

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF FAMILY UNITS WITH INCOMES BELOW SENATE COMMITTEE
AND STATISTICS CANADA CUT-OFFS FOR 1979 AND 1980

<u>1980</u>	<u>SENATE COMMITTEE LINES</u>	<u>STATISTICS CANADA LINES</u>
Unattached individuals	40.2% (1,058,000 persons)	31.4% (826,000 persons)
Families of two or more persons	21.9% (1,340,000 families)	10.4% (639,000 families)
<u>1979</u>		
Unattached individuals	40.5% (1,017,000)	34.3% (861,000 persons)
Families of two or more	23% (1,383,000)	11.9% (720,000 families)

SENATE REPORT: Poverty level set at approximately 50% of average Canadian family income adjusted to family size, making provision for inflation and gross national product. For families of sizes 2, 3, and 4, the Poverty Lines are almost exactly half of the average income for families of those sizes.

STATISTICS CANADA: Lines are based on changing consumption patterns which now indicate that families who spend 62% or more of their income on food, clothing and shelter (as opposed to the 70% criterion used at an earlier date) are in straitened circumstances. These limits are also differentiated by size of area of residence.

According to Statistics Canada figures the lowest 20% of families (lowest income quintile) received only about 6% of the total income of families. By way of contrast, the highest 20% of families (highest income quintile) received about 43% of total family income, or about 7 times as much as the lowest quintile.

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Poverty in Canada
Updated Poverty Line