

# Federal riding profile

## Columbia–Kootenay–Southern Rockies (British Columbia)



### About this profile

In every community in Canada, poverty is the root cause of food insecurity. In this profile, we've compiled key stats about poverty and food insecurity in your federal riding.

We've highlighted the population groups that are most affected by poverty. We've also included data about income and housing affordability. Why? Because people living with poverty are more likely to earn low incomes, face challenges in paying rent and compromise on buying food.

We encourage you to use this tool to raise awareness and call on the federal government to provide better income supports to address poverty and food insecurity.

### Key insights from this profile

- Poverty affects some population groups more than others. For some groups, the poverty rate is higher than the poverty rates for the riding and province/territory.
- Many people live in unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable housing.
- While the high food insecurity rate is for the whole province/territory, there are similar food insecurity challenges in this riding.
- Targeted income supports are needed to address poverty, food insecurity, and housing affordability.

## Riding overview



Population

**114,425**

Households

**51,460**

**7%**

of the population lives with poverty

Provincial rate: **10%**

**8%**

of households live in unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable housing

Provincial rate: **13%**

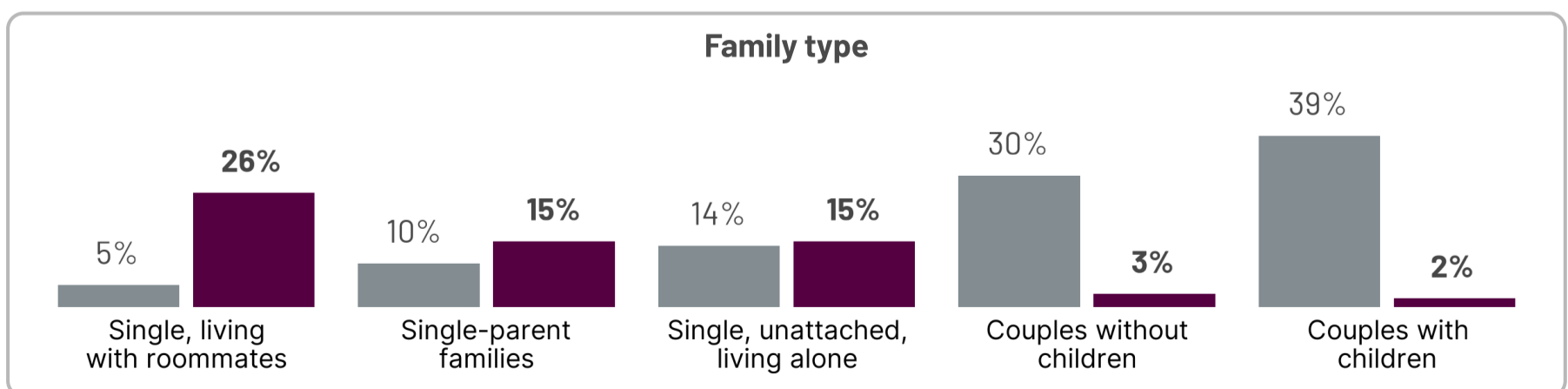
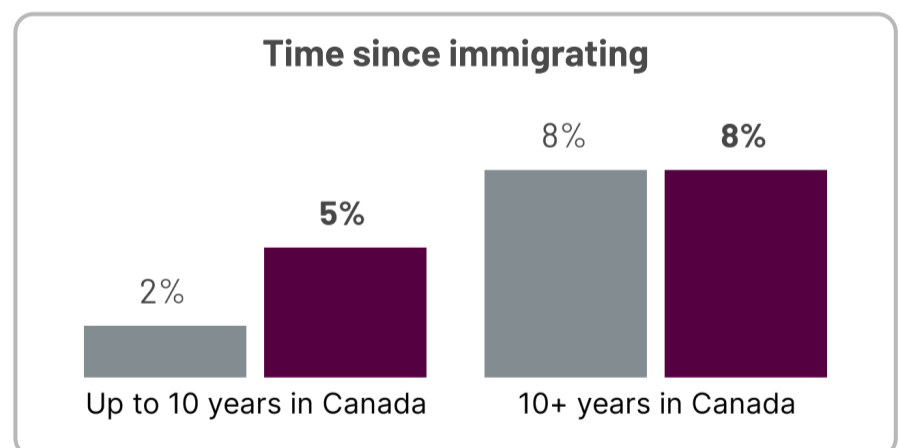
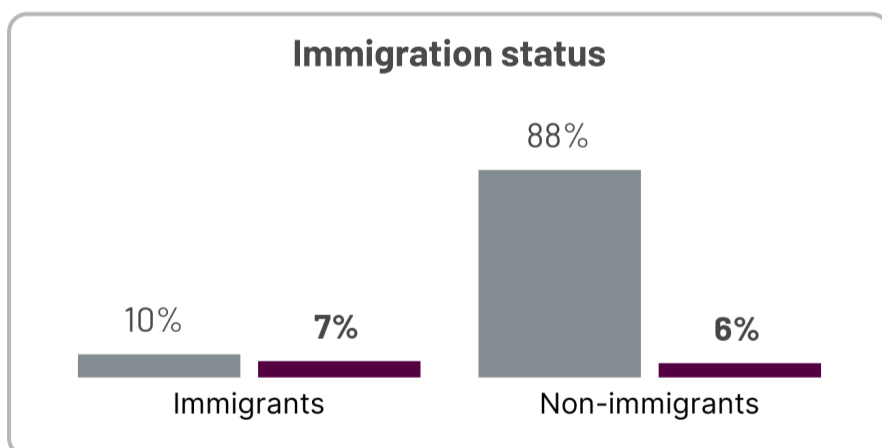
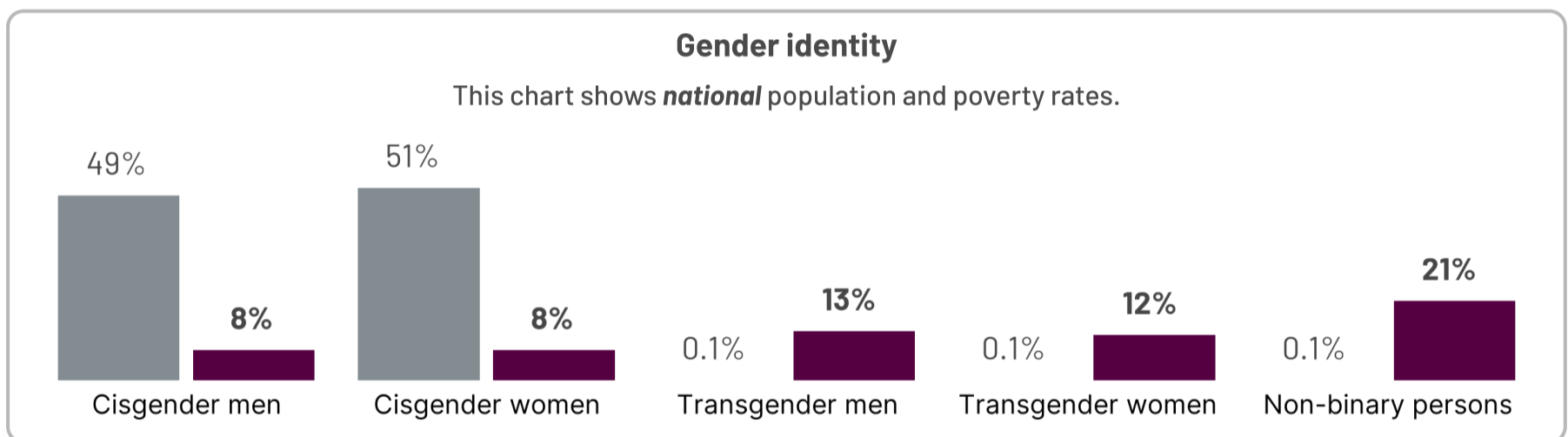
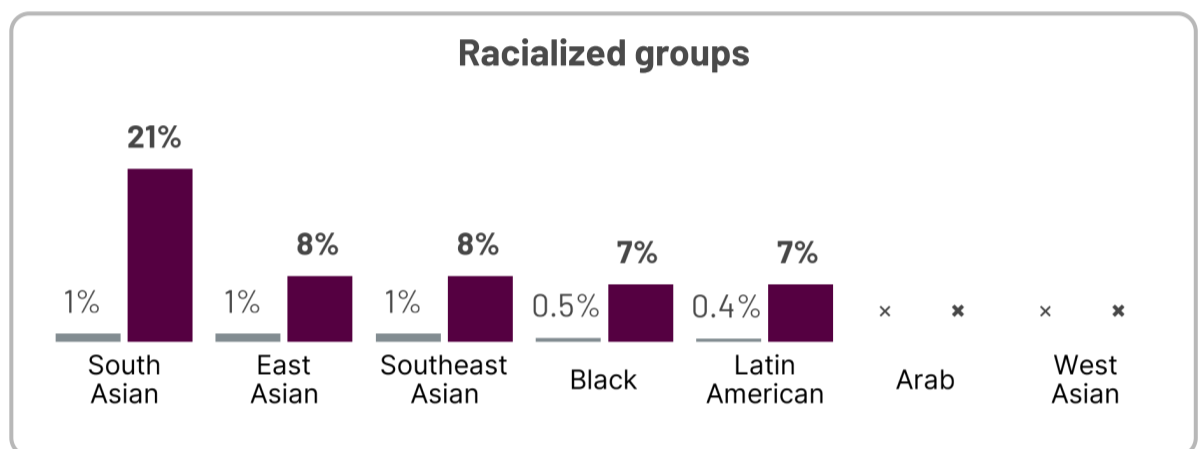
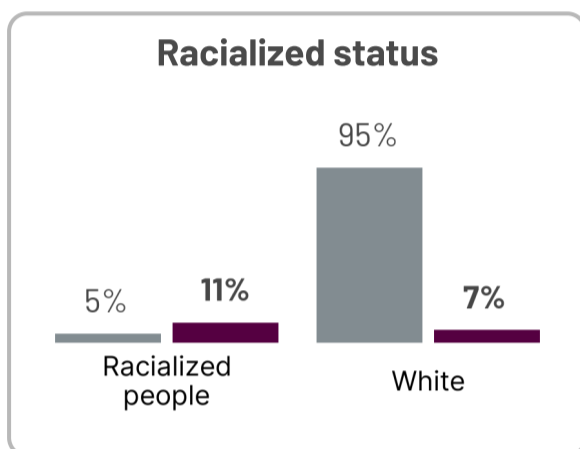
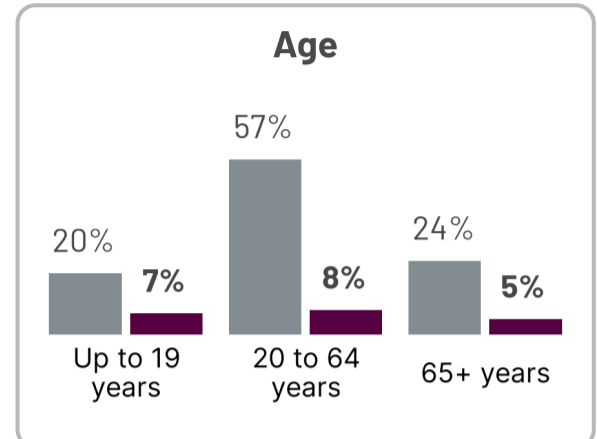
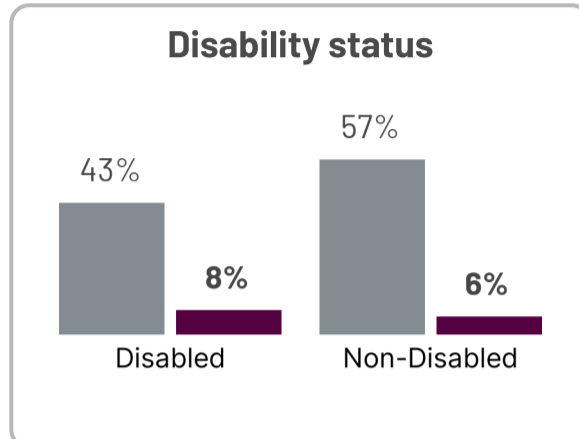
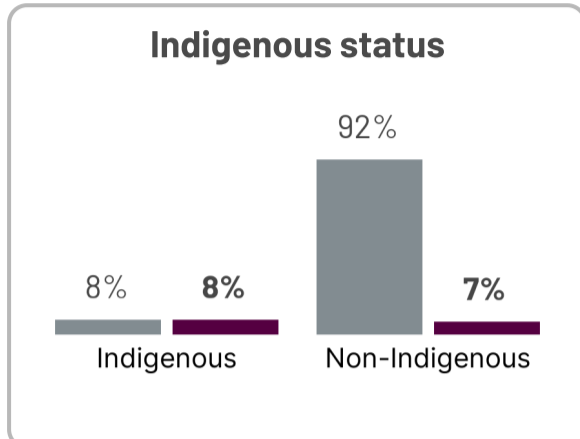
**22%**

