



Poverty Hurts Children and Families

All Ontario children deserve a strong beginning
2018

1 in 5

children under the age of 18 live in poverty in Ontario (544,710)



While child poverty rates slightly declined by 1.6% from 2015 (21.1%) to 2016 (19.5%) - much more must be done to eradicate poverty and provide every child with a fair chance for a healthy life.

Child poverty often looks like



Chronic illness



Stress, depression and anxiety

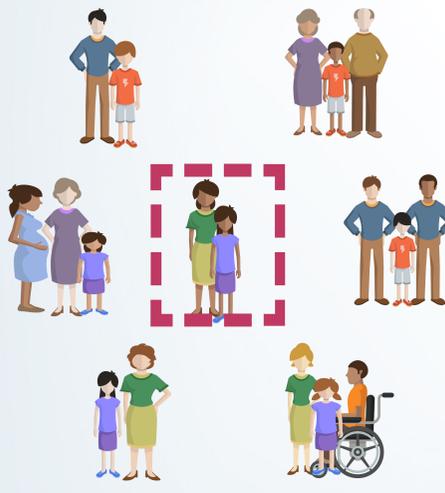


Discrimination



Difficulties affording necessities of life

Families in Poverty



1 in 7

families with children live in poverty in Ontario (351,490)

Some causes of Poverty



Precarious Employment



Weak social assistance programs



Unaffordable housing



Expensive childcare

Poverty Discriminates

Due to structural inequalities and discrimination, poverty rates are even higher among most marginalized groups.



Low-income households in Ontario are more likely to include Indigenous Peoples, women, racialized people, immigrants, people with disabilities, and lone-parent families



Key Recommendations

Our solutions target the roots from where poverty stems



Raise minimum wage to \$15/hr and pass labour laws which protect workers' rights



Implement targeted programs, like employment equity, to reduce poverty among marginalized groups



Raise Ontario Child Benefit by \$100 per child in 2019



Strong Ontario-wide poverty reduction strategy



Strengthen income security, including raising social assistance



Build affordable housing and multi-year strategy to end homelessness



Publicly funded childcare - accessible, affordable, high quality