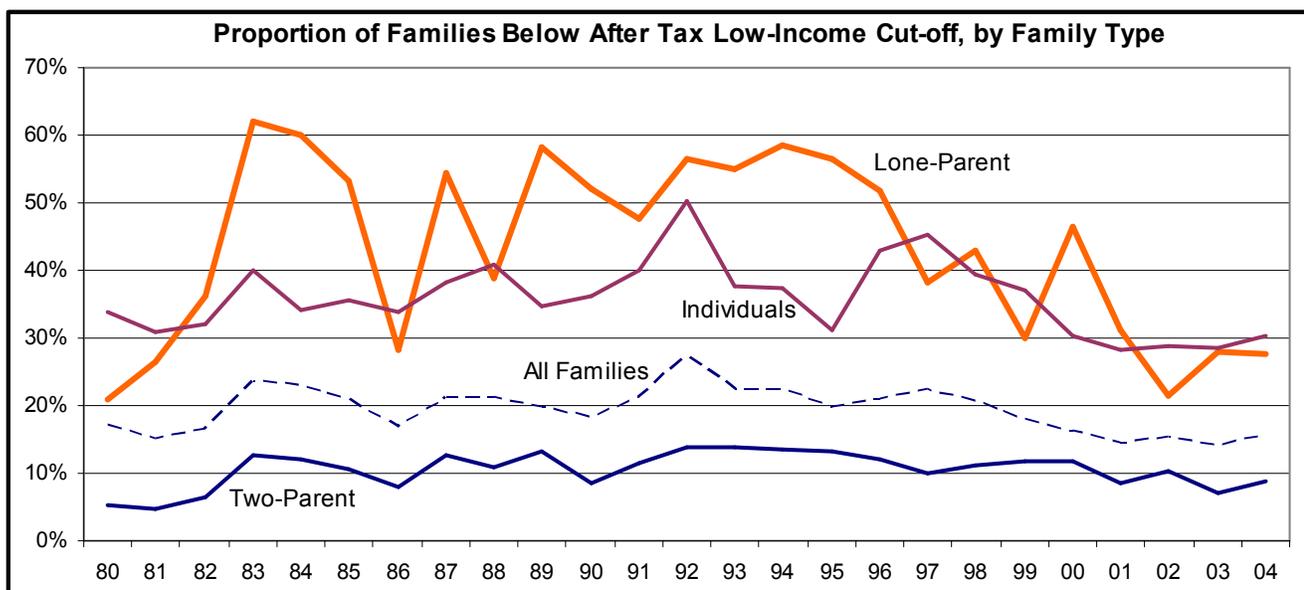
Source: Statistics Canada (30) and (31)

Families Living Below LICO, by Family Type *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ■ high fluctuation, little improvement over time

While it is positive that the high poverty rates through the 1980s and 90s have declined, little improvement has occurred overall.

- ♦ Between 1980 and 2004, the proportion of households living below LICO decreased about 1%. The proportion of individuals in poverty decreased 4%.
- ♦ Poverty increased for both two-parent and lone-parent families - 3% and 7%, respectively.
- ♦ Lone-parent families and individuals are at the greatest risk of poverty.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix E, Table 13 to view the data table for this graph.

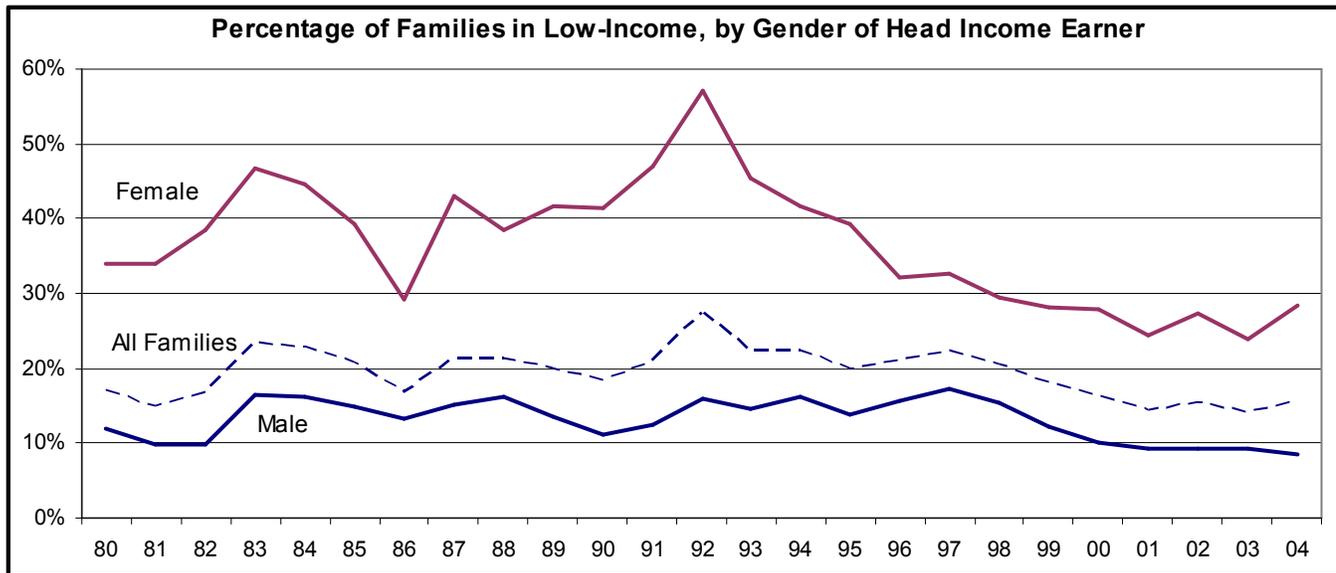
Families Living Below LICO by Gender

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ high fluctuation, but gender gap narrowed slightly

Despite improvements over the last decade, families whose primary income earners are female are at the greatest risk of poverty.

- ◆ The most recent data suggest that the gender gap in poverty may be widening again.
- ◆ The gap decreased from 41% in 1992 to 14% in 2003, but then jumped to 20% in 2004.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix E, Table 13 to view the data table for this graph.

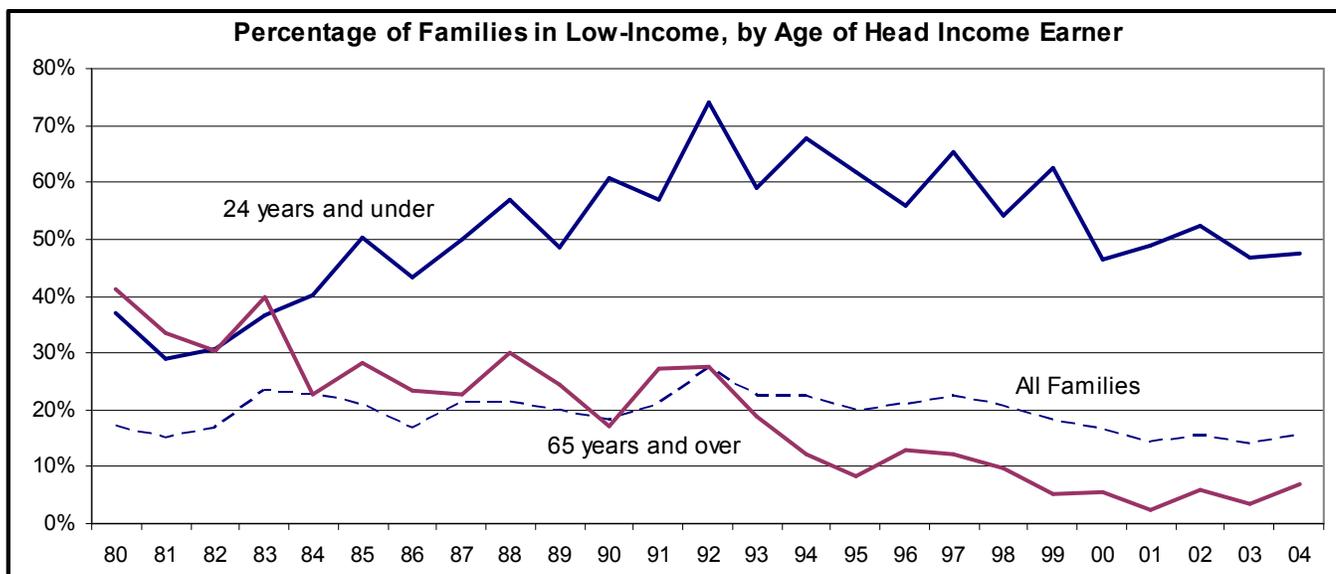
Families Living Below LICO by Age

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: □ age gap increased

Poverty in families headed by senior citizens has declined significantly (34%) since 1980.

- ◆ Families headed by young people, on the other hand, have become more likely to live in poverty.
- ◆ Though the poverty rate was much lower in 2004 than in the peak year of 1992 (74%), it was still 11% higher than in 1980.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix E, Table 13 to view the data table for this graph.

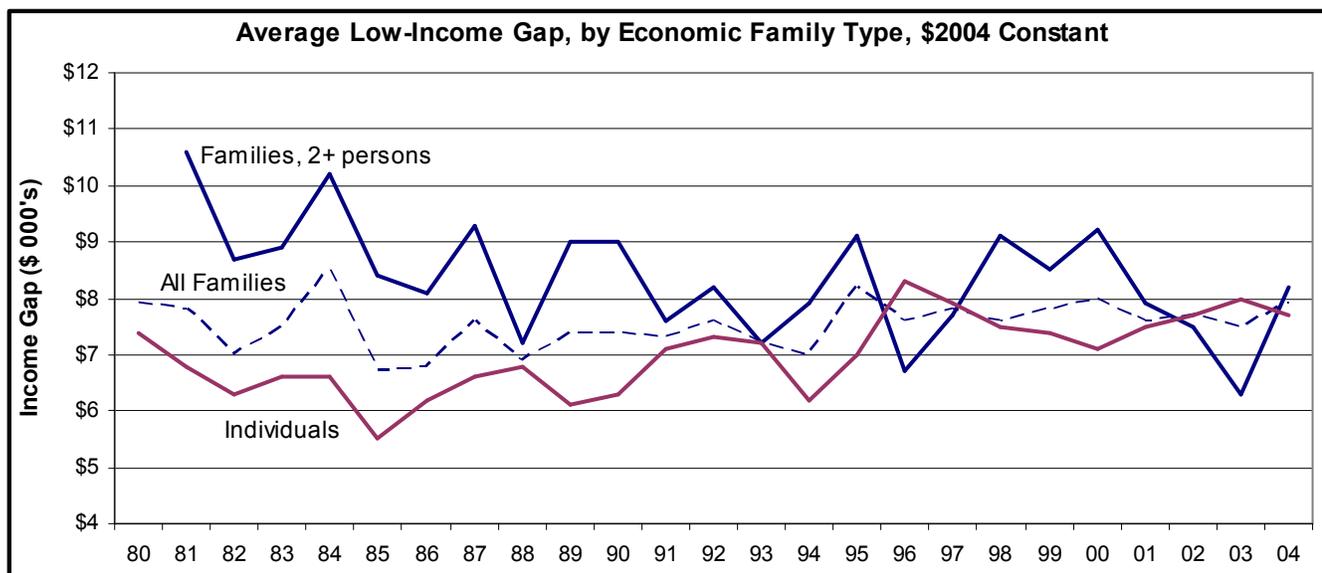
Low-Income Gap by Family Type

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ■ income gap decreased for families, increased for individuals

Overall, the average low-income household earned \$7,900 less than the low-income cut-off in 2004.

- ◆ This is equal to the low-income gap of 1980, meaning that the incomes of households in poverty have not increased in value over this time.
- ◆ The low-income gap actually increased for unattached individuals (by 4%).
- ◆ However, it is positive that the gap for families decreased 23% over this time period.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix E, Table 14 to view the data table for this graph.

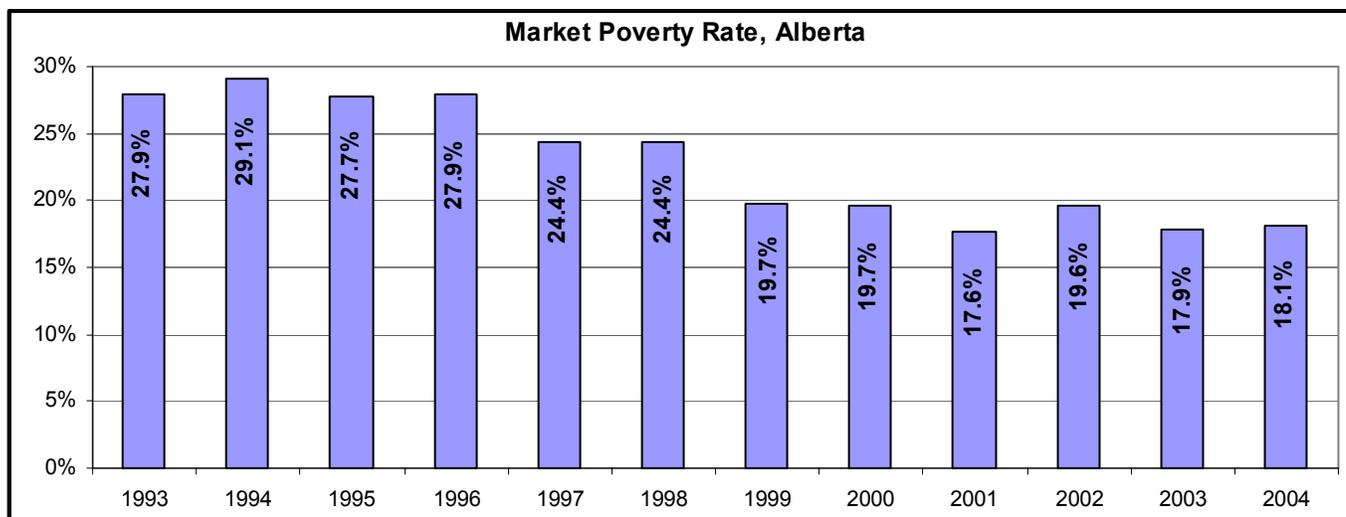
Market Poverty Rate, Families with Children

Alberta

the TREND: ↑ family poverty declining

The proportion of families with a market income below LICO declined 10% between 1993 and 2004.

- ◆ However, in 2004, over 68,000 families with children under the age of 18 earned market incomes below LICO.
- ◆ One-in-eight (86,000) children in Alberta were living in poverty in 2004.



Source: CCSD (32)

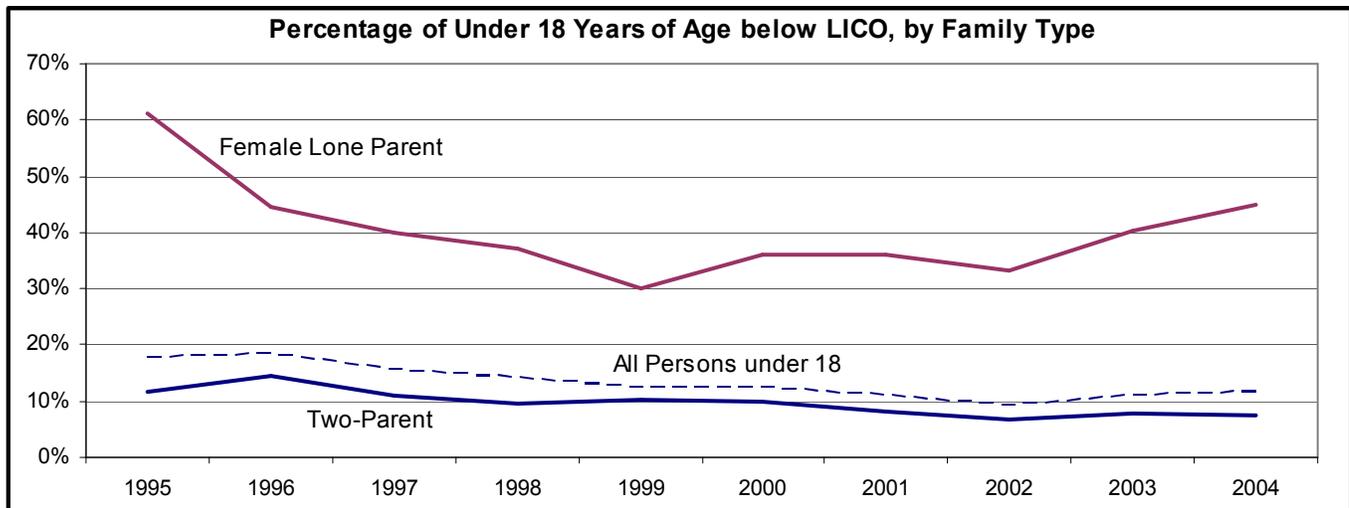
Proportion of Children Below LICO, by Family Type

Alberta

the TREND: ■ child poverty rates decreased, risk for lone-parent children higher

This graph confirms that lone-parent families are much more likely to be living in poverty than other family types.

- This is particularly true in relation to two-parent families, who either have two income earners or one parent responsible for full-time (or the majority of) childcare, which reduces overall costs of living.
- The proportion of children in poor lone-parent families, as well as the gap between children in lone- and two-parent families, has declined since 1995.
- However, the poverty rate for children in lone-parent families has increased again since 2002, and surpassed the 1996 rate in 2004.



Source: Statistics Canada (30)

** See Appendix E, Table 15 to view the data table for this graph.

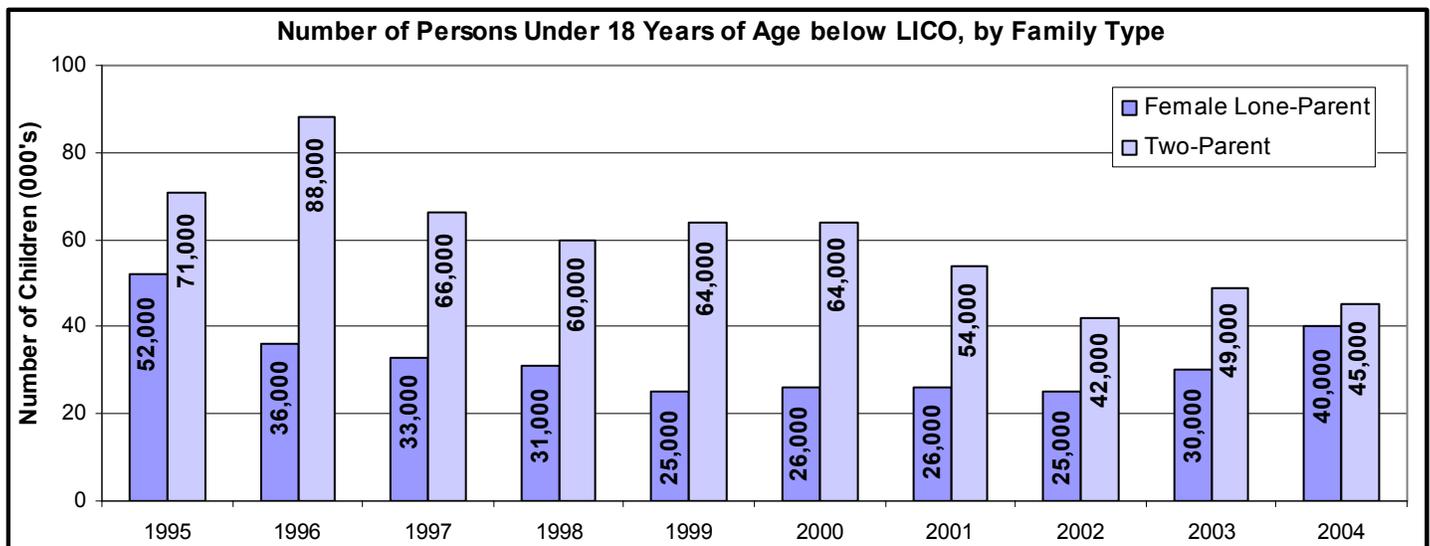
Number of Children Below LICO, by Family Type

Alberta

the TREND: ■ fewer children in poverty overall, poor lone-parent children rising

While children in lone-parent families are more likely to live in poverty, there are a greater number of poor children living in two-parent families (because there are a greater number of two-parent families).

