



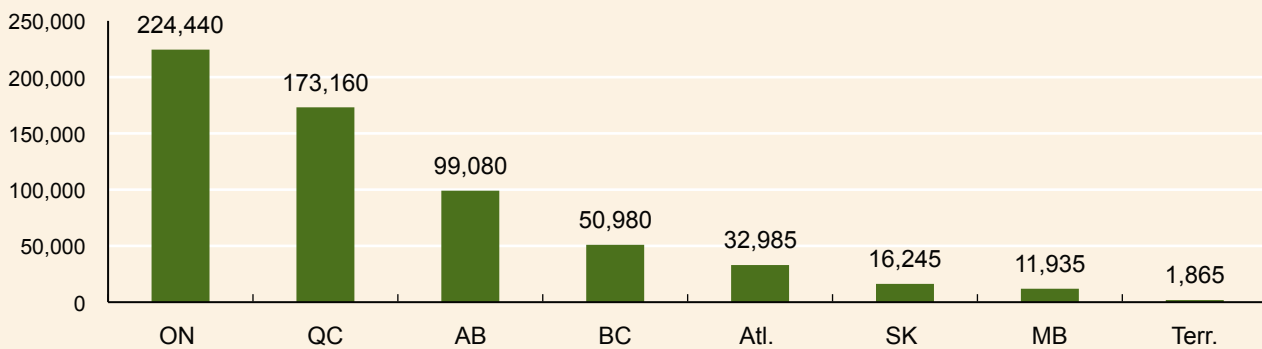
PROFILE OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS IN 2006

INFORMATION ON NON-FAMILY PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN 2006

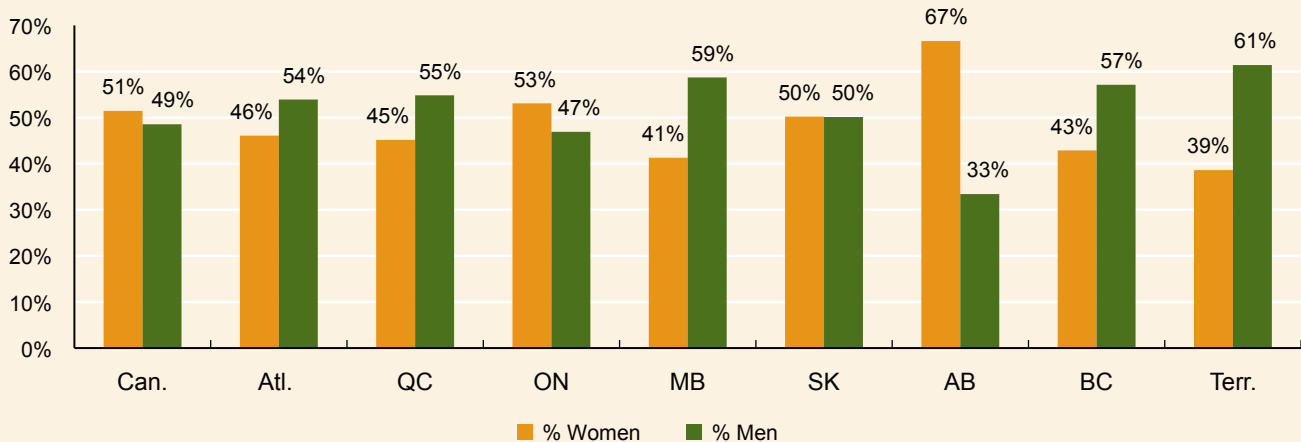
Number of individuals

In 2006, the majority of non-family persons receiving social assistance resided in the four provinces with the largest populations. Among the Canadian population as a whole, 51% of social assistance recipients were women and 49% were men. A larger proportion of men in the Territories (61%) and Manitoba (59%) received social assistance, whereas the highest numbers among women were in Alberta (67%) and Ontario (53%). (See the methodology at the end of the bulletin for a list of the codes and abbreviations.)

Number of non-family persons who received welfare income in 2006, by jurisdiction

