

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.

Religiosity In Canada And Its Evolution From 1985 to 2019 by Louis Cornelissen, Statistics Canada, October 2021.

In recent decades, the religious landscape in Canada has undergone significant changes, including a decline in religious affiliation and the practice of religious activities, both collectively and individually. Data from several cycles of the General Social Survey were used in this study to paint a portrait of the diverse relationships Canadians have with religion. The study also presents key trends in the evolution of religiosity in Canada since 1985.

- In 2019, 68% of Canadians aged 15 and older reported having a religious affiliation
- 23% of Canadians said they participated in a group religious activity at least once a month, and 30% said they engaged in a religious or spiritual activity on their own at least once a week
- Compared with individuals born in Canada, those born outside Canada were more likely to report having a religious affiliation
- [W]omen were more likely than men to engage in group religious activities and, especially, religious or spiritual activities on their own (36% of women engaged in such an activity at least once a week, compared with 24% of men)

Link to the report: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2021001/article/00010-eng.pdf>

Tracking COVID-19 Through Race-based Data by Wellesley Institute, August 2021.

This report examines race-based data collected between June 26, 2020 and April 21, 2021, by Ontario public health units. The data show that COVID-19's impact has been highly racialized. Excluding cases for which data were missing on race, the analysis found that white Ontarians had the lowest rates of COVID-19 infection.

- As compared to white Ontarians, other racial groupings had: 1.2- to 7.1-fold higher age-standardized per capita rate of infection; 1.7- to 9.1-fold higher age-standardized per capita rate of COVID-19-related hospitalization; 2.1- to 10.4-fold higher age-standardized per capita rate of COVID-19-related critical illness; 1.7- to 7.6-fold higher age-standardized per capita rate of death
- [F]or First Nations children in Manitoba, the rate of infection was five times higher than for non-First Nations children, and the rate of hospitalizations was 22 times higher
- South Asian Ontarians account for just 8.6 per cent of the population but make up over 16 per cent of cumulative cases in the period studied

Link to the briefing study: https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Tracking-COVID-19-Through-Race-Based-Data_eng.pdf

Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Multiplex Study - Interim Report by City of Toronto, November 2021.

This study on expanding Multiplex housing permissions relates to a number of City and Provincial policy objectives to provide a full range of housing options to Torontonians, in a form that makes efficient use of land, infrastructure, and existing services. These low rise housing forms are compatible with the Official Plan's objective that physical change to Neighbourhoods will be sensitive, gradual, and fit the existing physical character. This report presents research to date on the expansion of multiplex permissions in Toronto's Neighbourhoods, initial consultation outcomes, and ideas for further consultation in the fourth quarter of 2021 and first quarter of 2022.

- Areas with declining populations have 220,000 fewer people since 2001, with children and early to mid-career adults underrepresented in the current demographics, suggesting that public infrastructure in these areas may be underused. One of goals of the Multiplex study is to better use this existing infrastructure while providing more housing options for Torontonians
- 19% of the city's Neighbourhoods are located within 500 metres of existing and planned subway, LRT, or GO stations (potential Major Transit Station Areas);
- An analysis of Committee of Adjustment data in Toronto Neighbourhoods showed that between 2010-2020, there were only 226 applications for minor variances to construct, legalize/maintain, or add units in multiplex building types, representing approximately 330 net new units
- Initial analysis suggests that permitting multiplexes in all Residential-zoned lands across the city would allow incremental growth to occur within walking distance to TTC service and allow for flexibility in housing types for people in all of Toronto's Neighbourhoods while making use of existing infrastructure and amenities for daily living

Link to the report: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-173156.pdf>

The Move Smartly Report November 2021 by John Pasalis, Realosophy, November 2021.

Those hoping for a slow-down in the Toronto area's housing market will need to wait a bit longer — all indicators from the past month's data for October 2021 are showing a market that is actually heating up rather than cooling down. But the strong demand we are seeing today is very different from the demand we were seeing a year ago. This time last year, the strong demand was largely driven by a surge in home buyers entering the market. This year, the surge in demand is coming from investors rather than end users. In this month's Data Dive section (see in this report, below), I discuss the irrational exuberance that I'm seeing from Toronto area real estate investors.

- House sales were down 18% on a year-over-year basis in October, but well above pre-Covid 19 pandemic levels for October in 2018 and 2019
- At the end of October, the Toronto area had only 3,687 houses available for sale, a 56% decline from inventory levels last year and well below the roughly 12,000 active house listings that are more typical for the month of October
- New condo listings were down by 36% in October 2021 over last year, but above the volumes in 2018 and 2019. The number of condos available for sale at the end of the month, or active listings, was down 54% over last year

Link to the report:

<https://www.movesmartly.com/hubfs/Reports/2021/November/MoveSmartlyReportNovember2021.pdf>

Directory of Services for Seniors & Caregivers in Toronto by City of Toronto and 211central.ca, November 2021.

This Directory was developed by the City of Toronto and 211 (the free helpline that connects you to community and social services in your area), to provide information about services available in Toronto for older adults and caregivers. This Directory describes each type of service and the best way to access it. Services are grouped according to subject (e.g. Recreation, Housing, and others), with an Index provided at the back.

- This Directory is designed to help individuals who do not have access to internet. If you have internet, always check toronto.ca/seniors and 211central.ca for up-to-date information
- There are many services geared to seniors from Indigenous, Black, 2SLGBTQ+, Francophone, and ethno-cultural communities, as well as Veterans and people with disabilities
- Releasing this new Directory of Services became a recommendation of the Seniors Strategy. This Directory was co-created with older adults, caregivers and experts across the sector

Link to the portal: <https://211central.ca/directory-of-services-for-seniors-caregivers-in-toronto/>

Link to the directory: https://211central.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Directory-of-Services-for-Seniors-and-Caregivers_WEB_FINAL.pdf

Evictions: New Typologies and Analysis for the Canadian Landscape by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, March 2021.

The analysis of literature on evictions reveals that the evictions landscape appears to have changed in Canada over the last 15 years, particularly with respect to type, frequency, and scale. These changes centre on the drivers of evictions. The changing evictions landscape has implications for the effectiveness of prevention measures and other forms of support, as well as the demand for affordable rental supply in any one municipality and point in time.

- Tenants who are evicted for these reasons are more likely to be vulnerable and of low income, and are often issued formal notices that can result in a tribunal proceeding
- Structural factors driving evictions include: the financialization of housing, policy, lack of affordable housing supply, and labour market transformations
- Tenants who are evicted for these reasons can include professionals and longer-standing tenants, and may be less likely to be vulnerable populations or of low income

Link to the research insight (full report links on page 6):

https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sf/project/archive/publications/research_insight/research-insight-evictions-new-typologies-analysis-canadian-landscape-69733-en.pdf

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

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

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