

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.

Changes in the Affordability of Housing in Canadian and American Cities, 2006–2016 by Josef Filipowicz, Steven Globerman, and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, July 2020.

This publication provides a better understanding of how housing affordability has evolved in metropolitan areas, comparing how shelter costs, as a share of income, have changed between 2006 and 2016 for 396 Canadian and American metropolitan areas. Specifically, we identify the growth in the share of median gross incomes dedicated to shelter costs, per bedroom, in each metropolitan area, for those two years.

- Shelter costs fell as a share of median incomes in the vast majority (312) of the full sample of Canadian and US metropolitan areas over this period
- Shelter costs as a share of income increased by 7.2% across the full sample of Canadian cities over this period
- Canada differs from the United States, with 46 of 52 Canadian cities combining growing populations with reduced affordability

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/changes-in-the-affordability-of-housing-in-canadian-and-american-cities.pdf>

Road to the 2021 Census of Population: The questionnaire by Statistics Canada, July 2020.

Statistics Canada has released the full text of its Census 2021 questionnaire. The 2021 questionnaire will have returning content from 2016 to allow for ongoing trend analysis and, importantly, it will include new questions to continue to measure Canada's growing diversity. Questions related to gender, the rights of citizens to have their children educated in their first official language and Veteran status have been added, in addition to new questions that will ensure First Nations people, Métis and Inuit are identified using a distinctions-based approach.

Link to the release:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200717/dq200717e-eng.htm>

Tenant-Focused Solutions to Enhance Housing Affordability by Edmonton Social Planning Council, February 2020.

ESPC undertook this report to address one of the most intractable challenges facing low income Edmonton households: the excessively long waits for affordable rental accommodation. The long waits not only inflict financial and emotional hardship on low income renter households. They also create the real risk that these households could end up homeless without a roof over their heads.

- In 2018, the federal government, as part of the National Housing Strategy, agreed to partner with provinces and territories to develop a portable Canada Housing Benefit initially delivering an average of \$2,500 per year to qualifying households
- A portable housing benefit would prevent evictions due to non-affordability of market rents and help those precariously housed to stay housed
- A large majority of those waiting expressed a preference to receive a rent subsidy directly, in many cases to make the place they are currently living more affordable

Link to the full paper:

https://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/edmontonsocialplanning.ca_joomlatools-files_docman-files_ESPC-Documents_PUBLICATIONS_A.06.G-REPORTS_The-High-Cost-of-Waiting-FINAL.pdf

Social Isolation and Mortality Among Canadians Seniors by Heather Gilmour and Pamela L. Ramage-Morin, Statistics Canada, June 17, 2020.

The primary goal of this study was to examine an objective and a subjective measure of social isolation and their associations with mortality for Canadian seniors aged 65 or older. Prevalence estimates of social isolation using each measure are presented.

- An estimated 525,000 people (12%) aged 65 or older felt socially isolated and over 1 million (1,018,000) (24%) reported low participation.
- Low participation was significantly associated with death for men and women even when the potential confounding effects of subjective isolation, socio-demographic characteristics, health status, and health behaviours were considered
- Subjective and objective isolation differed in their association with mortality

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/82-003-x/2020003/article/00003-eng.pdf?st=e1BbuZjb>

Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2018 by Adam Cotter, Statistics Canada, June 23, 2020.

This Juristat article uses data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) to look at trends in the prevalence and nature of human trafficking as reported by Canadian police services and adult criminal courts. In addition, a file linking police records to court information was created in order to explore how incidents of human trafficking—including those that may not result in criminal court charges under specific human trafficking legislation—are processed in the criminal justice system.

- Police services in Canada have reported 1,708 incidents of human trafficking since 2009
- About half (45%) of all victims of police-reported human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24. Nearly three in ten victims (28%) were under the age of 18, and the remainder (26%) were 25 years of age or older
- Few cases where human trafficking was the most serious offence in the case resulted in a guilty decision (29%)

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00006-eng.pdf?st=m3Wwh3ej>

Education and Labour Market Integration of Black Youth in Canada by Martin Turcotte, Statistics Canada, February 23, 2020.

Using integrated 2006 and 2016 census data, this study examines the education and labour market integration outcomes of a recent cohort of young Black Canadians. Specifically, this study examines the link between the characteristics of the youth and their families when they were living with their parents (in 2006), and their education and labour market outcomes 10 years later (in 2016).

- Black youth who were between the ages of 9 and 13 in 2006 were as likely as other Canadian youth to have a high school diploma in 2016 (approximately 90%)
- The gap between postsecondary graduation rates for Black youth and other youth remained after accounting for differences in socioeconomic and family characteristics
- Young Black males were nearly twice as likely as other young males to be not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2016

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2020001/article/00002-eng.pdf?st=nywQfUFa>

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/>