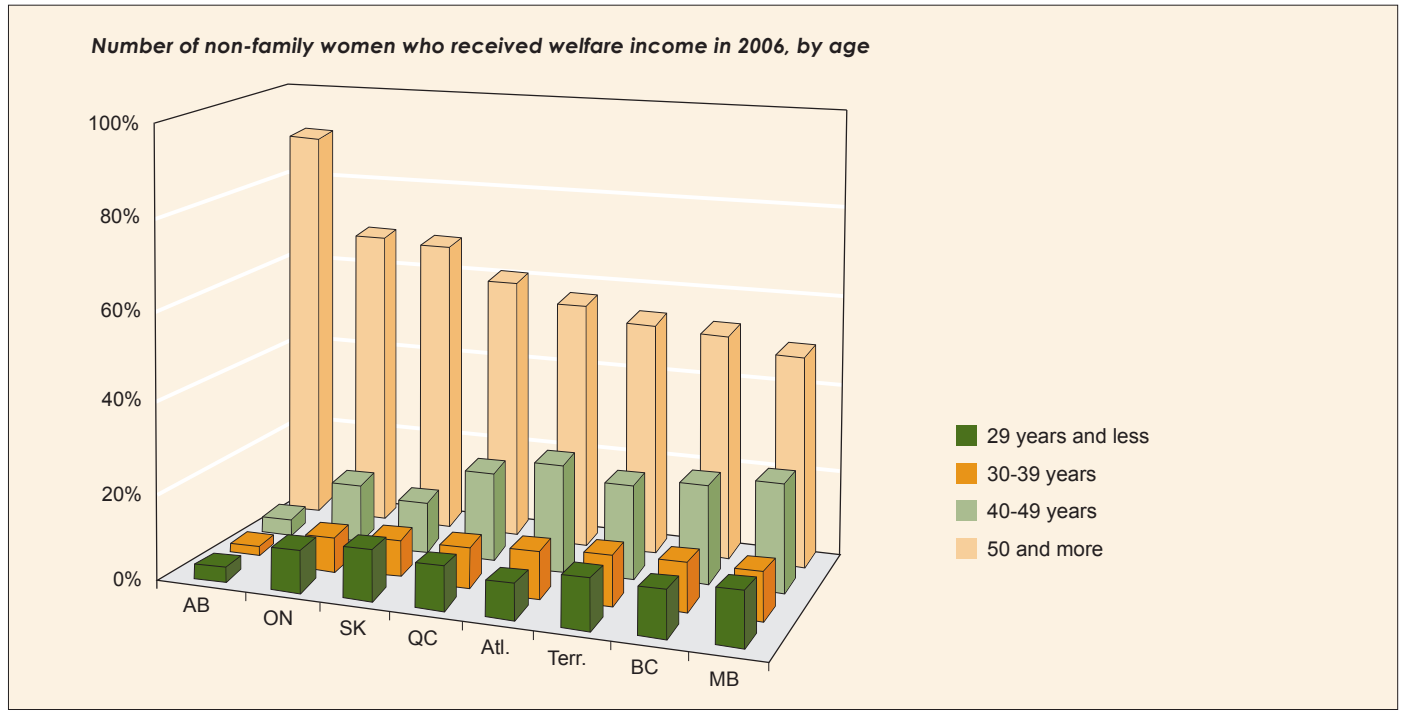


% of non-family men and women who received welfare income in 2006

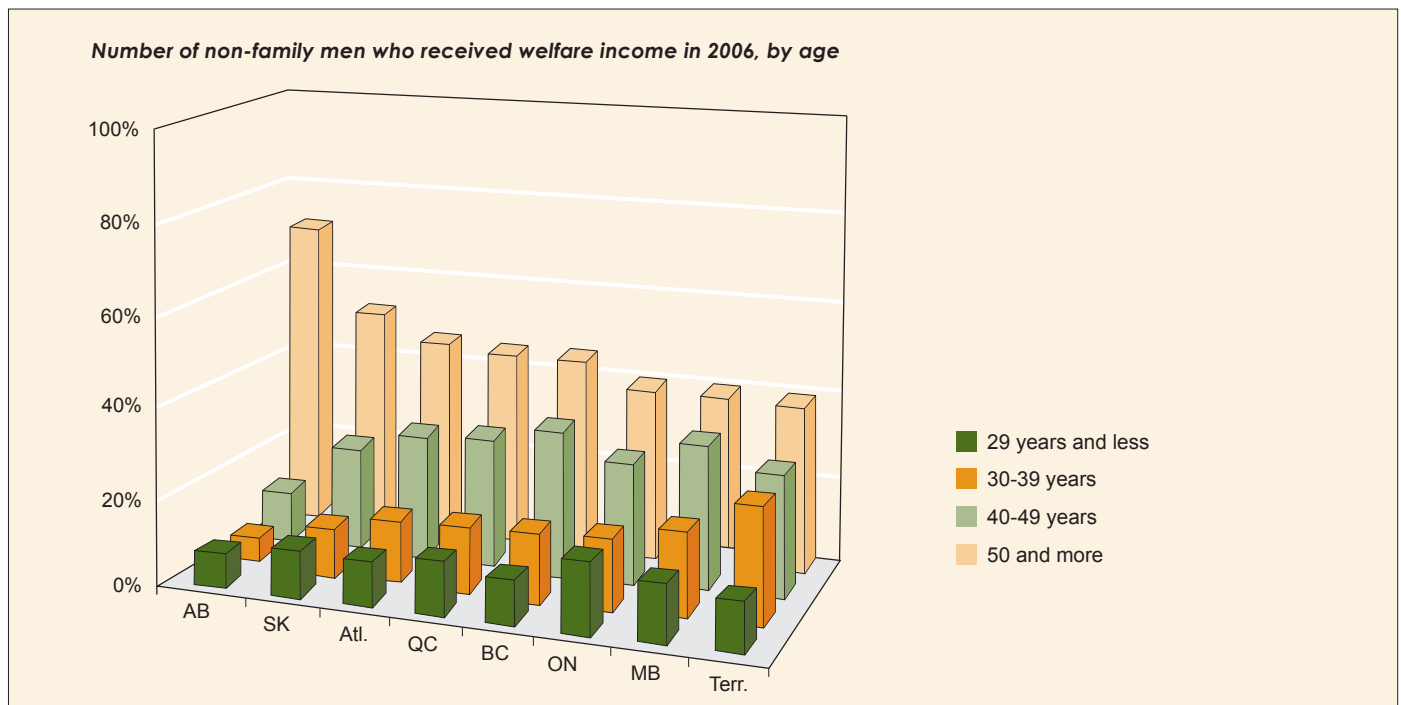


Breakdown by age

Across Canada, women aged 50 and over accounted for the largest proportion of single women receiving social assistance in 2006, with the highest percentages in Alberta at 90%, then Ontario at 69% and Saskatchewan at 68%.

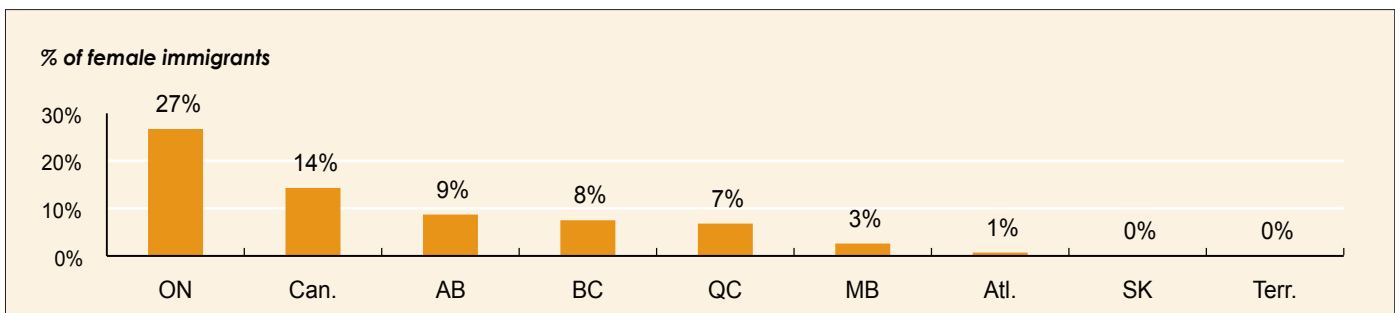
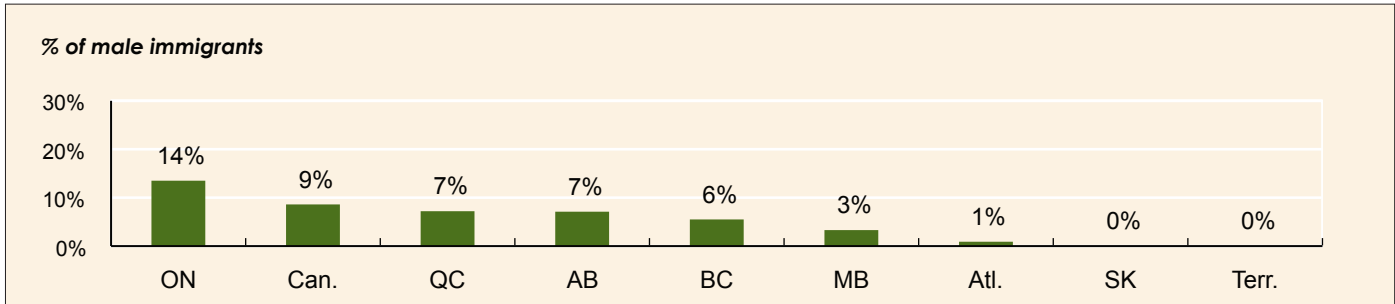


Similarly, among single men, those aged 50 and over made up the largest group of social assistance recipients in 2006, but even in Alberta, where their numbers were highest, they accounted for less than 70% of the group.



