

The Racialization of Poverty in Canada: A Review and Discussion

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Community Justice Society's
Restorative Justice Conference
November 13, 2015. Halifax, Nova Scotia

Who is Robert Wright?

- Social Work Private Practitioner (direct practice and forensics)
- Former:
 - Frontline C.W. Worker
 - Race Relations Co-ord. DDSB
 - Mental Health Worker ,WSP
 - Ex. Dir. FCS Cumberland
 - Ex. Dir. Child & Youth Strat.
- Facilitator, ManTalk



Definitions

- Racialization. Two concepts:
 - The process of attributing a racial identity to a group
 - The process through which a group becomes increasingly populated by racialized persons
- The Poor:
 - Persons living below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO) who are living in private residences

NCW Poverty Profile

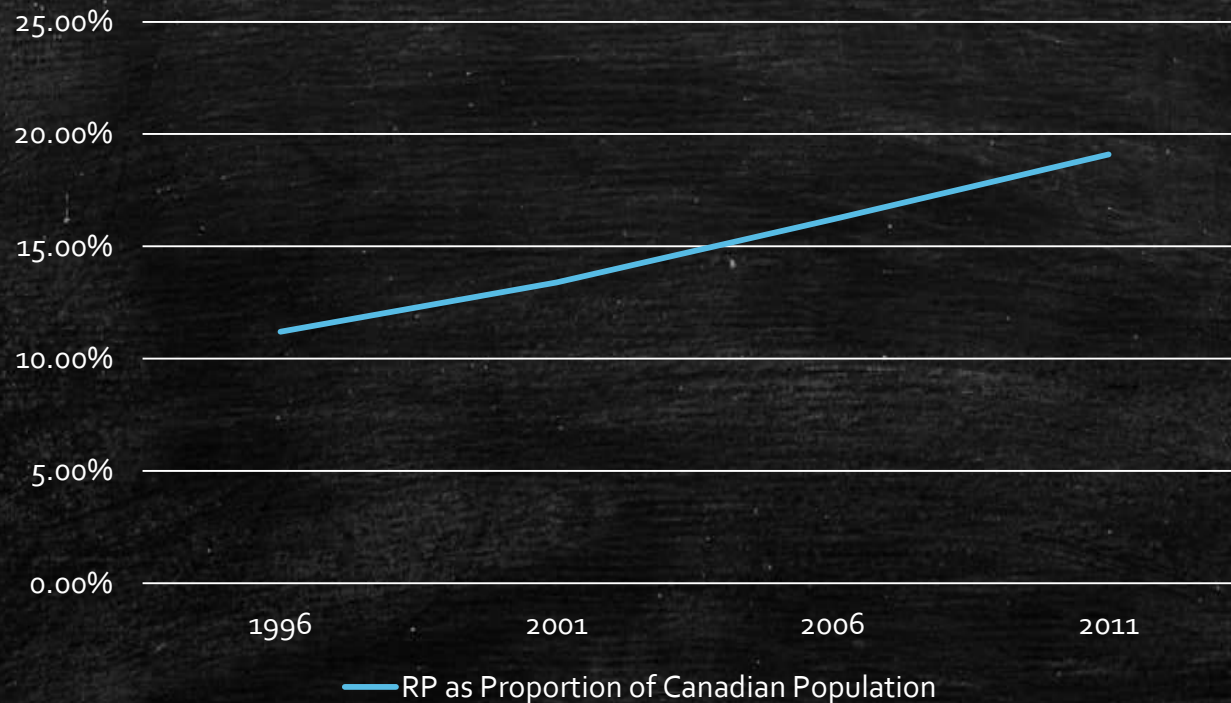
- In August, 2013 the National Council of Welfare produced Poverty Profile: Special Edition
- This presentation is a brief review of that report with commentary
- Aboriginal persons are not included in this report. It is well known that Aboriginal persons in Canada suffer the highest rates and greatest suffering among the poor

