

**Edmonton Journal February 25 2026**

**No numbers behind premier's claims**

Feb 20: '(Premier Danielle Smith) told reporters that Alberta has a "certain number of residents who are very high users" of social programs, but she stumbled when pressed for details on the financial burden newcomers place on the province's health and education systems.

"It's tough," she said. "We'd have to do the figuring out."

She added: "We don't track residents and how much they use. All I can give you is averages about what things cost." '

Right. The 'figuring out' stuff. I find that tough too. But then I'm not the premier.

*Doug Wiens, Edmonton*