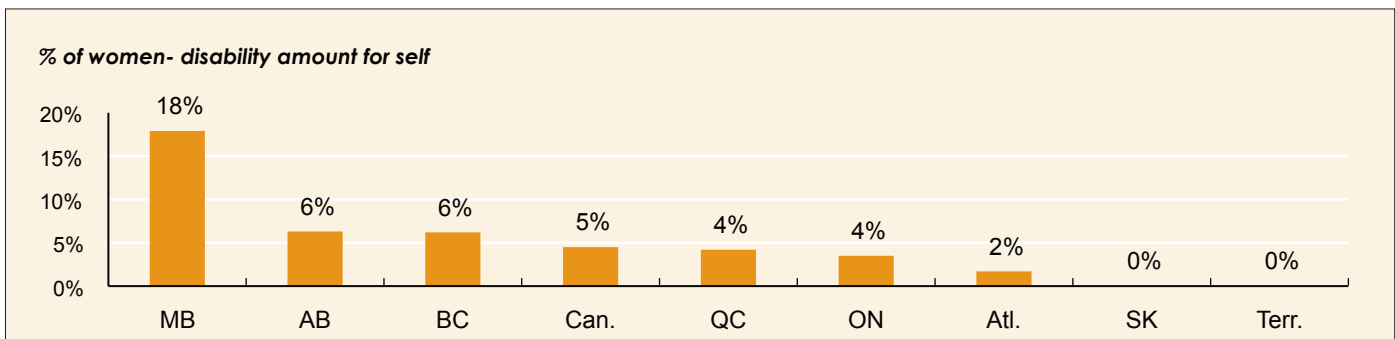
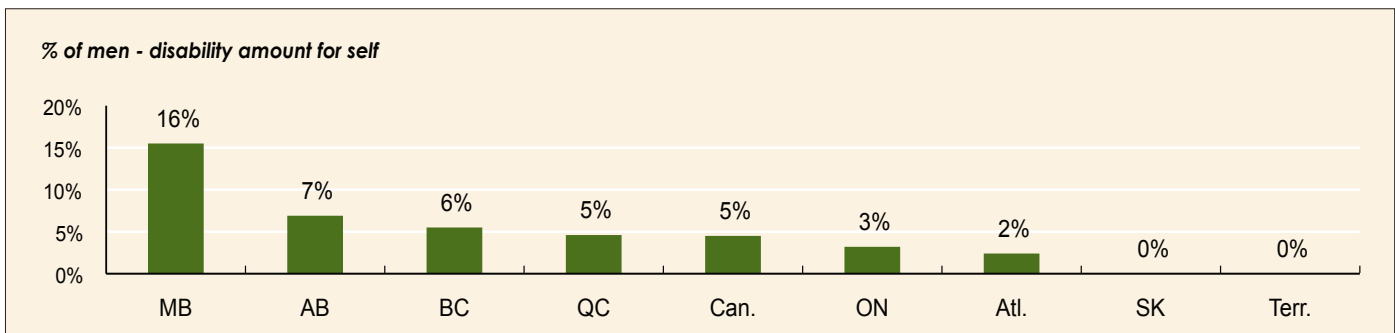
Number of immigrants

In Ontario, women who had immigrated to Canada between 1980 and 2005 accounted for the largest proportion (27%) of female non-family persons receiving social assistance in 2006. Ontario also had the highest proportion of men (14%) in the same category.



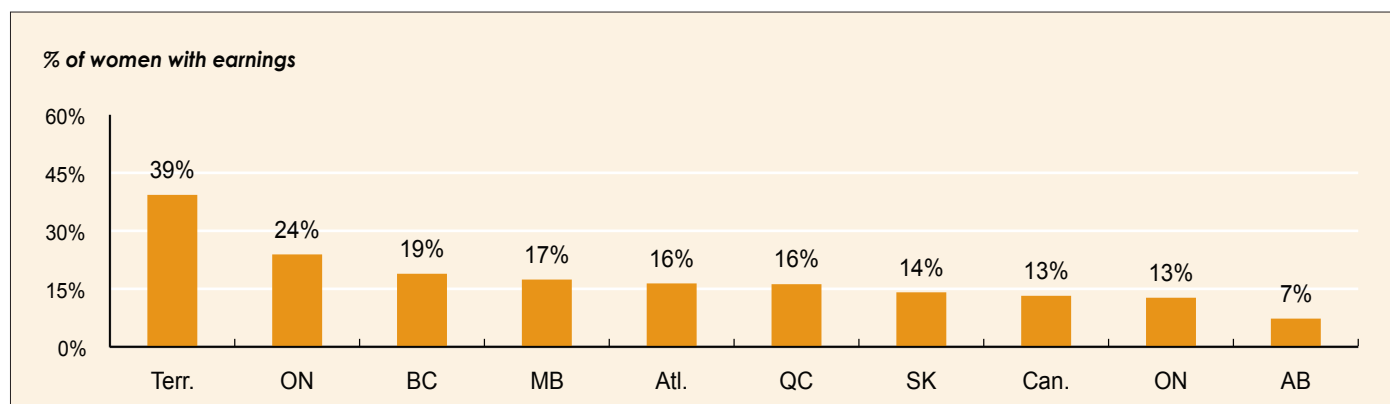
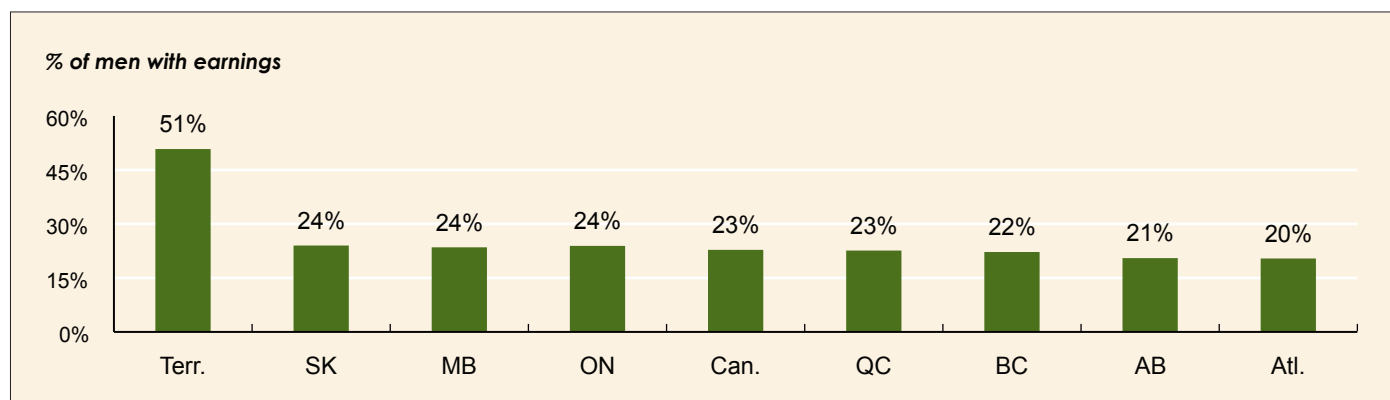
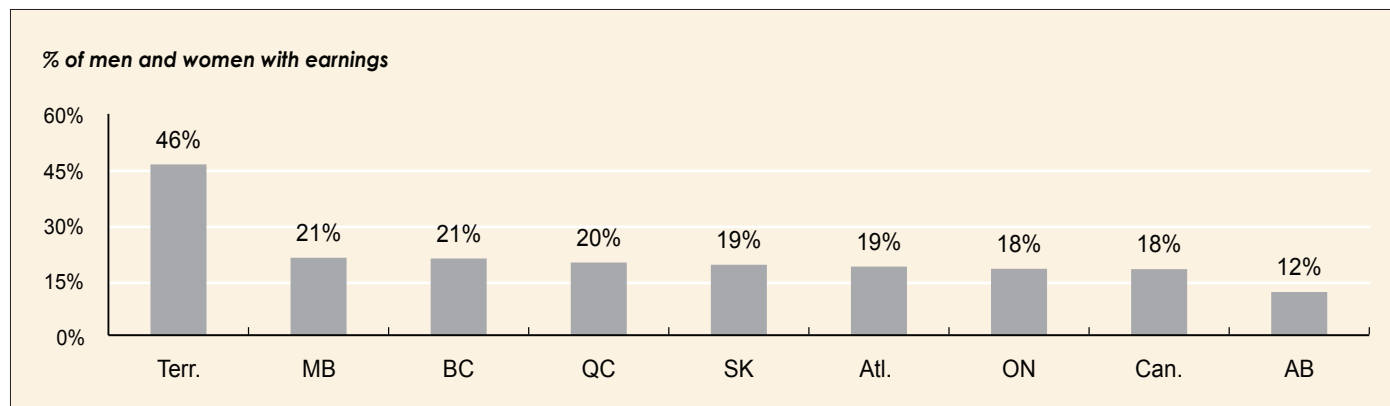
Number of individuals who applied for disability benefits

