

This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

Interim Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, by City of Toronto, June 2017.

Toronto is the most diverse city in the world. However, studies continue to show that anti-Black racism still exists in this city, affecting the life chances of more than 200,000 Black people who call Toronto home. The legacy of anti-Black racism lies in the current social, economic, and political marginalization of Black Torontonians.

- Black Torontonians were victims of 85% of hate crimes in Toronto where racism was the motivating factor
- 42% of children in the care of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto are Black, five times their representation in the overall population
- Black students become "early leavers" of high school at higher rates – 23% compared to 12% of white students
- 27% of all carding incidents are focused on Black Torontonians, three times their representation in the overall Toronto population

For link to the report:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-104831.pdf>

Changes in Parents' Participation in Domestic Tasks and Care for Children from 1986 to 2015 by Patricia Houle, Martin Turcotte and Michael Wendt, Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, June 2017.

One of the main social revolutions of the past 40 years has certainly been the increased participation of women in the labour market and, consequently, their greater financial independence. These social and cultural changes had many effects on the household, particularly the sharing of household work and the division of parental responsibilities within families.

- Between 1976 and 2015, the employment rate of women aged between 25 and 54 years increased from 48.7% to 77.5%
- Mothers are responsible for 72% of the hours spent on laundry & cleaning while fathers are responsible for 80% of the hours spent on outdoors & repair work
- Among fathers, however, participation in household work increased by 25 percentage points, from 51% in 1986 to 76% in 2015

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2017001-eng.pdf>

Labour and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth: A Ten-City Study Executive Summary by Laura T. Murphy, Loyola University New Orleans, 2016.

Human trafficking — the exploitation of a person’s labor through force, fraud, or coercion — is a crime whose victims tend to be society’s most vulnerable. People who are homeless, lack a support system, or are desperate for work are susceptible to the promises of people who would exploit them for labor and for sex. Youth at Covenant House sites around the United States and Canada were interviewed.

- Nearly one in five (19% or 124) were identified as victims of some form of human trafficking, following the legal definition outlined by the U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act
- More than 14% of the total population had been trafficked for sex, while 8% had been trafficked for other forced labour. 3% were trafficked for both sex and labour
- 42% of youth who were identified as sex trafficking victims were minors involved in the sale of commercial sex and survival sex but were not forced by a third party to do so

For link to the report:

<http://covenanthousestudy.org/docs/Loyola-Research-Results.pdf>

National Child Data Strategy: Results of a Feasibility Study by Sherri Torjman, Caledon Institute of Social Policy, June 2017.

This report presents the results of a feasibility study, undertaken on behalf of the Lawson Foundation, to determine the need for a national child data strategy. The methodology consisted of an environmental scan of major initiatives on child well-being and sources of child data as well as interviews with selected key informants.

Key Findings:

- The environmental scan and interview process found a wide range of research efforts under way throughout the country involving the collection of data on children
- There is a lack of data on very early childhood, including the impact of prenatal health and care
- Linked data approaches seek to join routinely-collected administrative data from health, education, tax and other sources, including surveys already populated by data
- Services for families and children are funded primarily by provinces and territories, resulting in a unique set of programs in each jurisdiction

For link to the report:

http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1113ENG.pdf?utm_source=Announcement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Announcement1345

Evaluation of Tall Building Construction Permitting Process in Toronto by Kamellia Shahi, Brenda Y. McCabe, Arash Shahi, and Richard Lyall, University of Toronto's Building Tall Research Group, June 2017.

The City of Toronto is one of the fastest growing municipalities in North America, attracting many developers to invest in its physical growth. As the major employment centre and surrounded by the contiguous cities that comprise the Greater Toronto Area, downtown Toronto has no option to grow except upwards in the form of mixed-use tall buildings.

- Toronto houses 8% of Canada's total population, while 18% of all Canadians live in the Greater Toronto Area
- This research has found that the time it takes to get a condo development approved in Toronto has more than doubled in the last decade
- While the Toronto Development Guide has a nine-month approval target, the average approval time in 2016 was 3.5 years and this potentially represents a lot of lost revenue

For link to the research:

http://rescon.com/media/2015/Shahi_K_et_al_CSCE124_Permitting_Process.pdf

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/1ez7uDB>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

Demographics & other resources: www.toronto.ca/demographics