

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.

Housing, Homelessness, and Violence against Women: A Discussion Paper by Krystle Maki, Women's Shelters Canada, August 2017.

Research has shown that housing remains one of the leading barriers for women escaping violence and that domestic violence is one of the main causes of homelessness among Canadian families. Women's homelessness is vastly underestimated and often hidden. Women may experience 'episodic homelessness' as they move in and out of abusive situations and stay at violence against women (VAW) shelters.

- Eligibility requirements include being homeless for 30 days and women temporarily staying at a VAW shelters are not considered homeless
- Women may not meet the criteria for 'chronic' or 'episodic' homelessness because their homelessness is invisible for safety reasons
- Families are often excluded – singles without dependents are the primary beneficiaries of Housing First (HF) supports

For link to the paper:

<http://endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Housing-Homelessness-and-VAW-Discussion-Paper-Aug-2017.pdf>

School Discipline Reform and Disorder: Evidence from New York City Public Schools, 2012–16 by Max Eden, Manhattan Institute, March 2017.

There has been a dramatic shift in school discipline policy, spurred by national statistics showing stark racial differences in school suspension rates and the assumption that bias was behind the differences. Twenty-seven states have revised their laws to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline, and more than 50 of America's largest school districts, serving more than 6.35 million students, have implemented discipline reforms.

- From 2011–12 to 2013–14, the number of suspensions nationwide fell by nearly 20%
- In 2015–16, a higher percentage of teachers—across 636 schools serving 376,716 students—reported that order and discipline were not maintained in their school, compared with two years earlier (2013–14)
- In 2015–16, in 443 non-elementary schools serving 268,591 students, a higher percentage of students reported frequent physical fighting than in 2013–14
- In 2015–16, more than three times as many non-elementary schools as in 2013–14 saw a higher percentage of students report frequent drug use or gang activity as saw a lower percentage report them

For link to the report:

<https://www.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/R-ME-0217v2.pdf>

Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools 2017 by Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton, Fraser Institute, December 2017.

This report collects a variety of relevant, objective indicators of school performance into one, easily accessible public document so that anyone can analyze and compare the performance of individual schools. By doing so, the Report Card assists parents when they choose a school for their children and encourages and assists all those seeking to improve their schools.

- These indicators show the average level of proficiency achieved by the school's students on the uniform EQAO assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics at the grade-3 and grade-6 levels
- Differences among students in abilities, motivation, and work habits inevitably have some impact upon the final results
- There is also variation within schools in the results obtained in different subject areas and at different grades.

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ontario-elementary-school-rankings-2017-1837.pdf>

Distributions of Household Economic Accounts for Income, Consumption, Saving and Wealth of Canadian Households, 2016, Statistics Canada, December 2017.

New estimates for the distributions of household disposable income, final consumption expenditure, net saving and wealth indicate that households in the top disposable income quintile held 48.9% of total household wealth, while the bottom disposable income quintile held 5.8% in 2016.

- The top 20% of income earning Canadian households accounted for 40.9% of total household disposable income
- Compared with the entire Canadian economy, these households accounted for 23.5% of total gross national income accruing to Canadians from all sources
- The share of total final consumption expenditure among the top 20% income earning households has ranged from 32.5% in 2000 and 2004 to 31.3% in 2011

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/171214/dq171214b-eng.pdf>

Climbing Up and Kicking Down, Executive Pay in Canada by David MacDonald, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, January 2018.

Over the past 11 years, this report has recorded the growing gap between the pay of average workers in Canada and that of the country's richest CEOs. Around the world this pay gap is frequently used as a proxy for income inequality. This report finds that Canadian CEOs are again taking home pre-2008-crisis levels of compensation, pushing the income gap between Canada's top executives and the average worker to record highs.

- In 2016, Canada's 100 highest-paid CEOs made on average \$10.4 million — 209 times the average income of \$49,738 that year
- Canada's top 100 CEOs, on the other hand, saw an average pay hike of 8% — from \$9.6 million in 2015 to \$10.4 million in 2016
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For link to the report:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2018/01/Climbing%20Up%20and%20Kicking%20Down.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/>