# research snapshot
## summarize | mobilize

## Race and Gender Impacts Women in Poverty

### What is this research about?

Currently in media, political and policy discourses, people do not focus on how gender and race influence poverty. Race and gender play an important role particularly in poor lone mother families. This research is about a new approach for understanding poverty that takes into account racial backgrounds.

### What did the researchers do?

The researchers looked at existing research regarding poverty in women. They identified the drawbacks of existing research in understanding poverty in lone mother families. They analyzed patterns of race and gender among those who are poor, using past statistical data on poverty.

### What did the researchers find?

The researchers found that past research fails to understand poverty as the result of multiple and crossing social factors. Factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic status and citizenship, work to shape women's lives. The diversity of lone mother families and their unique experiences are often invisible.

### What you need to know:

Lone mother families experience poverty as a result of specific factors such as race and gender. These factors disadvantage them in society and calls for further studies to find solutions.

Among all Canadian women, it is racialized and Aboriginal women who make up the poorest of the poor. Majority of racialized women, who immigrated to Canada between 1991 and 2000, had a poverty rate of 35%. More than 36% of Aboriginal women were living in poverty in the year 2000, compared to 17% of non-Aboriginal women. Far more women were dependent on government transfers to survive than men. Poverty rates were above 80% for Ethiopian, Ghanian, Somali, Tamil, Vietnamese, and Central American lone mother families in 1996. The number of lone mother families has been steadily increasing, and needs more direct attention to solve the issue.

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## How can you use this research?

This research can be used by those doing future research on poverty, and by professionals in government and media. Women's lived experience of poverty can be understood by asking different questions such as:

How is her experience of poverty shaped by her race/ethnicity, gender, citizenship, culture, religion, language and other social dimensions and conditions?

How does she engage in actions that change her position within the social class system?

## About the Researchers

Amber Gazso is Assistant Professor of Sociology at York University.

agazso@yorku.ca

Ingrid Waldron is Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University.

## Citation

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Poverty eradication, Racialized, Gender, Women, Lone mother, Poverty, Race

## Knowledge Mobilization at York

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kmbunit@yorku.ca

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