

KEY STATISTICS

- In Canada, social expenditure by government—measured as a percentage of our GDP—is considerably less than the OECD average. According to OECD figures, Canada’s total public social expenditure is approximately 17% of GDP, while the OECD average is almost 22% -a difference of \$80 billion annually.
- Relative to other OECD countries, Canada has significantly less social housing as a percentage of overall housing stock. The percentage of housing units in Canada that are considered social housing is approximately 5%, compared to England’s rate of 18% (in some OECD countries, it is as high as 34%).
- Relative to the rest of Canada, Alberta has very few subsidized housing units. As of 2011, Alberta was home to 10% of all Canadian households, but had just 7% of all subsidized housing units.
- Accounting for inflation, to restore federal annual homelessness funding (i.e., the Homelessness Partnering Strategy -HPS) to 1999 levels would require an increase of \$158 million annually in funding.
- Since 1990 the availability of rental units per 1,000 people has fallen by 14% in Canada and by 46% in Alberta. On a per capita basis, Alberta has roughly half the number of rental units as the rest of Canada.
- As of 2011, approximately 13% of Canadian households were considered to be in core housing need. By contrast, approximately 19% of all Indigenous households were considered to be in core housing need. For Inuit households, the figure is 34%.