

Appendix D: 2005 Estimates of percentage of low-income adults and families eligible for legal aid

Alberta: Of those who were low-income, 71.3% would have qualified and a small proportion of those who are above the low-income cut-off would also qualify. There is almost no difference in the proportion of who would qualify between low-income men and women, at 71.9% and 70.8% respectively. Under the extended coverage, 25.1% of those aged 18 to 35 years (approx. 198,000 people), would be eligible for legal aid. Of those below the low-income cut-off, almost 99% would be eligible. Almost all men and women and all family sizes (100% of unattached individuals and 97.1% of individuals in families with two or more people) would be eligible.

British Columbia: Approximately 78% of low-income men, compared to 70% of women, would have been eligible. 77.7% of unattached individuals below the after-tax low-income cut-off would be eligible. For individuals in families with two or more people, that proportion drops to 68.5%.

Manitoba: 27% of all 18- to 35-year-olds would have been eligible (encompassing both the low-income and those considered "low-income"). Almost 98% of low-income persons would have met the expanded eligibility criteria. When one examines the full eligibility criteria, 70% (43,191 individuals) of low-income young adults would have been eligible for free legal aid. There is almost no difference between the proportion of low-income young men and women, aged 18 to 35, who could've accessed free legal aid. The same relationship exists between men and women who met the expanded eligibility criteria. 67% of unattached individuals would have received free legal aid. The proportion increases slightly for those in families with two or more people, at 72%. The proportion of unattached individuals meeting the criteria for free legal aid is 100% and drops slightly to 96.4% for those in families.

Newfoundland & Labrador: 700 (3.1%) of young adults, aged 18 to 35 years, would have been eligible for legal aid. Among low-income youth, only 19.2% would have qualified for legal aid. This suggests that approximately 19,900 of those persons with a low income were not able to access legal aid.

Nova Scotia: 48,100 young Nova Scotians would have qualified for legal aid. This represented 20.4% of 18- to 35-year-olds in Nova Scotia, with the majority falling below the before-tax low-income cut-off. There is some difference by gender - 92.7% of low-income young women would have qualified, compared to 81.2% of low-income men. Women make up a larger proportion of all those who qualify. Unattached individuals were more likely (92.9%) than those in families (84.6%) to be able to access legal aid. 88% of 18- to 35-year-olds with a low income would have qualified for legal aid. There remained approximately 6,300 (12%) of those with a low income who would still have not qualified.

Ontario: Among the low-income young adults, 37.4% would have qualified for free legal aid. On examining the maximum allowance levels, one finds that 16.5% of young adults would have qualified. Almost all low-income young adults would qualify at 97.5%, and 5.2% of those above the low-income cut-off would also qualify. Under the income waiver allowances, 36.5% of low-income men and

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38% of low-income women would have qualified for free legal aid, whereas under the maximum allowance levels, this proportion increased to 94.4% of low-income men and 99.8% of low-income women. There is a small difference by family size. 34% of low-income unattached individuals would have qualified under the waivers and this increased to 39.6% for those in families with two or more people. Under the maximum allowances, 93.9% of low-income, unattached individuals and 100% of those in families with two or more people would have qualified.

Prince Edward Island: 2,800 persons aged 18 to 35 years (8%) would have been eligible for legal aid. Of the 5,400 low-income young adults in Prince Edward Island, only 51.5% would have qualified. Some 2,600 remained ineligible.

Quebec: The proportion of low-income young men and women who would have qualified for free legal aid is 32.1% and 32.8% respectively. This increases to 63.3% and 67.9% of low-income men and women under the expanded criteria. The proportion of unattached individuals that would have qualified for free legal aid is 49.4%; however, this decreases to 23.2% for those in families with two or more people. While the expanded criteria allowed for a greater proportion of people to access legal aid, there was still a decrease for those eligible by family size. While 74.8% of low-income, unattached individuals would have met the expanded criteria, the proportion decreases to 60.8% of persons in families who would have been eligible.

Saskatchewan: No individuals above the low-income cut-off would have qualified. 57% of low-income individuals would have met the income guidelines for legal aid. 63% of men below the low-income cut-off would meet the criteria compared to 53% of women. 72% of poor unattached individuals would be eligible compared to 38% of those individuals living in families.

Source: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/jsp-sjp/rr03_la5-rr03_a5/p4.html https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/jsp-sjp/rr03_la5-rr03_a5/p4_2.html