

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.

Seniors' Health in the GTA: How Immigration, Language, and Racialization Impact Seniors' Health by Seong-gee Um and Naomi Lightman, Wellesley Institute, May 2017.

This work investigates the impact of immigration, language, and racialized identity on social determinants of health (SDOH) outcomes like income, education, employment, sense of belonging to the local community, and health care access as well as self-reported health and mental health across ethnically and linguistically diverse senior populations in the GTA. Analyses of the Canadian Community Health Survey data revealed significant disparities in seniors' health across a number of factors.

- Only 27% of recent immigrant seniors who have lived in Canada for 20 years or less perceive their health as excellent or very good compared to 52% of non-immigrant seniors
- 53% of recent immigrant seniors perceive their mental health as excellent or very good compared to 74% of non-immigrants seniors
- 67% of seniors whose mother tongue is not English report a strong or very strong sense of belonging, compared to 75% of seniors whose mother tongue is English
- 15% of racialized seniors report low or no income, more than twice as high as the rate for non-racialized seniors

For link to the report:

<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Seniors-Health-in-the-GTA-Final.pdf>

Twelve Flawed Statements of the Fraser Institute on Quebec's Childcare Program by Pierre Fortin, Fraser Institute, April 2017.

What is Quebec's childcare program? Since 1997, this province has run a low-fee universal childcare program with two explicit objectives: (1) improve work/life balance and (2) enhance child development and equality of opportunity. Currently, regardless of their employment, marital or income status, nearly all parents who desire so have access to low-cost spaces for their preschool children 0-5.

- 0.6% of GDP is just about equal to the current OECD average for the share of GDP that governments of member countries allocate to early childhood educational development
- A significant share of the increase in Quebec mothers' labour force participation since 1997 can indeed be attributed to the low-fee universal childcare system introduced in that year
- in 2008 there were some 70,000, or 3.8 per cent, more Quebec mothers in employment than there would have been without the childcare reform

For link to the report:

http://www.childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/12_Flawed_Statements_Fraser_Institute_QC_Childcare.pdf

Women in Canada: Women with Disabilities: A Gender-based Statistical Report by Amanda Burlock, Statistics Canada, May 2017.

Previous research has shown that people with disabilities are more likely than people without disabilities to experience social exclusion and discrimination, which results in unequal access to social, cultural, political, and economic resources. For women with disabilities, gender inequities in Canada may contribute added social and economic barriers.

- Nearly 2.1 million women (14.9%) and 1.7 million men (12.5%) aged 15 or older reported having one or more disabilities that limited them in their daily activities in 2012
- Among younger people (aged 15 to 29), the proportion of women and men who reported disabilities was similar
- From age 30 onwards, the proportion of women who reported disabilities was roughly two percentage points higher than that observed among men in most age groups
- This gap, however, was substantially larger among those aged 90 or older, where 67.3% of women reported disabilities, compared with 48.8% of men; a difference of 18.5 percentage points

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2015001/article/14695-eng.pdf>

Doing as Well as One's Parents? Tracking recent changes in income mobility in Canada, 1978 to 2014 by Yuri Ostrovsky, Statistics Canada, May 2017.

This article examines recent changes in intergenerational income mobility in Canada, focusing specifically on changes in the rate of absolute income mobility, i.e., the share of young Canadians whose family income was at least as high as that of their parents when they were the same age. The analysis focuses mainly on children who were born from 1970 to 1984 and compares their family income at age 30 (observed from 2000 to 2014) with that of their parents when they were the same age.

- Absolute income mobility was higher for each cohort born between 1970 and 1977 than for the preceding cohort: 59% for the 1970 cohort and 67% for the 1977 cohort
- For children born in 1979, 1980, 1982 or 1984, absolute income mobility rates by age 30 ranged from 66% to 64%
- Mobility rates were lower compared with those based on the adjusted family income: 48% for the 1970 cohort, 55% for the 1977 cohort, and 53% for the 1984 cohort

For link to the article:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2017073-eng.pdf>

Tax Options for Childcare that Encourage Work, Flexibility, Choice, Fairness and Quality by Alexandre Laurin and Kevin Milligan, C.D. Howe Institute, May 2017.

This report finds that a new approach to childcare tax breaks is needed in order to relieve the financial stress caused by the increasing costs of raising young children. By moving towards a new refundable tax credit for childcare would generate the social benefits of increased labour-force participation, benefit lower-income parents, and allow for flexible and decentralized childcare choices.

- Such a credit system would improve fairness by providing childcare cost relief to the many families of modest income now left out by the existing income tests
- Families would retain choice, which would enliven the ability of the marketplace to innovate with respect to flexible hours, staffing and facilities
- A generous refundable credit would improve the environment for quality childcare by providing an incentive to move from informal to more formal care

For link to the report:

https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Tax%20Options%20for%20Childcare%20that%20Encourage%20Work%2C%20Flexibility%2C%20Choice%2C%20Fairness%20and%20Quality.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