Manitoba had the highest percentage of single social assistance recipients who applied for the disability amount for self, with the numbers standing at 18% for women and 16% for men. In Canada as a whole, only 5% of men and 5% women had applied for this disability amount.



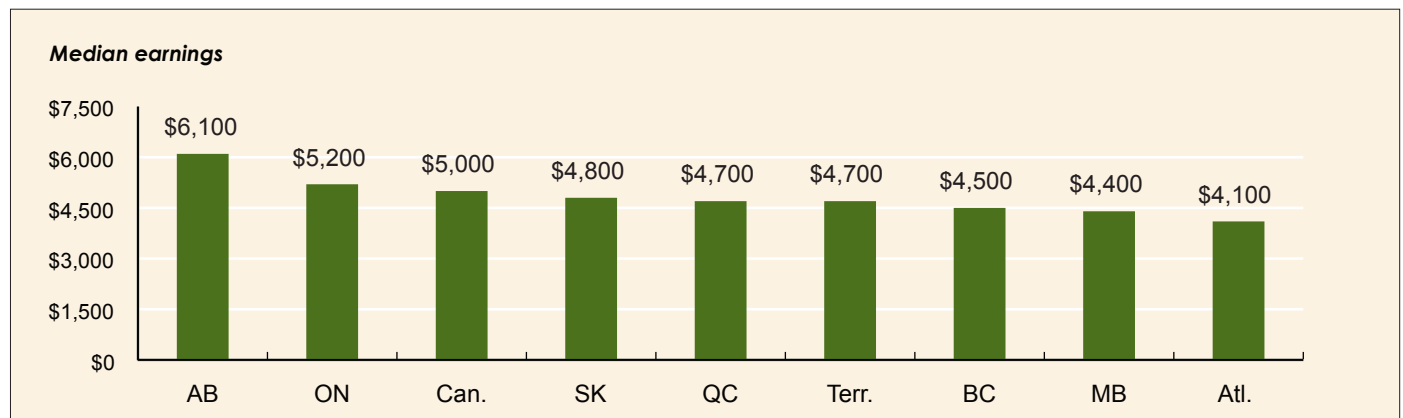
Number of individuals who also earned employment income in 2006

Overall, 18% of single social assistance recipients in 2006 also earned employment income at some point in the year. In the Territories, that number stood at 46%. The numbers differed among men and women: among single male social assistance recipients in Canada, 23% earned employment income in 2006, in contrast to only 13% of single women. In the Territories, 51% of men and 39% of women earned employment income while on social assistance.



