

# POVERTY INDICATORS – NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## INTRODUCTION

While there is no single definition of poverty, there are indicators that can help capture the challenges of obtaining necessities of life. This report provides some of the indicators that may be used to examine dimensions of poverty within the Northwest Territories (NWT).

## INCOME

- ❖ In 2015, the NWT had the highest median household income (\$117,688) in Canada.
- ❖ Despite the high median income, 795 (7.4%) NWT families earned less than \$30,000.
- ❖ Median household income in at least 13 NWT communities was below the Canadian median of \$70,336.
- ❖ Among lone-parent families, 20% or 410 families earned less than \$30,000.
- ❖ A family of four requires \$56,317 to maintain a basic standard of living in Yellowknife.

Poverty Indicators



Economic Family Income by Family Type, Northwest Territories

	All Families		Couples		Lone Parents		Other Families	
	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)
Total Families	10,765	100.0	8,515	100.0	2,020	100.0	235	100.0
Less than \$30,000	795	7.4	340	4.0	410	20.3	40	17.0
\$100,000 or more	7,060	65.6	6,265	73.6	710	35.1	95	40.4
Median Income (\$)	138,515	n.a.	156,490	n.a.	71,680	n.a.	75,648	n.a.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Median income is the value where half of the population has an income above that amount and the other half of the population has an income below that amount



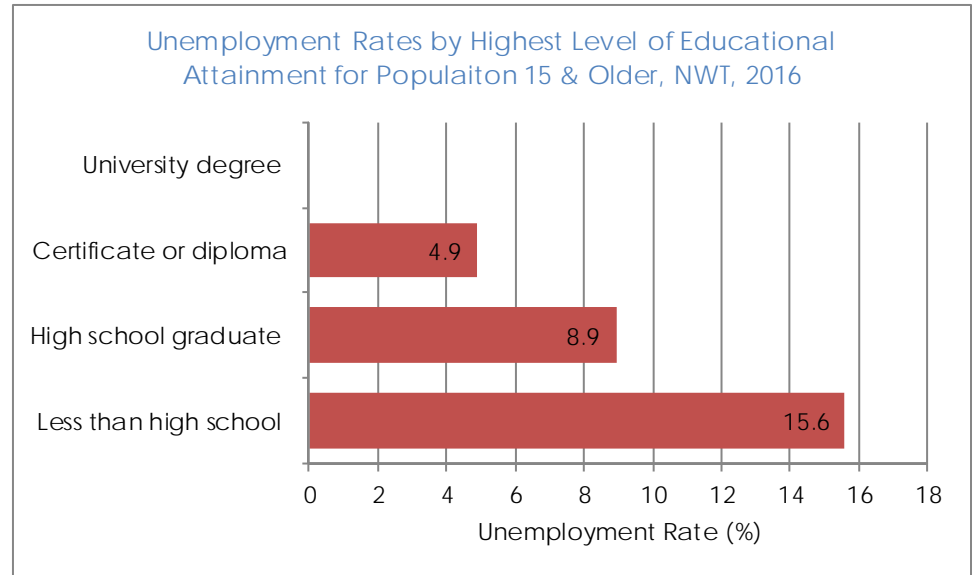
## LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

### WAGES

- ❖ Hourly wages increase with increases in educational attainment.
- ❖ About 25% of the NWT population aged 15 years and older had less than high school as their highest level of educational attainment in 2014.
- ❖ In 2016, 67% of persons earning less than \$20 per hour did not have post-secondary education.
- ❖ Some, 57% of persons earning \$50.00 and over per hour had attained university education.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

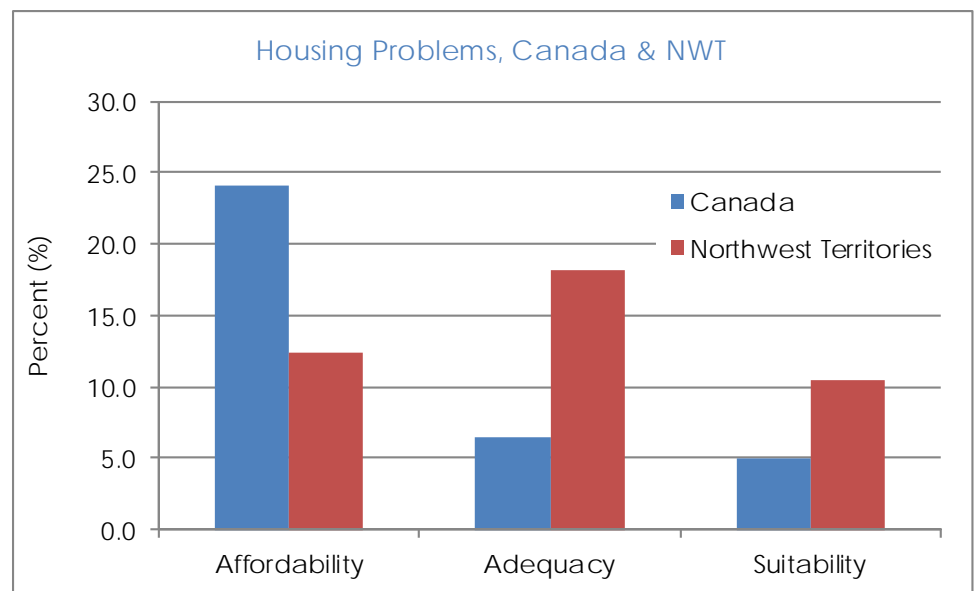
- ❖ Lower levels of formal education are strongly associated with higher unemployment rates.
- ❖ In 2016, the unemployment rate was 15.6% among those with less than high school education while none of the persons with a university degree was unemployed.



