

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.

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## **Paid Family and Medical Leave** by AEI-Brookings Working Group on Paid Leave, May 2017.

Paid family and medical leave policies enable workers to take time off to address certain life events and medical emergencies— the birth or adoption of a child (paid parental leave), one's own illness (own medical leave), or family members' illnesses (family care leave)—without sacrificing their entire paycheck. A federal policy that establishes a statutory right to paid leave for working Americans, as is commonplace in other countries, is now a rising subject of discussion and debate in the US.

- The composition of the workforce and the demands on working families have changed dramatically over recent decades, meaning far more parents are struggling to balance the competing demands of work and family
- In 2016, 65 percent of mothers with children under the age of five and 58 percent of mothers with children under the age of one were in the labor force
- About 59 percent of American employees were eligible for the FMLA's protections in 2012, with lower eligibility rates for low-income workers

For link to the report:

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/es\\_20170606\\_paidfamilyleave.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/es_20170606_paidfamilyleave.pdf)

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## **Do We Still Need A Basic Income Guarantee In Canada?** By Evelyn L. Forget, Northern Policy Institute, May 2017.

Almost forty years ago, Canada experimented with Basic Income Guarantee (B.I.G.) in a field experiment in Manitoba called Mincome. This paper argues that B.I.G., like any other social programme, can address a variety of issues but cannot independently solve all social problems.

Here are some of the reasons for considering the policy again:

- Individuals who must rely on social programmes are still not all treated with the dignity and respect that any of us ought to expect in our interactions with government
- People with disabilities must still go through a trying process of qualification to access benefits and, most significantly, the level of support is simply not adequate to meet people's needs
- Young people just entering the workforce struggle to find secure employment that makes use of their training and offers them anything like the salary, security and range of benefits previous generations took for granted

For link to the report:

<http://www.northernpolicy.ca/upload/documents/publications/research-reports/paper-forget-big-en-17.05.29.pdf>

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**Community Capital: Leveraging Inter-Organizational Networks to Improve Youth Employment Equity** by Emma Ware, Wellesley Institute, June 2017.

A community's capital ranges from individual level talent and expertise to community level resources. Community capital provides a powerful opportunity for improving health and health equity in the GTA through networks and relationships at the inter-organizational and inter-sectoral level. These networks and hub models help connect social services as widespread as community centres, settlement agencies, government services, health care and many more.

- Eighteen percent of Toronto youth aged 15-24 are unemployed (Toronto 2015) as compared to 14.5-17 percent in Ontario
- The unemployment rate among newcomer youth (ages 15-19) is 31 percent, as compared to the 28 percent citywide average for this age group
- Other barriers that youth face include racism and racialization, young parenthood (and lack of access to child care), having a criminal record, lack of social networks, lack of pre-employment skills or education, transportation problems and lack of interview skills

For link to the report:

<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Community-Captial-Leveraging-Interorganizational-Networks.pdf>

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**Women and the Criminal Justice System** by Tina Hotton Mahony, Joanna Jacob and Heather Hobson, Statistics Canada, June 2017.

Violence against women has a harmful impact on the lives of women, their families, and their communities throughout Canada. Victimization research has shown that violence against women is a serious and persistent problem, one with which many women live and one that is compounded for Aboriginal women, many of whom face multiple risk factors.

- Police-reported data from the 2015 UCR survey showed that approximately 52% of victims of crimes reported to the police were female
- The most common offence perpetrated against females was common assault, which represents approximately 48% of all violent incidents reported to police
- The next-most-common offences were uttering threats (12%), sexual assaults (11%), assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm (10%), and criminal harassment (6%)

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2015001/article/14785-eng.pdf>

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**Private Clinics and the Threat to Public Medicare in Canada** Ontario Health Coalition, June 2017.

The right for Canadians to access public health care without financial duress is at risk. With too little national public attention, serious challenges to single-tier public health care in Canada are coming to a head. The practice of extra user fees for health care being charged to patients by private for-profit clinics is no longer disputable that the privatization of public hospital services is undermining the patient protections and equity provisions of the Canada Health Act.

- We found 88 clinics in six provinces in which we suspect that there are violations of the Canada Health Act that should be investigated
- The surveys revealed that the extra user-fees are proliferating and, without exception, costs in the private clinics are exorbitant, far higher than those in the public health care system
- The majority of private clinics are charging patients for tests and procedures that are already paid in our public taxes and for which patients should not face additional charges

For link to the report:

<http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/final-report.pdf>

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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](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

Demographics & other resources: [www.toronto.ca/demographics](http://www.toronto.ca/demographics)