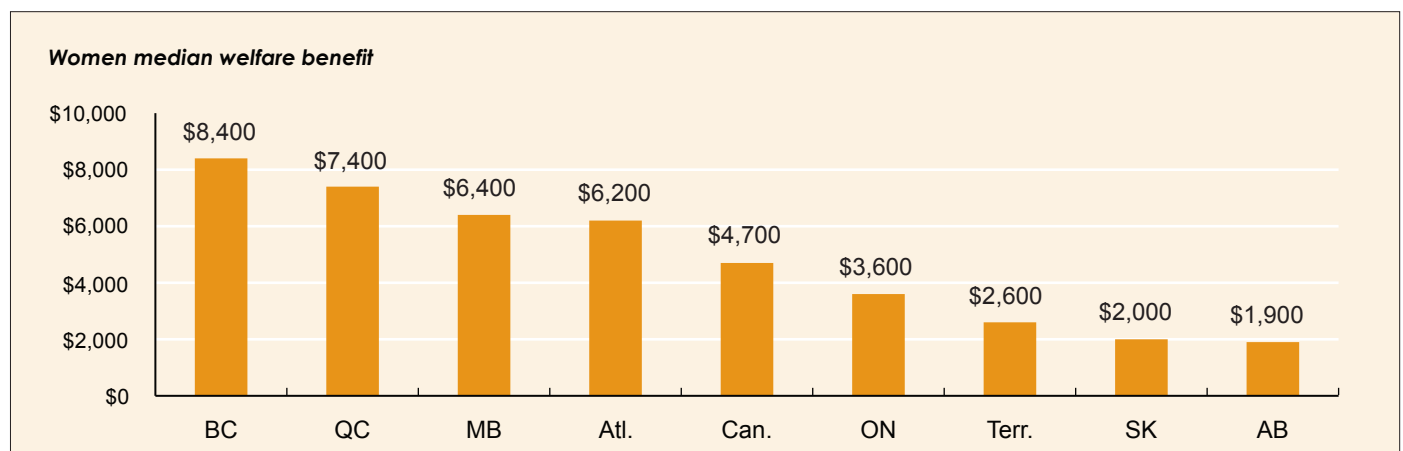
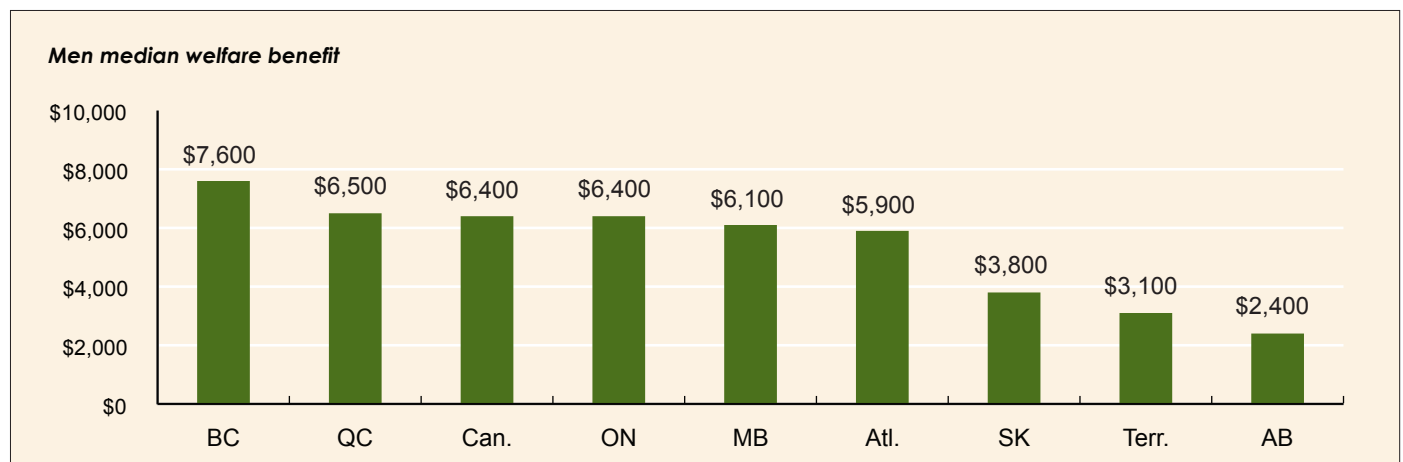
Median employment income

The median employment income for non-family persons receiving social assistance in 2006 ranged between \$6,100 in Alberta to \$4,100 in the Atlantic Provinces, with a median income of \$5,000 for Canada as a whole.



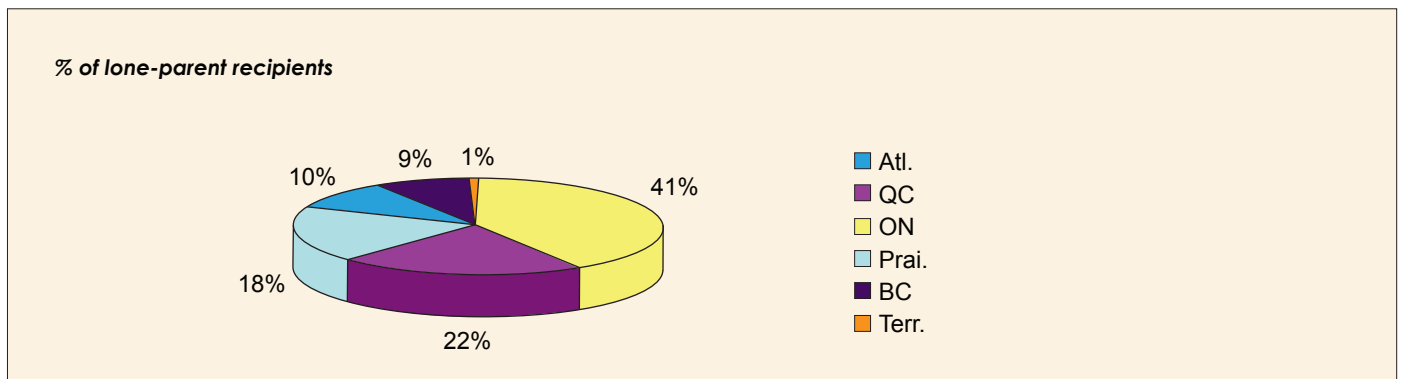
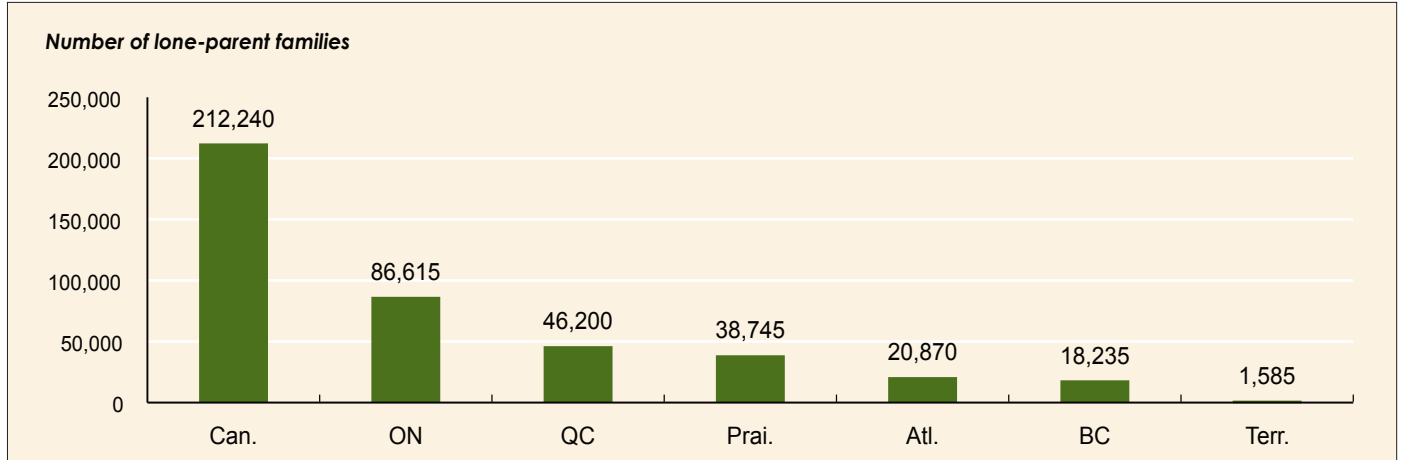
Median social assistance benefit

In Canada, the median social assistance benefit received by male non-family persons was \$1,700 higher than that received by female non-family persons. However, women did receive a higher median social assistance benefit in a few provinces: the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