More Racialized than White

- Overall Poverty Rate (PR) 11%
 - Racialized Person (RP) PR 22%
 - Non-RP PR 9%
 - Lowest PR of RP (Filipino) 11%
 - Highest PR of RP (Korean) 40%
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- (All stats. taken from the 2006 Census)

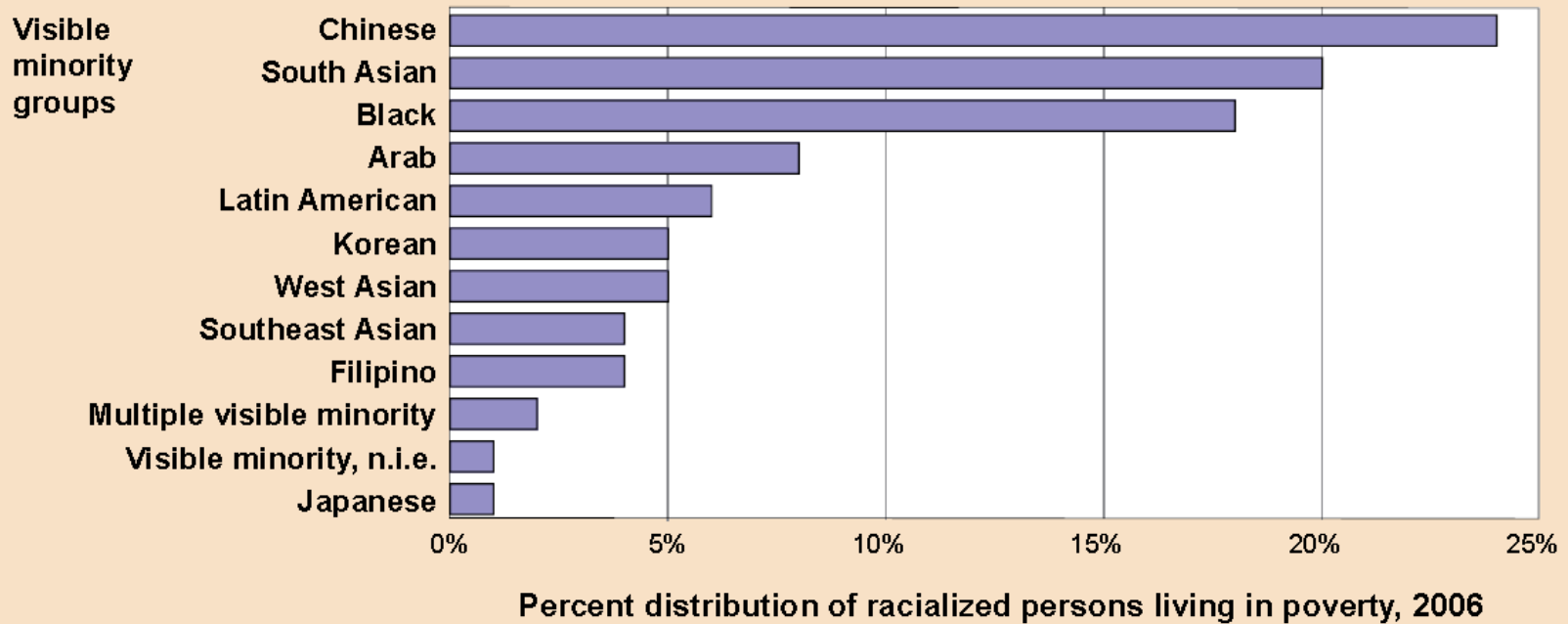
Context of RP in Poverty

- Population of RP as percentage of Canadian Population growing rapidly. 33% by 2031



RP Group Distribution

Chinese and South Asian groups make up almost half of racialized persons living in poverty



