

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.

Over-education Among University-educated Immigrants in Canada and the United States by Yao Lu and Feng Hou, Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This study assesses the degree of over-education among university-educated immigrants in the United States and Canada. This study draws on comparable data from the 2014, 2015 and 2016 American Community Survey and the 2016 Canadian Census to calculate the over-education rate for immigrants and the native-born in each country.

- University-educated immigrants in Canada are more likely to be overeducated than those in the United States. This is particularly true for recent immigrants
- The over-education rate among long-term immigrants was slightly higher in Canada than in the United States and the difference was much smaller in magnitude than the cross-country difference for recent immigrants
- This study also provides insights into how the interaction between the immigration system and broader aspects of the labour market affects immigrant' labour market outcomes

For link to paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019022-eng.pdf>

Millennials Aren't Drowning in Student Debt by Beth Akers, Manhattan Institute, October 2019.

Sixty-six percent of millennials have no student debt at all. That's because they haven't gone to college or because they managed to get through without having to borrow.

- Typical four-year-degree graduates who borrow will accumulate \$28,500 in debt over the course of their enrollment.
- That can be paid back with monthly payments of less than \$200, which is a relatively small share (4%) of the average monthly earnings for this population (\$4,717)
- Only 6% of borrowers have more than \$100,000 in debt.[10] These high-balance borrowers tend to have graduate or professional degrees and often come from higher-income families

For link to paper:

<https://www.manhattan-institute.org/issues2020-millennials-arent-drowning-in-student-debt>

Child Poverty by Federal Riding: The Work Ahead for Canada's Next Parliament by Family Service
Toronto, October 2019.

This update shows that while there is an important trend downwards in the rate of child poverty across the country since 2015, a significant number of children remain in poverty in every federal riding across Canada.

- First Nation children experience the highest level of poverty with 53% living in poverty in First Nations communities on reserve and 41% living in poverty in all other communities.
- This is compared to 35% recent immigrant children and 12% of non racialized, non-Indigenous children living in poverty throughout Canada
- From 2015 to 2017, almost 134,000 children were lifted out of poverty, a decline of 9%. Over this period, the national child poverty rate has been reduced from 20.9% in 2015 to 18.7% in 2017
- Cross-referencing riding by riding census data with T1FF after-tax low-income data shows the ridings with the highest rates of child poverty are also home to the largest proportion of Indigenous people, recent immigrants, racialized people and lone-parent families

For link to paper:

<https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Child-povertyRiding-by-riding-1.pdf>

The Working Poor in the Toronto Region: A closer look at the increasing numbers by John Stapleton,
Metcalfe Foundation, November 2019.

This report identifies areas in the Toronto region that have a high concentration of working poverty and describes general trends within the Toronto CMA and City of Toronto. We use disaggregated data from the 2016 census to explore how gender, age, education, racialization, and immigration status can help us understand potential underlying causes of working poverty.

- In 2016, 7% of Toronto Metropolitan Area (CMA)'s working-age population were in the working poor category. Another 8% were poor but not working. This would include social assistance recipients and those with other forms of modest income
- From 2006 to 2016, working poverty expanded northward and increased markedly in the outer suburbs. This growth may be in response to rising property values, long waiting-lists for subsidized housing, and higher private market rents in the inner city
- More than half of the Toronto CMA's working poor live in the City of Toronto (58%). In other words, the City of Toronto continues to have more working poor than the outer suburbs
- In most parts of the country the working poor account for over 40% of those living in poverty

For link to paper:

<https://metcalffoundation.com/site/uploads/2019/11/Working-Poor-2019-NEW.pdf>

The Use of Homeless Shelters by Indigenous Peoples in Canada by Nick Falvo, Homeless Hub, November 2019.

The Canadian Press recently gained access to results of analysis of the use of homeless shelters across Canada by Indigenous peoples. The results are summarized in a March 2019 slide presentation obtained by Jordan Press through an Access to Information and Privacy request, and are discussed in this Canadian Press article.

- The analysis draws on data gathered from homeless shelters across Canada. Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) has data on persons using homeless shelters from roughly half of the country's homeless shelters
- According to the slide presentation, Indigenous peoples in Canada are more than 11 times more likely to use a homeless shelter than non-indigenous people
- Indigenous peoples (compared with non-Indigenous peoples) tend to cycle in and out of shelters with high frequency, rather than stay for long periods of time

For link to paper:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/use-homeless-shelters-indigenous-peoples-canada>

The Myths of Local Food Policy: Lessons from the Economic and Social History of the Food System by Pierre Desrochers, Fraser Institute, 2019.

For several years, activists and policymakers have promoted a wide range of local food initiatives. Many of these have been unsuccessful or have experienced significant problems. This is because their prescription is based on five myths that are debunked in this paper

- In Canada, the average household spent over 20 percent of its income on food in the 1950s compared to slightly more than 10 percent today
- The high cost of land and other inputs in cities, along with inherent technical limitations, make urban agriculture in the form of urban rooftop greenhouses and especially vertical farms extremely expensive to build and operate
- The notion of “food miles,” meaning the distance between farms and final consumers, is a meaningless environmental indicator

For link to paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/myths-of-local-food-policy.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/>