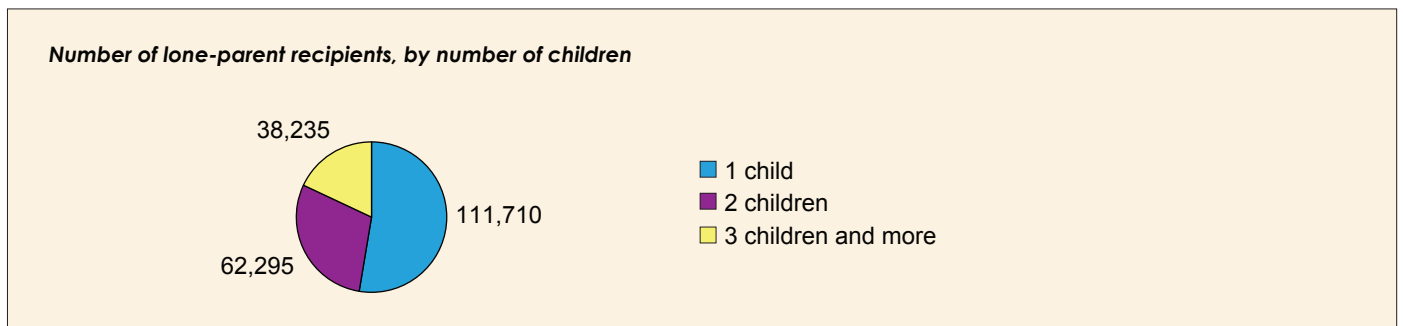


INFORMATION ON LONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN 2006

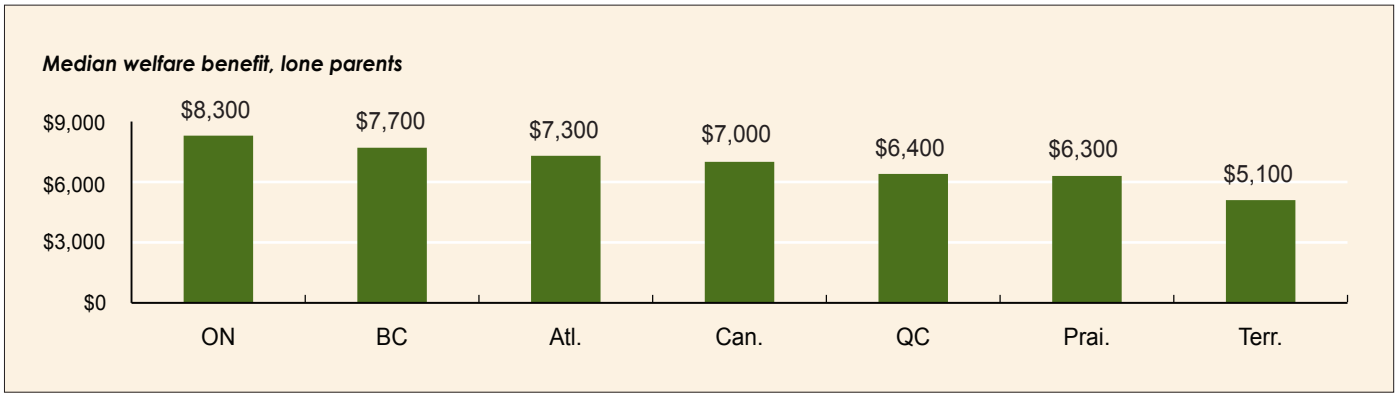
Ontario had the highest number of lone-parent families receiving social assistance in 2006, which was nearly double the number for Quebec and four times the number for British Columbia.



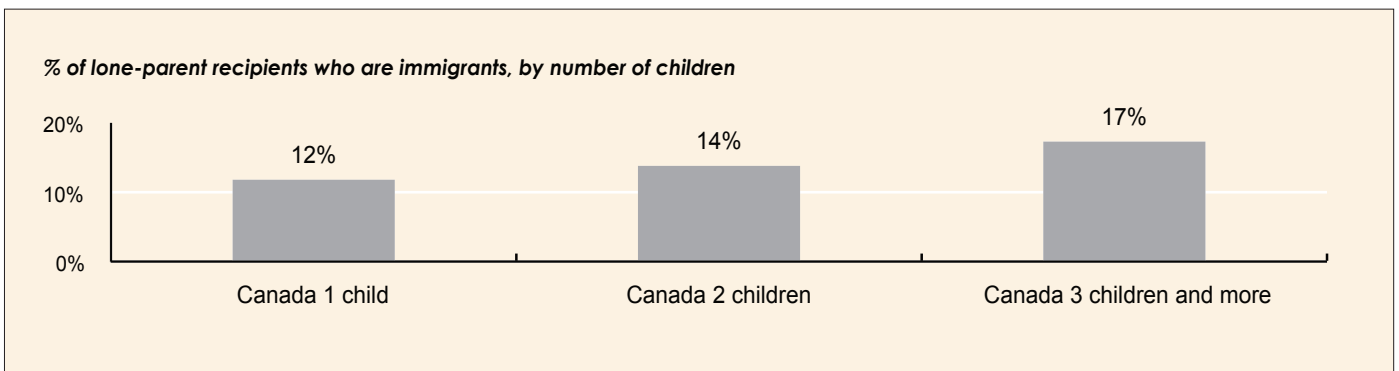
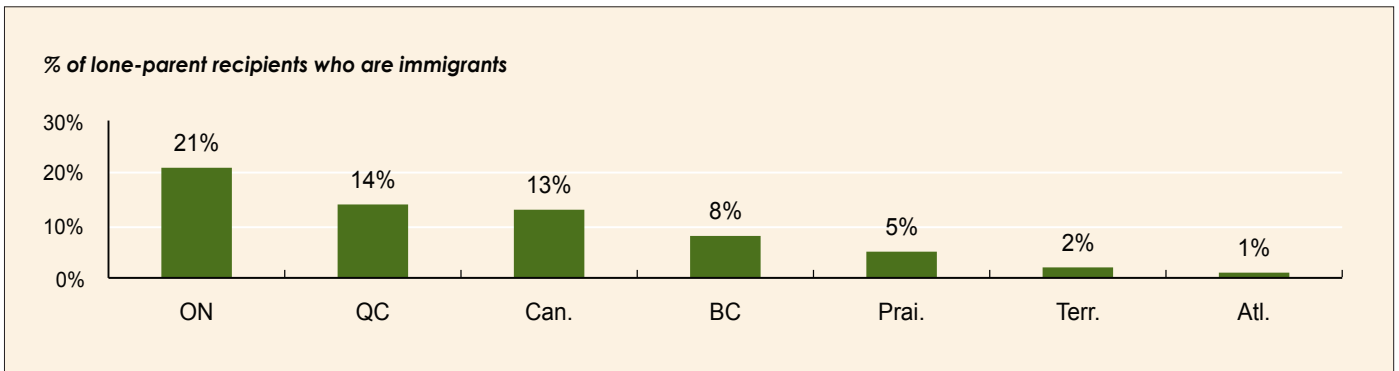
For Canada as a whole, the majority of lone parent family recipients in 2006 had only one child. In each jurisdiction, lone-parent families with only one child outnumbered other lone parent family recipients.



