

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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**Estimating Costs and Benefits Associated With Evidence-Based Violence Prevention: Four Case Studies Based On the Fourth R Program** by Claire V. Crooks, Jennifer Zwicker, Lana Wells, Ray Hughes, Amanda Langlois and J.C. Herb Emer, The School of Public Policy, May 2017.

Teen violence in dating and peer relationships has huge costs to society in numerous areas including health care, social services, the workforce and the justice system. Physical, psychological, and sexual abuse have long-lasting ramifications for the perpetrators as well as the victims, and for the families involved on both sides of that equation.

- The Fourth R program is an efficacious violence prevention program that was developed in Ontario and has been implemented in schools throughout Canada
- The federal government has estimated that the societal costs of relationship violence amount to more than \$7 billion
- Up to 15 per cent of youth who become involved with the justice system grow into serious adult offenders who develop lengthy criminal careers
- Prevention programs such as the Fourth R can deter just one 14-year-old high-risk juvenile from a life of crime, up to \$5 million can be saved in costs to society

For link to the report:

<http://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Fourth-R-Crooks-Zwicker-Wells-Hughes-Langlois-Emer.pdf>

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**Quebec's Daycare Program: A Flawed Policy Model** by Vincent Geloso and Ben Eisen, Fraser Institute, March 2017.

In 1997, the province of Quebec instituted a subsidized daycare system. Setting a low and flat daily rate, first at \$5 then at \$7, that system replaced income-contingent tax credits. Recently, the province has abandoned completely flat rates for access to subsidized daycare services and now require that higher-income families pay somewhat higher daily fees. Even these higher rates charged to upper-income families, however, are still heavily subsidized.

- The government spends over \$9,000 per child served, for a total cost of approximately \$2.6 billion in 2014/15
- The resulting tax revenues from increased maternal labour-force participation likely do not offset the full cost of Quebec's program
- Studies from Quebec show the program has contributed to significantly worse health and social development outcomes

- Lengthy wait times remain in many areas, and children from higher income families are more likely to obtain a place in daycare

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/quebecs-daycare-program.pdf>

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**Dismantling the Welfare Wall for Persons with Disabilities** by Sherri Torjman, Caledon Institute of Social Policy, May 2017.

This paper describes the concept of the ‘welfare wall’ and explores its application to persons with disabilities. There would be less need to rely on Canada’s programs of income support and less concern about the welfare wall if individuals who wanted to work had better access to employment opportunities and associated independence.

- Close to 10 percent of the working-age population between 15 and 64 years, representing 2.3 million Canadians in this age group, report a disability
- In 2011, the unemployment rate of individuals ages 25 to 64 with disabilities was 11 percent, compared with 6 percent for those who did not report having a disability
- The participation rate – i.e., the percentage of the population employed or seeking employment – was 55 percent for persons with disabilities, compared with 84 percent for persons without disabilities

For link to the report:

[http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1112ENG.pdf?utm\\_source=Announcement&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Announcement1342](http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1112ENG.pdf?utm_source=Announcement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Announcement1342)

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**Young Men and Women without a High School Diploma** by Sharanjit Uppal, Statistics Canada, May 2017.

Western countries have the highest levels of educational attainment in the world. Many individuals, however, do not have a high school diploma and consequently do not have any certification from the school system. For example, among Canadians aged 25 and over in 2016, 14% reported that their highest level of education was “less than high school graduation. In the United States, the corresponding proportion was 12% in 2015.

- In 2016, 8.5% of men and 5.4% of women aged 25 to 34 had less than a high school diploma, representing about 340,000 young Canadians
- In 2016, the employment rate of young adults aged 25 to 34 with less than a high school diploma was 67% for men and 41% for women. In 1990, 75% of men and 50% of women in the same educational category were employed
- On average, more than 60% of the income of young women with less than a high school diploma came from government transfers. This proportion was two times higher than that of young men with a similar level of education

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2017001/article/14824-eng.pdf>

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**Youth Gangs in Canada: A Review of Current Topics and Issues** by Laura Dunbar, Public Safety Canada, 2017.

Youth gangs are not a new phenomenon in Canada. Theoretical and empirical research and evaluation efforts continue with the goal of better understanding and responding to this issue. Advances have been made in defining the nature of youth gangs and their activities, the motivations for joining, and the risk and protective factors that influence involvement in a gang lifestyle.

Some reasons why youth become involved in gangs:

- A gang can be seen as a source of protection; a way to address concerns about personal safety and security, whether as a result of personal experiences of violence or due to a fear or expectation of such violence
- A gang can provide the means to acquire material goods and resources that may not be available through legitimate means
- A gang can act as a social organization that provides its members with excitement, entertainment or the status associated with other groups
- A gang can be a source of empathy and emotional support to its members, and provide individuals with a sense of belonging

For link to the report:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2017-r001/2017-r001-en.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)