- The “numbers gap” between children lone-parent and two-parent families has decreased since the mid-1990’s.



Source: Statistics Canada (30)

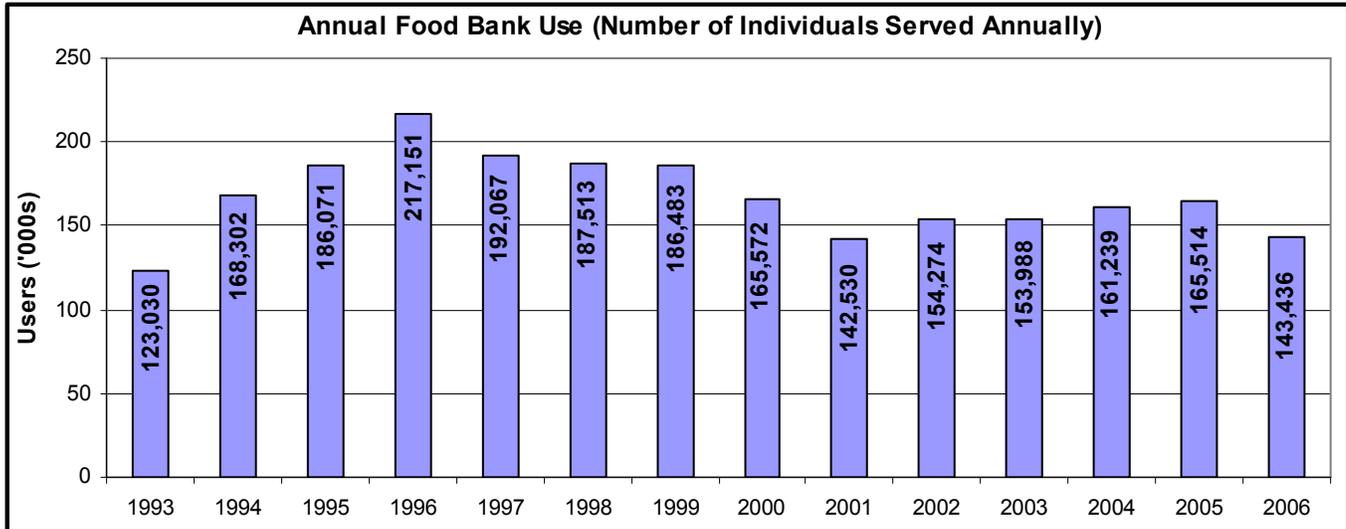
Food Bank Use

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ food bank use rising slightly

Food Bank usage has declined 24% since its peak in 1996.

- ◆ However, usage is still 17% higher than in 1993.



Source: Edmonton Food Bank (33)

Homelessness

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ homelessness increasing

Homeless counts by the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing suggest that homelessness has tripled since March 1999.

- ◆ If we only consider the last three counts, which were completed at the same time of year, homelessness has increased 37% since 2000.



Source: EJPCOH (34)

Section F

Government Income Supports

Why are Income Support Trends Important?

Income supports (also known as government income transfers), as well as other social programs and services, play an important role in preventing poverty.

Despite the prevalent message that hard work is the best prevention for, and solution to, poverty, there are many people for whom this is not true. Factors such as language proficiency, lack of recognition of foreign credentials, social isolation, and even the structure of existing government programs, can erect barriers to adequate employment. These barriers often affect visible minority groups (particularly newcomers), Aboriginal peoples, and lone-parent women.

Income Security

Ideally, income transfers help ensure that all citizens are able to maintain a decent standard of living - the ability to afford a nutritious diet and safe housing - and some level of financial stability.

When incomes do not increase at the rate of inflation, more low- and moderate-income families are at risk of poverty. Those in poverty fall even further behind.

The affordability and accessibility of some services (such as childcare, education, etc.) are crucial to allowing people to acquire and maintain adequate employment and, thereby, financial independence.

Income security is not only necessary for people who are able to work, but also those who are not.



the TREND:  reliance on income supports has declined overall, though not AISH
 real value of income supports declining for lowest income families

How is Edmonton Changing?

On the surface, it appears that there has been a significant decrease in reliance on (and, thereby, reduced need for) income support programs. This is clearly contradicted by the poverty data presented in Section E.

Families in the lowest income quintile (lowest 20%) have benefited less than other low- and modest-income families from improved government transfers over the past two decades. It is completely counter-intuitive that those who need support the most are receiving less.

Effectiveness of Transfer Payments

It appears that while income supports and social programs are lifting some families out of poverty, those who are the poorest are not receiving adequate support.

This is supported by the comparison of historical income support rates and poverty rates. The differential between the two rates suggests that the number of income support recipients is declining much faster than the number of people living in poverty.

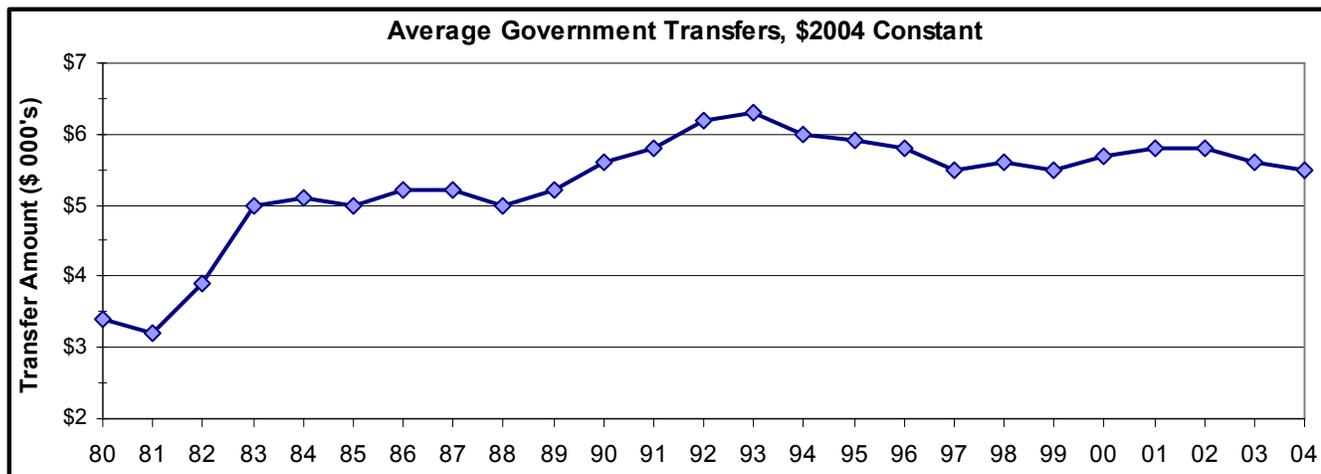
Average Transfer Payments

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↓ value of transfers decreasing slightly

The real value of government transfers (federal, provincial and municipal) given to families has increased over the past two decades.

- ♦ Overall, the average increased 62% between 1980 and 2004.
- ♦ However, the downturn over the past decade indicates that transfer payments are not keeping up with inflation.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix F, Table 16 to view the data table for this graph.

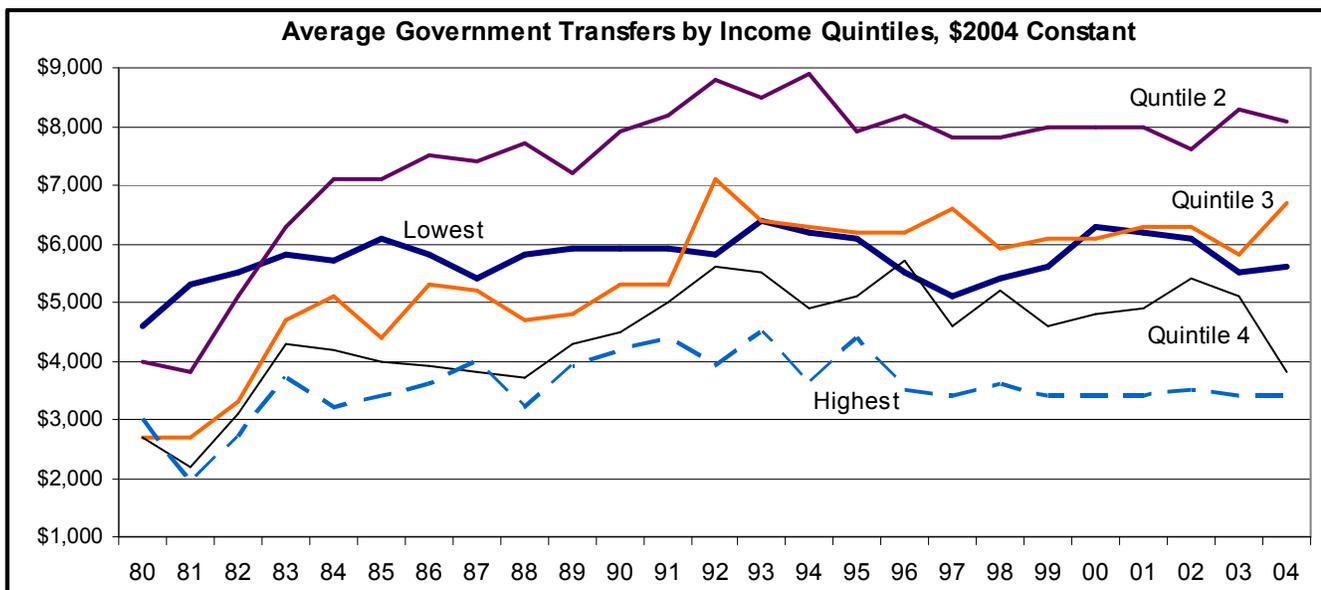
Average Transfer Payments by Income Quintile

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: □ value of transfers stagnant for lowest quintile

Contrary to the historical increase in the value of government transfers given to families, the lowest income quintile has benefited proportionately less than the middle three quintiles.

- ♦ The average amount given to families in the lowest income quintile only increased 22%.
- ♦ Income support doubled for the second quintile, and increased nearly 150% for the third quintile.
- ♦ The fourth quintile also experienced significant increases; not including the sharp decline in 2004, transfer payments for this group increased 89% between 1980 and 2003.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix F, Table 16 to view the data table for this graph.

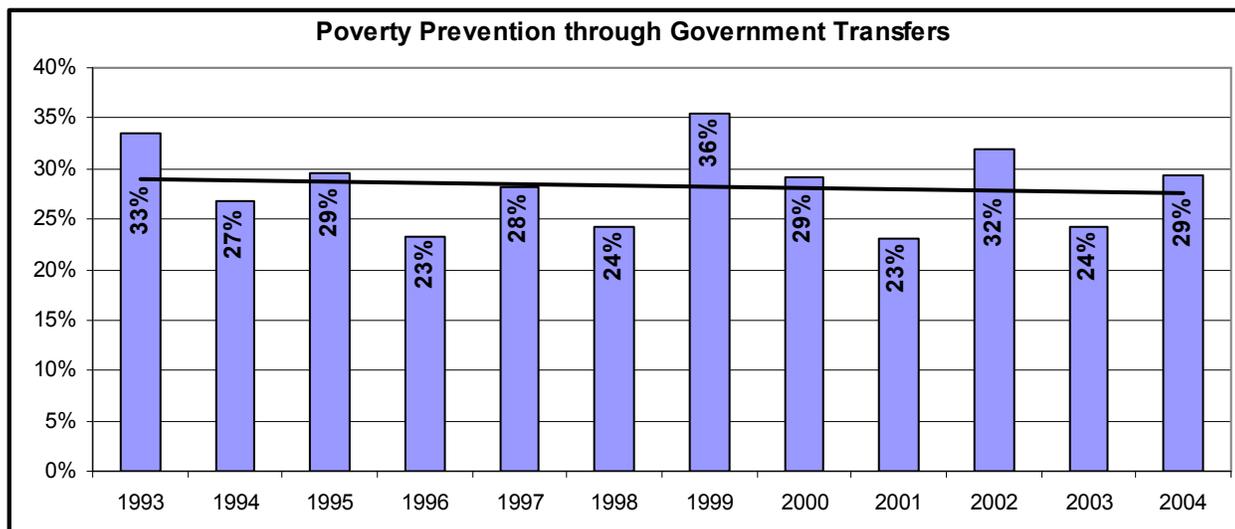
Income Transfers and Poverty Prevention

Alberta

the TREND: ♦ effectiveness of transfer payments not improved

One way to measure the effectiveness of income transfers is to track the proportion of families lifted above LICO.

- ♦ The proportion of low-income families with children (under 18) that “avoided” poverty through government income support fluctuates year-to-year, but has not shown improvement (and may be declining overall).
- ♦ Generally, about 30% of these families are lifted out of poverty by income support payments. The remaining two-thirds are not being aided sufficiently.



Source: CCSD (32)

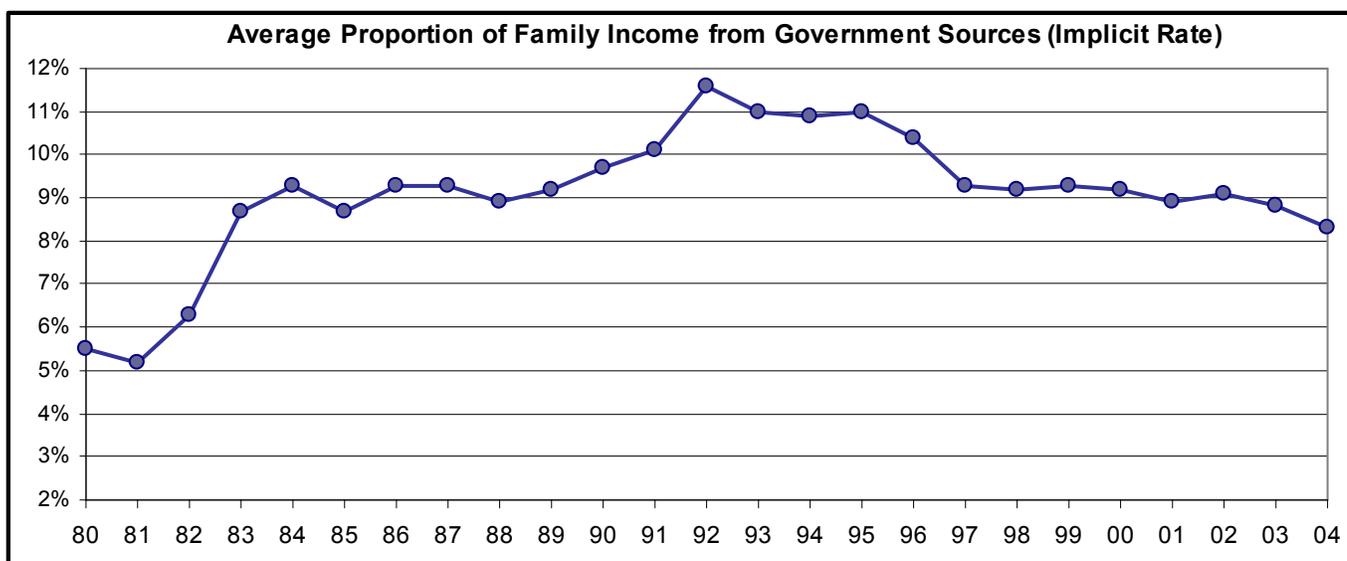
Proportion of Income from Government Sources

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ reliance on transfer payments reduced

The trend over the past decade has been towards decreased reliance on government for income by families at all income levels. The greatest decrease was experienced by families with the lowest incomes.

- ♦ On average, the proportion of family incomes from government sources decreased about 2% from 1992 to 2004.
- ♦ This proportion decreased 10% for families earning the lowest 20% of incomes.



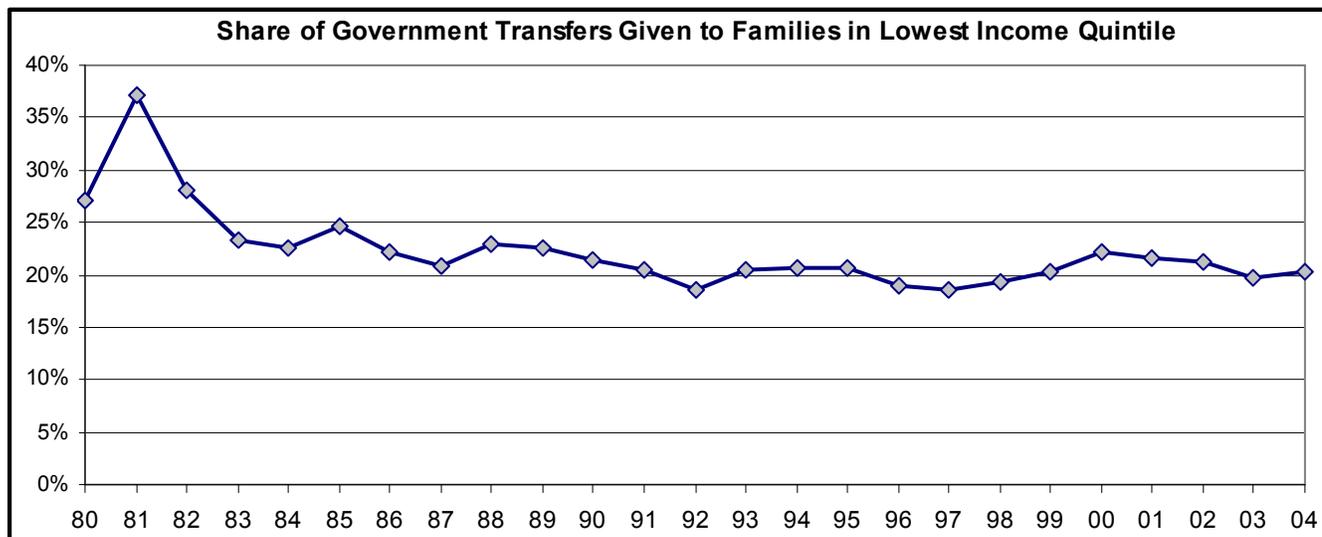
Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** See Appendix F, Table 16 to view the data table for this graph.

the TREND: ↓ share of transfer payments to highest need group decreasing

The proportion of total government transfers given to families in the lowest income quintile decreased from 27% to 20% between 1980 and 2003.