Immigrant Integration

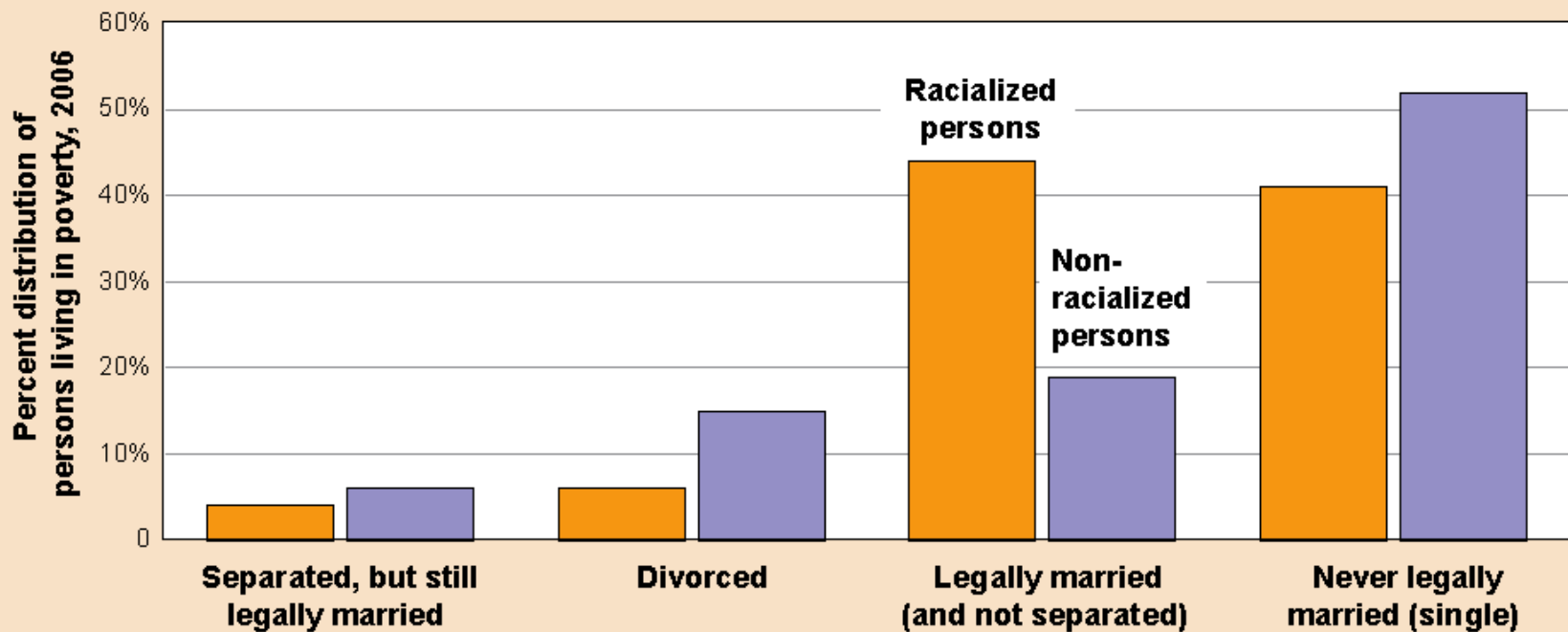
- 62% of racialized immigrant poor came to Canada between 1996 – 2006. 70% of these between 2001 – 2006. Only 9% immigrated before 1981
- 90% of RP living in poverty are first generation immigrants.
- 15% of Non-RP living in poverty are first generation immigrants. 72% are third generation or more.

