

CAS's are willing to be leaders and to work with the government on developing initiatives that help to reduce child poverty.

# Greater Trouble in Greater Toronto: Child Poverty in the GTA fact sheet

Poverty remains racialized.

The GTA is now the child poverty capital of Ontario.

Lone Parents are Disproportionately Poor.

Despite what much of the public and many local politicians think, there is significant poverty in our suburbs.

## Summary of Trends

- The GTA is now the child poverty capital of Ontario: 50% of Ontario's children in poverty now live in the GTA, up from 44% in 1997.
- The City of Toronto is a bellweather on poverty trends: its child poverty rates are the highest in the GTA and are growing.
- In the City of Toronto all growth in the number of children living in poverty since 1997 occurred in the inner suburbs, where abysmally high rates of child poverty now surpass those of downtown.
- In the GTA's suburban Regions the number of children living in poverty is growing at an alarming pace. Peel Region has had a 51% increase in the number of children in poverty since 1997. York Region has had a 44% increase in the number of children in poverty.
- The share of GTA children living in poverty is up from 1997 in Peel (now 22%) and York Region (12%).
- Over the long term, there is a 30-year upward trend in after-tax child poverty rates in the Toronto CMA. The CMA's child poverty rates are higher than the rates for Ontario.
- After-tax rates of child poverty have doubled in the Toronto CMA in the past twenty years: to 16% in 2006, from 8% in 1988.
- Before-tax rates of child poverty also increased substantially in towns and cities of the GTA. These rates went to 21% in 2005 from 12% in 1990 in Mississauga; to 18% from 10% in Brampton; to 20% from 8% in Markham; to 18% from 9% in Richmond Hill; to 11% from 6% in Oakville; to 13% from 8% in Pickering; and, to 32% from 24% in Toronto.



## Summary of Trends (cont.)

- Child poverty is urbanized. After-tax rates rise from one child in 20 in poverty in smaller towns, to: one child in ten in Pickering and Ajax; one in seven in Oshawa and Richmond Hill; one in six in Markham and Mississauga; one in five in Hamilton; and, one in four in Toronto.
- Families in poverty often live far below the poverty line. The average poverty gap for families in low income was \$8,300 in the Toronto CMA in 2005.
- Single parent households are inordinately burdened by poverty. Durham Region leads the GTA: 61% of its children in poverty in 2005 lived in single parent households.
- Child poverty is racialized. Today the GTA has about 80% of Ontario's immigrants and visible minorities. Children of non-European heritage make up about one half of the area's children, and seven out of ten of the area's children in poverty (2000).
- While urbanized, the prevalence of single parents and ethno-racial diversity varies among municipalities so different service needs may exist. Lack of child care and affordable housing, remain constants that can condemn families to poverty. One half of female single parent households (46%) and recent immigrant families (44%) cannot afford their housing.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the Greater Trouble in Greater Toronto: Child Poverty in the GTA report, visit [www.TorontoCAS.ca](http://www.TorontoCAS.ca)



*Because children depend on all of us*

