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 Parental Leave in Canada Using Administrative Data by Feng Hou, Rachel Margolis and Michael Haan, Statistics Canada, August 2017.

This report presents estimated parental leave rates based on seven different ways of identifying parental leave among parents with newborns. For the purpose of studying parental leave, the T1FF can be used to identify parents with newborns, who are defined as children born in the tax (calendar) year. The second data source that can be linked to study parental leave is the T4–ROE–LEAP linkage. This linkage was created and is maintained by the Social Analysis and Modelling Division of Statistics Canada.

➢ To what extent do new mothers and fathers take parental leave?
➢ How has the trend changed over time?
➢ What are the determinants and consequences of paid parental leave?

For link to the report:

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-633-x/11-633-x2017009-eng.pdf
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Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States: 2017 Edition by Charles Lammam, Hugh MacIntyre, David Hunt and Sazid Hasan, Fraser Institute, August 2017.

This study is the latest installment in ongoing re-search to assess the performance of labour markets. Indicators such as job creation, unemployment, and labour output are used to assess the performance of labour markets in Canadian provinces and US states over the three-year period from 2014 to 2016.

➢ All but two Canadian provinces are ranked in the bottom half of the 60 jurisdictions
➢ Saskatchewan (score of 59.8, ranked 15th) and British Columbia (58.9, 17th) are the highest performing Canadian provinces
➢ Ontario and Quebec both ranked in the bottom half of jurisdictions on all indicators with the exception of average long-term unemployment

For link to the report:

https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/measuring-labour-markets-in-canada-and-united-states-2017.pdf
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Understanding Mothers Experiencing Homelessness: A gendered approach to finding solutions for family homelessness by Katrina Milaney, Kaylee Ramage, Xiao Yang Fang & Marilyn Louis, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2017.

This report examines social experiences for mothers and children who are experiencing homelessness in two shelters and one housing program in Calgary, Alberta. Currently, much of the research on homelessness and what works for supporting individuals into sustainable housing comes from research on the single, adult, male population.

➢ In Calgary, according to the 2014 Point-in-Time count, there are more than 3,500 people each day without a permanent address
➢ Of those, 859 are women and 209 are families; these families include 284 children
➢ Women make up approximately 25% of the adult homeless population, but they are the majority of lone parents in families experiencing homelessness
➢ Women experiencing homelessness have high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (36%), mental health issues like depression (50%) and report high rates of sexual exploitation, violence, and assault which ranged between 37%-89%

For link to the report:

http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Family_Homelessness_Report.pdf
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Investing in the Next Generation: A bottom-up approach to creating better outcomes for children and youth by Bruce Katz and Ross Tilchin, Centennial Scholar Initiative at Brookings, August 2017.

The American dream is built on the promise of upward social mobility. In the middle of the 20th century, rates of upward mobility improved across the socioeconomic spectrum. But over the course of the past 30 years, the vast majority of our population has seen mobility rates stagnate. For too many, the American dream has stalled.

➢ While some state governments have demonstrated a steady commitment to improving outcomes for youth, many are providing less funding for children now than they were before the Great Recession
➢ Leaders in local governments have joined forces with non-profits, philanthropies, and businesses to increase the magnitude, quality, and coordination of cradle-to-career investments in the next generation
➢ Communities are investing in efforts like nurse visiting programs, early childhood education, supplemental academic and social curricula, after-school programs, and summer learning initiatives

For link to the report:

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/investing-in-the-next-generation-a-bottom-up-approach-to-creating-better-outcomes-for-children-and-youth.pdf

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Red Flags for Educators: Lessons for Canada in the PISA Results by John Richards, C.D. Howe Institute, August 2017.

The purpose of this Commentary is to introduce the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and summarize its major conclusions relevant to Canada. Overall, Canada is faring well, but there are some alarming trends in the six smaller provinces like Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

➢ Alberta ranks first among provinces in science scores, but in mathematics, it has declined from being the highest-performing province in 2003 to a 2015 score below the Canadian average
➢ Eight of 10 provinces display statistically significant declines in mathematics. The only exceptions are Quebec and Prince Edward Island
➢ In Canada overall, at the 90th percentile, the average reading gap favours girls by just 19 points; at the 10th percentile, it is almost double, 36 points

For link to the study:

https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Commentary_488.pdf

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