

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.

The Effect of Government Transfer Programs on Low-Income Rates: A Gender-Based Analysis, 1995 to 2016, by Adriene Harding, Statistics Canada, November 2018.

This paper is a gender-based analysis of the effect of government transfer programs on low income in Canada between 1995 and 2016. It compares the low income situations of couples, unattached women, and unattached men. It addresses the difference in prevalence of low income among women and men by age, labour force status, education level, immigration status, Aboriginal group, and region.

- In 2016, 13.8% of girls and women and 12.2% of boys and men were below the low-income line in Canada, a difference of 1.6 percentage points
- Transfers reduced low-income rates and mitigated the difference in low-income rates between women and men
- OAS/GIS and CPP/QPP were the largest benefit programs and had the largest effect in reducing low income among the whole population
- Low-income rates were highest among female lone-parents and unattached elderly women, and government transfers also had the largest effect on these groups

For link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2018003-eng.pdf>

The Double-Pane Glass Ceiling: The Gender Pay Gap at the Top of Corporate Canada by David Macdonald, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, January 2019.

For the first time, this report examines differences in pay between male and female corporate executives. It reveals a significant gender pay gap in Canada's C-suite, undercutting the "merit" argument often used to justify extreme levels of executive compensation. Among top executives, women make \$0.68 for every dollar their male colleagues make, amounting to \$950,000 less in pay a year. The ratio is \$0.83 among all fulltime workers.

- The average worker will have to work full time all year to earn what a top CEO does by 11:33 a.m. on January 2
- "Variable" or bonus pay linked to a company's stock price accounted for 77% of CEO pay
- Bonus pay between male and female executives at the same company based on the same stock price, women get substantially lower bonuses
- The gender pay gap is driven primarily by position type (women not making it to CFO and CEO positions), but also by company size and industry

For link to the report:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2019/01/Double%20pane%20glass%20ceiling.pdf>

Innovation in Canada: An Assessment of Recent Experience: An Assessment of Recent Experience by Steven Globerman and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, January 2019.

For decades, the Canadian federal government, as well as provincial governments, have implemented policies to promote commercial innovation. Notwithstanding, it is widely acknowledged that Canada's innovation performance has been, and remains, relatively weak by international standards. Indeed, Canada's performance relative to national innovation leaders, as well as to the United States specifically, has deteriorated in recent years after showing some improvement from around 2007-2012.

- Since innovation improves competitiveness, innovation should be linked ultimately to improved sales and profit performance
- From 2007 through 2012 there were significantly more Canadian firms on Fortune's list than is the case after 2012
- [T]here has been virtually no growth in multi-factor productivity in Canada over the past decade

For link to the report:

https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/innovation-in-canada_0.pdf

The Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey: A New Data Source for Monitoring the Health and Well-Being of Individuals and Families by Michael Karpman, Stephen Zuckerman, and Dulce Gonzalez, Urban Institute, August 2018.

The social safety net faces a period of transition as policymakers seek significant changes to an array of programs that help low-income families pay for food, health care, housing, and other basic needs. These changes are being considered in an economic environment that exposes many families to financial insecurity even as the economy approaches full employment in 2018. As new program rules and budgets are established, policymakers and the public need timely information to understand how these policies will affect people who rely on public assistance.

- Adults ages 18 to 64 in the United States comprise the target population for the WBNS, which was first fielded in December 2017 and will continue to be fielded annually each December
- The WBNS [covers] health insurance, housing, food security, employment, family income, program participation, and family financial security
- Included questions on self-reported health, psychological distress, and household food security

For link to the report:

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98919/the_well-being_and_basic_needs_survey_0.pdf

Homelessness In America: Focus on Youth by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, October 2018.

To prevent and end homelessness in America, you need to have a clear understanding of who is at risk of homelessness and who experiences homelessness. This report is summarizing the most relevant data and research regarding different subpopulations to help inform the work that must be done, together, across the federal government, states, and local communities, to end homelessness once and for all.

- Approximately 11% of all people experiencing homelessness as individuals on a given night are “unaccompanied” youth
- Most of these unaccompanied youth (88% or 36,010 people) were between ages 18 and 25, and 12% (4,789 people) were under age 18
- During 2016, nearly 45,000 people between the age of 18 and 24 were in families with children who stayed in shelters or transitional housing programs at some time over the course of the year
- For African-American youth, the relative risk of experiencing homelessness in the last 12 months is 83% higher compared to youth of other races

For link to the report:

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Homelessness_in_America_Youth.pdf

Special Announcement:

Masooma Amarsi, who has been skillfully compiling issues of the SPAR Monitor for almost 10 years, will be retiring at the end of January. Her work has been invaluable to our division and her diligence and helpfulness will be very much missed. Congratulations, Masooma!

— The Editor

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/>