of people in *British Columbia* experience food insecurity

## Poverty rates by population

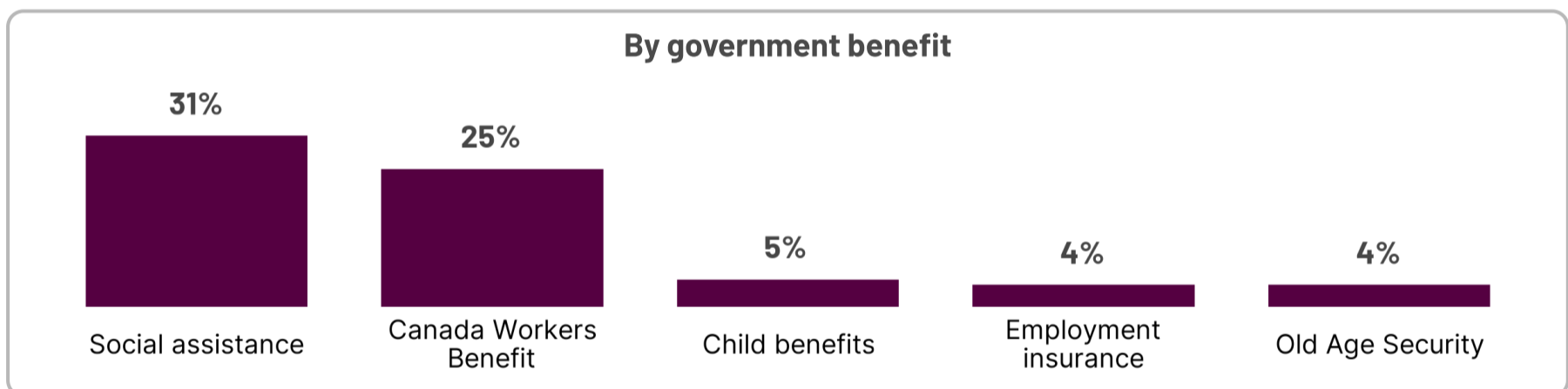
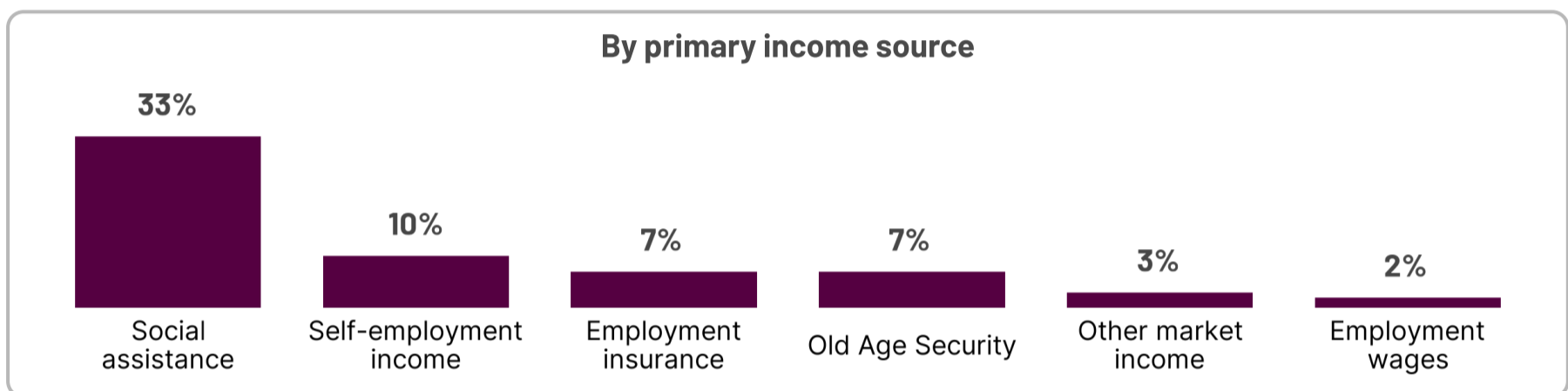
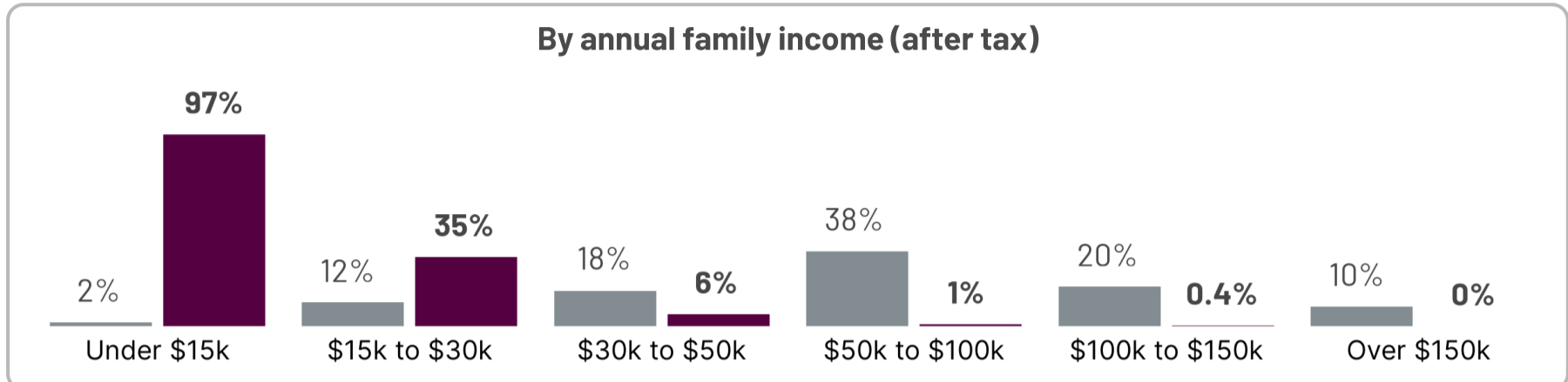
Key ● % of total riding population ● % in riding living with poverty

