



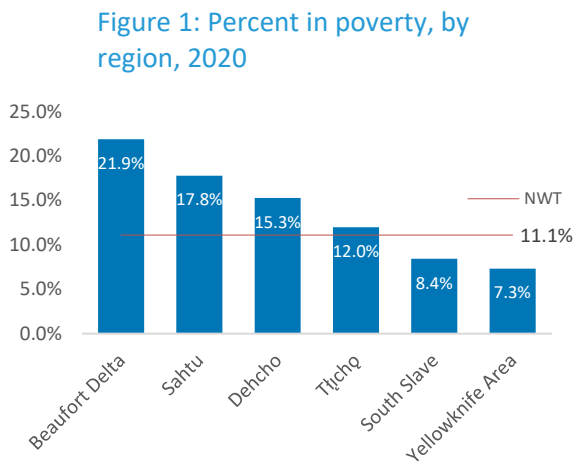
Poverty Indicators Northwest Territories

June 2023

This report provides indicators that may be used to examine dimensions of poverty within the Northwest Territories (NWT), considering that no single definition can adequately capture the challenges of obtaining necessities of life.

NWT Population in Poverty (Northern Market Basket Measure)

The Market Basket Measure (MBM) is the official measure of poverty in Canada. In 2020, 11% of the NWT population were living in conditions of poverty.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021



At 22.4%, poverty levels were higher among one-parent NWT families compared to 6.1% among couple families. Poverty rates were also higher among children and youth below 24 years of age as well as persons 65 years or older.

Among NWT regions, poverty rates were highest in Beaufort Delta and Sahtu, and lowest in the Yellowknife area.

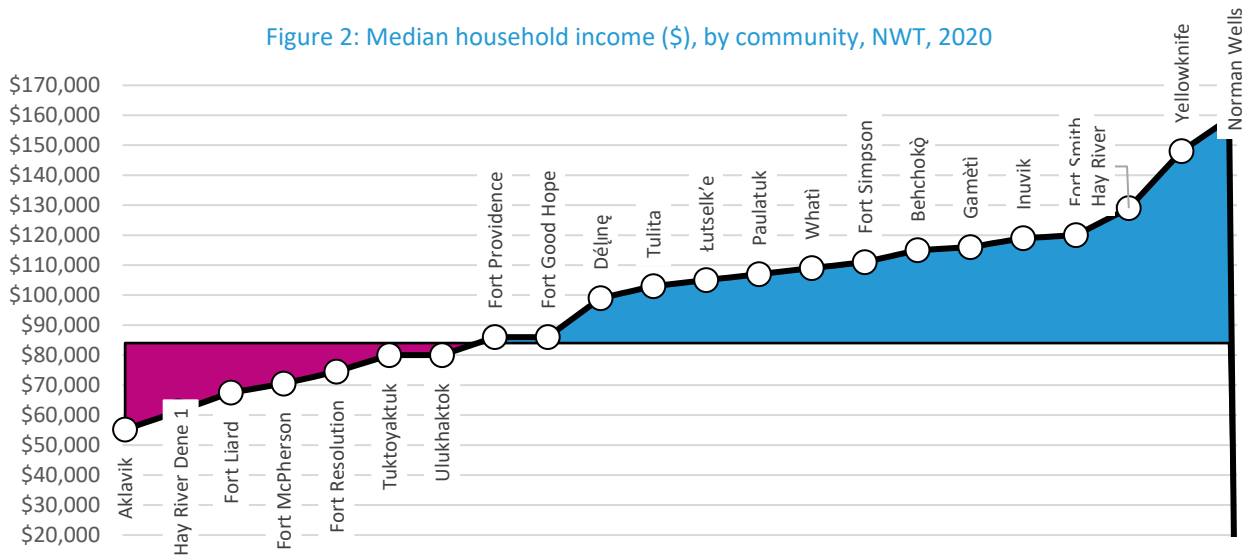
The MBM is based on the cost of a basket of goods (threshold) that represents a modest, basic standard of living. Anyone with a disposable income below this threshold is considered to be in poverty.

Household Income

Figure 2 shows that 7 out of 22 NWT communities where data was available had median household incomes below the national median of \$84,400. The lowest median household income was recorded in Aklavik, Hay River Dene 1, and Fort Liard.

At the household level, 9.1% of the 15,210 NWT households were low-income in 2020, meaning they had household income below \$42,000 (50% of the national median).

