

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.

International Forum Report 2018 by The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), April 2018.

The last two years have presented a turning point in Canadian housing policy and funding. During the 2015 federal election, the Trudeau Liberal Party campaign promised, if elected, to develop and implement a national housing strategy. They subsequently consulted on the elements of the strategy over the following two years and in November 2017 the long awaited National Housing Strategy (NHS) was released.

- The NHS is a \$40 Billion commitment over ten years (2018-28), of which roughly \$11B is new funding, the rest is reallocated from existing ongoing programs
- In Canada housing is considered a provincial responsibility under the constitution, so there is a high level of engagement and a more decentralized approach compared to the US or UK
- Many historic and now new programs under NHS involve matched cost sharing by provinces and territories with minimum \$7B of the \$40B is from provincial cost sharing funds

For link to the report:

http://www.chra-achru.ca/sites/default/files/congress2018/2018-07-30_international-forum-2018_final-report.pdf

The Entry Into and Exit Out of Self-Employment and Business Ownership in Canada by Douwre Grekou and Huju Liu, Statistics Canada, July 2018.

Entrepreneurial activity has long been argued as an important driver of innovation, job creation, and productivity growth. However, measuring entrepreneurial activity is not easy. Traditionally, many studies have approximated entrepreneurship with a broadly defined measure that includes a heterogeneous group of individuals. They include self-employed workers such as commission salespersons, professionals running unincorporated firms such as doctors and lawyers, and owners of corporations.

- Self-employed have higher entry rates and exit rates than business owners and about 63% of all entrants to business ownership can survive at least three years
- For both self-employment and business ownership, males had higher entry rates and lower exit rates than females
- important regional variations exist, especially with respect to entry rates: the western regions have higher entry rates, while the central and eastern regions have lower rates

For link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2018407-eng.pdf?st=f3SuyZUI>

Increasing the Minimum Wage in Ontario: A Flawed Anti-Poverty Policy by Charles Lammam and Hugh MacIntyre, Fraser Institute, June 2018.

As part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy, former Premier Kathleen Wynne's government raised the minimum wage on January 1, 2018 from \$11.60 to \$14.00 per hour, a 20.7% increase overnight. Raising the minimum wage is not an efficient means of providing help targeted to families living in poverty. The inability to provide help targeted at the working poor, coupled with the associated negative unintended economic consequences, is why raising the minimum wage is not an effective way to alleviate poverty.

- In 2015, the latest year of available data, 90.8% of workers earning minimum wage in Ontario did not live in low income families
- In 2017, the year before Ontario was to increase the minimum wage, 59.2% of all minimum wage earners were under the age of 25 and the vast majority of them (86.3%) lived with a parent or other relative
- Moreover, 17.8% of all minimum wage earners had an employed spouse. Of these, 95.7% had spouses that were either self-employed or earning more than the minimum wage

For Link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/increasing-the-minimum-wage-in-ontario.pdf>

Firearms and Violent Crime in Canada, 2016 by Adam Cotter, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, June 2018.

Violent Criminal Code offences accounted for about one in every five crimes that came to the attention of police in 2016; of these, a firearm was present in about 3% of incidents. In recent years, firearm-related crime has been increasing—while most other types of crime have been on the decline. In 2016, there were about 7,100 victims of violent crime where a firearm was present.

- This has resulted in a rate of 25 victims of firearm-related violent crime for every 100,000 Canadians, a rate 33% higher than that reported in 2013 (19 per 100,000)
- Overall, four in five (78%) police-reported violent crimes did not involve any type of weapon
- In 2016, there were approximately 7,100 victims of violent crime where a firearm was present
- Over the same time, the rate of overall police-reported violent crime declined by 4%

For link to the bulletin:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54980-eng.pdf?st=SNP4ybN1>

Caregiver Support Framework: A Planning Tool for Healthcare by the Central LHIN Caregiver Collaborative, May 2018.

In the fall of 2017, a broader consultation process was launched to reach both healthcare providers and caregivers from across the Central LHIN. The consultations aimed to gather more information about caregivers' experiences when interacting with the health system, and to test the applicability of the caregiver support framework elements with people in a diverse range of caregiving circumstances (e.g. ages, health conditions, cultures, languages, living situations, and locations).

- Overall 68% of caregivers are satisfied or very satisfied with how timely healthcare providers can be with following up on caregivers requests for information
- 65% of Caregivers report that they are always asked for input into the assessment/care plan for the patient, yet only 37% of caregivers report that they are asked about how they are doing, feeling, managing, or if they have any questions
- 28% of Caregivers report that the person they care for is not receiving formal support services
- 59% of Caregivers report they experience barriers or challenges in accessing community based services

For link to the framework:

<http://alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/files/chapters-on/york/caregiversupportframeworkjune2018.pdf>

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

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