

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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**Trends in Intergenerational Income Mobility and Income Inequality in Canada: Intergenerational Transmission of Income** by Marie Connolly, Catherine Haeck and David Lapierre, Statistics Canada, February 2021.

In this paper, administrative Canadian tax data are exploited to compute measures of intergenerational income mobility at the national, provincial and territorial levels. This work provides detailed descriptive evidence on trends in social mobility.

- Results show that mobility has steadily declined over time and that there has been an increase in the inequality of the parental income distribution, as measured by the Gini coefficient
- The focus is on rank mobility, and findings show that the correlation between a child's income rank, as an adult, and their parents' income rank has been trending up, increasing from 0.189 among the 1963-to-1966 birth cohort to 0.234 among the 1982-to-1985 cohort
- Average income at ages 35 to 39 increased across the three oldest birth cohorts, from \$51,500 to \$56,500. Average income at ages 30 to 34 increased similarly across the four oldest cohorts, as it did at ages 25 to 29 across the four most recent cohorts

Link to the study:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2021001-eng.pdf?st=Kvq1sIA5>

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**Portrait of Youth in Canada: Data Report Chapter 1: Health of Youth in Canada** by Didier Garriguet, Statistics Canada, February 2021.

Using Statistics Canada data, this chapter goes beyond the measure of life expectancy to describe the health of Canadian youth, defined as those aged 15 to 30 years old. Indicators of physical and mental health and substance use are presented to highlight the health of young Canadians. Comparisons with older Canadians and trends mostly over the last 20 years are provided.

- Canadian youth aged 15 to 30 were in the best physical shape of their life: they were less likely to be obese, were more active and smoked less than older Canadians
- Compared with 20 years earlier, a higher proportion of Canadian youth were obese, they were less active, and ate fewer servings of fruit and vegetables
- Heavy drinking and tobacco smoking have significantly decreased among youth over the last 20 years in Canada

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/42-28-0001/2021001/article/00001-eng.pdf?st=c42hgKZZ>

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**Race and Social Capital: Examining Trust and Connection in Toronto** by James Iveniuk and Vinusha Gunaseelan, Wellesley Institute, January 2021.

This paper builds upon the previous study, by exploring differences in social capital for different racial and national-origin groups, as one dimension of inequality in access to social capital. The paper focuses on people who identified themselves as White, South Asian, Chinese, and Black– the largest ethnic identity groups in the City.

- White-identifying respondents generally showed the highest rate of general trust, were also very likely to say a lost wallet would be returned by the police, and trusted strangers, as well as people at work and school, significantly more than all other groups
- Respondents who identified as Black reported lower levels of general trust, and were notably less likely to say that a lost wallet would be returned by the police, or to trust people at work and school
- Respondents who identified as South Asian volunteered significantly more often compared to all other respondents but showed no differences in forms of social participation

Link to the full report:

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Race-and-Social-Capital.pdf>

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**The Human Freedom Index 2020** by Ian Vásquez and Fred McMahon, Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute, 2020.

The Human Freedom Index (HFI) is the most comprehensive freedom index so far created for a globally meaningful set of countries representing 94 percent of the world's population. The HFI covers 162 countries for 2018, the most recent year for which sufficient data are available. The index ranks countries beginning in 2008, the earliest year for which a robust enough index could be produced.

- The gap in human freedom between the most free and the least free countries has widened since 2008, increasing by 6 percent when comparing the top and bottom 10 percent of nations in the HFI
- Although Hong Kong's ratings and rankings have decreased since 2008, the impact of the Chinese Communist Party's unprecedented interventions in the territory in 2019 and 2020 are not reflected in this year's report (which as noted, is based on 2018 data). Those recent events will likely decrease Hong Kong's score noticeably in the future
- [T]he largest improvement in freedom since 2008 occurred in the Caucasus and Central Asia (0.28) and East Asia (0.14), while the largest deterioration in freedom occurred in the least free region, the Middle East and North Africa (-0.38), followed by Oceania (-0.16)

Link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/human-freedom-index-2020.pdf>

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**Upstream Canada: Preventing Youth Homelessness and School Disengagement Through Early Intervention** by Jacqueline Sohn and Stephen Gaetz, Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2020.

As an equity-focused early intervention that works through the collective efforts of schools and community-based organizations, Upstream Canada works to prevent youth homelessness and early school leaving. It is part of a broader strategy to prevent youth homelessness, aligned with The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness and its typology of youth homelessness prevention.

- Upstream Canada is premised on shared responsibility and cross-sector collaboration between schools and community based social service organizations, alongside key supporters such as funders and government
- Upstream Canada is an adaptation of a successful initiative in Geelong, Australia (formerly called The Geelong Project), where researchers have documented a 40% reduction in the number of adolescents (ages 12-18) entering the local homelessness system and a 20% reduction in the number of adolescents leaving school early over the three years following implementation of the original model (MacKenzie, 2018)

Link to the paper:

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

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**Persistent Overqualification Among Immigrants and Non-immigrants** by Louis Cornelissen and Martin Turcotte, Statistics Canada, September 2020.

Using integrated data from the 2006 and 2016 censuses, this study examines persistent overqualification over time among immigrants and non-immigrants. More specifically, the study examines the link between various characteristics associated with immigration and the probability of overqualification in both 2006 and 2016.

- Among workers aged 25 to 49 with a university degree in 2006, 20% experienced overqualification at least once in 2006 or in 2016. However, 5% were persistently overqualified (i.e., they were overqualified in both 2006 and 2016)
- The proportion of workers who were overqualified in both 2006 and 2016 was nearly 10% among immigrants and 4% among non-immigrants
- Among immigrants, the location of study was an important factor in the risk of overqualification; 14% of immigrants who studied outside Canada experienced overqualification in both 2006 and 2016, compared with 4% of those who studied in Canada

Links to paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2020001/article/00004-eng.pdf?st=MmMdxLM>

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <https://bit.ly/3h42Zob>

Wellbeing Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

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