

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.

Missed Opportunities: The High Cost of Not Educating Girls by Quentin Wodon, Claudio Montenegro, Hoa Nguyen, and Adenike Onagoruwa, World Bank, July 2018.

The report says that limited educational opportunities for girls and barriers to completing 12 years of education cost countries between \$15 trillion and \$30 trillion dollars in lost lifetime productivity and earnings. Too many girls drop out of school prematurely, especially in low income countries. Low educational attainment for girls has negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children and household, as well as for their community and society.

- Globally 89% of girls complete primary education, but only 77% complete lower secondary education, which in most countries is 9 years of schooling
- In low income countries, the numbers drop to below 2/3 for primary education, and only 1/3 for lower secondary school
- Women with primary education (partial or completed) earn only 14 to 19 percent more than those with no education at all

For link to the reports:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29956/HighCostOfNotEducatingGirls.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>

Case Study: Hamilton A Look at the End-of-Life-Care Landscape by Doug Sikkema, Cardus, April 2018.

According to the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), the city of Hamilton is considered a sub-region embedded within the broader region of Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, and Brant (HNHB). Hamilton, like the rest of Ontario, is a place where one in every four seniors lives alone.

- 89.2 percent of Hamilton residents claim to be satisfied with their current health care
- Only 2.5 percent of Hamilton residents do not have a primary care provider (again, lower than the 5.5 percent average across Ontario)
- Hamilton currently has 89.1 long-term-care beds per one thousand people aged seventy-five and older
- Ontario has an average of 80.6 beds per 1000 residents aged seventy-five and older, while the HNHB region has an average of 86.3 beds

For link to the report:

<https://content.cardus.ca/documents/download/2615>

Workers Looking for a New Job by Manon Langevin, Statistics Canada, July 2018.

The study examines the reasons why workers want to look for a new job. Workers may want to change jobs for any number of reasons, which are not always related to poor working conditions. The paper also explores the links between looking for a job while employed, the characteristics of workers seeking a new job and their level of job satisfaction.

- In 2014, 12% of paid workers reported that they had looked for a new job in the four weeks preceding the survey
- Workers looking for a new job are younger and more educated, and have higher literacy and numeracy scores than workers who are not looking for a new job
- Workers who looked for another job estimated the probability of losing their current job in the next year at about 1 in 5 (19%), compared with 10% for other workers
- On average, the desired wage among workers who are looking for a new job was 23% higher than the wage earned in their current job

For link to the study:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2018001/article/54975-eng.pdf?st=Y-xsU5wt>

Recent Changes in the Composition of Minimum Wage Workers by René Morissette and Dominique Dionne-Simard, Statistics Canada, June 2018.

This study uses the 2017 and 2018 Labour Force Survey to provide a recent profile of minimum wage workers. The paper focuses on three groups of minimum wage workers: students aged 15 to 24 and non-students the same age living with their parents; individuals aged 15 to 64 who are single, lone parents or spouses/partners in single-earner couples; and individuals aged 15 to 64 who are spouses/partners in dual-earner couples. The article documents the relative importance of these three groups as well as their weekly wages and work patterns.

- The proportion of minimum wage workers under the age of 25 fell from 52% in the first quarter of 2017 to 43% in the first quarter of 2018
- 80% of minimum wage workers belonged to one of the three following groups: employees aged less than 25 (43%); employees aged 15 to 64 who were single, lone parents or spouses/partners in single-earner couples (17%); and employees aged 15 to 64 who were spouses/partners in dual-earner couples (21%)
- Less than one-fifth of minimum wage workers under 25 worked full time in early 2018
- Minimum wage workers under 25 worked more often in temporary jobs and in retail trade, food and accommodation services than their counterparts in the two other groups

For link to the study:

https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2018001/article/54974-eng.pdf?st=9h_fw3bo

Child Separation among Families Experiencing Homelessness by Douglas Walton, Michelle Wood and Lauren Dunton, Homeless Families Research Brief, March 2018.

Families who use emergency shelters are more likely than poor, housed families to experience separations between children and their custodial parents. Family composition may change over time. For example, a parent may send his or her children to live in what he or she perceives to be a safer environment with relatives or family friends rather than subjecting children to the experience of a shelter. In other cases, child welfare agencies may have removed children from their parent's custodial care.

- Nearly 40 percent of families in emergency shelter reported a separated child before or during their shelter stay
- About 30 percent of all children had been separated from their family at some point
- Children separated from their families during a shelter stay were older than other children
- The typical child separated during a shelter stay had been away from his or her family for 18 months

For link to the report:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/opre_child_separation_brief_03_22_2018_508_2.pdf

Ontario's "Welfare Diet" in 2018 by John Stapleton and Yvonne Yuan, Policy Options, July 2018.

The Ontario government suggested a food shopping list for people on welfare in 1995. Over time, those food costs have risen more quickly than the cheques. David Tsubouchi, then minister of community and social services, constructed a sample shopping list for a single person on general welfare, which demonstrated how one could get by on a budget of \$90.21 for food each month.

- The Ontario Works single rate from 1995 has gone up by just 39 percent to \$722 a month
- The cost of that 1995 welfare diet now exceeds inflation by 65 percent and has increased by almost double the rate at which payments under Ontario Works (social assistance) have increased
- Inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) has risen 52.4 percent, while the cost of the welfare diet has increased by 86.3 percent

For link to the article:

<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/august-2018/ontarios-welfare-diet-2018/>

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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/>