

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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**Geographic Variation in the Supply and Distribution of Comprehensive Primary Care Physicians in Ontario 2014/15** by Michael E. Green, Peter Gozdyra, Eliot Frymire, Richard H. Glazier, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, July 2017.

This report uses a geographic analytical approach to examine the supply and distribution of comprehensive primary care physicians in 2014/15 in the province of Ontario. Geographic access to primary care is an important factor affecting overall population health, especially in suburban and rural areas. A key data gap currently exists in the number, type and mix of local health care providers in relation to population need in these areas.

- Areas with the highest density of comprehensive primary care physicians include those in and around London, Woodstock and Burlington, as well as a few more rural communities
- Many census subdivisions have no comprehensive primary care physicians (density is 0)
- A previous report found that in 2014 there were, on average, 107 primary care physicians per 100,000 population in Ontario, and 114 primary care physicians per 100,000 population across Canada

For link to the report:

<https://www.ices.on.ca/~media/Files/Atlases-Reports/2017/Geographic-variation-in-physician-supply/Report.ashx>

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**Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States: 2018 Edition** by Charles Lammam, Hugh MacIntyre, Sazid Hasan, and Milagros Palacios, Fraser Institute, 2018.

This edition is the latest installment in ongoing research 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 the Canadian provinces and US states over the three-year period from 2015 to 2017. Overall, Canada performed poorly on the Index of Labour Market Performance.

- All 10 Canadian provinces rank in the bottom half of the 60 jurisdictions with British Columbia (35th) and Saskatchewan (41st) the highest ranked Canadian provinces
- North Dakota topped the list of US states and Canadian provinces for overall labour market performance over the three-year period
- Six states from the Midwest—North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin—are among the top 10. All of the 10 top performing jurisdictions are US states

For report to the study:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/measuring-labour-markets-in-canada-and-the-united-states-2018.pdf>

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**Poverty Measures: Opportunity or Distraction?** By Ricardo Tranjan, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, August 2018.

Starting in 2004, almost all provinces and territories, several regions and municipalities, and the federal government have released poverty reduction strategies or discussion papers. Whereas the concept of poverty used to be primarily connected to physiological deprivation, today it captures notions of social exclusion, inequality, vulnerability, and human rights.

- Most poverty reduction strategies pay attention to individuals and families who experience poverty for prolonged periods for whom full-time employment may not be an alternative
- This paper puts forward five recommendations for how to use targets, indicators, and evaluations to fuel action and investments on poverty reduction: Give up the search for a Holy Grail measure of poverty; Use existing indicators to monitor trends in key social policy areas; Try to understand the dynamics of poverty; Use investment targets to keep governments accountable; Use evaluation resources strategically

For link to the paper:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Ontario%20Office/2018/08/Poverty%20Measures.pdf>

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**Starting On Solid Ground: The Municipal Role in Immigrant Settlement** by Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2018.

Canada's economic future is tied directly to our ability to successfully attract, integrate, and retain new immigrants. Successive federal governments have identified immigration policy as part of their overall economic development strategies, most recently by tying Canada's 2010 immigration plan to the country's economic recovery plan.

- Newcomers are earning less and taking longer to find affordable housing and jobs that match their skills and education levels
- In 2008, two-thirds of university-educated newcomers were underemployed, working in occupations that required at most a college education, compared to 40% of their Canadian counterparts
- The number of newcomers earning less than \$10 an hour in 2008 was 1.8 times higher than for Canadian-born workers
- Immigrants in larger cities are more likely to be on social assistance than their counterparts in smaller cities

For link to the report:

[https://fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Starting\\_on\\_Solid\\_Ground\\_Municipalities\\_and\\_Immigration\\_EN.pdf](https://fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Starting_on_Solid_Ground_Municipalities_and_Immigration_EN.pdf)

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**Global Report on Food Crises 2018** by Food Security Information Network, World Food Programme, 2018.

The 2018 Global Report on Food Crises provides the latest estimates of severe hunger in the world. An estimated 124 million people in 51 countries are currently facing Crisis food insecurity or worse (the equivalent of IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). Conflict and insecurity continued to be the primary drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries, where almost 74 million food-insecure people remain in need of urgent assistance.

- The number of hungry people facing chronic food deprivation increased to 821 million in 2017 from 804 million in 2016, reversing recent downward trends. South America and Africa showed the worst increase
- Investing in food security and livelihood in conflict situations saves lives, strengthens resilience and can also contribute to sustaining peace
- As a result of conflict and climate-related disasters, more than 120 million people face acute hunger which are man-made problems

For link to the report:

<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-000069227/download>

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Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/2iltgRQ>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: <https://web.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>