

Child Poverty Across BC Regions

Child poverty affects children in every corner of British Columbia. According to 2013 taxfiler data and the Low Income Measure (LIM) after tax, more than three in five (62%) of British Columbia's regional districts had child poverty rates of 20.0% or higher, with British Columbia as a whole having a child poverty rate of 20.4%.

23 out of the 29 regional districts in BC had at least 1,000 children living in poverty.

It is important to note that over half (51%) of all poor children in BC — that's 85,450 children — live in the Metro Vancouver Regional District. A breakdown of poverty in this region is provided in Fact Sheet 9.

Overall, out of 29 regional districts in BC:

- One regional district, Central Coast, had a child poverty rate above 50.0%
- 14% of all regional districts (four) had child poverty rates between 30.0% and 39.9%
- 45% of all regional districts (13) had child poverty rates between 20.0% and 30.0%
- 38% of all regional districts (11) had child poverty rates between 15.5% and 19.9%

Every regional district except for Stikine (which only had 200 children total living there) had at least 100 children living in poverty, and the majority of the regional districts (23 out of 29) had at least 1,000 children living in poverty.

The regional districts in the northeast and some parts of the Kootenays and Okanagan had the lowest child poverty rates in British Columbia. The regional districts on Vancouver Island, particularly the northern and western parts of Vancouver Island and the northern and central coastal areas of British Columbia had the highest child poverty rates. Lone-parent families with one child or two children in the Central Coast Regional District had median incomes of only \$708 or \$907 per month respectively.

The regional districts with the highest child poverty rates were:

- Central Coast Regional District (50.6% child poverty rate)
- Mount Waddington Regional District (35.1% child poverty rate)
- Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District (33.0% child poverty rate)

The regional districts with the lowest child poverty rates were:

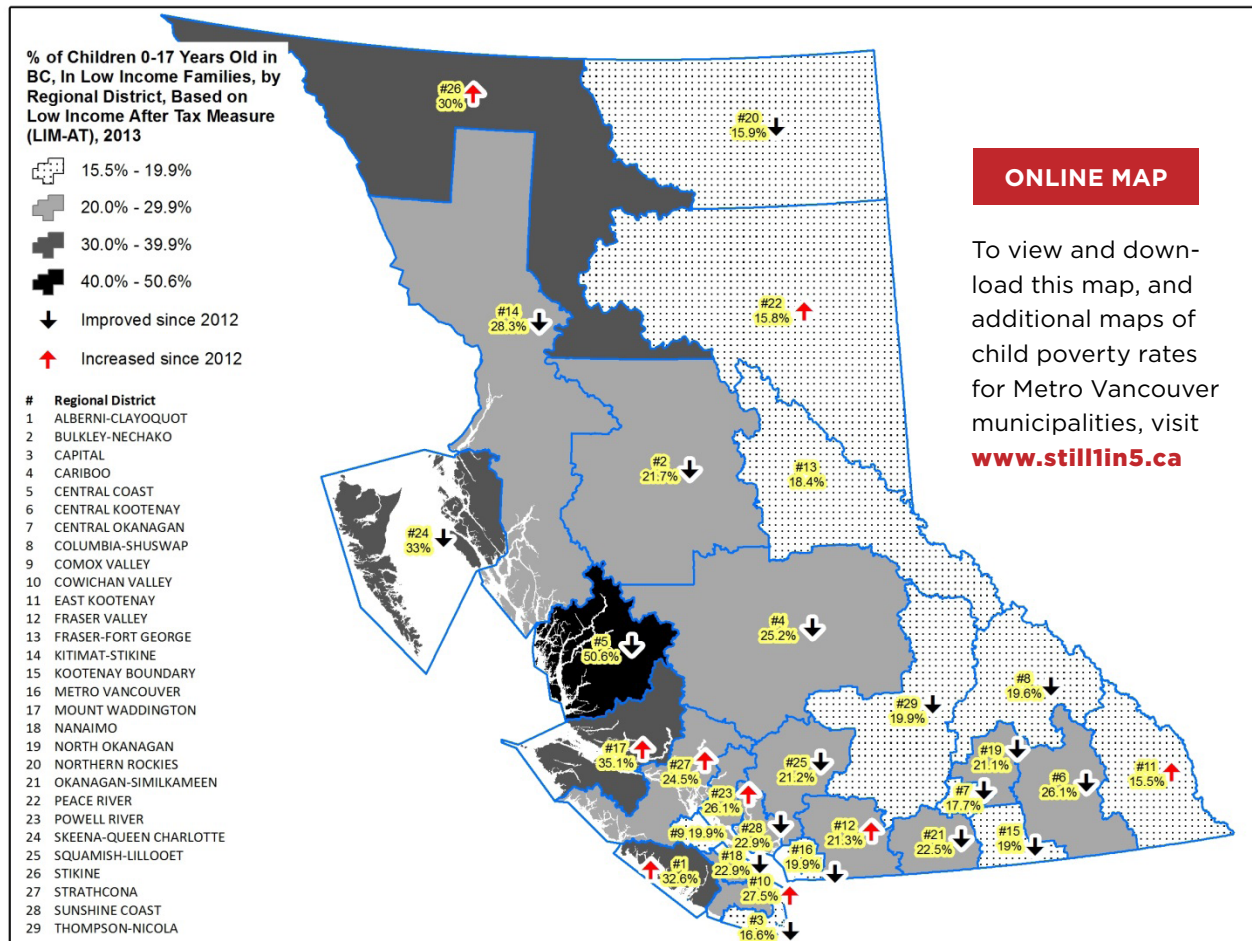
- East Kootenay Regional District (15.5% child poverty rate)
- Peace River Regional District (15.8% child poverty rate)
- Northern Rockies (15.9% child poverty rate)

Between 2012 and 2013, most regional districts (18 out of 29 regional districts) saw decreases in their child poverty rates, while nine regional districts saw increases in their child poverty rates and two regional districts saw their child poverty rates stay the same in both years. The regional districts in the south, central, and north interior generally saw decreases in child poverty rates between 2012 and 2013. The

regional districts with increases in child poverty rates were concentrated along the south coast and Vancouver Island.

Child Poverty Rates by Regional District, LIM After Tax, 2013

% of Children 0-17 Years Old in BC in Low Income Families, by Regional District,
Based on Low Income After Tax Measure (LIM-AT), 2013



Source Data: Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, 2013, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals, 13C0016
Table F-18 Family data - after tax low income (based on after tax low income measures, LIMs) 2013
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FIRST CALL RECOMMENDS

- Adopt a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines, a cabinet minister with the authority and responsibility to ensure government is achieving its targets on time, and a goal of reducing BC's child poverty rate to 7% or lower by 2020.
- Recognizing that children of recent immigrants and refugees, Aboriginal children, children of female lone-parent families, children in racialized families and children with a disability, are at greater risk of living in poverty, efforts should also be targeted to achieve major reductions in poverty levels for these populations.

See the full list of recommendations on pages 48 and 49.