

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.

An Economy For The 99%: It's time to build a human economy that benefits everyone, not just the privileged few by Deborah Hardoon, Oxfam, January 2017.

New estimates show that just eight men own the same wealth as the poorest half of the world. As growth benefits the richest, the rest of society – especially the poorest – suffers. The very design of our economies and the principles of our economics have taken us to this extreme, unsustainable and unjust point. Our economy must stop excessively rewarding those at the top and start working for all people.

- Since 2015, the richest 1% has owned more wealth than the rest of the planet
- Over the next 20 years, 500 people will hand over \$2.1 trillion to their heirs – a sum larger than the GDP of India, a country of 1.3 billion people
- The incomes of the poorest 10% of people increased by less than \$3 a year between 1988 and 2011, while the incomes of the richest 1% increased 182 times as much

For link to the report:

https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-en.pdf

Biological Changes That Could Underlie Higher Psychosis Risk in Immigrants by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto and the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College, London. January 2017.

Geographic mobility has a large impact on sociological, economic, and health factors within communities. This study found Immigrants had higher levels of the brain chemical dopamine than non-immigrants. Abnormal dopamine levels are linked to symptoms of schizophrenia. Dopamine is also connected to the body's stress response.

- Over 247 million people, or 3.5% of the world population, became migrants over the last decade
- Studies in Canada, the U.K. and Western Europe have found that the risk of developing schizophrenia is higher in immigrants and their children than non-immigrants
- The risk is particularly increased in immigrant groups who migrate from a country where the population is predominantly black skinned to a country where the population is predominantly white skinned

For link to the study:

<http://schizophreniabulletin.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2017/01/05/schbul.sbw181.full.pdf>

Supportive Housing in Ontario: Estimating the Need by Greg Suttor, Wellesley Institute, January 2017.

This report provides preliminary population-based estimates of need for housing with support for people with serious mental illness or addiction in Ontario. Population-based estimates are a useful systematic approach to understanding needs. Population based estimates should be viewed as one approach among others, serving as a form of triangulating and cross-checking of estimates produced by other approaches.

- People whose functioning, social roles, and activities of daily life are impaired in an enduring way are the population potentially needing housing with supports
- Community Mental Health programs refers to an estimated 2.5 percent of Ontario population, age 16 and higher, having “serious mental illness”
- 22 percent of Ontario residents (age 15 up) with a mental health disability live alone (in a one-person household) – almost double the 12 percent share of the total population that lives alone

For link to the report:

<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Supportive-Housing-Estimating-the-Need.pdf>

Measuring Organized Crime in Canada: Results of a Pilot Project by Christopher Munch and Warren Silver, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, January 2017.

Organized crime has long been identified as a government priority and a public safety issue. As a result of high profile incidents in the 1990s and extensive consultations by the government, the Criminal Code of Canada was amended in 1997 to help identify criminal organizations and to protect justice system participants. The aim of this and subsequent legislation was to provide law enforcement and justice officials with tools to respond to organized crime,

- Approximately half of respondents report street gang membership and gang-related crime increased in 2015. The most prevalent crimes include drug trafficking, assault, threats, intimidation and robbery
- Approximately one third of respondents report an increase in threats to law enforcement
- Over 68% of survey respondents indicate prison gang membership has increased

For link to the study:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14689-eng.pdf>

Not Reaching the Door: Homeless Students Face Many Hurdles on the Way to School by Liza Pappas, New York City Independent Budget Office, Homeless Hub, October 2016.

With the number of school-aged youth living in temporary housing increasing, there is a growing recognition that housing instability can affect students' education. The challenges many temporarily housed students face begin before the school bell rings in the morning and continue throughout the school day and into the evening. Those bearing the greatest burdens are the students living in the city's homeless shelters—who comprised more than a third of the temporarily housed students in school year 2013-2014.

- There was a 25 percent increase in the number of temporarily housed youth attending schools run by the city's education department from school year 2010-2011 through 2013-2014, when the number totaled roughly 83,000
- Although federal law requires that students entering the shelter system be able to continue to attend their "school of origin," this is not always feasible given that families are often placed far from their previous neighborhood and transportation arrangements can be difficult to implement or maintain
- Stressful living conditions and isolation from prior community support networks can exacerbate the burden of temporary living conditions
- Funding for the education department's unit that serves students in temporary housing has not kept pace with the growth in the number of homeless students in the schools

For link to the report:

<http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/not-reaching-the-door-homeless-students-face-many-hurdles-on-the-way-to-school.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