

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.

Aging With Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors, November 2017.

Ontario is aging faster than ever before with older people in Ontario now outnumbering younger ones for the first time in our history. Across Ontario, there are now more than two million seniors and their families trying to navigate this next phase of life as best they can. Seniors deserve to be supported and recognized as the positive force they have always been — a true strength of the province.

- By 2041, it is projected that 25% of Ontario's population will be 65 years or older, almost doubling from 2.3 million seniors in 2016 to 4.6 million seniors
- The number of visible minority seniors (65+) in Ontario increased by 44% between 2011 and 2016, compared to a 16% increase among non-visible minority seniors
- In terms of living arrangements for Ontarians aged 65 and older, 93% are living in private households
- In 2013-2014, 45.8% of seniors (65 years and older) perceived their health to be 'very good' or 'excellent' and 21.9% perceived their health to be 'fair' or 'poor'

For link to the report:

https://files.ontario.ca/ontarios_seniors_strategy_2017.pdf

Life in the Fast Lane: How are Canadians Managing? 2016. By Statistics Canada, November 2017.

This survey allows multi-faceted analyses of today's issues in a manner not previously possible, providing new and current insights into the lifestyle behaviour of Canadians as they meet the challenges of a changing world. Providing information on diverse subjects such as Internet use, work-life balance, job satisfaction, leisure activities, and their potential interactions, this first analysis showcases a selection of the many topics examined in the 2016 survey.

- 91% of Canadians aged 15 and older used the Internet at least a few times during the month preceding the survey, up from 86% three years earlier in 2013
- While people aged 15 to 44 had similarly high usage rates—generally well over 90% in both years—individuals aged 45 and older increased their Internet use substantially from 2013 to 2016
- Among 65- to 74-year-olds, Internet use rose from 65% to 81%, while among those aged 75 and older usage rose from 35% to 50% over these three years

For link to the Survey:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/171114/dq171114a-eng.pdf>

Welfare in Canada, 2016 by Anne Tweddle, Ken Battle and Sherri Torjman, The Caledon Institute of Social Policy, November 2017.

This report focuses on the incomes of four different households living on social assistance, commonly known as “welfare.” The welfare incomes in this report represent the total amount that four typical family types would receive over the course of a year. The households are: a single person considered employable, a single person with a disability, a single parent with one child age 2 and a couple with two children ages 10 and 15.

- Eligibility for social assistance is determined on the basis of a needs test which takes into account the household’s basic needs and its financial resources, which include both assets and income
- The needs test assesses whether there is a shortfall between available financial resources and the legislated amounts for basic needs – i.e., food, shelter, clothing, household and personal needs
- Additional amounts may be paid on a discretionary basis for special needs based on each household’s circumstances

For link to the report:

<http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1119ENG.pdf>

Neither Voluntary nor Inevitable: Hidden Homelessness among Newcomers in York Region. The study, commissioned by The Housing Help Centre (THHC), May 2017.

This report was conducted to better understand the root causes and factors impacting newcomers that put them at risk of homelessness or becoming homeless; identify ways to address homelessness among the immigrant community in York Region; and the most efficient way of connecting newcomers experiencing homelessness to services in York Region.

- Factors that contributing to homelessness including housing affordability; language barriers; lack of knowledge about the housing market and services; credit history, or employment
- Limited supply of rental housing and strong reliance on the secondary rental market in York Region presents additional challenges to newcomers and reduced security of tenure
- Approximately 6% of the over 1,100 people who experienced homelessness in 2015 and stayed in emergency/transitional/seasonal housing facilities in York Region were newcomers

For link to the report:

<http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Neither%20Voluntary%20Nor%20Inevitable%20-%20Hidden%20Homelessness%20Among%20Newcomers%20in%20York%20Region%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Talkin' 'Bout My Generation: More Educated but Less Skilled Canadians by Parisa Mahboubi, C.D. Howe Institute, November 2017.

The report shows that aging and generational differences, such as in education quality and work environment, largely contribute to these declines. Skills erode with age at an accelerated rate, intensifying the negative impact of aging population on average performance. As well, recent generations of Canadians achieved lower scores in literacy and numeracy, regardless of education level.

- Canada's working-age population is experiencing a troubling decline in adult skills even though more Canadians obtained a post-secondary education
- This E-Brief shows that aging and generational differences, such as in education quality and work environment, largely contribute to these declines
- Lower skill levels among those with higher educational attainment may reflect a trade-off between expanded post-secondary access and admitting more academically weak students

For link to the report:

https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/E-Brief%20267_0.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