× Data not reported due to small samples.

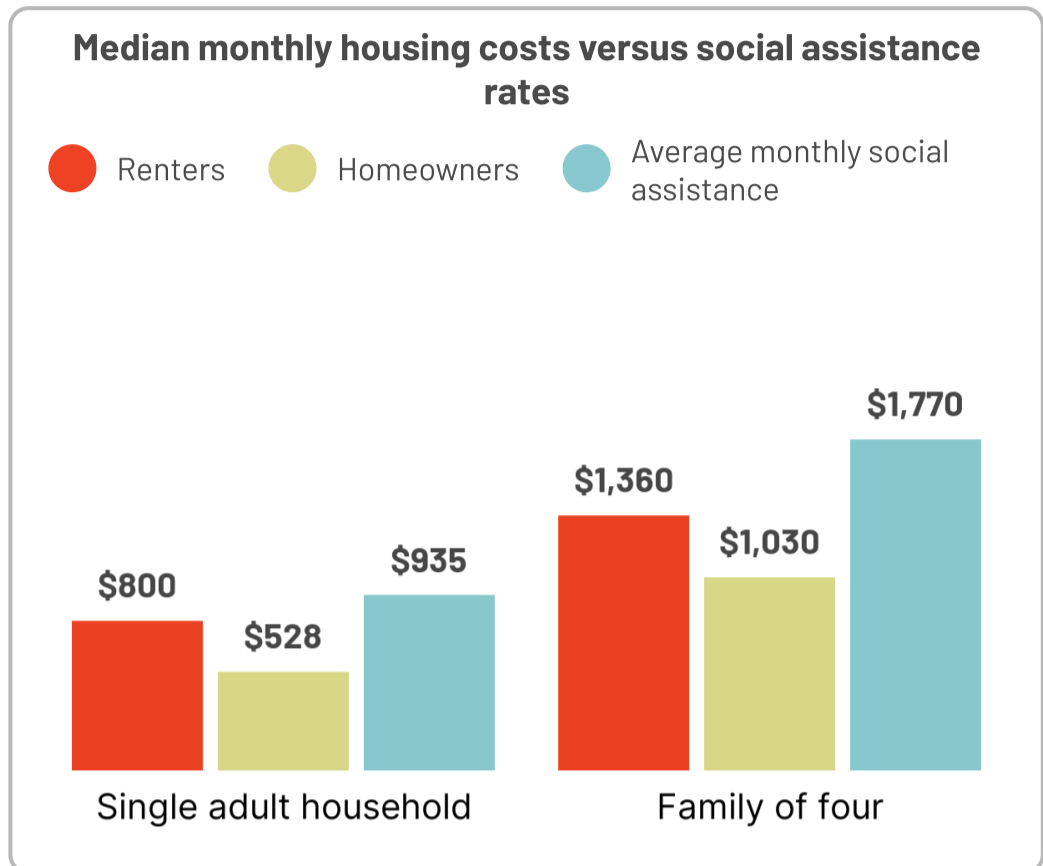
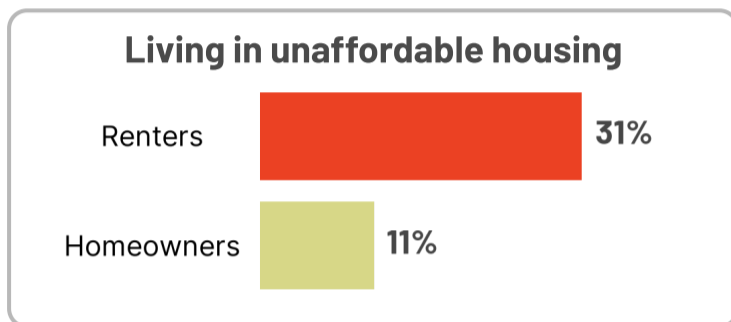
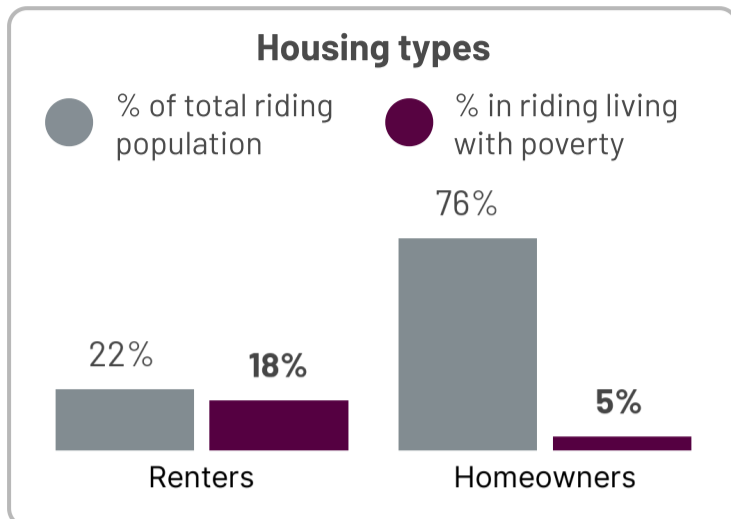


## Poverty rates by income

**Key** ● % of total riding population ● % in riding living with poverty  
 ✕ Data not reported due to small samples.



## Poverty and housing affordability



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### Notes and sources

- In developing this tool, we selected socio-demographic, income, and housing factors that are strongly associated with poverty and food insecurity, as demonstrated in existing research.
- Our sources of data and information presented in this profile are: [Statistics Canada's 2021 Census of Population](#) and [2022 Canadian Income Survey](#) reports and Maytree's [Welfare in Canada, 2022](#) report.
- Data in some charts may not add up to 100% due to rounding up/down or because data for some groups were excluded.
- Where riding-level data doesn't exist, we used other data, including provincial/territorial and national.
- Social assistance stats include basic social assistance and shelter costs.

### Definitions

**Food insecurity.** Inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. Food insecurity includes concerns about running out of food before there is money to buy more, the inability to afford a balanced diet, going hungry, missing meals, and in extreme cases, not eating for whole days because of a lack of food and money for food.

**Housing affordability.** When an individual or household spends less than 30% of their total before-tax household income on shelter costs.

**Poverty.** The poverty data for this riding is measured using the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which is Canada's official measure of poverty. The MBM is based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services (food and other necessities) that represents a modest standard of living. While we have used it in this tool, we are concerned that the MBM grossly underestimates poverty and does not accurately count the millions of people experiencing food insecurity in Canada.

For definitions of other key terms used in this tool, go to [foodsecuritynow.ca](https://www.foodsecuritynow.ca).

### About Right To Food

**Right To Food** resources and strengthens the community food sector and mobilizes with our partners across the country for progressive policy change.

We believe in a country where the right to food is realized for all and where every community has a place for food that nurtures health and well-being, belonging, and social justice.

Learn more at [righttofood.ca](https://righttofood.ca).