

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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**Economic Impact of COVID-19 Among Visible Minority Groups** by Feng Hou, Kristyn Frank, and Christoph Schimmele, Statistics Canada, July 2020.

Since visible minorities often have lower incomes and more precarious employment than the White population (Block et al. 2019; Lightman and Gingrich 2018), their ability to buffer the income losses due to work interruptions is likely more limited. This study examines whether this is the case or not, shedding light on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different visible minority groups.

- The article first uses 2016 census data to compare group differences in poverty rates, thereby offering an assessment of economic vulnerability prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Among the population aged 15 and over, the poverty rate was 9.6% among the White population in 2016 Census
- The large gaps in the poverty rates between visible minority groups and the White population were partly related to immigration status
- About 19% of the crowdsourcing participants have applied for federal income support such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Employment Insurance, or other programs

Link to the full paper:

[https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00042-eng.pdf?st=C\\_VI7rXU](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00042-eng.pdf?st=C_VI7rXU)

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**CCPA Alternative Federal Budget** by Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, July 2020

The Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) Recovery Plan isn't solely focused on the economy, as though economic issues can be disconnected from everything else. Rather, it adopts a Health-in-All-Policies approach. Because if this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that public health is the requirement for economic health.

- Introducing a 5% federal income surtax on income of over \$500,000 and 10% on income over \$1 million for millionaires
- The AFB recovery plan will introduce a 5% digital services tax on the revenues of large multinational e-commerce companies that do business in Canada
- Create an annual net wealth tax of 1% on fortunes of over \$20 million and 2% on fortunes of over \$50 million

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2020/07/AFB%202020%20recovery%20plan.pdf>

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**Changes in the Socioeconomic Situation of Canada's Black Population, 2001 to 2016** by Rene Houle,  
Statistics Canada, August 13, 2020.

In the context of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, this report seeks to provide a better understanding of the general socioeconomic condition of the Black population in Canada.

- In terms of employment, unemployment and wages compared with the rest of the population, Black women and men's labour market outcomes have generally not improved between the 2001 & 2016 censuses, despite a few notable exceptions among women and immigrants
- In contrast to Black men, whose median annual wages remained stable between 2000 and 2015, the median annual wages of Black women increased during the same period
- Among the Canadian-born Black population, employment rates in 2016 ranged between 72% and 83% for the second generation depending on the place of ancestry, and only slight differences were found between the rates for women and men

Link to the release:

[https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020001-eng.pdf?st=Pd\\_R\\_tN](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020001-eng.pdf?st=Pd_R_tN)

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**Forced Out: Evictions, Race, and Poverty in Toronto** by Scott Leon and James Iveniuk, Wellesly Institute, August 2020.

This study aims to add to the knowledge on evictions in Toronto in three ways. First, it describes the numbers and rates of formal eviction applications in Toronto 2010-2018. Second, it maps their geographic distribution. Third, it correlates formal eviction application filing rates with census tract sociodemographics of renter households from the 2016 Census to uncover who may be at increased risk of eviction.

- 190,000 formal eviction applications were filed within in the City of Toronto between 2010 and 2018. Over 20,500 were filed in 2018 alone
- Eviction filing rates are 4 times higher in some neighbourhoods in Toronto. City-wide, in 2018 there was 1 formal eviction application for every 20 renter households
- Toronto tenants have received just over 23,600 formal eviction applications each year on average since 2010. This averages roughly 1 formal eviction application for every 20 tenant households.
- Formal eviction applications have decreased city-wide from a high of just over 27,000 filed in 2012, to a low of just under 20,500 in 2018

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.welleslyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Forced-Out-Evictions-Race-and-Poverty-in-Toronto-.pdf>

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**The Issues Facing Canada's Unemployment Insurance Program** by Jake Fuss and Steven Globerman, Fraser Institute, 2020.

This report aims to identify and discuss several of the problems inherent in the design of Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program and provides context for some reform options. The current design of EI creates regional disparities, distorts labour markets, provides inadequate coverage for part-time workers and the self-employed, and will impose a financial burden on Canadians for years to come.

- Part-time work is one of the more common forms of non-standard employment in Canada. Between 1976 and 2019, the proportion of the labour force engaging in part-time work grew from 12.5% to 18.9%
- If levels of unemployment in July 2020 persist it could mean the average qualifying period for EI will decline by 28% compared to July 2019 and Canadians who have the minimum number of qualifying hours will see the length of time benefits are received increase by about 50%
- If CERB is removed and unemployment rates remain high for the foreseeable future, annual deficits in the EI operating account will increase. In short, all signs point to a significant future financial strain on the EI program

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/issues-facing-canadas-employment-insurance-program.pdf>

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**The Vulnerability of Canadians with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic** by Statistics Canada. July 2020.

Canadians with disabilities may be disproportionately impacted as they may be more likely to have underlying health conditions, or to rely on outside caregivers or support to help with their daily lives. Physical distancing measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 may also increase the overall vulnerability of Canadians with disabilities.

- Older Canadian have been identified as a population vulnerable to COVID-19, with those aged 60 and older accounting for one-third of COVID-19 cases nationally
- Over one-quarter (28%) of Canadians reported living alone in 2016, making it the most common household type nationally.
- Just over 90% of Canadians used the Internet in 2018. However, about one-fifth of Canadians with disabilities said that they did not use the Internet, making it more challenging to stay informed and connected during the COVID-19 pandemic

Link to the full paper:

[https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200706/dq200706a-eng.pdf?st=7C\\_d4P-5](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200706/dq200706a-eng.pdf?st=7C_d4P-5)

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/>