

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.

Annual Demographic Estimates: Canada, Provinces and Territories 2020 by Statistics Canada, September 2020.

The estimates in this publication are based on 2016 Census counts, adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves, plus the estimated population growth for the period from May 10, 2016, to the date of the estimate.

- Canada's population surpassed the 38-million mark between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 to reach an estimated 38,005,238 on July 1, 2020
- The population increased by 411,854 between July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2020. This increase was lower than has been seen in the past three years, but was similar to the increase found from 2015 to 2016 (+406,579)
- The population growth of 1.1% was also lower than in the past three years, but was the same as was found from 2015 to 2016 (+1.1%)

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-215-x/91-215-x2020001-eng.pdf>

December update: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/201217/dq201217b-eng.htm>

Upstream Canada: Preventing Youth Homelessness And School Disengagement Through Early Intervention by Jacqueline Sohn & Stephen Gaetz, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2020.

Upstream Canada is a response to this challenge and the staggering reality that 35,000 – 45,000 youth in Canada experience homelessness each year. Much of our response to youth homelessness is reactive – that is, we wait until young people are homeless and street involved before we offer help. This initiative is a preventive approach to the problem that works to offer supports to youth ages 12-18 who are identified as at risk of homelessness and school disengagement through a universal screening tool called the Student Needs Assessment (SNA).

- When youth are homeless, their educational experiences and opportunities – and therefore life trajectories – are deeply impacted.
- In a pan-Canadian study on 1,103 youth with lived experience of homelessness, 83% of respondents reported being victims of bullying, either “sometimes” or “often”
- The survey also revealed that dropout rates are high among homeless youth across Canada, at 53.2%, compared with the national average of 9%
- Among those who dropped out of school, many reported having learning disabilities (41.8%), ADHD (46.1%), and physical disabilities (47.9%)

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/UPSTREAM%5BEarlyIntervention%5D2020.pdf>

COVID-19 Death Comorbidities in Canada by Kathy O'Brien, Marylène St-Jean, Patricia Wood, Stephanie Willbond, et al., Statistics Canada, November 2020.

Using the latest multiple cause of death data from the CVSD, this article presents information about the most common chronic and acute conditions, diseases, disorders, and complications appearing on the medical certificate of cause of death where COVID-19 was involved in the death, to provide preliminary insights to COVID-19 comorbidities. This does not consider the relative importance of the additional disease or condition, nor its relationship to COVID-19, and is similar to that used by the by the National Center for Health Statistics in its weekly COVID-19 updates.

- Of the over 9,500 COVID-involved deaths between March and July, the majority (90%) had at least one other cause, condition or complication reported on the certificate
- Dementia or Alzheimer's were listed on the death certificate of 42% of the women and one-third of the men (33%) in COVID-involved deaths
- From March to July 2020, Quebec reported 6,240 COVID-involved deaths, more than double that reported in Ontario (2,770). Combined, these two provinces accounted for 95% of all COVID-involved deaths in Canada over this period

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00087-eng.pdf>

Isolation, Physical Distancing and Next Steps Regarding Homelessness: A Scan of 12 Canadian Cities by Nick Falvo, Calgary Homeless Foundation, December 2020.

Across Canada, system-planning organizations in the homelessness sector have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in different ways. Given the rapid pace at which events are unfolding and the lack of publicly-available information about what is happening nationally in the homelessness sectors, Calgary Homeless Foundation has commissioned the present analysis of what has been happening in the following 12 cities: Toronto; Montreal; Vancouver; Calgary; Edmonton; Ottawa; Winnipeg; Quebec City; Hamilton; Regina; Saskatoon, and St. John's.

- Toronto's Quality Assurance Team, which now visits all local shelters to ensure proper physical distancing and good public health practices
- The Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, announced on March 18, includes an additional \$157.5 million in one-time funding for Reaching Home
- Approximately 3,500 people in total have been moved from the start of the pandemic, including 1,500 into permanent housing through a variety of housing programs

Link to the full report:

https://calgaryhomeless.com/content/uploads/Isolation-Physical-Distancing-and-Next-Steps-Regarding-Homelessness_2020_12_07.pdf

Majority of Canadians in the Provinces Reported Having Confidence in the Police in 2019 by Statistics Canada, November 2020.

In 2020, prompted by several high profile incidents on both sides of the Canadian border, many Canadians took part in protests calling for an end to racial bias and misconduct by police towards Indigenous and racialized people in Canada. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic brought about new restrictions on Canadians as well as new police enforcement roles in some jurisdictions.

- In 2019, just over 4 in 10 (41%) Canadians aged 15 and older in the provinces reported having a great deal of confidence in the police, while nearly half (49%) said they had some confidence.
- Less than 1 in 10 (9%) Canadians reported having low confidence in police—that is, not very much or no confidence at all
- First Nations people, Métis and Inuit living in the provinces were less likely than non-Indigenous people to report having a great deal of confidence in the police in 2019 (30% compared with 42%). Instead, Indigenous peoples were more likely to report low confidence in the police (16%)
- Confidence in police and positive perceptions about their performance generally increased with every age group

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/201125/dq201125b-eng.pdf?st=087gubHF>

Comparing Performance of Universal Health Care Countries, 2020 by Bacchus Barua and Mackenzie Moir, Fraser Institute, 2020.

This study uses a "Value for money approach" to compare the cost and performance of 28 universal health-care systems in high-income countries. The level of health-care expenditure is measured using two indicators, while the performance of each country's health-care system is measured using 43 indicators, representing the four broad categories. [1] availability of resources, [2] use of resources, [3] access to resources, [4] quality and clinical performance.

- Out of 28 countries, Canada ranked 6th highest for health-care expenditure as a percentage of GDP and the 8th highest for health-care expenditure per capita
- Per million population, Canada ranks 23rd (out of 26) for MRI units, 24th (out of 27) for CT scanners, 18th (out of 23) for PET scanners, 2nd (out of 21) for Gamma cameras, and 12th (out of 20) for Mammographs
- After adjustment for age, [Canada] has significantly fewer physicians, acute-care beds, and psychiatric beds per capita compared to the average of OECD countries included in the study

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/comparing-performance-of-universal-health-care-countries-2020.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/>