

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.

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## **Workers in the Homelessness Support Sector** by Kiran Toor, Statistics Canada, September 2019.

This study aims to profile workers in the homelessness support field. This group was defined by classifying workers based on specific occupations and industry of employment. Using data from the 2016 Census of Population, various socio-economic characteristics for these workers are presented. The study profiles these individuals by geography, age, sex, educational attainment, Aboriginal identity and visible minority status. The study also addresses their work patterns, earnings and low income status..

- Nationally, the 2016 Census counted 6,305 workers employed in the homelessness support sector
- These individuals accounted for 2.9% of all social workers (62,235) and social and community service workers (155,625) combined
- Three out of four homelessness support sector workers (76.5%) were female, exceeding the 48.2% share females held among all workers in all occupations

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2019010-eng.pdf?st=93naPeSQ>

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## **Household Incomes in Canada and the United States: Who is Better Off?** by Simon Lapointe, Centre for the Study of Living Standards, July 2019.

It is commonly noted that Americans are on average richer than Canadians. For example, in 2016, GDP per capita was US \$47,294 in Canada (PPP-adjusted) compared to US \$57,798 in the United States. However, this comparison of average incomes does not necessarily imply that all or even most Canadians are worse off than Americans. This report shows that Canadian households in the bottom 56 per cent of the income distribution are in fact better off than American households at the same point of the income distribution. This is due to the greater income inequality in the United States.

- Using Statistics Canada's consumption-based estimates of PPPs, average household income in Canada in US dollars was US\$74,581, or about 10 per cent below the average in the US
- One indicator of inequality is the Gini coefficient. In 2016, this indicator was 0.306 in Canada, compared to 0.391 in the United States
- [T]he top 1 per cent of households in the United States receive about 8.56 per cent of total income, while this group receives only 5.68 per cent of total income in Canada

For link to the paper:

<http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2019-01.pdf>

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**Secondary School Class Sizes and Student Performance in Canada** by Derek J Allison, Fraser Institute, October 2019.

Small classes are popular with parents and teachers. They are also expensive. Is the cost worthwhile for governments faced with persistent budget deficits and escalating education costs? Ontario has decided to seek much needed savings by phasing in an increase in secondary school class sizes. Will this negatively impact student achievement as opponents argue? This study draws on aggregate data from the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to show that provinces with larger reported sec-ondary class sizes than Ontario performed better on standardized measures of student achievement.

- There was a large range of class sizes within Canada extending from a low of 22.6 in Saskatchewan to a high of 30.1 in Quebec. Reported class sizes in Ontario (24.8) and British Columbia (25.4) were statistically indistinguishable from four much smaller provinces
- This study finds a positive correlation between mean subject scores and reported average class sizes: provinces with higher PISA scores tended to have larger classes
- Despite having the lowest scores in each of the three subjects [reading, science and math], Ontario also had the smallest classes

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/secondary-school-class-sizes-and-student-performance-in-canada.pdf>

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**Where Same-Sex Couples Live** by Danielle Taylor, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2019.

The Census Bureau strives to reflect the American family in all its forms, and has been collecting data on household relationships since 1880. Over the past 10 years or so, the Census Bureau conducted extensive research to improve the measurement of same-sex couples. This resulted in a revised household relationship question that was implemented in the American Community Survey in 2019, and will be included in the 2020 Census.

- There were almost a million same-sex couple households in the U.S. in 2017 and just over half (51.7%) of them were female coupled households
- Same-sex households make up 0.8% of all U.S. households, but some cities, such as San Francisco, have a higher percentage of same-sex households — 3.0% — than the national rate
- Compared with opposite-sex couples, same-sex couples are more likely to have higher incomes, have both people employed, and be more educated

For link to the survey:

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/09/where-same-sex-couples-live.html>

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**Financial Support For Refugees And Asylum Seekers** by Robert Falconer, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, July 2019.

The figure shows the financial support provided to a two-parent family with two children in Alberta, based upon their status either as a citizen, resettled refugee, or an asylum seeker. Resettled refugees are those relocated to Canada from abroad after being selected by the federal government or a private sponsor. Asylum seekers are individuals or families seeking refugee status in Canada, without prior selection, and whose claim must be adjudicated from within Canada.

- A two-parent, four-person family of asylum seekers living in Alberta would have received only \$1,385.00/month in 2018
- The additional funding provided to resettled refugees ends after their first year in Canada. After that, they must begin repaying the federal loan that allowed them to move to Canada
- During their first year in Canada, [a] family of resettled refugees would have also received an extra \$236.00/month to cover transit passes and phone bills

For link to the brief:

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Financial-Supports-for-Refugees-and-Asylum-Seekers-FINAL-version.pdf>

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**Early Learning and Child Care for Children Aged 0 to 5 years: A Provincial/Territorial Portrait** by Leanne Findlay, Statistics Canada, July 2019.

This article in the Economic Insights series examines participation in early learning and child care for young children in Canada. Child care is an important economic contributor for families since provision of non-parental child care is a necessity for some parents to engage in the labour market or to study. In addition, child care offers opportunities for child development and socialization.

- Results indicate that approximately 60% of children aged 0-5 years participate in some type of child care arrangement
- Approximately four in ten parents of children in child care had difficulty finding a child care arrangement
- Children in Ontario were the most likely to be in a before or after school program, with 41% of children aged 4 and 5 who were in child care participating in that type of arrangement

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019013-eng.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](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: <https://web.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>