

Low Income and Financial Difficulty

Why Is This Important?

Income is a fundamental determinant of a person's health and is one of the most common themes in health determinant literature. As income increases and the gaps in income equality decreases, health for a population generally improves. The In Hospital Birth Questionnaire (IHBQ) screens mothers for financial difficulties, including low income or use of income support programs.

Exposure to poverty in childhood has been associated with worse adult health and shorter life expectancy, even if financial circumstances improve later in life.

What Is Being Done?

The Saskatoon [Poverty Reduction Partnership](#)

The [Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

[KidsFirst](#) supports vulnerable families and children

[Healthy Mother Healthy Baby](#)

To Learn More:

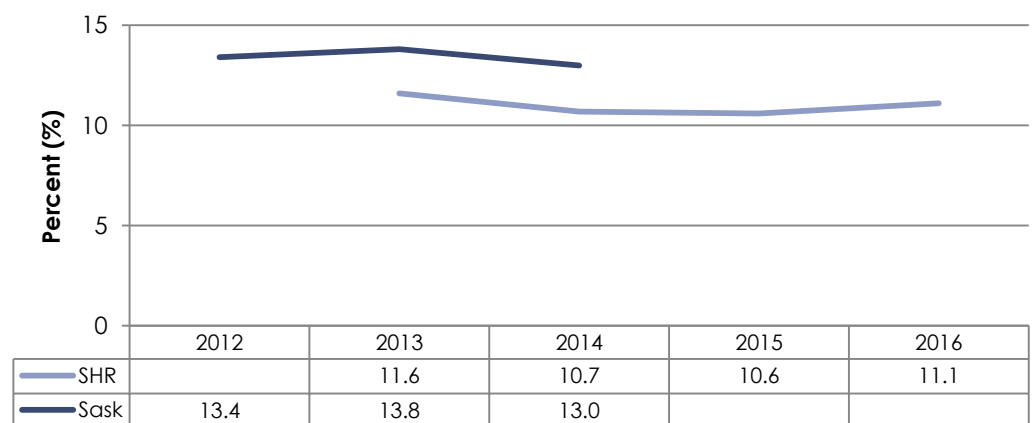
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

The proportion of mothers experiencing financial difficulty varies by sub-group.

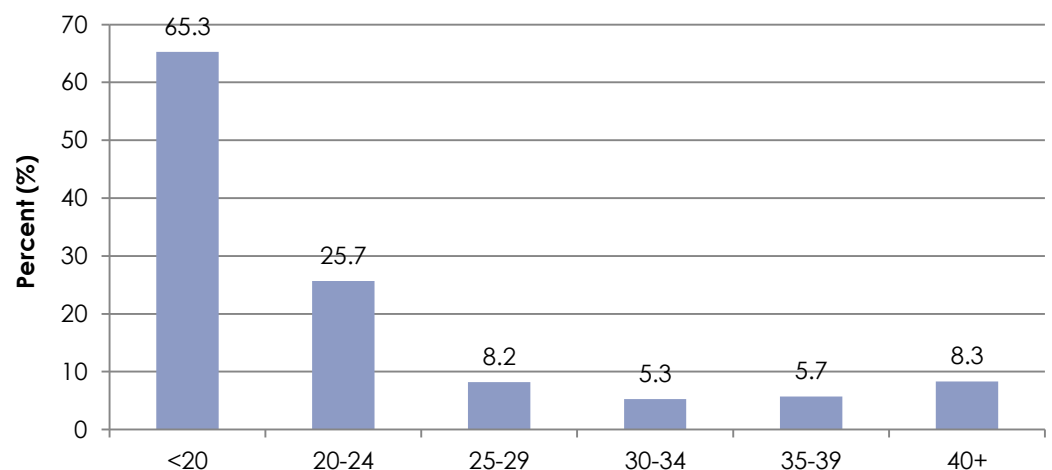
- A little more than 11% of mothers in the Region reported financial difficulties in 2016 (*Figure 1*). This equates to more than 400 babies being born into uncertain financial circumstances every year in the Region.
- Over 60% of mothers less than 20 years reported financial difficulty. This is over seven times higher than for mothers 25 years of age and older (*Figure 2*).
- Low income in other areas of the Region and information regarding income related to mothers and families with young children is found [here](#).

Figure 1: Proportion of Mothers Reporting Financial Difficulty, Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan, 2013 to 2016



Source: KidsFirst, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Figure 2: Proportion of Mothers Reporting Financial Difficulty, by Age Group, Saskatoon Health Region, 2016



Source: KidsFirst, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education