The median value of benefits ranged between \$5,100 (Territories) and \$8,300 (Ontario).

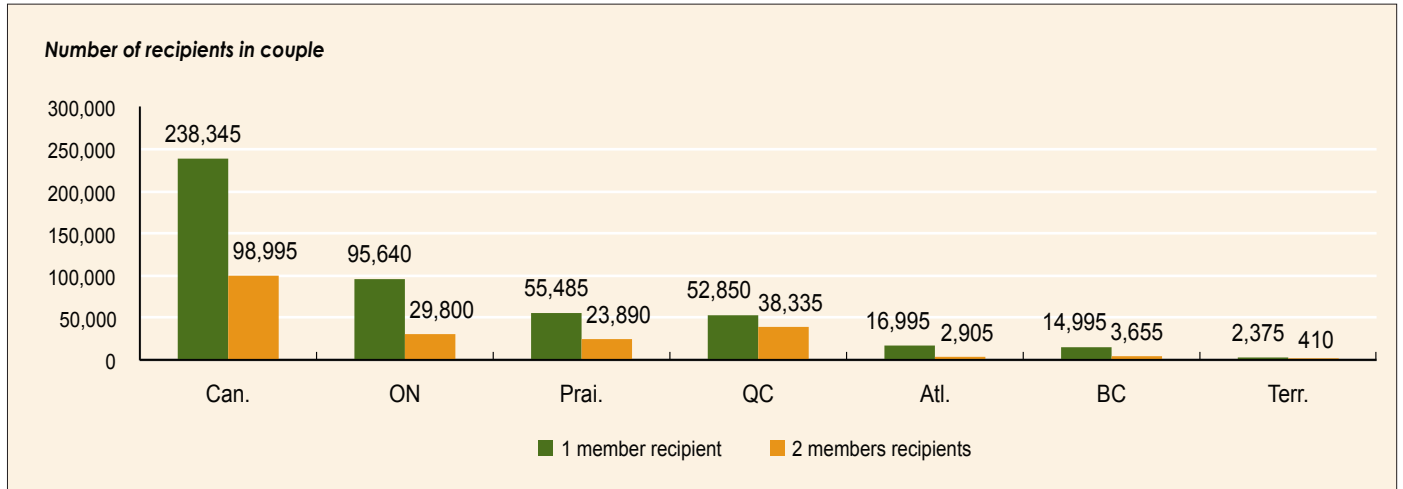


Ontario had the highest percentage of immigrant lone-parent recipients in 2006. Aside from Ontario, Quebec was the only other province to have a percentage higher than that of Canada as a whole.