- ◆ This represents a 25% decrease in their share of transfer payments.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

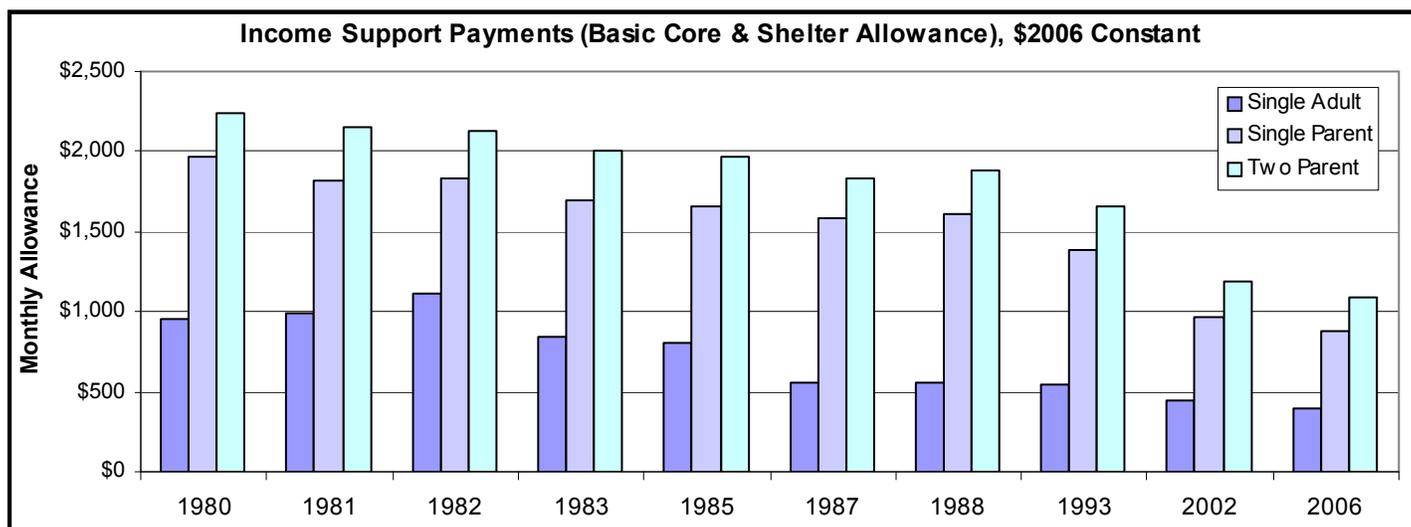
** See Appendix F, Table 17 to view the data table for this graph.

Income Supports, Standard and Shelter Allowances

the TREND: ↓ value of income support payments decreasing

The real value of Income Support Payments has declined significantly since 1980.

- ◆ The total monthly allowances are now worth less than half of the amounts received in 1980.
- ◆ In 2006, the shelter allowance for two adults with two children covered 65% of the current average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment. The essential benefit covered 86% of the current average cost of a nutritious food basket.



Source: Potts, Karen (35), ESPC (36) & (37), Alberta Works (38) & CUPE (25)

** See Appendix F, Table 18 to view the data table for this graph.

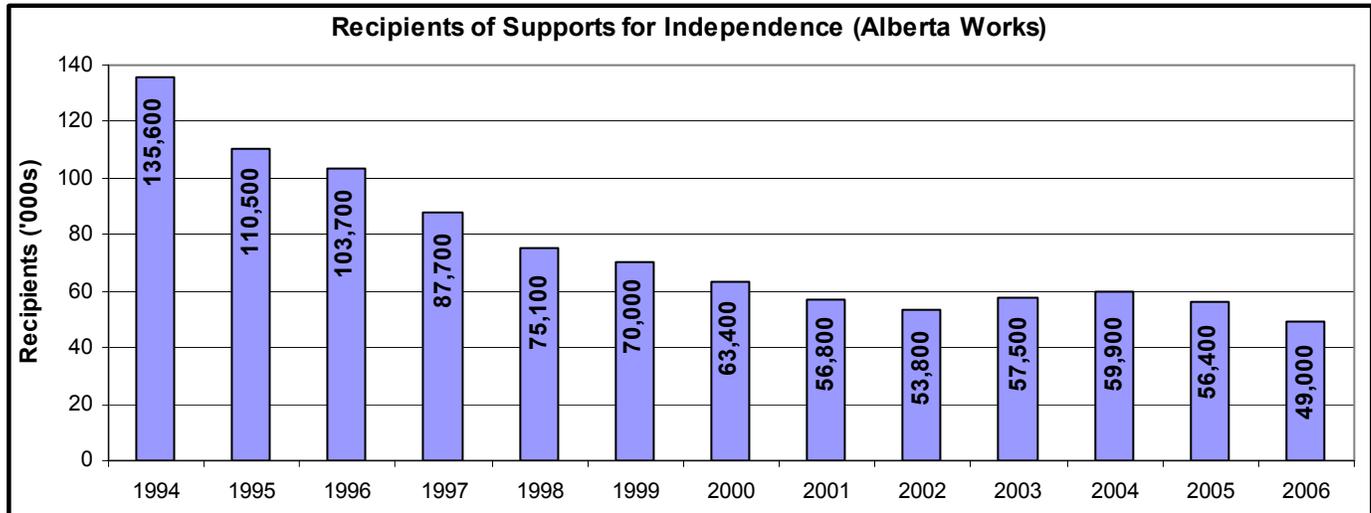
** These are maximum amounts for the following family types: (a) single adult, (b) single parent with two children, and (c) two parents with two children. For both families with children, one child is assumed to be under 12 years of age, and the other child is assumed to be over 12 years of age. Adults are assumed to be eligible to work.

Income Support Rates *Alberta*

the TREND: ■ income support rates declining

The number of Alberta Works recipients declined significantly (nearly 60%) over the past decade.

- ♦ On the surface, this seems to reflect that there are fewer low-income people who need income supports.
- ♦ However, it also seems to indicate that fewer low-income families are receiving the support that they require. As shown in Section E, the market poverty rate of families with children in Alberta declined approximately 11% between 1994 and 2004 - significantly less than the drop in the number of recipients over the same period.
- ♦ The total number of Alberta Works recipients in 2005 represented less than 2% of the Alberta population.
- ♦ The Edmonton Region had about 40% of Alberta's total Income Support caseload in 2006. ⁽³⁹⁾



Source: HRSDC (40) & Alberta Works (40)

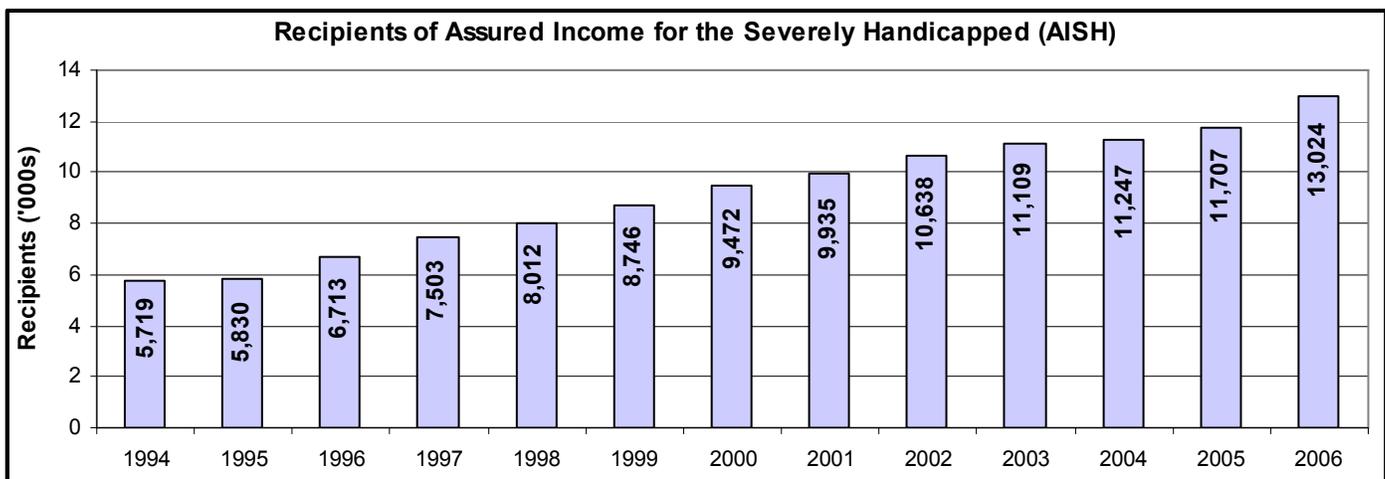
** See Appendix F, Table 19 to view the number of IS cases.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) *Edmonton CMA*

the TREND: ■ AISH recipients increasing

In contrast to Alberta Works, the number of AISH recipients has increased over the past decade. Yet similarly, the potential meaning of this is mixed:

- ♦ It could reflect that there are more people in need of AISH.
- ♦ Or it may just mean that more people who need it are receiving it.



Source: Alberta Seniors (42)

Part 2

Edmonton Social Health Index

All of the data presented in Part 1 give a comprehensive look at multiple social factors that affect Edmontonians. However, it can be difficult to gain a cohesive sense of how the city has changed from such a wide and varied array of data.

The Edmonton Social Health Index is an attempt to generate such an overarching view based on a selection of key social features.

Selection of Indicators

In the 2002 edition, the Council chose 15 social health indicators that attempt to capture the following factors that contribute to overall social health. These indicators can be grouped into 4 categories:

- ♦ Population Growth and Health
- ♦ Personal and Family Distress/ Stability
- ♦ Personal and Family Financial Security
- ♦ Community Safety

Calculation of the Index

The raw data for each indicator are normalized - converted from a raw number to a rate representing the number of instances per unit of the population. The normalized data are then converted to an index value based on the benchmark year of 1993 - as the situation improves or worsens over time for each indicator, the index value rises or falls, respectively. The index values are then aggregated on an annual basis to form the composite index. The index thereby reflects the collective changes in the individual indicator values.

When data is not available, we extrapolate for those years as indicated by an asterisk. The composite index gives equal weight to each indicator.

Section A

Social Health Index Results

Why is the Social Health Index Important?

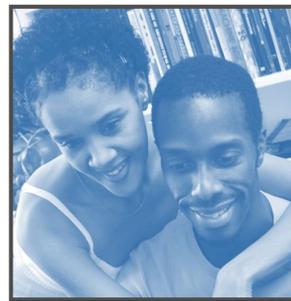
A composite index provides an opportunity to gain an overall impression of the social health of a city. In addition, the indicators included represent some of the effects of the social situations discussed throughout this document. For example:

- ♦ Life expectancy and premature deaths give a basic indication of the quality of health care.
- ♦ Suicide rates may reflect the level of social cohesion in a community (individuals who feel disconnected/lack social support are more likely to take their own lives).

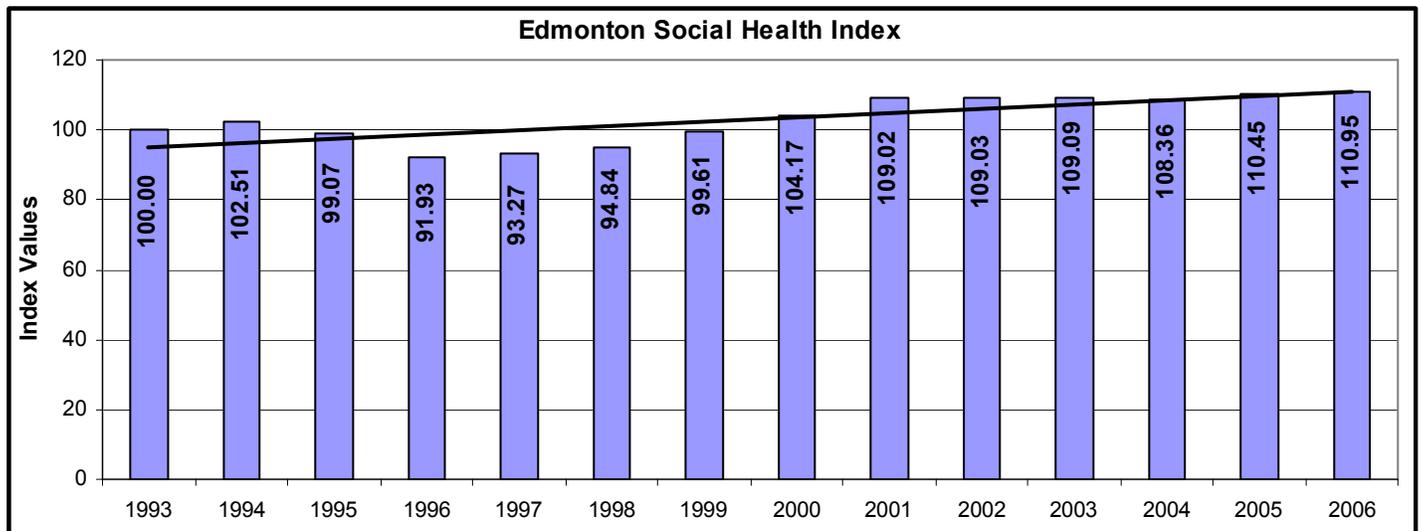
- ♦ Crisis support calls, child welfare caseloads, and family disputes may reflect changing level of stress and tension in families who are living in poverty or are socially isolated.

The values comprising the index are, of course, not an exhaustive list of social health indicators. However, they do help us to gain a general sense of how Edmonton's social health is changing.

Combined with the social and economic indicators in Part 1, we will be able to make informed judgments of the overall social health of Edmonton.



the TREND: ■ overall social health improved since 1993
recovered from decline in mid- to late-1990's
little improvement since 2001



** See Appendix G, Table 20 for the full table of index values on the 15 social health indicators.

Section B

The 15 Social Health Indicators

These 15 key indicators measure personal health, safety and financial well-being and those in crisis in our city. The indicators are:

Population Growth and Health

- 1 Life Expectancy
- 2 Premature Deaths
- 3 Low Birth-Weight Babies
- 4 Sexually Transmitted Infections



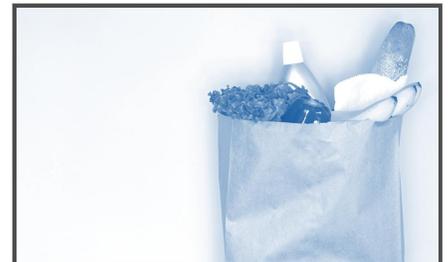
Personal and Family Distress/Stability

- 5 Suicide Rate
- 6 Crisis Support Calls
- 7 Teen Birth Rate
- 8 Child Welfare Caseloads
- 9 Reports of Family Disputes



Personal and Family Financial Security

- 10 Personal Bankruptcy Rate
- 11 Food Bank Use
- 12 Percentage of Families Living Below LICO
- 13 Single Parent Households



Community Safety

- 14 Property Crime Rate
- 15 Violent Crime Rate



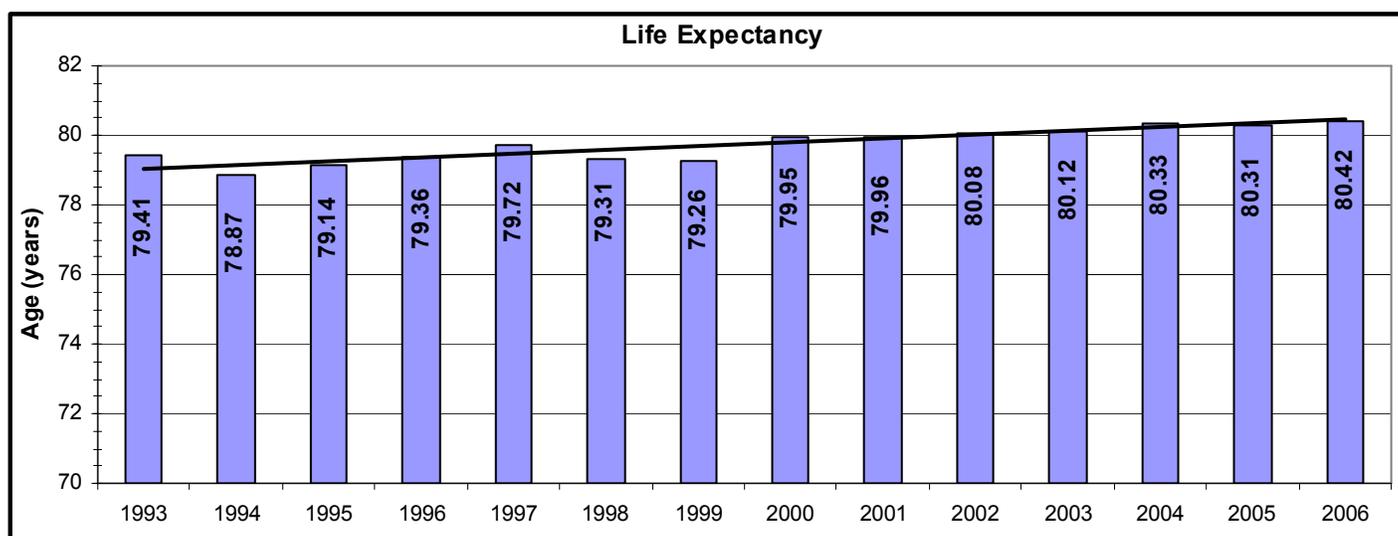
1. Life Expectancy

Capital Health Region

the TREND: ↑ increased life expectancy

Despite some small dips in the mid- and late-1990s, life expectancy has increased steadily since 1993.

- ♦ Edmontonians born in 2006 are expected to live, on average, about one year longer than those born in 1993.
- ♦ Life expectancy increased more for men (2%) than for women (0.5%) over this time period.



Source: Alberta Health and Wellness (43)

** See Appendix G, Table 21 to view the source data for this graph.

** Source data is separated by gender; expressing life expectancy by gender is generally more meaningful than an overall number since gender is a predictor of life expectancy. For the purpose of the social health index, we are presenting a combined life expectancy based on the assumption of a 51:49 female-male ratio.