Source: Statistics Canada

## HOUSING

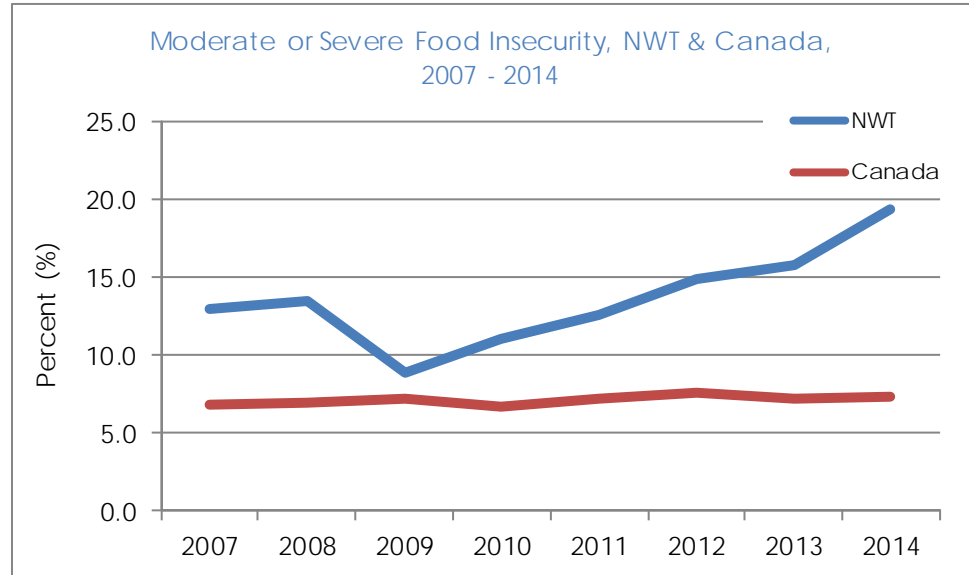
- ❖ In 2016, housing adequacy was the most prevalent housing problem in the NWT.
- ❖ Overall, 18% of households required major repairs compared to the Canadian rate of 6.5%.
- ❖ In the NWT, households with adequacy problems ranged from 9% in Yellowknife to 67% in Wrigley.
- ❖ About 10% of NWT households had overcrowding issues compared to 5.2% nationally.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

## FOOD INSECURITY

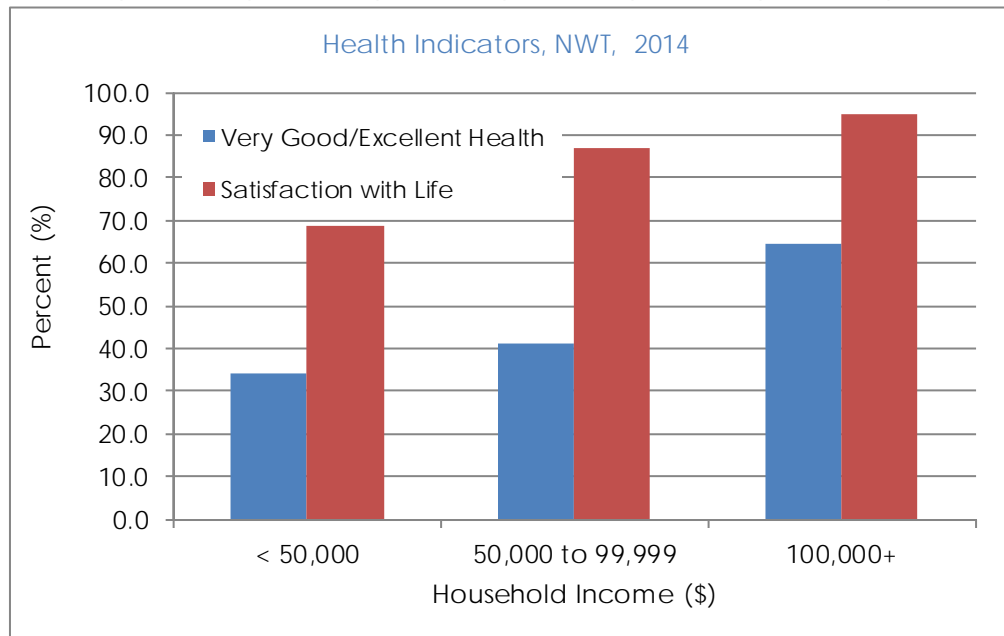
- ❖ In 2014, about 22% of NWT households indicated that they often or sometimes worried that food would run out before they had money to buy more.
- ❖ At 19%, the proportion of NWT residents aged 12 and older with moderate or severe food shortage was almost three times that of Canada (7.3%).



Source: Statistics Canada

## HEALTH INDICATORS

- ❖ In 2014, 51% of the NWT population 15 years and older, perceived their health to be very good or excellent.
- ❖ Among persons whose household income was less than \$50,000, only 34% perceived themselves to be in very good or excellent health.
- ❖ The proportion satisfied with life was lower among individuals in lower income households.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2014

A full list of data tables on poverty indicators can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website:

<http://www.statsnwt.ca/Poverty%20Indicators/index.html>

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