

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: Impacts & Opportunities Report** by David Mowat and Saad Rafi, Office of Recovery & Rebuild (TORR), City of Toronto, November 2020.

The COVID-19: Impacts and Opportunities report PDF outlines the results of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild's (TORR) work and provides recommendations for the City of Toronto and its agencies and corporations to support the recovery and rebuild of our communities, organizations, partners and businesses..

- Ontario's Financial Accountability Officer indicates that the participation rate in the labour market in Toronto, between February 2020 and May 2020 was down 5.4 per cent
- The Canadian economy is estimated to contract by 6.9 per cent in 2020 – a recession that is two to three times as deep as the Great Recession of 2008/09.
- Toronto's unemployment rate rose from 5.9 per cent in February 2020 to 14.2 per cent in July
- Neighbourhoods with the highest burden of COVID-19 (Northwest Toronto) also face disproportionate levels of food insecurity and have higher populations of Black residents.

Link to the full report:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9133-torr-covid19-impacts-opportunities-2020.pdf>

---

**Jurisdictional Scan of COVID-19 Provincial and Territorial Income Transfer Programs in Canada** by Vinusha Gunaseelan, Alissa Klingbaum & Thrmiga Sathiyamoorthy, Wellesly Institute, November 2020.

Provinces have an important part to play in income security, poverty prevention, and equity, though less attention has been given to their role. Because of this, Wellesley Institute conducted a jurisdictional scan of income transfer programs made available during the COVID-19 pandemic at the provincial and territorial level.

- In response to COVID-19, provinces and territories across Canada introduced or amended 51 income transfer programs for individuals and families.
- This scale of activity affirms that income support measures are a key component of a strong public health and pandemic response
- When reviewing the available information on investments made for income transfer programs, British Columbia spent the most with \$410.14 per capita, followed by Northwest Territories with \$177.85 per capita.

Link to the full paper :

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Jurisdictional-Scan-COVID-19-.pdf>

---

**COVID-19 Infection in Toronto: Ethno-racial Identity and Income**, Toronto Public Health with Ontario Ministry of Health, Integrated Public Health Information and CORES, September 2020.

Toronto Public Health started asking clients with reported COVID-19 infection about their indigenous identity, ethno-racial group, income, and household size on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported up until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with valid socio-demographic data are included in the analysis presented here.

- The majority (79%) of reported COVID-19 cases [and 72% of hospitalizations because of COVID-19] in the City of Toronto with valid race data up until September 30<sup>th</sup> identified with a racialized group. This is higher than the proportion of Toronto's population who identify as belonging to a racialized group, based on the 2016 Census (52%).
- The hospitalization rate for racialized people is 20 cases per 100,000 people compared to 9 cases per 100,000 people among White people, representing a rate ratio of 2.37
- About half of 48% of reported COVID-19 cases with valid income data up to September 30<sup>th</sup> were living households that could be considered lower income, compared to 30% of the population of Toronto in 2016 that met the same definition.

Link to the dashboard:

[https://public.tableau.com/profile/tpmseu#!/vizhome/RaceIncomeandCOVID-19Infection\\_16046926853800/RaceIncomeandCOVID-19Infection?publish=yes](https://public.tableau.com/profile/tpmseu#!/vizhome/RaceIncomeandCOVID-19Infection_16046926853800/RaceIncomeandCOVID-19Infection?publish=yes)

---

**The Long-term Labour Market Integration of Refugee Claimants Who Became Permanent Residents in Canada** by Yuqian Lu, Yasmin Gure and Marc Frenette, Statistics Canada, November 2020.

This study compares the long-term labour market outcomes of refugee claimants who eventually became permanent residents in Canada (RC-PRs) with those of government-assisted refugees (GARs) and privately sponsored refugees (PSRs), as well as with refugee claimants who did not become permanent residents in Canada (RC-NPRs). To do so, the study uses data on landings from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) and income tax from the T1 Family File (T1FF).

- Although RC-PRs were considerably more likely to collect social assistance and less likely to report employment income than PSRs one year after making a refugee claim, their outcomes improved at a significantly faster rate
- GARs were significantly more likely to collect social assistance and considerably less likely to report employment income than RC-PRs and PSRs
- Among PSRs, the share who collected social assistance income remained relatively stable over time, dropping moderately from 18.4% one year after landing to 14.3% after 13 years.

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2020018-eng.pdf>

---

**Data for Equity Strategy: Supporting Equitable Services, Equity Priorities, Performance Measurement and Accountability**, Report for Action, EX18.6, City of Toronto, October 2020.

The purpose of this report is to describe and seek approval of the Data for Equity Strategy. The proposed strategy responds to several Council directions regarding disaggregated data from 2017 to 2020 and builds on the recent Toronto Public Health experience of collecting and analyzing socio-demographic data related to COVID-19 cases in Toronto.

- The cost of developing a Data for Equity Unit within the People and Equity Division for 2021 is \$389,252.84, which will be included in the 2021 Operating Budget of the Office of the City Manager, for consideration through the budget process against all other City priorities subject to approval of City Council
- The recent Toronto Public Health experience of collecting race, Indigenous identity and income for COVID-19 cases and analyzing COVID-19 data by a range of socio-demographic factors provides a timely illustration of some of the potential benefits, challenges and limitations of socio-demographic and disaggregated data collection and use.
- [I]n Toronto racialized groups have an average income that is about half (52.1%) of the average income of white people , 87% of Indigenous adults live in poverty , 83% of lone parent families are led by women and 40% of those families live in poverty.

Link to the full report:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-158045.pdf>

Data for Equity Guidelines:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-158052.pdf>

---

**One in Ten Canadian Households Living in Core Housing Need in 2018** by Statistics Canada, October 2020.

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has produced the core housing need indicator for the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey. A household is deemed to be in core housing need when their dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable, and when the household cannot afford alternative housing in their community.

- In 2018, 11.6% or 1,644,900 Canadian households were in core housing need
- Renter households (23.0%) were over three times more likely to live in core housing need than homeowners (6.5%)
- Among Canada's 10 largest census metropolitan areas, households in Toronto were the mostly likely to be in core housing need (18.7%), while households in Quebec (5.4%) were the least likely.

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/201002/dq201002a-eng.pdf?st=s6jGcPyN>

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/>