

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.

Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016 by Jessica L. Semega, Kayla R. Fontenot, and Melissa A. Kollar, United States Census Bureau, September 2017.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data and publishes estimates on income and poverty in order to evaluate national economic trends as well as to understand their impact on the wellbeing of households, families, and individuals. This report presents data on income and poverty in the United States based on information collected in the 2017 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) conducted by the Census Bureau.

- Real median household income increased 3.2 percent between 2015 and 2016. This is the second consecutive annual increase in median household income
- The number of full-time, year-round workers increased by 2.2 million in 2016
- The 2016 female-to-male earnings ratio was 0.805, a 1.1 percent increase from the 2015 ratio. This is the first time the female-to-male earnings ratio has experienced an annual increase since 2007
- The number of people in poverty fell by 2.5 million between 2015 and 2016

For link to the report:

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/P60-259.pdf>

Understanding the Increases in Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada, 2017 Edition by Angela MacLeod and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, September 2017.

This research bulletin is a complement to Education Spending and Public Student Enrolment in Canada and an update to Understanding the Increases in Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada. The first section presents the per-student education spending in public schools for the decade 2005–06 to 2014–15. The second section analyses the nature of the increases in education spending in public schools for the same decade.

- Education spending on public schools in Canada increased by \$17.5 billion (37.7 percent) between 2005–06 and 2014–15, from \$46.4 billion to \$63.9 billion
- Compensation (salaries and wages, fringe benefits, and pensions) accounts for most of the increase, growing from \$33.5 billion in 2005–06 to \$47.2 billion in 2014–15
- Salaries and wages increased by 36.1 percent, from \$27.6 billion in 2005–06 to \$37.5 billion in 2014–15. Fringe benefits increased 53.6 percent from \$3.6 billion to \$5.5 billion over the period
- Teacher pension costs increased 77.8 percent from \$2.4 billion in 2005–06 to \$4.3 billion in 2014–15

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/understanding-the-increases-in-education-spending-in-public-schools-2017.pdf>

Education at a Glance 2017 OECD Indicators, by the OECD, September 2017.

This report is the authoritative source for information on the state of education around the world. With more than 125 charts and 145 tables included in the publication and much more data available on the educational database, Education at a Glance 2017 provides key information on the output of educational institutions; the impact of learning across countries; the financial and human resources invested in education; access, participation and progression in education; and the learning environment and organisation of schools.

- In most OECD countries, the most popular tertiary degrees held by adults are in business, administration or law
- 23% of tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds hold a degree in one of these three fields of study, compared to 5% in natural sciences, statistics and mathematics; 4% in information and communication technologies; and 17% in engineering, manufacturing, and construction
- Interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) grows with higher levels of education, with almost double the share of students graduating from these fields at doctoral level than at bachelor's level in 2015

For link to the report:

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/9617041e.pdf?expires=1505309674&id=id&acname=guest&checksum=69F27BCD82C5FB6D48E9437B168B6B65>

Who's Hungry: 2017 Profile of Hunger in Toronto by Daily Bread Food Bank, September 2017.

This report, discusses the persistent issue of hunger and poverty within Toronto. The trend of client visits shifting from city core to inner suburbs continues unabated. Rising food prices, expensive housing and lack of income means Toronto is an increasingly difficult place to live. Despite these challenges, Daily Bread continues to be a major source of a basic necessity – food – to help people struggling with poverty, and the resulting hunger that poverty causes.

- From April 2016 to March 2017, there were a total of 990,970 client visits to Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank member agencies
- The average length of time people need to access them has also increased: from an average of one year in 2010 to two years in 2017
- Scarborough has seen a 30% increase in the number of visits from 2016 to 2017
- Seniors 65 and over accessing food banks have increased by nearly 27 per cent since last year, compared with other age groups, which have increased between 14 and 18 per cent

For link to the report:

<http://www.dailybread.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Whos-Hungry-2017.pdf>

Childhood Physical Abuse: Differences by Birth Cohort, Statistics Canada, September 2017.

In this study, people are considered as having experienced physical abuse if they reported that they had been slapped, hit or pushed, grabbed or shoved, or had something thrown at them hard enough to hurt them at least three times before the age of 15. Also included in this definition are those who reported at least one incident of being kicked, punched, choked or burned.

- In the most recent birth cohort—those born between 1980 and 1999—13% reported that they experienced physical abuse as a child
- Compared with 19% among those who were born between 1940 and 1959, and 21% among those who were born between 1960 and 1979
- 25% of males reported that they experienced physical abuse, compared with 14% of females
- 18% of individuals aged 15 to 74 reported that they experienced some form of physical violence during childhood

For link to the study:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2017001/article/54869-eng.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