

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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**New Neighbourhoods and Profiles for the City of Toronto** by the City of Toronto, April 12, 2022.

The City of Toronto is increasing the number of its social planning neighbourhoods from 140 to 158. The number of social planning neighbourhoods are being increased to balance population growth experienced over the last 25 years when the original social planning neighbourhoods were developed in the late 1990s. While social planning neighbourhood boundaries should remain consistent over time to ensure reliable analysis and planning, concentrated population growth has necessitated the need to "split" certain neighbourhoods into two or more units. The new boundaries being released today ensure that the population of the social planning neighbourhoods are more balanced, while ensuring historical consistency overall, enabling more equitable analysis and insights.

- The boundaries for 16 of the 140 previous social planning neighbourhoods will be replaced with 34 new ones. The boundaries of the remaining neighbourhoods will remain the same.
- Going forward, there will be 158 social planning neighbourhoods in total
- New neighbourhood profiles have been released to go along with the new boundaries, initially starting with 2016 Census data but with 2021 data being added soon as it is released by Statistics Canada

Link to the information portal and profiles: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/neighbourhoods-communities/neighbourhood-profiles/>

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**Sociodemographic and Socioeconomic Factors Linked to COVID-19 Mortality Rates, 2020-2021** by Statistics Canada, March 2022.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Canada has been releasing provisional death data on a regular basis. However, on their own, these data have limited ability to explore the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on the Canadian population. Therefore, to expand the value of the provisional death data and create opportunities to explore the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on the Canadian population, Statistics Canada has created a dataset that links the provisional COVID-19 death data from the Canadian Vital Statistics – Death Database with the 2016 Census of Population.

- People in low-income households living in high-rise apartments have higher mortality rates due to COVID-19 than those not in low-income households
- People living in duplexes, low-rise and high-rise apartments had mortality rates around 2 times higher than people living in single-detached houses
- The COVID-19 mortality rates for people living in a detached house, semi-detached house, row house or duplex did not significantly differ based on low income status. These results suggest that there may be an association between living in a low-income household and COVID-19 mortality for people living in apartments but not for people living in other private dwellings.

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220308/dq220308d-eng.htm>

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**Canadian Income Survey, 2020** by Statistics Canada, March 2022.

Today, Statistics Canada is releasing new data from the 2020 Canadian Income Survey (CIS) undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the economic shutdowns and restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the pandemic, the Government of Canada introduced a number of income supports for individuals and businesses. It is therefore important to consider the 2020 CIS estimates in light of the unprecedented events during the first year of the pandemic.

- The median after-tax income of Canadian families and unattached individuals was \$66,800 in 2020, which represented an increase of \$4,400 (+7.1%) from the previous year
- Canada's official poverty rate was 6.4% in 2020, down 3.9 percentage points from the previous year when it stood at 10.3%
- In 2020, average after-tax income of families and unattached individuals increased 16.2% in the bottom quintile and 8.5% in the second-lowest quintile. Gains in after-tax income also occurred for the top quintile, in which average after-tax income grew by 2.4%
- All age groups experienced a decrease in their poverty rates in 2020. The poverty rate for children decreased 4.7 percentage points, going from 9.4% in 2019 to 4.7% in 2020, reducing the number of children in poverty for that year by 50%
- The Gini coefficient, based on adjusted after-tax income, decreased from 0.299 in 2019 to 0.281 in 2020. It is the single largest absolute change since 1976 and ties the 1989 value for the lowest index value in 45 years

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220323/dq220323a-eng.htm>

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**Community Connections: For Young Adults, 'Belonging' Has Little to do With Neighbourhood** by Angus Reid Institute, Government House, and Vancouver Foundation, March 2022.

A new study from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute in partnership with Government House and the Vancouver Foundation, looks at changing community connections and realities after two years of pandemic-related challenges. The results suggest a society where belonging and connection are splintered along generational lines, with older residents drawing strength and comfort from their place-based communities, and younger people finding a sense of community rooted not in physical space but defined instead by ethnic or experience-based connections.

- [A]t least seven-in-ten Canadians over the age of 54 say they feel a sense of belonging in their neighbourhood. For those under the age of 35, only half say this
- COVID-19 has exacerbated some of these silos. Overall, 36 per cent of Canadians say they have had less interaction with neighbours recently than they used to
- [N]early half say that they feel a strong connection with the place that they live now (46%) or the place they grew up (45%). Two-in-five say that their profession (41%) provides a source of strong attachment, while 28 per cent say that they are connected to people who have a similar ethnic or cultural background

Link to the survey report: <https://angusreid.org/community-connections-covid-19-belonging-canada/>

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**An In-Depth Look at the Impact of Rapid Re-Housing for Young Adults Previously Experiencing Homelessness** by Robin Petering, Lens Co and Point Source Youth, April 2021.

Point Source Youth sought to understand the experiences of formerly homeless or unstably housed young persons throughout their time in a Rapid Re-Housing program. An In-depth Look at the Impact of Rapid Re-Housing for Young Adults Previously Experiencing Homelessness paints a picture of young people in Baltimore, Atlanta, Detroit, and New York. Point Source Youth facilitated a longitudinal evaluation that explored what might be the immediate impact of a rapid re-housing program, which provides a combination of rental support and services with a goal of providing youth with effective permanent housing to exit homelessness and remain stably housed. After one year of the evaluation several key takeaways were observed.

- There was a drastic increase in employment from 56% to 85% and much of this increase was related to increases in full-time employment and working multiple part-time jobs
- Survival sex dropped 50% from 8% to 4% at the end of the year
- Victimization of interpersonal physical assault went from 32% to 15%

Link to the report:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60418acae851e139836c67ed/t/622e43ede3e56b3665c44967/1647199213999/PSY+2022+Rapid+Re-housing+Report+In-depth+look+at+the+Impact+of+RRH.pdf>

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**A Fifty-Year Look at Divorces in Canada, 1970 to 2020** by Statistics Canada, March 2022.

In 2020, there were 42,933 divorces granted in Canada, a sharp decrease from the 56,937 divorces recorded in 2019. While the number of divorces in the country has been generally declining for many years, this 25% annual drop is the largest since the Divorce Act of 1968 came into force. Difficulties accessing courts services during the COVID-19 pandemic likely contributed to this decrease which coincides with the onset of the pandemic.

- The decrease in the divorce rate since 1991 is linked to the aging of the married population
- Almost one-third of divorces are now the result of a joint application by both spouses
- Since the mid-2000s, age-specific divorce rates have been declining most rapidly for young adults while they have plateaued for persons aged 50 and over

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220309/dq220309a-eng.htm>

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/>