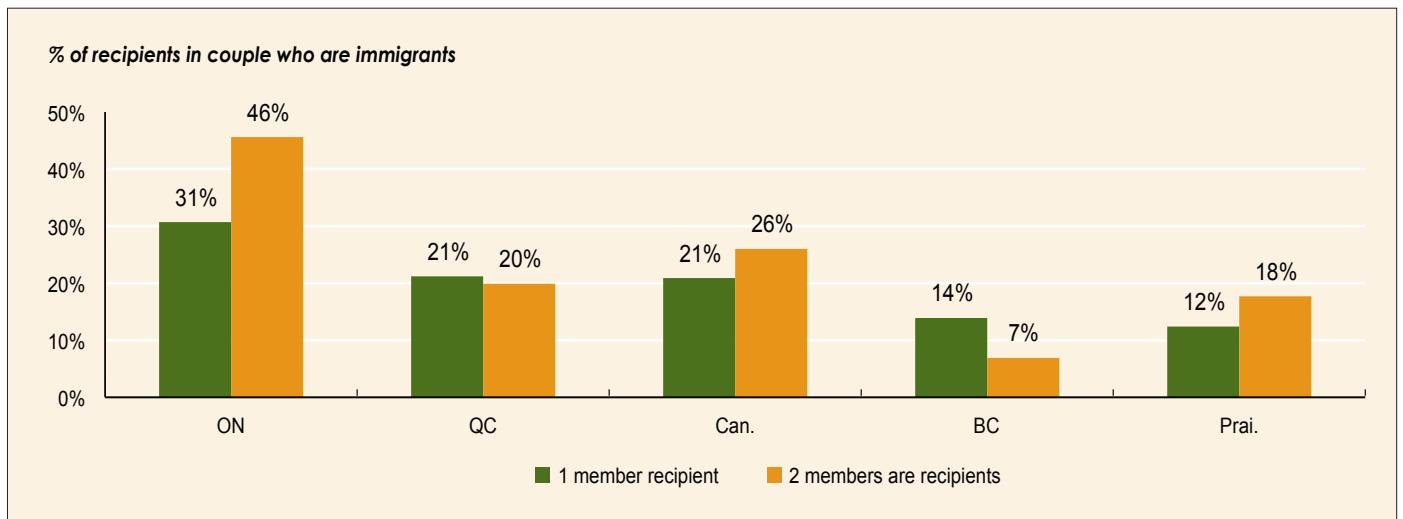


INFORMATION ON COUPLES IN WHICH ONE OR BOTH MEMBERS RECEIVED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN 2006

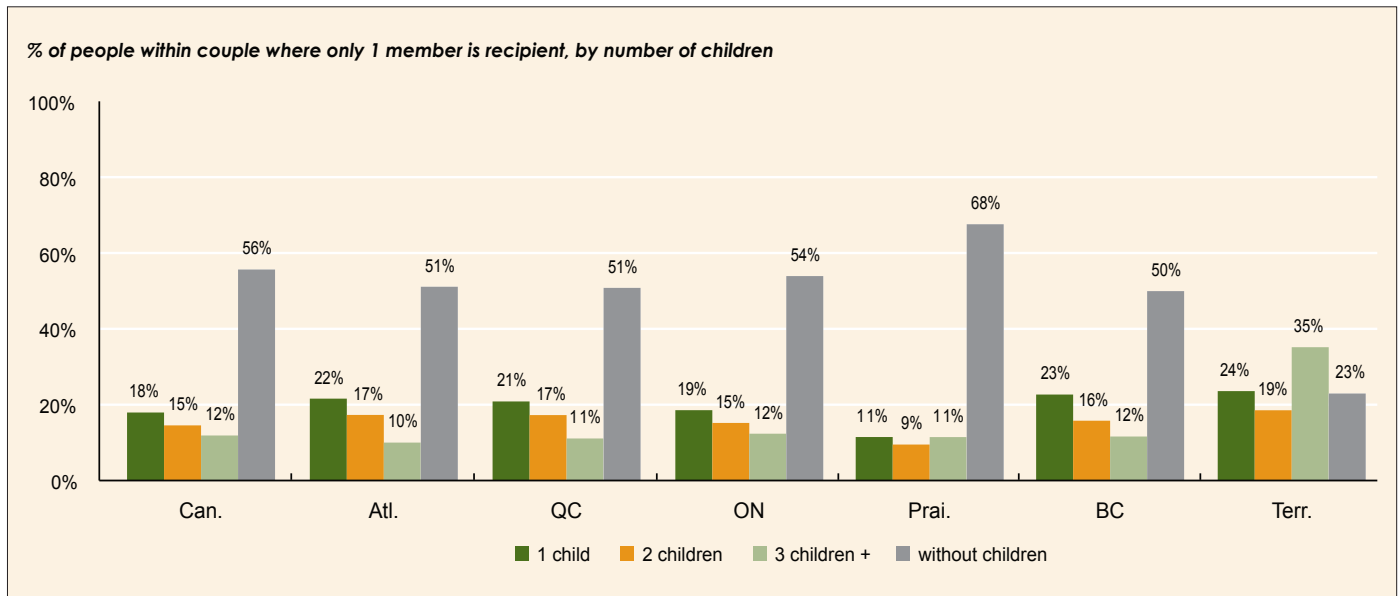
Overall, there were twice as many couples in which one member received social assistance than couples in which both were recipients. Provincially, Quebec had the smallest difference in numbers.



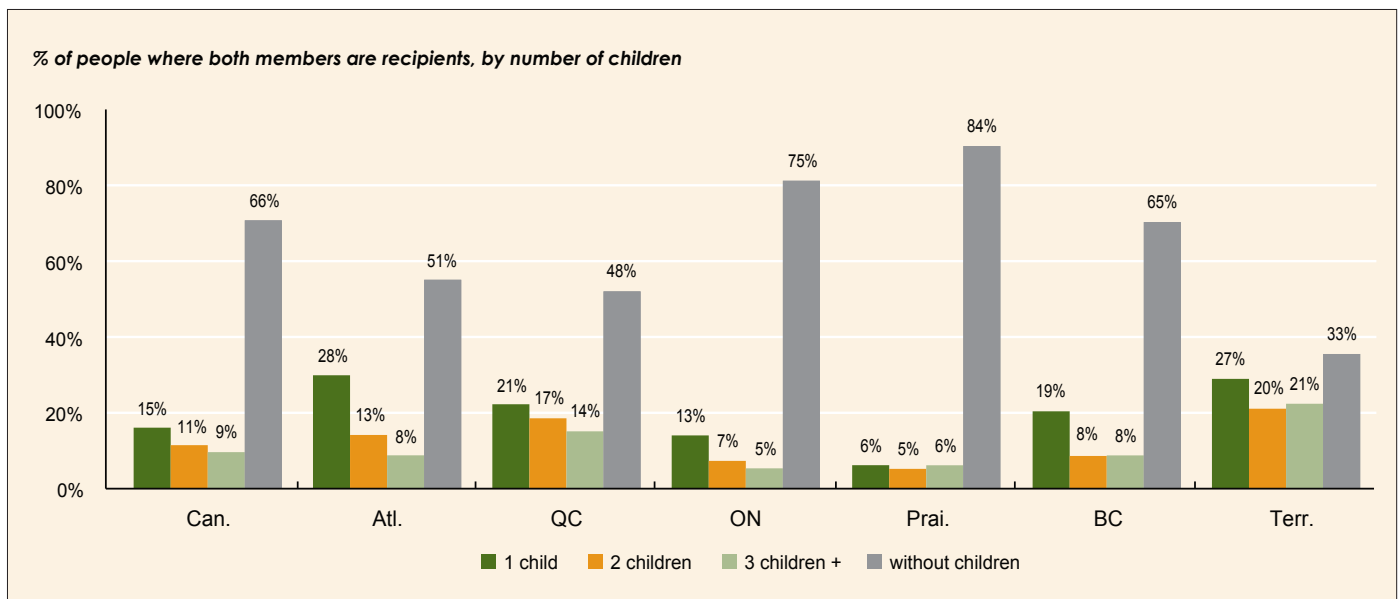
For Canada as a whole, only 21% of couples in which only one member received social assistance in 2006 were immigrants, with Ontario having the highest provincial proportion at 31%. Nationally, among couples in which both members received social assistance in 2006, 26% had one member who was an immigrant. Ontario had the highest percentage among the provinces, with 46%.



In Canada, among couples in which one member received social assistance, 56% were childless, 18% had one child, 16% had two children and 12% had three or more.



The numbers among couples in which both members received social assistance in 2006 were similar, but with a noticeably higher percentage (66%) for those with no children.



METHODOLOGY

To put together this portrait of individuals and families who received social assistance in 2006, we purchased customized data from the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD) that was made public in 2009. The LAD, a longitudinal sample of tax filers for the years 1982 to 2006, is made up of a wide variety of income and demographic variables. The statistics are derived primarily from the annual tax file provided by the Canada Revenue Agency. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=13C0019&lang=eng>

For a complete list of LAD variables, please visit <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/12-585-x/12-585-x2006000-eng.pdf>

Aggregate data was used for the Atlantic Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador) and for the Territories (Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories) because the sample size was insufficient. The codes used are "Atl" and "Terr" respectively. For lone parents and couples only, aggregate data was used for the Prairies Provinces. The code used is "Prai.". Statistics for Canada are represented by "Can". The Canada Post province symbols are used to represent the other provinces in the graphs.

In this report, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

To be considered as having received social assistance in 2006, a reported annual social assistance amount of at least \$101 was required. To be considered as having received earnings, a reported annual employment income of at least \$101 was required.

The disability percentage represents the proportion of social assistance recipients who claimed a disability amount – a person who was severely physically or mentally impaired in the tax year, and the impairment noticeably restricted the tax filer's activities of daily living (work and other).

Average, median and total benefits are all related to the social assistance amount reported by the individuals.

Employment income includes only wages, salaries and commissions (from T4 slips), before deductions. It excludes self-employment income.

In the case of couples, only one adult (the spouse with the higher income) is counted as a recipient, and that person reports both social assistance payments, where applicable (line 236).

The concept of "non-family person" is similar to "single person". However, it should be noted that two non-family persons can reside at the same address (e.g., co-tenants).

With regard to couples, there is no way to determine if one spouse is an immigrant unless that spouse is also included in the LAD sample. When the statistic applies to the couple in the "family type" variable, the following can be the only interpretation of that statistic: "Percentage of couples in which at least one member is an immigrant".