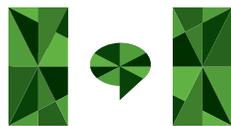


Canada Social Report
Social Assistance
Summaries,
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CANADA SOCIAL REPORT



The *Social Assistance Summaries* series was developed to maintain the record of social assistance case-load information (i.e., number of cases and recipients) from Canada's 13 provinces and territories.

Caledon used data from two federal government reports – the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2008* and the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2009-13* to establish a statistical baseline. In cases where the federal data did not reconcile with provincial/territorial figures, Caledon worked with jurisdictional representatives to present data in the format most often used by their governments.

Program descriptions were developed in collaboration with provincial and territorial contacts.

Program Descriptions

INCOME SUPPORT (ALBERTA WORKS)

Implemented in April 2004, Alberta Works is administered by Alberta Community and Social Services and helps unemployed people to find and keep jobs, employers to meet their need for skilled workers and Albertans with low incomes to cover their basic costs of living.

There are four different components of Alberta Works:

- Employment and Training Services – help find employment, take training or plan a new career
- Income Support – money to meet basic needs
- Child Support Services – a free service to get child support agreements or court orders
- Health Benefits – supplementary health coverage.

This report focuses on the Income Support component. Four distinct streams have been established that define general situations by which Albertans may qualify for Income Support:

1. Barriers to Full Employment – individuals cannot work due to chronic health problems or other barriers to employment
2. Expected to Work – individuals are looking for work, working but not earning enough or temporarily unable to work
3. Learners – those who need training so they can get a job
4. Emergency Allowance – individuals with an unexpected, one-time emergency through no fault of their own – e.g., sudden eviction due to fire.

The rules around who qualifies for financial assistance through the Income Support program and how much money a person receives are governed by the *Income and Employment Supports Act* and are subject to change.

ASSURED INCOME FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED (AISH)

The AISH program, established in 1979, provides financial and health-related assistance to eligible adult Albertans with a disability. To meet the program's medical eligibility criteria, a person must have a mental or physical impairment that causes substantial limitation in the person's ability to earn a livelihood and is likely to continue to affect the person permanently. To assess whether an applicant meets the medical eligibility criteria, consideration is given to whether remedial therapy – including



rehabilitation or employment training – is available that would materially improve the applicant's ability to earn a livelihood. Criteria for income, assets, age and residency must also be met in order to qualify and maintain eligibility for the AISH program.

"Cases" refer to a household, which may consist of one or more people, that receives Alberta Works or AISH benefits (social assistance). Recipients are the total number of people in the household, including the head and, where applicable, spouse and any children who benefit as a result of receiving AW or AISH.

Data prior to 2004 should not be attributed to the Alberta Works program. The program in place for this period was Supports For Independence.

ALBERTA SOCIAL ASSISTANCE STATISTICS

Point-in-time data (March 31).

Figures for 1997 to 2007 are drawn from the 2008 and 2009-13 *Social Assistance Statistical Reports*, March 31 data, figures rounded to 100s.

Figures for 2008 to 2016 were supplied by Alberta Community and Social Services, actual numbers.

YEAR	ALBERTA WORKS		AISH
	cases	recipients	cases
1997	40,100	87,700	21,500
1998	34,500	75,100	23,100
1999	32,800	70,000	24,700
2000	30,400	63,400	26,500
2001	27,600	56,800	28,200
2002	27,200	53,800	29,800
2003	29,600	57,500	30,900
2004	30,300	59,900	31,500
2005	28,500	56,400	32,000
2006	25,100	49,000	34,800
2007	25,200	48,100	36,100
2008	25,961	49,379	36,747
2009	31,615	59,176	38,065
2010	40,146	73,350	40,439
2011	38,955	71,137	42,820
2012	34,852	62,426	44,901
2013	34,068	59,356	46,805
2014	33,211	56,433	49,060
2015	35,009	58,653	51,492
2016	45,428	74,989	53,590

Alberta Works figures do not include First Nations living on reserves. AISH figures include First Nations living on reserves.



Note: Four jurisdictions – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and Yukon – use point-in-time (March 31) statistics. Two – Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut – use calendar year averages. The remaining seven use fiscal year averages.

