

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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## **Low-income Persistence in Canada and the Provinces** by Xuelin Zhang, Statistics Canada, June 2021.

Each year, some Canadians fall into low income, while others rise out of it. For example, over one-quarter (28.1%) of Canadians who were in low income in 2017 had exited it by 2018. The study released today examines the low-income exit rate in Canada—an indicator that can be used to track the amount of time it takes for people to rise out of low income. Although a potential surge in low income in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was avoided by temporary government support programs, the rising long-term unemployment rate in 2021 suggests a possible increase in poverty and low-income persistence in the future.

- Overall, Canadian tax filers were rising out of low income at a faster pace in 2018 (28.1%) than in 2014 (26.2%), with much of the increase in pace attributable to couple families with children
- Immigrant tax filers who have lived in Canada longer are less likely to fall in low income
- Women and older tax filers stay in low income longer
- Lone-parent families and people living alone are less likely to leave low income than couple families

Link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2021004-eng.pdf>

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## **Affordable Housing in the City of Toronto – A Responsibility We All Share** by BiLD, June 2021.

In September 2020, the City of Toronto released policy proposals that provide its framework to guide the implementation of a set of policies to require the construction of affordable housing units by private developers, as part of their planned developments, in and around provincial major transit station areas (PMTSAs). The City is calling these policies “inclusionary zoning” (IZ). However, because the City’s proposals lack the fundamental components of an IZ policy, where offsets and incentives are included to counter potential market distortions, the City’s proposed policies are really inclusionary zoning in name only, not in function.

- Inconsistencies within the Toronto approach vs generally accepted IZ practices are likely to reduce the amount of new development activity in some areas around Provincial Major Transit Station Areas
- This constraint on new housing supply will drive prices up further, and ultimately freeze more middle-income earners out of the housing market
- The City’s Development Charges already recover costs for subsidized housing from new developments: Approximately 6.4% of the City’s DC is for “subsidized housing”—almost \$2,900 per large apartment unit and \$1,900 per small apartment. In addition, the new Community Benefits Charge (CBC) can also be used to recover costs for affordable housing. The CBC, which will be in force in the City by September 18, 2022, will equate to an additional approximately \$3,840 per unit

Link to the full report:

<https://bildgta.ca/Assets/Associate%20Awards/Inclusionary%20Zoning%20in%20Toronto%20-%20Final.pdf>

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## **A Statistical Portrait of Canada's Diverse LGBTQ2+ Communities** by Statistics Canada, June 2021.

To mark Pride Season, we are painting a demographic and social profile of Canada's diverse LGBTQ2+ communities based on published analyses. Much of the data in this release focus on LGB Canadians (lesbian, gay, bisexual), since Statistics Canada has been collecting detailed information on these communities since 2003.

- Canada is home to approximately one million people who are LGBTQ2+, accounting for 4% of the total population aged 15 and older in 2018
- According to the 2018 Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, approximately 75,000 Canadians were trans or non-binary, representing 0.24% of the Canadian population aged 15 and older
- [T]here were 72,880 same-sex couples in Canada in 2016, representing 0.9% of all couples at the time of the 2016 Census. One third (33.4%) of all Same-sex couples in Canada in 2016 were married and two-thirds were living common-law
- [T]wo-fifths of LGBTQ2+ Canadians (41%) had a total personal income of less than \$20,000 per year, compared with one-quarter of their non-LGBTQ2+ counterparts (26%). The average personal incomes of LGBTQ2+ income earners were also significantly lower (\$39,000) than those of non-LGBTQ2+ people (\$54,000) in Canada

Link to the article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.htm>

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## **Asset Resilience of Canadians, 2019** by Statistics Canada, May 2021.

For the purposes of this article, a household is asset resilient when it has liquid assets that are at least equal to the after-tax, low-income measure (LIM-AT) for three months. To be deemed asset resilient in 2019, a person living alone would require liquid assets of approximately \$6,000. A household of four would require \$12,000 or \$3,000 per person to meet the minimum LIM-AT threshold for three months. Recent Statistics Canada data have shown that savings rose sharply during the pandemic, despite the economic upheaval, and that those in the lower income quintiles have seen their income rise as a result of government support programs, such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

- Just over two-thirds (67.1%) of Canadians were asset resilient for at least three months in 2019, up from 63.6% in 1999
- Couple-only economic families (79.2%) were more likely to be asset resilient than couples with children (65.3%), while lone-parent families reported the lowest rate of asset resilience (41.3%) in 2019
- Just prior to the pandemic in 2019, over half of Canadians (58.1%) lived in a household that could cover at least three months of their after-tax income and maintain their financial obligations, savings and spending habits, up from 54.7% in 1999

Link to the article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210504/dq210504e-eng.htm>

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**Social Policy Trends: Home Alone** by The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, June 2021.

In March 2019, Statistics Canada released a study reporting on the number and characteristics of people in Canada who live alone. In this month's Social Policy Trends, we look at some of the findings of that report, findings that carry greater significance because of the need for social distancing required for safety during the COVID pandemic.

- The number of people living alone in Canada more than doubled between 1981 and 2016, from 1.7 million to 4.0 million
- In 2016, single-person households comprised 28% of all Canadian households, the highest share ever reported, and had become the most common household type, surpassing couples with children at 26.5%
- Increases in the percentage of the population living alone has consequences for such disparate issues as rates of homeownership, the size of retirement incomes, consumer spending patterns, and perhaps long-term health

Link to the briefing:

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SPT-JUNE-Kneebone.pdf>

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**Intimate Partner Violence in Canada, 2018: An Overview** by Adam Cotter, Statistics Canada, April 2021.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a form of gender-based violence, and encompasses a broad range of behaviours including emotional, psychological, financial, physical and sexual abuse committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, or dating partner. Today's release examines lifetime experiences of IPV and experiences in the 12 months preceding the survey, and explores the experiences of sexual minority women, sexual minority men, and women with disabilities.

- In 2018, 44% of women—who had ever been in an intimate partner relationship—reported experiencing some form of psychological, physical, or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. By comparison, this was the case for just over one-third (36%) of men
- Almost one-quarter (23%) of women reported experiencing physical assault, compared to 17% of men. Most notably, women were 6 times more likely than men to have been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in their lifetime (12% versus 2%)
- In 2018, two-thirds (67%) of sexual minority women had experienced at least one type of IPV since the age of 15. This was significantly higher than the 44% of heterosexual women who reported similar experiences
- More than half (55%) of women with disabilities experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime, compared with 37% of women without disabilities

Link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00003-eng.pdf?st=s4TDUsHO>

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/>