Figure 2: Median household income (\$), by community, NWT, 2020



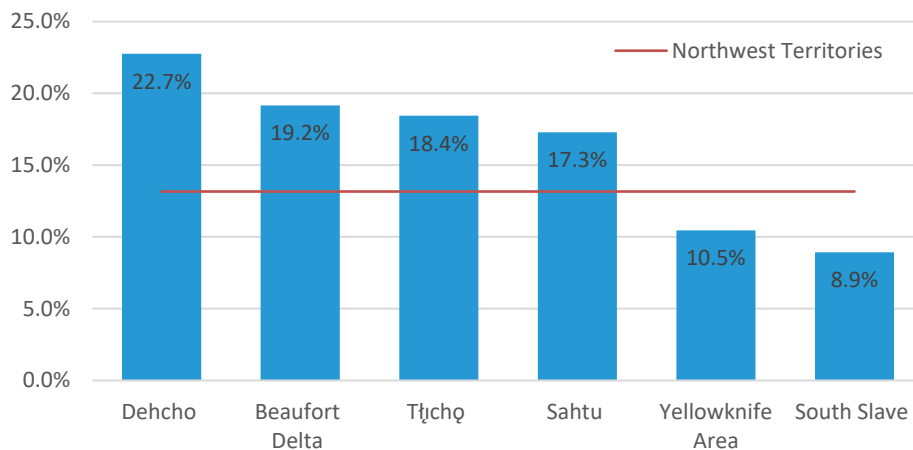
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity is experienced when individuals or families live in dwellings that are unaffordable, require major repairs, or are over-crowded. Households living in such conditions and whose income levels are below a set amount are considered to be in core housing need.

In 2020, nearly 2,000 (13%) NWT households were in core need. Regionally, the share of dwellings in core housing need ranged from 8.9% in South Slave to 22.7% in Dehcho. At the community level, Fort MacPherson (43%) and Aklavik (38%), both in the Beaufort Delta, had the highest share of dwellings in core housing need.

Figure 3: Households in Core Need, by Region, 2021

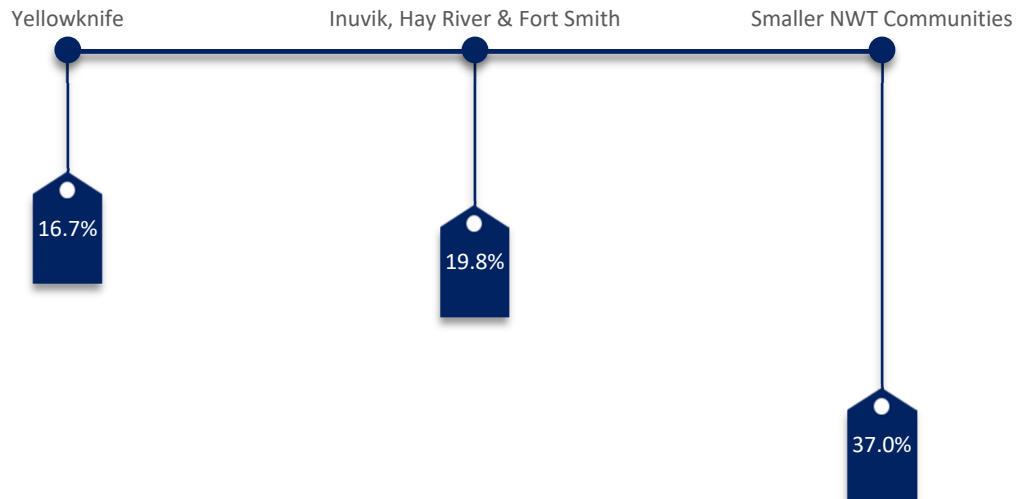


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

Food Insecurity

In 2018, about 23% of NWT households indicated that they often or sometimes worried that food would run out before they had money to buy more. Concern for food insecurity was highest in smaller NWT communities compared to Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, and Yellowknife (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Percent of households worried about not having enough money for food, 2018



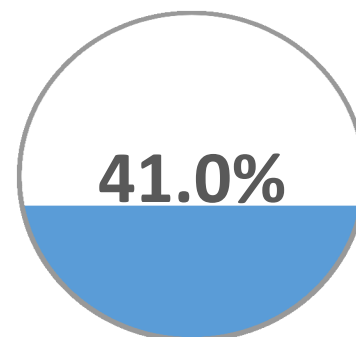
Source: NWT 2019 Community Survey

Health Indicators

In 2020, 44% of the NWT population 15 years and older, perceived their health to fair or poor. Similarly, 41% of the population perceived their mental health to be fair or poor, an increase from 34% recorded in 2015.

Among persons whose household income was less than \$50,000, only 38.4% perceived themselves to be in very good or excellent health. The proportion satisfied with life was lower among household with lower income.

Figure 5: Fair or poor self-perceived mental health, Pop 15+ Yrs, 2020



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