

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.

Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility by Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner, and Danny Yagan, Brown Center Chalkboard, January 2017.

Higher education is widely viewed as a pathway to upward income mobility. However, inequality in access to colleges – particularly those that offer the best chances of success – could limit or even reverse colleges' ability to promote intergenerational mobility. Which colleges in America contribute the most to intergenerational income mobility? What can be done to increase access to such colleges for children from low income families?

- Children whose parents are in the top 1% of the income distribution are 77 times more likely to attend an Ivy League college than those whose parents are in the bottom income quintile
- Children from low and high-income families have very similar earnings outcomes conditional on the college they attend, indicating that there is little mismatch of low socioeconomic status students to selective colleges
- Upward mobility rates - measured, for instance, by the fraction of students who come from families in the bottom income quintile and reach the top quintile - vary substantially across colleges

For link to the report:

http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/papers/coll_mrc_paper.pdf

Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools 2017 by Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton, Fraser Institute, February 2017.

This report collects a variety of relevant, objective indicators include of school performance into one, easily accessible public document so that anyone can analyze and compare the performance of individual schools. By doing so, the Report Card assists parents when they choose a school for their children and encourages and assists all those seeking to improve their schools.

- The average level of achievement on the grade-9 EQAO assessment in academic mathematics and applied mathematics
- The percentage of Ontario Secondary School Literacy Tests (OSSLT) written by first-time eligible students that were successfully completed
- The percentage of all the completed tests written by students at the school that were assessed either as unsuccessful (OSSLT) or below the provincial standard (grade-9 math tests)
- The difference between male and female students in their average levels of achievement on the most commonly written grade-9 EQAO assessment in mathematics

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ontario-secondary-school-rankings-2017-O.pdf>

Helping Parents to Parent by Dr. Barbie Clarke, Fatima Younas and project team, Family Kids & Youth, Social Mobility Commission, February 2017.

The United Kingdom has very low social mobility compared to other OECD nations. Children's academic attainment is closely linked with their parents' income, occupation and educational qualifications. While it has been observed that education can break the cycle of disadvantage, in the United Kingdom as educational opportunities grow, inequalities appear to widen. Therefore, to improve social mobility it is imperative to explore the drivers that relate to children's outcomes.

Some of the findings:

- There is evidence to demonstrate that public policy can have an impact on parenting behaviours, and some of the associated factors that influence parenting, in order to achieve positive outcomes for children
- The most successful parenting interventions appear to include a focus on equipping parents with a greater understanding of child development
- Some governments are beginning to approach universal parental support as a public health issue
- Home visiting programmes, alongside services delivered to groups of parents, appear to have moderate to high levels of success

For link to the report:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592452/Helping_Parents_to_Parent_report.pdf

Transition from Temporary Foreign Workers to Permanent Residents, 1990 to 2014 by Yuqian Lu and Feng Hou, Social Analysis and Modelling Division, Statistics Canada, February 2017.

The number of temporary foreign workers in Canada increased considerably from the early 1990s. Temporary foreign workers over this period also became an increasingly important source of permanent residents admitted to Canada. Using the Temporary Residents file and the Immigrant Landing File, this article documents the changes in the levels and types of new temporary foreign workers who arrived in Canada from 1990 to 2014.

- Temporary foreign workers came to Canada through either the International Mobility Program (IMP) or the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)
- From the late 1990s to the late 2000s, proportionately more temporary foreign workers gained permanent residence [from 9% to 21%]
- The share of higher-skilled temporary workers declined from 67% in the late 1990s to 40% in the late 2000s, even though their absolute numbers increased

For link to the paper:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2017389-eng.pdf>

Understanding and Responding to Modern Slavery within the Homelessness Sector by Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, January 2017.

Modern slavery is a crime that affects thousands of people in the United Kingdom and millions around the world. It is an injustice that exploits the most vulnerable in society, and anecdotal evidence from the homelessness sector suggests that homeless people and rough sleepers are being targeted by trackers. This report aims to increase understanding of modern slavery within the homelessness sector, thus improving response – both of which are vital if we hope to shelter and support those in need.

- In 2014, the Home Office estimated that there were 10,000–13,000 potential victims of modern slavery exploited in the UK
- According to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) official statistics, in 2015 3,266 potential victims of modern slavery were referred for support, 982 (30%) of whom were minors
- The most common types of reported exploitation were labour exploitation (36%), sexual exploitation (33%), and domestic servitude (13%)
- The most common countries of origin of potential victims referred to the NRM in 2015 were Albania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Romania, Poland and the United Kingdom

For link to the report:

<http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1115/understanding-and-responding-to-modern-slavery-within-the-homelessness-sector.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