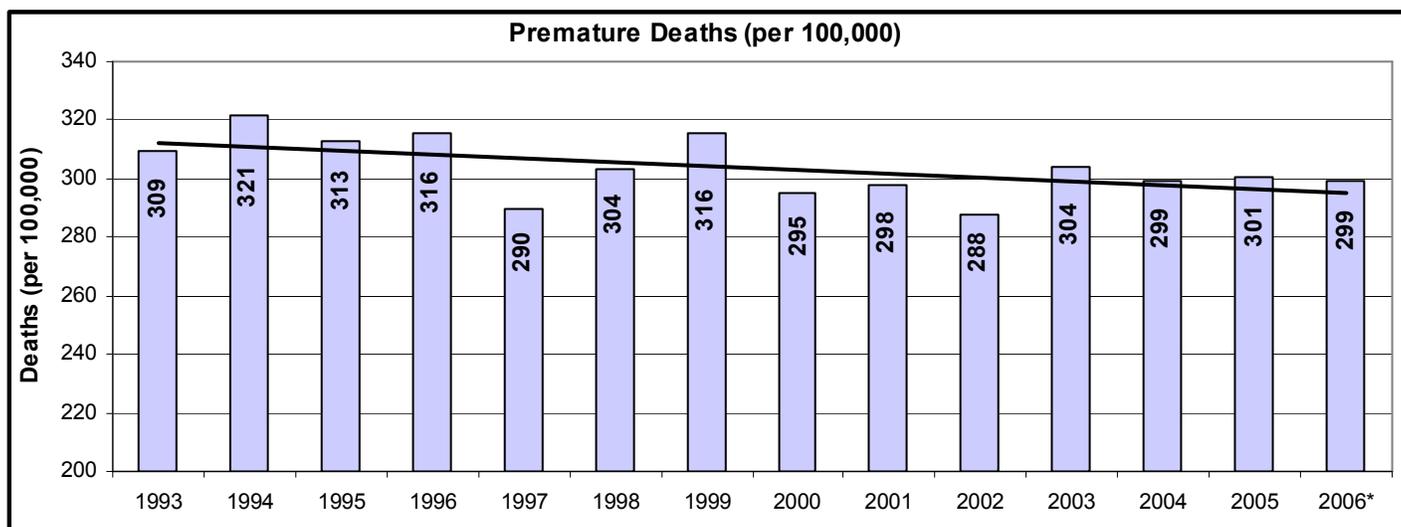
2. Premature Deaths (per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ fewer premature deaths

Premature deaths can be defined in a number of different ways. The figures presented here represent the number of deaths before the age of 75.

- ♦ While 75 years may seem like a high cut-off - deaths before the age of 30, for example, are much more premature than deaths after the age of 70 - doing so allows us to roughly approximate the number of people who do not reach the population's life expectancy.
- ♦ In concurrence with the life expectancy data, the number of premature deaths has declined fairly steadily (though with a few spikes) since 1993.
- ♦ The current rate is approximately 3% lower than the 1993 benchmark.



Source: Capital Health Region (44)

* 2006 figure based on historical rate of change for previous years.

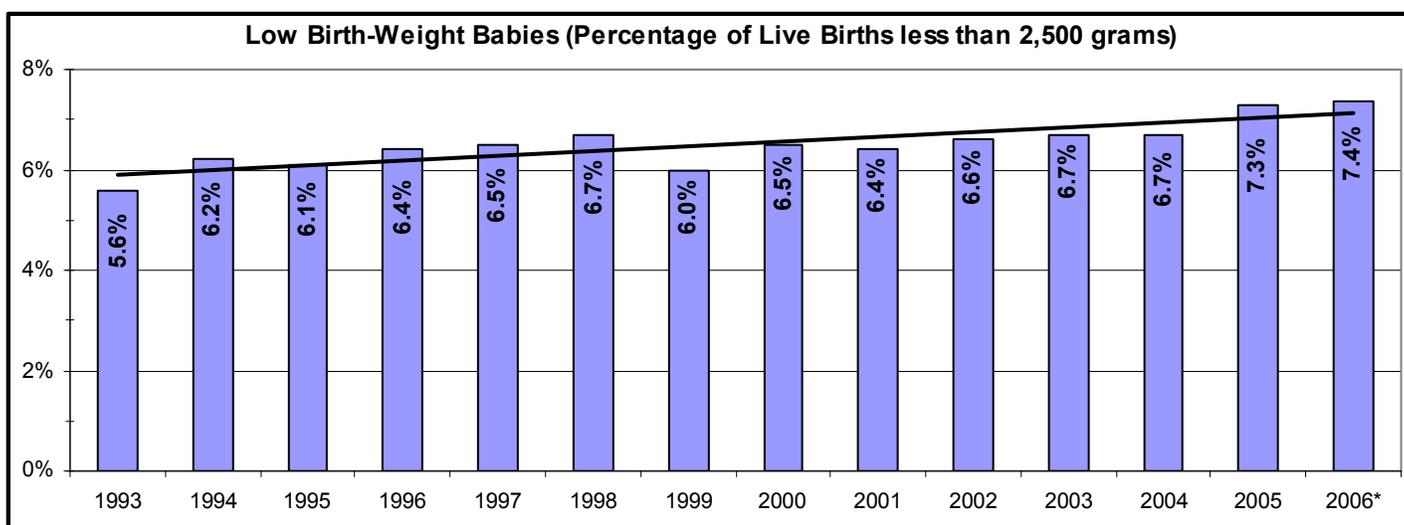
3. Low Birth-Weight Babies

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ increasing incidence of low birth-weight

Low birth-weight babies can be a reflection of the overall health and well-being of mothers and the social supports and prenatal services available to them.

- ♦ Factors such as poor nutrition, smoking, stress and lack of support, and poor working conditions (stress, exposure to harmful substances, or long periods of standing) are associated with low birth-weights. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- ♦ Low-birth weights are associated with higher risk of post-partum depression, increased marital stress, and delayed return to the workforce for mothers (as well as more time off once returned to work). This can have important consequences for a family’s financial security. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- ♦ Low birth-weight children tend to have higher rates of chronic health conditions and developmental difficulties. This not only impacts the children’s health and long-term well-being, but also has costs to the health care and educational systems. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- ♦ In Edmonton, the proportion of babies born with low birth weights has increased nearly 2% since 1993.

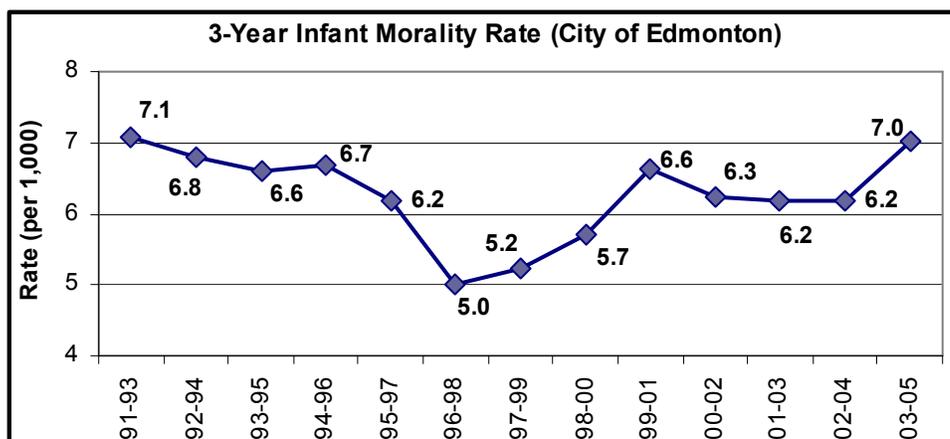


Source: Capital Health Region (44)

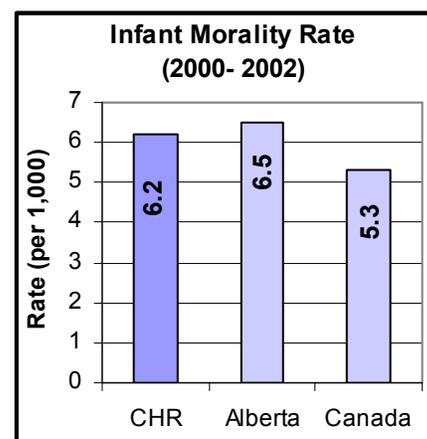
** 2006 figure based on historical rate of change for previous years.

Another indicator of population health closely related to low-birth weight is the **infant mortality rate (IMR)**.

- ♦ Infant mortality is recognized as a sensitive measure of a society’s well-being. It reflects a population’s overall health status and quality of health care, and is closely linked to income inequality. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ and ⁽⁴⁷⁾
- ♦ After significant improvements through the 1990’s, Edmonton’s infant mortality rate has returned to early-90’s levels. Alberta’s IMR tends to be higher than the national average.



Source: Capital Health Region (44)



Source: Capital Health Region (48)

4. Sexually Transmitted Infections (Per 100,000)

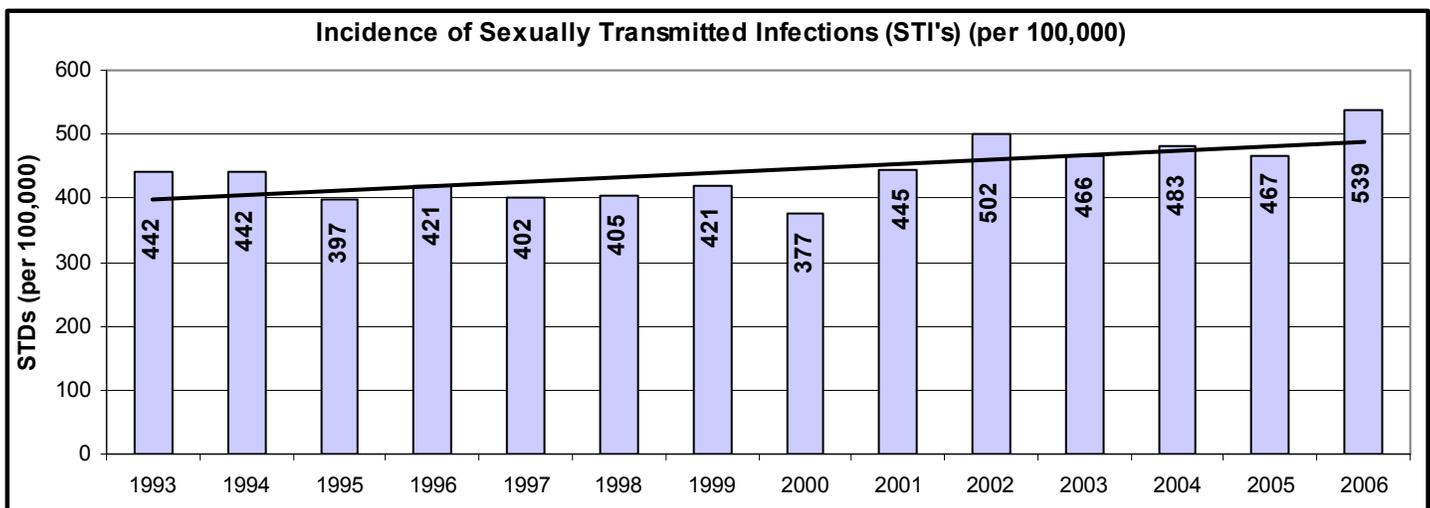
Capital Health Region

the TREND: ↓ sexual health worsening

Due to the nature of sexually transmitted infections - it is common for one person to have two or more types of infections at the same time - incidence rates are typically calculated separately for each type of infection.

For the purpose of the Social Health Index, however, we have combined the separate rates (outlined for the 2000-2006 in the table below) - though this artificially inflates the rate (due to counting some people multiple times).

- ♦ The overall STI rate increased over 20% between 1993 and 2006.
- ♦ The most notable increases since 2000 were in Gonorrhoea (190%) and Infectious Syphilis (2100%).



Source: Capital Health Region (49)

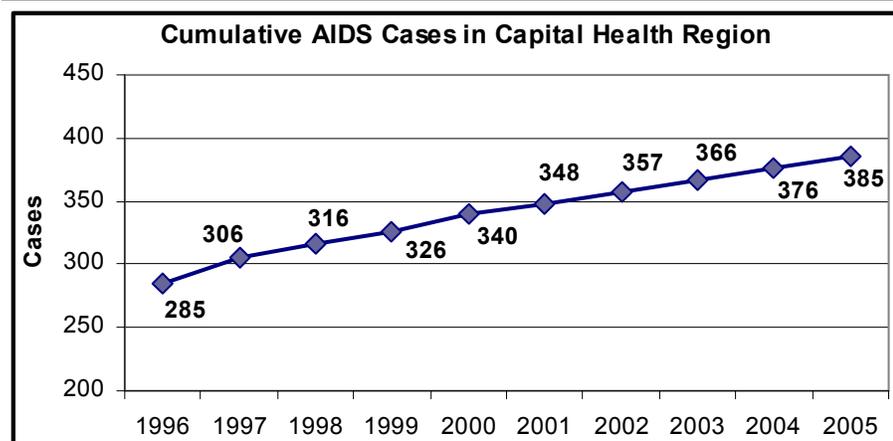
** Comparisons between 1993-1999 data and 2000-2006 data should be made with caution. Earlier data (obtained from the 2002 Edition of Tracking the Trends) is for the City of Edmonton, while 2000 onward is for the Capital Health Region. Data prior to 2000 was unavailable for the Health Region.

Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), by Type

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Chlamydia	216.6	254.1	281.1	254.2	273.4	277.5	313.6
Gonorrhoea	31.3	45.7	58.3	48	71.3	66.6	89.8
Mucopurulent Cervicitis*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.8**	11.8	16.5
Non-gonococcal Urethritis*	126.3	143.7	160	159.3	118.8	96.6	106.3
Infectious Syphilis	0.5	0.5	0.2	2.8	5.3	10.3	11
Other Syphilis	2.1	0.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	4.4	1.9

* Rate calculated using females for MPC and males for NGU.

** Rates only available from 2003 due to change in case definition.



Source: Alberta Health and Wellness (50)

While HIV/AIDS remains rare in Alberta, the number of cases has risen steadily over the past decade.

- ♦ The number of AIDS cases in the Capital Health Region increased 35% between 1996 and 2005.
- ♦ About one-third of AIDS cases in Alberta were identified in the Capital Health Region.

5. Suicide Rate (Per 100,000)

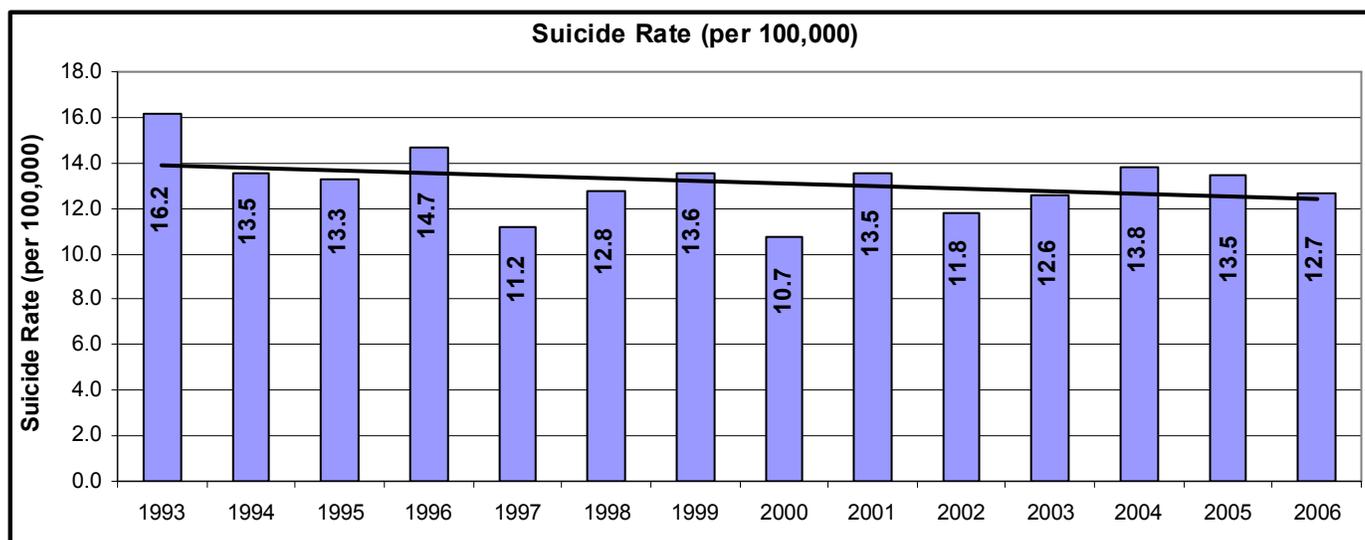
Capital Health Region

the TREND: ↑ suicide rate declining

The causes of suicide are varied and complex. The reasons for committing suicide may stem from a combination of factors, including financial stress, economic fluctuations, unemployment, family instability, social inequality and isolation, and mental illness.

While it is difficult to determine the effects of these factors, it is known that: ⁽⁵¹⁾

- ♦ Women attempt suicide more often than men, though men are more often successful in their attempts. For every suicide death, there are an estimated 125 attempts.
- ♦ Suicide rates are significantly higher in Aboriginal populations, at approximately 3 times the provincial average.
- ♦ Alberta's suicide rate has historically been consistently higher than the national rate.



Source: Alberta Justice (52) & (53) *Rates are calculated based on Edmonton CMA population, suicide counts are by Health Region

** 2005 and 2006 figures are preliminary data. ** 1993 and 1994 rates are calculated estimates based on City of Edmonton population - converted to CMA. Comparisons between these years and 1995 onward should be made with some caution.

