

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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**The Dynamics of Disability: Progressive, Recurrent or Fluctuating Limitations** by Stuart Morris, Gail Fawcett et al., Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This paper presents preliminary findings on four groups of persons with different disability dynamics, based on data collected from newly developed questions from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability.

- Of the 6.2 million persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over, 2.4 million (39%) experienced conventional continuous limitations whereas 3.8 (61%) experienced some type of disability dynamic
- Among those with disabilities, women were more likely than men to experience fluctuating limitations (16% vs 10%) whereas men were more likely than women to experience continuous limitations (43% vs 36%)
- Regardless of disability dynamic, those with "less severe" disabilities are twice as likely to be employed as those with "more severe" disabilities

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2019002-eng.pdf?st=ETP7GYh1>

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**Housing First: Helping People Move from Homelessness to Long-Term Housing Stability** by Stephen Hwang, Cilia Mejia-Lancheros, and Vicky Stergiopoulos, Homeless Hub, November 2019.

Our study looked at the long-term effects of Housing First among participants in the Toronto side of the At Home/Chez Soi randomized study from 2009 to 2017.

- Housing First (HF) with Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) or Intensive Case Management (ICM) mental health support services combined with rent supplements is an effective strategy that helps people experiencing homelessness and mental illness become stably housed over the long term (up to six years)
- Homeless adults with a high need for mental health services benefit the most from HF. In the final year of follow up, 6 years after study entry, high needs individuals who received HF with ACT support spent 85% of days stably housed, compared with 60% for individuals who received treatment as usual
- We found no differences between the HF and treatment as usual groups in quality of life, community functioning, and substance use severity

For link to the paper:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/housing-first-helping-people-move-homelessness-long-term-housing-stability%C2%A0%C2%A0>

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**Future to Discover: Seventh Year Post-secondary Impacts Report** by Rueben Ford, Taylor Shek-Wai Hui, and Isaac Kwakye, Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC), October 2019.

Future to Discover tested two interventions, separately and in combination. The research design produces rigorous evidence about what works to increase access to post-secondary education, particularly for lower-income students and those whose parents have little or no post-secondary experience.

- For most participants, data on program graduation cover seven years since they left high school. The differences in post-secondary graduation rates match differences in enrolments by program type
- Explore Your Horizons (EYE) has a strong and consistent positive impact on the proportion of students receiving student financial aid, with students offered EYH receiving a modest increase in aid payment amounts
- Over the period covered by this report, students offered EYH were not more likely to have graduated from university or college
- This report presents post-secondary impacts observed by the completion of what would normally be the seventh year of post-secondary studies, assuming continuous school attendance and conventional progress. It relies on data from academic years 2004/2005 through to 2014/2015, and thus adds five extra academic years of data to the FTD post-secondary impacts report

For link to the paper:

<http://www.srdc.org/media/552974/ftd-seventh-year-psi-report-en.pdf>

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**Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective, 2019** by Statistics Canada, December 2019.

Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective 2019 reports on certain aspects of the educational systems in Canada's provinces and territories and places them in an international context. The indicators presented here align with the definitions and methodologies used in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- In 2019, one-quarter (26%) of 25-to 64-year-olds in Canada had completed short cycle tertiary educations, far greater than the average of 7% reported by the OECD
- In 2019, 11% of women and men in the 15-to-29 age group were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Canada.
- The highest proportions of international students at the college level were seen in British Columbia (20%), Ontario (18%) and Manitoba (18%), with all other provinces at or below 11%

For link to the paper:

**Measuring the Gig Economy in Canada Using Administrative Data** by Sung-Hee Jeon, Huju Liu, and Yuri Ostrovsky, Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This study introduces a clearly defined methodological framework for identifying gig workers in Canada based on various Canadian administrative sources, including individual and corporate income tax returns. This the first Canadian study to systematically identify gig workers using administrative data and measure the share of gig workers among all Canadian workers.

- This study found that, from 2005 to 2016, the percentage of gig workers in Canada generally rose from 5.5% to 8.2%
- The study also found that gig work was more prevalent among immigrants than among Canadian born people. In fact, 10.8% of male immigrant workers who had been in Canada for less than five years were gig workers in 2016, compared with 6.1% of male Canadian-born workers
- The overall self-employment trend in the Labour Forced Survey (LFS) was fairly stable, rising slightly from 16.9% in 2005 to 17.5% in 2009, then falling to 16.6% in 2016

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019025-eng.pdf>

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**Social Policy Trends: Middle Income Household Wealth** by Ron Kneebone and Margarita Wilkins, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, December 2019.

Concerns over the financial situation of middle income households typically focus on income. Here we look at the wealth of middle income households and how it has changed over time.

- The last column reports the average annual rate of growth in each asset and debt category between 1999 and 2016. Over this period, the real value of middle income household net worth grew at an average annual rate of 4.0%
- Middle income households have seen their net worth increased by an average annual inflation-adjusted rate return of 4.0% over the past nearly 20 years
- Among middle income households holding a mortgage in 2016, it averaged just over \$186,000

For link to the paper:

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Social-Policy-Trends-Wealth.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/>