

Persistence of Poverty

Many people and families move in and out of poverty. Some only stay in poverty for a short period of time while others experience deep and persistent poverty. For children, chronic poverty has a significant effect on both their short-term and long-term developmental outcomes.¹

Duration of poverty

Some 7.6 million people or 30.7 percent of the population experienced poverty for at least one year from 1996 through 2001.

Just over 2 million people lived in poverty for only one year.

Nearly 1.5 million people lived in poverty for all six years.

Persistent poverty

Almost 400,000 children lived in poverty for all six years between 1996 and 2001.

About 13 percent of people with less than a high school education lived in poverty for all six years. Less than two percent of people with university degrees lived in poverty for all these six years.

Transitions in and out of poverty

The one age group that stands apart is youth aged 18 through 24. This group has a high poverty rate in any given year, but often tends to be poor for only one or two years at a time. They have the highest rate of moving into or out of poverty, almost double that of people aged 25 to 54.

¹ Canadian Council on Social Development, *Progress of Canada's Children 2001*, page 18.

² Excludes persons whose status was not known in each of the six years.