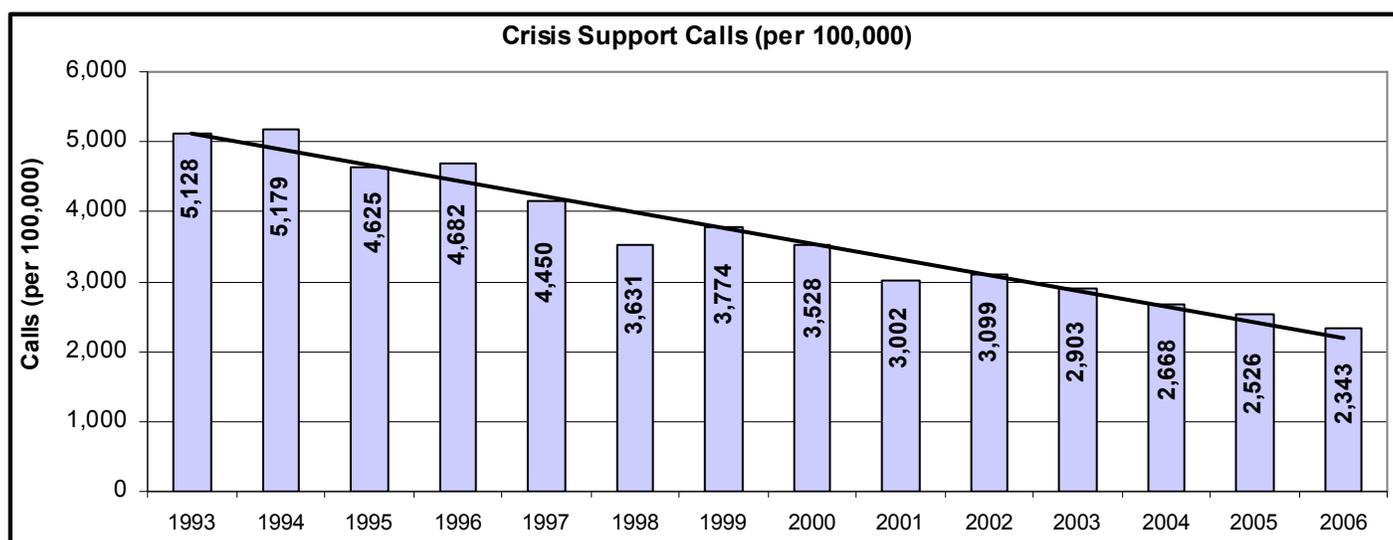
6. Crisis Support Calls (Per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ crisis support need declining

This graph represents the number of calls received by The Support Network's Distress Line - a 24 hour phone line providing support and referrals to people who are experiencing difficulties or crisis situations.

- ♦ The number of calls received annually has declined significantly - by over half (54%) - since 1993.
- ♦ The Support Network reports that although the total number of calls has declined overall, the number of critical calls is increasing - calls related to suicide, senior abuse and violence accounted for 43% of calls received. ⁽⁵⁴⁾
- ♦ In 2006, approximately 22% of calls to the distress line were suicide-related, and 20% were violence-related. ⁽⁵⁴⁾



Source: The Support Network (54)

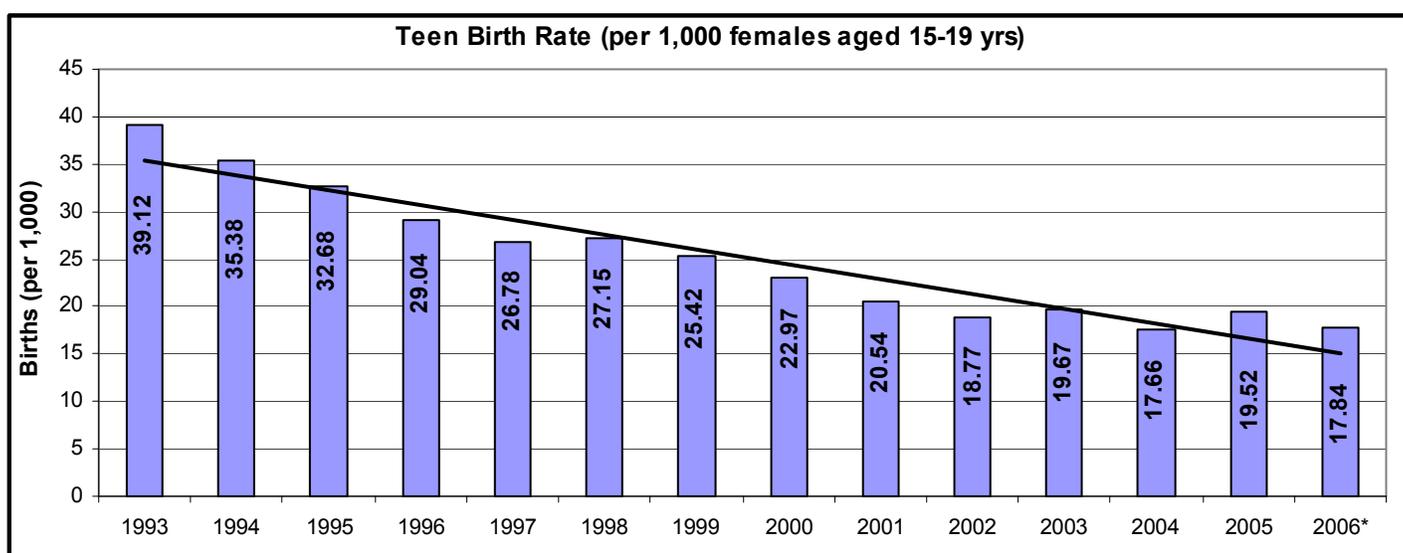
7. Teen Birth Rate

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ decreasing incidence of teen births

The consequences of teenage pregnancies are significant and long-term. Teen mothers may defer their education to care for their child(ren), which reduces their employment prospects and overall earnings potential. This, combined with the tendency for young mothers to be single (i.e. without the support of a second income earner), results in a high risk of financial insecurity and all of the associated consequences.

- ◆ In Edmonton, the teen birth rate has declined by approximately half (54%) since 1993.
- ◆ More research is needed to discern why such a substantial decline has occurred over this time period. It may reflect the increased availability of contraceptive drugs, as well as the increasing emphasis on educating teens (and the general population) on the risks of unprotected sex. ⁽⁵⁵⁾
- ◆ It is interesting to note that teen birth rates and distress calls decreased at approximately the same rate. While the teen pregnancies do not account for all distress calls, the parallel reductions are not entirely surprising - teens facing a pregnancy would certainly be in distress.



Source: Capital Health Authority (44)

* 2006 figure based on historical rate of change for previous years.

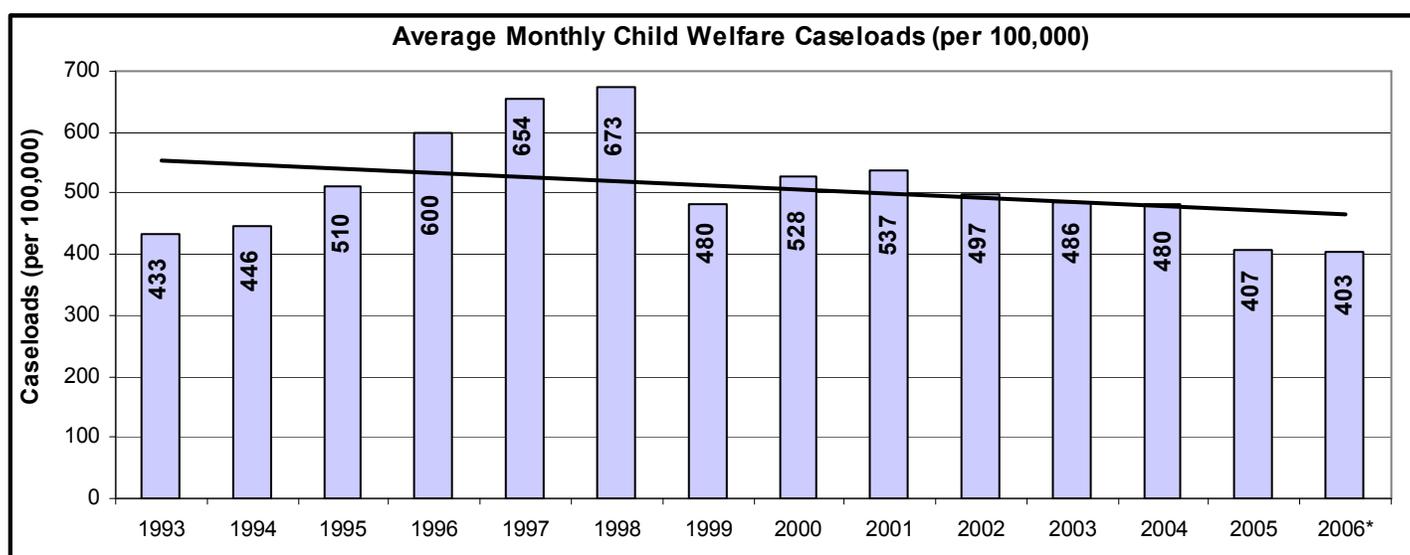
8. Child Welfare Caseloads

Edmonton & Area Child & Family Services Region 6

the TREND: ↑ child welfare cases declining

After a considerable spike in the mid- to late-1990s, the number of child welfare caseloads has declined to a level below the 1993 benchmark.

- ◆ Since the last Child & Family Services region boundary change in 2003 (see notes below), the average monthly caseload has declined.
- ◆ More accurate analyses of this data will be possible when a few more years of data is available for the current region boundaries.



Source: Alberta Children's Services (56)

** Figures are based on fiscal years - for example, 2005 represents th3 2005/06 fiscal year.

** Region boundaries changed 1998/99 and 2003/04, so comparisons before and after these changes must be made with some caution. Rates are based on population estimates of the region boundaries reported by Edmonton & Area Child & Family Services.

* The 2006 rate is an estimate based upon the overall rate of change over the previous years (represented by the trend line).

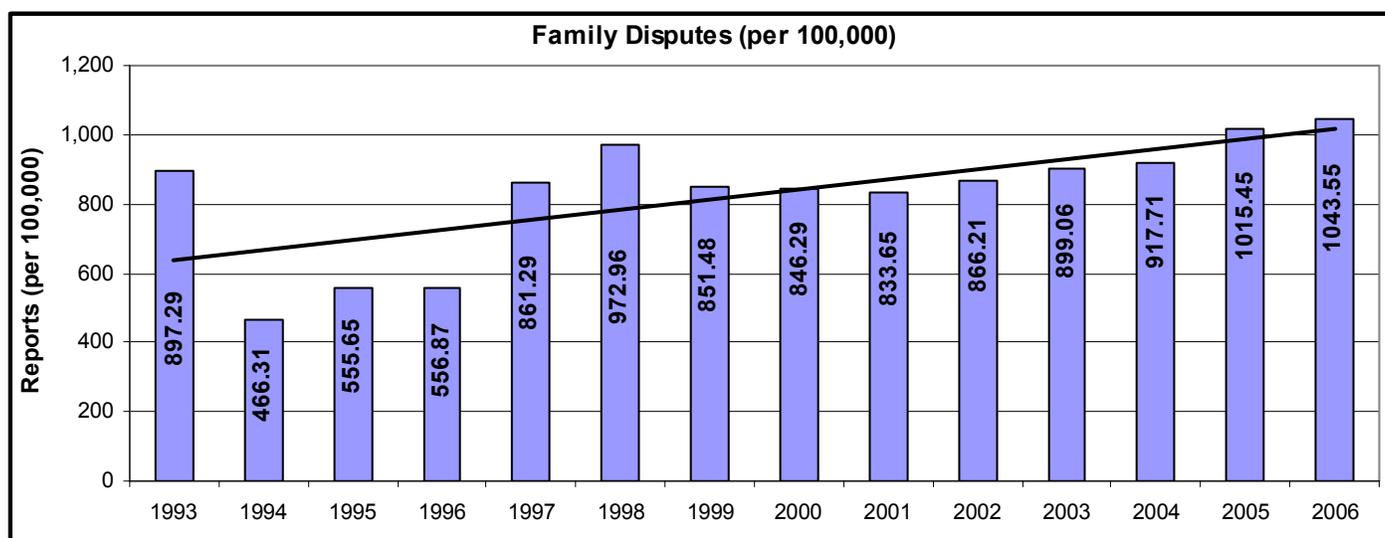
9. Reports of Family Disputes (Per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ family disputes increasing

In contrast to reduced rates of property and violent crime (see indicators # 14 & 15), the number of reported incidences of family disputes has increased quite considerably.

- ♦ The current rate is 35% higher than the 1993 base rate.
- ♦ When compared to the 1994 rate, however, the trend is even more extreme. Reported family disputes have nearly tripled since that year.
- ♦ This trend may indicate an increase in reporting, rather than purely an increase in the number of incidents.
- ♦ However, when compared to the violent crime statistics, which show a trend in the opposite direction, this suggests that violence may be moving more into the private sphere.
- ♦ Family violence is a complex issue with many potential and interacting causes. It has, however, been linked to social inequalities and power imbalances - including social isolation and poverty. ⁽⁵⁷⁾



Source: Edmonton Police Service (58)

** 2006 figure calculated based on the monthly average number of disputes reported from January to April 2006.

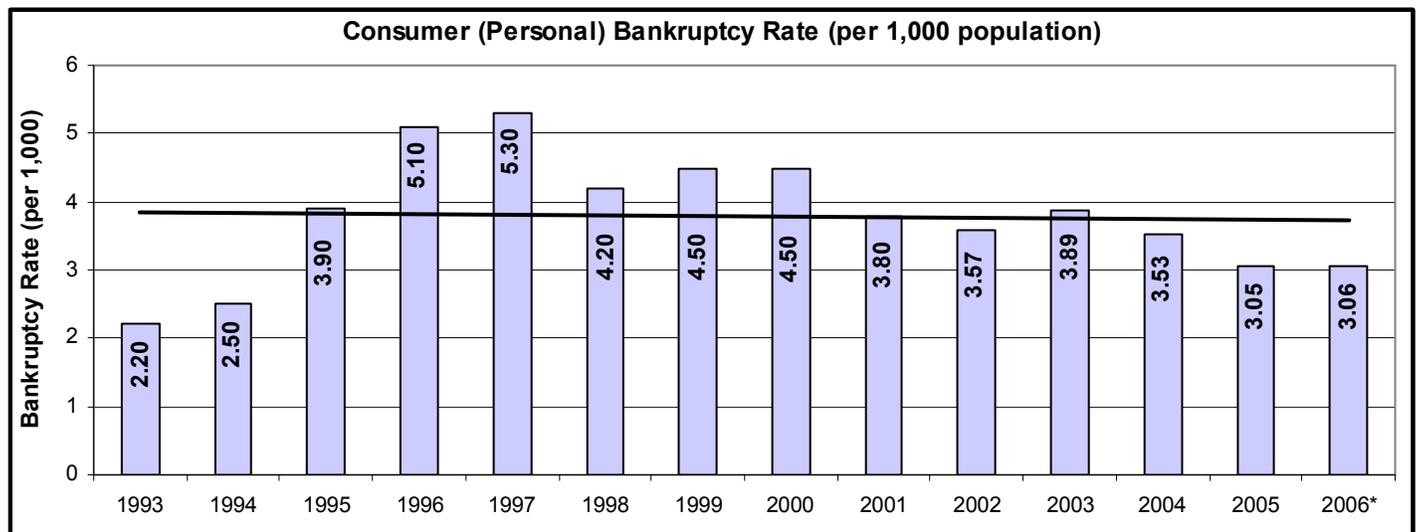
10. Personal Bankruptcy Rate (Per 1,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↓ **bankruptcy rates slowly increasing**

Overall, personal bankruptcy rates have tended to decline since 1993.

- ♦ As with some of the other indicators, there was a significant spike in bankruptcy rates in the mid- to late-1990s, followed by a fairly steady decline.
- ♦ The current rate is 42% lower than the peak in 1997. However, it is still 40% higher than the base rate in 1993.



Source: Industry Canada (59)

* The 2006 rate is an estimate based upon the overall rate of change over the previous years.

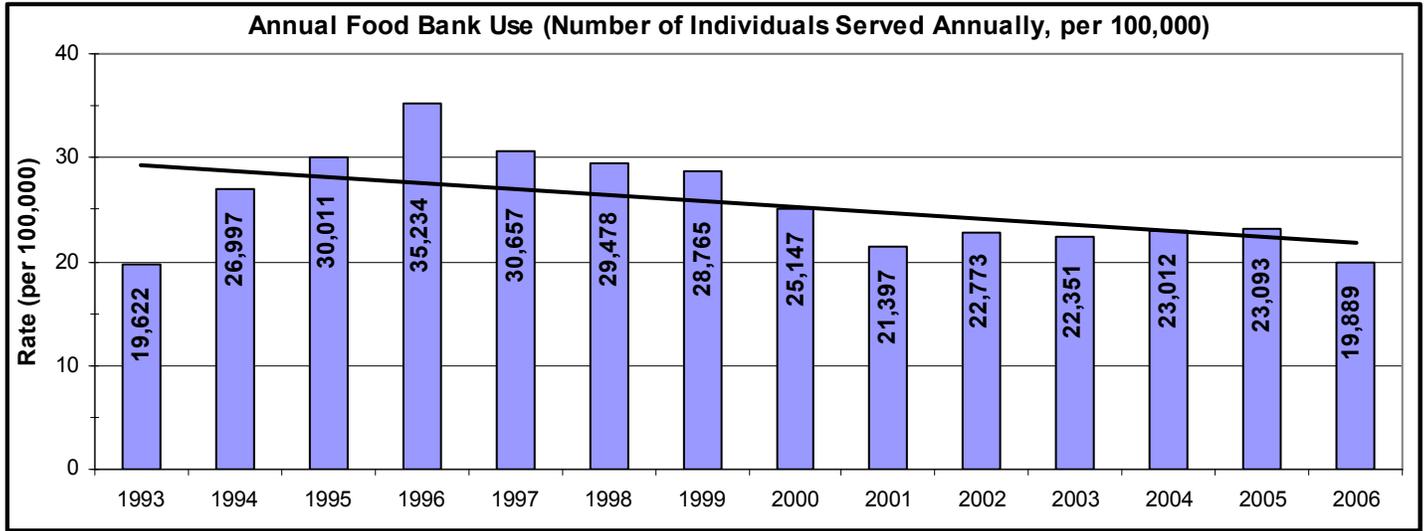
11. Food Bank Use (Per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ food bank use declining

After a considerable spike in the mid-1990s, food bank use has declined fairly steadily.

- ♦ The current rate is 36% lower than the peak year of 1996.
- ♦ After a period of slight increases over the past few years, the rate dropped in 2006. The current rate is just 1% higher than the base year of 1993.