RP Live With Family

- Only 8% of RP do not live with family
- 15% of Non-RP do not live with family

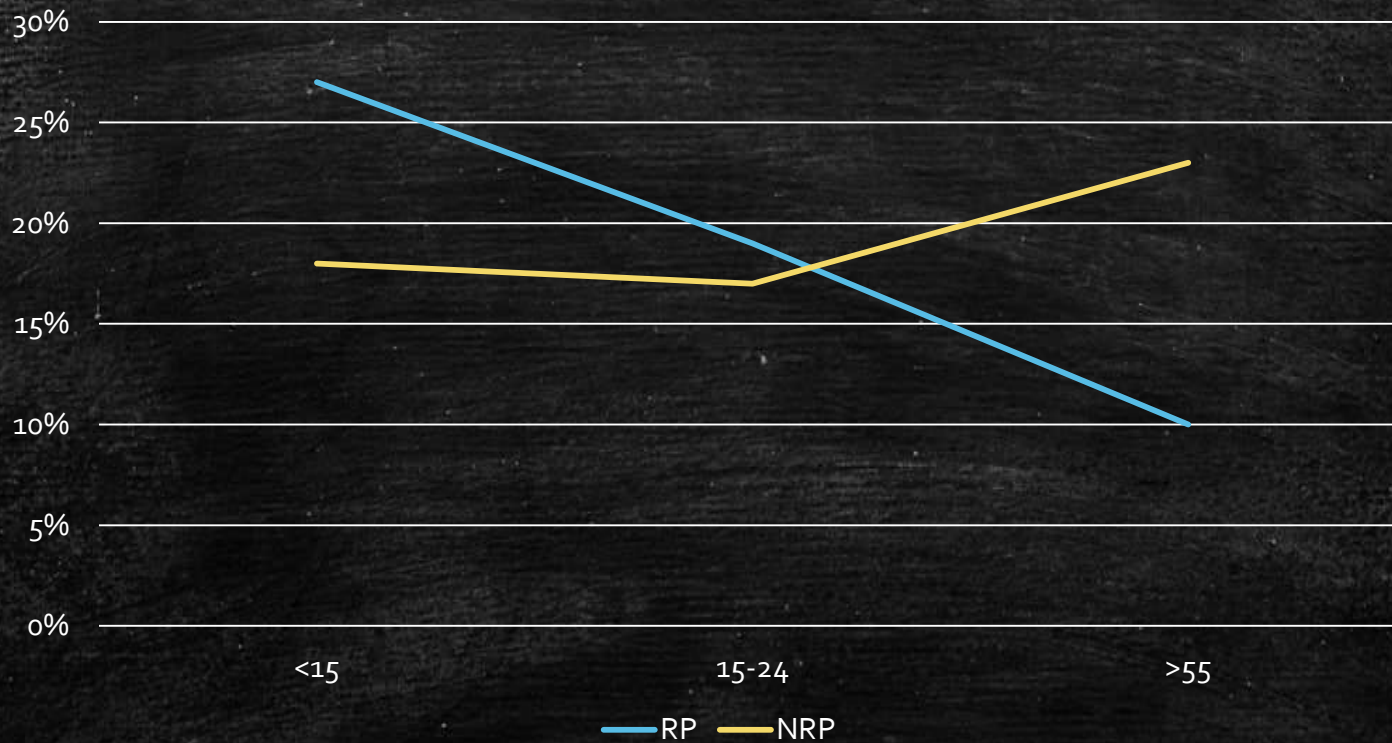
RP Live With Family

Racialized persons living in poverty are more than twice as likely to be married than non-racialized persons



Poor RP Are Young

- More young people are poor among RP



Levels of Education

- Poor RP have higher levels of ed. than Non-RP

Percent of persons, 25 to 64 years old,
living in poverty by highest level of education

	Non-racialized persons	Racialized persons
Less than high school	29%	17%
University certificate or degree	13%	32%

Poverty is Gendered

Labour force status of working-age adults (25-54 years) living in poverty, 2006

	Racialized persons	Non-racialized persons
Participation rate		
Women	55%	57%
Men	74%	68%
Employment rate		
Women	44%	48%
Men	63%	58%
Unemployment rate		
Women	19%	16%
Men	15%	15%

So What?

- Increasing income disparity disproportionately affecting RP
- Prevalence of poverty among RP explained best by racism
- Poverty among non-immigrant RP appears chronic
- Poverty as a social determinant of health and crime suggests problems for RP

Q & A

