

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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**Economic Insights – Postsecondary Enrolment by Parental Income: Recent National and Provincial Trends** by Marc Frenette, Social Analysis and Modelling Division, Statistics Canada, April 2017.

The percentage of 19 year-olds enrolled in postsecondary education in Canada increased steadily from 2001 to 2014. While there were more youth enrolled in postsecondary education from across the parental income distribution, the increase was somewhat larger among those from the bottom of the distribution.

- Income remains a significant factor in university enrollment rates, but enrollment among 19 year olds increased more rapidly for families in the lowest income quartile (+9.4%) than the highest income quartile (+6.1%) between 2001 and 2014
- Ontario saw the 2nd largest increase (+16.1%, second to NL) in the rate of post-secondary enrollment between 2001 and 2014
- The postsecondary enrolment rate of 19-year-olds across all Canadian provinces increased steadily from 52.6% in 2001 to 63.8% in 2014

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2017070-eng.pdf>

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**"This is How I'm Going to Make a Life for Myself": An Analysis of FAFSA Data and Barriers to Financial Aid for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** by Schoolhouse Connection, February 2017.

Over 95 percent of the jobs created since 2010 have gone to college-educated workers, and by 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require education beyond high school. Thus, for youth experiencing homelessness, post-secondary education is critical for improving life outcomes, including reducing the risk of continued homelessness as adults.

- Under the Higher Education Act, youth who are under age 24 are considered dependent students and must have parental signature to be considered for federal financial aid
- This policy creates a barrier for youth who are homeless and on their own (unaccompanied homeless youth), who live in extreme poverty and are not being supported by their parents
- Extensive documentation requests can impede access to aid for homeless youth
- Annual re-verification of homelessness poses barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth

For link to the report:

<http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Formatted-FAFSA-Report.pdf>

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**Calgary Point-in-Time Count Report** by Rachel Campbell, Nick Falvo and Madison Smith, Calgary Homeless Foundation, Fall 2016.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation, in conjunction with over one hundred volunteers and countless community partners, successfully conducted its biennial Point-in-Time Count on October 19, 2016. 3,430 people were counted as experiencing homelessness. This represents approximately 1 in every 406 Calgarians.

- Calgary has seen not only a curbing of the steep rise in homelessness through the 1990s and early 2000s, but a reduction from the peak in 2008
- In 2008, 1 in every 330 Calgarians experienced homelessness on a given night. Comparing this to data from the 2016 count, we have seen a 19% reduction in homelessness per capita
- Indigenous peoples continue to be overrepresented among this population, while women continue to be underrepresented
- The seniors population has grown since the 2014 count

For link to the report:

[http://calgaryhomeless.com/content/uploads/YC\\_PiT\\_Report\\_2016\\_10.pdf](http://calgaryhomeless.com/content/uploads/YC_PiT_Report_2016_10.pdf)

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**Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Homelessness: The Humanitarian Crisis and the Homelessness Sector in Europe**, by European Observatory on Homelessness, December 2016.

The goal of this research was to explore whether the recent humanitarian crisis in the EU has had an impact on homelessness services. The study explores the role played by the homelessness sector in providing accommodation and other basic services. It focused on the recent wave of asylum seekers in 2015 and the first months of 2016 from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

- In 2015, the European Union experienced a huge influx of asylum seekers, with total numbers surpassing 1.3 million
- 29 percent of first-time asylum applicants were Syrian
- In some countries, such as France and Italy, approximately half of the users of homeless shelters are migrants
- On average, the 12 Member States recognised 45 percent of asylum seekers at first decision

For link to the study:

[http://feantsaresearch.org/IMG/pdf/feantsa-studies\\_06\\_web.pdf.pdf](http://feantsaresearch.org/IMG/pdf/feantsa-studies_06_web.pdf.pdf)

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**What We Heard: Shaping Canada's National Housing Strategy** prepared by The Conference Board of Canada, 2016.

This report highlights what was heard during the four-month consultation process. It includes input and analysis from an online survey, expert and stakeholder roundtables, focus groups, and written submissions. It also reflects the views, ideas and insights of thousands of Canadians who participated in the consultations through the Let's Talk Housing website and social media channels.

- Canadians are united in wanting better housing outcomes - not just for themselves, but for individuals and families with the most severe housing needs, including low-income Canadians
- To address the unique housing challenges facing Métis, Inuit and First Nations peoples living on and off reserve, in cities and remote areas, and in the North and bring housing need levels on par with non-Indigenous peoples
- Eliminate homelessness in Canada, and short of that, make it rare, brief and non-recurring
- A national strategy must set clear outcomes and measurable targets in order to report back to Canadians on progress in achieving better housing

For link to the report:

<https://www.letstalkhousing.ca/pdfs/what-we-heard.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)