

## **Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic, May 2020** by Statistics Canada, June 2020.

During the week of May 4 to 10, Statistics Canada collected the second wave of the new web panel survey, the Canadian Perspectives Survey Series. This web panel survey included a series of questions aimed at assessing the levels of food insecurity being experienced by Canadians.

- Almost one in seven (14.6%) Canadians indicated that they lived in a household where there was food security in the past 30 days
- Most Canadians reported only one negative experience but 2.0% reported the most severe food insecurity, with five or all six experiences reported
- Canadians who were employed during the week of April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, but absent from work due to business closure, layoff, or personal circumstances due to COVID-19, were more likely to be food insecure (28.4%) than those who were working (10.7%)

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00039-eng.pdf?st=FVnMfcl3>

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## **Distribution of CERB: Estimating the Number of Eligible Young People Living with Parents** by Jason Clemens, Milagros Palacios, and Nathaniel Li, Fraser Institute, July 2020.

To gauge the degree to which CERB benefits are potentially distributed to Canadians with questionable need, this analysis estimates the number of CERB-eligible dependent children aged 15 to 24 earning between \$5,000 and \$24,000 who are living with their parents in households with total incomes of \$80,000 and \$100,000 respectively. Many of these potential recipients could have seen their average monthly income increase after receiving CERB.

- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a flat, taxable \$2,000 monthly benefit provided to eligible Canadians. It is now estimated to cost \$71.3 billion after cost recoveries
- There are an estimated 400,000 Canadians with earnings in 2019 of between \$5,000 and \$12,000 attending school, and living in a household with at least \$100,000 in total household income in 2019
- A second analysis lowered the household income threshold to \$80,000. The total number of eligible dependent children increases to 1.1 million with a potential cost of \$13.3 billion

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/distribution-of-CERB.pdf>

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**Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian Families and Children** by Statistics Canada, July 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered the way of life for Canadian families, parents and children. Because of physical distancing and employment impacts, parents have altered their usual routines and supports, and many children and families have been isolated in their homes for months. The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of the experiences of Canadian parents and families during this unprecedented time.

- Almost three-quarters (71%) were very or extremely concerned about their children's opportunities to socialize with friends, and more than half (54%) participants were very or extremely concerned about their children's loneliness or social isolation
- Approximately 64% of participants were very or extremely worried about the amount of screen time their children were engaging in; 8% of participants were not at all concerned about the amount of screen time
- About two in three participants (62%) with children aged 0 to 14 were reading books or stories daily or almost daily, and another 16% were reading three to five days per week

Link to the release:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200709/dq200709a-eng.pdf?st=yDDhOJg2>

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**Youth Reconnect Program Guide: An Early Intervention Approach to Preventing Youth Homelessness** by Stephen Gaetz, Erika Morton etc., Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press and A Way Home Canada, 2020

This document describes the key elements of the Youth Reconnect (YR) program model, including program elements and objectives, case examples of YR in practice, and necessary conditions for implementation. It is intended for communities who are interested in pursuing similar early intervention strategies.

- Youth Reconnect is a “place-based” intervention that is designed to enhance young peoples’ assets, self-sufficiency, and connections to meaningful adults, so that they remain attached to community and school
- A key objective of YR is to help stabilize a young person’s living situation, either by addressing issues at home that are producing the risk of homelessness, such as family conflict, or through helping young people who can no longer stay at home find housing and support options in their community
- Enhancing school engagement and supporting student success are key goals of Youth Reconnect

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/MtS-youth-reconnect-2020.pdf>

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**Hunger Lives Here: Risks and Challenges Faced by Food Bank Clients during COVID-19** by Daily Food Bank, July 2020

This report describes the experiences of the people in marginalized communities who have had to continue accessing front-line community services to meet their most basic needs during the pandemic.

- Daily Bread member food banks are now serving close to 20,000 individuals each week, compared to approximately 15,000 in 2019, an increase of close to 25%
- An estimated 6,100 new clients began accessing Daily Bread member food banks in June, compared to approximately 2,000 in February.
- Among new clients who participated in the survey, 76% began accessing food banks for reasons related to COVID-19, primarily because of job loss or a reduction in hours
- Before the pandemic, nearly one in four children went hungry according to their caregivers, but with the pandemic, that has increased to one in three children.

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.dailybread.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DB-COVID-Impact-Report-2020-Final-Web.pdf>

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**Volunteering in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities During the COVID-19 Pandemic** by Tara Hahmann, Valerie du Plessis, and Patric Fournier-Savard, Statistics Canada, June 2020.

This article is based on data from the General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating (GSS GVP), which was conducted on a sample of persons aged 15 and over, totalling 16,149 respondents in 2018. While these data are from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, they provide insight into challenges and opportunities facing volunteerism in the current situation.

- In 2018, over 12.7 million people volunteered for charities, non-profits and community organizations – accounting for 41% of Canadians aged 15 and older
- In 2018, Matures (40%) and Baby Boomers (32%) were more likely than iGen (19%) to be top volunteers, spending 132 hours or more on volunteer activities
- In 2019 iGen contributed an average of 82 unpaid hours to charitable organizations and had the highest volunteer rate (52%) highlighting an important connection to the work of charities, non-profits and community groups

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00037-eng.pdf?st=746lLn-g>

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/>