
Social assistance and market housing costs: an overview

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May 3, 2023



Overview

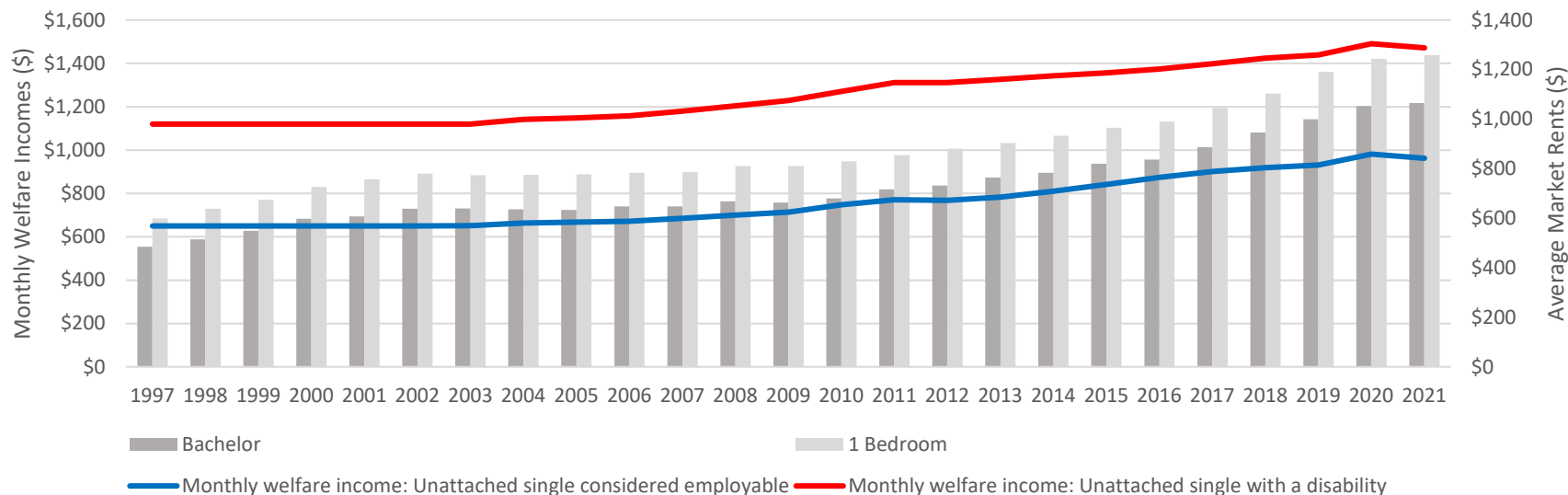


- About Maytree and our work
- Provide an overview of changes in social assistance rates and market rental rates in Toronto
- Provide some policy responses moving forward

Changes in monthly welfare incomes and market rents over time



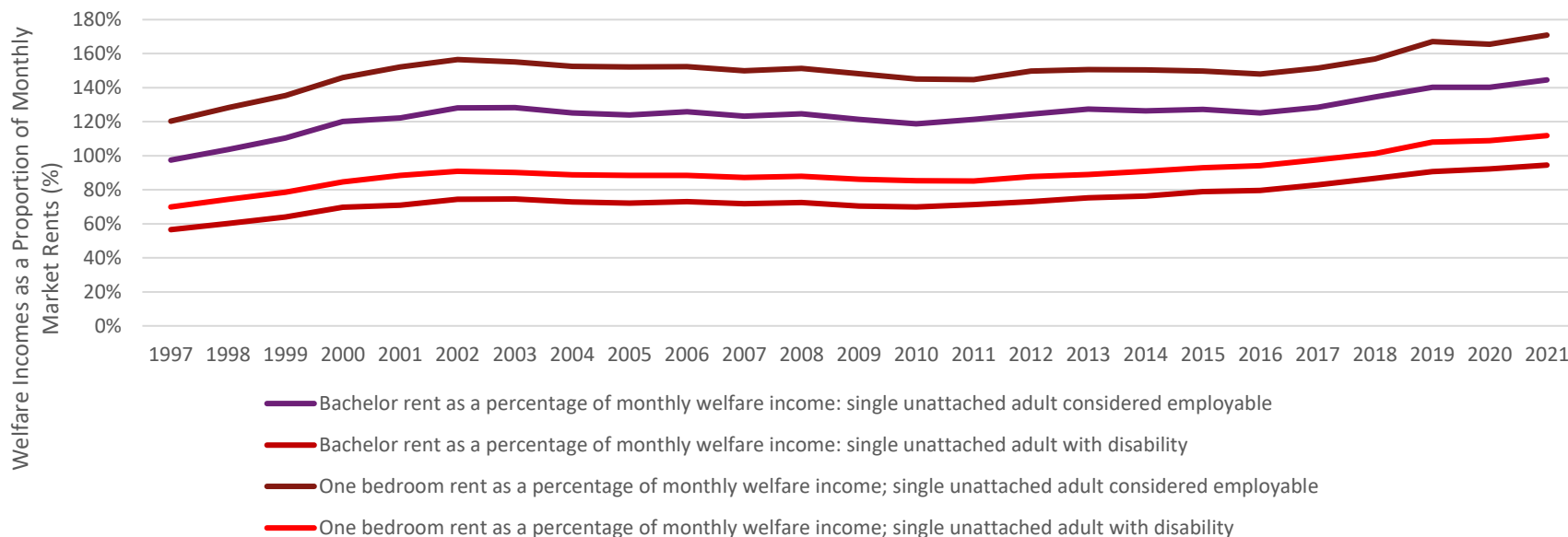
Nominal monthly welfare incomes compared to average monthly rents, Toronto |
1997 - 2021



Monthly welfare incomes as a proportion of average monthly rents



Welfare incomes as a proportion of average monthly rents in Toronto



1. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. *Historical Average Rents by Bedroom Type*. Available at: <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en/TableMapChart/Table?TableId=2.2.11&GeographyId=2270&GeographyTypeId=3&DisplayAs=Table&GeographyName=Toronto>

2. Internal Maytree calculations from *Welfare in Canada*. Available at: <https://maytree.com/welfare-in-canada/resources/>

Income security policy solutions to address homelessness



- Understand housing a human right: prioritize those in greatest need
- Improve direct income supports (e.g., through social assistance, income-tested tax credits and benefits)
- Improve rent supports provided to households in core housing need (e.g., through the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, learn from Manitoba's Rent Assist program)
- Complement these “demand-side” solutions with:
 - Strengthen regulatory mechanisms to ensure fiscal investments don't erode in value over time
 - Increase deeply affordable and affordable housing supply

Thank you!



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