

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.

---

## **The Canadian Housing Survey, 2018: Core Housing Need of Renter Households Living In Social and Affordable Housing** by Jeannine Claveau, Statistics Canada, October 2020.

This article provides a high level overview of people living in social and affordable housing by painting a portrait of them based on the results of the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey (CHS). Housing indicators such as core housing need are examined by socio-demographic and household characteristics.

- Three-quarters of renter households in social and affordable housing are one-person households or lone-parent families
- Of the 628,700 Canadian renter households in social and affordable housing in 2018, 17.7% were lone-parent households (without any additional adults living in the household)
- Almost one-fifth (18.5%) of renter households living in social and affordable housing needed adaptations in their dwelling because a member of the household had a physical or mental disability, condition or illness
- Over one-tenth (13.0%) of reference persons of households living in social and affordable housing reported having experienced homelessness in the past; that is, living in a homeless shelter, on the street, in parks, in a makeshift shelter, or in an abandoned building in Canada

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2020003-eng.pdf>

---

## **The Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19: A Six Month Update** by Statistics Canada, September 2020.

This compendium provides an overview of the initial health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19, based on information collected during the lockdown period of late March and April, and as social and economic restrictions were eased in the late spring and summer months.

- 43% of Canadians rated their life satisfaction as 8 or higher on a 10 point scale, compared with 73% of Canadians in 2018
- In August, the unemployment rate ranged from 12.7% to 17.9% for selected visible minority groups, compared with 9.4% among the non-Indigenous, non-visible minority population
- As of July, payroll employment in accommodation and food services industries is about 2/3rds of its pre-COVID level. As of May 2020, nearly 25% of businesses with rent or mortgage payments had been granted deferrals

Link to the release:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2020004-eng.pdf>

---

**Community Voices Pave the Way to Recovery: What 1,400+ Torontonians told us they want to see in the City's Recovery and Rebuilding Process** by Social Planning Toronto, October 2020.

This report exclusively summarizes the input gathered through the Social Planning Toronto (SPT)-supported consultations representing over 1,457 voices from Indigenous populations, equity-seeking groups, and vulnerable populations. It is crucial to give special attention to the findings that emerged from the SPT-supported consultations, as the communities who participated are often underrepresented in decision-making processes.

- Through the SPT-supported consultation process, we heard from more than 1,457 individual participants through four data collection activities
- Almost 70% of respondents indicated that they felt sad, anxious, overwhelmed, or lonely
- While only 24% of respondents indicated that they accessed income supports before the pandemic, 47% identified this as a priority for the next 0–6 months
- Participants suggested the ways in which the design and delivery of programs can be improved to increase participation from equity-seeking and vulnerable populations

Link to the website:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/2404/attachments/original/1602697384/Recovery\\_Consultation\\_Summary\\_Report\\_release.pdf?1602697384](https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/2404/attachments/original/1602697384/Recovery_Consultation_Summary_Report_release.pdf?1602697384)

---

**Justice-focused Mental Health Supportive Housing in Toronto: Needs Assessment and Action Plan** by Wellesley Institute, July 2020.

This report is a needs assessment, along with recommendations for action in Toronto. It draws from expert interviews, service user and service provider focus groups, analyses of waitlist and clinical data, a review of the research literature, and contributions from an advisory group.

- The City of Toronto, although it has 20 percent of Ontario population, has one-quarter to one third of Ontario's lower-income and higher-needs population. This arises because in the GTA (half of Ontario population), the City of Toronto has dominant shares of lower-cost rental, low-income population, homelessness, and social and health services for people with higher needs
- 80% of persons in custody were identified as "having a substance abuse problem that is associated with their criminal behaviour on admission to prison"
- Complex Trauma is also more commonly reported for justice-involved women as were estimates of physical and sexual abuse (ranging between 50% and 90%)
- 5% of the Canadian population identify as Indigenous, Indigenous adults account for 27% of provincial and territorial custodial admissions and 28% of federal custodial admissions

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Justice-focused-Mental-Health-Supportive-Housing-in-Toronto-Needs-Assessment-and-Action-Plan-2020.pdf>

**A Canada–U.S. Comparison of the Economic Outcomes of STEM Immigrants** by Garnett Picot and Feng Hou, Statistics Canada, September 2020.

Using data from the 2016 Census for Canada and the 2015 to 2017 American Community Survey for the United States, this paper examines the differences between the two countries in the occupational and earnings outcomes of STEM-educated immigrants. The analysis is restricted to STEM-educated immigrant workers aged 25 to 64 who held at least a bachelor’s degree and were adults upon entry.

- The adjusted earnings gap for those who did not find a STEM job was large in Canada, at 34%. The gap was much smaller in the United States (7%)
- Recently in Canada, roughly 60% of new immigrants were economic immigrants, and 25% to 30% were family immigrants. In the United States, typically almost two-thirds entered under family reunification provisions, and roughly 13% to 15% entered under employment-based provisions
- Canada and the United States. This is particularly true in Canada, where immigration levels have been high—by historical standards—for a number of decades. In Canada, among adults aged 25 to 64 with a university degree in 2016, 44% of those educated in a STEM field were immigrants who arrived as adults (aged 18 or older at immigration).

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2020016-eng.pdf>

---

**How Much Could a Guaranteed Annual Income Cost?** By Jake Fuss, Milagros Palacios, and Ben Eisen, Fraser Institute, September 2020.

This report aims to provide context on the potential expense of implementing a Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) by estimating the price tag of four straightforward and clearly defined possible models.

- We find that providing a taxable \$24,000 a year benefit to all working age Canadians (aged 18-64) regardless of their income level through a universal basic income structure generates a total net annual cost of \$464.5 billion
- This bulletin uses four different policy design options to estimate the cost to the federal government of implementing a permanent GAI program.
- If the federal government structured the GAI to operate similar to Old Age Security (OAS) by reducing the maximum annual benefit from \$24,000 to \$7,272, the total net annual cost would be \$131.9 billion

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/how-much-could-a-guaranteed-annual-income-cost.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](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

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