

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.

We apologize for the delay in recent issues as City of Toronto staff have been redeployed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Work Interruptions and Financial Vulnerability by Derek Messacar and René Morissette, Statistics Canada, May 6, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to massive work interruptions in Canada and several other countries since mid-March 2020. The resulting economic lockdown has raised concerns about the ability of Canadian families to meet their financial obligations and essential needs. To address these concerns and minimize job losses, the federal government has recently implemented several programs such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

- Approximately one in four Canadians (26%) could be financially vulnerable to the economic lockdown
- Of all groups considered in this study, single mothers and their children are among the most financially vulnerable during a short period of joblessness: more than half of them (56%) at-risk
- Individuals living in families in which the main income earner is under 35 years of age and does not have a high school diploma also face a high risk of financial vulnerability: 67% of them are financially vulnerable to a two-month work stoppage.

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00010-eng.pdf?st=d1v59Aw6>

COVIDhelpTO by Social Planning Toronto, June 2020.

Social Planning Toronto released the CovidHelpTO website to help front-line workers navigate the financial and housing support programs announced over the past couple of months.

- CovidHelpTO was designed to help you answer your clients' most basic questions around financial and housing supports
- Provides quick information about the CERB and CEWS and other programs, with links to agencies and additional resources
- Content is available in 15 languages

Link to this resource:

https://orghelpto.ca/covid/?page_id=19

Housing Characteristics and Staying at Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Grant Schellenberg and Jonathan Fonberg, Statistics Canada, May 4, 2020.

With 'stay at home' essential to the COVID-19 response, the dwellings in which people live take on added importance in their lives. In Statistics Canada's Canadian Perspectives Survey Series (CPSS) fielded the week of March 29, 90% of respondents reported they were avoiding leaving their home as part of their COVID-19 response. Extended time indoors is likely to raise various challenges, such as getting physical exercise, maintaining social contacts, or balancing telework, children and home schooling, and household routines in a confined space.

- 70% of those in rented apartments are satisfied with their overall adequacy of space while this is the case for 88% of those in owned, single detached houses
- Households in rented apartments are also less likely to be satisfied with their ability to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature during the summer. Just over half (53%) are satisfied in this respect, compared with 78% of households in owned, single detached houses.
- Household composition too may pose risks. Around 45% of households in apartments are comprised of just one-person

Link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00009-eng.pdf?st=cggkENTp>

A National Framework for Escaping Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Canada by Covenant House, February 2020.

This report explains that when exiting situations of sex trafficking, survivors face numerous structural and systemic barriers, while also contending with complex psychosocial and psychological factors. In addition to highlighting these barriers, this report outlines the multiple basic and service needs of survivors when they are exiting/escaping and proposes promising service philosophies for working with survivors.

- According to police statistics, 1,099 incidents of human trafficking were reported by police across Canada between 2009 and 2016
- In this research, a disproportionate number of survivors identified as Indigenous. This is consistent with other research on sex trafficking in Canada
- We spoke with 201 stakeholders from 147 organizations, including service providers, healthcare professionals, police, and most importantly, 50 survivors of sex trafficking

Link to the study:

https://mk0covenanthoustp8rd.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Covenant_House_Research_Report_FINAL.pdf

Measuring efficiency in the Canadian adult criminal court system: Criminal court workload and case processing indicators by Maisie Karam et al., Statistics Canada, March 5 2020.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Canadian criminal justice system has been a key focus of national discussion in recent years. Despite recent declines in the crime rate and a decreasing number of completed court cases nationally, charges in Canadian criminal courts have been taking longer to complete over the past decade.

- [2008-2016, A] variety of court processing and workload indicators increased at the national level: caseload, case processing times, the average age of open cases, and the number of court appearances per final decision.
- At the same time, there was a decrease in other indicators: case completion rates, and case initiations and completions
- On any given day in 2017/2018, the large majority (84%) of open cases in Canadian adult criminal courts were less than one year old

Link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00004-eng.pdf?st=ud4e1-oU>

COVID-19 and the Labour Market in April 2020 by Statistics Canada, May 2020.

This infographic presents a number of facts about the labour market in Canada during April, 2020.

- 5.5 million Canadians have been impacted by COVID-19 by either job loss or reduced hours
- Well over 1.7 million fewer people in the workforce
- Among students 15-24 the unemployment rate increased to 32%
- Almost all (97%) of the newly-unemployed were on temporary layoff

Link to the infographic:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020034-eng.htm>

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/>