

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.

COVID-19 Mortality Rates in Canada's Ethno-cultural Neighbourhoods by Rajendra Subedi, Lawson Greenberg and Martin Turcotte, Statistics Canada, October 2020.

The objective of this study is to examine whether COVID-19 mortality rates were higher, during the first wave of the pandemic, in Canadian neighbourhoods characterized by higher proportions of population groups designated as visible minorities. Canadian Vital Statistics Death data, released on October 28th, 2020, are used to estimate the mortality rates presented in this study.

- A total of 8,796 COVID-19 deaths have been reported to Statistics Canada between March 2020 and July 2020, for a COVID-19 crude mortality rate of 25.0 per 100,000 population
- The highest number of deaths were reported from Quebec (5,806) followed by Ontario (2,550), British Columbia (187) and Alberta (179)
- In Quebec and Ontario, the age-standardized mortality rate in neighbourhoods with the highest proportions of population groups designated as visible minorities was more than three times higher than that of the neighbourhoods with the lowest proportions

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.pdf?st=n0RVdRDI>

Waiting for Long-Term Care in the GTA: Trends and Persistent Disparities by Seong-gee Um and James Iveniuk, Wellesley Institute, September 2020.

This report describes disparities in long-term care wait times across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), using administrative data from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) from 2012/2013 to 2017/2018. This study explores whether wait times vary by region, age, gender, language, residence type, and client's level of care needs, and whether any existing disparities have changed over time.

- From 2012/13 to 2017/18, the median wait time for long-term care in the GTA increased by 35 days, compared to 13 days in Ontario
- While median wait times were not substantially different between male and female residents, wait times varied widely by all other reviewed factors including age, region, residence type before placement, first language, and priority category
- In 2017/18, the median wait time for those waiting for a religious, ethnic, or cultural home was 246 days longer than those waiting for a mainstream home, with the same level of needs
- People who reported neither English nor French as their first language waited longer than those whose first language was English or French, and this has been consistent from 2012 to 2017

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Waiting-for-Long-Term-Care-in-the-GTA.pdf>

Incomes Grow for the Top 1% and Bottom Half of Tax Filers in 2018, stays Flat for the Rest by Statistics Canada, November 2020.

New data are now available on low-income entry and exit rates, high income, income mobility and effective tax rates for Canadian tax filers for 2018. While the estimates do not reflect the impacts of COVID-19, they do provide a baseline for developments in the COVID period, and shine a light on which Canadians may be more and less vulnerable.

- Real average total income for the top 1% tax filers grew 1.5% to just under half a million dollars (\$496,200) in 2018, while filers from the bottom 50% of the distribution saw their average total income grow 1.7% to \$17,900
- Filers living in couple families with children under age 17 had a relatively low likelihood of falling into low income (3.3%)
- Women represented nearly one-quarter (24.3%) of the 283,015 Canadian tax filers in the top 1% in 2018, up 0.1 percentage points from 2017. Women in the top 1% in 2018 continued to have lower average total income (\$429,500) than their male counterparts (\$518,600), a gap of 17.2%

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/201118/dq201118c-eng.pdf?st=MZaSACXw>

Spaces And Places of Exclusion Mapping Rental Housing Disparities for Toronto's Racialized and Immigrant Communities by Social Planning Toronto, November 2020.

This study uses micro data from the 2016 Census of Population. Additional aggregated census data accessed through the Community Data Program and Statistics Canada's website have also been incorporated in the report. This research highlights processes of marginalization and social exclusion associated with racialized and immigrant status in the area of rental housing in Toronto.

- Our analysis reveals the ways in which racialized individuals, specific racialized population groups, newcomers, and refugees are disproportionately affected by the housing crisis in Toronto
- 34% is the rate of core housing need for individuals in tenant households. Core housing need is an indicator of housing need where housing is unaffordable, unsuitable, and/or inadequate (in need of major repairs) and the household cannot afford alternative housing in the community, that meets all three standards
- 39% vs 27% racialized individuals in tenant households have higher rates of core housing need than non-racialized individuals in tenant households; West Asian, Black, Arab, South Asian, Latin American, and Southeast Asian individuals in tenant households have the highest rates of core housing need, affecting 40% or more in each population group

Link to the full report:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/2414/attachments/original/1605553111/Exclusion_report_FINAL_for_web.pdf?1605553111

Economic Performance in Ontario CMAs: A National Comparative Perspective by Ben Eisen and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, November 2020.

This bulletin builds on past Fraser Institute studies by including measurements of changes in household income over the past two decades and also considers the relative change in the region's prosperity in a national context, as well as that of the individual CMAs within the region. We show that the extent of this relative decline for several cities in the region is unique amongst Canadian CMAs.

- Several recent Fraser Institute studies have documented the weak economic performance in Ontario over the past 20 years outside of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and to a lesser extent Ottawa
- This bulletin builds on that analysis by examining economic performance data from the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of southwestern Ontario including London, Windsor, Brantford, Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge, and Guelph
- [B]etween 2005 and 2015, Windsor fell from having the tenth highest median household income in Canada to having the 25th highest out of Canada's 36 CMAs. This 15-place decline was the largest fall of any CMA in Canada.
- London fell from having the 15th highest median household income in Canada to having the 27th highest, the second largest decline in Canada

Link to the full report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/economic-performance-in-ontario-cmas.pdf>

Lifting Singles Out of Deep Poverty: The Case for Increasing Social Assistance Benefits by Nick Falvo, IPP Insight, December 2020.

In this paper, I examine the adequacy of welfare incomes relative to poverty thresholds in each province and the extent to which social assistance caseloads of employable singles are influenced by changes in the generosity of benefits and eligibility rules, as well as by minimum wage incomes and general economic conditions.

- Results from the first regression model indicate statistical relationships between provincial caseloads and the unemployment rate, changes to eligibility criteria in BC and Ontario, and benefit levels
- Provincial minimum wages in 2020 range from \$10.96 to \$15.00 per hour. This translates into annual earnings of between \$19,200 and \$26,300 for typical full-time minimum wage workers.
- [T]he average welfare income of singles on social assistance is less than \$10,000 per year, less than half the average full-time earnings at minimum wage in any province

Link to the full paper

<https://on-irpp.org/3mrxyWN>

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/>