

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.

Long-Term Population Density Change in Toronto and Vancouver, 1971 to 2016 by Jennie Wang and Hugo Larocque, Statistics Canada, February 2019.

This new analysis provides comparable time series data for the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census subdivisions (CSDs) of Vancouver and Toronto for 1971 and 2016, providing a uniquely long-term view of urbanization in these areas. Urbanization patterns, including densification within existing urban areas and urban expansion on the periphery, influence the supply and value of ecosystem services.

- [The] CMAs of Toronto and Vancouver accounted for 24% of Canada's population in 2016
- The overall population of the Toronto CMA increased 120% from 2.7 million in 1971 to 5.9 million in 2016, with the largest increases in population seen in the largest cities, including Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton
- [I]n Toronto significant increases in density occurred in the Waterfront Communities and Niagara neighbourhoods, as well as in the Bay Street Corridor and along rapid transit lines towards North York
- While overall population and population density increased in almost all census subdivisions, this growth was often concentrated in certain areas

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/16-508-x/16-508-x2019001-eng.pdf?st=uYOL4g2D>

State of Working America: Wages 2018 by Elise Gould, Economic Policy and Institute, February 2019.

This report analyzes data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and details the most up-to-date hourly wage trends through 2018 across the wage distribution and education categories, highlighting important differences by race and gender.

- The data show not only rising inequality in general, but also the persistence, and in some cases worsening, of wage gaps by gender and race
- From 2000 to 2018, wage growth was strongest for the highest-wage workers, continuing the trend in rising wage inequality over the last four decades
- At every decile, wage growth since 2000 was faster for white and Hispanic workers than for black workers
- Throughout the wage distribution, black–white wage gaps were larger in 2018 than in 2000; conversely, Hispanic workers have been slowly closing the gap with white workers in the bottom 80 percent of the wage distribution

For link to the paper:

<https://www.epi.org/files/pdf/161043.pdf>

The Causes of Poverty by Christopher A. Sarlo, Fraser Institute, April 2019.

Anyone who cares about the poor and wants to eliminate this horrible predicament needs first to understand what causes poverty. This paper suggests that a useful framework for understanding poverty is to look at bad luck and bad choices as the proximate causes, and to enablement as the key explanation for persistent and enduring poverty.

- When social norms like finishing high school, getting a full-time job, and having children only after getting married are followed, poverty rates are extremely low (less than 1%) using 2015 data
- basic choices about education (at least finishing high school), work (acquiring a full-time job), and family (getting married before having kids and only having the number of children you can afford), are critical to avoiding poverty
- People living in poverty might be more likely to have low self-esteem and be more fatalistic about the future, which will increase the likelihood of their making bad choices
- Increased education to high school graduation would, on its own, lower the poverty rate to 11.1 percent

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/causes-of-poverty.pdf>

Canadian Income Survey 2017 by Statistics Canada, February 2019.

A strong labour market and an increase in child benefits drive growth in the income of working-age families. In 2018, the Canadian government set the Market Basket Measure (MBM) as Canada's first Official Poverty Line. In addition, 2017 represented the first full calendar year of implementation for the new Canada Child Benefit (CCB), which came into effect in mid-2016.

- The median market income of non-senior families rose 2.7% from 2016 to \$92,400 in 2017
- Couple families with children saw their median child benefits increase by \$1,200, while lone-parent families received an extra \$1,300 in 2017 compared with 2016
- The median after-tax income of senior families (where the highest income earner was 65 years of age and older) totalled \$61,200 in 2017, up \$2,500 from 2016
- The share of the population living below Canada's Official Poverty Line fell from 10.6% in 2016 to 9.5% in 2017.

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/190226/dq190226b-eng.pdf?st=gumVYKZg>

Police-Reported Violence Involving Same-Sex Intimate Partners in Canada by Statistics Canada, March 2019.

There were 651,484 police-reported incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Canada from 2009 to 2017. Approximately 3% of these incidents involved same-sex intimate partners.

- Males accounted for a greater proportion of victims of same-sex IPV, with more than half (55%) of police-reported incidents of same-sex IPV involving male partners
- Crimes reported against males in same-sex relationships more violent than in opposite-sex relationships
- About 2 in 10 victims of male (19%) and female (21%) same-sex IPV requested that no further action be taken against the accused, compared with 12% of male and 7% of female victims of opposite-sex IPV

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/190320/dq190320c-eng.pdf?st=guQTOqum>

Seeking Supportive Housing: Characteristics, Needs and Outcomes of Applicants to The Access Point, by Frank Sirotich, et al., Canadian Mental Health Association, Wellesley Institute, and others, 2018.

Currently in Toronto over 13,000 people are on the waitlist for mental health and addictions supportive housing. Understanding this population and how to meet their needs addresses an often overlooked health equity gap. This report is an analysis of the waitlist for mental health and addictions supportive housing in Toronto.

- Demand for supportive housing far outstrips supply. In a recent two-year period, over 4,000 new people applied while less than 600 were placed in supportive housing
- Applicants declined by housing providers because their support needs were too high were more likely to report problematic substance use, criminal justice involvement and homelessness
- Support services should shift toward models that can flex up and down, to meet changing individual needs, and to reduce the likelihood of bottlenecks and mismatched supports
- A majority of applicants were male (59%), with a similar proportion found in most age groups.

For link to the paper:

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/The-Access-Point-Waiting-List-Analysis-March-2018.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/>