Source: Edmonton Food Bank (33)

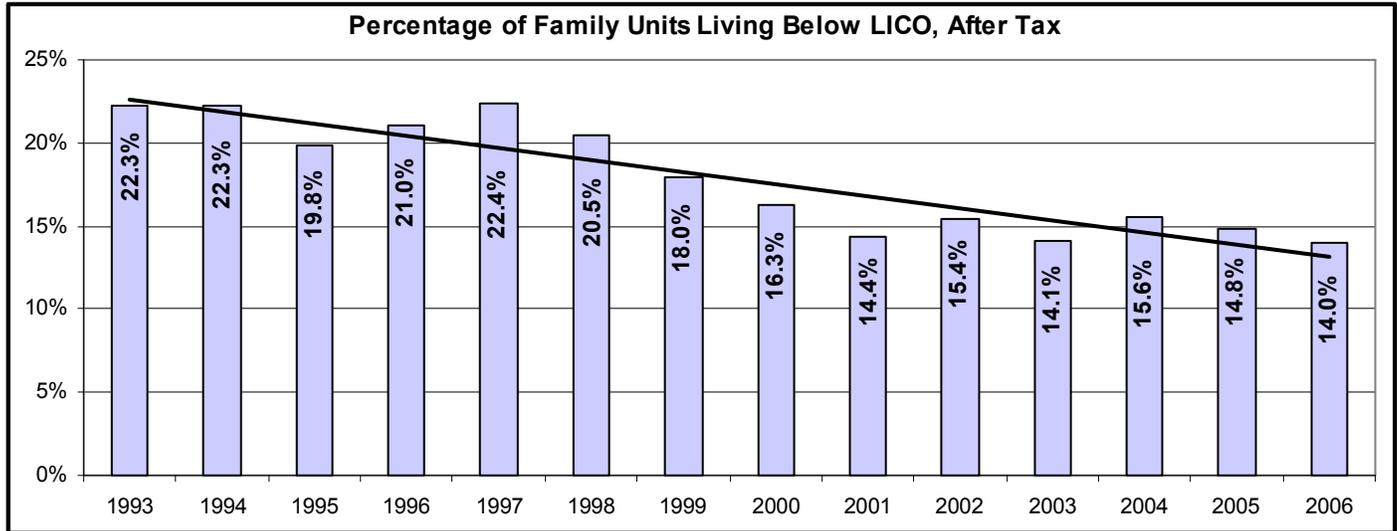
12. Families Living Below LICO

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ fewer low-income families

The proportion of family units living in poverty has declined approximately 8% since 1993.

- ♦ This is clearly a positive trend. However, specific groups in the population continue to experience poverty rates, including women, lone-parents and young people, as well as visible minorities and Aboriginal populations.
- ♦ We must also keep in mind that while the rate of poverty is declining, the depth of poverty is increasing - meaning that those who remain below poverty are becoming much poorer.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

** 2005 and 2006 figures are estimates based on overall historical rate of change.

** "Family units" include economic families of 2 or more persons and unattached individuals.

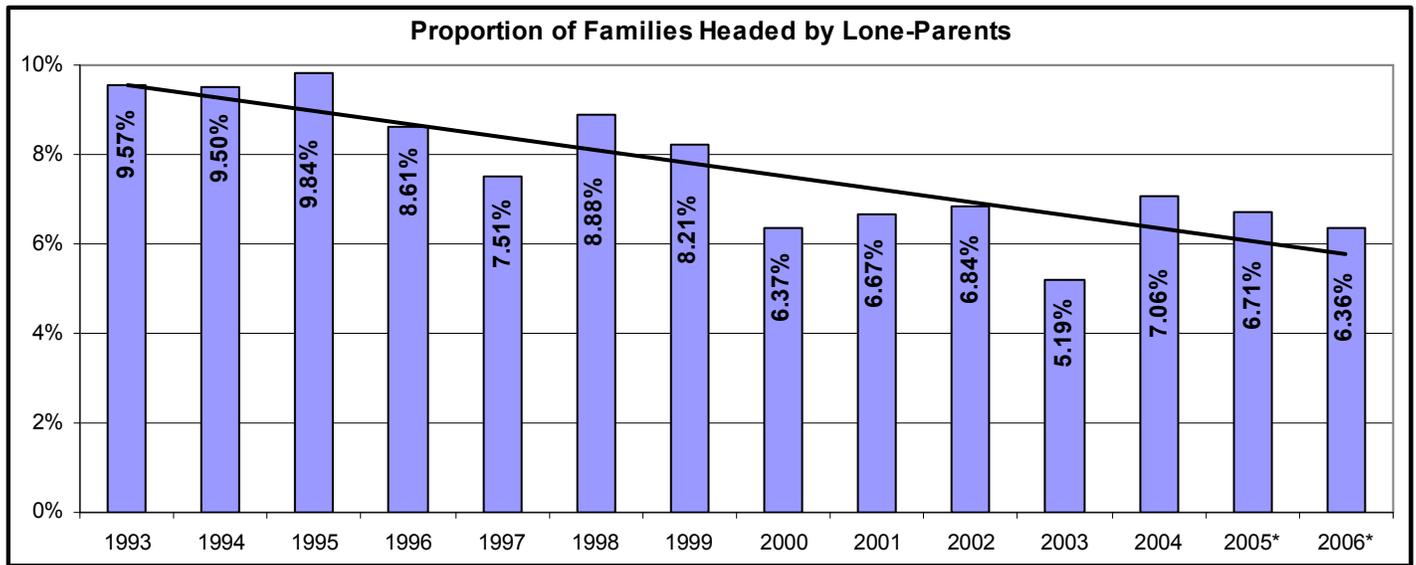
13. Single Parent Households (Per 100,000)

Edmonton CMA

the TREND: ↑ fewer single-parent families

The proportion of single-parent families has declined about 3% since 1993.

- ◆ This overall trend is positive. However, the rate has fluctuated over the past decade and the latest data from 2004 (see notes below) suggests that Edmonton may experience another period of increases.
- ◆ As shown in the previous sections on income and poverty, families headed by lone-parents (in particular, female lone-parents), are at much greater risk of poverty. This is, of course, predominantly due to the fact that lone-parents typically have to support their families on one income.



Source: Statistics Canada (27)

* 2005 and 2006 figures are estimates based on overall historical rate of change.

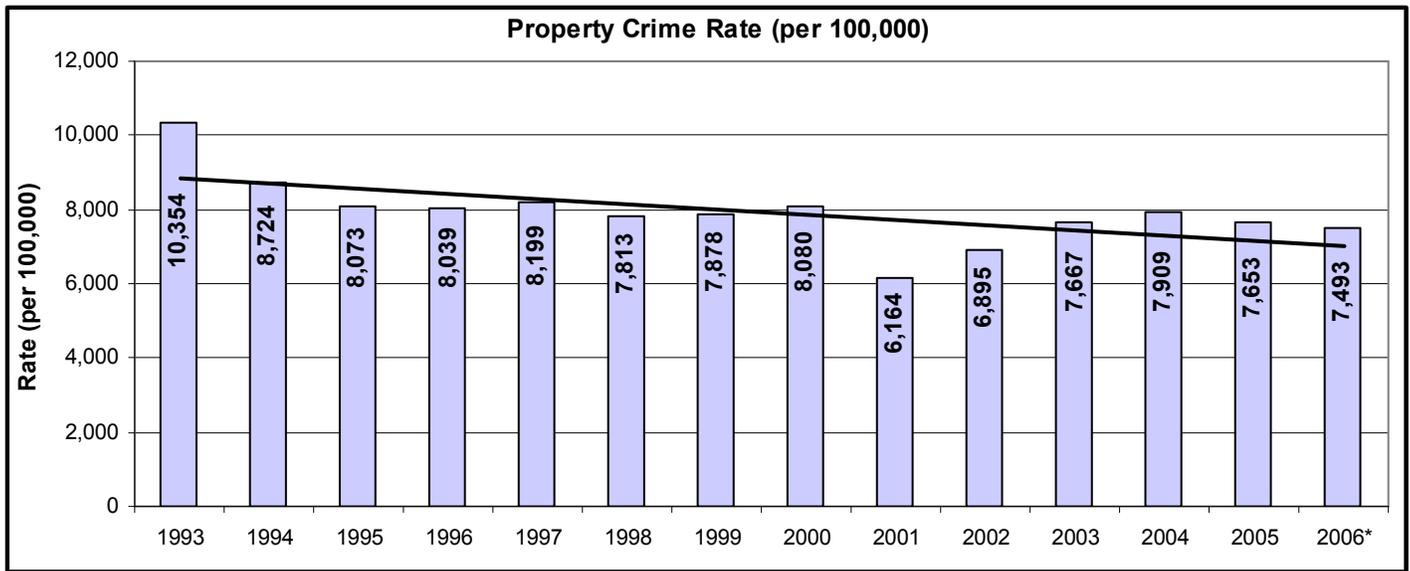
14. Property Crime Rate (Per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ property crime declining

Despite a recent increase in the early 2000's, Edmonton's property crime rate has declined fairly steadily since 1993.

- ♦ The current rate is nearly 30% lower than the 1993 base year.
- ♦ This trend contrasts with the apparent increases in fear of crime and reduced feelings of safety (particularly in specific neighbourhoods).
- ♦ Fear of crime is likely to continue to rise as the diversity of Edmonton's population increases. Studies have shown that perceived increases in social diversity in an area may cause feelings of uncertainty. This unfamiliarity may, in turn, produce feelings of fear. ⁽⁶⁰⁾



Source: Edmonton Police Service (58)

** 2006 figure is an estimate based on overall historical rate of change.

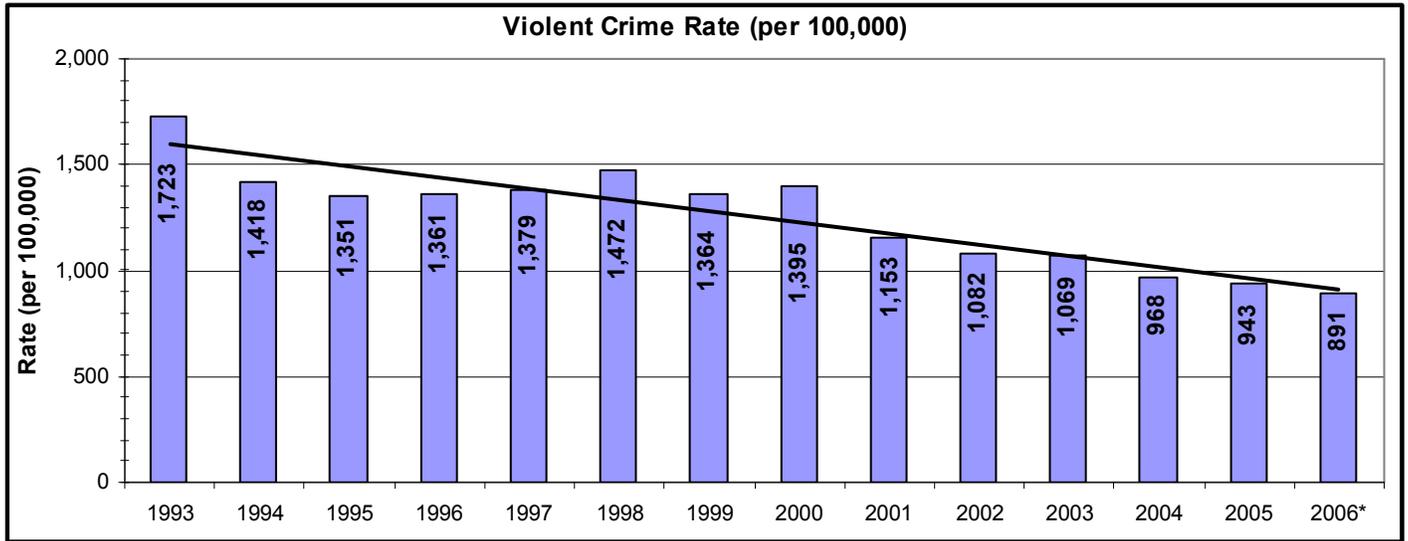
15. Violent Crime Rate (Per 100,000)

City of Edmonton

the TREND: ↑ violent crime declining

With the exception of slight increases in the late-1990s, Edmonton's violent crime rate has also decreased steadily.

- ♦ The current rate is nearly half (52%) the rate experienced in 1993.
- ♦ This trend contrasts with the increasing prevalence of crime-related news stories in the media, and the declining sense of safety (rising fear) in the general public.

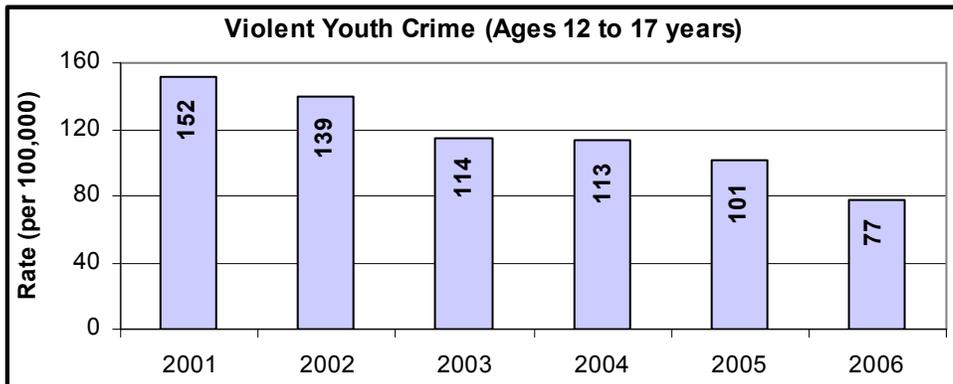


Source: Edmonton Police Service (58)

** 2006 figure is an estimate based on overall historical rate of change.

Recent statistics show that the **violent youth crime rate** has declined in tandem with overall violent crime.

- ♦ This is also in contrast to the increased media attention given to youth crime.
- ♦ In actual fact, the youth violent crime rate has decreased faster between 2001 and 2006 than the overall rate (a 44% decline, versus 23%).



Source: Edmonton Police Service (61)

** 2006 figure is an estimate based on the year-to-date figure as of April 2006.

Terms and Definitions

Alberta Works	Formerly referred to as “Supports for Independence” ⁽⁴¹⁾
Recipients	The number of individuals receiving Alberta Works allowances.
Cases	The number of households receiving Alberta Works allowances.
Constant dollars	Refers to dollars of several years expressed in terms of their value (“purchasing power”) in a single year, called the base year. This type of adjustment is done to eliminate the impact of widespread price changes. Current dollars are converted to constant dollars using an index of price movements. The most widely used index for household or family incomes, provided that no specific uses of the income are identified, is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects average spending patterns by consumers in Canada. ⁽³⁰⁾
Current dollars	The value of a currency in the current time period.
Earnings	This includes income from both paid employment and self-employment. ⁽³⁰⁾
Paid Employment	These are gross earnings from all jobs held as an employee, before payroll deductions such as income taxes, employment insurance contributions or pension plan contributions, etc. Wages and salaries include the earnings of owners of incorporated businesses, although some amounts may instead be reported as investment income. Commission income received by salespersons as well as occasional earnings for baby-sitting, for delivering papers, for cleaning, etc. are included. Overtime pay is included.
Self-employment	This is net self-employment income after deduction of expenses. Negative amounts (losses) are accepted. It includes income received from self-employment, in partnership in an unincorporated business, or in independent professional practice. Income from roomers and boarders (excluding that received from relatives) is included. Note that because of the various inclusions, receipt of self-employment income does not necessarily mean the person held a job.
Earnings Ratio, Female-to-Male	Represents the value of average earnings of females relative to males, expressed as a percentage. For example, a ratio of 78% means that earnings for females, on average, are 78% of the average earnings for males in the given year.
Family, Economic	A group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common law or adoption. ⁽³⁰⁾
Unattached Individual	A person living either alone or with others to whom he or she is unrelated, such as roommates or a lodger. (Included in “Economic Family Types”)
Family, Census	Commonly referred to as a “nuclear family” or “immediate family”. In general, it consists of a married couple or common-law couple with or without children, or a lone-parent with a child or children. Furthermore, each child does not have his or her own spouse or child living in the household. A “child” of a parent in a census family must be under the age of 25 and there must be a parent-child relationship (guardian relationships such as aunt or uncle are not sufficient). Persons “not in census families” are those living alone, living with unrelated individuals, or living with relatives but not in a husband-wife or parent-unmarried child (including guardianship-child) relationship. By definition, all persons who are members of a census family are also members of the same economic family. ⁽³⁰⁾

Minimum Wage The minimum amount employers must pay workers within the province of Alberta. The Government of Alberta outlines minimum wage within the Employment Standards Regulation. ⁽⁶²⁾

Government transfers

Includes all direct payments from federal, provincial and municipal governments to individuals or families. Government transfers include: ⁽³⁰⁾

Child tax benefits

Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement/Spouse's Allowance

Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan benefits

Employment Insurance benefits

Social assistance

Worker's compensation

GST/HST Credit

Provincial/Territorial tax credits

Other government transfers - transfers not included elsewhere, mainly any other non-taxable transfers (includes training program payments not reported elsewhere, the Veteran's pension, pensions to the blind and the disabled, regular payments from provincial automobile insurance plans (excluding lump-sum payments), and benefits for fishing industry employees)

It should be noted that many features of the tax system also carry out social policy functions but are not government transfers per se. The tax system uses deductions and non-refundable tax credits, for example, to reduce the amount of tax payable, without providing a direct income.

Implicit rate

A way of showing the relative importance of transfers received or taxes paid for different families or individuals. This concept is similar, but not identical, to the effective rate of taxation. For a given individual or family, the effective rate is the amount of transfers/taxes expressed as a percentage of their market income, total income, or after-tax income. The implicit rate for a given population is the average (or aggregate) amount of transfers/taxes expressed as a percentage of their average (or aggregate) income.

Income, After Tax

Equivalent of total income, which includes government transfers, less income tax.

Some government transfers are not taxable and are allocated to only one family member, depending on age, income, or gender. These include social assistance, child tax benefits, and seniors benefit. When looking at person-level data, users should be aware that these transfers are not equally divided amongst family members. ⁽³⁰⁾

Income, Average

The mean or average income is computed as the total or "aggregate" income divided by the number of units in the population. It offers a convenient way of tracking aggregate income while adjusting for changes in the size of the population.

