

# Low Income

## Why Is This Important?

Individuals with the lowest income tend to have the poorest health. People who struggle to afford the basics in life experience higher illness and mortality rates and decreased life expectancy compared to higher income earners. Income disparities exist according to one's gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and where they live (urban and rural areas). For children, growing up in low income families can be a risk for higher rates of learning disabilities, mental health problems, dental caries and hospitalization than those from higher income families.

## Examples of Action Being Taken:

The [Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership](#)

Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre: [Saskatoon Food Bank](#)

[Poverty Costs](#)

## What More Can Be Done?

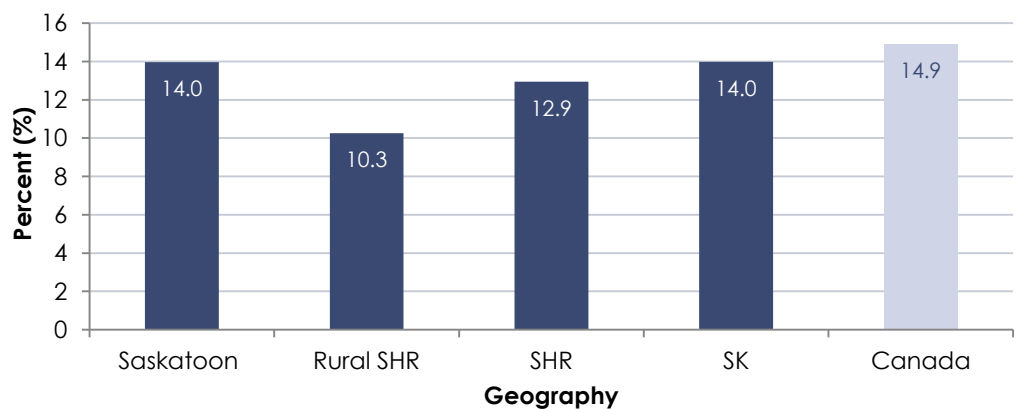
See the Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

### Low income in Saskatoon Health Region is a concern, especially for children.

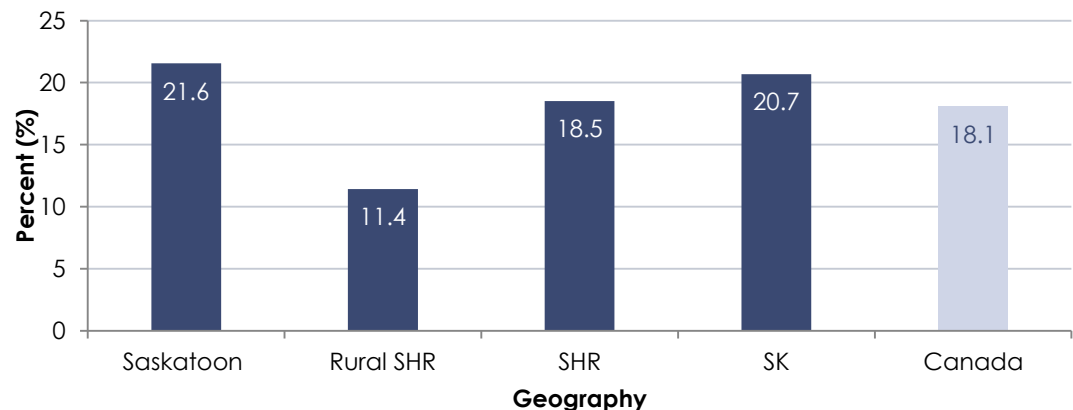
- In 2010, one in eight people reported low income in the Region, slightly lower than the Saskatchewan (14.0%) and Canadian (14.9%) averages. Rural areas reported a lower percentage of people living in low income (*Figure 1*).
- Those in the most disadvantaged areas of Saskatoon experienced higher low income rates compared to others (see [here](#) for additional data).
- In 2010, nearly one in five children under six years of age in the Region lived in low income, approximately 4,200 children. A much higher percentage was seen in Saskatoon (21.6%) compared to rural areas (11.4%) (*Figure 2*).
- A recent public opinion [survey](#) of Saskatoon residents found that 90.2% support the development of a provincial plan to end child poverty; 82.5% support income supplements to move people off welfare; 80.6% support increased pension amounts for seniors; and 73.2% support increasing the minimum wage.

**Figure 1: Percent Low Income, After-tax, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan and Canada, 2010**



Source: [Statistics Canada - National Household Survey](#)

**Figure 2: Percent of Children Less Than Six Years of Age In Low Income, After-tax, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan and Canada, 2010**



Source: [Statistics Canada - National Household Survey](#)