

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.

Toronto's Vital Signs 2019 by Steve Ayer et al., Toronto Foundation, October 2019.

Toronto's vital Signs Report is compiled from current statistics and studies, serving as an ongoing consolidated snapshot of the trends and issues affecting quality of life in our city. Continuing the focus from last year, we used an equity lens to better understand the different experiences of unique population groups in the city and in relation to the overall trends.

- Toronto's population increased by 77,000 people last year, nearly as much as the four fastest-growing cities in the United States combined
- Toronto has the most income inequality in the country, leading to bigger wealth disparities: net worth increased by \$2,100 for the bottom 20% between 1999 and 2016 versus more than \$600,000 for the top 20%
- Over the last 12 years, Toronto's wait list for social housing has increased by 68%, with no new units built in decades, a shelter system at near 100% capacity, and huge wait lists for transitional housing

For link to the briefing:

<https://torontofoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/VitalSigns2019.pdf>

The Forgotten Victims of Gun Violence by YWCA Toronto, October 2019.

This report examines several YWCA Toronto programs to understand how the communities the Association serves are impacted by gun violence and to identify policy and programmatic opportunities for better supports.

- The stigma of gun violence causes feelings of alienation, shame, and isolation specifically for Black women. These feelings lead mothers to avoid talking about their loss and heighten negative social interactions with friends causing fractured relationships during a time when social and community supports are critically important
- Studies suggest that Black women grieving violent loss experience altered family support and fractured relationships with their family members, close friends, and social networks
- Due to the disproportionate impact of homicide and gun violence in Black communities, Black teen girls experience the loss of friends and loved ones at greater numbers than other ethnic and racial groups

For link to the paper:

https://www.ywcatoronto.org/Assets/YWCA/Documents/19138_Report-GunViolence-FA.pdf

A Profile of Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) in Canada, 2015 to 2017 by Jordan Davidson and Rubab Arim, Statistics Canada, November 2019.

This report aims to expand the information on Canadian youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) by examining various sociodemographic and psychosocial characteristics. It also aims to explore whether different subgroups of youth NEET experience similar psychosocial characteristics. This study is based on data from three recent Canadian Community Health Survey cycles (2015 to 2017).

- Overall, 11.1% of Canadian youth in the sample were identified as NEET. Of all youth NEET, 38.0% were looking for paid work, 27.5% were caring for children and 34.5% were classified as “other”
- Youth NEET were more likely to have poorer self-reported physical and mental health, and lower physical activity levels
- Youth NEET had lower educational attainment than youth non-NEET, with 38.9% of youth NEET completing postsecondary education, compared with 53.1% of youth non-NEET. Youth NEET were also more likely to live in lower-income households
- Youth NEET reported poorer general physical health than youth non-NEET. Youth NEET were less likely to report very good or excellent general health compared with youth non-NEET (55.9% versus 72.0%)

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019020-eng.pdf>

Comparing Performance of Universal Health Care Countries, 2019 by Bacchus Barua and Mackenzie Moi, Fraser Institute, 2019.

Measuring and reporting the performance of health-care systems is vital for ensuring accountability and transparency, and is valuable for identifying areas for improvement. Comparing the performance of different countries’ healthcare systems provides an opportunity for policy makers and the general public to determine how well Canada’s health-care system is performing relative to its international counterparts.

- Canada spends more on health care than the majority of high-income OECD countries with universal health-care systems. [...] It ranks 2nd highest for expenditure on health care as a percentage of GDP and 10th highest for health-care expenditure per capita
- Despite this level of spending, it has significantly fewer physicians, acute-care beds and psychiatric beds per thousand compared to the average OECD country
- Canada’s performance is mixed for use of resources, performing higher rates than the average OECD country on about half the indicators examined

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/comparing-health-care-countries-2019.pdf>

Postsecondary Participation and Household Income by Reuben Ford, Taylor Shek-wai Hui and Cam Nguyen, Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, October 2019.

This project aims to assess how well Ontario students from lower-income families—who access aid primarily through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)—have fared relative to higher-income students and students in other jurisdictions in their ability to access postsecondary education (PSE) between 1995–96 and 2015–16.

- University attendance of graduates fresh out of high school is positively related to household income and other indicators of advantaged socioeconomic status
- Ontario experienced the highest postsecondary attendance among those with lowest income and the second-lowest income elasticity of postsecondary attendance in 2015
- [T]hrough successive policy changes, Ontario appears to have created one of the more favourable environments in Canada for supporting the postsecondary education of its high school graduates from lower-income families

For link to the paper:

<http://www.heqco.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/Formatted%20SRDC%20PSE%20Access%20and%20Income.pdf>

Developing a Common Data Standard for Measuring Attitudes toward the Police in Canada by Chris Giacomantonio et al., Public Safety Canada, 2019.

It is essential for police services to collect data on public attitudes toward the police, particularly since public attitudes predict a number of outcomes that are critical to the police mission in democratic societies.

- Currently, most police services in Canada conduct public attitude surveys on a regular basis; however, no two police services ask the same survey questions, and many police services vary their questions between surveys
- Based on their analyses, Jackson and Bradford (2019) recommended the 12 indicators listed in Appendix A as core indicators for measuring attitudes toward the police
- The core indicators have been endorsed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police as a common data standard for public attitude surveys on policing in Canada

For link to the paper:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2019-r003/2019-r003-en.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

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