There are two drawbacks to using average income for analysis. First, since everyone's income is counted, the mean is sensitive to extreme values: unusually high income values will have a large impact on the estimate of the mean income, while unusually low ones, i.e. highly negative values, will drive it down. (See also Recipients versus non-recipients and Negative values.) Secondly, it does not give any insight into the allocation of income across members of the population. ⁽³⁰⁾

Income, Family	The sum of income of each adult (16 years or older as of December 31st in the reference year) in the family. Family membership is defined at a particular point in time, while income is based on the entire calendar year. The family members or “composition” may have changed during the reference year, but no adjustment is made to family income to reflect this change. ⁽³⁰⁾
Income, Market	The sum of earnings (from employment and net self-employment), net investment income, (private) retirement income, and the items under “Other income”. It is equivalent to total income minus government transfers. It is also called income before taxes and transfers. ⁽³⁰⁾
Earnings	See “Earnings”
Investment Income	Includes interest received on bonds, deposits and savings certificates from Canadian or foreign sources, dividends received from Canadian and foreign corporate stocks, cash dividends received from insurance policies, net rental income from real estate and farms, interest received on loans and mortgages, regular income from an estate or trust fund and other investment income. Realized capital gains from the sale of assets are excluded. Negative amounts are accepted.
Retirement Income	Includes retirement pensions from all private sources, primarily employer pension plans. Amounts may be received in various forms such as annuities, superannuation or RRIFs (Registered Retirement Income Funds). Withdrawals from RRSPs (Registered Retirement Savings Plans) are not included in retirement pensions. However, they are taken into account as necessary for the estimation of certain government transfers and taxes. For data obtained from administrative records, income withdrawn from RRSPs before the age of 65 is treated as RRSP withdrawals, and income withdrawn from RRSPs at ages 65 or older is treated as retirement pensions. Retirement pensions may also be called pension income.
Other income	Includes, but is not restricted to, support payments received (also called alimony and child support), retirement allowances (severance pay/termination benefits), scholarships, lump-sum payments from pensions and deferred profit-sharing plans received when leaving a plan, the taxable amount of death benefits other than those from CPP (Canada Pension Plan) or QPP (Quebec Pension Plan), and supplementary unemployment benefits not included in wages and salaries.
Income, Median	<p>The value for which half of the units in the population have lower incomes and half has higher incomes. To derive the median value of income, units are ranked from lowest to highest according to their income and then separated into two equal-sized groups. The value that separates these groups is the median income (50th percentile).</p> <p>Because the median corresponds exactly to the midpoint of the income distribution, it is not, contrary to the mean, affected by extreme income values. This is a useful feature of the median, as it allows one to abstract from unusually high values held by relatively few people.</p> <p>Since income distributions are typically skewed to the left – that is, concentrated at the low end of the income scale – median income is usually lower than mean income. ⁽²⁷⁾</p>
Income, Total	Refers to income from all sources including government transfers before deduction of federal and provincial income taxes. It may also be called income before tax (but after transfers). All sources of income are identified as belonging to either market income or government transfers. ⁽³⁰⁾

Income tax	The sum of federal and provincial income taxes payable (accrued) for the taxation year. Income taxes include taxes on income, capital gains and RRSP withdrawals, after taking into account exemptions, deductions, non-refundable tax credits, and the refundable Quebec abatement. ⁽³⁰⁾
Infant Mortality	Number of infants who die in the first year of life, as a rate per 1,000 live births. ⁽⁴⁰⁾
Low-income Cut Off (LICO)	<p>LICOs are established using data from the Family Expenditure Survey, now known as the Survey of Household Spending. They convey the income level at which a family may be in straitened circumstances because it has to spend a greater proportion of its income on necessities than the average family of similar size. Specifically, the threshold is defined as the income below which a family is likely to spend 20 percentage points more of its income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. There are separate cut-offs or seven sizes of family – from unattached individuals to families of seven or more persons – and for five community sizes – from rural areas to urban areas with a population of more than 500,000.</p> <p>After having calculated LICOs in the base year (currently 1992), cut-offs for other years are obtained by applying the corresponding Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate to the cut-offs from the base year. ⁽³⁰⁾</p>
Low-income Gap	The amount that the family income falls short of the relevant low income cut-off. For example, a family with an income of \$15,000 and a low income cut-off of \$20,000 would have a low income gap of \$5,000. In percentage terms this gap would be 25%. The average gap for a given population, whether expressed in dollar or percentage terms, is the average of these values as calculated for each unit. For the calculation of this low income gap, negative incomes are treated as zero. ⁽³⁰⁾
Low-income Rate	<p>The proportion of persons or families whose incomes are below LICO.</p> <p>To determine whether a person (or family) is in low income, the appropriate LICO (given the family size and community size) is compared to the income of the person's economic family. If the economic family income is below the cut-off, all individuals in that family are considered to be in low income. Overall, the low income rate for persons can then be calculated as the number of persons in low income divided by the total population. The same can be done for families and various sub-groups of the population; for example, low income rates by age, sex, province or family types. ⁽³⁰⁾</p>
Major Income Earner	The person in each household and family with the highest income before tax, with one exception: a child living in the same census family as his/her parent(s) cannot be identified as the major income earner of the census family (this does not apply to economic families). For persons with negative total income before tax, the absolute value of their income is used, to reflect the fact that negative incomes generally arise from losses "earned" in the market-place which are not meant to be sustained. In the rare situations where two persons have exactly the same income, the older person is the major income earner. ⁽³⁰⁾

Market Basket Measure

(MBM)

Social Development Canada (formerly Human Resources Development Canada) has collaborated with the provincial and territorial ministries of social services to develop the Market Basket Measure (MBM) of low income. The approach is to cost out a basket of necessary goods and services including food, shelter, clothing and transportation, and a multiplier to cover other essentials. The results define thresholds that represent levels of income needed to cover the cost of the basket. The same argument that can be made for using after-tax low income rates can be made for using after-tax income to compare to the MBM thresholds. That is, a measure of well-being should take into account what is actually available to spend. The income concept that is used for comparisons with the MBM thresholds goes even further than after-tax income by also subtracting from total income other non-discretionary expenses such as support payments, work-related child care costs and employee contributions to pension plans and to Employment Insurance.

Market Poverty Rate

The percentage of families whose market income (*see "Income, Market"*) falls below LICO (*see "Low-income Cut Off (LICO)"*). ⁽³⁰⁾

Net Worth (Wealth)

The net worth of a family unit is defined as the difference between the value of its total asset holdings and the amount of total indebtedness. (Assets and debts were reported for the family unit as a whole and not for each person in the family). ⁽⁶³⁾

Assets

Total value of all financial assets, non-financial assets and equity in business. Includes:

Private pension assets - RRSPs, LIRAs, RRIFs, other - Employer pension plans

Financial assets, non-pension - deposits in financial institutions, mutual/investment funds/income trusts - stocks - bonds (savings and other) - other financial assets

Non-financial assets - principal residence - other real estate - vehicles - other non-financial assets

Equity in business

Debts

Total value of all amounts owed in the following debt categories:

Mortgage - principal residence - other real estate

Line of credit - home equity LOC - regular LOC

Credit card and installment debt - major credit cards, retail store cards, gasoline station cards, etc. - deferred payment of installment plans

Student loan - Canada/provincial student loan programs - loans from financial institutions taken directly to attend school

Vehicle loans

Other debt - other loans from financial institutions, unpaid bills, etc.

Percentiles

Income (and net worth) percentiles are a convenient way of categorizing units of a given population from lowest income to highest income/net worth for the purposes of drawing conclusions about the relative situation of people at either end or in the middle of the scale. Rather than using fixed income/net worth ranges, as in a typical distribution of income/net worth, it is the fraction of each population group that is fixed. Percentiles are calculated by first ranking all the units of the population, whether individuals or families, are from lowest to highest by the value of their income/net worth. Then the ranked population is divided into groups of equal numbers of units. ⁽³⁰⁾

Deciles The percentile produced when the ranked population is divided into ten groups. Each decile represents 10% of the population.

Quintiles The percentile produced when the ranked population is divided into five groups. Each quintile represents 20% of the population.

Permanent Residents

Legal immigrants and refugees who have been given permanent resident status in Canada. Permanent residents must live in Canada for at least 730 days (two years) within a five-year period or risk losing their status. Permanent residents have all the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms such as equality rights, legal rights, mobility rights, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association. They do not, however, have the right to vote in elections. ⁽⁴⁾

Temporary Residents

People who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit. Temporary residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and who are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students. The other category of temporary residents includes people in Canada on a temporary basis who are not under the authority of a work permit or a study permit and who are not refugee claimants. The other category of temporary residents is not profiled in this publication. ⁽⁴⁾

Temporary Resident Flow

This represents the number of temporary residents identified as entering the CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) system (and presumably the country) for the first time. CIC commonly measures the annual flow of foreign workers, foreign students and the humanitarian component of the temporary resident population. Flows are calculated as of the earliest effective date of any valid permit issued to a temporary resident. Seasonal workers are counted each time they re-enter the system. ⁽⁴⁾

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Appendices

Appendix A: Demographics

Table 1: City of Edmonton and Edmonton CMA Populations, 1986-2011

Year	City of Edmonton	Edmonton CMA
1986	571,506	775,157
1991	614,665	841,132
1996	616,306	862,597
2001	666,104	937,845
2005	712,391	1,016,007
2006	730,372	1,034,945
2011*	784,109	1,127,346

* 2011 population forecast by City of Edmonton.

Table 2: City of Edmonton Population by Age Group, 1976-2006

Age Range	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006*
0-9	68,515	71,926	83,207	92,231	85,080	80,025	78,821
10-19	91,585	86,472	73,815	76,159	81,360	89,400	92,185
20-29	103,360	137,653	140,162	123,043	98,655	110,160	131,897
30-39	56,235	74,686	100,502	119,342	113,525	105,685	107,656
40-49	51,075	52,590	58,471	73,764	91,025	107,940	114,669
50-59	41,925	45,948	49,791	50,683	55,275	70,485	89,553
60-69	27,100	28,970	36,304	43,442	45,725	47,320	51,784
70-79	14,680	16,475	20,228	24,952	30,875	36,680	38,870
80 and over	6,530	6,525	9,015	11,049	14,785	18,405	22,740
TOTAL	461,005	521,245	571,495	614,665	616,305	666,100	721,173

* 2006 population forecast based on 2005 City of Edmonton Census data.

Table 3: Number of Census Families, by Family Type (000's)

Year	Families with 2+ persons	Married couples	Two-parent families with children	Lone-parent families	Unattached individuals
1980	143,000	72,000	278,000	33,000	94,000
1981	171,000	75,000	357,000	41,000	121,000
1982	178,000	85,000	368,000	54,000	130,000
1983	202,000	99,000	392,000	43,000	127,000
1984	203,000	89,000	368,000	63,000	116,000
1985	184,000	94,000	322,000	48,000	119,000
1986	207,000	102,000	370,000	58,000	129,000
1987	205,000	90,000	378,000	49,000	132,000
1988	215,000	101,000	378,000	53,000	129,000
1989	220,000	98,000	409,000	48,000	130,000
1990	226,000	101,000	397,000	70,000	125,000
1991	226,000	103,000	388,000	64,000	130,000
1992	224,000	106,000	351,000	76,000	148,000
1993	230,000	99,000	396,000	69,000	146,000
1994	235,000	110,000	402,000	74,000	141,000
1995	250,000	125,000	407,000	76,000	129,000
1996	235,000	128,000	370,000	62,000	166,000
1997	243,000	142,000	382,000	59,000	182,000
1998	249,000	139,000	405,000	68,000	180,000
1999	258,000	150,000	401,000	70,000	186,000
2000	259,000	155,000	414,000	54,000	180,000
2001	265,000	159,000	418,000	57,000	175,000
2002	257,000	153,000	381,000	52,000	200,000
2003	266,000	171,000	384,000	46,000	190,000
2004	262,000	178,000	370,000	55,000	197,000

Appendix B: Education and Employment

Table 4: Employment, Total and Part-Time, Edmonton CMA

Year	Employed	Part-Time (%)	Year	Employed	Part-Time (%)
1987	403,100	16.6%	1997	468,900	18.6%
1988	414,400	16.8%	1998	477,000	19.2%
1989	421,200	17.0%	1999	484,100	19.9%
1990	428,600	16.1%	2000	491,100	19.5%
1991	430,700	16.4%	2001	507,600	18.9%
1992	430,900	18.2%	2002	523,200	17.4%
1993	424,200	19.8%	2003	538,300	18.1%
1994	431,400	18.2%	2004	553,800	17.5%
1995	444,700	18.6%	2005	545,800	18.1%
1996	444,600	19.2%	2006	557,600	n/a

Table 5: Unemployment Rate, Total and by Gender and Age Group

Year	Average	Men	Women	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 +
1987	11.0%	11.9%	10.0%	15.5%	9.3%	11.1%
1988	9.0%	9.3%	8.6%	13.0%	7.4%	8.5%
1989	8.2%	8.3%	8.2%	10.4%	7.8%	7.3%
1990	7.6%	8.0%	7.1%	10.8%	7.0%	5.8%
1991	9.3%	10.3%	8.0%	12.3%	9.1%	6.9%
1992	10.7%	12.0%	9.3%	14.7%	10.5%	8.0%
1993	11.2%	12.2%	10.0%	14.9%	11.0%	8.5%
1994	10.7%	11.2%	10.1%	15.2%	10.0%	9.3%
1995	8.9%	9.4%	8.4%	14.3%	7.5%	8.2%
1996	8.3%	8.8%	7.7%	13.6%	6.9%	7.8%
1997	6.8%	6.7%	6.9%	11.8%	5.9%	5.5%
1998	6.2%	6.2%	6.0%	11.6%	5.2%	4.5%
1999	5.9%	6.2%	5.5%	12.5%	4.7%	4.0%
2000	5.6%	5.7%	5.4%	11.3%	4.7%	3.6%
2001	5.0%	5.5%	4.5%	11.1%	4.3%	2.9%
2002	5.2%	6.0%	4.4%	9.6%	4.6%	3.7%
2003	5.0%	5.5%	4.4%	8.8%	4.5%	3.7%
2004	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	9.4%	3.8%	3.7%
2005	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	7.6%	3.9%	3.5%
2006	3.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Appendix C: Cost of Living

Table 6: Average Monthly Rent, 2-Bedroom Apartment

Year	Average Rent	Year	Average Rent
1981	\$460	1994	\$524
1982	\$496	1995	\$520
1983	\$472	1996	\$518
1984	\$450	1997	\$525
1985	\$459	1998	\$552
1986	\$457	1999	\$578
1987	\$471	2000	\$603
1988	\$484	2001	\$657
1989	\$496	2002	\$712
1990	\$516	2003	\$725
1991	\$534	2004	\$733
1992	\$545	2005	\$733
1993	\$545	2006	\$811

Table 7: Rental Vacancy Rate

Year	Rate
1991	3.1%
1992	4.1%
1993	6.0%
1994	7.7%
1995	10.2%
1996	7.5%
1997	7.6%
1998	1.9%
1999	2.5%
2000	1.4%
2001	0.9%
2002	1.7%
2003	3.4%
2004	5.4%
2005	4.6%
2006	1.2%

Table 8: Average Residential Selling Price

Year	December Average	Annual Average	Year	December Average	Annual Average
1981	\$ 92,557	\$ 91,438	1994	\$ 114,056	\$ 112,501
1982	\$ 89,801	\$ 91,405	1995	\$ 105,603	\$ 110,577
1983	\$ 80,332	\$ 85,667	1996	\$ 109,966	\$ 109,042
1984	\$ 77,884	\$ 79,246	1997	\$ 112,681	\$ 111,545
1985	\$ 72,381	\$ 74,175	1998	\$ 113,422	\$ 114,536
1986	\$ 73,302	\$ 74,306	1999	\$ 119,397	\$ 118,871
1987	\$ 73,118	\$ 76,878	2000	\$ 127,069	\$ 124,203
1988	\$ 81,271	\$ 81,841	2001	\$ 139,152	\$ 133,441
1989	\$ 93,091	\$ 89,017	2002	\$ 153,090	\$ 150,258
1990	\$ 99,517	\$ 101,014	2003	\$ 167,474	\$ 165,541
1991	\$ 108,931	\$ 107,076	2004	\$ 177,178	\$ 179,610
1992	\$ 106,764	\$ 109,594	2005	\$ 197,884	\$ 193,934
1993	\$ 112,426	\$ 111,796	2006	\$ 294,155	\$ 250,915

Appendix D: Income

Table 9: Average Income by Gender and Work Activity, and Gender Gap in Earnings

Year	All Earners		Full-Time Earners		Female-to-Male Earnings Ratio	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	All Earners	F-T Earners
1980	\$22,200	\$44,900	\$33,500	\$57,300	49.5%	58.5%
1981	\$23,700	\$44,200	\$33,400	\$55,100	53.6%	60.7%
1982	\$23,000	\$41,700	\$33,200	\$53,100	55.1%	62.5%
1983	\$21,500	\$40,100	\$32,800	\$52,100	53.6%	63.0%
1984	\$22,800	\$36,000	\$33,500	\$49,000	62.3%	68.4%
1985	\$22,900	\$37,500	\$34,100	\$50,800	61.1%	67.1%
1986	\$23,300	\$36,700	\$33,100	\$48,700	63.5%	68.0%
1987	\$21,600	\$37,200	\$31,700	\$48,800	57.9%	65.0%
1988	\$23,100	\$39,500	\$32,800	\$50,900	58.5%	64.4%
1989	\$23,600	\$38,100	\$32,800	\$48,000	62.0%	68.4%
1990	\$23,000	\$38,900	\$33,100	\$49,500	59.1%	66.8%
1991	\$22,700	\$38,300	\$33,900	\$51,200	59.2%	66.1%
1992	\$24,100	\$36,400	\$36,500	\$50,600	66.2%	72.1%
1993	\$24,000	\$39,600	\$36,900	\$53,100	60.8%	69.5%
1994	\$23,100	\$36,500	\$34,800	\$48,100	63.4%	72.3%
1995	\$23,100	\$33,600	\$35,000	\$45,700	68.8%	76.6%
1996	\$22,100	\$37,000	\$33,200	\$47,500	59.6%	69.8%
1997	\$22,900	\$37,600	\$34,200	\$50,300	60.8%	68.1%
1998	\$23,200	\$39,300	\$35,400	\$51,700	59.0%	68.5%
1999	\$22,500	\$40,600	\$34,000	\$54,700	55.4%	62.2%
2000	\$24,100	\$42,300	\$35,000	\$52,200	57.0%	67.0%
2001	\$24,400	\$43,200	\$37,000	\$57,000	56.5%	64.9%
2002	\$23,400	\$41,300	\$36,000	\$55,000	56.7%	65.4%
2003	\$25,000	\$45,000	\$36,500	\$61,500	55.6%	59.4%
2004	\$25,100	\$45,200	\$38,000	\$60,400	55.6%	62.9%

Table 10: Average Market Income and Total Income by Age Group

Year	Average Market Income			Average Total Income		
	All Ages	Under 25	65 & Over	All Ages	Under 25	65 & Over
1980	\$62,000	\$29,800	\$43,100	\$63,400	\$31,000	\$47,600
1981	\$62,900	\$35,800	\$28,100	\$63,700	\$36,500	\$35,700
1982	\$59,100	\$33,700	\$39,100	\$60,300	\$34,500	\$43,900
1983	\$53,300	\$30,400	\$15,200	\$54,200	\$31,500	\$25,500
1984	\$51,100	\$29,100	\$27,200	\$53,700	\$31,000	\$37,900
1985	\$53,800	\$22,700	\$25,400	\$56,000	\$23,800	\$36,600
1986	\$54,300	\$22,700	\$26,200	\$57,400	\$25,000	\$38,200
1987	\$54,200	\$26,100	\$27,900	\$56,000	\$27,200	\$37,200
1988	\$54,000	\$23,300	\$22,300	\$56,000	\$24,800	\$33,200
1989	\$55,600	\$23,500	\$26,200	\$57,900	\$25,000	\$38,800
1990	\$57,000	\$21,900	\$28,000	\$60,300	\$23,000	\$43,100
1991	\$55,500	\$21,900	\$26,600	\$58,400	\$23,300	\$39,600
1992	\$51,800	\$16,600	\$22,400	\$54,700	\$17,200	\$36,700
1993	\$57,300	\$23,800	\$40,200	\$58,800	\$26,100	\$46,500
1994	\$52,000	\$17,500	\$28,900	\$55,300	\$20,100	\$42,600
1995	\$49,800	\$21,100	\$29,500	\$53,600	\$21,300	\$45,100
1996	\$53,900	\$20,900	\$20,300	\$56,400	\$20,800	\$36,500
1997	\$54,300	\$21,300	\$21,400	\$56,900	\$23,000	\$37,600
1998	\$56,500	\$20,300	\$24,300	\$59,400	\$21,400	\$40,800
1999	\$57,800	\$18,300	\$31,700	\$61,100	\$20,100	\$46,800
2000	\$59,600	\$30,900	\$29,300	\$62,500	\$32,200	\$44,300
2001	\$61,400	\$25,500	\$28,400	\$65,000	\$27,000	\$45,500
2002	\$55,500	\$22,100	\$25,700	\$58,800	\$23,400	\$43,000
2003	\$60,700	\$24,400	\$24,600	\$63,900	\$25,900	\$41,900
2004	\$61,200	\$28,500	\$25,900	\$64,600	\$29,700	\$43,000

