

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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**Trafficking In Persons Report** by Department of State, United States of America, June 2018.

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon to which no country is immune. Victims of modern slavery are exploited in every region of the world, compelled into service for labour or commercial sex in the real world of industry and on the pages of the internet. The enormity of the problem necessitates the development of a unified, comprehensive response from world leaders to collectively address a crime that defies all borders.

- The root causes of this crime are deeper than any one of its facets and relate to larger systemic conditions such as poverty, forced migration, racism, and discrimination, among many others
- Although human trafficking is often associated with organized crime, and in some cases is facilitated by sophisticated criminal syndicates, in many others it is driven by loose networks, families, or individuals operating independently
- Addressing human trafficking requires a dynamic policy framework based on the mutually reinforcing pillars of prosecution, protection, prevention, and partnership

For link to the report:

<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282798.pdf>

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**The Australian Homelessness Monitor 2018** by Hal Pawson, Cameron Parsell, Peter Saunders, Trish Hill and Edgar Liu, Launch Housing, 2018.

This study provides an independent analysis of homelessness in Australia. It analyses changes in the scale and nature of the problem and investigates the incidence of the many social, economic and policy drivers of homelessness. This is especially the case in respect to housing policies, income support policies and policies that support homelessness programs. Attention is also given in the study to Indigenous homelessness with a particular emphasis on remote communities.

- ABS Census estimates show the overall national homelessness total rising by some 14% in the five years to 2016
- Experiencing living conditions in some cases only slightly better than those officially defined as 'homeless', Australia's 'marginally housed' population increased more rapidly than both overall population growth and homelessness between 2011-16
- According to the ABS Census, rough sleeping — the most visible and extreme form of homelessness — has risen at a faster rate than homelessness overall since 2011

For link to the study:

[https://www.launchhousing.org.au/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LaunchHousing\\_AHM2018\\_Report.pdf](https://www.launchhousing.org.au/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LaunchHousing_AHM2018_Report.pdf)

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**Prevalence and Correlates of Non-Medical Only Compared to Self-Defined Medical and Non-Medical Cannabis use, Canada, 2015** by Michelle Rotermann and Marie-Michèle Pagé, Statistics Canada, July 2018.

The Canadian federal government has committed to legalizing, regulating and restricting the non-medical use of cannabis by adults in 2018. To prepare for this change, Statistics Canada has been adapting the national statistical system to measure the social and economic impacts of legalized cannabis, in addition to undertaking various analytical projects.

- Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in Canada and the use has been associated with adverse effects, including dependency
- Past-year cannabis users of any type were more likely to be male and younger, to have used other illicit drugs and at least one of three classes of psychoactive pharmaceutical drugs non-therapeutically, and to be daily smokers or heavy drinkers
- SDMMN cannabis use was more common among people reporting worse general and mental health, as was use of psychoactive pharmaceuticals, and living in lower-income households

For link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/82-003-x/2018007/article/00001-eng.pdf?st=nNaBfTiV>

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**Comparing Government and Private Sector Compensation in British Columbia, 2018** by Milagros Palacios, David Jacques, and Charles Lammam, Fraser Institute, July 2018.

Using data on individual workers from January to December 2017, this report estimates the wage differential between the government and private sectors in British Columbia. Government employees in B.C. received 7.5 per cent higher wages on average than comparable workers in the private sector last year, and enjoyed much more generous non-wage benefits too. It also evaluates four non-wage benefits for which data are available to quantify compensation differences between the two sectors.

- 91.8% of government workers in British Columbia are covered by a registered pension plan, compared to 17.7% of private-sector workers
- Government workers retire earlier than their private-sector counterparts—about 1.9 years on average—and are much less likely to lose their jobs (2.3% in the private sector compared to 0.4% in the public sector)
- Full-time workers in the government sector lost more work time in 2017 for personal reasons (13.7 days on average) than their private-sector counterparts (9.2 days)

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/comparing-government-and-private-sector-compensation-in-bc.pdf>

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**Campaign 2000: Child Poverty by Riding Report** by Anita Khanna and Alan Meisner, Family Service Toronto, June 2018.

For nearly 30 years, Campaign 2000 has documented the failure of good intentions to end poverty. In the lead up to Canada's first federal Poverty Reduction Strategy, Campaign 2000 reveals a disturbing picture of the magnitude of child poverty in every federal riding. The latest data paint a stark portrait of inequality in Canada with high- and low-income families living in close proximity while divided by wide social and economic gaps that leave too many children hungry, sick and stressed beyond their years.

- Ridings with the highest levels of child and family poverty are home to a higher proportion of Indigenous, racialized and immigrant communities and lone-parent led families
- This translates to higher unemployment, lower labour market participation rates and higher proportions of renters and people spending more than 30% of their income on housing
- Despite Canada's status as one of the world's wealthiest countries, over 1.2. million children – 17.4% - live in poverty with their families
- 37.9% of First Nations children live in poverty

For link to the report:

<https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Campaign-2000-Riding-by-Riding-Child-Poverty-Report.pdf>

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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/>