

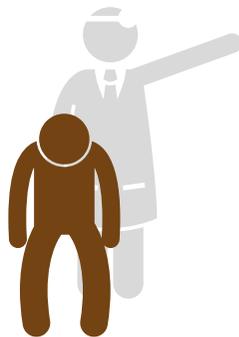
## FACT SHEET # 6

# RACIALIZED POVERTY IN INCOME & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

How is the racialization of poverty felt through income & social assistance?

- **Gender Pay Gap:** Recent immigrants (arrived in 2011-2016) face an income gap of 37% compared to non-immigrants. Recent immigrant women face a 59% income gap compared to non-immigrant men. The income gap is likely the highest for racialized recent immigrant women.
- **Colour Code:** Racialized women earned 58 cents, and racialized men earned 76 cents for every dollar a white man earned in Ontario in 2015; The 'colour-code' persists for second generation workers of colour.
- **Differential Impact:** Racialized residents are over-represented in low-income statistics. Peoples of colour have a low-income rate of 21.3% in 2016 compared to 11.5% for non-racialized Ontario residents. 21 per cent of racialized Canadian residents are in low income compared to 12 per cent of non-racialized residents
- **Immigration:** Recent immigrants had a low-income rate of 31.4%, which was more than twice the rate of 12.5% for non-immigrants. Racialized immigrants are most likely to experience the highest low-income rates.
- **Public Health:** Over 4 times as many people on social assistance considered suicide sometime in their lives than non-poor; almost 20 times as many attempted suicide. Indigenous peoples and people of colour receive less health and mental health supports, and are often at disproportionate risk of harm.

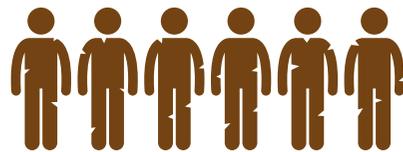
Many social entitlement programs are denied to migrant workers despite their contribution to these programs when they work in Canada.



- **Precarious Work:** Racialized people - both Indigenous People and people of colour - and immigrants are over-represented in part-time and precarious employment characterized by lower wages, absence of benefits, and job insecurity.
- **Income Gap:** In 2016, the income gap between racialized and non-racialized residents increased from 25% to 26% nationally.

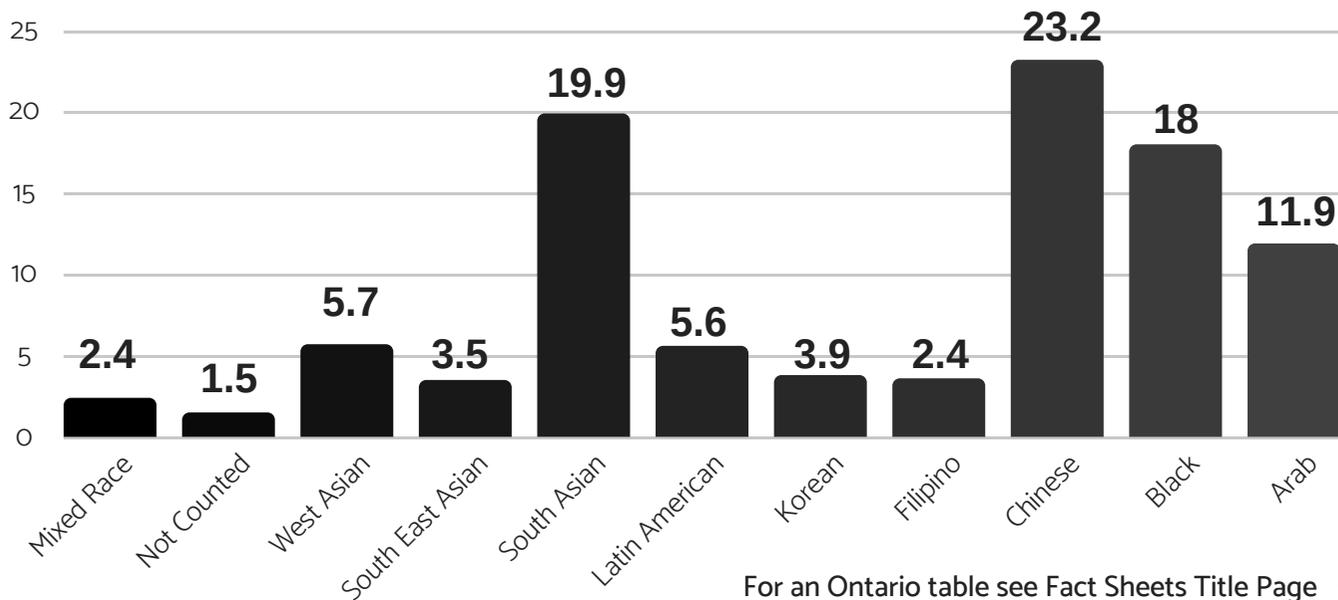
### AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

87% of Indigenous people from Toronto surveyed in a 2018 health report lived below the before-tax low-income cut-off, where a family generally spends 70 per cent or more of its income on food, shelter and clothing.



- Indigenous children experience poverty at a rate that is almost twice that of non-Indigenous.
- There continues to be a deep and persistent income gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The 2016 Census data shows a 45% income gap between Indigenous women and non-Indigenous men, while the average income gap between all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was 33%.
- In 2012-13, 33.6 per cent of on-reserve First Nations peoples received social income assistance, compared to just over 5 per cent of the Canadian population. In some Indigenous communities more than 80% of residents are on social assistance.
- Income levels for Indigenous peoples are directly linked to educational attainment levels.

## All Peoples of Colour Living in Poverty in Canada - Percentage of Total by Select Ethno-Racial Groupings (Canadian Census 2016)



For an Ontario table see Fact Sheets Title Page

### Quick Notes

- When we refer to peoples of colour we speak of Canadians of non-European background or heritage - both people of colour who are Canadian-born as well as those who are born elsewhere.
- When we refer to Indigenous Peoples, we speak of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.
- In Toronto, 62% of all persons living in poverty are from racialized groups.
- 52% of Canada's racialized people living in poverty reside in Ontario.
- Households that fall below Canada's low income cut-off (LICO) or low income measure (LIM), spend a much larger percent of their income on basic necessities like food and shelter than the average family; this is how we measure poverty.
- Systemic racism is often caused by hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and processes that privilege or disadvantage certain groups of people. It can be the result of doing things the way they have always been done without considering how they affect particular groups differently.

- Indigenous Census: Low-income data is under-reported since many Indigenous people cannot or do not participate because of distrust of government due to past and present colonial policies.
- Low-Income: For specific ethno-racial groups in Ontario the percentages of people who are low-income are - Arab (40.6%), West Asian (36.1%), Korean (31.4%), Black (24.1%), Chinese (22.2%), Latin American (19.9%), Southeast Asian (18.4%), and South Asian (18.0%) - as opposed to 11.5% for non-people of colour.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

**Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)** is a specialty legal clinic in Ontario's community legal clinic system with a mandate to improve the income security of people living in Ontario through community organizing, policy development and advocacy, and test case litigation.

[iincomesecurity.org](http://iincomesecurity.org) / [isac@lao.on.ca](mailto:isac@lao.on.ca)

**Sistering** is a community-based service provider guided by principles of anti-racism and anti-oppression, and works to change social conditions and inequalities which endanger homeless, under-housed and low income women's welfare.

[sistering.org](http://sistering.org) / [general\\_info@sistering.org](mailto:general_info@sistering.org)