Table 11: Family Income Average and Median, \$2004 Constant

Year	Average		Median		
	All Families	All Families	Two-parent	Single-Parent	Individuals
1980	\$52,000	\$45,400	\$63,000	\$34,200	\$22,800
1981	\$52,900	\$47,900	\$67,100	\$34,900	\$26,400
1982	\$50,500	\$45,300	\$63,900	\$33,800	\$24,800
1983	\$45,000	\$41,200	\$53,900	\$20,700	\$20,800
1984	\$45,000	\$40,400	\$54,500	\$20,300	\$24,700
1985	\$47,200	\$41,000	\$59,600	\$25,600	\$22,400
1986	\$47,900	\$42,000	\$58,600	\$32,200	\$21,500
1987	\$45,900	\$42,000	\$58,200	\$20,800	\$20,300
1988	\$45,700	\$41,700	\$57,200	\$25,900	\$19,200
1989	\$47,300	\$42,900	\$58,000	\$21,400	\$21,900
1990	\$48,600	\$43,700	\$56,100	\$23,800	\$21,400
1991	\$46,800	\$40,000	\$57,500	\$26,500	\$20,400
1992	\$44,400	\$36,800	\$57,400	\$24,100	\$16,800
1993	\$47,500	\$42,100	\$60,100	\$24,400	\$20,300
1994	\$44,900	\$39,100	\$56,700	\$22,300	\$19,500
1995	\$44,000	\$38,900	\$51,900	\$24,500	\$23,900
1996	\$46,500	\$42,300	\$60,300	\$25,700	\$19,400
1997	\$46,600	\$41,000	\$58,800	\$29,500	\$18,200
1998	\$48,400	\$41,300	\$59,400	\$29,600	\$18,400
1999	\$49,600	\$43,800	\$60,600	\$35,700	\$20,700
2000	\$51,200	\$44,500	\$59,600	\$27,500	\$23,500
2001	\$54,500	\$47,200	\$64,900	\$34,000	\$24,500
2002	\$49,800	\$43,200	\$63,800	\$34,400	\$22,600
2003	\$53,500	\$47,200	\$72,800	\$38,000	\$22,400
2004	\$54,300	\$46,600	\$75,700	\$41,500	\$23,200

Table 12: Average Family Income by Decile, \$2004 Constant, and Income Gap

Year	Bottom 10%	Top 10%	Gap
1993	\$ 15,182	\$172,196	\$ 58,671
1994	\$ 16,129	\$175,341	\$ 57,581
1995	\$ 13,575	\$178,249	\$ 61,505
1996	\$ 13,561	\$195,825	\$ 60,127
1997	\$ 12,434	\$210,141	\$ 66,087
1998	\$ 13,376	\$212,720	\$ 66,352
1999	\$ 16,254	\$184,394	\$ 61,867
2000	\$ 15,012	\$204,302	\$ 66,903
2001	\$ 14,934	\$203,654	\$ 70,246
2002	\$ 13,969	\$179,989	\$ 65,203
2003	\$ 16,453	\$202,612	\$ 66,727
2004	\$ 15,512	\$194,436	\$ 70,465

Appendix E: Poverty

Table 13: Proportion of Families Living Below LICO (After Tax), by Family Type, Gender and Age

Year	Family Type				Head/Major Income Earner			
	All Families	Two-Parent	Lone-Parent	Individual	Male	Female	24 & under	65 & over
1980	17.0%	5.4%	20.9%	33.8%	12.0%	34.0%	36.9%	41.3%
1981	15.0%	4.6%	26.5%	30.9%	9.8%	33.9%	29.1%	33.7%
1982	16.6%	6.4%	36.2%	32.0%	9.9%	38.5%	30.7%	30.5%
1983	23.4%	12.7%	62.0%	40.1%	16.4%	46.7%	36.7%	39.9%
1984	22.8%	12.0%	59.9%	34.2%	16.3%	44.6%	40.1%	22.6%
1985	20.8%	10.6%	53.2%	35.7%	15.0%	39.4%	50.2%	28.4%
1986	16.7%	7.8%	28.1%	33.8%	13.4%	29.3%	43.4%	23.4%
1987	21.3%	12.6%	54.4%	38.3%	15.2%	42.9%	50.1%	22.7%
1988	21.3%	10.8%	38.7%	40.8%	16.2%	38.6%	56.9%	30.2%
1989	19.8%	13.2%	58.2%	34.7%	13.5%	41.6%	48.6%	24.6%
1990	18.2%	8.5%	52.2%	36.1%	11.2%	41.4%	60.9%	17.0%
1991	21.1%	11.4%	47.7%	40.0%	12.6%	47.0%	57.1%	27.3%
1992	27.4%	13.7%	56.6%	50.3%	15.8%	57.2%	74.1%	27.7%
1993	22.3%	13.9%	55.0%	37.6%	14.6%	45.3%	59.0%	19.0%
1994	22.3%	13.5%	58.5%	37.3%	16.1%	41.8%	67.7%	12.4%
1995	19.8%	13.1%	56.6%	31.1%	13.9%	39.4%	61.9%	8.3%
1996	21.0%	12.1%	51.8%	43.0%	15.6%	32.2%	55.8%	12.8%
1997	22.4%	10.1%	38.1%	45.2%	17.2%	32.7%	65.3%	12.2%
1998	20.5%	11.2%	42.8%	39.3%	15.4%	29.6%	54.2%	9.9%
1999	18.0%	11.7%	30.1%	37.0%	12.3%	28.2%	62.5%	5.4%
2000	16.3%	11.7%	46.6%	30.4%	10.0%	27.8%	46.6%	5.6%
2001	14.4%	8.6%	31.3%	28.1%	9.3%	24.4%	49.0%	2.5%
2002	15.4%	10.2%	21.5%	28.7%	9.2%	27.3%	52.4%	5.9%
2003	14.1%	7.1%	27.9%	28.4%	9.4%	23.8%	46.7%	3.6%
2004	15.6%	8.7%	27.5%	30.2%	8.6%	28.4%	47.4%	7.1%

Table 14: Average Low-Income Gap (After Tax), by Economic Family Type

Year	All Families	2+ Persons	Individuals	Year	All Families	2+ Persons	Individuals
1980	\$7,900	n/a	\$7,400	1993	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200
1981	\$7,800	\$10,600	\$6,800	1994	\$7,000	\$7,900	\$6,200
1982	\$7,000	\$8,700	\$6,300	1995	\$8,200	\$9,100	\$7,000
1983	\$7,500	\$8,900	\$6,600	1996	\$7,600	\$6,700	\$8,300
1984	\$8,500	\$10,200	\$6,600	1997	\$7,800	\$7,700	\$7,900
1985	\$6,700	\$8,400	\$5,500	1998	\$7,600	\$9,100	\$7,500
1986	\$6,800	\$8,100	\$6,200	1999	\$7,800	\$8,500	\$7,400
1987	\$7,600	\$9,300	\$6,600	2000	\$8,000	\$9,200	\$7,100
1988	\$6,900	\$7,200	\$6,800	2001	\$7,600	\$7,900	\$7,500
1989	\$7,400	\$9,000	\$6,100	2002	\$7,700	\$7,500	\$7,700
1990	\$7,400	\$9,000	\$6,300	2003	\$7,500	\$6,300	\$8,000
1991	\$7,300	\$7,600	\$7,100	2004	\$7,900	\$8,200	\$7,700
1992	\$7,600	\$8,200	\$7,300				

Appendix E: Poverty, Cont'd...

Table 15: Percentage of Persons under 18 Years of Age Living Below LICO (Alberta)

Year	All Persons	Persons under 18	Female Lone-Parent	Two-Parent
1995	14.7%	17.7%	61.3%	11.6%
1996	15.4%	18.5%	44.4%	14.4%
1997	14.8%	15.4%	40.1%	10.8%
1998	13.3%	14.0%	37.2%	9.7%
1999	11.8%	12.4%	30.0%	10.2%
2000	11.1%	12.3%	36.2%	9.9%
2001	10.0%	10.9%	36.0%	8.3%
2002	9.3%	9.2%	33.2%	6.7%
2003	10.7%	11.0%	40.4%	7.8%
2004	10.5%	11.7%	45.0%	7.4%

Appendix F: Income Supports

Table 16: Government Transfer Payment Amounts and Proportion of Family Income

Year	Average Government Transfer Payments by Income Quintile						Average Implicit Rate
	Total	Lowest	Q2	Q3	Q4	Highest	
1980	\$3,400	\$4,600	\$4,000	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$3,000	5.5%
1981	\$3,200	\$5,300	\$3,800	\$2,700	\$2,200	\$1,900	5.2%
1982	\$3,900	\$5,500	\$5,100	\$3,300	\$3,100	\$2,700	6.3%
1983	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$6,300	\$4,700	\$4,300	\$3,700	8.7%
1984	\$5,100	\$5,700	\$7,100	\$5,100	\$4,200	\$3,200	9.3%
1985	\$5,000	\$6,100	\$7,100	\$4,400	\$4,000	\$3,400	8.7%
1986	\$5,200	\$5,800	\$7,500	\$5,300	\$3,900	\$3,600	9.3%
1987	\$5,200	\$5,400	\$7,400	\$5,200	\$3,800	\$4,000	9.3%
1988	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$7,700	\$4,700	\$3,700	\$3,200	8.9%
1989	\$5,200	\$5,900	\$7,200	\$4,800	\$4,300	\$3,900	9.2%
1990	\$5,600	\$5,900	\$7,900	\$5,300	\$4,500	\$4,200	9.7%
1991	\$5,800	\$5,900	\$8,200	\$5,300	\$5,000	\$4,400	10.1%
1992	\$6,200	\$5,800	\$8,800	\$7,100	\$5,600	\$3,900	11.6%
1993	\$6,300	\$6,400	\$8,500	\$6,400	\$5,500	\$4,500	11.0%
1994	\$6,000	\$6,200	\$8,900	\$6,300	\$4,900	\$3,600	10.9%
1995	\$5,900	\$6,100	\$7,900	\$6,200	\$5,100	\$4,400	11.0%
1996	\$5,800	\$5,500	\$8,200	\$6,200	\$5,700	\$3,500	10.4%
1997	\$5,500	\$5,100	\$7,800	\$6,600	\$4,600	\$3,400	9.3%
1998	\$5,600	\$5,400	\$7,800	\$5,900	\$5,200	\$3,600	9.2%
1999	\$5,500	\$5,600	\$8,000	\$6,100	\$4,600	\$3,400	9.3%
2000	\$5,700	\$6,300	\$8,000	\$6,100	\$4,800	\$3,400	9.2%
2001	\$5,800	\$6,200	\$8,000	\$6,300	\$4,900	\$3,400	8.9%
2002	\$5,800	\$6,100	\$7,600	\$6,300	\$5,400	\$3,500	9.1%
2003	\$5,600	\$5,500	\$8,300	\$5,800	\$5,100	\$3,400	8.8%
2004	\$5,500	\$5,600	\$8,100	\$6,700	\$3,800	\$3,400	8.3%

Table 17: Share of Government Transfer Payments Received by Family Income Quintile

Year	Q1 (Lowest 20%)	Q2 (20- 40%)	Q3 (40- 60%)	Q4 (60- 80%)	Q5 (Highest 20%)
1980	27.1%	23.4%	16.1%	15.9%	17.6%
1981	37.1%	24.0%	16.7%	13.9%	12.1%
1982	28.0%	25.8%	16.8%	15.8%	13.6%
1983	23.3%	25.6%	19.1%	17.2%	14.8%
1984	22.5%	28.1%	20.1%	16.5%	12.8%
1985	24.6%	28.5%	17.6%	15.9%	13.4%
1986	22.2%	28.8%	20.3%	15.0%	13.8%
1987	20.9%	28.6%	20.3%	14.7%	15.5%
1988	23.0%	30.8%	18.8%	14.6%	12.8%
1989	22.5%	27.5%	18.5%	16.5%	15.0%
1990	21.4%	28.3%	19.1%	16.3%	15.0%
1991	20.5%	28.3%	18.4%	17.4%	15.3%
1992	18.6%	28.2%	22.7%	17.9%	12.6%
1993	20.4%	27.2%	20.5%	17.6%	14.3%
1994	20.7%	29.8%	21.1%	16.5%	11.9%
1995	20.6%	26.6%	20.8%	17.3%	14.7%
1996	18.9%	28.2%	21.4%	19.5%	11.9%
1997	18.5%	28.6%	23.9%	16.6%	12.4%
1998	19.4%	27.9%	21.2%	18.6%	13.0%
1999	20.3%	29.0%	21.9%	16.5%	12.3%
2000	22.1%	27.9%	21.3%	16.7%	12.0%
2001	21.6%	27.7%	21.9%	17.1%	11.7%
2002	21.2%	26.0%	21.9%	18.8%	12.2%
2003	19.7%	29.3%	20.8%	18.0%	12.2%
2004	20.2%	29.3%	24.3%	13.8%	12.4%

Table 18: Supports for Independence (Alberta Works) Monthly Allowances

	Current Dollars			Constant Dollars (\$2006)		
	Single Adult	Single Parent	Two Parent	Single Adult	Single Parent	Two Parent
1980	\$374	\$773	\$880	\$953	\$1,971	\$2,244
1981	\$440	\$807	\$955	\$993	\$1,822	\$2,156
1982	\$551	\$902	\$1,051	\$1,117	\$1,829	\$2,131
1983	\$437	\$876	\$1,036	\$843	\$1,690	\$1,999
1985	\$441	\$911	\$1,082	\$804	\$1,661	\$1,973
1987	\$326	\$932	\$1,082	\$552	\$1,580	\$1,834
1988	\$341	\$977	\$1,139	\$563	\$1,613	\$1,880
1993	\$394	\$1,010	\$1,206	\$543	\$1,392	\$1,662
2002	\$397	\$862	\$1,059	\$446	\$968	\$1,189
2006	\$402	\$881	\$1,083	\$402	\$881	\$1,083

Table 19: Recipients and Cases of Supports for Independence (Alberta Works)

Year	Recipients	Cases
1994	135,600	62,400
1995	110,500	52,200
1996	103,700	48,800
1997	87,700	40,100
1998	75,100	34,500
1999	70,000	32,800
2000	63,400	30,400
2001	56,800	27,600
2002	53,800	27,200
2003	57,500	29,600
2004	59,900	30,300
2005	56,400	28,500
2006	48,986	25,122

Appendix G: Social Health Index

Table 20: Edmonton Social Health Index: Normalized Indicator Values

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Life Expectancy	100	99.32	99.66	99.94	100.39	99.88	99.81	100.69	100.70	100.85	100.90	101.16	101.14	101.28*
Premature Deaths	100	96.13	98.93	97.94	106.26	101.88	97.93	104.59	103.71	106.97	101.81	103.25	102.74	103.22*
Low Birth-Weight Babies	100	89.29	91.07	85.71	83.93	80.36	92.86	83.93	85.71	82.14	80.36	80.36	69.64	69.64*
STI Incidences	100	100.00	110.18	104.75	109.05	108.37	104.75	114.75	99.37	86.54	94.57	90.66	94.30	78.03
Suicide Rate	100	116.43	117.81	108.89	130.90	120.97	116.15	133.61	116.20	126.96	122.09	114.30	116.56	121.45
Crisis Support Calls	100	99.01	109.81	108.70	119.07	131.03	126.31	131.20	141.45	139.55	143.39	147.96	150.73	154.30
Teen Birth Rate	100	109.56	116.47	125.76	131.54	130.60	135.03	141.29	147.49	152.02	149.72	154.85	150.11	154.40*
Family Disputes	100	148.03	138.08	137.94	104.01	91.57	105.11	105.68	107.09	103.46	99.80	97.72	86.83	83.70*
Child Welfare Caseloads	100	97.05	82.34	61.46	49.15	44.72	89.15	78.15	76.05	85.22	87.84	89.15	106.02	106.02*
Personal Bankruptcy	100	86.36	22.73	-31.82	-40.91	9.09	-4.55	-4.55	27.27	37.82	23.37	39.62	61.53	60.82*
Food Bank Use	100	62.41	47.05	20.44	43.76	49.77	53.40	71.84	90.95	83.94	86.09	82.72	82.31	84.61
Families below LICO	100	100.00	111.21	105.83	99.55	108.07	119.28	126.91	135.43	130.94	136.77	130.04	133.68*	137.32*
Lone-Parent Families	100	100.64	97.10	110.02	121.49	107.16	114.18	133.44	130.30	128.45	145.79	126.16	129.82*	133.48*
Property Crime Rate	100	115.74	122.03	122.36	120.81	124.54	123.92	121.96	140.46	133.41	125.95	123.61	126.09	127.63*
Violent Crime Rate	100	117.72	121.58	121.01	119.97	114.59	120.84	119.08	133.11	137.24	137.94	143.82	145.28	148.28*
Composite Index	100	102.51	99.07	91.93	93.27	94.84	99.61	104.17	109.02	109.03	109.09	108.36	110.45	110.95

* Estimated value based on overall historical rate of change over previous years.

Table 21: Life Expectancy at Birth, Capital Health Region

Year	Female	Male
1993	82.50	76.19
1994	82.06	75.55
1995	81.64	76.53
1996	81.93	76.68
1997	82.37	76.95
1998	82.16	76.34
1999	82.15	76.25
2000	82.61	77.19
2001	82.70	77.11
2002	82.17	77.91
2003	82.39	77.75
2004	82.90	77.64
2005	82.91	77.61



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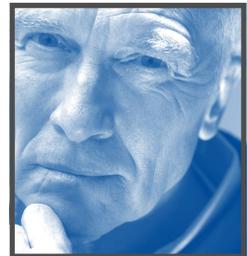
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